

VLR 1-1-85
NHP 1-5-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX) (PREFERRED) (VHLC FILE #132-9)
and or common Staunton Correctional. Center (official)

2. Location

street & number 301 Greenville Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Staunton N/A vicinity of
state Virginia code 51 county (city) code 790

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: state prison

4. Owner of Property

name Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Corrections, Allyn R. Sielaff, Director
street & number 4615 West Broad Street (P.O. Box 26963)
city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of state VA 23261-6963

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Augusta County Courthouse
street & number N/A
city, town Staunton state VA 24401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (HABSI)
title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1969 federal state county local
depository for survey records Library of Congress
city, town Washington, DC state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark portion of the Western State Hospital Old Site consists of the complex of five antebellum buildings, specifically Building 12 (Main Building or the Administration Building, erected 1826-28), Building 31 (the large ward to the south of Building 12, erected 1842), Building 7 (the large U-shaped ward to the north of Building 12, erected 1839-40 and altered in 1848-49), Building 6 (a small ward with later wing located immediately to the northeast of Building 7, erected 1842), and the Chapel (Building 13, located immediately to the east of Building 12, erected 1843 and altered in 1851). Although numerous other hospital buildings remain at the old site the five buildings: 12, 31, 7, 6, and 13, constitute the principal historic resources of the old site and are worthy of historic landmark designation as a unit and are worthy of preservation. Portions of Building 30 date to the antebellum period but subsequent alterations and additions have disguised its original configuration and have destroyed its integrity as a historic resource, therefore it is not included among the landmark structures of the complex. Providing a setting for the five landmark structures of Western State Hospital Old Site and included within the landmark boundaries is the romantically landscaped park stretching to the north, west, and south of the Main Building (Building 12), and the historic 19th-century iron fence that borders it along U.S. Route 250 and U.S. Route 11. Special amenities on the park grounds are the two Victorian cast-iron fountains in front of the Main Building (Building 12), and the Victorian latticework gazebo near the entrance drive. Another feature considered a historic element of the grounds is the 19th-century iron fencing between the Main Building (Building 12) and the Chapel (Building 13). Two buildings included within the boundaries of the landmark portion of Western State Hospital Old Site, Buildings 14 and 15, are not antebellum structures and thus have not been identified as historic resources worthy of preservation.

CL

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The following buildings comprise the antebellum complex of Western State Hospital:

1. The Main Building or Administration Building (Building 12)

Built 1825-28, the main or center building at Western State was erected after the plans of the Baltimore architect William F. Small. The brick contractor was George W. Wall and the carpentry the work of John Hannon and William Good. The dome was built by John Hannon.

The building is of brick laid in Flemish bond. The central portion is a three-story, deck-on-hip roof structure surmounted by an octagonal cupola surrounded by a sheaf-of-wheat balustrade. It is connected to temple-form ends by two-story, five-bay hyphens. The entire mass is 14 bays extending a length of 225 feet, 38 feet deep with projecting wings of 75 feet. The facade of the central section and the two-story end pavilions are distinguished by tetrastyle Greek Ionic porticoes added in 1847. The porticoes of the end pavilions are pedimented while that of the center section is flat and is surmounted by a parapet. Surrounding each section of the building is an unornamented entablature. The first-story windows across the facade and rear elevation are encased within round-arch openings, although the lunettes of the openings are stuccoed. The doors are similarly treated. Three-part windows

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
pre-historic	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		X other (specify)
				medicine (mental health)

Specific dates 1825-1855 **Builder/Architect** (List builders/architect, etc. on Continuation Sheet #5)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original complex of five antebellum buildings of Western State Hospital comprises one of the nation's outstanding and best preserved assemblages of early institutional architecture. With their exteriors and interiors remaining remarkably unaltered despite over a century and a half of service, the five buildings present a revealing picture of 19th-century Virginia's enlightened care of the mentally ill. The complex was begun in 1826 with the construction of the Main Building (Building 12) and was essentially completed in its present form by 1851 with the opening of the Chapel (Building 13). At that time, Western State Hospital was the second largest mental hospital in the United States. In addition to its importance an impressive artifact of the nation's early medical history, the Western State buildings are significant as works of American architecture. The Main Building was designed by William Small of Baltimore, a leading architect of public buildings, and is among the finest and most prodigious surviving examples of his oeuvre. The large wards (Buildings 7 and 31) flanking the Main Building, completed in their present form by 1844, were designed by another prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr. The fine detailing of the brickwork and other construction elements of these two structures is a tribute to the skill of their builder, William B. Phillips, one of the principal master builders employed by Thomas Jefferson for the construction of the University of Virginia, and subsequently a designer and builder of many houses and public buildings in central Virginia. Set in handsome, park-like grounds, themselves a notable example of antebellum romantic landscaping, the complex, visually unified by its red brick walls and gleaming white classical details, reflects the belief of the institution's early superintendent, Dr. Francis T. Stribling, that the beauty of the buildings and their surroundings had an invaluable therapeutic effect on the patients.

CL

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the late 18th and the early 19th centuries, the population of the western part of Virginia increased dramatically. With an increase in settlement came a proportional rise in the number of mentally ill. Throughout the 18th century, Virginia had treated the mentally ill at the Eastern Lunatic Asylum in Williamsburg. However, by the early decades of the 19th century the accommodations at the Williamsburg hospital were insufficient to meet the growing demands of the state's mentally ill. Moreover, the distance of the western settlements to the Williamsburg hospital made travel to Williamsburg a hardship.

On January 22, 1825 an act was passed by the General Assembly by which a commission was appointed to select and purchase a site near the town of Staunton and the sum of

(See Continuation Sheet # 6)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #13)

Annual Report of the Court of Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum to the Legislature of Virginia with the Report of the Physician for 1839. Staunton: Printed by Kenton Harper.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 13 acres

Quadrangle name Staunton, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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6	6	9	4	8	0
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4	2	2	3	5	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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6	6	9	3	3	0
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4	2	2	3	3	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
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6	6	9	1	4	0
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4	2	2	3	4	3	0
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1	7
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6	6	9	2	0	0
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4	2	2	3	5	6	0
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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn so as to include only the five antebellum buildings that survive in a relatively unaltered state. These buildings consist of the Main Building (now #12), the North Building (#7), the
(See Continuation Sheet # 13)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS STAFF

organization DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS date January 1985

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

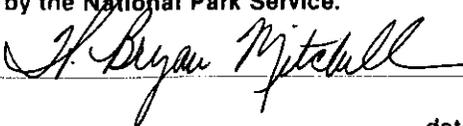
city or town Richmond state VA 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
title DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS date January 15, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

distinguish the first and second stories of the center section. Single windows are found on the third story and also on the hyphens and end pavilions. All windows contain hung sash. The side and rear pediments of the end pavilions have lunettes with intersecting Gothic-style tracery while the front ones are plain. The building originally had a shingle-covered roof and is now covered with sheet metal. Brick chimney stacks break the roof line.

The interior of the Main Building, with the exception of the removal of the center stair on the first floor, survives in a remarkably unaltered state. The plan consists of a central passage in the center section with lateral passages running through the hyphens and the end pavilions. The run of the hall is by a series of round-arch openings with well executed symmetrical architrave trim and molded keystones. The doorways to the principal offices and end stairways on the first floor are extremely elaborate. They consist of round-arch openings encased with three-part doorways topped by fanlights with geometric tracery. The architrave trim matches that found on the arches in the passages. Secondary openings are framed by symmetrical architrave trim with square corner blocks. Small unusually handsome double run staircases are found at either end of the building. Most of the original hardware including the box locks and large hinges on the original doors of the patients' rooms also survive. Small hinged openings on the doors intended for patient observation also survive on the doors to the patients' rooms. Most of the patients' rooms are in the wings.

The second floor has the original central divided stair in the center section. The newel posts are heavily turned and would appear to be late 19th-century replacements. An unusual feature on the second floor are pointed arched doorways with intersecting Gothic tracery fanlights located at the heads of the end stairs. Doorways similar to the large arched openings on the first floor separate the end stair halls from the rest of the interior.

The third floor has Federal mantels in what were originally the officers' apartments. Like the first and second floors, the secondary openings are framed by symmetrical architrave trim and square corner blocks. Found on the third floor is an extraordinary spiral stair that is cantilevered around a center post. The stair winds up into the dome and leads to the octagonal cupola's observation deck. The dome, which was executed by the carpenter, John Hannon, is wood covered with plaster. While at this writing the structure has not been inspected, it is most probably built according to the Delorme system of laminated wood. Such a system was used in Virginia by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and Robert Mills at Monumental Church in Richmond.

2. The South Building (Building 31)

Flanking the Main Building to the north and south are two massive structures containing additional patient accommodations. The South Building was erected in 1842 after the plans of the Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr. by the contractor William B. Phillips. If Robert Cary Long's view of the intended complex in 1839 was built according to plan, the South Building was originally a five-bay structure
(See Continuation Sheet # 2)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

covered by a hip roof, topped by a clerestory. The center bay contained three-part windows, flanked by paired single windows. Modifications and enlargements made in the late 1840s have considerably altered Long's original structure. These alterations, made between 1848-49 by the contractors Lushbaugh, Hudson, Grove, Brown and Word, have resulted in the present appearance.

The three-story facade faces west, the same direction as the Main Building. The center pavilion, in all likelihood the original section, has four Doric pilasters and a full Doric pediment. The round-arched openings on the first story contain three-part windows in the center pavilion and single windows on the adjoining side wings. Two main entrances are located on the wings and consist of a three-part doorway within a round-arch opening. The second and third stories have three-part windows in the center pavilion and a combination of three-part and single windows on the wings. The hip roof is broken by a clerestory surmounted by a Chinese-style lattice rail lining the resulting deck. An octagonal cupola tops the roof.

The plan of the South Building consists of a center passage that runs from north to south off of which are patients' cells. The second and thirds floors preserve their original hardware, flooring and patients' doors with observation openings. The first floor has been completely modernized. All doors and windows framed by symmetrical architrave trim with square corner blocks. The lower sash of the windows is fronted by iron grids that conform to the sash arrangement. The building has two stairs. An original open stair is located in the northeastern corner of the building. A later closed stair is found in the southwestern corner. The second floor retains an area that originally served as a patient dining area and is distinguished by round arches framed by symmetrical architrave trim and topped by molded keystones. Both upper floors contain central attendant apartments with Greek Revival mantels. The source for the mantels' design is Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter of 1830.

3. The North Building (Building 7)

The North Building or Building 7 is the largest of the complex. It was constructed in 1839-40 after the plans of Robert Cary Long, Jr. by the contractors Lushbaugh and Grove. Presumably, like the South Building, it was originally five bays. However, unlike the South Building, it is four stories in height instead of three. Documentation dates the enlargement of the building between 1848-49. The contractors for these modifications were Lushbaugh, Hudson, Grove, Brown and Word.

In its present form, the North Building's facade faces north and consists of a central pavilion with Doric pilasters and a full Doric pediment. A later addition containing toilets projects from the eastern wing of the facade. The treatment of the fenestration of the second through fourth stories is similar to the fenestration on the first through third floors of the South Building. The first story of the North Building has center three-part window flanked by single windows within the center pavilion and two entrances within the flanking wings. The entrance doors are themselves flanked by detached sidelights. The building's hip roof is surmounted by a clerestory topped by a Chinese-style lattice rail. The original octagonal cupola, surrounded by wooden crenelations similar in treatment to the South Building, crowns the building.

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

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DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

At the time that the extensive renovations were made to the building in 1848-49, the configuration of the structure was changed. In its present form the structure is U-shaped with a central corridor running through the entire edifice. Like the South Building, the North Building has two stairs. The stairs are located at the southern ends of the U. The interior openings preserve original symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks, much original hardware and doors with observation holes. A significant feature found in each of the central areas of the second through fourth floors is a series of three spaces divided by three elliptical arches. The arches have very bold moldings with molded keystones. While the original function of the spaces is not known, they were most probably intended as either dining areas or areas for the attendants.

4. The Chapel (Building 13)

Immediately to the rear of the main building and on axis with it is the three-story structure containing a chapel on the top level. The building was intended to house a number of other activities including kitchen and dining facilities. It was first erected in 1843 as a dining hall and altered to its present form in 1851 after the plans of Thomas Blackburn, an early superintendent of buildings.

The facade faces west and the building is comprised of a central pavilion of three stories flanked by wings. The main entrance consists of double doors, a transom and sidelights. Immediately above the entrance is a three-part window with a pedimented head. The third-story central window has a pointed arch opening, the three-part arrangement topped by Gothic tracery. The Gothic window is flanked by pointed arch windows; the remaining windows are contained within single rectangular openings. The openings of the side wings on the first and second stories are a combination of three-part and single. A number of openings on the third story are small casement windows. The roof is topped by a balustraded observation deck surmounted by a small belfry.

A description of the interior of the chapel was given in the 1851 Annual Report:

The chapel is so far completed as that it has been in use about four months. It is a beautiful and comfortable room, with capacity to seat conveniently at least three hundred and fifty persons. The ceiling is arched, and the whole interior handsomely frescoed. The seats are neat and pleasant, and the windows, being Gothic, are glazed above the square with stained glass and occupied below with painted shades, each representing a different scene, illustrative of some interesting portion of scripture history. From the Old Testament is copied the Expulsion of our First Parents from Paradise, Samuel at Prayer, and the Brazen Serpent lifted up. From the New Testament we have the representation of the Good Samaritan, Return of the Prodigal Son, Christ stilling the Tempest, Christ saving Peter, and the Crucifixion. By an arrangement kindly entered into between the ministers regularly officiating, these scenes are being made the bases of their discourses, and thus add much to the interest which is felt in the services.

It will be remembered that in former reports we have alluded to a society organized by a portion of our female patients, the object of which was to create
(See Continuation Sheet # 4)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

a fund by the making and selling fancy articles of needle work, to be used in erecting or finishing a chapel on the grounds of the asylum. This society has existed for some years, and continues its operations. The frescoing and graining of the chapel, the pulpit, seats, stained glass, window shades, &c., above mentioned, were paid for from this fund and cost about \$900.

It is designed from the same source to purchase carpeting, provide cushions for the seats and make such other additions as will render the chapel complete.

We were honored not long since on a Sabbath afternoon with a visit from the president of the United States, secretary of the interior, and W.W. Corcoran, Esq., of Washington city. It was the first occasion on which Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Corcoran had ever witnessed a congregation of insane persons assembled for the purpose of divine worship; and such was the character of the scene, that they could but be astounded at the order and decorum which prevailed, as well as be deeply affected by the solemn reverence exhibited for the place, the day and the occasion.

Mr. Corcoran has, with a liberality for which he has become justly distinguished, presented for the chapel a handsome organ costing \$1,000, the sweet tones of which, whilst they soothe and mellow the disordered thoughts and chafed spirits of those stricken ones, who have thus been made the objects of his benevolent regard, will often, doubtless, awaken in their bosoms feelings of the liveliest, gratitude to their humane friend and considerate benefactor.

Although the original decorations have been lost, the architectural features, pews and tracker-action type pipe organ presented by Corcoran remain in place. The dining room has been considerably altered.

It should be noted that Building 14, the kitchen, while attached to the Chapel, is not an antebellum structure and is a modern utilitarian structure and is a noncontributing element of the complex.

5. Ward 3 (Building 6)

The small building to the northeast of the main building was erected in 1842 according to the plans of Robert Cary Long, Jr. The contractors were Craig, Hudson, and Graham of Augusta County.

The Ward 3 building is a three-bay by five-bay structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond and covered by a hip roof. The main entrance consists of a single door flanked by sidelights and top by a transom. A large three-part window, similar to those found on the North and South buildings, is found above the entrance. Single windows complete the facade and are also used on the side elevations. The rear elevation has been altered by a later addition. A modern porch shelters the main entrance.

(See Continuation Sheet # 5)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The structure's plan consists of a central passage that runs north and south through the building. On either side of the passage are cells originally intended for the more troublesome patients. Much original hardware, as well as the original observation doors, survive intact. The building is presently vacant.

Surrounding the complex is a landscaped park with large shade trees, a gazebo, rock formations and cast-iron fountains. A decorative iron fence erected in the 1850s borders the grounds on the north and west sides. The Main Building is approached axially through a gate off Grenville Avenue.

RCC

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey File #132-9
State, 1969
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
- (3) Virginia Landmarks Register, 05/13/69
- (4) National Register of Historic Places, 11/25/69

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Builders/Architects

The architects and builders of Western State Hospital are:

Building 12 (Main Building or Administration Building)
William F. Small, Jr., Architect
George W. Wall, Mason
John Hannon and William Good, Carpenters
John Hannon, Builder of the dome

Building 31 (South Building)
Robert Cary Long, Jr., Architect
William B. Phillips, Contractor
Lushbaugh, Hudson, Grove, Brown and Word, Contractors,
1848-49 additions

Building 7 (North Building)
Robert Cary Long, Jr., Architect
Lushbaugh and Grove, Contractors
Lushbaugh, Hudson, Grove, Brown and Word, Contractors,
1848-49 additions

(See Continuation Sheet # 6)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Builders/Architects (continued)

Building 6 (Ward 3)
Robert Cary Long, Jr., Architect
Craig, Hudson, Graham, Contractors

Building 13 (Chapel)
Thomas Blackburn, Architect, 1851 modifications;
contractors unknown

(Historical Background)

\$22,000 was appropriated to buy the land and erect the buildings. The commission organized itself as a Court of Directors, and was comprised of citizens of Staunton and Augusta County. The first action of the court was the purchase for \$600 of "a beautiful site, on a commanding eminence to the east of the town, including four acres of land, and within the limits a never failing stream of pure water."¹

In July 1825 before the building plans were in hand, the directors opened bidding for the brickwork of their new building. Specifications for the building stated that it was not to exceed three stories, excluding basement and was to be built on a stone foundation. The contract was awarded to George W. Wall who was instructed that:

The walls shall be exclusively built with hand burnt bricks and finished from the trowel in the neatest manner without staining or painting.²

Subsequently, it was decided by the directors that all carpenters' work would conform to that used by "the Philadelphia housejoiners in their publication of 1812."³ This was the same source used by Thomas Jefferson for the carpentry work at the University of Virginia.

Meanwhile, one Joseph Cowan, the court's treasurer, traveled to Baltimore and Philadelphia to examine mental hospitals in those two cities. In July 1825 he wrote the directors that he had "employed an architect in Baltimore to draw a plan of a lunatic hospital."⁴ That architect was William F. Small.

Small was a native of Baltimore, the son and grandson of two of that city's prominent builders, Jacob Small and Jacob Small, Jr. From the records of Western State preserved at the Virginia State Library it is documented that Small prepared a plan for the directors with a brief explanation. The plan consisted of a central dome building with radiating wings. On August 8, 1825, the building committee wrote Small:

The plan for a lunatic hospital which you have forwarded to us seems to be generally well approved by the Court of Directors; so far as it is understood but owing to our deficiency in architectural skill and to its not being accompanied by your notes of explanation we cannot, probably, appreciate or fully understand it. We hope therefore that it will be convenient for you...to send the explanations proposed.⁵

(See Continuation Sheet # 7)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The committee also noted in their letter the fact that they would not be able to execute Small's plan in its entirety. Rather, they could only construct space for 30 to 40 patients.

Western State Hospital was among the first buildings in Virginia to be designed by a professional architect working on a fee basis. Apparently, Small had difficulty in securing a full professional fee for his plan. In October, Small billed the hospital for \$150, but received a payment of only \$50. The outcome of the final settlement is not known. However, Small's problem in collecting his architectural commission is not unique to Western State. Indeed, Small's contemporaries, Benjamin Henry Latrobe and Robert Mills, frequently encountered clients unwilling to compensate them fully for plans and specifications.

On March 6, 1826 the directors granted the builder, George W. Wall "his reasonable expenses from Winchester to Baltimore and back again for the purpose of examining the lunatic hospital at Baltimore."⁶ The institution that he would have inspected was the public hospital which began operation in 1798. Its central building was brick, four stories, 64 feet by 56 feet with two wings each three stories and 36 feet by 120 feet for a total facade length of a little over 300 feet. This building was probably the model for the central building at Western State. On a comparative basis, the two plans consist of a central block with two connected wings. Although the dimensions of Western State are smaller, the facade of the Main Building is 225 feet and 38 feet deep with projecting wings of 75 feet; the configuration is the same as the Baltimore hospital. As to be expected, differences between the two buildings are found in detailing. This may, in part, be due to the directors' statement to the General Assembly "that no part (of the funds) has been expended in useless ornament; but the object has been to erect the building in a plain and substantial style."⁷ Interestingly enough, one very expensive embellishment was preserved from Small's original plan--the interior dome.

The builder of the dome was John Hannon, who with William Good, was the contractor for the carpentry work of the center building. Hannon agreed to construct the dome for \$300, which, upon completion, was a sum disputed by the directors. An arbitrator, A.S. Brockenbough, was called in to settle the claim and determined that the cost of the dome should be \$93.64 less.⁸ It was Brockenbough who served as Proctor of the University of Virginia when the dome of the Rotunda was erected. It is not known according to what method the dome was constructed. However, since it was built with wooden valuts, in all probability it was the Delorme method also employed by Jefferson at Monticello and by Robert Mills at Monumental Church in Richmond.

The hospital was formerly opened on July 25, 1828. Immediately, it was filled to capacity and so many applications were received that the Court of Directors passed a resolution restricting admission to those "who are either dangerous to society from their violence, or who are offensive to its moral sense by their indecency, and to those cases of derangement where there is reasonable ground to hope that the afflicted may be restored."⁹

(See Continuation Sheet # 8)

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WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM COMPLEX), STAUNTON, VA

Continuation sheet #8

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The first medical superintendent, Dr. Francis T. Stribling, was appointed in 1838. It was Dr. Stribling whose humanitarian approach to mental illness guided the hospital throughout the antebellum period. In his first report for 1839 the physician noted:

From this report, as well as some former communications, it will be seen that everything like violence or coercion has been abandoned in the treatment of the insane at the Western Lunatic Asylum, and the mildest and most soothing and parental conduct has been substituted in its stead.¹⁰

Dr. Stribling's treatment concerned the rehabilitation of patients and, in this regard, Western State was among the first institutions in America that attempted to treat mental health as a curable illness. In the same report Dr. Stribling commented on the beauty of the hospital's site, noting that the building, "for architectural beauty it is unsurpassed by any similar institution in our country."¹¹

The Court of Directors actively lobbied for additional buildings. The General Assembly was receptive to the needs of the asylum and money was appropriated for the purpose of more building space in 1838. The Annual Report noted:

The additional building in progress is a large edifice, four stories high, intended to accommodate near sixty patients, well ventilated, and having a dining room and the necessary rooms for attendant on each floor. The walls are completed, and such progress has been made in the other work as to justify the belief, that it will be ready for the reception of patients by the first day of September, 1840.¹²

According to the State Auditor of Public Accounts records, the contractor for this, the North Building, was Lushbaugh and Grove whose work was completed on April 18, 1842.

The Annual Report for 1842 noted further construction:

The third account is in relation to the new buildings authorized to be erected by an act of the last session of the General Assembly, appropriating \$24,000 for this purpose. As early after the passage of this act as we could obtain a copy of it, we caused plans of three different buildings to be made out. The first, a large three-story building, located at the south end of the old building, corresponding in all respects with that north of the old building, except being three instead of four stories owing to the elevation of the ground on which it is located. This is intended exclusively for females, and will accommodate comfortably 45 patients and their attendants. The other two buildings are smaller and located in the wards north and south of the present buildings, and are intended for that class of patients who are noisy, most troublesome, and require close confinement.¹³

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Following the customary procedure for large buildings, the report noted that the directors advertised for contractors in the Richmond and Staunton newspapers. The advertisement contained the clause, "to erect said buildings in conformity with the plans and specifications prepared by our architect."¹⁴

The South Building contract was awarded to William B. Phillips of Albemarle County and the contract for the two smaller buildings to Craig, Hudson and Graham of Augusta County. William B. Phillips was a former workman of Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia and was responsible for building a number of churches and courthouses in the Virginia Piedmont. Craig, Hudson and Graham were all local builders.

While the architect is not specifically named in the report, it is Robert Cary Long, Jr. of Baltimore. An illustration published in the Annual Report for 1839 depicts the Main Building, together with the flanking North and South buildings. Long's view predates the completion of the North Building and the start of construction on the South Building, which would infer that Long was intimately familiar with the plans and specifications for the new buildings. Moreover, the lithograph is signed, "From a sketch by R.C. Long, Archt."¹⁵ The appellation of the title "architect" to Long's name on the view would confirm his role in the plans for the future buildings. The view also clearly shows the North and South buildings with similar facades, a likeness noted in the report.

Robert Cary Long, Jr. was the son of the prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Sr. Long attended St. Mary's College and served as a draftsman for the New York City architect, Martin Euclid Thompson. Long had returned to Baltimore by 1839 when he was commissioned to design the additions to Western State Lunatic Hospital. In addition to Western State, Long also was commissioned by the directors of another Staunton institution to design their edifice, the main building at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. The link between the two institutions was Dr. Francis T. Stribling who served on the Board of Visitors of the Deaf and Blind school at the time that Long was commissioned to design Western State.

The additional building space increased the patient and staff population at Western State requiring the construction of yet another building. In the Superintendent and Physician's report for 1843, it was noted that a building for dining was erected.¹⁶ The structure was also used for religious services which Dr. Stribling felt had a beneficial effect on the patients that were able to attend the services. Stribling's reports to the legislature continually note the need for a chapel.

The years 1843 and 1844 witnessed numerous improvements made to the Main Building. These included a hot air heating system for the wings. The central portion of the building continued to be heated by stoves and fireplaces. A tin roof was constructed and the building was painted for the first time since its completion, "as a proper preservation of the wood."¹⁷

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The next major building campaign at Western State constituted a series of large additions to the North and South buildings. The additions were authorized by the state legislature in 1847, and were scheduled to be completed by November 15, 1849. The contractors were Lushbaugh, Hudson, Grove, Brown and Word. According to the Annual Report for 1849, the quality of the work was quite high. The report specifically noted:

We deem it only necessary now to say that the additions about being finished are so connected with the north and south detached buildings, as to require the closest scrutiny to discover that each, as it now stands, was not an original whole." ¹⁸

The report also noted that the workmen's conduct "manifested a scrupulous regard for the rules of the asylum" ¹⁹ and that the work on the additions did not interfere with the daily operations of the hospital.

At the same time that additions were being made to the North and South buildings, improvements were made to the Main Building as well. The contractors for the work were the builders Lushbaugh, Brooks, Stevenson and Kinney after the plans of Thomas Blackburn, Building Superintendent. According to their July 1847 contract the work consisted of the application of a massive Greek Revival portico on the facade of the center building and the addition of "piazzas" or porches. ²⁰ The addition of the portico on the facade of the center building was undoubtedly influenced by the Greek Doric portico at the Virginia School for the Blind and Deaf completed a year earlier in 1846. The portico considerably enhanced the appearance of the central building and gave the hospital a Neo-Classical flavor.

By the late 1840s, Western State Hospital "was the largest mental asylum, save one, in the United States" ²¹ according to Dr. Stribling. After noting this fact to the General Assembly, the physician presented a "wish list" of items he felt the hospital needed. These included a bakery, pantry, library room and a chapel for the patients.

In 1851, at least one of Dr. Stribling's continued wishes was fulfilled. The Annual Report for that year noted the completion of a chapel on the hospital grounds, designed after the plans of Thomas Blackburn. A description of the chapel noted that it contained painted shades with scenes from the Bible, frescoes, graining and stained glass. Part of the expense was met from funds obtained by ¹⁷selling of needlework executed by female patients, undoubtedly a project encouraged by Dr. Stribling. ²² Shortly after the chapel was completed, Millard Fillmore, then President of the United States along with the Secretary of the Interior and William Corcoran visited the asylum and attended a religious service. Corcoran was "deeply affected by the solemn reverence exhibited" and proceeded to donate an organ "costing \$1,000." ²³ The hospital wrote Corcoran a letter of thanks and the organ remains in place. ²⁴

Further improvements were made to the appearance of the institution by the construction of more verandas and also covered walkways between disconnected buildings.

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8. DESCRIPTION -- Historical Background

The legislature appropriated \$9,150 for their execution. According to the Annual Report for 1855-57, "Contracts have been made with John B. Wickesham of New York for the iron material, and with Henry J. Shomo of Staunton for the carpenters work."²⁵ In 1855, an iron fence was awarded to Garber and Connel of Staunton to be executed after the designs of Thomas R. Blackburn, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. Blackburn was also responsible for the execution of a laundry between 1857-59. Although no documentation has been found, Blackburn may have been the designer of the additions to the North and South buildings of 1848-49.

During the Civil War and Reconstruction, no major building activity occurred at Western State. Construction of new buildings resumed by the end of the 19th century and ran through the mid-20th century. These later buildings were, for the most part, erected to the east of the antebellum structures, thus preserving the 19th-century ambience of the complex and surrounding landscape.

In 1976 Western State Hospital moved from its original site to a new complex. Following the move, the Department of Corrections occupied the site as a prison for geriatrics and light offenders. The deed for the property was formally transferred to the Department of Corrections in 1981. This state agency continues to occupy the site.

RCC

¹Dr. James B. Pettis, "A History of Western State Hospital," published manuscript, nd. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission file.

²Nancy Feys Dunne, The Era of Moral Therapy at Western State Hospital, (De Paul University, Chicago, May, 1968), Appendix B: George W. Wall, et. al., Building Contract for Western Lunatic Asylum, 1825.

³Building Committee to William F. Small, August 8, 1825, Records of Western State Hospital, Auditor of Public Accounts, Virginia State Library.

⁴Records of the Asylum, July, 1825, Western State Hospital Archives, Staunton.

⁵Building Committee to William F. Small, August 8, 1825.

⁶Records of the Asylum, March 6, 1826.

⁷Records of the Asylum, November 28, 1826.

⁸Records of Western State Hospital, Auditor of Public Accounts, Virginia State Library, August 7, 1828.

⁹Dr. James B. Pettis, "A History of Western State Hospital," np.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes (continued)

¹⁰ Annual Report of the Court of Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum to the Legislature of Virginia with the Report of the Physician for 1839, pp. 14-15.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 16.

¹² Ibid., p. 7.

¹³ Annual Report of the President and Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum to the Legislature of Virginia, with the Reports of the Superintendent and Physician, 1841-1860, pp. 4-5.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁵ Annual Report...for 1839, frontispiece.

¹⁶ Annual Report...for 1843, p. 40.

¹⁷ Annual Report...for 1844, pp. 28-30.

¹⁸ Annual Report...for 1849, p. 28.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Building Contract for the Western Asylum, July 3, 1847, on the part of Lushbaugh, Brooks, Stevenson and Kinney," Western State Hospital, Archives.

²¹ Annual Report...for 1849, pp. 28-29.

²² Annual Report...for 1851, p. 40.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid., p. 3.

²⁵ Annual Report...for 1855/57, p. 53.

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Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Records of Western State Hospital, 1825-1860, Restricted Deposit, Virginia State Library.

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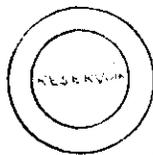
Griffith, Thomas W. Annals of Baltimore. Baltimore: Printed by William Woody, 1824.

"Western State Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, Division of Historic Landmarks, 1969.

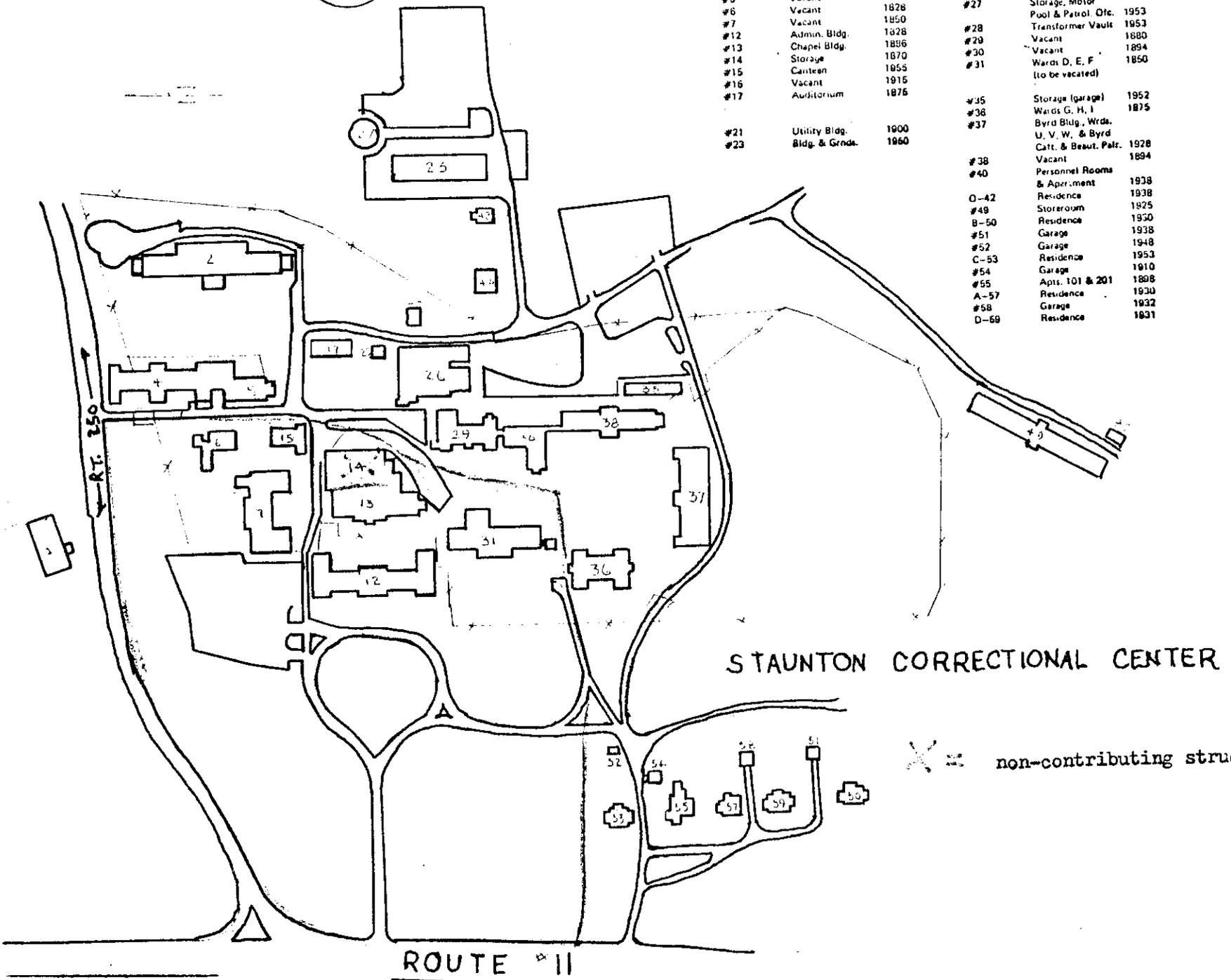
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification & Verbal Boundary Description

South Building (#31), the Chapel (#13), and the small Ward 3 building (#6). Also included in the nominated property is a landscaped park which stretches to the north, south and west of the main edifice. The park includes two cast-iron fountains, a gazebo and the iron fence. Buildings #14 and 15 are not antebellum structures and do not contribute to the nomination.

All revised p. 13



BLDG. NO.	USAGE	YEAR CONST.	BLDG. NO.	USAGE	YEAR CONST.
#1	Power Plant	1950	#24	Reimb. Ofc. & Furn. Repair Shop (to be vacated)	1907
#2	Wineary Bldg. Annex 1 - 4	1935	#25	Food Service	1938
#4	Vacant	1921	#26	Storage & Personnel Quarters	1865
#6	Vacant	1898	#27	Storage, Motor Pool & Patrol Ofc.	1953
#6	Vacant	1828	#28	Transformer Vault	1953
#7	Vacant	1850	#29	Vacant	1880
#12	Admin. Bldg.	1928	#30	Vacant	1894
#13	Chapel Bldg.	1886	#31	Wards D, E, F (to be vacated)	1850
#14	Storage	1870	#35	Storage (garage)	1952
#15	Canteen	1955	#36	Wards G, H, I	1875
#16	Vacant	1915	#37	Byrd Bldg., Wrds. U, V, W, & Byrd Catt. & Beaut. Palr.	1928
#17	Auditorium	1875	#38	Vacant	1894
#21	Utility Bldg.	1900	#40	Personnel Rooms & Apartment	1938
#23	Bldg. & Grnds.	1960	O-42	Residence	1938
			#49	Storeroom	1925
			B-50	Residence	1950
			#51	Garage	1938
			#52	Garage	1948
			C-53	Residence	1953
			#54	Garage	1910
			#55	Apts. 101 & 201	1898
			A-57	Residence	1930
			#58	Garage	1932
			D-69	Residence	1831



STAUNTON CORRECTIONAL CENTER

X = non-contributing structures

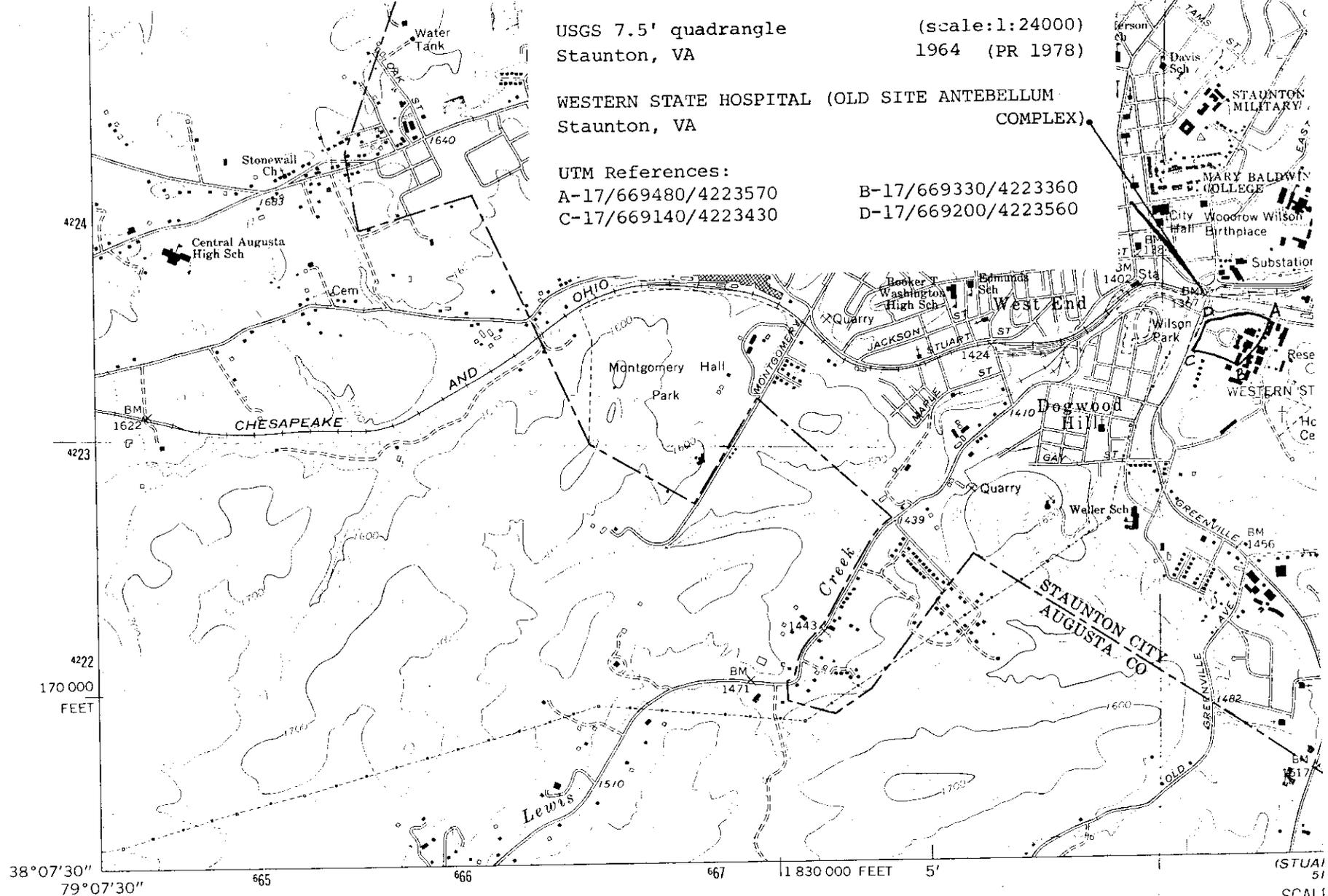
USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Staunton, VA

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1964 (PR 1978)

WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL (OLD SITE ANTEBELLUM
Staunton, VA COMPLEX)

UTM References:
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C-17/669140/4223430

B-17/669330/4223360
D-17/669200/4223560



(GREENVILLE)
5160 II SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

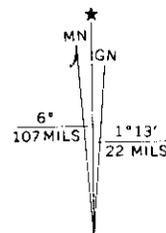
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1963. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17,
shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC

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