

M: 35-52127  
Chevy Chase Elementary School  
4015 Rosemary Street  
Chevy Chase

1930 (east wing);  
1936 (west wing)

The east and west wings of the school run parallel to Hillcrest Place and to each other, with their main, one-bay facades facing Rosemary Circle. These Collegiate Gothic style brick buildings are two stories tall with bands of multipane windows and a stepped parapet. Originally, they were connected at the back by a frame one-story hallway, forming a U-shaped courtyard between. A 1959 addition connects the two wings on the front, obscuring most of the front facade of the 1930 wing. The front and west facade of the 1936 wing, however, are still intact. The front south entrance is marked by a Beaux Arts style doorway--a round arched opening is surmounted by a heavy cornice with paneled applied balustrade, and flanked by Ionic pilasters. On the west facade, spandrels between the banks of windows are marked by diamond-shaped geometric forms. While painted white today, originally the walls were unpainted brick, contrasting with the white stone trim and window quoins.

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

M: 35-127

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC **Chevy Chase Elementary School**

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **4015 Rosemary Street**

CITY, TOWN **Chevy Chase** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT **8th**

STATE **Maryland** COUNTY **Montgomery**

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools** Telephone #: **279-3617**

STREET & NUMBER **850 Hungerford Drive**

CITY, TOWN **Rockville** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ MD **20850** STATE, zip code

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Department of Assessments and Taxation**

Liber #: **492 / 502 / 503**  
Folio #: **142 / 143 / 390**

STREET & NUMBER **51 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor**

CITY, TOWN **Rockville,** MD **20850** STATE

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

M.35-127

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chevy Chase Elementary School

Today, only one wing of Chevy Chase Elementary School (1930) reflects the building's original character. Originally, the building's architect, Howard Cutler, envisioned a two-story, U-shaped design centered around a court. His plan did not incorporate the existing early 20th century building. Cutler's design called for two roughly rectangular classroom wings, one of which included space for a kindergarden. The wings were to flank a large central building. Probably due to financial limitations, Cutler's original plan was not completely realized.

At the time, Chevy Chase Elementary School may have been one of the most beautiful schools of this period. The architect's site design was symmetrically balanced by two identical brick classroom buildings. In turn, each building was ruled by external and internal symmetry. Each floor consisted of a long hall flanked by three classrooms on each side. This arrangement is still expressed by external fenestration, especially by the three main groupings of four windows on each floor. These large areas of windows were reserved for the sides (facing the court and the street respectively). The side elevations were without traditional elements and ornamentation save for white hued courses and some Art Deco geometric relief work on panels between first and second story windows.

By comparison, the entries, located on the short sides facing the traffic circle, were grand with a dignified classical treatment in the Ionic Order. The light-hued stone and more sculptured appearance of the classical portals contrasted the flat, unarticulated red brick walls of the front facades which had no windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Despite the classical entry portals, Chevy Chase Elementary School was treated in a straight-forward, economy-conscious manner. Its flat roof, flat walls, planar window treatment, large areas of glass, lack of decoration, and flat roofline with stepped center (which was Art Deco in style) gave the school a modern, 20th century quality characteristic of much 1920s architecture.

Post-war growth, especially during the 1960s, resulted in the physical expansion of the school on its north, east and south sides. Modern additions have completely changed the character of Cutler's school. Only the side, front and part of the rear elevation of the two-story west classroom building running perpendicular to Hillcrest Place is still clearly visible and (more or less) intact. One can get a glimpse of the top of the east building (including some of its original Art Deco geometric decoration) by looking above the skyline and behind one of the rear projections of the modern front addition. The west building and the visible remains of the east building have been painted white, which, due to historical associations, make the west building of the school seem more conventionally classical than it would have appeared in the 1930s.

MAJOR REPOSITORIES

- Archives, The American Institute of Architects;
- Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;
- Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;

See Karin M.E. Alexis's manuscript on Public Schools in Montgomery County, Maryland: 1900-46 (1988) (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust).

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Howard Wright Cutler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chevy Chase Elementary School (1930) is important in the architectural history of Montgomery County Public Schools. It represents the turning toward a more academic and classical image for school architecture during the 1930s. The school's earliest remains are significant because they help tell the story of how architect, Howard Wright Cutler, shaped and defined the architecture of Montgomery County's Public School System (from the 1920s to 1940s). In addition, this school was the home of the first elementary school library in Montgomery County.

During the 1920s, the Chevy Chase School at Rosemary, on property once owned by the Chevy Chase Land Company, needed to be enlarged. The buildings erected reveal a fusion of modern and traditional notions of architecture. As previously described, this school is a fairly straightforward structure with a modern appearance combined with classical entry portals. The lack of ornamentation and Art Deco character of this building recall schools of the 1920s (such as the Clara Barton School, also by Cutler). The classical disposition and entry portals anticipate the grand academic institutions of the 1930s (such as Bethesda-Chevy Chase, also by Cutler).

In 1938, when Mrs. Dean Dinwoody became the president of the PTA, she set as her first priority the establishment of a library in the school. Fortunately, less than half of the rooms in the east building were in use so she found plenty of space for a library. The childrens' mothers worked to organize the library; their fathers built book shelves and magazine racks. Finally, the library officially opened in the spring of 1939. This was a great achievement for the decade of the Great Depression.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

M:35-127

see attached

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 164656 F engine

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Rosemary, Hillcrest Place, Meadow

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

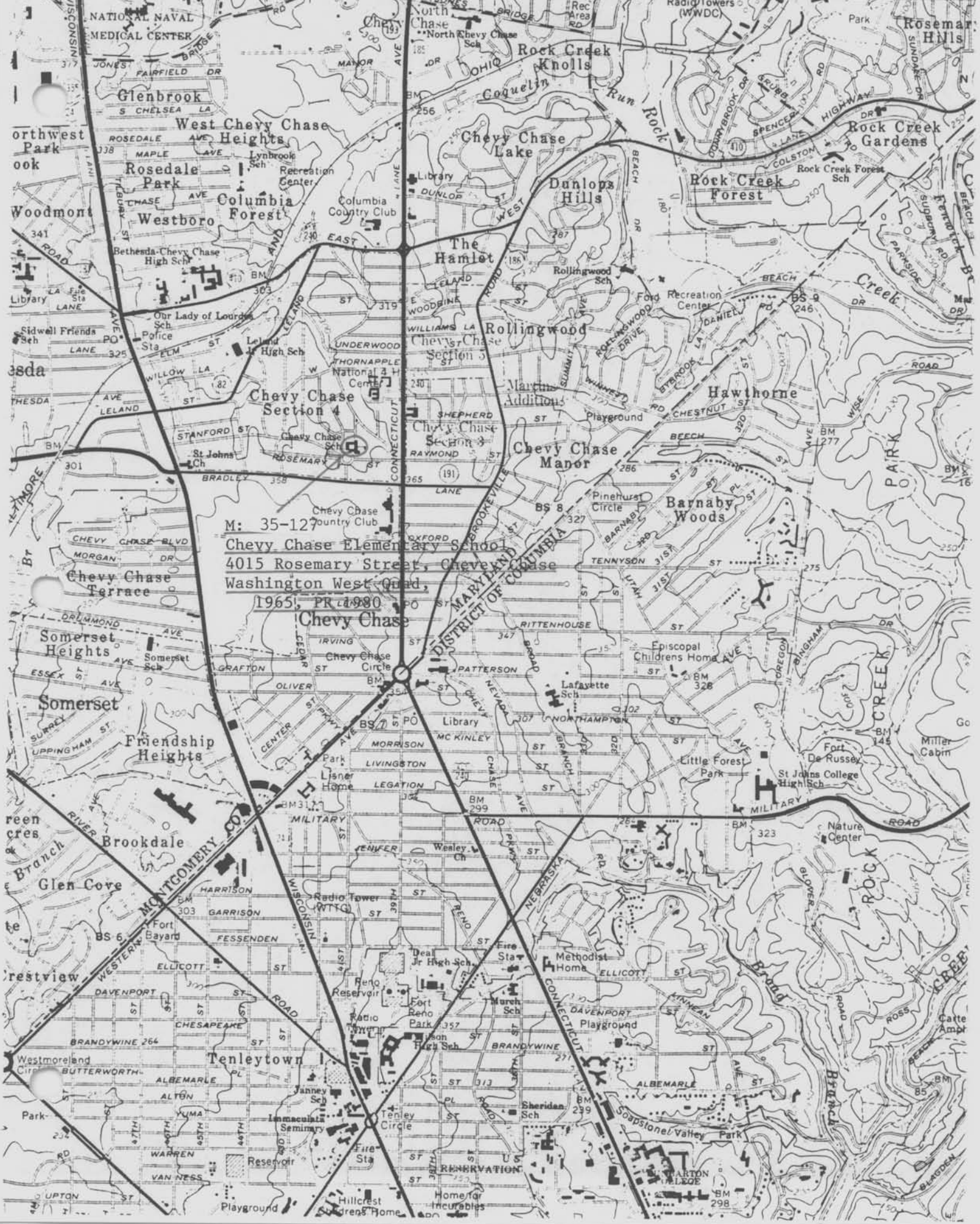
**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	<u>KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART &amp; ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY</u>		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	<u>JUNE 1988</u>	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	<u>280-1107</u>	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	<u>22180</u>	
<u>Vienna,</u>	<u>Virginia</u>		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



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Chevy Chase Elementary School  
4015 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase  
Washington West Quad,  
1965, PR 1980

Chevy Chase  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

