

Durham County Home, Infirmary and
Workhouse

5-1-40

W.C. Ezell
State Board Public Welfare

Inspection was made in company with Dr. Watson, SPW, Stanley, Supt. of the Home Nichols, and Matron Mangum. The principal purpose of this inspection was to get current knowledge of the problems surrounding the handling of mental patients.

The Home is about as noted in former visits. It seemed neither exceptionally clean and orderly, nor was there noticeable dirt or odors. A repainting of the interior would probably add light.

The infirmary is still used largely for tubercular care. Medical charts and records are kept posted. A small section of the building is still used for County Home inmates. An annex is used as a home for the nurses. This was added on the east side.

The old "crazy house" has been remodeled and now has a non-permeable tile floor. This improvement seems to have added greatly to the reduction of odors in this section. A new cottage for disturbed patients has been built and is an improvement over the old cottage. This section of the Home shows a material improvement over the one which was extant a few years ago. The workhouse quarters appeared clean and attended. It appears that the quarters for white males was probably crowded. The area measures about 16x36 which would give normal capacity for about 12 persons. It is perhaps 50% or more overcrowded. No other section of the building appeared overcrowded. The males and guards occupy the first floor and the females the second floor.

The Superintendent said no criticism had ever come to him for locking the males and females in the same building. The Inspector told him that the State Department had received in the past some general criticism against this practice but at no time had such criticism been specific.

The major part of the work in the Home, the dining room, and on the farm is done by prisoner labor. The Chef is an employed white man.

The Superintendent said that the Home and infirmary were filled most of the time. SPW Stanley said there were about 6 applications on the waiting list.