

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED TO

LOCATE AND BUILD

AN

Additional Hospital for the Insane

IN

SOUTHWESTERN IOWA.

DECEMBER 22, 1885.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.
1886.

REPORT.

To his Excellency, BUREN R. SHERMAN, Governor of Iowa:

SIR—The Commissioners appointed to determine upon the location of, and purchase site for the erection of, an Additional Hospital for the care of insane persons, in southwestern Iowa, under chapter 201 of the laws of the Twentieth General Assembly, respectfully present their report.

Although said act contains no provision requiring the Commissioners to report, either to the Governor or to the Legislature, and believing the same to be an oversight in the law-making power, we take the liberty of making this report of our doings under the law, for the information of your Excellency, that the same may be transmitted to the coming session of the General Assembly, if you so deem it advisable.

As soon as practicable after their appointment, the Commission, consisting of Geo. W. Bemis, E. J. Hartshorn, and J. D. M. Hamilton, met on the 21st day of May, 1884, in the city of Des Moines, and organized by the election of Geo. W. Bemis, as President; E. J. Hartshorn, as Treasurer, and J. D. M. Hamilton, as Secretary; and at once proceeded to examine the different sites in southwestern Iowa, for the location of said hospital.

Prior to the selection of a location, said Commission met at Independence, Iowa, and the Board, in order to qualify themselves with the knowledge necessary to enable them to intelligently perform the duties of the trust confided by your Excellency, proceeded to visit the leading and most modern hospitals in the East, and consulted and obtained valuable information relative to the construction of public buildings of this nature, from such eminent physicians and superintendents as, Drs. Dewey, of Kankakee, Illinois; VanDuzen, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Chapin, of Willard, New York; Chase and Bennett, of Norristown, Pennsylvania, and Strong, of Cleveland, Ohio. And we might add here that Dr. Gilman, of the State Hospi-

tal for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, has given us many ideas that have proved valuable in carrying out the construction of the different buildings.

As to what construction the medical profession put upon what is known as the *cottage plan*, for the care of the insane, we found a diversified opinion existing, and the *corridor plan* seems to have still by far the greatest number of adherents.

We, however, after consultation with some of the best hospital experts in the country, decided upon a combination of the cottage and corridor systems, and present an outline plan of the same with this report.

On the 16th day of July, 1884, the Commissioners convened at the city of the Des Moines to determine upon a location for said hospital, and after due and deliberate consideration, a majority of said board did on the 18th day of said month locate said institution at the city of Clarinda, in the county of Page, as a place combining in the fullest degree the various requisites named in the law under which they were acting. The Commissioners selected Foster & Leibbe, of the city of Des Moines, as architects, with the senior member of said firm, Wm. Foster, Esq., as supervising architect, whose previous experience had given him great advantage and knowledge in the preparation of the necessary plans, and whose plans upon presentation were unanimously adopted.

The work of the season of 1884 was delayed somewhat on account of a vacancy on the Board, occasioned by the resignation of Geo. W. Bemis, and it was not until sometime in August that the vacancy was filled—your Excellency having appointed Geo. B. Van Saun, of Cedar Falls, to fill such vacancy. The Board convened at Clarinda on the 29th of August, and selected Mr. Van Saun as President.

On the 7th day of October the Board met for the purpose of purchasing a site for the erection of the necessary buildings, which was accordingly done by the purchase of five hundred and thirteen acres, about one and a half miles north of the city of Clarinda, for the consideration of twenty-nine thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars, the land being under a high state of cultivation within easy access to an abundant supply of pure spring water, and possessing desirable features for a perfect system of drainage.

This property is rich in soil and yields abundantly, fronting on a leading highway, upon a beautiful plateau presenting a fine view of

the surrounding country, of the city of Clarinda and the Nodaway valley.

The deeds to this realty, after the payment of the consideration to the respective parties, and the title having been found to be clear of all incumbrances, were duly entered for record in the county recorder's office in the city of Clarinda, and are now in the possession of the proper State officer.

The board selected as Superintendent and resident Commissioner, one of its number, Geo. B. Van Saun, who in connection with the supervising architect, has full authority over the progress of the work and its construction.

In compliance with the law the Board advertised for bids on the 11th day of November, 1884. But when opened the majority of them were thought exorbitant and it was deemed advisable and economical for the State that the work of construction under charge of the Superintendent and supervising architect, be proceeded with by day labor, and they were ordered to make such contracts relative thereto as may from time to time seem proper to them.

The following bids, however, were accepted:

Pfeiffer Stone Company, cut stone	\$10,788.00
Dearborn Foundry Company, iron work.....	22,100.00
O. R. Mather, brick, including 1-6 pressed front, delivered at building, per M.....	6.50
G. W. Parker, roofing and cornice work.....	3,100.00

The bids for other parts of the work were rejected, and the Board felt that by careful purchase, for cash, and rigid economy in all the expenditures, they could do the work at much better advantage to the State; and the work, so far as done, has cost much less than the amounts named by the rejected bids.

We deem it proper to say that good and desirable brick are manufactured on the farm, within one quarter of a mile of the hospital buildings.

Arrangements were perfected, without expense to the State, with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, which passes to the east of the property, to have a siding constructed by means of which all the material from a distance could be unloaded on the grounds, directly where it was needed.

Work was commenced on the excavation for the foundation of the Central Building, Supervisor's Department and one wing, in October,

1884, and owing to the favorable lay of the ground but a few hundred dollars was thus expended. Owing to the lateness of the season, work on the foundation was necessarily postponed until the spring of 1885, since which time the progress made and the work performed have been of such a character that we believe they will bear the criticism of the severest critics. The central building and the Supervisor's department are under roof, and the wing nearly so.

The corner stone was laid by the Grand Lodge of Masons of our State on the fourth day of July last, with imposing ceremonies, your Excellency and other State officers and prominent citizens of our State participating.

Our credits and debits up to December 22, 1885, are as follows:

DEBITS.

Appropriation Twentieth General Assembly.....	\$150,000.00
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CREDITS.

Hospital grounds (513 acres).....	\$ 29,425 00	
Personal property—		
Derricks, wind-mill, tank and pipe, elevator, safe,		
tools, etc.....	2,953.91	
Hospital buildings—		
Labor expenses.....	38,292.93	
Iron and steel.....	22,803.28	
Brick.....	18,993.56	
Cut stone.....	10,917.62	
Rock and sand.....	9,852.60	
Lumber.....	4,806.26	
Cement and lime.....	4,150.13	
Galvanized iron and slate roofing.....	2,175.00	
Hardware.....	385.56	
Due on roofing contract.....	925.00	
Due on brick contract.....	2,738.37	
Balance on hand.....	1,580.78	
Total.....	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00

We believe the work so far done is worthy of the great State it represents, and reflects credit upon those having the immediate charge of the same.

We were very fortunate in our selection of architect and superintendent, and the work, so far as it has progressed, is the best evidence of the careful attention given by them to the work in all its details,

and we take pleasure in calling your especial attention to the plans and extensions needed to complete the buildings now partially constructed, as well as the extensions asked of the General Assembly.

It has been the aim of those in charge of this important trust, owing to the numerous disasters in the past few years in institutions of this kind, and in conformity with the law, to erect such buildings of a fire-proof character, and we would not advise any departure from such work in the future construction of additional buildings, believing that it is not only a saving of money to the State, but a security to the class of inmates to be confined therein.

We recognize the fact that there is a large number of insane in the State (estimated at about two thousand) who are still left to the tender charities of the county poor-houses, without the care, restraint and attention which they in their pitiable condition should receive, and we believe it is the duty of our State to provide the proper necessities which will, if possible, restore them to their right minds. This we have kept constantly in view in the progress of the work in its different departments, and have endeavored to make all possible headway to relieve these suffering beings, as well as the different counties who are obliged to have burdens of this kind heaped upon them.

In order to place the Institution in condition to receive patients, it is necessary to build another wing (a duplicate of that now under way), and the kitchen, laundry, and boiler-room departments. We therefore refer to the plans of the architects for the buildings necessary to complete the Institution, and would recommend that the Legislature make an appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year until the buildings are complete. With this amount the Institution can, at the end of the next two years, be in condition to receive patients.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. VAN SAUN,
E. J. HARTSHORN,
J. D. M. HAMILTON.