

NATIONAL PARK SEMINARY, DUTCH WINDMILL
(Walter Reed Medical Center Annex, Building No. 111)
2750 Dewitt Circle
Silver Spring
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1109-M

HABS
MD
16-SILSPR,
2M-

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

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Location: 2750 Dewitt Circle. The building is located just northeast of the American bungalow, slightly downhill towards the ravine. It faces west towards the campus' main circle.

Significance: The Windmill is one of eight whimsical clubhouses constructed during Cassedy's early building campaign. It is an important component of NPS' eclectic campus plan that was designed to introduce a variety of architectural styles in a recreational, garden-like setting. It was the first of the exotic-type structures to be built on the campus. It resembles a whimsical garden folly instead of a dwelling house like some of the other clubhouses. The Dutch windmill is an unusual folly design.

History: According to NPS historian Ric Nelson, the Dutch windmill was constructed in 1899.¹ It was used as the clubhouse for the Kappa Delta Phi sorority.² A one-and-a-half story addition with open porch was added to the original one-story attachment by 1927. The porch was enclosed when the Army converted the clubhouses into officers' family quarters in the 1940s. A set of decorative windblades attached to the top floor balcony were removed during the Army's occupation.

Description: The Kappa Delta Psi sorority house is shaped like a Dutch windmill. The three-story octagonal-shaped shingle-sided tower with basement has slanting wall making the building become more narrow as it rises. The building has a stone foundation that is exposed on the south side. The shingles are painted blue and the trim beige, the historic colors. The building is capped by a roof deck that is surrounded by a rail and a square lookout with a pyramidal roof. During the NPS era, the deck was covered by an awning. The lookout's windows are diamond-paned and louvered. The second-story windows were originally set along the same plane as the walls and had decorative diamond-pattern upper sashes over two-light sashes. During the Army's tenure, or perhaps under Ament, these wooden windows were replaced with simple, metal six-light windows with shed dormers to accommodate the sloping exterior walls and prevent rain water from draining into the sills from above.

Single-board pedimented lintels shield the larger first floor windows, which are composed of the original paired casements with diamond-pattern light over a single light design. The first-floor

¹ Nelson, "A School for Girls," Part 1. The available yearbooks indicate that it was constructed by 1902.

² See Campus Planning section and the Cassedy tenure history in HABS No. MD-1109 for an explication of the function and meanings of the clubhouses.

ADDENDUM TO:
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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