

OUR BEGINNINGS



The County Almshouse on South Avenue

people, but as our community grew, the facility adapted to meet the increasing demands on its services. By 1929, however, concerns with overcrowding and fire safety at the Almshouse prompted the County to review the future of the building.



Early Residents of the County Almshouse

recommendation that the County consider building a new facility better suited to care for the growing number of long-term and chronic care patients and to move the building's location to East Henrietta Road. The County accepted his plan, and Firestone was hired to design and oversee the construction of this new facility.

The origins of Monroe Community Hospital can be traced back to 1826. Just five years after the County of Monroe was officially founded, a small brick building along South Avenue opened as the County Almshouse—one of the first facilities of its kind in the state. The building originally accommodated only 75



Monroe County Almshouse in 1890

County officials commissioned Siegmund Firestone, a notable Rochester architect and engineer, to investigate the current situation and to recommend a plan for its future. It was

Mr. Firestone who made the



*Siegmund Firestone,
MCH Architect*

THE EARLY YEARS

Construction of the building that we now know as Monroe Community Hospital began in 1931, in the midst of the nation's Great Depression. Many innovative ideas were incorporated into the building's design by MCH architect Siegmund Firestone.

Mr. Firestone ensured that the project employed all local contractors, and he also hired a talented



Thomas Boyde, Jr.

young designer and draftsman, Thomas Boyde, Jr., as one of his assistants. Boyde later established his own architectural firm in Rochester and became the first African-American architect in our community.

Moving to A New Home

Following three years of construction and at a cost of \$4 million, the

new facility opened as the Monroe County Home and Infirmary on August 1, 1933.

Residents of the County Almshouse moved into their new home, which was built to care for as many as 800 individuals. The innovations with interior design as well as the beautiful, ornate exterior earned national recognition. The building was heralded as a model health care facility. It set new standards for hospital design, balancing the

intertwined medical, psychological, and social needs of its residents with the need for efficient, cost-effective care.



Cornerstone Dedication Ceremony at the New Monroe County Home



Original Dining Room for Residents



Construction of the Monroe County Home and Infirmary During 1931

INTO THE MODERN AGE

Today, MCH provides long-term care and rehabilitation for 566 residents of all ages—from eight-week old infants to individuals more than one hundred years old. Since 1967, when it was renamed the *Monroe Community Hospital for the Care of the Chronically Ill*, the facility has had an affiliation with the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry to provide expert



Today, MCH cares for children as well as adults more than 100 years old



The Crossover Building expansion and the Master Facility Renovation Project have developed MCH into a progressive healthcare facility

To keep pace with the community's changes and to meet the complex care needs of our patient population, Monroe Community Hospital embarked on an ambitious Master Facility Renovation Project. Nearly every part of the interior of the 635,000 square foot building has been completely rebuilt



Nursing Units have been fully renovated



MCH continues to evolve to meet our community's needs

medical personnel and services. As a result, some of the nation's most prominent medical professionals have cared for the residents at MCH, including world-class leaders such as a former U.S. Surgeon General, as well as directors of the National Institute on Aging and the World Health Organization.

and modernized. The project will enable us to deliver the best care possible and will assist in meeting the community's evolving needs. Although the building has seen changes over the years, our original mission, which is carved in granite above the main entrance, remains the same—MCH is still "Dedicated to the Welfare of Humanity."