

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 U.S. Marine Hospital Executive Building and Laundry-Kitchen

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 360 and 374 W. California Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Memphis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: storage

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar

street & number Shelby County Courthouse

city, town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1978 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission

city, town Memphis state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1937 (See Below)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1883-1884 as part of the U.S. Marine Hospital complex, the Executive Building and Laundry-Kitchen are situated respectively in the northwest and northeast sectors of the original hospital site, which is located on an eighty-five foot bluff overlooking the Mississippi River south of downtown Memphis. The site is bounded by the base of the bluff on the west, W. Illinois Avenue on the north, Delaware Street on the east and W. California Avenue on the south. Across California Avenue is DeSoto Park.

During initial construction of the hospital facility, six buildings were erected. The Executive Building was centrally located along California Avenue; it was connected by covered porches to the Laundry-Kitchen to the east and two frame ward buildings to the north and south. Surgeon's quarters and a stable completed the complex. In 1934 the wards and stable were razed to make way for the construction of a new hospital building that housed additional bed space and new surgical facilities. In 1937 plans were made to construct an addition to the south end of the 1934 building. In preparation for that addition, the Executive Building was moved approximately one hundred feet northwest, while the Laundry-Kitchen was moved one hundred seven feet northeast. Both buildings remain at those locations, facing west. Three additional hospital buildings were constructed--two along the western end of California Avenue in 1937 and another east of the new hospital in 1939. The surgeon's quarters were demolished in 1964. Thus, the two nominated buildings are the only survivors of the 1884 hospital plant.

In 1970, five years after the hospital was closed, the property was divided. The federal government retained ownership of the three buildings on the eastern end of the site, including the Laundry-Kitchen, and leased them to the 330th Army Reserve. The City of Memphis purchased the western portion of the site; the three buildings in that section, including the Executive Building, were leased to the National Ornamental Metals Museum.

The Executive Building and the Laundry-Kitchen are examples of vernacular Italianate architecture as evidenced by the use of segmentally arched window and door openings, hip roofs, two-light sashes and a bracketed frieze (on the Laundry-Kitchen only). Except for the alteration of the porch on the Executive Building, the building's exterior features have not been altered.

Because of the varied uses of the Laundry-Kitchen (it was converted to nurses' quarters and later to attendants' quarters), it has undergone extensive interior alteration. The interior of the Executive Building has also been altered but does retain two original plain wood mantels. It originally housed a pharmacy, operating room, surgeon's office and stewards' quarters.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1883-1884

Builder/Architect John Reid, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Executive Building and the Laundry-Kitchen Building are significant in the history of medical care in Memphis since they are the only buildings which survive from Memphis' first federally-funded public health facility, the U.S. Marine Hospital. Until the construction of the Veteran's Administration after World War I, it was the only government hospital in the area.

The origins of the U.S. Marine Hospital date back to July 16, 1798, when President John Adams signed an act creating the Marine Hospital Service, an act designed to administer aid to sick and disabled seamen. The act also initiated the practice of payroll deductions to help finance medical care. The Marine Hospital Service was the forerunner of the U.S. Public Health Service.

After the destruction by spring flood waters of a marine hospital in Napoleon, Arkansas, in 1868, the Marine Hospital Service decided to replace that facility with one in Memphis. In 1881 a site on an 85-foot bluff in what was then known as the Fort Pickering addition to Memphis was chosen for the dryness of the location, ventilation and the remote chance of crowding. That same year \$30,000 was appropriated by Congress for the hospital's construction. Work on the complex began in 1883 and was completed in 1884. The original plant consisted of six buildings--the surgeon's house, a stable, two wards, an executive building and a laundry-kitchen. A need for additional bed space and improved facilities necessitated new construction in the 1930s. Consequently, the wards and stables were demolished. In 1937, the laundry-kitchen and the executive building were moved from their original sites along California Avenue north to their present locations, east and west respectively of the rear wing of the new hospital building. Construction continued from 1937-1939, resulting in a total of four new buildings. After the demolition of the surgeon's quarters in 1964, the Executive Building and Laundry-Kitchen were the only two original structures left on the site.

In 1951 the name of the hospital was changed to the U.S. Public Service Hospital. Financial problems resulted in the closing of the facility on June 30, 1965.

The two nominated buildings illustrate a vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style. Of brick construction, both buildings feature segmentally arched window and door openings capped by voussoirs over carved wood tympanums. The laundry-kitchen remains virtually unchanged and features a one-story porch and a bracketed and panelled frieze. The Executive Building was altered in 1937 by the addition of a two-story enclosed porch that conforms stylistically to the Georgian Revival design of the newer buildings.

Although ownership of the original grounds is now divided between the city and the federal government, the acreage and topography of the property is virtually unchanged. A tree-covered lawn links the individual structures. The proximity of DeSoto Park to the south and a wooded area to the north have served as a buffer to residential and commercial development in the area, thus preserving the seclusion of the grounds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Armstrong, S.T. "The United States Marine Hospital at Memphis." Mississippi Valley Medical Monthly 5 (1885): 366-68
 Coppock, Paul. "Marine Hospital Pioneered Prepaid Plan". Memphis Commercial Appeal. January 14, 1973 and on November 12, 1933.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .1

Quadrangle name Southwest Memphis, Tenn-Ark

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated properties are shown on the attached sketch map entitled "U.S. Marine Hospital" and drawn at a scale of 50 feet to the inch. The boundaries are drawn to include only the area occupied by the two structures. *Correction: see phone slip 7/1/80 - K.O'Connell*

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton, Preservation Planner

organization Memphis Landmarks Commission

date February, 1980

street & number 22 North Front Street

telephone 901-528-2834

city or town Memphis

state Tennessee 38103

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Harper
 Herbert L. Harper

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 3/19/80

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Juce
 Keeper of the National Register

date 7/2/80

Attest: *Kristin O'Connell*

date 7/1/80

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED JUL 2 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

<u>Property</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Executive Building	374 W. California Avenue	City of Memphis Office of the Mayor City Hall 125 North Main Street Memphis, TN 38103
Laundry-Kitchen	360 W. California Avenue	330th Army Reserve Unit 360 W. California Avenue Memphis, TN 38103

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

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DATE ENTERED JUL 2 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Descriptions of Nominated Buildings:

1. Executive Building, 374 W. California Avenue (1884):

Constructed of red brick laid in stretcher bond and painted white, this two-story rectangular building has a five-bay facade, a plain entablature, a hip roof and two-over-two double hung sash windows set into segmentally arched openings with stone sills, double radiating voussoirs and carved wood tympanums. The three center bays of the main facade are covered by a frame enclosed porch featuring a pedimented gable with lunette, paired two-over-two rectangular double hung sash windows, a double leaf main door under a three-light transom and plain square pilasters at the corners and between the bays. This 1937 porch replaced the original two-tier wood porch with diamond-patterned railing.

2. Laundry-Kitchen, 360 W. California Avenue (1884):

This structure is a two-story rectangular building constructed of red brick laid in stretcher bond and painted white. It has a six-bay facade, two-over-two rectangular double hung sash windows with stone sills set into segmentally arched openings decorated with double radiating voussoirs and carved wood tympanums, and single leaf doors with single-light transoms set into openings of the same configuration as those described for the windows. Two bays deep, the building is surrounded by a one-story wood porch featuring chamfered posts with bracketed heads, diamond-patterned railing and a modillioned cornice under a sloped roof. The building's metal hip roof has a projecting cornice over a wooden frieze decorated with brackets and carved panels.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Although in need of repairs, the nominated buildings are structurally sound and in good condition. Both are presently used for storage. Administrators of both the National Ornamental Metals Museum and the Army Reserve have stated a desire to rehabilitate their individual buildings as soon as funds become available.

The boundaries of this nomination conform only to that area occupied by each building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Memphis Commercial Appeal

June 5, 1936

July 4, 1951

May 27, 1953

November 12, 1964

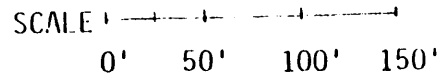
Memphis Press Scimitar

November 6, 1937

U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

SITE PLAN

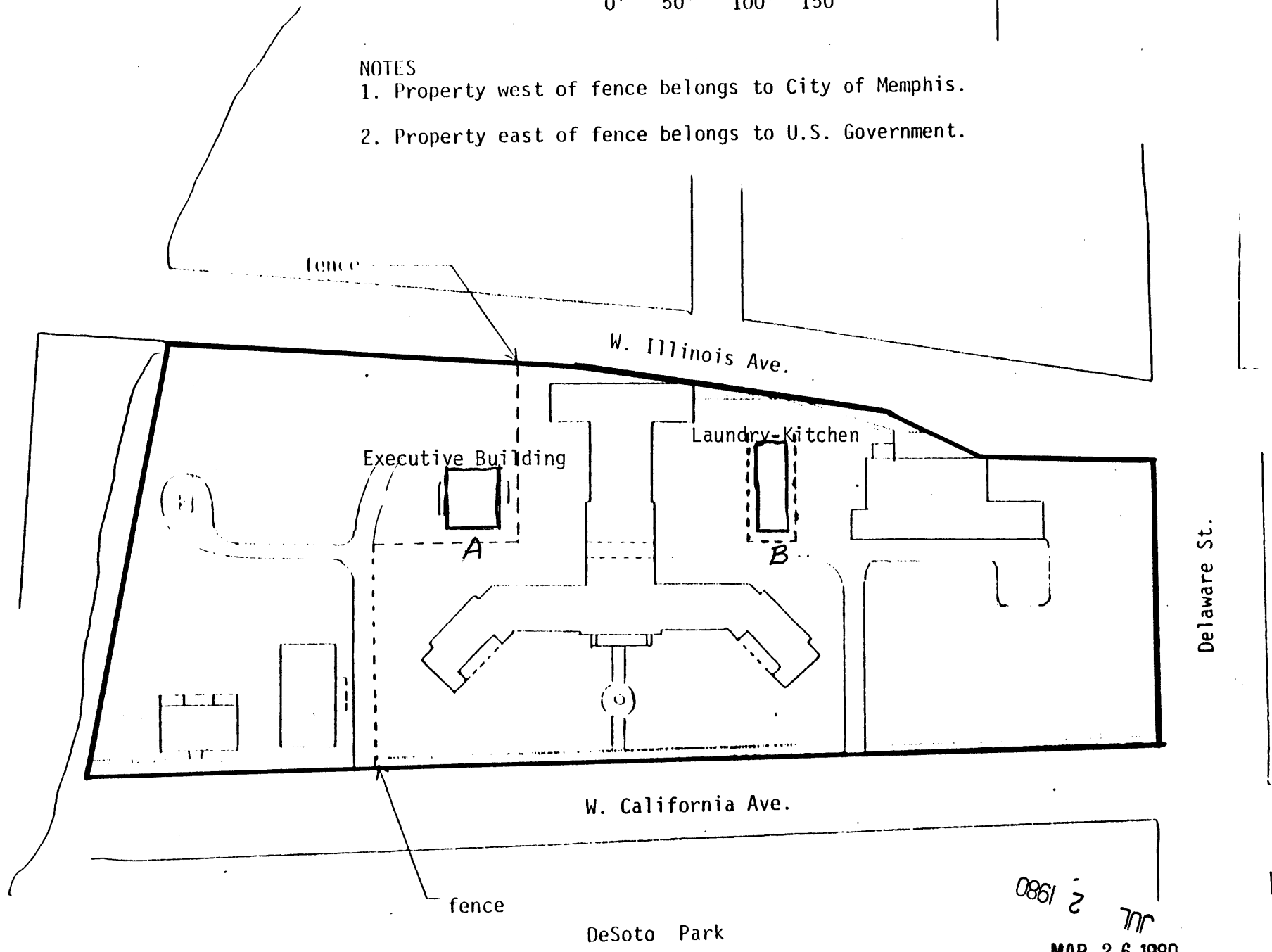
NORTH



NOTES

1. Property west of fence belongs to City of Memphis.
2. Property east of fence belongs to U.S. Government.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER



Delaware St.

W. California Ave.

DeSoto Park

0861 2 77r

MAR 26 1980