

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name St. John's Mercy Hospital Building

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 620 W. Scott [N/A] not for publication

city or town Springfield [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Greene code 077 zip code 65802-3922

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [x]
nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [x].)

Mark A. Miles

07/22/03

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or 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 certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] 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
See continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		0	0
		1	0

buildings
 sites
 structures
 objects
 Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
 N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.
 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
 HEALTH/MEDICINE: hospital

Current Functions
 DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
 REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials
 foundation stone
 walls masonry
 stone
 roof synthetic
 other slate

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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

HEALTH/MEDICINE

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1906-1952

Significant Dates

1914

1922

1944

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Heckenlively, James/architect

Barnett, Haynes and Barnett/architect

Johnson and Robinette/architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

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

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government City Hall

University

Other:

Name of repository: Linda Hall Library
Kansas City Missouri Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	473660	4119270			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] 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 Cydney E. Millstein and Mary Ann Warfield

organization Architectural and Historical Research, LLC date February 24, 2002

street & number P.O. Box 22551 telephone 816.363.0567

city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64113

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name The Kitchen, Inc.

street & number 1630 N. Jefferson telephone 417.837.1500

city or town Springfield state MO zip code 65803

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building, located at 620 W. Scott, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, was constructed in four distinct building campaigns. Located in the heart of Springfield, St. John's is designed in the Jacobethan Revival style and is characterized by multiple prominent gables that rise above the roofline, arched main doorways, crenelation, contrasting decorative stonework and exposed stone foundations.

The original portion, attributed to James L. Heckenlively, and designed in the Jacobethan Revival style, was constructed in 1906. Eight years later, in 1914, a separate convent was constructed to the northwest of the main unit. In 1922, the hospital was expanded by a four-story Jacobethan addition, designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett and constructed by Raterman Construction Company. During this building phase, the convent was connected to the expansion. The last major addition to St. John's occurred in 1944 when another four-story unit and gymnasium, designed by Johnson and Robinette and constructed by Chapman and Bramer in the building's original architectural style was completed. The original 1906 brick and stone building was condemned due to inadequate floor capacity and later demolished c. 1970.

Although the 1906 unit is no longer extant, St. John's still retains the majority of its historic features to convey its historic significance. In good condition, its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association has been retained.

Elaboration

1944 Unit: Johnson and Robinette, architects; Springfield

The crenelated main façade, featuring rusticated, coursed stone at the first story and contrasting brick at the upper stories, faces north. Styled like the 1922 unit (see below), the gabled end bays and central bay project from the main façade, which totals twenty-seven bays in length. The main entrance, reached by a series of stairs, is recessed and features a molded, Tudor arch stone surround with a wide transom. Wood panel, double-leaf doors are original. Double-hung, sash window units with prominent cut stone hoodmold surrounds and sills flank the main entrance. The remainder of the first story fenestration is double-hung, sash with stone sills.

A stone stringcourse separates the first story from the upper stories. The vast majority of fenestration is double-hung, sash with pointed arch surround and stone sills.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 2

The unit placed directly above the main entrance at the second story features a carved stone pediment surround, while the windows of the gymnasium (placed at western-most bays) are glass block. A wide brick coursing, articulated with contrasting stonework, separates the gymnasium from the upper stories.

Generally speaking, the articulation of the north façade is continued at the south façade. The one-story gymnasium with glass block fenestration extends to the south of the main unit.

1922 Unit: Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, architects; St. Louis

Designed in the Jacobethan style, the 1922 unit features multiple gables in varying heights at the main or east façade. The end bays and the central entrance bay project from the main façade. While the elaborate stone porch entrance has been removed, the main entrance with an elaborate stone surround is extant, although covered by plywood. The articulation of the 1922 unit, repeated in subsequent construction, features an exposed, rusticated coursed stone foundation with brick upper stories.

Basement fenestration is double-hung, sash; some units have been infilled with matching limestone. The upper story fenestration is double-hung, sash with pointed arch surrounds and stone sills. Window units at the northernmost bays have been infilled at the third story. Fenestration of the gabled entrance bay is paired, double-hung sash with a prominent cut stone surround (third story) and paired multipaned casements set in a Tudor arch surround. Contrasting stone quoining embellishes the entrance bay. A polygonal cupola rests above the entrance bay at the roof's ridge.

The vocabulary of the main façade is repeated at the west façade. The limestone foundation is exposed and fenestration is double-hung, sash with segmental arched surrounds and stone sills. Two brick stair towers (6th and 12th bays, moving south to north) and an elevator tower (8th bay) are also featured at this façade.

Sometime after the 1906 building was razed c. 1970, a two-story concrete block stairwell was added to the south façade of the 1922 unit. According to plans, it was extended one-story in 1997. In addition, a four-story brick stairwell, constructed c. 1964 (Eugene F. Johnson and Associates, architects, Springfield) connects the 1922 and 1944 units at the northeast corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 3

1914 Unit: Architect Unknown

Originally constructed as a separate three-story unit to house additional beds, convent and chapel, the 1914 stone and brick building is now linked to the 1922 addition. A rusticated limestone foundation is exposed at the south, west and north façades. In general, the fenestration of the 1914 building is double-hung, sash with segmental arch surrounds and stone sills. First story windows at the west end of the south façade, the center bay of the west façade, and the 2nd and 3rd bays (moving west to east) of the north façade have been infilled. A single unit at the 5th bay of the second story of the north façade has been modified to accommodate a single-leaf door.

The third story of the two easternmost bays, which houses the hospital's original chapel story, extends beyond the roofline and features a modified gabled roof. Here, the fenestration is fixed tripartite with prominent mullions. A one-story brick unit, which houses the hospital's kitchen and a one-story brick laundry facility were added to the north and south façades, respectively, c. 1964 (Eugene F. Johnson and Associates). A stone platform for HVAC, is placed at the south façade.

Future Plans

Currently, there are proposed plans for the rehabilitation of St. John's Mercy Hospital. Future plans prepared by SWD Architects, Kansas City, include rehabilitation of the exterior and interior spaces. Plans for the project will be prepared in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Once the proposed plans are completed, they will be submitted to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office and the National Parks Service for review and compliance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 4



Courtesy of the Historical Museum for Springfield-Greene County

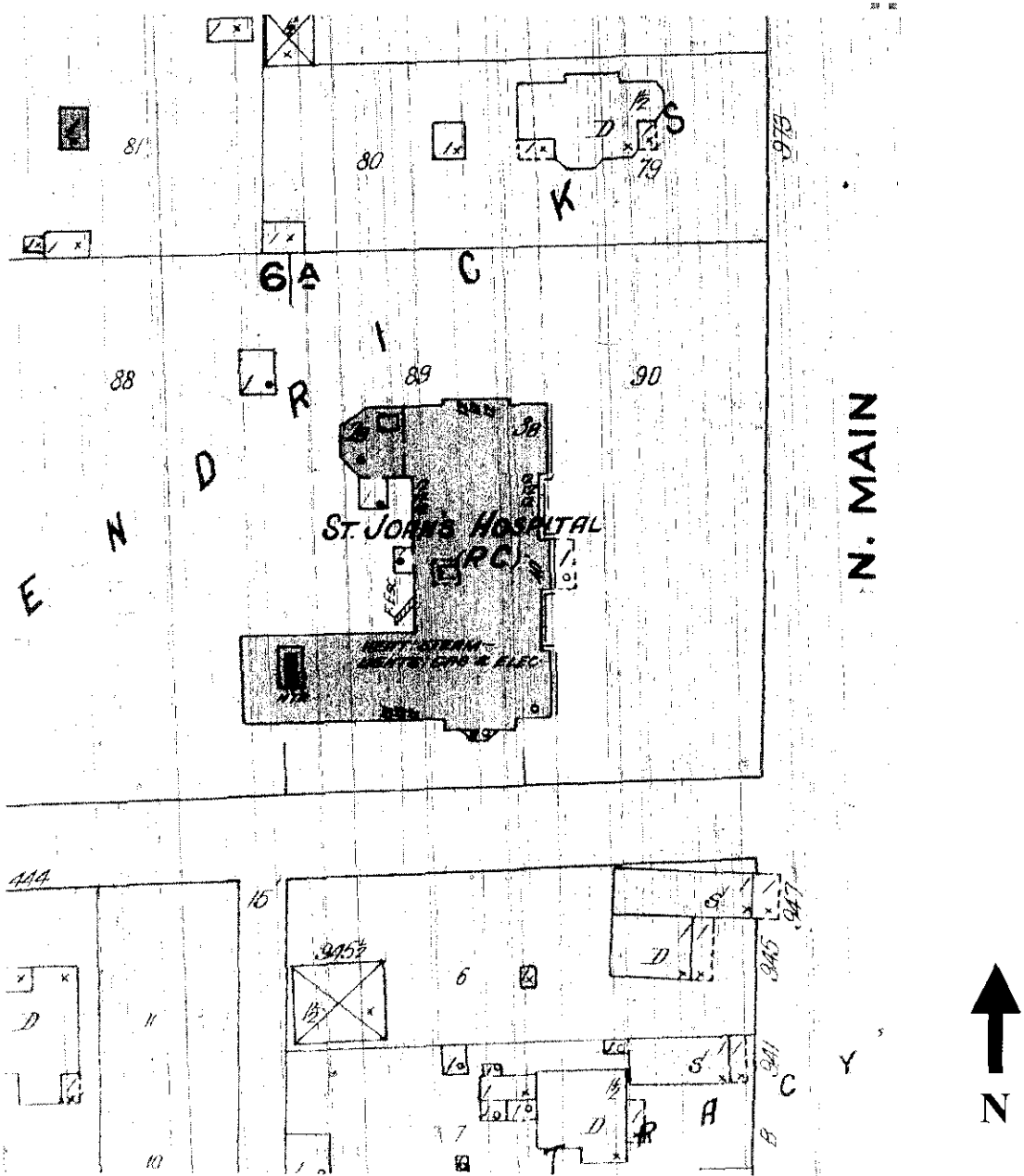
St. John's Hospital,
J. Heckinlively, Architect
(1906, demolished)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 5



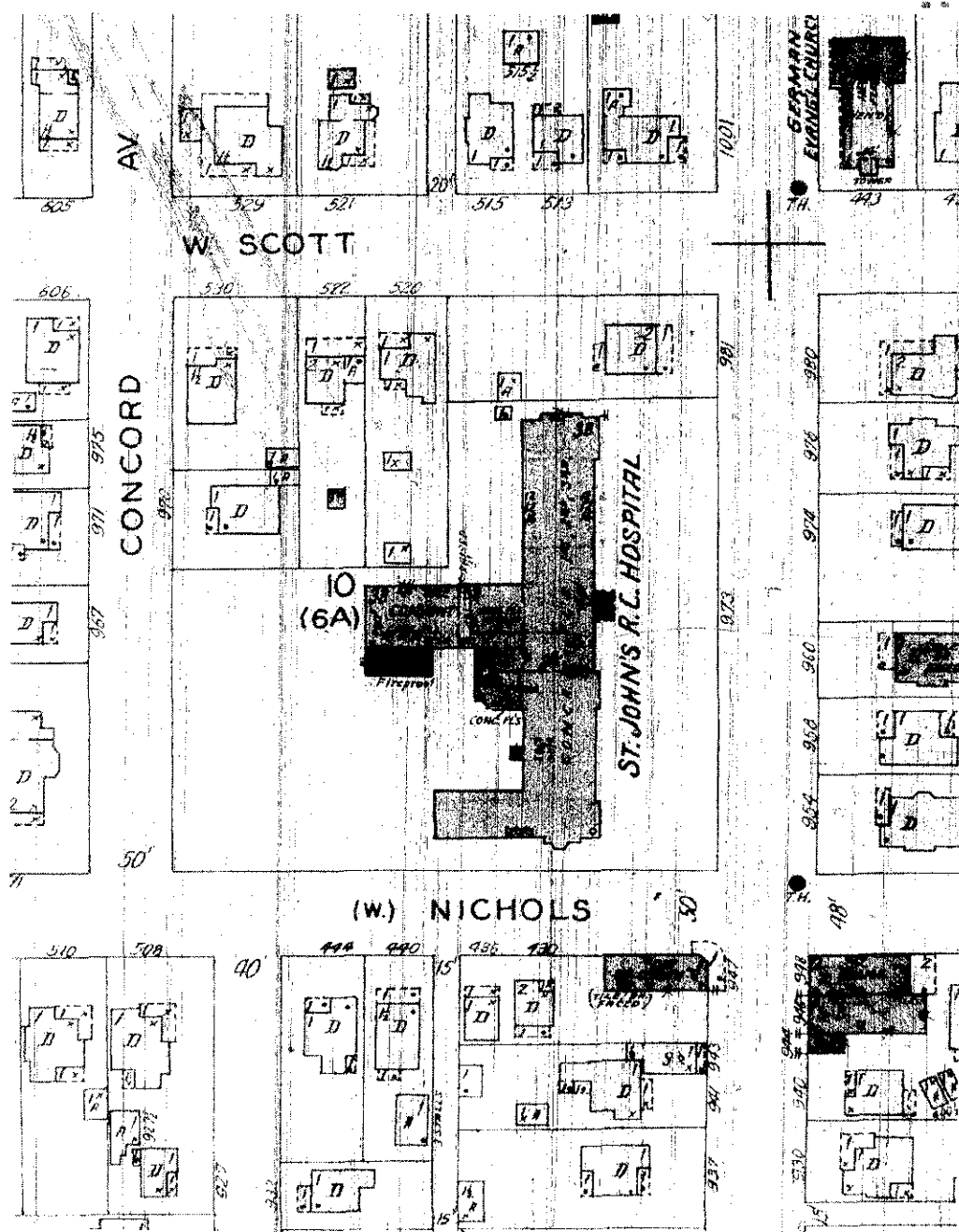
St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Original 1906 building (demolished).
Source: Sanborn Insurance Map, 1910

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 6



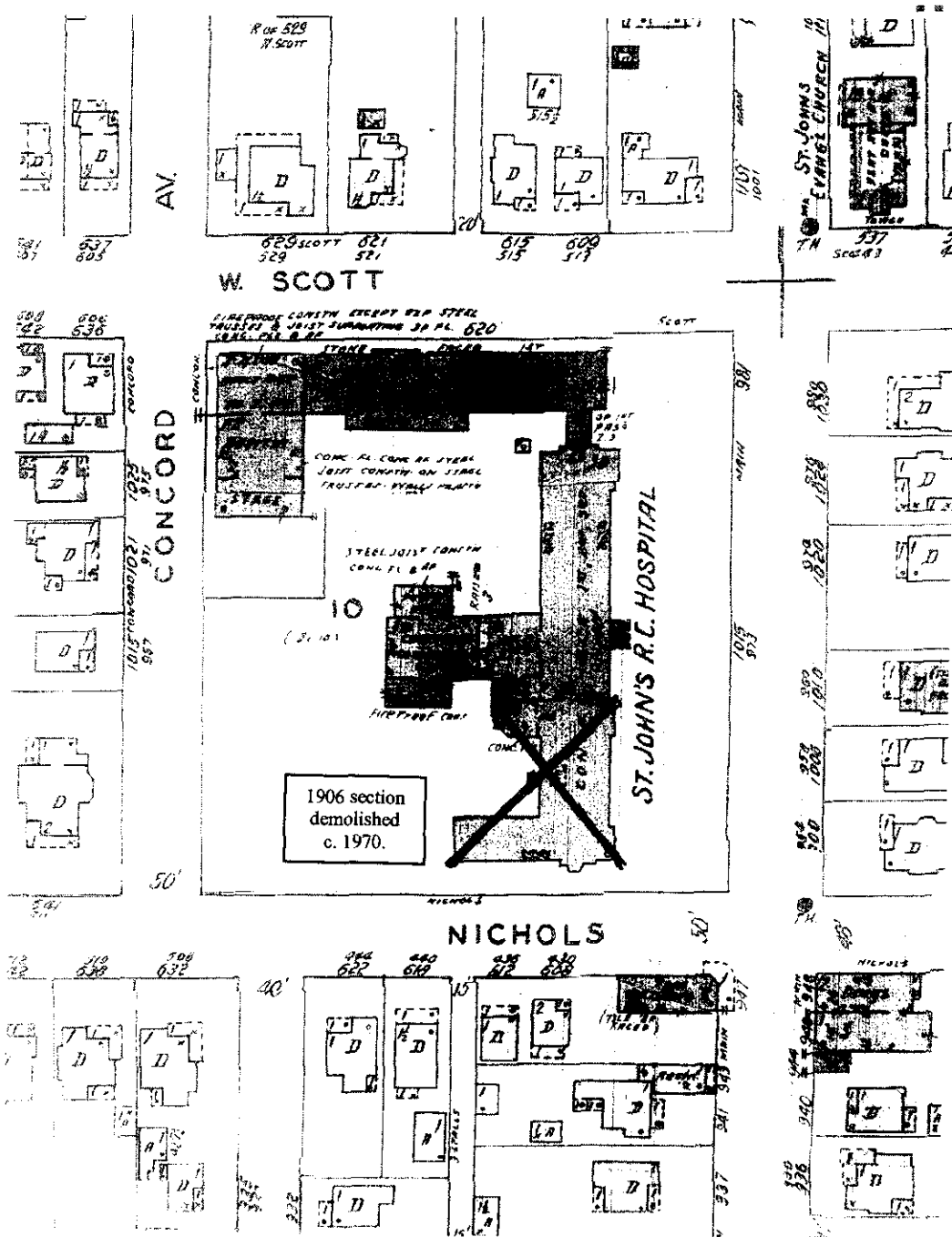
St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
1906 Unit, with 1914 and 1922 additions
Source: *Sanborn Insurance Map, 1933*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 7



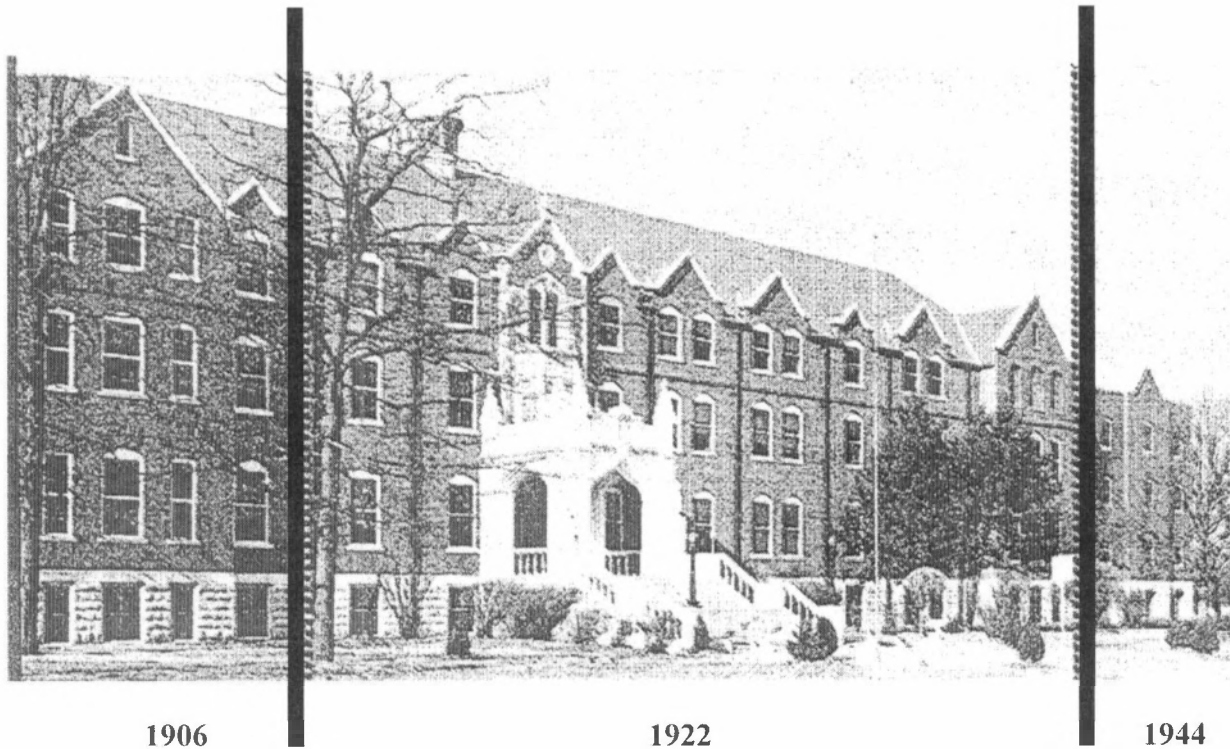
St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
1906 Unit with 1914, 1922 and 1944 additions
Source: Sanborn Insurance Map, 1933 / 1948 Update

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 8



Three periods of construction are visible in the photo of the second St. John's.

Source: *1891-1981: 90 Years at St. John's Regional Health Center*,
1981 St. John's Annual Report

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 9

Summary

St. John's Mercy Hospital, located at 620 W. Scott, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and is significant in the following areas: HEALTH/MEDICINE: Established in 1891 with the support of Dr. J. E. Tefft and the dedication and service of the Sisters of Mercy, St. John's Mercy Hospital was the first fully-staffed health care facility in Springfield, Missouri. Originally located in a former late 19th century frame residence, St. John's built a new state-of-the-art facility in 1905-1906 at 620 W. Scott. Through the ensuing years and three major expansions (1914, 1922, 1944), St. John's grew to become the premier regional hospital, providing Springfield and the surrounding rural areas of south-central Missouri with high-quality, nationally-recognized health care. With the advent of a connected Nursing School, St. John's served the community by training thousands of registered nurses over the years. ARCHITECTURE: Originally designed in the Jacobethan style in 1906, and extensively expanded over the years in the same architectural idiom, St. John's remains an illustrative example of conscientious planning and design throughout the various building campaigns. Although the original 1906 portion was condemned due to inadequate floor loads and demolished c. 1970, the subsequent additions (1914, 1922, and 1944) followed the same Jacobethan vocabulary, scale, materials, and design. Furthermore, St. John's is representative of the work of several notable Missouri architects including Barnett, Haynes and Barnett (1922) and Johnson and Robinette (1944). The period of significance is 1914 to 1952, the end date in which the hospital moved to a new building at its present location at Cherokee Street and National Avenue.

Elaboration:

The Founding and Early History of St. John's Mercy Hospital, Springfield, Missouri

The founding of St. John's Mercy Hospital came by way of Ireland to Springfield, Missouri, in 1891. In 1831, Catherine Elizabeth McCauley, a Catholic laywoman in Ireland, founded the Sisters of Mercy to serve the poor, the sick and people in need of education. In 1843 the Sisters came to the United States following the large immigrant population arriving in America during the early 1800s. By 1856, the Sisters had established a foundation in St. Louis. Their arrival to Springfield, Missouri, was largely due to the faith that one doctor had found in their ability to care for the sick. Dr. J.E. Tefft had been a patient of the Sisters in St. Louis during a typhoid epidemic that left him close

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 10

to death.¹ Dr. J. E. Tefft was an army surgeon with the Union Forces when he arrived in Springfield in 1863. He remained in Springfield after the war and began a lucrative private practice.

When Springfield organized a Hospital Aid Society in 1886, Tefft campaigned for the St. Louis Sisters of Mercy to run the new facility. Springfield residents of the committee were not immediately drawn to the idea, but Tefft, with the aid of Dr. W. A. Camp, persisted and the Sisters were asked to manage a hospital similar to the one in St. Louis. They agreed, on the condition that the property be deeded to them and that it was used as a hospital in perpetuity. To this end, a lot was purchased on the corner of Washington Avenue and Chestnut Street. Subsequently, Sisters Sr. M. Alacoque Kelley, Superior; Sr. M. Xavier Kinsella and Sr. M. Stanislaus Tenny arrived in Springfield on October 29, 1891. They were advised that the new hospital be scheduled to open on November 9, 1891.²

To their surprise, the offer from the Springfield delegation had been severely exaggerated. Instead of a hospital with the capacity for twenty patients and eleven rooms for their own living quarters, the Sisters were given an eight-room house. The Sisters also found that their new facility had not been paid for.³ To their dismay, they began operating their hospital at a \$5,000 deficit.⁴ Furthermore, the supplies and equipment were terribly inadequate. The first stretcher was a door from a chicken coup, the sterilizer was fashioned from an old wash tub. Vagrants, nursed back to health by the Sisters, served as the first maintenance men.

Living conditions were dismal, as well. The Sisters cultivated a garden in order to feed their patients and themselves. The Sisters had to start their day at three or four in the morning in order to properly care for their patients and maintain their own living quarters. Laundry, cleaning and filling twelve coal lamps, replenishing the wood supply, removing ashes, sweeping every room, feeding chickens, as well as feeding and milking the cow, along with dozens of other duties was only part of their routine. They also taught German classes in the afternoon, but patient care took top priority.

¹ St. John's Hospital, *Legacy: 1991 The One Hundredth Year of Service, St. John's Annual Report 1991*. Springfield: St. John's Medical Center, 1.

² Mary Michaeline McAuliffe, "History of St. John's Hospital In Springfield, Missouri." Masters Thesis, St. Louis University, 1947, 27-30.

³ *Ibid*, 4.

⁴ St. John's Hospital, *Annual Report 1991*, 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 11

Often the Sisters would make house calls, walking ten miles to care for the sick and poor located in a home or institution. Although there were streetcars, the Sisters had no fare. The Sisters also offered health care along with social welfare and education to the black community of Springfield during an era when services were not commonly extended to the African American communities of the United States. Their mission of mercy and their loving service gained them a steady supply of patients. The first year of operation they cared for a total of seventy-one people.⁵

By 1893 they found it necessary to expand their small hospital and started a building campaign that would add three stories to the main building. Mrs. Scholten, a matron from Springfield and the hospital's leading supporter, initiated a building fund. She would call for her carriage and go to the business district, demanding a quarter from each door.

When the addition was completed, the hospital contained its first large and well-lit operating room.⁶ At the same time the City of Springfield began contracting with the Sisters to care for the sick and homeless poor at a rate of \$3.00 per person per week and \$4.00 for surgical patients. The fee covered room and board, medical attention, as well as supplies.⁷

Although there were a few private clinics in the Springfield area, St. John's remained the only fully staffed hospital in the city until 1899 when the Frisco Railroad built a hospital to service their employees at Broadway Avenue and Atlantic Street. That same year Springfield was hit by a small pox epidemic and the Sisters generously offered their service at the "Pest Camp" that was set up to quarantine the victims from the general population.⁸ The disease was first discovered in August 1899 and hit epidemic proportions by October. Two Sisters, Mary Veronica and Mary Xavier nursed over 200 victims at the camp. Six babies were born during the epidemic, yet not one was lost to the

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Pictorial and Genealogical Record of Greene County Missouri* (Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, 1893), 209-10.

⁷ St. John's Hospital, *Annual Report 1991*, 2-3. Through teaching and sewing the Sisters raised \$3,100; other fundraising events such as raffles, benefit parties, concerts and picnics along with private donations from people like Mrs. Scholten, assisted the Sisters in retiring all debt by 1903.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 61-71. The Pest Camp or Pest House was the name given to the quarantine camp set up to house small pox victims. Usually the camp was set outside of city limits or away from any large population centers. Often small pox victims were forced by gunpoint to go to the camps. These camps housed victims during the most infectious stage of the disease. The property was owned and operated by the city of Springfield and was known as the Pest Camp until 1925.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 12

disease and two of the infants, escaped the disease entirely. The City Council of Springfield voted to give the Sisters \$500 in compensation for their nursing services.⁹

During the first nine years of their service to the people of Greene County, the Sisters had to overcome fear and mistrust from much of the population. Because the population of Springfield was general Protestant, Catholicism was met with much misunderstanding and for a time, out right animosity. The selflessness shown by the Sisters during the small pox epidemic did much to sway the popular opinion of the townspeople. In 1900 there were seven Sisters and four attendants on the staff of St. John's Hospital. The Sisters treated 158 patients, just a little more than doubling the number from 1893. However, in 1901 the number rose to 214 and continued to grow thereafter.¹⁰

A New St. John's Mercy Hospital for Springfield

The money donated by the City of Springfield to the Sisters in 1900 became the start of a building campaign for a new, modern facility. Grateful citizens of Greene County donated additional money that the Sisters used towards the construction of a new 40-bed hospital and School of Nursing in 1906 at the corner of Nichols Avenue and Main Street. In addition, a separate convent located on the corner of Main Street and Scott Ave was also constructed.

James L. **Heckenlively** a St. Louis architect, is attributed with designing the new \$40,000 four-story, brick and stone hospital. The Sisters relied heavily on private donations from Springfield citizens to pay for room furnishing, which cost an additional \$5,000.¹¹

Construction of the new hospital was marked with the arrival of the State of Missouri's Governor Folk to lay the cornerstone. His speech on July 8, 1905, was more of a political address expounding the many deeds of his office, yet the number of people attending the gathering was estimated at 5,000. Also present was Dr. Tefft, who continued to support the Sisters, and Mrs. Scholten, the hospital's staunchest fundraiser. The new facility was opened in February 1906.¹²

⁹ "Nun Stationed here in '99 Dies." *The Springfield Leader*, 6 April 1931D, L2.

¹⁰ St. John's Hospital, *Annual Report 1991*, 2-3.

¹¹ "Historical Postcards of Springfield, Missouri," Photo No. 2, c.1910, Local History, Springfield and Greene County Library, Springfield, Missouri.

¹² St. John's Hospital, "A Review of Ninety Years," *Ninety Years at St. John's Regional Heath Center: 1891-1991*. Springfield, Missouri: St. John's Regional Hospital, 1991, n. p.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 13

At the time of its opening, St. John's was one of only three hospitals caring for more than 23,000 residents of Springfield. Prior to 1899 the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company sent their employees to St. John's for treatment. In August 1899 the railroad built a corporate hospital. Southwest Hospital was the third hospital for Springfield, opening on the city's eastside just weeks before the new St. John's Mercy was completed.¹³

In 1910 the annual number of patients treated at St. John's rose to 480. In 1914 \$250,000 was spent on an addition to the main building that increased the number of patient beds and added a permanent convent within the hospital for the Sisters. In 1918 an influenza epidemic hit Springfield. All schools and churches were closed in the effort to combat the spread of the infection. The total number of patients treated at St. John's during the worldwide epidemic went over capacity and, once again, the Sisters began to plan for an expansion.¹⁴

St. John's and the 1922 Building Campaign

In 1921 the patient population at St. John's had grown to 1,044. It soon became evident that expansion of St. John's was needed to keep in step with the demands for quality healthcare for Springfield's population of 40,000. In March 1922, the St. Louis architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, the architects for the three-story expansion, requested bids for construction. On August 23, 1922 Raterman Construction Company, another St. Louis firm, was named general contractor.¹⁵ Brussel and Viterbo, another St. Louis firm, was awarded the engineering contract.¹⁶ The final cost of construction was \$360,000.¹⁷

The new addition increased the patient capacity by 105 beds and modernized the operating room facilities. A modern account of hospital explained that:

...additional departments and the installation of a resident physician will place the hospital in the requirements of the American College of Surgeons for Class A institutions. Rooms are equipped with special signal lights, by which patients

¹³ "Opening of New Hospital," *The Springfield Republican* 23 February 1906, p.2.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Western Contractor* 42 (August 3, 1922), 44.

¹⁶ Brussel and Viterbo Records, "St. John's Hospital," Index, Book 4 #2904, 1922. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.

¹⁷ "New Hospital Is Dedicated, Many Present," *Springfield Republican* 30 November 1923, 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 14

may summon nurses. This replaces bells. The operating rooms are divided into emergency; eye, ear, nose and throat; general major; and obstetrical. Light for operating embodies a new invention by which light may be diffused or focused to a small area. Sterilization will be by steam...¹⁸

During the years of the depression, Springfield's population increased to nearly 58,000 and St. John's was treating an annual patient load of over 2,000. As Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930s improved the roads in Greene County, travel to Springfield became easier. Residents from southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas turned to St. John's for medical care. Due to ever-increasing demand for health care, it was evident that the hospital, once again, had to bolster its capacity to handle the needs of the surrounding communities.¹⁹

1941: The Second Scott Avenue Expansion

Springfield's population was over 61,000 by 1941. St. John's annual patient census had topped 3,000. The nursing school enrollment had also increased, so the Sisters decided to add another wing on Scott Street.²⁰ Although a call for construction bids were announced on February 11, 1942, construction of the addition was delayed by World War II and a shortage of both material and workers.²¹

The Springfield architectural firm of Johnson and Robinette was chosen to design the new wing. The design of the nurse's quarters called for a four-story red brick and cut stone unit. The \$200,000 addition, measuring 232' x 32', with a wing 99' x 53' was planned to be sited along Scott Street and extending along Concord Avenue. This large unit was planned to accommodate supply rooms for the nursing students, lecture rooms, class-rooms and a library. On March 4, 1942 Chapman and Bramer were awarded the construction contract. The bid came in at \$290,000. The dedication of the new wing took place on September 1, 1944.²²

Although the addition was to house nursing students, a shortage of hospital space forced the institution to convert twenty-five rooms into hospital units to increase the bed capacity.

¹⁸ St. John's Hospital, *Annual Report 1991*, 5.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Mid-West Contractor*, 11 February 1942, 32.

²² *Mid-West Contractor*, 4 March 1942, 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 15

St. John's Regional Medical Center

On January 6, 1947, just three short years after the opening of the new wing on Scott Street, the Sisters of Mercy announced the purchase of an 11-acre tract of ground on National Avenue just south of the city limits for the construction of a new hospital with the ability for future expansion. Although the Sisters were criticized for their move into "...the middle of nowhere," the success of the Sisters of Mercy in establishing a hospital that became a strong part of a community is a testimony to their contribution to the health care in Springfield and the State of Missouri. Their undying devotion and selfless sacrifices built one of the most successful hospitals in the country.

The nursing school moved to the new building in 1952. The former hospital on Scott Street was converted into Mercy Infirmary, a long term care facility for patients suffering from chronic illness or disabilities. It was later called Mercy Hospital and then Mercy Villa. Sister Mary Consuela Moylan served as the administrator. During the 1980s Mercy Villa moved and the old building became the home of St. John's psychiatric outreach program known as Marian Center. Bridgeway, a drug dependency treatment program was also located in the old hospital.²³

St. John's Mercy School of Nursing

St. John's School of Nursing was established in 1907 to provide a supply of trained nurses to care for the patients at St. John's Mercy Hospital. From the early 1900s until the 1930s, every hospital offered nursing training. Soon after World War I, national standardization of nursing curriculum was begun, and followed by accreditation of schools of nursing during the 1940s. Concurrently, there was a need to expand St. John's Hospital and construct a new building for the nursing school. The new facility designed by Johnson and Robinette was added to the existing hospital complex in 1944, which provided a residence hall with offices and classrooms. The nurses enrolled in the diploma program in nursing offered by St. John's occupied this building until 1952 when St. John's moved to their new campus (see above). Subsequently, the need for nurses to care for geriatric patients at Mercy Villa lead to the establishment of Mercy School of Practical Nursing in 1957. This school remained in operation until 1963.²⁴

²³ St. John's Hospital, *Annual Report*, 1991, 10.

²⁴ "History of St. John's School of Nursing," Copy. Sister's of Mercy Archives, St. Louis, Missouri.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 16

**Architects for St. John's Hospital
Barnett, Haynes and Barnett**

George Dennis Barnett, FAIA (1863-1923) and John I. Haynes, FAIA (1861-1943) formed a partnership in 1889. George's younger brother Tom P. Barnett (1870-1929) later joined the firm²⁵ and the partnership of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett became one of the most prestigious architectural practices in St. Louis.

Apparently, George D. Barnett had no formal training as an architect, but was fortunate to apprentice in the office of his father, the preeminent architect George Ingham Barnett (1815-1898), a leading professional architect in Missouri for more than fifty years. George D. started work with the elder Barnett in 1890; five years later, he left the firm and took a position of chief draftsman with the St. Louis Building Department.²⁶

The youngest son of George I. Barnett, Tom received an architectural education at Washington University, St. Louis and, like his older brothers, he trained professionally in his father's office. John Haynes, the son-in-law of George Ingham Barnett, also apprenticed in his firm.²⁷

The firm of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett was responsible for many of the exclusive residences found in historic sections of St. Louis in addition to hotels, office buildings, theaters, churches and institutional structures in St. Louis and elsewhere. Some of the firm's more notable structures in St. Louis include Visitation Academy (1891), Temple Israel (1907), St. Philomena's Technical School (1909), the Hotel Jefferson (1909), and The New Roman Catholic Cathedral (1907-1914). Outside of St. Louis, the firm was responsible for distinguished structures such as the New Southern Hotel in Chicago, the residence of J. J. Cruikshank in Hannibal, Missouri (1899) and the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas (1911-1912).²⁸

²⁵ Henry F. Withey, AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, [1956]), 37-38. See also Carolyn Toft and Jane Molloy Porter. *Compton Heights: A History and Architectural Guide*. (St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1984), 40.

²⁶ *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects*, 37.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

²⁸ *Ibid.* See also Texas Historical Commission. "Hotel Adolphus National Register of Historic Places Nomination", 1983, section 8, 1 and *Compton Heights: A History and Architectural Guide*, 40.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 8 Page 17

The plan for the Adolphus Hotel was started by Barnett, Haynes and Barnett and completed by Tom P. Barnett & Company in 1912, the year he withdrew from the partnership and began practice as head of his own firm. Tom Barnett's company was also responsible for the design of the Arcade Building, the Busch Chapel, New City Club, and Ciccardi's Restaurant in St. Louis. Other buildings credited to his firm include the First Church of Christ Scientist, University City, Missouri; Eden Technological Seminary, Webster Grove, Missouri; and the Kirby Building, Dallas, Texas.²⁹

When his younger brother quit the firm, George left St. Louis to open an office in Los Angeles and continued practice there until his death. There, his most acclaimed design is the Brockman Office Building.³⁰

Johnson and Robinett

Eugene F. Johnson began his architectural career working for Springfield architect Earl Hawkins. In 1936, Johnson formed the partnership Johnson and Robinett Architects and Engineers with James L. Robinett. Some of their works include the Greene County Almshouse, later the Sunshine Acres Rest Home and several Springfield schools, government and business buildings and churches. After WWII, Robinett purchased Kennedy Brick and Steel company, shortly after leaving the firm. While biographical information regarding Johnson has not been located, it is known that he designed the Assemblies of God Headquarters, the Kearney and Brentwood Libraries and the Elfindale Chapel. Johnson retired in the 1970s. Robinett was a native of Mountain Grove, Missouri and a graduate of Central High School. He later graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in civil engineering. Springfield remained Robinett's home for 64 years. In June 1983, Robinett passed away at the age of 72. His son, William E. Robinett was named president of Kennedy Brick and Steel Company following his father's death.

²⁹ "Hotel Adolphus NR", Section 8, 1; *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects*, 38.

³⁰ *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects*, 37.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 9 Page 18

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO**

Section number 10 Page 19

Verbal Boundary Description

(Tract 1): All of lot sixty-three in HENDRICKS AND JONES ADDITION, in the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, according to the recorded plat thereof.

(Tract 2): All of lot sixty-four in HENDRICKS AND JONES ADDITION, in the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, also the west two feet of the vacated alley lying East of and adjoining said lot, according to the recorded plat thereof.

(Tract 3): All of lots seventy-nine, eighty, eighty-one, eighty-two, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine and ninety in HENDRICKS AND JONES ADDITION, including the vacated alleys dividing said lots in the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with St. John's Mercy Hospital, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

Key to Photographs

Photographer: Len Fohn, Independence, Missouri.

Date of Photographs: March 2003.

1. The main (1944 unit, north) and east (1922 unit) façades; view facing southwest.
2. The main (north) façade; view facing south.
3. Detail of the main entrance; view facing south.
4. The main and west façades; view facing east, southeast.
5. Detail of the south façade of the 1944 unit and the east façade of the gymnasium.
6. The east façade; view facing west.
7. General view of the southern end of the complex with the 1914 unit in the foreground; view facing northwest.
8. General view of the south façade of the 1922 unit and the north façade of the 1914 unit; view facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 10 Page 20

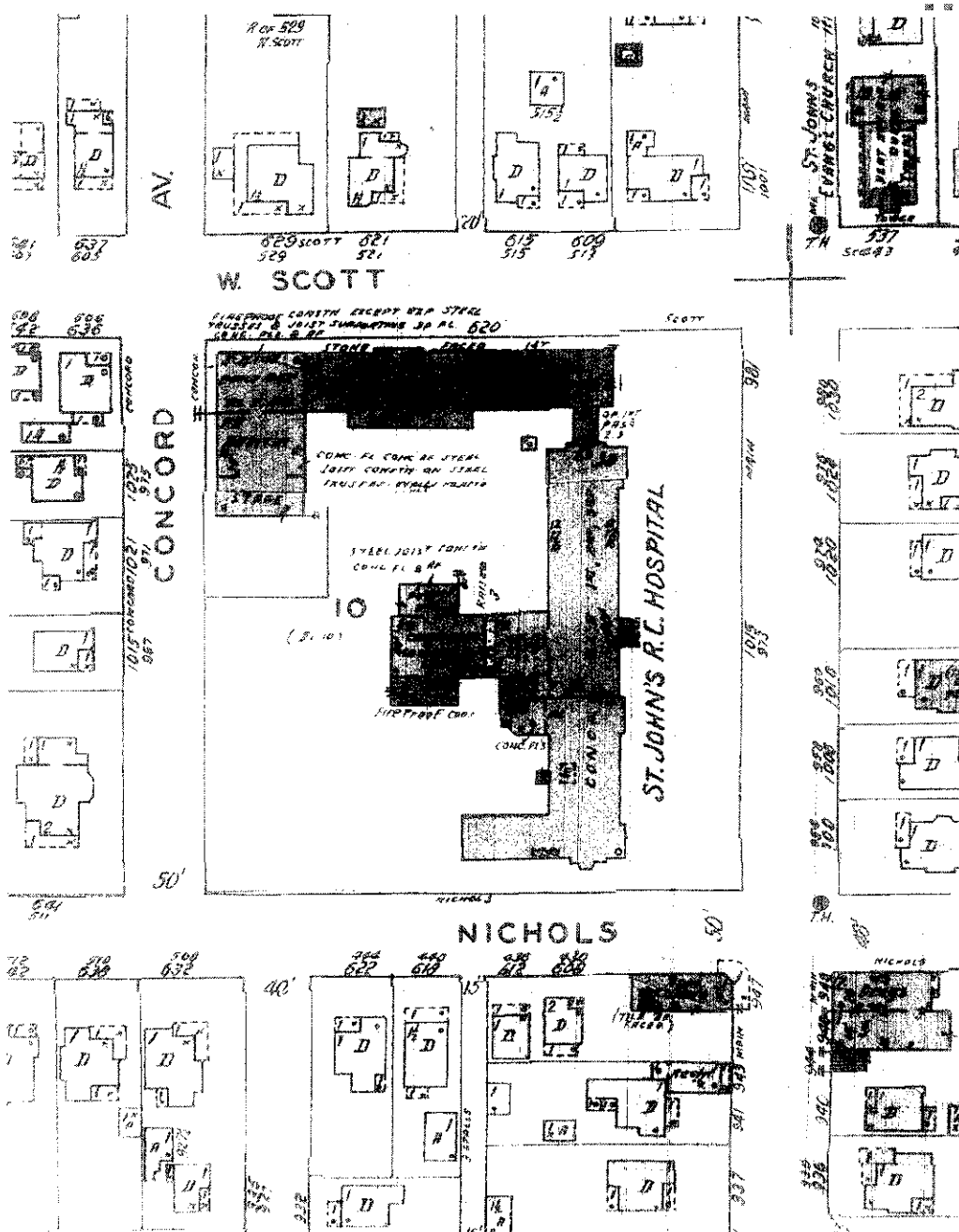
9. General view of the west façade of the 1922 unit and the south façade of the 1944 unit; view facing northwest.
10. Main lobby; view facing northwest.
11. First floor corridor of the 1944 unit; view facing east.
12. Chapel, fourth floor 1914 unit; view facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
Springfield, Greene County, MO

Section number 7 Page 7



St. John's Mercy Hospital Building
1906 Unit with 1914, 1922 and 1944 additions
Source: Sanborn Insurance Map, 1933 / 1948 Update























