

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
TOWN NO.: SITE NO.:
UTM: 18/ / / / / / / / / /
QUAD:
DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Connecticut Valley Hospital Historic: Hospital for the Insane Connecticut
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Silver Street; east of Eastern Drive
4. OWNER(S): State of Connecticut X PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Psychiatric care facility Historic: Insane Asylum
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain X no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Mid-19th-early 20th C. institutional buildings and site DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: from 1867 to present

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
clapboard asbestos siding brick
wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
board & batten stucco cobblestone
aluminum siding concrete: type: cut stone: type:
X other: variety

- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
wood frame: post and beam balloon
load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
X other: variety

- 10. ROOF: type:
gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
gambrel shed hip round X other various types
material:
wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
asphalt shingle built up tile X other: various types

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: Variety APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50 buildings on 200 acres

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent X good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent X good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no X yes, explain: A number of early buildings have been renovated; also see #18

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
X barn X shedS garage X other landscape features or buildings: hospital reser-
carriage house shop X garden S voirs; early maintenance buildings; cemetery
east of the site

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
X open land woodland X residential scattered buildings visible from site
commercial industrial rural X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This expansive site comprises the main section of the Connecticut Valley Hospital. Located in the South Farms district, it consists of a large concentration of early and contemporary buildings. The site, landscaped with broad lawns and large, shade trees, is at the top of a hill and offers panoramic views (see continuation sheet)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Connecticut Valley Hospital was formally opened in this city during 1868. Two years earlier, Middletown had granted the site to the State for the establishment of an asylum to accommodate Connecticut's mentally ill. By 1896, four groups of buildings had been erected and the institution, known as the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, was one of the largest of its kind in the country.

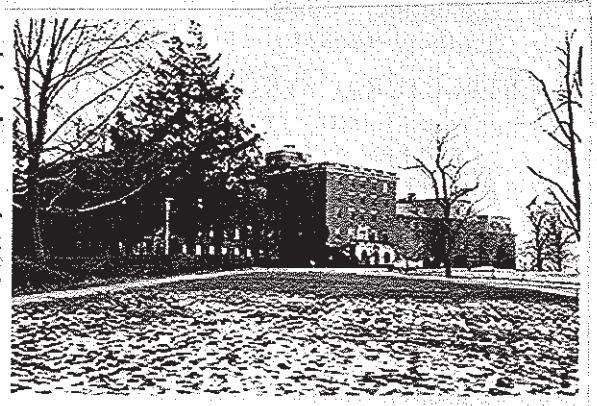
The hospital consists of approximately eighty structures complemented by 650 acres south and east of the main site. It includes large institutional buildings constructed of brick and brownstone, frame and brick residences, and a number of maintenance buildings. The majority of these form a large group centered around Shew Hall. This site, which contains approximately two hundred acres, is illustrated by the accompanying map. It comprises many distinctive structures that evidence different periods of the institution's development.

Shew Hall, the original hospital structure, was built in 1867. It functions as the administrative building and is the focal point of the institution. This large structure is named in honor of the hospital's first superintendent, Dr. Abram M. Shew. Designed by

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: see continuation sheet
negative on file: see continuation sheet



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessors; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

A

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

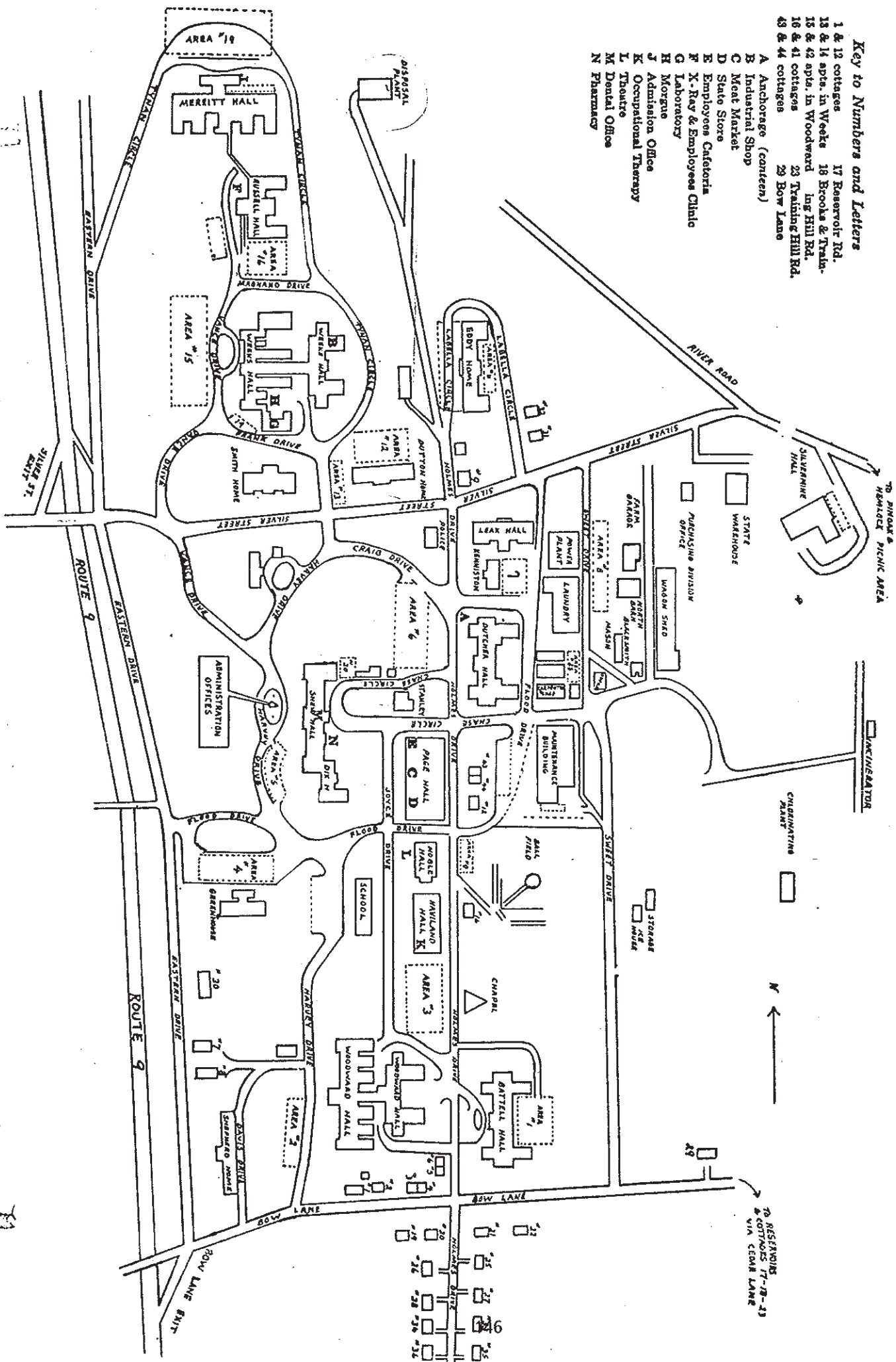
none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: CVH plans to

to demolish the original sections of Woodward Hall and Weeks Hall in the fall or winter of 1979.

Connecticut Valley Hospital
 Silver St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

Key to Numbers and Letters

- 1 & 12 cottages 17 Reservoir Rd.
- 13 & 14 apts. in Weeks 18 Brooks & Trala-
- 15 & 42 apts. in Woodward Ing Hill Rd.
- 16 & 41 cottages 23 Training Hill Rd.
- 43 & 44 cottages 29 Bow Lane
- A Anchorage (conten)
- B Industrial Shop
- C Meat Market
- D State Store
- E Employees Cafeteria
- F X-Ray & Employee Clinic
- G Laboratory
- H Morgue
- J Admission Office
- K Occupational Therapy
- L Theatre
- M Dental Office
- N Pharmacy

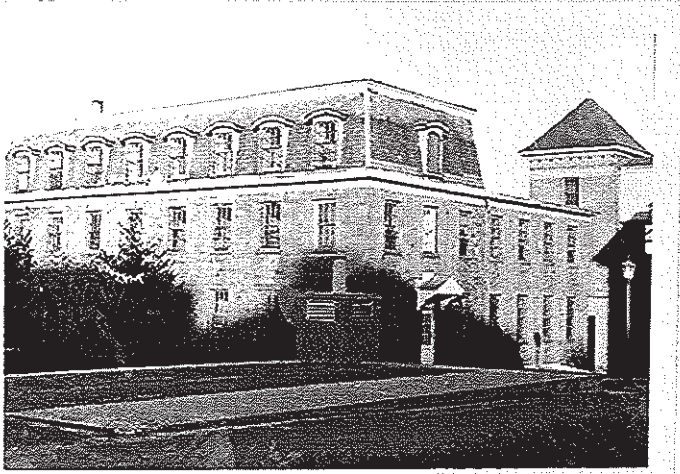


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CONTINUATION SHEET
 Item number: _____ Date: 12/78

Connecticut Hospital for the Insane
 Silver St. Middletown, Ct. 06457



B



C



D



E

BUILDING	VIEW	NEG. ON FILE
A: Shew Hall	northwest	Roll 55, #31
B: Stanley Hall	southwest	Roll 57, #13
C: Woodward Hall	west	Roll 55, #35-35A
D: Smith Home	south	Roll 57, #10
E: Shepard Home	southwest	Roll 55, #25A
F: Cottages on Eastern Drive	southwest	Roll 57, #21A



F

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 16718 Date: 12/78

Connecticut Hospital for the Insane
Silver St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

#16

of the city. Silver Street and Bow Lane pass through the property which is bordered by Eastern Drive, west. Small drives, leading from these streets, traverse the grounds.

#18

Addison Hutton of Philadelphia, it was constructed in the Second Empire style. The building was remodeled in 1939, when the interior was updated and a flat roof bordered by a parapet was installed on the main section. The three large wings display mansard roofs and details that are indicative of the main sections's former appearance.

Stanley Hall, built around 1879, is also designed in the Second Empire style. Now vacant, it was the hospital's maximum security facility in earlier years. This unimposing, rectangular building is plainly decorated and has a mansard roof with numerous dormers. The windows are screened by metal bars, reminiscent of its previous function.

Woodward Hall, erected about 1886, is of the Queen Anne style. It has an irregular profile that is accentuated by many ells. The structure exhibits multiple roofs capped by numerous chimneys, wide turrets, and large, gabled dormers. The interior has been recently remodelled.

Weeks Hall, built in 1894, is also constructed in the Queen Anne style and in addition, has features that suggest the influence of the Jacobethan Revival. Its appearance, similar to that of Woodward Hall, is highlighted by prominent, steeply pitched gables and floral designs in terra cotta. The building, presently unoccupied, served as a patient care facility.

Smith Home, constructed about 1909, is designed in the Colonial Revival style. It has a cross-gabled roof crowned by a slender, distinctive tower. The main entrance displays fluted pilasters and a large fan in relief above the door. Currently unoccupied, the structure once housed hospital employees.

Other notable early buildings are sited on the grounds. The police station, a distinctive cottage, was erected in 1895. Shepherd Home and Russell Hall are two similar structures that were built in the 1920s; they exhibit large, ornate porticos which are classical in design. There are also a number of small residences, constructed during the late nineteenth century, that have served as living quarters for the staff.

This site reflects the history associated with the care and treatment of the mentally ill in Connecticut. The buildings, reminiscent of different eras of the hospital's past, document its progressive growth and comprise a diverse collection that contributes to the architectural variety of Middletown.