

# Sugar, Streetcar, and the Sisters- the Story of a Forgotten Hospital

The Richard Milliken Memorial  
Children's Hospital  
1899-1952

# What used to be here?



# Thanks

- William Waring, M.D.
- Keli Rylance, PhD—Head, Southeastern Architectural Archive
- Karen Rachal, Pediatrics
- Rudolph Matas librarians
- Friends and family who listened to me talk about my fascination with this subject and always appeared interested!

# Resources

- Digital Archives of Matas Library-Annual Reports of Charity Hospital and Times-Picayune
- Pro Parvulis-History of Tulane Pediatrics-William Waring, M.D.
- Keli Rylance, PhD, Director SEAA Tulane University
- Archdiocese of New Orleans

# PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS

**The speaker has no financial interests to disclose.**

**There is no grant or commercial support for this Grand Rounds session.**

# Crack Research Team!!

Paid with candy and loose change



# New Orleans, 1898

- Ranked 12th in population (287,000)-today Indianapolis is 12th in population and New Orleans is 51st
- Mayor was Walter Flower
- Governor of Louisiana was Murphy Foster
- USS New Orleans launched and sent to Cuba
- Audubon Park opened and Tulane Ave paved
- Storyville-Red Light District- was legalized

# New Orleans, 1898

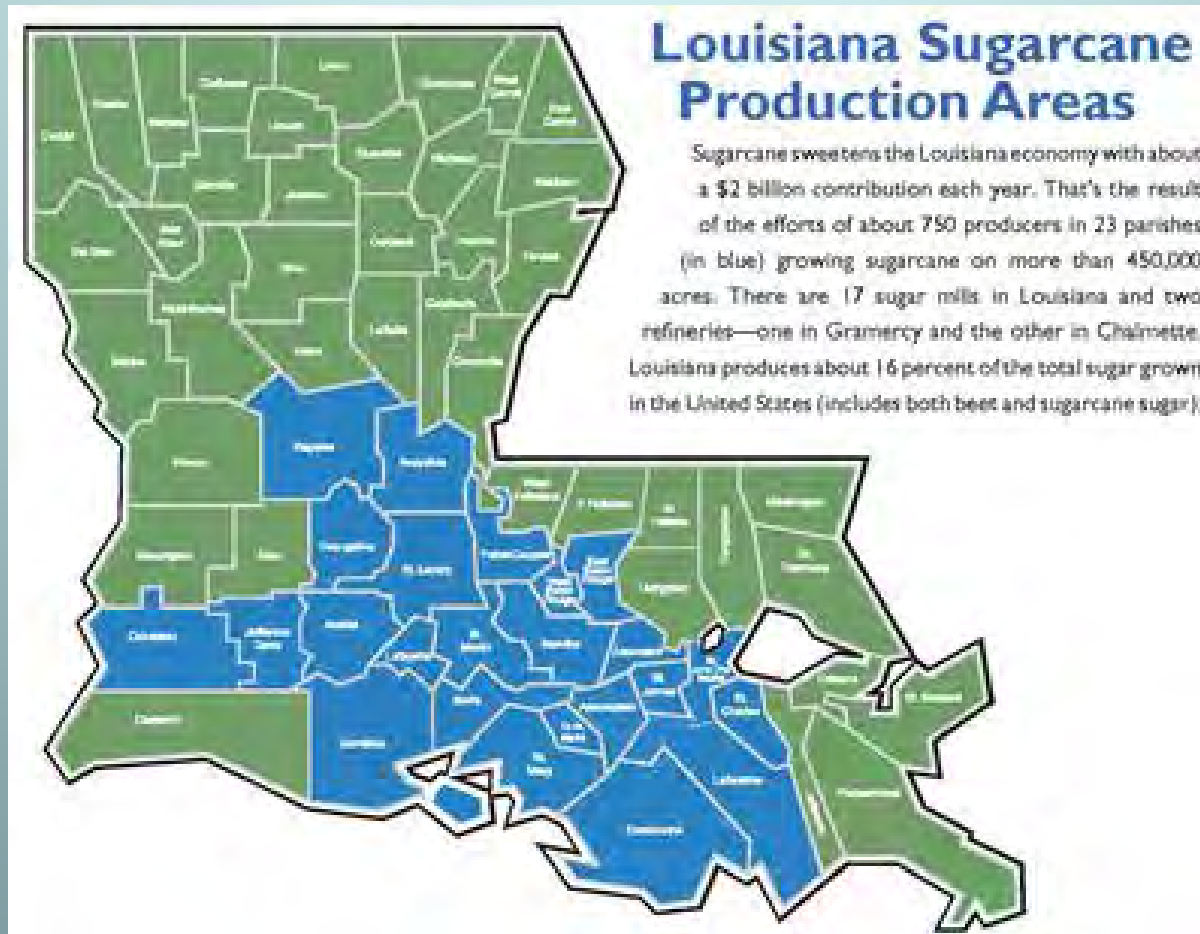
- Betty Runnels first woman admitted to Tulane
- Louisiana adopted a new constitution that disenfranchised African-Americans
- Charity Hospital was located on Tulane Avenue and had been built in 1833
- Tulane Medical School was on Canal Street in the Richardson Building-1500 block-building donated by Ida Richardson-wife of a previous dean



# Sugar Industry Louisiana

- Antebellum produced 95% southern sugar crop
- Most plantations along the Mississippi River
- Slave labor force
- Sugar was sold and plantations financed and future prices speculated upon at Sugar Exchange on Bienville Street

# Parishes with Sugar Plantations



# Sugar Exchange-Bienvenue Street



# Postwar Sugar Industry

- Plantations destroyed by war
- Labor force reduced by Emancipation
- Unsuccessful efforts to recruit Chinese and Italians for labor force—African-Americans had the work skills and few other opportunities
- The industry slowly regrew and became more technologically advanced

# Richard Milliken-1870s



*Milliken*

Digitized by Google

# Life of Richard Milliken

- Born in Ireland 1817
- First came to Nova Scotia with parents and moved to New Orleans at age 17y
- Educated at Bardstown, Kentucky
- Returned to New Orleans and in 1842 he entered the sugar business
- Joined the Confederate cavalry at outbreak of Civil War

# Life of Richard Milliken

- Later he was placed in charge of the Confederate copper mines in Tennessee
- After the war he returned to New Orleans and met Deborah Farwell, a daughter of Senator Farwell (R-Maine) and they married.
- Their only child Fannie Allen Milliken died in Maine, on vacation, in a drowning accident- age 24y

# Richard Milliken-Plantation Owner and Sugar Factor

- Leading sugar factor (broker) in Louisiana in postwar era-noted for business acumen, fairness, and philanthropy
- Handled more sugar finances and crops than anyone in South
- Worked in the industry from 1842-1887
- Owned 13 plantations and employed over 1000 people and managed two plantations that donated funds to Daughters of Charity



# Deborah Milliken

- Born in Maine 1831
- Ancestors came to America in 1640
- Brother Charles Farwell moved to New Orleans and became a leading citizen
- Deborah followed in 1854 and fell in love with the city and as written in her obituary-”became one of the loyal daughters of Dixie.”
- She was known for her love of children and philanthropy

# Milliken Home-First Street



# New Orleans Streetcars

- St. Charles line began 1835 and cars were hauled by steam locomotives and then mules
- First electrified 1884 for World's Fair and permanently electrified 1893
- St. Charles line is the oldest continuously operating street railway system in world

# St Charles and Second



# March 13, 1896

- At corner of Second and St Charles
- Richard Milliken 79 years old struck by street car-one block from his home
- Car number 72-motorman John Edwards
- Milliken was taken to his home and then to Touro Infirmary and attended by Rudolph Matas-declared Milliken in serious condition with facial lacerations and compound fracture of right femur

**Death of Richard  
Milliken May 28,  
1896**

**Died about 14 days  
after injury**

**“all that medical  
science could do was  
ineffectual in the  
inevitable contest  
with the grim  
reaper” –Times-  
Picayune**

**Pallbearers included  
Isaac Delgado and  
Confederate veterans**



# Sister Agnes-Catherine Slavin

Born Ireland 1837

Came to America 1845

Entered DOC 1853

Came to CHNO 1874

Pushed for nursing school  
at CHNO-opened 1895

Served 40 years and was  
Sister Superior of CHNO

Described- a brilliant and  
stern despot- "The Dragon"



# Sister Agnes and Deborah Milliken

- Sister Agnes knew Mrs. Milliken
- Deborah Milliken was a contributor to children's causes and often visited children at CHNO
- Richard Milliken managed plantations for DOC





# Sister Agnes

Sister Agnes suggested to a grieving Deborah Milliken that a children's hospital would be a wonderful memorial to her husband

# Rise of Children's Hospitals

- Appalling urban poverty in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Era of progressive reforms- abolishing child labor and advocating the kindergarten movement
- Belief that morality, poverty, and disease were intertwined
- Led to coalitions of child advocates, the religious, and physicians to work for child welfare
- The wealthy had physicians visit sick children at home

# Children's Hospitals

- Accepted children of the “worthy poor”, but no child was turned away unless clearly incurable
- Nursing first by religious sisters, then by 1900 trained nurses began to practice
- These hospitals provided training for the new field of pediatrics
- AMA-Section of Diseases of Children 1880
- American Pediatric Society 1888

# Children's Hospitals

- Since much of care was supportive—nursing was critical
- Children had limited contact with families-this would increase homesickness and contagion and the poor were blamed for illnesses of their children
- Hospital stays could last for weeks
- Discharge to convalescent home-sometimes in the country-or to outpatient follow-up

# Children's Hospitals-USA

- 1854 Nursery and Child's Hospital NYC
- 1855 Children's Hospital Philadelphia
- 1865 Hospital for Women/Children Chicago
- 1869 Children's Hospital Boston
- 1869 Foundling Hospital NYC
- In the next 30 years most major cities in USA had created children's hospitals

# Richard Milliken Memorial Children's Hospital

- Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital, 1600 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans
- Architects--Sully, Burton & Stone,-leading architectural firm of New Orleans-original plans at SEAA Tulane University
- Designed Whitney Bank on Gravier St. and the Columns Hotel on St. Charles Avenue
- Final cost \$200,000 equivalent of \$50,000,000 today

# Front Elevation

Facing Tulane Avenue @ 1600

40' Tall 128' wide

Pilings more evenly distributed than usual and covered with concrete and brick

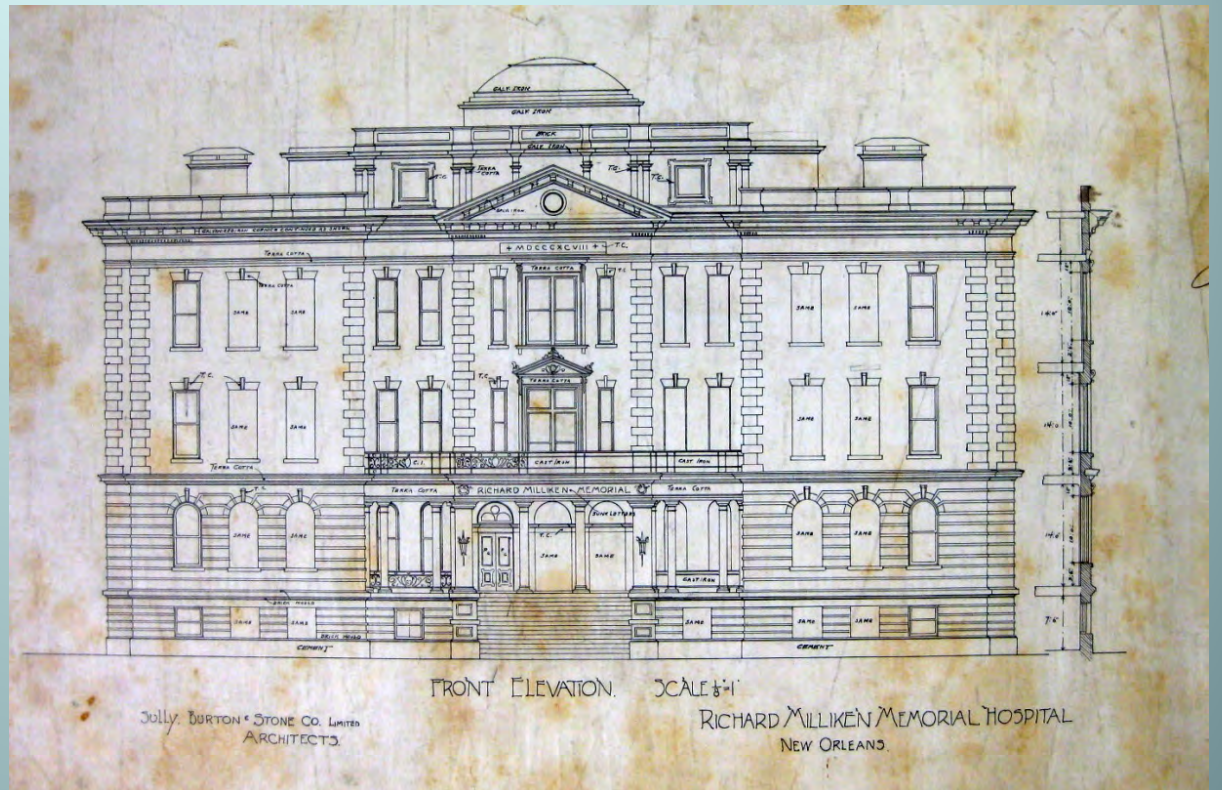
3 floors-8 Wards-200 Beds

Appearance of Strength at base

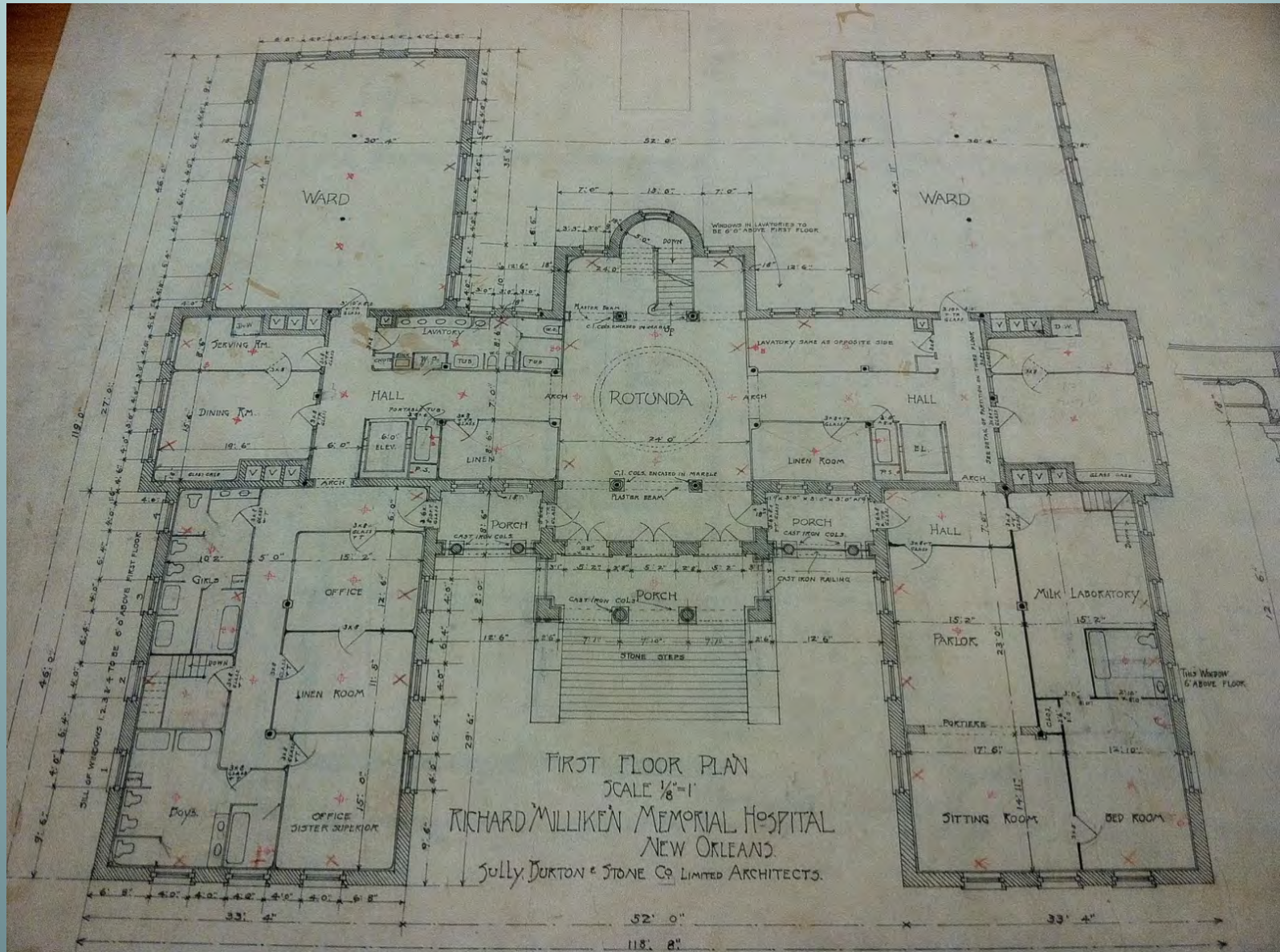
Quoining –cornerstones of brick-impresion of firmness to building

Dome-covering of galvanized iron

Pediment –covered with copper

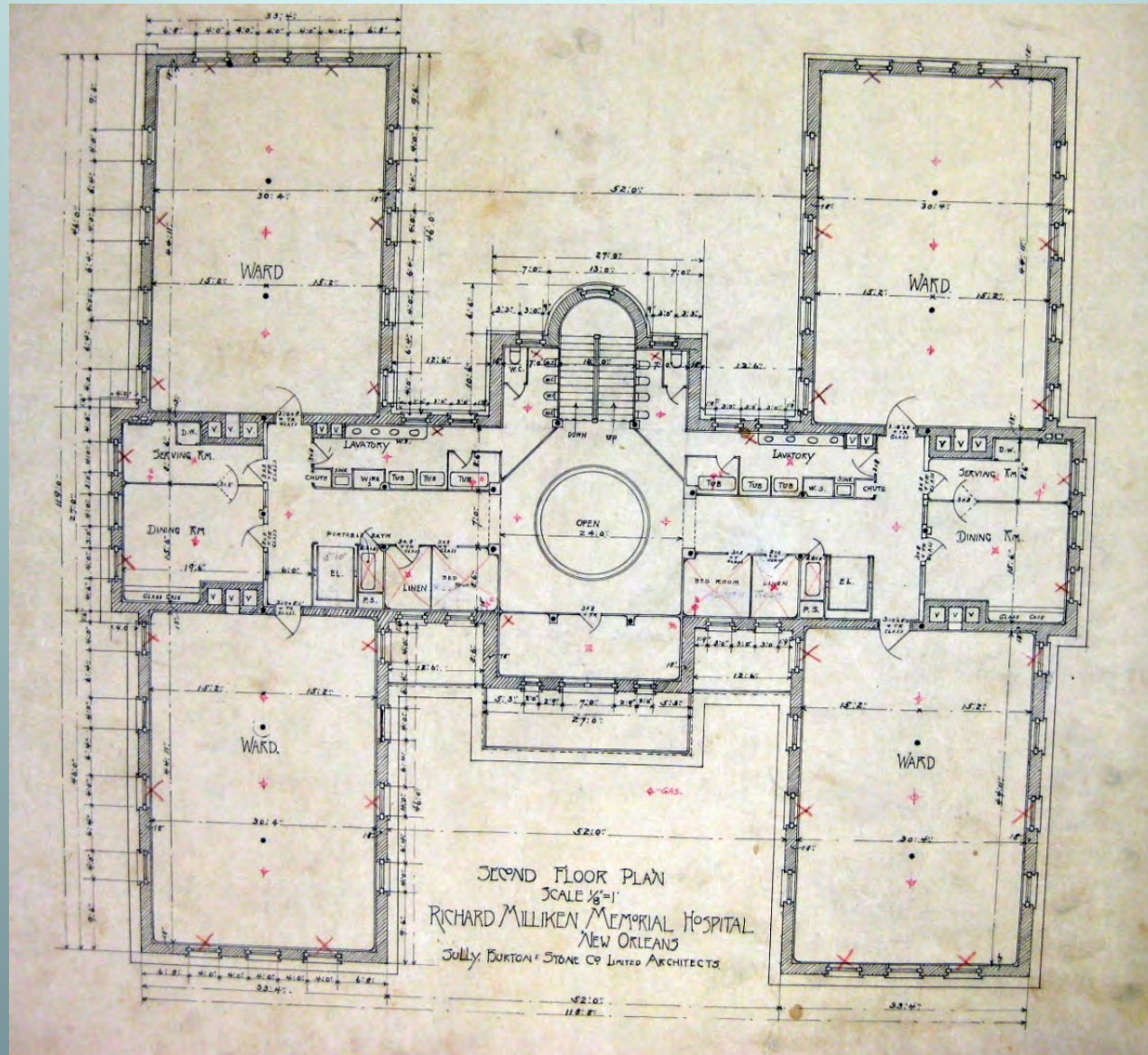


# First Floor

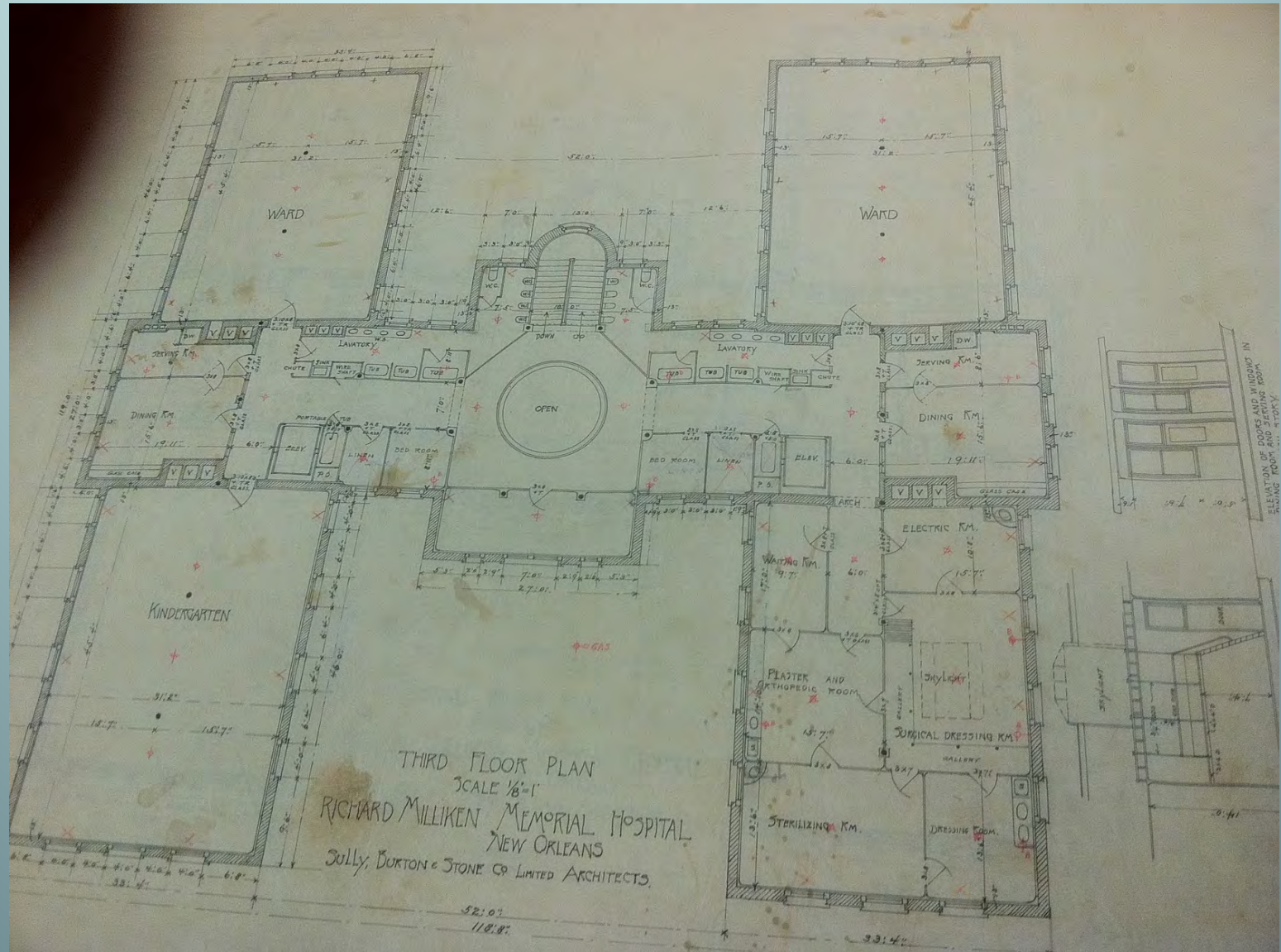




# Second Floor



# Third Floor



# Cornerstone Ceremony

- May 29, 1899
- Governor Murphy Foster used a silver trowel
- Guest of honor was Varina Davis, widow of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy
- E.S. Lewis, M.D. chairman of board of CHNO read an opening proclamation
- “Dixie was sung and all moved to CHNO for a meal prepared by Sr. Agnes”

# Milliken Hospital 1899



# Milliken Hospital after 1909



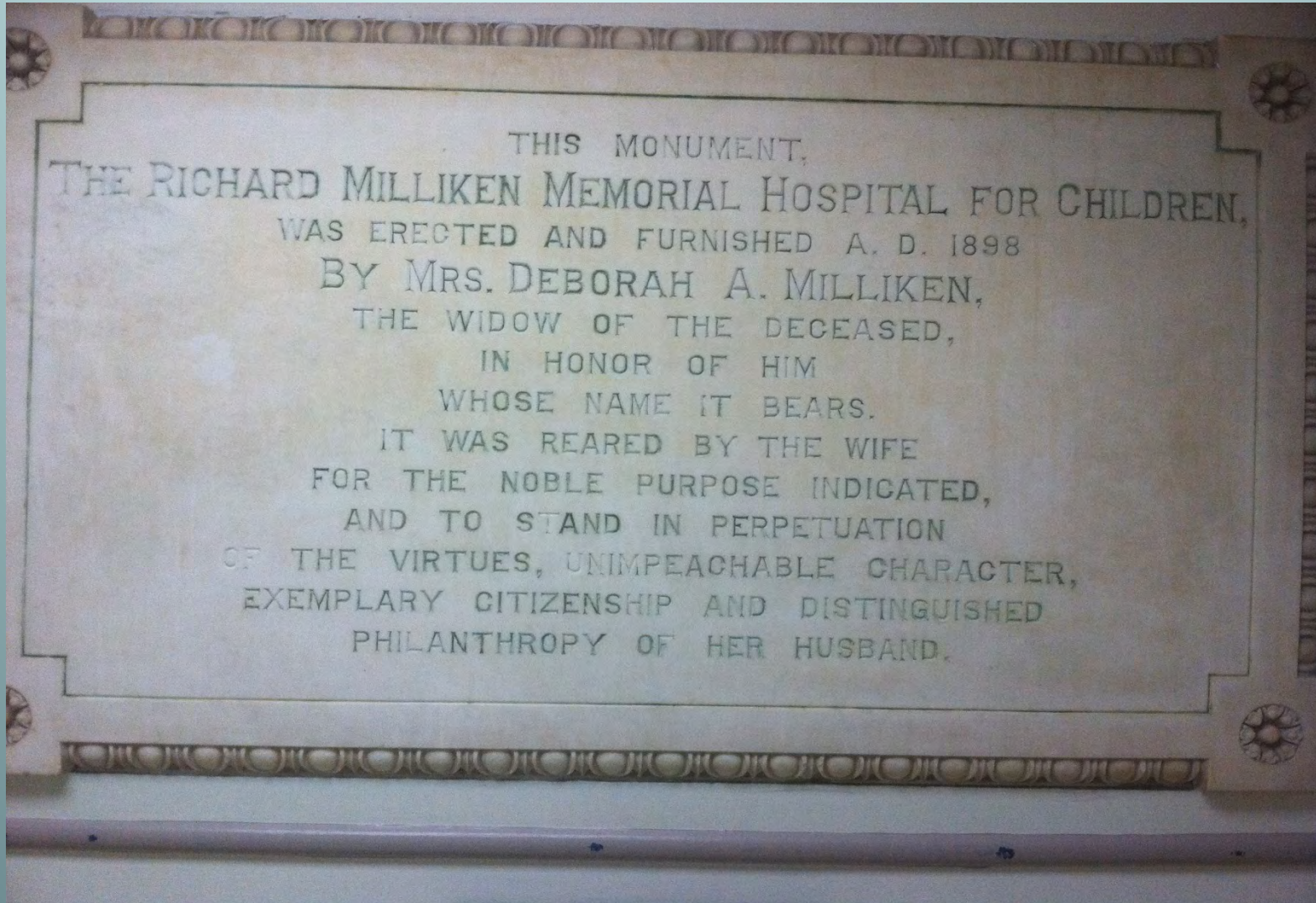
# Delgado Surgical Hospital 1909-1952



# Charity Hospital-built 1833



# Milliken Plaque from Atrium





# Plaque Inscription

**The Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital  
for Children was erected and furnished A.  
D. 1899**

**By Mrs. Deborah Milliken  
the Widow of the Deceased,  
In Honor of Him**

**Whose Name It Bears**

**It was Reared by the Wife**

**For the Noble Purpose Indicated,**

**And to Stand in Perpetuation**

**The Virtue and Unimpeachable Character,**

**Exemplary Citizenship and Distinguished**

**Philanthropy of Her Husband**

# Milliken Rotunda



# Play and Sun Room



RICHARD MILLIKEN MEMORIAL ANNEX—PLAY AND SUN-ROOM.

# Milliken Ward



# Rounds at Milliken Wards--1899



# Plaster Room-Third Floor



PLASTER ROOM

# Ambulance Service—1911—Only One Auto Ambulance-Mule Backup



# Ambulance Service





# Children on Front Lawn-1910



# Christmas Party 1911



# Photograph for CHNO Fundraiser 1911



# Milliken Christmas Party with Sister Angelica (?) - Sister Superior

## LITTLE CRIPPLES ARE GIVEN PARTY

Howard School Students  
Entertain Children in  
Milliken Hospital.

Spontaneous laughter rang out across the great upper hall of the Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital for Children yesterday afternoon as Christmas storybooks and toys were received, Christmas plays were acted and boxes of little Christmas cakes were passed—all the plan which students from Howard school No. 1, Cleveland and Lopez streets, had made to carry out their slogan: "I must help others," and to bring happiness to twenty or thirty little sick children in the hospital.

In a wide semicircle were grouped all the children in the hospital who were well enough to leave their rooms. Several came on crutches, one or two in wheel chairs, but they came with glad excitement. Little tots were held in the arms of stronger and larger children, and in her wheel chair sat Gertrude Jacobs, the little "mother" of the other children, extending a hand to quiet a smaller child, speaking in low tones to another, and pointing with pride to Lucy Elizabeth Harris the pet of the hospital.

Girls from the five grades of Howard No. 1 were laden with gifts which they had fashioned for this particular party. Older children had assisted in the work done by those in kindergarten and younger grades.

The gifts themselves were wonders of artistic conception, from the "naïve" of the kindergarten pupils under supervision of Miss May and Miss to the more advanced compositions of older grades. For the

## Grown-ups Direct Hospital Christmas Party



# Deborah Milliken and Children



**William Butterworth,  
M.D.**

**Chair 1909-1919**

First Chairman Tulane  
Pediatrics-1909

Staff Milliken Hospital  
Children's Advocate

Established need for  
clean milk in city-Pure  
Milk Society--later  
became Child Welfare  
Association



**Maud Loeber, M.D.**

**First Woman on staff -1918**

**Tulane Faculty Member-  
unsuccessfully recruited by  
Alton Ochsner**

**First Tulane woman graduate  
(Newcomb-1903) to finish  
medical school (Cornell)**

**Beloved by her patients-always  
wore a large hat –dressed in  
black with high laced shoes and  
dark stockings**

**Prolific author-multiple studies  
of children in institutions and  
the impact on development**



## **John Signorelli, M.D.**

**Immigrated from Italy as child**

**Graduate of Tulane Medical  
School**

**Professor of Pediatrics at Tulane**

**Staff at Milliken Children's  
Hospital**

**First Chair of Pediatrics at LSU  
1931**

**Medical Director Orleans  
Public Schools**

**Died 12/14/1938 age 49**





**Ludo Von  
Meysenbug, M.D.**

First faculty member with  
Dr. Signorelli in new  
pediatrics department at  
LSU School of Medicine

Recruited from Tulane  
medical faculty in 1931

Staff Member at Milliken  
Memorial Children's  
Hospital

Trained in both pathology  
and pediatrics



# Suzanne Schaeffer, M.D.

Graduate Tulane Medical School

Member of the staff at the  
Milliken Memorial Children's  
Hospital

One of most respected  
pediatricians in New Orleans

Published multiple papers on a  
variety of subjects in general  
pediatrics

Major supporter of the New  
Orleans Speech and Hearing  
Center-was able to save it when it  
was taken out of the EENT  
Hospital



**Rene Crawford,  
M.D.**

Graduate Johns Hopkins  
Medical School

Staff member of Milliken  
Memorial Children's Hospital

Active supporter of New  
Orleans Dispensary for  
Women and Children-later  
Sara Mayo Hospital

Professor of Pediatrics LSU  
School of Medicine, New  
Orleans

1878-1957



Elizabeth Cohen, M.D. First woman to  
practice medicine in New Orleans  
(1857-1887)—(1820-1921)



# Philanthropy of Deborah Milliken

- Cost of Milliken Memorial Hospital \$200,000- in today's dollars approximately \$50 million
- Donated \$1000 every year from 1896 to 1915
- Donated \$50,000 on her death in 1915-for upkeep of hospital
- Multiple gifts of art and restoration projects
- Total giving ~\$267,000 (1896) = ~\$67,000,000 (2012)

# Times-Picayune Loving Cup Awarded to Deborah Milliken 1914



# Other Loving Cup Recipients

- Ida Richardson
- Samuel Zemurray
- Rudolph Matas
- Sr. Stanislaus
- Alton Ochsner
- Norman Francis
- Leah Chase
- Scott Cowen

# Deborah Milliken

1831-1915





# Milliken Tomb-Metairie Cemetery



# Milliken and Brunswig Tombs Metairie Cemetery



# Sister Stanislaus-Catherine Malone

- Served for over 50 years at CHNOLA
- Trained under Sr. Agnes
- Member of first class at Charity Nursing School 1897 as was Sr. Angelica
- Served as Sister Superior at CHNO
- Met and persuaded FDR to give \$3.6million for construction of CHNO



# Milliken Hospital and Charity Hospital-1939

- All pediatric patients were moved from Milliken Memorial Hospital to the new pediatrics floor at CHNO
- After 1939 little mention of Milliken Hospital in newspapers or the annual report of Charity Hospital except for the continuing mention of the \$50,000 endowment from Mrs. Milliken and the interest on investments.

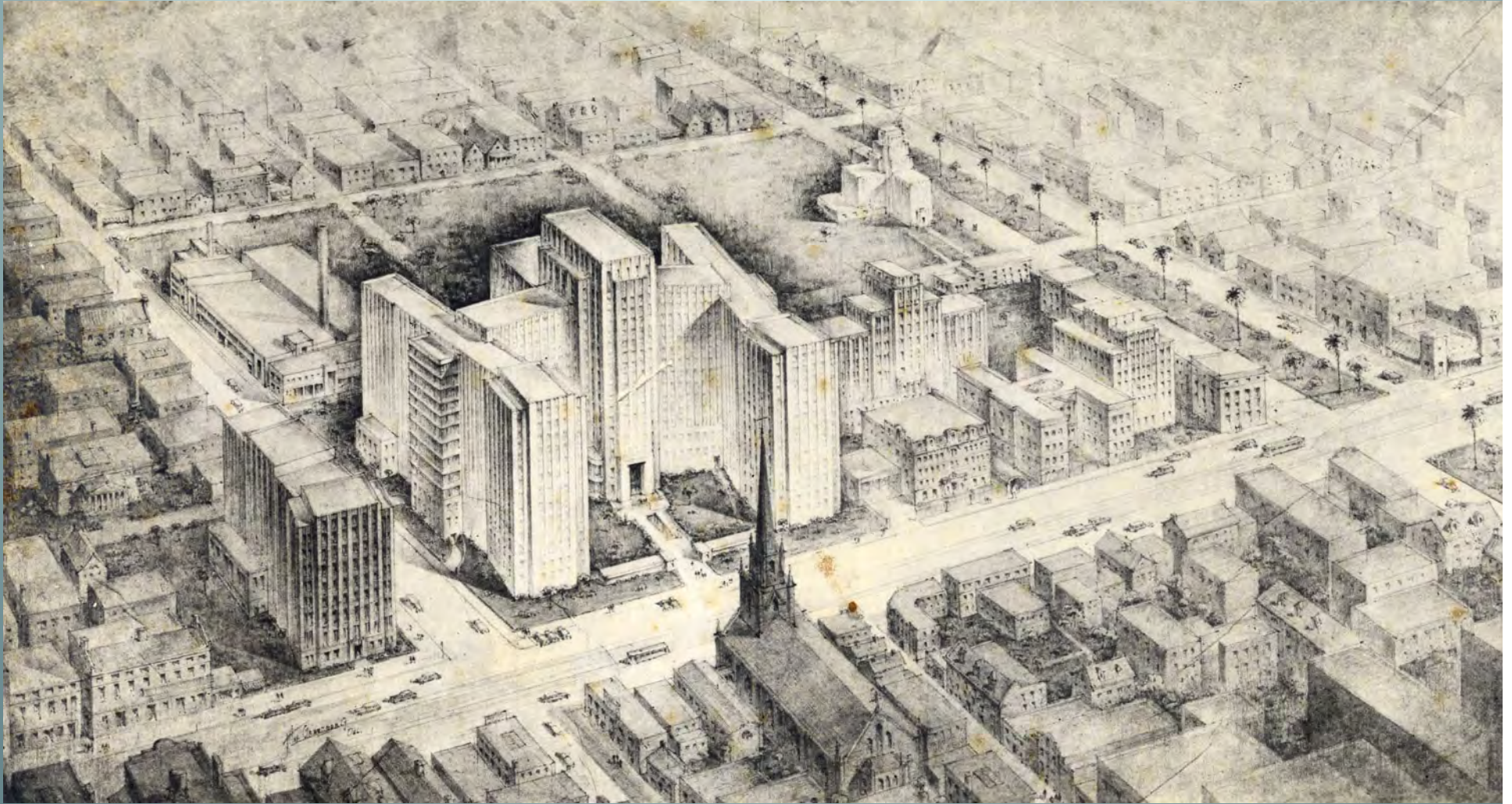
# Declining Years

- 1944—Not in use as a patient facility and in disrepair-\$50,000 needed to renovate-described as condemned in Times-Picayune
- 1947--Plans were being considered for its use as a crippled children's hospital for polio patients
- No funds available
- CHNO printing shop in basement
- Negotiations were underway with LSU to build an additional facility for their medical school

# CHNO, Delgado, Milliken Memorial Children's Hospitals-after 1938 and prior to 1952



# Aerial view of Tulane Avenue 1939-1952



# Milliken Demolition 1952





# What are the Remnants of Milliken Hospital?

- Boy with Boot Statue in the Milliken Atrium was moved to CHNO and later moved to Tranquility Garden at Children's Hospital New Orleans
- Plaque from the Atrium was on 9<sup>th</sup> floor CHNO for years then moved to 6<sup>th</sup> floor of University Hospital at urging of John Lewy, M.D.-chair of Tulane Pediatrics 1978-2003

# Milliken Hospital Mysteries

- What happened to Milliken endowment left by Deborah Milliken on her death in 1915? \$50,000 was left for upkeep of the hospital. Return of funds was requested by representatives of family in 1949-total value-\$90,000. Results of request are unknown.
- What happened to stained glass windows in the atrium? There were three 4' x 10' Tiffany Glass windows in the atrium in 1899.

# Missing Tiffany Windows from the atrium of Milliken Hospital

- The windows were named Spring, Winter, and Summer-in memory of Fanny Milliken, Richard Milliken, and Deborah Milliken on her death
- Described in detail in Times Picayune on May 5, 1899-day after the opening of hospital
- Hospital razed June, 1952 and no record of fate of windows though pictures are available that show windows removed prior to razing

# Who are the Sisters?

- Sr. Agnes who suggested the idea of a children's hospital
- Deborah Milliken who funded the hospital and its continued maintenance
- Maud Loeber, M.D. first woman staff member
- Sister Angelica-Sister Superior of Milliken Hospital
- Sr. Stanislaus who worked tirelessly for the poor and obtained half of the funds for CHNO

Deborah Milliken (1831-1915)

“To whom much is given, much is required” Luke 12:48





# Milliken Hospital



# Milliken Tomb adjacent to Brunswig Pyramid





# Names of Milliken Family



# Milliken Home Uptown



# Milliken Accident Scene St Charles and Second Avenue



# Christmas Party at Milliken Hospital-Sister Angelica

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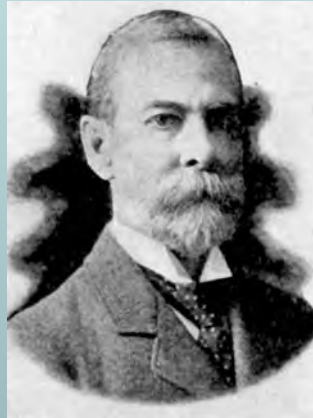
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Phonies from the five grades of Howard No. 1 were laden with gifts which they had fashioned for this festive party. Older children had

## Grown-ups Direct Hospital Christmas Party



# Walter Flower Mayor



# Governor Murphy Foster



Gov. Murphy J. Foster. Copyrighted 1904  
By Geo. Dodger Co.

# Tulane Medical School 1898-Funds donated by Ida Richardson



# Sister Agnes and Deborah Milliken

- The Millikens lost a daughter to drowning at age 24 (1888) and became advocates and substantial donors to children's causes including CHNO
- Richard Milliken worked with Sr. Agnes in the management of funds from plantations that were donated to DOC
- Sr. Agnes comforted Mrs. Milliken in her grief and suggested a children's hospital as a memorial to her husband and daughter Fanny Allen

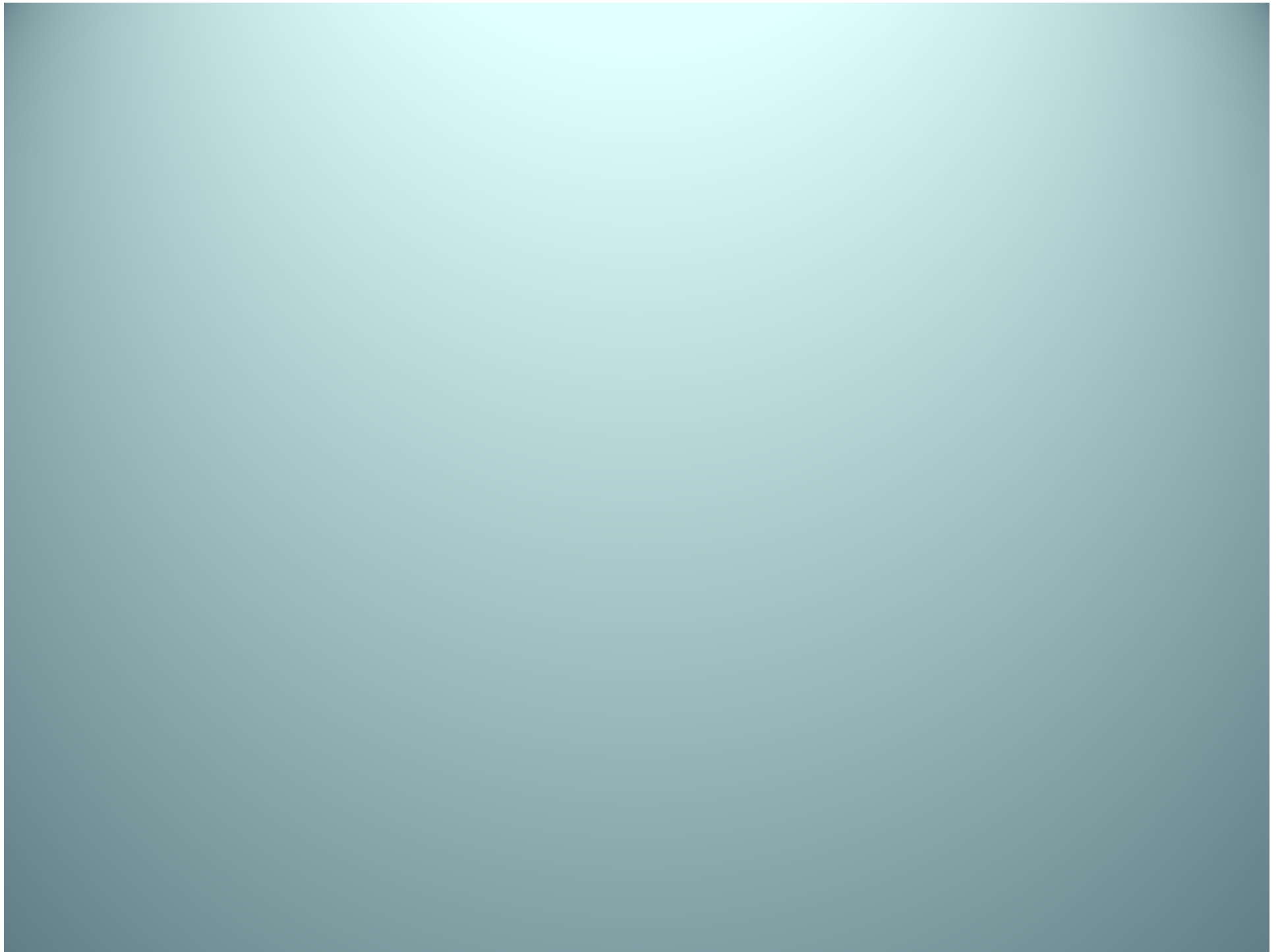


# Second and St Charles-Accident Scene



# Philanthropy and Healthcare 1898-1936

- Tulane Medical School Building Canal Street 1500 block-donor- Ida Richardson
- Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital
- Delgado Surgical Hospital 1909 donor Isaac Delgado
- Lapeyre Miltenberger Convalescent Hospital (1934)-donor- Corinne Miltenberger
- John Dibert TB Hospital (1936)-donor Eve Dibert





# Sugar, Streetcars, and the Sisters Story of a Forgotten Hospital

Richard Milliken Memorial Hospital  
for Children  
1899-1952

# Center Section of Hospital

