

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **JL 9 1986**
date entered **AUG 13 1986**

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

1. Name

historic Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates Historic District

and/or common Willmar State Hospital

2. Location

street & number off U.S. Highway 71 N/A not for publication

city, town Willmar N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Kandiyohi code 067

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	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 Mr. Leonard Levine, Commissioner - Department of Human Services

street & number 4th Floor - Centennial Office Building

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kandiyohi County Courthouse

street & number Becker Avenue W.

city, town Willmar state Minnesota 56201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984-85 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition _____ excellent _____ deteriorated _____ Check one unaltered _____ Check one original site
 good _____ ruins _____ altered _____ moved date _____ N/A
 fair _____ unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Willmar State Hospital is located on the east side of Highway 71 just northeast of downtown Willmar in central Kandiyohi County. The hospital complex consists of 25 major buildings and various service structures standing on a site overlooking Foot Lake (formerly Lake Willmar) to the west. The hospital buildings are arranged along two major paths extending out from the Administration Building and running parallel with and perpendicular to the lake shore. The extensive grounds are landscaped with shade trees, gardens, benches, and a playground. Nineteen of the hospital buildings, constituting all of the major original hospital structures, were built before 1933 and comprise this nomination. The six other major buildings on the site were constructed between 1950 and 1980 and are not included in the nomination.

The nineteen buildings included in the nomination were designed by St. Paul architect Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. and built between 1912 and 1933. All of the buildings are handsome Period Revival structures inspired by Mediterranean or Spanish Colonial styles, with Renaissance-inspired detailing. All of the buildings (except the Garage) have red ceramic tiled hipped or gabled roofs and all (except the Grounds Department) have stucco wall surfaces. Most of the buildings are extremely intact and all are in good condition. Evidence of careful repairs to the stucco walls and tile roofs appear on several of the buildings. The nominated structures include the following:

Administration Building. Built 1912. Largest and most complex building on the site. Originally contained administration, patient wards, and medical treatment, now houses primarily administration and a chapel. T-shaped with a central 3 story hipped roof core (3 bays wide, 5 bays deep), 10 bay two story hipped wings extending north and south, and a nine bay gabled and hipped roof rear wing. Stucco walls, brick base and trim, red ceramic tile roof. Rectangular and rounded arched 12/1, 6/1, and 4/1 sash. Detailing includes a smooth limestone entrance surround on main (west) facade, two cast iron lamp posts at the entrance, 3 bay loggia links between central structure and north and south wings, hipped dormers, octagonal and hipped cupolas, and heavy window boxes. The addition of a handicapped entrance on the west facade and the removal of the central cupola's lantern cap are the only apparent exterior alterations.

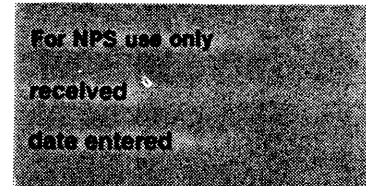
Nurses' Residence. Built 1912. Later used as the Administration Annex, now used as a Minnesota Highway Patrol Station Office. One story L-shaped building with gabled and hipped roof. Stucco walls, brick trim, red ceramic tile roof. Rectangular, paired 6/1 sash. Open loggia porches on south and west facades with polished gray granite columns. Heavy window boxes. Intact.

Auditorium/Gymnasium. Built 1923. Also called the Rehabilitation Building. Now used for storage. One story. 3 bay main (west) facade, 6 bay sidewalls. Stucco covered walls, brick trim, red ceramic tile roof. Large, paired rounded arched windows with multi-paned sash. Three entrances on west facade within ornate brick-lined arches. Intact.

Cottages. Complex contains 13 nearly identical residence cottages built 1919-1933. 6 overlook Foot Lake, 7 face each other in a row east of the Administration Building. The cottages are rectangular two story structures, 13 bays wide and 3 bays deep. Stucco walls, brick trim, red ceramic tile hipped roofs. Rectangular 8/1 sash in all but Cottages 15 and 16. Centrally located main entrances recessed within 3 bay loggias with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates Historic District, Willmar,
Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Owners

Item number 4

Page 1

Ms. Sandra J. Hale, Commissioner
Department of Administration
200 State Administration Building
50 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Mr. Lester Johnson,
Chief Executive Officer
Willmar State Hospital
Willmar, Minnesota 56201

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
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Continuation sheet Willmar State Hospital

Item number 7

Page 1

Item #7 (Description) continued:

yellow limestone columns. Large brick stoops, some of which are surfaced with stucco. One story sun room/activity room on either right or left sidewall (relative to main facade). Nearly all cottages are virtually intact and all are in good condition. They include the following:

Cottage 4. Built 1919. Intact.

Cottage 5. Built 1919. Intact.

Cottage 6. Built 1925. Intact.

Cottage 7. Built 1921. Intact.

Cottage 8. Built 1921. Intact.

Cottage 9. Built 1925. Intact.

Cottage 10. Built 1927. Cylindrical metal fire escapes added to north and west facades.

Cottage 11. Built 1929. Intact.

Cottage 12. Built 1929. Intact.

Cottage 13. Built 1930. Intact.

Cottage 14. Built 1931. At one time used as General Medicine and Surgery building. Cylindrical metal fire escapes added to north and west facades.

Cottage 15. Built 1933. Unlike other cottages, has rectangular multi-paned casement windows. Cylindrical metal fire escapes added to north and east facades.

Cottage 16. Built 1933. Unlike other cottages, has rectangular multi-paned casement windows. Intact.

Laundry. Built 1912. Maintenance Shop. One story, 8 bays long, 3 bays wide. Stucco walls, brick trim, red ceramic tile gabled roof with parapet walls. Segmental arched windows. Main entrance on west facade. Low concrete block addition on east end.

Power Plant. Built 1912. Grounds Department, later used as the Mechanic's Garage. One story structure constructed of red brick. Red ceramic tile gabled roof with parapet walls and monitor. Window and door openings altered, exterior brick painted.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
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Continuation sheet Willmar State Hospital

Item number 7

Page 2

Item #7 (Description) continued:

Maintenance Buildings. ca. 1930. One Story, stucco walls, flat roof, intact.

Garage. Built 1930. One story, stucco walls, hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. 6 stalls with double leaf wooden garage doors. Intact.

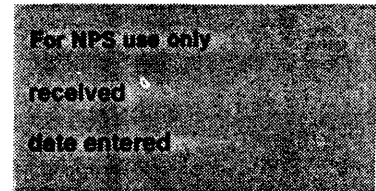
Ice House. Built 1920. Iron Removal Building. One story, stucco walls, flat roof. Intact. Other major buildings on the site which are not included in the nomination because of recent construction dates are the following: Cottage 1 (former Receiving Hospital, built 1950), Superintendent's Residence (1952), Service Building (1958), Power Plant (1962), Medical Treatment Center (1965), and Activities Building (1979). In addition, a watertower (ca. 1945), and a greenhouse and a few recent storage and service sheds on the site are not included in the nomination.

No major hospital buildings have been demolished or moved, with the exception of four small staff residences (one built before 1935 and at least two built in the 1950's). Various small service buildings have been demolished including a fire house, about 4 garages, a maintenance and repair shop, a pump house, 2 root cellars, a rain shelter, a watertower, and about 4 sheds. In addition, the hospital's farm complex which stood at the northeast corner of the site has been razed. It once included 4 barns, 3 brooders, 2 hog houses, 2 farrowing houses, and a chicken house, corncrib, creamery, farm office, granary, machine shed, and slaughter house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates Historic District



Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 7

Page 3

The Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates Historic District nomination contains 22 contributing Buildings.

Administration Building
Nurses' Residence
Auditorium/Gymnasium
Cottages 4 through 16
Laundry
Power Plant
Garage
Ice House
Maintenance Buildings (2)

The nomination contains 7 non-contributing buildings

Receiving Hospital
Superintendent's Residence
Service Building
Power Plant
Medical Treatment Center
Activities Building
Storage/Service sheds

The nomination contains 2 non-contributing structures.

Water Tower
Green House

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 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 1912-1933 **Builder/Architect** Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Willmar State Hospital complex, built between 1912 and 1933, is historically and architecturally significant as the most intact pre-1935 state hospital complex in Minnesota, as an intact example of the cottage/colony theory of state institution design, and as an excellent example of the work of St. Paul architect Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.

The Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates was established by the state legislature in 1907 as Minnesota's second state hospital for alcoholics. (The first had been established in Rochester in 1873.) The hospital was financed through a state tax of 2% on all liquor license fees, and opened in December of 1912 with 2 major buildings and a 500 acre farm site. Two years later, in July of 1914, there were 314 patients at Willmar. In 1917 services were expanded to include custodial care for the chronically insane (thereby creating the state's third asylum for the insane), and in 1919 the name was changed to Willmar State Asylum. Known as Willmar State Hospital since 1937, the facility was Minnesota's primary state-owned alcohol and drug treatment hospital until 1950 when the Sandstone State Hospital established a program for alcoholic males living in northeastern Minnesota. Today the Willmar hospital treats men, women, and adolescents who are mentally ill, mentally retarded, or chemically dependent.

The Willmar State Hospital was one of a network of state hospitals established between 1866 and the 1940's in about 15 cities in Minnesota. The system included hospitals and custodial asylums for the insane, detention hospitals for the criminally insane, hospitals and schools for the mentally retarded, state tuberculosis sanatoria, a hospital for crippled children, and the Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates. Most of these facilities were established on the outskirts of medium-sized cities like Willmar, and most were built on sizeable farms which, following nineteenth century theories of institutional design, provided privacy, created a familiar atmosphere for a largely rural clientele, provided opportunities for therapeutic labor, and allowed hospitals to be somewhat self-supporting. The Willmar Hospital Farm included 477 tillable acres plus additional pasture land, orchards, and gardens. While many of Minnesota's state hospitals were huge, imposing buildings, beginning at the turn of the century some were built following the cottage or colony theory of hospital design. First seen in the Midwest in Illinois circa 1877, the cottage system expoused smaller, more home-like or humane residence cottages and supporting buildings grouped to resemble a country village, often with a village green and an adjacent farm. The Willmar Hospital Farm was planned in this fashion, with an administration building and nurses' residence forming the nucleus of the colony and residence cottages and other structures added to the group as they were needed over a twenty year period. The thirteen residence cottages, used instead of traditional hospital wards, allowed patients to be separated according to age, sex, and degree of care required and isolated chemically dependent, mentally ill, and mentally retarded patients into separate buildings.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Murphy, Patricia. "Survey Form for a Statw-Owned Building Complex: Willmar State Hospital," "Chronology of Significant Events Related to State Hospitals and State Schools," and "State Hospitals and State Schools." State-owned Buildings Survey, State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 93.7

Quadrangle name Solomon Lake, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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3	4	1	3	4	0
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5	0	0	0	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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5	0	0	0	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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3	4	1	7	4	0
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5	0	0	0	2	0	0
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D

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3	4	1	1	2	0
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E

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3	4	1	1	2	0
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5	0	0	0	5	0	0
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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date July 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/30/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8-13-86

for Allover Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Willmar State Hospital

Item number 8

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

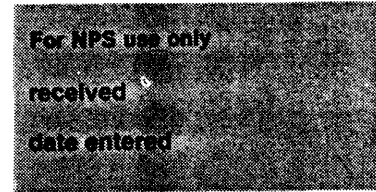
By 1933 the hospital complex had reached a stable size with an administration building, nurse and staff residences, an auditorium/gym, thirteen cottages, farm buildings, and various support buildings. There was no further major construction until 1950. After several policy changes during the 1950's and 1960's, the farm complex was phased out and eventually demolished and four small staff residences were moved and/or demolished when the staff was permitted to live off the hospital grounds. After 1950 a receiving hospital (now Cottage 1), a medical treatment center (including hospital, geriatric, and therapy wings), an activities building (including library, pool, gym, etc.), a service building (including dining room, kitchen, and laundry), a new power plant, and a superintendent's residence were added.

Most of the buildings at the Willmar State Hospital, including many of the farm structures, were designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., a prolific St. Paul architect who served as State Architect for the Minnesota Board of Control from 1901-1931. As State Architect Johnston designed almost all buildings constructed at state institutions during this period, including those at some state prisons and at various campuses of the University of Minnesota. The buildings at Willmar, because of their integrity and cohesiveness as a complex, remain excellent examples of Johnston's work.

The Willmar State Hospital was included in two recent surveys conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office, a survey of State-owned buildings in Minnesota and a survey of historic sites in Kandiyohi County. The survey staffs determined that the Willmar State Hospital appears to be the most intact pre-1935 state hospital complex in Minnesota and is a site of primary architectural and historical significance to central and southwestern Minnesota.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates Historic District, Willmar, MN
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of the west section line of Section 1, Township 119 North, Range 35 West and 15th Avenue N.E.; thence proceeding north 450 feet along the west line of Section 1 to the east edge of the east right of way of U.S. Highway 71; thence proceeding north, northeast 1900 feet along the east edge of the east right of way of U.S. Highway 71; thence proceeding 1350 feet due east; thence proceeding 2100 feet due south to the north curblines of 15th Avenue N.E.; thence proceeding 2200 feet due west along the north curblines of 15th Avenue N.E. to the point of beginning.

Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates
Kandiyohi County

