

RE: THE MILLS BUILDING
AND THE LOWERING OF THE WALL OF 1827

One Hundred and Fortieth
ANNUAL REPORT
South Carolina State Hospital

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1963



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The Front Cover

THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Administration Building, South Carolina State Hospital, was constructed in 1883, with the addition to the rear built in 1884.

The adjoining wings for patients were built first and then the Center was added. The wing to the South for white men dates from 1858 with an addition in 1875. The wing to the North for white women was constructed in 1879.

1827 HOSPITAL BRICK WALL LOWERED

July 26, 1962 marked another progressive step at the S. C. State Hospital when in a special ceremony several bricks were removed from the 1827 twelve-foot high brick wall partly surrounding the Columbia Unit, preparatory to lowering to about four feet (including a surmounting wrought iron picket fence) this time honored, forbidding barrier between the hospital and the outside world.

The lowering of the wall is far reaching in importance and influence, and in creating a different, more healthful attitude toward the mentally ill, as well as materially aiding the improvement and rehabilitation of many patients. There is now an unobstructed view of the beautiful campus, and by seeing adjacent areas and traffic the patients feel they are a part of the city.

Removing the symbolic bricks were Senator Earle E. Morris, Jr., of Pickens County, Chairman, Joint Legislative-Governor's Committee on Mental Health and Mental Institutions, and Hon. C. M. Tucker, Jr., of Pageland, Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission. Among those present were Dr. William S. Hall, Superintendent, and other hospital officials, and S. C. Mental Health Association officers.

The lofty brick wall, for years associated with the mentally ill of the S. C. State Hospital, was constructed in 1827 to enclose the four-acre site of the original hospital structure, The Mills Building, by William Gray, the builder of both. This was the second state authorized hospital in the United States exclusively for the mentally ill, December 21, 1821; and the third to be ready for patients, December 18, 1827. The first patient, a young white woman, was admitted December 12, 1828.

Originally the twelve-foot brick wall extended on three sides, Bull, Calhoun and Pickens Streets. On the North, in front of The Mills Building, the high brick wall extended from each corner about a third of a block. Connecting the two, about the length of the building, was a low brick wall surmounted by a wrought iron picket fence.

When additional property was secured, the high brick wall was extended in 1853 to enclose nine acres, extending East on Calhoun Street to Barnwell, then North on Barnwell for about a block.



THE MILLS BUILDING, 1827. Photo 1961, State-Record Staff.



SOUTH SIDE OR REAR—THE MILLS BUILDING

Until recently this view from Calhoun Street of the famous Mills Building was obscured by the 12 foot high 1827 brick wall. This was replaced by the low wrought iron picket fence which permits a clear view of the building and of the beautiful campus. Also shown are the 1830 storeroom and the 1938 greenhouse, both being demolished later. A modern greenhouse was constructed in the far Southeastern area of the Columbia Unit.



On Thursday afternoon, July 26, 1962, was held the symbolic ceremony of the "lowering of the 1827 12 foot brick wall" at the Columbia Unit, South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia, S. C. Removing the first bricks are: Left, Senator Earle E. Morris, Jr., of Pickens, Chairman, Legislative-Governor's Committee on Mental Health and Mental Institutions, and Hon. C. M. Tucker, Jr., of Pageland, Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission. Participating in this ceremony were: First row, left to right: Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, Director, Professional Services, Columbia Unit; and Thos. E. McCutchen, President, S. C. Mental Health Association. Second row, left to right: Colonel John G. Morris, Jr., Director, Administrative Services; J. C. Hite, Chief, Protective and Grounds Branch; Dr. William S. Hall, (hat) Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital; and Harry R. Bryan, Executive Director, S. C. Mental Health Association. Photo by Vic K. Tutte, State-Record.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL—COLUMBIA UNIT

August 23, 1962, Dr. William S. Hall (left), Superintendent, and C. B. Dowling, Chief Engineer, at the hospital entrance observing the beginning lowering the 12 foot high brick wall partially surrounding the Columbia Unit, S. C. State Hospital.

This 1827 brick wall was lowered from the main entrance at Elmwood Avenue and Bull Street, South; then along Calhoun to the 1894 Pickens Street entrance and ended at Henderson Street.

Upon completion in October 1962 the wall, surmounted by an ornamental wrought iron picket fence, was about four feet.

Workmen: Hamp Griffin, hat, and Joe Davis, cap. Photo by Jimmy Price Studio.



Same location as above upon completion of lowered wall to four feet, including iron picket fence. Photo by Geo. H. Long, October 1962.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL—COLUMBIA UNIT

Entrance at Elmwood Avenue and Bull Street with view of the new four foot boundary of brick and wrought iron picket fence which replaced the 1827 12 foot brick wall, lowered August-October 1962.

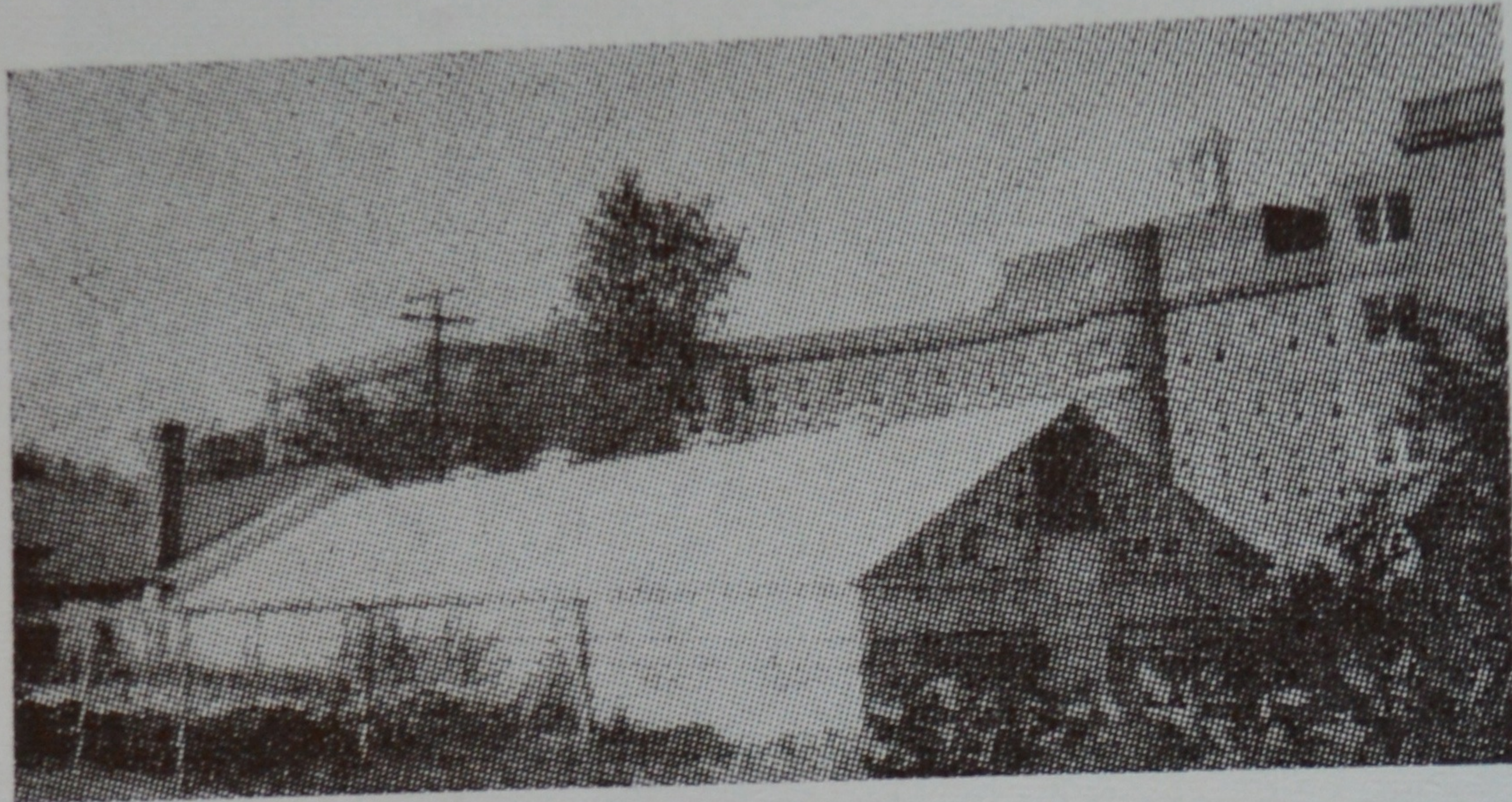
The high wrought iron picket fence is part of the original 1827 fence from in front of The Mills Building, shown in photo. Photo by Tom McMahan.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL—COLUMBIA UNIT

View from Bull Street down Calhoun to the Pickens Street entrance, before lowering of the 12 foot high 1827 brick wall. Nov. 1961. Photo by Vic K. Tutte, State-Record, Nov. 1961.

BUILDINGS IN REAR OF THE MILLS BUILDING DEMOLISHED TO FURTHER
BEAUTIFY AREA WHEN 1827 WALL WAS LOWERED



S. C. State Hospital greenhouse 1938, across drive to East from 1830 storeroom and smokehouse. For unknown years the greenhouse was in front of and to West of present location of The Williams Building. Moved to present site in 1938. Hospital reports indicate a greenhouse in The Mills Building area in 1842, exact location not given. Greenhouse to be moved in 1963 to far South-eastern area, Columbia Unit, toward Southern railroad. Photos by Geo. H. Long.

Smokehouse built in 1830 by Thos. Davis (brickwork) and Thos. H. Wade (woodwork). The South end is the 1827 massive 12 foot brick wall. Notice ventilator, bricked in. Originally 10 x 12 feet, there were several extensions, and in 1909 the building was used as a stable. Later housed hospital printing facility and then was storage area.



Storeroom, 10 x 14 feet, across drive, East from smokehouse. Built in 1830 by Thos. Davis (brickwork) and Thos. H. Wade (woodwork). In recent years was a storage place for greenhouse and garden materials.

In 1896 many changes were made when the Wallace property to the North, directly opposite the original site, was purchased. The original wall on Pickens Street and the entire section with the iron fence in front of The Mills Building were torn down. The hospital entrance was moved from The Mills Building to Bull Street and Elmwood Avenue, the present location. The original wrought iron picket fence was moved there to each side of the new brick entrance with a small lodge on each side. The twelve-foot brick wall was extended for more than a block on Bull Street to the North of the new entrance. The hospital was then in one enclosure, the brick wall on Bull and Calhoun Streets, about a block on Barnwell, and high wooden fences on other boundaries.

Of historical interest is that new low four-foot brick wall is topped by some of the antique iron picket fence that surrounded the square in Columbia formerly occupied by the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (later the property of the Columbia Bible College) and in the center of which is still located the original residence, the renowned Ainsley Hall Mansion. The hospital was unable to secure sufficient original fence and the remainder was fabricated. This fence is very similar to the original one in front of The Mills Building from 1827 until 1896 when moved to the new hospital entrance facing Elmwood Avenue and again used in the present 1958 modern entrance.

When lowering of the wall was completed, the campus was further beautified by three structures in the rear of The Mills Building being demolished—the small brick smokehouse and the storeroom, both built in 1830 by Thos. Davis and Thos. H. Wade, and the greenhouse of 1938. The new (and fourth) greenhouse is located in the far Southeastern area, Columbia Unit, toward the Southern railroad.

VISIT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR RUSSELL—COLUMBIA UNIT

Governor and Mrs. Donald S. Russell, the entire General Assembly of South Carolina, the Legislative Council, S. C. State Auditor, State Librarian, and all clerks and attaches associated therewith, and other special guests were at the Columbia Unit on Tuesday evening, March 26, 1963, for dinner and a tour of various areas of the hospital. Also invited were officials of the



Governor Donald S. Russell being presented by Dr. William S. Hall, Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital, with a wooden bookrack fabricated by patients in the Occupational Therapy Department. This was a memento of the visit of the Governor and the S. C. General Assembly for dinner and a tour of hospital facilities on the evening of March 26, 1963. Each legislator was the recipient of a similar bookrack.

Right: Hon. C. M. Tucker, Jr., of Pageland, Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission. Center: Mrs. Russell and Dr. Donald S. Tarbox of the hospital medical staff. Photo by "Dick" Beebout, State-Record Staff.

Mental Health Associations, members of the press, the radio and TV stations.

The invitations were extended by the S. C. Mental Health Commission and Dr. William S. Hall, Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital, to afford an opportunity to meet the hospital personnel and by a short tour of some wards and buildings to gain personal knowledge of the progress made here, and an insight into some of the acute needs.

Dinner was served to about two hundred guests at 6:30 in the Benet Auditorium, followed by visits to various areas, each small group having a hospital personnel guide.

The invocation was by Chief Chaplain J. Obert Kempson. Dr. Hall extended the welcome and expressed gratitude for the support of the General Assembly during his ten years as the hospital