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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District

Other names/site number: Centennial Plaza, Gulfport Veterans Administration Hospital Campus, Gulfport VA and Gulfport VAMC

Name of related multiple property listing: **United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 200 Beach Boulevard

City or town: Gulfport State: MS County: Harrison

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

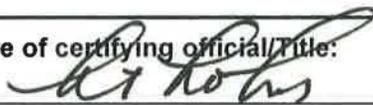
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: 		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		Nov. 25, 2013

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:) for Edson H. Beall 1-15-14  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

Health Care: hospital

Health Care: sanitarium

Health Care: medical business/ office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant / not use

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/ Mission / Spanish Colonial Revival

### Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: stucco, block, and concrete

Walls: stucco

Roof: terra cotta tiles

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District campus is located in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The campus is on the north side of Highway 90 facing directly onto the Gulf of Mexico, about three miles east of downtown Gulfport. The campus consists of 48 acres with ten Spanish Colonial Revival buildings. The building placement, picturesque landscape of mature oak trees, grassy lawns, a pond and curvilinear roadways were planned elements of the medical center's therapeutic mission. The Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District is one of only two such extensive residential VA facilities in the state and is an excellent example of Neuropsychiatric Hospital sub-type of the V.A. Second Generation Hospital, Period 1.

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#### Narrative Description

The Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District is in the southernmost portion of the state along the Gulf of Mexico in Harrison County, approximately three miles east of downtown Gulfport. The hospital campus is located on the north side of Highway 90 facing the Gulf of Mexico in the southeastern part of Gulfport, in Harrison County. The Historic District encompasses approximately 48 acres of property and includes twelve contributing resources. The area surrounding the district is comprised of residential neighborhoods, multi-family developments and commercial development. Highway 90 (Beach Boulevard) serves as the southern boundary while the CXS railroad tracks border the north (Railroad Street). Residential streets border the property, with Arkansas Ave. on the east and Oak Ave on the west.

The original mission of the property was to be the site of Mississippi's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood celebration, but in 1917, the state leased the land and the temporary exhibition buildings to the Department of the Navy for a World War I training camp. At the close of the war the Public Health Service of the Treasury Department assumed the lease. At that time considerable renovations occurred and the veterans' bureau opened the hospital for neuropsychiatric patients. By Executive Order No. 3669 dated April 29, 1922, the hospital was transferred from the Public Health Services to the Veterans Bureau. At that time the property was purchased by the Veterans Bureau from the City of Gulfport and the Mississippi Centennial Exposition for use as a hospital. At the time of sale, July 11, 1922, the property consisted of 147 acres and had several temporary structures. The construction of seven new structures was completed in 1923 as a Neuropsychiatric Hospital sub-type of the Second Generation Veterans Hospital.

The Multiple Property context document approved by the National Park Service for veterans' hospitals of this period defines "Second Generation" hospitals as follows:

Constructed between 1919 and 1950, these medical facilities reveal a profound shift from the medical care offered to veterans at the federal level prior to World War I. Second Generation Veterans Hospitals

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built upon the mission of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), also known as First Generation Veterans Homes (which were built or acquired from 1866 to 1929). Whereas the eleven branches of the NHDVS operated as long term domiciliary and hospital facilities for volunteer Union veterans of the Civil War, the Second Generation Veterans Hospital's mission was the rapid rehabilitation, healing and return of veterans to their productive civilian lives through modern medical facilities, therapies, medicines, and surgical techniques. The growth of the number of Second Generation Veterans Hospitals was in part spurred by the continues liberalizing of admittance requirements that ultimately provided medical care to veterans for ailments unrelated to service injuries or disabilities. By 1950 the Veterans Administration was operating 136 hospitals, the nation's largest network of hospitals.

Although there are similarities among all of the Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, they can be divided based upon two periods of construction, Period I and Period II, and four hospital sub-types: neuropsychiatric, tuberculosis, general medical and surgical hospitals, and homes/general medical hospitals.<sup>1</sup>

The period of significance for the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District in Gulfport, Mississippi, extends from the initial construction in 1923 through 1950, the date of the last federal veterans hospital constructed utilizing the design philosophies developed for Second Generation Veterans Hospitals. As noted in "United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals" MPS, Third Generation (or Bradley) hospitals, constructed after 1950, "reflected a growing need for out-patient treatment rather than residential care."<sup>2</sup> The twelve resources remaining in the district are contributing resources to the historic district. Contributing resources include those that retain integrity to convey the historic district's significance and were constructed during the period of significance (1923-1950). The District's buildings are Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture with Flemish gables, terra cotta tile roofs and stucco finishes. The structures are made of masonry, terra cotta brick and poured concrete and reflect the construction methods of their time. The center quad design creates an ordered picturesque pedestrian-scale campus shaded by mature live oaks.

Second Generation Veterans Hospitals are significant as a tangible manifestation of the federal government's commitment to the healthcare of the veterans of World War I. The Second Generation Veterans Hospital mission was the rapid rehabilitation, healing, and return of veterans to their productive civilian lives through modern facilities, therapies, medicine, and surgical techniques. Standardized designs for these hospitals were developed with input from the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and continued to evolve.<sup>3</sup> The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is an example of a Period I Second Generation Veterans Hospital, sub-type neuropsychiatric. The association is evident in its building orientations and size, centralized quadrangle and pedestrian scale, occupational therapy, and farming/agricultural elements. The Multiple Property document "United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals" observes the following standard characteristics of neuropsychiatric hospitals designed by the Veterans Administration:<sup>4</sup>

- campus setting that includes farming/agricultural elements
- a monumental main building
- buildings functionally grouped together
- the hierarchal use of Colonial Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival architectural decorative elements on the exteriors of the buildings according to their public use and visibility
- a cohesive architectural campus setting with formal structured landscape plans
- H-shaped patient ward/treatment buildings with sleeping or sun porches on both floors.

<sup>1</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section E p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Spurlock, et al. "Second Generation Veterans Hospitals," section E, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Spurlock, et al. "Second Generation Veterans Hospitals," section E, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> Spurlock, et al. "Second Generation Veterans Hospitals," section E, p. 43, 46-47.

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The Medical Center is set within a canopy of old live oaks and view of the Gulf of Mexico. The landscape plan with oak trees hanging with Spanish moss creates a picturesque setting, which contributes to the historic district's character and significance. The concrete sidewalks, asphalt drives and parking areas bring a sense of formality this natural setting. The main entrance gates (Resource 1) are centered on the southern edge of the campus and a driveway leads north to a curvilinear grassy quadrangle, which serves as the center of the district. Surrounding the Quad (Resource 2) are five buildings. The Main Medical Building (Resource 3), located on the north side and centered on the main entrance, ) is the focal point of the Quad. Flanking The Quad to the east and west are Ward C (Resource 6) and Ward B (Resource 5). Flanking a small parking area at the south end of The Quad is the Administration Building (Resource 12) to the east and the Chapel (Resource 11) to the west. The remaining buildings on site both currently and historically have been located around this center group of buildings. The secondary roads allow access from The Quad around the perimeter of the district. To the north of The Quad and the Main Medical building is the Kitchen and Dining Hall (Resource 4). To the east of the Main Medical building is the Infirmary (Resource 8). There is a large parking area in the northeast part of the site. The road bordering the east side of the property originally gave access to the Officers' quarters. These frame detached residences have been removed but the driveway entrances, parking areas and trees still remain. At the southeast corner of the site is a man-made pond with an island in the center, enhancing and supporting the district's picturesque setting. To the west of the Main Medical Building is Ward D (Resource 7). Ward G (Resource 10) is located to the west of Ward B along an access road between the buildings. This road runs south to a large parking area serving Hospital Building (Resource 9). There is another road that branches off and heads west in front of the Hospital Building giving access to the far west side of the hospital property. This area has only the road, sidewalks and parking areas left from previous development. The landscape design, building placement and the choice of Spanish Colonial Revival style architectural details all reflect the Second Generation Veterans Hospital guidelines.

**Individual Resource Inventory**

Ten buildings, the gates and the overall landscape design are elements of this historic district (See map 1). The VA assigned the building numbers shown on the maps at the time of their construction. All resources that are present on site at the time of this application are considered contributing resources based on the historic district's significance within the context developed in the United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF).

**Building Inventory**

Resource		Name	Date
1	C	Main Entry Gates	1936
2	C	Site Landscape and Design	1923
3	C	Main Medical Building, Building No. 1	1923
4	C	Kitchen and Dining Hall, Building No. 2	1923
5	C	Ward B, Building No. 3	1923
6	C	Ward C, Building No. 4	1923
7	C	Ward D, Building No. 5	1923
8	C	Infirmary, Building No. 41	1937
9	C	Hospital Building, Building No. 57	1946
10	C	Ward G, Building No. 62	1931
11	C	Chapel, Building No. 63	1931
12	C	Administration Building, Building No. 64	1931

1. C Main Gates 1936

<sup>5</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section E page 39

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The Main Gates (P1) of the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style and set the tone for what awaits through its gates. Although the exact date of construction is not noted, the construction and condition support the period of significance. The curvilinear Flemish gable shape is introduced here as well as the use of stucco. Curved opening / walk-thru and understated panels complete the gates.

**2. C Site Landscape and Design 1923**

The Site Landscaping and Design is an integral part of the philosophy of Neuropsychiatric Second Generation Hospital, Period 1. The Quad is located in the center of campus. The main entrance gates are centered on the southern edge of the campus and a driveway leads north to curvilinear grassy quadrangle, which creates the center of the district. Surrounding The Quad are five buildings. There is a flagpole which is on an axis with the Main Gates and the Main Medical building (Resource 2). There is a circular walkway directly north of the flagpole with connecting sidewalks running east and west to connect Wards B (Resource 5) and C (Resource 6). At the north end of the Quad is a small parking lot. The area has a grass lawn with a few small bushes. Secondary roads access the remainder of the site. The areas around the buildings are planted with live oak trees some as old as the buildings they surround, creating a canopy of green. Sidewalks connect the entrances of the buildings and promote circulation. There is a pond (P12) as part of the picturesque nature of the site complete with a bridge to allow access to a small island in the middle.

**3. C Main Medical Building, Building No. 1 1923**

The Main Medical Building is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The building has synthetic stucco over the original stucco facades both of which have substantial peeling and weathering (outlines of removed additions remain). The main façade of the structure faces south and is the focal point of The Quad from the entry gates (P1 and P2). The two-story gable roofed building has a central entry pavilion with a flat roof, which is capped with a flat parapet and projects from the face of the building. A door is centered on the first floor of the pavilion within a stylized surround and is flanked by windows, which are double hung, 9/9 wood clad windows, with a band of similar windows on the second floor (P5). Two-story wings topped with gable roofs covered in terra cotta tiles flank the central pavilion with small exposed rafter tails. These wings are themselves flanked by two-story wings with flat roofs. The east and west facades have been altered from the original design. There is evidence of additions, which have been removed and original openings that have been in-filled, two on the each floor flanking a center openings that was converted to a door way at one time to access the removed addition but now has a new double hung, 9/9 wood clad window matching the rest of the façade. A one-story wing centered in the north (rear) elevation, which connected to Kitchen and Dining Hall Building No. 2, has been demolished with clear evidence of older openings being in filled. Period – appropriate replacement windows are located in original openings, which are equally spaced on the first and second floors. The interior has been gutted. The most prominent landscape elements are the two trees flanking the front entry. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter. Sidewalks lead to surrounding buildings.

**4. C Kitchen and Dining Hall, Building No. 2 1923**

The Kitchen and Dining Hall is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The building has an exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco facades both of which have been grinded off causing substantial peeling and weathering. The building is two stories with a gable roof capped with terra cotta tiles and a stepped gable parapets at the north and south wings. A later large addition has been removed and only the original long gabled structure remains. The east and west fronts have been altered from the original design and evidence of additions, which have been removed and original openings that have been in-filled, three on the first floor north side and on the second floor a door opening was converted back to a window. The historic stucco has been painted on this side. A covered one-story open-air walkway runs the length of the first floor on the south face and wraps around the west side of the building as a one story enclosed addition (P19). This walkway serves as the major circulation between Main Medical Building and the Kitchen / Dining building. There is lattice attached in the square openings creating an arcade and doors have been in filled in several places in the south façade. There is also evidence of transom windows over several doors that have been in filled over time. There is a band of period-appropriate double hung, 9/9 wood clad

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windows along the second floor. The north façade has been altered from the original design and evidence of additions, which have been removed and original openings that have been in-filled is present, but the majority of the window openings on the first and second floors have period-appropriate double hung, 9/9 wood clad windows (P18). The interior has been gutted, only structural concrete columns remain and all interior finishes removed. The area between the Main Medical building and the Kitchen and Dining Hall was landscaped at one time, now it is severely over grown. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter.

**5. C Ward B, Building No. 3 1923**

Ward B is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The footprint reflects the typical design of the new patient ward/ treatment buildings designed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy in Period I and illustrates a modified H-plan. The building has exterior synthetic stucco over the original stucco facades with a weathered condition and areas of exterior paint. The main building is two stories with a gable roof covered with terra cotta tiles. The primary façade faces east and has a slightly projecting central pavilion capped with a stepped parapet where the main entry doors are located (P6). Period-appropriate double hung, 4/4 wood clad windows are located in original openings and are regularly spaced along the first and second floors. There are projecting wings with hip roofs on the north and south ends of the building, intersecting the main façade. There are entrance doors in the corners where the pavilions meet the main façade, with iron balcony railings on the second floor with small arched windows on the sides. The north end has a two-story flat roof wing, which has two shallow simple pilasters and period-appropriate windows double hung, 4/4 wood clad windows in historic openings (P7). At the south end of the building there is a two-story wing with a flat roof. The southwest corner of the building has larger double hung, 9/9, wood clad windows in groups of three with fixed nine-light transoms and articulated square columns between each group. This area was integral in the rehabilitation of the patients, providing light and air. The west elevation has a projecting one-story wing with a loading dock. Part of the loading dock area is covered with a glass paneled flat roof. Three articulated arched top louvers are located on the roof to either side on the loading dock wing. The interior has been gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter and crepe myrtles accentuate the architecture. Sidewalks link to surround buildings supporting pedestrian access.

**6. C Ward C, Building No. 4 1923**

Ward C is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The footprint reflects the typical design of the new patient ward/ treatment buildings designed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy in Period I and illustrates a modified H-plan. The building has an exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco with a weathered condition. Building No. 4 is virtually a mirror image of Building No. 3. The main building is a two story with a gable roof covered with terra cotta tiles. The primary façade faces west and has a slightly projecting central pavilion capped with a stepped parapet where the main entry doors are located (P8). There are projecting pavilions with hip roofs on the north and south ends of the building, intersecting the main façade. There are entrance doors in the corners where the pavilions meet the main façade, with iron balcony railings on the second floor and double-hung, 4/4, wood clad windows above a wooden replacement French door with 10 lights, each leaf inset into an arched opening. The north end has a two-story flat roof wing, which has two shallow simple pilasters and replacement windows in historic openings. On the south end of the building there is a two-story wing with a flat roof (P14). The southwest corner of the building has larger double hung, 9/9, wood clad windows in groups of threes with fixed nine-light transoms and articulated square columns between each group. This area was integral in the rehabilitation of the patients, providing light and air. The interior has been gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter and crepe myrtles accentuate the architecture.

**7. C Ward D, Building No. 5 1923**

Ward D is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The footprint reflects the typical design of the new patient ward/ treatment buildings designed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy in Period I and illustrates modified H-plan. The building has an

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exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco with a weathered condition. The main façade faces south and has double wood entrance doors with nine lights in each leaf with period-appropriate double hung, 9/9, wood clad windows regularly spaced in original openings on the first and second floors. The entry façade is asymmetrical with a row of windows omitted from the east side of the entry door on both the first and second floor in the original design. Two-story wings with flat roofs flank the gabled main wing. These wings are wrapped with a one-story addition with flat roof, which extends the length of the west façade (P21). All the window openings have period appropriate double hung, 9/9, wood clad windows. There is suggestion that the one story wings may have originally been porches, but are now enclosed with period-appropriate windows double hung, 9/9, wood clad windows. This would support the importance of light and air to the recovery of the patients. On the north, two projecting flat roof pavilions flank side of the building the main gable. These two-story projecting wings have a rear service door on the first floor covered by a metal-cantilevered awning roof (not original) and two short rectangular double hung 8/8 clad replacement windows above on the second floor. At the corner where the east pavilion intersects the main gable, there is an entrance porch consisting of a steep gable front with arch top gallery and shed roof covered with terra cotta tiles (P20). The porch retains the original V-notched tongue and groove ceiling. The interior has been gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter and crepe myrtles accentuate the architecture.

**8. C Infirmary, Building No. 41 1937**

The Infirmary is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building constructed with terra cotta block and poured concrete. The footprint reflects the typical Period II ward/ treatment buildings design true H- plan buildings and is larger than the original Period I structures. The building has an exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco with a weathered condition. The two-story building main façade faces south (P15). There is a central projecting pavilion with a decorative Flemish gable featuring a round window with ornate surround. Square pilasters and lintel surround the double entrance doors and transom. There are three period-appropriate double hung, 15/15 wood clad windows across the front of the second floor, with an iron balcony centered on the window over the wood French entry doors with eight lights in each leaf and a five- light transom. Molded shields are located over each of the three windows in arch top surrounds. Centered at the intersection of the main gable and the Flemish gable there is a third-story square pavilion with hipped roof. Two hipped roof pavilions at the east and west ends intersect with the triangular stepped gable parapets. There are large arched double hung, 4/4, period-appropriate wood clad windows with quarter round four- light fan windows on the first floor and period-appropriate rectangular double hung, 4/4, wood clad windows with four- light transoms on the second floor, on three sides of the projecting pavilions. This area supports the design philosophy for the need for light and air to encourage rehabilitation. The east (P16) and west facades are similar with an intersecting wing and regularly spaced double hung, 15/15, period-appropriate wood clad windows on both floors. All of the gable and hip roofs is terra cotta tile. The North façade had three projecting wings with the center a Flemish gable and the east and west stepped gable ends. On the center and west projecting wings there is evidence in the stucco of two story additions being removed, the original window locations have been repaired and double hung, 15/15, period-appropriate wood clad windows have been installed. The east projection wing has a more modern appearance of a mechanical physical plant area. Detailing on the exterior is shallow columns with scored panels, large vent/grills in between. This area has an exit through a second floor plain metal door access by an exterior metal staircase. On the east elevation there is evidence of a removed one-story addition may have been an entrance, the original window openings rebuilt and in filled with appropriate double hung, 15/15, period-appropriate wood clad windows on both floors. The interior has been gutted. There is a small amount of original terrazzo on the existing interior stairs but it is in extremely poor condition. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter and crepe myrtles and other landscaping accentuate the architecture.

**9. C Hospital Building, Building No. 57 1946**

The Hospital Building is a three-story Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building with an exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco with a weathered condition. The footprint is in the typical Period II ward/ treatment buildings design true H- plan buildings and is larger than the original Period I structures. The main entrance faces north and features a slightly projecting central pavilion with a hip roof and a decorated Flemish gable (P24). The decoration on the two-story door and window surround is the most ornate architectural feature in the entire complex, featuring concrete pilasters, pinnacles, and an arch with colored terra cotta

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decorations. This building is the only building on campus that has an articulated band at the second floor. Two hip-roof wings intersect the main gable roof at the east and west ends. This entry court has evidence of additions being removed from both the east and west wings, the outline remains in the stucco but the original window layout have been repaired. The east façade has an intersecting wing with a gable roof and Flemish gable parapet. The south façade has three intersecting hipped roofed wings, the east and west gables have Flemish gable parapets (both tops repaired with synthetic stucco) and the center has a flat roof parapet (P26). The hipped ends of the east and west wings have arched top double hung, 4/4, period-appropriate wood clad windows with four-light arch top transoms on the third floor (P25) and large rectangular double hung, 4/4, period-appropriate wood clad windows with four light transoms on the second floor. The areas with lots of windows support the need for light and air in philosophy for the rehabilitation at this time. The south elevation has three projecting wings with the center wing being shorter than the sides. There is evidence in the stucco of additions being removed from all three of the wings in that courtyard. These may have been exterior staircases. All three are two window bays wide and one of the window openings has been altered on each floor to accommodate a door, with all of the original windows restored. The band at the second floor level has not been restored. On the southwest end of the building there is evidence of a one-story addition with a balcony. All that remains is the platform and outline on the stucco; all of the openings have been repaired. The southeast end of the building appears to be missing a roof over a first floor exit. The sloped roofs are all terra cotta tile and all of the other windows are Double hung, 15/15, period-appropriate wood clad. The interior has been gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter and crepe myrtles and other landscaping accentuate the architecture.

**10. C Ward G, Building No. 62 1931**

Ward G is a Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission style masonry building with an exterior synthetic stucco treatment over the original stucco facades with a weathered condition. The footprint is in the typical Period II ward/ treatment buildings design true H-plan buildings and is larger than the original Period I structures. The primary façade faces south with a two-story central projecting portico topped with a Flemish gable parapet (P23). Hip roofed wings intersect the main building on the east and west and feature large arched double hung, 4/4, period-appropriate wood clad windows with four-light quarter round fan windows on the first floor and large rectangular double hung, 4/4, period-appropriate wood clad windows with four-light transoms on the second floor. All of the other windows are double hung, 15/15, period-appropriate wood clad. The east façade has an intersecting wing with a stepped gable parapet. The North façade has three intersecting wings with stepped gable parapets (P22). The center and west wings have evidence of a removed addition perhaps an exit stair, because one of the window openings on each floor has evidence of being enlarged, now the windows are all restored to their original layout. The northeast wing is the mechanical area and is detailed in the same way as Infirmary building (resource 8). Shallow columns with scored stucco panels, large vents/ grates and second floor exit with metal exterior stair. The north courtyard created by the wings has a loading dock located on the east side. There is evidence of a roof covering a section of the load dock. All the gable roofs are terra cotta tile. The interior is gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter.

**11. C Chapel, Building No. 63 1931**

The Chapel is a one-story Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission style building. The structure's central pavilion is composed of a front-facing, terra-cotta-tile-covered, gabled roof that rises high above flanking flat-roofed wings. The gabled main façade faces east, is crowned by a pinnacled, round-arched belfry, and has a decorative Mudejar-styled "rose window" that punctuates the tympanum (P10). A one-story, tile-roofed porch, with three round-arched openings and a decorative Flemish gable is centered on the façade and shelters the primary entrance. A wheelchair ramp added to the north of the entrance porch provides handicapped access. One story, flat-roof wings wrap around the south (P27), west, and north facades. All of the windows are double hung, 8/8, period-appropriate wood clad. The north wing has a Flemish gable and 4/1 windows flanking a double door with rectangular transom (P4). The South elevation has simple one-story covered porches on either side of a flat roof wing with three rectangular windows in arched openings. The sloped roofs of the porches feature terra cotta tile and exposed curved rafter tails. In places the building's Mission-style masonry structure has had the original stucco finish repaired with synthetic stucco. The interior is gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter.

**12. C Administration Building, Building No. 64 1931**

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The Administration Building is a Spanish Colonial/Mission-style masonry (tile brick) building with an exterior stucco treatment. The two-story building has a terra cotta tile gable roof. The main façade faces south and has a two-story portico with a Flemish gable (P11). The portico has a tile covered shed roof supported by decorative knee braces with curved exposed rafters. The first floor has arched openings. At the center is an opening housing the main entry, a single-leaf, painted wood door with 15 lights, under a decorative arch flanked by five-light sidelights with the transom divided in to three parts to correspond to the divisions of the door and side lights. The other flanking arched openings have period-appropriate 15 light fixed wood casement windows with an arch top divided fan light transom on the first floor and three large 21 light fixed wood casement-windows, with curved cornered eight light transoms on the second floor. There is a two story wood gallery flanking the portico, with four doors to the west and five doors to the east. Wood French doors with 12 lights and four-light transoms are set in original openings on the south facade. The east (P13) and west facades (P9) are similar with painted wood double doors with three lights over a panel centered under the decorative fan arch transom flanked by wood double casement, eight light period-appropriate windows with four light transoms on the first floor and three wood double casement, eight light period-appropriate with four light transoms on the second floor. Both facades have decorative arched vents at the gables. There is a two story wood gallery that remains on the north façade and runs the length of the building (P3). On the north side, doors like those on the south side have been used in the original opening. The moderately broad eaves reveal decorative rafter heads. The original staircase is intact. A Craftsman style mantle and fireplace remain in the main entry lobby. The rest of the interior is gutted. Live oaks are planted around the perimeter.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

#### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Politics / Government  
Health/ Medical

#### Period of Significance

1922 - 1950

#### Significant Dates

1923

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

#### Cultural Affiliation

n/a

#### Architect/Builder

Consultants on Hospitalization, Office of the Architect of the Treasury & Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Gulfport Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center Historic District is significant for its association with the federal government's commitment to health care of World War I and World War II veterans. As defined in the United States Second Generation Veterans Hospital Multiple Property Documentation Form, the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is an example of a Period I, Neuropsychiatric Second Generation Veterans Hospital. The Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A at a state level of significance in the areas of Politics/ Government because of the importance of securing the federal facility and its impact on the local community and veterans of the state of Mississippi. The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is also eligible under Criterion A at the state level of significance in the area of Health / Medicine because of the mission of the federal government, through the Veterans Bureau and the VA, to provide neuropsychiatric treatment and occupational therapy to the veterans of World War I and World War II. The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance as an excellent example of a Period I, Second Generation Veterans Hospital exhibiting the Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission Revival styles and design.

In 1980 the Veterans Administration obtained a determination from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places that the Gulfport VA Complex was eligible for listing in the National Register. In November 2007, the National Register Office reviewed the previous determination of eligibility, in light of the damage inflicted on the property by Hurricane Katrina. Despite the damage, it was determined that "the remaining buildings of the Veterans Administration Medical Center Gulfport Division are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under NR Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Medicine, and Politics/Government."

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The period of significance for the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District extends from 1922-1950. It begins with the construction of the hospital and continues through 1950, the date of the last federal veterans' hospital constructed utilizing the design philosophies developed for the Second Generation Veterans Hospitals. The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is an excellent example of a Period I Second Generation Veterans Hospital that retains characteristics of the neuropsychiatric sub-type and as an example utilizing Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission Revival architectural styles.

#### *Historic Development*

December 10, 1917, was to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Mississippi to the Union. As early as 1914, Gulfport, Harrison County, and the State of Mississippi began to make plans for a fitting celebration commemorating the event. A suitable site was purchased for the sum of \$300,000. Originally seven buildings were constructed with the contract calling for construction of eight more buildings. The plans intended the Centennial Exposition be a worldwide attraction, comparable the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. The Exposition was expected to run from early fall through December 10, 1917. The U. S. Congress made a large appropriation for the furtherance of the project and by April 1, 1917, a number of foreign countries, states, counties and municipalities had set aside funds and made arrangements for representation and participation. Hundreds of exhibitors and concessionaires had made deposits for spaces. Landscaping was just about complete.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Veterans Administration, *Fifty years of Service – A History of Biloxi – Gulfport VA Medical Centers*, 1980, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS, Page 6

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On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and almost immediately the plans for the Centennial Exposition were abandoned. The site was offered to the government without charge for whatever use might be made of it toward winning the war. The offer was accepted and the U.S Navy set up facilities to train 3,000 naval recruits under the command of Rear-Admiral Alfred Reynolds.<sup>7</sup>

After the war, the Public Health Services was designated as the agency to care for war veterans needing hospital care. Through the cooperation of the State of Mississippi, Harrison County, and the City of Gulfport, the centennial grounds and buildings were leased to the U.S. Government for an annual rental of \$14,000 to be used as a Veterans Hospital. The doors to the U.S. Public Health Hospital No. 74 were officially opened on July 15, 1921. This 200 – bed hospital was to be used for the care of psychoneurotic cases. The U.S. Navy housed the hospital in the temporary structures built for the Mississippi Centennial Exposition.<sup>8</sup>

The U.S. Veterans Bureau purchased the hospital grounds and buildings from the State of Mississippi June 13, 1922, for the sum of \$125,000. The site was comprised of approximately 2,000 feet of frontage on the Mississippi Sound. At the time of purchase, the hospital buildings were located on a tract of 40 acres and a farming and swine operation occupied 100 acres north of the L & N Railroad to provide vocational training to patients and supply food for the complex.

Shortly after they purchased the property, the Veterans Bureau made plans to build new and permanent buildings. Congress appropriated \$250,000 for this purpose and by April 1924 these new buildings were completed. With the opening of the new buildings, the temporary buildings then in use were torn down or moved away. Of the original exposition buildings only the Administrative Building remained in use until 1951, when it was abandoned as being on longer usable.<sup>9</sup>

Over the life of the site, many buildings have come and gone. The six original buildings of April 1924 were joined by: the General Storeroom (# 60) in 1925, the Laundry (#61) in 1938, and six Officers quarters (#50, #51, and #56) in 1929 (none of which stand today). In June 1930, construction of five additional permanent buildings was begun. These included Building #62 (Resource 10) with a capacity of 138 beds, the recreation building, the Manager's residence, the Nurses' home, and a substance storeroom which as constructed is an addition to Building #2 (this addition has been removed from Resource 4). At the end of this expansion the capacity of the hospital was at 594 beds. With minor changes to Building #5 (Resource 7) in July 1932, the capacity was increased to 598 beds.

The accommodation of the hospital was again increased in 1935 when the last of the old Navy and Exhibition-era buildings were demolished, and several of the permanent buildings were remodeled, increasing the bed capacity of the hospital to 628 beds. In July 1937, Building #41 (Resource 8) was completed and the bed capacity rose to 788. Through World War II the complex grew to accommodate the need by adding emergency facilities, shock treatment rooms, and rearranging rooms to accommodate more veterans. By 1946, Building #57 (Resource 9) was completed, providing 164 new beds and increasing the total capacity to 939 beds (742 official and 197 emergency). With World War II at an end, the need for emergency beds decreased, and in December 1946 the emergency capacity reduced to 156 beds.

## **Areas of Significance: Criterion A**

### *Politics and Government*

<sup>7</sup> Veterans Administration, *Fifty years of Service – A History of Biloxi – Gulfport VA Medical Centers*, 1980, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS, Page 6

<sup>8</sup> "Lease Made with Government for Naval Station Declared Desirable" News from the Daily Herald, dated July 5, 1921

<sup>9</sup> Veterans Administration, *Fifty years of Service – A History of Biloxi – Gulfport VA Medical Centers*, 1980, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS, Page 6

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The Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A at a state level of significance in the areas of Politics/ Government because of the importance of securing the federal facility and its impact on the local community and veterans of the state of Mississippi.

The Gulfport VA Medical Center is a visual reminder of the economic role the federal government plays in the communities where it locates its facilities. The construction of the hospital provided employment in the construction trades. The wages and supplies purchased during construction provided an economic stimulus to the local economy. The value from the purchase of construction materials and employment in the construction trades permeated throughout the community. The operations of the hospital also provided a significant market for local businesses. The hospital employed hundreds of workers who lived in communities across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

#### *Health / Medicine*

The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is also eligible under Criterion A at the state level of significance in the area of Health / Medicine because of the mission of the federal government, through the Veterans Bureau and the VA, to provide neuropsychiatric treatment and occupational therapy to the veterans of World War I and World War II.

At the beginning of World War I, reports from the frontlines noted that soldiers were suffering from shell shock, also known as war neurosis. It was initially thought that the effects of the shelling from modern high explosives were the cause of these casualties, as the violent force of the explosions appeared to affect the combatants' nervous systems. Continual gas attacks also provoked the onset of shell shock in soldiers. Many of the wounded had no physical injuries but suffered mental breakdowns leading to catatonic states, amnesia, tremors, nightmares, insomnia, blindness, paralyzed limbs and/or hysterical moments. It was later determined that rather than the concussive effects of artillery on the nervous system, these conditions were caused by the experience of soldiers facing the instruments and effects of modern warfare.<sup>10</sup> By the end of 1940, approximately 58 percent of the VA's patients nationally were being treated for psychiatric illness.<sup>11</sup>

Occupational and recreational therapies were important components in the VA's treatment plans for neuropsychiatric patients. In contrast to the long-term residential approach of First Generation veterans' homes, the mission of the Second Generation Veterans Hospital was to provide care and rehabilitation to patients and return them as quickly as possible to their communities as productive citizens. Occupational therapies at neuropsychiatric hospitals included more rigorous tasks—such as agriculture and landscaping—than those at hospitals for physically disabled veterans. One criterion for the Veterans Bureau and the Veterans Administration neuropsychiatric hospitals was that they be located on tracts with tillable acreage, so that produce and livestock raised on the hospital property could be utilized in the kitchens to provide fresh meat and vegetables for the patients. According to the 1926 Annual Report, the Gulfport VA Medical Center had 30 of its 140 acres for cultivation.<sup>12</sup>

Prior to the 1930s few drugs were utilized in the treatment of neuropsychiatric patients. It was thought that the human body could best fight off diseases with little interference from drugs. A large part of recovery was from natural light and air. But the 1930s and 1940s began the introduction of new drug treatments, including penicillin. Insulin shock treatment (placing patients in an insulin coma) and electroshock therapy were both used to treat psychiatric patients during the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1950s new psychotropic drugs were introduced to treat

<sup>10</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section E page 13

<sup>11</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section E page 15

<sup>12</sup> *Annual Report of the Director United States Veterans Bureau for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1926* (Washington D.C. Government Printing Office, 1926) Page 53

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disorders. Nearly 42 percent of the Veterans Administration's patients suffered from mental or psychiatric illness in 1953.<sup>13</sup>

Throughout the history of the campus, the Gulfport VAMC Psychiatry Services served as a training center for all disciplines, creating innovative therapeutic methods for the treatment of psychiatric illness and utilizing a multidiscipline approach to treatment. The services have been affiliated with Tulane University, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, University of Mississippi School of Medicine, and have trained interns from many others.

### **Areas of Significance: Criterion C**

#### *Architecture*

The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance because the Historic District is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission Revival style. The architectural style based loosely on the adobe Spanish Colonial and Pueblo buildings found in the southwestern U. S. was most common in the period of 1905-1930. Typical elements include smooth stucco walls imitating adobe, fractable parapets or parapet dormers and irregular massing. Spanish Colonial Revival / Mission Revival are evident along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in early-20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhoods throughout Mississippi.<sup>14</sup> This popular style often featured stucco exteriors, symmetrical facades, varying roof heights, clay-tiled roofs, arcades, galleries, round arches, curvilinear parapets, metal balconies, and central courtyards created by the buildings.

The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District began like many Period I Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, first occupying renovated space in existing facilities and soon after building a new campus on the site. The Consultants on Hospitalization designed the site in conjunction with the Office of the Architect of the Treasury and the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy.<sup>15</sup> The Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy followed the standards set out by the Consultants on Hospitalization as each location and situation allowed. The hospitals constructed during Period I are distinguished from Period II by the numerous distinctions in building and landscaping design found on earlier campuses. The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District features the main building at the end of a quadrangle with a circular drive and two large patient buildings situated to the front of the main building but on the opposite sides of the drive. The campus layout is typical of a Period I Hospital, conceived as a complete entity, linear in plan with modifications to accommodate site conditions.

The neuropsychiatric veterans' hospitals were located in rural landscapes on the outer fringes of a city or town. They were situated on large tracts of land and housed the largest number of patients of the four sub-types. The large tracts of land provided insulation from the diversions of the outside world and also allowed for agricultural operations as a form of therapy. Little formalized landscaping was developed on site consistent with other campuses of the time. There was neither time nor the money. Alternatively the use of native plants and natural settings were used in the majority of the areas not developed for agriculture. As seen on the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District property a substantial number of the beautiful live oaks remain, reflecting the therapeutic importance of the hospital setting.

The main buildings of Period I lack the monumentality and massing of those in Period II, as evident in the difference of the Main Medical Building (Resource 1, 1923) a typical Period I design and the Hospital building (Resource 57, 1946) a typical Period II design. The Main Medical Building (Resource 1, 1923) exhibits limited exterior decoration, owing to budgetary concerns and pressure to get hospitals open. The decorative elements on the stucco building are limited to the ornamental entry pavilions with stringer courses and pilasters and decorative cornice.

<sup>13</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section E page 15

<sup>14</sup> Mississippi Heritage Trust, *Architectural Style Guide*, online at [www.mississippiheritage.com](http://www.mississippiheritage.com), 2008, Page 11

<sup>15</sup> Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011, section F page 73

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Later constructed patient ward/ treatment buildings designed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy in Period I were a modified H-plan as seen in Ward B, Ward C, and Ward D. The Period II ward/ treatment buildings were true H- plan buildings and larger than the original Period I structures, as seen in Ward G, the Infirmary, and the Hospital Building.

### **Integrity**

As a historic district eligible under both Criteria A and C, the Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District retains a high level of integrity in both the individual buildings—including materials, workmanship, and design—and the historic district as a whole—location, setting, association, and feeling. Design refers to both the individual resources and the historic district as a whole. While some of the resources within the historic district are not individually exceptional, the resources and the historic district as a whole continue to reflect the spatial patterns and associations of the hospital campus during the period of significance. The registration requirements outlined in the "United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals" suggest that to retain integrity under Criterion A, the individual resources must retain those character-defining features that convey their role in the mission of the federal government, the Veterans Bureau and later the Veterans Administration, to provide neuropsychiatric medical care to the veterans. These features are often found in the overall form, massing and scale of the buildings and the relationship to one another within the district. To retain integrity under Criterion C, the site and individual resources must retain those character-defining features identified with the design of the specific building type and hospital sub-type as defined by the United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF).

In the campus history there have been two record-breaking hurricanes. The first occurred on August 17, 1969, when Hurricane Camille destroyed one building and damaged many others. The second was Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Hurricane Katrina took a greater toll on this historic campus, causing the collapse of a newer structure at the front of the property and flooding the other buildings with at least four feet of water.<sup>16</sup> Post-storm clean-up efforts by the VA resulted in the demolition of a considerable number of historic support facilities on the medical campus, including contributing and non-contributing structures.

The VA repaired the terra cotta tile roofs and replaced modern plate-glass windows with wood clad windows, replicating the original multi-light sash that had been removed during the early-1990s alterations. The VA gutted the interior of the structures leaving bare concrete and block and all interior partitions were removed. The only detail left in most of the structures is the metal handrail on the staircases.

Following the "clean-up efforts," the VA turned the property over the City of Gulfport, which demolished the old power plant and garages to the rear of the campus. After the City of Gulfport took ownership of the property from the VA, they passed a resolution on May 4, 2010, requesting that the property south of the railroad tracks be designated a Mississippi Landmark.

Although the cumulative effects of the modifications, such as the destruction of buildings, use of replacement materials such as windows, doors, and synthetic stucco, and addition of parking lots after the period of significance diminish the integrity of the design and setting, the historic district continues to reflect the hospital and its setting much as it did during the period of significance. The evolution of the historic district and its fight against major natural disasters has not rendered it no longer eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic district retains the majority of its resources erected during its period of significance and also maintains its original campus plan. The Gulfport Veteran's Administration Medical Center Historic District conveys the sense of time and place and is still a significant example of a Period I Neuropsychiatric Second Generation Veterans Hospital.

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<sup>16</sup> Jennifer V.O. Baughn, "Mississippi Landmark Significance Report" – Mississippi Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division  
- Consideration by committee June 10, 2010

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*Context*

The only other Second Generation VA Hospital in Mississippi is in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Biloxi VA Medical Center is a Period II Second Generation sub-type 4 Veterans Home/ General Medical Center and is still in operation today. The Biloxi VA Medical Center is a Colonial Revival Campus built in 1933 and listed on the National Register in 1980. The other VA hospital in the state is in Jackson, Mississippi nearly 180 miles away: the G.V. Montgomery VA Medical Center was opened in 1943 providing Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Medical Care, Neurological and Mental Health, and Inpatient care. That medical center has been modified and altered over time and is not currently eligible for listing on the National Register. Regional examples of Spanish Revival Architecture are seen in the Old Biloxi Public Library (NR, 1984) in Biloxi MS and the L & N Railroad Depot (NR, 1980) in Bay Saint Louis, MS. Both of these structures are prominent historic resources and are listed in the NRHP. The Gulfport VA Medical Center Historic District has the highest concentration of buildings on the Mississippi Gulf Coast of the Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission style.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography

*Annual Report of the Director United States Veterans Bureau for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1926* (Washington D.C. Government Printing Office, 1926).

"*Lease Made with Government for Naval Station Declared Desirable*" News from the Daily Herald, dated July 5, 1921.

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Gatlin, William M. "Building Descriptions Gulfport VA Medical Center," Mississippi Department of Archives and History – Historic Preservation Division, September 2006.

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<http://www.gulfport-ms.gov/ED-VA-History.shtml>

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Mississippi Heritage Trust, *Architectural Style Guide*, online at [www.mississippiheritage.com](http://www.mississippiheritage.com), 2008.

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Spurlock, Trent, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig Potts, United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 24, 2011.

Veterans Administration, "Fifty Years of Service – A History of the Biloxi – Gulfport VA Medical Center." 1980. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resource Inventory files, Gulfport VA Medical Center.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency

Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District

Gulfport, Mississippi

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Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 047-GLF-2400

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 48.07 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.385000	-89.056111
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.382500	-89.059444
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.367500	-89.052222
4. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.371111	-89.063611

**See continuation sheet**

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#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Commence at a found 1" iron pin being used as the northeast corner of section 1, Township 8 south, range 11 west, Harrison County, Mississippi, first judicial district 1537.21 feet to a 3" diameter chain link fence corner found on the south right-of-way for CSX transportation railroad and the point of beginning for this description. For U.S. highway 90; thence run along said margin along a curve having a radius of Feet for an arc distance of 102.07 feet to a found concrete monument; thence run Right-of-way 1775.59 feet to a found 3" chain link fence corner and the point of Beginning for this description.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the campus and surviving therapeutic facilities historically associated with the Gulfport VA Medical Center.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title:** Donna Klee

**organization:** Klee Odom + Klee, PLLC

**street & number:** 953-B Howard Ave

**city or town:** Biloxi state: Mississippi

zip code: 39530

**e-mail:** dklee@kleeodomklee.com

**telephone:** (228) 207-4189

**date:** August 30, 2013

Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
  - **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
- 

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** Gulfport Veterans Administration Hospital Campus

**City or Vicinity:** Gulfport

**County:** Harrison

**State:** MS

**Photographer:** Donna Klee

**Date Photographed:** August 15, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**1 of 35:** Entry Gates - View to N

**2 of 35:** Quad - View to N to Building No. 1

**3 of 35:** Building No. 64 - View to S

**4 of 35:** Building No. 63 - View to SW

**5 of 35:** Building No. 1 - View to NW

**6 of 35:** Building No. 3 - View to W

**7 of 35:** Building No. 3 - View to SW

**8 of 35:** Building No. 4 - View to E

**9 of 35:** Building No. 64 - View to SE

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- 10 of 35:** Building No. 63 - View to W
- 11 of 35:** Building No. 64 - View to NE
- 12 of 35:** Bridge and Pond - View to E
- 13 of 35:** Building No. 64 - View to SW
- 14 of 35:** Building No. 4 - View to NW
- 15 of 35:** Building No. 41 - View to N
- 16 of 35:** Building No. 41 - View to SW
- 17 of 35:** Tunnel Entrance - View to NW
- 18 of 35:** Building No. 2 and 1 - View to SW
- 19 of 35:** Building No. 2 - View to NE
- 20 of 35:** Building No. 5 - View to SE
- 21 of 35:** Building No. 5 - View to E
- 22 of 35:** Building No. 62 - View to SE
- 23 of 35:** Building No. 62 - View to N
- 24 of 35:** Building No. 57 - View to S
- 25 of 35:** Building No. 57 - View to NE
- 26 of 35:** Building No. 57 - View to N
- 27 of 35:** Building No. 63 - View to NE
- 28 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Entry Gates - View to West Northwest
- 29 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Entry Gates - View to Northwest
- 30 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Entry Gates - View to Northeast
- 31 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Entry Gates - View to East Northeast
- 32 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Southeast corner of the site - View to West
- 33 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Southeast corner of the site - View to Northwest
- 34 of 35:** Perimeter street view from Southeast corner of the site - View to North
- 35 of 35:** Perimeter street view from West side the site - View to East at Buildings No.41, No. 1 and

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Gulfport Veterans Administration  
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum: WG 84

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.385000	-89.056111
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.382500	-89.059444
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.367500	-89.052222
4. Latitude:	Longitude:
30.371111	-89.063611

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Harrison County, Mississippi  
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)





















































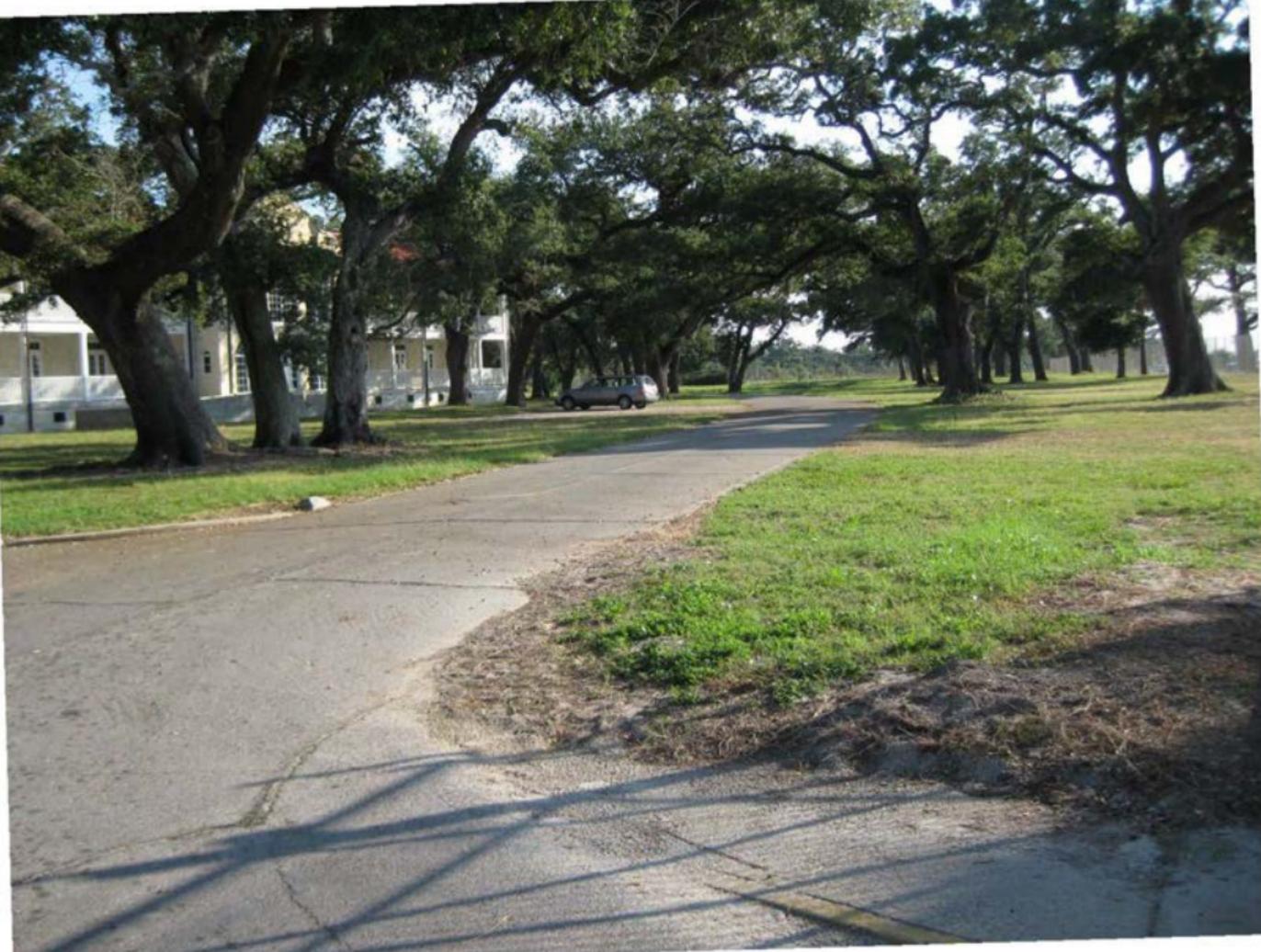




















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Harrison

DATE RECEIVED: 11/29/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/15/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001080

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1-15-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975  
mdah.state.ms.us

*H. T. Holmes, Director*



November 25, 2013

Mr. Paul Loether  
Program Director, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic District, Gulfport, Harrison County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi National Register Review Board at its meeting on November 21, 2013.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H.T. Holmes".

H.T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator