National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received NOV 2.6 1982 date entered

	s in How to Comp —complete applic			ster Forms				Pint.
1. Nam	e							
historic Hous	ston Negro Hosp	ital						
and/or common	Riverside Ge	neral	Hospital					77
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	3204 Ennis S	t reet				N	/A not for pub	lication
city, town	Houston		N/Avi	icinity of				
state	Texas	code	048	county	Harris	.1:	code	201
3. Clas	sification	1	Managar.	1-1-2-				
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisitio X in process being consider		Accessib X yes: r	cupied in progress le	Present U agricu comme educat enterta goverr indust	lture ercial cional ninment nment rial	museur park private religiou scientif transpo	residence s ic ortation
street & number	Board of Trust 3204 Ennis Str	, ratoura		- 10 00				Alle and a second
city, town	Houston			icinity of		state	Texas 7	7004
5. Loca	ation of L	ega	Des	Criptic	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Harr	is Count	y Court Ho	ouse - Houst	ton City	Tax Depart	ment
street & number	1001 Preston,	Suite	101			901	Bagby	
city, town Ho	ouston					state	Texas	
6. Repr	resentati	on i	n Exi	sting 9	Survey	S		
title Texas	Historic Sites	Invent	tory	has this pro	perty been dete	ermined el	igible? ye	es _X_ no
date Januar	ry 1982				federal	_X_ stat	e county	local
depository for su	rvey records Te	xas His	storical	Commissio	on			
city, town Au	ustin					state	Texas	

7. Description

Condition excellent good	deteriorated ruins	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date _	N/A	
X fair	unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Houston Negro Hospital, now known as the Riverside General Hospital, is a three-story building in Spanish Colonial Revival style located near the southwest corner of Elgin and Ennis streets, within the Third Ward of Houston. The back of the hospital is on Elgin Street, a major thoroughfare. The building is surrounded by older one-story dwellings on the north, east, and south, and by a school on the west. Nearby, many small commercial buildings and churches abound, but are not of architectural significance. The Third Ward, just southeast of downtown Houston, is primarily residential and consists of small-and moderate-sized houses and apartments. The relatively tall hospital building is a prominent landmark in this neighborhood, and its red tile, hipped roof can be seen from many blocks away. Completed in 1926, the Houston Negro Hospital was altered in 1952 and again in 1961. Major changes include the replacement of original casement and double-hung windows with aluminum sash equivalents, the addition of a one-story wing onto the south facade, and the modernization of the interior. Nonetheless, the structure essentially retains its historic integrity.

The Houston Negro Hospital is constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow tile. The exterior walls are stuccoed, and the interior walls are plastered. The hipped roof has terra-cotta barrel tiles on wood joists and beams, which form a 10-ft. attic space. The eaves of the roof are unusually deep. A partial basement lies within the foundation.

In plan, the structure is rectangular and measures approximately 118 by 58 ft. The principal (south) facade is symmetrically composed and follows an A-BBB-C-BBB-A rhythm with the B-bays slightly recessed and the central (C) bay slightly projecting. Each floor originally had L-shaped porches which wrapped around the corners and terminated at the central bay. Although the porches were later enclosed, the present-day fenestration is identical to that of the original scheme. The corner bays have a single opening, while the B-bays have openings grouped in threes. The main entrance originally pierced the projecting central bay and featured a semicircular arcade on the ground level. Caststone Tuscan columns divided the inset entry porch into three bays. The double door was centrally located; the outer bays featured casement windows with six-light transoms above. The original entrance has been covered by a connecting, one-story addition made in 1961 (not included in the nomination). The original arches and columns, however, are believed to be imbedded within the plastered walls of the addition. Trustees of the hospital hope that the proposed rehabilitation will include restoring the original entrance and redesigning the connecting corridor with glass so that the original facade will be visible again. On the upper floors, a cast-stone panel with the building's historic name, "Houston Negro Hospital," and a cast-stone cartouche remain intact.

Like the front, the end (east and west) and rear elevations have had alterations. The installation of fire escapes and mechanical equipment partially obscured the recessed central bay of the east and west walls. The rear (north) wall faces onto Elgin Street. Many of the double-casement windows have been replaced with metal-sash windows or filled with air-conditioning units. Again, the central bay is most prominent, although it does not project like its south-facade counterpart. The central bay is capped by a gabled extension with oculus window. A chimney rises near the northwest corner of this facade.

Some interior spaces have been subsequently subdivided and the porches enclosed, but there have been no major structural alterations to the original building. Copies of

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architect Sullivan's original plans are in the possession of the current owners. These drawings show that offices, the delivery room, and the maternity ward were to be located on the first floor, while the entire second floor as well as half of the third floor were to contain rooms for the patients. The operating rooms were also located on the third floor.

The hospital was only the first phase of a complex of buildings which was planned for the site, an area which encompassed an entire city block. Only one other major structure, however, was contructed in accordance with architect Sullivan's original scheme--the Houston Negro Hospital School of Nursing. Two minor structures were also erected: a one-story utility building near the nursing school and an octagonal gazebo (later razed) in the middile of the grounds. According to the original masterplan, four additional buildings were to be built along the periphery of the property; they were never constructed. On the west side, two rectangular-plan buildings were each to contain wards for 60 beds. Two structures of the same size were planned for the east side, and were to contain small wards and private rooms. Sullivan's plan also called for wings to be added onto the nursing school, thus eventually forming a U-shaped building.

The large, one-story wing which was built in 1961, is connected to the original hospital by an enclosed passageway. It occupies much of the central part of the property and is clearly instrusive. Since this new wing effectively separates the old hospital and the nursing school, they shall be nominated separately.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — architecture — art — commerce — communications	check and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention	law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify) Ethnic History
Specific dates	1926	Builder/Architect	Maurice J. Sullivan	- Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Houston Negro Hospital holds a particularly significant place in the history of both the black community and the medical community in Houston. It was the first non-profit hospital for black patients in Houston, and it provided a place for well-trained black physicians to work, who were not allowed to admit patients to the black wards of Houston's other hospitals. In addition, the nursing school, which was established soon after the hospital was built, was the first such educational institution for the training of black nurses in the city. Its building, located on the same block, is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The efforts of several prominent Houstonians, both black and white, made possible the construction of the hospital. The idea was first developed and supported by members of the black community, notably I.M. Terrell, the hospital's first administrator, and several black physicians among whom are Drs. B. J. Covington, Rupert O. Roett, and H. E. Lee. The City of Houston, as recommended by its mayor, donated both the land and the furnishings while a wealthy oilman, J. S. Cullinan, built the hospital building in memory of his son, John Halm Cullinan.

Prior to the opening of the Houston Negro Hospital in 1926, the black community of Houston had access to only a bare minimum in the way of health-care facilities. Charity hospitals before 1919 provided beds for black patients on segregated wards, but the number of beds was inadequate. And black physicians did not have admitting privileges. Only the sickest patients were accepted, and no institution existed in the city where black people of means could receive dignified, private care. The establishment of the Union Hospital in 1919 was the first step in fulfilling the need for a hospital which catered to the black community. The Union Hospital was successful but was very small in scope, as it advertised itself as a "modern hospital of fifty beds." In the mid-1920s, the Union Hospital superintendent, Isaiah M. Terrell, approached several white Houston philanthropists about the possibility of establishing a new, better-equipped hospital complex for the black community. After negotiations with the city to donate the site for a new hospital, the founder of the Texas Company (Texaco), J. S. Cullinan, pledged \$75,000 for construction of the new facility and hired Maurice J. Sullivan as architect. Sullivan was commissioned to design the new hospital, as well as to develop a master plan for the site which was to include a nursing school, landscaped grounds, and provisions for expansion.

The dedication of the Houston Negro Hospital was scheduled for June 19, 1926, a major Texas holiday known as Juneteenth, commemorating the day emancipation was put into effect in Texas. Although construction was not completed, the dedication went as planned. During the ceremony, the hospital's benefactor, J. S. Cullinan,

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was revealed to the public for the first time. A bronze tablet cast by the Tiffany Company was unveiled; it stated that the building was erected "in memory of Lieutenant John Halm Cullinan," J. S. Cullinan's son, who died at the age of 36 after serving in France during World War I. The hospital was "dedicated to the American Negro to promote self-help, to inspire good citizenship, and for the relief of suffering, sickness and disease among them." The hospital offically opened in July 1926.

The style of architecture chosen by Sullivan was that with which he was most facile. Sullivan practiced in Houston during the first half of this century and was a well-known architect who specialized in institutional buildings. Born in Michigan in 1884, he was trained as an engineer at the University of Michigan and, upon graduation, came to Houston as the City Architect. In 1919 he established his own firm. The Villa De Matel (1923-28) is one of his most significant architectural accomplishments. Sullivan also designed St. Anne's Catholic Church and School (1928-1953), Holy Rosary Church (1932-33), St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur, and the nurses home for St. Joseph's Infirmary. Sullivan died in 1961, the year the new wing of Houston Negro Hospital was completed. His son, Charles Sullivan, was likely the main one responsible for designing this expansion.

Unique in its operation procedures, the hospital was founded especially for those "who were not entitled to, and did not desire, free hospitalization." Hospital memberships were sold for six dollars per family per year. This may have been the first prepaid system of medical care in the region. Although it was not obligatory to be a member to receive care, members received free hospitalization for a limited number of days. This "insurance" was discontinued in 1938 because it was financially unsound.

At the outset, the entire staff was black, and only black physicians practiced here. Two of the most prominent and most respected early doctors were Benjamin J. Covington and Rubert O. Roett, who both graduated from Meharry Medical College. Both men were involved in many community projects and were instrumental in founding the Houston Negro Hospital. The first Board of Directors was made up of local black business leaders.

The early years of hospital were not as successful as the founder had hoped. Few patients came during the first year. Several changes were implemented to improve the facilities, including the equipping of an X-ray department and a laboratory. During 1929 the average number of patients per day was eight. The nursing school opened in 1931, but had to close just a few years later, not for lack of students, but for lack of patients in the hospital. Financial problems plagued allinstitutions during the early 1930s, and the Houston Negro Hospital

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was no exception. A political move to close the hospital in 1934 was thwarted by community members determined to make the hospital work. Their efforts paid off, and by 1937 occupancy was up to 46-percent capacity. Community Chest funds were made available, and this allowed the hospital to run on a sounder footing. The hospital also received a \$524,000 trust for maintenance when Cullinan died in 1937.

In 1949 several changes were made in the physical plan to meet the need for more bed and office space, and to correct conditions to meet new fire codes. Maurice J. Sullivan supervised redecorating, making of structural changes, and the installation of air conditioning. Remodeling was completed in 1952.

In 1957 a commission was announced to plan a new wing to the hospital and to apply for Hill-Burton Funds to match those that the hospital had inherited. Maurice Sullivan and his son Charles designed the new wing, which is a two-unit, one-story facility that contains 70 additional beds. The expansion program cost \$1,235,000. When the addition was completed, the name of the institution was changed to Riverside General Hospital. The 1961-portion of the hospital is not included in the nomination.

The Riverside General Hospital Board is now, in 1982, planning another revitalization program to meet the needs of its community. Included in this effort will be the restoration of the Houston Negro Hospital building, referred to now as the Cullinan Building, for use as outpatient clinics.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geograph	ical Data			48
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List all states and counties	for properties overla	apping state or cour	nty boundaries	and the second
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state	code	county		code
11. Form Pre	pared By			
organization Third Ward R	deconstruction Fin		May 20, 19	
city or town Houston	Tibe Their sign	state	Texas	77054
12. State His	toric Prese	ervation O	fficer C	ertification
The evaluated significance of th		tate is:	alogo and a	
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this proaccording to the criteria and pro	perty for inclusion in the ocedures set forth by the	e National Register and	d certify that it ha	
State Historic Preservation Office	per signature	Mis how	nece	11-13-25 (Th. 12-15-16-16-2)
title State Historic Pre	servation Officer		date /	8 Nov. 1982
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this p	En .	e National Register	date	12/27/82
Keeper of the National Reg		SALE TOTAL		,
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

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HOUSTON CITY DIREC	CTORY various years 1919 - 1935
17 January 1926	Houston Post Dispatch "Don Hall given contract on new Negro Hosp."
20 June 1926	Houston Chronicle "Hospital for Negros great aid to race" (photo)
20 June 1926	Houston Post Dispatch (photographs of dedication)
26 June 1926	The Houston Informer "Houston Negro Hospital opens on Juneteenth" (photo) "Houston's New \$80,000 Negro Hospital" - editorial
12 January 1929	The Houston Informer "Cornerstone to be laid today" nursing school
(month unknown) 19	928. <u>Civics for Houston</u> , Houston.
5 November 1937	Houston Chronicle "Negro Hospital one of Projects" (photo of grounds)
April 1941	Houston Magazine (photo)
5 March 1958	Houston Chronicle "1,235,000 addition planned"
6 March 1958	Houston Post "Houston Negro Hospital to launch expansion program"
31 October 1975	Houston Chronicle "Black Hospital's 50th Anniversary"
Sullivan, Maurice	J. Houston Negro Hospital architectural plans, 1926,

copy filed at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

July 1, 1981, copy filed at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

Scandino, Barrie. Unpublished paper on the Houston Negro Hospital,

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Property owned by the Riverside General Hospital is described as lots 1 through 16 Block 2 and 3 plus 4,050 square feet of Paige Street adjoining and 9,894 square feet being 5,172 square feet of Paige Street plus 4,722 square feet of unnamed street adjoining Block 1 out of Holman 10 acre outlot 32. The property to be nominated to the National Register is a portion of the above property description which is a rectangular area of land approximately 350 feet (in lines parallel to Elgin Street) by 125 feet (in lines paralled to Ennis Street). The southern boundary runs along the south wall of the hospital building and does not include the 1961 addition. See attached site map for further clarification of the boundary.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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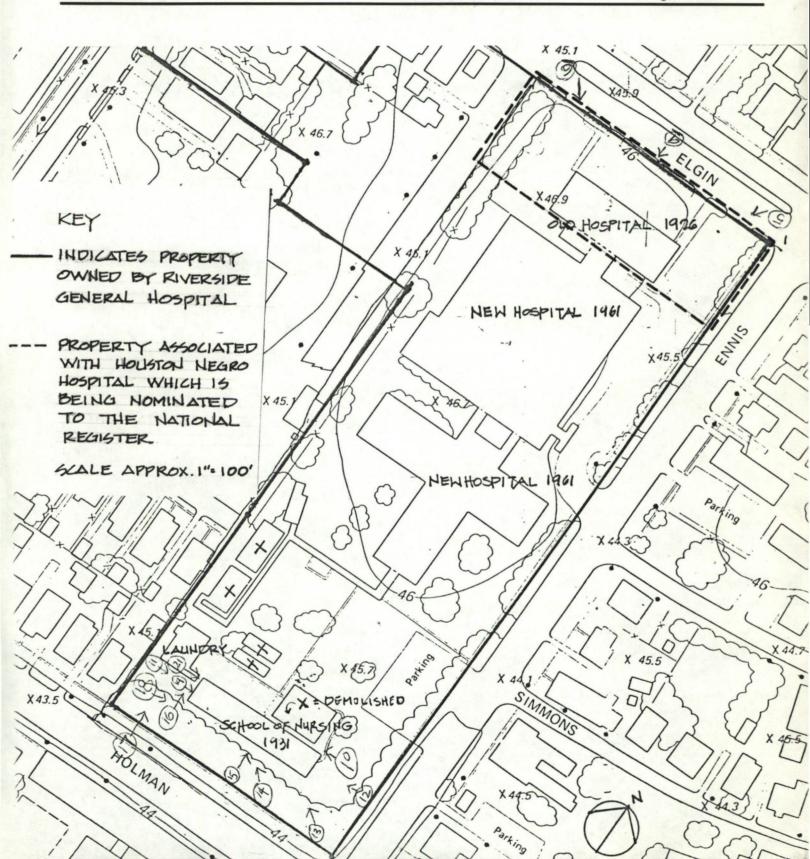
Continuation sheet Item number

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12/31/84

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date entered

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Harris County	
	, ,
TEXAS	Working No. 4/2482-309
	Fed Reg Date: 2-/-X3
	Date Due: 12/24/82 1/10/83
	Action: ACCEPT_12/27/8
resubmission	Entered in the RETURN
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owner objection	Federal Agency:
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Reviewer's comments:	
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	see continuation sheet
2. Location	
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Category Sunorchip Status Present Use Public Acquisition Accessible	
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8. Significance			
Period Areas of Significance. Check and justify being			
Specific dates Builder Architect			
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)			
summary paragraph		₹, ·	
completeness			
clarity			
applicable criteria			
justification of areas checked			
relating significance to the resource	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR		
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to significance			
justification of exception			
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9. Major Bibliographical Refer	ences		
10. Geographical Data			
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Verbal boundary description and justification			
44 Form Proposed Pu			
11. Form Prepared By			
12. State Historic Preservatio	n Officer Certification		
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13. Other		and all the sections are	
Maps			
Photographs			
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Questions concerning this nomin	nation may be directed	to	
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Signed	Date	Phone: 202	272 - 350



Houston Negro Hospital 3204 Ennis Street Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of the Third Ward Reconstruction Financial Corp./ 2400 South Loop West #1403 / Houston, Texas
November 1981
Northwest Oblique / Camera facing southeast
Photo # 1 of 5



Houston Negro Hospital
3204 Ennis Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Photo by Peter Flagg Maxson
Negative filed with the Texas Historical
Commission in Austin, Texas
February 1982
North elevation / Camera facing southwest
Photo # 2 of 5



Houston Negro Hospital 3204 Ennis Street Houston, Harris County, Texas

Photo courtesy of the Third Ward Reconstruction Financial Corp. / 2400 South Loop West # 1403 / Houston, Texas

November 1981

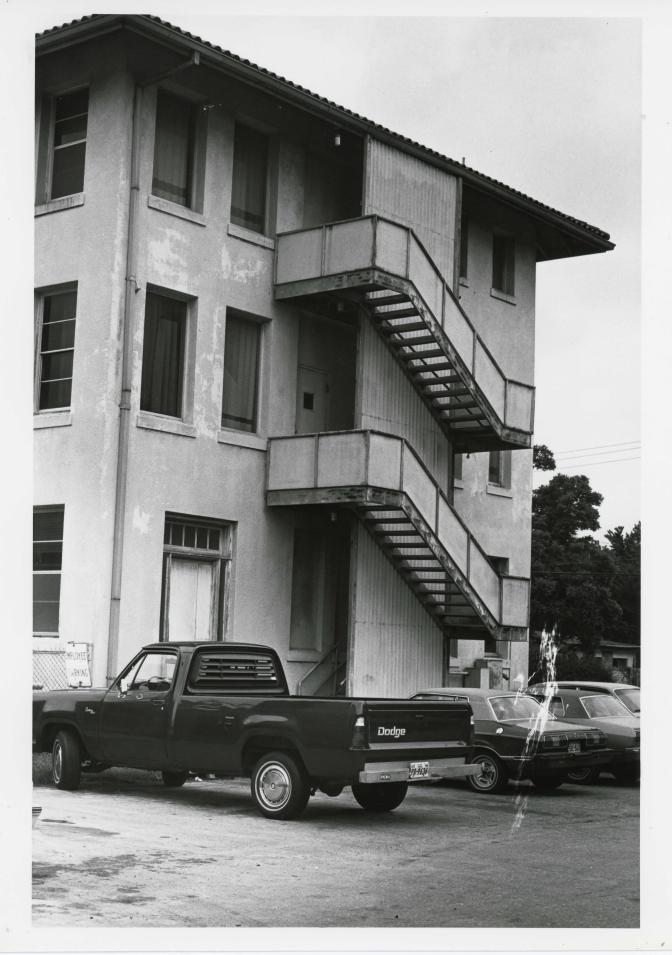
South elevation / Camera facing east

Photo # 3 of 5

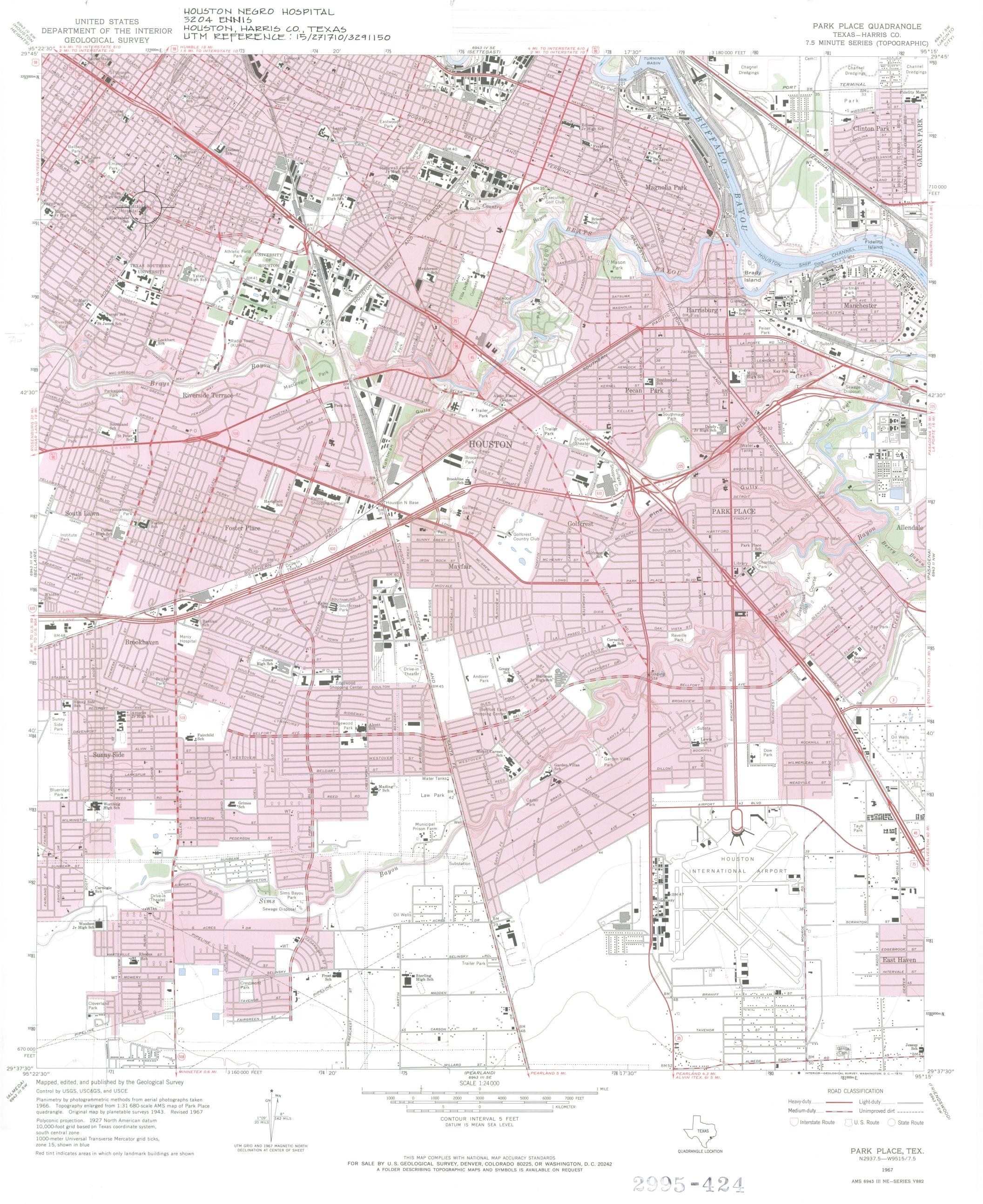




Houston Negro Hospital
3204 Ennis Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Photo courtesy of the Third Ward Reconstruction Financial Corp. / 2400 South
Loop West #1403 / Houston, Texas
November 1981
South elevation / Camera facing west
Photo # 4 of 5



Houston Negro Hospital
3204 Ennis Street
Houston, Harris County, Texas
Photo courtesy of the Third Ward Reconstruction Financial Corp. / 2400 South
Loop West #1403 / Houston, Texas
November 1981
East elevation / Camera facing northwest
Photo # 5 of 5



MEETING REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT:

Houston Negro Mospital

LOCATION OF MEETING: HARRIS CO., TX

STAFF MEMBER:

Silver

DIVISION:

PARTICIPANT: ORGANIZATION:

PHONE:

REPORT:

I think they wanted architecture for # 28 \$ c for # 26, but it wasn't marked

& See nomination for Houston Negro Hosp. School for Women. Both are binilar except in this respect.

Marcy - Beth Grossenor discussed this W Peter Maxson on the state state before the state submitted it - It was she who told them to nominate the two bldgs separately - She agrees that the nomination for the hospital pets a great 8-512-475-3092

1:45 pm 9/19/83 Will Call Back - Called Book 2:10 p.m.

Says NO to C for Hospital due to alterations of building