

Collection #
P 0532

INDIANA HOSPITALS POSTCARDS CA. PRE-1907–1970S

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 box of 272 postcards

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. pre-1907–1970s

PROVENANCE: Gift from Nancy K. Smith of Greenwich, CT, in January 2009

RESTRICTIONS: None

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FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2009.0011

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first hospital in the United States was the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond on 11 May 1751.

City Hospital in Indianapolis was among the first general hospitals in Indiana. It opened its doors in 1859 at what is now 10th Street and Indiana Avenue. In the 1880s, under the administration of Dr. William N. Wishard, City Hospital constructed new state-of-the-art facilities. In the 1940s and 1950s the name was changed first to Indianapolis General Hospital and then Marion County General Hospital. In 1975 the name changed to Wishard Memorial Hospital. New facilities were constructed again, and the renamed Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital opened on 7 December 2013.

Before City Hospital, the Indiana Hospital for the Insane opened in Indianapolis in 1848. Its name changed in 1889 to Central Indiana Hospital and in 1929 to Central State Hospital. To serve other regions of the state, more such institutions were opened, including: at Logansport (Longcliff State Hospital / Northern Indiana Hospital for the Insane) in 1888, in Richmond (Eastern Indiana Hospital for Insane / East Haven Hospital) in 1890, in Evansville (Woodmere / Southern Indiana Hospital for the Insane) in 1890, and in Madison (Southeastern Hospital for the Insane / Cragmont) in 1910.

Some of the other hospitals represented in this collection include the following. The U.S. Marine Hospital in Evansville opened in 1856. In 1870 it was sold to the Sisters of Charity and became the first St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville. The Robert Long Hospital opened in 1914 on what had been swampland considered to be the most unhealthy part of Indianapolis. Wells County Hospital in Bluffton was built around 1917. Bedford's City Hospital began in 1908 and after additions became Dunn Memorial Hospital in 1924. The James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children opened in 1924 as the state's only children's hospital. Clay County Hospital in Brazil admitted its first patient in 1928. Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie was completed in 1929, the first major project of the Ball Brothers Foundation.

Sources:

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Peeper, Justin. "More Expansion, More Services for Patients." In *The News-Banner*, Bluffton, Indiana, 21 June 2013 (<http://www.news-banner.com/progress/view/more-expansion-more-services-for-patients>). Accessed 31 March 2014.

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St. Vincent Dunn. "How We Came to be St. Vincent Dunn" (<http://www.stvincent.org/St-Vincent-Dunn/About-Us/Our-History.aspx>). Accessed 31 March 2014.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of 272 postcards depicting Indiana hospitals and sanatoriums and a few of other types of institutions such as an old people's home in Anderson, a school for "feeble minded children" in Fort Wayne, a home for epileptics in New Castle, a nursing school in South Bend, and the Indiana State Board of Health building and the Institute for the Blind in Indianapolis. Some of the sanatoriums and hospitals are specialized, for example, for tuberculosis patients, for the "insane," or children. Some include a residence for nurses or other company buildings such as the Gospel Trumpet Office and Old Peoples' Home in Anderson and the Illinois Steel Co.'s offices and hospital in Gary.

For some hospitals and sanatoriums there is more than one view. Some postcards are in color and some are black-and-white. There is one real photo postcard (of the Kneipp Sanitarium in Rome City). Some postcards have messages that were mailed; others are unused. Many are addressed to a Walter Stiles in New Hampshire, evidently a postcard collector, as well as to other postcard collectors, based on the messages written.

The postcards are arranged alphabetically by the name of the town, and then alphabetically by name of the institution within each town. Some institutions were known by more than one name and are grouped together.

All dates should be considered approximate. Some were taken from postmarks, others were taken from Web site guides about specific postcard publishers, such as the Curt Teich Company (http://www.lcfpd.org/docs/teich_guide_dating.pdf) and the Wayne Paper Box & Printing Company (http://www.dejean.com/salem/1930s/wayneboxcards_becker.html).

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Wabash – City Hospital / Park Hospital, Wabash County Hospital. (7 postcards, n.d.–1946)	Box 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0532).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.