

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Montgomery County General Hospital
2. Planning Area/Site Number 23/122* 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference *Not on Atlas
4. Address 2801 Olney-Sandy Spring Road
5. Classification Summary
- Category building
- Ownership private corporation
- Public Acquisition NA
- Status unoccupied
- Accessible yes: restricted
- Present use other: unused
- Previous Survey Recording _____ Federal _____ State _____ County _____ Local _____
- (Title and date: _____)
6. Date _____ 7. Original Owner _____
8. Apparent Condition
- a. fair c. original site
- b. altered
9. Description: This twenty one bay, one and a half story hospital has two east-west wings connected by a north-south segment. The hospital faces south on Route 108. This frame hospital has white stuccoed exterior walls. There is a center projecting pavilion on the south elevation with a gabled pediment. There are six-over-six double hung windows arranged singly and in pairs. Two shed-roofed six-over-six double hung dormer windows flank the center pavilion on the south elevation. The intersecting gable roofs have green asbestos shingles and a denticulated cornice line.
10. Significance: The first nonsectarian hospital in the county began in 1916 in Brinklow, about 3 miles east of Olney. Dr. Jacob W. Bird rented a home, called Wrenwood, and established Wrenwood Hospital. Bird ran this facility with five beds from 1916-1919. In 1917 he acquired a small, stone house and 13 acres in Olney. He formed a stock company and built a hospital, opening in 1919. Bird was the director of the board and chief of staff until his death in 1915. An active ladies auxiliary has contributed significantly from the early years to current times. In 1962 the directors called in and cancelled the stock, and the hospital became a non-profit organization. At that time the word "County", was dropped from the name. In 1972 the original hospital was vacated, and a new facility opened.
- Date researched and researcher 9/78- Mrs. Wm. J. Hines, Jr. Candy Reed Arch. Descrip.
12. Compiler Peg Coleman 13. Date Compiled 2/79 14. Designation Approval _____
15. Acreage 14.74 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Montgomery County General Hospital

AND/OR COMMON Montgomery General Hospital

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2801 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

CITY, TOWN Olney VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <u>Corp.</u>	<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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Unused</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Montgomery General Hospital, Inc. Telephone #: 774-7800

STREET & NUMBER 18101 Prince Philip Drive

CITY, TOWN Olney VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code Maryland 20832

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3079
Folio #: 90

STREET & NUMBER _____

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE _____
_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

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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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This twenty-one bay, one and a half story hospital has two east-west wings connected by a north-south section. The hospital faces south on Route 108.

Constructed of frame covered by white stucco, this hospital has a south projecting pavilion with a pedimented gable. An oval window is set in the gable above the door. There is a glass paneled door, accessible from the driveway by eleven poured concrete steps flanked by a metal railing. At the east end of the south wing, there is a wooden paneled door sheltered by a flat roof with a paneled railing supported by paired columns. At the west end of the south wing, seven poured concrete steps, flanked by metal railings, lead up to the double glass and wooden paneled doors set into a slight recess.

There are six over six double hung windows arranged singly and in pairs. Two shed roofed six over six double hung dormer windows flank the center pavilion on the south elevation.

The intersecting gable roofs have green asbestos shingles and a denticulated cornice. The east and west gable ends of both the north and south wings are pedimented. There are two interior brick chimneys above the two north-south sections.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first nonsectarian hospital in Montgomery County opened its doors in 1916 in a private home in Brinklow, about 3 miles east of Olney. Dr. Jacob W. Bird graduated from the University of Maryland, served 2 years in the University hospital in Baltimore, and set up a medical practice in Sandy Spring in 1909. Bird rented a home in Brinklow, and opened the Wrenwood Hospital, with five beds. Wrenwood operated from February, 1916, to November, 1919, administered by E. Sophia Featherstone, and directed by Dr. Bird.

In 1917 Dr. Bird acquired a small, stone house and 13 acres of land in Olney. The owners, heirs of Dr. William E. Magruder, accepted a token payment of ten dollars, essentially donating the property.¹ A stock company was formed which issued 2,000 shares of common stock to local subscribers, and \$40,000 was raised to build a new hospital, the Montgomery County General Hospital. Dr. Bird was the director of the board, and chief of staff until his death in 1959.

In 1919 a ladies' auxiliary formed, to help with housekeeping jobs and raise funds. Anna Farquhar was elected chairman. At first the ladies rolled bandages and sewed for the patients. The first fund raising event was a dinner given in 1920 which netted \$918.72 for the hospital. Such dinners have been held every year since except during the war years, 1943-46, generating substantial funds for the hospital. The auxiliary also operates a gift shop at the present time.

An epidemic of influenza in 1919 pressed the new hospital into operation even before its official opening ceremonies could be held. A total of 267 patients were cared for, using borrowed equipment. Not until February 6, 1920, did the hospital open officially. It was equipped initially with 28 beds. Total expenditures for constructing and fitting out the hospital came to \$76,000.

In 1947 a maternity wing was added, enabling the staff to care for nearly 3,000 patients during 1950. A final expansion in 1956 completed the building's H shape.

The stock was called in and cancelled in 1962, the directors deciding to make the hospital a non-profit organization. At that time the word "County" was dropped from the name, which had led many people to believe, mistakenly, that it was supported by County funds.

In 1972 the present building opened, and the original hospital vacated.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Deed 274/493, Montgomery County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farquhar, Roger, Old Homes & History of Montgomery Co., Md., pp. 58 and 59, Judd & Detweiler, Inc., Wash., D.C., 1959.
Canby, Jr., T.Y., News Release, Arpil, 1969.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14.74 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property is bounded by Sandy Spring-Olney Road (Route 108) and Prince Philip Drive.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Montgomery
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	<u>Mrs. William J. Hines, Jr.</u>	<u>Candy Reed - Architectural Description</u>
ORGANIZATION	<u>Sugarloaf Regional Trails</u>	DATE <u>September 1978</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>Box 87</u>	TELEPHONE <u>926-4510</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Dickerson</u>	STATE <u>Maryland 20753</u>

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.

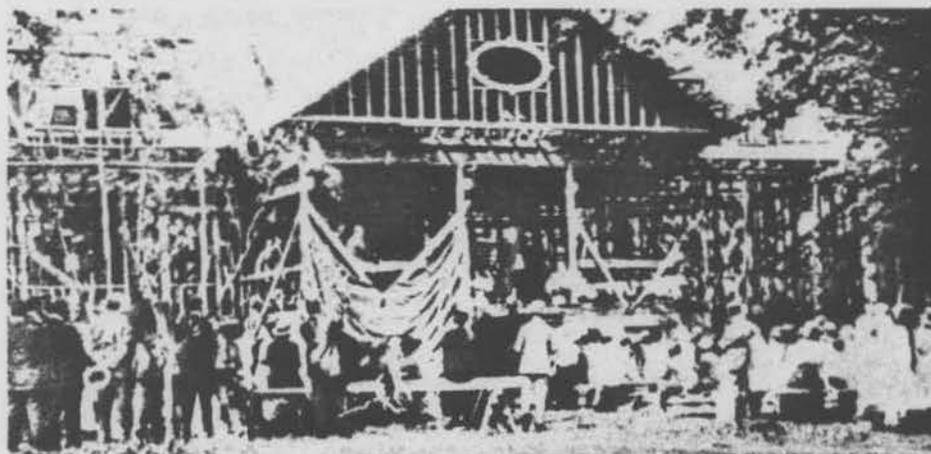
RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw House, State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis
1984 Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Company.



French Hobbs is shown leaving his home on the Laytonsville-Unity road to hear prayers for world peace at the Colesville Methodist Church in 1918. By espousing Methodism, French was fulfilling a Hobbs family tradition that had continued since the 1780s when his ancestor, Samuel Hobbs, was fined for preaching Methodism in Montgomery County. Courtesy of Susannah Ricketts Hobbs



In 1918 an epidemic called Spanish influenza spread over the county. Meetings were cancelled; churches were closed and members urged to pray. Death resulted from complications which followed the flu; the most common complications were pneumonia, meningitis, and ear infections.

Doctors were especially vulnerable, and three local physicians died within two weeks: C. N. DeVilbiss, Carlton N. Etchison, and John D. Holland. At that time the only hospital in the county was the privately owned Seventh-Day Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. Concerned about the complete lack of such a facility for most of the

county. Dr. Jacob W. Bird opened Wrenwood Hospital in a two-story dwelling on New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, near Olney.

This was quickly outgrown, so he purchased twelve acres from the widow of Dr. William E. Magruder and built a modern, one-floor, H-shaped hospital. His emphasis was on excellent nursing care and a well-equipped operating room.

Dr. Bird opened his hospital, the Montgomery County General Hospital, in 1921 to enthusiastic community acclaim. This photograph shows the dedication ceremonies of the hospital. From the collection of Montgomery General Hospital; courtesy of Roger Lamborne





Montgomery General Hospital. Dedication of the original building, 1919.
(Photo, courtesy Mary Ellen Hines)



THE HOSPITAL IN 1920

Montgomery General Hospital. Completed original building, 1920.
(Photo, courtesy Mary Ellen Hines).



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Montgomery General Hospital
Completed first addition to
the east, c.1932

Photo courtesy of MaryEllen Hines



• NO ENTRANCE
• CHURCH ROOM •
• LABORATORY •
• 1888 •

Montgomery General Hospital (23/122)

Addition of the west wing, enclosed
front porch for offices and waiting
room, 1956.

(Photo, courtesy Mary Ellen Hines)

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Montgomery General Hospital

Addition of the west wing,
enclosed front porch for
offices and waiting room, 1956

Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Hines