

# Grafton Deaconess Hospital

The Grafton Deaconess Hospital Association was incorporated March 18, 1902. The first Board of Directors Officers consisted of Rev. J. A. Ofstedahl, president; G. N. Midgarden, vice president; N. H. Rinde, secretary; and Gunder Olson, treasurer. According to the by-laws adopted, only members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America could serve as trustees or officers.

The building was constructed by E. Herwick of Park River for \$3,800.00 for the outside structure. Nollman and Lewis Contractors of Grafton finished the building for \$2,858.69. A Crockston firm did the plumbing and boiler installation for \$1,300.00. The Deaconess Hospital located at 1030 Hill Avenue was ready for occupancy and the first patient was admitted August 30, 1904.

When the hospital was built the Lutheran Church had embarked upon a "Deaconess plan" with headquarters in Chicago, where young women were trained for hospital management in addition to regular nursing education as required at the time. The first superintendent was Sister Ingeborg Borgan, who served six years. Others who followed her were Sisters Ovidia Olson, Hannah Hanson, Hilda Lee, and Olena Ordahl, Elva Thexton, Anga Olson, Naema Johnson, Anna R. Skeim, and Alma Grothe.

As years passed the original hospital and its equipment became obsolete. The construction of a modern and more adequate building was imperative. In May 1920, contracts were awarded for construction of a modern facility. A fireproof structure of brick and concrete equipment with diet kitchens, classrooms for student nurses, pushbutton elevators, convalescent porches, and beds for fifty patients.

The first Hospital Auxiliary held its first meeting January 20, 1906, with Mrs. H. A. Helsem, president; Mrs. Charles, Sieben, first vice president; Mrs. J. C. Suter, second vice president; Mrs. A. G. Tverberg, recording secretary; Mrs. Grant A. Hagar,

financial secretary; Mrs. Joel Meyer, corresponding secretary; Mrs. G. W. Glaspel, treasurer. Board members elected were Mrs. Oliver Winch, Mrs. Olaf Graving, Mrs. D. M. Upham, Mrs. O. M. Omlie, Mrs. I. L. Newgard, Mrs. Peter Farr, Mrs. J. E. Countryman, and Mrs. H. W. Phelps.

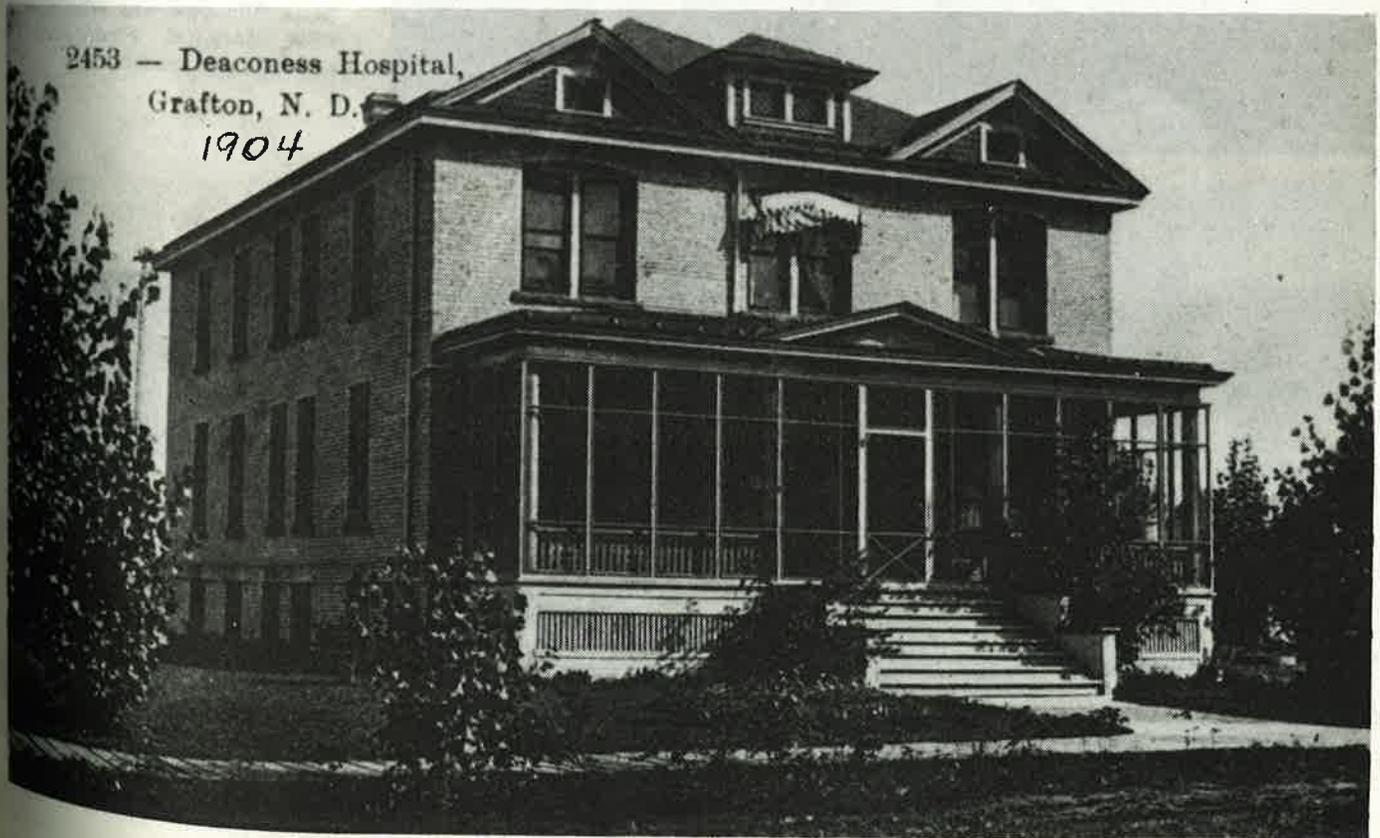
Revising of the Grafton Deaconess Hospital in 1944, removed the Protestant church restrictions. At that time the Board of Trustees was headed by Albert Midgarden, president; M. S. Swanson, vice president; Albert Tverberg, secretary; and H. G. Homme, treasurer.

By 1950 a new addition was dedicated at Deaconess Hospital, a more modern facility which provided room and space for seventy-five patients.

In round figures the cost of construction and remodeling was \$450,000 with \$315,000 paid by the hospital earnings, donations, and pledges. Officers of the hospital board were Oliver Gorder,



Sisters in charge were Ingeborg Borgen, Matron, and Ovidia Olson, assistant.



Deaconess Hospital, 1904.