



Health System development 1965 to 1980

structure and linked to the hospital. The new Medical School contained extensive laboratory facilities, lecture halls, administrative offices and a library. Along with these new facilities, the surgical and x-ray suites in the existing hospital were modernized and the outpatient department expanded.

In 1901, to ensure adequate staffing of the hospital, the University of Virginia opened a training school for nurses. Student nurses learned on the job, working ten to twelve hours a day for two years before obtaining their degree. These nurses lived on the premises. Intensely interested in the professionalization of nursing care and the improvement of nursing education, Ms. Josephine McLeod served as Superintendent of Nurses from 1923 to 1937. Under her leadership, the hospital improved working conditions and raised standards for nursing practices. Ms. McLeod instituted graduate nursing degree courses and sought accreditation for the entire nursing school curriculum.

With the opening of the hospital, practical clinical experience was incorporated into the medical degree program. Observation of clinical procedures remains vital to contemporary medical education. Throughout the Depression, steadily increasing



The Health System today

usage of medical services put considerable pressure on the hospital's aging facilities, particularly the wards of the first hospital buildings. Consequently, over the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s, University leaders successfully raised funds for five substantial building campaigns to expand and modernize the complex. The first of these buildings was McKim Hall for the Nursing School, which was completed in 1931. That year, it accommodated the largest nursing class in the school's history, 53 students, and the program's first full-time faculty member. The final and most extensive building campaign of the 1930s was the construction of the West Wing, which opened in 1941. Located in the green space directly in front of the original hospital pavilion, it was directly connected to all three structures.

In approximately 1942, Medical School dean Harvey Jordan appointed a building committee to assess the spatial needs of the hospital and Medical School. By 1947, plans were under development for a substantial new hospital building, a multi-story structure to be sited at the center of the existing complex, facing Jefferson Park Avenue. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in June 1958. The building reached completion in November 1960.



Panoramic photograph of the hospital, ca. 1929