

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC United States Marine Hospital

AND/OR COMMON Natchez Charity Hospital

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 801 Maple Street \_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Natchez CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth

STATE Mississippi VICINITY OF Adams

CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CODE 001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Medical</u>

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Mississippi  
Board of Trustees of State Eleemosynary Institutions

STREET & NUMBER 1404 Woolfolk State Office Building

CITY, TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi 39201

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Adams County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN Natchez STATE Mississippi 39120

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE 1971 \_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Marine Hospital dominates a prominent hilltop site on the bluffs of the Mississippi River in Natchez, Mississippi. Culminating the sweeping vista from the city and national cemeteries located to the north, the hospital is laid out on a southwest/northeast axis to maximize the view of the river.

Monumental in its massing and its Spartan use of simple, geometric detailing, the three-and-one-half story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick structure with projecting corner pavilions is set on a high basement. Placed between the end pavilions on the northwest and southeast facades, creating a dramatic play of solid against void, are inset galleries with giant-order, square brick columns with sandstone bases and capitals (now painted) on elongated, story-high, pedestal-like piers. The piers are repeated on the ground level of the northeastern facade where the sloped site permits direct access to the ground floor. The principal floors of the galleries are enclosed by a handsome, cast-iron, filigree-pattern balustrade. A stylized architrave and frieze are set under the continuous, overhanging boxed eaves detailed to suggest a modillioned cornice. Each central bay of the principal elevations was originally set with a simple frontispiece surrounding a single-leaf, four-panel door and transom. Most have been replaced by modern fire doors, and the ground level of the galleries has been enclosed. Six-over-six sash windows are used throughout. The shallow hipped roof, now pierced by large, early-twentieth-century, gabled dormers that illuminate the fourth-level chambers, is crowned by a central, frame, octagonal belvedere glazed with double-hung sash.

Although the hospital has been extensively altered and modernized during the present century, much of the floor plan and some of the original fabric of the interior survive, including the impressive and graceful central staircase that rises from the first floor to the belvedere. The continuous cherry handrail is carried on slender, turned balusters. Originally detailed with simple Grecian-style woodwork, the small chambers in the southwestern corner pavilion are the least altered, retaining stepped baseboards as well as the eared mantels and architraves surrounding four-panel doors.

A boxy, three-bay-by-six-bay, two-story, hip-roofed brick nursing school in the turn-of-the-century Colonial Revival style was built at the southeastern corner of the hospital about 1903. Now connected to the hospital by a one-story brick hyphen, the structure originally had a single-bay Ionic portico on the southwestern facade that has been replaced by a full-facade, double-tiered enclosed and screened porch.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1849-1852 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Marine Hospital in Natchez, Mississippi, is a well-preserved and significant example of nineteenth-century institutional architecture that continues to serve its original function as a hospital. The building is a noteworthy expression of the monumental Greek Revival idiom applied to a public building.

One of seven hospitals authorized by Congress in 1837 to be built in ports along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the U.S. Marine Hospital in Natchez was constructed between 1849 and 1852, under the supervision of the noted explorer Stephen Harriman Long and his assistant Charles A. Fuller (U.S. ... Auditor). Long (1784-1864), a career army officer and engineer, explored and mapped vast regions of the Rocky Mountains and of the upper Mississippi and Platte Rivers before the mid-1820s (Malone p. 380). He also supervised the 1847-1851 construction of a marine hospital in Louisville, Kentucky--still standing but unused--that was nearly identical to the Natchez hospital (Jones, Kentucky Historical Commission). Robert Mills, in his capacity as United States Architect of Public Works from 1835 until his death in 1855, may have designed the prototype for marine hospitals, but there is apparently no record to indicate that he designed the facility in Natchez. Construction and operation of marine hospitals was partially funded by a mandatory monthly deduction of a few cents from the pay of all seamen (Louisville [Kentucky] Courier-Journal, February 5, 1888).

The Natchez facility functioned as a 100-bed-capacity marine hospital until the outbreak of the Civil War. After the fall of Vicksburg in 1863, it was surrounded by a five-sided earthwork as part of Fort McPherson and served as a hospital and administration building for the occupying Union Army. In 1876 the then-vacant structure was sold with congressional approval to the American Baptist Home Mission Society (Deed Book VV:304-308), which used it as a theological seminary for training black ministers.

The City of Natchez purchased the property in 1884 to replace the dilapidated facility that had housed the Natchez Hospital since 1813. The name was changed to Natchez Charity Hospital about 1920, and the facility continues to serve as a hospital under the auspices of the Board of Trustees of State Eleemosynary Institutions.

A two-story brick building adjoining the main structure on the southeast was erected about 1903 to accommodate the school of nursing begun in 1901 and now serves as the physicians' quarters.

Government regulations for upgrading the facility to present-day standards pose the most serious threat to the preservation of the building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books A, VV, ZZ.

Kentucky Heritage Commission. National Register File. United States Marine Hospital at Louisville.

Louisville Courier-Journal, February 5, 1888.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.84 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 652270 3493975

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Irregularly shaped, seven-sided lot on the east side of Cemetery Road fronting 206 feet on the road, thence southeast 264 feet, thence northeast 200 feet, thence

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

Mary McCahon Shoemaker, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elmer B. Millard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

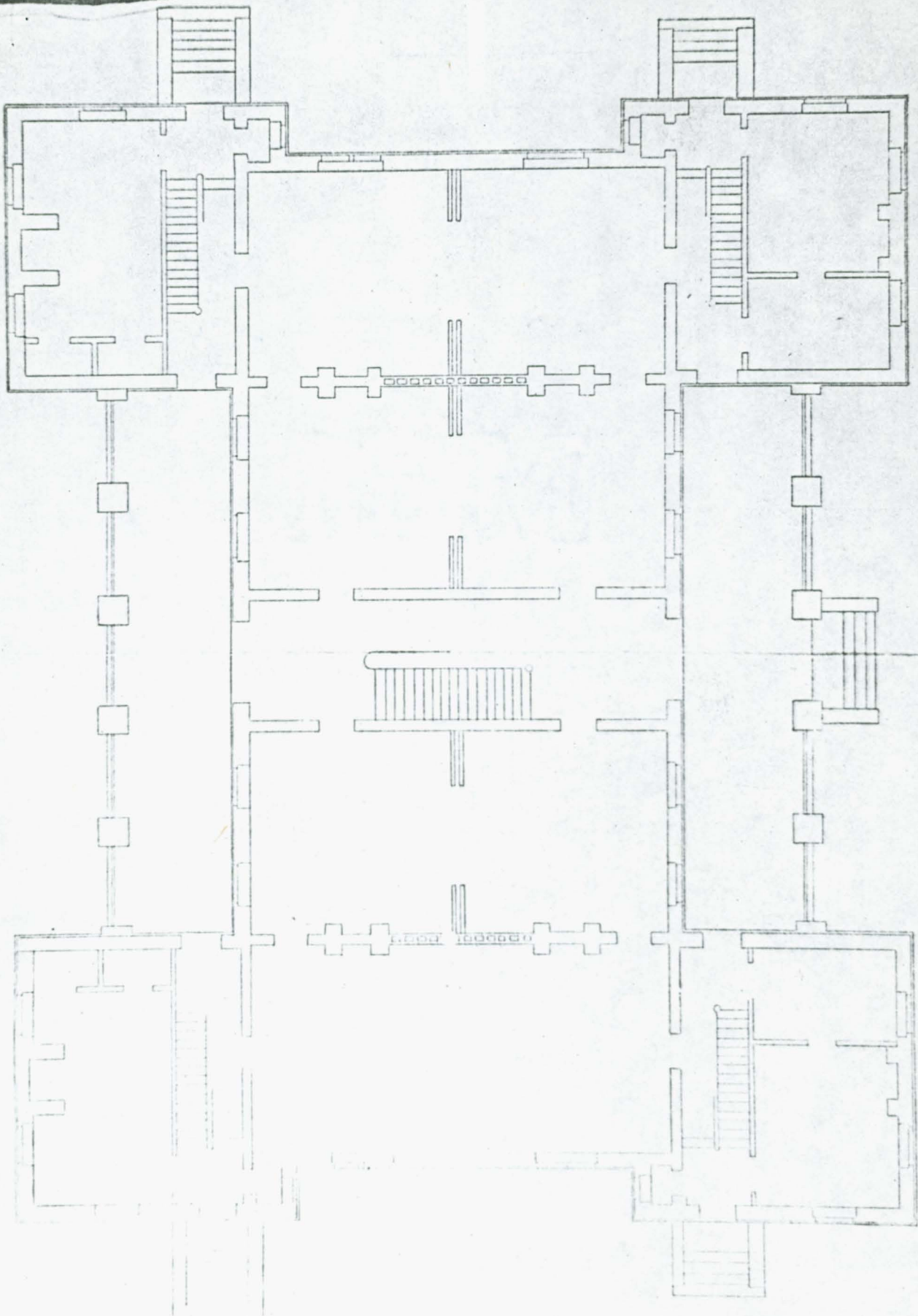
Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 11. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933.

United States. Office of the First Auditor; Miscellaneous Treasury Accounts; Accounts of S. H. Long, 1849-1853. Washington D.C. National Archives Microcopy, Record Group 217.

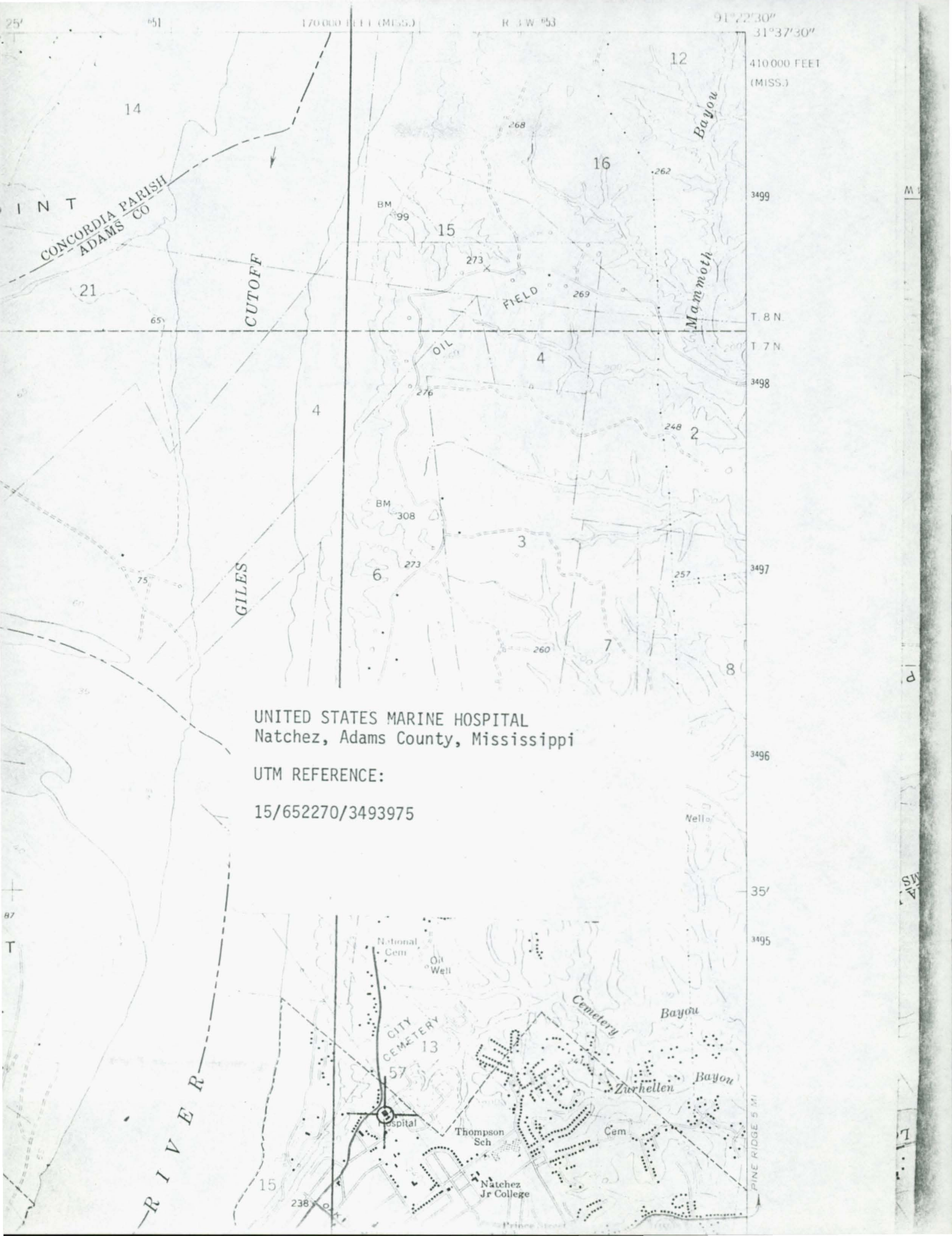
United States. Office of the Chief of Engineers. Record Group 77: Cons. 43. Cartographic Archives Division. Washington, D.C., National Archives and Record Service.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description)

southeast 132 feet, thence northeast 178 feet, thence northwest 308 feet, thence southwest 200 feet to the road.



PLAN OF PRINCIPAL STORY.



25' 51 170 000 FEET (MISS.) R 1 W 53 91° 22' 30" 31° 37' 30"

CONCORDIA PARISH  
ADAMS CO

410 000 FEET  
(MISS.)

CUTOFF

GILES

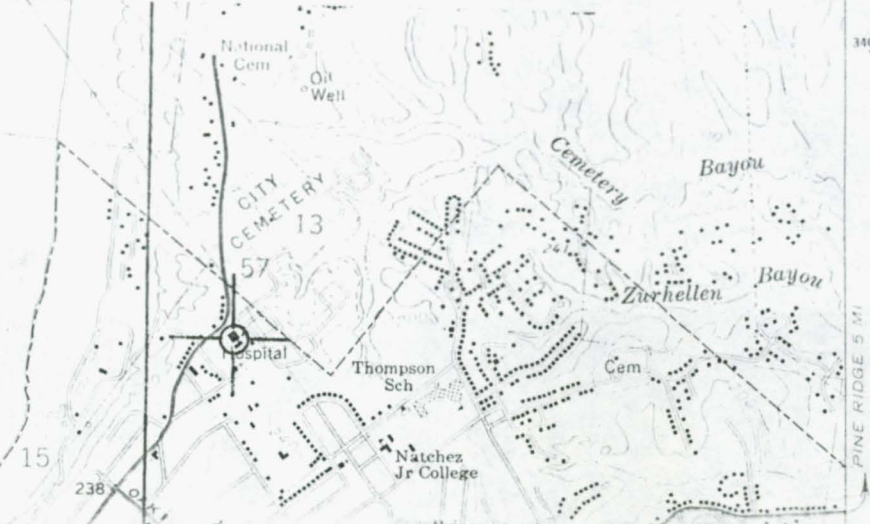
Bayou  
Mammoth

UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE:

15/652270/3493975

RIVER



PINE RIDGE 5 MI





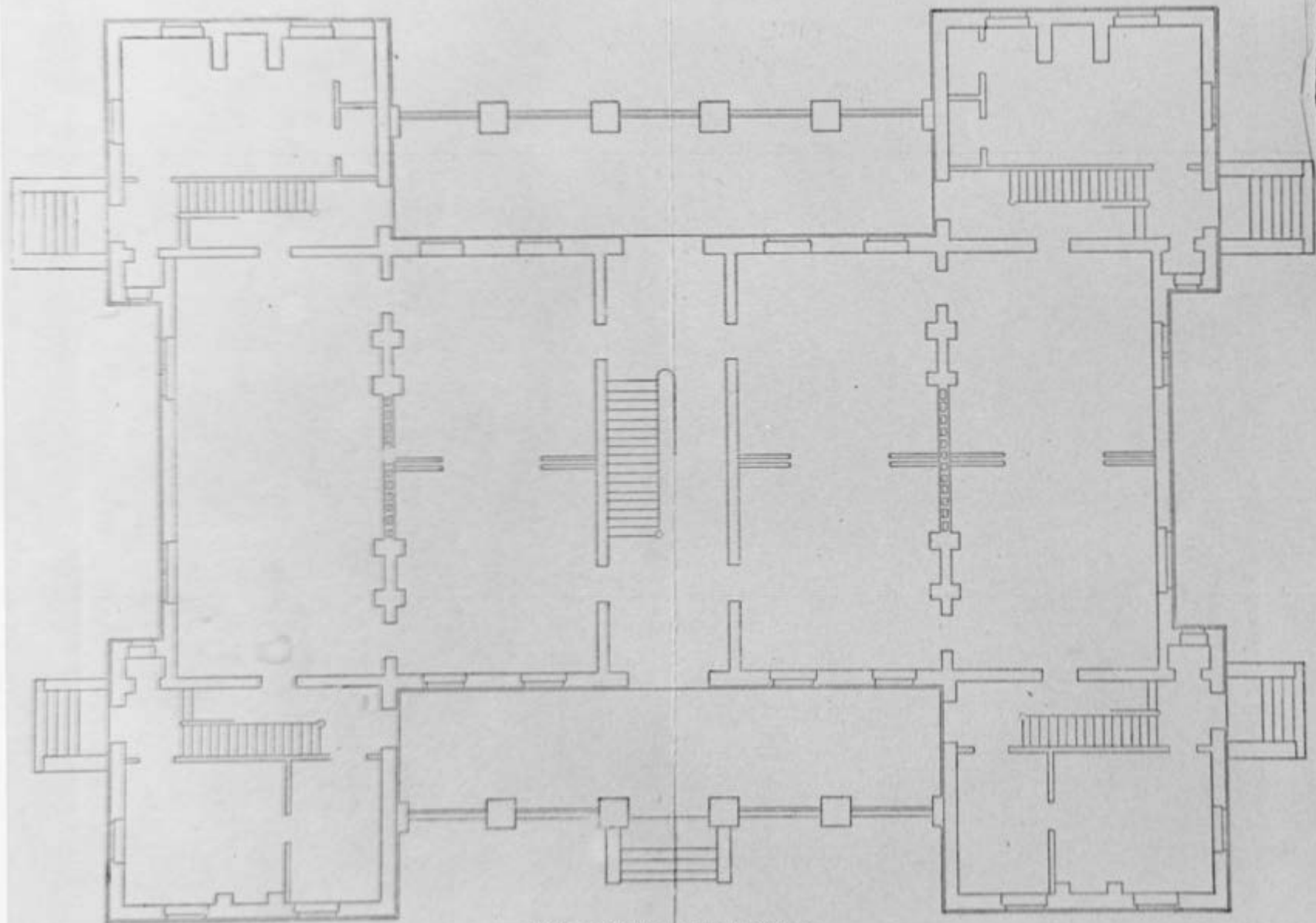
PHOTO NO. 1 - UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Unknown

ca. 1900

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Southwestern elevation (facade) and north-  
western elevation, from the southwest.

Reproduced from 1900 and 1901 Biennial  
Report of the Natchez Hospital.



PLAN OF PRINCIPAL STORY.

PHOTO NO. 2 - UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Lida Hord

April, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Plan of the principal (first) floor reproduced  
from 1890 and 1891 Biennial Report of the  
Natchez Hospital.



PHOTO NO. 3 - UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mary McCahon Shoemaker

April, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Southwestern elevation (facade) and northwest-

ern elevation of United States Marine

Hospital and former nursing school, from

the southwest.



PHOTO NO. 4 - UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September, 1973

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Interior: Mantel in corner room, first floor  
of southwestern corner pavilion. From the  
southeast.