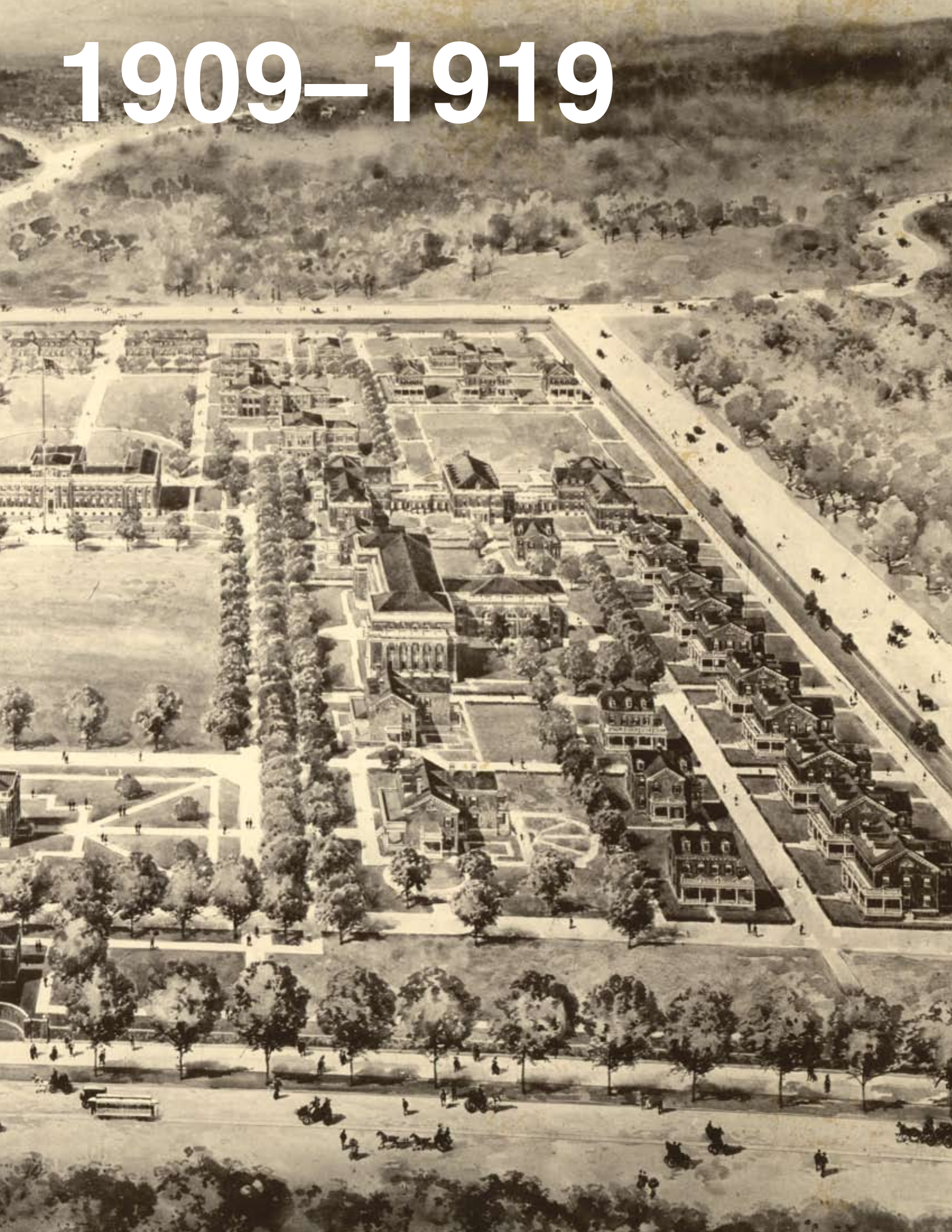


# 1909-1919



**Title page** - William Cline Borden's original dream for the Army Medical Department's facilities in Washington, D.C. was a single campus with the Walter Reed General Hospital, the Army Medical School, the Army Medical Museum, and the Surgeon General's Library. The preceding page is a watercolor drawing by architects Marsh and Peters of their concept for this campus. The original drawing, about 6 feet by 6 feet in size, is currently displayed in the lobby of the Borden Pavilion.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection, Reeve 2938

► The first medical department unit to occupy Walter Reed Hospital Reservation was Company C of the Hospital Corps. The area that they bivouacked had been used by Confederate General Jubal Early on July 11-12, 1864 in his attack on Washington. This same site was used for the Army Medical School building in 1923.

Source: *Military Surgeon*, Vol. 64, No. 4, April 1929



The early history of Walter Reed General Hospital begins here with a few details to set the stage for the photographs in this volume. Limited by an initial appropriation of \$100,000 for the land, which purchased a little over 43 acres known as the Cameron Tract, and \$200,000 for the buildings, the nascent campus of 1909 contained only the main hospital building for administration, 65–80 beds for inpatient care (reports vary), and two double sets of sergeant's quarters. During the first two years, support buildings were added to include a quartermaster storehouse and commissary, a stable, a wagon shed and garage, a barracks for the Hospital Corps (Building 7), and two sets of Captain's quarters (currently the General Officer quar-

ters). In 1911, the Army Nurse Corps Home (Building 12) for 20 nurses was completed. The original clinical facility of Building 1 was soon outgrown, and new additions were added. A separate building for an "isolation hospital" of 12 beds opened in 1913, a west addition to Building 1 was completed in 1914, and an east addition was completed in 1915.

World War I would, of course, change everything. The Post Return for April 1917, the month the United States entered the war, reported an active duty staff of 15 officers and 158 enlisted men, with 121 inpatients and an approximately 180-bed capacity. A total of 173 personnel for 121 patients may seem like excessive staffing, but, at the

time, there were only a few civilian employees and active duty personnel who did almost all the work, including clinical care, maintenance of the facility and equipment, minor construction projects, feeding of all personnel, and maintaining the animals.

To care for the war wounded, construction of temporary buildings started on June 15, 1917, and, by the end of the year, the hospital had a capacity of 950 beds. An additional land purchase of a little more than 25 acres was made from several surrounding landowners and along with the original purchase of 43 acres brought the total reservation to 69 acres. By the end of 1918, the total bed capacity was 2,500 beds, and admissions for 1918 were the highest



for the World War I period at 13,752. If the war was not enough, the great influenza pandemic swept the country and world in the fall of 1918, leading to over 2,000 admissions for influenza and more than 150 deaths at Walter Reed during a difficult 6-month period.

In addition to the wounded, war brought volunteers to the hospital to assist in their care and recovery. Edith Oliver Rea, a wealthy Pittsburgh philanthropist temporarily residing in Washington with her husband who came to assist with the war effort, became a benefactor to Walter Reed. Mrs. Rea was asked by the American Red Cross to be the Field Director at Walter Reed. She did so for 1 year, and then turned the title over to Miss Margaret

Lower; but, she stayed on as the leader of the volunteers who, because of their soft pearl-gray uniforms, became known as the Red Cross Gray Ladies, a moniker that spread nationally and continues to this day.

The war generated the need for additional trained nurses, which led to the establishment at Walter Reed and other locations of the Army School of Nursing (ASN) in August 1918. Planned for three years of training, the ASN was the Army's first adventure into training its own female nurses. Its charter class at Walter Reed swelled to over 400 students and is reputed to be the largest in American history; subsequent classes were significantly smaller. Although trained at government expense, there

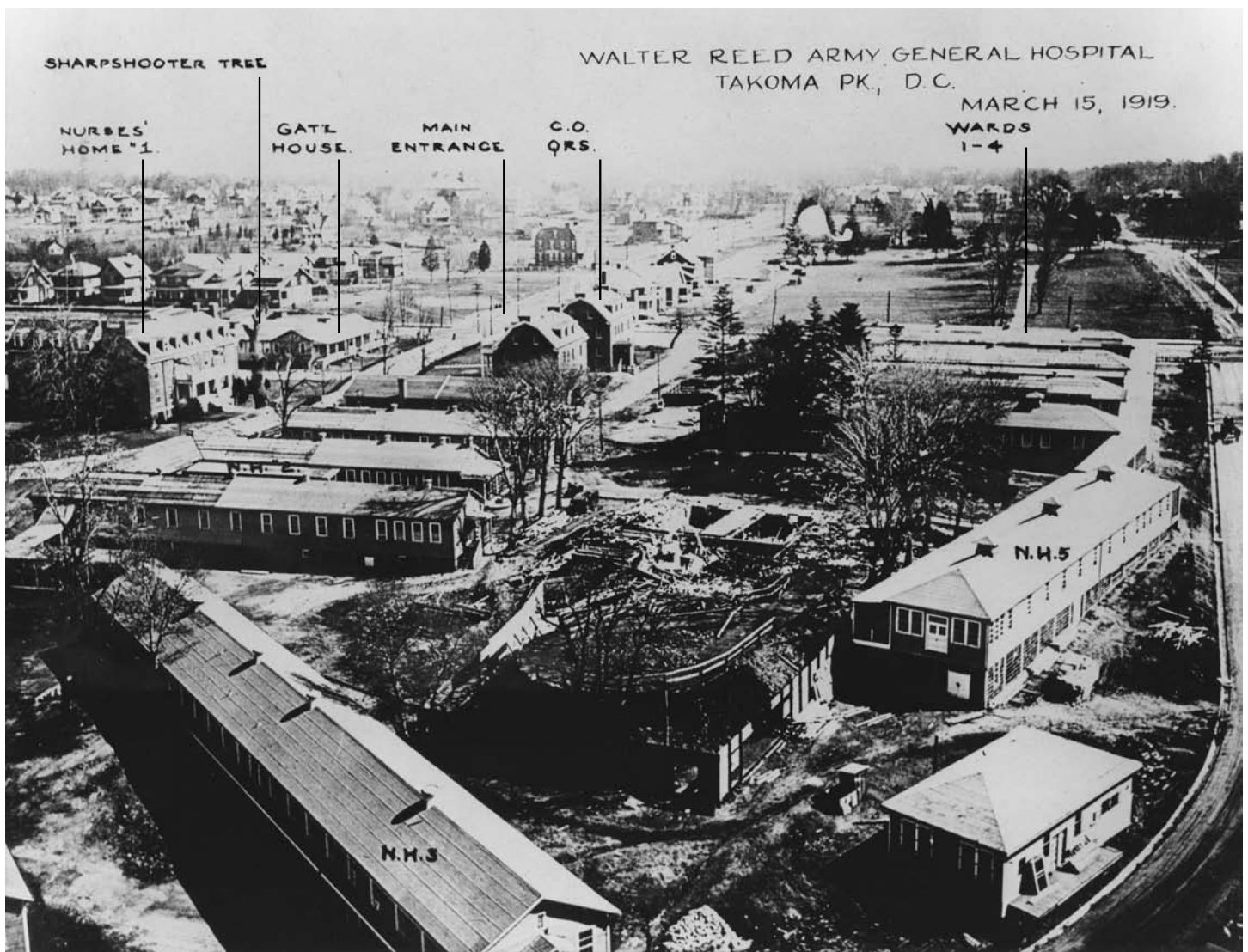
was no statutory service obligation and less than one-third of the graduates actually elected to enter active duty. The war ended in November 1918, but the ASN remained at Walter Reed until it was phased out in the early 1930s. The ASN was unusual for nursing schools of its day because the purpose of ASN was to train nurses, not to provide a pool of inexpensive skilled labor for its hospital.



This is the oldest known photograph of the main building. Building 1 opened for its first patients on May 1, 1909.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, AMM 484

► Originally designed for 65–80 patients, the hospital was expanded to 2,500 beds for servicemembers from World War I.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, 65-12603

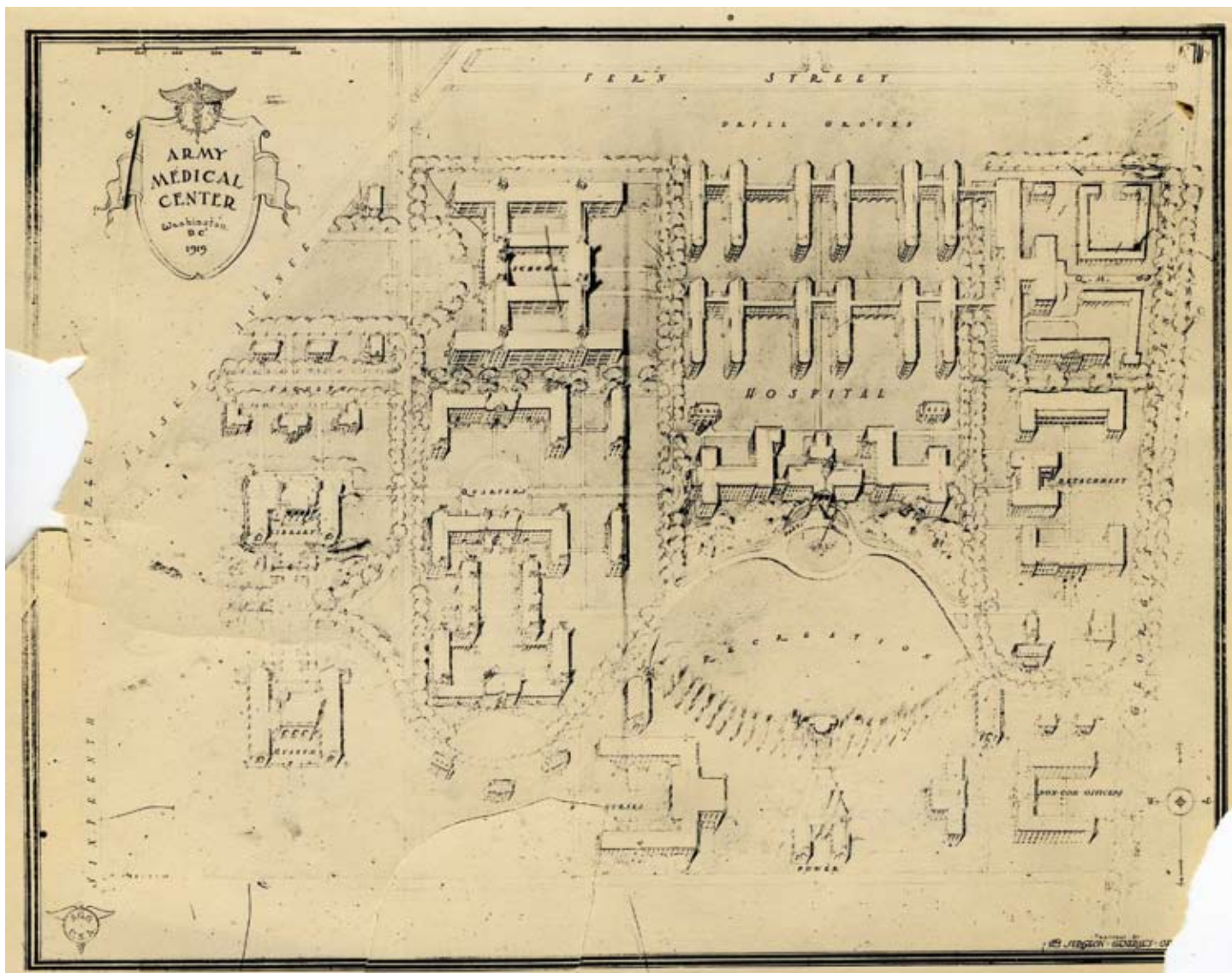




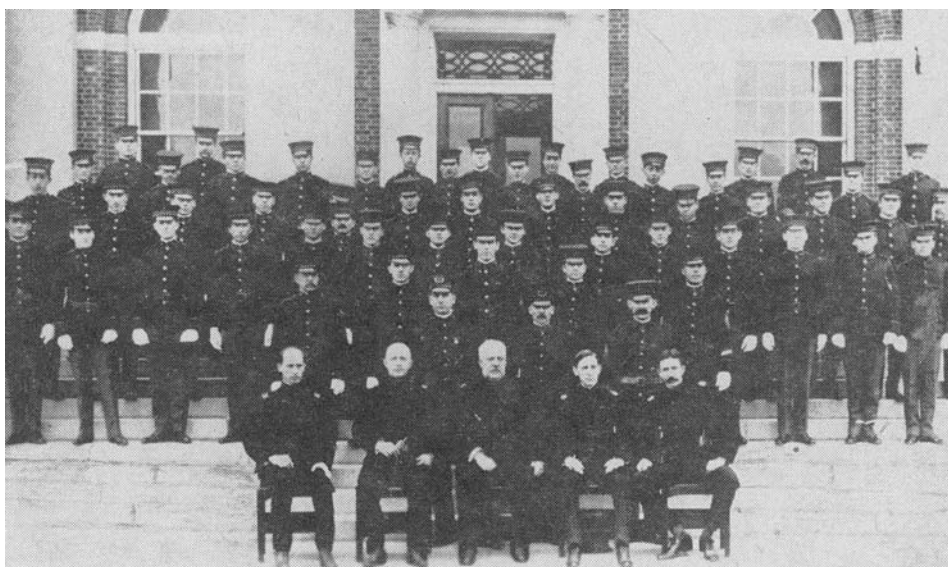
▲ Aerial view of the campus is dated March 15, 1919. The annotated photograph identifies three nurses homes, the gatehouse, main entrance, Commander's Quarters, and Wards 1 through 4. This view is looking toward present-day Georgia Avenue. The Sharpshooter's Tree can be seen between nurses' home 1 and the gatehouse. This chaotic picture was typical of the temporary expansion of the campus in World War I. Note the address is Takoma Park, D.C.  
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



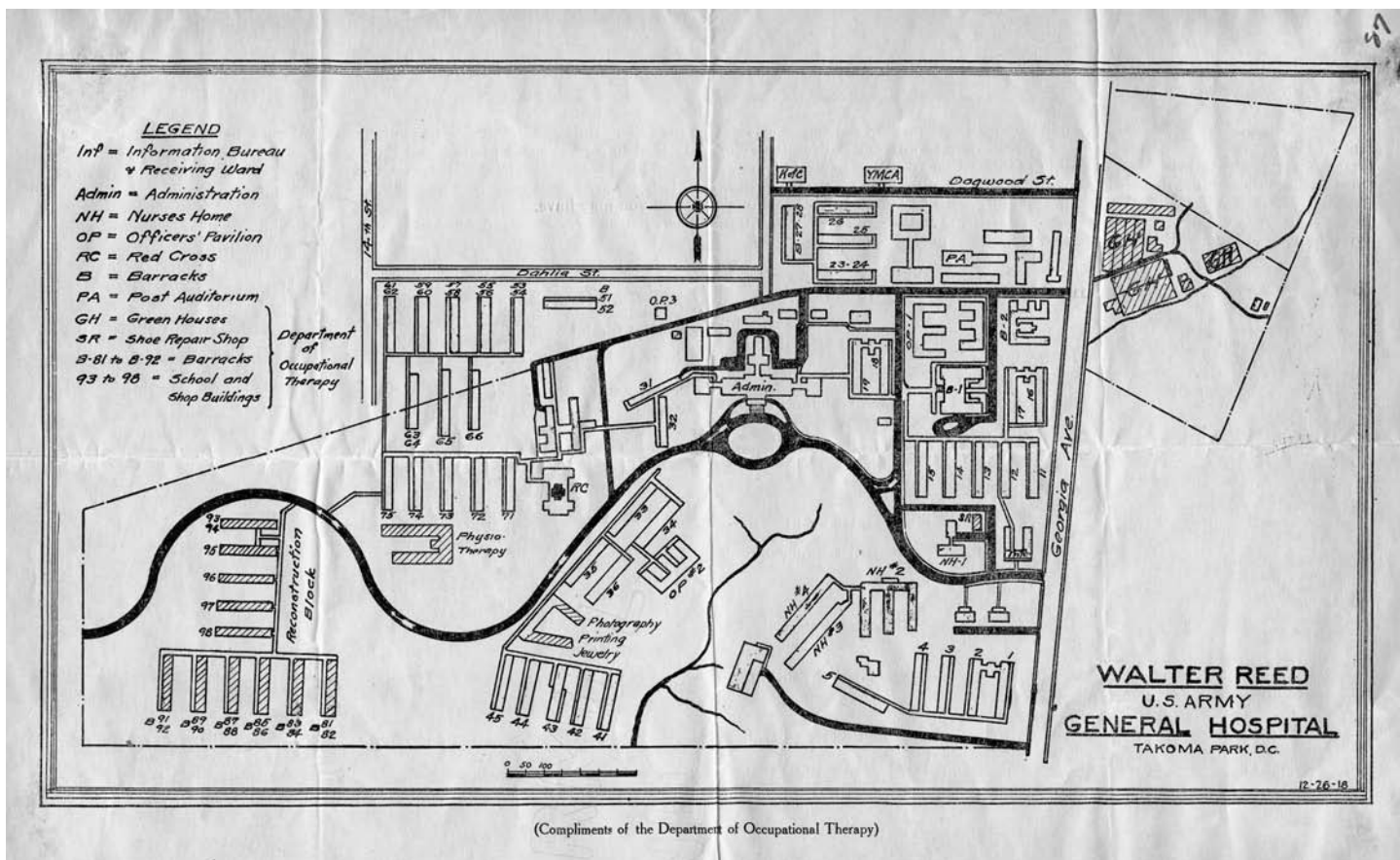
◀ In July of 1864 the Sharpshooter Tree was used by Confederate soldiers during the Battle of Fort Stevens. General Jubal Early commanded the Confederate Army's II Corps in its advance on Washington. They used this tulip tree to position sharpshooters to take shots at Union soldiers stationed at Fort Stevens located half a mile to the south.  
 Source: Library of Congress



Artist's conception of the proposed Army Medical School and Army Medical Center dated 1919.  
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2398



◀ Photograph of detachment of medical personnel that opened Walter Reed Hospital on May 1, 1909. Seated in the front are (left to right) Capt. Walter Huggins, acting Quartermaster; Maj. Thomas L. Rhodes, adjutant and surgeon; Col. William Arthur, commanding officer; Capt. William Pipes, Capt. Percival L. Jones.  
 Source: Signal Corps



This 1918 map (top) of the grounds of the hospital shows the increase in temporary buildings required to serve the returning veterans. Note the greenhouses on the east side of Georgia Avenue. The reverse of the map (bottom) encourages the patients to be active. As the poster says, "something to do" may be things in leather, decorative bookbinding, drawing, block printing, stenciling, metal work, beadwork, or twine work.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

## IF YOU ARE A PATIENT

You want your health and strength and your hospital discharge as soon as possible. Doing something with your hands and your head will greatly aid in these. What you do here may help you to know and to do your old job better or may lead to a job you like better and thus give you a happier life. The "Reconstruction Aides" will bring you something to do while you have to stay in your ward. This "Something to do" may be things in leather, decorative woodwork, basketry, book-binding, drawing, block-printing, stenciling, metal work, bead work, twine work; or it may be some of the subjects listed below.

Social Service Aides in Building 93, Room 6 are ready to discuss any problem you may have.

If you can leave the ward, you can visit the building named at the top of each list and try the kind of work you would like to do. The map will show you the way to the buildings. Come and see. Look over the lists.

<p><b>Buildings 93 and 94:</b></p> <p>English French, Spanish</p> <p>Arithmetic, Geometry Algebra, Trigonometry</p> <p>Penmanship Lefthand Writing</p> <p>Civil Service History</p> <p>Commercial Arithmetic Commercial English Commercial Law</p> <p>Shorthand, Stenotypy Typewriting</p> <p>Filing and Recording Duplicating Machine Calculating Machine</p> <p>Bookkeeping Salesmanship Journalism</p> <p>Telegraphy Citizenship</p>	<p><b>Building 95:</b></p> <p>Toy Making Working Drawings Tracing Blueprinting Reading Blueprints</p> <p>Architectural Drawing Perspective Freehand Sketching Topographic Drawing</p> <p>Slide Rule Use Gas Engine Study Steam Engine Study Power Plants</p> <p>Electricians Course Dynamo Tending Electrical Engineering Wireless Telegraphy</p> <p>Radio Work Blacksmithing Oxy-Acetylene Welding Forging</p>	<p><b>Building 96:</b></p> <p>Automobile Repairing Tractor Instruction Machine Shop Practice</p> <p>Engine Lathe Drill Press Sensitive Drill Drill Grinder</p> <p>Shaper Handwork in Filing Motion Picture Operation</p>	<p><b>Building 97:</b></p> <p>Artificial Limb Work Special Leather Work</p> <p>Cement and Concrete Work</p> <p>Lathing Plastering</p> <p><b>Building 40:</b> South Wing Basement</p> <p>Printing Hand Composition Linotype Operating Press Work Proof Reading</p> <p><b>Building 40:</b> North Wing Basement</p> <p>Jewelry Making</p>	<p><b>Building 98:</b></p> <p>Carpentry</p> <p>Cabinet Making Wood Turning Pattern Making Wood Carving</p> <p>Rug Weaving Loom Weaving Gobelin Tapestry</p> <p>Sign Painting Clay Modeling</p>	<p><b>Greenhouse and Farm:</b></p> <p>Truck Farming Vegetable Raising (Greenhouse) Flower Growing Text Book Studies in Agriculture Poultry Keeping Breeding Farm Management Horticulture Bee-Keeping, Etc.</p>
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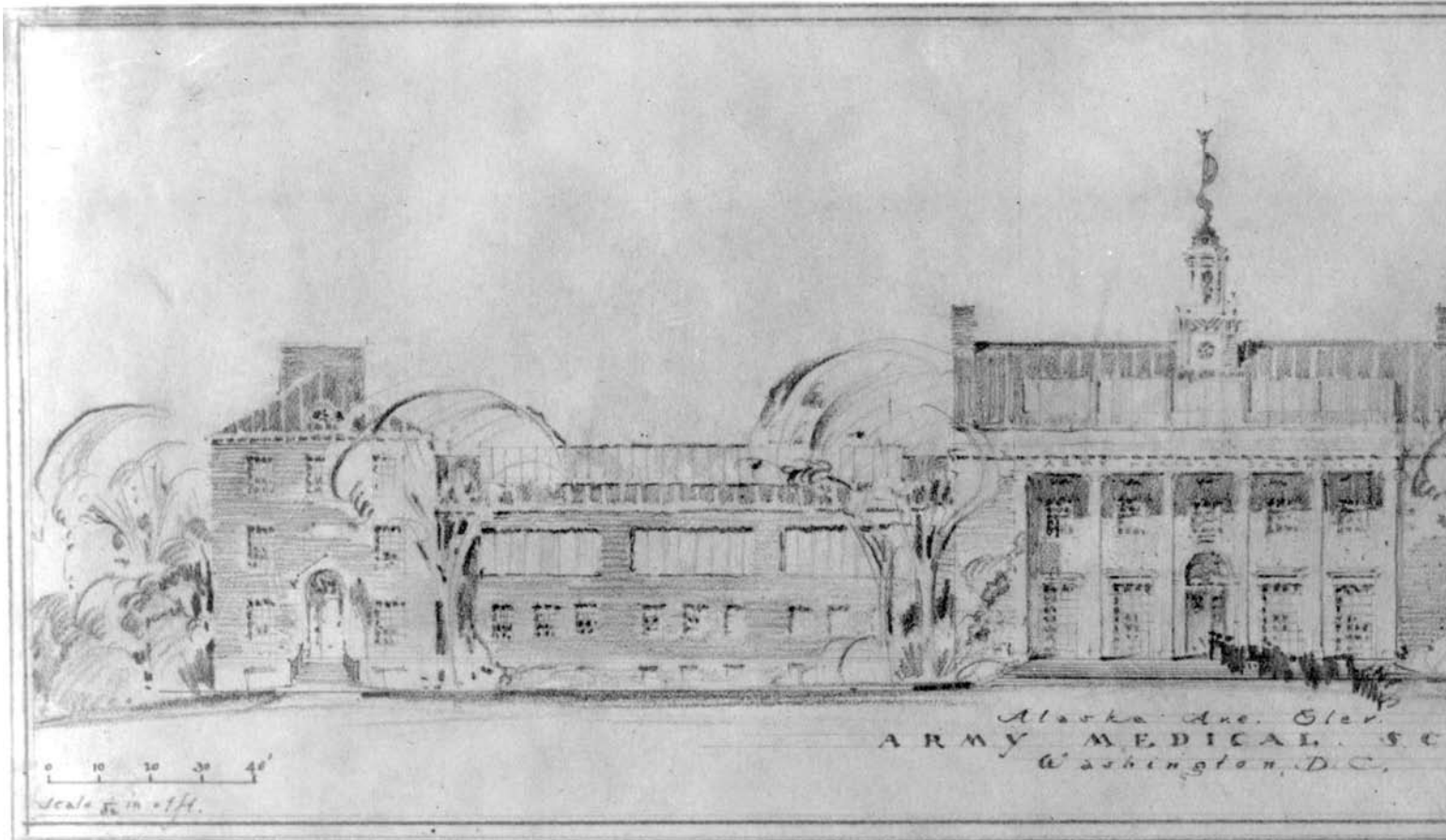
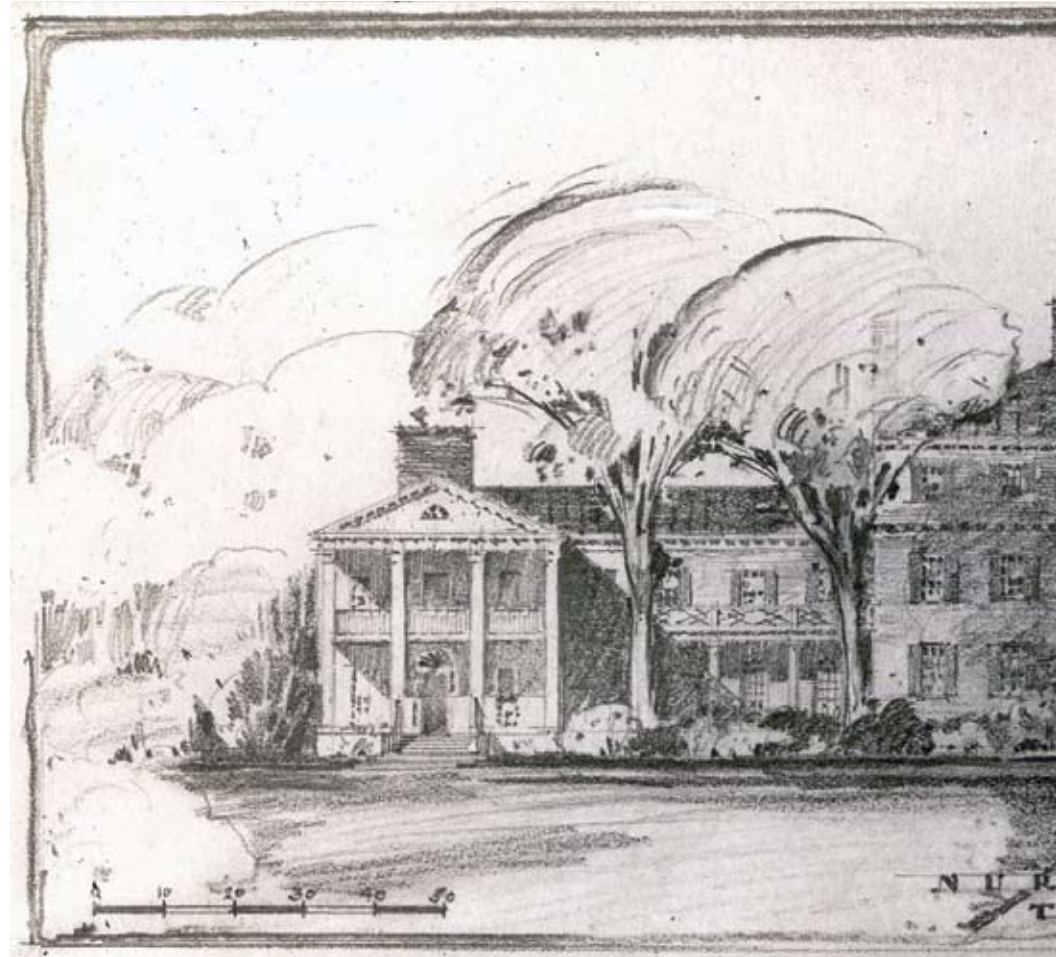
The American Library Association has a library room in Building 94. In it are many books on many subjects for your information and study. There is also a chance to read and write. Call in.

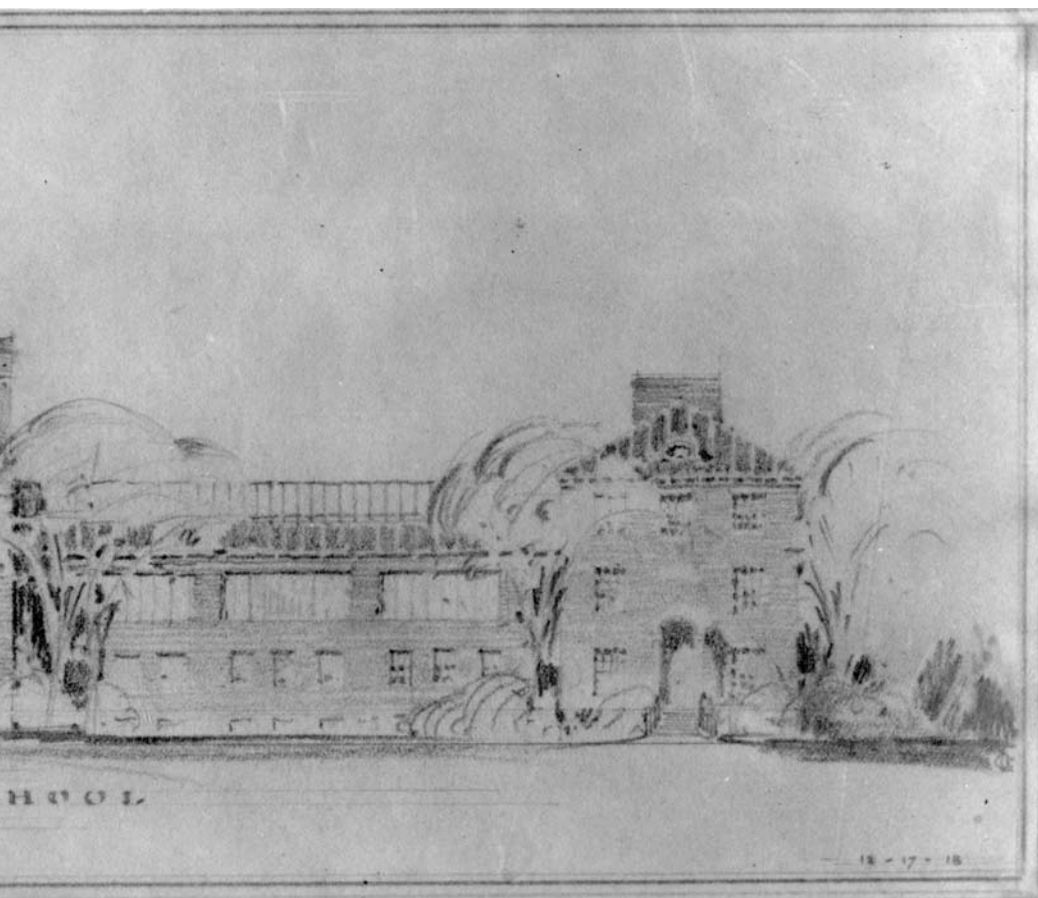
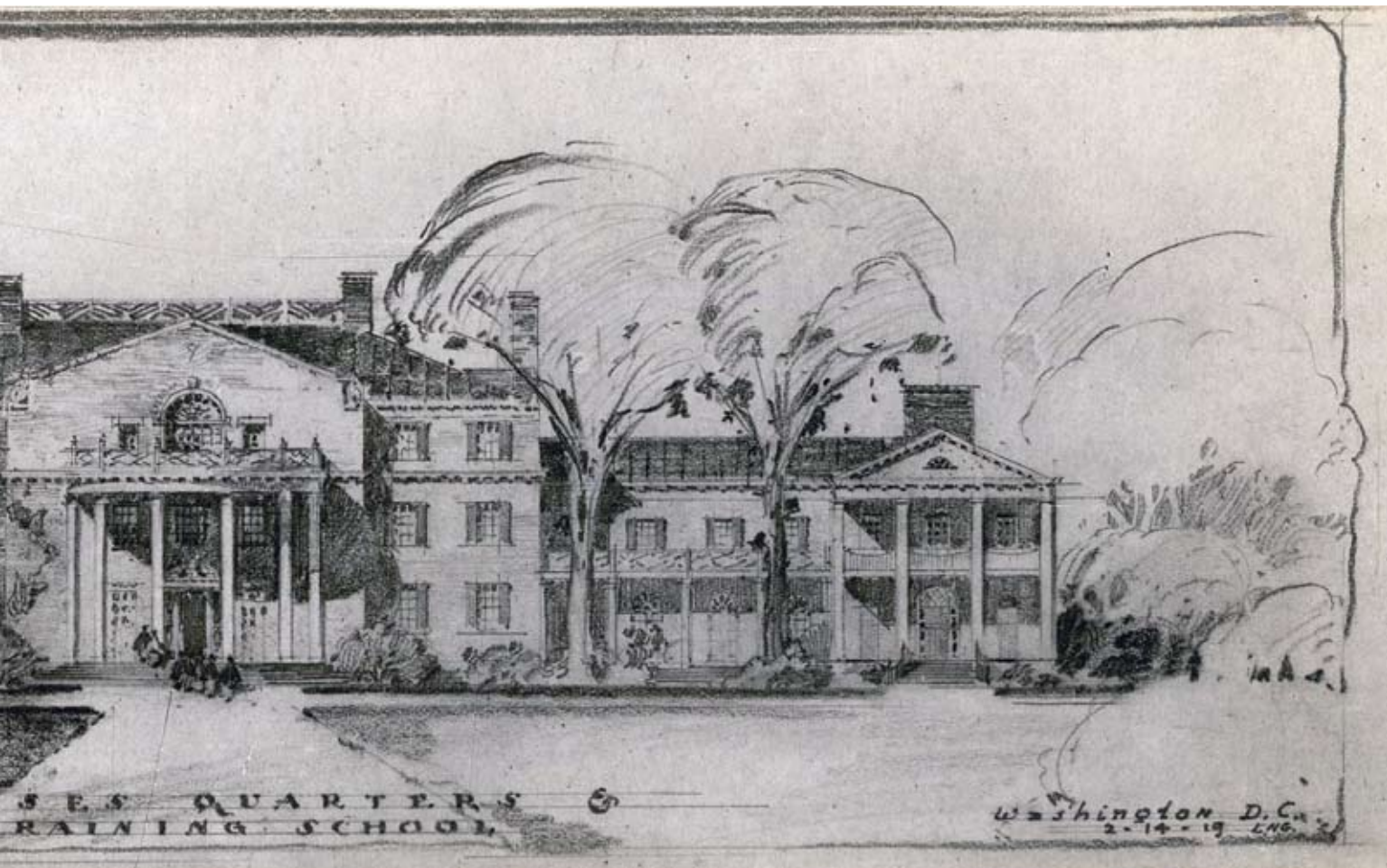
Agent of the Federal Board for Vocational Training—Building 93, Room 11.



► Artist's conception of the Nurses Quarters and Training School dated February 14, 1919. The Army School of Nursing at Walter Reed opened in 1918. Delano Hall was later built to house the nurses.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 3146





◀ This 1918 artist's conception is a plan for the Army Medical School. The Army Medical School moved to the hospital campus in 1923 from its location in downtown Washington. A building to house the school was built to the west on a direct line with Building 1. The architecture was compatible with the permanent buildings, the exterior being of brick with limestone trimmings. The main entrance to the south wing lead into a large central lobby. When completed a decade later, the building would consist of two long wings connected by a central portion that housed a large auditorium.  
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection, Reeve 2211



▲ Red Cross House and Post Exchange.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, NCP 15008

▼ Red Cross volunteers.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





▲ The Walter Reed Army General Hospital is located on Georgia Avenue, near Takoma Park, and is on the ground where the battle with General Early's army was fought during the Civil War. It honors the name of Maj. Walter Reed, Medical Corps, U.S.A., whose life ended on November 23, 1902. (Postcard)  
Source: Pierce Collection



◀ A view of the hospital and some of the support buildings probably taken in 1915 as the west addition (left) to Building 1 is completed and the east addition is under construction.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 3080a

# The Come-Back

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE SOLDIER-PATIENTS AT WALTER REED GENERAL HOSPITAL

NO. 1. WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 1, 1918. FIVE CENTS.

## FIRST PAPER IN HISTORY LONGING FOR QUICK DEATH

"The Come-Back" Born to Carry Wounded Soldiers' Message to the People of America and the World.

### FOREVER THE SPIRIT OF CHEER

Similar Papers to Be Established at Other Institutions Expected to Be Modeled After This Publication—Some Papers, Some Policy and Some Hopes, It Is Bound to Be a Success.

Luck, best, who's come! The Walter Reed Come-Back is here! For the first time in the history of newspapers one is born that hopes a copy the same.

And what a name, it hopes to help to shorten its own career, and will have a policy aiming at that end.

Some people, some hope, some policy, ah! Well, read this story and you will see there's a reason, after all—reason of them, indeed.

If there is one thing above weather that the wounded American soldier has to say to the people of his country it is, "There don't make me. That I want is a chance to get back into civil life in the same way of independence that takes a fellow "over the top."

Give me a chance to be myself again—don't make me a capably dependent, always having to lean on others. Can you't think any real fellow man would rather be a man rearing a bare living by hand with a wife and children and period in a king's household.

See us in us.

And then to carry our message to the people, get a look at the good that can be done. It is the hope of the "Come-Back" to be a help to the soldier who has been wounded in the war. It will have some things to say to the people of this country. It will have some things to say to the people of the world.

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## Let's GO!

"My lad, you have shown the will to win the war—  
Now show the will to win the battle of life."

## EDITORS OF AMERICA SALUTE THE COME-BACK

Good Luck Wishes for Success of Soldiers' Patients Newspaper Extended by Noted Journalists.

### MANY INSPIRING TELEGRAMS

Publishers of Leading Daily Journals of Country United in Eloquent Greetings, Expressing Their Confidence for Immediate Success.

America's press has united in an eloquent greeting to the new enterprise for paralytic losses in the United States.

The following telegrams, received at THE COME-BACK from the Editors of leading newspapers, express their confidence in the enterprise which is their temporary home, and hope to make it a training school whose graduates will enter the big field of American journalism.

That field is well represented by the many famous editors whose goodluck wishes are here expressed:

## U. S. WILL PUT DISABLED MEN IN GOOD JOBS

Get in Touch with Federal Vocational Board, Says Dr. Chas. A. Prosser.

### RETRAINING IF NEEDED

Government to Fit Handicapped Soldiers to Right Positions.

By DR. CHARLES A. PROSSER, Director Federal Board for Vocational Education.

The United States government intends to get every disabled soldier and sailor into a good job.

The handicapped man who needs retraining before he can be employed, if he so desires, will be given such instruction as is necessary to make him fully employable.

While he is taking training he will be supported by the government aid

## 'Uncle Joe' Sees Bright Future

To the Men Who Have "Come Back"

A Greeting to the Soldier Readers of The Come-Back from Col. Edwin R. Schreiner, Medical Corps, Commanding Officer.

## Great Cause Is Made Safe

Reconstruction Facts About Walter Reed

Started in 1905 as a general hospital.

Now serves from 100,000 patients when United States entered the war to 100,000 patients, with ten others to receive and accommodate 1,000 patients more each day.

American large departments, comprising forty wards, with 1,000 operating tables.

Walter Reed Hospital, the largest and most complete of the reconstruction hospitals established by the United States in rebuilding the war

▶ Radio communication played a major role in connecting the wounded veterans with the world outside the hospital grounds. In February 1919, the Telegraphy School, with assistance from the Signal Corps, installed two complete sets of wireless instruments. This apparatus consisted of a long-wave receiving set for handling the high-powered overseas stations, and a commercial wave set for recording signals sent out by ship and shore stations. The set could also tune as low as 100 meters, thus enabling the operator to handle the amateurs on the waves of 200 meters. By June 1920, it was considered one of the most up-to-date radio stations of its size on the East Coast. *The Come-Back*, June 26, 1920. Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

## TALKING THROUGH SPACE

Lieut. W. L. Winner, expert radio operator, holding a wireless telephone conversation in the radio room of the Walter Reed Hospital Reconstruction Department, using apparatus constructed by himself and Mr. Leroy Chichester.

◀ *The Come-Back*, published from December 4, 1918 to September 17, 1926 strengthened the morale of the soldiers and soldier-patients of the hospital. It was one of approximately 50 newspapers published at military hospitals around the country. *The Come-Back* was sold on the streets of Washington and sales to the community were encouraged. To cover the cost of production, advertising space was sold to local businessmen, and the paper itself cost five cents. Because of the audience, general news was covered in addition to news of happenings at the hospital. Initially four pages, within a year it was 12 pages, and its circulation doubled and then tripled. The paper became an effective crusader for soldiers successfully fighting for reduced rates on rail travel.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

## N-C's Have Nothing on This Sixty Per at Walter Reed



▲ This rickshaw wheelchair combination was perfect for negotiating paths around the hospital grounds. *The Come-Back*, Vol. 1, May 21, 1919.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



◀ Here, a camera is recording an operation. The motion picture camera became a critical part of the teaching mission of the hospital.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 562

▼ Pneumonia ward in 1919. There were more than 150 patient deaths due to the influenza pandemic in the fall and winter of 1918–1919.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 604-2





▲ Observation Ward.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 602



▶ Mess Hall Ward, Ward Y for patients.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 743





◀ Foot gymnastics for soldiers from Army camps, Walter Reed Hospital.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 279

▶ Amputees at Walter Reed General Hospital whose stumps were massaged daily and made ready for prosthetics.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 273



◀ Massaging residual limbs of soldiers preparatory to prosthetic fitting.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 278



◀ When a second greenhouse was needed, there was no funding available. Used and about to be discarded, glass X-ray plates were cleaned, set into frames, and reused as window panes in construction of the new greenhouse. The two original greenhouses and a third donated by the U.S. Park Service in 1943 were demolished in 1998.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 275

▶ Soldier-patients working in the garden at Walter Reed Hospital, Reconstruction Division.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 469

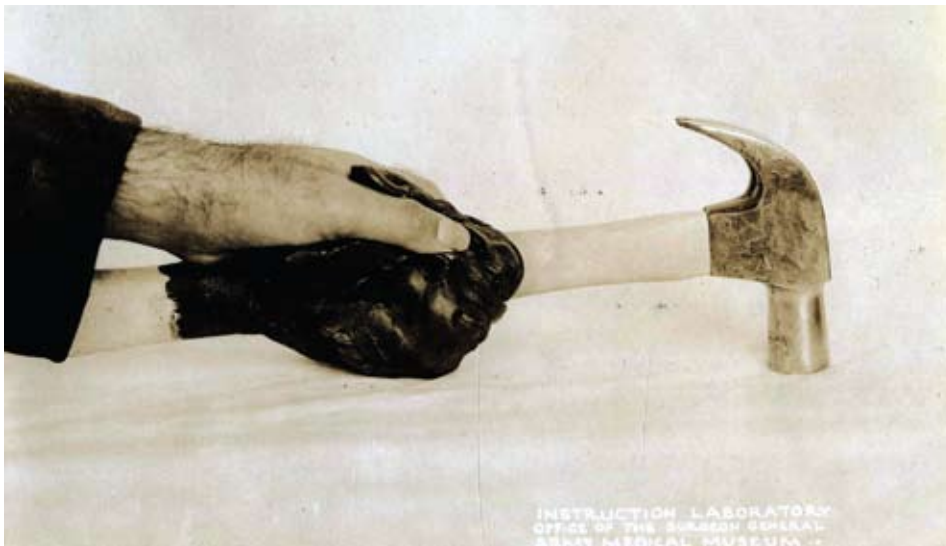


◀ Horticultural therapy involves the use of gardening, landscaping, flower arranging, nature crafts, and related activities. The purpose is to boost the patient's self-esteem, develop a sense of accomplishment, and overcome stress. In addition to the therapy, the greenhouses produced plants and holiday flowers used for programs and activities at the hospital.

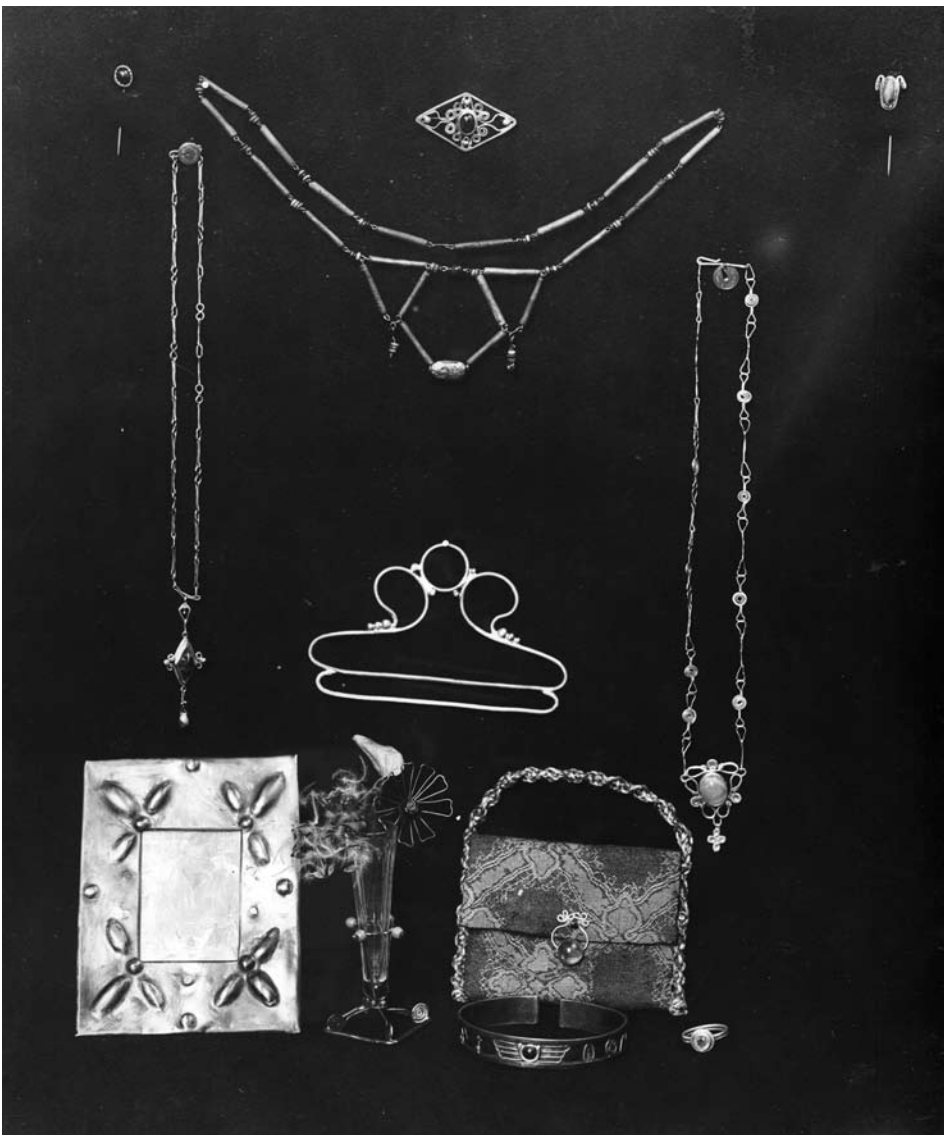
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 276



▲ Sign painting class provided re-education of the wounded. Walter Reed Hospital, Reconstruction Division.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2011



◀ Hammer with hand mold for wounded hand. Used by Pvt. John Aver (37th Division, U.S. Infantry), World War I.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 1789



◀ Making jewelry provided re-education opportunities for wounded soldiers.  
 Source National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2022

▼ Pvt. Ralph Grimm, who became an expert Silversmith in the Walter Reed occupational therapy shop. (Original caption)  
 Source: Pierce Collection



▲ A silver ashtray made by a patient undergoing therapy at Walter Reed. Stamped on the bottom is "Walter Reed General Hospital"  
 Source: Pierce Collection, Douglas Wise - photographer





◀ Wounded soldier learning to type.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 285

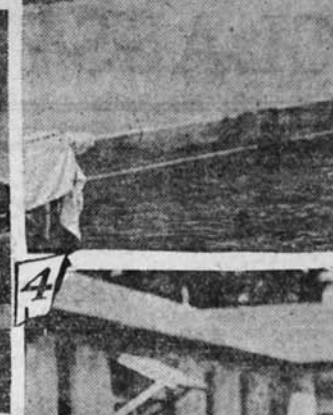
▶ Patient working at his old trade as a draughtsman.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 277



◀ Injured soldiers learning to knit.  
Walter Reed General Hospital, Reconstruction Division.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 305

WITH MANY A NOISY SPLASH SERENE OUR NEW SWIMMIN'  
HOLE, "THE REA POOL," IS FORMALLY DEDICATED AT REED



- 1—"I sure envy the swimmers," said Surgeon General Merritte W. Ireland, one of our distinguished guests.
- 2—A rival to Duke Kahanamoku in a graceful dive.
- 3—Walter Reed's Prettiest are interested spectators.
- 4—"Come on in, Jimmy, the water's fine."



The new swimming pool, donated by Mrs. Rea, was used for physical therapy and soldier recreation. *The Come-Back*, July 9, 1919.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



Patient rehabilitation. Playing baseball.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

