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
   b. altered
   c. original site
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
    Drinklow, 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
   STATE Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
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<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
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<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td><em>PRIVATE Corp.</em></td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
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<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td><em>BOTH</em></td>
<td>_WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td><em>PARK</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
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<td>OBJECT</td>
<td><em>IN PROCESS</em></td>
<td><em>YES: RESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</em></td>
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<td><em>BEING CONSIDERED</em></td>
<td><em>YES: UNRESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>ENTERTAINMENT</em></td>
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<td><em>NO</em></td>
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<td><em>INDUSTRIAL</em></td>
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<td><em>TRANSPORTATION</em></td>
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</table>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
   NAME Montgomery General Hospital, Inc.
   STREET & NUMBER 18101 Prince Philip Drive
   CITY, TOWN Olney
   STATE, zip code Maryland 20832

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE:
   REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
   Montgomery County Courthouse

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE None
   DATE
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
   CITY, TOWN
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.
SIGNED

PERIOD
PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCE
COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY
INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1918

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. 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:
. Deed 274/493, Montgomery County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Canby, Jr., T.Y., News Release, April, 1969.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEORGICL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  14.74 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
This property is bounded by Sandy Spring-0lney Road (Route 108) and Prince Philip Drive.

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

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Mrs. William J. Hines, Jr. Candy Reed - Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION
Sugarloaf Regional Trails
STREET & NUMBER
Box 87
CITY OR TOWN
Dickerson

DATE
September 1978

TELEPHONE
926-4510
STATE
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 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
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).
M23-122
Montgomery General Hospital
Completed first addition to
the east, c.1932

Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen 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