

Northwest Quadrant Building-A History

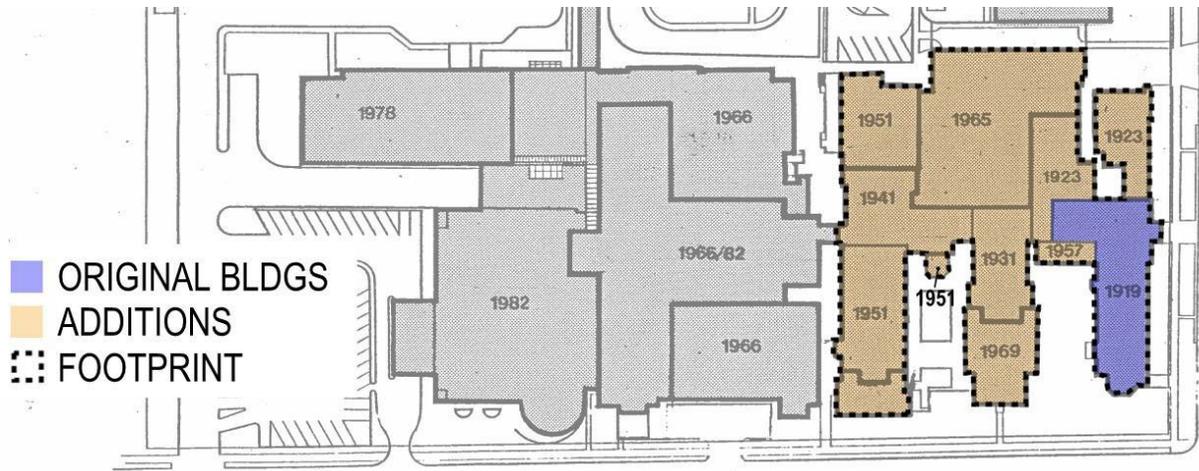
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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Northwest Quadrant Building A, NWQA, is one of four buildings in the main complex of the Northwest Quadrant. It was formerly part of Columbia-St. Mary's. Initially, it was an early home to Columbia Hospital, which originated in 1909 in a small downtown building, the private Knowlton Hospital on Michigan Street. The brainchild of prominent Milwaukee business leaders who envisioned a non-religious, research-oriented hospital for Milwaukee in the mold of the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins. Columbia was created to provide teaching clinics, a pathological laboratory, and postgraduate training. Ten years later, a modern facility on Hartford Avenue opened, the 1919 wing of Northwest Quadrant Building A. It was designed by the Chicago architecture firm of Schmidt, Garden, and Martin. The Milwaukee firm Eschweiler and Eschweiler Architects were responsible for additions to the original hospital building.

The original 1919 was remodeled in 1946, 1952, 1966. There are ten additions ranging from 1923 to 1969 resulting in the 219,000 square foot NWQA building. In the Columbia Hospital era it served many uses including foodservice, medical records, the medical library, hospital offices, auditorium, gift shop, chapel, patient rooms, outpatient treatment, sleep lab, physicians' offices, labs and lab support, morgue, and maintenance shop. Columbia-St. Mary's sold this property to the UW System Board of Regents in January 2010. It has not been used since Columbia-St. Mary's relocated due to requirements to update to current building code when the use of a building changes.

The central east-west circulation corridor, beginning from the main entry to the east, could be considered a character defining feature as a primary circulation feature. The interior architecture of the rooms has been altered significantly over the years to adapt to the needs of modern medicine and is not representative of the original building. Building A is not on the State or National Registers of Historic Places, nor is it a Local Historic Site (Milwaukee) or in a Local Historic District (Milwaukee). Portions of the building are on the State of WI Historical Society, Architecture and History Inventory, AHI, database as under review for being eligible for NRHP listing.



North side of NWQ A



East side of NWQ A



South courtyard for NWQ A



Southwest corner of NWQ A



digital images of all elevations of the exterior, and character defining features of the interior, including photographs of the defining spaces such as lobbies, stairwells, corridors, gathering spaces, and a representative room from each floor.