

A Chronology of Rhode Island Hospitals

1847

BUTLER HOSPITAL

In 1844, Nicholas Brown declared that he wished to construct an asylum for the mentally disturbed “where any person regardless of class or religion could better themselves.” For this laudable purpose, his will provided \$30,000. A request was sent to Cyrus Butler, who agreed to donate \$40,000. Architects William Tallman and James Bucklin designed a Victorian Gothic structure in a park-like setting on Providence’s East Side off Blackstone Blvd., with the landscaping designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed New York’s Central Park. The trustees of the institution chose a physician, Isaac Ray, as the first superintendent of the hospital.



total of \$305,000 was eventually subscribed and construction was begun in December of 1864. The building consisted of a central unit housing the administration, chapel, auditorium, library,

kitchens and central apothecary; and two wings extending in a north-south direction. The wards were spacious 24-bed units with adequate ventilation and sunlight. The board authorized the opening of about 70 beds to serve the immediate medical needs of the Providence population, then about 70,000.

1873

NEWPORT HOSPITAL

Chartered in 1873, a site was purchased on Friendship Street; the hospital opened November 22, 1873. During 1895–1896 four new wards were added to the hospital; the Vanderbilt ward for men, the Ledyard ward for women and children, the Carey ward for paying patients, and the Vanderbilt surgical building. Departments for treatment of eye and ear diseases opened in 1896.

1878

ROGER WILLIAMS HOSPITAL

Founded in 1878 as a homeopathic facility; moved to Chalkstone Avenue in 1925 and built a school of nursing soon after.

1884

RHODE ISLAND HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL

Located in the castellated English style granite mansion once home to Charles and Isabelle Nichols on Morris and Hazard Avenues on the East Side. A new surgical building was subsequently erected and the stable reconstructed for use as a contagious cottage. Closed in 1900.



1885

PROVIDENCE LYING-IN HOSPITAL, NOW WOMEN & INFANTS

Opened July 15 on Slocum Street in the former General James estate in Providence; relocated two years later to 96 State Street. The first house physician was Dr. E. Flood, admitting physician, Dr. K. II. Carver; matron, Elizabeth Huggins. At the time of the first report, in 1887, 54 children had been born and no mother’s death had occurred.

In 1926, the hospital moved to 50 Maude Street, and remained there for 60 years. In 1986, Women & Infants Hospital was built as its successor in a new facility on Dudley Street in Providence.



1888

WOONSOCKET HOSPITAL

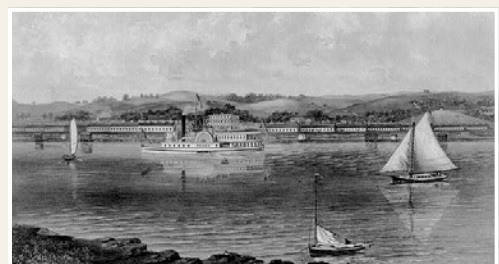
Chartered in 1873, the hospital opened in September of 1888 with six consulting physicians and surgeons, three nurses and 26 beds.



1892

ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL

[Above] Opened by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence in the old 3-story Harris Estate along Broad Street between Peace and Plenty Streets for the “sick, poor and suffering.” Shortly replaced by a 175-bed hospital building designed by Gilbane and Brothers on adjacent land.



1862-'65

LOVELL GENERAL HOSPITAL

In Portsmouth Grove, served as a hospital for Civil War veterans.



1868

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

Opened on October 1, through the generosity of the community, beginning in 1857 with a bequest by Moses Brown Ives to establish a fund for a general hospital in Rhode Island. The Ives family provided \$75,000 for construction of the hospital. A

1909

NAVAL HOSPITAL

Built in 1909 in Newport. Closed circa 1990; patients then sent to the newer nearby naval clinic.



1910



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

[Above] The Pawtucket hospital was funded by a \$200,000 gift from William F. Sayles, after his death in 1894. Located on a 10-acre Prospect Street site, with a memorial hall, red-tiled roof and dome. The first patients were seen in October 1910. There were two 8-bed wards, for men and women, and private rooms.

1925

WESTERLY HOSPITAL

[Below] Opens as a community hospital. Previously some surgical patients were sent to the Westerly Sanatorium, opened in 1910 by a Dr. John Champlin, a member of the Westerly Medical Society, in the hopes it would be a precursor to a general hospital. The second floor operating room was open for use by any surgeon.



THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

[Right] Funded by the Jewish community, opened on November 15, 1925 in a converted apartment building at 31 Parade Street with 63 beds and 14 bassinets. In 1944, purchased the former Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island on Summit Avenue; opened there in 1952 with 150 beds.



NOTRE DAME HOSPITAL

Opened on Broad Street in Central Falls funded by public subscription of members of the French-Canadian parishes throughout the Blackstone Valley.

1931

BRADLEY HOSPITAL

Located in the Riverside section of East Providence, founded in 1929 and opened



two years later as the nation's first neuropsychiatric hospital for children; funded by George and Helen Bradley, and named after their daughter, Emma Pendleton Bradley.



1948

PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Constructed for veterans after World War II.

1951

KENT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Warwick hospital was chartered by the State in 1946, and opened in 1951 with 90 beds.

1954

OUR LADY OF FATIMA HOSPITAL

Opened by the Diocese of Providence in North Providence with 175 beds for chronically ill patients; became a general hospital in 1955. By the end of the 1960s, St. Joseph and Fatima hospitals merged.

1962

JOHN E. FOGARTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Iconic circular building, named after Congressman John E. Fogarty, a healthcare champion, opened in Exeter on the grounds of the Ladd School. Later demolished.

1988

LANDMARK MEDICAL CENTER

Created as a merger between Woonsocket Hospital and Fogarty Hospital of North Smithfield.

1994

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The hospital opened on Valentine's Day 1994 in Providence, funded by the Hasbro Charitable Trust and other foundations and corporations.



PROVIDENCE CITY HOSPITAL

[Above] Opened to treat patients with contagious diseases; later renamed the Charles V. Chapin Hospital. The building is now part of the campus of Providence College.

1919

SOUTH COUNTY HOSPITAL

The hospital was founded in 1919 in a small, private home. A new facility was built in 1925 on 6 acres in Wakefield.

1922

HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL OF RHODE ISLAND

[Right] Breaking ground on May 12, 1922. A series of smaller homeopathic hospitals existed in Providence from the late 1800s on. In 1904, there was both a hospital and dispensary on Jackson Street, Providence.