

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, ATKINS HALL  
(Building No. 31)  
2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast, 518-542 Redwood  
Street, Southeast  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS DC-349-T  
*HABS DC-349-T*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, ATKINS HALL (BUILDING 31)

HABS NO. DC-349-T

**Location:** 518–542 Redwood Drive SE, Washington, D.C., on the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital

**Present Owner:** General Services Administration, United States Government

**Present Use:** Vacant (rehabilitation of St. Elizabeths West Campus in progress)

**Significance:** Atkins Hall (Building 31) is significant for its association with the treatment of mental illness on the St. Elizabeths campus. Atkins Hall was the first white patient ward constructed separately from the Center Building group, as part of a building program in the 1870s and 1880s to relieve overcrowding in the original buildings. Its free-standing design represented an architectural shift in the standard treatment philosophy. Starting with Atkins Hall, new patient ward buildings were constructed as detached cottages, clustered in small groups, rather than as large ward buildings. Each building group was designed and designated for a specialized patient type.<sup>1</sup> The architecture of the cottages allowed for the separation of patients and maintained the peaceful family atmosphere of the ward units but without the constraints or limitations of a single large building. Atkins Hall formed an integral part of the function and use of St. Elizabeths for the treatment of mental illness and related disabilities.

Atkins Hall is also significant for its architectural design, with its open ward plan, use of red brick masonry with painted accents, divided-light windows, slate-covered hip roof, and wood-framed open porch. The design of Atkins Hall established the pattern for other detached ward buildings constructed on campus in the 1870s and 1880s.

**Historians:** Mike Ford, Kenneth Itle, Tim Penich, and Deborah Slaton, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

### PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1878<sup>2</sup>
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: St. Elizabeths Hospital (then the Government Hospital for the Insane) was placed under the control of the Department of the Interior by an act of Congress on March 3, 1855. Thus when Atkins Hall was constructed in 1878, the hospital was under the control of the Department of the Interior and remained so until 1940, when St. Elizabeths was transferred to the Federal Security Agency. The Federal Security Agency was a

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<sup>1</sup> 1938 Key Plan of Buildings.

<sup>2</sup> 1879 *Annual Report*.

new government agency that oversaw federal activities in the fields of health, education, and social insurance. In 1953, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created. At that time several of the functions of the Federal Security Agency, including control of St. Elizabeths Hospital, were transferred to the new department. In 1968, St. Elizabeths was transferred to the National Institute of Mental Health, an agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Institute wanted to demonstrate how a large mental hospital could be converted into a smaller, more modern facility for training, service, and research.<sup>3</sup> In 1979, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare became the Department of Health and Human Services with the creation of the Department of Education. The Department of Health and Human Services retained control of the hospital until 2004 when the west campus of St. Elizabeths was transferred to the General Services Administration.

Upon completion in 1878, Atkins Hall housed fifty male patients who were employed through the hospital's occupational therapy program. Atkins Hall continued to house male patients until 1905, when it was renovated and used temporarily as a dormitory for male nurses.<sup>4</sup> By 1926, the building once again housed white male patients. It continued to house male patients until 1970 when patients were relocated from all pre-1900 buildings.

As of 1980, Atkins Hall housed the patients' payroll office, educational rehabilitation services, and industrial and occupational therapy departments for patient use.<sup>5</sup> After control of the campus was transferred to the General Services Administration in 2004, the campus facilities were stabilized and the buildings, including Atkins Hall, were mothballed by 2005. In 2011, renovation of the building began, as part of the rehabilitation of the St. Elizabeths West Campus.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known
5. Original plans and construction: In 1877, an appropriation of \$5,000 was made for the construction of Atkins Hall. The building was initially conceived as a temporary barracks to house fifty male patients to reduce overcrowding in the older campus buildings. In 1878, additional funding of \$2,500 was provided to construct a "plain but substantial brick building that could be converted into work-rooms for the inmates in the future and serve as a temporary building for the hospital purposes now."<sup>6</sup>

Construction on Atkins Hall began in 1878. The two-and-one-half-story brick structure was occupied in January 1879. While original drawings for Atkins Hall are unavailable, a brief description of the newly constructed Atkins Hall and its residents appears in the 1879 *Annual Report*:

This structure, thought in one sense a mere shell, is built of brick with hollow 18-inch outer walls, and in many respects answers an admirable purpose. In January last it was occupied by about 50 men, carefully selected from among those patients who had been employed in the various departments of work about the hospital. A liberal diet suited to active laboring persons was furnished for their table, and, since these patients were trusted every day about their work, it did not seem necessary to bolt and bar their rooms at night. Accordingly all window

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<sup>3</sup> 1970 *Annual Report*.

<sup>4</sup> 1905 *Annual Report*. The 1927 *Annual Report* indicated that the building was for use of patients. It is unclear if the renovations and transfer of residents were ever completed.

<sup>5</sup> Office of the Superintendent, *Master Facilities Use Plan* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1980).

<sup>6</sup> 1879 *Annual Report*.

guards were omitted and the key turned on the outer door only at evening, like any other well ordered house.<sup>7</sup>

The 1880 *Annual Report* further describes Atkins Hall as follows:

The Atkins Hall . . . is as open and free as any private house; the building is light, cheerful, and homelike, and the inmates as they smoke their pipes under the trees after the work of the day is over count themselves the aristocrats of the establishment.<sup>8</sup>

6. Alterations and additions: In 1883, an iron fire escape was constructed on the east facade of the building from the second floor dormitory to grade. The stairway was accessed through a door at the east end of the dormitory and was associated with five other fire stairs erected on campus at that time. The improvement was part of an appropriation for firewalls, fire escapes, and other fire protection implemented throughout the Center Group (Buildings 1 through 5), West Lodge, East Lodge (Building 30), and Atkins Hall structures.<sup>9</sup>

In the late 1890s, it was decided to keep Atkins Hall as a patient ward facility rather than convert it into a patient therapy building as originally planned. Plans were generated for an extensive renovation of the building which included the addition of a third floor, alterations to the existing floor plan, construction of piazzas, and improvements to fireproofing. Drawings were developed in 1896 for a third floor addition of brick and a decorative cornice and entablature. The addition was surmounted by a hip roof with vent hoods and provided a second dormitory ward, thus doubling the building's patient occupancy.<sup>10</sup>

A \$5,000 appropriation was made in 1898 to provide for replacement of floors, installation of brick fireproof partition walls, and construction of the wood-framed piazzas.<sup>11</sup> By 1900, the third floor addition had been completed. Contrary to some of the earlier plans for the building, no interior brick fireproof partitions were built. The renovated building included a hip roof and sheet metal rooftop ventilators as well as shed roof dormers that projected from the roof face on the end of each of the four wings of the plan. The original floor and ceiling framing was removed and replaced by a steel beam-framed structure with brick vaults for the first, second, and third floors. The new interior finishes consisted of wood floors, picture rail, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings applied to the underside of the brick vaulting. Pendant light fixtures were suspended from the ceiling.<sup>12</sup> The existing iron fire escape, installed in 1883 along the east facade of the building, was removed during the expansion project and the second floor door opening was replaced by a window.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> 1880 *Annual Report*.

<sup>9</sup> 1883 *Annual Report* and corroborated by an 1898 archival photograph.

<sup>10</sup> The drawings also show a two-story piazza along the south facade of the building and wrapping around the west facade; however, this piazza was not constructed in its entirety. The drawings also do not depict the shed dormers that archival photographs indicate were a part of the original construction.

<sup>11</sup> It is assumed that the third floor addition was a part of this appropriation, as a comparison of archival photographs from 1898 and 1900 show that the third floor was added during this time.

<sup>12</sup> Comparison of archival photographs from 1898 and 1900.

<sup>13</sup> Comparison of archival photographs.

In 1904, exterior fire escapes were erected at Atkins Hall. The stairs were constructed by Barber and Ross and were similar to other fire escapes installed at the Center Building, East Lodge/Detached Nurses Home, and the Laundry Building (Building 49).<sup>14</sup>

Routine maintenance on Atkins Hall included upgrades to electrical systems, installation of new flooring, and replacement of the exterior stairs. In 1912, work was contracted for the replacement of deteriorating electrical systems with “iron armored” conduit.<sup>15</sup> New linoleum flooring was installed in the hallways of Atkins Hall and Home (Building 36) in 1914.<sup>16</sup> The exterior sandstone stair treads on the west and north of the building were removed in 1917 and replaced with concrete treads.<sup>17</sup>

The improvements made at Atkins Hall were a precursor to campus-wide mechanical upgrades. In 1960, plans were generated for improvements to the Atkins Hall electrical system, including the installation of new fluorescent light fixtures. Construction documents from 1963 outlined renovation of the fire suppression system. There is no archival information available to determine when the work was completed. It is assumed work was performed in conjunction with the aforementioned campus-wide life safety improvements between 1966 and 1970.<sup>18</sup> In 1967, new resilient tile flooring and vinyl base were installed throughout the building.<sup>19</sup>

Archival research and existing physical evidence suggest that changes were made to Atkins Hall that are not well-documented through available resources. Because of the limited information available, a specific date of construction cannot be identified for these alterations, which are described below.

Pendant lighting in the dormitory and sitting rooms were replaced with ceiling-mounted light fixtures attached to the underside of the brick vaulted ceiling.<sup>20</sup>

Between 1967 and 1991, wood-framed partition walls were constructed in the dormitory spaces of all floors. It is assumed that the alteration was made following moving of the patients to other buildings, when the building was converted into a patient support facility.

The *Historic Resources Management Plan* building inventory identifies the roofing material as asphalt shingle, but this is apparently an error, as the existing roofing is slate, likely the original material installed as part of the 1900 renovation.<sup>21</sup>

In 2011, construction began to restore and renovate Atkins Hall for future use by federal agencies.

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<sup>14</sup> 1904 *Annual Report*.

<sup>15</sup> 1912 *Annual Report*.

<sup>16</sup> 1914 *Annual Report*.

<sup>17</sup> 1917 *Annual Report*. The historic sandstone block foundation and iron handrail remain. A third stair, located at the west end of the north facade, appears to be the historic cast iron stair.

<sup>18</sup> Construction documents from 1960 and 1963.

<sup>19</sup> 1967 Construction Documents.

<sup>20</sup> Comparison of 1900 archival photograph and undated photograph.

<sup>21</sup> Comparison of 1945 Public Buildings Administration survey and 1993 *Historic Resources Management Plan*, building inventory.

## B. Historical context<sup>22</sup>

In 1877, William Godding (1831–1900) assumed control of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Following the approach that mental illness could be cured through the moral treatment of patients, Godding encouraged the construction of small free-standing cottage buildings to promote a healthy environment and facilitate the orderly separation of patient groups. The change in architecture was a shift from the echelon plan of the earlier Center Building group on the campus, and from institutional to domestic imagery in caring for the chronically ill.

During Godding's tenure, seventeen free-standing ward buildings were constructed on the St. Elizabeths campus in five separate cottage clusters. Atkins Hall, Relief (Building 32), and Home (Building 36), constructed in 1878–1883, housed mild-mannered white male patients of the chronic class. The adjacent Detached Dining Hall (Building 33) was constructed to serve the patients housed in these three buildings. Howard Hall (1887–1892), demolished in 1960, was a walled and secured complex that contained the criminally ill. The Toner and Oakes buildings, completed between 1891 and 1895 and no longer extant, housed male epileptic patients. The Dix structures—Willow (Building 8), Linden (Building 28) and Holly (Building 29)—were occupied in 1898 by female epileptic patients. The Allison Group (Buildings 23 through 26)—the last cottage complex constructed under Godding—was completed in 1899 to house aging veterans.

## PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Atkins Hall is a three-story building and is a Latin cross in plan. The architectural character of the building is representative of the detached group of buildings constructed at St. Elizabeths during the 1870s and 1880s. The exterior walls are composed of red clay brick masonry with ten-over-ten wood-framed double-hung windows. The building has a slate-covered hip roof with shed dormers. The basement, window heads, and cornice are painted brick masonry. At the south elevation there is a wood-framed porch with a standing-seam sheet metal roof. This porch connects the structure to Relief.

Exterior character-defining features include the brick and stone masonry; masonry detailing including brick segmental arches over window and door openings, and the continuous water table at the top of the foundation; the sheet metal molding that defines the entablature, as well as the sheet metal cornice; the wood-framed multi-light windows and wood multi-panel doors; slate roofing; sheet metal ventilators; standing-seam metal porch roof roofing; the open wood-framed south porch, including the wood tongue-and-groove decking, railings, posts, and beadboard ceiling; and the northwest cast iron entrance stairs.

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<sup>22</sup> A context history for the entire St. Elizabeths West Campus, as well as an overview history of the Detached Building Group, is to be developed under separate cover as part of this HABS documentation project.

Interior character-defining features include the open plan of the corridors and sitting room/dormitories; plaster finishes; wood millwork including window and door surrounds, baseboard, picture rail, and built-in cupboards; ventilation grilles; multi-panel wood doors and transoms; the exposed brick arch floor structure; and iron stair treads and risers. In addition, the connection to the campus-wide tunnel system is an important feature.

2. Condition of fabric: At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/Building Preservation Plans project in 2009, Atkins Hall was generally in poor condition. Distress conditions included cracked and eroded brick masonry joints on the facades, peeling paint at the cornice, porch, and dormers, and missing or damaged roof slates. Window deterioration included missing sash, cracked and missing glazing, and failed coatings.

The interior of the structure exhibited severely deteriorated plaster, and widespread deterioration of painted surfaces. Temporary flooring had been installed due to the poor condition of the floors.

#### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 96'-2" by 56'-3" Latin cross shaped building, 49'-8" to the peak of the roof
2. Foundations: The foundation walls are constructed of common brick masonry.
3. Walls: The exterior walls at Atkins Hall are comprised of red clay brick masonry set in a common bond pattern, with headers every sixth course. The pointing mortar is unpigmented and the joints are generally 1/4 to 3/8 inch wide. At window openings at the first through third floors, painted limestone sills and painted soldier course segmental arch lintels are present. At the basement level the window openings typically have soldier course segmental arch lintels with limestone sills. A water table composed of three courses of projecting brick masonry is present directly above the basement level windows. The water table and the brick below are painted red. A cornice composed of painted sheet metal and brick is present at the intersection of the brick masonry walls and the roof.
4. Structural system, framing: Atkins Hall has load-bearing brick masonry walls at the building perimeter, along with interior iron columns in the basement and upper floor levels that support metal beam and masonry arch floor assemblies at the first, second, and third floor levels. The perimeter masonry walls are approximately 18 inches thick and are continuous with the brick masonry foundation.

The floor system is composed of brick arches supported by metal beams spaced at approximately 4 feet 3 inches on center. The single-wythe rowlock masonry arches have an amplitude (rise at arch midspan) of about 5 inches between the iron beam supports. Pipe columns are located in the basement level beneath each beam; however, the second and third floor beams span the full width of the building. Cast iron columns are located at each floor level near the base of the central stair. Additional iron columns are located at the first and second floor levels and support built-up iron girders that span north to south at the crossing of the building's plan. The basement pipe columns located at each beam have an irregular layout and appear to have been installed after the rail line was constructed, possibly to strengthen the first floor structure. The finish floor system over the masonry arch includes a wood subfloor on sleepers and a cementitious fill.

The building has a stick-framed hip roof with shed dormers at each end. The third floor ceiling joists are 2-inch by 12-inch (actual) members spaced at 16 inches on center that span north to south. The attic floor is 1 inch tongue-and-groove decking. Queen-post trusses are provided at the cross-plan portion of the building, spanning east to west to create continuous lines of support along the north and south exterior masonry walls that support the attic floor/third floor ceiling. The trusses have 3-1/2-inch-deep by 8-inch-wide top chords, 1 inch diameter vertical rods, and a bottom chord built up with four 2 by 12s. The roof rafters are 2-inch by 8-inch (actual) with an approximately 28 degree slope and are spaced 24 inches on center. The rafters have 1-inch by 12-inch collar ties and bear on short 2-inch by 4-inch stud walls (studs aligned with the rafters) at the exterior masonry walls, and on the interior by 3-inch by 6-inch beams on 2-inch by 4-inch wood posts, which are spaced about 4 feet on center and supported by the attic floor. The top of the perimeter stud wall is braced with 1-inch by 6-inch members tied back to the ceiling joists at every second stud (four feet on center). The braces are face nailed to the side of the studs near lookouts that form the box gutter framing. The wood plank roof sheathing (about 1 inch thick) supports slate shingle roofing.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads: A single-story covered wood frame porch is present on the south elevation of Atkins Hall. The white painted porch is supported by square wood columns resting on square brick piers. At grade level, the area between the brick piers is infilled with green painted lattice. The floor framing is composed of wood joists that span east to west between wood beams, which extend out from the south wall of the building to the masonry piers. The joists are 2-inch by 10-inch (actual) members spaced 16 inches on center. The masonry piers are about 13 inches square. They are spaced approximately 12 feet apart and coincide with wood columns that support the porch roof.

A stone stairway with metal pipe railing extends from grade to the doorway centered on the west elevation.

On the west end of the north elevation, an ornate painted cast iron stairway extends from grade to the doorway.

A metal fire escape is centered on the east elevation of Atkins Hall. The fire escape is enclosed with chain-link fencing and supported by scrolled painted metal brackets.

6. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Original exterior doors are single, four-panel painted wood doors with five-light transoms.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The floors above grade have ten-over-ten double-hung wood windows. At the basement level the windows are awning single-light wood sash windows.
7. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Atkins Hall has a cross-hip roof covered with black slate.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: The building has a cornice composed of painted sheet metal and brick at the intersection of the brick masonry walls and the cross-hip roof.

- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: There are four dormers present on Atkins Hall. The dormers are centered on the roof of each wing. Each dormer has a shed-shaped roof and is clad in slate shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The Latin cross-shaped plan of Atkins Hall is reflected in the interior layout. The long eastern wing originally contained a large sitting room on the first floor and open dormitories on the second and third floor. These large spaces were subdivided by partitions erected in the early 1980s.

The shorter north, west, and south wings are subdivided into private office and bedroom spaces on each floor. The first floor north wing likely functioned originally as a reception room. Bathrooms are located on each floor in the south wing.

At the center crossing of the plan is an open corridor space that surrounds a central stair. The corridor was partitioned off from the main sitting room/dormitory spaces in the early 1960s; other partitions were later added to the corridors, likely in the early 1980s. The stairs form a single run at each level, ascending from east to west, and serve every floor from the basement to the attic. Exterior doors access the north and south sides of the sitting room, a short corridor at the center of the west wing, and the first floor office on the north side of the west wing.

The basement is an unfinished open space. The below-grade rail system runs east-west through the middle of the basement.

2. Stairways: The crossing area of the plan includes the single staircase for the building. The stairs, which are enclosed within plaster partition walls, have steel treads and risers and ascend in a single run at each floor. There is a pipe handrail on each side. The door opening to each ascending run of stairs originally opened directly to the dormitory or sitting room space.
3. Flooring: The flooring seen most often in Atkins Hall is carpet tile installed over vinyl asbestos tile, which was installed over the original wood flooring. Most areas have no base molding, although remnants of vinyl or rubber base are present in some rooms. In some areas, the vinyl asbestos tile provides the finish flooring. Portions of the floor have been covered by temporary plywood flooring. In the bathrooms, white hexagonal ceramic tile with a concrete base is present.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Non-original partition walls are constructed of steel studs with gypsum board facing. Older partition walls dating to the circa 1900 renovation of the building in the north, west, and south wings are constructed of iron furring, expanded metal lath, and plaster. The interior face of exterior walls is finished with plaster applied to the masonry. Unlike many of the buildings on the campus, there are no internal brick masonry bearing walls in the building.

The ceilings at the first and second floors are the exposed brick vault and iron beam structure, finished with plaster and painted. The third floor ceilings were originally plaster on wood lath; however, in many areas this finish has been replaced or covered with gypsum board. The brick masonry foundation wall is exposed in the basement while exposed pipe columns are present throughout the space. The ceiling is composed of an exposed brick vault and iron beam structure.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Several original interior doors remain in Atkins Hall. Original interior doors are wood four-panel doors with paint applied over the original stained and varnished finish. Most of the doorways are topped by a three-light transom with a pedimented profile at the head. The doors at the non-original partitions are contemporary solid-panel wood veneer doors with simple painted wood trim.
- b. Windows: The ten-over-ten wood double-hung windows have original wood pedimented millwork with paint applied over the original stained and varnished finish.

6. Decorative features and trim: Many rooms contain an original painted wood picture rail. Above the picture rail, the load-bearing walls at the first and second floors are chamfered slightly to support the floor/ceiling structure above.

7. Hardware: Several of the original doors retain the historic brass hardware including pulls, round knobs, and mortised locksets.

8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Atkins Hall was serviced by the centralized coal-fired steam heating system from the Power House (Building 56/57), which fed steam to the building through insulated cast iron pipes located in the basement and subterranean tunnel system. The tunnel system runs northward to the Center Group.

The original indirect heating system is still in place in the basement. Individual radiators are set within the masonry wall cavities and covered by sheet metal housing. On the first through third floors, separate vertical air ducts are provided in the hallways and within most rooms near the ceiling. Exhaust air grilles are provided near the floor and are vented via ducts into the attic. Input and exhaust vents are capped with cast iron grilles. Natural ventilation was provided through operable windows and louvers in the attic. The original heating system has been replaced by a hot water radiant heat system.

- b. Lighting: Suspended fluorescent light fixtures dating to the 1960s are present throughout the building. The building was served by an electrical switchboard located in the basement. The main switchboard fed individual panel boards on each floor. Utilities entered the building through the basement tunnels. There is emergency exit lighting in the stairwells.
- c. Plumbing: Plumbing supply and waste is composed of cast iron pipes and fittings with some additions in polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: Documentation of the landscape of the west campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital can be found in Historic American Landscape Survey documentation submittal DC-11.

The north facade of Atkins Hall is slightly set back from Redwood Drive. A small grassy lawn and a sidewalk are located between the street and the east portion of the building. The west portion of the building is adjacent to the sidewalk. The east there is an open grassy lawn with scattered moderately sized trees. A wood walkway leading to Relief is located at the south of the

building. A gently sloped courtyard area is formed by Atkins Hall, Relief, Home, and the Detached Dining Hall. Redwood Drive turns to the west of Atkins Hall; the area between the street and the building includes a paved walkway, a grassy area, and a large tree.

### **PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- A. Architectural drawings: Copies of architectural drawings are included in the attached Supplemental Material. The archival drawing documentation is in the collection of the General Services Administration.
- B. Early Views: Copies of selected early and historical views of Atkins Hall are included in the attached Supplemental Material. The original photographs and other archival photographic documentation are in the collection of the General Services Administration, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, or the St. Elizabeths Hospital Health Sciences Library archives on the St. Elizabeths East Campus.
- C. Interviews: No oral history interviews were performed for this documentation project.
- D. Selected Sources:

*Annual Reports of the Board of Visitors and the Superintendent of Construction.* Government Hospital for the Insane, 1861–1867, 1869, 1872, and 1875.

*Centennial Papers: St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1855–1955.* Winfred Overholser, ed. Washington, D.C.: Centennial Commission, St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1956.

*Condition & Reuse Assessment: St. Elizabeths West Campus (draft).* Oehrlein & Associates Architects. Prepared for the General Services Administration, January 4, 2006.

*Correspondence and Promotional Literature Relating Primarily to the Selection of Hospital Sites by the Federal Board of Hospitalization. 1928–1943.* Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

*Correspondence and Other Records Relating to Administrative Matters, 1909–1929.* Records of the Office of the Superintendent, (1855–1967). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

D'Amore, Arcangelo R. T., ed. *William Alanson White: The Washington Years.* Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1976.

*The DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths: Final Master Plan.* Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates. Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

*General Correspondence and Other Records of the Federal Board of St. Elizabeths Hospital.* Records of the Office of the Superintendent, (1855–1967), Record Group 418.

*Historic Preservation Report: St. Elizabeths West Campus,* John Milner Architects. Prepared for the General Services Administration. December 7, 2005.

*Historic Structure Report: Atkins Hall (Building 31), St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, D.C.* Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, March 12, 2010.

*Letters Sent, "Executive Series" 1857–1906.* Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418.

Library of Congress. Washington, D.C.: Geography & Maps Reading Room. Collection contains various topographical maps for the District of Columbia and St. Elizabeths campus from 1855–1985.

*Maps and Plans of the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths Hospital), 05/27/189–12/14/1938.* Department of the Interior, St. Elizabeths Hospital (1916–06/30/1940). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

National Archives and Record Administration. Textual Documents Division. Washington, D.C. Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Entry 20, Records of the Superintendent, Annual Report of the Subordinate Units, 1919–1966.

National Archives and Record Administration. Textual Documents Division. Washington, D.C. Record Group 42, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Cartographic and Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Cartographic and Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. Record Group 48, Records of the Secretary of the Interior.

*Photographic Prints of Buildings, Grounds, and People, 1870–1920.* Department of Health Education and Welfare, St. Elizabeth Hospital (04/11/1953–08/09/1967). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

*Photographs of Structures at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C., 1968.* Department of Health Education and Welfare. Public Health Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, National Institute of Mental Health, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Office of the Superintendent (04/01/1968–07/01/1973). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

*St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resources Management Plan.* Devroux & Purnell Architects-Planners, PC, with Betty Bird, Historian, and Rhodeside & Harwell Inc., Landscape Architects. Prepared for the D.C. Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of the Assistant City Administrator for Economic Development, Washington, D.C., September 1993.

*St. Elizabeths Hospital Tunnel Inspection Report.* Burgess & Niple, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., February 2006.

*St. Elizabeths West Campus: Cultural Landscape Report,* Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. April 2009.

*St. Elizabeths West Campus Preservation, Design, & Development Guidelines.* Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc., Architectural and Historical Research. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Extensive research on the history of Atkins Hall has been performed for this and other studies, as documented in the publications and other sources listed above.

F. Supplemental Material:

1. Image 418-H-31; Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418; National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.
2. 1896 Annual Report and GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P009.
3. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P004.
4. 1898 Annual Report.
5. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P002.
6. GSA archives, image DC1343SE0P008.
7. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P005.
8. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P006.
9. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P007.
10. GSA archive, image DC1472SE0P083.
11. Source: Image 418-P-17; Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418; National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.
12. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P001.
13. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0106.
14. GSA archive, image DC1343SE0108.

#### **PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION**

This historical narrative was prepared by WJE in conjunction with Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC, who prepared the measured drawings, and Leslie Schwartz Photography, who prepared the photographic documentation. The HABS documentation was completed for the General Services Administration.

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

ATKINS HALL (Building 31)  
St. Elizabeths West Campus  
Redwood Drive SE  
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-349-T



*Figure 1. Undated view of Atkins Hall (left). Source: Image 418-H-31; Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418; National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.*



*Figure 2. Atkins Hall, 1897. Source: 1896 Annual Report and GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P009.*



Figure 3. Interior of Atkins Hall, circa 1890s. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P004.

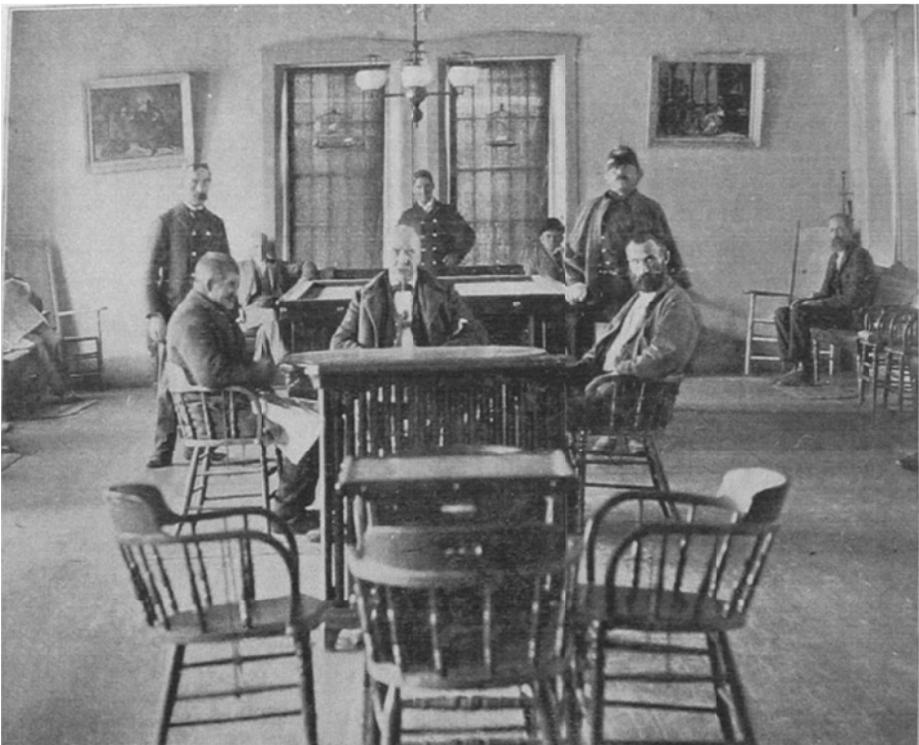


Figure 4. Interior of Atkins Hall, 1898. Source: 1898 Annual Report.



Figure 5. View of Atkins Hall from the northwest, 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P002.

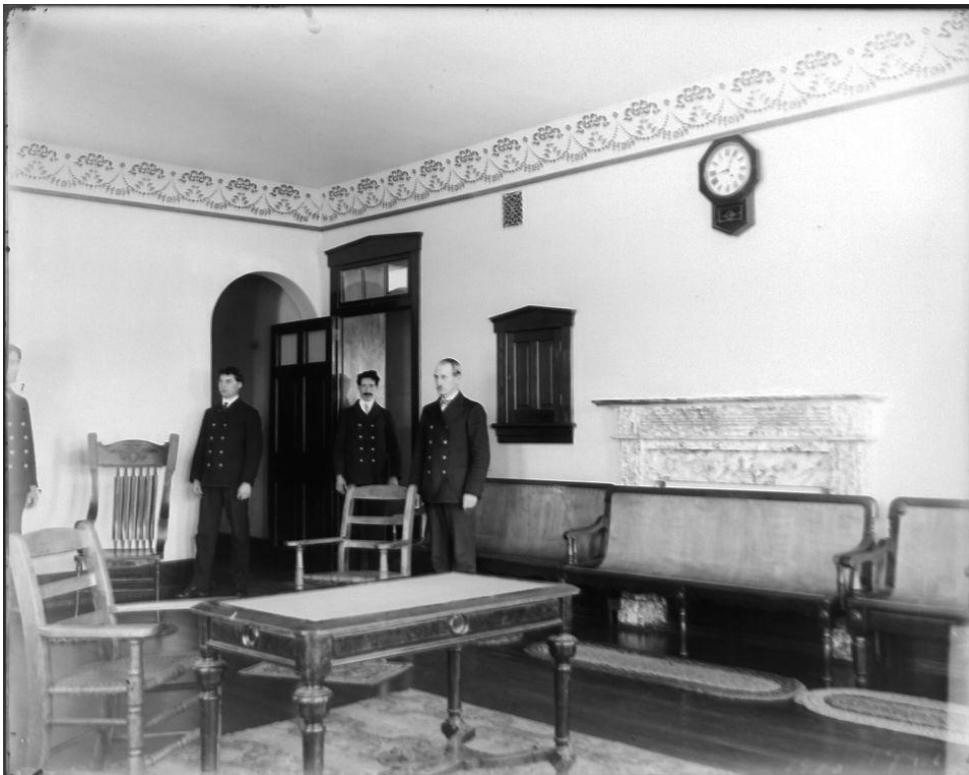


Figure 6. Undated interior photograph of Atkins Hall. Source: GSA archives, image DC1343SE0P008.



Figure 7. Dayroom, Atkins Hall, 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P005.



Figure 8. Dormitory, Atkins Hall, 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P006.



Figure 9. Parlor, Atkins Hall, 1900. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P007.



Figure 3. Undated aerial view of Atkins Hall and Detached Dining Room and Detached Kitchen. Source: GSA archive, image DC1472SE0P083.



*Figure 4. Undated view of Atkins Hall dormitory. Source: Image 418-P-17; Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418; National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.*



*Figure 5. Atkins Hall, 1968. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0P001.*



Figure 6. Drawing of the south elevation, Atkins Hall alterations, 1896. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0106.

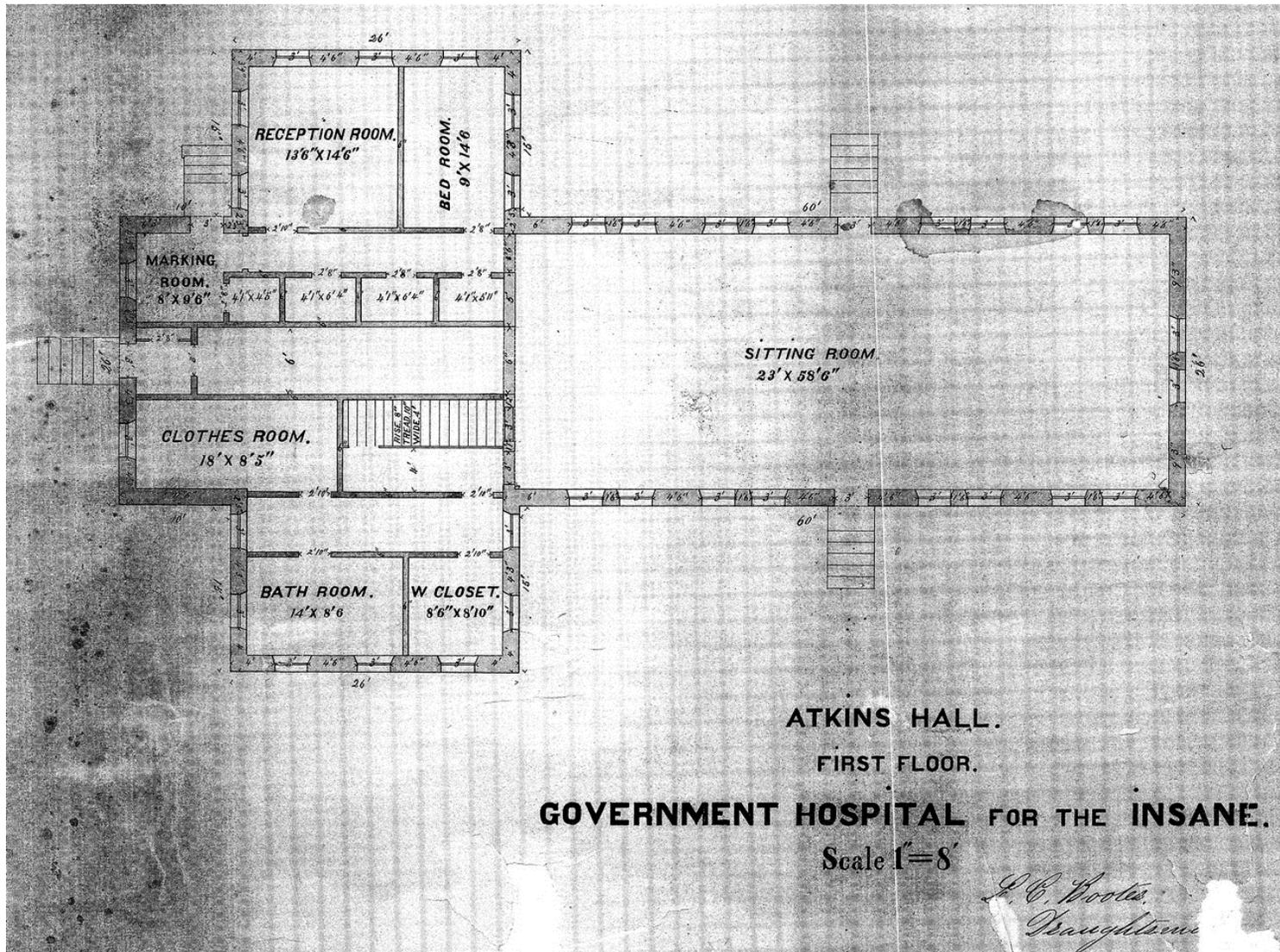


Figure 7. First floor drawing of Atkins Hall, undated. Source: GSA archive, image DC1343SE0108.