

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: THE NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

other name/site number: DIMOCK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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2. Location

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street & number: 55 Dimock Street

not for publication: \_\_\_\_\_

city/town: Roxbury

vicinity: \_

state: MA county: Suffolk

code: 025

zip code: 02119

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
__8__	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
__8__	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: \_\_8\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

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 4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

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 5. National Park Service Certification  
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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 Keeper Date  
 of  
 Action

=====  
6. Function or Use  
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Historic: Health Care Sub: Hospital  
Education School  
Current : Health Care Sub: Clinic

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Stick Style  
High Victorian Gothic  
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Georgian Revival  
Neo-Classical Revival

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Brick roof Slate  
walls Brick, Wood other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Information included on continuation sheet)

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and B

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CRITERIA: 1 and 2  
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: health/medicine NHL THEMES: XIII: Science  
education F: Medicine  
social history 1: Clinical Specialties

Period(s) of Significance: 1872 - 1930  
Significant Dates: N/A

XXVII: Education  
C: Higher Education  
4: Research, Graduate...  
Professional Studies  
H: Special Populations  
3: Women's Education

Significant Person(s): Dr. Marie Zakrzewska  
Ednah Cheney  
Samuel Sewall  
Dr. Lucy Sewell  
Dr. Susan Dimock  
Linda Richards  
Mary Eliza Mahoney

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Charles Amos Cummings and Willard T. Sears  
John A. Fox  
Kendall, Taylor and Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X  See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X  See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- x  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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- x  State historic preservation office: Massachusetts SHPO
- x  Other state agency: Massachusetts Historical Commission
- x  Federal agency: National Register of Historic Places
- x  Local government: Boston Landmarks Commission
- x  University: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College
- x  Other -- Specify Repository: Dimock Community Health Center  
Historic Boston Incorporated

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property: 9 acres

Quadrangle name: Boston South                      Quadrangle scale: 1:25,000

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	19	327050	4687275	B	19	327240	4687250
C	19	327260	4687095	D	19	327180	4687000
E	19	327050	4687050				

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_

The nominated property occupies a nine acre site in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The property is bounded to the west by Columbus Avenue. It is bounded to the east by Washington Street, Dimock and Notre Dame Streets. It is bounded to the north by Academy and to the south by Bradgon Street. The legal boundaries of the property are described as follows: Westerly by the Easterly line of Columbus Avenue seventy-four and 78/100 (74.78) feet; Northerly four hundred forty and 93/100 (440.93) feet, and Northeasterly one hundred ninety-nine and 92/100 (199/92) feet all by land now or formerly of the Notre Dame Academy; and Southerly by land now or formerly of the New England Hospital for Women and Children six hundred nine and 14/100 (609.14) feet.

Boundary Justification:   x   See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the entire nine acre site that has served as the campus of the New England Hospital for Women and Children. These are the same boundaries that were established for the nomination of this property to the National Register of Historic Places, as per the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, and the original deeds to the property.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Gail Dubrow

Organization: University of Washington

Date: April 15, 1990

Street & Number: 410 Gould Hall

Telephone: (206) 543-4190

City or Town: Seattle

State: WA      ZIP: 98195

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Description of Site:

The New England Hospital for Women first opened in 1861 at 60 Pleasant Street in Boston with 10 beds.<sup>1</sup> A move was made in 1864 to Warrenton Street where it remained until 1871, at which time a fundraising campaign that had begun several years earlier accrued sufficient capital to permit the purchase of a new site and the design of new facilities on Columbus Avenue in Roxbury.<sup>2</sup> The various small buildings in the South End of Boston that were associated with the New England Hospital's first decade are potentially important for marking the institution's origins, however they have been demolished and replaced by more recent construction. Because the intact site and buildings in Roxbury that housed the New England Hospital from 1872 onward possesses a high degree of architectural and historical integrity, it is the most appropriate place for interpreting the institution's contributions to the history of American medicine.

The Site

The New England Hospital for Women and Children, known today as the Dimock Community Health Center, is comprised of eight major buildings on a nine acre site located on a small hill in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, between Washington Street and Columbus Avenue. According to Alisa M. McCann,

the choice of a site in Roxbury was motivated by many factors: the comparative low land costs, the clear air and quiet of the then 'country' location, and the convenience of municipal gas and water (Roxbury had recently been annexed to the City of Boston in 1868). The isolation of the sites, sounds and smells of a hospital was almost certainly considered.<sup>3</sup>

The buildings were sited off of Dimock Street [formerly Codman Avenue] in a picturesque landscape on curving driveways that bend around numerous outcroppings of puddingstone rock indigenous to the site. Mature trees and dense shrubbery contribute to the picturesque and "campus-like" atmosphere.<sup>4</sup>

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The Architecture

The nine acre Roxbury site eventually grew to include eight buildings in the New England Hospital complex. The buildings were constructed over a fifty-eight year period, from 1872 to 1930, and exemplify a range of changing architectural fashions from the Stick Style and High Victorian Gothic of the late 19th century to the Classical and Georgian Revival of the early 20th century. The eight surviving historic buildings are described the sections that follow.

1. Cary Cottage (1872)

Cary Cottage, the oldest building in the complex, was erected in 1872. Originally designed as a maternity facility, Cary Cottage intentionally was detached from the general surgical facilities "to minimize the dangers of infection during childbirth."<sup>5</sup> Designed by prominent Boston architects Charles Cummings and Willard Sears, it is a fine example of the Stick style. It is a three and a half story wood frame building, designed with a T-plan, topped by an asphalt-shingled mansard roof with shed dormers crowned by a wood frame louvered cupola. The northeast (front) facade has five dormers while the side facades have three dormers each. The windows throughout the building are wood frame 2/2 double hung sash. The central entrance has a gabled porte-cochere with a panelled double door. The building is set into the side of a hill and rests on an exposed foundation of field and puddingstone.

2. Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska Medical Building (1873)

Following the construction of Cary Cottage, Cummings and Sears turned their attention to designing the most important facility in the complex, the large two story Zakrzewska Building built in 1873. It is a fine example of polychromatic High Victorian Gothic style with its decorative stone and brick string courses, arched window heads and polychrome slate roof. Historian Virginia Drachman has described the brick Zakrzewska building as "typical of the Victorian architecture of the day," its front elevation punctuated by

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Turrets [that] flanked either end of the building, reflecting the contemporary Gothic revival. A Dutch gambrel dormer in the center gave the building a point of focus, enhancing the symmetry and bestowing an eclectic quality.<sup>6</sup>

Twin two story frame oriel windows project from the rear of the building. The three story porch that wraps around the west facade as well as part of the rear facade was a later addition.

The Zakrzewska building's design epitomized concern over maximizing the flow of air in contemporary hospitals, "on the (miasmatic) theory that 'air harbored and transmitted disease particles.'"<sup>7</sup>

The thrusting structure had spacious halls, numerous large windows throughout, and open porches that wrapped around to the back of the building. Large center halls facilitated circulation of air and sunny promenades for convalescent patients. The details of the interior were 'exceedingly plain' to prevent the accumulation of dirt. There were 'no cornices or ornaments' to hold dust or bad air; and no carpets to harbor or hide dirt.<sup>8</sup>

In sum, the hospital's founders sought to create a homelike, but efficient, atmosphere. So innovative was the design that the Zakrzewska Building won an 1876 award at the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia for combining "economy of service, good distribution of various parts for ventilation, and cheerful accommodations."<sup>9</sup>

### 3. Power Building (1890)

Renewed fundraising campaigns undertaken at the end of the 19th century allowed several new buildings to be added to the hospital complex. In 1890 Cummings and Sears added a steam plant, the Power Building. It provided all the electricity steam and heat for the hospital complex until about 1960 when the installation of municipal service made the building obsolete.<sup>10</sup> It consists of two connected one story brick sections with segmentally arched windows and flat roofs.

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4. New Laundry Building (1890)

Also in 1890 John A. Fox designed and built a new Laundry Building to replace the original one designed by Cummings and Sears that had been gutted by a fire. The New Laundry is a two story brick building. Round arch sash window openings punctuate the facade. Bracketed eaves ornament the slate hipped roof, which features two square cupolas.<sup>11</sup>

5. Sewall Maternity Building (1892; 1916)

In addition, a series of Georgian Revival style buildings were added to the complex. Fox designed the red brick Sewall Building in 1892 as a Maternity unit.<sup>12</sup>

[It is] a two story, three by four bay brick block with two one story wings, one of which extends to the rear and one of which extends to the east and then bends back to the rear, paralleling the other wing and forming an open courtyard enclosed on three sides. The main entrance, in the central two story block, is distinguished by a pediment broken by a large arched lunette window. The Sewall Building also boasts a high molded brick watertable, brick stringcourses and a hipped slate roof over the main block and a pitched roof over the side wings. Windows contain 4/4 double hung wood sash.<sup>13</sup>

Fox designed a two story addition to this building in 1916 that enclosed the fourth side of the courtyard. It features:

A concrete arcade at the basement level topped with decorative ironwork [that] connects this structure to the one story wings on the western end. The entrance at the eastern facade of the addition incorporates a classical portico topped by a Palladian window. The projecting block at the eastern end of the northern facade offers a second story porch of Tuscan columns connected by a decorative iron railing. Windows are 6/6 sash with a three paned transom.<sup>14</sup>

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6. Ednah B. Cheney Surgical Building (1899)

In 1899 Willard Sears (or possibly both Cummings and Sears) designed a new four story brick Surgical Building dedicated to Ednah Cheney, consisting of a central block with three story wings on two sides.

The central entranceway is accentuated by a classical porte-cochere topped by a Palladian window, in keeping with the Georgian Revival tradition of symmetry and classical vocabulary. The flat roof with its medillioned cornice was at one time completely encircled by a balustrade, although only the central block retains this feature. Windows are 9/1 double hung sash.<sup>15</sup>

7. Goddard Nurses Home (1909)

Fox returned to the New England Hospital in 1909 to design the three story brick Goddard Nurses Home in the Classical Revival style, an eleven by four bay building that features:

a central entranceway and symmetrical fenestration with flared brick keystone lintels, and a Palladian window set into a three story blind arch on the rear facade. Stone stringcourses emphasize the distinctions between the first, second and third floors and stone trim ornaments the central entrance. The slate hipped roof is perforated by three dormers on the front facade.<sup>16</sup>

8. Richards Children's Building (1930-31)

The Richards Children's Building was the last major building project added to the complex during the period in which it remained a hospital run by and for women. It was designed by the architectural firm of Kendall, Taylor and Company and built between 1930 and 1931. A three-story building in the Classical Revival style, it was constructed of red brick and Indiana limestone. An arcaded loggia spans the length of the facade, above which rests long balconies and wide solarium windows separated by fluted limestone pilasters. "The flat roof is

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topped with a small penthouse type block. Windows are 8/1 double hung wood sash."<sup>17</sup> In addition to patients' rooms, the building contained both a nursery for infants and facilities for operating.<sup>18</sup> McCann has observed that the second story sun porch reflected "the lingering belief in the recuperative powers of fresh air and sunshine."<sup>19</sup>

Present Condition of the Site and Buildings

Despite minor alterations that have adapted historic features to current functions, the site and all eight historically significant buildings have survived intact to the present day. In addition to the architectural integrity of the surviving buildings, the overall site possesses a high degree of integrity of feeling and association. A continuing commitment to community service links past and present uses of the Roxbury facility.

As indicated in the statement of Historical Significance, the Hospital went into decline in the decades from the 1930s through the 1960s, during which time the facilities fell into disrepair. A coeducational staff was introduced in the 1950s and 60s, permanently changing the goals and character of the institution. In 1969 the New England Hospital reorganized as the Dimock Community Health Center. Financial difficulties continued to plague the Center, which ultimately forced it into receivership from 1981 to 1984.

During that period, the Cary Cottage was rehabilitated. After the receivership was terminated, preservation planning was introduced as one component of a comprehensive strategy aimed at restoring financial solvency to the center. In 1985, the New England Hospital for Women and Children was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additional rehabilitative work has proceeded since that time on the Zakrzewska Building, which had sustained significant damage to the roof and 5,000 square feet of the third floor. On May 27, 1988, proposed renovations were certified as meeting the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation." Restoration efforts during the 1988-89 year featured the replacement of the polychromatic slate roof, new shingles, and paint. Work on the Zakrzewska Building continues to date.

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Rehabilitation of the New [or Second] Laundry Building, which had sustained fire damage, was completed in 1988. This project was facilitated by a public-private partnership formed to reuse the building as a community facility for expectant mothers in Massachusetts prisons. The recent construction of the Elizabeth Stone House on Notre Dame Street has brought transitional housing into the Dimock Center for use by women leaving the mental health system.

The Dimock Health Center currently provides a full array of health and human services to the surrounding community, including: medical, dental and eye care; substance abuse counseling and treatment; vocational training; child development and mental health facilities. There are continuing efforts at Dimock to adapt the facilities to meet present health and social service needs, at the same time there is a commitment to retaining the integrity of the remaining historic site and buildings.

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**NOTES**

1. Virginia Drachman, Hospital with a Heart: The Paradox of Separatism at the New England Hospital, 1862-1969 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), p. 59.
2. Ibid., p. 69.
3. Aliza M. McCann, "Dollars and Sense," n.p., n.d. I am indebted to McCann for her overview of the historic architecture and her account of contemporary preservation efforts.
4. The following description of the site and architecture draws heavily from the New England Hospital's nomination for the National Register of Historic Places prepared by Sarah Zimmerman, Director of Preservation Planning, Massachusetts Historical Commission, and Amy Jordan, Historic Boston Incorporated. Sarah Zimmerman et al, "New England Hospital for Women and Children," National Register Nomination (August 1984).
5. Drachman, p. 74.
6. Ibid., p. 73.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid., p. 74.
9. McCann, "Dollars and Sense," p. 2.
10. Zimmerman et al, "New England Hospital."
11. Ibid.
12. "The New England Hospital: The History of the Sewell Building," typescript, n.d., Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College. See also, McCann, "Dollars and Sense," p. 2.
13. Zimmerman et al, "New England Hospital."

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14. Ibid.
15. Zimmerman et al, "New England Hospital."
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. "Dedicate New Hospital Building for Children," Boston Evening Transcript (June 12, 1931). In the collection of the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College.
19. McCann, "Dollars and Sense," p. 2.

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Location of Historic Buildings on the Site:

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MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	CONSTRUCTION DATE	STYLE
1.	Cary Cottage	1872	Stick
2.	Zakrzewska Building	1873	High Victorian Gothic
3.	Power Building	1890	Utilitarian
4.	New Laundry Building	1890	Utilitarian
5.	Sewall Building	1892	Georgian Revival
5A.	Sewall Addition	1916	Georgian Revival
6.	Cheney Building	1899	Georgian Revival
7.	Goddard Building	1909	Classical Revival
8.	Richards Building	1930	Classical Revival

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Historical Significance:

The complex of eight major buildings on a nine acre site between Washington Street and Columbus Avenue in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, today occupied by the Dimock Community Health Center, was built over a fifty-eight year period for the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Within the context of the National Historic Landmark Program thematic framework, the New England Hospital for Women and Children is a nationally significant institution under the theme: XIII. Science (F) Medicine (1) Clinical Specialities. It is the oldest remaining example of the hospitals that were run by and for women during the later half of the 19th and early part of the 20th century.

The history of American medicine would be incomplete without covering the separate institutions that were established by and for women during the second half of the 19th century. Long after the doors to medical schools were pried open by women seeking an education, female physicians continued to encounter gender barriers when they sought to obtain clinical experience and to secure hospital privileges. In an effort to overcome the obstacles that stood in the way of women entering medical practice, a number of separate hospitals were established by and for women physicians. These hospitals speeded the entry of women into the profession, by providing them with the clinical experience necessary to compete on a par with their male colleagues. Ironically, the very success of these institutions contributed to their eventual obsolescence, as female physicians gradually gained access to the male-dominated institutions that once had excluded them.

Historian Virginia Drachman has described the New England Hospital for Women and Children as "the first hospital in New England run by women doctors for women patients and the second in the country, after Elizabeth Blackwell's New York Infirmary."<sup>1</sup> Because the historic buildings associated with the New York Infirmary have not survived, the intact site and buildings of the New England Hospital are the most appropriate choice for a National Historic Landmark commemorating the hospitals that were run by and for women during the latter half of the 19th and early part of the 20th century.

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To a significant extent, the New England Hospital was the product of a single individual's dedication. Dr. Marie Zakrzewska's [pronounced Zak-shef-ska's] burning desire to expand her own and other women's clinical opportunities in medicine inspired the leadership necessary to establish the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Yet in a broader sense, the New England Hospital took root in a fertile soil for female institution-building. Among the vital women and men who supported the New England Hospital was a core group -- Caroline Severance, Lucy Goddard, Ednah Cheney, Samuel Sewall, and Marie Zakrzewska -- that went on to establish the New England Woman's Club in 1868, one of the first women's clubs in the nation.<sup>2</sup> This club, in turn, spawned still more women's organizations and organized activities.

Born October 6, 1829, Marie Zakrzewska took training as a midwife at the Charit  Hospital's School for Midwives in her native city of Berlin.<sup>3</sup> There she briefly served as a professor, until the hostility of male doctors on the School's faculty forced her to resign. News of the opening of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania prompted Zakrzewska to come to America, where she hoped for greater receptivity to women in medicine.<sup>4</sup>

Upon graduation from Cleveland Medical School in 1854, Zakrzewska went to New York City to set up a medical practice. There she once again found that discrimination against female physicians hindered her efforts.

My fears concerning the opposition to women physicians were fully realized. I found no well-regulated household would rent rooms to me. I investigated everywhere, in all respectable parts of New York wherever signs announced 'Parlor to let for a physician' or where I was sent by agents. But as soon as it was learned that it was a woman physician who desired the office, I was denied the opportunity of even looking at the advertised rooms.<sup>5</sup>

The landlords' objections ranged from fears that Zakrzewska was a spiritual medium or a clairvoyant, to disbelief that a woman physician could support the rent. However, encouragement soon came when Zakrzewska met Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who took her in

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and allowed her to use the back parlor of her home as a medical office.<sup>6</sup>

Under Blackwell's leadership, Zakrzewska helped to establish the New York Infirmary. With this experience accrued, a more confident Zakrzewska moved from New York City to Boston two years later, where she joined the faculty of the New England Female Medical College.<sup>7</sup> However, conflict with Samuel Gregory, the founder and director of the College, led Zakrzewska to resign from the New England Female Medical College in 1862. Zakrzewska formally incorporated the New England Hospital for Women and Children on March 12, 1863, drawing support from a core group that departed from the New England Female Medical College in solidarity with her.

With the advice and support of a board of lady managers Dr. Zakrzewska had built up the clinical department of the New England Female Medical College into a small hospital and dispensary for women. When Gregory closed this hospital and disbanded its Board upon [Zakrzewska's] departure, many of these women and several of the College trustees backed Dr. Zakrzewska in founding a new institution, the New England Hospital for Women and Children.<sup>8</sup>

The new hospital had three purposes: "to provide women with medical aid from competent physicians of their own sex; to provide educated women with an opportunity for practical study in medicine; and to train nurses."<sup>9</sup> Between 1861, when Zakrzewska first opened a small clinic that led to the founding of the New England Hospital, and 1872, when sufficient capital had been raised to permit the purchase of a new site and the design of new facilities on Columbus Avenue in Roxbury, the work was conducted in several small houses in the South End of the city of Boston,<sup>10</sup> none of which had been designed for use as a hospital, and all of which have long since been replaced by more recent construction.

In each of its three functions, the New England Hospital provided an important service to women. For its patients, the New England Hospital filled an important gap in the availability of obstetrical services in Boston. According to Drachman,

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When the Boston Lying-In Hospital closed between 1856 and 1872, the New England Hospital was the only private hospital in the city for women in childbirth.<sup>11</sup>

Furthermore, the clinical training obtained by female physicians at the New England Hospital gave them a competitive advantage, since it represented the cutting edge of contemporary medical pedagogy.<sup>12</sup> So too, the New England Hospital offered "one of the pioneer nurses' training programs in America," which had the distinction of graduating the nation's first trained nurse in 1873, Linda Richards, and in 1879 the first black woman in nursing, Mary Eliza Mahoney.<sup>13</sup>

Zakrzewska's dedication and energy fueled the hospital's growth for the first quarter century of operation. At her insistence, the hospital's staff was limited to women in order to maximize training opportunities for female physicians unavailable elsewhere. In time, a second generation of women doctors, who had received their training under Zakrzewska, assumed responsibility for the New England Hospital. The most prominent among them was Dr. Lucy Sewell.

Sewell was the daughter of Boston abolitionist and social reformer Samuel Sewell. He had served as a director and later as a trustee of the New England Female Medical College. With her father's support, Lucy Sewell studied medicine at the College under Zakrzewska's supervision. She soon joined the staff of the New England Hospital: first as a resident physician, serving in that position from 1863 to 1869; later as an attending physician; and finally assuming administrative responsibility as a director. Sewell's "social position and her medical competence," according to a biographer, "helped gain acceptance for other women doctors and for the New England Hospital in its formative years."<sup>14</sup>

Historian Virginia Drachman notes that the harmonious characteristic of the New England Hospital's early years began to erode in the last decade of the nineteenth century, as a new generation of women doctors -- with greater opportunities in part due to the pioneering efforts of an earlier generation who had founded the New England Hospital -- "grew increasingly dissatisfied by the hospital's restrictive policies and limited opportunities."<sup>15</sup> The climate of sexual segregation in medicine

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that had prompted the founding of the New England Hospital gradually eroded, increasing the options for the female physicians that the New England Hospital had trained. Ironically, the Hospital's success contributed to its eventual decline. According to Drachman, "fourteen women's medical schools, including two homeopathic ones, closed before 1910." Four of them, however, "still believed in the advantages of separation and resisted integration" well into the twentieth century: the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the Women's Medical College in Baltimore, the New York Infirmary, and the New England Hospital.<sup>16</sup>

But gradually the New England Hospital entered into a period of decline, with expansion stopping in the 1930s and deterioration of the facilities soon emerging as a problem. Finally in the 1950s, the tide turned decisively against separatism. Male physicians were invited to join the staff at each of the four "women's hospitals," effecting a permanent change. Yet, Drachman writes, "integration could not save the New England Hospital; it continued to decline through the 1960s. In 1969 it closed its doors forever as a women's hospital and became a community health center."<sup>17</sup>

In her later years, Zakrzewska came to the realization that the pioneering work to which she and other female physicians of her generation had devoted their lives was unlikely to receive proper recognition in a society that otherwise exalted the accomplishments of medical men. In a letter written to her friends Ednah Cheney, Lucy Goddard, and Sarah Peabody, during an 1881 rest tour of Europe, Zakrzewska found her peace of mind disturbed by the exclusion of women from among the notables memorialized in Westminster Abbey. This experience led her to reflect on the absence of women from the great landmarks of civilization generally.

You know that every shade of greatness is here represented in the monuments to men. There are some to women also, but only because these women happen to be queens or wives of royalty, though a few have been erected to high-stationed philanthropists. In no other capacity could I discover the name of a woman.

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Query: Before long, will there be erected a monument to a woman physician? We find the names of men physicians here, for no other reason that they were eminent in their profession. Will there ever be a monument to the first woman physician because she was the leader of the movement; because she had the energy, will and talent, as well as the education, which would make her worthy of imitation; and because she is a landmark of the era marked by women's freeing themselves from the bondage of prejudice and from the belief that they are the lower being when compared with men?

These are speculations that follow me wherever I go and wherever I find the monumental display to and for talent. I did not find Mrs. Somerville's name on even a tablet in the Abbey. Why is it that women do not start a movement for placing one there and in other significant places?

We need such landmarks of civilization not because those who died have lived for fame, no, but because the now living, as well as those who will live long afterward, need encouragement for utilizing their capacities, and monuments of this sort suggest the possibility of their so doing. The person who is covered by a monument is of no consequence, but the fact that a 'woman' can work and make an impression upon civilization needs to be made known and to be remembered.<sup>18</sup>

If, as Zakrzewska insisted, the larger society failed to give female medical pioneers the recognition they had earned, at least the New England Hospital memorialized its own, as buildings were named for the major figures who once had worked there. Yet the significance of the New England Hospital extends far beyond the notable individuals who were associated with it: Zakrzewska, Cheney, Sewall, Richards, Mahoney, and the others. As the oldest tangible remains of the hospitals once run by and for women, the historic site and buildings of the New England Hospital are the

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most appropriate place for public interpretation of the  
contribution made by separate women's institutions to American  
medical history.

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NOTES

1. Virginia G. Drachman, Hospital with a Heart: The Paradox of Separatism at the New England Hospital, 1862-1969 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), p. 44.
2. Karen J. Blair, The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914 (N.Y.: Holmes & Meier, 1980), p. 31.
3. John B. Blake, "Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska," Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary, Volume III, P-Z, (Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971), p. 702.
4. Drachman, p. 28. The historic buildings associated with the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania have been demolished and replaced by more recent construction.
5. Agnes C. Vietor, ed. A Woman's Quest: The Life of Marie E. Zakrzewska, M.D. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1924), p. 178.
6. Vietor, p. 180.
7. It was located on Springfield Street in the building erected for the Boston Lying-In Hospital and later occupied by a Home for Aged Men.
8. Blake, p. 703.
9. Ibid., p. 703.
10. Drachman, pp. 59 and 69. The New England Hospital for Women first opened in 1861 at 60 Pleasant Street in Boston with 10 beds. Between 1864 and 1871, it was located at Warrenton Street.
11. Ibid., p. 61.
12. Ibid., p. 65.
13. Ibid., pp. 83-84.

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14. Shirley Phillips Ingebritsen, "Lucy Ellen Sewell," Notable American Women, pp. 267-268.
15. Drachman, p. 124.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid., p. 195.
18. Vietor, pp. 403-405.

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Walsh, Mary Roth. Doctors Wanted: No Women Need Apply. Sexual Barriers in the Medical Profession, 1853-1975. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.



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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 1

- 1) Name of Property: **Entry off of Columbus Avenue.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **East.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.1**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 2

- 1) Name of Property: **Cary Cottage.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **Southwest.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.2**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 3

- 1) Name of Property: **Cary Cottage.**  
**New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**East-southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.3**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 4

- 1) Name of Property: **Zakrzewska Building.**  
**New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographic Source: **Ruth Abrams, Send Us a Lady Physician,  
p. 90.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **1872.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative:
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**Southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.4**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 5

- 1) Name of Property: **Zakrzewska Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**Southwest**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.5**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 6

- 1) Name of Property: **Zakrzewska Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**East-southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.6**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 7

- 1) Name of Property: **Zakrzewska Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**Southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.7**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 8

- 1) Name of Property: **New Laundry Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**Northwest.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.8**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 9

- 1) Name of Property: **New Laundry Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**Southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.9**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 10

- 1) Name of Property: **Power Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera:  
**North-northwest.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.10**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 11

- 1) Name of Property: **Power Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **North-northeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.11**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 12

- 1) Name of Property: **Sewell Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **North.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.12**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 13

- 1) Name of Property: **Sewell Building.**  
**New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow, Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **North-northeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.13**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 14

- 1) Name of Property: **Cheney Building.**  
**New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow, Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **Southeast.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.14**

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PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 15

- 1) Name of Property: **Goddard Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **Southwest.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.15**

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 16

- 1) Name of Property: **Richards Building.  
New England Hospital for Women and Children.**
- 2) City and State: **Roxbury, Massachusetts.**
- 3) Photographer: **Diane Hamer.**
- 4) Date of Photograph: **April 22, 1990.**
- 5) Location of Original Negative: **Property of Gail Dubrow,  
Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of  
Washington.**
- 6) Description of view indicating direction of camera: **North.**
- 7) Photograph number keyed to accompanying sketch map: **1.16**