

Where was the first hospital?

The area's first hospital was begun in the old Kirby house on Center Street in Douglas, just west of the Blue Star Highway by Faith (Kirby) Nevins a nurse who worked with Dr. R. J. Walker. It had three beds and an operating room on the second floor. When a patient was scheduled for surgery they would call on the men who worked at the gas station on the corner to help them carry the stretcher up the steep stairs.



The nursing staff office of the area's first hospital. Lois Corkhill, right, was the head of nursing. By this photograph in 1965 the hospital had doubled in size, from three beds to six.



Polly Smith tends to the lone occupant of the hospital nursery about 1965.

After 1935 the hospital (eventually it had six beds) was run by a Hospital Corporation. In 1956 the Kirby home could not meet new standards for renewal of its license. A fund drive was begun in 1957, for a new building on the south edge of Douglas with the first donation from Lloyd J. Harriss of the local pie company. The new structure was dedicated in the summer of 1960. The old hospital building is now the Kirby House Bed & Breakfast. The new building served until 1985 when the hospital ceased operation.



Auction day for the Hospital Fund Drive, ca. 1959. the location is the lawn of the Old School House in Douglas.