OVER THERE, OVER HERE

U.S. Army General Hospital No.2 Fort McHenry. Maryland

"During the construction work of this project all of the above ground historical landmarks have been religiously respected, and the General Hospital No 2 has been built entirely around the original Fort ... so that should it ever be deemed to raze the present hospital buildings, Fort McHenry will remain intact as one of the landmarks of American history."

U.S.Army Quartermaster, 1917

In 1917, U.S. Army General Hospital No.2 was established at Fort McHenry during World War I. More than 20,000 wounded soldiers were received here for treatment prior to their return to duty or civilian life. The capacity of the hospital grew to 3,000 patients with a medical staff of 200 doctors, 300 nurses and hundreds of support personnel.

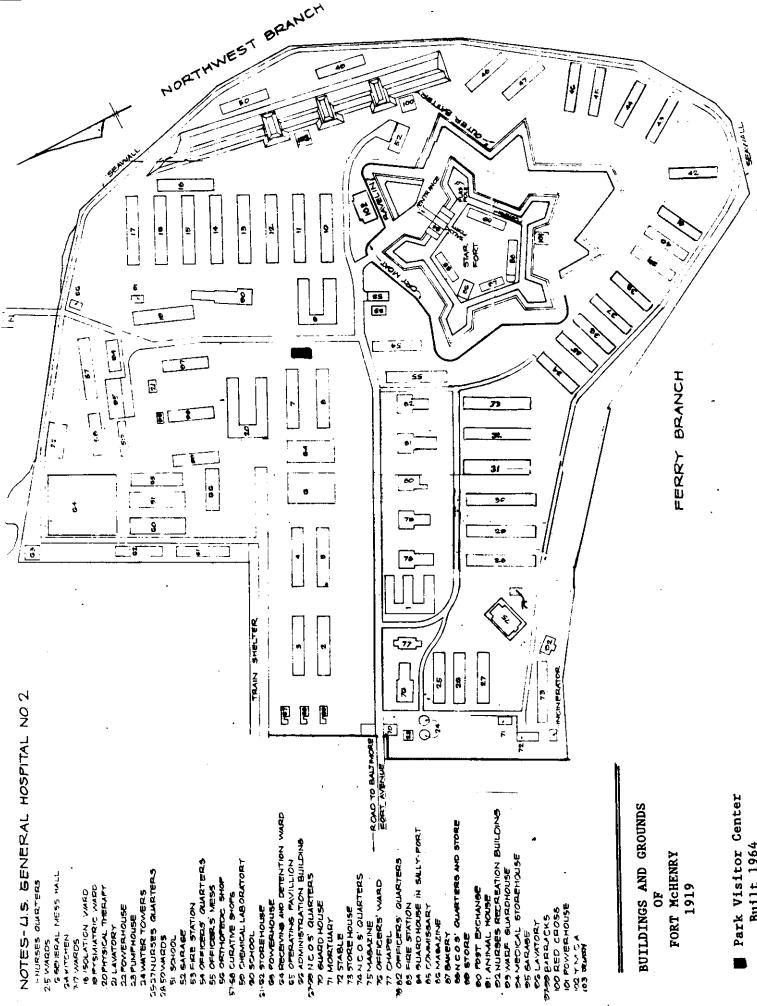
Fort McHenry soon developed into a major surgical center, specializing in neuroand reconstructive surgery. It was one of the first centers to provide these new surgical techniques. Various vocational and therapeutic schools were established to provide released soldiers with a civilian livelihood.

On November 11, 1918 the Armistice was signed ending the war.



In 1925, after the last patients left, the Army began to remove the hospital buildings. That same year, the fort was established as a national park. Only three former hospital structures remain today. These may be seen below the parking lot - the "Receiving Ward -Bldg. No.64," and "Train Shelter" are now part of the U.S. Naval Readiness Center, and a "Medical Storehouse - No. 94" now assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By 1926, the Army Quartermaster was as good as his word, written nine years earlier. The fort had survived the hospital construction and demolition. In 1933 the park was transferred to the National Park Service, and in 1939 was redesignated a national monument and historic shrine.



PATAPSCO RIVER

Built 1964