

THE ENSOR RESEARCH LABORATORY

Mrs. Inez Nolan Fripp
Consultant - Archives
S. C. State Dept. of Mental Health

January - 1971

Two locations: 1942 The Ensor Building, South Carolina State Hospital
1971 The William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute

The Research Laboratory Building at the South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia, was provided by an Act of the 1938 S. C. General Assembly.

Construction was authorized by the Board of Regents, South Carolina State Hospital, in 1938. In April 1939, the building was declared completed, and so accepted by the Board of Regents.

Activities were actually begun in this Research Laboratory Building on May 27, 1939.

In 1942, the name of this building was changed to The Ensor Building, in deference to the provisions of the WILL of Mrs. Grace Ensor Brown (Mrs. W. S. Brown) of Columbia, S.C.

The WILL of Mrs. Grace Ensor Brown, duly recorded in the Probate Court, Richland County, South Carolina, on July 27, 1942, designated the South Carolina State Hospital as the beneficiary of ALL of her estate, valued at approximately \$60,000.00.

The income from her estate to be turned over to a three member self-perpetuating Board of Trustees - and their successors in office - and by the trustees to the Board of Regents, South Carolina State Hospital, for the establishment and operation of a research laboratory to be designated THE ENSOR RESEARCH LABORATORY.

The WILL established THE ENSOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION - a memorial by Mrs. Grace Ensor Brown and Miss Annie J. L. Ensor to their parents, Dr. Joshua Fulton Ensor and Mrs. Henrietta Kemp Ensor.

The WILL stipulated that the Board of Regents suitably mark the research department as a memorial to Mrs. Brown's father, Dr. Joshua Fulton Ensor, and his wife, Mrs. Henrietta Kemp Ensor

Designated by Mrs. Brown as the original self-perpetuating Board of Trustees were her long time friends - Dr. C. Fred Williams, Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital; Gus J. Sylvan, Columbia business man; and Hon. Christie Benet, Columbia, Chairman, Board of Regents, S. C. State Hospital.

The WILL provided that the Board of Trustees would have the power to select a corporate trustee to be responsible for the funds of the Ensor Research Foundation should that be considered by the trustees to be for the best interests of the trust.

REGENTS - SUPERINTENDENTS

THE ENSOR RESEARCH LABORATORY

2

INF

The Department of Research was established in the ENSOR RESEARCH LABORATORY - and Dr. C. Fred Williams on May 1, 1945 assumed the position of the FIRST DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH with his office in that building, immediately after resigning as the sixth medical superintendent of the South Carolina State Hospital since May 1, 1915.

In July 1945, Dr. Williams reported that the entire estate valued at a little more than \$60,000.00, had been turned over to the trustees named in the WILL.

The trustees immediately sold a good portion of the real estate and invested all the money therefrom in 2½% interest bearing government bonds. Disposed of was the Ensor mansion in Columbia with all furnishings and acreage, purchased by William J. Ksenan, Jr., of Columbia, for his home.

The 1945 S. C. General Assembly matched the amount in the Foundation by directing the State Treasurer to set aside government bonds in the sum of \$60,000.00 and to pay over to the Board of Regents annually the interest therefrom to supplement the funds of the Ensor Research Foundation.

When Dr. C. Fred Williams became the FIRST DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH on May 1, 1945, ALL material referable to the Brown estate was transferred to his new office.

Shortly after Dr. Williams passed away on June 3, 1948, ALL material in this regard was delivered to Hon. Christie Benet.

Mr. Geddings H. Crawford, Sr., Columbia business man, succeeded Dr. Williams as a trustee.

NO director of research was appointed.

On October 29, 1948, Hon. Christie Benet advised the Board of Regents Chairman, J. Calvin Rivers of Chesterfield, S.C., and the S. C. State Hospital Superintendent, Dr. Coyt Ham, that he and the other two trustees, Messrs. Gus. J. Sylvan and Geddings H. Crawford, Sr., were of the opinion that it would be better in every way to have a corporate trust handle the funds of the Ensor Research Foundation.

Item Six of the WILL provided for this should the three member Board of Trustees deem such action wise.

Therefore, as stated by Hon. Benet, the trustees at once initiated the appointment of the Trust Department of the Citizens and Southern National Bank of Columbia as such corporate trustee.

In January 1971, the Ensor Research Laboratory was reopened in the new location on the second floor of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute.

This completely new facility was constructed and equipped in its entirety by funds from the ENSOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

The current value of this Foundation is estimated at \$275,000.00

Chief of the Ensor Research Laboratory is Nandkumar S. Shah, Ph. D., a native of Bombay, India.

Director of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute is Alexander G. Donald, M.D.

Dr. Joshua Fulton Ensor, a native of Butler, Bath County, Maryland, was a Federal Army officer in the War Between the States who elected to remain in South Carolina.

At the insistence of Miss Dorothea Lynde Dix, the eminent champion of the improved conditions for the mentally ill, Dr. Ensor accepted the appointment by Governor Robert K. Scott as the second medical superintendent of the South Carolina State Hospital - then officially the Lunatic Asylum.

He remained in this position from August 5, 1870 until his resignation December 31, 1877.

Dr. Ensor was an understanding, compassionate physician, a real outstanding superintendent whose administration brought forth extensive renovations and improvements and a progressive program for the care and treatment of the patients.

After leaving the hospital, Dr. Ensor occupied the beautiful home he had purchased in Eau Claire in North Columbia.

He was quite active in the political realm in the Republican party, being nominated for Congress twice; he was elected to attend the Republican National Convention on two occasions. He organized in Columbia the first Republican meeting ever held in South Carolina, and was probably more firmly anchored in the hearts and confidence of all Republicans, white and Negro, than any other man in the State.

In 1879 and 1880, he was chief inspector and surveyor of the Port of Charleston. In 1880 he resigned to assume the position of general collector of the Internal Revenue Service.

In 1897, he was appointed postmaster of Columbia by President William McKinley, reappointed by him in 1901, and in 1905 was reappointed by President Theodore Roosevelt, remaining in office until his death in Columbia on August 9, 1907,
