

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Montgomery County Hospital
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 301 S. 1st Street
City or town: Conroe State: Texas County: Montgomery
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[n] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title Date 3/13/2024
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[ ] entered in the National Register
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Healthcare/Hospital

**Current Functions:** Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Modern Movement: Modern Classicism

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Brick, Concrete, Stone, Glass

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-11)

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Health/Medicine (*local level of significance*)

**Period of Significance:** 1938-1971

**Significant Dates:** 1938, 1954, 1967

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** NA

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-20)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 9-21 through 9-24)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (*NPS approved Part 1 on 8/12/2022*)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission, Austin)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Montgomery County Public Library, Conroe)

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 1.72 Acres

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.308175° Longitude: -95.452353°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundary encompasses all property #156133 of the Montgomery County Appraisal District. Legal Description: S856000 – Science Hill, BLOCK 2. (Montgomery CAD accessed 05/05/2023) See Map 3.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes all property historically associated with the nominated building.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Rebecca Wallisch, MS (Senior Architectural Historian) and Megan Warley McDonald, MHP, MA, (Architectural Historian)

Organization: Post Oak Preservation Solutions

Street & number: 2506 Little John Lane

City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78704

Email: Rebecca@post oakpreservation.com; Megan@post oakpreservation.com

Telephone: 512-766-7042; 814-397-2359

Date: May 16, 2023

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets MAP-25 through MAP-27)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-28 through FIGURE-34)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets PHOTO-35 through PHOTO-46)

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: Montgomery County Hospital  
City or Vicinity: Conroe  
County: Montgomery  
State: Texas  
Photographer: Daniel Davis  
Date: March 6, 2024  
Location of Original Files: 2506 Little John Lane, Austin, Texas 78704

Photo 1  
Montgomery County Hospital, Primary (West)  
Elevation. View East.

Photo 2  
Montgomery County Hospital, West (Primary)  
Elevation, looking northeast.

Photo 3  
Montgomery County Hospital, West (Primary)  
Elevation entrance detail view.

Photo 4  
Montgomery County Hospital, South Elevation, View  
Northeast.

Photo 5  
Montgomery County Hospital, South Elevation, View  
Northwest.

Photo 6  
Montgomery County Hospital, Oblique, South and  
East Elevations. View Northwest.

Photo 7  
Montgomery County Hospital, Oblique, East  
Elevation. View Northwest.

Photo 8  
Montgomery County Hospital: North Elevation, View  
South.

Photo 9  
Montgomery County Hospital, First Floor Sunroom,  
1938 wing, View West.

Photo 10  
Montgomery County Hospital, Second Floor Corridor,  
1954 Addition, View East.

Photo 11  
Montgomery County Hospital, Third Floor Patient  
Room, 1954 Addition, View North.

Photo 12  
Montgomery County Hospital, Setting

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

## Narrative Description

Montgomery County Hospital is on an entire city block in a primarily residential area located just southeast of downtown Conroe, Texas. It consists of the original 1938 three-story hospital facing S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, a three-story 1954 addition constructed at the rear, and a series of one- and two- story additions at the north and east sides of the hospital. Each section of the building features a flat roof. The original 1938 portion of the building is a modest, Modern Classicist institutional building, evident through its symmetry, emphasis on verticality, and fluted pilasters. Smooth, cream-colored native stone was utilized to impart a feeling of cleanliness and sanitation appropriate for a hospital building. The 1954 addition is also clad in similar panels of cream-colored stone and features bands of evenly spaced windows that relay the same feeling of order evident in the earlier building. The 1967 addition of the building is more functional than the previous phases of building construction, with fewer windows and less ornamentation, but it utilizes cream-colored brick curtain walls which match the stone on the rest of the building. The interior of the building is characterized by double-loaded corridors with patient rooms on either side of a central hallway. The hospital retains a high degree of integrity, with minimal alterations to its exterior form and finishes and with the majority of interior alterations concentrated on the first floor of the building. Montgomery County Hospital retains good integrity to communicate its historical significance as the city's first public healthcare facility.

---

## Setting

Montgomery County Hospital is in Conroe, Montgomery County approximately 45 miles north of Houston in East Texas. The nominated property is two miles southeast of the Montgomery County Courthouse on a block bounded by South (S.) 1st Street, East (E.) Avenue G, S. 2nd Street, and Avenue F. The adjacent area largely retains its historical character as a residential neighborhood, except along S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street where there is low-density, late 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial infill. The block immediately north of the hospital property is occupied by a large Salvation Army building complex, and new residential construction is located east and southeast of the hospital.

## Site

Montgomery County Hospital occupies an entire city block with the 1938 three-story hospital sited at the block center. The primary elevation and entrance face west to S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Later additions (1954 and 1967) occupy the majority of the north side of the lot towards Avenue F and the east side of the lot towards S. 2nd Street. Hardscaped parking has historically been and continues to be located on the main west side of the building. Additional hardscaped parking is located on the south side of the building. A black-painted metal fence with vertical rails and masonry posts encloses the complex.

## Montgomery County Hospital

The Montgomery County Hospital was built in 1938 and expanded in 1954 and 1967 (**Map 5**). These three sections have different architectural details but are united by a consistent cream color exterior, regular fenestration, and flat roof with contrasting fascia. The original hospital, completed in 1938, is a rectangular three-story building with a central entrance and small, two-story wings on the north and south elevations. In 1954, a rectangular three-story addition was constructed at the rear and included a small one-story north addition. Lastly, in 1967, one- and two-story additions wrapped around the north and east sides of the existing building. The 1938 hospital and 1954 addition are of concrete construction with curtain walls of cream-colored Austin limestone panels. The 1967 additions are of steel frame construction with painted brick exterior walls.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

## 1938 Building

### *Exterior*

The primary elevation of the Montgomery County Hospital faces west towards S. 1st Street and consists of a three-story 1938 rectangular building flanked by two-story wings (Photo 1). The concrete frame is clad with cream-colored square and rectangular panels of Austin limestone.<sup>1</sup> Three volumes step forward slightly at the north and south ends of the building and in the center, creating dimension and verticality on the symmetrical main facade. One-over-one, historic age double-hung aluminum windows repeat at regular intervals across the face of the three-story building.

Concrete steps lead to the projecting vertical central mass which extends above the roofline. Recessed glass double doors are flanked by quarter round scalloped columns (Photo 2). Metal and white glass cylindrical light fixtures are located on each side of the front entryway, though they have been temporarily removed during renovations. A narrow ornamental panel is centered just above the entrance. The projecting central mass steps in above the first floor, and two scalloped vertical panels flank the centrally located windows at the second and third floors. A thinner vertical scalloped panel extends from the top of the third-floor window to the roofline. The fascia of the flat roof is painted the same sandstone color which contrasts with the cream exterior. This upper scalloped panel is repeated at the third-story windows on the north and south ends of the three-story building. These two end sections also project from the building. Two octagonal medallions are centered just below the roof on each of the two recessed volumes flanking the entryway. Five windows are evenly spaced on all floors in these sections.

The two-story, north, and south wings are set back from the main volume. At the west elevation, the first floors have centered one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows, and the second floors have a central one-over-one, double-hung aluminum window, as is typical on the building face, flanked by two narrow one-over-one, double-hung aluminum side windows. Metal railings surround the perimeter of the flat roof on the wings.

The north elevation of the three-story section of the 1938 building has a centered, square glass block wall and a single door leading to the rooftop deck on the north, two-story wing. The north and east elevations of the two-story north wing are largely obscured by the 1967 addition (Photo 10). The east elevation of the 1938 hospital building mirrors the fenestration of the west elevation. This facade does not have projecting volumes and features minimal ornament except for octagonal medallions evenly spaced below the roofline. Much of the rear elevation is obscured by additions from 1954 and 1967 (Photo 4). The south elevation of the three-story section of the building features three centered openings: two one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows surrounding an enclosed larger opening. The two-story south wing has six window openings on its south face (Photo 3). On the first floor, from west to east, there is a one-over-one double-hung aluminum window, a set of three one-over-one double-hung aluminum windows with a longer central window, and an enclosed window. On the second floor, two one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows are recessed on either side of a large, six-light, fixed window. There is a metal exterior fire escape at the west elevation of this wing. A single, solid door is located on the first floor and a one-over-one, double-hung aluminum window with two thinner one-over-one, double-hung aluminum side windows is on the second floor.

### *Interior*

The first floor of the 1938 building consists of a lobby, offices, and a former cafeteria. The lobby and offices are located in the southern portion of the first floor, with a corridor running between the offices. Offices have a combination of repaired historic plaster ceilings and gypsum board ceilings. The cafeteria is located in the northern

---

<sup>1</sup> At the time of submission, there was only one known reference to the stone used: "Hospital Dedication Set Today at Conroe," *Houston Chronicle*, October 31, 1954.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

portion of the first floor and is a large open space with exposed structural columns. It features a tile floor and plaster ceiling. An elevator is located in the center of the building, adjacent to the cafeteria, while an enclosed stairwell is located at the southeastern corner of the building.

The second and third stories of the 1938 building retain their original floorplan and consist of patient rooms lining a central corridor. A portion of the second-floor corridor is characterized by a long, enclosed desk, which historically functioned as the nurses station. Many of the original 1938 materials and finishes have also been retained. Many rooms feature original plaster walls and ceilings, though some plaster has been replaced with gypsum board where water damage was significant. All patient rooms retain their historic ceiling height. Windows provide a great deal of natural light in each patient room. Many of the rooms retain historic decorative molding and baseboards along the walls. Some of the patient bathrooms retain their historic white and black wall tiles and hexagonal white floor tiles. In addition to patient rooms, the second and third floors of the 1938 building also have sunrooms in the 2-story wings located on the north and south ends of the building (Photo 8).

### 1954 Addition

#### *Exterior*

The three-story 1954 addition is a rectangular building that extends from the center of the east (rear) elevation of the 1938 hospital building. Constructed during the period of significance, the 1954 addition was built in order to expand the number of patient rooms available at the Montgomery County Hospital. It was constructed in the wake of a polio outbreak in Texas in 1952, as well as during a period of growing demand for medical care. The new, three-story wing would bring the total capacity to 75 beds.<sup>2</sup> The addition's concrete frame is clad in continuous, square, cream-colored masonry curtain wall, matching the original building in color. At the south elevation (Photo 4), continuous cantilevered concrete canopies span over nine sets of regularly spaced windows. These six-lite metal casement windows are arranged in the tripartite Chicago-style with a large central window, operable side lites, and a fixed three-part upper sash. Below the windows, a continuous, painted, masonry sill spans the length of the building face. At the west end of the south elevation, there is a loading dock with a concrete pad and ramp, garage door-sized entryway, and rectangular, cantilevered concrete canopy fixed at the intersection of the two buildings and covering the entire concrete pad. This elevation faces a hardscaped parking lot fenced within the hospital complex parcel.

The east elevation of the 1954 addition is connected to and largely obscured by the 1967 addition (Photo 5). Only a portion of the third floor is visible above the 1967 addition, and features a casement ribbon window with six, vertical operable panels topped by a cantilevered concrete canopy. An elevator tower projecting from the two-story 1967 addition abuts the canopy on its north side.

On the north elevation, the first floor of the 1954 addition is obscured by the 1967 addition, though much of the second and third floors are visible. At the east end of this elevation, a single set of double casement windows with vertical panes punctuate the facade at the second and third floors. A concrete sill projects slightly and sits at the bottom of these windows. Seven sets of Chicago-style windows, identical to those on the south elevation, extend across the remaining building face of the second and third floors. Continuous cantilevered concrete canopies span over these windows, extending just beyond the first and seventh window openings, rather than across the entire elevation as is typical on the south elevation. A continuous, painted, masonry sill runs below the length of these windows. This same condition exists for the three sets of windows at the east end of the first floor of this building. To the west of these windows, a one-story section of the 1967 addition is constructed through to the 1938 building and obstructs the building face.

---

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 163.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

A 1957 aerial photograph<sup>3</sup> indicates that a smaller, north–south-oriented, one-story, rectangular building was also constructed from the northwest corner of the three-story 1954 main addition past the north wing of the 1938 building. This building has been encompassed by the 1967 addition and is no longer discernible.

*Interior*

The three-story 1954 addition is a long, rectangular building that extends from the east (rear) elevation of the 1938 building. Each floor consists of patient rooms on either side of a central corridor, which is connected to and runs perpendicular to the corridor of the adjoining 1938 building. Non-historic acoustical tile drop ceilings have been removed throughout the interior of the 1954 addition. Walls on the first-floor corridor consist of both glazed tiles (that have been painted over) and gypsum board. The second and third floor corridors retain their historic green glazed tile walls and wood doors (Photo 9). Vertical circulation in the 1954 addition consists of an elevator located at the northwest corner of the addition and two interior stairwells located on the west and east ends of the corridor.

Patient rooms retain some historic plaster walls and ceilings, though plaster deteriorated beyond repair has been replaced with gypsum board. All rooms retain their historic ceiling height (Photo 10). Many rooms retain historic moldings along the walls. Most of the patient bathrooms retain historic yellow or pink wall tiles. A few specialized functional spaces are interspersed with patient rooms, including offices and medication spaces.

**1967 Additions**

*Exterior*

The 1967 additions consist of both one- and two-story sections that wrap around the east and north sides of the hospital complex. Constructed during the period of significance, the 1967 additions were built to provide both additional patient rooms and specialized medical treatment rooms at the Montgomery County Hospital. At the time that the addition was constructed, the hospital was still the primary hospital in the area and required additional space to meet the medical needs of the community. The additions consist of steel-framed buildings in four sections that are painted a cream color to match the rest of the complex. The main entryway for this addition is located on the north side at Avenue F (Photo 7), but it does not displace the primary S 1st Street, west-facing, entrance.

A two-story, rectangular building connects to the east elevation of the 1954 addition and extends to the north edge of the parcel (Photo 5-7). Windows on this building are typically two-over-two double-hung aluminum windows with horizontal panes. The windows are inset into projecting vertical window bays with painted panels in between each floor creating an emphasis on verticality. At the south and north elevations, a single window of this condition is centered on the building envelope. There are two floors of windows on the north elevation and a window on only the second floor at the south elevation. The east, rear side of this building faces S 2nd Street. There are four sets of paired windows set into vertical bays, spaced evenly along the east elevation up to an adjacent, one-story building at the south end. At the north end of the east elevation, there is a set of double doors covered by a flat roof, cantilevered framed canopy (Photo 7). At the west elevation, two pairs of evenly spaced windows extend from the north of the building along the second floor above the one-story 1967 addition. A vertical bay of paired windows follows to the south, and finally, single windows abut the 1954 three-story addition at the south end of this elevation on both floors.

---

<sup>3</sup> “1957 Aerial of Conroe, Texas,” *Historic Aerials at NETR Online*, Accessed January 19, 2021, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Southeast of the 1954 addition, there is a one-story, painted masonry building (Photo 5). It has four louvered openings at the north elevation, two enclosed windows flanking a central enclosed garage door opening at the east end, and a double, metal door at the south side. At the southwest corner of this building, there is a one-story, windowless, square building with a single-door covered by an awning at the west side of the south-facing elevation.

At the north side of the parcel, the one-story section of the 1967 addition fills the majority of the U-shaped space between the 1938 building, 1954 addition, and two-story 1967 addition. The windowless, west elevation of this addition lines up with the front of the three-story 1938 building. It has an entrance with a solid, single door at the south end of the wall. Concrete steps and a metal railing lead up to this entryway, which is covered by a flat roof, cantilevered framed canopy, similar to that on the east elevation. The north elevation of the one-story addition is also windowless. At the west end is a concrete platform accessed by both stairs and a ramp with four sets of entryways. From west to east, there are two double-door entryways, one single door entryway, and an additional double-doors entryway inset into the building. The roofline projects out over the concrete pad in this section of the building. At the east end of this one-story addition, there is a square cantilevered canopy over a concrete driveway connecting to Avenue F. The canopy is supported by two metal posts on the street and attached to the building face. At the building envelope, there are three-part, fixed storefront windows to the east adjacent to double doors, inset into the building face. The east elevation of this one-story addition abuts the 1967 two-story addition, and the south side of this section intersects with the 1954 three-story building.

*Interior*

The northern, one-story portion of the 1967 addition primarily consists of administrative and treatment spaces of irregular sizes and shapes. Walls are a combination of painted concrete masonry units and gypsum board, though much of the original gypsum board has been replaced due to water damage. The 1967 also historically featured acoustical tile drop ceilings throughout, most of which were extensively damaged and have been replaced. Utility spaces are located in the southwest corner of the 1967 addition, immediately adjacent to the 1938 building. The two-story portion of the 1967 addition is connected to the east elevation of the 1954 addition and runs perpendicular to it. Both the first and second floors of the 1967 addition feature a long corridor with patient rooms on either side of the hallway. Offices and specialized spaces are also interspersed throughout the two-story section of the addition.

*Alterations*

The Montgomery County Hospital was built in three phases from 1938 through 1967. The construction of the 1954 and 1967 additions took place during the period of significance in order to facilitate the continued use of the expanding hospital. Most of the original exterior detailing, ornamentation, and material remains extant. The historic floorplan remains largely intact in both the original 1938 building and the 1954 and 1967 additions. In addition, historic materials such as plaster walls and ceilings, wood moldings and doors, and tile bathrooms remain intact in the 1938 building, and the majority of the glazed tile walls and wood doors remain in the 1954 addition. The 1967 additions also retain much of their historic concrete masonry unit wall cladding and gypsum board has been replaced in-kind.

The windows on the 1938 hospital building were originally one-over-one, double-hung and likely wood. They have been replaced with one-over-one aluminum windows (likely during the period of significance). Three window openings at the south end of the primary facade and three windows on the south end of the east (rear) facade of the 1938 building have been enclosed. A window opening on the south elevation of the southernmost wing has also been enclosed. The main entryway doors have been replaced.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

On the interior of the building, it appears that the first floor of the 1938 building and the 1967 additions were reconfigured to accommodate operational needs over time. The building was substantially vacant from the mid 1990s until 2012 when the East Texas Dream Center, a facility for at-risk women and children in need, renovated select parts of the interior. The majority of the interior suffered from decades of neglect resulting in deteriorated finishes throughout. The former hospital is currently undergoing a rehabilitation for use as affordable senior housing in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. All work has been approved by the Texas Historical Commission and the National Park Service.

### **Integrity**

The Montgomery County Hospital retains many of its original, character defining features and retains a high degree of integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association. Montgomery County Hospital remains in its original **Location** at 301 S 1st Street and retains its historic **Setting** in a neighborhood consisting of both residential and commercial buildings. The 1938 Montgomery County Hospital retains integrity of **Design** through the retention of its original Modern Classicist design by architect Wyatt C. Hedrick and much of the hospital's original plan and configuration. It also retains integrity of **Materials**: historic masonry and ornament have been retained on the exterior, while on the interior, many of the original plaster walls and ceilings of the 1938 building remain, in addition to the green glazed wall tiles of the 1954 addition. The Montgomery County Hospital retains integrity of **Workmanship** through the retention of its Modern Classicist design, including symmetry, emphasis on verticality, and fluted pilasters. The 1954 and 1967 additions both retain their original **Design** and many of their original **Materials**, both on the interior and exterior of the building. Finally, the Montgomery County Hospital retains integrity of **Feeling** and **Association** as it was used as a hospital until 1982 and continued to offer healthcare services as the site of the Montgomery County Health Department during the 1990s, during which time the building retained the form, massing, and interior configuration that clearly demonstrate its historic use as a hospital.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

## Statement of Significance

Montgomery County Hospital, built in 1938 in Conroe, was the region's first public hospital and was the only local facility to provide emergency care and surgical services for more than three decades. In the 1930s, Conroe and Montgomery County experienced an oil boom that, coupled with a profitable lumber industry, greatly boosted the economy and spurred population growth. The region, however, lacked sufficient healthcare facilities to support the growing community. In 1937, citizen-supported bonds funded the construction of large, modern public hospital that was completed the following year. Montgomery County Hospital's first addition was completed in 1954 on the heels of a Texas-wide polio epidemic, as well as post-WWII population growth that necessitated expanded healthcare services. It continued to serve as the primary hospital in the area through the late 1960s. As such, the 1967 addition provided additional beds and specialized medical spaces. These additions, which were constructed during the period of significance, reflect the continued importance of this healthcare institution within the community. Montgomery County Hospital is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Health/Medicine for its centripetal role as a provider of preventative and acute medical services. The period of significance is 1938 to 1971 when Montgomery County Hospital ceased to be the most important and modern medical facility in the community.

---

## CRITERION A: HEALTH/MEDICINE

### *History of Montgomery County and Conroe, Texas*

Montgomery County, located north of Houston in the Pine Belt of southeast Texas, was established in 1837.<sup>4</sup> The original county seat of Montgomery was on a stagecoach line from Huntsville to Houston, and it hosted a burgeoning population of farmers during the 1840s and 1850s. Many of the early settlers in Montgomery County came from the Deep South and brought with them plantation-style agriculture, including the use of stolen labor. The Civil War and subsequent abolition of slavery resulted in an agricultural depression and significant changes to the county, but the local economy began to recover by the 1870s when railroads were constructed through the region.<sup>5</sup>

Three major railroads constructed lines through Montgomery County during the late 19th century: the International-Great Northern Railroad in 1871; the Houston, East, and West Texas narrow-gauge line in 1879; and the Houston and Texas Central railroad, which built a line from Navasota to Montgomery through to Conroe in 1880. In 1889, after a contentious dispute, the county seat moved to Conroe, which lay at the crossroads of the International-Great Northern and Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railways. At the time, 80 percent of the county was covered in pine forests. While the commercial lumber trade began before the Civil War, it was slow to grow without reliable transportation. Following the establishment of rail transport, by 1882 there were 45 operating steam sawmills in Montgomery County and lumber had displaced agriculture as the regional economic driver. This natural resource would be substantially harvested over the next forty years at which time the county would revert back to an agricultural economy, based this time on cattle.<sup>6</sup>

In 1892, with a population of 500, Conroe was the seat of government and an important transportation hub for lumber, cotton, livestock, bricks. It was also a center for lumber processing and agricultural refinement. The same year, the Conroe Independent School District was established after combining twelve nearby schools. Four years later, a weekly

---

<sup>4</sup> Robin Montgomery, *Transformation of the "Miracle City," The History of Conroe and Montgomery County*, (San Antonio, TX: HPN Books, 2014) 35.

<sup>5</sup> Christopher Long, "Montgomery County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed January 20, 2021, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/montgomery-county>.

<sup>6</sup> Christopher Long, "Montgomery County."

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

newspaper, *The Courier*, was founded and the community grew to be the county's largest by the end of the nineteenth century.<sup>7</sup> Around the turn of the century, an outbreak of yellow fever gripped the community, which forced the town to quarantine and resulted in lives lost. Around the same time, a series of fires in the 1910s engulfed the town, forcing residents to rebuild, this time with more fireproof materials like brick.<sup>8</sup>

Farming slowly increased in importance once again during the 1910s, with fruits, vegetables, and cotton growing across the county. Lumber, however, remained the main driver of the economy in the early twentieth century, and in 1914 the Delta Land and Timber Company constructed the state's largest and most modern sawmill in Conroe. The Company went on to employ 700 workers.<sup>9</sup> The Mary Swain Sanitarium, a private hospital, opened in 1920; a fire station was opened two years later; and by mid-decade, the Dr. Pepper Company opened a plant in town.<sup>10</sup>

The onset of the Great Depression, combined with decades of deforestation and declining cotton prices, impacted local farmers and business owners in the 1930s, including those in Conroe. As a result, the county population of Montgomery County decreased from 17,334 in 1920 to 14,588 in 1930. Many rural residents moved to the larger cities and communities for employment, and Conroe saw an increase in population from 1,858 in 1920 to 2,457 in 1930.<sup>11</sup> As the lumber industry was declining, schools were struggling to stay open, and the bank failed, Conroe was on the brink of serious economic collapse. However, in 1932 a significant event occurred that subsequently earned Conroe the name "Miracle City." On June 5th of that year, George W. Strake struck gold when he hit a prime oil well east of Conroe, and his Conroe Oil Field soon became the nation's third largest.<sup>12</sup> Although speculators had tried for decades to uncover the liquid gold beneath the Montgomery County soil, Strake's persistence and determination won out and by 1933 more than 25,000 barrels were produced across 100 wells each day.<sup>13</sup>

In contrast to the rest of the county, and most of the country, Conroe experienced a boom during the 1930s. For a time, it boasted the most millionaires per capita in the United States and Conroe School District became one of the wealthiest in the state.<sup>14</sup> The streets were paved, the large State Hotel opened in 1933, and the Crighton Theater was constructed two years later. A new courthouse was completed in 1936 and the Montgomery County Hospital, the first public hospital in the region, opened in 1938 just southeast of the courthouse square. By the 1940s, the town's population was 4,624.<sup>15</sup> The nominated hospital, the county's first public medical facility, opened in 1938 in the midst of this prosperity. Economic and population growth continued through World War II.

The proliferation of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century resulted in a nation-wide program of highway expansion, including the Interstate Highway system. By 1960, Interstate (I) 45 was completed west of Conroe, bypassing the downtown area and providing connections to Houston and Galveston to the south and Huntsville to the

---

<sup>7</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, "Conroe, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed January 20, 2021, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/conroe-tx>.

<sup>8</sup> Montgomery, *Transformation of the "Miracle City,"* 80.

<sup>9</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, "Conroe, TX."

<sup>10</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, "Conroe, TX."

<sup>11</sup> Texas Almanac, "City Population History from 1850-2000," <https://www.texasalmanac.com/drupal-backup/images/CityPopHist%20web.pdf>, accessed May 24, 2022; Texas Almanac, "Population History of Counties from 1850-2010," <https://www.texasalmanac.com/drupal-backup/images/topics/ctypophistweb2010.pdf>, accessed May 24, 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Montgomery, *Transformation of the "Miracle City,"* 89.

<sup>13</sup> Christopher Long, "Montgomery County."

<sup>14</sup> Montgomery, *Transformation of the "Miracle City,"* 90.

<sup>15</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, "Conroe, TX."

## Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

north.<sup>16</sup> In 1961, writer Leon Hale opined Conroe was “closer to ideal than any other Texas city,” due to its beauty, order, and convenience and lauded the new City Hall, hotel, and library.<sup>17</sup> In the 1960s, the Houston International Airport (later the George Bush Intercontinental Airport) was completed roughly 25 miles southwest of Conroe, increasing connections to the growing town.

After the expansion of interstate highways, Montgomery County became home to workers in the growing Houston Metroplex.<sup>18</sup> Lake Conroe was impounded during the 1960s and 1970s, further enticing new residents to the area. Between 1960 and 1970 the population of Conroe increased from 9,192 to 11,969 while the population of Montgomery County nearly doubled from 26,839 to 49,479.<sup>19</sup> Oil remained a leading source of income in the county alongside farming and cattle ranching.

In 1980, the population of Conroe was 18,034 while Montgomery County had once again more than doubled to 128,487.<sup>20</sup> By the 1980s, Conroe had two hospitals, ten medical clinics, nineteen churches, three radio stations, one television station, a cab company, and a new sewage plant.<sup>21</sup> In 2000, Conroe had 36,811 residents, while Montgomery County had 293,728.<sup>22</sup> Conroe reached 63,322 residents in 2015.<sup>23</sup>

### *Healthcare in Montgomery County*

Prior to 1900, healthcare in Texas tended towards traditional practices. Home remedies, midwives, army surgeons, and general merchandise or drug stores treated ailments of all magnitudes. Conditions did improve, however, for the care of chronic conditions during the latter part of the 19th century. This coincided with the desire after 1870 to improve public health, sanitation, and water quality. In 1880, surgeons began using antiseptics, significantly decreasing the mortality rate and level of pain. X-rays were discovered in 1895 and the corresponding machine proved too large for physicians to travel with, spurring the opening of private and public hospitals.<sup>24</sup>

Industries driving the Texas economy, including the railroad, lumber, and mining, were dangerous operations that resulted in frequent injuries. Company doctors were hired, and sometimes large employers established hospitals. For example, in 1891, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway constructed a hospital for its employees in Temple, Texas. Medical care by company doctors was typically deducted directly from a worker’s paycheck. The lumber industry employed the greatest number of workers in Texas between 1870 and 1930; it also had one the highest rates of injury.<sup>25</sup>

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were no hospitals in the county and there were few practicing physicians. Polk’s *Medical Register and Directory* listed five white practitioners in 1902, but the list dwindled to just three names in

---

<sup>16</sup> Texas State Highway Department, “General Highway Map Montgomery County, Texas 1957, revised to 1961,” accessed May 24, 2022,

[https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/maps/storage/texas\\_media/imgs/map05245.jpg](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/maps/storage/texas_media/imgs/map05245.jpg).

<sup>17</sup> Montgomery, *Transformation of the “Miracle City,”* 107.

<sup>18</sup> Christopher Long, “Montgomery County.”

<sup>19</sup> Texas Almanac, “City Population History from 1850-2000;” Texas Almanac, “Population History of Counties from 1850-2010.”

<sup>20</sup> Texas Almanac, “City Population History from 1850-2000;” Texas Almanac, “Population History of Counties from 1850-2010.”

<sup>21</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, “Conroe, TX.”

<sup>22</sup> Texas Almanac, “City Population History from 1850-2000;” Texas Almanac, “Population History of Counties from 1850-2010.”

<sup>23</sup> Charles Christopher Jackson, “Conroe, TX.”

<sup>24</sup> Chester R. Burns, “Health and Medicine,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed January 20, 2021,

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/health-and-medicine>.

<sup>25</sup> Chester R. Burns, “Health and Medicine.”

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

1912: Juriah Collier, Henry Earthman, and William Hooper.<sup>26</sup> They treated patients in their offices or made house calls. The closest surgical and long-term healthcare facilities were in Houston and Galveston, primarily run as private institutions by religious organizations, including the St. Mary's Infirmary in Galveston and St. Joseph's Infirmary in Houston. During the early twentieth century, general practitioners formed professional societies to share clinical experience and scientific knowledge, and by 1905 the Montgomery County Medical Society was established.<sup>27</sup> Diseases like tuberculosis, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, and Spanish influenza were a major concern, and increased medical facilities and sanitariums were needed to treat the influx of patients.<sup>28</sup>

Several training centers and medical schools were founded around the turn of the century in Texas, including the John Sealy Hospital in Galveston (1890), the Baylor University College of Medicine in Waco (1903) and the Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium in Dallas (1909). Most graduates and doctors worked as general practitioners until the 1940s. While physicians practiced general medicine, specialties in dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, and pharmaceuticals emerged. The Texas oil booms of the early 20th century sustained the development of health care professions. Like the lumber industry, the oil industry had a high rate of injury, and increased air and water pollution that resulted from oil extraction resulted in numerous new cancers and cardiovascular diseases that all required treatment. The Texas Legislature enacted new policies between 1900 and 1925 to increase safety for railroad workers, improve conditions of labor and delivery, and established a new board of health for licensing physicians.<sup>29</sup>

Conroe's first hospital, the privately-owned Mary Swain Sanitarium, opened in 1920. Laura Thompson and Alma Powell operated the small facility at Davis and Third Streets. Local physician Thomas S. Falvey, who started his career as a company doctor at Fostoria Lumber Mill, was the hospital's only surgeon.<sup>30</sup> As Conroe's population increased with the growing lumber and oil industries, locals began to advocate for a larger, public hospital. Montgomery County Hospital, built in 1938, became the primary medical and emergency hospital for the region and Mary Swain Sanitarium eventually closed in 1943.

### *Montgomery County Hospital*

A local hospital movement, supported by Conroe's Chamber of Commerce, began in 1929, but it took nearly a decade before the county's first public hospital was complete. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce formed a Hospital Committee to investigate the possibility of founding a public hospital. In addition to studying other Texas county hospitals, the committee examined how much money was being spent on "charity work" to pay for doctors, nurses, and medicine utilized by patients who could not afford services. Following the Hospital Committee's investigation, they determined that the conditions present in Montgomery County warranted a public county hospital.<sup>31</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> R.L. Polk and Co., "1902 Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada (Texas portion only)" (1902), *Texas Medical History E-Books*, <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1008&context=ebooks>, accessed May 25, 2022; R.L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Medical Register and Directory of North America*, 1619. <https://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-104364-275/page/n1579/mode/2up>.

<sup>27</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, available at the Montgomery County Library, 162.

<sup>28</sup> Wooten, Heather Green. *The Polio Years in Texas, Battling a Terrifying Unknown*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2009.

<sup>29</sup> Chester R. Burns, "Health and Medicine."

<sup>30</sup> Brad Meyer. "Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare," *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017.

<sup>31</sup> Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital, 1938-1939, Montgomery County Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

On August 31, 1937, the committee presented before the Montgomery County Commissioners' Court, recommending the establishment of a county hospital. Following the presentation, the Commissioners' Court called a bond election to dedicate \$125,000 toward the establishment of a county hospital. Citizens of Montgomery County were overwhelmingly in favor of the measure, with 485 citizens voting for the issuance of bonds and only 92 against.<sup>32</sup> In October of 1937, the Montgomery County Commissioner's Court selected the site for a new hospital, which they bought from W.N. Hooper and the estate of Banks Griffith.

Houston-based architecture firm Hedrick & Lindsley was selected to design the building.<sup>33</sup> The firm was a limited architectural partnership between Wyatt C. Hedrick and Claude H. Lindsley. Hedrick was a prolific Texas architect who established several offices and architectural partnerships throughout the state. During the lean construction years of the Great Depression, Hedrick worked on eleven projects at nine hospitals totaling \$1,169,000.<sup>34</sup> As roads throughout the state were paved and improved, rural residents began to prefer centralized hospitals to house calls, necessitating the construction and expansion of hospitals. Hedrick was commissioned to design new, larger, and improved facilities, including the Rusk Hospital in Rusk (1932), the Terrell Hospital in Stephenville (1936), the Montgomery County Hospital in Conroe (1938), and the Matagorda Hospital in Bay City (1939).<sup>35</sup> His firm also had the sole contract for the \$5,000,000 U.S. Narcotic Hospital in Fort Worth (1939), one of two narcotic farms in the country established to treat people addicted to narcotic drugs.<sup>36</sup> Hedrick formed a partnership with Claude Lindsley of Houston in approximately 1936, and the firm would design a number of buildings during the 1930s and 1940s.<sup>37</sup> At the time that Hedrick & Lindsley was hired to design the Montgomery County Hospital, the firm was also designing a gymnasium and auditorium in Magnolia, 25 miles southwest of Conroe.<sup>38</sup> Atmar L. Atkinson of Lubbock was hired to serve as architect's superintendent for the Montgomery County Hospital project.<sup>39</sup> In total, the hospital cost \$172,445.08 for landscaping, grounds, equipment and facilities, and was completed in 1938.<sup>40</sup>

Montgomery County Hospital first opened its doors on September 15, 1938. At the time of opening, the hospital had 35 beds. The Hospital's first Annual Report lists nine physicians, a hospital superintendent, seven registered nurses, a technician, a bookkeeper, and a maintenance person. When the hospital first opened, the first floor consisted of a business office, kitchen, a nurses dining room, and an "Accident room" (precursor to the emergency room) near the rear entrance of the building. Patient beds were segregated with an African American ward on the first floor and beds for white patients on the second floor. The hospital had an in-house laboratory as well as a "find out" department consisting of X-ray, Fluoroscope, Basal metabolism, and Electrocardiograph machines. The surgical department was located on the third floor of the hospital, and consisted of both major and minor operating rooms, a delivery room, and an "orthopedic room."<sup>41</sup> The hospital offered many of the new services available at the time, including pneumonia serums, blood transfusions, oxygen therapy, radiological examinations, urinalysis and cytologic study, and was open 24 hours a day. It was also equipped with testing capabilities for a myriad of diseases from typhoid, diphtheria,

---

<sup>32</sup> Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital, 1938-1939, Montgomery County Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library.

<sup>33</sup> "Hospital Location Chosen at Conroe," *The Houston Chronicle*. October 28, 1937, 2.

<sup>34</sup> Deborah M. Liles "Wyatt Cephas Hedrick: Builder of Cities," 41, 95.

<sup>35</sup> Deborah M. Liles "Wyatt Cephas Hedrick: Builder of Cities," 114-117.

<sup>36</sup> Deborah M. Liles "Wyatt Cephas Hedrick: Builder of Cities," 95-96.

<sup>37</sup> "Housing Project Asset to Freeport," *The Freeport Facts*, November 22, 1945, 9.

<sup>38</sup> "Hospital and Gym Projects Advance," *The Houston Post*, December 5, 1937, 3.

<sup>39</sup> "Marriage will be Performed Here Today," *Lubbock Avalanche Journal*, February 27, 1938, 15.

<sup>40</sup> Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital, 1938-1939, Montgomery County Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library; "Montgomery County Costs Considered Here," *The Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, March 28, 1941.

<sup>41</sup> Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital, 1938-1939, Montgomery County Vertical File, Montgomery County Public Library.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

syphilis, malaria, intestinal parasites, and meningitis.<sup>42</sup> An important element of the Montgomery County Hospital's design was the inclusion of sunroom wings on the north and south ends of the building. For much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, medical practitioners believed that sunlight and fresh air played a key role in recovering from illness. Hospitals were therefore designed with large expanses of windows and/or sunrooms to provide abundant sunlight to patients. Tuberculosis sanitariums frequently included open-air solariums in their design, due to the germicidal properties of ultraviolet light.<sup>43</sup> The presence of sunrooms on either end of the Montgomery County Hospital, in addition to the large expanses of windows on the original 1938 building and 1954 addition, point to the prevailing early twentieth century belief in the importance of sunlight in the recovery from illness and injury.

During its first year of operation, the Montgomery County Hospital treated a total of 938 patients (632 inpatient, 306 outpatient), and 61 births and 33 deaths took place in the hospital.<sup>44</sup> For a community of less than 5,000 residents, the over 900 patients seen at the hospital within the first year suggests that people were traveling from throughout the county for services, and that its establishment was sorely needed in the area.

The hospital's first superintendent was Miss Carrie Crouch, who lived in the hospital in order to be available 24 hours a day. As Crouch recalled "It was very seldom I got a night's sleep that I didn't have to get up and deliver a baby." Crouch succinctly captured both the changing medical technology of the era, as well as changing attitudes toward hospitals in a welcoming note to the Montgomery County Hospital: "Hospitals have not always been capable of affording the scientific medical attention that they are extending today. Once they were feared and considered only a place in which to die. Today they are a source of safety, of confidence and of hope. They are the best possible place in the world in which to get well."<sup>45</sup> Many of the doctors who worked at the Montgomery County Hospital still made home visits, another representation of the transitional medical practices of the time period.<sup>46</sup>

A ward bed at the hospital was \$3.50 per day, though rooms with a bathroom on the "cool side of the building" cost \$7.50 per day. Opening at the height of the Great Depression, many patients did not have cash available to pay the hospital charges, and brought potatoes, vegetables, or meat from their farms to pay for their services.<sup>47</sup> In the Hospital's first annual report, 242 patients (26% of the hospital's patients that year) were described as "charity" cases in which the county footed the bill for their services.<sup>48</sup> While the oil boom had left many Conroe residents wealthy, there was still a large population of the community that were low-income. Furthermore, roughly two-thirds of the patients receiving emergency care during its first year of operation were from other counties or outside the state. Due to the hospital's state-of-the-art (for the time) services, their overhead costs far exceeded those of a small community clinic. The combined factors of large overhead costs and a large number of patients unable to pay all or part of their fees posed an issue of rising costs to the hospital system. In its inaugural year, the hospital's overall income was

---

<sup>42</sup> Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital, "Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939."

<sup>43</sup> Jeanne Kisacky, "When Fresh Air Went out of Fashion at Hospitals," *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 14, 2017, accessed July 10, 2023, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/when-fresh-air-went-out-fashion-hospitals-180963710/>; Anya Grahn, "Historic Tuberculosis Sanitariums: Geography and Climate as a Cure," The National Trust for Historic Preservation, November 6, 2015, accessed July 11, 2023, <https://savingplaces.org/stories/historic-tuberculosis-sanitariums-geography-and-climate-as-a-cure-2/>; R.A. Hobday, "Sunlight Therapy and Solar Architecture," *Medical History* 42, (1997): 455-472.

<sup>44</sup> Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital, "Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939."

<sup>45</sup> Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital, "Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939."

<sup>46</sup> Carol Clark, "New Hospital to Cure Growing Pains," *Montgomery County Courier*, January 10, 1980.

<sup>47</sup> Carol Clark, "New Hospital to Cure Growing Pains," *Montgomery County Courier*, January 10, 1980.

<sup>48</sup> Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital, "Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939."

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

\$26,386 while expenditures were \$27,366, resulting in a \$980 deficit for the county to pay, which the hospital attributed to charity or gratis services offered.<sup>49</sup>

Founded during the era of segregation in the Jim Crow South, Montgomery County Hospital was originally a segregated institution. While newspaper records indicate that Black patients received treatment at the hospital in a separate ward during its early years, specific records on systemic racism at Montgomery County Hospital are scarce.<sup>50</sup> In this era, it was common for non-white patients to be subject to segregated waiting rooms and hospitals offered limited beds for those African American and Hispanic individuals who needed overnight care. Additionally, only white physicians were granted hospital privileges to provide healthcare and surgery services to patients. Nationwide efforts to integrate and equalize healthcare access began in the late 1940s. Upon Congress's passage of the Hill-Burton Act in 1946, hospitals could access federal funding to upgrade their facilities only if they provided "separate but equal" care to both Black and white patients. Significantly, while the Act sought to increase equal access to healthcare, it still permitted segregation in hospitals. However, no system was in place to force hospitals followed through on providing equal care.<sup>51</sup>

Not until the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 did the federal government crackdown on pervasive practices of segregation in hospitals. In order to be eligible for federal funding under Medicare and Medicaid, hospitals were required to comply with anti-discrimination laws. To determine whether hospitals were complying with the laws, thousands of federal employees and civil rights activists investigated the conditions in the country's hospitals and reported their findings to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). Their efforts led to the successful integration of untold numbers of hospitals in the United States.<sup>52</sup>

As a public hospital, Montgomery County Hospital likely received federal funding during the course of its operations, and the 1954 and 1967 hospital expansions took place shortly after the passage of the Hill-Burton Act and establishment of Medicare and Medicaid. To qualify for the federal funding necessary to operate an increasingly expensive medical facility, the Montgomery County Hospital legally would have had to eliminate any remaining segregated practices and prove its adherence to anti-discrimination laws. While in-depth research was unable to reveal the exact way Jim Crow laws, and later the passage of civil rights legislation, were implemented at Montgomery County Hospital, it is likely that they followed broader state and national trends of segregation.

Following the opening of the Montgomery County Hospital opened in 1938, it quickly became the county's primary healthcare facility, leading to the closure of the Mary Swain Sanitarium in 1943.<sup>53</sup> Through the 1940s and 1950s, the rural Montgomery County Hospital struggled with limited capacity and capabilities. Patients were required to pay for treatment upfront, and lifesaving measures, such as a blood bank, were not available. The hospital had to request blood from Waco when it was needed.<sup>54</sup> In the wake of a significant polio outbreak in Texas in 1952, and a growing demand

---

<sup>49</sup> Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital, "Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939."

<sup>50</sup> "Bus Overturns; 21 Are Injured," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, October 5, 1942; "Two Killed as Truck Upsets Near Conroe," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, October 16, 1942.

<sup>51</sup> St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, National Register of Historic Places, Reference # 100003489

<sup>52</sup> St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Houston, Harris County, National Register of Historic Places, Reference # 100003489

<sup>53</sup> Brad Meyer. "Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare," *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017.

<sup>54</sup> Brad Meyer. "Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare," *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

for medical care, in 1954 a three-story wing was constructed, bringing the total capacity to 75 beds.<sup>55</sup> Houston architect Arne Engbert designed the addition with assistance from hospital consultant Ross Garrett.

In the post-war era, the completion of the interstate and the seemingly unending suburban sprawl of Houston northwards, resulted in increased growth in Conroe and Montgomery County, requiring even more hospital beds. Furthermore, advances in medical technology created a need for specialty facilities, and in 1955 the Sadler Clinic opened in Conroe at Croke Street and Avenue G, several blocks west of the hospital.<sup>56</sup> In the 1960s the growth of Conroe and Montgomery County necessitated yet another addition to Montgomery County Hospital in 1967, which brought the bed capacity to 107.<sup>57</sup> The architect for this addition is also unknown. Dr. Walter Wilkerson of Conroe noted that after the expansion, “people would come from miles around to take advantage of one of the most modern facilities in the region.” Wilkerson noted that despite the presence of numerous new hospitals and medical facilities in Houston, area residents still preferred their small-town hospital in Conroe.<sup>58</sup>

In 1967 the Sadler Clinic relocated, and in 1971 the 104-bed Doctor’s Hospital opened adjacent to Sadler’s new clinic, offering the community another option for healthcare. In 1974 after additional interior renovations, the Montgomery County Hospital was rededicated as the Medical Center Hospital.<sup>59</sup> However, by the mid-1970s, the community desired more modern healthcare facilities, and the Montgomery County Hospital property lacked sufficient space to continue expanding. It was recommended that a hospital district with an elected Board of Directors and its own taxing authority be established. Shortly thereafter, the bill to create the district was passed by the State Legislature and approved by the citizens.<sup>60</sup> In 1977 the Commissioners Court created the Montgomery County Hospital District and plans were drawn up to construct a new, modern hospital facility.<sup>61</sup>

By 1980 the Medical Center Hospital (formerly Montgomery County Hospital) added a Cobalt Therapy Unit for cancer treatment through the donation of local citizens. The hospital had 112 beds and 350 employees, with rooms costing \$102 a day. With a lack of space to improve the old hospital, ground was broken on the new Medical Center that year. At 155,176 square feet, it was slated to be three times the size of the former hospital and cost \$25 million. It would have 150 beds and would allow the opportunity for growth as the city expanded. The new medical center opened in 1982, at which point the former Montgomery County Hospital building ceased to operate as a hospital.<sup>62</sup> During the early 1990s, the old hospital building was occupied by the Montgomery County Health Department and provided a number of health services to the community, including diabetic and blood pressure screenings, immunizations, STD and HIV testing, Child Health, Family Planning, and Maternity services, as well as a Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) office.<sup>63</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 163.

<sup>56</sup> Sondra Hernandez, “Dr. Dean L. Sadler Paved the Way for Conroe’s Medical Care,” *The Montgomery County Courier*, September 15, 2017, <https://www.yourconroenews.com/125years/article/Dr-Deane-L-Sadler-paved-the-way-for-Conroe-s-12201183.php>, accessed May 24, 2022.

<sup>57</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 163.

<sup>58</sup> Brad Meyer. “Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare,” *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017.

<sup>59</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 163.

<sup>60</sup> Brad Meyer. “Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare,” *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017; Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 162.

<sup>61</sup> Brad Meyer. “Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital Cornerstones to Local Modern Healthcare,” *The Courier of Montgomery County*, November 22, 2017.

<sup>62</sup> Carol Clark, “New Hospital to Cure Growing Pains,” *Montgomery County Courier*, January 10, 1980.

<sup>63</sup> Linda Beasley, “Health Care Advances,” *Montgomery County Magazine*, 50-51.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

When completed, the new Medical Center Hospital, located off I-45 for easy access, boasted 253 rooms, the latest in medical equipment, air conditioning, and 32 doctors, 18 dentists, three orthodontists, three chiropractors, two gynecologists, three ophthalmologists, and three ear, nose, and throat doctors. By that time there were also ten medical clinics established in the area.<sup>64</sup> Hospital facilities at Medical Center Hospital were upgraded throughout the late 1980s to add a Breast Cancer Detection Center, cardiac catheterization lab, magnetic resonance imaging, neonatal intensive care unit, osteoporosis screening center, and a sleep disorder lab.<sup>65</sup> In addition to the hospital, Conroe had also added the Surgicenter of Southeast Texas on I-45 in Conroe for outpatient surgical procedures. Residents could also travel south to the Woodlands area or further south into Houston for medical care.<sup>66</sup> In 1995 Doctor's Hospital closed and the Sadler clinic relocated to the Conroe Regional Medical Center Campus.<sup>67</sup> By the late 20th century the Sadler Clinic had become the largest multi-specialty group in Montgomery County and third largest in the Houston area with four locations, including two in Conroe. It subsequently closed in 2012.<sup>68</sup> In 2019 the Medical Center Hospital was renamed HCA Houston Healthcare Conroe.

Although the Montgomery County Hospital was eventually replaced by newer, more modern medical facilities in the 1980s, at the time of its construction in 1938 it represented a breakthrough in healthcare in rural Montgomery County. With numerous high-risk industries centered in the region, it signaled the county's commitment to providing high level medical care to the surrounding community. The continued expansion of the facility in the 1950s and 1960s to meet the growing needs of the population, as well as advances in medicine and technology, renewed that commitment throughout the mid-twentieth century.

### Conclusion

The Montgomery County Hospital is significant at the local level under Criterion A Health/Medicine as the first public hospital in the region and a representation of Conroe's growth from a small agriculture and lumber community to a booming oil town in the 1930s. Advancements in transportation systems in the mid-twentieth century opened the town and county up to further development, allowing Conroe to become a bedroom community for nearby Houston. As Conroe grew, and medical knowledge and technology advanced, the hospital constructed several additions to keep pace with the needs of the surrounding community. With lack of room to continue expansion in the late twentieth century, it eventually closed to make way for a new hospital in the 1980s. Nonetheless, the Montgomery County Hospital had faithfully served Conroe for over 40 years. The period of significance for Criterion A begins in 1938, when the Montgomery County Hospital first opened, through 1971 following the completion of a new hospital that superseded the nominated property in importance.

---

<sup>64</sup> Montgomery County Genealogical Society, *Montgomery County History 1981*, 163.

<sup>65</sup> Linda Beasley, "Health Care Advances," *Montgomery County Magazine*, 1989-1990, 50.

<sup>66</sup> Linda Beasley, "Health Care Advances," *Montgomery County Magazine*, 1989-1990, 50.

<sup>67</sup> Hernandez, "Dr. Dean L. Sadler Paved the Way for Conroe's Medical Care," *Montgomery County Courier*, September 15, 2017.

<sup>68</sup> Linda Beasley, "Health Care Advances," *Montgomery County Magazine*, 1989-1990, 50.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

## Bibliography

- “1957 Aerial of Conroe, Texas.” *Historic Aerials at NETR Online*. Accessed January 19, 2021.  
<https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.
- Beasley, Linda. “Health Care Advances.” *Montgomery County Magazine*, 1989-1990: 50-51. Available at the Montgomery County Library.
- Board of Managers of the Montgomery County Hospital. “Annual Report of Montgomery County Hospital with a Brief History and Statistical Data 1938-1939.” Available at the Montgomery County Library.
- Burns, Chester R. “Health and Medicine.” *Handbook of Texas*. Accessed January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/health-and-medicine>.
- “Crichton Theatre History,” *Crichton Theatre*, Accessed January 25, 2021. <https://www.crichtontheatre.org/about>
- Elliot, Bridget and Michael Windover, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Art Deco*. New York: Routledge, 2019.
- Foerster, Larry L. *Montgomery County, Texas Historical Timeline*. San Antonio, TX: HPN Books, 2014. Available at the Montgomery County Library.
- “Hedrick & Lindsley,” Mississippi Department of Archeology and History, Accessed January 20, 2021,  
<https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/params.aspx?rpt=artisanSearch>.
- Henry, Jay C. *Architecture in Texas: 1895–1945*. USA: University of Texas Press, 1993.
- Hernandez, Sondra, et al. *Conroe*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2021.
- Holley, Joe. “Texas Courthouses run from the stately to the ‘Atomic Age,’” *Houston Chronicle*, December 26, 2014,  
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/columnists/native-texan/article/Texas-courthouses-run-from-the-stately-to-the-5980295.php>, accessed May 26, 2022.
- Jackson, Charles Christopher. “Conroe, TX.” *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/conroe-tx>.
- Lee, Antoinette J. “Architects to the Nation.” *National Park Service*. Accessed January 25, 2021.  
<https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/hisnps/NPSBooks/lee.htm>.
- Liles, Deborah M. “Wyatt Cephas Hedrick: Builder of Cities.” University of North Texas. Master's thesis. 2008.
- Long, Christopher. “Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas.” *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/hedrick-wyatt-cephas>.
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Montgomery County.” *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/montgomery-county>.
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Sanguinet and Staats.” *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/sanguinet-and-staats>.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

- Meyer, Brad. "Dr. Falvey Helped Usher in Modern Era of Health Care in the City of Conroe." Montgomery County TexGenWeb. Accessed January 22, 2021. [http://www.countygenweb.com/txmontgomery/dr\\_Falvey\\_helped\\_usher\\_health\\_care.htm](http://www.countygenweb.com/txmontgomery/dr_Falvey_helped_usher_health_care.htm).
- Montgomery County Genealogical Society. *Montgomery County History 1981*. Available at the Montgomery County Library.
- Montgomery, Robin. *Transformation of the "Miracle City," The History of Conroe and Montgomery County*. San Antonio, TX: HPN Books, 2014.
- Moorhead, George. "Crighton Theater." *SAH Archipedia*. Accessed January 25, 2021. <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/TX-01-TM16>.
- National Park Service. *National Register of Historic Places, Electric Building, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas*. NR #95000048. Accessed May 22, 2022. <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/95000048/95000048.pdf>.
- *National Register of Historic Places, Threefoot Building, Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi*. Accessed May 27, 2022. [https://s3.amazonaws.com/NARApodstorage/lz/electronic-records/rg-079/NPS\\_MS/79003408.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/NARApodstorage/lz/electronic-records/rg-079/NPS_MS/79003408.pdf).
- *National Register of Historic Places, Sanger Building, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas*. NR #94000542.
- *National Register of Historic Places, Cotton Belt Building, Tyler, Smith County, Texas*. NR #5001405. Accessed May 26, 2022. <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/05001405/05001405.pdf>.
- "Standard Life Building, Mississippi." Accessed May 27, 2022. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/standard-life-building-ms.htm>.
- Parsons, Jim, and David Bush. *DFW Deco Modernistic Architecture of North Texas*. Fort Worth: TCU Press, 2017.
- R.L. Polk and Co., "1902 Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada (Texas portion only)" (1902). *Texas Medical History E-Books*. 9. Accessed May 25, 2022. <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1008&context=ebooks>.
- "Sanguinet, Staats, and Hedrick Records." *Alexander Architectural Archive on Texas Archival Resources Online*. Accessed January 19, 2021. <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utaaa/00005/aaa-00005.html>.
- Schier, Mary Jane. "University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/university-of-texas-m-d-anderson-cancer-center>. Accessed May 26, 2022.
- Society of Architectural Historians. "Standard Life Building." Accessed May 27, 2022. <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/MS-01-049-0004>.
- Texas Almanac, 1939-1940, book, 1939; Dallas, Texas. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed January 20, 2021. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117163/>.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

- Texas Almanac. "City Population History from 1850-2000. Accessed May 24, 2022.  
<https://www.texasalmanac.com/drupal-backup/images/CityPopHist%20web.pdf>.
- Texas Almanac. "Population History of Counties from 1850-2010. Accessed May 24, 2022.  
<https://www.texasalmanac.com/drupal-backup/images/topics/ctypophistweb2010.pdf>.
- Texas Historical Commission. *Historic Sites Atlas*. Accessed May 27, 2022. <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/>.
- Texas State Highway Department. "General Highway Map Montgomery County, Texas 1957, revised to 1961." Accessed May 24, 2022.  
[https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/maps/storage/texas\\_media/imgs/map05245.jpg](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/maps/storage/texas_media/imgs/map05245.jpg).
- Woolverton, Jack. "Styles of Art Deco." *508 Park*. Accessed January 28, 2021. <http://www.508park.org/styles-of-art-deco>.
- Wooten, Heather Green. *The Polio Years in Texas, Battling a Terrifying Unknown*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2009.

## Newspapers

### *Montgomery County Courier*

- Clark, Carol. "New Hospital to Cure Growing Pains." *Montgomery County Courier*, January 10, 1980.
- Dominguez, Catherine. "Dream Center becomes nightmare for city." *The Courier* (online), June 28, 2018. Accessed January 26, 2021. <https://www.yourconroenews.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Dream-Center-becomes-nightmare-for-city-13035338.ph>.
- Hernandez, Sondra. "Dr. Dean L. Sadler paved the way for Conroe's medical care," *The Montgomery County Courier* (online), September 15, 2017. Accessed May 24, 2022.  
<https://www.yourconroenews.com/125years/article/Dr-Deane-L-Sadler-paved-the-way-for-Conroe-s-12201183.php>,
- Meyer, Brad. "Mary Swain Sanitarium, County Hospital cornerstones to local modern healthcare." *The Courier* (online), May 7, 2015. Accessed January 19, 2021.  
<https://www.yourconroenews.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Mary-Swain-Sanitarium-County-Hospital-9479809.php>
- Meyer, Brad. "Montgomery County Courthouse Historical Marker to be dedicated Monday morning." *The Courier* (online), December 6, 2014. Accessed January 24, 2021.  
<https://www.yourconroenews.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Montgomery-County-Courthouse-Historical-Marker-to-9502025.php> .

### *Other*

- "Contract for Work at Ole Miss is Let." *Biloxi Daily Herald*, July 12, 1930, 1.

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

- “Hospital at Conroe Nearing Completion.” *The Houston Chronicle*. May 22, 1938.
- “Housing Project Asset to Freeport.” *The Freeport Facts*, November 22, 1945, 9.
- “Local Architect Off for Capital,” *Daily Clarion Ledger (Jackson)*, July 28, 1934, 10.
- “Marriage will be Performed Here Today.” *Lubbock Avalanche Journal*, February 27, 1938, 15.
- “Montgomery County Hospital Costs Considered Here.” *The Corpus Christi Caller-Times*. March 28, 1841, 11.
- [Montgomery County Hospital Update]. *The Eagle*. February 10, 1938, 2.



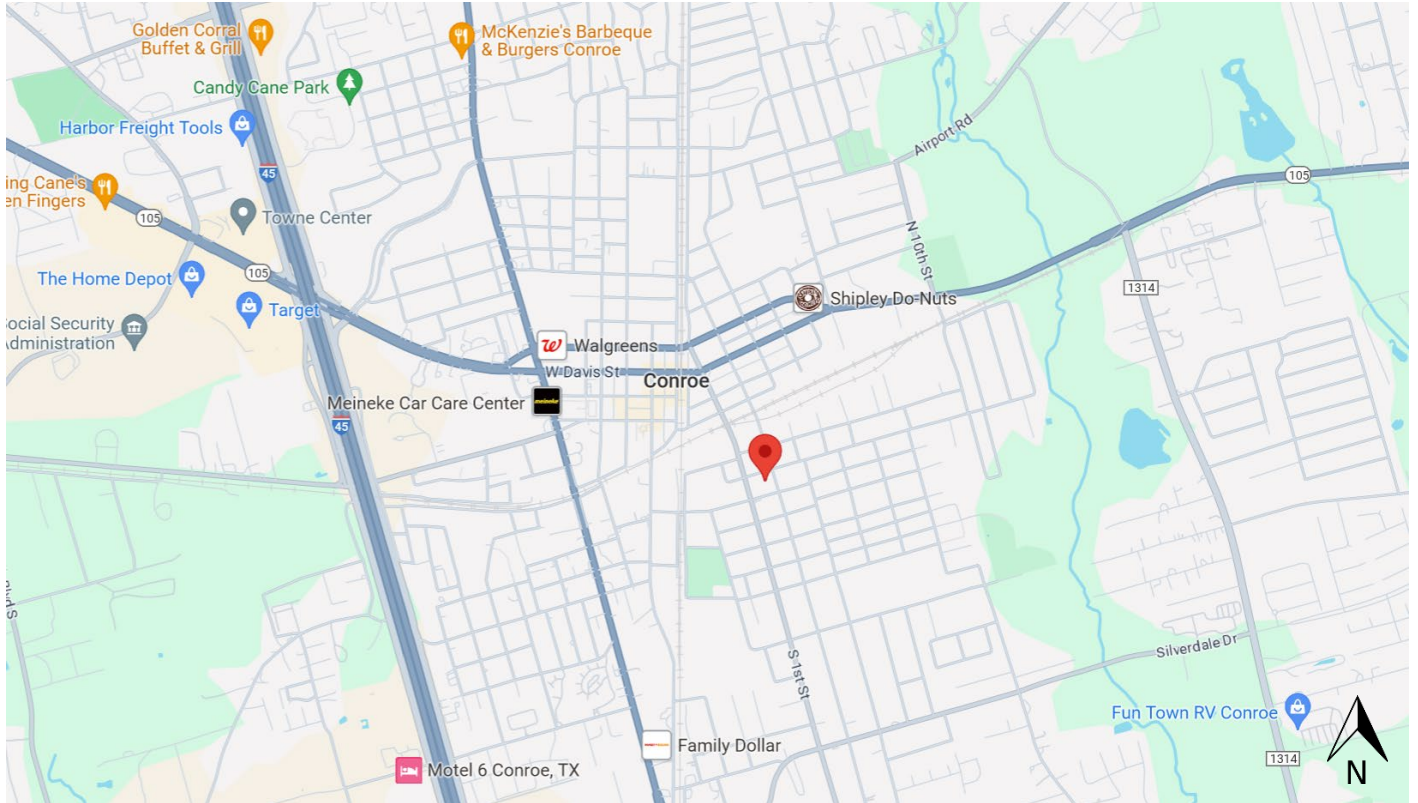
Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

Maps

Map 1: Montgomery County, Texas in red



Map 2: The nominated hospital is southwest of Conroe's historic downtown. Source: Google Maps, accessed 3/5/24.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

Map 3: The nominated boundary is the legal parcel (#R156133) as reported by the Montgomery CAD.



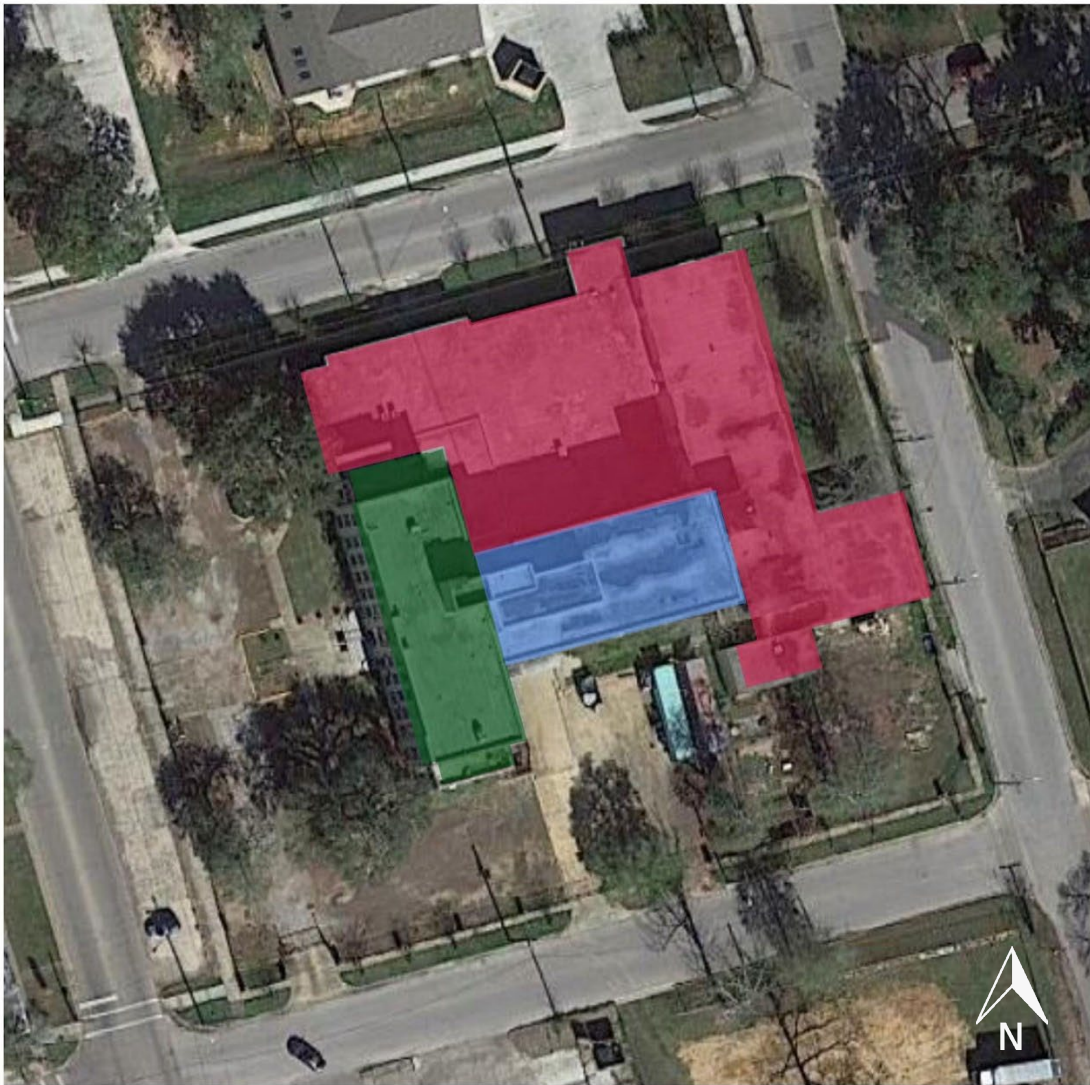
Map 4: Conroe, Montgomery County Hospital 30.308175° -95.452353° Source: Google Earth, Accessed 3/5/24.






Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Map 5: Current building map showing construction timeline.

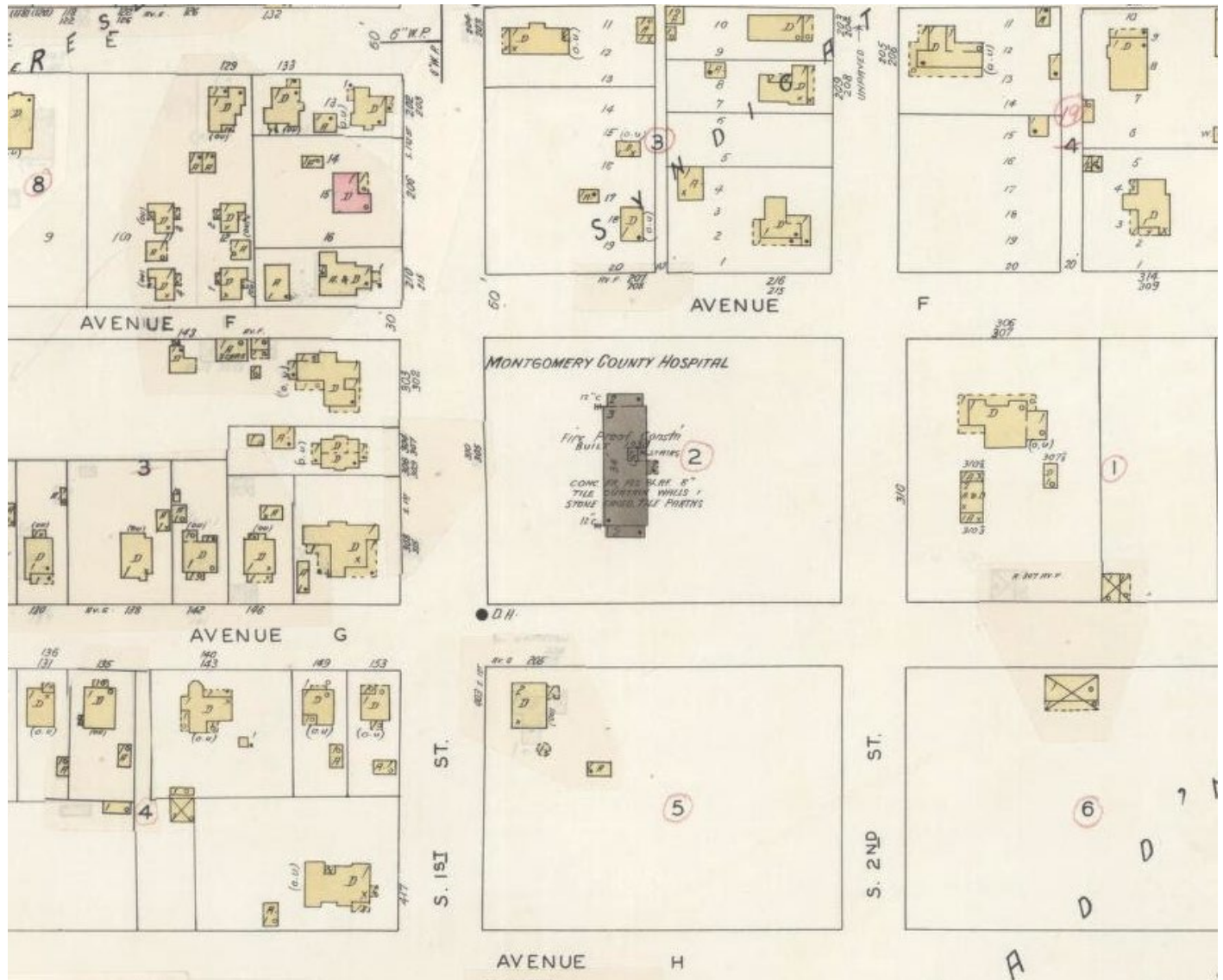


-  1938 Hospital Building
-  1953 Addition
-  1967 Additions

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

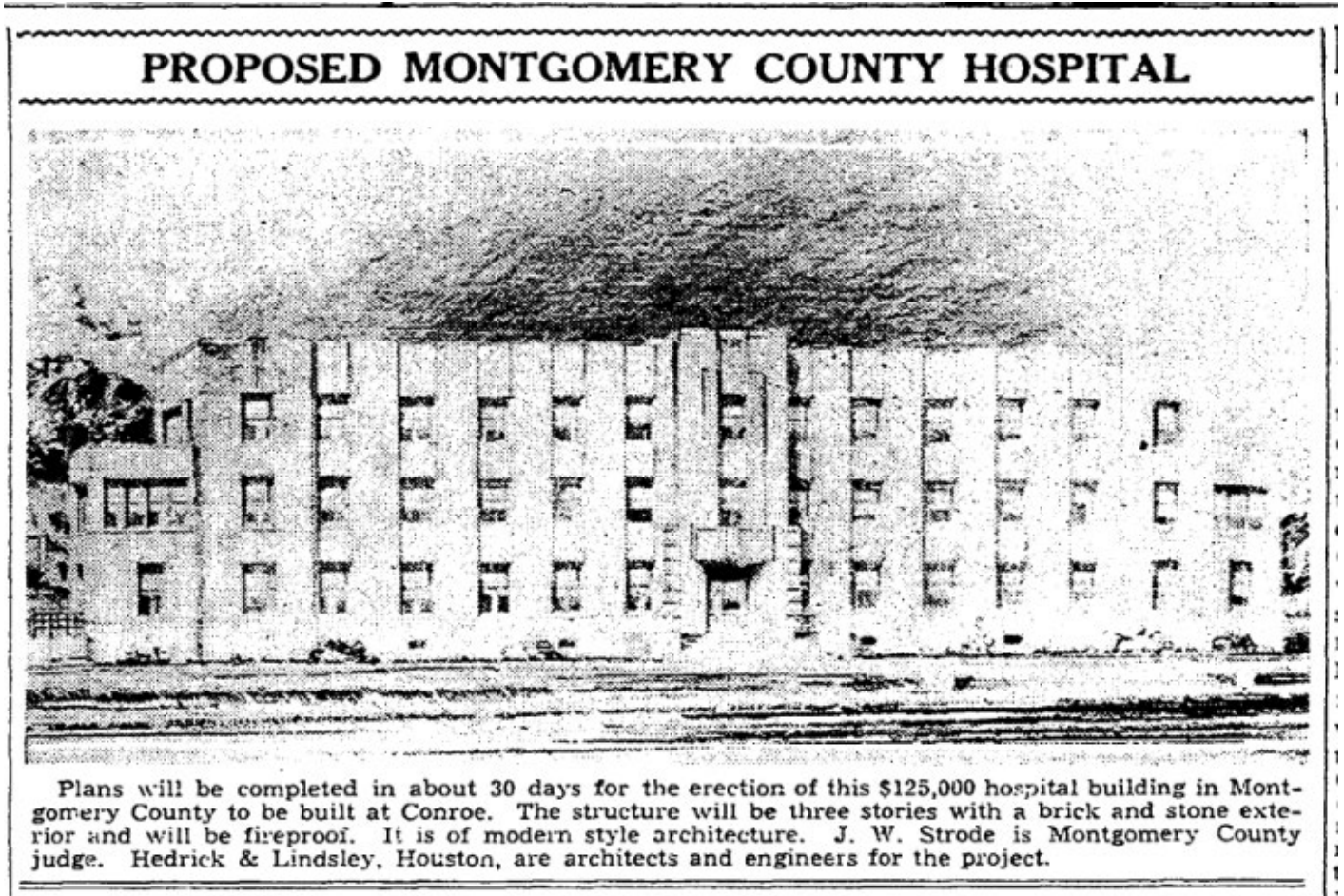
Figures

Figure 1. Detail of Sanborn Map: Conroe, Texas 1938 showing the 1938 Montgomery County Hospital. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Conroe, 1938. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

Figure 2: 1937 article announcing the proposed plans for the Montgomery County Hospital. *Houston Chronicle*, November 14, 1937



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Figure 3. Circa 1940 postcard image of Montgomery County Hospital. (Montgomery County Public Library)



Figure 4. Undated Photograph of the Montgomery County Hospital. Source: Hernandez, Sondra, et al. *Conroe*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2021.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

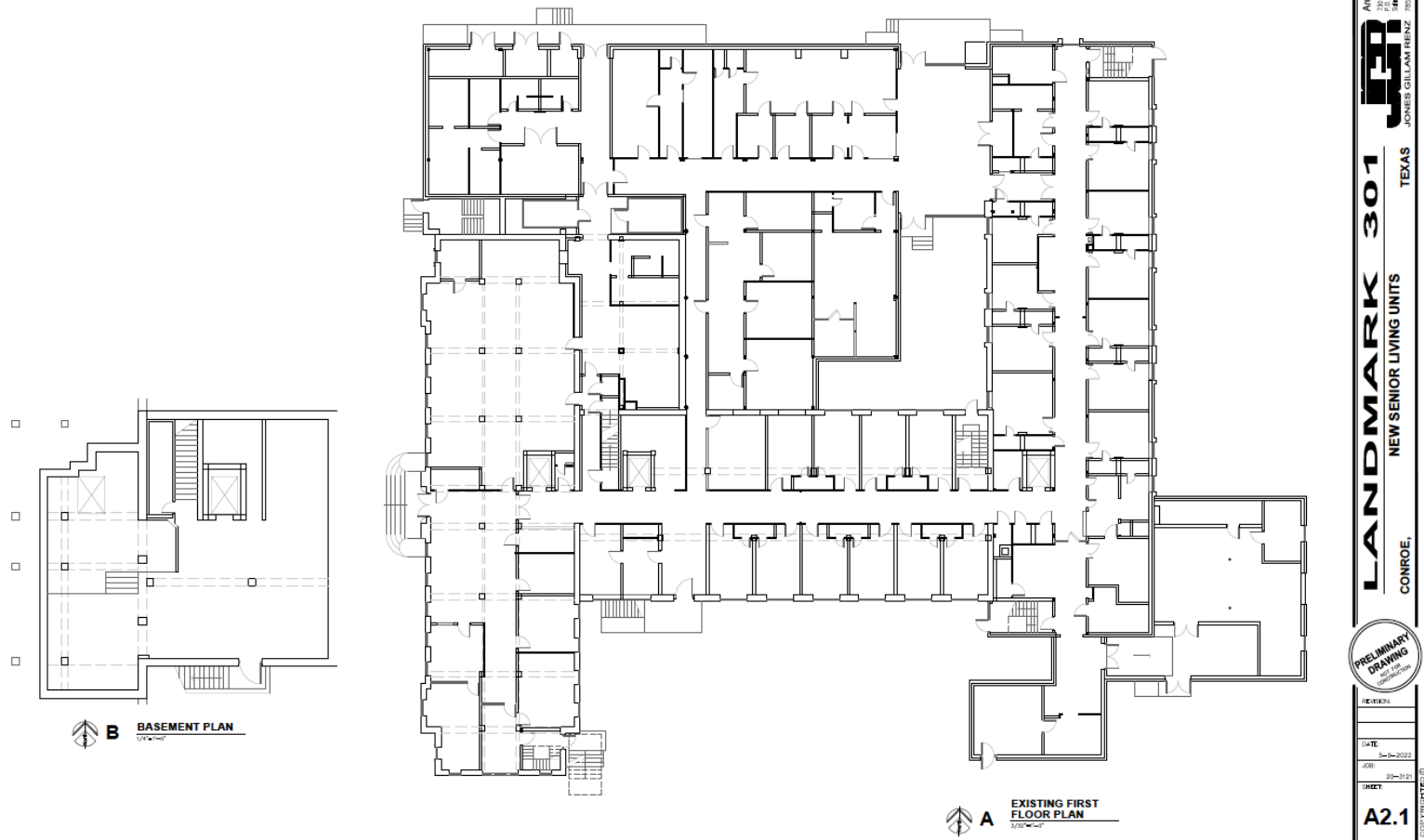
---

Figure 5. 1958 Aerial image depicting Montgomery County Hospital after construction of 1954 rear addition.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

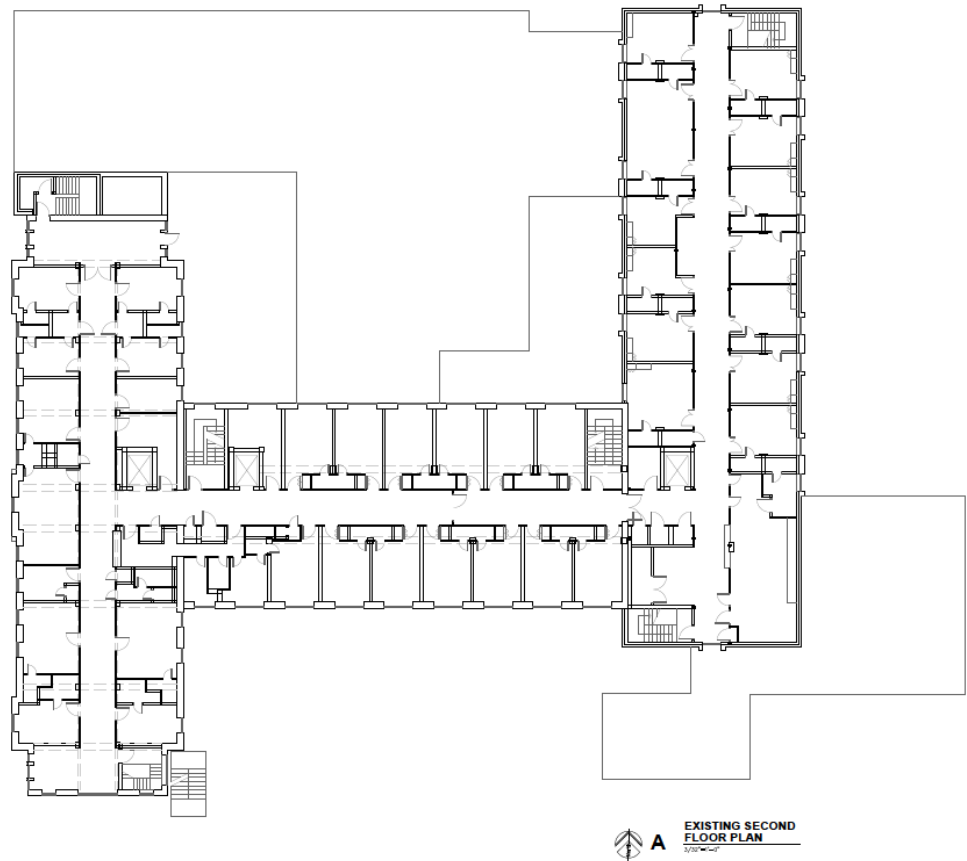
Figure 6. As-built footprint of Montgomery County Hospital First Floor (JGR Architects, 2022)





Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

Figure 7. As-built footprint of Montgomery County Hospital Second Floor (JGR Architects, 2022)



Architects Planners Designers  
220 N. W. 4th  
180 W. 4th Street  
580 N. W. 17th  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
761.527.2356 jgrarchitects.com

**LANDMARK 301**  
NEW SENIOR LIVING UNITS  
CONROE, TEXAS

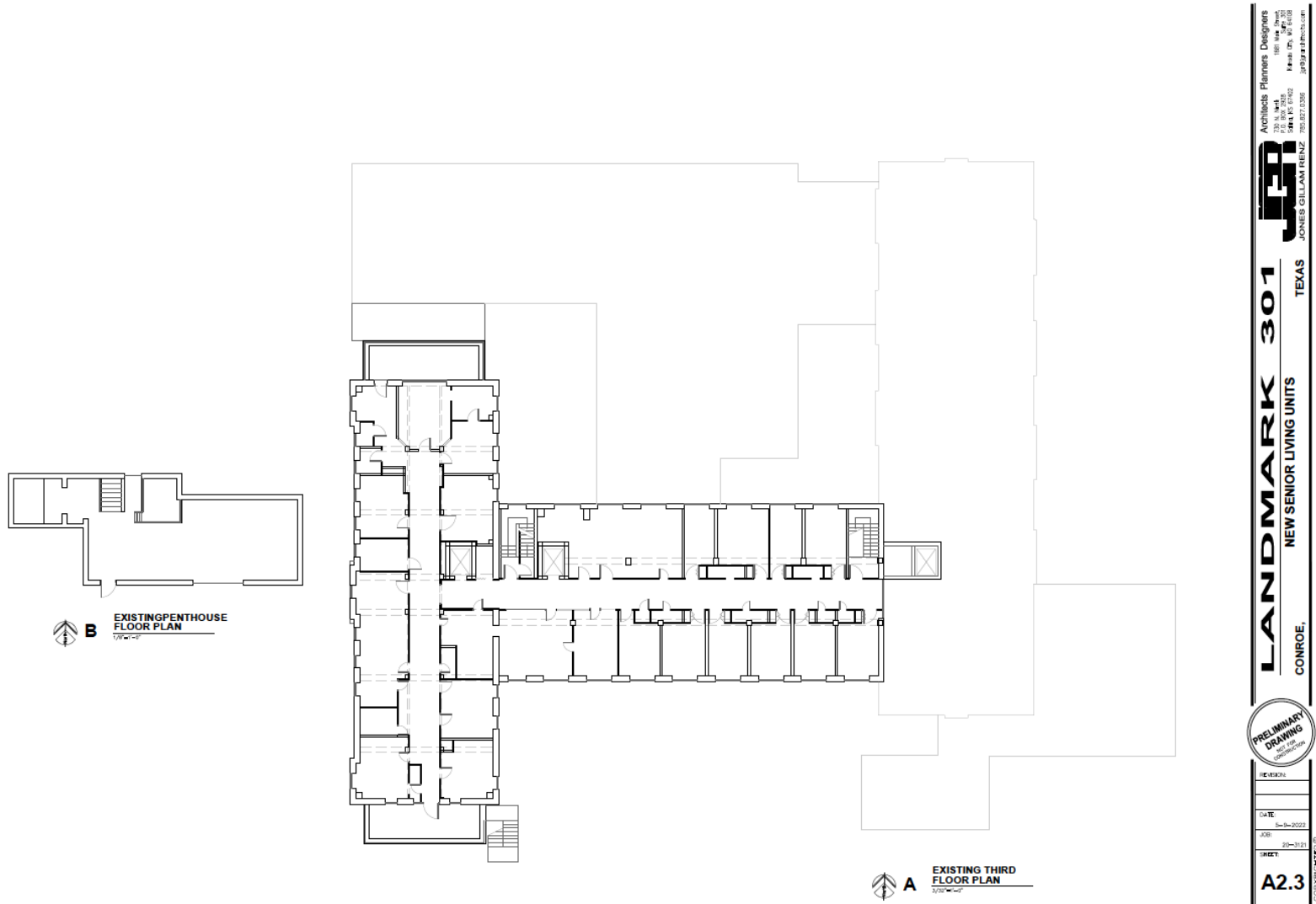
PRELIMINARY DRAWING  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DATE: 09-09-2022  
JOB: 20-01-21  
SHEET: A2.2

COPYRIGHT ©

Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

Figure 8. As-built footprint of Montgomery County Hospital Third Floor (JGR Architects, 2022)



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: Montgomery County Hospital  
City or Vicinity: Conroe  
County: Montgomery  
State: Texas  
Photographer: Daniel Davis  
Date: March 6, 2024  
Location of Original Files: 2506 Little John Lane, Austin, Texas 78704

Photo 1: Montgomery County Hospital, Primary (West) Elevation. View East.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 2: Montgomery County Hospital, West (Primary) Elevation, looking northeast.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 3: Montgomery County Hospital, West (Primary) Elevation entrance detail view.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 4: Montgomery County Hospital, South Elevation, View Northeast.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 5: Montgomery County Hospital, South Elevation, View Northwest.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 6: Montgomery County Hospital, Oblique, South and East Elevations. View Northwest.





Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 7: Montgomery County Hospital, Oblique, East Elevation. View Northwest.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 8: Montgomery County Hospital: North Elevation, View South.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 9: Montgomery County Hospital, First Floor Sunroom, 1938 wing, View West.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 10: Montgomery County Hospital, Second Floor Corridor, 1954 Addition, View East.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 11: Montgomery County Hospital, Third Floor Patient Room, 1954 Addition, View North.



Montgomery County Hospital, Montgomery County, Texas

---

Photo 12: Montgomery County Hospital, Setting. The nominated property is currently under rehabilitation using federal tax credits.



*~end~*