

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**Harrison Health Center (AA-2211)**  
**St. John's College, Annapolis**

St. John's College constructed the 4,600 square foot Harrison Health Center in 1972. The final building erected by the college on the Annapolis campus, the health center is named for John T. Harrison (class of 1907), whose wife provided the needed funding for the building's construction. It was designed by Annapolis architect, James Wood Burch in the form of a Greek cross, the emblem of the American Red Cross. The two-story building contains the infirmary, patient guestrooms, and an apartment.

The Harrison Health Center is a cruciform-shaped brick building that fits neatly into its site between the Carroll the Barrister House and Randall Hall. While the overall massing of the building (defined by steeply pitched gable roof and red brick walls) is sympathetic to the surrounding 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings on the campus, the Harrison Health Center clearly defines itself as a modern addition to this historic landscape.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. AA-2211

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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### Exterior Description

The Harrison Health Center is a two-and-a-half-story, cruciform-shaped building having four wings covered with intersecting gable roof. The walls are brick, laid in either all-header or all-stretcher bond. The steeply pitched roof is clad with slate shingles. Two central brick chimneys project from two of the four wings at the roof's ridgeline. The gable end walls of the four wings each project slightly from the main wall, and are faced with an all-header brick-bonding pattern. The walls are pierced by a variety of window openings, having either single, paired, or groups of metal casements. One the end walls, the windows feature segmental-arched openings with double rows of soldier-course brick lintels. The side wings tend to favor flat, sandstone arches set above the window openings. The entrance to the building is tucked into the south corner, and reached through a narrow colonnade with segmental-arched openings.

### Interior Description

The interior of the Harrison Health Center consists of a series of rooms, laid out in each of the wings. The spaces are divided by drywall partitions. The individual rooms have solid wood doors, and linoleum flooring.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-2211

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Significance dates** 1972 **Architect** James Wood Burch

**Specific dates** 1972 **Builder** unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

St. John's College constructed the 4,600 square foot Harrison Health Center in 1972. The final building erected by the college on the Annapolis campus, the health center is named for John T. Harrison (class of 1907), whose wife provided the needed funding for the building's construction. It was designed by Annapolis architect, James Wood Burch in the form of a Greek cross, the emblem of the American Red Cross. The two-story building contains the infirmary, patient guestrooms, and an apartment.

\*For a detailed history of St. John's College, refer to Maryland Historical Inventory Form, McDowell Hall (AA-675).

### History of the Harrison Health Center

By the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the campus of St. John's College included six dormitories, a gymnasium, library, boathouse, auditorium and laboratories, graduate center, two administration buildings, and classrooms in McDowell Hall. To better serve the four hundred students attending classes, the Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors campaigned for the funds necessary to construct a health center. Mrs. John T. Harrison provided the money in memory of her husband, a graduate of the class of 1907.

Annapolis architect James Wood Burch designed the health center for St. John's College. Born in 1921, Burch was a Navy pilot in World War II, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. This silver cross is awarded to officers and warrant officers for an act or acts of valor, courage, or devotion to duty preformed whilst flying in active operations against the enemy. Burch served as architect for many historic restoration projects in Annapolis prior to his death in 1984. This work included the renovation of the Chase-Stone House in 1963.

Burch designed the health center in the form of a Greek cross, a symbol adopted by the American Red Cross. Furthermore, in form and massing, the brick faced building mimics the circa 1724 Charles Carroll the Barrister House, which is located to the east. Harrison Health Center, the final building erected by the college on their Annapolis campus, provides medical facilities and guestrooms for patients on the floor and the apartment on the second floor.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-2211

Harrison Health Center, St. John's College, Annapolis  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period(s):** Modern Period (1930-present)

**Historic Period Theme(s):** Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning  
Social/Education/Cultural

**Resource Type:**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Town

**Historic Function(s) and Use(s):** EDUCATION/College  
HEALTH/Infirmary

**Known Design Source:** James Wood Burch

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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AA-2211

"A Brief History: St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland," Pamphlet prepared by St. John's College.

McIntire, Robert Harry. *Annapolis Maryland Families*, Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980.

Murphy, Emily A. *A Complete and Generous Education: 300 Years of Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis.* Annapolis, MD, St. John's College Press, 1996.

Riley, Elihu S. *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis in Maryland, 1649-1887.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1995.

Tilghman, Tench Francis. *The Early History of St. John's College.* Annapolis, MD: St. John's College Press, 1984.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of project area	<u>1 acre</u>	
Acreeage surveyed	<u>33 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Annapolis, MD</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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Harrison Health Center is located on the campus of St. John's College, established at this site in 1784. The college is recorded on Tax Map 4-6, Parcel 458. It is bounded by College Avenue to the southeast, King George Street to the northeast, St. John Street to the southwest, and College Creek to the northwest.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Laura Trieschmann and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians	April 22, 2000
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organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.
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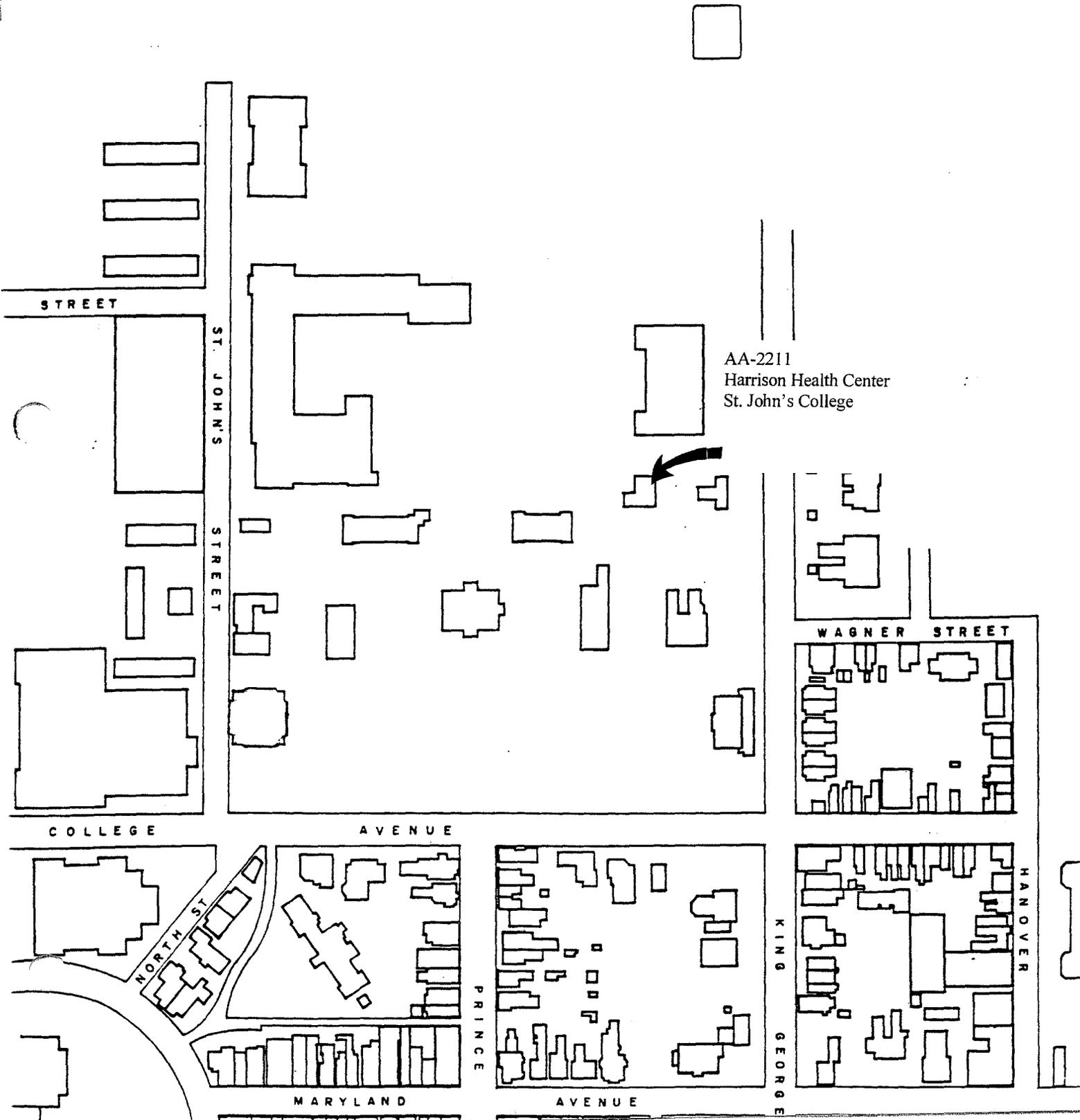
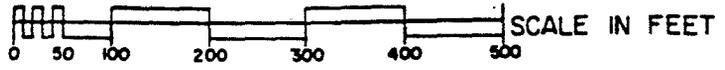
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
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city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600





AA-2211

HARRISON HEALTH CENTER

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST CORNER, LOOKING SE

1 OF 5



AA-2211

HARRISON HEALTH CENTER

ST. JOAN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER, LOOKING NORTH

2 OF 5



HARRISON  
HEALTH CENTER  
1972

Building 9

AA-2211

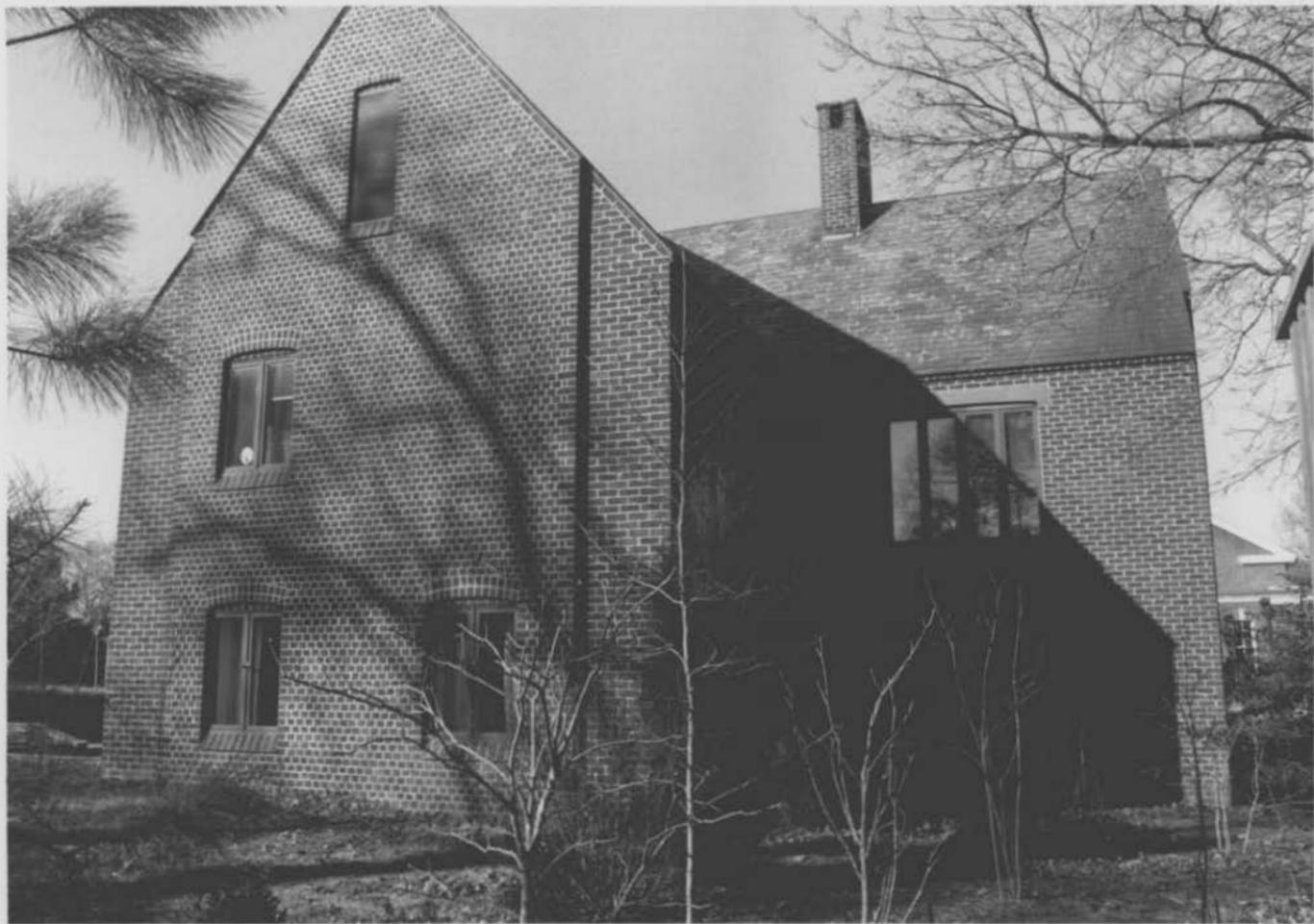
HARRISON HEALTH CENTER  
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
ANNAPOLIS  
TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH CORNER LOOKING NORTH

3 OF 5



AA-2211

HARRISON HEALTH CENTER

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

SE ELEVATION, LOOKING NW

4 OF 5



AA-2211

HARRISON HEALTH CENTER

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING NE

5 OF 5