

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

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)  
ELECTRONIC FILES MUST BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

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

Street address: 914-26 Christian Street

Postal code: 19147

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: St. Paul's Roman Catholic Parochial School

Current/Common Name: Christopher Columbus Charter School

**3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Building

Structure

Site

Object

**4. PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Condition:  excellent  good  fair  poor  ruins

Occupancy:  occupied  vacant  under construction  unknown

Current use: Charter School and paved parking lot/playground

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

*Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.*

**6. DESCRIPTION**

*Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.*

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

*Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.*

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1834 to 1957

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1905 (existing school building)

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Edwin F. Durang (existing school building)

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: John McShain, builder (existing school building)

Original owner: Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Other significant persons: \_\_\_\_\_

**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,
- (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 a bibliography.*

**9. NOMINATOR**

Organization N/A Date February 4, 2021

Name with Title Celeste A. Morello Email N/A

Street Address 1234 South Sheridan Street Telephone 215-334-6008

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19147

Nominator  is  is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: February 4, 2021

Correct-Complete  Incorrect-Incomplete Date: July 12, 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: July 30, 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Christopher Columbus Charter School

Address: 914-26 Christian St.

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19147

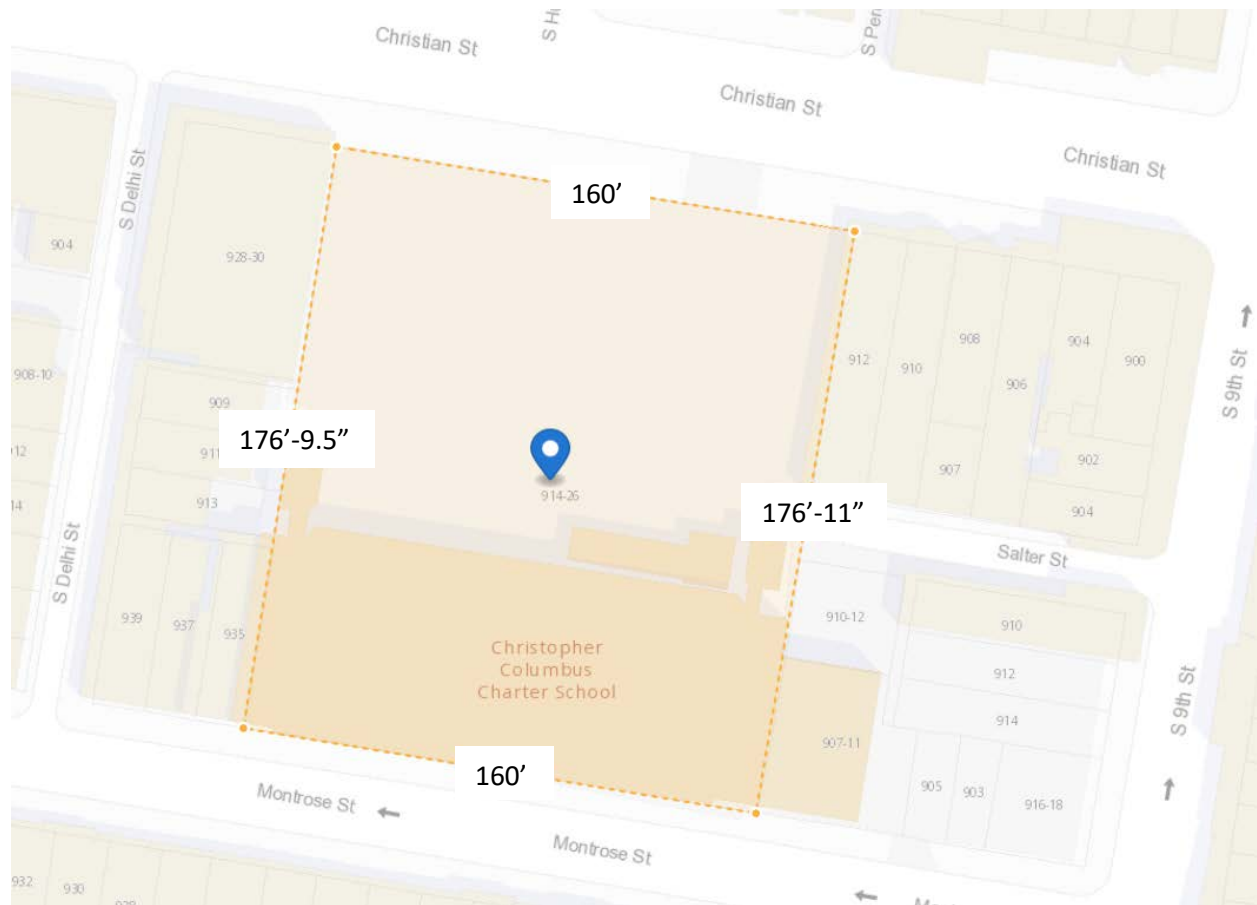
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: August 30, 2021

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: December 9, 2022

Date of Final Action: December 9, 2022

X] Designated  Rejected

### Boundary Description (Staff Supplemented)

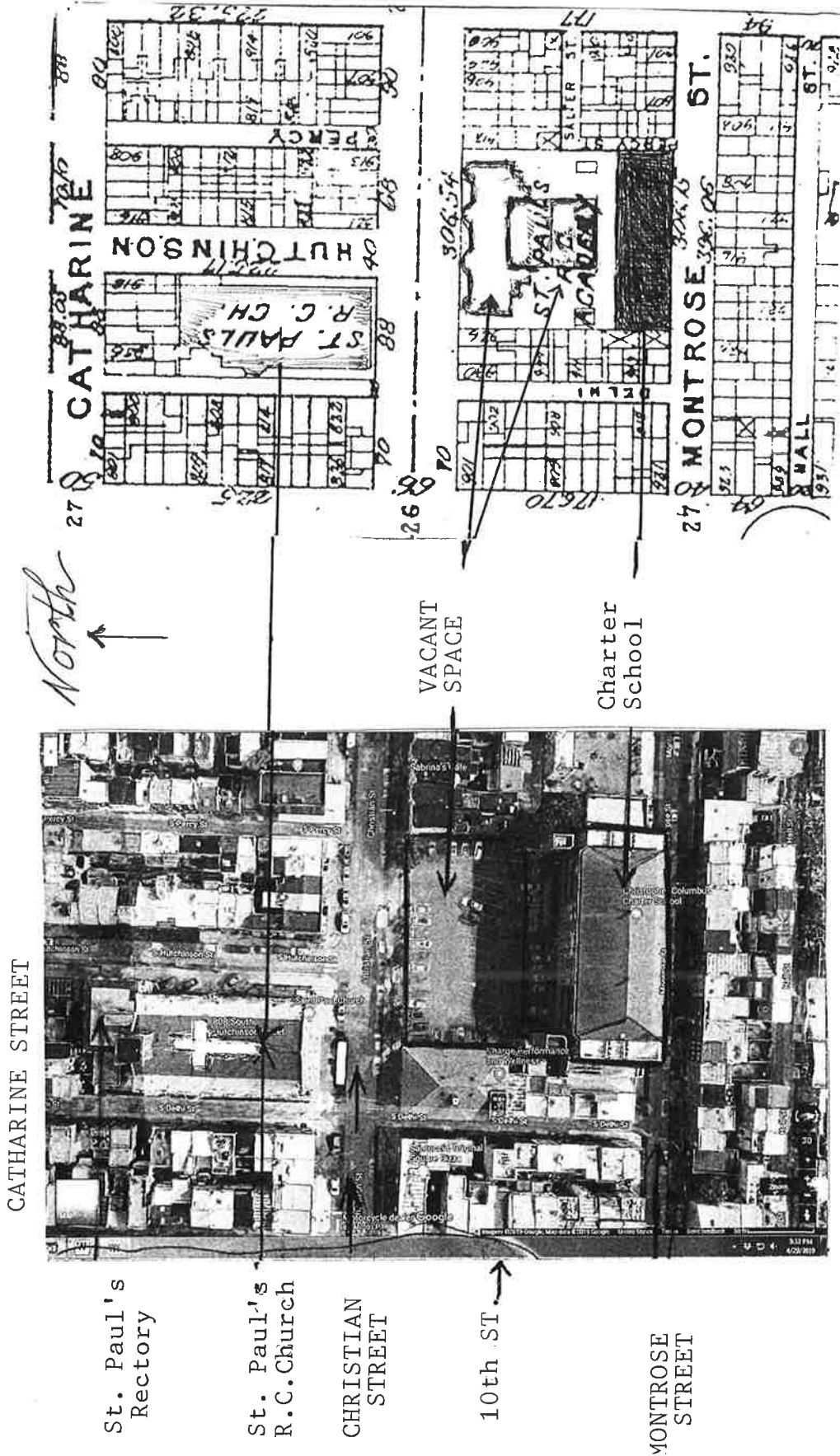


ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground together with the improvements thereon erected, situate in the 2nd Ward of the City of Philadelphia and described in accordance with a plan of property prepared by Barton and Martin Engineers, dated June 21, 1999, as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a point on the Southerly side of Christian Street (60 feet wide), said point being measured in a Westerly direction, along the said side of Christian Street 100 feet 0 inches from the Westerly side of 9th Street (50 feet wide) to the point of beginning; thence from said point of beginning extending in a Southerly direction, partially through a party wall, crossing the head of Salter Street (20 feet wide), parallel with 9th Street, 176 feet 11 inches to a point on the Northerly side of Montrose Street (40 feet wide); thence extending in a Westerly direction along the said side of Montrose Street 160 feet 0 inches to a point; thence extending in a Northerly direction, partially through a wall, parallel with 9th Street, 176 feet 9-1/2 inches to a point on the Southerly side of Christian Street; thence extending in an Easterly direction, along the said side of Christian Street 160 feet 0 inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

BEING No. 914-926 Christian Street.

Two fire towers non-contributing



2020 Google Maps View

1910 Atlas

Nominated properties: School building and  
 Vacant space: Archaeological potential.



DESCRIPTION: **Two fire towers non-contributing**

The nomination includes a paved vacant space along the Christian Street side that spans the entire width of the property.

In a southward direction from Christian Street, the paved area yields to a rectangular three-story brick building with a deep basement. Limestone courses wrap around the building at the basement-to-first level and base; limestone window sills enforce the horizontal aspect against the six bays divided by brick piers. This school building was designed for the facade on Montrose Street, and the north wall at the rear, on the Christian Street side when constructed in 1905. The Montrose Street entrances at the farthest bays indicate separate entrances into the school for the girls' side, then the separate boys' side. Projecting parts of the building more notable at the north side, are for the stairs (again) separating the girls from the boys within the same building.

Recent viewing of the building and its condition revealed need of cosmetic repairs to the mortar, brick and painted areas on the Montrose Street side facing rowhouses on a narrow street. There is a tall staircase at the north side leading from the basement (or parking lot) level to the elevated first floor. The window framing is slightly rounded at the lower levels while the third level is straight and under a wide copper (?) cornice emerging from the edge of the hip-roof,\* a very wide (about 122 feet) expanse. This school building's design has clean, mathematical proportions and is one of the few Archdiocesan schools architecturally-planned for the late Victorian Era which still is in use.

Other than the installation of 20th century windows and doors, the comparison between this building and the Durang (1910) photo is remarkably similar.

\*

Architect E.F. Durang's "Album" identified the "Meade Roofing and Cornice Company" as the contractor of the wide cornice and roof.

**Photographs (Staff Supplemented)**



Figure 1. The Montrose Street façade of the 1905 St. Paul's Parochial School, looking west. July 2021.



Figure 2. The Montrose Street façade of the 1905 St. Paul's Parochial School, looking east. July 2021.





Figure 3. Eastern entrance on the Montrose Street façade with 1905 cornerstone. July 2021.





Figure 4. Western entrance on the Montrose Street façade. July 2021.





Figure 5. Façade view from Christian Street with paved parking area where earlier buildings stood until 1957. July 2021.



Figure 6. Façade view from Christian Street with paved parking area where earlier buildings stood until 1957. July 2021.



*1924-25-10-26-54 Cont. S-1925 3. side Christian E. of Hutchinson*

Figure 7. St. Paul's Parochial School in 1954; demolished in 1957. Now the location of the paved parking area on Christian Street. Source: Phillyhistory.org.



STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE:

This nomination concerns two resources within one parcel: a school building from 1905 designed by architect Edwin F. Durang and constructed by John McShain<sup>1</sup>; and a now-vacant space used as a playground and parking lot. The space once was where two buildings occupied the site from 1833: Moyamensing Hall (1834-1854), which became the "Christian Street Hospital" from the Civil War years (1861-1865); then a convent and rectory for Roman Catholic religious. Adjoining this building from about 1896 to 1957 was the second St. Paul's Roman Catholic parochial school. Both buildings were demolished in 1957, per the City's zoning archive.

In 2005, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) approved the site based upon my research and Graduate History paper on the Civil War hospital, the "First Civil War U.S. Army hospital" where the "pioneering treatment of nerve and related disorders"<sup>2</sup> on the amputees ("stump cases") introduced new types of neurological and orthopaedic care in medical history. Many of the cases from this hospital were published in the Medical and Surgical History of the War Of The Rebellion (1877-1879) by the Government Printing Office. The National Archives holds the records from this hospital and the three prominent doctors who performed the "pioneering" experiments here published additional work.

Prior to the fitting for a hospital, the building was Moyamensing Hall where the basement remained almost intact (from 1833) to a resident who lived there until 1956. All governmental activities involving Moyamensing Township's development occurred here.

<sup>1</sup> "Album" of Edwin F. Durang & Son. Catholic Historical Research Center (CHRC) which included McShain's advertizement on St. Paul's.  
<sup>2</sup> My research in Washington, DC and in Philadelphia was in 2000; the paper was for Rev. Joseph Ryan, OSA's class; he specializes in the history of American medicine. The official PHMC marker's dedication was presided by PHMC Chair, Wayne Spilov, former Philadelphia Historical Commission Chair. The paper is attached as Appendix I.

Mindful that the Philadelphia Historical Commission's affirmative decision on this property would not impede any subdivision or improvement (i.e., construction), the vacant ground will be addressed at criteria (a), (b) and (i) on the archaeological potential at the subterranean level. Demolition of the two buildings before 1960 added fill to where one resident claimed that artifacts may be buried which date from the pre-Consolidation years, through the Victorian Era to when the residents (Norbertine friars) moved. Basements in both buildings were areas of activity.

This block and parcel are on a well-travelled street in Bella Vista, the former "Little Italy" of the 20th century. Several stores at the South 9th Street "Italian Market" share the block where this parcel is and many residents had attended the (third) St. Paul's School which was built originally for 2,000 students. By the mid-1990s, the Archdiocese sold the school, now the Christopher Columbus Charter School.

The volume of published work on the site and buildings thereon could include the history of the City, the Civil War, Archdiocesan efforts to aide immigrants from the 1840s to 1990s and even organized crime!<sup>3</sup> For this nomination, the emphasis is on what could be gleaned IF archaeological interest was pursued and why the pursuit would be historically-significant and fill a void in a history not yet uncovered. For these reasons, this nomination will merit historical designation by the Commission, per (a), (b), (e) and (i).

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

3

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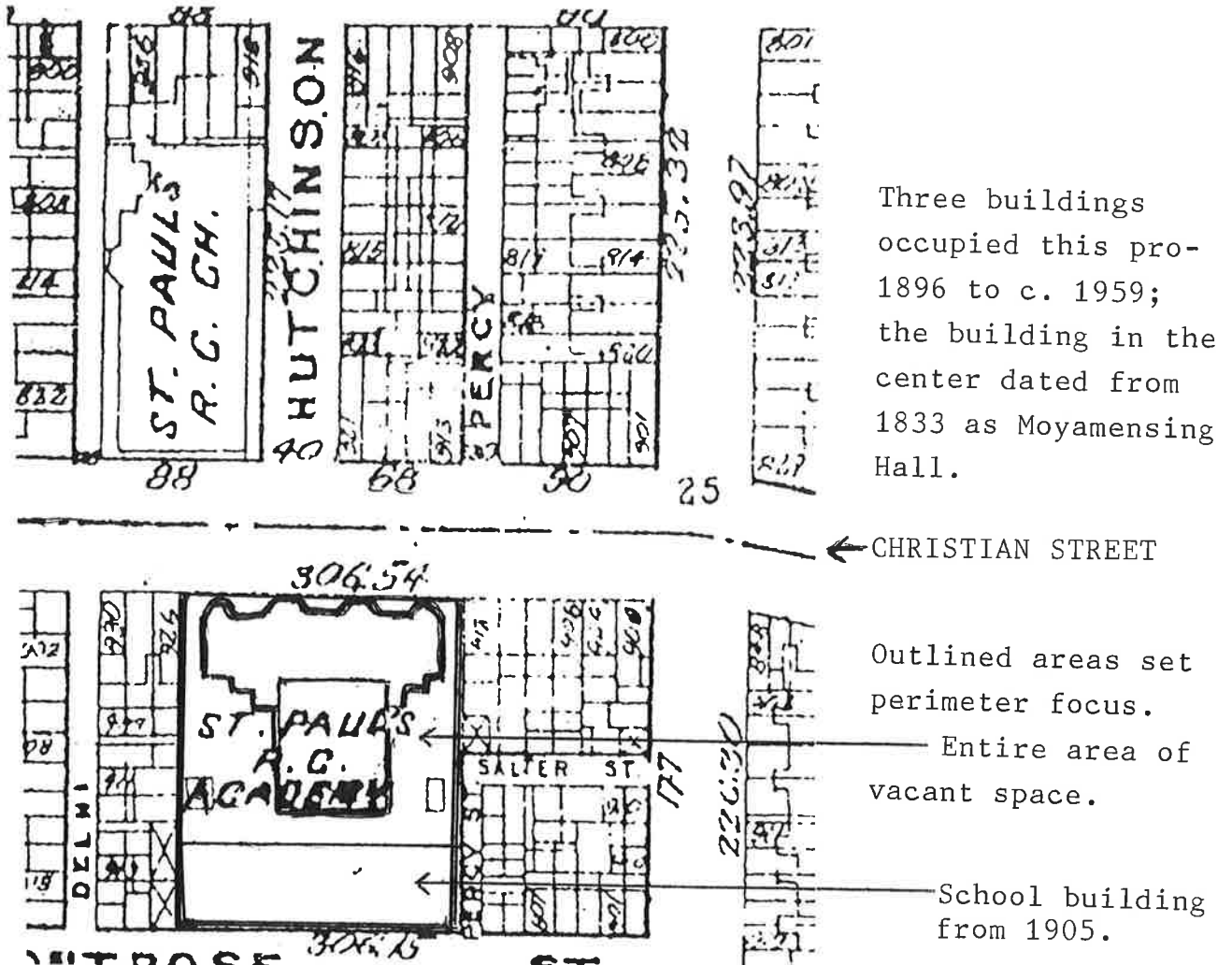
In August, 1866 a suspicious fire ruined the hospital's interior. The "work" was said to have been by local gangsters, assisted by fellow gangsters called the "Killers" from Moyamensing Hose Company. A century later, many La Cosa Nostra members would attend the school and play on the grounds, prior to their lives in crime.

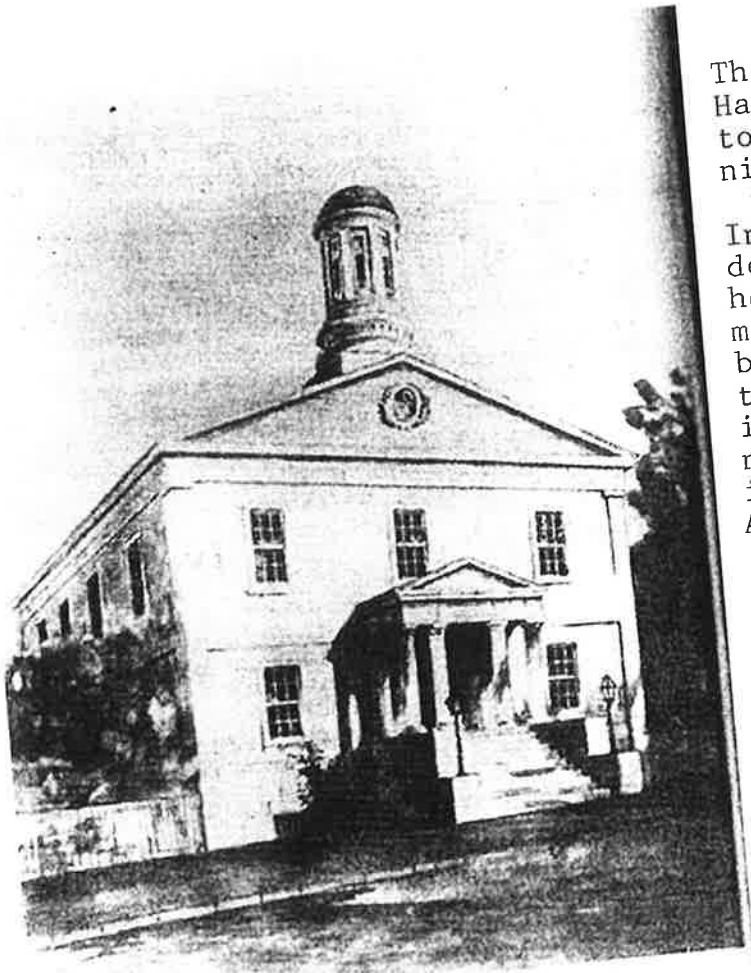
BACKGROUND:

The arguments for archaeological value to be discussed through criteria (a), (b) and (i) need visuals to verify the chronological timing of activity in the (demolished) buildings and how any material remnants of such activity would exist at the nominated resource herein, the playground or parking area facing Christian Street. These visual aids follow.

Below is an enlargement from the 1910 Atlas which shows how much of the vacant space now would be a potential site to explore any archaeological material of historical interest.

The outline of the stone foundations in the basements indicates what remains underground and not part of the demolition.





The only image of Moyamensing Hall is at left from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. (And also on-line.)

In a contemporary Neoclassical design, the Commissioners met here. The only recorded documentation originated from this building is the "Minutes" of the Board of Commissioners and it is one bound volume, beginning "October 26, 1846," ending on June 29, 1854. (City Archives.)

Compare this image to the photograph from c.1880 when the building was repaired (after the 1866 fire) for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Sisters' Motherhouse and novitiate are in Immaculata, Pennsylvania.

Scharf & Westcott's listing of "Moyamensing Hall" (1884, p.1776ii.)

Moyamensing Hall's Commissioners' "Minutes" from January 1, 1847 noted expenses for "Watching" (policing), "Fire Hose and Engine Companies," "patching, grading, paving, gravel" (for new streets), and "Expenses of "Eleventh Street Market" at 11th and Catharine Streets (Bella Vista Beer).

These costs represented growth of Moyamensing Township in Philadelphia County before the 1854 Consolidation.

**Moyamensing Hall.**—The commissioners of Moyamensing met in 1812 at the inn or tavern of William Daly, South Sixth Street. Afterward they occupied various rented rooms for some years. About 1833 a movement was made to provide a proper hall for the use of the district officers. A lot of ground was purchased on the south side of Christian Street, between Ninth and Tenth. A fine hall, with a marble front portico, was commenced in August, 1833. It was finished in November, 1834, and for twenty years was the principal voting-place in the district. During the cholera of 1866, the building not being in actual use, was selected to serve as a hospital for cholera patients in case the epidemic should be severe. The designation of the hall for such a purpose aroused apprehension and fear in the neighborhood. Protests were made against the proposed service. As disposed persons took an opportunity to settle the matter in a summary way. The hall was set on fire by incendiaries, and the interior destroyed, August 1866. The walls were in good condition. The property was afterward sold and rebuilt, and was occupied by a Roman Catholic institution.

# of Moyamensing for the Year 1846

Township of Moyamensing from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1846 to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1847

19

6<sup>th</sup>

1846 January 1 <sup>st</sup>	By this Amount of Outstanding Orders Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1846 and paid since	\$ 125 03
"	" " " " paid Expenses of Watching, lighting, Oil, Wages, Lamps, Repairs, Coal &c	57 17 12
"	" " " " " of Mending Roads Repairing Bridges Lumber Savel & Labour	19 27 25
"	" " " " " patching, grading, paving, gravel, stone flagging &c for streets	24 99 80
"	" " " " " New Pumps Repairing old Pumps Bricks &c	9 14 49
"	" " " " " Laying Water pipe, lead, Stop Cocks, & fire Plugs Labour, Wages Superintendent &c	50 83 63
"	" " " " " City in full of Water Rents for Year 1846	35 93 74
"	" " " " " paid Interest on Various Loans	52 42 56
"	" " " " " Expenses of Eleventh Street Market	75 00
"	" " " " " " Police	77 9 71
"	" " " " " " Fire House and Engine Companies	9 32 00
"	" " " " " Incidental Expenses Stationary printing, publishing, according &c	5 12 87
"	" " " " " Jacob Haas Executor 2 Loans of \$1000, each dated April 24 <sup>th</sup> with interest	22 29 20
"	" " " " " John Dowling On Acct of Bond of \$4000, dated Sep. 1831 with interest	20 39 86
"	" " " " " John to Jack Loan of 1840 in full with interest	10 2 35
"	" " " " " Small certificates of Loan of 1837 (shin plaster)	11 00
"	" " " " " Judgment of George Radford for Property lost Broad & Fitzwater	4 97 87
"	" " " " " Moses Thomas commissions &c for Sale of Alm. House	55 00
"	" " " " " Salaries &c	50 4 00
"	" " " " " Making out Tax Duplicates	100 00
"	" " " " " Commissions of Treasurer	30 3 62
	Balance in hands of Treasurer January 1 1847	11 74 11

One of the first pages in the "Minutes" of the Moyamensing Township Commissioners' meetings lists their expenses in 1846.

\$ 344 20 11

## Statement of the Credits of the Township of Moyamensing

By Balance of Registered Taxes, Paving, Curbing and Material furnished to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1847	\$ 17,375 41
" " due for Water-pipe laid due and unpaid January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1847	8,843 41
" Judgment against S. Martin with Interest	34 32

Meeting of the Board June 29<sup>th</sup> 1854

Present Messrs  
Callan Gallagher, J. J. O'Connell, John Kelly, J. J. Fogarty, J. J. Donohue,  
McGowan, <sup>Wright</sup> Fleming, and Gayle President

The Committee of Audit & Accounts made a Report that the Solicitor has collected for the District \$886.30 and that he has paid to the Treasurer \$742.69 leaving a balance due the district of \$1119.61 from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1853 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1854. On motion the Report was ordered to be filed.

A Petition signed John P. Kelly, James P. Kelly, James McGowan and George Fitzgerald calling the attention of the Board to the fact that when Petitioners were Commissioners

This is the last "Minutes" of June 29, 1854 recording: "...the existence of the Board of Commissioners of Moyamensing is now about to cease..."

by their removal and they ask compensation and salary

James Stewart for fifty dollars services rendered in 1848 running the Brandy line, Ret. Passengers and Moyamensing and other duties and eight cents for interest on same after a long debate the matter was referred to the New City Councils for the payment of interest

A Communication signed Mr. Cunningham Collector of Taxes of South Ward Stationer has taken up with the Committee a copy of the year of 1843 and asking satisfaction in his terms was read and agreed to

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Mr. Cunningham and agreed to

Whereas by virtue of the Constitution the existence of the Board of Commissioners of Moyamensing is now about to cease and whereas it is proper that a Provisional Officer with whom the Board has had frequent intercourse should have some testimonial of their consideration  
Resolved that

Edward C. Dun Collector of this district be by an honest manly and courteous department be given the best wishes and respect of the Board and that through a



The nominated site of the former "Christian Street Hospital"...

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation.

Early maps of Moyamensing Township lay a foundation for the settlement of the first Europeans in Pennsylvania: the Dutch and Swedes. Real estate deeds likewise prove ownership by these same groups in this area from the mid-1600s<sup>4</sup>. The choice for the 900 block of Christian Street as the site for the Township's new "Moyamensing Hall" by "About 1832"<sup>5</sup> likely was decided because the site was mid-way for residents of the Township, incorporated in 1812. By that time, growth within Moyamensing Township, just west of Southwark (from 5th Street) and south of South Street southward, was expected. Moyamensing Hall's purposes were very broad, as outlined in the 1846 and 1854 pages of the (elected) Commissioners' "Minutes" copied herein<sup>6</sup>.

The discussion to approve this site based on criterion (i) is based upon what activity from the 1833 to 1956 period remains at the subterranean level from the earliest time of activity. Besides what material articles might be among the dirt fill from the c.1959 demolition, the stone foundation walls in the building's basement remain. In an interview<sup>7</sup> with one of the last residents of this building, Father Francis Ciliberti, O.Praem., a Norbertine priest said that he saw in this basement: "stone walls," and "the shackles and irons" and metal "rings" still hanging on the walls." He lived in the 1833-1834 building from 1934 to its close in 1956. This information provided some context to local "policing" before the organization of the (present) Philadelphia Police Department. Father also added that the cool temperature of this basement level

<sup>4</sup> Deeds, City Archives.

<sup>5</sup> Scharf and Westcott, History of Philadelphia. Everts: 1884, p.1776ii.

<sup>6</sup> Copies obtained at City Archives.

<sup>7</sup> Ciliberti was among many interviewed while researching for the parish history of St. Paul's R.C. Church at 923 Christian Street: Beyond History: The Times and Peoples of St. Paul's R.C. Church, 1843 to 1993. Phila.: Jefferies & Manz, 1992.

and the space allowed the priests to store their "home-made wine" and perishables. Refrigeration in basements of this type was commonplace prior to electrical machines generating cold temperatures. (I noted this briefly in the "City Morgue" nomination in 2020.)

Demolition of buildings usually does not include lifting the stone or brick foundations--they are left and dirt is loaded into the voided areas and on top of the stone or brick where the superstructure would be attached. How extensive in size the basement level of this building was, had not been asked or given by Ciliberti in 1992. However, with certainty, the foundation walls provide a perimeter of the building and possibility of other such metal articles left from that pre-Consolidation time---and after.

On a national level, the "significant character, interest or value" of this site is based on the Civil War hospital that had converted Moyamensing Hall into a 220 to "396" bed facility.<sup>8</sup> The attached paper on this "U.S. Army Hospital," the "first" in the country provides more specifics on the activities here, primarily by Drs. Weir Mitchell, Keen and Morehouse, who used electricity, hyperdermic injections of various drugs and surgical techniques on those about to be, or already were the "stump cases," (amputees). Medically-related findings on this site may include bones (human and animal), metal apparatus, and possibly wood, pottery and glass all used in the treatments. The question is whether these objects would have been left and not discarded by the occupants from 1867 to 1956; the hundreds of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (to 1934); then the Norbertine priests (at least 45 of them). The latter, of which Father Ciliberti was one, were the last.

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Pennsylvania Register 193, General Hospital Christian Street, Philadelphia, May 4, 1861 to January 31, 1864 and Pennsylvania Register 199, CSH, May 26, 1864 to February 17, 1865.

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Civil War medical experiments and innovative medicine practiced at this site, if found in material artifacts, are a separate issue than the reason for the official historical marker approved for this site by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The PHMC's criteria for qualification differs from that of the local Historical Commission's, especially in the "development" of neurology and what was learned to advance orthopaedics for those with no recourse but amputation. Gunshot patients also contributed to medical practice (like in emergency cases), where various shapes, sizes and types of projectiles caused different damage to the affected areas. This is information of value.

Lastly, Father Ciliberti recalled a line of altars in the basement of the (second) St. Paul's School adjoined to the former hospital by 1896-1898. This building's basement had met the same situation as the older building. Spanning nearly the width of the property on the Christian Street boundary, this broad expanse would hold late Victorian Era cultural "characteristics" of the Roman Catholic Church<sup>9</sup> and of the priests who abjured luxuries. What was physically unremovable from these two buildings before 1960 would hold answers to a range of historical fields of study, from the local to national levels.

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The site at 914--926 Christian Street...

- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation:

#### THE CIVIL WAR

How Americans arrived at the thought that bloodshed was the only way to resolve political and cultural differences between

<sup>9</sup> Roman Catholic culture from the 1870s to just before reforms in Vatican II (c.1965) was considerably more demanding and ritual, and religious orders likewise had gone from severity to a relaxation in dress and activities, which would be noted materially.

the "North" and "South" is an issue long evaded by historians. The Christian Street Hospital's opening in May, 1861, just a few weeks after the firing upon Fort Sumpter, was an official response to what our elected officials knew was ahead. The U.S. Army Hospital's records for Christian Street begin on "May 4, 1861" when the former Moyamensing Hall was renovated for 220 beds, operating areas, public rooms (kitchen, dining and reception) with waste disposed outside. (This included medical waste.) The attached paper listed the "ailments," diseases and surgical matters treated. A verbatim account of certain patients' special and unique or "pioneering" treatments were also selected for the paper to demonstrate what the doctors found was unprecedented, but challenged in their experiments at the Christian Street Hospital. For example, Ludmerer, the author of *Learning to Heal: The Development of American Medical Education* (1985) wrote that the doctors at the Christian Street Hospital had tried "electric sensibility" and "electro-muscular contractility" during the Civil War years (1861-1865), but the technique did not appear until the early 1900s for other physicians' use.<sup>10</sup> Other novel medical techniques with drugs injected hypodermically eventually reached more doctors. Consequently, the Government Printing Office's multi-volumed *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* compiled in the late 1870s fulfilled the need for more medical knowledge from battlefield cases. The publication is still an extremely valuable resource.

"Civil War Medicine" brought the U.S. Government bureaucracy and the medical profession together, and at odds. Although the Christian Street Hospital is undoubtedly the "first" Army hospital, the soldier/patient was also graded by his medical condition and whether he was entitled to government remuneration and more care.

<sup>10</sup> Full citation: Ludmerer, Kenneth, *Learning to Heal....*Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985, pp. 132-133.

This part of the first page in the volume on the "G.H. Christian St., Phila., PA.) is stored at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. At "location," are some present-day Bella Vista landmarks:

"LOCATION" On Christian St. between 9 and 10 Sts. opposite St. Pauls Church, in Moyamensing Hall and pavilions. 'Stump cases' after Mar 64

NOTE House of Industry Catherine st., used as a Comr. Branch."

22

G.H.C.

CLASS	NO.	PAGE	Remaining in Hospital	DATE		CONTENTS	REMARKS
				FROM	TO		
<p>G.H. CHRISTIAN ST., PHILA., PA. (HOME GUARD HOSPL. June, 62.)</p> <p>OPENED March 61</p> <p>CLOSED Oct. 20. 64. Yats. to south St. Hospl.</p> <p>REOPENED Jan. 65. (W. of South Street)</p> <p>CLOSED Oct. 65. made P.H.</p> <p>LOCATION on Christian St. between 9 and 10 Sts. opposite St. Pauls church, in Moyamensing Hall &amp; pavilions. 'Stump cases' after Mar 64</p> <p>NOTE House of Industry, Catherine st., used as a Comr. Branch.</p>							
				May 4 61	Aug. 22. 62	1. 492	S. 2nd W.
				Apr. — 62	Jan. 31. 64	493-1980	"
				Jan. 28. 64	Sept. 30. 64	2548	" X
				Jan. — 64	Sept. 30. 64	Alph.	" No diag.
				— 63	— 64		WOUNDED Surgl.
				Oct. — 63	Sept. — 64		" Hist. of cases
				Oct 63	Sept. 64	Surgical	OPERATING CASES
				May 20. 64	Feb. — 65	Indexed	"
				June — 64	— 65	"	" " " "

Reg 193

195

195

194

194

198

Air Del. Hpt 511

Case 329

It would correlate to the other "firsts" originating at this hospital how the soldier/patient was regarded by the U.S. Government by Regiment, rank, etc... and that the doctors performing the treatment were also Government personnel and subjected to whatever Congress and the U.S. Surgeon General ordered. (Refer to Appendix I.)

But not for the Civil War, the U.S. Army Hospital on Christian Street would not have arisen, nor would the federal government have interest in what occurred here. The bureaucratic part of documenting admissions and those discharged and why same was done, along with what activities happened on the premises was the U.S. Government's direct concern. The U.S. Surgeon General was the contact between the Christian Street Hospital's doctors and patients, with "sick reports" forwarded to Washington, D.C.<sup>11</sup> Another "first" was when the Surgeon General re-designated the Christian Street Hospital from "General" to "Special"<sup>12</sup> for the treatment of nervous diseases. Doctors Mitchell, Kean and Morehouse primarily--there may have been others--were allowed more independence to experiment, use different narcotics and develop protocol. The papers and books written on the work done at the Christian Street Hospital established this site in American medical history well and extensively. The biographies of the doctors who performed their services at this hospital recalled continued work not only in neurology, but in wound care, anatomy and physiology and orthopaedics. (Refer to paper attached.)

Lastly, the Christian Street Hospital was closed by the summer of 1865. However, the interior hospital design led City officials to consider the building suitable to treat the latest cholera victims who needed to be removed to isolated stay in a hospital by 1866.

<sup>11</sup> Duffy, John, From Humors to Medical Science: A History of American Medicine. Chicago: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1993, p. 155.

<sup>12</sup> Kelly, H. and Burrage, W., Dictionary of American Medical Biography. Boston: Milford House, 1928; 1971, pp. 854, 867, 899. Also, a more subjective source: Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen, Gunshot Wounds and Other Injuries of Nerves. Phila.: Lippincott, 1864, p. 1 "Preface."

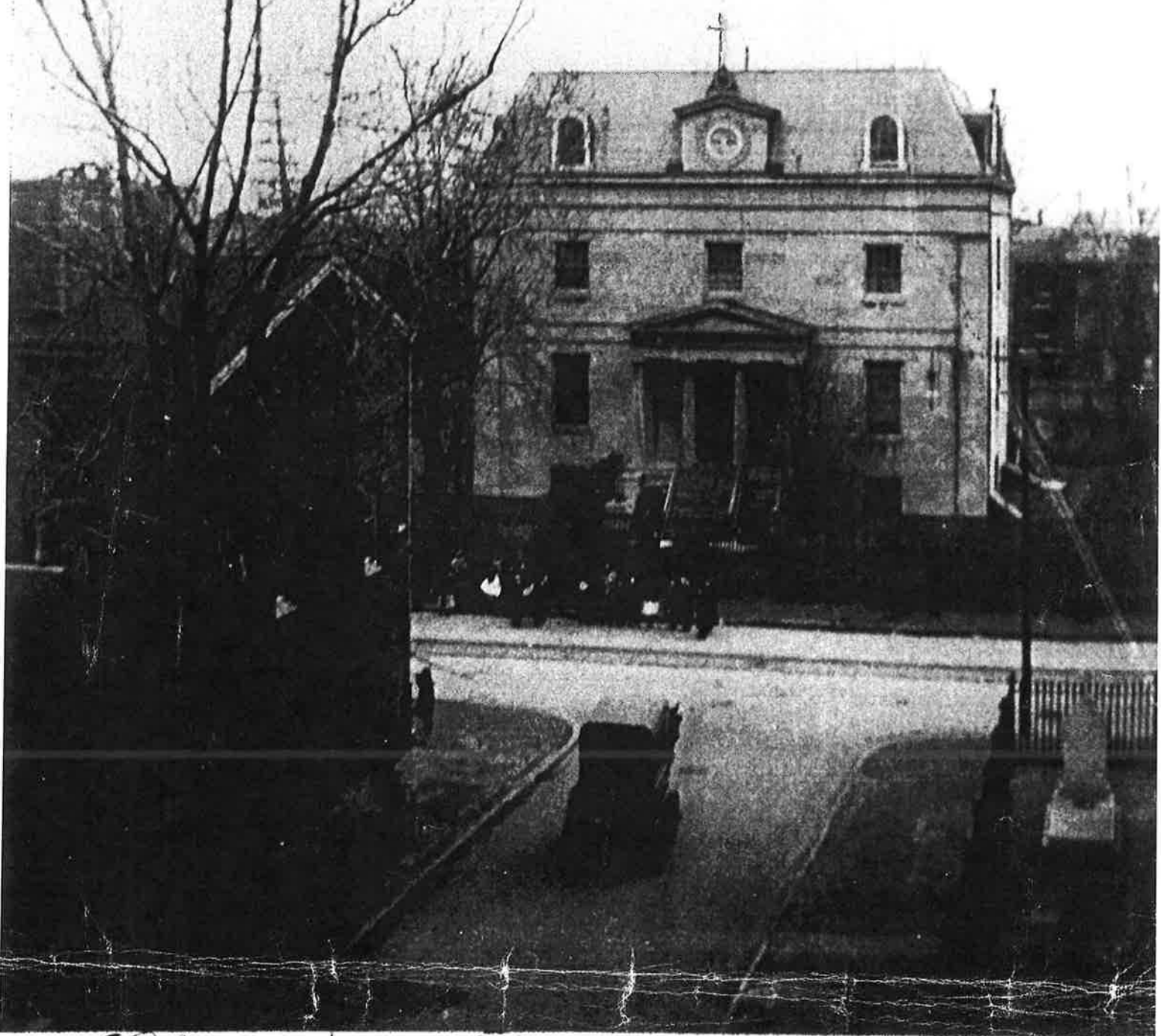




The 2005 dedication of the "CHRISTIAN STREET HOSPITAL" site included Civil War reenactors, PHMC Chair Wayne Spilov, Councilman Frank DiCicco, nominator, and students from the Christopher Columbus Charter School in front of lot.

187

Looking south from St. Paul's Rectory on Hutchinson Street towards Christian Street, this is the rehabilitated U.S. Army Hospital converted to a Roman Catholic convent, in about 1880. (St. Paul's first pastor, Father Patrick Sheridan's grave from 1879 is at right, bottom, establishing dating.)

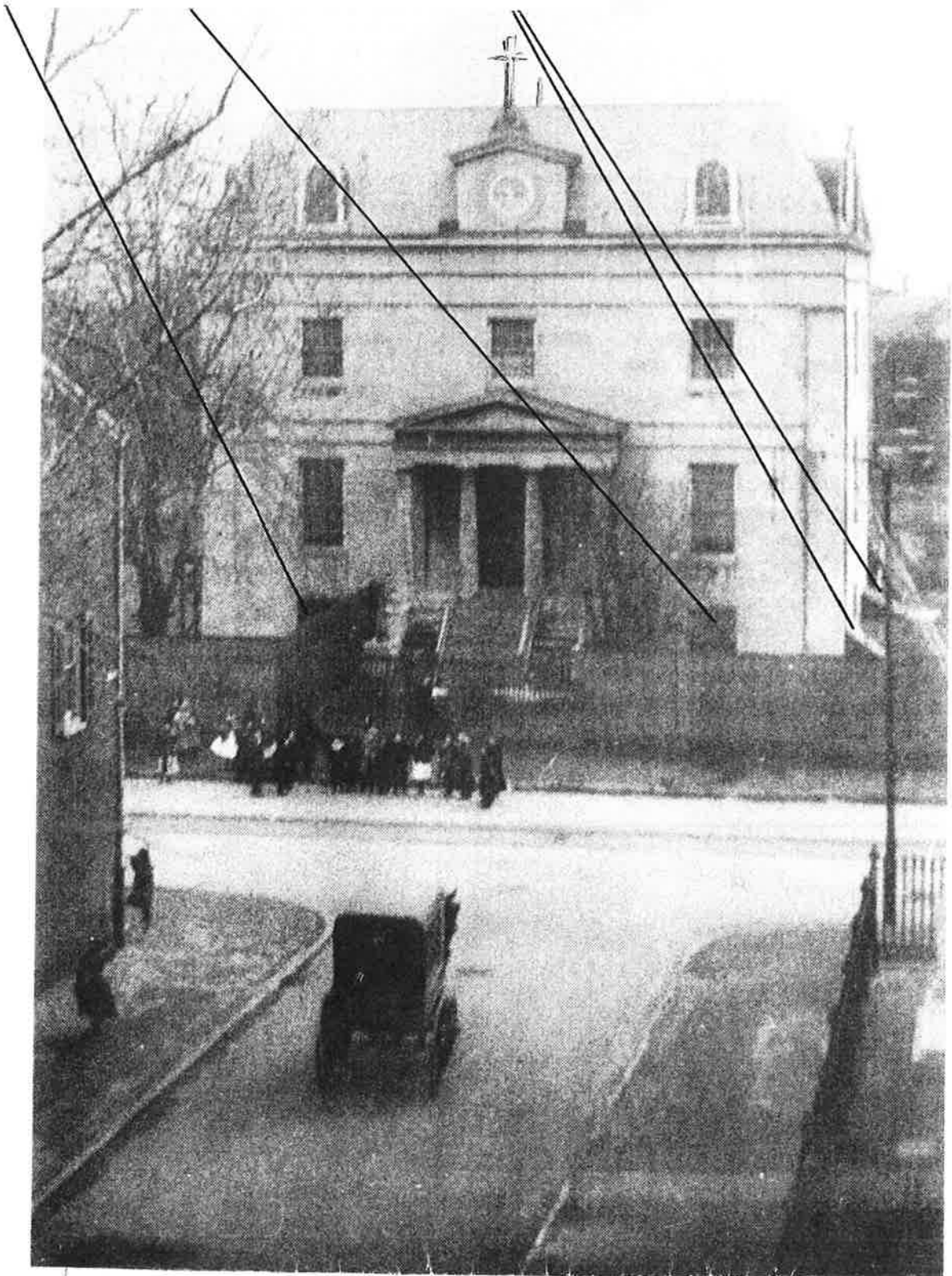


*Old Saint Paul's 920 Christian St.*

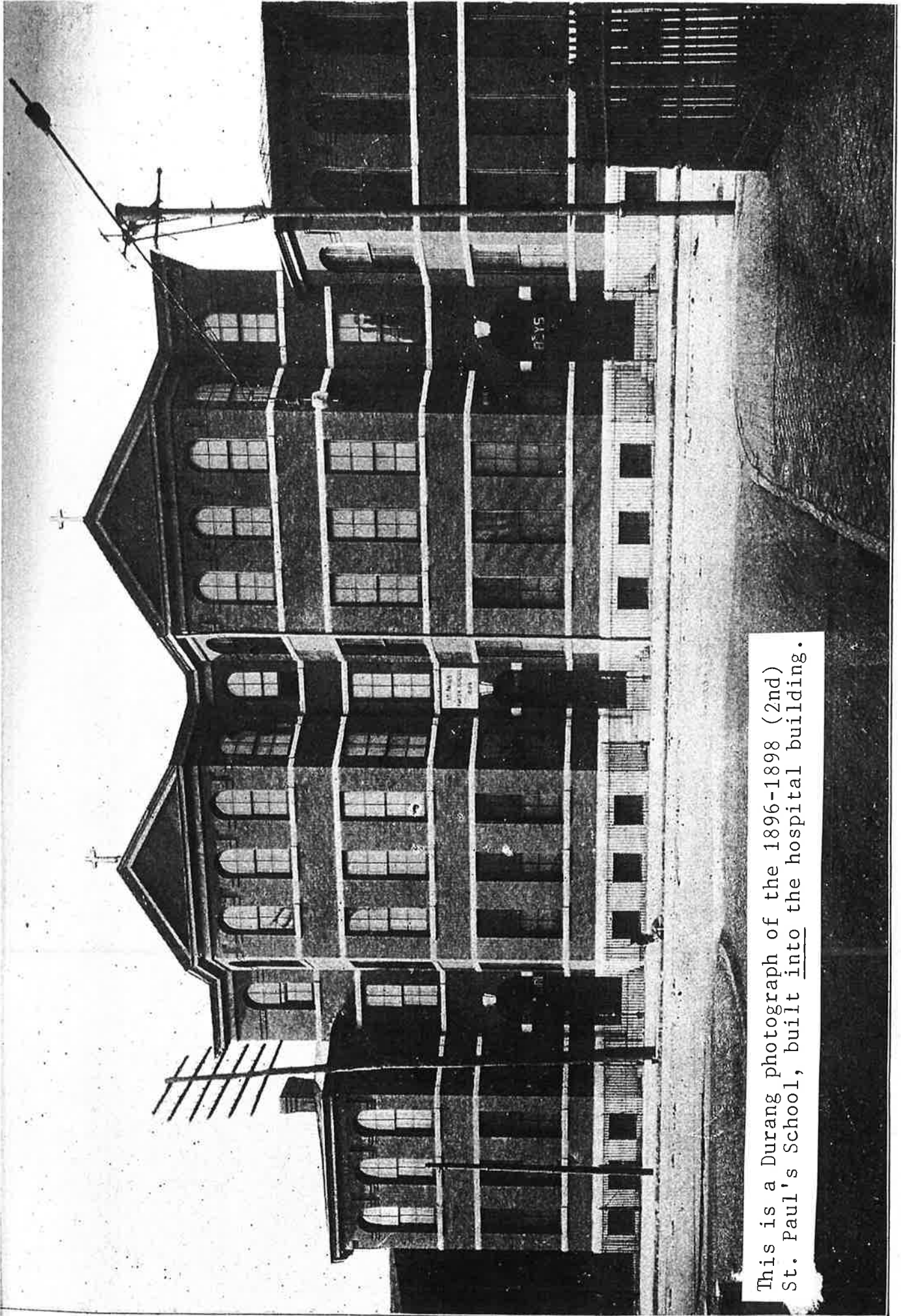
Archives: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

This photograph of a restored Moyamensing Hall-Christian Street Hospital into a convent is from c. 1880 and shows a deep basement level and access on sides.

(Source: IHM Sisters' Archives.)







This is a Durang photograph of the 1896-1898 (2nd) St. Paul's School, built into the hospital building.

It did not matter to locals that the Civil War hospital of so many "firsts" in American medicine, now abandoned, was to help the cholera patients. On August 4, 1866, at 3 AM, a fire of unknown origin(s) was set and engulfed the entire interior of the Civil War hospital. (The St. Paul's parish history cited "The Philadelphia Record" of August 17, 1884 for a 20 year retrospect.) The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (briefly, the "IHMs") recorded in their Annals this fire and how the building was shortly after acquired (along with the entire parcel that included the green space around the hospital). From about 1867 to about 1956, when the Norbertines moved out, the building and ground stretching from Montrose to Christian Streets in the center of this block was rife with activity from the Catholic religious residents.

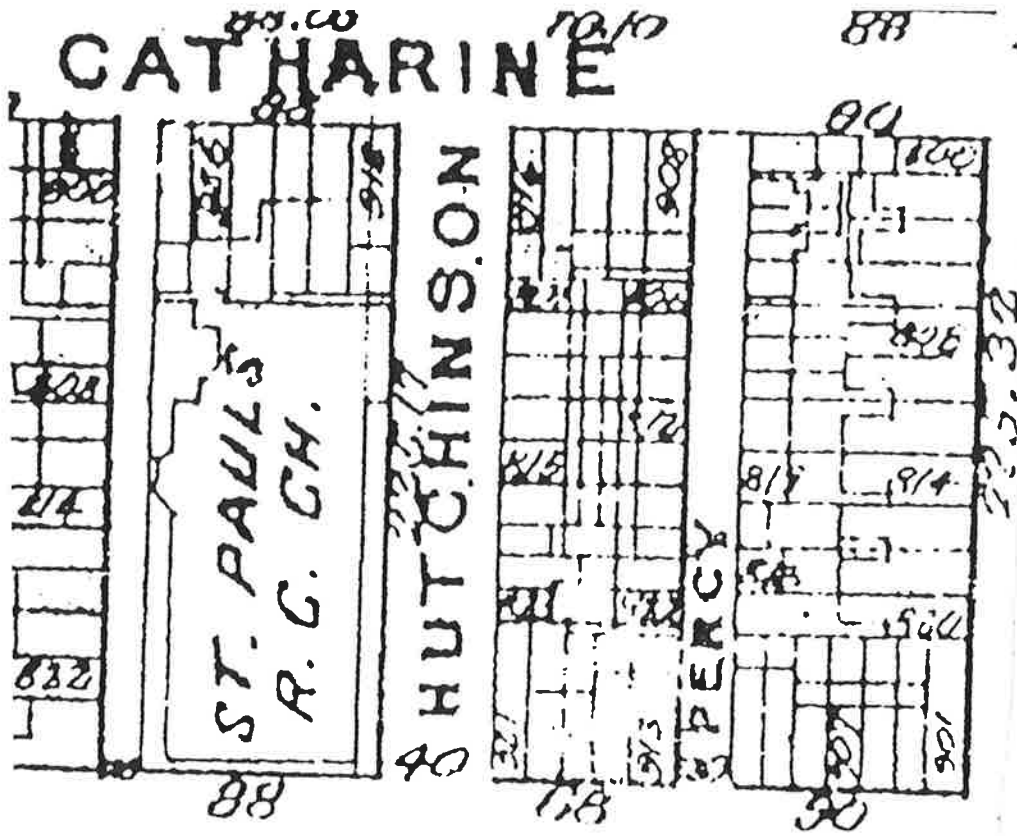
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The site of the former Buildings A. and B. on Christian Street...  
(i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

References to the previous discussions in (a) and (b), as well as to the paper in Appendix I. have already responded to this criterion generally, but the logistics have not been addressed.

A perimeter of the foundation walls to the 1834 and 1898 buildings is indeed possible. In fact, the 1910 Atlas enlargement shows how the 1898 building was constructed into the 1834 building's facade, making the perimeter continuous, but with identifiable foundations that separate the two buildings. (See next page.) (Evidently, the cartographer included information from past atlases and retained the location of the 1834 building's facade.)

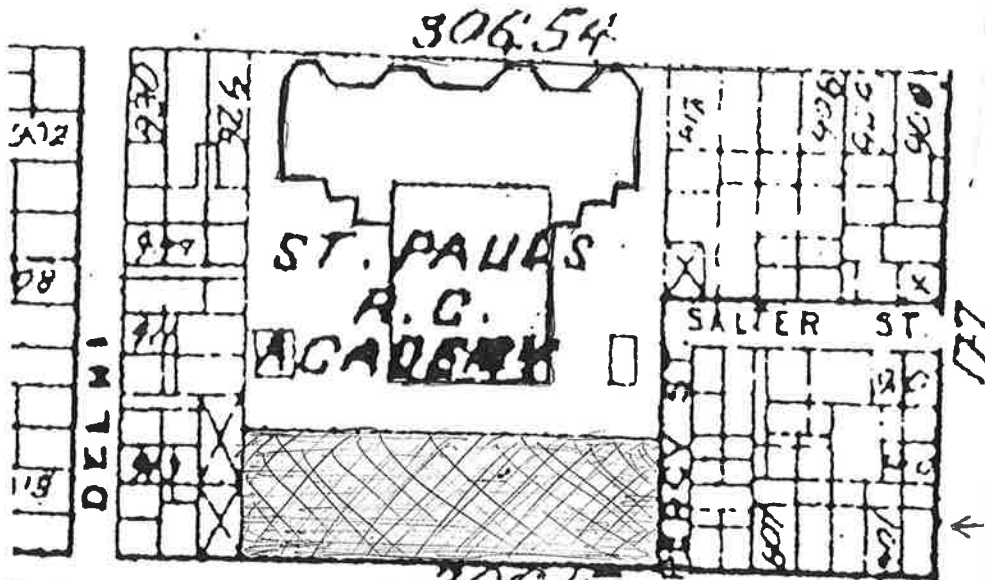
At last occupancy, both buildings were the residence of about forty-five Norbertines, according to Father Ciliberti. In the



↑ North

Measurements on this atlas (1910) are more precise than Hopkins' 1875 Atlas.

← CHRISTIAN STREET



Profiles of the 1834 and 1898 buildings to areas in perimeters where probable information of historical significance is located.

Shaded area is the C. Columbus Charter.





move to other quarters in 1956, there is nothing certain as to what these priests--who took the vow of poverty and who had few personal possessions--were able to remove to the next residence. Demolition for the two buildings would have taken weeks and at an affordable cost, which included not only wrecking a marble-faced 1834 building, but the brick school building from 1898 so close to the sidewalk on Christian Street. Hauling away the debris was part of the work as well; what may have become part of the "fill" underground could only be found through excavation.

The history of the 1834 building raised the "interest" and historical "value" of the types of activities on this property from the residents to the soldiers to the fire, then to scores of religious as occupants in both the old school and the building behind it. The reliance upon what the demolition preserved underground within the filled basements also contributes to the information on what was not hauled away in c. 1959. These reasons seem important considerations: it is possible that this parcel of choice Bella Vista land could be developed over this ground. (At this, the Commonwealth's historical marker would then suffice as a reminder of a small part of this property's wonderful past.)

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The former St. Paul's parochial school (Columbus Charter)...

(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect... whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural...of the City, Commonwealth or Nation.

The third St. Paul's parochial school was designed by Edwin F. Durang (1829-1911) who was the most commissioned architect for Archdiocesan work. Durang as one of the few ecclesiastical architects was also called upon to design ancillary buildings in

the Archdiocesan parish plan of church, rectory (residence for the priests), convent residence for the teaching nuns, and the elementary school. The 1905 nominated building is the second "St. Paul's School for Boys and Girls" designed by Durang within ten years. The next page shows the now-demolished St. Paul's School which had been on Christian Street and incorporated into the 1833-1834 old Moyamensing Hall/ Christian Street Hospital. With this building, Durang showed his knowledge and prowess in how to design a building to wrap into a marble porticoed-facade and preserving the marble side walls of the existing building. (Refer to page 22.)

Re-commissioned for a larger elementary school, and one still separating the boys from the girls, Durang designed the nominated school building, with its cornerstone bearing "19 + 05." Intended for 2,000 students, one notes how Durang's 1896-1898 school building had a facade on high-traffic Christian Street that was more impressive than the 1905 building's facade for narrow, residential Montrose Street where mainly residents travelled. However, the 1905 school's height was the same or nearly as the 1898 building, totally obscuring the old 1833 building between the two school buildings.

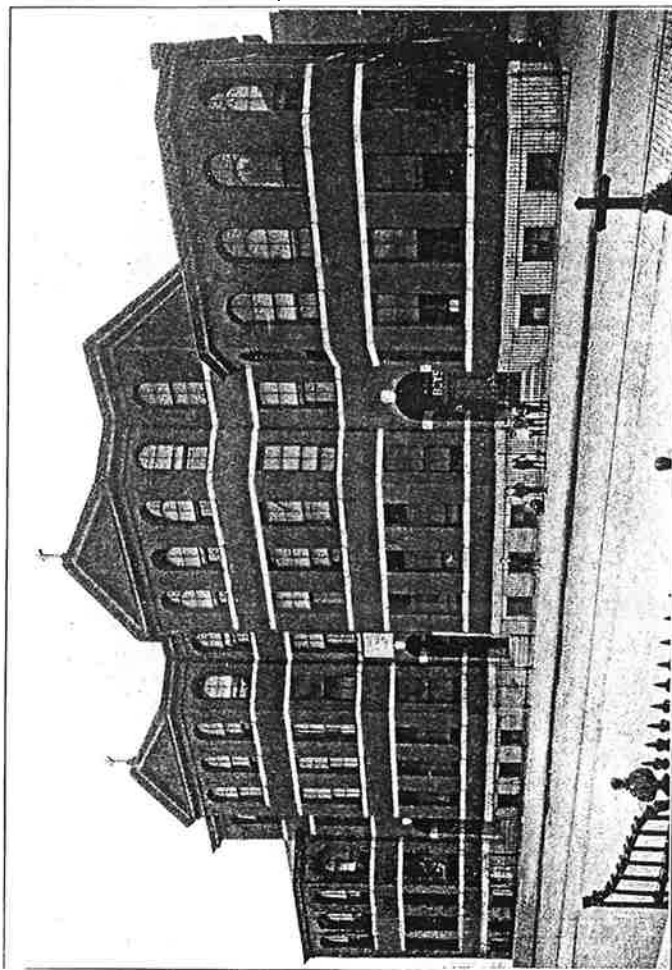
Durang's maturation as an architect from the 1850s to the early 20th century is evidenced in the nominated school building. "Modern" amenities were installed at the 1905 building: Giese & Goodyear Company's "combination gas and electric lighting fixtures," and the latest of "heating and ventilation pipework" from John P. Smith. They, along with the school's contractor, John McShain, named St. Paul's 1905 school in their advertizements<sup>13</sup> to stress the most upgraded utilities for residential or industrial usages.

<sup>13</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ "Album" of Edwin F. Durang & Son. CHRC.

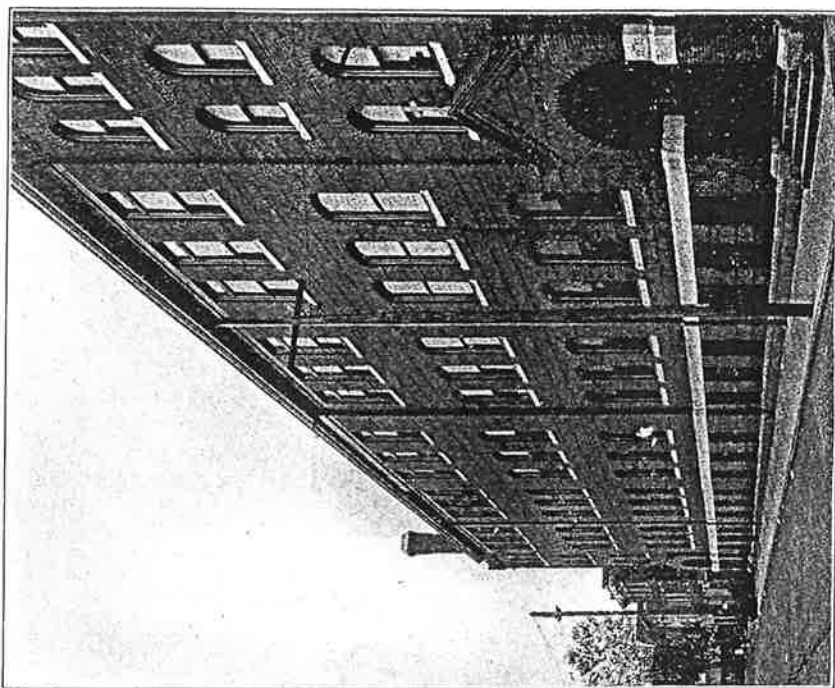
John McShain, builder, 631 North Seventh street, has been awarded the contract to build the new parochial school at Ninth, above Christian streets, at a cost of \$61,000. It will be three stories high, 160x60 feet and will be built of brick and contain all up-to-date school-house appointments. The plans and specifications by E. F. Durang, architect, 1200 Chestnut street.

*The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, vol. 20 no. 7, February 15, 1905, p. 99.

Arrow points to where building (at right) was located in relation to the building below.



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, NINTH AND CHRISTIAN STREETS, PHILA.



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, NINTH AND MONTROSE STREETS, PHILA.

Copies of photographs from "Album" of Edwin F. Durang & Son (c.1910)



Pictured left is architect Durang, c.1905. His 50+ years were mainly in ecclesiastical architecture for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, but he also did significant projects outside of the Commonwealth, such as Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and with local contractors/builders

*Edwin F. Durang*

¶ We are prepared to furnish the same quality in design and erection of Churches, Convents, Colleges, Schools, Dwellings, Hospitals, Municipal Buildings, Theatres, Office Buildings, Armories, Club Houses, Gymnasiums, Libraries, Natatoriums, Power Houses, Department Stores, Factories, Stables, Cold Storage Buildings and Breweries.

EDWIN F. DURANG

F. FERDINAND DURANG

# Edwin F. Durang & Son

Architects

1200 CHESTNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA



The genius of Durang is known by his skill to create exquisite churches testing the talents of the stone masons and the artesans who carved the leaves, swirls and motifs in limestone for the capitals on columns (which he also designed), or where his church interiors outdo the most ornate theatres in decoration. When Lorenzo Scattaglia was hired to paint frescoes in church sanctuaries to correlate to Durang's voided areas between the decorative moldings and vaulting, the height of Philadelphia's church design (only for Roman Catholic ones) was reached.

However, Durang would also be designing other buildings as he drew ecclesiasticals with the institutional projects. One of Durang's first large-scale institutional commissions was for the Franciscan nuns' St. Agnes Hospital in South Philadelphia in 1880. Meeting with hospital personnel, Durang would plan interiors as directed, with each floor for a separate purpose. He would proceed to other buildings for social welfare purposes, such as orphanages and St. Joseph's Protectorate, a home for delinquent girls and the Catholic Home for Destitute Children.<sup>14</sup> These buildings did not impede Durang's creativity in design: they would incorporate classical, Gothic or "hybrid" traditional styles.

For the instant St. Paul's School, now the Charter School, Durang hired John McShain, who promoted himself as "Contractor, Carpenter and Builder." Irish-born McShain (sometimes, McShane) (1860-1919) was the nephew of William J. McShane<sup>15</sup> who collaborated with Durang on buildings of varied designs as well as dimensions. The elder McShane worked with Durang on work for the Franciscan Sisters and the Augustinian priests' church of St. Thomas of Villanova on the then-college's campus. For the nephew, John, Durang already contracted him for the second St. Paul's School facing

<sup>14</sup> Tatman, S. and Moss, R., Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects. Boston: Hall, 1985, pp. 230-232.

<sup>15</sup> "Album." "The Hibernofiles," The McShains: Father and Son.(on-line).

Christian Street, from which the third St. Paul's School was derived in plan. John Mc Shain's work at the present-day Charter is a proven example of one of the few elementary parochial schools that the Archdiocese commissioned at this time to have survived in its 1905 condition. The nominated building's brickwork recalls what was done at the demolished 1898 building. Other elements in the 1905 building appear to have very similar workmanship as in the 1898 school regarding the placement of the windows, basement treatment and the use of rounded detailing.

This Commission has granted designation to many Durang designs (a number proposed by this nominator) and this architect's contribution to Philadelphia's architectural history is unmistakable for the late 19th century and early 20th century designs during a period of change and growth in the City's Catholic communities. Durang listened to his patrons' requests and he opened himself to how the Archdiocese was independently moving in social and educational areas to compete with public or governmental organizations. It was during Durang's years with the Archdiocese when the Roman Catholic Church here became firmly established as an organization and institutional concern. Constructing large buildings such as this nominated building in 1905 asserted the Archdiocese's status in the City as this school accommodated 2,000 students while nearby public schools and two other Catholic elementary schools (within two blocks) also had children whose parents renounced child labor or abandonment which were very common problems at the time.

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For the foregoing reasons, the nominated properties merit historical designation.

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



BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Primary and Secondary

Morello, C.A., Beyond History: The Times and Peoples of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, 1843-1993. Phila.: Jefferies & Manz, 1992.

Tatman, S. and Moss, R., Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects. Boston: Hall, 1985.

All other sources cited from paper in Appendix I., pp.19-21.

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Resource sites:

Catholic Historical Research Center, Phila.  
City Archives, Philadelphia  
College of Physicians' Library, Phila.  
Free Library of Philadelphia  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
National Archives, Washington, D.C.  
Archives, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Immaculata, Pennsylvania.

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Research originally began in 2000, then more to comply to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission's criteria for eligibility for the official historical marker.

The research had also been used in a Graduate History paper at Villanova University, attached as "Appendix I."

All individuals interviewed in 1992 for the St. Paul's parish history are deceased.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
300 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0024  
www.phmc.state.pa.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 19, 2001

Ms. Celeste Morello  
1234 South Sheridan Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-4820

Dear Ms. Morello:

I am pleased to inform you that our Commission has approved the U.S. Military Hospital at Christian Street historical marker nomination that you submitted.

Our staff is looking forward to working with you to plan for the marker's dedication, hopefully within the coming year (markers that are not installed within five years of approval are placed on an inactive list). We would also like to discuss with you your suggestions for the marker's text. While our office must retain its right of final text approval, we would like to ensure that you are satisfied with the wording before we proceed with manufacture.

I am also enclosing a Historical Marker Funding Application. As you can see, our office will provide up to half the costs of an approved marker's manufacture. As indicated on the application, however, an applicant must first agree to provide any remaining funding. Funds are awarded on a first come, first serve basis, and our annual appropriation is limited. I would consequently encourage you to return the application to us as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Division of History at 717-787-3034.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Maitland  
Historical Marker Committee Chairman

  
Brent D. Glass  
Executive Director

-31-

Copy of Lettering  
 (Both Sides of Plate)  
 City Type 1-31-05 JR 3-17-05 KW  
 11 lines  
 20 characters

Lake Shore

## CHRISTIAN STREET HOSPITAL



1 First Civil War U.S.  
 2 Army Hospital, estab-  
 3 lished May, 1861. Here  
 4 Doctors Mitchell, More-  
 5 house, Keen, and others  
 6 used electric current,  
 7 drugs, and other exper-  
 8 iments in pioneering  
 9 treatment of nerve and  
 10 related disorders.  
 11 Closed in 1865.

*OK!*

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 2005 ®

*for 920 Christian St.*

Lettering and type size to conform to  
 1996 Specifications for City-type  
 Markers

Title shall be in 2-inch capital letters.  
 Body shall be in 1½-inch characters  
 (approximate maximum height).

Final draft of historical  
 marker before sending text  
 to foundry for marker's fabri-  
 cation.

A P P E N D I X I.

PAGES 2-21  
TO FOLLOW

T H E  
F I R S T  
C I V I L W A R  
H O S P I T A L

THE U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL on CHRISTIAN STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

CELESTE A. MORELLO, MS, MA  
Graduate History  
Villanova University

Original paper for: "History of American Medicine" course, (2000)  
Reverend Joseph Ryan, OSA, Ph.D.

## Introduction:

The Christian Street Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania received its first patient, Private William C. McNair on May 4, 1861. He enlisted for service, but in waiting for his tour of duty fell ill with "acute rheumatism" and was treated at this new facility, across from St. Paul's Catholic Church. McNair's fellow officers at the Christian Street Hospital were able to be admitted for a variety of complaints that included pneumonia, herpes, exhaustion, fractures, diarrhoea, varicose veins and gunshot wounds.<sup>1</sup> This hospital became the site for "the care and study of nervous diseases" later during the Civil War when by order of the Surgeon General, a ward for injuries of the nerves from gunshot wounds allowed for research to be performed by Doctors S. Weir Mitchell, George A. Morehouse and William W. Keen. Their published papers and book on their pioneering work inspired other medical practitioners to proceed forward; clinical observations, experimentation with narcotics and electric currents used on patients at the Christian Street Hospital also were published in the Surgeon General's Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion.

*which ones?*  
The cases from the Christian Street Hospital represent a combination of medical practices used from the beginning of the nineteenth century, some newer methods introduced from the Crimean War experience and some of the French and American experimental ones. This hospital's nervous disease ward was novel in conception and was the only one of its kind in the United States, created for Doctor Weir Mitchell, one of the preeminent neurologists of the time. In addition to the nervous disorders, there is an impressive number of cases that were remarkable enough to be recorded by the Surgeon General's Office for the information to have been available to other doctors. As distinctive as this hospital's service was however, there is ample information indicating the Government's efforts to disregard proper medical attention here to many men, particularly those with gunshot wounds and amputations, who offered themselves for the Union's cause.



**Within One Month of the Firing of Fort Sumter:**

On April 12, 1861, the United States Army Medical Department had thirty surgeons and eighty-three assistants. Of these, twenty-four resigned to fight in the war, three were dismissed for "disloyalty" and thirteen "natives of the South...stood true to the flag."<sup>2</sup> Before the outbreak of the Civil War, the Medical Department had one Surgeon General with the rank of Colonel, the thirty surgeons had the rank of Major and eighty-four assistant surgeons had the rank of First Lieutenant. Though President Abraham Lincoln made several proclamations to try to suppress aggressions, hostilities rose to such a degree as to warrant an order that each regiment was to have a surgeon and assistant surgeon commissioned by the states from which the enlisted men originated.<sup>3</sup>

Vacant since the Consolidation Act of 1854 in Philadelphia, the former Moyamensing Hall on Christian Street was selected by Dr. John Neill to be fitted as a general, or military hospital for the U.S. Army's troops. Kelly wrote that it was Neill who "telegraphed the Surgeon General of the Army for authority to establish it as a branch of the U.S. Army." Neill supervised the facility's first days of medical care, and then was appointed to establish other hospitals in Philadelphia to treat those injured during the war.<sup>4</sup> The site of the Christian Street Hospital was convenient to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad depot on the Delaware River's shore, about one mile east. This rail line was the only route leading from the New England and middle Atlantic states southward below the Mason-Dixon boundary. A railroad track also travelled on Broad Street, five blocks west of this hospital, providing additional accessibility. Christian Street ran in an east-west direction between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. It was one of the busiest streets in Philadelphia's south district, surveyed to be wider than other roadways when it was paved and then named in honor of seventeenth century Swedish queen, Christina.

The Christian Street Hospital was officially called the "U.S.

Army Hospital" or the "General Hospital Christian Street."<sup>5</sup> It opened with two hundred and twenty beds. The hospital's first register has printed pages with entries designed more to record army service than the patient's medical or surgical condition: "Hospital Number-Name-Rank-Regiment or Corps-Company-Complaint admitted" went across the left side of the book while:

"Returned to Duty-Deserted-Discharged from Service-Sent to General Hospital-on Furlough-Died-Remarks"

crossed to the right page.

In its first week of operation, the Christian Street Hospital treated mostly lower ranking officers for a variety of problems, both medical and surgical. Private William Lemon's case of variola was treated and he returned to duty within one month while Private Frederick Rhein's fractured humerus required six months to heal. The first patient with a gunshot wound arrived on May 15, 1861.<sup>6</sup> Officers with existing ailments were examined and likewise given treatment for conditions such as gangrene of the lung, syphilis, lacerated wound, rheumatism of kidney and peritonitis.<sup>7</sup>

Staff at the Christian Street Hospital included the experienced, learned medical doctor and the "surgeons of volunteers [who] had to learn their surgery at bitter cost to many a wounded man."<sup>8</sup> Some young assistant surgeons who were contracted for work at the hospital went on to become noteworthy medical practitioners. (Refer to Appendix I) Others, more experienced doctors such as Samuel D. Gross of the Thomas Jefferson Medical College who wrote a treatise on pathological anatomy and a textbook on surgery operated at the Christian Street Hospital.<sup>9</sup>

Part I, Volume I of The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion (1861-1865) noted one hundred and forty-three identifiable diseases; there were nearly one hundred and fifty complaints recorded at the Christian Street Hospital. (Refer to Appendix II) Written notations and where indicated on the pre-printed form-like ledgers, the doctors were more aware of who the eligible

*supportive  
therapy*

*smaller*

*what?  
kind?*

*good*

pensioners would be and to what extent their injury would be cared for by the Army Medical Services. It would not be until the next year, in 1862, when medical cases would be properly logged and oriented to medical, not governmental, interests.

**The New Surgeon General's Reforms:**

Duffy mentioned "various congressional measures reorganizing the Medical Department" and the appointment of a new Surgeon General, William A. Hammond, an army surgeon and former professor; better more methodical record-keeping for military hospitals finally became standardized. Beginning on July 23, 1862, all Medical Directors in army (or general/ military) hospitals were "to collect the sick reports" of various regiments and "forward them to the Surgeon General at the close of each month."<sup>10</sup> Latinized names of conditions appeared in the registers of the Christian Street Hospital sent to the Surgeon General. Generally, the "Monthly Sick Reports" were to have disease classifications based on the model devised by Doctor William Farr of London who used to work with the British forces.<sup>11</sup> (Also refer to Appendix III) Surgeon General Hammond's 1862 Order for "more detailed and exact reports of sick and wounded"<sup>12</sup> resulted in one such case from the Christian Street Hospital as follows:

*cite*

*used as a public health official*

*TB*

*TYPHOID*

The following case was forwarded with the specimens, from the CHRISTIAN STREET HOSPITAL, Philadelphia, Surgeon John J. Reese, USV in charge: Case 192--Private Joseph R. Reid, Company H, 82d New York Volunteers; admitted from Washington, D.C., December 14, 1862. Chronic diarrhoea and phthisis. [This man appears on the register of the Caspari's hospital, Washington, as admitted December 2d--diarrhoea--sent to Philadelphia December 13th.] Died December 31, 1862--Acting Assistant Surgeon E.B. Vandyke. [Nos. 317, 318, and 319 are successive portions of the ileum, presenting large irregular ulcers of Peyer's glands,\* which penetrate to the muscular coat. No. 320 is a portion of the colon considerably thickened, and presenting a number of large irregular ulcers, which penetrate to the muscular coat; a number of enlarged lymphatic glands appear on the peritoneal surface of the piece, on the line of the attachment of the mesocolon.]<sup>13</sup>

\*In the absence of disease specificity, there was great confusion of the identity of these diseases. This diagnosis, for example, was more likely an error-- the specimens more possibly exhibited evidence of typhoid.



Another case from The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion detailed a report from the Christian Street Hospital by Acting Assistant Surgeon John J. Reese:

"Case 16--Corporal Thomas Ward, Company C, 2d Pennsylvania Reserve corps, received a wound of the left axilla by a conoidal ball at Mechanicsville, Virginia on June 25, 1862. He was admitted to hospital at Washington, July 4, 1862, and transferred to Philadelphia, September 2n. He was admitted to Christian Street Hospital on September 3d; on admission, both orifices of wound were healed. February 1st, 1863, swelling commenced in axilla. March 1st, there was some fluctuation in tumor; no bruit or thrill; an exploring needle revealed only extravasated blood; integuments discolored; March 14th, profuse arterial bleeding. On March 15th, the left subclavian artery was ligated, in its outer third, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to ligate the axillary, and a large quantity of extravasated blood was turned out of the axilla. At the time of operation there was excessive pain in the arm, ascribed to lesion of the brachial plexus; hypodermic injections of morphia had no effect, and coldwater dressings gave more relief than anything else; there was extreme prostration from haemorrhage. Reaction never fairly set in, and he died on March 17th, 1863. The operation was performed by Dr. S.D. Gross, Professor of Surgery in Jefferson Medical College." 14

**"...never before in medical history has there been..."**

In May of 1863, the Christian Street Hospital was given the distinction by order of the Surgeon General to be a "Special Hospital." SG Hammond, influenced by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, "ordered that certain wards should be set apart for the treatment of Diseases of the Nervous System" for clinical research and experimentation. 15

The results of this order affected medical education with the study of specific systems, clinical observation, and novel experimentations. Ninety-six instances of "shot flesh wounds" involving the larger nerves were described by attending doctors Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen in a pioneering study of "sudden reflex paralysis from mechanical injuries." 16 Dr. Weir Mitchell later wrote of the teaming: "Early in the Civil War Dr. Morehouse served in the Filbert Street Hospital as an assistant surgeon under contract. When the Hospital

*(New)  
which medical  
school*

for Nervous Diseases was organized, I asked to have him as my colleague. Then Dr. W.W. Keen joined us and we remained in useful co-partnership of labor up to 1865."17 Duffy claimed that "94% of wounds were caused by bullets"18--Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen copiously studied their patients' entry and exit wounds, identified if shock was present, examined the skin and "extent of primary derangement of the functions of motion and of sensation."19 Otis wrote in 1883 that these injury cases at the Christian Street Hospital, "presented phenomena which are rarely seen and which were naturally foreign to the observation even of those surgeons whose experience was the most extensive and complete."20

Doctors Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen were graduates of medical colleges and referred to the published medical works of M. Duchenne, Brown-Séguard and Mr. Paget, called, "the pathologist." But as competitive as the Americans were in the medical profession, keeping abreast of the Europeans' findings, these doctors at the Christian Street Hospital still used some treatments which linked them to the medical practitioners of far less formal medical education in the late eighteenth century. To wit, Case 31:

"A.D. Marks, sergeant, Company C, 3d Maryland Vols., aet. 43, enlisted Aug., 1861. Previously healthy. Gunshot wound of left brachial plexus. Paralysis of motion and sensatin. Muscular hyperaesthesia. Intense burning in hand and arm. Nutritive changes. Atrophy. Contracted extensors. Relief, Discharged.

July 5--Ordered hypodermic injections of the 4th of a grain of sulphate of morphia, near the scar, twice a day. This relieved the arm...

July 7--Again morphia, 1/3 of a grain, was injected into the arm without aiding the hand.

July 15 to July 20--Injections of morphia were made into the hand twice a day. They gave so much ease that the ice was temporarily abandoned.

August 14--As local agents, we have had recourse to laudanum, lead-water, ice, oil, poultices with and without soda, and poultices of carbonate of soda, with vinegar to release carbonic acid...In despair, leeches were placed about the cicatrix, and blisters were applied over it and kept open." 21

*How are  
leeches used  
today?*

X Strong advocates of narcotics, the doctors at the Christian Street Hospital used hypodermic syringes because they believed that frequent subcutaneous injections were "most effective and least injurious."<sup>22</sup> Doctors Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen later confirmed in a report that "numerous hypodermic injections" of morphia was "of the utmost value as an anodyne" disqualifying conia, atropia, daturia and belladonna.<sup>23</sup> Written in 1883, one volume of The Medical and Surgical History recalled in retrospect the same doctors using "electric treatments" with the nervous diseases to further "physiological and clinical studies."<sup>24</sup> In a paper on "Reflex Paralysis, the Result of Shot Wounds," the doctors discussed their "treatment" on twenty year old Morgan Emory in 1863: "Douche to arms;...electricity to right arm and shoulder." It was a course of treatment that was briefer than the two months of "electricity employed" to the right thigh of twenty-one year old Private Jacob Demmuth. "Electric examination", "electric sensibility" and "electro-muscular contractility" were terms often used regarding the specialized treatments.<sup>25</sup> According to Ludmerer,<sup>26</sup> this type of medical treatment did not appear until the early 1900s. It was "an undertaking so novel as that of a special hospital meant to receive only a limited class of cases...never before in medical history has there been collected for study and treatment so remarkable a series of nerve injuries..."<sup>27</sup>

Wound cases at the Christian Street Hospital increased throughout 1863 with the admissions of patients from the battlefields of Chancellorsville (April-May), Fredericksburg (May), then with Mine Run (November). But by far, Gettysburg (July) provided Christian Street with the most challenging problems in patients. In these reports to the Surgeon General, the doctors specified the calibre of the projectiles as well as the procedures by the Army at transferring patients to the hospital in Philadelphia. Examples are:

--Private Charles G. Cleland, Co. G, 7th Wisconsin Volunteers, aged 20, was wounded at Gettysburg "by a conoidal ball";  
--Private John Downey of Company E, 73d New York Volunteers and Private Thomas Wells, company C, 20th New York Militia, wounded "by a round musket ball."<sup>28</sup>

**Another year of battle, another year of patients.**

The year, 1863 certainly produced more gunshot wound cases to be treated at the Christian Street Hospital. It was a time, however, when most of the records on patients were written either on the specialized medical work of Drs. Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen there, or to the likelihood of qualifying for a government pension in the registers. By 1864, Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen transferred to Turner's Lane Hospital in Philadelphia and continued follow-up treatments and experimentations with the patients taken there from the Christian Street Hospital. The special wards empty, the hospital then resumed general medical and surgical care. Using the "Classification of Gunshot Wounds" model adopted by the Medical Department of the British Army, one can read that the Christian Street Hospital treated many types of conditions. Medical cases were to be written in black ink; red ink signified surgical patients.<sup>29</sup> The doctors also could check off the limited choices of surgical procedures from "amputation, excision, other operation and simple dressings."<sup>30</sup> Pathological surgical specimens were forwarded to the Army Medical Museum in Washington, D.C.<sup>31</sup>

Surgeon-in-Chief of the Christian Street Hospital in 1864, Richard J. Levis (1827-1890), a graduate of Thomas Jefferson Medical College followed the Surgeon General's Order and crafted his reports with the details of the new majority of patients at the Christian Street Hospital, the amputees and those to be amputated. A few of his more significant cases reflected what may have been characterized in G.W. Adams' portraits of these amputees<sup>32</sup>:

"Patient became very feeble with pneumonia and typhoid symptoms, stump sloughing badly, involving vessels, and causing secondary haemorrhage...Ether was used. The patient died... having survived the operation twelve hours." <sup>33</sup>

Another patient's amputation of a right arm was reported by Levis, "followed by favorable results."<sup>34</sup> But twenty-two year old Private W.H. Hirst had less good news: "Acting Surgeon R.J. Levis certifying to 'wound of knee joint, resulting in great lameness from ankylosis'...[caused] The Philadelphia Examining Board at various intervals [to] certify...the injury and its results, and described the limb as wasted and the veins varicosed. The pensioner was paid December 4, 1879."<sup>35</sup> Only one case, #491, Private W.H. Miller, Company I, 72d Pennsylvania, aged 21 was noted to have his specimens forwarded to the Army Medical Museum: "the amputated bones of the foot, soft tissues" and "bones removed from the second operation" were identified and sent by Dr. Levis.<sup>36</sup> It was, by 1864, common knowledge that "diseases destroy more soldiers than do powder and the sword."<sup>37</sup>

Apart from what medical and surgical cases from the Christian Street Hospital appear in The Medical and Surgical History for 1864, the registers from that year revealed statistical information for the benefit of management and administration. No doctors' names appeared and few remarks were noted. Entries written in have the number of beds occupied by "sick," "wounded" and those for the "stewards, cooks, etc..." separated. Admissions arrived at the Philadelphia hospital mostly from hospitals in Washington, D.C., with a few from Alexandria, Virginia, but very few details about the medical practice are found. One notes that "contract nurses" were hired as the number of admissions rose. Patients were often released en masse on "furlough" with "readmissions from furlough" written about one month later, indicating further medical care from conditions that had not been remedied in previous visits. At its peak, the Christian Street Hospital had 369 beds occupied by "sick" and "wounded" and twenty-seven steward beds taken on July 24, 1864; by July 26, 1864, "furlough



for 20 days" became common, almost as a trial period for recovery. Deaths from gunshot wounds became more frequent.<sup>38</sup> By October 20, 1864, all of the patients and staff were transferred to the South Street Hospital located at South and 24th Streets in Philadelphia.

**Final months of service.**

The Christian Street Hospital reopened in January of 1865 with more than 95% of its patients as amputees. The soldiers' cases were assigned four digit numbers in the Registers and not many medical remarks were made. No doctors' names were noted. Only a few "Surgical Certificate of Disability" were given. Some typical cases involving the youngest and oldest amputees are written herein verbatim to demonstrate medical reports:

#2264--Private James G. Carey, 106 Pa., Company D, Age 15--  
"com fract R leg U 3d Amp. Thigh 1 3d flap."

#2335--Private John H. Britain, 91 Pa., Company A, age 16--  
"Amp forearm U. 3d flap."

#2419--Pte. James Jackson, 61 Pa., Co. I, 45 years old, "G.S.  
fract R forearm, Amp. R. forearm."

#2275--Pte. Edward McGovern, 110 Pa., Co. D, 45 years old.  
"com. fract. 1. forearm 1 3d amp 1 3d flap."

After April 14, after Lee surrendered to Grant and after President Andrew Johnson succeeded the assassinated Lincoln, nineteen patients arrived at the Christian Street Hospital though no complaints were written next to their names. Weir Mitchell had written that, "in many cases surgeons on both sides remained with their own after defeat."<sup>39</sup>

.....

Experiences in medical and experimental procedures at the Christian Street Hospital foreshadowed future medical training for many of the doctors who were contracted there to care for Union casualties. In 1905, Weir Mitchell wrote that at the time, during the Civil War, "nobody desired to keep [interest in cases of nervous diseases] for the reason that they were so little understood and so unsatisfactory in their results."<sup>40</sup> Most of the doctors at the Christian Street Hospital remained only in wartime service as long as their contract allowed. Christian Street's hospital closed by about August of 1865.

The neurological work championed at the Christian Street Hospital certainly would not have been possible without an advocate for reforms and improvement in medical education as former Surgeon General Hammond. Judging from the registers, the systematic methods of treatment, furloughs and quick fixes for amputees, there was little that the U.S. Army provided to further medical progress. However, Duffy's opinion that the Union's Medical Department was "handicapped during the early war years by a pennypinching attitude on the part of Congress"<sup>41</sup> was evident by the painstaking efforts that some medical practitioners made to treat patients as quickly, as well as economically feasible as possible by 1864. Lacking knowledge of antiseptic methods, and overwhelmed by more patients than beds and attendants, doctors at the Christian Street Hospital, as in other Civil War hospitals, fared only as best as funds and medical education afforded then.

This was the medical legacy of the political conflict.

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A P P E N D I X I

**Doctors at the Christian Street Hospital:**

**John Neill (1819-1880):** born and died in Philadelphia; graduate of University of Pennsylvania Medical School (1840); Surgeon at Wills Eye Hospital (1849-1852); at Pennsylvania Hospital (1852-59); contract surgeon in U.S. Army (1861-2); Surgeon of Volunteers (1862); Medical Director of forces from Pennsylvania (1863); founder of Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia; "invented apparatus to treat fractures of the leg and he modified Desault's splint for fracture of the femur"; first professor of clinical surgery at U. of P., (1874-5). (p. 899)\*

**S. Weir Mitchell (1829-1914):** born and died in Philadelphia; noted neurologist; attended U. of P.; MD degree from Jefferson Medical College in 1850; in Paris with Claude Bernard (1851-2) who influenced him in physiology; with Sanitary Commission early in Civil War; wrote over one hundred works on clinical neurology (1863-1895); "conscientious clinical neurological researcher." (pp. 854-857)\*

**George A. Morehouse (1829-1905):** born in Mount Holly, New Jersey; graduate, Princeton College (1848); U. Of P.; graduated Thomas Jefferson Medical College (1850); his "more important work...in laboratory and hospital researches"; consultant at Orthopedic Hospital in Philadelphia. (pp. 865-867)\*

**Richard J. Levis (1827-1890):** born in Philadelphia; graduate of Jefferson Medical College; "reputation in Philadelphia as a general and ophthalmic surgeon." (p. 739)\*

**John J. Reese (1818-1892):** AB, MA and MD from U. of P (1839); at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phila.; at Gynecological Hospital and Infirmary for Diseases of Children; Professor of medical jurisprudence and toxicology at U. Of P. (p. 1022)\*

**William W. Keen (1837-1932):** b. Philadelphia; Jefferson Medical College in 1860, then in 1862; sworn as Assistant Surgeon U.S. Army in 1861; Acting Assistant Surgeon, 1862-3; in Europe, studying in Berlin and Paris; professor of surgical pathology at Jefferson and Philadelphia School of Anatomy; taught various areas of general anatomy and surgery throughout life. (Rhode Island Medical Journal, January, 1927, pp. 1-4.)

\* Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage, Dictionary of American Medical Biography. Boston: Milford House, 1928, reprinted, 1971.

A P P E N D I X   I I



Complaints noted at the Christian Street Hospital:

- debility
- gangrene of lung
- ulcer penis; non-Syph.
- contusion
- rheumatism of kidney
- orchitis
- typhoid fever
- ebrietas
- herpes Beputialis
- measles (1861-2)
- ulcer of leg
- inc<sup>d</sup> End eyelids
- catarrh
- delirium Tremeus
- "Haematocele"
- "bubo"
- hernia
- fract. ribs
- arthritis
- chancre
- "bubo Syphiliticum"
- contusion of penis
- herpes
- influenza
- laryngitis
- mania
- bronchitis
- pericondritis
- prostratitis
- "syphilis Primitiva"
- dyspepsia
- neuralgia
- fatigue
- dipeuteria
- disease of liver
- felon
- amputation of arm
- enlarged testicle
- Palpitation of heart
- deafness
- disease of chest
- goiter
- "cardiac dis."
- dropsy
- insania
- "Spermatorrhoea"
- pneumonia
- gun shot wound
- pleurisy acute
- rubeola
- condylomata
- peritonitis
- congestion of brain
- erythema nodosum
- exhaustion
- bilious colic
- sprained ankle
- gonorrhoea
- lacer<sup>d</sup> med. of ear
- Rem. fever
- "Enteritis"
- pharyngitis
- jauntice
- lumbago
- morbus cutis
- hoemorrhoids
- "Syphilis et Bubo"
- inverted toenail
- partial paralysis
- gastritis
- parotitis
- dislocation
- "hepatic Derangement"
- tonsillitis
- hepatitis
- "syphilis Consecutiva"
- vulnus sclopet.
- "worms"
- Inflam. bladder
- anemia
- "disease of heart"
- endo. carditis
- phthisis pulmonalis
- "Furuncalous"
- spinal irritation
- "chronic Disease Sto-
- mach
- "pernio pedum"
- scorbutus
- contusion of abdomen
- shell wounds
- sun stroke
- fever
- conjunctivitis
- syphilis
- lacerated wound
- phymosis
- abscess
- erysipelas
- rigor
- diarrhoea
- stricture
- synovetis knee
- fract. of fibula
- contus. of chest
- Var. Veins
- "Venereal"
- epilepsy
- fract. clavicle
- epididymitis
- constipation
- fract. of ulna
- cystitis
- stricture of ure-
- thra
- phthisis
- "injury by R. Road
- hemoptysis
- Phthisis Pulmonali:
- "dysentery Acute"
- anasarca
- vulvus contusion
- hypertrophy heart
- "ischura Renalis"
- ascitis
- scrofula
- nephritis
- "mania poter"
- venereal debility
- asthma
- "Rheu. Chronic"
- coxalgia
- "internal injury"
- "stiff knee"
- hydrocele
- perineal abscess
- aphonia
- caries of spine

(continued)

- hemiplegia
- discontinuance of urine
- contusion by a ball
- sprained back
- guinsey
- "Debauch"
- ulcer on stump of leg
- chorea
- spinal meningitis
- epileptic convul.
- valvular disease of heart

A P P E N D I X   I I I

## "Classification of Gunshot Wounds"

"The following classification of Gunshot Wounds is published for the benefit of the Medical Officers on duty in the U.S. Army General Hospitals. It is intended as a guide to them in recording the Diagnoses of Surgical Cases in the Hospital Register, and in the preparation of Medical Descriptive Lists. The Classification presented is substantially the same as that adopted by the Medical Department of the British Army. By following its general arrangement as closely as possible, it is believed that greater accuracy will be insured in the preservation of Surgical data for Consolidation, and opportunity will be afforded of comparing the Surgical Results obtained in this war, with those arrived at during the Crimean and other campaigns."

### "Gunshot Wounds of the Head

1. Contusions and simple flesh wounds of the scalp: slight; severe
2. With contusion or fracture of the bones of the cranium, without known depression

### Gunshot Wounds of the Face

#### Gunshot Wounds of the Neck

"	"	"	"	Chest
"	"	"	"	Abdomen
"	"	"	"	Back & Spine
"	"	"	"	Perineum, Genital & Urinary Organs
"	"	"	"	Upper Extremity
"	"	"	"	Lower
"	"	with Direct Injury of Large Nerves		
"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"	Arteries or Veins

### Sword Wounds

### Bayonet Wounds

### Miscellaneous wounds "

(Source: Pennsylvania Register 195, January 28, 1864 to September 30, 1864, National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

**Endnotes:**

1. Pennsylvania Register 193, General Hospital Christian Street, Philadelphia, May 4, 1861 to January 31, 1864. Indexed. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. S. Weir Mitchell, "Some Personal Recollections of the Civil War," Read April 5, 1905. Reprinted from the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 1905, p. 1.
3. George A. Otis, The Medical and Surgical History of the War Of The Rebellion. Part II, Volume II, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, (Surgical History, Second Issue), 1877, p. 899.
4. Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage, Dictionary of American Medical Biography, Boston: Milford House, 1928; 1971, p. 899.
5. Pennsylvania Register 193.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Weir Mitchell, "Some Personal Recollections," p. 2.
9. Medical and Surgical History, Part I, Volume II, Second Issue, 1875, p. 541, and The Rhode Island Medical Journal, January, 1927, p. 2.
10. John Duffy, From Humors to Medical Science: A History of American Medicine, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993, p. 155.
11. John Janvier Woodward, Medical and Surgical History..., Part I, Volume I, p. xv. Dr. William Farr (1807-1883) was responsible for creating the "disease classifications" for civil and military use in Great Britain. He presented his plan to conferences at Paris (September 10, 1855), then in Vienna in 1857. Farr divided the known diseases into five major classes:  
I--Zymotic--included parasitic diseases;  
II--Constitutional, e.g., tuberculosis;  
III--Local--included Diseases of the Nervous System, Urinary and Organs of Generation  
IV--Developmental Diseases  
V--Violent Diseases and Deaths:  
    Order 1--Accident                                 4--Suicide  
        2--Battle   5--Execution  
        3--Homicide                                    6--Corporal Punishment  
(Sources: Medical and Surgical History, Part I, Volume I, pp. xvi-xvii,)



12. Medical and Surgical History..., Part III, Volume II, p. iii.
13. Medical and Surgical History..., Part II, Volume I, (1879), p. 124.
14. Medical and Surgical History, Part I, Volume II, p. 541.
15. Kelly and Burrage, Dictionary of American Medical Biography, p. 854; S. Weir Mitchell, George A. Morehouse and William W. Keen, Gunshot Wounds and Other Injuries of Nerves, Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1864, p. 1 "Preface."
16. Medical and Surgical History, Part II, Volume II, p. 729.
17. Kelly and Burrage, p. 867.
18. Duffy, p. 161.
19. Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen, Gunshot Wounds, p. 13.
20. Medical and Surgical History, Part III, Volume, II, p. 743.
21. Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen, Gunshot Wounds, p. 148.
22. Ibid., pp. 156-7.
23. S. Weir Mitchell, George A. Morehouse and William W. Keen, "On the Antagonisms of Atropia and Morphia, etc." American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Volume L, 1865, p. 75.
24. Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen, Circular No. 6, dated March 10, 1864. Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D.C.
25. Ibid.
26. Kenneth Ludmerer, Learning to Heal: The Development of American Medical Education, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985, pp. 132-3.
27. Weir Mitchell, Morehouse and Keen, Gunshot Wounds, p. 1 "Preface."
28. Medical and Surgical History, Part I, Volume II, pp. 348, 430, 458-9.
29. Pennsylvania Register 195, Christian Street Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1864 to September 30, 1864. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

30. Ibid.
31. Medical and Surgical History, Part III, Volume II, p. iii.
32. G.W. Adams, Doctors in Blue: The Medical History of the Union Army in the Civil War, New York: 1952, pp. 113-25.
33. Medical and Surgical History, Part II, Volume II, p. 736.
34. Ibid., p. 770.
35. Medical and Surgical History, Part III, Volume II, p. 374.
36. Ibid., p. 317.
37. Ibid., p. 743. Also, Duffy, pp. 162-3.
38. Pennsylvania Register 199, Christian Street Hospital, Philadelphia, May 26, 1864 to February 17, 1865.
39. Ibid.
40. Weir Mitchell, "Some Personal Recollections....," p. 4.
41. Duffy, p. 153.