

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 3 1979**  
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Miami City Hospital (Old), Building <sup>No</sup> Number 1

AND/OR COMMON

The Alamo

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1611 NW 12th Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Miami

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

14

STATE

Florida

CODE

COUNTY

Dade

CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Vacant

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Metropolitan Dade County, Florida

STREET & NUMBER

73 W. Flagler Street

CITY, TOWN

Miami

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Miami

STATE

Florida

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1979</u>

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

The Miami City Hospital Building Number 1, designed by August Geiger in 1915, is a 7-bay, 2-story Spanish Colonial Revival style structure. The building, however, has been altered in order to accommodate changes in its uses throughout the years.

When constructed, the Hospital Building had a 1-story, 7-bay arcade on the south (main) elevation. The central arch with its detailed archi-volt and keystone served as the main entrance to the building. The coping of the parapet of the arcade had alternating panels of bas relief grotesques and barrel tile. Entrance to any of the first floor south rooms was attained from the arcade through one of seven pairs of French windows. When more office space was needed, all open arches were enclosed with stuccoed infill walls and awning windows. The porch was then converted to office space. In 1979 when the building was moved, the awning windows were removed.

The second story of the building remains virtually unaltered. Fenestration on this story is 12 over 2 single and double hung sash. The central and alternating bays are detailed with stucco bas relief spandrels which separate the second story windows from the superimposed thermal windows in the same bays. Molded archivolt define these combinations as single elements. (The original central bay once contained a French window which has been replaced by the present 9/2 double hung sash). A decorative stucco frieze below the eaves remains intact.

The former barrel tile roof with gable parapets is now covered with asphalt shingles. An octagonal cupola with copper sheathed dome and wood louvers is located at the center of the ridge.

The side elevations (east and west) are 3-bays wide with projecting central bays. Fenestration on these elevations is regular, 12/2 double hung sash with the central window on the second story surmounted by a bas relief tympanum. An applied bas relief frieze continues along the parapet on the east and west elevations.

The rear (north) elevation is undistinguished.

The interior of this Spanish Colonial Revival structure has been considerably altered since its construction in 1918. The original plan for the first floor had intersecting central corridors and partitions delineating spaces for three offices, a doctor's room, colored and white waiting rooms, rest rooms, a linen and sewing room, a clothes locker and a pharmacy. The second floor contained thirteen hospital rooms and two baths located at opposite ends of the north side of the corridor. The third floor was used for storage. The floor plans have been altered due to the various uses of the building; the first floor at present consists of one corridor

(See Continuation Sheet)

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running east-west with five offices, a chapel, a library, a meeting room, an examining room and rest rooms. The second floor, arranged similarly to the original plan, now accommodates three offices, nine rooms for the house staff, and a full bath.

As noted in the unpublished report on the Alamo by Herschel E. Shepard, FAIA, "the finishes on the interior of the building have been extensively modified. All original doors have been replaced on the first floor, and several door locations seem to have been changed. However, at least two original first floor interior door frames remain. The original south porch has been enclosed and subdivided into rooms. The original north-south entrance corridor at the center of the building has been subdivided by the addition of later doors, but the original plaster vaulted ceiling remains intact. Most original ceilings are now concealed above later suspended ceilings, and resilient flooring covers original floor finishes in most areas. All original terrazo and marble that is visible appears to be in good condition."

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES +1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Geiger, August (Miami, Fl.)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Serving Miami and Dade County continually for 61 years, the Miami City Hospital Building Number 1 has reflected and has played a significant role in the growth and development of Miami since its inception in 1918. The hospital is also an example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style popular in the United States and particularly Florida between the years 1915 and 1930. This style, introduced during the Panama-California Exposition in 1915, is characterized by low pitch, red tiled roofs, arcaded verandas and elaborate carved or cast ornamentation.

Miami's first hospital was originally the responsibility of private organizations. When one such organization, the Dade County Hospital Association, owed \$874.79 for operating costs of the Friendly Society Hospital in 1911, they petitioned the City of Miami to take charge of the hospital.<sup>1</sup> The City took over the management of and renamed the hospital, at that time located on Biscayne Boulevard and Northeast 8th Street, "The City Hospital."<sup>2</sup>

As the city's population grew, the hospital became inadequate. The City Board of Health, composed of Drs. James M. Jackson and E. K. Jaudon, and Mr. Henry Ralston, recommended that the present site of the Jackson Memorial Hospital be considered for the newly proposed hospital.<sup>3</sup> This location, already owned by the city, was used as a dump. Although in 1915 the site was considered "way out in the country," E. C. Romfh, president of the First National Bank of Miami, envisioned Miami's population at 100,000 and the hospital would then be "in town."<sup>4</sup>

After the site had been chosen, several architects were asked to submit plans for the new hospital building. On December 20, 1915, August Geiger's plans were accepted by the City Commission.<sup>5</sup> Geiger (1888-1968) by this time had designed the Neva King Cooper School (Miami) and would later design several other structures in Miami such as the Miami Woman's Club (1925-1926, National Register) and La Gorce Country Club (1929-1930). Geiger designed Building Number 1 (later called "The Alamo" due to its resemblance to the Alamo in Texas), to serve as the entrance and administration building for an open pavillion plan hospital complex.

Twelve acres were cleared for the new hospital site sometime in July of 1916. Landscaping began on August 8.<sup>6</sup> The building was almost completed

(See Continuation Sheet)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Continuation Sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/5

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

UTM REFERENCES

A 

17	57	8	96	10	2	8	52	6	70
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING			

B 

ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building located 740 feet east of center line of Northwest 12th Avenue (West line of the northeast quarter of Section 35, Township 53 South, Range 41 East), 840 feet south of north boundary line of property at Northwest 19th Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Robin R. Strassburger (Historic Sites Specialist)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Florida Division of Archives, History & Records Management 9-13-1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

The Capitol

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tallahassee

Florida

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL XXX

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

*[Signature]* 9/26/79

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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

*[Signature]*

DATE

12-31-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

12/27/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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in 1918 when the city ran out of funds to connect the plumbing hookups. When the Commanding Officer of Chapman Field Army Gunnery Station, Edward R. Lindabury, heard of the dilemma, he released civilian personnel and loaned payroll money to complete the plumbing.<sup>7</sup> The furnishings were supplied by local lodges of Elks, Masons, and Knights of Columbus.<sup>8</sup>

On June 25-26, patients were moved from the City Hospital "in town" to the new City Hospital.<sup>9</sup> The Administration Building (Building Number 1) with consulting rooms, waiting rooms (for both blacks and whites), business offices, operating rooms for minor operations, and rest rooms on the first floor, rooms for white patients on the second and storage facilities on the third, was also opened in time to accommodate patients who had contracted influenza during the great epidemic.<sup>10</sup> The hospital was constantly filled to capacity.

As a result of the Florida "Boom" between the years 1920 and 1925, five new structures were added to the City Hospital Complex.<sup>11</sup> As a result of this new construction, Building Number 1 served a variety of uses including: emergency rooms, nurses quarters, laboratories, operating rooms, on-call residents housing, departmental offices, personnel offices and chapel.

On February 15, 1933, the Jackson Memorial Hospital (renamed posthumously for Dr. James M. Jackson, founder of the City Board of Health) was the center of national attention when a bullet intended for President-Elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt struck Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago.<sup>12</sup> The Mayor was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he died on March 6.<sup>13</sup>

As Miami continued to grow, so did the Jackson Memorial Hospital Center. Building Number 1 was dwarfed by the Skaggs Building, which was built 15 feet south of the building during World War II.<sup>14</sup> Other large skyscrapers surrounded the building to the extent that Building Number 1 no longer served as the entrance to the hospital complex.

In 1977, Building Number 1 was slated for demolition to make room for a Maternal Child Care Tower. In order to save the building money was raised and the structure was moved in 1979, 475 feet southwest of its original site. It is now situated on the major drive in the hospital complex where it will again serve as an information and welcoming center.

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Building Number One  
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Although the City Hospital Building has been moved 475 feet from its original location, it remains in a prominent location and will serve as an information and welcoming center for the Jackson Memorial Hospital Center. The structure still exhibits most of its original features, including its central arch entrance, decorative coping, molded archivolt, applied bas relief frieze and octagonal cupola.

The Medical Center plans to restore the exterior of the City Hospital Building to its original appearance. There are also plans to restore portions of the interior for interpretive purposes.

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- 2  
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- 3  
Straight, "Jackson Memorial," p. 4.
- 4  
Ibid.
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Ibid.
- 6  
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- 7  
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- 8  
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- 9  
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- 10  
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- 11  
Straight, "Jackson Memorial," p. 5.
- 12  
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- 13  
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- 14  
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