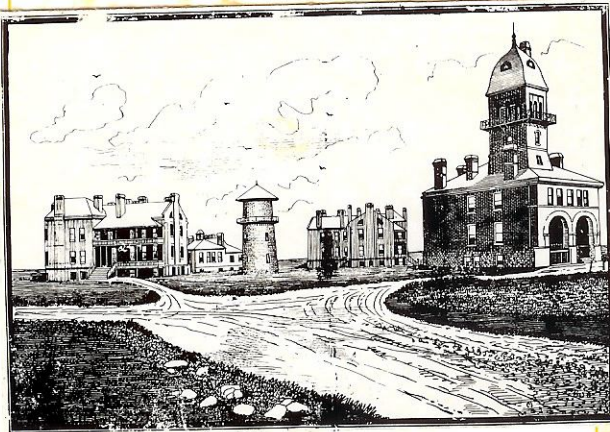


STATE HOSPITAL A HISTORY



The North Dakota State Hospital was conceived by a legislative act on March 9, 1883. One section of this act authorized the issuing of bonds in the amount of \$50,000 "to construct a hospital for the insane at or near the city of Jamestown, Dakota Territory and to provide for the building of same". The appointed Board of Trustees was directed to purchase not less than 640 acres of land in a location within four (4) miles of the Stutsman County Courthouse, Dakota Territory.

The Board of Trustees did purchase land for the amount of \$20,000. They were well aware that the amount paid for the land seemed large in comparison with the appropriation, but they looked more to the future than the then present needs and interests of the institution, which would seem to justify them in their action. The newly acquired land provided 1) large portions for market gardening,

2) five hundred acres of farmland with 240 acres already plowed, 3) excellent pasture land, 4) large quantity of building stone sufficient for eleven buildings, 5) more than adequate land to build a hospital and provide for its expansion.

Section No. 17 of the March 9, 1883 legislative act stated that the North Dakota State Hospital would be obliged to receive and support all insane persons living north of the 46th parallel. At this time seventy-five mentally ill persons from this area were being treated at the Dakota Hospital in Yankton, Dakota Territory.

"All patients belonging to said Northern District under treatment at the Dakota Hospital of Insanity (Yankton) at the time said North Dakota State Hospital shall be ready...shall be transferred to said North Dakota Hospital at the expense of last named institution."

By nature of the Dakota Hospital Act of 1883 the trustees were directed to elect a superintendent who was to be consulted in the selection of plans for the building and its location. They chose Dr. O. Wellington Archibald, then an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln. There were no provisions made for paying Dr. Archibald so he was selected with the understanding that he would assume the active duties of his office as soon as the legislature made appropriations