

In 1979, the Florence Crittenton Home discontinued inpatient maternity services. In 1983, the Home housed three agencies: the Maternity Care Program, the Emergency Shelter Program, and the Adoption Program.

In 1992, the agency became known as the Crittenton Center. At its centennial in 1994, the focus was still on its Maternal Health Care Program, Emergency Shelter Program, and also provided adoption services teen and parenting survival programs, and after school programs.

Closing of the Maternity Hospital

As other Sioux City hospitals caught up to the advances in obstetrics and began offering safer and more advanced maternal care, the Maternity Hospital saw its usefulness becoming limited. In 1928, the doors were closed at the Maternity Hospital and the building was sold to a Methodist Hospital as a dormitory for nursing students.

By 1949, the Methodist Hospital had constructed a new dormitory and the hospital trustees formed a new board to run the building. The Samaritan Association reopened the building as a non-profit entity, the Samaritan Retirement Home, in 1949, and operated it for almost 50 years. The retirement home was named after Samaritan Hospital, Sioux City's first hospital and forerunner of Methodist Hospital. The Samaritan Retirement Home closed in 1998 and was demolished in 2013.

Closing of the Florence Crittenton Home

In 1996, the Crittenton Board decided not to reinvest in the Florence Crittenton Center building. In 1998, all services were transferred to other locations and the building was completely vacated. In 2004, the building was declared unfit for occupancy and in June of 2009, it was severely damaged by a fire. The building was demolished in 2013. The Boiler House was also demolished.

FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME

AND

MATERNITY HOSPITAL



A LOOK BACK

AT THE HISTORY OF

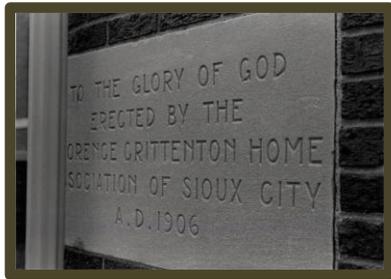
1105-1111 28TH STREET

SIoux CITY, IOWA

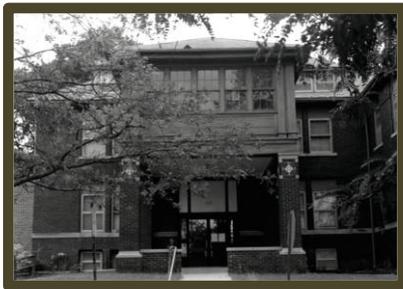
Florence Crittenton Home, 1105 28th Street

In 1882, wealthy New Yorker Charles Crittenton's daughter, Florence, was stricken with Scarlet Fever and died. He vowed to help women and children experiencing homelessness and personal crisis and devoted his time and wealth to establish the Florence Night Missions. Eventually, more than 70 Florence Crittenton Homes were opened, including the only one in Iowa, located in Sioux City at 1105 28th Street.

In 1906 construction at 1105 28th Street began and in 1907 the Florence Crittenton Home was dedicated. The building was designed by Sioux City architectural firm Beach and Steele. The original building was constructed with Mission architectural style and a stucco face. It was a large T-shaped two-story building with a full basement and partially finished dormered attic. The projecting arm of the T contained cornerstone inscribed, "TO THE GLORY OF GOD ERECTED BY THE FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME ASSOCIATION OF SIOUX CITY A.D. 1906."



The head doctor (also Sioux City's first female doctor) was Dr. Agnes Eichelberger. Services provided included maternity care, adoption, and care of neglected children under the age of three.



Facing South

In 1916, architect Beuttler and Arnold, also a Sioux City architectural firm, designed a renovation that covered the stucco with a dark brick veneer.

Maternity Hospital, 1111 28th Street

In 1906, there were no maternity hospitals in Sioux City. In an effort to improve medical care for girls and women, the Florence Crittenton Home offered in-patient maternity services. Within seven years after building the first building at 1105 28th Street, the Florence Crittenton Home found it necessary to build a second building to be used as a maternity hospital. Patients were primarily married women and they were charged a fee for services. A nurse's training program was eventually offered.

Beuttler and Arnold also designed the Maternity Hospital, which was constructed at 1111 28th Street in 1914. The building was a three story rectangular building with light-colored brick, load-bearing masonry construction with few embellishments, in Italian Renaissance revival style. Unlike the Florence Crittenton Home, the Maternity Hospital faced east.



1923 photograph

The cornerstone at the northeast corner of the building was inscribed, "Mercy and Truth are met together" and "1913."

The main decorative detail for the building was the formal front doorway. The paired doors were flanked by square brick applied pilasters surmounted by a classical stone entablature with an architrave, frieze and cornice. The frieze was inscribed with the words "MATERNITY HOSPITAL." Two iron lampholders with round glass globes were attached to the pilasters.



Boiler House

The Boiler House was a small L-shaped one-story building designed by Buettler and Arnold in 1913. The building was masonry construction with light bricks below and darker bricks above. A second story apartment was added sometime before 1923. The building was attached to 1105 and 1111 28th Street by underground steam lines.

The Boiler House was set into the hillside, with the original coal room underground. It had a decorative band of bricks, several courses progressively extended, at the top of the first and second levels. The lower-level Boiler House is entered by a doorway on the east façade and has two large boilers. By 1923, a small wooden enclosure was attached to the second level of the south façade as an entrance to the upstairs apartment.



1930s and Beyond

During the 1930s, the number of babies served at the Florence Crittenton Home continued to rise. By 1946, only five of the 38 babies born in the home were kept by their mothers. At that time, a major focus of the Florence Crittenton Home was following their adoption process.

In the mid 1960s, the Florence Crittenton Home shifted its focus to deal with the latest crises affecting women, children and families. The need shifted from medical care to infants to social services for unwed mothers and their children. The Florence Crittenton Home nursery was then closed in 1969, and was the last one in the nation to close.

Between 1960-1970, unwed mothers rose from one in 39 to one in 11. A new adoption wing opened in 1971 as adoptions and infant day care were the major focus. In the early 1970s, an average of 95 Sioux City students became pregnant each year. The young women were not allowed to attend school after their sixth month of pregnancy. At which point, through a cooperative program with the school district, they completed their coursework at Florence Crittenton Home.