



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:

Melissa Mather

mmather@fhclouisville.org

(502) 772-8328/c(502) 727-0323

U.S. Marine Hospital Receives Kentucky Historical Marker

The last historic hospital of its kind receives recognition.

LOUISVILLE, KY - The U.S. Marine Hospital, the last standing antebellum hospital of the intercostal waterways, received a Kentucky Historical Marker from the Kentucky Historical Society. Members of the U.S. Marine Hospital Foundation Board, Kentucky State Historical Society, Louisville Board of Health and the Family Health Centers Board of Governors attended the dedication ceremony of the marker, placed on Northwestern Parkway. The Kentucky Historical Marker program recognizes sites, events and people important to the local, regional, state or national history. The program is community driven, where individuals and community organizations nominate the locations that are significant in their communities.

“This event marks a recognition of the important tie this building has to Kentucky and United States history, to our community’s medical history, the history of the national public health services, and to United States architectural history.” stated Matt Watkins, Chairman of the U.S. Marine Hospital Foundation Board. Completed in 1852 to serve the riverboat men of the Ohio, Mississippi Rivers and the Great Lakes, the U.S. Marine Hospital was a prototype hospital for the seven U.S. Marine Hospitals authorized by Congress at that time. Built during the golden days of steam boating when Louisville was an important commercial shipping port, the hospital converted temporarily to treat Union Soldiers wounded at Shiloh, Perryville and other major battles of the Civil War. Designed by Robert Mills, the architect of the Washington monument, the hospital received National Historical Landmark designation in 1997, National Trust for Historic Preservation Most Endangered List and Save America’s Treasures status by the National Park Service in 2003.

The Louisville Board of Health owns the hospital, which is located on the campus of the Family Health Centers (FHC) Portland, a local nonprofit community health center. “This hospital is the most historically and architecturally significant publically owned building in the metro area that has not been restored for adaptive use,” stated Bill Wagner, FHC CEO. “There is so much history represented in this building that we have to find a way to bring it back to life.” The exterior of the 166 year-old structure was restored in November 2005 at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million. The interior of the building has remained largely untouched since the mid-1970’s when it was a residence for doctors working at local medical facilities. The Family Health Centers recently entered into a pre-consulting agreement to review opportunities to fully renovate the structure using historical tax credits to help off-set the multimillion dollar project cost.

U.S. Marine Hospital Foundation’s goal is to restore and renew the last standing U.S. Marine Hospital in the nation, located in Louisville, Kentucky. More details at <http://www.marinehospital.org/>.

Family Health Centers, Inc. (FHC) is a not-for-profit community health center who provides access to high quality primary and preventive health care services regardless of the ability to pay. Learn more at www.fhclouisville.org.

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