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Online Press Kit: <https://bit.ly/3NEe2Xr>
Historical Photos: <https://bit.ly/3pd7EMY>

Headline

**A Trip Down Memory Lane with Monadnock Community Hospital:
1923-1949**

The early formative years of the hospital's history.

On June 21, 1923 the front page of the Peterborough Transcript proudly proclaimed:

"The Peterborough Hospital, which opens its doors to the public today, Thursday, June 21st, is something which has been in the minds and thoughts of some of our citizens for a long time and at last the realizations of these plans and dreams have come to pass..."

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The highly anticipated opening day of The Peterborough Hospital was a monumental occasion. Over 750 people attended the festivities on opening day to see the new facility that would become a center for medical excellence in the Monadnock region. A visiting physician toured the newly built hospital and told the Peterborough Transcript:

“A finer location, better arranged, more completely equipped, up to the minute, modern hospital than this one cannot be found anywhere.”

At this time there were 47 consulting physicians that came to the Hospital from all over New England, as far away as Boston. They would take the train into town. The most common vehicle at the time was the Model T.

In the first month (1923):

| | | | | |
|----------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 4 | Average of 9 | 36 | 40 | 274 |
| births | patients a day | operations | patients admitted | patient days |

Within the first 11 months of operation, it was clear that the Peterborough Hospital was a needed service for the community, with patient numbers increasing daily. During this time there were an average of nine patients per day at the hospital. (Patients days are defined as a calendar day a patient is admitted in the hospital.) The first baby born was a healthy boy from Nashua, he was born at 3 AM on July 1, 1923 by Caesarean section. In the first 15 years of operation (ending in 1938) there were 7,525 persons admitted, and 80,559 patient days total.

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In 1927 nine towns accepted a share in the future maintenance of the hospital. The breakdown of the amount pledged by each town follows: Peterborough \$68,225.35 (\$1,147,502.68 adjusted*), Jaffrey \$12,751 (\$214,462.90 adjusted*), Dublin \$12,750 (\$214,446.08 adjusted*), Hancock \$3,501 (\$58,884.3 adjusted*), Antrim \$3,295.50 (\$55,428.01 adjusted*), Bennington \$2,056 (\$34,580.48 adjusted*), Temple \$1,224.25 (\$20,591.03 adjusted*), Greenfield \$655 (\$11,016.64 adjusted*), and Harrisville \$53.25 (\$895.63 adjusted*). The community support from these surrounding towns set the framework for what would be incredible philanthropic support for decades to come.

Hospital stats:

1923:

2,903 patient days **274** admissions **43** births

1949:

1,675 patient days **1,844** admissions **286** births

In the 1940s it was common practice for hearses to be used as ambulances. Funeral homes handled ambulance calls as well as funeral transportation. The vehicles were bought as combination hearses/ambulances. Arthur Wheeler of Jellison Funeral Home never lost a patient in transit despite only having Red Cross first aid training.

1946 was a time of transformation and growth as the Peterborough Hospital changed its name to Monadnock Community Hospital. There was a continuing need for increased services, with the hospital running full census (full capacity) in 1934. The tight finances during World War II made expansion a challenge. By 1946 the Hospital was often beyond capacity. The community donated food from their victory gardens, and raised money with donations, benefits, bequests, investments, state funds, and more. In 1949 the North Wing addition began, which was going to increase the hospital's bed capacity from 19 beds to 55. When the North Wing was completed in 1950 Monadnock Community Hospital was considered one of the finest in New England.

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Profits

1937

net operating loss \$12,000
(**-\$243,879** adjusted*)

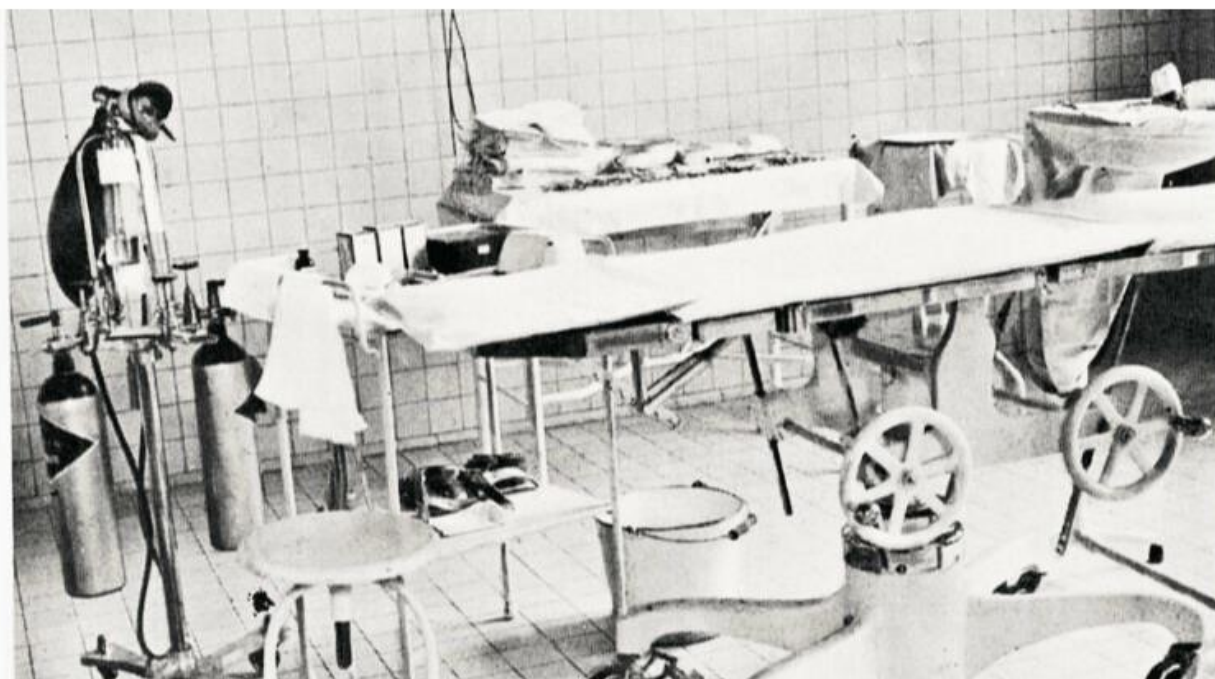
1949

profit \$691.41
(**\$8,501**
adjusted*)

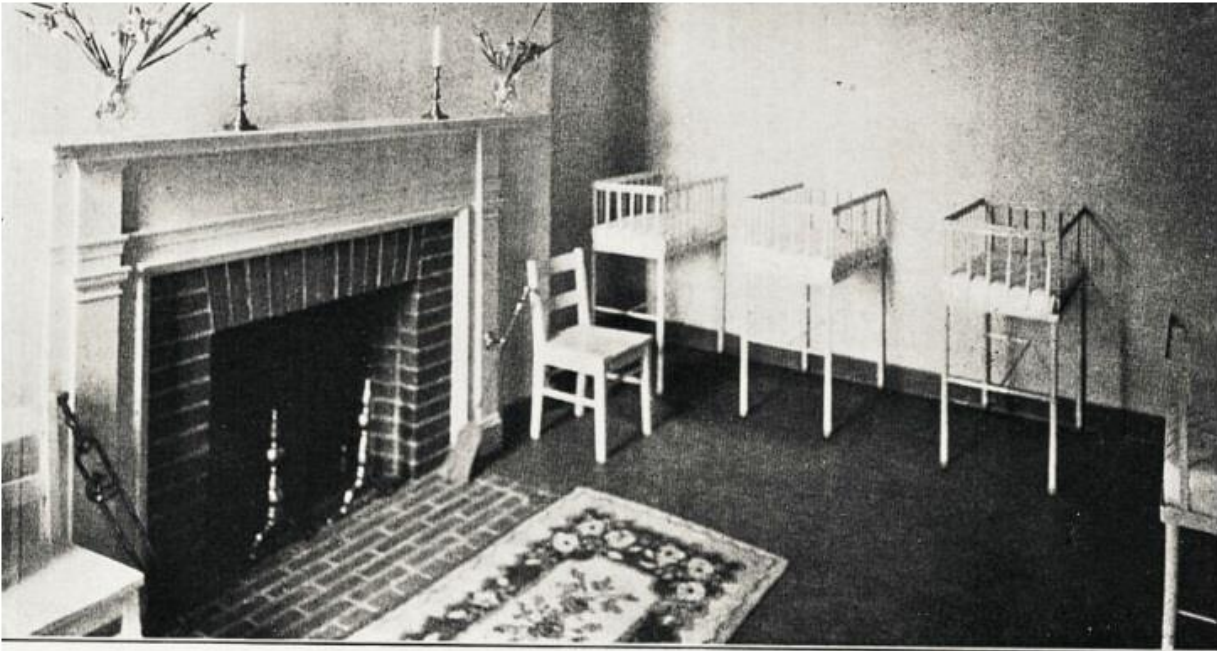
2022

net gain
\$2,897,000

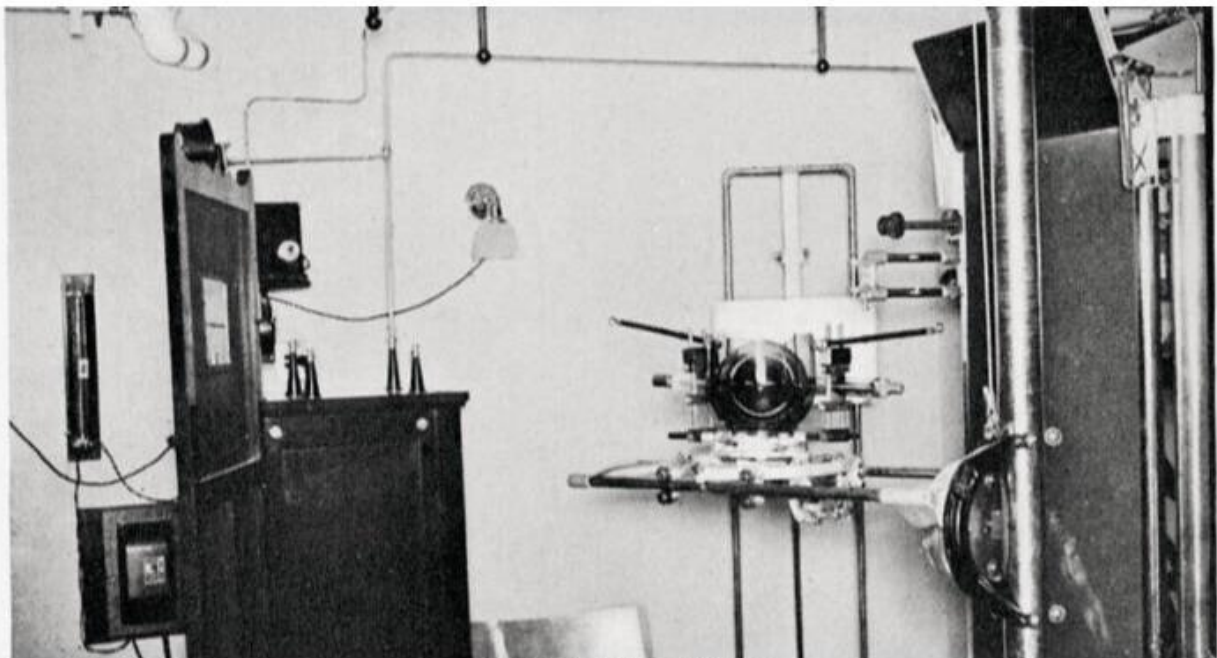
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3pd7EMY>



Operating room 1923
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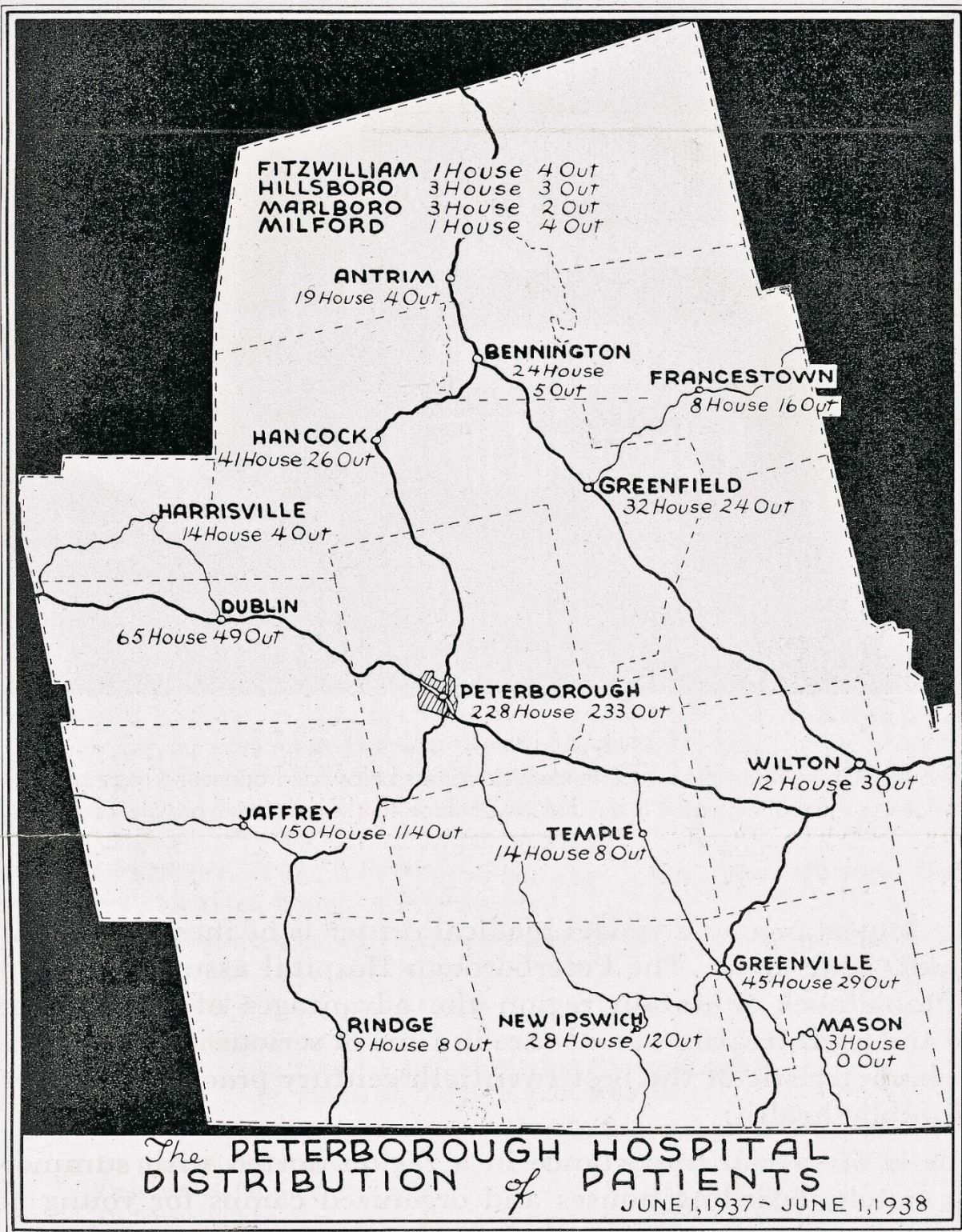
NURSERY
Nursery 1923



THE X-RAY ROOM

The Hospital's first X-ray machine was purchased in 1926, representing a scientific leap forward in diagnosis

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In 1927 nine towns accepted share future maintenance of hospital

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Nursing staff circa 1945: Ethel Record, Nellie Evans, Maud Miles, Superintendent,
Madelyn Hopkins, Mae Bunce, unknown, Marian Adams, Eveline Senechal, Leah Hill,
Toini Jukua Taylor, Edie Johnson

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A photo of a group of doctors from the hospital archives. Pictured: unknown, Dr. Charles Harrington, 3 unknown, Dr. William Wilkins, 2 unknown, Dr. Loren Richards, Dr. Nathaniel Cheever, Dr. Frank Foster, Dr. Charles Cutler, unknown, Dr. Donald Clark, Dr. Francis Wozmak, Dr. Harry Morse, Dr. Wilkins, Dr. Claire Cayward

**adjusted for 2022 dollars*

[Monadnock Community Hospital](#) is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital offering Primary Care, Medical and Surgical Care, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, and Behavioral Health services. In addition, a wide variety of outpatient services are available, including an extensive Primary Care Network, Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Cardiac and Physical Rehabilitation Services, 24-hour Emergency Care, Oncology, Occupational Health, a fully equipped laboratory and an extensive Radiology department. MCH is very fortunate to have strong leadership and a dedicated medical community that allows us to meet the ever-changing requirements of today's healthcare environment. As that environment changes, MCH is also committed to changing and providing the communities we serve with appropriate and innovative programs.

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