

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF MARYLAND

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OF MARYLAND

Other Name/Site Number: DAVIDGE HALL

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 522 West Lombard Street

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Baltimore

Vicinity: N/A

State: MD

County: Baltimore

Code: 510

Zip Code: 21201

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: \_\_\_

Public-Local: \_\_\_

Public-State: X

Public-Federal: \_\_\_

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: \_\_\_

Site: \_\_\_

Structure: \_\_\_

Object: \_\_\_

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

\_\_\_

1

\_\_\_

2

Noncontributing

\_\_\_ buildings

\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_ objects

0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 2

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

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**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. 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):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: Education Sub: College

Current: Education Sub: College  
Recreation and Culture Museum

**7. DESCRIPTION**

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Greek Revival

**MATERIALS:**

Foundation: Brick  
Walls: Brick  
Roof: Metal  
Other: Wood

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**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

The College of Medicine of Maryland, now known as Davidge Hall, is the oldest anatomical theater in continuous use in the United States and a unique survivor. Although hemmed in to the north, east, and west by more recent university facilities, the building has, in large part, retained its original (1812-1814) appearance.

The building stands on its original site at the northeast corner of West Lombard and Greene Streets, in Baltimore, Maryland. The main body of the building is rectangular in plan and three stories high. A massive wood portico extends across the south facade, and a large, Delormé dome with skylights rises above the north end of the building. This type of dome was designed by Philibert Delormé, a seventeenth-century architect, who constructed a dome of small wood slats that form a skeleton over which a waterproof covering was laid. Examples of this type of construction are very rare today. Thomas Jefferson was very interested in the building technique and had a Delormé dome built on the roof at Monticello.

The brick walls and foundations are constructed of original hand-made brick, set in lime mortar, and are capped with stone coping. In order to render the walls watertight, the bricks were apparently painted a yellow or buff color, probably to give the building the appearance of being constructed of stone. The accumulated paint coatings were removed from the brick in the twentieth century.

The Lombard Street (south) elevation is the principal facade, and has a single monumental doorway beneath a plaster frieze in which is inscribed "University of Maryland, School of Medicine, AD MDCCCVII." The simplicity of this facade is offset by a wood portico, seven bays wide, extending across the entire width of the elevation. The portico is composed of simple Doric columns that support an entablature (a single fascia architrave and a plain frieze) and a pediment. The portico terrace is paved with brick, laid in sand in a herringbone pattern with granite curbs.

The south elevation has remained remarkably intact over its lifetime, but the approach to the elevation has significantly changed. Originally the site was enclosed by a brick wall, that may have been built to protect the building from angry mobs upset over the practice of anatomical dissections for instructive purposes. This wall was partially destroyed by a freshet in the spring of 1858, and was then replaced by a brick wall and iron fence. In 1893, the lawn was graded up from the curb toward the building, and by 1915, an iron fence was built surrounding the site. The fence is counted as a contributing structure. The brick stair and the broad pathway that now lead to the south entrance are bordered by ivy and evergreen hedges.

The other three elevations are trimmed with a parged entablature that echoes the portico's wood entablature. The south end of the building is two bays deep and contains administrative offices and stairways. The second story windows appear as paneled friezes in early engravings and photographs, but the openings now have 8/8 wood sash. The remaining doors and window sash in the east, west, and north elevations appear to be original, and have brick lintels and stone sills.

The existing copper roof was installed during the early 1960s, and consists of copper

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sheathing over the dome with standing seam copper roofing over the gabled roof at the south end of the building. It appears that the original roof consisted of small tinplate pans with pole gutters or rainwater diverters, incorporated into the design of the gable roof. Tinplate leaders, round in cross section, carried water from the gutters to the ground.

The interior spaces of Davidge Hall were modeled on contemporary anatomical theaters in the United States and Europe. The southern portion of the building originally held classrooms, laboratories, and a library; it is now used for administrative offices and a conference room. The northern portion of the building, beneath the dome, houses circular amphitheaters (Chemical Hall on the first floor and Anatomical Hall above).

Chemical Hall is two stories high, with tiers of wooden seating wrapping around the east, west, and north walls and overlooking the instruction area at the south end of the room. Three large lunette windows in the east, west, and north walls provide natural light, and were the primary method of lighting the space until gas lighting was installed in 1848. The original plaster ceiling was replaced in 1978 when structural steel was inserted to correct structural deficiencies in the framing above.

Directly above Chemical Hall is the spacious Anatomical Hall. The system of wood trusses and perpendicular beams devised to support the theater are still in place, but supplemented by the steel members installed in 1978. The otherwise simple layout of a central instructional area surrounded by tiers of wood risers is surmounted by the grand, decoratively plastered dome ceiling. The ceiling's plaster moldings form circular motifs that incorporate the eight circular skylight openings into their design. There are also three lunette windows in the north, east, and west walls, and a oculus (approximately 16'-0" across) at the apex of the dome. The current skylights are not original. The main skylight was replaced in 1882, due to disrepair. The other openings appear as narrow skylights in early engravings of the building, but the drawings are not sufficiently detailed to determine the appearance of the original skylights.

Davidge Hall has remained under the ownership of the university throughout its lifetime. The building stands today much the way it did when it was built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, with most of the original building fabric remaining intact.



## State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Davidge Hall is named for its founder and first dean. It was built in 1812, is the oldest medical school building in continuous use in the United States, and it contains what is probably the oldest surviving anatomical theater in the English-speaking world. The design of the building is contemporary with some of the earliest medical education buildings in America. Noted for its anatomical instruction theater, the building has roots in the anatomical halls of Europe dating from the middle ages.

Amphitheatres were used for anatomical instruction in Europe in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. These spaces were built to instruct physicians, students and other prominent figures in the practice of anatomy and physiology. The early theaters were temporary structures, followed by the first permanent structure built in Padua in 1594. The design of the anatomical amphitheater, with a central dissection table and concentric tiers for observation, was to endure in anatomical halls for the next 400 years. Other halls followed in Germany, Holland, and France.<sup>1</sup>

The University of Edinburgh became the best known school of medicine in Europe during the eighteenth century. The school boasted a history of several generations of the leading instructors in anatomy, and the leading professionals in the field were educated there, including the founders of the Medical College of Maryland. Therefore, Davidge Hall and the University of Maryland, both architecturally and academically, have their roots in European medical instruction.<sup>2</sup>

Medical instruction in America began in private schools in Philadelphia, New York City, and Newport, Rhode Island.<sup>3</sup> In 1765 William Shippen and John Morgan founded a medical school in association with Pennsylvania College that later became the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1796 construction began on a surgical theater located on the upper level of the Center Building of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and between 1805 and 1806 the University of Pennsylvania constructed an anatomical hall covered by a dome. Benjamin Henry Latrobe designed the building as a two-story structure, placing the chemical hall on the lower story and the anatomical hall above it. Latrobe set his theaters within an octagonal plan

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<sup>1</sup>Fabricus, ab Aquapendente, De Venarum Ostiolis (1603; reprint, Springfield, Ill.: C.C. Thomas, 1933), 25-29.

<sup>2</sup>Encyclopedia Britannica (1973), s.v. "Anatomy, Gross," 872. For Edinburgh, see Clarendon Creswell, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1926); William S. McR. Craig, History of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, c. 1976), 208, 391; John D. Comrie, History of Scottish Medicine to 1860 (London: Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, 1927); little detailed information was available on anatomical theaters in Edinburgh or Glasgow. John Shaw, Poems by The Late Doctor John Shaw (Philadelphia: Edward Earle, 1810), 77.

<sup>3</sup>Encyclopedia Britannica (1973), s.v. "Anatomy, Gross," 872.

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and placed semicircular windows around the perimeter. A skylight was placed in the dome above the anatomical hall. The new medical hall was constructed as a wing off of the existing medical school.<sup>4</sup>

In 1767 six physicians founded a medical school associated with King's College, which was to become Columbia University, in New York City. The school was chartered as the College of Physicians and Surgeons by the Regents of the state of New York on March 12, 1807, several months before the College of Medicine of Maryland received its state charter. The first medical school building at Columbia University, since demolished, was a house on what is now Park Place.<sup>5</sup>

Harvard University's medical school, which began in 1782 with the teaching of anatomy, held classes first in the basement of Harvard Hall and then in Holden Hall in Cambridge, Massachusetts and in a building, since demolished, at 400 Washington Street in Boston. It was not until 1816 that the Harvard medical school, which was known as the Massachusetts Medical College, moved into a building constructed especially for it.<sup>6</sup>

Dartmouth University's first medical classes were given by Nathan Smith, who successfully petitioned the New Hampshire Legislature for funds for a building. Ground was broken in 1811, a year before construction was begun at Davidge Hall. The Dartmouth building was a brick structure, 72 feet by 35 feet in plan, built by Lemuel Davenport. The "New Medical House," as it was known, was demolished in 1963. With each of the purpose-built anatomical theaters for the four oldest medical schools in the United States demolished, Davidge Hall contains the oldest remaining anatomical hall in the country.<sup>7</sup>

Medical training in Baltimore began when Charles F. Wiesenthal, a former physician to Frederick the Great of Prussia, founded the first medical school in Maryland. He settled in Baltimore in 1755 and was providing medical instruction locally for physicians and apprentices. By 1769 Wiesenthal had erected a laboratory, a small but apparently permanent building, two stories in height and with brick walls, behind his house on Gay Street. The building was used for lectures and for dissection as part of the instruction in anatomy. In both America and in Europe, public outcries, based on fear and superstition, occurred periodically

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<sup>4</sup>Thomas G. Morton, The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital (Philadelphia: Times Printing House, 1895), 78-79, 91.

<sup>5</sup>John C. Dalton, History of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York (New York: The College, 1888) 15-16, 21, 31-36. John Shradly, College of Physicians and Surgeons . . . A History (New York and Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1903), 12, 187. Susan Box, head of Archives and Special Collections at the Long Health Sciences Library at Columbia University, kindly provided these materials. The Barclay Street building site is at the rear of the Woolworth Building.

<sup>6</sup>Henry K. Beecher and Mark D. Altschule, Medicine at Harvard, The First Three Hundred Years (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1977), 538 n.3. Thomas F. Harrington, Harvard Medical School, vol. 1 (New York and Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1905), 404-406; Charles Shaw, Topographical and Historical Description of Boston (Boston: Oliver Spear, 1817), 219-20. Interviews with Madeline Mullen, Harvard Medical School Archives, Nov. 5, 1996, and with Steve McDonald, Boston Fire Dept. Public Information - Media Relations Office, Nov. 6, 1996.

<sup>7</sup>Carleton B. Chapman, Dartmouth Medical School, The First 175 Years (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1973), 16, 18-19, 21-22.



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during the eighteenth century over dissections. Late in December 1788, as a dissection was in progress, Wiesenthal's laboratory was stormed by a mob that damaged the interior fittings and carried the corpse through the city.<sup>8</sup> In mid-December 1788 the Medical Society of Baltimore was organized, and an initial plan was laid out for a statewide society, which was incorporated a decade later, in January 1799, as the Medical and Chirurgical Society of Maryland. Dr. Andrew Wiesenthal, Charles' son, inherited his father's practice. In conjunction with George Buchanan, who was also offering medical courses in Baltimore, Charles Wiesenthal attempted unsuccessfully to interest the medical society in sponsoring a formal medical school.<sup>9</sup>

Around 1797, Dr. John Davidge, an Annapolis-born physician who had been trained at Edinburgh and Glasgow, settled in Baltimore and offered lectures in anatomy, midwifery, physiology and surgery over the next few years. Dr. Davidge was joined by Dr. James Cocke, who settled in Baltimore in 1804 after having studied medicine at Guy's Hospital in London and at the University of Pennsylvania, and by John Shaw, who had studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and in Edinburgh and served as a U.S. Navy medical officer in Algiers before moving to Baltimore in 1807.<sup>10</sup> These three men offered courses in the fall of 1807 in anatomy, surgery, midwifery, and chemistry. The anatomical lectures were held in a small anatomical theater that Dr. Davidge had constructed for the purpose of instruction.<sup>11</sup> From contemporary descriptions it appears that the anatomical house was one story high with glass in the dome and solid walls. The dissecting table was directly under the dome. In November of 1807, a crowd broke into the building, seized the cadaver, and dragged it through the streets. Although later accounts stated that the crowd demolished Dr. Davidge's theater, contemporary accounts do not make this statement. The medical faculty met at Dr. John Davidge's immediately after the November 1807 raid, and on December 3, 1807 the faculty published a notice in the *Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser* announcing that a lot of ground had been donated as a building site. The faculty resolved to appoint "a number of physicians to wait on the inhabitants of the city to procure such a sum of money as may be necessary for the erection of buildings suitable for the accommodation of professors in the different branches of medicine." The faculty called upon the pride of Baltimoreans to move forward with the school.<sup>12</sup> The announcement noted that a bill to establish a medical school was then before the General Assembly but called on city residents not to wait to receive the example from the state. On December 18, 1807 the General Assembly passed the bill for "Founding a medical college in the City or Precincts of Baltimore for the Instruction of Students in the Different Branches of Medicine." The school was to be called The College of Medicine of Maryland and was to be administered by the board of the Medical and Chirurgical Society and by the president and professors of the college, who were to be known collectively as the regents of the college. Dr. John Davidge and Dr. James Cocke were appointed to a joint

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<sup>8</sup>George H. Callcott, A History of the University of Maryland (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1966), 16-19.

<sup>9</sup>John R. Qninan, Medical Annals of Baltimore (Baltimore: Isaac Friedenwald, 1884), 16-18.

<sup>10</sup>Eugene F. Cordell, University of Maryland 1807-1907, vol. 1 (New York and Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907), 6-7.

<sup>11</sup>FGBA, Oct. 21, 1807.

<sup>12</sup>BACA, Dec. 3, 1807.

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professorship of anatomy, surgery, and physiology, and John Shaw became professor of chemistry. Dr. Davidge was subsequently elected dean of the faculty.<sup>13</sup>

The following is a partial list of the accomplishments of the medical faculty and alumni:

1797: Dr. Davidge publishes a monograph declaring that yellow fever is not contagious.

1800: Dr. Crawford introduces a smallpox vaccine in America.

1809: Dr. McDowell removes an ovary by laparotomy.

1820: Dr. Jameson performs the first tracheotomy.

1835: Dr. Nathan performs surgical removal of thyroid gland.

1862: Dr. Hammond, as Surgeon General of the U.S. Army first organizes a system to evacuate the wounded from the battlefield.

1898: Drs. Carter and Carroll are nominated for the Nobel Prize for their research on yellow fever

The act establishing the college provided no funds for instruction or for facilities. On January 20, 1808, the General Assembly authorized a lottery for the benefit of the college. Evidently, the lottery was not well organized, for construction of a permanent facility was not begun for more than three more years.<sup>14</sup> In 1838 Nathaniel Potter, who had been elected to the faculty at the December 1807 organizational meeting, recalled the early period of the school's history in a booklet. Potter relates that the faculty petitioned the General Assembly during the 1811-1812 session "for the grant of a lottery to raise funds to erect a suitable building." In December 1811 the General Assembly authorized another lottery.<sup>15</sup> Potter wrote that although the General Assembly had been liberal in fulfilling the faculty's request, the "tedious process of the lottery system at that time" made the proceeds "necessarily unavailing." As a result, he recalled, "we resolved to commence operations on our own credit and responsibility, provided the means could be obtained." This statement seems to have been the basis on which the acquisition of the building site and the construction of the college's first building was accomplished.<sup>16</sup> Potter maintained that it was not until about 1811 that the present site of the medical school, the elevated corner of Greene and Lombard Streets, attracted the faculty's attention. This statement seems to be at odds with the notice published by the medical faculty in December 1807. Yet, Potter maintained that representatives of the school called upon

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<sup>13</sup>For text of the legislation, see Cordell, 1:8-15, BACA, Dec. 31, 1807.

<sup>14</sup>Cordell, (1907) 1:30. FGBA, Dec. 28, 1808.

<sup>15</sup>Potter, 8. FGBA, Oct. 8, 1812. W. Ray Luce, "The Cohen Brothers of Baltimore: From Lotteries to Banking," Maryland Historical Magazine 8 (3:1973): 288-308.

<sup>16</sup>Potter, 9. John E. Howard had conveyed the lot to Nathaniel Potter, Elisha DeButts, Richard W. Hall, William Gibson Jr., Maxwell McDowell, and Samuel Baker on May 15, 1815. The property was not conveyed to the trustees of the university until Jan. 14, 1832. Certificate of title, no date, copy in MAA files; included are copies of the design from Liber WG 131, folio 188-89, and Liber WG 216, folio 228-30.

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Colonel John E. Howard, a leading Baltimorean, shortly after he had refused an offer of \$10,000 for the site in 1811. Howard agreed to sell the property to the faculty "on our own individual credit, for nine thousand dollars, at our own time."<sup>17</sup>

The design of Davidge Hall has traditionally been attributed to Robert Cary Long, Sr., of Baltimore, but accounts published at the time of the building's construction and opening do not mention the name of the architect or builder. Documents from these early years of the medical college that would be expected to reveal details about the people involved in design and construction and the materials used -- such as annual reports to the General Assembly and minutes of the meetings of the faculty and regents -- apparently have not survived, if in fact they were ever compiled. This lack of documentation may be related to the fact that the faculty of medicine had obtained the deed to the land in their own names, not in the name of the medical school, and had personally financed not only the purchase of the land but also the construction of the building. It is not until the publication of the 1822 Poppleton map of Baltimore that the design of the college is attributed to Robert Cary Long.<sup>18</sup> The earliest known references to the design of the building are found in a letter from Benjamin Henry Latrobe to Maximilian Godefroy, a French-trained architect then living in exile in Baltimore. Godefroy was married to Eliza Crawford, the daughter of Dr. John Crawford, one of the medical school's founders.<sup>19</sup> Latrobe and Godefroy were colleagues and friends, and Godefroy had apparently sought Latrobe's advice on several projects. In his letter of April 28, 1812, Latrobe told Godefroy that "As to the design of the medical college, I rejoice sincerely that they have again applied to you." No records have been uncovered to indicate when college officials may have first approached Godefroy nor what discussions may have transpired. Latrobe's letter was evidently a response to Godefroy's question concerning the establishment of a fee for this work. Latrobe offered to intercede on Godefroy's behalf: "The best way I think to settle the matter, will be to propose and leave the negotiation to me." In the letter Latrobe made practical comparisons to his Medical Hall at the University of Pennsylvania and promised to send the architectural drawings for the Philadelphia school to Godefroy. No further correspondence between the two men regarding the Baltimore building has been located.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Potter, 10.

<sup>18</sup>Long's middle name is sometimes spelled Carey. I thank Richard Behles, Health Sciences Library and Bill Sleeman, the Marshall Law Library, at the University of Maryland at Baltimore; and the staffs at the Maryland State Archives; the Johns Hopkins medical school library, and the Medical and Chirurgical Society of Maryland for assisting with the search for these materials. Robert L. Alexander very kindly shared his bibliographical citations on Long; I was able to find copies of these materials in repositories in Baltimore and elsewhere. However, only in beginning in the 1820s, a decade after construction, is Long listed as the architect. Furthermore, Alexander wrote to George H. Callcott on April 14, 1960, that he believed "that Long, not Godefroy, was the architect" but also stated that "I have no documentary proof or even evidence of Long's responsibility for this design." R.L. Alexander to G.H. Callcott, April 14, 1960, MAA.

<sup>19</sup>For biographical information on Godefroy, see Robert L. Alexander, The Architecture of Maximilian Godefroy (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974).

<sup>20</sup>BHL to Maximilian Godefroy, April 28, 1812, CBHL, 3:282-84.

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Robert Cary Long, Sr. was known in the Baltimore community as a builder, and to some extent, later, as a designer. He had worked as a public surveyor, a promoter of public works, and as a builder of private residences, both large and small. Something of the scope of Long's business activities is apparent in records dating from August 1814, a few days after the British burned Washington, when Long with "thirty carpenters in his employ [sic.] had tendered their services" to the Baltimore Committee of Vigilance and Safety. Long also had associations with the medical faculty; Robert Cary Long and Dr. Davidge had consulted one another professionally between 1807 and 1814. While promissory notes to Long from 1812 and 1816 have survived and clearly establish Long as the builder of the medical college, it is currently thought that the work belongs to Robert Cary Long.

According to a faculty committee report, "the building for the accommodation of the Professors and the different Classes was commenced on the 7th May 1812." Since this was an official faculty report prepared just 15 months after the start of construction and since it was published over Dr. John Davidge's signature, this date is probably accurate. The cornerstone was laid on April 7, 1811. According to several accounts, construction proceeded so rapidly that at least parts of the building were occupied during the winter of 1812-13. A committee report filed by Drs. Cocks, Davidge and William Gibson and published in *Niles' Weekly Register* on October 17, 1812, reported that they were "enabled to state with confidence that the building for the accommodation of the professors and students, which is already in great forwardness, will be prepared for the reception of the class by the 1st of November." Presumably, work on the medical college continued through 1813, despite the war. A letter published in a Baltimore newspaper in October 1813, as classes were about to resume for the season, reported that the "building is erected" and was then "so far finished as to be perfectly comfortable."<sup>21</sup> A September 1815 account published in *Niles' Weekly Register* called the building a "splendid edifice," which commanded "an extensive prospect down the Patapsco and Chesapeake." "The grandeur of the exterior," the writer continued, "does not excel the internal convenience of the apartments."<sup>22</sup>

The names of the craftsmen who built Davidge Hall appeared in J. Thomas Scharf's *Chronicles of Baltimore*, published in 1874. He lists "Messrs. Towson and Mosher" as having worked on its construction. Mosher was probably Col. James Mosher, a bricklayer and masonry contractor, who also served as a commissioner of streets and held many civic and business posts. Mosher and Long were well acquainted. They had worked together on the construction of the Union Bank and the Holliday Street theater. As the medical college was being built, Long and Mosher were partners in a grist mill and woolen factory at Lanvale, and in 1817 they were both incorporators of the Gas Light Company of Baltimore. His later projects included the Washington Monument at Mount Vernon Place. Towson was probably Thomas Towson, whose family had kept an early tavern in the vicinity of present-day Towson.

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<sup>21</sup>BACA, Oct. 26, 1813.

<sup>22</sup>BACA, Aug. 23, 1813. Potter, 9. Cordell (1:22) states that he searched newspapers for 1811 and 1812 for information on cornerstone laying but to no avail.

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His name appears as one of the stone carvers on the cornerstone of the Washington Monument, and he worked with Long on St. Paul's Church.<sup>23</sup>

In 1812 the General Assembly enacted legislation authorizing the College of Medicine of Maryland to become the University of Maryland, by grafting onto it faculties of divinity, law, and arts and science. While an effective university structure did not materialize for many years, architectural schemes for the university were soon proposed. Each scheme had the medical college building as its centerpiece.

Few alterations were made to the medical college building during the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. The changes that were made related primarily to interior furnishings and to changes in use for the smaller rooms. In 1848 gas lighting was introduced.<sup>24</sup> In 1893 a fire in an adjacent building caused a large hole to be burned in the dome of the main building. The building "was drenched with water which had soaked through the floor of Anatomical Hall and loosened the ceiling of Chemical Hall."<sup>25</sup> In November 1905 a proposal to wire the dissecting rooms for the introduction of electric lights was approved. A 1901 insurance map lists only gas lights for the building; however, a 1914 map lists both gas and electric lighting.<sup>26</sup> On the occasion of the university's centennial in 1907, anatomical hall was "handsomely decorated by festoons of green oak leaves and buntings." An orchestra played from the top tier, and regents, professors and alumni filled the hall. No accounts of preparatory alterations or improvements undertaken in conjunction with the centennial are recorded in the minutes.<sup>27</sup>

The 1939-40 college catalog reported the current use of the original building: it housed the dean's office, the faculty conference room, and two lecture halls. The Alumni Association passed a resolution at its 1954 annual meeting urging the university's Board of Regents "to pursue every resource toward the proper restoration" of the building. The exterior of the building, according to the resolution, was "in a state of good repair," but the interior was said to be "suffering from the ravages of time, disrepair and inappropriate remodeling." An

estimate of \$240,000 for restoring the building was obtained by the university president, and

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<sup>23</sup>Scharf, 295, 301, 303, 381, 386, 463. J. Gilman D. Paul, "Montebello, Home of Gen. Samuel Smith," *MHM* 42 (4:1947), 255. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County* (Philadelphia: Everts, 1881), 175, 244, 265, 393, 437, 449, 458, 498, 545, 580, 593, 667, 685, 727, 824, 894. Richard X. Evans, ed., "The Daily Journal of Robert Mills, Baltimore, 1816," *MHM* 30 (3:1935), 269.

<sup>24</sup>Catalog, 1844, 1; 1848-49, 4, 10; 1849-50, 16; 1855-56, 7.

<sup>25</sup>*Baltimore American*, Dec. 3, 1893.

<sup>26</sup>FP, Min., April 21, 1898; March 7, 1899; Jan. 6, 1903; Feb. 11, 1903; Nov. 7, 1905; Sept. 29, 1910. Calvary Methodist Church, at the southeast corner of Green and Lombard streets, was acquired c. 1907, and used as the library; it was renamed Davidge Hall; it was not electrified until 1910. *Insurance Maps of Baltimore*, vol. 1 (New York: Sanbom Perris Map Co., 1901). *Insurance Maps of Baltimore*, vol. 1 (New York: Sanbom Map Co., 1914).

<sup>27</sup>FP, Min., May 29, 1900. *The Centennial Celebration of the Foundation of the University of Maryland* (Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1908), 72.

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this appears to be the extent of action taken at that time.<sup>28</sup>

During the 1970s, Davidge Hall experienced the most extensive alterations since its initial construction. The process began in May 1974, when the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>29</sup> A renovation program was developed, beginning with an architectural study of the building between 1974 and 1977, and concluding with major structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work carried out between 1977 and the early 1980s.<sup>30</sup>

Originally, the facility was the College of Medicine's only building, and so it was known as the College of Medicine, or Medical College. By the early twentieth century, the building was referred to as the "main building," the old Medical School building, or by its two classrooms, Chemical Hall and Anatomical Hall. The 1959-60 university catalog was the first to call the building "Davidge Hall." This name coincided with the construction of the Health Sciences Library, which was erected on the site of another university building formerly named Davidge Hall.

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<sup>28</sup>MAA, Resolution, June 3, 1954, Baltimore city directory, 1956, William H. Triplett to William P. Cole, Jr., Aug. 30, 1954. Wilson H. Elkins to Triplett, April 12, 1955. This material and all sources cited in notes 145-157 are located in files in the MAA offices. MAA minutes could be searched for further information.

<sup>29</sup>The third phase of the study consisted of opening walls, ceilings and floors for examination; radiology analysis of hidden construction; mortar and paint chip analysis; photographs; and comparison with documentary evidence. Program Report on the Davidge Hall Restoration Project, May 1975. Cochran, Stephenson, and Donkervoet, Architects, and W. Boulton Kelly, A.I.A., Architectural Conservators, Davidge Hall: A Report, vol. 1, Program for Restoration; Estimate of Cost; Recommendations; vol. 2 An Architectural and Historical Sketch of Davidge Hall, March 1977. Construction costs for Davidge Hall were projected at \$1,290,000. Design fees, exhibit and furnishings costs, and fundraising fees brought the total to \$1,970,000. Engineering studies were undertaken by Ewell, Bomhardt and Associates Consulting Engineers of Baltimore, and the paint investigations were carried out by Norman R. Weiss Consulting Scientist of Newton, Mass.

<sup>30</sup>Edmunds and Hyde, Inc., Program for Davidge Hall, Jan. 12, 1978.

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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: #

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Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository):

Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, University of Maryland at  
 Baltimore Archives, Medical Alumni Association of the University of Maryland, Inc.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreeage of Property: 0.48 acres

UTM References: Zone	Easting	Northing
18	359970	4349680

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the corner of the fence at West Lombard and Greene Streets and heading due north for 85'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due east for 35'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due north again for 32'-0"; then follow a semi-circular wall curvature in a southeasterly direction with a radius of 6'-0" resulting in a due north heading for 22'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due east for 119'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due south for 121'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due west for 12'-0"; then turn 90 degrees and head due south for 36'-5" to the fence on West Lombard Street; then turn 90 degrees and head due west along the fence for 153'-0" and return to the corner of the fence at West Lombard and Greene Streets, Baltimore, MD.

Legal description of boundary based on undated Certificate of Title by Allan S. Levy, Assistant Attorney General, forwarded to Maryland Historical Trust:

“a certain piece or parcel of ground situate and lying in the western precincts of the City of Baltimore and contained within in the following metes and bounds courses and distances that is to say BEGINNING for the same at a stone now set up at the north east corner or intersection of Lombard Street and Green Street and running thence easterly binding on the north side of Lombard Street one hundred and ninety seven and a half feet to the ground heretofore conveyed by the said John Eager Howard to Anthony Kimmel and others for a Church and burial ground thence northerly binding on the said ground to Cider Alley thence westerly parallel with Lombard Street and binding on the south side of Cider Alley to Green Street and thence southerly binding

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on the east side of Green Street to the place of BEGINNING TOGETHER with the large brick building or messuage commonly called the Medical and other buildings and improvements thereupon erected”

Certificate of Title makes reference to deeds and other instruments by which title was acquired:

Land Records of Baltimore County

1. Liber: WG 131 Folio: 188-189  
Maryland Hall of Records Microfilm WK-1139
  
2. Liber: WG 216 Folio: 228-30  
Maryland Hall of Records Microfilm WK-1191-92

Boundary Justification:

This boundary was chosen to include the Davidge Hall building, its yard and the fence surrounding that yard. This encompasses all the property within the University of Maryland at Baltimore campus that is relevant to the National Historic Landmark nomination. The fence surrounding the yard was built to replace a wall, originally constructed to protect Davidge Hall. The fence has been proposed as a contributing element of historical significance as well as a physical boundary for the property.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC/Mt. Ida Press  
388 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12207

Telephone: (518) 449-5440

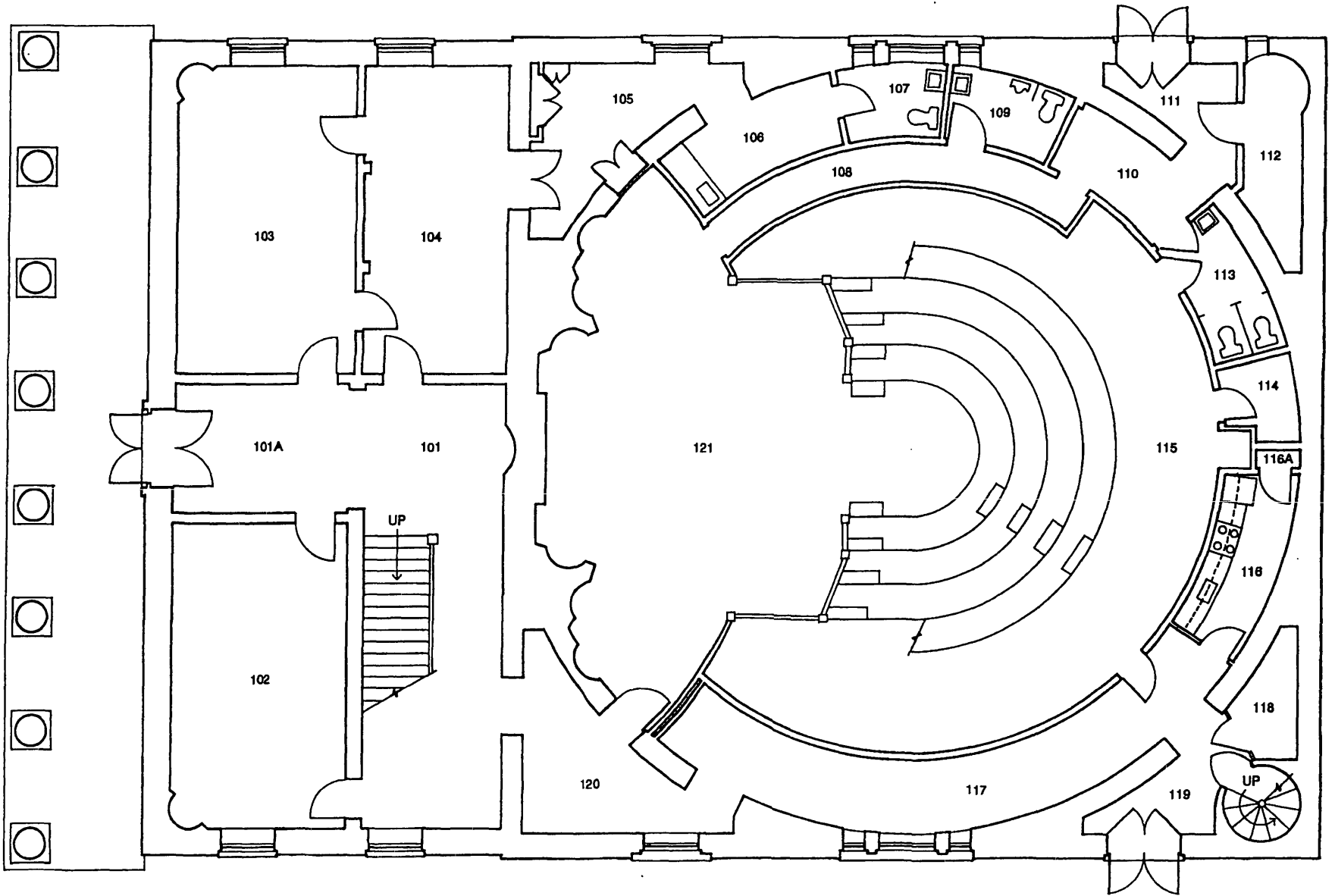
Date: January 15, 1997

Edited by: Carolyn Pitts  
National Park Service  
(202) 343-8166

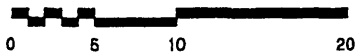
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY  
December 5, 1997



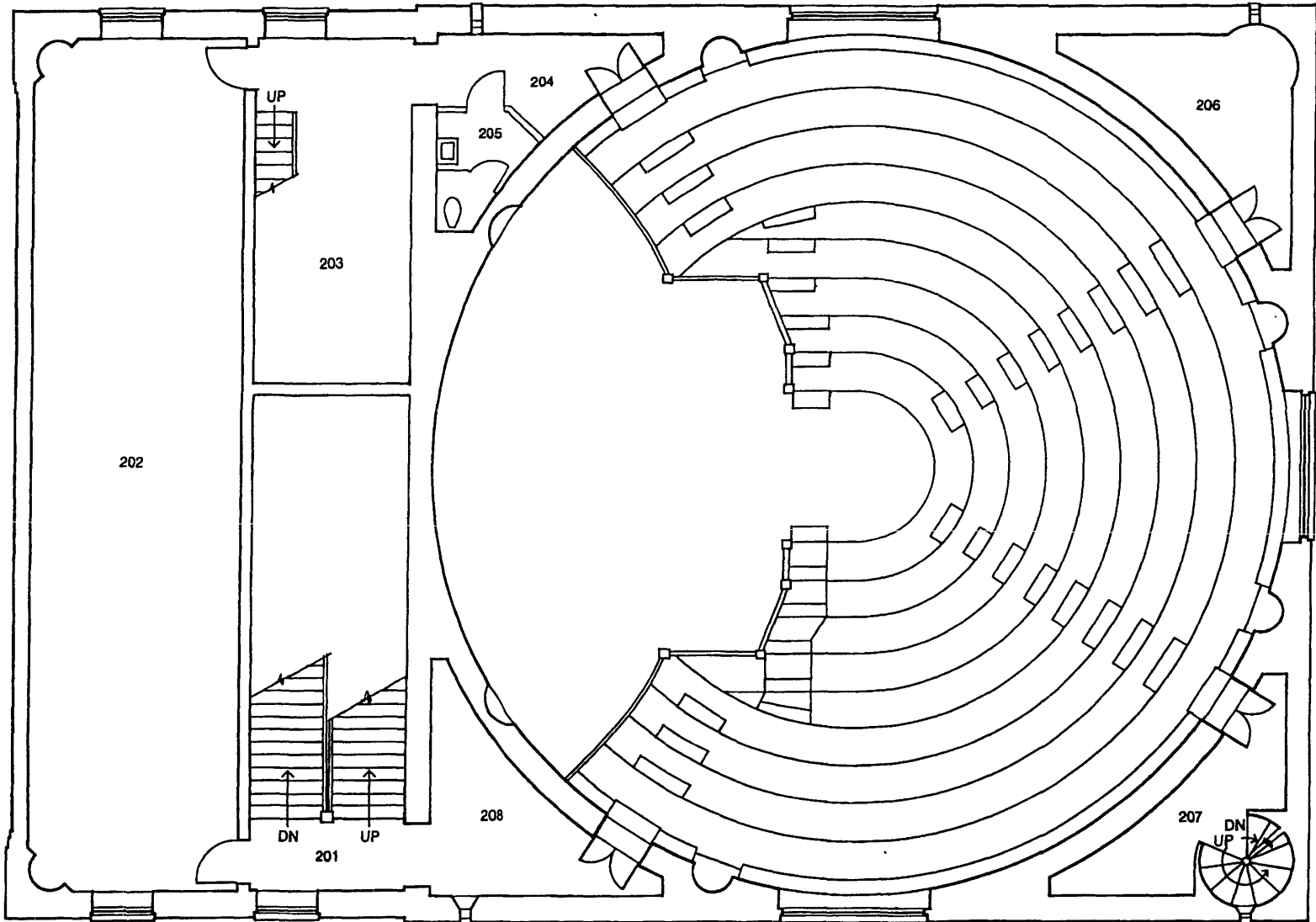




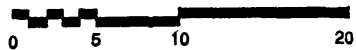
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

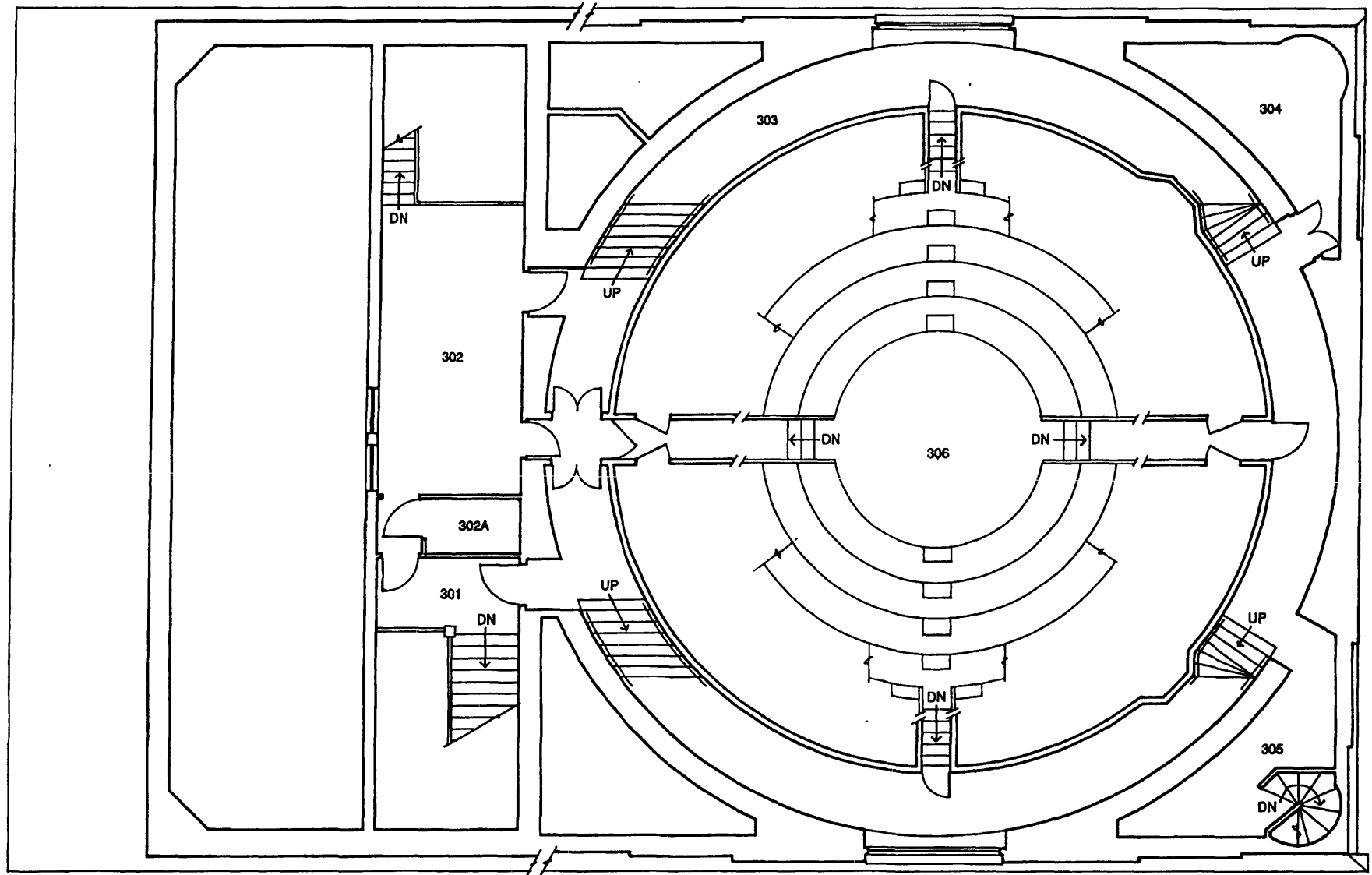


JOHN G. WAITE ARCHITECTS.

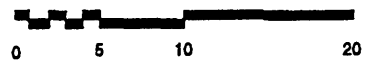


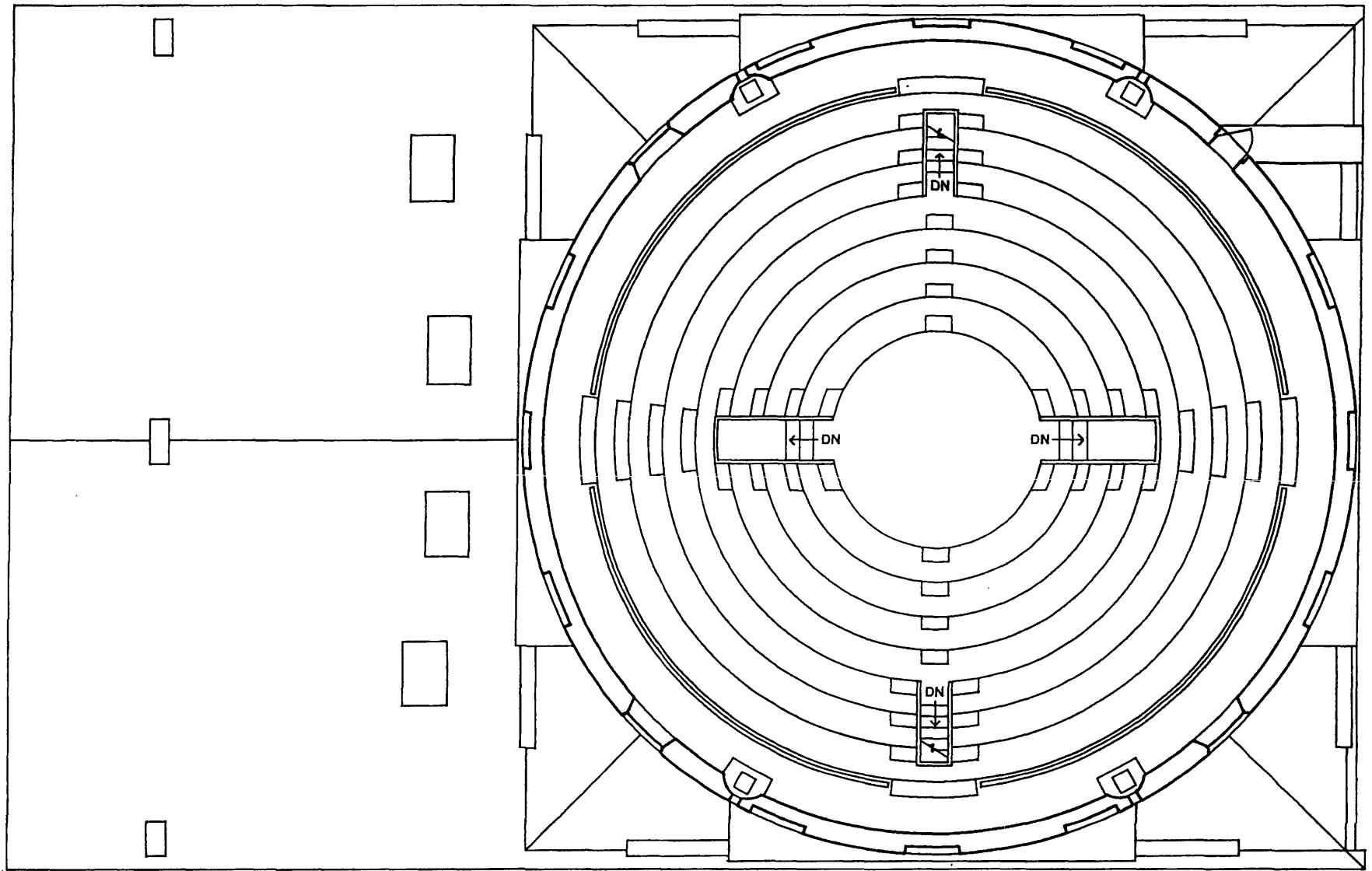
SECOND FLOOR PLAN





### THIRD FLOOR PLAN





FLOOR PLAN - ANATOMICAL HALL

