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		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Olney	__ VICINITY OF	8
STATE		COUNTY
Maryland		Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE Corp.	X 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 Unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

STREET & NUMBER   18101 Prince Philip Drive

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

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 3079
Folio #:   90

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Rockville	Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE   None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M.23-122

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

M:23-122

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

M:23-122

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

Mrs. William J. Hines, Jr.　　Candy Reed - Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	September 1978
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	Maryland 20753

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 infringe-
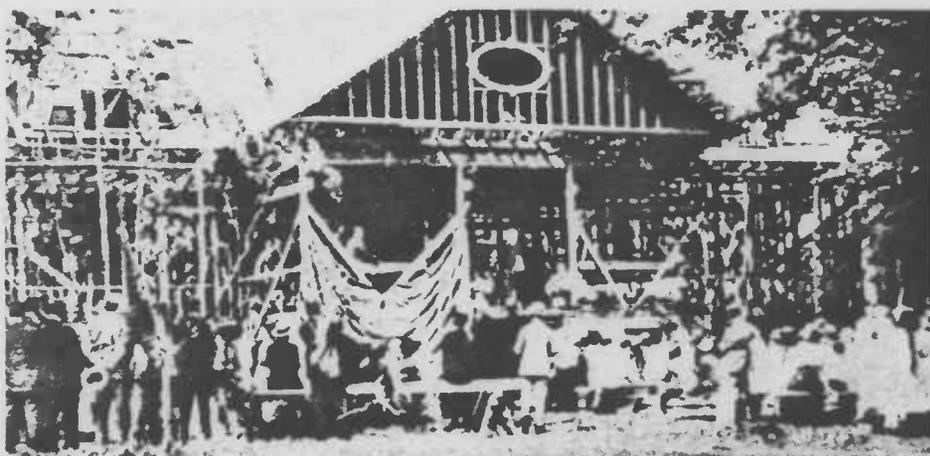ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:　Maryland Historical Trust
　　　　　　　The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
　　　　　　　Annapolis, Maryland 21401
　　　　　　　(301) 267-1438

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

PS- 1108

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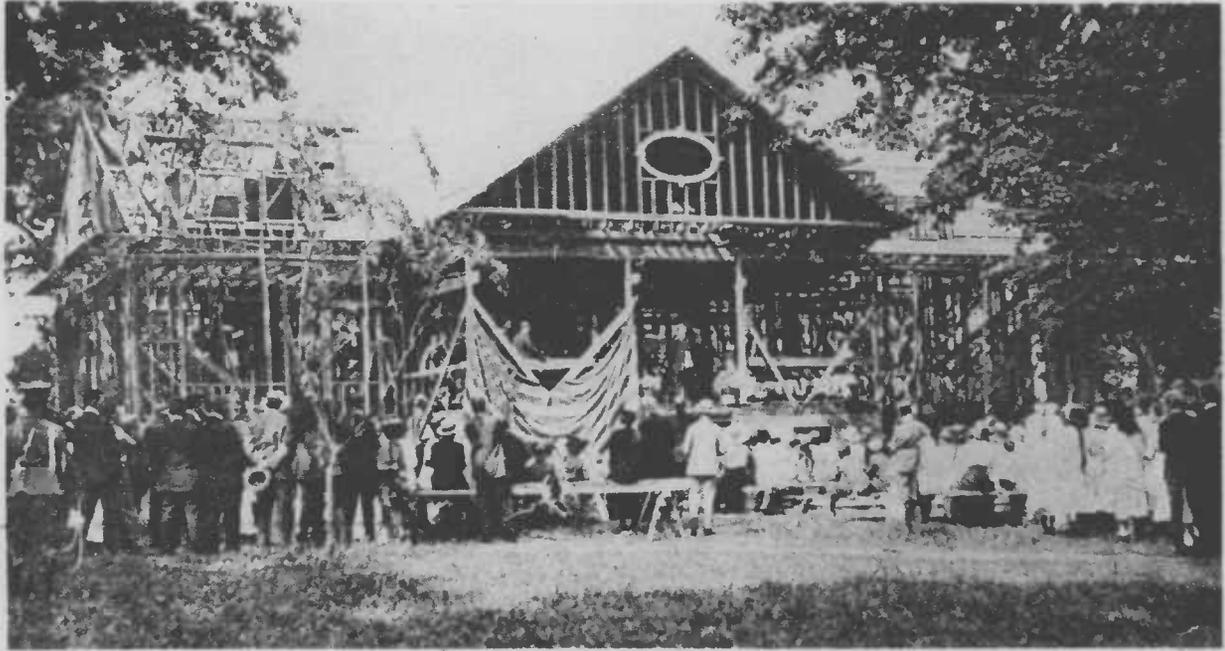
Doctors were especially vulnerable, and three local physicians died within two weeks: C. N. DeVilbiss, Carlton N. Etchison, and John D. Holland. At that time the only hospital in the county was the privately owned Seventh-Day Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. Concerned about the complete lack of such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

M: 23-122
Montgomery General Hospital
  Completed first addition to
  the east, c. 1932

Photo courtesy of MaryEllen Hines

M: 23-122
Montgomery General Hospital

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

Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Hines