

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children

Other names/site number St. Louis Unit

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 700-728 South Euclid Avenue and 4565 Clayton Avenue

N/A	not for publication
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City or town St. Louis

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Independent City Code 510 Zip code 63110

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children  
Name of Property

St. Louis, Independent City, MO.  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/Hospital

HEALTH CARE/Hospital/Medical Research

HEALTH CARE/Clinic

EDUCATION/School

EDUCATION/Research Facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/Hospital

HEALTH CARE/Hospital/Medical Research

HEALTH CARE/Clinic

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

Terra Cotta

roof: Ceramic Tile

other: Metal/Cast Iron

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children  
Name of Property

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

HEALTH/MEDICINE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1924-1963  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1924  
1928  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Ittner, William Butts /Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 2.390 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.633474 -90.262924 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Matt Bivens/Historic Preservation Director  
organization Lafser & Associates, Inc. date 8.1.14; REV 1.2.15  
street & number 1215 Fern Ridge Pkwy., Suite 110 telephone 314-560-9903  
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63141  
e-mail msbivens@lafser.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children  
Name of Property

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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: Independent City State: Missouri

Photographer: Matt Bivens

Date

Photographed: 7-11-2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23: Primary elevation facing west; camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 23: Primary elevation original entry facing west; camera facing northeast.
- 3 of 23: Primary elevation original entry detail facing west; camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 23: Primary elevation stair tower facing west; camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 23: Portion of Part 2 wing facing west; camera facing north.
- 6 of 23: Part 2 wing facing south; camera facing northwest.
- 7 of 23: Part 2 wing terra cotta detail; camera facing north.
- 8 of 23: Rear of Part 1; camera facing southwest.
- 9 of 23: Rear of Part 2; camera facing southwest.
- 10 of 23: Rear of Part 3; camera facing west.
- 11 of 23: Primary elevation of Part 4 at eastern-most portion of complex facing south; camera facing north.
- 12 of 23: Primary elevation of Part 5 loggia at northern-most portion of complex facing west; camera facing east.
- 13 of 23: Primary elevation (right) facing west and side elevation (left) facing north of Part 5; camera facing southeast.
- 14 of 23: Side elevation (right) facing north, rear elevation (left) facing east of Part 5; camera facing southwest.
- 15 of 23: Detail of Part 5 terra cotta from north wall; camera facing south.
- 16 of 23: South elevation of Part 5; camera facing northeast.
- 17 of 23: Interior 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Part 1; camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 23: Interior 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Part 1 stair detail; camera facing northwest.
- 19 of 23: Interior 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Part 3 (typical detail for Part 2); camera facing north.
- 20 of 23: Interior of loggia at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from Part 3; camera facing north.
- 21 of 23: Interior of Part 5 at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (typical condition also of 1<sup>st</sup>); camera facing east.
- 22 of 23: Stair detail of Part 5; camera facing north.
- 23 of 23: Basement detail of Part 5 with underground access.

## Figure Log:

**Figure 1 (page 2):** Historic Block Plan for Shriners' Hospital.

Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children  
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Source: William B. Ittner original drawings, 1927. The "X" identifies buildings that have since been demolished.

**Figure 2 (page 9):** Basement Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original basement as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927. The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014.

**Figure 3 (page 10):** 1st Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original first floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927. The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include closing of the original entry vestibule, office expansions, & framing in hall at reception. The 1928 classroom addition (Part 4) is at far right.

**Figure 4 (page 11):** 2nd Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original second floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927. The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include office expansions, & framing in the hall at the reception. The 1928 classroom addition roof (Part 4) is at far right.

**Figure 5 (page 12):** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and Roof Plan of original building (Parts 1-2). The top plan shows the original third floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927. The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include removal of the operating room and general expansions. The 1928 classroom addition roof (Part 4) is at far right.

**Figure 6 (page 13):** Floor Plan Classroom Addition (Part 4). The top plan shows the original 1928 addition floorplan as designed in 1927; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "Classroom Addition to the Shriners' Hospital," 1927. The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include division of classroom space into separate offices.

**Figure 7 (page 14):** Floor Plans Nurses' Home (Part 5). The top plan shows the original 1928 Nurses' Home first floor as designed in 1927; the bottom drawing is the second floor as designed in 1927. No as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "Nurses' Home Addition to the Shriners' Hospital," 1927. The original footprint of the building is the extant condition today.

**Figure 8 (page 24):** Hospital illustration. Source: *Greater St. Louis*, April 1923, page 13.

**Figure 9 (page 25):** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Drawing for "New Hospital Building at Kingshighway Blvd. and Clayton Ave, St. Louis, Mo., for the Board of Trustees, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children." June 15, 1922.

**Figure 10 (page 26):** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Site Plan "New Hospital Building at Kingshighway Blvd. & Clayton Ave, St. Louis, Mo., for the Board of Trustees, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children." June 15, 1922.

**Figure 11 (page 27):** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Site Plan for "Additions to the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children." December 1927.

**Figure 12 (page 28):** Completed Hospital Unit. Source: Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. "Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children." St. Louis Unit pamphlet, no date.

**Figure 13 (page 28):** W. C. Persons, photographer c 1930. Source: Missouri Historical Society Archives.

**Figure 14 (page 30):** Shriners' Hospital visited by Roy Rogers; exact date unknown. Source: Missouri Historical Society Archives.

**Figure 15 (page 36):** "Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children Boundary Map."

**Appendix 1 (page 38):** Shriners Hospitals in Operation and dates of their openings.

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Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children

Name of Property

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

The Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children located at 700-728 South Euclid Avenue and 4565 Clayton Avenue in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is a multi-portion, masonry building complex with an irregular footprint comprised of a central "administration" building with flanking ward wings completed in 1924 as well as a classroom addition and a separate nurse's home completed in 1928. Constructed of two, three, and four story inter-connected and functionally-related buildings, each building has a Spanish clay tile roof which is bracketed and overhanging on several elevations. The later mentioned nurse's home is connected to the larger complex via a two-story loggia at the north end of the site. The buildings are all set above concrete foundations with variegated buff brick, elaborate terra cotta ornamentation, and original fenestration including multi-light, wood windows with semi-circular arch transoms—many which are framed in terra cotta with pilasters. The terra cotta has been executed in a Moorish design motif which is unique in St. Louis. The buildings have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Site**

The city block containing the subject building is bound by McKinley Avenue to the north, South Euclid Avenue to the west, Clayton Avenue to the south and a parking lot and additional buildings to the east. The building complex is raised above the ground on a sloped lot which is at its highest point at the southwest corner. The Clayton and Euclid elevations are minimally landscaped and contain a circular drive way with parking (modified since construction as vehicular traffic changed); the McKinley elevation abuts a sidewalk and street which separates the complex from the larger medical complex to the north and at the east is a paved parking lot. The lot was originally a landscaped yard which was later converted to parking and is not considered eligible for the National Register. Also at the south is another medical building being nominated to the National Register, the Central Institute for the Deaf Building located at 800 South Euclid.

**Site Plan and Building Portions**

This irregular-shaped building complex is comprised of five parts which radiate outward from a central mass. This central mass corresponds to the original administration building which was completed in 1924 and is identified on the drawing below as Part 1. Connected at the north and east elevations of the administration building are the original 1924 ward pavilions identified as Parts 2 and 3 below; the small two-story connectors in between these and Part 1 are included as portions of Parts 2 and 3 and

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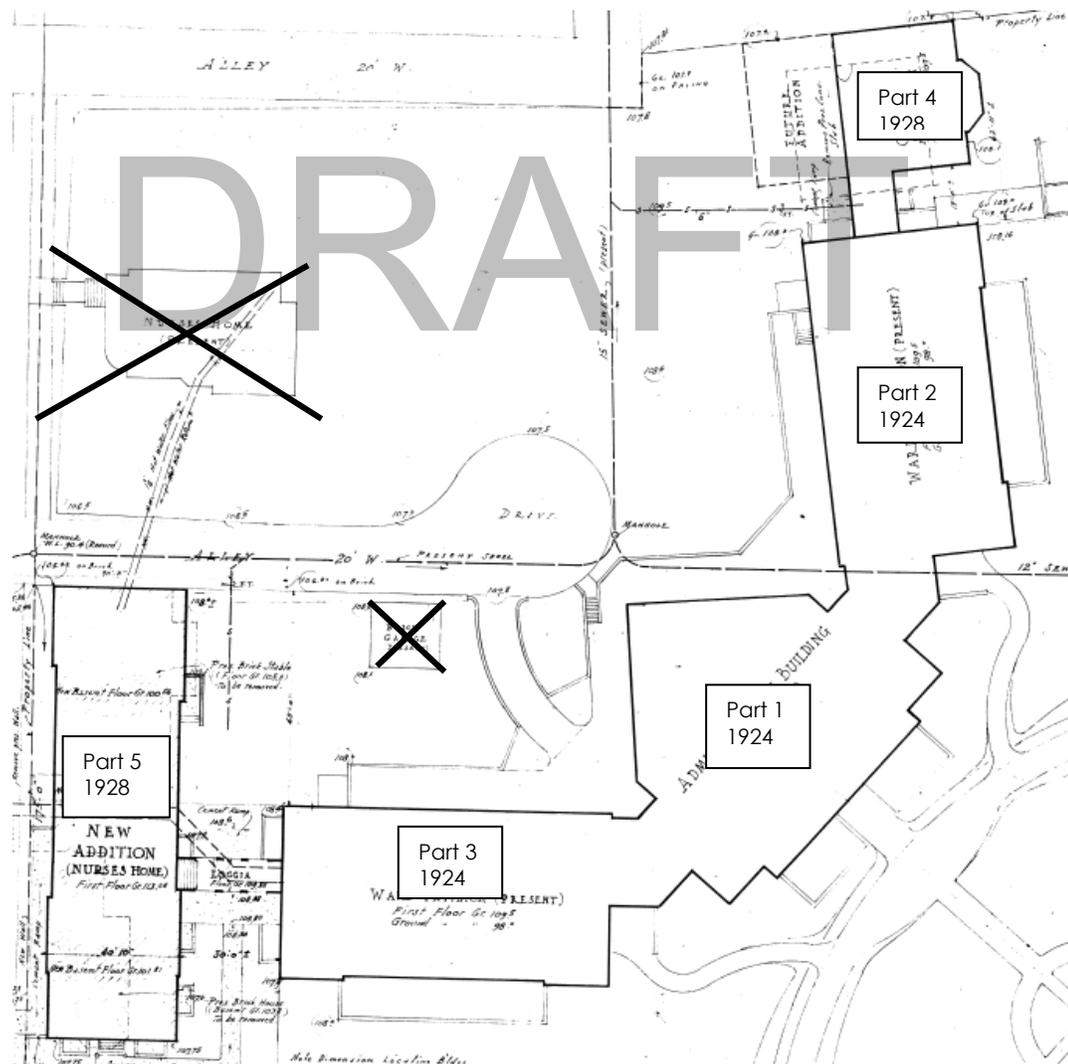
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were constructed in 1924. In 1928 a new classroom addition was completed at the east elevation of Part 2 and is identified as Part 4 below. Finally in 1928 a Nurses' Home was constructed as a separate building and attached via a two-story loggia to the north elevation of Part 3; the Nurses' Home is identified as Part 5 below. For clarification of the National Register the number of buildings eligible for listing is two corresponding to the 1928 Nurses' Home and the four-part complex constructed between 1924 and 1928. Figure 1 below illustrates the building portions and periods of construction.

**Figure 1:** Historic Block Plan for Shriners' Hospital.

Source: William B. Ittner original drawings, 1927. The "X" identifies buildings that have since been demolished.



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Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children

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N/A

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**Exterior**

**1924 Building Complex (3 primary parts)**

Part 1 of the complex (constructed 1924) is composed of a principal mass facing southwest at the corner of Clayton and Euclid Avenues; it has a pair of interconnected wings which face south and west and are attached to the central portion of Part 1 adjacent a four-story tower via a two-story connector (wings are identified as Parts 2 and 3). Part 1 is a three-story brick block with centralized entry bay at ground level (Photo 1); the bay corresponds to the original entry but now contains a recent infill including a paired, single light window assembly with transom above, brick sill below, and set above a brick knee wall (Photo 2). A highly ornate, multi-colored, terra cotta surround with free-standing columns supporting a Moorish arch accents the bay (Photo 3); Arabic script in addition to "SHRINE" is set within block capitals. To the left side of the bay is the building cornerstone which is set within the north-west face of the building; it is inscribed "SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN" and "A. D. 1922." The Shriner's symbol which formerly was set in the stone is missing but signs of its location and design are clearly evident.<sup>1</sup>

At the right side of the former entry are two paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood windows with boarded transoms above and a wide center mullion; one transom contains a vent. At the left side, the windows are similar in configuration but contain single sash metal replacement windows without meeting rails (Photo 1); transoms are also boarded and one contains a vent. A brick water table is set below the window sills. Above the entry at the second floor is a pair of multi-light, wood doors with metal balcony framed with terra cotta pilasters with a multi-colored, semi-circular, double arch set above. The terra cotta is Moorish in design and highly ornate. Flanking the center bay are two sets of paired original wood windows with center mullions and double-hung sash with transoms; half of the transoms are boarded and the other half contain air conditioning units. A multi-colored, ornamental terra cotta sill course supports seven third-story, flat head, one-over-one metal replacement windows with transoms which are framed with elaborate terra cotta, semi-circular arch headers that are supported on terra cotta pilasters. The upper story has a flush diaper brick detail (Photo 4). Above, at the parapet is an ornamental terra cotta cornice which projects from the building (Photo 4). A brick and terra cotta tile wall with stone cap at ground level projects outward from the building at either side of the former entry and provide light to the basement. A buff color brick band doubled in height is set between eight

<sup>1</sup> Based on a site visit by this author it appears that the original Shriners' emblem was re-installed at the Frontenac Shriners' Hospital on Lindberg Road.

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courses of the variegated brick up to the sill course; above, a flush brick diaper pattern accents the façade (Photo 1).

Flanking the central mass of Part 1 are four-story stair towers which are slightly recessed back from the primary elevation. The towers contain a multi-light wood window with semi-circular arch head and terra cotta surround set on pilasters situated between the first and second floors (Photo 1). Above, is a paired, similar window bay with multi-light transoms set under the arches (Photo 4). A projecting, dark buff brick diaper pattern design above is set below a tripartite, semi-circular arch open window bay with terra cotta columns and arches (Photo 4). The tower is capped with a terra cotta cornice and Spanish clay tile roof. Elaborate brick and terra cotta detailing at the cornice area contains dentils, corbelling, arches, and small brackets. The return walls of the towers are similar to the primary elevation with the exception of containing either an entrance or a window at ground level. Above, a multi-light wood window with semi-circular arch head and terra cotta surround is situated between the first and second floors. Above again, a paired, multi-light wood window bay with transoms is set under terra cotta arches; a similar diaper pattern brick and a tripartite, semi-circular arch open window bay with terra cotta columns and arches is at the upper story. The cornice and ornamentation continues around the projecting tower; a tripartite window bay behind the tower at each side is set above a two-story building connector (Photo 5).

Connected to the towers of Part 1 at both sides (connected at the north and east elevations and facing generally southwest) is a two-story, angular brick addition with Spanish clay tile roof and two front-facing elevations (Parts 2 and 3 and Photo 5). The present building entrance is located within the southern-most addition and addressed as 4565 Clayton and 724 South Euclid Avenues. Closest to the central mass (Part 1) in this portion is a pair of flat head, one-over-one, double-hung metal replacement windows on brick sills. Opposite, a semi-circular arch entry bay with newer doors framed with terra cotta pilasters contains an original, multi-light wood transom with elaborate terra cotta arch. The arch is set within an ornamental lattice comprised of terra cotta panels (Photo 5). The second connector at the north has an opposite fenestration pattern. The second story of each connector has a pair of semi-circular arch windows with terra cotta headers and belt course on both exposed elevations. The Spanish clay tile roof is bracketed and overhangs slightly (Photo 5).

Connected at the north and east walls of the aforementioned two-story connectors is a two-and-one-half-story, rectangular, brick block with low, bracketed and overhanging, side gable roof. The block is framed by slightly taller and projecting wings with a side

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gable roof that flattens at the ends and has a dentilled brick cornice (Photo 6). The south and west-facing elevations (facing the main block, Part 1, of the building complex) are identical and contain a two-story, terra cotta-framed window and balcony bay. The first story is comprised of four multi-light, full height, wood windows with multi-light, semi-circular arch transoms each separated by a terra cotta pilaster (Photos 5 and 6); transom windows are painted. Above the first story windows is an ornamental terra cotta frieze; a similar but smaller frieze is located at the second floor (Photo 7). A small vent window with terra cotta surround is under the gable apex. Turning the corner of each block, and facing west and south, is a similar window and balcony assembly at both ends with flush diaper brick above; a flat parapet is above (Photo 6). In between the wings are seven flat head, one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows on brick sills at two stories. First floor windows are set above a brick water table. All windows contain transoms (some boarded or inset with air conditioning units) at both the first and second floors. Similar windows without transoms are cut in the basement walls below ground; a wide, ornate window-well built of brick, terra cotta, and limestone projects outward. The Spanish clay tile roof above is bracketed and overhanging (Photo 6).

At the north and east walls of Parts 2 and 3 is a two-story, terra cotta-framed (Photo 7), window and balcony bay comprised of four multi-light, full height original wood windows with multi-light, semi-circular arch transoms and an apex window similar to those already mentioned. Connected at the east wall of Part 2 is a one-story addition described later as Part 4. Connected at the north wall of Part 3 is a separate structure which is a two-story and basement building that is connected to Part 3 via a two-story loggia with Spanish clay tile roof described later as Part 5.

The rear elevations of Part 1 (Photo 8), Part 2 (Photo 9), and Part 3 (Photo 10) are utilitarian in nature and comprised of unadorned single, doubled, and tripled window bays; a ramp which is set below ground allows access into the basement area; several windows have transoms.

**1928 Class Room Addition: Building Part 4**

This square-shaped, one-story brick building is attached to Part 2 via a small, one-story brick addition with central entry set under a terra cotta, semi-circular arch lintel; it is flanked by a small window at either side and has a flat parapet roof with diagonal and dog-tooth brick. Below the ground and accessible from the street is a loading bay and garage entry (not pictured). Projecting from the square footprint of Part 4 is a central oriel window bay with tripartite, multi-light, semi-circular arch, original wood windows

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N/A

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framed with elaborate terra cotta arches and frieze which is set on pilasters (Photo 11). A stone sill course extends around the bay and supports a similar, single window at each side wall. Terra cotta arches above the windows contain elaborate terra cotta details. Adjacent the bay and along the south-facing elevation is a simpler, one-over-one, flat head wood window on brick sill with brick lintel above. The diagonal, dog-tooth brick continues around the façade. The eastern-most elevation (facing a residence next door) contains similar simple windows. The rear, north-facing elevation is unadorned and has a metal stair which allows access to a roof-top patio.

**1928 Nurses' Home Addition: Part 5**

The Shriners' Hospital is technically comprised of the inter-connected complex described above as building Parts 1-4. At the time Part 4 was being constructed a separate building for a Nurses' Home was completed in 1928 and connected to the main complex via a loggia. This generally rectangular-shaped building features variegated buff color brick, elaborate terra cotta friezes and arches, pilasters, and original wood windows and shares the Moorish design motifs of the rest of the complex (Photos 12-16). Connected to the north elevation of Part 3 via a two-story loggia with Spanish clay tile roof completed in 1928 (Photo 12), the building blends seamlessly with the complex although technically it is a separate building. The primary elevation faces west at Euclid and contains a one-story, projecting entrance bay with recessed, central entry set under a semi-circular arch terra cotta surround (Photo 13). Newer metal double doors have an original multi-light, circular arch, wood transom above. Flanking the entry at either side is a pair of multi-light wood windows framed with similar terra cotta header ornamentation set on pilaster columns at the sides and in between the windows (Photo 13). A flat parapet with diagonal and dog-tooth brick is set under a terra cotta parapet cap. Behind the projecting one-story portion is a side-gabled, three-story mass which contains balcony doors that allow access on top of the entry projection. A small vertical vent window is set under the side gable roof apex.

The "I" shaped north-facing elevation contains a recessed central portion with three bays comprised of four openings each of various sized fenestration (Photos 13 and 14). The ground floor has a ramp set below the ground that allows access to the basement; the basement entry has a large, boarded transom above. At the right side are three, one-over-one, original wood windows on brick sills. Adjacent to the entry and moving east is a bricked-in window bay with vent, a paired window similar to those aforementioned, and a single similar window. The third bay has four similar windows. The second and third floors running from west to east match the fenestration patterns below with the exception that above the entry is a window at those floors. A boarded

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window at the second and third floors contains a vent in the upper sash (Photo 14). Above, the overhanging roof is bracketed. Flanking this mass are two slightly projecting wings with flat parapets accented with diagonal and dog-tooth brick (Photos 13 and 14). The ground floor contains an original wood tripartite window assembly similar to those on the elevation while the second and third floors contain a two-story window and balcony composed of three multi-light windows with transoms set within semi-circular arch, decorative terra cotta surrounds (Photo 15). Pilaster columns are set in between as mullions and at the edges; a metal balcony is at the third story. Few windows are bricked in partially and may correspond to historic changes (Photo 13, right side in wing projection).

The east-facing elevation is similar to the west façade but with a three-story exposure containing three bays per floor and a small terra cotta framed window under a gable roof which flattens at the building edges (Photo 14). Turning the corner, the south elevation contains the projecting mass and has an entry with a pair of small windows at ground level. Above are two additional windows per floor set under a flat parapet roof with diagonal and dog-tooth brick. A third window is set above the entrance. Adjacent the projecting wing is the slightly recessed central portion which has single and paired similar windows at the first and second floors (Photo 16). A glass-enclosed wall is above at the third floor set under the projecting roof (Photo 16). The two-story loggia is adjacent with an entry bay set at the first and second floors; the second floor of the loggia is enclosed with glass. Closest to the primary elevation are three small basement windows, three additional above and a tripartite, semi-circular arch, terra-cotta framed balcony bay with recessed glass wall behind. The one-story entrance projection contains a similar, paired window assembly with a wide vent window set below.

### Interiors

Based upon a comparison of the original drawings to those of the existing conditions (Figures 2 through 7), the interior spaces of the complex have changed very little since construction—this is especially true in the 1928 Nurses' Home (Figure 7). However, due to advancing technology in the decades following the 1920s, the hierarchy and use of the interior spaces changed to adapt (as evidenced in Figures 2 through 6). Without an as-built original set of drawings after construction it is difficult to determine what interior design elements are certainly non-historic. It is assumed that the primary circulation corridor at the first floor (Figure 3) for instance had a formal appearance based on the original concept drawings; a reception flanked from the hall.

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In general, much of the original footprint appears to be intact with some removal of interior room dividing walls (Figures 2 through 5) and relocation of the main entry (Figure 3). Smaller offices were enlarged but their hall walls appear to correspond to the original locations in most cases. Overall, the feeling of a hospital atmosphere is readily apparent (all Figures).

Reached via the side entry of Part 1, the interior has a composite floor, white painted plaster walls and a drop ceiling (Photo 17). Newer metal doors are set within openings. Much of the building is still actively used for hospital or research activities and contains sterile spaces with no access. The stair towers which flank the central mass contain the original curved concrete stair rails and steps have vinyl treads applied (Photo 18). Circulation hallways are intact and have offices/clinics/patient visiting rooms/meeting rooms/etc. flanking them (Photo 19); all floors are very similar. Access to Parts 2 and 3 were limited to circulation halls (similar to Photo 19) with no access into individual rooms. Part 4 was totally off-limits at the time of the site visit (Figure 6).

The Nurses' Home (Part 5 and Figure 7) accessed via the second floor of the loggia is a carpeted space with painted kneewalls which support fixed, single glass sash windows set within metal framing; a wooden ceiling is above (Photo 20). The first and second floors have narrow circulation halls with offices radiating at the north and south (Photo 21). An ornamental stair hall with wrought iron balusters, wood rail, and terrazzo floor (some carpeted) is situated nearest the west portion of the building (Photo 22). The basement features an underground tunnel which connects to the larger hospital complex across McKinley Avenue to the north (Photo 23 and Figure 2).

### Integrity

The original exterior design intent and ornamental specifications of architect William B. Ittner are clearly evident and intact. All five components of the building complex are functionally related. The presence of original construction materials including elaborate terra cotta, variegated and buff brick, iron balconies, multi-light wood windows with semi-circular arch transoms, Spanish clay tile roofs, elaborate Moorish-inspired terra cotta panels and columns, pilasters, and other details enhance the integrity. Despite typical modifications within the interior spaces, an expected necessity to keep pace with changing technology and needs of the hospital field, the overall character of a hospital complex is clearly evident. These changes include expansion of some of the smaller offices, a build out within the original 1928 classroom addition, and closure of the open receptions on the first and second floors at the circulation halls. Overall, the floorplans are generally original. Several windows and

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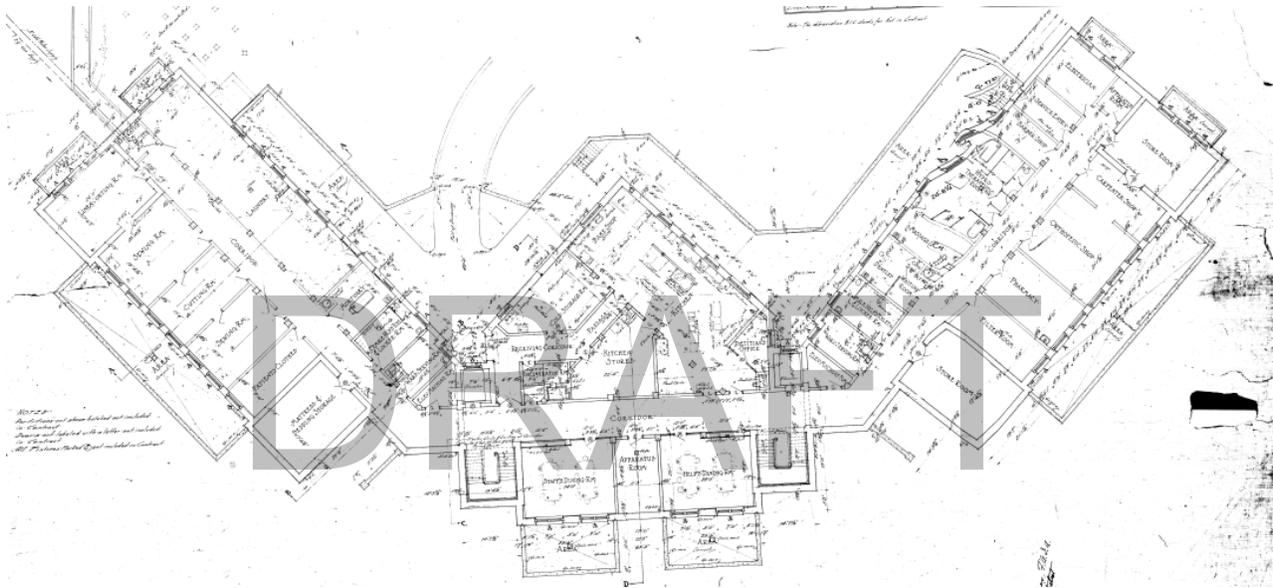
County and State

N/A

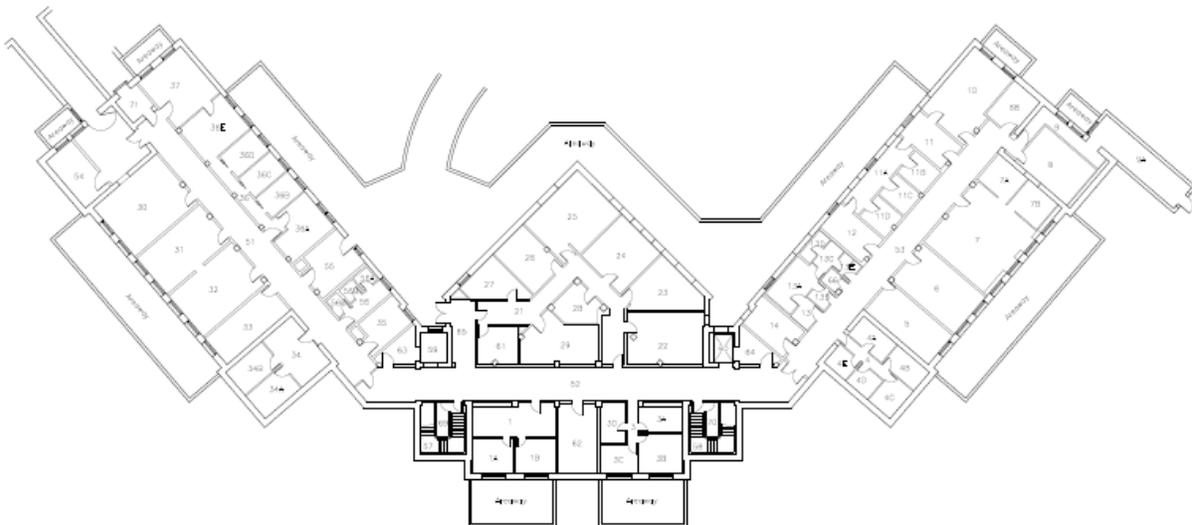
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doors have been replaced but the original fenestration remains; recessed brick, boards or vents respect the original openings. The building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Figure 2:** Basement Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original basement as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927.



The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014.



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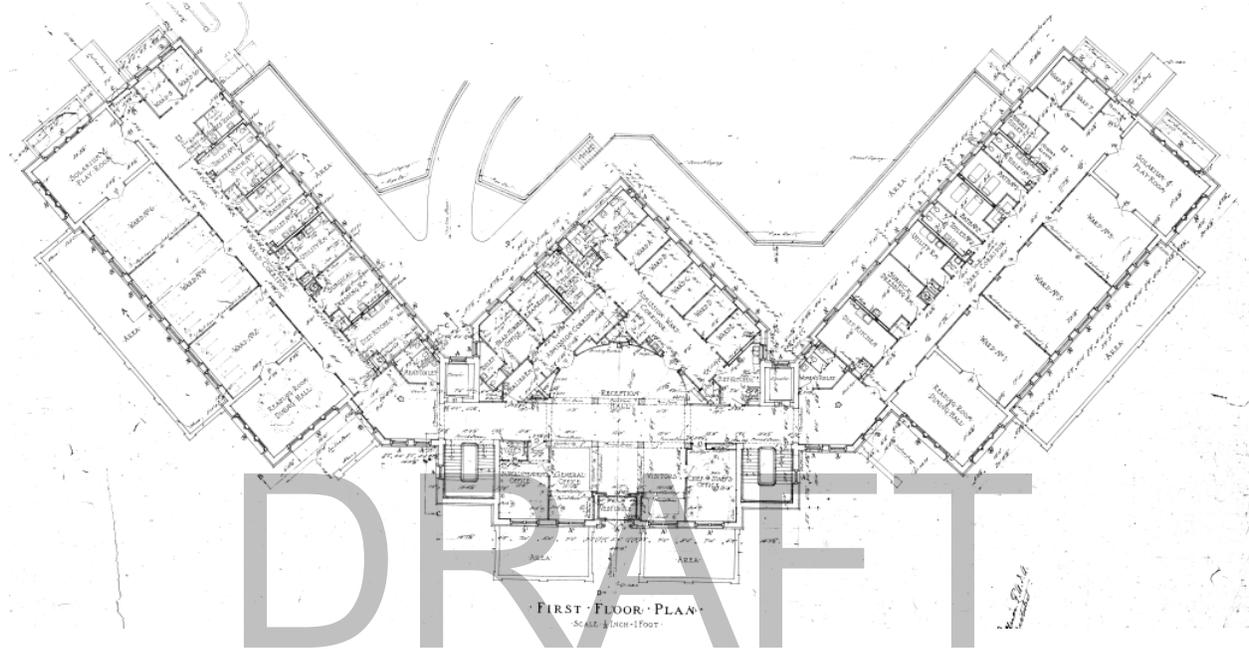
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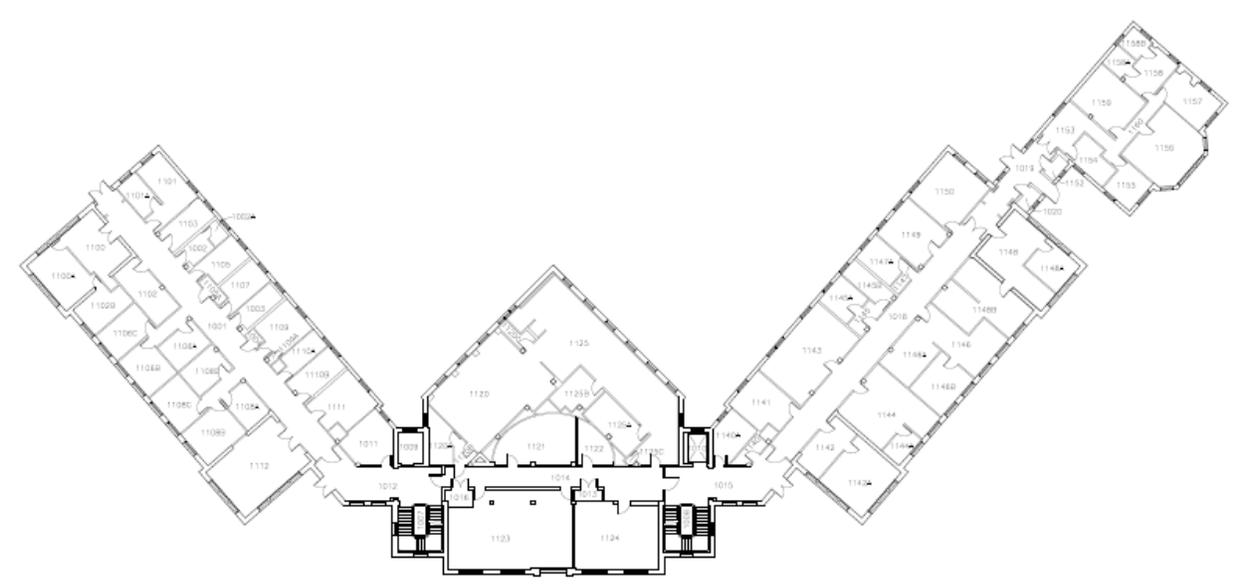
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**Figure 3:** 1st Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original first floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927.



The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include closing of the original entry vestibule, office expansions, & framing in the hall at the reception. The 1928 classroom addition (Part 4) is at far right.

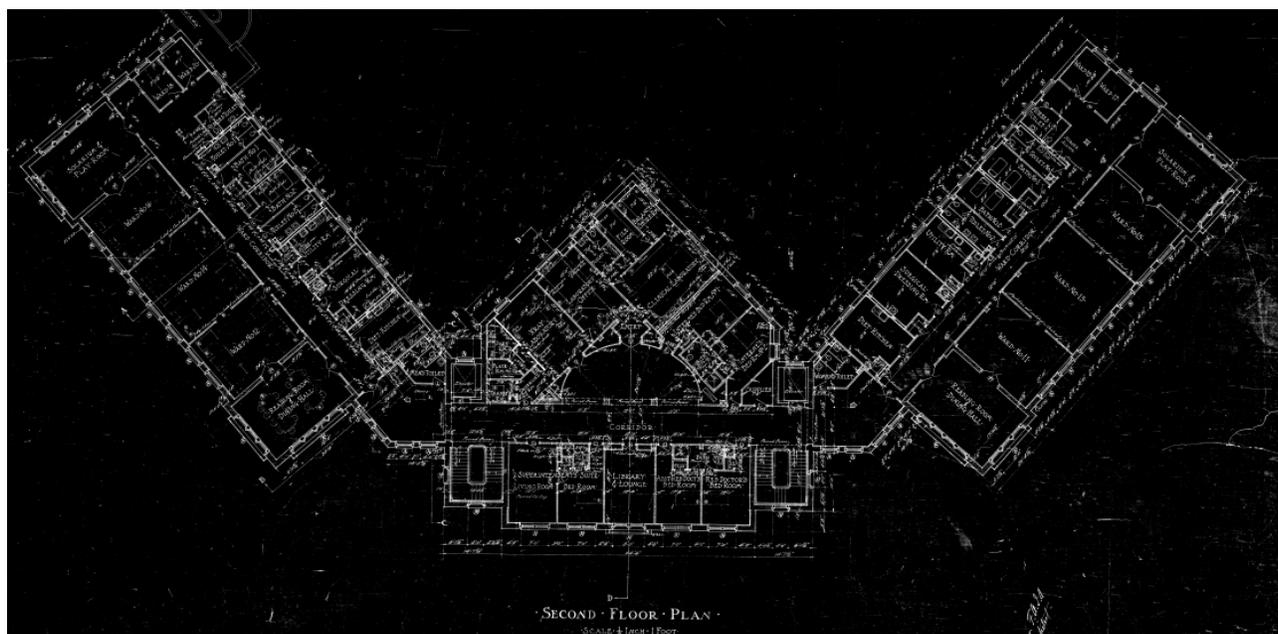


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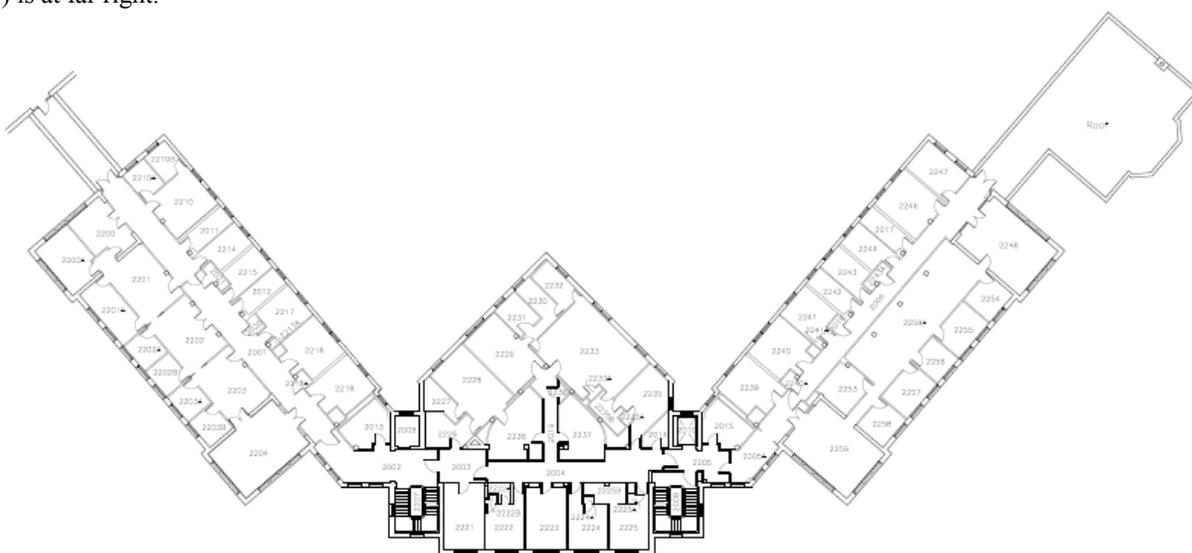
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**Figure 4:** 2nd Floor Plan of original building (Parts 1-3). The top plan shows the original second floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927.



The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include office expansions, & framing in the hall at the reception. The 1928 classroom addition roof (Part 4) is at far right.

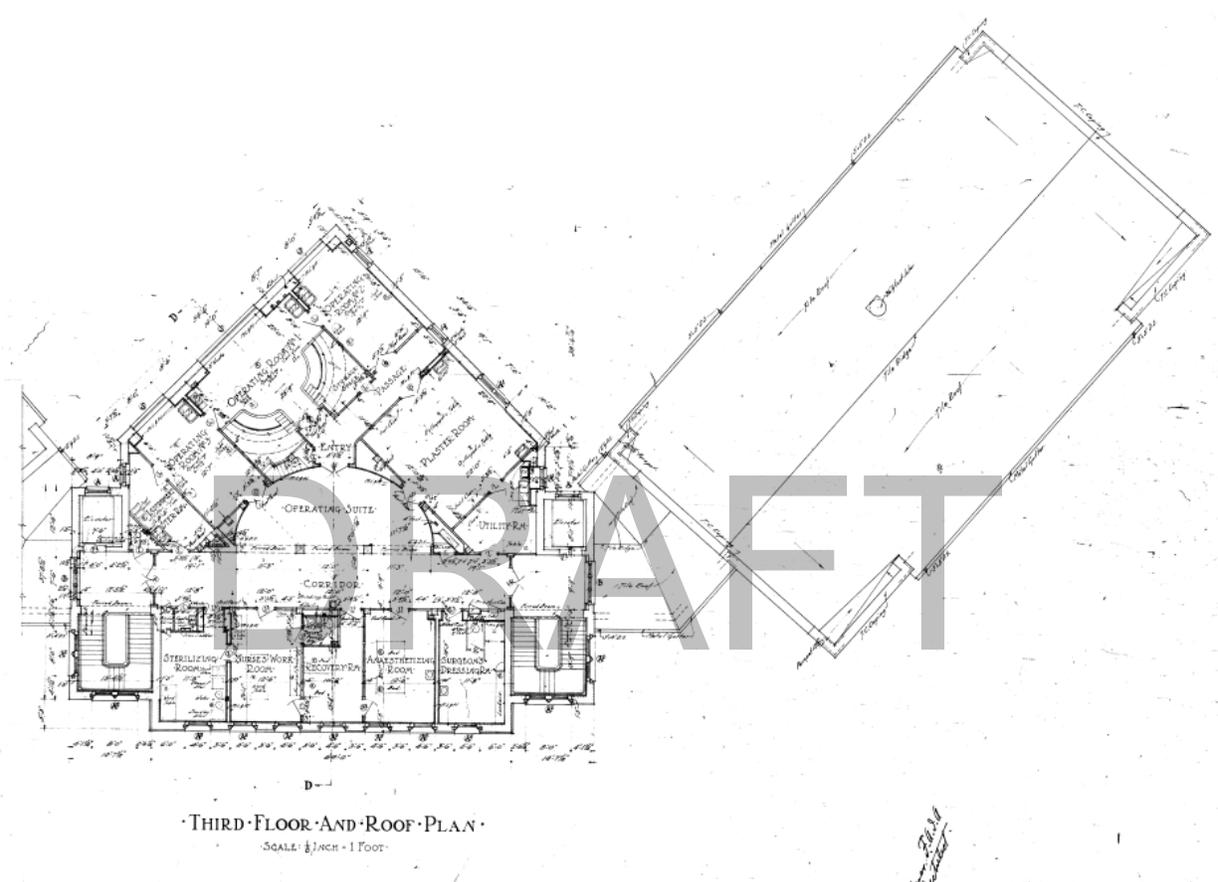


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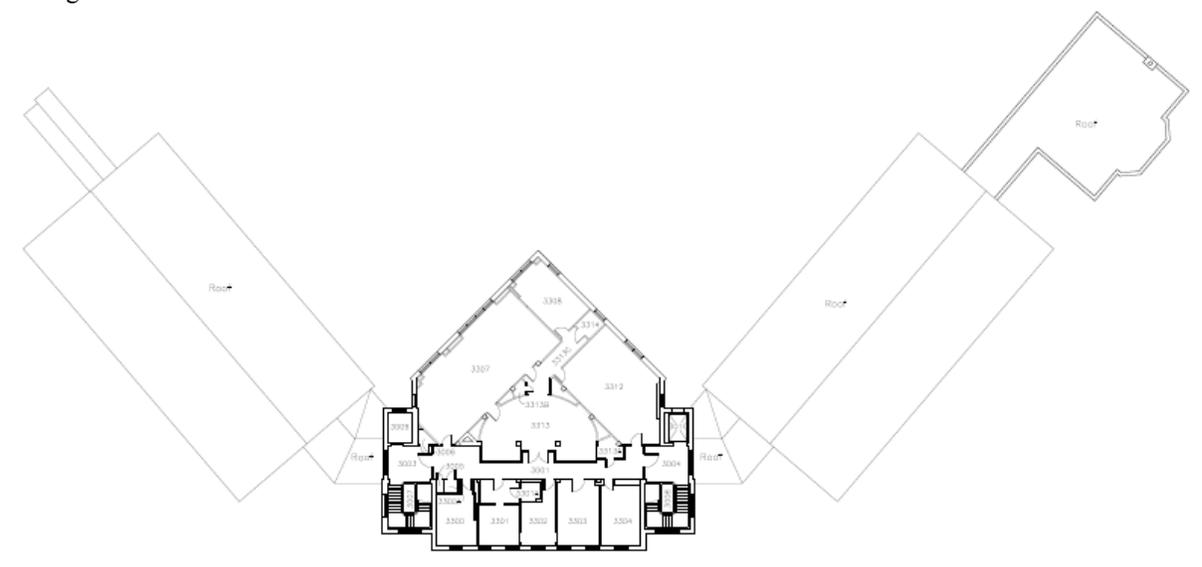
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**Figure 5:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and Roof Plan of original building (Parts 1-2). The top plan shows the original third floor as designed in 1922; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "New Hospital Building," 1922 and revised 1927.



The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include removal of the operating room and general expansions. The 1928 classroom addition roof (Part 4) is at far right.

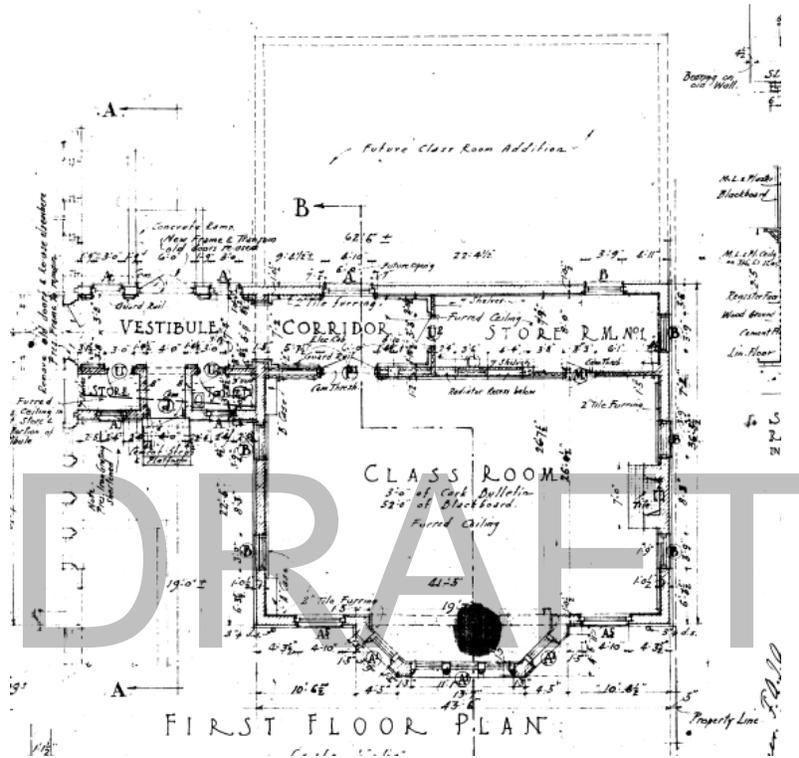


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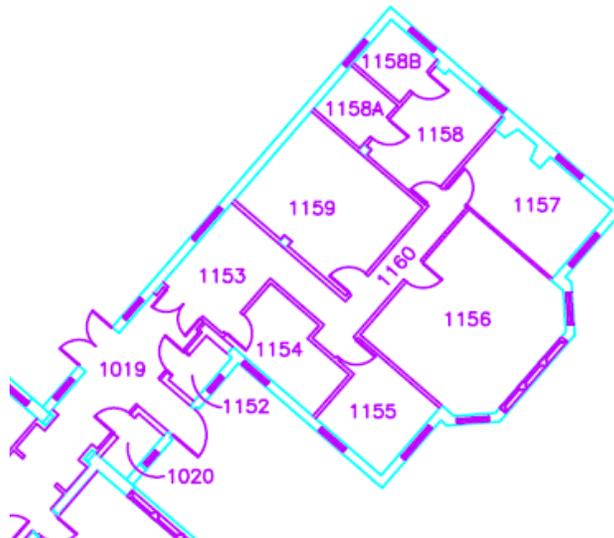
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**Figure 6:** Floor Plan Classroom Addition (Part 4). The top plan shows the original 1928 addition floorplan as designed in 1927; no as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "Classroom Addition to the Shriners' Hospital," 1927.



The plan below shows the existing conditions today. Source: The Lawrence Group. Existing Conditions, 2014. Changes include division of classroom space into separate offices.

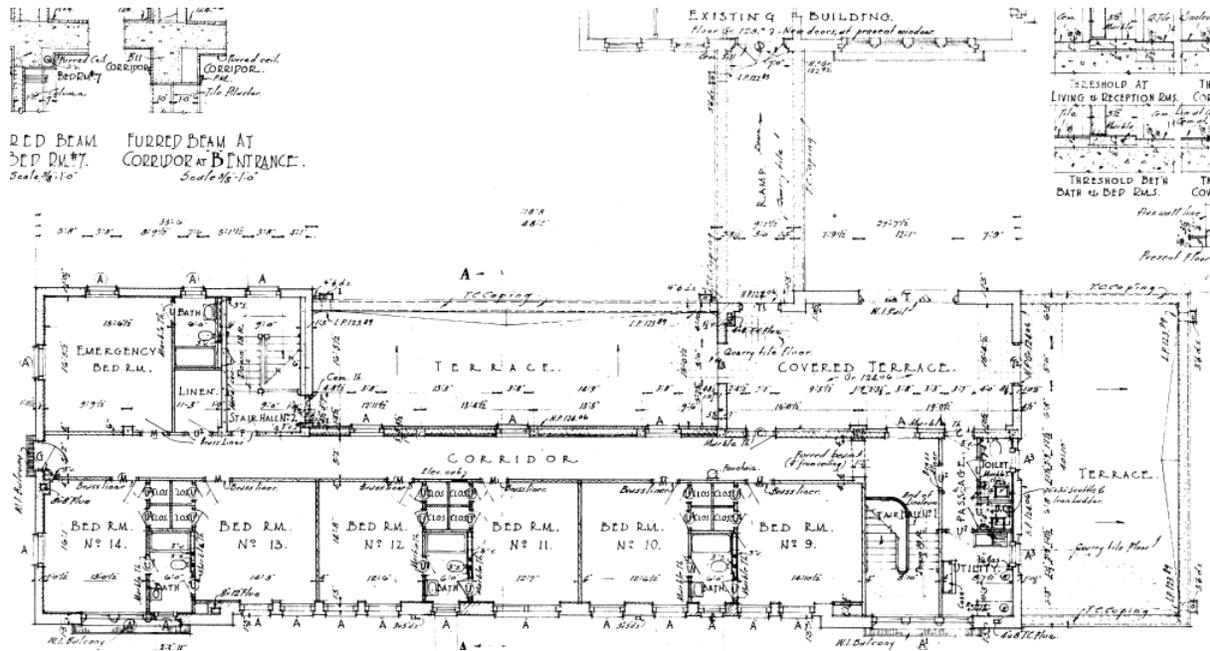
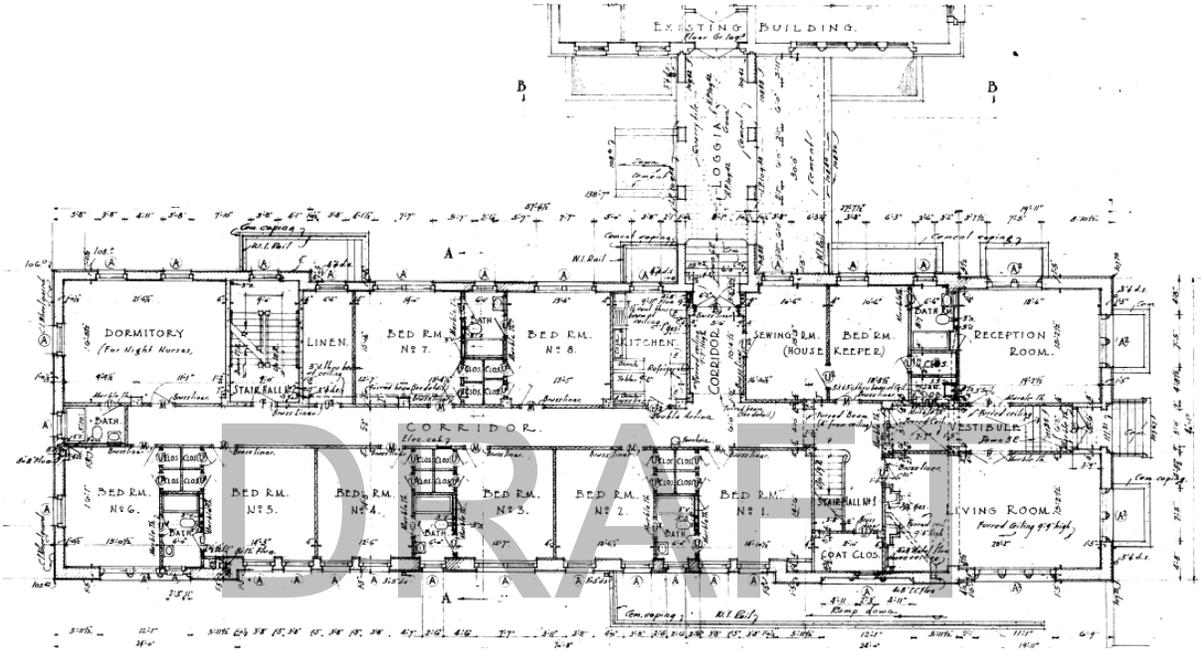


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**Figure 7: Floor Plans Nurses' Home (Part 5).** The top plan shows the original 1928 Nurses' Home first floor as designed in 1927; the bottom drawing is the second floor as designed in 1927. No as-built drawings were located so any deviations from the plan could be historic. Source: William B. Ittner "Nurses' Home Addition to the Shriners' Hospital," 1927. The original footprint of the building is the extant condition today.



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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children located at 700-728 South Euclid and 4565 Clayton Avenues in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is eligible for local listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A in HEALTH/MEDICINE. Constructed in 1924 as the first Shriners' Hospital in Missouri, one of seventeen such early hospitals in the country, the building was the largest and most centrally-located unit of the Shriners' Hospital system. Two subsequent buildings comprised of a separate nurses' home and a classroom addition completed the complex in 1928. Constructed from designs of the prominent local architect William B. Ittner, the complex contains a very rare collection of highly ornate and multi-colored terra cotta Moorish-inspired detailing. The complex served as a major center for the study and research development for the treatment of physically-handicapped children and provided education in the field to train nurses to care for such children. Important medical advancements such as the first successful operation concerning the lengthening of a leg in 1924 and the earliest attempt at skeletal traction to correct congenital dislocation of the hip in 1930 were conducted in the hospital. The exterior retains its original footprint and many of its original construction materials including variegated and buff brickwork, elaborate and multi-colored terra cotta panels, Spanish clay tile roofs and fence rows, projecting chimneys, pilasters, and other details. A large number of original multi-light wood windows and transoms are intact and although many of the entrance doors are more recent they correspond to original fenestration patterns. The interior has been modified over time to keep pace with changing technologies in the medical field however more portions of the original interior design plans are intact than not; the curved concrete stair halls appear as they did in the main complex in 1924. The period of significance begins with the completion of the original hospital unit in 1924, includes the historic additions completed in 1928, and extends to 1963 when the hospital was closed and all patient care was transferred to the new (second) Shriners' Hospital on South Lindberg Boulevard in St. Louis County.

**Background – From Traveling Doctors to Permanent Hospital Buildings**  
**(Brief History of Health Services in Missouri)**

In a time dominated by doctors making home visits to patients in need of medical attention or to deliver a baby with the assistance of a midwife, complications of any sort could result in extreme, incurable pain and even worse, death. Rare diseases and deformities were generally left untreated and the presence of germs could make a healing patient take a turn for the worse at any moment. Hospitals provided a safer, more sterile environment and by the mid-1920s in many larger cities, the rise of specialty

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hospitals allowed for more efficient and successful treatments. In fact, home visits drastically declined as doctors conducted more of their consultations in their offices and sent their patients to a specific hospital for acute and chronic illnesses.<sup>2</sup> Formerly conducted solely in the patient's home, child delivery was now more commonly implemented in a specialized ward of a hospital, as were surgical operations. Sanitary environments were more obtainable in hospitals; healing time was drastically improved within germ-free environs; patients could be monitored by doctors and nurses. Accordingly, with such treatment came higher costs of care and as a result it has been said that it was the "middle and upper-class families (that) led the movement toward greater hospital dependency."<sup>3</sup>

The earliest hospitals had open ward plans with patients laying side-by-side, often separated only by a curtain. All of this would change in the 1920s as hospitals began to be designed with single or double rooms with lavatories in between. The improvement of x-ray technology during the 1930s, the introduction of radiation equipment, and pathological laboratories for the identification of germs situated within hospital facilities in the 1930s and 1940s led to the creation of specialized institutions for the treatment of specific ailments. Perhaps more significant were the changes in hospitals with the introduction of central air conditioning used in full force after the 1940s—which made hospital life endurable in the hot Missouri summers.<sup>4</sup>

St. Louis, identified as "a major medical center which attracted a large volume of non-resident patients," had a chronic shortage of hospital beds.<sup>5</sup> An official survey conducted in December of 1923 indicated that St. Louis' shortage was between 2,500 to 4,000 beds and except for urgent cases, it was nearly impossible to get a room in a private hospital with less than a month's waiting time.<sup>6</sup> Private hospitals such as Barnes Hospital and Washington University, two of the largest medical complexes in the city began to expand their facilities in response. As a competitor to private hospitals, a number of secular and religious groups answered the need by building their own hospitals.<sup>7</sup> The expertise found in St. Louis hospitals led, two decades later, to thirty

<sup>2</sup> John C. Crighton. "History of Health Services in Missouri." (Omaha, Nebraska: Barnhart Press, 1993), page 225.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. For instance, a hospital for the Missouri Pacific Railroad was begun at Grand and Shaw Avenues in St. Louis city in September of 1921. Funded from contributions between 40 to 90

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local hospitals (including the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children) receiving full approval by the American College of Surgeons in its 1945 hospital survey.

**Background – Secular Effort to Provide Hospitals**

One such secular group, a fraternal organization known as the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (more popularly known as the Shriners), committed to sponsorship of a national system of free orthopedic hospitals for physically handicapped children in 1920.<sup>8</sup> Financed by annual fees of two dollars per Shrine member—then totaling 600,000 members—an endowment of \$1,200,000 was created to fund the system. Initially considering one large central hospital to serve the United States and Canada (and ultimately Mexico), the need for such hospitals was found by the Nobles of the Shriners to be more immense, and as a result several hospitals strategically placed across the country were planned. Meetings of said Nobles in early spring of 1921 were conducted with the intention of finding a location for a centrally-placed, Midwest regional hospital. St. Louis was an excellent candidate but its competitor, Rochester, Minnesota, was equally attractive because of its proximity of Canada—a territory the Shriners also wished to serve.

Great strides were taken in making St. Louis a more lucrative home for the Shriners. Efforts to tie the hospital to long-standing local institutions were made by business leaders of the city. Speaking on behalf of the significance of the potential for a "Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children" to be built in St. Louis, Washington University President Robert S. Brookings stated that "the city would become the orthopedic surgery center of America" and that the Washington University medical group would be established "above question as the most important and progressive collection of institutions for the treatment and study of disease in the world."<sup>9</sup> (*Add statistics of the need for such a hospital*). At the same time in 1921 Washington University was in the process of planning new structures for the medical complex including hospitals for psychiatry (treatment of mental diseases), obstetrics (health science dealing with pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum period), and those for the study of the eye, ear, nose, and throat.

cents per 40,000 employees per month, the hospital offered care at no additional charges to its employees.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. "W. U. Head Points out Importance of New Hospital." April 7, 1921, page 23.

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Washington University had already placed in service multiple buildings within the Barnes Hospital complex including a Medical School, the St. Louis Children's Hospital, and the University Training School for Nurses. It provided hospital space in addition to school laboratories which ultimately enhanced the experience level and medical knowledge of students. Already classified as one of the most imposing "architectural piles in this vicinity," Brookings touted that once the new Shriners' and specialty hospitals would be constructed that the "Washington University Group will more nearly approach perfection and completeness than anything of the sort ever actually planned by man!"<sup>10</sup>

Brookings expected that the value to the existing medical group with the inclusion of the new Shriners' Hospital would be immense.<sup>11</sup> Previously, the field of study pertaining to physically handicapped children lacked scholarly study and diagnosis as well as actual treatment techniques but Brookings was sure that with the variety of cases coming from all around the United States and Canada that it would produce a plethora of original research materials in the field and those studies would be put into movement.<sup>12</sup> (*statistics are included later... also waiting to receive from CID as of 1-1-2015*).

In the professional *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Brookings' claims were substantiated in a section evaluating the educational facilities of the country as they pertained to the medical industry. Stating the fortunate circumstance that the two largest educational facilities of St. Louis also happened to have notable medical schools, the *Journal* said "Washington University's physical plant is one of the most noteworthy in the world."<sup>13</sup> Washington University's medical school staffed the St. Louis Children's Hospital and if awarded the contract, it would provide the same for the completed Shriners' Hospital adjoining the medical campus. Noted as the central unit of the Shriners' effort to build similar hospitals throughout the country, the *Journal*

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. The physical aspect of the collection would be further augmented by the completion of the \$1,500,000 Jewish Hospital and nurses' home along Kingshighway bridging the gap between the Washington University group at the south and St. John's Hospital at the north.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "The St. Louis Session." Volume 78, number 16, page 1247. The source also stated that the age and scholarly reputation of the St. Louis University School of Medicine needed "no mention to physicians."

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exclaimed that the effort would "add to the prestige of Washington University as a center for clinical work among children."<sup>14</sup>

Inclusion of the Shriners' facility within the Washington University medical campus did not happen out of chance or luck. Efforts of Robert Brookings in procuring a site and requesting the cooperation of his friend William K. Bixby (local philanthropist and founder of the American Car & Foundry Company) ultimately sealed the deal. In a personal letter from Brookings to Bixby, Brookings explained that the Shriners were contemplating building a large, new hospital to serve the physically handicapped children of the region; to be centrally located between the U. S. and Canada, the Shriners were looking at Rochester, Minnesota with St. Louis as a strong competitor.<sup>15</sup> Brookings also explained that Dr. Nathaniel Allison (Dean of the Medical School and a Professor of Orthopedic Surgery there) attended a meeting in Chicago where the location of the new hospital was discussed and pleaded with Bixby that he needed to be in attendance at the next Shriners' meeting which was to be held in St. Louis during the month of March, 1921 in order to bear some influence. To make St. Louis more attractive, Brookings secured an option on a site south of the current medical campus and facing a park and pushed as hard as he could. These efforts would lead to the construction of the very first free hospital for handicapped children in St. Louis and the state of Missouri.

**Elaboration – The Shriners Choose St. Louis**

The 1921 Masonic Directory of the *Detroit Masonic News* posted a section exclaiming "Shrine Holds out Hands to Crippled Children." Introduced as "the most important civic enterprise ever attempted by the Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," the concept of building a hospital to help these children was launched at the June meeting in Des Moines, Iowa earlier that year by then Imperial Potentate W. Freeland Kendrick.<sup>16</sup> At this historic meeting a resolution was adopted

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. The Journal indicated that the University already held high rank in pediatrics and in orthopedic surgery in association with the Children's Hospital. The *Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy* also touted the new hospital in the 1920s.

<sup>15</sup> Robert S. Brookings to William K. Bixby. Personal letter dated March 11, 1921. Missouri Historical Society Archives, Bixby Collection.

<sup>16</sup> *Detroit Masonic News*. "Masonic Directory." Volume 2, 1921, page 35. The *Quarterly Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Iowa* (volume XXII, January 1921, page 20) announced the plans for the Shriners' Hospital in St. Louis stating "This, in our opinion, is a very commendable project and should meet with the hearty endorsement of every Temple in the country...here is an opportunity of doing a great good to many crippled children and making the Shrine a worthwhile Institution." The Shrine of Iowa claimed to be the first in America to start a similar Institution.

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authorizing the establishment of a hospital for crippled children to be supported by the members of the Shrine. In order to make the dream a reality Kendrick proposed an annual assessment of two dollars per member with the approval of additional funds to be levied upon the members as needed to maintain the structures.<sup>17</sup> Kendrick also formed a committee of seven who were held responsible to select the site and secure the plans and specifications of the building.

St. Louis was ultimately selected as the site for the hospital which was then estimated to cost \$750,000.<sup>18</sup> Upon explaining the mission of the hospital the *Masonic News* specified that the hospital and its service was devoted to the thousands of children who, because of their parents' lack of means, were essentially "doomed to grow up to a crippled manhood and womanhood unless some good Samaritan took pity upon them;" the *Masonic News* concluded that under the operational plans that treatment in all cases would be free to all children whose parents were not financially able to pay for services.<sup>19</sup>

Also during the 1921 Imperial Council Session, a majority report was approved which called for a chain of hospitals.<sup>20</sup> A Board of Trustees was then appointed and empowered to incorporate in strategic states and was vested with full authority to select and purchase sites in order to erect and maintain hospitals; the Board also was to help with the selection of the most skilled staffs for each.<sup>21</sup> According to Saunders, the first hospital contributions came from a non-Shriner, Robert R. Meyer of Birmingham, Alabama...possibly in an effort to encourage the location of a hospital there.

The excitement of the new hospital as well as the improvement and expansion of the existing hospitals led to a report by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce declaring that St. Louis was becoming a "Hospital City;" the report announced four new hospitals to be built here at a total cost of \$4,500,000.<sup>22</sup> Among the buildings was the recently

<sup>17</sup> George M. Saunders. "World's Greatest Philanthropy-Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children and Burns Institute." In "1886-1976 History of the Moolah Temple: St. Louis Unit Shrine Hospital." (St. Louis: Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America, 1976).

<sup>18</sup> *Detroit Masonic News*. "Masonic Directory."

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, page 36. Further, it was stated that only those cases which could not be cared for in the home cities, or nearby cities of the various Temples, will be sent to St. Louis.

<sup>20</sup> George M. Saunders.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, page 5. The initial Board of Trustees included Sam P. Cochran, W. Freeland Kendrick, Philip D. Gordon, Forrest Adair, Frederick W. Keator, Oscar M. Lanstrum, and John D. McGilvray.

<sup>22</sup> St. Louis Chamber of Commerce. "Greater St. Louis." Volume 2, number 10, June 1921, page 19.

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announced Shriner's Hospital (then estimated to cost \$1,000,000 and comprised of 150-beds) and the \$1,500,000 Jewish Hospital and nurses' home (demolished 2014). The central location of St. Louis coupled with the association to the existing Washington University medical group, allowed the new Shriners' Hospital to provide innovative materials for study and research by students at the campus.

### Elaboration – Ground Breaking

The contract for the site of the future hospital was closed by the Weisels-Gerhart Real Estate Company on July 16, 1921 at a price of \$150,000.<sup>23</sup> With a frontage of 800 feet along Kingshighway (later Euclid), 344 feet along Clayton, and 325 feet at McKinley, the site was strategically located in immediate proximity to the medical school of an imposing complex belonging to the Barnes Hospital Group (later Washington University). Comprised of individual parcels belonging to both residential and commercial occupants, demolition of existing structures began almost immediately. Although the source indicated that final details of the plans were not yet ready for publication it did state that according to the property title holder—the St. Louis Union Trust Company—construction was scheduled to begin on September 15, 1921.<sup>24</sup>

### Dr. Nathaniel Allison – First Director

Dr. Nathaniel Allison, Dean of the Medical School and a Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, became the first administrative head of the Shriners' Hospital. Dr. Allison's credentials were impressive and included a term as an army doctor during World War I in which he quickly became a recognized leader in orthopedic surgery in the United States.<sup>25</sup> A President of the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, Dr. Allison was former Senior Consultant of Orthopedic Surgery for the American Expeditionary Force and later represented the medical department of the U. S. Army on the inter-allied commission for the consideration of injuries and diseases resulting from World War I.<sup>26</sup> Upon appointment at the Shriners' Hospital, Dr. Allison's influence was far-reaching. For instance, he requested that the Shriners' provide educational opportunities at the facility for those children entering the hospital. To ensure that the children would have a productive future as well as become self-reliant, Dr. Allison went as far as helping to organize a system of follow-up meetings and occupational training. In conjunction

<sup>23</sup> *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. "Deal Closed for Site of Shriner Hospital." July 19, 1921, page 15.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*. The title holder and trustee, the St. Louis Union Trust Company held the title "pending necessary legal procedure for the incorporation of the trustees of the Hospital Committee of the Shriners of North America."

<sup>25</sup> *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. "W. U. Head Points out Importance of New Hospital." April 7, 1921, page 24.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*. The commission met in Rome.

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with fulfilling the aspirations of the Shriners' mission, Dr. Allison proposed that the hospital should contain laboratories for the development of apparatus and artificial limbs and appliances to aid the deformed.<sup>27</sup>

Announcing its impression of the building environment relative to hospital construction at the onset of the 1920s, *The Modern Hospital* tracked the cost per cubic foot from thirty cents in the 1910s to seventy cents in 1920, sixty cents in 1921, and predicted a final drop bottoming out at fifty cents in 1922. The importance of this study was a response to the demand for hospital beds as well as to encourage hospital boards to be prepared with plans and specifications for new facilities before the costs rise.<sup>28</sup> A few projects which were to begin construction during the course of 1922 included the Jewish Hospital and the Shriner's Hospital in St. Louis. *The Modern Hospital* touted the latter reporting that the Shriners' construction of additional hospitals in Montreal, San Francisco, the Twin Cities, Shreveport, Portland, Dallas, and other cities for the care of crippled children was a "noteworthy indication of the new trend of such organizations to turn large funds into a humanitarian channel."<sup>29</sup>

### Construction of the Hospital

The laying of the cornerstone of the Shriners' Hospital was announced by the *Manufacturing Record* on May 12, 1922; the same publisher announced that the contract was officially awarded to the St. Louis firm of E. H. Steinger Contracting Company in its September 7, 1922 edition.<sup>30</sup> According to the source as stated by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees Forest Adair, the cost was \$400,000. Adair reported that a total of \$2,000,000 was then available to the Trustees to fund this and five other similar hospitals throughout the country; Adair also confirmed that \$1,000,000 annually would be required to maintain these facilities—funds of which would be provided by members of the Shriners. Another section of the publication announced that the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine had procured St. Louis firms W. G.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> *The Modern Hospital*. "A View of the Building Situation in 1921." (Chicago: The Modern Hospital Publishing Company, Inc). Volume XVIII, number 1, January 1922, page 41.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> *Manufacturers Record*. (Baltimore, Maryland). Volume 81, June 1, 1922, page 93. *Manufacturers Record*. (Baltimore, Maryland). September 7, 1922, page 86. Specified on page 87 of the same as a "hospital at Kings highway and Clay Street of various dimensions, reinforced concrete, brick and stone fireproof." Volume 55, number 15 of *Engineering and Contracting* (page 38) announced the selection of St. Louis as the site for the National Shriners' Hospital with a cost of more than \$1,000,000.

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Cornell Heating Company and Kupferle Hicks for the mechanicals, C. O. Smith for the plumbing, sewerage and gas fitting contract, and E. A. Keoneman for the electric.

An internal bulletin of the Shriners announced the progress of the St. Louis unit where it had explained that the contract had been officially let in August and that the work was advancing steadily.<sup>31</sup> Construction progressed no doubt post-haste as the contractor E. A. Steininger was a Shriner Noble himself. Working in tandem with the St. Louis effort, Shriners' hospitals in other parts of the country were at various stages of planning or completion in February of 1923. For instance, the San Francisco unit was under roof and receiving a coat of interior paint and trim work; the Twin Cities unit would open its doors to waiting patients at the end of the month; the Shreveport, Louisiana unit was functioning from a temporary location until all of the buildings were completed in March of the year; a site for the Montreal, Canada unit was purchased while a site for the Portland, Oregon unit was donated to the Shriners in early 1923; planning efforts were begun for units in Philadelphia, New England, Virginia, and Chicago.<sup>32</sup> The Shriners even extended their efforts to Honolulu, Hawaii where they established a mobile unit composed of an orthopedic surgeon and nurse, an anesthetist, a physiotherapist and a brace maker that visited children on the islands until a permanent hospital could be built. To provide funding now and in the future, Shriner Noble and Trustee Forrest Adair announced an endowment fund that would support the St. Louis and other units throughout the country (see hospital list Appendix 1, p. 38).<sup>33</sup>

The April 1923 edition of *Greater St. Louis* explained that the design of the Shriners' Hospital was a result of Architect William B. Ittner's consultation with Dr. Nathaniel Allison in addition to the thorough study of similar institutions.<sup>34</sup> As planned, the building comprised a three-story Administration Building to be placed diagonally on the site; flanking this central section was to be a two-story ward, one facing west and the other south in order to provide considerable natural light and fresh air (See Figure 8). Although different in style from the existing campus buildings, great "care was taken that the new buildings should strike a harmonious note with the old;" the ornamental design and massing "in carrying the Shrine tradition in architecture, was not only happy

<sup>31</sup> Board of Trustees, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children. "Bulletin number 3 to the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America." Atlanta, Georgia, February 2, 1923.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> St. Louis Chamber of Commerce. "Greater St. Louis." "Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital to be Best in Nation." Volume 4, number 8, April 1923, page 13.

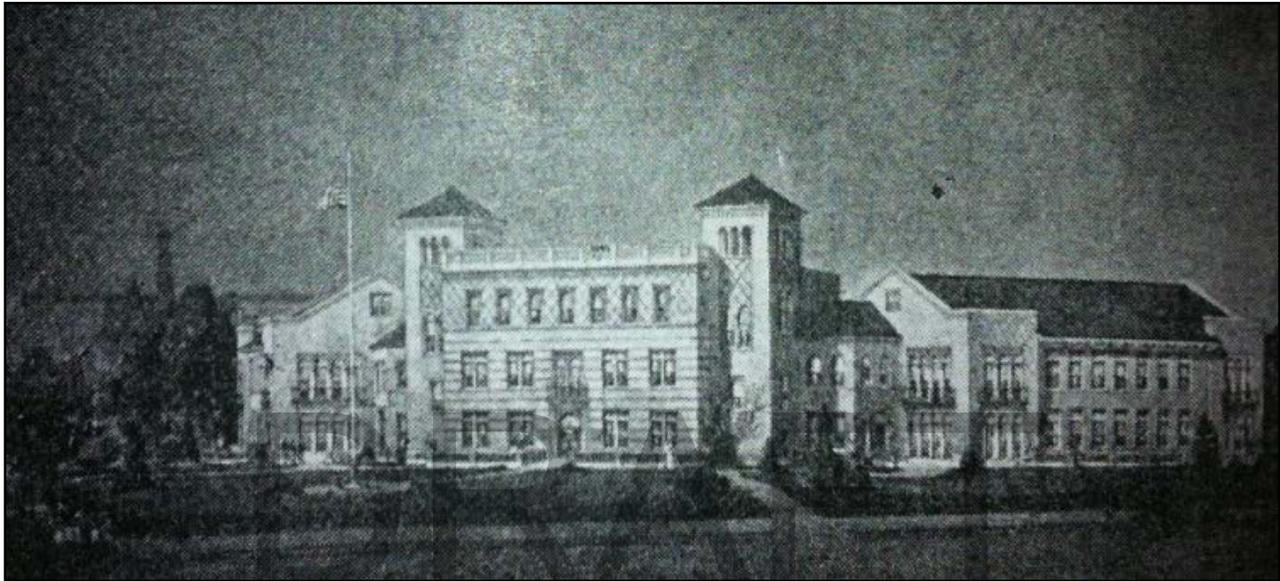
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but fortunate, for it provided a decorative motive of romance and mystery so dear to the thoughts of childhood (See Figure 9)."<sup>35</sup>

**Figure 8:** Hospital illustration. Source: *Greater St. Louis*, April 1923, page 13.



Contained within the Administrative Building was a first floor admitting ward with a series of patient waiting rooms, an examination room, a reception area, a room for the head nurse, and the utility rooms. The main administrative offices were also located on the first floor. The second floor contained the clinical, X-Ray plant and "photo gallery" in addition to a supply room, file storage room, and staff rooms for the resident physician, two resident assistants and a pair of interns. The Operating Suite was situated on the third floor; comprised of three individual operating rooms, one was equipped with a spectator's amphitheater. In the basement was the main kitchen as well as dining room for staff.

A stair and elevator tower were placed in between the Administrative Building at both wings; each of these wings contained wards providing 80 beds with 20 per floor, per side. Wards were divided by glass partitions into three cubicles. Adjoining the wards were sun rooms and dining areas; across from the dining rooms were smaller diet kitchens. In the basement of the wings was a laundry room, sewing and cutting room, a mattress sterilizing room, a morgue, a drug store and massage room, general storage, and shops for carpentry, orthopedics, upholstery, and a barber. The Chamber quoted

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

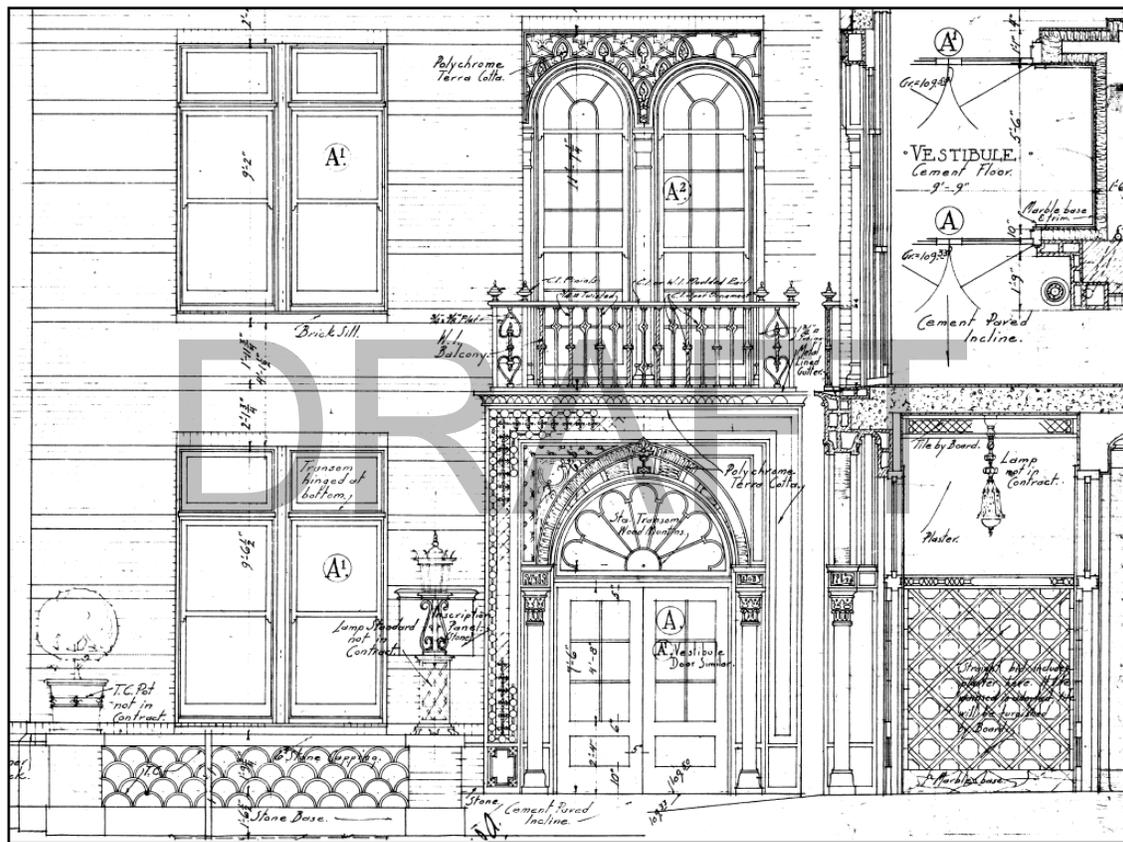
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the cost of the building to be approximately \$425,000 completed and equipped.<sup>36</sup> The building officially was placed in service in 1924. Figure 10 shows the proposed complex as originally designed.

**Figure 9:** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Drawing for "New Hospital Building at Kingshighway Blvd. and Clayton Ave, St. Louis, Mo., for the Board of Trustees, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children." June 15, 1922.



One of the earliest surgeries performed in the hospital was also the first attempt in the world to lengthen a leg in which a destroyed growth center was involved; this surgery performed by the first Chief Surgeon Dr. Leroy C. Abbott in 1924, would provide the foundation for such a procedure.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

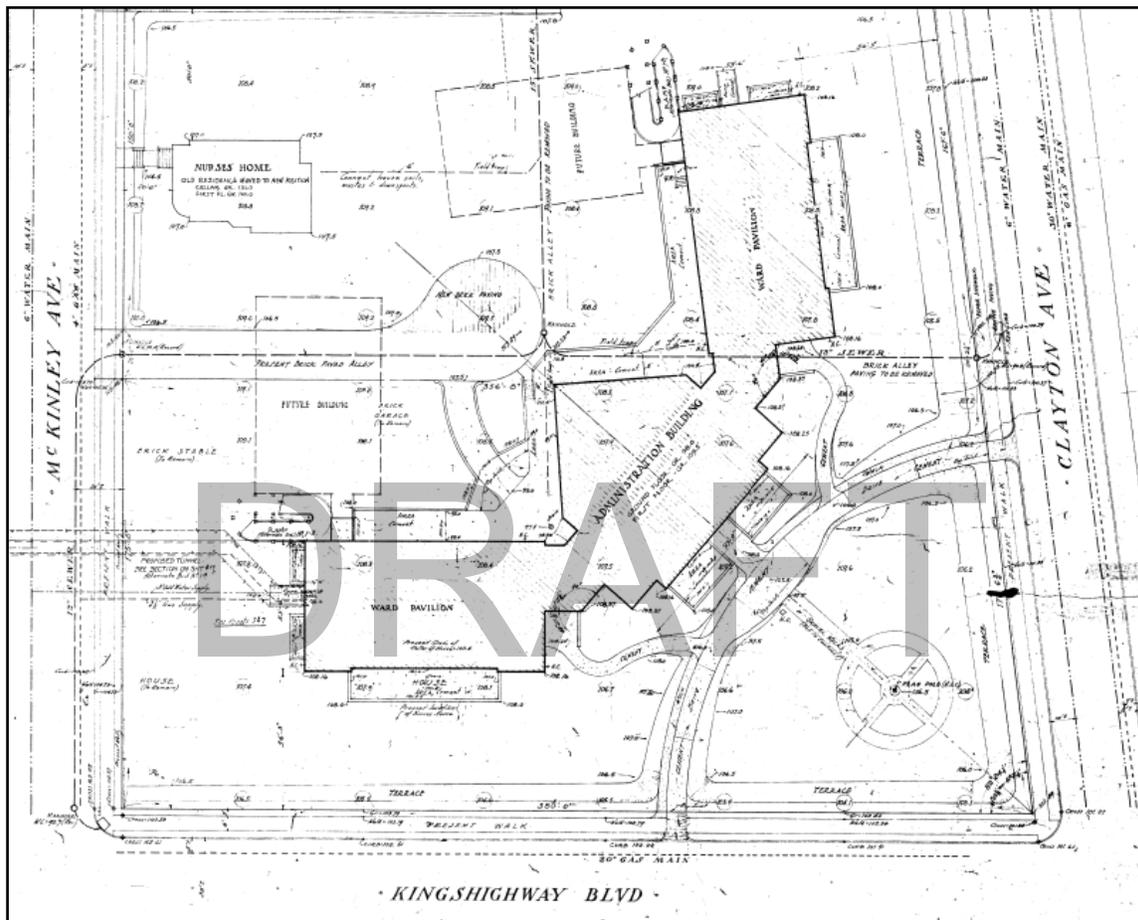
<sup>37</sup> Morton Mintz. "Crippled Children Get Finest Care." *St. Louis Globe-Democrat.* March 14, 1956.

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**Figure 10:** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Site Plan for "New Hospital Building at Kingshighway Blvd. and Clayton Ave, St. Louis, Mo., for the Board of Trustees, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children." June 15, 1922.



**Advancing the City as a "Hospital Center"**

Still at the forefront of the medical field in a variety of disciplines, a new maternity hospital was added to the Washington University complex in 1927. The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* exclaimed "St. Louis Becomes One of the World's Greatest Hospitalization Centers."<sup>38</sup> The Shriners' followed suite with expansions to the exiting hospital. A new two-story plus basement building addition was planned as a nurse home at the north end of the complex with a new classroom addition at the south east. Attached to the west-facing ward via a covered walkway and loggia, the new Nurses' building would blend architecturally and functionally into the extant complex. At the eastern wall of

<sup>38</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. "St. Louis Becomes One of the World's Greatest Hospitalization Centers." May 15, 1927, page 3.

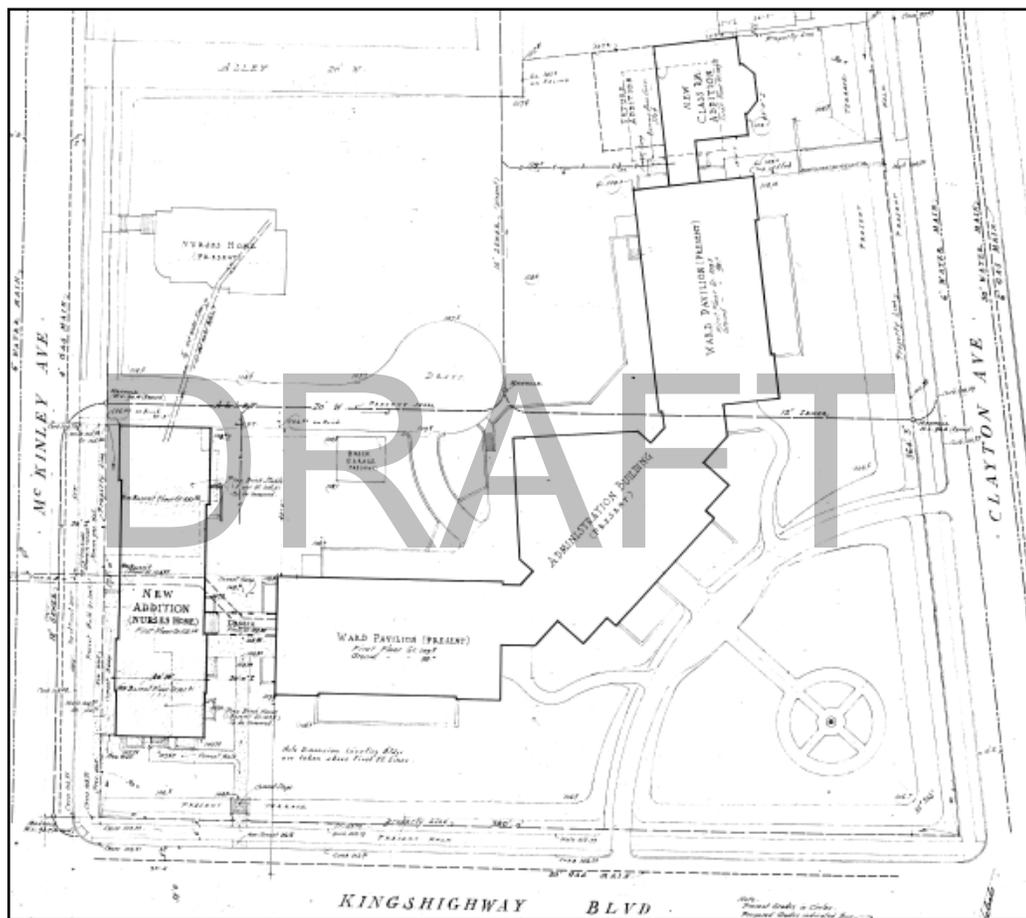
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the south-facing ward, a comparably-styled, one-story class room addition was proposed. Both were placed in service in 1928 (see Figure 11).

**Figure 11:** William B. Ittner, Architect. Source: Site Plan for "Additions to the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children." December 1927.



The mission of the hospital was to extend the "mercy of Orthopedic Surgery to any crippled child in North America, regardless of race, color or religion."<sup>39</sup> The St. Louis unit was strategic in that being centrally located it was able to serve a larger population than achieved previous. Although the medical aid was provided pro bono, the service was not without some rules. For instance, the Shriners' stipulated that the parents of the physically handicapped child must be financially unable to pay for treatment; other requirements included that the child must be of "normal mentality," that there would

<sup>39</sup> Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. "Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children." St. Louis Unit pamphlet, no date.

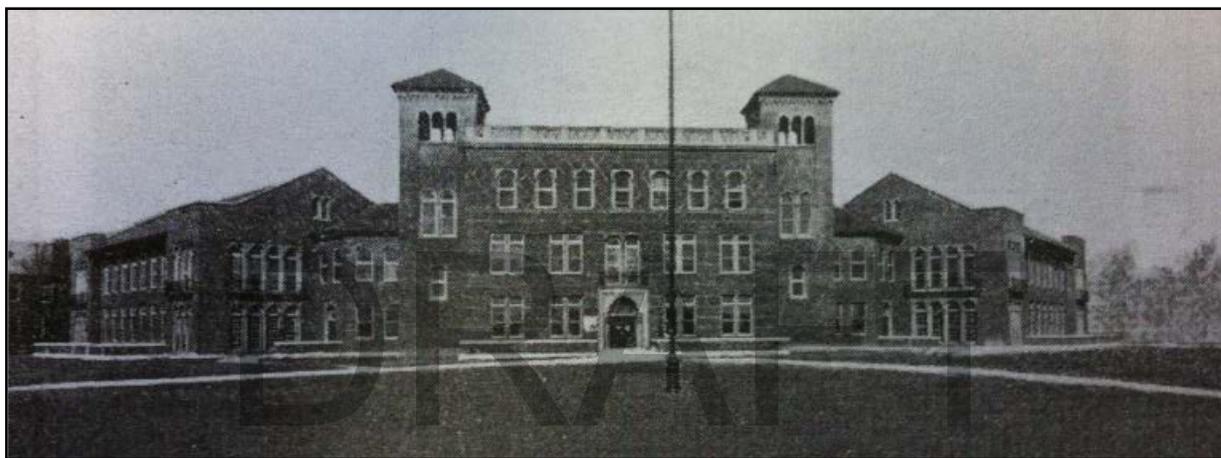
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be a possibility of improving their condition through surgery, and that the child had to be no older than age 14.<sup>40</sup> Because of the number of cases seeking treatment the age limit could be lifted by the head surgeon of each hospital given his opinion that the child patient might be cured. Figure 12 illustrates the completed complex as shown in the pamphlet while Figure 13 is a period photograph.

**Figure 12:** Completed Hospital Unit. Source: Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. "Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children." St. Louis Unit pamphlet, no date.



**Figure 13:** W. C. Persons, photographer c. 1930. Source: Missouri Historical Society Archives.



<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

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In 1930, the successor to Chief Surgeon Abbott, Dr. C. H. Grego was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons for devising a new method for correcting congenital dislocation of the hip referred to as skeletal traction.<sup>41</sup> This method was first used at the Shriners' Hospital in St. Louis wherein it was subsequently perfected.

In a 1940 interview, former Philadelphia Mayor and head of the Shriner's Hospitals W. Freeland Kendrick explained to the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* the important service the hospital provided not only to the medical community but to those physically handicapped children who had up to the construction of the first Shriners' Hospitals had been left untreated. He had stated "medical science, despite its many recent startling discoveries, has, so-far, been helpless in isolating the germ which causes infantile paralysis"- with the creation of the hospitals, and in particular the St. Louis Shriners' Hospital, this trend was reversed.<sup>42</sup> Kendrick recalled that the original concept of the hospital was to build one large hospital in the center of the United States; that idea was ultimately abandoned in favor of establishing a number of regional hospitals (mentioned earlier on pages 22 and 23). In Kendrick's words "instead of bringing the child to the hospital, we brought the hospital to the child."<sup>43</sup> By 1940 the number of hospitals was fifteen with the bulk of twelve in the United States, two in Canada, and one in Hawaii—a product resulting from a meager \$2.00 per Shrine member. The St. Louis Shriners' Hospital was at that time (and during the period of significance) one of the largest in the nation. When asked what gave him the idea of the hospital Kendrick replied:

I have always loved children. I was always filled with pity when I saw them broken in body or health and, when, in the olden days, children were sent to hospitals for incurables, the very word incurable seemed unbearable to me. Why should children be incurable? I kept asking. I began to investigate and found they weren't incurable in many instances. So we finally managed to chisel a bed in a Philadelphia hospital, talked a surgeon into operating on a few cases for us and, as I

<sup>41</sup> Morton Mintz. "Crippled Children Get Finest Care." *St. Louis Globe-Democrat.* March 14, 1956.

<sup>42</sup> *St. Louis Globe-Democrat.* "Tells How Shrine Hospital Bed Grew to \$15,000,000 Institution." April 6, 1940.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

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had hoped, they weren't incurable. A cure was achieved in the first case and the next two showed decided improvements.<sup>44</sup>

By 1940 a total of 9,000 children were being treated in Shriners' Hospitals across the country with an additional 1,800 awaiting treatment on lists; the St. Louis hospital treated the largest numbers.<sup>45</sup> In order to improve upon their efforts to bring joy to children being cared for there, the Shriner's invited celebrities of the day to the St. Louis hospital including actor Mickey Rooney, Bob Hope, Hopalong Cassidy, "King of the Cowboys" Roy Rodgers (himself a 33degree Illustrious Brother and Shriner Noble) and his horse Trigger during the 1940s and 1950s (Figure 14).<sup>46</sup> Treatment at the hospital continued in stride during those decades.

**Figure 14:** Shriners' Hospital visited by Roy Rodgers; exact date unknown. Source: Missouri Historical Society Archives.

The 1950s marked an important time in the history of the Shriners' hospital because up to that date they had provided cures for 12,847 children from the St. Louis unit; a total of 300,000 had been cared for in the 17 hospitals across the country.<sup>47</sup> It was reported that in 1955 alone the Shriners' Hospital admitted 308 children, performed 661 operations, supplied 17 artificial limbs and 441



<sup>44</sup> George M. Saunders. "Worlds Greatest Philanthropy-Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children and Burns Institute." In "1886-1976 History of the Moolah Temple: St. Louis Unit Shrine Hospital." (St. Louis: Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America, 1976).

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Morton Mintz. "Crippled Children Get Finest Care." *St. Louis Globe-Democrat.* March 14, 1956.

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braces as well as handled 2,719 out-patient clinic visits.<sup>48</sup> Shriners' also provided rehabilitation for its patients as surgery alone could not resolve issues surrounding crippling; together with the St. Louis Society for Crippled Children, the Shriners' were able to fulfill this mission. In 1963, a new Shriners' Hospital was built in St. Louis County and all patient care was subsequently transferred to the new facility. The old hospital was closed but soon occupied by Washington University clinics requiring additional space. Care for children continued at the new facility into the 1970s.

By 1976 it was reported that over 250,000 children who otherwise were "doomed to a life of disappointment, pain, and isolation" were "restored to health and well-being" with "happiness brought to many thousands of parents who otherwise would daily witness suffering and affliction of their little ones" since the first hospital opened in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922.<sup>49</sup>

Today, a new Shriners' Hospital is nearing completion a few blocks east of the first Shriners' Hospital complex, just north of highway 40 in proximity to the original hospital. On Saturday, August 23, 2014 a 90th anniversary "hospital homecoming" was celebrated at the 2001 South Lindberg Boulevard location.

### Conclusion

The Shriners' Hospital is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in HEALTH/MEDICINE. Constructed in 1924 as the first Shriners' Hospital in Missouri, and one of seventeen such early hospitals in the country, the building was the largest and most centrally-located unit of the Shriners' Hospital system. Two subsequent buildings comprised of a separate nurses' home and a classroom addition completed the complex in 1928. Constructed from designs of the prominent local architect William B. Ittner, the complex contains a very rare collection of highly ornate and multi-colored terra cotta Moorish-inspired detailing. The complex served as a major center for the study and research development for the treatment of physically-handicapped children and provided education in the field to train nurses to care for such children. Important medical advancements such as the first successful operation concerning the lengthening of a leg in 1924 and the earliest attempt at skeletal traction to correct congenital dislocation of the hip in 1930 were conducted in the hospital. By the 1950s the St. Louis unit had cared for and cured 12,847 children. The building complex clearly reflects its period of significance beginning with the completion of the first buildings in

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> George M. Saunders. "World's Greatest Philanthropy-Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children and Burns Institute." Page 5.

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1924 and extends through the active and productive use of the hospital until 1963 when all of the patients were ultimately transferred to the St. Louis County location.

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2. Necrologies Scrapbook.
3. Vertical File

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\_\_\_\_\_. "W. U. Head Points out Importance of New Hospital." April 7, 1921, page 23.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children located at 700-728 South Euclid Avenue in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is located on city block 4783 or South Euclid Avenue, including 2.390 acres on lot 1 of the McKinley Place Subdivision. The nominated property is legally known by the St. Louis City Assessor's Office as parcel ID 478300011 and tax record ID 4783-00-0011-0. A dotted and solid line on the accompanying map entitled "Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children Boundary Map" indicates the boundary of the nominated property (Figure 15).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property has been drawn around the functionally-related historic complex and includes all of the interconnected buildings dating between 1924 and 1928 as well as a front landscaped site at the northwest corner of Euclid and Clayton Avenues; the boundary coincides with the historically-related complex. The rear of the site to the east of the building complex has been altered over time and includes a modern parking lot as well as new construction separate from the nominated property.

**Figure 15:** "Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children Boundary Map."

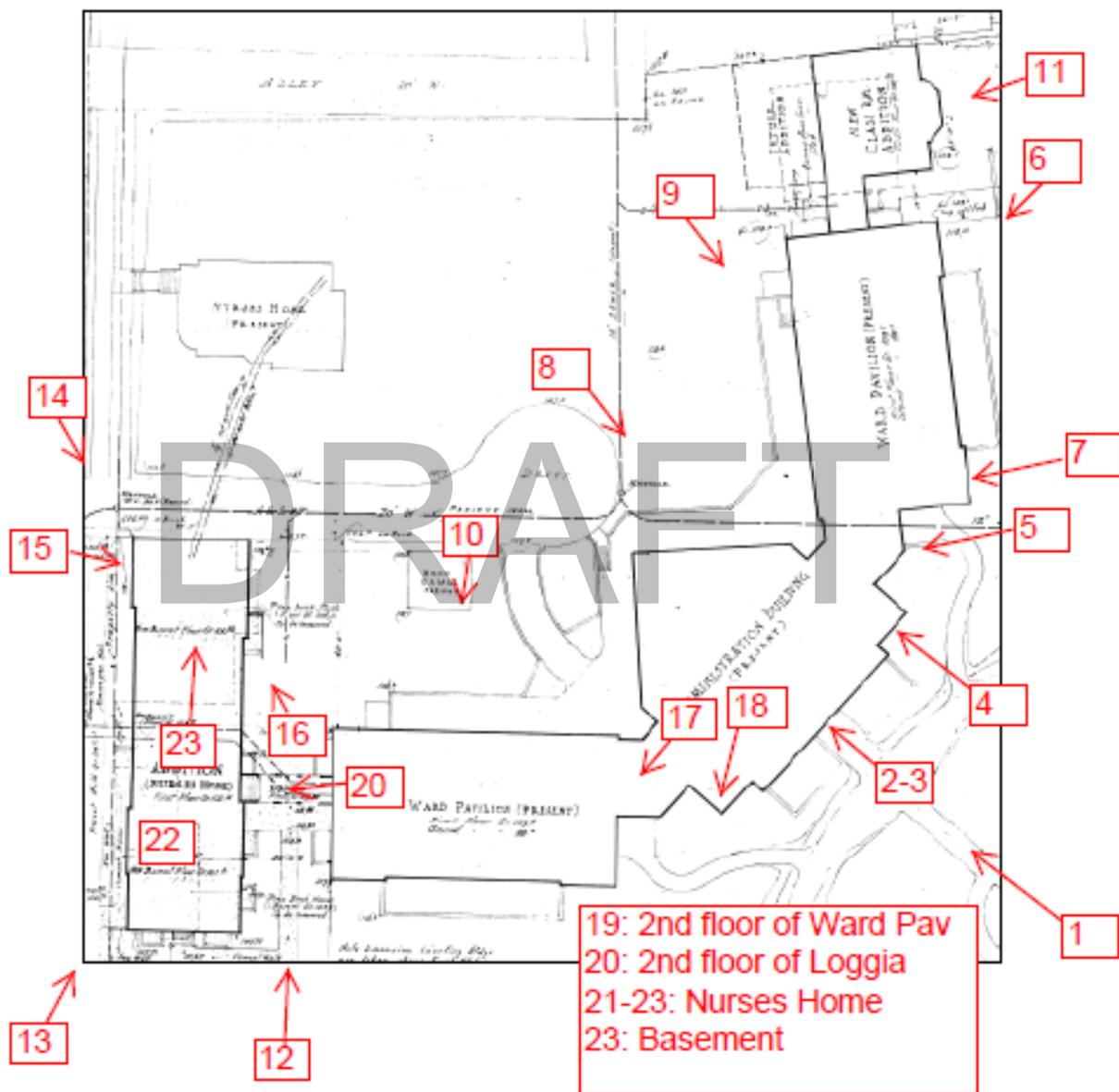


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**Photo Key:** Existing Photographs, Matt Bivens.



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**Appendix 1:**

Shriners Hospitals in Operation and dates of their openings:

Shreveport Unit, Shreveport, Louisiana – September 16, 1922

Honolulu Unit, Honolulu, Hawaii – January 2, 1923

Twin Cities Unit, Minneapolis, Minnesota – March 12, 1923

San Francisco Unit, San Francisco, California – June 16, 1923

Portland Unit, Portland, Oregon – January 15, 1924

**St. Louis Unit, St. Louis, Missouri – April 8, 1924**

Spokane Unit, Spokane, Washington – November 15, 1924

Intermountain Unit, Salt Lake City, Utah – January 22, 1925

Montreal Unit, Montreal, Quebec, Canada – February 18, 1925

Springfield Unit, Springfield, Massachusetts – February 21, 1925

Winnipeg Unit, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – March 16, 1925

Chicago Unit, Chicago, Illinois – March 20, 1926

Philadelphia Unit, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – June 24, 1926

Lexington Unit, Lexington, Kentucky – November 1, 1926

Greenville Unit, Greenville, South Carolina – September 1, 1927

Mexico City Unit, Mexico City, Mexico – March 10, 1945

Los Angeles Unit, Los Angeles, California – March 1, 1952



1920

1920

WASHINGTON U  
724 S. EUCLID  
1ST DOOR AT RIGHT  
→

SPRINTERS HOSPITALS  
FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN  
A.D. 1922



1ST DOOR AT RIGHT







4565  
Clayton Ave.  
724  
S. Euclid







PATIENT  
USE ONLY  
ENTRANCE

214-739-9238





4570

RESERVED  
PARKING  
DS9109  


BARNES JEWISH  
Hospital

BJC HealthCare

PATIENT  
LATTER AND USE  
FRANCE  
BY REQUEST

AB  
ACKER









4570

For your health  
No Smoking or Tobacco Use  
Tobacco Free  
Please do not use tobacco products  
on this property.





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EXIT

AED

AED in Charge











