

03-2763-1
Be

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Community Hospital
other names/site number New Salem Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 130 W. Kinney Street not for publication
city or town Newark vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO Date 1/27/04
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Wesley H. Beall Date of Action _____

5. Classification

<p>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-local</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-State</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal</p>	<p>Category of Property (Check only one box)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> district</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> object</p>	<p>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing		1	0	buildings	0	0	sites	0	0	structures	0	0	objects	1	0	Total
Contributing	Noncontributing																			
1	0	buildings																		
0	0	sites																		
0	0	structures																		
0	0	objects																		
1	0	Total																		
<p>Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)</p> <p><u>N/A</u></p>		<p>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</p> <p><u>0</u></p>																		

6. Function or Use

<p>Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p><u>Healthcare: Hospital</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p><u>Religion: Church</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
--	---

7. Description

<p>Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p><u>Italian Renaissance Revival</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Materials (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>foundation <u>Concrete</u></p> <p>walls <u>Brick</u></p> <p>roof <u>Asphalt</u></p> <p>other <u>Other</u></p> <p>_____</p>
---	--

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Community Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black
Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1927 - 1953

Significant Dates

1927, 1935, 1953

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dr. John A. Kenney

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kenney Hospital

Name of Property

Essex, New Jersey

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property

less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 569024 4509188

Zone Easting Northing

2

3

Zone Easting Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana Zakalak, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee

date September 10, 2003

street & number P.O. Box 1066

telephone (973) 622-4910

city or town Newark

state NJ

zip code 077103

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name New Salem Baptist Church

street & number 130 W. Kinney Street

telephone (973) 624-7984

city or town Newark

state NJ

zip code 07103

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.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Community Hospital, now known as the New Salem Baptist Church, located at 130 W. Kinney Street, Newark, is a two-story, rectangular-plan, brick and stone, Italian Renaissance-influenced, institutional building (see photo 1). Located in the Central Ward of Newark, west of the central business district, the building was originally constructed as Kenney Memorial Hospital in 1927, by Dr. John Kenney. Kenney Memorial Hospital was the first hospital in New Jersey built exclusively to train African-American doctors and nurses, who were kept from practicing elsewhere due to racial discrimination.

A central arched entrance set in a stone basement level with projecting water table dominates the narrow, two-story, stretcher bond-laid, yellow brick facade. The entrance arch is composed of engaged colonettes supporting a spiral-twisted arch. Surmounting this arch is another, composed of a wide band of brick finished with a stone edging. The inside of the arch contains a round-arched sign with the current name of the building. Behind this sign is the original glass lunette with painted gold letters stating the name of the building, "The Community Hospital." The stone entablature contains an address inscription. Small, rectangular windows with wide stone lintels and narrow sills flank the entrance (see photo 2).

The second floor is ornamented by a triple window grouping set in an arcade. The round arched window surrounds are composed of brick stretchers edged in stone, springing from stone pilasters with decorative capitals flanking the central window. A narrow stone bracketed sill connects the arcade at the bottom. Wrought iron balconies further embellish the windows. The windows are replacements.

The entablature consists of an arcuated and corbelled brick architrave, a dentillated frieze and a simple cornice. A plain brick parapet rises above the entablature.

The side elevations consist of painted, common bond brick with fenestration on the west wall (see photo 3). Above the second floor windows is lettering with the name of the church. The east wall is separated from a two story commercial building by a narrow alley. The rear of the building was opened in 1985 to accommodate a two-story, utilitarian brick addition. It also has a handicapped-accessible ramp leading to a door in the projecting rear addition. The rear of the building has a second floor fire escape.

Interior

Except for the first floor, the interior of the building still reflects the original hospital functions. The central doors open into a vestibule containing a cast iron staircase (see photo 8). Immediately ahead is the sanctuary. The sanctuary has had a corridor and several partition walls removed to accommodate the church auditorium (see photos 4-6). Pews have been installed and the sanctuary platform has been located in the open addition at the rear of the building. Finishes include plaster walls, carpeted and linoleum-clad floor, and rounded sanitary finishes on the windows rather than mouldings. The ceiling is covered with rough-textured paint. Original cast iron radiators are located near the ceiling rather than on the floor, most likely to save floor space (see photo 6)

The second floor is reached by means of the staircase in the vestibule (see photo 8). It still has the original narrow corridor running along the east wall (see photo 9), prep room (see photo 11), the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

operating room with its gurney doors and tiled surfaces, and patient rooms. These are now used as classrooms and offices. The second floor addition at the rear contains a meeting room (see photo 13). The pastor's study is the former operating room (see photo 10). This room and the prep room, which made up the original surgical suite, have white tile wainscoting, unglazed porcelain herringbone tile, and tiled, bull nose sanitary window mouldings. The doors have milk glass doorknobs and the second floor bathroom has its original porcelain enamel sign. There are four small, narrow private rooms to the north of the surgical suite (see photo 12).

The basement floor plan reflects the plans of the upper floors. A narrow corridor runs along the east wall with rooms on the west. The northernmost room is a meeting room that contains an original medicine cabinet on its east wall. There is also a kitchen and rest rooms on this floor. The rear of the basement contains a meeting/fellowship room with a baptismal pool in the corner (see photo 7).

The site on which the building is located is on the southerly side of West Kinney Street, between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Quitman Street, Block 2530, Lot 6. The property dimensions are 27' x 100'. Total area is approximately .06 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Statement of Significance

Community Hospital, founded in 1927, is historically significant as the first hospital in the City of Newark and in the State of New Jersey, built exclusively for the training of African-American doctors and nurses at a time when segregation prevented their admission to white health facilities. The national segregation policy of "separate but equal" dictated virtually every aspect of society. Racially exclusive "Jim Crow" laws dominated employment, housing, transportation, recreation, education and medicine. Black Americans were subjected to all of the injustices inherent in a dual medical care system. Community Hospital, founded as the Kenney Memorial Hospital in 1927, by Dr. John A. Kenney, personal physician to Booker T. Washington and George W. Carver, was the only hospital in the state that was open to both black doctors and their patients. Community Hospital provided training for black interns and nurses. At the time of the hospital founding, black interns and graduate nurses were not allowed to enter and practice their profession in a New Jersey hospital. While most hospitals gave ward service to a limited number of black patients in all black wards, only a few of them furnished private room service for the handful who were able to pay for it. Those that were admitted were not allowed to be seen by their own black physicians. In some instances, white nurses were prohibited from caring for black patients. Community Hospital provided the facilities in which black doctors could treat their patients and develop their professional technique, black patients could be served by their own doctors, and nurses could get their training. Community Hospital was also one of the first buildings erected for public use by Newark's black community¹. Community Hospital is being nominated under National Register Criteria A and B. Under Criterion A, the hospital is associated with the struggle of the African-American community in Newark to seek medical attention and to train its own medical personnel. Under Criterion B, the hospital is nominated for its association with Dr. John A. Kenney, the founder.

Community Hospital was the dream of Dr. John A. Kenney, who moved with his family to Newark on September 1, 1924, from Tuskegee, Alabama, where he had headed the John A. Andrew Hospital at Tuskegee Institute. For three years, Dr. Kenney struggled in private practice and attempted to take care of his patients in existing medical institutions. Realizing that he and his patients were not welcome in local medical facilities, Kenney turned his attention to building a hospital for African-Americans in Newark. For his location, Kenney chose the "Hill" section, also known as the "Roaring Third" (Newark's old Third Ward). This was the heart of Newark's black community, recently migrated from the southeastern United States. Between 1915 and 1920 the number of blacks in Newark increased by 80.6 percent--from 9,400 to 16,977. As New Jersey's leading industrial center, Newark resettled more blacks within its boundaries than any other city in New Jersey (Price 1974: 19). And in Newark, the "Hill" section was the primary residential area for these new migrants. Most of the residential areas outside the central city were closed to blacks. The newcomers inherited deteriorating tenement districts built in the nineteenth century, some without electricity, inside toilets and running water. Although conditions were horrendous, thousands of newcomers settled in the Third Ward during the First World War. The Third Ward was also notorious for its disease and death. In 1919, the death rate for blacks was 26 per 1,000 persons, twice that

¹ Community Hospital was certainly the first building put up for any black health or social agency by blacks in Newark. The Urban League was founded about ten years earlier, but it bought an existing building. Until well into the twentieth century, even most of the black churches were constructed originally for white congregations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

of Newark's whites. The Third Ward led the city in cases of diphtheria, epidemic meningitis, erysipelas, influenza and tuberculosis. It also had a substantial number of cases with typhoid fever, gonorrhea and syphilis. Black infant mortality was the highest in the city (Price 1974: 23).

Poor health among African-Americans resulted not only from poor housing but also from racial policies which excluded blacks from many hospitals as well as inadequate medical service in black areas. In 1920, there were only eleven black doctors, eight black nurses and one social service agency assisting blacks. Most African-Americans were virtually unprotected against the ravages of sickness that characterized the war years (Price 1974: 24).

In the interwar years, the Third Ward emerged as a predominantly black slum with appalling living conditions. During this time period, it became one of the most densely populated communities of its size in the United States (with over 140 families per acre of land), and was also one of the most chronically unhealthy. It was also notorious for being "wide-open." The community became known for prostitution, gambling, numbers and some opium usage (Price 1974: 33).

The Great Migration of blacks from the south to the north continued through the interwar years and into World War II. Between 1920 and 1940, the number of black immigrants rose from 16,977 to 45,760. Along with the thousands of non-skilled and semi-skilled workers came black professionals, including physicians and dentists. Newark's growing black population had few black practitioners during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The existence of a ghetto, in short, virtually guaranteed a black physician, dentist or lawyer a successful practice. The number of black female professionals also doubled particularly because teachers and nurses increased drastically (Price 1974: 30).

By the end of the First World War, southern blacks were well aware of Newark and the Third Ward. By the 1930s African-Americans referred to New Jersey as "the Georgia of the North" (Price 1980: 194). Dr. Kenney selected the Third Ward for his hospital because he knew of the appalling living conditions, severe overcrowding, and the great number of blacks who required medical attention. In 1930, twenty black physicians, caring for 39,000 black people in Newark, did not have any hospital connections except what was available at Kenney Memorial Hospital (Journal of the NMA: 285).

At first, Kenney solicited local physicians for loans to build the hospital. When no interest was aroused, Kenney approached local banks and mortgage companies. Again, the response was negative. After much persistence, Kenney persuaded a bank officer to give him a personal loan to begin construction. Unable to garner community support, Kenney used his own money to construct and equip a small, 30-bed hospital next to his home on West Kinney Street (Southern Workman, May 1928: 5-7). Kenney Memorial Hospital, named after the deceased parents of the founding physician, officially opened on September 1, 1927 with one patient.

Dr. Kenney and his family decided to build the hospital on an empty lot they owned immediately adjacent to their private home. Built to modern hospital standards of the time, the fireproof structure was built of brick, steel and cement, with an attractive stone and face-brick front. The original design of the hospital consisted of two stories above ground and a third story partially below the street level. The interior of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 5

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

hospital building was divided into small wards, semi-private and private rooms for thirty patients. The hospital was connected by a corridor over a nine-foot automobile driveway with the wood frame office building, which had originally served as Kenney's home, immediately to the west of the hospital building. The administration building, which is no longer extant, contained reception rooms, offices, treatment, x-ray and laboratory facilities, storerooms, dining rooms, quarters for help and laundry. The personnel consisted of a house physician, secretary, stenographer, eight graduate nurses, one matron, two maids and two orderlies. Services provided by the hospital included: general medicine, surgery, gynecology, obstetrics and physiotherapy, including radium and the X-ray (Southern Workman, May 1928: 8).

Following a tradition established by Kenney at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, the hospital engaged in outpatient services and community outreach. The hospital provided a free outpatient clinic, monthly health meetings at the hospital, and a social service worker to serve as a connecting link between the hospital and the public. The outpatient clinic provided free annual physical examinations. The monthly meetings taught good health and clean living. Topics covered included cleanliness, hygiene, food preparation, and "necessity of rest, exercise, recreation as well as industry and lucrative employment." (Kenney Memorial Hospital, Nov. 1929: n.p.)

The hospital also published promotional material to disseminate into the community, and to encourage residents to visit the hospital. In a booklet published in 1929, titled simply "Kenney Memorial Hospital," a story is told about Little Jean and Big Bill, a family taken care of by Kenney Memorial Hospital. In the story, Big Bill is killed by a hit-and-run automobile and Little Jean contracts pneumonia. She is admitted to the hospital where she recovers while the Ladies Auxiliary takes care of her children. Although the family is destitute they receive free medical care and help with the children. A women's auxiliary consisting of city and suburban residents supported the hospital. The Auxiliary raised money for equipment, collected donations and supported patients' families while they were in the hospital (Kenney Memorial Hospital, Nov. 1929: n.p.).

Within six months of the founding of the hospital, the community was taking full advantage of its resources. By February 14, 1928, the hospital had 205 patients and 83 surgical operations (Southern Workman, May 1928: 3). By 1934, having financed much of the construction and equipment himself, Dr. Kenney attempted to refinance the hospital by selling it to the community. Several factions developed, each bickering over the purchase price of the hospital. On Christmas Day, 1934, Dr. Kenney stunned the community by announcing that he and his family were donating the hospital to the community. At this time, the hospital property was valued at \$93,000 with \$68,000 in Dr. Kenney's personal equity. In the interest of preserving harmony within the community, Dr. Kenney made a Christmas gift of the hospital to the people of Newark. Accompanying the gift, Dr. Kenney presented and published a voluntary affidavit declaring the institution's solvency. On December 28, 1934, at the Hopewell Baptist Church, the Booker T. Washington Community Hospital Association accepted the offer on behalf of the community. Several days later, the trustees of this organization formally accepted the hospital and its properties. It was at once incorporated as a non-profit institution and the name changed from Kenney Memorial Hospital to the Community Hospital. After seven years of service as a private institution, Kenney Memorial Hospital became a community hospital. The following year, Community Hospital was registered by the American Medical Association, recognized by the State of New Jersey for the treatment

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

of State patients, accepted to the Essex County Hospital Council and recognized by county municipalities for the treatment of their municipal indigents. In 1937, the hospital was accepted by the American Hospital Association and adopted by the Middle Atlantic Conference of Congregational Christian Churches as one of their projects. The adoption by the Middle Atlantic conference was particularly welcome, as it provided both cash and in-kind grants to the hospital.

By Christmas 1938, Community Hospital had served 4,543 bed patients, 584 free clinic patients, and conducted 1,109 operations with only 19 deaths since its founding. It was used by 76 physicians, both white and African-American; gave 51,988 physiotherapy treatments and cooperated with laboratories in thousands of other treatments and tests. Radium treatments for cancer were also started. In this year, Dr. Kenney was accepted on the staff of Beth Israel Hospital (Newark Sunday Call, December 25, 1938). Seeing that his work at the hospital and within the community had achieved some level of success, Dr. Kenney decided to return to Tuskegee Institute in 1939, to head the Tuskegee Institute Hospital.

Community Hospital struggled through the 1940s, as costs increased and private contributions dropped off. By the spring of 1948, the hospital was in deep financial trouble. It had no endowments, no reserves and no wealthy contributors. Credit was exhausted and payroll was in arrears. Faced with certain closure, the hospital trustees embarked on a fund-raising campaign that allowed the hospital to remain open, but in a smaller capacity (Newark Evening News, April 13, 1948). By 1952, at the recommendation of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies, capacity was limited to 15 beds and maternity services were discontinued. The hospital trustees were unwilling to abandon the hospital although African-American doctors were being admitted to other city medical institutions. By 1953, the trustees decided to embark on a fund-raising campaign to open a new hospital. They hoped to raise \$300,000, open in a better location, and sell the present building (Newark Evening News, June 10, 1953). The State Department of Institutions and Agencies report said the hospital had inadequate facilities and no elevator, and was in a critical financial situation. Consequently, the Department refused to renew the hospital's license due in October of 1953. The hospital trustees decided to temporarily close the hospital before the license expiration, to consider plans for moving to a new building that would meet State requirements. Community Hospital was temporarily closed on June 15, 1953. It never re-opened. The hospital building was sold to the New Salem Baptist congregation to be used as a church. New Salem Baptist Church continues in the building to this day.

Dr. John A. Kenney

Dr. John A. Kenney was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, the son of ex-slaves. At the age of nineteen, Kenney entered the day school at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, from which he graduated as valedictorian in 1897. He received his medical degree in 1901 from Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina. He served his internship at Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, now part of Howard University. Dr. Kenney went to Tuskegee Institute as resident physician in 1902, and there was a close associate of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. From 1902 to 1924, he was medical director and chief surgeon of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital and Nurse Training School at Tuskegee Institute.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

In 1912, Kenney founded the John A. Andrew annual clinics. In these clinics, African-American and white physicians worked together, serving thousands of African-Americans from rural areas within a 200-mile radius of Tuskegee. Six years later, Kenney started the John A. Andrew Clinical Society accompanying the annual clinics. While at Tuskegee, Kenney also served as the personal physician to Dr. Washington (Harlan 1983: 233, 443, 449). He traveled with the elderly and infirm Booker T. Washington on his various speaking engagements and accompanied Washington on his final trip to New York and escorted him back to Tuskegee Institute to die (New York Times, November 15, 1915).

Dr. Kenney left the South in 1924, after the Ku Klux Klan threatened his life for demanding rights for Negro physicians and nurses in the newly built Veterans Administration Hospital at Tuskegee. He was forced to leave Tuskegee with his family after a cross had been burned on his front lawn and a white patient had tipped him off that his murder was being planned. Under a twenty-four hour guard provided by Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Kenney put his affairs in order and quietly moved his family to New Jersey (Bates: 1996). In 1924, Dr. Kenney moved his family to Newark where he founded and became the head of Kenney Memorial Hospital, later renamed Community Hospital. He continued as medical director and chief surgeon until 1939, when he returned to Tuskegee to head the Tuskegee Institute Hospital. In 1944, he returned to New Jersey and resumed private medical practice in Montclair.

Dr. Kenney was an influential early member of the National Medical Association (NMA), the oldest and largest organization representing African-American physicians and health professionals in the United States. Established in 1895, it was created as a parallel organization to the American Medical Association, to which membership for black medical professionals was denied. Kenney served as secretary of the National Medical Association from 1904 to 1912, when he became its president. With an increasing black population throughout the United States at the turn-of-the-twentieth century, the NMA established a multi-point agenda to address the health care needs of a population that by 1912 exceeded 10 million. They focused on increasing the number of minority physicians and improving the overall health of the African-American population. The NMA members set up their own hospitals, emphasized physician training, and appointed special commissions to study major diseases contracted by minorities, such as tuberculosis, hookworm, and pellagra (NMA 2003: n.p.)

In 1908, Dr. Kenney founded the Journal of the National Medical Association and was its associate editor and business manager until 1916, when he became editor, serving until 1948. The official organ of the National Medical Association, the journal published scholarly research and findings regarding prevention, treatment, management and care of illness and disease on a quarterly basis. During Kenney's thirty-two year leadership of the publication, the Journal was the chief medium of medical and scientific expression of African-American physicians. He was also the author of The Negro in Medicine, published in 1912.

In 1944, the Harmon Foundation, founded by the white real estate developer, William E. Harmon (1862-1928) to recognize African-American achievements, not only in the fine arts but also in business, education, farming, literature, music, race relations, religious service and science, chose Dr. Kenney as one of America's most prominent Negroes. That same year, the Harmon Foundation, then under the direction of Mary Beattie Brady, organized an exhibition, "Portraits of Outstanding Americans of Negro

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 8

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Origin," with the express goal of reversing racial intolerance, ignorance and bigotry by illustrating the accomplishments of contemporary African-Americans. Initially twenty-three portraits were created by the American artists Laura Wheeler Waring (1887-1948) and Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888-1948). The exhibition premiered at the Smithsonian Institution and then circulated to museums throughout the country for the next ten years. Other portraits were later added. Dr. Kenney's portrait was painted by Betsy Graves Reyneau. The tour of portraits was abandoned after 1954 when the Supreme Court abolished racial segregation. In 1967, 41 of the 50 original portraits were donated to the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. (New York Times, January 30, 1950; Newark Evening News, January 30, 1950; www.npg.si.edu/exh/harmon/).

Dr. Kenney died on January 29, 1950, at his home in Montclair, N.J. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark.

Dr. Howard Kenney, son of Dr. John A. Kenney, and a World War II veteran, became the director of the East Orange Veterans Hospital in 1962, the first African-American to head a Veterans Hospital outside the predominantly black Tuskegee, Alabama, VA Hospital (Newark Evening News, September 9, 1962). A year later, Dr. Howard Kenney became an East Orange Police Commissioner, the first black to hold this position. In 1965, Dr. Howard Kenney left the East Orange VA Hospital to become medical director of Tuskegee Institute (Newark Evening News, August 9, 1965).

Dr. John A. Kenney, also a son of Dr. John A. Kenney, completed his medical education at Howard University after graduating from Montclair High School. He graduated in 1945 from Howard, and after completing his residency in dermatology at the University of Michigan, went on to become Cleveland's first black dermatologist. In 1961, Kenney was offered an assistant professorship at Howard University later becoming chairman of the department. Dr. Kenney is now in private practice in Washington, D.C. (Bates: 1996).

New Salem Baptist Church

Reverend Halcot Graves and seven devoted members founded Salem Baptist Church in March 1936. Initially services were held in a rented building on Nassau Street in Newark. Reverend Graves' successful preaching quickly attracted new members, and the small but growing congregation was able to purchase the Nassau Street building. With hopes of even more expansion, in 1940 the congregation purchased two adjacent lots.

Ten years later, Reverend Graves died and Reverend T. B. Bass was called to be the Pastor. Under the administration of Reverend Bass, the name was changed to New Salem Baptist Church. New Salem Baptist Church found its existence threatened by the expansion of Route 280 through Newark's South Ward. The highway was to go right through their building. The church was able to purchase two buildings on High Street (now Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard); one building was used for the church and the other was rented out for apartments. Membership continued to grow. Upon the resignation of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 9

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Reverend Bass, Minister Eddie Douglas, who was a church member, carried on the minister's duty until 1955 when Reverend John L. Toler was called to serve as Pastor.

Under Reverend Toler's leadership, the membership quickly outgrew the High Street facilities, and aware of the closing of Community Hospital, the church was able to purchase the former hospital building on West Kinney Street in 1959. Reverend Toler was a dynamic leader. He was able to motivate the congregation to raise enough money to burn the mortgage in 1969. Church membership reached an all-time-high, and the congregation expanded the building by adding a rear addition in 1985. The longest serving pastor in the church's history, Reverend Toler, pastor for 23 years, died in December 1992.

After Reverend Toler death, the church came under the leadership of interim Pastor Eddie Douglas. In November 1994, Reverend Franklin Gosnell was called to be Pastor. He instituted a feeding outreach ministry. In September 2001, leadership was passed to the current Pastor Reverend John K. White (History of New Salem Baptist Church, January 26, 2002).

During the last 44 years, New Salem Baptist Church has maintained the Community Hospital building. The exterior and the second floor remain almost the same as when Dr. Kenney left Newark. While the building was originally intended for medical purposes, it continues today to serve the spiritual needs of the community in which it is located.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9

Page 9

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Bibliography

"A Life of Service," Newark Evening News, January 21, 1950.

"Breaking Racial Barriers; African-Americans in the Harmon Foundation Collection."
(www.npg.si.edu/exh/harmon).

Community Hospital Board of Trustees. "Historical Sketch of the Community Hospital." Newark, New Jersey: (author), June 1939.

Cummings, Charles. "Community Hospital Helped Sustain Area That Became the Central Ward." Newark Star-Ledger, February 13, 1997.

"Dr. B. T. Washington, Negro Leader, Dead." New York Times, November 15, 1915.

"Dr. Kenney Dead at 75; Medical Leader Began Hospital Here After Fleeing Klan." Newark Evening News, January 30, 1950.

Harlan, Louis R. Booker T. Washington: The Wizard of Tuskegee, 1901-1915. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

"History of New Salem Baptist Church." New Salem Baptist Church, Newark, January 26, 2002.

"Hospital Ends Long Service," Newark Evening News, June 15, 1953.

"Hospital Fund Drive," Newark Evening News, June 9, 1953.

"Hospital Here Faces Closing." Newark Evening News, April 13, 1948.

"J.A. Kenney Dead; Medical Leader, 75." New York Times, January 30, 1950.

"J.A. Kenney, Noted Negro Physician, Dies." Newark Star-Ledger, January 30, 1950.

"John Kenney '42 Lives the Sacred Oath." Bates: The Alumni Magazine. Bates College, 1996.

Kenney, John A. Dr. "The Kenney Memorial Hospital, Newark, New Jersey." The Southern Workman, May 1928.

Kenney Memorial Hospital. Newark, New Jersey: (author), November 1929.

"Newark's All-Negro Hospital Part of Founder's Life Dream." Newark Sunday Call, December 25, 1938.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 10

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Phillips, A. A., M.D. "The Negro Physician in North Jersey and the Early History of the North Jersey Medical Society." Undated, typewritten report in the Newark Public Library vertical file collection.

Price, Clement A. "The Beleaguered City as Promised Land: Blacks in Newark, 1917- 1947." In Urban New Jersey Since 1870. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1975.

Price, Clement A. Freedom Not Far Distant. Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1980.

"Trustees Seek Funds for New Negro Hospital." Newark Evening News, June 10, 1953.

White, Robert M. M.D. "Kenney Memorial Hospital." Journal of the National Medical Association, Vol. 9, No. 5.

Works Progress Administration. "Negro Survey (Newark)." Writers Project Photographs. Undated.

Wright, Giles R. Afro-Americans in New Jersey. A Short History. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1988.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10

Page 11

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Community Hospital occupies Block 2530, Lot 6, City of Newark Tax Map. It is located in the Central Ward of Newark, on West Kinney Street, between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Quitman Street.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the former hospital is located.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number Photos Page 12

Community Hospital
Newark, Essex County, NJ

Photographs

The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

- 1) Name of property: Community Hospital
- 2) City and state: Newark, New Jersey
- 3) Photo by: Ulana Zakalak
- 4) Photo taken: May 21, 2003
- 5) Location of negative: Zakalak Associates
30 Linden Place
Red Bank, NJ 07701

6) & 7) Descriptions of views indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 13: West Kinney Street elevation. View looking southeast.
- Photo 2 of 13: West Kinney Street elevation. View looking south.
- Photo 3 of 13: West Kinney and Quitman Street elevations. View looking southeast.
- Photo 4 of 13: Sanctuary. View looking south.
- Photo 5 of 13: Sanctuary. View looking south.
- Photo 6 of 13: Sanctuary. View looking north.
- Photo 7 of 13: Basement fellowship hall and baptismal pool. View looking west
- Photo 8 of 13: Second floor stairhall. View looking northwest.
- Photo 9 of 13: Second floor corridor. View looking north.
- Photo 10 of 13: Original operating room, now Pastor's study. View looking southwest.
- Photo 11 of 13: Original prep room, operating suite. View looking southwest.
- Photo 12 of 13: Original patient room. View looking west.
- Photo 13 of 13: Second floor meeting room/classroom. View looking northwest.

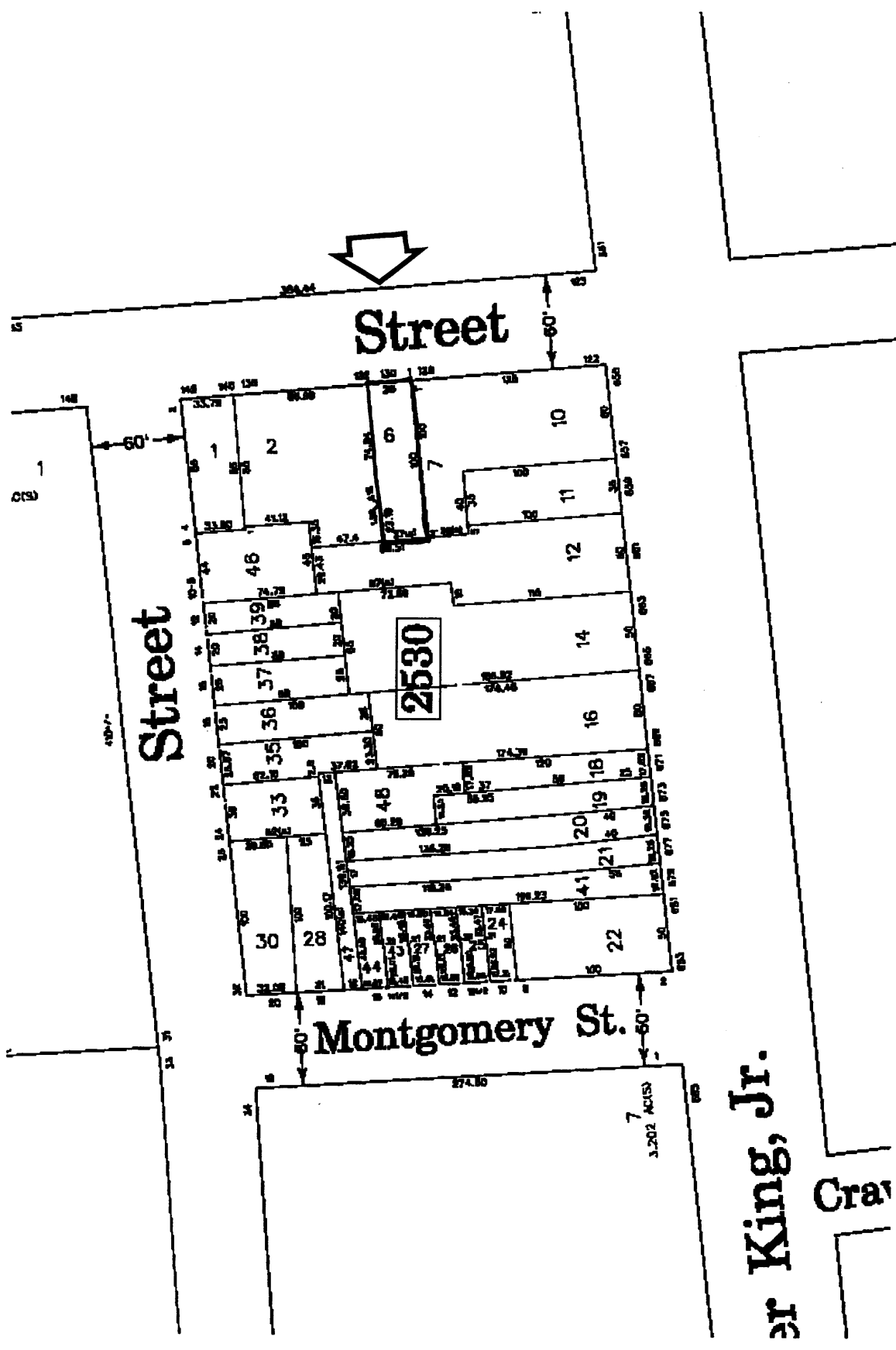


Figure 2. City of Newark Tax Map Number 74. Detail showing location of Community Hospital.

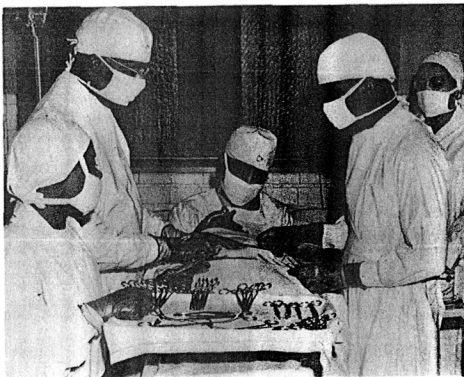


Present Hospital

Administration
Building

Nurses Home and Clinic
(Rented)

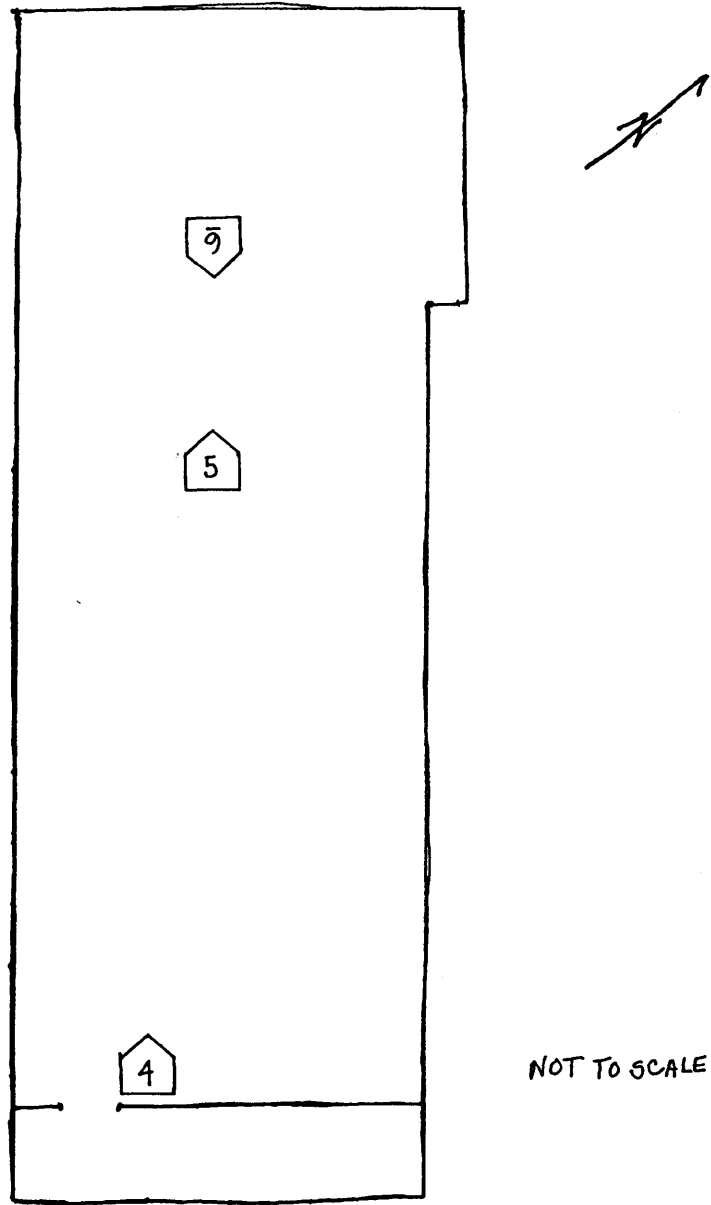
Figure 3. View of Community Hospital published in 1947.



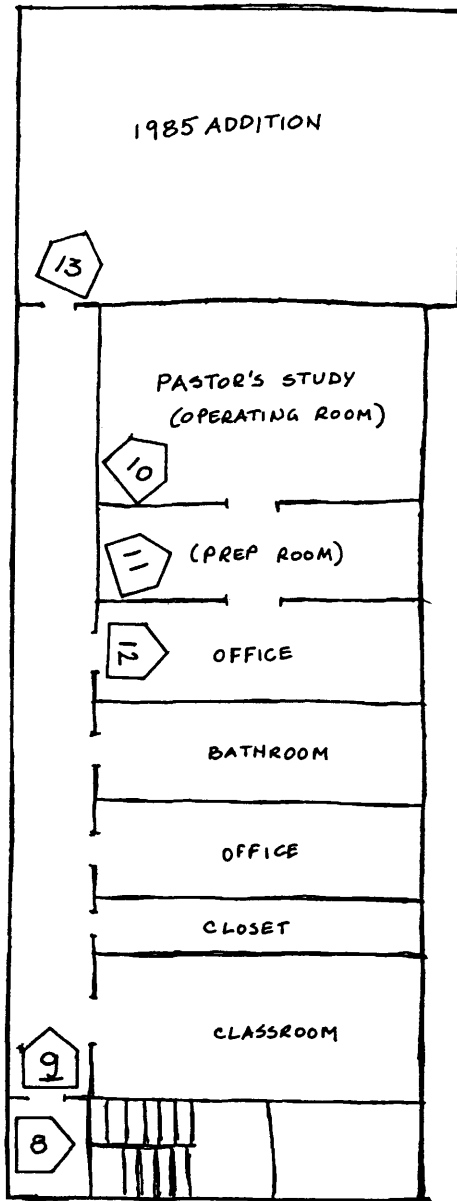
Newark's black community was large enough to establish and sustain certain kinds of institutions in the face of racial discrimination. The photos above (c. 1930s) show the medical staff of the Community Hospital of Newark, which was established in 1927.

Courtesy of the New Jersey Division of Records Management.

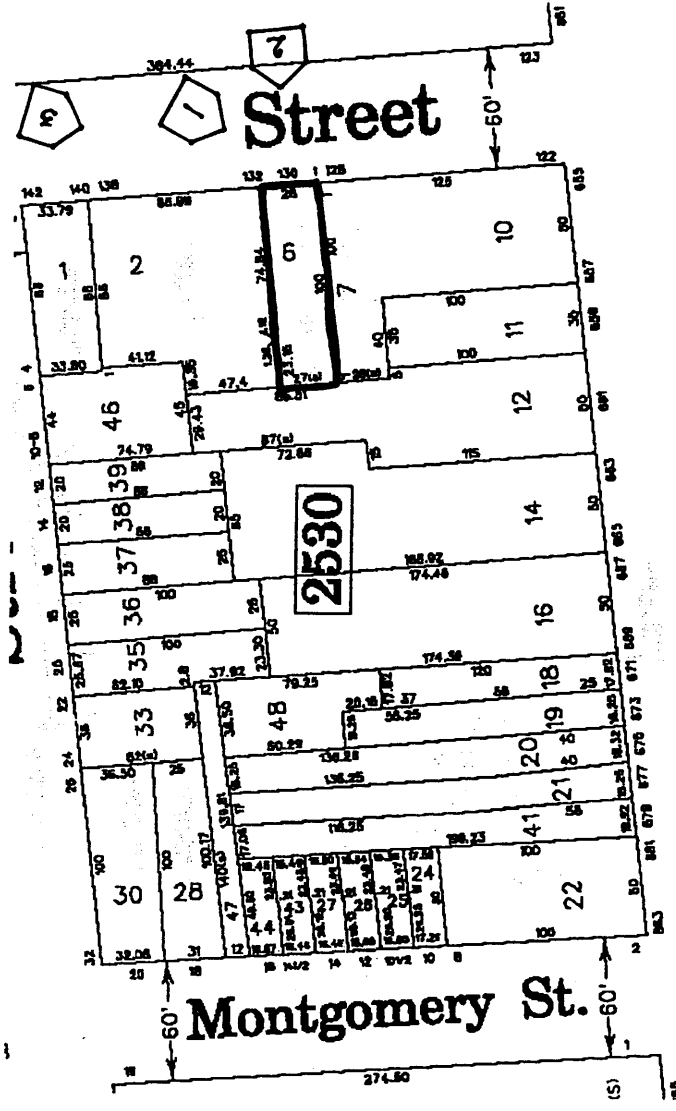
Figure 4. W.P.A. Writers Project Photographs: Negro Survey (Newark).



Community Hospital Photo Locator Map: First Floor



Community Hospital Photo Locator Map: Second Floor



Community Hospital Photo Locator Map: Site Plan