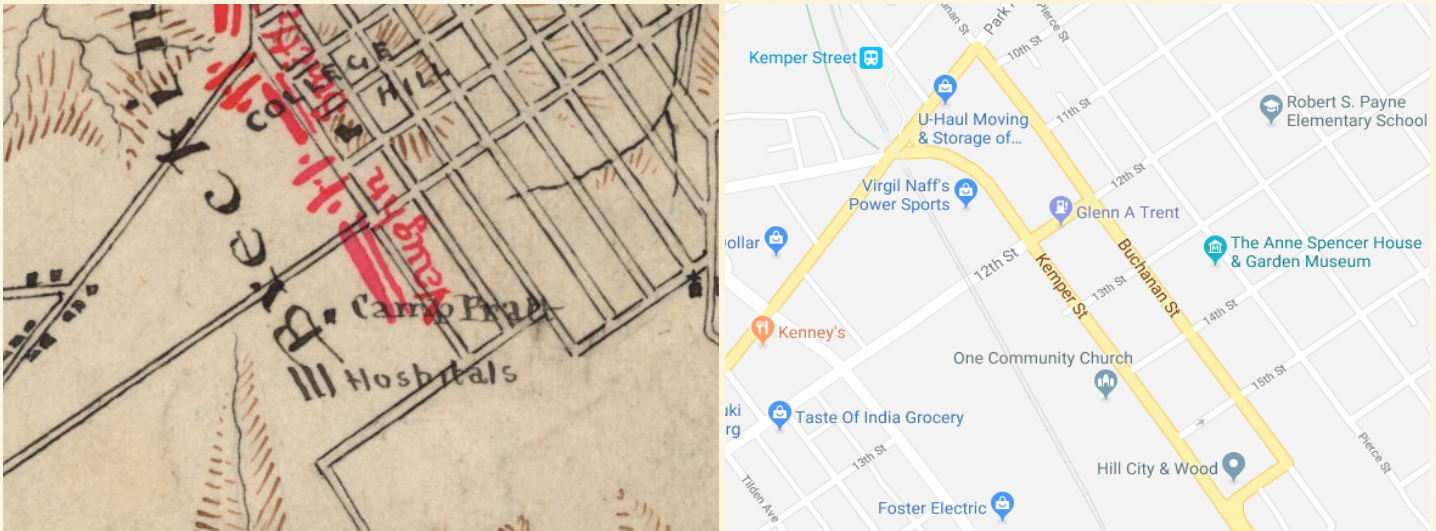


Pratt Hospital

Created as a hospital for Camp Davis, Pratt Hospital was first opened in 1863 and was located south of Twelfth Street. Camp Davis primarily housed troops that were entering the 2nd Virginia Cavalry and the 11th Virginia Infantry, as well as some other troops. After Camp Davis suffered more than forty deaths due to epidemic diseases in 1862 and 1863, Pratt Hospital was opened and became part of the General Hospital system.

Even though Pratt Hospital was created to care for the ill members of Camp Davis, there were instances where Pratt accepted overflow casualties from other locations, as was the case in May of 1864 when Pratt Hospital accepted 1,749 soldiers. Lynchburg was housing more than 10,000 patients that month due to the heavy fighting at the Battles of the Wilderness (May 5-7) and Spotsylvania (May 8-21).



(Left) 1864 map showing Camp Pratt and associated hospital buildings. (Right) Modern street view of the area

*Feb. 11, 1864 Robbery. – The house of Tom Mason, a respectable free man, living near the Fair Grounds, was entered Monday night, by a gang of armed soldiers, and rifled of seven hundred dollars in money. It is mortifying that men clad in the livery of a holy cause should descend to deeds of infamy. We understand that lawlessness is rife in the neighborhood of **Camp David, or Pratt Hospital**. The soldiers rove about without restraint and commit depredations on the surrounding citizens with impunity, even laughing at those whom they despoil. The authorities there complain that they have no guards, and cannot control the offenders. – Cannot the Commander of the Post remedy the crying evil, by putting on the necessary guard?" *The Daily Virginian*, Lynchburg, Va.*

*There was 90 cases of smallpox in the hospital. 19 died 71 got over them... as for each I won't say there are several in the ward... each bad and almost every other disease that can be mentioned [sic] & I am bothered... there are 40 bunks in this ward I think they are all fill[ed] up today and still coming in. - A. E. Shore to Wife, **Pratt Hospital**, April 23rd 1864*