STOCKTON STATE HOSPITAL
A CENTURY AND A QUARTER OF SERVICE
By Neal L. Starr

EDITOR’S NOTE:
We are indebted to Neal Starr, Administrative Assistant to the Medical Director, Stockton Residential Facility (State Hospital), Stockton, California, for authoring the following article especially for the HISTORIAN. Neal, a native of the Golden State, has been a state employee for twenty-four years, including service with the California Youth Authority, Modesto State Hospital, and since 1969 with the Stockton facility. Mr. Starr was the Society’s guest speaker at its October, 1975, meeting and at that time he graciously consented to prepare a manuscript for publication.

All photographs used with the article are from the hospital’s files, and we thank Neal for making them available to us. We also wish to express our gratitude to Mrs. Elizabeth Huxtable, staff librarian in charge of the facility’s professional library, for her assistance.

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After gold was discovered in January of 1848, the population of California increased sharply in just a few years from about 14,000 people to over 380,000. Many of these new citizens were unable to adjust to the rigors, excitements and hardships of a “gold mad” society and as the population increased, the State was forced to make provision for those who became mentally ill.

The town of San Francisco was particularly affected by the population increase and the budding metropolis was not prepared for the enormous influx of immigrants. Among the more pressing social problems was the maintenance of law and order, but there was no jail, so on October 8, 1849, the town council purchased the stranded hulk of the brig Euphemia for $3,000 and converted it to a prison ship. The brig was anchored near the corner of what is now Jackson and Battery streets and was used to detain the town’s law breakers as well as those who became mentally ill.

The Euphemia was originally a British brig that had been captured by the Americans in the war of 1812 and had then been used as a cargo vessel in the China trade until abandoned by its crew in San Francisco Bay. It was placed under the authority of a Captain of Police, but the prisoners were under the actual control of a chain gang overseer. Official brig records were lost when it burned on May 4, 1851, but an early legislative report estimated that in 1850 there were 22 cases of insanity in the State, all of which were in San Francisco. Fourteen of them were held in the station house, 3 were at the San Francisco Marine Hospital, and 5 “secured” on the prison brig. No attempt was made to treat their illness, for the order of the day was to keep the insane locked up.

Throughout the State, the need for hospitals soon became a pressing one, and to take care of the growing health problem, the legislature established three general hospitals in April of 1851, one each in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton.1 The San Francisco Marine Hospital was taken over for treatment of physically ill patients who had arrived by sea, although some cases of delirium tremens and “mania” were also admitted. The
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Sacramento state hospital was established on April 15, 1851 as a general hospital for residents of the northern counties as well as for the mentally ill. The Stockton state hospital was created April 30, 1851 for use by residents of the southern part of the State, and it also admitted the physically ill as well as the mentally ill. Dr. Robert K. Reid was appointed by the Legislature to serve as its Resident Physician. 2

In 1852 the General Hospital in Sacramento reported 34 cases of insanity and one of the physicians there convinced the Legislature to establish a separate institution to care for the mentally disturbed. As a result, the Stockton Asylum was established as a part of the existing General Hospital.

STOCKTON SITE CHOSEN FOR THE NEW STATE ASYLUM

The selection of Stockton as the site of the new asylum was no doubt influenced by Captain Charles M. Weber who offered the State 100 acres of land next to the city. Stockton was also considered to have a climate beneficial to the health of the patients, and it was ideally central to the main sources of patients -- San Francisco, Sacramento, and the mining areas. In May 1852, the Legislature ordered all mental patients in the State to be transferred to Stockton and provided $10,000 to erect a separate building for the insane there. 3 Twenty-one patients from Sacramento, 22 patients from the brig Euphemia, and 11 more from the San Francisco Station House were then transferred to Stockton and placed under the care of Dr. Robert Reid, the resident physician. At first they were kept in rented houses on Market Street pending the completion of a suitable building. 4

Stockton General Hospital continued to treat both physically and mentally ill patients until May 17, 1853, when its name was changed to the Insane Asylum of the State of California and it became the first publicly-supported psychiatric facility west of the Missouri River. On October 8 of the same year the mentally ill were transferred from downtown to the new facilities on the Weber site on North California Street.

Dr. Reid continued as resident physician of this new mental institution assisted by Dr. W. A. Cowan, the visiting physician. Dr. Cowan’s duties were to visit the hospital at least once daily and aid the resident physician in carrying out his treatment of patients. At this time, the hospital consisted of a two-story brick building and a smaller two-story wooden structure, which together could accommodate 80 patients but which were actually housing 102. 5 A matron, Mrs. Matilda Masters, whom Dr. Reid later married, was in charge of the female patients. She was assisted by three keepers, or attendants. The male patients were supervised by Dr. Reid, his assistant, and four to eight attendants. The turnover among attendants was frequent and suitable replacements were difficult to find. It was not unusual to be discharged today and go to work tomorrow as an attendant.

Dr. Reid subscribed wholeheartedly to the philosophy of moral treatment of mental disorders. He specifically instructed his attendants to abstain from violence or any show of anger in dealing with patients and to cultivate their feelings of self-respect. Whenever possible, patients were put to work out of doors to ensure physical activity and to keep them occupied. Diet, clean surroundings, exercise, and proper patient classification were emphasized in the treatment program. He also prescribed medical treatment using laxatives, tonics, stimulants, sedatives, and narcotics.

The patients’ records written by Dr. Reid are quite interesting because of their brevity, conciseness, and graphic description. Typical of these are the following:

Age 39. Came from San Francisco to Stockton. Deregulated one month or more. Cause, love, courtship, matrimony and a fight. As a solace, bad liquor and opium. The finale, “Mania a potu,” 6 the police office however, until January 13, 1854, according to the records of the San Joaquin County Recorder’s Office. This was several months after the completion of the first section of this building.) Due to the lack of funds the building was built in sections, and the third floor was omitted from both side wings of the structure.
MODIFIED SKETCH OF THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL BUILDING. Note that in this drawing the architect has omitted the third floor from all but the center section. Brick was used in the construction of the entire building, the two-story south wing being completed in 1853 at a cost of $33,000. The center section, a kitchen and dining room, and the north wing were completed by 1857, raising the cost of the total project to $176,600. This original asylum building was located on the north side of Park Street, near the point where North Stanislaus Street joins Park. This section of the land grant lay within the original city limits of the young city.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL BUILDING. The building was torn down in 1929 and the patients that had been housed in it were removed to new facilities out on the State Farm property along the Lower Sacramento Road (now Pacific Avenue) north of the Calaveras River.

Small additions to the back side of this building were constructed in 1863 including a long wood-frame structure which housed the overflow patients. Later this ward was replaced by a shoeshop, an occupational therapy shop and a sewing room. These structures burned down in early 1929 (before demolition of the main building).

A sun roof had been built above a portion of the back yard area also. When the building in front was torn down (1929) this roof was left standing to serve as a covered parking area. Later this structure was torn down and the site became what is known today as Parking Area No. 10.

and the hospital. 1852, October 1, repentance. Discharged. A feast, a dance and departure to San Francisco next day.

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1852, May 14. John D., Medina County, Ohio. Came across the plains in 1850. At home a farmer, in California a miner. At Hangtown, Eldorado County, stole a horse, saddle and bridle. Was caught and tried in a Mustang Court. Was sentenced to be hung and led out for execution when some of his friends arrived and proved his innocence.

PHOTOGRAPH OF DR. ROBERT KING REID, FIRST SUPERINTENDENT, STOCKTON STATE HOSPITAL. Dr. Reid, son of a Protestant minister, had been born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on January 21, 1820. He received his M.D. from the Jefferson Medical College in 1842 and in 1846 he received another degree for advanced studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In the same year he established a medical practice in South Carolina.

Following the discovery of gold in California Dr. Reid left South Carolina for California, arriving in San Francisco in mid-1849 by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He prospected for gold at Middle Bar along the Mokelumne River, but tiring of the rigorous and uncertain life of the argonaut, he moved to Stockton where he once more resumed the practice of medicine. Upon the establishment of the General Hospital in Stockton Dr. Reid was appointed its first Resident Physician (the title was later changed to Superintendent). He was then only 31 years of age. He continued in this position when the Legislature changed the function of the hospital two years later (1853) with the establishment of the State Insane Asylum.

On June 7, 1854, he married Mrs. Matilda B. Masters. Following his dismissal as Resident Physician in 1856 Dr. Reid spent some time in Paris, studying in several of its medical clinics. In 1860 he returned to Stockton and resumed his private practice. During the Civil War he served in the Union Army and attained the rank of colonel. He then returned to Stockton once more, remaining here until his death on February 4, 1891. He was noted for his pioneering efforts in providing humanitarian treatment for mental patients and for his recognition of the part the excessive use of alcohol played in the incidence of mental illness.
insanity, when he was released and brought to the hospital. Weak and emaciated from the effects of chronic dysentery. "Dementia." Not married. Parents live in Seville, Ohio. October 18, 1852–died.

1852, Dec. 10. Walton Van L., New York. Age 18. A young man of active mind and good education. Says he is a professor of drawing and painting and a teacher of music. Was engaged on the Coast Survey under Lieut. Davidson. For 16 days and nights was constantly at work on a map. Probable cause -- continued mental excitement and severe application; was also in love with Kate Hayes a "ventriloquist." Sent by Mayor of San Francisco to hospital. Has been bled and blistered, purged and fed on water and bread with seton in neck, etc. Ordered: tincture iron wine and a nutritious diet and an opiate at bed time. Address: Father W. D. Van L., U.S. Ap. Off., San Francisco. January 5, 1853, discharged and sent to San Francisco.

In his annual report for 1855, Reid described accommodations at the California Asylum as follows:

The institution possesses . . . plain and substantial buildings; large, airy and well-ventilated rooms, cold and warm shower baths, ample space for recreation, and grounds for labor, with plenty of trees, shade and pure air . . . There is not a single cell in or about the establishment, and only ten rooms with double doors and strong wooden gratings in the windows . . . Every bed is furnished with clean sheets and pillowcases weekly, and every part and portion of the ward kept scrupulously neat, clean and well ventilated.

When the "Know-Nothing" Party came into power in 1856, the new Governor, J. Neely Johnson, attempted to replace Dr. Reid with a "Know-Nothing" physician. The Legislature, however, felt that Reid had served faithfully and successfully, and refused to make any change. The Governor then, by authority vested in him, declared the position vacant and appointed Dr. Samuel Langdon to fill the vacancy. This change caused considerable consternation throughout the State, and the Board of Directors of the Asylum told Reid and his assistant to disregard the Governor's orders, so Governor Johnson appointed a new Board of Directors, but the issue was not settled until it went through the courts, and the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Governor.

In April of 1856, Langdon became the resident physician. Langdon only lasted a year and three months in the post, and two months prior to his being removed for political reasons, he engaged in a duel with his assistant physician, Dr. William Ryer. In the fracas, Langdon suffered a bullet wound in the knee which ended the "affair of honour." Soon afterwards the Legislature elected Dr. W. D. Aylett to the superintendency, but when he claimed his post, Langdon insisted that his own term had not expired, and it again went to the courts. Langdon resigned prior to a decision and Aylett assumed his duties at the Stockton hospital in August of 1857. The new superintendent immediately began planning a number of changes.

One proposal called for an increase in the number of attendants as well as an increase in their salaries. Aylett estimated that for the year 1858, with an average population of 219 patients, he would require a staff of 32, including a matron, four head attendants, 11 assistant
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attendants, a steward, a clerk, a messenger, a watchman, a gardener, a laborer, a carpenter, and several cooks, servants and washwomen. That same year (1858) the asylum trustees requested new funds for the construction of a “madhouse, where the violent and noisy can be entirely separated from the orderly and quiet.” Two strong wards were completed the same year. The following year the staff renovated the frame house formerly used as the physician’s residence and converted it to a ward capable of accommodating 50 to 60 patients.

In spite of Dr. Aylett’s request for additional attendants, the ratio of attendants to patients remained at about one to 25. In 1861 Aylett was replaced when California’s swing to the Republican column in the 1860 election led to the appointment of Dr. W. P. Tilden as the new superintendent.

Dr. Tilden’s problems were similar to those of his predecessors. The resident population at the asylum in 1862 averaged 400, in a space designed for 250, and there were only 19 attendants to care for their needs.

Commenting on the problem of overcrowding, Dr. Tilden compared the California Asylum to those in the east in his report for 1862:

They (the eastern asylums) can be filled, and when they are full, further applications can be rejected. On the other hand, it seems that the Asylum of California cannot be filled and ... like a Montgomery Street omnibus, it is never so full but that room must be made for another; and now, although we have two hundred and forty-nine patients more than its utmost capacity can properly accommodate, yet they come and must be crowded in. We have no right to reject any, whatever the condition of things may be. ... Tilden never became a popular superintendent. He and the Asylum’s Board of Directors frequently argued over his circumvention of Board approval in handling purchases for the hospital. They carried on a running feud of charge and counter-charge through the Stockton and San Francisco newspapers which were pleased to oblige by publishing their comments.

Affairs at the Asylum came to a head in the summer of 1865. Tilden’s four year term expired in April, 1865, but the Board of Medical Visitors appointed by the Governor did not convene a quorum of their members to hold an election of a new superintendent. Tilden accordingly remained in his post until a successor was to be named. Meanwhile, his relations with hospital employees deteriorated. He dismissed two attendants who had been given time off during the day by their supervisor. When one refused to leave, Tilden brandished a Derringer pistol and ejected him from the hospital grounds; later, the Superintendent was fined $100 for carrying a concealed weapon. Soon after this, 25 employees signed a petition criticizing Tilden’s actions, and it was published in the local newspaper; he promptly dismissed them all. At this point, the Board of Directors, not waiting for the Board of Medical Visitors to hold an election, went to the Asylum while Tilden was absent for two hours and held an election of their own. They declared the office of Superintendent vacant and elected one of their own members, Dr. George A. Shurtleff, to fill the post.

DR. SHURTLEFF ASSUMES THE SUPERINTENDENCY

Shurtleff met Tilden when the latter returned that day and told him that he was no longer welcome at the hospital. An argument ensued and Tilden was forcibly removed by two of the attendants he had earlier dismissed. A legislative committee investigated the entire affair, including charges of brutality by attendants. The committee decided not to recommend charges, but instead ratified Shurtleff’s election.

The appointment of Dr. Shurtleff as superintendent did bring a degree of stability to the post and to the Asylum. He held the position for 18 years and thereafter political considerations were ignored in the selection of a superintendent.

Contrary to what one might expect, these early patients did not remain in the Asylum for too long a time. Of more than 2,500 patients admitted to Stockton from 1852 to 1862, nearly 40 percent were discharged within six months. This can be partially attributed to the large number of patients hospitalized for abnormal behavior associated with alcoholism (which accounted for over 10 percent of all first admissions), but it was probably due to a greater extent to the philosophy of treatment practiced by the early superintendents. Prior to the Civil War, the physicians in charge of the institution followed the precepts of “moral treatment,” a system denoted by humane, individualized treatment and the return to society as soon as possible. This is quite similar to the philosophy of treatment followed in psychiatric hospitals today.

The south wing of the Female Building, begun in 1865, was completed in 1867, while the center and north wings were not opened until 1868 and 1874, respectively. The entire structure, when finished, comfortably accommodated 325 patients. In the meantime, conditions in the male wards again reached an overcrowded state. A row of wooden buildings called the “Cottage Ward” had been constructed in 1869 and thereafter occupied by 160 patients until the first section of the Men’s Building, commonly referred to as "The Bricks," was opened in 1884 with a capacity of 393 patients. This beautiful three-story struc-
MEN'S BUILDING, STOCKTON STATE HOSPITAL, 1883-85. The men's brick building on Grant Street between Acacia and Flora streets was the second men's building on the hospital grounds. In the 1888 annual report to the California legislature the superintendent described the building as follows: What is now the principal asylum was erected in 1883-1885, the south wing in the former year, the total cost of the whole structure being $224,000. It is of brick, with sandstone facings; and while it is unpretentious in design and free from superfluous ornamentation, there is nothing prison-like in its appearance; on the other hand, it is really beautiful and attractive. As it has a capacity, without crowding, of 530 inmates this places the per capita cost at $425 -- a figure so remarkably low that very few asylums in the country can approach it. The several divisions are so arranged, that while the unity of design is preserved, an abundance of light and air is secured to every portion.

Originally “maniacs” were locked in dungeons in the basement. At mealtime, patients were issued only spoons to eat with for fear they would stab someone with a knife or fork. Up until 1950 there was no heat in the dining room and patients used to shiver while they ate. The first advance in patient recreation at the hospital came when a clubroom was set up in this building about 1954.

The building originally had three steeples. On November 30, 1938, a patient set fire to some oily rags in a closet. The resultant fire wiped out all of Ward 6, plus the steeple above it (to right on photograph) and allowed many patients to escape. The other steeples were removed later because of weakness and leakage.

The structure was deactivated bit by bit, starting in February, 1958 and ending in August of that year. Most of the administrative offices had been located here but had moved into the new administration building in 1953. Several offices remained, however, until the Professional Building was completed in 1962.

Demolition was completed in 1964, and it is estimated that 3,250,000 bricks were removed.

DR. ASA CLARK, SUPERINTENDENT, STOCKTON STATE HOSPITAL, 1892 TO 1906. Born in Essex County, New York, in June 1824, Clark received his medical training at Wilson’s Seminary and Rush Medical College, both in Chicago. He crossed the plains to California soon after receipt of his medical degree in 1849, and opened an office in Placerville. The next year he was in Santa Clara, and the following year in Santa Barbara. He then returned to Placerville in 1853 and resumed his practice. While there he became interested in the plight of the mentally ill, and as a result of his “specialization” was selected by the California Legislature to the post of Assistant Physician of the Stockton Asylum in 1861. He resigned in 1871 in order to open an asylum in Woodbridge in partnership with Dr. Samuel Langdon (a former superintendent of the Stockton State Hospital). Under contract with Nevada the two doctors received patients from that state, about thirty of them having been transferred initially from the Stockton Asylum to their care. Known officially as the Nevada-California Insane Asylum, and also referred to as the Pacific Insane Asylum, the building had served in Mokelumne City as a hotel before it was moved to Woodbridge. Later patients were accepted by contract from the Arizona territory as well. In 1877 the Asylum was moved to Stockton, a modern facility of brick having been built on a 40-acre parcel at the intersection of Center and South (Charter Way) streets. Dr. Clark continued in charge of the asylum until he was appointed superintendent of the state asylum in 1892. He died in Stockton on January 20, 1912, was sent to Oakland for cremation, and the remains were then returned for burial in the Rural Cemetery.
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VIEW OF CLARK’S SANITARIUM, STOCKTON. Constructed by Drs. Clark and Langdon on the southeast corner of the intersection of Center and South streets, and originally named the Pacific Insane Asylum (also referred to as the Pacific Hospital), this institution cared for Nevada and Arizona patients as well as private individuals. It was opened in September, 1877. Dr. Langdon died in 1880 and Clark continued the operation alone. His contract with Nevada ended in 1882 and with Arizona in 1888 (when each opened its own asylum), and after that the facility became known as Clark’s Sanitarium. A son, Dr. Fred Clark, for almost 23 years (1902-1929) superintendent of the State Hospital, took over his father’s sanitarium in 1892 when the elder Clark became superintendent of the State Hospital. The site of the Clark facility was originally the location of the Helvetia Gardens and half-mile race track, and extended from Center Street westward to the French Camp Turnpike. Today it is the site of the Edison Senior High School campus. Construction was completed in 1885, and could then comfortably hold about 530 patients.14

Unhappily, during Dr. Shurtleff’s long tenure as superintendent at Stockton emphasis on active treatment programs declined. Following the Civil War the national trend in the treatment of mental illness was one of apathy and detention; moral programs became unpopular and forgotten. The Stockton Asylum reflected this trend. Overcrowded and suffering from an inadequate number of personnel, it became a great extent merely a custodial center for the ever-growing number of mentally-ill Californians.

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)

EDITOR’S NOTES

1. At the same time, April 1851, the Legislature created a Board of Trustees whose first duty was to locate a suitable permanent site for the Stockton hospital. Members of this first Board were: Dr. Nelson Taylor (chairman), Samuel Pundy (vice-chairman), W. A. Reed (secretary-treasurer), H. A. Crabb, J. F. Murphy, and George Brush.

2. The title of “Resident Physician” was later changed to “Superintendent.” Beginning January 1, 1877, the chief administrator of each of the state’s hospitals will be called the “Executive Director,” and appointment will continue to be made by the governor. At the time of Dr. Reid’s appointment the Legislature appointed Dr. R. Porter Asher “visiting physician” to assist Reid. In early 1853 he was forced to resign from the Asylum position and joined the medical staff at Solano, and two months later joined the medical staff at Stockton.

3. At the same time the state abolished its General Hospitals, and passed enabling legislation to permit and encourage counties to build and operate their own general hospitals for the physically ill and indigent. In return the state would appropriate for the erection of a building in Stockton, another $7,500 was set aside to support these first patients to be brought in by the state. $1,000 was appropriated for their transportation from San Francisco and Sacramento to Stockton.

4. With the establishment of the Stockton General Hospital on April 30, 1851, suitable facilities had to be found pending the establishment of a permanent site and construction of permanent facilities. Faced with the urgent need to establish a hospital for the care of the many indigent and transient men who had been lured to California to seek their fortunes, quarters were finally located on the northwest corner of El Dorado and Market streets. A rather shabby wooden building of 10 to 12 rooms, formerly used in turn as a saloon, a lodging house, and a tenement-alley, was rented and immediately overcrowded with thirteen of Reid’s patients who were being housed on the brick Suzanne, then anchored in Stockton slough near Center Street. It was investigated in August, 1851, in November new quarters had to be found. The site of the Stockton Club House on the northeast corner of Center and Market streets and the overflow patients, by this time including some who were mentally ill, were transferred to it.

5. With the arrival of the mental patients from the other hospitals, Dr. Reid was forced to order additional building as fast as funds could be raised. By the fall of 1853 the Reverend James Woods, the local Presbyterian minister at that time, was selected by the Board of Trustees to raise funds for an additional building.

6. Plans for the first asylum building had been drawn up by a local contractor, F. E. Corcoran in September of 1852, and a site on Channel Street was chosen. By this time the state had also accepted Weber’s offer of approximately 100 acres north of Park Street to Harding Way and running from California Street eastward to the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Sealed bids were called for in April of 1853 for the construction of the south wing of the proposed brick building, plus a 10 x 40-foot two-story room above it, for the admission of women and the relatively few women patients. By the first week of October (1853) the second stories had been completed and on the eighth of that month all of the mentally ill were removed to their new quarters from the downtown Market Street facilities. A ten-foot high wooden fence was erected around a two-acre yard area enclosing the buildings. Total cost of the project was $33,000.

7. Mania a potu — mental illness caused by the excessive use of alcoholic beverages (common then).

8. "Dementia" — a general designation for mental deterioration; insanity.

9. "Dementia in the neck" — a common practice in the treatment of mental illness at this time was to introduce a foreign object, called a seton, under the patient’s skin. A piece of horsehair was commonly used for this purpose. The object was to cause an infection which would then be allowed to drain. This was supposed to help cure the patient of his problem. Note that this same person had also been “bled and blistered” in a rather traditional manner.

10. By this time (end of 1855) Reid had managed to get the Legislature to appropriate another $60,000 for construction of the center section of the proposed building, as well as a kitchen and dining room for an additional $15,000. It would be two more years, however, (1857) before the north wing would be completed. Evidently the bricks for this original (1853-57) structure were made from soil dug on the grounds. In the 1886 superintendent’s report to the Governor and the Legislature he noted that among the improvements made that year was the filling of natural low spots and that “a large amount of earth had been required to fill an excavation made upon the grounds at an early day from which clay was obtained to make brick used in the construction of the old building.”

11. A new brick residence for the Resident Physician had been completed on the grounds in 1857, releasing the wooden structure for conversion to patient use. In addition to the two one-story buildings constructed in 1858 courtyards were created behind the buildings by the addition of high brick walls. A water tower and tank were also added.

12. The following year (1859) Superintendent Titus was able to expand approximately $63,000 for a second floor over the 1855 kitchen and dining room addition to the north wing brick building to the construction of a relatively small brick building, and the purchase of an additional two blocks of land. This brought the total asylum holdings to 107 acres, the equivalent of 36 city blocks.
The annual report of June 30, 1886, noted the completion of the new female building. Money for the new female building came from a special tax of five cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation which the 1863 Legislature had authorized. That same year a special committee of four physicians, appointed by the governor, visited the Stockton Asylum, found it dangerously overcrowded, and recommended immediate construction of more building space. As had been the case with the original brick building, construction of the new building had to be undertaken in sections. When completed in 1874 it consisted of three main wings, each one three stories high, with individual rooms on each side of large corridors. Total cost came to $250,000. and for the first time it was possible to remove all the women patients from the original building. Following completion of the women's quarters the Asylum property was completely fenced at a cost of $14,780, and a new cemetery area of 14 acres adjoining Rural Cemetery was purchased for $2,750 in January, 1875. In his Biennial Report of 1875 Superintendent Shurtleff had noted that the hospital cemetery then in use (located in the center of the grounds) had been filled and that selection of a new site was imperative.

Dr. Shurtleff, a native of Massachusetts, received his medical degree from the Vermont Medical College in 1845 and then went back to his home state to practice medicine. He joined the Mt. Vernon Association (a group of men banded together to go to California's Mother Lode) and arrived in Stockton on October 12, 1849. He tried mining briefly in Tuolumne County, soon returning to take up residence in Stockton. He was elected for the first city council, then later (1855) elected recorder of San Joaquin County. His first association with the Stockton Insane Asylum was his appointment to its Board of Trustees the following year. He served as superintendent from August of 1865 until his resignation due to failing health in October of 1883. He was instrumental in getting legislative authorization for the establishment of California's second institution for the care of the mentally ill, the Napa State Asylum (1872). He was elected president of the Medical Society of California the same year, and from 1875 until retirement in 1883 he lectured regularly at the University of California Medical Department. In 1875 Shurtleff served as the first president of the San Joaquin Medical Society, and for years was also active in the Society of California Pioneers, the California Historical Society, and Stockton's St. John's Episcopal Church (see San Joaquin Historian, Vol. XI, Nos. 1 and 2).

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View of new buildings at the State Hospital Farm on Lower Sacramento Road in the early 1930's. The land, north of the Calaveras River and west of Pacific Avenue, was purchased by the state beginning in 1904 to provide farming acreage and residential facilities for the mentally ill. Under Dr. Smyth the total acreage reached 1121 acres, and about 1500 patients had been transferred out to it.

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