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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNT	Y:
	Raltimore City
	Baltimore City FOR NPS USE ONLY
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Davidge Hall is located northeast of the intersection of Lombard and Greene Streets, in the center of the University of Maryland medical school buildings. The architect, Robert Cary Long, Sr., used the Pantheon in Rome as a model. The wooden facade, attached to the brick building, is comprised of a portico with a pediment and eight Doric columns, showing little of the usual ornamentation.

The exterior does not reveal the round shape of the main interior room, except for a very low dome rising above a high drum. The interior is unique in its superposition of the circular amphitheaters under the wooden dome; the two lecture rooms, each 60 feet in diameter, were originally know as "Anatomical Hall" and "Chemical Hall." To ensure secrecy during human dissection, the design included a concealed spiral staircase and several dissecting rooms hidden between the sloping seat of the lecture hall and the rectangular outer walls. A section of rectangular rooms provides space for offices and a library between the round lecture hall and the porch.

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Davidge Hall of the University of Maryland is the oldest building in the United States which has been used continously for medical education. It is named for Dr. John Beale Davidge, an anatomist and surgeon who settled in Baltimore in 1796. In 1807 the Maryland state legislature authorized the formation of the College of Medicine of Maryland; Dr. Davidge was its first dean, and his colleagues included Drs. Nathaniel Potter, James Cocke, and John Shaw. Dr. Davidge had conducted anatomy lectures since 1802 first in his home and then in a small laboratory near Sarataga and Liberty Streets, but this building was destroyed by an angry mob since public opinion at that time violently condemned the dissection of the human body. As a result, practical anatomy was abandoned in the first session of the college, which held its first commencement for five graduates in 1810.

Plans for a new building began; with funds provided by a lottery, a plot of ground at Lombard and Greene Streets was purchased from Colonel John Eager Howard, a Revolutionary hero and a former Maryland governor. was Robert Cary Long, Sr. (1770-1833), a leading Baltimore-born architect of the nineteenth century. Long's design of Davidge was one of the first Pantheon schemes in this country, with both a dome and a pedimented colonnade. 3 The builders were Messrs. Towson and Mosher. The cornerstone was laid on April 7, 1811, and the building was first used as an educational institution in 1812, the same year in which a charter was granted to the College of Medicine of Maryland. Lectures in anatomy, chemistry, and physiology were delivered here, and dissection was carried out secretly, often practiced on bodies obtained from grave robbers and delivered by means of a hidden doorway and staircase. The College was given legislative authority to add other branches of learning, and today the University of Maryland is the oldest institution of its kind in this contry which began as a medical school.

²Richard Hubbard Howland and Eleanor Patterson Spencer, <u>The Architecture of Baltimore - A Pictorial History</u>, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953, p. 54.

(See continuation sheet)

¹School of Medicine, University of Maryland at Baltimore, "Welcome to Davidge Hall," April 22, 1970, p. 1.

³Ibid., p. 57

⁴William T. Snyder, Jr., <u>Baltimore Magazine</u>, February, 1943, p. 42.

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Anson, Cherrill. "The Days of the 'Body Snatchers'". Baltimore Sun, October 21, 1962.

Cordell, Eugene Fauntleroy, M.D. "Historical Sketch of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (1807-1890)." Baltimore: Press of Isaac Friedenwald, 1891.

(See continuation sheet)

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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		4	NA	TIONA	L REGIST	at Veril	CATIC	N
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publ 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for in in the National Register and certify that it has evaluated according to the criteria and proceed forth by the National Park Service. The record level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Name Orlando Ridout IV Title State Preservation Officer for Maryland	lic Law nclusion s been dures set mmended		I hereby National Director, of	Register Office of	Archeology 174 Truffer of Type N	and Histor	len ic Prese	
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

- NOMINATION FORM	Baltimore City
- NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
estion Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER

STATE

COUNTY

<u>Maryland</u>

DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

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Davidge Hall

Number 8. Significance Continued.

Notable persons connected with Davidge Hall include the Marquis de Lafayette, who received an honorary LL. D. there while on a triumphant tour of the United States in 1824. In the following year, the medical school gave Ephraim McDowell an honorary M.D., his only medical degree, in recognition of his performance of the first successful abdominal surgery.

An old church building at the southeast corner of Lombard and Greene Streets actually bore the name of Davidge Hall until it was razed in 1957, at which time the name was transferred to the Pantheon-style building across the street (known previously by various names, including Anatomy Hall and the Medical College). Davidge Hall is now the central building of the modern medical school group, and contains classrooms, a medical museum, and alumni offices. It is being restored by the Medical Alumni Association of the University of Maryland.

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

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