



Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" 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: 2 listed on original parcel in 2005: Jefferson Davis Hospital; 1929 Power Plant

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions:** HEALTH CARE/hospital; DOMESTIC/institutional housing

**Current Functions:** VACANT/NOT IN USE; WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Brick, Cast Stone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 6 through 8)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Health/Medicine, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1924-1936

**Significant Dates:** 1925, 1929

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** W.A. Dowdy (architect); Russell Brown Company (presumed builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 9 through 12)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 13)

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- 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 -- Specify Repository: *Houston Public Library*

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 1.04 acres. The entire expanded site will increase to 2.67 acres.

### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format).

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. 29.769768° -95.367497°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** TR 11 BLK 476 Baker W R NSBB (Harris County Central Appraisal District)

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes the entire legal parcel associated with the Nurses Home Building.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: James W. Steely, Anna Mod, and Hannah Curry-Shearouse  
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Date: 20 July 2016

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets 14-17)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 18-25)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 5, and 26-34)

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### Photographs

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas  
Photographed by Anna Mod, July 2016 (except as noted)

South façade, view north  
Photo Number 0001

West elevation, view north  
Photo Number 0002

Stair detail from east elevation, view west  
Photo Number 0003

East elevation, view south  
Photo Number 0004

North elevation, view south  
Photo Number 0005

West elevation, view east  
Photo Number 0006

South and west elevations, view north  
Photo Number 0007

Door pediment detail on south elevation, view northeast  
Photo Number 0008

Nurses Home, from roof of Jefferson Davis Hospital Building, view northeast (April 2016)  
Photo Number 0009

**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.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Nurses Building of the Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston is an integral part of the historic medical care campus built on the highest ground in the city (50 feet above sea level) in the mid-1920s. The hospital building and power plant were listed in the National Register in 2005 on a then-separate parcel; the purpose of this nomination amendment is to list the final extant building associated with the hospital complex. The 2-story Nurses Building with partial basement rises from a concrete-pier and wood-beam foundation, within a concrete perimeter wall, to a wood-stud structure finished with multi-hued red common-bond brick veneer. A grand entry ensemble of white-painted “Art Stone” on the east-facing façade fills the central bay with a semi-circular-plan porch with double entry doors on the first floor, and a balustraded balcony above, accessed from 2 separate doors on the second floor (both porches are intact but now fully enclosed for offices). A secondary entrance embellished with Art Stone on the south elevation’s first floor, facing the main hospital building about 250 feet to the south-southwest, facilitated nurses’ pedestrian circulation between dormitory and hospital. A major addition (c.1929) extended the building north with similar construction and detailing, and moved a tertiary basement entrance to the extended east elevation’s basement north of the grand entry. The moderate hipped roof, clad with green composite shingles, seamlessly covers the original block and addition, broken only by a very shallow hipped dormer roof accenting the grand entry’s central bay. Despite window replacements in recent years and a fire that severely damaged the south half of the roof, the Nurses Building retains strong integrity of location, design, workmanship, association, and setting, with feeling and materials currently diminished through alterations and fire damage.

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### **Jefferson Davis Hospital and Power Plant**

The main Jefferson Davis Hospital building (constructed in 1924–1925) and power plant were listed in 2005. The historically affiliated nurses building at 1225 Elder Street had been subdivided onto a separate parcel in 1995 (Wagner 2015) and was not included in the 2005 nomination nor was part of the listed buildings’ subsequent rehabilitation into housing units. This nomination amendment reunites the historically associated hospital facilities and their campus. In March 2016, the NPS approved Part 1 of the federal rehabilitation tax credit application for the Nurses Building, which set the scope of this amendment.

As noted above, the 1929 Power Plant was NRHP listed with “Jefferson Davis Hospital” in 2005 as a contributing resource to the historically affiliated medical campus. The free-standing steam Power Plant, 120 feet north of the main hospital building and 145 feet southwest of the Nurses Home, was part of a 1929 expansion of the hospital that converted the main building’s former mechanical rooms to additional hospital wards and services. The Power Plant also provided steam heat and hot water to the Nurses Home, itself likely expanded the same year as a reflection of growing demand for the county hospital’s services and nursing staff.

### **Nurses Building**

The Nurses Building is a 2-story dormitory, with a grand entry on its east elevation, associated with a formal central interior staircase serving the basement and bedroom floors above. The building was originally designed with a partial basement featuring a laundry room, classroom, cooking-school room, and other services. The first floor featured a double-loaded corridor serving 6 bedrooms with variously 2 to 3 closets in each, common bathroom, and library.<sup>1</sup> The second floor featured a similar double-loaded corridor serving 9 bedrooms with variously 1 to 3 closets in each, common bathroom, and sewing room (Dowdy 1925). The c.1929 addition apparently added 10 bedroom cells and a bathroom on each of the three levels connecting with the original floors, and another internal stairway.

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<sup>1</sup> Architect W.A. Dowdy’s original drawing set shows 7 bedrooms on the first floor plan, but also the secondary nurses’ entry on the south elevation drawing. The south entry as built would have eliminated the 7<sup>th</sup> bedroom at that location in the as-built interior.

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The building's foundation rises from a concrete-pier and wood-beam system within a concrete perimeter wall, to a wood-stud structure finished with multi-hued red common-bond brick veneer. The 1925 configuration, 40x75 feet in plan, anchored the south end of the building into the campus' natural hill, with the stuccoed basement exposed at the north end sufficiently to install a lower-level entry in the middle bay of the north elevation. All extant 1925 elevations are generally symmetrical through the first and second stories, composed of 3 bays on the south, and 5 bays on the east and west. The c.1929 addition, 40x60 feet in plan, extended the building from its north elevation with 6 symmetrical window bays on the east, 6 asymmetrical bays on the west, and 3 bays on the north (Figure 5). The addition's basement is fully exposed at ground level on this end of the hospital campus, and the original north-basement door was moved (see stylistic details below) to the east elevation. Another ground-level basement door provides egress on the addition's west elevation. A fabricated-steel stairway was added to the post-1929 north elevation, providing fire escape for that end of the first and second floors.

The building overall is detailed modestly, reliant on its multi-hued (3 shades: red, brown, and black) brick veneer for most depth, color, and detail through shallow corbelled quoins at each corner at the first and second floors. Originally, 6/1 wood-sash windows throughout (later replaced with fixed-pane tinted glass) and a few multi-light exterior doors followed typical early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential fenestration (Figures 2, 3, 6, and 7). The brick colors, original window configurations, and whitish entry accents united the Nurses Home with the main hospital building, similarly detailed.

Stylistically the main hospital building is classified as Classical Revival in style, but the Nurses Home leans more strongly in its Classical details toward Georgian Revival style. The grand entry composition of "Art Stone," later painted white, on the east-facing façade fills the central bay with a semicircular-plan 1-story porch detailed with 3 free-standing Roman Doric columns, flanked by Doric pilasters that frame round arches of distinct voussoirs (Figure 3). A decorative iron railing protects the porch between columns and pilasters, which all support a curved entablature that is topped by an elaborate balustrade of vase-shaped Art Stone balusters and vase accents (not extant) above the continuous Art Stone railing. The first floor porch is accessed by the exterior stairway (see landscape features below) and leads to double entry doors. The balustraded balcony above is accessed from 2 separate doors on the second floor (both porch levels are intact but now fully enclosed for offices).

A secondary entrance on the south elevation is embellished with Art Stone on the first floor, facing the main hospital building about 250 feet to the south-southwest, which facilitated nurses' pedestrian circulation between dormitory and hospital. The shallow Georgian (British Renaissance) Revival portico frames a single-leaf entry door at the top of 5 concrete steps (7 brick steps on the original drawings). Two free-standing square Corinthian columns and four similar pilasters support a protruding entablature with integral garlands, below an exaggerated curved and split pediment with central vase (Figures 3 and 6).

A major addition about 1929 extended the building north with similar construction and detailing. The original tertiary entrance (Figure 1) on the north basement, a single door with sidelights and transom, and covered by an elaborate shed roof "hood" with very large curved knee-braces and infills of turned balusters, moved *in toto* to the extended east elevation's basement, north of the grand entry. The stuccoed exterior finish of the fully exposed concrete basement extended through the addition. On the new first and second levels, masons carefully blended similar multi-hued bricks into the existing common-bond pattern on the east and west elevations, and replicated the quoins of corbelled bricks on the new northeast and northwest corners.

The moderate-pitch hipped roof, clad with green composite shingles, seamlessly covers the original block and addition, broken only by a very shallow hipped dormer roof accenting the grand entry's central bay (Figures 1 and 3).

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The 50-foot-elevation of the site placed the main hospital building on Houston's highest ground for maximum ventilation and protection from floods. The elevation drops off to the north and the Nurses Home architect incorporated the grade change into the building's most visible features (Figures 2 and 3). The visitors' formal entry staircase rises from Elder Street several feet to a landing, then a 90-degree turn up a final flight to the first floor colonnaded porch. Steps are of hard red bricks and the double railing is a wrought-iron composition that the architect carefully detailed for his blacksmith's art. Nickel-plated brass caps (not extant), as newel posts in the shape of Renaissance urns, tied the stairway structure into the building's overall Georgian Revival theme.

Extensive interior partitioning and dropped ceilings from the building's most recent use as offices obscure the original floor plan and formerly tidy atmosphere of a nurses' dormitory. Window replacements in recent years and a fire that severely damaged the south half of the roof have left the Nurses Home with a challenge for adaptive use and incorporation into the successful hospital building rehabilitation nearby. Despite these challenges, the 1925 Nurses Building at the historic Jefferson Davis Hospital (now Elder Street Artist Lofts) retains strong integrity of location, design, workmanship, association, and setting, with feeling and materials currently diminished through alterations and fire damage.

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### Statement of Significance

The 1925 Nurses Building, on the historic campus of the Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston, was built to house nurses, as a separate but critical resource of the new public hospital. Architect W.A. Dowdy, Houston's official city architect, had designed the hospital in 1923 following a bond issue and agreement between the city and county to divide the cost of their new public medical facility. In 1925 Dowdy designed the Nurses Building just as the hospital construction was complete, closely following guidance and examples for both building types presented in the publication *The American Hospital of the Twentieth Century* (Stevens 1921). Dowdy embellished the Nurses Building with classical architecture touches similar to the main hospital building—red brick walls and white temple accents—but stretched the vocabulary further with Georgian Revival touches to reflect classicism as interpreted in High Renaissance-era Great Britain and its colonies in the 1700s. When the city and county built a separate steam power plant building in 1929 and installed more patient services in the former mechanical rooms of the hospital, the Nurses Home likely expanded as well, almost doubling the footprint of the dormitory and adding perhaps 30 more small bedrooms to the building. The hospital campus was barely 12 years old in 1937 when it was replaced by the new Jefferson Davis Hospital (not extant), built with federal assistance about 1.15 mile west-southwest on Buffalo Bayou. Thereafter, the 1925 hospital became a public clinic and the Nurses Building became offices for various county services through the 1990s. In 2005, the hospital and power plant were listed in the National Register and were rehabilitated that year as the Elder Street Artist Lofts. Like the previously-listed hospital properties, the Nurses Building contributes to the significance of functionally-related complex, and is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Health/Medicine, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. The period of significance for this building begins in 1925 (the date of its construction), and extends through 1936, after which the campus no longer served its original function as the city's primary public hospital.

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### Boundary Enlargement for Jefferson Davis Hospital

The following text headings track the organization of the 2005 Registration Form for "Jefferson Davis Hospital," and summarizes those Section 8 sections of that nomination as pertinent to this boundary enlargement.<sup>2</sup> Since NRHP nomination guidance now includes specific discussion of the nominated property's areas of significance, the areas of Health/Medicine and Architecture are incorporated into the original headings.

### Old Houston City Cemetery

In 1840 the city sexton acquired 5 acres of property north of Houston's center for use as the city cemetery. Burials over the next 4 decades included routine deaths, epidemic victims, soldiers, and fraternal members from all of the city's diverse population before and after the Civil War. When the area was platted, the City Cemetery covered almost all of Block 36; the balance of Block 36 after 1859 hosted the explosives factory and warehouse of the Hazard Powder Company based in Hartford, Connecticut (Wagner 2015). Interments ceased at Houston City Cemetery in 1879, whereafter families and organizations gradually moved many burials and monuments to newer cemeteries farther from the city center. Fractions of Block 36 became streets and housing under various ownerships. The Hazard Powder Company sold its land in 1905 to an investor, and successors sold that land to the City of Houston in 1923 for part of its planned city-county hospital. The city incorporated its former cemetery land on Block 36 into the hospital plan as well (Wagner 2015).

The Nurses Building occupies part of Block 36, at what was once the eastern boundary of Old Houston City Cemetery. While the Texas Historical Commission designated the original cemetery boundaries as a State Archeological

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<sup>2</sup> Anna Mod, "Jefferson Davis Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, on file at the Texas Historical Commission. NRHP-listed in 2005.

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Landmark in 1995, no burial monuments remain on Block 36 and no burials are known to remain within the Jefferson Davis Hospital campus, including the Nurses Building grounds. The state-designated historic cemetery was not nominated to the NRHP as part of the Jefferson Davis Hospital listing of 2005, and is not part of this boundary increase.

### **Establishment of Jefferson Davis Hospital at the City Cemetery**

The aftermath of World War I strongly influenced the need for modern hospitals in in the United States. The City of Houston and Harris County joined a nationwide trend for public-supported facilities that addressed health issues for their racially and financially diverse populations, propelled by a successful bond approval in 1922 for a jointly operated hospital. The city offered a large part of its 5-acre Old City Cemetery lands, already under gradual conversion to developable land, and acquired the balance of the cemetery's host Block 36 to control the strategic hill between Buffalo and White Oak Bayous overlooking downtown to the south (Mod 2004; Wagner 2015). A monument at the cemetery, still in place in 1923, marked the burials of 32 Texas soldiers from the 1860s Civil War. That stone and a petition from local chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy inspired the new hospital Board of Managers to name the facility for Jefferson Davis (1808–1889) president of the Confederate States of America (Mod 2004).

City of Houston architect W.A. Dowdy designed the hospital in 1923, closely following guidance and examples in the 1921 publication *The American Hospital of the Twentieth Century*, by Edward F. Stevens. The author noted that “smoke from adjoining chimneys, noise from nearby railroads, and proximity to a noisy thoroughfare of factory are menaces to be considered,” therefore the modern hospital would be ideally distant from such interference. The highest elevation in Houston, Old City Cemetery's available hilltop, fit most of Stevens' requirements except for a busy railroad mainline about 300 feet to the south (where today's Amtrak station serves transcontinental passenger trains).

The Russell Brown Company of Houston built the hospital building in 1924–1925 under a contract for \$182,000, although costs approached \$400,000 by 1928 and probably included furnishings, plus the Nurses Building commenced after the hospital opened on 15 March 1925. The hospital provided 240 patient beds, supported by a clinic, laboratory, sleeping porches, paint shop, and internal steam power and heat.

“Stylistically,” according to the 2005 National Register nomination, “the Jefferson Davis Hospital is similar in appearance to [architect Charles] Bulfinch's 1821 Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston with its five bay façade with projecting central bay and its classical detailing” (Mod 2004).

In Dowdy's plan for the Jefferson Davis Hospital, he placed the wards at each end of the central corridor – away from the noise and business of the more public and clinic spaces. This organization scheme was used in hospitals in Europe, including the Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark (M. Nyrop, Architect), and the Munich-Schabing Hospital in Munich (Richard Schachner, Architect).

[Dowdy's] basement plan reveals that the lowest level of the building was used for the treatment of African-American patients, with [wards] for men and women at the southern end of the double corridor.... The plan also illustrates the *nurses dining room* [emphasis added], kitchen, drug supply, waiting rooms, offices, toilets, and exam and surgery rooms labeled eye, nose and throat, prenatal, medical, surgical and skin room (Mod 2004).

### **1925 Nurses Home at the Jefferson Davis Hospital**

In March 1923, the hospital's architect announced completion of the main building's drawings, and told the *Galveston News* that he also planned a “nurses' home to house thirty student nurses and an isolation unit [to be] erected on the

## Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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hospital site which included the old cemetery” (Wagner 2015). Such buildings had become more common on hospital campuses throughout the U.S.

“Perhaps next in importance to the care of the patient,” Edward Stevens wrote in *The American Hospital*, “is the care of the nurse.” Stevens included a substantial chapter on “The Nurses’ Residence,” illustrated with floor plans and interior photographs from numerous free-standing building-type examples in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida, and Canada. Stevens advocated for these facilities on behalf of student nurses:

When off duty she must be able to go out of the environment of the sick room, out of the sound of suffering, out of the smell of iodiform, and in fact out of the hospital atmosphere.

Any hospital of considerable size should have its nurses’ residence. This should be a *separate building* [original emphasis], not too remote from the hospital, but far enough away so that the noises of an entertainment, a dancing party or a romp will not disturb the patients.

The more attractive and homelike this building can be made and the more alluring it can be made to the young woman who is taking up nursing, the better will be the class of women who will come to it and, in the end, the better will be the care that the patient will receive (Stevens 1921:276).

While Stevens emphatically recommended “nothing but single rooms” for nurses, Dowdy designed the Houston building with double-loaded corridors serving 15 bedrooms on the first and second floors with variously 2 to 3 closets in each, indicating that most bedrooms would shelter 2, and some would house 3, nurses each (Dowdy 1925). The c.1929 north addition, perhaps also designed by Dowdy, added at least 10 bedroom cells—likely small individual bedrooms—and a common bathroom on each of the three levels connecting with the original floors.

Dowdy told the *Galveston News* in March 1923, just as he announced completion of the main hospital’s drawings, that he also planned a “nurses’ home to house thirty student nurses and an isolation unit [to be] erected on the hospital site which included the old cemetery.”<sup>3</sup> While Stevens emphatically recommended “nothing but single rooms” for nurses, Dowdy designed the Houston building with double-loaded corridors serving 15 bedrooms on the first and second floors with variously two to three closets in each, indicating that most bedrooms would shelter two, and some would house three nurses each.<sup>4</sup> The c. 1929 north addition, perhaps also designed by Dowdy, added at least 10 bedroom cells—likely small individual bedrooms—and a common bathroom on each of the three levels connecting with the original floors.

Dowdy embellished the Nurses Home with Classical architecture touches similar to his Jefferson Davis Hospital—red brick walls and white temple features—but stretched the vocabulary with Georgian Revival touches to reflect Classicism as interpreted in High Renaissance-era Great Britain and its colonies in the 1700s (Figure 6). The formal east entry (Figures 2 and 3), for visitors to the dormitory and on the public street that led to the main hospital, certainly accommodated “dances and romps” intended by Stevens to provide entertainment and distraction for the stressful job of nursing (Dowdy 1925).

In July 1930, the Jefferson Davis Hospital issued an advertisement for its school of nursing and “new nurses home,” which appeared definitively in newspapers in Brookshire and Shiner, Texas, and likely appeared in several other small town newspapers throughout central and southeast Texas; there is no evidence the hospital was affiliated with a different nursing school before opening its own. An August 1930 article in the *Llano News* states Texas has only two

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<sup>3</sup> Janet Wagner, “Nursing Building and Harris County Adjacent Property.” J.K. Wagner & Company, Inc. Houston, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> W.A. Dowdy, “Nurses Home for Jefferson Davis Hospital,” revised Jan. 1925. Courtesy Harris County Engineering Department.

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accredited nursing schools,<sup>5</sup> one of which was located at what is now Houston Methodist Hospital; it is uncertain where the second school was located.<sup>6</sup> A 1932 article from the *Shiner Gazette* explicitly confirms that the school of nursing at Jefferson Davis Hospital was opened and educated a number of nurses prior to the hospital's relocation just a few years later;<sup>7</sup> newspapers in Corsicana, Texas reported several Jefferson Davis Hospital nursing graduates from their area through 1937. Many nurses who graduated from the school of nursing at the hospital went on to work there for at least a few years before moving on to hospitals in other cities.<sup>8</sup>

### Conclusion

The hospital campus was barely twelve years old in 1937 when the city and county moved to a new "Jefferson Davis Hospital" (not extant) built with New Deal assistance about 1.15 mile west-southwest on Buffalo Bayou. Thereafter the 1925 hospital became a public clinic and the Nurses Building became offices for various county services through the 1990s. The Nurses Home, part of the original hospital campus, is a lasting reminder of Houston and Harris County's efforts to provide public medical care from well-accommodated staff for all citizens, and is therefore significant under NRHP Criterion A in the area of Health/Medicine. The Nurses Building is also a fine local example of early twentieth century revival styles, and a well-designed and well-built model of the Georgian Revival style, therefore significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

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<sup>5</sup> "More attention being given to public health conditions," *Llano News*, Thursday, August 14, 1930, pg. 7.

<sup>6</sup> "The Methodist Hospital and School of Nursing," *Longview Daily News*, Friday, July 30, 1926, pg. 3.

<sup>7</sup> "Untitled," *Shiner Gazette*, Thursday, May 26, 1932, pg. 8.

<sup>8</sup> "Miss Marie Williams," *Corsicana Daily Sun*, Thursday, August 22, 1935, pg. 4.

## Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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### Bibliography

Dowdy, W.A. "Nurses Home for Jefferson Davis Hospital." Drawings set at Houston Metropolitan Research Center. Houston. Drawn originally in 1924, drawings are marked "Revised Jan.15.1925."

"The Methodist Hospital and School of Nursing." *Longview Daily News*. Friday, July 30, 1926, pg. 3.

"Miss Marie Williams." *Corsicana Daily Sun*. Thursday, August 22, 1934, pg. 4.

Mod, Anna. "Jefferson Davis Hospital." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. On file at the Texas Historical Commission. NRHP listed in 2005.

"More attention being given to public health conditions." *Llano News*. Thursday, August 14, 1930, pg. 7

Stevens, Edward F. *The American Hospital of the Twentieth Century*. New York: The Architectural Record Company, 1921.

"Untitled." *Shiner Gazette*. Thursday, May 26, 1932, pg. 8.

Wagner, Janet. "Nursing Building and Harris County Adjacent Property." J.K. Wagner & Company, Inc. Houston, 2015.

# SBR Draft

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet  
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

## Section 10: Geographic Data

**Acreage of Property:** 1.04 acres.

**Coordinates:** 29.769768° -95.367497°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** TR 11 BLK 476 Baker W R NSBB (Harris County Central Appraisal District)

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes the entire legal parcel associated with the Nurses Home Building.

**Map 1:** Google Earth, accessed October 12, 2016

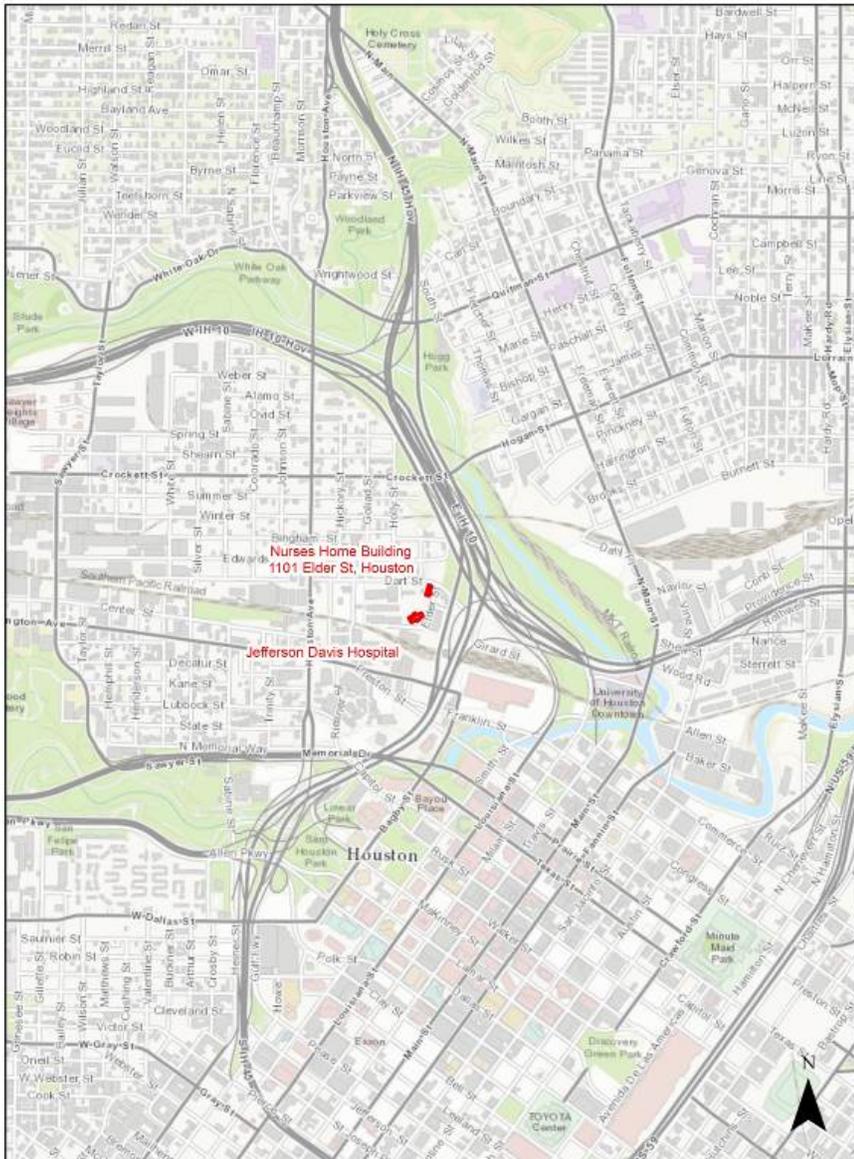


# SBR Draft

## Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas



Map 2: Harris County, Texas



Map 3: Nurses Home Building, relative to the Downtown Houston

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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas



Map 4: Site map for the Jefferson Davis Hospital and Nurses Home Building

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet  
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

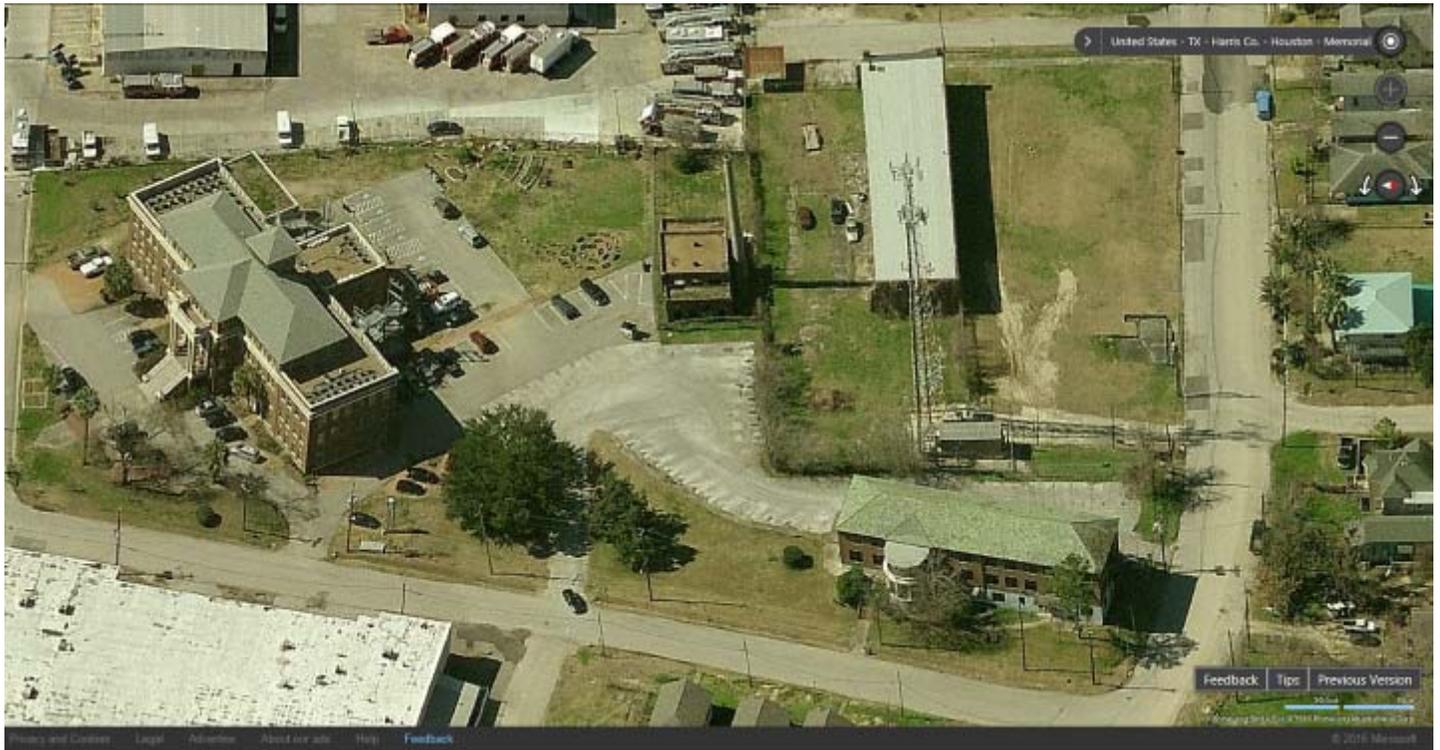
Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas



Map 5: Site map showing parcel boundaries and coordinates for the Nurses Home parcel boundary

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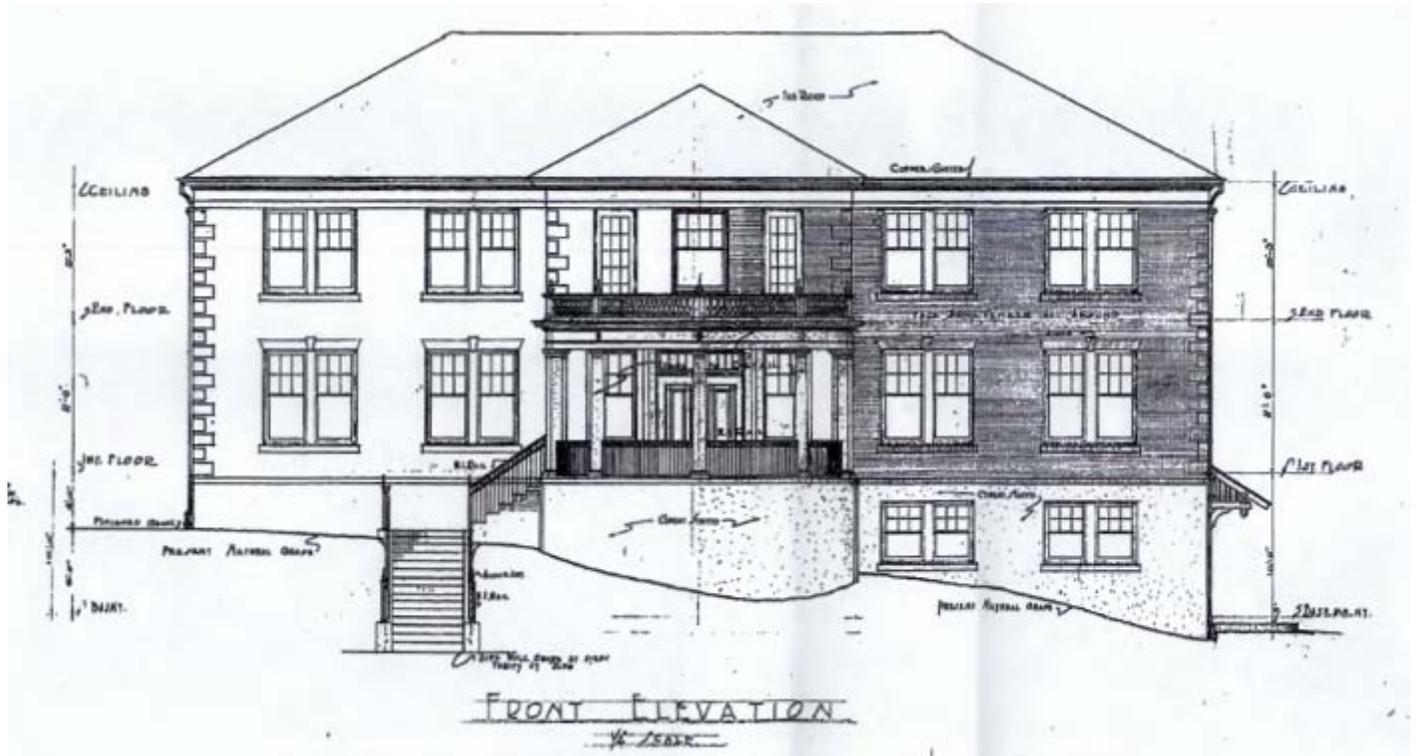


**Figure 1.** Satellite view of the Jefferson Davis Hospital campus facing west, c. 2010, prior to the fire that damaged the roof of the 1925/1929 Nurses Building (bottom right). The main 1925 hospital building is at left, rehabilitated in 2005 as the Elder Street Artist Lofts, and the 1929 Power Plant and smokestack are at center (bing.com/maps 2016).

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National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet  
NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

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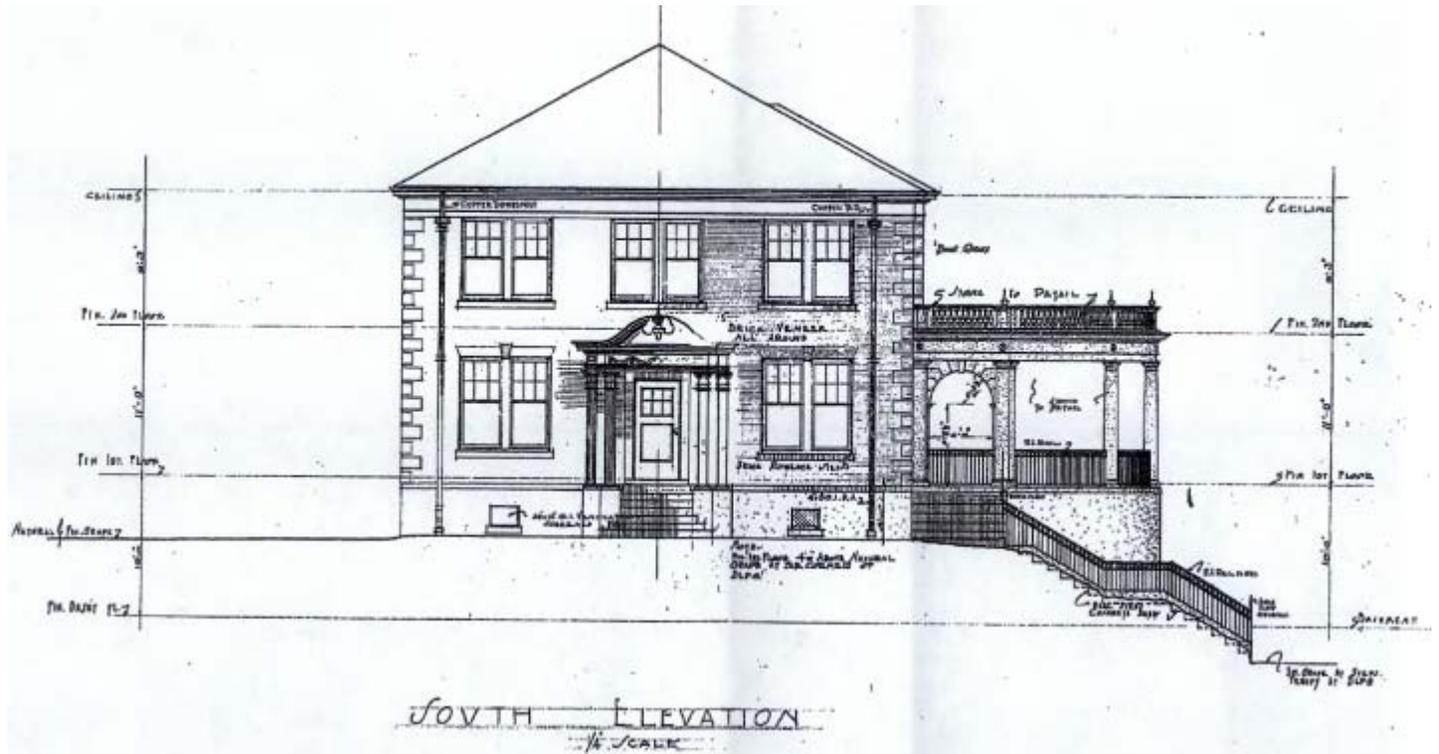


**Figure 2.** Architect W.A. Dowdy's 1925 drawing of the Nurses Home east elevation, principal façade, demonstrated how he incorporated the rigidly symmetrical 5-bay composition above the basement into the Elder Street hill by an off-center entry staircase, the extended and elevated first floor porch, and a basement entrance on the north elevation (Dowdy 1925).

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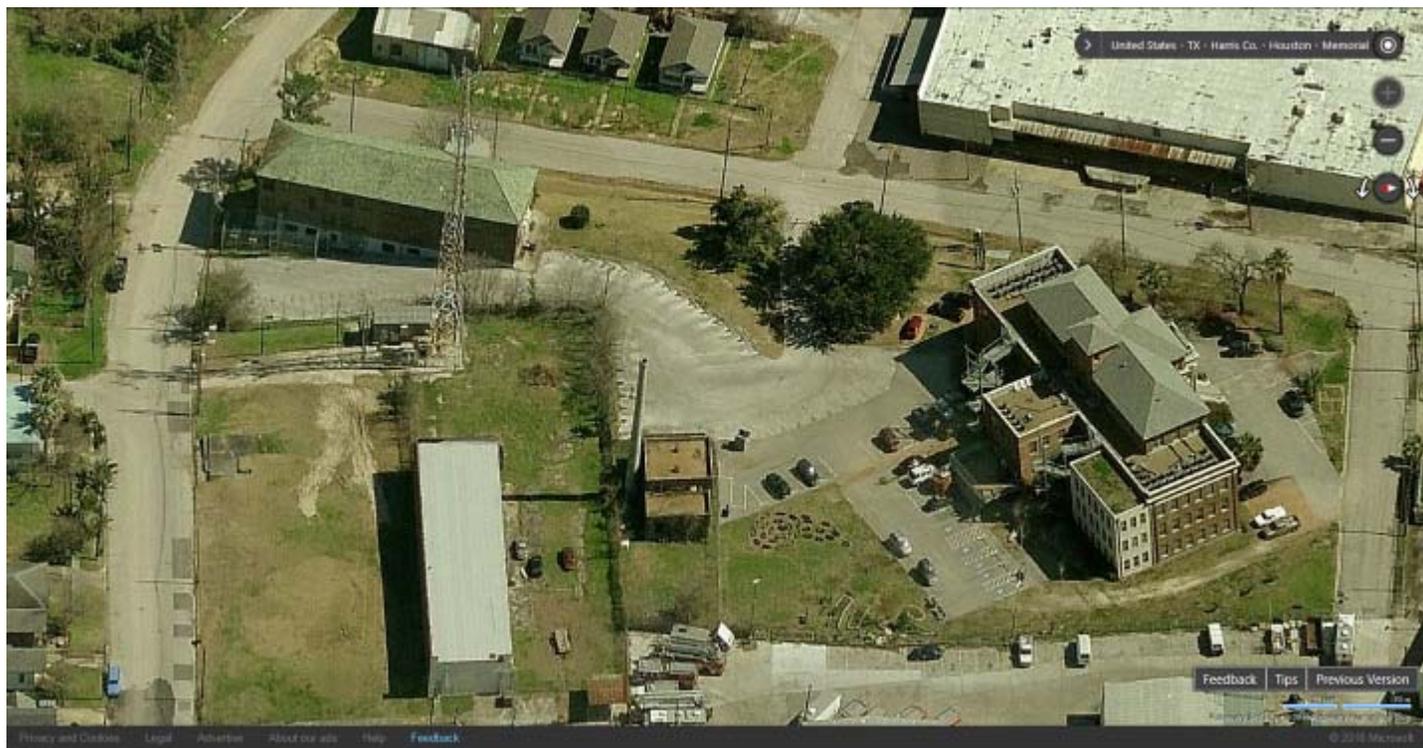
Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas



**Figure 3.** Architect W.A. Dowdy's 1925 drawing of the Nurses Home's south elevations juxtaposed the grand visitor entry and porches on the east/façade elevation with his elaborately detailed secondary entrance on the south elevation, used by nurses to walk about 250 feet to their duties and dedicated dining room at the main Jefferson Davis Hospital (Dowdy 1925; Mod 2004).

## Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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**Figure 4.** Satellite view of the Jefferson Davis Hospital campus facing east, c. 2010, prior to the fire that damaged the roof of the 1925/1929 Nurses Building (upper left). The main 1925 hospital building is at right, and the 1929 Power Plant and smokestack are at lower center (bing.com/maps 2016). Original landscaping is not documented but was likely simple if not austere. Overgrown bushes or trees crowd the formal entry and porch ensemble, and mowed grass covers the hill between Elder Street and the building's southeast corner. Otherwise pavement and temporary chain-link fencing cover the balance of the perimeter around the Nurses Home.

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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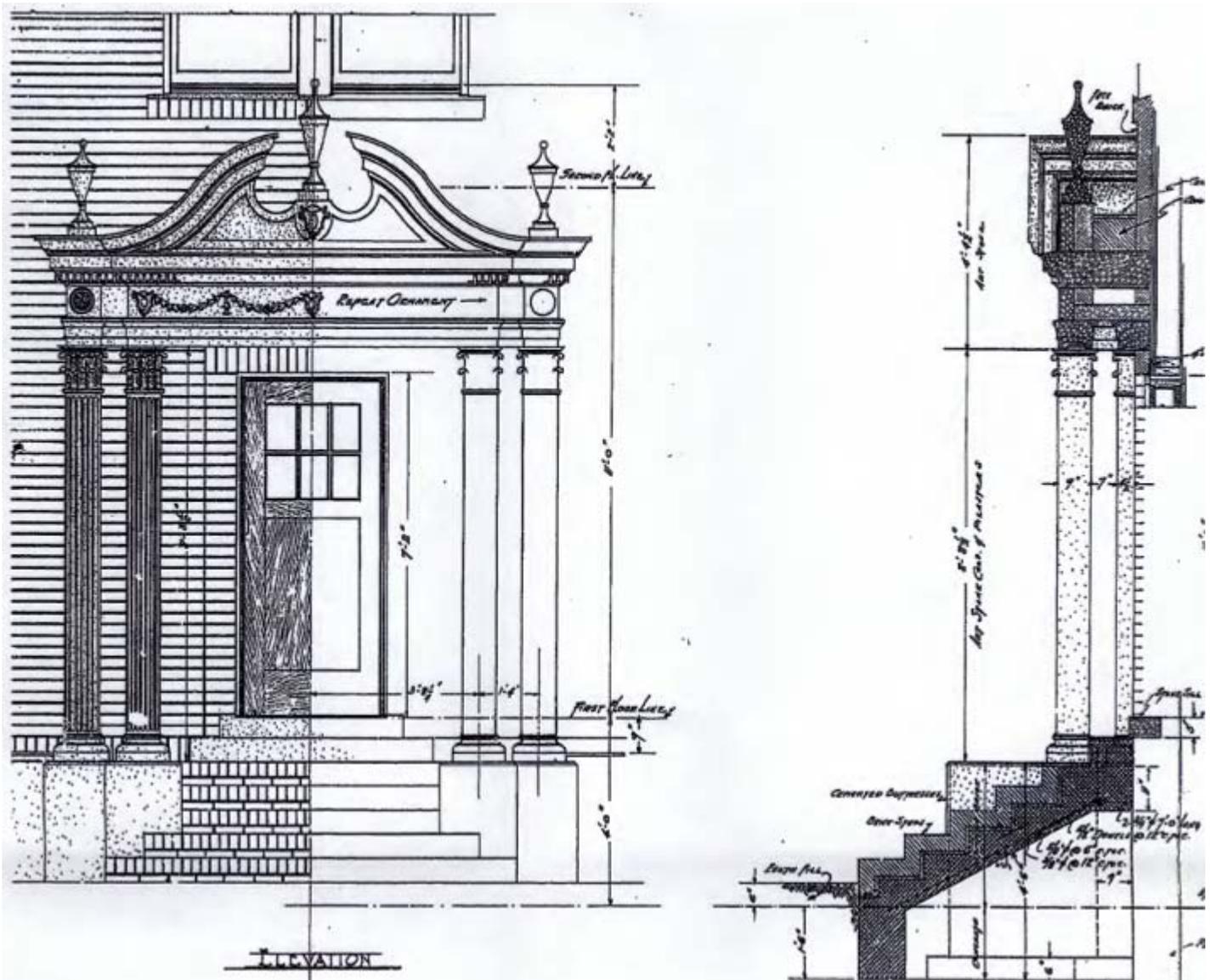


**Figure 5.** The Nurses Building at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, west elevation, shows only a slight shade of difference between the darker 1925 brick veneer (first 5 bays on the right/south) and the 1929 addition's veneer (6 asymmetrical bays on the left/north). This 25 June 2016 view also shows the 2013 fire damage to the south end of the roof, and the overall fixed-pane window replacements—of original double sets of 6/1 wood sash—from the late twentieth century (SWCA 2016).

# SBR Draft

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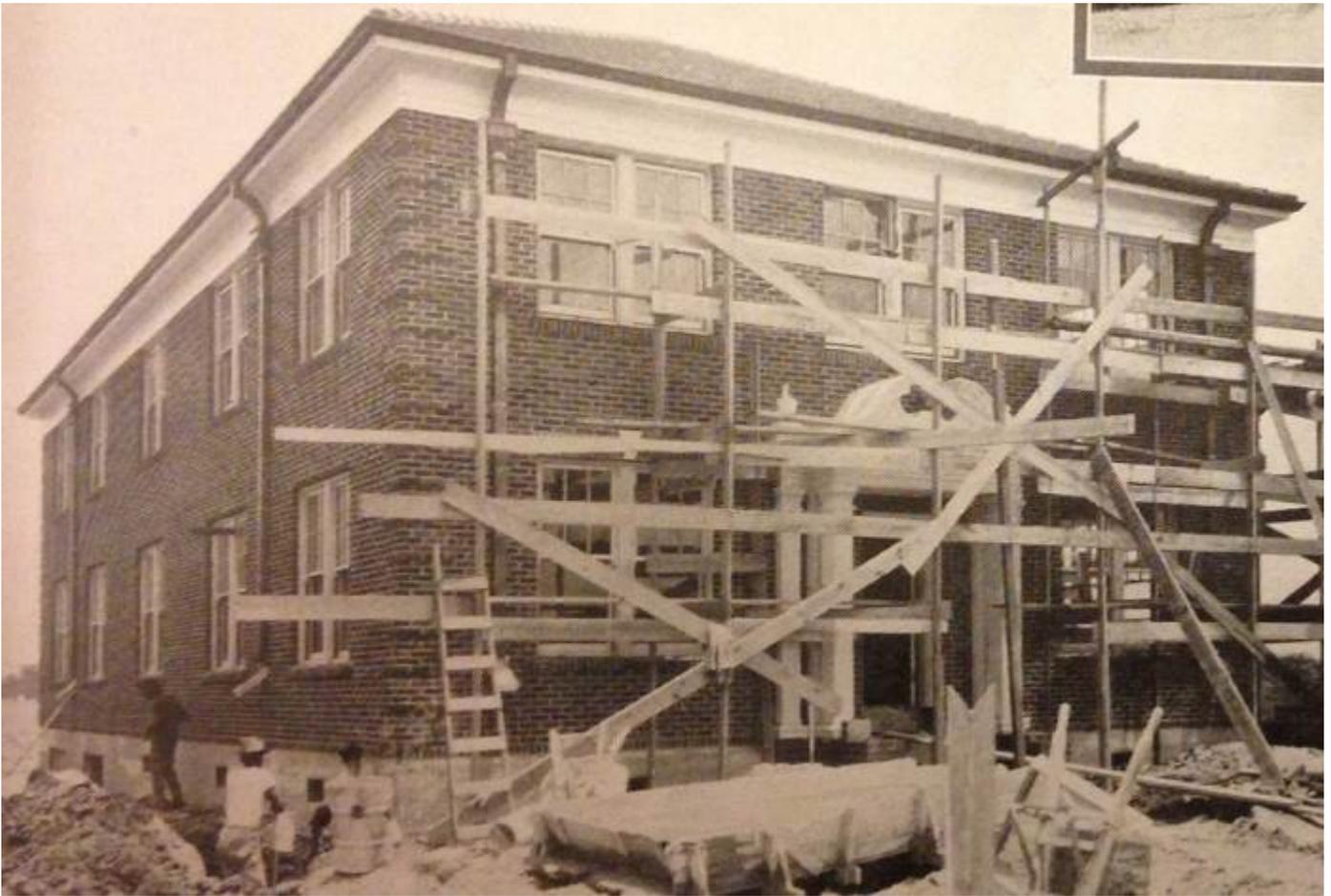
Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas



**Figure 6.** The occupants' exclusive access door on the Nurses Home Building's south elevation faces the main hospital building about 250 feet away. Architect W. A. Dowdy specified relatively few fine embellishments to the otherwise functional brick-veneer dormitory, but designed this Classical doorway in Art Stone to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the Jefferson Davis Hospital enterprise and the high calling of their profession (Dowdy 1925).

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

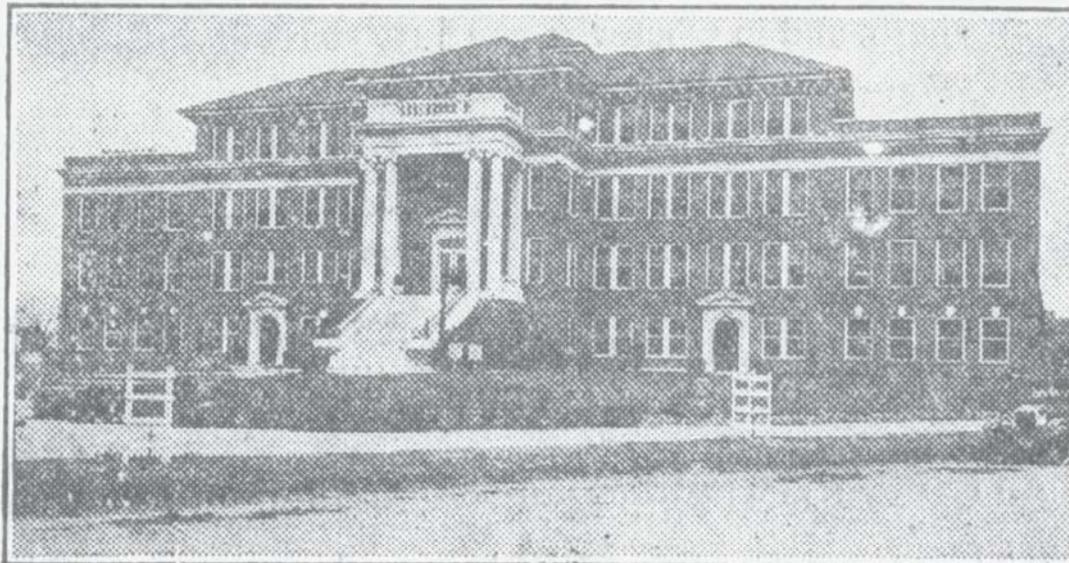
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**Figure 7.** The Nurses Building neared completion in 1925. Original pairs of 6/1 wood windows are installed along with copper gutters and downspouts, tile shingle caps along the hipped-roof's ridges, and the fancy nurses' south entry door with its Art Stone split-pediment portico (XXX Magazine 1925)

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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## JEFFERSON DAVIS HOSPITAL

**H**IGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, choose a profession for a career. **NEW NURSES HOME.** Paid instructress and standardized curriculum. Get paid while learning a profession useful for life. An allowance of \$15 a month and full maintenance. Write

**DIRECTOR, School of Nursing**  
**Jefferson Davis Hospital      Houston, Texas**  
**CLASSES BEGIN JULY 15th**

**Figure 8.** Advertisement printed in the *Shiner Gazette* (Shiner, Texas), July 10, 1930. This same ad touting the expanded nurses home and the hospital's nursing school appeared in several small-town newspapers in southeast Texas.

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): South façade, view north

Photo Number 0001

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Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): West elevation, view north

Photo Number 0002

# SBR Draft

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National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet  
NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): Stair detail from east elevation, view west

Photo Number 0003

# SBR Draft

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NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): East elevation, view south

Photo Number 0004

# SBR Draft

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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): North elevation, view south

Photo Number 0005

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): West elevation, view east

Photo Number 0006

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): South and west elevations, view north

Photo Number 0007

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: July 2016

Description of Photograph(s): Door pediment detail on south elevation, view northeast

Photo Number 0008

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Boundary increase to include Nurses Building), Harris County, Texas

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Date Photographed: April 2016

Description of Photograph(s): Nurses Home Building, from roof of Jefferson Davis Hospital Building, view northeast  
Photo Number 0009.

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