

## Children's Memorial Buildings



From left to right: Boiler House & Laundry, White Elephant Shop, Kohl's House. photo credit: Children's Memorial Hospital Site Re-Use Feasibility Study

### Overview:

Situated at the six-corner Lincoln, Fullerton, and Halsted intersection, the Children's Memorial Hospital complex has been a Lincoln Park anchor for over a century. However, their impending move to a new Streeterville campus in 2012 has set off a multi-year community design process that has put perhaps the most valuable 6 acres in Chicago in play. Preservation Chicago is urging the preservation of 6 historic buildings: the Boiler House & Laundry, the Nellie A. Black/James Deering Building, the Martha Wilson Memorial Pavilion, the Kohl's House, the Annex Building and the White Elephant Resale shop. Moreover, to ensure a truly "Green" redevelopment project that reduces the carbon footprint, every effort should be made to re-purpose non-historic, but still useful, buildings. This action will not only preserve the embodied energy of the existing materials on the site, it will also keep tons of construction debris out of the landfill. It will also expedite the creation of workforce housing by allowing existing buildings to be more quickly converted to badly needed residences.

### History:

The hospital was erected in 1882 by Julia Foster Porter as the Maurice Porter Memorial Hospital in memory of her son, Maurice, who died at the age of 13. The original hospital was only an 8 bed cottage at the corner of Belden and Halsted. It was and still remains the only hospital in Chicago dedicated to children's care.

Two years later, the hospital moved to Fullerton and Orchard to a 3-story building with 20 beds. The name was changed to Children's Memorial Hospital in 1904. The hospital continued to grow over the years so that in 1908, the triangular lot between Lincoln, Fullerton, and Orchard was purchased. The additional land allowed for the Maurice Porter Pavilion and the Curbside Pavilion to be added. Due to the layout of the building, an interior courtyard was designed for the children to experience the outside.

**Children's Memorial Hospital**  
Lincoln & Fullerton Intersection  
(Lincoln Park)

**Architects:** Holabird and Roche,  
Frank O'DeMoney, Charles A  
Strandell, Pickney and Johnson

**Dates:** range from 1882 - 1932

## Children's Continued

The White Elephant Rummage Shop was added on the lot in 1921 by the Women's Board. In 1931, the Nellie A. Black and James Deering buildings were built to house nurses and interns. In addition, the Boiler House & Laundry was built to house the hospital's mechanical services. As the years passed, the hospital added outpatient services, the Children's Plaza at Lincoln Ave. and Fullerton Ave., and the Kroc Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

**The Boiler House & Laundry Building** at 2365 North Lincoln Avenue was designed in 1931 by the well-known architecture firm Holabird and Roche. Originally built to house mechanical functions, the building now is used as the central power plant and services facility. It was designed to match the existing 19th century hospital buildings.

The Boiler House stands 4-stories high and features an expansive of triple, double height, round arched windows. The adjoining Laundry building is 2-stories tall and boasts three arched windows on the first floor along with paired double-hung windows on the second.

**The Nellie A. Black and James Deering Building** sits at 700-710 West Fullerton and 2416 North Orchard Street. These sister buildings were built in 1932 by Pickney and Johnson with a Renaissance Revival style. The original Maurice Porter Memorial Hospital building was demolished in order to build these two buildings, which housed nurses and interns.

**The Martha Wilson Memorial Pavilion**, located at 701 W. Fullerton Avenue, is another fine Classical Revival style building designed by Holabird and Roche and is similar in design and detail to the Nellie Black Building across the street. Completed in 1926, the building was originally designed for multifunction use, including offices as well as patient rooms. In 1967, an additional floor was added to the building. In spite of this, the Martha Wilson still retains most of its historic character.

Today, it is used for hospital offices and patient rooms. The red brick building is U-shaped in plan with a double loaded corridor. Most of the historic materials remain on the facade, which includes stringcourses at the 2nd and 6th floors and round stone arches with inset ornamental panels above the entrances and windows. However, the interior has been remodeled several times and therefore few historic elements remain. Along with the Boiler House, these are the oldest buildings on the campus.

**The Kohl's House** was built in 1914 at 2422 N Orchard Street. Charles A Strandell, a Swedish born architect, designed the 3-flat Classic Revival building. Currently, it is used for transplant patients and their families. The facade is yellow brick with a limestone base. The interior was completely renovated in 2001.



Nellie Black Building photo credit: CMH Site Re-Use Feasibility Study



Martha Wilson Pavilion photo credit: CMH Site Re-Use Feasibility Study

## Children's Continued

The two white terra cotta buildings that flank the corners of Fullerton, Lincoln and Halsted include the **Annex Building** and the **White Elephant Resale Shop**. Frank O'DeMoney designed the Annex Building in 1914 at the location of 2375 North Lincoln Avenue. The 2-story building was originally used for stores and offices for the Aetna State Bank, but today it is used for hospital offices. The entrances are marked with pilasters overhead or pediment canopies. Leafy swag ornament adorns the facade along with several recessed panels and frames.



White Elephant Resale shop. photo credit: CMH Site Re-Use Feasibility Study

The interior now has new windows and materials. Located at 2380 North Lincoln Avenue is the White Elephant Resale Shop, built in 1925. Loewenberg and Loewenberg intended the 2-story building to be used for stores and offices. The first White Elephant store was in the Annex Building in 1960 and then moved to its current location in 1978. It has an ideal location at the busy intersection of Fullerton and Lincoln Ave. Similar to the Annex building across the street, the entrances are detailed with ornamental metal and pilasters with leafy capitals. The second floor has balustrades along the window sills. The interior has been renovated and therefore no historic materials remain today.

### Threat:

Currently, the campus is occupied, but will be sold once the facilities move to the new Streeterville location in 2012. All of the buildings are in good condition and could be reused for other programs. The city and state have identified them on a variety of architectural surveys, but have not landmarked any of them to date, meaning they are still in danger of demolition and redevelopment. The recent proposals have discussed building workforce housing, condos, a boutique hotel, and additional retail shops. If these buildings are demolished, they will take an important and irreplaceable piece of the neighborhood's history with it.