

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

For NPS use only

received APR 21 1987

date entered MAY 21 1987

**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 Old Fernald-Laughton Memorial Hospital

and or common Florida Hotel; George Fernald House

**2. Location**

street & number 500 South Oak Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Sanford

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

code 012

county Seminole

code 117

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                            |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>N/A</u> in process                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                      |
|   | <u>N/A</u> being considered                 | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Rooming House |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Peggy Nestor

street & number 1751 Tippicanoe Trail

city, town Maitland

N/A vicinity of

state Florida

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Seminole County Courthouse

street & number North Park Street

city, town Sanford

state Florida

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

## 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <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 Old Fernald-Laughton Memorial Hospital is a two-story Colonial Revival style structure located at the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Oak Avenue in a residential neighborhood southwest of downtown Sanford, Florida. The first story of the wood frame ell-shaped building is covered with a veneer of beige colored brick laid in running bond. The second story is sided with butt wood shingles. The hipped roof covering the main block of the building is surfaced with French tiles as are the dormers on its east facade and north elevation.

The structure rests upon brick piers and a foundation wall of the same beige colored brick that forms the exterior wall of the first story. The three-bay main (east) facade features a one-story, three-bay veranda with Doric columns that support a flat deck having a Doric entablature. The columns stand upon paneled pedestals that are united by a classical balustrade. The principal windows are single hung with "mullioned" (28 and 16 light) upper sashes and single light lower sashes. The second story windows also have fixed leaded "art glass" transoms.

The building as described above dates from 1919 when extensive alterations were made to the original 1910 structure. The main facade was initially only two bays wide and had a veranda that embraced three elevation, the eastern one of which was incised into the main block of the structure. The original windows were similar to those found in the present building. The veranda featured tapered and fluted wooden columns that stood on paneled pedestals and supported a "classical" entablature. The north and south legs of the veranda were enclosed when the house was converted into a hospital. The two-story ell now found on the west side of the building was erected in 1927. This addition accommodated patient rooms. A secondary entrance on the north elevation provided access to the rear of the building.

The interior of the building remains in excellent condition. That interior portion of the structure extant in 1910 was not altered significantly to accommodate its conversion to a hospital. The main central reception hall was used as a waiting room. Two rooms on the north side of the building were used as offices and examination rooms. One of the large rooms on the south was used as an operating room. The surgery was fitted with an operating room, lights, and cabinets and had an elevator to bring patients from their rooms on the second floor.

The most architecturally interesting portion of the interior is the main foyer which is dominated by the Ionic-columned "Serliana" that frames the paneled staircase and stair wall. The newel post of the stairs is also paneled and the the balusters are turned. The rooms on the second floor contained patients beds and are now used as hotel rooms. These rooms are simple in design and have paneled wood doors with movable transoms above them. Other than the removal of the hospital equipment, the structure underwent few changes when it was converted into a rooming house in 1955.

Contributing Resources: 1

Non-Contributing: 0

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)    |

**Specific dates** 1910-1919-1927      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Old Fernald-Laughton Memorial Hospital is significant to the city of Sanford, Florida, primarily as the only hospital serving the community from 1919 to 1955. It is also associated with George Fernald, an early resident of Sanford, who built the structure as his residence in 1910. The hospital was erected, in part, as a memorial to Fernald, who died in 1916, and therefore bears his name. Architecturally, the building is significant as a regional example of eclectic Colonial Revival style residential construction which reflects popular American taste in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The structure was originally built as a residence in 1910 by George Fernald, who came to Sanford from Boston, Massachusetts, in 1883. He co-founded the Fernald-Tuxberg Hardware Company with Charles H. Tuxberg, also a native of Boston. The company was a major hardware supplier in Sanford and eventually expanded to include plumbing contracting.<sup>1</sup>

In the late nineteenth century, Sanford was a key railroad town. As the terminal for riverboat traffic from Jacksonville on the St. Johns River and for Henry B. Plant's railroad, which linked Jacksonville on the Atlantic with Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico, Sanford was a small but extremely important city. Medical services for the community were generally handled by the railroad. The railroad established a small clinic for its personnel in the late 1890s, and the citizens of Sanford came to depend of the facility for their medical needs as well.<sup>2</sup> As a consolidation move in 1904, the railroad relocated the clinic at its major switching hub in Waycross, Georgia.<sup>3</sup> This essentially left Sanford with no medical facilities, the nearest at that time being in Orlando, about twenty miles away.

In 1892, Fernald had a residence constructed for himself and his wife, Margaret, at 701 West Third Street; this house is still in existence. When new land at the corner of Fifth Street and Oak Avenue became available in 1910, Fernald and his wife purchased the property and built a one-story Colonial Revival style home. Unfortunately, Fernald was able to enjoy his home only a few years, as he died in 1916.<sup>4</sup>

Upon George Fernald's death, his wife decided to establish a new hospital dedicated to her husband's memory. The name Laughton was added to honor the family name of Margaret Fernald's mother. In May of 1919 the family home was donated to the city of Sanford for use as a private, non-profit medical facility. The building was enlarged to serve its new purpose, and the hospital officially opened later that year. In 1927, a rear wing was added to the building to accommodate new beds.<sup>5</sup> The total capacity of the facility was 30 beds. The hospital was run by a small nursing staff and served by local doctors. It served the community until a new municipal hospital was constructed in Sanford in 1955.<sup>6</sup> After its closing, the old hospital building was converted into a hotel/rooming house called the Florida Hotel. It still serves that function at the present time.<sup>7</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Sanford

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
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| Zone |   |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Town of Sanford, Tier 7, Row 5, Lots 1, 2, 3.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 20, 1987

street & number R.A. Gray Building telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 32301

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 20, 1987

### For NPS use only

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

 date 5/21/87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet SIGNIFICANCE

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The Old Fernald-Laughton Memorial Hospital is an example of the eclectic Colonial Revival style architecture as adapted to a regional "residential" structure, for in spite of the use to which it was put after the 1919 alterations, the building largely retains the appearance of a private dwelling. The eclectic movement which began in the United States about 1880 draws on a wide spectrum of European architectural tradition--Ancient Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Classical--for stylistic inspiration and mixes them freely, often even incongruously.

The eclectic movement began in the late 19th century as European trained American architects began to design landmark period houses for wealthy clients. These were mostly in the Italian Renaissance, Chateausque, Beaux Arts, Tudor, and Colonial Revival styles. The trend gained momentum with Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893, which stressed correct historical interpretations of European styles. This early emphasis on "correct" period styles, however, was almost overwhelmed by the first wave of architectural "modernism" in the form of the Craftsman bungalow and Prairie styles during the first decade of the 20th century. World War I saw an end to the modernist movement and a return to period styles, but architectural correctness had been replaced by a taste for unusual combinations of stylistic elements derived from the Colonial Revival, Prairie, and Classical Revival styles, with at times a few Medieval touches thrown in for good measure. The Old Fernald-Laughton Memorial Hospital reflects this curious approach to house design.

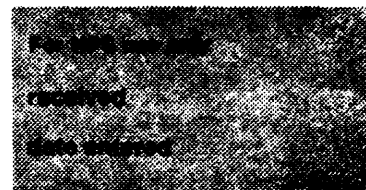
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FOOTNOTES

1. Live Towns and Progressive Men of Florida, (Jacksonville: C.A. Rohrabacker, 1887), p. 187.
2. Peter Schaal, Sanford as I Knew It, (Sanford: n.p., 1975), p. 28.
3. Ibid.
4. Orange County Tax Assessor, Tax Rolls, 1903-1915; Orlando Sentinel 27 January 1980.
5. Peter Schaal.
6. Ibid.
7. Polk's Sanford City Directory, New York: R.L. Polk Publishing, Co.

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Continuation sheet BIBLIOGRAPHY

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

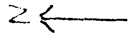
1. Live Towns and Progressive Men of Florida. Jacksonville: C.A. Rohrabacker, 1887.
2. Orange County Tax Assessor, Tax Rolls, 1903-1915.
3. Orlando Sentinel 27 January 1980.
4. Polk's Sanford City Directory. New York: R.L. Polk Publishing Co.
5. Schaal, Peter. Sanford as I Knew It. Sanford: n.p., 1975.

PARK

OAK

5TH

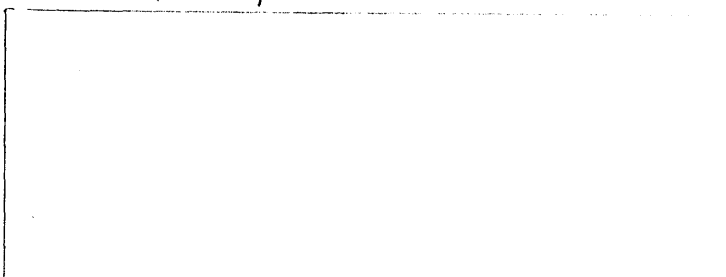
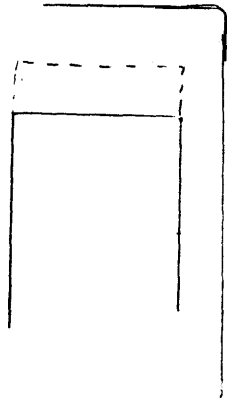
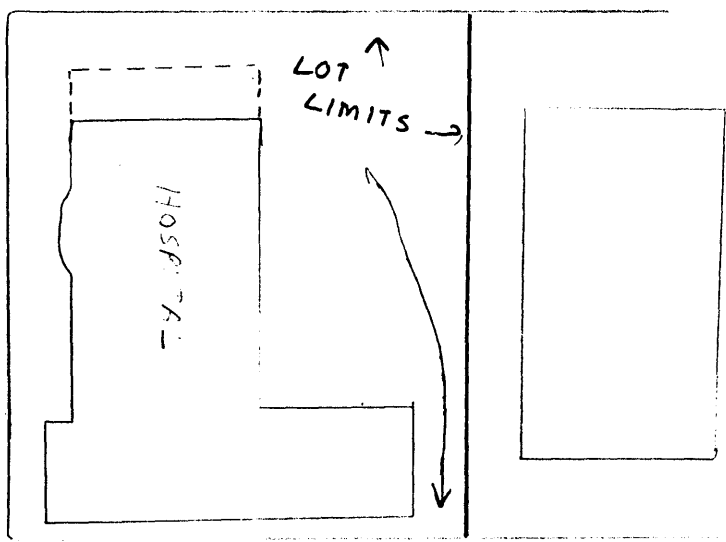
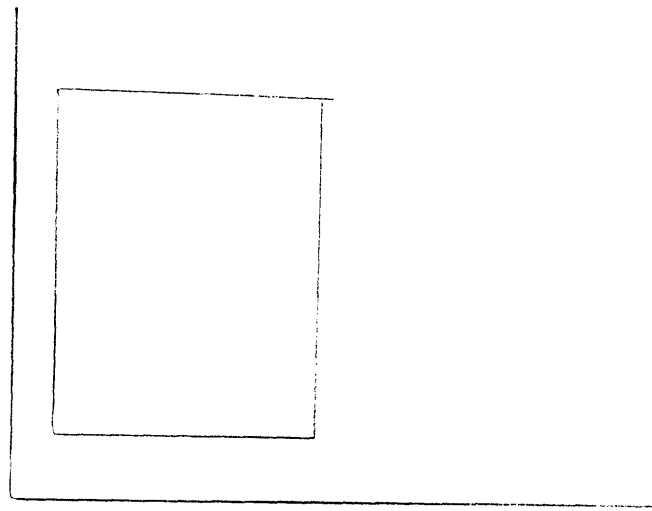
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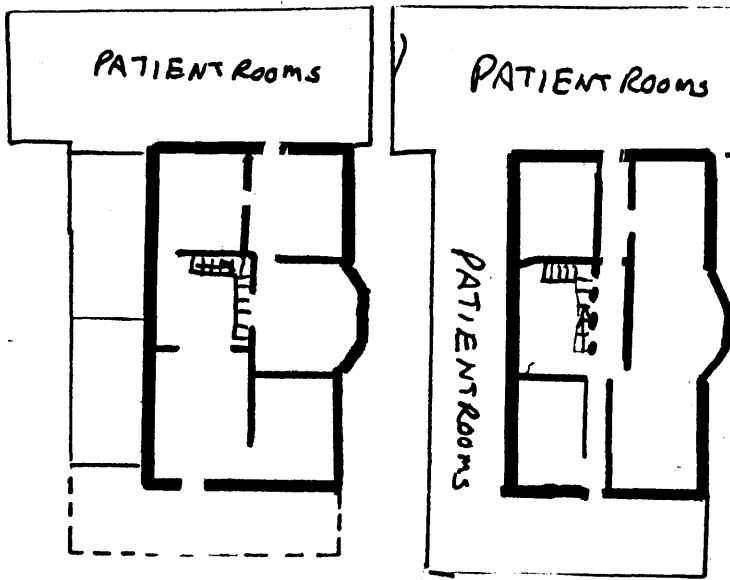
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HOSPITAL

SITE PLAN



FLOOR PLANS



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2nd