

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes    
no

B-121

Property Name: Church Home and Hospital Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 100 North Broadway City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21231

County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore East SE/4 Baltimor

Owner: Housing Authority of Baltimore City

Tax Parcel #: N/A Tax parcel Map Number: 6 Tax Account ID Number: 06081346001

Project: Broadway Homes Development Agency: HUD

Site visit by MHT staff  no  yes Name: Andrew Lewis/B Date: 11/09/2000

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is the property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?  no  yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

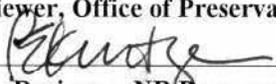
Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Archives

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

This building, which is the second oldest hospital in the City, was begun in 1836 and occupied in 1838 by the Washington Medical College of Baltimore. The College had opened in 1827 under the Charter of Washington College, Washington Pennsylvania. On March 4, 1833, an independent charter was secured from the Maryland Legislature, and relations with the Pennsylvania institution were terminated. In 1849 the medical school moved to Lombard and Hanover Streets. Edgar Allan Poe died the same year in the Broadway building. In 1857, the vacant building was bought and renovated by the Church Home for Elderly Widows and St. Andrew's Infirmary. After moving into the structure, the two Episcopal organizations merged into Church Home and Infirmary. The building was enlarged in 1888 and on several occasions thereafter. A gilded cross from Old St. Paul's Church crowns the

Prepared by: Eric L. Holcomb Date Prepared: 11/13/2000

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
MHT Comments:	
<u>C. Andrew Lewis</u>	<u>December 04, 2000</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
	<u>12/4/2000</u>
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

## NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Church Home and Hospital

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cupola of the building.

From E.D. Ehle November, 1971 a history and description of the original building Church Home and Hospital.

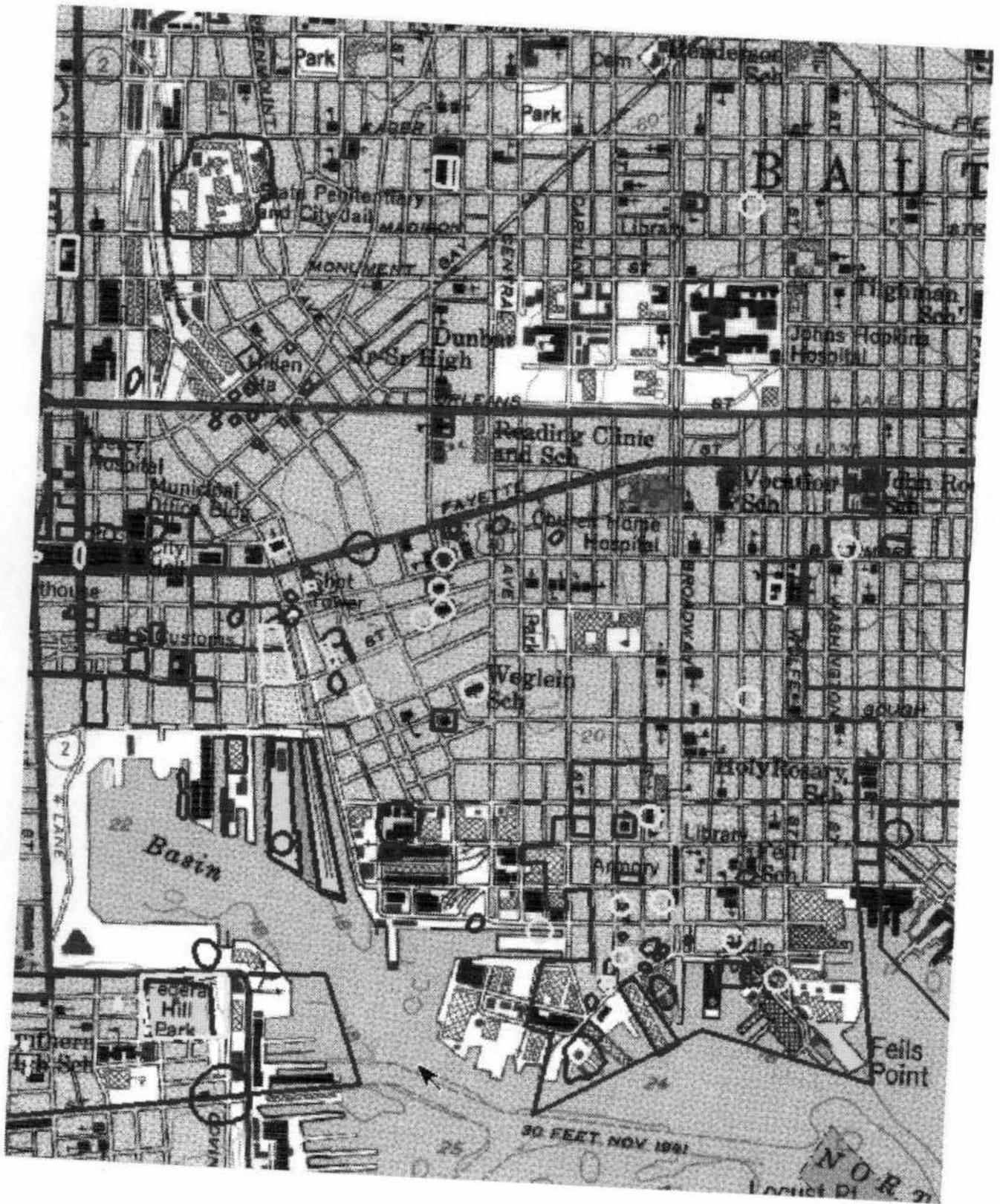
Variouly referred to as Baltimore Hospital, Washington Medical College, Washington University of Baltimore, and Washington Medical University, the \$40,000 institution, built of brick on the southeast corner of Market Street (now Broadway) and Hampstead Hill Street (now Fairmount Avenue) was opened for the sick in 1836 as a unique combination of college and dormitory for medical students with a general hospital wing attached. Sold for debt in 1851, the university closed. Remodelled and renovated, the institution was reopened by the Church Home Society of Baltimore City in 1858.

Originally designed as the central section, four gothic-windowed towers defined as the central building, forty feet in diameter, containing lecture halls, laboratory, museum, library and, on top floor, a surgical amphitheater. Attached and accessible at each level was the sixty by forty foot five-story east wing which was the hospital. In addition to private patients on the lower floors, there were six rooms on the fourth floor for colored patients and a ward for U. S. seamen on the fifth.

In a tower room on the southwest corner, Edgar Allan Poe died on October 7, 1849,

Reopened in January, 1858 as the Church Home and Infirmary, the new institution combined the functions of the Church Home of Baltimore for elderly women, formerly at Biddle Street and Argyle Avenue, and St. Andrew's infirmary, formerly on South Exeter Street under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Among the modifications and renovations to the building were the conversion of the southwest tower rooms to a stair well, the surgical amphitheater into a chapel, the observation gallery serving as a balcony tier, and the addition of the gold cross from "the burnt Church of St. Pauls" to the dome cupola surmounting the east wing.

The institution now known as the Church Home and Hospital has another claim to continuity with their original structure beyond continuing to serve the community as a hospital. Among the records of the Church Home's "permanent beneficiaries living in the house" entries is "1863, April 23 Mrs. Maria Clemm, 73, Lady" and also Edgar Allan Poe's aunt-mother-in-law.



Quad: Baltimo  
East

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-121

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Washington Medical College (preferred), Church Home & Infirmary

other Church Home & Hospital

## 2. Location

street and number 100 North Broadway \_\_ not for publication

city, town Baltimore \_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore City

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Broadway Acquisition and Development Series, c/o Michael Iati

street and number 600 N. Wolfe St., Phipps 5 telephone (410) 955-9815

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21287-1546

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber FMC 1005 folio 367

city, town Baltimore tax map 6, section 8 block 1346, lot 1 tax ID number 06081346001

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	2	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-left: 100px;">1</span>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. B-121

### 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.

### Summary Description

Washington Medical College, also known as the East Building of the Church Home & Hospital, is all that remains of a once sprawling hospital complex that occupied the blocks bounded by East Fayette Street on the north, North Broadway on the east, East Baltimore Street on the south, and North Dallas Street on the west. Constructed in 1836, Washington Medical College stands at the top of Fairmount Hill in the Washington Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City. The 5-story, brick Gothic revival building has a 3-bay rotunda framed by square towers at each corner. A 7-bay wing extends to the east. The building is in fair condition.

### Comprehensive Description

Washington Medical College stands on the crest of the hill at the east end of its steep lot and faces south toward the harbor. A small garden with circular path, a boxwood hedge, and a wrought iron fence survives in front of the hospital. The rest of the site has been cleared.

Washington Medical College, constructed in 1836, is a 5-story brick building. The building consists of a rotunda framed by 1-bay square towers at each corner and an integral 7-bay wing that extends to the east. The west elevation of the building is parged due to recent demolition of the 1888 west wing.

The building is constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond. The rotunda has a flat roof. The two south towers have pyramidal roofs, while the two north towers have flat roofs. The northeast tower has a 1951 6<sup>th</sup> story containing HVAC equipment. The east wing has a flat roof with a centered cupola featuring a gilded dome surmounted by a cross. Moulded wood cornices extend around the building. The four towers have pointed arch window openings; most other window openings have jack arches. The window openings have stone sills; those on the rotunda also have stone lintels. The windows and doors are recent.

The 3-bay rotunda has windows on the south (front) and north (rear) elevations. The center bay of the first story of the north elevation has been bricked in. On the south elevation, a 3-story 1897 brick addition infills the space between the two towers and the rotunda. A projecting wood frame porch unifies the two south towers and the addition.

On the south elevation, the west bay of the east wing has an 1897 projecting, gabled portico with an elaborate frontispiece and entry surround. Stone steps lead to a round arch opening containing double doors below a fanlight and an elaborate wrought iron light fixture. Small windows with jack arches are located on each side of the doors. Above is a pediment with scrolled modillion blocks. The east building is otherwise undetailed. Alterations to its exterior include the addition of a fifth floor in 1897, the filling of the basement windows with brick, and a 1-bay stair hall added to the east end in 1951. The stair hall, constructed for fire egress, replaced an 1893 addition that had a 1<sup>st</sup> floor portico and porches on the upper floors.

The interior of the Washington Medical College has been remodeled repeatedly but still retains the defining elements of the original floor plan. With the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, floors are carried across the rotunda. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the rotunda is a gallery overlooking the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of the rotunda have been divided into small rooms. None of the rotunda rooms are domed.<sup>1</sup> The east wing has a double-loaded corridor lined with small rooms. Exits at each end of the corridor lead to the rotunda on the west or the 1951 stair hall on the east. Aside from window surrounds

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<sup>1</sup> A small dome atop the rotunda appears in Edward Sasche's lithograph of the city (see attachments). However, it does not appear on later lithographs or photographs, and no evidence of it remains.

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in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor rotunda, mosaic tile floors on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the east wing, and possibly some elements of the stair in the southwest tower, all interior finishes are recent.

Washington Medical College closed in 1855. In 1858, the building reopened as the Church Home & Infirmary (later Church Home & Hospital). The Church Home & Hospital added the following buildings over the next 141 years (see Site Plan for locations):

- 1888: West Building
- 1894: Rowhouses at 126-132 Broadway (demolished ca. 1958)<sup>2</sup>
- 1904: Annex<sup>3</sup>
- 1910: Nurses Home (demolished ca. 1958)<sup>4</sup>
- 1923: Central Building<sup>5</sup>
- 1928: Northwest Building<sup>6</sup>
- 1951: Nash-Elliott Building (refurbished bedding factory - demolished 1982)<sup>7</sup>
- 1958: Barton Building<sup>8</sup>
- 1960: Nurses Home and new Church Home<sup>9</sup>
- 1968: Operating Rooms<sup>10</sup>
- 1983: Northwood Building<sup>11</sup>

All buildings but the 1836 Washington Medical College were demolished in 2001. New additions are planned.

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<sup>2</sup> Goodwin, R. Christopher & Associates, Inc. "Archaeological Investigation of the Church Home & Hospital Property," 4.

<sup>3</sup> Goodwin, 4.

<sup>4</sup> Goodwin, 4; Wehr, Frederick T. *Poe Died Here: Recollections of Church Home & Hospital*, 7, 20.

<sup>5</sup> Goodwin, 4; Wehr, 68.

<sup>6</sup> Goodwin, 4.

<sup>7</sup> Wehr, 7.

<sup>8</sup> Wehr 30, 104.

<sup>9</sup> "Nurses' Home Rites,"

<sup>10</sup> Wehr, 19.

<sup>11</sup> Wehr, 62.

## 8. Significance

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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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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:

Specific dates 1836-1855

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1836

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary Statement of Significance

Washington Medical College (now Church Home & Hospital), constructed in 1836, is best known as the hospital where Edgar Allan Poe died. Taken over by the Church Home & Infirmary in 1858, the building embodies early 19<sup>th</sup> century beliefs about disease and convalescence. Its distinctive rotunda reflects the growing professionalization of medicine exhibited in the teaching methods at the time. The property meets National Register Criterion A because of its association with medical education in Baltimore. Along with Davidge Hall (University of Maryland Medical School), it meets National Register Criterion C as a rare surviving example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century medical school. Although the interior of the building has been extensively reworked as part of various remodeling campaigns, its basic plan remains intact.

### Narrative History

#### Washington Medical College and its Building

Washington Medical College was founded in 1827 as an affiliate of Washington College in Washington, Pennsylvania.<sup>12</sup> The group of seven founding physicians had originally tried to obtain a charter from the Maryland General Assembly, but the legislature denied the request in 1826, bowing to political pressure from the rival College of Medicine of Maryland (now University of Maryland Medical School).<sup>13</sup> The physicians then turned northward, appealing to Washington College and offered to begin "a course of medical study" in Baltimore using the college's charter. Washington College approved the resolution on April 24, 1827.<sup>14</sup> In 1833, Washington Medical College finally secured an independent charter from the Maryland General Assembly and severed its ties to Washington College.<sup>15</sup>

The Washington Medical College originally stood on Holliday Street between Saratoga and Lexington.<sup>16</sup> In 1836, the College moved to a new location on North Broadway. The new site offered several locational advantages. It occupied a hill overlooking the harbor in a relatively unsettled area. In an era when disease was believed to emanate from the air and earth,<sup>17</sup> the hilltop location was thought to be healthful because it received fresh, clean breezes instead of the stale air of

<sup>12</sup> Geiser, "Memorandum & Inquiry Regarding the Washington Medical College of Baltimore"; Letter from W. M. Hillegeist to Dr. Thomas S. Cullen.

<sup>13</sup> Campbell, Penelope. "Medical Education for an African Colonist," 132.

<sup>14</sup> Hillegeist.

<sup>15</sup> Geiser; Hillegeist.

<sup>16</sup> Geiser; Hillegeist.

<sup>17</sup> Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland, A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980*, 381-382.

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swampy areas around the harbor and Jones Falls.<sup>18</sup> On a more gruesome note, the new site was outside the city limits in close proximity to three cemeteries (including Potter's Field, the paupers' cemetery), ensuring an ample supply of cadavers.

The building constructed by Washington Medical College also reflects prevailing attitudes about disease and convalescence. The building is oriented with its long elevation facing south toward the harbor, receiving full sun as well as sea breezes. The garden on the south side of the building provided patients with a place to partake of the sunshine and fresh air cure that was popular at the time. The east wing, which housed patients, features a central double-loaded corridor with windows on the north and south elevations aligned to allow maximum cross-ventilation. The picturesque Gothic revival style of the building invoked associations both of collegiate life and rural domesticity.

An article that appeared in *The Family Magazine* in 1838 described the building as it was planned:

The building will range 195 feet on Hampstead Hill St., and consist in part of a circular center building, 40 feet in diameter, having 4 stories at unequal height for the convenience of Lecture Halls, Laboratory, Dissecting Rooms, Museum, Library. This part of the edifice is flanked at 4 corresponding equi-distant points by turrets, 6 stories high, castellated with obelisk roofs, and decorated with Gothick windows and doors. The two wings (the eastern already finished and occupied) are each 60 feet by 40, being 5 stories in height.<sup>19</sup>

The engraving in this article obviously shows the building as it was meant to appear when completed. In the engraving, the west wing is identical to the east wing, and the four towers have steeply pitched pyramidal roofs that give the building a much more Gothic appearance than it now has. In reality, Washington Medical College only completed the rotunda and east wing, and the four towers had flat roofs throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Medical Education

Few medical schools existed in the United States before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Those who became physicians generally gained their knowledge through an apprenticeship. For a small annual fee, they would live and work with an established physician for two to five years.<sup>20</sup> In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of medical schools began to grow.<sup>21</sup> Most medical schools were founded by small groups of doctors who would obtain a charter, rent or buy a lecture hall, and begin accepting students.<sup>22</sup> Construction of a building for the medical school often came later.<sup>23</sup> Attendance requirements were minimal – usually less than six months.<sup>24</sup> Baltimore boasted one of the most significant concentrations of institutions devoted to the study of medicine in the United States. Medical schools in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Baltimore included, in addition to Washington Medical College, the College of Medicine of Maryland, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Baltimore Medical College. The Johns Hopkins Medical School did not open until 1893.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Goodwin, 3. Climactic considerations were particularly important after successive yellow fever epidemics ravaged Baltimore, peaking in 1819.

<sup>19</sup> "Washington Medical College." *The Family Magazine*. A copy of this article is attached.

<sup>20</sup> Duffy, John. *The Healers*, 166-167.

<sup>21</sup> Duffy, 167.

<sup>22</sup> Duffy, 170.

<sup>23</sup> Duffy, 170.

<sup>24</sup> Duffy, 173.

<sup>25</sup> Beirne, Francis E. *The Amiable Baltimoreans*, 222-226.

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Training in these early medical schools consisted mainly of lecture and observation. Schools frequently utilized the amphitheater concept, in which students sat around the perimeter of a large, multi-level room to watch professors perform surgeries and dissections. Because surgery was relatively rare, dissection was the preferred method of teaching. Poor and homeless patients who would otherwise be buried in the potter's field provided some cadavers, but not enough. The solution of the time was grave-robbing:

Out of necessity, physicians and their pupils in the antebellum period were compelled to resort to grave-robbing, a practice which did not endear them to the public. In some cases, medical students were responsible for acquiring their own subjects, but most medical schools relied upon professional "resurrectionists," "sack-'em-up men," or "body snatchers," who charged a standard fee according to the age of the subject and the condition of the body.<sup>26</sup>

Grave-robbing was a particularly widespread problem in Baltimore due to the number of medical schools.<sup>27</sup> Public resentment ran high, and in 1807, a mob burned the College of Medicine of Maryland.<sup>28</sup> Hands-on clinical training did not replace lecture and dissection until after the Civil War.<sup>29</sup>

### Washington Medical College and Its Use of the Building

Information about the operation of Washington Medical College is scarce, but a few sources offer insight into how various spaces in the building were used. William Batchelor and his family lived in the building as caretakers from 1855 to 1857 after Washington Medical College vacated the building. His grandson, William N. Batchelor, recorded the family's discoveries as they explored the building for the first time. The first floor of the rotunda was described as a "very large round room" with a water pump outside.<sup>30</sup> The second floor with its third floor gallery appeared to them to be a lecture room. It contained tables, chairs, blackboards, and glass cases full of books.<sup>31</sup> The fourth floor, believed to be the operating and dissection room contained (in addition to a partially-dissected cadaver) a small observation gallery, glass cases full of surgical tools, examples of male and female skeletons, and clean and dirty aprons.<sup>32</sup>

The east wing of the building contained wards, private patient rooms, and rooms for boarding medical students. The ward, a large room lined with beds, was the standard way of housing patients, in part because it allowed maximum air flow and in part because the patients could be easily supervised by one or two people. Private patient rooms were quite rare during this time period. Those in the Washington Medical College were intended for "strangers who may be taken ill in our city, and who prefer being retired from the noise and confusion of a hotel, and wish a place where good nurses, medical attendance, and every convenience contributing to their comfort will be provided."<sup>33</sup> On-site boarding for medical students was also rare during this period. The student apartments were described as "most agreeable and inviting to

<sup>26</sup> Duffy, 168.

<sup>27</sup> Shivers, Frank R., Jr. *Walking in Baltimore*, 162.

<sup>28</sup> Duffy, 169.

<sup>29</sup> Duffy, 167.

<sup>30</sup> Batchelor, William N. *Recollections of the East Building*, 6.

<sup>31</sup> Batchelor, 6-7. Although the space fits the description of an amphitheater, there is no concrete evidence that this room was used as an operating or dissection room.

<sup>32</sup> Batchelor, 7.

<sup>33</sup> "Washington Medical College."

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young gentlemen who may prefer to reside in the College edifice.<sup>34</sup> Private patient rooms and rooms for medical students occupied the lower floors, while rooms (possibly large enough to be wards) for African-American patients and a ward for seamen occupied the upper floors.<sup>35</sup>

As a medical school, Washington Medical College needed patients on whom to demonstrate surgery. However, surgery was so rarely successful that most patients would refuse it.<sup>36</sup> Therefore, Washington Medical College, like other medical schools of the time, demonstrated surgery on cadavers. Many of the seamen who came up to the hospital from Fells Point must have died, but they evidently did not provide enough specimens. As stated before, grave robbing was a brisk business in Baltimore at the time and a cause of public outrage. Although Washington Medical College had originally intended to reduce this problem by only using unclaimed bodies, it seems that they too began relying on stolen cadavers.<sup>37</sup> William N. Batchelor remembers that on his first night in the building, the family heard a rattling at the gate. Upon investigation, they found "a man with a bag standing up against the fence that had a dead body in it that was to be delivered to the college."<sup>38</sup> Rumors also persisted of kidnappings near the College.<sup>39</sup>

### Stories of Washington Medical College

From its beginning, Washington Medical College primarily served young white men from the upper south. The College did, however, briefly train a young Liberian. The American Colonization Society was founded in Liberia, Africa in 1821 for the resettlement of African-Americans.<sup>40</sup> Dr. James Hall founded the Maryland State Colonization Society in 1833 with the particular concern of training young colonists to practice medicine.<sup>41</sup> In 1835, Liberian colonist Samuel Ford McGill contacted the Maryland Society to inquire about the possibility of studying medicine in the United States. He was referred to Baltimore businessman Moses Sheppard. Sheppard, a Quaker, discouraged McGill based on the prejudice he would face but nonetheless offered to help.<sup>42</sup> McGill arrived in Baltimore in the fall of 1836 and began his studies at Washington Medical College, the school selected by the Society.<sup>43</sup> Within the semester, white students complained that he overstepped his bounds as an African man, and the Society withdrew him from the school.<sup>44</sup> Dr. Hall arranged for McGill to continue his studies at the University of Vermont. Baltimore physicians continued to support him by sending books and specimens until he returned to Liberia in 1838.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Washington Medical College."

<sup>35</sup> Maryland Historical Trust National Register Eligibility Review Form for Church Home & Hospital (B-121); Telephone interview with Helena Hicks, PhD., November 14, 2001. Dr. Hicks is a Baltimore scholar and descendent of an 18<sup>th</sup> century free-black family. Her research through family records, Baltimore City Archives in the 1970s, and Peale Museum records revealed repeated references to African-American patients being treated at Washington Medical College. The results of her research have not been published.

<sup>36</sup> Batchelor, 2.

<sup>37</sup> Batchelor, 2-3.

<sup>38</sup> Batchelor, 3.

<sup>39</sup> Batchelor, 3.

<sup>40</sup> Campbell, 130.

<sup>41</sup> Campbell, 130-131.

<sup>42</sup> Campbell, 131.

<sup>43</sup> Campbell, 131.

<sup>44</sup> Campbell, 131-137.

<sup>45</sup> Campbell, 131-137.

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Washington Medical College is perhaps best known as the place where Edgar Allan Poe died. Poe arrived in Baltimore en route to an editing job in Philadelphia on September 28, 1849.<sup>46</sup> From that day through October 2, he was neither seen nor heard.<sup>47</sup> On October 3, Poe reappeared, obviously very ill, at Gunner's Hall tavern at 44 East Lombard St.<sup>48</sup> Customers took him to Washington Medical College where he died on October 7.<sup>49</sup> The official cause of death was "congestion of the brain."<sup>50</sup> Poe was quickly buried in a family plot at the Westminster Church at Fayette and Green Streets.<sup>51</sup> Historically, it has been held that Poe died in the third floor room of the southwest tower. However, William N. Batchelor remembers a stair (still present) in the southwest tower.<sup>52</sup> The actual room in which Poe died, therefore, remains uncertain.

### The Closing of Washington Medical College

Washington Medical College never met with financial success. In 1849, some facilities were moved to the northeast corner of Lombard and Hanover Streets in hopes that a downtown location would be more advantageous.<sup>53</sup> The 1836 building briefly continued in use as a hospital. Washington Medical College officially closed in 1851, although there are "vague references" to the building being used as a hospital until 1855.<sup>54</sup> The Fells Point Savings Association took over the building in 1855 for payment of debts.<sup>55</sup>

Washington Medical College reorganized in 1867 at the corner of Calvert and Saratoga Streets. It merged with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore in 1877, which merged with the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1916.<sup>56</sup>

### The Church Home & Infirmary

Washington Medical College later became the site of the Church Home & Infirmary. In 1855, the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's, Grace, Mt. Calvary, and Emmanuel Episcopal Churches formed the Church Home Society and opened a shelter at Biddle and Argyle Streets. Their purpose was "to provide a place of shelter and kindly sympathy and care for the destitute and disabled and sick members of the Episcopal Church, single females without friends, especially when out of employment, and helpless, friendless children."<sup>57</sup>

In 1856, the Deaconesses of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland founded St. Andrew's Infirmary "to provide a place of quiet refuge for the destitute sick and also of quiet religious nursing for sick members of the Church desirous and able to pay for the advantage."<sup>58</sup> The Infirmary was located at 64 South Exeter Street.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Mills, Eric. "The Edgar Allan Poe Death Tour," 93.

<sup>47</sup> Mills, 94.

<sup>48</sup> Mills, 94.

<sup>49</sup> Mills, 94.

<sup>50</sup> Mills, 94.

<sup>51</sup> Mills, 95. The originally unmarked grave was later moved to the northwest corner of the cemetery and given a headstone.

<sup>52</sup> Batchelor, 7.

<sup>53</sup> Hillegeist; Batchelor, 16.

<sup>54</sup> Geiser; Batchelor, 16.

<sup>55</sup> Batchelor, 2.

<sup>56</sup> Geiser; Hillegeist; Batchelor, 16.

<sup>57</sup> Church Home & Infirmary. "The Modern Good Samaritan," 5; "Church Home – A Century of Service."

<sup>58</sup> Church Home & Infirmary, 5.

<sup>59</sup> "Church Home – A Century of Service."

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-121

Washington Medical College  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

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In 1857, the Church Home Society and St. Andrew's Infirmary acquired the former Washington Medical College for \$20,500.<sup>60</sup> The facility opened in early 1858 under the new name Church Home & Infirmary with the mission to provide "home for sick and distressed persons belonging to the Protestant Episcopal Church."<sup>61</sup>

The Church Home & Infirmary (later Church Home & Hospital) served Baltimore for 141 years until closing in 1999. Although officially an Episcopal institution, it provided care to all who came, regardless of religious affiliation or ability to pay. In addition to its hospital, the Church Home & Infirmary provided throughout its history a home for 40 to 50 elderly women of limited means. On occasion, it also took in orphans and young women. A School of Nursing operated from 1894 to 1976. The hospital offered residencies in surgery and internal medicine. In 1964, the hospital became one of the first in the country to institute "progressive care," a system in which patients were segregated according to the severity of their needs: intensive care, intermediate care, and self-care (self-care was eventually eliminated due to cost).<sup>62</sup> In 1977, the hospital became one of the first in the country to provide hospice care for terminally ill patients.<sup>63</sup>

Despite pioneering these methods, the Church Home & Hospital was struggling with costs by the mid-1970s. The obstetrics department closed in 1974, internal medicine residencies ceased in 1975, the School of Nursing closed in 1976, and surgical residencies ceased in 1977.<sup>64</sup> The state health planning agency, which was trying to reduce the number of hospital beds in Baltimore, rejected proposals to expand and improve the facilities in 1978, 1979, and 1980.<sup>65</sup> The Church Home & Hospital became part of Helix Health in 1995. In 1998, Helix Health merged with Medlantic Health of Washington to form Medstar. The hospital closed in the fall of 1999. The Johns Hopkins Hospital bought the site in late 1999.

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<sup>60</sup> Wehr, ix.

<sup>61</sup> Wehr, ix; Hillegeist.

<sup>62</sup> Joynes, J. William. "Self-Service Hospital."

<sup>63</sup> Wehr, 98-99.

<sup>64</sup> Wehr, 87

<sup>65</sup> Knudson, Mary. "State denies hospital plans for renovation;" Price, Joyce. "Residents OK razing of Poe's death place;" Knudson, Mary. "State blocks renovation of Church Hospital."

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-121

See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 8.41 acres  
Acreage of historical setting approx. 6 acres  
Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title Julie Darsie, Betty Bird

organization Betty Bird & Associates

date November 2001

street & number 2607 24<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 3

telephone (202) 588-9033

city or town Washington, D.C.

state N/A

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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-121

Washington Medical College  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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## Major Bibliographic References

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- Mills, Eric. "The Edgar Allan Poe Death Tour." *Baltimore Magazine* (October 2001): 92-95.
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**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. B-121

Washington Medical College  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 2

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Shivers, Frank R., Jr. *Walking in Baltimore: An Intimate Guide to the Old City*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Wehr, Frederick T. *Poe Died Here: Recollections of Church Home & Hospital*. Baltimore: Church Home & Hospital, 1994.

"Washington Medical College." *The Family Magazine* 3 (1838). (EPFL)

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-121

Washington Medical College  
Continuation Sheet

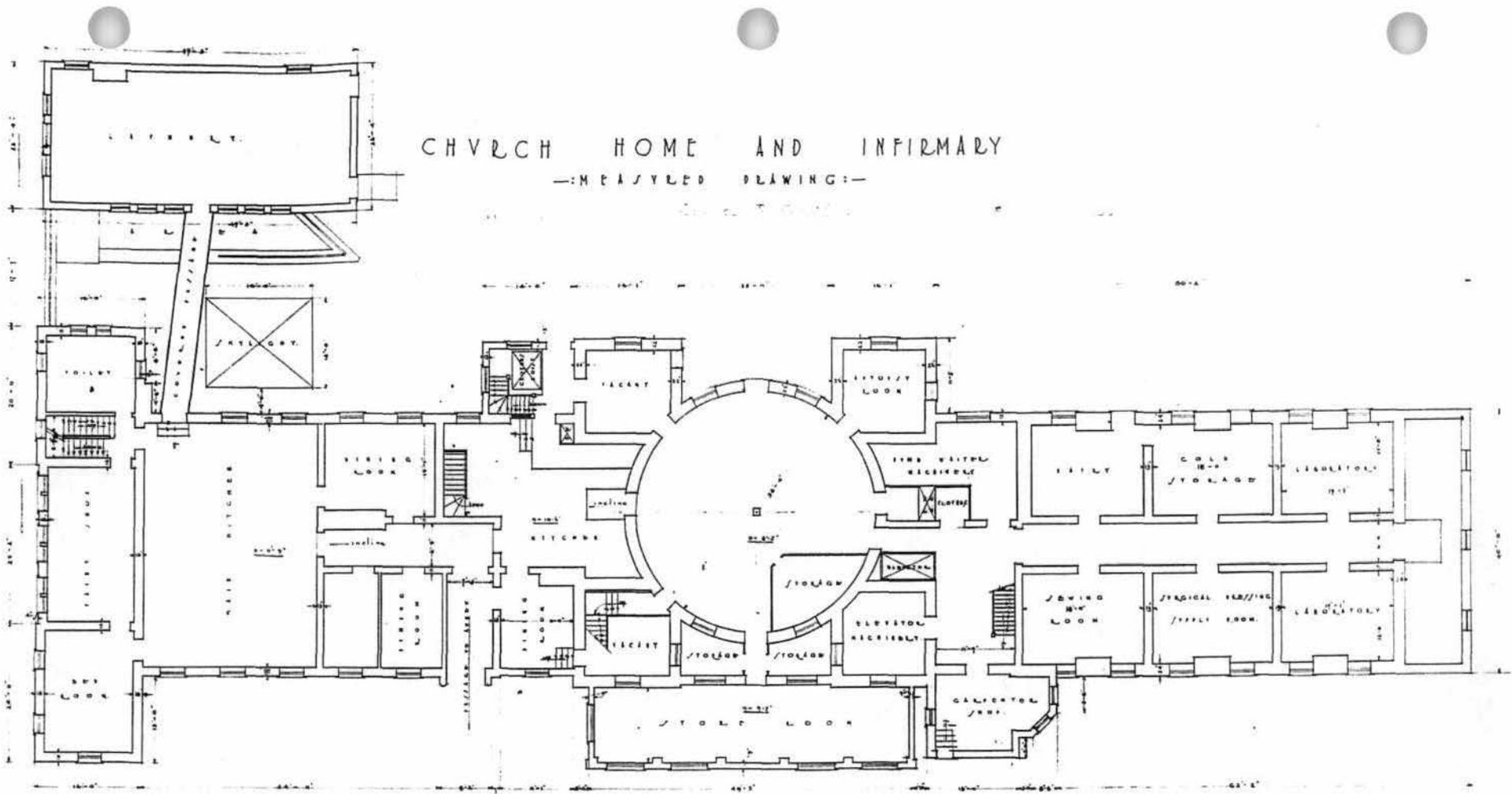
Number 10 Page 1

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## Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The National Register boundary for the Washington Medical College corresponds to that of Lot 1 of Block 1326 in Baltimore City. The 8.41-acre lot is bounded on the north by East Fayette Street, on the east by Broadway and Bethel Street, on the south by Moyer Street, East Baltimore Street, and Fairmount Avenue, and on the west by Bond Street and Dallas Street.

This boundary includes all the property owned by Washington Medical College and the Church Home & Hospital. It includes the 1836 Washington Medical College building, its garden to the south, and the land that historically surrounded it. The boundary also includes the property occupied by more recent hospital buildings depicted in aerial photographs and other photographic documentation reproduced for this project.



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN.

Scale: 1/8" = 1'



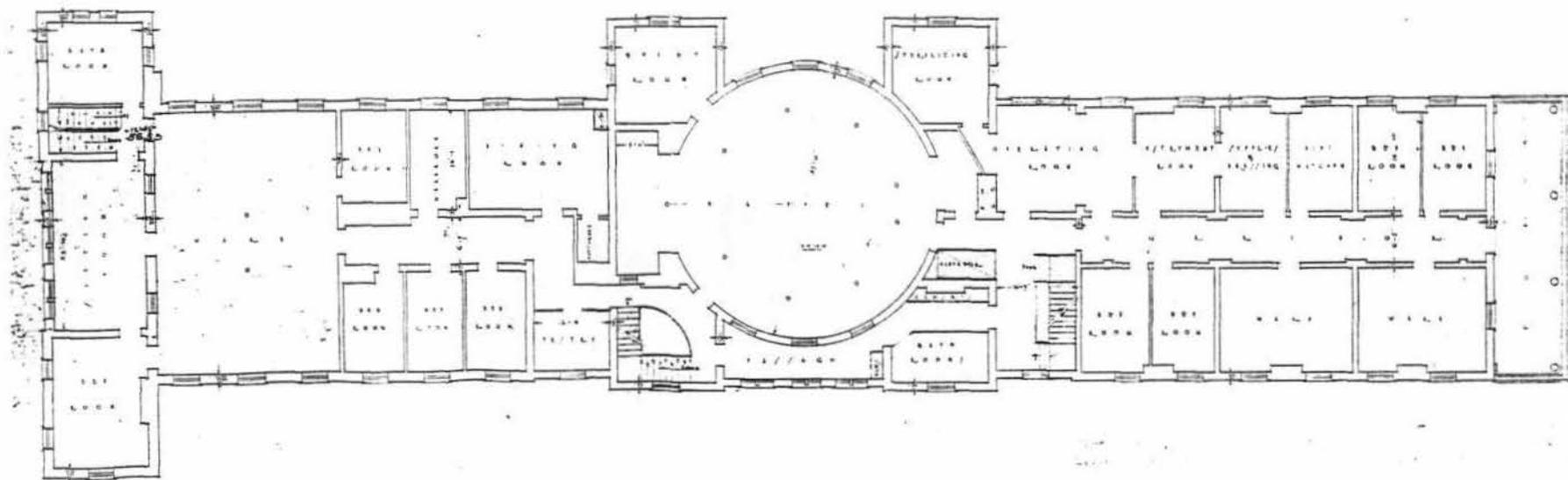
Basement Floor (at grade) to First Floor 6'-5"

WYATT & NOLTING ARCHITECTS

10510 OCT 27 1914



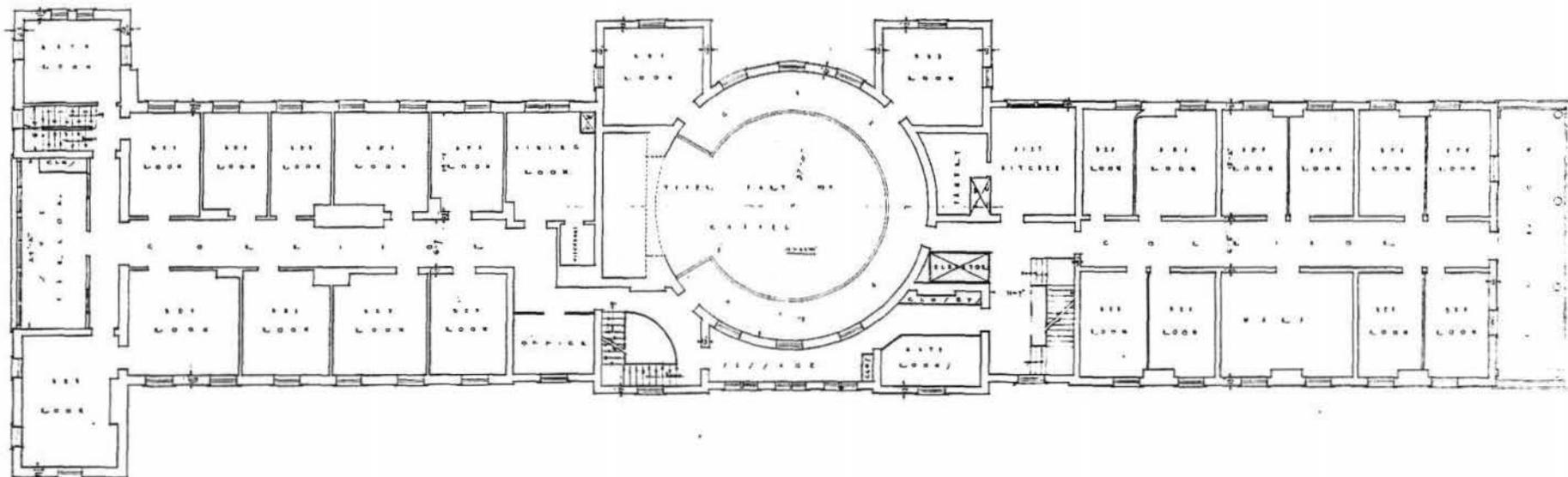
**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Basement Floor Plan East and West Buildings, 1914, Wyatt and Nolting, Architects**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Plan East and West Buildings, 1914, Wyatt and Nolting, Architects**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*

CHURCH HOME AND INFIRMARY

—ARCHITECT DRAWINGS—



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Third Floor to Fourth Floor

Scale: 1/8" = 1'

WYATT & NOLTING ARCHITECTS  
1305 B BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
1914

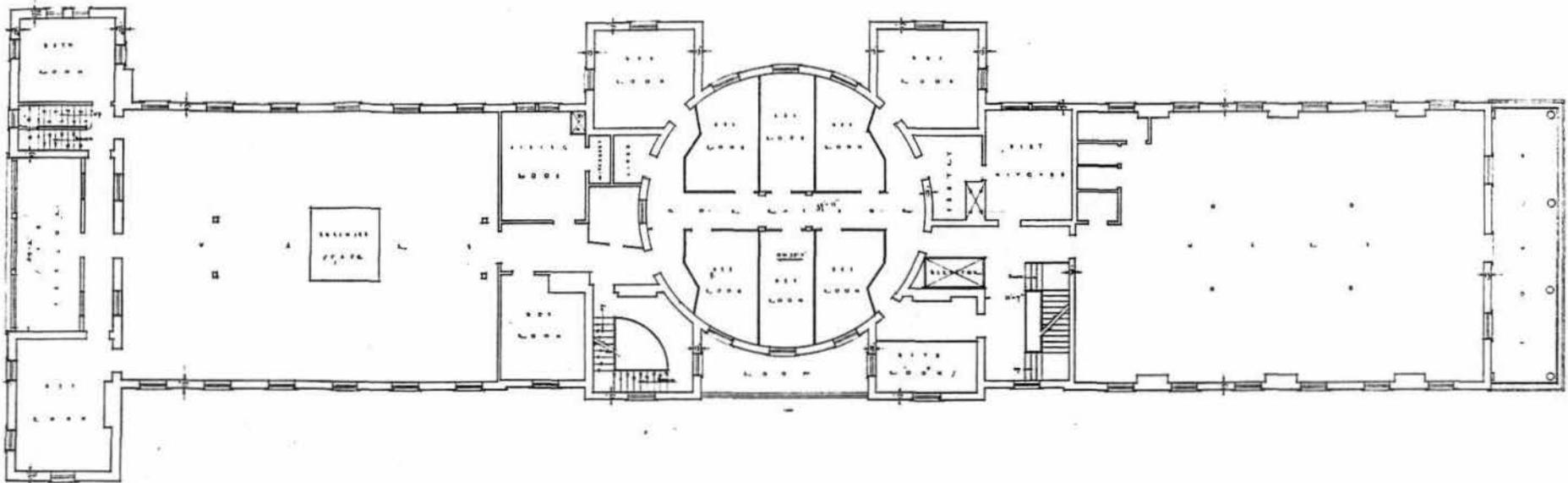
5



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Plan East and West Buildings, 1914, Wyatt and Nolting, Architects  
Source: *The Johns Hopkins Hospital*

CHURCH HOME AND INFIRMARY

—MEASURES DRAWING—



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

scale 1/8" = 1'



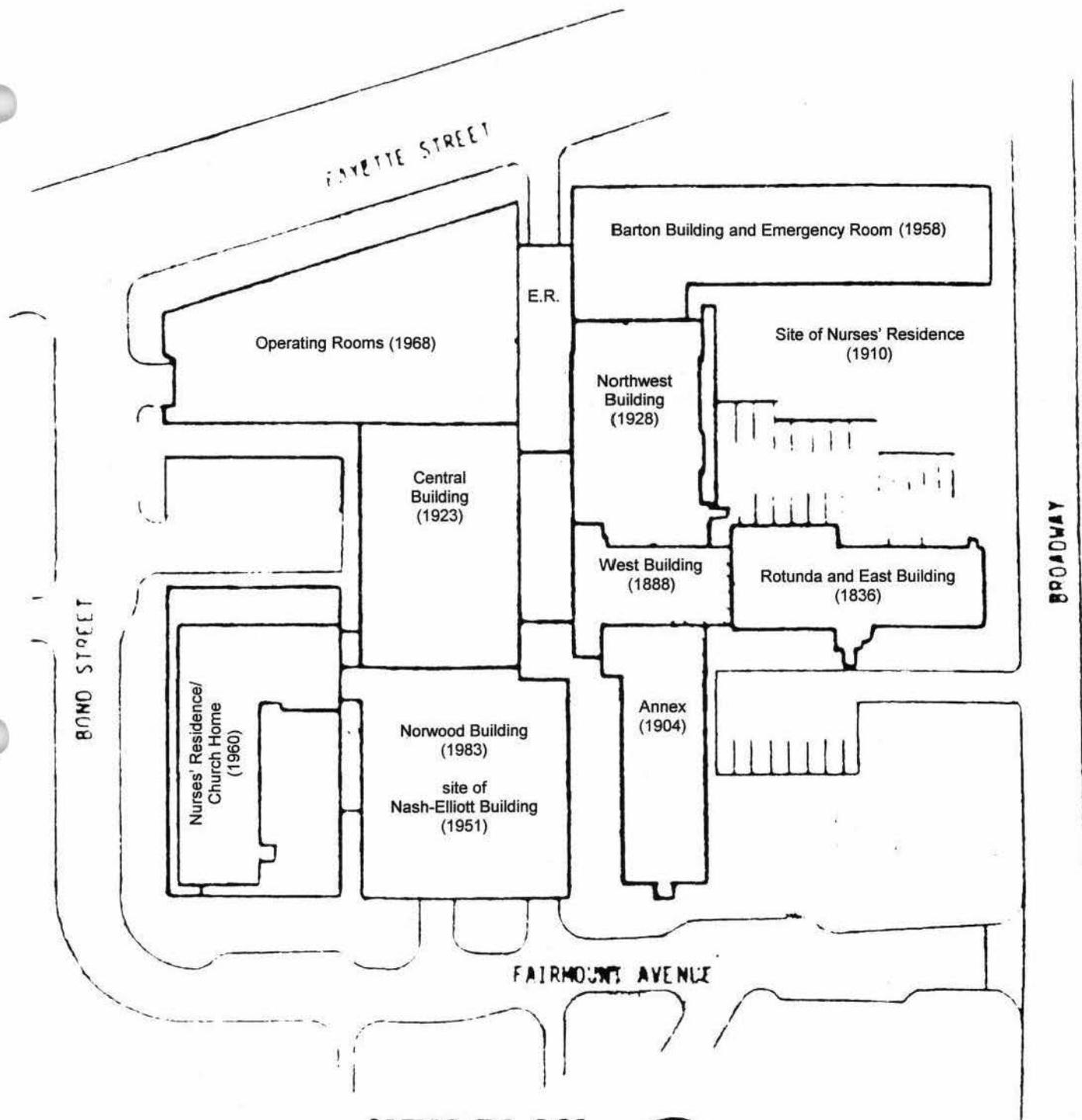
N

FOURTH FLOOR TO FIFTH FLOOR — 1914

WYATT & NOLTING ARCHITECTS  
10514 - OCT 21, 1914



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Plan, East and West Buildings, 1914, Wyatt and Nolting, Architects  
Source: *The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**KEY PLAN**  
**NOT TO SCALE**



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Site Plan**

*Source of Base Map: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Site Plan and National Register Boundary Map**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*





[Washington Medical College, Baltimore, Md.]

#### WASHINGTON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

"THE College buildings are constructed in a style of architecture which will vie with the proudest collegiate edifices. They are situated on the southeast corner of Market and Hampstead Hill streets, on the most elevated ground within the limits of Baltimore, and command a magnificent view of the Patapsco, of the city and the surrounding country. The buildings will range one hundred and ninety-five feet on Hampstead Hill st., and consist in part of a circular centre building, forty feet in diameter, having four stories at unequal height, for the convenience of Lecture halls, Laboratory, Dissecting rooms, Museum, Library. This part of the edifice is flanked at four corresponding equi-distant points by turrets, six stories high, castellated with obelisk roofs, and decorated with Gothick windows and doors. The two wings (the eastern already finished and occupied) are each sixty feet by forty, being five stories in height. The apartments are numerous, spacious and lofty, affording ample room for a classification of the patients, and, when completed, will contain between three and four hundred beds. The apartments appropriated to house students will accommodate forty or fifty individuals, and are most agreeable and inviting to young gentlemen who may prefer to reside in the College edifice. There are also apartments specially designed for strangers who may be taken ill in our city, and who prefer being retired from the noise and confusion of a hotel, and wish a

place where good nurses, medical attendance, and every convenience contributing to their comfort will be provided. It is believed that this peculiar feature will render this Institution very popular with strangers who may take apartments here, and who can have the attendance of any physician they prefer, and will be free to receive their friends and visitors as unrestrained as in their own homes. No infectious diseases are admitted within the wards of this hospital."

#### FACULTY.

*James H. Miller, M. D.*, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

*Samuel K. Jennings, M. D.*, Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeuticks, and Legal Medicine.

*Wm. W. Handy, M. D.*, Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

*John C. S. Monkur, M. D.*, Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine.

*Edward Foreman, M. D.*, Professor of Chymistry.

*John R. W. Dunbar, M. D.*, Professor of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.

*Washington R. Handy, M. D.*, Demonstrator of Anatomy.

#### OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE.

*James H. Miller, President.*

*John C. S. Monkur, Treasurer.*

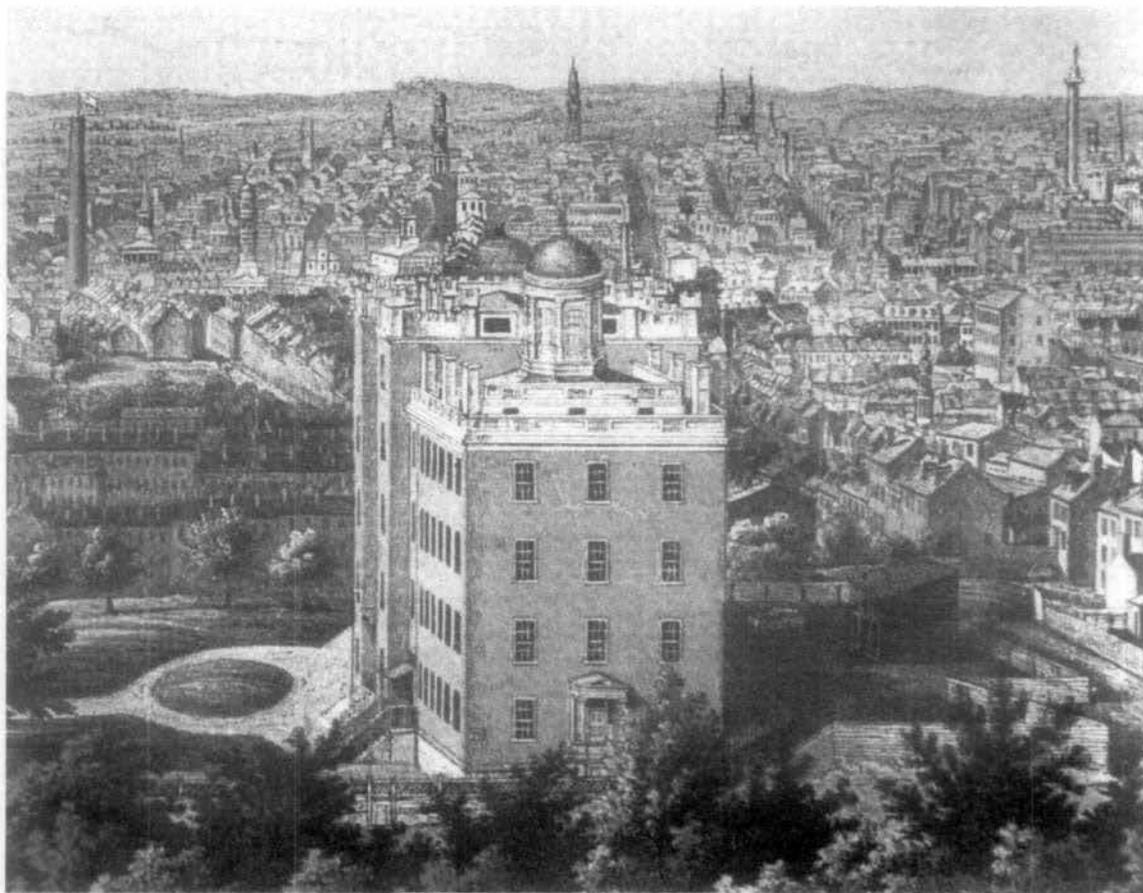
*Edward Foreman, Secretary.*

*Samuel K. Jennings, Dean.*

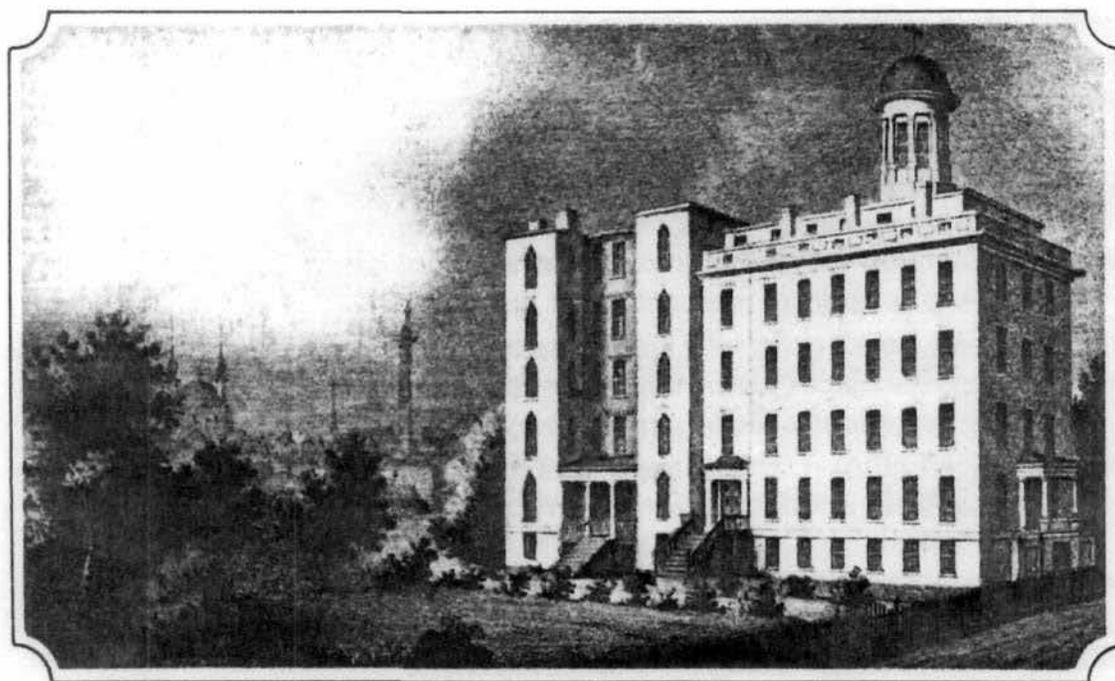
Washington Medical College (B-121)  
 Baltimore City, Maryland  
 Article from *Family Life Magazine*, 1838  
 Source: EPFL Vertical Files



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1848 August Kollner Lithograph Showing Hospital in Left Background**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1852 Lithograph by Edward Sasche Showing Hospital**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*

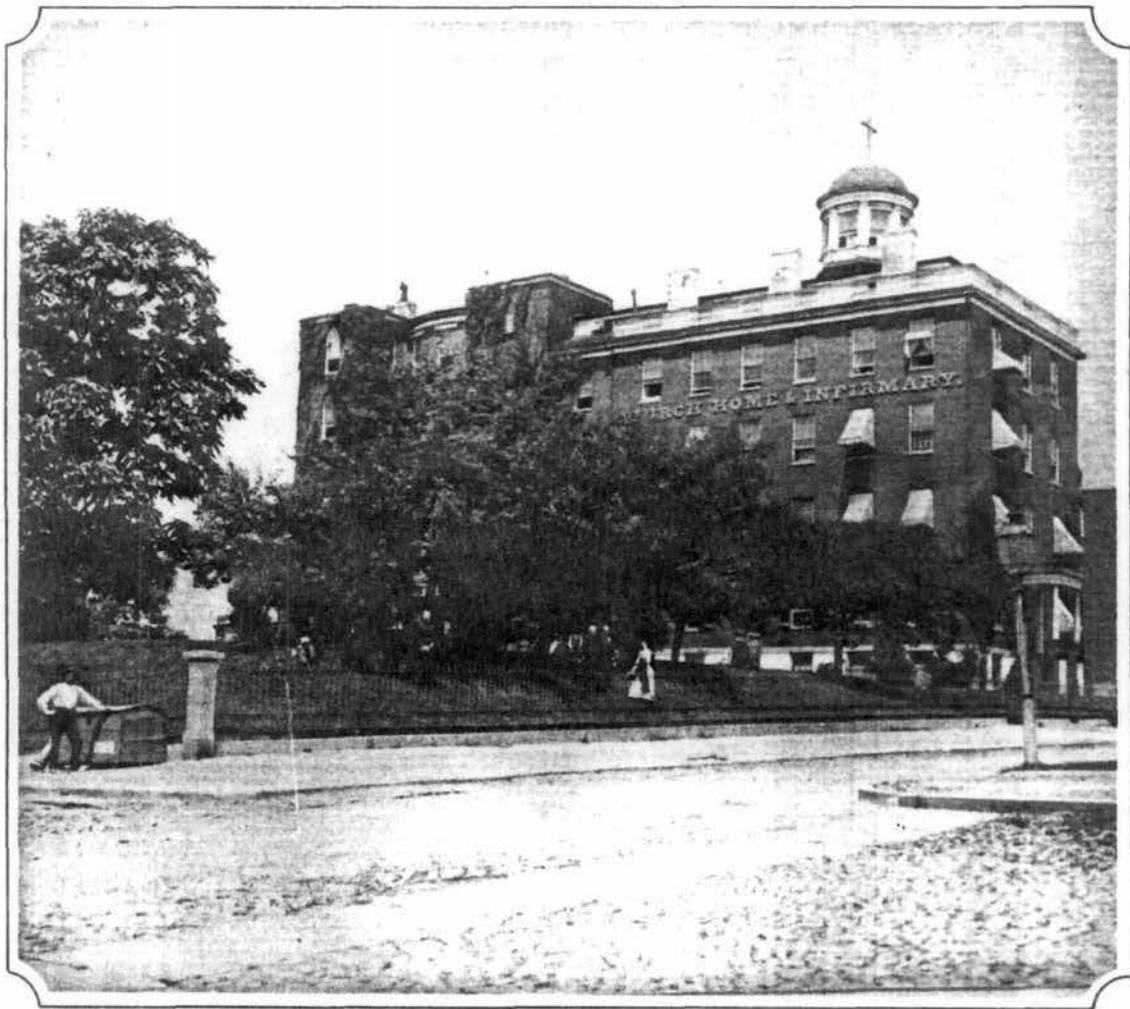


**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1859 Lithograph of Hospital**

*Source: Batchelor, William N. Recollections of the East Building*

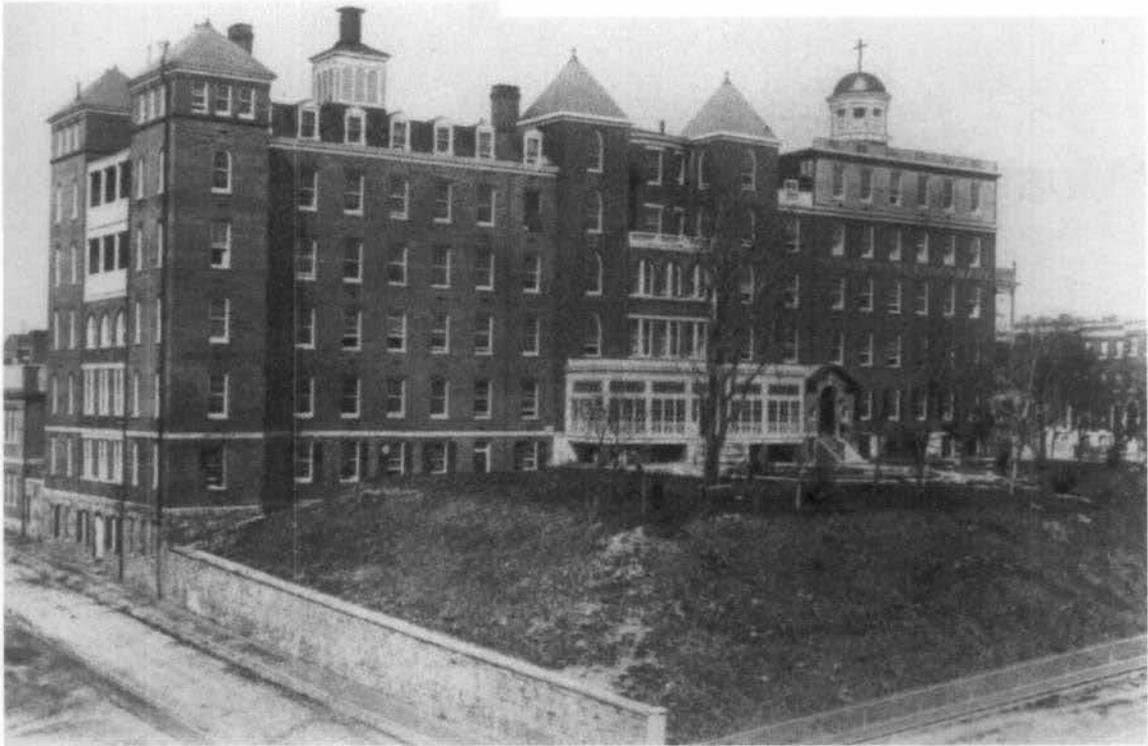


**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Ca. 1870 Photograph of Hospital**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
1876 Photograph of Hospital**

*Source: Batchelor, William N. Recollections of the East Building*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1898 Photograph of Hospital**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



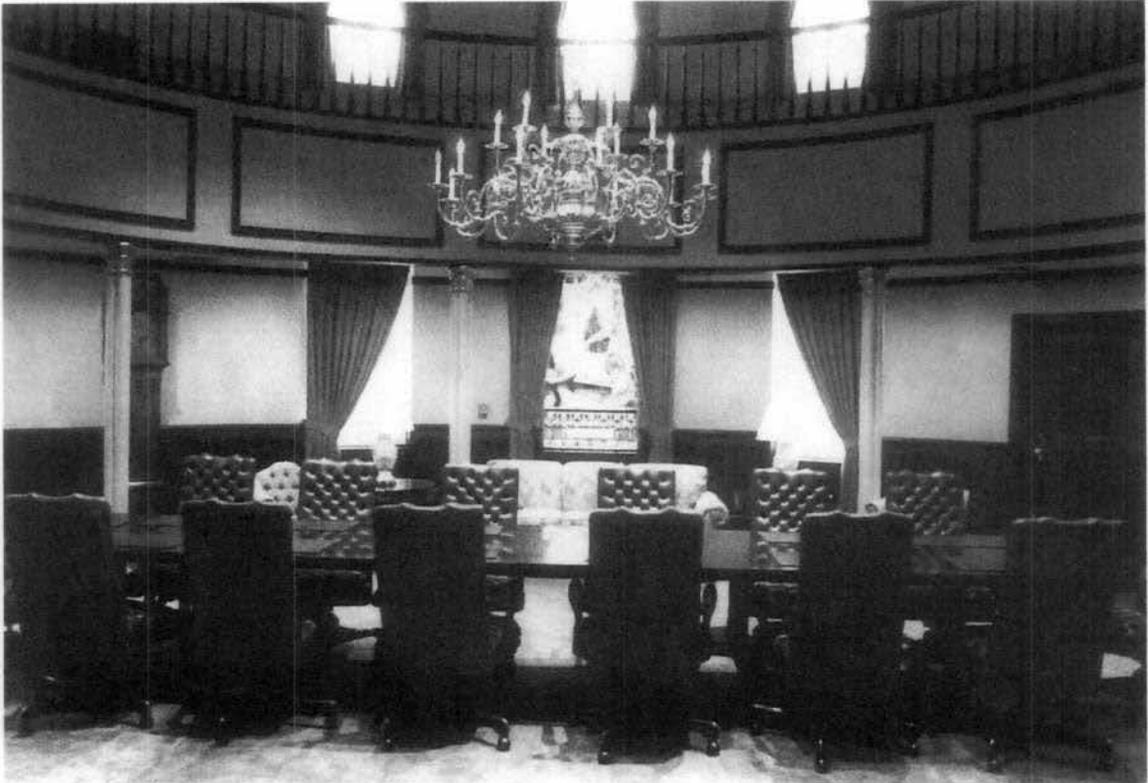
**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1920 Photograph of Hospital**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Ca. 1940 Photograph of Hospital**  
*Source: EPFL Vertical Files*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1950 Photograph of 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda When Used as Chapel**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



**Church Home and Hospital (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**1985 Photograph of 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda After Conversion to Board Room**  
*Source: Wehr, Frederick T. Poe Died Here*



East Building

**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Aerial Photograph, View Northwest**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



East Building

**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Aerial Photograph, View West**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Aerial Photograph, View East**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Aerial Photograph, View Northeast**  
*Source: The Johns Hopkins Hospital*



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
 South elevation of 1836 building (right)  
 and 1888 addition (left)



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
 View southwest toward Barton Building (right)  
 and 1836 building (center)



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
 View west from Broadway along Fairmount



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Rowhouses on Broadway and north elevation  
of 1836 building (right)



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
North elevation of east wing and northeast tower



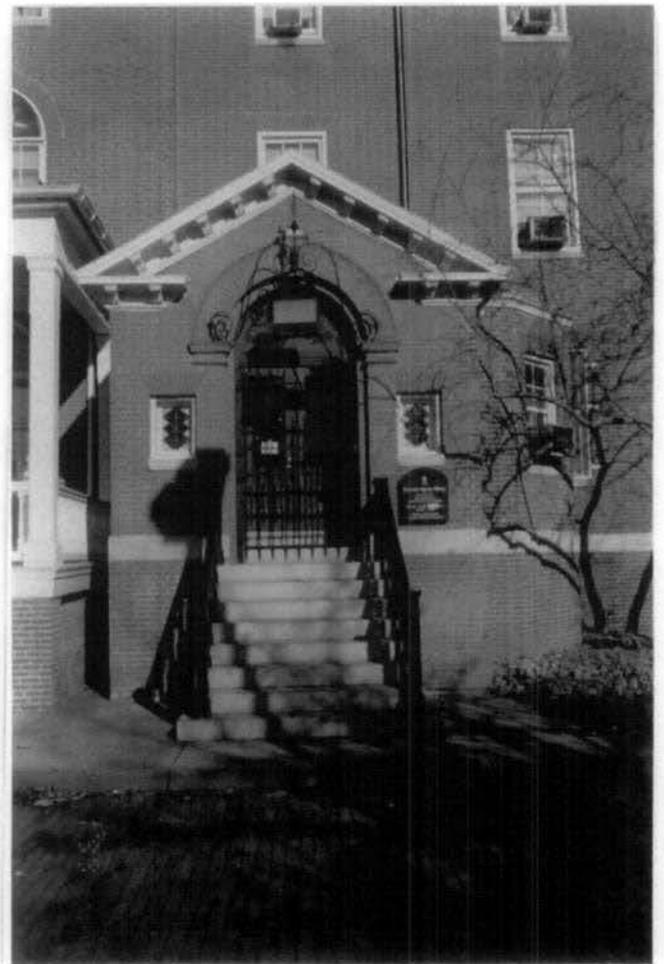
Washington Medical College (B-121)  
South elevation of 1836 building (right)  
and 1888 addition (left)



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
South elevation Norwood Building (left),  
1836 building (center)



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
South elevation of rotunda and two south towers



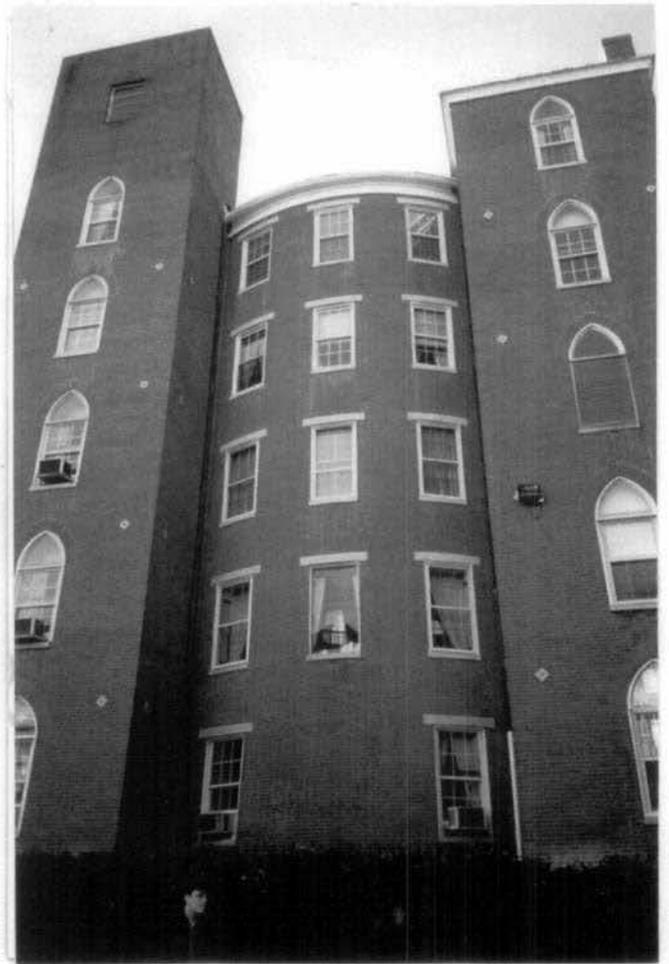
Washington Medical College (B-121)  
South entrance to east wing



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Parking Garage



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
Parking Garage



Washington Medical College (B-121)  
North elevation of rotunda and two north towers



**Washington Medical College (B-121)**  
**Baltimore City, Maryland**  
**Location Map**  
*Baltimore East Quadrangle*



B-121

Washington Medical College  
Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February, 2001

MD SHPO

South elevation prior to demolition of 1888 west  
wing (left)

1 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MO SHPO

South elevations of 1888 west wing (left - now demolished),  
rotunda (center) and part of east wing (right)

2 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

South elevation southwest tower (far right) and  
1888 west wing (now demolished),

3 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

South and east elevations of 1888 west wing  
(left - now demolished), rotunda (center) and  
east wing (right). Note 1951 stair hall  
covering east elevation.

4 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College  
Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

North elevation east wing and rotunda (left),  
east elevation 1928 Northwest Building  
(now demolished)

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B-121

Washington Medical College  
Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February, 2001

MD SHPO

Rotunda, third floor gallery  
6 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

Rotunda, Second and third floors

7 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

Stair in southwest tower

8 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Brough Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

Stair in southwest tower

9 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College

Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Braugh Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

Stair in southwest tower

10 of 11



B-121

Washington Medical College  
Baltimore City, Maryland

J. Braugh Schamp

February 2001

MD SHPO

Column in second floor of Rotunda

11 of 11