

NATIONAL PARK SEMINARY, ALOHA HOUSE
(Walter Reed Medical Center Annex, Building No. 106)
North of Linden Lane near the corner of Beech Drive
Silver Spring
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1109-R

HABS
MD
16-SILSPR,
2R-

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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National Park Seminary, Aloha House
(Walter Reed Medical Center Annex, Building No. 116)

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Location: North of Linden Lane near the corner of Beach Drive. Building is located directly behind Main on the opposite side of the parking lot .

Significance: Aloha was constructed in 1898 as part of the school's first building campaign. It served as the Cassedy family residence and then became a dormitory for juniors. The original shingle-sided bungalow embodied the school's early quaint domestic character.¹ Numerous adaptations and additions to the structure under Cassedy and, especially, Ament chronicled the school's expansion and its transformation into a far more ornamented and ostentatious campus.

History:

The small western portion of the present rambling structure was the original two-story house built in 1898. By 1902, a much larger three-story addition was added to the east side of the house, expanding the building to more than twice its original size. A small one-and-a-half story gambrel-roofed addition with porte-cochere was constructed on the east end of the 1902 extension by 1914. Between 1917-1923, Ament expanded the 1902 section at the northeast corner, eradicating a first-floor recessed entry porch and gambrel roof line. He added a wraparound porch on the first floor, and second and third floor balconies. A simple wooden rail was placed around the balconies. By 1924, the exterior walls were stuccoed and an arcaded porch with caryatids and second- and third-floor porch balustrades (now removed) were placed on the building.

The building was originally the President's family residence. It was named "Aloha" as a way of welcoming students and parents onto the campus and into their home. After the extensions were added, the building was also used as a dormitory for juniors. The Army used the building for administrative offices.

Description:

The Aloha has three stories plus a basement. It has an asymmetrical facade with multiple gables and dormers. It was with originally shingle-sided, but the walls were covered with stucco in the 1920s. The building is composed of four parts. The west end is the original section. It is a one-and-a-half story gambrel-roofed bungalow with a large, continuous gable-fronted dormer. The dormer has a bay window. The top sashes of the window are in a sunburst pattern. There is a three-part casement window in the dormer's overhanging pediment.

Deep overhanging eaves form a first-story recessed porch across the front of the wing. The

¹ See campus planning section for a discussion of the bungalow.

simple wooden support beams still stand behind the brick arcade that was added in the 1920s. A semi-elliptical fanlight caps the center door, which has plain pilasters. Three asymmetrically placed windows, all sash windows with multiple lights over a single pane, are located on the first floor. Four cement steps flanked by stone piers, which were once adorned with lion sculptures, lead up to the entryway. A brick chimney protrudes from the west end of the roof.

The west facade of this wing has an overhanging gable and asymmetrically-placed windows with nine-over-one lights. On the second-floor, there is a door with a hood cover. The door enters on to an elevated walkway that is supported by brick piers directly underneath the door and by the caryatid breezeway as it heads north towards Main.

The middle section of the building (the second addition dating from 1902) has two-and-a-half stories and a large central gable. There is a pent roof over the top story windows and another one over the second-story windows at the northwest corner. The typical window is a paired casement with a six-over-one sash. The upper sash has Gothic mullions. This section originally had an eastern gambrel roof edge, but it was obliterated by a later two-story, one-bay flat-roofed addition with paired windows. The later addition replaced a recessed ground-level entry porch at the northeast corner of this middle section.

At east end of the building, there is a one-and-a-half story gambrel-roof wing that was added in 1914. The first floor was gutted in the 1920s in order to create a porte-cochere supported at the east end by a two-bay brick arcade. A brick arcaded first-floor porch embellished with caryatids, added in the 1920s, stretches across the entire north facade of the building in front of all the additions. A three-story windowless brick fire stairwell was added to the northeast corner of the building by the Army in the 1940s.

The south facade echoes the forms of the front of the building. The gables of the west and middle sections are divided by a three-story flat-roofed tower, probably built either at the same time as the mid-section or the northeast corner renovations. The mid-section has first- and second-floor bay window with pent roofs. There are three dormers at the east end, including one in the porte-cochere's roof. All of the dormers have paired nine-light casement windows.

The front lot was originally composed of a grass lawn. At various times, garden plots of flowers or shrubs adorned the front yard, which was intersected by walks and driveways. A large tree still present on the east side of the front of the building is pictured in photographs at least as early as 1934. A small grassy plot and three bushes currently adorn the front of the facade, though the parking lot dominates these small landscape features.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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