Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

B-3717 78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Radnor Park; J.L. Kernan Hospital and Industrial School of Maryland for Crippled Children, Inc.

AND/OR COMMON
The James Lawrence Kernan Hospital, Inc. (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northeast corner of the intersection of Windsor Mill Road and Forest Park Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Wetheredsville X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Seventh

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City and County	005/510

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER medical

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Joseph Leahy, Executive Director, Mr. Roger Hopkins, Board of Trustees, The James Lawrence Kernan Hospital, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
Windsor Mill Road and Forest Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN Baltimore __ VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland 21207

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Baltimore

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

B-3717

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Radnor Park and Kernan Hospital are located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Forest Park Avenue and Windsor Mill Road near Wetheredsville in Baltimore City, Maryland.

When its was built between 1860 and 1867 Radnor Park was what is typically thought of as a Victorian mansion. It had a two-story, five-bay,"gingerbread" porch and a bold, bracketed cornice. Projecting center bays on the front and side facades were topped with broken pediments trimmed with large brackets like those on the cornice. A cupola had a cornice identical to that of the house and a rakish roof-line, perhaps of Oriental influence.

In the first several decades of the 20th century, alterations were carried out which made the house over into a combination of the Greek and Colonial Revival styles popular in that period. The cupola, two-story porch, brackets and pediment atop the front projecting bay were removed. The house now has a plain box cornice and a two-story portico with six Doric columns and plain soffit which covers only the five bays of the front facade rather than encircling the front and first bay of the side facades as the original did.

The basic structure beneath these surface alterations has remained unchanged. It is a three-story, stone building stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry. The scoring has been almost obliterated by later paint layers; the house is presently painted a soft yellow shade. Basically a square, the house has projecting bays on its front and side facades, as mentioned above. The front (or south) has two windows on either side of this projecting on each floor. The second and third floors both have double four-light, casement sash, though the second floor ones are taller. On the first floor the openings are French doors with two-light transoms. The main entrance with a single door, transom and sidelights is located in the projection. In the two bays above this are double casement windows with four-light sash. The cornice is continued straight across the top of the projection, replacing the pediment that was formerly there.

The west and east facades also have a central, two-bay projection, still topped with the original broken pediments with small, round windows in them. This projection is extended from the mail wall far enough to allow space for a single window on each floor on the south side. As these appear as part of the main facade from the front of the building they match the windows on the front, including the French doors on the first floor (this latter detail remains on the west side only). The fenestration on these two facades is varied, consisting of two-over-two light sash; double, four-light casement sash; and one large one-over-one sash window

See continuation sheet #1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

on the first floor on the east. A modern addition of one room and bath was appended to the south side of the east facade. It is stuccoed and painted to blend with the house, although the windows are entirely different. The addition is not visible from the south as it is behind the glass-enclosed walkway leading from the mansion to the hospital.

A large, two-story wing with porches on the west extends from the east half of the north facade. There are several outbuildings adjacent to this, including what appears to have been a large refrigerated space and a one-story structure that may have been a kitchen or laundry.

The interior of the mansion retains many of its original features, despite some alterations made when the hospital was housed in it. The basic floor plan consists of a central hall flanked on each side by three rooms.

The first floor stair hall runs through the center of the house and has a door on each facade. It is very extravagantly decorated with a heavy, detailed cornice and a three-part plaster design applied to the ceiling. The cornice extends across the ceiling a foot from the wall and consists of a decorated molding on the wall, followed by a plain, board, egg and dart molding, dentils, a more detailed course of egg and dart, acanthus leaf scrolls alternating with rosettes and a floriated molding. The ceiling design has three medallions, each surrounded by rectangular moldings with cone-like features in each corner.

The stair is an open string one that turns on a landing. On the underside of the second rise is a rectangular design imitating those on the ceiling. The newel post is very heavy, the balusters are detailed and the step-ends are elaborately scrolled. The stair continues to the third floor.

The woodwork on the first floor consists of a simple, but high baseboard and deep moldings set on a smooth base around all the

See continuation sheet #2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

doorways. The floor in the hall was laid with strips of darker wood outlining the shape of the room.

The mantels are all of marble. The southeast parlor has a black marble one, simply decorated. The east room and the dining room have plain mantels of brown and white speckled marble. The southwest parlor and the west room have white marble mantels. The one in the former room is very elaborate with a knight's helmet in the center with decorated sides consisting of scrolls above leaves above quivers of arrows. The white marble mantel in the west room is decorated with classical style figures.

All of the first floor rooms mentioned above also have cornices. These are simple with a single band of foliation in all but the dining room, which has a plain cornice. The two south parlors have ceiling elaborate medallions from which are suspended two chandeliers of the late Victorian period.

The south parlors, the west room and the dining room are for the most part unaltered. The southwest parlor and the west room were apparently one large room at one time, with pilasters at either edge of the opening between them. A wall has been built between these pilasters to separate the two rooms; woodwork used in this wall matches the other work in the rooms. The cupboard to the right of the fireplace in the dining room is a 20th-century addition. The doorway to the left of the fireplace in the southeast parlor has been blocked off and made into bookshelves. The east room was made over into an office and has a linoleum floor and soundproof ceiling. An out-of-use elevator shaft stands in the northeast corner of the room. The northeast room and the kitchen have been altered beyond recognition of their original appearance.

Rooms on the second and third floor were not available to the writer of this description.

Behind the mansion stretches a long stone building painted yellow across the front. Once the stable, carriage house and dairy,

See continuation sheet #3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

it appears to have been built in several stages. The easternmost portion, probably the oldest, has large strap hinges on the doors and is of uncoursed rubble stone; a second floor was added and some of the window openings are filled in. The westernmost end is of stone but it has ridged mortar and is probably the latest addition. The central section has a stuccoed second floor.

A board and batten barn with a vented cupola and tin roof stands to the east of the stables. It appears to have been used as a garage. A small, nicely landscaped garden lies to the south of this, between it and the hospital, just to the east of the mansion.

The Radnor Park gatehouse stands on the southwest corner of the hospital grounds, directly on Windsor Mill Road. A stone structure with brick quoins, chimney and window arches, it is built on a slope so that it is one story on the front, two on the west and three on the east. The entrance porch with brick doorway arch and window surrounds is joined to the original (no longer used) entrance gate to the property. The gate consists of two stone posts with an arch between them.

To the west of the house is a large frame house of the same approximate period as the mansion. It is now used as nurses' quarters.

The grounds and trees surrounding the hospital buildings have been preserved with great care. A white oak growing near the Mansion House has been designated a Maryland Bicentennial Tree by the Maryland Forest Service. Its age has been estimated at 299 years. At the foot of the tree is an 18th century garden, whose restoration is a project of the Dickeyville Garden Club. There is also an award-winning Bird Garden flanking the Mansion House.

The hospital buildings at Kernan, which stand to the southeast of the house, were built in three major stages. The first section, constructed in 1926-1929, is built in a style that is compatible with the mansion and its surroundings. This section is connected to the house by a curved colonnade, open on one side and glass on the other. A physical therapy wing was added in 1935 and the Tarun wing in 1952. The latter was designed by Jim Edmond III, an architect.

B-3717

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Medicine
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1860-1867 Radnor BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Park Hospital 1926-29, 1935, 1952

The Kernan Hospital complex offers a fine example of the adaptive use of a large 19th-century estate which had grown too large for an individual owner to maintain as a summer residence. Although the mansion, Radnor Park, has lost its Victorian "gingerbread" appearance on the exterior, its present appearance is typical of the alterations made to many Victorian buildings in the second and third decade of the 20th century. In addition the earlier, elaborate interior decoration remains in unaltered condition in most of the first floor rooms. The 1920's hospital structures were built in a style that blends well with the mansion and its grounds. Although newer additions to the hospital are not in keeping with the historic nature of the property, they are, at the same time, not visible except from the rear entrance.

James Lawrence Kernan was a theater manager and philanthropist of the late Victorian and early Edwardian eras in Baltimore. He had a knack for reflecting the public taste for entertainment that earned him a considerable fortune.

Born in Baltimore in 1838 to a feed store owner and his wife, Kernan was one of the first students at Loyola College. He completed his education at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg and worked at several occupations before enlisting in the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. During his time in the army he met Colonel John Singleton Mosby and formed a friendship that was to lead him to the Kernan Hospital many years later.

The old Baltimore Opera House came into the possession of Kernan and one of his brothers in 1866. It was a place of poor reputation where the newly-developed art of burlesque was performed. They made it prosperous and when the building burned in 1873, they rebuilt it as "The Central Theatre." In 1879 this was remodeled and opened again as "The Monumental," the name by which it was best known. Shows here included the comedy teams of Weber and Fields and McIntyre and Heath; Rose Sydelle and her London Belles; "Japanese Maidens garbed in Silk;" and "Little Egypt," the muscle dancer made famous at

See continuation sheet #4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. In an annex to the theater more respectable entertainment was to be had in the nightly concerts.

In 1890 Kernan took over management of the historic Holliday Street Theater where "The Star Spangled Banner" was first performed, converting it from a high-class, high-priced theater to a popularly-priced house for melodrama and other entertainment.In the following years, Kernan's theatrical empire expanded to include the Grand Opera House, the Lafayette and the Empire Theaters in Washington. He also had interests in the Lafayette Square Theater in Buffalo, New York, and Hollywood Park, the Front Street Theater and the Convention Hall in Baltimore.

Also in 1890 Kernan bought the old Howard Auditorium, the first step toward his famous "Million Dollar Triple Enterprise" which eventually funded the Kernan Hospital.

In 1895, while Kernan's theatrical interests were reaching their zenith, Dr. R. Tunstall Taylor and his brother, Mr. Robertson Taylor, opened a free orthopedic hospital for crippled and deformed children at 6 West 20th Street. It consisted of 6 beds and a dispensary and was staffed by one nurse, a cook and one of the All Saint's Sister of Charity. In six months it was able to accommodate an additional six patients and was incorporated as "The Hospital for Crippled and Deformed Children." In 1896 despite crowded and inadequate conditions, over two hundred youngsters were treated for disorders ranging from infantile paralysis and hump back to weak ankles and heat prostration. Nearly half of these were later reported as "cured," and eighty-nine were listed as improved (First Report of the Surgeon-in-Charge).

Following Dr. Taylor's first report on the hospital's progress, the citizens of Baltimore responded by making funds available to purchase 2000 North Charles Street, next door to the original hospital site on West 20th Street. In 1897 another house, 2 West 20th Street, was leased. By April 1899 the hospital was treating over 500 patients a year and had opened a mountain hospital at Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania, to be used by the city patients during the summer.

See continuation sheet #5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Dr. Taylor's reputation grew as fast as his hospital. In December 1902 he hosted an internationally renowned surgeon, Dr. Adolf Lorenz of Austria, who visited Baltimore to demonstrate his method of "bloodless surgery." This was essentially manipulation of congenitally dislocated limbs under general anesthesia.

Concurrently, James Kernan was formulating plans for his "Million Dollar Triple Enterprise." This was to be a complex of three connected buildings on Howard and Franklin Streets. Two of the buildings were to be theaters and the third a hotel. For the Auditorium on Howard Street, the old structure was to be razed and a new one built, the "Maryland Theatre" and the "Hotel Kernan" were to be completely new as well. The Auditorium featured legitimate theater and was leased to the Schuberts. The Maryland Theater had a program of vaudeville, rather than the burlesque of his earlier theaters.

Kernan's connection with the Hospital for Crippled Children came about through Miss Ada Mosby, the daughter of his Civil War friend, Colonel Mosby. They came together in her search for a piano for the children. Eventually Kernan decided to make the hospital his major charity and provided for it through a deed of trust and the terms of his will. In 1910 he purchased Radnor Park with about sixty acres and donated it to the Hospital which moved to its new quarters in June 1911. The Hospital's name was changed to the James Lawrence Kernan Hospital and Industrial School of Maryland for Crippled Children, Inc.

Kernan arranged for a New York firm to draft plans for further construction at the hospital, including seven new buildings to cost several hundred thousand dollars. Convalescent dormitories, wards for acute cases, a surgical building and an operating pavilion would provide facilities for orthopedic care for the entire state of Maryland. Kernan died the following year, leaving the plans, which bore some resemblance to Thomas Jefferson's buildings around the green at the University of Virginia, largely uncompleted.

The James Lawrence Kernan hospital did not achieve the physical size that its endower envisioned, but it serves more patients than he could

See continuation sheet #6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

ever have anticipated. As he had hoped, it does serve the entire State of Maryland. Its main thrust is still orthopedics, much of it now in the adult, as well as the pediatric field. In fact the hospital does more orthopedic surgery than any other institution in the mid-Atlantic area, yet still maintains the gracious mansion house and park that prompted Kernan to buy the estate in 1910.

The land on which Kernan Hospital is located was originally part of two Baltimore tracts, Parker's Palace and Marsh's Victory. Owen A. Gill acquired 43½ acres of the latter from William G. Thomas and his wife Mary in 1843, and about 20 acres from members of the Wethered family in 1844. This acreage was the same that Kernan acquired for the hospital in 1910.

Gill sold the property in 1858 and it passed through several hands until Thomas Canby bought it in 1860. There were a number of owners between 1843 and 1910, and it is probable that there was some form of dwelling erected on the land before the 1860's. However, Canby, a Baltimore spice merchant, owned the land between 1860 and 1867, and is said to have built the mansion house. He paid $25,050. for the land on June 2, 1860, and sold it on November 11, 1867, for $35,000.

The land then passed through the hands of a number of owners until 1910, when James Lawrence Kernan bought it from Mrs. Anna Ferguson on November 29, (Baltimore County Deed 371/149).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-3717

Cammack, Shirley. "James Lawrence Kernan, 1838-1912." Unpublished paper, copy in files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.
Land and Probate Records of Baltimore City and County

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	352660	4353080	B	18	354300	4352680
C	18	352740	4352400	D	18	353200	4352730

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the north corner of the intersection of Windsor Mill Road and Forest Park Avenue, then following Windsor Mill Road northwest 1,800 feet to a driveway, then following the driveway northeast 1,000 feet, then continuing northeast another 600 feet to a point, then southeast 1,500 feet to the intersection of a driveway and Forest Park Avenue, then follow Forest Park Avenue SSW to the point of beginning

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

bjn

NAME / TITLE Mrs. Shirley Cammack, P.R./Pamela James, Asst. Historian 8/76

ORGANIZATION Kernan Hospital/Maryland Historical Trust

DATE 301-267-1438

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Baltimore/Annapolis

STATE 21207/21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE John M. Pearce 7/6/77

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

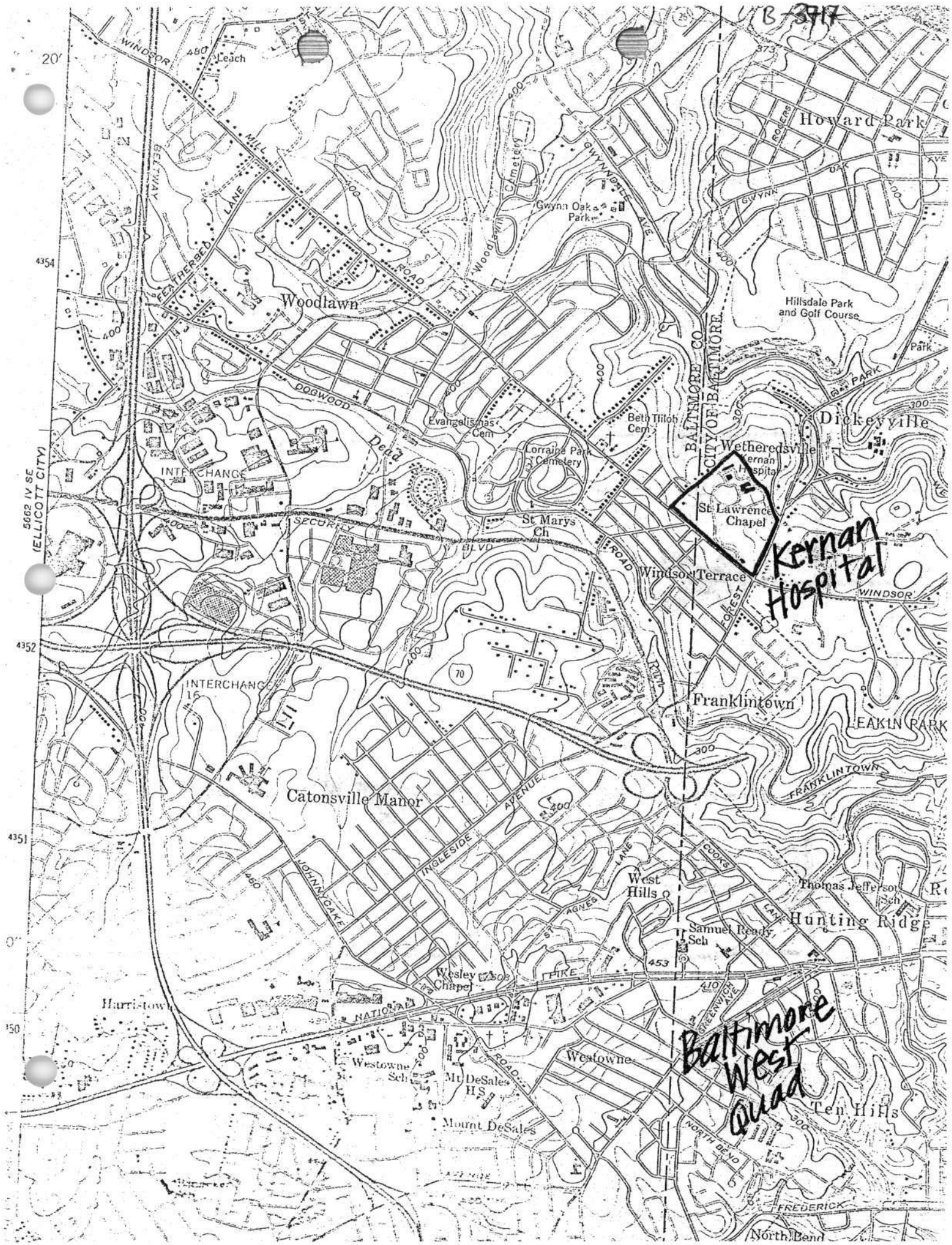
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

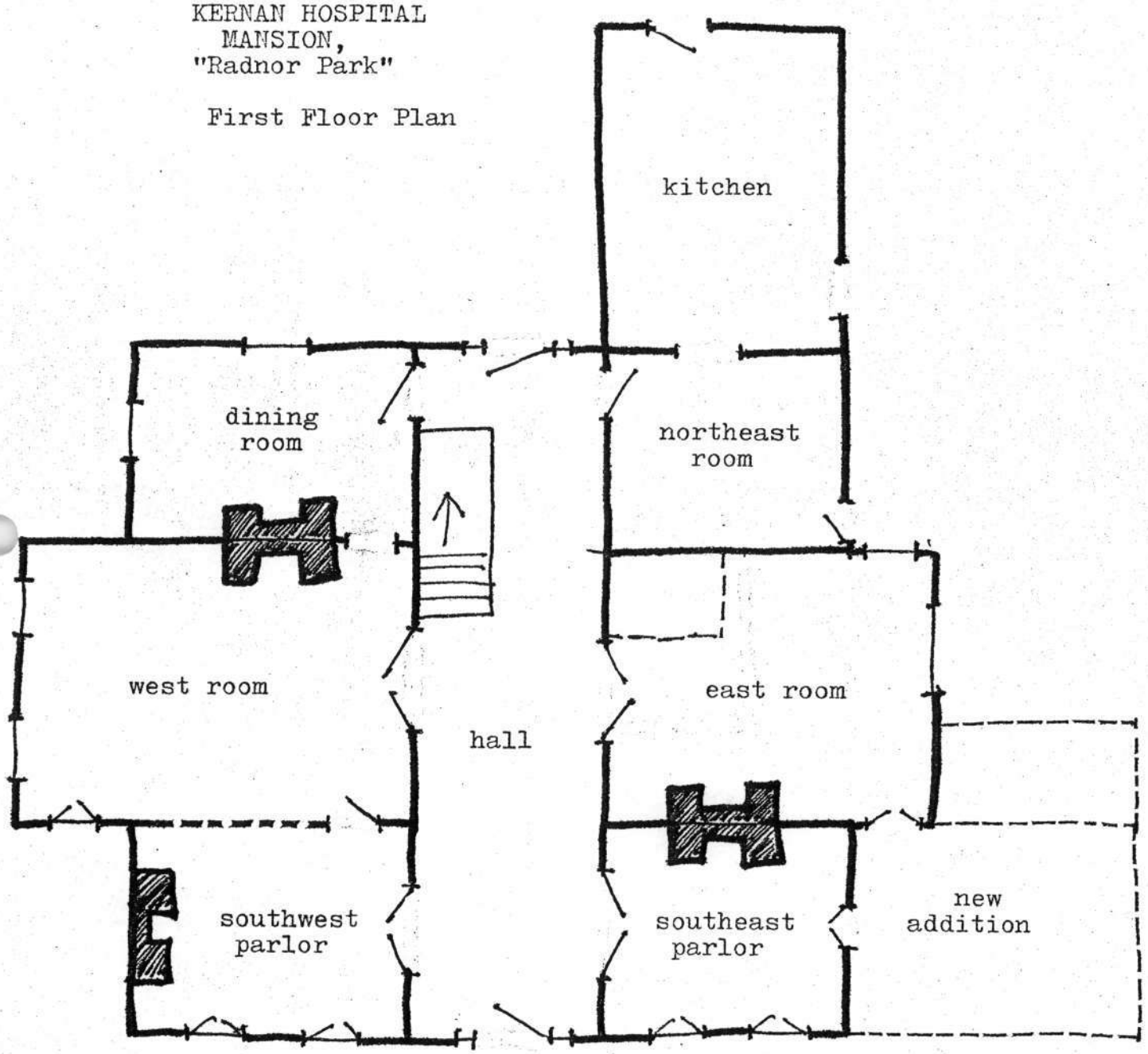
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER


B-3717
Kernan Hospital
Baltimore West Quad
Woodlawn
Howard Park
Hillsdale Park and Golf Course
Dickeyville
Wetheredsville
Kernan Hospital
St Lawrence Chapel
Windsor Terrace
Franklintown
LEAKIN PARK
Catonsville Manor
West Hills
Hunting Ridge
Thomas Jefferson Sch
Samuel Ready Sch
Wesley Chapel
Westowne
Westowne Sch
Mt DeSales HS
Mount DeSales
Ten Hills
North Bend
Harristown
Leach
Gwynn Oak Park
Evangelismas Cem
Lorraine Park Cemetery
Beth Tfiloh Cem
St Marys Ch
INTERCHANGE
INTERCHANGE 16
BALTIMORE CO
CITY OF BALTIMORE
5662 IV SE (ELLICOTT CITY)
WINDSOR
MILL
ROAD
FEATHERBED
LANE
BELTWAY
DOGWOOD
SECURITY
BLVD
GWYNNDALE AVE
Woodlawn Cemetery
GWYNN
OAK
ROGERS
PARK
FOREST
FRANKLINTOWN
INGLESIDE
AVENUE
JOHNNYCAKE
COOKS
LANE
ST AGNES
PIKE
NATIONAL
GREENWICH AVE
NORTH BEND
FREDERICK
70
4354
4352
4351
4350
20'
0"

B-3717

KERNAN HOSPITAL
MANSION,
"Radnor Park"

First Floor Plan



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not to scale

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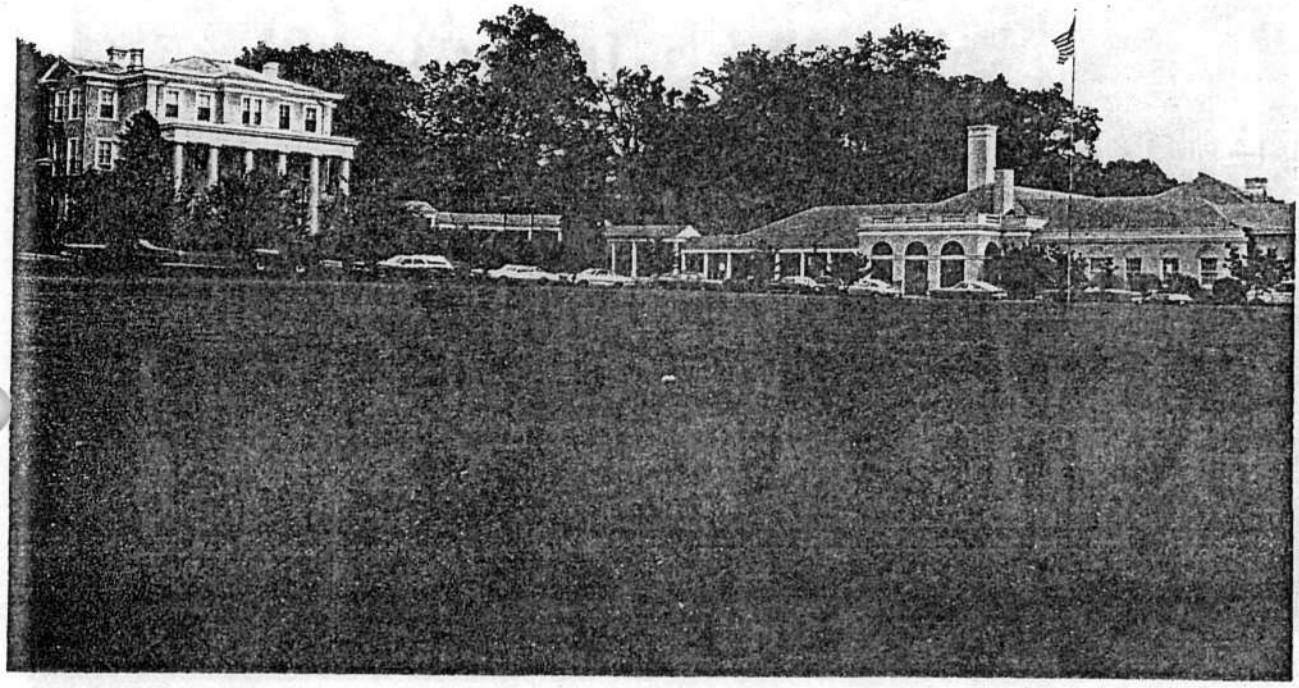

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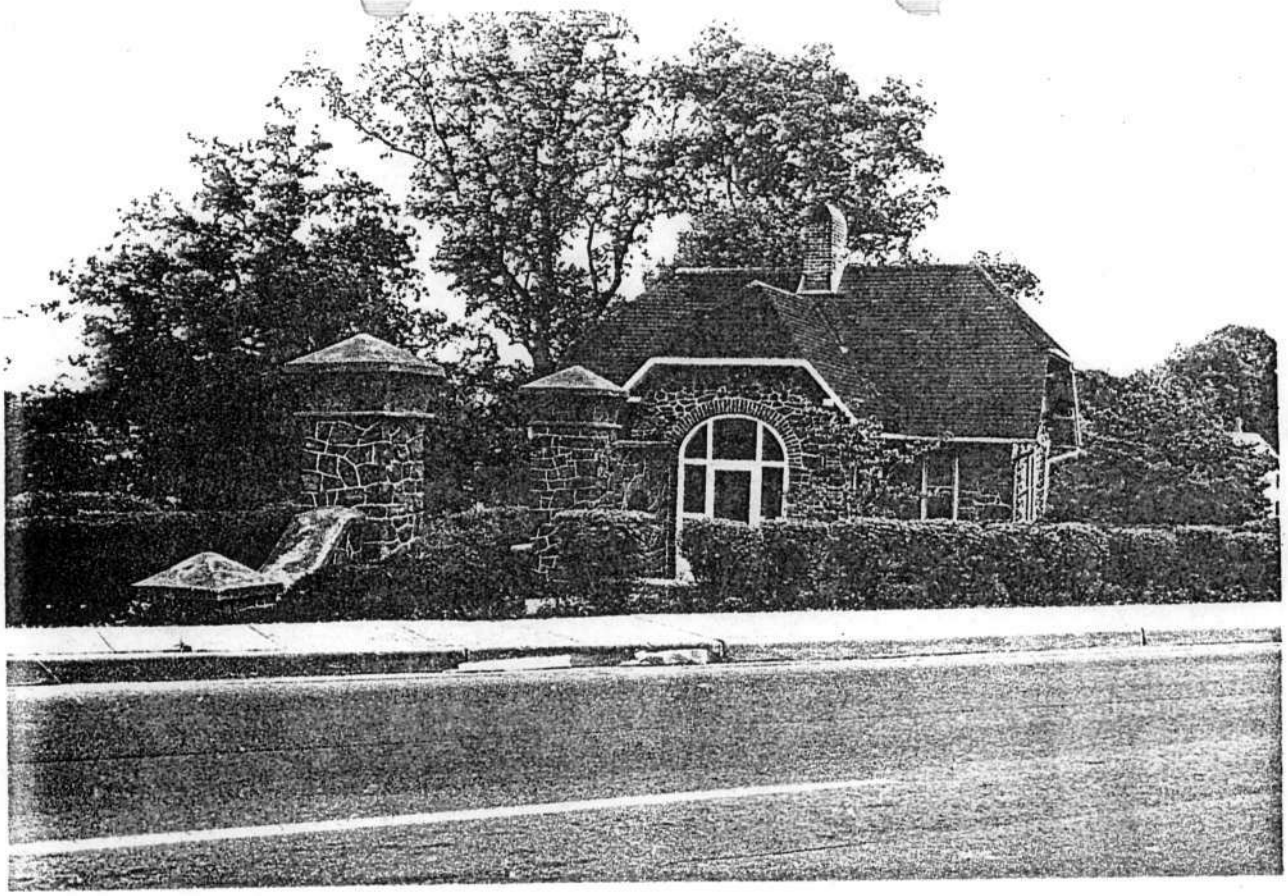

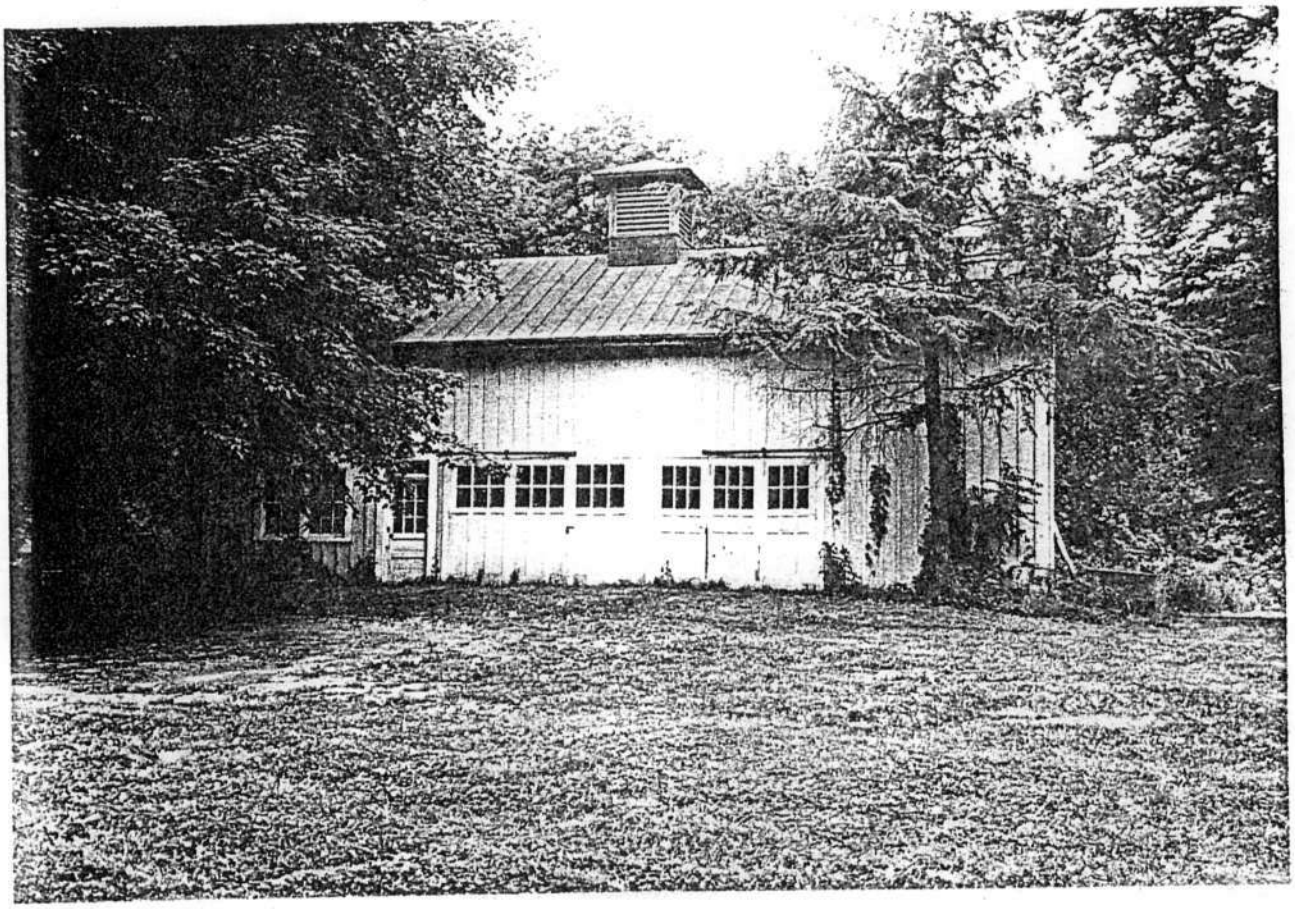

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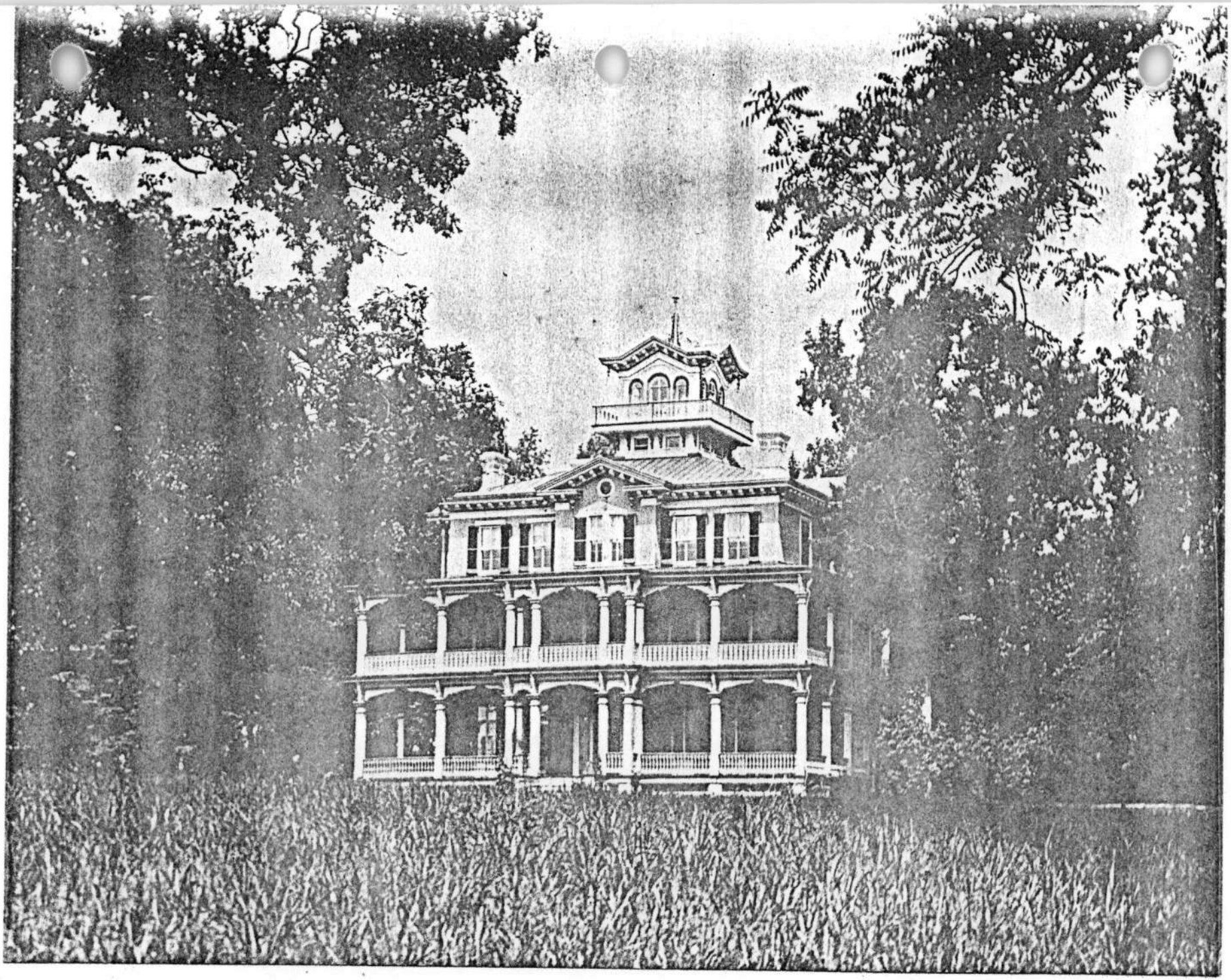

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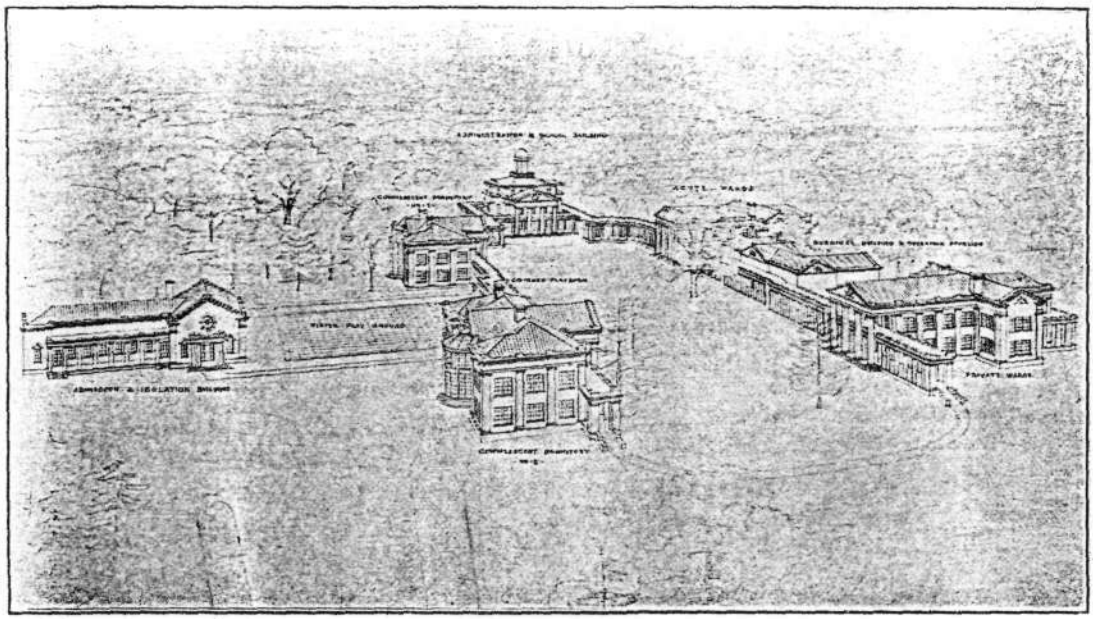
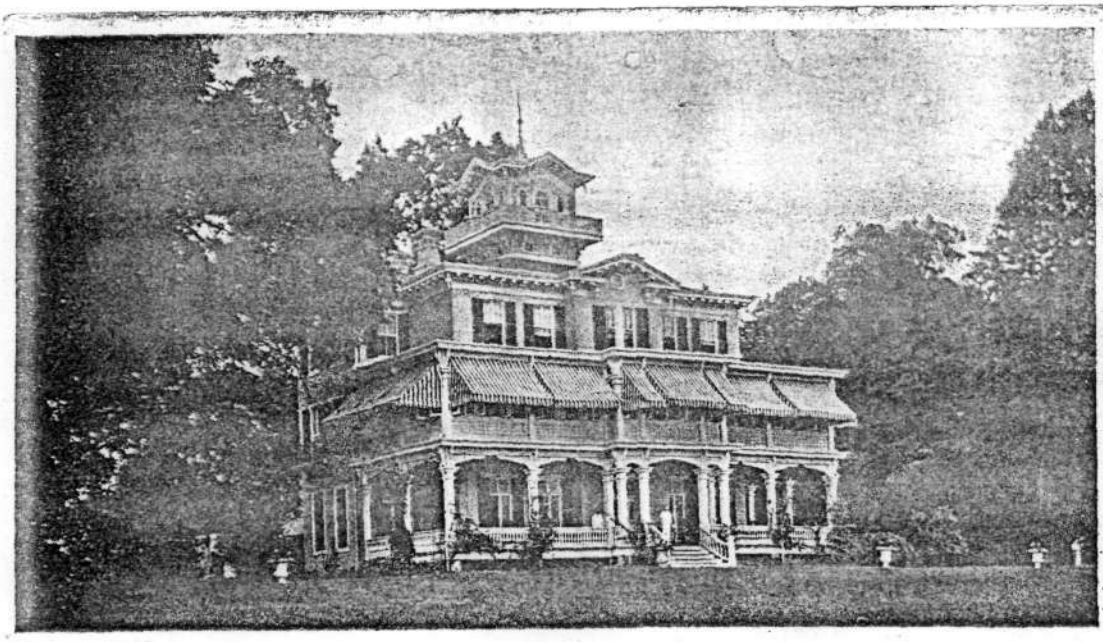


PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL.

To be built as aid is forthcoming to meet the immediate demand of large numbers applying for admission.

1895



"RADNOR PARK"

KERNAN HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, BALTIMORE, MD.