

ADDRESS: 1301 W HUNTING PARK AVE

Name of Resource: Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer

Proposed Action: Designation

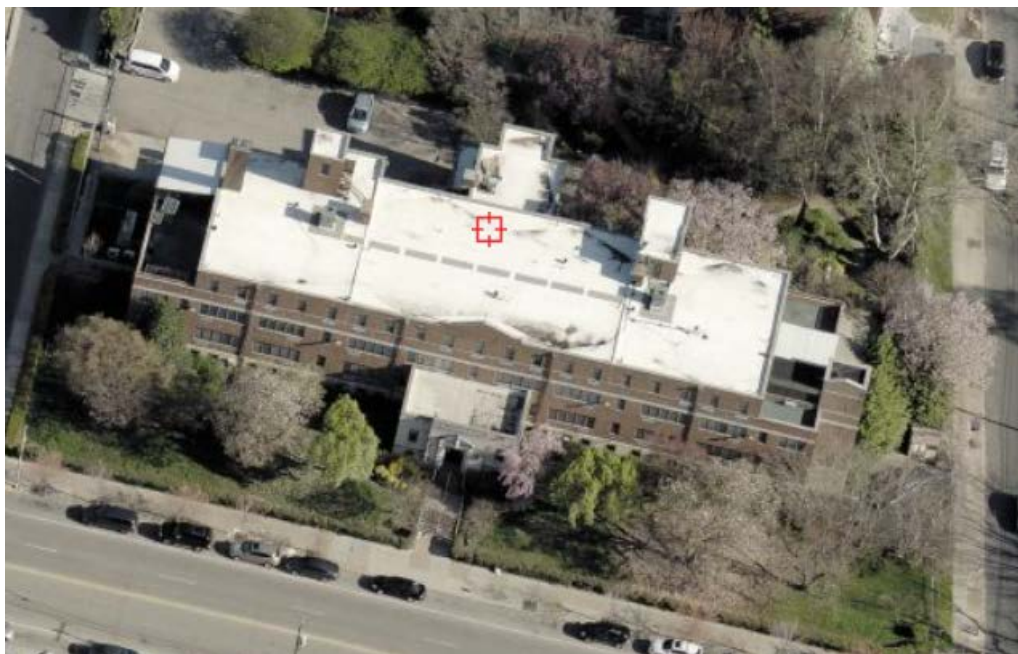
Property Owner: Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

Nominator: Celeste Morello

Staff Contact: Meredith Keller, meredith.keller@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes to designate the former Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer at 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and H. Under Criterion A, the nomination contends that the property is significant for its association with Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, daughter of author Nathaniel Hawthorne who converted to Roman Catholicism and dedicated her life to helping individuals diagnosed with cancer. Under Criterion D, the nomination argues that the 1950s building follows Pennsylvania Hospital's eighteenth-century plan. Under Criterion E, the nomination contends that the building is significant for its design by architectural firm Gleeson & Mulrooney and as an example of builder John McShain's work. Under Criterion H, the nomination argues that the building is a distinguished Catholic institution in the neighborhood.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the nomination fails to demonstrate that the property at 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue satisfies any Criteria for Designation. While Rose Hawthorne Lathrop's work was important in establishing homes and advancing care for cancer patients, she died in 1926, several decades before the Hunting Park Avenue building was constructed and cannot be directly associated with the property. The nomination cites a connection between the plans of the original Pennsylvania Hospital building and that of this building as the basis for the satisfaction of Criterion D; any connections between the plans are superficial and do not support the satisfaction of Criterion D. While John McShain is undeniably significant for his work in Washington DC, his construction company built hundreds of buildings; McShain's prosaic connection to this building does not satisfy Criterion E. Moreover, Gleeson & Mulrooney is not a sufficiently significant architectural firm to support the inclusion of Criterion E. Finally, the nomination fails to provide evidence that the building has either a unique location or a singular physical characteristic that makes it an established and familiar visible feature; therefore, it does not satisfy Criterion H.



NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES *34 pp.*
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)

Street address: 1301 West Hunting Park Avenue
Postal code: 19140 Councilmanic District: Fifth (5th)
OPA #881448300

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer
Common Name: "Sacred Heart Home"
now, "Project Home/Sacred Heart Recovery Residence"

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Site ☐ Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: ☐ excellent ☒ ^{very} good ☐ fair ☐ poor ☐ ruins
Occupancy: ☒ occupied ☐ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown
Current use: Homeless shelter/ recovery center

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary.

6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a description of the historic resource and supplement with current photographs.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach the Statement of Significance.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1951 to

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1951 to 1952

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Gleeson & Mulrooney

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: John McShain, Inc.

Original owner: Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

Other significant persons: Rose Hawthorne Lathrop (1851-1926), known
as Mother Alphonsa Lathrop, OP.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- ☒ (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or, ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP
- ☐ (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- ☐ (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- ☒ (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- ☒ (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- ☐ (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- ☐ (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- ☒ (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- ☐ (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- ☐ (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach

9. NOMINATOR

Organization _____ Date May, 2021

Name with Title Celeste A. Morello, MS, MA Email ----

Street Address 1234 South Sheridan Street Telephone 215.334.6008

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19147-4820

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: June 2, 2021

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: July 29, 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: July 30, 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

Address: 1301 W. Hunting Park Ave.

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19140

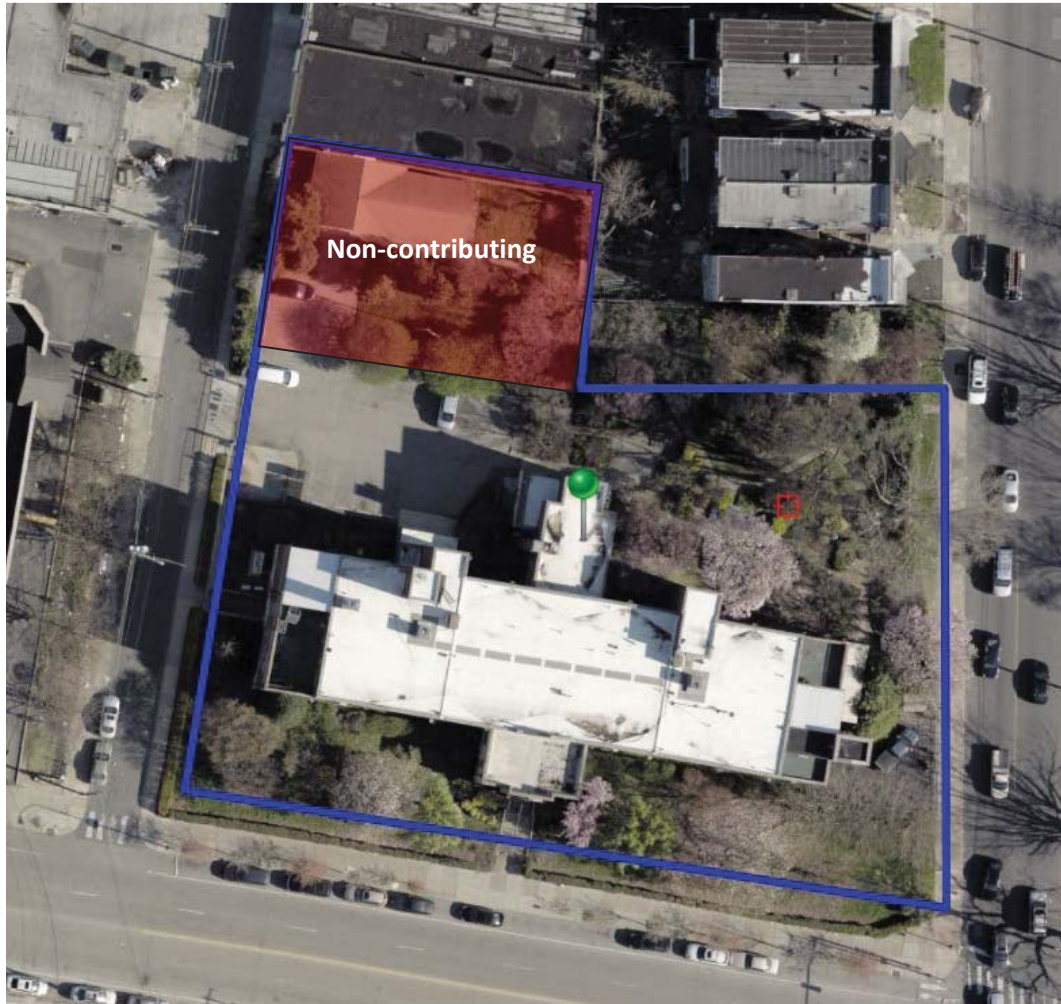
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

Date of Final Action: _____

☐ Designated ☐ Rejected

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (Provided by PHC staff)



All that lot or piece of ground at the northwest corner of Old York Road and W. Hunting Park Avenue. Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of Old York Road and W. Hunting Park Avenue, thence West along the said Hunting Park Avenue North 78 degrees 39 minutes West 282 feet 9 7/8 inches; thence North 11 degrees 21 minutes East 242 feet 6 inches through the center of a party wall South 78 degrees 38 minutes East 114 feet 9 1/8 inches; thence South 6 degrees 53 minutes 36 seconds West 74 feet 2 3/4 inches; thence Eastward South 87 degrees 33 minutes 48 seconds East 134 feet 2 3/4 inches; thence South 2 degrees 26 minutes 12 seconds West 191 feet 7 3/8 inches to the point of beginning.

(Photographs provided by PHC staff)



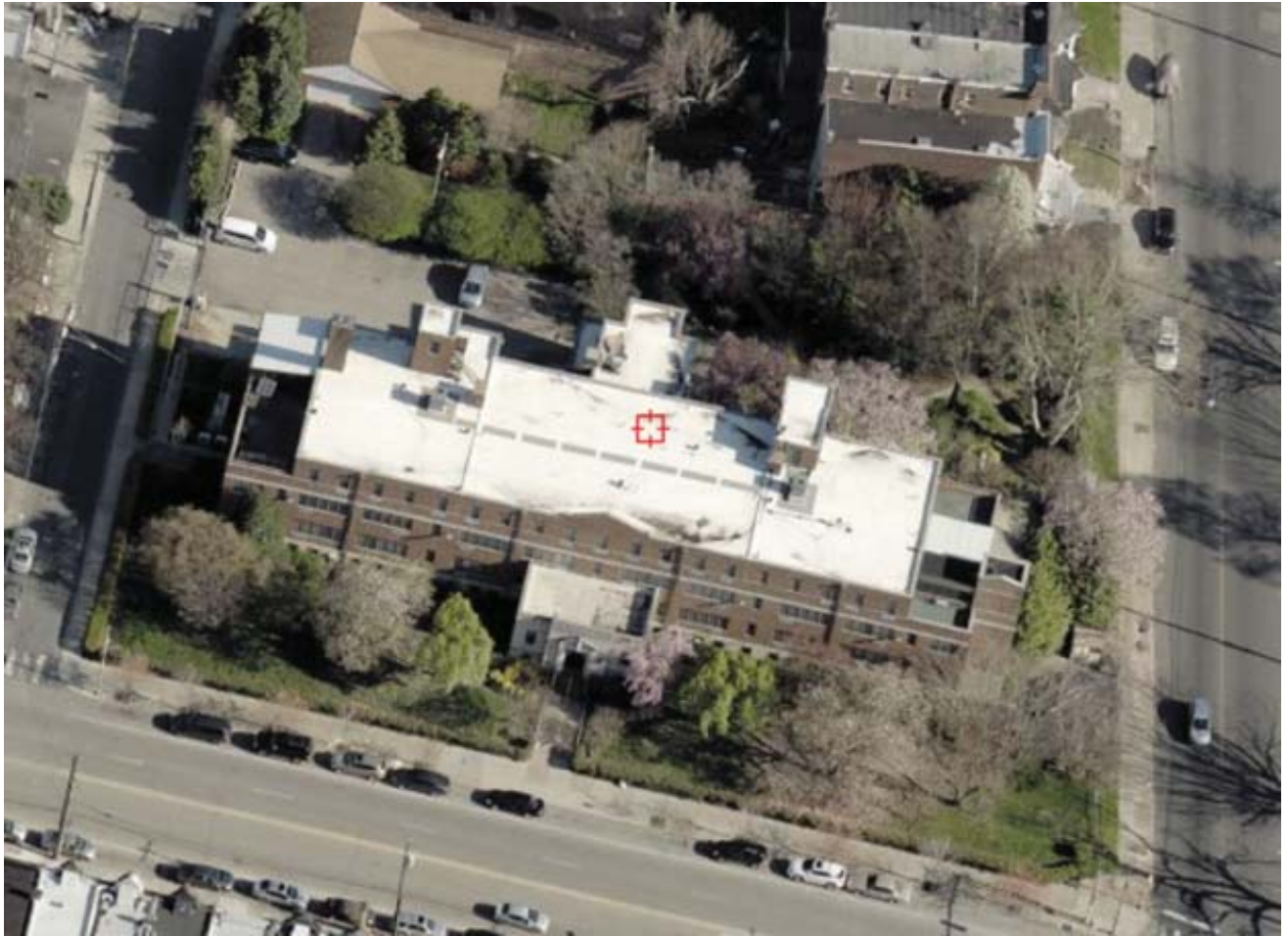
The front façade of 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue. (Source: Cyclomedia, April 2020)



The rear elevation of 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue visible from N. Park Avenue. (Source: Cyclomedia, April 2020)



Aerial showing rear of 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue. (Source: Pictometry, April 2020)



Aerial showing front façade of 1301 W. Hunting Park Avenue. (Source: Pictometry, April 2020)

DESCRIPTION:

The building is a mid-20th century institutional design on elevated ground. The main entry is on Hunting Park Avenue from a long flight of steps to a "westwork" projecting from the three-story brick and limestone construction. The aerial shows that the westwork is the center from which to begin further advancing into the facility which had incorporated a convent for the Sisters, a chapel, wards and rooms for 110 beds, offices, laundry and solarium. The first and second levels have groupings of windows while the

third level, appearing above the limestone horizontal course, has single windows spaced across evenly, and through the area under the gable. A cross still is atop the gable's peak, aligned to the westwork's portal's surround where a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stands forward within a rounded arch. (See below.)

The same limestone course running horizontally between the second and third levels is between the basement and first levels. Double modern doors remain open at the portal for the homeless to enter.

Plan recalls Pennsylvania Hospital's 18th century design with the horizontal wings extending from the center (axis) entrance where a limestone surround establishes the portal's function.



This building appeared in very good condition and its surrounding grounds are well attended, obscuring most of the building's north, east and west walls to impede observation.

STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE:

The nominated building had been "The Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer," one of seven hospice facilities operated by the Roman Catholic Dominican Sisters under the title, "Servants for Relief of Incurable Cancer." The Philadelphia site began in 1930 and the present building is a 1951-1952 construction designed by Gleeson & Mulrooney and erected by John McShain, Inc. one of the largest construction companies in the nation.¹

Medically-treating the destitute had been a tradition in the City's early history, but this Home offered hospice care by the nurses/nuns who lived in the building: this was their vocation. They waited upon the poor who were suffering from fatal cases of cancer, a stigmatizing disease. Historian Charles Rosenbert wrote that "Cancer...ordinarily disqualified a patient from voluntary hospital care" and most hospitals shunned those afflicted with cancer.² Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, the widowed daughter of one of the 19th century's most read novelists, Nathaniel Hawthorne, had converted to Roman Catholicism, then when separated from her abusive husband, began a life in poverty and caring for those with incurable cancer; she eventually trained under professionals at New York's Cancer Hospital, now Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. Her conversion startled the literary world: she had been published in most major nationally-known publications. Then she founded the order of nuns who lived and worked solely by donations. The Philadelphia Home arose from private funds and charity from groups or individuals. Since 2020, Project Home has occupied the facility to treat opioid patients where they could reside until ready for release.

Although a mid-20th century structure, the design is carried from Pennsylvania Hospital's 1755-1796 plan featuring the prominent

¹The source of this information was "The Evening Bulletin," May 29, 1951 and June 23, 1951; it was not available otherwise in other sources. The Hibernofiles qualified McShain's national status.

²Rosenberg, Charles, The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America's Hospital System. Baltimore; Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1987, p. 113.

westwork as the entry from which two wings extended from the sides. This design suited the Sisters' patients who were awaiting death while residing there. The Home is within a landscaped area on the west side facing Hunting Park and on a wide street, somewhat isolated, yet close to Broad Street where it merges with Roosevelt Boulevard.

Gleeson & Mulrooney's architectural work is all over Northeast Philadelphia and had a role in residential and institutional development from the 1930s to 1950s. John McShain's company constructed the Pentagon and Thomas Jefferson Memorial, among other buildings in Washington, D.C. At the time of the Home's erection, McShain headed the City's Zoning Commission and was renovating the interior of the White House. Overseeing the new Home's construction was Cardinal Dennis J. Dougherty, the first cardinal in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Although he died in 1951, Dougherty left those to continue his interest in the Sisters' work at the Home.

The Home's design, and those associated with its construction form a history which is worthy of consideration.

Sacred Heart Recovery Residence (215.309.5228)

→  projecthome.org/sacred-heart-recovery-residence

November 12, 2020

Project HOME is on the front lines of addressing one of the most devastating crises in the nation – our opioid epidemic. We are creating a meaningful recovery effort that will provide much needed support and permanent housing focused on recovery. This is one of the ways Project HOME will empower adults to break the cycle of homelessness while addressing the opioid crisis and the impact addiction has on the homeless community.

The Sacred Heart Recovery Residence opened with 14 respite beds and 48 entry-level long-term beds, serving people who have experienced homelessness and are committed to recovery.

Services will include a safe, supportive program with a range of services to assist individuals on the path to recovery – coupled with education, employment, and healthcare supports to help people stably transition to permanent supportive housing. The work at Sacred Heart will build on Project HOME's existing successful program at St. Elizabeth's Recovery Residence to address the growing opioid epidemic in Philadelphia. This is part of Project HOME's Recovery Initiative that will not only transform lives, but entire neighborhoods.

The Sacred Heart Home....

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value...or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past:

ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP
(Mother Alphonsa)
1851--1926

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was one of the 19th century's most read and notable novelists, introducing mystery, the mystique of the human spirit and moralistic themes to his work. In many ways, the writings of Hawthorne exemplified Victorian Era culture, as it hinted at interest in the unknown and explored spirituality. However, Hawthorne's fame had much to do with his deep ancestral beginnings in colonial Massachusetts, a part of Americana that held reverence among the upper class and those in the highest levels of the arts and culture. At the height of his fame, and that would be after the publication of *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), Hawthorne would become the father of Rose, his youngest daughter. She lived within Nathaniel's aura, and after he died, she would maintain the "Hawthorne" name in the literary world with her own writings in the most widely-read publications. Her marriage to George Lathrop was far from happy during the 27 years they were wed. In the last years of her marriage, George was said to have been abusive to her,



ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP

influenced by his problem with alcohol. It was in the final years with George when Rose began to learn about the plight of the poor who were inflicted with cancer and left to die alone, or in places such as almshouses where improper care was given, or none at all. The New Catholic Encyclopedia noted that Rose "trained for 3 months at the New York Cancer Hospital." (See page 9.) This was the "first institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the treatment of cancer." In 1899, the name of the hospital was changed to "General Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases."³ Today, it is the renown "Memorial Sloan Kettering."

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop was born into the old Puritan culture in Massachusetts which still held some hostility towards Roman Catholics. (The family's migration in 1630 from England may have been because of religious conflicts or religious intolerance, with Roman Catholicism at the root of the problem.) Supposedly, when Nathaniel Hawthorne was the American consul in Liverpool, England for his college friend, President Franklin Pierce, the Hawthorne family travelled to Italy and were attracted to the churches and mysticism of the Catholic rites. But the Hawthorne family remained true to their own faith. What impetus brought Rose, then married to George, towards Catholicism to where both converted in 1891 had not been revealed. Theodore Maynard's book, A Fire Was Lighted (1948) is said to be a thorough biographical account on Rose and the how and why she was driven to depart from her previous life of comfort, to one of poverty and in giving her time and energy to the impoverished with incurable, painful cancer. (Maynard claimed that the work on Rose's life was at the sole request of the nuns, who provided him with "some 200 letters in the Houghton Library of Harvard University and the New York Public Library.")⁴

³ MSK's website at "About Us/ History & Milestones."

⁴ Maynard, T., *Great Catholics in American History*. NY:Hanover House, 1957, p. 209. His chapter on Rose runs on pages 175 to 184.

Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. A diocesan community of Dominican Sisters founded in 1896 with the title Congregation of St. Rose of Lima. The foundress was Mother Alphonsa *Lathrop (Rose Hawthorne Lathrop), the younger daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne. A convert of 5 years and a widow, she undertook in September 1896 the work of caring for the cancerous poor on New York City's lower East Side. From the earliest days she was aided by a young associate, Alice Huber, from Louisville, Ky. On Dec. 8, 1900, they took religious vows as Third Order Dominicans. The community in 1963 numbered 130 sisters carrying on the charitable work begun through the dedication and courage of their foundress. When Mother Alphonsa died in 1926, she was succeeded by Miss Huber (Mother Rose) who was superior until her death in 1942. By 1963, there were seven homes dedicated exclusively to the care of persons afflicted with incurable cancer and unable to pay for hospital care, regardless of religion, race, or color. These hospitals were located at the motherhouse, Rosary Hill Home, Hawthorne, N.Y. (1901); St. Rose's Home, New York City (1899); Sacred Heart Home, Philadelphia, Pa. (1930); Rose Hawthorne Lathrop Home, Fall River, Mass. (1932); Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home, Atlanta, Ga. (1939); Our Lady of Good Counsel Home, St. Paul, Minn. (1941); and Holy Family Home, Cleveland, Ohio (1956).

Bibliography: K. BURTON, *Sorrow Built a Bridge: A Daughter of Hawthorne* (New York 1937). T. MAYNARD, *A Fire Was Lighted: The Life of Rose Hawthorne Lathrop* (Milwaukee 1948). See also G. GIERATHS, *LexThK* 3:491-493. Heimbuher 1:524-536.

[J. T. CLUNE]

Vol. IV, p. 992.

LATHROP, ALPHONSA, MOTHER, author, foundress of the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer; b. Lenox, Mass., May 20, 1851; d. Hawthorne, N.Y., July 9, 1926. The youngest child of Nathaniel and Sophia (Peabody) Hawthorne, Rose was taken as an infant to Liverpool, England, where her father served as U.S. consul. The family subsequently spent



Mother
Alphonsa
Lathrop.

2 years in Italy before returning to Concord, Mass., in 1860. In 1871 Rose married George Parsons Lathrop in London. They lived in New York City until Lathrop moved to Boston as assistant editor of the *Atlantic*

Monthly. During these years, Rose wrote verses and short stories that appeared in the *Independent*, *Harper's Bazaar*, the *American*, *Scribner's*, *Appleton's Journal*, and *St. Nicholas*; a book of poems, *Along the Shore*, was published in 1888. In 1876 a son, Francis Hawthorne Lathrop, was born, but he died of diphtheria in 1881. Received into the Catholic Church in 1891 by Alfred Young, CSP, the Lathrops collaborated on *A Story of Courage* (1894), a history of the Georgetown Sisters of the Visitation. At this time, however, Lathrop's increasing intemperance led his wife, with the vicar-general's permission, to leave him. Learning from Young of a young seamstress sent to Blackwell's Island to die of cancer, Mrs. Lathrop determined to devote her life to serving victims of this disease. After training for 3 months at the New York Cancer Hospital, she began work on the lower east side of the city. For financial assistance she depended on persons who learned of her plans from the articles she wrote. She also found time to publish her *Memories of Hawthorne* (1897).

Her husband died in 1898 and in 1899 Clement Theunte, OP, received Mrs. Lathrop and her associate, Alice Huber, as Dominican tertiaries. As Sister M. Alphonsa and Sister M. Rose, they made their first vows on Dec. 8, 1900, and established the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima, incorporated as the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer (see DOMINICANS—SISTERS). As the community grew, its work expanded. The motherhouse, novitiate, and a cancer home were established at Hawthorne, and aid for patients was secured through Mother Alphonsa's magazine, *Christ's Poor*, and through her series of published reports.

Bibliography: K. BURTON, *Sorrow Built a Bridge: A Daughter of Hawthorne* (New York 1937). T. MAYNARD, *A Fire Was Lighted: The Life of Rose Hawthorne Lathrop* (Milwaukee 1948). M. JOSEPH, *Out of Many Hearts* (Hawthorne, N.Y. 1961), unpub. biog.

[M. L. C. DUNN]

Vol. VIII, p. 412.

THE "HAWTHORNE" NAME'S NATION-WIDE INFLUENCE

LETTER FROM "MARK TWAIN"

(Printed by his permission.)

Riverside, New York City, October, 1907.

DEAR MRS. LATHROP:

I wish I were not so hard-driven; then nothing could give me more contentment than to try to write something worth printing in your periodical, *Christ's Poor*; indeed you pay me a compliment which I highly value when you invite me to do it, as holding me not unworthy to appear in its pages. But if I cannot write I can at least try to help in other ways, and I shall do that; for among the needs of your noble charity is money, and I know some people who have it and who have not been reluctant to spend it in good causes. And certainly if there is an unassailably good cause in the world it is this one undertaken by the Dominican Sisters, of housing, nourishing and nursing the most pathetically unfortunate of all the afflicted among us—men and women sentenced to a painful and lingering death by incurable disease.

I have known about this lofty work of yours since long ago—indeed from the day you began it; I have known of its steady growth and progress step by step to its present generous development and assured position among those benefactions to which the reverent homage of all creeds and colors is due; I have seen it rise from seedling to tree with no endowment but the voluntary aid which your patient labor and faith have drawn from the purses of grateful and compassionate men; and I am glad in the prosperous issue of your work, and glad to know that this prosperity will continue, and be permanent—a thing which I do know, for that endowment is banked where it cannot fail until pity fails in the hearts of men. And that will never be.

Sincerely yours,

S. L. CLEMENS.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was the descendant of English who had left for America in 1630, settling in Massachusetts. Nathaniel was born in Salem, mindful of the town's history and his ancestor, a judge who had condemned many of the crime of witchcraft.

Nathaniel's best literary works were *The House of the Seven Gables*, *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Marble Faun*, during which time his children Julian and Rose were born--they would also become writers by their own merits.

Attaining great praise for his work, Nathaniel would meet many other writers, even of other genre, from newspaper reporters to non-fiction authors.

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop had left her career as a published author in the most popular circulations to care for the poor who suffered from cancer.

As Mother Alphonsa since 1900, the former "Mrs. Lathrop" received the letter from Samuel L. "Mark Twain" Clemens who acknowledged the "Dominican Sisters," the religious Order founded by "Mrs. Lathrop."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL HAYES,
Archbishop of New York

Vice-President

HENRY J. REEL
233 Hooper Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Second Vice-President

JAMES A. DONEGAN
5 Beekman Street, New York

Secretary and Treasurer

MOTHER M. ROSE HUBER, O.S.D.

Ecclesiastical Superior

HIS EMINENCE, PATRICK CARDINAL HAYES,
Archbishop of New York

THE SERVANTS OF RELIEF FOR INCURABLE
CANCER

receive no pay in any form for their care of patients,
in order to defend the poor from subordination to
pay-patients. The work is supported by the generos-
ity of the public, without State aid.

Rosary Hill Home,
Hawthorne, Westchester Co.,
New York.

St. Rose's Free Home,
71 Jackson Street,
New York.

Sacred Heart Free Home,
4200 Old York Road,
Philadelphia, Pa.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to The Servants of Relief for
Incurable Cancer (incorporated under the laws of
the State of New York)dollars.

The Dominican Sisters' Mission Statement within a "Report" from their
Hawthorne base in New York: the site was named after Rose Hawthorne
Lathrop, furthering the "Hawthorne" name and celebrity.

	Rec'd & Cared For During 1944	COLOR		CREED		
		White	Others	Catholic	Protestant	Others
ROSE HAWTHORNE HOME Rosary Hill, N. Y.	260	248	11	148	109	3
ST. ROSE'S HOME New York, N. Y.	338	309	29	256	76	6
SACRED HEART HOME Philadelphia, Pa.	355	308	47	179	166	10
ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP HOME Fall River, Mass.	399	384	15	291	102	6
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP HOME Atlanta, Ga.	168	114	54	12	154	2
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HOME St. Paul, Minn.	154	153	1	85	67	2
TOTAL	1674	1517	157	971	674	29

In the "Sisters of St. Dominic's" Report of statistical information (to be made public), the above page listed the Homes in operation (another was forthcoming) from January of 1944 to January of 1945.

There was no toll on the annual deaths in this Report.

Rose had collected generous "donations from friends"⁵ for her first home called "St. Rose's Free Home" (after her new patron saint, St. Rose of Lima, Peru) in New York City in 1899. It was to be the first of seven such "homes" (really hospices) in the United States. As Mother Alphonsa, the former Mrs. Lathrop was the superior of her religious Order, the "Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer," which is "A diocesan community of Dominican Sisters" (a branch of the Dominicans).⁶

Rose died in 1926 before the Philadelphia Home began, but she had written "Rules" for the care of cancer patients, and instructed that all means to conduct the administration of the facilities were to be from charity: endowments, private funds, etc....For the purchase of the Philadelphia property, an attorney who was the Executor of a Will by a non-Catholic who had died and left a sizeable amount, read about the Dominicans' request for donations. The Will stipulated that the decedent's money be used for a charitable cause. The attorney was Catholic, thus the means to acquire the property for the nominated building.

There were local and more widespread public notices for "appeals" of money for a larger facility, and one more modern than the old 19th century Italianate. (Refer to 1930 and 1949 records⁷ next page.) In a letter to "Sister Mary Regina" at the Home, Cardinal Dennis Dougherty's legal representative, Vincent Carroll (a former District Attorney), warned the nun on her "methods of raising funds." He named other "existing cancer foundations...the Donner and the DuPont Foundations, both of which have large reserves of funds, especially the latter one." He also mentioned the Pew.⁸ Much in the world had changed since Mother Alphonsa would duly rely on

⁵Maynard, p. 181.

⁶New Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. IV, p. 992.

⁷Correspondence, Cardinal D. Dougherty, CHRC.

⁸Ibid., letter dated February 27, 1950.

ROSARY HILL HOM
HAWTHORNE, NEW YORK

October 19, 1949.

*draft sent to
Rev. Joseph McGlinn
Oct 26-1949*

Rev. Joseph McGlinn,
225 N. 18th St.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Reverend dear Father:

In reply to your letter of September 24th, we are enclosing herewith the draft selected by His Eminence for an appeal for funds for a new building for the Sacred Heart Home in Philadelphia with the changes and emendations so graciously suggested by His Eminence. We should like the appeal published just as soon as the Catholic Standard and Times can conveniently do so.

For many years the Catholic Standard and Times has published an advertisement for the Home and we were wondering if same could be changed to conform with the enclosed sketch for the period required to secure the necessary funds. If this suggestion does not meet with the approval of His Eminence, we will be guided by His and your advice.

Assuring you of our deep gratitude, we remain, dear Father

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mother M. Siena
Mother General *O.P.*

Private donations and fund-raising by Catholic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus came forth in Philadelphia from the 1930s to the 1951-1952 construction of the nominated building.

Donations continued for general operations and maintenance, but the Home's costs were covered in 1952.

The Cardinal's Letter

His Eminence, in his letter to the clergy, says:

"CARDINAL'S OFFICE
"225 North Eighteenth Street
"Philadelphia

"April 28th, 1930.

"Rev. and dear Father:

"The Reverend Sisters, founded by Mother Alphonsa, daughter of the writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and known as Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer Among the Poor, having opened a new Foundation at Hunting Park Avenue and Old York Road, Philadelphia, are now ready to receive patients.

"They will accept them irrespective of age, sex, creed, color or nationality; the only restrictions they lay down being that their patients must be poor and afflicted with incurable cancer.

"They will not receive any patient, who can pay for himself, or whose relatives are able to pay for him; nor will they accept any offering from a patient. Moreover, they will not take any cancer case, except one pronounced by a competent physician to be beyond cure.

"For the maintenance of their work they rely entirely on Divine Providence.

"Their present Foundation in Philadelphia, which is exclusively their own, has not been financed from any quarter; but the Sisters are confident that Almighty God in His mercy will inspire charitable persons to aid them in the alleviation of pain and in their care for the sick.

"Please to announce at all the Masses next Sunday that the Sisters are now ready to receive patients, under the above conditions. Applications for admission are to be addressed to Sister Mary de Sales, Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer, Hunting Park Avenue and Old York Road, Philadelphia.

"I commend the noble work of these Sisters to our Reverend Clergy, devoted laity and the public at large.

"Very affly yours,

"D. CARD. DOUGHERTY,

"Abp. of Phila."

direct payments from friends, not corporations or foundations. Modernization was not to be limited to the Home's architectural plan, but to the advancements in how a private residence, administered by some nuns would, by necessity, have to be incorporated and operated as a business. Despite this, Mother Alphonsa's "Rules" which resulted from her "training" and experiences at the New York hospital prevailed:

- 1) the medical staff could not wear rubber gloves in the cleaning of the cancerous sores of the patient; and,
- 2) no knives were permitted in treatment because only inoperable cancer cases were to be admitted to the Home.⁹

Reports published on the expenses and disbursements incurred also noted that the patients--all non-paying and poor--were of no known ages and no one was discriminated from admission (although the number of "Protestants" was compared to the "Catholics.")

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop died peacefully in her sleep in 1926, but she is recorded in American Catholic history for her achievements in founding cancer hospices for the poor, and each hospice began from donations. She founded an Order where applicants knew they were required to tend to those who would suffer and never recover from a fatal disease--this was their vocation and would be their life's calling, relinquishing family, relationships and all of the material effects and joys of secular living. Turning from the Puritan culture and her past in a country where Roman Catholics were still left behind in the "ruling class,"¹⁰ Rose Hawthorne Lathrop's work lingered through the 21st century, and remains in the nominated building.

⁹ Maynard, op.cit., p. 183.

¹⁰ In his chapter on "Alfred E. Smith," Maynard (op.cit.) wrote that in 1932, then-New York Governor Smith, had little chance for higher office in the U.S. because he was a Catholic.

THE SACRED HEART HOME
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE SACRED HEART HOME on Old York Road, Philadelphia, Pa., was blessed and opened by His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, on April 1, 1930. It was formerly used as a Baptist Home for the Aged. In 1937, two new wings were added to accommodate the many patients asking for admittance. The grounds are beautiful and quite extensive for a large city. Hunting Park, directly opposite the Home affords diversity of outlook for the patients.

His Eminence and Bishop Lamb have been most kind in making frequent visits to the Home, thereby giving joy and encouragement to the members of the household.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF SACRED HEART HOME

From January 1, 1942, to December 31, 1942

Number of patients received during year.....	307
Died	209
Left	28
Patients in Home January 1, 1943.....	70
White	263
Colored	44
Catholic	167
Protestant	133
Orthodox	4
Hebrew	3

Number of Hospital Days, 26,882

— 17 —

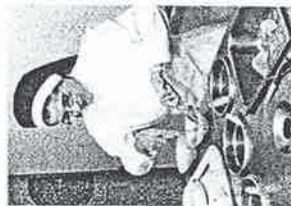
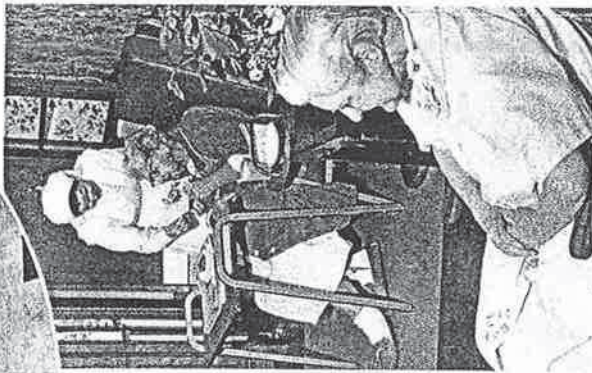
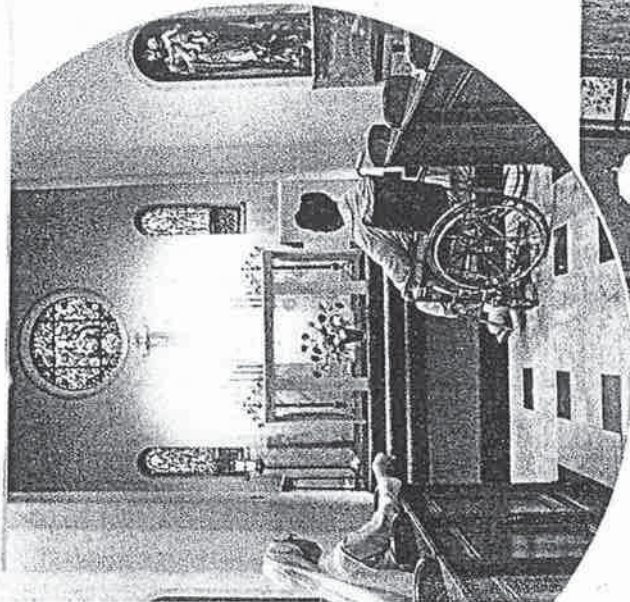
ST. AGNES' HOSPITAL

27

CASES TREATED IN SURGICAL WARDS.—(Continued.)

DIAGNOSIS	MALE	FEMALE	CURED	IM-PROVED	UN-IM-PROVED	DIED	RE-MAIN-ING
Carbunculosis.....	4	..	2	..	..	1	1
<u>Carcinoma</u> , breast.....	..	14	9	5	..	..	..
colon.....	2	1	2	..	..	1	..
glands of neck.....	5	1	5	..	..	1	..
jaw.....	2	..	1	..	1	..	..
liver.....	1	..	..	1	..	1	..
rectum.....	2	..	..	1	..	1	..
scalp.....	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
stomach.....	3	1	1	1	1	1	..
uterus.....	..	3	1	2	..	..	..
Cataract.....	2	5	7	..	..	..	..
Cellulitis.....	1	1	2	..	..	..	..
Chancroids.....	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Cholecystitis.....	..	4	1	..	..	3	..
Cholelithiasis.....	5	4	8	..	..	1	..
Cirrhosis, hepatic.....	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cleft-palate.....	5	1	6	..	..	..	..
Colic, renal.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Compression, cerebral.....	1	1	..	..	..	2	..
Concussion, brain.....	14	2	12	..	..	2	2
cord.....	1	1	1	..	..	1	..
Conjunctivitis, simple.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Coxalgia.....	..	3	2	1	..	..	..
Cyst, brain.....	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
breast.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
ovarian.....	..	14	14	..	..	..	..
pylo-nidal.....	2	..	1	..	..	..	1
sebaceous.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Cystitis.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cystocele.....	..	4	4	..	..	..	..
Deflected nasal septum.....	5	1	6	..	..	..	..
Dislocation, ankle.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
elbow.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
hip.....	2	1	3	..	..	..	..
metatarsal.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
shoulder.....	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Dislocation, compound, el- bow.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Dislocation, compound, thumb.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Dog-bite.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Duodenal ulcer.....	2	1	..	..	..	1	2
Ectopic gestation.....	..	3	2	..	..	1	..
Emmetropia.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Empyema.....	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Enteroptosis.....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Epididymitis.....	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Epiphyseal separation.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Epithelioma, cheek.....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..

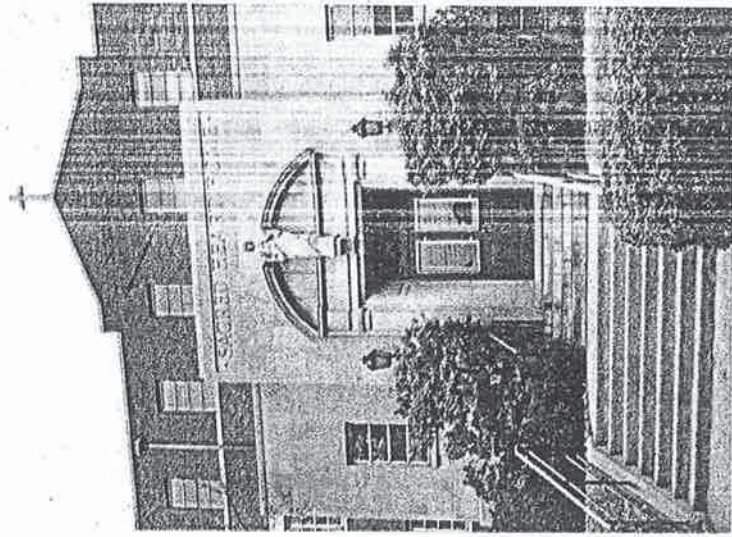
Franciscan Healthcare began in Philadelphia, treating anyone, even those without funds, at St. Mary's, then St. Agnes' Hospitals. On right, above, is a 1910-1911 partial list on how sophisticated St. Agnes Hospital was to compare with Sacred Heart Home's simple "Statistical Report" on the incurables. St. Agnes tried to stem "Carcinoma" cases towards cures; Sacred Heart's hospice care was for the homeless to stay there for care until death. The Franciscan Sisters' hospital system also founded hospitals outside of Philadelphia.



In 1896 Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, convert daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, left the luxury and ease of the intellectual society into which she was born for the poverty-stricken society of cancer sufferers in the slums of New York. With Alice Huber, who soon joined her, she worked, nursed and suffered, sometimes almost beyond endurance, yet always with a firm trust in God and a deep interior peace. Slowly and with great difficulty their charitable work grew from four rooms on Water Street, where three patients were accommodated, to seven modern fully equipped homes where many hundreds of Christ's poor are cared for until God welcomes them into His eternal kingdom.

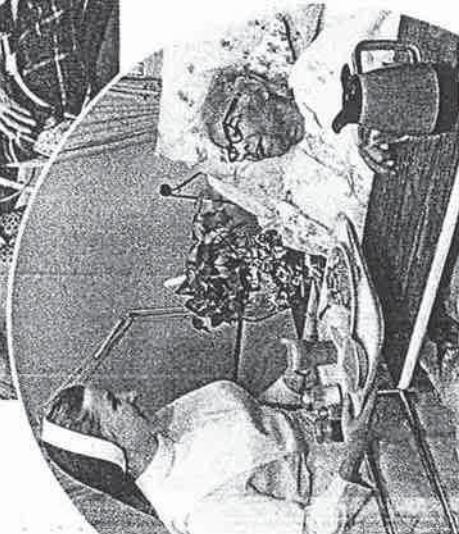
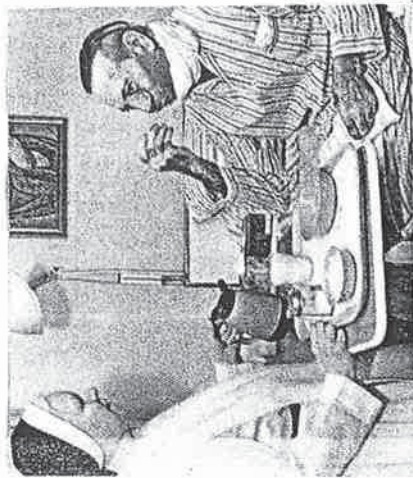
Mother Alphonsa Lathrop established the Motherhouse at Rosary Hill, Hawthorne, N. Y., in 1901 but it was Mother Rose Huber, after Mother Alphonsa's death, who made the next foundation in Philadelphia. This home, at the corner of Old York Road and Hunting Park Avenue was dedicated to the Sacred Heart April 27, 1930. It was soon filled to capacity and eventually replaced by the present home, erected on the same site in 1950. The Sisters whose legal title is Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer, continue to serve in the spirit of those two courageous women who gave all they had to God through the cancer sufferers He sent to them. Through the liberality of the public the Sacred Heart Home has not only brought relief to thousands but has been to them a real home in every sense of the word.

Copy of pamphlet. (CHRC, Phila.)



Sacred Heart Home

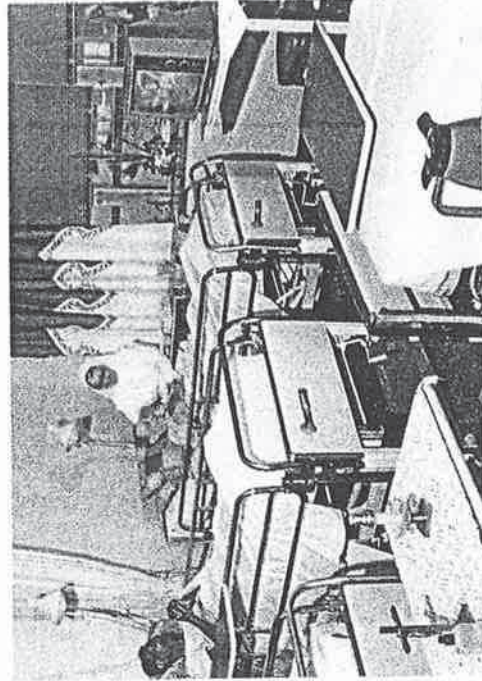
1315 W. HUNTING PARK AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
19140



IT IS A HOME established by the Hawthorne Dominicans for the care of incurable cancer patients without discrimination as to race, creed, or national origin. Seldom the destitute of Mother Alphonsa's day, they nevertheless are sufferers whose resources have been exhausted and who no longer have sufficient funds to provide for adequate nursing care.



IT IS A WORK supported by the generosity of a sympathetic public. No remuneration is accepted from the patients or their families even though they may be able to contribute something. In accordance with their Rule the Sisters place their trust in the loving providence of God. That trust has never failed. Donations large and small from groups and individuals have provided the necessary funds from the very beginning.



IT IS THE HOPE of the Sisters that their patients will feel welcome in an atmosphere of peace and warmth, where love, understanding and compassion prevail.

106/3.2

Dominican Sisters-run home for dying patients to shut its doors

 catholicphilly.com/2018/06/news/local-news/dominican-sisters-run-home-for-dying-patients-to-shut-it-doors



Sacred Heart Home for Incurable Cancer, located at 1315 Hunting Park Avenue in Philadelphia, has been run by the Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima (Hawthorne) since 1930 but will suspend operations at the end of August.

→ By Lou Baldwin • Posted June 13, 2018

An era will end in Philadelphia, hopefully temporarily, when Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer suspends operations at the end of August.

The 25-bed ministry of the Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima (Hawthorne) has been located at 1315 Hunting Park Avenue in North Philadelphia since 1930.

Sacred Heart is unique in that it relies entirely on donations and accepts no money from its residents or any government agency, not even Medicaid or Medicare. It exists entirely on free-will donations.

This is in keeping with the charism established by the congregation's founder, Mother Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, a Catholic convert and widowed daughter of distinguished author Nathaniel Hawthorne.

She established her first small hospice for incurably ill cancer patients in New York City in 1896 and her congregation in 1900, and at that time adopted her name in religion, Mother Alphonsa. She died in 1926 and the cause for her canonization is in its early stages.

In addition to Sacred Heart in Philadelphia the congregation has a larger facility in Rosary Hill, Hawthorne, N.Y., and another in Atlanta, Georgia.

© 2021 Catholic Philly

"We have 10 sisters here," said Sister Mary de Paul, O.P., the director at Sacred Heart Home and herself a Philadelphia native.

Most of the sisters are trained nurses, but one of the challenges for Sacred Heart is that with a reduced number of sisters, there is an increased reliance on lay staff, which because of higher payroll increases costs, Sister Mary de Paul said.

Homes conducted by the Rose Hawthorne Dominicans are never large and this is in keeping with the will of their foundress. The smaller size gives a more personal, less institutional feel.

Because the focus is on palliative care the residents who come do not receive hospital treatments to eradicate their cancer, just such medications needed to keep them comfortable. All services including doctor visits are done in-house.

With that said, residents tend to live longer than in past years, probably because of medical advances even in palliative care.

As for why Sacred Heart Home is suspending operations, a release issued from the congregation explains one factor contributing to the decision was the sisters' concern "to preserve and foster their charism in its entirety. Consolidating the number of homes operated by the sisters will enable them to maintain the personal bedside nursing care which is an essential element of their apostolic charism."

"Another factor in this decision," said the release, "is the fact that Sacred Heart Home will need to be rebuilt in the next few years. This suspension will afford us the time to not only strengthen the staff of sisters, but allow us to discern the best way of rebuilding Sacred Heart Home."

While their numbers are not high, the Rose Hawthorne Dominicans are not dying. "We have two postulants right now who will take vows in September and we have three girls entering in October," Sister Mary de Paul said.

If these numbers keep up, "we are hoping we can return in a few years," she added. "We have others showing interest and if that keeps up we could be coming back within five years."

To learn more about the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne visit the website Hawthorne-Dominicans.org.

The former Sacred Heart Home for Incurable Cancer...

- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style...

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL's 18th CENTURY PLAN
(1755 to 1796)

Philadelphia's architectural history includes many buildings that are "firsts" and what was created for the "first" hospital in the United States in Philadelphia was a well-conceived plan at the Eighth and Pine Streets site. Although Webster wrote that Pennsylvania Hospital's plan would be "emulated in American hospitals for a century,"¹¹ the Sacred Heart Home's mid-20th century design copied the essential characteristics of the colonial-era building: center unit from which equal extensions run horizontally; projecting center unit for reception and other uses, but mainly to orient the visitor; raised basement level below only a few, not many, above-ground levels. Sacred Heart Home does not represent the "Pennsylvania School of Hospital Design" from the 19th century.

Pennsylvania Hospital's plan from 1755 to 1796, upon the completion of the west and center units, differs from Isaac Holden's design for the Pennsylvania Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases drawn in 1836 and no longer existing. Samuel Sloan's design of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane at 49th and Market Streets (1856) supposedly copied the Holden plan. The objective was to create a building where "increase(d) individual attention to patients and total operational efficiency"¹² were possible in the horizontal distribution of building extensions. The specialized care in some hospitals (here, with the mentally ill) utilizing this design portended its success outside of Philadelphia, but only "until

¹¹ Webster, R., Philadelphia Preserved. Temple Univ. Press, 1981, p.6.
¹² Ibid., pp. 197;212;385-386, n30.

after the Civil War"¹³(1860s). Webster later described Episcopal Hospital, a general hospital, (1860-1875, with Sloan) in an "E-plan" with the extending pavilions reflecting the "Pennsylvania School of Hospital Design" in the post-Civil War era.¹⁴ Nevertheless, Episcopal had a center unit which was prominent, like at Pennsylvania Hospital (8th/Pine Sts.), was on a raised basement with no more than three upper levels and spread horizontally at the front. Locally, Episcopal Hospital had continued the "Pennsylvania School of Hospital Design" by which Sloan identifies nationally. For the instant nomination however, Episcopal Hospital held on its grounds on Lehigh Avenue the "Harrison Memorial House of Incurable Patients" which was described as a "(T)hree-story sandstone...built at east end 1889-91" by GW and WD Hewitt architects. (It was razed in 1965). This building was not a "pavilion" or wing of the general administration. (Webster noted that the Harrison Memorial House was "replaced by six-story brick and reinforced-concrete Potter-Morris Building 1964-66.")¹⁵

Episcopal Hospital's plan was "Considered the best general hospital design in the United States when built, had had a great effect on subsequent American hospital architecture"(when drawn by Sloan during the Civil War years) and "influenced later hospital design."¹⁶ Sloan's plan derived from the Holden/Kirkbride one from 1836, but not all of Philadelphia's hospitals saw any difference in the operation of a facility because of the hospital's lay-out. Relevant to this nominated building's original purpose in caring for incurables, by 1877, there was a "Home for Incurables" at 4700 Woodland Avenue for "diseases...pronounced incurable."¹⁷ Located in verdant West Philadelphia, it was one of several specialty hospitals, but not in the "Hospital Design" plan. Howard Hospital & Infirmary, founded

¹³ Ibid., p. 197.

¹⁴ " , p. 309.

¹⁵ " , p. 328.

¹⁶ " , pp. 309;328.

¹⁷ Scharf and Westcott, History of Philadelphia. Everts:1884,p.2684ii.

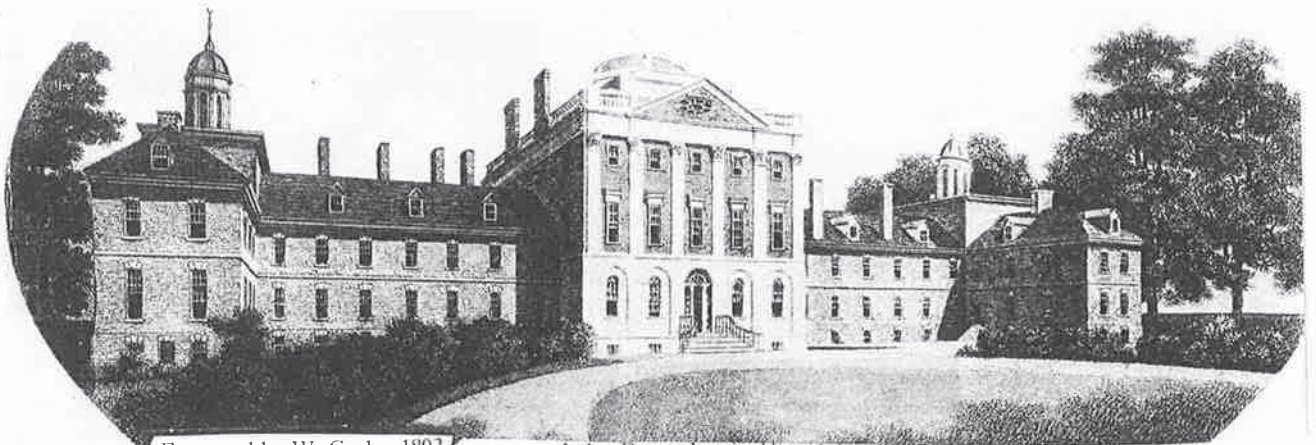
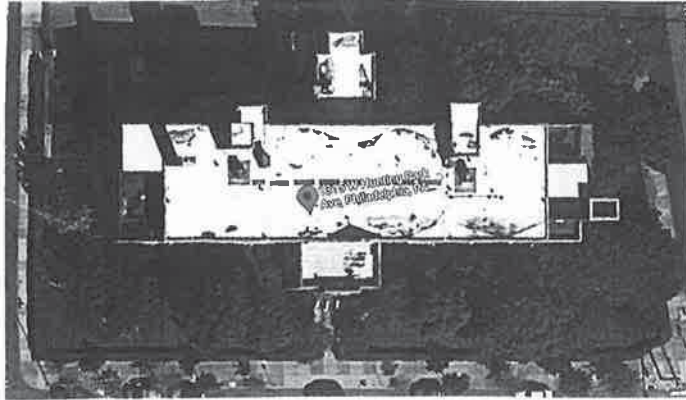
in 1853 for the "medical and surgical treatment of the sick and infirm deserving poor," had been "unsectarian and depends for its support...the voluntary contributions of the benevolent."¹⁸ Its location was 1518-1520 Lombard Street, within a thick enclave of brick buildings; public, residential and commercial, not in a sparsely-built area, nor in a Pennsylvania School of Hospital Design plan.

These facts, along with a background in Philadelphia's care for the destitute with fatal conditions, direct to the uniqueness of the Sacred Heart Home's purpose here from 1930, as well as why the 1951 design by Gleeson & Mulrooney incorporated 18th century architectural conventions which the Dominican Sisters had found to be proper for their hospice treatment, as well as a plan which could afford space for a Chapel, residence for the nursing nuns, offices and in-house conveniences (i.e., the laundry, kitchen, patient baths, etc....) The building design also suited the rural-like area next to Hunting Park. By 1951, Little Flower High School (1938-1939) and rows of homes already existed in the area, but their relative distance from the large lot upon which the Home was located, maintained the plan for a horizontal building for the Home's operation. (This is no longer true at the present, with a CVS store abutting the Home at the west and high traffic diverting from Roosevelt Boulevard into the "Hunting Park Avenue Exit" to Broad Street, which is near the Home.)

Photographs of Pennsylvania Hospital and St. Agnes Hospital demonstrate the original plan with one subsequently adapted by local Catholic nuns for their hospital; the mid-20th century modern plan at Sacred Heart Home continues this hospital pattern.(Over)

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 1682ii.

Aerial of
Sacred Heart Home.
(1951-1952)



Engraved by W. Cooke, 1803, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Sacred Heart Home's plan is modeled more after Pennsylvania Hospital's influential design with the projecting center unit and wings. Pennsylvania's plan evolved from 1755 to 1796 upon completion of the center and wings. This design was different from the one below, that of the Pennsylvania School of Hospital design initiated in 1836 by Isaac Holden and copied by Samuel Sloan in 1856 with the extensions.

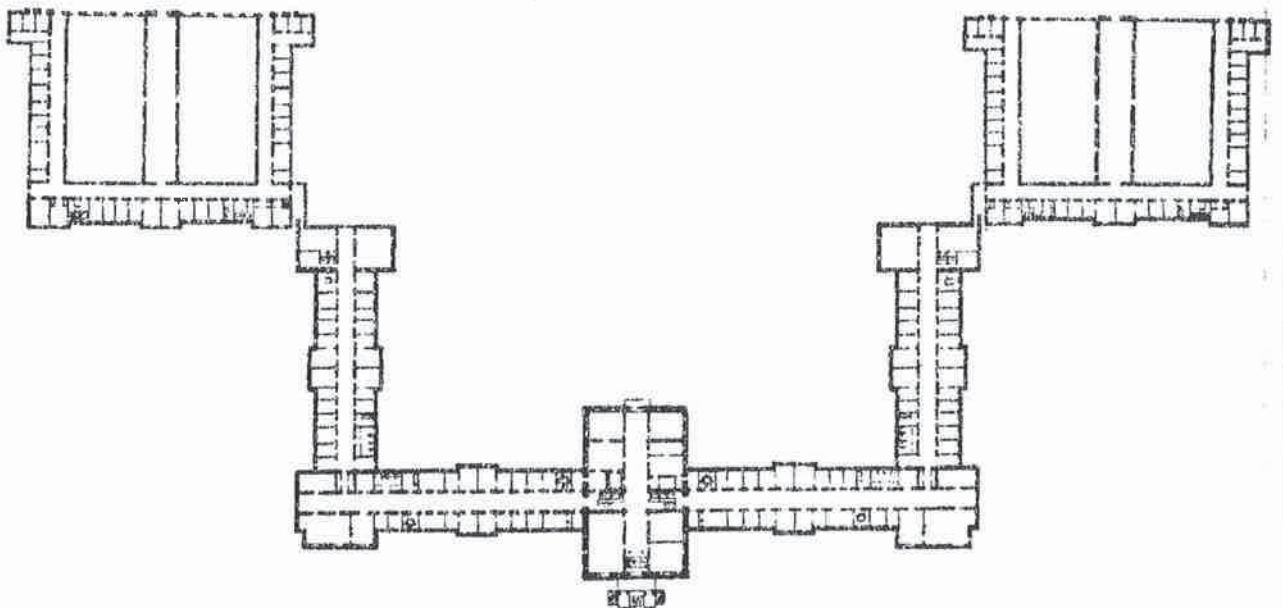
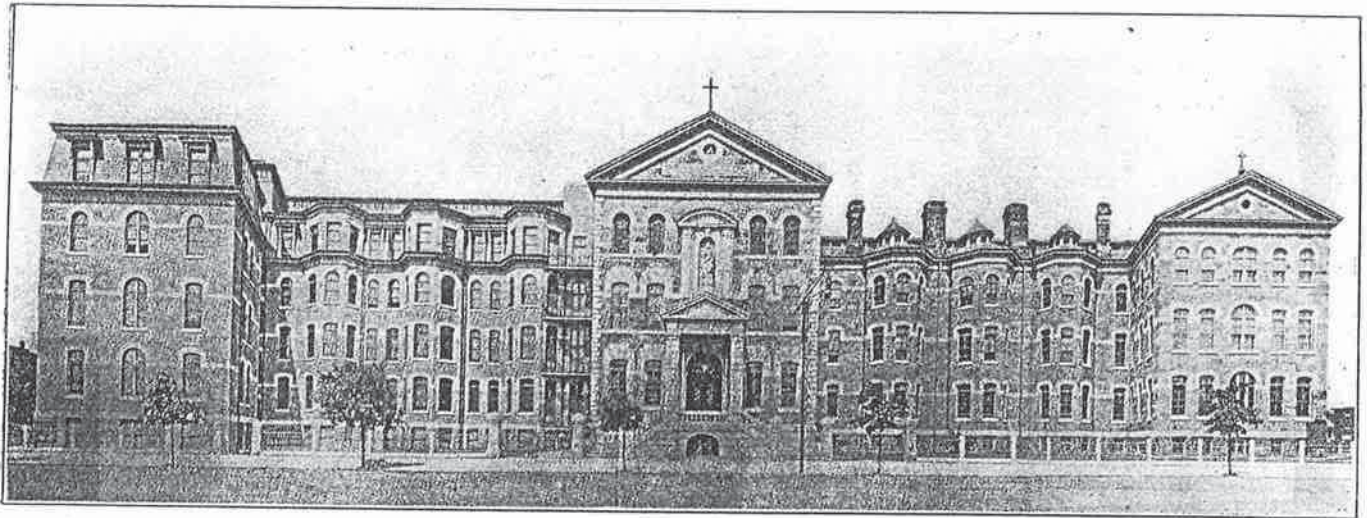


FIG. 27. Samuel Sloan. Pennsylvania Hospital Mental Department. From Kirkbride, T. S., *Hospitals for the Insane*.



ST. AGNES HOSPITAL

Now, demolished, this Catholic hospital was on the 1900 block of South Broad Street. Constructed in 1888, the design proves the effectiveness of Pennsylvania Hospital's 18th century plan at the 8th and Pine Streets location.¹⁹ The facility was run by the Franciscan Sisters.

An architectural firm of Roman Catholic architects, Gleeson and Mulrooney had scant experience in hospital design, but obviously relied upon traditional plans which were used nation-wide, such as the one at Pennsylvania Hospital. A center unit, the axis or the point of origination for hospital activities, would be the main entry, but also orient the visitor to which wing provided what was sought. The horizontal movement allowed proximity to ground-level activity as well.

Sacred Heart Home's 1951-1952 plan evolved from Pennsylvania Hospital's also in that the site afforded an environment that was more rural than urban, to aid in the palliative care where serenity and a natural setting had proven healing qualities.

Sacred Heart Home's design had no need for pavilions as with the Pennsylvania School of Hospital Design of 1836 (by Holden). But the 18th century plan sufficed for the type of cases, treatments and limited number of beds the Sisters wanted. (See next page.)

¹⁹ Mahony, D., *Historical Sketches...* Phila.: 1985, p. 201.

ROSARY HILL HOME
HAWTHORNE, NEW YORK

August 2, 1949

His Eminence
Dennis Cardinal Dougherty
225 North 18th Street
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Your Eminence:

Last Wednesday when we had the privilege of talking with Your Eminence in regard to building a new Sacred Heart Home for Incurable Cancer, you suggested that we submit our plans in writing, which we hereby do, for your advice and approval.

The main building of the Sacred Heart Home as it stands today was purchased in 1929, and was even at that time very old and required considerable repairs. In 1939 a new wing was added to provide accommodation for about forty-five additional patients. This new wing is in very good condition, and our first thought was to tear down the old main building and erect the new Home on the same site. This, however, would necessitate closing the Home entirely for a year or more, thereby depriving many afflicted poor of the spiritual and temporal privileges our institution affords. We considered the possibility of caring for a small number of sick in the annex, but this would be extremely difficult as a temporary Chapel, laundry, kitchen and Sisters' quarters would have to be provided.

With this picture before us, we have reached the conclusion that it would be

ROSARY HILL HOME
HAWTHORNE, NEW YORK

- 2 -

His Eminence
Dennis Cardinal Dougherty August 2, 1949

better for all concerned to purchase another piece of property and erect an entirely new building to which, upon completion, the patients could be transferred with very little inconvenience. We should like a location away from the noise of the city but one that could be conveniently reached by the patients' visitors. Mr. Walter Gibbons has kindly offered to look around for just such a site. There is a remote possibility that we may even find a building that could be used, but we are not too optimistic in this respect.

The architects have given us a tentative estimate of \$450,000.00 for erecting a new main building on the present site, but, of course if we should decide to buy and build elsewhere the cost would be considerably increased. The assets of the Sacred Heart Home amount to at the present time, approximately \$500,000.00, consisting of \$240,000.00 in securities and \$260,000.00 in cash. Realizing that this sum would be wholly inadequate, we requested Your Eminence's permission to place an appeal in the papers and in keeping with your suggestion, we are preparing this appeal in the form of a story of Mother Alphonsa and the work she founded. We shall send Your Eminence a copy as soon as same is ready for publication. The people of Philadelphia have been extremely generous to us through all these years and we confidently believe that they will be eager to help us in this new project.

We should like to express to Your Eminence our profound gratitude for your kindness and generosity. As a small expression of our esteem we are having the Holy Sacrifice of

The former Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer...

- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect...whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social or cultural development of the City:

GLEESON & MULROONEY

This short-lived firm had a very long list of projects which would qualify it as one which had "influenced the historical...economic...(or) cultural development" of Northeast Philadelphia's many Catholic parish communities. The architects had designed a Neo-Classical Northeast Catholic High School for Boys in 1926, but this seemed anomalous to the designs for several Catholic parish buildings in areas now separated as "Lower Northeast," "Northeast" and "Far Northeast." The architects were sensitive to the economics of these groups in that Catholic services would be held (for years) in the basements or "lower churches" while accruing finances for an upper church, as in St. Helena's in Olney, or St. Matthew's in Mayfair, or at St. William's in Lawndale or St. Bernard's between Holmesburg and Tacony.²⁰ Priority was given to erect parochial schools for the young couples moving into the inexpensive rowhouses. From the 1920s, through the 1930s,²¹ Gleeson & Mulrooney were busy on projects in Northeast Philadelphia as developing the former farmlands into fast-selling residences drew builders towards where fortunes were made during these Depression years. Sam Bass Warner's graph (below)²² shows how more schools arose in the Northeast, than anywhere else in the City.

TYPES OF STRUCTURES, BY DISTRICT,
1935

	<i>Percent of Structure Type in a District</i>			
	<i>School</i>	<i>Retail</i>	<i>Wholesale</i>	<i>Factory</i>
Center	17.0	41.0	65.8	30.1
Northeast	32.7	21.5	18.7	40.6
South	12.4	3.9	3.0	8.9
West	16.1	14.5	5.6	6.8
Northwest	21.8	19.1	6.9	13.6
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Number of Structures</i>				
	350	9,915	2,577	5,584

Tatman and Moss' project list on Gleeson & Mulrooney noted their education at the University of Pennsylvania, which is also where the Dagit brothers and other architects had gone. There seemed to be some classical training in the curriculum for the Northeast Catholic design, then the Wills Eye building at 1701 Spring Garden Street which also had a portico with columns. Time constraints barred further research into each individual church on the project list, but past readings indicated other architects involved in the same buildings as G&M, such as St. William's, attributed to Paul Henon and the Corpus Christi Church where Durang and Lovatt also worked. However, the firm's more technical skills would create the convent for Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church-School c. 1952, where the design correlates to the Albert Dagit church design with the Chinese motifs.

Gleeson & Mulrooney's modern, geometric designs in ecclesiastical architecture is most evident at the Stella Maris Church in South Philadelphia with its horizontal, rectangular form and sets of windows creating the visual pattern at the rather plain facade. This, along with the Sacred Heart Home would represent how the architects used only suggestive ornamentation to identify the buildings as truly Roman Catholic: the statue of the Sacred Heart at the Home, and statue of Mary under the title Stella Maris (Star of the Sea in Latin). No Protestant church would ever have these. (Stella Maris church was dedicated in 1956.)

John McShain's participation with Sacred Heart Home must also be noted in its history. As the father of a child who became a nun bound by vows of poverty and obedience (his only child), John

²⁰ Archdiocesan Staff, Our Faith-Filled Heritage. 2007, pp.149;151-152;169.

²¹ According to Tatman and Moss' compilations (undated) at "phila-delphiabuildings.org."

²² Warner, Sam Bass, The Private City. Univ.of Penna., 1996, p. 195.

McShain evidently read or heard about the need for a larger and newer facility and he came forward as "the lowest bidder." McShain had then been head of the City's Zoning Commission,²³ but his company also had a great number of government projects completed by the time he took on this rather small building (as compared to the Pentagon which his firm constructed.) McShain lived locally, at the Barclay Hotel (which he built) and was a reliable choice by the Archdiocese: a religious man, faithful to the Church and not involved in politics as one of his competitors, Matthew McCloskey, to whom the Cardinal gave many large building projects.

McShain told the Dominican nuns that the work would "be completed in thirteen months" which may have been as fast as the men could do. Each cancer patient had to find another place that was acceptable and accepting of their conditions. Cancer can be a disgusting disease to treat, and depending on the type of cancer and the place of the cancer on the body, there can be horrendous odors. Advancements in the treatment of cancer by 1951 resulted in the Cancer Act (1937) which established the National Institute for Cancer. As the #2 cause of death in the country in 1933,²⁴ Americans became more sensitive to those suffering or treating, but still, the care was specialized and few hospitals were equipped to handle the incurables. Notre Dame Clinic in West Philadelphia (near the old Home for Incurables) had taken in Sacred Heart Home's patients without remuneration. (See next page's news clips.)

McShain's father, John Sr. and uncle William McShane (the spellings were interchangeable) built many Catholic churches and parochial buildings with Edwin F. Durang in the 1880s to 1910s.²⁵ The brothers, then John, Jr. had a long, established name in the City and were grateful for Archdiocesan commissions, but their

²³Clark, Dennis, The Irish in Philadelphia. Temple Univ., 1973, p.157.
²⁴Duffy, John, From Humors to Medical Science. Univ. of IL, 1993, p.253.
²⁵"Album" of Edwin F. Durang with advertizements. c.1910. CHRC.

Cancer Home Seeks \$500,000

FEB 25 1950 NE
Appeal by Sacred
Heart Institution

An appeal for \$500,000, the first in 20 years, has been launched by the Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer, 4200 York road, with which to replace and expand its facilities.

The home has been supported entirely by goodwill contributions and has served more than 4,000 patients of all creeds and races since it was opened in 1930.

Last year the home cared for 303 patients, while at present there are 25 on its waiting list. The home is maintained by 12 Dominican nuns, known as Servants for Relief of Incurable Cancer, and is supervised by Sister Mary Regina.

The order was founded about 50 years ago by Mrs. Rose Lathrop, of New York, daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author, who became Mother Alphonsa. There are five other similar homes in the United States.

Cancer Hospital To Be Erected

MAY 29 1951 FA*
Sacred Heart Building
Will Cost \$650,000

A building permit was issued today to John McShain, Inc., for construction of a \$650,000 cancer hospital building at the northwest corner of Hunting Park av. and Old York road.

The three-story building will replace and expand the facilities of the Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer. The new structure will occupy a lot 282 by 200 feet, and will accommodate about 100 patients.

Completion is scheduled within 15 months. Gleeson & Mulrooney are the architects.

The Fleming Co., contractors, received a permit to erect a three-story stone dormitory building at 3615-17 Locust st., for Phi Sigma Kappa, at a cost of \$105,000. Abraham Levy, architect, prepared the plans.

Chronology of reports
by "The Evening Bulletin"
on the progress of the
nominated building's be-
ginnings.

Razing Started At Cancer Home

Sacred Heart to Have
New \$700,000 Edifice

Demolition of the old Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer, at 4200 Old York Road, was begun this week to make way for a modern three-story home that will cost approximately \$700,000.

A campaign is in progress to subscribe the cost of the institution, which is maintained by Dominican nuns. Over the past 20 years it has cared for more than 5,000 incurable, only slightly more than one-half of whom have been of the Catholic faith.

The home serves any who cannot afford care, and no patient has ever been charged all of the support coming from voluntary sources, according to Sister Mary Regina, superior of the staff of 11 Dominicans, known as Servants for Relief of Incurable Cancer.

Groups Raising Funds

The Knights of Columbus are currently raising \$25,000 and will hold a report meeting Monday night, at 157 N. 15th st. The Olney Lions Club is seeking \$20,000 to help the institution.

The present 46 patients were moved in 31 volunteered ambulances last week to temporary quarters in the Notre Dame Clinic, 47th st. and Wyalusing av., where free space was arranged for by Dr. Elise Whitlock-Rose.

The new home will have 110 beds, more than double the size of the old quarters that was originally the Lutheran Home for the Aged, now on Roosevelt boulevard. The architect is Gleeson and Mulrooney, and the contractor, John McShain.

Cancer Hospital To Be Dedicated

NOV 16 1952 J
Home for Incurables
Doubles Facilities

The new \$800,000 Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer, York road and Hunting Park av., will be dedicated at 4 P. M. today by Archbishop John F. O'Hara.

It will be open from 10 A. M. until 6 P. M. for public inspection. The new home will double the capacity for the indigent and incurable victims of cancer.

"It is a tribute to God's care of those who trust in Him for day to day existence and to our generous benefactors," the Dominican nuns at the institution said yesterday. The Dominicans are known as Servants for Relief for Incurable Cancer.

Free to Patients

Supported by volunteer contributions and legacies, while refusing any money from patients or families of patients, the non-sectarian home has cared for more than 5,000 patients over the last 20 years, barely one-half of whom have been of Catholic faith.

The new building is nearly, but not completely, paid for. Substantial gifts were made by the Knights of Columbus and by several Lions' Clubs.

To make way for the modern 100-bed hospital on its old site, 40 patients have been quartered rent free for the last 18 months at the Notre Dame Clinic, 47th st. and Wyalusing av. The patients will be transferred next Saturday by volunteer ambulances and cars of K. of C. members.

Includes Nuns' Quarters

The new three-story home provides sun parlors, a chapel, kitchen, laundry and a sisters' residence, in addition to the four and six-bed wards, which will be filled gradually over the next several months.

The Dominican charity was begun by Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author, of New York's East Side, about 60 years ago. She was concerned that hospitals would not accept or would turn out incurable cancer victims. She became a Catholic convert, and a Dominican nun, and then started the order, which founded the first home in New York.

ROSARY HILL HOME
HAWTHORNE
NEW YORK

80.8591

March 14, 1951

His Excellency
Most Rev. Hugh L. Lamb, D.D.
4625 Springfield Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

Your Excellency:

Referring to the enclosed notice of the meeting we would like to advise Your Excellency that the lowest bidder for the new home was John McShain, who submitted an estimate of \$814,700, and the work to be completed in thirteen months.

Anticipating the pleasure of seeing Your Excellency at the meeting and with every sincere wish, I beg to remain

Very sincerely in Christ

Mother M. Pierce C.O.

Enc.

charity to Archdiocesan causes and Orders dependent upon donations was second to the company's workforce. Yet, John McShain's involvement with this humble hospital--a meaningful job, and important in the City's Catholic history, as well as the affiliation with Nathaniel Hawthorne's daughter--meant that the Home would have excellent workmanship, top-graded materials and the "McShain, Inc." name to prove its quality. In terms of City history, there were not many McShain buildings in Northeast Philadelphia (if any at all) to compare with the "McShains" at Rittenhouse Square in Center City or in Washington, D.C. (where the company was renovating the White House for President Truman.)²⁶ Indeed, it is significant that John McShain, Inc. is included by name in this nomination for the founder's accomplishments and character. At a time when the City was in political chaos and the new Home Rule Charter, redevelopments and efforts to end widespread corruption in law enforcement, John McShain gave local Catholics pride in the one local institution deserving our respect and hope for a better City.

The Sacred Heart Home...

(h) ...its unique location...represents an established visual of the neighborhood.

The site was purchased in 1930 when the area was beginning to develop around Hunting Park, despite the route that Roosevelt Boulevard was taking to cross nearby at Broad Street. The Home is on a large tract, is landscaped and a single building that runs horizontally. It is a modern design and the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the portal distinguishes it as "Catholic" and institutional in form. The building is unlike the residential row across the street. It is an obvious sight now, architecturally.

²⁶"New York Times" obituary on "John McShain, 90, Constructor of Pentagon and Kennedy Center." September 19, 1989.

The Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer had only whatever was given to the Dominican Sisters for their care and for the poor they treated in this hospice. But the names associated with this Home were 20th century figures and known nationally or internationally: Rose Hawthorne Lathrop (awaiting canonization); Cardinal Dougherty; John McShain. And then there is the style applied to this hospice, which had begun in Philadelphia in the 18th century at Pennsylvania Hospital, modified for a contemporary plan. The architects were responsible for numerous projects in Northeast Philadelphia as the Catholic population grew and warranted more parishes to be founded and parochial buildings. Gleeson & Mulrooney are within the ranks of developers who shaped Northeast Philadelphia's architectural character when urbanization and economic incentives in housing created the northward movement.

Many reasons explain the historical significance of this building, and its value in the City's and Archdiocesan histories and therefore, this Commission is requested to consider it for the Register of Historical Buildings.

Celeste A. Morello, MS, MA
May, 2021 (During COVID.)

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Primary and Secondary):

Archdiocesan Staff, Our Faith-Filled Heritage. 2007.
Clark, Dennis, The Irish in Philadelphia. 1973.
Hitchcock, James, History of the Catholic Church. 2012.
Duffy, John, From Humors to Medical Science. 1993.
Mahony, D., Historical Sketches. 1895.
Maynard, Theodore, Great Catholics in American History. 1962.
Scharf and Westcott, History of Philadelphia. 1884.
Tatman and Moss, Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects.
Warner, Sam Bass, The Private City. 1996.
Webster, R., Philadelphia Preserved. 1981.
Rosenberg, C., The Care of Strangers. 1987.

OTHER SOURCES:

The New Catholic Encyclopedia (1967)
The New Standard Encyclopedia (1968)
Catholic Historical Research Center, Phila.:
 --Institutions: Sacred Heart Home; St. Agnes Hospital
 --Album, Edwin F. Durang
 --Correspondence, Cardinal Dougherty
Temple University Charles Library and Special Collections
On-line: phila.gov; pab.org; CatholicPhilly.com; The HibernoFiles.
 "New York Times"; GoogleMaps.
Pennsylvania Hospital Archives.
