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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Community Hospital  
other names/site number New Salem Baptist Church

### 2. Location

street & number 130 W. Kinney Street  not for publication  
city or town Newark  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07103

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 forth 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Healthcare: Hospital	Religion: Church

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Italian Renaissance Revival	foundation Concrete
	walls Brick
	roof Asphalt
	other Other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Community Hospital  
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey  
County and State

### 8 Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- 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.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Health/Medicine

#### Period of Significance

1927 - 1953

#### Significant Dates

1927, 1935, 1953

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dr. John A. Kenney

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

N/A

#### Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

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

Kenney Hospital

Name of Property

Essex, New Jersey

County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of property** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18								
	Zone	Easting	Northing						
2				3					
					Zone	Easting	Northing		
				4					
					<input type="checkbox"/>	See continuation sheet			

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	Ulana Zakalak, Historic Preservation Consultant		
organization	Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee	date	September 10, 2003
street & number	P.O. Box 1066	telephone	(973) 622-4910
city or town	Newark	state	NJ
		zip code	077103

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**Additional Documentation**

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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.

**Additional items**

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

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	New Salem Baptist Church		
street & number	130 W. Kinney Street	telephone	(973) 624-7984
city or town	Newark	state	NJ
		zip code	07103

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**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 listings. 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 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Community Hospital  
Newark, Essex County, NJ

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Community Hospital, now known as the New Salem Baptist Church, located at 130 W. Kinney Street, Newark, is a two-story, rectangular-plan, brick and stone, Italian Renaissance-influenced, institutional building (see photo 1). Located in the Central Ward of Newark, west of the central business district, the building was originally constructed as Kenney Memorial Hospital in 1927, by Dr. John Kenney. Kenney Memorial Hospital was the first hospital in New Jersey built exclusively to train African-American doctors and nurses, who were kept from practicing elsewhere due to racial discrimination.

A central arched entrance set in a stone basement level with projecting water table dominates the narrow, two-story, stretcher bond-laid, yellow brick facade. The entrance arch is composed of engaged colonettes supporting a spiral-twisted arch. Surmounting this arch is another, composed of a wide band of brick finished with a stone edging. The inside of the arch contains a round-arched sign with the current name of the building. Behind this sign is the original glass lunette with painted gold letters stating the name of the building, "The Community Hospital." The stone entablature contains an address inscription. Small, rectangular windows with wide stone lintels and narrow sills flank the entrance (see photo 2).

The second floor is ornamented by a triple window grouping set in an arcade. The round arched window surrounds are composed of brick stretchers edged in stone, springing from stone pilasters with decorative capitals flanking the central window. A narrow stone bracketed sill connects the arcade at the bottom. Wrought iron balconies further embellish the windows. The windows are replacements.

The entablature consists of an arcuated and corbelled brick architrave, a dentillated frieze and a simple cornice. A plain brick parapet rises above the entablature.

The side elevations consist of painted, common bond brick with fenestration on the west wall (see photo 3). Above the second floor windows is lettering with the name of the church. The east wall is separated from a two story commercial building by a narrow alley. The rear of the building was opened in 1985 to accommodate a two-story, utilitarian brick addition. It also has a handicapped-accessible ramp leading to a door in the projecting rear addition. The rear of the building has a second floor fire escape.

### Interior

Except for the first floor, the interior of the building still reflects the original hospital functions. The central doors open into a vestibule containing a cast iron staircase (see photo 8). Immediately ahead is the sanctuary. The sanctuary has had a corridor and several partition walls removed to accommodate the church auditorium (see photos 4-6). Pews have been installed and the sanctuary platform has been located in the open addition at the rear of the building. Finishes include plaster walls, carpeted and linoleum-clad floor, and rounded sanitary finishes on the windows rather than mouldings. The ceiling is covered with rough-textured paint. Original cast iron radiators are located near the ceiling rather than on the floor, most likely to save floor space (see photo 6)

The second floor is reached by means of the staircase in the vestibule (see photo 8). It still has the original narrow corridor running along the east wall (see photo 9), prep room (see photo 11), the

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Community Hospital  
Newark, Essex County, NJ

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### Statement of Significance

Community Hospital, founded in 1927, is historically significant as the first hospital in the City of Newark and in the State of New Jersey, built exclusively for the training of African-American doctors and nurses at a time when segregation prevented their admission to white health facilities. The national segregation policy of "separate but equal" dictated virtually every aspect of society. Racially exclusive "Jim Crow" laws dominated employment, housing, transportation, recreation, education and medicine. Black Americans were subjected to all of the injustices inherent in a dual medical care system. Community Hospital, founded as the Kenney Memorial Hospital in 1927, by Dr. John A. Kenney, personal physician to Booker T. Washington and George W. Carver, was the only hospital in the state that was open to both black doctors and their patients. Community Hospital provided training for black interns and nurses. At the time of the hospital founding, black interns and graduate nurses were not allowed to enter and practice their profession in a New Jersey hospital. While most hospitals gave ward service to a limited number of black patients in all black wards, only a few of them furnished private room service for the handful who were able to pay for it. Those that were admitted were not allowed to be seen by their own black physicians. In some instances, white nurses were prohibited from caring for black patients. Community Hospital provided the facilities in which black doctors could treat their patients and develop their professional technique, black patients could be served by their own doctors, and nurses could get their training. Community Hospital was also one of the first buildings erected for public use by Newark's black community<sup>1</sup>. Community Hospital is being nominated under National Register Criteria A and B. Under Criterion A, the hospital is associated with the struggle of the African-American community in Newark to seek medical attention and to train its own medical personnel. Under Criterion B, the hospital is nominated for its association with Dr. John A. Kenney, the founder.

Community Hospital was the dream of Dr. John A. Kenney, who moved with his family to Newark on September 1, 1924, from Tuskegee, Alabama, where he had headed the John A. Andrew Hospital at Tuskegee Institute. For three years, Dr. Kenney struggled in private practice and attempted to take care of his patients in existing medical institutions. Realizing that he and his patients were not welcome in local medical facilities, Kenney turned his attention to building a hospital for African-Americans in Newark. For his location, Kenney chose the "Hill" section, also known as the "Roaring Third" (Newark's old Third Ward). This was the heart of Newark's black community, recently migrated from the southeastern United States. Between 1915 and 1920 the number of blacks in Newark increased by 80.6 percent--from 9,400 to 16,977. As New Jersey's leading industrial center, Newark resettled more blacks within its boundaries than any other city in New Jersey (Price 1974: 19). And in Newark, the "Hill" section was the primary residential area for these new migrants. Most of the residential areas outside the central city were closed to blacks. The newcomers inherited deteriorating tenement districts built in the nineteenth century, some without electricity, inside toilets and running water. Although conditions were horrendous, thousands of newcomers settled in the Third Ward during the First World War. The Third Ward was also notorious for its disease and death. In 1919, the death rate for blacks was 26 per 1,000 persons, twice that

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<sup>1</sup> Community Hospital was certainly the first building put up for any black health or social agency by blacks in Newark. The Urban League was founded about ten years earlier, but it bought an existing building. Until well into the twentieth century, even most of the black churches were constructed originally for white congregations.

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Community Hospital  
Newark, Essex County, NJ

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hospital building was divided into small wards, semi-private and private rooms for thirty patients. The hospital was connected by a corridor over a nine-foot automobile driveway with the wood frame office building, which had originally served as Kenney's home, immediately to the west of the hospital building. The administration building, which is no longer extant, contained reception rooms, offices, treatment, x-ray and laboratory facilities, storerooms, dining rooms, quarters for help and laundry. The personnel consisted of a house physician, secretary, stenographer, eight graduate nurses, one matron, two maids and two orderlies. Services provided by the hospital included: general medicine, surgery, gynecology, obstetrics and physiotherapy, including radium and the X-ray (Southern Workman, May 1928: 8).

Following a tradition established by Kenney at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, the hospital engaged in outpatient services and community outreach. The hospital provided a free outpatient clinic, monthly health meetings at the hospital, and a social service worker to serve as a connecting link between the hospital and the public. The outpatient clinic provided free annual physical examinations. The monthly meetings taught good health and clean living. Topics covered included cleanliness, hygiene, food preparation, and "necessity of rest, exercise, recreation as well as industry and lucrative employment." (Kenney Memorial Hospital, Nov. 1929: n.p.)

The hospital also published promotional material to disseminate into the community, and to encourage residents to visit the hospital. In a booklet published in 1929, titled simply "Kenney Memorial Hospital," a story is told about Little Jean and Big Bill, a family taken care of by Kenney Memorial Hospital. In the story, Big Bill is killed by a hit-and-run automobile and Little Jean contracts pneumonia. She is admitted to the hospital where she recovers while the Ladies Auxiliary takes care of her children. Although the family is destitute they receive free medical care and help with the children. A women's auxiliary consisting of city and suburban residents supported the hospital. The Auxiliary raised money for equipment, collected donations and supported patients' families while they were in the hospital (Kenney Memorial Hospital, Nov. 1929: n.p.).

Within six months of the founding of the hospital, the community was taking full advantage of its resources. By February 14, 1928, the hospital had 205 patients and 83 surgical operations (Southern Workman, May 1928: 3). By 1934, having financed much of the construction and equipment himself, Dr. Kenney attempted to refinance the hospital by selling it to the community. Several factions developed, each bickering over the purchase price of the hospital. On Christmas Day, 1934, Dr. Kenney stunned the community by announcing that he and his family were donating the hospital to the community. At this time, the hospital property was valued at \$93,000 with \$68,000 in Dr. Kenney's personal equity. In the interest of preserving harmony within the community, Dr. Kenney made a Christmas gift of the hospital to the people of Newark. Accompanying the gift, Dr. Kenney presented and published a voluntary affidavit declaring the institution's solvency. On December 28, 1934, at the Hopewell Baptist Church, the Booker T. Washington Community Hospital Association accepted the offer on behalf of the community. Several days later, the trustees of this organization formally accepted the hospital and its properties. It was at once incorporated as a non-profit institution and the name changed from Kenney Memorial Hospital to the Community Hospital. After seven years of service as a private institution, Kenney Memorial Hospital became a community hospital. The following year, Community Hospital was registered by the American Medical Association, recognized by the State of New Jersey for the treatment

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Community Hospital  
Newark, Essex County, NJ

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In 1912, Kenney founded the John A. Andrew annual clinics. In these clinics, African-American and white physicians worked together, serving thousands of African-Americans from rural areas within a 200-mile radius of Tuskegee. Six years later, Kenney started the John A. Andrew Clinical Society accompanying the annual clinics. While at Tuskegee, Kenney also served as the personal physician to Dr. Washington (Harlan 1983: 233, 443, 449). He traveled with the elderly and infirm Booker T. Washington on his various speaking engagements and accompanied Washington on his final trip to New York and escorted him back to Tuskegee Institute to die (New York Times, November 15, 1915).

Dr. Kenney left the South in 1924, after the Ku Klux Klan threatened his life for demanding rights for Negro physicians and nurses in the newly built Veterans Administration Hospital at Tuskegee. He was forced to leave Tuskegee with his family after a cross had been burned on his front lawn and a white patient had tipped him off that his murder was being planned. Under a twenty-four hour guard provided by Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Kenney put his affairs in order and quietly moved his family to New Jersey (Bates: 1996). In 1924, Dr. Kenney moved his family to Newark where he founded and became the head of Kenney Memorial Hospital, later renamed Community Hospital. He continued as medical director and chief surgeon until 1939, when he returned to Tuskegee to head the Tuskegee Institute Hospital. In 1944, he returned to New Jersey and resumed private medical practice in Montclair.

Dr. Kenney was an influential early member of the National Medical Association (NMA), the oldest and largest organization representing African-American physicians and health professionals in the United States. Established in 1895, it was created as a parallel organization to the American Medical Association, to which membership for black medical professionals was denied. Kenney served as secretary of the National Medical Association from 1904 to 1912, when he became its president. With an increasing black population throughout the United States at the turn-of-the-twentieth century, the NMA established a multi-point agenda to address the health care needs of a population that by 1912 exceeded 10 million. They focused on increasing the number of minority physicians and improving the overall health of the African-American population. The NMA members set up their own hospitals, emphasized physician training, and appointed special commissions to study major diseases contracted by minorities, such as tuberculosis, hookworm, and pellagra (NMA 2003: n.p.)

In 1908, Dr. Kenney founded the Journal of the National Medical Association and was its associate editor and business manager until 1916, when he became editor, serving until 1948. The official organ of the National Medical Association, the journal published scholarly research and findings regarding prevention, treatment, management and care of illness and disease on a quarterly basis. During Kenney's thirty-two year leadership of the publication, the Journal was the chief medium of medical and scientific expression of African-American physicians. He was also the author of The Negro in Medicine, published in 1912.

In 1944, the Harmon Foundation, founded by the white real estate developer, William E. Harmon (1862-1928) to recognize African-American achievements, not only in the fine arts but also in business, education, farming, literature, music, race relations, religious service and science, chose Dr. Kenney as one of America's most prominent Negroes. That same year, the Harmon Foundation, then under the direction of Mary Beattie Brady, organized an exhibition, "Portraits of Outstanding Americans of Negro



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Community Hospital  
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Reverend Bass, Minister Eddie Douglas, who was a church member, carried on the minister's duty until 1955 when Reverend John L. Toler was called to serve as Pastor.

Under Reverend Toler's leadership, the membership quickly outgrew the High Street facilities, and aware of the closing of Community Hospital, the church was able to purchase the former hospital building on West Kinney Street in 1959. Reverend Toler was a dynamic leader. He was able to motivate the congregation to raise enough money to burn the mortgage in 1969. Church membership reached an all-time-high, and the congregation expanded the building by adding a rear addition in 1985. The longest serving pastor in the church's history, Reverend Toler, pastor for 23 years, died in December 1992.

After Reverend Toler death, the church came under the leadership of interim Pastor Eddie Douglas. In November 1994, Reverend Franklin Gosnell was called to be Pastor. He instituted a feeding outreach ministry. In September 2001, leadership was passed to the current Pastor Reverend John K. White (History of New Salem Baptist Church, January 26, 2002).

During the last 44 years, New Salem Baptist Church has maintained the Community Hospital building. The exterior and the second floor remain almost the same as when Dr. Kenney left Newark. While the building was originally intended for medical purposes, it continues today to serve the spiritual needs of the community in which it is located.

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Phillips, A. A., M.D. "The Negro Physician in North Jersey and the Early History of the North Jersey Medical Society." Undated, typewritten report in the Newark Public Library vertical file collection.

Price, Clement A. "The Beleaguered City as Promised Land: Blacks in Newark, 1917- 1947." In Urban New Jersey Since 1870. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1975.

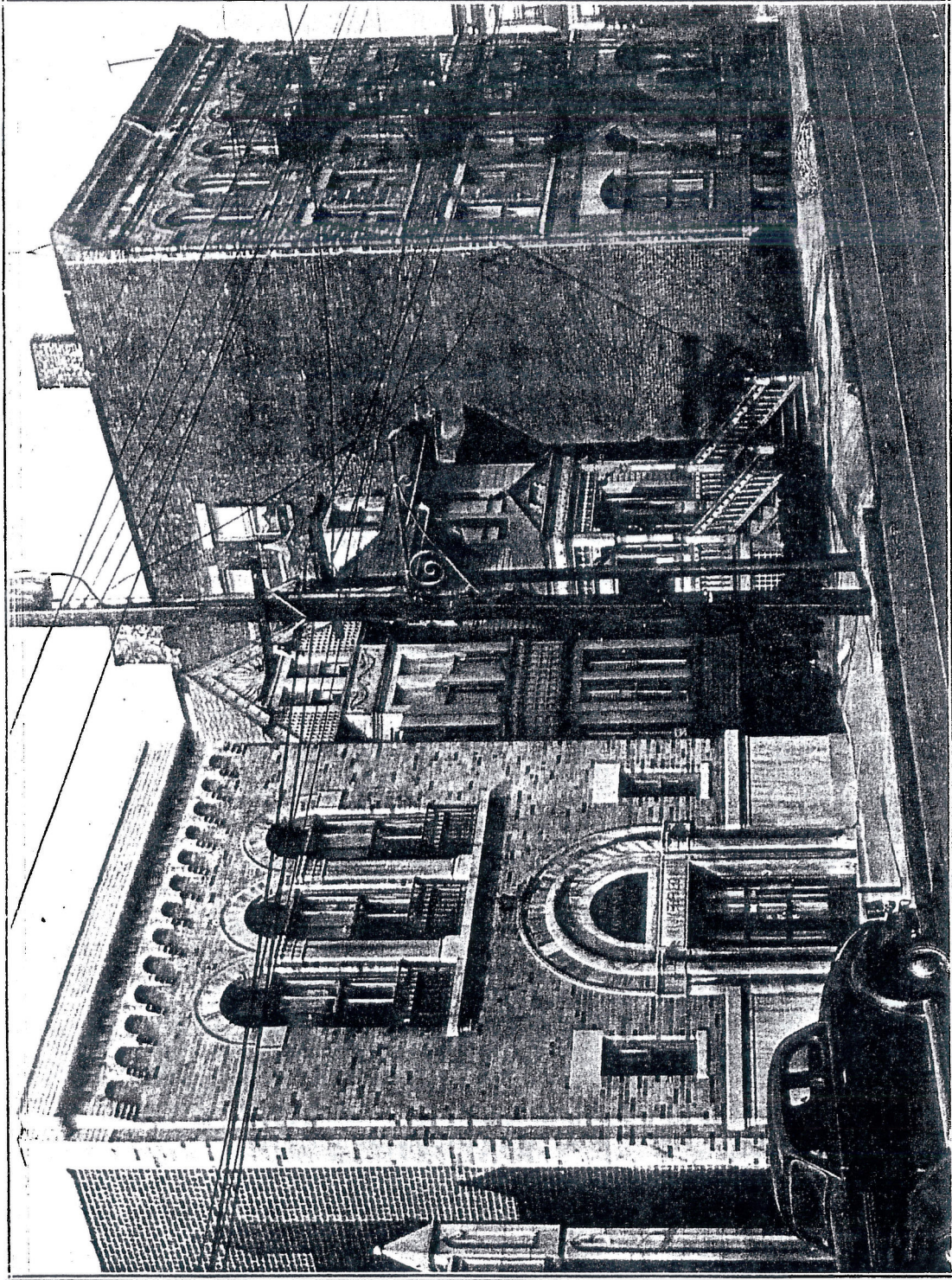
Price, Clement A. Freedom Not Far Distant. Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1980.

"Trustees Seek Funds for New Negro Hospital." Newark Evening News, June 10, 1953.

White, Robert M. M.D. "Kenney Memorial Hospital." Journal of the National Medical Association, Vol. 9, No. 5.

Works Progress Administration. "Negro Survey (Newark)." Writers Project Photographs. Undated.

Wright, Giles R. Afro-Americans in New Jersey. A Short History. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1988.

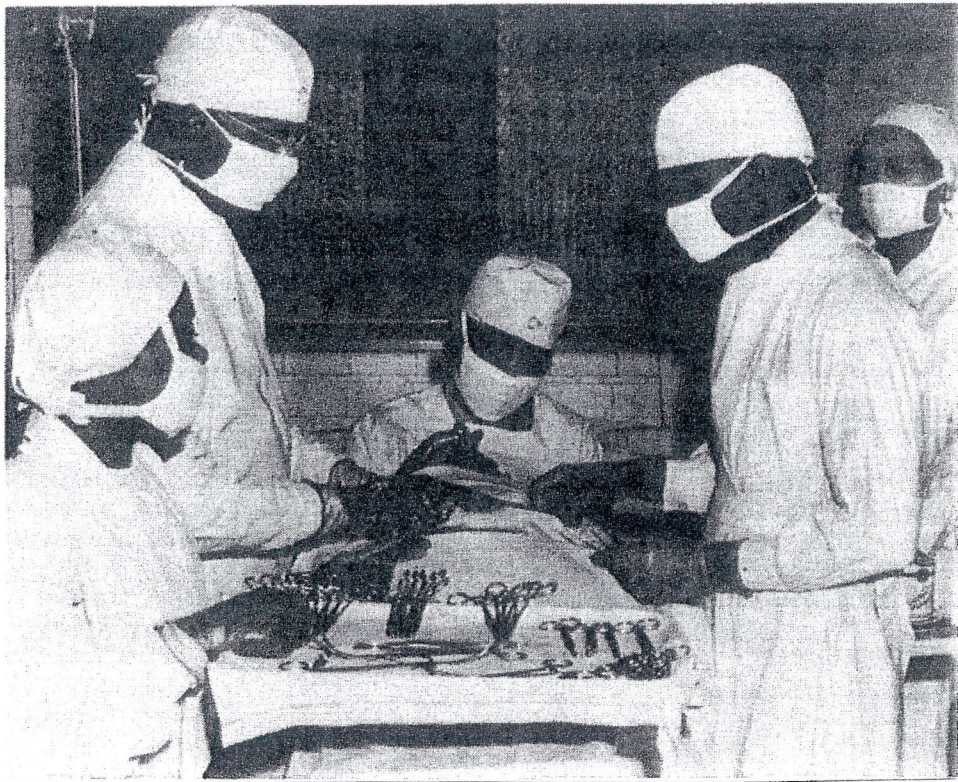
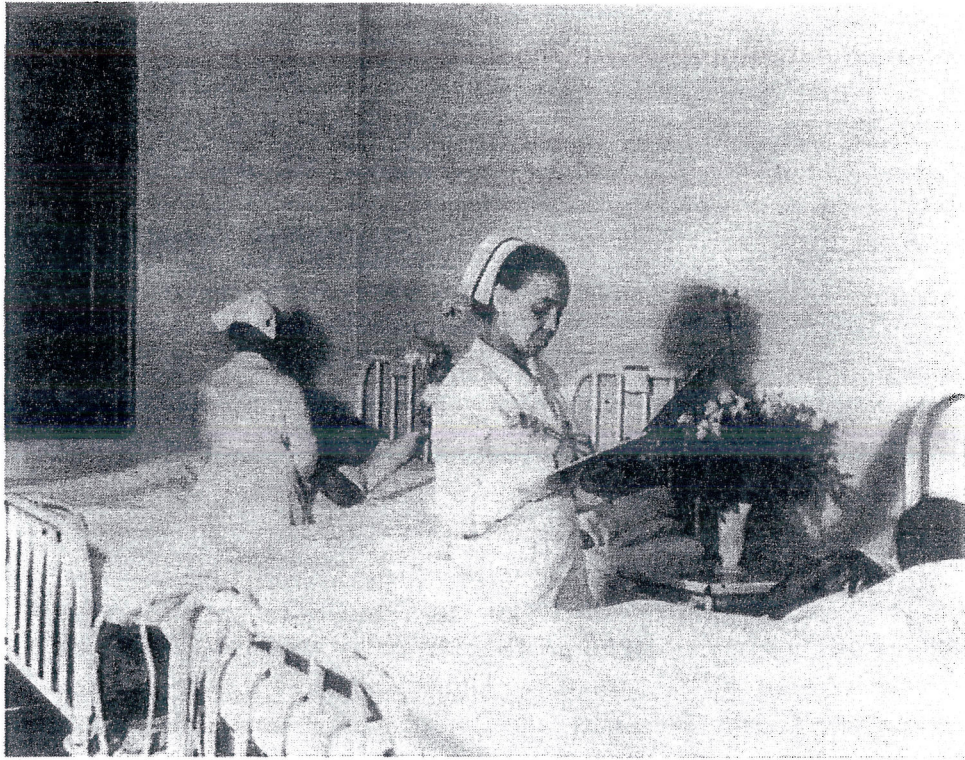


Nurses Home and Clinic  
(Rented)

Administration  
Building

Present Hospital

Figure 3. View of Community Hospital published in 1947.



*Newark's black community was large enough to establish and sustain certain kinds of institutions in the face of racial discrimination. The photos above (c. 1930s) show the medical staff of the Community Hospital of Newark, which was established in 1927.*

*Courtesy of the New Jersey Division of Records Management.*

**Figure 4. W.P.A. Writers Project Photographs: Negro Survey (Newark).**