Seattle General Hospital

Ms 38

History:

Seattle General Hospital began serving the people of Seattle July 1, 1895. It was formed by a group of civic-minded women who favored establishment of a Protestant hospital to be the community’s second private hospital. The first location was a three-story frame building known as the Avon House at 2823 First Avenue between Clay and Broad Streets. In 1897, Seattle General was moved to the Sarah B. Yesler home at Second Avenue North and Republican Street. This site is now included in the Seattle Center grounds. By 1899, the Deaconess Home Society of the Methodist Church acquired the assets of the hospital, providing it with stronger organizational backing. A new five story facility was built at 909 Fifth Avenue and opened in November 1900. It continued in use for 71 years. A wing paralleling Fifth Avenue was added in 1905, bringing the hospital capacity to 125 beds. In 1907, a seven-bed ward was set aside for the care of children which was the beginning of Children’s Orthopedic Hospital. The hospital operated under the auspices of the Methodist Church until 1935. At that time, a voluntary nonprofit corporation was formed to assume its ownership and operation.

The hospital sponsored a school of nursing almost from its inception. The first class graduated in 1897 and the final class graduated in 1938. During this era, 598 students were trained to be registered nurses. In 1979, the Seattle General Alumnae Association had a membership roster of nearly 250. The 1979 homecoming dinner in the hospital honored 83 Nursing School alumnae who gathered from cities throughout Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Utah. From 1902 to 1961, the hospital conducted a medical internship program receiving medical school graduates for the required internship experience. Seattle General was the only hospital in the state with less than 150 beds approved for internship training.

Major additions to the Fifth and Marion building were constructed in 1952 and 1958 to accommodate patient beds, laboratories, and surgery facilities. The age, space limitations, and location of the hospital building caused the trustees to seek another location in the late 1960’s. Sale of the downtown site to the Bank of California led to negotiations with the Steward’s Foundation, owners of the Maynard Hospital at University and Summit. The Maynard Hospital structure was built in 1927 and was successively known as Dawnland Maternity Inn, North West Hospital, and Martha Washington Hospital. In 1933, a group of six doctors renamed the facility for the Seattle pioneer, Dr. David S. Maynard. On April 1, 1971, Seattle General took ownership and operation of that facility; Maynard Hospital became history.

Changing patterns of hospital usage and medical services caused Seattle General and the Doctors Hospital, located within three blocks of each other on University Street, to study alternative plans in 1972. Following an involved analysis of options, merger with a major hospital in the neighborhood was determined to be the most realistic course to pursue. Consequently, in October 1975, the governing bodies of Seattle General, The Doctors, and Swedish Hospitals mutually declared their intent to merge. On May 5, 1978, Articles of Incorporation were signed, proclaiming a reorganized Swedish Hospital Medical Center whose governing body includes representatives of all three institutions. Construction of building on the Swedish campus began in 1978. It is named The Seattle Doctors Pavilion to reflect the identity of the institutions who have joined with the Swedish Hospital. The closure of the Seattle General facility and move to the Seattle Doctors Pavilion took place in June 1980. The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is now located in the former Seattle General building.

Scope and Content:

The Seattle General Hospital papers cover the years, 1906-1980, and are divided into seven record series: Minutes, Record Books, Property Records, Reports, Publicity, Women’s Auxiliary, and Miscellaneous Items.

Minutes are arranged by date, 1920-1979. There are two types of minutes, Board of Trustees and the Medical Staff. The Board of Trustees minutes, 1921-1979, describe the actions of the board when
discussing relocation, mergers, loan repayments, staffing, decline in admissions, and financial reports. The Medical Staff minutes, 1920-1969, show the interaction of the staff members while focusing on the improvement of work standards, equipment, and wages.

Records Books, 1906-1948, are bound volumes pertaining to the general operations of the hospital. Volumes include an accounts payable ledger, inpatient admission registries, registers of operations, and delivery records.

Property Records, 1908-1941, are official documents relating to the various property holdings of the hospital. Records include land titles, mortgages, quick claim deeds, and loan repayment receipts.

Reports, 1974-1976, focus on the hospital’s future and the possibility of merging with The Doctor’s Hospital and the Swedish Hospital Medical Center.

Publicity records are news articles from 1932-1980 dealing with new operating or delivery techniques at Seattle General, the closing of the maternity ward, relocation, and the final merger.

Women’s Auxiliary, 1947-1980, records describe the interaction of the auxiliary with the hospital. The records include minutes, articles of association, the history of the auxiliary, newsletters, reports, and scholarship information.

Miscellaneous Items include seminar invitations and programs, photographs, and handbooks.

**Dates:** 1906-1980 (bulk dates 1920-1970)
**Restrictions:** none
**Volume:** 8 linear feet
**Accession number:** 1981.49.1.1

**Record Series 1: Minutes**

**Box 1: Minutes, 1920-1979.**

**Folder:**

1. History of Seattle General Hospital.

2. History of Maynard Hospital.

3. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

4. Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1921-1922.
   **Special Item:**
   List of signers on the agreement to incorporate.

5. Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1924-1925.

6. Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1926-1927.

7. Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1928-1929.
   **Special Item:**
   Reports from the new location site committee, 26 September 1929.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1930-1931.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1932-1933.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1934-1935.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1936-1937.</td>
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<td>Special Item: Chattel Mortgage, 26 March 1936.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1938-1939.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Item: Resolution for Dr. Casper Sharples, former Seattle General superintendent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1940-1941.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1942-1943.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Item: Petition of staff asking for increase in wages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1944-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1946.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Item: List of Staff, January 1946.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1947.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1948-1949.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Items: Critical analysis of operating costs for years, 1946-1948. Comparative audit of professional work done in Seattle General Hospital for years 1948-1949.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1950-1951.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Item: Minutes of special committee on new hospital project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Box 2: Minutes, 1920-1979.**
**Folder:**
|   | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1952-1953. |
| 2 | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1954-1955. |
| 3 | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1956-1957. |
| 4 | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1958-1959. |

**Box 3: Minutes, 1920-1979.**
|   | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1960-1961. |
| 2 | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1962-1963. |
| 3 | Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1964-1965. |
Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1966-1967.

Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1968-1969.

Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1969-1970.

Folder:
1 Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1970-1971.
   Special Item:
   17 August 1970, resolution to purchase Maynard Hospital.

2 Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1971-1972 (incomplete).

3 Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1976-1979.
   Special Item:
   Resolution agreement in principle to merge with Swedish Hospital Medical Center.

4 Minutes, Medical Staff, 1920-1939.

5 Minutes, Medical Staff, 1940-1959.

6 Minutes, Medical Staff, 1960-1969.

Record Series 2: Record Book.
Box 4: Record Books, 1906-1948.
Folder:

Box 5: Record Books, 1906-1948.
Folder:
1 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, 1910-1911.

2 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, 1912-1913.


4 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, 1923-1924.

5 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, 1925-1926.


7 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, 29 July 1934 - 31 December 1937.

8 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, January 1937 - October 1939.

9 Record Books, Inpatient Admissions Registry, November 1939 - May 1942.
Record Series 3: Property Records.
Box 6: Property Records, 1908-1941.
Folder:
8 Property Records, Mortgage, Quick Claim Deeds, 1908-1941.
10 Property Records, Abstract of Title, 1925, p. 2.

Record Series 4: Reports.
Box 6: Reports, 1974-1976.
Folder:
   Note: Report dealt with the development of a feasible work plan for the future of these hospitals.
12 Reports, Preliminary Hospital Development Guide for the Central Puget Sound Region, 15 September 1975.
14 Reports, Joint Planning Committee Decision Report B - Organization, 7 October 1975.
15 Reports, Financial Forecast, 26 October 1976.
   Note: Financial forecast for the Joint Planning Committee.

Record Series 5: Publicity.
Box 7: Publicity, 1932-1980.
Folder:
1 Publicity, News Clippings, 1932.
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Note: 29 June 1969, Seattle General Hospital closed the maternity ward.

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Note: 20 March 1971, Seattle General moved to University and Summit.

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Publicity, News Clippings, 1980.
Note: Seattle General building became the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center after the merger.

Record Series 6: Women’s Auxiliary.
Folder:
8     Women’s Auxiliary, History of the Auxiliary.

9     Women’s Auxiliary, Articles of Association and Bylaws.

10    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1947-1948.
Note: First meeting was held, 3 June 1947.

11    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1949-1950.

12    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1951-1952.

13    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1953-1954.

14    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1955-1956.

15    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1957-1958.

16    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1959-1960.

17    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1961-1962.

18    Women’s Auxiliary, Minutes, 1963-1965.


Note: The auxiliary ceased to exist as of June 30, 1980.

21    Women’s Auxiliary, Correspondence, 1948-1957.

22    Women’s Auxiliary, Correspondence, 1960-1965.
Women’s Auxiliary, Correspondence, 1971-1979.

Women’s Auxiliary, Reports, 1947-1949.
Note: Folder 24-27 include reports from the treasurer, president, and the gift shop.

Women’s Auxiliary, Reports, 1950-1959.

Women’s Auxiliary, Reports, 1960-1969.


Women’s Auxiliary, Newsletters, 1956-1962.

Women’s Auxiliary, Newsletters, 1963-1964.


Women’s Auxiliary, Committees.

Women’s Auxiliary, Children’s Tours.

Women’s Auxiliary, Children’s Tours.
Special Items:
Letters and drawings from the children after their tour of the hospital.

Women’s Auxiliary, Disaster Plan.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarships, 1974-1980.
Note: Letter to the first scholarship winner in 1974 before the scholarship committee was formed.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarship Recipients, 1975.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarship Recipients, 1976.
Note: Included are photographs of the winners.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarship Recipients, 1977.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarship Recipients, 1978.

Women’s Auxiliary, Scholarship Recipients, 1979.


Record Series 7: Miscellaneous Items.
Box 7: Miscellaneous Items.
Folder:

Miscellaneous Items.
Special Items:
Folder includes advertisement cards, invitations and programs, a supply shelf listing, and an award from the American Hospital Association for completion of 25 or more years of membership in the AHA.

45 Miscellaneous Items, Information Desk Handbook.

46 Miscellaneous Items, Paul Bliss.  
**Note:** This folder includes correspondence, notes, and the resume of Paul Bliss, the last Seattle General administrator.

47 Miscellaneous Items, Photographs.  
**Special Items:**  
May 1968 Board of Trustees.  
1971 Gift Shop opening.

48 Miscellaneous Items, Volunteer Handbook.

**Note:** The scrapbook contains news articles, photographs of various events, and copies of the newsletter.  **STORED OVERSIZE**