

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 1**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Other Name/Site Number: _____

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE Not for publication: _____

City/Town: Washington Vicinity: _____

State: DC County: N/A Code: 001 Zip Code: 20032

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: _____
Public-local: X
Public-State: _____
Public-Federal: _____

Category of Property

Building(s): _____
District: X
Site: _____
Structure: _____
Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

80
1
1
82

Noncontributing

15 buildings
 sites
 structures
 objects
15 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 82

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 2

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register 25 April, 1979
____ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
____ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
____ Removed from the National Register _____
____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 3**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	Health Care Funerary	Sub:	Hospital Cemetery
Current:	Health Care	Sub:	Hospital

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Gothic Revival (Center Building)	Foundation: Stone
Period Revival (Others)	Walls: Brick
	Roof: Metal (Painted)
	Other Description: _____

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

A brief description of the building complex follows. The numbers correspond to the site plan. All of these structures are described in the Hospitals records and Annual Reports.

1 and 2. The Center Building (1859-1874)

On March 3, 1855, organization of the Hospital was belatedly approved by Act of Congress, although the first patient is known to have been admitted to the Center Building on January 15 of that year. The Center Building initially housed the entire hospital. It was designed by architect Thomas U. Walter. Mister Stirni of the hospital reports that the hospital is in possession of correspondence between Dr. Nichols and Dr. Kirkbride about the design of the Center Building.

The superintendent's (Dr. Nichols) report, dated October 1, 1858, stated that the three sections of the wings were all under roof. "The first section of the west wing was plastered, as all sash, which are of iron were glazed and ready to be hung. The first and second sections of the east wing were plastered, and all sash, which are of iron were glazed and ready to be hung. The first and second sections of the east wing were in the hands of plasterers. All the walls of the Center have been raised to

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 4**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

their full height. The rear exterior walls had reached the foot of the 3rd story, and the front foot of the second story."

The brickwork of the Center was described as having been somewhat retarded by the impracticability of burning in each kiln, more than a few thousand of the very superior bricks with which its outer walls were being faced. The superintendent confidently expected to get the "whole" under roof before the close of the season.

On October 1, 1860, Dr. Nichols wrote that the plan of the main edifice (Center Building and its wings) has been appropriately denominated an echelon. He described it as a modification of the Kirkbride or Trenton plan, and that it was thought to embrace peculiar advantages in respect to classification, light, and spontaneous ventilation in presenting the broken outline of a castle or villa. Dr. Nichols described the facade of the building as collegiate Gothic style.

The Center Building is enriched by buttresses on the corners. An oriel window and other neo-gothic windows have largely been replaced. Windows still are decorated with cast iron hood moldings. Embattled parapets add richness to the facades. The exterior is of red brick, from clay dug and burned on the premises, on a foundation of gneiss, with a painted metal roof. The interior was divided into various suites of apartments adapted to the condition of the patients.

Originally, the Center Building housed also the kitchen, chapel and apartment for the superintendent. Five superintendents, from Dr. Charles H. Nichols (1855) to Dr. Charles Overholser (1962) have lived here.

A narrow gauge railroad for kitchen and other supplies runs the length of the basement, partially along a steam tunnel. It has been out of service since 1969. A pedestrian communications tunnel, which is part of the campus wide system of such tunnels runs below the railroad tunnel. The heating is a coal fired gravity system providing more than ample heat, particularly at the upper floors.

The Board of Visitors report for 1859 stated that the plan of heating was hot water circulation and the ventilating power was a fan, 12 feet in diameter, propelled by a 24-horse engine. A communication to the Secretary of the Interior, October 1, 1859,

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 5**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

stated that the heating and ventilating equipment was manufactured the previous summer. It was believed to be the first instance in this country in which the attempt had been made to heat in this way a building of this size and extent upon the ground. There were four boilers, two of which were placed in an air chamber under the west wing, near its junction with the Center, and the others in a corresponding situation under the east wing. The boilers had water jackets exterior to all fire surfaces and became efficient radiators.

Interconnected additions to the main building are:

3. West Wing (1853)
4. East Wing (1858)
5. Garfield (1872)
6. Pine (1884)
8. Willow (1895)
15. Staff Residence No. 1 (1924)

There are a number of small cottages scattered about the grounds that are modest brick or frame, usually a square plan and are utilitarian in aspect.

17. Staff Residence No. 2 (1924)

Same with some alterations. Brick painted white.

18. Borrows Cottage (Burroughs on site plan) (1891)

The cottage is larger than the staff cottages, 53 feet by 46 feet in plan. There is a basement, two stories and a finished story in the roof. The exterior walls are brick with brownstone trim, which was originally unpainted, but is now white. The coursing is common bond with sixth course headers. The roof is slate and has two dormers facing front, as well as one dormer on each of the other three sides. A lantern style vent sits on the peak of the square roof which is pierced by two tall English type chimneys. An illustration in the Board of Visitors Reports, 1898, shows a wood porch at the entrance with an overhead balcony at the second floor. These have been replaced by a neat,

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 6**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

contemporary, somewhat out of scale porch. There is presently also an apparently recently added porch in the rear. Windows are double hung and each sash has one vertical mullion.

The interiors are simple and utilitarian.

The building is mentioned in the Board of Visitors Report, August 28, 1891, as follows: "But the most noticeable gift of the year is that of a cottage for the insane... This is a building which a Washington lady (Mrs. C.Z. Borrows), out of generous purpose... has caused to be erected on the grounds of the hospital, and which she gives to the United States, in order that her afflicted child may have a home there while she needs it, and that at last there may be...'vacancies' at St. Elizabeth, where the residents of the District of Columbia having means, when overtaken by insanity, can be suitably accommodated without encroaching upon the rooms...for those...unable to defray the expenses of their care."

The hospital's general information brochures on the buildings there also list the construction date as 1891. According to that source, the wealthy family of a patient had the cottage built for her and her nursing staff, and after her death in 1917, the cottage was donated to the hospital. The hospital's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, states that the occupant of Borrows Cottage had died the previous year, and the property had reverted to the United States for the use of the hospital. It had been renovated and was at the time used to house married staff members. Dr. Cameron lived there while he was superintendent, and the drug addiction program was housed there for awhile.

19. Tool House (1900)

Clapboard-sides, rectangular store house on a brick foundation.

20. Greenhouses (1882, 1954, 1955)

Typical metal and glass greenhouses.

21. Gatehouse No. 1 (1874)

Gatehouse No. 1 is located at the original, north entrance to the St. Elizabeths Hospital grounds. This is a small cottage, one story and finished attic (no basement). Walls are brick, common bond, with sixth course headers on a quarried stone base. There

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 7**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

is a steep pitched roof covered with rectangular slate tiles. Two dormers face to the front and one in each of the other three directions. At the ridge of roof and dormers are bands of geometric cast iron decorations, in imitation of wrought iron, and a striking English medieval brick chimney, with the appearance of columns. All windows are double hung, and subdivided by muntins to create six panes per sash. There are brick quoins projecting one inch at the corners of the building, and window jambs and heads. Segmental brick arches span window openings. A photograph with the 1898 annual report shows an open entrance porch at the south with a steep slate roof which has since been removed and replaced by a one-story flat canopy and glass enclosed guard area. This was the original entrance to the hospital.

23. Allison D (1899)

24. Allison C (1899)

25. Allison A (1899)

26. Allison B (1899)

A cluster of buildings providing services no longer housed in the overcrowded main building. A and D are attached, B and C are free-standing. All are brick with white stone trim.

27. Staff Residence 3 (1924)

Similar to other 1920s staff cottages.

28. Linden (1893)

29. Holly (1893)

Red brick similar in style to main building.

30. Detached Nurses Home (1861, 1887)

Three story main block (1861) with a two story wing (1887). Red brick, Gothic drip molds over all windows. I plan. In the style of the T.U. Walter Main Building. Originally East Lodge.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 8

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

31. Atkins Hall (1878)

An early example of an institutional "cottage" building as opposed to monolithic institutional structures.

32. Relief Building (1979)

Central block with two wings. Also part of the cottage plan.

33. Dining Hall for Detached Buildings (1885)

It is about 60 feet by 140 feet, inside dimensions, open throughout. The structure has the shape of a basilica with ample side and clerestory windows for light and ventilation. There are a main story and a basement.

This is a brick building with common bond walls. There are segmental brick arches over doorways and windows, and a transom over each exterior doorway. At the gable ends, small Romanesque wall arcades, springing from corbels, follow the roof lines. Fifteen foot wide aisles are separated from the 20 foot wide nave (clear span) by rows of plain round columns that support roof trusses over nave and aisles. Iron tensile members extend from the apex to the bottom chord. Iron straps help tie the trusses together. The floor of the hall was originally wood, which had been replaced by mosaic tile on concrete in 1915. Walls are plaster. The roof, structure and finishes, are in good condition. The roof at the nave portion is covered with slate, and the aisles are covered with tin. The hall has had tile wainscots since the 1915, 1916 and 1917 remodelings. At the north end of the hall is a partially partitioned off area, apparently where the raised stage was once located. At the basement, cast iron columns are spaced at about 15 feet on centers, with fluted shafts, classic bases and stylized palm leaf capitals. The concrete ceiling is reinforced between columns with I-beams.

First mention of the structure has been found in the Board of Visitors Report, October 1, 1884, as follows: "...a longer brick arch (from the just completed new kitchen) becomes the subterranean avenue to the dining hall of the detached buildings. An important want is a common dining hall for the inmates of the detached building. A one-story structure, with hall of a capacity to provide for serving 600 inmates at once, arranged with suitable tables for carving and keeping the food warm, would in the case of the quiet classes of the insane be found a far more

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 9**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

satisfactory arrangement for all parties concerned than that of numerous small and scattered rooms...."

But the Board of Visitors Report, 1898, described the function of the dining hall: "Twice in the year, on New Year's and Easter Monday, the great common dining hall of the detached buildings is cleared of its tables and the inmates have a joyous dance with unconfined floor space. By working all night, the attendants have the tables back in order for the morning meal. It is worth all it costs; these two evenings are to the patients more than the amusements all the rest of the year...."

The day to day dining function was described by the Board of Visitors, September 15, 1887 as giving comfortable seating capacity to six to eight hundred patients.

Currently used for storing publications and yard equipment.

34. Detached Kitchen (1900)

Red brick, some ornament over windows. Two stories with attic.

36. Home Building (1883)

Also a "cottage" plan building.

37. Hitchcock Hall (1908)

One of the designs of the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. Brick with ornamental detail in white stone, fancy eave brackets and a red tile roof.

38. Hagan Hall (1920s)

Similar to 37.

39. Canteen (1916)

A utilitarian, small service building.

40. Circulating Library (formerly the Mortuary) (1882. Renovated 1929)

The building was originally constructed on a site 200 feet north of its present location. Its name was "Rest", and it was

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 10**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

designed as the hospital's mortuary. The Board of Visitors' Report of October 1, 1883, lists it as just completed, and that there were special arrangements made for the care and preservation of the remains of the dead until the wishes of relatives or friends could be ascertained.

Renovated in 1929 as a circulating library.

The library is located about 600 feet south of the middle portion of the Center Building at the rear of the Fire Engine House. The structure has a basement and 2 stories. The floor plan is open and rooms are well lighted and friendly. There are segmental brick arches over exterior doors and windows at the first floor. Exterior walls are common bond, unpainted white. The main floor has four rooms for reading and book storage. An audio-visual room with plaster masonry walls is in the basement. Offices are located at the second floor.

41. Fire House (1891)

The Board of Visitors Report, October 1, 1879 made first mention of a "small hand fire engine and about 400 feet of 2 1/2 inch standard leather hose.... This equipment was provided when appropriations were made.... To meet this difficulty, a Knowles fire pump has been provided, with a steam cylinder of 16" diameter, a water cylinder of 10", and 16" stroke, guaranteed to throw 4 full streams at the same time to the top of the tower of the hospital."

The Board of Visitors Report, September 15, 1887, (W.W. Godding, Superintendent) first mentions "a tower clock at some central point ...is much needed". An appropriation was asked August 17, 1888, for the purchase of "an efficient steam fire engine and to provide a suitable building for same..."

This is a brick structure with slate roof, about 25 feet by 35 feet in plan, with a 10-foot square tower attached to the east side. The main structure is two stories and an attic (no basement), and the tower is 5 stories (plus a small basement), of which the top floor is occupied by a clock facing all four directions. The 4th floor has a bell. Windows are double hung wood, and have stone sills and wood stools.

The walls are brick, common bond (6th course headers). There are decorative Victorian segmental arches over exterior windows and

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 11**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

doorways. The original arches over the two entrances to the garage have been replaced to span wider door openings. The ceiling has brick arches. A round window decorates the gables. The bell story has tripartite, lowered window openings with semi-circular arches. At the gables there are raking cornices and small raking cornices decorate the roof line at the tower. Flashing with classical molding decorates the eaves. A decorative copper point crowns the peak of the tower.

The bell is close to 3 feet tall, in good working order, and attached to a wheel with a rope, by which it is rung 3 times daily and once on Sunday. It has 2 inscriptions; one reads: "McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, Maryland 1894"; and the other side: "At morning call awake, at weepers slumber take." The clock is operated by an old mechanism with a weight.

44. Old Storeroom (1900)

Utilitarian building.

45. General Kitchen (1883 - 1890)**46. Bakery (1878 - 1910)**

Two of the support buildings for the main building.

47. West Lodge (1856 - 1884)

Brick, style similar to T.U. Walter main building. Three stories, ornament over windows.

49. Construction Shops (1899 - 1929)

Brick support building.

52. Ice Plant (1892)

Fieldstone. Support building.

53. Tool House (1895)

Service building.

55. Locomotive House (1947)

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 12**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

56. and 57. Power House (1902)

One story, brick. Two large smoke stacks. Service building.

60. J Building (1902)

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, Architects. Handsome red brick structure with white stone trim. Pronounced corner quoins, large red-tiled over-hanging roof. Central ventilator monitor on roof.

62. and 63. Transformers (1957)**64. L Building****66. K Building Q Building****69. E Building**

All 1902. Same as 60 above.

67. Staff Residence No. 5 (1924)

Similar to other Staff cottages.

70. Employee's Cafeteria (1924)

Same style as A, B and C nearby. One story, utilitarian structure.

72. M Building (1924)

Red brick, white stone trim.

73. C Building (1902)**74. Administration Building (1903)****75. B Building (1902)**

A general bid proposal form for these buildings was found in the U.S. Archives. It is dated June 22, 1901, and carries the name: Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, Architects. An inscription over the main entrance to the "A" Building reads "1902"; whereas information bulletins published by the hospital for staff orientation

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 13**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

list the opening date as 1903. The new wings at each end are listed as having been opened in the Spring of 1904.

The report to the Board of Visitors, September 15, 1904, states "...the contract for the new Administration Building was completed April 25." It also related that a model of the (new) buildings (which include the A Building) has been constructed and is on exhibit in St. Louis in the Government Building (at the fair in 1904).

The Board of Visitors Report of September 15, 1905, says that on October 13, 1904, and following, Building A was occupied by the business offices of the hospital and subsequently the quarters upstairs were occupied by the senior members of the medical staff.

The annual report, June 20, 1907 states: "There has been installed in the clock tower of the new Administration Building a Howard tower clock with four dials, each 4 foot 7 inches in diameter, which are illuminated at night by the electric lights."

There are a basement and two stories with a third story at the center section (portico). They have a striking portico with six Roman Doric columns, comprising about the middle one third of the length of the building. Each column rests on its own base and pedestal, and between them they carry the architrave and frieze. In lieu of a cornice, the portico has a broad roof overhang with a hipped roof, covered with a red Mediterranean clay tile roof. A little clock tower covers the peak.

The wings are a mix of Mediterranean-Georgian style, brick with double-hung windows, and projecting white stone quoins. Arches over windows are part brick, part white stone, and have pronounced key-stones. First floor windows at the ends are tripartite and somewhat similar to the Arch of Constantine in Rome. The roof has projecting eaves. Single story arcades initially connected the A Building with the B and C buildings.

Offices have been repartitioned to serve current needs. In some offices, near the center of the building, original, very large fireplaces have been preserved. They have a typically red brick surround, framed with oak, pilasters and beams. There are mantelpieces under a band of dentils.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 14**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The basement has exposed whitewashed brick walls, a concrete floor and ceiling, supported by occasional brick arches along the hall. Parts of the halls have a barrel vault. Wood doorways at the corridor have curved brick arches, but many have been remodeled to accommodate straight door bucks.

76. Staff Residence No. 4 (1924)

Similar to other Staff cottages.

77. Comfort Station (1922)

Utilitarian building.

78. Gatehouse No. 2 (1926)

79. Staff Residence No. 8 (1888)

80. Staff Residence No. 7 (1888)

Both simple cottages with additions. Both altered.

81. Garage

Utilitarian building.

82. Dry Barn (1884)

Large, vertical-sided clapboard structure. Part of farm complex.

83. Horse barn (1901)

Red brick, one story utilitarian structure.

85. Staff Residence No. 10 (1888)

Early "cottage" type. Two stories, enclosed porch. Altered with additions.

86. Staff Residence No. 9 (1888)

Same as 85.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 15**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

88. Blackburn Lab (1923)

Rectangular, red brick with white stone trim. Three stories, hipped roof. Similar to Administration Building (no. 73) in style.

89. R Building (1902)

A group of four buildings similar in style. Red brick, white stone trim. The others, all built in 1902 are:

94. N Building

95. I Building

100. P Building

90. W.W. Eldridge Building

Part of an expansive building program begun in the 1930s when a large quadrangle was completed on the East Campus. These buildings were for general hospital services and include the following:

92. Nichols Building and

93. White Building.

They are massive, red brick with white trim, institutional structures.

91. Glenside (1923)

Earlier brick structure incorporated into 1931 quadrangle. Utilitarian one-story storage building.

96. Comfort Station (1922)

97. Gatehouse No. 4 (1926)

98. Comfort Station (1920s)

All utilitarian small structures.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 16

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

99. Staff Residence No. 6 (1924)

Similar in style to other 1920s staff cottages. Altered.

100. (see No. 89.)**102. Behavioral Sciences Building (1932 - 1933)**

One of the complex of buildings constructed for long-stay patients between 1933 and 1943. They were all built on the "cottage plan" with a central kitchen (No. 109). They were all red brick, two story structures that resembled the 1902 lettered buildings in style. They are:

106. Godding No. 3

107. East Side 4

108. Godding No. 5

109. C.T. Kitchen and Cafeteria

110. Godding No. 6

111. Richardson No. 1

112. Richardson No. 2

115. East Side No. 8 (1943)**116. East Side No. 7 (1943)**

Two story, red brick, red tile roof. Similar in style to 1920s structures.

117. Barton Hall (1946)

Utilitarian, two-story, red brick residence hall.

127. Wall (1858 - 1869, 1924)

Originally constructed for privacy.

The wall runs from north of Borrows Cottage (18), east to Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, then south along the rear of the

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 17

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

sidewalk to the southern end of the hospital grounds, and west to a point just beyond the rear of the "E" Building (69). The northern half of the wall is brick, and the southern half is quarried stone. The halves meet at a vertical mortar joint east of Staff Residence No. 4 (76).

First mention of the need for a wall is made in the annual report of October 1, 1855 by Superintendent Dr. C.H. Nichols, to the Secretary of the Interior: "... I beg leave to call your attention to the importance of surrounding the hospital and outbuildings, at such a distance therefrom as will include about 40 acres of the grounds, with a close wall, as a condition necessary to the privacy, exercise and industry of the patients. A wall of brick upon a stone foundation, coped with blue flagging, would be the least expensive... durable and respectable in appearance...."

In 1924, the wall was extended to the rear of the Administration Building.

128. Refreshment Stand (c. 1884)

Small, vertical sided stand probably dating from the 1880s. New roof.

10. Civil War Cemetery

(According to Josephine McQuillin's story, published in the October 1961, Vol. 1 edition of the "Saint Elizabeths Reporter.")

About the time the Civil War cannons were silenced, Washington residents driving their buckboards along the river road or walking the deck of steamboats plying the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, noticed a white cross being formed on a hillside in what was known as the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Trees and shrubs have grown so tall in the century since most of the burials took place that the cross can no longer be seen from either the river or the road during the summer. However, in the winter it is still visible from Route 295 and South Capitol Street.

The cross was fashioned gradually during 1864, 1865 and 1866, for it was then that the little Civil War Cemetery at Saint Elizabeths Hospital was planned so that the headstones seen at a

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 18

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

distance would form a white cross. It is not known who planned the cemetery in this way, but Dr. Charles H. Nichols, who was superintendent of the Hospital at that time, must have approved the plan.

The cemetery is a landmark in the immediate vicinity of the Center Building. Its history is tied in with the Center Building in its functioning as a war hospital, and with the role of the District of Columbia in the war.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 19**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

ST. ELIZABETHS**Contributing Buildings and Features**

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. & 2. | Center Building | (1859) | Interconnected |
| 3. | West Wing | (1853) | |
| 4. | East Wing | (1858) | |
| 5. | Garfield | (1872) | |
| 6. | Pine | (1884) | |
| 8. | Willow | (1895) | |
| | | | |
| 10. | Civil War Cemetery | | |
| 15. | Staff Residence No. 1 | (1924) | |
| 17. | Staff Residence No. 2 | (1924) | |
| 18. | Burroughs Cottage | (1891) | |
| 19. | Tool House | (1908) | |
| 20. | Greenhouses | (1882-1954) | |
| 21. | Gateway No. 1 | (1874) | |
| 23. | Allison D | (1899) | |
| 24. | Allison C | (1899) | |
| 25. | Allison A | (1899) | |
| 26. | Allison B | (1899) | |
| 27. | Staff Residence No. 3 | (1924) | |
| 28. | Linden | (1893) | |
| 29. | Holly | (1893) | |
| 30. | Detached Nurses Home | (1887) | |
| 31. | Atkins Hall | (1878) | |
| 32. | Relief | (1879) | |
| 33. | Detached Dining Hall | (1887) | |
| 34. | Detached Kitchen | (1900) | |
| 36. | Home Building | (1883) | |
| 37. | Hitchcock Hall | (1910) | |
| 38. | Hagan Hall | (1920s) | |
| 39. | Canteen | (1916) | |
| 40. | Circulating Library | (1882) | |
| 41. | Fire House | (1890) | |
| 44. | Old Storeroom | (1900) | |
| 45. | General Kitchen | (1883-1910) | |
| 46. | Bakery | (1878-1910) | |
| 47. | West Lodge | (1856) | |
| 49. | Construction Shops | (1899-1929) | |
| 52. | Ice Plant | (1892) | |
| 53. | Tool House | (1895) | |
| 55. | Locomotive House | (1947) | |
| 56 & 57. | Power House | (1902) | |
| 60. | J Building | (1902) | |

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 19

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

ST. ELIZABETHS**Contributing Buildings and Features**

1. & 2.	Center Building	(1859)	Interconnected
3.	West Wing	(1853)	
4.	East Wing	(1858)	
5.	Garfield	(1872)	
6.	Pine	(1884)	
8.	Willow	(1895)	
10.	Civil War Cemetery		
15.	Staff Residence No. 1	(1924)	
17.	Staff Residence No. 2	(1924)	
18.	Burroughs Cottage	(1891)	
19.	Tool House	(1908)	
20.	Greenhouses	(1882-1954)	
21.	Gateway No. 1	(1874)	
23.	Allison D	(1899)	
24.	Allison C	(1899)	
25.	Allison A	(1899)	
26.	Allison B	(1899)	
27.	Staff Residence No. 3	(1924)	
28.	Linden	(1893)	
29.	Holly	(1893)	
30.	Detached Nurses Home	(1887)	
31.	Atkins Hall	(1878)	
32.	Relief	(1879)	
33.	Detached Dining Hall	(1887)	
34.	Detached Kitchen	(1900)	
36.	Home Building	(1883)	
37.	Hitchcock Hall	(1910)	
38.	Hagan Hall	(1920s)	
39.	Canteen	(1916)	
40.	Circulating Library	(1882)	
41.	Fire House	(1890)	
44.	Old Storeroom	(1900)	
45.	General Kitchen	(1883-1910)	
46.	Bakery	(1878-1910)	
47.	West Lodge	(1856)	
49.	Construction Shops	(1899-1929)	
52.	Ice Plant	(1892)	
53.	Tool House	(1895)	
55.	Locomotive House	(1947)	
56 & 57.	Power House	(1902)	
60.	J Building	(1902)	

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 20

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

62.	Transformer Room	
63.	Transformer Room	
64.	L Building	(1902)
66.	K Building	(1902)
67.	Staff Residence No. 5	(1924)
68.	Q Building	(1902-1935)
69.	E Building	(1902)
70.	Employees Cafeteria	(1924)
72.	M Building	(1902)
73.	C Building	(1902)
74.	Administration Building	(1903)
75.	B Building	(1902)
76.	Staff Residence No. 4	(1924)
77.	Comfort Station	(1922)
78.	Gatehouse No. 2	(1926)
79.	Staff Residence No. 8	(1888)
80.	Staff Residence No. 7	(1888)
82.	Dry Barn	(1884)
83.	Horse Barn	(1901)
85.	Staff Residence No. 10	(1888)
86.	Staff Residence No. 9	(1888)
88.	Blackburn Lab	(1923)
89.	R Building	(1902)
90.	W.W. Eldredge Building	(1931)
91.	Glenside	(1923)
92.	Charles W. Nichols Building	(1936)
93.	William A. White Building	(1934)
94.	N Building	(1902)
95.	I Building	(1902)
96.	Comfort Station	(1922)
97.	Gatehouse No. 4	(1926)
98.	Comfort Station	(1924)
99.	Staff Residence No. 6	(1924)
100.	P Building	(1902)
102.	Behavioral Studies Building	(1932)
106.	Goddard No. 3	(1938)
107.	East Side 4	(1939)
108.	Goddard No. 5	(1940)
109.	C.T. Kitchen and Cafeteria	(1933)
110.	Goddard No. 6	(1940)
111.	Richardson No. 1	(1933)

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 21**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

112.	Richardson No. 2	(1933)
115.	East Side No. 8	(1943)
116.	East Side No. 7	(1943)
117.	Barton Hall	(1946)
127.	Wall	
128.	Refreshment Stand	

Non-Contributing Buildings

11.	Storage Shed	(1925)
12.	Mechanical and Electrical Shops	(1920-1953)
16.	Pumping Station	(1965)
81.	Garage	(1921)
87.	Gatehouse 3	(1958)
118.	Warehouse and Laundry	(1952)
118A.	Warehouse Annex	(1952)
119.	Haydon Division (Geriatric)	(1952)
120.	Dorothea Dix Pavilion	(1959)
121.	Chapel	(1956)
122.	John Howard Pavilion	(1959)
123.	Incinerator	(1964)
124.	Rehabilitation Medicine Building	(1963)
125.	Refrigeration Plant	(1952)
126.	Cooling Tower	(1958)

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 22

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B X C X D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 1, 2, 4

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture,		
Health/Medicine	1852-1940	1855 1878 1893, 1899 1902, 1924

NHL Theme(s): XVI. Architecture
 E. Gothic Revival
 2. High Victorian Gothic
 M. Period Revivals

 XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements
 F. Aiding the Handicapped and Mental Health Care

Significant Person(s): Dr. Charles H. Nichols; Dorothea Dix

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Thomas U. Walter, Shepley, Rutan, Coolidge

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

Founded in 1852, St. Elizabeths Hospital was the federal government's first mental hospital designed to care for the nation's mentally ill military personnel. The first medical superintendent was Charles H. Nichols who collaborated with the social reformer Dorothea Dix to establish a model institution in the capitol city.

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 23

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The 250-bed Center Building, the first of many structures erected on the grounds of the hospital, was designed in consultation with Nichols by Thomas U. Walter, Architect of the Capitol. It is significant not only as one of the larger works of Walter but also as one of the first mental hospitals based on the "Kirkbride" or "linear" plan. The Kirkbride plan was named after its principal advocate, Thomas S. Kirkbride, medical superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane and one of the founders of the American Psychiatric Association. His plan provided a blueprint for moral treatment, the antebellum therapeutic philosophy that emphasized emotional and social factors in treating mental illness.

Dix and Nichols (superintendent from 1852 to 1877) selected a 185-acre portion of the old royal land grant known as St. Elizabeths. Fillmore and Stuart visited it and agreed it was "incomparably the best location."¹

Nichols introduced several improvements to the newly formulated Kirkbride plan. His most significant innovation was the placement of wing sections in echelon. By making each section recede a short distance from adjacent sections, Nichols believed his arrangement "afford[ed] the best facilities for the thorough classification and inspection of the Patients, for ventilation and external views, and for the requisite sub-division of the pleasure grounds." The echelon plan, as Nichols termed it, became a characteristic feature of nineteenth-century American mental hospitals. In Kirkbride's widely consulted On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane, he characterized Nichols' design as the "improved linear plan."²

Another original feature of the Nichols-Walter design was the placement of two "colored lodges" near the Center Building.³ Mentally ill blacks rarely received hospital care before the Civil War. Occasionally they were accommodated in separate institutions or in makeshift wards segregated from white wards to the extent practical. Nichols and Walter, in designing the colored lodges, heeded the advice of Francis Stribling, superintendent of the Virginia Western Lunatic Asylum, against associating the races. But they disagreed with his recommendation to treat blacks in a separate institution. Nichols' background as a New England Quaker possibly influenced their decision to provide quarters for blacks at St. Elizabeths.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 24

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Another factor was the substantial black population in the District of Columbia.⁴

Nineteenth-century psychiatrists, then known as medical superintendents, considered hospital location an integral part of treatment. The St. Elizabeths tract met all their practical, aesthetic, and medical criteria for treating mental illness. Located just under three miles from the Capitol, it was safely separated from city dwellers by the Anacostia River, yet accessible to city supplies via Pennsylvania Avenue, East Eleventh Street, the Navy Yard Bridge and Piscataway Road. Building materials and heavy supplies such as coal, wood, and flour could be landed from boats on the hospital's wharf. Two springs on the grounds furnished drinking water. A substantial portion of the land was suitable for farming, a critical concern not only for supplying the hospital with food but also for providing patients with occupational therapy. Five miles of winding roads in the vicinity of the hospital provided room for "private pleasure walks." Equally important, according to Nichols, patients would enjoy a panorama of rural landscape, scenic river, and urban activity that would prove "of immense consequence" to their mental health.⁵

The Center Building influenced the design of several state mental hospitals as well as a number of mental hospitals outside the United States.⁶ It played a significant role in establishing the Kirkbride plan as the predominant architectural form of mental hospitals during the second half of the nineteenth century. Kirkbride himself characterized Nichols' innovation as "the improved linear plan" in his widely consulted book, On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangement of Hospitals for the Insane. A biographer of Kirkbride also notes, "As other hospitals copied St. Elizabeth's [*sic*], the influence of Dr. Kirkbride came down to them in diluted form."⁷

Severe overcrowding in the 1870s led to the next phase of St. Elizabeths' development. Nichols' successor, William W. Godding (1877-99), adopted a new kind of hospital design known as the cottage plan. In contrast to the Kirkbride plan, the cottage plan called for a series of unconnected or "detached" buildings. Another difference was the predominance of dorms, whereas the Kirkbride plan had provided single rooms for most patients. In addition, under the cottage plan dayrooms and sleeping quarters were sometimes placed on separate floors. As it evolved at St. Elizabeths and elsewhere, the cottage plan consisted mainly of

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 25**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

two-story buildings, each housing anywhere from 50 or so to 100 or more patients.

Atkins Hall, erected in 1878, was the first of some 18 cottages built at St. Elizabeths during Godding's 22-year tenure. Atkins Hall preceded by one year the more comprehensive and better known development of the cottage plan at Kankakee, Illinois. The Kankakee State Hospital has been called the "first systematic departure in the United States from congregate construction [i.e., the Kirkbride plan]." In building Atkins Hall, however, Godding was among the first to experiment with the new design. By the mid-1880s, Godding had become a prominent national spokesman for the cottage plan.

Until the turn of the century, St. Elizabeths' development proceeded on an ad hoc basis, with individual buildings constructed as the need arose. Atkins Hall was followed by the Relief Building (1879), the Home (1883), Howard Hall (1887, later demolished), the Toner Building (1889, later demolished), Borrow's cottage (1891), Dix 1 and 2 (1893), Oaks 1 and 2 (1895, later demolished, and Allison buildings 1-4. New support buildings included the bakery (1878); the Rest (1882), a mortuary and pathology laboratory; the detached dining hall (1885), serving residents of the new cottage buildings; the firehouse (1890); and the ice plant (1892). In the early 1890s, Godding acquired additional land several miles south of the hospital at Oxon Hill, Maryland, where a farm was operated in part by patients. Godding Croft, as the farm land became known, accommodated some of these patients in two small cottages. Today it is called Oxon Run Children's Farm and is run by the National Park Service.

In 1902, Godding's successor, Alonzo B. Richardson (1899-1903) initiated a large-scale effort to modernize the patient housing. With a Congressional appropriation of \$1.50 million, Richardson executed a comprehensive and long-range conception of the cottage plan. He collaborated with the Boston architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in designing 13 "lettered" buildings (so-called because designated by letter rather than name). One of the buildings served as the new administrative quarters, and another served as a home for nurses and attendants. Six of the 11 new patient buildings were designed to accommodate about 50 patients each; five buildings would accommodate just over 100 patients each.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 26

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Resembling carefully landscaped garden apartments, the complex of two-story buildings was the largest expansion in the hospital's history and was considered an impressive architectural achievement at the time. To implement the spacious plan, four of the buildings had to be placed on the east side of Nichols (now Martin Luther King, Jr.) Avenue. The east side had previously been reserved for farming operations, providing patients with work and furnishing foodstuffs for the hospital. A tunnel was built under Nichols Avenue to link the east campus to the west campus. All subsequent development of the hospital occurred on the 175-acre east campus.

With a few exceptions, St. Elizabeths' physical plant saw little further change until the 1930s. The most notable exception is Hitchcock Hall, built in 1908 as an auditorium for the entertainment of patients and staffs. Forms of entertainment included vaudeville performances, moving pictures, operettas, musicals, dances, and lectures. In addition, in 1914, Richardson's successor, William Alanson White (1903-37) erected five small tuberculosis cottages, each accommodating 20 patients. During World War I, seven "semipermanent" wards for 500 patients were built to accommodate the wartime increase in military cases. The wards were not demolished until a year after World War II.

Significant expansion of the hospital occurred in the 1930s when a large quadrangle of buildings was constructed. The first of these was the Medical and Surgical Building (later renamed the Watson W. Eldridge Building), erected in 1931. Then came the Men's Receiving Building (William A. White Building), erected in 1934, and the Women's Receiving Building (Nichols Building), erected in 1936. (R Building, which had been built in 1902, completed the quadrangle.)

The quadrangle is significant because it represents the portion of the hospital then devoted to acute care, physical and mental. The Medical and Surgical Building reflected a particularly important development. In 1920, with the creation of a department of internal medicine, St. Elizabeths had become the first public mental hospital accredited for training medical interns. The Medical and Surgical Building subsequently housed what in effect was a general hospital operating on the grounds of a mental hospital.

At the same time, construction proceeded from 1933 to 1943 on another complex of cottage buildings. The new complex, known as

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 27**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

the continuous treatment buildings, comprised eight two-story dwellings for patients and a cafeteria/kitchen building. Six of the buildings formed a rectangle around the cafeteria in the center. In size and architectural style, they resembled Richardson's 1902 lettered buildings. But due to space limitations they were grouped more closely together. These buildings were the last designed along the lines of the cottage plan.

The final phase of construction for patient housing occurred in the 1950s and early 1960s. Four large institutional buildings were built during this time: the Geriatric Building (Haydon Building, erected 1951), the Dix Building (1955), the John Howard Pavilion (1959), and the Rehabilitation Medicine Building (1963). These buildings lack the residential character of most of the earlier buildings.

St. Elizabeth's reputation as a leader in clinical and scientific research dates from the first two decades of the twentieth century. Previously, American mental hospitals allocated few funds for research. St. Elizabeths' I.W. Blackburn, hired in 1884, was one of the first full-time pathologists in a public mental hospital. A skilled artist, Blackburn achieved renown for his anatomical drawings of the brain. Shortly after his death in 1911, the hospital honored his achievements by naming its new laboratory (1923) after him.

St. Elizabeths became the nation's premier research institution under the leadership of William Alanson White (1903-37). In 1907, White hired experimental psychologist Shepherd Ivory Franz to take charge of a newly created psychology laboratory in the Allison Building, later moved to Blackburn Laboratory. It was one of the first in a public mental hospital. Within a few years, the laboratory evolved into a full-fledged scientific department independent of the ward service. By 1920, the department consisted of a psychologist, two pathologists, a bacteriologist, and several technicians. It published a bulletin of research articles and served as a training ground for interns.

During the White years, St. Elizabeths pioneered a number of therapies, including psychotherapy, hydrotherapy, and malarial therapy. White's interest in psychoanalysis stemmed from his meeting with Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung at a conference in Amsterdam in 1907. The next year St. Elizabeths became one of the first American hospitals to practice psychoanalysis. In 1914, White organized a psychoanalytic society at the hospital

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 28**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

and created the position of clinical psychiatrist, whose full time could be devoted to psychotherapy. By 1920, special wards had been designated for patients receiving psychotherapy. That same year, Edward Kempf, the hospital's clinical psychiatrist, published the results of his clinical work in Psychopathology, his pioneering psychoanalytic study of schizophrenia.

Modern hydrotherapy also was pioneered as a treatment for mental illness at St. Elizabeths. Assistant physician George Foster had introduced hydrotherapy units in the Toner and Oaks buildings during the 1890s. Under White, it became the most frequently administered treatment at the hospital. White found it especially valuable in reducing the need for mechanical restraints. In 1904, he installed hydrotherapy units in the new B and C buildings, the male and female receiving wards for new admissions. In 1907, after visiting German mental hospitals, White introduced a system of continuous baths based on the German model at St. Elizabeths. By 1924, the baths were prescribed 106,816 times to more than 4,000 patients.⁸

White achieved international recognition when he introduced malarial therapy at St. Elizabeths in 1922 as a method of treating general paresis. Malarial treatment was the most significant therapeutic innovation of the 1920s. It grew out of the work of the Austrian physician Julius Wagner-Jauregg, who received the Nobel Prize in 1927 for his research. St. Elizabeths was the first hospital in the Western Hemisphere to utilize the new therapy.

By the time of White's death in 1937, St. Elizabeths' leading role in scientific research and clinical applications had been firmly established. Subsequent developments in which St. Elizabeths played an important role include dance therapy, psychodrama, pastoral counseling for the mentally ill, and mental health programs for the deaf.

According to historian Fitzhugh Mullan's recent work, Plaques and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service, for many years "the name 'St. Elizabeths' was synonymous with federal mental health activities" and the hospital "has been an important element of the mental health programs of the PHS and the nation as a whole." Mullan goes on to note that "St. Elizabeths continues to uphold Dorothea Dix's tradition of humane and advanced treatment of the mentally ill."⁹

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 29**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

From the founding of St. Elizabeths to the present day the extensive hospital grounds have been carefully tended and landscaped. There are a number of rare trees that were imported by Alvah Godding, son on the second superintendent, Dr. William Godding (1877-1899). He brought back many rare plants from his extensive travels and wrote a number of articles about the landscaping at the institution. The hospital planners believed that pleasant surroundings were essential to healing the mentally ill and the early records mention "paths spread with green turf beneath the feet of the strolling invalid," as part of the their new theories of humane treatment practiced at pioneer institutions.

There are a number of rare specimens on the approximately 340 acres contributing to the color of seasonal change and the flowering trees are particularly beautiful in the spring. There are red bud, dogwood, magnolias, fruit trees, and bushy flowering plants such as large lilacs, japonica, wisteria, and photinia. The hospital grounds were described in a Washington newspaper in the 1920s as having many lawns which contain 170 varieties of trees, natives of the various countries of the world, including those from Asia, the Caucasus Mountains, Greece, Bulgaria, China, Japan, India, and Persia, as well as redwoods native to California. The grounds are also enhanced by many flower beds supplied from the six greenhouses.

The staff also grows a number of varieties of cut flowers and potted plants for distribution throughout the hospital. There are gardens tended by patients as part of therapy. There is also a testing garden for plant introductions from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Arboretum.

Dr. William Godding described St. Elizabeths in 1892 as grounds that are among the most beautiful in Washington. Nowhere within the District of Columbia is there a tract of equal extent showing greater respect for nature; it hasn't changed much over the years.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 30

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Endnotes

1. Senate Executive Document 11, 32nd Congress, 2nd session, serial 660.
2. Earl Bond, Dr. Kirkbride and His Mental Hospital (Philadelphia, 1947), pp. 99, 102.
3. Charles H. Nichols to Turner & Yardley, n.d., transcription of Nichols correspondence in historical records file at St. Elizabeths Hospital; Thomas S. Kirkbride, On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane, 2nd edition (Philadelphia, 1880), 135.
4. The west lodge for black males was later torn down; the east lodge was converted to a nurses' home (Detached Nurses Home, No 30) and later to offices.
5. Nichols to Dorothea Dix, Jan. 1, 1853, Dix Papers, Houghton Library, Harvard University. On the treatment of blacks during the antebellum period see Gerald Grob, Mental Institutions in America: Social Policy to 1875 (New York: Free Press, 1973), 243-55.
6. American Journal of Insanity 45 (January 1889), 446-49, notes that Nichols' plan was "reproduced in Australia, in Newfoundland, and in many State institutions." Nova Scotia also adopted his plan, according to a diary entry by Thomas U. Walter, dated November 4, 1853, where Walter notes his completion of the plan and elevation of the Nova Scotia hospital patterned after St. Elizabeths "at the request of Miss [Dorothea] Dix & Dr. Nichols." Thomas U. Walter Papers, The Atheneum. The earliest influence possibly was on the Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville, Maryland. The hospital had been established in 1852 after Dix petitioned the state legislature and construction began the following year. The hospital's planning commissioners described its wings as "connected with the first return en echelon," Report of the Commissioners of the Maryland State Lunatic Asylum (Baltimore).
7. Earl Bond, Dr. Kirkbride and his Mental Hospital (Philadelphia, 1947), 103.
8. 1907 AR, 9; White, "Hospitals and Asylums of Europe," 134; Shutts, Lobotomy, xv.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Page 31

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. Fitzhugh Mullan, Plagues and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service (New York: Basic Books, 1989), 157.

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 32**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brief History, St. Elizabeths, Washington, D.C., October 1973, NIMH/HEW.

Coolidge, Harold N., Samuel Sloan: Architect of Philadelphia, 1815-1884 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986).

Grob, Gerald, Mental Institutions in America: Social Policy to 1875 (New York: Free Press, 1973).

Kirkbride, Thomas S., On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane, 2nd edition (Philadelphia, 1880).

Millikan, Frank Rives, "St. Elizabeths Hospital: End of the Cathedral Era," Washington History, 1 (Fall 1989), 26-41, 99-101.

Rothman, David, Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic (Boston: Little, Brown, 1971).

St. Elizabeths Hospital, Annual Reports, October 1, 1855, et al.

St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C., Master Plan, January 1977, HEW.

Scull, Andrew, ed., Madhouses, Mad-doctors, and Madmen: The Social History of Psychiatry in the Victorian Era (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981).

Tomes, Nancy, A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum Keeping, 1840-1883 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984).

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 33**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ Previously Listed in the National Register.
- ☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- ☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☒ Federal Agency: GSA
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other: Specify Repository: St. Elizabeths Hospital Archives

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 34**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 336.35 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 18	327700	4301660	B 18	327340	4301200
C 18	327060	4301140	D 18	326740	4301400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The St. Elizabeths Hospital tract consists of two parcels -- 234/2, west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (formerly known as Nichols Avenue) and 234/38, east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Parcel 234/38 begins at a point near Bruce Street, S.E. at the northeast corner of the parcel and runs approximately 1,940 feet to Alabama Avenue; then approximately 920 feet parallel to Alabama Avenue; then approximately 1,380 feet to a point near the intersection of Martin Luther King Avenue which runs north-south. Tract 234/38 runs parallel to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue for approximately 4,000 feet back to Bruce Street. Tract 234/2 begins at a point north of Milwaukee Place, west approximately 2,360 feet to a point where it then runs parallel to South Capitol Street approximately 2,860 feet to Firth Sterling Avenue. Tract 234/2 is closed by a straight line approximately 2,440 feet back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue.

The St. Elizabeths Hospital tract is recorded as Map. No. 3302 of the Surveyor's Office of the District of Columbia dated March 31, 1947.

All of Parcel 234/38, as shown on a plat recorded in The Office of The Surveyor of the District of Columbia, at page 3178/R, commonly known as the East Campus of Saint Elizabeths Hospital, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning for the same at a copper found marking the intersection of the right of way line easterly of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, (formerly Nichols Avenue) 60 feet wide with the north-easterly outline of the aforesaid Parcel 234/38, and running thence with said northeasterly outline, the following five (5) courses:

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 35**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. South 51°23'28" East, 714.74 feet to a concrete monument set;
2. South 51°35'35" East, 992.84 feet to a concrete monument set;
3. South 51°21'38" East, 496.34 feet to a concrete monument set;
4. South 51°41'59" East, 1394.09 feet to a concrete monument set; and
5. South 50°41'49" East, 390.16 feet to a concrete monument found.
6. Thence with the southeasterly outline of the aforesaid Parcel 234/38, the following three (3) courses: South 36°48'54" West, 672.60 feet to a concrete monument found;
7. South 36°46'20" West, 765.20 feet to a concrete monument found; and
8. South 36°47'43" West, 497.53 feet to an iron pin set on the northerly right of way line of Alabama Avenue, 110 feet wide.
9. Thence with said right of way line South 77°38'39" West, 921.23 feet to an iron pin set.
10. Thence with the southwesterly outline of the aforesaid Parcel 234/38 North 52°40'27" West, 1382.96 feet to an iron pin set on the aforesaid easterly right of way of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue.
11. Thence with said right of way line, the following six (6) courses: North 12°02'00" East, 198.93 feet to a point;
12. North 08°23'20" East, 167.43 feet to a point;
13. North 01°23'20" East, 360.13 feet to a point;
14. North 01°53'00" East, 400.15 feet to a point;
15. North 01°16'40" East, 1058.95 feet to a point; and

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 36**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

16. North 03°22'15" West, 1220.45 feet to the place of beginning, containing 7,552,219 square feet or 173.3751 acres of land.

Excepting therefrom all that portion of the hereinafter described Parcel, known as Building No. 93, the William A. White Building, and Building No. 127, known as the Animal House; being part of Parcel 234/38, as shown on a plat recorded in The Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia at page 3178/R, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning for the same at an iron pin set, distant North 59°24'09" East, 686.66 feet from an iron pin set marking the end of the northwesterly or North 52°40'27" West, 1382.96 foot line of the aforesaid parcel 234/38, and running thence across said parcel, the following four (4) courses:

1. North 02°07'46" East, 294.15 feet to a drill hole set;
2. South 88°17'51" East, 307.85 feet to a PK nail set;
3. South 00°29'25" West, 279.58 feet to an iron pin set; and
4. South 89°03'05" West, 316.29 feet to the place of beginning, containing 89,476 square feet or 2.0541 acres of land.

Reserving to the United States of America right of use of all roadways, sidewalks, parking areas, recreational facilities, utilities, and the like, throughout the hospital campus, in connection with the Party of the First Part's use of the William A. White Building and the Animal House.

In addition, the following described parcels, known as Buildings 16, 37, 38, 118, and 118-A, being part of Parcel 234/41 on the West Campus, as shown on a plat recorded in The Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia at page 3485/X, and more particularly described as follows, shall be conveyed:

Beginning for the same at an iron pin set, distant South 09°05'09" West, 697.19 feet from a drill hole set in concrete marking the northerly end of the westerly or North 16°17'25" East, 1521.93 foot line of the aforesaid Parcel 234/41; and running thence said Parcel 234/41, the following four (4) courses:

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 37**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. South 65°04'52" East, 162.32 feet to an iron pin set;
2. South 05°32'18" West, 232.12 feet to an iron pin set;
3. North 43°15'10" West, 192.67 feet to an iron pin set; and
4. North 02°35'43" East, 159.27 feet to the place of beginning, containing 28,780 square feet or 0.6607 of a acre of land; and

Beginning for the same at an iron pin set, distant North 66°10'33" West, 374.94 feet from the southerly end of the easterly or North 03°22'15" East, 1224.47 foot line of the aforesaid Parcel 234/41, and running thence across said Parcel 234/41, the following six (6) courses;

1. South 01°37'13" West, 199.56 feet to an iron pin set;
2. 144.11 feet along the arc of a curve, deflecting to the right, having a radius of 175.00 feet and a chord bearing South 80°33'43" West, 140.07 feet to an iron pin set at a point of compound curvature;
3. 185.26 feet along the arc of a curve, deflecting to the right, having a radius of 355.00 feet and a chord bearing North 60°53'52" West, 183.16 feet to a point;
4. North 45°56'52" West, 70.00 feet to an iron pin set;
5. North 56°06'11" East, 122.08 feet to an iron pin set; and
6. North 86°14'29" East, 253.38 feet to the place of beginning, containing 59,287 square feet or 1.3611 acres of land; and

Beginning for the same at an iron pin set, distant South 62°40'31" East, 420.19 feet from a concrete monument set marking the northerly end of the westerly or North 24°01'51" East, 656.30 foot line of the aforesaid Parcel 234/41, and running thence across said Parcel 234/41, the following six (6) courses:

1. North 27°57'57" East, 324.21 feet to an iron pin set;
2. North 79°20'29" East, 122.95 feet to an iron pin set;
3. South 11°53'47" East, 640.16 feet to an iron pin set;

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 38**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. South 36°20'55" West, 244.97 feet to an iron pin set;
5. 191.20 feet along the arc of a curve, deflecting to the right, having a radius of 320.00 feet, and a chord bearing North 38°43'24" West, 188.37 feet to an iron pin set marking a point of tangency; and
6. North 21°05'28" West, 394.06 feet to the place of beginning, containing 197,431 square feet or 4.5324 acres of land.

Tract 234/38 runs parallel to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue for approximately 4,000 feet back to Bruce Street. Tract 234/2 begins at a point north of Milwaukee Place, west approximately 2,360 feet to a point where it then runs parallel to South Capitol Street approximately 2,440 feet back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue.

The St. Elizabeths Hospital tract is recorded as Map 3302 of the Surveyor's Office of the District of Columbia dated March 31, 1947.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The entire campus of St. Elizabeths is an integrated mental health complex and for this reason is included as such, in its entirety, in the National Register of Historic Places. Both east and west tracts embody concepts and practices in the development of mental health facilities from the mid 1850s well into the 20th century. Dorothea Dix's reform movement promoted the Kirkbride system of humane treatment of the mentally ill, as exemplified by the original echelon design of the Central Building and grouping of small buildings behind. The number of patients per building was limited. The northwestern land of the Central Building which overlooks the city has been preserved for the salubrious prospect it provides. The remaining agricultural buildings on the east tract remain a testament to farm aspects of that part of the site during the first three decades of St. Elizabeths.

The second phase of St. Elizabeths' expansion evolved under the "cottage plan"; two-story brick buildings are grouped symmetrically with each residential facility having a sun porch at the end. The cottage plan buildings were planned on both the east and west tracts. No exclusion of one tract along Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue can be supported historically or

Saint Elizabeths Hospital**Page 39**

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

architecturally. Innovative treatment courses and original research into brain functions have been conducted on both the east and west tracts.

The buildings on the eastern tract dating from the 1950s and 1960s do not appear to contribute to the significance of the hospital. The boundaries are defined by the purchase of land on the eastern tract and are included, since that land was acquired in 1869 and used as a farm. It was called Shepherd's Farm after Alexander "Boss" Shepherd. In 1902 a portion of the East Tract was used to accommodate hospital facilities and subsequent development has been in the East Tract.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Frank Millikan, Ann Sellin, and National Register staff;
edited by Carolyn Pitts

Organization: History Division, WASO, NPS

Date: July 3, 1990

Street & Number: P.O. Box 37127

Telephone: (202) 343-8166

City or Town: Washington

State: DC

ZIP: 20013-7127

October 2, 1990