

New Jersey. State Colony, Woodbine.

The State Colony Woodbine. Information.

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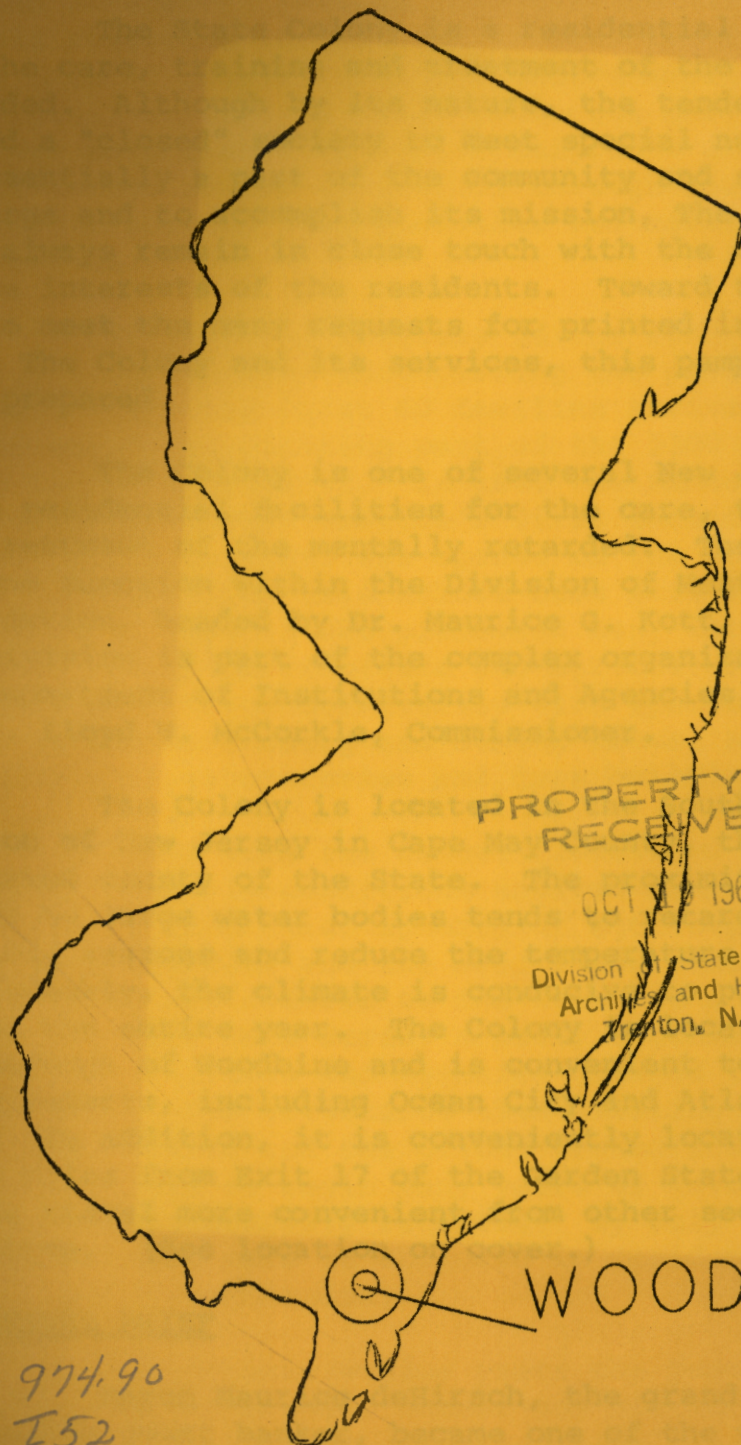
N.J. State Colony, Woodbine.

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THE STATE COLONY



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WOODBINE

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INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The State Colony is a residential facility for the care, training and treatment of the mentally retarded. Although by its nature, the tendency is toward a "closed" society to meet special needs, it is essentially a part of the community and society at large and to accomplish its mission, The Colony must always remain in close touch with the community in the interests of the residents. Toward that end, and to meet the many requests for printed information about The Colony and its services, this pamphlet has been prepared.

The Colony is one of several New Jersey State residential facilities for the care, training and treatment of the mentally retarded. These institutions function within the Division of Mental Retardation, headed by Dr. Maurice G. Kott, Director. The Division is part of the complex organization of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, headed by Dr. Lloyd W. McCorkle, Commissioner.

The Colony is located in the South-eastern section of New Jersey in Cape May County, the least populated county of the State. The proximity of the County to large water bodies tends to retard the changing seasons and reduce the temperature extremes. Consequently, the climate is conducive to pleasant living the entire year. The Colony is located within the Borough of Woodbine and is convenient to many shore resorts, including Ocean City and Atlantic City. In addition, it is conveniently located only a few miles from Exit 17 of the Garden State Parkway making travel more convenient from other sections of the State. (See location on cover.)

HISTORICAL BRIEF

Baron Maurice deHirsch, the grandson of a Bavarian court banker, became one of the wealthiest men of the 19th century through his gigantic railroad and industrial enterprises in Turkey, Russia, Romania,

France and Switzerland. Shortly after 1881 he offered the Russian Czar a large sum of money provided it would be spent without regard to race or creed. The Russian government refused and deHirsch marshalled all his resources to the task of mass emigration of persecuted peoples from the Czar's empire. With an original capital of \$2,400,000. the Baron deHirsch Fund was established to assist emigrants who arrived in the United States after 1891 through trade schools, settlement houses, loan societies and agricultural activities.

In 1891 the Trustees of the Fund purchased a large tract of land encompassing the present Woodbine area. In 1892 the first 60 families arrived from Russia and began clearing part of the 5300 acres which had been acquired. In 1895 the famous Woodbine Agricultural School, America's first secondary high school for agriculture was opened on the site of the State Colony. From this school came scientists and agricultural experts who pioneered many far-reaching developments in horticulture and agriculture. Constructed were large dormitories with spacious bedrooms, assembly rooms, reading and dining rooms, school building with laboratories and farm buildings.

For a time the School flourished but gradually economic conditions enticed many of the new citizens into other spheres of activity and enrollment dwindled and the School was closed in 1917. The property was offered to the State as a gift of the Foundation. New Jersey's newly organized Department of Institutions and Agencies grasped this golden opportunity. The structures then existing were hastily renovated and the Colony opened its doors on May 26, 1921 to begin many years of devoted service to the mentally retarded. By July 1st of that year there were 13 children in residence with others waiting admission.

In the intervening years the population has grown to its present number and all but two of the original structures have been demolished and through new construction the Colony has grown to its present proportions.

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

During its many years of outstanding service to the mentally retarded, Woodbine has developed and practiced progressive training programs. The early influence on the establishment of training programs for the profoundly and severely retarded stemmed from Dr. Edward Seguin who, as far back as 1866, recognized the importance of training for this level person and considered that the failure of the most severely retarded person to develop and learn was a reflection not on the retarded person but on the ability and interest of those who were charged with that person's care. Woodbine provided early leadership in developing play activities, self-help training, arts and crafts classes and cottage programs. Inactivity gave way to activity, repression to expression, and dependence to self-sufficiency.

From its earliest beginnings and to the present day, the mission assigned to Woodbine is the care and training of males, 5 years of age and older, who are severely and profoundly mentally retarded. As is common with this level of the retarded, there is a high incidence of boys with physical abnormalities, speech defects, and sensory handicaps. Among persons in these groups programming is aimed at the development of each individual to his highest potential with emphasis on self-help training, coordination and use of sensory, motor and intellectual capacities, and development of social maturity and emotional control. Not to be forgotten is the full measure of love and happiness upon which the retarded thrive and grow, and this too is an important part of the Woodbine philosophy.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

Residents are admitted to Woodbine on application of the next of kin, supported by certifications of incompetency by two New Jersey licensed physicians and by order of the court of the county of residence. Because demands for institutional placements exceed available space, the applicant's name is placed on a waiting list for admission when a suitable opening occurs.

There are well over 1200 boys and men who live at Woodbine. For the purpose of discussion, we can consider that there are two groups representing distinct characteristics:

1. Approximately 200 residents are classified as moderately retarded and are capable of benefitting by vocational training under direct supervision and instruction. Most of these "helper-boys" receive a small wage and use their earnings to purchase cigarettes, candy and personal items. Community experiences are provided by a liberal policy of independent visits and shopping in the Borough of Woodbine. Candidates for release to community placement come mostly from this group. These residents are also eligible for appointment to Institutional Aide status which places them in a pre-release program and gives them partial employee status with full independence.

2. Almost 1000 residents are classified in the range extending from low-moderate to profoundly mentally retarded and generally represent residents having an I.Q. falling below 35. Almost 75% of the total population at Woodbine has been evaluated below I.Q. 25.

Chronologically, the population is distributed approximately as follows and it must be remembered that children are not accepted under the age of 5.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percent</u>
5 to 19	29%
20 to 39	45%
40 to 59	22%
60 +	4%

THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

There are many varied programs conducted to accomplish the goals and mission of Woodbine. Emphasis is placed upon the important role of the cottage attendant and the need to give some stimulation to

every child. With rare exceptions (such as gross hydrocephaly) no child is allowed to be completely bedfast. Endeavors are made to include each individual in some phases of the programming. Described very briefly, major programs and services include:

1. Care and self-help training in feeding, dressing, brushing teeth, establishing toilet habits and general personal care.

2. Formal and informal recreation including cottage dayroom recreation, special movies, cottage parties, wading pool activities in season, field trips on foot and by bus, picnics and doggie roasts, baseball games, circus attendance, social dances with the Vineland State School girls, quiet games, active games and trips to the Sea Isle City Beach and Wildwood Boardwalk. Outstanding holiday decorations and parties in the cottages and Hospital units are featured for the enjoyment of all.

3. Formal Education Class includes handwork, arts and crafts, elementary academic work, hobby classes, community living classes, instruction in roller skating, bowling and similar sports, music classes, special plays and entertainments. Regular separate religious services are provided for capable residents of the three major faiths.

4. Psychological testing and evaluation on admission and frequently thereafter is provided in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Division of Mental Retardation. Counselling is given on an individual basis where needed. Numerous research projects relating to the retarded are investigated and reported in professional publications.

5. Medical, dental, orthopedic, physiotherapy and nursing service centers around the staff of the 50 bed General Hospital and 60 bed Hospital Annex. Medical specialists and surgeons in the community and other institutions give professional service to meet the special needs of the Colony's residents. Psychiatric consultation when required is provided by the psychiatric staff of Ancora State Hospital.

6. A Program Planning Committee comprised of Staff members reviews and evaluates all residents at frequent intervals. Residents are classified according to their needs, abilities and the programs offered. Recommendations for community placement, Institutional Aide placement, transfers to other institutions and general programming are made by this committee.

7. Food and Laundry Service. A central kitchen prepares and distributes by heated food carts balanced, nutritious and palatable meals to the residents in the cottage dining rooms. Auxiliary cottage diet kitchens provide supplements to the regular diet and provide in-between-meal snacks.

The tremendous quantity of laundry and mending is done in a central unit with the laundry operation being handled by a detail of inmates from nearby Leesburg Prison Farm, trained and supervised by employees.

8. The maintenance and engineering staff keep the plant in excellent condition to insure the comfort, safety and welfare of the residents. The independent water supply is tied into the community water supply system to insure an adequate supply of water at all times. A standby diesel electric generator can supply all required power in the event of power failure by the Atlantic City Electric Company's facilities. The modern sewage disposal plant is more than adequate to serve the needs of the Colony.

THE STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

Woodbine is very fortunate to have staff and employees who, in the main, are capable, dedicated specialists in serving the needs of the retarded. Through effective planning, supervision and training, staff and employees carry forward the objectives and mission of the Colony. Woodbine has an extremely low rate of employee turn-over and as a result has

many experienced employees who have dedicated a substantial number of years of their working lives to serving the needs of the retarded with devotion and loving care. Altogether, there are over 490 staff members and employees engaged in this very humanitarian endeavor. A functional organization chart is included to summarize the division of responsibilities and functions. (See Chart)

THE PLANT

Although the plant was constructed over a number of years, intelligent planning provided for a symetrical development with cottages and service buildings being functionally placed and arranged aesthetically on the 204 acres of ground. Complementing this arrangement is the park-like beauty of the well-cared for grounds. Numerous trees, evergreens, shrubs, flower beds and the broad lawn expanses beautify the entire setting, diminishing the institutional atmosphere and hint of a beautified community multi-housing development.

The twelve cottage units housing from 60 to 115 residents form the core of the Colony. The strategic location of the General Hospital, Hospital Annex, Education Building, Administration Building, Food Service Building and the Laundry and Maintenance shops provides a compact and efficient arrangement without creating the feeling of overcrowding.

VISITING

Every day is visiting day for the parents and relatives of our boys. Because of cottage schedules involving meals, bathing and cottage programs, daily visiting is preferred between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Parents are permitted to take their child off the grounds for a ride, to nearby shore resorts, Parvin State Park or other points that fit into their day's outing.

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A flexible vacation policy prevails and parents may have their child home for short vacation upon making the request in writing and subject to approval. Vacations for longer periods may also be arranged with community supervision being provided by the Field Services of the Division.

Interested citizens, professionals, students and others are most cordially invited to visit Woodbine. Because staff time is involved in such visitations, arrangements must be made in advance with the Superintendent.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Mr. Mark D. Ewing, President
Dr. Millard Cryder, Vice-President
Mrs. Priscilla A. Martin, Secretary
Mr. George Geisinger
Mrs. Janet Vance
Mr. Jack Bagan
Rabbi Yakov R. Hilsenrath

STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Herbert F. Schultz, Superintendent
Mr. John W. Sykes, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Paul E. Corson, Business Manager
Mr. Edgar A. Leeds, Director of Education
Mr. Thomas O. Payne, Engineer-in-Charge of Maintenance
Dr. Johannes Brengelmann, Prin. Clinical Psychologist
Dr. Jules Cooper, Physician I

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

Board of Managers

Superintendent

Medical, Nursing,
Dental and Health
Services

Medical & Nursing Staff
X-Ray & Laboratory
Physiotherapy
Sanitarian
Pharmacist
Cottage Clinics

Education, Formal
Training, and Rec-
reation

Academic Classes
Arts and Crafts
Self-Help Training
Hobby & Community
Living Classes
Social Programs
Entertainments
Recreation
Music Classes and
Glee Club

Cottage Life, Cottage
Training and Recreation

Cottage Living

Self Help Training
Daily Care
Cottage Recreation
Cottage Dietary
Institutional Aides
Inmate Wage Program
Community Visitations
Public Relations with
Parents
Cottage Music

Psychological
Services and
Research

Psychometric
Testing
Audiometry
Employee
Evaluations
Counselling
Research

Business, Financial
Budgetary Management

Business Office
Laundry
Housekeeping
Storeroom
Grounds
Food Service and
Dietary
Food Delivery to
Cottages

Maintenance and
Engineering

Power House
Electric Generator
Water Treatment
Sewage
Transportation
Renovations
New Construction
Preventative Maint-
enance

Social Service

(Supplemented by
Divisional Field
Services)
Counselling-Family
Social Security Benefits
Family Correspondence
Pre-Placement Processing

