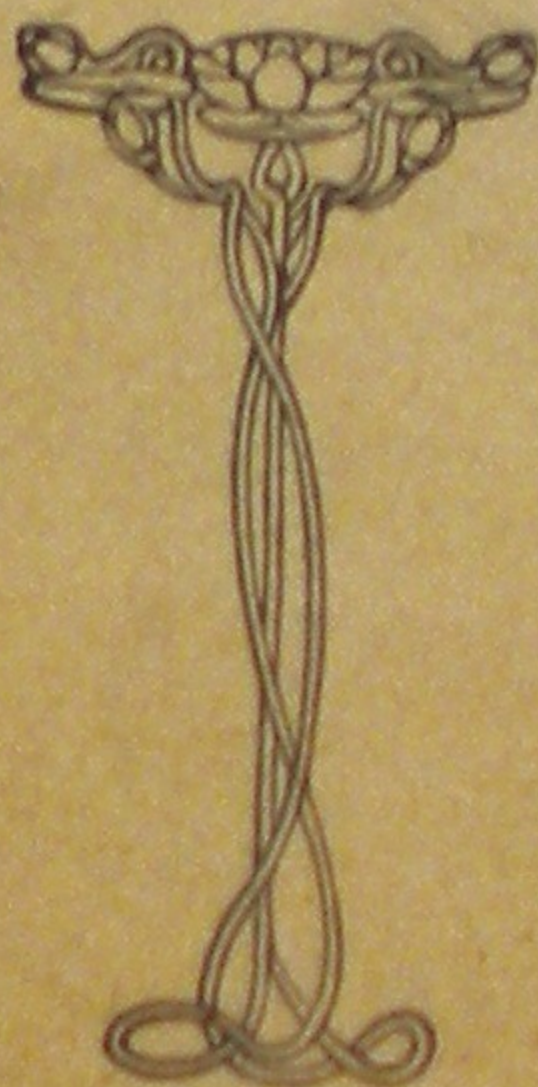


EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

South Carolina State Hospital
for the Insane



FOR THE YEAR

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE

Columbia, S. C.
Gonzales and Bryson, State Printers
1909-1910

legal provision has been made for nearly fifty years. The means provided for their accommodation after admission have never been satisfactory. As has been forcibly brought out in former reports the wooden lodges occupied by the colored patients are unhealthy, insecure and dangerous in case of fire.

According to the provisions of the last Legislature your Board has obtained through the labor of convicts from the Penitentiary one million brick with which to begin the erection of "a house of brick properly planned and arranged" for colored men as was proposed in 1869 by my predecessor, Dr. J. W. Parker. It is earnestly hoped that your Board will obtain from the Legislature an appropriation of not less than \$10,000 for the erection of this building, already delayed a quarter of a century.

As a tribute to the memory of Dr. Parker, who faithfully served as an officer in this Asylum for forty-five years, your Board has decided to call this building the Parker Building.

THE PARKER BUILDING.

Superintendent's Report, 1897: At its last session the General Assembly appropriated \$7,500 for a new building for colored men. Your Board had most properly decided to call this building the Parker Building not only because its erection had been proposed by Dr. Parker in 1869, but also because of Dr. Parker's long and eminent service to the State as an officer of this Hospital.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature plans for the building were prepared. Owing to the small appropriation it was understood that we should so far as possible do this work within ourselves. We, therefore, were debarred the services of both architect and contractor.

The excavations having been completed by negro patients the foundations were laid June 1st, and owing to favorable weather the erection of the building has since been carried on continuously.

The building is a combination of the modern English Hospital system, and the American slow burning mill construction.

It fronts the south and consists of three stories above an ample basement except that the central portion is carried one story higher, thus appearing as a center building with two wings. With the view of possible future extension of the Hospital the middle line of the first cross section of the southern wing of the main building was continued through the new building. The

length of the building is 240 feet, the main portion 40 feet wide and the extremities 67 feet wide. The cellar as well as each story is 12 feet high. That portion of the basement nearest to and upon the same level as the main kitchen is planned for the dining room, having dimensions of 62x37 feet. The front extension at the eastern end is to be a bath-room equipped with apparatus for rain-bath. The first story will be used as the infirmary ward. The three large rooms over the dining-room will serve as associate dormitories each accommodating 40 patients. Three similar dormitories over the bath-room will hold 20 beds each and the fourth story 30 beds. These, with 86 single rooms, will bring up the total capacity of the building to about 300 beds.

The ward water closets and bath rooms are built in a separate tower extending midway from the building on the northern exposure. The outside walls built on what is termed the cavity or hollow plan having a two-inch air-space between the inner and outer wall, thus preventing dampness from reaching the inner wall and promoting warmth in winter and coolness in summer. At the base the foundations are four feet wide and laid in cement, with a damp-proof layer of tarred paper on level of neat wall, thus preventing the entrance of ground air into the superstructure by means of the cavity which extends to the roof. The outer wall is finished plain with common brick laid with red mortar. This outer wall is tied to the inner wall by brick every five courses and eighteen inches apart and is further strengthened at intervals with iron anchors.

The inside walls are struck smooth and are ready for painting, thus rendering plastering unnecessary. All the brick work about the doors and windows above the basement is made with "bull-nosed" brick, which provides rounded corners to prevent chipping and injury to patients by cutting with sharp angles.

Chimneys and fire-places have been built at the ends and central portion, but for the purpose of eventually heating the building by indirect radiation flues run in the corridor walls from the basement to each story.

Ample provision is made for light and natural ventilation by large windows, doors, alcoves and stairway wells. For the escape of foul air one or more flues lead from each room and concentrate beneath the roof where exit is provided for by ventilating turrets on each corner of the structure as well as by "Star" ventilators along the ridge of the roof.

The building is divided into three sections by two fire-walls, one of which forming the inner cross-wall of the dining-room and associate dormitories rises three feet above the roof. The other or middle fire-wall serves as an outside wall for the fourth central story and extends without windows or other openings above the eastern wing.

A wide stairway leads from the basement to the top story in each of the three fire-sections—one at either end on the rear and a central one in front. The windows are finished on the inside with a sloping or beveled sill thus preventing patients from standing upon them.

The plans include on the southern or front exposure a piazza on each wing and a central porch, all having brick substructure. Provision has also been made for erecting at the eastern extremity verandas similar to the ones now on the other buildings. These verandas were not erected till 1909.

A great saving was effected by using about 200,000 old brick which had been saved from walls and foundations now pulled down. The best of these hand made brick were put in the foundations; the others were used in the party walls of the upper stories.

The appropriation for the building was exhausted about November 1, when the brick work was about two-thirds finished. After consultation with Governor Ellerbe it was decided that in view of the fact that a force of experienced workmen was upon the ground, and since the brick could be obtained from the directors of the Penitentiary and from Capt. Guignard on personal credit the better course would be to push the building to such a state of completion as would prevent injury by exposure to the weather of the work already done. This course having been determined upon the work has been continued upon borrowed money and by the time for the session of the General Assembly the building will be nearly under cover. The dining room was so far completed that Christmas dinner was served and the Christmas dance held therein.

I wish to express my personal thanks to Mr. W. H. Wylie, the chief engineer, and to Mr. John Milady, the foreman of the work, for their valuable assistance in erecting the building in the face of many obstacles. Without the advice and loyalty of these two gentlemen I could neither have undertaken nor brought the Par-

ker Building to completion so economically, nor so well fitted for the purposes it is intended to subserve.

Superintendent's Report, 1898—The Parker Building: The last General Assembly appropriated \$13,500 for the completion of the Parker Building, provided the Regents incurred no further obligations for its construction. Under this appropriation, the work on the building was carried on as rapidly as possible. The brick work was finished February 22d, the building having been in part occupied February 14th. The wood work being completed and the old wooden pavilions having been pulled down, the main part of the building was occupied August 15th.

Taking into consideration the cost of brick, which has been made by convict labor granted by the Legislature over a period of several years, this building has cost the State \$30,000. As it will accommodate about 400 patients, this gives a cost per bed of \$75, which is unusually low, when we consider the per capita cost often paid in other States, varying from \$500 to \$3,000 per bed.

The negro male patients have since been housed in the Parker Building; the negro women in the Old Asylum. The future policy as to the care of the colored insane in South Carolina must soon be determined.

POLICY OF THE HOSPITAL.

It is easy at the present time to criticise unfavorably many features about the buildings and arrangements of this Hospital. But it should not be forgotten that in its present form and condition it represents the results of the devoted labors of several generations of men. It is almost one hundred years since Samuel Farrow first conceived the idea of its foundation. Begun in 1821, it has developed slowly and gradually. It is the result of evolution,—not of revolution. But in spite of many drawbacks it has progressed. At present its greatest need is constructive not destructive criticism.

In my opinion, the present institution, however defective in some respects, is too valuable and has too many advantages to be abandoned. Because of its central location in Columbia and its easy accessibility, the present Hospital has great advantages over any and all other locations that might be considered. For years the separation of the races has been considered desirable. The present time seems to be at last favorable for taking this desired step.