

7 DESCRIPTION

Form 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Western North Carolina Insane Asylum

AND/OR COMMON

Broughton Hospital: Main Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Front Entrance Drive

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Burke

CODE

23

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: hospital

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William Lawrence, Director

STREET & NUMBER

Broughton Hospital

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Broughton Hospital Main Building is a large eclectic red brick building which sprawls on a hilltop south of Morganton. It was described as being three miles from town when built (1877-1886), but the town has extended around the expansive hospital grounds. The central and highest portion of the complex main building has four stories which rest on a semi-raised basement. The high mansard roof is dominated by a large, tall dome with tall, narrow windows and elegant cresting. The main block is rectangular in shape, twelve bays deep and three wide. It faces northwest with three stages of wings flanking the main block which fall back in a stepped fashion to form a wide, shallow "U" shape, creating a rear courtyard. The wings are long, three-and-a-half-story buildings, also set on partially raised basements. Perpendicular wings break the visual expanse of such a large building; a final wing terminates each end of the composition. Cupolas of various shapes and sizes command the cross gables which mark the junctions of the various wings. Visually there are seven wings and cross wings on each side of the main block. In addition to a large, gable roof, three-story wing which abuts the rear of the main block and is almost as tall as the main block, there are two nearly free-standing wings which have small connectors to the rear of the second stages of the main facade wings. These rear wings are also three stories on raised basements and are treated in the same manner stylistically as the rest of the main building.

Gable dormers with semi-circular windows are used extensively along the front and rear of the building complex to add interest to the long expanses of roofline. The facades of the wings are broken by the use of both projecting pedimented gables and three-faced bays with corresponding roofs. All windows, except those at the fourth level, are surmounted by masonry keystone arches which are painted white and appear from a distance to be hoods above the windows. Most of the window sash has been replaced. Quoining is used at most perpendicular corners throughout and a wide but simple molded cornice adorns all of the wings.

The central block is set off from the wings by its more elaborate detail. Its similar but heavier cornice is ornamented with large, carved, undercut modillions. The classically treated, three-bay main facade of the main block has a large, projecting central pavilion, three levels of which are treated as a portico. The entrance is flanked by paired Roman Doric columns set on pedestals, behind which paired pilasters of the same order divide the projecting entrance into five small bays or segments. The columns and pilasters support a full entablature with undercut modillions. The second stage repeats the first except for the use of Corinthian columns. The third stage has paired urns instead of columns and Corinthian pilasters support a pediment. The elaborate entrance treatment is all painted white and a large, palladian dormer pierces the roof of the entrance projection. Tall, heavy metal lamps light the stone entrance steps.

Because the building remains a working mental hospital, little of the interior was accessible and it is well documented that the building has had many interior renovations in its history. The main entrance retains a huge, Eastlake style, eight-panel, double door. Set in the terrazzo floor of the entrance hall is the Great Seal of North Carolina with radiating black and white bands forming concentric circles. A double stair originates near the front door and curves gracefully toward the second floor main entrance. Beginning with an initial volute surmounted by small brass urns,

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

the closed string stair balustrade has a heavy but intricate metal baluster treatment which supports a small, molded handrail. The balcony area formed between the two stairs is guarded by a continuation of the balustrades. The first floor hall entrance is beneath the balcony and is flanked by carved console supporting a dentil cornice. Other doors opening from the entrance hall have pedimented overdoors resting on cushion friezes. Over the main entrance, at the second level, is a large stained glass window with the State Seal in its center.

Offices open off the first and second floor halls. A few pieces of furniture in the second floor hall are said to be original to the building. They appear to date from the late nineteenth century. Also on one of the second floor hall walls is a large, bird's eye view of the main building complex said to have been painted by a patient.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877-1886 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Sloan, Architect
James A. Walker, Master Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Broughton Hospital is a huge, imposing brick building spreading across a hilltop site. The massive building with its eclectic, classically derived ornament and dramatic mansard roof is one of the few major late nineteenth century institutional buildings still in use in the state. It was designed by Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan and built during the years 1875-1886, as the Western North Carolina Insane Asylum. Its construction represented a major investment by the state in the expansion of treatment of the insane, intended to provide needed facilities in addition to the over-crowded institution for the insane (now Dorothea Dix) built in Raleigh in the 1850s. Unlike the Raleigh building, the exterior of the main building of Broughton retains essentially its original appearance; it is an important monument to the social history of the state.

North Carolina was slow to take up the idea of state supported institutional care for the insane. Of the original thirteen states, only Delaware was later than North Carolina in establishing an insane asylum. Sentiment existed for an asylum as early as 1828, and in 1842 Governor John Motley Morehead proposed the establishment of an asylum to the General Assembly, only to be turned down. It took the fortuitous intervention of Dorothea Dix to establish such an institution. The humanitarian reformer had by 1848 already spent years reforming the treatment of the insane, the handicapped, and the indigent. In 1848 she turned her attention to North Carolina. She spent ten weeks collecting data on the treatment of the insane in the state, and determined that about 1,000 insane people lay untreated in North Carolina's jails and homes. She wrote a memorial to the General Assembly, an impassioned plea on the behalf of the insane. She appealed to the legislators' humanitarianism and to their state pride, and she pointed out the economic advantages of treating the insane and sending them back into society. The legislature, particularly the Democrats, remained skeptical, until Miss Dix enlisted the aid of popular Democrat James C. Dobbin of Cumberland County. Under Dobbin's leadership, the bill was passed 91-10. The insane asylum was built in Raleigh and opened in April of 1856.

Within two decades, however, the asylum was badly overcrowded. In a report to the legislature on October 1, 1874, the commissioners complained that the "melancholy list of applications refused for want of room lengthens to hundreds." They reported that 196 people had been turned down for lack of space and requested immediate enlargement of the Raleigh facilities. The General Assembly heeded the pleas of the Raleigh asylum, but decided not to enlarge the existing facilities. On March 20, 1875, claiming that "the only Asylum for the insane of North Carolina, for the cure, comfort, and care of her insane is insufficient for the accomodation of all this afflicted class," the General Assembly passed a bill providing for the establishment of a second asylum, to be located in the western half of the state. Statesville, Hickory, Asheville

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

and Morganton were visited as possible sites for the institution, with Morganton being selected.³

Much of the credit for placing the asylum in Morganton must go to Samuel McDowell Tate, a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives Finance Committee, a war hero, and influential businessman in and around his home community of Morganton. Tate worked artfully behind the scenes on behalf of his home town. W. S. Pearson, later to be a member of the Asylum's Board of Directors wrote that Tate "carried to completion by most dexterous management the legislation which founded and sustained through trying years that noblest of all charities, the superb Hospital for the Insane at his own home in Morganton."⁴

A commission was established to purchase land, select an architect, and begin construction. \$50,000 was appropriated for 1875, and \$25,000 for 1876.⁵ The committee chose its architect with extreme seriousness. It corresponded with a number of hospital superintendents on the question, and found one name regularly mentioned. A typical response came from Thomas Kirkbride, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, in Philadelphia, who answered "I have no hesitation in recommending to you. . . Mr. Samuel Sloan. . . . He is more practically familiar with all the details of hospital architecture than any one else I know of." Sloan was chosen to be the architect of the asylum.⁶

Sloan, one of America's foremost architects, did indeed have considerable experience building hospitals and other public institutions. His first job was a carpenter at Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary; his first independent design was the courthouse and jail in Media, Pennsylvania, in 1849. During the 1850s he designed eighty residences, four jails, six court houses, eighteen public schools, three private schools, five hospitals for the insane, thirteen Protestant churches, and fifteen commercial buildings. His first work in North Carolina was evidently the two churches he designed in Wilmington in 1859 and 1860. Still based Pennsylvania, in 1864 he took Addison Hutton as a partner and concentrated his efforts on hospitals, churches, and commercial buildings. In North Carolina he designed in addition to the Western State Asylum, a school in New Bern, the Executive Mansion, Memorial Hall at the University of North Carolina, and is said to have remodeled the asylum in Raleigh.⁷ He moved to Raleigh in 1882, where he died on July 19, 1894, at the age of sixty-eight.

In addition to Sloan, the committee decided on James Walker, of Wilmington, as the master builder, at a fee of five dollars per day. (Walker had been contractor on Sloan's First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.) Sloan was paid \$3,000 for his services. Sloan quickly visited Morganton, and selected a site. The commission proceeded to purchase 123 acres from I. D. Feree, 67 acres from C. A. Shuping, and 61 acres from J. W. Wilson.

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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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Sloan had a very clear idea of what he wanted, as reflected in the meticulous set of plans for the hospital. He specified that the building would be 918 feet long; dumb waiters would be constructed "in the best manner of Murtagh Patent;" the water closets at the front and rear center of the building would be connected to bath rooms. Sloan specifically demanded Peach Bottom slate for the roof, English Portland cement for the bath room walls, terra cotta pipe for the underground drainage system, a sixteen foot kitchen range, and iron-enameled hoppers for the water closet. He made plans for a railway to go through the basement to the kitchen and the laundry rooms. He supervised construction of the heating and ventilation system, the plumbing, hot water heaters, even the kitchen sink.

Convict labor was used to make bricks in the summer of 1875, as provided for by the General Assembly, but the arrangement proved highly unsatisfactory. The commission complained that the convicts "were in bad condition, many of them sick. . .and many of them with but a short interval remaining before the expiration of their terms of service. . . . For the most part they are represented to have been worth but little." One convict died of lung disease within a week of his arrival at the construction site. The authorities of the Penitentiary, on the other hand, complained that a number of prisoners had escaped, and that control had been lax.¹⁰

Despite this problem the commissioners were pleased with the progress of the project. They expressed their pleasure with Sloan and Walker, while Sloan advised the General Assembly that he took "pleasure in reporting very favorably upon the work already executed, which conforms in every particular with the plans originally adopted." The commission asserted that it needed \$75,000 in each of the next two years, 1877 and 1878, to finish the asylum, and reminded the legislature of the economic reasons for speed: "Experience shows that the great majority of those attacked by insanity are curable, if treated within the first twelve months of invasion. But if allowed to fix itself upon the physical constitution, hope departs, and the State has no longer a tax payer and working useful citizen returned to her bosom, but she must, for the rest of life, sustain a burden, growing annually more helpless."¹¹

However, the legislature only appropriated \$30,000 per annum for 1877 and 1878.¹² This began a struggle for money that would continue for several years. The commissioners complained of the low appropriation and warned the General Assembly that "Any great delay in the further prosecution of this work can only entail greater expense on the State, in the damage that will inevitably follow to that which has been accomplished. . . . Delay will destroy much of the vigor with which the work could be pushed forward to the point at which it would stand as one of the most beneficent charities of this state."¹³

The General Assembly only appropriated \$25,000 per annum for 1879 and 1880.¹⁴ Times were hard, and there was some sentiment in the legislature that it had acted too hastily in providing for a new asylum. A Senate amendment to divert the entire

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

allocation for the western asylum to the older asylum in Raleigh was narrowly defeated 24 to 19.¹⁵ The money allocated was insufficient to finish construction. Sloan continued to be satisfied with the quality of work, at one point asserting that its brick work was "unsurpassed in the United States both in regard to quality and cost."¹⁶ However, by the end of 1879 construction had come to a halt for lack of money. At this time Governor Thomas Jarvis threw his influence solidly behind the completion of the western asylum. William S. Pearson, a member of the board of commissioners, wrote Jarvis in early 1879 that, with sufficient allocations, the main wing could be completed in 1880. Jarvis answered that he thought it "wise to have a portion of the building ready for the reception of patients as soon as it can be done" lest everyone lose interest. With this in mind Jarvis asked the special session of the legislature in March, 1880 for an emergency \$10,000 to continue construction. His request was turned down.¹⁷

On January 5, 1881, Jarvis addressed the legislature, and reminded them of their neglect of the asylum,

There is scarcely a week that I do not have a painful appeal. . . begging for the admission of a friend or relative into the asylum. The obligation to provide for the safety, comfort, and proper treatment of these unfortunate people is so weighty that nothing can excuse its neglect. I beg that you will make a sufficient appropriation to complete at once the wing and main building of the asylum. . . so that it can be occupied by the insane not now provided for, who are the objects of the charity and care of the state.¹⁸

Jarvis requested \$100,000 for the asylum. His appeal was successful this time, for the legislature allotted \$40,000 per annum for 1881 and 1882, with an additional \$20,000 to be used to equip the asylum after its construction¹⁹ was complete. The hospital was incorporated, with a board of nine directors.

The main wing was completed in December of 1882. The next several months were spent furnishing the hospital. The first patient was admitted March 29, 1883, eight years after the initial funding. During the first two years over 250 patients were received at the hospital, most of them being transfers from Raleigh.²⁰ The hospital immediately complained to the legislature that there was not enough space to segregate the sexes. Therefore, \$40,000 per annum for 1883 and 1884 was appropriated to finish an additional wing. This wing, the north wing, was completed October 1, 1886, providing space for an additional 150 patients. This wing was designed by A. G. Bauer, who had been Sloan's assistant at the Governor's²¹ Mansion in Raleigh, and who designed the state school for the deaf, also in Morganton.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

In 1890 Western North Carolina Insane Asylum was officially changed from an asylum to a hospital, demonstrating its transition from simply an institution to keep the insane, to an institution designed to treat the insane. In 1959 the name was changed to Broughton Hospital, in honor of former governor Melville Broughton. The main building designed by Samuel Sloan in 1875 is still used as the main building of the hospital complex. Its interior has been changed to suit changing needs. The institution has greatly expanded in the twentieth century, taking its place as a fully modern hospital for the treatment of the insane.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Burton Alva Konkle, John Motley Morehead and the Development of North Carolina (Philadelphia, William J. Campbell, 1922) p. 253; Hugh T. Lefler, History of North Carolina (New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 4 volumes, 1950) I, p. 366-367; Margaret Callender McCulloch, "Founding the North Carolina Asylum for the Insane", North Carolina Historical Review, XIII (1936), pp. 201-202.

² Executive and Legislative Documents, 1874-1875, Document 7, pp. 20-24, hereinafter cited as Documents, with appropriate year.

³ Documents, 1874-1875, Document 26, pp. 1-5; Laws of North Carolina, 1874-1875, pp. 336-338, hereinafter cited as North Carolina Laws, with appropriate date.

⁴ Samuel A. Ashe and others (ed.); Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1905-1917) IV, p. 436.

⁵ North Carolina Laws, 1874-1875, p. 76.

⁶ First Biennial Report of the Commissioners to Build the Western Insane Asylum, 1876, pp. 7-8, hereinafter cited as First Report.

⁷ Henry F. Whitney and Elsie Rathborn Whitney, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennesey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 558; Brittanica Encyclopedia of American Art (Chicago: Encyclopedia Brittanica of America Educational Corporation, 1974), pp. 520-521; Raleigh News and Observer, July 20, 1874; obituary.

⁸ First Report, pp. 8-10, p. 13.

⁹ Samuel Sloan, Specifications of the Workmanship and Materials to be used in the Erection and Construction of the Western State Asylum for the Insane, A copy of these notes may be found at the Southern collection of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE five

- 10 First Report, pp. 19-20.
- 11 First Report, pp. 13, 22-23, 25.
- 12 N. C. Laws, 1877, pp. 400-402.
- 13 Documents, 1878-79, Document 12, p. 9.
- 14 N. C. Laws, 1879, p. 331.
- 15 Journal of the Senate of North Carolina, 1879, p. 556.
- 16 Morganton Blue Ridge Blade, November 16, 1878.
- 17 W. B. Yearns (ed.), The Papers of Thomas Jordan Jarvis (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1969) XXIX, pp. 65-66, hereinafter cited as Jarvis Papers.
- 18 Jarvis Papers, p. 316-317.
- 19 N. C. Laws, 1881, p. 347.
- 20 N. C. Laws 1883, p. 599; Report of the Western North Carolina Insane Asylum, 1884, pp. 4 and 9.
- 21 Morganton News Herald, July 29, 1975.
- 22 Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Brittanica Encyclopedia of American Art. Chicago, Illinois: Encyclopedia Brittanica of America Educational Corporation, 1974

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM REFERENCES

A

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3	9	5	4	0	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by C. Greer Suttlemyre, Survey Specialist
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives & History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

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

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 10, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Executive and Legislative Documents. 1874-1886.

First Biennial Report of the Commissioners to Build the Western Insane Asylum. 1876.

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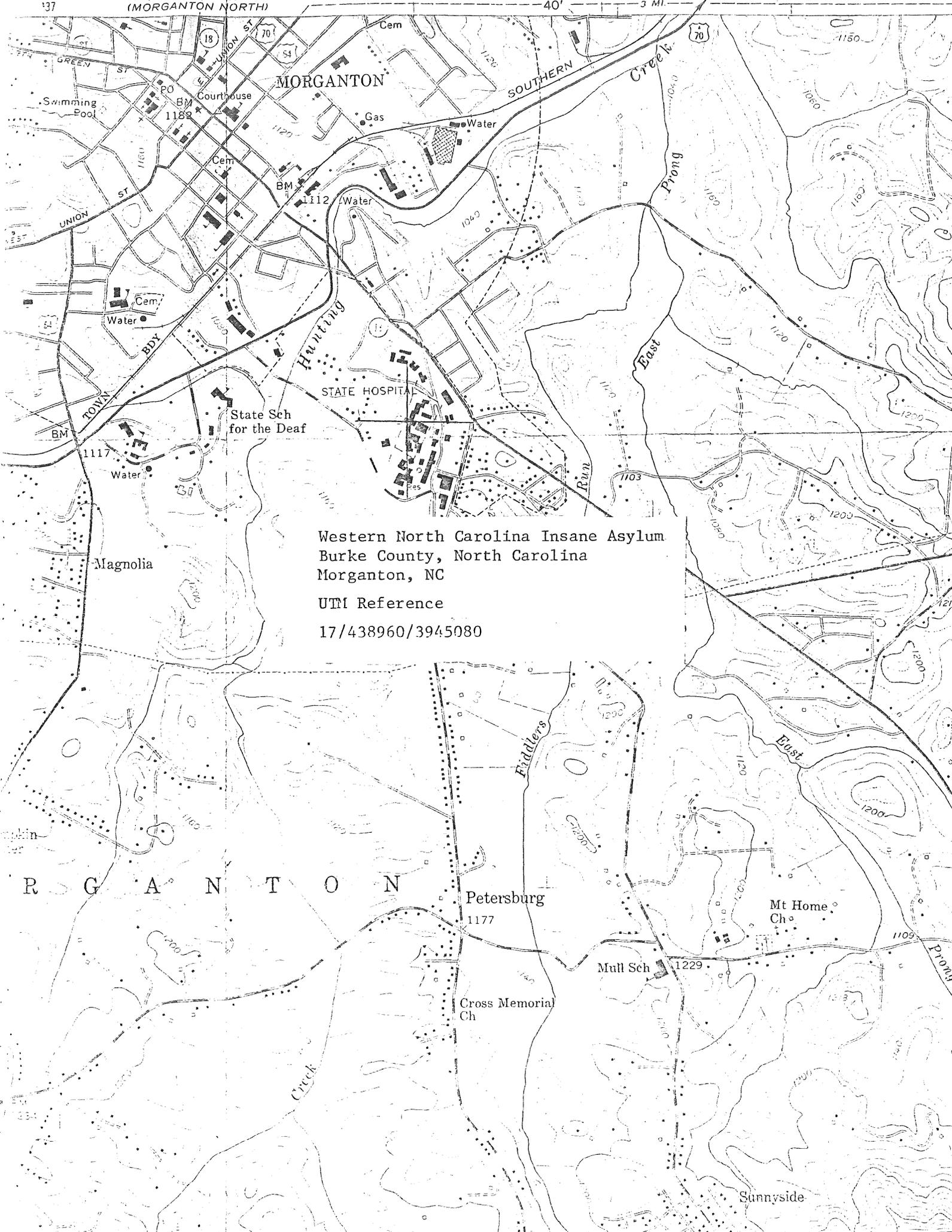
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Whitney, Henry F. and Whitney, Elsie Rathborn. Biographical Dictionary of American
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Western North Carolina Insane Asylum
 Burke County, North Carolina
 Morganton, NC

UTM Reference
 17/438960/3945080

R G A N T O N

