

PH0011797

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
MAY 3 1974

629-4083

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Old Naval Hospital**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Temporary Home For Veterans of All Wars**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy  
District of Columbia**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>001</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

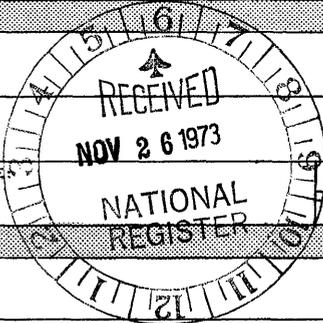
OWNER'S NAME:  
**United States of America**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Recorder of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**6th and D Streets, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

**Washington**      **District of Columbia**      **11**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Proposed District of Columbia additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: **March 7, 1968**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**National Capital Planning Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1325 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

**Washington**      **District of Columbia**      **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Naval Hospital is an eclectic structure with Italianate and Greek Revival elements, though both are applied in a very restrained manner. Built in 1865-6, this building is located in Southeast Washington on a site bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, E Street, 9th and 10th Streets. The hospital is of red-painted brick with cement foundations, has three stories plus basement, and measures approximately 91 feet (9 bays) by 44 feet (5 bays). The building is rectangular in shape with projections both front and back and thus in plan resembles a cross with short arms. The roof is mansard in shape and has dormers.

On both the north and south sides of the building, a five bay pavilion projects approximately six feet and is capped by a pediment which contains a fan light in the center. The corners of the pavilions are defined by quoins as are the corners of each facade. Originally the quoins were painted a contrasting shade as was the simple, projecting moulded cornice and all the wooden trim on the building. Today, the quoins are not accented, and the trim is painted white.

The original main entrance faces south on E Street and contains a porch in the center of the projecting section. The porch, which is approached by a series of steps leading up from E Street, is three bays wide. Four square wooden piers and two pilasters with simple capitals support the flat roof of the porch which once contained a wooden balustrade.

The first and second stories of all facades contain 4/4 light double hung rectangular windows with moulded lintels; incised decorative panels are located under the sill of each window on the first floor. The basement windows have segmentally arched heads and 4/4 lights. The dormer windows are round headed with moulded trim and 4/4 lights, double hung sash.

The Pennsylvania Avenue facade, which now serves as the main entrance to the building, has a small porch just wide enough to accommodate the entrance door. It has a high mansard slate roof and decorative cast iron supports and railing.

The interior alterations reflect the building's varied uses throughout the years as well as changes required by firecode regulations. It now serves mainly as administrative offices, classrooms and a health unit for a section of the District of Columbia's Human Resources Department. However, the staircase and some of the paneling are still intact and the building appears to be well maintained.

The Old Naval Hospital is located on .705 of an acre of land which is very pleasantly landscaped and surrounded by a decorative iron fence. The grounds contain a very handsome, although altered, stable, now used for storage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **constructed 1865-6**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Temporary Home for Veterans of All Wars (the Old Naval Hospital) a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This eclectic structure has Italianate and Greek Revival elements, though both are applied in a very restrained manner. Built in 1865-6, the building has been a neighborhood landmark for over a century. The hospital was first constructed to provide services for the Navy Department, and later came under the Command of the Washington Navy Yard. Later, in the twentieth century, the Hospital Training Corps was located there and by 1920 it was leased for use as a Temporary Home for Veterans of All Wars. It is now owned by the Federal Government and used by the District of Columbia's Department of Human Resources for several sections of the WIN Basic and Functional Educational Program.

Although it cannot be completely substantiated, some documentary evidence points to the fact that a small structure which was originally located on the site served as a hospital in the early 1800's. In 1864, the Surgeon General emphasized the need for providing a hospital for the large force employed on the Potomac and its tributaries. As a result of this plea, Congress appropriated, in March of 1864, \$25,000 for the construction of a new hospital. By the time of the completion of the building in 1866, however, the cost of materials had escalated due to conditions caused by the War Between the States, and the building's final cost was approximately \$115,000.

The first medical officer in command of the new Naval hospital was Charles D. Maxwell, who served from 1866 to 1868. In 1869, the hospital was assigned to the Navy Department as a portion of the Command of the Washington Navy Yard. An order from the Commandant of the Yard admitted to the hospital for treatment any officer or private who belonged to the Navy.

The hospital was designed to accommodate fifty beds with 1,555 cubic feet of air to each. But between 1866 and 1885, the average number of patients admitted to the hospital each year was 110. Before the operating room was installed in 1897, operations were conducted wherever there was convenient space.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Much of the historical information for this report comes from a typescript "The Old Naval Hospital Building" by Emilia L. Gorau, 6/4/64 on file at NCPC.

Information provided by GSA

Moore, Charles, ed. Joint Select Committee to Investigate the Charities and Reformatory Institutions in the District of Columbia - Part III. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1898.

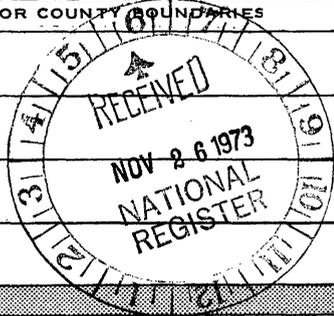
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 52' 59"	76° 59' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .705 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18/327100/4305460

VT01 PEF

1-5-74

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Suzanne Ganschinietz, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission**      DATE: **June 19, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1325 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **District of Columbia**      CODE: **001**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *James G. Banks*  
 Title: Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs  
 Date: NOV 19 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*A. R. Montrose*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/3/74

ATTEST:  
*Wm. Montrose*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: J. E. 74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance con't

In 1908 the Hospital Corps Training was transferred to the Old Naval Hospital although a few patients with minor disorders were allowed to remain. But after 1911 the building was no longer used as a hospital. The building was used for a time as a Reserve Force Office, and in 1920 was leased for use as a Temporary Home for Veterans. The purpose of the Home, which was founded as a private corporation by a few members of the GAR in 1888 and located elsewhere in the city, was to "aid ex-union soldiers and sailors of the late rebellion by providing and maintaining a home, where those who may be in need can be temporarily provided for with food and shelter during their stay in this city." The home also provided shelter to veterans coming to the Capital to press their claims for pension. Throughout the years the Home served veterans not only of the Civil War, but also of the Spanish American War and the two World Wars. By the 1940's the policy of the Home was directed by a board of managers made up of thirty-five representatives of Veteran's organizations. In 1962, the Home was unable to renew its lease and ceased to exist as of July 1963.

