

# REPORT

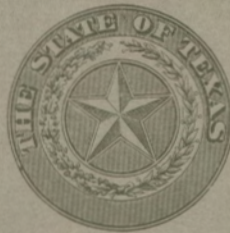
OF

*The Superintendent and the Building Supervisor*

OF

## THE NORTH TEXAS LUNATIC ASYLUM

NOVEMBER, 1884.



AUSTIN:

STATE PRINTING OFFICE, D. & D. ASYLUM.

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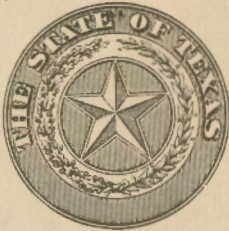
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NORTH TEXAS LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
MANAGER'S OFFICE,  
TERRELL, TEXAS, *November, 1884.* }

To His Excellency Governor John Ireland, Austin, Texas:

SIR—There is little for us as a Board to add to the accompanying report of the Superintendent, and Building Supervisor.

It goes without saying, that we endorse the report, as we have had a perfect understanding the while of all that was going on, and there has been entire unanimity of sentiment between us.

We desire, however, as a Board, to call through you the attention of the Legislature to the last paragraph of the report in regard to extending the wings. It would seem to be so clearly in the interest of public policy to do so, if it is desired to increase the accommodations to keep pace with the increasing demands of the insane of the State, that it would seem unnecessary to insist upon or to attempt to enforce it by any argument or presentation of facts.

We would, however, state that by the expenditure of \$100,000 in extending the proposed wings, double the number of inmates could be accommodated, and at no increase of expense for salary of officers.

Respectfully,

I. S. GRINNAN,  
J. H. MUCKLERROY,  
S. A. SHORTRIDGE,  
JOHN S. GRIFFITH,  
R. M. McCLUNG.

### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE BUILDING SUPERVISOR.

To His Excellency John Ireland, Governor of Texas:

On the fifteenth day of October, 1883, the Building Board made a contract for the erection of the buildings of the North Texas Lunatic Asylum. The contract was awarded to Mr. John M'Donald; the cost, \$181,789. The buildings were to be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications furnished by J. N. Preston & Son, Austin, Texas, which is hereby submitted as part of this report. The location, near Terrell, Kaufman county; the site, half a mile from the town, on west portion of a tract of six hundred and thirty-three and one-half acres, purchased for the location and uses of the asylum by a commission appointed by the Governor.

The work was to be completed within twelve calendar months from the date of signing the contract, allowance being made for rainy days or other weather of sort to interfere with the making of brick and work of construction.

The work was entered upon without unnecessary delay, and has gone forward with all reasonable dispatch. Now, at the date of the making of this report, Nov. 1, 1884, it is rapidly approaching completion. The contractor has manifested a laudable disposition to have every portion of the work strictly in accordance with and fully up to the standard contemplated in the specifications. The material and workmanship have been first-class. The general plans and specifications have been rigidly adhered to.

As was to have been expected, there were some oversights and omissions in the mere minute details, which, not to have detected and remedied as the work was progressing, would have furnished grounds for the charge of culpable neglect or utter incompetence on the part of those under whose supervision the work was placed. Even in the building of a commodious family residence, however well the plans are digested and matured, numbers of little things, as every one knows, will come up that had not been previously made the subject of attention. How much more so in the erection of a structure to accommodate hundreds of souls, with all the peculiarities and complications necessarily incident to the adapting a building the best possible for taking care of the insane.

It is due the gentlemanly contractor to state he has exhibited a willingness on all occasions when these little matters of detail have come up, giving occasion for the exercise of discretion and judgment, to listen to every suggestion looking to the greater convenience and improved adaptation of the building, even when attended with inconvenience or some pecuniary sacrifice.

No. 6 with 1½ inch mesh wire had to be substituted for the No. 11 3-mesh of the specifications, the latter being found upon examination altogether too weak and of too open mesh for the doors, windows and transoms even, much less the large south openings where it was used to utilize to the greatest practicable the *natural* ventilation to obviate the necessity for *forced* now used in most asylums.

The ward locks, too, were found too weak and otherwise ill-adapted to the purpose in other respects, and were replaced by the regular asylum lock.

It was omitted in specifications to mention guttering around rear building. This had to be supplied at once to prevent injury to building.

The Board of Management here, as well as those having immediate and direct supervision, do not regard these and similar ones as additions to or alterations of the specifications at all, but a proper carrying out of the spirit and intention.

Certainly it was not the purpose or intention of the specifications to so run the iron stairs in the wings connecting the different floors of the wards from the basement up as to leave an unobstructed pass-way to the inmates from one ward to another. The idea is absurd, yet by an oversight the specifications leave it so. For those having charge of the work as it progressed not to remedy such defects originating in oversight almost necessarily incident to the getting up of the thousands of details in so large a building, would be blameworthy want of duty to the State. Nor does it argue any want of care in the architects. There are few instances in which the omissions and oversights are as few in number in proportion as in the detail drawings and specifications for the North Texas Lunatic Asylum by Preston & Son.

There are no wards generally in basement. Hence in specifications it is directed very properly that the basement floors be constructed of cement. But, according to the design of building adopted, it was the purpose to have wards in the basement, thus at very trifling more cost to add accommoda-

tions for more inmates by one-fourth. To obviate cold and damp it was necessary to put down wooden floors in these wards, thus rendering them as healthy and comfortable as any other portion of the house.

There were some additions and alterations it was desirable to make, but in the absence of the necessary authority they had to be left to be attended to in the future, though much would have been gained by having the work done while the building was going up.

The building not yet completed, a full report would be premature.

It has been the object throughout—one that in no instance has been lost sight of, one that seems to have been the guiding ideal of the architects in the original plans and specifications—to consult comfort, convenience and economy, strength, durability and greatest good of greatest number, instead of ornamentation and architectural display.

It remains only to bring to the attention of the legislative branch of the State government the subject of an appropriation to equip and furnish the institution, as also to purchase running supplies for fiscal years of 1885-6.

As it is desirable to open the institution for inmates as early as practicable, and as the buildings will probably be completed at or before the assembling of the Legislature, it would seem to be in the interest of public policy for the Legislature to make an appropriation at least for equipping and furnishing the house at as early a period as practicable.

The estimates to follow, made, in most cases, in the absence of definite information in regard to the cost of many of the items enumerated, exceptionally so is it in regard to the appliances for warming the house, kitchen and laundry, and gas furnishings, as well as for outhouses, fences and enclosures, are expected to serve little other purpose than to call attention to—by no means to be a measure of legislative action.

For heating, lighting, kitchen and laundry furnishing, water closets, wash and bath rooms, well and tower connections with the same, and cisterns, it will require, from the best information at hand, about.....	\$25,000
For fencing whole of asylum lands, and for enclosure of grounds, garden, airing courts.....	5,000
The institution will require barns, stables, cow sheds, carpenter's shop, gate-house, etc. As it is not known what character of buildings the State may be disposed to put up for these purposes, it is difficult to approximate the amount, something between \$6,000 and	8,000
For furnishing sleeping apartments for inmates and servants and attendants, also 8 wards and 9 dining-rooms.....	12,625
For furnishing the administration building—the store-rooms (4) with shelving and drawers, fitting up dispensary with shelves, drawers and cases, the sewing room with machines, a State parlor and private, offices (4), furnishing the 6 bed rooms for officers, 3 corridors, officer's kitchen and dining room, hose and reels for fire protection, telephone communication between public office and wards, also the public office with the town—as an approximation not much out of the way may be placed at .....	5,500
The best economy will require to bring all the lands susceptible of it into cultivation as early as practicable, and as even then there will still remain plenty of meadow for grazing milk stock enough to supply the institution with all the milk necessary, it is estimated that 30 head of milk cattle, 4 mules and 2 horses will be needed, to cost not much less than.....	2,100

Wagons, hack, cart, farm and garden implements.....	\$600
Gardening seed, fruit and ornamental trees, etc. ....	500
To defray current expenses <i>per annum</i> —groceries, dry goods, medicines, postage, stationery, fuel, lights;	
Salaries of officers, consisting of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, an apothecary, steward, matron and book-keeper; also wages	
<i>For Service Outside,</i>	
Carpenter, gardener and assistant, farmer and assistants, milk and stock man, scavenger and policeman;	
<i>For Service Inside,</i>	
Engineer and fireman, baker and assistant, chief cook and two assistants, chief of laundry and four assistants, twenty-four ward attendants, two night watches and two supernumeraries (preferred to supervisors), for not less than 300 and not more than 400 inmates.....	75,000

It is mentioned as a matter in which the Legislature may feel some interest, in view of the fact that, with those just being finished here, the accommodations for the insane of the State are far from being adequate to the increasing demand of this unfortunate class, that an additional appropriation of one-half what was required for the erection of the present buildings here would double the capacity of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. WALLACE, *Superintendent.*  
M. H. McLAURIN, *Building Supervisor.*