

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 Copley Hospital

other names/site number Aurora Hospital, Copley Memorial Hospital

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 301 Weston Avenue not for publication

city or town Aurora vicinity

state Illinois county Kane zip code 60123

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

Robert J. Cappel 03.05.19
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
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:)

Babara Wyatt 4-18-19
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		site
	1	structure
		object
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/Hospital

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Classical Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Georgian Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: BRICK, STONE
roof: SYNTHETICS, SLATE
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Copley Hospital complex is located on a 7.3-acre site at 301 Weston Avenue in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, approximately one mile south of the city's historic downtown. The nominated property contains two contributing buildings, one non-contributing building, and one non-contributing structure. The contributing buildings are Copley Hospital, constructed in six phases from 1888 to 1980, and a Nurses' Dormitory, constructed in 1957. The non-contributing building is a one-story powerhouse built in 1932 that was altered with metal decking circa 1970, losing architectural integrity. The non-contributing structure is a non-historic concrete helipad.

The Copley Hospital complex is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A for HEALTH/MEDICINE, with a period of significance from 1888 to 1970. The Copley Hospital complex contains Aurora's first purpose-built city hospital, dating to 1888. As Aurora grew in population, the hospital added additional blocks in 1916, 1932, 1947, 1970, and 1980 to meet the needs of the city. The hospital maintained a nurses' training school throughout the period of significance, and constructed a nurses' dormitory on the property in 1957 to provide updated housing and educational training facilities. Chicago-based architecture firm Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson designed the 1932, 1947, and 1970 blocks of the hospital, as well as the 1957 nurses' dormitory. Brick cladding and limestone trim characterize the contributing buildings. The 1888 block of the hospital retains its late Victorian design, while the 1916, 1932, and 1947 blocks reflect the Classical Revival style. The 1970 block of the hospital was designed in a Modern Movement style. The 1957 Nurses' Dormitory was designed in the Georgian Revival style using modern-era materials like cast concrete. Copley Hospital closed in 1995 when the institution constructed a modern facility in the southeast area of Aurora. The buildings in the Copley Hospital complex retain integrity to express their historic function and significance as a primary health care institution and nursing school in Aurora.

Physical Description

Setting and Site

The Copley Hospital complex is located on a 7.3-acre site at 301 Weston Avenue in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois (*Figure 1*). The nominated property is situated in south-central Aurora, 0.3 miles southeast of the Fox River and approximately one mile south of the city's historic downtown (*Figure 2*). The irregularly-shaped parcel is bound by Seminary Avenue to the south, S. Lincoln Avenue to the west, and Weston Avenue to the north. The east boundary is formed by a north-south paved drive between Weston and Seminary avenues.

Copley Hospital was constructed in multiple blocks from 1888 through 1980. It lies within a predominantly residential neighborhood of Aurora that developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The C.M. Bardwell Elementary School, constructed in the Collegiate Gothic style in 1929 by the Llewellyn Company of Chicago, is to the south of the nominated property. Two-story frame dwellings from the late nineteenth century line Seminary Avenue south of the hospital and S. Lincoln Avenue to the west. A two-story brick medical building, unassociated with the nominated property, and a paved parking lot are located across Weston Avenue to the north. A small paved parking lot abuts the nominated property's east boundary; the parking lot was associated with the hospital but was constructed after the period of significance and has been excluded from the nomination boundary.¹ Two-story brick and frame historic dwellings line residential streets farther east of the property.

The 7.3-acre nominated parcel encompasses the land associated with Copley Hospital throughout the period of significance from 1888 to 1970. The property is comprised of two contributing buildings (Copley Hospital and the

¹ Historic aerials indicate the parking lot was constructed between 1974 and 1994.

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Nurses' Dormitory), one non-contributing building (a powerhouse), and one non-contributing structure (a helipad) (*Figure 3*). Copley Hospital, consisting of several construction phases from 1888 to 1980, the Nurses' Dormitory (1957), and the powerhouse (1932, substantially altered) are clustered in the west and center portions of the property. In the southwest corner of the parcel is a small paved parking lot surrounded by grass curb strips with concrete coping. Three historic frame houses, used by Copley Hospital as nurses' housing and a rehabilitation center, were demolished in 1965 to create the parking lot. The hospital and dormitory are arranged in an "L" configuration.² The space between the buildings and the public roads bounding the property are landscaped with grass lawns, a few deciduous trees, curb strips with concrete coping, and pedestrian sidewalks. Non-historic chain link fencing separates the sidewalks from the property. The paved courtyard between the buildings is overgrown with weeds and small trees, and the pavement is cracked and deteriorating. South of the hospital's 1970 block is a paved parking area and driveway minimally landscaped with grass medians.³ The east side of the property features a large paved parking area landscaped with trees, low shrubs, and street lighting. The east portion of the site was partially used for hospital parking in the 1960s. Between 1974 and 1994, it attained its current configuration of landscaping and paved parking space. A non-historic circular concrete helipad is located at the northeast corner of the hospital; it was constructed between 1974 and 1994, after the period of significance.

Copley Hospital Complex

The Copley Hospital complex consists of two contributing buildings, one non-contributing building, and one non-contributing structure. The Copley Hospital (**Contributing building**) is a multi-story building with an irregular footprint constructed in multiple blocks in 1888, 1916, 1932, 1947, 1970, and 1980 (*Figure 4*). The multiple phases of construction represent the hospital's continued expansion to meet the needs of Aurora's citizens. The 1980 block was built after the hospital's historic period of significance and is not a character-defining or significant component of the hospital. The Copley Nurses' Dormitory (**Contributing Building**) was constructed to the south of the hospital in 1957 to provide housing, offices, and instructional space for the hospital's nursing school. A power plant was built in 1932 to the southeast of the hospital; it is a **Non-contributing Building** because it was sheathed in corrugated metal in the 1970s after the period of significance and has lost architectural integrity. A circular concrete helipad was built between 1974 and 1994 to the east of the hospital's 1970 block. It is a **Non-contributing Structure** because it was built after the period of significance of the nominated property.

Resource Overview:

1) Copley Hospital (Contributing Building)

- 1888 Block – Architect; Ferris J. Minium (carpenter) and L.H. Waterhouse (mason)
- 1916 Block – Architect; Worst and Shepardson
- 1932 Block – Architect; Schmidt, Garden and Erikson
- 1947 Block – Architect; Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson
- 1970 Block – Architect; Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson (Paul McCurray)
- 1980 Block – Architect; Matthei and Colin (non-contributing to the significance of the hospital)

2) Copley Nurses' Dormitory (Contributing Building)

- Constructed 1957 – Architect; Schmidt, Garden and Erikson

3) Powerhouse (Non-contributing Building)

- Constructed 1932, altered circa 1970 – Builder Unknown

4) Helipad (Non-contributing Structure)

- Constructed between 1974 and 1994 – Builder Unknown

² The hospital and dormitory are not interconnected.

³ Historic aerials show this parking area attained its current appearance between 1974 and 1994.

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1) Copley Hospital (Contributing Building)

1888 Block

The 1888 block of Copley Hospital was the first portion of the building to be constructed (*Figure 8*). The two-and-one-half-story and basement red brick building with cross-gabled roof and floorplan was built by carpenter Ferris J. Minium and mason L.H. Waterhouse. It faces northwest towards S. Lincoln Avenue. The center mass of the block has a side-gabled roof, with full-height front-gabled wings projecting from the centers of the west façade and east (rear) elevation. A historic wood cupola at the intersection of the roofs was removed between 1947 and 1957. The roof tiles are non-historic asphalt shingles. The building has a limestone foundation with a rough-face coursed limestone water table and red brick cladding. The west and east gables feature historic decorative wood fish-scale shingles. The first and second-story window openings contain historic rough-face limestone sills and flat-arch lintels with brick voussoirs. Round-arch window openings in the upper half-story of the west and east wings intersect with the fish-scale shingled gables and feature historic wood arched lintels and rough-face limestone sills. The cornice at the south elevation has historic dentiled wood trim. Windows throughout the building are primarily historic two-over-two double-hung wood sash. Several windows have been boarded with painted plywood for security.

The west (primary) façade has seven bays at the first story and six bays at the second. At the first story, bays three through five are within the front-gabled wing. The primary entrance at the fifth bay contains a pair of historic double-leaf wood paneled doors with glazing in the upper halves and a transom above. The doors are boarded with painted plywood. A historic one-story, one-bay-wide wood porch with a front-gabled roof shelters the entrance. The porch features rough-face limestone block plinths, paired turned wood porch columns, wood bargeboard trim, and a wood gable with geometric wood panels and lettering reading "1888". The remaining bays on the west façade contain windows.

The south elevation has two window bays at the first story. The second story features a historic centered wood bay window supported with two heavy wood scroll brackets. The projection has one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows and the cornice features dentiled wood trim. Above the bay window in the upper-half story is an ocular window opening with header brick trim; the window is boarded with plywood. A historic two-story addition with a shallow-pitch gabled roof and a square footprint projects from the southeast corner of the building. The wood-frame addition with red brick cladding and a limestone foundation and water table was constructed as a dining room for the hospital in 1905 (*Figure 9*). Window openings on the addition have historic limestone sills and segmented-arch lintels with brick voussoirs. A plain wood frieze ornaments the cornice. Windows in the addition are primarily historic two-over-two and one-over-one double-hung wood sash; most are boarded with plywood. The east elevation of the addition has three bays on the first and second stories. The window in the center bay on the second story retains historic wood-frame sidelights. A non-historic one-story addition with wood plank and plywood siding is attached to the east elevation of the 1888 block. It shelters a concrete ramp leading into the building. A non-historic five-story concrete masonry unit stairwell is attached to the north elevation of the 1888 block and facilitates the interior connection with the hospital's 1916 block.

Interior

The interior of the 1888 block retains its historic configuration, consisting of three floors and a basement. The historic layout on each floor is largely retained and consists of patient rooms clustered around a central hall and stairwell, with an addition containing a dining room projecting from the southeast side of the block (*Figure 5*). A historic light well in the center of the 1888 block is also retained. The interior condition is generally poor due to lack of maintenance, water damage and graffiti, although several historic finishes and materials are intact. The basement of the 1888 block is unfinished, as it was historically, and has concrete floors and painted brick and stone walls.

The primary entrance to the first floor is on the west elevation. The historic double-leaf entrance doors are wood paneled with glazing in the upper half and a transom above. The entrance opens onto a small vestibule, with non-

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historic wood paneled wainscoting and historic plaster upper walls. A historic wood paneled door with glazing and surrounding wood-frame sidelights and transom leads to a short hall with a deteriorating historic plaster ceiling and non-historic wood wall paneling (*Photo 16*). The hall accesses patient rooms, which retain their historic size and historic wood paneled doors with wood jambs and wood-frame transoms. The first-floor central hall and many of the first-floor patient rooms received non-historic ceramic tile flooring in the past; the tile has been damaged or removed in the hall and many rooms, revealing the floor substrate. The patient rooms have a mixture of non-historic wallpaper and non-historic wood wall paneling. The windows in the patient rooms retain historic wood sashes and historic wood trim, jambs, decorative corner blocks, and sills. The patient rooms have either deteriorated plaster ceilings with peeling non-historic wallpaper, or non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. The 1905 dining room addition at the southeast corner of the block retains its historic unpartitioned volume of space. The floor is unfinished, the ceiling has non-historic acoustic dropped tiles, and the walls have non-historic wood paneling. The dining room windows retain historic wood sashes and wood jambs.

The historic wood central stairwell provides access to the upper floors. The wood steps and newel post are deteriorated on the first floor (*Photo 16*). A historic light well in the ceiling at the center of the second floor, at the top of the stairwell, is retained (*Photo 19*). The historic wood newel post is standing on the second floor. The second floor is arranged as the first. The hall has some historic hardwood flooring and some non-historic ceramic tile flooring, and historic plaster walls and ceiling. The flooring and plaster are in poor condition. The patient rooms off the hall have historic painted wood paneled doors and jambs with decorative corner blocks (*Photo 18*); some have historic wood-frame transoms. The rooms have historic plaster walls with peeling non-historic wallpaper and plaster ceilings. Some of the patient rooms have historic hardwood flooring in poor condition. The windows in the patient rooms retain historic wood sashes and historic wood jambs. A historic wood fireplace mantle is retained in one of the rooms (*Photo 17*).

The third floor is accessed via the historic stairwell. The third-floor hall is square-shaped and surrounds the central light well. A historic wood balustrade with turned wood balusters surrounds the light well opening. The hall has historic hardwood flooring in poor condition. The historic plaster ceilings are sloped, conforming to the roofline. Four patient rooms are accessed off each side of the hall. The rooms retain historic painted wood paneled doors and jambs with decorative corner blocks. The rooms have sloped plaster walls with peeling wallpaper and plaster ceilings. The floors are unfinished. The windows retain historic wood jambs with decorative corner blocks and sills.

1916 Block

The 1916 block of Copley Hospital, designed by Aurora-based architects Worst and Shepardson, was the second portion of the hospital to be constructed (*Figure 10*). The 31,400-square-foot, five-story brick rectangular building was completed at the southeast corner of S. Lincoln and Weston avenues. The short south elevation of the 1916 block was attached to the north elevation of the 1888 block. The primary entrance of Copley Hospital was reoriented to the north end of the west façade of the 1916 block, facing S. Lincoln Avenue, and the 1888 block was repurposed as a nurses' residence.

The 1916 block has a rectangular footprint and fire-proof construction with steel reinforced hollow tile partition walls and hollow tile flooring with reinforced concrete beams. The exterior is clad with a textured brownish-red brick. It has a flat roof and a raised parapet with limestone coping. The coping is deteriorated and missing in portions along the south and east elevations. The parapet is stepped at the north elevation and the north end of the west façade. The foundation has Bedford limestone trim, and limestone sill courses ornament the building elevations at the second and fifth stories. A terra cotta lintel course runs along the elevations at the fifth story. The cornice on the south, west, and north elevations has a parged frieze that historically was ornamental terra cotta with modillions. Window openings on each elevation have limestone sills and flat brick lintels. Unless otherwise noted, windows on all elevations are historic six-over-six double-hung wood sash.⁴

⁴ The original windows were one-over-one with an awning-style lower sash. They were replaced by the 1930s with six-over-six

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The north elevation has four bays on the first and second stories and three bays on the upper stories. On the first story, all bays are secured with non-historic metal bars. From east to west, the third bay on the first story contains an entrance with historic double-leaf wood paneled doors with six-light glazing in the upper halves. The entrance is boarded on the exterior with painted plywood. On the second story, the second bay contains a short one-over-one window. On the fifth story, the outer bays contain historic fixed metal-frame windows with five lights corresponding to the historic operating rooms on the interior. A slanted multi-light metal-frame upper sash on each window is covered with metal decking.

The west elevation is eleven bays wide at each story. On the first story, a historic addition constructed circa 1950 as a dining room spans the central seven bays. The addition has a concrete foundation, red brick cladding, and a flat roof with concrete coping. The center portion of the addition's west façade is curved and contains a wide glass block window. The addition covered the building's original primary entrance, which was sheltered with a Classical Revival-style limestone portico with Doric columns.⁵ Upper bays primarily contain paired six-over-six windows. On the fifth story, the first bay from the north is bricked in; this is a historic design feature, as the bay corresponds to an original operating room. In the upper stories, the fourth bay from the north contains eight-over-eight double-hung wood windows, and the tenth bay contains short four-over-four wood windows.

The south elevation is covered by a non-historic five-story concrete masonry unit stairwell. The east elevation has seven bays that are exposed on the upper stories. The north portion of the east elevation was concealed with the construction of the 1932 block. The first and fourth bays from the north have single windows, and the remaining bays have paired windows. A soldier brick stringcourse ornaments the cornice on this elevation. A historic one-story addition dating to the 1950s projects from the first story. It has red brick cladding and a flat roof. Its east elevation has eight bays. The south bay contains double-leaf metal doors with glazing. The remaining bays are boarded. The roof has a penthouse with hollow tile walls and stucco cladding. Three window bays on the penthouse's west and north elevations contain wood sashes with missing lights and stone sills.

Interior

The interior of the 1916 block largely retains its historic layout, featuring a central length-wise double-loaded corridor lined with patient rooms (*Figure 6*). The block's historic stairwell and elevator shaft are located in the northeast section of the building. The stairwell has historic utilitarian metal stairs and handrails with balusters. The elevator cab has non-historic utilitarian metal doors. A non-historic enclosed fire escape with metal stairs and handrails is at the south elevation. The interior condition of finishes is generally poor due to lack of maintenance, water damage, vandalism, and graffiti. Throughout the building, the flooring has been removed or has deteriorated, revealing the substrate.

The corridors in the block have deteriorated flooring, hollow-tile walls with deteriorating plaster and peeling non-historic wallpaper, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings; the tiles have been removed in several of the corridors, revealing the historic plaster ceiling above (*Photo 20*). The patient rooms have non-historic wood and metal entrance doors, and retain their historic size. The patient rooms have deteriorated non-historic tile or carpet flooring, plaster walls - some with peeling non-historic wallpaper, and non-historic dropped tile ceilings (*Photos 22, 24*). Some of the patient rooms have non-historic wood wall paneling. Some of the patient rooms retain historic painted wood window sills and jambs.

A dining room addition, constructed on the first floor at the west elevation of the building, retains its historic unpartitioned volume of space. The dining room has deteriorated non-historic vinyl composite tile flooring, peeling non-historic wallpaper, and a deteriorated dropped tile metal grid at the ceiling (*Photo 21*). On the fifth floor, portions of the corridor retain historic mosaic tile flooring. The historic operating suites at the north end of the fifth floor are

double-hung wood sash windows.

⁵ The portico is not extant and was presumably removed with the construction of the 1950s dining room addition.

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also retained. The suites have historic mosaic tile flooring, historic square ceramic tile wainscoting, historic metal built-in cabinetry, and historic metal-frame canted skylights, designed to allow copious amounts of light into the room for operations (*Photo 23*).

1932 Block

The 1932 block of Copley Hospital was the third portion of the building constructed (*Figure 10*). The 47,000-square-foot, six-story brick building with a prominent penthouse was designed by Chicago-based architects Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson in the Classical Revival style. The rectangular building was constructed facing Weston Avenue with its west elevation attached to the north portion of the 1916 block's east elevation. The hospital's primary entrance was reoriented to the center of the north façade of the 1932 block.

The 1932 block has a rectangular footprint, a symmetrical façade, and fire-proof construction with a reinforced concrete structure and floors and reinforced hollow tile walls. The roof is flat with a raised parapet with stone coping. A prominent penthouse with a pyramidal roof with standing-seam metal decking rises from the center. The exterior of the building is clad with red face brick, except for the first two stories of the north façade, which are clad with coursed ashlar limestone blocks. A stone sill course at the third story is present on the north façade, capping the stone cladding, and on the south elevation. A stone sill course ornaments the fifth and sixth stories on the north façade and south elevation. Unless otherwise noted, the windows in the 1932 block have a stone surround, a flat lintel, and non-historic one-over-one aluminum-frame sash.

The north façade is twelve bays wide up to the fifth floor. At the center of the façade is a three-bay-wide enclosed entrance portico with a pedimented roof and stone cladding. The center bay is two stories tall and is flanked by one-story bays. The outer bays are ornamented with a carved Greek key pattern at the cornice. The east bay contains a boarded window opening with non-historic metal security bars and a carved festoon stone panel above. The two-story center bay is topped with a triangular pediment. It features a round-arch window opening flanked with pairs of fluted pilasters. The historic window has a twenty-light wood fixed sash with a round-arch fanlight. It is boarded from the exterior with painted plywood. The west bay contains a recessed, boarded entrance within a stone surround topped with a carved festoon stone panel. The door is a single-leaf wood slab with glazing in the upper half and a historic four-light transom. The third bay from the east on the first story contains a metal door. The remaining bays on the first story contain single boarded windows and have metal security bars. The bays on the second story are boarded with painted plywood. All twelve bays on the third through the fifth story have single non-historic windows, with the exception of the fifth bay from the east, which has historic six-over-six double-hung wood windows.

The sixth story of the north façade has eleven bays. Starting from the east, bays one through four, nine, and eleven have flat-arch lintels with exaggerated stone corner blocks and keystones. They contain non-historic one-over-one windows. The fifth and seventh bays are ornamented with horizontal stacked stone blocks. The windows have projecting stone surrounds, flat-arch lintels with exaggerated keystones, and are topped with a stone panel with a carved laurel wreath. The fifth bay contains a historic four-over-four double-hung wood window and the seventh bay contains a non-historic window. The sixth, eighth, and tenth bays contain tripartite segmented-arch windows with non-historic metal sashes and infill within the arch. The sixth bay has a projecting stone surround with a keystone topped with a carved stone laurel wreath. The eighth and tenth bays have brick lintels with stone keystones. The penthouse at the seventh story is centered in and flush with the north façade, and is three bays wide. It has brick cladding, a stone stringcourse, and six evenly-spaced unfluted stone pilasters on its east elevation. The cornice has a stone frieze with stone rosette medallions. The east bay contains a historic four-over-four wood sash window. The center bay contains a pair of non-historic one-over-one windows with infill above and a flat stone lintel with a stone rosette medallion panel. The center bay is topped with a stone round-arch panel with a brick lintel and stone keystone. The panel contains a historic wood-frame multi-light oculus window framed with a carved stone laurel wreath. Decorative brick panels and metal louvers fill the wall above the stringcourse and below the cornice. Shorter penthouse wings with flat roofs flank the main penthouse and are stepped back from the roof parapet. They have brick cladding, stone pilasters, and non-historic one-over-one windows. The upper portions of the north and south elevation

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of the penthouse have historic six-light wood casement windows, decorative brick panels, and punched openings with metal louvers.

The east elevation of the 1932 block is connected to the north portion of the west elevation of the 1947 block. The south elevation is eleven bays wide on the first through the fifth stories. The upper roof of an underground laundry facility fronts the first story. On the first through the fifth stories, the third, sixth, and ninth bays contain paired non-historic windows, and the remaining bays contain single non-historic windows. On the fifth story, the paired windows have segmented-arch brick lintels with stone panels and keystones. The sixth story has seventeen bays; each contains a single non-historic one-over-one window. The six outer bays have flat-arch lintels with stone corner blocks and keystones. The seventh and eleventh bays have shorter windows and are articulated with stacked stone panels and topped with carved stone laurel wreaths. The penthouse at the seventh level is flush with the elevation. It has brick cladding, a stone stringcourse, and six evenly-spaced unfluted stone pilasters. Five bays are filled with non-historic one-over-one windows with infill above. Brick panels and punched openings with metal louvers fill the wall above the stringcourse and below the cornice. The cornice features a stone frieze with stone rosette medallions.

Interior

The historic interior layout of the 1932 block is largely retained (*Figure 6*). Each floor is characterized by a double-loaded east-west corridor lined with patient rooms. Circulation in the building is facilitated by the historic stairwell and elevator lobby with two cabs; both are located in the northeast section of the block. The historic stairwell has concrete steps and metal handrails. The elevators have non-historic metal doors. The elevator lobbies on each floor have deteriorated non-historic vinyl composite tile flooring, peeling plaster walls, and a non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceiling (*Photo 27*). The interior condition of the building is poor due to lack of maintenance, vandalism, water damage, and graffiti.

The corridors in the building have deteriorated vinyl composite tile flooring, hollow-tile walls with deteriorating plaster and peeling non-historic wallpaper, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. The sixth-floor corridor has non-historic viewing panes with broken glazing along some of the patient rooms (*Photo 28*). The patient rooms throughout the building have non-historic wood composite entrance doors, deteriorated non-historic vinyl composite tile flooring, peeling plaster walls, and deteriorated non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. Some of the patient rooms have non-historic wood wall paneling. A few patient rooms on the third floor retain historic terrazzo flooring.

On the first floor, at the center of the north elevation, the historic public reception room and doctor's study are extant. The public reception room retains a historic barrel-vaulted ceiling with deteriorated plaster. It has a historic round-arch window with historic wood multi-light sash and trim, historic wood wall paneling, and historic wood triangular pediments over wall alcoves (*Photo 25*). The doctor's study also retain sits historic wood wall paneling and wood-frame sidelights (*Photo 26*).

1947 Block

The 1947 block of Copley Hospital was the fourth portion of the building constructed (*Figure 10*). It was designed by Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson, who also designed the 1932 block. The 39,000-square-foot, six-story rectangular building is connected to the east elevation of the 1932 block and was designed as a complimentary wing; when it was constructed, the hospital's primary entrance remained at the Weston Avenue side of the 1932 block.

The six-story 1947 block has a rectangular footprint and a flat roof with a parapet with limestone coping. It is of fire-proof construction with a reinforced concrete structure and floors and reinforced hollow tile walls. It has red brick cladding with stone quoining at the corners and limestone trim at the foundation on the north façade. Limestone sill courses ornament the north façade at the third and fifth stories. Square stone panels ornament the wall above the fifth story. The sixth story is recessed and clad with coursed ashlar limestone masonry. The sixth story has a truncated hipped roof with standing seam metal decking. A small rectangular penthouse with brick cladding and a front-gabled roof with standing seam metal decking rises from the west portion of the sixth story. Unless otherwise noted, all

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windows are non-historic one-over-one aluminum-frame sash. Several window bays are boarded with plywood, and many window sashes have broken lights. Window bays on the fifth story have flat-arch limestone surrounds. Window bays on the sixth story have segmented-arch limestone surrounds with keystones.

The north façade of the 1947 wing has three window bays on the first through the fifth stories. The first-story windows are secured with metal bars. Bays on the first and second stories have projecting limestone surrounds, and the bays on the fifth story have flat limestone surrounds. The sixth story contains four window bays.

One column of window bays at the north portion of the east elevation is visible. The remainder of the north portion of the east elevation is concealed by a non-historic seven-story concrete masonry unit stair tower with a flat roof, constructed circa 1970. South of the circulation tower, the third through the sixth stories of the east elevation are visible. The first two stories are concealed by the 1970 block of the hospital. The third through the fifth stories each have five window bays, and the recessed sixth story has four window bays.

On the south elevation the first two stories are concealed by an abutting “L”-shaped corrugated metal shed addition with a concrete loading dock and a flat roof with concrete posts that projects over the dock, constructed circa 1970. The 1947 block is not interconnected with the metal shed addition. The covered shed connects to the 1932 powerhouse to the south. Above the shed, the third through the fifth stories of the south elevation have three window bays, and the sixth story has one window bay with missing sash.

The north portion of the first story of the west elevation of the 1947 block is fronted by the roof of an underground laundry facility. At the south end of the west elevation is a semi-circular one-story projection that housed a lecture hall. It has brick cladding and a flat roof with concrete coping. The second story has five unevenly-spaced window bays. The third through the sixth stories have seven window bays. The recessed, stone-clad sixth story has four window bays. One bay has missing sash and the others have heavily deteriorated historic six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The brick-clad penthouse has three window bays at the sixth story that are flush with the plane of the 1947 block and align with the sixth story of the 1932 block. These window bays have segmented-arch brick lintels with stone keystones. The seventh-story portion of the brick penthouse contains rectangular metal vents.

Interior

The interior of the 1947 block retains its historic layout featuring a central double-loaded north-south corridor lined with rooms (*Figure 6*). A historic stairwell with concrete stairs and metal railing is located in the southeast section of the building. A historic elevator is located in the northeast section of the building. The elevator has non-historic metal doors (*Photo 29*). The interior condition of the building is poor due to lack of maintenance, vandalism, water damage, and graffiti.

The corridors in the building have deteriorated vinyl composite tile flooring, historic hollow-tile walls with deteriorating plaster and peeling non-historic wallpaper, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. The patient rooms have deteriorated non-historic vinyl composite tile floors, plaster walls with peeling non-historic wallpaper, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. Some patient rooms have non-historic wood wall paneling.

1970 Block

The 1970 block of Copley Hospital was the fifth portion of the building to be constructed (*Figure 12*). Designed by Paul McCurray of Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson, the six-story building with two-story wing was connected to the east elevation of the 1947 block. The hospital’s primary entrance was reoriented to the east elevation of the 1970 block, at the base of the reinforced-concrete stair tower. The 1970 block nearly doubled the size of the hospital. It was designed in the Modern Movement style, allowing it to remain visually distinguishable from the hospital’s historic blocks. It occupies the east portion of the hospital site, which historically was occupied by two-story residences and a parking lot for staff. The 1970 block’s connection to the 1947 block’s east elevation allowed the historic hospital blocks to remain visually distinguishable.

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The six-story 1970 block is of steel and concrete construction with a flat roof. It has an irregular footprint formed by its projecting two-story wing along the south elevation of the six-story primary mass. The exterior is clad with red brick. The center portions of the north and south elevations of the primary mass project outward slightly. The north and south elevations are characterized by eight window-wall bays that run the full height of the building, forming continuous vertical window strips. Vertical concrete fins emphasize the bays, which are filled with aluminum-frame fixed windows. Several windows have damaged or missing glazed panels. The first story of the north elevation contains bays framed with concrete fins and filled with six full-height fixed aluminum-frame windows. The outer windows in each bay are covered with metal security bars.

The east façade of the 1970 block has a brick-clad full-height center wing that projects from the primary mass of the building. The wing is characterized by a centered, curved reinforced concrete stair tower that rises one story above the building. The concrete exterior is textured with vertical grooves. The 1970 block's entrance is at the base of the tower, sheltered by a thick painted concrete awning supported by four square concrete columns. Entrance doors are single-leaf aluminum-frame with missing glazing; they have been boarded with plywood for security.

A two-story wing projects from the south elevation. The wing is clad with red brick and has eight bays, delineated by concrete fins that are devoid of fenestration. The west elevation of the wing is abutted by the 1947 block, an attached metal shed built concurrently with the 1970 block, and the northeast corner of the 1932 powerhouse, which was sheathed with a metal exoskeleton and metal decking in the 1970s. At the west end of the south elevation of the two-story wing is a secondary entrance for patients arriving via ambulance. It is sheltered by a concrete awning with a flat roof and grooved concrete square columns.

Interior

The interior of the 1970 block retains its original layout (*Figure 6*). The first floor is characterized by an O-shaped double-loaded corridor with the longer sides of the corridor running east-west. The second floor has a long east-west double-loaded corridor at the north end of the building, and an H-shaped double-loaded corridor in the south portion within the building's two-story wing. The second floor of the wing contains original surgery suites. The upper floors are organized with a double-loaded O-shaped corridor as on the first floor. Original stairwells are located in the east and west ends of the building. The stairwells have metal steps and railings. An original elevator lobby with six cabs is located in the northwest portion of the building. The elevator lobbies have deteriorating floors, ceramic tile and wood paneled wall cladding, and acoustic tile dropped ceilings (*Photo 33*). The block contains additional patient rooms (original), a large first-floor lobby in the east end of the first floor (original), and a maternity ward on the south end of the fifth floor (original). The interior of the building is in poor condition due to lack of maintenance, water damage, graffiti, and vandalism.

The finishes on the interior of the building are a mix of original and later, non-historic materials; all are in poor condition and the exact origin of the materials is difficult to discern. On the first floor, the primary entrance at the east end leads to a small vestibule within the reinforced-concrete stair tower. The stairwell is at the south side of the vestibule. The vestibule has tile flooring and a deteriorated plaster ceiling (*Photo 30*). The entrance contains non-historic, automatic sliding, aluminum-frame glazed doors. Beyond the vestibule is an original reception lobby with square tile flooring, linoleum-tiled ceiling, and wood and plastic reception counter (*Photo 31*). The corridors have deteriorated vinyl composite tile flooring, gypsum board walls with vinyl-paper cladding or ceramic tile cladding, and acoustic tile dropped ceilings. Patient rooms have non-historic vinyl composite tile flooring, vinyl-papered walls, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings. The second-floor surgical suites have deteriorated vinyl composite tile flooring, ceramic tile wall cladding, and acoustic tile dropped ceilings. The maternity rooms on the fifth floor have deteriorated flooring, vinyl-papered walls, and acoustic tile dropped ceilings.

1980 Block

The 1980 block of Copley Hospital was the sixth and final portion of the building completed. It was constructed after the period of significance of Copley Hospital, and is not a contributing element of the hospital. It was designed as a

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cancer treatment center by the Chicago-based firm of Matthei and Colin. The west elevation of the small, one-story block is connected to the east elevation of the 1970 block's two-story wing.

The 1980 block has an irregular footprint and a flat roof and is of steel and concrete construction with grooved precast concrete panel cladding. Window bays on the south elevation of the block contain full-height aluminum-frame fixed windows. Outer windows have metal security bars. The windows have been boarded with painted plywood. A trapezoidal projection at the southeast corner of the block has a slanted aluminum-frame skylight. The northeast elevation of the 1980 block has another bay of boarded aluminum-frame windows with metal security bars.

Interior

The interior of the one-story 1980 block retains its original layout. The interior finishes are all non-historic due to the age of the block; it is difficult to discern if the materials are original or replacement. The interior of the block is in poor condition due to water damage, vandalism, and lack of maintenance. The corridor and patient rooms have gypsum board walls; several walls have damaged portions due to vandalism. The corridor has decomposed vinyl composite tile flooring and an acoustic tile dropped ceiling. Patient treatment rooms have deteriorated vinyl composite tile flooring, gypsum board walls with peeling vinyl-paper, and acoustic tile dropped ceilings.

2) Copley Nurses' Dormitory, 1957 (Contributing Building)

The Copley Nurses' Dormitory was constructed in 1957 and designed by Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson, who also designed the hospital's 1932, 1947, and 1970 blocks (*Figure 11*). The three-and-one-half-story, T-shaped building is located to the south of the historic blocks of the hospital and faces Seminary Avenue. It was designed in a Modern Movement interpretation of the Georgian style, using mid-twentieth-century materials such as concrete. The building provided living quarters and educational facilities for approximately one hundred student nurses. It is not interconnected with the hospital or the powerhouse.

The three-and-one-half-story building has a T-shaped footprint and is of steel frame construction with red brick cladding in a six-course common bond. The building's primary mass faces Seminary Avenue and has a side-gabled roof with slate tiles. A three-story wing with a front-gabled roof with slate tile projects from the center-west side of the north elevation. The roof parapet has concrete coping. At the west and east elevations of the side-gabled primary mass, wide brick chimneys, flush with the wall, break through the roofline and rise above the parapet. Unless otherwise noted, the windows are historic two-over-two double-hung wood sash with flat-arch brick lintels and concrete sills. Many windows are missing glazing and are boarded with plywood.

The south façade is eleven bays wide at each story. On the first story, a concrete portico with a flat roof and four rectangular concrete piers shelters bays four through eight. The portion of the south façade sheltered by the portico has smooth cast stone block cladding. The west and east sides of the portico have concrete walls perforated with a grid of small squares. Under the portico, the fourth through the seventh bays contain windows with security bars, topped with flat-arch lintels with concrete keystones, flanked with cast concrete panels simulating paneled wood shutters. The eighth bay contains the primary entrance, consisting of a single-leaf wood paneled door with a cast stone surround topped with a broken pediment and urn. A concrete accessibility ramp and concrete steps front the entrance. The remaining bays on the façade at all three stories contain windows. On the second story, window bays four through eight (above the portico) are ornamented with cast concrete panels simulating paneled wood shutters and have concrete keystones.

The west elevation of the side-gabled primary mass has three window bays on the first story, and one centered window bay on the second and third stories. The first-story windows have metal security bars. The second-story window has ornamental cast concrete panels simulating paneled shutters and a stone keystone. The third-story window has a concrete keystone and a concrete sill with small concrete brackets. The east elevation of the side-gabled primary mass has two spaced window bays on the first story, and one centered window bay on the second and third stories. The

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second and third-story window bays are ornamented in the same manner as the corresponding bays on the west elevation.

The east portion of the north elevation of the side-gabled primary mass has one bay on the east end of the first story containing a three-part window bay with wood trim and deteriorating wood sash. The center and east portions of the first story have metal vents with projecting ductwork. The second and third stories have five unevenly spaced window bays. The upper half-story has two spaced dormer windows with deteriorated two-over-two wood sashes.

A rectangular front-gabled wing with three-and-one-half stories projects from the center-west of the north elevation. To the west of the front-gabled wing, the north elevation of the side-gabled primary mass has two window bays at each story.

The east elevation of the front-gabled wing has two three-part bay windows with wood trim and boarded sash on the first story. The north portion of the first story of the east elevation is concealed by a small one-story brick addition constructed in the 1970s. The second and third stories each have five window bays. The upper half-story has two dormer windows with deteriorated sashes.

The west elevation of the front-gabled wing has six bays on each story. On the first story, the sixth bay from the north contains a secondary entrance with a paneled wood door with two glazed lights in the upper third, topped with a transom with wood trim. A boarded window flanks the south side of the door. The window and door are secured with metal bars. The remaining bays on the west elevation are window bays.

A four-story brick-clad stair tower with a shallow-pitched side-gabled roof is attached to the north elevation of the front-gabled wing. Each story of the north elevation of the tower has one centered bay. The first-story bay of the tower contains a metal slab door accessed via a concrete stoop with a metal handrail. The upper bays contain windows. A small one-story projection with brick cladding extends from the east elevation of the tower. A one-story wood sunroom with a flat roof projects from the west elevation of the tower. The sunroom has four-over-four wood windows with metal security bars.

Interior

The historic interior layout of the Nurses' Dormitory is largely retained and consists of a "T" shaped floor-plan with larger shared spaces in the south portion and a short north-south corridor with private rooms along the west side in the north portion (*Figure 7*). A historic stairwell is located in the northeast portion of the building. The stairwell has historic metal stairs and railings. In the south portion of the building, shared spaces are situated on the first floor, with private rooms on the upper floors. Some of the private rooms have been repurposed as offices and have non-historic drywall partitions, and a portion of the shared living spaces have been repurposed as a public lobby. The interior is in fair to poor condition due to vandalism and lack of maintenance.

The first-floor corridor has non-historic tile flooring, painted walls, and an exposed ceiling with HVAC ducts. The rooms have deteriorated non-historic vinyl composite tile flooring, painted walls, and non-historic acoustic tile dropped ceilings (*Photo 35*). At the east end of the south portion of the building, a historic shared living space is retained. It has deteriorated flooring, historic wood double-leaf entrance doors, historic wood paneled door surrounds, and historic wood built-in cabinetry and shelving (*Photo 34*).

3) Powerhouse, 1932, substantially altered ca. 1970s, 2000s (Non-contributing Building)

The one-story rectangular powerhouse was constructed to service the hospital in 1932, concurrent with the construction of the hospital's 1932 block. It is located to the south of the hospital's 1947 block, and northeast of the 1957 Nurses Dormitory. The powerhouse is not interconnected with any other buildings in the nominated property. The powerhouse was historically constructed as a one-story and basement rectangular building with concrete floors, steel and concrete reinforced walls with red brick cladding, and a flat roof. It had a stair tower penthouse at its

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northwest corner, a brick chimney at its southeast corner, and a smokestack along the south elevation. The powerhouse was designed with a boiler room in its southern half and in the basement and a laundry room in the northern half of the first story. The interior retains most of its historic unpartitioned volume of space and a stairwell with metal steps, brick walls, and metal railing. When the Nurses' Dormitory was constructed in 1957, a small one-story brick wing of the dormitory was built abutting the southwest corner of the powerhouse.

Several alterations to the powerhouse were done in the 1970s. A metal exoskeleton with corrugated metal decking was attached to all elevations of the powerhouse; the metal decking and exoskeleton is taller than the historic powerhouse. A one-story concrete masonry unit addition (housing mechanical equipment) was built on top of the south half of the building in the 1970s. The construction of the CMU addition and the exoskeleton removed portions of the powerhouse's historic parapet wall. A metal shed with a concrete loading dock was constructed along the powerhouse's north elevation and the north portion of its west elevation. The historic chimney at the southeast corner was also removed, and the stair tower penthouse was rebuilt with CMU. Sometime in the 2000s, the smokestack at the south elevation of the powerhouse was removed. In 2019, portions of the metal cladding were removed to inspect the historic powerhouse structure. The historic windows were removed, and decorative window trim and portions of the parapet were missing. The building is in poor structural condition.

The powerhouse is counted as non-contributing due to the non-historic alterations that occurred in the 1970s and the 2000s. These include not only the metal exoskeleton, but also the removal of historic features, such as the chimney, parapet wall, windows and trim, and smokestack, and the construction of non-historic additions on top of the building and on the north and northwest walls. A Part 1 evaluation of the building in 2018 classified the powerhouse as non-contributing due to a loss of integrity. Through an exploratory partial removal of the metal cladding in 2019, it was determined that the powerhouse would continue to be classified as non-contributing due to non-historic alterations and a loss of integrity.

4) Helipad, 1974-1994 (Non-contributing Structure)

The non-historic circular helipad was constructed between 1974 and 1994 to the east of the 1970 block's east entrance. The pad has concrete coping and is painted with a medical cross. It is encircled by a paved drive with access from Weston Boulevard.

Integrity

The Copley Hospital complex retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance as a primary medical institution and nursing school in Aurora. The hospital institution has occupied the nominated property from 1888 to 1995, and the property has not been in use since it was vacated by the hospital. Most alterations, including the construction of hospital blocks and the updating of finishes, occurred within the period of significance from 1888 to 1970. The exteriors of the contributing buildings in the complex have not received significant alterations after the period of significance and still convey their era of construction. The twenty-three-year period of vacancy, including lack of maintenance and vandalism, following the hospital's departure in 1995 has led to the heavy deterioration of interior finishes. While in poor condition, the interiors of the hospital blocks, particularly in the 1888 and 1916 blocks, retain many historic finishes reflective of their era of construction. Interior character-defining spaces are extant, including double-loaded corridors lined with patient rooms, reception rooms, and surgical suites. Overall, there are sufficient historic materials extant within the hospital and dormitory to convey the historic character of the property.

Exterior

The historic location of the Copley Hospital complex is retained, and none of the contributing buildings have been moved from their historic locations. The historic setting of the Copley Hospital complex is maintained. The

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surrounding blocks retain a historic residential character. Within the nomination boundary, site alterations post-dating the period of significance are the installation of a concrete helipad and the reconfiguration of the parking lot to include more parking spaces and landscaped medians. This was done to support the operations of the hospital and does not alter the setting in a way that hinders the integrity of the complex.

The exterior design of the contributing buildings reflects the period of significance. The design of each phase of the hospital, as well as the nurses' building, is clearly discernable and maintained. The hospital was constructed in six phases in 1888, 1916, 1932, 1947, 1970, and 1980. These blocks of the hospital are interconnected and thus are considered one building. All blocks of the hospital with the exception of the 1980 block occurred within the period of significance of the property. The 1980 block is diminutive in scale and height compared to the other portions of the hospital and does not visually obscure any of the remaining hospital blocks. From various exterior angles, the distinct phases of construction are visible and enhance the ability of the hospital to express its significance by visually conveying how the building expanded as Aurora's population grew.

The historic exterior cladding of all contributing buildings is intact. The 1932 and 1947 hospital blocks have received non-historic one-over-one windows set within the historic window openings. Some historic window openings, particularly in the 1916 and 1888 blocks, are boarded with plywood for security, but the historic windows remain. Several historic window sashes have missing lights due to acts of vandalism. Overall, the historic fenestration patterns, openings, and sills in the contributing buildings are maintained, and many historic window sashes are retained. The late Victorian design of the 1888 block and the Classical Revival style of the 1916, 1932, and 1947 blocks have been maintained. The loss of the historic terra cotta cornice on the 1916 block does not hinder the hospital's ability to express its significance. The Modern Movement design of the 1970 block, including its prominent concrete stair tower, has been retained. The Georgian Revival style of the 1957 nurses' dormitory, expressed through Modern Movement materials such as concrete, is preserved. Within the complex, workmanship is evident in the architectural ornamentation of the Classical Revival style blocks of the hospital, as well as on the Georgian Revival style and Modern Movement details of the nurses' dormitory, such as its poured-in-place concrete portico.

Interior

The interior of the contributing buildings is in near ruinous condition due to the twenty-three-year period of vacancy following the hospital's departure from the complex in 1995. During the period of vacancy, minimal maintenance and acts of vandalism have led to the deterioration of finishes. While in poor condition, the majority of finishes within the interiors of each hospital block and the nurses' dormitory reflect their respective eras of construction. The historic layouts within the buildings are also largely maintained, including character-defining aspects such as double-loaded corridors lined with patient rooms and wards, public reception areas, stairwells and elevator cores, and surgical suites. Door openings along the corridors are historic. The 1916 hospital block retains curved plaster edges around doorways, built-in wood and metal cabinetry in the historic operating suites, and historic ceramic tile wainscoting in the operating suites. Small areas of terrazzo flooring remain in the 1932 block. Non-historic finishes in the hospital blocks and the nurses' dormitory include vinyl composite tile flooring and acoustic tile dropped ceilings. Like the extant historic finishes, these non-historic finishes are also deteriorating. Overall, the historic layout and enough of the historic fabric remains that, despite its poor condition, the property can convey its significance as a hospital and dormitory.

The aspects of feeling and association of the historic property are evident in the contributing buildings. Despite the poor condition of the interiors, the retained historic layouts and the extant historic finishes convey the feeling of a hospital and medical facility. The contributing buildings have been in use by Aurora's only non-sectarian, public hospital throughout the period of significance, and have not been repurposed for other uses since the hospital's departure, leaving the historic layout and character-defining spaces, such as double-loaded corridors lined with patient rooms, public reception rooms, and surgical suites intact.

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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.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health and Medicine

Period of Significance

1888-1970

Significant Dates

1888, 1916, 1932, 1947, 1957, 1970

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Minium, F.J. (1888 hospital)

Worst and Shepardson (1916 hospital block)

Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson (1932, 1947,

1970 hospital blocks; 1957 nurses' dormitory)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Summary of Significance Statement

Copley Hospital⁶, located at 301 Weston Avenue in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, is locally-significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of HEALTH/MEDICINE for the important role it served in providing medical care to the residents of Aurora and the surrounding Fox Valley. In the late nineteenth century, Aurora's civic leaders recognized the need for a public medical care facility to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries. Local industries, particularly the headquarters of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, employed many people in work that was often dangerous and resulted in injury. The not-for-profit Aurora City Hospital Association was formed under state law on April 9, 1886, and immediately began collecting public donations for the construction of a dedicated hospital building. In October of 1888, the Aurora City Hospital opened, providing general medical care, surgical operations, and maternity services. It remained the only hospital in Aurora until 1900. Until 1911, it was the only institution in Aurora to offer maternity beds. The hospital added a block in 1916 that featured two modern surgical suites and a full maternity ward, and expanded the number of patient beds. A generous donation by Ira C. Copley led to the construction of a large block to the hospital in 1932, and the hospital was formally re-named Copley Hospital at that time. The block was designed in the Classical Revival style by the Chicago-based firm Schmidt, Garden and Erikson, noted architects with a national reputation for their hospital designs. Another block was added in 1947, increasing the hospital's capacity to 200 beds for medical, surgical, maternity, and pediatric patients, including thirty infant beds. Copley Hospital provided medical, surgical, and maternity care at the nominated property from 1888 until 1995, making it the oldest and the longest-occupied medical facility in Aurora.

In 1893, Copley Hospital established an accredited school of nursing at the nominated property, which remained the city's only nursing school until 1922. In 1957, the hospital constructed a dedicated Nurses' Dormitory with educational and training rooms, designed by Schmidt, Garden and Erikson in the Georgian Revival style. Copley Hospital's nursing school graduated over 1,100 nurses between its inception in 1893 and 1975.

The nominated property consists of two contributing buildings; these are **Copley Hospital** (with blocks dating to 1888, 1916, 1932, 1947, 1970, and 1980), and the **Nurses' Dormitory** (1957). Within the nomination boundary is a non-contributing powerhouse, constructed in 1932 and altered in the 1970s, resulting in a loss of integrity, and a non-historic helipad, counted as a non-contributing structure. The contributing buildings of Copley Hospital retain integrity to convey their historic functions and the significant role they played in providing medical care for Aurora's residents as well as accredited schooling for nurses and medical staff. The period of significance is **1888**, when the original Aurora City Hospital building was opened, through **1970**, the year the last major block of Copley Hospital was completed.

Elaboration

Aurora's Urban Development and Medical Institutions

The city of Aurora, Illinois, was founded by brothers Joseph and Samuel McCarty. Joseph McCarty, of Scotch and English heritage, arrived in the present-day area of Aurora in 1834. He was soon followed by his brother Samuel, and the two men purchased land and constructed a mill and dam on the Fox River. The first plat of the city of Aurora was laid out on the McCarty's land in the winter of 1835-1836, and soon a road and a stage coach line passed through the small town.⁷ By 1837, Aurora had a post office, stores, and a tavern, and additional pioneers and their families settled in the town. When the settlement officially incorporated as the village of Aurora in 1847, it had about 100 inhabitants.⁸ Aurora's location on the Fox River encouraged the development of mills and factories. The establishment of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy

⁶ Copley Hospital opened as the Aurora City Hospital in 1888. In 1932, the hospital was re-named Copley Hospital. In 1947, it was re-named Copley Memorial Hospital. In local parlance, the nominated property is referred to as "Old Copley Hospital."

⁷ Vernon Derry, *Aurora in the Beginning*, (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1953), 23.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 27.

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Railroad's headquarters in Aurora in the 1850s brought a large influx of new residents and increased commercial activity in the town.

By 1875, Aurora had grown into a bustling city with a population of 12,316.⁹ Multiple commercial enterprises operated in the city, including fifteen dry goods stores, twenty-six grocers, nine real estate brokers, eight shoe stores, eight dentists, six hotels, six hardware stores, and three florists.¹⁰ Seven druggists supported the city's physicians. This was also an era in which "miracle tonics" curing an assortment of ailments were peddled by salesmen to willing customers. Several industries and manufacturing works operated in the city, including the Love Brothers Iron Foundry, which opened in 1878, and the Wilcox Company, which opened in 1880 and manufactured carpet sweepers.¹¹ In 1881, Aurora became one of the first cities to illuminate its public streets with an extensive network of electric street lamps.¹² In 1883, the city's first horse-drawn trolleys began operating.¹³ By 1891, the city had electric streetcars. Aurora continued to thrive, and the city's population surpassed 30,000 in 1910.¹⁴ By 1914, the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago streetcar operated over 20 miles of electric streetcars in the city, facilitating travel between its urban and residential neighborhoods.¹⁵ Numerous interurban trains easily allowed passengers to visit Aurora for medical care from other towns.

The growth of Aurora from a small village into a vibrant urban city encouraged the establishment of medical care facilities. In 1874, Dr. Frederick Pond opened the city's first private medical office, called Dr. Pond's Medical and Surgical Center, west of downtown.¹⁶ The brick building was four stories tall with over three hundred beds.¹⁷ As was not uncommon in the late nineteenth century, Dr. Pond claimed his specialty treatments would cure cancer, although other physicians in the area thought his methods were pseudoscience.¹⁸ The institution closed upon the death of Dr. Pond in 1898.¹⁹

In the late nineteenth century, Aurora's civic leaders recognized the need to establish a dedicated public medical care facility to treat the growing population. The not-for-profit Aurora City Hospital Association was formed under state law on April 9, 1886, and immediately began the task of raising money to open a city hospital.²⁰ The association raised enough money to open the city's first public hospital within a rented residence in October of 1886. The hospital was non-sectarian and received funds from various groups and affiliations. In 1888, the association was able to fund the construction of a dedicated hospital building, which opened in the winter of that year. The Aurora City Hospital was located approximately one mile south of downtown on S. Lincoln Avenue, and could treat up to twenty-five patients. The same year the Aurora City Hospital opened, the population of Aurora was 18,000; within four years, the city's population expanded to 24,147.²¹ The city's first public hospital continued to grow throughout the twentieth century to meet the city's needs. It was re-named Copley Hospital after local philanthropist and entrepreneur Ira C. Copley gave the Aurora Hospital Association a generous donation that financed a large Classical Revival-style block of the hospital, opened in 1932, and ensured the continued operation of the hospital. Copley Hospital was re-named Copley Memorial Hospital after Copley's death in 1947.

In 1900, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a German Catholic institution, founded St. Charles Hospital, Aurora's second permanent hospital.²² Initially, the hospital operated out of a rented residence on Fourth Street. In 1902, construction began on a dedicated hospital building. The brick Queen Anne-style hospital building had a prominent four-story turret and was located at the southeast corner of Spring and Fourth streets, immediately east of the city's downtown.²³ In 1932, a new

⁹ Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 3.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 3.

¹² *Ibid.*, 25.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹⁴ Albert Lewis, *Aurora: Its Advantages, Resources, Opportunities*, (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Commercial Club, 1914), n.p.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Charlie Wilkins, "St. Charles Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1, 2009, 12.

¹⁷ Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 27.

¹⁸ Robert Barclay, *Aurora: 1837-1987*, (Aurora, Illinois: The Copley Press, 1988), 103.

¹⁹ Dr. Pond's hospital is not extant.

²⁰ "More Room is Needed," *Aurora Daily Beacon*, January 17, 1895.

²¹ Aurora Preservation Commission, "Preservation Division Staff Report, 1888 City Hospital Building," February 4, 2000. Copley File at Aurora Preservation Commission, Aurora, Illinois.

²² Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 28. s

²³ Charlie Wilkins, "St. Charles Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1, 2009, 4.

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St. Charles Hospital building was constructed immediately south of the original hospital. It was designed by Wybe Jelles Van der Meer, an ecclesiastical architect who worked with the Rockford Catholic Diocese. The new six-story hospital was constructed of reinforced concrete with brick cladding and terra cotta ornamentation in the Art Deco style. The Art Deco style of the 1932 St. Charles Hospital was meant to convey an image of progress for the institution, as by that time the original Victorian-era hospital's Queen Anne style appeared outdated and was not aesthetically representative of advancements in the medical field. The original hospital was repurposed as a residence for nurses and the Franciscan Sisters until it was demolished in 1968. The 1932 hospital was renovated in 1972 and reopened as the St. Charles Medical Center in 1973.²⁴

Aurora's third hospital was created in 1911 by the Sisters of Mercy. St. Joseph's Infirmary (later St. Joseph Mercy Hospital) opened in the Ryburn Flats, a thirty-room apartment building near present-day Wilder Park west of the city's downtown.²⁵ A three-story addition was added in 1912; it brought the building's capacity up to ninety beds and featured a dedicated floor for treatment of the elderly.²⁶ In 1922, St. Joseph's opened a nursing school. In 1931, St. Joseph's commissioned a new purpose-built hospital in the Gothic Revival style at the northeast corner of N. Lake Street and W. Park Avenue.

The Copley Hospital was the first in the city to provide a nurses' training program, begun in 1893.²⁷ St. Charles and St. Joseph Mercy hospitals both instituted nurses' training programs in 1922.²⁸ Copley Hospital remained non-sectarian with a not-for-profit administrative board, and the three hospitals operated throughout the twentieth century to provide medical care to Aurora's citizens.

In 1966, the Aurora Joint Hospital Fund Drive was initiated, and the raised funds were shared among the city's three hospitals.²⁹ St. Charles Hospital was sold and reopened as a senior citizen treatment center and retirement home. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital built a new medical facility, and the former hospital became a retirement home for the nuns. Copley Memorial Hospital used the funds to construct a new block that opened in 1970, bringing its total capacity to 300 beds. Copley Memorial Hospital continued to operate at the nominated property until 1995.

The Evolution of Medical Care and Hospital Design

In the Midwestern United States, the hospital as a purpose-built institution developed in the late nineteenth century as standards in medical care improved and urban populations increased.³⁰ Previously, the ill were typically treated at their personal residences by private doctors with varying degrees of training and equipment. Childbirth was facilitated at the home by a midwife. Infirmaries were set up by the military and established at frontier outposts, which sometimes treated transient settlers. During the Civil War, governments and charitable groups across the country established hospitals to treat the thousands of returning soldiers in need of long-term care. The earliest public institutional hospitals developed as charitable endeavors to treat the poor and the homeless. They were often located within existing residences or in purpose-built buildings that resembled residences.

After 1885, particularly in urban centers, hospitals expanded beyond the residential building type and grew into larger institutional buildings, often with multiple wings and separate buildings for staff and utilities. The massive influx of immigrants to the United States, the country's rapidly industrializing society, and the growing concern over public health all contributed to the growth of institutional hospitals. Medical advancements such as the use of anesthesia and antiseptics contributed to a rise in the number of surgical operations. Childbirth was increasingly seen as a medical procedure, and maternity hospitals and wards within larger institutions were created, further expanding the function of institutional

²⁴ Ibid., 11.

²⁵ Sister Mary Brigid Condon, *For the Love of Humanity: A History of the Sisters of the Sisters of Mercy of Aurora, Illinois, 1910-1995* (Aurora, Illinois: M.B. Condon, 1995), 11.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 27.

²⁸ Ibid., 28.

²⁹ Robert Barclay, *Aurora: 1837-1987*, (Aurora, Illinois: The Copley Press, 1988), 105.

³⁰ Barbara Wyatt, ed. "Health Services," *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties*. [Madison, Wis.]: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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hospitals. Charity hospitals to treat those without financial means still existed and relied on state government support and private donations. More institutional hospitals, however, adopted a business model that combined charitable donations with paying patients. Enhanced training standards for medical professionals and modernizing treatments for a wide range of illnesses and diseases encouraged those who could afford it to seek the highest quality of care that modern hospitals could offer.

In response to the rapidly growing numbers of patients, architects began focusing on designing hospitals with efficient layouts that could accommodate more private rooms, wards, and specialty treatment rooms. Leading architects at the time identified primary objectives for modern hospital design; these included efficiency of circulation, ease of maintenance, and safety.³¹ Fireproof construction was identified as an essential component of the modern hospital. In 1914, architect Richard Schmidt (of Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson, designers of the 1932 and 1947 blocks of Copley Hospital and the 1957 Nurses' Dormitory) co-authored a book called "The Modern Hospital" in which he discussed standards of modern hospital design. At the time, artificial ventilation of rooms was still a costly expense. Schmidt recommended that if possible, patients' rooms and wards have east or west exposure and operable windows to allow light and ventilation.³² The 1916 block of Copley Hospital, designed by Aurora-based architects Worst and Shepardson, reflected this recommendation with the long elevations of its rectangular form facing east and west, and the original windows designed with awning sashes. Copley Hospital's 1916 and 1932 blocks featured rooftop solariums and gardens where patients could gain further sun exposure as they convalesced. In planning the layout of a hospital, Schmidt wrote, "A plan should be laid out with reasonably straight lines to permit easy observation, good illumination, ventilation, a good circulation from section to section, and a proper interrelation between its parts."³³ In addition to promoting ventilation and facilitating efficient circulation, straight corridors were more cost-efficient than "a heterogeneous jumble of rooms."³⁴ Copley Hospital's 1916 and subsequent blocks reflected this design principle; where the 1888 hospital had a short central hall with clustered room, the subsequent blocks were organized by a long, central double-loaded corridor on each floor.

Reflecting rising standards of medical care, Schmidt wrote that operating suites must be designed with sterilization rooms and anesthesia rooms.³⁵ Schmidt also recommended that a surgeons' dressing room with showers be incorporated, "since modern surgery demands cleanliness of person."³⁶ Copley Hospital's 1916 and 1932 blocks featured operating suites with rooms for sterilization, anesthesia, and dressing rooms. To ensure timely patient care, Schmidt wrote, "an electric system of signals for calling nurses to the patient's bedside is now considered essential."³⁷ Copley Hospital's 1916 block incorporated this feature of modern hospital design. Elevators were also considered essential for modern hospitals so that patients could be quickly transported to the necessary floor for treatment. The 1916 and subsequent blocks of Copley Hospital were designed with elevators.

Copley Hospital Property History

The Aurora Hospital Association was incorporated as a non-profit under state law in April 1886 with the mission to "establish and maintain a hospital for the reception and medical and surgical treatment of the sick and injured and disabled."³⁸ The Association immediately began the task of raising money to open a city hospital. In October 1886, the city's first hospital opened in a rented brick house on the east side of Fourth Street, just south of Clark Street approximately one-quarter mile north of the present hospital.³⁹ The rented facility had twelve patient beds, divided among a men's ward and a women's ward, and operated largely through paid memberships to the Association and volunteer donations. The

³¹ Daniel Bluestone, "St. Luke's Hospital Complex," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 28, 1987, 8-7.

³² John Allan Hornsby and Richard E. Schmidt, *The Modern Hospital: Its Inspiration, its architecture, its equipment, its operation*, (Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914), 35.

³³ *Ibid.*, 36.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 36.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 47.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 47.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 91.

³⁸ "Copley Memorial Hospital History," Pamphlet, January 1986, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

³⁹ This building is not extant and was razed circa 1967. "The Public Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, October 9, 1886; "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

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hospital charged a low fee of one dollar for each day of treatment, but patients who were unable to pay were still treated.⁴⁰ The matron-in-charge was Hattie Hollister, who operated the facility along with five rotating physicians, two assistant nurses, and a kitchen maid.⁴¹ It was established as a non-sectarian public institution, accepting money from and treating individuals with any affiliation. Many of the hospital's earliest patients were Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad workers injured on the job.⁴² From 1886 through 1888, the hospital treated approximately ninety patients.⁴³

While operating the rented facility, the Aurora Hospital Association continued to solicit funds for the construction of a dedicated, purpose-built hospital building by holding numerous concerts, social events, and ball games throughout the city to raise money. Illinois State Senator Colonel Henry Evans owned property in Aurora, organized the Aurora Street Railway Company, and was a prominent booster for the city hospital.⁴⁴ With raised funds, the Association was able to purchase land for the building on S. Lincoln Avenue in a residential neighborhood approximately one mile south of downtown. Construction on the new building began in August 1888. The Aurora City Hospital opened in the winter of 1888 at a cost of approximately \$9,000.⁴⁵ The two-and-one-half story red brick building was designed and constructed by carpenter Ferris J. Minium and mason L.H. Waterhouse in a Late Victorian style (*Figure 13*). Ferris J. Minium was of Minium & Son, a prominent Aurora carpenter team. Minium & Son also designed Dr. Pond's Medical and Surgical Center, the Coulter Opera House, and the Brady School.⁴⁶ Mason L.H. Waterhouse apprenticed in Clinton, Connecticut and worked in Chicago before moving to Aurora in 1862. He worked on many prominent Aurora buildings, including the J.B. Bishop Block, the Merchants National Bank Building, the Hotel Bishop, the Silver Plate Factory, and four railroad bridges.⁴⁷

The 1888 Aurora City Hospital featured eight private rooms, a women's ward with six beds, a men's ward with seven beds, and five nursery beds, creating a maximum capacity of twenty-five patients.⁴⁸ It was the only institution in Aurora that could facilitate childbirths until St. Joseph's Infirmary opened in 1911.⁴⁹ Five physicians, three nurses, and a kitchen maid worked at the hospital when it opened.⁵⁰ In 1893, the Aurora City Hospital began operating a two-year diploma training school for nurses, one of the state's earliest such programs.⁵¹ The Aurora City Hospital's training school was consistently accredited by the state department, and instructors included the hospital's superintendent and other physicians throughout the city.⁵²

In December 1894, the Aurora City Hospital treated its 1,000th patient since opening.⁵³ To support the operation of the hospital, a Board of Trustees was created. The board had fifteen unpaid members, including the city's mayor.⁵⁴ To fund an expansion of the hospital, the Aurora Women's Club held a bazaar at a skating rink that raised over \$6,000.⁵⁵ In 1905, the Hospital Association was able to build a two-story brick addition to the hospital and remodel the interior.⁵⁶ The hospital treated patients in Aurora, as well as surrounding towns in Kane County.⁵⁷ On October 17, 1909, twenty-three years after

⁴⁰ Aurora Hospital Association, *Your Hospital's Story* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1951), n.p.

⁴¹ Aurora Hospital Association, *A Handbook of the Aurora Hospital Association of Aurora, Illinois: 1886-1909* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1909), n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁴² "A Century of Caring: 1886-1986," *Copley Caring*, Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 1986, 4.

⁴³ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁴⁴ Aurora Preservation Commission, "Preservation Division Staff Report, 1888 City Hospital Building," February 4, 2000. Copley File at Aurora Preservation Commission, Aurora, Illinois.

⁴⁵ Charlie Wilkins, "St. Charles Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1, 2009, 12.

⁴⁶ Aurora Preservation Commission, "Preservation Division Staff Report, 1888 City Hospital Building," February 4, 2000. Copley File at Aurora Preservation Commission, Aurora, Illinois.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916; Aurora Preservation Commission, "Preservation Division Staff Report, 1888 City Hospital Building," February 4, 2000. Copley File at Aurora Preservation Commission, Aurora, Illinois.

⁴⁹ Sister Mary Brigid Condon, *For the Love of Humanity: A History of the Sisters of the Sisters of Mercy of Aurora, Illinois, 1910-1995* (Aurora, Illinois: M.B. Condon, 1995), 11.

⁵⁰ "Copley - Growing for Ninety Years," *Aurora Beacon-News*, March 29, 1977.

⁵¹ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁵² "More Room is Needed," *Aurora Daily Beacon*, January 17, 1895.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ "Bazaar at skating rink gave start to building," *Aurora Beacon-News*, March 29, 1977.

⁵⁶ "Copley Memorial Hospital History," Pamphlet, January 1986, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁵⁷ "The Aurora Hospital: A Great Civil Movement," Pamphlet, 1912, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

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the Aurora Hospital Association opened its rented quarters in the residence on Fourth Street, the hospital treated its 5,281st patient.⁵⁸ The staff had grown to a superintendent, an assistant, ten physicians, a corps of eight nurses, and a domestic staff, and treated an average of forty-seven patients a month.⁵⁹ The hospital's training school for nurses had graduated thirty-one pupils since its inception in 1893, including three who went on to serve as superintendents for the hospital. In 1911, the nursing school expanded to a three-year degree program.⁶⁰

As early as 1908, Aurora's prominent leaders and the hospital's Board of Trustees recognized that the facility was struggling to meet the demands of the growing city.⁶¹ In 1909, the Aurora Hospital Association wrote, "this building is palatial and its equipment ideal; but compared with the needs and requirements of the present day, it is sadly lacking... patients frequently are kept waiting until there shall be a vacant bed for their use."⁶² The city and the surrounding area had a population of nearly 40,000, while the hospital's maximum capacity was twenty-five patients, leading the local newspaper to lament the facility's "pitiful lack of capacity and efficiency."⁶³ In 1911, the Aurora Hospital Association purchased land immediately north of the 1888 hospital as the site for a larger, updated facility.⁶⁴ In 1912, a city-wide funding campaign was initiated to finance the construction (*Figure 15*).⁶⁵ Campaign materials touted that the hospital had treated over 6,900 patients since its opening and had graduated 41 nurses.⁶⁶ Over 5,200 Aurora citizens from varied denominations and affiliations donated over \$100,000 towards the project.⁶⁷ Work on excavation and the new hospital's foundation began in 1914.⁶⁸ By November 1915 the new building was nearing completion, but funding was still needed for medical equipment and furnishings, and additional pledge drives were held to raise the money.⁶⁹

The expanded Aurora City Hospital opened in 1916 and was designed by local architects Worst and Shepardson at a cost of approximately \$122,025.⁷⁰ The five-story rectangular block featured fireproof construction of reinforced hollow tile and concrete with brick cladding (*Figures 14, 16*). It was built to the north of the 1888 hospital building, at the southeast corner of S. Lincoln and Weston avenues. The hospital's primary entrance was reoriented to the north portion of the 1916 block's west façade, facing S. Lincoln Avenue, and the 1888 block was repurposed as a home for the hospital's nursing students.⁷¹ The primary entrance was ornamented with a stone classical-style portico with Doric columns and marble steps.⁷² The long rectangular footprint of the 1916 block was a notable departure from the 1888 building, which largely mimicked the clustered rooms of a traditional residence and lacked long organizational corridors. Aligning with ideas about modern and progressive healthcare, the 1916 block featured wide double-loaded corridors lined with rooms. This allowed for parts of the hospital to be closed off from other sectors if needed. Patients that arrived by ambulance entered the hospital on a receiving platform at the rear of the building situated next to the elevator, where the patient could then be taken directly to the necessary floor. The 1916 block increased the hospital's maximum capacity from twenty-five to one-hundred patients.⁷³ The building contained twenty-eight private rooms for overnight patients, ten larger wards with multiple beds, and treatment rooms for outpatients.⁷⁴ Multiple bathrooms were available on each floor. The northwest corner of the hospital's ground floor featured two "double utility rooms" with barred windows, used for the treatment of contagious illnesses and patients

⁵⁸ Aurora Hospital Association, *A Handbook of the Aurora Hospital Association of Aurora, Illinois: 1886-1909* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1909), n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ "A Century of Caring: 1886-1986," *Copley Caring*, Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 1986, 14.

⁶¹ "Plan Addition City Hospital," *Aurora Daily Beacon*, April 9, 1908.

⁶² Aurora Hospital Association, *A Handbook of the Aurora Hospital Association of Aurora, Illinois: 1886-1909* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1909), n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁶³ Nettie B. Jordan and R.S. Shepardson, "The New General City Hospital, Aurora, Illinois," *The Modern Hospital* 7, no. 1 (July 1916): 213; "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

⁶⁴ "\$100,000 Building to be put up for Aurora Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, June 16, 1911.

⁶⁵ Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 27.

⁶⁶ "The Aurora Hospital: A Great Civil Movement," Pamphlet, 1912, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁶⁷ Jordan and Shepardson, 213; "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

⁶⁸ Jordan and Shepardson, 213.

⁶⁹ "Collector Army to Aid Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, December 4, 1915.

⁷⁰ Jordan and Shepardson, 217.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 213.

⁷² *Ibid.*, 213.

⁷³ "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

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deemed mentally unstable.⁷⁵ The hospital's third floor was reserved primarily for women and young children, with a child's ward at the north end of the corridor that could be closed off to minimize noise to other patients.⁷⁶ The hospital's fourth floor was used as a maternity ward. Male patients were treated on the fifth floor. Nurses' stations were grouped in the center of the corridors, so that staff had shorter distances to travel when assisting patients.⁷⁷

In addition to patients' rooms on each floor, specialty spaces in the new building greatly enhanced the hospital's functionality and the range of available treatments, aligning with ideas about modern hospital design. The ground floor contained a boiler room, a private dining room for hospital staff, a laboratory, an emergency operating room, an x-ray room, and a large kitchen.⁷⁸ A dumbwaiter connected the kitchen with each floor of the building, and floor-specific designs were used for the dishes. The hospital's primary entrance opened into a small rotunda on the north end of the second floor with marble wainscoting, a public reception room, office, private apartment for the hospital superintendent, and doctors' parlor. The maternity ward on the fourth floor featured a nursery with glass viewing walls and a warming alcove for infant clothing, a delivery and operating room with a connecting sterilization room, and a lying-in room for mothers to rest after delivery.⁷⁹ The north end of the fifth floor featured two operating rooms with tall windows to maximize natural light, a doctors' changing room with showers, a sterilization room, an anesthetization room, and a waiting room (*Figure 17*). The roof of the building had a solarium and outdoor garden for convalescing patients.

The safety features, modern finishes, and technological enhancements of the updated hospital were also touted. Fireproof construction was utilized for the 1916 block, including fireproof and waterproof floors, three fire escapes, and brick-wall enclosures for the elevator and stairwells.⁸⁰ Modern finishes were used inside the building to maintain the most sanitary conditions possible. Updated and easily-cleaned finishes were a hallmark of progressive hospital design in the early-twentieth century. This contrasted with smaller Victorian-era facilities that had decorated rooms meant to give the hospital a "home-like" appearance.⁸¹ Common spaces and specialty rooms in the Aurora City Hospital's 1916 block featured ceramic tile flooring throughout with a center strip of linoleum in the corridors. Patients' rooms and wards had linoleum flooring and steel beds with a faux wood-grain finish.⁸² Wood mahogany doors throughout were unpaneled for ease of cleaning, and all wood trim was white enameled. The operating rooms featured white glass wainscoting. The building was designed with a modern HVAC system for the era that included metal ventilation ducts servicing the bathrooms and kitchen, a garbage burner, a vapor vacuum system for heating the rooms, and steam-heating for sterilization equipment and cooking.⁸³ Technological enhancements included an electric elevator and dumbwaiter, twelve intercommunicating telephone stations, and electric bedside buttons that patients could use to summon nurses via light-up switchboards placed throughout the building.⁸⁴

The updated Aurora City Hospital immediately saw an increase in use, treating 1,046 patients and delivering 111 infants in 1916 compared to 672 patients in 1915.⁸⁵ The modern facility met official standards for use by the United States' war and navy departments, and in April 1917 the hospital's Board of Trustees offered the building as a resource for the government if needed in wartime.⁸⁶ During World War I, the hospital was designated by the United States War Department as the headquarters of Medical Advisory Board No. 4, with a jurisdiction over DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb counties.⁸⁷ The Board was tasked with assessing the physical fitness of men registered for war who had been referred by their local

⁷⁵ "Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Jordan and Shepardson, 214-215.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 214, 216.

⁸⁰ "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

⁸¹ For example, a man describing the 1886 Aurora Hospital noted the "many little ornaments and knickknacks" and stated, "...if any of us without homes are taken sick, we would feel right at home here." "The Public Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, October 9, 1886.

⁸² "Aurora Hospital is Most Modern," *Aurora Beacon-News*, November 9, 1916.

⁸³ Jordan and Shepardson, 214.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 216.

⁸⁵ "Aurora Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, April 29, 1917.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ J.W. Greenaway, *With the colors from Aurora, Illinois*, (Aurora, Illinois: J.W. Greenaway, 1920), 255.

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board. In total, Medical Advisory Board No. 4 examined 1,334 registrants at the Aurora City Hospital and found 661 of them fit for service.⁸⁸

By 1927, Col. Ira C. Copley, resident of Aurora and head of the Copley Press (which operated five newspapers in Illinois and ten in California), recognized that the Aurora City Hospital had to expand again in order to meet the needs of the city.⁸⁹ Copley donated a \$1,000,000 building fund, a 2.5-acre site valued at \$150,000 that adjoined the Aurora City Hospital property, and a \$1,295,000 endowment to ensure the institution's future.⁹⁰ Copley's endowment supported the long-term vision of an immediate expansion of the hospital, at least one additional wing to the hospital in the future, and the eventual construction of a dedicated nurses' dormitory.⁹¹ The buildings would be grouped together, forming an open courtyard for patients and staff to enjoy.

Work on a new block for the hospital began in 1930 on the site donated by Copley.⁹² The Aurora City Hospital was re-named Copley Hospital when the six-story stone and brick block, which more than doubled the size of the hospital, opened in 1932.⁹³ The 1932 block's west elevation connected to the north portion of the east elevation of the 1916 block. Designed in the Classical Revival style by prominent Chicago-based architects Schmidt, Garden and Erikson, the 1932 block faced Weston Avenue, and the hospital's primary entrance was reoriented to that street in the center of the north façade (*Figure 18, center*). A one-story power plant with a boiler room and laundry washing facility was constructed in conjunction with the new block and cost approximately \$80,000.⁹⁴

The new Copley Hospital block was designed in the Classical Revival style, which was characterized by symmetrical facades with ornamentation inspired by Greek post and lintel forms.⁹⁵ The exterior of the block featured a symmetrical façade, stone cladding on the first two stories, a prominent pedimented entrance with Classical Revival pilasters and a Greek key-patterned frieze, stone panels engraved with festoons, and a projecting penthouse with pilasters, ocular windows, and stone laurel wreaths.

The ground floor of the 1932 block contained a public reception room with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and a private parlor, both paneled with stained knotty pine (*Figure 19*). An elevator was located off the reception room. An office, doctors' lounge, training classroom, emergency operating room, and treatment rooms utilized by local dentists and a tuberculosis clinic were also on the ground floor. The second floor contained two classrooms. The fourth floor of the 1932 block continued the maternity ward function of the 1916 block's fourth floor. It contained several group and private rooms, bathrooms, two soundproof delivery rooms, a large soundproof nursery, an incubator for premature babies, and utility rooms for sterilization and storage. With the opening of the 1932 block, Copley Hospital could accommodate up to twenty-six expectant mothers at a time.⁹⁶ The 1932 block's fifth floor contained five soundproof operating rooms, each with an X-ray viewing box, as well as a laboratory room and a large X-ray department employing two full-time technicians.⁹⁷ There were no patients' rooms on the fifth floor. The seventh floor consisted of a roof-top solarium, which was sometimes used by the nursing school for lectures and motion pictures.

In 1946, Col. Copley donated additional money for another hospital wing. The new block of the hospital was completed in 1947, shortly before Col. Copley's death in November of that year, and the institution was renamed Copley Memorial Hospital in his honor. The 1947 block was designed by Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson in the Classical Revival style. It was attached to the east elevation of the 1932 block (*Figure 18*). The completion of the 1947 block increased the hospital's

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 257.

⁸⁹ The Copley Press, Inc., *The Copley Press* (Aurora, Illinois: Copley Press, Inc., 1953), 3, 52.

⁹⁰ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁹¹ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁹² Aurora Hospital Association, *Your Hospital's Story* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1951), n.p.

⁹³ "Copley Memorial Hospital History," Pamphlet, January 1986, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁹⁴ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁹⁵ Jason Liechty and Mike Quigley. "Cook County Hospital Administration Building," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 5, 2006, 8-43.

⁹⁶ "Endowment of Col. Ira C. Copley Gives to City Beautiful, Modern Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, September 5, 1937.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

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capacity to 200 beds for medical, surgical, maternity, and pediatric patients.⁹⁸ The hospital had two labor rooms, two delivery rooms, and thirty infant beds.⁹⁹ The rate of hospital births in the nation increased in the 1940s; in 1950, 776 babies were born at Copley Hospital.¹⁰⁰

In 1951, Copley Memorial Hospital had over 275 employees and treated approximately 5,000 overnight patients and 8,000 outpatients that year.¹⁰¹ The kitchen and laundry departments together employed seventy people. The power plant was staffed by five engineers and provided heat and steam for laundry and sterilization and back-up electrical power for the hospital. Training of medical staff and nurses continued in earnest at Copley Memorial Hospital. By 1951, the hospital operated training programs for X-ray technicians and medical laboratory technologists in addition to the nursing school, which then offered three and five-year nursing degrees. By 1953, 483 total nurses had graduated from the hospital's training school since its inception.¹⁰² Nursing school students were housed in seven different buildings in the vicinity of the hospital, and a purpose-built dormitory for the school became a priority.¹⁰³

Additional funds for a purpose-built dormitory were raised through private donations and a \$105,000 federal grant.¹⁰⁴ Schmidt, Garden and Erikson, designers of the hospital's 1932 and 1947 blocks, were commissioned to design the dormitory. Construction began in July 1956 and the brick three-and-one-half-story Georgian Revival style building opened in 1957 at a cost of \$725,000 (*Figure 20*). The building was situated to the south of the hospital and provided living quarters for up to 100 students. The first floor featured three classrooms, a library, and nursing offices, with the dormitory rooms on the second and third floors. The basement contained a recreation room and storage area. Upon the completion of the Nurses' Dormitory, the 1888 hospital block was repurposed as the Aurora Area Blood Bank, providing blood for hospitals throughout Kane County.¹⁰⁵

In 1966, the Aurora Joint Hospital Fund Drive was initiated, and the raised funds were shared among Copley Memorial Hospital and St. Charles and St. Joseph Mercy hospitals.¹⁰⁶ Copley Memorial Hospital used the funds to construct a new block, completed in 1970 and designed by Paul McCurray of the firm Schmidt, Garden, and Erikson (*Figure 21*). The original 1888 hospital building was repurposed as a kidney dialysis center. The 1970 block of Copley Memorial Hospital brought its total capacity up to 319 patient beds and included additional surgery and recovery rooms, an intensive care unit, and new radiology, physical therapy, and emergency departments.¹⁰⁷ At this time, the hospital was also responsible for a paramedic training program that provided area wide mobile intensive care.¹⁰⁸ Copley Memorial Hospital also instituted an infection control program that was a model for other hospitals in the area.¹⁰⁹ In 1975, the name of the Aurora Hospital Association, the operating board of the city hospital since its founding, was changed to Copley Memorial Hospital, Inc.¹¹⁰ In 1980, a new fourteen-room block was designed by Chicago architects Matthei and Colin to house the hospital's Cancer Treatment Center.¹¹¹ That same year, the hospital's nursing school was transferred to Aurora University.¹¹² Over 1,100 nurses had graduated from the hospital's training school between its inception in 1893 and 1975. Copley Memorial Hospital continued to operate at the nominated property until 1995, when it moved into a new building located off Highway 34 in southeast Aurora and became the Rush-Copley Health Complex.

⁹⁸ "Copley Memorial Hospital History," Pamphlet, January 1986, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

⁹⁹ Aurora Hospital Association, *Your Hospital's Story* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1951), n.p.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ Aurora Hospital Association, *Your Hospital's Story* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1951), n.p.

¹⁰² "A Century of Caring: 1886-1986," *Copley Caring*, Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 1986, 14.

¹⁰³ Aurora Hospital Association, *Your Hospital's Story* (Aurora, Illinois: Aurora Hospital Association, 1951), n.p.

¹⁰⁴ "Copley Plans \$725,000 Nurse Home, School," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, July 12, 1956.

¹⁰⁵ Vernon Derry, "Aurora Area Blood Bank," *Thrift Corner Yarns*, Volume 41, November 1964. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

¹⁰⁶ Robert Barclay, *Aurora: 1837-1987*, (Aurora, Illinois: The Copley Press, 1988), 105.

¹⁰⁷ "Copley Memorial Hospital History," Pamphlet, January 1986, n.p. Copley File at Aurora Historical Society, Aurora, Illinois.

¹⁰⁸ "Ninety Years of Caring: Copley Memorial Hospital," *Aurora Beacon-News*, March 29, 1977.

¹⁰⁹ "Program controls infections," *Aurora Beacon-News*, March 29, 1977.

¹¹⁰ "Directors Have Control of Hospital Operation," *Aurora Beacon-News*, March 29, 1977.

¹¹¹ "Copley Unveils Cancer Center," *Aurora Beacon-News*, April 14, 1980.

¹¹² "A Century of Caring: 1886-1986," *Copley Caring*, Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 1986, 14.

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Architects Worst and Shepardson

The Aurora, Illinois, architecture firm of Worst and Shepardson was founded by Fred W. Worst and Ralph Shepardson.¹¹³ Worst graduated from East Aurora High School in 1887, then joined with architect J.E. Minott in Aurora in 1895. Shepardson was born in DeKalb, Illinois in 1873, studied at the University of Illinois, and worked as a draftsman in Chicago. He joined Worst to form Worst and Shepardson in 1904. The firm designed the 1916 block of Copley Hospital in Aurora. Their other work included Prairie-style residences in Aurora and a collaboration with Adler and Sullivan on the Aurora Watch Factory. Worst was killed in an automobile accident in December 1917 and the firm was dissolved.¹¹⁴

Architects Schmidt, Garden and Erikson

The Chicago-based architecture firm of Schmidt, Garden and Erikson was responsible for the design of the 1932, 1947, and 1970 blocks of Copley Hospital. The firm also designed the 1957 Copley Hospital Nurses' Dormitory.

Firm founder Richard Ernest Schmidt was born in Ebern, Bavaria, Germany, the son of a German physician, on November 14, 1865.¹¹⁵ Schmidt was raised in the Near South Side neighborhood of Chicago. At sixteen, he apprenticed with the architecture firm of Cudell and Blumenthal. Schmidt studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1883 to 1885, then returned to Chicago and began working in the office of Charles Sumner Frost. In 1887, Schmidt founded his own practice. One of the first hospital designs Schmidt created was for the Alexian Brothers Hospital on the north side of Chicago in 1896.¹¹⁶

Hugh Mackie Garden was born on July 9, 1873, in Toronto, Canada. At fourteen, he immigrated to the United States and apprenticed with architect William Channing Whitney in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1888, Garden moved to Chicago and apprenticed at Flanders and Zimmerman, then worked for Henry Ives Cobb. In 1893, Garden began working as a freelance designer and draftsman, which garnered him connections with Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1895, he began working on independent projects with Richard Schmidt.

Schmidt and Garden formed a formal partnership with structural engineer Edgar D. Martin in 1906. Martin was born in Burlington, Iowa, in 1865 and received his education in structural engineering and reinforced concrete in France. The firm of Schmidt, Garden and Martin worked primarily on commercial and industrial buildings. Schmidt handled the administrative side of the firm and bolstered its business and social connections, while Garden focused primarily on design.¹¹⁷ Early important works of Schmidt and Garden and its successor firm include the Grommes and Ullrich Building in 1901, the Schoenhofen Brewery Powerhouse in 1902, the Chapin and Gore Building in 1904, Michael Reese Hospital in 1905, the Montgomery Ward & Company Catalog House in 1908, and the Cook County Hospital in 1913. The Schoenhofen Brewery Powerhouse, Chapin and Gore Building, and the Montgomery Ward Catalog House are designated City of Chicago landmarks. In 1925, Martin left the firm and was replaced by Carl A. Erikson.

Due to Schmidt's familial connections with the medical industry, the firm eventually came to specialize in hospital designs. In the early twentieth century, Schmidt, Garden and Martin and its successors encouraged the field of hospital design to pivot from elongated shared wards toward more private and semi-private rooms accessed from wide corridors.¹¹⁸ Richard Schmidt and Hugh Garden implemented this design feature at Michael Reese Hospital in the Bronzeville neighborhood of

¹¹³ City of Aurora, "Architects Worst & Shepardson," Historic Aurora. Published online at: <https://www.aurora-il.org/664/Architects-Worst-Shepardson>. Accessed August 15, 2018.

¹¹⁴ "Slain Architect was Well Known in DeKalb," *The Daily Chronicle*, DeKalb, Illinois, December 7, 1917.

¹¹⁵ Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks, "Montgomery Ward and Company Warehouse," Preliminary Staff Summary of Information, August 1986, 4.

¹¹⁶ Steve Kerch, "Health-care Architects Have Designs on New Image," *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1985.

¹¹⁷ Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks, "Montgomery Ward and Company Warehouse," Preliminary Staff Summary of Information, August 1986, 4.

¹¹⁸ Steve Kerch, "Health-care Architects Have Designs on New Image," *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1985.

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Chicago, completed in 1905.¹¹⁹ In 1914, Richard Schmidt co-authored a book called “The Modern Hospital” in which he discussed standards of modern hospital design. By 1958, the firm had several high-profile, large-scale hospital designs in its portfolio, including Alexian Brothers, Michael Reese, and St. Luke’s hospitals in the Chicago area; St. Joseph’s Hospital in South Bend, Indiana; Albany Hospital in Albany, New York; the University of Pittsburgh’s hospital; and \$8 million worth of United States Air Force hospitals.¹²⁰

The firm of Schmidt, Garden and Erikson continued after the deaths of its founders in 1959, 1961, and 1958, respectively. Between 1896 and 1985, Schmidt, Garden and Erikson designed 84 of the 271 hospitals in Illinois, including 38 of the 67 hospitals in Chicago, and many others throughout the country, while garnering a reputation for their influential designs.¹²¹ The firm promoted the use of private and semi-private patient rooms over large shared wards in the early twentieth century. In the 1960s, it developed the “racetrack” floor design in which nurses’ stations were centered within an oval hall with patients’ rooms along the outside walls, minimizing the distance of travel when treating patients. The firm designed “wrist blade” faucets that could be operated with a pushing or pulling motion, rather than twisting, which were used nationwide in facilities for patients with physical disabilities. The firm also designed the first bedpan washer. The firm’s hospital-specific innovations, such as sterile room ventilation and filtration processes, were adopted by other industries.

Comparable Properties

Copley Hospital was Aurora’s first city hospital, opening in 1886 and constructing its first purpose-built hospital in 1888, and the only non-sectarian institution in the city. Two additional hospitals opened in Aurora in the early twentieth century, both by religious institutions.

Aurora’s St. Charles Hospital, located at 400 East New York Street, was founded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The institution’s first hospital was constructed in 1902 in the Queen Anne style at the southeast corner of Spring and N. 4th streets, east of the city’s downtown and north of Copley Hospital. A new St. Charles Hospital was completed in 1932 immediately south of the first hospital. It was designed by architect Wybe J. Van der Meer in the Art Deco style.¹²² The six-story U-shaped 1932 hospital building is constructed of reinforced concrete with brick cladding and features terra cotta exterior ornamentation in geometric patterns. The former hospital building was repurposed as a dormitory for the Franciscan Sisters and nurses but was eventually demolished in 1968. The extant 1932 St. Charles Hospital is an excellent example in Aurora of the Art Deco architectural style. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. The building was sold by the hospital in the late 1960s and currently operates as a senior retirement center.

The Sisters of Mercy from Council Bluffs, Iowa, founded Aurora’s third hospital in 1911. Called St. Joseph’s Infirmary, it was located in the Ryburn Flats, a 30-room apartment building at 111 Elm Street near present-day Wilder Park west of the city’s downtown. A three-story addition was added in 1912. In 1931, St. Joseph’s constructed a new six-story hospital, designed by Wybe J. Van der Meer, in the Gothic Revival style at the northeast corner of N. Lake Street and W. Park Avenue. The building was sold in the early 1970s and currently houses a retirement center.

Copley Hospital is distinct among the comparable extant hospitals in Aurora. Opened as the Aurora City Hospital in 1888, Copley Hospital is the oldest hospital institute in Aurora, and its only non-sectarian hospital. Copley Hospital retains its original 1888 hospital building with good architectural integrity to convey typical hospital design of the Late Victorian era. St. Charles and St. Joseph Mercy hospitals do not retain their original early-twentieth-century hospital buildings. Thus, Copley Hospital is the only remaining hospital in Aurora with the ability to convey the Late Victorian era of medical treatment. Copley Hospital was also the only hospital in Aurora to offer maternity beds until St. Joseph Mercy Hospital opened in 1911.¹²³

¹¹⁹ Michael Reese Hospital was demolished in 2009 and 2010. Steve Kerch, “Health-care Architects Have Designs on New Image,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1985; Preservation Chicago, “Michael Reese Modern,” 2009. Published online at: <https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/michael-reese-modern/>. Accessed August 15, 2018.

¹²⁰ “Architect is Hired by Board,” *The Vidette-Messenger*, Valparaiso, Indiana, March 13, 1958.

¹²¹ Steve Kerch, “Health-care Architects Have Designs on New Image,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 21, 1985.

¹²² Charlie Wilkins, “St. Charles Hospital,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1, 2009, 3.

¹²³ Sister Mary Brigid Condon, *For the Love of Humanity: A History of the Sisters of the Sisters of Mercy of Aurora, Illinois, 1910-1995*

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The 1916, 1932, and 1947 blocks of Copley Hospital are constructed in a manner that allows each block to be discernable, and thus Copley Hospital as a whole conveys a spectrum of evolving hospital design. Medical care evolved in the early twentieth century to encompass specialty treatment rooms, expanded maternity wards, operating rooms accompanied with sterilization and anesthesia quarters, and more private patient rooms. This evolution is reflected in the character of Copley Hospital's 1916, 1932, and 1947 blocks. The continued expansion of Copley Hospital underscores its significant role in the medical treatment of Aurora's residents.

Copley Hospital was the first in the city to provide a nurses' training program, begun in 1893.¹²⁴ St. Charles and St. Joseph Mercy hospitals both instituted nurses' training programs in 1922.¹²⁵ Copley Hospital's 1957 Nurses' Dormitory retains integrity and conveys this important contribution that Copley Hospital played in the medical history of Aurora.

Conclusion

Copley Hospital is locally-significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of HEALTH/MEDICINE for the important role it played in the medical healthcare of Aurora's residents. As Aurora grew into a prominent industrial and commercial city in the Fox River Valley, city leaders recognized the importance of establishing a dedicated medical facility to treat the area's residents. In 1886, they created a non-profit association and through local donation established the Aurora City Hospital at the nominated property in 1888. The hospital expanded as the population of Aurora grew and advancements in the medical field and hospital design necessitated updated facilities. The historic blocks of the hospital, including the original 1888 building, are maintained and retain good integrity, resulting in a discernable evolution of medical care facilities from the Late Victorian era through the mid-twentieth century. Copley Hospital provided medical care, surgical operations, and maternity services at the nominated property from 1888 through 1995. Its nursing school was the earliest such program in Aurora, and from 1893 through 1975, over 1,100 nurses graduated from the school. The period of significance of the nominated property begins in 1888 with the construction of the original hospital building and ends in 1970 with the completion of the hospital's final substantial block. Copley Hospital continued to function at the nominated property until 1995.

(Aurora, Illinois: M.B. Condon, 1995), 11.

¹²⁴ Robert Barclay, *Aurora, City of Lights: 1875-1892* (Aurora, Illinois: The Kelmscott Press, 1957), 27.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*, 28.

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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: _____

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

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.3 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

1	<u>41.746343</u>	<u>-88.318540</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The irregularly-shaped parcel is bound by Seminary Avenue to the south, S. Lincoln Avenue to the west, and Weston Avenue to the north. The east boundary is formed by a north-south paved drive between Weston and Seminary avenues.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the land associated with the nominated property through the period of significance from 1888 to 1968.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Barnhart, Associate date Dec. 2018
organization MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC telephone 312-973-3903
street & number 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142 email rbarnhart@mac-ha.com
city or town Chicago state Illinois zip code 60604

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Copley Hospital

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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: Copley Hospital

City or Vicinity: Aurora

County: Kane **State:** Illinois

Photographer: John Cramer, MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC

Date Photographed: March and July, 2018

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

- Photo 1 of 35:** West façade and south elevation of Copley Hospital's 1888 block, view NE
- Photo 2 of 35:** West elevation of Copley Hospital's 1916 block, view E
- Photo 3 of 35:** North elevation of Copley Hospital's 1916 block, view SW
- Photo 4 of 35:** North façades of Copley Hospital's 1932 and 1947 blocks, and part of 1970 block (left), view SW
- Photo 5 of 35:** Detail of north façade of 1932 hospital block, view SW
- Photo 6 of 35:** East façade and north elevation of 1970 hospital block, non-contributing helipad in foreground, view SW
- Photo 7 of 35:** East façades of 1970 and 1980 hospital blocks, view NW
- Photo 8 of 35:** South elevation of 1970 hospital block and southeast façade of 1980 hospital block, view NW
- Photo 9 of 35:** Detail of entrance at east façade of 1970 hospital block, view NW
- Photo 10 of 35:** South and east elevations of non-contributing 1932 powerhouse, view N
- Photo 11 of 35:** Non-contributing powerhouse (right) and 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, south façade and east elevation, view NW
- Photo 12 of 35:** South façade of 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, view E
- Photo 13 of 35:** View of nominated property from penthouse of 1932 hospital block; 1947 hospital block and non-contributing powerhouse (left), 1957 Nurses' Dormitory (center), and 1905 addition to 1888 hospital block (right), view SW
- Photo 14 of 35:** East elevation of 1916 hospital block (left), detail of south elevation of 1932 hospital block (right), view NW
- Photo 15 of 35:** South elevation of 1932 hospital block, west elevation of 1947 hospital block (right), view NE
- Photo 16 of 35:** 1888 hospital block, 1st floor hall, entrance vestibule (center), staircase (right), view W
- Photo 17 of 35:** 1888 hospital block, 2nd floor, typical room, view N
- Photo 18 of 35:** 1888 hospital block, 2nd floor, typical room, view E
- Photo 19 of 35:** 1888 hospital block, 2nd floor hall, central light well, view W and up towards 3rd floor
- Photo 20 of 35:** 1916 hospital block, 1st floor, typical double-loaded corridor, view S
- Photo 21 of 35:** ca. 1950 addition to 1916 hospital block, 1st floor, view S
- Photo 22 of 35:** 1916 hospital block, 4th floor, typical room, view E
- Photo 23 of 35:** 1916 hospital block, 5th floor operating suite, view NE
- Photo 24 of 35:** 1916 hospital block, 5th floor, typical room, view NW
- Photo 25 of 35:** 1932 hospital block, 1st floor reception room, view NW
- Photo 26 of 35:** 1932 hospital block, 1st floor doctor's lounge, view N
- Photo 27 of 35:** 1932 hospital block, 5th floor, typical elevator lobby, view NW

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- Photo 28 of 35:** 1932 hospital block, 6th floor, typical double-loaded corridor, view W
Photo 29 of 35: 1947 hospital block, 6th floor, typical elevator lobby looking towards corridor, view S
Photo 30 of 35: 1970 hospital block, 1st floor entrance vestibule, view E
Photo 31 of 35: 1970 hospital block, 1st floor reception area, view NW
Photo 32 of 35: 1970 hospital block, 4th floor, typical room, view NE
Photo 33 of 35: 1970 hospital block, 5th floor, typical elevator lobby looking towards corridor, view E
Photo 34 of 35: 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, 1st floor public room, view NE
Photo 35 of 35: 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, 1st floor, typical dorm room, view W

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 100 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Copley Hospital
Name of Property

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County and State

N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 34

List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.

Figure 1. GIS Location Map with National Register Boundary, 2018.

Figure 2. Context Map, 2018.

Figure 3. Site Map with contributing and non-contributing resources, 2018.

Figure 4. Site Map with Exterior Photo Key, 2018.

Figure 5. 1888 block, 1st Floor Plan with Interior Photo Key, 2018.

Figure 6. Copley Hospital Typical Floor Plan with Interior Photo Key, 2018.

Figure 7. 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, 1st Floor Plan and Interior Photo Key, 2018.

Figure 8. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 8, 1897.

Figure 9. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 70, 1907.

Figure 10. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 70, 1950.

Figure 11. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 70, 1958.

Figure 12. April 9, 1970 aerial of nominated property with National Register Boundary.

Figure 13. Historic image, 1888 block of Copley Hospital (originally Aurora City Hospital).

Figure 14. Historic image (ca. 1920), 1916 block of Copley Hospital, north and west elevations.

Figure 15. Historic image (1914), Left to right: William Fitch, Richards-Wilco Mfg. Co. president; Frederick Adamson, Stephens-Adamson Mfg. Co. vice president; and David Garoner, General Insurance, lobbying for funds to support the construction of the 1916 block of Copley Hospital.

Figure 16. Historic image (May 1925), National Hospital Day, 1888 and 1916 blocks of Copley Hospital visible in background.

Figure 17. Historic image (ca. 1916), Fifth floor operating room of 1916 block.

Figure 18. Historic postcard (ca. 1950), north and west elevations of 1947, 1932, and 1916 blocks of Copley Hospital.

Figure 19. Historic image (1930s), first floor reception of 1932 block of Copley Hospital.

Figure 20. Image (ca. 1975), south elevation of 1957 Nurses' Dormitory.

Figure 21. Image (ca. 1971), 1970 block of Copley Hospital.

Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

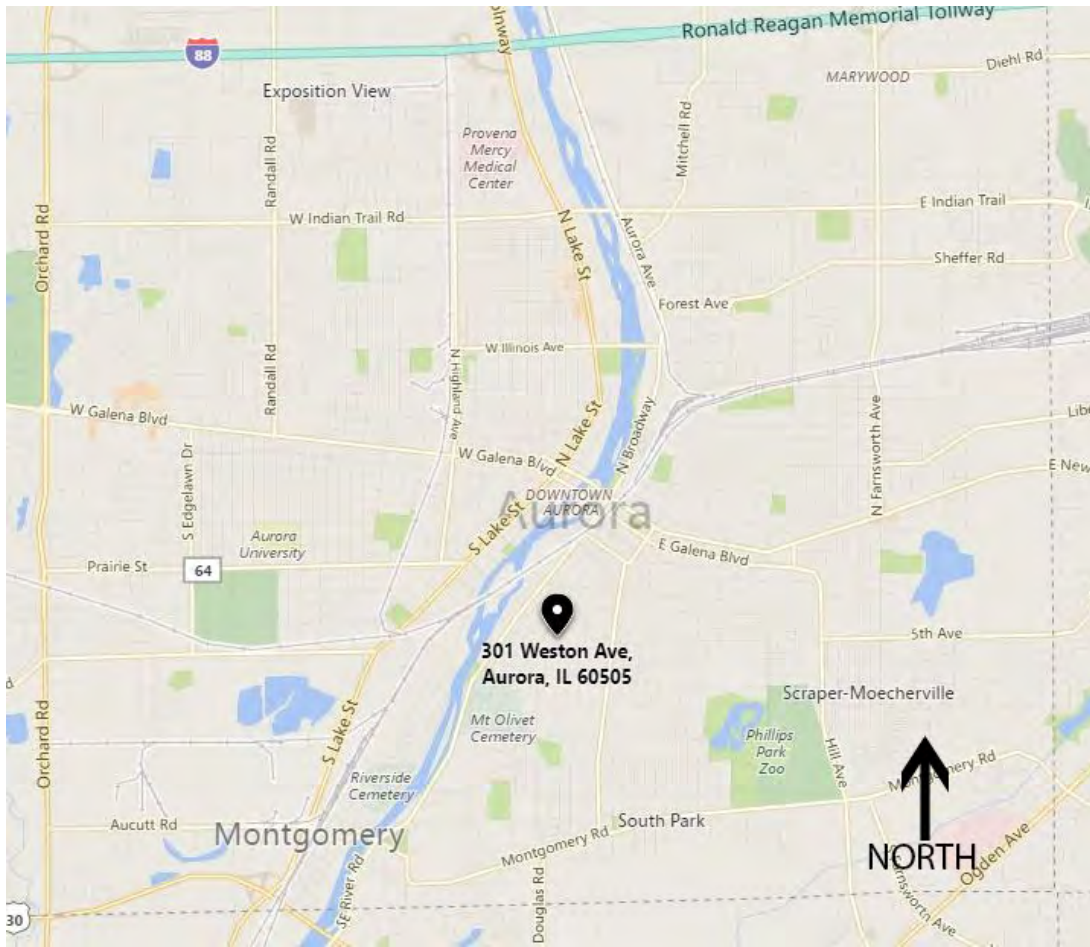
Figure 1. GIS Location Map with National Register Boundary, 2018. Source: Google Earth, 2018.

Copley Hospital
301 Weston Avenue, Aurora, Kane County, IL
41.746343, -88.318540



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 2. Context Map, 2018. Source: Bing Maps, 2018.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 3. Site Map with contributing and non-contributing resources, 2018. Source: Google Earth, 2018.

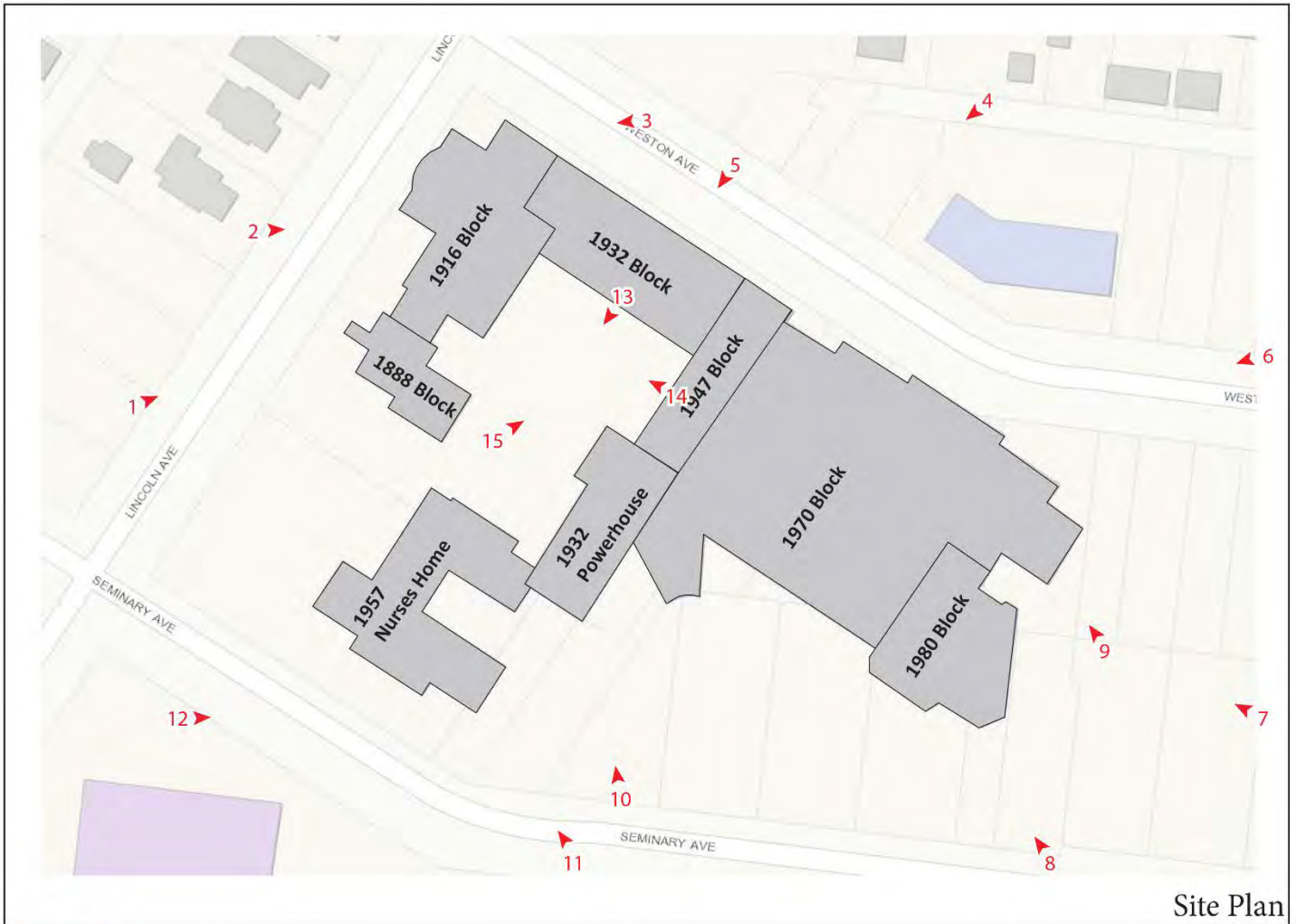
Resource Overview

1. Copley Hospital (Contributing Building, comprised of interconnected blocks constructed in 1888, 1916, 1932, 1947, 1970, and 1980)
2. Nurses' Dormitory (Contributing Building, constructed 1957)
3. Powerhouse (Non-contributing Building, constructed 1932, altered ca. 1970)
4. Helipad (Non-contributing Structure, constructed post-1974)



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 4. Site Map with Exterior Photo Key, 2018. Source: MacRostie Historic Advisors, 2018.



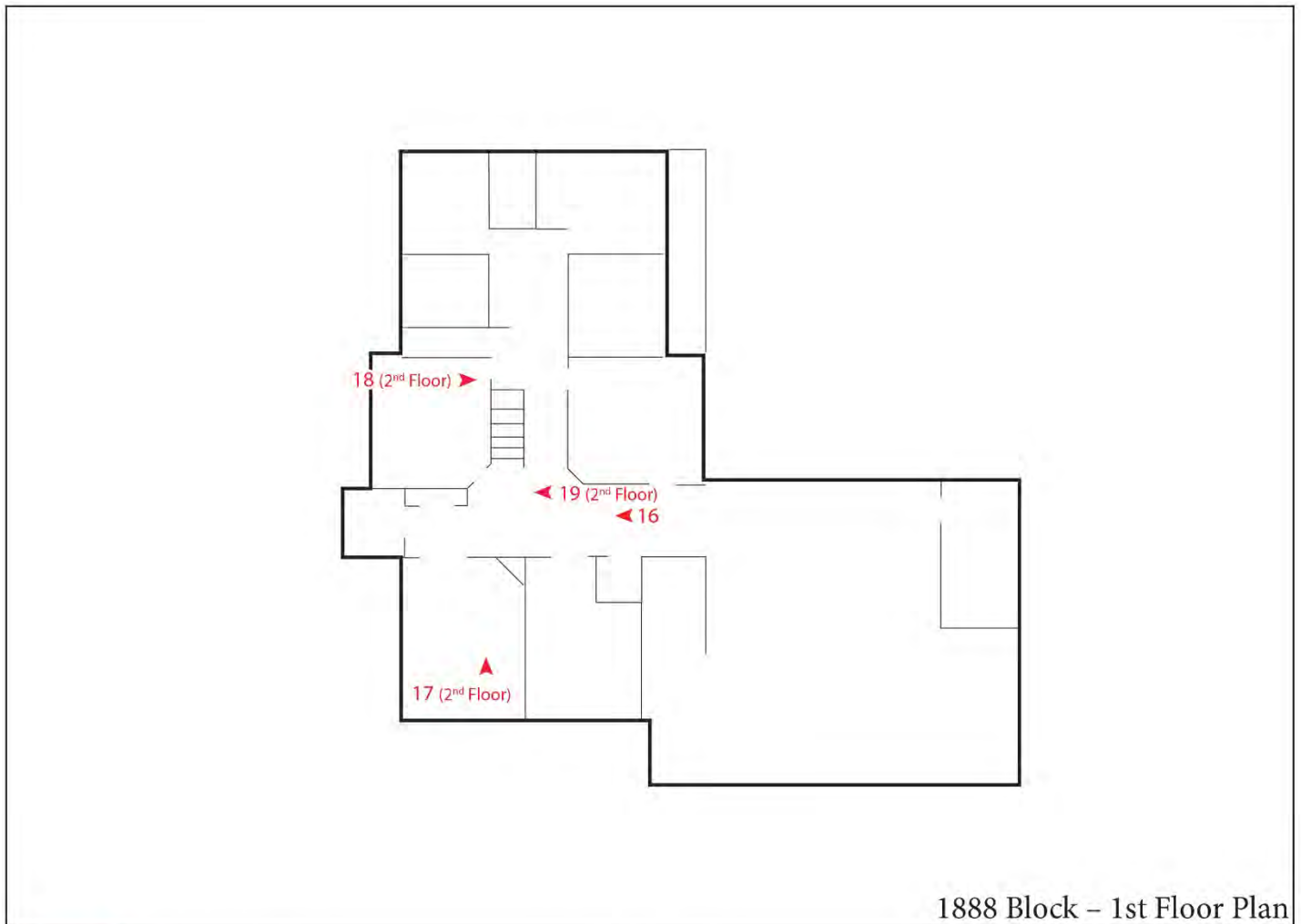
Copley Hospital
301 Weston Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

National Park Service
National Register Photo Key



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 5. 1888 hospital block, 1st Floor Plan with Interior Photo Key, 2018. Source: MacRostie Historic Advisors, 2018.



1888 Block – 1st Floor Plan



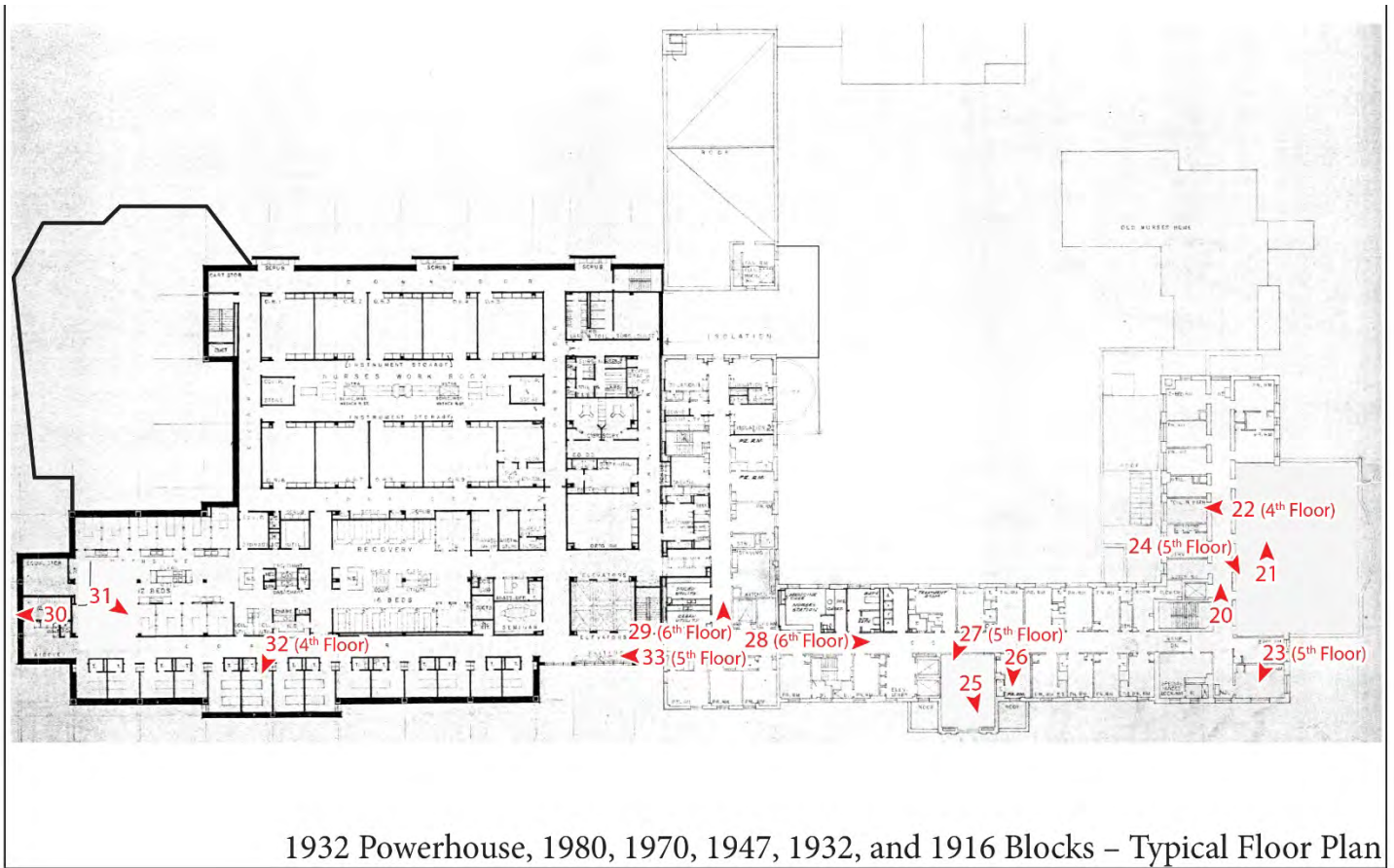
Copley Hospital
301 Weston Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

National Park Service
National Register Photo Key



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 6. Copley Hospital Typical Floor Plan with Interior Photo Key, 2018. Source: MacRostie Historic Advisors, 2018.



 MacRostie Historic Advisors
Bringing strategy, equity, and experience
to historic building development

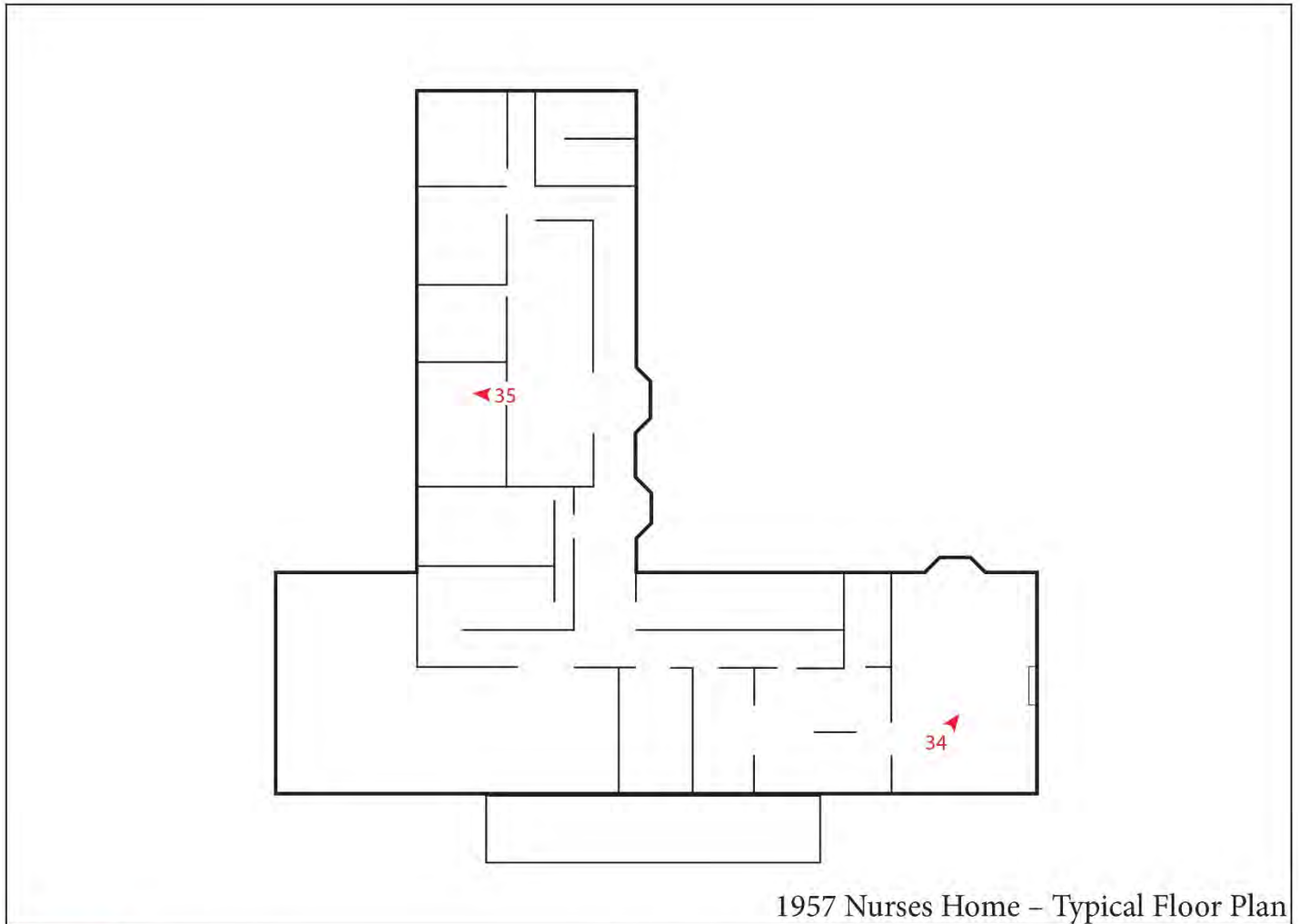
Copley Hospital
301 Weston Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

National Park Service
National Register Photo Key



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

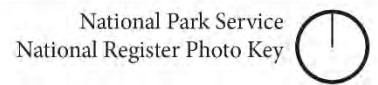
Figure 7. 1957 Nurses' Dormitory, 1st Floor Plan and Interior Photo Key, 2018. Source: MacRostie Historic Advisors, 2018.



1957 Nurses Home – Typical Floor Plan

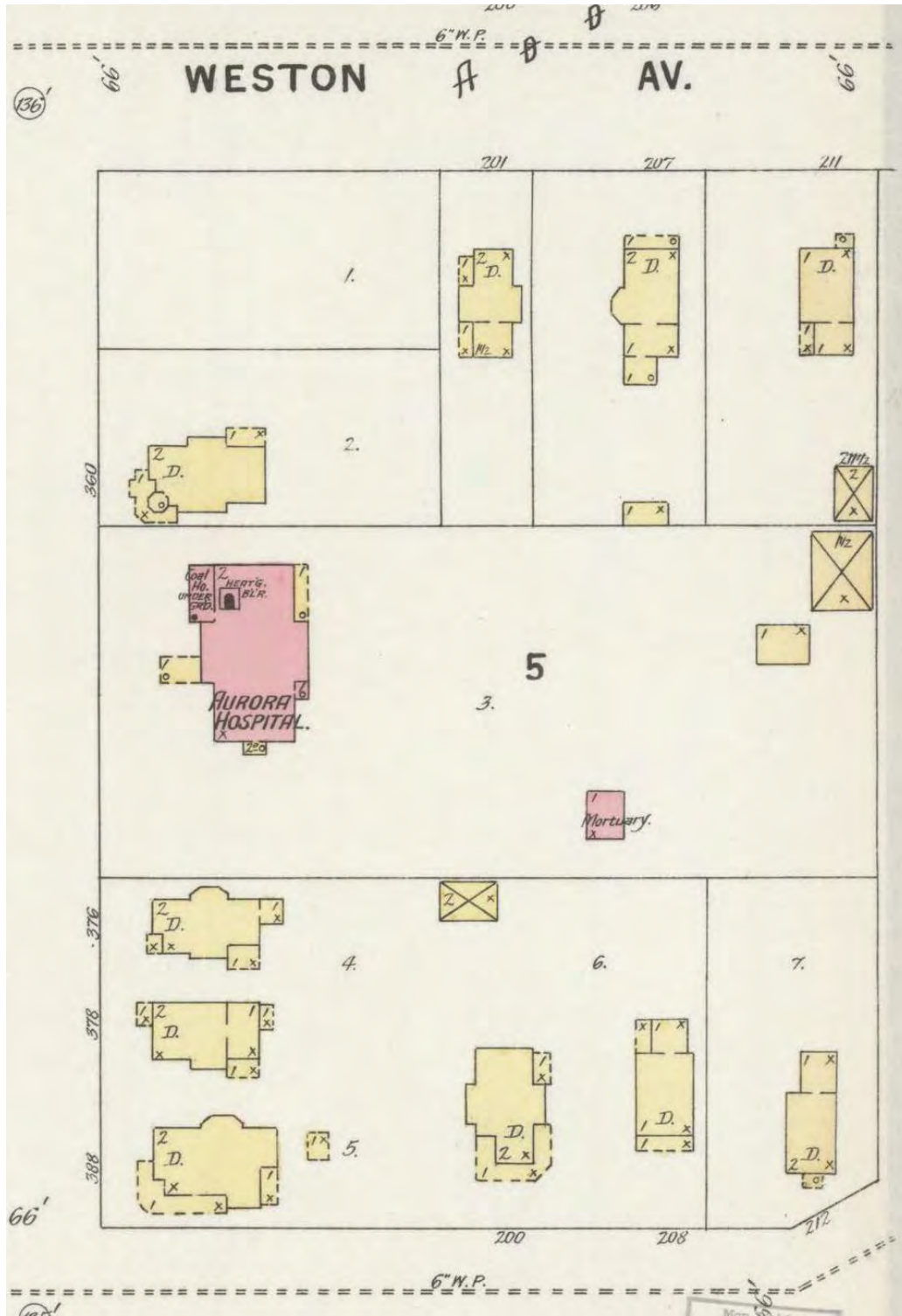


Copley Hospital
301 Weston Avenue
Aurora, Illinois



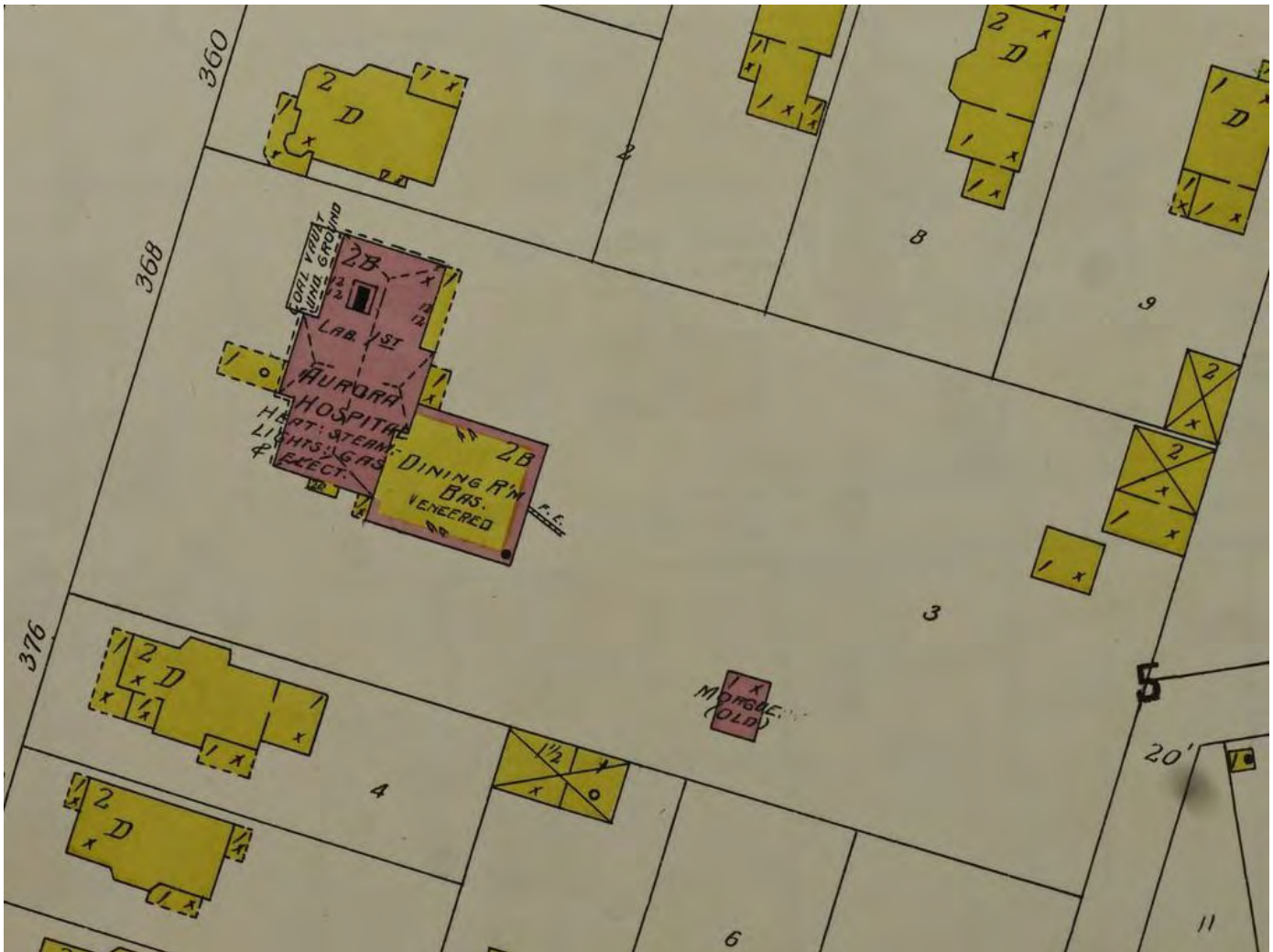
Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 8. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 8, 1897. Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. Published online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4104am.g017201897/?sp=8>. Accessed August 2, 2018.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 9. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 70, 1907. Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. Published online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4104am.g017201907/?sp=71>. Accessed August 2, 2018.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 10. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 70, 1950. Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. Published online at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4104am.g017201950/?sp=71>. Accessed August 2, 2018.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 12. April 9, 1970 aerial of nominated property with National Register Boundary. Source: Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 13. Historic image, 1888 block of Copley Hospital (originally Aurora City Hospital). Source: Aurora Historical Society.

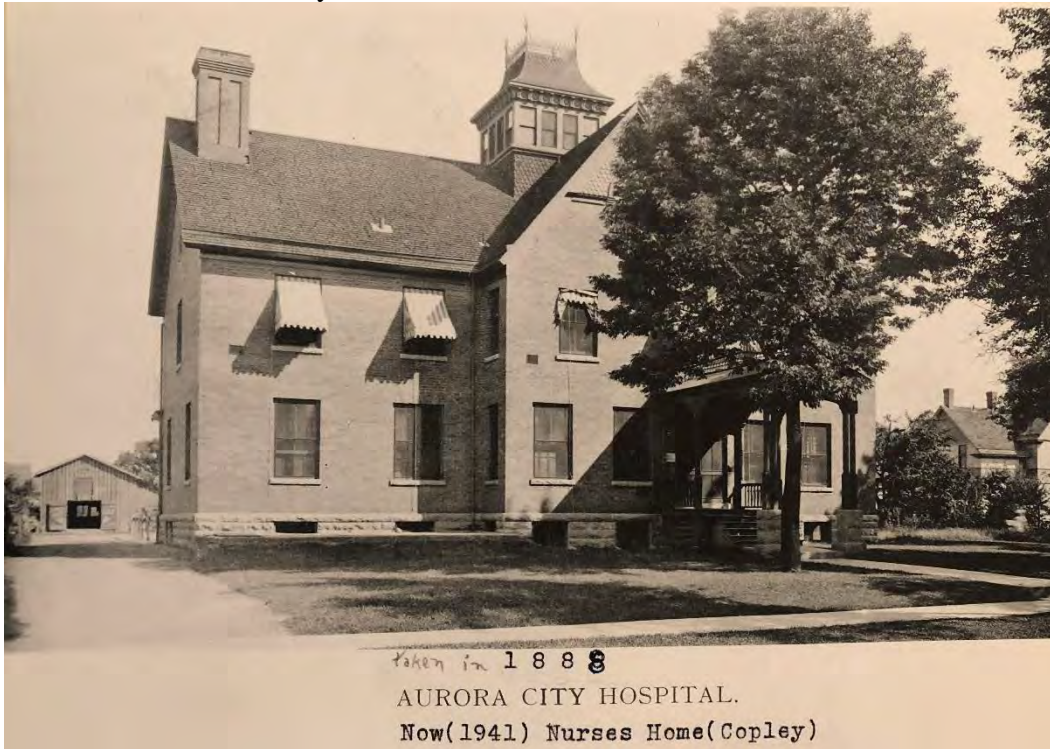


Figure 14. Historic image (ca. 1920), 1916 block of Copley Hospital, north and west elevations. Source: J.W. Greenaway, *With the Colors from Aurora, Illinois: 1917, 1918, 1919.*



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 15. Historic image (1914), Left to right: William Fitch, Richards-Wilco Mfg. Co. president; Frederick Adamson, Stephens-Adamson Mfg. Co. vice president; and David Garoner, General Insurance, lobbying for funds to support the construction of the 1916 block of Copley Hospital. Source: Aurora Historical Society.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 16. Historic image (May 1925), National Hospital Day, 1888 and 1916 blocks of Copley Hospital visible in background. Source: Aurora Historical Society.



Figure 17. Historic image (ca. 1916), Fifth floor operating room of 1916 block. Source: Jordan, Nettie B. and R.S. Shepardson. "The New General City Hospital, Aurora, Illinois." *The Modern Hospital* 7, no. 1 (July 1916).



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 18. Historic postcard (ca. 1950), north and west elevations of 1947, 1932, and 1916 blocks of Copley Hospital. Source: Aurora Historical Society.

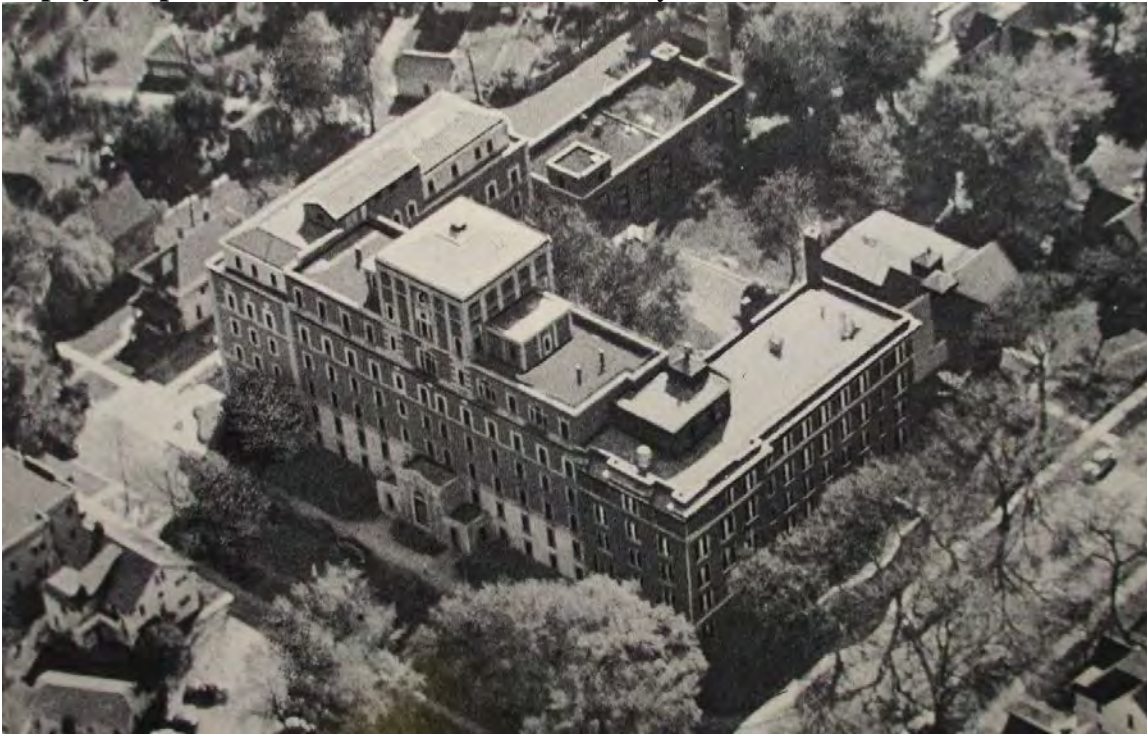


Figure 19. Historic image (1930s), first floor reception of 1932 block of Copley Hospital. Source: Aurora Historical Society.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 20. Image (ca. 1975), south elevation of 1957 Nurses' Dormitory. Source: Aurora Historical Society.



Property name: Copley Hospital
Illinois, County: Kane

Figure 21. Image (ca. 1971), 1970 block of Copley Hospital. Source: Aurora Historical Society.







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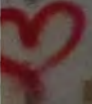
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/8/2019 Date of Pending List: 3/21/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of Weekly List: 4/22/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 4/18/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

ILLINOIS



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

March 5, 2019

Ms. Barbara Wyatt, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nomination recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its October 26, 2018 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

Leaning Tower of Niles, Niles, Cook County
Paris High School, Paris, Edgar County
Copley Hospital, Aurora, Kane County
The Forum, Chicago, Cook County
Fredrick Louis House, Barrington Hills, Lake County

PLEASE NOTE: Staff requests a substantive review of the Fredrick Louis House nomination.

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator, Survey and National Register program
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office/Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Attachments