MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no ___

Property Name: Laundry Building, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2321

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 X yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date: ___

Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes ___ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2319

NR-listed district ___ yes Eligible district X yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X 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: X A ___ B X 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

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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-2321, Laundry Building, was included on the list of significant properties.
(See Bowlin, 1985)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ___

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

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

Reviewer, NR Program **Date**

BA-2321

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Laundry Building, Spring Grove

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT) Date Prepared: _____

BA- 2321 1878

Laundry Building Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

The Laundry Building is a conglomeration of four buildings, all constructed in brick. The northern portion of the building is the oldest section, a free standing structure built in 1872. A second independent structure was constructed in 1896. These two buildings were connected by a third building in the 1930's. The southern most portion of the building is the newest addition to the structure, added within the last twenty years. Each section displays distinct roof shapes, heights, and architectural elements.

Survey No. BA-2321

Magi No. 0323214639

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic LAUNDRY BUILDING

and/or common

2. Location SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

street & number ___ not for publication

city, town CATONSVILLE ___ vicinity of congressional district 3

state MARYLAND county BALTIMORE

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ 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
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	X other: HOSPITAL

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

name DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

street & number 201 W. 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-2321

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Located southwest of the Firehouse, the Laundry Building is a conglomeration of four distinct brick buildings. The northern building was erected as the original powerhouse. It stood alone until 1896 when the laundry building was constructed adjacent to the southern wall of the powerhouse. Spring Grove built a building to connect these two free-standing structures in the 1930's. This construction united the three buildings into one single structure. The final addition to this building unit occurred during the last twenty years on the southern wall of the laundry building in the form of psychodrama classrooms.

Each building of the unit displays distinctive characteristics. The various sections share some traits. For example, the three historic buildings each show one-and-a-half stories with gable roofs. While in contrast, the newer psychodrama portion is incongruous to the other architectural elements with its one-story height and flat roof. Because each section is unique, individual descriptions follow.

The powerhouse is a common bond brick building with a large, overhanging gable roof which forms a lean-to porch on the east and west faces. The dominant facade faces east and is shadowed by the overhang. The section measures seven bays long and four bays deep. The building stands on a dark rubblestone foundation with a brick water table.

The fenestration remains consistent throughout this building section. The long, rectangular windows display a segmented arch shape both in the window pane itself as well as the brick lintel. Stone sills, curved surrounds and a 2/2 double-hung sash characterize the windows. On the north and south walls, an oculus window appears above the first floor lintels. These oculus windows only show circular lintels.

Wooden posts support the lean-to porch. Scrolled brackets are attached to the posts and add decoration to the building. Simple wooden railings run between the posts to enclose the porch area. The southern three bays of the eastern porch were altered to create more interior space. Stucco on frame was utilized to fabricate the walls. The original posts and bracketing still exist inside the stucco alteration. Alterations on the west wall have occurred as well but the posts and brackets remain intact.

Moving south, the next section of building was constructed in the 1930's to connect the two existing buildings. It measures three bays long and three bays deep. Though the building displays a gable roof as well, the roof line is not contiguous with the powerhouse roof. A pedimented dormer interrupts the slate roof on the east and west faces. The dormer contains four windows which share a common wooden sill. The dormer itself shows closed verges on its pediment and slate shingles within the pediment.

The east and west walls of this one-and-a-half story building display very similar features. Alternating brick quoins line the corners of the building. A stone foundation supports the building. Two windows flank the central doorway. The recessed windows are paired with a 4/4 double-hung sash. Stone sills and vertical joint stone lintels frame the windows. Access to the building is provided by double wooden doors, embellished by a stone sill and lintel and a large single transom. Wooden brackets adorn the cornice.

The third component of this conglomeration of buildings is the last historic section. Attached to the southern wall of the adjacent building, the laundry building is also a one-and-a-half story brick building with a gable roof. Howevger, the gable roof of the laundry building runs east-west which is perpendicular to the two other gable roofs. Only the east and west walls of the laundry buildings are visible and their appearances are very similar and measure three bays deep.

The building is constructed of stretcher bond brick, resting on a stone foundation. Alternating brick quoins embellish the corners. The first floor windows are recessed and display a rounded arch shape. The upper sash of the 6/6 double-hung windows conforms to the rounded shape of the lintel. Impost blocks and raised keystones adorn the windows. At the impost block level, the brickwork changes into a decorative pattern of horizontal and vertical squares which extend up to the cornice. In between and above the two rounded windows, a third window appears. It displays similar characteristics: a stone sill, rounded brick lintel, raised keystone, and a 3/3 sash. Wooden brackets decorate the gable end. A bracketed cornice on the southern wall is also visible.

The southern-most section of this assembled building is the one-story psychodrama unit. It runs seven bays long and three bays deep. The flat roof, the metal cornice, and the small, rectangular 6/6 windows are insensitive to the architectural elements of the other sections of the conglomeration; and therefore, the building does not warrent further description.

The interior of this conglomerate structure reflects the evolution of the unit. The interior of the three historic buildings reveal exposed brick walls, steel trusses, and tiled floors. Bricked-in windows, and wall removals also provide evidence to support the evolution of the assembled structure.

8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2321

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

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: XA ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national X state ___local

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

The Laundry Building is significant to Spring Grove State Hospital as the only building original to the 1872 complex which remains standing today. Though composed of four distinct structures, the Laundry Building reflects the growth of the hospital from its move to Catonsville 1872 to the present day. The four sections which form the entity known as the Laundry Building display distinct architectural characteristics that identify the different phases of the building. It is most likely that the northern portion of the building dates to the 1870's as the original powerhouse for the "new" hospital campus. The building was nestled in the shadows of the central block of the Main Building and sheltered by the flanking wings. Distinct architectural elements such as the fenestration and the woodwork were shared by the powerhouse and the Main Building lending credence to the argument that the two buildings were constructed at the same time.

The second oldest portion of the Laundry Building was erected as an independent building. The powerhouse functioned as a laundry facility as well but better accommodations were necessary in the 1890's. A new brick laundry building was constructed adjacent to the existing powerhouse in 1896. John Waters of Baltimore built the new building along with several other projects on the hospital campus. The hospital requested $3,500 for new laundry equipment.

In the 1930's following the completion of the new power plant, these two buildings were joined and the enlarged structure was converted entirely into laundry services. The laundry provided an opportunity for those capable patients to participate in work therapy. These two buildings stood near each other but independently of each other until a third structure was constructed to join the two buildings. The consolidation occurred during the 1930's as the function of the building was converted entirely to laundry after the new power plant had been completed.

The final addition to the unit occurred during the last twenty years. The southern section of the building houses the psychodrama unit while the rest of the builiding continues to operate as laundry. An efficient laundry was critical to the smooth operation of the hospital. Not only did the hospital generate large loads of laundry, the laundry also provided an opportunity for those capable patients to participate in work therapy. Hospital employees supervised the operation of the laundry as in the other industrial jobs. Operating its own laundry, Spring Grove accomplished another task on the grounds which aided its self-sufficiency.

Despite the unique evolution of this building, much of its architectural integrity has been retained. The four sections of the building exhibit distinct architectural elements which contribute to the overall unity of the structure. The psychodrama unit presents the most contrast and is only moderately compatible to the historic architecture of the other three sections. The building shows good to excellent structural condition for its age. This significant building has evolved with the changing needs of the hospital and survives today as a representative of that change through the four sections of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2321

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
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	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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

BA-*2321
LAUNDRY BUILDING
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND
WEST WALL
DON JEWELL, 4/86
NEGATIVES AT MHT

BA - 2321
LAUNDRY BUILDING
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND
NORTH AND EAST WALL
DON JEWELL, 4/86
NEGATIVES AT MHT

BA - 2321
LAUNDRY BUILDING
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
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