

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 12 1987

date entered JUL 16 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Eastern Maine Insane Hospital

and or common Bangor Mental Health Institute (Preferred for Listing)

2. Location

street & number 656 State Street

not for publication

city, town Bangor, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Penobscot code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

4. Owner of Property

name State of Maine, Bureau of Public Improvements

street & number State House

city, town Augusta, vicinity of state Maine 04333

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Bangor, state Maine 04401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Eastern Maine Insane Hospital is an impressive phalanx of connected three-and-a-half story brick buildings resting on raised rubblestone foundations. It is composed of a central administration block flanked by long recessed wings. Additions extend to the rear of the wings and the power plant projects behind the administration building. The hospital faces southeast from a broad graded knoll interspersed with oak and pine trees singly and in groups.

Originally conceived in its entirety much as it exists today, the complex actually evolved over a period of nearly forty years as separate components were added to existing structures. Construction commenced in 1896 with the administration block; a pair of wings were added in the period 1899-1901; these were extended in 1907 and 1909 respectively; and two additions were built to the rear about 1927 and 1935. Together, these various blocks comprise a single sprawling building.

The focus of the hospital complex is the three-bay administration building, which is also its most elaborately detailed component. Its symmetrical composition features a rectangular three-and-a-half story hipped roof block with narrow recessed gable roof wings and a two-stage cupola. The front elevation has a broad round arched entryway behind a landing and a perimeter rock wall. The granite impostes and inner edge of the arch's quoins are embellished with foliate and curvilinear carving. Its projecting carved keystone supports a second floor bay window above which is the granite nameplate. A trio of windows is located in the third story. Large four-over-one double-hung sash windows with long vertical panes flank this middle bay. All of the window openings here and throughout the building have granite surrounds. A beltcourse links the third floor window sills. The wall surface above is decorated with patterned yellow brickwork in a web of diamond shapes that carry around the building. These walls rise to a corbelled cornice. Three pedimented dormers, the middle one with a scroll pediment, are positioned in front of a pair of interior chimneys. The cupola features a square base and a round louvered upper stage capped by a bellcast roof.

A pair of narrow two-story hallways, set back from the front elevation of the administration block, connect it with the two hospital wings erected in 1899-1901. These wings are identical in plan. Covered with hip roofs that are punctuated by chimneys and dormers, the wings are composed of projecting three-bay entrance and reception pavilions nearest the administration building, and recessed ward areas. In their detailing, including the patterned brickwork, these wings resemble the administration block. A number of the original hipped roof dormers have been removed, however. Two-story sleeping porches were added to the front of both wards in 1916, thereby obscuring the original shallow bay windows.

The architect's original conceptual rendering of the asylum called for the construction of two additional--and identical--wings recessed from the inner-most wings and carrying the hospital complex far to the east and west. In 1907 plans were prepared for the west wing and two years later the plans were drawn for the east wing. These two components are similar in overall form and detail to their counterparts, although the interior spaces are slightly re-arranged. Unlike the earlier wings, they feature more pronounced three-sided, full height bay windows in the middle of the ward areas, end bays and no front entrances. The west wing rests on a very tall basement made necessary by the sloping terrain at this area of the

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

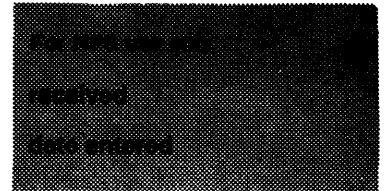
**United States Department of the Interior
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EASTERN MAINE INSANE HOSPITAL (BANGOR MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE)
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site.

In 1927 plans were drawn for the addition of a five-story brick building to the rear of the easternmost wing. This rather nondescript structure has a flat roof and a wide bay window in the north side. A similar addition was made to the rear of the westernmost wing about 1935.

Between the two additions lies the elongated physical plant containing the boiler room and kitchen. When built in 1896, a walkway connected it to the administration building. It is two stories in height, of rubblestone construction, has a flat roof, and a tall smokestack at the rear. A number of additions and alterations have been made to it in the intervening years, although the original structure is still largely visible.

The interior of the hospital has been altered at various times to meet changing codes and standards. However, much of the original rather typical late nineteenth century woodwork survives in window and door surrounds.

By virtue of the fact that additions and new buildings have been placed at the rear of the main complex, the broad landscaped approach to the hospital survives. A winding drive leads to the edge of the site where it meets curvilinear roads that flank the wings. Hardwoods, evergreens and changes in the topography separate these roads from the hospital and its wide lawn.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896,
1899-1901, 1907-09 **Builder/Architect** John Calvin Stevens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eastern Maine Insane Hospital in Bangor is one of the largest, least altered and most architecturally significant institutional buildings in the State of Maine. Designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), the State's foremost late nineteenth and early twentieth century architect, it was built in stages between the years 1896 and 1935. By virtue of its elongated staggered form and interior plan, the hospital embodies late nineteenth century medical theories concerning care for the insane as set forth in Thomas S. Kirkbride's On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangement of Hospitals for the Insane (1880).

The history of state funded care for the insane in Maine traces its beginnings to 1830 when Governor Jonathan Hunton proposed the idea of an asylum.¹ It was not until 1834, however, that the Legislature seriously took up the idea of an endowment for a hospital. At that time \$20,000 was earmarked for a building fund provided that a like amount could be raised from the public sector. In 1835 property was purchased along the east bank of the Kennebec River and within view of the Maine State House. The Maine Insane Hospital (N.R. 7/17/82), a granite Greek Revival style structure, was completed in 1840.

In 1873 the state Legislature addressed the problem of a hospital system at its capacity with a resolve which reads in part:

WHEREAS, The insane hospital is now full, and has from time to time been enlarged until no further enlargement thereof is feasible, and hence the state is now called upon to enter upon the work of building another insane hospital, therefore....²

Despite this resolution to establish a new hospital altogether, building continued to take place at the Maine Insane Hospital. Major additions were made in 1875, 1881-84, and again in 1889.

The Legislature revived in 1883 its resolve of ten years before to establish another insane hospital.³ Not until 1889, however, was the governor authorized to appoint a committee to obtain a site for an insane hospital at or near the city of Bangor and to be known as the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital.⁴ The Commissioners were authorized to obtain plans and specifications for buildings "...according to the most recent approved models for such an institution." One of the renderings submitted to the committee was drawn by George M. Coombs, a well-known architect whose office was in Lewiston, Maine. Coombs' drawing was published in the March 7, 1891, edition of the American Architect and Building News and shows an immense Romanesque Revival style structure with a prominent projecting central block, six long recessed pavilions and a T-shaped extension to the rear.

During the Legislative session of 1895, the Commissioners of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital were at long last directed to take immediate steps

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maine Historic Preservation Commission National Register of Historic Places Nomination of
 Maine Insane Hospital, entered in the Register on July 17, 1982.
Acts and Resolves of the State of Maine. Various Publishers, 1873-1901.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 15

Quadrangle name Orono, Maine, 1955

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	9	5	2	0	6	0	0	4	9	6	2	6	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	9	5	2	0	5	7	5	4	9	6	2	2	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	9	5	2	0	2	6	0	4	9	6	2	2	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	9	5	2	0	1	5	0	4	9	6	2	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of a 15 acre parcel embracing the principal hospital complex including the landscaped grounds in front of the hospital bounded by two circular drives as shown on the sketch map. The detached maintenance building, Pooler Pavilion, Pre-Release Center, Hedin Hall, and Tubercular Building are not included. The hospital property is shown on City of Bangor Map R-63, Lot 8.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Helgeson*

title J.H.P.O. date 2/9/87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

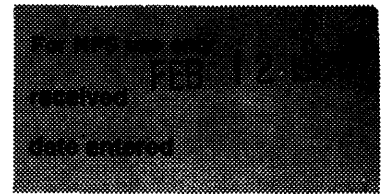
Patrick Andrews date 7/16/87
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest *B. A. Savage* date 7/16/87
 Chief of Registration

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...to erect, construct and complete in a manner to be fireproof, at as early a period as possible, and not later than January one, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, upon the site at Bangor already purchased by the state for the purpose, buildings for the accomodation of the insane of the state..../5

A total of \$150,000 was appropriated for this phase of the project.

When construction of the hospital finally commenced, however, it was not the plans of George M. Coombs which were followed but rather those of the Portland architect John Calvin Stevens. For what reasons Stevens was chosen over Coombs is not entirely clear. Neither man was a stranger to the design of buildings for insane hospitals. Stevens was a member of the firm of Fassett and Stevens which designed the 1881-84 additions to the Maine Insane Hospital, while Coombs was responsible for the two pavilions built in 1889. Perhaps Stevens was the beneficiary of more influential endorsements from former clients such as the one dated June 1, 1895, from Fred E. Richards to S. M. Bird./6 Bird, who apparently was a member of the Commission supervising the project, was furnished with two examples of Stevens' work and a praiseworthy account of the building of the author's own residence in Portland.

With the appropriation in 1895 of funds for the hospital, work finally commenced. In its July 22, 1896, edition, the Portland Transcript announced the laying of the cornerstone. The initial appropriation was exhausted by 1897 with the completion of the central administration block only. Additional funds were provided, however, to guard and preserve this building until further work could be undertaken. In 1899 the Legislature made an additional \$225,000 available for the building of two pavilions capable of accomodating two-hundred or more patients. Upon their completion in 1901 the hospital was opened.

Surviving records reveal that the granite used in these wings was quarried in North Jay, Maine and cut at the Lewiston Monumental Works./7 It was shipped to M. C. Foster and Sons in Bangor, but it is not clear whether this was the contractor or a local railroad agent.

Expansion of the hospital began about 1907 when the far west pavilion was erected, and the symmetry of the complex was maintained with the construction of the east wing two years later. When completed the hospital achieved, with only slight variations, the form as originally designed by Stevens. The plans for the 1927 and 1935 rear additions were drawn by the Bangor firm of Crowell and Lancaster.

The Eastern Maine Insane Hospital, now known as the Bangor Mental Health Institution, continues to serve in its original capacity. Detached buildings have been added to the hospital grounds, but the main complex remains the most architecturally and historically significant component of the facility.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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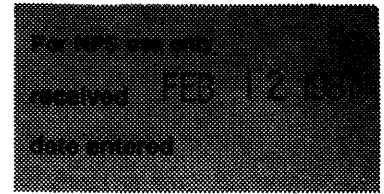
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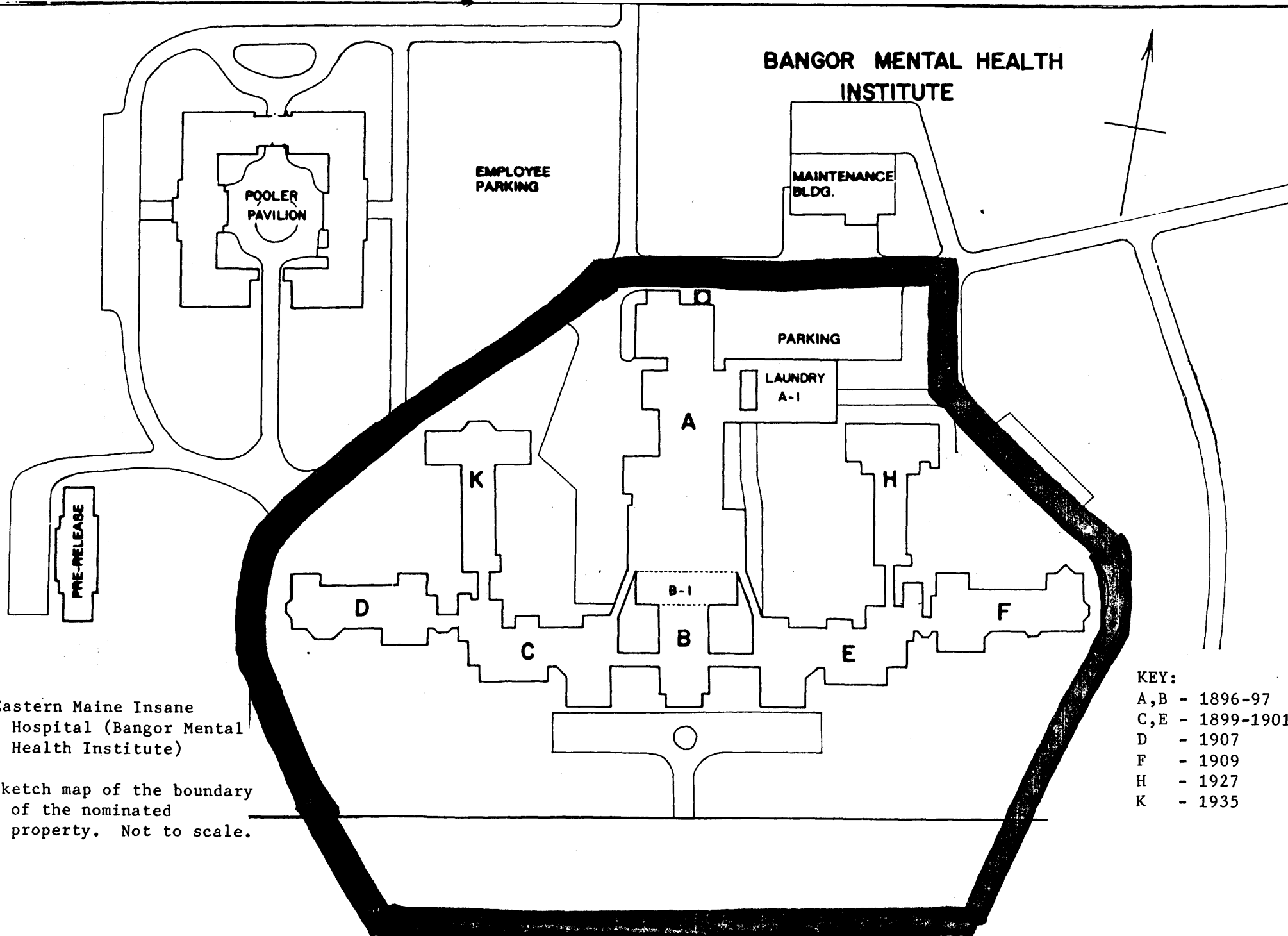


Endnotes

- ./1 The historical background is taken from the National Register Inventory Nomination Form for the Maine Insane Hospital prepared by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and listed in the National Register on July 17, 1982, hereinafter cited as NR Nomination for Maine Insane Hospital.
- ./2 Acts and Resolves of the Fifty-Second Legislature of the State of Maine (Augusta: Sprague, Owen and Nash, 1873), Resolves of the State of Maine, Chapter 202, p. 113, hereinafter cited as Acts and Resolves.
- ./3 Acts and Resolves, 1883, Resolves, Chapter 140, p. 155.
- ./4 Acts and Resolves, 1889, Resolves, Chapter 207, p. 105.
- ./5 Acts and Resolves, 1895, Resolves, Chapter 18, p. 10.
- ./6 Letter from Fred E. Richards to S. M. Bird, June 1, 1895, copy of the original on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.
- ./7 Original copies of the correspondence between the Maine and New Hampshire Granite Company and the Lewiston Monumental Works is on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

WELCOME TO B. M. H. I.

FEB 12 1968



Eastern Maine Insane
Hospital (Bangor Mental
Health Institute)

Sketch map of the boundary
of the nominated
property. Not to scale.

KEY:

- A, B - 1896-97
- C, E - 1899-1901
- D - 1907
- F - 1909
- H - 1927
- K - 1935