

B-5100

## St. William of York Roman Catholic Church and School

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 08-09-2011***

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: St. William of York Catholic Church and School Inventory Number: B-5100  
Address: 701 Cook's Lane Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21229 County: Baltimore City  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West  
Property Owner: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore Tax Account ID Number: 28057900E32  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: 28  
Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration  
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 8/22/2005  
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Room vertical files  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

The St. William of York Catholic Church and School Complex consists of a Gothic Revival church building attached to a Georgian Colonial Revival brick convent and school. The campus is located at the busy corner of Cook's Lane and Baltimore National Pike a short distance from the city line. There is a small, nicely landscaped lawn with low hedges, ornamental shrubs and trees surrounding the church at the corner, but the remainder of the campus has little green space, with sidewalks in front and parking areas in back.

The church is a two-and-one-half-story gable-front stone structure with a one-story front entrance section. The church has a slate roof, sits on a low foundation, and is faced with rusticated granite trimmed with carved limestone. The front gable has an end parapet with stepped ends, saddleback coping, and a stone cross at the peak. There is a narrow vertical vent in the gable. Windows on the building are typically stained glass with depressed Tudor-style arches. The front façade is dominated by a large second-floor window with multiple lancet mullions at the center, which is flanked by small arched niches. The niches appear to have space for statues, but are empty. These openings have prominent drip moldings. The first-floor entrance pavilion has a flat roof with a crenelated parapet. Small arched windows flank the arched center doorway, which has a carved stone surround. The doors are double-leaf modern steel and tinted glass doors. The sides of the building have round rosette windows on the upper

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
MHT Comments:

John Paulino  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blunt  
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/26/06  
Date

8/7/04  
Date

200601766

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level, and one-story, shed-roofed side projections along the five-bay length of the nave. The first floor projecting sections have lancet-shaped stained glass windows aligned with the upper rosette windows. On the north side of the building is a one-story stone and frame connector from the church to the convent building next door. On the south side of the building is a one-story, gabled projecting entrance with a small parapet and a modern gabled covered entry. The modern entry is a gable-front frame structure with glass panels and double-leaf doors. Toward the rear of the church on the south side is a two-story cross-gabled section with a large arched tracery window on the upper level.

Attached to the rear of the church is a two-story rusticated-stone rectory, constructed in a collegiate Gothic/Tudor style similar to the church. The rectory has a hipped slate roof and is three bays deep extending back from the church and seven bays wide. It has depressed-arch windows, which have been infilled with modern vinyl sash. There is a stone corner chimney and two one-story frame projections on the first floor. One projection appears to be an enclosed sunporch, while the other appears to be an enclosed kitchen/utility porch.

Immediately north of the church is the convent building, which is a two-and-one-half-story Flemish-bond brick structure clearly inspired by Colonial Williamsburg. It has a side-gabled gambrel roof with massive twin chimneys at each end, concealing the upper slope of the gambrel. The roof is slate and has five gabled dormers with wood clapboard siding. The building is seven bays long in front and three bays deep. Windows have stone sills and are six-over-six wooden double-hung original sash on the upper floors and sides, and nine-over-six on the first floor front. The original front door, with ornamental upper lights and a four-pane transom, is sheltered by a one-story, flat-roofed entry porch with Doric wood columns. On the north end of the convent is a one-story frame connector leading into the school building. The connector has clapboard siding and a low-pitched shed roof.

The school has two sections, both constructed in Williamsburg Colonial Revival style with Flemish bond brick. The southernmost of these is a two-story, side-gabled section with gable-end parapets which is approximately two bays long in front. This section is dominated by a large, one-story octagonal bay in front, containing pairs of nine-over-nine vinyl windows. Upstairs windows are six-over-six vinyl windows. An oblong, flat-roofed, two-story rear wing projects from this section and has several classrooms on both floors, denoted by clusters of windows. The larger north section is two-and-one-half-stories tall with a slate roof, center vented cupola, and massive single end chimneys. It is three bays wide, with each bay containing a band of five twelve-over-twelve vinyl windows on the second floor. The first floor has a center bay of five connected windows flanked by a recessed entrance on each side. Each entrance has stone steps leading to three brick Roman arches sheltering the entrance recess. Each recess has a set of double-leaf doors on one side surmounted by a segmental-arched vinyl transom. The doors are modern tinted glass doors. Two six-over-nine single windows are also located in each recess. The school is three bays deep with nine-over-nine windows on the north side and large gable vents. At the rear is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-long, gabled wing containing the auditorium. The west end of this wing is octagonal.

The stone church was constructed in 1914, in what was then a relatively undeveloped rural area. The Ten Hills suburb was developing nearby, followed by Hunting Ridge. The congregation eventually grew to a size where a simple Colonial Revival frame structure was built in 1937 adjoining the church on Cook's Lane. This building served as a dual social hall and secondary chapel to house overflow attendees during Sunday masses. In 1947, in the belief that the neighborhood would soon see dramatic development and population growth, St. William of York decided to construct a convent and a nine-classroom school. A June 1947 article in the Evening Sun discussed the moving of St. William's Chapel on greased timbers to a site facing Edmondson Avenue. It is not clear whether Edmondson Avenue as mentioned actually meant Baltimore National Pike, but the frame chapel is no longer extant at the current church campus. Completion of the convent and school were anticipated in fall of 1948. The convent and the smaller wing of the school were completed at an unknown date. The larger, northernmost portion of the school was constructed in 1951, as the predicted intensive development of the surrounding neighborhood was becoming a reality.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The St. William of York campus is relatively well-preserved and contains good examples of a Gothic Revival church and Williamsburg-style Georgian Colonial Revival institutional buildings. However, none rise to the level of exceptional distinctive qualities or high artistic values that would make them eligible under Criteria Consideration A, with the church the only possible exception. The school buildings and the church entrances have also lost considerable integrity due to the complete replacement of their windows and exterior doors with modern materials. The St. William of York Catholic Church and School is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

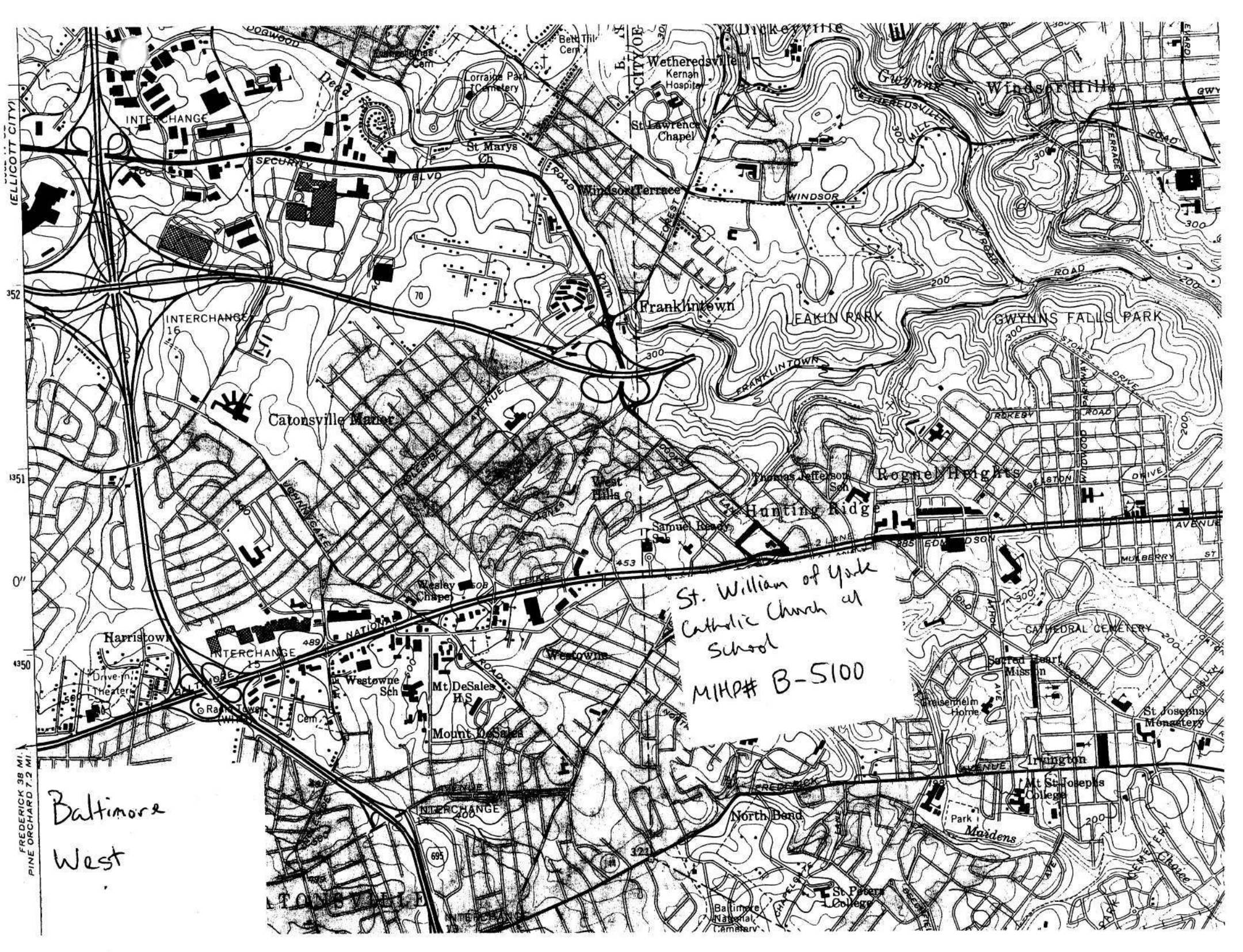
Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Baltimore  
West

St. William of York  
Catholic Church at  
School  
MIHP# B-5100



B-5100

St. William of York Catholic Church + School

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View of complex to NW along Cook's Ln.

#1 of 4

2104



Saturday Mass 3 PM  
Sunday Masses  
9 AM & 11:10 AM



B-S100

St. William of York Catholic Church + School

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

Church; view to NW

#2 of 4

000

1165



B-S100

St. William of York Catholic Church + School

Baltimore City, MD

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6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View of Convent, to S

#3 of 4

000

1100



ST. WILLIAM OF YORK SCHOOL

B-5100

St. William of York Catholic Church + School

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/8/2005

MD SHPO

View of School to S

#4 of 4 012

1109