

Since its inception in 1854, the generosity of Hartford's citizens, including its most industrious and prosperous, have contributed to Hartford Hospital's growth and its standing as a nationally recognized medical facility. Many of these gifts, from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century to the onset of the Great Depression, were not only dedicated wards and departments but actual buildings. As stated in a Hartford Courant article from 1942:

*Memorial buildings and memorial departments in Hartford Hospital have played a vital role in enabling it to maintain its position as one of America's great community hospitals.*

**NOTE:** Vintage photographs of the following buildings can be found in *The Healing Triangle: Hartford Hospital's First 150 Years* by Bruce Clouette and Brian Lever (Hartford: Hartford Hospital, 2004)

### **HALL-WILSON LABORATORY**

Retreat Avenue

Dedicated: June 27, 1922

Donor: Mrs. John (Grace) Hall Wilson in memory of her father John Henry Hall, her mother Sarah Garrett Liones Hall and her husband John Cincinnatus Hall

Architect: Carl Malmfeldt

The Hall-Wilson Laboratory's Georgian/Colonial revival styling and mass perfectly complimented the soon to vanish Victorian-era mansions located on nearby Washington Street. Its construction helps place the importance of the growing science of pathology on the medical time-line: what started with one-doctor in 1900 grew to a department requiring a three-story building.

The construction of the laboratory also heralded the importance of research in Hartford Hospital's mission. A modern refrigeration system allowed the hospital to progress from using ice to preserve bodies for autopsies. The laboratories were "furnished with all the latest equipment and devices."

The choice of Portland brownstone in this building was probably more than just a nod to the architect's preferences. John Henry Hall was born in Portland, Connecticut where his father owned the Shaler & Hall Quarry Co. Mr. Hall came to Hartford in 1888 to work for the Colt Fire Arms Company where he was elected Vice-President and Treasurer in 1890.

### **MATERNITY PAVILION/WOMEN'S BUILDING**

**"BROWNSTONE"**

Retreat Avenue

Dedicated: Nov 16, 1923

Architect: Carl Malmfeldt

Consulting architects: Kendall, Taylor & Co., Boston

This iconic Hartford Hospital building identified as the "Brownstone" shows Kendall, Taylor's Georgian revival preferences. It is best described in *Structures and Styles*:

The six-story brownstone Georgian Revival structure rises from a two-story base through a three-story section to a full entablature and attic. Low pediments cap the end pavilions, which are defined by smooth brownstone pilasters and quoins.

The building plans were announced December of 1920 but construction did not commence until April, 1922. The necessity for a maternity department at the hospital reflects the growth of the maternity medical specialty,

the resulting culture shift away from home births and the rapid increase in Hartford's population (further evidenced by the city's aggressive school building campaign of the 1920's).

The Brownstone Building lacks a major entrance since it was built as an *addition* to the hospital which was located on the eastern side of the now gone South Hudson Street.

### **MARY A. CHENEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Brick and brownstone

Jefferson Street

Dedicated June 20, 1928, in memory of Mary Robinson Cheney

Donor: Colonel Louis R. Cheney (husband) and Mrs. John T. Roberts (daughter)

Architect: Carl Malmfeldt

Architect: Ebbets & Frid (fourth-floor addition, 1935)

The Cheney family were important donors to Hartford Hospital and Col. Cheney served many years as the President of the Board of Directors. The Cheney Library was built in memory of his wife, Mary.

This Georgian revival structure is included in this study due to its prominent first-story brownstone exterior which is smooth ashlar rather than the more usual rusticated (rough) brownstone. The upper stories are built of waterstruck brick. The building was originally built with three floors with a central entablature and pediment with fluted Ionic pilasters (similar to the Florence Crane Building; see following). The building provided not only a library for both the patients and the staff but rooms for the medical staff and recreation facilities for the interns in the basement.

In 1935 the design of the building was drastically changed with the addition of a fourth floor that was built to provide lodging for the increasing staff of interns. The change to the flat roof was designed to accommodate a sun room and also provide a place for volleyball and games to be played.

The building was erected at the corner of Jefferson and South Hudson Street – its main entrance opens to the south to a street no longer there.

### **FLORENCE CRANE BUILDING**

Brick & brownstone

Jefferson Street

Dedicated: January 10, 1930, in appreciation of the treatment Florence Crane received while patient at hospital

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Crane, Jr. of Chicago

Architect: Kendall, Taylor & Co., Boston

During her first year as a student at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Florence Crane became seriously ill with an ear infection and required surgery. Her father, Richard Teller Crane, Jr. President of the Crane plumbing empire, was so impressed by the treatment his daughter received that he sent Hartford Hospital a check in the amount of \$100,000 *before his daughter was even discharged*. The funds were designated for the construction of an eye, ear, nose and throat department and dedicated patient rooms for students at Miss Porter's. Mrs. Crane personally supervised the selection of the building's furniture and, of course, the latest in Crane plumbing fixtures were used.

Rather than being designed in the Colonial or Georgian revival style (the most popular styles for buildings and homes at the time), the architects designed a building in a reproduction Georgian design, typical of a building

you might see in London. The first floor is of brownstone similar to an English “high basement.” The second through fourth floors have a brick exterior with embedded Ionic pilasters dividing the windows and an entablature and central pediment of a Palladian design at the roof line.

**Kendall, Taylor & Co.** of Boston specialized in hospital design most notably state hospitals in Massachusetts.

**in memoriam  
LOST BROWNSTONES**

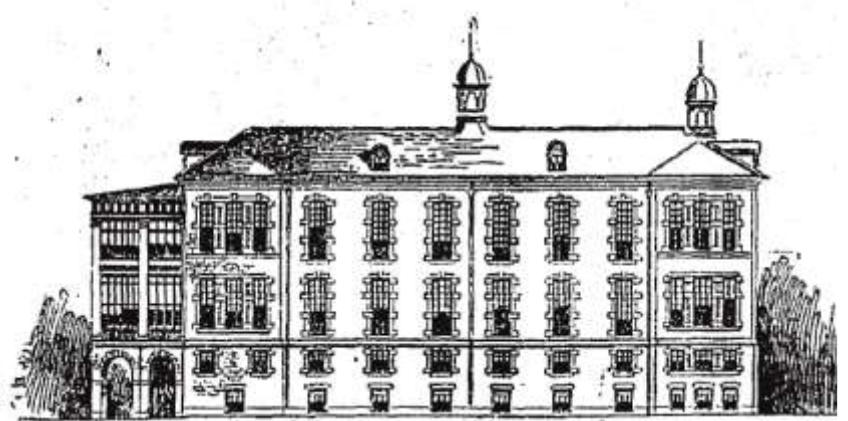
**CHILDREN’S WARD**

South Hudson Street (demolished)

Dedicated: January 16, 1903

Donor: Mary Robinson Cheney in memory  
of her sister Miss Eliza Trumbull Robinson

Architect: William C. Brocklesby



*(from The Hartford Courant, January 16, 1903)*

This Colonial revival addition to the hospital was constructed of rough (rusticated) Portland brownstone with window ledges, trim and courses in Windsor sandstone. The girls’ ward was located on the first floor, the boys’ ward on the second, and the basement was set aside for a “chronic ward for old ladies.” In keeping with then medical practices, importance was placed on a ventilation system that provided each patient with 1,800 cubic feet of fresh, heated air per hour.

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

South Hudson Street (demolished)

Opened: October 1, 1916

Architect: A. Raymond Ellis

This addition to the hospital property was constructed on South Hudson Street in front of the main hospital complex built in 1860. It was built to provide offices for the hospital administration as well as to accommodate (and attract) private paying patients. It was of brownstone construction with what appears from photographic evidence to be limestone quoins and lintels. It is of Georgian design although at the time of its opening the *Hartford Courant* described it as a “rectangular brownstone pile.”

Original plans called for a roof top containing four pavilions at each corner, pergolas, gardens and a fountain but these most likely were never installed.

## **CAPEWELL MEMORIAL X-RAY BUILDING**

36 South Hudson Street (demolished)

Dedicated: June 26, 1926 in memory of George J. Capewell, founder of the Capewell Horse Nail Company

Donor: Capewell family

Architect: unknown

This diminutive (2,800 square foot) one-story brownstone building with finished basement that was equipped with the latest X-ray equipment including devices used for radiologic therapy.

### **References:**

Andrews, Gregory E. and David F. Ransom. *Structures and Styles: Guided Tours of Hartford Architecture*.  
Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society and The Connecticut Architecture Foundation, 1988.

Clouette, Bruce and Brian Lever. *The Healing Triangle: Hartford Hospital's First 150 Years*.  
Hartford: Hartford Hospital, 2004.

*The Hartford Courant*.