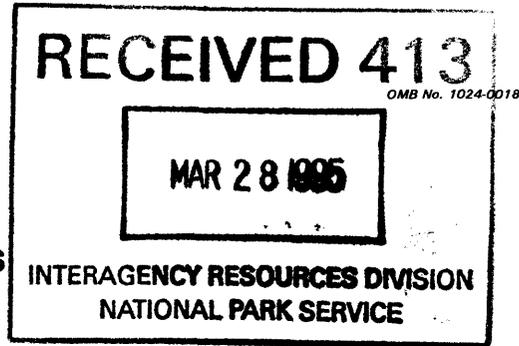


507



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
other names/site number Schiltz Memorial Hospital; American Legion Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 500 Pocatello Highway Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town American Falls N/A vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Power code 077 zip code 83211

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 21 MAR 95  
Signature of certifying official Date  
John R. Hill, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 4-27-95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Entered in the National Register  
[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Bethany Deaconess Hospital

County and State Power County, Idaho

Page 2

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: HEALTH CARE Sub: Hospital

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Meeting Hall and Bar

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
<u>LATE 19TH &amp; EARLY 20TH CENTURY</u>	foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>
<u>AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman</u>	walls <u>BRICK</u>
_____	roof <u>OTHER: Composition shingle</u>
_____	other <u>Concrete window ledges, steps</u>
_____	_____

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

Property Name Bethany Deaconess Hospital

County and State Power County, Idaho

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) n/a

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1926-1944

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1926-1927

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hayward, John (architect); Anderson, S.H. (builder)

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

Property Name Bethany Deaconess Hospital

County and State Power County, Idaho

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

1	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/4/8/8/3/0</u>	<u>4/7/3/8/2/7/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

See continuation sheet

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Madeline Buckendorf  
 organization Independent contractor date July 28, 1994  
 street & number 1402 E. Blaine telephone (208)454-3435  
 city or town Caldwell state ID zip code 83605

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

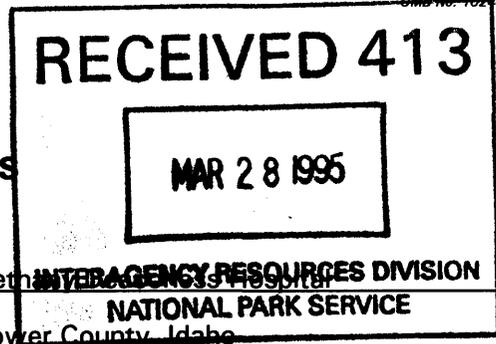
**Property Owner**

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

name American Legion Roland Evans Post #3  
 street & number 408 Gifford Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town American Falls state ID zip code 83211

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
 County and State Power County, Idaho

The Bethany Deaconess Hospital is located at 500 Pocatello Avenue in American Falls, Idaho. The hospital is located near the town square that is flanked by other community institutions including the county courthouse, sheriff's office, and public library. The town of American Falls was moved to its present location in 1925 when the American Falls Dam was built and flooded the townsite to the northeast. The original Bethany Hospital--a three-story stone building dating from 1913--could not be dismantled and moved. As a result, land in the relocated townsite was donated for a new hospital and a special tax levy was imposed to pay for the cost of construction. Construction began in 1926 and was completed the following year. John Hayward, a builder from Idaho Falls, drew the plans in consultation with local doctor C. F. Schiltz. Pocatello contractor S. H. Anderson supervised the building's construction. The Bethany Deaconess Hospital is a vernacular interpretation of the Bungalow style applied to an institutional building.

The hospital is a three-bay, one-story structure with a raised basement. It measures 107 feet wide by 57 feet deep. The building rests on a thick concrete foundation. The walls are constructed of brick laid in running bond. The plan of the hospital is a modified "H." The building faces north. On the main (north) facade, the center portion (second bay) contains the main entrance marked by a full-story portico. This bay has a side-gabled roof that is pierced by a shed dormer with two fixed horizontal lights. The portico is created by a sweeping shed roof that extends over the entrance which is supported by Craftsman-style square wooden pillars. The approach is created by twelve concrete stairs leading to the portico. The doorway consists of paired vertical-light panel doors flanked by sidelights, positioned beneath a rectangular transom. Two one-over-one sash windows are located in the second bay on each side of the porch. Concrete sills support the windows in the first story; a beltcourse of brick headers creates the lintels for the windows and doorway. Smaller one-over-one sash windows are located in the raised basement.

The first and third bays (moving from east to west) form the sides of the "H" and have low-pitched front-gabled roofs that intersect the center side-gabled roof. Beams are visible under the gables and rafters are exposed under the wide projecting eaves. The gable ends are faced in stucco. In the first bay (eastern) of the main (north) facade, three one-over-one sash windows are located in the first story; three smaller one-over-one sash windows are located in the basement. In addition, there is a rectangular two-light sliding window located in each of the gable ends. The third bay (western) of the main facade has similar gable-end windows and one-over one sash windows in the basement. However, two of the three basement windows were removed and filled with brick in the 1970s. The fenestration pattern of the first story differs from the first bay, moving from east to west: a pair of one-over-one sash windows, a single one-over-one sash window, and a picture window, which originally illuminated the operating room, but has since been filled in with brick.

The west facade contains four one-over-one sash windows of varying size in the first story. The two largest of this group are covered with original storm windows. A pair of one-over-one double-hung sash windows remain in the basement; three others have been removed and replaced with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital

County and State Power County, Idaho

---

brick. On the east facade sheltered steps lead to a basement entrance. The entryway has been altered and covered with wood siding. A pair of vertical French windows open above the entryway. Three one-over-one sash windows are located to south of the French windows. A Chicago-style window (oblong, with a wide, fixed central light flanked on each side by narrow moveable sash windows) is located in the southern most portion of the east facade. This Chicago-style window is located beneath a three-part stained-glass transom that follows the same configuration. Four small one-over-one double-hung sash windows run the length of the basement.

The rear (south) facade of the building has been altered several times. The only original portion remaining is the east bay of the rear facade. This section has three windows on the first story. To the east is a Chicago-style window with a stained-glass transom identical to that found on the east facade. Located in the center is a narrow French window. On the western corner of the east bay is a one-over-one sash window. Four smaller one-over-one double-hung sash windows covered with boards are located in the basement. A coal chute also runs to the basement. In the west bay, two one-over-one sash windows flank a newer glass-block window. A recent concrete entryway located between the sash windows leads to the basement. The center bay of the south facade used to be a balcony area, but was filled in with concrete blocks in the 1970s. The roof of the infill construction is front-gabled to match the east and west bays of the south facade.

The roof is covered with composition shingles; the original roof consisted of wooden shingles. An interior square brick chimney is located in the middle of the roof and tin vents flank each side of the chimney.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

The Bethany Deaconess Hospital is significant under Criterion A for its association with the settlement and development of American Falls as well as Power and Bingham counties. It served as the only hospital for Power County and other outlying rural areas from 1927 until 1961. The hospital is tied historically with early Mennonite settlement and charitable efforts in southern Idaho. Its history also provides further information about land exchanges that occurred between Power County and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation after the construction of the American Falls Dam.

The original American Falls town site was located near historic transportation routes through southern Idaho. Explorers, trappers, traders, and Oregon Trail emigrants rested by the falls on their way to the Pacific Northwest. In the 1880s the Oregon Short Line Railroad connected the Union Pacific system from Wyoming and Utah to the Oregon border. American Falls served as one of the Oregon Short Line's temporary head-of-rail construction points. Later a permanent station was established as the first town site was platted in 1886. American Falls remained a part of Oneida County until 1913, when Power County was created from portions of Oneida and Blaine counties.

American Falls became the main trading center for agricultural products and livestock soon after its establishment. The enlarged Homestead Act of 1902 and the Carey Act of 1903 drew more farmers to the region. Carey Act promoters advertised new irrigated lands in newspapers throughout the East and Midwest. In 1905 a community of General Conference Mennonites [a less traditional sect of the Mennonite Church] near Newton, Kansas, received the advertising. They sent two members to check out available lands. While in Idaho, the Mennonite representatives met W. H. Philbrick, a pioneer rancher and businessman. Philbrick owned several ranches and businesses near American Falls and Aberdeen, and later became president of the Aberdeen Canal Company. It is reputed that Philbrick showed the lands near Aberdeen, located in Bingham County, to the Mennonites. Several families from Newton moved to Aberdeen in 1906 and took up irrigated farming. Many of them traded at Philbrick's Fall Creek Mercantile in American Falls. Philbrick later served as a Power County commissioner and state senator.<sup>1</sup>

The Aberdeen Mennonites retained their ties to the General Conference church in Kansas and imported some of the Church's charity work to Idaho. The Bethany Deaconess Hospital Association of Goessil, Kansas, sent Mennonite nurses to provide medical care in the Aberdeen and American

---

<sup>1</sup>For information on Mennonite settlement in the area and their hospital work, see "Patients are Quartered in New Hospital," *American Falls (Idaho) Press*, 13 January 1927; "A 'Planned City' Lasts 75 Years," *Idaho State Journal*, 24 July 1970; Betty Hale, "Aberdeen Mennonites Maintain Independence," *Idaho State Journal*, 19 May 1972; and Madge Little, "Aberdeen's 'A' Earned Name at Top of List of Idaho Cities," *Idaho State Journal*, 22 July 1966. For information of Philbrick see Bryon Defenbach, *Idaho: The Place and Its People*, Vol. II (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1993), p. 325 and *Idaho State Journal*, 24 July 1970.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

Falls Area. In 1913 a hospital was built in American Falls, and the Bethany Deaconess nurses maintained its operation. The Bethany Deaconess Hospital Association later helped to establish hospitals in Soda Springs and Burley.

The drought years of 1919 and 1920 fueled plans for an irrigation reservoir at American Falls. State, federal, and local governments, along with numerous private water users, cooperated to accomplish the construction of the reservoir. Thirty individual districts and forty irrigation companies reached an agreement to combine their water storage and distribution efforts, culminating in the largest irrigation district in Idaho. With the help of Senator William E. Borah, federal monies and technical assistance from the United States Bureau of Reclamation were obtained to build the dam. When surveyors laid out boundaries for the storage reservoir they discovered that most of the original American Falls townsite, including Bethany Deaconess Hospital, would be inundated. The Bureau of Reclamation then had to buy out property owners of the original townsite and move, dismantle, or sell their structures. The Bureau also purchased lands above the planned reservoir for resettlement, and paid for a town plan and infrastructure development. They dealt with over 1200 individuals to complete this process. It took five years to gain title to all lands in the reservoir, and cost the Bureau of Reclamation nearly twice what it cost them to build the dam itself.

Power County officials and the American Falls Chamber of Commerce worked closely with Bureau of Reclamation officials to re-establish the town's public and quasi-public buildings. The Bureau reimbursed the county, city, schools and road districts for their losses in buildings and permanent improvements. Bethany Deaconess Hospital was one of these structures. The original three-story stone hospital could not be moved from the original townsite. It was dismantled, and temporary patient quarters were located at an old bakery in the Hessler Block. W. H. Philbrick, by then an influential member of the American Falls Chamber of Commerce, worked with the Bethany Deaconess Hospital Association and Power County officials to facilitate construction of a new hospital.<sup>2</sup>

In 1926 the commissioners imposed a special tax levy to build the second Bethany Deaconess Hospital. An additional \$17,500 from Reclamation reimbursements went into the hospital fund. Construction started in the fall of 1926, with Pocatello contractor S. H. Anderson overseeing the work. John Hayward, a contractor from Idaho Falls, developed building plans with advice from local doctor C. F. Schiltz. The hospital was completed by January of 1927. The Bethany Deaconess nurses continued to run the hospital, with Aberdeen Mennonite Church members acting as the board of directors. Dr. Schiltz remained the hospital's attending physician. Ward patients from the county were charged \$2.50 a day; out-of county patients paid \$3.00. In deference to their

---

<sup>2</sup>*American Falls (Idaho) Press*, 13 January 1927.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

---

help in getting the hospital established, members of Aberdeen's two Mennonite churches (located in Bingham County) were charged the in-county rate.<sup>3</sup>

At the time it was built, the hospital consisted of twenty-one rooms and accommodated forty-two patients. It contained one small and one large operating room, a nursery, surgeon's dressing room, diet kitchen, dining room, and a dormitory for the nurses. The basement included a large laundry room, garage, dark room, storage, and quarters for hospital employees. The *American Falls Press* touted its layout: "With this arrangement, and with its improved equipment, there is every facility for conducting the hospital in an economical and efficient manner."<sup>4</sup>

With the death of Dr. Schiltz in 1931, the commissioners changed the hospital's name to Schiltz Memorial Hospital. The Aberdeen Mennonite community had already relinquished their involvement in the hospital to other locally trained nurses and doctors. At this time it operated fully under the auspices of the county commissioners. As medical standards changed over the span of the next twenty-five years, the hospital's medical facilities became outdated. In 1958 the Idaho State Board of Health told the county commissioners that they must renovate the old hospital or build a new one as soon as possible. The commissioners originally planned to update the old facility, but found it was more economical to build a new hospital. Until the new Power County Hospital opened in April of 1961, the Schiltz Memorial Hospital continued to house patients. The commissioners sold the old hospital at public auction in July to Arthur and Ellen Vollweiler, and Henry and Janie Vollweiler. They used the facility as the "Great West Apartments" for former patients of State Hospital South, a psychiatric hospital in Blackfoot. The Vollweilers then sold it to John and Gladys Hanson in 1969. The local American Legion post bought the former hospital from the Hansons in 1973. The legion presently uses it for a private meeting hall and lounge. They occasionally rent rooms for social functions such as weddings and receptions.

The former Bethany Deaconess Hospital remains a modest but graceful structure near the American Falls town square. Most longtime residents recall that they or their children were born within its walls. Its ties to early Mennonite emigration and Reclamation efforts make it a significant structure in southeastern Idaho.

---

<sup>3</sup>Power County Commissioners' Minutes, Book 2, pp.55, 58, 63, and 69.

<sup>4</sup>American Falls (Idaho) Press, 13 January 1927

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

---

### Deed Research:

Power Co. Commissioners' Minutes. Book 2, pp. 52, 55, 58, 63, 69. On file at Power County Courthouse, American Falls, Idaho.

Power Co. Deed Records. On file at Power County Courthouse, American Falls, Idaho.

Book 76, p. 11. Instrument No. 39494. November 9, 1926. Deed to Land in Reclamation Addition to City of American Falls, Idaho, from the Bureau of Reclamation, Minidoka Project, Lots 7 and 8 in Block 49. "Provided [that the city of American Falls] will construct and maintain a building of the value of not less than \$10,000, said building to be used for hospital purposes." Recorded Nov. 26, 1926 in book 76 of Deeds at p. 261.

Book 109, p. 392. Instrument No. 82401. July 15, 1961, From Power County to Arthur J. and Ellen Vollweiler, and Henry C. and Janie Vollweiler. (12 June 1961--county decided it did not need the land, and sold it at auction to highest bidder.) Lots 7 and 8, Block 49, Reclamation Addition.

Drawer #1, Microfilm No. 93832, May 6, 1969. To John W. Hanson from Arthur and Henry Vollweiler. Filed on Rec. 4-12-73. Lots 7 and 8, Block 49, Reclamation Addition.

Drawer #2, Book #101313, March 27, 1973. John W. and Gladys Hanson to Roland Evans Post No. 3, The American Legion. Lots 7 and 8 in Block 49, Reclamation Addition.

### Newspaper Articles:

Hale, Betty. "Aberdeen Mennonites Maintain Independence." *Idaho State Journal*, 19 May 1972.

Little, Madge. "Aberdeen's 'A' Earned Name at Top of List of Idaho Cities." *Idaho State Journal*, 22 July 1966.

Maupin, Peter. "On Our Cover." *Idaho State Journal*, 19 May 1972.

"Patients are Quartered in New Hospital." *American Falls (Idaho) Press*, 13 January 1927.

"A 'Planned City' Lasts 75 Years." *Idaho State Journal*, 24 July 1970.

"Special Hospital Edition." *Power County (Idaho) Press*, 6 April 1961.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

---

### Publications

Defenbach, Byron. *Idaho: The Place and Its People*, Vol. II. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1993.

### Oral History

Neu, Helena. Interview by Madeline Buckendorf, 21 June 1994. Collection of the author.

### Miscellaneous

Johnson, Harold, Steve Joseph, Chuck Mullen and Thule Egan Stone. Research paper prepared for Professor Henry J. Hulvey, Idaho State University, 10 December 1973. On file at the American Falls Public Library.

Power Co. Historical Society, Certified Local Government and Photograph files. Reconnaissance-level form; Field #023. In files of Max Newlin, Massacre Rocks State Park, Rockland, Idaho.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Bethany Deaconess Hospital  
County and State Power County, Idaho

---

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes the Bethany Deaconess Hospital and the property on which it stands, lots 7 and 8, block 49, American Falls Reclamation Addition. Legal description is on file at the Power County Courthouse, American Falls, Idaho.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary description is based on the legally recorded boundary lines of the property. The boundary includes the building, and it contains the area which has been historically associated with the Bethany Deaconess Hospital.