

CREEDMOOR STATE HOSPITAL, BUILDING Y  
(Creedmoor State Hospital, Building 10)  
80-45 Winchester Boulevard (site bounded by  
Union Turnpike on the north, Hillside Avenue  
on the south, Winchester Boulevard on the  
west, and 240th, 241st, and 242nd streets  
on the east)  
Queens  
Queens County  
New York

HABS No. NY-6343-A

HABS  
NY  
41-QUEE,  
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CREEDMOOR STATE HOSPITAL, BUILDING Y  
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NY  
41-QUEE,  
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Location: 80-45 Winchester Boulevard (site bounded by Union Turnpike on the north, Hillside Avenue on the south, Winchester Boulevard on the west, and 240th, 241st, and 242nd streets on the east) Queens, Queens County, NY 11426

Present Owner: New York State Department of Mental Health

Present Use: Psychiatric Hospital

Statement of

Significance: Building Y is one of a large number of buildings on the campus of Creedmoor Psychiatric Hospital erected during the 1920s and early 1930s when what had been a small farm colony was developed into a major psychiatric center housing thousands of patients and staff members; the lawn to the east of building Y, located at the corner of the property, was never built on and was, as far as is known, never put to any formal use.

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Building Y, located near the southeastern corner of the Creedmoor State Hospital campus, is significant as one of a series of buildings erected to meet the needs of patients and staff members at the hospital during a period of major expansion in the 1920s and early 1930s for a more detailed history of Creedmoor Hospital (see HABS No. NY-6343). Building Y was erected in 1931-32 as part of a unit of three structures, arranged in a U-shaped plan, planned as dormitories for employees. The Neo-Romanesque style brick structure was designed by New York State Architect William E. Haugaard.

Building Y is a free standing, three-story structure with long, virtually identical entrance facades facing east and west, and identical short side facades facing north and south. The long elevations are 23 bays wide, divided into five sections: a central, seven-bay wide pavilion; projecting, three-bay wide entrance pavilions; and five-bay wide end wings. The shorter elevations are only five bays wide, each with a shallow projecting central section that is three windows wide and is capped by a low parapet. The entire building is faced with beige brick, is articulated by twelve-over-twelve rectangular wooden sash windows, and, except as noted, has simple limestone lintels and sills. The building is raised on a high basement that is cut by windows at the northwest corner. Atop the basement level is a watertable composed of an ogee-shaped brick course.

The major design element of the building is the pair of projecting entrance pavilions. These pavilions, with their slate-clad hip roofs, rise above the height of the flanking wings. On each facade the entrance pavilions have round-arched entries set within shallow, projecting, one-story limestone enframements. Above a modern steel door at each entrance is a fanlight composed of twisted bands of iron set into a diamond pattern; in the center of each fanlight is an iron shield with flowing ribbons. Above each fanlight are voussoirs ornamented with stylized foliate detail. The doors are flanked by limestone columns with stylized Romanesque-inspired capitals. Each entrance is reached via a low flight of granite stairs. The stairs have stone wing walls and iron pipe railings (not original). On the east elevation only, a round window is located on the second story, above each entrance. Other notable details of the entrance pavilions are the splayed brick lintels on the second story, the windows of the third story that are set below blind arches filled with patterned brickwork, and the brick arcades that run below the hip roofs.

A ramp for handicapped access has been installed to the south of the entrance on the northeast corner of the building, converting a window into an entrance. During the summer of 1993, rehabilitation work was beginning on Building Y. As of early

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August, one original sash had been removed and replaced by a one-over-one aluminum sash window.

Building Y is set in a relatively open location with the lawn created by the layout of buildings X, Y, and Z to the west and a large lawn to the east. The building is separated from the lawn to the east by the hospital street known as Avenue F, This street has a row of plane trees running along its eastern edge (there is no landscaping between the road and Building Y). These plane trees mark the western border of the lawn which forms the southeastern element of the hospital complex. Additional plane trees can be found at the northwest edge of the lawn and other trees (apparently self-seeded as opposed to landscaped) are located along the chain link fence at the eastern edge of the lawn and along portions of the iron fence that parallels Hillside Avenue to the south (this fence, probably dating from the early 20th century, continues around the hospital grounds). The lawn is a relatively flat expanse with a few modest trees and weed plots. In August 1993 work began on the construction of a senior citizen housing project on this lawn.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Old Views:

No old views of Building Y were uncovered at the New York Public Library, Queens Public Library, or New York State Library. A possible source is the records of the New York State Department of Mental Health.

B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Creedmoor State Hospital, *Annual Reports*, 1937-1957.

Kings County State Hospital, *Annual Reports*, 1915-1936.

Ruttenbaum, Steven. "Historic and Natural Districts Inventory Form: Creedmoor Psychiatric Center," prepared for the Division of Historic Preservation, New York State Parks and Recreation (1983).

C. Secondary and published sources:

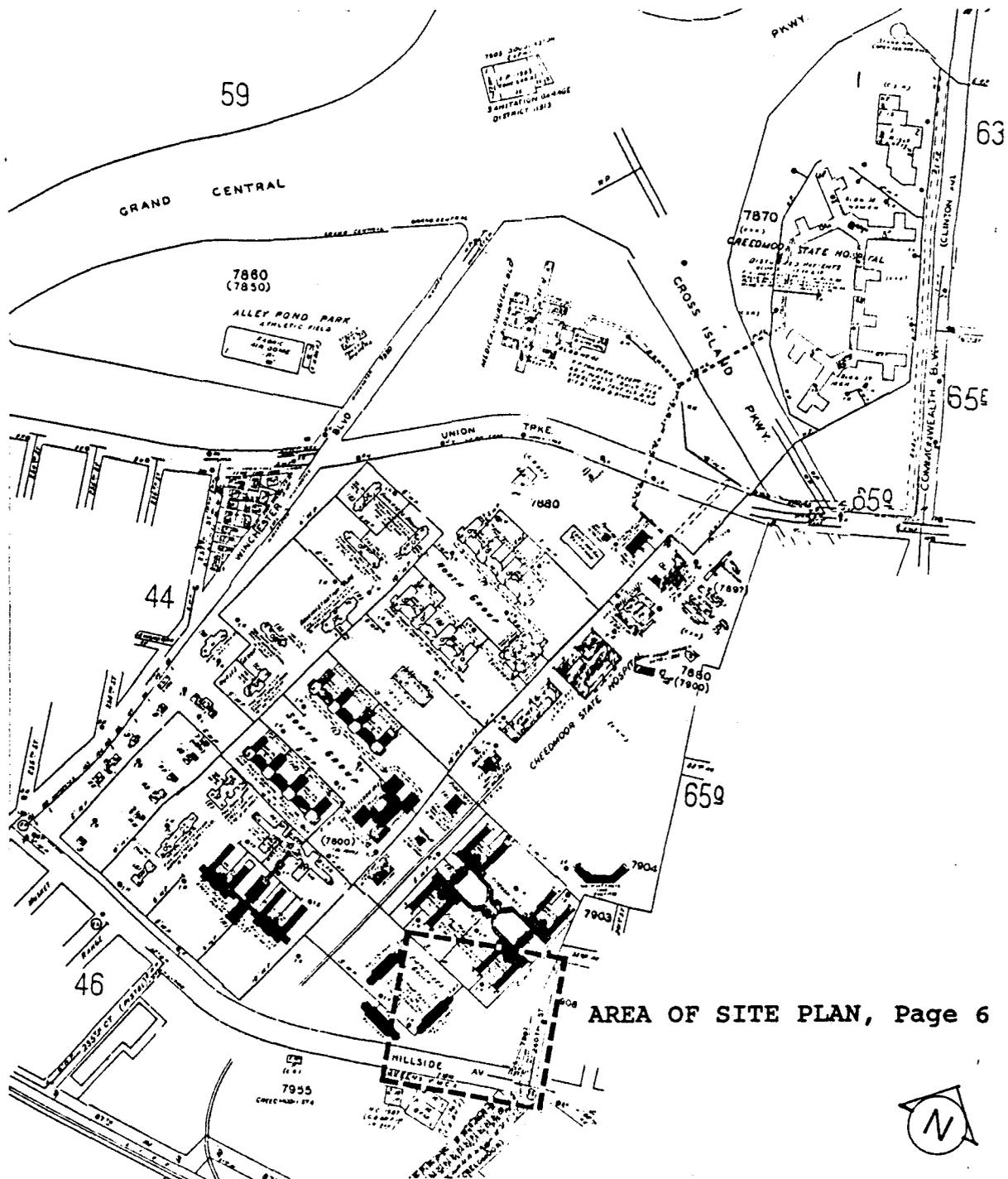
Botch, Judith. *A History of Mental Health Care Institutions in the United States and New York State* unpublished draft report (New York: The Bureau of Field Services New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, 1986).

Hurd, Henry M. *The Institutional Care of the Insane in the United States and Canada* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1916).

PROJECT INFORMATION

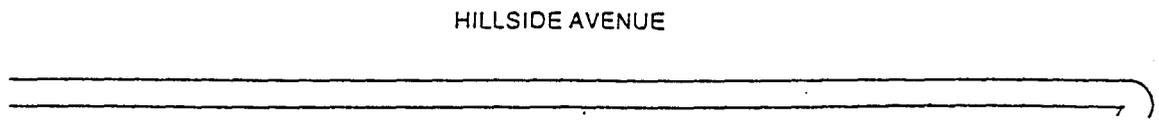
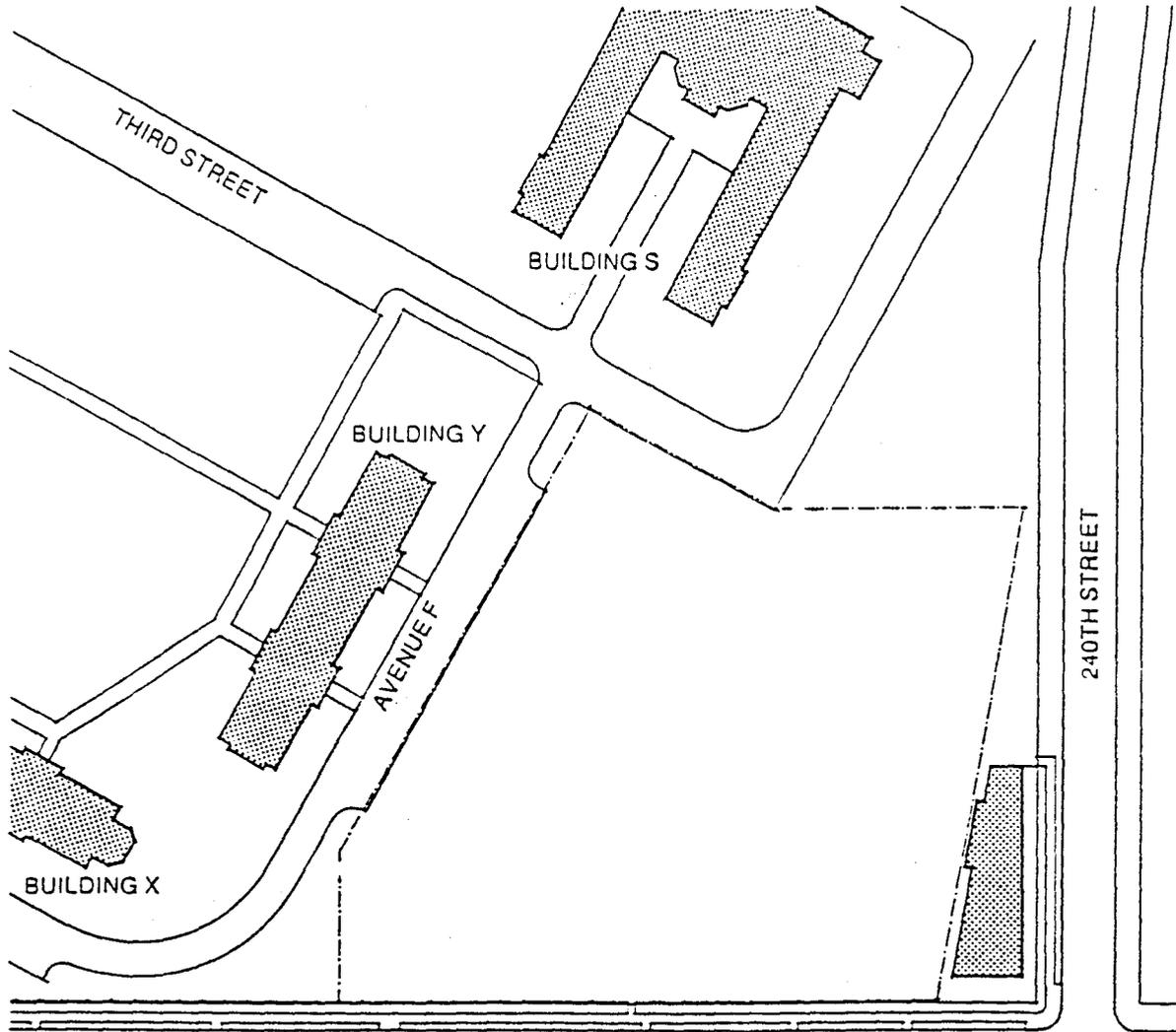
This project undertaken in compliance with an agreement between the National Parks Service and the New York State Office of Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort permitting the construction of housing for senior citizens on a lawn located at the southeast corner of the Creedmoor site. The HABS documentation was completed in 1994 under the supervision of Belmont Freeman of the architectural firm of Freeman & Pizer. Historic data was completed by architectural historian Andrew S. Dolkart. Plans were prepared by Freeman & Pizer. Photographs were taken by Christopher Wesnofske. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Tina LeCoff in the HABS office, Philadelphia, PA.

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Map 1. Insurance Maps of the Borough of Queens, City of New York  
vol 22, plate 60 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1993)

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LEGEND

- IRON FENCE
- - - - - LIMIT OF DEVELOPMENT SITE

SCALE 0 50 100 FT

SITE PLAN BASED UPON PROPERTY SURVEY PREPARED MAY 2, 1991 BY ALBERT A. BIANCO