

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Main Building, site, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2345
 Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code: _____
 County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West
 Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
 Project: _____ Agency: _____
 Site visit by MHT staff: no yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date: _____
 Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2319
 NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

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

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district.

[*from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center. This property, BA-2336, Rice Auditorium, was included on the list of significant properties. (See Bowlin, 1985)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Main Building, site, Spring Grove

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BA-2345

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: _____

BA-2345

1853-1872

The Main Building

Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

Constructed of Maryland Granite, the Main Building was composed of a center building of four stories and two wings of three stories which extended back in echelon. Displaying elements of the Italianate style of architecture, the Main Building was designed by J.C. Neilson as the first hospital building on Spring Grove property.

This building was demolished in 1964.

See also MHT archeological inventory, site number

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Main Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Catonsville vicinity of _____ congressional district 3

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

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

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street & number _____ folio

city, town Towson state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. BA-2345

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Constructed between the years of 1853 and 1872, the Main Building was a granite structure laid in regular courses which rose four stories in the center block and three stories in the wing sections. The wing sections extended away from the central block in a northerly and southerly direction, in echelon. The main facade of the building faced in an eastern direction and the hospital facility developed around the Main Building. The building was destroyed in 1964.

The Main Building displayed characteristics of the Italianate style of architecture. The gabled and low-pitched hipped roofs exhibited a large overhanging eave embellished by wooden brackets. Oculus windows dotted the facade. The dominant shape of the windows was a rounded arch highlighted by a rounded stone lintel. The rounded windows were often grouped in twos and threes and showed a 4/4 sash. The water table and raised string courses appeared in stone. A wooden porte cochere embellished the eastern facade. Supported by decorative posts, the porte cochere displayed ornate bracketing on its cornice and a lattice work balustrade rising from the flat roof. Similar lattice work balconies appeared on the central pavilion of the same facade.

A description from the Report on Public Charities in 1877 by C.W. Chancellor depicted the building accurately several years after its completion:

The structure is of Maryland Granite, three stories high, and consists of a centre building 90 feet front, with two wings extending back 240 feet each, in echelon, so as not present one solid building, uniform in all its parts, but an apparent collection of houses united together, yet diversified in appearance and varied in character, admitting of a thorough classification of the patients.

8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2345

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1853-1872 **Builder/Architect** J. Crawford Neilson

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Under construction for nearly twenty years, the Main Building was the first building constructed on the Spring Grove property for the new site of Maryland Hospital for the Insane. The Board of Visitors commissioned J. Crawford Neilson to design the new hospital building. Neilson, an accomplished architect, had also executed the designs for the Baltimore Academy of Music and the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind in Baltimore. After Neilson's successful commission at Spring Grove, the architect was awarded the commission for the building complex at the Maryland State Asylum and Training School for the Feeble-Minded (Rosewood State Hospital).

The design of the Main Building reflected the accepted prototype of asylum construction of the nineteenth century. Following the Kirkbride plan, the Main Building featured a massive central structure flanked by offset wings which extended back in echelon. The Kirkbride plan dominated hospital construction from its introduction in the 1850s to the beginning of the twentieth century. The Main Building at Spring Grove State Hospital provided the best example in Maryland of this hospital design. The Main Building was in active use until the 1960s when the changes in mental health policy deemed the design of the building antiquated as a treatment facility. The State of Maryland razed the building in 1964. Only a small portion of the site has received new development and therefore it is highly likely that the site could yield some significant archeological information.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2345

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren L. Bowlin

organization Office Of Planning, DHMH date 6/86

street & number 201 West Preston Street telephone 301-225-6816

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
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teenth century; paper-maker William H. Hoffman's incompetence and dementia at the end of his life may actually have been what is now called Alzheimer's disease. Iron-founder Horace Abbott suffered from paralysis in his last years; this was doubtless the result of a stroke. When noted Methodist circuit rider Henry J. Slicer got the flu in 1864, he became immobilized with rheumatism and pain and was treated by castor oil, mustard plaster, Seidlitz powders, calomel, and magnesia. Twentieth-century diagnosis might

have revealed that he had a virally induced arthritis.

As in the rest of the United States, an increasing number of Baltimore County residents can be classified as elderly. Nursing homes, retirement communities, life care centers, and condominiums and apartments for those who no longer want the cares of property maintenance have proliferated and are monitored by state and local agencies for the care and quality of services offered and delivered.

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Dr. James Smith (1771-1841) was born in Elkton, Cecil County. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania after graduating from Dickinson College. He became known as the father of vaccination in America because of his lifelong interest in the vaccine for smallpox. Smith named a son for Edward Jenner, after the English medical pioneer who developed the vaccine. It is possible that Smith, who lived on Gay Street in Baltimore 1841, never set foot in Pikesville but merely owned and speculated in land there. He suggested the name Pikesville for the hamlet growing up around the 1816 Federal Arsenal to honor a friend, Brig. Gen. Zebulon Pike, who had been killed during the War of 1812.

Smith had sold the government property for the arsenal, 14 acres and 147 perches (a perch is an archaic measurement of length, equal to 5½ yards) in 1819 for \$895. He left 163 acres and 107 perches to his son. That tract subsequently became part of the McHenry property in Pikesville. The portrait of Smith was painted by Rembrandt Peale and is now in the Baltimore Museum of Art (bequest of Elise Agnus Daingerfield. BMA 1944-97).

Construction began on "Old Main," Spring Grove State Hospital, Catonsville, in 1853, here pictured in an 1871 Hoen lithograph. The Civil War interrupted the construction and work was not resumed until 1868. The hospital, which opened in 1872, provided vastly improved care for those with mental illness. Heretofore such unfortunates had been minimally warehoused with indigents in almshouses around the state. The building was demolished in 1964.



Brooks, Neal A., and Richard Parsons
1988 Baltimore County Panorama. Towson, Maryland: Baltimore
County Public Library.

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