





# 1970-1979





**Title page** - Looking north, this photograph demonstrates construction of the new clinical building well underway. The underground parking garage can be seen to the right of the main building and appears to be at about the fifth floor level. Construction would take 5 years and 1 month, from groundbreaking on August 26, 1972 until dedication on September 26, 1977.

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

► Architect's model of the new hospital building, showing its relationship to the rest of the campus. The model resides in the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives

The events of this decade clearly focus on the construction and occupancy of the new clinical building, designated Building 2. In 1967 with the assistance of Senators Dirksen, Russell and Stennis, Army Surgeon General and former Walter Reed Commanding General Leonard D. Heaton procured funds from Congress to start planning for a new hospital facility. The construction of Building 2 changed the face of the entire medical center. In actuality, work had begun several years earlier when a new commissary and post-exchange complex were planned and construction begun at Forest Glen. These services were moved from Walter Reed's main campus to make room for the new hospital building. The motor pool, engineer shops and laundry were also moved to new facilities at Forest Glen. To provide for enlisted housing, Abrams Hall was constructed during the same time period and opened in 1975. Before ground was broken for the new hospital, two temporary buildings (T-2 and T-20) were built to house important facilities that could not be moved to Forest Glen. Thirty-five plus years later both these temporary buildings still remain in use. Under the supervision of the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the official groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 26, 1972. Those in attendance included Secretary of the Army, Robert Froehlke, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Lt. General W. T. Kerwin, the Surgeon General,

Lt. General Hal B. Jennings and WRAMC Commander Maj. General William H. Moncrief.

Complete construction took over five years. During construction the amount of dirt that was moved would have completely filled and buried RKF Stadium. The trucks used to move the earth would have extended from Washington to 40 miles past New York City. The steel used to reinforce the 110,000 cubic yards of concrete used would have stretched from Washington to Denver. The completed building had 5500 rooms, 28 acres of floor space, 1280 patient beds and 16 operating rooms. Construction included an electrical generating plant capable of providing enough power for a city of 50,000 people and an underground garage for more than 1000 cars. There were over 800 workers on site each day and toward the end of construction when finishing work had to be completed on the inside, there were over 1200 workers each day. Unique features included an interstitial floor that included air conditioning, heating, electrical, plumbing and life support systems and was where 80% of the maintenance work would take place. The interstitial space also included a monorail track system that was to handle linen and medical supplies, as well as, a first in the industry patient food cart system. A separate tele-lift system was to carry administrative materials, laboratory samples, x-ray records and patient records. More than 1100 additional



civilian employees were hired to work in the new facility.

Special guest of honor for the dedication ceremony that took place on September 26, 1977 was Daisy Reed Royce, granddaughter of Maj. Walter Reed, the medical center's namesake. Also in attendance was former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, Senator





John Stennis, Secretary of the Army, Clifford Alexander, Army Chief of Staff, General Bernard Rogers, chief of the Corps of Engineers, Lt. General John Morris, the Surgeon General, Lt. General Richard Taylor and Walter Reed Commanding General, Maj. General Robert Bernstein. Moving into a building of this size did not happen overnight; the actual move took almost

a year during 1977-1978, mostly on the weekends. The continued functioning of the medical center during these years of construction and moving is truly a remarkable monument to the dedication and service of the soldiers and civilians of WRAMC.

Other construction also took place in the early 1970s with an addition to the

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) building. In contrast to the original AFIP building that was built without windows, this addition to the south elevation had numerous windows. Opened in 1972, in addition to offices and other space for AFIP it housed the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the former Army Medical Museum that dated back to 1862.





▲ Aerial view of old hospital facing south. The buildings at the bottom of the picture were demolished to make room for the new hospital.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ Architect's model of the new hospital rising above the old.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





Groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital. From left to right are: Surgeon General Hal Jennings; Secretary of the Army, Robert Froehlke; Lt. General W. T. Kerwin; and Maj. General William H. Moncrief, WRAMC Commander. August 26, 1972. Sources: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives







Various stages of construction of the new hospital, 1973–1976.  
Sources: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection











▲ Dedication and opening ceremonies for the new hospital building on September 26, 1977.

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



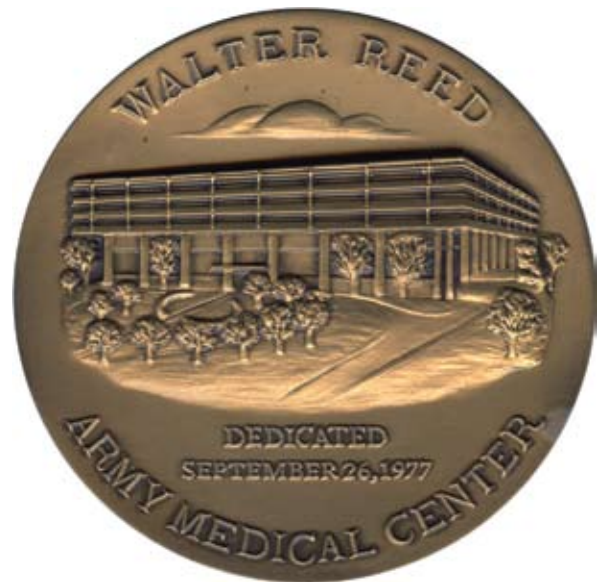
◀ Setting the dedication plaque of the hospital are Maj. General Robert Bernstein and Daisy Reed Royce, granddaughter of Maj. Walter Reed.

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





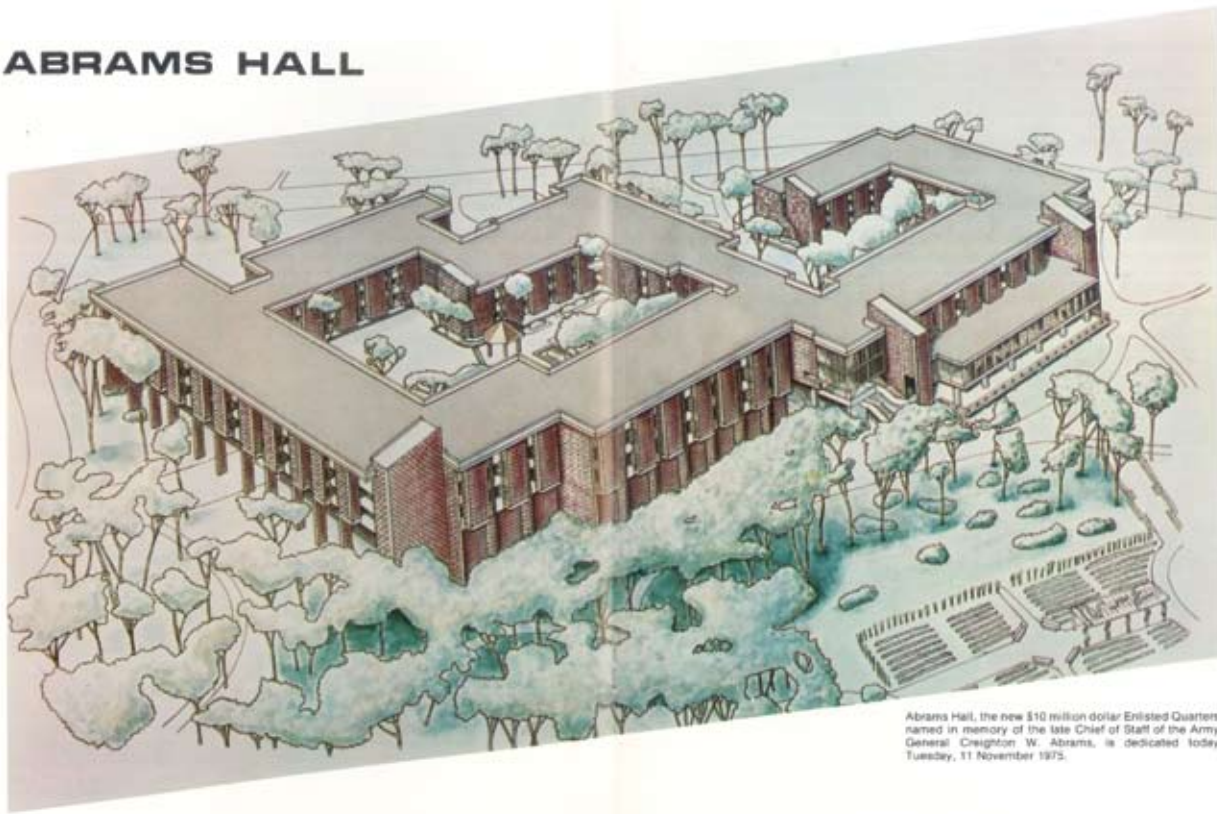
▲ The lower entrance lobby to the new hospital, with plenty of waiting area when it opened in 1978.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection



▲ A commemorative coin minted to celebrate the opening of the new hospital. Sept. 26, 1977.  
Source: Pierce Collection



# ABRAMS HALL



Abrams Hall, the new \$10 million dollar Enlisted Quarters, named in memory of the late Chief of Staff of the Army, General Creighton W. Abrams, is dedicated today, Tuesday, 11 November 1975.

Architect's renderings of Abrams Hall.  
Sources: Pierce Collection





11 NOVEMBER 1975



GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS

# ABRAMS HALL DEDICATION

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

◀ Cover of the program for the Abrams Hall dedication. Abrams Hall was dedicated in 1975 as the primary residence for single enlisted men and women. It was named in honor of General Creighton W. Abrams, Army Chief of Staff from 1972 until his death in 1974 at the hospital. Mrs. Abrams attended the ceremony and unveiled the plaque officially naming and opening the building.

Source: Pierce Collection

▼ Abrams Hall was dedicated in 1975. It was designed to be the primary residence for single enlisted men and women. This photograph is circa 1985, when the building had been in use for a decade.

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







W/O # 2939-30, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MEDICAL MUSEUM WING TO THE AFIP BUILDING, DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1970.



► Postcard showing the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and its new Medical Museum wing.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP Files, Rededication of Museum Folder 1971

▲ Construction of the Medical Museum wing on the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's A-bomb-proof building.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP Files, Rededication of Museum Folder 1971





In 1971, the Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, founded in 1862 during the Civil War as the Army Medical Museum, opened on the WRAMC campus. The Museum was displaced from the National Mall, its home since 1887, by the Hirschhorn Museum. Once at WRAMC, it stayed open for three years, and then its space was used by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences until 1976.



Exhibit space inside the National Museum of Health and Medicine. First, looking right, historical transportation models, a Vietnam War exhibit with an AK-47 and punji sticks, and the history of the microscope. Second, looking left, pathology and anatomy of the human body. Third picture, center of museum showing history of museum exhibit, including one at Walter Reed. Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection, AFIP Files, Rededication of Museum Folder 1971



◀ Part of the filariasis exhibit at the museum, 1972. Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, NCP 2484









The ceremonial opening of a new shopping center in the Walter Reed Annex at Forest Glen. August 1971.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



► Bowling alley at Forest Glen.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center,  
Directorate of Public Works Archives





▲ The Hoff Memorial Fountain gets a good cleaning. The penguins were replaced in the 1990s with plastic replicas.  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection



◀ This postcard reads: "Hoff Memorial Fountain, erected in 1935, located at the main entrance to the Administration Building. Walter Reed General Hospital, Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Erected in memory of Col. John Van Rensselaer Hoff, MC, U.S.A., famous military surgeon who died in 1920. The fountain is surrounded by tulips of many varieties donated by people of the Netherlands following World War II."  
Source: Pierce Collection





Demonstration of ambulances at the hospital.  
Sources: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





# WALTER REED

## ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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Front cover of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center guidebook, 1979. To the right of the photo, the physician with the stethoscope around his neck is Ronald Blanck. Dr. Blanck would serve as WRAMC Commander from 1992 to 1996 and as Army Surgeon General from 1996 to 2000.

Source: Pierce Collection

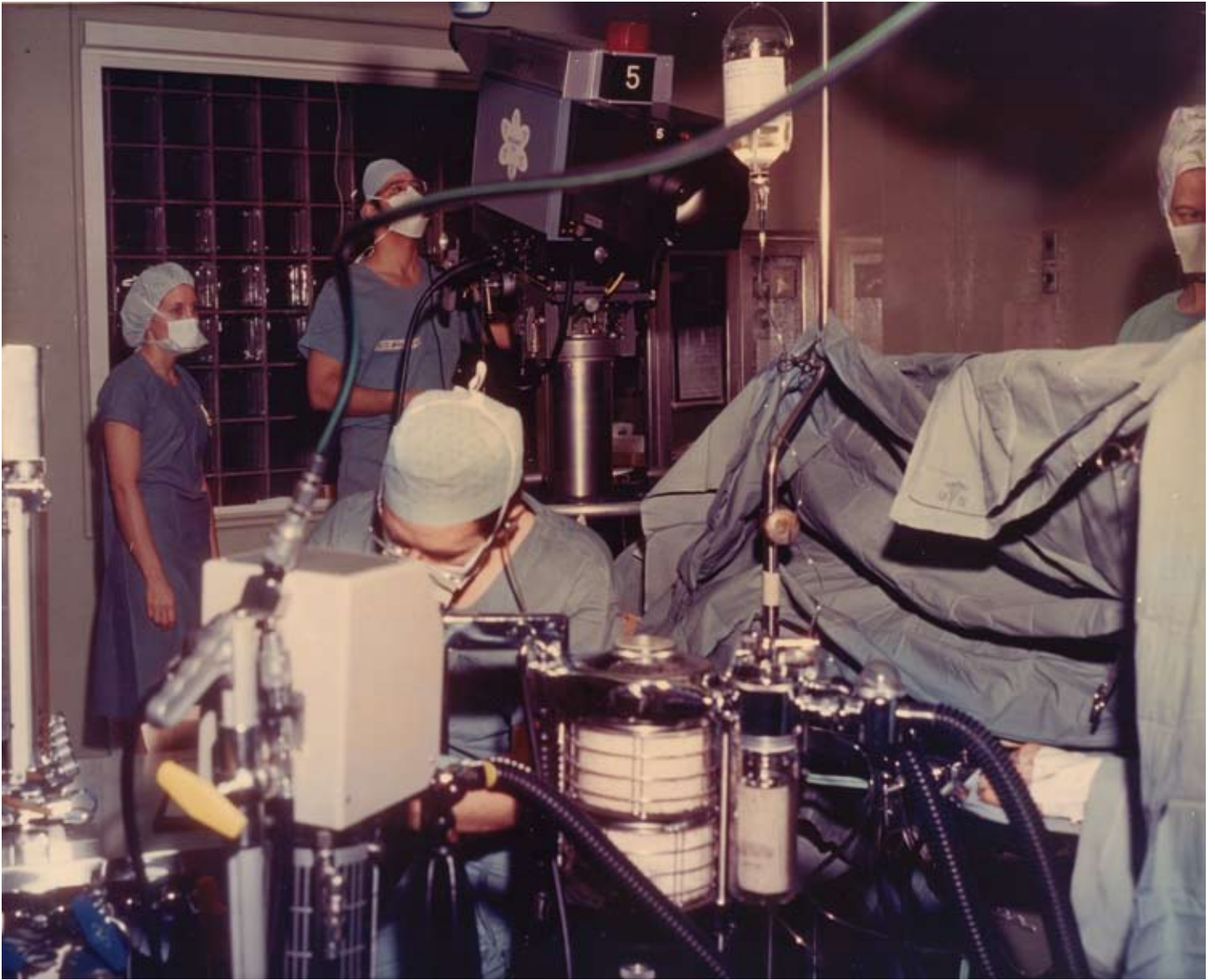




Head Nurse Janet Rexrode, Pediatrics, Ward 22, styling the hair of a young patient. Colonel Janet Rexrode Southby would return to Walter Reed and serve as Chief, Department of Nursing. She has served as President of the Walter Reed Society from 2001 to the present.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





An operating room nurse clinician coordinating the activities involved with the production of an instructional television program, 1973.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, NCP 1737





▲ Bob Hope appeared at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on December 30, 1973, with a mini-troop of entertainers to make the holiday season a little more enjoyable for the patients and staff at WRAMC. Hope's troop of entertainers consisted of Betty Joe Grove, Miss Maryland; Priscilla Barnes, Miss San Diego; and Lynda Carter, Miss World—USA 1972. Hope played to a standing-room-only crowd in the Main Post Theatre and then visited Ward 24 before making his trip back to California. (Original caption) Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



► Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland visits with a patient at Walter Reed Hospital on Thanksgiving Day, 1970. Source: WRAMC History Office, PAO Historical Collection





▲ Mrs. Arthur Berger, Red Cross Volunteer at Walter Reed General Hospital, shows a book from the library cart to SSG James L. Broyles (Holly Grove, Ark.) a patient on Ward 28. The cart is taken to the wards by the volunteers for the patients who are unable to utilize the main library facilities. Signal Corp photo by SSG Larry Sullivan. (Original caption)  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection



◀ A section of the Medical Library, Walter Reed General Hospital. The Medical Library is operated as a section of the Main Library of the hospital. Signal Corps photo by SSG Larry Sullivan. (Original caption)  
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection





▲ Mr. Charles L. Johnson, Civilian Librarian Aide, at Walter Reed General Hospital plays one of the talking books from the library for SGT Larry J. Whitt (Hunt, WV), a patient on Ward 35. The talking books are provided by the library to be used by patients who are blind or unable to read for other reasons. Signal Corps photo by SSG Larry Sullivan. (Adapted from original caption)

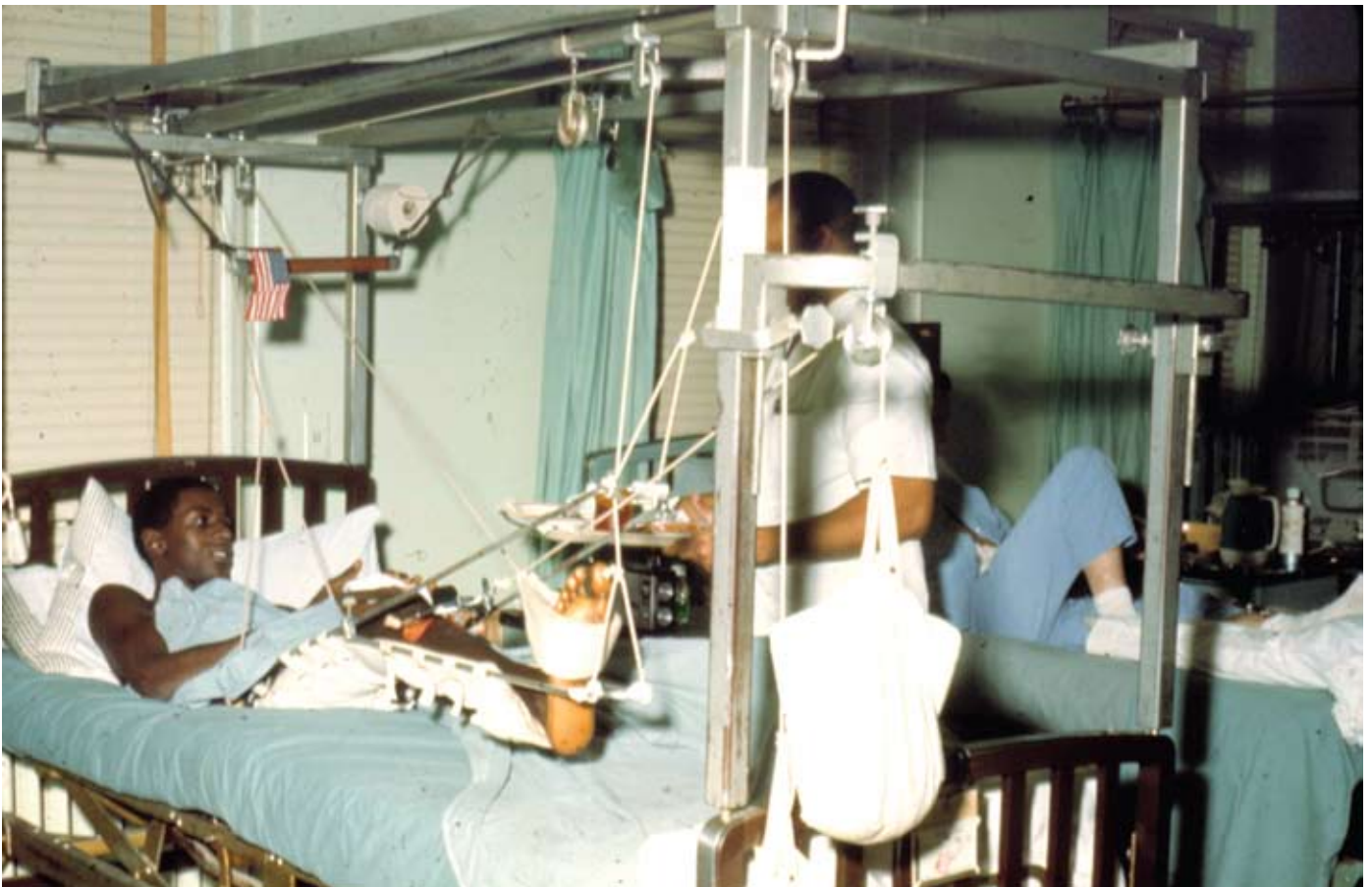
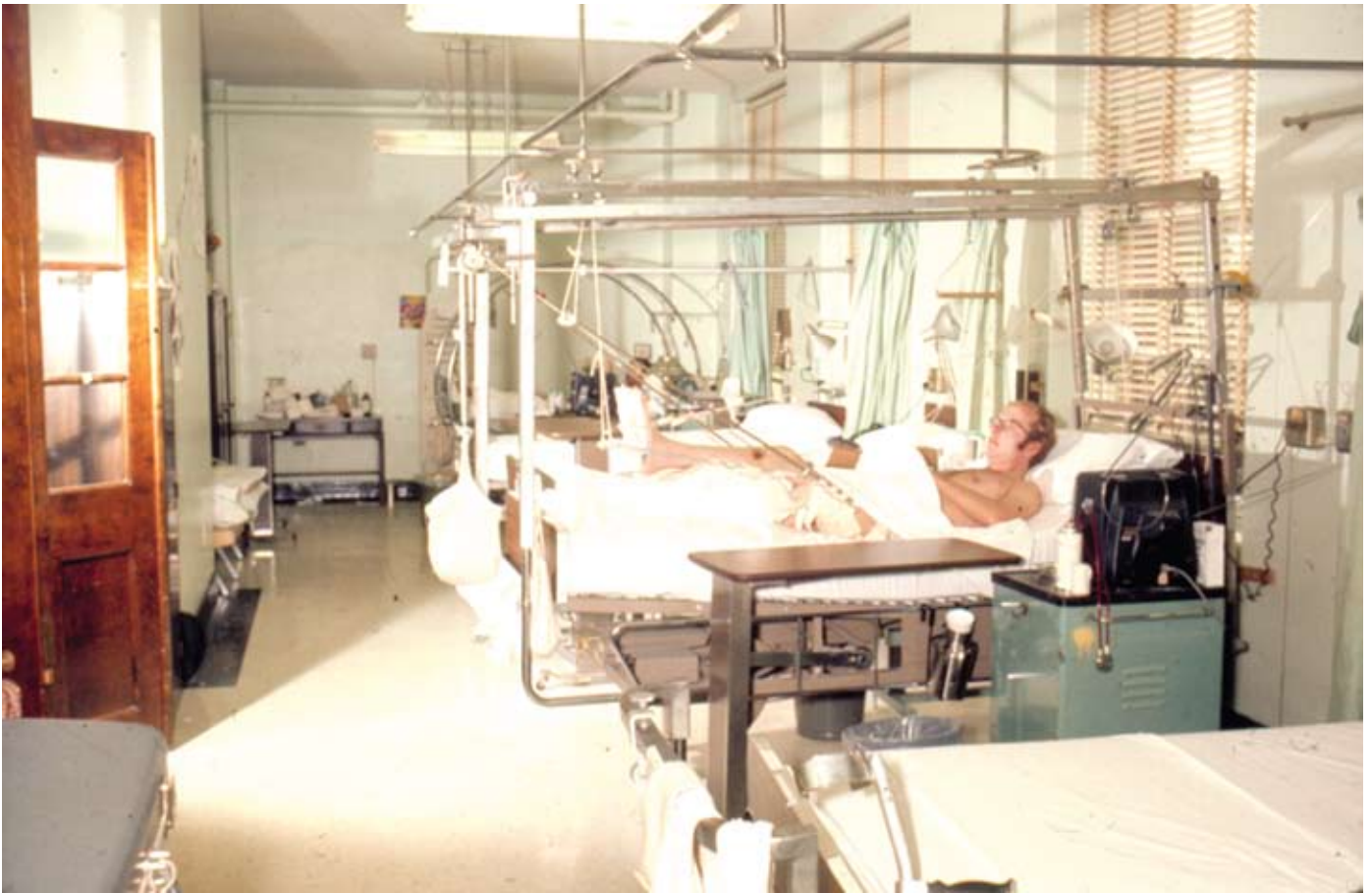
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, WRAMC History Collection





Ward 1, the male officers' Orthopaedic Ward, was known as the "snake pit" during the Vietnam War.  
Sources: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





Patients in orthopaedic beds with traction for fracture management.  
Sources: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





◀ Tilt-table therapy for return to ambulation following bed rest.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives

▼ Building an upper extremity prosthesis in the hospital prosthetic shop.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ Evaluation of test socket for above-knee amputee.  
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





Some forms of occupational therapy are constant. Here, a patient is working on a power wheel just as his predecessors did in earlier decades. Other activities designed to strengthen muscles and improve coordination were performed in the occupational therapy clinic (below).  
Sources: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives







The Entrance Walkway with the Tulip Garden.  
Source: WRAMC, History Collection



