

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1201 Seventh Avenue

☐ not for publication

city or town Huntington

☐ vicinity

state West Virginia

code WV

county Cabell

code 011

zip code 25701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐  
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐  
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

Name of Property

Cabell County, West Virginia

County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

### Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

HEALTH CARE: hospital

### Current Functions

Vacant

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Mediterranean Revival

### Materials

foundation Concrete and Brick

walls Brick and Weatherboard

roof Rubber

other Brick and Wood

### Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

State

### Areas of Significance

Health/Medicine

Ethnic Heritage

### Period of Significance

1912-1939

### Significant Dates

1912, 1918

### Significant Person

Dr. Clinton Constantine "C.C." Barnett

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation sheets

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

#### 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
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Name of Property

Cabell County, West Virginia  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**      Less than one acre

### UTM References: Huntington Quad

17  
 Zone

374515  
 Easting

4252905  
 Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
See Continuation Sheets

**Boundary Justification**  
See Continuation Sheets

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Karen N. Nance and Erin Riebe (WV SHPO)				
organization				date	July 2009
street & number	2059 Wilson Road			telephone	304-736-1655
city or town	Barboursville	state	WV	zip code	25504

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

## Continuation Sheets

## Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

## Photographs

- Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- CD with electronic images if digital photographs.

### Floorplans for individual listings

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

name	Historic Barnett Apartments, L.P.			
street & number	3059 Wilson Road		telephone	304-736-1655
city or town	Barboursville	state	WV	zip code 25504

**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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## Location and Setting

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School (Barnett Hospital) is located on its original site at 1201 Seventh Avenue in the City of Huntington, West Virginia. It is situated on the lot number one of block number 150 of the Map of the City of Huntington. Barnett Hospital and Nursing School is on the southeast corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The three-story, rectangular Barnett Hospital building is 29 feet wide and 100 feet deep and is located on nearly the entire original 30' x 100' parcel. The rear (south) elevation of the building is approximately 110 feet north of the CSX Railroad right-of-way. When it operated as a hospital and nursing school, the area was a predominantly African-American mixed neighborhood that contained businesses, homes of African-American professionals, single family houses, boarding houses, and multi-unit housing.

In the 1960s, while the African-American neighborhood still thrived, the City of Huntington zoned the neighborhood industrial. Consequently, the African-American resident population moved and Caucasian-owned businesses began buying up the once African-American residences and businesses and tearing them down. Thus, Barnett Hospital is one of the last remnants of the once thriving African-American neighborhood. Trucking companies own the adjacent parcels to the east and west of the building and commercial businesses are north of the building on its block and the adjacent block. However, housing still exist one block east on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and on 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

A concrete sidewalk runs immediately adjacent to the west side of the building. The side lots both contain a gravel parking area and a lot to the rear contains a large, metal storage warehouse. The front of the lot includes a small grassy area with a tree and concrete sidewalks.

When the building was constructed c.1900 it was a frame, clapboard-sided Victorian house with a steeply pitched gable roofline. The first addition was constructed in 1912 when Dr. Barnett opened a hospital on site; the second in 1918 when Dr. Barnett opened a nursing school. In 1925, Dr. Barnett constructed a large addition and made numerous other changes to the building including removal of the porch and roof, addition of one story, and the application of a brick veneer to the front half of the building. Physical evidence of the original frame house exists within the building (see page X).

## *Exterior*

Barnett Hospital is a three-story, rectangular building with a flat roof. A low-pitched, Mediterranean-style, hipped roof with clay Spanish tile covers the wide soffit. The 38-inch roof overhang extends along the building's 100' west elevation, along the entire 29' main (or north) elevation, and only 12' along the east elevation. Runoff from the tile roof flows into a built-in gutter above the soffit. The building's flat roof is a composite roof covered by a rubber membrane. A staircase and elevator house protrudes out of the roof.

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On the exterior, the building appears as two sections including the front 60-foot section which is frame with a red brick veneer and the rear 40-foot section which is frame with twelve-inch, masonite, lapped siding on the first story and twelve-inch, asbestos shingles on the upper stories. .

Centered on the main facade are two concrete steps leading to a recessed entry with metal replacement door and sidelight. A large limestone sits over the door engraved with "Barnett." To either side of the entrance is a pair of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. This is repeated on the second and third story to either side of a single, one-over-one, double-hung sash window. One of the few characteristics of the main elevation are four tall, brick pilasters. The two side elevations of the building are asymmetrical with a number of paired and single one-over-one or two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. A large fire escape is centrally situated on the west elevation. Two openings on this elevation have been enclosed with brick and two have been downsized and new doors installed. A large, glass-block window is located on the first story, behind the fire escape.

The rear elevation has no fenestration on the first story. There are two window openings with replacement windows on the second story, and two similar on the third story situated to the left of three two-over-two, double-hung sash windows grouped together. Of the total 38 windows, 12 are replacements that match the original window opening. Most are single-light, fixed windows.

### *Interior*

The first story interior was last remodeled in the 1970s. The basic floor plan in the front section appears to be intact. The front door opens into a small foyer. A long hall leads from the foyer to the rear section of the building. Off the hall are a series of rooms of various sizes (see floor plans). On the first floor, ceilings are 10 feet high. Modern doors, paneling, trim, and drop ceilings were added as well as replacement windows on the first floor. There is a remodeled kitchen and one restroom in the front section of the first story. Concrete floors are under the two rooms in the front section. The remainder of the front section has plywood flooring under carpet.

The elevator was removed and a ceiling put in the shaft that created a utility room for the electrical service and telephone service. It appears that the rear section's interior walls and floors were removed and two columns were added to support the two floors above where a load bearing wall was removed. This created one large room with a restroom and utility washroom in the northeast corner. This work may have been earlier than the 1970s alterations so the labor hall could have one large room for meetings. The room has a dropped ceiling and an asbestos tile floor over concrete that is two steps lower than the front section of the building.

Although the first story has undergone a number of changes, few changes were made to the second and third stories after the initial major changes in the teens and twenties. Each floor includes a series of rooms of

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various sizes along both sides of a central hall. Chimneys in the building appear to have had potbelly stoves that heated the building. Plywood floors were added in the elevator shaft on both floors and a furnace to heat the first story was installed on the second floor. Original restroom fixtures were removed and the plumbing pipes plugged. The floors on both stories in the front are 2 ¼" wood, tongue-and-grove and 1 ½" wood, tongue-and-grove on the rear section. The second and third story ceilings are 8 ½'. The wood trim and doors vary with each alteration that was made to the building and date between c.1900, when it was constructed as a frame Victorian-style house) to c.1925, the last major alteration during hospital operating years.

Many of the light fixtures are missing, but other hardware such as door hinges and door knobs remain. Several fixtures unique to its operation as a hospital remain including hardware for a fire extinguisher, hospital room numbers, elevator gears, and a check-in window.

The front section of the third story included an apartment for Dr. Barnett and his wife. It included its own restroom, bedroom, office, and living room with French doors. It did not include a kitchen as it was likely that the Barnetts used the hospital facility. It appears that the apartment was turned into hospital rooms after the City took over the hospital in the 1930s as room numbers appear over the doors.

A center hall connects two staircases located in the front and back of the building. The front steps are 39" wide and extend all the way to the roof. The stairs in the rear of the building are 38" wide. They were removed between the second and first stories. The elevator was in the middle of the building. The rooms that open up on the main halls vary in dimensions depending on their previous use. The restrooms have white, small, octagon shaped tile flooring; there are four restrooms on the second story and three restrooms on the third story. The restrooms show evidence of shower stalls as well as commodes and sinks, and the hospital rooms show evidence of sinks.

### Alterations and Additions

When the building was constructed c.1900 it was a 2 ½-story, frame Victorian-style house. In 1912, a 2 ½-story addition with a breezeway was connected to the rear (south) elevation of the house by a breezeway to accommodate hospital facilities.<sup>1</sup> By c. 1916, a second 2 ½-story addition was added to the back when a nursing school was incorporated into the building.<sup>2</sup> The 2 x 4 and 4 x 4 gypsum board of the nursing school addition remains on the first story ceiling and second story of the back addition. In 1925, the building was enlarged by removing the Victorian porch and replacing it with a three story addition. This raised the rest of the building one floor by removing the gabled roof and half story. A flat roof with red Spanish tile soffit roof and built-in gutters was added and the breezeway was closed in.

<sup>1</sup> Cabell County 1912 Trust Deeds

<sup>2</sup> Cabell County 1916 Trust Deeds. 1923 photo of hospital

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When the major alterations were made, the front section of the building was covered in brick veneer and the back of the building's weather board was replaced with 12-inch concrete lap siding. Some of the original windows were reused. An elevator was added to the rear of the closed in breezeway. Nonfunctioning, small balconies appear to have been located below the double windows on the front and awnings over the double hung windows on the west side brick front of the building. However, it is not known when they were removed.

The exterior of the building still appears as it did in 1925 except for the few changes mentioned previously made by the Labor Union in the 1970s. To determine that the current building did not replace the original c.1900 Victorian house, holes were cut into the plaster in the brick façade wall and back frame addition. This exposed the back of the earlier lap siding that was not removed prior to the 1925 renovation. Holes were cut into the plaster on the third floor and no lap siding was found behind the plaster. Additional evidence that the earlier hospital still exists inside the renovated building is that the plaster throughout the building is of different periods. The front section of the first and second floor and the entire third floor has sand-finish, three-coat plaster. The first and second floors of the rear section has 2'x4' and 4'x4' sheetrock with a plaster finish coat. Furthermore, Victorian trim and doors still exist in the original frame house section of the building while the doors and trim on the third floor are a consistent, later period. Different period doors and trim can be found on the second floor in the rear section. The Victorian porch was removed in 1925 during the renovations and the three story front was added. The porch door thresholds were left in place on the second floor.



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## Statement of Significance

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School (Barnett Hospital) is eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criterion A: Health/Medicine* and *Ethnic Heritage* for its significant association with the medical as well as African American history of Huntington and West Virginia. It is also eligible under *Criterion B: Health/Medicine* and *Ethnic Heritage* for its association with medical doctor, Dr. Clinton Constantine "C.C." Barnett. The building is eligible at the state and local level. At the state level it is eligible for Dr. Barnett, as the first African-American doctor to be appointed Superintendent of a state hospital.<sup>3</sup> The period of significance is 1912, the year the hospital first opened, to 1939, the last year is served as a City Hospital.

## General History

Soon after the Civil War, African-American doctors were graduating from medical schools. However, many were not permitted to intern in hospitals. Even hospitals associated with medical schools that awarded African-Americans medical degrees often did not allow African-American doctors to practice or intern in their hospitals. Since modern medical technology began developing in hospitals after the Civil War, it became increasingly more important for doctors to intern in a hospital.

The African-American medical community was split on whether to follow a separate but equal approach or to continue to fight for segregation in white hospitals. As time went on, many doctors felt that African-Americans could not wait for desegregation because they were falling further behind their white counterparts. In 1895 African-Americans founded their own separate but equal medical association, known as the National Medical Association, and its journal, the *Journal of the National Medical Association*. The National Hospital Association was also founded as part of this movement. Dr. CC Barnett, as other African-American doctors of his time, may have also been influenced by the 1900 address of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the founder of Chicago's Provident Hospital and Nursing School that "urged other African-Americans to build their own hospitals."<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Barnett was born on November 30, 1869 in New Canton, Virginia. He was the son of slave parents, the Reverend Nelson Barnett and Betty Woodson Barnett. The Barnetts moved to the Huntington area in 1871. Dr. Barnett received his early education in the Huntington area public schools and graduated from Ironton High School. He then attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the School of Medicine at Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

Cabell County, West Virginia

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Barnett was appointed Superintendent of Lakin State Hospital in 1924 which is no longer extant. No other resource associated with Dr. Barnett's significant role at Lakin is known to exist. He was active at both hospitals during the time period. Thus, this nomination recommends listing for his significance at Lakin in addition to his local significance in Huntington at Barnett Hospital.

<sup>4</sup> Vanessa Northington Gamble. *Making a Place for Ourselves: the Black Hospital Movement, 1920-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 3.

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Howard University where he received his medical doctorate in 1899. For a short time he worked at the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane at Weston. By 1902, Dr. Barnett returned to Huntington and began practicing as a medical doctor and a surgeon in Huntington and as Assistant City Physician.<sup>5</sup>

In July of that year, Dr. C.C. Barnett married Katherine “Kate” A. Whiting of Gallipolis, Ohio.<sup>6</sup> On January 14, 1905 Kate Barnett purchased a two-story frame house, located at 1201 Seventh Avenue in Huntington.<sup>7</sup> At the time of its construction, the building was located in the midst of the City of Huntington’s African-American community that once extended between 20<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street along 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The house first appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps in 1904 and was likely constructed around the turn of the century.<sup>8</sup>

Kate Barnett died in 1909 and was unable to see her husband’s dream of an African-American Hospital become a reality. In her will she left the property to her husband.<sup>9</sup> Dr. Barnett then married Clara B. Matthews of Farmville, Virginia on October 9, 1912. Clara received training as a nurse at Lincoln Hospital in New York, one of the largest black nursing schools in the northern states.<sup>10</sup>

Although his achievement as a medical doctor with the city was already a huge accomplishment, Dr. Barnett wanted to give more back to the African-American residents of Huntington. He was inspired by the story of a young black employee of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad who was injured on the job. The injured man eventually died because he was refused treatment over and over due to his color. Thus, the same year as his marriage, Dr. Barnett founded and opened the Barnett Hospital in their house. When it opened, it had approximately 25-30 beds. It is reported that at one point the hospital had 50 beds, two operating rooms, an x-ray department, ten physicians, and eight nurses. It eventually was listed in the city directory as the “official city hospital for colored patients.”<sup>11</sup>

In 1910, just two years before the Barnett Hospital opened, the National Medical Association listed just 15 “Colored Hospitals.” There were none in West Virginia.<sup>12</sup> When it opened in 1912, that number rose to 64

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

Cabell County, West Virginia

<sup>5</sup> A.B. Caldwell, “C. C. Barnett,” *History of the American Negro: West Virginia Edition*, Volume VII (Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell Publishing Co., 1923), p.325; and Carter G. Woodson, “A Health Venture with Negro Management,” *Southern Workman*, Vol. 60, December 1931.

<sup>6</sup> *Herald-Dispatch*, Huntington, W.Va., “Mrs. C. C. Barnett” 30 November 1909.

<sup>7</sup> “Mary A Mullen et al. To Katharine A. Barnett” Cabell County West Virginia Deed Book 76 page 377.

<sup>8</sup> “Mary A Mullen et al. To Katharine A. Barnett” Cabell County West Virginia Deed Book 76 page 377.

<sup>9</sup> “City of Huntington, WV.” Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1898 and 1904.

<sup>10</sup> “Will of Kate A. Barnett,” 22 August 1907, Cabell County Will Book 5, page 435.

<sup>11</sup> Caldwell, p. 26-30; and Darlene Clark Hine, *Black Women in White: Racial Conflict and Cooperation in the Nursing Profession, 1890-1950* (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1989), p. 27.

<sup>12</sup> Caldwell, p 29; and R. L. Polk & Co’s *Huntington Directory, 1913-1914*; and Woodson.

<sup>13</sup> *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Vol. 2, No. 4, pg. 283-84.

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including Barnett.<sup>13</sup> There were three others in West Virginia. They included North Mountain Sanitarium in North Mountain, Harrison Hospital in Kimball, and Mercer Hospital in Bluefield.<sup>14</sup> This was, nonetheless, a small number. Therefore, the founding of an African-American hospital in Huntington by an African-American doctor caught national attention. The National Medical Association announced the upcoming opening of the Barnett Hospital in their January-March 1912 issue. The July-September issue announced that the hospital officially opened on April 24, 1912.<sup>15</sup> In 1913, R. W. Taylor, a national organizer for the National League (African-American), remarked about his visit to Barnett Hospital:

Dr. Barnett owns and conducts a very up-to-date hospital here (Huntington), known as "the Barnett Hospital," which has perhaps twenty-five beds, a thoroughly modern operating room, and other modern hospital appliances. The city sends all Negro patients to it, and the coal mines, in the coal mining regime just below the city, and all their injured to it, which makes for its success as a business proposition.<sup>16</sup>

Black hospitals of the era can be divided into three primary groups. The first group includes white-sponsored hospitals founded and administered by whites or public entities such as cities, universities, and counties. Most of the black hospitals in the southern states fall in this group and many did not permit African-American doctors to practice there prior to 1930s. The second group included hospitals run by African-Americans (primarily in the northern states). They were public black hospitals that were administered by African-Americans who were instrumental in their founding. The third group of hospital were founded and often owned by African-American physicians "to help themselves economically" and "establish their legitimacy in the community." Barnett Hospital and Nursing School falls within this final and smaller group of black hospitals. Out of this group, it is one of a handful that offered a nursing school.<sup>17</sup>

The Barnett Nursing School opened in 1918. Dr. Barnett's wife, Clara, was the hospital and school's Superintendent.<sup>18</sup> In 1900 there were 432 nursing schools in the United States. Nearly all of them were administered by whites, and most would not permit African-Americans in their nursing programs.<sup>19</sup> In 1912, there were 63 nursing schools that permitted African-American students. By 1920, the total number of nursing schools rose to 1755 in the United States while the opportunities for African-Americans to seek an education in nursing fell to only 54.<sup>20</sup> Only 14 of them were accredited by 1924 and only 10 of them were located in black hospitals, including Barnett Hospital in both instances.<sup>21</sup>

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

Name of Property

Cabell County, West Virginia

County and State

<sup>13</sup> Gamble, p 3.

<sup>14</sup> Hines.

<sup>15</sup> National Medical Association, Vol. 4, No. 1, Jan-Mar 1912, pg. 98 and Vol. 4, No. 3, Jul-Sep. 1912, pg. 273.

<sup>16</sup> Booker T Washington Papers, University of Illinois Press, Volume 12: 1912-14.

<sup>17</sup> Gamble, p. 6-8, 9, 10-11.

<sup>18</sup> Hine, p. 200-202.

<sup>19</sup> Gamble, p 12

<sup>20</sup> Hine, p. 204.

<sup>21</sup> Hine, p. 198-199.

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In 1925, Dr. Barnett and his wife borrowed approximately \$28,000 to improve the hospital.<sup>22</sup> The Barnetts altered the old frame structure by squaring it up, raising it one floor to a full, three-story building, installing a flat roof, and adding brick veneer to the front half of the building. An apartment was constructed on the third floor for the Barnetts to live. The National Medical Association commented on the progress:

Its fine location, beautiful exterior and well-equipped interior are at once the stimulation of gratitude for the addition of much-needed hospital facilities for our people and the assurance of the care and treatment of patients and the prevention of many sequelae [sic.] of diseases not possible without the modern hospital. In this achievement, Clara Matthews Barnett, R.N., shares a large measure of pride and commendation.<sup>23</sup>

That same year, Governor Howard M. Gore, appointed Dr. Barnett as the first Superintendent for the Lakin State Hospital.<sup>24</sup> Since his time spent at Weston State Hospital in 1901, Dr. Barnett remained interested in the psychiatric treatment of African-Americans. He was concerned with their treatment at Weston since they were separated from other patients and did not receive the same amenities. For years, Dr. Barnett advocated that, in a separate mental hospital with an African-American staff, the patients would be treated better. Furthermore, he argued, the physicians and nurses would benefit by studying their patients.<sup>25</sup>

The state legislature finally established Lakin in 1919 as part of a larger agenda that created numerous African-American institutions. Lakin was the only state hospital managed by an African-American.<sup>26</sup> *The Journal of the National Medical Association* praised West Virginia for “appointing Dr. C.C. Barnett of Huntington, W.VA, as superintendent of the new State Insane hospital for Negroes.” At the time, the only other hospital headed by an African-American was the U.S. Veterans Hospital at Tuskegee. The editorial stated the following:

This event is of special interest due to the fact that the state has not only made this provision for the insane of the colored race but at the same time has recognized ability in the colored medical profession to manage this enterprise. ... As far as we know there is only one other such institution headed by men of the race, that is the U.S. Veterans Hospital, No. 91, at Tuskegee. The placing of these two institutions, one by the federal government and one by a state government, under colored control, offers very great encouragement to our medical profession...<sup>27</sup>

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

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<sup>22</sup> Trust Deed.

<sup>23</sup> *Journal of the National Medical Association* Vol. 17, No. 4, Oct-Dec. 1925, pg 251

<sup>24</sup> *Herald-Dispatch*, 30 December 1935.

<sup>25</sup> Woodson.

<sup>26</sup> Vanessa Jackson, “Separate and Unequal: the Legacy of Racially Segregated Psychiatric Hospitals,” accessed on 4 September 2009 at <http://www.patdeegan.com/documents/SeparateandUnequalCMHSFINAL.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> *Journal of the National Medical Association* Vol. 17, No. 4, Oct-Dec 1925, pg 210 and Vol. 18, July-Sept 1926, pg.

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In addition to this recognition as Superintendent of Lakin State Hospital, Dr. Barnett appeared often in the *Journal of the National Medical Association*. Such references and articles related to Barnett Hospital, his attendance at medical society meetings, his presentation of papers and supervision of surgical clinics at various West Virginia Medical Society meetings, and his recognition for advancing to superintendent of Lakin State Hospital in West Virginia.

In 1928, according to a trust deed, the Barnetts leased the building to the City of Huntington for operation as a hospital.<sup>28</sup> Despite the hospital's transfer of operation to the City, the National Medical Association was still praising Dr. Barnett's efforts along with five others.

During the past few years a number of surgeons who have had training in some of the great hospitals of this country and Europe, have started excellent private hospitals, where they not only have the opportunity to gain experience from the wealth of clinical material, but it gives the colored people a chance to get expert treatment from surgeons and clinicians of their own race. Some brilliant examples of this are: ... C.C. Barnett, Huntington..."<sup>29</sup>

In 1930, during the Great Depression, the Union Mortgage Company foreclosed on the loans and took ownership. The city continued to lease the building, apparently directly from the mortgage company, and the hospital became known as "City Hospital."<sup>30</sup> Prior to the establishment of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid, churches and local and state governments provided medical care for the poor. African-Americans continued to be treated at City Hospital, and poor whites received care there as well especially during the depression years. During the Great Depression city hospitals took on a new importance. Without the City Hospitals, many unemployed or under-employed would not have received any health care.

Huntington's City Hospital provided free medical care for a number of people throughout the Great Depression. The hospital was operated by a New York insurance firm and treated its highest number of patients (785) in 1938. Due to the lack of funding, however, the hospital faced closure. Efforts were made to save the hospital. New pieces of equipment were donated, churches offered aid and support, and improvements, such as a new roof and flooring, were made to the building. Even so, on August 24, 1939 the newspaper announced that the hospital was closing its doors. By August 31<sup>st</sup> it announced that the hospital was closed.<sup>31</sup>

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Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Name of Property

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Cabell County, West Virginia  
County and State

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<sup>28</sup> Cabell County Deed Book 254 page 76, 1928.

<sup>29</sup> *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Vol. 22, No. 2, Apr-Jun. 1930, pg. 87

<sup>30</sup> R. L. Polk & Co's Huntington Directory 1930 and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps in 1931

<sup>31</sup> The newspaper reported, 24 August 1939, "Sept. 1 to See City Hospital Closing Its Doors," and the newspaper reported the closing again, 31 August 1939, "Hospital Closes Its Doors."

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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The building sat empty and was owned by a number of different individuals until 1947 when it was deeded to the Trustees of International Hod Carriers', Building and Common Laborers' Union. It was owned by the union until 2007.

When Dr. Barnett passed away in 1935, his obituary read the following:

He was one of the first Trustees for the First Baptist Church; he was a member of the American Medical Assoc., the American Hospital Assoc., the WV Medical Assoc., the American Psychiatric Assoc., and the Cabell County Medical Assoc.; his Nursing School graduated several registered nurses; his State Hospital at Lakin became the first psychopathic hospital in the State to be qualified by the American Medical Assoc.; he encouraged young African-American medical students to serve their internships at Barnett Hospital; and some of these physicians went on to the Tuskegee Institute and Boston to practice.<sup>32</sup>

### Summary

Dr. Barnett helped bring about change in the medical field at a time African-Americans faced what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles. Dr. Barnett, as well as his hospital and nursing school, made a significant positive impact on the medical education of African-Americans in West Virginia and beyond. He personally founded, owned, and administered his hospital unlike most black hospitals of the day that were government or charity sponsored facilities that hired African-Americans. Due to Dr. Barnett's work, greater numbers of African-American doctors and nurses were able to meet an increasing need in the African-American community. Furthermore, he was, at the time, one of only two African-Americans appointed superintendent of a medical facility in the United States by a government body. He was recognized by his peers, white and black, as well as local, state and national leaders.

The Barnett Hospital and Nursing School not only provided medical doctor internships and nursing education to local and West Virginia medical professionals, but also to medical professionals from all over the county who were denied such education elsewhere. Barnett Hospital hosted several graduates from Howard University Medical School, for example.

Due to the high costs of founding and maintaining a "modern" hospital and nursing school, few African-American nursing schools were ever accredited or hospitals recognized by the National Medical Association. Dr. Barnett's facility was both accredited and recognized as a great accomplishment by the National Medical Association. As stated by black historian, Dr. Ancella Bickley, "perhaps the most ambitious effort undertaken by Huntington blacks during the early part of the century was the development of a hospital – Spearheaded by Dr. C. C. Barnett."<sup>33</sup>

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

Name of Property

Cabell County, West Virginia

County and State

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

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<sup>32</sup> *Herald-Dispatch*, 30 December 1935.

<sup>33</sup> Ancella Radford Bickley, "Black People and the Huntington Experience," *Honoring Our Past* (Huntington, W.Va.: Marshall University, 1991), p. 147.

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

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Despite changes to the building during the period of significance, the building is a significant reminder of Huntington's past. Barnett Hospital and Nursing School is significant for its association with Dr. CC Barnett, as the region's first Black Hospital, as one of the few accredited black nursing schools, and as the primary City Hospital offering free medical care to those who could not afford it.

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National Park Service

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## Continuation Sheet

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Located at 1201 Seventh Avenue, Huntington, WV. Cabell County, WV, Parcel Number: 07 44052800000000; Block 150, Pt Lt 1; Deed Book 390 page 332; land use code 367; District Map 30, Parcel 0186.

Beginning at a stake in the intersection of the south line of Seventh Avenue with the East line of Twelfth Street; thence from said beginning easterly and with the South Line of Seventh Avenue, thirty (30) feet to a stake; thence southerly and parallel to the East line of Twelfth Street, one hundred (100) feet to a stake; thence westerly and parallel to the South line of Seventh Avenue, thirty (30) feet to a stake in the East line of Twelfth Street; thence northerly and with the east line of Twelfth Street, one hundred (100) feet to the point of beginning; and being the (100) feet of Lot number One (1) in Block 150, as shown on the revised Map of the City of Huntington, West Virginia, made by L. W. Leete, C. E., which Map was filed for record in the office of the Clerk of the County court of Cabell County, W. Va., on December 31, 1903.

Being the same land descried in a deed from J. M Myers and Sara Mae Myers, his wife, to Kenneth Thomas, Chas. Wilks, and Roy Fudge, Trustees of International Hod Carriers', Building and Common Laborers' Union of America, Local Union No. 543, (now The Construction and General Laborers' Union, Local 543), dated November 19, 1947, and recorded in deed book 390, Page 332, in the aforesaid Clerks Office.

### Boundary Justification

The Barnett Hospital and Nursing School has never been moved. It is located on its original lot as described above that Dr. CC Barnett and his first wife, Katherine Barnett purchased in 1905 (Deed Book 76 p 377). The Barnett Hospital and Nursing School (29 foot by 100 foot) is located on over 96% of its original and current 30 foot by 100 foot lot.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property: Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Address: 1201 Seventh Avenue  
Town: Huntington, WV 25701  
County: Cabell  
Photographer: Karen N. Nance  
Date: November 2008

Photo 1 of 10: Main (north) elevation, facing south

Photo 2 of 10: East elevation, facing west

Photo 3 of 10: South elevation, facing north

Photo 4 of 10: West elevation, facing east

Photo 5 of 10: Main elevation detail, facing south

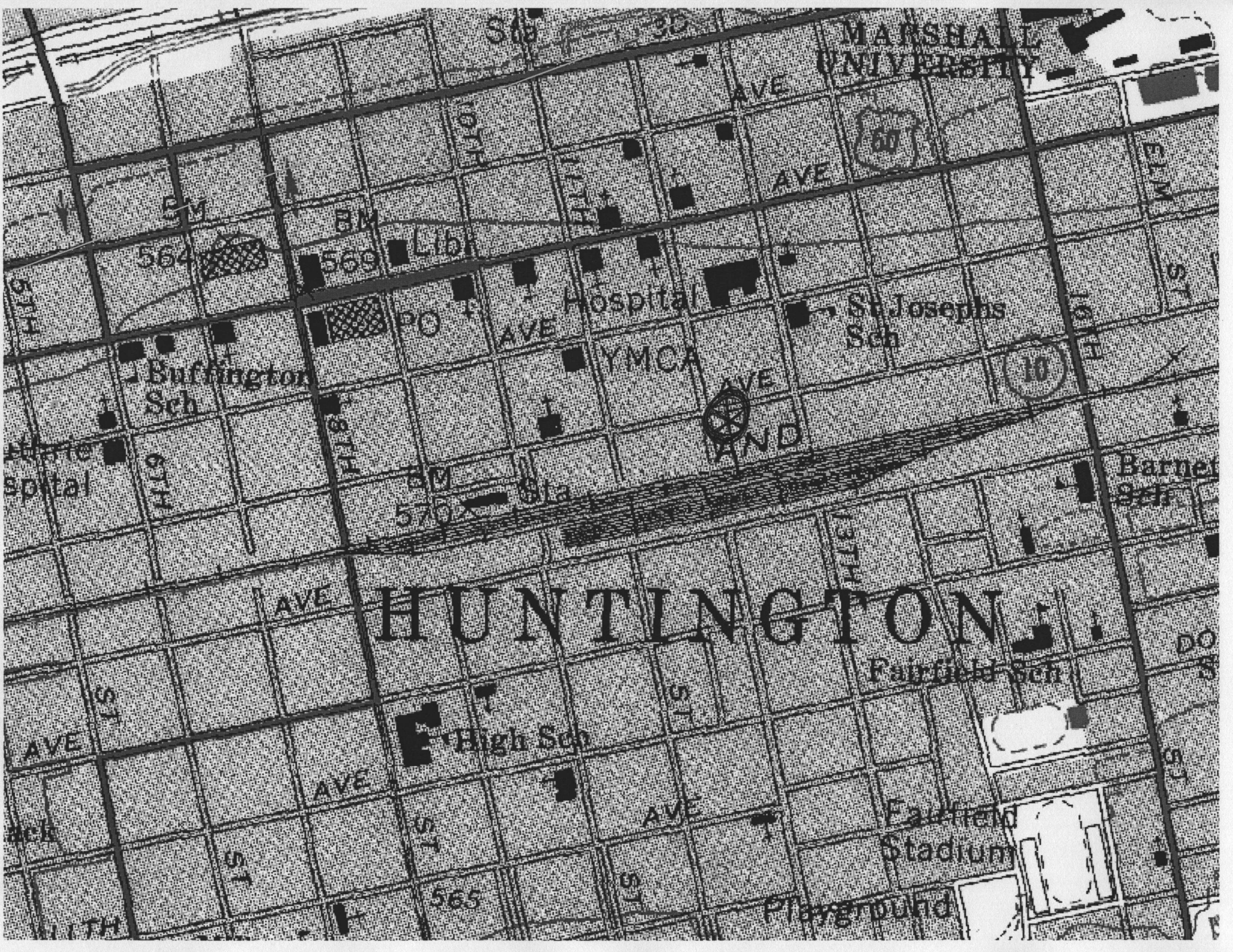
Photo 6 of 10: Check-in window

Photo 7 of 10: Third floor, French doors

Photo 8 of 10: Second floor hall, door trim

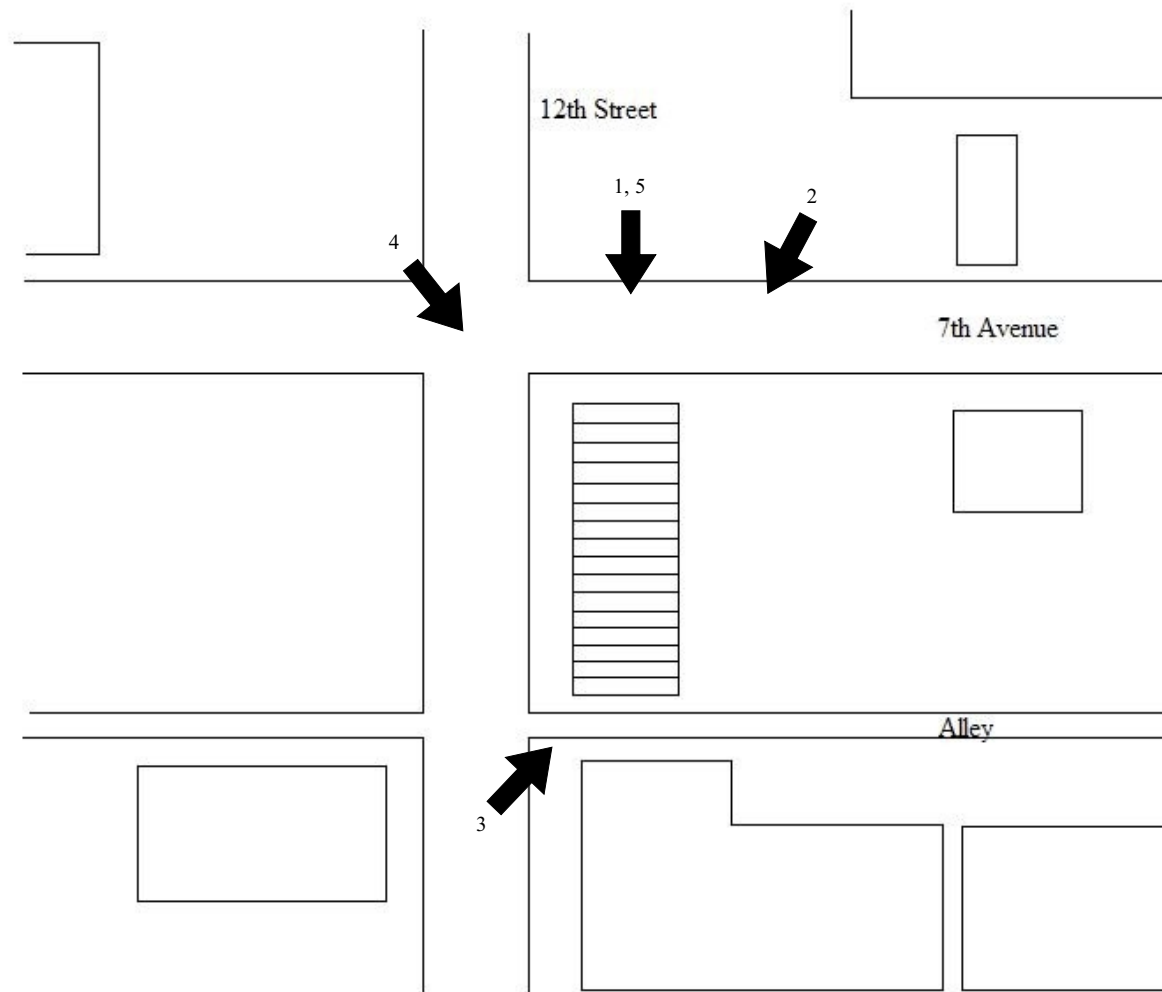
Photo 9 of 10: Third floor, door numbers

Photo 10 of 10: Third floor, back stairs



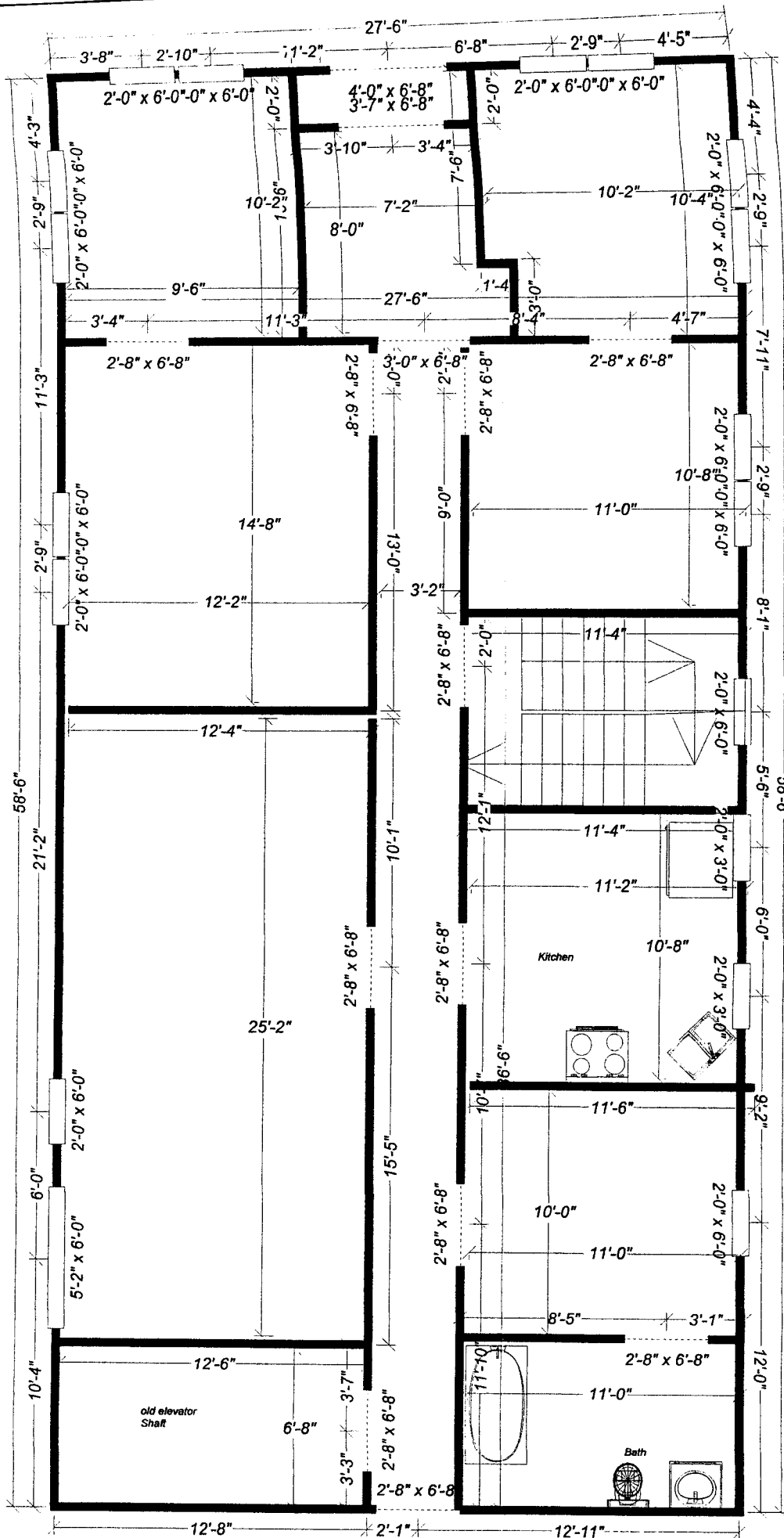
Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Cabell County, West Virginia  
Site plan and photo log

➡ Photo view

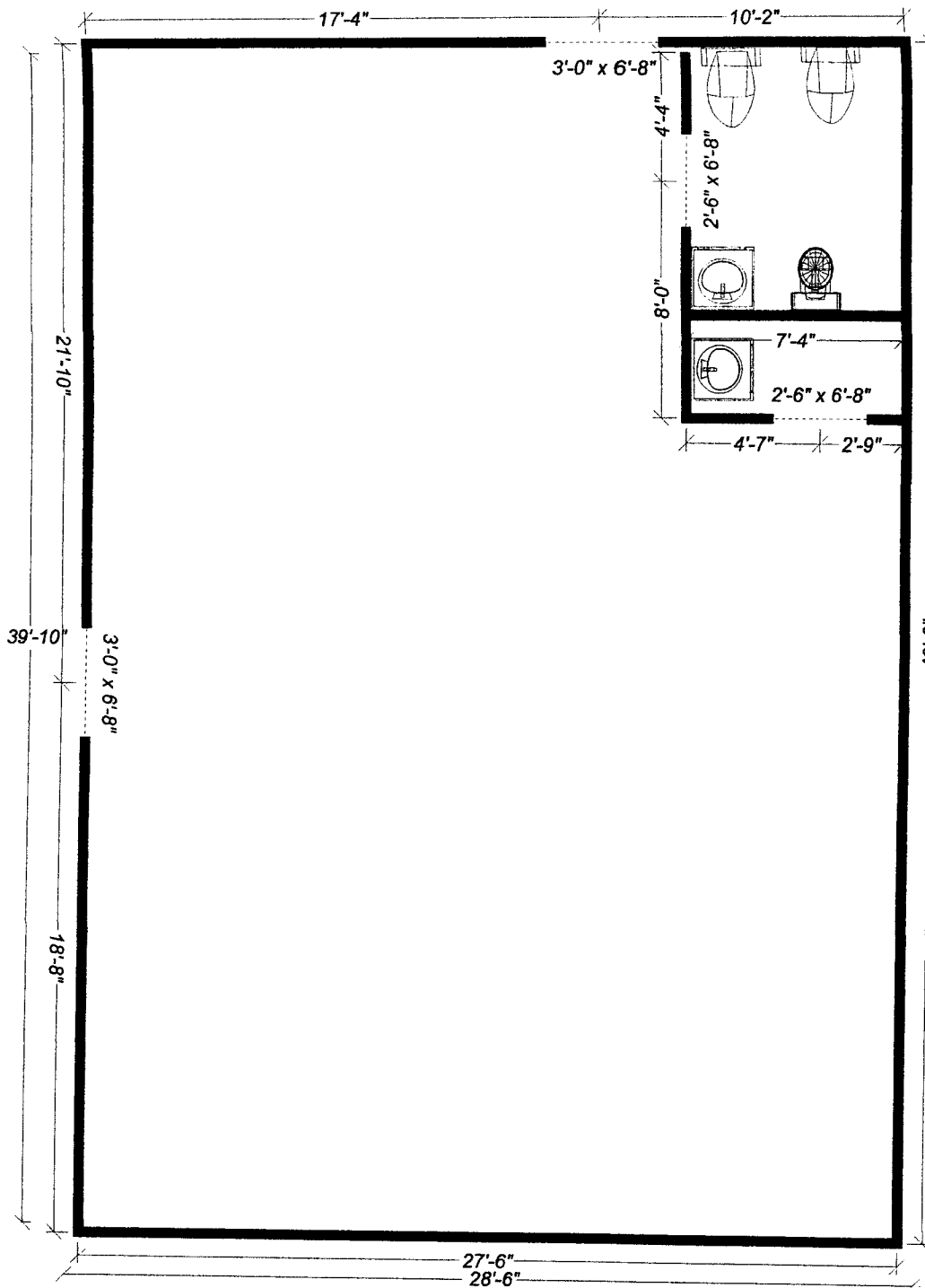


# Barnett Hospital and Nursing School Cabell County, West Virginia

Historic Barnett Hospital  
1st Floor Front



North  
not to scale



Historic Barnett Hospital  
1st Floor Back



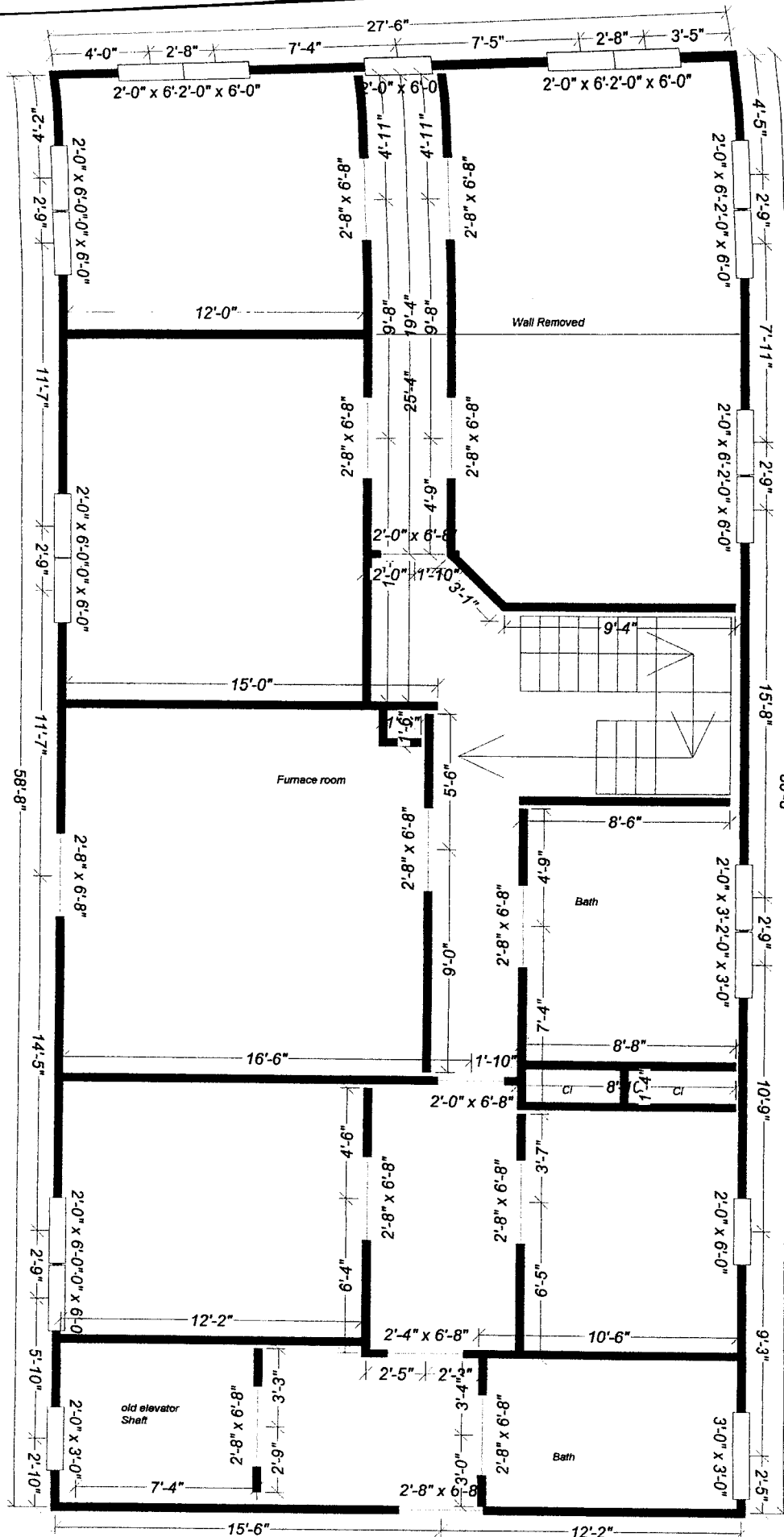
North  
not to scale

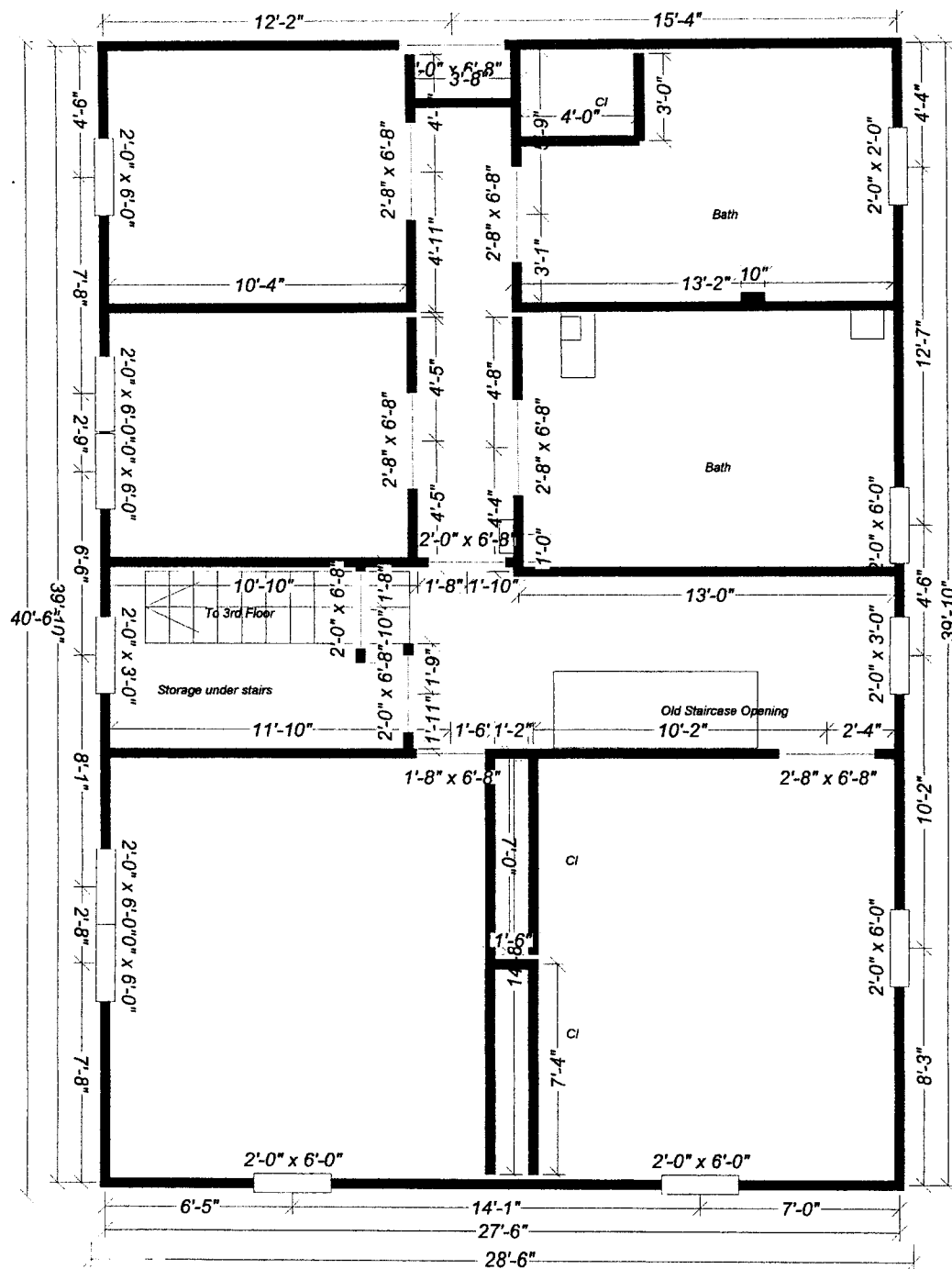


Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Cabell County, West Virginia

*Historic Barnett Hospital  
2nd Floor Front*

*North  
not to scale*



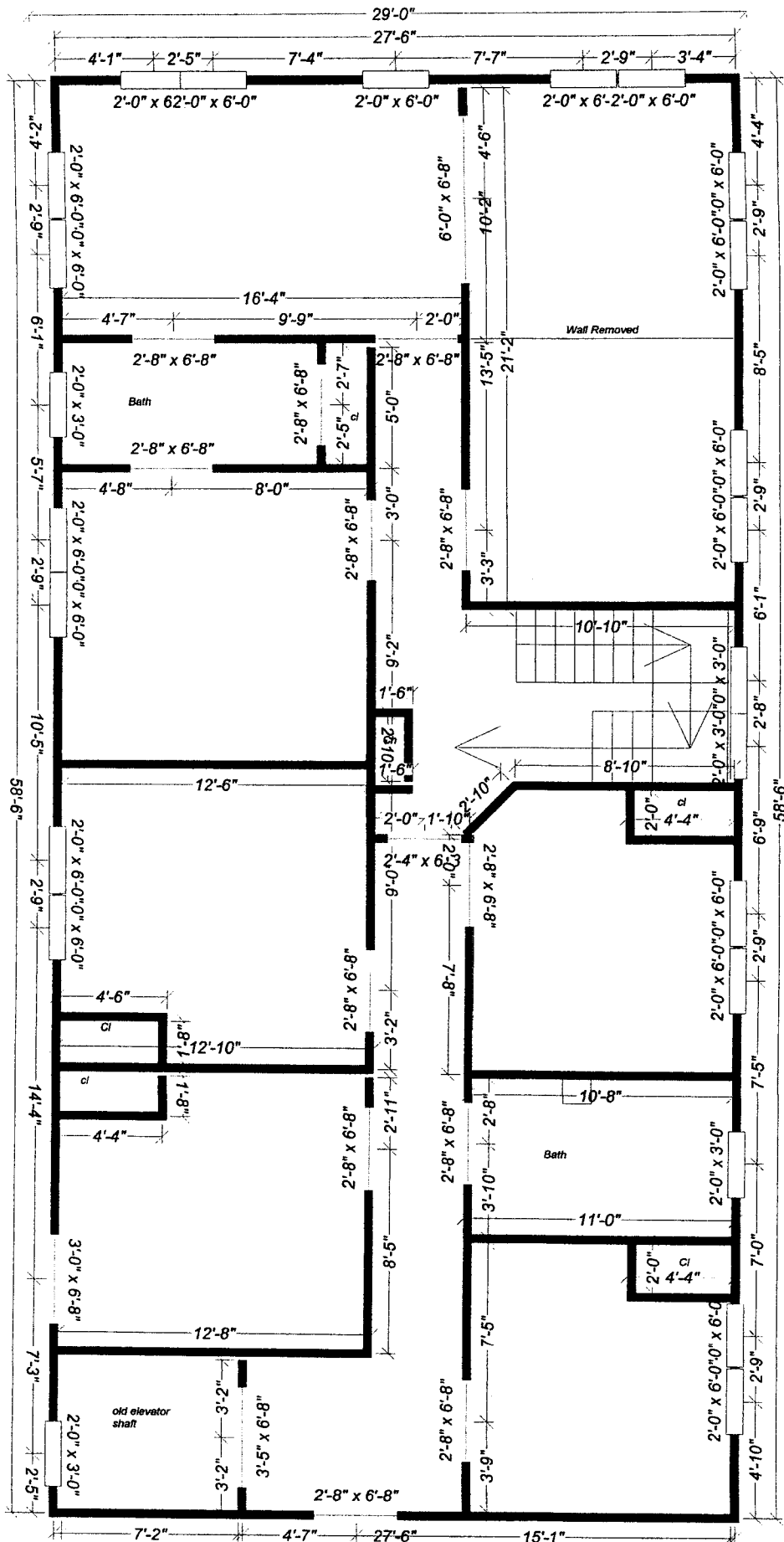


Historic Barnett Hospital  
2nd Floor Back



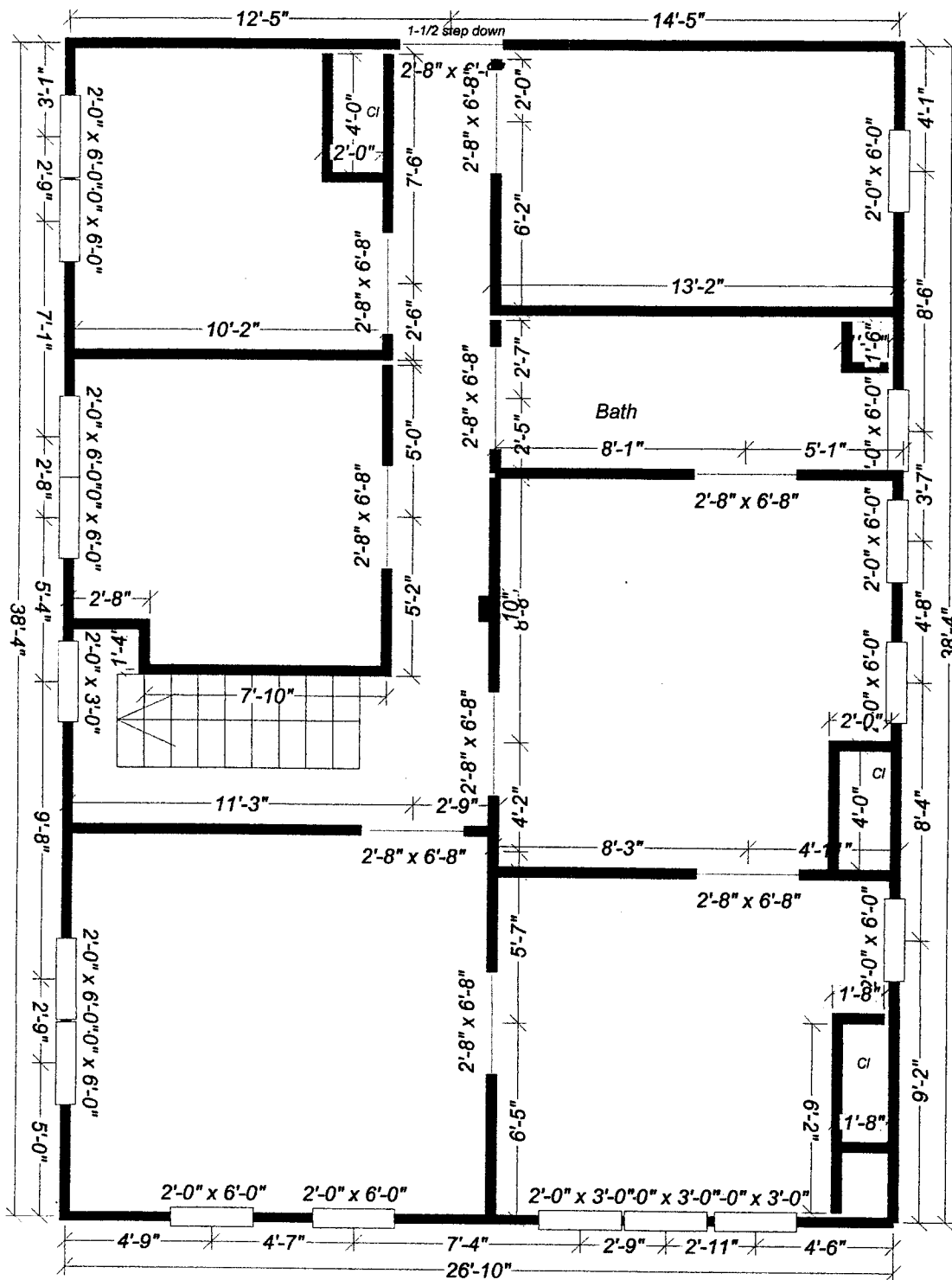
North  
not to scale

Barnett Hospital and Nursing School  
Cabell County, West Virginia



Historic Barnett  
Hospital  
3rd Floor Front

North  
not to scale















A photograph of a red brick building facade. A stone lintel with the name 'BARNETT' in a serif font is positioned above a doorway. A window is visible above the lintel. The brickwork is a mix of red and brown tones.

BARNETT











