

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 16 1979  
DATE ENTERED DEC 21 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC United States Marine Hospital  
AND/OR COMMON United States Public Health Service Hospital

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1131 - 14th Avenue South  
CITY, TOWN Seattle STATE Washington COUNTY King CODE 053  
VICINITY OF 7th - Mike Lowry CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 044

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Hospital</u>

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME United States Government (HEW)  
STREET & NUMBER c/o Director, United States Public Health Service Hospital  
1131 - 14th Avenue South  
CITY, TOWN Seattle STATE Washington

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. King County Administration Building  
STREET & NUMBER Fourth and James Street  
CITY, TOWN Seattle STATE Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Art Deco Buildings in Seattle  
DATE 1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Urban Conservation, 400 Yesler Way  
CITY, TOWN Seattle STATE Washington

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Marine Hospital in Seattle forms a harmonious Modernistic enclave within the more traditional residential neighborhood of North Beacon Hill. South of the main hospital structure, six auxiliary buildings in three designs, originally erected as quarters for officers and nurses of the institution but now providing office and laboratory space, are grouped in an L-shaped layout around the landscaped grounds. All of these two-story buildings feature Modernistic design ornamentation in keeping with the motifs and materials of the main structure. They have particularly handsome brick details, floral terra cotta panels, chamfered entrances and dormers, copper-roofed bay windows, and hipped copper roofs. The grounds of the complex are lit at night with chamfered lanterns decorated with chevron reliefs. Broad lawns, terraces, mature trees, and shrubs provide a pleasant park-like setting, with superb vistas of the city, Puget Sound, and the mountains.

The focal point of the enclave, the hospital building proper, reflect trends in skyscraper design occasioned by the New York zoning ordinance requiring set-backs from the street line for buildings above a certain height. Setback requirements stirred architects to become more concerned with proportional massing. They found in the new zoning an opportunity to play with light and shadow, jutting crags and receding terraces, and strong vertical piers that forced the observer's eyes skyward.

The United States Marine Hospital, built of reinforced concrete faced in brick, is designed in the form of an H, with a sixteen-story tower flanked by T-shaped wings. The wings consist of two thirteen-story sections at either side of the tower, joined at right angles to two seven-story end units. A three-story annex housing outpatient clinics was added to the east elevation ca. 1953. The skyscraper form was determined initially by economy (the need for centralization of food, laundry, supplies, etc) and by the psychological needs of the patients to have light, well-ventilated accommodations. Although the building is approached from the north, the main entry and the majority of patient rooms face south. The building is located in the center of its park, with patient rooms well above ground level in order to provide isolation from street noise.

The designers of the hospital sought to unify the main building with the subordinate structures by using consistent decoration that was not historical in content. The Art Deco motifs which appear throughout the campus, particularly in the combining of verticals and horizontals, and the use of chevron and chamfered ornamentation, are the idiom of the new machine age technology, of jazz rhythms, and of Cubist art. The hospital displays sumptuous textures, bright colors, precise linework, and fluent rhythms. It has some of the richest and most varied brick decoration of any building in the city and probably in the Northwest. Various shades of light brick are used in combination with black and red-toned brick in spandrel panels and horizontal striping; extended red terra cotta sills form ornamental bands. Chevron motifs and chamfering, as well as basket-weave patterns in brick and terra cotta, dramatize the facade, particularly in the upper floors. These designs are also adapted in the handsome bronze and translucent glass entranceway, the bronze and glass pharmacy entrance, the lobby flooring, ceiling plaster work, and lighting fixtures.

The tower is characterized by its deeply recessed woven brick spandrels between three projecting vertical piers. The symmetrical extensions to the tower portion have slightly wider piers and similar tapestry brick designs in their spandrels. The side wings have no vertical piers. On the contrary, they have a strong horizontal emphasis: rust-colored

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

brick, black brick linework, and red terra cotta edging provide continuous ornamental bands which are complemented with two stacked sets of chamfered corner windows that soften the edges of the building. This horizontal massing gives the hospital a sense of grounding--of being tied to the earth while at the same time soaring skyward. The massing and articulation make the United States Marine Hospital a powerful symbol in the Seattle landscape.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Public Health
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architects: Bebb & Gould; John Graham  
Contractor: N.D. Severin, Chicago

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Marine Hospital is one of Seattle's handsomest examples of Modernistic architecture, comparing favorably with the Northern Life Tower (on the National Register of Historic Places), with which it shares a strong vertical emphasis, and the Exchange Building. The exteriors of the main and subsidiary buildings have been preserved with very little modification; along with the landscaped grounds, they provide an environment which should be recognized and protected. The hospital has additional architectural significance in that the source of its design and the design itself were innovative for the time. For nearly half a century the hospital has carried on in its locality the United States Public Health Service's responsibilities to care for patients and to enhance that care by teaching and research.

The Modernistic hospital structure creates a powerful impression on the Seattle skyline, its red-hued brick form, like great granite cliffs, emerging as a natural outgrowth of the hill on which it sits. It is visible for miles from Seattle's waterways and hills, making it one of the most prominent local landmarks. Despite the addition of modern skyscrapers to the downtown skyline, the hospital continues to be set apart from the central business district and the industrial tidflats and to soar above them. Its siting to the south and that of the Space Needle to the north balance one another and frame the downtown business district. The top of the hospital is 462 feet above sea level and affords a sweeping view of the city, harbor, and mountains. An article in Washington State Architect (April, 1931) stated, "The view alone should be an inspiration to a sick man and a life saver."

When it was built in 1931, the United States Marine Hospital was unlike anything the U.S. Public Health Service had ever erected, the government usually showing a disposition for hospital buildings of the "pavilion" type. Hoping to enhance the beauty of the city's skyline, and not believing the three-acre Beacon Hill site entirely suitable for a sprawling group of buildings, the government health service for the Northwest region authorized a tall structure and a limited number of smaller residential units within a landscaped park.

The project was the first such federal facility to be designed by architects in private practice. This development was a direct result of a bill passed by Congress permitting the U.S. Treasury Department to employ private firms when it was expedient to do so. The move also reflected increasing pressure by local architects to be chosen for federal work projects, a trend noted in editorials in Washington State Architect, Pacific Builder and Engineer, and American Architect--the trade journals of the period. All three architects for the medical complex, Charles Bebb, Carl Gould, and John Graham, were highly respected members of the architectural establishment in the Northwest and had attained national and international attention for their works, which considerably modernized the appearance of Seattle.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect 147; November, 1935, pp. 28-33  
 Washington State Architect: January, 1931, p.1; April, 1931, p.1; July, 1931, p.1.  
 Obituaries: Seattle Times: March 23, 1955 (Graham)  
 June 23, 1942 (Bebb) Post Intelligencer: June 23, 1942  
 January 6, 1939 (Gould)  
 United States Public Health Service Hospital, Seattle, Washington: "Handbook for Patients."

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,5,14,4,0	5,2,7,12,4,0	B	1,0	5,5,16,3,0	5,2,7,12,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,0	5,5,16,3,0	5,2,7,0,9,7,0	D	1,0	5,5,14,4,0	5,2,7,0,9,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All lots in Blocks 4, 5, and 8 of Golf Heights Addition to the city, including vacated street and alley. Bounded on the south by South Judkins Street, on the west by Twelfth Avenue South, and on the east and north by Fourteenth Avenue South.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lawrence Kreisman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Office of Urban Conservation

DATE

August 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

400 Yesler Way

TELEPHONE

(206) 625-4260

CITY OR TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jeanne M. Welch* 10-9-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Martin O'Connell*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ANCEAHOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-21-79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 12/20/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Charles Bebb (1856-1942) was born in England and received his education at King's College, the University of Lausanne, and the London School of Mines. After some involvement with railroad building in South Africa, Bebb came to Seattle in 1890. For five years he was an architectural engineer for the Denny Clay Company. In private practice, he was associated with Leonard Lewis Mendel, then with Carl Gould. Bebb is credited with having designed the first fireproof structure in Seattle, the Bailey Building (Saunders and Haughton, architects). He also was responsible for the design and construction of the State Legislature, Temple of Justice, and Insurance buildings in Olympia, Washington. With Mendel, he designed the Hoge Building, the Frye Hotel, and a large number of handsome and well-detailed private residences in Seattle. In association with Carl Gould, he designed the triangular Times Square Building, the north addition of the Rainier Club (a National Register of Historic Places property), the University of Washington master plan and several campus buildings, and, in 1932, the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park (a National Register of Historic Places property). Bebb was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1910. In the same year, he was awarded membership in the Royal Institute of Arts in London and the American Federation of Arts in Washington D.C.

Carl Gould (1873-1939) was born in New York City and attended Philips Exeter Academy and Harvard University (Class of 1898). From 1899 to 1903, he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. On the East Coast, he worked with the firm of McKim, Mead and White. He was associated with George C. Post on the design of the Wisconsin State Capitol at Madison. He also assisted Daniel Burnham in the plans for rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. In 1908 he came to Seattle. Gould, an authority on Gothic architecture, and Charles Bebb were responsible for a large number of buildings on the University of Washington campus (see above). In addition to his design work, Gould was the founder and head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Washington. From 1925-30 he was a member of the Civic Planning Commission. He was also president of the Washington State Chapter of the AIA, president of the Art Institute of Seattle (1926-29), president of the Architectural League of Pacific Coast, and a member of the Society of Beaux Arts Architects.

John Graham (1908-1955) was one of Seattle's most prolific designers of large-scale commercial buildings, most of them in the Art Deco or Modernistic styles of the 1920's and 1930's. Born on the Isle of Man, he was apprenticed to an architect in England at an early age and later designed buildings in England, China, Japan, and Canada, as well as in the United States. Among his works in Seattle are the Bon Marche, the Joshua Green Building, the Exchange Building, the Roosevelt Hotel, the second part of the Medical/Dental Building, the Government Fisheries Building, Bank of California, Frederic and Nelson, University Methodist Temple, Plymouth Congregational Church, and the Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Seattle. In Tacoma, he did the Medical Arts Building. He was architect for the Ford Motor Company prior to his retirement in 1945.

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The United States Marine Hospital in Seattle had its origin in Port Townsend, which is approximately fifty miles from Seattle across Puget Sound. The Port Townsend Marine Hospital was under private ownership, providing services to beneficiaries on a contractual basis until 1883, when its ownership was assumed by the U.S. Government. The facility burned down a few years later, and in 1896 a new 80-bed hospital was constructed on the same site. It remained as the U.S. Marine Hospital for the Northwest United States until the hospital was moved to Seattle. The original bed capacity for the United States Marine Hospital in Seattle was 312; present bed capacity is 249. Like other U.S. Public Health Service hospitals, the Seattle facility serves about 40 categories of beneficiaries, including Coast Guard personnel, officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Indian Health Service referrals, and Department of Defense employees. In addition to providing services in the hospital, the facility is responsible for operations of out-patient clinics in Portland, Oregon, and Juneau, Alaska, and for contracting hospitals, physicians, dentists, and pharmacists in nine Northwestern states for services to eligible beneficiaries in areas where there is no U.S. Public Health Service hospital. As an accredited institution, the United States Marine Hospital in Seattle has an extensive training program for specialties in the health care field. The hospital is affiliated with the University of Washington School of Medicine as well as numerous professional and technical schools in the Seattle area.