



BOARD

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L. WATTS NORTON . . . . . T. C. WORTH

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
J. H. EPPERSON  
SUPERINTENDENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CITY AND COUNTY  
OF DURHAM

DURHAM, N. C.

June 14, 1940

Mr. D. W. Newsom  
County Manager  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Newsom:

Dr. Reinhardt and I made a thorough inspection of all departments of the County Home on June 13, 1940. We found everything in very good condition except nine beds infested with bed bugs, one in the old crazy house and eight scattered over the prison. Would suggest that the next mattresses that you buy be the same as your new ones.

Yours very truly,

B. F. Rowland



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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DURHAM, N. C.  
July 12, 1940

Mr. D. W. Newsom  
County Manager  
Durham, North Carolina

Report of Sanitary Inspection of the Durham County  
Home, Friday, July 12, 1940

The general aspect of a very definite cleanliness was shown throughout. However, there were certain instances which were in contrast with this general condition. Among them were the following:

1. Grounds - One area behind the building housing the Insane showed a collection of cans and similar rubbish. While this material was scattered and dry and probably is not strictly unsanitary, it is unsightly.
2. Kitchen: Flies were present. Since screens and screen doors were properly placed, I would suggest that spray be used twice a day. The middle shelves in the cupboard used for storing metal pitchers and such should be kept more free from crumbs which apparently were on the bottoms of the utensils when they were placed in the cupboard. Although no roaches were seen, if cupboards such as this were kept free from food particles, roach control might be made easier. A small table with wooden top showed collection of "dirt" along the cracks between the boards. This could be kept clean if the two center boards were loosened and could be removed for cleaning (this is in accordance with construction of army mess-hall tables).
3. Milk Room: The long three plank shelf should have a new outer plank to replace the present one which is cracked and which cannot be adequately cleansed. The center plank should be loosened as is suggested for the small kitchen table.
4. Toilets: The cleaning equipment for each toilet should include a putty knife to be used in removing the accumulations in the corners about the mop-boards, around the plumbing, etc. The bowls should be kept cleaner.



5. Jail and Building for the Insane: Bedbugs were found on one mattress in the latter mentioned building and on all divisions of the jail. While it is very difficult to eradicate this pest and to keep them out of such institutions, certain suggestions might be made;
  - a. Use only mattresses with the smooth type of edge and without the rolled edge. Several of the smooth edge mattresses were examined and none showed the presence of vermin.
  - b. Remove the cotton tufts about the stitching through the mattress.
  - c. Check all mattresses carefully. Those found to be infected should be treated along the seams with a mixture of gasoline and kerosine and placed in the sun. It might be well to repeat this on successive days.
6. Cannery: The screen doors on this building should be changed to open outward rather than inward as at present. This would materially reduce the number of flies in the building.
7. Dairy Barn: This barn was especially clean but many flies were present. Two young calves kept in the half of the barn not used for the cows were the attraction. If these calves could be removed (on the basis that no other stock should be housed in a dairy barn, or the doorway between that portion and the milking barn be kept closed, the number of flies in the latter place would be materially reduced in numbers.
8. Horse barns: The horse barn opposite the milking barn showed each stall to have great collections of manure (stall level was about two feet about the level of the drive between. I was told this height was due to the manure collected in the stall). If this manure were kept removed, another breeding place for flies would be eliminated and probably a reduction in the numbers of flies in the milking barn might be noted.

*B. F. Rowland* Inspector  
Durham City and County Health Department.



On Monday morning a group of W. P. A. painters will begin the painting of the exterior of the court house. This is the last item under a project approved by the Federal Government early in the year. This week the W. P. A. forces completed a program of construction and improvement work begun at the County Home on May 18th. This work included tearing down the age-worn mule and feed barn, the building of a new, modern mule and feed barn, a cow-shed with central feed rack, two large implement sheds, twenty-five by one hundred feet each for the storage of County Home machinery and farm implements, a blacksmith shop, the construction of eight hog runs and several farm fences, the repair and painting of the old dwelling known as the greenhouse, laying of a cement floor in a section of the dairy barn, painting of the interior and exterior of the County Infirmary and a good deal of excavation and grading work and drainage lines.

In addition, the County Home forces have done a great deal of repair work outside of the W. P. A. project, such as renewing and painting the fences and shelters to the hog-fattening pens, deepening and rebuilding a well in the barn yard for supplying the water to live-stock and washing the dairy barn, which will result in a material slashing of the county's annual water bill, deepening and rebuilding the area walls and drainage around the County Home main building, and installing new drainage connections, building of a new electric line from the County Home to the dairy and feed barns, wiring the dairy barn for electric lights, building a number of shelters in the hog-runs and the building of a new shelter over the molasses-cooking machinery and equipment.

The County has filed application with the W. P. A. for a second program of building and improvements which will include the repair and painting of the dairy barn, construction of a new feed barn for dry cattle and beef cattle, the building of a feed shelter and feed racks for calves, ~~and beef cattle~~ a new

corn crib, moving of the grain house to place it in line with the newly constructed buildings, the building of a brick pump house and four garages. This project will also include a good deal of excavation, landscaping, drainage and farm fencing.