

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE
(Doctor's House)

Deer Island, Northwest quadrant, thirty
feet east of the sea wall on Boston Harbor
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1250-B

HABS
MASS
13-BOST,
144B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
MASS
13-BOST
144B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING^S SURVEY

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
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Location: Deer Island, Northwest quadrant, 30 feet ±
east of the sea wall on Boston Harbor.
City of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

U.S.G.S. HULL, MA Quadrangle (1971) Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
19.338140.4690640

Present Owner: City of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

Present Use: Administrative Offices of the Superintendent
of the Deer Island House of Correction.

Significance: Architecturally, it is a 1930 interpretation of
a high style, eighteenth-century Virginia
tidewater plantation house; it bears a strong
similarity to Westover, built in 1737, both in
siting and exterior appearance. It represents
an attempt to change from the institutional
style of the adjacent prison complex to the
more residential scale and texture of the
Colonial Revival style. Socially, it represents
a public work under the administration of
prominent Boston Mayor James Michael Curley,
who promoted projects for the benefit of the
health and welfare of Boston's
institutionalized citizens and those who served
them. Its renovation is planned by the
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: 1930-1931.

The 1930 Annual Report for the City of Boston Penal Institutions Department states that on July 15, 1929 a fire partially destroyed the roof and top floor of the old prison Administration Building and the "Doctor's House" (actually a wing of the old prison). Funds were allocated by the City of Boston in early 1930 in the amount of \$135,000 to be divided \$55,000 for the reconstruction of the damaged portion of the Administration Building and \$80,000 for the construction of a new Doctor's House (the present Superintendent's House).

This project was coincidental with the inception of a ten million dollar "hospitalization program," whereby renovations and new construction were afforded to various hospitals connected with city institutions. These monies were allocated under the direction of then third term Boston Mayor James Michael Curley who was noted for his civic improvements benefitting the city's institutionalized residents.

The Doctor's House was constructed in 1930, and was completed by September of that year. Although no building permit has been found, a plumbing permit is dated June 2, 1930. The City Record for February 8, 1930 records that bids were expected to be received soon, and that the building was expected to be completed in September of that year. The Annual Report of the Penal Institutions Department for December 30, 1930, reported that "the erection of the new Doctor's House and reroofing and bracing of the old Administration Building is nearing completion and after a few minor details are worked out, the Doctor's House will be in use."

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2. Architect: M.A. Dyer Company.

The M.A. Dyer Company, an architectural engineering firm founded by architect Michael A. Dyer, (born in Malden, MA in 1886), located at 1 Beacon Street, Boston, was selected to design the building by the Penal Institutions Commissioner, Philip A. Chapman. It is likely that Mayor Curley, who was a chief proponent of the Georgian Revival style in many of his public works, had a hand in choosing both the style of the building and the architect. Curley's own home in Jamaica Plain was a Georgian Revival style brick residence designed by Joseph P. MacGuinness and built in 1915.

Michael A. Dyer, founder and president of M.A. Dyer & Co. the Boston architectural and engineering firm bearing his name, did a variety of design work in Boston including various dwellings, hotels and apartments. His Medford Theater Design was published in the *Architectural Forum* of June, 1925 (pg. 431). Other principal institutional and public works by the firm include the Colonial Revival Woburn City Hall, the Lemuel Shattuck Chronic Diseases Hospital in Forest Hills, and the Columbia Point Public Housing Project, the largest Federally supported undertaking of its kind, completed not long before Mr. Dyer's death in 1954.

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

On April 1, 1634 Deer Island was granted to the Town of Boston by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The original owner of the Doctor's House was the City of Boston Penal Institutions Department, Deer Island House of Correction. Jurisdiction of the prison shifted to the Suffolk County Corrections Department in 1931. Subsequent to the proposed 1991 closing of the prison, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is expected to take title to the house as part of its new secondary wastewater

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treatment facility, now under the initial phase of construction.

4. Builder, Contractor and Suppliers:

The building contractors (except for M. Ahern, who received a plumbing permit from the City of Boston Building Commissioner in June 1930) and material suppliers for the building are not known.

5. Original Plans and Construction:

No original plans or photographs of the building have been found, although a perspective drawing of the proposed residence is shown in the City Record of February 8, 1930 (Fig. 1). The pen and ink sketch shows some variations exist in the building as it stands today from the proposed structure shown in the drawing. The building as executed contains the central block, but only the north (right) service wing of the two shown in the sketch was built, and only the north chimney was built. The authentic Georgian Revival scale, proportion and details shown in later drawings attest to the academic accuracy of Dyer's design of the Doctor's House, as will be further described in the Architectural Information section below. The building was designed to house the prison doctor as well as the chaplain, a cook and visiting clergy. Non-residential functions included the doctor's office, a library, a small chapel and vestry, and a storeroom.

6. Alterations and Additions:

Subsequent to use primarily as a doctors residence, the building became the residence of the Penal Commissioner until 1972 when Commissioner Joseph McBrine retired from service. In the mid 1970's the building was converted to a residence for inmates participating in the prison work-release program.

During this period interior finishes were extensively worn and damaged by the hard use of inmates.

The building interior underwent major alteration in 1985 when it was converted into administrative office space. Based upon drawings by architect, Richard H. Walwood, and a visual inspection, the renovations radically altered the interior of the structure. The first floor was converted to offices by insertion of new partitions, glazed interior window openings and doors. A large open, two-story space above the main entrance was created by the removal of a section of the second floor. The second and third floors were altered by the insertion of new partitions and doors. All windows were replaced with new metal sash units and exterior casings.

Other alterations were listed on the 1985 drawings. Propane tanks and piping were removed from the rear elevation of the service wing. Existing shutters were removed. Existing wood windows were removed and replaced with new replicated metal windows. Decorative iron gates were added at the French doors to the rear patio. Exterior walls were repointed. Emergency and security lighting was added. The service wing door was replaced and the swing reversed; the front door swing was also reversed. At an undetermined date, cast stone belt courses and key stones were painted with an unknown coating.

Presently, the building is maintained as offices of the Prison Superintendent and support offices of the Suffolk County House of Correction.

B. Historical Context

1. Topography and Setting:

a. Boston Harbor:

The harbor is a glacial outwash basin with island drumlins. The nearest neighbor to Deer Island is Long

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Island across Presidents Road, Boston Harbor's main shipping channel. The Town of Winthrop's Point Shirley is the nearest mainland point across Shirley Gut, formerly an inlet with a strong current, now filled in.

b. Deer Island:

The island was originally a long drumlin off "Pullin" (1630's), later Point Shirley (1756) across the "gut" or channel which gradually silted in during the 19th c. Since 1936 when a causeway was constructed, the island has been a peninsula. Signal Hill dominated the island overlooking Shirley Gut and Boston Harbor. Fort Dawes occupied the southwest tip of the island (1906) and the Metropolitan Water and Sewer Board Pumping Station (HAER No. MA-120) and outfall (1894-1910) occupied the northeast side of the island. A new sewage treatment plant was built on the site by the Metropolitan District Commission in 1968. Its successor, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, is now in the process of constructing a new primary and secondary sewage treatment facility. Deer Island has undergone extensive regrading and topographical change, including the filling of Cow Pond on the north side of Signal Hill, which has altered the original setting.

2. History of the Superintendent's House:

Fire destroyed the top floors of the Prison (present Administration Building) and the old Doctor's House in 1929. This set the stage for the construction of a new Doctor's House, later known as the Commissioner's House and now known as the Superintendent's House. In 1930 the brick Georgian Revival Doctor's House was constructed by the city to plans of M.A. Dyer Company, architects and engineers.

The house was subsequently converted into the Superintendent's House and support offices for the administration of the Deer Island House of Correction.

In 1985 the house was renovated to the design of Richard H. Walwood, Architect. Despite these alterations, significant elements of the original building survive and the integrity of its Colonial Revival detail remains.

Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character:

The Doctor's (now Superintendent's) House was designed in the Georgian Revival "Virginia" or "Williamsburg" style with a main block and two imposing chimneys, one at each end. It bears a striking similarity both in form and siting to *Westover*, a 1737 James River, Virginia tidewater residence which appeared in the White Pine Series of 1930 (Fig. 2). The front entrance of the Doctor's House at Deer Island is a near-replica of *Westover's* garden front. The original rendering and written description of the building, published in the *City Record* of February 8, 1930, shows two chimneys and a sun porch on the south elevation.

2. Condition of Fabric:

The structure and exterior of the Superintendent's House are in good condition since the building has been recently renovated and is currently maintained as offices. These renovations, while upgrading the condition of the structure, have eliminated much original interior finishes and trim except for the main stairway. The replacement sash and trim, installed in 1985, are in good condition; however, original exterior shutters were removed at that time. The interior utilities and mechanical systems are generally in serviceable condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

The house is comprised of two components. The main portion is a two and a half story, hipped-roofed brick structure with a footprint of 53'-6" x 32'- 4". A one story, flat roof service wing measuring 28'x 21' is attached to the north side of the main structure.

2. Foundations:

The foundation is concrete faced with cast stone which is exposed above grade approximately 18". The main portion of the house has a shallow crawl space beneath the first floor while the service wing has a basement of approximately seven feet in height and founded on spread footings.

3. Walls:

The red brick exterior walls are laid in a Flemish bond and rise above the foundation in a single plane terminating in a dentilated and bracketed cornice below the roof line. A cast stone belt course encircles the building directly above the brick lintels of the first level.

The brick work of the service wing is similar to that of the main section. A cast stone articulated belt course is aligned with the plain cast stone course of the main building. Other cast stone features include narrow sills at the first and second floor windows. Lintels have a keystone of cast stone at the first level only; the remainders are brick flat arches.

4. Structural System:

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The load-bearing exterior brick masonry walls appear to be solid; however, the internal structural system is not known since no drawings have been found to date. Based on the wood-frame alterations to the structure, it is concluded that the floors, ceilings, and roof are wood frame construction typical of the period, covered with lath and plaster on the interior.

5. Porches:

A sun porch shown on the south elevation of the original rendering and written description of the building published in the *City Record* of February 8, 1930) was not built.

6. Chimneys:

Of two chimneys described on the original rendering and in the *City Record* article of 1930, only one was built. This brick chimney penetrates the north side of the hipped slate roof and rises approximately 20 feet.

7. Openings:

a. Door and Doorways:

The main doorway is detailed in wood, with raised panel jamb sections combined with raised panels, and integral pilasters at each side. The doorway is surmounted by a full Doric entablature with triglyphs and metopes, and a segmental arched roof. The first floor level at the rear on the water side of the main building has a symmetrical placement of four pair of French doors which open onto the rear terrace overlooking Boston Harbor. As previously noted, decorative iron gates were added to these doors in 1985. The east elevation of the service wing is marked by three bays of which the southernmost bay contains the entry door with transom lights; flanking

sidelights contain double-hung sash which are separated by brick piers.

b. Windows and Shutters:

As previously mentioned, the present windows are 1985 replacement sash set in the newly-clad frames of the previous wood double-hung windows; original shutters have been removed. The east elevation of the main building contains the main doorway with three bays of windows symmetrically placed on each side. The windows diminish in size as they advance in height from grade. The first floor windows are nine-over-nine lights while the second story windows contain six-over-nines. Dormers which penetrate the roof planes contain six-over-six light windows.

The hierarchy of window sizes is consistent on the north and south elevations of the main building with that on the east elevation. The western beachfront elevation has similar fenestrations on the second and third levels. Two narrow sash provide light for the basement of the service wing at both the north and west elevations. The east elevation of the service wing is marked by three bays; the southernmost bay contains the entry door, flanked by two-over-two sidelights separated from the door by brick piers. The northern two bays each contain a six-over-six, double hung window. Both the north and west elevations are segmented into three bays having double hung, six-over-six, windows in each bay.

8. Roof:

a. Roof Shape and Covering:

The original slate covered, hipped-roof is steeply sloped to contain the third floor and unfinished attic space. Slate covered, hipped-roofed copper-flashed dormers project from the east, west, north and south roof planes. Other roof penetrations include vents at

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the east and south roof plane and the chimney on the north roof slope.

b. Cornice and Eaves:

A traditional wood modillion box cornice with dentillated base molding surrounds the building at the eaves. Drainage is provided by a crown cornice in the form of copper ogee-profile gutters with external painted, copper box leaders at the corners of both the east and west facades. These leaders empty at grade. The ogee cornice of the wing is formed of cast stone at the level of the belt course of the main building.

c. Dormers:

Five evenly spaced, clipped dormers penetrate the east roof plane while four are located on the western roof plane to provide light to the interior spaces at the third level. On the south elevation a single dormer of similar design and proportion penetrates the roof plane at the center line. The north elevation contains two dormers, one on either side of the center line.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. Original Layout:

The article published in the 1930 *City Record* describes the first floor as having a doctor's office, library and washroom on the front side of the house separated from living and dining rooms which overlook the water by a hallway. Both the dining and living rooms were described as having richly detailed fireplaces, wood moldings and wainscotting; however there is no evidence that these features were incorporated into the structure as built.

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The second floor was said to have a chapel in the northeast corner opening off the vestibule, leading to the chaplain's room. A linen room opening off a service stair and a spare bedroom with private bath occupied the northwest side of the second level.

The third floor contained a suite of rooms with private baths, two additional bedrooms sharing a common bathroom and a storeroom. The single level service wing was said to have contained a pantry and laundry room. The main portion of the house has a shallow crawl space beneath the first floor level while the service wing has a basement of approximately seven feet in height.

The building originally was to be heated by a steam line from the prison's main heating plant. The 1985 renovation drawings show the presence of hot water and heating equipment in the basement of the service wing. The heating plant is not functioning, and the building is currently heated again by steam from the adjacent prison complex.

b. Existing Plan:

As shown on the 1985 plans, the first floor contains a large central foyer - a combination entrance and stair hall - along the entrance front. To the left is a nearly square Armory, and directly behind it is the rectangular Superintendent's Office. Large Office #1 at the right rear has a new glazed opening into the Foyer. Two lavatories to the right of the Foyer complete the first floor of the main building. The wing contains the Lounge, with a copy room, secondary entry vestibule and a stairway to the upper levels of the main building.

The second floor is shown in 1985 to consist of Offices #2 to #5, along with two baths and a new opening in the floor over the central entrance Foyer. The third floor has Offices #6 to #8 lit by dormers, with two baths flanking the stair hall and Office #9 over the open stair hall.

2. Stairways:

The main stairway with its mahogany handrail ending in a spiral volute, and tapered round balusters or spindles, is apparently the original form, although the *City Record* article of 1930 describes a circular stairway. The 1985 drawings call for extensive replacement of damaged rail and balusters along with new wood trim boards "nosing, scotia and skirt," but also to "reuse and refinish newel posts in good condition."

3. Flooring:

Although the 1930 description mentions a proposed rubber tile floor in the entrance hall, 1985 drawings refer to new underlayment here to be nailed to "exist board floor" and to "remove & replace severely cupped and raised oak flooring" in Office #1 where it was to be replaced by a plywood underlayment. Elsewhere, drawings call for refinishing the existing floor in the Armory and the Superintendent's Office. On the second floor in 1985, a Waiting Room in front of Bath #1 was to have the floor levelled for carpet.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

Wall and ceiling finishes were originally plaster, apparently painted. Subsequent repairs in 1985 call for patching plaster.

5. Openings:

a. Doors and Doorways:

Original interior doors were typical Colonial Revival wood panelled doors of different configurations. Generally these were six panel doors throughout, with

double doors between the Superintendent's Office and Office #1. New doors installed in 1985 are similar six-panel type where called for on the drawings with notes to "reuse or match" existing molded architrave casings throughout.

b. Windows:

As previously mentioned in the exterior openings section, present windows are 1985 double-glazed metal replacement sash. These are set in the old frames with muntin patterns similar to previous wooden double-hung windows. Surviving Colonial Revival interior trim, as shown on the drawings, includes molded window stools and sills, double architrave moldings with a band molding on the first and second floors in principal rooms, and simpler trim for third floor windows.

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

In addition to the typical Colonial Revival window and door casings and trim mentioned above, original wood ogee ceiling moldings were matched in profile where replaced or altered in 1985 in the Lounge, Main Foyer, Stair Hall and Offices. The existing wood chair rail and base in the Foyer and Office #1 were matched as well.

7. Hardware:

Most original hardware has been replaced with modern substitute hardware. The front door has a brass knob and lockset.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating and Ventilation:

The building originally was to be heated by a steam line from the prison's main heating plant. The 1985

renovation drawings shows the existence of hot water and heating equipment in the basement of the service wing. The heating plant is not functioning, and the building is currently heated again by steam from the adjacent prison complex.

b. Lighting:

No original lighting fixtures remain; modern lighting is utilitarian.

c. Plumbing:

No original plumbing fixtures remain; modern systems are utilitarian.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:

The Superintendent's House is sited close to the water's edge on the southwestern side of Deer Island. All primary living spaces within the building had a southwestern exposure over the water towards downtown Boston. The landscaping contained a sloping lawn to the water with a row of trees to the northeast which was originally planned to emphasize the visual separation of the house from the more institutional buildings of the prison. The southwest edge of the property is protected from Boston Harbor by a concrete seawall.

2. Historic landscape design:

The Superintendent's House has importance with respect to historic landscape design. Overlooking Boston Harbor, it was originally planned as a 1930 interpretation of a high style, eighteenth-century Virginia James River tidewater plantation house. As mentioned previously, it bears a strong similarity to Westover,

built in 1737, both in siting and exterior appearance. A concession to modern living is the paved patio, edged with cast stone similar to that of the house foundation. There is a two riser change in elevation from the patio to the level of the interior floor, and a two riser change at the edge of the patio to grade.

3. Outbuildings:

There are no outbuildings at the site.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

No original architectural drawings of the Superintendent's House have yet been found. The lack of drawings and historic photographs are due to restrictions regarding access to the island and security of its buildings as a prison and to fires in 1929 and 1949 in which some records are said to have been destroyed or disappeared. Later architectural drawings dating to 1985 document the building at that time and are shown with supplemental material.

B. Early Views:

The scarcity of early views of the Superintendent's House is due to both restrictions regarding access to the island and its buildings as a prison and to the fires in 1929 and 1949. Photography has been prohibited or strongly discouraged by prison officials. The one perspective rendering which predates the building's construction is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

C. Interviews:

Deer Island House of Correction officials stated that the unavailability of on-site documentation for the structure is due to the above reasons. City of Boston Public

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Facilities Department interviews with Archivist James Cyphers, and assistants Ian Kerrigan and Lynn George led to the discovery of the plans listed in the Bibliography below.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Boston Inspectional Services Department, Boston City Hall. Application for Permit to do Plumbing. Doctor's Quarters, Deer Island, Boston Harbor. M. Ahern, Plumber, June 2, 1930. Approved June 15, 1930.

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Boston Landmarks Commission, Boston City Hall. Building information Form No. 154, for 350 Jamaicaway, cor. Moraine, Mayor James Michael Curley Residence, Jamaica Plain, MA.

Boston Public Facilities Department, Archives, 26 Court Street, 6th floor office; Archivist, 15 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. The plans for the 1985 renovation of the Superintendent's House ("Commissioner's House") are on file in the basement vault at 26 Court Street.

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department. Index of Architects including Michael A. Dyer, obituary, Boston Globe, October 8, 1954, p. 29; and index card notes on work in and around Boston.

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2. Secondary and Published Sources:

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Treasures of Early America. Harrisburg, PA: National Historical Society, 1988. Vol. 5 pp. 45-49. Discussion and views of Westover Plantation.

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Boston City Record, Vol. 22, No. 6, pp 1, 156. "Mayor Curley Begins to Complete \$10,000,000 Hospitalization Plan.... New Doctor's House to be Erected at Deer Island"... February 8, 1930.

Dineen, Joseph F., "The Kingfish of Massachusetts," Harpers Magazine, September, 1936. Regarding Mayor J. M. Curley and his public works.

Dyer, Michael A. - Medford Theater (in the Dyer Building) Architectural Forum, June 1925 p. 431.

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Snow, Edward Rowe. The Islands of Boston Harbor, 1630-1971. New York: Dodd Mead & Co. (1936, 1971) 1984 edition. General history of Boston Harbor and Deer Island, pp. 197-212.

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Sweetser, M.F. - King's Handbook of Boston Harbor. Boston: 1988; Reprint, Applewood Books, 1988. Chapter on "The Penal Colony of Deer Island" with views of the "House of Industry" and "Convicts at Work" cutting stone, pp.219, 221.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Sources which might yield further information on the history of Deer Island structures include: the Boston Public Library Rare Books Department for early, unpublished Town Records; the Massachusetts Archives for other unpublished material on the early period of Deer Island (no later material relating to the Superintendent's House was found); the U.S. Regional Archives for potential U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U. S. Navy records for Fort Dawes; the Metropolitan District Commission which has additional records from the earlier Boston Water and Sewer Commission at the Cow Island Treatment Plant, probably relating primarily to the Pump Station; Boston Globe and Herald photo archives are a likely source for news coverage of late nineteenth and twentieth century events at Deer Island.

Not yet found is one paper cited in other sources:

Sullivan, F. V. A "Historical Study of Deer Island from 1630 to 1968," May 1969. Unpublished college thesis, 90 pages, on deposit at Master's Office, Suffolk County House of Correction. Copy available from Dr. Roth.

Part IV. Project Information

This documentation was undertaken by Frederic C. Detwiller, Janice E. Slivko, Wendall C. Kalsow, David M. Hart and Paul J. McGinley of McGinley Hart & Associates during 1990 as a mitigation measure prior to the replacement of the prison by a new wastewater treatment facility by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. The documentation is undertaken in compliance with a Memorandum of Agreement dated September 21, 1988 between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I; the Massachusetts Historical Commission; the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; and the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control.

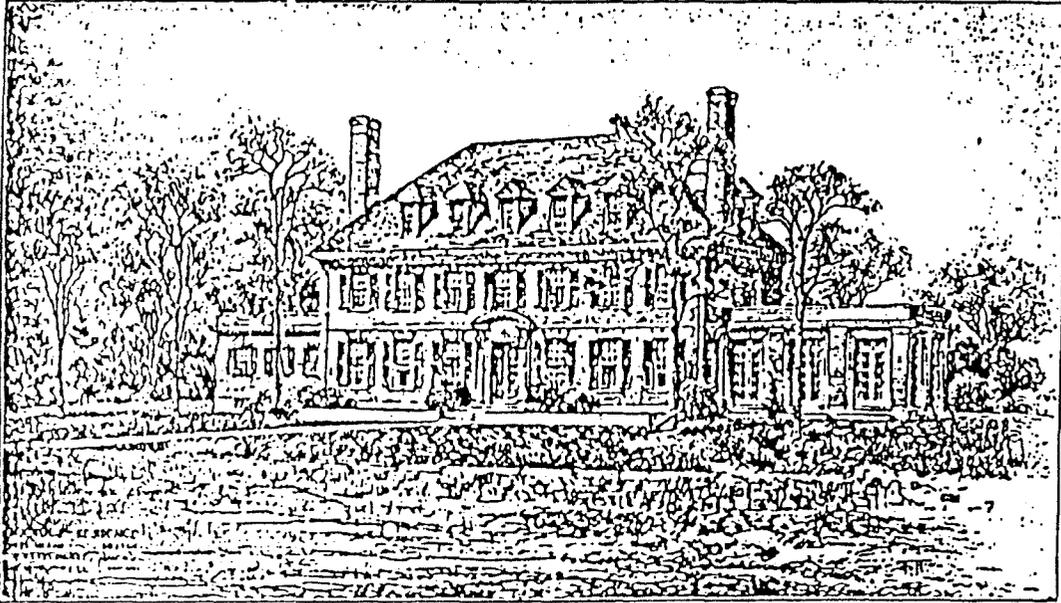
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Part V. Articles/Graphics (Xeroxes on Archival Bond)

Historic views:

- Figure 1. City Record Article and perspective of the proposed Doctor's House at Deer Island, February 8, 1930.
- Figure 2. Comparison of the Doctor's House at Deer Island, 1930, with Westover Plantation, 1737.
- Figure 3. Location Plan
- Figure 4. Site Plan
- Figure 5. First Floor Plan
- Figure 6. Second Floor Plan
- Figure 7. Third Floor, Basement, Roof Plans
- Figure 8. East and North Elevations
- Figure 9. West and South Elevations
- Figure 10. Longitudinal and Transverse Sections
- Figure 11. First Floor Window Details
- Figure 12. Second and Third Floor Window Details

MAYOR CURLEY BEGINS TO COMPLETE \$10,000,000 HOSPITALIZATION PLAN FOR CITY INSTITUTIONS INAUGURATED BY HIM IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION—NEW DOCTORS' HOUSE TO BE ERECTED AT DEER ISLAND TO COST ABOUT \$80,000—OLD HOUSE ALSO TO BE RECONSTRUCTED.



ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVE OF NEW HOUSE FOR DOCTORS AT DEER ISLAND, TO BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY IN SEPTEMBER.

One of the first steps in the plan of Mayor Curley to complete the \$10,000,000 hospitalization plan for city institutions, inaugurated during his previous administration, has been the erection of a new Doctors' House at Deer Island. Bids for the construction of this building have been advertised and it is expected that the contract will be awarded soon. Altogether there will be \$135,000 expended. Of this amount, however, \$55,000 will be devoted to reconstruction of the old building and the balance, \$80,000, will be the cost, approximately, of the new house. It is expected to be ready for occupancy early in September.

In selecting a type of architecture for the new Doctors' Residence at Deer Island, it seemed best to break away from what might be called "Prison Architecture" and to make this building frankly domestic. Situated as it is on our New England coast, one's mind naturally turned, especially in this year of the tercentenary, to the architecture of the Colonies.

In viewing the perspective drawing of the new building, one is impressed with the simple grandeur of the front, which is enhanced by a broad expanse of lawn running to the water's edge. The brick walls are two stories in height with a generous base and fitly crowned with a fine sweep of roof.

The only bit of exterior detail which makes the least pretension of richness is about the doorway, which is flanked by broad, fluted, pilasters surmounted by richly carved Corinthian capitals and crowned by a curved pediment so much used in the architecture of the early periods.

The rest is but plain brick walls, pierced in absolute regularity with windows. To the west is a low wing containing the kitchen, which is balanced by another wing at the east side which contains the sunroom. On the ocean side, the door opens directly into the living room, and the doorway on the similar northern façade opens into a hall, which will have rubber tile floor and a circular stairway depending for its charm on the sweep of the handrail with its slightly tapered mahogany spindles, pleasing in their simplicity and much easier to maintain than painted ones.

(Continued on page 166.)

Figure 1. City Record Article and perspective of the proposed Doctor's House at Deer Island, 8 February 1930.

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
Superintendent's House (Doctor's House)
HABS No. MA-1250-B (Page 24)



WESTOVER - 1737 - ON THE JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA



ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVE OF NEW HOUSE FOR DOCTORS AT DEER ISLAND, TO BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY IN SEPTEMBER.

Figure 2. Comparison of the Doctor's House at Deer Island, 1930, with Westover Plantation, 1737.

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
 Superintendent's House (Doctor's House)
 HABS No. MA-1250-B (Page 25)

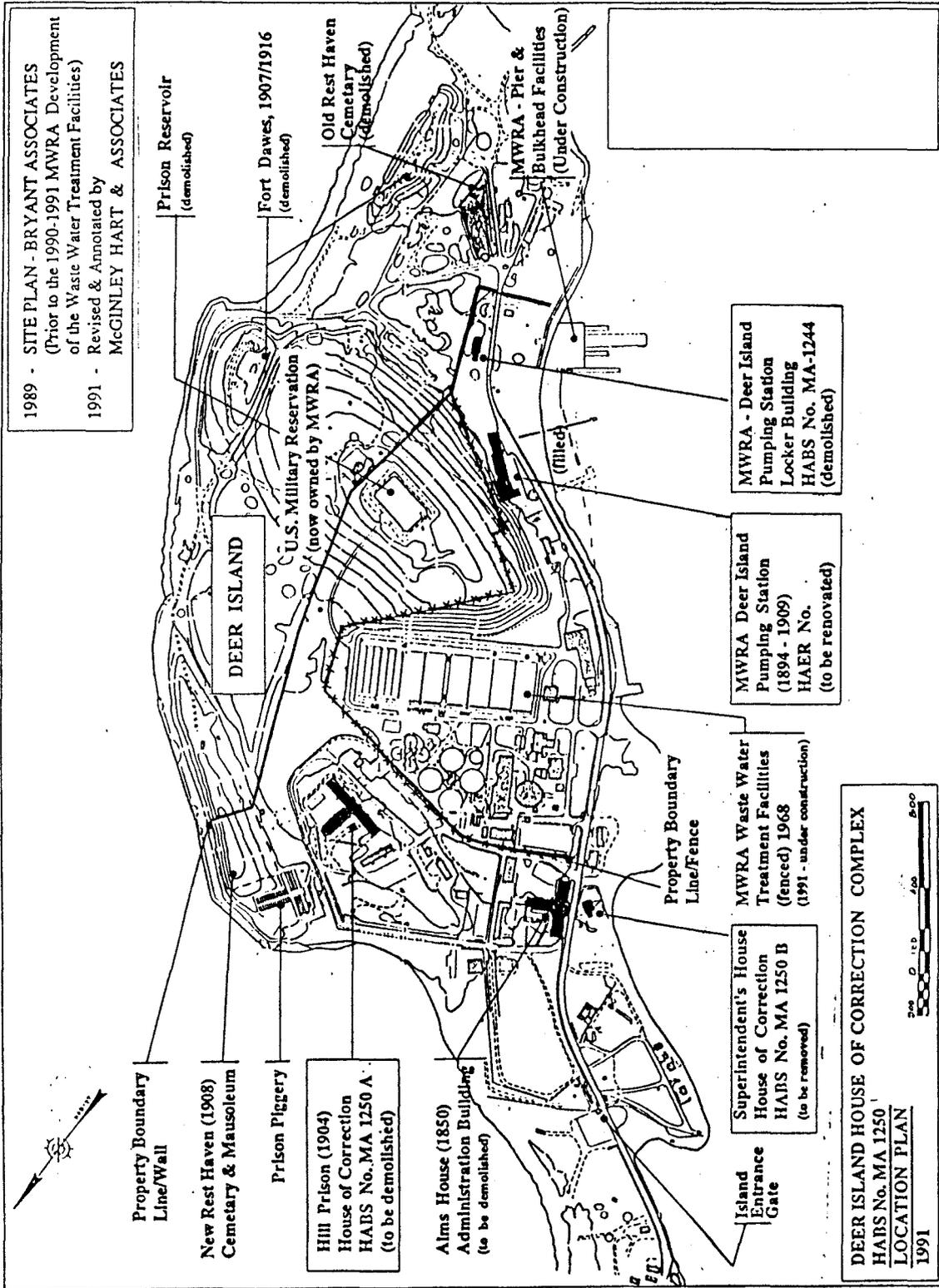


Figure 3. Location Plan

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
 Superintendent's House (Doctor's House)
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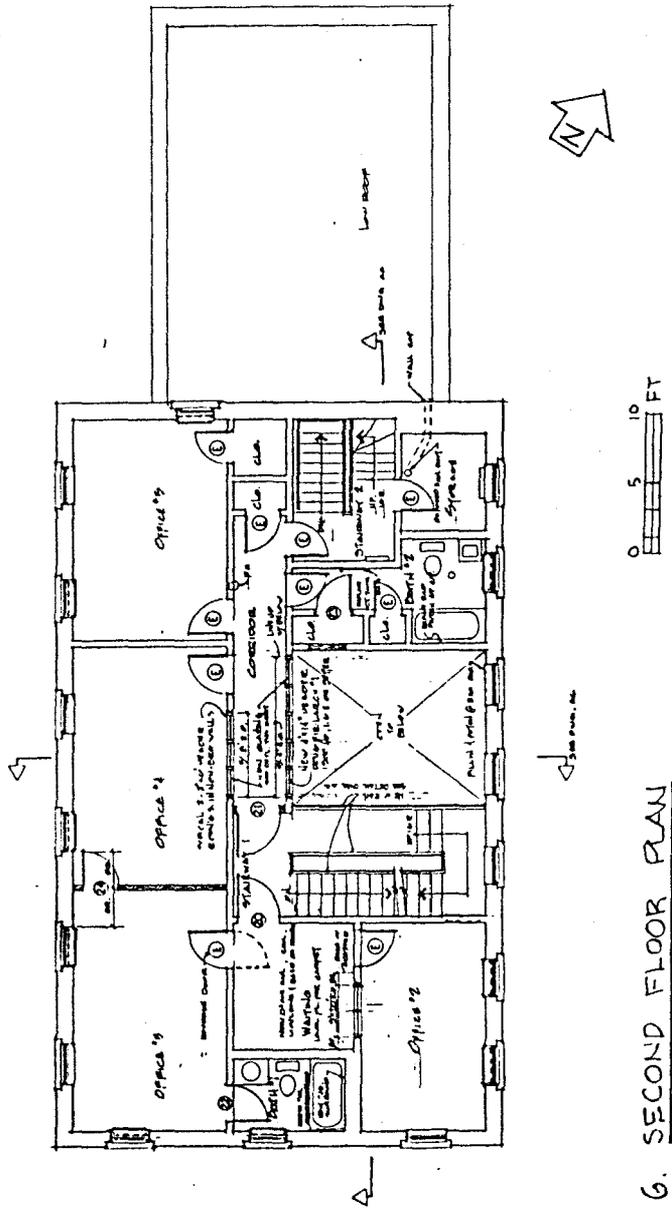


Figure 6. Second Floor Plan

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
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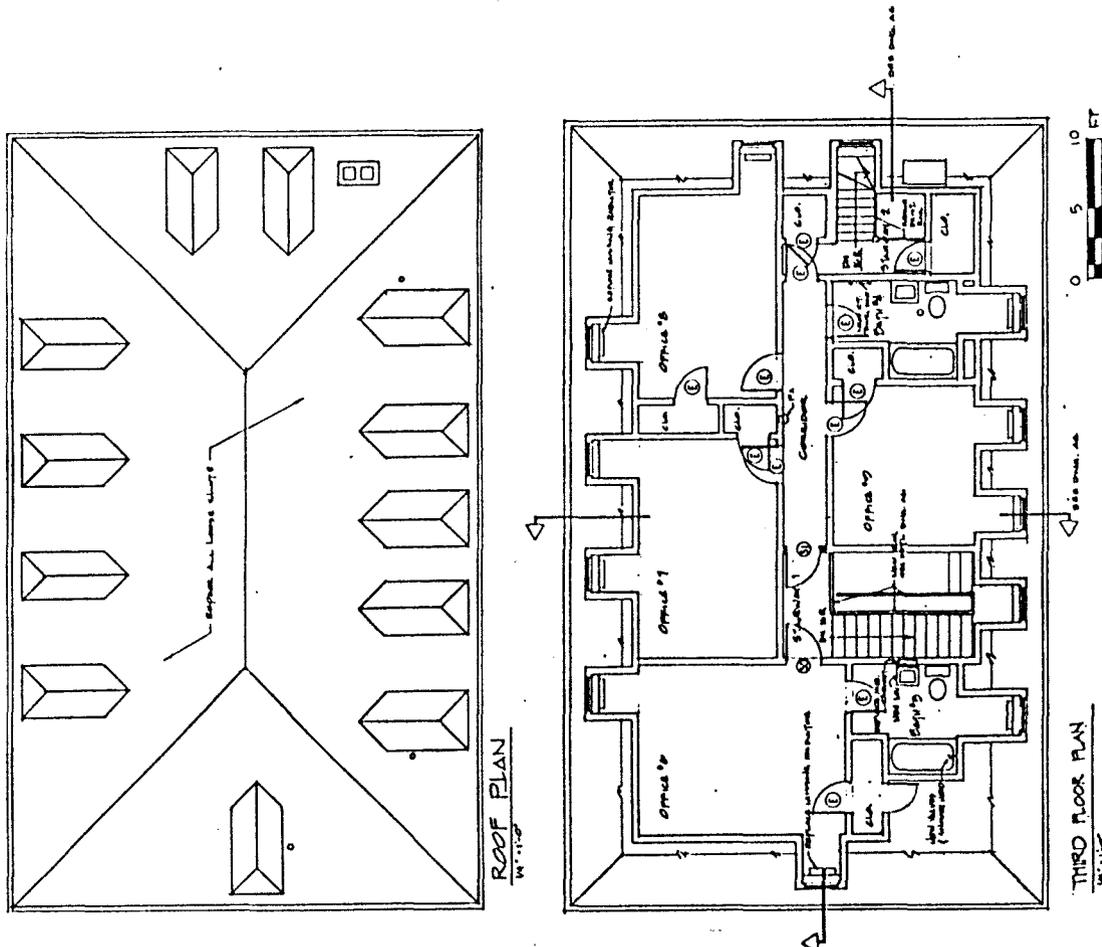
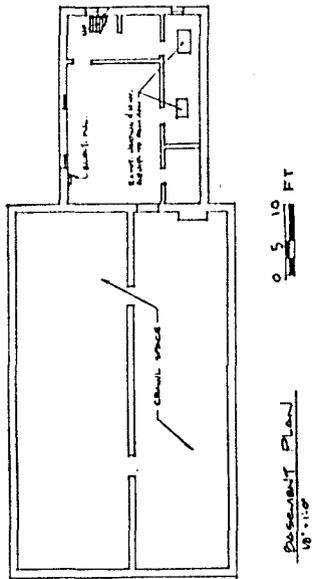


Figure 7. Third Floor, Basement, Roof Plans

DEER ISLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION,
 Superintendent's House
 (Doctor's House)
 HABS No. MA-1250-B
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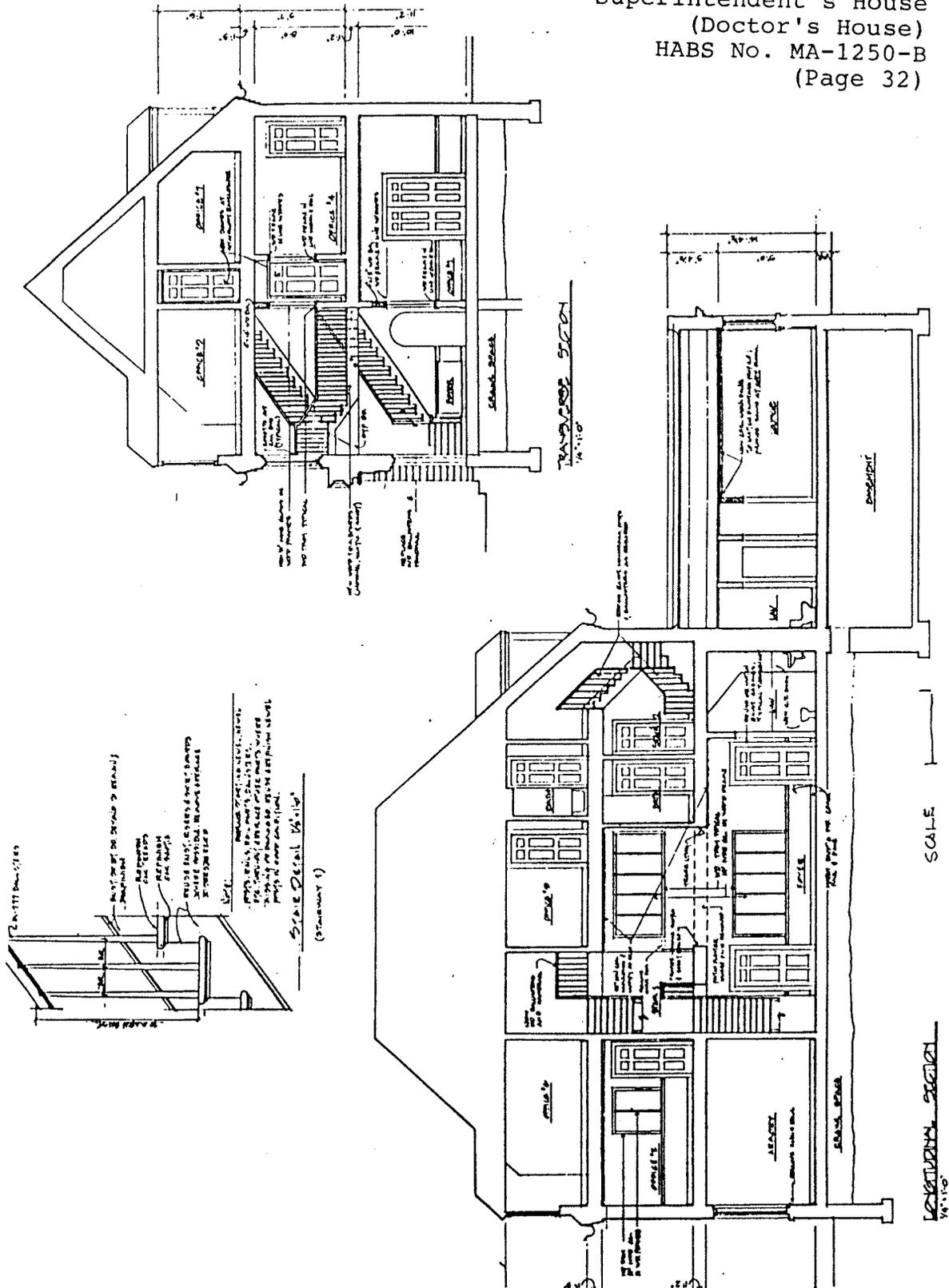


Figure 10. Longitudinal and Transverse Sections

