REPORT FOR
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL
COLUMBIA, S. C.

APRIL 12, 1949

THE McPHERSON COMPANY
ENGINEERS · ARCHITECTS
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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GREENVILLE, S. C.

Report for
South Carolina State Hospital
April 21, 1949

EMERGENCY POWER

Should the power supply to the entire grounds or any part or parts fail, there is no provision made for emergency lighting or power, the primary power supply being common to the entire Columbia plant as well as to State Park. The entire grounds could easily be blacked out by a power failure caused from generative or transmission troubles. Such difficulties could be caused by a storm (or other acts of God) or may result from a serious fire in one of the buildings. This would leave hundreds of crazed and terrified patients locked behind doors of darkened buildings with their attendants. Attention is directed to the fact that no means of rapid release of locked doors is used in the State Hospital but rather a multiplicity of keys carried by the attendants. We refer you again to the Building Exits Code, this time to Section 2403 quoted below.

> 2403. In institutions, or parts of buildings housing the violently insane, the necessity for locked doors and barred windows on certain rooms and wards is recognized. In such cases, reliable means for rapid release shall be provided by remote control of locks, or by other means and the dependability of such methods assured by proper maintenance and frequent inspection.
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> Note: Attention is called to the rather common condition of multiplicity of diverse key styles and the seriousness of such a situation during fire panic.

The installation of an emergency power source to supply emergency lighting for stairs, exits, operating rooms, yard lights and other emergency uses is considered essential. This source should be designed to

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furnish not only the emergency lighting but power for operation of critical utilities including the steam boilers. A small turbine driven generator with automatic starting equipment located in the boiler house would probably be the cheapest reliable source of emergency power and could easily be arranged to start automatically if the regular power source failed.