

FORM A - AREA

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

MLF-B	MLF-063, LF 43-49; A-101
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Newton (Newton Lower Falls)

Area (if any) Newton Cottage

al Historic District

Use Newton-Wellesley Hospital

Date or Period 1894-1936

Condition fair-good

e

Recorded by Deborah Shea
Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization Newton Historical Comm

Date 1971, 1987; rev. 5/ 1988

area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).



UTM REFERENCE A19/314900 14685.900
B19/315040 14685910
C19/315180 14685780
D19/315120 14685670

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Newton Cottage Hospital complex possesses integrity of location, design, setting (partial), materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as an unusually intact group of turn-of-the-century hospital buildings which illustrate the character of medical practice and hospital design during that period. The complex is especially important because most such period groups in Massachusetts have been destroyed as rapidly advancing medical technology have promoted ever larger and more sophisticated buildings. The Newton Cottage Hospital complex thus meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Newton Hospital complex occupies the southeastern corner of Newton Lower Falls at the intersection of Beacon and Washington Streets. The Woodland Golf Club is located to the northwest across Washington Street, while the Brae Burn Country Club is to the northeast. The nomination is confined to a cluster of eleven small-scale buildings most of which date from the turn-of-the-century when the present Newton-Wellesley Hospital was known as the Newton Cottage Hospital. Excluded are the large-scale main buildings which date from 1927-1981 and face directly onto Washington Street. The nominated buildings occupy the rear, eastern portion of the hospital property.

(see cont. sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Established by a group of public spirited citizens, the Newton-Wellesley Hospital was incorporated as the Newton Cottage Hospital in 1881, although it was five years before the hospital opened to its first patient in June of 1886. A nine acre site on Washington Street (the former Granville Fuller Estate), had been acquired by the Trustees. The first two buildings, one for administration and one a clinical ward, laid the basis for the cottage hospital complex, which was based on an English system developed by Albert Napper. It was felt the small, homelike buildings would be more readily used by country communities than a large, impersonal institution. The cottage hospital philosophy was adhered to until 1905, when inpatient capacity reached 70 beds. By 1908 the hospital had become "a sprawling institution of cottages, tunnels and gardens...(and had) changed its name to The Newton Hospital." Strong community support fostered the growth of the hospital to meet the needs of the expanding community as well as rapid advances in medical science and trends in health care. Benefactors are remembered in the names of the extant buildings in the cottage hospital complex.

(see cont. sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Department Records: 2014, 2060 Washington Street
The Newton Wellesely Hospital Volume I, Clark; Volume II, Strieder
 VF- Jackson Homestead, *Newton-The Garden City, Beautiful Newton.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Lower Falls)	Form No: NLF-B
Property Name: Newton Cottage Hospital	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The oldest building in the complex, and the only one of wood-frame construction, is the **Pratt-Converse Nurses Home (A)**. Located at the southern edge of the complex on a gentle rise, it was designed in 1894 by the well-known firm of Hartwell & Richardson. Clapboard clad, it rises 2 1/2 stories to a gambrel roof. Massive projecting cross-gambrels frame the facade. Attached by a stuccoed hyphen is **Ellison Hall (B)**, designed in 1905 by Kendall, Taylor & Stevens who were responsible for many of the other hospital buildings. Ellison is a two story Flemish bond brick structure enclosed by a slate hip roof with pedimented dormers and a modillion cornice. Its eleven bay facade is focused on an elaborate entry framed by sidelights and transom, as well as marble columns and pilasters carrying a full entablature headed by a metal balustrade. Recessed wings form the outer bays of the facade. Windows contain 6/6 sash and are headed by keystones. At the eastern edge of the site are three interconnected buildings that were constructed in 1901-2 as **contagious wards (2 story) flanking an administration building (1 story) (C)**. The rustic design of this group which features brick construction and deeply over hanging slate roofs with exposed rafter ends, is also the work of Kendall, Taylor & Stevens. A similar group of three buildings designed by Kendall, Taylor & Stevens is located at the western edge of the site adjacent to the main hospital structures. The central building originally served as an **operating theater (D)**, while flanking members served as **recovery and convalescing wards**. (Bray (E) and Eldridge (F)). All three are small, rectangular, one-story brick structures enclosed by hip roofs extended on jig-sawn brackets. Adjacent to these buildings on the north, and connected by a partially underground corridor, is the **Founders Memorial Building (G)** which originally served as a maternity ward. It is a handsome 2 1/2 story brick structure designed in 1907 by Kendall, Taylor & Stevens in the Georgian Revival style. The nine bay facade which faces west toward Washington Street is framed by cross gables and centered on an entry framed by an elaborate Gibbs surround and segmental pediment. Other features include a modillion cornice, pedimented dormers, a louvered cupola, decorative brickwork in the gable fields, and keystones over windows with 1/1 sash. A small brick **power plant (H)** with a tall smoke stack is located at the northern edge of the site. The original front section of the building, built in 1914 as a garage, chapel and mortuary, was probably designed by Kendall, Taylor & Company. The actual power plant was added in 1927 to plans by Densmore, LeClear, and Robbins. The combined buildings are utilitarian in style and have served a variety of functions. The center of the area is occupied by its most recent building, the **Allen Riddle Hall (I)**, designed in 1936 by Densmore, LeClear and Robbins. Built on a modified E/H plan, this Tudor Revival style brick building rises three stories to a flat roof. Cast stone trim is concentrated on the central projecting pavilion

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Architectural Significance (cont.)

which is a massive window bank with heavy mullions, and on the entry which is adjacent to the west. The only other trim elements are horizontal bands indicating a water table and cornice.

Verbal Boundary Justification and Description:

The boundaries of this nomination follow the north and south lot lines of the present Newton-Wellesley Hospital. The west and southwest boundaries have been drawn to exclude the main, large-scale buildings of the hospital. The boundaries are intended to recognize the rare surviving group of small-scale buildings that were built at the turn-of-the-century when the institution was known as the Newton Cottage Hospital. The large-scale buildings at the western Washington Street edge of the hospital date from 1927-1981. The 1927 south wing was considered for inclusion but was finally excluded because it is attached to the later 1958 and 1981 sections, because of its large scale, and because hospital buildings of this period are relatively common.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont)

Pratt-Converse Nurses Home (1894 - A), the oldest remaining structure in the Cottage Hospital complex was built and equipped by Lucius G. Pratt of West Newton and Edmund W. Converse of Newton Corner. Both were successful business men and Pratt was a long-time member of the Hospital Board. The building provided residential accommodations for 40 student nurses and lecture rooms for the school of nursing which had been established in 1888. Pratt-Converse was designed by the firm of Hartwell and Richardson which designed several schools in Newton including Hyde School in Newton Highlands and Davis School (WN-J) in West Newton as well as the Central Congregational Church (NR:1986) and the Masonic Hall (DOE), both in Newtonville. Attached to Pratt-Converse is **Ellison Hall** (1905 - B)), which was built and equipped by Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Day and named in memory of William P. Ellison, the first clerk of the Hospital Corporation and for many years its Vice-president. Ellison Hall provided expanded living and training quarters. It was designed by the firm of Kendall, Taylor, and Stevens, who were well known in the field of hospital design. Boston City Hospital, the Worcester Insane Asylum, Westboro State Hospital, Wrentham State School, and the Anna Jacques Hospital in Newburyport were among the firm's area commissions.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Historical Significance (cont.)

Initially individuals with infectious diseases were refused treatment at the Newton Cottage Hospital, but in 1891 the city built a separate group of buildings known as the **contagious wards (C)**, which were isolated from the rest of the complex. Initially of wood, they were heavily damaged by fire in 1900, and subsequently rebuilt in brick. Wards A (for diphtheria patients) and B (for scarlet fever) are connected to and bracket a central administration building which at the time contained offices, laboratory, kitchens, and rooms for nurses and staff. Designed by Kendall, Taylor, and Stevens, each ward had a 26 beds capacity, double that of the wards damaged by the fire.

Kendall, Taylor, and Stevens designed another grouping of four buildings, constructed in 1898. Those which remain (although their uses have changed) include the **Haskell-Emerson Operating Suite (D)** and two recovery wards, **Eldridge Memorial (F)** for women and **Mellen Bray Surgical (E)** for men. The Thayer Ward, the fourth building has been demolished. "Modern" features in the Operating Suite included large windows and skylights, along with 29 incandescent lamps for improved lighting, swinging doors for stretcher access, and floors and walls of marble for easy cleaning. In the recovery wards, each had a large room with 8 to 10 beds. Additional facilities included bathroom, kitchen and service rooms and two small rooms for private patients. Mellen Bray and his son William C. Bray, who eventually became President of the Board of Trustees, were among the hospitals most generous benefactors. Bray, whose home was in Newton Centre, made his fortune with the invention of a device for lacing shoes which later led to tubular rivets and lacing studs. Besides funding the convalescent ward, Bray also donated \$60,000 for construction of **Founder's Memorial (1908 - G)** to accommodate the hospital's expanding maternity service. This two and a half story building, also designed by Kendall, Taylor, and Stevens, was larger than the other Cottage Hospital buildings, with private rooms replacing the conventional wards. With the construction of Founders, the hospital was following modern trends in health care which encouraged construction of separate maternity facilities to reduce the chances of infection and maternal-infant mortality.

In 1914 a small garage, chapel and mortuary was added, probably according to plans by Kendall, Taylor, & Company. The use of this building has changed several times and, in 1927, a brick and concrete **power station (H)**, which is still in use, was added to the rear. The final building in the cottage complex area, **Allen Riddle Hall (I)**, begun in 1936, was designed by Densmore, LeClear, and Robbins, who were also responsible the new South Wing. Allen Riddle was ready for use in 1939 and again enlarged the

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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Historical Significance (cont.)

residential and educational facilities of the nursing school which continues to play a significant part in the expansion of the hospital.

Construction of Founder's Memorial actually marked the end of the cottage hospital era. In 1927, the Hospital Corporation began construction of the South Wing which brought the hospital into the era of "modern" medicine. The Cottage Hospital was dwarfed by the six story, 134 bed facility which centralized most functions of the hospital in one building. In 1945 continued expansion resulted in a name change - from the Newton Hospital to the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. The North Wing was built in 1958, the West Wing in 1972, and the Central Building in 1981. Additional buildings for offices and parking garages were constructed in the 1960s and 70s.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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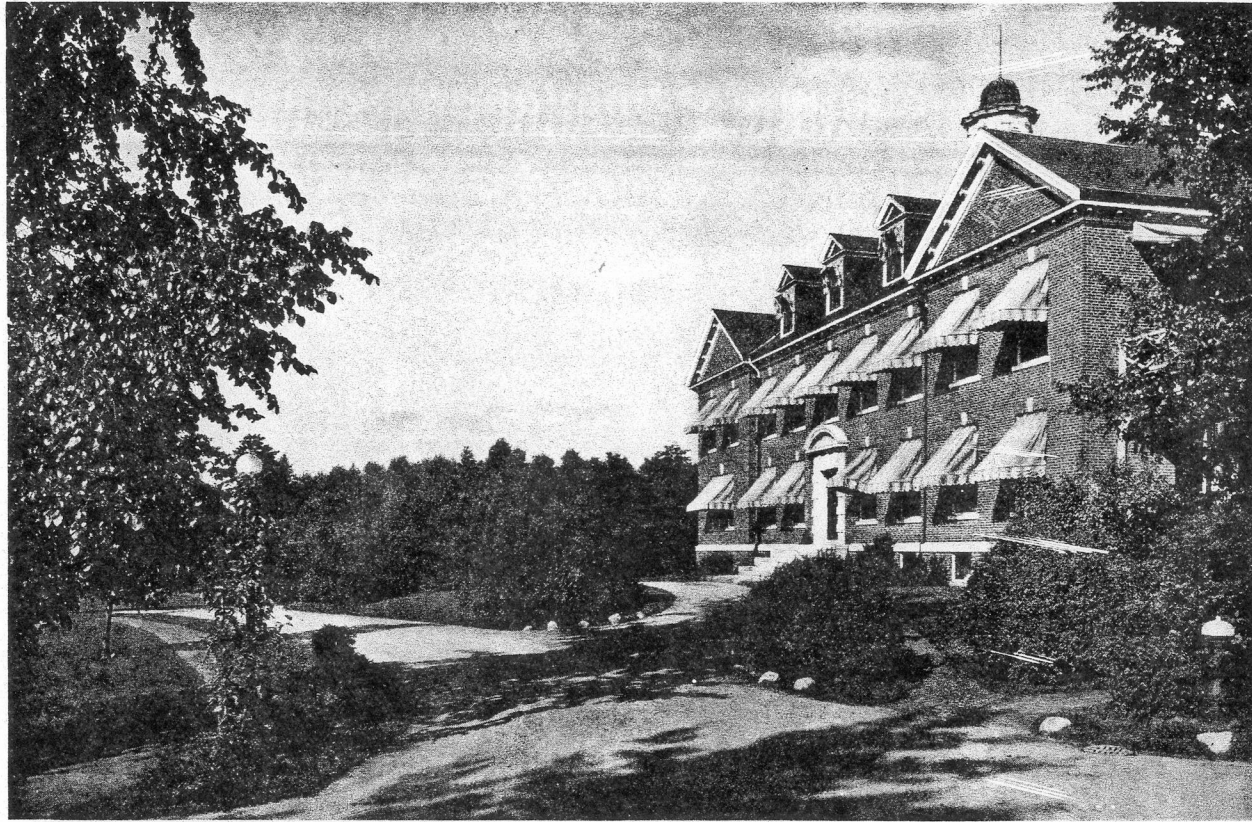
Community: <i>Newton</i>	Form No: <i>NLF-B</i>
Property Name:	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Newton Cottage Hospital: Contagious Wards

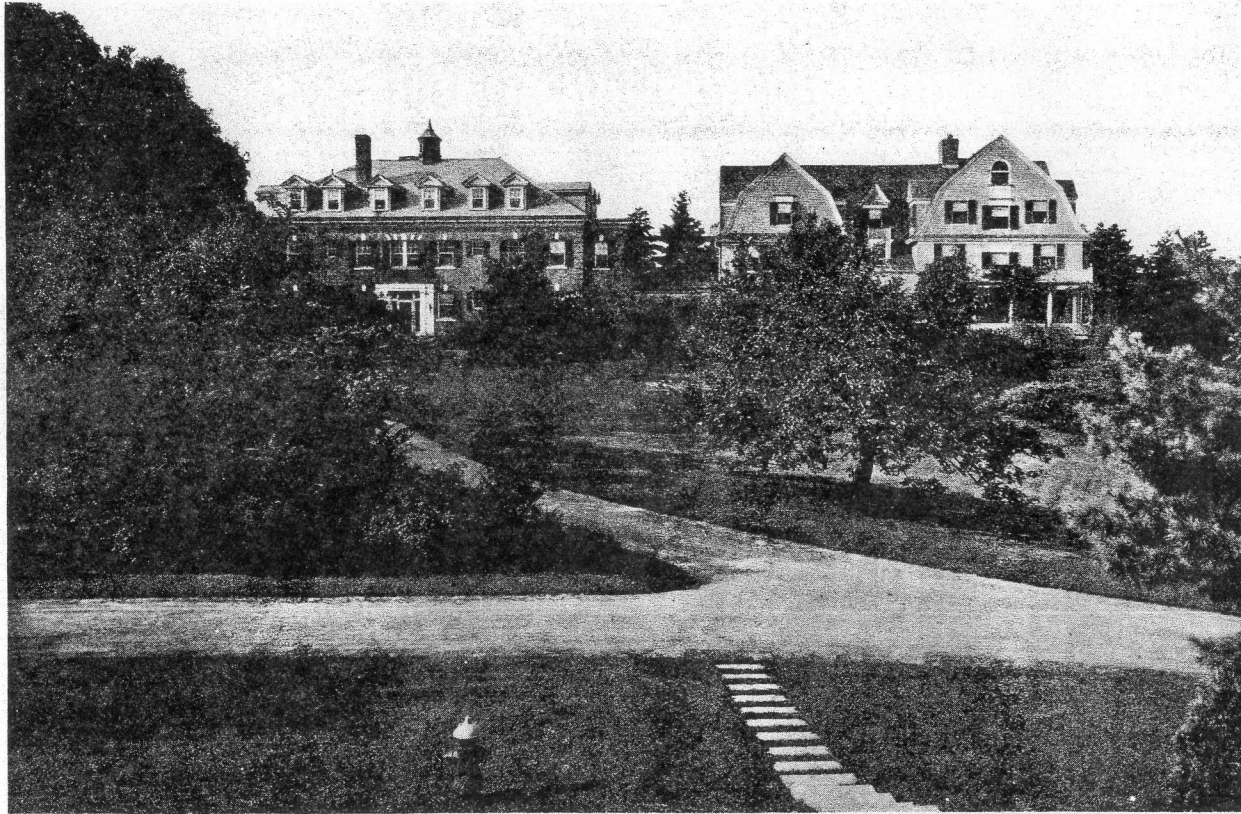
Newton, MA-MRA



THE HILL OF THE PINES
210 TREES PLANTED 1908

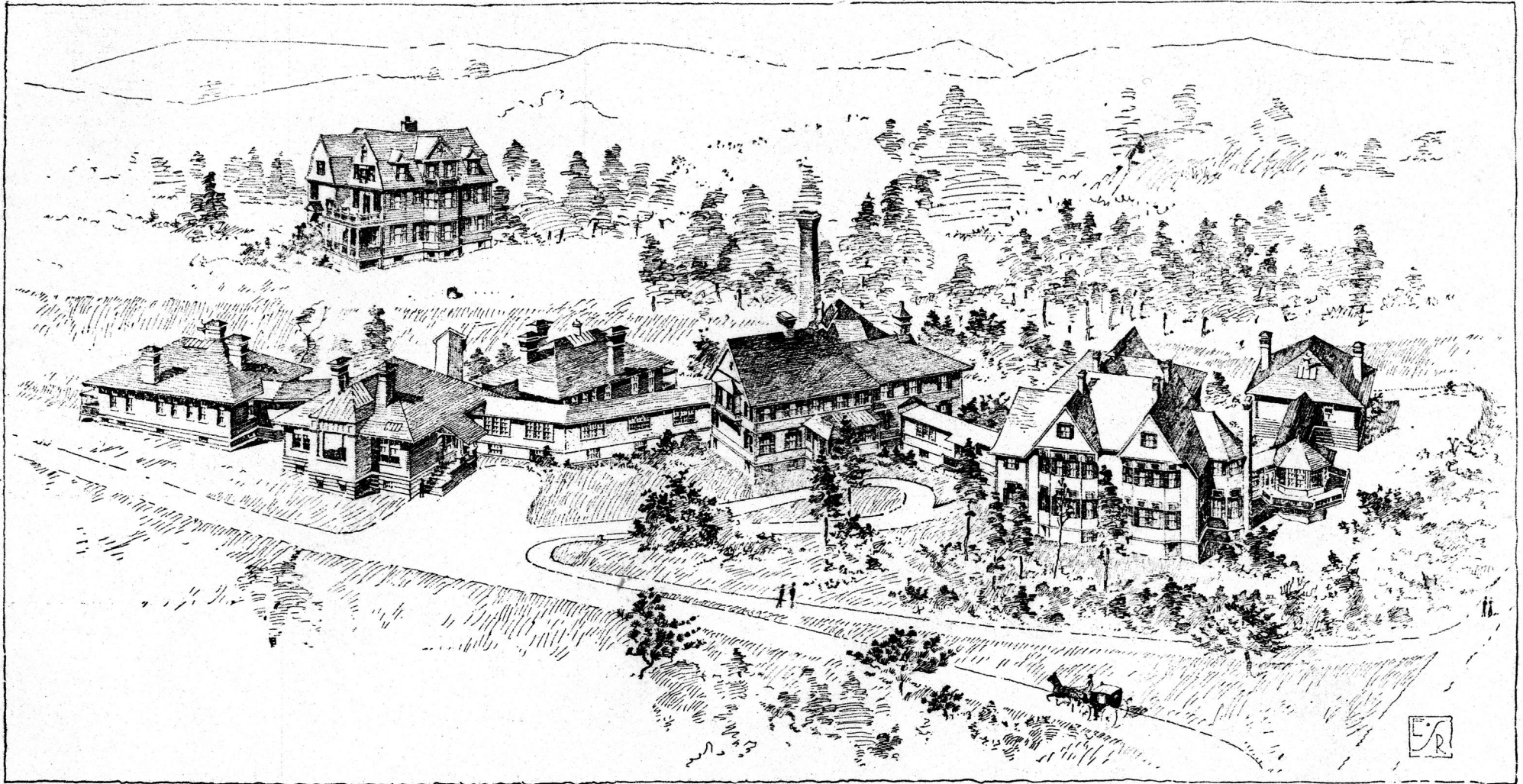
FOUNDERS MEMORIAL

Newton, MA-MRA

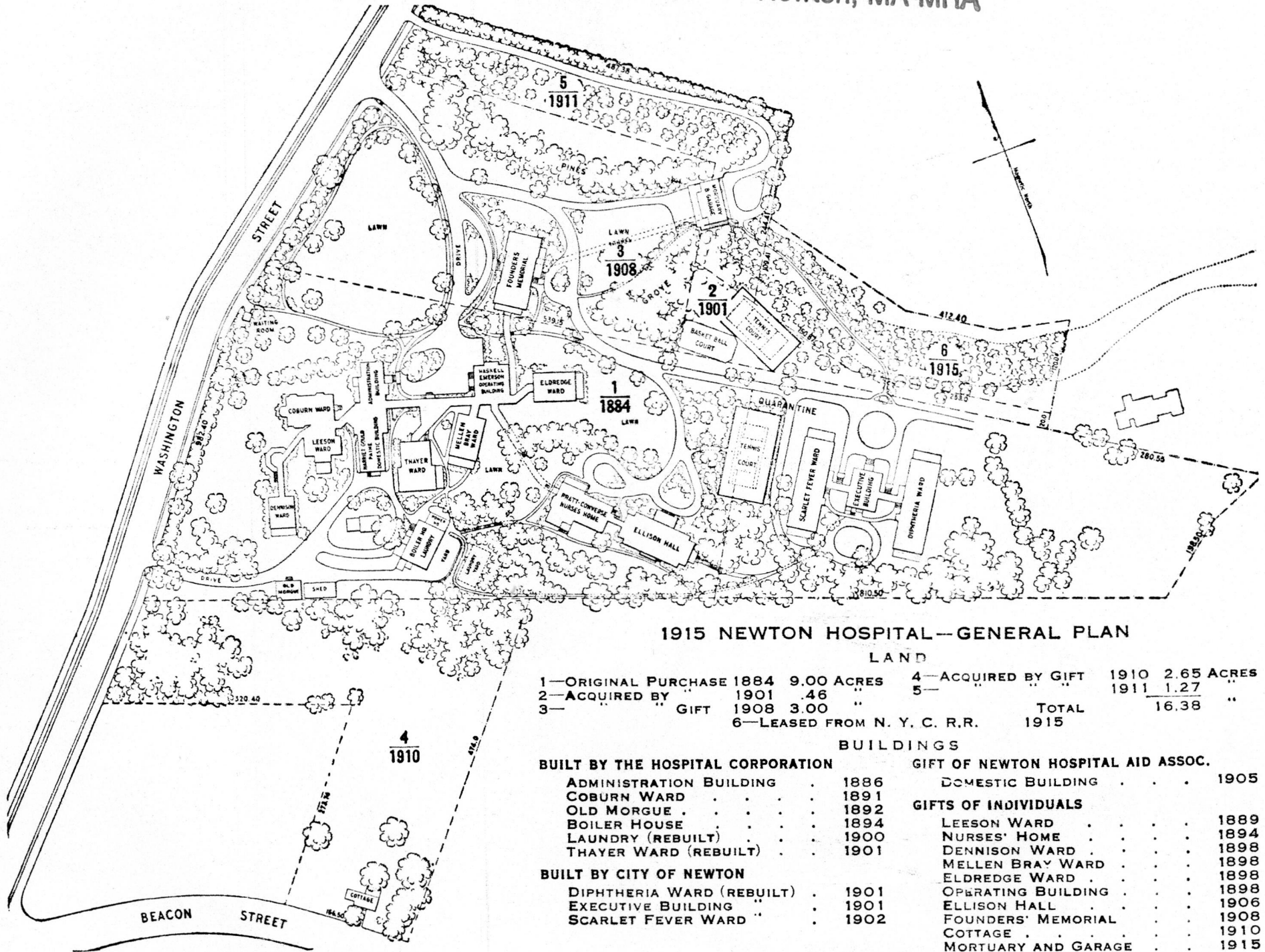


ELLISON HALL

PRATT-CONVERSE NURSES' HOME



1899 · CONVERSE & PRATT NURSES HOME · BRAY WARD · THAYER WARD · LEEJON WARD · DENNISON WARD ·
 · ELDRIDGE WARD · HASKELL & EMERSON OPERATING BUILDING · ADMINISTRATION BUILDING · COBURN WARD · FOR CHILDREN



1915 NEWTON HOSPITAL—GENERAL PLAN

LAND

1—ORIGINAL PURCHASE 1884	9.00 ACRES	4—ACQUIRED BY GIFT 1910	2.65 ACRES
2—ACQUIRED BY GIFT 1901	.46 "	5—	1911 1.27 "
3—	1908 3.00 "	TOTAL	16.38 "
6—LEASED FROM N. Y. C. R.R.	1915		

BUILDINGS

BUILT BY THE HOSPITAL CORPORATION

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	1886
COBURN WARD	1891
OLD MORGUE	1892
BOILER HOUSE	1894
LAUNDRY (REBUILT)	1900
THAYER WARD (REBUILT)	1901

BUILT BY CITY OF NEWTON

DIPHThERIA WARD (REBUILT)	1901
EXECUTIVE BUILDING	1901
SCARLET FEVER WARD	1902

GIFT OF NEWTON HOSPITAL AID ASSOC.

DOMESTIC BUILDING	1905
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GIFTS OF INDIVIDUALS

LEESON WARD	1889
NURSES' HOME	1894
DENNISON WARD	1898
MELLEN BRAY WARD	1898
ELDRIDGE WARD	1898
OPERATING BUILDING	1898
ELLISON HALL	1906
FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL	1908
COTTAGE	1910
MORTUARY AND GARAGE	1915

Newton, MA-MRA

Newton Cottage Hospital
2014 Washington Street
Engineering Map - 1979
Scale: 1"=1000" Reduced 87%
Page: 82 and 83

