

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, WILLOW
(Building No. 8)
519-543 Redwood Drive, Southeast
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS DC-349-AC
HABS DC-349-AC

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, WILLOW (BUILDING 8)

HABS NO. DC-349-AC

Location: 519–543 Redwood Drive SE, Washington, D.C., on the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital

Present Owner: General Services Administration, United States Government

Present Use: Vacant (rehabilitation of St. Elizabeths West Campus in progress)

Significance: Willow (Building 8) is significant for its association with the treatment of mental illness on the St. Elizabeths Campus. As one of the cottage-type buildings built on the campus in the 1880s and 1890s, Willow formed an integral part of the function and use of the campus for the treatment of mental illness and related disabilities. The cottage group was a series of three buildings constructed in the 1890s that were meant to be specifically adapted to the needs of epileptic patients. This group was typical of development on the campus in the 1880s and 1890s, when smaller-scale and specialized buildings were constructed to better care for the larger and more diverse patient population.

Willow is also significant for its architectural design, which reflects the principles of treatment embraced at the time of its construction, and includes features typical of the cottage group of buildings: broad wrap-around wood-framed porches, eclectic masonry detailing, and building massing with projecting bays expressed as vertical towers. The Queen Anne-style details of the building were meant to create a residential scale for the cottage group, while the use of red brick masonry connected the building to earlier Gothic Revival-style buildings on the campus.

Historians: Mike Ford, Kenneth Itle, Tim Penich, and Deborah Slaton, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1895–1898¹
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: St. Elizabeths Hospital (then the Government Hospital for the Insane) was placed under the control of the Department of the Interior by an act of Congress on March 3, 1855. Thus when Willow was constructed in 1895, the hospital was under the control of the Department of the Interior and remained so until 1940, when St. Elizabeths was transferred to the Federal Security Agency. The Federal Security Agency was

¹ 1895 and 1898 *Annual Reports*.

a new government agency that oversaw federal activities in the fields of health, education, and social insurance. In 1953, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created. At that time several of the functions of the Federal Security Agency, including control of St. Elizabeths Hospital, were transferred to the new department.² In 1968, St. Elizabeths was transferred to the National Institute of Mental Health, an agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Institute sought to demonstrate how a large mental hospital could be converted into a smaller, more modern facility for training, service, and research.³ In 1979, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare became the Department of Health and Human Services with the creation of the Department of Education. The Department of Health and Human Services retained control of the St. Elizabeths Hospital west campus until 2004, when the property was transferred to the GSA.⁴ The campus facilities were stabilized and the buildings were mothballed by 2005.⁵

Upon its completion in 1898, Willow was designated as a pavilion for African-American female epileptic patients.⁶ Using the cottage plan, epileptic patients, who required additional nursing care and whose illness was considered disruptive to the peace and recovery of the other patients, could be given the seclusion and care they needed. As free-standing, residential-scale structures, the cottage buildings provided a domestic setting for patients. The interior space provided a communal sitting area as well as individual dormitory rooms for patients and resident staff. The scale of the buildings also allowed patient groups to be divided into small wards based on their mental condition. Furthermore, the design provided deep sun porches that extended the ward space while providing a controlled outdoor environment.⁷

As St. Elizabeths grew in the early twentieth century, it was deemed necessary to reorganize the patient population and decentralize the administrative structure to create departments. West campus departments included the Female Service, Howard Hall, Receiving, Detached, and West Side units, each of which specialized in a particular patient group or function. During this restructuring, epileptic patients were moved to the east campus. By 1926, Willow was a part of the West Side department of the hospital and housed white male patients.⁸ The three Dix buildings were grouped into one ward unit in 1932.⁹

In 1970, patients were vacated from all pre-1900 buildings. Dormitories constructed during the Nichols and Godding era, which constituted half of the west campus buildings and included Willow, were cleared and patients were relocated to the east campus or lettered buildings.¹⁰ Based

² *Federal Register*, accessed at <http://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/saint-elizabeth-s-hospital>, January 5, 2012.

³ 1970 *Annual Report*.

⁴ *St. Elizabeths West Campus: Cultural Landscape Report*, Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, and Robinson & Associates, Inc., prepared for the General Services Administration, April 2009, V.2.

⁵ *St. Elizabeths West Campus: Preservation, Design, & Development Guidelines*, Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc., Architectural and Historical Research, prepared for the General Services Administration, November 10, 2008, 18. A photograph of the building taken in 2005 by FMG Architects shows the building in a stabilized and protected state.

⁶ 1892, 1893, 1895, and 1898 *Annual Reports*.

⁷ *Historic Resources Management Plan*, Devroux & Purnell Architects-Planners, PC, with Betty Bird, Historian, and Rhodeside & Harwell Inc., Landscape Architects, prepared for the D.C. Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of the Assistant City Administrator for Economic Development, Washington, D.C., September 1993, 61–62.

⁸ Sixty-ninth Congress, 2nd Session, House of Representatives, *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital: Letter from the Comptroller General of the United States*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, July 1, 1926).

⁹ 1932 *Annual Report*.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

on available documentary sources and physical evidence, it appears that Willow was not used after 1970 and has remained vacant up to the present day.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known
5. Original plans and construction: In 1892, a \$75,000 appropriation was requested for the development of accommodations specific to the needs of epileptic patients. A year later construction began on Linden (Building 28) and Holly (Building 29), the first of the epileptic pavilions and designed to house white female patients. Following completion and occupancy of Linden and Holly in 1895, construction was begun on Willow. Collectively, the three epileptic patient cottages were referred to as the Dix buildings in honor of influential mental health activist Dorothea Lynde Dix.¹¹

Willow was built east of Pine (Building 6), a part of the Center Building complex. The three-story brick building was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival-style with corbelled brick cornice, brick stringcourse and hood molds, stone sills, and a slate hip roof with vent hood. The building had an L-shaped plan with projecting bay extending from the south facade. A one-story wood-framed porch wrapped around the north and east facades. A second wood-framed porch extended along the south facade and abutted the projecting south bay. The porches were supported on brick piers and had decorative wood post brackets with a wood guardrail and standing-seam metal hip roof. A tunnel was constructed perpendicular from the south end of the west facade and linked the basement of Willow to the basement of Pine. The brick walls and tin roof of the enclosed tunnel projected 30 inches above grade.¹²

The original plan and appearance of the building interior is not documented in available archival photographs and drawings. Based on existing physical evidence and typical construction practices in Holly and Linden, it is assumed that the first floor plan consisted of communal spaces organized along a north-south central hall. The south end of the plan had a large sitting room. The cast iron stair and lavatories were located in the west wing of the plan. The second and third floors were also arranged around a north-south corridor flanked by single patient bedrooms and terminating at a large dormitory-style room at the south end. Wood floors and brick interior walls with plaster were typical finishes of the Dix cottages.¹³

6. Alterations and additions: In April 1913, improvements were made to upgrade the existing plumbing facilities in the Dix buildings and Howard Hall. Additional piping was surface mounted on existing walls and concealed behind a newly constructed false wall and plaster.¹⁴ Three years later, Willow was closed to patient use while extensive renovations were implemented. On June 29, 1916, the building was reopened and reoccupied, with a capacity of twenty-five patients.¹⁵

¹¹ In archival resources, Willow was also referred to as Dix No. 3 or the Retreat Annex. Holly and Linden were also known as Dix No. 1 and Dix. No. 2, respectively. While appropriations were being sought, the new patient facilities were referred to as the epileptic pavilions.

¹² 1895 and 1899 Ground plans obtained from *Annual Reports* indicates the existence of an above ground link between Pine and Willow. An archival photograph, circa 1909–1924, taken by the National Photo Company, and existing physical evidence, support the inclusion of the enclosed tunnel as part of the initial construction.

¹³ 1895 *Annual Report; Historic Resources Management Plan*, 1993, 61–62.

¹⁴ 1913 *Annual Report* and construction documents from 1913.

¹⁵ 1916 *Annual Report*. Details as to the scope of the renovation were unavailable.

Possibly as part of the 1916 renovation, but at least by the mid-1920s, wood-framed multi-light casement windows were installed throughout the wrap-around porch on the east and north facade. The enclosed space was used as a patient dormitory. No alterations were made to the south porch.¹⁶

In 1925, a two-story brick addition was constructed in the courtyard between Willow and Pine. Although not accessible from Willow, the building abutted the structure and significantly altered the west facade. The building had a corbelled brick cornice and large multi-light window openings divided by brick piers. As part of the construction of this addition, a number of original door and window openings in Willow were infilled with brick masonry. At the northeast porch, the glazed enclosure at the west end was opened up, with a new enclosing wall subdividing the porch, so that the windows of the addition would face into an open-air portion of the porch.

In the 1930s, minor repairs and alterations were made to Willow and its immediate surroundings. In 1933, repairs were made to the roof of the tunnel extension that linked Willow and Pine.¹⁷ As part of a campus-wide renovation project in 1934, upgrades were made to plumbing systems and lavatory fixtures. The Center Building complex, Detached Nurses Home (Building 30), lettered buildings, Detached Kitchen (Building 34), and Dix cottages were included in the improvement plan.¹⁸ Original wood flooring was covered with linoleum tile in 1937.¹⁹

In the 1960s, an extensive effort was made at St. Elizabeths Hospital to modernize mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems in the aging west campus buildings. The effort was initiated in response to the series of conflagrations that had plagued the campus for the previous two decades. In 1963, an \$865,000 appropriation was made for the installation of sprinkler systems in non-fire-resistant buildings. The suppression unit consisted of surface-mounted sprinklers and was installed in every room. In the same year, a study of the existing plumbing and electrical systems was initiated. The study led to the appropriation of funds for a multi-million dollar facilities modernization project. Plans for building alterations were generated between 1963 and 1965 and included the replacement of electrical wiring and outlets, upgrades to lavatory and plumbing systems, and the installation of fluorescent light fixtures. All additions were surface-mounted. Construction began in 1966 and continued through 1970.²⁰ Improvements to Willow were a precursor to the campus-wide electrical upgrades and helped to define the scope of alterations made to other campus buildings. Electrical rewiring was documented in 1956 construction documents. Plumbing upgrades were documented through 1964 construction documents.²¹

There is no physical evidence or archival information to suggest that Willow served an alternate function after it was closed as a patient ward building circa 1970. None of the funds appropriated for the repair and maintenance of the west campus in the 1970s were applied to Willow. A 1991 building survey identified the building as being vacant. Willow, along with other campus facilities, was stabilized and mothballed by 2005. Window and door openings were covered and protected with plywood.

¹⁶ *Historic Resources Management Plan*, 1993, 61–62; *Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital: Letter from the Comptroller General of the United States*, 53.

¹⁷ *1933 Annual Report*.

¹⁸ *1934 Annual Report*.

¹⁹ *1937 Annual Report*.

²⁰ *1961–1968 and 1970 Annual Reports*.

²¹ Construction documents from 1960 and 1964.

A number of other alterations to Willow are apparent in the existing condition of the building but are not specifically documented in archival sources. Between 1945 and 1968, the wood-framed porch staircase on the east porch was removed and replaced with concrete stairs and pipe metal handrails. Scrolled wood brackets were removed from the wood columns on the porch. The wood floor framing and support posts on the west end of the north porch were removed at some time after 1964. The porch roof remained. Between 1968 and 2002, the wood-framed stair on the south porch was removed.

B. Historical context²²

In 1852, St. Elizabeths Hospital was established in large part through the efforts of Dorothea Lynde Dix, who led a national crusade for the ethical and humane treatment of the mentally ill. Under the direction of Superintendent Charles Nichols (1852–1877), the hospital endeavored to become a curative treatment center for the mentally ill of Washington, D.C., and the United States Army and Navy. Patients were grouped into wards by their perceived mental condition and emphasis was placed on creating a peaceful and serene family environment in which to rehabilitate.

Initial development on the St. Elizabeths campus was focused on construction of a central patient ward building designed in the Gothic Revival-style. Based on the Thomas Kirkbride plan, the design of the Center Building group gave consideration to moral treatment principles by creating a healthy and peaceful environment for patients while separating them into small ward units based on mental condition. Throughout Nichols' tenure, expansion of the St. Elizabeths hospital continued along the Kirkbride plan.

Following the Civil War, Congressional legislation on July 13, 1866, extended medical services at St. Elizabeths to include military veterans seeking medical attention for issues of mental illness.²³ The change in administrative policy altered the demographics of the institution and led to a rapid increase in the patient population. New patient facilities were constructed to accommodate the needs and growing number of aging and mentally challenged Civil War veterans. Under Superintendent William Godding (1877–1899), the philosophy of moral treatment was embraced, while the development of new patient wards adopted a different architectural form. During this period, the ward buildings were constructed as detached cottages and clustered into small groups. Among these groups was a cluster of three patient pavilions referred to as the Dix buildings in honor of influential mental health activist Dorothea Lynde Dix. The first two buildings of this group, Linden and Holly, were constructed from 1893 to 1895. The third building of the group, Willow, was constructed from 1895 to 1898.

As development on the west campus began to expand beyond the Center Building complex, new support facilities were required to meet the growing needs. Throughout the Godding era, free-standing support buildings were constructed at the west end of the campus, clustered around the existing stables (no longer extant). These infrastructure projects were aimed at developing St. Elizabeths Hospital as a self-sufficient campus.

During the tenure of Superintendent Alonzo Richardson (1899–1903), the St. Elizabeths campus underwent an expansive building campaign to reduce overcrowding and improve infrastructure. Richardson's tenure was cut short by his untimely death; however, his successor, Superintendent

²² A context history for the entire St. Elizabeths West Campus, as well as an overview history of the Dix Group (and Burroughs), is to be developed under separate cover as part of this HABS documentation project.

²³ *An act to extend to certain persons the privilege of admission, in certain cases, to United States Government Asylum for the Insane*, 39th Congress, 1st sess., July 13, 1866, 89–94.

William White (1903–1937), oversaw the completion of the expansion project. Throughout the remainder of White’s residency, development at St. Elizabeths was focused on the east campus. With few exceptions, new construction on the west campus was concentrated on maintaining and improving the existing building stock to address the growing patient population and changing hospital needs.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Willow is a three-story brick masonry building with a generally L-shaped plan, with the main wing running north-south, and the perpendicular wing of the L extending west from the southwest side. In addition to the basic L-shaped plan there is an original projecting bay extending to the south from the southeast corner. A one-story porch is located along the south elevation from this projecting bay to the southwest corner of the building. A one-story porch, enclosed after original construction, wraps around the east and north sides of the building.

Exterior character-defining features of Willow include brick and stone masonry; wood-framed multi-light windows; wood stile-and-rail doors; slate roofing with sheet metal trim and built-in gutter; standing-seam metal porch roofing; and exterior wood-framed porches. On the interior, character-defining intact original elements include plaster wall finishes, wood trim and stile-and-rail doors, cast iron ventilation grilles, and wood beadboard built-in units and closets.

2. Condition of fabric: At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/Building Preservation Plans project in 2009, Willow was in very poor condition overall. The exterior masonry had open and eroded joints, cracked and spalled brick units, and extensive efflorescence and staining. The windows had widespread wood decay and loss of finishes. The roof had been stabilized relatively recently and appeared watertight; the roof drained to temporary plastic downspouts. Throughout the interior, most original floor finishes had been removed, exposing the underlying floor structure. Many rooms had holes in the floor construction due to the installation of temporary structural shoring. Localized areas of the interior masonry bearing walls had collapsed. Interior plaster finishes were missing or partially removed in many spaces and severely water damaged where present.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 60'-0" long by 53'-0" wide and 52'-0" tall above grade.
2. Foundations: The foundation is brick masonry. At the basement level, Willow is connected to the campus-wide tunnel system. The campus tunnel infrastructure served a variety of purposes, including transporting food and laundry, providing passageway for pedestrians, and housing the complex mechanical and electrical infrastructure of the campus. The tunnels are typically constructed as brick masonry barrel vaults. The floors are typically dirt or concrete, and the masonry elements are exposed and either painted or unpainted. The tunnels generally feature a narrow track bed which facilitated the transfer of materials from building to building using small rail cars. The tunnel in Willow is located in the basement and extends west to connect to Pine of the Center Building group.

3. Walls: The exterior walls are constructed primarily of red clay brick masonry in a common bond pattern, with headers every sixth course. The walls contain a projecting brick stringcourse at the level of the stone sills at the third floor. There is also a projecting stringcourse composed of two courses of brick located at the upper half of the second floor level. Some of the original exterior walls of Willow are now within the interior of the 1925 day porch addition. Where exposed to the interior, the brick masonry has been painted. The concrete structure of the day porch bears on the masonry walls of Willow.
4. Structural system, framing: Willow has load-bearing masonry walls at the building perimeter and interior that generally run north to south, and support wrought iron beams and a brick masonry arch flooring system at the first floor, and clay tile flat arch flooring systems at the second and third floor levels. The masonry walls are constructed with bricks laid in a common bond pattern with header courses at every sixth course. The brick units are generally 8-1/4 inches long. Load-bearing walls at the perimeter and interior are approximately 18 to 20 inches thick and are continuous with the brick masonry foundation. At exterior walls, lintels above doors and windows consist of segmental arches at the interior wythes built with two rowlock courses of brick. The exterior wythes are supported by segmental arches built with three rowlock brick courses.

The brick arch and clay tile flat arch floors are supported by wrought iron beams (flange width 3-1/2 inches and depth 6 inches), spaced approximately 4 feet 6 inches on center, which span between bearing walls. The brick arches are a single wythe rowlock brick course and have an amplitude (rise at arch midspan) of approximately 5 inches between the supports. The tile arches are a flat arch with a depth of 6 inches.

The building has a stick-framed hip roof. The third floor ceiling has 2-inch by 12-inch joists spaced approximately 16 inches on center that span between bearing walls. The roof has a slope of approximately 28 degrees with 2-inch by 6-inch (actual) rafters spaced 24 inches on center. The hip rafters are 2-inch by 8-inch (actual) members. The rafters bear on stud walls, which are of newer construction and located approximately 3 feet from the exterior masonry walls, and on interior wood beam and post assemblies supported by the ceiling joists. The continuous beams are estimated to be 3-inch by 5-inch members and the posts are estimated to be 3-inch by 4-inch members spaced about 4 feet on center. The wood plank roof sheathing has been replaced with 3/4 inch plywood.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads: The building has two porches: an enclosed wrap-around porch on the north and east elevations and an open porch on the south elevation.

The wood-framed enclosed northeast porch is supported by brick piers and is approximately 10 feet wide. The floor framing is tongue-and-groove decking over wood joists that span between wood beams that extend out from the building to the masonry piers; in a few instances the wood column continues to the ground. The joists are 2-inch by 8-inch members spaced about 24 inches on center. The masonry piers are 13 inches square, are spaced approximately 7 to 8 feet apart, and coincide with wood columns that support the wood-framed porch roof.

The porch walls are enclosed with wood-framed walls and wood casement windows. Each original bay of the porch has typically been subdivided by an additional wood post to form two window bays.

The porch originally extended across the entire first floor at the north elevation, but the floor and wall structure were previously removed from the west half due to deterioration, and the porch roof is supported by temporary wood posts. A temporary wood stud and plywood wall encloses this end of the porch. When the 1925 addition was constructed, the glazed enclosure of the porch was apparently altered at its west end. A portion of the porch of Willow was reopened, and the glazed enclosure was relocated to a diagonal wall just west of the first floor window jamb. The head of this diagonal wall survives at the ceiling of the porch.

The interior floor in the porch is vinyl asbestos tile over linoleum over the original wood deck; portions of the flooring are missing, exposing the wood. The adjacent building exterior walls are painted brick, while the perimeter walls are painted wood beadboard cladding and wood framing posts supporting the window units. Below the window sill is continuous radiator piping within a wood and wire mesh enclosure. The windows are paired six-light painted wood casements. The ceiling is painted beadboard. A partition wall of similar wood beadboard and casement windows divides the east part of the porch from the north part. An original exterior door at the east wall of the porch has been removed and replaced by a temporary plywood door.

An open porch is located on the south elevation of Willow. This porch is divided into three bays. A wood balustrade with square balusters extends between porch columns. The center bay has an opening for stairs to grade, although the stairs are missing. The porch roof is supported by square wood columns, and the porch floor is supported by brick piers, with construction similar to the northeast porch.

Attached to the building on the northwest side (within the angle of the L-shaped plan) is a two-story day porch addition to Pine of the Center Building group, constructed in 1925. The original north and west exterior walls of Willow are exposed within the interior of this addition. There is no existing interior connection between Willow and adjacent Pine; one first floor exterior door opening leading from Willow to the vicinity of the dayroom was closed when the addition was built, although a few former exterior window openings look out from Willow into the dayroom.

6. Chimneys: None present.
7. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original exterior doors, where present, are typically four-panel painted wood doors with three-light transoms.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The window openings have segmental arch brick heads and stone window sills. At the first and second floors, the window openings have projecting brick hoods, while the third floor window openings have simple arches composed of two rowlock courses. The basement level openings have simple rectangular stone heads and painted stone stills. The typical window opening contains six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The enclosed portion of the east porch has paired inward-swing wood casement windows, with six lights in each sash.
8. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Willow has a hip roof covered with slate. Galvanized steel hip, valley, and ridge flashings are present throughout the roof. There is a built-in gutter with a sheet metal liner at the perimeter of the roof. Original internal roof drains for the perimeter box gutter system have been modified around the building to divert water to exterior downspouts. The

original internal roof drainage system for Willow has been abandoned, and non-original prefinished steel downspouts are present throughout the facades. Generally, these downspouts penetrate the wall below the parapet and are connected by piping inside the building to the original roof drains.

The porch roofs are covered with standing-seam sheet metal.

- b. Cornice, eaves: The coping is covered with painted sheet metal with projecting brick dentil detailing below.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Two galvanized metal ventilators are present at the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The plan of the three floors is similar, with a main double-loaded corridor on each floor running north-south and a large common room at the south end of the corridor. An arched opening on the north wall of each common room connects to the corridor. Two small closets are located on the north wall of the common room. The stairwell is located west of the common room. Each floor has one original bathroom located west of the common room and south of the stairwell. At the first floor, there are three rooms and a closet located off the corridor. The second and third floors are nearly identical, with three small bedrooms located off each side of the corridor. At the first floor, a large sleeping porch wraps around the east and north sides of the building, and a smaller entrance porch is located at the southwest corner.
2. Stairways: Willow has one U-shaped stairwell with a curved staircase located west of the common rooms. The stairs are continuous from the basement to the third floor; a framed door opening without transom separates the top of the basement stairs from the first floor landing. The landing ceilings, landing floors, and stair treads are metal. The walls are plaster. Wood and metal wall base remains at some areas. There is a metal pipe handrail.
3. Flooring: Few spaces retain original floor finishes in the building. Many areas have the exposed clay tile floor structure, while other areas have temporary plywood flooring. The typical bathroom flooring consists of white hexagonal ceramic tile with a concrete base.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The original interior finishes of Willow include plaster wall finishes applied directly to brick masonry. Metal bullnose trim is used at wall corners. At the first and second floor corridors, there is a chamfered plaster detail at the wall-to-ceiling transition.

The ceilings are plaster applied directly to the structural clay tile floor structure above at the first and second floors. Third floor ceilings are plaster supported on expanded metal lath.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: The original interior doors are four-panel solid stained and varnished wood stile-and-rail doors, typically with a three-light transom.
- b. Windows: Where existing, the original windows are six-over-six light wood double-hung units. Some windows have exterior heavy-gauge diagonal wire mesh security grilles.

6. Decorative features and trim: Baseboards are missing throughout the building. The interior door and window trim is stained and varnished wood. Several first floor rooms have built-in wood cabinets. Small interior linen closets are defined by wood beadboard partitions.
7. Hardware: Most interior doors have a single pull on the exterior side and a keyhole on the exterior side; there is no hardware on the interior side.
8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The mechanical systems for Willow are integrated with the systems of the Center Group. The centralized coal-fired steam heating system for the campus fed steam to Willow through insulated cast iron pipes located in the basement, which is connected to the Center Group basement to the west via a tunnel partially below grade.

The 18-inch-thick masonry walls have continuous vertical chases that extend up from the basement or up to the attic, as part of the original heating and ventilating system. In the basement, individual indirect radiant cast iron radiators are encased in cylindrical sheet metal housings. Supply air grilles are provided near the ceiling to allow warmed air to enter via convection. Exhaust air grilles are located near the floor and are vented via ducts into the attic and via rooftop ventilators to the exterior. Input and exhaust vents were originally capped with cast iron grilles with dampers; in Willow, many of these grilles have been previously removed, leaving the vent openings uncovered. Natural ventilation was provided through operable windows and rooftop ventilators.

- b. Lighting: Interior lighting consists of dome-shaped ceiling-mounted fixtures, typically located in the center of the ceiling of each room.
- c. Plumbing: Plumbing supply and waste is composed of cast iron pipes and fittings, with some additions in polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The porcelain plumbing fixtures are typically located along the north wall of each main bathroom, although only some of the original fixtures remain in place. The bathroom at the north end of the second floor has marble shower partitions and a cast iron sink on the west wall.

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: Documentation of the landscape of the west campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital can be found in Historic American Landscape Survey documentation submittal DC-11.

The north and east sides of Willow face an expansive lawn area planted with grass and shade trees, which extends to Cedar Drive. The south side faces a smaller lawn area and asphalt-paved parking lot beyond, extending to Linden, Holly, East Lodge/Detached Nurses Home, and Staff Residence No. 3 (Building 27). The west side of the building is connected to the adjacent two-story day porch addition to Pine.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: No archival drawings of Willow have been identified.

- B. Early Views: Copies of selected early and historical views of Willow are included in the attached Supplemental Material. The original photographs and other archival photographic documentation are in the collection of the General Services Administration, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, or the St. Elizabeths Hospital Health Sciences Library archives on the St. Elizabeths East Campus.
- C. Interviews: No oral history interviews were performed for this documentation project.
- D. Selected Sources:

Centennial Papers: St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1855–1955. Winfred Overholser, ed. Washington, D.C.: Centennial Commission, St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1956.

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The DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths: Final Master Plan. Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

General Correspondence and Other Records of the Federal Board of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Records of the Office of the Superintendent, (1855–1967), Record Group 418.

Historic Preservation Report: St. Elizabeths West Campus, John Milner Architects. Prepared for the General Services Administration. December 7, 2005.

Historic Structure Report: Willow (Building 8), St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, D.C. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, March 12, 2010.

Library of Congress. Washington, D.C.: Geography & Maps Reading Room. Collection contains various topographical maps for the District of Columbia and St. Elizabeths campus from 1855–1985.

Maps and Plans of the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths Hospital), 05/27/1839–12/14/1938. Department of the Interior, St. Elizabeths Hospital (1916–06/30/1940). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

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St. Elizabeths Hospital Tunnel Inspection Report. Burgess & Niple, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., February 2006. Accessed through the General Services Administration archives.

St. Elizabeths West Campus: Cultural Landscape Report. Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. April 2009.

St. Elizabeths West Campus Preservation, Design, & Development Guidelines. Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc., Architectural and Historical Research. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Extensive research on the history of Willow has been performed for this and other studies, as documented in the publications and other sources listed above.

F. Supplemental Material:

1. GSA archives, image DC1472SE0P024.
2. GSA archives, image DC0148SE0P002.
3. GSA archives, image DC0066SE0P010.
4. GSA archives, image DC1442SE0P001.
5. GSA archives, image DC1442SE0P002.
6. GSA archives, image DC1442SE0P006.

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This historical narrative was prepared by WJE in conjunction with Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC, who prepared the measured drawings, and Leslie Schwartz Photography, who prepared the photographic documentation. The HABS documentation was completed for the General Services Administration.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

WILLOW (Building 8)
St. Elizabeths West Campus
519–543 Redwood Drive SE
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-349-AC



Figure 1. View of from the east of the Center Building group; Willow is at the extreme left of this view. This photograph was likely taken during construction of Willow circa 1898 because the north porch does not yet exist. Source: GSA archive, image DC1472SE0P024.



Figure 2. View of Willow shortly after its construction, circa 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC0148SE0P002.



Figure 3. View of Willow from the north, at left beyond Pine (Building 6), circa 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC0066SE0P010.



Figure 4. View of Willow from the southeast, 1968. In this view, note the screening on the exterior of the wood casement windows of the northeast porch. Source: GSA archive, image DC1442SE0P001.



Figure 5. An undated view of Willow. Source: GSA archives, image DC1442SE0P002.

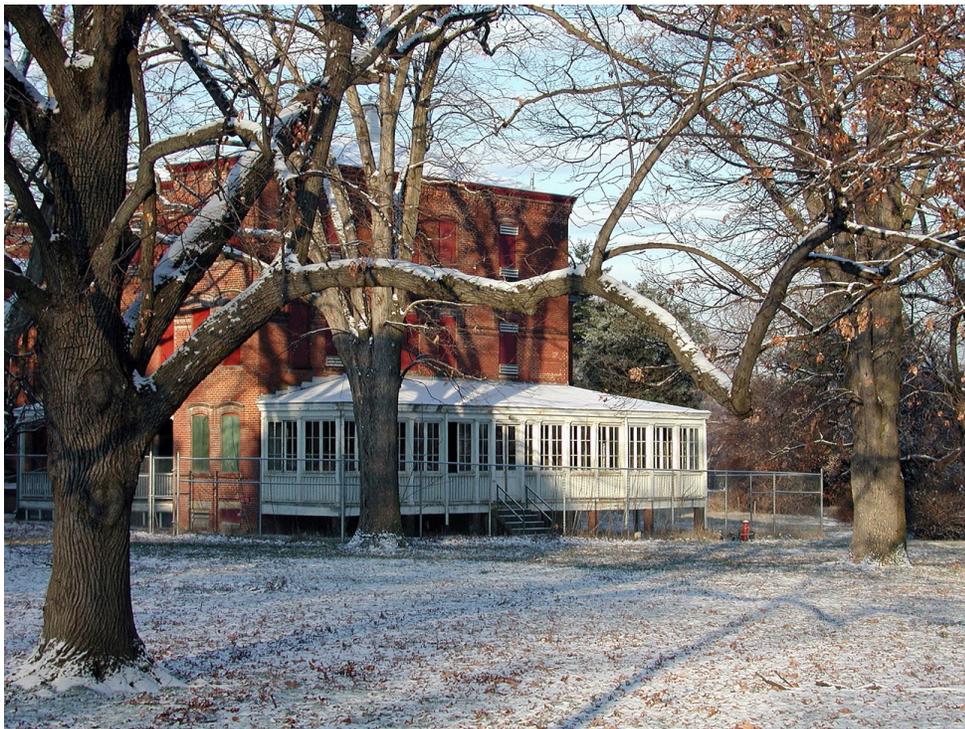


Figure 6. View of Willow from the southeast, 2003. Source: GSA archive, image DC1442SE0P006.