

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page 1

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100003489

Date Listed: 3/6/2019

Property Name: St. Elizabeth's Hospital

County: Harris

State: TX

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation


Signature of the Keeper3/6/2019
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Bibliographic Documentation

Under *Previous Documentation on File*, the box for preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) should be checked. [St. Elizabeth's Hospital Part 1 approved 01/25/2018--Case # 36278.

The TEXAS SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Other name/site number: Drew Medical Center; Fifth Ward Recovery Center

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 4514 Lyons Avenue

City or town: Houston

State: Texas

County: Harris

Not for publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
(☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property (☒ meets ☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ localApplicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

 State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title

11/28/19
Date

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting or other official

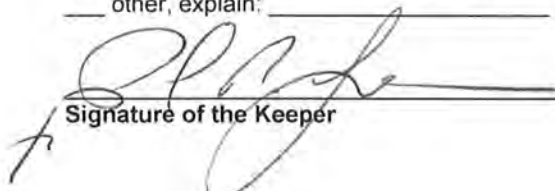
Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, explain: _____


Signature of the Keeper

3/6/2019
Date of Action

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: HEALTH CARE / hospital

Current Functions: VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification: MODERN MOVEMENT / Moderne

Principal Exterior Materials: Limestone, brick

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7 through 9)

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations: A

Areas of Significance: ETHNIC HERITAGE, Black / HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance: 1947-1969

Significant Dates: 1947, 1958, 1960, 1964

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Wyatt C. Hedrick; Claude H. Lindsley; Thomas E. Lightfoot, Jr.

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 10 through 19)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 20 through 22)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2.514 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. 29.775803° -95.324370°

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1 thru 10 Block 117 and Lots 1 thru 10 Block 121 Augusta.

Boundary Justification: Boundary description contains all legal parcels associated with this property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Hannah Curry-Shearouse and Anna Mod
Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address: 10245 W. Little York, Suite 600
City or Town: Houston State: Texas Zip Code: 77040
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Date: October 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 23-26)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 27-38)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5-6, 39-48)

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photographs

St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Photographed by SWCA Environmental Consultants, July and February 2017

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): Aerial, view southeast
Photograph Number: 0001

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): Aerial, view northeast
Photograph Number: 0002

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): North façade and west elevation, view southeast.
Photograph Number: 0003

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): East elevation and north façade, view southwest.
Photograph Number: 0004

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): West elevation, view east.
Photograph Number: 0005

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): South elevation, view north.
Photograph Number: 0006

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): North and west elevations of convent addition, view southeast.
Photograph Number: 0007

Date Photographed: February 2017
Description of Photograph(s): East and north elevations of pump house, view southwest.
Photograph Number: 0008

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): Entrance detail, view south.
Photograph Number: 0009

Date Photographed: July 2017
Description of Photograph(s): Detail of St. Elizabeth relief on the façade, view southwest.
Photograph Number: 0010

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Date Photographed: February 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Original signage for St. Elizabeth's Hospital located above the main entrance to the building on the north façade.

Photograph Number: 0011

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Interior, first floor lobby, view south.

Photograph Number: 0012

Date Photographed: February 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Interior, first floor hallway, view west.

Photograph Number: 0013

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Interior, second floor room, view northwest.

Photograph Number: 0014

Date Photographed: July 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Interior, hyphen connecting east wing to convent addition, view south.

Photograph Number: 0015

Date Photographed: April 2017

Description of Photograph(s): Interior, hallway of convent addition, view south.

Photograph Number: 0016

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Narrative Description

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is a 3-story with raised basement, E-plan Art Moderne style building constructed in several phases between 1945 and 1988. Facing north, the building features a combination of Indiana limestone and fossiliferous limestone on its earliest and front and side elevations, while subsequent rear elevations and additions are faced with tan brick. Renovations over the years include the installation of single-light fixed windows and the enclosure of the front entry with an aluminum and glass vestibule. Additions include a convent/dormitory on the east side of the building, while the central rear addition enveloped formerly freestanding outbuildings over time to create a large outpatient clinic. The original hospital and its additions are counted as a single building with historic and non-historic components. The small freestanding pump house is the other contributing building on the property. Despite these changes, the property retains a sufficient level of integrity to the period 1947- 1969, the year of the hospital's initial completion through the 50-year point.

The St. Elizabeth's Hospital property occupies two city blocks in Houston's Fifth Ward, a historically African-American neighborhood northeast of downtown Houston. The main hospital building faces north onto Lyons Avenue, a major thoroughfare and historically the neighborhood's commercial corridor.. The setting is urban and the property contains a large front lawn that was partially paved after 1992 for recreational and parking use. Grass and scattered street trees make up the majority of the landscaping.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital was constructed in several phases beginning in 1945 and ending in 1989; the hospital's period of significance ranges from 1947 until 1969 and represents the period the building served as a hospital. The property and its additions have resulted in a mixture of historic and non-historic components within the additions.

When St. Elizabeth's opened in 1947, it was a 2-story rectangular-plan building with a raised basement. A small two-story addition was constructed at the center of the south elevation in 1949 that housed the chapel (the chapel was enveloped in a later addition and is no longer extant).

The third floor and the west wing were added in 1958. In 1960, the east wing was added. The third-floor addition to the main building and the two wings create the main hospital building and all are recommended as "Contributing" resources.

The outer façades of the oldest part of the hospital, the north-facing center section and the east and west wings, are clad in rock face limestone with a stringcourse of smooth cut limestone above and below each window on the three upper floors. On the raised basement exterior, the stringcourse serves only as the window header. The east wing is clad in the same rusticated limestone on its primary (east) façade; the remaining secondary elevations are clad in stretcher coursed tan brick. The secondary elevations of the original 1947 building feature American bond brick coursing with one header course for every eight stretcher courses. The secondary elevations of the later additions use only a stretcher bond pattern. All windows on the building are non-original fixed single light aluminum frame windows. The windows fit into the original regularly spaced openings.

The main façade is symmetrical and the central entry includes several distinctive Art Moderne style elements, including the honed fossilized limestone (differentiated from the field of rusticated stone), the flat semicircular canopy, and curved sidewalls with glass block infill. The honed fossilized limestone served to highlight the building entrance atop a great concrete stair leading from the front path. The staircase is flanked by rock face limestone walls, and a non-original metal handrail has been added at the center. The original entry was originally recessed between the two flanking curved sidewalls and a later aluminum and glass vestibule was installed at a later date. Visible beneath the aluminum framed vestibule, "St. Elizabeth's Hospital" is carved into the limestone above the original double door entrance. A flat, semicircular concrete canopy covers the entryway and is aligned with the stringcourse detail of the

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

main façade. Above the canopy on each of the flanking curved sidewalls is a caduceus, symbolizing the building's use as a hospital. A carved portrait of St. Elizabeth is in the spandrel between the third and fourth floor, and a limestone cross sits at the roofline.

Located in the rear between the center and west wings, there is a small rectangular plan mechanical pump house (contributing building). This small building is clad with tan brick and has a flat roof. It first appears on the historic aerial photographs in 1960; its exact construction date is unknown. There is single pedestrian door on the east elevation and a louvered vent on the north elevation. It is the only mechanical support building that remains free standing. The pump house is recommended as a contributing resource.

In 1964, the Sisters' convent/dormitory building was added to the south end of the east wing. The new convent, designed to house 30 nuns on site, was attached to the main building via a three-story metal hyphen starting at level two. At the north end of the addition, there is a five-story windowless limestone clad stair tower. Beyond the stair tower is the rectangular plan convent. The east elevation is clad with brick with a fossilized limestone stringcourse that references the stringcourse of the hospital. The remaining convent elevations are clad with the same brick absent of any stringcourse detailing. The windows in the convent addition are similar fixed single light aluminum frame yet narrower and shorter than those on the main building. The convent addition has an exterior staircase on the west elevation obscured by a decorative concrete block screen. The stairs themselves have been retiled in the 1970s. The convent additionally had an enclosed outdoor patio and balcony, both shielded by the same decorative brick screen. Though no historic floor plans or drawings of the convent addition have been identified, the convent is recommended as a contributing resource.

In the center rear of the hospital is a three-story addition that was completed in 1989. The addition is functionalist and institutional in scale and style and it is a clear departure from the Classical composition and proportions of the earlier building phases. It is oriented to the south parking lot and further differentiated by its dark brown brick veneer that contrasts with the buff colored brick and limestone of its predecessors. It was never placed in service; the hospital closed on the same day the new wing was to open. Careful study of the development of the site revealed that the central wing enveloped some of the original walls and structural footprints of the 1949 chapel and several mechanical outbuildings.¹ The center wing has only a few tall, narrow fixed aluminum frame windows on the east elevation. The addition still has the sign for the "Barbara Jordan Health Care Center" above the brick and metal walkway leading to the surface parking. The 1989 addition was a victim of arson in August 2017; though the fire was extinguished quickly and the damage was limited, the addition suffered from some loss of integrity. Furthermore, the 1989 addition was never in service as part of the hospital and its construction date, 1989, falls outside of the period of significance. The 1989 addition is a noncontributing resource.

¹ Historic aerials and Sanborn maps reveal that there were originally maintenance and support buildings for mechanical equipment, boilers, and laundry to the rear of the hospital. Over time, these outbuilding buildings were combined into one large mechanical room. The current mechanical room is clad in the same tan brick with openings for windows and vents; it is now connected to the rear 1989 addition and differentiated by its light brick color and fossilized limestone window sills. There are seams/expansion joints showing where new walls were constructed as infill between buildings.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Table 1: Property components

This numbering system is also used in the attached Site Plan Timeline (included in the Figures section).

Only the original hospital and the pump house are counted as contributing buildings. Formerly freestanding buildings that have been encapsulated by later additions are not counted separately from the building to which they are now fully attached.

Number	Name	Year built	Architect	Status
1	Original rectangular plan hospital	1947	Hedrick & Lindsley	Contributing
2	Chapel	1949; enveloped 1989	Unknown	Modified Addition
3	West wing	1958	Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot	Historic Addition
4	East Wing	1960	Lightfoot and Burleson	Historic Addition
5	Pump House	c. 1960	Unknown	Contributing
6	Convent/Dormitory	1964	Unknown	Historic Addition
7	Rear Central addition (dark brick veneer)	1989	Hightower & Associates	Non-historic Addition

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Statement of Significance

St. Elizabeth's Hospital opened in 1947 in Houston's Fifth Ward, a historically Black neighborhood northeast of downtown Houston. Segregation practices in Houston resulted in inadequate access to health care for African Americans, and inspired local doctors, concerned civic leaders, and the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, a Catholic order of nuns, to raise funds, construct and then run the hospital. The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, now based in New Jersey, operated the hospital until 1981 when it was sold or transferred to the Houston-based Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word who continued its operation until they closed the hospital in 1988. The next year, a group of local doctors purchased the hospital, and it reopened briefly as the Drew Medical Center; unfortunately, it closed in 1990. In 1992, the hospital was purchased and used as an inpatient drug rehabilitation facility, and then closed in 2014. To date, the hospital remains vacant. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A with significance at the local level in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/Black, and Health and Medicine, with a period of significance from 1947 through 1969. The property meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because it is primarily significant for its secular function as a hospital and not for its role as a religious institution.

Houston's Fifth Ward

The City of Houston established a ward system in 1839 as a means of designating districts for local aldermen, following trends of municipal government in the early nineteenth century. The city originally established four wards, with the Fifth Ward added in 1866, and a Sixth Ward in the 1870s to accommodate population growth. Unlike modern city council district boundaries, wards were divided by geography, including streets and bayous, rather than by population. The ward system was officially dissolved in 1906. However, the Fifth Ward remains a cultural entity in the twenty-first century, despite losing its legal status.²

When the Fifth Ward was established in 1866, its boundaries included everything within the city limits north of Buffalo Bayou and east of White Oak Bayou.³ Prior to the Civil War, the area was sparsely populated, and it became a popular location for new freedmen following the war. The neighborhood in the last part of the nineteenth century was unique in that Fifth Ward's population was well-balanced with approximately the same number of black and white residents.⁴ In 2017, Fifth Ward is loosely bounded by Buffalo Bayou, Lockwood Drive, Liberty Road, and Jensen Drive and celebrates its heritage as a predominantly black neighborhood.⁵

The 1870s and 1880s were prosperous times for the area. During those decades, white and black schools were established in the Fifth Ward, and ongoing construction for the Southern Pacific Railroad as well as jobs at the Houston Ship Channel provided the economic stimulus needed for the area.⁶ Despite the economic stability, Fifth Ward residents threatened to secede from Houston in 1875 until demands for upgraded utilities and paved streets were met.⁷ Secession threats were issued again in 1883 until an iron drawbridge was constructed over Buffalo Bayou at San

² Jeannie Kever, "Pride lives on in Houston's six historical wards," *Houston Chronicle*, September 7, 2004. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.chron.com/life/article/Pride-lives-on-in-Houston-s-six-historical-wards-1990735.php>

³ W.E. Wood, C.E. "City of Houston, Harris Co., Texas." January 1, 1869. Map available at Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

⁴ Kathy Payton, "Saint Elizabeth Hospital," City of Houston Landmark Application, September 22, 2016.

⁵ Diana J. Kleiner. "Fifth Ward, Houston," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 10, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hpfhk>. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on February 13, 2017. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁶ Payton.

⁷ Richard West, "Only the Strong Survive," *Texas Monthly*, February 1979. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/only-the-strong-survive-2/>

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Jacinto to make their access to the rest of the city easier.⁸ By 1900, the Fifth Ward was well-established as a working class neighborhood for Houston's black citizens.⁹

During the Jim Crow period, the Fifth Ward was the hub for Black life in Houston. At Fifth Ward's peak in the 1930s, there were forty black-owned businesses in the neighborhood, the Cotton Club of the South, and the Phillis Wheatley High School (established 1927) was one of the largest black high schools in the United States.¹⁰ Businesses included printing plants, photography studios, pharmacy, dentist, funeral parlor, theater, and barbershops.¹¹ The Fifth Ward and Wheatley High School produced many notable residents, including: Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; Congressman Mickey Leland; musicians Arnett Cobb, Milton Larkin, and Illinois Jacquet; boxer George Foreman; and civil rights activist Dr. Lonnie Smith.¹² Wheatley alumni were loyal to their institution; in the late 1970s, Wheatley's then-Principal Charles Herald noted that the school boasted an active alumni association in Los Angeles with over 200 members.¹³ Wheatley High School serves as a cornerstone for the neighborhood.

Following the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregationist deed restrictions, many African American residents of the Fifth Ward moved to the suburbs north and south of Houston, conforming to population trends nationwide.¹⁴ As a result, the neighborhood suffered from intensive economic decline during the 1970s and 80s, as businesses and more affluent residents left, and Fifth Ward developed a reputation for crime.¹⁵ The lost businesses combined with minimal city services resulted in a sharp decline in living conditions. A 1979 *Texas Monthly* feature article on Fifth Ward puts Fifth Ward in contrast with the rest of the city:

Fifth Ward is crowded and poor: population density in the area is 30.5 persons per residential acre compared to Houston's overall density of 14.4; the average housing density is 9.14; Houston's, 4.98. Thirty-four percent of the citizens live below the poverty level compared with Houston's 10 per cent. The median income is \$5030: in Houston, \$9876. The people are under-educated: only 25 per cent have high school degrees, while in Houston 52 per cent do. City services show important differences, too. Forty per cent of the blocks are drained by storm sewers; 39 per cent by open ditches; and 21 per cent have no drainage improvements at all.¹⁶

Texas Monthly offered another contrast: the volume of non-fire-related work at Fire Station No. 19, which served the Fifth Ward at the time. "Fifth Ward's Fire Station No. 19 leads the other thirty Houston stations in fire and ambulance calls (3892 and 3237 a year, respectively). It ranks number one in sick calls (1035); shootings (179) cuttings (178); obstetrics, usually emergency births (144); beatings (124); false alarms (30); and dead on arrivals (44)."¹⁷

In 1989, Fifth Ward community leaders, including Reverend Harvey Clemons, Jr., came together to form the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation (Fifth Ward CRC). A grassroots organization, the Fifth Ward CRC is run by residents and elected officials. The organization cooperates with the community to create shared goals and to improve the Fifth Ward for everyone's benefit. Since its founding, the Fifth Ward CRC has constructed over 300

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Payton.

¹⁰ Diana J. Kleiner. "Fifth Ward, Houston," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 10, 2017.

¹¹ Payton.

¹² "History," Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.fifthwardcrc.org/history.asp>

¹³ Richard West, "Only the Strong Survive," *Texas Monthly*, February 1979. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/only-the-strong-survive-2/>

¹⁴ Diana J. Kleiner. "Fifth Ward, Houston," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 10, 2017.

¹⁵ Richard West, "Only the Strong Survive," *Texas Monthly*, February 1979.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

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single-family homes, two multi-family complexes, rehabilitated two commercial developments, installed public art, revitalized historic landmarks, and won several awards for their work in the community.¹⁸ Additionally, beginning in 2012, the Fifth Ward CRC has begun the "Lyons Avenue Renaissance," which seeks to redevelop the main thoroughfare through the neighborhood. Fifth Ward CRC has created a \$30 million plan to revitalize the area and bring businesses back to Lyons Avenue. In addition to the work already in progress, the plan includes construction of a grocery store, shopping center, and rehabilitation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.¹⁹

Segregated Healthcare

Disparities in healthcare for white and non-white populations in the United States can be broken down into categories of "access and outcomes."²⁰ During the Jim Crow era, between the Civil War and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, segregation limited blacks' access to healthcare (access) with lifelong consequences (outcomes). A *Texas Monthly* article from 1979 pointed out that "[a]fter the age of twenty, one black man in ten will die before reaching forty, [...] as opposed to one white man in thirty. According to a 1973 survey, average black life expectancy in the U.S. is 65.9 years; white, 72.2. That means that 66 white males out of 100 will reach 65, and only 50 blacks. For females, 81 whites out of 100, compared to only 63 blacks, will reach age 62."²¹ The stark contrast in life expectancy tells a story about the inadequacies of healthcare facing the black population during the Jim Crow era.

Under Jim Crow, black and white populations did not have the same access to healthcare, resulting in drastically different outcomes. Segregation of facilities often resulted in insufficient quantities and distributions of black healthcare facilities, disproportionately impacting blacks in rural areas who did not have the means to commute into more urban areas that had either black-only or biracial hospitals.²² However, even when these hospitals were available, white doctors would treat every white patient before administering care to any black patients.²³ Accounts of Jim Crow era hospitals remark that black patients regularly died while waiting for treatment at the hospital.²⁴

Racist beliefs about illness further exacerbated the healthcare disparity. Even prior to the Civil War, the so-called "Father of Modern Gynecology" J. Marion Sims learned his trade in the 1840s by performing surgery without anesthesia on enslaved black women due to a belief that black people did not feel pain as acutely.²⁵ Later, a 1932 study funded by the U.S. Public Health Service studied the effects of syphilis on 400 black men over the course of several years. Under the study, none of the men received any treatment for the disease, even after medicinal penicillin was introduced during the 1940s and 50s. Approximately one quarter of the study's subjects died from syphilis due to the lack of intervention.²⁶ Another example is the founding of the Georgia Warm Springs polio rehabilitation center, which

¹⁸ "History," Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.fifthwardcrc.org/history.asp>

¹⁹ Minh Dam, "Fifth Ward neighborhood undergoes renaissance," *Houston Chronicle*, April 7, 2013. Accessed July 10, 2017 <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Fifth-Ward-neighborhood-undergoes-renaissance-4416484.php>

²⁰ Adam Serwer, "The De-Facto Segregation of Health Care," *The American Prospect*, August 21, 2009. Accessed July 11, 2017 <http://prospect.org/article/de-facto-segregation-health-care-0>

²¹ Richard West, "Only the Strong Survive," *Texas Monthly*, February 1979.

²² Kerri L. Hunkele, "Segregation in United States Healthcare: From Reconstruction to Deluxe Jim Crow" (2014). University of New Hampshire. *Honors Thesis*, paper 188, pg. 18-19.

²³ *Ibid.*, pg. 18.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ "Remembering Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey: The Mothers of Modern Gynecology," *Hidden Brain: a Conversation about Life's Unseen Patterns*, National Public Radio. Transcript accessed August 22, 2017. Available at <http://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=466942135>

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pg. 18.

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opened as a white-only facility under the false belief that blacks were not as susceptible to polio; it would be another decade before a treatment center for blacks was opened.²⁷

Some efforts under the New Deal and the Roosevelt administration were made to close the healthcare gap during a period known as "Deluxe Jim Crow." The period is summarized as "when segregation was upheld by [...] improving the segregated facilities." Healthcare policies during the 30s and early 40s in combination with better medical training saw an overall betterment of healthcare for blacks during these decades. Aided by philanthropic groups, grassroots organizations, and New Deal funding, the Public Health Service made concentrated efforts to improve healthcare among black populations, particularly in rural areas.²⁸

In 1946, Congress passed the Hill-Burton Act, which provided funding for building new and upgrading existing hospitals across the country.²⁹ However, the law included a "separate but equal" provision allowing hospitals to have access to federal funds if they provided the same level of treatment to their black and white patients. Despite the provision, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) "grossly favored" white hospitals over black hospitals, and there were no checks in place to confirm that quality of the care was the same. In 1956, after the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that struck down "separate but equal" in education, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sued to eliminate "separate but equal" in hospitals; their case was rejected by the Supreme Court for review.³⁰

Prior to the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, segregation was pervasive in all parts of the United States. Hospitals in the Deep South during the 1950s and 60s fell in line with Jim Crow laws, while hospitals in the north more subtly prevented black doctors from gaining practice privileges at white hospitals.³¹ When black patients were allowed in hospitals with white patients, the black patients were often admitted to attic or basement rooms.³² Black nurses could not supervise white nurses; blood transfusions could not be shared between races; and even newborns were located in different nurseries.³³ Black hospitals were described as held together with "scotch tape and bailing wire."³⁴ Black hospitals lacked the access to the funding and resources that white hospitals did, contributing to outcome problems in their communities.³⁵ However, following the passage of Medicare and Medicaid, hospitals began to comply with anti-discrimination laws.

Under President Johnson, the Office of Equal Health Opportunity (EHO) in HEW, was tasked with determining whether hospitals were eligible for the federal funding under both of the new medical programs.³⁶ However, with an EHO staff of just five people, HEW Secretary John Gardner put out a call for volunteers to help confirm that the hospitals actually were complying with anti-discrimination laws. Over 1,000 federal employees and several thousand civil rights activists swept the nation's hospitals to confirm that every facility was eligible for federal money. The "secret army" of local volunteers are credited for the success of swift and silent integration at US hospitals. Additionally, a second lawsuit brought forward by the NAACP, this time with the support of Secretary Gardner,

²⁷ Hunkele, 23.

²⁸ Ibid., pg. 33.

²⁹ Emily Friedman, "U.S. Hospitals and the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *H&HN*, June 3, 2014. Accessed July 11, 2017 <http://www.hhnmag.com/articles/4179-u-s-hospitals-and-the-civil-rights-act-of-1964>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Steve Sternberg, "Desegregation: the Hidden Legacy of Medicare." *U.S. News and World Reports*, July 29, 2015. Accessed July 11, 2017 <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/07/30/desegregation-the-hidden-legacy-of-medicare>

³² Friedman.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Steve Sternberg, "Desegregation: the Hidden Legacy of Medicare." *U.S. News and World Reports*, July 29, 2015.

³⁵ Friedman.

³⁶ Ibid.

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resulted in the 1964 appeals court decision *Simkins vs. Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital*, formally striking the “separate but equal” provision of the Hill-Burton Act.³⁷

The combination efforts of the NAACP lawsuit, the EHO, and the Johnson's administration's dogged pursuit of enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, segregation in US hospitals diminished rapidly, providing better access and quality of care to non-white populations.³⁸ However, that has not entirely resolved the issues of access and outcomes. The Kaiser Family Foundation determined that comparative mortality rates have not improved: “Children born to black women are more than twice as likely to die within their first year of life as are children born to white women. This disparity is unaffected by income or education level...The mortality rate for infants of college-educated black women is 11.5 deaths for 1,000 live births, more than twice that for infants of similarly educated white women, 4.2 for 1,000 live births.”³⁹ A 2004 study in the *American Journal of Public Health* also determined that over 880,000 black deaths could have been prevented between 1991 and 2000 if the mortality rate of whites and blacks were the same:

People of color are more likely to suffer and die from chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, they're less likely to get the kinds of life-saving treatments that whites get, and they're more likely to receive the kinds of treatments you would avoid if you could – such as limb amputation for diabetes. African Americans made up almost half of the new cases of HIV infection recorded in the 2000 census. People of color are less likely to have seen a dentist...A fifth of black adults report being in poor or fair health, slightly more than Hispanic adult and nearly twice as many as white adults...Disparities persist even when controlling for income and education levels, the most reliable indicators of quality coverage.⁴⁰

Prior to 2002, studies argued the disparities were related to environmental factors including “poor housing conditions, lack of information, health behaviors, and stress.”⁴¹ Studies since then have worked harder to control for factors such as education levels and income, and medical practitioners are taking notice. Unlike the fields of education and criminal justice where overlap of race and disparity is still contested, every party in a health-policy debate acknowledges health disparities as they relate to race.⁴²

The 2010 Affordable Care Act intended to reduce some of the disparity by reducing the individual financial burden of healthcare, end coverage disparities, provide greater access to care to people of color, and subsidize preventative healthcare.⁴³ However, the 2012 Supreme Court decision *NFIB v. Sebelius* reduced the effectiveness of the Medicaid expansion by allowing each state to decide whether to participate in the expansion. In 2016, more than half of US citizens unable to access healthcare are people of color, and black people make up thirty percent of people without affordable health options.⁴⁴ Though the EHO, Medicare and Medicaid, and the Civil Rights Act served as catalysts to

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Adam Serwer, “The De-Facto Segregation of Health Care,” *The American Prospect*, August 21, 2009. Accessed July 11, 2017 <http://prospect.org/article/de-facto-segregation-health-care-0>

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Mary S. Vaughan Sarrazin, Mary E. Campbell, Kelly K. Richardson, and Gary E. Rosenthal, “Racial Segregation and Disparities in Health Care Delivery: Conceptual Model and Empirical Assessment.” *HSR: Health Services Research*. 2009 Aug; 44(4): 1424-1444. Accessed July 11, 2017 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2739036/>

⁴² Vann R. Newkirk II, “America's Health Segregation Problem,” *The Atlantic*, May 18, 2016.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/05/americas-health-segregation-problem/483219/>

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Newkirk.

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address health disparities between white and non-white populations, the US still has miles to go in order to close the gaps.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital

St. Elizabeth's Hospital was named for Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231), born to King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Queen Gertrude of Merania. At the age of fourteen, Elizabeth married Ludwig IV of Thuringia and had three children. Elizabeth established a hospital for the kingdom's poor after a series of floods and outbreaks of disease. Her husband Ludwig died in 1227, after which Elizabeth joined the Third Order of the Franciscans and established another hospital in the honor of Saint Francis. Elizabeth ministered personally to the patients, and her charitable actions dominated her life until she died at age 31. Canonized in 1235, St. Elizabeth is the patron saint for bakers, beggars, brides, charities, the death of children, the homeless, hospitals, the Sisters of Mercy, and widows. Symbols for St. Elizabeth include bread and roses, both of which are included in the icon of St. Elizabeth on the hospital's façade.⁴⁹

The idea to build and establish St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Houston first formed in 1943, when a group of Black doctors in Houston came together to address the lack of hospital beds for black patients. At the time, the Houston area had just 175 hospital beds for the 105,000 black residents, making it a ratio of 1:600.⁵⁰ As a comparison, the United States population in 2014 had a hospital bed ratio of 1:333.⁵¹

The founders started small and originally sought to raise \$10,000 to open a medical clinic rather than a full hospital.⁵² However, community and public support for the idea was so overwhelming that the group quickly changed their plans. In 1944, the group organized a fundraising dinner and announced a plan to raise \$130,000 to open a new hospital to serve Houston's black population.⁵³ Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick, as part of Hedrick & Lindsley, created the original design.⁵⁴ An early rendering published shows that Hedrick's design always called for three stories on a raised basement with at least one wing.⁵⁵

The then-two-story building with raised basement opened in May 1947, with the entire cost of the \$200,000 top floor paid out of pocket by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, the Catholic religious order of nuns who operated the hospital. Insufficient funds are presumed to be the reason why the full original design was not constructed. When the hospital opened, it contained 60 beds and 20 bassinets. The first staff were all black doctors and nurses, though early news articles indicated a hope that white doctors would one day practice there as well. A small two-story addition was constructed on the center of the south, or rear, elevation in 1949, and it contained an outpatient clinic and chapel.⁵⁶ There was additionally a small bungalow remaining on the property, which was used as housing for the sisters who worked at the hospital.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Catholic Online, "St. Elizabeth of Hungary," Catholic Online. Accessed July 26, 2017
http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=45#wiki

⁵⁰ J.R. Gonzales, "A look at St. Elizabeth's Hospital," *Houston Chronicle*, February 8, 2011. Accessed February 13, 2017,
<http://blog.chron.com/bayoucityhistory/2011/02/alookatstelizabethshospital/>

⁵¹ "Hospital bed density – world." Index Mundi. Updated January 1, 2014. Accessed March 28, 2017,
<http://www.indexmundi.com/map/?v=2227>

⁵² "\$400,000 Negro Hospital Being Built Here," *Houston Chronicle*, December 14, 1946.

⁵³ "Progress on hospital fund is called fair," *Houston Chronicle*, August 26, 1944.

⁵⁴ Stephen Fox, *AIA Houston Architectural Guide*, 3rd Edition, Houston: American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter, 2012, pg. 575; "Progress on hospital fund is called fair," *Houston Chronicle*, August 26, 1944.

⁵⁵ "Progress on hospital fund is called fair," *Houston Chronicle*, August 26, 1944.

⁵⁶ "St. Elizabeth's To Dedicate Its New Outpatient Clinic," *Houston Chronicle*, November 13, 1949.

⁵⁷ Fundraising notes, c. 1957. Available at Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

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Over the next decade, it quickly became apparent that the hospital was not large enough, with papers reporting in 1957 that the hospital was running at 110% capacity.⁵⁸ As a result, the Sisters organized a capital campaign in 1958 and successfully raised the money to construct the third floor and the west wing of the main hospital building with new construction designed by Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot.⁵⁹ Approximately \$350,000 of the \$750,000 raised came from allocated Hill-Burton Act funds, and another \$25,000 came from local organization, the Houston Endowment.⁶⁰ This new west wing included housing for sixteen of the nuns to live on site.⁶¹ A second campaign in 1960 resulted in the east wing.⁶² The new east wing was designed by Lightfoot, Burleson & Associates.⁶³ Another construction project in 1964 saw the construction of a new convent/dormitory on the southern end of the east wing to replace the existing housing for the thirty Sisters working on site.⁶⁴ The *Houston Chronicle* reported in 1965 that the hospital contained 103 beds and an active emergency room.

In 1966, St. Elizabeth's obtained Medicare participation certification as part of the United States' desegregation measures, providing a new funding stream for the hospital.⁶⁵ However, by 1967, the hospital was staffed only by an on-call doctor after 7 pm, indicating that the hospital could not afford to retain resident doctors on staff.⁶⁶

Over the next 15 years, St. Elizabeth's worked to expand the services offered. New services included a new primary care center across Lyons Avenue from the main hospital and additional hospital beds in the main hospital, bringing the total service to 120 beds. However, hospital operations became untenable for the Sisters of Immaculate Conception, and the Houston-based Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word took over the hospital in August 1981. The Sisters of Charity continued efforts to expand hospital services, including the construction of a new \$3.3 million ambulatory care unit and outpatient clinic that was added as a central wing to the existing building. On January 6, 1989, on the day the new wing would open, the Sisters of Charity unfortunately announced that St. Elizabeth's Hospital would close. The Sisters had been searching for a new buyer since April 1988.

Following its closure, local papers reported that a group of minority doctors was attempting to raise funds to reopen St. Elizabeth's, and their purchase was finalized in April 1989.⁶⁷ The hospital, purchased for \$2.3 million, reopened as the Charles R. Drew Medical Center in November that year.⁶⁸ However, even by January 1990, the new Drew Medical Center was scrambling to secure a community development loan as well as Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants to remain open.⁶⁹ By June 1990, the Drew Medical Center folded and ownership reverted to the Sisters of Charity.

In 1990, the City of Houston won a federal grant for \$9 million to open a 300-bed drug treatment facility, and chose the St. Elizabeth's site for this new use. The drug treatment facility, Fifth Ward Recovery Center, closed in 2014 after its operators were indicted for Medicare fraud. The building has been vacant since.⁷⁰ The building was recently

⁵⁸ Charles Frandolig, "Hospital's Need for Funds Makes Stirring Story," *Houston Chronicle*, date unknown.

⁵⁹ "St. Elizabeth Hospital Gets \$350,000 grant," *Houston Chronicle*, May 7, 1958.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ "Future St. Elizabeth's Hospital," *Houston Chronicle*, July 21, 1957.

⁶² "St. Elizabeth's Hospital Dream Is in Sight," *Houston Chronicle*, December 10, 1958.

⁶³ "Open Bids on St. Elizabeth's Job Sept. 26," *Houston Chronicle*, 1957.

⁶⁴ "Dedication of Convent Set Saturday," *Houston Chronicle*, September 2, 1964.

⁶⁵ *Houston Chronicle*, July 3, 1966, Section 1, pg. 23

⁶⁶ *Houston Chronicle*, January 8, 1967. Available in the clipping file at Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

⁶⁷ D.J. Wilson, "Physicians want help to reopen St. Elizabeth's," *Houston Post*, February 8, 1989.

⁶⁸ John Williams, "Minority doctors join forces to buy troubled hospital," *Houston Chronicle*, April 1, 1989.

⁶⁹ Bill Coulter, "New hospital in Fifth Ward may have to close over stalled loan," *Houston Chronicle*, January 24, 1990.

⁷⁰ Adam Doster, "Whatever Happened to the Fifth Ward Recovery Center?" *Houstonia Magazine*, July 2016. Accessed March 30, 2017 <https://www.houstoniamag.com/articles/2016/6/20/fifth-ward-recovery-center-repairs-july-2016>

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purchased by the Fifth Ward Redevelopment Corporation with plans to rehabilitate the building for low-income housing.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital opened in Houston's Fifth Ward in 1947, bringing dedicated care to the community when segregation dominated the nation. When the City of Houston would not provide them with the care they needed, the black community banded together and constructed their own facilities to solve the problem of health care access. St. Elizabeth's remained a pillar of the Fifth Ward neighborhood and greater black community for the four decades it operated as a Catholic hospital, and it remains an important visual reminder of the resiliency of the community in the face of segregation. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is eligible for the NRHP at the local level of significance under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage, Black, and for Health and Medicine with a period of significance of 1947-1969.

Project Architects

Wyatt C. Hedrick

Wyatt Cephas Hedrick was born in 1888 in Chatham, Virginia. The fourth of nine children, Hedrick attended Roanoke College and received a degree in 1910 from Washington and Lee College.⁷¹ Hedrick's first job was as an engineer for the Lane Brothers Construction Company in Alta Vista, Virginia.⁷² However, in 1913, Hedrick visited friends in Texas, and ultimately relocated to the state permanently.⁷³ Once in Texas, Hedrick worked in the Dallas office of Boston-based Stone and Webster Engineering Corp in 1913.⁷⁴ However, Hedrick opened his own construction company in Fort Worth, which he operated from 1914 until 1921. Hedrick married Pauline Stripling in 1912, and the couple had one daughter together before divorcing in 1922. In 1921, he joined architecture firm Sanguinet and Staats as a partner, at which point it became Sanguinet, Staats, and Hedrick. In 1925, Sanguinet and Staats retired, and Hedrick bought their interests in the firm.⁷⁵ That same year, he remarried to Mildred Sterling, and the couple would have two more daughters.⁷⁶ Hedrick's architecture firm operated offices in Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston, and during the 1950s employed more than 150 people.⁷⁷ Hedrick's firm designed buildings nationwide and for a period was considered to be the third largest architecture firm in the United States.⁷⁸ Notable buildings in Hedrick's portfolio include the Sterlick Building in Memphis, TN, the Shamrock Hotel in Houston, and the Medical Arts Building in Fort Worth.⁷⁹ Hedrick died in Houston on May 5, 1964 from a heart attack, and he was buried in Fort Worth.⁸⁰

Hedrick, under firms Hedrick and Lindsley and then later Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot, designed the north wing (including the third-floor addition) and the west wing of the hospital.

Claude H. Lindsley

⁷¹ Judith Singer Cohen, "Biographical Sketch of Wyatt C. Hedrick," excerpt from "Texas 50," *Texas Architect*, November/December 1989: pg 58. Accessed July 14, 2017 <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utaaa/00005/aaa-00005.html>

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Frances Hallam Hurt, "Wyatt C. Hedrick: Distinguished Architect, 'Man of Distinction,'" *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 27, 1950. Accessed July 14, 2017 <http://www.victorianvilla.com/sims-mitchell/local/hedrick/wc/td1.htm>

⁷⁴ Cohen.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Christopher Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 14, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhe51>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on March 7, 2017. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

⁷⁷ Cohen. <http://www.victorianvilla.com/sims-mitchell/local/hedrick/wc/td1.htm>

⁷⁸ Long.

⁷⁹ Cohen.

⁸⁰ Long.

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Claude H. Lindsley was born in 1894 in Jackson, Mississippi and was raised primarily in a rural community called Campton.⁸¹ Though there are no records of any formal architectural training, Lindsley was hired on in Jackson under fellow Mississippi architect X.A. Kramer from 1914 until 1917.⁸² Lindsley moved on to work for the U.S. Shipping Board from 1918 until 1919, and then in partnership with Kramer at Kramer & Lindsley from 1920 until 1923.⁸³ He helped to found the Mississippi Association of Architects in 1924 as well as the Mississippi chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Lindsley moved to Houston and opened the firm Hedrick and Lindsley in 1937. Lindsley and Hedrick maintained the firm until Lindsley returned to Mississippi in 1946, where he remained in independent practice until his death in 1969.⁸⁴ Lindsley's notable projects are predominantly located in Mississippi, and they include the Threefoot Building in Meridian (1930), Robert E. Lee Hotel in Jackson (1930), the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Jackson (1928), and Pascagoula High School (c. 1940 with Hedrick).⁸⁵

Thomas E. Lightfoot Jr.

There are not many known records of Thomas E. Lightfoot Jr., particularly related to his professional career. The following information has been compiled primarily from Lightfoot's obituary with limited additional details from local newspapers and requests to the University of Houston art and architecture library and the Texas A&M University library.

Lightfoot was born in Houston, Texas on July 21, 1932. Lightfoot finished high school at the New Mexico Military Institute in 1950, and he returned to Houston to study architecture and engineering at the University of Houston (UH).⁸⁶ Requests for information from the UH architecture librarians indicate that he did not complete his degree at UH.⁸⁷ Lightfoot's obituary mentions service in the United States Air Force, where he received a degree from Fort Belvoir Engineering School. Lightfoot received an additional degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 1961.⁸⁸ Lightfoot met Margarete Elizabeth Jung while stationed in Germany at Sembach Air Force Base, and the two married at an unknown date. Their marriage license is not listed in the Harris County records, and while Margarete is still alive, shared records are not publically accessible via Ancestry.com. The couple had two children, Barbara and Thomas E. III.

An article in the McAllen, Texas *Monitor* notes Lightfoot as a representative from Hedrick's firm in April 1954; Hedrick's firm was designing a new municipal hospital in Mission, Texas.⁸⁹ Lightfoot also represented Hedrick's firm at public meetings in La Marque, Texas as the La Marque Independent School District (ISD) contracted the firm to

⁸¹ "Lindsley, Claude H. (b. 1894 – d. 1969)." Historic Resources Inventory Database. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Accessed July 21, 2017,

<https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanSearch&Name=lindsley&City=Any&Role=Any>

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Lindsey.

⁸⁵ Elmavaney, "Architect Pics: Claude H. Lindsley," Preservation in Mississippi, Feb. 24, 2010. Accessed July 21, 2017 <https://misspreservation.com/2010/02/24/architect-pics-claude-h-lindsley/>

⁸⁶ "Thomas E. Lightfoot Jr.," *Houston Chronicle*, April 15-16, 2005. Accessed July 27, 2017

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary-print.aspx?n=thomas-e-lightfoot&pid=3418173>

⁸⁷ Email correspondence with Catherine Essinger, Architecture and Art Library Coordinator, University of Houston. August 2, 2017.

⁸⁸ Email correspondence with Jennifer Reibenspies, Library Specialist at Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at Texas A&M University. August 3, 2017.

⁸⁹ "City Accepts New Mission Hospital," *The Monitor*, April 18, 1954, page 21, via Newspapers.com.

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design a new elementary school in 1955.⁹⁰ Lightfoot spoke again on behalf of Hedrick's firm to the Board of Trustees for the La Marque ISD in 1957 in order to make recommendations for new school construction.⁹¹ By July 1958, Lightfoot attended La Marque ISD meetings as a representative from Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot.⁹² While at Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot, he worked on the west wing addition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

However, in October 1958, just three months later, La Marque reports that "recently Tom Lightfoot, withdrew from the architecture firm of Hedrick, Stanley and Lightfoot and create a new firm of Lightfoot and Burlison [sic]. The board's present contract is with the old firm. It will continue with construction now underway but will be terminated thereafter."⁹³ In addition to their work on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's east wing, Lightfoot and Burleson also served as architects of record for renovations to several schools in the Clear Creek ISD.⁹⁴ Apparently following his 1961 graduation from Texas A&M University, Lightfoot jointed Jerold L. Davis & Associates, which became Davis/Lightfoot & Associates, Consulting Engineers at an unknown date. Lightfoot opened his own firm, Thomas E. Lightfoot & Associates Consulting Engineers in 1971.⁹⁵ No records of his engineering consulting firm's projects has been identified, though the firm is listed in the 1981 AIA Houston Directory.⁹⁶ Lightfoot died in April 2005.

⁹⁰ "Preliminary Plans Approved for New La Marque Elementary School," *The La Marque Times*, July 20, 1955, page 1, via Newspapers.com.

⁹¹ "Schools Need Million Dollar Building Program for 1959-60," *The La Marque Times*, November 6, 1957, page 1, via Newspapers.com

⁹² "Construction Contracts Let for School Building," *The La Marque Times*, July 9, 1958, page 1, via Newspapers.com

⁹³ "Decision of Board Members to Recondition Buildings," *The La Marque Times*, October 8, 1958, page 1, via Newspapers.com

⁹⁴ "Clear Creek to Hold Bond Vote," *Galveston Daily News*, December 16, 1959, page 1, via Newspapers.com

⁹⁵ "Thomas E. Lightfoot Jr.," *Houston Chronicle*, April 15-16, 2005. Accessed July 27, 2017

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary-print.aspx?n=thomas-e-lightfoot&pid=3418173>

⁹⁶ Email correspondence with Catherine Essinger, Architecture and Art Library Coordinator, University of Houston. August 2, 2017.

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<http://www.hhnmag.com/articles/4179-u-s-hospitals-and-the-civil-rights-act-of-1964>
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<http://missionarysistersofic.org/history/>
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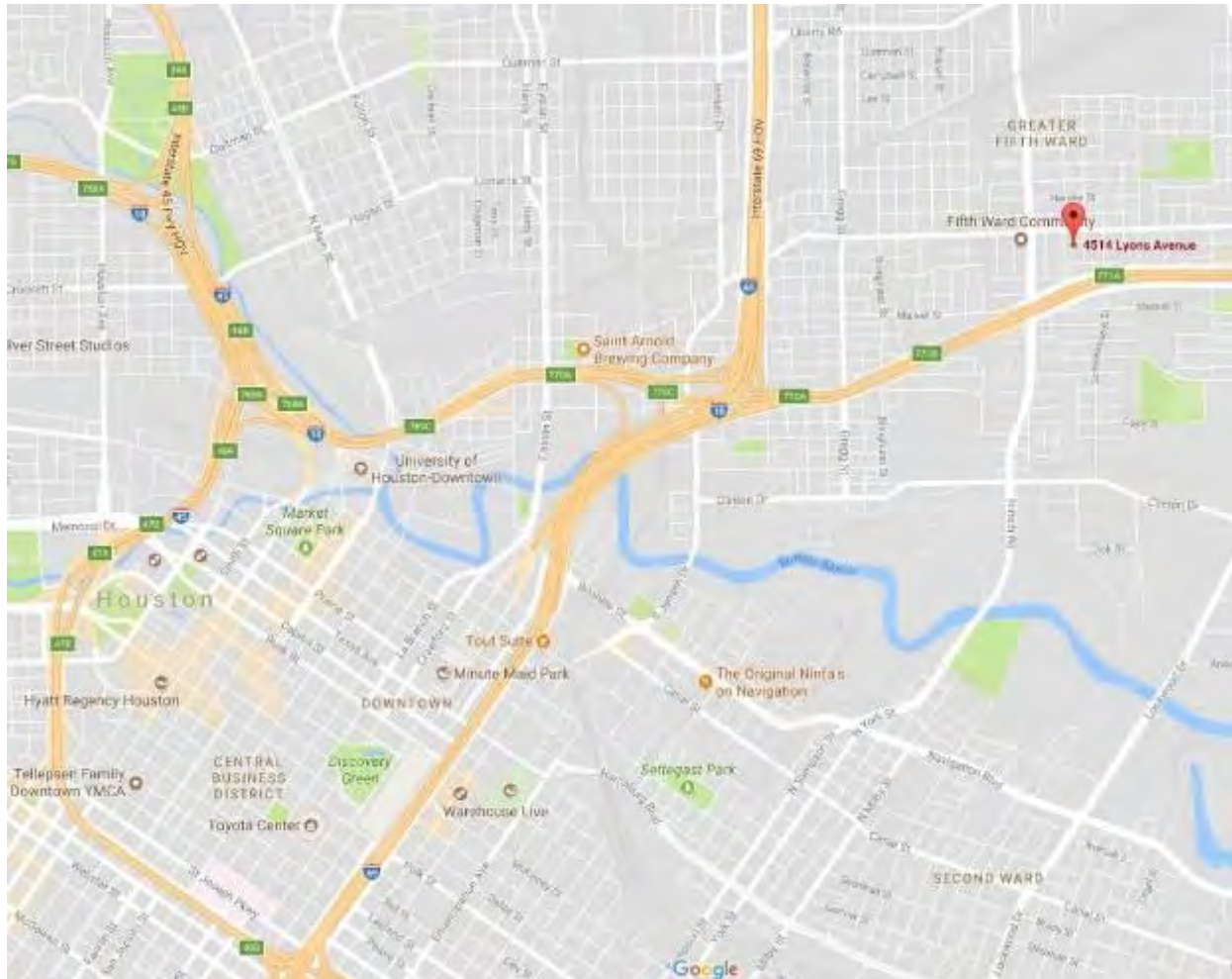


Google Earth Map, accessed March 21, 2018.



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Area map showing St. Elizabeth's Hospital in relationship to Downtown Houston



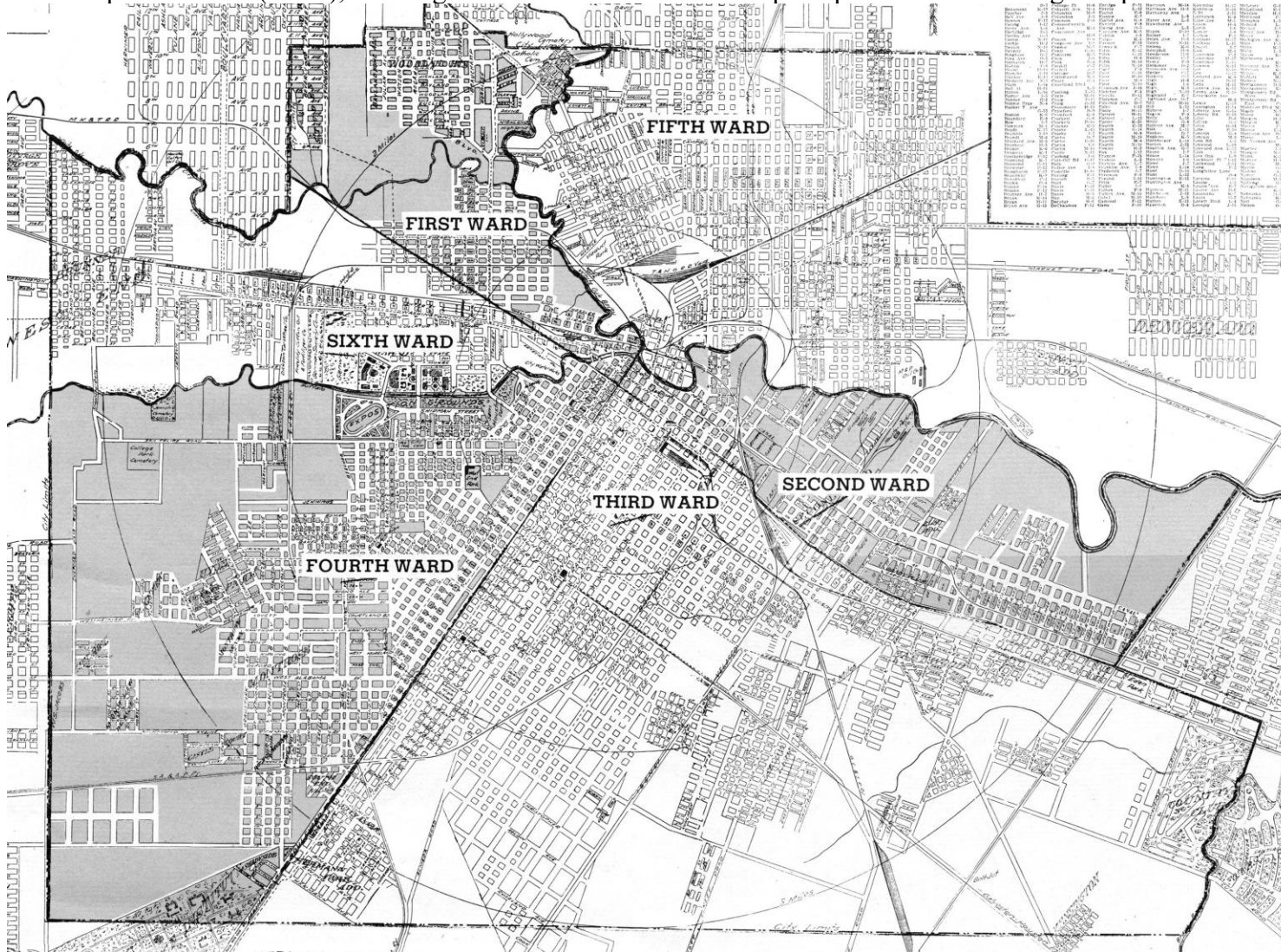
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Street map of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and surrounding area



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

1920 Map of Houston (detail), showing ward boundaries. Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/HoustonWards1920.jpg>



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 1 – Historic photo of St. Elizabeth's Hospital while under construction, circa 1946. Courtesy *Houston Chronicle*. Not intended for reuse.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 2 – Historic photo of St. Elizabeth's Hospital north façade, circa 1947. Courtesy *Houston Chronicle*. Not intended for reuse.



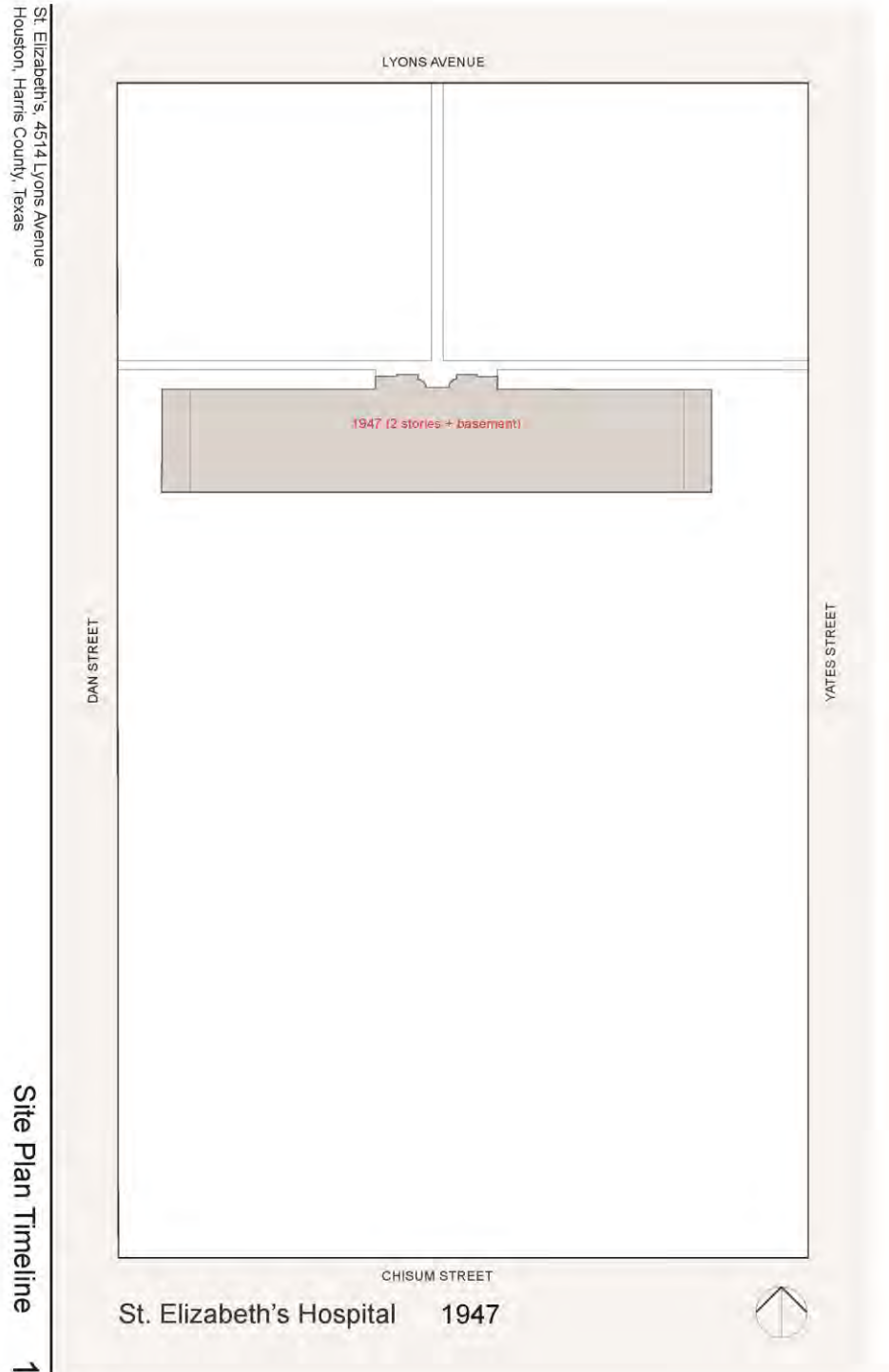
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 3 – Historic photo of St. Elizabeth's Hospital north façade, circa 1947. Courtesy *Houston Chronicle*. Not intended for reuse.



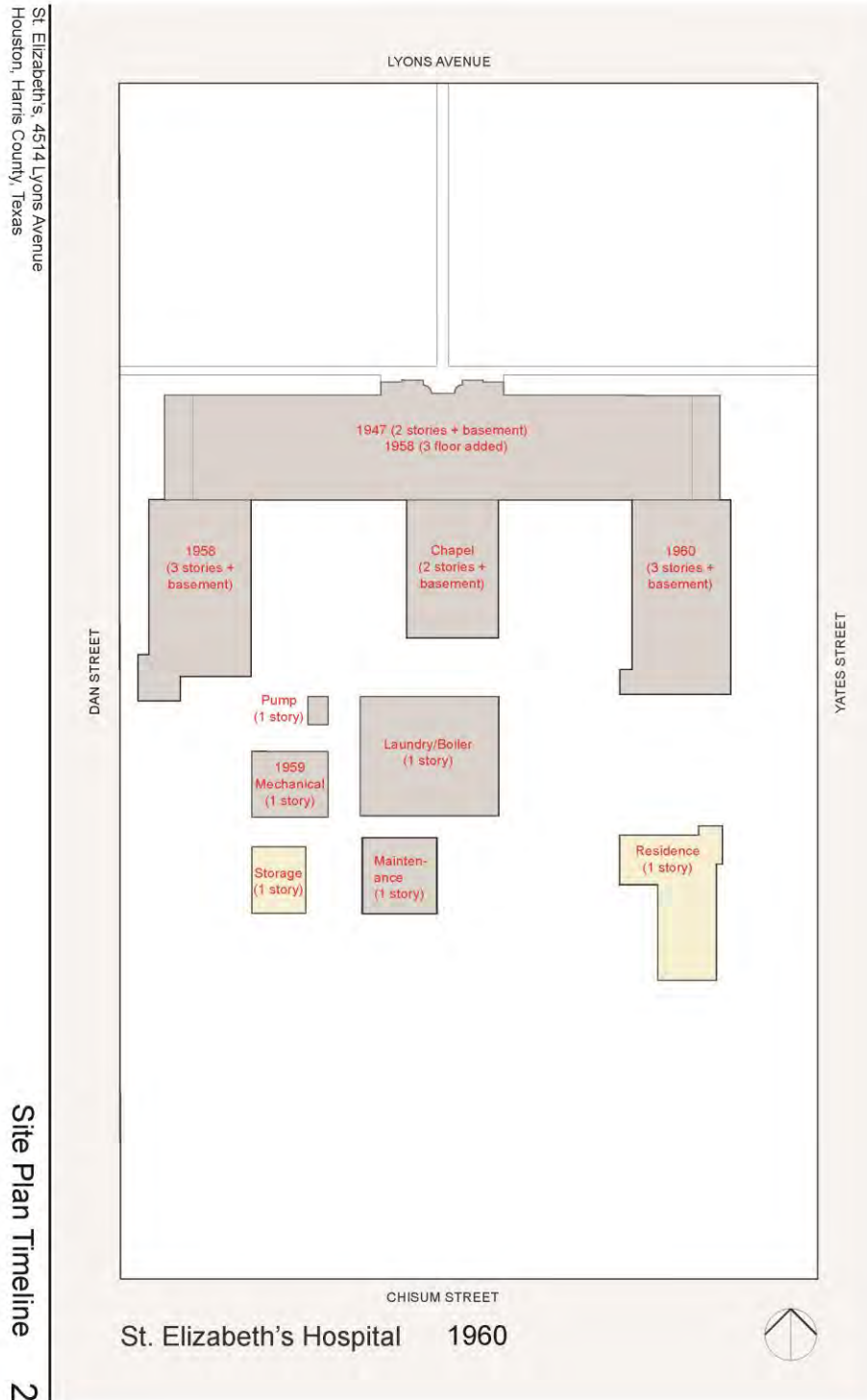
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 4 – Site plan, 1947



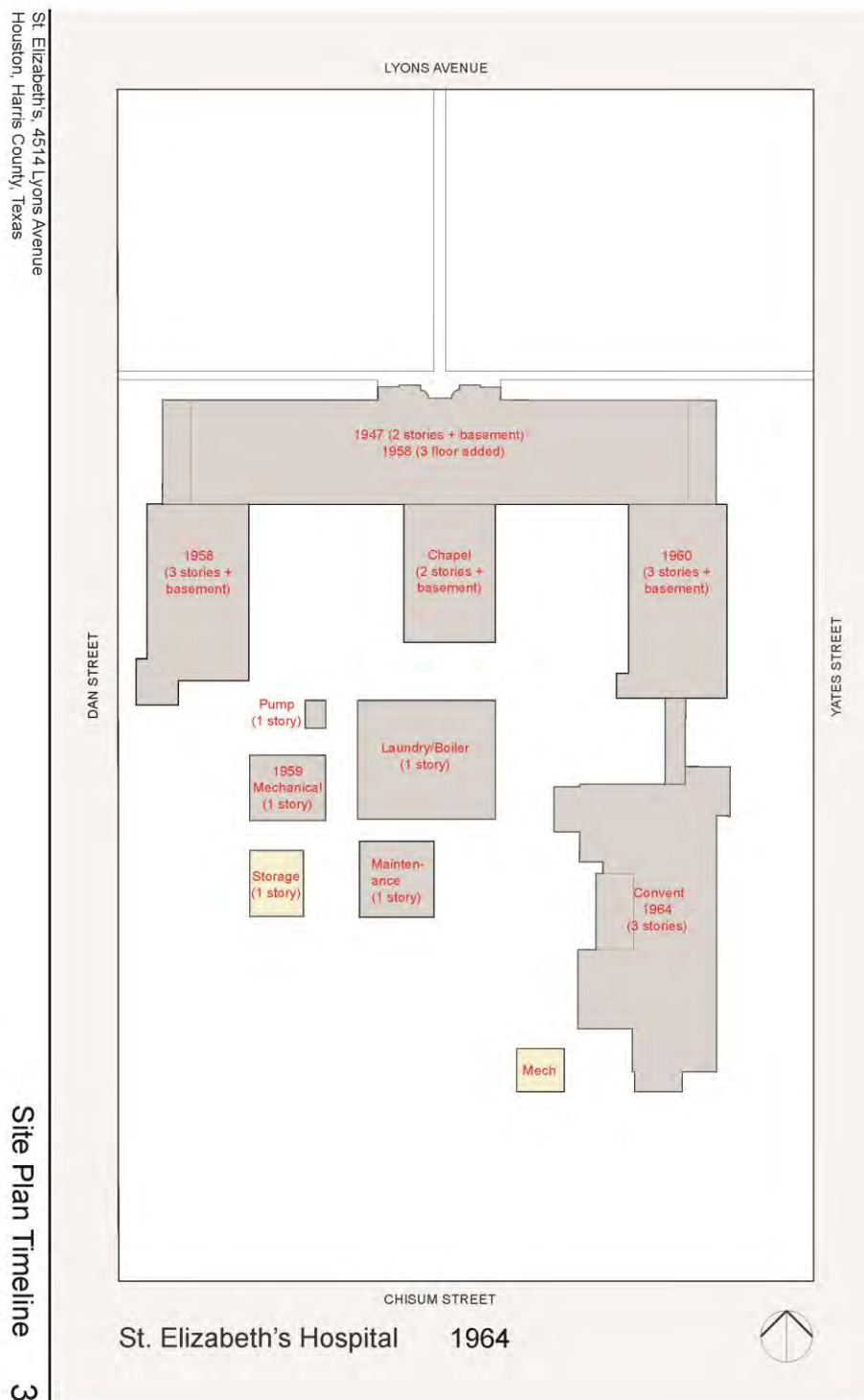
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 5 – Site plan, 1960



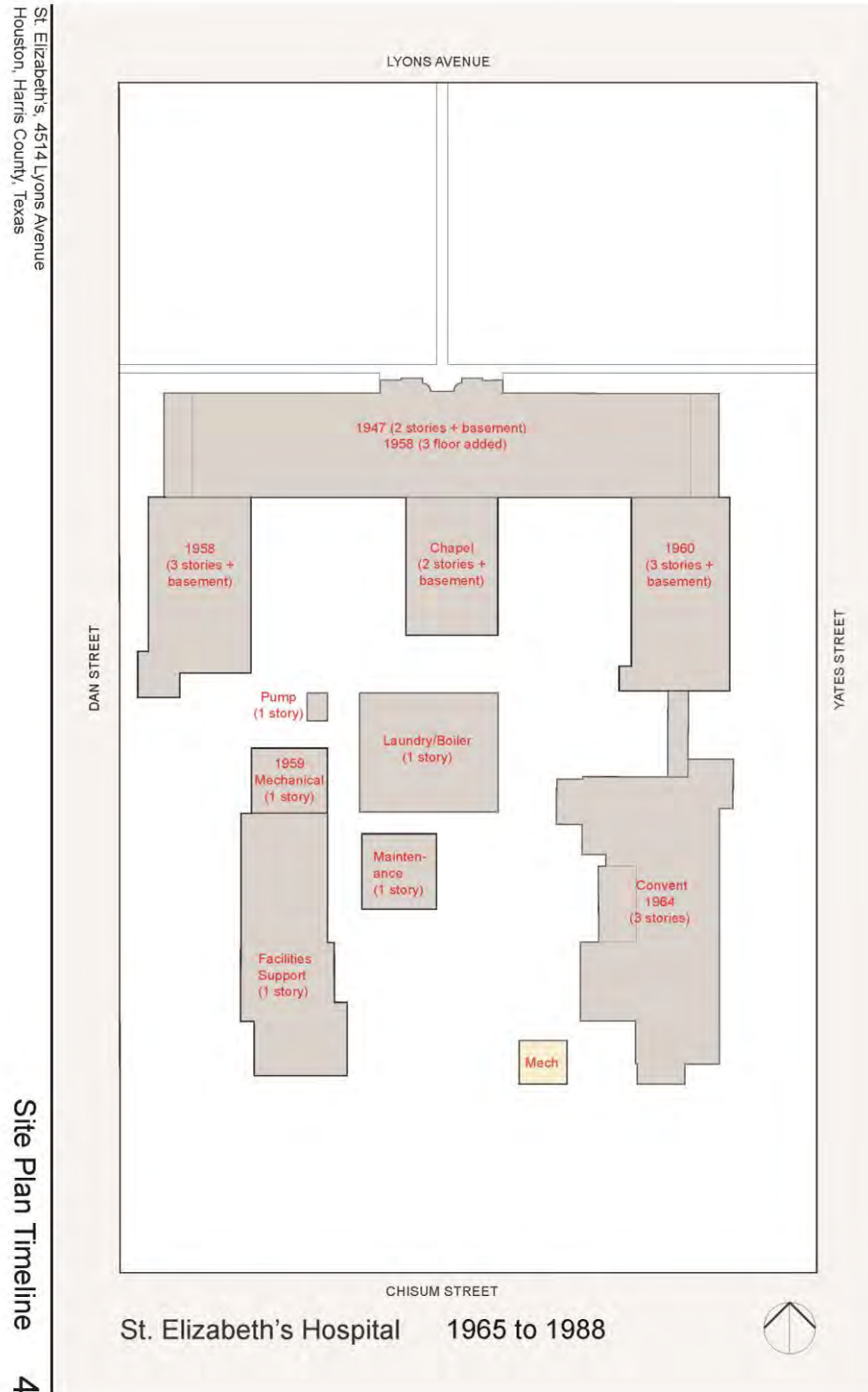
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 6 – Site plan, 1964



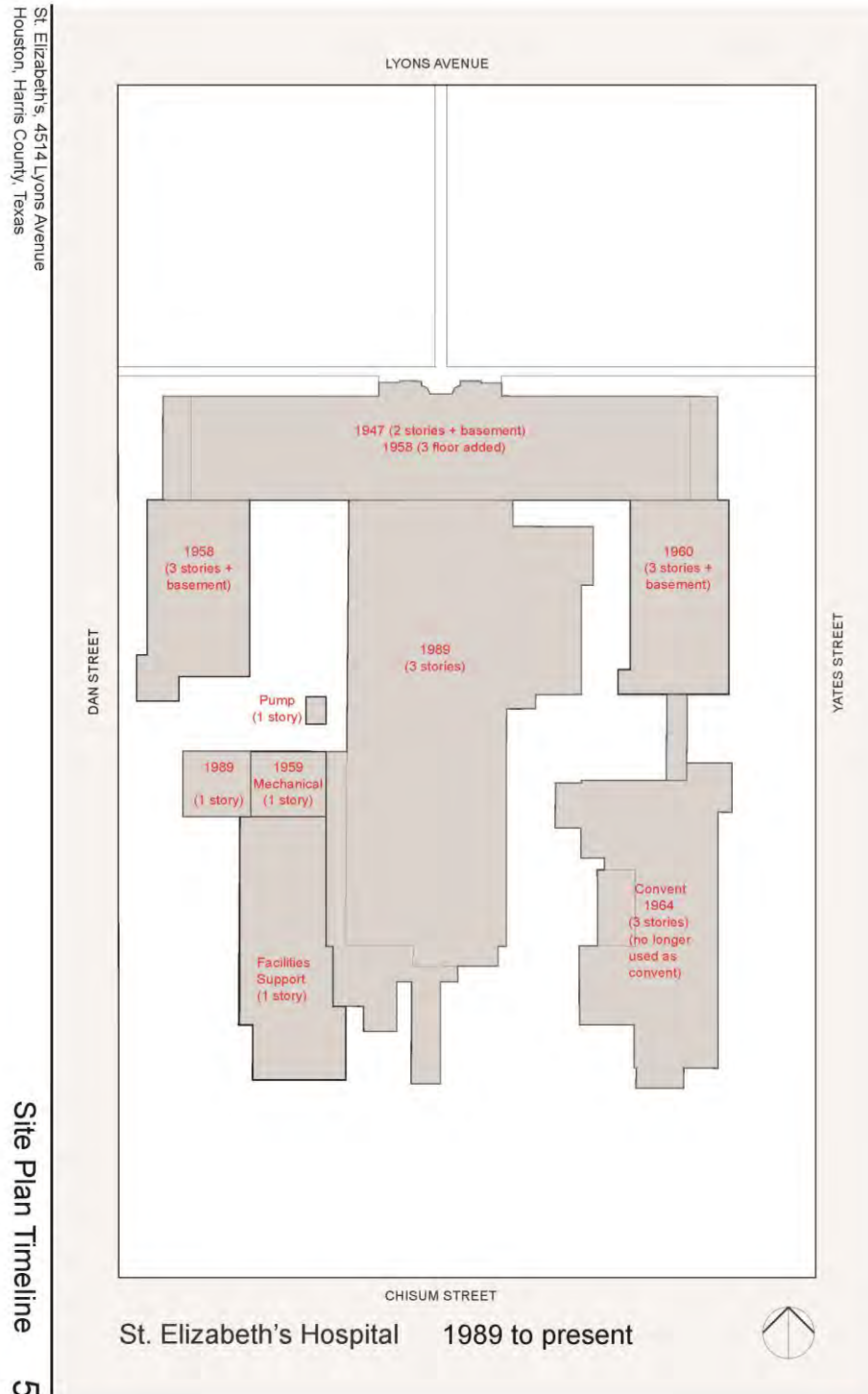
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 7 – Site plan, 1965-1988



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 8 – Site plan, 1988-present



CEILING NOTES

- Where ceiling is noted to be replaced, install a new 2' x 2' suspended lay-in panel system as specified.
- When ceiling is being repaired, contractor shall replace the damaged ceiling portion with tile or ceiling panels to match existing.
- The following designations on this drawings indicate the type of existing ceiling in that area:
 - 1 Existing acoustical tile mounted to plaster or gyp. lay-in as a recessed split ceiling.
 - 2 Suspended lay-in panels, 2' x 2'.
 - 3 Suspended lay-in panels, 2' x 4'.
 - 4 Plaster ceiling.
 - 5 Metal faced tile, suspended ceiling.
- Extra ceiling material.**

a. In addition to the material required to install the new ceilings and repair the existing ceilings, the contractor will furnish:

 - 10 cartons of 2' x 2' Type I ceiling tile.
 - 2 cartons of 12' x 12' random patterned tile (to match existing).
 - 2 cartons of 12' x 12' square tile (to match existing).
 - 2 cartons of vinyl faced ceiling panels, Type III.

b. The contractor will use this material to replace damaged random ceiling tile and panels. Any remaining material will be turned over to the Owner.

c. Any ceiling 12' x 12' tile ceiling that will remain will be spray painted with one coat of flat latex enamel, pure white.

REVISIONS

HOUSTON RECOVERY CAMPUS
AT
ST. ELIZABETH'S

MOLINA AND ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS
5911 WINDSOR, HOUSTON, TEXAS
JOSE E. MOLINA, A.I.A.
MARY JANE WALKER, A.I.A.
ASSOCIATE

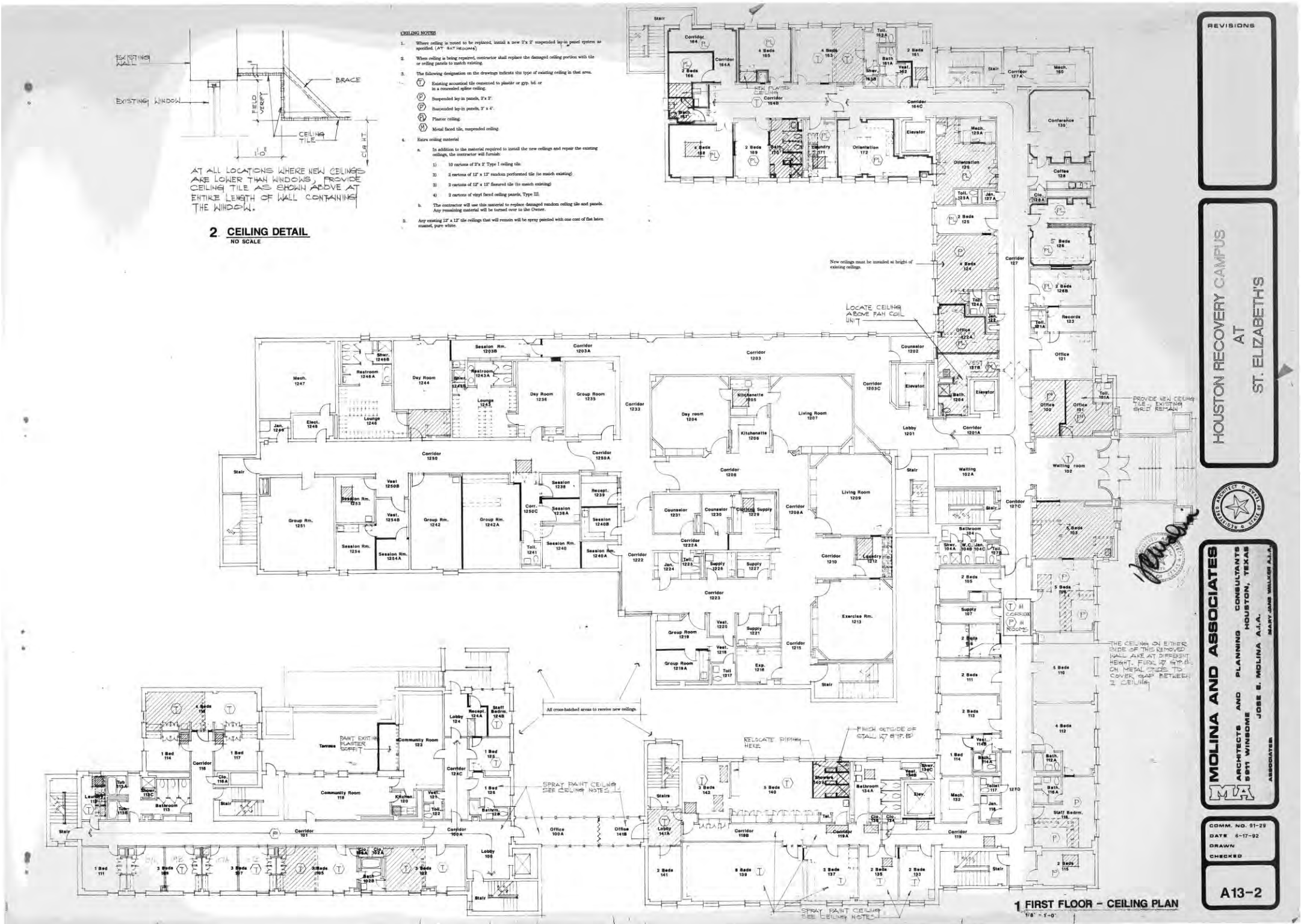
COMM. NO. 91-29
DATE 6-17-92
DRAWN
CHECKED

A13-1

SEE CEILING DETAIL ON SHEET A13-2
GROUND FLOOR - CEILING PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

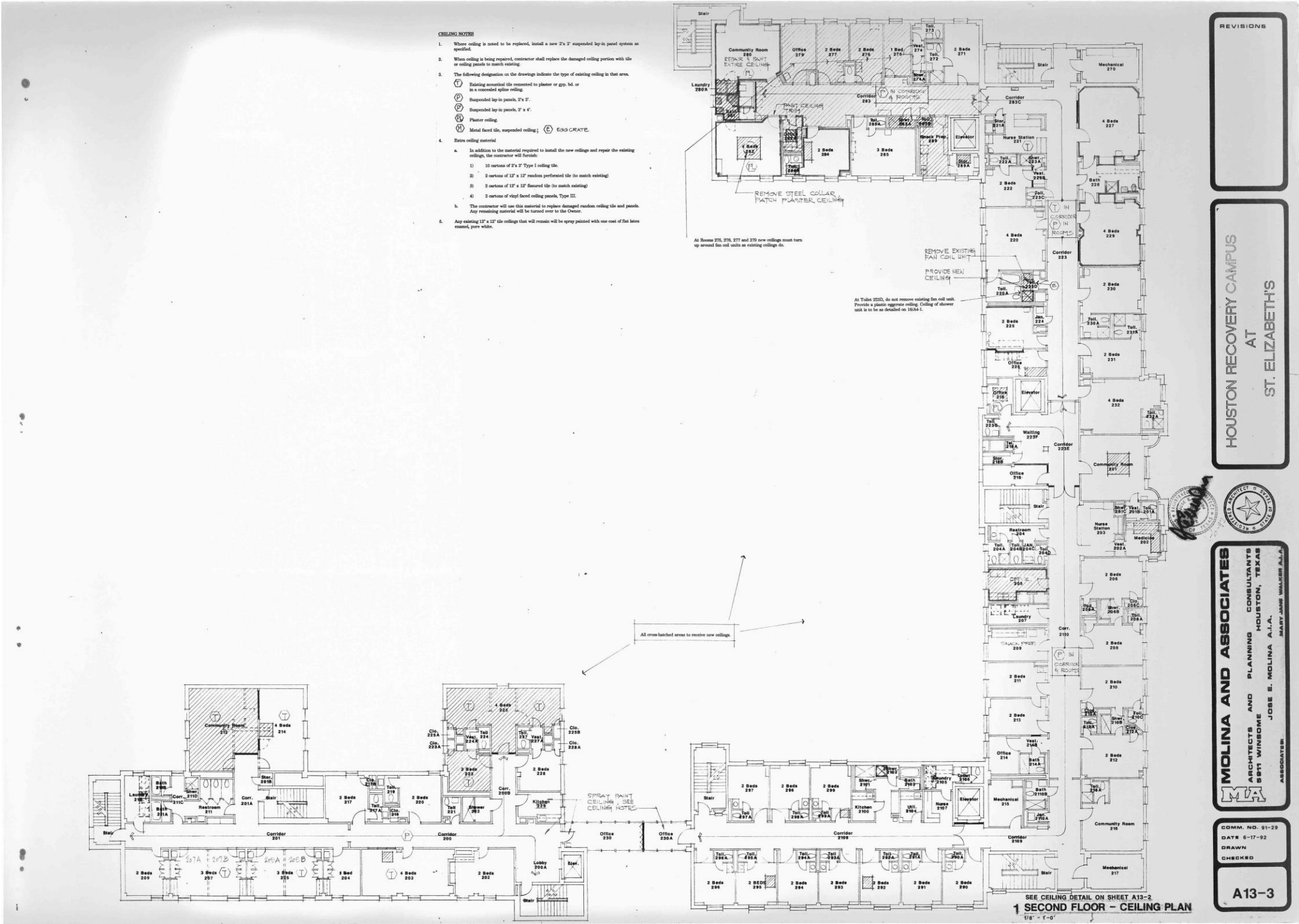
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 10 – First floor plan



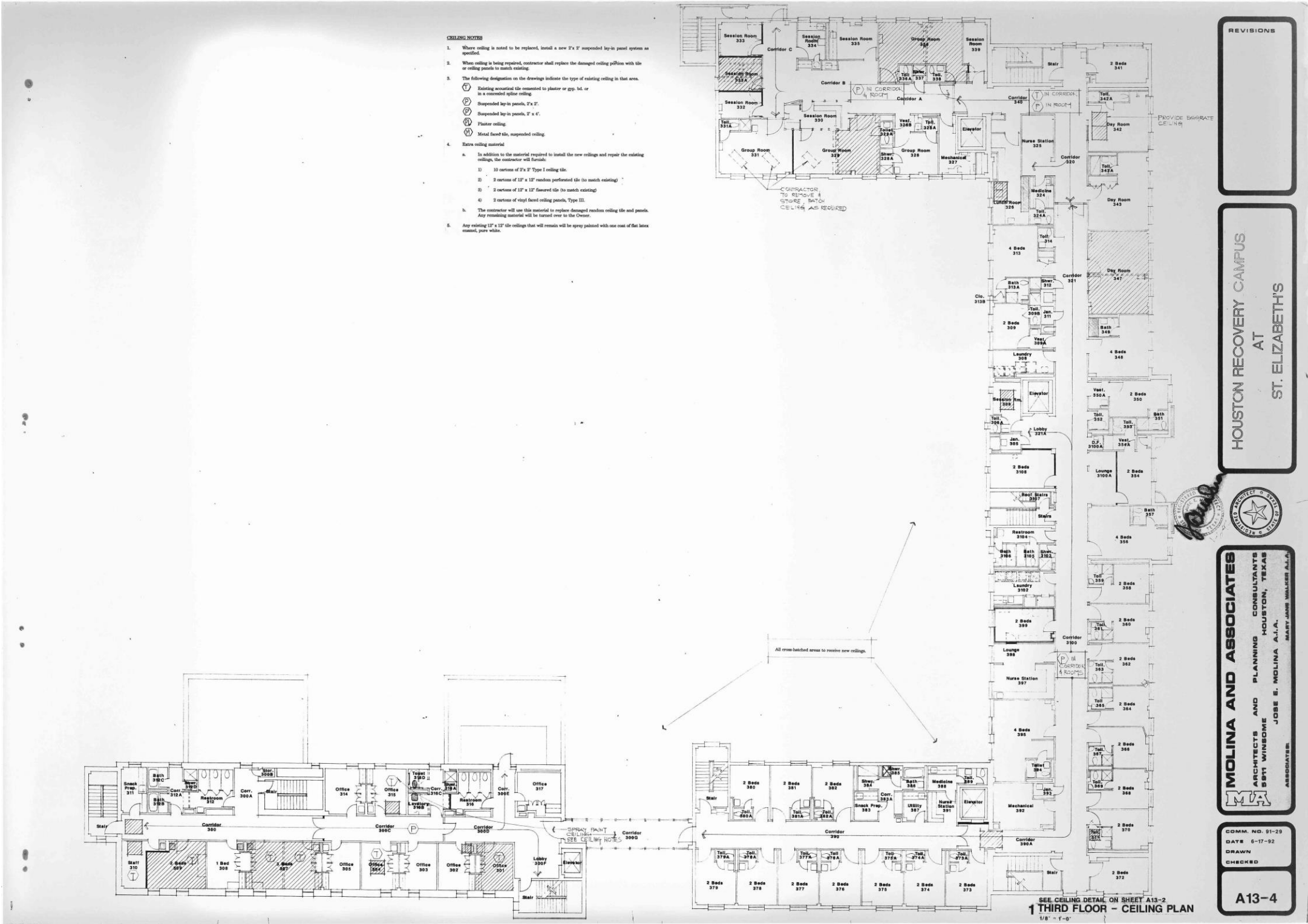
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 11 – Second floor plan



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure 12 – Third floor plan



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 1 – Aerial, view southeast.



Photo 2 – Aerial, view northeast.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 3 – North façade and west elevation, view southeast.



Photo 4 – East elevation and north façade, view southwest.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 5 – West elevation, view east



Photo 6 – South elevation, view north



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 7 – North and west elevations of convent addition, view southeast



Photo 8 – East and north elevations of pump house, view southwest. The pump house is the only original outbuilding that remains distinct and separate from the others, which were incorporated into the 1988 addition.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 9 – Entrance detail, view south



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 10 – Detail, St. Elizabeth relief on the building façade, view southwest



Photo 11 – Original signage for St. Elizabeth's Hospital located above the main entrance to the building on the north façade.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 12 – Interior, first floor lobby, view south. Original terrazzo flooring, terrazzo curbs, and wooden chair rails all present.



Photo 13 – Interior, first floor hallway, view west. Original terrazzo flooring, terrazzo curbs, door openings are visible.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 14 – Interior, second floor room, view northwest. Many rooms in the historic wings of the building retain original tile behind new drywall. Original terrazzo also remains beneath vinyl floor tiles.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 15 – Interior, hyphen connecting east wing to convent addition, view south.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo 16 – Interior, hallway of convent addition, view south.



- end -













Barbara Jordan
Health Care Center

HRC
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OWN RISK
WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR DAMAGE TO VEHICLES

NOTICE
The following information is posted for the convenience of the public.
If you have any questions, please call the HRC at (713) 761-1111.







4514

IN YOUR STEP



ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL



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WONE
WONE

WONE

WONE



EXIT







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Harris

Date Received: 1/29/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/15/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100003489

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

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

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 3/6/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: St. Elizabeth's Hospital is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Health/Medicine and Ethnic Heritage-Black. Constructed in multiple phases between 1945 and 1964, in Houston's predominantly African American Fifth Ward, St. Elizabeth's provided much needed health care for local African American patients during a period of entrenched segregation. The hospital was established by a group of prominent African American physicians who in turn placed the operations under the care of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept NR Criteria A

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 3/6/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

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

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

9

TO: Paul Lusignan
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission

RE: St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas

DATE: 1.28.19

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the <i>St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, Texas</i>
	Resubmitted nomination
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk
	Resubmitted form
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence

COMMENTS:

- ☐ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners
- ☐ Other:

