

MANUAL  
—  
COUNTY  
of  
WAYNE



1930



*This Manual is presented  
to you with our compliments.*



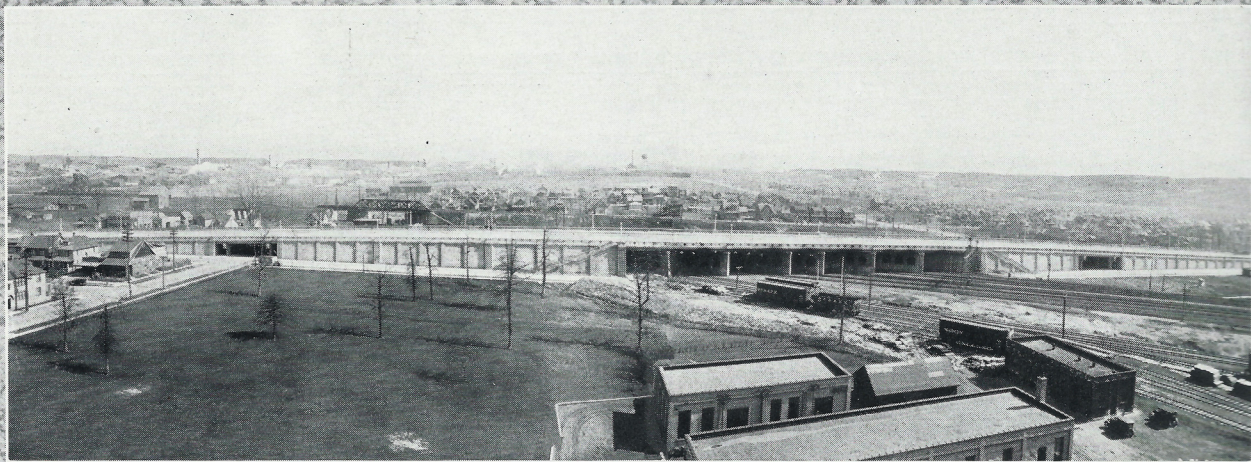
*Board of Auditors, Wayne County*

John C. Cowan

William Gutman

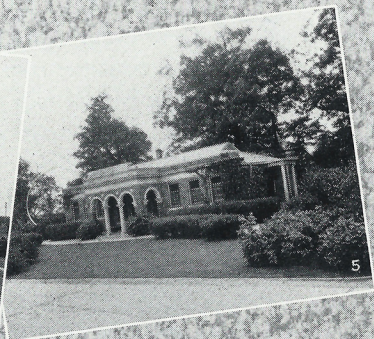
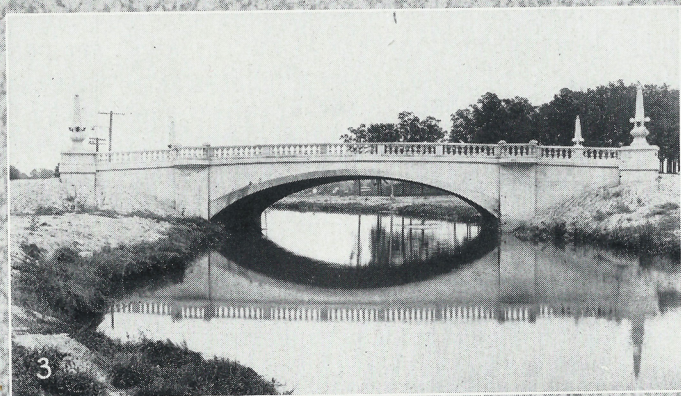
Wm. H. Green, Jr.





Fort Super-Highway Grade Separation over Michigan Central, Wabash and Pennsylvania Railroads.





1—Elizabeth Park

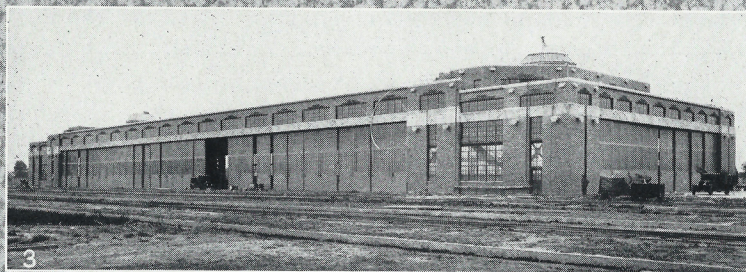
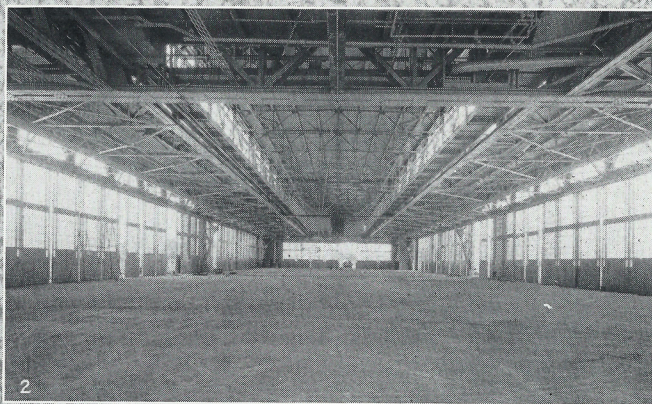
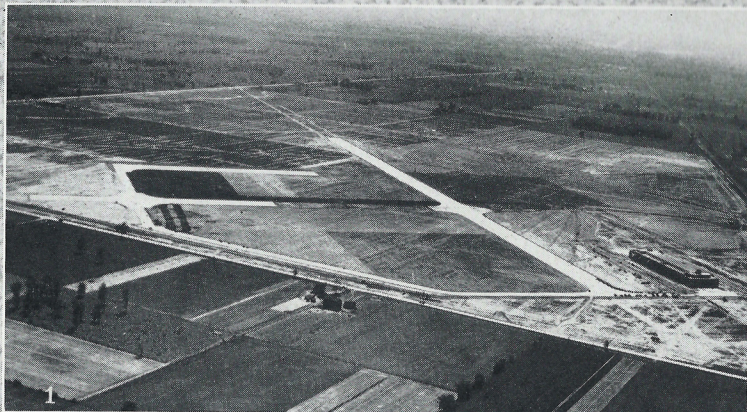
2—Comfort Station, Victory Park

3—Foot Bridge, Elizabeth Park

4—Foot Bridge and Tourist Lodge,  
Elizabeth Park.

5—Comfort Station, Huron River Park





1—Wayne County Airport Showing Hangar and Runways  
 2—Interior view of Hangar  
 3—Exterior view of Hangar





CORONERS' COURT BUILDING

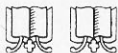


# The County Morgue

WHEN the present County Building was constructed, no provision was made for a morgue, and it was not until July of 1905 that this adjunct was completed ready for use. This addition was built in the basement in the northwest corner of the building at a cost of about \$11,000.00. This old morgue had a capacity for the storage of twenty bodies with an ammonia-brine cooling system. The rapid growth of the County soon made this provision inadequate and it was further deemed that the location was not suitable; so in 1923 provision was made for the construction of a new morgue on an entirely separate site.

The southwest corner of Brush and East Lafayette Streets was chosen as the site, and early in 1925 the new Wayne County Morgue, or Coroners' Court Building as it is now designated, was completed ready for occupancy at a total cost for property and structure of \$450,000.00. This new building represents what might be classed as an achievement in morgue construction, and is probably the finest of its type in the country.

The building includes private offices for the two Coroners, general offices, two court rooms with all necessary ante-rooms, and a mortuary viewing room so furnished and arranged as to soften as much as possible the shock of identification. In addition there is the morgue proper with all of its most modern facilities. In this connection provision has been made for a crypt storage section accommodating one hundred and eighty-six bodies, a cold storage room, a freezing room, an X-Ray and sterilizing room, a wash room and three autopsy rooms. The new morgue is complete and up-to-date in every respect and has been built sufficiently large to serve its purpose for many years to come.





# Eloise Infirmary and Hospital

## Superintendents of Poor:

DR. ALEXANDER BLAIN.....	Welfare Commission
DR. WM. J. SEYMOUR.....	Welfare Commission
HARRY E. ANDREWS.....	Welfare Commission
MRS. PAUL W. TARA.....	Welfare Commission
WM. C. CONNELLY.....	Sup't. of the Poor
GEORGE W. BURT.....	Sup't. of the Poor
LEO T. SEBERT.....	Sup't. of the Poor
DR. THOMAS K. GRUBER.....	Medical Superintendent
JOHN C. NEAR.....	Business Manager
HARRY H. PRENZLAUER.....	Sec'y and Purchasing Agent
S. M. KEENAN.....	Bookkeeper

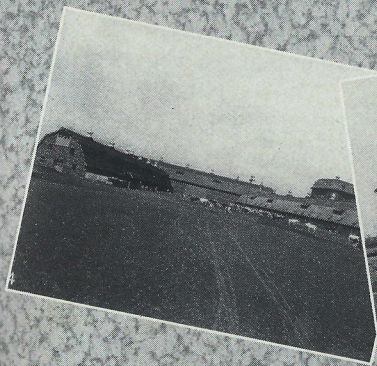
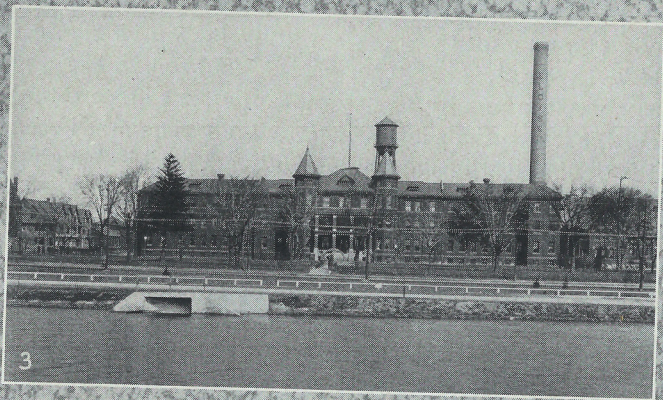
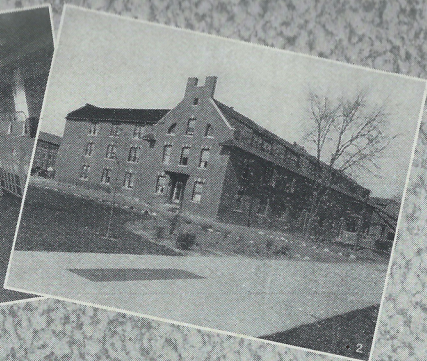
Eloise is the generic term applied to the two Wayne County institutions situated sixteen miles from Detroit in the Township of Nankin. These institutions are severally known as Eloise Infirmary and Eloise Hospital. The term Eloise has been in use many years, and was chosen originally to designate the post office established for the use of the institutions in 1894. Gradually the name became associated with the institutions and was finally adopted in keeping with the rulings of the Legislature which changed the names of all the state asylums to hospitals, and county houses to infirmaries.

The first Wayne County House was opened for the reception of inmates on January 1, 1833. It was under the supervision of three directors appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and under the direct management of a keeper appointed yearly by the directors. It was housed in a rough building on a small farm of seventeen acres located on what is now the northwest corner of Gratiot and Mt. Elliott Avenues.

In 1834 the Board of Supervisors supplanted the board of three directors by the appointment of Rev. Martin Kundig as first Superintendent of the Poor in accordance with a new law. Under his supervision the Sisters of St. Clare were placed in direct charge of the County House.

In 1838 the Board of Supervisors was abolished and the Board of County Commissioners re-created. This new Board was authorized by the Legislature to dispose of the poor house property in Detroit, and to purchase a suitable large farm in the central part of the County. The Commissioners appointed two additional Superintendents of the Poor, advertised for the sale of the property in Detroit, purchased two hundred and eighty acres of the present farm, erected a frame addition to a log tavern, known as the Black Horse, which stood on the property, and moved the inmates to the new site on April 11, 1839. At this time the institution housed thirty-five inmates, a keeper and his wife.





- 1.—Ward in Hospital Building "I"  
 2.—Employees' Residence  
 3.—Hospital Building "B"  
 4.—Dairy Barns  
 5.—Hospital Building "I"



There was plenty of work for such inmates as were able to work, for the infant institution depended largely on its farm for maintenance.

In 1845 the log house was removed and a brick building erected on its site. As years passed the County House expanded to meet increasing requirements and new brick buildings were erected. The forest which originally covered the farm was cut down to its north and south limits, fields were cleared of stumps and fenced, and orchards and extensive vegetable gardens were planted.

The County House was originally erected to care for the county poor only, and not for the city and township poor, as the law provided that each city and township should care for its own poor. These latter were farmed out to private individuals; but, because so much cruelty resulted from this system, arrangements were finally made with county authorities to care for the city and township poor in the County House at a per diem cost. The plan is still in effect, having been found satisfactory to all concerned, and now actual costs are determined at the end of each fiscal year and the several charges spread on the various city and township tax rolls.

Originally the County House was the harbor of refuge not only for the poor, but also for the feeble-minded and insane. Taking care of the insane in the County House was a matter of considerable concern to the Superintendents of the Poor, because many of those afflicted with insanity could not be segregated in special quarters and rather harsh restraints had to be used that otherwise would not have been necessary.

When the State Asylum at Kalamazoo was opened in 1859, the Superintendents of the Poor thought that the County House would be relieved of all insane patients; but this did not prove to be the case, as no incurable insane cases were admitted to Kalamazoo. The next move of Wayne County was for an asylum of its own, and after some opposition, provision was finally made for one in 1867.

In 1868 the Board of County Auditors assumed charge of the erection of the new building and had it ready for occupancy the following year. On August 21, 1869, the insane patients were transferred from the County House to the County Asylum and a new era began. At this time it was not considered necessary to put a doctor in charge of the insane, so a neighboring farmer and his wife were employed as keeper and matron under the supervision of the keeper and matron of the County House.

It was not until 1881 that Dr. E. O. Bennett and his wife were employed as medical superintendent and matron of the County Asylum, and for the next nineteen years Dr. Bennett presided over the institution with rare ability and discernment raising it from a place of incarceration for the insane to the dignity of a recognized



hospital for the treatment of mental diseases. In 1885 a very decided change took place in the management of the County House also, for in that year Mr. James Gillespie and his wife were placed in charge, and for the next twenty years served with marked capability and efficiency.

By an Act of 1844 the Board of Auditors were authorized to appoint three Superintendents of the Poor, each to hold office for a term of three years. In 1885 the four Poor Commissioners of the City of Detroit became by an act of the Legislature also Superintendents of the Poor, thus increasing the Board to seven members, the four Commissioners being appointed by the Mayor of Detroit and the three county members by the Board of County Auditors as before.

Through this period numerous improvements and additions were made to the County House and the Asylum. Several new institutional buildings were constructed; 159 additional acres of land adjoining the County Farm were purchased; a small electric power plant was erected to replace the existing gas lighting plant; and a new water power and pumping system was installed.

In 1900 upon the resignation of Dr. E. O. Bennett, Dr. J. J. Marker was appointed as Medical Superintendent of the asylum, and a little later was appointed Superintendent of both institutions.

During Dr. Marker's regime several large institutional buildings of the most modern construction were erected; more farm land was purchased, bringing the total up to 479 acres; a new sewerage system was installed; a storeroom, an amusement hall, a cold storage plant, a modern laundry, and an apartment building and dining hall for employees were built. The terms Eloise Infirmary and Eloise Hospital became generally adopted in this period, and the old names of the institutions fell into disuse.

On September 2, 1921, a deep sorrow fell upon Eloise, for Dr. John J. Marker, who for twenty-one years had been Medical Superintendent of the Hospital and for sixteen years Superintendent of the Infirmary, was struck and instantly killed by a train while driving his automobile across the Michigan Central Railroad tracks at Eloise. He had been appointed assistant physician in 1891, and remained in the employ of the Superintendents of the Poor continuously until his death. His geniality of manner and kindly ways made him a well-beloved and long-remembered official at Eloise.

On September 16, 1921, Dr. Joseph E. Bennett, son of the former Superintendent and a house physician in the Infirmary since 1913, was appointed as Superintendent and held this position until his death on April 6, 1929. In addition to Dr. Bennett's long experience and



ability as a physician, he indicated a rare aptitude for administration. Under his superintendency Eloise became one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country.

During his administration considerable building activity was carried on, although in this brief outline it is quite impossible to mention all of the recent additions to the buildings at Eloise. Suffice it to say that at present they are over fifty in number, and form in themselves a complete community.

When the Ten-Year Financial Program for Wayne County was being prepared in 1928 by the Board of Auditors, it was necessary to have an estimate of the needs of Eloise for the next decade. Estimates, totaling over \$5,000,000, providing for improvements to old buildings as well as for the construction of new ones were submitted by Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. E. Bennett. These requests were substantially approved by the Board of Supervisors; and with the adoption of the Ten-Year Financial Program by the electorate at the November election in 1928, the Superintendents of Poor were free to go ahead and carry out the building schedule as planned by the Board of Supervisors.

For Eloise the following schedule will be carried out subject to biennial revision: 1929-30, one hospital for insane; 1930-31, an administrative building, enlargement to cafeteria, addition to power plant, central kitchen for insane, high tension lighting system; 1931-32, one hospital for insane, one infirmary building; 1932-33, one infirmary building, addition to employees' terrace, addition to sewerage disposal plant, addition to laundry; 1933-34, one building for insane, one morgue; 1934-35, one infirmary building, addition to bakery, addition to cold storage plant; 1935-36, one building for insane, addition to power plant; 1937-38, one building for insane.

At this point it seems pertinent that something be said concerning the manner on which these institutions are conducted, their cost of maintenance, their sources of revenue, and their capital value to Wayne County.

As stated before, the Board of Superintendents of the Poor is composed of seven members, three appointed by the Board of County Auditors and four by the Mayor of Detroit. Those appointed by the Mayor are also Commissioners of Public Welfare for Detroit. The Secretary of the latter board is also Secretary of the County Board and is the Purchasing Agent of both Boards. The Board of Supervisors alone has the power to appropriate funds for the support of the institutions. Previous to each fall meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Superintendents of the Poor submit to the Board of County Auditors detailed estimates for the following fiscal year. The Board of Auditors goes over the estimates carefully, and in turn submits them with its recommenda-



tions to the Board of Supervisors, whose action is final. The Superintendents also submit a statement of the days support chargeable to the cities, townships and County for the support during the past twelve months of the charges sent to the Infirmary by the authorized officials of the cities, townships and County, and the Supervisors spread the various amounts on the tax rolls. The per diem cost is based on the expense of maintaining the Infirmary. There are a few private charges in the Infirmary, and whatever is paid to the Board for their support is credited to the cities and townships from which they were sent. The net amount chargeable for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1928, was \$517,893.29, while the per diem cost per patient was \$.71. The management of the Infirmary is now under Dr. Thomas K. Gruber, who was appointed to succeed Dr. Bennett.

Eloise Infirmary is far removed from the poor house of former days, and no longer is "Over the Hills to the Poor House" applicable to this fine institution. During the winter of 1928-1929 a maximum of twenty-eight hundred and twelve inmates were cared for and given a home.

Eloise Hospital is devoted entirely to the care and treatment of the insane of Wayne County. Every patient received is a county charge for one year, after which time the patient becomes a state charge. Bills are rendered quarterly to the State for all county and state charges. The State in turn renders a bill to the County Auditors for the county charges. The revenue received from the State for the 1928 fiscal year was \$708,451.87. The largest number of patients cared for in the Hospital was twenty-three hundred and thirty-three. This was during October of the year 1929. Not many years back this institution was looked upon askance by the state institutions; in their estimation it was simply a place of detention for the insane, a mere branch of a county poor house, and not a hospital for the treatment of mental diseases.

This day has gone, and Eloise Hospital now ranks with the best. It is a credit to the Superintendents of the Poor who have fought for it, to the Board of County Auditors who have stood back of it, to the Board of Supervisors who have fostered its growth, and to Wayne County that has built it. This fine institution is also under the direction of Dr. Thomas K. Gruber, and he is assisted by a staff of competent physicians.

Eloise farm is the most beautiful one in the County since the erection of its magnificent buildings. Every portion set aside for cultivation has been thoroughly tilled, and every acre bears its quota of crops. It is considered as separated from the institutions, and put on its own resources, for the purpose of determining its paying factor, which has been quite satisfactory. But apart entirely from its economic value



as a farm is its desirability for the welfare it affords the patients who perform light work upon it, and for the excellent fresh food it furnishes the institutions.

The management of Eloise is a heavy task, and can only be performed by the energetic co-operation of all the departments with the Superintendent, who is fortunate in having surrounded himself with an able corps of attaches who make his interests their own. Over six hundred and fifty persons in all are employed at Eloise.

In order to secure facilities of transportation the Superintendents of the Poor long ago had express and railroad agencies and a postoffice established in the administration building. A railroad siding almost encircles the rear of the building site, and affords facilities for unloading directly from cars into the cold storage plant, power plant, general store house and department shops. At times supplies to a value of \$90,000.00 are on hand in the cold storage plant, storeroom and workshop.

Eloise is one of the most valuable properties belonging to Wayne County. When the present building schedule is finished, a conservative estimate of the value of all the buildings, contents, equipment, farm and miscellaneous properties will approximate \$11,000,000.00.

The Board of Superintendents of the Poor of Wayne County is the oldest Board of continuous existence in the County, in the State, and in fact in the entire Northwest. For almost ninety-five years it has served the people of Wayne County, caring for their poor and mentally afflicted in a quiet and unostentatious way and their work speaks for itself.

**Powers and Duties:** The Board of Superintendents of the Poor is a corporation and possesses the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes. It has general superintendence over all the poor who may be within the county. By statute the Superintendents of the Poor have the following specific powers and duties:

1. To have charge of the county infirmary, and to provide suitable places to keep the poor.
2. To ordain and establish prudential rules, regulations and by-laws for the government and good order of the poor houses and county infirmaries, and for the employment, relief, management and government of the persons therein.
3. To employ and appoint all necessary officers and servants.
4. To purchase furniture, implements, provisions and materials necessary for the institution.
5. To prescribe the mileage rate for transporting poor persons to the county infirmary.
6. To render to the Board of Supervisors an annual financial statement of all receipts and expenditures.
7. To provide in their discretion for the support of poor persons that may be idiots or lunatics.
8. To contract with the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan to send patients to the University Hospital for treatment.



# Wayne County Training School

## Administrative Board:

MRS. ROBERT BEATTIE.....	President
EBER W. YOST.....	Vice-President
MILTON M. ALEXANDER.....	
FRANK CODY.....	
HENRY S. HULBERT.....	
WM. H. MAYBURY.....	
TRACY W. MCGREGOR.....	
DR. ROBERT H. HASKELL.....	Superintendent

One of the most progressive steps that Wayne County has taken in the past few years has been the erection of a Training School and Home for feeble-minded children at Northville. For many years before any definite action was taken in its creation, a very acute need had been felt for some such institution in Wayne County. Some provision for the care and treatment of this type of unfortunate was made by the State some years ago when the Michigan State Training School was established at Lapeer. However, by 1919, it had become glaringly apparent that this institution was inadequate to care for the whole state, for in Wayne County alone, out of 568 children recommended for commitment, only 111 could be accommodated at Lapeer.

It was this serious state of affairs that caused Judge Hulbert to direct a communication to the Board of Supervisors, calling to its attention the necessity of some kind of action in the matter. That Board immediately recognized the importance of devising a means of coping with the problem, and in two successive years, 1919 and 1920, appointed committees to study the situation, to investigate the advisability of erecting and maintaining a training school for feeble-minded patients, and to seek the passage of an enabling act by the State Legislature to make the establishment of such an institution possible.

As a result of this action, a thorough investigation was made which disclosed that conditions were even more deplorable than indicated by Judge Hulbert. It was found that hundreds of feeble-minded persons were at large, who could not be committed to institutions because of lack of proper accommodations. Realizing that such a state of affairs provided a constant menace to the safety, health, and progress of the community, legislation was immediately sought that would authorize Wayne County to erect and maintain an institution of its own for the care and training of feeble-minded patients.

This effort was rewarded by the passage of Act 392 of the Public Acts of 1921, which provided that any county in the State should have the power, by resolution of its Board of Supervisors, to provide for the care, custody, and maintenance of feeble-minded persons within



such county. It further provided for the raising of money by loan or bond issue for the erection and equipping of such institutions, and authorized the levying of taxes, from year to year, for their maintenance.

Acting upon this authority, a special committee was appointed at the June Session of the Board of Supervisors in 1921, which investigated similar institutions in the East and recommended at the Fall Session of the same year that a bond issue of \$1,000,000.00 be authorized to build a training school for feeble-minded children in Wayne County. The question of the advisability of such an issue of bonds was presented to the voters of Wayne County at the November election of 1922, and was approved by a vote of almost two to one.

Steps had already been taken toward the selection of a site for the new institution, and on February 14th, 1923, provision was made to purchase the present site just out of Northville, consisting of approximately 905 acres. Since then some 123 acres have been added so that now over 1000 acres of land are available for various purposes in carrying out the activities of the institution.

In April 1924 bids were received for the construction of the Wayne County Training School in accordance with plans and specifications which had already been prepared, and it was found that an additional bond issue would be necessary. Such a bond issue was authorized in the additional amount of \$1,000,000.00 and duly approved in September 1924 by the electors of Wayne County.

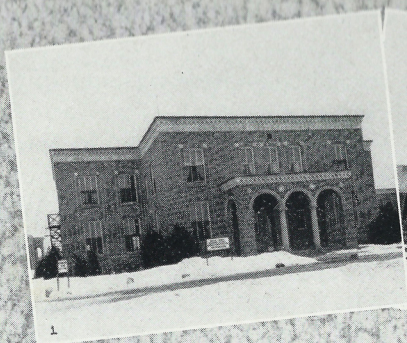
In October of 1924 a contract was entered into for the construction of the various buildings which were to comprise the new institution. By 1926 nearly all the construction had been completed and a number of pupils, originally committed to Lapeer from Wayne County, were transferred to the Wayne County institution.

The number of children at the institution has increased from year to year. In 1929 there were 602 children being cared for, of which 351 were boys and 251 were girls. To date 728 children in all have been admitted to the institution.

In addition to the work at the school, special treatment and vocational guidance have been extended, since the opening of the institution, to 353 children who have remained in their homes.

Provision was made by an Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors at its fall session of 1925 for the creation of an Administrative Board to consist of the Judge of Probate presiding for Wayne County, the County Commissioner of Schools, the Superintendent of the Detroit Board of Education and four citizens of Wayne County to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This Administrative Board is vested with the government and the sole and exclusive control and management of the Wayne County Training School. The necessary appointments to





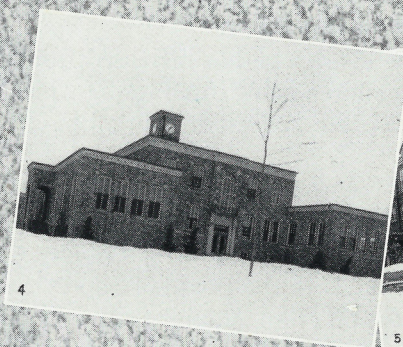
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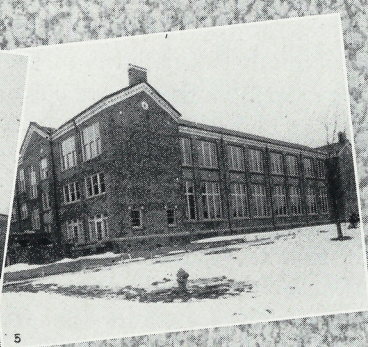
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5

1—Administration Building

3—Teachers' Residence

2—Dairy Barn

4—Hospital

5—School Building and Gymnasium



complete the membership of this Board were made under the same Ordinance, and it has now been functioning for three years.

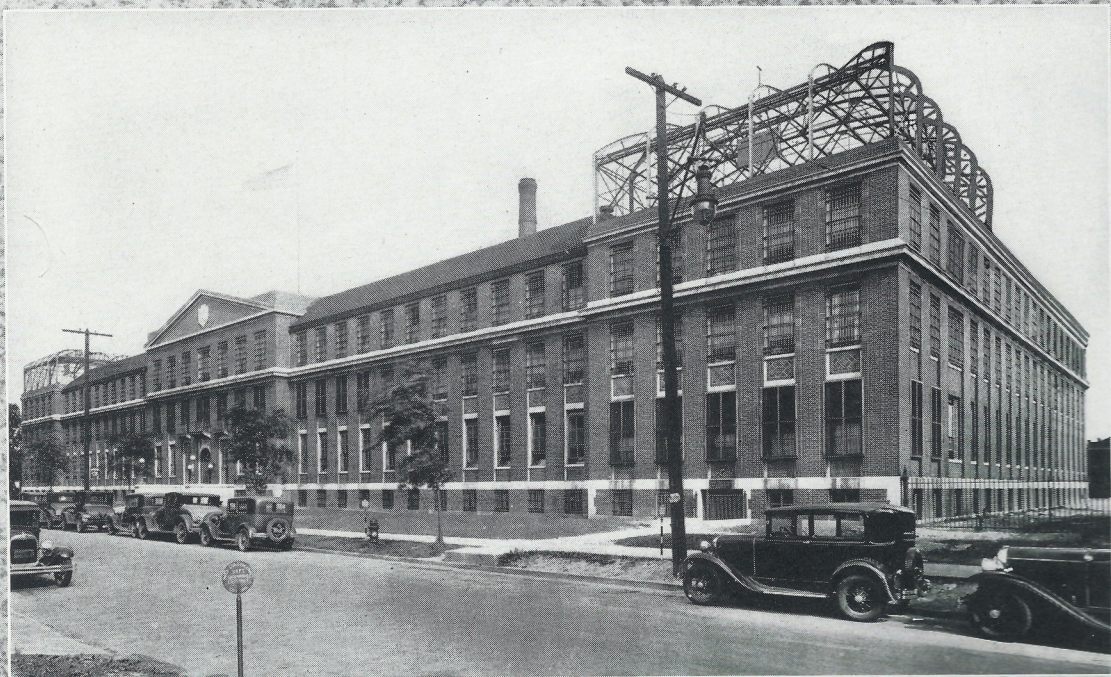
After careful inquiry and considerable investigation, the Administrative Board found a man to act as Superintendent of the new Training School who has proved highly qualified to successfully carry on the aims contemplated in the creation of this institution. This man, Dr. Robert H. Haskell, had been for twelve years the Superintendent of the Ionia State Hospital and in that capacity had shown marked ability as an institutional head.

In addition to the buildings called for by the original specifications, several recent additions have proved necessary and at the present time some construction activity is still under way. To date, however, the Wayne County Training School has been practically completed and fully equipped for operation at a cost of approximately \$3,000,000.00. It is sufficiently large to accommodate about 800 children and is capable of almost indefinite expansion. The present group of buildings includes sixteen dormitories, two school buildings, an assembly hall, a hospital, an administration building, two gymnasiums, a teachers' dormitory, residences for the superintendent and his assistant, and several other auxiliary buildings, all of the most modern fireproof construction. The school is ideally located and no reasonable expense has been spared in making it a beautiful home for the unfortunates for whom it has been built.

However, the cost of the Wayne County Training School will be indeed an insignificant item if the aims of those who have sponsored it are successfully attained. If Wayne County can make good citizens and useful men and women out of a class of unfortunates that has hitherto been a menace to society and a detriment to progress, it will go far towards solving a serious social problem, and will in even greater measure merit its reputation as being one of the most progressive counties in the United States.







JUVENILE DETENTION HOME