



**Charlotte Junior League Baby Home**  
**1925 Bay Street**

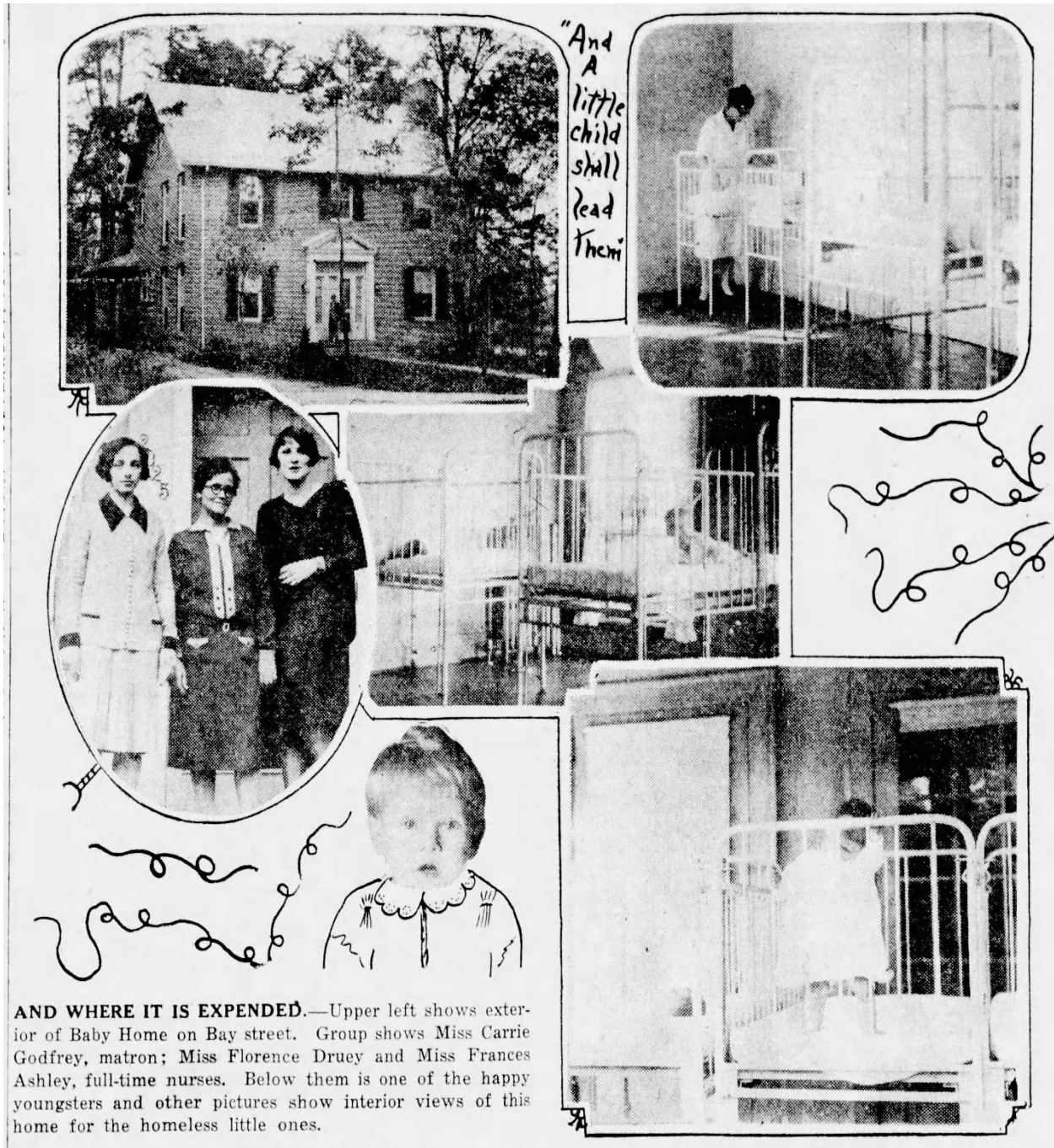
This two-story Colonial Revival brick-veneer house at 1925 Bay Street in the Elizabeth neighborhood represents the intersection of women’s civic and social clubs with the provision of social services in Charlotte before the widespread availability of government-funded programs that developed during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In 1926 the newly-formed Charlotte Junior League embraced social services as one of their major projects and established a home for small children up to eighteen months who were orphaned or whose families were unable to care for them. A rented five-room cottage at 1513 East 8th Street served as the first baby home, but the facilities were inadequate for its demand. The Charlotte Junior League then organized a campaign for a larger permanent facility. Members pledged funds to cover over one-third of the cost to purchase a lot and build the home as well as fully funding rooms in memory of relatives. V. J. Guthrey built the house at cost with plans donated by Paul Guthrey, and the new baby home opened in January 1927. A later write-up about Junior League history in the city recorded, “A registered nurse and two assistants formed the staff, and for seven years the Junior League Baby hospital filled a very definite need in the community and was enthusiastically supported by the entire membership and many outside friends.”<sup>1</sup> By 1934, however, government social services

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<sup>1</sup> Marjorie Fincher, “Junior League’s Accomplishments Notable for Quarter of a Century,” *Charlotte Observer*, February 28, 1950.

had grown to the point where the privately-operated facility was no longer needed. The house at 1925 Bay Street was rented for several years before being sold in 1943.



Charlotte Observer, December 6, 1928.