Chapter III: Godding Era Landscape History, 1877-1899

A. GODDING ERA INTRODUCTION, EXPANSION OF THE HOSPITAL CAMPUS AND LANDSCAPE

During this era the hospital landscape was transformed beyond the Center Building as an impressive building campaign changed land uses. The park-like landscape was extended to the south, the arboretum tree collection was enriched, landscape furnishings were added and agricultural activities were shifted to new acreage to the east (see Figure III.1). New buildings formed courtyards and smaller, intimate spaces for patients, while service functions were relocated to the southern grounds. New plantings, drives, and paths also enhanced the hospital atmosphere during this time period.

In 1877 when Dr. William Whitney Godding succeeded Dr. Charles H. Nichols as superintendent, the St. Elizabeths patient population had risen above 700—nearly triple the original patient count planned. Prompt expansion of patient and service facilities was required to accommodate the patients and staff. To house and serve this increase, Godding adopted a new approach to caring for the mentally ill known as the “cottage-plan.” As the cottage plan was built out, Godding supervised the construction of 18 buildings, grouping them in clusters to the south of the Center Building while generally respecting the northwest-southeast building orientation established by the first hospital facilities. The treatment philosophy of the cottage plan called for placement of chronically ill patients, who needed less supervision than acute cases, in a comfortable, home-like setting. These were constructed on a smaller, more residential scale, in contrast to the institutional scale of the Center Building. The physical plan was to extend the hospital facilities as a series of individual buildings, grouped together in small clusters, set within a landscape of turf and trees. The new buildings were linked by a series of elevated bridges that framed the spaces. The courtyards between buildings were defined spaces for outdoor use furnished with fountains, benches and small roofed shelters.

Land uses shifted as well, taking additional open space of the plateau for patients and services. The increasing patient population and a related need for infirmary facilities resulted in construction of the larger Toner group (no longer extant) on former farm fields south of the Center Building. The four separate units, two intended to house epileptics (Oaks 1 and 2), created a new component of the campus. Development of patient care facilities at the hospital, including this complex, was linked to the acquisition of additional, agricultural land to the east across Nichols Road (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue) as agriculture on the West Campus...
was partially displaced when additional mental health treatment and service uses required the
removal of livestock from the grounds.

The landscape south of the Center Building was transformed as a result of Godding’s campus
expansion. During this period, St. Elizabeths Hospital maintained and extended the therapeutic
landscape. Improved grounds of the cottage building clusters were added to the earlier
landscapes of walks, turf, trees and gardens. Patients were encouraged to experience and enjoy
the bucolic setting, walk along the curvilinear circulation system and view the pastoral scenery
of broad tree canopy over lush green lawns. However, a scientific approach to treatment using
new methods began a shift away from the preceding moral treatment and its emphasis on the
healing power of nature and outdoor labor. This gradual revolution in treatment philosophy
implied changes in the use and purpose of the hospital landscape. In addition to the new patient
buildings and interrelated landscapes, the road system was extended to serve the new facilities
and connect the campus.

Within the designed landscape of the plateau, many exotic and native canopy trees were planted
during the Goddard years. The greenhouse area was developed for patient therapy providing cut
flowers for patient rooms and bedding plants for the grounds. The informal pond south of the
Center Building was formalized during this time period as a circular water feature. The
landscape was elaborated with summerhouses, bridges, and benches. Mapping for the period
documents orchard expansion on the northwest slopes. When Godding died in 1899, the West
Campus had been expanded and shaped into a beautiful and technologically advanced landscape
with a central hospital building and several distinct landscape and building clusters dispersed
throughout the grounds. On the plateau the St. Elizabeths West Campus landscape evolved into
an arboretum collection of native and exotic trees planted over expanses of turf with places to
rest and furnishings to use while the slopes were a mixture of orchards, fields and open
meadows.

The following sections of this chapter address the appearance, character and details of the St.
Elizabeths landscape as it evolved between 1877 and 1899. Graphic documentation, including
photographs, aerial photographs and maps of several vintages, was used to expound the
landscape as it evolved. Additionally, one period plan, 1899 Campus Period Plan, Plan III.3, was
developed to graphically portray the St. Elizabeths landscape during 1877 based on a variety of
documentary sources. Highlighting the landscape character and details for the selected historical
period, Plan III.3 is included at the end of this chapter.

Overall graphic sources presented in this report include six maps and 19 photographs, for a total
of 25 graphic images. Information from these sources graphically represents the documentation
of the character and features of the St. Elizabeths landscape through time. This collection of
images is cited in the text and presented with explanatory captions, dates, source information and
the digital image file number.
The Godding-era landscape history spans 22 years from 1877 to 1899. The following narrative is chronologically organized with respect to thematic topics based on Godding’s cottage plan and new construction, the service landscape, agriculture and grounds, and infrastructure.

B1. The Cottage Plan and New Construction at St. Elizabeths

The spatial organization of the campus changed with the development of new treatment facilities according to the Godding’s cottage plan. The development of scientific knowledge in the treatment of the insane was applied in advances at the hospital, which altered the West Campus landscape. The therapeutic landscape inherited from the previous era was enhanced with the addition of new knowledge of the natural world and with new construction.

In 1877, Dr. William Whitney Godding became superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane. The landscape entrusted to Godding’s stewardship was an ideal setting for his future vision for the hospital. With room for growth on the level upland portion of the site, Godding recognized the value of the property

[D]iversified with picturesque ravines and wooded slopes, is unsuited for cultivation, and will always remain a ramble and pleasure-ground for the recreation of the inmates. The grounds immediately surrounding the hospital buildings are laid out with walks and drives through lawns which have been planted with trees, with here and there groups of shrubs and flowers. The quiet beauty of these surroundings, heightened as it is by the glimpses of the river, with vistas of the city and Capitol beyond, make it one of the charming spots for which the vicinity of Washington is famous, and one well named by the first settlers in its secluded loveliness, ‘Saint Elizabeth.”

In 1879, the first expression of the cottage plan started with the construction of Atkins Hall. Located immediately south of the East Lodge (Building no. 30), Atkins Hall was the first “cottage” built at St. Elizabeths and represented a movement away from the congregate care philosophy of the Center Building. These segregate care facilities were designed on a residential scale for quiet, chronically ill patients who needed less supervision than more acute cases (see Figure III.2). In addition to providing home-like atmosphere for its patients, the cottages could be more easily funded because they were less expensive than adding wings to the main hospital building. The following year, the second segregate care facility—called “Relief” (Building no. 32) due to its purpose of relieving overcrowded conditions—was completed southeast of, and at a ninety-degree angle to, Atkins Hall. By this date, Godding had begun to develop the new pattern of spatial organization with the cottages, as indicated by the annual report, “[I]t will be seen how easy it is to extend this plan of detached buildings to the decided advantage of certain classes of the insane.”

In the following years, Godding would make reference to the cottage plan and the benefits it provided for patients.

The expansion of the cottage plan continued throughout the 1880s as new buildings and landscapes were constructed. Construction of the Home building (Building no. 36) and Rest
(Building no. 40) began in 1883. Under the supervision of Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark, the new patient residence Home created a three-sided courtyard through its location directly south of Atkins Hall and at a 90-degree angle to Relief (see Figure III.3). While these buildings bore an axial relationship to the Center Building, the orientation of their doors and primary elevations in relation to each other and the courtyard was distinct from the original hospital buildings, helping to establish a sense of separate accommodation for the patients housed there. Also completed during the year was the Rest, the hospital’s mortuary and pathological laboratory, which was located near the stables south of the Center Building.

While construction progressed on new campus buildings, work on the grounds was also pursued in the early 1880s. Paving of the path system, planting of shade trees, the building of summerhouses, and the placement of outdoor benches occurred in the early 1880s. The path system became formalized with the construction of asphalt paths over the existing clay trails. Since walking was one of the main recreational pursuits at the hospital, the new paving material was justified by preventing the female patients from getting muddy during the wet season. The shade trees were probably those donated by the “Parking Commission of the District of Columbia,” which the annual report thanks “for a very liberal donation of five hundred shade-trees for the beautifying of our grounds.” The report states that the trees “have been planted beside the recently made walks and roads, or grouped about the new buildings, where there is still room for more.” The Parking Commission was an informal body of three individuals appointed by what was then Washington’s territorial government to recommend the kinds of trees to be planted in the city’s public grounds. The body also sought out suppliers for these needs.

The location of the summerhouses was not depicted on the 1883 Ground Plan of St. Elizabeths (see Figure III.4); however, a plat that accompanied the 1895 Annual Report for the hospital located a summerhouse slightly southeast of Relief—the location of one of the current summerhouses (Building no. 206; see Figure III.1). Each of these outdoor amenities was important for the recreational pursuits of the hospital’s patients.

In addition, other recreational pursuits were facilitated within the hospital grounds. Throughout the year entertainers such as John Philip Sousa’s Marine Corps Band offered dramatic and musical entertainment. Summer months allowed for outdoor events to be staged. For what appears to be a short duration, a zoological garden was started in an unknown location at St. Elizabeths. The zoo began with the donation of a bear cub in 1882 although the topic was not mentioned in records for subsequent years.

The construction season at St. Elizabeths Hospital was bustling again in 1884. The upland plateau became populated with additional structures and the “pleasure grounds” surrounding them. So much of the arable land was taken up by new construction that Godding requested that Congress purchase additional farmland for the hospital. The three buildings completed during the year were Home (Building no. 36), Retreat (Building no. 6, also called Pine), and a new kitchen (Building no. 45). With the completion of Retreat, an extension of the East Wing of the main hospital complex, and the detached building Home, Godding pursued both congregate and segregate care simultaneously.

By July of 1885, the detached dining hall (Building no. 33) and a shop for cabinet work by patients (no longer extant) were under construction. The dining hall became the fourth side of
the courtyard established by the construction of the Atkins, Relief, and Home buildings. The hospital received additional shade trees from the District of Columbia Parking Commission, along with a number of plant cuttings from Col. John M. Wilson, the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds received the following year. Wilson was the delegated officer in charge of the care and maintenance of federal buildings and grounds in Washington, lodged with the Chief Engineer of the Army. The labor force maintaining St. Elizabeths’ grounds in 1886 consisted of three male attendants who worked exclusively with organized groups of patients. Work accomplished included “mending roads, excavating for buildings, raking the lawns, and digging in the vineyard.”

The campus was constantly improved in order to provide better services to patients and staff. In 1887 appropriations were received for enlargement of both the East Lodge (Building no. 30) and the West Lodge (no longer extant), and the additions were completed during the year. Also under construction was Howard Hall for the criminally insane. Howard Hall, a double L-shaped building with interlocking wings, offered a unique type of courtyard. The north wing of the building was built first, as indicated on the 1895 Geodetic Survey (see Plan III.1). The final courtyard was a “hollow square, inclosing a perfectly secure ground where the inmates can be at will in the open air and sunshine. Here they can grow plants, keep their pet birds and animals and make it their home.” When the second half of the building was completed in 1891, an enclosed area of more than one fourth of an acre provided outdoor space for shade trees as well as for gardening.

The Toner Building, an infirmary or “hospital pavilion” south of the service buildings, was opened in 1890 (see Figure III.5). The Toner Building represented the first patient-care building facility constructed on this area of former farmland. As with other buildings constructed during this period, efforts were made in the design and landscape of the building to give patients the opportunity to experience fresh air and sunshine. “The Toner Building [was] … sufficiently removed from other departments of the institution to insure quiet and the absence of all unpleasant suggestions from the wards of the active and violent insane.” Efforts were made to facilitate the outdoor recreation of patients. “There are broad piazzas for the inmates, with windows to the floor opening on them. Then there are wide lawns, with great oaks and spreading beeches, where the convalescents may lie at ease in their shadow or sit and smoke and take in the healing that is in the air and sunshine. A pleasant walk through the fields, or through a well-lighted subterranean passage in inclement weather, connects this with the asylum world where it lies apart.” J.M. Toner, president of the hospital’s board of visitors, gave St. Elizabethe a sundial to be placed on the grounds of the building bearing his name.

That same year, a larger monetary gift provided funding for Burrows Cottage (Building no. 18), which was donated by Mrs. C.Z. Burrows, the mother of a private patient at the hospital. St. Elizabeths, like other public hospitals placed restrictions on admission of private patients. By donating money for the cottage, Mrs. Burrows ensured that her daughter would have continual care. Burrows Cottage is the only patient building ever constructed north of the Center Building (see Figure III.6). Also constructed that year was an engine house and tower (or firehouse; Building no. 41).
With new buildings being constructed, plans for the growth of the hospital involved improving the existing circulation system. Road and pathway patterns and associated grounds underwent changes to accommodate the placement of future buildings. The establishment of a road linking Toner to the older part of the hospital was a major alteration in circulation at the hospital around 1892. On the 1895 “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” a roadway extended south from the service area and looped north in front of Toner (see Figure III.7). Major changes in the road from the hospital’s northern gate to the area south of the Center Building were necessitated by the construction of two new buildings in 1893. The two pavilions, Dix nos. 1 and 2 (now Holly and Linden, Buildings nos. 29 and 28), were constructed for female epileptic patients were located immediately north of the East Lodge. An earlier road, shown on both the 1860 Topographical Plan of the Grounds and on the 1895 Geodetic Survey reached the area behind the Center Building by a path north of the East Lodge. On both maps, the road was lined on each side with trees. As a result of the construction of the Dix Buildings, the road was diverted further south, generally as it is today. Subsequent depictions of the grounds, such as those accompanying the 1895 annual report, revealed the new course of the road south of the East Lodge and north of Atkins Hall. The alternating rows of evergreen and deciduous trees in the location of the original road remained standing after the removal of the road. Of these trees, the large allée of oaks persisted into the present.

For administrative and therapeutic purposes, patient areas on the West Campus were divided by 1895 into five groups, each of which housed related classifications of patients. In a few instances, the grounds associated with a group of buildings were differentiated or separated from the others. The “female department,” for example, included the East Wing of the main hospital building (Building no. 3), the East Lodge (Building no. 30), Burrows Cottage (Building no. 18), and the Dix buildings (Building nos. 29, 28, and 8, respectively). The annual report for 1895 stated that “This group has its own distinct grounds.” Separation of the female department’s grounds may have been through the use of the single-rail fences that appear in photographs of the period (see Figure III.8). Howard Hall (no longer extant) comprised its own patient group and was “provided with grounds lying outside the building,” although again the manner of the separation is not specified. The “eastern group,” which included Atkins, Relief, Home, and the Detached Dining Hall (Building nos. 31, 32, 36, and 33, respectively), also had its own “distinct grounds, comprising about 8 acres, that are lightly inclosed [sic] to afford greater freedom to its occupants. The grounds have been tastefully laid out with gravelled walks, planted with trees and flowering shrubs, and made attractive with convenient seats and shaded summer houses.” J.C. Simpson, the head of the detached buildings group, later said that he was responsible for the landscape treatment, describing this area as “a little park that I made myself” (see Figure III.3 and III.9). The “southern group” consisted of Toner and three buildings under construction (Oaks 1 and 2, and the group’s kitchen; no longer extant; see Figure III.10). Physically separated from the rest of the hospital buildings by a ravine, the group also received attention to the landscape. “All about the Toner Building outdoors is made inviting to the eye with its flowers and lawns and restful shadows.” The final patient area was defined within the Center Building, with no identification of associated grounds.

Construction on four cottage-type pavilions organized around a small courtyard had progressed by 1898. The Allison buildings (Building nos. 23-26) were planned to house soldiers and sailors from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The ability for infirm patients to travel...
out of doors was a primary design requirement of the new complex. Connected to the Relief and Home buildings, the Allison buildings afforded “an indoor and outdoor provision… that is more liberal and inviting than anything that has hitherto been developed at St. Elizabeth.” Simpson later stated that the Allison buildings were constructed within the detached buildings enclosure. Photographs included in the annual report show fences surrounding the buildings and trees already in the yard (see Figure III.2). Construction of the Allison buildings on the eastern grounds of St. Elizabeths reinforced the segregate care associated with this portion of the site. Also completed during 1898 was an enlargement of the Rest (Building no. 40).36

Beautification of the grounds with trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and bulbs continued to form an important activity in the late 1890s. The 1897 annual report thanks “Miss Tuckerman” for her “generous gift of flower seeds and bulbs.” Since the report states that, with this gift, “the female patients might be tempted to outdoor work,” it was possible that the superintendent planned for the seeds and bulbs to be used in the “female department” located in the East Wing of the main hospital building, the Dix Buildings, and Burrows Cottage. The early plantings on the grounds became a source of pride for the hospital. By 1898, magnolia trees had been well enough established at St. Elizabeths for the annual report to boast that “the nation’s Capitol has no ivy-mantled towers and no southern magnolias than can compare with” those of the hospital (see Figure III.11).38 Paving in the form of brick walks was also completed as a result of the constant development of the hospital. Godding requested the extension of the brick pavements in 1898, calling the work “essential to the proper policing and general tidy appearance of the whole.”39

Though construction activities were prevalent throughout Godding’s tenure, close attention was paid to the importance of the hospital’s setting and relationship to the downtown of Washington DC. In the annual report of 1880, Godding praised the site planning for the institution and noted, “While a hospital for the insane should be built apart from the town, that ought not to be hidden from view; there is less of the feeling of isolation when one looks upon the moving panorama of boats upon the river, and there is society in the evening lights of the city beyond; it is the calm presence of the world outside without its distracting roar” (see Figure III.12).40 In the early superintendence, the significance of the therapeutic value of landscape continued from Nichols superintendence into the early years of Godding’s tenure. He wrote, “No insane person is injured by natural beauty; greensward irritates no nerves however sensitive; those who pass by the flowers to-day may turn to them with delight to-morrow; so, it is well to widen our green lawns and brighten the walks with roses.”41

Expansion of facilities as well as hospital territory was a constant factor throughout the period. In fact, Godding’s last effort as superintendent of St. Elizabeths was an attempt to further expand the campus territory. In 1899, Godding sought to acquire some 70 acres of land southwest of the West Campus in order to separate “the insane of the Army and Navy… from the United States convict and District indigenous insane.”42 The bill, authorizing the purchase of Wilson Park was reported by the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds in February but was not passed. Three months later, William Godding died on May 6.43 His role was assumed by Dr. A.H. Witmer until a permanent candidate could be located. Godding’s legacy at the hospital continued with the search for funding in order to add “broad piazzas” to Atkins Hall. The piazzas were added in 1899 and served as a reminder of the deceased superintendent’s role in growing the campus.44
B2. The Service Landscape

The service landscape also expanded under the direction of Godding. Until this time, the service section of the hospital had been confined to the laundry, shops, and farm buildings at the edge of the ravine. Other service functions were located within the confines of the Center Building. However, as space was valued for the increasing numbers of patients, service functions such as a bakery, boiler house, kitchen, gas house, and greenhouse were relocated to smaller buildings throughout the hospital landscape.

Construction of the bakery (Building no. 46) and a boiler house (no longer extant) in 1878 removed these service functions from the Center Building and expanded the service area to the south. Removing the boilers from the Center Building required a system of pipes to carry the steam from the boiler house to the patient-care facilities. This pipe system eventually manifested itself in tunnels connecting the boilers and the patient buildings. While it is unclear when the first tunnels were built for St. Elizabeths, tunnels were recorded in the “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” that accompanies the 1898 annual report (see Figure III.13). A larger stone boiler house (later Ice Plant, Building no. 52) was constructed in the ravine south of the laundry and machine shop in 1892 (see Figure III.14). The boiler house provided steam for heat and cooking in the hospital buildings and represented the progression of scientific advances at the hospital.

In 1881, a “Gas House” was constructed south of the stables, as noted on the 1883 “Government Hospital for the Insane Ground Plan” (see Figure III.5). Since the 1873 “Topographical Map of the Site and Lands of the Government Hospital for the Insane near Washington D.C.” placed the gas house in the laundry and shop complex west of the stables, the 1881 gas house appears to be a new building and represents the continued expansion of St. Elizabeths’ service landscape.

Two years later, a kitchen was built and sited next to the bakery, expanding the service landscape in the immediate vicinity of the Center Building. The kitchen was connected to the Center Building with a covered passage through which the food cart was pushed into the hospital.

Attempts were made to acquire funding to expand the greenhouse facilities in 1881 and again in 1888 to replace the greenhouse structure. At the time of the second request, Godding noted that the “little wooden frame, never worthy of the name of greenhouse, but which, with a few cold frames, has for years furnished us all the bedding plants that have made our lawns beautiful.” Two years later, however, it was still in use. The annual report for 1890, calling it a “propagating house,” reported that it had “for many years afforded us the early tomato and egg plants [sic], with hundreds of bedders for our lawns.” However, by 1898 new greenhouse facilities had been built (see Figure III.15).

While additional structures were being built within the St. Elizabeths West Campus, other structures were removed from the landscape. In the late 1890s, the “old pens and outhouses” that were part of the piggery near the stables were removed to make room for a new laundry building (see Figure III.16). Additionally, issues of subsurface settling led to the abandonment of the
cabinet and machine or mechanic’s shop in 1892, although the structure remained standing. Settlement of the shop’s foundations made it unsafe for work to continue. In the 1891-1892 annual report, Godding reported that the troubles with the building were due to its construction partially over filled ground. One year later in an unknown location and presumably on more stable ground, a small store was constructed and run for a time by a patient named Cutter.

B3. Agriculture and Land

Agriculture and additional lands were of value to the hospital as an integral component to the patients’ economic and social life. As was his custom, Godding started each annual report with a statement of St. Elizabeths’ varied grounds. In 1880, he commented that workers expanded the hospital orchard during the year and that the vineyard had become productive. The annual harvest of grapes was about eight tons. In the same year a peach orchard, planted when Godding came to the hospital, began to yield its crop. Due to the success of the first orchard, another 300 peach trees were laid out. These complemented the 300 standard pear trees and 400 apple trees in the old orchard. Orchard areas were located on northern and southern portions of the plateau according to the 1895 Geodetic Survey (see Plan III.1). Around 1880, a new piggery was established on a parcel outside of the West Campus which allowed for the transfer of the swine herd from the hospital grounds. The important social function of the farm landscape cannot be overstated. In addition to the benefit of varied and diverse labor, Godding wrote that the farm “gives space for walks and recreation to a large proportion of the inmates, and is the most salubrious of all possible surroundings for so extensive a pile of buildings…The pleasing variety of country fields and woods is a relief to the necessarily monotonous life of the insane.”

Though the agricultural lands provided important social functions, the land was often the first to be built upon for additional hospital facilities and buildings. The 1883-1884 Annual Report requested $6,000 from Congress to purchase additional farmland due to the increased number of hospital buildings constructed: “That portion of the hospital plateau which is best suited for farm products has been seriously encroached upon by the ground having been taken up to a considerable extent for the sites of detached buildings and by the widening of lawns and pleasure grounds about them.” Associated with larger landscape changes in the late 1880s, the hospital’s “swine and neat cattle” were removed from the old stables near the hospital to a nearby farm by 1889. The stables were used by the hospital’s horses, mules, farm wagons, carriages, and agricultural implements.

In 1891, the hospital campus expanded with the purchase of additional grounds. St. Elizabeths purchased more than 400 acres of farmland approximately five miles to the south at the mouth of Oxon Creek. The farm would come to be known as Godding Croft. Additional lands were needed as an increasing patient population required more land for housing and agriculture to feed the large resident population.

B4. St. Elizabeths Infrastructure

During this 22-year time period, systematic upgrades occurred in order to improve the campus infrastructure, especially the water systems. The acquisition and storage of water was a perennial issue for the hospital. At this time, water was acquired both from springs on the site
and from the Anacostia River (see Figure III.17). Three springs in ravines provided excellent
drinking water, which was conveyed by the “somewhat primitive” method of an inmate bucket
brigade. This system of hauling water via bucket from the downhill springs to the buildings
located on the upland plateau illustrates the early, non-mechanized potable water system.

Water used in the hospital for all other purposes was pumped from the Anacostia River. Water
storage was augmented by the construction of a reservoir associated with a boiler house (no
longer extant) in 1878. An 1883 plan of the hospital buildings located the boiler house and a new
bakery (Building no. 46) directly behind the West Wing (Building no. 3) near the Dawes
extension (no longer extant). The reservoir was connected to a pump at the riverside wall by a
six-inch pipe. Additionally, an unknown number of hydrants were placed around the hospital
buildings and connected to the reservoir in case of fire.

During fiscal year 1883, the superintendent secured better water for the hospital “by sinking a
series of artesian or tubular wells near the pumping station at the river within the hospital
grounds.” Eighteen two-inch wells were dug 325-350 feet deep. Underground pipes carried the
water through a patent sand-chamber into a common reservoir. The reservoir was a cylinder of
boiler-iron, which was in the pump house.

A second reservoir was constructed in the early 1890s to the south of the Center Building. The
new basin was a protection against fire and replaced the naturalistic and scenic irregularly shaped
duck pond directly in the rear of the main building. This circular brick basin was 90 feet in
diameter and had a capacity of 200,000 gallons of water. The location of the former duck
pond is seen on the 1873 “Topographical Map” of St. Elizabeths, while the more regularly
shaped reservoir is shown on Plan III.1. The 1898 annual report included a plat that focused on
the “Home Tract” and illustrated the completed basin (see Figure III.13). The plat also depicted a
star-shaped pattern of walks within the loop of roadway that included the reservoir.

Another body of water was extant on the West Campus grounds during the late 1880s and early
1890s. Likely in conjunction with efforts to retain water on site, a second irregular kidney
shaped pond was constructed to the northeast of the Center building between the double allées of
the entrance drives. Shown on Plan III.1 the pond appears to have an island in its center, which
may indicate that it was built to be viewed upon or used by patients. Despite its use, the kidney
shaped pond was a temporary feature in the landscape, as it was removed by 1899 (see Plan
III.2).

The riverside setting of the hospital underwent changes in the early 1890s as the federal
government began filling the tidal flats along the Anacostia River. In the process, “mud bars
were thrown up, to cut off the swash channel on the river front adjoining the hospital grounds.”
The work had unexpected consequences for St. Elizabeths and likely the hospital water supply.
At low tides, “broad surfaces of mud, with acres of decomposing vegetable matter,” were
exposed, resulting “in an unusual number of malarial cases among our inmates and employés
[sic].”

During 1897, a new source of water was found as changes were made to the topography of the
hospital. Non-potable water was provided by a pump house built in 1894 near the Anacostia
River; however, a secure source of drinking water was necessary. A pure spring was located in “a spot in a grove on the western slope of the hill, always springy and unaffected by dry weather.” The spring emanated from a vein of gravel and silver sand that laid under the plateau at an approximate depth of 40 feet. Although the spring provided a low flow, the spring’s runnels were consolidated into basins and brought to a central reservoir with pipes (see Figure III.18). Even during the driest period, the spring produced a daily flow of about 5,000 gallons. “Every possible source of defilement has been guarded against, the hole carefully walled in and closed up, and now from this central reservoir is obtained all the water for tea and coffee and drinking purposes of the entire household.”

Protection of springs was a necessary precaution at the hospital. At an earlier date, the largest spring known as “Maple Spring” began to become contaminated as a result of the filling of a ravine.

C. GODDING LANDSCAPE UNITS, CHARACTER AND 1899 PERIOD PLAN

The following narrative describes what is known about the character of the landscape at the close of the nineteenth century when the campus had evolved under the tenure of two superintendents in a well-tended park-style that communicated both beauty and order. The period plan for 1899 reflects these conditions and draws on several historic maps and photographs to capture the developed landscape on the plateau and the surrounding agricultural and woodland areas. The character-defining features of the landscape are discussed referring to Plan III.3. The character-defining features described in the text include:

- Natural Systems and Features
- Land Uses and Cultural Tradition
- Spatial Organization and Land Pattern
- Views and Visual Relationship
- Topography and Drainage
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Constructed Water Features
- Landscape Structures
- Small-scale Features, Site Furnishings and Objects
- Archaeological Sites

The following text refers to Plan III.3 which portrays the entire 1899 campus landscape using the character-defining features listed above. This 11”x17” fold-out plan contains color-coded enumeration of landscape materials and composition as identified from available source material at a scale of 1”= 300’. Existing conditions structures, circulation, and vegetation are highlighted with different colors by type and material and listed in the symbol key.

Several photographs and maps make up the source material for the 1899 Period Plan of the hospital during Godding’s tenure. The primary source maps for the years 1877 to 1899 include:
ST. ELIZABETHS WEST CAMPUS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
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1895  “U.S. Coast Geodetic Survey,” 1895, Washington DC: United States Coast Geodetic Survey, 1895 (Plan III.1)

1898  “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings,” Annual Report, 1897-98, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1898 (Figure III.1)

“Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract,” Annual Report, 1897-98, Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1898 (Figure III.13)

1899  “Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat showing location and number of buildings on Home Tract, plate 1,” April 1899, Record Group 418, no. 16, National Archives (Plan III.2)

All plans for the period depict roadways and building placement. Only the circa 1895 Geodetic Survey depicts topography and vegetation. Most plans show the buildings on the plateau, with numbered keys to indicate building use. The 1895 and 1898 annual reports also include site plans that show the entire West Campus in the context of the hospital’s other properties (Shepherd Farm and Stevens Farm). The 1898 annual report includes more than two dozen photographs of the hospital’s buildings and grounds. These photographs show the landscape around individual buildings, such as the fence and trees around the Allison buildings, as well as landscape features, including a garden in an unidentified location and a path through the woods. More than 60 other photographs, mostly dating from 1897 and 1898, were taken during the period. Generally speaking, these photographs focus on individual buildings, but often capture aspects of the landscape, such as board walks and dirt roads. There are also photographs of landscape features such as the greenhouse complex and springs. The locations of some of the photographs are not identified, and other photographs depict hospital properties other than the West Campus. The historic images make it clear, however, that an effort was made to develop attractive areas on the site for the enjoyment of patients and staff.

C1. Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features of note in the St. Elizabeths Hospital landscape between 1877 and 1899 remain similar to those of the previous period. The prehistoric Anacostia Riverbank forms the foundation of the plateau upon which the hospital sits. Plan III.3 reveals that the river no longer abuts the northwestern edge of the property due to a federal channel filling program in the 1890s. The larger landforms of the site remain intact such that the hospital blends into the rural landscape of the topographic bowl that encircles downtown Washington DC. The agricultural fields and woodland ravines on the hospital grounds and surrounding region likely provide substantial habitat for a variety of prairie and woodland species that live near human settlements like the hospital and neighboring farms.
C2. Land Uses and Cultural Traditions

The land uses and cultural traditions of the 1899 landscape reflect the subsistence needs of the hospital and the prevailing notions of psychiatric treatment. By this time, the increasing size of the patient population requires additional land for housing and treatment as well as for agriculture. The largely self-sufficient institution must provide a varied diet and water to its resident population. While changes in technology and increasing familiarity with production on the hospital lands likely increase production, increased acreage under production is the primary mode of generating more crops. With the exception of orchards, this expansion largely occurs outside of the West Campus due to the growth of treatment and service facilities on the grounds. Godding’s implementation of the cottage plan results in a dispersal of building clusters into the south and east of the original hospital landscape, corresponding to Units 1 and 2. The northern tip of the hospital, Unit 3, remains in agricultural uses. Service infrastructure begins to develop with the stone Ice Plant in Unit 4 although the majority of the land cover in this area and farther west (Unit 5) is woodland or scrub.

The use of the therapeutic landscape persists in 1899 although its role in treatment shifts since the beginning of the period. The former emphasis on the calming effects of nature and physical labor derived from the “moral treatment” approach wanes as the field of mental health treatment changes toward more clinical and scientific approaches. At the same time, the elaboration of the grounds with new paths, additional shade tree plantings, expansion of greenhouses, and placement of planting beds indicates the appreciation and support of the evolving therapeutic landscape.

C3. Spatial Organization and Land Patterns

The spatial organization of the West Campus in 1899 relates to the topography of the plateau and the arrangement of buildings on site. The land pattern created by the fusion of the early linear plan designed by Nichols and the establishment of the cottage plan initiated by Godding forms a disparate pattern of building clusters found south and east of the Center Building. The building mass frames a central lawn area south of the Center Building where the circular reservoir pool is located. Courtyards, piazzeas, and other internalized outdoor spaces are created by the rectilinear arrangement of building units under the cottage plan. As noted above, the hospital grounds are divided into distinct care units with their own grounds: the central group around the Center Building; the female department including East Wing, Burrows Cottage, and the Dix buildings; Howard Hall and grounds outside the building; the eastern group including Atkins, Relief, Home, and the Detached Dining Hall; southern group including Toner and other buildings under construction. These different clusters contain their own paved walks, benches, and planted areas. A summerhouse was also associated with the Allison complex. Formal garden spaces were also contained within the nooks on the south side of the Center Building. Outside of the “home grounds” of Unit 1 and the new expansion into Unit 2, the slopes adjacent to the plateau encompass agricultural areas, the Civil War Cemetery, scrubland, and wooded ravines (See Plan III.3). The area north of the Center Building is maintained for scenic and recreational reasons. The spatial organization of these lands is determined by sloping topography, roads and walking paths, and vegetation.
C4. Views and Visual Relationships

With the fulfillment of the cottage plan and maturation and expansion of the tree collection by 1899, visual relationships within the West Campus are gradually determined by building mass and canopy trees over open turf. Outside of the core treatment area, long views out to the city and to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers remain similar to the previous period (see Figure III.12). Inside the central grounds, views are internal to the arrangement of each cottage cluster. Building massing and canopy trees create a vertical frame around the range of sight from most positions (See Figure III.3). The central lawn area with the circular reservoir offers a larger viewshed with additional long views toward the newly expanded southern cluster. From these central locations, distant views out from the plateau to the river and surrounding terrain are episodic and punctuated by building mass. Outside of the core development in Unit 1, sweeping vistas open out to the north and west over fields, orchards, wooded ravines, and the evolving river edge. Depending on the height of the vegetation in the wooded ravines of Units 2 and 5, panoramic vistas to the west may be present from the Toner and future Oak buildings of the southern complex.

C5. Topography and Drainage

Topography influences the growth of the hospital campus up to 1899 although the building clusters of the cottage plan require smaller areas of contiguous level land. The designed landscape on the high plateau begins to spread south from Unit 1 to Unit 2 during this period. Anthropogenic topographic changes are reflected in the shape of the ground plane in 1899. New buildings and tunnel systems necessitate some excavation although most new development appears to use the preexisting shape of the land. Similarly, roadways and paths fit the rolling terrain of the plateau and the slopes of Units 3, 4, and 5. The partial filling of at least two ravines is noted during the period in relation to the challenge of maintaining pure springs for the drinking water supply. The conversion of the naturalistic duck pond to the circular reservoir also involved changes to topography in Unit 1.

The importance of water on the campus is reflected in the campus landscape of 1899. Overland flow was diverted into the streams located within each ravine on the campus. Some stormwater in the building clusters may be conveyed to an underground pipe system. Waste water removal and fresh water capture are major components to the daily functioning and future planning of the hospital. Underground collection and drainage appear to be the preferred method of waste water removal at the turn of the century. This practice required careful coordination with the collection of spring-fed drinking water and non-potable river water for other uses. Annual reports document the efforts taken to preserve the quality of good springs including the elaborate construction of collection basins and headwaters protection (see Figures III.17 and III.18). With the contamination of a large spring known as “Maple Spring,” another primary drinking supply was found at an unknown location on the western hillside of Unit 5. It is very likely that the hospital also used other springs on the grounds. Water for other uses was pumped from a secure location near the river although changes to the riverbank may have affected the water quality and pumping system.
Design and management of vegetation becomes an integral component of the St. Elizabeths landscape by 1899. Even as emphasis on the role of the therapeutic landscape for treatment diminishes, the elaboration of the campus grounds for scenic and recreational enjoyment increases. Vegetation types on the West Campus include cultivated fields, orchards, forestland, scrub or other field cover, and park-like turf and trees. The farming landscapes of Unit 3, and possibly Unit 2, provide opportunities for patients to be involved in productive outdoor labor. Although pasture for livestock was displaced during the period, orchards of peach, apple, and pear show increased acreage. While the ravines throughout the grounds appear to be wooded through the turn of the century, scrub and fallow fields occur over much of the lowland along the western edge of the property and in places not under cultivation. A program of woodland maintenance was likely initiated under Godding’s superintendence, as indicated in photographs such as Figure III.18.

Beautification of the campus through landscape design and planting of garden beds and shade trees becomes increasingly important through this period. The new arrangement of treatment facilities not only allowed for discrete landscapes around each cluster but also contributed to the formation of a centralized lawn space. Lawn with turf and trees characterizes the vegetation of Unit 1 and the new southern cluster in Unit 2. The tree collection increased rapidly under Superintendent Godding through donations of hundreds of shade trees by the Parking Commission of the District of Columbia. The trees are planted throughout Units 1 and 2 of the campus. One location to receive additional trees is the main entrance drive leading to the eastern corner of the Center Building. Plans through the period show alternating plantings of evergreen and deciduous trees along the road. A second row of deciduous trees is planted approximately 30 feet beyond the first tree row (see Plans III.1 and III.3). The double rows remain in 1899 after diversion of the road in the early 1890s with the construction of East Lodge (Dix buildings nos. 1 and 2, currently nos. 29 and 28). Hospital records indicate that each distinguishable cluster of the hospital also maintains their separate grounds. The director of the eastern group, for example, develops the landscape around the Atkins, Relief, Home, and the Detached Dining Hall into a “lightly enclosed” “park” complete with gravel walks, trees and flowering shrubs, benches, and summer houses.74

Garden beds and flowering plants of all kinds are mentioned throughout the period as important aspects of the landscape. The south façade of the Center Building contains a formal garden with exotic plants, a planted fountain, and lily pond by 1898 (see Figure III.19). Though in the same relative location as the formal circular pond, the small size of the lily pond indicates that it is different than the larger, circular pond south of the Center Building. During the period, donated flower seeds and bulbs appear to be used at the female department around the Burrows Cottage and Dix Buildings (former East Lodge, now Holly and Linden). The hospital also uses a wooden propagation house to grow plants for beds throughout the campus. Signature plants associated with the grounds of the institution come into mature grandeur by the turn of the century. White blooms of Southern magnolia trees and green towers coated with English ivy become plants of pride for the hospital (see Figure III.11).
C7. Circulation

The circulation patterns established under Nichols continue to inspire development of the grounds under Godding. The curvilinear circulation layout, suggestive of designs by Andrew Jackson Downing, unfurl under the development of the cottage plan and expansion to the south. By 1899, the main entrance drive from the north gate is rerouted to the south in order to enter the core of the treatment compound. This movement to the south follows the direction of new construction and organization of space on the campus. *Plan III.3* shows that graceful drives that fit with the lay of the land are in place prior to the construction of new structures south of the original hospital layout. A new, gated entrance along Nichols Avenue also indicates that the hospital grounds are expanding toward the south in Unit 2 (see Figure III.20). As indicated by turn of the century photographs, gravel appears to be the prevalent paving material for roadways. Cobble gutters are also present in various parts of Unit 1 (see Figure III.11 and III.21). Additional agricultural drives and pleasure paths cross the northern and western hillsides of Units 3, 4, and 5. Path material includes packed clay, gravel, asphalt, and brick in 1899. Gravel paths are an improvement over weather-sensitive clay; however, in 1883 Godding notes that many of the paths on the West Campus are paved in asphalt. He also makes special note of the importance of brick paths around the new buildings to instill a sense of tidiness to the grounds. Some of the brick paths existing today date to the developments under Godding’s superintendence.

C8. Landscape Structures

The cultural landscape of the West Campus in 1899 contains landscape structures that contribute to the enjoyment of the grounds, functional operations of the hospital, and agricultural production. The beautification of the grounds under Godding includes the construction of new outdoor spaces complete with summerhouses. At least one 30-foot wide cross-shaped Victorian summerhouse is located near the eastern group in the southwest corner of Unit 1 by 1899 (see Figure III.3). A hexagonal comfort station or summerhouse is also present in the same “park” of the detached building complex (see Figure III.9). It is possible that vine covered arbors also provided color and shade for patients at the time. Landscape structures relating to the daily operations of the campus are also present in 1899. Water towers, gas storage facilities, and new, linear greenhouses enabled the hospital to function through the turn of the century. Additional structures would include brick and stone walls associated with new buildings such as the boiler house in Unit 4 (see Figure III.14) and the large spring constructed in 1897 (see Figure III.18). The West Campus also contained a variety of bridges on paths and drives that allowed travelers to ford streams in the ravines (see Figure III.22).

C9. Constructed Water Features

In addition to the expanded collecting basins for natural springs in the ravines, several designed water features exist at St. Elizabeths in 1899. A circular reservoir built in 1891 replaces the old duck pond south of the Center Building. The basin is constructed of brick and has a diameter of 90 feet. With a capacity of 200,000 gallons, the reservoir could be used for a variety of purposes in addition to adding an interesting feature to the campus. Two small water features are located within the formal garden in a niche in the south façade of the Center Building. The garden
contains a smaller basin with water lilies and a multistoried water fountain with plants cascading down the sides (see Figure III.19).

C10. Small-scale Features, Furnishings and Objects

Small-scale features, furnishings, and objects add to the character of the hospital landscape in 1899. Various fences formed enclosures both for patients and livestock. Low, single-rail metal fences define spaces around the Center Building (see Figure III.8). Single board wooden fences also defined areas in the grounds east of the “eastern group” and Allison complex (see Figures III.2 and III.9). Wooden picket fences were also employed near certain buildings and around the Civil War Cemetery (see Figures III.2 and III.23). Board construction of the cemetery fence included a wooden top rail. Some livestock enclosures are retained after the removal of the animals from the West Campus. It is likely that fences surround the agricultural fields to protect them from marauding deer and other animals. Although little mention is made of the formation of a zoological garden at the hospital, a small area may have been set aside for animals like the bear cub for a limited time. Hospital reports also indicate that patients also kept pet animals. Small-scale features of the hospital landscape include pet cages and bird houses. An elaborate pigeonaire, for example, is located in the courtyard of a building cluster (see Figure III.21).

Landscape furnishings such as benches or settees, gas lamps, wooden telephone poles, bollards, and urns make up another corpus of features that characterize the hospital landscape of 1899 (see Figure III.5 and III.8). Benches are placed throughout the grounds including the individual building clusters to permit patients to rest outdoors in the shade. Lamps showcased ornate designs of the poles and globes. Rounded iron bollards, stone bollards, and other miscellaneous landscape features such as potted plants and urns are also present on the campus (see Figures III.6 and III.8). Another group of landscape features is found in the active Civil War Cemetery of Unit 5. The headstones in the cemetery would increase in number as the years since the Civil War elapse and veterans pass away. A fence also marked the outline of the cemetery at the time (see Figure III.23).

C11. Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites on the West Campus at the turn of the century included prehistoric and historic subsurface remains predating the Godding years. Native American, colonial, and early American settlement remnants may have been present near the Anacostia Riverbank despite the beginnings of dredging and filling that altered the banks during the period. Surface traces of the historic wharf would have been visible at the time. Similar evidence of settlements may have been available in the fields of Unit 2 as they were being converted into treatment facilities and joined to the older core of the hospital. Since the northern drive at the Point of Unit 1 remained unchanged through 1899, the prehistoric artifacts including shaped stones that have been identified today constituted another archaeological site on the West Campus. Dumping in the ravine of Unit 4 created debris piles that offer contemporary archaeological potential (see Figure III.14).
CHAPTER III: ENDNOTES

26 During the project research process, multiple spellings of ‘Burrows’ were found. This report uses the spelling that was most prominent throughout all documentation. However, it should be noted that an alternate spelling may be ‘Borrows,’ in reference to Sarah C. Borrows, daughter of Mrs. Catherine L. Borrows of Washington, DC, a fairly prominent family in the local area in the 1890s.
29 *Annual Report*, 1892-93, 17.
36 *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives*, 1907, 2:1497.
37 *Hearings before the Special Committee appointed by the Speaker under a resolution of the House of Representatives*, 1907, 28.
Heritage Landscapes and Robinson & Associates, Inc.
building indicate that the survey was created after 1887 and before 1891 when the second half of the Howard building was constructed.

Figure III.1: “Government Hospital for the Insane, Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings” records the roads and structures of St. Elizabeths under the cottage plan in 1898. The plat is identical to the version in the 1895 annual report. It shows the original Blagden Farm parcel, totaling 189 acres with a pattern of interconnected curving drives. Development of the Anacostia River wharf increases since the 1870s. The railroad trestle, which appeared for the first time on the 1873 plan, affects development near the wharf, including a pump house (37) and a boiler house (38). The Shepherd Farm east of Nichols Avenue is acquired during this period allowing for expansion to the east. (CL-R-east and west campus plat 1898 an. rept.jpg)
Figure III.2: With green lawns and young trees as the setting, residential facilities of the hospital were expanded with cottages clustered around small, park-like landscapes providing space for outdoor recreation and contemplation. The Allison Buildings (1899) were among the “cottages” constructed during Godding’s tenure to provide a comfortable, home-like setting and included porches to provide opportunities to enjoy fresh air and sunshine. (CL-DC1450SE0P002.jpg)
Figure III.3: The view shows the shrub plantings in the foreground with a ground plane of evergreen and deciduous trees. The Home and Relief buildings lie behind two summer houses. The inner courtyard of the complex is visible between the two buildings. (CL-DC1345SE0P005.jpg)
Figure III.4: “Government Hospital for the Insane Ground Plan, 1883” depicts a series of service buildings constructed to the south of the Center Building as the hospital expanded and needed additional room for patients. Support services were relocated to individual buildings such as the “Bakery” in 1878, “Gas House” in 1881, and “Morgue” in 1882. (CL-R-RG 418 no. 15 1883.jpg)
Figure III.5: In the foreground of this view the wide, unpaved roads are marked with a central track. This view shows the 1889 Toner Building constructed as an infirmary and located along with three other structures, across a ravine south of the Center Building on former farmland. The surrounding landscape includes two trees flanking the building façade and clusters of deciduous flowering shrubs. The purchase of additional farmland across Nichols (now Martin Luther King, Jr.) Avenue made this change in land use possible. (CL-DC1472SE0PTO011.jpg)
Figure III.6: The setting of Burrows Cottage offered both small and large canopy trees set within a turf grass ground plane with smaller landscape elements such as potted plants in baskets and urns near the building. The structure was the only patient building ever erected north of the Center Building and was funded by Mrs. C.Z. Burrows to ensure the continuation of private care for her daughter. (CL-R-burrows1891.jpg)
Figure III.7: “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” illustrates the development of the grounds at St. Elizabeths by 1895. New buildings included the Toner building, Burrows Cottage, Relief building, and a barrage of smaller service buildings. Also note the large circular reservoir south of the Center Building and the loop road east of Toner. (CL-R-west campus plat 1895 an. rept.jpg)
Figure III.8: Round stone and iron bollards delineated the edges of lawn panels and adjacent vehicular circulation routes at the hospital. These bollards, located south of the Center Building defined the spaces and prohibited traffic from crossing over the central lawn circle around 1898. A low metal rail is also visible in the background. (CL-R-P8270559.jpg)
Figure III.9: The landscape of St. Elizabeths was altered much with new plantings of magnolias and the erection of summerhouses and fences. A hexagonal summerhouse, shown in this 1898 view, provided patients and staff with sheltered areas to sit and enjoy the grounds. Also note the small magnolia and simple post and board wood fence. (CL-DC1472SE0P020.jpg)
Figure III.10: The development of Godding’s cottage plan is evident in the expansion of patient facilities, such as the Oaks buildings, to the south of the hospital property. The addition of numerous landscape elements such as wooden telephone poles in conjunction with the institutional architecture shows technological advancement on the grounds at St. Elizabeths around 1897. Plantings of shrubs and trees also enhanced the landscape. (CL-DC1472SE0P040.jpg)
Figure III.11: The addition of numerous trees in the hospital grounds was an important step in creating the foundation for the landscape that exists today. Plants offered picturesque views, shady resting spots, and therapeutic qualities for patients. The ivy-covered towers of the Center Building became an iconic image for the hospital during the period. (CL-DC0066SE0P027.jpg)
Figure III.12: The hospital’s picturesque setting was complemented by open views and the relationship to the downtown of Washington D.C. from across the Anacostia River. The scenery and broad vistas to the capital offered a sense of connectivity to the city, though St. Elizabeths was located across the river. (CL-R-P8270520.jpg)
Figure III.13: “Government Hospital for the Insane: Plat Showing Number and Location of Buildings on Home Tract” from the 1898 annual report illustrates the core of the campus near the end of the century. Under Godding’s cottage plan, the development of the service and residential aspects of the hospital create a patchwork of open spaces surrounded by dispersed structures. The loop road to the south implies the location of future facilities. (CL-R-1898 site plan)
Figure III.14: “The Old Stone Boiler House Which Supplied Steam for Heating and Cooking to all the Buildings of the Old Section of the Hospital. It Is Now The Ice Plant.” This 1897 photograph of the boiler house shows the growth of the service sector in the ravine. Debris in the ravine creates contemporary archaeological potential. (CL-DC1461SE0P002.jpg)
Figure III.15: An 1898 view of the new greenhouse facility at St. Elizabeths shows the long glass structure used in producing food for hospital patients. The structure was built after funding requests in 1881 and 1888 and replaced a smaller, wooden propagation house. A horticultural area is visible in the foreground. (CL-DC1449SE0P005.jpg)
Figure III.16: A simplistic service landscape of lawn, trees, paths and drives was created adjacent to the therapeutic landscape as new service buildings were grouped to the south of the Center Building. To accommodate the increase in population, utility buildings such as the Laundry (1899) expanded and relocated these service functions from the basement of the Center Building and its wings. (CL-DC1472SE0P034.jpg)
Figure III.17: Secure sources of drinking water were crucial in the expansion of the hospital between 1877 and 1899. Several artesian wells collected water from springs on the slope of the plateau. Wells were marked with local stone and steps, as shown in this photograph from 1897. (CL-DC1472SE0P052.jpg)
Figure III.18: “New Spring.” The spring collected water from subsurface flows approximately 40 feet below the top of the plateau and produced around 5,000 gallons of water per day. The stone construction of the consolidated spring built in 1897 matched the craftsmanship of walls near the boiler house (Ice Plant). The relatively clear understory of the “western slope of the hill” indicates a program of woodland maintenance.  (CL-DC1472SE0P030.jpg)
Figure III.19: “In the Reservation.” Small gardens throughout the landscape at St. Elizabeths fostered outdoor, therapeutic stimulation for patients. This formal garden south of the Center Building contained large herbaceous plants, an ornamental fountain, and circular lily pond. The composition indicates a high level of maintenance. (CL-R-garden 1898.jpg)
Figure III.20: Substantial work was done on several walks and roads of the St. Elizabethts circulation system during the last decades of the nineteenth century. A new gated entrance to the southern portion of the grounds along Nichols Avenue, shown here, was one such improvement. The photograph shows a crew working outside of the boundary wall at the intersection of the stone and brick construction. (CL-R-P8270533-wall.jpg)
Figure III.21: “Pigeon Lofts.” This cluster of pigeon houses demonstrates the combination of a functional use, the cultivation of squab for the table, and a picturesque presentation as a landscape feature. The tradition of pigeon houses or pigeonaire’s set in the landscape is a strong southern tradition. (CL-DC1472SE0P058.jpg)
Figure III.22: “In the Ravine.” Bridges allowed staff and patients to travel over the numerous streams in the wooded ravines of the hospital grounds. This 1898 photograph reveals a wooden bridge above a deep but dry streambed. (CL-DC1472SE0P075.jpg)
Figure III.23: A white wood board fence with a top cap rail defined the boundaries of the Civil War Cemetery in this 1897 photograph. The fence and the cemetery grave markers were two prominent landscape features on the densely wooded northwestern hillside at that time. (CL-DC1472SE0P053.jpg)