

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL WEST CAMPUS  
2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HALS DC-11  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY

## ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL WEST CAMPUS

HALS No. DC-11

- Location:** St. Elizabeths Hospital is located on the southeast bank of the Anacostia River near the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. The hospital is comprised of two campuses—the West Campus and the East Campus. The two campuses total 356 acres situated between the Suitland Parkway to the north and east, the Shepherd Parkway to the south, and Interstate 295 to the west. The former hospital grounds are surrounded by historic Anacostia neighborhoods including Barry Farms to the north and Congress Heights to the south. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (formerly named Nichols Avenue after the first hospital superintendent, Charles Henry Nichols) bisects the West and East Campuses. The focus of this documentation survey is the West Campus, which is located on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Washington, District of Columbia. The historic West Campus of the St. Elizabeths Hospital encompasses 176 acres.
- Present Owner:** U.S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region, located at 7<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, Southwest, Room 7600, Washington, District of Columbia.
- Present Use:** The landscape today is primarily vacant with the exception of a General Services Administration field office, security personnel, and government contractors and work crews related to rehabilitating and converting the campus for future use by the U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security.
- Significance:** Advocated for as early as the 1830s and initially developed in the 1850s, the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital is a nationally and perhaps internationally significant historic resource that documents in physical form the evolution of medical treatment for mental health patients in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Positioned on the bluffs overlooking the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, this approximately 176-acre property commands an impressive panorama. The site selection, site planning for the buildings, and development of the hospital grounds integrate the landscape with the medical treatment of patients. This was a remarkable innovation in this type of institution marking a shift away from incarceration treatment toward active therapeutic treatment of mental illness. The historic significance of St. Elizabeths Hospital is nationally recognized by incorporation on national and local historic district registers. The campus including the cultural landscape is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The campus was nominated to the National Register in 1989, designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in March of 1991, and received District of Columbia Historic District Designation in May of 2005.

The St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus cultural landscape incorporates historic significance to varying degrees in all four National Register criteria. The cultural landscape of the hospital is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history. The historic campus remains a largely intact testament to the history of the social reform movement and the history of mental health care in the United States. The West Campus is also associated with the lives of persons significant in the past including social reformer Dorothea Lynde Dix, mental health advocate Dr. Charles H. Nichols and architect of the Capitol Thomas U. Walter. The origin of the first national mental health institution lies in the lobbying efforts of Dorothea Dix and in the planning and design of the initial grounds and buildings by first Superintendent Charles Nichols and Thomas Walter. Important asylum planners including psychiatrist Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride and landscape architect Andrew J. Downing inspired Dr. Charles Nichols and Thomas Walter. In addition, the southern expansion of the West Campus under Superintendent Alonzo Richardson was carried out by architects Shepley Rutan and Coolidge and influenced by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and the Olmsted Brothers. The cultural landscape of the hospital continues to embody the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The West Campus exists as one of the few surviving nineteenth-century hospitals where the therapeutic use of the grounds was designed as an essential component of the health and healing of patients. The St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape bears evidence of the evolution of hospital design from its origin in the 1850s to its complete development in the early 1940s.

Historians: Heritage Landscapes LLC, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, Patricia M. O'Donnell, Principal, and Peter Viteretto, Gregory Wade De Vries, Glenn Stach, Sarah K. Cody, Thomas Helmkamp, Sarah L. Graulty, Carrie A. Mardorf, and Tamara Orlow, research conducted by Robinson & Associates, Judith Robinson, Principal, Timothy Kerr, Project Manager. HALS DC-11 drawn from the *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Cultural Landscape Report*, 2009.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History

#### 1. Date(s) of Establishment:

The proposal for a national mental institution was vigorously advocated for in 1848 by Dorothea Lynde Dix, a prominent supporter for the enlightened treatment of the mentally ill. Dix submitted written testimony to Congress in favor of a national institution.<sup>2</sup> Two years later, on August 8, 1850 a Select Committee of the House of

Representatives recommended passage of a bill establishing a national asylum for the mentally ill.<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Congress appropriated \$100,000 “[t]o enable the Secretary of the Interior, under the direction of the President of the United States, to purchase a site in the neighborhood of Washington, and for the erection, furnishing, and fitting up of an asylum for the insane of the District of Columbia, and of the army and navy of the United States” on August 31, 1852.<sup>4</sup> In the fall of 1852, plans were made to select a suitable site and superintendent for the national institution. In late 1852, the U.S. government purchased a large tract of farmland southeast of the city core known as Blagden’s farm and an adjacent eight-acre tract, encompassing approximately 185 acres of land on which to establish St. Elizabeths Hospital.<sup>5</sup>

Construction on the main building began shortly after the land was selected and by the end of 1854, draft legislation “to organize an institution for the insane in the District of Columbia” was forwarded in response to a request from the House of Representatives by new Secretary of the Interior, Robert McClelland.<sup>6</sup> The legislation passed and was signed by President Franklin Pierce on March 3, 1855, enabling the Government Hospital for the Insane to provide “the most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the insane of the army and navy of the United States, and of the District of Columbia.”<sup>7</sup> The legislation established a board of visitors to oversee planning and management of the hospital, as well as specifying the duties and powers of the superintendent. On January 15, 1855, St. Elizabeths officially opened with the arrival of the first patient.<sup>8</sup>

2. Landscape Architect, Designer, Shaper, Creator:

In 1852, President Millard Fillmore appointed Dr. Charles H. Nichols, then assistant physician at Bloomingdale Asylum in New York, as the new superintendent of what became known as the “Government Hospital for the Insane.”<sup>9</sup> Upon his appointment, the President sought Nichols’ assistance in “planning the buildings, and superintending their erection,” as well as in the selection of a site, which was to “combine all the necessary advantages of health, water, drainage, prospect, &c.”<sup>10</sup>

Plans for the hospital were underway by December 1852, as developed by Nichols. His plan was based on Thomas Story Kirkbride’s guidelines for such facilities addressing siting, landscape and architecture. Kirkbride’s book *On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, was published a few years later in 1854. Kirkbride, the medical superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, described the implementation of proper treatment of mentally ill patients through the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane (AMSAAI) propositions. His advocated plan, later known as the Kirkbride Plan, provided architecture with light, air and views and vistas out to the landscape setting.<sup>11</sup> Using this as a basis, Nichols developed a similar plan for the main buildings of the Government Hospital for the Insane. The 1860 site plan for the hospital is also credited to Nichols.

Nichols also worked with architect Thomas Ustick Walter, known for his work as the Architect of the United States Capitol Extension. Walter designed the Center Building at St. Elizabeths Hospital. Together, Walter and Nichols created an expansive building that followed the stepped Kirkbride plan. Walter's and Nichols's plans for the campus included separate "lodges" for African Americans, an early segregated mental health facilities in the country designed specifically for African American use.<sup>12</sup> While numerous additional buildings were constructed over the following years, an architect of record has not been documented.

Dr. William Whitney Godding succeeded Dr. Charles H. Nichols as superintendent in 1877. This administrative shift impacted further development of the landscape as Godding moved toward the cottage plan, constructing numerous individual patient care buildings throughout the landscape. As clusters of buildings were established, Godding extended the therapeutic landscape as well. Godding engaged Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark to design at least one of the new buildings, the Home Building. Godding also expanded service and agricultural lands at St. Elizabeths as he acquired additional acreage. This further impacted spatial organization and the overall landscape use and character.

Alonzo Richardson succeeded Godding as superintendent in 1899. Much like his predecessors, Richardson worked with skilled designers to improve the St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape. Boston architects Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge designed a series of new pavilion buildings. In order to appropriately site the new buildings, Richardson consulted with Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. On December 18, 1900, at the suggestion of architect Henry Richardson Shepley, Superintendent Richardson wrote to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., stating that "we will be glad to have you make a visit to this Hospital for the purpose of looking over the site of the proposed extension to this institution, and to make such suggestions to the architects with regard to the arrangement of the buildings and the general landscaping as may be deemed advisable."<sup>13</sup> Olmsted visited St. Elizabeths about two months later, making notes of his general impressions of the existing landscape and future improvements. Olmsted's recommendation was to improve the appearance of the grounds by eliminating some minor structures and by simplifying the path and road system and the tree and shrub plantations. He also identified areas that should remain as open space or farmland and several possible sites for new construction. Richardson followed Olmsted's recommendations to enhance the landscape with improved circulation, plantings, and appropriate sites for new buildings.

Richardson's tenure was cut short but his sudden death in 1903 and his proposed expansion and improvement work was overseen by the new superintendent, Dr. William Alanson White. White oversaw the landscape development of the south areas of the plateau into a long narrow common and a series of small green spaces with cottage buildings clustered around them. He also presided over the legitimization of the name "St. Elizabeths." After more than a half-century of informal use, St.

Elizabeths became the official name for the hospital in the appropriations bill signed on July 1, 1916.

3. Builder, Contractor, Laborers, Suppliers:

Records documenting specific builders, contractors, laborers, and suppliers have not been located during extensive project research. However, it is known that as part of the therapeutic program, patients were often involved in grounds work at St. Elizabeths Hospital. This included general maintenance tasks such as raking and caring for agricultural crops, orchard plantings, and flowering plantings.<sup>14</sup> Patients were also utilized in larger scale landscape improvements such as “mending roads [and] excavating for buildings...”<sup>15</sup>

4. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants:

In December 1852, the U.S. government purchased farmland known as Blagden’s Farm to establish St. Elizabeths Hospital as the first Government Hospital for the Insane.<sup>16</sup> Over time, the U.S. government acquired adjoining tracts of land as they became available.<sup>17</sup> The site was under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior until 1940, when jurisdiction shifted to the Federal Security Agency.<sup>18</sup> St. Elizabeths Hospital remained under the jurisdiction of the Federal Security Agency until 1953, when the agency was abolished and its functions, including the administration of the hospital, were transferred to the newly created Department of Health Education and Welfare.<sup>19</sup> This department maintained control until 1967, when it relinquished authority to the National Institute of Mental Health.<sup>20</sup> In 1980, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was reorganized as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).<sup>21</sup> The department retained responsibility for the hospital.

Fragmentation of management responsibility for the West Campus began during the 1980s. In November of 1984, the Saint Elizabeths Hospital and District of Columbia Mental Health Services Act (Public Law 98-621) was signed into law. The law transferred twenty-one hospital buildings to the District of Columbia. All of these buildings except Hitchcock Hall (Building no. 37) and Hagan Hall (Building no. 38) were located on the east campus. The HHS retained responsibility for 53 buildings and their associated grounds, the majority of which were on the West Campus.<sup>22</sup> The changes prompted the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the District of Columbia, and the HHS to sign a memorandum of agreement for the protection of historic resources at St. Elizabeths in 1989. In the memorandum, the HHS assured responsibility for the 53 buildings and surrounding landscapes transferred to it in 1984, along with the Civil War Cemetery, the orchard area, vistas of the rivers and the city, and the brick and stone perimeter wall encircling the hospital.<sup>23</sup>

The West Campus was occupied by the HHS for offices and storage when the hospital holdings were declared in excess of its needs in 2001.<sup>24</sup> After this date many buildings were sealed and the grounds were left without consistent management. Still

under the jurisdiction of the HHS, the largely abandoned West Campus was accepted by General Services Administration (GSA) on December of 2004.<sup>25</sup> GSA has held the property since that time.

5. Periods of Development
  - a. Original Plans and Construction:

#### **Nichols Era Landscape, 1852-77**

The relationship of St. Elizabeths to the groundbreaking philosophy for the treatment of mentally ill that emerged during the middle of the nineteenth century is important in understanding the property's design and evolution through time. The initial design for St. Elizabeths Hospital focused on "moral treatment," in which patients were guided toward restoration of their rational minds through kind treatment, contemplation of nature, and productive labor.<sup>26</sup> This moral treatment was based on the model asylum of the period, developed by Thomas Story Kirkbride, advocated for by Dorothea Lynde Dix, and refined by Dr. Charles H. Nichols in the design of St. Elizabeths Hospital.

#### *Planning and Initial Legislation*

Upon the appointment of Dr. Charles H. Nichols as superintendent of what was to become known as the "Government Hospital for the Insane" in 1852, Nichols began the process of selecting an appropriate site.<sup>27</sup> Prior to this, President Fillmore had already spent several days examining potential sites for the hospital with the Secretary of the Interior, Alexander H.H. Stuart. Further exploration of potential sites fell to Nichols and Dix, who eventually recommended the approximately 177-acre Blagden farm, located two and a half miles southeast of the Capitol and a mile east of the Navy Yard.<sup>28</sup> The original 750-acre tract of which the farm belonged had long been referred to as St. Elizabeths, as indicated on an 1839 Tract Plan.

The site selection process for establishing the hospital was informed by the twenty-six propositions promulgated by the AMSAII a year earlier in 1851.<sup>29</sup> Four propositions which were laid out and referred to in the Secretary of the Interior's report to Congress included

1<sup>st</sup>. That every hospital for the insane should be in the country, not within two miles of a large town, and accessible at all seasons.

2d. That no public institution should possess less than one hundred acres of land.

3d. That there should be an abundant supply of water convenient to the asylum.

4<sup>th</sup>. That a location should be selected which would admit of underground drainage, convenient pleasure-grounds, and an agreeable prospect.<sup>30</sup>

By the end of December 1852, the U.S. government purchased Blagden's farm for \$25,000 and an adjacent eight-acre tract for \$2,000, embracing approximately 185 acres of land.<sup>31</sup> Nichols describes the property in depth at the time of purchase as follows

The farmer now in charge of the place, with a wife and seven children, has resided upon it six years, and for the last four years about two-thirds of the way from the building spot to the river – a situation much lower, as well as nearer the water, than the building spot itself...

There are on the place two springs of good water, reputed to be unfailing, whose locations are convenient to the proposed site for the hospital. Two small branches pass through the place to the river, and the river itself presents a dernier resort not likely to fail...

The farm purchased is under a high state of cultivation with a large number of choice, well-set young fruit trees upon it, &c....

The proposed site of the hospital buildings is a broad *tableau*, suitable for an extended series of buildings. The grounds, as they slope away to the north from the upper *tableau* towards the river, are broken with several ravines, with broad promontories between them, so as to admit of the regular subdivision of the pleasure-grounds by walls that will not be 'unpleasantly visible from the building,' nor interrupt the view of the surrounding country. The view which will be enjoyed by the patients comprises all of the cities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, the heights north of the two former, the Virginia hills on the south, and the Potomac and Eastern Branch for several miles. These features are of immense consequence. This is so well understood among practical persons, that there is no establishment in the country that has not, in some one or more of its published documents, attempted to laud the attractive beauty of the landscape about it. The moral treatment of the insane, with reference to their cure, consists mainly in eliciting an exercise of the attention with things rational, agreeable, and foreign to the subject of delusion; and the more constant and absorbing is such exercise, the more rapid and effectual will be the recovery; but many unbroken hours must elapse each day, during which it is on every account impracticable to make any direct active effort to engage and occupy the patients' minds. Now, nothing gratifies the taste, and spontaneously enlists

the attention of so large a class of persons, as combinations of beautiful natural scenery, varied and enriched by the hand of man; and it may be asserted with much confidence, that the expenditure of a thousand dollars each year, directed to the single object of promoting the healthy mental occupation of one hundred insane persons, with either amusements or labor, would not be so effectual in calling reason to its throne, as will the grand panorama of nature and art, which the peculiar position of the site so happily commands. The shifting incidents of the navigation of the Potomac, the flight of the railroad cars to and from the city, the operations at the navy yard, &c., will continually renew and vary the interest of the scene.

About ninety acres of the farm are in high and broken woodland, through which some five miles of winding roads have been made by the late proprietor, that will afford highly agreeable, healthful, and entirely private pleasure-walks for the patients during the warm season.<sup>32</sup>

Given this description, the selected site met the AMSAII guidelines for mental health institutions at that time. With its rolling topography, views and vistas to the river and adjacent capital city, woodlands, and availability of water, St. Elizabeths provided a scenic and picturesque setting with a plethora of opportunities for the new national mental health hospital (see Figure 1).

Plans for the hospital were underway by December 1852, as developed by Nichols. Using Kirkbride's defined plan as a basis, Nichols developed a plan for the Government Hospital for the Insane. In the Secretary's report to Congress, information regarding the development of the plans is revealed

The superintendent has already sketched the outline of the plan of the proposed edifices; but before adopting it finally, it has been deemed expedient to lay it before some of the most skilful [sic] and experienced superintendents of other asylums, for such improvements as they may be able to suggest. When the plans have thus been carefully revised and matured, they will be placed in the hands of Mr. [Thomas U.] Walter, the architect of the extension of the Capitol, in order that he may arrange them so as to blend architectural beauty with practical convenience and utility. It is hoped that, in the course of a few weeks sufficient progress will have been made to justify the advertising for proposals for the execution of the work, to be commenced as early as the season will permit.<sup>33</sup>

*Initial Construction, Buildings and Landscape*

Construction of the first hospital buildings began in 1853. By 1854, approximately one-half of the main building (the West Wing of Building no. 1) was complete and ready for occupation, while the walls of the remaining half were complete up to the middle of the second floor. The first floor of the wash, engine, and gas-house was also finished south of the Center Building, as depicted on the ca. 1860 site plan.<sup>34</sup> (Figure 2)

The site also contained other existing structures at this time. From its former use as a farm, the property was bordered with a decaying wood post and rail fence along the main public road (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue). Laborers' houses and two cottages, one of brick and the other of wood, were also located on the site. According to the ca. 1860 sketch map of the property, the gardener's house stood down the slope north of the Center Building, while the farmer's house stood next to the public road (see Figure 2). A wharf had also been established along the Anacostia River.

When legislation was established in 1854 "to organize an institution for the insane in the District of Columbia," a board of visitors was created to oversee planning and management of the hospital, as well as to specify the duties and powers of the superintendent.<sup>35</sup>

On January 15, 1855, St. Elizabeths officially opened with the arrival of the first patient.<sup>36</sup> Construction of additional hospital buildings continued throughout the course of the next several years. By 1857, over 1,200,000 bricks were made and dried in drying sheds on the property; however, the location of the brick manufacturing site is not known.<sup>37</sup> Brick buildings that were constructed between 1855 and 1857 included Center Building (Building no. 1), one lodge for African American men (West Lodge, no longer extant), brick barn/stable (no longer extant), and mechanics shop (no longer extant). Earth dug to build foundations of the Center building was used to grade "in front of" – presumably north of – the completed West Wing.<sup>38</sup> The wash, engine, and gas-house with adjacent drying yard were utilized at this time.<sup>39</sup>

Though designated as the Government Hospital for the Insane, the historical name of the land "St. Elizabeths" was soon styled for the hospital and came into general use by the public. The provenance of the name was attributed to the original St. Elizabeth tract and the frequent use of the name by the inmates, most likely as a means of avoiding the word "insane" when describing the establishment at which they resided.<sup>40</sup> Because of the agreeable designation and "sacred association" of the name St. Elizabeths, the name was soon adopted at other American institutions for the insane.<sup>41</sup>

With increasing numbers of patients, a cemetery was created on the west side of the hospital campus in 1856 to accommodate deceased hospital residents. On January 26, Sarah Fountain, an indigent white female patient died at the Hospital. While three other patients had also died at St. Elizabeths Hospital, families had claimed the bodies and attended to their burials. Fountain, however, had no known family. As a result, Nichols proposed to survey a “small secluded plot of ground in that part of [the] woodland which lies west of the hospital edifice, where there is a gentle slope toward the setting sun, and set it apart as a place of interment for friendless patients, and inter therein the body of Sarah Fountain, without ceremony.” This proposal was approved and Sarah Fountain became the first person buried in the Cemetery at St. Elizabeths.<sup>42</sup>

On February 7, 1857, legislation was signed clarifying and expanding the process of admission to Government Hospital for the Insane which increased patient access. Later in the year, Congress appropriated \$5,000 for the improvement of the grounds and purchase of agricultural and horticultural instruments. During the summer and fall of 1857, \$2,000 of that appropriation was spent “in the proper enclosure and subdivision of the farm by fences, and in the purchase of manures and implements of husbandry, from which material agricultural benefits have already been derived.”<sup>43</sup> Agricultural practices were critical to the support of the institution. Farming continued on the hospital grounds of the West campus, after the purchase of the lands. Livestock at St. Elizabeths included twenty-five cows, two pairs of oxen, fifty pigs, and an unknown number of horses that were tended by farm hands who roomed in the mechanics’ shop.<sup>44</sup>

Construction of the buildings and grounds of the West Campus continued throughout the latter half of 1858 and into 1859. Work began on an extension to the hospital stable, measuring 100’-0” x 20’-0” x 20’-0”, for twelve horses, thirty-two neat cattle, 100 swine, and 200 fowls.<sup>45</sup> Upon its completion in 1861, the structure was located south of the existing stable and with a brick wall, enclosed the north and west sides of the stock yard.<sup>46</sup> At this same time two sheds for manure and farm equipment and machinery were erected. The equipment shed was to be built on the east side of the barnyard, while the manure shed was to stand “near the centre of the yard.”<sup>47</sup> These structures reflect the agricultural production that occurred on the grounds of the hospital well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As the hospital grew with new patients, the construction of buildings and improvement of the grounds was sustained.<sup>48</sup> Work on the Center Building and West Wing persisted through 1859, as construction of the East Wing (Building no. 4) began.<sup>49</sup> A year later in October 1860, the Center Building and the “contiguous sections of the wings” were occupied, and the eastern

wards (Building 4) were complete.<sup>50</sup> A larger, second gas-holder (no longer extant) and the East Lodge (now Detached Nurses, Building no. 30) were also under construction at this time.<sup>51</sup>

A ca. 1860 sketch plan of the hospital grounds depicts the basic arrangement of structures of the early hospital. Twin lodges for African Americans flank the wings of the main building (see Figure 2). The symmetry of the patient residences is counteracted by the offset placement of utility facilities such as a “Gasometer” and a “Wash, Gas & Engine House.” The circulation system includes an entrance lane from the public road to the east. The road makes a large loop north of the main “Hospital Edifice” before leading down the north hillside toward the Gardener’s building and the wharf.<sup>52</sup>

Included in the 1860 annual report submitted to Congress are two published plans for the hospital, a *Topographical Plan of the Grounds* (Figure 3) and a *Ground Plan* (Figure 4). Although later documents and photographic evidence show that the plans had not yet been fully implemented, they reveal aspects of the landscape and indicate the direction of development desired of the future hospital. The *Ground Plan* is signed by Dr. Charles Nichols, Architect Thomas U. Walter, and President James Buchanan and noted as designed by C.H. Nichols, Sup.<sup>53</sup> The plan shows the Center Building and the area in its immediate vicinity with graceful and curvaceous drives in a style similar to nineteenth-century landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing. Informal clusters of trees define the edges of lawn areas. Planted triangles occur at road intersections. The three components of the institution are identified as hospital, stables, and machinery. The *Topographical Plan of the Grounds* elaborates the details of the overall hospital property. The plan shows land cover type, topography, vehicular circulation, and structures. The tree allées along the main entry drive and specific garden patterns are evident on the plan.

Another plan entitled “Map of the Environs of Washington” by Bvt. Major General J.G. Barnard revealed the environmental context and the early development of the hospital west campus in 1861 (see Figure 5). The plan documented the network of roads, new hospital structures, and forest in the area. Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, significant improvements were made to the hospital grounds. Miles of winding carriage roads were laid out and roughly graded through the forested areas in the southwest of the site. Forest management occurred at the hospital after the initial development of the site, “Where the forest was too dense for a large and handsome growth, the surplus trees have already been carefully cut out, and used as firewood or sawed into lumber” for use on the premises and to furnish the wards.<sup>54</sup> Clearing of forested areas also increased agricultural productivity of the hospital farm. About twenty acres of land were cleared and put under

cultivation in 1860 in addition to the 100 acres that were already in production at the time the government purchased the lands.<sup>55</sup>

### *Civil War Use*

The years of the Civil War brought about many changes within the hospital campus. The effects of the Civil War began to be felt in 1861, as male African American patients were relocated from West Lodge to the East Lodge to accommodate sick and wounded soldiers of the Navy. Tent encampments were also set up along the south façade of the Center Building at the onset of the war (see Figure 6). The Navy continued to use the hospital facilities, including the East Wing of the main building as a general army hospital for its wounded, as well as ten acres of the northwestern grounds for extensive experimental batteries throughout the Civil War.<sup>56</sup>

Use of the grounds by the Union forces such as the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War impacted the landscape of the hospital. Occupation of the sparse landscape led to substantial planting efforts. One thousand trees were planted in 1861 along with the seeding and fertilization of twenty-five acres to provide an “autumn rewarded with a rich green landscape.”<sup>57</sup> One such tree planted around this time period was a white oak tree planted near the flagpole inside the main gate.<sup>58</sup> According to legend the tree was planted by a soldier before he left to fight in the Civil War; however, some discrepancies exist in the actual planting date.

By October 1862, the facilities of the hospital were inadequate for the numbers of wounded soldiers. As a result, tents encampments were expanded throughout the grounds to accommodate the demand.<sup>59</sup> Numerous maintenance efforts took place at this time including repair and painting of outbuildings and fences, grading of the grounds, removal of brick kilns and lumber piles, construction of an ice house, erection of a pump and boiler house and smoke stack, and graveling walks and drives.<sup>60</sup> In addition, pipe was laid throughout the grounds “to raise all the drainage of the house, stable, and laundry and distribute it over the fields for cultivation.”<sup>61</sup> A shop for manufacturing of artificial legs was also established in “rooms adjacent to those occupied as a general army hospital” in January of 1863.<sup>62</sup>

On June 24, 1864, the first recorded military interment in the hospital cemetery (Civil War Cemetery) took place.<sup>63</sup> The cemetery was surveyed on May 20, 1868, recording the irregular shape with a small section protruding north, corresponding to the current configuration.<sup>64</sup> Interments in the cemetery continued during the period with the final civilian burial documented in 1873.<sup>65</sup> The last military interment in the West Campus cemetery occurred on May 20, 1874 with the burial of Private James Clary.<sup>66</sup> Another military

cemetery east of Nichols Avenue continued to receive the deceased after the closing of the West Campus Civil War Cemetery.

Army and Navy use of the hospital decreased during the late 1860s. The Navy continued to use the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus until it downsized operations in 1864 by using only the West Lodge and the gardener's house as a hospital due to the increase in the mentally ill, which "had then reached the *maximum* number" for the site.<sup>67</sup> The manufacture of artificial limbs was also removed from the grounds in 1864 and relocated to the city.<sup>68</sup> On October 1866, the Navy finally vacated the West Lodge and transferred its patients elsewhere.<sup>69</sup> In 1868, the Ordnance Bureau of the Navy removed its "numerous guns and appurtenances" from an area of the northwest grounds of the hospital that it had occupied since the beginning of the Civil War.<sup>70</sup> Having received this portion of land back, Nichols expected to install drainage tile, fertilize, and cultivate the land for production.<sup>71</sup>

#### *Perimeter Wall*

In May 1858, construction began on the brick perimeter wall along Nichols Avenue (known today as Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue) at the Government Hospital for the Insane. Months later in October

100.86 rods have been completed on the public road, which includes entrance lane, 30 feet wide and 150 feet deep, and periphery of gate keeper's lodge. The single and double gates are also made and hung. ... The foundation of this wall is from two to four feet deep and two feet wide, and laid with blue stone in cement; the superstructure composed of hard bricks, is 13 ½ inches wide, and eight feet two inches high, and has leaning pilasters supporting both sides, eight feet apart on each side, but alternating with each other in such a way that the running distance between two pilasters is only three feet five inches; the whole is surmounted with single coping bricks, laid crosswise, which project from each face of the wall one inch and raise its height to eight feet eight inches, and are of such shape that they readily shed water and form a handsome finish.<sup>72</sup>

Progress continued on the construction of the boundary wall and sections were completed throughout 1858 and 1859. A section of the brick perimeter wall was completed in 1859 running along the northeastern boundary from the public road (Nichols Avenue) to the river. At the termination at the river, a nine-foot high stone wall spanned 150' from the shoreline into the river past the low-water mark, as indicated on the 1860 Topographical Plan of the Grounds, Figure 3. Stone foundations for the southern boundary wall were

laid in 1859, with the brick superstructure to follow as work demands allowed.<sup>73</sup>

In addition to the walls, a boundary fence was erected along a portion of the public road and the southwest property line from the public road to the Anacostia River. “The fence is six feet high; the posts are set not less than three feet in the earth; and there is a running base-board ten inches wide, besides two rails to which vertical pales are nailed, and a fascia piece and a weather cap.”<sup>74</sup> A total of two miles of fencing were constructed between October 1, 1857, and October 1, 1858, including fences delineating farm fields.<sup>75</sup>

After a delay of two years, work resumed on completion of the perimeter wall around the hospital in 1863. Due to the closure of the quarry north of Georgetown, “silicious conglomerate” stone for the wall, rather than the original blue gneiss, was quarried by hospital staff and patients at a neighboring property about one mile from St. Elizabeths.<sup>76</sup> Efforts to complete the wall pressed forward in response to the time, with Civil War related activities on campus and nearby providing resources for the area’s war-related development. The construction of a cavalry depot, defensive fortifications, and a race track are documented in the vicinity as well as work at St. Elizabeths.<sup>77</sup>

The effort to complete the perimeter wall continued through the mid-1860s. In 1866, stone for the wall was continuously quarried and hauled by the hospital team, where two masons laid the coursework.<sup>78</sup> It may be that the stone portion of the wall is begun by this date, since no further mention of the use of bricks (except for the coping) is mentioned in later annual reports.

Improvements to the adjacent Nichols Avenue paralleling the eastern section of the perimeter wall were made in 1864. After construction, the road was described as “sixty (60) feet wide and well graveled. Its grades are easy. The necessary lateral curves are long and graceful. The bridge and culverts are built of stone and bricks laid in cement, and are handsome and durable. This noble improvement does great credit to the liberality and taste of all parties concerned in effecting it, and gives a convenience and dignity to the approach to the hospital from the city, which were sadly wanting in the previous rude, narrow, and tortuous wagon path, with steep descents, as well as ascents in its course, and open rivulets crossing it.”<sup>79</sup>

Building the perimeter wall persisted into 1867, as the southwest boundary of the hospital was enclosed. Quarrying and hauling operations for the wall were uninterrupted, and work progressed on laying the stones, with the exception of cold winter months. By the end of 1867, 2,306’-0” of the wall had been built

over the course of the year. “It is now being carried across a ravine sixty (60) feet deep, one hundred and sixty-one (161) feet wide at the bottom, and three hundred and fifty-one (351) feet across at the top.”<sup>80</sup>

By October 31 of 1868, 827 additional feet of the perimeter wall had been built. Hospital attendants and patients continued to quarry and haul the stone for the wall until the beginning of the summer, when the quarry was exhausted. To complete the wall, the hospital subsequently purchased 1,500 perches of “rubble Seneca stone” from the Maryland Free Stone M&M Company.<sup>81</sup> About three-quarters of this stone was “laid in the wall running in a southeasterly direction between the hospital grounds and the lands of the Gisboro manor.”<sup>82</sup> The Gisboro land lay west of the hospital, where the Congress Heights neighborhood is now located (see Figures 3 and 7).<sup>83</sup>

Construction of the southwest section of the perimeter wall yielded some difficult issues to resolve. The topography was “exceedingly uneven” and even though grading and underdraining were undertaken, additional grading was needed after the completion of the wall for proper drainage away from the wall foundation. The wall itself was built with grades “fewer and less abrupt than the natural inequalities of the surface”.<sup>84</sup>

By 1869, the wall was completed on three sides of the hospital. An additional “five hundred and one linear feet of the wall inclosing [sic] the original grounds of the hospital have been built...the wall proper is now complete, except for the river front.”<sup>85</sup> Of the completed sections, 3,319’ lacked the brick coping; 10,000 bricks were delivered to complete the coping in these sections.

That same year, plans were made to complete the riverfront wall. Plans described the area as follows, “The water is quite shallow on the river shore, which declines very gradually to a ‘swash’ channel from four to six feet deep at flood tide, and at low tide considerable grassy surfaces are bare, and exhale a miasma which renders the river shore the only unhealthy part of the grounds. The intention is to place the wall a little below low-water mark, where it will obstruct the alluvial wash from the hills towards the channel, and gradually redeem from water and marsh between three and four acres of land, and render the shore salubrious by presenting either constant water or well-drained earth surfaces.”<sup>86</sup>

Work began on the riverfront perimeter wall in 1872, and by June 30, 1873, half of the wall along the river was complete.<sup>87</sup> Three years later in 1876, appropriations were “not quite sufficient” to complete the river wall, but Superintendent Nichols considered the wall close enough to completion not to require an additional appropriation.<sup>88</sup> Near its completion, the wall was

described as “a ‘sea’ or ‘retaining’ wall, which does not obstruct the view of the external scenery.”<sup>89</sup> The retaining wall was illustrated with straight lines along the riverbank on the “Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane” (see Figure 7).

At the completion of the perimeter wall, there were likely two gates along Nichols Avenue. A northern entrance, by Gatehouse no. 1 (Building no. 21), was established by 1858, when the brick wall and “entrance lane” were completed, according to the annual report for that year.<sup>90</sup> The gatehouse building was completed later in 1874.<sup>91</sup> Evidence of the second gate was found in the 1887 annual report, which requested funding for “a gardener’s cottage and porter’s lodge at the lower hospital entrance.”<sup>92</sup> The 1873 Topographical Map of the Site and Lands, Figure 7, recorded a road that extended south from the hospital complex to a gate essentially above the current underpass to the East Campus. Later illustrations indicate an entrance south of the Home building (Building no. 36) and a third entrance south of the gate near the Home building.<sup>93</sup>

#### *Additional Lands*

Throughout the initial years of St. Elizabeths, the original property boundaries were continually refined as land was added to the total acreage. Adjacent lands were purchased as needed for agricultural pursuits such as pasture, fields, and orchards. The first of these was a land transfer in 1864, when Congress approved a land exchange to remove a private land owner, J. Perkins, from land within the hospital’s planned perimeter. “The southeast corner of the present farm” was exchanged for two and one half acres “interrupting the mid-frontage on the public road.”<sup>94</sup> This land was probably one of two tracts along the public road that the government had not previously acquired, as shown on the 1860 Topographical Plan of the Grounds, Figure 3.<sup>95</sup> The land transfer was expected to take place “before the close of the present season” in 1864; the exchange was not completed until the following year with the exception of the deed transfer.<sup>96</sup>

Further legislation in 1867 and 1868 allowed the government to purchase additional acres for the campus of St. Elizabeths. In 1867, sixty acres of land was purchased in a discontinuous tract to be used as pasture for livestock. The tract would later be known as the Stevens Farm (see Figure 7).<sup>97</sup> An additional 150 acres was acquired in November 1868, as the property known as the Shepherd Farm was purchased with appropriations made by Congress on March 3, 1869. The land located across the public road east of the Blagden Farm tract was acquired for grazing milk and beef cattle. At the time of purchase it was enclosed by an old, deteriorated rail fence.<sup>98</sup>

St. Elizabeths gained more territory during the 1870s. As noted in the 1873 *Annual Report*, “the hospital came into possession of the tract of 29 acres, 1 rod and 2  $\frac{4}{10}$  perches of agricultural land...and more recently the United States has received the gratuitous deed of one-third of an acre of land lying adjacent to the northern boundary of the enclosed grounds, and embracing a deep, narrow ravine, the control of which by the hospital authorities will enable them to prevent the undermining of the boundary wall at that point.”<sup>99</sup> Judging from the descriptions of these tracts, it is likely that the twenty-nine-acre parcel may be the second unacquired tract along the public road. The smaller tract to the north may be the square of land outside the hospital boundary depicted outside the hospital wall on the “Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane” near what is now the greenhouse area (see Figure 7). These acquisitions increased the total acreage owned by the government to “a little upwards of 419 acres of land, about 360 of which form one nearly complete parallelogram”.<sup>100</sup> The remainder of the land is a “separate tract, conveniently situated for grazing or the cultivation of the staple annual crops.”<sup>101</sup>

#### *Improvements to Agriculture, Pleasure Grounds, Infrastructure, and Water Resources*

Many improvements were made to the hospital landscape through the 1860s and 1870s. Superintendent Nichols sought to increase agricultural production, refine the pleasure grounds, and advance the use of water resources on the campus. The hospital employed several farm hands to develop the agricultural base and improve the fields, lawns, groves, and walks. “[I]n the intervals between the busy seasons of seeding, cultivating, and harvesting, [the grounds] are becoming highly productive and ornamental.”<sup>102</sup> Productivity continued as fields were converted to orchards. By October 1, 1867, 2,156’-0” of seven-foot paling fence enclosed an orchard containing nearly seven acres of “fruit trees and shrubs of the choicest varieties.”<sup>103</sup> The orchard was also planted with 1,100 grape vines on locust posts and galvanized wire trellises. The entire orchard was drained with over 3,000’ of tile laid 3’-0” deep and “large amounts of stable manure and other fertilizers have been incorporated into the soil of the farm, garden, and orchard”.<sup>104</sup> Roads, meadows, and lawns were also drained with tile.

The “systematic work of grading, under-draining, and fertilizing the agricultural lands and of improving the farm-stock” was continued throughout the 1870s on all tracts of land owned by the hospital.<sup>105</sup> Installing drainage tile, grading, applying manure, and erecting fencing were critical improvements to the farmland.<sup>106</sup> The large expenditures of these improvements paid off as the farm at St. Elizabeths returned an abundance of fruit, vegetables, milk, pork, poultry and eggs for its staff and patients.<sup>107</sup> In 1874, fifty acres of the Shepherd Farm was planted with asparagus, rhubarb,

and small fruits.<sup>108</sup> Fields were fertilized with bone dust and manure; tile drains and farm roads were built, and a large cattle and hay barn was built on one of the outlying farms.<sup>109</sup> A peach orchard was established in 1877, while an associated vineyard was planted later.<sup>110</sup> According to the 1873 Topographical Map of the Site and Lands, Figure 7, the vineyard may have been located northwest of the Center Building, on the lower part of the slope toward the river

Physical improvements to the hospital pleasure grounds also continued into the 1870s. The pleasure grounds, including the wooded sections of the property, were seen as a critical component of the institution for “their own great diversity and beauty, and the diversity and beauty of the extensive views they command, have largely contributed to the contentment as well as the positive enjoyment of the household.”<sup>111</sup> The ideal hospital landscape as seen in paintings of the day was difficult to sustain when facing the real constraints of time and labor (see Figure 8). Due to the limited farm and garden workforce, maintenance of the “park and other exercise grounds of the patients” often competed with the agricultural and horticultural functions of the institution.<sup>112</sup>

Grading, drainage, and paving of the walks and roads were required in order to maintain an orderly appearance and provide for the comfort of patients and staff. In 1874, many roads and walks were “underdrained and graveled in the exercise grounds of the patients.”<sup>113</sup> Deviating from the typical description of gravel walks, the annual report for the year also implied that brick paving had been placed around the Center Building, “a portion of the pavements about the house have been relaid, and some altogether new pavements have been put down.”<sup>114</sup>

During the late 1860s and early 1870s, infrastructure development at the hospital changed the character of the landscape by rendering it increasingly functional for patients and staff. In 1869, for example, the District’s Board of Commissioners of Metropolitan Police extended the telegraph system into southeast Washington and made St. Elizabeths Hospital the recipient of the local telegraph station.<sup>115</sup> Heavy stone walls and a stone bridge were constructed in 1871. The walls were built in the ravines for the specific purpose of preventing gullying and landslides during wet seasons.<sup>116</sup>

Securing a consistent water supply also figured prominently in the gradual growth of the hospital. Inside of the wooded pleasure grounds several springs had been opened, walled, and covered by 1867.<sup>117</sup> The pure water was conveyed in earthen pipes to fountains and drinking reservoirs. In coming years, an increase of available water made the expensive operation of pumping interior water from the river unnecessary except in times of

extraordinary drought. The water supply was improved in 1870 by the assembly of a third brick reservoir and 1,400' of clay pipe that connected it with "two small but remarkably constant springs, whose average daily yield of excellent water throughout ordinary years is about eight thousand gallons." The pipe was of solid construction, attested to by claims that it was "indestructible and laid deep and well, and there is no obvious reason why it should not last in good order for a thousand years."<sup>118</sup> In 1876, the various springs near the hospital continued to provide one-fourth of the daily consumption of fresh water at the hospital which totaled approximately 15,000 gallons.<sup>119</sup> Water was also important for fire protection and other utilitarian purposes. The hospital established another steam pump in its utility complex south of the Center Building, laid water pipe "nearly around the entire buildings," and added twelve fire hydrants to those already in use in 1875.<sup>120</sup> In addition, the next year an extensive river water filter was constructed in order to fill the hospital reservoir.<sup>121</sup>

From the mid 1860s onward, substantial construction projects enlarged the hospital's wharf. Most of the new stone wall was laid with forty white oak pylons constructed and cut from the hospital grounds.<sup>122</sup> Significant work took place between 1860 and 1873, as reflected in the comparison of Figure 3 and Figure 7.<sup>123</sup> During this time the track for the Baltimore, Washington, and Alexandria branch rail line had been laid on trestles in the Anacostia River. The track stopped at the hospital wharf and delivered goods to the growing institution.<sup>124</sup>

### *Building Improvements*

With continual improvements to the grounds, expansion of the buildings was also necessary. The number of patients at St. Elizabeths was ever increasing with new Congressional legislation. On July 13, 1866, legislation allowed "civilian employees of the quartermaster's or the subsistence departments of the army to be admitted to the Government Hospital for the Insane."<sup>125</sup> Years later in 1874, legislation was approved allowing convicted criminals who became mentally ill during their confinement in any state or federal prison in the country to be admitted to the Government Hospital for the Insane.<sup>126</sup> These new types of patients required additional hospital staffing and new building additions, which altered the campus landscape. Continual use of the original facilities also required upgrades and maintenance.

By 1868, the first improvements were made to the buildings within the St. Elizabeths campus with the repair of three existing cottages. It is likely that these three buildings included the gardener's house down the slope from the Center Building near the wharf and two "Farm houses" along the public road as shown on the "1860 Topographical Plan of the Grounds of the Government Hospital for the Insane" (Figure 3).<sup>127</sup>

Two years later in 1870, an appropriation of \$6,000 was made “to improve and increase the cottage accommodations of the families of the employés [sic] of the hospital.”<sup>128</sup> The funds were planned for two new cottages, in addition to the three existing houses on what is now the West Campus. One or both of the new residences were likely constructed on newly acquired lands of the Shepherd Farm, across Nichols Avenue east of the Blagden Farm tract.<sup>129</sup>

An extension of the hospital was necessary to accommodate the increasing numbers of patients by 1871. The extension, later named the Dawes building (now-demolished), was located on the West Campus and “intended to accommodate 100 patients in the three principal stories, and in the basement to afford lodging-rooms and a hall for single resident mechanics and farm hands, and tailoring and shoemaking shops and store-rooms.”<sup>130</sup> After its completion, the maximum capacity of the new building was tested, finding that the three wards afforded “comfortable and healthful accommodations for 129 patients of the quiet chronic class.”<sup>131</sup> Another extension of the main hospital building, called “Garfield” (now Building no. 5), was completed in 1873.<sup>132</sup> The three-story building connected to “the western section of the west wing of the original edifice” and cost \$37,800.<sup>133</sup>

Despite additions and extensions to the buildings on the grounds, space for patients remained limited. This same year, the hospital transformed four rooms formerly used as coal storage into dining rooms and workshops. The displaced coal, which was used to heat the Center Building, was deposited “in a huge, unsightly pile a short distance outside the windows of the patients’ rooms.”<sup>134</sup> The following year in 1874, a coal shed was built to house the unsightly coal. Nichols later requested funding for a subterranean coal vault, which was constructed in 1876 to the rear of the east heating-boilers. The masonry coal-vault measured 60’-0” x 27’-0” on the ground, and 10’-8” high. “It removes the necessity of a dark, dirty pile of coal, which for years has obstructed the view of a cheerful landscape by the patients of two wards. The pavement over it is level with the surrounding grounds, and coal-carts drive upon it and empty their contents directly through openings in the crown of the vault, with the saving of the cost of one handling.”<sup>135</sup>

Toward the end of the era, a major shift in facilities changed the overall spatial organization of the site. Increased numbers of patients required increased staffing and staffing housing. Requests for appropriations for employee housing in 1872 not been expended and had reverted to the government. In 1874, gardener’s house, described as “a brick building that lodges from twenty to twenty-five of the farm and garden hands” was “reconstructed by raising the walls and giving more height to the chambers, with a new roof, including dormer windows.”<sup>136</sup> A year later in 1875, two

frame dwellings located on the grounds were moved “to sites more eligible than those they previously occupied.” Since the gardener’s house was enlarged in 1874, the two houses that were moved probably refer to the other two “cottages” which were repaired and improved in 1870 and were located along the public road before they were moved.<sup>137</sup>

It is possible that the two frame dwellings were moved to Shepherd Farm, as one of two buildings that appears to be labeled “Farmers & Gardeners Cottages” stands on the Shepherd Farm property on the 1873 “Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane” (Figure 7). The second labeled building stands in the known location of the Gardener’s House. The 1895 *Annual Report* identifies a building on the Shepherd Farm as the “Old Farm House.”<sup>138</sup> The report also shows only one employee residence on the Blagden Farm site, the Garden House, located down slope from the Center Building. After the move of the buildings, a windmill was constructed in 1875 “to supply water to several families of employés [sic] living upon the premises.”<sup>139</sup> If the Gardener’s House had been fitted for twenty to twenty-five farm hands, and the two farm houses moved to the Shepherd Farm for employees with families, this windmill may also have been located east of the public road, though the exact location of the windmill is not known.

The number of patients continued to increase through the end of the period, creating crowded conditions at St. Elizabeths. To help alleviate the conditions, an extension south of the Center Building (Building no. 2) was completed and the West Lodge was enlarged in June 1875.<sup>140</sup> Predicting future needs, Nichols requested \$395,000 for construction of a separate building for female patients. Due to overcrowding that resulted from an expansion of categories of patients that the hospital was required to accept, wards intended to be used for female patients were appropriated for male patients. In an effort to continue the congregate care embodied in the Center Building, Nichols envisioned a second hospital building derived from the Kirkbride plan, rendered by the Architect of the Capital, Edward Clark. Since Nichols did not request funds for purchasing new land, it seems likely that the hospital for women was intended to be located on existing farm land. The acquisition of Shepherd Farm in 1869 freed the former farmland south of the Center Building for new construction. Although the separate facility for women was never approved, hospital construction did take place on this land during the superintendence of William W. Godding.<sup>141</sup>

In 1877, Dr. Charles H. Nichols resigned as superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane to work at a private asylum in Bloomingdale, New York. He was succeeded at St. Elizabeths by Dr. William Whitney Godding.<sup>142</sup>

### **Godding Era Landscape, 1877-99**

The Godding-era landscape history spans twenty-two years from 1877 to 1899. The following narrative is chronologically organized with respect to thematic topics based on Godding's cottage plan and new construction, the service landscape, agriculture and grounds, and infrastructure.

#### *The Cottage Plan and New Construction at St. Elizabeths*

The spatial organization of the campus changed with the development of new treatment facilities according to Godding's cottage plan. The development of scientific knowledge in the treatment of the insane was applied in advances at the hospital, which altered the West Campus landscape. The therapeutic landscape inherited from the previous era was enhanced with the addition of new knowledge of the natural world and with new construction.

In 1877, Dr. William Whitney Godding became superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane.<sup>143</sup> The landscape entrusted to Godding's stewardship was an ideal setting for his future vision for the hospital. With room for growth on the level upland portion of the site, Godding recognized the value of the property

[D]iversified with picturesque ravines and wooded slopes, is unsuited for cultivation, and will always remain a ramble and pleasure-ground for the recreation of the inmates. The grounds immediately surrounding the hospital buildings are laid out with walks and drives through lawns which have been planted with trees, with here and there groups of shrubs and flowers. The quiet beauty of these surroundings, heightened as it is by the glimpses of the river, with vistas of the city and Capitol beyond, make it one of the charming spots for which the vicinity of Washington is famous, and one well named by the first settlers in its secluded loveliness, 'Saint Elizabeth.'<sup>144</sup>

In 1879, the first expression of the cottage plan started with the construction of Atkins Hall. Located immediately south of the East Lodge (Building no. 30), Atkins Hall was the first "cottage" built at St. Elizabeths and represented a movement away from the congregate care philosophy of the Center Building. These segregate care facilities were designed in a more residential style than the institutional Center Building for quiet, chronically ill patients who needed less supervision than more acute cases (see Figure 9). In addition to providing home-like atmosphere for its patients, the cottages could be more easily funded because they were less expensive than adding wings to the main hospital building.<sup>145</sup> The following year, the second segregate care facility—called "Relief" (Building no. 32) due to its purpose of relieving overcrowded

conditions—was completed southeast of, and at a ninety-degree angle to, Atkins Hall. By this date, Godding had begun to develop the new pattern of spatial organization with the cottages, as indicated by the annual report, “[I]t will be seen how easy it is to extend this plan of detached buildings to the decided advantage of certain classes of the insane.”<sup>146</sup> In the following years, Godding would make reference to the cottage plan and the benefits it provided for patients.<sup>147</sup>

The expansion of the cottage plan continued throughout the 1880s as new buildings and landscapes were constructed. Construction of the Home building (Building no. 36) and Rest (Building no. 40) began in 1883.<sup>148</sup> Under the supervision of Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark, the new patient residence Home created a three-sided courtyard through its location directly south of Atkins Hall and at a ninety-degree angle to Relief (see Figure 10). While these buildings bore an axial relationship to the Center Building, the orientation of their doors and primary elevations in relation to each other and the courtyard was distinct from the original hospital buildings, helping to establish a sense of separate accommodation for the patients housed there. Also completed during the year was the Rest, the hospital’s mortuary and pathological laboratory, which was located near the stables south of the Center Building.<sup>149</sup>

While construction progressed on new campus buildings, work on the grounds was also pursued in the early 1880s. Paving of the path system, planting of shade trees, the building of summerhouses, and the placement of outdoor benches occurred in the early 1880s. The path system became formalized with the construction of asphalt paths over the existing clay trails. Since walking was one of the main recreational pursuits at the hospital, the new paving material was justified by preventing the female patients from getting muddy during the wet season.<sup>150</sup> The shade trees were probably those donated by the “Parking Commission of the District of Columbia,” which the annual report thanks “for a very liberal donation of five hundred shade-trees for the beautifying of our grounds.” The report states that the trees “have been planted beside the recently made walks and roads, or grouped about the new buildings, where there is still room for more.”<sup>151</sup> The Parking Commission was an informal body of three individuals appointed by what was then Washington’s territorial government to recommend the kinds of trees to be planted in the city’s public grounds. The body also sought out suppliers for these needs.<sup>152</sup> The location of the summerhouses was not depicted on the 1883 Ground Plan of St. Elizabeths (see Figure 11); however, a plat that accompanied the 1895 *Annual Report* for the hospital located a summerhouse slightly southeast of Relief—the location of one of the current summerhouses (Building no. 206; see Figure 12).<sup>153</sup> Each of these outdoor amenities was important for the recreational pursuits of the hospital’s patients.

In addition, other recreational pursuits were facilitated within the hospital grounds. Throughout the year entertainers such as John Philip Sousa's Marine Corps Band offered dramatic and musical entertainment. Summer months allowed for outdoor events to be staged.<sup>154</sup> For what appears to be a short duration, a zoological garden was started in an unknown location at St. Elizabeths. The zoo began with the donation of a bear cub in 1882 although the topic was not mentioned in records for subsequent years.<sup>155</sup>

The construction season at St. Elizabeths Hospital was bustling again in 1884. The upland plateau became populated with additional structures and the "pleasure grounds" surrounding them. So much of the arable land was taken up by new construction that Godding requested that Congress purchase additional farmland for the hospital.<sup>156</sup> The three buildings completed during the year were Home (Building no. 36), Retreat (Building no. 6, also called Pine), and a new kitchen (Building no. 45). With the completion of Retreat, an extension of the East Wing of the main hospital complex, and the detached building Home, Godding pursued both congregate and segregate care simultaneously.

By July of 1885, the detached dining hall (Building no. 33) and a shop for cabinet work by patients (no longer extant) were under construction.<sup>157</sup> The dining hall became the fourth side of the courtyard established by the construction of the Atkins, Relief, and Home buildings. The hospital received additional shade trees from the District of Columbia Parking Commission, along with a number of plant cuttings from Col. John M. Wilson, the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds received the following year.<sup>158</sup> Wilson was the delegated officer in charge of the care and maintenance of federal buildings and grounds in Washington, lodged with the Chief Engineer of the Army.<sup>159</sup> The labor force maintaining St. Elizabeths' grounds in 1886 consisted of three male attendants who worked exclusively with organized groups of patients. Work accomplished included "mending roads, excavating for buildings, raking the lawns, and digging in the vineyard."<sup>160</sup>

The campus was constantly improved in order to provide better services to patients and staff. In 1887 appropriations were received for enlargement of both the East Lodge (Building no. 30) and the West Lodge (no longer extant), and the additions were completed during the year. Also under construction was Howard Hall for the criminally insane.<sup>161</sup> Howard Hall, a double L-shaped building with interlocking wings, offered a unique type of courtyard. The north wing of the building was built first, as indicated on the 1895 Geodetic Survey (see Figure 13). The final courtyard was a "hollow square, inclosing a perfectly secure ground where the inmates can be at will in the open air and sunshine. Here they can grow plants, keep their pet birds and

animals and make it their home.”<sup>162</sup> When the second half of the building was completed in 1891, an enclosed area of more than one fourth of an acre provided outdoor space for shade trees as well as for gardening.<sup>163</sup>

The Toner Building, an infirmary or “hospital pavilion” south of the service buildings, was opened in 1890. The Toner Building was the first patient-care building facility constructed on this area of former farmland.<sup>164</sup> As with other buildings constructed during this period, efforts were made in the design and landscape of the building to give patients the opportunity to experience fresh air and sunshine. “The Toner Building [was] ... sufficiently removed from other departments of the institution to insure quiet and the absence of all unpleasant suggestions from the wards of the active and violent insane.” Efforts were made to facilitate the outdoor recreation of patients. “There are broad piazzas for the inmates, with windows to the floor opening on them. Then there are wide lawns, with great oaks and spreading beeches, where the convalescents may lie at ease in their shadow or sit and smoke and take in the healing that is in the air and sunshine. A pleasant walk through the fields, or through a well-lighted subterranean passage in inclement weather, connects this with the asylum world where it lies apart.”<sup>165</sup> J.M. Toner, president of the hospital’s board of visitors, gave St. Elizabeths a sundial to be placed on the grounds of the building bearing his name.<sup>166</sup>

That same year, a larger monetary gift provided funding for Burrows Cottage (Building no. 18), which was donated by Mrs. C.Z. Burrows, the mother of a private patient at the hospital. St. Elizabeths, like other public hospitals placed restrictions on admission of private patients. By donating money for the cottage, Mrs. Burrows ensured that her daughter would have continual care.<sup>167</sup> Burrows Cottage is the only patient building ever constructed north of the Center Building. The setting of Burrows Cottage offered both small and large canopy trees set within a turf grass ground plane with smaller landscape elements such as potted plants in baskets and urns near the building.<sup>168</sup> Also constructed that year was an engine house and tower (or firehouse; Building no. 41).<sup>169</sup>

With new buildings being constructed, plans for the growth of the hospital involved improving the existing circulation system. Road and pathway patterns and associated grounds underwent changes to accommodate the placement of future buildings.<sup>170</sup> The establishment of a road linking Toner to the older part of the hospital was a major alteration in circulation at the hospital around 1892. On the 1895 “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” a roadway extended south from the service area and looped north in front of Toner (see Figure 14). Major changes in the road from the hospital’s northern gate to the area south of the Center Building were necessitated by the construction of two

new buildings in 1893. The two pavilions, Dix nos. 1 and 2 (now Holly and Linden, Buildings nos. 29 and 28), were constructed for female epileptic patients were located immediately north of the East Lodge.<sup>171</sup> An earlier road, shown on both the 1860 Topographical Plan of the Grounds and on the 1895 Geodetic Survey reached the area behind the Center Building by a path north of the East Lodge. On both maps, the road was lined on each side with trees. As a result of the construction of the Dix Buildings, the road was diverted further south, generally as it is today. Subsequent depictions of the grounds, such as those accompanying the 1895 annual report, revealed the new course of the road south of the East Lodge and north of Atkins Hall. The alternating rows of evergreen and deciduous trees in the location of the original road remained standing after the removal of the road. Of these trees, the large allée of oaks has persisted into the present.

For administrative and therapeutic purposes, patient areas on the West Campus were divided into five groups by 1895, each of which housed related classifications of patients. In a few instances, the grounds associated with a group of buildings were differentiated or separated from the others. The “female department,” for example, included the East Wing of the main hospital building (Building no. 3), the East Lodge (Building no. 30), Burrows Cottage (Building no. 18), and the Dix buildings (Building nos. 29, 28, and 8, respectively). The annual report for 1895 stated that “This group has its own distinct grounds.”<sup>172</sup> Separation of the female department’s grounds may have been through the use of the single-rail fences that appear in photographs of the period. Howard Hall (no longer extant) comprised its own patient group and was “provided with grounds lying outside the building,” although again the manner of the separation is not specified. The “eastern group,” which included Atkins, Relief, Home, and the Detached Dining Hall (Building nos. 31, 32, 36, and 33, respectively), also had its own “distinct grounds, comprising about 8 acres, that are lightly inclosed [sic] to afford greater freedom to its occupants. The grounds have been tastefully laid out with graveled walks, planted with trees and flowering shrubs, and made attractive with convenient seats and shaded summer houses.”<sup>173</sup> J.C. Simpson, the head of the detached buildings group, later said that he was responsible for the landscape treatment, describing this area as “a little park that I made myself” (see Figures 10 and 15).<sup>174</sup> The “southern group” consisted of Toner and three buildings under construction (Oaks 1 and 2, also referred to as Oaks A and B, and the group’s kitchen; no longer extant; see Figure 16). Physically separated from the rest of the hospital buildings by a ravine, the group also received attention to the landscape, “All about the Toner Building outdoors is made inviting to the eye with its flowers and lawns and restful shadows.”<sup>175</sup> The final patient area was defined within the Center Building, with no identification of associated grounds.

Construction on four cottage-type pavilions organized around a small courtyard had progressed by 1898. The Allison buildings (Building nos. 23-26) were planned to house soldiers and sailors from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The ability for infirm patients to travel out of doors was a primary design requirement of the new complex. Connected to the Relief and Home buildings, the Allison buildings afforded “an indoor and outdoor provision... that is more liberal and inviting than anything that has hitherto been developed at St. Elizabeths.”<sup>176</sup> Simpson later stated that the Allison buildings were constructed within the detached buildings enclosure.<sup>177</sup> Photographs included in the annual report show fences surrounding the buildings and trees already in the yard (see Figure 9). Construction of the Allison buildings on the eastern grounds of St. Elizabeths reinforced the segregate care associated with this portion of the site. Also completed during 1898 was an enlargement of the Rest (Building no. 40).<sup>178</sup>

Beautification of the grounds with trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and bulbs continued to form an important activity in the late 1890s. The 1897 annual report thanks “Miss Tuckerman” for her “generous gift of flower seeds and bulbs.” Since the report states that, with this gift, “the female patients might be tempted to outdoor work,” it was possible that the superintendent planned for the seeds and bulbs to be used in the “female department” located in the East Wing of the main hospital building, the Dix Buildings, and Burrows Cottage.<sup>179</sup> The early plantings on the grounds became a source of pride for the hospital. By 1898, magnolia trees had been well enough established at St. Elizabeths for the annual report to boast that “the nation’s Capitol has no ivy-mantled towers and no southern magnolias than can compare with” those of the hospital.<sup>180</sup> A formal garden was laid out in a niche in the south façade of the Center Building. The garden contained a small basin with water lilies and a multistoried water fountain with plants cascading down the sides (see Figure 17).

Paving in the form of brick walks was also completed as a result of the constant development of the hospital. Godding requested the extension of the brick pavements in 1898, calling the work “essential to the proper policing and general tidy appearance of the whole.”<sup>181</sup>

Though construction activities were prevalent throughout Godding’s tenure, close attention was paid to the importance of the hospital’s setting and relationship to the downtown of Washington DC. In the annual report of 1880, Godding praised the site planning for the institution and noted, “While a hospital for the insane should be built apart from the town, that ought not to be hidden from view; there is less of the feeling of isolation when one looks upon the moving panorama of boats upon the river, and there is society in the evening lights of the city beyond; it is the calm presence of the world outside

without its distracting roar.”<sup>182</sup> In the early superintendence, the significance of the therapeutic value of landscape continued from Nichols superintendence into the early years of Godding’s tenure. He wrote, “No insane person is injured by natural beauty; greensward irritates no nerves however sensitive; those who pass by the flowers to-day may turn to them with delight to-morrow; so, it is well to widen our green lawns and brighten the walks with roses.”<sup>183</sup>

Expansion of facilities as well as hospital territory was a constant factor throughout the period. In fact, Godding’s last effort as superintendent of St. Elizabeths was an attempt to further expand the campus territory. In 1899, Godding sought to acquire some seventy acres of land southwest of the West Campus in order to separate “the insane of the Army and Navy... from the United States convict and District indigenous insane.”<sup>184</sup> The bill, authorizing the purchase of Wilson Park was reported by the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds in February but was not passed. Three months later, William Godding died on May 6.<sup>185</sup> His role was assumed by Dr. A.H. Witmer until a permanent candidate could be located. Godding’s legacy at the hospital continued with the search for funding in order to add “broad piazzas” to Atkins Hall. The piazzas were added in 1899 and served as a reminder of the deceased superintendent’s role in growing the campus.<sup>186</sup>

### *The Service Landscape*

The service landscape also expanded under the direction of Godding. Until this time, the service section of the hospital had been confined to the laundry, shops, and farm buildings at the edge of the ravine. Other service functions were located within the confines of the Center Building. However, as space was valued for the increasing numbers of patients, service functions such as a bakery, boiler house, kitchen, gas house, and greenhouse were relocated to smaller buildings throughout the hospital landscape.

Construction of the bakery (Building no. 46) and a boiler house (no longer extant) in 1878 removed these service functions from the Center Building and expanded the service area to the south. Removing the boilers from the Center Building required a system of pipes to carry the steam from the boiler house to the patient-care facilities. This pipe system eventually manifested itself in tunnels connecting the boilers and the patient buildings. While it is unclear when the first tunnels were built for St. Elizabeths, tunnels were recorded in the “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” that accompanies the 1898 annual report (see Figure 18).<sup>187</sup> A larger stone boiler house (later Ice Plant, Building no. 52) was constructed in the ravine south of the laundry and machine shop in 1892. The boiler house provided steam for heat and cooking in the hospital buildings and represented the progression of scientific advances at the hospital.<sup>188</sup>

In 1881, a “Gas House” was constructed south of the stables, as noted on the 1883 “Government Hospital for the Insane Ground Plan” (see Figure 11). Since the 1873 “Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane near Washington D.C.” (1873 Topographical Map) placed the gas house in the laundry and shop complex west of the stables, the 1881 gas house appears to be a new building and represents the continued expansion of St. Elizabeths’ service landscape.

Two years later, a kitchen was built and sited next to the bakery, expanding the service landscape in the immediate vicinity of the Center Building. The kitchen was connected to the Center Building with a covered passage through which the food cart was pushed into the hospital.<sup>189</sup>

Attempts were made to acquire funding to expand the greenhouse facilities in 1881 and again in 1888 to replace the greenhouse structure.<sup>190</sup> At the time of the second request, Godding noted that the “little wooden frame, never worthy of the name of greenhouse, but which, with a few cold frames, has for years furnished us all the bedding plants that have made our lawns beautiful.”<sup>191</sup> Two years later, however, it was still in use. The annual report for 1890, calling it a “propagating house,” reported that it had “for many years afforded us the early tomato and egg plants [sic], with hundreds of bedders for our lawns.”<sup>192</sup> However, by 1898 new greenhouse facilities had been built.

While additional structures were being built within the St. Elizabeths West Campus, other structures were removed from the landscape. In the late 1890s, the “old pens and outhouses” that were part of the piggery near the stables were removed to make room for a new laundry building.<sup>193</sup> Additionally, issues of subsurface settling led to the abandonment of the cabinet and machine or mechanic’s shop in 1892, although the structure remained standing. Settlement of the shop’s foundations made it unsafe for work to continue.<sup>194</sup> In the 1891-92 annual report, Godding reported that the troubles with the building were due to its construction partially over filled ground.<sup>195</sup> One year later in an unknown location and presumably on more stable ground, a small store was constructed and run for a time by a patient named Cutter.<sup>196</sup>

### *Agriculture and Land*

Agriculture and additional lands were of value to the hospital as an integral component to the patients’ economic and social life. As was his custom, Godding started each annual report with a statement of St. Elizabeths’ varied grounds. In 1880, he commented that workers expanded the hospital orchard during the year and that the vineyard had become productive. The annual harvest of grapes was about eight tons. In the same year a peach orchard, planted when Godding came to the hospital, began to yield its crop. Due to the

success of the first orchard, another 300 peach trees were laid out. These complemented the 300 standard pear trees and 400 apple trees in the old orchard.<sup>197</sup> Orchard areas were located on northern and southern portions of the plateau according to the 1895 Geodetic Survey (see Figure 13). Around 1880, a new piggery was established on a parcel outside of the West Campus which allowed for the transfer of the swine herd from the hospital grounds.<sup>198</sup> The important social function of the farm landscape cannot be overstated. In addition to the benefit of varied and diverse labor, Godding wrote that the farm “gives space for walks and recreation to a large proportion of the inmates, and is the most salubrious of all possible surroundings for so extensive a pile of buildings...The pleasing variety of country fields and woods is a relief to the necessarily monotonous life of the insane.”<sup>199</sup>

Though the agricultural lands provided important social functions, the land was often the first to be built upon for additional hospital facilities and buildings. The 1883-84 *Annual Report* requested \$6,000 from Congress to purchase additional farmland due to the increased number of hospital buildings constructed: “That portion of the hospital plateau which is best suited for farm products has been seriously encroached upon by the ground having been taken up to a considerable extent for the sites of detached buildings and by the widening of lawns and pleasure grounds about them.”<sup>200</sup> Associated with larger landscape changes in the late 1880s, the hospital’s “swine and neat cattle” were removed from the old stables near the hospital to a nearby farm by 1889.<sup>201</sup> The stables were used by the hospital’s horses, mules, farm wagons, carriages, and agricultural implements.<sup>202</sup>

In 1891, the hospital campus expanded with the purchase of additional grounds. St. Elizabeths purchased more than 400 acres of farmland approximately five miles to the south at the mouth of Oxon Creek.<sup>203</sup> The farm would come to be known as Godding Croft. Additional lands were needed as an increasing patient population required more land for housing and agriculture to feed the large resident population. Godding Croft would also be used for patient therapy. Here patients could work on the farm, which provided another therapeutic setting for the patients.<sup>204</sup>

### *St. Elizabeths Infrastructure*

During this twenty-two-year time period, systematic upgrades occurred in order to improve the campus infrastructure, especially the water systems. The acquisition and storage of water was a perennial issue for the hospital. At this time, water was acquired both from springs on the site and from the Anacostia River. Three springs in ravines provided excellent drinking water, which was conveyed by the “somewhat primitive” method of an inmate bucket brigade.<sup>205</sup> This system of hauling water via bucket from the downhill springs

to the buildings located on the upland plateau illustrates the early, non-mechanized potable water system.

Water used in the hospital for all other purposes was pumped from the Anacostia River. Water storage was augmented by the construction of a reservoir associated with a boiler house (no longer extant) in 1878. An 1883 plan of the hospital buildings located the boiler house and a new bakery (Building no. 46) directly behind the West Wing (Building no. 3) near the Dawes extension (no longer extant). The reservoir was connected to a pump at the riverside wall by a six-inch pipe. Additionally, an unknown number of hydrants were placed around the hospital buildings and connected to the reservoir in case of fire.<sup>206</sup>

During fiscal year 1883, the superintendent secured better water for the hospital “by sinking a series of artesian or tubular wells near the pumping station at the river within the hospital grounds.”<sup>207</sup> Eighteen two-inch wells were dug 325’ to 350’ deep. Underground pipes carried the water through a patent sand-chamber into a common reservoir. The reservoir was a cylinder of boiler-iron, which was in the pump house.<sup>208</sup>

A second reservoir was constructed in the early 1890s to the south of the Center Building. The new basin was for fire protection and replaced the naturalistic and scenic irregularly shaped duck pond directly to the south of the main building. This circular brick basin was 90 feet in diameter and had a capacity of 200,000 gallons of water.<sup>209</sup> The location of the former duck pond is seen on the 1873 “Topographical Map” of St. Elizabeths, while the more regularly shaped reservoir is shown on Figure 13. The 1898 annual report included a plat that focused on the “Home Tract” and illustrated the completed basin (see Figure 18). The plat also depicted a star-shaped pattern of walks within the loop of roadway that included the reservoir.<sup>210</sup>

Another water feature was extant on the West Campus grounds during the late 1880s and 1890s. The kidney shaped pond was located to the northeast of the Center building viewed from the double oak allées of the entrance drive. This landscape feature may have also been used for water retention. Included on the maps in Figures 13 and 21, the pond has a small island in its center serving as a naturalistic, scenic feature.

The riverside setting of the hospital underwent changes in the early 1890s as the federal government began filling the tidal flats along the Anacostia River. In the process, “mud bars were thrown up, to cut off the swash channel on the river front adjoining the hospital grounds.”<sup>211</sup> The work had unexpected consequences for St. Elizabeths and likely the hospital water supply. At low tides, “broad surfaces of mud, with acres of decomposing vegetable matter,”

were exposed, resulting “in an unusual number of malarial cases among our inmates and employés [sic].”<sup>212</sup>

During 1897, a new source of water was found as changes were made to the topography of the hospital. Non-potable water was provided by a pump house built in 1894 near the Anacostia River; however, a secure source of drinking water was necessary. A pure spring was located in “a spot in a grove on the western slope of the hill, always springy and unaffected by dry weather.” The spring emanated from a vein of gravel and silver sand that lay under the plateau at an approximate depth of 40’. Although the spring provided a low flow, the spring’s runnels were consolidated into basins and brought to a central reservoir with pipes (see Figure 20). Even during the driest period, the spring produced a daily flow of about 5,000 gallons. “Every possible source of defilement has been guarded against, the hole carefully walled in and closed up, and now from this central reservoir is obtained all the water for tea and coffee and drinking purposes of the entire household.”<sup>213</sup> Protection of springs was a necessary precaution at the hospital. At an earlier date, the largest spring known as “Maple Spring” began to become contaminated as a result of the filling of a ravine.<sup>214</sup>

### **Richardson Landscape, 1899-1903**

Though brief, the Alonzo Richardson period was important in the development of the campus that set in place the plans for the final campus expansion to the south. While the planning took place in these years, the majority of implementation and construction followed under Superintendent White, Richardson’s successor. The following narrative is chronologically organized with respect to the thematic topics of Richardson’s era.

#### *A Growing Need for Improvements and Additional Facilities*

By the time Dr. Alonzo B. Richardson began his tenure as superintendent on October 17, 1899, St. Elizabeths had already been in operation for forty-four years.<sup>215</sup> The hospital grounds and many buildings displayed signs of continual use and infrastructure needed renewal. In September 1900, heavy rains caused the tunnel from the boiler house (Building no. 52) to collapse beneath the laundry (Building no. 49). At the time, construction of a store building left an opening in the twenty-five- to thirty-foot deep tunnel for access. The hard, torrential rains overflowed into the tunnel through the access opening and undermined the sand stratum serving as the tunnel foundation. Consequently, the tunnel caved in immediately under the laundry for a distance of 50’ or 60’. Considerable expenses were expended to repair and to protect the building from collapse.<sup>216</sup>

In addition, the growing numbers of patients at St. Elizabeths had strained the existing infrastructure, specifically the sanitary sewer system. The old sewer

line was often exposed, with “unpleasant features” discharging into low, marshy ground of the adjacent Anacostia River.<sup>217</sup> Improvements were made with a complete overhaul in the hospital sewer system that was completed by October 2, 1900. The new main line was constructed of twenty-four-inch diameter vitrified glazed tile pipe encased in 4” to 6” of concrete, which discharged through a wall into the river. The discharge point was much improved, being lower than the water elevation of low tide, so it would never be exposed. This infrastructure renewal laid the initial groundwork needed for future facilities expansion.

Other sanitary issues regarding the Anacostia River became a concern for the health and welfare of patients and staff. In 1900, Superintendent Richardson complained to Congress about the “Anacostia flats from the junction of that stream with the Potomac River to the railroad bridge of the Pennsylvania Railroad” stating that the area was a breeding ground for malaria and a threat to the health of the patients at the institution.<sup>218</sup> The flats bordered the hospital to the west, covering an area a half mile wide with shallow water. “[D]uring the summer season they become covered with a rank growth of weeds and water moss, which decays as autumn comes on.”<sup>219</sup> Although some work had been done in previous periods, Richardson sought to remedy the situation by asking Congress to deepen and widen the channel of the Anacostia River and fill the flats—a process that was done previously for the Potomac River.

By the end of 1900, Congress had approved an expansion of St. Elizabeths to accommodate an additional 1,000 patients and 200 employees. To house these additional residents, the hospital’s Board of Visitors sought building plans for the expansion from six architectural firms. The Board received five submissions, but found none of the submitted plans satisfactory. Two additional firms were approached, and the Boston-based firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge was ultimately selected. However, some debate ensued on where the new buildings should be located. The Board of Visitors advocated the purchase of additional land for construction, while others envisioned that hospital-owned land would be used for the expansion.<sup>220</sup> To resolve this matter, expert advice was sought with landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

#### *Olmsted Planning*

In December 1900, Superintendent Richardson invited Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to visit the St. Elizabeths campus at the suggestion of architect Henry Richardson Shepley.<sup>221</sup> Olmsted visited St. Elizabeths about two months later, making notes of his impressions

Present grounds are much cluttered and confused in arrangement not only of buildings but of trees, shrubs, roads, paths, etc. Buildings are too closely arranged for proper separation of different classes of patients, better provision for independent exercise and recreation grounds for different classes separate from each other and from visitors, etc., very desirable. Dr. Richardson wants to clear out some of the clutter of stuff from the inner (and now rear) court of the main group. As to uses of various buildings see notes on topo. Land across road (car tracks) is bare farm land. The farm is desirable for use of patients and should be kept free of buildings on that account as well as because buildings ought not to be separated by highway.<sup>222</sup>

Olmsted made his report to Richardson on January 15, 1901, making two points—a discussion of the campus as it existed at the time followed by recommendations for future building sites. In terms of the appearance of the campus at that time, Olmsted found the “buildings forming the principal group...huddled about in the vicinity of the great main building with no regard for agreeable or even orderly appearance and...without proper regard for the various uses to which the buildings are put and the interference of these uses with each other.” A topographical survey of the campus depicted the situation confronted by Olmsted (see Figure 21). The resulting effect was one of confusion, as Olmsted described the “rather bald and uncompromising design” of the buildings and their layout that prevented the ability to form a picturesque landscape. He found that the juxtaposition of buildings and building use unnecessarily mixed patients, visitors, staff and services, and administration functions and often “prevent[ed] the patients’ obtaining the amount of outdoor exercise considered essential to their physical health and mental improvement.” Olmsted’s recommendation was to improve the appearance of the grounds by eliminating some minor structures and by simplifying the path and road system and the tree and shrub plantations.

In the second part of the report, Olmsted discussed several possible sites for new construction including the areas north and northwest of the Center Building. This area offered “commanding noble prospects” with “two nearly level spurs making out toward the Potomac.” However, though the area was quite suitable for additional buildings, it was also the “only available exercising ground adjacent to the two great wings of the main building, a purpose which they seem to serve admirably.” As such, Olmsted dismissed using the site for building space.

The area northeast of the Center Building was also examined by Olmsted as a potential building site. At the time of Olmsted’s report in 1901, the level area was used as a garden (see Figure 23). However, Olmsted found that the

“proximity to the highway would interfere with its use” for a patient building due to the noise and distraction of the nearby street for the residing patients as well as the “sometimes unseemly conduct” of the patients to the passing public. Olmsted did recommend that the site and the entire frontage of the property along the public road be used for staff and employee dwellings, with the possibility of “other buildings used by patients only temporarily and when under perfect control.”

Olmsted addressed two other possible building sites on the West Campus, one located at the “outer end of the ridge occupied by the hospital group and the other is the spur just to the south of it. The former could support one considerable building, and the latter a second, or perhaps two of smaller size. It appears then that there are on the land west of the street at most three good sites that can be occupied by buildings for patients.”<sup>223</sup> A 1901 site plan showing potential locations of new buildings submitted with the report by Olmsted places two buildings along Nichols Avenue, a third on the spur at the southernmost edge of hospital property (location of current Building no. 68), and a fourth in the ravine west of that site (see Figure 24).<sup>224</sup>

The Olmsted report also discussed the ground of St. Elizabeths in a more contextual manner. The farmland east of Nichols Avenue was addressed as a potential building site, but was rejected based on the busy roadway separating the two parts of the campus, the bareness of the landscape, and the need for productive farmland to provide food for the patients. Instead, the report advocated acquiring the property south of the hospital for building purposes, which Godding had sought to acquire in 1899.<sup>225</sup> Additionally, the report mentioned plans by the city of Washington DC to extend the street grid to the area around St. Elizabeths. To respond to the proposed circulation system, recommendations were made to create an organized relationship between the new St. Elizabeths buildings and the future streets or “that the plat of future streets should be changed to relate to the proposed hospital buildings.”<sup>226</sup>

#### *Circulation Improvements*

Implementation of circulation improvements began in certain locations before Olmsted was consulted on the expansion of the hospital. By the end of 1900, the location of the southern entrance from Nichols Avenue was relocated to a more convenient point east of the Toner building. The old gate was removed and the opening in the perimeter wall closed. With the construction of the new entrance, it was thought that the point would become the main entrance to the grounds.<sup>227</sup> The 1899 “Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing location and number of buildings on Home Tract” depicts this new entrance opposite the Toner building (see Figure 12).<sup>228</sup> The new entrance was documented by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. during his December 26 visit to St. Elizabeths. The entrance lane was flanked by masonry walls extending

from the stone perimeter wall with six masonry piers marking the actual entrance. A small frame building stands just beyond the piers and probably acted as a gatehouse.<sup>229</sup>

Additional improvement projects were also carried out to increase the efficiency of transportation necessary for service operations. To facilitate the delivery of coal to the hospital, St. Elizabeths was connected to the railroad during 1901. The construction of the 4,400-foot long railroad switch, linking the Alexandria branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to the boiler house of the hospital, experienced some setbacks as heavy rains formed landslides in the fill on which the railroad spur was located. Mr. John Jacoby oversaw the construction of the spur with two sidings, each about 500' in length, and a trestle located at the power house for dumping coal. Track scales for weighing cars were also placed on the siding near the hospital's pump house.<sup>230</sup>

That same year the railroad spur was constructed, a new road was built to link the rail spur to the hospital grounds. The road connected the railroad siding at the boiler house to the proposed area for building expansion, passing by the store building. Comprised of macadam with asphalt block around the store building, the grade of the road did not exceed five percent, allowing for the hill near the hospital workshops to be graded, cleared of rubbish and sown in grass, giving the grounds a much improved appearance.<sup>231</sup> Given the description of the road, it is not clear whether the road ran directly from the boiler house up the ravine slope to the shop area or descended west along the ravine, turning sharply behind Howard Hall before climbing a more gradual hill to the service area. The railroad spur and both these routes appear to be present in the 1904 plan accompanying the hospital's annual report (see Figure 25). The direct route does not appear on other site plans of the hospital and does not currently exist. The existing retaining walls at the boiler house may date from this work, or from the construction of the railroad spur, since they appear on the 1904 site plan.

#### *Infrastructure Improvements*

Developments in the infrastructure system were needed before the approved building expansion could occur at St. Elizabeths. In 1901, "a large amount of drain tile...about the rear of the hospital for the drainage of the courts about the domestic buildings, the groups of detached buildings, and the site of the proposed extension" was installed for the preparation of the future work.<sup>232</sup>

Also completed during the year was the "new waterworks" consisting of six drilled wells located near the Anacostia River. Each well was connected to the 120,000-gallon reservoir adjoining the pump room. Water from the wells was extracted using new pumps located in a 43'-0" x 25'-0" pumping station

addition (no longer extant) to a 60,000-gallon water tower on the plateau.<sup>233</sup> According to the 1904 plan of the hospital, the eighty-foot tall water tower stood between the laundry and the Toner Building.<sup>234</sup> A new pipe to draw water from the Anacostia River was also installed to provide for fire fighting. Thirty-five hydrants were installed around the hospital buildings and “[h]ose carts with 150 to 200 feet of hose on each will be located at convenient points about the building and grounds.”<sup>235</sup>

### *Building Expansion and New Construction*

With the Olmsted recommendations in hand and improvements to circulation and infrastructure underway, the approved building expansion could begin. Work on several smaller service and agricultural structures was completed first. Subsequent projects included demolition of the old boiler house and the erection of a central storehouse, a kitchen for the cottage-plan buildings (Building no. 34), and a cold-storage plant across from the circular reservoir (Building no. 44).<sup>236</sup> Work had also begun on a stable located to the east of Nichols Avenue. Once complete, plans were made to demolish the old stable near the laundry, standing since 1857, and create a lawn on the former site, “adding greatly to the attractiveness and healthfulness of the rear court about the domestic buildings of the hospital.”<sup>237</sup> The old stable was removed and replaced with lawn in 1902; reconstruction work on the roads and walks in this area was also carried out at this time.<sup>238</sup>

In preparation for the hospital expansion, contracts were approved and signed in 1901 for the construction of twelve new buildings to expand hospital facilities. “It is proposed at present to locate, on the present building site of the hospital, near its southeast corner and near the Toner Building group, eight of these buildings...and to place the remaining four buildings on the east side of Nichols avenue, directly opposite them and about 300 feet from the avenue.”<sup>239</sup> Contracts were also approved for a new a gas machine for the laundry, allowing for the removal of the old gas production and storage facility, “which have become antiquated and are eyesores in the park to the rear of the hospital buildings.”<sup>240</sup>

Before the hospital expansion could adequately progress, a new facility was needed to reduce overcrowding while construction of the new hospital buildings took place. Built to temporarily house patients during this construction process, a frame building called the Annex with a 120-patient capacity, was located immediately south of Howard Hall. After the new buildings were constructed, the Annex was to be employed for other purposes.<sup>241</sup>

A more significant setback occurred before the full build-out of the new hospital buildings could start. Superintendent Alonzo B. Richardson, the

driving force behind the planned improvements and expansion, died suddenly on June 27, 1903.<sup>242</sup> Dr. William Alanson White was soon appointed as the next superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane. White would oversee the continued expansion of St. Elizabeths.

### **White Landscape, 1903-37**

With Richardson's death in the middle of an expansive construction project, Dr. William Alanson White, then assistant superintendent at Binghamton State Hospital in New York, was appointed superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital by President Theodore Roosevelt on October 1, 1903.<sup>243</sup> White oversaw the landscape development of the south areas of the plateau into a long narrow common and a series of small green spaces with cottage buildings clustered around them. He also presided over the legitimization of the name "St. Elizabeths." After more than a half-century of informal use, St. Elizabeths became the official name for the hospital in the appropriations bill signed on July 1, 1916, "After the passage of this Act the Government Hospital for the Insane shall be known and designated as Saint Elizabeths Hospital."<sup>244</sup> White died on March 7, 1937, and was briefly replaced by Acting Superintendent Dr. Roscoe W. Hall before Dr. Winfred Overholser took command in October of that year.

### *Expansion of Facilities and Changes in Spatial Organization*

The addition of new buildings on the southern half of the western grounds changed the spatial organization immensely during the early twentieth century. By 1904, eleven patient-care facilities planned for the hospital expansion were complete including the "lettered" buildings J, L, K, I, M, C, and B (Building nos. 60, 64, 66, 68, 72, 73, and 75). The central focus of this campus expansion was the new Administration Building (Building A, Building no. 74; Figure 26) Additionally, the Toner Kitchen (no longer extant) and the new Power, Heating, and Lighting Plant (Building no. 56) with a 225-foot high smoke stack were also completed (see Figure 27).<sup>245</sup> Although the building construction was complete, the new facilities were not occupied due to the lack of water and sewer connections, paint, and walkways. The hospital requested and received additional funding to complete the work, including extension of the sewer and water systems from the west side of the hospital to the new buildings on the east side.<sup>246</sup>

With the planning suggestions by Olmsted and the new campus alterations underway, it became apparent that some older buildings were unsuitable in their original locations. As a result, relocating existing buildings was also undertaken during this time to create a better functioning campus. In 1904 the mortuary and pathological laboratory (the Rest, Building no. 40) was moved from its original position located west of the detached kitchen (Building no. 34) across the road to the former stables site.<sup>247</sup> The following year, the fire

house (Building no. 41) was moved in attempts to further reorganize the grounds south of the Center Building (see Figure 28). Relocating the fire house to the southeast opened the grounds between the Center Building and the new buildings of the hospital extension. Also, the move partially hid several of the older buildings from views from the Center Building.

To control the development of the hospital, the Secretary of the Interior appointed a six-member committee on December 23, 1910 to develop a policy for the future growth of hospital. The committee included the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Navy, the Attorney General, and representatives from the commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Board of Visitors of St. Elizabeths.<sup>248</sup>

Construction projects continued throughout the grounds during the early years of the century. In 1910, the Annex, the temporary building constructed to relieve overcrowding during the hospital expansion, was demolished.<sup>249</sup> Five buildings (no longer extant) for tuberculosis patients had been completed adjacent to Building J (Building no. 66) by June 1914.<sup>250</sup> In the service area, two one-story wings were added to the laundry building, and its unused smokestack was taken down.<sup>251</sup> Work began in 1917 to enlarge the old boiler house (Building no. 52) to use as an icehouse. The work involved shortening the existing smoke stack to “half its height.”<sup>252</sup> The following year work was completed on the boiler house conversion and progress was made on a new shop and storehouse building north of Howard Hall (Building no. 12; Figure 29). Two new buildings, the Red Cross building and the Knights of Columbus building were constructed in 1920.<sup>253</sup>

The first large-scale expansion of facilities on the grounds of the East Campus also took place during the White era. The first patient buildings were constructed there in 1904, with subsequent additions throughout the twentieth century. In 1916, the Barrett House, formerly used by a herdsman, was moved to the East Campus and remodeled for use as a store, later known as the Canteen (Building no. 39).<sup>254</sup> A few years later, work began and finished on a series of seven semi-permanent buildings to accommodate 504 patients, along with a dining hall and kitchen.<sup>255</sup> Much later in 1936, two additional buildings were erected on the east grounds.<sup>256</sup> Future expansion throughout the latter half of the twentieth century would be concentrated on the East Campus.

While most construction was centered on new facilities for residents, some buildings were also erected for employee and staff use. In 1924 an employee’s cafeteria (Building no. 70) was established near the subway or underpass at Nichols Avenue.<sup>257</sup> A year later, seven cottages (Building nos. 15, 17, 27, 67,

and 76) were built to house hospital staff. These cottages were located around the hospital and occupied “by the chiefs of the various adjacent services.”<sup>258</sup>

Despite the new construction at St. Elizabeths, Superintendent White requested additional Congressional funding to maintain hospital operations. The request was denied due to new legislation that allowed the Veterans’ Bureau to hospitalize mentally ill servicemen in its own facilities, thereby reducing the burden on St. Elizabeths.<sup>259</sup> However, while this legislation should have reduced the number of patients at the hospital, St. Elizabeths continued to be overcrowded despite the increase in new facilities. White estimated that the hospital housed 500 more patients than the facility was designed to accommodate.<sup>260</sup>

Smaller changes on the facades of the hospital buildings also changed the spatial relationship between the buildings and the landscape. For example, many open-air porches were enclosed during this time period as the extra space was needed for the increasing numbers of patients. In 1910, the open porches of the cottage-plan buildings began to be enclosed for use as sun parlors and wards for tuberculosis patients.<sup>261</sup> The north porch of Oaks A was enclosed in 1914 and used as a dining room.<sup>262</sup> The porch surrounding Oaks B (no longer extant) was enclosed in 1917, while the porches of Retreat, a Dix building, and Allison D were converted for use in 1925 as dayrooms, wards, or dining rooms.<sup>263</sup> The porches of Allison A were enclosed in 1934 to provide more dormitory space.<sup>264</sup> Also in the 1930s, New Deal funding was secured to enlarge and enclose the porch of Oaks A using mostly brick and concrete. The installation of brick and concrete porches continued throughout the decade on Dawes, Garfield, and the Allison buildings.<sup>265</sup>

### *Linkages Through Circulation*

With the expansion in the hospital facilities from 1903-37 new circulation routes were needed and older circulation routes were modified to connect new buildings and outdoor spaces. Perhaps the most dramatic change within the St. Elizabeths circulation system was the creation of a link between the East and West Campuses. The expansion and construction of buildings east of Nichols Avenue necessitated a “subway” beneath Nichols Avenue in 1904 (see Figure 30). As an extension of the road system, the underpass was created of 4,160 “linear feet of macadam road, 16 feet wide and 6 inches thick... connecting the west side of the grounds with the east side of Nichols avenue.”<sup>266</sup> The new road linked to the older drives at the Center Building and passed new buildings A, B, C, M, E, R, I, N, and P with 2,360 linear feet of cobble gutter.<sup>267</sup>

Construction of new roads and walks in the area of the hospital’s expansion continued on both sides of Nichols Avenue during the following two years.

About 1,500 linear feet of macadam driveways was laid with about 2,000' of granolithic sidewalk in 1905.<sup>268</sup> A temporary wooden walk was also constructed between buildings Q and E to connect with the main walks.<sup>269</sup> By June 30, 1906, about 3,550 linear feet concrete walks had been laid from the pathological laboratory to the Nurses' Home and along the front of buildings N, P, and M. In addition, 8,250' of cobblestone gutter was laid along 1,800'-0" of macadam road, spanning 12'-0" wide, and about 300 linear feet, 10'-0" wide along buildings J, K, L, the Toner kitchen, and Oaks 1 and 2.<sup>270</sup>

Work progressed on the construction of new roads and walks at St. Elizabeths in the early 1900s. In 1907, a macadam road was resurfaced at the rear of buildings A, B, C, and M and 2,800 linear feet cobblestone gutter and 300 linear feet of concrete walk was added.<sup>271</sup> Two years later, a vitrified block roadway with granite curbs was completed near the laundry. Adjacent grounds were graded and seeded with turf grass and concrete walks were also built.<sup>272</sup> A year later, 200 square yards of vitrified block pavement was laid near the rear of building A and about 544 square yards was laid near the new bakery extension. In addition, much pavement and curb was reset and relaid in the vicinity of the bakery extension, including 184 square yards of asphalt block, 182 linear feet of curb, and 124 yards of brick pavement.<sup>273</sup> Concrete walks were constructed around buildings J, K, L, Oaks A and B in 1907, at the main entrance of A building and at the side entrance of building B in 1910 (see Figure 31). In 1912, about 950' of five-foot wide concrete walks was laid with 1,700 linear feet of granite curb around the Allison group.<sup>274</sup>

Major alterations in the circulation sequence occurred in 1912 with the construction of a new entrance gate at St. Elizabeths. Although the southern entrance to the hospital grounds had been shifted to a location behind the site of the Administration building in 1900, plans were made during fiscal year 1912 to move the entrance back to the north. This "new permanent entrance" was located "at a point about 200 feet north of the present south entrance, a road has been graded and paved with brick to the new location, and an inset has been provided for in the wall" (see Figure 32).<sup>275</sup> Two years later in 1914, the new southern entrance to the hospital was established with a newly completed drive, with only the new gatehouse and gates needed to be built.<sup>276</sup> Over the next decade, it appears that both the old and new southern entrances were used by St. Elizabeths. The 1900 southern entrance to the hospital was permanently closed in 1924 when the perimeter wall at the rear of the Administration Building was extended and filled in with a "stone wall to match the old wall as nearly as possible."<sup>277</sup> The gatehouse for the south entrance was completed shortly thereafter in 1926.<sup>278</sup>

Though major work was done on the roads and drives of St. Elizabeths, the construction of walks for pedestrians also shaped and changed the St.

Elizabeths landscape. The underpass beneath Nichols Avenue was used extensively by “employees, patients, and their friends to shorten their entrance and exit from the hospital grounds or going from one part of the grounds to another.”<sup>279</sup> As a result, concrete walks were laid in 1909 “along the subway” between the east and west parts of the campus. In addition, “[t]he slopes of the cut through the subway have been sodded, and about 800 linear feet of concrete wall built along the foot of these slopes.”<sup>280</sup> In 1913, an iron railing was constructed “at the head on both sides of the subway leading across Nichols Avenue for additional safety, and a gate was installed at the east entrance to the subway, which was locked at night to keep out the “undesirable class of vehicles which in the dusk traverse the grounds at full speed, endangering the residents of this reservation.”<sup>281</sup> Years later in 1918, continued use by patients and staff required the construction of concrete steps leading from the underpass to the road on the east side of Nichols Avenue.<sup>282</sup>

Continual maintenance was required on the sizeable circulation system, and several sections of roads, walks, and gutters were re-laid and resurfaced in the 1910s and 1920s. Around the Allison buildings, 1,300 linear feet of old cobble gutters were replaced with brick gutters in 1912.<sup>283</sup> Brick gutters were constructed in 1913 between the Center Building and the Administration Building.<sup>284</sup> Roads connecting the nurses’ home (Building no. 69) to the Richardson group and those surrounding the Richardson group were resurfaced, while the drive to the Toner kitchen was paved in concrete. The completion of a concrete retaining wall along the porch from Oaks to the Toner kitchen was also a part of the completed construction work during this time.<sup>285</sup>

The widespread use of automobiles throughout the mid to late 1920s resulted in additional changes to the roadways of St. Elizabeths. The original roads of the grounds “require[d] considerable overhauling and widening in order to accommodate automobile traffic.”<sup>286</sup> In addition to widening drives for automobiles, the pavement surface changed from macadam to concrete, resulting in a different appearance and character. By 1924, many roads had been widened with new concrete curbs for a total of 34,575 square feet of concrete laid.<sup>287</sup> Reconditioning of older roads and building of new concrete roads progressed throughout the late 1920s. In 1925, a total of 85,000 square feet of roads were found throughout the grounds with newly constructed drives including a road spanning from C building to R building, a road from C building to the Red Cross building, and a road from Atkins Hall to the first entrance gate.<sup>288</sup> The following year, an additional 40,100 square feet of concrete roads were built, along with 1,450 linear feet of concrete curb.<sup>289</sup>

The transition from macadam to concrete roads continued and the square footage of concrete pavement increased immensely from 1925-29. Continued

efforts to build concrete roads at the hospital stemmed from inadequacies in the previous roads “built before the advent of automobiles” with narrower widths and insufficient “foundation to withstand the wear and tear of heavy machines.”<sup>290</sup> In 1927, new roads were constructed from the Red Cross building to the Toner Kitchen and the Oaks Building and from the north gate to the front of the Center Building.<sup>291</sup> The following year, several segments of roads and walks were built. These included roads and walks in front of and to the side of Allison A, a drive and associated curves in front of B and C buildings, a road from the rear of Q Building to the cafeteria, a service drive entrance to the old tin shop, and a road from Toner kitchen surrounding the Toner Building.<sup>292</sup> By 1929, construction of new segments of concrete drives continued with curbs and roads built in front of E building (Building no. 69), behind the Toner Building and Toner kitchen, and from K Building around the Oaks buildings. Concrete roads were also built behind M, C, A, and B buildings (Building nos. 72-75; see Figure 33).<sup>293</sup> During this same time, remaining macadam roads were repaired and rolled.<sup>294</sup>

Construction of concrete walks also occurred toward the end of this period, but to a lesser degree. Only two walks are documented with construction periods in the late 1920s, including the walk to the rear of Atkins Hall in 1927 and the walks around the porches of building Q (Building no. 68) in 1929.<sup>295</sup>

The onset of the Great Depression curbed the bustling development and construction of the concrete roadways and walks at St. Elizabeths. Limited activity occurred during this time, with the exception of the construction of a new concrete road in 1936 from the general kitchen to Howard Hall for fire equipment access. The same year, concrete walks were laid between C and M buildings and between I and M.<sup>296</sup>

#### *Infrastructure and Service Facilities*

Updating utilities and infrastructure for efficiency at St. Elizabeths was crucial in the expansion process. New power, heating, water, and sewer systems were installed and augmented throughout the years to accommodate increased patient and staff usage. Construction of service buildings, tunnels, and small-scale elements changed the character of the landscape with new structures and features such as lampposts for exterior lighting. Advances in technology and infrastructure shaped the evolution of the West Campus of St. Elizabeths from 1899-1937.

One substantial project during this time was the expansion and enlargement of the powerhouse. The new power plant (Building no. 56) began its operation during 1904, providing heat for the new buildings and electricity for the entire hospital. The steam pipes and electrical conduit for the new powerhouse were run in a wood shaft that connected to the system of tunnels running to the new

hospital buildings.<sup>297</sup> The older boiler house (Building no. 52) continued its operations, providing heat for the older buildings of the hospital. In 1909, an expansion of the power plant was underway with an addition called a “new boiler house” (Building no. 57) which was completed the following year.<sup>298</sup> The addition centralized all heating and lighting operations for the campus. Upon the opening of the new boiler house, the former boiler house (Building no. 52) was abandoned, though new concrete tunnels were created to link the new power plant to the older sections of the hospital.<sup>299</sup> A plan of the electrical ducts and tunnels was completed in 1910 (see Figure 34).

Upgrades to the utility systems were also carried out at this time. Work on installing “vitrified conduit” for electrical wiring in the steam tunnels was carried out in 1911. To accommodate the increased wiring and electricity, three transformer houses were constructed behind Building A.<sup>300</sup> Work continued in upgrading the heat and electrical distribution system of the hospital in 1915. “The old wooden aqueducts in back of the power house and south of the old boiler house, which formerly carried all steam and hot-water pipes and electric wires...which [are] a menace...highly flammable and in a dangerous condition, have been abandoned and torn down. The pipes and wires in these aqueducts have been transferred to concrete tunnels in connection with the remodeling of the power, heating, and lighting plant.”<sup>301</sup>

In association with the new power plant and the enlarged electrical capacity of the campus, St. Elizabeths embarked on lighting its grounds for the first time with a system of arc lights. A temporary circuit was constructed in 1904 with 2,073'-0" of conduit, eleven poles, and six lights. This temporary circuit was expanded in 1905 with twenty-two arc lights and plans for the installation of one or two more lights completed over the course of the following year.<sup>302</sup> The decorative metal lamp posts were placed along important segments of roads and paths (see Figure 30). The two planned additions to the lighting were carried out—“one in the triangle between J and K buildings and the other opposite M building.”<sup>303</sup> Some of these early lampposts remained in use up to 1957.<sup>304</sup>

By 1917, the centralization of the power, heat, and electricity generation at the power house was completed. The power house was fueled by burning coal, and ashes left over from burning the coal were pumped into a tank outside the power house and then transported to “the ash dump.” The large amounts of coal needed to heat the campus dictated a large reinforced steel storing facility built on to north side of the power house, extending the full length of the power house with three lines of railroad track.<sup>305</sup> A new coal silo was constructed in 1935, likely located near the power house. However, by this point in time, the hospital began the transition away from the use of coal to

gas by installing gas ranges in some kitchens and a gas heating plant in the greenhouse complex.<sup>306</sup>

As new buildings were constructed and completed through the era, new tunnels were dug to connect them to the heating and power systems. Three such tunnels extended from B building (Building 75) to the cow barn on the East Campus in 1922, from Home and Relief buildings in 1927, and to the East Campus to connect to the tuberculosis building and the first two of several “continuous treatment” buildings in 1931.<sup>307</sup> The reinforced concrete tunnel built from the powerhouse to the new construction on the East Campus was 6’-6” high, 6’-0” wide, and almost 5,000’ long.<sup>308</sup>

Laying sewer lines also took place during this time period. The erection of two public comfort stations on the grounds of the West Campus in 1905 required the associated sewer lines spanning 925’-0” across the detached buildings enclosure. Sewer lines from the adjacent buildings were designed to “drain two new public-comfort stations and closets for greenhouse and gatehouse, located at the north entrance of the grounds.”<sup>309</sup> Installation of this line was difficult due to the low elevation of the grounds.

Sewer projects were also carried out in the early 1920s when several sewer lines were replaced with concrete because tree roots had grown through the original terra-cotta sewer pipe.<sup>310</sup> In 1930, plans were made to extend the District of Columbia sewer system into the hospital grounds, thus eliminating the need for the discharge point into the Anacostia.<sup>311</sup> Sewer construction throughout the 1930s presumably connected to the District’s sewer system. In 1936, New Deal funding granted funds for the construction of a new storm sewer from the head of the power house ravine to a point below the incinerator.<sup>312</sup>

Improving water sources and availability throughout the West Campus was a third principal infrastructure renewal project during this era. Though water sources were secured during the late nineteenth century, expansions to the hospital required expansions in water service for emergency purposes and patient health and hygiene.

A new 225,000-gallon capacity concrete reservoir was built at the water pumping station along the river in 1906.<sup>313</sup> The following year, the earlier pump house along the river was torn down and the wooden crib surrounding the sump pump was replaced with a concrete pit measuring 16 square feet. The river water from this pit was pumped “directly into the fountain basin at the rear of the main building” for use in fighting fires.<sup>314</sup> In addition, nineteen new fire hydrants were installed in 1914, and seven of the old hydrants were relocated.<sup>315</sup> The water pumped from the river and held in the new reservoir

was shared with the army aviation camp and the navy hydroplane camp located on the adjacent Bolling Field along the Anacostia River (see Figure 35).<sup>316</sup>

In 1911, the hospital was connected to the District of Columbia water system, which had recently been extended to Nichols Avenue. The city water connection was intended only as a supplement to the hospital's own artesian well water.<sup>317</sup> However, by 1932, the entire St. Elizabeths campus was connected to the District's water system as a means of furnishing the entire water system.<sup>318</sup>

Furnishing fresh water for patients through drinking fountains rather than water coolers became a priority as patient health concerns arose. Drinking fountains began to be installed on the campus in 1910 when "[a]n automatic drinking fountain" was purchased.<sup>319</sup> Subsequent numbers of drinking fountains were installed in 1917, including "one near the building known as Oaks A."<sup>320</sup> In the late 1920s, several drinking fountains were installed around the hospital grounds in order to end the practice of providing water coolers. No mention is made as to the location of these fountains or whether they were installed indoors or out.<sup>321</sup> A decade later, pedestal drinking fountains were installed on the lawn between C and M buildings.<sup>322</sup>

### *Challenges of the Coal Spur Railroad*

The railroad became increasingly important throughout the White era to transport goods crucial to the service region of St. Elizabeths. Four new railroad tracks were extended to the north of the new power plant in 1904, and a trestle was laid over the coal pockets for easy unloading (see Figure 22).<sup>323</sup> A locomotive house was also assembled near the near the pumping station, but burned in 1912.<sup>324</sup>

Earlier difficulties in maintaining the railroad spur continued as the unstable track bed shifted with heavy rains. To stop the movement, cinder ballast was added to the soil to offset the slippery clay. "The land slips are gradually subsiding and it is confidently expected that upon the further exclusion of the red clay the movement will cease entirely."<sup>325</sup> Despite these early efforts, the portion of the eroded track was rebuilt in 1907. "In doing this, ditches were dug all along the track, so that water which came down the sidehill would be deflected into the sluices, and thus prevented from soaking into the fill. In one place... a 30-foot trestle was constructed. At the same time the track was relaid so as to straighten out and reduce the worst curves."<sup>326</sup>

By 1913, the railroad spur continued to require constant attention. The trestle over the coal pockets was condemned by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad inspector, as were the car scales. Both were rebuilt using steel rather than

wood beams, and 1,000 railroad ties were replaced. A new building was constructed alongside the track in which to crush and inspect coal samples.<sup>327</sup>

A large amount of work related to the railroad spur was carried out in the early 1920s. A new track scale was constructed in 1920 “on the off-shoot to the left of the track just in front of the fuel sample house.”<sup>328</sup> Additionally, further efforts were made to control erosion and the difficulties of the railroad spur. Heavy spring rains from the previous year “caused a washout under the track at a compound curve just below the power house. This was a dangerous place and required the use of several thousand yards of ashes to fill in the hole that was left by this washout.”<sup>329</sup>

In attempts to resolve the frequent problems with erosion around the railroad spur, the track was slightly relocated in 1923. A substantial portion of the track was “rebuilt by moving the location of the curve to a point having a better roadbed and also making a more uniform grade and curve.”<sup>330</sup> This change in the railroad alignment seems to have resolved much of the erosion issues, as it was in 1934 when the spur was overhauled again. Work at this time included changing “the location of the track along the old cemetery to reduce the curves and improve the grade.”<sup>331</sup>

#### *Productive Agricultural Lands*

Agricultural production remained a critical component of operations at St. Elizabeths to supply its residents with sustenance. Improvements were made to the greenhouse in the early years of the White era with the rearrangement of the “heating apparatus,” erection of a new smokestack, and construction of a concrete pit for manure storage (see Figure 36).<sup>332</sup> A concrete walk was built between existing benches to replace a decayed wood walk.<sup>333</sup> In 1914, the structure was rebuilt with new side walls to house palms, ferns, and other tender plants.<sup>334</sup> Patients cultivated crops as part of their treatment during this time. Inside the walls of the maximum security ward, Howard Hall, inmates also tended crops (see Figure 37).

When the United States engaged in World War I in 1917, agricultural production at St. Elizabeths increased. Portions of lawns and gardens throughout the West Campus grounds were converted to fields for cultivation to support the war effort; focusing on self-sufficiency and food conservation at the hospital freed resources to be employed elsewhere for soldiers. “Carrying out this idea, larger quantities of seeds of various classes were purchased and places put under cultivation that heretofore had been used for lawns, playgrounds, etc. Among other places was the area in front of the administrative group, where a field of potatoes, taking in an area of one acre, has been planted and gives promise of a good crop. The old baseball field is at present being plowed, preliminary to planting wheat. After this field has

been plowed, we will then begin to plow what is known as Prospect Hill [later known as “the Point”] for the same purpose...In the area between the greenhouses and Burrows Cottage, where formerly plants were raised, the space is now devoted to raising cabbage, and many barrels have been produced.”<sup>335</sup> Increased lands in production yielded “a large addition to the hospital larder...peas, potatoes, kale, spinach, and other items of supply were raised in large quantities.”<sup>336</sup> After the war, the former lawns and gardens used for cultivation areas were turned back to the hospital landscape gardener and were regraded and sown with grass seed to convert them back to lawns.<sup>337</sup>

In spite of the net decrease in the amount of land in cultivation by 1920, “many thousands of pounds of grapes, hundreds of bushels of pears and apples, and many quarts of cherries, currants, and figs were grown.”<sup>338</sup> More specifically, the hospital vineyard, located at the bottom of Prospect Hill, produced 7,068 pounds of grapes, over five and one half bushels of apples, 570 quarts of cherries, and fifty quarts of currants two years later.<sup>339</sup> By the end of the 1920s, approximately 385 acres were cultivated at the hospital, sixty-two and one quarter acres of which were located on the original Blagden Farm of the West Campus. Of the acreage in production on the West Campus, a garden occupied twenty-five acres, lawns took fifteen acres, the vineyard employed fourteen acres, and the greenhouse complex included two acres. The remaining acreage is unaccounted for. The grounds were under the care of a “foreman gardener,” assisted by twelve employees and five patients.<sup>340</sup>

The combined acreage of garden, vineyard, and greenhouses generated a plethora of produce for the patients at St. Elizabeths. The garden was located “near the pumping station” and supplied 170 bushels of peppers, 641 bushels of tomatoes, seventy-six bushels of tomatoes, green; 681 bushels of parsnips, sixty bushels of oyster plant, 20,400 bushels of onions; 8,127 bushels of beets, 5,135 bushels of parsley, 10,567 bushels of carrots, 18,460 bushels of radishes, 307 heads of celery, 7,780 heads of lettuce, seventy-six watermelons, 2,710 cantaloupes, and 963 eggplants in 1925 alone. Four hundred fruit trees on the West Campus combined with 110 trees at Godding Croft on the Potomac, produced 870 bushels of apples, 400 bushels of pears, and 150 quarts of figs in 1927. The vineyard contained 1,500 grape vines and produced 17,716 pounds of grapes in 1927. The six greenhouses at St. Elizabeths raised plants for fifty flower beds and gardens. In 1926, 44,942 plants were produced for these beds, along with 2,224 potted plants and 59,086 cut flowers.<sup>341</sup>

Greenhouses continued to play a role in agricultural productions at St. Elizabeths as improvements were made. In 1922, “One of the greenhouses was practically rebuilt” with new concrete walls and new concrete benches.<sup>342</sup> A few years later in 1925, an 80’-0” x 11’-0” propagation house was also built

with concrete benches and a chimney for a separate heating boiler.<sup>343</sup> An addition was also made in greenhouse capacity in 1931 with the construction of a cold-frame forcing house built of old building materials.<sup>344</sup> According to historical documentation, the majority of these greenhouses were used for floricultural purposes, but may have also been used for starting seeds to be later set out in the vegetable gardens.

Though the grounds of the West Campus at St. Elizabeths yielded much produce, the total acreage of agricultural lands was reduced as lands were built upon to accommodate the extensive building process occurring during this time. Because of this reduction in land available for cultivation, St. Elizabeths conducted a survey of its farm department to determine the most efficient use of the land it had available in 1928. Both food production and the “healthful employment of patients” were considered primary purposes of the farm department. The report concluded that it was “necessary to reduce, to some extent, certain classes of garden truck that could be easily purchased in the local markets and use the land for the purpose of increasing the silage necessary to feed the dairy herd.”<sup>345</sup> Though it is unclear whether this decision had any effect on the cultivated land on the West Campus, twenty-five acres were planted with corn for cattle feed on the reclaimed Anacostia flats the previous year.<sup>346</sup>

Toward the end of the White era, special interest was taken in improving garden production, likely due to the onset of the Depression. In 1931, Superintendent White reported an increase in the productivity of the garden, particularly in the quantities of high-class table greens and other “succulent vegetables.”<sup>347</sup> The following year an increase in salad and table greens was noted with 6,161 bushels, up from 1,237 bushels produced in 1926-27. “The study of the garden has been continued in an endeavor to perfect the garden program to a point where 1,000 bushels a month can be made available throughout the entire year...A complete analysis of the whole garden output has not yet been made...Similar effort is being made toward improving the available supply of other classes of vegetables.”<sup>348</sup>

#### *Hospital Lawns and Grounds*

As expanding the hospital facilities and amending circulation routes comprised two major hospital efforts from 1903-37, special attention was also given to the grounds of St. Elizabeths. New buildings were critical for expanding hospital operations and providing places for patients to reside; however, the grounds were just as important in providing places for patients to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

In 1905, all 15 building extensions were occupied and final improvements to the adjacent landscape had begun. Grading of the grounds took place,

followed by laying out of infrastructure for surface drainage and alignment of the walks, roadways, and lawns.<sup>349</sup> Much consideration was given to the grounds and lawns to provide views to “parking,” meaning a pleasant, park-like setting.<sup>350</sup> “Parking” was particularly created around the relocated engine house and pathological laboratory. One particular area of the “parking” grounds and its associated management received special attention in the 1906 Congressional hearings. The conducted hearings investigated an enclosed area around the “detached buildings” southeast of the Center Building, sometimes referred to as the “bull pen” and its possible detrimental impact to patients’ well-being.<sup>351</sup> Several testimonies regarding the enclosed outdoor space were given by hospital administration, describing the space as “very beautiful.” Dr. Harry R. Hummer, senior assistant physician in charge of the detached building group, described the spaces as “a park, with an area of between seven and eight acres...It is a pretty large park, surrounding my group of buildings, surrounded on one side by a stone hospital wall, and on the other sides – it is rather circular at this side – with a wooden paling fence. It is a very beautiful inclosure [sic].”<sup>352</sup>

Following up on Hummer’s testimony, Dr. J.C. Simpson, former head of detached buildings, noted that the enclosed park grounds included summer houses (see Figure 38).<sup>353</sup> He described his affection for the creation of the grounds around the Allison complex

There was a little park there that I made myself. I laid that out with the help of some of the patients and employees, and we graveled the walks and we planted trees and shrubs and put out plants and all that sort of thing and tried to beautify it as much as possible, but it was entirely detached from the rest of the grounds. The patients were more or less confined to those limits, because the class of patients that I had were largely old men, who would wander away. ... I should say there must be 4 or 5 acres of ground, possibly. The buildings take up a good deal of the ground. We built a group of buildings – the Allison group – right in those grounds, after they had been made into a park, so that took up quite a portion of the ground; but there was a fair amount of recreation ground left.<sup>354</sup>

The rebuttal came from Richard P. Evans, representing the Medico-Legal Society, who declared the triangular enclosure had “about a 12-foot stone wall all along one side, and is nearly inclosed [sic] with brick buildings on the other side of an acute angle, and where there is a tall picket fence, about ten or twelve feet high, with barbed wire on its top...”<sup>355</sup>

Despite the discrepancies in these accounts, some details about the outdoor enclosure can be resolved. The total acreage was likely seven to eight acres, based on the majority of accounts citing this figure, and the height of the fence was probably less than 9'-0", based on the height of the existing perimeter wall. A photograph taken by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. shows the fence near the dining hall with three rails, vertical posts, and slats measuring about 6' high.<sup>356</sup> No barbed wire is seen atop the fence.

After hearing both sides of the debate, the investigating committee sided with the hospital administration that the area was not detrimental to the patients' well-being, instead displaying improved grounds with "trees and seats...for the use of the patients. The so-called 'bull pen' in fact is a small park inclosed [sic] to allow the patients confined therein to have greater liberty in outdoor exercise."<sup>357</sup>

Improvements to the grounds in the early years consisted of several small and large scale efforts. Work was first undertaken around patient buildings where the lawns and outdoor spaces would be used. Certain places around the Rest, Detached Dining Hall, and the Center Building received grates or pipe railings to protect patients from falling into the lawn areas. Four ornamental iron flower vases were positioned on the balustrade at the entrance to Buildings B and C.<sup>358</sup> It was also noted that a wall was "down in one place in the ravine," though it is not known if repairs were made to this wall.<sup>359</sup>

Grading, spreading top soil, and sowing grass seed were the major initial grounds undertakings in the early years of the White era. In 1906, additional topsoil was added to the front of Buildings E and Q and along the edge of the ravine between Building L and the Rest, and grass seed was planted.<sup>360</sup> The following year 14,370 square yards of lawn was added around the rear of buildings A, B, C, and M and 10,300 square yards of lawn was established around buildings J, K, L, Oaks A and B.<sup>361</sup> By June 1908 more work had been accomplished in reorganizing the grounds as a result of the construction of the hospital expansion. Almost 10,000 square yards of lawn were established "on the plateau in the rear of J and K buildings."<sup>362</sup>

As work on the grounds progressed, vegetative plantings around the West Campus became more prevalent. "Dwarf evergreens were planted in front of B and C buildings" in 1907 and "added materially to the appearance of the grounds."<sup>363</sup> That same year the hospital established a nursery in 1908 to grow and propagate their plant stock for the grounds. "Three hundred and forty trees were purchased in April for the purpose of establishing a nursery. These include 175 shade trees, sixty-five flowering trees, thirty of pendulous habit, fifty Japanese maples, and twenty evergreens. These have been planted and are doing well. These trees can be moved at the proper season and

planted about the new buildings where there is need of shade.”<sup>364</sup> In later years, trees from the nursery were transplanted around the campus to locations in “the triangle near the C building, to the grounds around the pathological department, in the vicinity of J and K Buildings, and the grounds around the Richardson group of buildings” (see Figures 31 and 39).<sup>365</sup>

Work continued to recondition and beautify the grounds throughout the 1910s. Grounds around the Retreat were graded in 1911, an old wood fence around the Allison group was replaced with a wire fence in 1912, and walks, lawns, and flower beds were laid out and planted at the tuberculosis cottages in 1914.<sup>366</sup> Settees were also placed on the lawns around the cottages for patient use.<sup>367</sup> In 1915, work was completed on the outdoor enclosure of Howard Hall—the building for the criminally insane. Allowing its patients to experience the outdoors without danger to themselves or other patients or visitors, the space was enclosed with a twenty-four-foot high wall with 1,200’ in length with an iron door (see Figures 29 and 37). The wall stood about 50’ from the building, encompassing a courtyard the same distance away.<sup>368</sup> A later report describes the enclosure as “a reinforced concrete wall, about 22 feet high with a thickness of four feet at base and narrowing to two feet six inches at top.”<sup>369</sup> The space within the courtyard was graded and sodded, 1,000 square yards of concrete walks were laid, and “tool-proof guards put over the basement windows.”<sup>370</sup> The following year, sixteen cement settees were placed in various positions about the walk, and sanitary drinking fountains were also installed.<sup>371</sup>

The lawns and grounds at St. Elizabeths were utilized during the years of World War I, as conservation of resources was necessary for the war effort. Several lawn areas of the West Campus were turned over to agricultural production to raise food for the patients of St. Elizabeths. One such area was the enclosed courtyard at Howard Hall. During the war, 6,480 square yards of the space was planted with cucumbers, radishes, watermelons, tomatoes, cabbages, potatoes, and corn, among other produce. “A considerable proportion of this land has been planted with broom corn, it being hoped that enough of this material may be raised in the future to supply the broom shop, which is also in the basement of Howard Hall.”<sup>372</sup> Cultivating the space provided opportunity for the patients to be employed in the garden work. After the war, the majority of the gardens were returned to turf.

Great care was taken to maintain the grounds at St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus throughout the late 1910s and into the 1920s. A substantial effort was made to keep the lawns healthy and in good condition with “street washers...as otherwise when there is lack of rain they burn up and do not present a good appearance.”<sup>373</sup> To augment the appearance of the grounds, “flower pots were placed in various parts of the institution and grounds, and

this lends color and brightness to the surroundings.”<sup>374</sup> Other work in the early 1920s included repairing the rose house, filling in depressions from twenty-eight trees that were removed from the grounds, spraying for pests, and compiling a list of tree varieties.<sup>375</sup> In addition, “[t]he hospital has planted many trees in various parts of the grounds, set out flower pots, rose bushes, and built trellises around the buildings.”<sup>376</sup> Japanese cherry trees given to the hospital by the Public Buildings and Grounds Commission were among the trees planted at this time. Work at this time was often carried out by work crews consisting of hospital patients.

Many improvements to the grounds during the 1920s and possibly earlier can be attributed to Alvah Godding, son of the late superintendent William Godding. Alvah Godding started working at the hospital campus in 1899 and is credited with introducing a wide variety of trees and plants into the St. Elizabeths landscape.<sup>377</sup> By the 1920s, Godding probably headed St. Elizabeths’ Lawns and Grounds department as “landscape gardener” and was responsible for the vineyard, orchard, and gardens on the West Campus. He also oversaw the transition of the war garden areas back to turf.<sup>378</sup>

In 1924, a separate report for the Lawns and Grounds department was issued, yielding more detailed information regarding the daily improvements and maintenance of the grounds. Maintenance to roads and lawns, planting of new trees, harvesting of the gardens was ongoing for the continued care of the grounds. The following are brief excerpts from the report

Grading and seeding of grass was done where curbing was put in for cement roads and ditch running from water tower to Richardson group. ...Twenty dead or defective trees were removed from the lawns and twenty-five cut in the woods and made into cord wood and posts....Fourteen Southern Magnolia trees planted four near Q. Building six at J. & K. Building and four near West Lodge. ...The English ivy on Center Building was all trimmed back to the wall. ...From the Vineyard 7285 Lbs. of grapes, 64 bushels of apples 92 bushels of crab apples 64 bushels of pears 40 quarts of figs 852 quarts of cherries and 152 quarts of currants were gathered....<sup>379</sup>

The “Report of the Florist” was also included in the report, giving insight to the operations of the flower beds and greenhouses “stocked with an assortment of bulbs, plants and seeds to decorate the grounds and to produce cut flowers and potted plants to decorate the hospital buildings.” A list of cut flowers in the report included the names of forty-two bulbs, twelve annuals and forty biennials and perennials within the flower beds, garden, and greenhouse.<sup>380</sup>

Some grounds work was performed on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, while other tasks were performed less often. In 1925, the Lawns and Grounds department removed briars and undergrowth on the slope adjacent to the railroad to reduce the risk of fire resulting from sparks from the locomotive. The department also removed dead trees from the plateau and woods for firewood.

In the late 1920s, “basket willow cuttings” were received from the Agriculture Department and planted out, 200 settees were purchased and placed on the grounds, and the front lawn of Q Building (Building no. 68) was converted into a flower and vegetable garden.<sup>381</sup> Despite the number of gardens and picturesque lawns, these modes of passive recreation weren’t the only recreational means of for patients. By 1927, the grounds of St. Elizabeths included a baseball field and three tennis courts. The baseball field was located north of the 1924 storehouse and shop building (Building no. 12; see Figure 40).<sup>382</sup>

The work of the grounds continued throughout the late 1920s and into the 1930s with continual upkeep and maintenance. During this era, the grounds were described as “several acres that have been grassed and made into lawns around the buildings. Special efforts have been made to keep these lawns green, and attractive flower beds have been laid out at various parts of the reservation. Along the colonnade between A and B and A and C Buildings beds of crape myrtle bushes have been planted. These are now in bloom and very attractive. The palm house requires extensive repairs and it is now being rebuilt.”<sup>383</sup> The campus also contained 170 tree varieties at this time.<sup>384</sup>

By the close of the White era, continued construction on the East Campus required constant rearrangement and rehabilitation of disturbed construction. The nursery also required constant care and renewal. In 1931, the nursery was augmented to supply losses in the hospital tree inventory. Approximately 100 trees were lost in a drought two years prior, and 170 were purchased as replacements, for a total of about “400 trees for planting about the grounds.”<sup>385</sup>

Landscape structures, including comfort stations, summerhouses, a grandstand, and tents were also erected within the West Campus grounds during this time period. Two public comfort stations and connecting sewer lines were under construction in 1905. Located at the northern entrance of the West Campus, “[t]hese stations have long been needed.”<sup>386</sup> Later in the 1914-15 Annual Report, a notation states, “A public comfort station has been built adjacent to the north gate for the benefit of the residents of the hospital reservation and the visitors.”<sup>387</sup> However, it is not clear whether the comfort

station mentioned in 1915 is the same one built in 1905. Additional comfort stations were built in 1922.<sup>388</sup>

As comfort stations were built for daily use, a new grand stand built in 1910-11 was used for ceremonial and special uses. The new structure was likely located in “Poplar Spring” and replaced an earlier grandstand at that same location.<sup>389</sup> Poplar Spring was probably located in the area northwest of the greenhouses extending southwesterly from the boundary wall past Burrows Cottage (Building no. 18), as noted in a 1928 description of a tour of the grounds, noting the term “Poplar ravine” for the location.<sup>390</sup> The grandstand was used for ceremonial events on Memorial Day and likely other events throughout the year, such as summer band concerts.<sup>391</sup>

Tents were also popular outdoor structures during the summer months at St. Elizabeths, though designed to be more temporary. The first tent was set up on the West Campus in 1913 for female African American patients to provide a place where patients could be outside on warm days, but shielded away from the sun.<sup>392</sup> The success of the first tent proved to be quite popular, and by 1917, two new tents were placed in front of the Oaks Building for the same purpose.<sup>393</sup> The tents “enabled all the able-bodied patients of this section of the hospital to be out of doors during the pleasant weather.”<sup>394</sup>

### *Sanitation Challenges*

Sanitation issues became pertinent concerns during the White era as new medicine and science informed the causes of disease in patient and staff health at St. Elizabeths. Earlier matters about the Anacostia River flats were addressed in 1911, as work on deepening the river channel and filling the flats was begun by the War Department.<sup>395</sup> These efforts removed possible malaria health threats and spurred administration hopes that the land would be transferred to St. Elizabeths for agricultural grounds.<sup>396</sup> The filling of the Anacostia flats was complete by 1915; however hopes of the land transfer dissipated as the War Department leased the land to private land owners.<sup>397</sup> Nonetheless, an agreement was made between the hospital and War Department as the reclaimed land was later used for hospital agricultural purposes.<sup>398</sup>

In 1919 dumping of hospital waste occurred on a “very low piece of ground” located on the “hospital side of the railroad switch.” Eventually accumulated water drained the area into the adjacent river flats and clogged up the aqueduct under the railroad tracks, preventing further drainage of the waste water. Cooperation between the hospital and the War Department improved the situation by digging trenches and draining the area into the District of Columbia’s outlet sewer. Once the area was drained, the ground was

“regraded and the whole place improved. Orders have been given forbidding the using of this place for a dumping ground in the future.”<sup>399</sup>

Other sanitation issues were based on the central grounds of the West Campus. After a study of sanitary conditions in 1920, “active work on rat extermination was begun. The first attack was made on the ravines, followed by work on the inside of buildings, then on the tunnels and kitchens.”<sup>400</sup> Four years later, a brick incinerator was built along the ravine below the power house for disposing of waste material.<sup>401</sup> The incinerator was approximately 400’ west of the power house near the railroad track. Work on eliminating rats and improving sanitation at the hospital continued into the late 1920s and 1930s. In 1925, the “underground garbage pits” formerly used were abandoned and covered with dirt. Instead, concrete platforms were built near the hospital’s kitchens and dining rooms to provide a place for covered garbage cans. Garbage was picked up by trucks on a regular basis and delivered to the piggery for consumption by the hospital’s pigs.<sup>402</sup>

By the end of the 1930s, St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus had reached the height of its historically significant development. The once open farmland had been thoughtfully developed and managed to provide care for the mentally ill. The impressive development of the lands not only provided facilities for patient care, it reflected the broader shift in treatment of the insane toward humane treatment focused on the creation and use of a therapeutic landscape. By the close of the 1930s, the campus was developed with distinct clusters of patient care, employee, and service buildings. The landscape was characterized by open lawns, arboretum-style tree plantings, woodland massings, active agricultural lands, undulating ground plane, and scenic vistas.

b. Changes and Additions:

Development of the hospital landscape continued into the 1940s; however, the most significant impressions had been established during the previous periods. The nature of landscape change during the mid and late twentieth century produced mixed results for the historic campus. Significant alterations included the loss of mature elm trees to disease, the end of agriculture, filling of ravines, the removal of some early structures, and the addition of service structures in the ravines. Institution wide, the most pronounced development of the hospital occurred on the East Campus. Eventually, with the ascendancy of facilities on the East Campus, use of the West Campus dwindled and the historic hospital was largely abandoned.

Construction activity on the historic West Campus after White’s tenure generally consisted of updating existing facilities with a limited number of new and removed facilities. Roadways, sidewalks, the circular pond,

streetlights, and other small landscape features were changed during the period. Several building demolitions changed the spatial organization and visual relationships between open space and building masses that characterized these areas prior to East Campus expansion.

### **Development of Grounds and Decline of Agriculture**

The campus grounds were maintained and developed through the middle of the century under the new command of Superintendent Overholser. Alvah Godding, son of former Superintendent William W. Godding, likely continued as head of the St. Elizabeths Lawns and Grounds department at this time. The beautification of the large pond south of the Center Building took place in 1938.<sup>403</sup> Repairs to the basin included a larger water flow. The project included the placement of eight pond lilies in tubs on piers in a circle and the planting of the small island with weeping willow tree and ornamental grasses.<sup>404</sup> Other typical efforts included grading and reseeding of the baseball field and lawns around the facilities. A pipe railing that matched other campus railings was also installed along the road passing the ball field in 1938.<sup>405</sup> Grading and reseeding occurred throughout the 1940s in order to facilitate the use of lawn mowers at the hospital.<sup>406</sup>

By the summer of 1945, William H. Mistr had become head of the Lawns and Grounds department.<sup>407</sup> In the annual reports, Mistr reported “usual” activities for the hospital including the watering of lawns and flower beds, cutting grass, trimming hedges and trees, planting pansies and tulip bulbs, and providing cut flowers and potted plants to the wards.<sup>408</sup> It was noted the area from the pumping station to the Power House was cleared of undergrowth. The department also sprayed oak, elm, and cherry trees on the hospital lawns. In 1945, patients painted approximately 880 settees that were used on the lawns.<sup>409</sup> The following year, the department planted 17,000 plants around the grounds in the spring.<sup>410</sup> Patients continued to be involved in productive labor on the campus. As during the previous year, residents painted 1,350 settees and cleared the wooded area from the Power House to pumping station. The greenhouses also produced more than 60,000 cut flowers for the wards. They also grew lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas in addition to other ornamental plants.<sup>411</sup>

Agricultural production remained a part of the West Campus into the middle of the twentieth century; however, its significance waned with competition for land and the increasing effectiveness of off-site food production and delivery. Reported production figures indicate a significant decline in harvesting on the West Campus, particularly in the orchard and vineyard.<sup>412</sup> A detailed topographical survey conducted in 1947 indicated the presence of a grape arbor, vineyard, orchard, and “cultivated” ground (see *Plan V.I.*).<sup>413</sup> An aerial photograph taken in the spring of 1948 reveals evidence of agricultural fields

on the northern hillside; however, the orchard area appears much less extensive than in previous years (see Figure 41).<sup>414</sup>

Horticultural activities continued on hospital lands into the 1950s although the production of livestock gradually ended. St. Elizabeths truck gardens provided 28,675 bushels of green vegetables and “other seasonable” products in 1947.<sup>415</sup> Reports did not specify where the truck gardens were located. Livestock was eventually eliminated during this time. In 1948, the hospital’s dairy herd was consumed or sold “for reasons of economy.” Plans to eliminate St. Elizabeths’ piggery that year were postponed due to an increase in meat prices.<sup>416</sup> Four years later, the piggery on the East Campus was forced to be destroyed after an epidemic.<sup>417</sup>

### **Evolution of Buildings, Circulation and Infrastructure**

Construction activity on the West Campus swelled and shrank as new treatment facilities were relocated to the East Campus between the 1930s and 1950s. In 1938, for example, a new water tank on the East Campus rendered the tall water tank in front of L building (Building no. 64) unnecessary (see Figure 42).<sup>418</sup> Many of the changes on the grounds during this period resulted from the rise in use of the automobile after the Second World War.

The West Campus was less suited to vehicular traffic since its historic spatial organization had been established prior to the widespread use of the automobile. Vehicles caused traffic congestion, led to the use of curbs, required parking areas, and altered the former pedestrian character and scale of the campus. In 1938 concrete roads and curbs were built from the fire house (Building no. 41) past, and including the triangle in front of, Hitchcock Hall (Building no. 37) and on to C Building (Building no. 73).<sup>419</sup> In the coming decades, traffic congestion became a recognized problem and led to the creation of parking lots. Very few parking areas were present in 1947; however, a report from 1952 noted, “With the growth of the number of employees and the increase in the number of those owning cars the traffic problem is becoming a serious one. Expansion is being undertaken of some of the parking areas.”<sup>420</sup>

Pedestrian circulation was addressed as well. In 1938 concrete sidewalks were constructed between the Fire House and Hitchcock Hall, and underground passageways connected A, B, and C buildings to M Building (Building no. 72).<sup>421</sup> The 1903 “subway” connecting the East and West Campuses created such a pedestrian safety hazard and a point of congestion that in 1938 a separate vehicular underpass was constructed parallel to the 1903 passage between the campuses (see Figure 42). With construction of the new underpass, the original subway was to be reserved strictly for the use of pedestrians.<sup>422</sup> The pedestrian underpass was improved again in 1939 when it

was repaved, and steps and a walk were built from it to the employees' cafeteria.<sup>423</sup>

During the Second World War, little new development activity took place on the West Campus likely because federal resources were directed to the war effort. Work by the construction department mostly consisted of maintenance and repairs.<sup>424</sup> The few projects that did occur were the result of immediate needs. On account of accumulated stormwater, the boundary wall behind the greenhouse needed to be rebuilt in 1941.<sup>425</sup> That same year, the Red Cross building was destroyed by fire.<sup>426</sup> Hagan Hall (Building no. 38), a large performance theatre, was constructed in place of the building next to the first theatre for psychodrama, Hitchcock Hall.<sup>427</sup> Also during the war, weapons positions were constructed near the greenhouses.<sup>428</sup>

At this time the railroad spur was still in use to deliver coal to the Power House during and after the war; however, the hospital continued to experience difficulty with the location of the track. In 1944, the annual report lamented

An earth slide on our branch railroad track near the group of springs along the side hill has caused much trouble from time to time during the past year. When settlement occurred the road bed had to be filled and track re-tamped. The settlement on the bank was replaced by fill which was believed best for anchoring into the clay earth underneath, such as broken stone, concrete from road repairs, discarded paving brick, etc. The water from the several springs was collected and piped under the track to prevent the seepage from springs saturating the clay which would tend to cause the ground to slide. The fills which we have made from time to time apparently have stopped the settlement, as we have experienced no trouble for some time.<sup>429</sup>

Erosion on the railroad spur tracks required additional treatment throughout the 1940s.<sup>430</sup> The seepage and settlement were eventually contained. Additional funding for the railroad was directed to the construction of the locomotive house (Building no. 55) that was constructed north of the Power House in 1947.<sup>431</sup>

The service landscape of the western hillside near the Power House was being transformed in the 1940s. In addition to work on the coal spur and locomotive house, a new Warehouse, Laundry, and Shops Building (Building no. 118) was authorized by Congress in 1945 and under construction by 1949.<sup>432</sup> Located about 100' south of the Civil War Cemetery, the new building was eventually occupied by 1951 after resolving drainage issues. More than \$100,000 in additional construction, including a retaining wall, was needed to

address these problems.<sup>433</sup> This same year, the increased need for electric energy led the hospital to purchase electricity.<sup>434</sup> Although the power plant did continue to produce heat for the hospital, for the first time in its history the hospital did not generate all its own power. Energy use also grew by 1957 with the expansion and renovation of street lighting.<sup>435</sup>

Reassignment of facility programs and the demolition of older buildings changed the pattern of the West Campus landscape during the 1950s. The move of the laundry to its new location on the western hillside allowed the carpenter, cabinet and mattress shop activities to be transferred to the former laundry building in 1954 (Building no. 49). With this transfer, the buildings that previously housed work therapy activities were demolished during the year.<sup>436</sup> Similarly, plans made in 1947 for the replacement of Howard Hall, the West Lodge, and Oaks A, B, and C buildings were beginning to come to fruition.<sup>437</sup> The appropriations act for 1950 authorized funding to demolish the Toner and Oaks buildings.<sup>438</sup> Although authorization was received for the demolition of the buildings in 1950, the need for the bed space delayed the destruction. With the construction of a new Receiving Building east of Nichols Avenue in 1954, the demolition of those buildings was requested again in 1954 and carried out two years later.<sup>439</sup> Similarly, when the maximum security John Howard Pavilion opened on the East Campus in 1959, patients were relocated, opening the older Howard Hall to demolition.<sup>440</sup>

The period from the 1960s to 2004 witnessed the gradual decline of the historic character of the cultural landscape of the hospital. Treatment efforts shifted to the East Campus bringing with them activity and attention that had previously been devoted to the West Campus. After twenty-five years of service, Superintendent Winfred Overholser retired and was replaced by Dr. Dale Cameron in 1962. Larger movements were already underway at the institution. The character of the grounds changed in relation to the new hospital uses and social trends including the large scale deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals. The West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital was eventually abandoned as resources were concentrated elsewhere. The sequence of changes that led to the mothballing and later preservation of the West Campus is described herein.

### **Decline of the West Campus Landscape**

A small amount of new construction and ongoing demolition of older facilities continued from the 1960s through the end of the century. These actions negatively impacted the character of the hospital grounds. By March 1961, Howard Hall was dismantled which changed the spatial relations of hospital grounds west of the Center Building.<sup>441</sup> That portion of the plateau was visually opened with the removal of the building's mass (see Figure 43). The

same year the Toner and Oaks buildings were demolished, which meant the loss of the outdoor spaces associated with the southern group of Godding's cottage plan (see Figure 44).<sup>442</sup> The absence of older facilities was partially offset by new construction, which served to replace the former massing and relationship of the building space to the landscape. Between 1962 and 1963, joining wings were constructed on the Administration Building (Building no. 74).<sup>443</sup> This construction resulted in the removal of the open colonnades connecting the Administration Building to Buildings B and C, thus changing the spatial relationships between the structures and visual penetrability from the central lawn.

By the 1960s, the increased availability and popularity of the automobile led to significant changes on the campus. Aerial photographs from 1961 and 1966 captured the dramatic expansion of surface parking areas (see Figures 44 and 45). Around this time, roads were paved with asphalt and parking areas were created and expanded.<sup>444</sup> Earlier metal lampposts were also replaced with concrete posts and topped by globe lamps.<sup>445</sup> Urban growth and regional traffic planning led to the construction of the Anacostia Freeway (I-295) by 1961 (see Figures 44 and 46). Located along the northwestern edge of the hospital, the highway removed about fifteen acres from the hospital.<sup>446</sup> As a result of the freeway, a new pumping station (Building no. 16) was constructed down the slope north of the Center Building. The old pumping station remained standing on the opposite side of the freeway.<sup>447</sup> Also, the placement of the freeway contributed to the abandonment of the coal spur rail line that fed the Power House with coal. "Old No.4," the coal spur locomotive was one of the last operating steam engines in the country before the tracks were removed. The former rail bed was converted to a road.

Two changes in the mid-1960s affected the use and visual character of the hospital grounds. St. Elizabeths ended the support of farming and production of food crops in 1965.<sup>448</sup> The decision meant that the former farmland at Godding Croft would be used for recreation and related purposes. The orchard and horticultural areas on the West Campus, used by the hospital since its initial construction, had already been abandoned (see Figures 44 and 45). Successional growth of vegetation has obscured the historic purpose of this area, although some farm roadways are still in use and remnants of farm structures are present in the young forest. A second change arrived with Dutch elm disease in the 1960s. Although a small number of individual American elm trees persisted, the majority of these trees once common throughout the landscape were killed by the end of the decade, leaving voids in the informal but regular tree canopy.

Large areas of the West Campus landscape were transformed during the middle of the 1960s. The Dawes wing of the Center Building was

ceremoniously demolished in 1965.<sup>449</sup> The density of built areas south of the Center Building was rapidly thinning when the West Lodge was removed between 1978 and 1983 (see Figures 43 and 47).<sup>450</sup> Amidst the demolition taking place on the West Campus, use of the campus and remaining facilities continued, as evidenced by the placement of large cobra-head streetlights by 1979.<sup>451</sup> The remaining ravines and hillsides underwent significant change by mid 1960s (see Figure 45). Both the ravine northwest of the greenhouses and southern ravines north and west of Q building had been filled along with remnants of historic springs (see Figures 48 and 49). With the filling of the northwestern ravine, much of the woodland in this area was lost. The 1966 aerial photograph also depicted extensive earthworks on the northern hillside and along the western hillsides. By the late 1970s, the large reservoir pond south of the Center Building and the smaller fountain in the Detached and Relief building courtyard were removed (see Figure 47).

### **Administrative Changes and the Campaign for Preservation**

Organizational uncertainty and the widespread demolition of historic landscapes and structures at the hospital led to a campaign for the preservation of the West Campus. When the National Institute of Mental Health gained authority of the site in 1967, the Institute planned to use St. Elizabeths Hospital to demonstrate that large mental hospitals can serve as community-oriented treatment facilities and assume a key role in the national mental health program.<sup>452</sup> In 1977, concern for the future of the campus by the Institute was manifested in a master plan.<sup>453</sup> Immediately preceding the 1980 reorganization of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, both the East and West Campuses were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The listing was the first attainment of official recognition for the historical significance of St. Elizabeths.

The 1989 memorandum of agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) helped clear the way for the designation of St Elizabeths Hospital as a National Historic Landmark in March of 1991. The first large-scale study of West Campus historic resources occurred in 1993. Devroaux & Purnell Architects – Planners created the *Historic Resources Management Plan* for the District of Columbia. The landscape component by Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc. identified sixty individual landscape features on the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus that contributed to the hospital's historic significance.<sup>454</sup> The work was important for creating a baseline assessment of the landscape and for conveying the hospital's significance to the various property managers.

The West Campus was occupied by the HHS for offices and storage when the hospital holdings were declared in excess of its needs in 2001.<sup>455</sup> After this

date many buildings were sealed and the grounds were left without consistent management. Still under the jurisdiction of the HHS, the largely abandoned West Campus was accepted by General Services Administration (GSA) on December of 2004.<sup>456</sup>

Since gaining jurisdiction, GSA has initiated landscape maintenance and facilities stabilization programs. The landscape maintenance program has improved the condition of certain aspects of the hospital landscape but it has also contributed to the loss of some historic vegetation, landscape structures, fences, and other furnishings on the campus. The use of heavy machinery for repairs to the Center Building, for example, damaged the small formal garden by trampling the ornate iron fence, breaking statuary and fountains, and crushing plants. Elsewhere on the campus, similar work has also led to the removal of historic trees, shrubs, vines, and other vegetation due to a lack of awareness of the plants' historicity. These oversights were recognized by GSA and led to the commissioning of the *Building, Landscape, and Archaeological Assessment – St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus* (2005) led by Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects.<sup>457</sup> The condition assessment of the West Campus landscape was conducted by Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners.<sup>458</sup> During the assessment process, both campuses of St. Elizabeths were added to the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites in 2005.

## B. Historical Context:

### **Pivotal Concepts and Important Persons in the Development of St. Elizabeths**

The importance of the St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape as an early asylum in the United States that included the development of a designed, therapeutic landscape can be better understood through its historical context. Few examples of designed asylum landscapes predate St. Elizabeths Hospital. The broader movement of hospital design for the mentally ill can be traced to a select group of influential people—Dorothea Dix, Thomas Story Kirkbride, Thomas Ustick Walter, Andrew Jackson Downing, Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., among others.

Dorothea Dix was an American activist who advocated for humane treatment and institutions for the mentally ill throughout the mid nineteenth century. Beginning her social reform career as a teacher, she traveled to Europe and met several influential people who helped shaped her belief that government should take part in the social welfare of its people, specifically the mentally ill. Upon her return to America, Dix continued to teach, often volunteering her time at local poorhouses, workhouses, and jails. At a visit to the East Cambridge Jail in Massachusetts in 1841, Dix was shocked and appalled at the living conditions she found for the mentally ill who were often incarcerated in prisons. Thereafter, Dix conducted a statewide investigation of the care provided for the mentally ill. Her findings were published in a pamphlet distributed to

the Massachusetts state legislature, entitled *Memorial to the Massachusetts Legislature*. The document stated, "I proceed, Gentlemen, briefly to call your attention to the present state of Insane Persons confined within this Commonwealth, in cages, stalls, pens! Chained, naked, beaten with rods, and lashed into obedience."<sup>459</sup> Dix advocated for reform and a specialized institution that would provide the mentally ill with a comfortable setting, access to therapy, and encouragement to lead an enriched life. Her lobbying, combined with personal connections to the governor's administration, succeeded in securing the finances to expand the state's mental hospital.

Her success in Massachusetts spurred Dix to continue her efforts around the nation, visiting and campaigning for mental institutions in nearly every state east of the Mississippi River. She advocated for therapeutic settings and the latest architectural designs for the asylums, including the Kirkbride Plan. In 1843, only thirteen mental hospitals existed within the country. From 1848-54, Dix escalated her efforts and lobbied for a national mental hospital which would later become St. Elizabeths Hospital. Following her efforts, Dix traveled to Europe where she was instrumental in reforming healthcare for the mentally insane on an international level. Thanks to the efforts of Dix, by 1880, 123 hospitals were in operation, forming the foundation of the first generation of American mental asylums.<sup>460</sup>

Throughout her crusade, Dix forged a friendship with Dr. Thomas Kirkbride, noted doctor, founder of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane (AMSAMI), and spokesperson for moral treatment in mental illness institutions. Working as the superintendent of the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane, Kirkbride published *On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane* in 1854. The groundbreaking study outlines design and construction guidelines for the grounds and buildings of asylum institutions.

The guidelines set forth in the document were widely read and influenced the design of many mental institutions designed by various architects. Known as the Kirkbride Plan, his principles integrated building and landscape to create a healthy setting that would serve as an active participant in therapy and treatment of patients. Kirkbride focused on landscape elements such as views, scenery, and land cover in his recommendations.

The building should be in a healthful, pleasant, and fertile district of the country; the land chosen should be of good quality and easily tilled; the surrounding scenery should be varied and attractive, and the neighborhood should possess numerous objects of an agreeable and interesting character. While the hospital itself should be retired, and its privacy fully secured, the views from it if possible, should exhibit life in its active forms, and on this account stirring objects at a little distance are desirable. Reference should also be made to the amount of wood and tillable land that may be obtained, to the supply of water, and to the facilities for drainage, for enclosing the pleasure-grounds, and also for future extensions of the building.<sup>461</sup>

Building plans were centralized around a main building with stepped and sprawling wings to provide maximum amounts of light, air, and privacy for patients and views to the surrounding landscape. An extensive landscape setting, both pleasure grounds and agricultural farmland surrounded the buildings, to calm and stimulate patients' minds with the beauty of nature. This integration is an important concept that was thought to improve patients' lives, the quality of society, and ultimately cure mental disorders. The siting of asylums was directed to the urban fringe where expansive landscapes served a therapeutic purpose as well as supporting the institution through agriculture. In selecting the proper site for a mental asylum, Kirkbride provided specific guidance.

Every hospital for the insane should possess at least one hundred acres of land, to enable it to have the proper amount for farming and gardening purposes, to give the desired degree of privacy, and to secure adequate and appropriate means of exercise, labor, and occupation for the patients, for all these are now recognized as among the most valuable means of treatment. Of the total amount, as much as fifty acres immediately around the buildings, should be appropriated as pleasure-grounds, and should be so arranged and enclosed as to give the patients the full benefit of them, without being annoyed by the presence of visitors or other strangers, who should never be allowed to pass through them unaccompanied. It is desirable that several acres of this tract should be in groves or woodland, to furnish shade in summer, and its general character should be such as will admit of tasteful and agreeable improvements. To enable the patients generally to have the greatest possible amount of benefit from their pleasure-grounds,—where both sexes are treated in one building,—those appropriated to the men and women should be entirely distinct; and one of the best means of separating them, will be found to be the appropriation of a strip of neutral ground, between their separate limits, properly enclosed by an open palisade, as a park for various kinds of animals, or otherwise handsomely cultivated. While less than one hundred acres should be deemed too little for any institution, State hospitals having a large number of farmers or working men, will find it useful to possess at least double that amount; and extensive walks and drives on the hospital premises offer so many advantages, that the possession of a large tract for this purpose alone, is often desirable. It is hardly possible under any circumstances, for such an institution to control too much land immediately around it.<sup>462</sup>

In tandem with the development of the Kirkbride approach, first Superintendent Dr. Charles H. Nichols took responsibility for the planning and design of the St. Elizabeths Hospital grounds and buildings. Having served as medical superintendent of Bloomingdale Asylum in New York, Nichols was familiar with the layout of similar institutions. Nichols sketched the plan of the West Campus and planned to submit it to a peer review comprised of “some of the most skilful [sic] and experienced superintendents of other asylums for such improvements as they may be able to suggest.”<sup>463</sup> It is possible

that Kirkbride was among the participants in the review process for St. Elizabeths Hospital.

After the adjusting his own conceptual plans after the peer review, Nichols directed architect Thomas Ustick Walter to construct the original asylum building at the St. Elizabeths Hospital around 1853. Walter started his architecture career in 1830 with design commissions for the Moyamensing Jail and Girard College, becoming an established Philadelphia architect.<sup>464</sup> Later in 1850, Walter was widely praised for his design to expand the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC which added the iconic flanking wings and cast-iron dome, more than doubling the size of the existing building. One year later, Walter was officially appointed the Architect of the Capitol and construction began, continuing through the 1850s and into the early 1860s.<sup>465</sup>

While in Washington, Walter also worked on the design and construction of the interior of the west center building for the Library of Congress, extensions to the Treasury Building, Patent Office, and Post Office, in addition to the architectural design for St. Elizabeths Hospital. Walter resigned as architect of the Capitol in 1865 and later was one of the founding members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), serving as the organization's second president from 1876-87.<sup>466</sup> Though it seems Walter had limited experience in mental institution design, his design for the Center Building at St. Elizabeths was likely influenced by campus planning concepts from his early commissions and much of his work on governmental buildings in addition to the Kirkbride guidance specific to mental health facilities.

Architect of the Capitol from 1865-1902, Edward Clark also contributed to the West Campus through the design of Home building among others. Clark was Walter's student, chief assistant, and successor. Clark's work on the Capitol involved many technological improvements such as electricity, steam heat, and elevators that were likely brought to his work at St. Elizabeths Hospital. His sensitivity to landscape was influenced by his collaboration with Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. on the Capitol grounds.

### **Context of Historic Asylums of the Period**

As restful, therapeutic and educational settings for mental institutions are a component of the Kirkbride Plan, it is fitting that three well-known, prominent landscape designers were involved in the layout and design of mental asylum grounds across the nation. Nineteenth-century master landscape architects Andrew Jackson Downing, Calvert Vaux, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. designed therapeutic landscapes for insane asylums as part of the social reforms that surrounded the development and construction of the nation's early mental institutions.

Andrew Jackson Downing, noted landscape gardener, architect and author, received two commissions to design grounds for asylums in the 1840s. According to Downing's biographer David Schuyler, Downing received an invitation to design the grounds of the New York State Asylum at Utica in 1842.<sup>467</sup>

In September 1842 the managers of the asylum wrote Downing to request “the benefits of [his] taste and skill” in making their property “as beautiful as the most cultivated and refined taste could desire.” Asylums for the insane were new institutions, created in the antebellum years largely as a result of Dorothea Dix’s crusading zeal. Predicated at least in part on the belief that the relentless pace and stress of urban life precipitated a deterioration in mental capabilities, these institutions were located on large tracts of land outside cities, physically removed from the environment contemporaries considered the foremost cause of insanity.

The managers at the New York State Asylum at Utica completed all improvements in 1855, “in accordance with the original plan of Mr. Downing.”<sup>468</sup> In March 1848 Downing wrote, “Many a fine intellect, overtaken and wrecked in too ardent pursuit of power or wealth, is fondly courted back to reason, and more quiet joys, by the dusky, cool walks of the asylum, where peace and rural beauty so not refuse to dwell.” As Schuyler expands, “Indeed he considered the grounds of such asylums a strong illustration of our general acknowledgment of the influence of the beautiful.”<sup>469</sup>

Downing was also asked to design the grounds at the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum in Trenton by Superintendent Horace A. Buttolph, a former assistant physician at Utica. By 1849 Buttolph wrote that the work was underway “according to the tasteful design by A.J. Downing, landscape gardener.” An engraving of the grounds at Trenton showed a curvilinear drive, individually placed and clustered evergreen and deciduous trees, spacious open lawns and a focal fountain element. Now the much-altered Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, the architecture was developed according to the Kirkbride stepped plan and Dorothea Dix is credited with the advocacy for the construction of this early mental institution. The New Jersey Kirkbride and Dix project predates St. Elizabeths by four years. While Downing died shortly before the design and construction of St. Elizabeths Hospital, the earliest plans for St. Elizabeths are very Downingsque in character.

The context of additional asylums with therapeutic grounds continues with designs by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and Calvert Vaux starting in 1861, to include some Kirkbride-derived architectural compositions. The following commissions are listed in approximate chronological order based on available dates and Olmsted archives job number:<sup>470</sup>

- Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, Sheppard Asylum, Baltimore, MD, “. . .for exercise and employment of the patients in such occupations and amusements as may be conducive to their benefit.” 1861-95, Calvert Vaux, architect and landscape architect, Superintendent Dr. D. Tilden Brown; designated a National Historic Site
- Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Washington, DC, 1866, Olmsted, Vaux & Company, F.L. Olmsted Sr.

- Hartford Retreat for the Insane, now Institute for Living, Hartford, CT, Olmsted Job #12015, 1868, Olmsted, Vaux and Company, superintended by Jacob Weidenmann, and Dr. John S. Butler
- Buffalo State Insane Asylum, Buffalo, NY Olmsted Job # 12035, 1874, now partially on the campus of SUNY College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, architect Henry Hobson Richardson, main building in typical Kirkbride stepped formation
- McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA, Olmsted Job # 00098
- Bloomingdale Asylum, White Plains, NY, Olmsted Job # 00612, also listed as Job # 01323
- Letchworth, Eastern New York State Custodial Asylum, Rockland County, Olmsted Job # 03397
- Pennsylvania State Institute for the Feeble Minded, Polk, PA, Olmsted Job # 06468
- Lake Wales Hospital, Lake Wales, FL, Olmsted Job #06100
- Washington State Hospital Grounds, Northern Hospital for Insane, Sedro-Wooley, WA, Olmsted Job # 03678
- New York State Insane Asylum, Poughkeepsie, NY, Olmsted Job # 12065

Many American asylum landscapes developed as therapeutic landscapes to accompany Kirkbride architecture are either wholly lost or much altered today retaining few of the elements of the original therapeutic landscape. The Trenton Hospital landscape by Downing and the Buffalo asylum grounds by Olmsted, Vaux & Company are both greatly modified in their current form. The Hartford Retreat grounds originally extended to the Connecticut River shore. The current acreage is reduced and, with considerable additional building construction, much of the Olmsted and Vaux landscape is lost. The Bloomingdale Asylum, Westchester County, NY, has likewise been substantially altered although some of the early spatial patterns are legible on the grounds. In contrast, St. Elizabeths remains intact to a substantial degree, with integrity to the historic character of the landscape with limited loss or alteration of the landscape and nearly the entire acreage presence, with the exception of the river edge lands, in comparison to the aforementioned projects.

In addition, as the campus expanded, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., son of the co-founder of American landscape architecture Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., contributed to the twentieth-century development of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Henry Richardson Shepley, Shepley Rutan and Coolidge Architects, was commissioned to design the campus expansion and suggested the younger Olmsted to serve as the landscape architect. Olmsted, Jr. consulted with third Superintendent Alonzo Richardson during the southern expansion of the hospital. He was familiar with asylum landscape design from the previous Olmsted firm commissions under Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and John Charles Olmsted, his father and stepbrother respectively. The contributions of Olmsted, Jr. to the St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape are detailed elsewhere in this document.

International inquiries indicate that mental asylums with therapeutic landscapes were developed in the mid to late nineteenth century in European countries but none are known

to remain intact today.<sup>471</sup> For example, in England, it was noted that while some buildings may remain, the hospital grounds have been regularly subdivided and built-up in contemporary land uses with perhaps scattered fragments of the earlier landscape remaining. It appears that intact asylum grounds that were designed for therapeutic purposes are globally rare today.

### **The Place of St. Elizabeths Hospital within the Washington Topographic Bowl**

Since its initial development, St. Elizabeths Hospital has formed a portion of the topographic bowl surrounding the Monumental Core of the City of Washington, DC. When George Washington proclaimed the boundaries of the new Federal City, the heights surrounding it were a recognized factor in the city site selection. The defensible nature of the commanding hills and the safe harbor formed by the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers were both beneficial to the protection of the new capital city. This topographical feature played a role in the Civil War defenses of Washington, when a system of sixty-eight forts and batteries plus military roads, were constructed on the strategically important ridges ringing the city. The framing vegetated ridges and slopes have come to be known as “the topographic bowl” of Washington.

The wooded riverbank bluff on which the St. Elizabeths West Campus lies has been a topic of federal government discussion and an object for protection because of its scenic and spatially defining visual relationships to the Monumental Core of the city since the nineteenth century. In the late nineteenth century, interest arose in acquiring Civil War fort sites. Early in the twentieth century, a concept of linking these sites was developed. To implement the park idea, lands would be acquired to connect sites in order to create a park and parkway system ringing the city of Washington. The McMillan (Senate Park) Commission Plan of 1901-02 endorsed the proposal. The McMillan Plan’s “Distribution of Parks” called for the preservation and improvement of certain natural areas such as the chain of abandoned forts encircling the District of Columbia, and explained the topography of the region in which they lie. One portion of this description noted the topography of the St. Elizabeths Hospital area, “the southeasterly section, beyond the Anacostia River, consists of a series of long connected ridges, ranging from 160 to 300 feet in height above the river, comparatively flat on top, cut up by small valleys on their flanks into innumerable projecting points and minor sloping ridges.”

Today, the National Capital Planning Commission’s *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* includes a clear directive that the federal government “maintain the prominence of the topographic bowl formed by lowland and rim features of the L’Enfant City and environs by controlling the urban and natural skylines in the Anacostia, Florida Avenue, and Arlington County portions of the bowl ...” St. Elizabeths campus is a visually important element in the bowl. Planners continue to reach beyond the Monumental Core of the city and incorporate the larger setting of the place into their strategies. The West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital is an important property within the larger physical context of the capital.

## PART II. PHYSICAL INFORMATION

### A. Landscape Character and Description Summary:

The West Campus is the earliest developed portion of St. Elizabeths Hospital. The three main periods of building construction and landscape development on the West Campus are pre-1900, 1900-29, and 1950 to the present. Construction during the years of 1930-49 was aimed only at the East Campus. The East Campus contains more recently constructed buildings and is currently in active use as a mental health facility.

The West Campus landscape is divided into components based on patterns of organization. Within the natural, constructed, and legal boundaries of the property, units having particular character emerge based on land use, spatial organization, views and visual relationships, topography, vegetation, circulation and structures. Boundaries of landscape units may be loosely delineated by vegetation or slopes or clearly defined by physical features such as a wall, path or road. Some of these features remain constant while others change over time. The character of the unit is part of the character of the property as a whole. Identifying and defining these areas or units clarifies the spatial organization of the property and facilitates a clearer understanding of the historic evolution of the property.

Review of chronological mapping, aerial photographs, and site investigation of the West Campus yielded five definable landscape units or component landscapes that can be mapped for the St. Elizabeths landscape. The character and features of each area identify these units with two component landscapes on the upland plateau and three addressing the framing slopes. The five units include:

- Unit 1: Therapeutic, Ornamental Landscape and Overlook around Center Building and Main Gate. This area of some forty-two acres defines the original construction and ornamental landscape development of the original nineteenth-century St. Elizabeths landscape to include the curving overlook drive that affords panoramic views over the city and river confluence to the north and west. The landscape is defined by the early circulation system of pleasure walks and drives and the early plantings.
- Unit 2: Therapeutic, Ornamental Landscape around Pavilions and Secondary Entrances. This area of some thirty-four acres is the landscape around the second area to be constructed with pavilion-style buildings set within a landscape of curving drives, paths for strolling, tree plantings for scenic value and educational interest, and open lawns.
- Unit 3: Agricultural Landscape of Greenhouses, Fields and North Slope. This sloping area of about thirty-seven acres of former row crops remains partially open today. Remnants of nursery use are evident. It contains the greenhouse complex, the surrounding open area that was in agricultural use, and the nearby cottage.

- Unit 4: Service Landscape and Ravine around Powerhouse and Service Buildings. This area is down slope and west of Units 1 and 2. The twenty-one-acre unit is defined by somewhat circuitous access roads that accommodate the steep grades and slopes in woodland cover of varying age and quality.
- Unit 5: Civil War Cemetery and West Slope. Covering the western and southwestern slopes, this area of about thirty-one acres is principally in young woodland cover with aerial photographs from the late twentieth century documenting considerable disturbance. The Civil War Cemetery is the primary cultural resource in this area.<sup>472</sup>

## B. Character Defining Features:

### 1. Natural Features:

Natural systems and processes often direct the development and form of a landscape. At St. Elizabeths Hospital, the Anacostia River is the primary factor and cause of landform development. The West Campus is characterized by the prominent terrace overlooking the Anacostia River (see Figure 50). The soils of the bluff include Pliocene and Pleistocene river terrace deposits of gravel, sand and loam.<sup>473</sup>

Today, the Anacostia region of Washington DC preserves remnants of its once rural character with several large, contiguous tracts in forest, agricultural, and other low intensity land use. St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus contributes to this condition and provides wildlife habitat in a primarily urban region. The woodland cover and connections to other adjacent wooded parcels offer protection to many species of wildlife including large mammals such as white-tailed deer. Endangered bald eagles are reported to be nesting in the mature woodlands of Units 4 and 5 overlooking the area west of the power plant and warehouse.<sup>474</sup>

### a. Topography:

The distinctive topography at St. Elizabeths Hospital has been shaped by both natural processes and human manipulation. While the overall shape of the upland plateau and sloping sides is a result of historical fluvial geomorphology associated with the Chesapeake Bay watershed, many areas exhibit disturbed soils and altered topography principally due to construction activities. The designed landscape and buildings are sited on a plateau overlooking the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers at an elevation of 150' to 170' above sea level. The plateau is relatively level and makes up the eastern half of the West Campus. The topography in this area was altered slightly for the construction of buildings and associated tunnels, walks, circulation systems, and a pond that was once south of the Center Building.

The west side of the property slopes down moderately to the northwest by the overlook, and more steeply by the Civil War Cemetery. This sloping topography of the West Campus affords some views across the Anacostia

River to the city of Washington DC. This sloping topography is also characterized by a number of ravines that historically carried surface water runoff from St. Elizabeths to the Anacostia River. Two ravines, one north of the Burroughs Cottage and the greenhouses and one north of Q Building were filled and regraded between 1961 and 1966. The ravine west and south of the Powerhouse remains today and is a distinct topographical feature.

Directly related to topography is drainage, which has historically been a concern at the campus. Removal of surface water at St. Elizabeths Hospital altered natural drainage patterns. Today, intermittent streams in the remaining ravines channel overland and subsurface drainage from higher elevations of the campus to the Anacostia River. The stream banks are highly eroded and contain remnants of failed concrete erosion control structures. Additionally, the hospital is located within the 178-square mile Anacostia River Watershed, a relatively small component of the Potomac River Watershed that flows into the Chesapeake Bay.<sup>475</sup> Subsurface and overland flow from the West Campus forms part of the thirty-three-square mile Downstream Anacostia River Subwatershed.

b. Vegetation:

Comprised of groups of plants, individual plants, agricultural fields, planting beds, formal and informal tree groves, woodland, meadow, and turf, vegetation is a historically significant character-defining element of the landscape at St. Elizabeths Hospital. For the West Campus, the most distinctive vegetative feature is the deciduous, evergreen and ornamental tree collection planted in an arboretum that offers scenic beauty, shade and horticultural education. Remarkably a number of trees planted at the outset of hospital's development remain on the campus today, and some individual trees pre-date the development of the asylum. Many of these trees attest to use of a therapeutic landscape at Kirkbride-influenced mental hospitals as an important part of patient treatment. Overall, the collection of trees is largely healthy, although the decline of old trees is noted throughout the core campus area.

Some 600 trees and stumps are located on the plateau of Units 1 and 2 and about 350 additional trees in Units 3, 4, and 5 contribute to approximately 950 individually surveyed trees on the West Campus. Arboreal diversity at the hospital includes at least 160 species.

Woodland cover is found throughout ravines and slopes in Units 3, 4, and 5. Young, volunteer growth makes up the majority of the woodland cover in these units although each contains discrete areas of high-quality woodland as well as mature, individual trees. In Unit 3, a grove of large tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), oak (*Quercus*

species), and hickory (*Carya* species) lines the ravine along Sweetgum Lane. Of additional note, an older row of American hollies (*Ilex opaca*) lines the entrance of Sweetgum Lane. In Unit 4, significant groupings of large trees are located in the ravine south of the Power House and hillside north of Holly Street. Species within the Power House ravine include American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and oak (*Quercus* species). The largest trees in the Unit 5 woodland are along the West Campus perimeter due west of the Building Q parking lot. This relatively small patch of large oaks (*Quercus* species), black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a component of a larger grove located west and outside of the St. Elizabeths Hospital boundary. A small patch of bamboo (*Phyllostachys* species) is spreading into this area from a neighboring residential property. The remaining woodlands in Units 3, 4, and 5 contain primarily pioneer species and late twentieth-century regeneration with limited groups of older trees. Much of the Unit 3 woodlands encompass former agricultural fields and orchards. Meadow cover near the plateau allows for wide panoramic vistas.

c. Water:

Natural water features and drainage have historically been concerns at the campus. Removal of surface water at St. Elizabeths Hospital altered natural drainage patterns. Today, intermittent streams in the remaining ravines channel overland and subsurface drainage from higher elevations of the campus to the Anacostia River. The stream banks are highly eroded and contain remnants of failed concrete erosion control structures. Additionally, the hospital is located within the 178-square mile Anacostia River Watershed, a relatively small component of the Potomac River Watershed that flows into the Chesapeake Bay.<sup>476</sup> Subsurface and overland flow from the West Campus forms part of the thirty-three-square mile Downstream Anacostia River Subwatershed.

2. Spatial Organization:

a. Land Patterns:

The spatial organization and land patterns of the West Campus correspond strongly to topography and sequence of building construction. The principal areas of designed landscape are arrayed atop the plateau and framed by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings and circulation patterns in Units 1 and 2. The three-dimensional organization and land patterns of the plateau are shaped principally by the system of drives and adjacent building masses. Discrete spatial zones within Unit 1 includes the component landscapes north and south of the Center Building, the site of the former West Lodge Building southwest of the Center Building, the Athletic Field landscape, and the landscape between the Allison Complex and the brick

perimeter wall. Discrete landscapes in Unit 2 include the large central lawn west of Administration (A), B, C, and M Buildings and the landscape around J, K, and L Buildings.

The slopes adjacent to the plateau encompass service areas, the Civil War Cemetery, woodlands and meadows of Units 3, 4, and 5. The spatial organization of these lands is linked to sloping topography, a skeleton of roads and vegetation in meadows, woodlands, and in the case of the cemetery, trees over lawn. The historic, direct riverfront access and river edge were removed in the early twentieth century with railroad and highway construction. Discrete spatial zones in these Units include the Point landscape of Units 1 and 3, the lawn and trees around Burroughs Cottage, and the Civil War Cemetery.

b. Circulation:

Circulation patterns and materials contribute to the particular character of the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Roads, drives, trails, walks, paths, parking and loading areas interweave and form a network of collectively and individually significant elements. Gracefully sweeping curvilinear circulation patterns are suggestive of design influences of Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-52) and the Beautiful, Picturesque, and Gardenesque design styles and have defined the St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape since its earliest days.

While many of the original road alignments exist at the West Campus, expansion of parking areas and road widths has modified several areas of the historic hospital landscape. This issue is particularly prevalent around the south side of the Center Building and elsewhere in Unit 1 of the early campus core. Throughout the campus core, many buildings have changed functions, resulting in the removal and alteration of historic path layouts. Though circulation patterns have been altered, the form of the historic circulation pattern is still visible today, making the drives and walks contributing features to the landscape.

Alignment, width, surface and edge treatment and materials contribute to the character of circulation features. Road and walk materials at St. Elizabeths have changed over time, though the drives and some walks retain their characteristic curvilinear alignments. Early photographs show roads to be compacted earth and gravel with cobble gutters, though current roads and walks are primarily asphalt and concrete. More than half of the concrete drives remain from the historic period. Historic road edge details included cobblestone gutters that drained to a subsurface system. No cobble gutters remain at surface level today; the majority has been replaced by concrete curbs and curb drain inlets. However, some cobble gutters may exist under pavement. Most curbs are concrete, but a small number of stone curbs accent

various streets, notably Pine Street from Gate House No.2 and Redwood Drive west of Hitchcock Hall and the Administration Building. Existing brick roads and walks are primarily contained within Unit 1. It is likely that these paths were established in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Herringbone brick patterns are visible on paths surrounding many of the structures associated with the initial waves of building on the West Campus; however, now a number of connecting brick paths are buried just under the surface of the lawns.

Vestiges of a now-abandoned, single-track railroad spur remain at St. Elizabeths Hospital in the western portion of the site. The majority of tracks have been buried or removed, though the historic alignment of the railroad track persists today as Ash Street and an unpaved roadway that leads north before exiting the property at Stevens Road near the interstate. A currently active railroad line west of the interstate once connected to the spur and is the property of CSX Transportation.

c. Views and Vistas:

Views within the West Campus are generally constrained by surrounding building mass. The distinct spatial zones define visual spaces. In Units 1 and 2, open lawn areas with an arboretum-like tree collection create centralized green spaces with a perimeter of historic buildings and structures. Near the edges of the green spaces, views of turf and trees are frequently internalized by clusters of buildings. Outside the core ring of buildings, views open from the plateau and offer broad panoramic vistas to the north and west (see Figure 50). In particular, Golden Raintree Drive, the winding overlook drive that divides Units 1 and 3, provides stunning northern views over the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and the Monumental Core of the capital. In between building mass and vegetation, the high ground of Units 1 and 2 also provides episodic views out to the north and west. The western side of J and K Buildings present a smaller vista across the river. Cedar Drive between Gate No. 1 and Golden Raintree Drive also offers slot views to the north over the Point.

Units 3, 4, and 5 lie downhill from the plateau resulting in different visual relationships than Units 1 and 2. In these low-lying areas, views are largely determined by dense woodland edge and open spaces such as clearings and roads. Within the wooded areas, the structure and type of forest community determines views. For example, the older beech and oak grove in the Power House ravine of Unit 4 affords more expansive views below the canopy than do the young wooded thickets that characterize Units 3 and 5. The open understory of the Civil War Cemetery in Unit 5 offers long seasonal views across the river to the west. At a larger scale, the two Power House smokestacks draw visual connections between elements in the skyline of the

Monumental Core of the city. Indeed, the wooded Anacostia riverbank of Units 3 and 5 make up a component of the largely vegetated topographic bowl surrounding the capital.

d. Water:

Designed water features such as fountains, pools, cascades, and irrigations systems no longer exist as character-defining features on the hospital grounds with one exception. One small fountain basin is located in the enclosed garden southeast of the Center Building entrance. Other historic constructed water features on the West Campus have been removed. The three-tiered fountain in the south courtyard of the Center Building remains in place with brick coping. No surface evidence remains of the large pond that existed south of the Center Building through the mid twentieth century. The two historic springs with designed grottos no longer exist. The grottos were removed and the springs filled during campus alterations over the past century.

e. Buildings and Structures:

The St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus has numerous buildings and structures that contribute to the landscape character. The majority of the buildings are constructed of brick and are arranged in distinct clusters. The similar character and grouped arrangement of the former hospital buildings helps define a unified, cohesive campus. The Center Building is the largest building onsite and was the center of activity and patient care when the hospital was still active. This impressive building was constructed with a central tower and expansive wings extending to the east and west. The wings are stepped back, allowing ample light and air to infiltrate the building. This follows the defined Kirkbride plan, which was instrumental in the original layout of the hospital grounds. The brick Center Building was the first hospital facility constructed. Many of the later buildings were constructed in a style that complemented the stately character of the Center Building.

Landscape structures complement historic buildings and comprise many of the unique features of the West Campus cultural landscape. The stone and brick perimeter wall along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue is an excellent example of these distinctive elements. Other walls, fences, steps, bridges, arbors, summerhouses, and the ruins of farm buildings form the collection of landscape structures at St. Elizabeths Hospital. The perimeter wall, constructed from 1858-69 and altered in 1924 behind the Administration Building, is divided nearly in half by linear footage with the 1850s construction of brick (2,034 linear feet) and the 1860s construction of stone (2,001 linear feet). The remainder of the perimeter is more recent chain link fence in fair to poor condition. Over 16,500 linear feet of other walls and fences are found in the West Campus, in addition to an eight-foot chain-link security fence installed along the woodland edge of Units 3 and 5 in 2006.

Stone capped brick steps and a retaining wall complement the brick building façade on the northwestern side of the Center Building.

Stone and metal structures feature prominently throughout the hospital landscape. Several styles of historic metal handrails remain on the campus in Units 1, 2, and 3. While some are historic fences, others are more recent. Metal picket fencing with a central stone wall is found along the eastern edge of the Civil War Cemetery in Unit 5 with chain link fencing enclosing the cemetery to the north, south, and west. Stone and brick retaining walls form the most historically important elements of the collection of landscape structures. Stone walls and steps around the Ice Plant have a similar construction style and detailing to the stone walls at the Greenhouse Complex. Many of these walls are deteriorating because of slope failure. Throughout the upland plateau of the campus, growth of aggressive plants such as Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is causing the failure of walls, steps, and paving. Other landscape structures on the West Campus are functional and in good to fair condition. Two bridges, one brick and the other concrete, are in fair but sound condition. The historic brick bridge is an extension of a tower near the Ice House. The contemporary concrete bridge spans a small, highly eroded stream adjacent to Sweetgum Lane northwest of the overlook on Golden Raintree Drive, just downstream from a highly deteriorated outfall.

Three modest landscape buildings remain on the West Campus, including two small summerhouses and a wire-frame arbor. Two thirty-foot wide cross-shaped summerhouses are located in the lawn near Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in the southeast corner of Unit 1. These roofed, open air wooden structures are the remaining built elements that demonstrate hospital resident use of the outdoors for enjoyment. A domed metal arbor adjacent to Staff Residence No. 2 also provides evidence of a vine-covered Victorian summerhouse placed within the landscape. The structure has since been cleared of all constricting vines whether historic plantings or contemporary vines.

f. Small Scale Elements:

The West Campus contains numerous small-scale features, furnishings, and objects. Benches, signs, lights, flagpoles, fire hydrants, metal pedestal grills, and institutional drinking fountains dot the landscape of the hospital in varying conditions. A few mid-twentieth-century benches are found near buildings and in wooded areas throughout Units 2 through 5. Benches present on the campus landscape include wood slat benches with concrete supports and benches that have green-painted, wood slats with metal straps. The range of historical lighting strategies is revealed by historical documentation and several types of electric floodlights that exist today. The arrangement of these furnishings shows the implementation of different and disjunctive lighting

phases. Four contemporary flagpoles are found on the West Campus including at the terminus of the Gatehouse No.1 entrance, northwest of the Center Building, outside of Staff Residence No.1, and across from the entrance of the Administration Building. Objects such as planters, fountain pedestals, and birdfeeders also contribute to the character of the landscape. A concrete birdbath and possibly a concrete drinking fountain or birdbath is located beside an ornate iron fence in the same Center Building courtyard as the small fountain. A concrete and stone birdbath, planter or fountain is also found behind Hagan Hall and in the sunken garden at the Greenhouse Complex. Most of these greenhouses have missing glass, deteriorated framing, and decaying structural members. The most notable small-scale object group in the West Campus landscape is the collection of Civil War Cemetery grave markers. Over 200 headstones are arranged in twenty-two rows on the historic southern bank of the Anacostia River.

g. Archeological Sites:

Given the long history of occupancy and recorded intensity of use at St. Elizabeths Hospital, the West Campus appears to have a high potential for archeological sites. Ironically, findings from a 2005 Phase I archeological survey indicate that relatively few areas of the hospital landscape are likely to contain an abundance of prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural materials. The *Combined Phase I Archeological Survey* produced by Hunter Research, Inc. in 2005 is a volume of the *Building, Landscape, and Archeological Assessment Plan – St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus*.<sup>477</sup> The survey follows the recommendations of the *St. Elizabeths Hospital Archeological Management Plan* by Engineering Science, a section of the 1993 Devroux & Purnell Architects-Planners, P.C., *St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resource Management Plan*.

The Phase I survey included results of historical research, a field survey, shovel testing, and metal detector scans. Over the entire West Campus, 360 shovel tests were excavated, based on a 100-foot grid, in areas likely to contain cultural materials. A total of 605 artifacts were recovered which was a lower number than anticipated. Overall recovery of materials over the entire campus included few prehistoric materials, no colonial artifacts, no historic materials earlier than the last quarter of the eighteenth century, and only small quantities of later eighteenth- and nineteenth-century materials. Hunter Research recovered a small quantity of early twentieth-century materials from the Power House dump site. Based on the survey, four areas at the hospital either contain a relatively high concentration of artifacts or indicate the likelihood of containing informative cultural materials. These areas include:

- The point of Golden Raintree Dr. in northern Unit 1 with prehistoric potential

- Orchard Area in northern Unit 3 with nineteenth-century hospital-era potential
- Power House dump in southeastern Unit 4 with twentieth-century hospital-era potential
- Civil War Cemetery in northern Unit 5 with Civil War era potential

A cluster of prehistoric artifacts including shaped stones make up some of the materials retrieved from undisturbed soil layers in northern Unit 1. The cluster is located on the inside bend of Golden Raintree Drive as it sweeps toward a view over the Anacostia River to the National Mall. Hunter Research, Inc. recommends Phase II archeological investigation of this area.

The historical orchard area west of Sweetgum Lane in northern Unit 3 contains many surface traces of hospital-era cultural materials. Surface remnants include the foundation footprint of an early twentieth-century building, fence posts, American holly (*Ilex opaca*) orchard rows, and historic road beds. These landscape features, soil conditions, archeological data, and documentary studies indicate the likelihood of subsurface artifacts that could inform the understanding of the relationship between hospital and landscape. Further investigation in this area may substantiate the presence of hospital and pre-hospital-era cultural materials.

A twentieth-century dump is located in the ravine directly southwest of Power House. The variety of utilitarian china, among other artifacts from the first half of the twentieth century, contributes to the understanding of daily life at St. Elizabeths Hospital. Hunter Research, Inc. proposes the protection of this area until additional investigation is conducted.

The most visually prominent archeological site on the West Campus is the Civil War Cemetery located in northern Unit 5. Surface artifacts include many headstones marking grave sites of Civil War soldiers who died while being treated at St. Elizabeths Hospital during the war. While much of the cemetery is enclosed by a contemporary metal fence, additional grave sites are located outside of the fenced area. Findings from metal detector surveys conducted by Chicora Foundation, Inc. in early 2007 reveal additional metal crosses south of the cemetery perimeter fence. These metal crosses were historically located within the perimeter fence and later moved likely by either a groundskeeper or visitor to the site.

Hunter Research, Inc. contends that the nature of historic land use and construction for modern transportation have altered the potential for archeological sites at St. Elizabeths Hospital. It is likely that relatively little trash remained on the site from the hospital period due to an increased awareness during the late nineteenth century of modern cleanliness and

hygiene standards.<sup>478</sup> The necessary high-level of campus maintenance limits the potential of artifacts to be found near the existing buildings. In addition, in Unit 3, grading for the construction of I-295 in the 1960s has covered evidence of the early historical wharf and other archeological resources associated with the bank of the Anacostia River.

h. Other:

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### A. Drawings, Plans:

The National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Records Unit in College Park, MD has the largest collection of maps, plans, and drawings related to St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus. These resources document the land prior to the establishment of the hospital and reveal the evolution of the hospital landscape. Dates of these materials range from an 1839 “Survey of tracts acquired as part of St. Elizabeths...,” Drawn by C... Coote, May 27, 1839, Record Group 418 no. 1, with the most recent documents dating to the 1990s. These include a 1992 “AS BUILT Site & Landscape Plan and Tree Identification Numbers” drawn by Ralph J. D’Amato, Jr. and Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects/Cemetery Planners. The majority of the plans on file at NARA II are from the late nineteenth century and early to mid-twentieth century.

The Library of Congress, Geography and Map Reading Room proved to a valuable source of historical documentation. The majority of the plans and drawings available at this facility date from the late nineteenth century with the earliest plan dated 1860. Many of these plans are plats show the arrangement of buildings and circulation features throughout the developing hospital landscape.

The Olmsted Archives at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site holds a few drawings and plans that provided landscape information. This includes two drawings dated 1901: “Government Hospital for the Insane [Site Plan]” Olmsted Archives, job 2825 no. 2 and “Plot of the Property of the Government Hospital for the Insane” drawn by Sunderland Brothers Engineers, Olmsted Plan 2825-14.

The U.S. General Services Administration provided numerous drawings of the hospital campus. These date primarily from the 1940s and include a 1946 “Warehouse, laundry, & shops building - Topographical Survey,” a 1947 “Sanitary storm sewers” drawing, a 1947 “Topographic Survey,” a ca. 1950 “Topographic Plan,” and a 1950 “Storm Drainage” plan.

## B. Historic Views, Photographs:

The National Archives II in College Park, MD was the primary source of photographic documentation of St. Elizabeths Hospital. This collection includes both photographs and aerial images. The images date from 1863 through the 1980s. The primary Record Group for this collection is 418.

The Library of Congress was a valuable resource. Historic images were found in Annual Reports, the Geography and Map Reading Room, and from previous Historic American Building Survey documentation. These materials date to a range of time periods with numerous images taken in 1898, several images from the early to mid-twentieth century, and a collection of 1979 images.

The Olmsted Archives at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site contains a number of images documenting Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s visit to the campus in December 1900.

Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa with the St. Elizabeths Hospital Blackburn Laboratory provided some historical photographs. The photographs are primarily from the mid-twentieth century through the 1990s. This collection also includes a series of aerial images taken in 1963.

The St. Elizabeths Hospital Health Sciences Library holds a number of pertinent images. The collection holds nearly sixty images that document the character of the hospital landscape in 1945.

The private collection of Dr. Jogues Prandoni contains photographs and one aerial. The aerial images document the landscape in 1922. The collection of photographs document recent landscape character with images dating from 2002 and 2003.

The American Architecture Foundation contains relevant holdings. This includes eight images; two of the images document the 1905 character of the Fire House and Toner Building. The remaining image are dated 1981 and focus on the Civil War Cemetery.

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has an image collection that includes aerials and photographs that conveyed useful information about St. Elizabeths Hospital. The two aerials and three photographs are all undated.

## C. Interviews:

No interviews were conducted while researching the history and evolution of St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus.

D. Bibliography:

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E. Sources not yet Investigated:

Documentation for the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus is based on the research and documentation undertaken for the *St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Landscape Report*. Research was conducted at the thorough to exhaustive level with investigation at as many sources as feasible. Due to project constraints, not all resources likely to yield information were visited. This includes the National Archives. While a great deal of documentation was obtained from the National Archives, research focused on Record Group 418. It is likely that additional Record Groups contain relevant holdings. Additionally the Washington National Records Center may hold more recent federal records.

F. Supplemental Material:

Several documents are available that provide supplemental information about the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus cultural landscape. These documents include the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Cultural Landscape Report CLR, from which this HALS documentation is derived. The CLR documents the history, development, and evolution of the west campus landscape from its origins through 2009, presenting recommendations to preserve and enhance the landscape character into the future. The St. Elizabeths West Campus Landscape Preservation & Management Plan builds on previous planning projects to provide guidance and develop a documentation-based approach to the preservation of the unique campus landscape as it is rehabilitated for new use. Supplemental materials for the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus HALS documentation include hardcopies and digital copies of these valuable planning documents.

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus was documented for the Cultural Landscape Report by Heritage Landscapes, LLC by Patricia M. O'Donnell, Principal, and staff members Peter Viteretto, Gregory Wade De Vries, Sarah K. Cody, Thomas Helmkamp, Sarah L. Graulty, Carrie Ann Mardorf, Glenn Stach, and Tamara Orlow, Robinson & Associates, Inc., to include Judith Helm Robinson, Principal, and staff Timothy C. Kerr and Daria A. Gasparini, conducted the historical research. For the Cultural Landscape Assessment of 2004, Ian C. Burrow, Vice President, Hunter Research, Inc., provided historical photographs and archaeological data. Beth

Savage, GSA Preservation Officer for the National Capital Region, oversaw the CLR process and final editing. Gary Porter (GSA Historic Preservation Specialist) and Thomas J. Otto (GSA Asset Manager, Urban Planning) of the General Services Administration and Michael Mills (Principal) and Anne Weber (Preservation Architect) of Farewell Mills & Gatsch Architects, LLC facilitated the coordination of research and project efforts.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Dorothea Dix crusaded for better treatment of the insane from around 1848. Her efforts yielded a Congressional appropriation of \$100,000 in 1852. Dix's friend, psychiatrist Charles Nichols, was superintendent as cited in "St. Elizabeths Hospital Archaeological Management Plan" Francines W. Bromberg, MA, Holly Heston, MA, Elizabeth Cromwell, PhD. Devroux & Purnell Architects & Planners, (September 1993): 42.

<sup>2</sup> *Report to accompany Bill S. 44*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess., S. rp. No. 57, January 23, 1854, 1-35.

<sup>3</sup> *Report to accompany Bill S. 44*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess., S. rp. No. 57, January 23, 1854, 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> *An Act making Appropriations for the Civil and Diplomatic Expenses of the Government for the Year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and for other purposes*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess., August 31, 1852, 76.

<sup>5</sup> S. doc. 11, 2-3.

<sup>6</sup> *Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting Propositions relating to the organization of the hospital for the insane of the army and navy*, 33<sup>d</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., H. doc. no. 24, December 30, 1854, 1-4.

<sup>7</sup> *An Act to organize an Institution for the Insane of the Army and Navy, and of the District of Columbia, in the said District*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., March 3, 1855, 682.

<sup>8</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1855, House Ex. Doc. No. 1, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 34<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1856, 637.

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information as to the steps taken to establish a Lunatic Asylum in the District of Columbia*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., S. doc. 11, December 30, 1852, 13.

<sup>10</sup> S. doc. 11, 13.

<sup>11</sup> Devroux & Purnell, et al., 2:8.

<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that while St. Elizabeths Hospital provided the first facility specifically for African Americans, it was not the first mental health facility to provide care for them. The Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg treated African American patients and was established in 1773, well before St. Elizabeths Hospital.

<sup>13</sup> Alonzo B. Richardson to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., December 18, 1900, Records of the Olmsted Associates, series B, Job Files, job no. 2825, reel 135, frame 633, Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division, Washington, D.C.

<sup>14</sup> A number of period photographs depict patients performing grounds tasks like raking and agricultural production.

<sup>15</sup> *Annual Report*, 1885-86: 17.

<sup>16</sup> S. doc. 11, 2-3.

<sup>17</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, House Ex Doc. 1, part 3, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 1869, 1111.

<sup>18</sup> "Historical Note," *Annual Report*, 1945-46, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946, 396.

<sup>19</sup> Robert B. Matchette, compiler, *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1995, 235-1.

<sup>20</sup> *Annual Report*, 1967-68, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1965, 264.

<sup>21</sup> "Historical Highlights," Department of Health and Human Services web page, <http://www.hhs.gov/about/hhshist.html>.

<sup>22</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," *Environmental Impact Statement*, preliminary draft, December 2006, 5.

<sup>23</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," 5.

<sup>24</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," 6.

<sup>25</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," 6.

<sup>26</sup> Frank Rives Millikan, "Wards of the Nation: The Making of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1852-1920" (Ph. D. dissertation, George Washington University, 1990, pages 39-56); Devroux & Purnell, "St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resources Management Plan" (prepared for the District of Columbia Office of Business and Economic Development, September 1993, 2:3-9, 14-20, and 31-35).

<sup>27</sup> *Report of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information as to the steps taken to establish a Lunatic Asylum in the District of Columbia*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., S. doc. 11, December 30, 1852, 13.

<sup>28</sup> S. doc. 11, 2.

<sup>29</sup> Devroux & Purnell, *St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resources Management Plan*, prepared for the District of Columbia Office of Business and Economic Development, September 1993, 2:7-8.

<sup>30</sup> S. doc. 11, 2.

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<sup>31</sup> S. doc. 11, 2-3.

<sup>32</sup> S. doc. 11, 5-7.

<sup>33</sup> S. doc. 11, 3-4.

<sup>34</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1854, Senate Ex. Doc. No. 1, 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 622. From this date until 1869, the annual reports were dated either in October or November of the fiscal year. It appears that work described in the reports was accomplished until the date of the report, rather than the fiscal year, which ended on June 30. The hospital's annual report was issued in different formats and under different titles over the course of the institution's history. They were published separately, as part of the Secretary of the Interior's annual report, and as documents submitted to Congress. For simplicity's sake, all such reports will be titled *Annual Report* in this document. Annual reports reviewed for this chronology that were published separately are identified as published by the Government Printing Office. Those reports were reviewed at the Library of Congress. Editions of the annual reports reviewed that were congressional documents are identified by their Senate or House document number, Congress, session, and date. They were reviewed at the National Archives Congressional Records Divisions in Washington, D.C.

<sup>35</sup> *Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting Propositions relating to the organization of the hospital for the insane of the army and navy*, 33<sup>d</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., H. doc. no. 24, December 30, 1854, 1-4.

<sup>36</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1855, House Ex. Doc. No. 1, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 34<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1856, 637.

<sup>37</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1857, 741.

<sup>38</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1856, 880-882.

<sup>39</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1856, Senate Ex. Doc. No. 5, 34<sup>th</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, December 2, 1856, 880-882.

<sup>40</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, 863-864.

<sup>41</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, 863-864.

<sup>42</sup> Letter from Superintendent Nichols to the Secretary of the Interior, January 26, 1856; National Archives, Record Group 418, Letters Received and Other Records, 1851-1902.

<sup>43</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1857, 741.

<sup>44</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1857, Senate Ex. Doc. 2, 35<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, December 8, 1857, 740.

<sup>45</sup> 'Neat cattle' is a term that refers to domesticated straight-backed animals of the bovine genus, it is a more specific term than 'cattle' alone, although it is not commonly used today.

<sup>46</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1860, 548; and *Annual Report*, October 1, 1861, Senate Ex. Doc. 1, 37<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, December 3, 1861, 886.

<sup>47</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1858, 740-741.

<sup>48</sup> *An Act to Amend an Act entitled an "Act to organize an Institution for the Insane of the Army and Navy, and of the District of Columbia in the said District,"* 36<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> sess., June 1, 1860.

<sup>49</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1859, Senate Ex. Doc. 2, 36<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, December 27, 1859, 889.

<sup>50</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1860, 530.

<sup>51</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1860, 530.

<sup>52</sup> Building names are as shown on the ca. 1860 drawing, included as Figure 2.

<sup>53</sup> "Government Hospital for the Insane: Ground Plan," Library of Congress, Geography & Maps Room, Washington, D.C.

<sup>54</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1860, 530, 544.

<sup>55</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1860, 548.

<sup>56</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, House Ex. Doc. 1, 40<sup>th</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, 1868, 868.

<sup>57</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1861, 886.

<sup>58</sup> "Walks about the Hospital Grounds I," *Sun Dial*, ca. December 1928, 2, collection of Suryabala Kanouwha.

<sup>59</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1 1862, 626.

<sup>60</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1861, Senate Ex. Doc. 1, 37<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, December 3, 1861, 886.

<sup>61</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1862, 625-626.

<sup>62</sup> *Annual*, October 1, 1863, House Ex. Doc. 1, 38<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1863, 699.

<sup>63</sup> Sluby, Sr., 4:8.

<sup>64</sup> "Plan of Cemetery at the U.S. Hospital for the Insane," National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic & Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, no. 11, 1868.

<sup>65</sup> Sluby, Sr., 4:8.

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- <sup>66</sup> Sluby, Sr., 4:8.
- <sup>67</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1864, 724.
- <sup>68</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1864, 724.
- <sup>69</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1866, 16-17.
- <sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, 868.
- <sup>71</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, 868.
- <sup>72</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1858, Senate Ex Doc. 2, 35<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, December 6, 1858, 735-736.
- <sup>73</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1859, 891.
- <sup>74</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1858, 732-734.
- <sup>75</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1858, 732-734.
- <sup>76</sup> *Annual*, October 1, 1863, 701.
- <sup>77</sup> *Annual*, October 1, 1863, 701.
- <sup>78</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1866, 17.
- <sup>79</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1864, 725.
- <sup>80</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1867, 500.
- <sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, 867.
- <sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, 867.
- <sup>83</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, 867.
- <sup>84</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1113.
- <sup>85</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1113.
- <sup>86</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1112.
- <sup>87</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, House Ex Doc. 1, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, part 5, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1873, 804; and *Annual Report*, 1872, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 13.
- <sup>88</sup> *Annual Report*, 1876, 20.
- <sup>89</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, 804.
- <sup>90</sup> *Annual Report*, 1886-87, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 21-22.
- <sup>91</sup> Devrouax & Purnell, 2:56.
- <sup>92</sup> *Annual Report*, 1886-87, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 21-22.
- <sup>93</sup> See "Topographical map of the site and lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane," October 1873, Record Group 418 no. 12; "Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing location and number of buildings on Home Tract, Plate 1," April 1899, Record Group 418, no. 16; Nautical Chart 3159 (plate 2443), Record Group 23, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1895; National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic & Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. The roads are also depicted in illustrations accompanying the 1895 and 1898 annual reports.
- <sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, 725-726.
- <sup>95</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, House Ex Doc. 1, part 3, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 1869, 1111.
- <sup>96</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1864, 725-726; *Annual Report*, November 1, 1865, 830.
- <sup>97</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1867, 500.
- <sup>98</sup> *Annual Report*, 1870, House Ex Doc. 1, part 4, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, 1870, 907.
- <sup>99</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, House Ex Doc. 1, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, part 5, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1873, 803-804.
- <sup>100</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, 803-804.
- <sup>101</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, 803-804.
- <sup>102</sup> *Annual*, October 1, 1863, 702.
- <sup>103</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1867, House Ex Doc. 1, 40<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1867, 498-499.
- <sup>104</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1867, House Ex Doc. 1, 40<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1867, 498-499.
- <sup>105</sup> *Annual Report*, 1872, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 13.
- <sup>106</sup> *Annual Report*, October 31, 1868, 865.
- <sup>107</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1107-1108.
- <sup>108</sup> *Annual Report*, 1872, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 13.
- <sup>109</sup> *Annual Report*, 1874, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 12-13 and 17.
- <sup>110</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880, 19.
- <sup>111</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1107-1108.

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- <sup>112</sup> *Annual Report*, 1871, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 20.
- <sup>113</sup> *Annual Report*, 1874, 17-18.
- <sup>114</sup> *Annual Report*, 1874, 17.
- <sup>115</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, House Ex Doc. 1, part 3, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 1869, 1109.
- <sup>116</sup> *Annual Report*, 1871, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 14-15.
- <sup>117</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1867, House Ex Doc. 1, 40<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, 1867, 498-499.
- <sup>118</sup> *Annual Report*, 1870, 905.
- <sup>119</sup> *Annual Report*, 1876, 19-20.
- <sup>120</sup> *Annual Report*, 1875, 18-19.
- <sup>121</sup> *Annual Report*, 1876, 19-20.
- <sup>122</sup> *Annual Report*, October 1, 1866, 17.
- <sup>123</sup> "Topographical map of the site and lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane," Record Group 418 no. 12, October 1873, National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic & Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland.
- <sup>124</sup> *Annual Report*, 1876, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 14.
- <sup>125</sup> *An Act to extend to certain Persons the Privilege of Admission, in certain cases, to the United States Government Asylum for the Insane*, 39<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., July 13, 1866, 93-94.
- <sup>126</sup> *An act to provide for the care and custody of persons convicted in the courts of the United States who have or may become insane while imprisoned*, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session, June 23, 1874, 251.
- <sup>127</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, House Ex Doc. 1, part 3, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 1869, 1111.
- <sup>128</sup> *Annual Report*, 1870, House Ex Doc. 1, part 4, 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session, 1870, 905.
- <sup>129</sup> *Annual Report*, 1869, 1112.
- <sup>130</sup> *Annual Report*, 1871, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 11.
- <sup>131</sup> *Annual Report*, 1871, 11.
- <sup>132</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, 805.
- <sup>133</sup> *Annual Report*, 1871, 19.
- <sup>134</sup> *Annual Report*, 1873, 811.
- <sup>135</sup> *Annual Report*, 1876, 20.
- <sup>136</sup> *Annual Report*, 1874, 17-18.
- <sup>137</sup> "Topographical plan of the grounds," 1860, Library of Congress, Geography & Maps Room, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>138</sup> "Plat showing location and number of buildings on home tract," *Annual Report*, 1895, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, n.p.
- <sup>139</sup> *Annual Report*, 1875, 18.
- <sup>140</sup> *Annual Report*, 1875, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 18.
- <sup>141</sup> *Annual Report*, 1875, 21-25; Devroux & Purnell, 2:20-21.
- <sup>142</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 2:20.
- <sup>143</sup> Devroux & Purnell, *St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resources Management Plan*, prepared for the District of Columbia Office of Business and Economic Development, September 1993, 2:20.
- <sup>144</sup> *Annual Report*, 1877-78, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1878, 15-16.
- <sup>145</sup> *Annual Report*, 1878-79, 12-13; Devroux & Purnell, 57-58.
- <sup>146</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1880, 16-17.
- <sup>147</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 15.
- <sup>148</sup> *Annual Report*, 1882-83, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 16.
- <sup>149</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82: 17.
- <sup>150</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82: 17.
- <sup>151</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82: 22.
- <sup>152</sup> William Tindall, "The Origin of the Parking System of this City," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 4, 1901, 81.
- <sup>153</sup> "Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing number and location of buildings," *Annual Report*, 1894-95, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, n.p.
- <sup>154</sup> *Annual Report*, 1880-81: 20.
- <sup>155</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82: 19.

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- <sup>156</sup> *Annual Report*, 1883-84, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 19-20.
- <sup>157</sup> *Annual Report*, 1884-85, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 17.
- <sup>158</sup> *Annual Report*, 1884-85: 19; and *Annual Report*, 1885-86, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 20.
- <sup>159</sup> Mary-Jane M. Dowd, *Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital*, Record Group 42, Inventory no. 16, Washington DC, National Archives and Records Administration, 1992, 37-39.
- <sup>160</sup> *Annual Report*, 1885-86: 17.
- <sup>161</sup> *Annual Report*, 1886-87, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 17; Devroux & Purnell, 53.
- <sup>162</sup> *Annual Report*, 1888-89, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 16.
- <sup>163</sup> *Annual Report*, 1890-91, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 15.
- <sup>164</sup> *Annual Report*, 1889-90, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 15.
- <sup>165</sup> *Annual Report*, 1890-91: 16.
- <sup>166</sup> *Annual Report*, 1890-91: 20-21, Devroux & Purnell: 60.
- <sup>167</sup> *Annual Report*, 1890-91: 20-21, Devroux & Purnell: 60.
- <sup>168</sup> During the project research process, multiple spellings of 'Burrows' were found. This report uses the spelling that was most prominent throughout all documentation. However, it should be noted that an alternate spelling may be 'Borrows,' in reference to Sarah C. Borrows, daughter of Mrs. Catherine L. Borrows of Washington, DC, a fairly prominent family in the local area in the 1890s.
- <sup>169</sup> *Annual Report*, 1889-90: 16, 18.
- <sup>170</sup> *Annual Report*, 1891-92, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 19.
- <sup>171</sup> *Annual Report*, 1892-93, 17.
- <sup>172</sup> *Annual Report*, 1894-95, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 16.
- <sup>173</sup> *Annual Report*, 1894-95: 16.
- <sup>174</sup> U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1907, 2:1497.
- <sup>175</sup> U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1907, 17.
- <sup>176</sup> *Annual Report*, 1897-98, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 18.
- <sup>177</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives*, 1907, 2:1497.
- <sup>178</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives*, 1907, 28.
- <sup>179</sup> *Annual Report*, 1896-97, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 22.
- <sup>180</sup> *Annual Report*, 1897-98: 25.
- <sup>181</sup> *Annual Report*, 1897-98: 27.
- <sup>182</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1880, 15.
- <sup>183</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80: 15.
- <sup>184</sup> *Annual Report*, 1898-99, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 25.
- <sup>185</sup> *Annual Report*, 1898-99: 15.
- <sup>186</sup> *Annual Report*, 1897-98: 27; Devroux & Purnell: 58.
- <sup>187</sup> "Plat showing location and number of buildings on Home Tract," *Annual Report*, 1897-98, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1898.
- <sup>188</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 67.
- <sup>189</sup> *Annual Report*, 1883-84: 15-16.
- <sup>190</sup> *Annual Report*, 1881-82: 18-19.
- <sup>191</sup> *Annual Report*, 1887-88: 17.
- <sup>192</sup> *Annual Report*, 1889-90: 18.
- <sup>193</sup> *Annual Report*, 1897-98, 25.
- <sup>194</sup> *Annual Report*, 1892-93, 17.

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- <sup>195</sup> *Annual Report*, 1891-92, 18.
- <sup>196</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital*, H. doc. No. 605, 69<sup>th</sup> Congress., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., December 26, 1927, 46.
- <sup>197</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80: 19.
- <sup>198</sup> *Annual Report*, 1879-80: 19.
- <sup>199</sup> *Annual Report*, 1880-81, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 16.
- <sup>200</sup> *Annual Report*, 1883-84: 19-20.
- <sup>201</sup> 'Neat cattle' is a term that refers to domesticated straight-backed animals of the bovine genus, it is a more specific term that 'cattle' alone, although it is not commonly used today.
- <sup>202</sup> *Annual Report*, 1889-90: 18.
- <sup>203</sup> *Annual Report*, 1890-91: 16.
- <sup>204</sup> National Park Service, "Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm-Godding Croft, A Hospital Farm, 1891-1959," <http://www.nps.gov/oxhi/historyculture/godding-croft-a-hospital-farm.htm>.
- <sup>205</sup> *Annual Report*, 1877-78: 19.
- <sup>206</sup> *Annual Report*, 1878-79: 12-14; "Government Hospital for the Insane Ground Plan, 1883," Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, no. 15, National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic and Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. The 1883 ground plan uses a dotted line to indicate a rectangular structure connected to the boiler house. The annual report states that "a second reservoir will be built in the rear of the hospital building." The structure connected to the boiler house in the 1883 drawing may, then, represent this second reservoir.
- <sup>207</sup> *Annual Report*, 1882-83: 17-18.
- <sup>208</sup> *Annual Report*, 1882-83: 17-18.
- <sup>209</sup> *Annual Report*, 1891-92: 16.
- <sup>210</sup> "Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing number and location of buildings on Home Tract," *Annual Report*, 1894-95, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, n.p.
- <sup>211</sup> *Annual Report*, 1893-94: 15.
- <sup>212</sup> *Annual Report*, 1892-93: 15.
- <sup>213</sup> *Annual Report*, 1896-97: 20-21.
- <sup>214</sup> *Annual Report*, 1896-97: 20-21.
- <sup>215</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1899, 19.
- <sup>216</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900, 13-14.
- <sup>217</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 5-6.
- <sup>218</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 11.
- <sup>219</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 11.
- <sup>220</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 7-9; Purnell & Devroux, 2:27.
- <sup>221</sup> Alonzo B. Richardson to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., December 18, 1900, Records of the Olmsted Associates, series B, Job Files, job no. 2825, reel 135, frame 633, Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>222</sup> "Government Hospital for the Insane, F. L. Olmsted, Jr., December 26, 1900" [notes], Records of the Olmsted Associates, series B, Job Files, job no. 2825, reel 135, frame 634.
- <sup>223</sup> Olmsted Brothers to Dr. A. B. Richardson, January 15, 1901, 1-4, Records of the Olmsted Associates, series B, Job Files, job no. 2825, reel 135.
- <sup>224</sup> Olmsted Brothers, "Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C., 1901, Olmsted Archives, job 2825, no. 2, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.
- <sup>225</sup> Olmsted Brothers to Dr. A. B. Richardson, January 15, 1901, 4-8.
- <sup>226</sup> Olmsted Brothers to Dr. A. B. Richardson, January 15, 1901, 10.
- <sup>227</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 6.
- <sup>228</sup> "Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing location and number of buildings on Home Tract, Plate 1," April 1899.
- <sup>229</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "South east from near the water tower to the new entrance," December 26, 1900, Olmsted Archives, photograph no. 2825-6, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.
- <sup>230</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1901, 11.
- <sup>231</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 11.

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- <sup>232</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 12.
- <sup>233</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 10-11. Although called an addition, this building may have been separate from the original pumping station. The 1908 annual report states that the old pump house was torn down. The Congressional Report, *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital* (December 26, 1927, 107), states that the tower stood 105' high. It may be that the trestle was 85' high while the top of the tank was 105' off the ground.
- <sup>234</sup> James Berral, "Government Hospital for the Insane," 1904, *Annual Report*, 1903-04, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
- <sup>235</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 11.
- <sup>236</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 9 and 11.
- <sup>237</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 13.
- <sup>238</sup> *Annual Report*, 1901-1902, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1902, 4.
- <sup>239</sup> *Annual Report*, 1900-1901, 14-15.
- <sup>240</sup> *Annual Report*, 1901-1902, 4.
- <sup>241</sup> *Annual Report*, 1901-1902, 4.
- <sup>242</sup> "Funeral Plans Made," *Washington Post*, June 29, 1903, 12.
- <sup>243</sup> Lawrence C. Moore, "William Alanson White – A Biography," in *William Alanson White: The Washington Years, 1903-1937*, Arcangelo R. T. D'Amore, ed. (Washington, D.C.: Department of Health Education and Welfare, 1976), 14.
- <sup>244</sup> 64 Stat. 309.
- <sup>245</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904, 3; *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital*, December 26, 1927, 106.
- <sup>246</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 3; *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital*, 106.
- <sup>247</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 6.
- <sup>248</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911, 463.
- <sup>249</sup> *Annual Report*, 1909-10, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1910, 322-323.
- <sup>250</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1914, 569.
- <sup>251</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1905, 8.
- <sup>252</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1917, 15.
- <sup>253</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1920, 23.
- <sup>254</sup> *Annual Report*, 1915-16, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1916, 16-17; and Devroux & Purnell, 2:78.
- <sup>255</sup> *Annual Report*, 1917-18, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1918, 10; and *Annual Report*, 1918-19, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919, 10-11.
- <sup>256</sup> *Annual Report*, 1935-36, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1936, 392.
- <sup>257</sup> *Annual Report*, 1923-24, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924, 7.
- <sup>258</sup> *Annual Report*, 1924-25, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1925, 7.
- <sup>259</sup> *Annual Report*, 1924-25, 9-10.
- <sup>260</sup> *Annual Report*, 1925-26, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1926, 10.
- <sup>261</sup> William A. White, "The New Government Hospital for the Insane," *American Journal of Insanity* 66:4, April 1910, 523-524.
- <sup>262</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 572.
- <sup>263</sup> *Annual Report*, 1925-26, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1926, 7.
- <sup>264</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 21-22; and *Annual Report*, 1933-34, 387.
- <sup>265</sup> *Annual Report*, 1936-37, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1937, 378.
- <sup>266</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 4.
- <sup>267</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 4.
- <sup>268</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, 8.
- <sup>269</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 4.
- <sup>270</sup> *Annual Report*, 1905-06, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906, 9.
- <sup>271</sup> *Annual Report*, 1906-07, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907, 8.
- <sup>272</sup> *Annual Report*, 1908-09, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1909, 296.
- <sup>273</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 449-450.

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- <sup>274</sup> *Annual Report*, 1911-12, 500.
- <sup>275</sup> *Annual Report*, 1911-12, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1912, 500.
- <sup>276</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 588.
- <sup>277</sup> *Annual Report*, 1923-24, 7.
- <sup>278</sup> *Annual Report*, 1925-26, 7.
- <sup>279</sup> *Annual Report*, 1917-18, 12.
- <sup>280</sup> *Annual Report*, 1908-09, 296.
- <sup>281</sup> *Annual Report*, 1912-13, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913, 579-581.
- <sup>282</sup> *Annual Report*, 1917-18, 12.
- <sup>283</sup> *Annual Report*, 1911-12, 500.
- <sup>284</sup> *Annual Report*, 1912-13, 579-581.
- <sup>285</sup> *Annual Report*, 1921-22, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1922, 3.
- <sup>286</sup> *Annual Report*, 1923-24, 7.
- <sup>287</sup> *Annual Report*, 1923-24, 7.
- <sup>288</sup> *Annual Report*, 1924-25, 6-7.
- <sup>289</sup> *Annual Report*, 1925-26, 7.
- <sup>290</sup> *Annual Report*, 1926-27, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1927, 3.
- <sup>291</sup> Snyder to William A. White, July 8, 1927, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2.
- <sup>292</sup> *Annual Report*, 1927-28, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1928, 3.
- <sup>293</sup> *Annual Report*, 1928-29, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1929, 4.
- <sup>294</sup> Snyder to William A. White, July 8, 1927, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2.
- <sup>295</sup> *Annual Report*, 1927-28, 3; and *Annual Report*, 1928-29, 4.
- <sup>296</sup> *Annual Report*, 1935-36, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1936, 395-396
- <sup>297</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 4.
- <sup>298</sup> *Annual Report*, 1908-09, 296.
- <sup>299</sup> *Annual Report*, 1909-10, 322.
- <sup>300</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 449-450.
- <sup>301</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1915, 24.
- <sup>302</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 10.
- <sup>303</sup> *Annual Report*, 1905-06, 11.
- <sup>304</sup> See, for instance, image no. DC0137SE0P011, 1910 and image no. DC1472SE0PT019, 1957, General Services Administration. *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*. Compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.
- <sup>305</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 12-14.
- <sup>306</sup> *Annual Report*, 1934-35, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935, 386-387, 400.
- <sup>307</sup> *Annual Report*, 1930-31, 4; Snyder to William A. White, July 8, 1927, 1-2; *Annual Report*, 1921-22, 2.
- <sup>308</sup> *Annual Report*, 1931-32, 5-7.
- <sup>309</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, 8-9.
- <sup>310</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 13.
- <sup>311</sup> *Annual Report*, 1929-30, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1930, 5.
- <sup>312</sup> *Ibid.*, 394-395.
- <sup>313</sup> *Annual Report*, 1905-06, 9.
- <sup>314</sup> *Annual Report*, 1907-08, 299-300.
- <sup>315</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 570.
- <sup>316</sup> *Annual Report*, 1918-19, 14.
- <sup>317</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 450.
- <sup>318</sup> *Annual Report*, 1931-32, 6.
- <sup>319</sup> *Annual Report*, 1909-10, 322-323.
- <sup>320</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 21-22.
- <sup>321</sup> *Annual Report*, 1926-27, 3.
- <sup>322</sup> *Annual Report*, 1935-36, 395-396.

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- <sup>323</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 5.
- <sup>324</sup> *Annual Report*, 1912-13, 581-584; *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 107.
- <sup>325</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 7; *Annual Report*, 1912-13, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913, 584.
- <sup>326</sup> *Annual Report*, 1906-07, 12.
- <sup>327</sup> *Annual Report*, 1912-13, 581-584; *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 107.
- <sup>328</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 13.
- <sup>329</sup> *Annual Report*, 1918-19, 14.
- <sup>330</sup> *Annual Report*, 1922-23, 3.
- <sup>331</sup> *Annual Report*, 1933-34, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1934, 386.
- <sup>332</sup> *Annual Report*, 1903-04, 6; and *Annual Report*, 1907-08, 299-300.
- <sup>333</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 449-450.
- <sup>334</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 570.
- <sup>335</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 23.
- <sup>336</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 32.
- <sup>337</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 33.
- <sup>338</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 33.
- <sup>339</sup> Godding to Sanger, July 10, 1922.
- <sup>340</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 110-113; "St. Elizabeths Hospital Inventory," June 30, 1927, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2.
- <sup>341</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 111-113.
- <sup>342</sup> *Annual Report*, 1921-22, 3.
- <sup>343</sup> C. B. Snyder to Sanger, July 8, 1925, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2, 1-5.
- <sup>344</sup> *Annual Report*, 1930-31, 3.
- <sup>345</sup> *Annual Report*, 1927-28, 2.
- <sup>346</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 110-113; "St. Elizabeths Hospital Inventory," June 30, 1927, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2.
- <sup>347</sup> *Annual Report*, 1930-31, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1931, 3.
- <sup>348</sup> *Annual Report*, 1931-32, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932, 3.
- <sup>349</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, 5.
- <sup>350</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, 8.
- <sup>351</sup> According to oral tradition the name "bull pen" was given to the area by one of the patients and was sometimes referred to by that name by both patients and staff, although hospital officials decried that epithet.
- <sup>352</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907), 2:1184-1185.
- <sup>353</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, 2:1497.
- <sup>354</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, 2:1497.
- <sup>355</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, 2:1227.
- <sup>356</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "From near water tower toward Chronic Male wards. 2d. Panorama #2," December 26, 1900, Olmsted Archives, photograph no. 2825-11, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.
- <sup>357</sup> House Report no. 7644, part I. *Report of the Special Committee on Investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane with Hearings and Digest of the Testimony*. 59<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., 1907, xviii.
- <sup>358</sup> *Annual Report*, 1905-06, 10.

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- <sup>359</sup> *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives, Fifty-ninth Congress, to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, 2:1185.
- <sup>360</sup> *Annual Report*, 1905-06, 9.
- <sup>361</sup> *Annual Report*, 1906-07, 8.
- <sup>362</sup> *Annual Report*, 1907-08, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908, 298.
- <sup>363</sup> *Annual Report*, 1907-08, 301.
- <sup>364</sup> *Annual Report*, 1907-08, 301.
- <sup>365</sup> *Annual Report*, 1911-12, 503.
- <sup>366</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 449-450; *Annual Report*, 1911-12, 500; *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 569.
- <sup>367</sup> *Annual Report*, 1913-14, 569.
- <sup>368</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, 15.
- <sup>369</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital*, December 26, 1927, 65.
- <sup>370</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, 15; *Annual Report*, 1915-16, 15.
- <sup>371</sup> *Annual Report*, 1915-16, 15.
- <sup>372</sup> *Annual Report*, 1915-16, 15.
- <sup>373</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 23.
- <sup>374</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 33.
- <sup>375</sup> Godding to Sanger, July 10, 1922.
- <sup>376</sup> *Annual Report*, 1922-23, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923, 3.
- <sup>377</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 2:37.
- <sup>378</sup> Alvah Godding to M. Sanger, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, July 10, 1922, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 1.
- <sup>379</sup> Godding to Sanger, July 12, 1924, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2, 1-2.
- <sup>380</sup> Godding to Sanger, box 2, 1-2.
- <sup>381</sup> *Annual Report*, 1926-27, 6.
- <sup>382</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 43.
- <sup>383</sup> *Annual Report*, 1928-29, 5.
- <sup>384</sup> "Walks about the Hospital Grounds I," *Sun Dial*, ca. December 1928, 2.
- <sup>385</sup> *Annual Report*, 1931-32, 5-7.
- <sup>386</sup> *Annual Report*, 1904-05, 8-9.
- <sup>387</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, 20.
- <sup>388</sup> *Annual Report*, 1922-23, 3; Site plans from 1938 and 1945 locate a 1905 comfort station next to the south wall of the north entrance, with a second 1922 comfort station (Building no. 77), located next to the south gate.
- <sup>389</sup> *Annual Report*, 1910-11, 449.
- <sup>390</sup> "Walks about the Grounds I," *Sun Dial*, ca. December 1928, 3.
- <sup>391</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, 23.
- <sup>392</sup> *Annual Report*, 1912-13, 585.
- <sup>393</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 21-22.
- <sup>394</sup> *Annual Report*, 1916-17, 21-22.
- <sup>395</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report of the Committee to Consider the Organization and Needs of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911, 26; and *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 11.
- <sup>396</sup> *Annual Report*, 1899-1900, 11.
- <sup>397</sup> *Annual Report*, 1914-15, 25.
- <sup>398</sup> *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital.*, December 26, 1927, 110-113; "St. Elizabeths Hospital Inventory," June 30, 1927, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2.
- <sup>399</sup> *Annual Report*, 1918-19, 18.
- <sup>400</sup> *Annual Report*, 1919-20, 21.
- <sup>401</sup> *Annual Report*, 1923-24, 7.

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- <sup>402</sup> C. B. Snyder to Sanger, July 8, 1925, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 2, 1-4.
- <sup>403</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 380.
- <sup>404</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 380.
- <sup>405</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 380.
- <sup>406</sup> Wm. H. Mistr to Overholser, July 16, 1945, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 5, 1.
- <sup>407</sup> It is unknown when Alvah Godding left the position of head of the Lawns and Grounds Department.
- <sup>408</sup> Wm. H. Mistr to Overholser, July 16, 1945, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 5, 1.
- <sup>409</sup> Wm. H. Mistr to Overholser, July 16, 1945.
- <sup>410</sup> Mistr to Overholser, July 20, 1946, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 5, 1-2.
- <sup>411</sup> *Annual Report*, 1946-47, 487.
- <sup>412</sup> Mistr to Overholser, July 20.
- <sup>413</sup> Image no. DC1472SE0132, 1947, General Services Administration. *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*. Compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.
- <sup>414</sup> Air Photographics, Inc., photo no. 1948 DC D396, Spring 1948, included in Heritage Landscapes, *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Landscape Assessment Plan*, prepared for the General Services Administration, August 31, 2005, 1948-AP.
- <sup>415</sup> *Annual Report*, 1946-47, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1947, 486-487.
- <sup>416</sup> *Annual Report*, 1947-48, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1948, 677-678.
- <sup>417</sup> *Annual Report*, 1953-54, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1954, 256.
- <sup>418</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 382-383.
- <sup>419</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 382-383.
- <sup>420</sup> *Annual Report*, 1951-52, 15.
- <sup>421</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 382-383.
- <sup>422</sup> *Annual Report*, 1937-38, 382.
- <sup>423</sup> *Annual Report*, 1938-39, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939, 410-411.
- <sup>424</sup> Snyder to Winfred Overholser, Superintendent, July 15, 1946, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 4, 1.
- <sup>425</sup> *Annual Report*, 1940-41, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1941, 11.
- <sup>426</sup> *Annual Report*, 1940-41, 11.
- <sup>427</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 2:81.
- <sup>428</sup> Image no. DC1449SE0P011, 1944, General Services Administration, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*, compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.
- <sup>429</sup> C. B. Snyder to Winfred Overholser, July 11, 1944, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 4, 1.
- <sup>430</sup> Snyder to Winfred Overholser, Superintendent, July 15, 1946, NARA, Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, entry 20, box 4, 1.
- <sup>431</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 2:81.
- <sup>432</sup> *Annual Report*, 1945-46, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946, 417; *Annual Report*, 1948-49, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1949, 13.
- <sup>433</sup> *Annual Report*, 1950-51, 14-15; *Annual Report*, 1951-52, 15.
- <sup>434</sup> *Annual Report*, 1950-51, 14.
- <sup>435</sup> *Annual Report*, 1956-57, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1957, 6.
- <sup>436</sup> *Annual Report*, 1953-54, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1954, 256; A 1945 survey by the Public Buildings Service indicated that the carpenter shop was housed in a 1914 addition to the original laundry building, while the cabinet shop was housed in a small building constructed in 1886 south of the West Lodge. The location of the mattress shop is uncertain. The original laundry building was constructed in 1856 and was added to in 1886. It is not clear whether or not the 1856 laundry building was demolished at this time. A portion of this building may remain extant as Building no. 49; Public Buildings Service, "Site Survey: St. Elizabeths Hospital,"

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*Report on the Treatment, Administration and Service Facilities of St. Elizabeths Hospital*, St. Elizabeths Health Sciences Library; Devroux & Purnell, 2:71.

<sup>437</sup> *Annual Report*, 1946-47, 488.

<sup>438</sup> *Annual Report*, 1948-49, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1949, 13.

<sup>439</sup> *Annual Report*, 1953-54, 256; *Annual Report*, 1955-56, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956, 1.

<sup>440</sup> *Annual Report*, 1959-60, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1960, 2.

<sup>441</sup> Air Photographics, Inc., photo no. V615-197(P), March 1961, included in Heritage Landscapes, *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Landscape Assessment Plan*, prepared for the General Services Administration, August 31, 2005, 1961-AP.

<sup>442</sup> Air Photographics, Inc., photo no. V615-197(P), March 1961, included in Heritage Landscapes, *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Landscape Assessment Plan*, prepared for the General Services Administration, August 31, 2005, 1961-AP.

<sup>443</sup> *Annual Report*, 1961-62, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1962, 10; *Annual Report*, 1962-63, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1963, 13.

<sup>444</sup> For asphalt roads, see DC0148SE0P001 and DC0066SE0P034, 1963, General Services Administration, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*, Compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.

<sup>445</sup> For lampposts see DC0148SE0P001 and DC0066SE0P034, 1963, General Services Administration, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*, Compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.

<sup>446</sup> *Annual Report*, 1961-62, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1962, 10.

<sup>447</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 2:82; Air Photographics, Inc., photo no. V615-197(P), February 1966, included in Heritage Landscapes, *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Landscape Assessment Plan*, prepared for the General Services Administration, August 31, 2005, 1966-AP.

<sup>448</sup> *Annual Report*, 1964-65, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1965, 17.

<sup>449</sup> Image no. DC0066SE0P078, February 11, 1965, General Services Administration, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*, compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.

<sup>450</sup> Site Plan, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, [Washington, D.C.?: s.n., 1985], Geography & Map Reading Room, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

<sup>451</sup> Image nos. DC0129SE0P004 and DC0101SE0P017, General Services Administration, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital Database*, compiled by Zimmerman Associates, Inc., 2005.

<sup>452</sup> *Annual Report*, 1967-68, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1965, 264.

<sup>453</sup> *St. Elizabeths Hospital Master Plan*, 1977, St. Elizabeths Health Sciences Library.

<sup>454</sup> Devroux & Purnell, 1:4.

<sup>455</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," 6.

<sup>456</sup> General Services Administration, "St. Elizabeths West Campus Cultural Resources Technical Report," 6.

<sup>457</sup> Responsibilities for components of the *Building, Landscape, and Archaeological Assessment – St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus* included Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects for building assessment, Heritage Landscapes for landscape assessment and Hunter Research for project history and archaeology.

<sup>458</sup> Patricia O'Donnell, Peter Viteretto, Gregory De Vries, Tamara Orlow, and Thomas Helmkamp, *St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Landscape Assessment Plan*, Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners (authors), Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects (team leader) for U.S., General Service Administration, 2005.

<sup>459</sup> Dix, Dorothea, *Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts* (1843).

<sup>460</sup> "Dororthea Dix" The State House Women's Leadership Project, The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, 2001, [www.mfh.org/specialprojects/shwlp/site/honorees/dix.html](http://www.mfh.org/specialprojects/shwlp/site/honorees/dix.html)

<sup>461</sup> Thomas S[tory] Kirkbride, *On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, Second Edition with Revisions, Additions, and New Illustrations, Philadelphia/London: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1880: Chapter 1. First edition published as *On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, Philadelphia: [no publisher], 1854.

<sup>462</sup> Kirkbride, Chapter 14.

<sup>463</sup> *Report of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information as to the steps taken to establish a Lunatic Asylum in the District of Columbia*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., S. doc. 11, December 30, 1852: 6-7.

<sup>464</sup> "Thomas Ustick Walter," Virtual American Biographies, 2000, [www.famousamericans.net/thomasustickwalter/](http://www.famousamericans.net/thomasustickwalter/)

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<sup>465</sup> “Thomas Ustick Walter,” The Architect of the Capitol, 2007, <http://www.aoc.gov/aoc/architects/walter.cfm>

<sup>466</sup> “Thomas Ustick Walter,” The Architect of the Capitol, 2007, <http://www.aoc.gov/aoc/architects/walter.cfm>

<sup>467</sup> Schuyler, David, *Apostle of Taste Andrew Jackson Downing 1815-1852*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1996, p. 78.

<sup>468</sup> Schuyler, David, *Apostle of Taste*, 1996, 79-81, Figure 36; from the 1848 *Report of the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum*, Courtesy of Kenneth B. Hawkins.

<sup>469</sup> Schuyler, David, *Apostle of Taste*, 1996, p. 79; note 46, AJD, “A Chapter on School Houses” *Horticulturist*, 2 (Mar. 1848): 395, printed in *Rural Essays*, p. 269.

<sup>470</sup> Listings from on-line Olmsted research guide at: <http://www.rediscov.com/olmsted>, correspondence with Charles Birnbaum, NPS Historic Landscape Initiative, and review of books on Downing and Vaux in Heritage Landscapes office library.

<sup>471</sup> ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes members from Italy, France, Spain, England, Austria and Norway were queried in early 2005 by Patricia O’Donnell, who is a committee member, to determine their knowledge of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century insane asylums that included a therapeutic landscape. The response was that while some hospitals of this type were created, most were late 19<sup>th</sup> century, not mid-century and they knew of no former institutions with intact or relatively intact landscapes of integrity remaining today.

<sup>472</sup> The term “Civil War Cemetery” is used throughout this document report as this was the term used historically to identify the cemetery; however, the cemetery does include as many as 160 civilian interments.

<sup>473</sup> H. Smith, *Soil Survey of the District of Columbia*, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington DC, 1976.

<sup>474</sup> Heritage Landscapes staff had visual identification of bald eagles on field visits to the West Campus in 2006. Areas of bald eagle nesting were shown to Heritage Landscapes staff by other consultants to GSA in the summer of 2006. Popular knowledge of nesting at St. Elizabeths Hospital is evident by publications such as: Larry Dine, “A Symbol of America,” *Washingtonian.com*, online newspaper, 1 July, 2006, found 02/02/2007 at <http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/mediapolitics/1668.html>.

<sup>475</sup> Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, *Map1: Anacostia River Watershed, Map 2: Anacostia River Major Subwatersheds*, Watershed Service LWAD, March 2005; found 01/02/2007 at: [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/ar\\_char\\_maps1\\_6.pdf](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/ar_char_maps1_6.pdf).

<sup>476</sup> Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, *Map1: Anacostia River Watershed, Map 2: Anacostia River Major Subwatersheds*, Watershed Service LWAD, March 2005; found 01/02/2007 at: [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/ar\\_char\\_maps1\\_6.pdf](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/ar_char_maps1_6.pdf).

<sup>477</sup> Responsibilities for components of the *Building, Landscape, and Archeological Assessment – St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus* included Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects for building assessment, Heritage Landscapes for landscape assessment and Hunter Research for project history and archeology.

<sup>478</sup> Ian Burrow, Damon Tvaryanas, William Liebeknecht, and Nadine Sergejeff, *Combined Phase I Archeological Survey*, Hunter Research (authors), Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects (team leader) for U.S., General Service Administration, 2005: v.



Figure 1. The ca. 1860 painting 'View over the city of Washington from the Government Hospital for the Insane,' illustrates the dramatic panoramic expanse from the high ground of the plateau north of the Main Building. Courtesy National Archives.

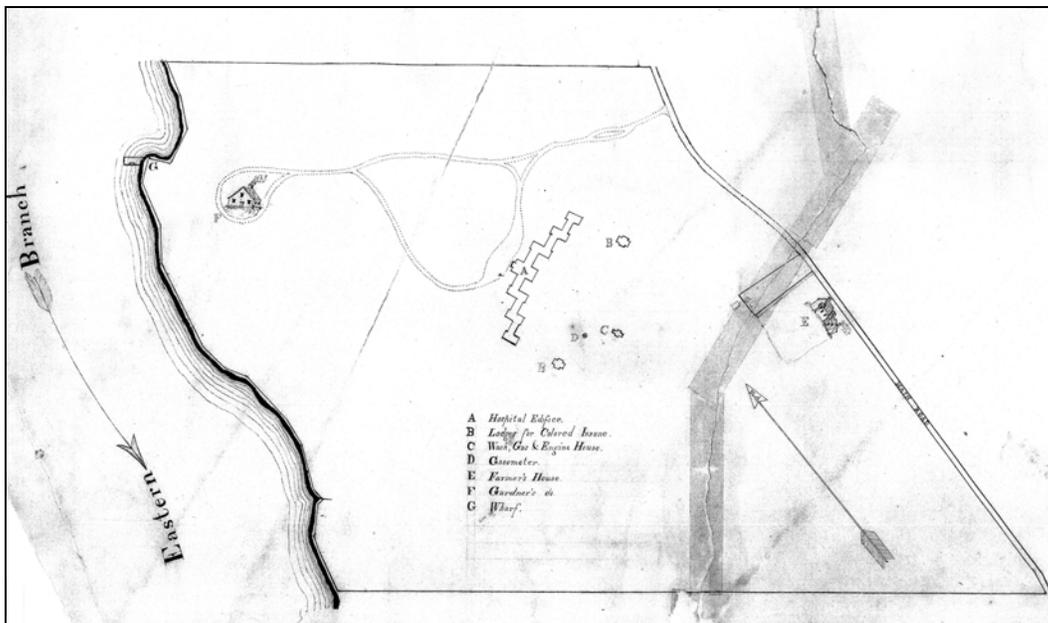


Figure 2. As seen in this ca. 1860 drawing, the initial mid-nineteenth-century work concentrated on completion of Hospital Edifice, the Center Building and its wings (A), Lodges for the Colored Insane (B), and necessary service functions such as a utility building Wash, Gas & Engine House (C), Gasometer (D), and a Wharf (G). Note the presence of the Farmer's House (E) and "Gardener's do." cottage or house (F), both extant at the time the property was purchased by the government. Courtesy National Archives II.

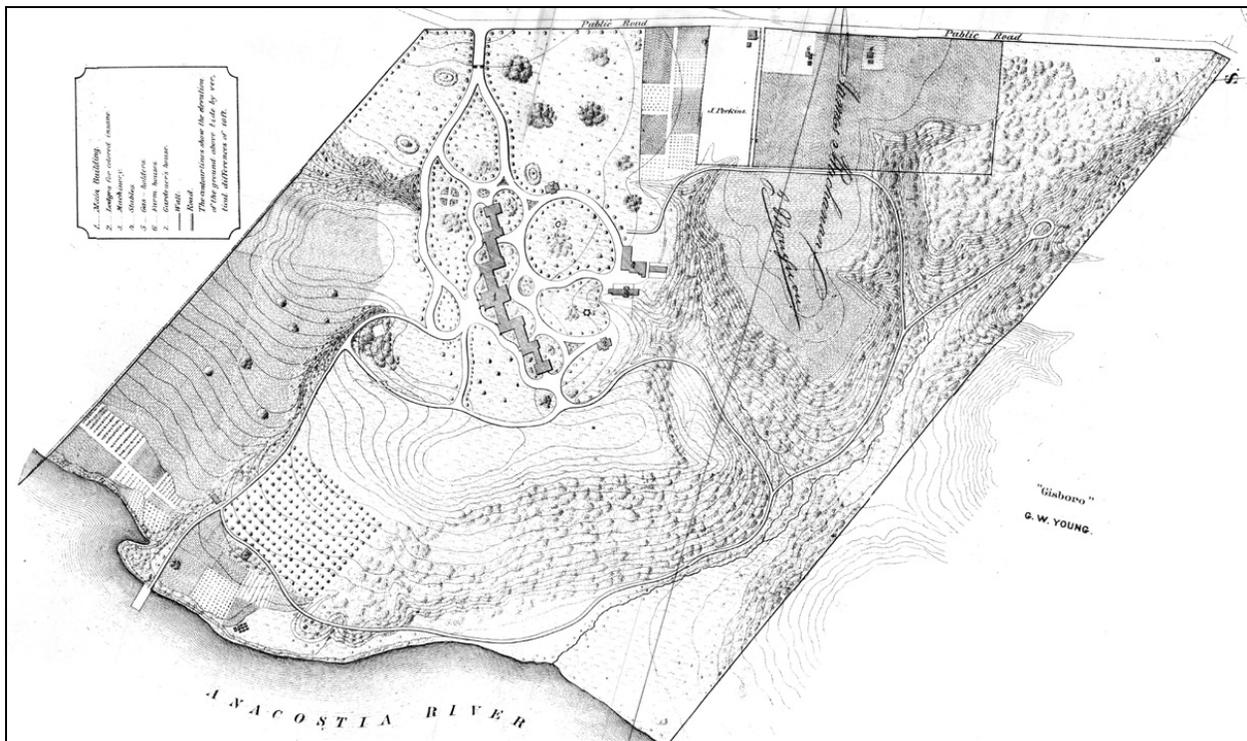


Figure 3. An 1860 Topographical Plan reveals the network of curvilinear walks and carriage drives within a therapeutic green landscape. Privately held farmlands to be acquired for inclusion in the hospital landscape are shown along the Public Road. Courtesy Library of Congress.

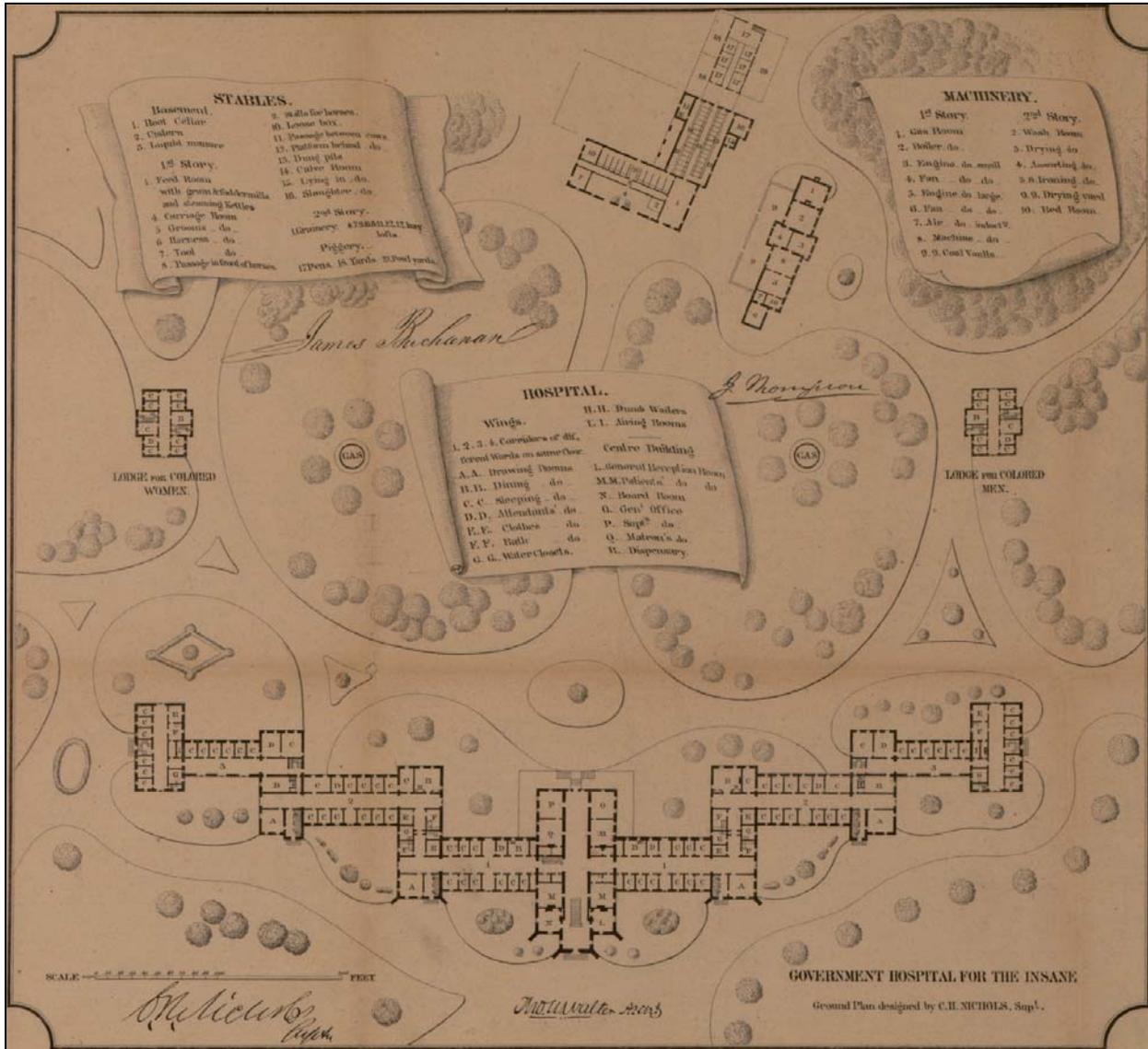


Figure 4. The Ground Plan is “designed by C.H. Nichols, Sup.” and signed by Architect Thomas U. Walter and President James Buchanan. The plan shows the Center Building and the area in its immediate vicinity with graceful drives, formal and informal clusters of trees define the edges of turf and planted triangles at road intersections. The three components of the institution are identified as hospital, stables, and machinery. Courtesy Library of Congress.



Figure 5. Detail of “Map of the environs of Washington: compiled from Boschkes' map of the District of Columbia and from surveys of the U.S. Coast Survey showing the line of the defences of Washington as constructed during the war from 1861 to 1865 inclusive / to accompany the report on the defences of Washington by Bvt. Major Genl. J.G. Barnard, Col. of Engineers, late Chief Engineer of Defences &c.” reveals the rural setting of St. Elizabeths on the high riverbank plateau of the Anacostia River. Courtesy Library of Congress.



Figure 6. This photograph entitled “Center Building about 1861 (note tents for soldiers)” shows that the land south of the Center Building is in cultivation during the early years of the Civil War. Courtesy St. Elizabeths Hospital Blackburn Laboratory, Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa.

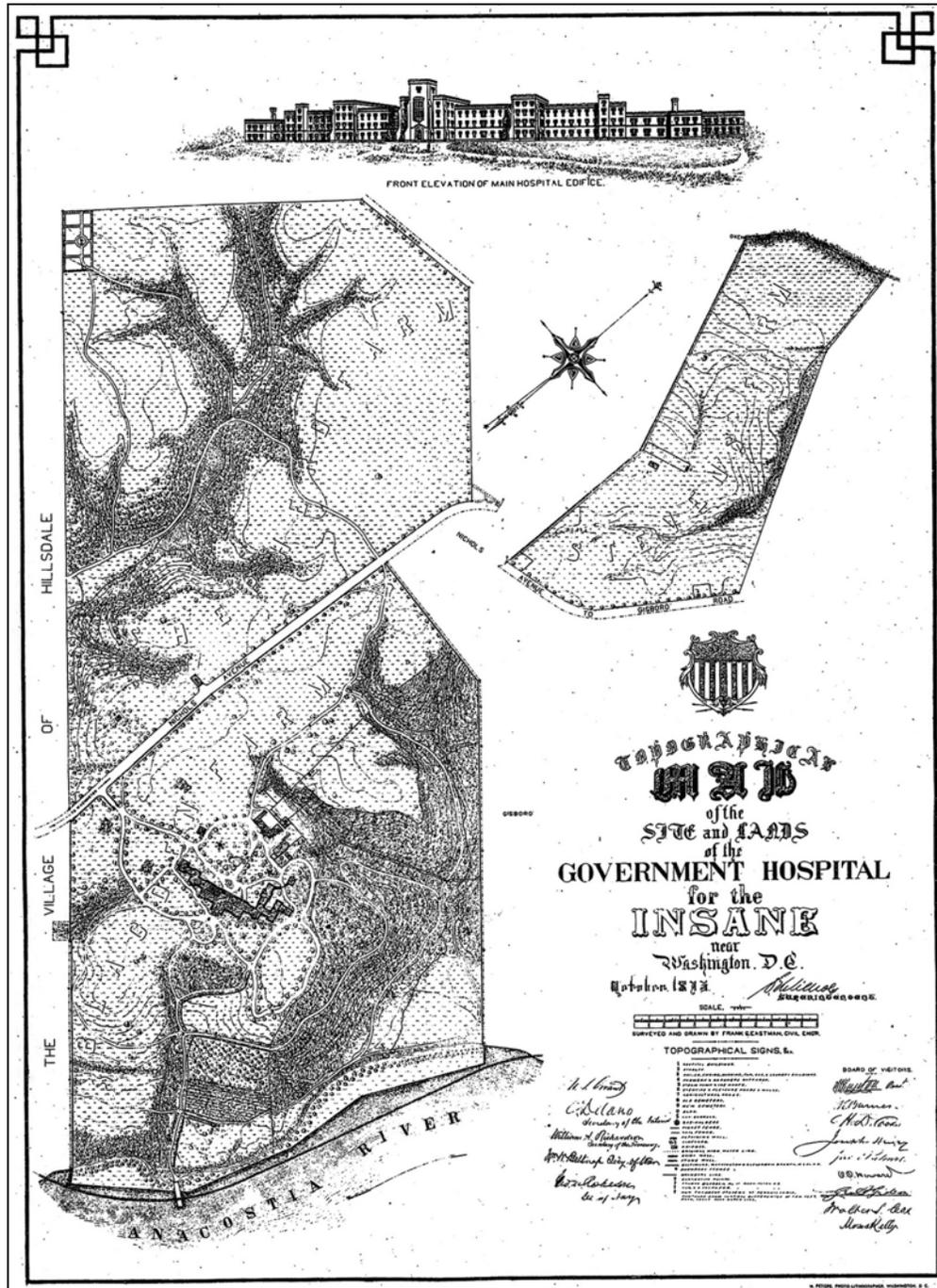


Figure 7. "Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane near Washington" shows hospital-owned parcels and the layout of the West Campus in 1873. The plan illustrates the developed core of the hospital campus with steep slopes delineated by dark massing. Note the wooded slopes and ravines wrapping the plateau nearly continuously from northwest to south. The overlook area to the northwest of the Center building is well defined and edge by a road. The system of curving drives is readily apparent, as are the rows of trees lining the principal roadways. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 8. Painting of the façade of the Main Building and grounds ca. 1860 shows the ornamental landscape of tree and shrub plantings, curving drives, and lawns. The painting suggests the nature of the ideal hospital landscape. Courtesy National Archives.



Figure 9. With green lawns and young trees as the setting, residential facilities of the hospital were expanded with cottages clustered around small, park-like landscapes around the Allison Buildings providing space for outdoor recreation and contemplation. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 10. The view shows the shrub plantings in the foreground with a ground plane of evergreen and deciduous trees. The Home and Relief buildings lie behind two summer houses. The inner courtyard of the complex is visible between the two buildings. Courtesy National Archives II.

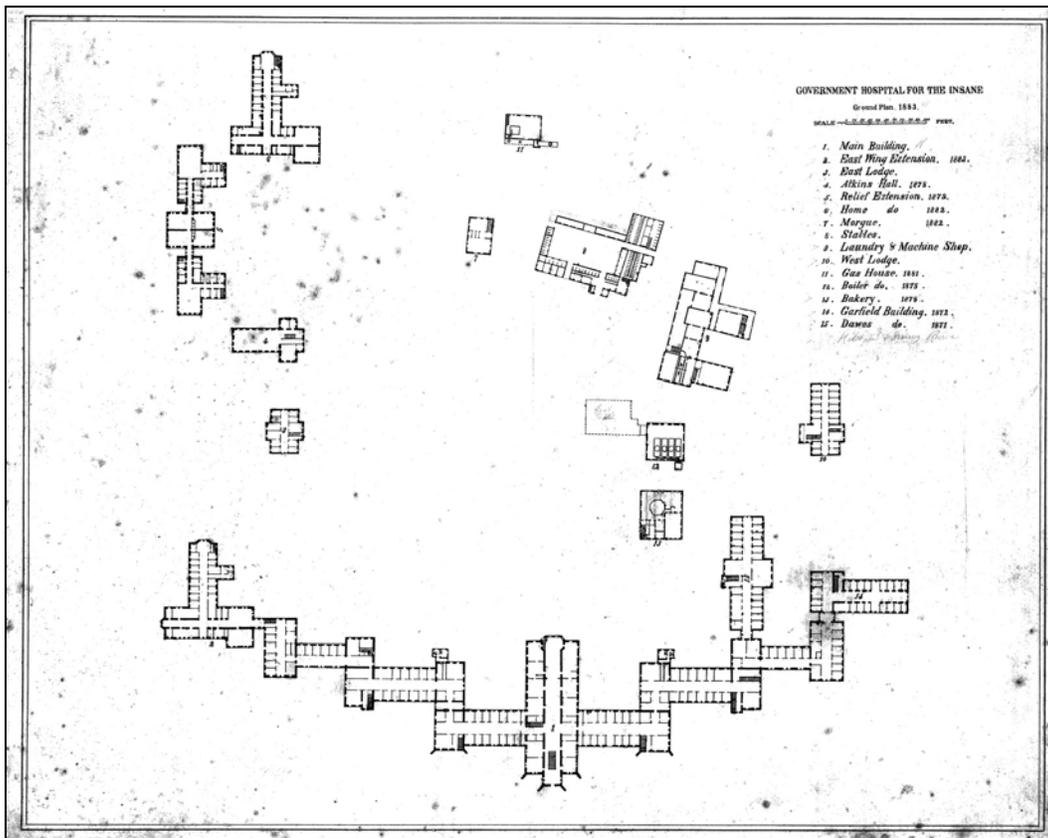


Figure 11. "Government Hospital for the Insane Ground Plan, 1883" depicts a series of service buildings constructed to the south of the Center Building as the hospital expanded and needed additional room for patients. Courtesy National Archives II.

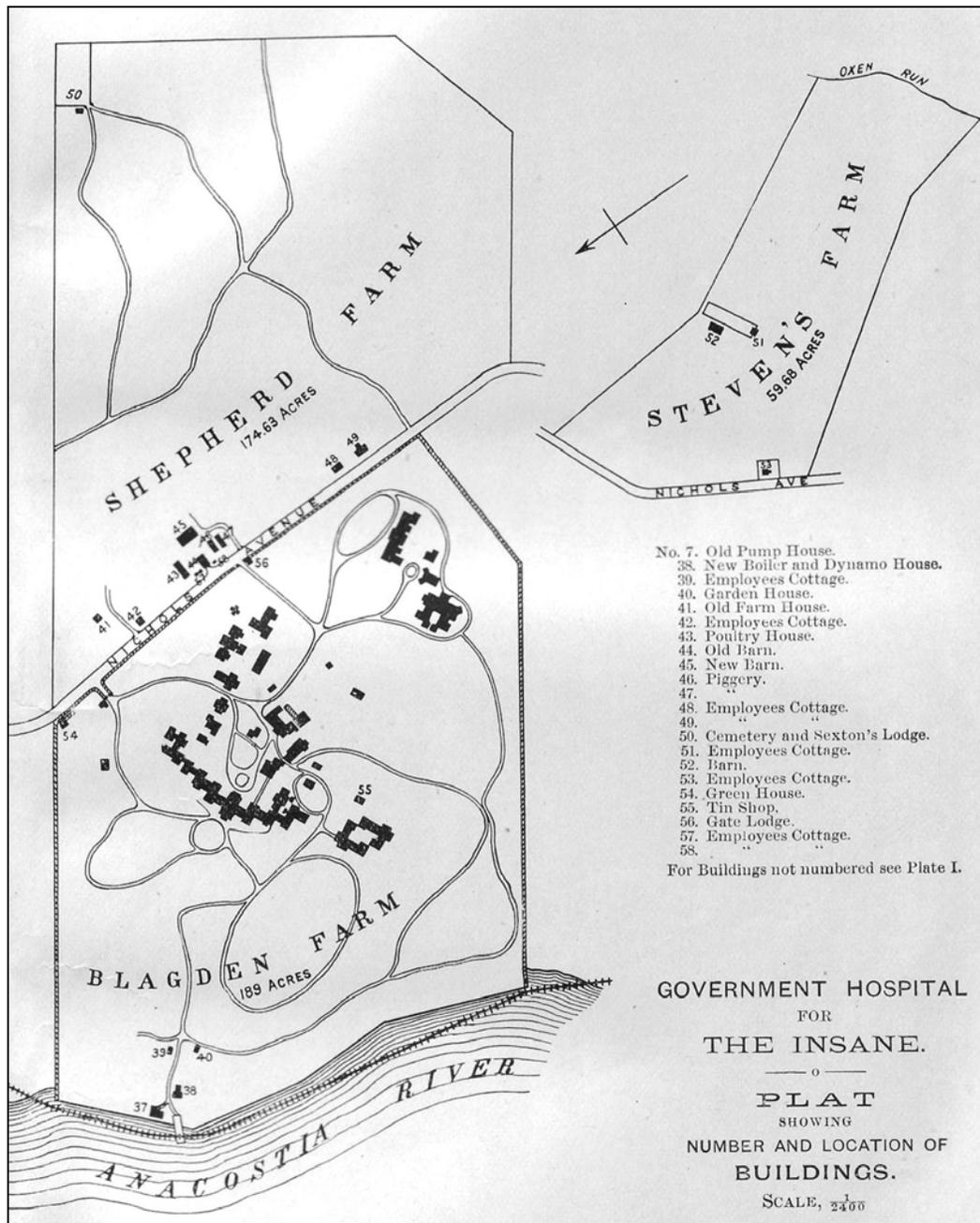


Figure 12. "Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings" records the roads and structures of St. Elizabeths under the cottage plan in 1898. It shows the original Blagden Farm parcel, totaling 189 acres with a pattern of interconnected curving drives. Development of the Anacostia River wharf increased since the 1870s. The railroad trestle, which appeared for the first time on the 1873 plan, affects development near the wharf, including a pump house and a boiler house. The Shepherd Farm east of Nichols Avenue is acquired during this period allowing for expansion to the east. Courtesy Library of Congress.



Figure 13. The 1895 Geodetic Survey indicates the landscape character and degree of development. The east wing of the Central Building was complete with only a portion of the west wing constructed. The northern portion of Howard Hall was also complete. Tree and orchard plantings were located both north and south of the Center Building. Courtesy National Archives II.





Figure 15. The landscape of St. Elizabeths was altered with new plantings of magnolias and the erection of summerhouses and fences. A hexagonal summerhouse, shown in this 1898 view, provided patients and staff with sheltered areas to sit and enjoy the grounds. Also note the simple post and board wood fence. Courtesy National Archives II.

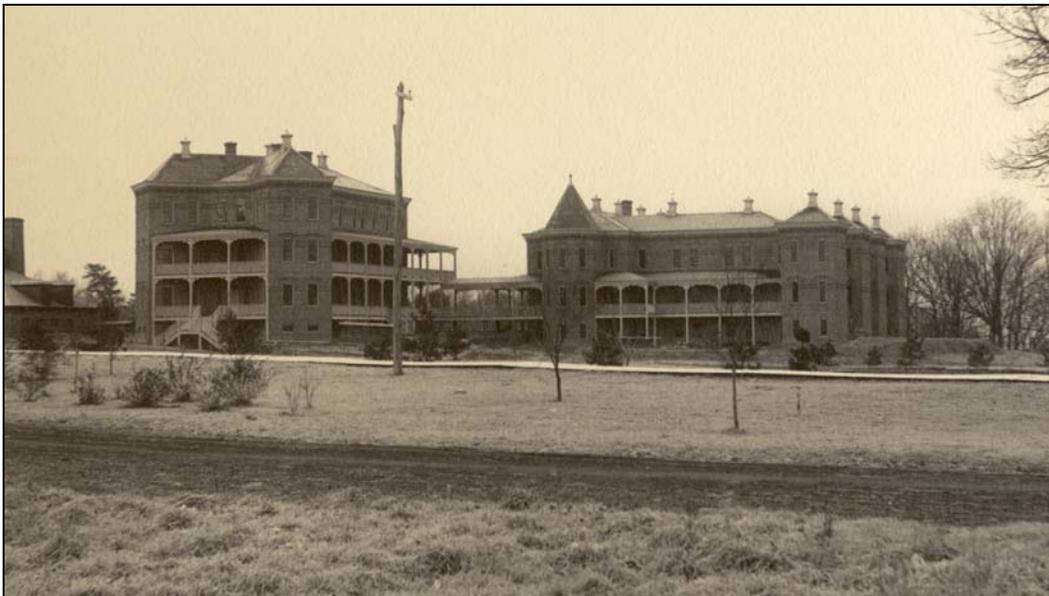


Figure 16. The development of Godding's cottage plan is evident in the expansion of patient facilities, such as the Oaks buildings, to the south of the hospital property. The addition of numerous landscape elements such as wooden telephone poles in conjunction with the institutional architecture shows technological advancement on the grounds at St. Elizabeths around 1897. Plantings of shrubs and trees also enhanced the landscape. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 17. "In the Reservation." Small gardens throughout the landscape at St. Elizabeths fostered outdoor, therapeutic stimulation for patients. This garden area, probably located north of the Center Building, contained large caladium or taro herbaceous plants, a circular lily pond, and a tiered cast iron fountain. The composition indicates a high level of maintenance. Courtesy Library of Congress.

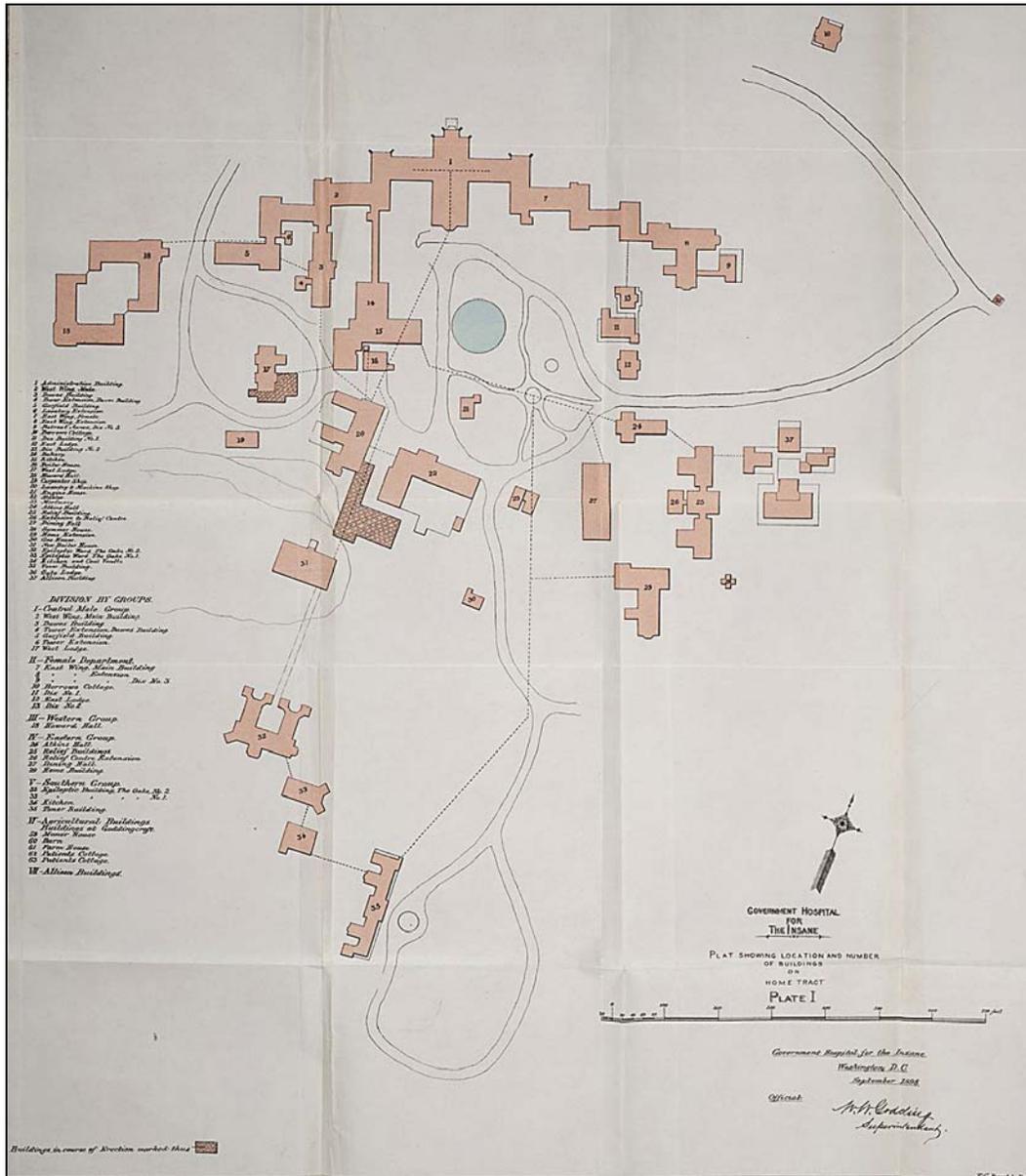


Figure 18. “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” from the 1898 annual report illustrates the core of the campus near the end of the century. Under Godding’s cottage plan, the development of the service and residential aspects of the hospital create a patchwork of open spaces surrounded by dispersed structures. The loop road to the south implies the location of future facilities. Courtesy Library of Congress.

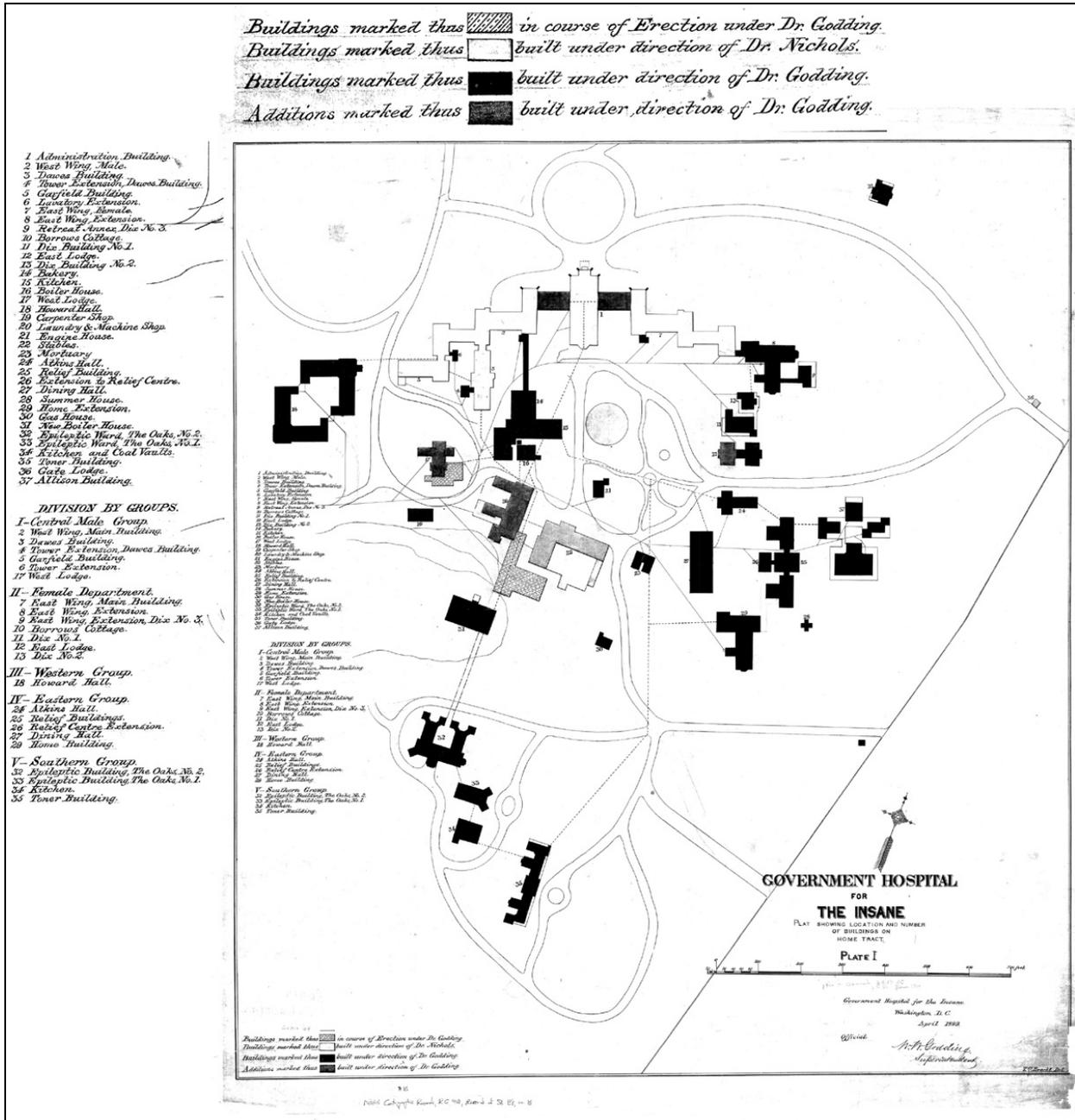


Figure 19. The 1899 Hospital Plat illustrates the phased development that took place within the campus landscape through the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 20. “New Spring.” The spring collected water from subsurface flows approximately 40” below the top of the plateau and produced around 5,000 gallons of water per day. The stone construction of the consolidated spring built in 1897 matched the craftsmanship of walls near the boiler house (Ice Plant). The relatively clear understory of the “western slope of the hill” indicates a program of woodland maintenance. Courtesy National Archives II.

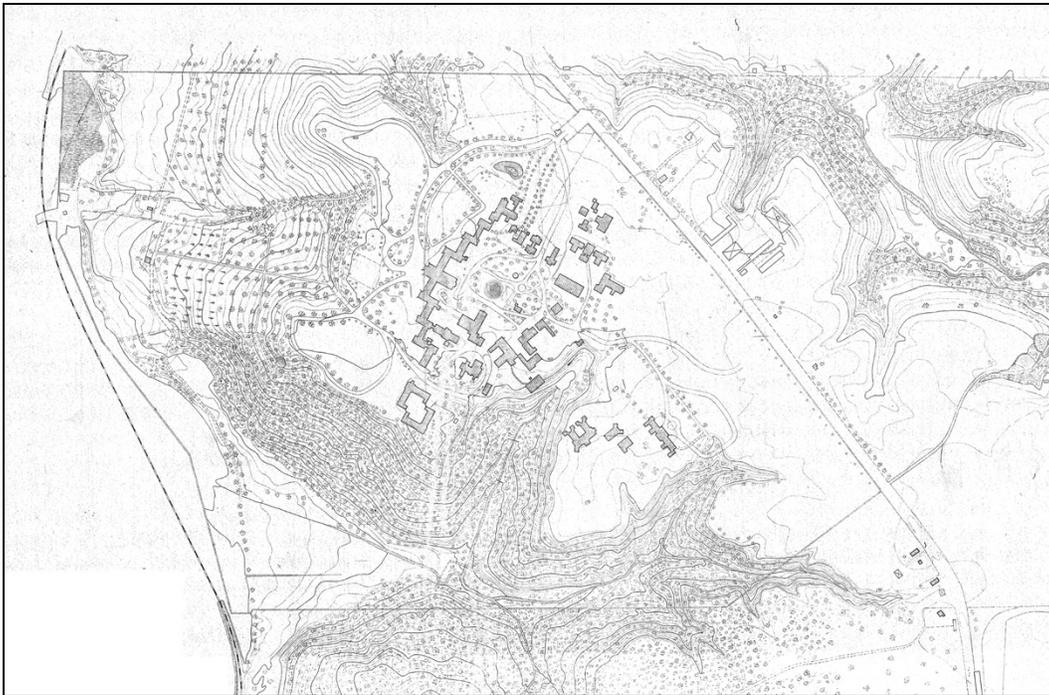


Figure 21. The 1901 Topographical Survey completed by Sunderland Brothers engineers depicts the organization of hospital facilities. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. noted the organization of buildings as a hindrance to optimal site use by patients. Courtesy NPS Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

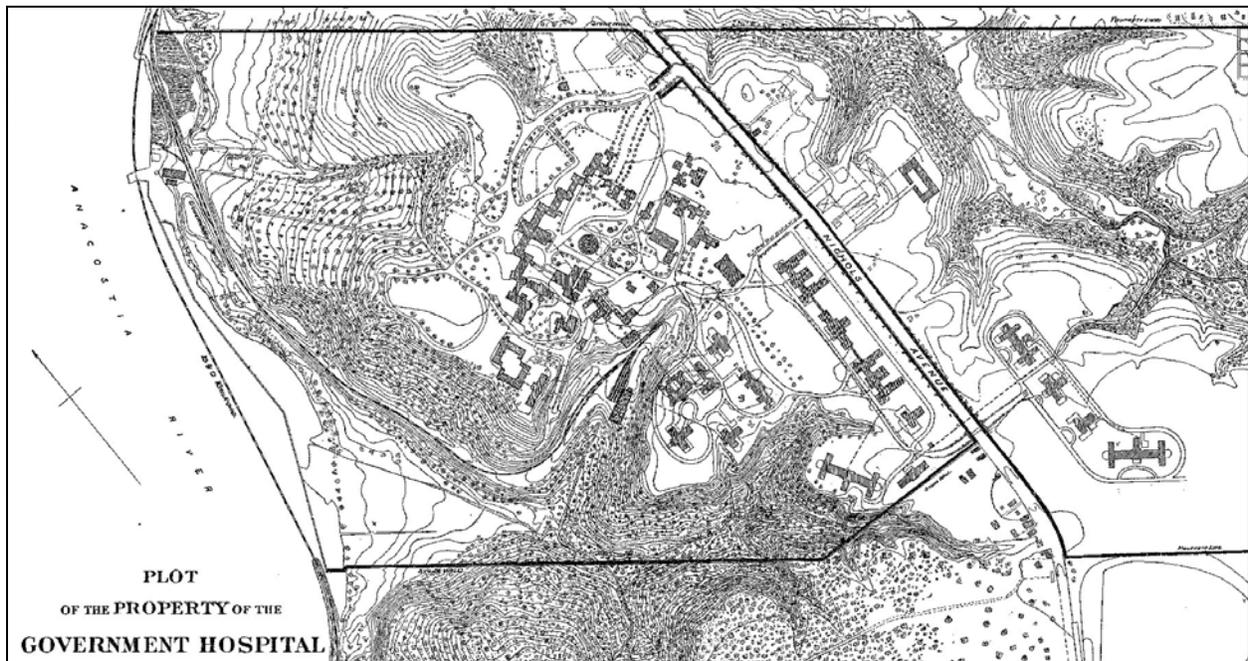


Figure 22. The early twentieth-century reorganization and expansion of St. Elizabeths facilities is illustrated in this section of the 1908 “Plot of the Property of the Government Hospital.” This expansion included new hospital buildings on both sides of Nichols Avenue, a new power house in the ravine between the Toner Group and the Center Building, and a railroad spur to bring coal to the power house. Agricultural activities from the plateau of the original tract were no longer active although orchards and vineyards appear along the west slopes. The tree-lined roads of the north portion of the campus contrast with the unplanted roads of the expansion. The dotted lines on this plan indicate the location of below grade service tunnels connecting many of the buildings. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 23. Areas around the Center Building were studied by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. to determine their suitability for siting new hospital facilities. The areas around the Center Building at this time were planted in gardens with ornamental plants and evergreen trees with small-scale elements such as the pedestal planter shown here. Courtesy National Archives II.

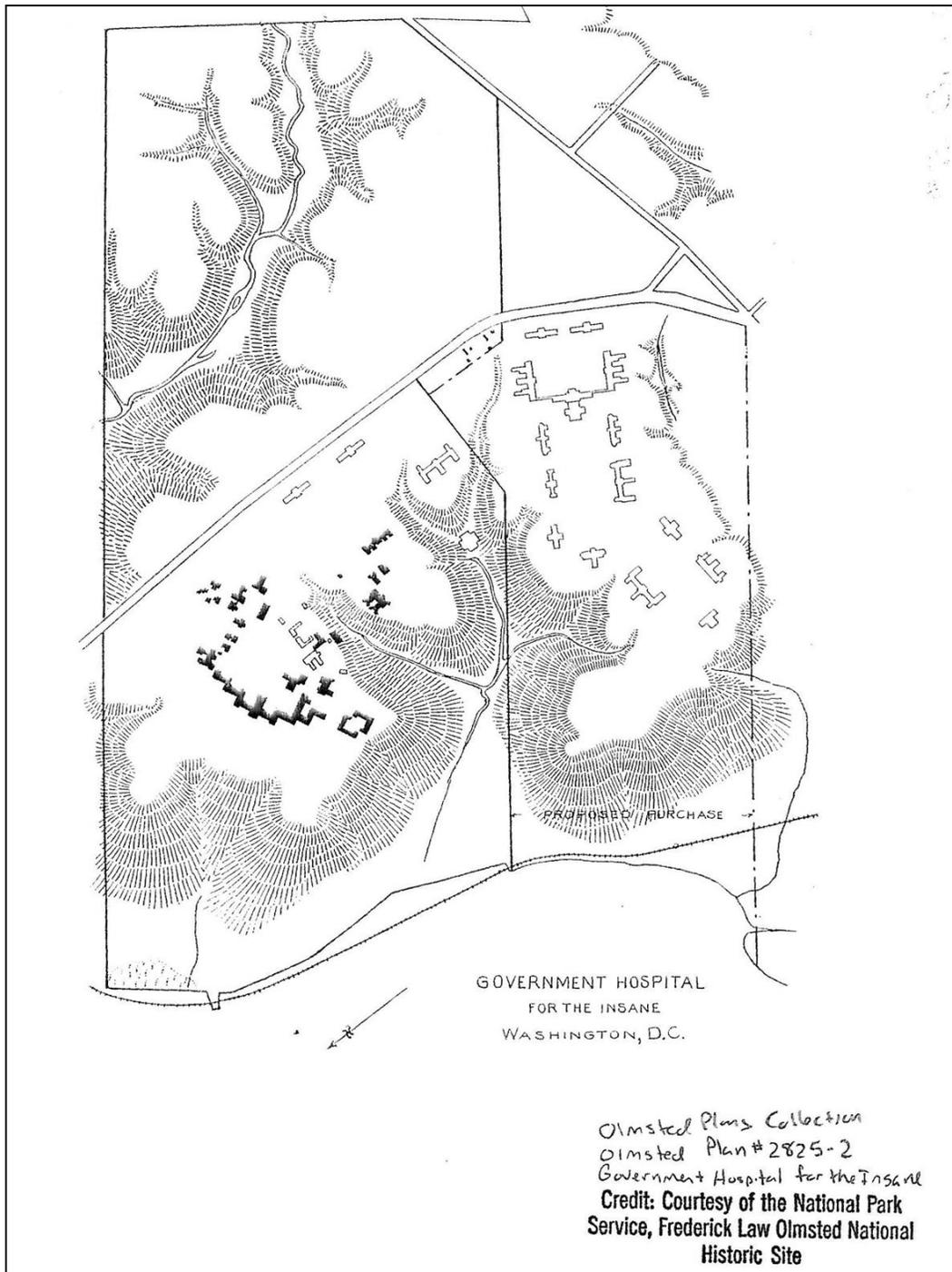


Figure 24. "Government Hospital for the Insane" shows Olmsted's recommendations for locations of new buildings after his site visit in 1901. The plan depicts four potential building locations, along with the "Proposed Purchase" of the grounds to the south. Courtesy NPS Frederick Law Olmsted National Historical Site.

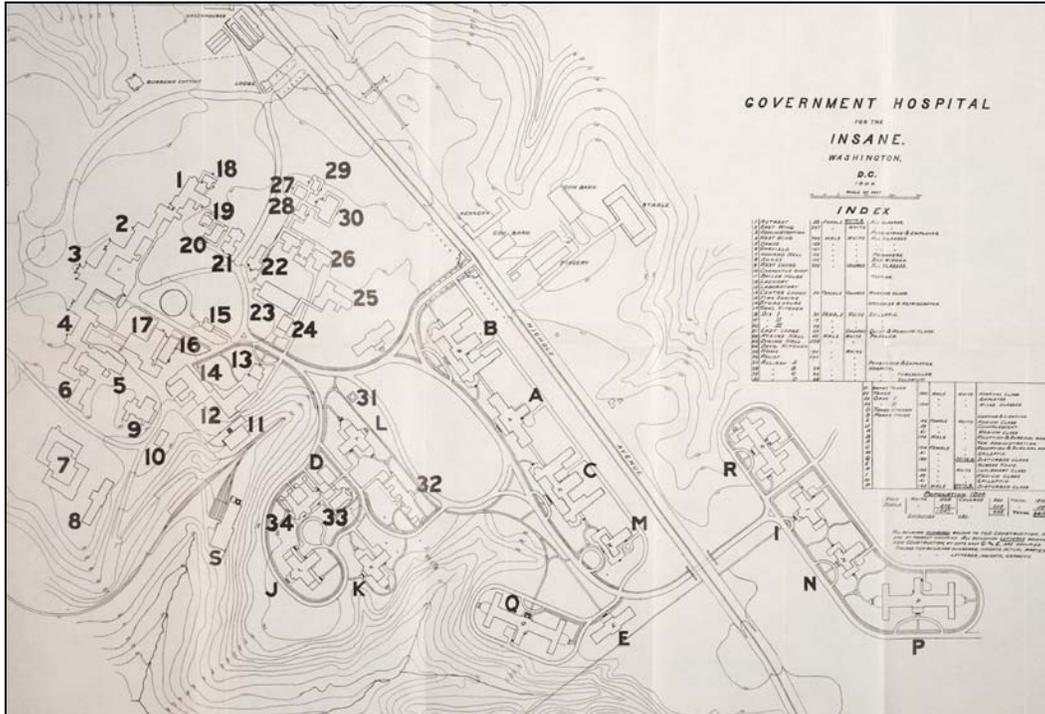


Figure 25. “Government Hospital for the Insane” dated 1904 keys out the buildings and hospital facilities on the West Campus. Circulation routes are also noted, in addition to the railroad spur leading to the power plant. Courtesy Library of Congress.



Figure 26. In the early 1900s, the hospital expansion created numerous buildings for patients and staff. One of the largest of these complexes was the new Administration Building along with the “lettered” buildings. At the time of this photograph in 1910, upgrades to circulation and infrastructure had also been completed with concrete drives with cobble or brick gutters and pedestrian light fixtures. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 27. Upgrades and improvements to utilities and the service zone of the campus were important to the building expansion. A new power plant with a smoke stack was completed to provide power and heat for the new hospital buildings. A railroad spur to provide coal to the power plant was also constructed around this time, in 1901. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 28. This 1905 image depicts the moving of Rest, originally positioned located west of the detached kitchen. The new site was clustered among other buildings within the complex. Courtesy National Archives II.

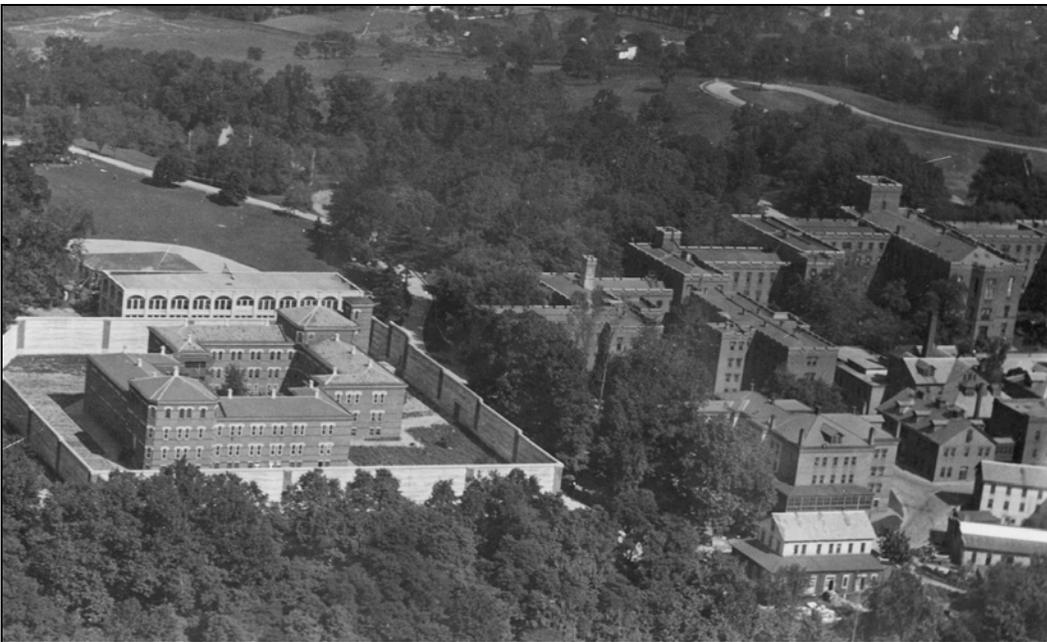


Figure 29. A 1922 oblique aerial shows the spatial organization of the area adjacent to the Center Building (right). Smaller-scale buildings are clustered to the south of the Center Building, while larger buildings, such as Howard Hall and a shop (left) were constructed to the west. The scale of these buildings in addition to the wall surrounding Howard Hall gave the area a feeling of enclosure. Courtesy Dr. Jogues Prandoni.



Figure 30. The completed underpass under Nichols Avenue provided an internal hospital connection between the established West Campus and the new buildings to the east of Nichols Avenue. A concrete drive with masonry retaining walls, sloped topography, and post and wire fencing all characterized the area. The continued use of the underpass later led to subsequent expansions, such as the employee's cafeteria (left) in 1924. Also note the decorative metal light fixture to the right. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 31. As vehicular use increased on the West Campus, drives were widened and laid in concrete with curb and gutter systems. Walks were also paved with concrete as upgrades were needed and board sidewalks deteriorated. This undated photograph shows the improved drive and adjacent walks next to the A, B, and C buildings (right). Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 32. This undated view of the second Gate House shows the southern entrance in the brick perimeter wall. This southern entrance was shifted during the White era to a location within 200' of the Administration building. The gate shown here is constructed of brick wall with a light-colored capstone and matching gate piers. A smaller archway gate is provided for pedestrians. Also note the curb along the drives. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 33. This 1930 view of the E building and Nurses' Home shows concrete drives with curbs, concrete walks, and an earthen path. Open lawns with scattered trees created a peaceful setting available for the enjoyment of the patients. Courtesy National Archives II.

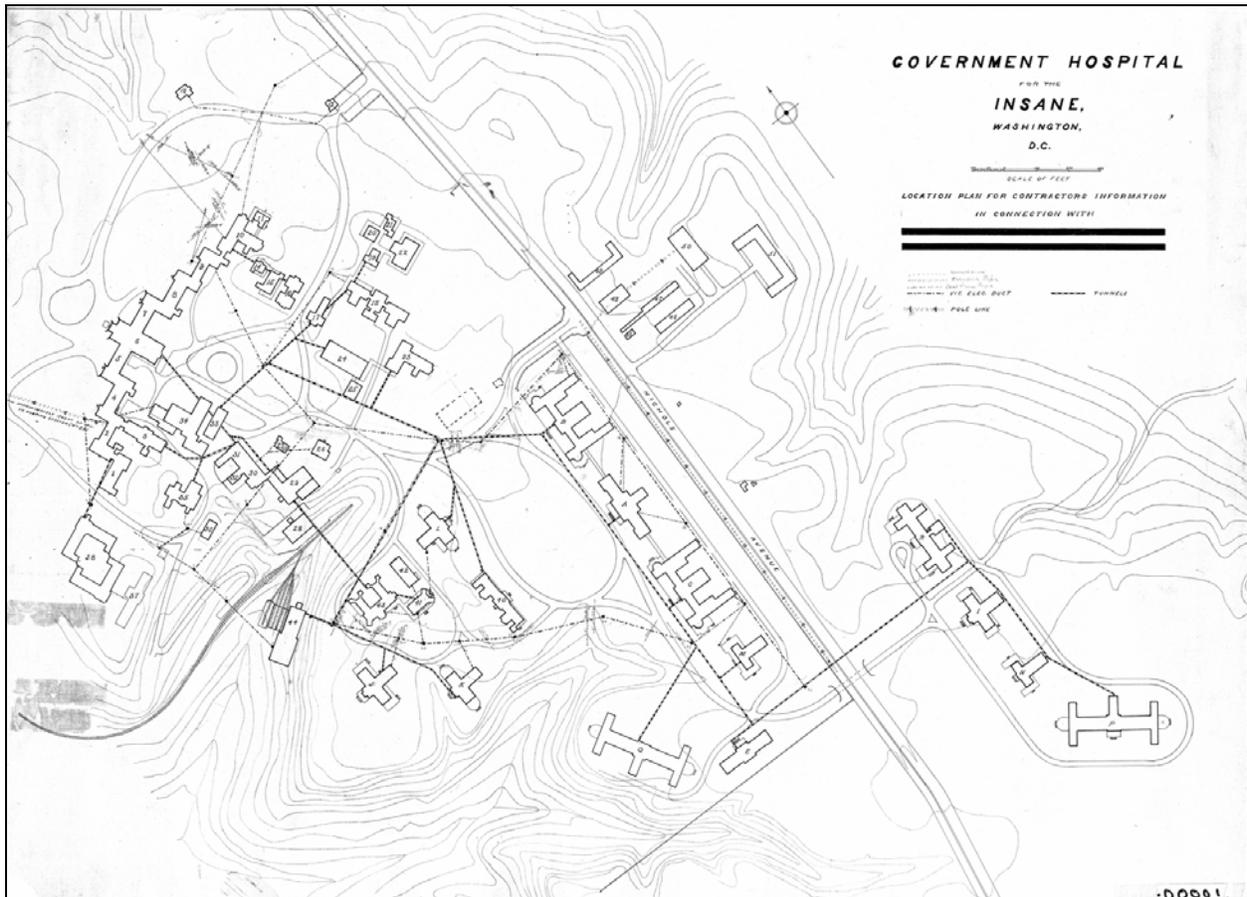


Figure 34. The 1910 “Government Hospital for the Insane” depicts numerous tunnels connecting the buildings at St. Elizabeths. Infrastructure on the West Campus increased with the construction of the new power plan in 1904. New tunnels were constructed to carry electrical ducts to the new hospital facilities. Courtesy National Archives II.

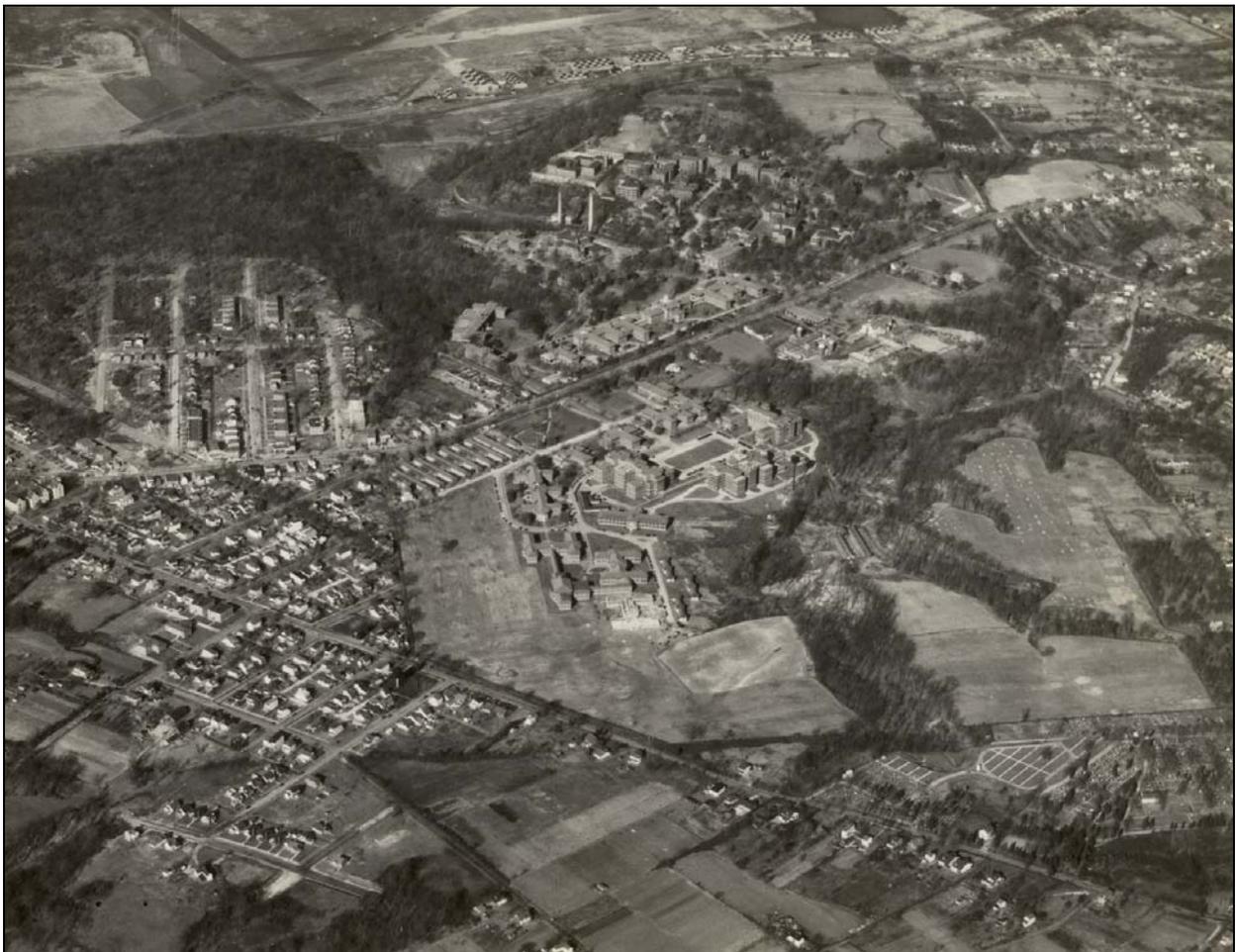


Figure 35. This 1927 aerial shows the context of St. Elizabeths toward the end of the White era, which had changed with increased development. St. Elizabeths also continued to expand and develop through new buildings and infrastructure, sharing some of its utility systems with the adjacent Army and Navy camps. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 36. The greenhouses on the St. Elizabeths West Campus played an important role in horticultural production throughout the early twentieth century. Adjacent lands were used as gardens, as shown in this 1903 image. The greenhouses themselves propagated flowering plants for patient wards. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 37. Agriculture productivity increased during the years of World War I. The enclosure at Howard Hall with its tall concrete walls provided an area for the criminally insane to tend vegetable crops. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 38. Extensive grounds work was conducted with the grading, seeding, and planting of several areas to create park-like settings. Settees and summerhouses were common structures and site furnishings within the park-like landscape. This undated image also shows simple rail fences along the paths. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 39. The expansion on the West Campus was organized around a lawn area planted with evergreen and deciduous trees that functioned as a central green common. By the 1920s, widened, curving drives with integrated curb and gutter edges defined a crisp green space. Courtesy National Archives II.

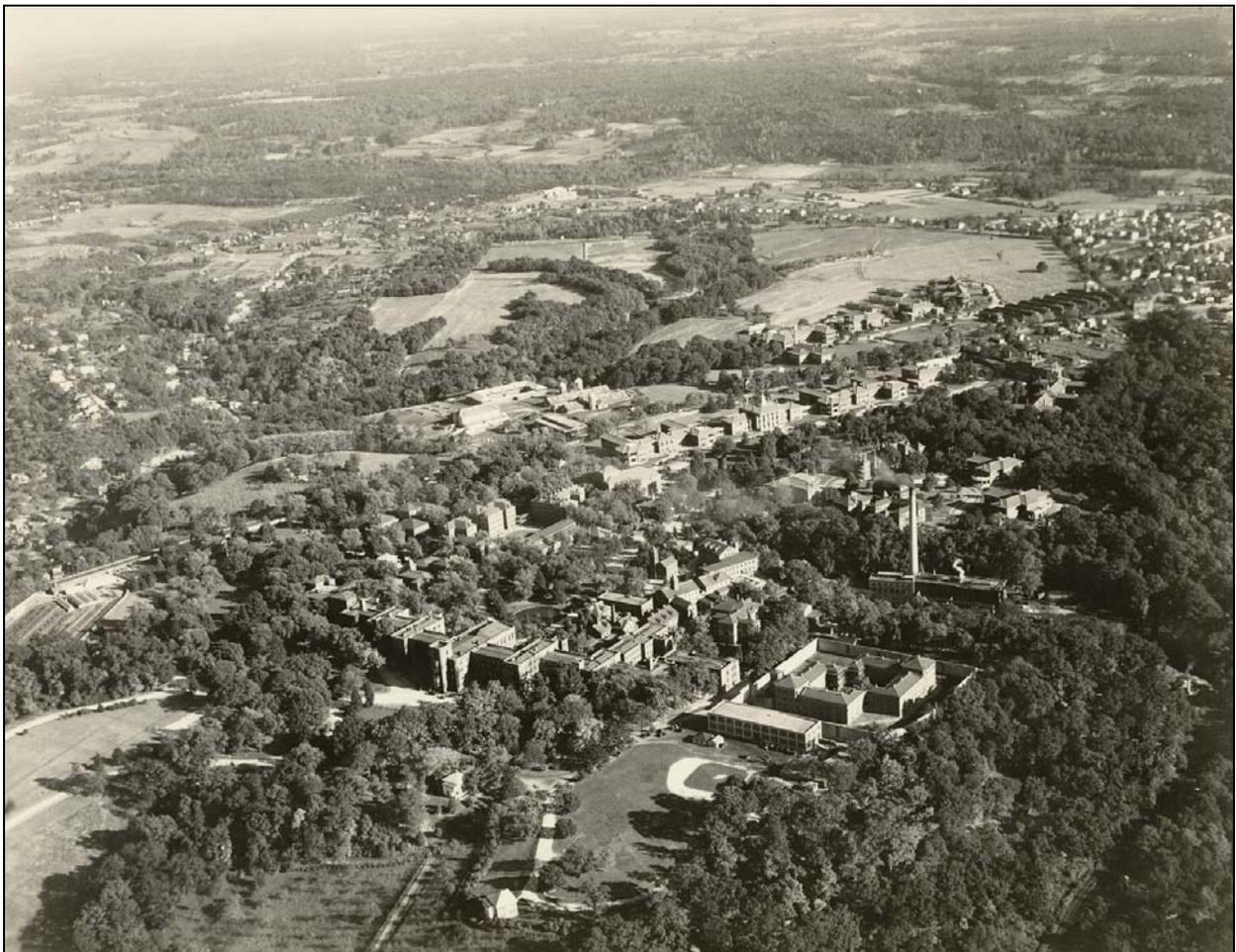


Figure 40. The facilities of St. Elizabeths grew tremendously in between 1899 and 1928, as shown in this 1928 aerial oblique photograph. Buildings are clustered together within a larger landscape of dense overstory tree canopy. Notable facilities shown include the smoke stack of the power plant and the baseball field. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 41. This spring 1948 aerial photograph reveals evidence of agricultural fields on the northern hillside; however, the orchard area appears much less extensive than in previous years. Courtesy Air Photographics, Inc.



Figure 42. This ca. 1940 shows the newly completed underpass connecting the East and West Campuses. The expansion created additional passages, retaining walls, and curbs. Also note the steps and guide rails previously constructed and the East Campus water tank, visible in the background. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 43. This 1983 aerial view shows the altered spatial organization of the West Campus as vehicular parking has increased and older facilities were removed. The white building in the center and surrounding parking marks the location of the former Howard Hall and the exterior walls of its enclosure. The removal, along with the demolition of the West Lodge, drastically altered the spatial configuration by opening up the west edge of the plateau. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 44. This 1961 aerial photograph depicts change that had occurred in the landscape since the close of the historic period at the end of the 1930s. Notably, the Toner and Oaks buildings have been removed, which impacted the character of the therapeutic landscape. Courtesy Air Photographics, Inc.



Figure 45. The 1966 aerial photograph shows the level of landscape change that had occurred during the mid-1960s. Note the expansion of parking lots, loss of orchard and horticultural areas, and increased service facilities. Courtesy Air Photographics, Inc.



Figure 46. A circa 1955 aerial oblique photograph shows the urban growth and development that changed the contextual setting of the hospital in the mid-twentieth century. Creation of the adjacent Anacostia Freeway (now Interstate 295) during this time removed about fifteen acres from the hospital acreage and helped spur the adjacent growth. Courtesy National Archives II.



Figure 47. This 1978 aerial photograph conveys the continued landscape changes. Note the decrease in building density south of the Center Building and the filled ravines northwest of the greenhouse complex and north of Building Q. Courtesy Air Photographics, Inc.



Figure 48. During the 1960s, some of the downslope ravines at St. Elizabeths were filled, as seen in this photograph of the filling of the ravine west of Building Q in 1963. Filling the ravines altered the topography and drainage of the site. Courtesy St. Elizabeths Hospital Blackburn Laboratory, Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa.



Figure 49. This mid-1960s image shows a ravine in the process of being filled; the height of the manhole will be the top of the grade as the filling is complete. Courtesy St. Elizabeths Hospital Blackburn Laboratory, Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa.



Figure 50. A December 2004 image depicts the overlook drive at the northern point of Unit 1 on the high plateau with a foreground of mature trees and open lawn and core of Washington, DC in the background. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes.

ADDENDUM TO:  
ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL WEST CAMPUS  
2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HALS DC-11  
*HALS DC-11*

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001