

## Glasgow's Iconic Buildings:

ENGLISH-  
SPEAKING  
UNION



# GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY

84 Castle Street



### SUMMARY:

Glasgow's Royal Infirmary is Glasgow's oldest hospital and is actually a complex of different buildings, built around a courtyard. The original hospital was built in 1794, but the main building we see today was designed by James Miller and built between 1905-15. Several new extensions have been added to this.

The wards are long and thin, often described as 'Nightingale wards' named after the pioneer of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. There is a stained glass window featuring Florence Nightingale in the chapel.

The Royal Infirmary has been associated with important medical breakthroughs, like Joseph's Lister's discovery of antiseptics. When the new buildings opened in 1915, the hospital was advanced for its time, with new technologies such as X-ray and a system of heart-rate monitors linked to a central monitoring area. Glasgow University used to be on the High Street nearby, and so the Royal Infirmary also became the city's main teaching hospital.

It now has more than 1000 beds, a range of local and national services including one of the busiest accident and emergency wards in Scotland, and is the main in-patient hospital serving the north and east of Glasgow.

### THINK ABOUT:

- Try to create a timeline of important events in the hospital's history, from 1794 when the first Royal Infirmary opened, to today.
- Florence Nightingale was very influential in hospital design - find out about her ideas about germs & ward design.
- Where did people go for medical treatment before the hospital opened? What kind of illnesses were treated at the hospital?
- Do some research into the medical advancements & discoveries that were made at the Royal Infirmary.

### FIND OUT MORE:

Historic Environment Scotland List Description, <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB32650>

STV News website, On this day in Glasgow's history: 1794: The opening of the Royal Infirmary <https://stv.tv/news/west-central/21062-on-this-day-in-glasgows-history-1794-the-opening-of-the-royal-infirmary/>

The Glasgow Story website, Industrial Revolution: Health and Sickness, <http://www.theglasgowstory.com/story/?id=TGSCA05>

Historic Hospitals website, Glasgow Gazetteer, <https://historic-hospitals.com/gazetteer/glasgow/>

Canmore database, digital images, <https://canmore.org.uk/site/141443/glasgow-82-86-castle-street-royal-infirmary-main-blocks>