



THESIS

A CRIMINAL COURTS, PRISON AND HOSPITAL
BUILDING

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

BY

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PREFACE

The treatment of criminals on a sound scientific, humanitarian basis attracted my attention and I became interested in the idea of a hospital working in conjunction with the procedure of the criminal courtroom.

Persons who commit murder, rape, larceny, robbery or any of a score of other crimes on the criminal roster are apt to be abnormal from the psychic, or, more broadly, the medical standpoint. It is logical therefore, to prepare to treat them not as fit humans, but as patients badly in need of expert care for their various ills. At the same time, the advantage of general hospital facilities is apparent.

It did not take me long to discover that a building housing criminals must be, primarily, a prison. But there is no reason why the prison cannot have joined with it a hospital where the inmate may receive efficient attention with a minimum of delay and inconvenience, and where these two functions--detention and treatment--work systematically and as a matter of course, in conjunction with the court of law.

This, briefly, then, is the basis of reasoning upon which the building was designed.

In order to become perfectly familiar with the requirements of the problem, it was necessary to confer with a number of people, to whom I wish to express my thanks for valuable suggestions, especially:

Dr. Steven Sherman, Psychiatrist; S. S. Boochever, Secretary of the Department of Correction of the City of New York; Commissioner Schoenfeld, State Commission of Correction, New York; Mildred Lewis Graeter, Nurse at Bellevue Hospital; Dr. Samuel Feigin, formerly Assistant Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Bellevue Hospital; Warden Casey of Westchester County Penitentiary; Lawrence H. Lipskin, writer, and Jerrold Ruskin, student at the Yale Law School.

There are certain economic and sociological factors that must be given prime consideration before one may begin to plan a building of this type. Then there is the fact that prisons differ from the standpoint of function. This prison is a place of detention for persons awaiting trial and for others sentenced to short terms of imprisonment, not exceeding three months.

It differs greatly from the long-term institution for persons convicted of the more grievous offenses.

A great many of our county detention jails are located outside city limits, the reason having to do with land values principally. As a result, there is great loss of time and money in the conveyance of prisoners back and forth, to and from the courthouse, located in the county center, or, at the least, at a considerable distance from the place of detention.

Further, the mere need for conveyance from one place to another has provided considerable numbers of prisoners with excellent opportunities for escape. This constant inconvenience is in itself almost reason enough for combining the prison with the court, but there are other reasons.

Since most of the prisoners are not yet proven guilty of crime, and according to our laws, a man is innocent until proven guilty, there is no reason why they should not be so placed as to be reached conveniently by friends, family and attorneys.

These rights should not be neglected.

The prison housed in the same building as the courtroom offers, of course, great opportunities for the two institutions to function together with maximum efficiency as regards criminal procedure and personnel.

Another important advantage is the opportunity to place prisoners on the upper floors of the building, thus reducing the probability of escape from within the prison.

Aside from the obvious economic advantage of building one large structure rather than two others each about half its size, it is less expensive, also, to build vertically than horizontally, doing away with expensive connecting corridors, and providing better accommodations for the serving of food from a centrally located kitchen. For these reasons, therefore, it is desirable that the prison in the county center be located in the same building with the courtroom.

The advantage of joining the hospital with the detention prison and court will be obvious to anyone who has devoted himself to current penological problems and attitudes.

To begin with, the modern approach to the criminal, since it envisages the possibility that he is functionally or structurally ill, or at least ill-adjusted, provides for the medical factor.

Naturally, the ends of justice will be expedited where an expert is at hand to declare with certainty that a given prisoner, prior to trial and possible conviction, is a case for medicine and not the courts.

Failing so advanced an attitude, the fact remains-- and this has even been made the subject of legislation in some jurisdictions--that, after conviction and before sentence, the prisoner should be subjected to a psychiatric examination.

Science benefits when a murderer or psychopathic character is sent to a hospital for the insane instead of to the electric chair. In some cases, psychiatrists have been enabled to study a given prisoner as long as a decade, instead of conjecturing, after his electrocution, as to the probable course of his malady.

From the standpoint of the prisoner, the advantage of psychiatric attention is manifest. Where he suffers from a curable or slight psychic ailment, prompt treatment may return him to normal life where unscientific imprisonment, without regard for the possibilities of therapy, would have led him into graver disease.

Where the psychiatric hospital is in the same building with the prison and the courtroom, the expert may work with a minimum of inconvenience to himself, the patient-in-mate, and the court. This is of significance for economic reasons.

Also, in emergency cases, the time element ceases to be of importance, and the superior facilities of the modern psychiatric hospital on the scene--may be brought to bear on the case without delay.

The hospital for treatment of ailments other than the psychic is of obvious importance in a prison-court. Hitherto, where hospitalization and rapid conveyance have been necessary, the expense and unpleasantness of the situation have been all but forbidding.

Where a prisoner, or for that matter a member of the institution staff, requires medical attention, the utility of the hospital-on-the-premises is readily recognized.

The county prison should be the most advanced reformatory institution it is possible to design. Within its walls is housed the first offender--at the beginning of his career. Given the proper opportunity, what appears at first the beginning of a career of crime and confirmed law-breaking, can be changed to one of usefulness and aid to society.

Too many of our county prisoners allow the first offender to ^{prison?} ~~intercourse~~ ^{have} intercourse with hardened criminals, provide no means of avoiding contact with communicable diseases, and leave the prisoner only the unhappy recourse to sitting in a cell, brooding upon his misfortune, and perhaps, a sense of being unjustly treated by society.

Records show that, given the proper environment, more can be done for the reformation of the first offender in his first week in the county jail, than in six months in a State Prison.

By furnishing workshops, social service workers, recreation, means of segregation, sanitation, various provisions for exercise, books and music, education and complete medical attention, the seemingly impossible feat of transforming a bad egg into a good one can be accomplished.

Since it is impossible to put an unconvicted man to work, he should have some means of occupying his time. The various recreational units can be used as the prisoner wishes. He may use the workshops, read, do as he sees fit and according to the necessary regulations laid down by the warden.

It should constantly be kept in mind that only a limited number confined in a county prison are convicted of crime. Besides the convicted criminals there are housed in the prison witnesses, innocent persons, and those not yet convicted, and they should not be subjected to any hardships or humiliations.

It is well known that prison architecture is far behind penological thought. The prison architect can find little good in looking up previously planned prisons, and relying upon the past for the present and future. For the most part, little good will come from the suggestions made by the warden, since his main purpose is to keep the prisoner behind the prison walls, and if he accomplishes this, his job has been done.

The prison board will usually recommend what the warden desires. It is to other sources that the architect must turn and then attempt to convince the prison board. A thorough study of statistics must be made, to discover types of prisoners, and a rational approach to the problem must be made.

Instead of cells with mechanical ventilation, sleeping quarters should be provided with good light and air, and yet so constructed as to prevent escape. If the types of prisoners are studied, the building can be planned so that provision is made for group-incarceration, thus affording the means of segregating those diseased or incorrigible. Further, dormitories must be provided for those who are able to associate normally with their fellow-prisoners; provision must be made for limited and maximum security groups. The highest standards of sanitation can be maintained by using materials for walls, ceilings, and floors that are easily kept clean. The window space should be as great as possible and it is desirable that prisoners should not see men quartered in another part of the building. Along this same line of thought, the dining facilities may be taken into consideration.

The dining quarters should be provided for according to the demands resulting from careful study of each particular problem. There should be no precedent.

The large congregate dining room provides easy distribution of the food. But, on the other hand, it is known that most riots occur in the mess-hall. Also, it is useless to provide segregation if all the inmates are brought together three times a day. Therefore, let it be stated that food should be served efficiently and economically, with as little movement as possible.

The dining quarters should be so arranged that the inmates eat in the same groups as they sleep, and the food should be attractive and palatable.

The need of the inmates for recreation should be met sympathetically. Instead of their being required to exercise only in an outdoor yard, provision should be made for recreation regardless of weather conditions, and of such nature as to fit the needs of various types of prisoners.

If the entire institution is planned on an approach of this sort, the results are apt to come much closer to fitting our prison needs than if old blue-prints and present buildings are studied.

SPECIFIC MATTER

The site selected is in the City of Mineola, County seat of Nassau County, New York State. The plot is located on Fifteenth street, West of Mineola Boulevard. The building which forms the subject of this report will become one of a group of already existing county buildings. The site is almost level with a very slight rise from North to South. Being in the County seat it is very conveniently reached by the public and is on hand for use by all officials. Heating and power will be supplied by a power house that already exists for the present county buildings. The County police headquarters are located contiguous to the site selected and an underground passage is provided connecting the two buildings. The proposed Criminal Courts, Prison and Hospital Building will front on Fifteenth street, facing North. The size of the plot is approximately 500 feet x 400 feet the greater dimension running East to West. Provisions for parking for the public already exist and hence, no attempt has been made to provide for public parking. The present County prison is an antiquated structure as is the courts building, and the need for new facilities is great.

The criminal courts, of course, are the rooms most used by the public and are therefore made immediately accessible. In conjunction with the court rooms are various offices. Some of these, such as the jury rooms, district attorney's and clerks' offices, etc. are closely related to the courtrooms in function and are so arranged as to be convenient to them. They need not be immediately accessible to the public. The parole board, investigators, county attorney, sheriff, etc. constantly receive visitors whose main purpose in coming to the building is to see these county officers. Therefore, they are very conveniently located to the public and a semi-private corridor connects all the offices with each other, and in turn, with the courtrooms. The jury rooms are placed in the least used part of the courtroom wing and have quiet with little chance of being disturbed. All the offices working in direct conjunction with the courtroom (as stated in the program) are placed to be convenient to the courtrooms and yet accessible to the public. A connection to the court wing from the prison wing is provided, and a room for holding the prisoner awaiting his trial.

The main entrance lobby and succeeding lobbies above serve as the distributing point for the building to all parts of the building--to the courts, offices, or prison. This provides for maximum efficiency in controlling the people going in and out of the prison proper, as it provides for but one point of control.

A lobby for each of the prison floors was created. This is desirable since at no time should public and prisoners come into contact with each other.

Officials have private parking spaces and entrances.

The prisoners are brought in on the first floor and go through the original routine as indicated on the plan and then are distributed through the building. The administration offices of the prison are located on the second floor, with other necessary offices on the first floor. The women prisoners are located on the third floor and the hospital serves as a means of separating men from women and is easily accessible to both sexes.

For the women the quarters have been divided almost equally into dormitories and cells. Statistics show that 58% of the women held in the House of Detention for Women in New York City are afflicted with venereal diseases. The reason for this arrangement, therefore, is obvious.

The hospital provides for complete attention of patient-inmates for reasons already stated. All wards have southern, eastern, and western exposure and are attractive and function well with the working portion of the hospital. The women are located on the fourth floor, which is the first hospital floor, and the men on the fifth floor, which is the second hospital floor. Padded cells for alcoholics and narcotic addicts are provided, as well as private rooms for persons dangerously or very seriously ill. All wards and patients rooms are in quiet parts of the building away from all activity.

The X-ray room is easily accessible to all prisoners as it is greatly used in the treatment of skin diseases and venereal disease. Examination rooms are provided and can be used as a sort of out-patient department for prisoners requiring treatment of colds, cuts, or any injuries received on the premises. They also can be used by employees. The psychiatric division is provided with a hearing room, examination rooms, and general working space. A small operating suite is on hand for any emergency. Various utility rooms, baths and toilets are placed throughout wherever they are needed.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth floors, house the male prisoners. The sixth floor provides dormitories for those who can get along with their fellows; first offenders accused of less serious crimes; those who fall into the minimum security group, and are normal and healthy physically and mentally. These dormitories can be broken up into groups of six or seven so that there can be no dominating spirit within the group and so that the inmates may learn how to get along with their fellows, and have a proper respect for those around them.

The seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth floors are provided with individual cells for criminals who do not fall into the above categories. The more dangerous and the incorrigibles who fall into the maximum security group are placed on the upper floors, making escape more difficult.

The utility corridor separating one cell block from the other houses all plumbing fixtures and necessary repair work can be done without disturbing inmates. Also no pipes can be tampered with by the inmates.

The cells for inmates are arranged according to necessity as dictated by experience and evidenced by statistics, in groups of sixteen. Statistics show that groups of between 12 and 18 men provide best possibilities for segregation according to types--minimum and maximum security; diseased; incorrigibles; those mentally and physically afflicted but not in need of hospitalization; and that these groups provide for best control of the inmates. The dining facilities are best taken care of as will be explained below. All cells face large open window spaces and are separated only by bars providing good light and air and cannot be tampered with by the inmates. This does away with the central dark corridor with cells on either side and affords a certain amount of privacy to the inmates, and makes for better segregation. A guard's corridor encircles the floor. Showers terminate the cell blocks and a small laundry with automatic dryer is provided, since the prisoners are required to wash their personal articles of apparel. The equipment for each cell will be stated in the program below.

All food is served from the kitchen centrally located in the basement. Food is sent up to each group on steam trucks and placed on steam tables and prisoners help themselves. The advantages are obvious.

Since each group has its own dining facilities, no mess riots can occur; inmates eat with the same groups into which they are classified, and the food is easily provided with minimum amount of movement on the part of employees and prisoners alike. The tables can be folded against the walls and thus a recreation room is created.

The eleventh floor is equipped for recreation. Here a library is provided to which prisoners may come and where books are distributed easily on carts to all groups. The workshop is located between the library and large recreation room. Books are easily obtained for reference work in the shop and the shop in turn can be used to make stage sets for plays presented by the prisoners. The large recreation room may be used for exercise and religious services. The revolving altar stand provides for services of the various religions. The room is equipped with moveable horizontal bars, "horses", ping-pong tables, volley ball court, mats etc. There is a class-room for education of illiterates. The whole is run by social-service workers.

The roofs provide for outdoor decks and are caged in to prevent any possible attempt at suicide.

Two points of reception are provided for in the basement. One receives incoming packages for the prisoners which are easily distributed through the building; and all goods not pertaining to kitchen needs. The other point of reception is for the kitchen requirements only and material may be stored immediately upon receipt and brought in as needed.

The laundry is used to take care of all sheets, blankets, towels, etc. throughout the building.

Visiting is provided for each group, since it was felt that it was more efficient to bring the visitor to the prisoner rather than vica versa. The information office in the entrance lobby directs the visitors to the various floors and from there they are admitted to the visiting cubicles by the guards in charge.

The lobby on the recreation floor becomes a lounge for employees.

Outdoor recreation is provided. The various recreational units in and out of the building conform with one of the major points in the design of the prison-hospital--the segregation of prisoners according to type.

A CRIMINAL COURT, PRISON AND HOSPITAL BUILDING

THE PROGRAM

THE COURTS

1. Court Room--Supreme Court.
 - A. Working space consisting of:
 1. Judge's bench
 2. Witness chair
 3. Stenographer's desk
 4. Court Clerk's desk
 5. Jury box
 6. Witness chairs
 7. Counsel tables
 8. Seating for approximately 175 spectators.
 - B. In connection with the Courtroom:
 1. Judge's chambers
 - a. Ante-chambers
 - b. Stenographer's space
 - c. Washroom and toilet
 2. Jury's Retiring Rooms:
 - a. Wash rooms and toilet
 1. Male and Female
 - C. Offices of the various officials, such as:
 1. Court Clerk:
 - a. Main office
 - b. Assistants' space
 - c. Records

11. District Attorney
 - a. Main Office
 - b. Assistants' space
 - c. Records
 - d. Books.

The district attorney presides over the grand jury and should have his office adjacent to

111. The Grand Jury Room
- 1V. A room for the Press representatives

11. The County Court
 - A. The requirements are the same as the Supreme Court's.
 - B. In Connection with the Courtroom
(As in the case of the Supreme Court):
 1. Judge's chambers
 2. Court clerk
 3. Jury's retiring room
 4. Press-Room
111. Accessibility from Prison Wing with provision for prisoners awaiting trial.

County Officials

1. Parole Board:
 - A. Office of parole head
 1. Clerical space and assistants
 2. Hearing room for parole board.
 3. Records.

- 11. Investigators:
 - a. Space for four investigators
 - b. Assistants' space
 - c. Records.
- 111. County Attorney
 - Office and assistant
 - 1. small library
- 1V. Sheriff
 - a. Office
 - b. Assistants' space
 - c. Records.
- V. Deputy Sheriff
 - a. Office
 - b. Assistant
- VI. Commissioner of Jurors.
 - a. Office
 - b. Assistant.
- VII. Law Library
 - a. Small library for use of judges and lawyers.

THE PRISON AND HOSPITAL

- 1. The Administration
 - A. The Warden
 - 1. Office
 - 2. Secretary
 - B. Assistant Warden
 - C. Office of Head Physician
 - D. Living quarters for Warden

E. Secretary of the Prison-Hospital

F. Dining facilities and services.

11. Employees.

A. Mens dressing room

1. Showers, lockers etc. to accommodate about 40.

2. Dining facilities.

B. Women's dressing room.

1. Showers, lockers etc. to accommodate 10

2. Dining facilities

111. Prisoners:

A. Receiving

1. Waiting rooms

2. Registering and fingerprinting

3. Dressing rooms and showers

4. Examination rooms.

B. Cells:

The institution will house approximately 175 inmates of whom approximately 15 will be females.

Each cell should be equipped with:

1. Toilet and washbasin

2. Hospital cot

3. Table and chair

4. Automatic drinking fountain

5. Clothes hooks

6. Sliding doors with food-pass.

The dormitories should be provided with adequate facilities.

Cells should be of sufficient size for one person but should provide no possibility for placing two persons in one cell.

(Note:- Arrangements of the cells arrived at from the approach outlined in the specific matter above.)

C. Guards' control room.

D. Feeding facilities.

1. Dining quarters for each group equipped with necessary paraphernalia for distribution of food.

E. Visiting facilities.

F. Central kitchen.

1. An adequate kitchen from which food will be sent to the various units by elevator and dumbwaiter.

It must be well lighted and consist of:-

- a. Receiving
- b. Storage
- c. Preparation space
- d. Electric Refrigeration
- e. Dish-washing
- f. Garbage disposal
- g. Storage for food trucks
- h. General space for cooking etc.

RECREATION

- I. Library
 - a. Provision should be made so that the prisoner has as much reading matter as he may desire.
- II. A school room.
 - a. For ten prisoners
- III. Workshop
 1. Equipped for simple work
- IV. A recreation room:
 1. Exercising equipment
 2. Games etc.
- V. Outdoor Recreation Yard
- VI. Religious Worship.

THE HOSPITAL

- I. Examination Rooms
 - a. Equipped for complete diagnosis
 - b. X-ray space
 - c. Laboratory
 - d. Diet kitchen for each floor
 - e. Psychiatry
 1. Examination rooms.
 2. Hearing room
 - f. Utility Rooms etc.
 - g. Operating suite.
 1. Operating room
 2. Utility rooms for wash-up, anesthesia etc.

h. Women's Ward

1. A general ward
2. Two private rooms for more seriously afflicted
3. Utility rooms, baths, etc.

i. Men's Ward

1. A general ward
2. Semi-private ward
3. Three private rooms
4. Three padded rooms
5. Utility rooms, baths, etc.

LAUNDRY

Adequate to take care of all institution laundry.

Provision for future extension is possible by building vertically as desired.