# MESS HALL BUILDING (UNIT I)
# EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

| | |
|---|---|
| Geographic Organization: | Eastern Shore |
| Chronological/Development Period(s): | Industrial/Urban Dominance |
| Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): | Not Applicable |
| Resource Type: | |
| Category: | Building |
| Historic Environment: | Rural |
| Historic Function(s) and Use(s): | Mental Hospital: Patient Housing & Dining Rooms |
| Known Design Source: | Parker, Thomas & Rice |

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. D-712

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mess Hall Building - Eastern Shore State Hospital (Unit I)

and/or common Unit I

## 2. Location

street & number 5520 West Shore Drive ___ not for publication

city, town Cambridge ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Dorchester

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | _x_ public | _x_ occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| _x_ building(s) | ___ private | ___ unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | ___ private residence |
| ___ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | _X_ yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | ___ not applicable | ___ no | ___ military | _x_ other: health care/hospital |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street telephone no.: 410-767-6500

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber

street & number 206 High Street folio

city, town Cambridge state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. D-712

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | ___ deteriorated | ___ unaltered | X original site |
| X good | ___ ruins | X altered | ___ moved date of move _____ |
| ___ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Mess Hall Building, constructed in 1913-1915, was designed to house dayrooms and dining rooms for patients at the Eastern Shore State Hospital. Designed by Parker, Thomas & Rice, the Shavian manorial style building was never used in accordance with its original design. Its open plan was adapted for patient housing from the outset. Unit I, which is the mirror image of Unit II (Survey No. D-713), is a two-story, T-shaped, steel and reinforced concrete building that forms the eastern wing of the kitchen and mess hall complex. Hyphens connect Unit I and Unit II with the central Kitchen (Survey No. D-714). Unit I rests on a raised basement and is topped by a slate hipped roof punctuated by tall, compound interior chimneys. The exterior stylistic architectural detailing is particularly fine and includes arched bracing, Flemish bond brick, Indiana sandstone trim, a molded watertable, wood pendants below the 2nd story overhang, and green tile decorative panels. There is a screened porch at the end of the east wing of the building. While the exterior of the building has been little changed, there have been major alterations to the interior.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Unit I is a T-shaped wing that forms the eastern portion of the symmetrical kitchen and mess hall complex for the Eastern Shore State Hospital. Unit II, on the west, is the mirror image of Unit I. Unit I was designed to house day rooms and dining halls; a brick hyphen connects Unit I with the kitchen at the center of the complex. The kitchen and mess hall complex was planned as the central service core of the institution and was designed to serve dormitory buildings housing patients. The first dormitories were not constructed for over 20 years and Unit I was pressed into use as housing from the outset.

Unit I is a two-story Shavian manorial style building that rests on a raised basement and is topped by a steeply pitched, Peach Bottom slate roof. The 1st story and basement of the building are executed in Flemish bond brick with randomly glazed headers; the 2nd story is half-timbered stucco. Carefully composed fenestration consists of paired windows with multiple pane sash. Smaller, single windows set off the ends of the three wings. The graduated sash has 12/15 lights on the 1st story with 9/15 lights above. Basement and 1st floor window openings have Indiana sandstone sills. Primary entrances to the building are recessed within round arches at the ends of the north, south, and east wings. Centered half-timbered gables with barge boards emphasize the location of the entrances. There is a one-story screened porch with a decorative wood railing at the end of the east wing. A secondary entrance to the basement is situated on the west facade south of the hyphen. This entrance retains its original 2 panel, 4 light door. Eight tall, interior chimneys dominate the roofline of the building, constituting one of the building's most distinctive features. Compound chimney stacks with diagonally set brick rise from a simple square base. The stacks are capped with elaborate corbelled chimney caps. Small triangular ventilation louvres punctuate the roof.

Unit I, like other Parker, Thomas & Rice buildings, exhibits particularly fine detailing. The projecting watertable is topped by a shoulder course of molded brick below a soldier course that serves as the

base of the 1st story. Jack arches set off paired, three-light basement windows. Entrances housed within simple brick surrounds are centered below half-timbered gabled dormers at the ends of each wing. The bilateral symmetry of the wing ends, created by the gable, the diagonal timbering, and paired windows above green tiled panels, highlights these simple entries. The tile in the panels is set in a diamond motif that appears in other buildings that Parker, Thomas & Rice designed at the state hospitals. The stuccoed, half-timbered 2nd floor rises above a molded wood stringcourse and pendants. The restrained half-timbering is vertical with the exception of arched timbering at the corners and diagonal timbering within the gables above the entries. Historic photographs show window boxes incorporating the center diamond motif below each of the paired windows.

Architectural drawings, historic photographs, and early 20th century descriptions detail the original appearance of Unit I's interior, which was subsequently altered. The original interior configuration of the building consisted of open plan space on the 1st floor and open plan space on the north and south wings of the 2nd floor. Each of the 1st floor wings was designed to serve as a dining room for the three proposed male cottages. The north and south wings on the 2nd floor were designed as dayrooms. A metal and timber truss supported the exposed ceiling in the dayrooms. The east wing on the 2nd floor, which was designed to house attendants, consisted of small rooms and closets disposed to either side of a central corridor. On the 1st floor, the crossing area was designed as a serving area for the three dining rooms. With the exception of the staff quarters in the east wing of the 2nd floor, walls were constructed of "brownish-gray" salt glazed brick. In keeping with standard practice for the design of mental institutions, openings and corners were detailed with rounded brick to eliminate sharp corners. Ceilings were plaster and interior partitions were constructed of plastered gypsum block. The 1st floor had Welsh tile floors, the 2nd had edge-grain Georgia pine. Bathrooms and stairs had terrazzo tile floors. Windows and doors were constructed of Southern pine.[1]

Unit I been more extensively altered than Unit II. The exterior has received minor alterations; the interior has been greatly changed. By 1921, porches were added to the north and east wings.[2] Only the porch on the east remains. On the exterior, paired windows at the center of the south end of the east facade have been removed and replaced with a door providing handicapped access. The area around the door has been infilled with brick and a handicapped ramp installed against the east facade. Historic photographs and physical evidence reveal the original appearance of the primary entrances, which consisted of two-panel double doors with four light glazing. These doors were set below an arched, multiple pane transom that extended beyond the doors to fill the round arch. All of the original double doors at the 1st floor level have been removed and the openings infilled with brick and single doors. The original brick stoops and steps at the north and south end of the building have also been removed. The stoop on the north has been replaced by a handicapped ramp; the stoop on the south, by a loading platform. The date the window boxes were removed is unknown; historic photographs show that they remained in 1921.

The original appearance of the interior of the building has been greatly altered. While the salt-glazed brick is still visible in many locations, dropped acoustical ceilings obscure the original exposed reinforced concrete beams. The original openings between the wings and the serving area have been

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[1]Eastern Shore State Hospital Biennial Report 1913-1915, pp. 25-26.
[2]Eastern Shore State Hospital Biennial Report 1919-1921, p. 29.

closed down to accommodate single doors and the 32-light transoms removed. On the 1st floor, the north wing has been converted to a thrift shop and the east wing to a canteen. On the 2nd floor, the north wing has been converted to a learning center, the attendants' rooms in the east wing have been converted to office space. The corridor of the east wing on the 2nd floor retains some of its original 5-panel doors and transoms as well as door surrounds. The south wings of the 1st and 2nd floors were not accessible. Original stairs have been replaced with metal stairs.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. D-712

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ prehistoric | ___ 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 | X social/ humanitarian |
| ___ 1700–1799 | ___ art | ___ engineering | ___ music | |
| ___ 1800–1899 | ___ commerce | ___ exploration/settlement | ___ philosophy | ___ theater |
| X 1900– | ___ communications | ___ industry | ___ politics/government | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ invention | | ___ other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1913–1915 **Builder/Architect** Parker, Thomas & Rice

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national X state ___ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore architectural firm of Parker, Thomas & Rice designed Unit I, constructed in 1913-1915, as the eastern wing of the Mess Hall Building of the Eastern Shore State Hospital. The building became a patient dormitory and never fully served its purpose-built function as space for dining rooms, dayrooms, and staff housing. The Shavian manorial building is an excellent example of its style and a superb example of the work of Parker, Thomas & Rice, an important early 20th century architectural firm. One of the earliest buildings constructed at the hospital, the Mess Hall Building established the architectural image of the Eastern Shore State Hospital and contributes to the historic significance of its historic core.

## HISTORY

In January 1912 the Maryland General Assembly passed Chapter 187 creating the Eastern Shore State Hospital. The enabling legislation included a bond issue that provided $200,000 for land acquisition and construction. The Power Plant and Laundry (Survey No. D-716) and the Mess Hall Building -- comprised of Unit I, Unit II (Survey No. D-713), and the Kitchen (Survey No. D-714) -- were the first buildings constructed at the Eastern Shore State Hospital. The Mess Hall Building is an excellent example of Parker, Thomas & Rice's work. It offers a textbook illustration of their ability to combine informal, picturesque architectural styles with the rigorous methodology of Beaux Arts architectural design. The functional shortcomings of the building, however, illustrate some of the drawbacks of Beaux Arts approach.

The Board of Managers of the Eastern Shore State Hospital chose Parker, Thomas & Rice as their architects after an American Institute of Architects (AIA) sanctioned competition. The choice of Parker, Thomas & Rice, who excelled in the Beaux Arts method, was almost foreordained by the architectural professionals involved in the process. The Board selected Washington architect J. Rush Marshall (1851-1927), a Fellow of the AIA, as their consulting architect for the competition. Dr. Hugh Young, the nationally renowned urologist on the faculty at Johns Hopkins who was president of the Lunacy Commission, and noted Philadelphia architects Milton B. Medary (1874-1929) and Edward

A. Crane (1867-1935) judged the entries, which were submitted anonymously by six Maryland firms invited to compete.[1]

All of the architects involved in running the competition, like the principals in Parker, Thomas & Rice, were active in the American Institute of Architects; all had experience with large, complex buildings. Most importantly, all were proponents of symmetrical, axial Beaux Arts buildings. Marshall, a partner in Hornblower & Marshall, was educated at Rutgers University and worked for 12 years in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, the office responsible for the design and construction of all federal buildings. Hornblower & Marshall's best known building is the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum; they also designed the U.S. Customs House in Baltimore.[2] Milton B. Medary, a fellow of the AIA and partner in Zantziger, Borie & Medary, was a graduate of the Beaux Arts program at the University of Pennsylvania and an eminent architectural designer at the time of his selection to the jury. He later became president of the AIA, a member of the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts, and architect of the Justice Department in the Federal Triangle.[3] Edward A. Crane, also a fellow of the AIA, was a partner in Rankin, Kellogg & Crane. He was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which introduced Beaux Arts architectural education to the United States. Within four years, Crane rose from draftsman to the head of the Engineering Department in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, resigning in 1903 to begin architectural practice in Philadelphia. His firm designed a number of federal buildings including the Agriculture Building in Washington, D.C.[4]

The competition encompassed the design of an institution housing over 350 patients in six dormitories. Given the size of the original appropriation, the Board determined to construct the service first and request appropriations for the dormitories at a later time.[5] Unit I was the eastern wing of the Mess Hall Building, which consisted of a central Kitchen connected by hyphens to two T-shaped wings. The 1913-15 Block Plan of the hospital shows the three dormitories on the eastern half of the hospital campus as the "Male Group" indicating that the dining rooms and dayrooms in Unit I would have served the male cottages.

Each wing housed three 1st floor dining rooms.[6] A central serving area was situated at the intersection of the three dining rooms on axis with the hyphens that connected to the Kitchen. Presumably each of the three cottages in the Male Group would have had its own dining room in the Mess Hall. The 2nd floor was designed as housing for nurses and other hospital staff with "linen rooms, clothes rooms,

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[1]Henry Mills Hurd, *Institutional Care*, p. 547.

[2]Henry F. Withey & Elsie Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, p.393 and Pamela Scott & Antoinette J. Lee, *Buildings of the District of Columbia*, pp. 45 and 46.

[3]Withey, pp. 415-416. While Marshall and Medary were probably acquainted through the AIA, both Marshall and Medary worked on the Cosmos Club in Washington, of which Marshall was a member.

[4]Withey, p.147. Marshall's tenure at the Office of the Supervising Architect predated Crane's.

[5]Eastern Shore State Hospital Biennial Report 1913-15, pp. 20-22. Because the General Assembly continued to appropriate construction funds to implement their 1908 legislation mandating state care for of the mentally ill in Maryland, it was not unreasonable for the Board of Managers to expect that additional funds would be forthcoming.

[6]A plan of one of the proposed patient cottages suggests that each dining room would have served approximately 60 people.

trunk rooms, closets and toilets." Two large day rooms for patients were also located on the 2nd floor of each wing.[7] Storerooms, sewing rooms, and workrooms were located in the basement, which was connected to the Laundry, Power House, and Kitchen by reinforced concrete tunnels.[8] The building was heated by a hot water expansion system utilizing exhaust steam from the Power Plant.[9] While the Mess Hall Building was equipped with "a thorough system of modern plumbing with the latest sanitary appliances," sewage was emptied into the Choptank.[10]

The design of Unit I as a dining room/dayroom facility is unusual and differs in significant ways from similar facilities in contemporary institutions. Virtually all the period literature on the design of mental institutions held that the chronic insane could be fed in a single dining room and could mingle at meal times without ill effect. The use of a single dining room provided for economy of construction and operating costs. Alternatively, individual small cottages could have their own dining rooms, served from a central kitchen, to facilitate a more homelike atmosphere. The other purpose-built functional use in Unit I, dayrooms, were typically part of patient dormitories. Their location in a separate building with no walkways or passages shown between the buildings (a common feature in the design of mental institution campuses) is anomalous. The unusual design suggests that the Board planned at the outset for the Mess Hall Building to be multi-purpose space that could be adapted to dormitory use until funding for cottages was received.

E.D. Springer & Company was awarded the construction contract for the hospital in August 1913. The construction of the hospital began with its groundbreaking on September 23, 1913. E.D. Springer & Company was the contractor for the project, which was completed on March 29, 1915. The contractor found that it was cheaper to ship supplies by water than by rail and constructed a 1400 ft. pier with double tracks. After construction was complete, the contractor sold the pier to the hospital, providing a facility for hauling coal and other materials essential to hospital operation[11]

Unit I is a superb example of the Beaux Arts design skills of Parker, Thomas & Rice. It is an excellent example of their ability to execute Anglo-American styles in accordance with Beaux Arts design principles, a characteristic of the firm's work. The methods of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris came to dominate academic architectural training during the late 19th and early 20th century. The systematic teaching methods of the Ecole emphasized universal design principles based on clarity of plan. This academic system stressed the importance of designing a building's elevations from its floor plan. The layout of the building was driven by axial symmetry of the circulation system, from which the plan was developed. Locations of entrances, fenestration patterns, and ornament were all subordinate to the overall design of the building and reinforced the hierarchy of the building's elements and its bilateral symmetry. Architectural style was not applied until after the plan was refined. The Ecole insisted on a rigorous, consistent, and coherent application of architectural style and stylistic features. Enormous attention was devoted to choosing an architectural style appropriate to the setting

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[7]Eastern Shore State Hospital, Biennial Report, 1913-1915, p. 23.
[8]Eastern Shore State Hospital Biennial Report 1913-1915, p. 26.
[9]Eastern Shore State Hospital, Biennial Report, 1913-1915, p. 23.
[10]Eastern Shore State Hospital, Biennial Report, 1913-1915, p. 23.
[11]ESSH Bienniel Report, 1913-1915, pp. 22-23, pp. 26-29.

and function of the building. MIT, where two Parker, Thomas & Rice partners received their American training, pioneered Beaux Arts architectural training in the United States.

Parker, Thomas & Rice were a nationally renowned firm noted for outstanding design. The architects designed buildings at Springfield prior to winning the competition for the Eastern Shore State Hospital.[12] The partners in Parker, Thomas & Rice included J. Harleston Parker (1873-1930), Douglas H. Thomas, Jr. (1872-1915), and Arthur Wallace Rice (1869-1938). Parker was born in Boston and graduated from Harvard. After completing a four year course of study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, Parker returned to Boston and by 1900 formed a partnership with Thomas, opening offices in Boston and Baltimore.[13] Thomas was a Baltimore native who graduated as president of his class from Johns Hopkins and studied architecture at MIT. Thomas then spent two years in Paris furthering his Beaux Arts training. He died at the age of 43 when his Pierce Arrow overturned on a hairpin curve.[14] Rice joined Parker and Thomas in 1907. Born in Boston, Rice trained at MIT and, like his partners, in Paris ateliers. Rice was evidently responsible for many of the firm's commercial buildings.[15] All were Fellows in the AIA; Thomas served as president of the Maryland AIA.

Parker, Thomas & Rice received widespread national recognition during the first two decades of the 20th century. Their buildings are exemplars of Beaux Arts architectural design; the firm is credited with establishing Beaux Arts design in Baltimore with their 1907 Savings Bank of Baltimore.[16] In 1913 Herbert Croly, author of *The Promise of American Life* and a major figure in U.S. intellectual history, wrote a lengthy article on the firm in *The Architectural Record*.[17] Croly's absorbing concern was the development of a distinctly modern American identity and culture that moved away from agrarian ideals, a concern that dovetailed with contemporary architectural debates on an appropriate American architectural style. Croly particularly admired the way Parker, Thomas & Rice combined the rigor of Beaux Arts architectural training and design with the "diffident, unassuming and personal" that were hallmarks of the English tradition in American architecture, which Croly approvingly characterized as "American architectural Anglicism." Croly wrote that the firm had a "natural instinct

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[12]"Partial List of Buildings designed and executed by Parker, Thomas, & Rice" in Taylor to Broening, 1921. Their Maryland hospital buildings included Ward Buildings E, F, & G (ca. 1911), the Power House (ca. 1912), and the John Hubner Psychopathic Pavilion (ca. 1915) at Springfield, and Ward A, the Dining Room, and Power House at Bay View. This list also notes St. Bartholomew's Hospital (New York), DuPont Hospital (Cambridge, MD), the Boston Dispensary, and the Hebrew Nurses Home in Baltimore.

[13]Withey, pp. 454-455 and Dorsey, p. 284.

[14]Withey, p. 594 and obituaries. The Witheys conjecture that Col. D.H. Thomas of Baltimore, who died in 1905 and was credited with designing several buildings was Thomas's father. Obituaries contradict their assumption, stating that his father, who survived him, was president of the Merchant Mechanics National Bank.

[15]Withey, p. 594 and p. 505.

[16]Wilbur Harvey Hunter in John Dorsey & James D. Dilts, *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture*, p. xlviii.

[17]Croly, who became a founding editor of *The New Republic* in 1914, was a major liberal Progressive Era reformer. The influential *Promise of American Life*, published in 1909, argued for a new American nationalism that moved away from Jeffersonian individualism and embraced large-scale institutions led by an intellectual elite.

for architectural picturesqueness."[18] He perceptively noted that Beaux Arts design lent itself to formal, neoclassical architectural styles drawn from Roman, Italian Renaissance, and French Renaissance models. Parker, Thomas & Rice succeeded in designing Beaux Arts buildings using more picturesque, vernacular-based architectural styles based on British models and early American buildings. This approach had a distinct appeal in an increasingly nativist age.

Parker, Thomas & Rice's memorable, highly pictorial buildings incorporate powerful architectural imagery regardless of the style the firm used. Their buildings in Baltimore included the Alex. Brown and Sons Building (1900), Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (1916), the Liberty Building, the B&O Railroad Office Building, the Pennsylvania Railroad Office Building, the North German Lloyd Steamship Offices (Hansa House, 1907), the Union Trust Building, and the Maryland Life Building. They designed a number of exquisite small banks in Baltimore, many of which have been demolished. They were responsible for the campus plan and Gilman Hall (1904) at Johns Hopkins University and the Belvedere Hotel (1903). They also designed the Harvard Club in Boston and the main building of the Jamestown Exposition (1907).[19]

Unit I and Unit II were designed in the Shavian Manorial Style.[20] This style, derived from the work of Scottish-born, British architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912), combined Jacobethan elements in a distinctive, domestic architectural style that paved the way for the enormous popularity of the Queen Anne. Shaw's residential buildings, which were widely published and a major influence on the Shingle Style, featured half-timbered or shingled 2nd stories above 1st stories of Elizabethan brickwork. Carefully composed roofs feature cross gables with barge boards and prominent chimney stacks. The Mess Hall Building appears influenced by the Sussex vernacular employed by Shaw in several of his buildings.

The Mess Hall Building's combination of Beaux Arts formality with vernacular detailing succeeded admirably in establishing a powerful visual image for the Eastern Shore State Hospital. Its functional drawbacks, however, reveal the problematic aspects of Beaux Arts planning. Some deficiencies can no doubt be attributed to the hybrid nature of the building, but others point to the triumph of image over function. The building's most distinctive architectural characteristics appear to be visual gestures. In institutional design, dining halls are service spaces that are less important than patient dormitories. In cottage plan mental institutions, separate dining hall buildings eliminated the need to provide kitchens and dining rooms in each ward. Since patients were fed in shifts, a large dining hall could serve several hundred people. While the Mess Hall's T-shaped configuration provided a way to break up a large space, it prevented the area from being used as a general assembly or entertainment area, a common second use for dining halls in other institutions. Because of additional exterior walls, the T-shaped configuration was also a far more costly way of constructing the open plan space. Access to dayrooms on the 2nd floor of a building not intended for dormitory use is also problematic.

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[18]H.D.C. [Herbert D. Croly], "Notes on the Work of Parker, Thomas & Rice of Boston and Baltimore," in *The Architectural Record* (August 1913), p. 138.

[19]Dorsey & Dilts, *op. cit.*, H.D.C, *op. cit.*, and "List of Buildings." The Alex. Brown & Sons Bldg. was one of a handful of buildings that survived the Baltimore Fire of 1904.

[20]This term, coined by Henry-Russell Hitchcock, is the counterpart of his term "Richardsonian Romanesque" and offers a more precise stylistic description than either Tudor revival or Queen Anne revival does. See Hitchcock, *Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, pp. 206 -220.

Buildings at mental institutions that date from the late 19th or early 20th century often exhibit a picturesque roofline with cupolas and decorative chimney stacks. Ventilation was extremely important to hospital design both for the provision of fresh air and the elimination of odors. While the tall chimneys are a distinguishing architectural characteristic of the Mess Hall Building, these chimneys appear to have served no function. They are placed at stair towers and over trunkrooms in locations not conducive to ventilation.

Perhaps the most serious functional shortcoming of the building is the absence of sun porches or screen porches, particularly given the hospital's location on the Choptank and the advantages of its sea breezes.[21] While porches or verandahs are not typically a part of a prototype dining hall, by the 20th century they were considered an essential element in the design of residential buildings for the mentally ill. Porches were even added to existing buildings that had been designed without them. Large screened porches essentially became fresh air dayrooms. Bedridden patients could be wheeled out on the porch and all could partake in healthful, outdoor air. The rendering for the Completed Hospital Group shows no prominent porches on any of the cottages, which would have made porches associated with the dayrooms that much more important. The absence of porches proved to be one of the most serious problems of the Mess Hall Building. Without protection, doors began to warp and rot in the salt air. Finally in 1921, the General Assembly gave the hospital a $3000 appropriation to construct three porches on the Mess Hall Building. Only the porch on the east end of Unit I survives.

By September 1927, 286 patients were jammed into the Mess Hall Building. One of the 1st floor wings was used for administrative offices; attendants lived on the east and west wing of the 2nd floor. The basement, lit primarily by electric light, was used as a sewing room. In 1926 construction began on the Administration Building, which would house offices and staff quarters. By February 1928 staff had moved into their new residence and the administration moved into their new offices.[22] The Mess Hall Building continued to be the hospital's only patient housing until Carey (D-718) and Nice (D-719) were constructed in the late 1930s, some 20 years after the hospital opened.

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[21]Porches would have been inappropriate to the Shavian manorial style.
[22]Eastern Shore Hospital Diary, n.p.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. D-712

Please see Continuation Sheets.

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** Less than one acre

**Quadrangle name** Cambridge, Maryland

**Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Please see Continuation Sheet.

**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** Betty Bird

**organization** Betty Bird & Associates **date** August 15, 1997

**street & number** 2607 24th Street, NW, Suite 3 **telephone** 202-588-9033

**city or town** Washington, D.C. 20008 **state**


The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"Partial List of Buildings designed and executed by Parker, Thomas & Rice," attached to R. E. Taylor to William F. Broening, February 18, 1921. (Peale Museum Vertical Files, courtesy of Peter Kurtze, Maryland Historical Trust)

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Photographs. (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the peninsula that includes the historic buildings and their setting. The project area consists of the peninsula bounded by the Choptank River on the north and Shoal Creek on the west and south. The eastern boundary extends along Shoal Creek to a point approximately 300 ft. upstream from the Power House and Laundry. The boundary then proceeds in an arc roughly ENE to the intersection of West Shore Drive (Maryland Route 479) and Point Drive. The boundary then proceeds roughly WNW to the Choptank River in an arc on the north and east side of West Shore Drive. The intersection of the eastern boundary of the project area and the Choptank River is directly north of the east facade of the Dr. Charles J. Carey Building (Survey No. D-718).

## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

"Block Plan of the Eastern Shore State Hospital" (Source: Eastern Shore State Hospital, Biennial Report 1913-15, p. 15)

"Eastern Shore State Hospital Showing Completed Group as Contemplated" (Source: Eastern Shore State Hospital Biennial Report, 1913-15, frontispiece)

"Second Floor Plan Showing Second Floor Plan Now in Use" (Source: Eastern Shore State Hospital, Biennial Report, 1913-15)

Dining room, ca. 1915 (Source: Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

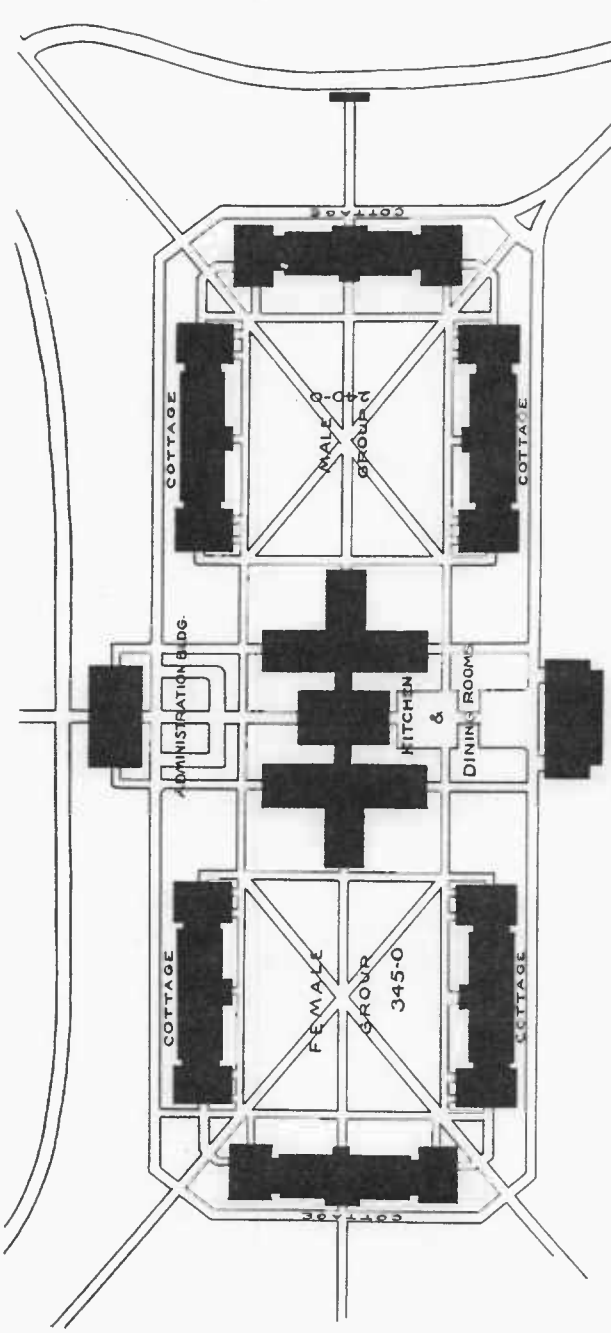
Second floor ward, ca. 1915 (Source: Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

View from northwest, ca. 1915 (Source: Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

View of north facade, ca. 1921 (Source: Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

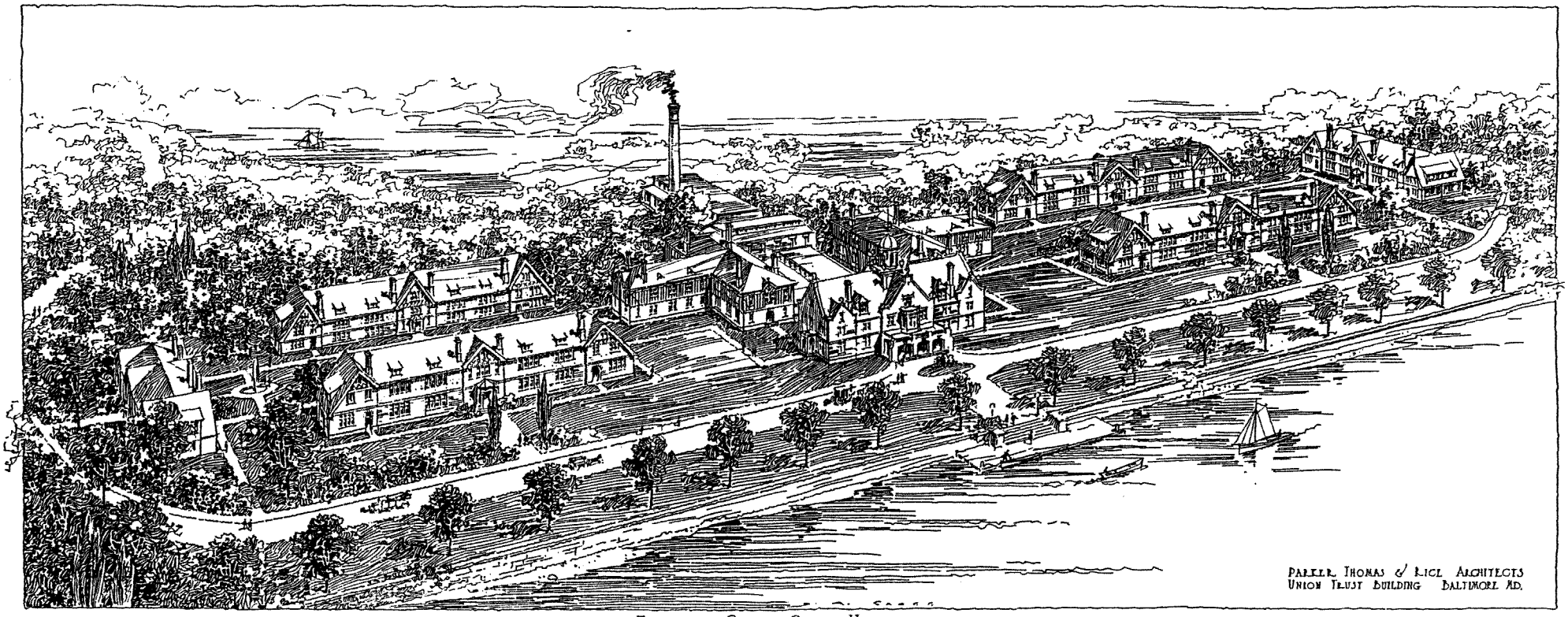
"State Hospital from Waterfront, Cambridge, Maryland" (Source: Postcard, Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)

View from northeast, ca. 1921 (Source: Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)




BLOCK PLAN OF THE EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL.

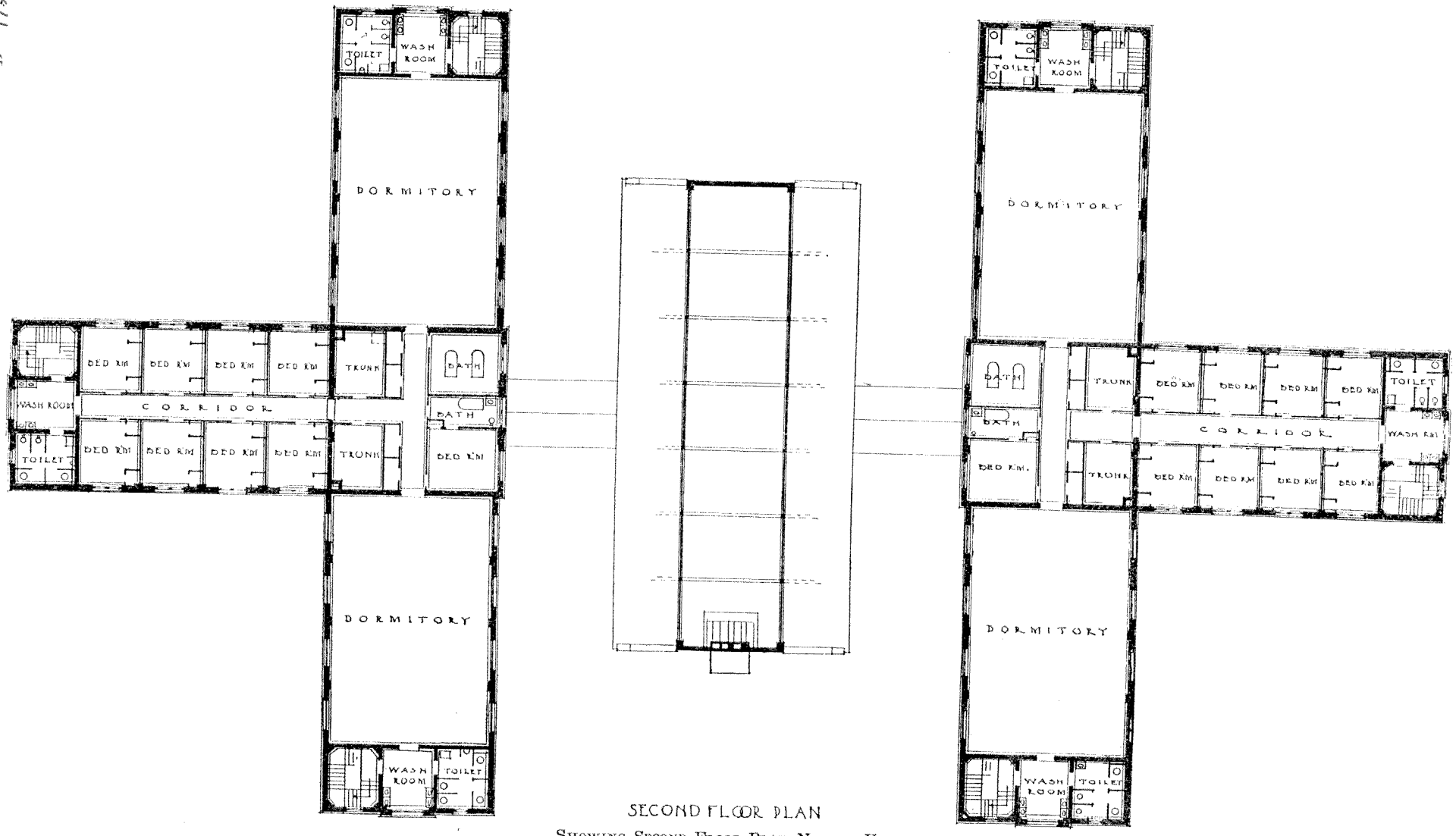
D-712




EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL

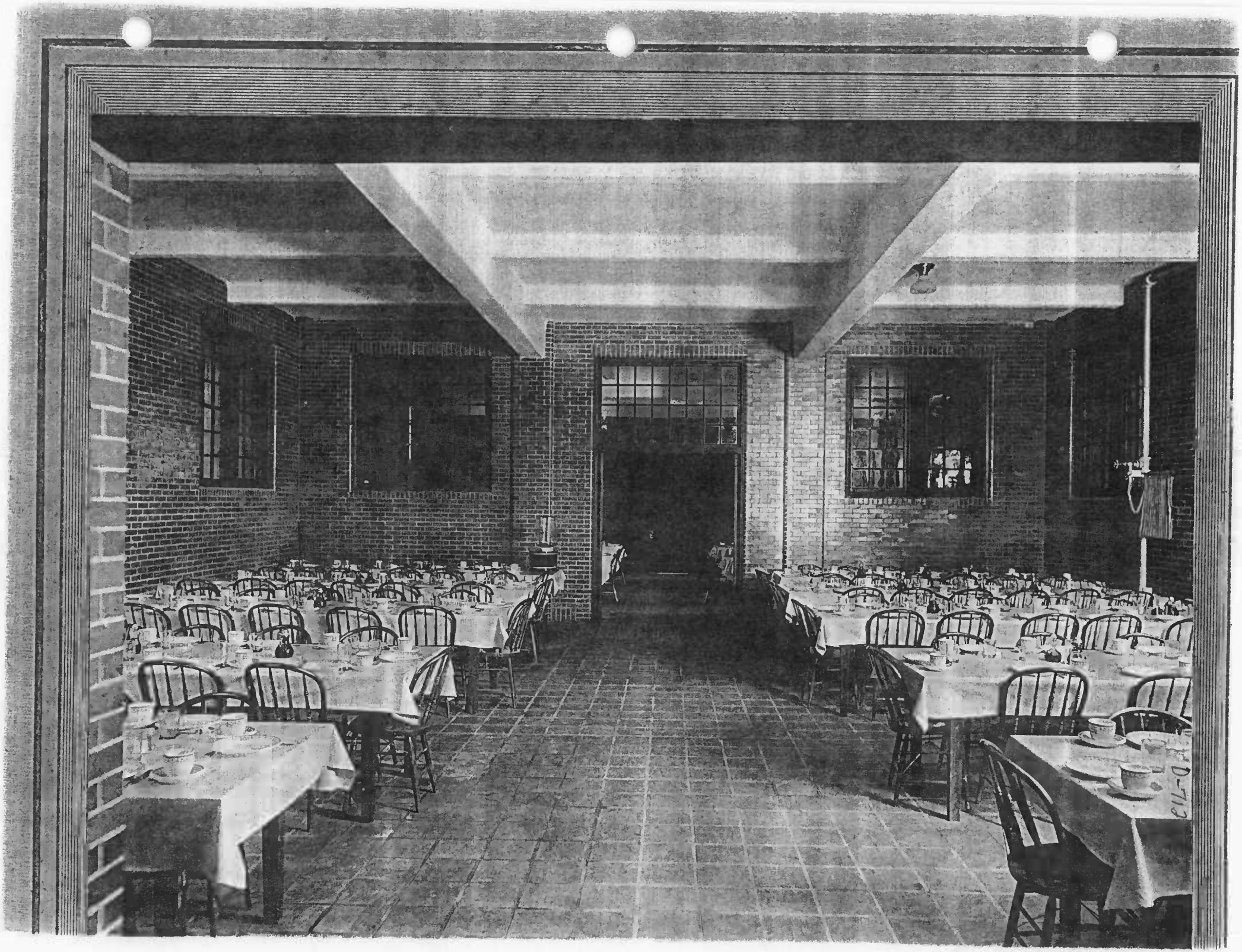
SHOWING COMPLETED GROUP AS CONTEMPLATED.

D-712




SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SHOWING SECOND FLOOR PLAN NOW IN USE.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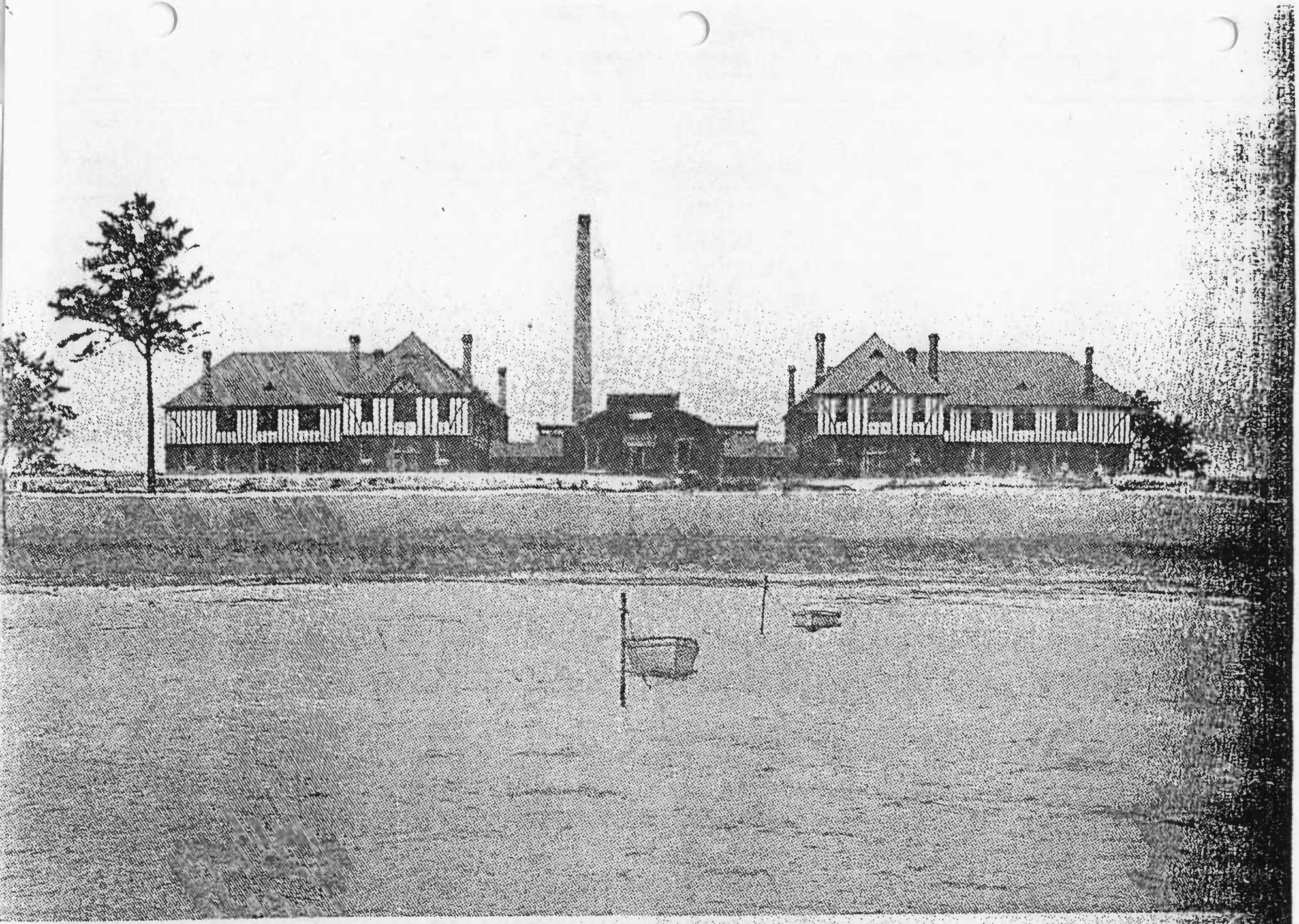
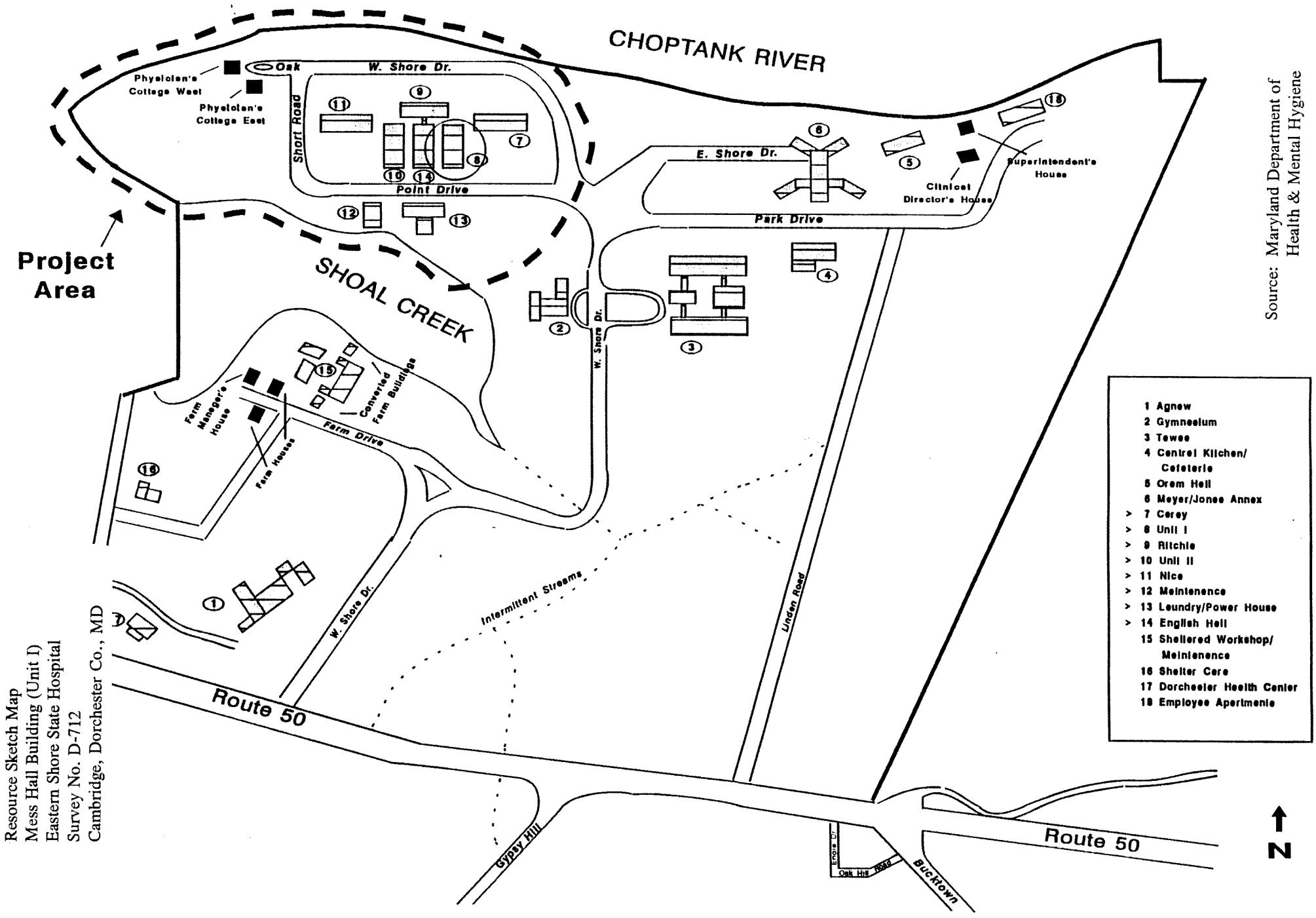
D-712



STATE HOSPITAL FROM WATER FRONT, CAMBRIDGE, MD.

D-712

A-712

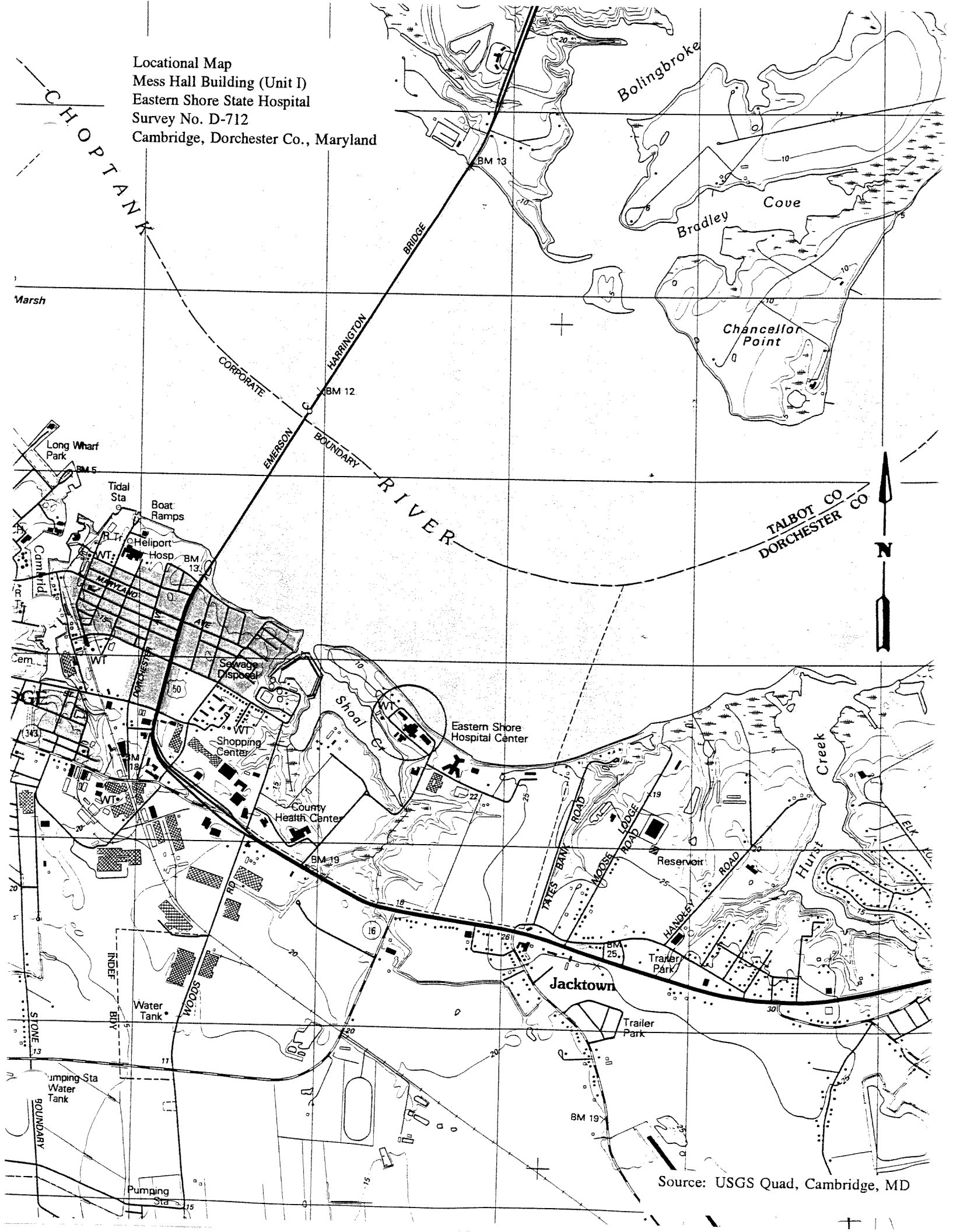



Source: Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Resource Sketch Map
Mess Hall Building (Unit I)
Eastern Shore State Hospital
Survey No. D-712
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., MD

# Eastern Shore Hospital Center

Locational Map
Mess Hall Building (Unit I)
Eastern Shore State Hospital
Survey No. D-712
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., Maryland




Source: USGS Quad, Cambridge, MD

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT 1) E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT 1) E.S. STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

VIEW FROM SE

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REGIONAL
DIRECTOR

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT D) - ES STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT 1) ES STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: [illegible]

JULY 1987

MD-HPO

VIEW FROM [illegible] KITCHEN

[illegible]

D-712
MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD
PHOTO: BETTY BIRD
JULY 1997
MD SHPO
EAST ELEVATION SHOWING PORCH

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DAILY BANNER

D-712
MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD
PHOTO: BETTY BIRD
JULY 1997
MD SHPO
INTERIOR OF PORCH, VIEW FROM NE
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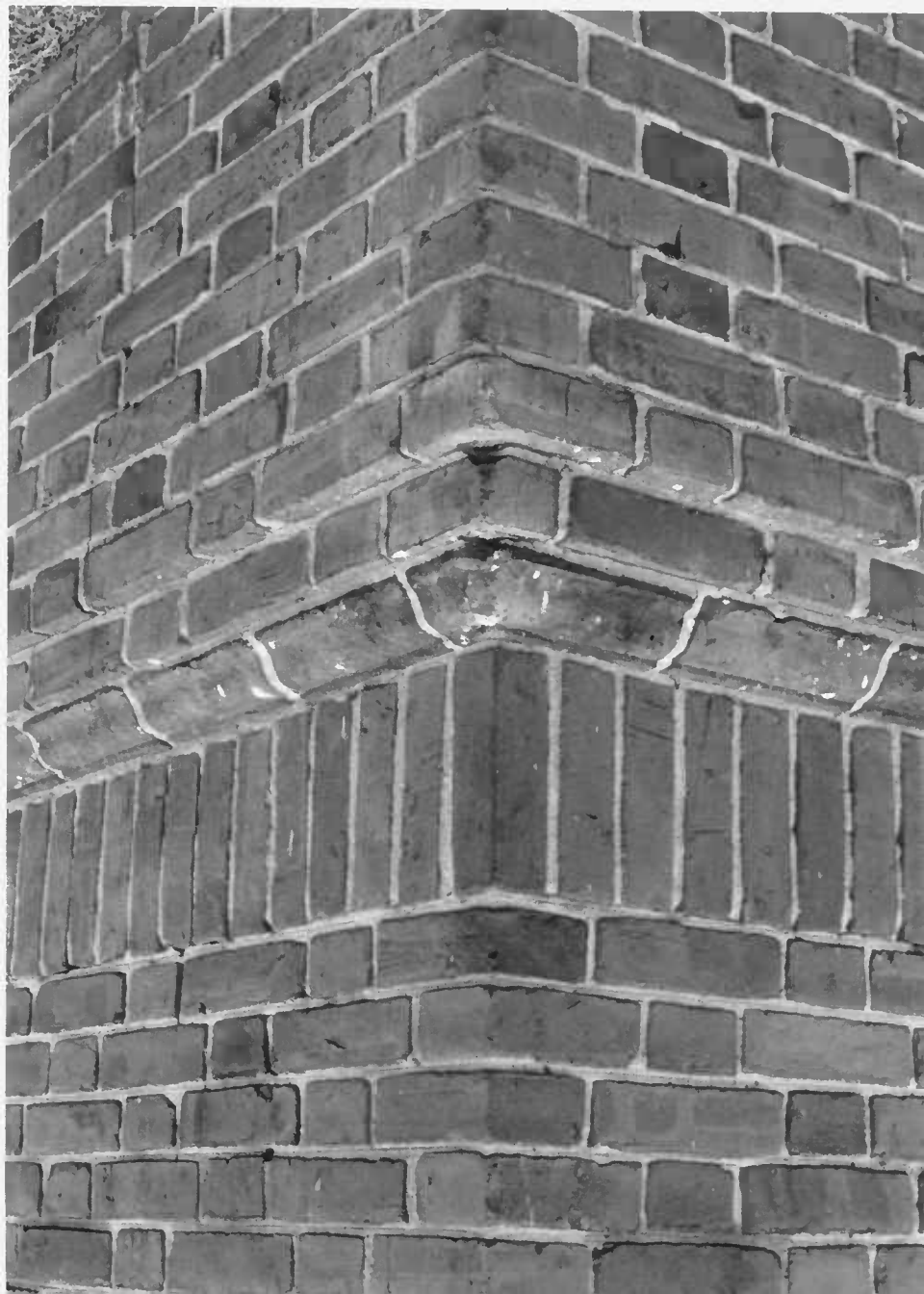

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NESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

DETAIL OF BRICKWORK AT WATERTABLE

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

INTERIOR: STAIRWELL

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Eastern Shore

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) ES STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

INTERIOR: 2ND FLOOR E WING CORRIDOR FROM W

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MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

LIGHT FIXTURE, 1ST FLOOR STAIRWELL, E WING

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D-712
MESS HALL BLDG (UNIT I) E S STATE HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD
PHOTO: BETTY BIRD
JULY 1997
MD SHPO

INTERIOR: DETAIL OF BULLNOSE BRICK

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