

## History of the Willard Site

1857-1860 NYS Agricultural College

1869-1890 Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane

The Willard Bill of 1865, drawn up by Drs. Willard, Cook and Chapin, authorized the construction of the State Asylum for the Chronic Insane, transferring patients to Willard from all over the state, to provide better care of the insane poor.

Work began on the main building in 1866. Known as Chapin House, the building was designed by Buffalo architect H.N. Wilcox and modeled on the Kirkbridge Plan - a plan calling for the placement of staggered wings to allow for a maximum of air and light for patients. The first patients arrived by boat in 1869, and continued to expand throughout the next two decades with four groups of detached houses for patients built in that first decade.

The earliest type of treatment at Willard was "moral treatment" with patients being treated with kindness and protected from the outside world. Patients were involved in work projects allowing Willard to remain fairly self-sufficient.

1890-1974 Willard State Hospital (One of many state hospitals drawing from the region only)

The building of Hadley Hall in 1892, the auditorium and assembly building, ended the first period of significant growth for Willard and was the last major building to be constructed until 1928.

The year 1928 marked the beginning of a large building program at Willard. At this time, medical theory dictated that patients live in large wards rather than individualized rooms. So newly constructed buildings were much larger and institutional in appearance. North Home and South Home were the first to be constructed. Then Elliot Hall, Seneca Home, the Birches, and the staff residences - all buildings were designed by the state architect, William E. Haugaard.

Following the end of World War II, a plan to completely make over Willard was presented – demolish all old buildings and build new buildings in their places. Financial realities ended the execution of this plan. Only two more major buildings were constructed after World War II: the Hatch in 1954 and the Administration Building in 1974.

#### 1874-1995 Willard Psychiatric Center

Over the decades individual buildings have earned various names, based on usage or name recognition. A major change came in 1904 when many of the buildings were named by a Willard employee. According to local folklore, the employee selected many of the names from fiction books by Mary J. Holmes - the Main Building becomes Chapin House, the Branch becomes Grandview, and the various detached buildings receive the names that are still used today.

#### 1996-2022 Willard Drug Treatment Campus