

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met:

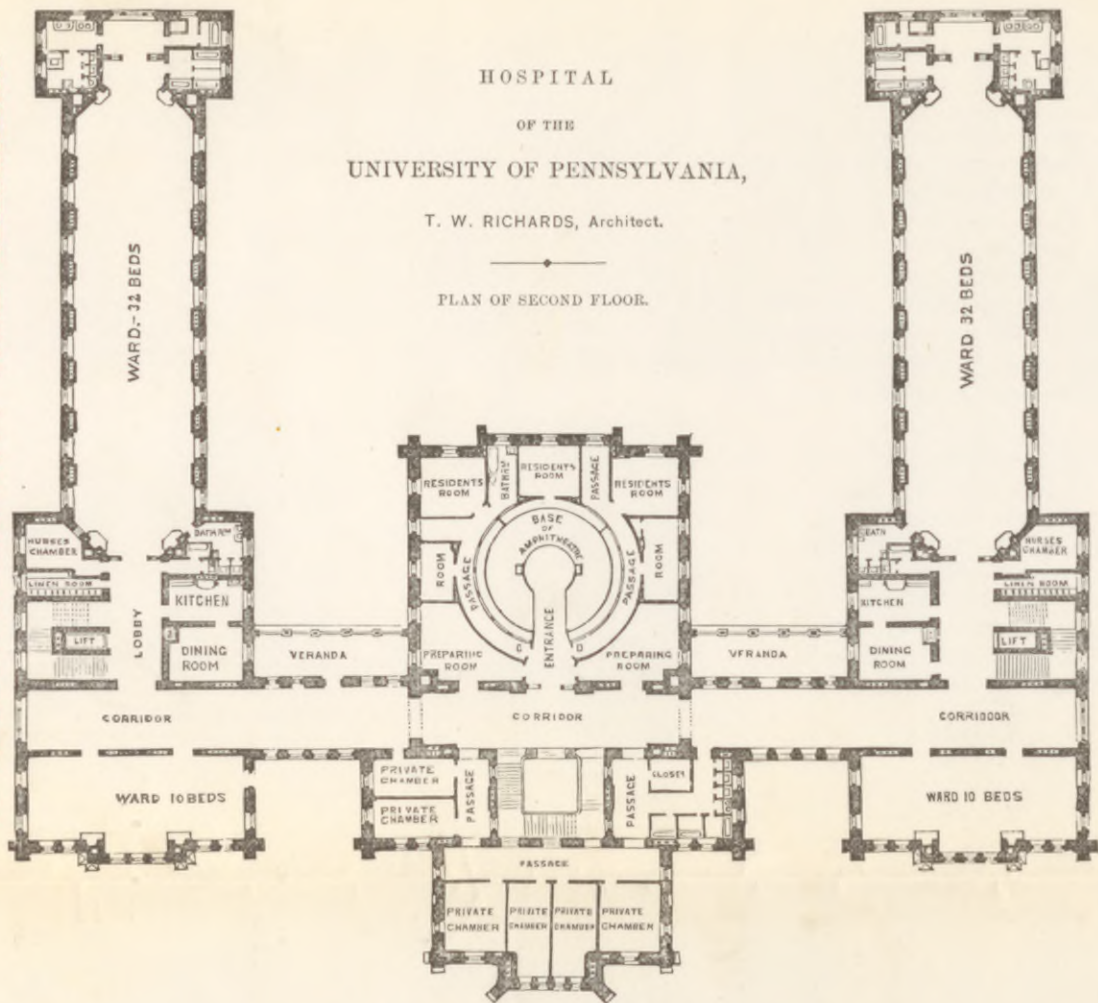


It is not necessary to again refer to the unanswerable arguments by which it has been shown that there has for some years past been an urgent need for a large increase in the General Hospital accommodation of this State. In 1871 it was determined to meet this want by the establishment of a great Hospital in connection with the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. At that time it was believed that a building with a capacity of 200 beds would suffice for the present. And as it was designed to be purely a State Institution, dedicated forever to the service of the State in caring for the sick and wounded from every section, without charge, application was made to the Legislature in 1871 and 1872, for appropriations amounting to \$200,000 to aid in the erection of the building. This amount was asked for conditional upon the sum of \$350,000 being contributed towards the support of the Institution. It was further agreed that the amount appropriated should go towards the erection of a Hospital in which 200 beds free for all cases of recent injury should be forever maintained.

No more convincing proof of the necessity of such a Hospital could be furnished than the fact that, in the discharge of the conditions imposed by the acts of Legislature, subscriptions amounting to over \$350,000 have already been obtained. The State appropriations of \$200,000 have accordingly been paid, and every dollar has been expended in the most careful and judicious manner in the erection of a great General Hospital.

In addition to supplying the needed accommodations for the sick and wounded, this new Hospital was also designed to meet a scarcely less important need, namely, to afford to the numerous students of medicine who repair annually to Philadelphia, more thorough opportunities than have ever existed for acquiring a practical, bedside knowledge of their profession. In order to meet this want, as well as for the sake of securing economy and efficiency of administration with freedom from the disadvantages which result from accumulating an excessive number of patients in a single structure, it was determined to erect a main central building, containing the offices of administration, lecture rooms, general kitchen, etc. etc., and two lateral pavilions, connected with the central building only by corridors.

UNFINISHED WING, ABSOLUTELY NEEDED TO MEET THE WANTS OF THE PUBLIC.



Every day the sense of the growing demand for a great State Hospital was more and more strongly felt, and it was finally determined to make each wing with a capacity of 130 beds, so that with the addition of 25 beds in the central building, the entire Hospital would have a capacity of nearly 300 beds. No less than this was demanded, but it was found impossible, even with the most careful and economical expenditure of the State appropriations, to erect more than the central building and one pavilion with a capacity of 130 beds. This portion was completed and was formally inaugurated by His Excellency, Governor Hartranft, and solemnly dedicated to the service of the Commonwealth on the 4th of June, 1874. So great was the care taken in providing every convenience for the care and treatment of its inmates that it may be safely asserted that when it is completed by the erection of the other wing, Pennsylvania will possess the finest General Hospital on the continent of America.

In proof of the statements made as to the necessity of this Hospital, it may be mentioned that, during the first five months of its operation, about 2000 patients have been treated in the Hospital and Dispensary Departments; and of these, 28 per cent. have been from outside of Philadelphia County, representing nearly every county in the State. In addition to this, continuous daily clinical teaching has been given within its walls, without charge, to large classes of students, representing every section of our country.

But it is impossible to render the operations of the Hospital efficient without the immediate erection of the other wing. The applications for admission are daily increasing in number, and come as above shown, from every part of the State. Ere long the limited accommodation of 130 beds will be over-full, and it will be necessary to turn away from the doors of the Hospital, every day, worthy and needy applicants for admission.

Petition to the S. & H. of Reps. of Pa., for a final appropriation of \$125,000 to complete the hosp.

Another urgent reason for the completion of the building is, that as the original plan contemplated the erection of two pavilions (although it was not then known that the public need would call for the erection of the second one for a few years), the division of the wards was arranged accordingly, and it is simply impossible at present to properly classify the patients, or even to secure a proper separation of the sexes. The classification of cases in a General Hospital is indeed no less essential than in an Insane Asylum, and, as in the latter institutions, requires the possession of numerous wards. This is thoroughly provided for in the original plan, and it needs only the completion of that design to render the efficiency of the Hospital all that could be desired. To do this, carrying out the style of architectural thoroughness of the part already erected, will require somewhat over \$125,000. On the other hand, it is clearly recognized by the Trustees of the University that the present endowment fund of \$350,000 is altogether insufficient, and determined efforts are being made to greatly increase it.

As a conclusive proof of the thorough manner in which the requirements of the State are being complied with; the faithful and devoted way in which the work of this great Institution is being carried on; and the absolute need which exists for its immediate completion, it may be added that the State Board of Public Charities has unanimously recommended this appropriation in their annual report.

It is earnestly trusted that the Legislature will this year set the seal of completeness to the noble work they have so liberally helped to inaugurate. The amount required is but \$125,000, to be expended exclusively in the completion of the building, and in asking for this final appropriation it is proposed that its payment shall be made dependent upon an additional \$125,000 being subscribed to the Endowment Fund, the said appropriation to be paid in instalments of \$25,000 for every \$25,000 additional subscribed to the Endowment Fund; and the whole amount of said appropriation not to be paid until the full sum of \$125,000 additional has been subscribed. If the Legislature shall, with their previous liberality, vote this sum, this great State charity will be completed:

And by an expenditure (devoted to building purposes alone) of . . . . .	\$325,000
the State will obtain the use of additional value of land appropriated by	
the city of Philadelphia . . . . .	200,000
And of endowment fund, contributed by individuals or corporations . . . . .	475,000
	\$1,000,000

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania is essentially a State Institution, created by the generous charity of the State, the city of Philadelphia, and citizens in every part of the Commonwealth; inaugurated by the Chief Magistrate, and dedicated to the perpetual service of the State in the care of its most needy and suffering citizens, without reference to locality, sect, or color; and in the provision of ample opportunities for the most liberal and thorough education in practical medicine and surgery.

In view, therefore, of the great good already evoked by the generous action of previous Legislatures; of the active and rapidly increasing work now being accomplished by this Institution, and the urgent necessity which exists for the immediate completion of the building, your petitioners would most respectfully urge that a final appropriation of \$125,000 be made by the State of Pennsylvania to complete the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, dependent upon the additional subscription of \$125,000 to the endowment fund of the same Institution, and to be paid according to the terms above provided.

DANIEL AGNEW.  
ISAAC G. GORDON.  
HENRY D. WILLIAMS.  
ULYSSES MERCUR.  
WILLIAM J. WOODWARD.  
GEORGE SHARSWOOD.  
EDWARD M. PAXSON.  
J. I. CLARK HARE.  
JAMES T. MITCHELL.  
JAMES R. LUDLOW.  
JAMES LYND.  
M. R. THAYER.  
AMOS BRIGGS.  
THOMAS R. ELCOCK.  
P. A. B. WIDENER.

Rt. Rev. WM. BACON STEVENS.  
Rt. Rev. JAMES F. WOOD.  
GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.  
N. B. BROWNE.  
JOHN L. SHOEMAKER.  
THOMAS COCHRAN.  
ROBERT W. DOWNING.  
JOHN O. JAMES.  
DANIEL M. FOX.  
MORTON McMICHAEL.  
CHARLES GIBBONS.  
RICHARD VAUX.  
GEORGE W. BIDDLE.  
SETH I. COMLY.  
A. WILSON HENSZEY.

THOMAS A. SCOTT.  
FRANKLIN B. GOWEN.  
JOHN WELSH.  
WILLIAM S. STOKLEY.  
SIMON CAMERON, of Harrisburg.  
WILLIAM L. SCOTT, of Erie.  
HIESTER CLYMER, of Reading.  
HENRY McCORMICK, of Harrisburg.  
WAYNE MAC VEAGH, of Harrisburg.  
D. J. MORRELL, of Cambria.  
J. DONALD CAMERON, of Harrisburg.  
WM. H. ARMSTRONG, of Williamsport.  
ANDREW G. CURTIN, of Bellefonte.  
And very many others.

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