

Beginning in the 1970s, the hospital complex grew southward, across Jefferson Park Avenue. The Josephine McLeod Nursing Education Building and the Harvey Jordan Medical Education Building were dedicated in 1972. Four years later, the Health Sciences Library linked the multi-story hospital to Jordan Hall by a structure built over Jefferson Park Avenue. This innovative use of space was made possible by air rights granted by the Charlottesville City Council. The Primary Care Center, next to Jordan, opened in January 1980 with seven outpatient clinics and support services.

Within ten years of the multi-story hospital dedication, additional space was needed. By the early 1980s, the situation had become critical. After seriously considering building a new complex on the Blue Ridge Hospital grounds, medical faculty and University administrators determined to keep the medical center an important presence within the University's Central Grounds. Expansion would be on land next to the Primary Care Center. In March of 1984, the State Health Commissioner issued a certificate of public need for a \$200 million facility, with the state legislature and governor giving their approval. Originally designed to be six stories tall, the new hospital building gained two additional stories nearly four years later. In 1989, more than 140 patients moved from the multi-story building to the new University hospital through the 700-foot link. Almost two years after the first patient was moved, the last inpatient was transferred to the eighth floor of the new hospital.



Medical School portico under construction, ca. 1928



Medical School rendering, 1927