

EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

South Carolina State Hospital
for the Insane



FOR THE YEAR 1910

Columbia, S. C.
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1910-11

Pursuant to this resolution, your Board appointed a Committee of its members to carry out the instructions of the Legislature, and this Committee made to the Board the following report:

Columbia, S. C., October 9, 1890.

To the Board of Regents of the Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina.

Gentlemen: The undersigned, your Committee of three Regents, to make inquiry in reference to sites for a Colored Insane Asylum, under provision of Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of South Carolina, at the session of 1889, beg leave to report: That in the month of September, 1890, they made inquiry in and visited the counties of Florence, Sumter and Lexington, to inspect the lands or sites offered for the Colored Insane Asylum.

The first place visited was the town of Florence, two miles south of which, and immediately on Jeffries Creek, three hundred and twenty acres of land touching the Northeastern Railroad, offered by Mr. R. P. Hamer for six thousand five hundred dollars. The creek would afford good drainage and sewerage facilities.

In Sumter county, some two miles south of the city, Messrs. Moise and — offer three hundred acres on the Central Railroad and Turkey Creek, for four thousand dollars. The creek affording the necessary fall for drainage and sewerage.

Mr. McDowell offers three hundred acres on the C., S. and N. Railroad for six thousand dollars. This place is about two miles from the city of Sumter, and is drained by a large creek on the south side.

In Lexington county, Mr. Taylor offers three hundred acres, on both sides of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, about one or two miles from New Brookland, for four thousand five hundred dollars, or he will give five hundred acres for six thousand dollars, with the privilege of the whole tract, some three thousand acres. There is plenty of pure spring water on this place, and it is only three or four miles from Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. C. WILSON,
W. J. GOODING,
JAS. A. MULLINS.

When the question how best to use the special appropriation for more room came to be considered, it was found that the most crowded were the department for white women and that for colored

men. It was decided to relieve the former by adding a two-story brick building to one of the sections of the north wing—the lower story to be used as a mess room, thus vacating four ward dining rooms—and the second story to be an associate dormitory; the result being an increased capacity of thirty-five beds.

In the colored male department an addition, 60x30 feet, was made to the detached building, thus providing twenty more rooms.

After due consideration of this Committee report, and the verbal statement that "no proposals to donate land" had been received, the Board adopted the report and passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That while this Board has not changed its opinion as to the advisability of building a separate Asylum for the colored insane, yet, if the Legislature should differ from the Board in this matter and determine to build at some other place, the Board would respectfully recommend, as the most suitable location offered, the Taylor place, in Lexington county."

We beg to call attention to this ancient history in justice to ourselves and our predecessors, to show that both our Board, the resident officers and the General Assembly were fully cognizant of the needs at that remote time for better provision for the colored insane, and that plans were devised looking towards the separation of the races, which has through all subsequent years, been the well recognized policy of our Board.

That such steps have not been taken before is clearly no fault of our Board.

Following this earnest effort on our part, the attention of the State has been directed to the full development of the educational institutions.

Meanwhile the population of this Hospital has more than doubled, so that we have continued earnestly to advocate the necessity of securing merely lands suitable for the development of a country hospital or colony.

The decision which seems to have been reached by the newly appointed Commission varies but slightly from that which we have long advocated. This is hardly the place for details, but the records show the position taken by our Board, usually unanimously upon this important subject.

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IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the improvements made during the year were: A dining hall for white men, the extension of the Taylor building for white men and a dormitory for negro men. These steps were taken after a conference with the State Hospital Commission. In planning the dormitory for negro men, who, in the next few years, will be moved to the country, the building was so arranged that it may eventually be used as a day assembly room for white men. In addition, the interiors of most of the wards of the institution have been painted. Most of the dining rooms throughout the institution have been screened against flies. All veranders have been, or are being sashed, so as to be used for day rooms during cold weather. Besides these improvements many minor changes for the betterment of the equipment and for greater fire protection have been carried out.

NEEDS.

In a plant so large as this institution has grown to be the needs are numerous. In the uncertainty about the removal to the country, it is not easy to say just where these needs are greater and most urgent so as to be carried out with due economy.

It is only a question of a short time, however, when the North building will have to be extended for the accommodation of white women patients.

An ice plant has been an urgent need for years.

The present amusement hall is not large enough to accommodate the white patients who regularly attend the dances and other forms of amusements.

Our experience with tile floors teaches the need of flooring at least all the first story floors of the main building and the stairways with tile, both for cleanliness and for fire protection.

A dormitory building for nurses and other employees would prove a great addition to our equipment.

FIRE PROTECTION.

With your permission, Mr. W. J. May, Chief of the Columbia Fire Department, has been employed to supervise carefully the matter of developing and keeping up the fire protection of the institution. During the year 20 three-gallon chemical hand extinguishers have been placed in different parts of the Hospital. New hose has also been purchased.