

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD**  
**APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION**

New Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment of a previous designation \_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize any amendment(s) Includes the Old Naval Observatory (National Observatory; Naval Museum of Hygiene; Naval Medical School), DC listing November 8, 1964, NHL designation January 12, 1965, NR listing October 15, 1966

Property name Observatory Hill

*If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.*

Address 23rd and E streets, NW, Washington, DC

Square and lot number(s) OO34/0805

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

Date of construction 1844-1961 Date of major alteration(s) 1844; 1906-1911; 1921; 1933; 1963

Architect(s) Ernest Flagg; Wood, Donn and Deming; Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks; Supervising Architect of the Treasury; Roland Hinton Perry Architectural style(s) Greek Revival; Colonial Revival; Classical Revival; Simplified Classical

Original use DEFENSE/naval facility; EDUCATION/research facility; HEALTH CARE/hospital; GOVERNMENT/government office; LANDSCAPE; DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Present use GOVERNMENT/government office; DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Property owner U.S. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

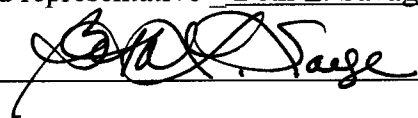
Legal address of property owner 401 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20407

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Beth L. Savage, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration

*If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.*

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 1800 F Street, NW, Suite 5400, Washington, DC 20405  
(202) 208-1936

Name and title of authorized representative Beth L. Savage, Federal Preservation Officer

Signature of representative  Date 7/8/2016

Name and telephone of author of application Elizabeth Hannold, GSA (202) 501-2863

Date received 7/8/16  
H.P.O. staff JN

# 16-17

**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: Observatory Hill

Other names/site number: (see continuation sheet)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## **2. Location**

Street & number: 23<sup>rd</sup> and E streets, NW

City or town: Washington State: District of Columbia County: N/A

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:

X national      statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C X D

**Signature of certifying official/Title:**

**Date**

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration

**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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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

#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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 ☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1  
The Old Naval Observatory (Building 2) was designated an NHL in 1965 and listed in the NRHP in 1966.

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/naval facility  
EDUCATION/research facility  
HEALTH CARE/hospital  
GOVERNMENT/ government office  
LANDSCAPE  
DOMESTIC/institutional housing  
  

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office

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DOMESTIC/institutional housing

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival; Classical Revival

OTHER: Simplified Classical

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation - STONE: Limestone

Walls - BRICK, STONE: Limestone, STUCCO

Roof: STONE: Slate, SYNTHETICS, METAL

### 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.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Observatory Hill is a federal campus composed of 13 free-standing buildings constructed between 1844 and 1933 on a 14.6-acre hilltop in the Foggy Bottom area of northwest Washington, D.C. The landscape setting, characterized by mature trees, curving roadways and perimeter walls, is set off from the surrounding urban grid. The district's large two- and three-story masonry buildings share a common classical vocabulary and architectural features including columned porticos, quoined corners, dentiled cornices, light colored brick or limestone walls, slate or synthetic slate-clad hipped roofs and multi-light windows. The oldest buildings within the district, the Old Naval Observatory<sup>1</sup> and the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital, completed in 1844 and 1906 respectively, have a generally axial relationship in the central position of the site. The Observatory is located at the highest point within the complex, its placement dictated by its original function as an astronomical observatory. The smaller officer's residences, nurses' dormitories and specialized medical wards, completed between 1908 and 1911, flank the two central buildings to the east, west and south. Further to the west and downslope from these buildings are three buildings arrayed around a grassy quadrangle. The oldest of these, the Central Building, completed in 1921, was constructed as a laboratory for the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service while the East and South buildings, both dating to

<sup>1</sup> The Old Naval Observatory (Building 2) was designated a National Historic Landmark on January 12, 1965.

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1933, were constructed for the National Institute of Health<sup>2</sup> as an administrative building and laboratory, respectively. In addition to these 13 contributing buildings, the district includes a number of small-scale secondary buildings that are noncontributing. The landscape includes natural as well as manmade features associated with the development of the district in the period of significance. In addition, the district includes an archeological site (51NW176) with multiple components, related to the Old Naval Observatory, Naval Museum of Hygiene and Naval Medical School and Hospital.

The district retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance for the period from 1844 to 1961. All major buildings constructed within that period remain, with the exception the U.S. Hygienic Laboratory (1903), demolished circa 1963 for the construction of the E Street Expressway. The expressway construction also reduced the campus along its northern and western edges, affecting landscape features. The remaining buildings retain a high degree of exterior integrity. Replacement windows and roof cladding generally replicate the original appearance. Interiors, generally modest in character, have undergone successive alterations to suit changing tenant requirements. The landscape has also undergone successive alterations throughout the period of significance as the site developed from the park-like Observatory compound to the intensively developed medical and research campus of the early twentieth century. Modifications continued throughout the second half of the twentieth century to the present, with the steady expansion of parking areas and concomitant loss of vegetated areas, somewhat diminishing the landscape's historic character. However, Observatory Hill retains its prominent site and campus-like feeling and remains a visual landmark in Foggy Bottom.

The Observatory Hill district includes the 11.7 acre property held by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) as well as property held by the U.S. Navy (Navy) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), totaling approximately 14.6 acres.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

Observatory Hill is a 14.6 acre, federal campus located in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood, west of downtown in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C. One of the city's oldest neighborhoods, Foggy Bottom today is dominated by the George Washington University and federal government offices. Observatory Hill is located to the north of the National Mall, to the east of the Potomac River and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and just to the west of the massive U.S. Department of State headquarters building. The immediate area is characterized by large-scale twentieth century federal and institutional office buildings set within an urban grid. Isolated from its neighbors on all sides except the east by a dense web of roadways and ramps associated with the E Street Expressway (a spur of Interstate 66),

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<sup>2</sup> From 1930, when it was established as a result of a reorganization and expansion of the Hygienic Laboratory, until 1948, the agency was known as the National *Institute* of Health. After adding several additional areas of research, it was officially renamed National *Institutes* of Health in 1948.



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Observatory Hill is further distinguished from its urban surroundings by its hilltop location and its campus-like feeling, characterized by a walled perimeter, curvilinear circulation pattern, comparatively small scale, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and relatively open and vegetated landscape setting. The district is roughly bounded by E Street, NW, on the north, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, on the east, the USIP building on the south and the E Street Expressway access ramps on the west.

### **Development of the Hill**

The district's elevated topography is one of its defining features and was a critical factor in its selection as the site for the Naval Observatory. When designing the City of Washington, Pierre L'Enfant recognized the importance of the site's commanding height, setting aside 17 acres as a public reservation that would become known as Reservation 4. Rising to an elevation of 96 feet above mean sea level, the hill is higher even than the reservations set aside for the President's House and the Congress (Illustration 1: 1792 Ellicott Plan of Washington).

Twentieth century development separated Observatory Hill into upper and lower campuses, most recently known as Potomac Annex and the E Street Complex, respectively. However, the Observatory Hill district is united by its prominent site and common history, having played an essential role in the formation and growth of a remarkable number of highly significant federal agencies over the course of more than 100 years. The buildings also share a common architectural vocabulary rooted in classicism and interpreted through a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century classical revival styles within an institutional context. Although altered many times throughout its history to accommodate changing uses and requirements, the district possesses sufficient integrity to convey clear associations with the significant historic events and individual achievements that occurred within its bounds.

The Observatory Hill district documents significant broad patterns of history and architecture related to the Navy's 170-year occupation, including the Naval Observatory (1844-1893), the Naval Museum of Hygiene (1894-1905) and the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital (1902-1942). Upper campus resources contributing to the historic district include the Old Naval Observatory (Building 2) and nine buildings constructed during the tenancy of the Naval Hospital: Female Nurses' Quarters (Building 1), the Washington Naval Hospital (Building 3), the Naval Medical School (Building 4), the Sick Officers' Quarters (Building 5), the Contagious Ward (Building 6), the Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 7) and three quarters for naval hospital officers (Quarters AA, Quarters BB, and Quarters CC). A contributing archeological site includes features associated with the 1845 Magnetic Observatory and tunnel, brick foundations located adjacent to Building 3 and a historic trash deposit next to Building 4. A statue of Benjamin Rush, located in front of the Old Naval Observatory is a contributing object. Ten noncontributing buildings and one noncontributing structure are also located within the upper campus. These resources are modest in size and architectural character, and are generally located at the edges of the campus.

In addition, the historic district documents significant broad patterns of history and architecture related to the development or use of the lower campus by the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service's Hygienic Laboratory (1903-1930) and the National Institute of Health (1930-1940) and

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the use of the complex by the Office of Strategic Services (1941-1945) and the Central Intelligence Agency (1947-1961). Lower campus resources contributing to the historic district include the Central, East and South buildings (See Observatory Hill Historic District Map).

**TABLE 1: OBSERVATORY HILL – CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

<i>Resource Name</i>	<i>Resource Type</i>	<i>Date Built</i>	<i>Period of Development</i>
<b>Contributing Resources</b>			
Old Naval Observatory (Building 2)*	Building	1844	Old Naval Observatory
Washington Naval Hospital (Building 3)	Building	1906	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Naval Medical School (Building 4)	Building	1906	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Female Nurses' Quarters (Building 1)	Building	1908, 1926	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Contagious Ward (Building 6)	Building	circa 1908	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Commanding Officer's Quarters (Quarters AA)	Building	circa 1909	Naval Medical School and Hospital
East Junior Officer's Quarters (Quarters BB)	Building	circa 1909	Naval Medical School and Hospital
West Junior Officer's Quarters (Quarters CC)	Building	circa 1909	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 7)	Building	1911	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Sick Officers' Quarters (Building 5)	Building	1911	Naval Medical School and Hospital
Central Building	Building	1921	Hygienic Laboratory
East Building	Building	1933	NIH
South Building	Building	1933	NIH
Landscape	Site	1844-1961	Old Naval Observatory, Naval Museum of Hygiene, Naval Medical School and Hospital, Hygienic Laboratory/NIH, Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, OSS, CIA
Archeological Site 51NW176	Site	1844-1942	Old Naval Observatory, Naval Museum of Hygiene, Naval Medical School and Hospital
Benjamin Rush Statue	Object	1904	Naval Medical School and Hospital
<b>Noncontributing Resources</b>			
Transformer Substation (Building 25)	Building	1942, circa 2002	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Garage for Quarters AA (Building 332)	Building	1943	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Garage for Quarters BB (Building 333)	Building	1943	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

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<i>Resource Name</i>	<i>Resource Type</i>	<i>Date Built</i>	<i>Period of Development</i>
Garage for Quarters CC (Building 334)	Building	1963, After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Northeast Gatehouse	Building	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Southeast Gatehouse	Building	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Southeast Guardhouse	Building	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Utility Building	Building	After 1950	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Garage	Building	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Garage	Building	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Bus Kiosk	Structure	After Period of Significance	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

\* The Old Naval Observatory was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and listed in the National Register in 1966 and thus is not included in the resource count.

## CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

### Upper Campus<sup>3</sup>

#### Old Naval Observatory (Building 2)

Originally built to house the first U.S. Naval Observatory, the current building forms a large, irregular T-shape and reflects seven major periods of construction and alteration. However, the building also reflects a sustained effort to harmonize the many later additions with the original section through use of uniform materials and colors and repeating exterior ornament such as the cornice design, the pilaster-on-pilaster motif and window treatment.

Lieutenant James Melville Gilliss selected the site and supervised the construction of the original observatory building, a two-story brick structure with a square footprint crowned by the circular observatory dome and oriented due north. Built between 1843 and 1844, it reflects the symmetrical Greek Revival style popular for early nineteenth-century government buildings and structures. The centrally located main door is ornamented by an elaborate surround with sidelights and a six-light transom topped by a projecting head supported by acanthus leaf console brackets. Similar brackets and projecting heads adorn the observatory's windows. Brick pilasters divide the building into three bays and support a classically inspired molded wood cornice. In its original configuration, one story wings extended from the observatory to its east, south and west and featured cornice and window treatments similar to those of the main two story structure. The current building's two story east wing, erected in 1847 as a free-standing superintendent's

<sup>3</sup> This section is based on Blanche H. Schroer and Steven H. Lewis, Old Naval Observatory, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C., 1977) and Rebecca Miller, Proposed Old Naval Observatory National Register of Historic Places Registration Form/DC Historic Landmark Application (DC Preservation League, Washington, D.C., 2008).

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quarters, echoes the original observatory's symmetrical design and architectural detailing, although in a more subdued manner. Construction of a one story hyphen in 1848 connected the observatory's original east wing with the superintendent's quarters. In 1869, a two story addition was appended to the observatory's west wing; a short one story hyphen connected the two story addition to the original one story west wing (Illustration 2: Nineteenth Century Depiction of the Naval Observatory). In preparation for the installation of the Great Equatorial Telescope in 1873, the south observatory structure was erected and appended to the original south wing by a one story hyphen.

After the Naval Observatory moved to a new location on Massachusetts Avenue in 1893, the Naval Museum of Hygiene occupied the Old Naval Observatory between 1894 and 1905 and greatly modified the building to provide additional exhibit and laboratory space. By 1897, the first stories of the observatory and the former superintendent's quarters had been altered to house exhibits, while the observatory's second floor became a scientific laboratory. The South observatory, renamed the south rotunda, was also completely rebuilt above the fieldstone foundation to house a new library during this period. The original domed roof of the south observatory was replaced by a conical roof at this time. Alterations to the building's western wing and addition in 1895 provided expanded library and exhibition space. Two years later, the western addition was completely altered into a lecture hall. Second stories were added to the east, south and west wings as well as the hyphens connecting these structures with the former superintendent's quarters, the western addition and the south observatory, providing the Old Naval Observatory with its current overall configuration.

The establishment of the Naval Hospital at the Old Naval Observatory in 1902 was soon followed by the construction of the hospital related structures and the creation of the hospital campus, as well as further alteration of the former observatory building, undertaken to incorporate it into the hospital's operation. In 1909 the installation of a second story in the interior of the south rotunda provided additional space for the institution's medical library. Ten years later, two story additions were attached to the southern elevations of the former superintendent's quarters and the western addition. The building's exterior has not undergone substantial modification since the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery acquired the facility in 1942.

As it stands today, the brick building presents a unified appearance. It is generally two stories in height and clad in stucco painted pale yellow.<sup>4</sup> The roofline of most of the building is nearly flat, with a molded cornice, painted white. The original observatory dome is clad in standing seam metal painted white. The south wing and south observatory have gabled or sloped roofs clad in standing seam metal painted red. The round, one-and-a-half story south observatory has a circular cupola clad in red standing seam metal topped with a finial. The windows of the original observatory building are rectangular with flat entablatures supported by consoles, as are the windows on the first story of the east and west wings flanking it and several rear wings. The second story windows on these east and west wings framing the original section and the windows of the west wing are recessed with rounded arches in a series, simulating an arcade. Nearly all windows have multi-light, double hung wood sash and are painted white. The

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<sup>4</sup> Paint analysis suggests that the original paint color was much the same as the present pale yellow.

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pilasters that decorate the front and rear facades of the original construction, plus several later additions, are two story, brick, Doric style, pilaster-on-pilaster, divided by the belt course that runs around the building between stories. There are three entrances on the north, in the center of the three major projecting blocks of the building, which are connected by narrower wings. The front entrances of the original observatory building and superintendent's quarters have wood panel doors. Cast iron railings flank the observatory's main entrance and run along the basement areaways on either side of the entrance at the front of the building. Similar cast iron railings flank the entrance and run along the basement areaways in front of the superintendent's quarters.

Like the exterior, the interior has evolved over time, retaining some elements from its function as an astronomical observatory despite changes to adapt it for medical or administrative use. The central interior feature is the circular space at the center of the original observatory building. This space originally accommodated the telescope piers that went from the instrument in the second story to the bedrock below the building to provide stability. When the space was converted for museum use after the Naval Observatory moved to its new site in 1893, the telescope piers were removed and an unusual and ornate double staircase was added, its two runs sweeping along the curved walls, then ascending side by side before joining at the upper level. Also added in 1893 was the patterned ceiling. The second story room of the original observatory still opens up into the metal dome, but now is used as a reception room. The cylindrical room at the end of the south wing, built in 1873 to house the 26-inch Great Equatorial Telescope, is still an open space, formerly used for meetings and lectures. The ceiling, which reflects the conical shape of the circa 1894 roof, has a patterned decorative treatment similar to that in the original observatory space. Elsewhere, the interior of the building has been somewhat altered at various times to suit changing needs and tenants, but remains essentially utilitarian office space, as originally constructed.

The 9.6-inch refractor telescope located in the original observatory building was removed long ago. Similarly, the Great Equatorial Telescope that the south observatory was built to house in 1873 was removed in 1893. That 26-inch refracting telescope built by Alvan Clark and Sons is located at the new Naval Observatory on Massachusetts Avenue and is the oldest of its type still in use.

Building 2 is the only building in the Observatory Hill district associated with the property's historic role as the U.S. Naval Observatory during the period 1844-1893. Founded as the Depot of Charts and Instruments, the Naval Observatory was an important scientific institution that made significant contributions to the interrelated fields of astronomy, navigation and timekeeping and to hydrography and oceanography. Following this original use, the building housed the Navy Museum of Hygiene and the Naval Medical School, both of which were significant to the training of naval medical personnel and to research into medical topics of particular interest to the Navy. Although altered through the years on both the exterior and interior to accommodate expansion and changing uses, the building displays good integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling. The exterior largely remains as it was at the end of the Naval Observatory period.

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**Washington Naval Hospital (Building 3) and Naval Medical School (Building 4)**

Prepared in 1903 by Ernest Flagg, plans for the hospital consisted of two main core buildings for administration (the Washington Naval Hospital) and medical operations (the Naval Medical School) with adjacent patient ward pavilions connected to the main core buildings by solaria. The design of the hospital utilized the pavilion plan for medical institutions developed in Europe during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Flagg's design showed three pavilions; a potential fourth pavilion was indicated as a ghost outline on the plan. Only two of the three pavilions designed by Flagg were constructed before the funding ran out. Design and construction for the third and fourth pavilions were instead undertaken by architects at the Washington-based firm of Wood, Donn and Deming. The new firm made at least one significant departure from Flagg's 1903 plans. Flagg's drawings show the solaria connecting the pavilions making a straight run from the central cores; however, as constructed, the south solaria form right angles to the pavilions.<sup>5</sup>

The Washington Naval Hospital (Building 3), erected between 1904 and 1906, consists of a central two-and-one half story, eight-bay wide, simulated slate, hipped roof building surmounted by an octagonal metal cupola with tall, one story wings on its east and west connected to the main structure via shorter, one story solaria. An additional solarium extends southward, connecting the Washington Naval Hospital to the surgical and medical operation facilities in the Naval Medical School and its adjacent solaria and patient pavilions. The Washington Naval Hospital displays the symmetrical Georgian Revival style characteristics found on the other medical buildings in the upper campus, but with a different idiom in their expression. The walls are buff brick laid in English bond with white glazed brick quoins ornamenting building corners. Evenly spaced hipped roof dormers occupy the main roof above a dentiled cornice. The central bay of the building's northern (front) elevation possesses a one story portico that formerly functioned as a porte-cochère. Supported by Tuscan columns and topped by a low balustrade, the portico protects modern double leaf, four panel, wood doors crowned by a wide, fixed transom and flanked by modern, four-over-four, sash windows. Replacement six-over-six, wood sash windows occupy most other window openings on the main block and banks of multi-light windows form the solaria's side elevations. Four large, nine-over-nine, sash windows with fixed, six-light transoms are symmetrically spaced along the pavilion wings' side elevations. As elsewhere on the building, the gable roofs of these wings are clad in simulated slate, which replaced the original slate roofs in the 1990s. Window openings on the main block possess stone sills and jack arch lintels with keystones while those on the wings feature large, flat, stone lintels.

The Naval Medical School (Building 4), erected between 1903 and 1906, incorporates many of the same features seen on the Washington Naval Hospital in a more subdued manner, although subtle variations are discernible. Similar to the hospital building, the medical school building features buff brick walls laid in English bond with white glazed brick quoins; however, the tripartite configuration of Building 4 features solaria that possess hallways with 90-degree turns. The medical school building's central block, only two stories high including a full basement level, also possesses a flat roof in contrast to the hospital's hipped roof. The medical school's

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<sup>5</sup> Swanke, Hayden, Connell Architects, Potomac Annex: Buildings 1 & 3-7, Historic Structures Report, Corrected Final Submission. Prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., (1997), 41.

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pavilion wings feature gable roofs also clad in simulated slate. One story, flat roofed wings extend from the southern elevations of the central block and also from the eastern pavilion wing. A one story, raised porch supported by a row of Tuscan columns and topped by a low balustrade extends across the southern (rear) elevation and shelters an entrance with modern wood and glass double doors. Window sizes and configurations vary throughout the building, although most upper story windows mirror the windows used on the hospital and are replacement six-over-six wood sash windows. However, the large multi-light windows on the solarium are replacement vinyl or aluminum sash with sandwich muntins. Flat stone lintels and sills predominate on the medical school building.

A covered walkway runs from the southwest corner, basement level, of the hospital building to the southeast corner, basement level, of the Female Nurse's Quarters. The walkway has wooden supports and railings and a simulated slate roof.

The Washington Naval Hospital retains its central lobby, stair hall and first floor corridor spatial arrangements and finishes. Reflecting the need for office space during the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery tenancy (1942-2012), the interiors of both the Naval Hospital and Naval Medical School beyond these first floor entry sequences have been altered from their original configurations, including the removal of the operating rooms and laboratories. In addition, the interiors of the two buildings have been modified by the installation of drop ceilings, new partition walls and new interior finishes and fixtures.

Buildings 3 and 4, designed by noted architect Ernest Flagg, are significant for their association with the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital, the preeminent naval medical facility in the United States and the site of significant advances in medical research and the treatment and care of Navy personnel. In addition, the buildings established the Georgian Revival style on the upper campus. Save for the replacement sash and roofing, which replicate the historic features, the buildings' exteriors display good integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling.

### **Female Nurses' Quarters (Building 1)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks in the Georgian Revival style to house nurses working at the hospital, the Female Nurses' Quarters building is located on the western edge of the upper campus. It stands two-and one-half stories tall with a hipped roof, modillion cornice and yellow Flemish bond brick walls. Construction of the building occurred in two phases, with the northern eight bays constructed between 1907 and 1908, followed by the southern eight bays constructed between 1925 and 1926. The eastern (front) elevation of the earlier portion features a formal entrance single story portico with Tuscan columns ornamenting a central, four-bay-wide pavilion crowned by a large hipped roof dormer. The building's main entrance was altered sometime after 2000 with the installation of a replacement entry composed of a wood door with six panels, fully glazed sidelights, and an elliptical arched transom. The east elevation of the southern addition has a similar, although smaller, single story portico and entry with a recent wood panel door with sidelights and arched transom. Most, if not all, windows throughout the building are recent wood sash replicating the original configurations. The majority of the

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windows are six-over-six lights. A two story enclosed porch is located on the building's southern elevation. The original slate roof was replaced with simulated slate in the 1990s.

Since its conversion to office space for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the early 1940s, the interior spaces of the Female Nurses' Quarters have experienced numerous alterations, with the replacement of nearly all historic fabric and finishes. The building was recently rehabilitated for DOS office use.

The Female Nurses' Quarters is significant for the crucial role of female nurses in patient care at the Naval Hospital, as demonstrated by the doubling of the size of the quarters in 1926. Nurses provided round-the-clock care, and thus it was important to provide them with on-site housing. The building's Georgian Revival architectural character is consistent with the other hospital buildings on the site, clearly identifying it visually as part of the hospital complex. Save for the replacement sash and roof cladding, that replicate the original features, the exterior of the Female Nurses' Quarters displays good integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling.

**Contagious Ward (Building 6)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks to provide an isolated setting for patients with seriously infectious cases and constructed circa 1908, the Contagious Ward is located directly south of the former Naval Medical School and Hospital (buildings 3 and 4), on the southern side of the south access road, in what is now the northern portion of the USIP property. As with most of the principal buildings constituting the former Naval Hospital complex, the Contagious Ward interprets the Georgian Revival architectural vocabulary in its institutional features. The Contagious Ward is a large two story yellow brick building featuring Flemish brick bond, corbelled quoins, a modillion cornice, symmetrical fenestration, hipped roofs clad in simulated slate shingles and tall, six-over-six, double hung windows with six-light transoms. It has a wide two story portico carried by four large Tuscan columns and topped by a balustrade on its front (northern) elevation. On both stories, the portico protects building entrances composed of replacement, metal framed sidelights and metal and glass doors. A large metal fire stair leads to the second story entrance; this later addition interrupts the building's formal visual presentation. Most window openings possess jack arch lintels with keystones and stone sills. The rear southern elevation displays a full three stories owing to the sharp grade downward from north to south. The central portion of the southern elevation's upper stories is recessed and its ground story displays a small, two-bay-wide addition that encloses a former porte-cochère. Most of the windows in the southern elevation are paired nine-over-nine sash with six-light transoms. Most, if not all, windows in Building 6 are recent replacement wood sash replicating the original configurations. The original slate roof was replaced with simulated slate in the 1990s.

The Contagious Ward underwent a major interior rehabilitation in the early 1940s for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery that subdivided its former open ward floor plans into individual offices. During the same period a porte-cochère appended to the southern elevation was enclosed. In the 1990s many of the building's interior spaces were again extensively altered, leaving little of the original historic fabric or features inside the building. At some unknown date, possibly in the late 1990s, an unsympathetic aluminum and glass infill was installed behind the north portico.



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The Contagious Ward served an important function in the Naval Hospital complex. As patients in the main hospital were housed in open wards, rather than in individual rooms, it was necessary to keep those with highly contagious illnesses apart from the general hospital patients to avoid spreading disease. In addition, the Georgian Revival architectural character of the building is consistent with the other hospital buildings on the upper campus, clearly identifying it visually as part of the Naval Hospital complex. Despite an insensitive alteration on the front façade and replacement sash and roof cladding replicating the original features, the exterior of the Contagious Ward displays fair integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling.

### **Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 7)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed between 1908 and 1911 to house enlisted naval medical specialists working at the hospital, the Male Nurse's or Corpsmen's Quarters stands on the southern side of the south access road, in what is now the northern portion of the USIP property. The two-and-one-half story, T-shaped building is perpendicular to the later south access road, with its formal entrance occupying the central bay of its symmetrical, seven-bay-wide, western elevation. Similar to most of the other buildings constituting the facility's hospital complex, the Corpsmen's Quarters features characteristics of the Georgian Revival style executed in an institutional setting. The building displays yellow brick walls laid in Flemish bond, corbelled quoins, a hipped roof with hipped roof dormers, a modillion cornice and window openings ornamented with stone sills and jack-arch lintels with keystones. The entrance is framed by a two story pavilion surmounted by a balustrade above the cornice. A one story portico, supported by paired Tuscan columns and topped by a balustrade similar to that of the pavilion, shades the entrance. Double leaf, wood panel doors with upper lights occupy the entrance, flanked by sidelights and topped by an elliptical arched fixed transom. Double leaf doors with a round arch lintel with keystone provide access to the second story porch created by the main entrance's portico. Most window openings contain replacement six-over-six, wood sash in single or paired configurations. The central roof dormer features a triple window; the remaining dormers possess a single window. A two story porch, now enclosed, occupies nearly the entire width of the southern elevation. The original slate roof was replaced with simulated slate in the 1990s.

Since the Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters was first converted to office space for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the early 1940s, the interior spaces of the building have undergone numerous alterations, removing nearly all historic fabric and finishes.

As the dormitory for male nurses, Building 7 has played an important role in the Naval Hospital complex. Since nurses worked round-the-clock, it was critical that they be provided housing on-site. In addition, the building's Georgian Revival architectural character is consistent with the other hospital buildings on the upper campus, clearly identifying it visually as part of the Naval Hospital complex. Save for the replacement sash and roof cladding, which replicate the original features, the Male Nurses' Quarters' exterior possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

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### **Commanding Officer's Quarters (Quarters AA)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed circa 1909 to provide on-site housing for a commanding officer and family, Quarters AA is larger and possesses a higher level of detail than the other two quarters. The Georgian Revival style residence stands northeast of the Old Naval Observatory in the northeastern corner of the site. The large, two-and-one-half story, yellow, Flemish bond brick building has corbelled quoins, symmetrical fenestration, a side-gable slate roof with partial returns, paired interior chimneys and a modillion cornice. A nearly full width porch shades the building's western (front) elevation and protects a broad entrance composed of a half glazed, wood panel door framed by sidelights and engaged columns and spanned by an elliptical-arched transom. Paired Ionic columns support the porch's entablature. An ornate balustrade with finely turned balusters crowns the porch. A large, richly ornamented, round arched doorway with sidelights occupies the central bay of the second story. Three gable roofed, pedimented dormers are evenly spaced across the roof slope, front and back. The central dormer contains paired windows while single windows occupy the flanking dormers. Most window openings contain six-over-two, wood sash, which appear to be original. An enclosed porch occupies nearly the entire width of the first story of the north gable end. A smaller, one story, enclosed porch is appended to the south gable end and possesses a one story brick wing on its east.

In accordance with the original plans prepared by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks in 1909, the interior of Quarters AA is finished on all four floors, including the basement and attic. In addition to storage and mechanical areas, the basement was designed with steward's quarters and workroom and a large laundry room. The first floor has a symmetrical floor plan with a formal entry hall giving access to the parlor and dining room. Additional first floor rooms include a study, two enclosed porches and a kitchen. At the rear of the hall, the three story, main stair has Colonial Revival style detailing. A reading nook at the first landing is situated within a bay window with arched windows. The first floor fireplaces have decorative wood mantels. The living room fireplace surround has delicate Georgian Revival detailing. Decorative wood molding and trim occurs throughout the residence, around doors, windows, walls and ceilings. Plaster ornament includes ceiling medallions with Georgian Revival stylistic motifs. All public spaces on the first floor have original hardwood flooring. The residence retains original wood doors in a variety of styles, including multi-light French, paired, five-panel pocket, and single-leaf five-panel doors. The second floor also has a symmetrical plan and includes four bedrooms as well as bathrooms and a dressing room. The attic floor, well lit by six dormers, has additional bedrooms and bathrooms.<sup>6</sup>

A major portion of the first floor was rehabilitated in 1995. This work appears to have included updating the kitchen, plaster repairs and repainting. The rehabilitation sought to maintain the historic character of the interior. There has been no major work on the interior in recent years.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Access was not provided to the interior of any of the quarters. The interior description is based on documentation provided by the Navy, including an architectural survey with floorplans dating to 1965 and an excerpt from a Facilities Management Plan dating to circa 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Julie Darsie, Cultural Resources Program Manager, Naval Facilities Command, Washington, established that no work has been undertaken on the interior of Quarters AA from 2009 to the present.

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Quarters AA is an excellent example of Georgian Revival domestic architecture executed in the early twentieth century within an institutional context. The Senior Officers' Quarters displays a high degree of integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling.

### **East Junior Officers' Quarters (Quarters BB)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed circa 1909 to provide housing for a junior officer and family, Quarters BB is located southeast of the Old Naval Observatory and directly south of Quarters AA. Quarters BB incorporates the Georgian Revival architectural vocabulary like Quarters AA, but is smaller and simpler. The two-and-one-half story, side-gabled building has a slate roof, paired interior gable end chimneys, partial returns, a modillion cornice and pedimented, gable roofed dormers on both roof slopes. The front (west) façade features a nearly full width, one-story porch supported by Doric columns and topped by a balustrade with finely turned balusters. The main entrance is composed of a half-glazed, wood panel door, framed by sidelights and engaged columns and spanned by an elliptical arched transom. The yellow brick, Flemish bond building also exhibits corbelled quoins, six-over-two, wood sash in most window openings, and jack arch lintels with keystones and stone sills.

In accordance with the original plans prepared by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks in 1909, the interior of Quarters BB is finished on all four floors, including the basement and attic. In addition to storage and mechanical areas, the basement was designed with steward's quarters and workroom and a laundry room. Like Quarters AA, Quarters BB has a symmetrical floor plan on the first floor with a formal entry hall giving access to the parlor and dining room. Additional first floor rooms include a study, an enclosed porch and a kitchen with pantry. At the rear of the hall, the three story main stair has Colonial Revival style detailing and a bay window lighting the first landing. The first floor fireplaces have decorative wood mantels. Decorative wood molding and trim occurs throughout the residence, around doors, windows, walls and ceilings. All the walls within the residence are plaster and plaster ceiling medallions are present in first floor public spaces. All public spaces on the first floor have original hardwood flooring. The residence retains original wood doors in a variety of styles, including multi-light French, paired, five-panel pocket, and single-leaf five-panel doors.<sup>8</sup>

In 2011, Quarters BB underwent a substantial interior rehabilitation which was designed to retain original fabric and features to the extent possible and to respect the historic character of the residence while bringing the residence up to contemporary standards. In the basement, a modern catering kitchen was inserted in the former steward's quarters. On the first floor, the kitchen, pantry and powder room were modernized within the original spaces. The public spaces, including the hall, parlor and dining room were repainted and floors refinished. Baths and closets were modernized on the second floor and in the attic, where egress was also addressed. In

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<sup>8</sup> Access was not provided to the interior of any of the quarters. The interior description is based on documentation provided to GSA by the Navy, including an architectural survey with floorplans dating to 1965 and an excerpt from a Facilities Management Plan dating to circa 2005.

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addition to the interior work, the 2011 project rebuilt the balustrade at the second story on top of the front porch, replicating the original wood balusters in cypress.<sup>9</sup>

Quarters BB is a noteworthy example of Georgian Revival domestic architecture executed in the early twentieth century within an institutional context. The East Junior Officers' Quarters displays a high level of integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling.

### **West Junior Officers' Quarters (Quarters CC)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed circa 1909 to provide housing for a junior officer and family, Quarters CC stands northwest of the Old Naval Observatory. Similar to the other officers' quarters, but with simpler detailing than either, the building consists of a two-and-one-half story, Georgian Revival house with a slate, side-gable roof, yellow Flemish bond brick walls, corbelled quoins, a modillion cornice, paired gable-end chimneys and pedimented, gable-roof dormers with partial returns on both roof slopes. The symmetrical eastern (front) elevation displays six-over-two, wood sash with stone sills and jack arch lintels with keystones and a central entry protected by a small portico with Tuscan columns and topped by a balustrade with finely turned balusters. The portico protects an entrance composed of a half-glazed, wood panel door, framed by sidelights and engaged columns and spanned by an elliptical arched transom. A full width, one story, enclosed porch occupies the southern gable.

In accordance with the original plans prepared by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks in 1909, the interior of Quarters CC is finished on all four floors, including the basement and attic. In addition to storage and mechanical areas, the basement was designed with steward's quarters and workroom and a laundry room. Like the other quarters, Quarters CC has a symmetrical floor plan on the first floor with a formal entry hall giving access to the parlor and dining room, which has a built-in china cabinet. Additional first floor rooms include a study, an enclosed porch and a kitchen with pantry. At the rear of the hall, the three story main stair has Colonial Revival style detailing and a bay window lighting the first landing. The first floor fireplaces have decorative wood mantels. Decorative wood molding and trim occurs throughout the residence, around doors, windows, walls and ceilings. All the walls within the residence are plaster and plaster ceiling medallions are present in first floor public spaces. All the public spaces on the first floor have original hardwood flooring. The residence retains original wood doors in a variety of styles, including multi-light French, paired, five-panel pocket, and single-leaf five-panel doors. The second and attic floors originally held six bedrooms and three bathrooms. The attic also has a large cedar closet.<sup>10</sup>

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9 The 2011 rehabilitation description is based on drawings provided to GSA by the Navy, titled "Navy Mid-Atlantic Housing PPV, Lincoln Property Company-Potomac Annex, Quarters BB," prepared by RKtects Studio, Inc., September 8, 2011.

10 Access was not provided to the interior of any of the quarters. The interior description is based on documentation provided to GSA by the Navy, including an architectural survey with floorplans dating to 1965 and an excerpt from a Facilities Management Plan dating to circa 2005.

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The kitchen and many of the bathrooms were modernized circa 2005. This work appears to have been accomplished without altering the original floor plan. There has been no major work on the interior since.<sup>11</sup>

Quarters CC is a noteworthy example of Georgian Revival domestic architecture executed in the early twentieth century within an institutional context. The West Junior Officers' Quarters possesses high level of integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

### **Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 7)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed between 1908 and 1911 to house enlisted naval medical specialists working at the hospital, the Male Nurse's or Corpsmen's Quarters stands on the southern side of the south access road, in what is now the northern portion of the USIP property. The two-and-one-half story, T-shaped building is set perpendicular to the south access road, with its formal entrance occupying the central bay of its symmetrical, seven-bay-wide, western elevation. Similar to most of the other buildings constituting the facility's hospital complex, the Corpsmen's Quarters features characteristics of the Georgian Revival style executed in an institutional setting. The building displays yellow brick walls laid in Flemish bond, corbelled quoins, a hipped roof with hipped roof dormers, a modillion cornice and window openings ornamented with stone sills and jack-arch lintels with keystones. The entrance is framed by a two story pavilion surmounted by a balustrade above the cornice. A one story portico, supported by paired Tuscan columns and topped by a balustrade similar to that of the pavilion, shades the entrance. Double leaf, wood panel doors with upper lights occupy the entrance, flanked by sidelights and topped by an elliptical arched fixed transom. Double leaf doors with a round arch lintel with keystone provide access to the second story porch created by the main entrance's portico. Most window openings contain replacement six-over-six, wood sash in single or paired configurations. The central roof dormer features a triple window; the remaining dormers each possess a single window. A two story porch, now enclosed, occupies nearly the entire width of the southern elevation. The original slate roof was replaced with simulated slate in the 1990s.

Since the Male Nurses' or Corpsmen's Quarters was first converted to office space for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the early 1940s, the interior spaces of the building have undergone numerous alterations, removing nearly all historic fabric and finishes.

As the dormitory for male nurses, Building 7 has played an important role in the Naval Hospital complex. Since nurses worked round-the-clock, it was critical that they be provided housing on-site. In addition, the building's Georgian Revival architectural character is consistent with the other hospital buildings on the upper campus, clearly identifying it visually as part of the Naval Hospital complex. Save for the replacement sash and roof cladding, which replicate the original features, the Male Nurses' Quarters' exterior possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

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<sup>11</sup> Julie Darsie, Cultural Resources Program Manager, Naval Facilities Command, Washington, established that no work has been undertaken on the interior of Quarters AA from 2009 to the present.

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### **Sick Officers' Quarters (Building 5)**

Designed by the Naval Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed in 1911 to provide housing for convalescent officers, the Sick Officers' Quarters, stands along the eastern edge of the upper campus, east of Building 3. As constructed, the building provided 18 private rooms for officers. The two-and-one-half story building has a T-plan with a hipped roof and incorporates the Georgian Revival architectural features present on the facility's other principal buildings. It features yellow Flemish bond brick walls, symmetrical fenestration, corbelled quoins, a modillion cornice and a three-bay-wide, two story, entrance portico centered on its northern (front) elevation. The portico, supported by large Tuscan columns, extends well beyond the flight of stairs leading to the main entrance and creates a narrow porte-cochère. The portico protects a modern replacement entryway composed of double leaf, wood framed glass doors with an elliptical arched transom. Balustrades on the portico roof provide an upper story porch accessed through the two hipped roof dormers. Paired interior chimney piles occupy the eastern and western gable ends. The rear wing's southern elevation features a two story enclosed porch, originally designed as open porches, and a non-original, exterior, wood-frame stairway to the porch roof. Most windows possess six-over-six, replacement wood sash with jack arch lintels with keystones and stone sills. The original slate roof was replaced with simulated slate roofing in the 1990s.

The Sick Officers' Quarters was converted to offices for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the early 1940s by the removal of hospital room partition walls and restroom facilities. As a consequence of the initial and subsequent rehabilitation campaigns, nearly all interior historic fabric and finishes have been replaced.

Building 5, the Sick Officers' Quarters, was an integral part of the Naval Hospital complex. The provision of private hospital accommodations for officers was considered essential to the operation of the Naval Hospital. In addition, the building's Georgian Revival architectural character is consistent with the other hospital buildings on the upper campus, clearly identifying it visually as part of the Naval Hospital Complex. Save for the replacement sash and roof cladding, which replicate the original features, the Sick Officers' Quarters' exterior possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

### **Lower Campus<sup>12</sup>**

#### **Central Building**

Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and constructed between 1919 and 1921 as a laboratory for Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, the Georgian Revival style Central Building is the oldest extant building on the lower campus. Originally known as the South Building because it was erected immediately to the south of the now-demolished North Building (1903), the Central Building faces south onto a small quadrangle

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<sup>12</sup> This section is based on Emma Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (prepared by A D Marble & Co. for U.S General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., 2010) and Douglas Sefton, Ron Frenesse, and Michale Tallent, Proposed E Street Complex (Office of Strategic Services and Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form/DC Historic Landmark Application (DC Preservation League, Washington, D.C., November 2013).

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(Illustration 3: Aerial View of the Hygienic Laboratory, circa 1919, North Building and Central Building in Foreground and Animal House at Rear).

The U-shaped building consists of two three story wings flanking a long three story, rectilinear central section. The central portion of the building is oriented east-west while the wings are oriented north-south. Due to the sloping site, two of the three stories are exposed on the east and north elevations, and all three stories are exposed on the south and west elevations. The exterior is clad in red brick, laid in a common bond. A brick and limestone water table separates the ground level from the upper two stories on all elevations. The three center bays of the south elevation are clad with stucco on all stories. The majority of the windows are replacement one-over-one wood sash. The central section and intersecting wings have hipped roofs. A gable roofed central pavilion projects slightly from the south and north elevations at the center three bays of the center portion. A simple cornice, composed of painted brick, surrounds the building and features frieze-band windows in the north elevation and wings. An octagonal cupola is centered above the central pavilion. The cupola is clad in slate, while the remainder of the building is covered by a red standing seam metal roof.

The 17-bay, south (front) elevation of the Central Building is distinguished by the concrete and stucco projecting central pavilion, treated as a classical portico. The portico features four two story, round columns with Corinthian capitals resting on the ground level base supporting a simple triangular pediment. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings provide access to the main entry in the center bay on the ground level. The simple stone surround of the entry contains a modern single leaf, aluminum framed, glass door surmounted by an arched aluminum awning on metal posts that carries the word "CENTRAL."

Each story is differentiated by fenestration and all elevations have the same pattern. The ground level and first story windows have identical one-over-one sash, simple stone sills and jack arch, brick lintels. On the first story, the one-over-one sash is combined with a single light, arched transom above and a wooden spandrel panel below. A single header brick course defines each arch and continues around the window down to the water table. The second story has taller, one-over-one sash windows, but no arch or spandrel panel. In the central portico section, the windows in the first story are topped with single light transoms. Each face of the octagonal dome is pierced by a six-light lunette window.

A 1995 rehabilitation greatly altered the original configuration and layout of the Central Building. The interior retains little evidence of the Hygienic Laboratory and National Institute of Health occupancy. Except for the basement, which has a vulcanized rubber floor covering, concrete block and brick walls and original wood paneled doors, the three upper floors have contemporary industrial carpeting on the floors, replacement drywall on the walls and metal security or fire doors. Suspended acoustical tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting, are present on each floor.

The Central Building is significant as the only remaining building within the district constructed for United States Public Health Service's (USPHS) Hygienic Laboratory, as the earlier North Building was demolished circa 1963. The laboratory building served an important role in the

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research undertaken by USPHS and, later, in the research, activities and events associated with the National Institute of Health (NIH), Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the subsequent tenants of the lower campus. The Georgian Revival architectural style of the building, while not as well elaborated or refined as in the Naval Hospital complex buildings, is compatible with the upper campus. The Central Building possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

### **East Building (also known as the Administration Building)**

Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury as the administrative building for NIH and completed in 1933, the East Building and adjacent South Building differ from the Central Building in materials and design. Constructed of limestone in the Simplified Classical style, the East Building is the smallest and most formal of the surviving lower campus buildings. Located at the head of the quadrangle, it serves as the focal point of the three-building complex. The two-and-a-half story, limestone clad building sits atop a full basement and is capped by a hipped roof with slate shingles. A simple limestone clad cornice and a stepped parapet are located on each elevation. The building retains its original steel double hung windows.

The first story of the west (front) elevation has eight-over-eight light windows with a four-light, operable transom above each window. A low relief arch highlights the northernmost and southernmost first story windows. The second story windows are also eight-over-eight lights, but lack the transoms and arches found on the first story. A simple spandrel panel is located beneath each window opening in the first and second stories. This fenestration pattern is repeated on all elevations. On the north and south (side) elevations and the east (rear) elevation, window bays are delineated by two story limestone pilasters.

The most prominent feature of the seven bay long west elevation is the two story limestone portico which occupies the center five bays. The portico consists of paired, tapered Ionic columns at the northern and southern ends with four single, tapered columns placed in between. A simple limestone cornice and stepped parapet tops the entire portico. A broad set of pink granite steps, framed by limestone walls and bisected by a metal pipe railing, leads to the main entry in the center bay. The entry consists of a set of replacement double leaf, aluminum framed glass doors. A limestone door surround, consisting of classically detailed pilasters supporting an entablature, frames the entry. An original embellished metal flagpole projects from the west elevation above the entry. A cornerstone is located at the northern end of the elevation.

The interior of the East Building appears to have been constructed with a higher level of ornamentation and retains a higher degree of integrity than the other two lower campus buildings. The main entry features a Federal style wooden door surround. The vestibule features a vaulted plaster ceiling, an original incandescent light fixture and a terrazzo floor with marble and ceramic tile borders. A staircase with marble treads and risers and a bronze railing and newel post is located across from the vestibule.



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The first floor corridor has plaster walls with low-relief details above paneled wood wainscoting. Double leaf, paneled wood doors, set within wood surrounds surmounted by broken pediments, occupy each end of the double loaded corridor. Single leaf, paneled wood doors, featuring Federal style wood door surrounds set within a recessed arch, comprise the entries on the eastern and western sides of the corridor. The vaulted plaster ceiling has incandescent, pendant light fixtures. Replacement industrial carpeting covers the floors.

At the southern end of the first floor hallway is the former office suite of OSS Director General William J. Donovan, which was afterwards occupied by CIA Director Allen Dulles. Used today as a conference room, the office contains a commemorative display honoring General Donovan and the OSS, including a plaque mounted on the wall beside the place formerly occupied by his desk. The office retains the configuration and some features present during Donovan's tenancy, such as its paneled wood wainscoting and paneled wood doors. Other finishes are non-original, including the industrial carpeting, acoustical tile ceiling, cornice and inset fluorescent lighting. Nearby is the conference room used by Donovan and others for high level meetings.

The East Building is significant for having been constructed as the administrative headquarters of the NIH and for serving as headquarters for the OSS and CIA, the subsequent agencies occupying the lower campus. Each of these agencies got its start on the lower campus. The building served an important role in the research, activities and events associated with the NIH, OSS and CIA during their occupancy. The East Building is a good example of the Simplified Classical style that was widely used for federal buildings in the 1930s and early 1940s. The style, which draws upon classicism for massing and decorative features, relates well to the Georgian Revival architectural style used elsewhere in the Observatory Hill historic district. The East Building exterior possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

### **South Building**

Designed in the Simplified Classical style by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury as a laboratory for the NIH and completed in 1933, the South Building has a limestone clad exterior and shares many stylistic characteristics with the East Building. The South Building is the largest building in the Observatory Hill district. It has an H-shaped footprint composed of a central block with a gable roof on an east-west axis and perpendicular wings with hipped roofs running north-south. Due to the sloping site, three stories are exposed on the north (front) elevation, three-and-one-half stories on the east and west and four stories on the south (rear) elevation. Limestone panels cover the exterior of the building, which retains its original steel double hung windows. The roof is clad in slate shingles. A simple, low, limestone clad parapet surrounds the building and, on the north and south elevations of the wings, becomes a low stepped parapet.

The north elevation features an unbroken central portion flanked to the east and west by three bay wide wings that project a single bay from the face of the building. The central portion is 11 bays wide. The first story contains eight-over-eight steel windows in recessed arch openings, each with a four-light, operable transom and a simple spandrel panel. The second and third stories consist of eight-over-eight windows sitting on simple stone sills. This fenestration pattern

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is repeated on each elevation, except on the north and south elevations of the wings where the recessed arch openings are omitted. On north and south elevations of the wings, the first- and second-story bays are recessed from the façade and two, two story, limestone columns with Ionic capitals divide the bays. Pilasters with simplified Doric style details mark the corners of the recessed area. A prominent limestone cornice is located between the second and third stories, while a more modest cornice is located above the third story near the roofline.

Two limestone steps lead to the main entry in the center bay of the north elevation. The unadorned entry consists of a replacement set of double leaf, aluminum and glass doors. A non-original anodized aluminum awning shelters the entry, which is situated in a recessed arched surround. A pair of original Classical Revival style lampposts flanks the entry. A recent free-standing steel sign is located to the northeast of the main entry and displays the word "SOUTH" in raised lettering. A forecourt clad in limestone pavers leads to the main entry.

The south (rear) elevation features an unbroken central portion flanked to the east and west by the three-bay wide, projecting wings. Visible because of the steeply sloped site, the limestone cladding of basement level of the central section and wings is composed of smooth-faced ashlar blocks with deeply recessed mortar joints, contrasting with the upper stories.

A terrace paved in gravel extends out from the south elevation and is supported by a limestone-clad retaining wall which rises approximately 20 feet above the complex's lower parking area to the south. The terrace is bounded by a limestone and metal railing on the south side and is currently used for parking. Two concrete stairways lead downward from the terrace to the lower parking area. A passage at the center of the retaining wall gives access to the building's basement level. Constructed in 1933, the south terrace and north forecourt are contributing features of the building's immediate setting.

The interior of the South Building has been altered to accommodate continuous and often varied uses since its construction in 1933. Consequently, the interior contains no evidence of the NIH occupancy. All floors have the same basic H-shaped, double loaded corridor configuration.

The South Building is significant for having been constructed as the first NIH laboratory and for providing laboratory and office space for the OSS and CIA, the subsequent agencies occupying the lower campus. The building served an important role in the research, activities and events associated with the NIH, OSS and CIA during their occupancy. The South Building is a good example of the Simplified Classical style that was widely used for federal buildings in the 1930s and early 1940s. The style, which draws upon classicism for massing and decorative features, relates well to the Georgian Revival architectural style used elsewhere in the Observatory Hill historic district. The South Building exterior possesses good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, association, design and feeling.

### **Integrity of Contributing Buildings**

The contributing buildings in the Observatory Hill district display integrity of location, association, workmanship, setting, design, materials and feeling. All buildings are in good condition and retain their historic exterior envelope and fenestration pattern. In general, exterior

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alterations are confined to the replacement of original doors, window sash and roofing materials. In most instances, the replacement windows replicate the configuration and material of the original windows. The original slate roofs of many upper campus buildings (buildings 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) were replaced with simulated slate roofing in the mid to late 1990s. Other alterations include the occasional closure of original window or door openings and the insertion of a door in an original window opening. These alterations have generally occurred on the secondary elevations. To meet egress requirements, a number of exterior stairways and fire escapes have been added to the buildings on both the upper and lower campuses. Several of those on upper campus buildings are located in highly visible locations, but are easily reversible.

Nearly every building has undergone interior alterations to accommodate regularly changing tenants and mission needs over the years. Many retain their original corridor configurations while the office, laboratory or medical spaces beyond have been altered to accommodate new uses. Most interiors have recent finishes that include industrial carpeting, suspended acoustical tile ceilings and inset fluorescent lighting. While the officers' quarters interiors have been altered to accommodate modern residential use, these alterations generally have been sympathetic and the quarters retain a higher degree of integrity on the interior than the other buildings.

### **Current Occupancy**

Rehabilitated in 2014, Building 1 now houses U.S. Department of State (DOS) offices. Buildings 2, 3, 4 and 5 are currently unoccupied. Buildings 3 and 5 are slated to be rehabilitated for DOS office use. The Central Building, East Building and South Building are occupied by DOS offices. The future of these eight buildings, located on the 11.8 acre portion of the campus owned by GSA, is currently under consideration as part of the Potomac Hill Campus Master Plan, being developed by GSA, in cooperation with DOS.

Buildings 6 and 7 are currently occupied by the USIP as offices. Navy personnel continue to occupy Officers' quarters AA, BB and CC. These five buildings are not included in the Potomac Hill Campus Master Plan.

**Contributing: 12 Buildings** (upper campus buildings: 1,3,4,5,6, and 7, and quarters AA, BB and CC; lower campus buildings: Central, East and South). Building 2, the Old Naval Observatory, contributes to the district but, as a previously listed resource, is not included in the resource count.

### **NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES<sup>13</sup>**

The historic district contains ten buildings and one structure, all located within the upper campus, that are considered noncontributing. These buildings are modest in size and architectural character and relate only tangentially to the district's significant missions. In general, they lack complete construction and alteration records, making it difficult to date and evaluate integrity with certainty. However, available records and site inspections reveal that the majority of these secondary buildings either post-date the 1844-1961 period of significance for the district or were altered substantially after 1961.

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<sup>13</sup> This section is based on Miller, Proposed Old Naval Observatory.

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### **Transformer Substation (Building 25)**

A rectangular brick structure exhibiting two periods of construction, the substation stands between the west wings of buildings 3 and 4 in a paved courtyard. The eastern portion is the earlier, built in 1942 according to Navy documents, and has yellow common bond brick walls and three bays on both its southern and northern elevations. The eastern portion has a parapetted flat roof with concrete coping and flat metal doors and large metal louvered vents in the southern and northern wall openings. The western addition to the building, erected after 2001, nearly doubled the size of the building and is now the most visible portion of the building as it is oriented toward the courtyard opening. It is clad in a lighter shade of brick and has a parapetted flat roof with a metal coping and two, paired, flat metal doors in its western elevation. Substantially altered after the period of significance, the transformer substation lacks integrity.

### **Garage for Quarters AA (Building 332)**

The garage is located east of Quarters AA along the west side of the east access road. Partially built into the adjacent hill slope, it features concrete block walls set atop a poured concrete foundation, and a shallowly sloped shed roof with roll asphalt sheathing and aluminum coping. A single modern overhead roll vehicle door with four lights occupies the building's eastern elevation. Although Navy documents suggest construction of the garage occurred around 1937, it does not appear on the 1939 Baist map. A more likely construction date is 1943, the construction date of the garages for quarters BB and CC. The garage lacks integrity due to the recent alterations to the east elevation, the most prominent and visible elevation.

### **Garage for Quarters BB (Building 333)**

The garage is located southeast of Quarters BB, built into the hillside along the west side of the east access road. The building consists of a flat-roofed two-car garage with poured concrete walls, a wood box cornice and roll asphalt roof sheathing. Two modern fiberglass overhead roll vehicle doors penetrate the garage's eastern elevation. Navy documents indicate that a single-car garage was constructed in 1943, but was likely expanded to a two-car garage at an unknown later date.<sup>14</sup> The garage lacks integrity due to successive alterations.

### **Garage for Quarters CC (Building 334)**

The garage is located approximately 40 feet north of Quarters CC. The one-story building features six-to-one common bond yellow brick walls and a flat roof with an aluminum clad cornice and coping. A modern fiberglass overhead roll vehicle door with a row of five windows occupies much of the structure's east elevation. Navy documents indicate construction dates of both 1943 and 1963 for the Quarters CC garage. However, aspects of the current garage's construction and materials as well as the history of the property suggest that it was constructed in 1963. A 1946 map of the site depicts the garage associated with Quarters CC as standing farther north than the present structure, as well as being canted slightly to the northeast. Construction of the E Street Expressway immediately north of the property resulted in the loss of land, buildings and other features on the north side of the property. These actions likely resulted in the

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<sup>14</sup> A smaller structure, possibly the northern portion of the current building, appears on a 1946 map of the property.

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demolition of the earlier garage and construction of the current garage at its present location in 1963. This garage post-dates the period of significance.

### **Northeast Gatehouse**

The gatehouse stands atop a poured concrete island located in the center of the north access road north of Quarters AA. The single story building has yellow brick apron walls set atop a concrete block foundation and banks of metal-framed windows supporting a hipped roof with imitation slate shingles. A vertical brick belt course encircles the building. A flat metal door with a large, wire-glass light occupies the building's northern elevation. The gatehouse is of modern construction, post-dating the period of significance.

### **Southeast Gatehouse**

The gatehouse stands along the southern side of the south access road immediately north of Building 7. The Southeast Gatehouse is a smaller version of the Northeast Gatehouse described above. The single story building has yellow brick apron walls set atop a concrete block foundation with banks of metal-framed windows supporting a hipped roof with imitation slate shingles. A vertical brick belt course encircles the building. A flat metal door with a large wire-glass light occupies the building's northern elevation. Concrete bulkheads surround the building, built into a partially excavated hillside. The gatehouse is of modern construction, post-dating the period of significance.

### **Southeast Guardhouse**

The guardhouse is located beside the north side of the south access road a short distance west of the Southeast Gatehouse. The single story guardhouse has yellow brick walls on a poured concrete foundation and a hipped roof with imitation slate shingles. The two-bay-wide by one-bay-deep structure features a metal slab door with a large wire-glass light and paired metal-cased sliding windows on its southern elevation and a single fixed light window on its eastern elevation. The guardhouse is of modern construction, post-dating the period of significance.

### **Utility Building**

The one-story building stands between the south access road and the southern parking lots west of Building 6 in the southwestern corner of the property. Built into the steep hillside slope, the building features yellow brick walls and a flat poured concrete roof encircled by a low metal railing. Paired metal louvered doors are set off-center on the building's southern elevation. A poured concrete walkway leads southward from the doors toward the USIP property. The construction date of the utility building is unknown. An examination of aerial photography and the building itself suggests that it was constructed in the second half of the twentieth century, quite possibly post-dating the period of significance.

### **Two Garages**

The two garages are located on the southwestern corner of the site along the northern side of the southern access road. Both buildings consist of one-story gable-roof structures with concrete block walls, asphalt roof shingles, aluminized box cornices, and fiberglass overhead roll doors. The western (left) garage features vinyl German siding in its gable end peak. Plain vinyl siding

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sheathes the gable end of the eastern (right) garage. The garages are of modern construction, post-dating the period of significance.

### **Bus Kiosk**

The kiosk stands along the northern side of the northeast entrance road, west of the northeast gatehouse. It consists of metal posts attached to a concrete pad with clear panels on three of its side elevations. The southern side facing the entrance road is open to the weather. The roof consists of a curved sheet of opaque white plexiglass that permits light into the kiosk while providing shelter from the elements. The bus kiosk is of modern construction, post-dating the period of significance.

**Noncontributing: 10 Buildings and 1 Structure** (bus kiosk)

## **LANDSCAPE**<sup>15</sup>

Formal landscape planning for the original 17-acre site began in 1844 when William Strickland, one of the foremost American architects of the time, was commissioned to design a plan for the grading and enclosure of the Observatory grounds. Strickland's plan featured a site enclosed by two concentric rings, forming two terraces. The north entrance to the site, from E Street, NW, passed between two "lodges" and opened to a circular drive leading directly to the Observatory. On 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, the east gate led to the "yard" of one of the two proposed "pavilions" to the northeast and northwest of the Observatory plan (Illustration 4: 1844 Strickland Plan of the Naval Observatory). By 1845, the grounds had been enclosed by a brick perimeter wall and grading had been completed for the concentric terraces. Some plantings and sidewalk layout had been established. Written descriptions and images from the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century attest to the park-like character of Observatory Hill, suggesting that it was visited by the public for recreation and for the views it offered.

The Strickland site plan was never fully implemented and, as Observatory Hill was more intensively developed in the early twentieth century, numerous new buildings, roads, walks and other features were added. However, no comparable attempt was made to develop and execute a comprehensive landscape plan for the site and alterations to the landscape tended to be undertaken on a piecemeal basis.

Nevertheless, Observatory Hill possesses a variety of associated features (See Table 1 and Landscape Features maps) that give character to the cultural landscape: natural systems and topography; land use; spatial organization; circulation networks and boundary demarcations; vegetation; small-scale features; and views and vistas. Collectively, these features represent all major periods of site development. On the upper campus, the identified features date from all periods of development, including the Old Naval Observatory, the Naval Museum of Hygiene and the Naval Medical School and Hospital. On the lower campus, the majority of the landscape features date from the turn of the twentieth century through 1940, when the campus was

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<sup>15</sup> This section is based on Goody Clancy Berger Joint Venture (GCB), Potomac Hill Campus Final Historic Landscape Assessment (prepared by GCB for U.S. General Services Administration, 2015).

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occupied by the Hygienic Laboratory and the National Institute of Health (NIH). A landscape survey of the upper campus was completed in 2005. A subsequent survey, completed in 2015, covered the entirety of the subject district, including both the upper and lower campuses.

**TABLE 2: INVENTORY OF ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES**

<i>Site Feature</i>	<i>Date Built</i>	<i>Period of Development</i>
<b>Natural Systems and Topography</b>		
Natural topography – upper and lower campus	N/A	
Grading for construction of Medical School Hospital – upper campus	Early twentieth century	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Grading for construction of East and South buildings – lower campus	1902- Early 1930s	Hygienic Laboratory/NIH
<b>Land Use</b>		
Administrative/Office – upper campus	1894-1961	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Administrative/Office – lower campus	1903-1961	Hygienic Laboratory/NIH, OSS, CIA
<b>Spatial Organization</b>		
Prime Meridian Axis – upper campus	1850	Old Naval Observatory
Maury Circle - upper campus	1844	Old Naval Observatory
Quadrangle – lower campus	1933-34	NIH
<b>Circulation Networks/Boundary Demarcations</b>		
Maury Circle - upper campus	1844	Old Naval Observatory
23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, concrete wall – upper campus	1920	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Retaining wall behind East Building - lower campus	1933-34	NIH
<b>Vegetation</b>		
Eight Burr Oaks ( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> ) (Trees 1-8) – upper campus (Maury Circle)	ca. 1890	Old Naval Observatory
White Oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> ) (Tree 9) – upper campus	ca. 1860	Old Naval Observatory
Den Linden ( <i>Tilia Americana</i> ) (Tree 17) – upper campus	ca. 1900	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Yoshino Cherry ( <i>Prunus x yedoensis</i> ) (Tree 10) – upper campus	ca. 1912	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Gateway Weeping Cherries ( <i>Prunus subhirtella</i> ) (Trees 22-23) – upper campus	ca. 1912	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Ginkgo ( <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> ) (Tree 18) – upper campus	ca. 1940	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
<b>Small-Scale Features</b>		
Gas lamp – upper campus	ca. 1860	Old Naval Observatory
Benjamin Rush statue – upper campus	1904	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Flagpole in front of Building 2 – upper campus	ca. 1904	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Globe lampposts – upper campus	ca. 1945	Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

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<b>Views and Vistas</b>		
Views to the National Mall/West Potomac Park - upper campus	Nineteenth/twentieth century	Old Naval Observatory/Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
Views to and from Arlington House/Arlington National Cemetery – upper campus	Nineteenth century	Old Naval Observatory
Views from Memorial Bridge – upper campus	1929	Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital
View to Lincoln Memorial/West Potomac Park – lower campus	1930s	Hygienic Laboratory/NIH

**Natural Systems and Topography**

**Upper Campus**

The natural topography of Observatory Hill is one of its defining features and was a critical factor in its selection as the site for the observatory. The hill overlooking the confluence of the Tiber Creek and the Potomac River was higher even than the reservations set aside for the President's House and the Capitol and today stands at 96 feet above mean sea level (Illustration 5: 1791 L'Enfant Dotted Line Map Showing the Original Topography of Observatory Hill). An 1801 lithograph of Georgetown and the city of Washington shows the steep slope of the hill along the Potomac and on the north and east sides of the hill. The west side had a moderate slope (Illustration 6: 1801 Lithograph of Georgetown and Washington, D.C., Showing Observatory Hill in the Mid-ground).

The natural topography of the site was undoubtedly altered by the removal of rock for new federal buildings at the turn of the nineteenth century and through grading during the grounds improvement efforts of the 1840s. The steeply sloped hill shown in Illustration 6 appears more gradually sloped in later prints and photographs of the site. Early twentieth century construction of new medical school and hospital facilities and additional roads along the east and south sides of the site constructed in the early 1900s would have required additional grading. The prominence of the slope has also been lessened over time by the change in the topography of the surrounding area, as low areas were built up for construction of buildings.

Two springs were original to the site, one southeast of the Observatory and another at the southwest end of the property, and were eventually excavated for use when the Observatory grounds were developed. Any above-ground evidence of the springs was removed.

Although the topography was altered by the construction of buildings and roads throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century, as the Naval Observatory expanded and the Naval Medical School and Hospital was developed, it was an important factor in the design of the campus. Moreover, Observatory Hill remains significant as a prominent high point in the Washington landscape.

**Lower Campus**

When the west, lower, side of Observatory Hill was turned over to the Hygienic Laboratory at the beginning of the twentieth century, few changes had been made to the natural topography of



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the site. The west and south slopes of the hillside had a rough appearance and were at risk of eroding. Requests for funds to complete grading and terracing of the property began almost immediately after the North Building was completed and continued through the remainder of the decade. By 1909, an earthen embankment had been created between the Hygienic Laboratory and Medical School and Hospital to the east, creating a boundary between the two pieces of land.

In 1915, new grading occurred in tandem with the construction of the new brick animal house and roadway. The circa 1919 aerial photograph of the grounds (Illustration 3: Aerial View of the Hygienic Laboratory, circa 1919, North Building and Central Building in Foreground and Animal House at Rear) indicates that the grounds along the north end of the property were graded and landscaped. The level hilltop grade on which the North and Central buildings sat continued to the south before a steep drop off just north of the animal house. Below the drop-off the roadbed that wound around the animal house was likely graded to allow a more shallow descent from the hilltop to the animal house and outlet along Water Street, NW, to the southwest.

The construction of the East and South buildings in 1933 again altered the topography of the site. South of the Central Building, 10 to 15 feet of earth was removed, creating a gentler slope to the south.

The last major alteration to the district took place after the period of significance, beginning in 1963 with the construction of the E Street Expressway. A large swath along the north end of campus was removed, including most of the land on which the North Building had been located, and a new retaining wall was constructed along the north boundary of the site. Additional land on the south and west sides of the campus was lost during the construction, but the remainder of the campus was unaltered (Illustrations 7 & 8: 1951 Aerial View of Observatory Hill and 1964 Aerial View of Observatory Hill Showing the E Street Expressway). Since that time, the only alteration has been terracing added along the stairs east of the Central Building.

## **Land Use**

### **Upper Campus**

When the Old Naval Observatory was completed in 1844, the surrounding grounds were largely undeveloped. Although L'Enfant viewed the prominent location along the Potomac as ideal for fortification, there were only occasional military encampments at the site. The 1792 land grant map depicts the area as the town of Hamburg with one house on the west edge of the new town. The 1801 lithograph of Georgetown illustrates this dwelling. Hamburg did not develop any further and in 1844 the Old Naval Observatory was constructed at this location. Land use relating to the Naval Observatory focused on military astronomy and navigation. Open areas were necessary for astronomical investigations. In addition, areas southeast of the Observatory were used for grounds maintenance and kitchen gardens (Illustration 9: Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, ca. 1873).

Following the departure of the Observatory in 1893, the site was briefly occupied by the Naval Museum of Hygiene until it was disestablished in 1905. The Medical School and the Washington Naval Hospital were established on the site in 1902 and 1903, respectively. With the addition of

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these institutions, land use focused on military education, medical advancements and administration. Land use of the site changed most significantly as formerly open areas were eliminated for the construction of new buildings supporting the new use. Following the opening of Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1942 and the transfer of the Medical School to that facility, the former Observatory and grounds at the upper campus were tenanted by the Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. With this transfer, the land use of the site became, and has remained, strictly administrative. Since their construction, the officers' quarters AA, BB and CC have continuously served as military housing, initially in support of the hospital function, but after 1942, unassociated with the primary function of the campus.

### **Lower Campus**

Prior to the transfer to the Hygienic Laboratory, the west, lower, side of Observatory Hill was less developed than the east side. The only observatory-related use of this area was a magnetic observatory visible on the right side of the 1873 Bauman map (Illustration 9: Bauman Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, circa 1873).<sup>16</sup> Following the establishment of the Hygienic Laboratory on the west side, lower campus land use shifted from military and scientific to medical research. Its transition to this new use coincided with the relocation of the Naval Medical School to the Old Naval Observatory and, as a result, the entire reservation developed into a medical campus. From 1903 through 1940, the Hygienic Laboratory, and later NIH, used the property for research of infectious diseases, housing medical laboratories. Buildings on the site were purpose-built as laboratories, with the exception of the East Building, which was built for administrative purposes for NIH staff.

During World War II, the lower campus housed the headquarters of the OSS, serving command and control, administrative and research functions. After the disestablishment of the OSS in 1945, starting in 1947, the complex housed the headquarters of the CIA, serving similar essential functions to those served under the OSS. Since 1987, the U.S. Department of State has used the campus as an annex site to its neighboring main building. Although its uses by federal agencies have been varied, the common use of the lower campus has been as office space, whether for a medical research facility, intelligence agency or its current use by the State Department.

### **Spatial Organization**

#### **Upper Campus**

The location of the Naval Observatory building was chosen by Lieutenant Gilliss in consultation with the astronomer royal at Greenwich. Although he originally planned to place the building in an astronomically advantageous location, he was convinced to consider architectural effect as a means of establishing the importance to the Observatory. Consequently, it was placed at the projected intersection of D and 24th streets, NW. The building would have been visible from points in the city, on the Potomac and across the river in Virginia, regardless of its location at the crest of the hill, but Gilliss's choice additionally tied the observatory to L'Enfant's grid plan for

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<sup>16</sup> This feature was an above-ground structure and is not to be confused with the subterranean Magnetic Observatory constructed behind the Old Naval Observatory in 1844-1845. There is no other documentation of the lower campus magnetic observatory and no physical remains are known or expected to exist due to the grading and development on the lower campus in the twentieth century.

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the city. When the American Meridian was established in 1850, it was drawn through the center of the Observatory building, which, in turn, was positioned along the projected alignment of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

The original Strickland site plan (Illustration 4: 1844 Strickland Plan of the Naval Observatory) influenced the spatial organization of the Observatory despite its limited implementation. Strickland's plan called for a circular drive fronting the Observatory and flanking housing, encircled by two rings of terracing. The circular drive, Maury Circle, was realized soon after, as were the walls enclosing the grounds. Although the grounds were graded, they do not appear to have followed Strickland's plan for terracing on all sides. The housing envisioned by Strickland was eventually realized, although not completed until the twentieth century.

By 1873, an allée had been incorporated into the circular drive (Illustration 10: South View of Tree-lined *Allée*, 1888). The buildings and formal grounds were concentrated in the northeast corner of the site. The observatory was the central structure with wings extending along an east-west and north-south axis. A formal garden continued the east-west axis to the perimeter wall along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. Support buildings, such as a gardener's shed, hay barn and other outbuildings, were located south of the Observatory. Kitchen gardens and other open spaces, such as pastures, were organized in a formal rectilinear pattern east of the outbuildings. The remainder of the site was park-like with scattered groves of trees.

The arrival of the Naval Medical School and Hospital marked a change in the spatial organization of the site with the addition of numerous buildings. The Naval Hospital was constructed directly south of the Observatory with the central pavilions in line with the north-south axis of the original building; indeed, the hospital's three wings almost mimic the plan of the Observatory. The three officers' quarters (quarters AA, BB and CC) were constructed east and west of the central axis formed by the Observatory and Hospital, similar to Strickland's 1844 plan for the Observatory. Buildings 1 and 5 are located south of the quarters, and the Contagious Ward (Building 6) and Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 7) were constructed down the hill from the main complex, but the site as a whole still retained its formal spatial organization.

These new medical facilities were established in open areas of the former Observatory and changed the character of the original site; however, the campus-like landscape established by the Naval Medical School and Hospital was maintained until the 1950s, when the automobile influenced the landscape with the construction of parking lots in the open spaces around and between buildings.

In its current spatial organization, the upper campus today mostly reflects the twentieth century Naval Medical School and Hospital. Even so, these changes from the nineteenth century plan have not completely erased all organizing principles of the Naval Observatory era. The northern portion of the grounds retains the circular drive envisioned by Strickland and its relationship to Building 2 (though truncated by the E Street Expressway) and also retains the axis of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, and the Prime Meridian.

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The new buildings of the Naval Medical School and Hospital (buildings 1 and 3-7) created a campus-like spatial organization with grassy areas between buildings dotted with trees. Today the campus-like site layout still generally respects the spatial arrangement between open space and buildings that was prevalent by 1924; however, individual landscape elements, such as the formal gardens that were east of the Observatory and the tree-lined grassy oval between the Observatory and the Hospital, now no longer exist. Open spaces adjacent to buildings and walkways remain, although replaced by parking.

### **Lower Campus**

The spatial organization of the lower campus developed organically over the first decades of the twentieth century as additional space for laboratories and administration was needed and funding appropriated by Congress. Early organization of buildings was probably necessitated by their function; the main laboratory building was located at the north end of the site and acted as the public façade of the Hygienic Laboratory. The Central Building would have been placed out of necessity near the North Building to allow easy access between the buildings. A major shift in the spatial organization of the lower campus took place when the East and South buildings were constructed in 1933. Not only was the spatial organization changed through the re-grading of the land, but the new buildings created a new center of the campus. The North Building remained the public face of the property along E Street, NW, but the East Building — the Administration Building — became the center and focus of the campus. The two new buildings were constructed so that the Central, East, and South buildings faced a center quadrangle around which a drive was located.

The inward-facing organization of the buildings remained under the OSS and CIA. Separated from the busy traffic corridor of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, by the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and screened by trees to the north and west, the complex was set apart from other areas but was still close to other government agencies, the White House, and Capitol Hill. Following the construction of the E Street Expressway in the early 1960s, the lower campus became more connected to the upper campus, since it no longer had separate entrances at the north and southwest ends of the site. Rather, the lower campus was accessed through the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, north and south entrances. The demolition of the North Building removed the north public face of the complex, as well as the courtyard between the North and Central buildings. The spatial organization of the lower campus has not been altered since that time.

Spatial organization from the period of significance remains intact despite the loss of the North Building. The three remaining buildings are arranged around the quadrangle. The quadrangle is important to the spatial organization of the lower campus as the remaining defining open space. This inward-facing organization created a sense of isolation and seclusion from the rest of the city that was noted by OSS employees during World War II.

### **Circulation Systems**

#### **Upper Campus**

The earliest main entrance gate to the Observatory was located at the north side of the grounds, on E Street, NW, at its intersection with 24<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Initially, Maury Circle and the

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sweeping drive along the west side of the Observatory were the only roads on the site. The grounds included several walks between the Observatory and areas to the south and east, as well as a path that looped to the south end of the grounds.

Following the establishment of the Naval Medical School and Hospital, the main entrance was moved from E Street, NW, to the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> and E streets, NW. By 1909, a new driveway had been constructed along the west side of the former Observatory that led to a small circular drive at the main entrance of the new hospital (Illustration 11: Plan of the Naval Hospital, 1912). Another driveway had been constructed by 1913 from the main entrance south along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, providing access to the new Hospital Corps Quarters and Contagious Ward. The location of this road from the entrance to the southeast corner of Building 4 remains largely intact from its construction around 1913. Before 1917, the roads were paved in granite rock; after 1917, they were paved with macadam with yellow brick gutters.

Photographs from the 1920s and 1930s show informal pedestrian pathways from the Contagious Ward and Corpsmen's Quarters to the Naval Hospital. Finished sidewalks of concrete with concrete curbs were also evident during this period between the hospital and Contagious Ward. Sidewalks north of the hospital were rectilinear in nature, following the edges of lawns or adjacent roads or following direct routes between officers' quarters buildings on the east side of the site.

Only portions of the yellow brick gutters remain visible in roads behind the quarters AA and BB garages and along the north side of the drive fronting the Sick Officers' Quarters (Building 5). In general, sidewalks are standard concrete with expansion joints.

The circulation systems fragmentarily reflect the initial development of the Observatory in the mid- to late nineteenth century as well as the development of the Naval Medical School and Hospital in the early 1900s with the hospital complex and officers' quarters. The circular drive established around 1844 retains its original location but has been reduced to an oval after losing the northern 10 feet from the construction of Interstate 66 and the E Street Expressway. Some roads associated with the establishment of the Naval Medical School and Hospital remain, although the addition of parking spaces during the second half of the twentieth century has resulted in the loss of many of the Naval Hospital's pedestrian paths and has altered the traffic flow of the site. While most original routes remain navigable, the infill of parking spaces in almost every available open space has altered the sense of a road system into that of a continuous parking lot flowing between the campus buildings. It has been further altered by the construction of the C Street, NW, entrance, which separates buildings 6 and 7 from the remainder of the campus. Only portions of the yellow brick gutters remain visible in roads behind the quarters AA and BB garages and along the north side of the drive fronting Building 5. While some portions of the historic pedestrian circulation system remains, many sections have been replaced with parking areas.

Thus, major changes in the second half of the twentieth century have significantly affected the character of Observatory Hill's circulation system. Although portions of the system are intact, they are fragmented to the extent that roads, walks and gutters do not retain sufficient integrity to

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be contributing to the historic district. The only circulation feature contributing to the historic district is Maury Circle. The circle dates to the earliest period of the Observatory's history and was part of Strickland's design for the grounds. The E Street Expressway altered its configuration from circle to oval; nonetheless, it is important as one of the oldest landscape features dating from the Strickland plan.

### Lower Campus

When the Hygienic Laboratory moved to its new location in 1903, the curvilinear road running west from Maury Circle was used to access the site. Records indicate that the entrance at 23<sup>rd</sup> and E streets, NW, continued to be used by the Hygienic Laboratory until circa 1915, when the new road connected the North Building to the animal house, located on the south side of the campus and demolished circa 1933. The new road created a separate entrance to the Hygienic Laboratory, although the road from Maury Circle remained in use. Pedestrian access to the site was provided via stairs from E Street, NW, to the flagpole fronting the North Building (Illustration 12: View of the North Building, Flagpole, and Stairs from E Street, NW).

The circulation system was almost completely reconfigured in 1933, when the East and South buildings were constructed. The road from Maury Circle was removed and a new entrance from E Street, NW, (east of the stairs) was built. The road fronting the North Building remained, as did the section running along the west elevations of the North and Central buildings. A new road encircling the quadrangle ran along the north and east sides of the Central Building, parallel with the retaining wall and continuing south of the South Building, where it connected with the old outlet on the 25<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, alignment (Illustration 13: 1939 Baist Map). At the south end of the complex, a parking area was constructed in the triangle formed by the South Building terrace and the road. Given the size of the campus and the proximity of the buildings, there were few pedestrian paths on the lower campus. A walkway ran south from the quadrangle to the entrance of the South Building. To its west, a stair from the southwest side of the quadrangle led down the hillside to a level area along the west side of the South Building's north elevation, where mechanical equipment was located.

During the ensuing years, the only addition to the circulation system was the road running between the East and South buildings, constructed between 1957 and 1963. Construction of the E Street Expressway eliminated both existing entrances to the lower campus and the road fronting the North Building. The circulation system was altered to allow access through the upper campus on the north and south sides of the property. The triangular area north of the Central Building became a parking area; the existing parking lot at the south end of the site remained, though its size was reduced. The circulation system on the lower campus today is the same as that which existed post-1963. Small additions include the stair running along the east side of the Central Building and the sidewalk running along the west end of the Central Building's south elevation. Parking spaces have been added along the quadrangle and the east side of the road that runs along the east edge of the lower campus. The walk leading from the quadrangle to the South Building has been removed to allow additional parking along the quadrangle.

The circulation system on the lower campus today is largely the same as that which existed post-1963, with only minor additions. It is only a portion of the historic system, following the

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construction of the E Street Expressway in 1963. The circulation system is no longer independent of the upper campus; instead, both lower campus access points require passing through the upper campus. Only fragments remain of the historic circulation system—the road encircling the quadrangle and the north-south road along the east sides of the East and South buildings. None of the pedestrian paths is contributing to the landscape because they were added after the period of significance.

## **Boundary Demarcations**

### **Upper Campus**

The Strickland plan for the site called for a brick perimeter wall enclosing the site. This wall was completed by 1845. The material of the wall was not documented in any of the records from that time; however, a contract from 1853 to raise the walls on the east, south, and west sides stated that brick was to be used. The main entrance to the site, originally along the north edge of the site, was marked with ornamental cast iron posts. The brick perimeter wall remained on the site at least through 1900, eventually replaced in 1917 by an aggregate concrete retaining wall constructed along E Street, NW. Several years later, a more substantial gate was constructed with concrete posts capped with acorn finials. By 1920, an aggregate concrete retaining wall was also located on the east boundary of the property, along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW.<sup>17</sup> Wood slat fences were added to the top of the concrete perimeter walls and the yards of quarters AA, BB and CC were demarcated by wood picket fences.

Construction of the E Street Expressway in 1963 shifted the entrance to the south along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. The existing stone block wall along E Street, NW, was also installed in the 1960s as part of the construction of the E Street ramp. The 1920 aggregate concrete wall remains along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, but is topped by a modern chain link fence.<sup>18</sup> The boundary fence along the south appears to be modern construction as it is not evident on historical maps or aerials of the site.

Boundary demarcations within the upper campus have been altered throughout the years as the area around the site has developed. The northern boundary moved south in the 1960s to accommodate the E Street ramp of Interstate 66. Thus, the original retaining wall along that boundary no longer exists. The only feature remaining from the period of significance is the circa 1920 concrete wall along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. The concrete wall appears to be located in a similar location to the original brick wall, but no records or photographs are available to confirm this.

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<sup>17</sup> The exposed aggregate surface and coping detail of the wall may indicate that the wall was rebuilt by the firm of John Joseph Earley. Earley (1881-1945) received four patents over a period of 20 years for structural concrete aggregate forms and polychrome concrete slabs. His studio collaborated on notable projects in Washington, D.C., including Meridian Hill Park and park structures in East Potomac Park built in the 1910s that resemble the surface of the 23rd Street, NW, retaining wall. However, his firm's papers and project files, located at Georgetown University, do not contain any mention of the 23rd Street, NW, retaining wall and therefore there is no known documentation of his firm's association with the wall. Although historically associated with the Observatory Hill Historic District, the wall is located outside of the property owned by GSA and is within the D.C. Department of Transportation right of way.

<sup>18</sup> In April 2015 holes were drilled through many of the concrete panels and tie rods were inserted to stabilize the wall.

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No remnants of the brick wall have been located on site. The concrete retaining wall along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, contributes to the historic landscape of the upper campus as it reflects the historical boundary of the site; however, this feature stands outside the boundary of the property and within property owned by the D.C. Department of Transportation.

### **Lower Campus**

The earliest extant photographs and maps of the lower campus provide no indication of the type of boundary demarcations that were used to enclose the Hygienic Laboratory. The known boundary distinction is an earthen embankment created between the Hygienic Laboratory and the Medical School. A hedge was planted along the ridge of the embankment and a fence ran along the southwest corner of the property by 1932. The concrete retaining wall along the east boundary of the property was constructed in the area that was re-graded for the construction of the East and South buildings in 1933. Available photographs show that during the time that the CIA was headquartered at the lower campus, but probably also before, a chain link fence was present along the boundaries of the property. With the construction of the E Street Expressway, a retaining wall finished in a rock-faced broken-ashlar veneer was built along the north and west perimeters.

Current boundary demarcations include the retaining walls along the E Street Expressway, the concrete retaining wall capped by a chain link fence along the east edge of the lower campus and chain link fences and gates enclosing the north and south entrances to the lower campus. The only boundary demarcation dating from the period of significance at the lower campus is the 1933 concrete retaining wall along the east perimeter of the lower campus, between it and the upper campus. This feature is notable only as a prominent division between the campuses and not for its design or construction method.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Upper Campus**

Early descriptions and illustrations of the Naval Observatory emphasized its park-like setting, with walks and trees planted throughout the grounds. Maps and plans of the Observatory showed the overall site landscaped with scattered groves of trees and formal gardens on the east side of the property (Illustration 9: Bauman Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, circa 1873). Maury Circle, in front of the main building, featured evenly spaced trees along both sides of its drive and an *allée* down the center (Illustration 10: South View of Tree-lined Allée, 1888). An 1885 photograph of the Observatory from the Washington Monument shows mature trees surrounding the Observatory to the north, west and south, with a grassy slope dotted with trees declining toward the Potomac River. A hurricane in 1896 damaged many trees, a large number of which never recovered. As the Naval Medical School facilities expanded, the Navy removed the formal gardens and swaths of lawn to make way for new buildings. However, new trees were added throughout the early decades of the twentieth century and open lawn areas were retained between buildings. In 1912, a small number of the over 3,000 Yoshino Cherries donated by Japan to the city of Washington, D.C., were planted. In 1920, 3,000 plants were propagated and grown for planting on the site.



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Both land and trees were lost circa 1963 as a result of the construction of E Street Expressway. Much of the property on the north end of Observatory Hill was planted with trees along E Street, the entrance drive and within Maury Circle. To the south, construction of the south perimeter road connecting to the upper campus also resulted in the loss of trees along the road alignment. Additional trees were removed throughout the latter half of the twentieth century for the construction of parking areas.

Today, trees are generally scattered throughout the site and newly planted street trees can be found along both E and 23<sup>rd</sup> streets, NW. Trees associated with the late nineteenth- to mid-twentieth-century landscape are present throughout the upper campus. The tree canopy north of Building 2 is dominated by a group of eight Burr Oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) clustered around Maury Circle (Trees 1-8). These oaks were planted in the 1890s and have several progeny on the site. A White Oak (*Quercus alba*) specimen located between buildings 3 and 5 (Tree 9) is possibly the oldest tree in the District of Columbia at approximately 150 years old. Near the White Oak is a Den Linden (*Tilia americana*) (Tree 17) that likely dates to the turn of the twentieth century. Other trees include a collection of cherry trees dating from the time of the original gift of Tidal Basin trees from Japan in 1912, such as the two Gateway weeping cherries (*Prunus subhirtella*) (Trees 22 and 23). A Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*) (Tree 10) is located against the fence surrounding Building BB. A large Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) estimated to date from the World War II period (Tree 18) is part of a cluster of trees on the summit of the hill at the south entrance.

Several Yoshino Cherry trees located on the north slope of the site (Trees 11-16) are the progeny of the original cherry specimens through cloning in the 1970s. Grouped with the Ginkgo are a Burr Oak descendant of the Maury Circle Oaks (Tree 19) and two Willow Oaks (*Quercus phellos*) (Trees 20 and 21).

Historically, vegetation has been a significant part of the character of the upper campus, creating a park-like setting for the Naval Observatory and later the Naval Medical School and Hospital. None of the formal gardens from the nineteenth century Observatory remain and all of the lawn areas, except that within Maury Circle, have been removed through construction of buildings or, more recently, parking areas. However, the upper campus retains one of the best and most unusual historic tree collections in Washington.

### Lower Campus

The earliest descriptions of the conditions of the grounds at the lower campus following their transfer to the Hygienic Laboratory indicate that, unlike the area to the east, little had been done in terms of planting or landscaping. Nineteenth-century photographs and plans show trees on the property that likely would have still been there when the first Hygienic Laboratory building was constructed. In 1906, the director of the laboratory indicated that the grounds had not been cleared of weeds and had a "rough appearance".<sup>19</sup>

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19 *Annual Report of the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service for 1906*. (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1906), 218, as cited in GCB, Final Potomac Hill Campus Historic Landscape Assessment, 29.

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Based on written records, no landscaping or improvement took place until 1915, when the grounds were graded. By 1919, the E Street frontage had been landscaped with grass and trees (Illustration 3: Aerial View of the Hygienic Laboratory, circa 1919, North and Central buildings in Foreground and Animal House at Rear, ca. 1919). Additional trees were located along the west-sloping boundary of the property. The area between the Central Building and animal house was a grassy lawn, with a single tree northeast of the animal house. Throughout this earliest period, the Hygienic Laboratory lacked any kind of ornamental planting.

The lack of ornamental planting was addressed minimally following the expansion of the campus in the 1930s. Trees were planted along the sides of the quadrangle lawn. Additional trees were planted along the north, west, and south edges of the campus by the late 1940s (Illustration 7: 1951 Aerial View of Observatory Hill). Photographs from the CIA period show that shrubs were planted along the primary building facades and along the stair leading from E Street to the North Building.

Other than the trees in the quadrangle, all trees on the lower campus were removed during the construction of the E Street Expressway (Illustration 8: 1964 Aerial View of Observatory Hill Showing the E Street Freeway). Eventually new trees were planted along the north and west perimeters. Currently, the lower campus is intensively developed with buildings and parking lots, leaving little room for plantings. The vegetation is characterized by perimeter trees, the quadrangle lawn and ornamental plantings along the facades of the Central and East buildings. Flowering trees, a hedgerow and flowerbeds now are located within and along the perimeter of the quadrangle. These recent plantings do not relate to the period of significance.

### **Small-Scale Features**

#### **Upper Campus**

The oldest known small-scale features at Observatory Hill were located around Maury Circle in front of Building 2. The grounds were depicted as a park-like area for strolling, playing and picnicking in a number of nineteenth century renderings of the Observatory (Illustration 2: Nineteenth Century Depiction of the Naval Observatory, View to Southeast). These photographs and prints show the post and rope fencing around Maury Circle. Gas lamps were introduced in the 1860s (Illustration 14: Gas Light at the Naval Observatory Building). The 1873 plan of the Observatory shows several gas lamps at the front of the building as well as at least two at the rear. Of the small-scale features from the Old Navy Observatory period, a non-operating gas lamp remains, located at the north entrance to the Old Naval Observatory (Building 2). The lamp is believed to have been relocated to this location sometime after 1935, as it is not shown in a photograph of the building of that date.

One of the first improvements to the grounds of the Naval Medical School and Hospital was the installation of a statue of Benjamin Rush, physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, placed in front of the Observatory, near the center of Maury Circle in 1904. Roland Hinton Perry was the statue's sculptor, and architect Louis R. Metcalf designed the pedestal. The bronze likeness of Rush, holding a document in one hand and quill pen in the

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other, stands on a cylindrical limestone shaft with inscriptions and classical ornament. The Navy also added a large flagpole to Maury Circle around the same time. The flagpole is a plain iron pole with a brass ball at the top, crossbars for flying flags and a plain base.

Circa 1963, construction for the Interstate 66 E Street ramp took 10 feet from the north edge of Maury Circle and thus necessitated moving the Rush statue from its original location to the south edge of the driveway. At that same time, the flagpole was moved to the former location of the statue. Today, the location where the flagpole formerly stood has a plaque that explains the origins of the prime meridian, the zero-degree U.S. meridian.

In 2003, the statute was removed temporarily to allow a replica to be cast for installation at Dickinson College. Subsequently, the statue was reinstalled on an octagonal granite base in its post-1963 location in front of the Old Naval Observatory. A narrow sidewalk and flowerbed surround the base.<sup>20</sup>

Numerous small-scale features were introduced to the landscape after World War II. Globe lampposts are found along E Street, NW, and in scattered locations throughout the site. Examination of historic photographs suggests that these lampposts were added soon after World War II. Pipe railing from the 1960s to the present can be found along sidewalks and staircases along the circular drive and between the former Naval Hospital (Building 4) and the Contagious Ward (Building 6). Concrete bollards and concrete-filled steel posts are also present along roadways and parking areas and around air conditioning units. A wood picnic table and grill are located in a grassy area south of the Sick Officers' Quarters (Building 5). An examination of historic photographs suggests that only the globe lampposts date to the period of significance.

The E Street Expressway repositioned the E Street entrance, displacing the acorn finials, originally set atop concrete gateposts in the early twentieth century. The finials were removed to Maury Circle and used to flank signposts at the northeast side of the circle after the period of significance.

Although the gas lamp and flagpole were moved a small distance from their original locations on the campus, they contribute to the Observatory Hill landscape because they reflect the Naval Medical School and Hospital period and have settings similar to their original settings. Similarly, the Benjamin Rush Statue, although not in its original location, remains in Maury Circle in front of the Old Naval Observatory. The statue possesses sufficient significance as a substantial sculptural work of art to be counted as a contributing object, separate from the landscape.

### Lower Campus

The first known small-scale feature added to the Hygienic Laboratory was a 60-foot flagpole erected in 1910 on the north side of the North Building (Illustration 12: View of the North Building, Flagpole, and Stairs from E Street). The flagpole was lost with the E Street Expressway construction. Through 1933, there is no evidence of other small-scale features at the

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20 *Bronzing Benjamin Rush: Statue of College Founder Finds a New Home on Campus*, Dickinson Magazine, accessed online October 6, 2015 at <http://www2.dickinson.edu/magazine/summer04/feature2.html>.

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site. There are few available photographs from the OSS and CIA period. One photograph shows that by the late 1950s or early 1960s, a flagpole had been erected in front of the South Building and the grassy area surrounding the pole enclosed by a post-and-chain fence. This flagpole no longer exists.

Currently the lower campus contains a number of small-scale features that have not been dated but were not likely present during the period of significance. Since the construction of the retaining wall along the E Street Expressway, metal guard rails have been added along the north and west sides of the perimeter road. Metal pipe railing has been added along the north side of the Central Building, the north side of the East Building and the north side of the South Building. Other small-scale impermanent features include garbage cans and benches. Picnic benches and tables are located in the quadrangle. Thus, the small-scale features at the lower campus post-date the period of significance and are not significant to the landscape.

## **Views and Vistas**

### **Upper Campus**

Historically one of the highest points in the L'Enfant plan of Washington, the site would have had natural views to all points in the city. Its views up and down the Potomac River gave it defensive possibilities that L'Enfant recognized when he drew plans for a fortification at the hill. To the west along the Potomac River, Georgetown was visible from the top of the hill (Illustration 15: View of Georgetown from Observatory Hill). Early descriptions of the Observatory specifically mention views of the city, Georgetown and Alexandria. Arlington House and, later, Arlington Cemetery would have been visible across the Potomac River to the southwest, along with many points along Arlington Ridge in Virginia. Certainly, the growth of the nation's capital throughout the course of nineteenth century and early twentieth century would have been visible from the vantage point of Observatory Hill, and, as the city developed, views from the hilltop changed.

During the twentieth century, some historical views from Observatory Hill were obstructed because of the construction on the north, east and west sides of the hill. Significant views that remain intact include those to the National Mall and West Potomac Park and to Arlington House and Arlington National Cemetery. As two prominent landmarks in the Washington landscape, the Naval Observatory and Arlington House have had a reciprocal relationship since the Observatory's completion in 1844. Views from the Observatory to locations on the National Mall have been present since the nineteenth century, particularly views of the Washington Monument. The intended relationship between the Mall and the Observatory Grounds is evident in the 1902 McMillan Plan, which specifically mentions that the hill had an exceptionally beautiful view and depicted the area as a parkland extension of the Mall. Subsequent development of Observatory Hill and its surrounding area—most notably the addition of the U.S. Institute of Peace (completed in 2010) on the south slope of the hill—has somewhat obstructed views from the historic district. Nonetheless, it retains a visual relationship with the west end of the National Mall and West Potomac Park.

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Views toward Observatory Hill were especially important during the nineteenth century when the Observatory provided local time service, dropping a ball down a pole mounted on the Observatory dome at noon each day. Most artists' depictions of Observatory Hill focused on views from the river or across the river toward the Observatory, highlighting its prominence over the Potomac River and overlooking the city. The hill's visibility diminished as the city grew, but the hill and the dome of the Observatory are still visible from the Potomac and from Arlington.

Views and vistas from upper campus have been an important aspect of its landscape since before the construction of the Naval Observatory. These views exist because of the prominence of the hill in Washington's topography. Although some of the views from the hill present during the period of significance no longer exist, three notable views remain and are contributing to the district's historic landscape: the National Mall, including the Washington Monument and West Potomac Park; Arlington House and Arlington National Cemetery; and Memorial Bridge.

### **Lower Campus**

There is no evidence that the lower campus was designed with any formal views in mind. Its development was piecemeal during the first half of the twentieth century; with the construction of the East and South buildings, the campus centered on the quadrangle, creating an inward-looking focus. Descriptions of the lower campus during the twentieth century generally describe the complex as being hidden away and secluded from public view. Its hilltop location would have had some views of the Potomac River, similar to those from the upper campus, but its views would have been screened by the large Heurich Brewery to the southwest, other industrial buildings along the waterfront and by trees along the western boundary of the campus. The construction of temporary buildings to the south and southwest during World War II would have further obstructed any views toward the Potomac River.

The south terrace of the South Building appears to be an exception to the lack of designed views at the lower campus. The terrace took advantage of views to the south toward West Potomac Park and the Lincoln Memorial. This view would have been somewhat screened by temporary World War I and World War II buildings and was altered by the construction of the E Street Expressway in the early 1960s. Since the end of the period of significance, a number of new views to and from the lower campus have opened. The site now has views to the Kennedy Center (opened in 1971) to the west and views of the Potomac to the southwest through the E Street Expressway

Many of the current views to and from the lower campus would not have been present during the period of significance, since construction of the E Street Expressway altered the landscape and buildings along the north, west and southwest edges of the campus. Thus, the only significant view to remain intact from the period of significance is the view from the south terrace of the South Building toward West Potomac Park and the Lincoln Memorial.

### **Integrity of Landscape**

Observatory Hill is composed of an upper and lower campus that had a shared early history, but developed separately during the twentieth century. The historic district is characterized by a variety of natural and manmade features associated with successive periods of use. Those

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features that contribute to the character of the district's landscape in the period of significance (1844-1961) are listed in Table 1. Collectively, these features represent all major periods of site development. Home to a succession of federal agencies, the landscape evolved throughout the period of significance as a result of actions both deliberately intended to improve the landscape and those of a more practical nature. As a whole, the landscape possesses sufficient integrity to convey the history of Observatory Hill from its early development for the Naval Observatory to its later years as headquarters of the CIA. For purposes of the National Register, the Observatory Hill landscape is considered to be a single site with many contributing features. The Benjamin Rush Statue, a notable artistic work of substantial size set within the landscape, is considered to contribute to the Observatory Hill historic district separately as an object.

**Contributing: 1 Site** (landscape); **1 Object** (statue)

## ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES<sup>21</sup>

Based on archeological assessments, the property has the potential to contain a variety of archeological resources including a Native American component of unknown temporal affiliation, ephemeral military encampments and associated features, and a broad range of sites associated with the Old Naval Observatory Period (1844-1893). These include the Magnetic Observatory, a cross-shaped, subterranean brick and timber structure completed in 1845, the Magnetic Observatory's access tunnel, privies, a cistern, various outbuildings (stables and sheds), remains of specialized structures associated with the Transit of Venus (1882) and other astronomical events, and domestic refuse deposits. Archeological resources associated with the Naval Museum of Hygiene (1894-1905) and Naval Medical School and Hospital periods (1902-1942) include specialized refuse deposits.

The dominant elements of the archeological record would be expected to date to the Old Naval Observatory and Naval Medical School and Hospital periods. For the Old Naval Observatory period, a number of specific properties can be predicted on the basis of the period maps and photographs. The 1873 Bauman map shows almost 30 buildings, roads, walks and numerous landscape features, almost all to the north of Building 3. Remains of other structures may also be present, such as the temporary structures built for the observation of the Transit of Venus or other astronomical events. In addition to architectural features, refuse deposits or trash deposits could also be present, especially in the privies and cistern or in open areas. One of the most important structures, the 1845 Magnetic Observatory with its access tunnel, is not illustrated on the Bauman map, but it is known that these existed on the basis of previous construction monitoring.

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21 This section is based on Lawrence, John, Patrick McGinnis, and Heather Gibson (AECOM), Draft Phase I Archeological Survey and Monitoring for the Potomac Hill Master Plan Project and Building Rehabilitation (Prepared by AECOM for U.S. Department of State, 2014 ), Lawrence, John (AECOM), Final Archeological Monitoring Report for PEPCO Utility Trenching Potomac Annex Building Rehabilitation Project (Prepared by AECOM for U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 2016), and The Louis Berger Group, Cultural Resources Survey, Potomac Annex, Washington,, District of Columbia (Prepared by Berger for the Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 2007).

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Archeological investigations of the property include episodes of archeological testing and construction monitoring conducted in multiple phases between 2002 and 2016. Archeological monitoring and an archeological assessment were recorded by the Louis Berger Group, Inc., in 2002 and 2005, respectively. These investigations were confined to the upper campus. Phase I archeological survey and monitoring covering the both the upper and lower campus was undertaken by AECOM in 2014 for the Potomac Hill Campus Master Plan and Building Rehabilitation project. The 2014 study reviewed historical data, earlier survey reports and undertook Phase I survey work utilizing ground penetrating radar, metal detection and test excavation to identify areas with subsurface archeological deposits. AECOM and Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. undertook archeological monitoring of utility installation projects on the upper campus in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

While the property has been extensively disturbed by the construction of buildings and roadways, grading and utilities, earlier archeological assessments identified an appreciable level of landscape integrity in the upland area surrounding the Old Naval Observatory. This area was assessed as having moderately high archeological potential, with the remaining areas of the upper campus assessed as having moderately low and low potential. The lower campus was identified as having low potential, due to the high level of disturbance from grading and construction activities. However, the 2016 AECOM archeological report concluded that the archeological integrity of the property is highly variable and that generalizations about sensitivity must be taken with caution.

Site 51NW176, was identified in the 2005 survey and conforms to the boundaries of upper campus, including the area around buildings 6 and 7, now part of the USIP property. The site contained three documented archeological deposits: a midden deposit south of building 4, a brick feature in front of building 3, and areas of artifact-bearing soils (sheet middens) to the north and east of building 2. In addition, the subterranean Magnetic Observatory was mapped on the site. Subsequent to 2005, as additional features and areas of potential have been identified and Site 51NW176 has been updated. The site now contains multiple areas of archeological potential recorded archeological features. Recorded features are found within Maury Circle, adjacent to buildings 2, 3 and 4, in the interior courtyard formed by buildings 2, 3, and 5, and behind Quarters BB and are associated with the Old Naval Observatory, Naval Museum of Hygiene, and Medical School and Hospital.

A major finding of the 2002 construction monitoring was the discovery of a brick underground tunnel presumed to lead to the 1845 Magnetic Observatory in the parking lot to the southwest of Building 2. After abandonment of the underground observatory, the tunnel was used for storage and later sealed. The access tunnel was exposed by excavation of a utility trench across the parking lot between buildings 2 and 3. Based on the well-preserved condition of the tunnel, it was assumed that the features associated with the Magnetic Observatory itself could be preserved in archeological context. However, the precise location and integrity of the Magnetic Observatory have not been determined or evaluated and the 2002 report is no longer available.

Also identified in 2002, was a midden deposit to the rear (south) of Building 4. This refuse deposit contained intact medical and pharmaceutical bottles, animal bone, ceramic vessels, a test

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tube or vial, and other artifacts dating to the period of the Naval Hospital. A complex of brick foundations in front of Building 3 was documented in 2002 and 2005. The complex consisted of a series of five north-south oriented brick foundation walls varying in width from 1.2 to 2 feet and irregularly spaced with regard to one another. This feature would presumably predate the construction of Building 3, but does not correlate with any known buildings.

Sheet midden deposits were documented in 2005 and 2014 in the grassy areas to the north and southeast of Building 2 and in a small area beneath the driveway between buildings 3 and 5. These areas yielded both prehistoric and historic artifacts but the prehistoric presence on the site is considered minimal as only three pieces of scattered debitage have been recovered. Historic artifacts from these areas date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and include jewelry, coins, kitchen-related ceramics and glassware, and faunal remains.

Monitoring of utility trenches in 2016 resulted in the identification of six brick features southwest of Building 2. Four of the features are thought to be piers used to support instruments during the 1874 celestial observations for the Transit of Venus study. A large brick foundation conforming in location, style and materials to a building erected to store equipment for the Transit of Venus study was found during monitoring in 2016. Finally, a small segment of brickwork located several feet from the brick foundation may be connected with this storage building or may be remains of the Magnetic Observatory.

Additional monitoring of utility trenches in 2016 resulted in the discovery of an arched brick conduit in the backyard of Quarters BB. The purpose and association of this feature is uncertain.

**TABLE 3: SITE CHRONOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGICAL PROPERTY TYPES**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Date of feature</i>	<i>Date Known and Expected Archeological Resources</i>	<i>Survey</i>
Native American	c. 10,500 BC-1730 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lithic scatter (3 dispersed stone flakes)</li> <li>Suggesting ephemeral Native American use</li> <li>Possible remains of hunting camps, resource extraction areas, or other special use areas.</li> </ul>	Berger 2005 AECOM 2014
Colonial/Federal	1755-1844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known resources.</li> <li>Possible resources include deposits or features associated military encampments (Braddock's troops in 1755, American Revolution, Marines circa 1800 to 1801 and War of 1812), or with late 18th-century to early 19th-century picnicking or recreation.</li> </ul>	
Old Naval Observatory	1844-1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Architectural remains of observatory buildings and support structures, such as 1845 Magnetic Observatory, Transit of Venus buildings and structures foundations, privies, cistern, garden and landscape features, outbuildings (horse stables, tool sheds, fowl house, hay barn), privies, cistern, etc.</li> <li>Domestic refuse deposits associated with quarters.</li> <li>Trash deposits</li> <li>Arched brick conduit (association uncertain)</li> </ul>	Berger 2005 AECOM 2014 AECOM 2016
Naval Museum	1894-1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic refuse deposits associated with quarters.</li> </ul>	Berger 2005



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<i>Period</i>	<i>Date of feature</i>	<i>Date Known and Expected Archeological Resources</i>	<i>Survey</i>
of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trash deposits.</li> <li>▪ Arched brick conduit (association uncertain)</li> </ul>	AECOM 2014 AECOM 2016 Wetland Studies and Solutions 2016
Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery	1942-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paving, sidewalks, landscape features, utility lines, trash deposits.</li> </ul>	AECOM 2014 AECOM 2016

To conclude, Site 51NW176, which conforms to the boundaries of upper campus, including the area around buildings 6 and 7, now part of the USIP property, contains multiple areas of archeological potential and several documented archeological features. Site 51NW176 contributes to the Observatory Hill district, having the potential to add to our understanding of the history of property throughout its occupation, but particularly with the Old Naval Observatory and Naval Museum of Hygiene, Medical School and Hospital periods.

**Contributing: 1 Site (archeological)**

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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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Archeology/Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Education

Health/Medicine

Landscape Architecture

Maritime History

Military

Politics/Government

Science

**Period of Significance**

1844-1961

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Matthew Fontaine Maury

Asaph Hall

William J. Donovan

Allen W. Dulles

**Cultural Affiliation**

European

**Architect/Builder**

Ernest Flagg

Wood, Donn and Deming

Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks

Supervising Architect of the Treasury

Roland Hinton Perry

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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.)

### Summary

With a period of significance spanning more than 100 years, from 1844 to 1961, Observatory Hill is significant on the national and local levels under criteria A, B, C and D for multiple areas of significance, including: architecture, archeology, education, health/medicine, landscape architecture, maritime history, military, politics/government and science. The enclave located on a promontory above the Potomac River is associated with the formation and growth of a number of federal agencies and institutions: U.S. Naval Observatory, Naval Museum of Hygiene, Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital, United States Public Health Service (USPHS), National Institute of Health (NIH), Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). While housing the staff and programs of these agencies, Observatory Hill witnessed significant developments in the fields of oceanography, astronomy, medicine and national intelligence. The district is a harmonious collection of buildings sharing a common architectural vocabulary set off from the surrounding neighborhood by a topographically prominent and walled landscape setting. Observatory Hill possesses archeological features that document the property's Old Naval Observatory, Naval Hygiene Museum and Naval Medical School and Hospital periods.

The Old Naval Observatory (Building 2) was designated a National Historic Landmark, the nation's highest historical designation, in 1965 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places the following year.<sup>22</sup> The Potomac Annex Historic District (Washington Naval Hospital) was listed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites (Determined Eligible) on September 12, 2001. The Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, Hygienic Laboratory (National Institute of Health; E Street Complex) was also listed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites (Determined Eligible) circa 1993. In addition, two D.C. Landmark applications submitted by the D.C. Preservation League in 2011 and 2013, respectively, are listed on the D.C. Preservation Office's Pending Landmarks and Districts List: Old Naval Observatory and E Street Complex (Office of Strategic Services and Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters). The current nomination relies heavily on the above mentioned documentation.

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

### Areas of Significance:

#### Criterion A

Observatory Hill is significant under criterion A at the national level in the areas of education, health/medicine, maritime history, military, politics/government and science.

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<sup>22</sup> A National Register of Historic Places form documenting the Old Naval Observatory and delineating the boundaries was not prepared until 1977 and was accepted on November 24, 1978.

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As the home of the first Naval Observatory (1844-1893), Observatory Hill was the site of important advances in the fields of oceanography, navigation, and astronomy. Soon after its establishment, the Observatory became a world leader in scientific research and the development of the new field of oceanography. During the post-Civil War period, observatory staff made important contributions to the field of astronomy, using the world's largest refractory telescope, and set the official time for the nation. These advances in oceanography and astronomy in turn led to advances in navigation, which contributed to the nation's growing military and commercial strength in the maritime sphere.

While housing the Naval Museum of Hygiene and Naval Medical School and then the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital (1894-1942), Observatory Hill was the site of significant contributions to medical research and practice. The facility, housed in buildings 1-7 on the upper campus, established high standards in the care of Navy personnel and the training of Navy medical professionals and evolved into the preeminent naval medical facility in the United States. It served a key role during World War I, treating thousands and undertaking research and medical training relevant to that war effort. The accomplishments of the facility led to improvements in medical practice and care not only within the Navy, but also in the medical field in general, particularly through advances in areas such as tropical medicine, chemical warfare, aviation medicine, venereal disease and other contagious diseases. These activities were of particular relevance to Navy personnel and to naval operations worldwide in an era of rapid naval expansion.

As the home of the USPHS's Hygienic Laboratory (1903-1930) and the NIH (1930-1940), Observatory Hill was the site of significant advances in research relating to scientific aspects of health and disease. The complex on the lower campus, including the Central, East and South buildings, as well as the demolished North Building, was erected specifically to aid in the discovery and research of infectious diseases, including parrot fever and influenza. Research on pellagra and other dietary-deficiency diseases undertaken at the site led to pasteurization regulations still in place today. During this period, the lower campus served as the primary federal center for the research of infectious diseases and, in turn, advances in health advocacy and knowledge.

As headquarters for the OSS (1941-1945) and the CIA (1945-1961), Observatory Hill served as the command and control center and seat of executive decision making for those agencies and was associated with events of great national and international import during World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War. The lower campus served as the setting for the evolution of the centralized intelligence agency function in America into a permanent element of national security, considered an essential government function in peacetime as well as war.

Viewed broadly, each era in the Observatory Hill's history represents an element in the definition and development of the functions of the federal government. These include the creation of a federal role in scientific and medical research and public health, and the evolution

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of central intelligence as a vital component of national security independent of the defense agencies.

### Criterion B

Observatory Hill is significant under criterion B in the areas of maritime history and science on the national level for its association with Matthew Fontaine Maury and Asaph Hall whose achievements in oceanography and astronomy while employed at the Naval Observatory raised the scientific profile of the young nation. Maury's research and publications, undertaken at the Observatory in the 1850s, advanced the field of oceanography, provided an internationally accepted system for recording oceanographic data and advanced navigation during a period of rapid maritime expansion. Using the Observatory's Great Equatorial telescope, Hall discovered the two moons of Mars and made a number of other significant observations, advancing astronomical knowledge.

Observatory Hill is also significant under criterion B on the national level for its association with William J. Donovan and Allen W. Dulles, two key figures in the history of the development of the intelligence agency in America. Donovan, OSS Director, is considered the founding father of the modern intelligence agency in America. Donovan created and adapted the new agency in the midst of the rapidly evolving events of World War II, contributing to American military and diplomatic successes in that period. Dulles was the first civilian and longest-serving director of the CIA. He guided the CIA through a number of highly significant events in the early years of the Cold War, a heightened period of intelligence and covert activities, while the agency was headquartered on Observatory Hill.

### Criterion C

Observatory Hill is significant under criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture on local level as a collection of buildings sharing a common architectural vocabulary, interpreted through nineteenth and early twentieth century Classical Revival styles and applied to governmental buildings, within a distinctive landscape setting which bears the imprint of William Strickland. The district is set off from the surrounding neighborhood by its topographically prominent and walled landscape which includes one of the oldest trees in the city. The Washington Naval Hospital buildings on the upper campus, designed by Ernest Flagg, Wood, Donn and Deming and the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks and completed between 1903 and 1911, represent a particularly coherent collection of institutional buildings displaying common characteristics of the Georgian Revival architectural style. While the USPHS and NIH buildings on the lower campus, designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury in two different periods, are not as architecturally cohesive as those constructed for the Naval Hospital, they are good representative examples of Neo-classical Revival and Simplified Classical style institutional buildings and relate well to the other buildings in the district. The district reflects the work of nationally significant architects including William Strickland and Ernest Flagg, as well as the locally significant firm of Wood, Donn and Deming.

### Criterion D

Observatory Hill is significant under criterion D for archeology/historic-non-aboriginal on the local level for archeological resources that have the potential to yield information that may add

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to knowledge of the past, particularly as it relates to use of the property for astronomical research and medical treatment and research and to the lives of people who lived, worked or recuperated at Observatory Hill. Observatory Hill possesses archeological features and deposits that document the property's Old Naval Observatory (1844-1893) and Naval Museum of Hygiene and Naval Medical School and Hospital (1894-1942) periods. Known resources include: a tunnel that leads to the underground Magnetic Observatory (1845); brick piers, foundations and structures associated with the Transit of Venus (1882); refuse deposits from the Naval Hospital; and brick building foundations in front of Building 3; and, a brick conduit of uncertain association behind Quarters BB. In addition, a range of archeological resource types may be present on the upper campus of Observatory Hill, including: prehistoric camps or special use sites; ephemeral military encampments and associated features; a broad range of sites associated with the Old Observatory, including the Magnetic Observatory and its access tunnel, privies, a cistern, various outbuildings (stables and sheds), remains of specialized structures associated with the Transit of Venus and other astronomical events, and domestic refuse deposits; and archeological resources associated with the Naval Museum of Hygiene and Naval Medical School and Hospital, including specialized refuse deposits.

### **Period of Significance:**

Observatory Hill has multiple overlapping periods of significance spanning more than 100 years, from 1844 when the Naval Observatory was completed on the site to 1961 when Langley, Virginia, was established as new CIA Headquarters and the district's role as an incubator of notable agencies, including the Naval Observatory, Washington Naval Medical School and Hospital, USPHS, NIH, OSS and CIA ended.

### **Resource History and Historic Context:**

#### **Prehistory to 1844<sup>23</sup>**

The location of the property, overlooking the Potomac Rivers and the mouth of Tiber Creek, would have made this an attractive area for activity in several prehistoric periods. The varied resources found in the area, including lithics, flora and fauna, would have made it attractive for exploitation in all periods. One prehistoric artifact found during a 2005 survey suggests the former presence of a Native American campsite, a resource processing station, or other special use area. Remains of Native American occupation have been found throughout urbanized areas of Washington, D.C., but only occasionally in well-preserved context.

The property has been known historically by various place names, such as Camp Hill, Peter's Hill, Reservation Number 4, University Square, and Observatory Hill. Prior to the establishment of the City of Washington, the property was contained in colonial land grants. There is no specific information that the Observatory Hill property was occupied during that period, but its topographic position and proximity to the Potomac River would have made it attractive for the

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<sup>23</sup> This section is based on Berger, Cultural Resources Survey, Potomac Annex and AECOM, Draft Phase I Archeological Survey and Monitoring.

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tobacco-based economy, which relied on waterborne commerce. General Braddock and his troops camped in the area in 1755 during the French and Indian War. Braddock Rock, believed to have been the landing where the General's troops ferried across the Potomac, is south of the Old Naval Observatory property, now at the bottom of a well shaft, beneath deep fill deposits. One account indicates that the western slope of the hill may have been the burial ground for some of General Braddock's troops in 1755 after an epidemic broke out in camp, but it is not specifically known where the burial ground was located. Jacob Funk platted a town known as Hamburg in this area of the city, but it never developed. However, it is possible that some semi-permanent settlement of the site had occurred before the city was laid out in 1791.

In 1790 the majority of the original land fell into the hands of a prosperous Georgetown merchant, Robert Peter. Peter turned over the area bounded by 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and E streets, NW, and the Potomac River to the First Commissioners of the Federal City for inclusion in Pierre L'Enfant's Federal City Plan. Designated Reservation 4 in L'Enfant's plan, the site was set aside for public use because L'Enfant viewed it as an ideal location for a fortification that would protect the city from a naval attack. Others saw it an ideal site for the nation's capital or a national university. However, these uses did not come to pass and, meanwhile, the hill served as an encampment for the Marines from their arrival in the new capital in 1800 until a barracks was established in 1801 near the Navy Yard.

### **United States Naval Observatory<sup>24</sup>**

Efforts to establish a national astronomical observatory began in 1810 when proposals were introduced into Congress. Despite support from Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams, there was little popular support for scientific research. The U.S. Naval Observatory evolved from the Depot of Charts and Instruments, established by the federal government in 1830 to maintain and check the accuracy of nautical instruments, charts and books. In July 1842, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Navy to construct a suitable building for the depot at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 and President Tyler selected the site. Although the act authorizing its construction did not mention an astronomical observatory, the site and design of the building clearly indicate that it was always intended to serve as such. The construction of the Depot of Charts and Instruments with its astronomical facility marked the entry of the federal government into the field of practical scientific research in a significant way.

Lieutenant James Melville Gilliss supervised construction of the building with four rooms on each floor of the two-story building, crowned by a 23-foot diameter revolving dome made of wood and sheathed with copper. Begun in the spring of 1843 and completed the fall of 1844, it was expanded by the addition of quarters for the superintendent of the depot and his family in 1847. Beginning in 1845, a time ball, mounted on a pole atop the dome, dropped each day at noon providing the official time to residents of the city. This building (Building 2) with several subsequent additions still stands on the crest of the hill.

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<sup>24</sup> This section is based on Schroer and Lewis, Old Naval Observatory; Miller, Proposed Old Naval Observatory; and GCB, Final Potomac Hill Campus Historic Landscape Assessment.



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Begun in 1844 and completed the following year, a subterranean Magnetic Observatory and access tunnel were built southwest of the main building in order to research Earth's magnetic field. The Magnetic Observatory was a cross-shaped structure that was 70 feet long in each direction, 10 feet high, and 10 feet wide. Located to the southwest of Building 2, the two observatories were connected by a stone and brick tunnel 52 feet in length. The structure was in use for a very limited duration before the access tunnel was sealed due to structural defects and flooding caused by the use of timber construction in place of stone and brick.<sup>25</sup> The subterranean remains of the Magnetic Observatory and tunnel were identified beneath the parking lot southwest of Building 2 in 2002 during archeological monitoring.

On September 28, 1850, Congress defined the prime meridian for the United States as passing through the Naval Observatory. This line, passing through the center of the original observatory dome, was used as the zero-degree U.S. meridian for astronomical purposes for the next 47 years.<sup>26</sup> In 1854, reflecting its expanding mission, the Depot of Charts and Instruments formally became the United States Naval Observatory and Hydrographical Office. Commonly called the Naval Observatory, the facility served multiple functions: a repository of information and scientific instruments, a place of research and a teaching facility.

From its earliest days the site was intended to have formal landscaping. In 1844, William Strickland was commissioned to design a site plan (Illustration 4: 1844 Strickland Plan of the Naval Observatory) for the grading and enclosure of the observatory grounds. Strickland was one of the foremost American architects of the time; his Second Bank of the United States in Philadelphia is considered one of the most outstanding examples of the Greek Revival style in America. Strickland's plan for the observatory depicts a site enclosed by two concentric rings, which form terraces on two levels. The north gate by two "lodges" opened to a circular drive leading directly to the Old Naval Observatory entry. The east gate opened to a circular drive leading to the "yard" of one of the proposed "pavilions."<sup>27</sup>

The site plan included a perimeter wall with a gate in the east wall on an axis with D Street, NW. By 1845 the grounds had been enclosed by a brick perimeter wall and terracing had been graded. The material of the wall was not documented in any of the records from that time; however, a contract from 1853 to raise the walls on the east, south and west sides, calls for red brick set in mortar.<sup>28</sup> In addition, some plantings and sidewalk layout were implemented. John Sessford, who chronicled the physical progress of the city in the first half of the nineteenth century, described the character of the site in 1846 as being park-like or "a delightful place for recreation, being on an eminence and affording a splendid view of this city..."<sup>29</sup>

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25 AECOM, Draft Phase I Archeological Survey and Monitoring, 16.

26 In 1897, Old Naval Observatory meridian was replaced with one that passed through the clock room at the new Naval Observatory on Massachusetts Avenue, NW. This meridian remained in use until Congress declared the Greenwich Meridian to be the legal prime meridian of the United States in 1912. The location of the meridian at the Old Naval Observatory is commemorated by a plaque in front of Building 2.

27 CBG, Final Potomac Hill Campus Historic Landscape Assessment, 7.

28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

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By 1857 a circular drive on the northern side of the Observatory was in place as well as a drive to garden plots on the southeastern side of the building. Although the formally designed landscape centered on the observatory, the site also included a number of domestic and agricultural structures and work areas, as it combined scientific and domestic functions. The highly detailed 1873 Bauman map of the grounds shows the major observatory structures, along with gardens, sheds, chicken and cow houses, horse stables, walkways, drives and a privy (Illustration 9: Bauman Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, circa 1873). Various temporary buildings appeared on the property during the 1880s, most notably a structure used to document the Transit of Venus in 1882.

Strickland's plan was never fully implemented, although several site plan elements were built and vestiges of those elements still survive today in the perimeter enclosure, curving drives and connecting paths in the vicinity of the Old Naval Observatory. The most notable design element that survives from Strickland's concepts is the circular carriage drive in front of the Observatory, which has become more oval than circular over time and is now known as Maury Circle.

Under the direction of Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), the Observatory's first superintendent (1844-1861), the Observatory became a world leader in scientific research and the development of the new field of oceanography. Maury's own extensive research led to the publication of the *Wind and Current Charts and Sailing Directions* in 1847. This uniform system for recording oceanographic data was adopted by an international congress in 1853. In 1852, Maury published the *Wind and Current Chart of the North Atlantic*, which allowed sailors to use the ocean's currents and winds to their advantage to reduce the length of ocean voyages. Utilizing his knowledge of ocean currents and winds, derived in part from his naval voyages, as well the collection of ships logs deposited in the Depot of Charts and Instruments, Maury subsequently published *The Physical Geography of the Sea*, the first modern oceanographic textbook in 1855. Maury's uniform system of recording oceanographic data was widely adopted and was used to develop charts for all the major trade routes. Maury was also instrumental in mapping the route of the first transatlantic cable, completed in 1858. A native Virginian, Maury resigned his position at the start of the Civil War, serving as a commander in the Confederate States Navy.<sup>30</sup>

During the Civil War, President Lincoln, who had a lifelong interest in astronomy, is said to have visited the observatory on more than one occasion:

... on August 22, 1863, six weeks after the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln sought temporary relief from the grueling war. White House Coachman Laurance Mangan recalled that the president asked for the carriage after supper, announcing that he "wanted to go out and look at the stars through that big, new telescope they had installed at the Naval Observatory. Naval Observatory Astronomer Asaph Hall showed the president and his party the Moon and the bright star Arcturus through the observatory's 9.6-inch telescope.

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30 Department of the Navy, Naval History and Heritage Command, Mathew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), accessed online December 3, 2014 at <http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/bios/matthew-maury.html>.

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One night soon afterward, Hall was observing the stars when he heard a knock at the door. The visitor was Lincoln, who ascended the steps alone to pose a question from the previous evening that he could not resolve. Lincoln had noticed that the Moon, through the 9.6-inch telescope, was reversed and upside down from the way it appeared to the naked eye. Because of his work as a surveyor, he was familiar with terrestrial telescopes, which showed objects right-side up. He was puzzled why the astronomical telescope showed objects differently. The technical differences between the telescopes were explained by Hall, and with much gratification, Lincoln departed.

Lincoln's interest in the Moon, stars, and other celestial bodies motivated him to invite others to visit the Naval Observatory. Attorney Joseph Gillespie wrote, "He [Lincoln] was fond of astronomy. He invited me one day at Washington City to call upon him in the evening when he said we would go to the observatory and take a look at the Moon through the large teloscope [sic]."<sup>31</sup>

During the post-Civil War period, what historian Jan Herman referred to as the Observatory's Golden Age, subsequent superintendents James Gilliss, Charles Davis, Benjamin Sands and John Rodgers, sent observatory staff on explorations tracking eclipses of the moon and sun and the Transit of Venus, participated in the Centennial Exposition of 1876 and set the official time for the nation. Later, leading mathematicians and astronomers such as Simon Newcomb, C. Henry Davis, George William Hill and Asaph Hall won world esteem, while working at the Observatory. Asaph Hall (1829-1907) had come to the Naval Observatory in 1862 as assistant astronomer and was made professor in 1863, a position he held until his retirement in 1891. In 1875, he was placed in charge of the Observatory's Great Equatorial telescope. In 1877, he used the instrument to discover the two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos. Hall's astronomical accomplishments continued throughout his career at the observatory with significant observations concerning the orbits of satellites, planets and double stars, the rotation of Saturn and the mass of Mars.

The refracting telescope used by Asaph Hall was ordered by the Naval Observatory in 1870 and built by the Massachusetts firm of Alvan Clark and his son, Alvan Graham Clark, for \$50,000. The Clarks' telescopes were considered the equals of those made in Europe and were powerful enough to resolve close double stars. Installed in 1873, the Naval Observatory's instrument was a refractory telescope with a 26-inch lens. At 40 feet in length, it was the largest telescope in the world for a decade. A new south wing was added onto the observatory to house the telescope. The dome was 41 feet in diameter, constructed of wood and covered with galvanized iron. It rested and revolved upon 16 rollers that rotated on an iron rail. The telescope was removed when the Observatory moved to its new facility in 1893, where it remains in use today.

During the 1880s, it became increasingly apparent that the site has significant drawbacks for celestial observation, mostly stemming from the pollution and fog of the adjacent Foggy Bottom neighborhood. As a result, the observatory moved to its present site on Massachusetts Avenue,

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31 Kirk R. Benson, *Lincoln and the Cosmos*, Astronomy Magazine, accessed online December 3, 2014 at <http://cs.astronomy.com/asy/b/astronomy/archive/2014/07/14/lincoln-and-the-cosmos.aspx>.

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NW, in 1893. All of the instruments that had been housed in the observatory were removed and the building was turned over to the Naval Museum of Hygiene. The buildings of the Old Naval Observatory remained vacant until 1894. After the departure of the observatory, the property was occupied by a series of Naval Medical institutions: the Museum of Hygiene, the Naval Medical School, and the Washington Naval Hospital (also called the Naval Medical School Hospital).

### **United States Naval Museum of Hygiene<sup>32</sup>**

In 1894, the Secretary of the Navy transferred the property to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) for the use of its Naval Museum of Hygiene. BUMED had been established in 1842 as part of a major reorganization of the Navy as the administrative organization responsible for Navy Medicine. BUMED's Naval Museum of Hygiene was not merely a repository for exhibits and a clearinghouse for medical and non-medical artifacts, but became a working institution for environmental and occupational medicine.

With the change from an astronomical to a medical function, Building 2 was renovated and repaired. The piers that had supported the telescopes were demolished and the dome on the south wing was replaced by a rotunda. A library was now located in the former home of the world's largest refracting telescope. New landscaping included restoration of the grounds and planting of new ornamental trees.

The BUMED laboratories were among the best in the nation became the core of what would become a medical school to train Navy physicians in the ways of military medicine. With widespread support and interest from physicians, scientists, engineers and architects, the museum's library expanded to more than 3,000 volumes. The reconfigured space accommodated laboratories for chemistry, bacteriology and photography where many scientific and medical studies were completed. By 1898, the laboratories were testing disinfectants, vaccine virus quality, and catgut suture quality. The laboratories conducted tests for clinical diagnosis of diphtheria, tuberculosis and malarial parasites, and they were called for specialized investigations such as the purity of water from the Potomac River and the suitability of granite specimens for the construction of dry docks. The BUMED became a pioneer in environmental and occupational health; called upon to test the basement of the State, War and Navy Department building, they found that the workplace conditions were characterized by excessive heat and dangerously high levels of ammonia and carbonic acid.

The BUMED exhibits gathered material from around the world and drew interest from the public. A large collection of material related to mortuary customs (coffins, vaults, morgues, crematories, etc.) fed the public fascination with the Beautification of Death Movement that peaked in the late nineteenth century.

### **Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital<sup>33</sup>**

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32 This section is based on Miller, Proposed Old Naval Observatory.

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In May 1902, the Secretary of the Navy ordered that the Museum would now be known as the United States Naval Museum of Hygiene and Medical School. The Medical School initially shared Building 2 with the museum. Shortly thereafter, the other buildings (buildings 1 and 3-7) on the upper campus of Observatory Hill were constructed (1903-1911). Congress appropriated money in 1903 for the construction of a Naval Hospital at Observatory Hill. It was to include a three-story administration building, a subsistence and operating building, four one-story wards and various service structures. The Museum was disestablished in 1905 and the collection transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

The first buildings of the hospital complex, buildings 3 and 4, were designed by Ernest Flagg, architect of the Singer Building in New York, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and some of the most important buildings, including the hospital, at the U.S. Naval Academy (1904-1907) in Annapolis. Flagg had extensive experience in hospital design having previously designed St. Luke's Hospital in New York (1892-1897) and St. Margaret's Memorial Hospital in Pittsburgh (1894-98). Flagg's design of the Washington Naval Hospital in 1903 utilized the pavilion plans for medical institutions developed in Europe during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The pavilion plan was designed to maximize light and ventilation, with patient wards radiating out from a central block. The plans for the hospital at Observatory Hill consisted of two main core buildings for administration (Building 3) and medical operations (Building 4) with adjacent patient ward pavilions connected to the main core buildings by solaria.

Construction began in 1904 and by 1906 the partially completed hospital was in use. Because of financial constraints, Flagg did not complete the design for a full complement of pavilions and solaria for the two main core hospital buildings. Architects at the Washington-based firm of Wood, Donn and Deming completed Flagg's pavilion design, although some modifications to the original scheme were incorporated. The firm, formed in 1902 by Waddy B. Wood, Edward Donn, Jr. and William I. Deming, provided architectural services to government agencies as well as private clients. Their institutional and governmental work included the reconstruction and expansion of the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia (1907-1910) and the rehabilitation and expansion of Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C. (1904, demolished 1964). The firm was also known for its residential projects, including the Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Washington, D.C. (1902, now the Embassy of Latvia).

A contagious disease hospital, corpsmen quarters, sick officers' quarters, nurses' quarters, and three quarters for medical officers followed. These later buildings were designed by the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks incorporating design elements of the Flagg-designed buildings, thus visually unifying the entire complex into one functional building group. Newly designed ventilation systems were installed in the hospital and contagious disease buildings to prevent the airborne spread of pathogens. By 1911, all of the buildings of the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital were completed on the plateau behind and beside the Old Naval Observatory and on the downward slope of the hill to the south. These buildings replaced many formal gardens and areas of grassy lawns that had previously characterized the site. The hill was

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33 This section is based on Miller, Proposed Old Naval Observatory.

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landscaped with additional trees, replacing to some degree trees lost to an 1896 hurricane and the hospital construction. Roadways with yellow brick gutters, matching the buildings, new sidewalks and a grand staircase leading from E Street, NW, were installed. This circulation system incorporated the new buildings into the hospital complex, creating a campus-like atmosphere. In 1922, 12 Japanese cherry trees were replanted from the Tidal Basin to the upper campus of Observatory Hill.

Among the earliest features added to the landscape in this period was the statue of Benjamin Rush (1746-1813), erected in 1904 in front of the Old Naval Observatory. Rush was a physician and surgeon general of the Middle Department of the Continental Army, humanitarian, founder of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, co-founder of the first American anti-slavery society and signer of the Declaration of Independence. The statue was unveiled on June 11, 1904, in the presence of President Theodore Roosevelt, who accepted the monument as a gift to the American people from the American Medical Association membership. Albert L. Gihon, Medical Director of the United States Navy at that time, initiated the campaign to build the memorial to Benjamin Rush with funds donated from the American Medical Association membership.

Roland Hinton Perry was the statue's sculptor and architect Louis R. Metcalf designed the limestone pedestal. A portraitist and sculptor, Perry (1870-1941) was born in New York and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and several French academies. Shortly after returning from abroad, Perry was commissioned to design bas-reliefs for the Library of Congress (1894) and the *Court of Neptune Fountain* at the front of the Library of Congress (1895). Other works by Perry include the *Commonwealth* statue (1905) on the dome of the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the lions on the Connecticut Avenue Bridge, in Washington, D.C. (1906). Perry is credited with designing and creating more than 30 major works of art.<sup>34</sup>

The original purpose of the hospital was to serve sick Navy enlisted men and officers stationed in the Washington area and to receive and treat cases of special interest from elsewhere for the benefit of the Naval Medical School course of instruction. The newly established Medical School contained laboratories for pathology, clinical microscopy, bacteriology, and medical zoology. As tropical diseases accounted for many of the deaths in the recent Spanish American War, the treatment of these diseases became a primary focus. The Medical School quickly became a national leader in medicine, forming cooperative partnerships with the Mayo Clinic, the Phipps Institute, the Pepper Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Medical School. World War I brought new demands, not only in terms of space, but also in clinical practice. Treatments were developed for the victims of gas warfare and for ailments peculiar to submarines. After the war, additional programs were added, including a dental school in 1923 and a program in aviation medicine.

The institution's physical capacity was strained by the large number of World War I veterans and the victims of the global influenza epidemic of 1918. Temporary buildings constructed at the

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<sup>34</sup> Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee, Roland Hinton Perry, accessed online December 15, 2014 at <http://cpc.state.pa.us/history/artists/roland-hinton-perry.cfm>.

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southern edge of the site during this period helped to ease the hospital's load.<sup>35</sup> In the 1920s, plans to expand the hospital complex were developed, which would have required demolition of virtually all the buildings on the site, so that a much larger complex could take its place. Legislation to fund this massive new campaign was introduced in 1929, but soon faltered with the onset of the Great Depression and the funding constraints of President Hoover's austerity program. At the same time, new development on the site had to be considered in the context of the surrounding neighborhood. The area of tidal mudflats to the south of Observatory Hill was transformed by the McMillan Plan, especially with the construction of the Lincoln Memorial on filled land at the foot of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. Plans for a massive new construction campaign on the prominent site became controversial and required the approval of the United States Commission of Fine Arts, established in 1910, and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, created in 1924/1926. Destruction of the observatory and hospital buildings was averted when the Navy chose a new site in suburban Bethesda, Maryland, for the Naval Hospital.

**Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Headquarters<sup>36</sup>**

When the Naval Medical School and Naval Hospital moved to Bethesda in 1942, the former classrooms, laboratories and treatment rooms were transformed into the administrative headquarters of the BUMED. After relocating to Observatory Hill, BUMED continued to carry out its century-old mission: safeguarding the health of the Navy; providing for medical care of sick and injured personnel; maintaining health and medical records; setting professional standards for physicians, dentists, nurses and other Medical Department specialists; and providing for medical care of dependents of naval personnel and retirees. During the BUMED's years on Observatory Hill, the bureau managed Navy medical missions, personnel and resources during war and peacetime operations. BUMED headquarters remained on the upper campus until 2012, when, under the Base Re-Alignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the agency moved to Falls Church, Virginia.

BUMED's civilian and military administrative personnel occupied the seven buildings formerly occupied by the hospital and medical school. During BUMED's tenancy, the buildings were used exclusively for offices. Beginning with the tenure of Vice Admiral Ross McIntire, who served as both surgeon general and personal physician to President Franklin Roosevelt, the campus was headquarters for 17 surgeons general of the U.S. Navy, who hold the additional title, chief of BUMED.<sup>37</sup> The surgeon general's office was located in Building 1.

During BUMED's occupation, alterations generally were confined to the interior of buildings. However, after World War II, globe lampposts were installed around Maury Circle and the north-south road paralleling 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW. By the late 1950s, the entrance at the intersection of E and 23<sup>rd</sup> streets, NW, had been enlarged to two lanes forming a V at the entrance. The early twentieth-century concrete posts that flanked the old entrance were removed, but the acorn

35 These temporary buildings would continue to be put to new uses and were not removed until after World War II.

36 This section, is based on personal communication, "Historical Notes on BUMED Campus, 1942-2012," prepared by Andre B. Sobocinski, Historian, Communications Directorate, BUMED, and shared with Elizabeth Hannold on September 9, 2015.

37 The only exception to this was during the years 1983 to 1989 when the Surgeon General was based in offices of the Pentagon and BUMED was superseded by the "Naval Medical Command."

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finials were retained, first flanking the new entrance and later placed on Maury Circle. The increased use of automobiles during the period of BUMED's occupancy altered the landscape as additional parking areas were added by removing trees and green space.

### **United States Public Health Service's Hygienic Laboratory<sup>38</sup>**

Almost concurrent with the development of the Naval Medical School and Washington Naval Hospital on the upper campus was the development of the United States Public Health Service's (USPHS) Hygienic Laboratory on the lower, western, slope of Observatory Hill. The USPHS originated in 1798 as the Marine Hospital Service (MHS), a branch of the Treasury Department that cared for sick and injured seamen.<sup>39</sup> In 1801, the MHS opened its first hospital in Norfolk, Virginia, and in 1870 became a national hospital system. In 1889, it was reorganized as a commissioned corps of medical personnel, directed by a medical officer who would later be designated "Surgeon-General of the United States." By the turn of the twentieth century, MHS employed 144 physician-officers and operated a network of two dozen hospitals in major domestic ports, 121 seamen's relief stations at remote sites, a tuberculosis hospital in New Mexico and a leprosarium in Hawaii.

During the late nineteenth century, the scope of activities of the MHS began to expand well beyond the care of merchant seamen, beginning with the control of infectious diseases. The densely-populated tenement districts of major cities were recognized as tinderboxes which could fuel deadly epidemics if communicable diseases entered from abroad. Originally the responsibility for quarantines fell to the states rather than the federal government; however, a rapidly spreading yellow fever epidemic in 1877 resulted in the passage of the National Quarantine Act of 1878, conferring quarantine authority on the MHS.

Subsequently, the MHS was charged with examining passengers on ships arriving into the United States for clinical signs of infectious diseases, particularly cholera and yellow fever, in order to prevent epidemics, and with administering the quarantine program for these new arrivals. As a result, research on the prevention, management, and treatment of infectious diseases quickly became an increasingly important part of its mission. During this time, French chemist Louis Pasteur and others presented convincing evidence that microscopic organisms were the cause of several infectious diseases. The MHS followed these developments with great interest and, in 1887, opened a small medical research laboratory at its Stapleton, Staten Island Marine Hospital. In 1891 the laboratory moved to the upper floor of the MHS headquarters in the Butler Building, at the corner of First and C streets, SE, in Washington, D.C. (now demolished).

Over the next decade, laboratory staff inaugurated a training program in bacteriology for MHS officers and conducted numerous tests of water purity and air quality for the District of Columbia and the U.S. Congress. Concerns about epidemic were even sharper in the twentieth century,

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38 This section is based on Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex and Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex.

39 There was no formal institutional connection between the U.S. Public Health Service and the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. However, there is limited evidence of USPHS staff teaching at the Naval Medical School and USPHS staff receiving medical care at the Washington Naval Hospital, according to Andre B. Sobocinski, Historian, Communications Directorate, personal communication with Elizabeth Hannold dated September 14, 2015.



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with increasing numbers of transients arriving annually at domestic ports and overseas locations. The MHS research staff continued to investigate epidemic diseases including yellow fever, as well as certifying vaccine producers and analyzing data about epidemics in other countries.

In 1902, Congress recognized the importance of these epidemiological functions by reorganizing the MHS as the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service (USPHMHS), an early step in establishing the service in its status as the chief U.S. public health agency. The act also launched a formal program of research by designating the pathological and bacteriological work of the Hygienic Laboratory as the Division of Pathology and Bacteriology and by creating three new research areas that represented the most fruitful components of research at the time: the Divisions of Chemistry, Pharmacology and Zoology. Furthermore, in 1902, Congress passed the Biologics Control Act, which had major consequences for the Hygienic Laboratory. This act charged the laboratory with regulating the production of vaccines and antitoxins, thus making it a regulatory agency four years before the passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drugs Act.

In 1901, Congress had appropriated funds to build a dedicated laboratory for the MHS' Departments of Bacteriology and Pathology on five acres of the then 17-acre Observatory Hill, which belonged to the Department of the Navy. This tract on the lower, western slope of the hill overlooked a riverfront industrial zone largely devoted to asphalt works and the Christian Heurich Brewery. On the opposite side of the hill, near the intersection of 23rd and C streets, NW, stood the malodorous Civil War-era wooden building of the municipal dog pound. Although commonly considered an out-of-the-way and unhealthy section of the city, Observatory Hill was rapidly developing into a medical campus. While the new Hygienic Laboratory was being constructed, the Naval Medical School was being developed on the Old Naval Observatory grounds on the hill's upper slope.

By July, 1902, local contractor W.W. Speir had begun constructing the cruciform brick laboratory, designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The new building, which cost \$35,000 to construct and an additional \$13,000 to equip, was completed on July 22, 1903. This building, first known as the Hygienic Laboratory, and later known as the North Building, was demolished for the construction of the E Street Expressway circa 1963.

Soon after the staff moved in, the surgeon general pronounced the new building overcrowded and requested an appropriation for an additional structure, to include a disinfecting shed, animal breeding house and heating plant. He also complained about the new campus' aesthetic shortcomings:

The grounds about the laboratory are in a very untidy condition, need grading and terracing, and should be arranged by a landscape gardener, so that the planting of trees and shrubbery may be done to attain an artistic end result. There is at present no separate entrance to our reservation, and the necessity for one need not be emphasized.<sup>40</sup>

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40 *Annual Report of the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service for 1904*. (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1904), 374, as cited in Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex and Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex, 8-9.

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Requests for additional appropriations became a litany in each annual surgeon general's report to the president. Sometimes they reflected functional concerns, but also frequently suggested a struggle to achieve parity with the adjacent naval facility. In his 1905 report, the surgeon general complained that:

The grounds present a sorry contrast to those of our neighbors, the Naval Museum of Hygiene and Naval Medical School. The two reservations combined constitute a public reservation of considerable extent and unusual prominence, situated as they are upon the summit of one of the most commanding hills in the District and in a section of the city which is rapidly developing. It would, therefore, seem to be a public duty to place our grounds in a sightly condition, corresponding to those of the naval reservation and in keeping with its position and dignity. During the past year a handsome statue of Benjamin Rush, one of the pioneer American physicians and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, in bronze and granite, was presented by the American Medical Association to the District of Columbia, and placed upon the grounds of the Naval Museum of Hygiene within a few hundred feet of our line. Magnificent terraced granite steps and approaches are now being built by the Navy Department as an entrance to their part of the reservation. These facts are given as a contrast to the rough appearance of our part of the reservation, which has not yet been cleared of weeds. The grounds should be terraced and artistically planted.<sup>41</sup>

By 1908, Congress recognized the pleas for additional space, appropriating \$75,000 for an addition designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, transforming the original Hygienic Laboratory into a 41-room building, 230 feet long, with two stories, an attic and a basement. When completed, this addition was so extensive that some considered it a completely new building. An accompanying 2,500 square foot masonry isolation building for infectious disease research was surrounded by a brick and concrete wall and included six laboratory rooms, an animal keeper's quarters and a crematory where all refuse was burned. The single story building with rectangular footprint appears to have been located at the extreme southwest corner of the property and would likely have been demolished circa 1933 to make room for the construction of the South Building, if not before.<sup>42</sup>

Driven by the ever-expanding scope of medical knowledge as well as responsibilities that steadily increased as the Hygienic Laboratory won recognition for its research, even this active building program lagged behind needs. Before the expansion was completed in January 1909, the surgeon general reported that "the activities of the laboratory.... have grown so fast that they are believed to have already outgrown the addition," calling for another wing to house laboratories and classrooms for lectures and demonstrations for armed forces medical staffs.<sup>43</sup>

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41 1905 Annual Report of the Surgeon-General, 218, as cited in Ibid, 8-10.

42 The building appears in a circa 1919 view of the Hygienic Laboratory property (see Illustration 3).

43 1908 Annual Report of the Surgeon-General, 67, quoted in Ibid, 8-11.

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The facility remained unsatisfactory in additional ways. The laboratory bred its own research animals in makeshift frame houses inadequate to the promotion of animal health and fertility. In 1909, the surgeon general requested that the existing animal houses be replaced by a proper brick building with heat. He also continued to plead for site improvements:

When the present site of the Hygienic Laboratory was selected... the neighborhood ... had long been regarded as an unhealthy part of the city. Since that time, however, conditions have changed, the malarious flats have been transformed into a beautiful reservation known as Potomac Park, and the improvements in the neighborhood have made it a notable situation in many respects... Grading and the construction of a retaining wall [are] necessary in order to put the grounds of the Hygienic Laboratory in such condition as to make them in keeping ... the adjoining reservation of the Navy Department.<sup>44</sup>

The pleas for a new animal house continued until a three story brick building was constructed on the south end of the lower campus in 1915.<sup>45</sup> At this time, the surgeon general also received the long-requested funds for grading and resurfacing the front entrance, as well as a roadway connecting to the new animal house, with an exit on the southern end of the reservation. Previously, the Hygienic Laboratory's only vehicular entrance was through the grounds of the Naval Medical School.

In 1912, Congress again reorganized USPHMHS, contracting its name to the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and expanding its scope beyond communicable disease. Soon, its researchers were investigating industrial hygiene, water pollution, and narcotics addiction. Two years later, building on research conducted at the laboratory, Dr. Joseph Goldberger, announced his views of pellagra as a dietary deficiency disease, emphasizing the importance of a healthy diet to ward off diseases. Significantly, this research expanded outside the realm of science and addressed economic and social factors and ultimately proved that pellagra was not an infectious disease.

During World War I, the USPHS saw the greatest expansion in its history, as it was placed under military control and made responsible for the hospital care of discharged war veterans. The focus of the laboratory shifted to manufacturing vaccines, evaluating industrial hygiene, maintaining sanitation at the numerous military camp sites around the United States and combating the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919.

In the spring of 1919, construction began on a large new building for the development of biologic agents to fight disease. This two-story, 27,500 square foot, fireproof brick building was situated just south of the Hygienic Laboratory. The postwar expansion program was completed by a new wing added to the animal house in 1920 and a tunnel between the original Hygienic Laboratory, renamed the North Building, and the new laboratory, then known as the South (now

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<sup>44</sup> 1909 Annual Report of the Surgeon-General 77, quoted in Ibid, 8-11 & 12.

<sup>45</sup> This building stood until circa 1933 when it was demolished to make room for the construction of the South Building.

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Central) Building, completed circa 1921. The tunnel consisted of sloped ramps that led from each building into an unpacking room in the center. The basement of the South Building originally contained animal rooms, a refrigerating machinery room and an organic chemicals room. The first floor of the new building contained an industrial poisons room, an operating room and two rooms for the standardization of drugs, a kymograph room, a physiological lab, a research laboratory, a cold room, reading room, and a central atrium, as well as a lunch room.<sup>46</sup> The remainder of the building accommodated office space for the staff of the Hygienic Laboratory.

By 1920, landscape improvements had been completed at the front of the campus, perhaps undertaken in conjunction with this postwar expansion program or with the earlier 1915 improvements. A 1920 site plan and circa 1919 photograph show a terraced stairway from E Street, NW, ascending a gently sloping lawn and terminating at a small circular feature with a flagpole at the front of the North Building (Illustration 12: View of the North Building, Flagpole, and Stairs from E Street). These landscape features, which finally gave the USPHS campus a presence approximating that of the Naval Hospital, were lost to the expressway project which removed a swath of land and the North Building from Observatory Hill, leaving in their stead a reduced campus and tall retaining wall.

In December 1929, an outbreak of psittacosis, a disease contracted by humans mainly from parrots, occurred simultaneously throughout North America, South America and Europe. Scientists throughout the three continents traced the cause back to diseased parrots shipped from a South American port, which necessitated the need for a study of psittacosis or “parrot fever.” On January 6, 1930, Dr. Charles Armstrong of the Hygienic Laboratory headed a group of physicians chosen by the Department of State specifically to conduct research on parrots suspected of being infected. Armstrong, along with his assistant Henry Anderson, began importing parrots to the laboratory and studying the birds in two basement rooms of the Hygienic Laboratory, presumably the Central Building. Within three months, Henry Anderson had died of the disease; Dr. Armstrong was in the hospital, ridden with psittacosis; and at least 11 other personnel of the laboratory caught the highly infectious disease. As a result, the North and Central buildings of the Hygienic Laboratory were evacuated and fumigated and, reportedly, all the experimental animals were chloroformed. This outbreak at the Hygienic Laboratory resulted in quarantine regulations imposing permanent restrictions, still in place, on the commercial importation into the United States of parrots and “love birds.”

Through the mid-1920s, the surgeon general’s annual reports repeatedly recommended that the USPHS consolidate its administrative functions in a modern office building adjacent to the laboratories. However, its offices remained divided between the Butler Building on Capitol Hill and buildings C and F, two of the World War I temporary buildings erected along B Street west of the Washington Monument. In 1926, the Coolidge Administration launched a major federal construction initiative that proposed that all USPHS functions be consolidated in a building on the Observatory Hill campus. This proposal gained impetus from plans to demolish the Butler

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<sup>46</sup> A kymograph is an instrument used, predominantly by psychologists, to record variations in pressure, as of blood, or in tension, as in muscles, through the means of a pen or stylus that marks a rotating drum.

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Building to make way for the Longworth House Office Building, which were announced in 1927 but not finally accomplished until late 1929. However, the continuing expansion of the federal public health program altered plans for the lower campus.

### **National Institute of Health<sup>47</sup>**

Late in 1926, Congress took up a bill to centralize federal medical research in a National Institute of Health (NIH) under the direction of the surgeon general. Despite backing from the scientific community and industry, three years passed before President Herbert Hoover signed the Ransdell Act into law, transforming the Hygienic Laboratory into the independent NIH. This act, along with ongoing activities of the Hygienic Laboratory, marked a departure from the originally limited federal role of providing services to merchant seamen or preventing epidemics. With the passage of the act in 1930, the federal government established a presence in general health activities and became actively involved in personnel training.

A November 2, 1930, *Washington Post* article on the NIH physicians, scientists, and research workers describes the campus:

The headquarters of the institute are in a group of odorous buildings on a bluff overlooking the Potomac, beside the western extremity of E street and just beyond the Naval Hospital in one of the quietest and least traveled sections of Washington. Its old name was as unexciting as its location is hidden from beaten trails—as its work has been insulated from popular acclaim.

Despite its unpretentious and insulated nature, the USPHS and NIH central research establishment at E Street, NW, provided, as the article noted, “the core of basic studies within the ground realms of medical science as carried on under the aegis of the Federal Government.”<sup>48</sup>

The May 1930 legislation establishing the NIH, in combination with the Public Buildings Act of 1926, appropriated \$750,000 for the physical expansion of the NIH. On March 2, 1933, USPHS officials laid the cornerstone for a third building on the lower campus. This building (East Building) would serve as an administrative office, library, and reading room for the new NIH. Many prominent federal officials participated in the building’s cornerstone ceremony: Ferry K. Heath, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department; Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming; Dr. Lewis R. Thompson, Assistant Surgeon General in Charge of Scientific Research; Dr. George W. McCoy, Director of the NIH; and former Senator Joseph E. Ransdell, a member of the NIH Conference Board.

During the spring of 1933, USPHS also erected a fourth and final building on Observatory Hill’s lower campus. The South Building, the largest building on the site, was commissioned to serve as additional research laboratory and office space for the NIH. The building would house numerous offices, laboratories, animal rooms and other similar spaces. With the construction of

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<sup>47</sup> This section is based on Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex and Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex.

<sup>48</sup> A.H. Ulm, “They Attack Death’s Arsenal for Us,” *The Washington Post*, 2 November 1930, cited in Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex, 8-6.

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this new building, the 1921 South Building became known as the Central Building. The consolidated USPHS Headquarters building (1932) originally planned for the lower campus was instead constructed several blocks away at 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW.

While the landscape of the lower campus was little altered during the 1920s, the construction of the two NIH buildings in 1933 brought significant changes that made physical its status as a separate entity. At the north end, the drive connecting the Naval Hospital to the NIH campus was removed and a separate entrance from E Street, NW, was constructed. Land south of the Central Building was re-graded approximately 10 to 15 feet lower than its previous level and a retaining wall running north-south was constructed along the border between the NIH and the Naval Hospital. The placement of the Central and South buildings created a central quadrangle. A new road ran along the north and east sides of the Central Building, parallel with the retaining wall and continuing south of the South Building where it connected with the old outlet on the 25<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, alignment. A terrace was built on the south side of the South Building.

Dedicating the lower campus to the NIH proved another short-lived remedy, as expanding the role of the NIH became an immediate priority for the Roosevelt Administration. After the Social Security Act of 1936 provided additional health research funding, the NIH announced the start of a "war on cancer." In addition, the Roosevelt Administration became interested in the consolidation of federal health functions as part of an overall reorganization of the federal bureaucracy. A reorganization act dated April 3, 1939, transferred the USPHS from the U.S. Treasury Department to the Federal Security Agency (FSA); the FSA, in turn, became the umbrella agency for many domestic social agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration. The Reorganization Act combined the health, education, and welfare agencies of the federal government. The USPHS evolved from a:

small organization devoted solely to the medical care of American merchant seamen, to a national health agency, broad in scope and manifold in functions which affect directly or indirectly the health of the people.<sup>49</sup>

The Roosevelt Administration also sought to centralize the functions of the USPHS and NIH onto one large, medical complex. On August 10, 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson made a gift of forty-five acres of their "Tree Tops" estate in Bethesda, Maryland to the federal government. Three years later, on June 30, 1938, the USPHS laid the cornerstone of what would become Building 1 for the NIH. On October 31, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the new buildings and grounds of the NIH. By the end of 1941, the USPHS and the NIH almost completely vacated the lower campus, which had served as the home of the Hygienic Laboratory and then the NIH for nearly four decades, for the newly consolidated campus at Bethesda.

### The Office of Strategic Services<sup>50</sup>

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49 Bess Furman, *A Profile of the United States Public Health Service, 1798-1948* (Bethesda, Maryland: National Institute of Health, 1973), 409, cited in *Ibid*, 8-7.

50 This section is based on Sefton et al., *Proposed E Street Complex and Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex*.

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During the year before the United States entered the World War II, the lower campus remained largely vacant as downtown Washington swarmed with defense workers and military personnel. Then, just months before Pearl Harbor, it became the headquarters of a new agency, the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI), which soon metamorphosed into the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

The OSS was a new type of agency. Preceding the United States' involvement in World War II, the federal government traditionally left intelligence activities to four relatively small offices within existing departments: the State Department handled general foreign affairs, primarily through open diplomacy; the Navy contained the Office of Naval Intelligence; the War Department, which ran the Army and the Air Force, possessed the Military Intelligence Division also known as G-2; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) contained a Special Intelligence Service to collect information in Latin America. Overall, the nation lacked centralized intelligence analysis and coordination. Important and timely information concerning foreign intelligence was occasionally shared across department lines, but no one except the president of the United States tried to collate and assess all the vital information acquired by the federal government. By the spring of 1941, developments in Europe had convinced the Roosevelt Administration that the United States now required an agency to perform such a coordinating function. Roosevelt turned to William J. Donovan to create the new agency.

William J. Donovan (1883-1959) graduated from Columbia's Law School in 1908 and subsequently practiced law in his native Buffalo. Shortly after the United States entered World War I, Donovan was made a battalion commander in the famous 69<sup>th</sup> "Fighting Irish" Regiment which would serve with great distinction in France. The regiment saw heavy combat in major offensives and, by the armistice, Donovan was the most decorated officer in the American army and had earned the nickname "Wild Bill." He returned to Buffalo as a colonel and celebrity. In the years that followed, Donovan served as the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York and deputy assistant to the U.S. Attorney General.

In June 1940, with encouragement from the Roosevelt Administration, Donovan traveled to England to study British intelligence methods and briefed President Roosevelt on his return. Donovan returned to England in late 1940 to meet with Winston Churchill and stayed to tour British positions on the Mediterranean and Eastern European fronts until March 1941. On his return, he again briefed U.S. government officials and authored a memorandum outlining the requirements for a centralized intelligence organization that would assemble information obtained by clandestine and other means.

On June 18, 1941, Roosevelt appointed Donovan head of a new Executive Office organization to be called the Office of the Coordinator of War Information (COI) and financed by unvouchered monies from the Presidential Emergency Fund, for which expenditure required no specific justification. Roosevelt authorized the COI:

To collect and analyze all information and data which may bear upon the national security, [as well as] such supplementary activities as may facilitate the securing of

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information important to the national security not now available to the government [i.e. covert activities].<sup>51</sup>

Developing the capability to aggregate and analyze such far-flung and complex data would have been a daunting task even without the pressure of unfolding events. As historian Barry Katz has noted:

With virtually no useable precedent ..., Donovan had to raise virtually from scratch an army of analysts possessed of the expertise that would allow them to operate at the same level of professionalism as the services of Great Britain, Nazi Germany, and the U.S.S.R.<sup>52</sup>

Donovan quickly recruited his "College of Cardinals," a group of prominent academics drawn largely from Ivy League universities. This core group in turn recruited more than 900 fellow researchers, representing fellow academics, scholars and intellectuals, including seven future presidents of the American Historical Association, five future presidents of the American Economic Association and two Nobel laureates, for what became the Recruiting and Analysis (R&A) Branch of the OSS.

The historical influences of Donovan's efforts were enormous. As Katz concludes:

Indeed, it is not to the war or to the CIA that we must look for the decisive impact of the Research and Analysis Branch but to that ultimate decentralized intelligence agency, the American academic establishment. Sovietology, the Area Studies movement, a particularly philosophical and historical current within the economics profession, and collaborative interdisciplinary research programs of every sort can be traced back to the wartime headquarters of the branch at 23<sup>rd</sup> and E Streets N[W].<sup>53</sup>

Despite this early focus on research, the clandestine activities function soon became an increasingly important part of the COI's portfolio. During the summer of 1941, Donovan began to assemble the nucleus of what would become the agency's clandestine services by taking over a network of overseas agents formed by a State Department employee.

Initially it had been assumed that the COI would maintain only a small staff and Donovan was provided just two rooms in the Old Executive Office Building. However, as recruiting proceeded, the new organization moved to a 6,500 square foot space in the Federal Trade Commission Building in the Federal Triangle in August 1941. Shortly thereafter, the Public Buildings Administration (PBA) advised Donovan that the COI also would be assigned the 8,800 square foot former NIH Administration Building (East Building). In response, Donovan asked

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51 Anthony Cave Brown. *The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan*. (New York; New York Times Books, 1982), 165, cited in Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex, 8-17.

52 Barry Katz, "The OSS and the Development of the Research and Analysis Branch," in George C. Chalou, *The Secret War: The Office of Strategic Services in World War II* Washington, DC; National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1981), 43, cited in Ibid.

53 Katz, 49, cited in Ibid, 8-17 & 18.



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for the other three former NIH buildings, “in the best interest of economy, efficiency, and security,” noting that the complex’s only occupants were a USPHS activity in a portion of the South Building and an Army dispensary on the first floor of the Central Building.<sup>54</sup>

By the end of November 1941, in addition to the East Building, the COI occupied the recently renovated North Building and a substantial part of the South Building, with the Central Building still occupied by the Army. By the time the U.S. entered the war, Donovan had moved his office from the Federal Trade Commission Building to Room 109 in the East Building (Illustration 16: General Donovan at Awards Ceremony in front of South Building). On December 21, 1941, the COI takeover was complete enough for Donovan’s administrative officer to request that the formal name of the complex be changed from the National Institute of Health buildings to the Coordinator of Information buildings.

For the duration of the war, the lower campus housed the planning, command and coordination functions of the international network that formed the COI and its successor, the OSS. Some employees recalled the complex helped instill an atmosphere of camaraderie, even though discussions about work projects were limited by the “need to know” model of secrecy. When air raid drills sent workers to their designated shelter in the nearby vaults of the Heurich Brewery, those who thought to bring a coffee mug enjoyed samples of the brewery’s signature Senate Beer and Old Heurich Ale.

During the agency’s early days, many COI staff members remembered sharing the campus with NIH laboratory animals. Just weeks before the COI took over the East Building, the *Washington Post* regaled readers with a series of articles about an NIH monkey who had fled the campus and led his keepers on a chase that ended with a dip in the Tidal Basin.<sup>55</sup> These wildlife tales apparently enjoyed such wide circulation that they were picked up by Berlin Radio, which on December 26, 1941, informed its listeners that the United States had formed an espionage and sabotage agency staffed by “fifty professors, twenty monkeys, ten goats, twelve guinea pigs, and a staff of Jewish scribblers.”<sup>56</sup>

Even before the exponential expansion of the COI staff after Pearl Harbor, the former NIH buildings could not fully accommodate the agency’s needs. By October 1941, Donovan had had plans drawn for a dedicated COI building, to be erected south of the existing lower campus buildings. However, no construction ever took place. After the United States declared war, the COI’s staff and space requirements continued to grow prodigiously. A week after Pearl Harbor, the COI had 596 employees, and, by March 1942, 1,300 employees. By June 1942, the COI had more than doubled its Washington holdings, requisitioning space off-campus in nearby temporary buildings, the USPHS Headquarters building and even the Library of Congress.

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54 William J. Donovan to John W. Carmody, unpublished letter of August 29, 1941, National Archives Records Group 226, Entry 132, Box 9, cited in *Ibid*, 8-18.

55 Scott Hart. “Valiant Monkey Wins Ovation,” *Washington Post*; Jul 31, 1941,1 and “Monkey Shows No Ill Effects,” *Washington Post*; Aug 2, 1941,11, cited in *Ibid*, 8-19.

56 Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service Intercept, December 26, 1941, quoted in Brown, *The Last Hero*, 174, cited in *Ibid*, 8-19 & 20.

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The OSS was established by a Presidential military order issued by President Roosevelt on June 13, 1942, superseding the COI. The establishment of the OSS reflected the increasing importance of clandestine and covert operations to the war effort. There was no precedent in America for clandestine warfare on this scale and the curriculum for training the operatives as well as their instructors and managers, had to be pieced together from orthodox military materials and techniques borrowed from British intelligence.<sup>57</sup> Despite this lack of a model, these efforts were bearing fruit by the time of the COI's transformation into the OSS. Counter-espionage activities blunted the threat of Axis invasions of Ireland and neutral, but fascist leaning, Spain and Portugal. The OSS provided key intelligence for the invasion of French-held North Africa. By the time the invasion took place in November 1942, the OSS was moving full scale into overseas operations. In December 1942, it formally received responsibility for conducting "psychological warfare" on behalf of the Joint Chiefs.

The lower campus of Observatory Hill continued to serve as the headquarters and administrative offices of the OSS throughout the war. By June 1943, OSS occupied all four buildings in the campus. The staff purportedly referred to the East Building as "The Kremlin" as this building housed the administrative offices for the OSS. The Central Building housed various laboratories and examination rooms, in which medical, dental, and eye exams of potential OSS operatives and war enlistees were undertaken. The South Building accommodated a cafeteria, ancillary offices for various OSS staff and extra storage space. However, as the OSS continually adapted to changing conditions throughout the war, staff, functions and activities moved from location to location within the complex and among the agency's many off-campus locations in Washington and beyond.

At its peak in late 1944, the OSS employed almost 1,300 men and women in multiple locations. The second half of 1944 saw the four lower campus buildings inherited from NIH utilized to their maximum extent, as evidenced by a July 29, 1944 headquarters-wide survey. Although its command and upper management tended to remain in place, many of the 50 branches or divisions of the OSS migrated among its buildings. The agency operated in a state of constant flux, with the headquarters population varying by hundreds each month as staff departed for or returned from overseas.

The North Building sometimes referred to as the Executive Staff Building, housed administrative units, consuming about 12,000 of the approximately 17,000 square feet of space in the North Building; the remainder was devoted to the building's original purpose, laboratory space. The tunnel from the North Building provided access to the Central Building which housed intelligence and psychological warfare staffs. Other intelligence support activities in the building were the Current Intelligence and Censorship Divisions, which processed intercepts of cables, letters and telephone summaries and counterfeited identity documents, and the Special Relations Office, which served as the OSS liaison with foreign missions and legations as well as other federal agencies. Special Relations also worked with the State Department to provide cover identities for the numerous undercover operatives serving on embassy staffs and acted as a portal

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<sup>57</sup> Brown, 119, cited in Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex, 8-21.

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for the clandestine transmission of information between agents in the field and their managers in Washington through the diplomatic pouch system.

On the second floor of the Central Building, the Planning Staff and Planning Group, created by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to coordinate strategic service and military operations also oversaw the military program for psychological warfare. This group included such later-day eminences as historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, CIA Director Richard Helms and Common Cause founder and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare John W. Gardner.

The entire lower floor of the Central Building was devoted to a laboratory for the Research and Design (R&D) Branch, which developed special weapons and equipment necessary for subversive warfare, such as time delay fuses, pocket incendiary devices, silent pistols for stealth attacks, edible explosives and abrasive materials for sabotaging gasoline engines. Its Documentation Division prepared false passports and identity cards, while its Camouflage Division created disguises for agents and equipment to conceal explosive charges. Its Special Assistance Division formulated tablets to help agents resist interrogation, as well as suicide pills.

Throughout the war, the East Building was the command center of the OSS. William J. Donovan's office was at the southeast corner of the first floor. Donovan's personal staff and assistants occupied adjacent suites. For a time, his staff included a young Californian named Julia McWilliams, who would subsequently transfer to Ceylon and marry a State Department official, Paul Child, to become Julia Child. The largest unit in the East Building was the Message Center, which included a Cryptographic Security Section. The East Building also contained the Office of the General Counsel, which performed conventional responsibilities legal functions, but also fulfilled some unique responsibilities such as overseeing the chartering of cover corporations for clandestine operations, the procedures for the disbursement of funds from secret moneys and information regarding war crimes.

The South Building, which was roughly the size of the North, Central and East buildings combined, housed several of the largest staffs on the campus. Besides the Naval Command, Security, OSS Theatre Group, Courier Offices and various units of the R&A Branch, its occupants included large contingents from the Communications and R&D Branches. The Communications Branch maintained the secure cable and wireless network that linked agents, overseas stations, headquarters and military facilities and included an engineering section with its own research and development staff that developed solutions for communication problems unique to covert and clandestine operations. Much description of these activities was redacted when the OSS Official History was declassified in the late 1970s. However, it is known that the Communications Branch developed the "Joan-Eleanor" system, which utilized the Very High Frequency band to link a clandestine operator with a portable radio on the ground to an airborne radio operator without requiring encrypted telegraphy. "Joan-Eleanor" was hailed as one of the "most successful wireless intelligence gathering operations, saving millions of lives by shortening the war."<sup>58</sup>

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58 Wolfgang Saxon. "Al Gross, Inventor of Gizmos with Potential, Dies at 82," New York Times, January 2, 2001, cited in Ibid, 8-26.

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In late 1944, General Donovan submitted to President Roosevelt a memorandum proposing that the OSS be converted into a permanent peacetime intelligence organization. He proposed a powerful, centralized, civilian agency that would coordinate all the intelligence services of the United States. Donovan's plan met heavy opposition from the military services, State Department and FBI. President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, before responding.

Just two months after the Japanese surrender, on September 20, 1945, President Harry S Truman signed Executive Order 9621, abolishing the OSS. Although abolished, the analytic, collection and counterintelligence functions of the OSS transferred on a smaller scale to the State and War departments. During the early months of 1946, the OSS Headquarters was shut down and most of its physical resources were disposed. Following his resignation, Donovan returned to the practice of law and retired from public life, other than briefly serving as ambassador to Thailand during the Eisenhower Administration.

### **Central Intelligence Agency<sup>59</sup>**

In response to the policy debate that ensued from Donovan's proposed plan, President Harry S. Truman established the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) in January 1946, taking into account the views of the military services, the State Department and the FBI. The CIG functioned under the direction of the National Intelligence Authority composed of a presidential representative and the secretaries of State, War and Navy. The CIG was charged with collecting strategic intelligence, providing strategic warning and conducting clandestine activities, marking a historic extension of the central intelligence agency functions beyond wartime.

Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union rose sharply at the close of the war as communist-dominated governments spread through Eastern Europe and communist-influenced nationalists established the Korean People's Republic. Against this backdrop, in September 1947, President Truman signed into law the National Security Act, which established the National Security Council and transformed the CIG into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), an independent agency with its own budget. The 1947 act charged the CIA with coordinating the nation's intelligence activities and correlating, evaluating and disseminating intelligence activities that affect national security. The act also established and defined the director of Central Intelligence (DCI) as not only the head of the CIA but as the head of the intelligence community responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods and principal intelligence adviser to the president of the United States. The CIA began operations on September 18, 1947.

It appears that, by September 1947, Admiral Hillenkoetter, DCI, had joined at least a portion of the newly-formed CIA staff, moving his office to the East or Administration Building. Until the present CIA campus opened in Langley, Virginia in 1961, CIA headquarters remained on Observatory Hill. During this period, the agency's use of the campus buildings reflected its own changing structure, which was shaped by national security policy and geopolitical forces.

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<sup>59</sup> This section is based on Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex and Young, Draft 2430 E Street NW Complex.

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The early years of the CIA saw the development of a chronic state of economic and political conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, which would become known as the "Cold War." The CIA responded by forming the Special Procedures Branch in February 1948 to conduct psychological operations affecting public opinion and the Office of Special Operations of Policy Coordination, the United States' first peacetime covert action group.

Following the recommendations from the report of a commission chaired by an OSS alumnus, Allen Dulles, in 1949, Congress passed the Central Intelligence Agency Act, which supplemented the 1947 act by permitting the CIA to use confidential fiscal and administrative procedures and exempting the CIA from many of the usual limitations on the expenditure of federal funds. The act provided that CIA funds could be included in the budgets of other departments and then transferred to the Agency without regard to the restrictions placed on the initial appropriation. The 1949 act ultimately created the framework out of which the CIA currently operates.

In 1953, President Eisenhower appointed Allen Dulles to be the first civilian DCI. Dulles, a lawyer and diplomat, was the brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. The two brothers served nearly parallel terms: Allen Dulles (1953-1961) and John Foster Dulles (1953-1959). Dulles, the longest-serving CIA director to date, oversaw the agency through the early years of the Cold War, a period which saw significant expansion of the agency's size and scope. During the Eisenhower Administration, the CIA "metamorphosed into the shape of its OSS parent" as an organization that combined both analysis and covert action.<sup>60</sup> Clandestine operations and their support absorbed 54 percent of the agency's budget from 1953 to 1961. In tandem with the State Department, the "CIA played a crucial role as the other voice of U.S. foreign policy, and as the arm of hidden force with which the United States could take direct action without the overt use of its uniformed services."<sup>61</sup>

These clandestine and covert operations dominate most accounts of the CIA written about this period. Examples include the proposed assassinations of foreign leaders and the Bay of Pigs invasion, failure of which led to the replacement of Allen Dulles as DCI in 1961. The CIA staff on Observatory Hill's lower campus managed these operations, provided technical support and conducted research in new technologies, while performing the agency's core function of collecting and analyzing information from all sources for the guidance of the president.

The CIA's tenure on the lower campus was like that of the OSS. Driven by successive international crises, its personnel and functions rapidly expanded, overflowing its command centers in the headquarters buildings. The South Building was described as "bursting at the seams" in 1950, a year in which the agency operated on a "war footing" with a six-day work week. The Office of Special Operations, charged with carrying out espionage and counter-espionage, doubled to 1,200 employees between January 1951 and January 1953, while the

<sup>60</sup> Stephen E. Ambrose. *Ike's Spies*. (New York: Doubleday; 1981), 181, cited in Sefton et al., Proposed E Street Complex DC Historic, 8-32.

<sup>61</sup> John Ranelagh. *The Agency*. (New York: Simon and Schuster; 1986), 340, cited in Ibid.

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Office of Research and Reports increased from a staff of 461 in January 1951 to 766 in February 1953.

Like the OSS, the CIA distributed and redistributed activities among buildings in a constant struggle to fit new functions and increasing staff into available space, but did so over a longer period. Unlike the OSS, most detailed information about the internal organization and spatial arrangements of the CIA Headquarters is only slowly being declassified and made accessible to the public. However, the information that has been released clearly establishes that the East, Central and South buildings housed the command structure of the agency as well as vital functional units, as they had for the OSS. Also like the OSS, the CIA expanded into the temporary buildings on the Mall, as well as leased spaces around the city and throughout the Washington area.

From Admiral Hillenkoetter through Allen Dulles, the DCI maintained his headquarters in General Donovan's former office in the East Building. As with the OSS, the East Building also housed the Offices of the general counsel and the director's staff. Throughout the 1950s, the Intelligence Advisory Committee and other high-level panels met in the director's conference room on the first floor of the East Building. After the opening of the Langley Headquarters in 1961, the East Building remained in use, housing the Audio Operations functions of the Technical Services Division. In addition, the DCI retained the use of Donovan's office and conference room, because it offered more convenient access to Capitol Hill, the White House and other agencies, access which was essential during crises.

The Central Building was particularly associated with the headquarters of the CIA's Office of Medical Services (OMS) from 1948 until the move to Langley. The South Building housed a variety of operations, including much of the Communications Division, Secret Writing activities, Office of Operations, Office of Collection, Office of National Estimates and Dissemination Division. Allen Dulles retained office space on the building's second floor after his tenure as DCI ended in 1961.

CIA Director Richard Helms, who served in the OSS and joined the CIG in 1946, captured some of the flavor of the E Street campus in his memoir, *A Look Over My Shoulder*:

The former OSS premises – four masonry and two temporary wooden structures – that CIG and SSU had taken over were atop a slight knoll in the Foggy Bottom area. Our neighbors were a local brewery, a faded roller rink, an abandoned gasworks, and, just beyond walking distance, the new State Department premises.... In some ways, these shabby, essentially inconspicuous, but centrally located buildings seemed appropriate for a secret intelligence organization....<sup>62</sup>

Not surprisingly, the first request for a consolidated intelligence headquarters preceded the formation of the CIA. In 1947, CIG Director General Hoyt C. Vandenberg proposed moving the

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62 Richard Helms and William Hood, *A Look Over My Shoulder*. (New York: Random House, 2003), 73-74, cited in *Ibid.*, 8-35.

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agency from the ten separate buildings it then occupied to a modern structure capable of accommodating all employees beneath one roof.

For nearly a decade, each new DCI reiterated these requests, but construction and design activities remained stalled for lack of funding. In 1951, Congress authorized an expenditure of \$38,000,000 for a headquarters building, but no funds were appropriated. The mix of urban and suburban locations considered for a consolidated CIA Headquarters reflected intelligence considerations, civil defense policy and logistical realities. Although suburbanization was already a dramatic socioeconomic trend in the early 1950s, the search for federal office sites outside the city was given impetus by the dispersion standards for federal offices promulgated by the Office of Defense Management (ODM) and intended to limit vulnerability to nuclear strikes on the Pentagon, Capitol or White House.

Suburban locations considered for the CIA included sites in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax, “the Casey Tract” near Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Suitland Federal Center site in Maryland. Allen Dulles was originally a proponent of expanding the campus on Observatory Hill. He argued that agency headquarters should hide in plain sight, in “a building with so many services and visitors that identification of a secret staff and their visitors would be rendered difficult.”<sup>63</sup> Dulles was partial to maintaining a location close to the State and Defense Departments, as well as the White House. In 1954, he requested a dispensation from the ODM dispersion requirements. However, Dulles was ultimately overruled by Eisenhower, who stated that “[t]his town is so cluttered up now you can’t get from one end to the other, and you are going to get out of town.”<sup>64</sup> Eisenhower ultimately approved the Fairfax site, a tract of largely federally owned land in Langley, Virginia, laying the cornerstone there on November 3, 1959. The first employees moved into the new CIA headquarters on September 20, 1961.

The suburban relocation of CIA headquarters dovetailed with the urban renewal program of the 1950s. In 1956, much of Foggy Bottom was included in urban renewal plans to facilitate the expansion of the George Washington University campus and the construction of an inner loop freeway along the north shore of the Potomac. With the relocation of the CIA, the freeway stage of the urban renewal project could commence. By early 1962, temporary buildings Q and M were being razed. Demolition of the North Building to make way for the E Street Expressway, a project that also claimed the Heurich Brewery, started in May 1963.

Many of the CIA technical service workshops and research facilities remained on the campus until it finally shifted to State Department control in 1987. Since that time, the State Department has inhabited the E Street campus for a variety of high security operations.

### **Planning for Observatory Hill’s Future**

In 2014, GSA, in cooperation with DOS began preparing a master plan to inform the future development of the entire 11.7-acre Observatory Hill property, currently known as Potomac Hill,

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63 Peter Grose. *Gentleman Spy: The Life of Allen Dulles*. (London: Andre Deutsch, 1994), 417, cited in Ibid, 8-36.

64 Excerpts from an Interview with Former CIA Executive Director Lawrence K. “Red” White, *50 Years in Langley: Recollections of the Construction of CIA’s Original Headquarters Building*, 1. Online at <http://www.cia.gov>, viewed August 1, 2013, cited in Ibid, 8-37.

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for DOS. The agency's headquarters are located adjacent to the campus at 2201 C Street, NW, in the Harry S Truman Building, and in multiple leased spaces nearby. Since its establishment in 1949, GSA has controlled the lower campus. In 2012, GSA acquired custody and control of the upper campus from the Navy in order to accommodate additional DOS offices. At this time, the upper campus buildings are undergoing rehabilitation for use by DOS. Buildings 6 and 7 were transferred to the USIP in 2012 and are used for offices. Officers' quarters AA, BB, and CC remain in Navy ownership and continue to be used for their original purpose. Although not in GSA ownership, these five buildings are included in the present nomination in consideration of their contributing relationship to the historic complex.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(See Continuation Sheet)

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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 (Old Naval Observatory)  
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # DC-341  
☐ 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 (GSA, National Capital Region and Center for Historic Buildings)  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acres of Property** 14.6 acres

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

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

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: -77.050126 | Longitude: 38.895778 |
| 2. Latitude: -77.050274 | Longitude: 38.893334 |
| 3. Latitude: -77.052057 | Longitude: 38.893576 |
| 4. Latitude: -77.053331 | Longitude: 38.894741 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927    or    ☐ NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The district is bounded by E Street, NW, on the north, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, on the east, the south face of Building 7 and the southern edge of the parking lot behind Building 6 on the south, and the E Street Expressway (a spur of Interstate 66 [I-66]) access ramps on the west.

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

The boundaries encompass all that remains of the original Observatory Hill and the extant federal development dating to the period of significance, 1844-1961. The 14.6 acres includes the 11.7 acres currently owned by GSA as well as the quarters AA, BB and CC, owned by the Navy, and buildings 6 & 7, owned by USIP.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: compiled by Elizabeth Hannold from various documents cited in footnotes  
organization: GSA, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Historic Buildings  
street & number: 1800 F Street, NW  
city or town: Washington state: D.C. zip code: 20405  
e-mail elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov  
telephone: (202) 501-2863  
date: July 2016

### 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 (See Continuation Sheet)

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

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Date Photographed:

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

1 of \_\_\_\_.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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1. **Other names/site number:** E Street Complex; Navy Hill; Potomac Annex; Old Naval Observatory Historic District; Depot of Charts and Instruments; U.S. Naval Observatory and Hydrographics Office; National Observatory; U.S. Naval Museum of Hygiene; U.S. Naval Medical School and Naval Hospital; Washington Naval Hospital; Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Naval Medical Center; Hygienic Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service, Public Health and Marine Hospital Service Hygienic Laboratory; National Institute of Health Headquarters; Office of Strategic Services; Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters; Potomac Hill

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Mullen, John P. (Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.)

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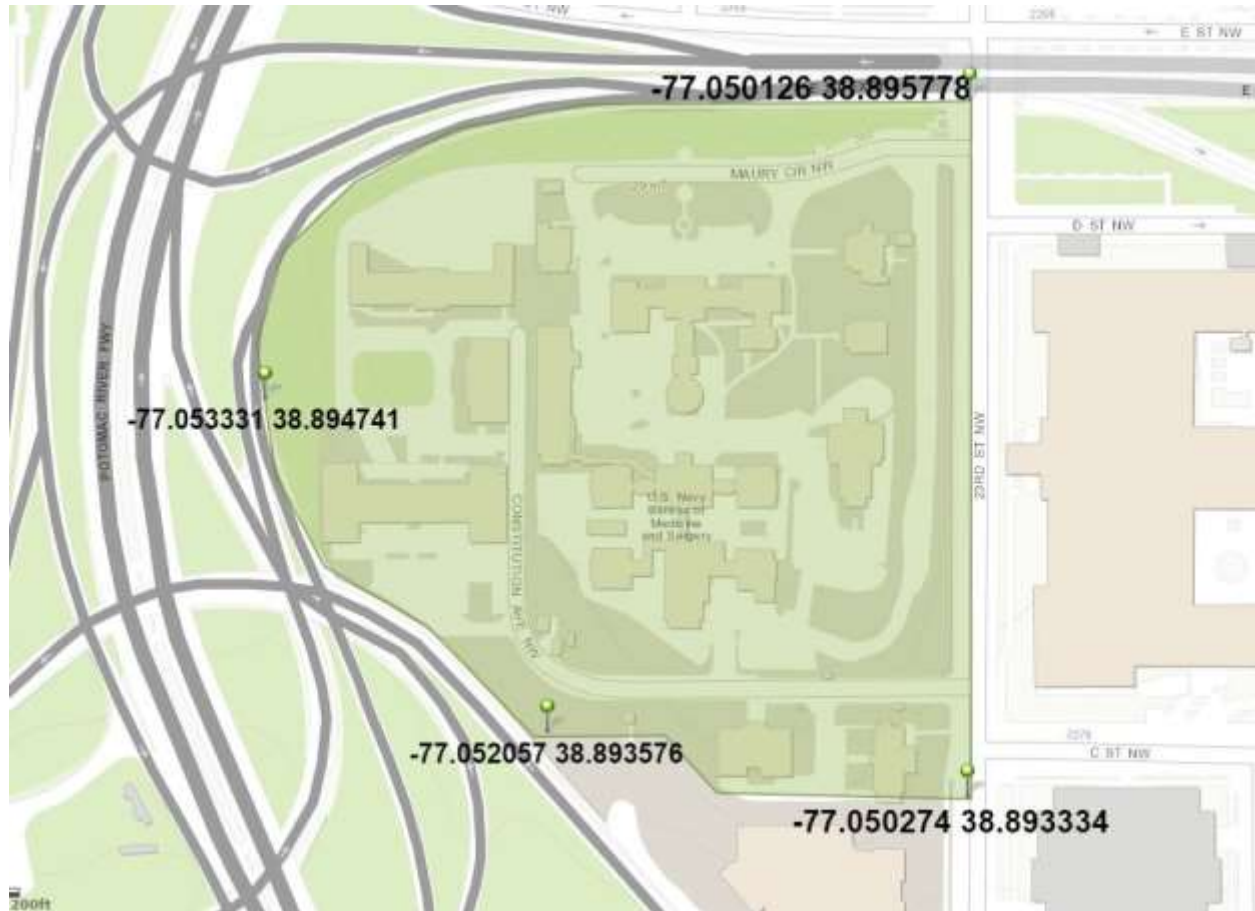
Young, Emma (AD Marble & Co.)

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## Geographical Map with Latitude/Longitude Coordinates





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Observatory Hill Photolog			
Number _ of 58	Title	Date	Photographer/Source
0001	Building 2, north elevation, looking SW	2007	The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (Louis Berger)
0002	Building 2, east wing, east and south and elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0003	Building 2, south wing, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0004	Building 2, west and south elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0005	Building 3, north and east elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0006	Building 3, central block, north elevation, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0007	Building 3, entry portico, north elevation, looking South	2007	Louis Berger
0008	Building 3, east and south elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0009	Buildings 3 & 25, south and west elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0010	Buildings 3 & 4 Hyphen, west and north elevations, looking SE	2007	Louis Berger
0011	Building 3 walkway to Building 1, looking SE	2007	Louis Berger
0012	Building 4, east wing, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0013	Building 4, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0014	Building 4, west wing, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0015	Building 1, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0016	Building 1, east elevation, original block, looking West	2007	Louis Berger
0017	Building 1, east elevation, southern extension, looking West	2007	Louis Berger
0018	Building 1, south elevation, looking North	2007	Louis Berger
0019	Buildings 1 & 3 walkway, looking West	2007	Louis Berger
0020	Building 6, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0021	Quarters AA, west elevation, looking East	2007	Louis Berger
0022	Quarters AA, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0023	Quarters AA, south and west elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0024	Quarters BB, west elevation, looking East	2007	Louis Berger
0025	Quarters BB, north and west elevations, looking SE	2007	Louis Berger
0026	Quarters BB, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0027	Quarters CC, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger

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Observatory Hill Photolog			
Number _ of 58	Title	Date	Photographer/Source
0028	Building 7, west and south elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0029	Building 5, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0030	Building 5, south and west elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0031	Building 25, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0032	Building 332 (Quarters AA Garage) and Quarters AA, east elevations, looking West	2007	Louis Berger
0033	Building 333 (Quarters BB Garage) and Quarters BB, east and south elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0034	Building 334 (Quarters CC Garage) and Quarters CC, north and east elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0035	Northeast Gatehouse, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0036	Southeast Gatehouse and Building 7, east and north elevations, looking SW	2007	Louis Berger
0037	Southeast Guardhouse, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0038	Utility Building, south and east elevations, looking NW	2007	Louis Berger
0039	Two Garages, west and south elevations, looking NE	2007	Louis Berger
0040	Bus Kiosk, south and east elevations, looking SE	2007	Louis Berger
0041	Benjamin Rush Statue and Building 2, north elevation, looking South	2007	Louis Berger
0042	Benjamin Rush Statue and flag pole in Maury Circle, looking North	2007	Louis Berger
0043	Central Building, south elevation, looking NE	2007	E. Amisson, A.D. Marble & Co. (A.D. Marble)
0044	Central Building, south elevation, portico, looking North	2013	Peter Sefton, D.C. Preservation League (DCPL)
0045	Central Building, north elevation, looking SW	2007	A.D. Marble
0046	East Building, west elevation, looking East	2013	DCPL
0047	East Building, south and east elevations, looking NW	2013	DCPL
0048	East Building, north elevation, with retaining wall in background, looking SE	2007	A.D. Marble
0049	East Building, interior, General Donovan's office, desk area	2013	DCPL
0050	South Building, north elevation, looking South	2007	A.D. Marble
0051	South Building, north elevation, entrance, looking SW	2013	DCPL

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Observatory Hill Photolog			
Number _ of 58	Title	Date	Photographer/Source
0052	South Building, east elevation, looking SW	2013	DCPL
0053	South Building, south elevation, looking NW	2007	A.D. Marble
0054	South Building, exterior stairway from terrace to parking lot, with expressway beyond, looking West	2007	A.D. Marble
0055	View North, from behind Quarters BB and AA	2014	Louis Berger
0056	View East, between Building 5 and Building 7	2014	Louis Berger
0057	View East, from in front of Building 2	2014	Louis Berger
0058	View Southwest, from Southeast corner of Building 4	2014	Louis Berger

\*Although some photographs are more than 5 years old, they accurately reflect the current conditions of Observatory Hill.

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Observatory Hill Illustration List		
Number	Title	Source
1	1792 Ellicott Plan of Washington	Library of Congress <a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002709096/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002709096/</a>
2	Nineteenth Century Depiction of the Naval Observatory, View to Southeast, n.d.	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Medical Department
3	Aerial View of the Hygienic Laboratory with the North and Central Buildings in the foreground and Animal House at Rear, ca. 1919	History of Medicine Division, National Institutes of Health <a href="http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&amp;q=A030034&amp;sort=Title%2CSubject_MeSH_Term%2CCreator_Person%2CCreator_Organization&amp;search=Search">http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&amp;q=A030034&amp;sort=Title%2CSubject_MeSH_Term%2CCreator_Person%2CCreator_Organization&amp;search=Search</a>
4	1844 Strickland Plan of the Naval Observatory	National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, Record Group 71
5	1791 L'Enfant Dotted Line Map Showing the Original Topography of Observatory Hill	Library of Congress <a href="http://www.loc.gov/item/88694203/">http://www.loc.gov/item/88694203/</a>
6	1801 Lithograph of Georgetown and Washington, D.C. Showing Observatory Hill in the Mid-ground	Library of Congress <a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002695146/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002695146/</a>
7	1951 Aerial View of Observatory Hill	U.S. Geological Survey
8	1964 Aerial View of Observatory Hill Showing the E Street Freeway	U.S. Geological Survey
9	Bauman Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, ca. 1873	United States Naval Observatory Library, Washington, DC
10	South View of Tree-lined <i>Allée</i> , 1888	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Medical Department
11	Plan of the Naval Hospital, 1912	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Medical Department
12	View of the North Building, Flagpole, and Stairs from E Street	History of Medicine Division, National Institutes of Health <a href="http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&amp;q=A030034&amp;sort=Title%2CSubject_MeSH_Term%2CCreator_Person%2CCreator_Organization&amp;search=Search">http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&amp;q=A030034&amp;sort=Title%2CSubject_MeSH_Term%2CCreator_Person%2CCreator_Organization&amp;search=Search</a>
13	1939 Baist Map	<i>Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia</i> . G.W. Baist Company, Philadelphia.
14	Fence and Gas Light at the Naval Observatory Building, n.d.	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Medical Department
15	View of Georgetown from Observatory Hill (Sachse 1855)	Library of Congress <a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98515954/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98515954/</a>
16	General Donovan at Award Ceremony in front of South Building	OSS Society

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### Observatory Hill Illustrations

#### 1. 1792 Ellicott Plan of Washington



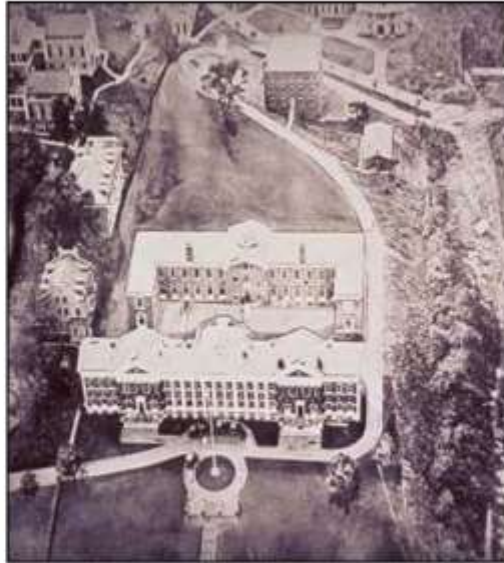
#### 2. Nineteenth Century Depiction of the Naval Observatory, View to Southeast



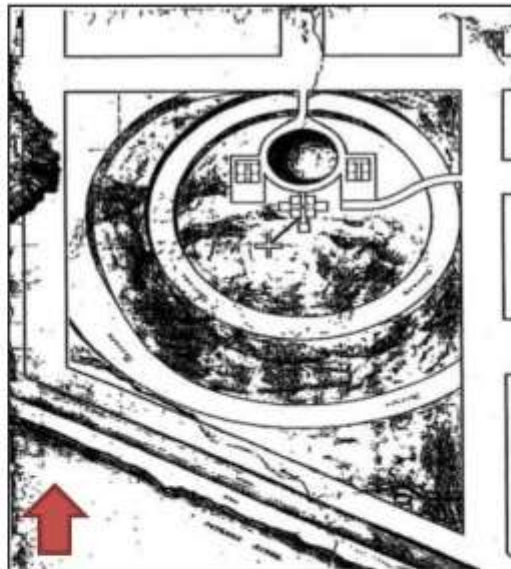
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3. Aerial View of the Hygienic Laboratory, circa 1919, North and Central Buildings in Foreground and Animal Building at Rear, ca. 1919



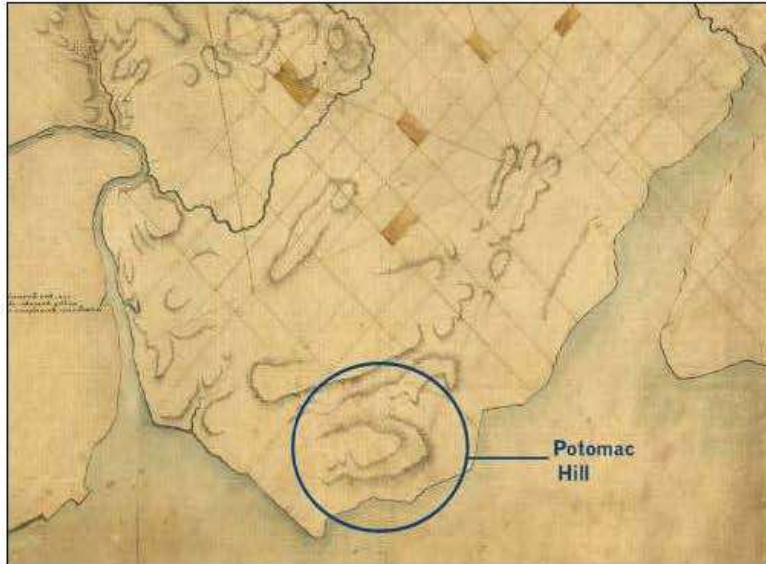
4. 1844 Strickland Plan of the Naval Observatory



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5. 1791 L'Erfant Dotted Line Map Showing the Original Topography of Observatory Hill



6. 1801 Lithograph of Georgetown and Washington, D.C. Showing Observatory Hill in the Midground





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7. 1951 Aerial View of Observatory Hill



8. 1964 Aerial View of Observatory Hill Showing the E Street Freeway

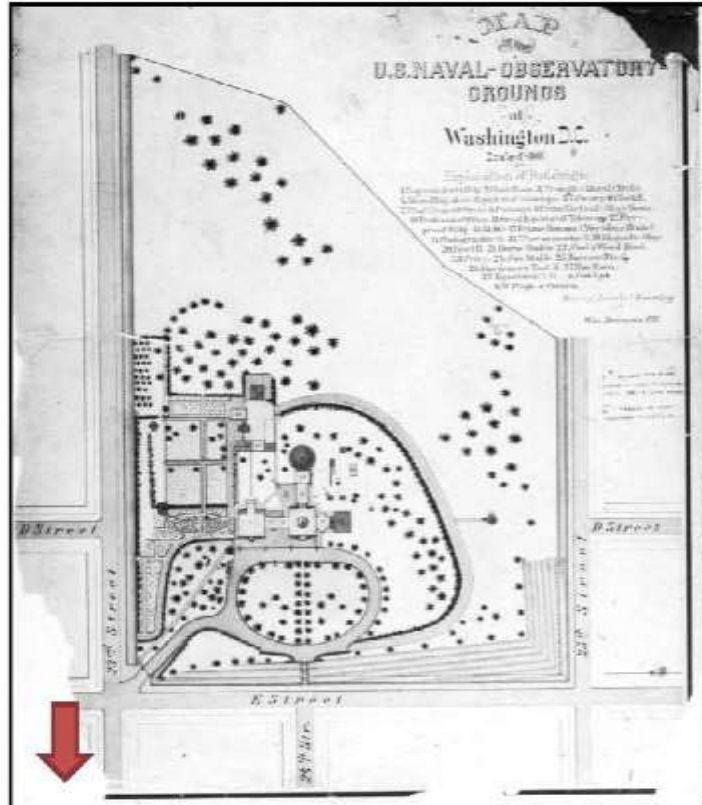




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9. Bauman Map of the U.S. Naval Observatory Grounds, circa 1873



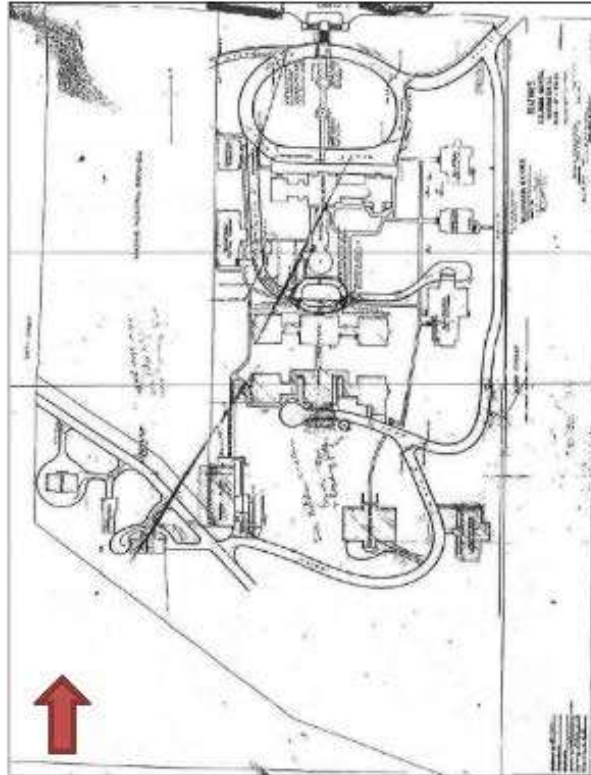
10. South View of Tree-lined Allée, 1888



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11. Plan of the Naval Hospital, 1912



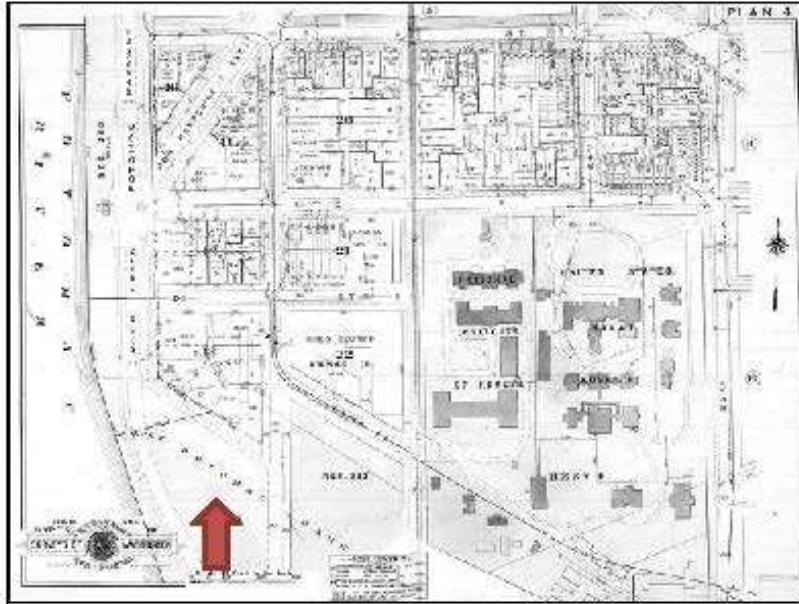
12. View of the North Building, Flagpole, and Stairs from E Street



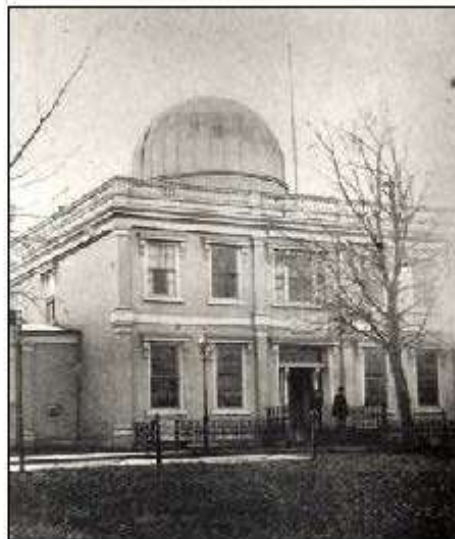
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13. 1939 Baist Map



14. Gas Light at the Naval Observatory Building



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15. View of Georgetown from Observatory Hill (Sachse 1855)



16. General Donovan at Awards Ceremony in front of South Building

