

NATIONAL PARK SEMINARY, GYMNASIUM
(Walter Reed Medical Center Annex, Building No. 118)
North of Linden Lane, south of Aloha House
Silver Spring
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1109-S

HABS
MD
16-SILSPR,
2S-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Seminary, Gymnasium (Walter Reed Medical Center Annex, Building No. 118)

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Location: Situated along the north side of Linden Lane, just south of the Aloha house.

Significance: Housing the gymnasium in one of the campus' most prominent and ornate building illustrated the importance of athletics at the school. It was, perhaps, an attempt to relate the ancient world's celebration of sports and athletic prowess with NPS's own. The selection of a neoclassical design for the gym also reflected contemporary popular fashion.¹

History: The gymnasium was built in 1907. It replaced a smaller facility that was erected to the east of Main in the 1890s. The new gym contained a swimming pool, a gymnasium with mezzanine for sporting events, a solarium for sunbathing, a bowling alley, a trophy room, administrative offices, and several bathing and dressing rooms. In 1924, Ament renovated the structure, adding a lot more neoclassical ornamentation and architectural detailing. During the Army's tenure, a weight room, lockers, and a basketball court were added to the building.² In 1961, portions of the gym became administrative offices. A Records Management office was placed in the basement after a floor was constructed over the swimming pool.³

Description: The gymnasium is a Classical Revival two-story rectangular building with basement. Its walls are stuccoed and it has a hip roof. Its front facade, which faces west towards Aloha, has a flat-roofed entrance pavilion with a balustraded deck roof. The center door of the pavilion has a neoclassical entablature with a pronounced lintel topped by a round-arched transom window with a decorative urn above the keystone. The door is flanked by two matching windows.

On either side of the pavilion and around the corner of the building on the north and south sides are window surrounds that encompass two-and-a-half stories of windows joined by a single ornate neoclassical metal surround with floral motifs. Each window is capped by a pronounced lintel and linked to the neighboring window by a decorative spandrel. The windows are double-sashed with a semicircular pattern in the upper sash.

¹ See campus planning section in HABS No. MD-1109 for a discussion of Classical Revival architecture.

² Montgomery County, "Forest Glen Adaptive Reuse Study: Summary Report," (EDAW, Inc. prepared for Montgomery County government, Mar 1995).

³ Forest Glen Section, WRAMC, Annual Report, 1961. Forest Glen Archives, WRAMC.

ADDENDUM TO:
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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