

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M.35-8

- Name Bethesda Naval Hospital Tower Block
2. Planning Area/Site Number 35/8 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 21:D-8
4. Address 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda
5. Classification Summary
- Category Buildings
- Ownership Public
- Public Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_
- Status occupied
- Accessible yes:restricted
- Present use Military medical & research
- Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC Federal x State x County x Local \_\_\_\_\_
- National Register, 1977
6. Date 1939-42 7. Original Owner U.S. Department of the Navy
8. Apparent Condition
- a. excellent c. original site
- b. altered

## Description

A 20-story central tower rises above a series of interconnecting 3 and 4 story pavilions. The modernistic building is characterized by a strictly formal bilateral frontality, and is sited on a bluff overlooking Wisconsin Avenue. The grounds are used as a golf course, and planted with native trees which screen the low pavilion and emphasize the soaring, sculptural qualities of the tower. Construction is of reinforced concrete and structural steel clad in concrete panels faced with quartz, which together with the bronze sashed and serpentine spandrelled stacked fenestration creates the major decorative effect. The pavilions seem to act as a base for the tower.

## 10. Significance

Built in the early years of World War II as the U.S. Navy's principal center of medical practice, the complex was sketched by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and executed under architect Paul Philippe Cret, following the President's sketch.

In 1878 the navy established the school for medical officers, and in 1902 the school moved into the Naval Observatory in Washington. Gradually a complex developed which included a hospital, various medical schools & a medical library. In 1937 Congress acted to fund construction of a new medical center & Roosevelt selected the site. Significant medical research at Bethesda includes the acrylic eye, grafting techniques of bone & blood vessels, radioactive treatment of bone tumors, facsimile limbs & a wide variety of other surgical, medical & psychiatric techniques.

11. Date researched and researcher Lawrence P. Earle, US Navy, 1975
12. Compiler Peg Coleman 13. Date Compiled 1978 14. Designation Approval \_\_\_\_\_
15. Acreage 1 acre

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	M- 35 - 8
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bethesda Naval Hospital Tower Block

AND/OR COMMON

Building #1, National Naval Medical Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

8901 Wisconsin Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

031

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Medical

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine & Surgery

STREET & NUMBER

23rd and E Streets, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington and Jefferson Streets

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**

M.35-8

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The National Naval Medical Center was constructed in 1939-42 on a 264.7 acre site on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Maryland, directly opposite that of the new National Institute of Health. The original building which is unaltered today, consists of a 20 story central tower rising above a series of interconnecting three and four story pavilions. It may be roughly divided into the central tower block, or the tower with its two "L" shaped wings oriented toward the Wisconsin Avenue entrance on the west, and the rear pavilions to the east. The modernistic building is neo-classical in feeling, its composition characterized by a strictly formal bilateral frontality. The central tower block is sited on a bluff overlooking Wisconsin Avenue and its architectural presence is directed toward this important approach to the nation's capital. The sweeping greensward of a 9 hole golf course together with a mature foundation planting of yew, maple, oak and sycamore enhances the monumentality of the building. The low lying interconnecting pavilions at the rear of the tower block are inconspicuously sited, screened from view by the landscaping, thus reducing the apparent mass of the hospital complex and emphasizing the soaring verticality, the sculptural qualities of the tower itself.

The main block of the building consists of the tower with its flanking "L" shaped pavilions to the north and to the south as well as a central connector to the east which leads to the minor pavilions at the rear of the complex. Construction is of reinforced concrete and structural steel frame clad in precast exposed aggregate concrete panels. The latter are faced with a combination of translucent and opaque quartz mixed with quartz sand and white portland cement. The fenestration of both tower and pavilions is stacked. Bronze sash alternate with serpentine spandrels to form dark verticals which contrast with the brilliant concrete panels creating the major decorative effect of the facades. The pavilions, by this device, become a neo-classical colonnade which acts as a base for the tower. The development of detail, proportions and rhythm here is sensitive and restrained, subordinated to the volumetric concerns of the composition.

# SIGNIFICANCE

M:35-8

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1939-42

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederic W. Southworth, Na  
Dept. Paul P. Cret, consul

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland was built during the early years of World War II to house the U.S. Navy's principal center for the practice and dissemination of medicine related to the needs of the naval service. The importance which the government attached to this center for education and research in naval medicine is reflected in the evolution of the complex's design which proceeded from rough plan and elevation sketches by Franklin D. Roosevelt on White House stationery to an in-house Bureau of Yards and Docks design effort executed under the close supervision of the noted private consulting architect, Paul Philippe Cret. The twenty story tower block with its two "L" shaped wings enveloping a lawn that slopes down toward Wisconsin Avenue on the east constitutes a landmark of the Bethesda area in the physical sense of the word.

The construction of the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda was the culmination of over a century in the development of medical facilities to serve American naval personnel. Although the Surgeon General of the Navy had advocated the establishment of a school for naval medical officers as early as 1809 it was not until 1878 that a course of instruction at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital was inaugurated after a study was made of medical education practices in Europe. The school thus established found a more permanent home in 1902 at the Old Naval Observatory, 23rd and E Streets, N.W. in Washington, and was augmented by a hospital in 1906. By the mid thirties the growing complex of medical functions at the Observatory site included a dental school, a medical technology school, and the library of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Renamed the Naval Medical Center, this complex of functions had outgrown its facilities at 23rd and E Sts. When the Congress acted in 1937 to fund the construction of a new Naval Medical Center, the Observatory site was abandoned due to National Capital Park and Planning Commission opposition to the negative impact of a large building on the setting of the nearby Lincoln Memorial. Instead, President Roosevelt selected the new site for the center in rural Bethesda.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The cornerstone for the Bethesda Naval Medical Center was laid on Armistice Day 1940 by President Roosevelt in the presence of various dignitaries. The President's interest in the facility was extensive, as his sketch had in fact superseded a design competition among the staff of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, the Navy branch charged with designing shore installations. The crude plan and elevation of the hospital complex which Roosevelt sketched was modeled on the 1924 State Capitol at Lincoln, Nebraska by Bertram Goodhue which had impressed him on a trip west. To develop this Presidentially mandated design concept of a fifteen story tower, flanked by low two story pavilions, BuDocks engaged the services of the internationally famous American architect, Paul P. Cret (1876-1945) to work with the Navy architectural staff under Frederic W. Southworth. Cret's design was larger in scale than Roosevelt's proposal but followed the general outlines of the President's sketch. The building's construction took two years and corresponded with the early period of United States involvement in World War II.

Significant research has taken place at the National Naval Medical Center since its completion in 1942. Research programs at the center produced and tested the acrylic eye, confirmed the value of bone and blood vessel grafting techniques, and developed the use of radioactive gallium for bone tumors. New surgical procedures, psychiatric techniques, and experiments on facsimile limbs were also developed at the center. In addition the National Naval Medical Center has trained thousands of hospitalmen, doctors, nurses, and technicians in special areas such as tropical medicine, radiation exposure treatment, or emergency care to the injured which are of critical or unique importance to the Navy. The Bethesda hospital has provided care to many Presidents of the United States and their families as well as Navy men and women. The addition of other specialized health science units in recent years such as the Naval Medical Data Service Center, the Armed Forces Radiobiology Unit, and the Naval School of Hospital Administration have added to the stature of the National Naval Medical Center.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

M:35-8

Records of the Naval Shore Establishment, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Archives, Port Hueneme, California  
 Building the Navy's Bases in World War II: History of the Bureau of Yards & Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps 1940-1946 Vol. 1. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1947  
 "Naval Medical Center" Architectural Concrete. Vol. 9, No. 2

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3	1,8	6	1,0	4	3	1,8	8	3,0	B							
	ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING				ZONE						NORTHING
C												D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Building #1 is the tower, the two "L" shaped wings to the north and south, and the eastern connector which attaches it to the rear pavilions (not themselves part of Building #1).

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

Lawrence P. Earle, Urban Planner

September 1, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Chesapeake Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Building #57, Washington Navy Yard

TELEPHONE

202/433-3387

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Naval Medical Center Tower					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: Wisconsin Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: United States Navy					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

M:35-8

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The hospital is one of few art deco buildings in Montgomery County. The central tower is flanked by lower wings, forming a U-shaped complex of buildings. The emphasis of the buildings is vertical, with ribbons of vertical concrete and stone slabs separating vertical units of glass and metal. The vertical effect is reinforced by the lack of any cornice tying the building horizontally at the top; the concrete and stone slabs terminate with medallions and project above the roof, creating a crenellated effect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:35-8

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Large empty box for Acreage Justification.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 10 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



1:770 000 FEET  
 CIVIC CENTER) 1.5 MI. | BETHESDA (CIVIC CENTER) 1.1 MI. 5' | 1:320 | 321 (WASHINGTON 556)

Published by the Geological Survey  
 U.S.G.S. and WSSC  
 Symmetric methods from aerial photographs  
 checked 1956. Revised 1965  
 1927 North American datum  
 on Maryland coordinate system  
 Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 available. This information is unchecked  
 and in only landmark buildings are shown  
 light-blue pattern  
 inundation to 351 feet

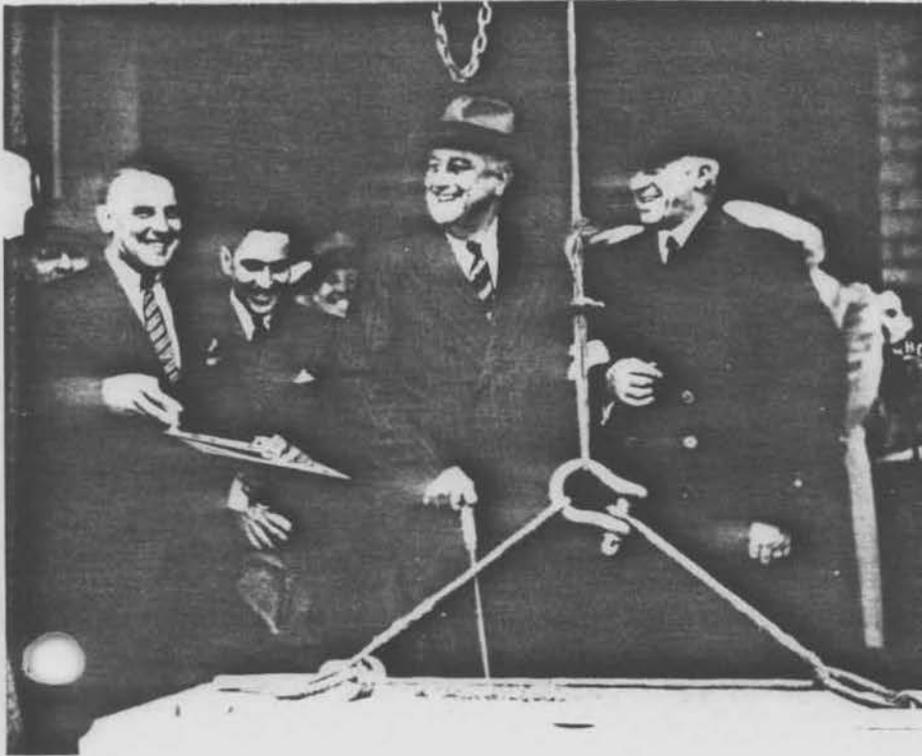
SCALE

CONTOUR INTL  
 DATUM IS ME

MN  
 GN  
 7  
 18  
 23  
 MILES  
**Bethesda Naval Hospital**  
**Town Block**  
 M:35-8  
 UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis

1984 Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt participated in the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone for the United States Naval Medical Center in Bethesda that he had designed. Roosevelt considered himself an architect as well as a master politician, and he wanted the hospital to have an unusual design.

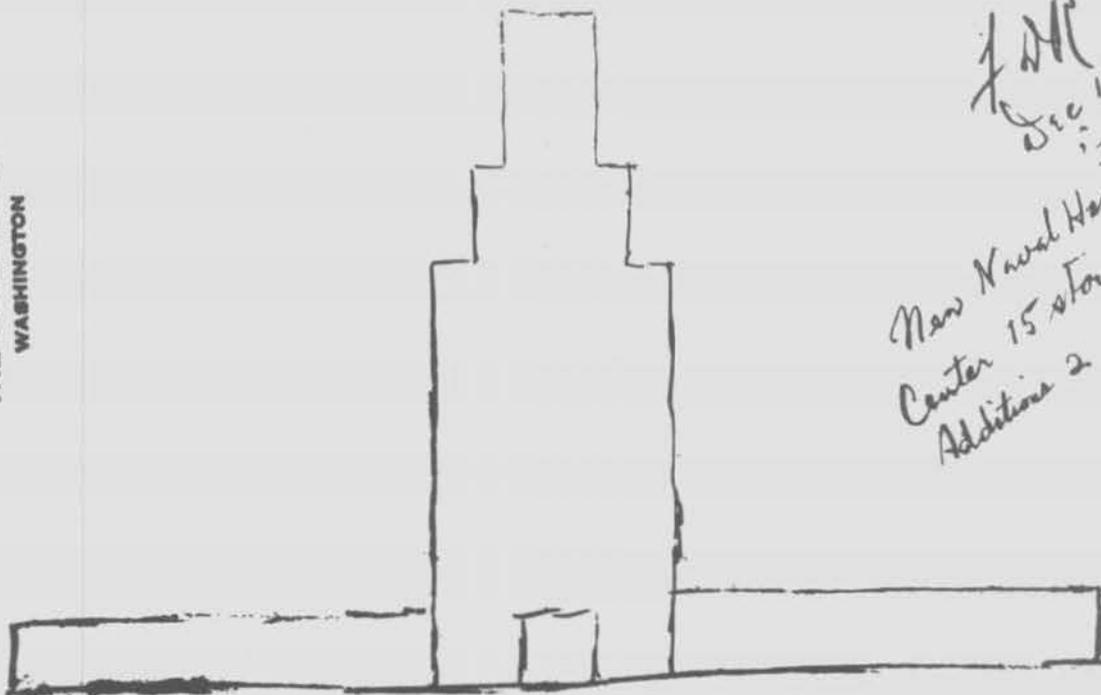
"I have very carefully studied hospital design," he wrote to Frederic Delano, the chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "and, frankly, I am fed up with the type the Government has been building during these past twenty years. . . . Therefore, I personally designed a new Naval Hospital with a large central tower of sufficient square footage and height to make it an integral and interesting part of the hospital itself. . . ."

Delano, who was Roosevelt's uncle, replied, "OH! SIRE! . . . since the beginning of time the formula has been that 'the King can do no wrong.' However, from the time of Solomon and even further back, the King found it necessary to surround himself with soothsayers, astrologers, and other wise men to warn him of the pitfalls and dangers lying ahead of him" (Quoted by Lloyd Grove in the *Washington Post* on May 7, 1982).

Nevertheless, the hospital designed by a president was built, and on November 11, 1940, FDR was there when the cornerstone for the Bethesda landmark was laid. Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

President Franklin D. Roosevelt drove away in his 1939 Packard after the dedication ceremonies for the new United States Naval Medical Center in Bethesda on August 31, 1942. Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, National Archives and Records Services

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



F.M.  
Dec 13  
1937

New Naval Hosp  
Center 15 stories  
Additions 2 "

15 - 800

M-35 B



NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER  
NAVAL DISTRICT, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20374  
OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPH

1602 - 1602 - 220/104 10-74

NO. 1162749 UNIT. PAA  
DATE REC'D 6-75  
PHOTOGRAPHER PH1 CLAUDE SNEED  
SUBJECT  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND...THE NATIONAL NAVAL  
MEDICAL CENTER.

26

RELEASED

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS OFFICIALLY RELEASED

M: 35-8

~~M: 35-98~~