

2 UNDERSTANDING

2.7 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Additional plans and drawings from archival research can be found in Appendix I

2.7.1 SUMMARY TIMELINE

18TH CENTURY

1772

A meeting was held to support a project to erect a new public lunatic asylum for the people of Yorkshire. An initial sum of £5000 was given as a target for subscribers.⁹

1773

The first £5000 was raised and a suitable site near to York was chosen by the Lord Mayor and Dr Hunter; a strong supporter of the project. This was purchased for £1000. In August the plans of the architect John Carr were also approved.

1777

Construction moved slowly but in November the first patients were admitted at a cost of 8 shillings a week; Dr Hunter was the sole physician practicing at the asylum. York Asylum was the fifth public asylum to be established in England by this date.

1788

The Asylum was enlarged for a further twenty patient rooms. A total of £10,000 had now been spent on construction since conception. A tiered system of payment was introduced to allow affluent patients to be accommodated for a pound a week. The hospital also took on paupers, who paid 6 shillings a week.

1790

The death of a Quaker patient, Hannah Mills led to the establishment of The Retreat, York in 1796 to care for mentally-ill Quakers. Concern had begun to grow over the management of the Asylum and the conditions the patients were living in.

⁹ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

19TH CENTURY

1808

The first new wing is built to meet the demand of additional patients.

1814

Following further concerns over the overcrowding and mistreatment of patients, an inquiry in 1814 saw a substantial overhaul of the rules and administration of the Asylum. The reforms included physical alterations and additions to the building were made to improve the environment for staff and patients.

1814

The rear wing of the Asylum was destroyed by a fire. This was replaced in 1817 by the female patient wing, with male patients situated in the original 1777 building. Other alterations were also made to make the Asylum a more appropriate environment, with better ventilation, lighting, flooring, and new WC and bathing facilities.¹⁰

1818

Further alterations were made to create additional accommodation for wealthy patients but these were rarely used.

1824

A high proportion of violent patients were admitted under a new policy in this period. A new refractory ward was opened in 1828 to accommodate the patients, separated from the other buildings by a long passageway.

1852

An extension was made to the refractory wing.

¹⁰ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

19TH CENTURY (CONTINUED)

1854

Dr Needham was appointed Medical Superintendent in 1858 until 1874. He championed the perception of the Asylum as a curative hospital rather than a prison, which led to physical changes on the site. Heavy window and fire guards were removed, high walls around the airing courts were replaced by low walls (and hidden moats), new chairs, chests of drawers and washstands were installed, curtains were hung and cages of birds, hanging flower baskets and pictures were all provided to create a 'civilised' environment.¹¹

1860s

The Asylum was further enlarged in this period with the construction of the Medical Superintendent's house in 1862-3 and the chapel in 1864. Two new wings were constructed to house the pauper patients, whose accommodation was now compulsory following the Lunacy Act of 1845.

1870s

Extensive refurbishments were made to the central block including a new recreation and dining hall, wash house and boiler house.

1886

The interior of the Asylum was largely altered and refurbished.¹² Detailing from this period includes a large number of Minton tiled corridor floors, fireplaces, fine door cases, door heads and leaves and three elaborate staircases with stained glass screens.¹³

20TH CENTURY

1908

An extension to the female wing was constructed to accommodate the affluent female patients.

1913

Between 1913 and 1920 houses in nearby Union Terrace were purchased to provide nurse and staff accommodation.

11 Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, 1986

12 Borthwick Archives, catalogue information on the Bootham Park Hospital, 1995

13 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: RCHME: Outside the City Walls East of the Ouse: London: 1975: 47-9).

20TH CENTURY (CONTINUED)

1939

The central colonnaded turret from the 1777 principal building was removed. The base was later removed in 1951 and the end chimneys removed in the late-20th century.

1948

Bootham Park Hospital was included within the new National Health Service (NHS). In the late 1940s, following two decades of under-funding, the buildings and facilities were upgraded and the accommodation improved. The number of beds increased from 130 in 1948 to 172 in 1950. By 1960 this had risen again to 214.

1950s-1960s

Major structural and functional changes led to building renovations, a new out-patient building (1958) and new neuro-psychiatric unit (1966). Since 1948 the original John Carr building has been used for local NHS management, the Medical Superintendent's house is now part of Ward I and the chapel houses the psychology departments.

1989

The chapel interior was converted to offices by Ashfield Architects.

1995-1998

A significant upgrade of services at Bootham Park was carried out in 1995-6 including refurbishment of wards and staff facilities. The Chantry Suite out-patient area was created in this period in the 1817 north wing.

21ST CENTURY

2010

A new extension was built to the west of the Medical Superintendent's house to increase the size of Ward I.

Ongoing

Modernisation is a constant challenge as modern therapeutic care models evolve and patient and staff expectations change.

2 UNDERSTANDING

2.7.2 EARLY HISTORY OF THE SITE

In August 1772 an advertisement was placed in the York Courant for those interested in being involved in a project to erect an asylum in York. Dr A. Hunter expressed his support at this first meeting and later became the first physician at the Asylum. A target of £5000 was suggested for construction. Dr Hunter and the Lord Mayor of York began to search for a suitable site for the new asylum. Locations next to the County Hospital on Monkgate (established 1745), Straker's Garden on Bootham and a plot on St Marygate were all rejected.

The same year a newspaper article entitled 'Reasons for establishing a Lunatic Hospital' was published. These included the 'relief of unhappy sufferers' and outlined the lack of provision in the area. In the 1770s there was little suitable provision for mental healthcare, the author excluded both the workhouse and County Hospital as viable specialist options. The nearest asylums were in London, Manchester and Newcastle but were already oversubscribed.

By July 1773 the initial £5000 was raised by subscription, following two appeals to the public. The subscription boards that still exist in the Board Room were erected in recognition of this local generosity. In August of that year two committee meetings were held to make the final choice of the site, which was outside of the city walls at Bootham Bar on low-lying, poorly drained land. £1000 was required to purchase the site.

At these meetings the plans of the architect John Carr were also approved and by January 1774 advertisements were placed for craftsmen to build the Asylum. Work commenced in February and continued into March, when subscribers were once again appealed to for more funds.

The Asylum was designed by John Carr with facilities for 54 patients. The first buildings on the site consisted of the principal hospital building and a detached service building to the north. The principal building was a classical three-storey red brick building with a central pedimented entrance with Tuscan columns and above the entrance was a round colonnaded turret. John Carr was the principal practising architect in York at the time of construction. He served as Mayor of York in 1770, took a prominent role in civic life and had a reputation as a competent designer and architect. Carr was working on the County Assize Courts in York at the time but had also previously built a Grandstand on the Knavesmire and Fairfax House in York. Other projects further afield included Harewood House, Kirby Hall and Leeds Infirmary.

The early Asylum buildings were described in Sotheran's Guide to York in 1796:

*'The Lunatic Asylum is situated without Bootham Bar, on the north-east side, and is a handsome structure, extending in length 132 feet, in depth 52 and in height consisting of three stories. Of these the lowest is a rustic, from which four engaged columns are carried up to the general entablature, and sustain a pediment in the centre of the front, which has a south-west aspect. The ends of the front are finished as pavilions, and have a projection equal to that of the engaged central column already mentioned. Over the centre of the building rises an elegant cylindrical bell-tower, surrounded with engaged columns, and finished with a small cupola and vane. The internal plan is simple and convenient, consisting only of a corridor, extending from end to end of the building, and has on each side of it, on the upper floors, rooms very commodiously and securely finished for the reception of lunatics; and on the lower floor, beside similar rooms, is a committee room, and apartments for the physician and apothecary. Behind the whole, in a separate building, are the kitchen, wash-house, and over convenient offices' above are apartments for 20 patients more.'*¹⁴



Engraving of the York Lunatic Asylum from Sotheran's Guide to York, 1796

Construction was slow and dragged into 1777 due to money shortages, which led to further public subscriptions. A meeting in August agreed that the currently complete rooms should be immediately opened for patient admissions at 8 shillings a week. In November 1777 the first patients were admitted.

Rules and Regulations

The governors published rules and regulations for those using the Asylum:

- Those that had already been discharged as incurable from other asylums were not admitted.
- Epileptics, idiots, pregnant women and those suffering from venereal disease were prohibited.
- Preference was given to those who were the 'greatest objects, having regard to their circumstances as well as their insanity.'
- A one guinea deposit was required to cover funeral expenses in case of death.
- Cleanliness was important and each patient was provided with a new set of clothes.

The initial meeting for subscribers in 1772 stated that the new Asylum would be 'erected as a suitable building for the reception of lunatics being either parish poor or belonging to distressed and indigent families.'¹

York Lunatic Asylum was only the fifth public mental health hospital founded in England. By 1778 there were 15 patients at the Hospital; 23 in 1779 and 28 in 1780. Although the Hospital only officially took patients from the county of Yorkshire, they also accepted patients nationally. By 1788 numbers had risen over capacity to 68 and the Asylum was enlarged by the addition of a further twenty rooms to increase bedroom numbers and avoid turning patients away. A tiered system of payment was introduced in this period to allow affluent patients to be accommodated for a pound a week. The Asylum also took on paupers, who paid 6 shillings a week. By 1790 it is estimated that approximately £10,000 had been spent on construction.¹⁵

The early years of the Asylum have been described as the 'Dark Ages' by commentators, not only because the records from the period 1777-1788 were later destroyed, but because the dubious practices and poor conditions suffered by the patients were at odds with the original reasons for establishing the hospital. Changes to the rules and regulations created an eight tiered payment system, which allowed wealthy patients to be admitted. This new system was criticised by the subscribers as contrary to the original charitable purposes of the Asylum. There was also concern that the funds subscribed for poor lunatics were being misappropriated. Dr Hunter argued against this, as he believed the affluent patients were required to subsidise the treatment of the less well-off.¹⁶

Dr Hunter initially practiced in Gainsborough and Beverley and came to York in 1763. He was appointed the sole practitioner to the Asylum in 1777, which was unusual in terms of contemporary practice. He was also given a salary of £200 for a trial period in 1788, which was also unusual as most physicians took on the role as an honorary one and supplemented this with private practice. Dr Hunter is thought to have had no sympathy for the paupers and poorer patients at the hospital and prioritised those of middling rank and in low circumstances. He opposed the reduction in pauper's fees, which was suggested to increase their numbers. Dr Hunter wrote;

*'I am convinced that at no time the payments from the parish poor should be reduced; as under such an alteration, the house would be immediately filled with the lowest and meanest of the poor, to the exclusion of those of a middling rank and in low circumstances, for whom the Asylum was originally constructed.'*¹⁷

¹⁵ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

¹⁶ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

¹⁷ York Herald, 9th February, 1861

2 UNDERSTANDING

Changes to rules and regulations

By 1788 there had been considerable alterations to the admission rules first stated when the Asylum was founded:

- All people of unsound mind were now admitted, whether curable or not.
- Pregnant women were accepted, as long as provision was made for the child.
- Wealthy patients were admitted from 1784, as it was considered to be 'advantageous to the Asylum'.

These changes were justified by the governors as the charity sought to lessen the number of private 'mad-houses' and offered a viable alternative that was priced proportionately on a patient's ability to pay. In 1788 the patients were divided into eight classes; the lowest paying six shillings a week and the top class paying a pound or more. The payment was inclusive of board, lodging, tea, washing and medicine. Physician's fees were free to those who paid eight shillings or less.

Public concern over the management of the Asylum continued throughout the 1780s and 1790s. The provision for the 'opulent classes' was considered to be open to abuses and 'the growing influence of the physician of the day over the committee' led to its removal after three or four years.¹⁸ In 1793 the number of patients was 66, which rose to 137 by 1803 and rose again to 186 by 1808. In 1813 numbers had risen as high as 199.

In April 1790 the death of Hannah Mills, a Leeds Quaker suffering from 'melancholy', led to the establishment of The Retreat to care for mentally-ill Quakers. None of Hannah Mills' Quaker Friends had been allowed to visit or see the conditions she was treated under, which led to accusations that the Asylum was no longer charitable and had essentially become another private 'mad-house'.¹⁹

In reaction to this, the Quakers founded The Retreat in 1796 in Heslington, York. This smaller asylum championed more humane treatment methods and led, in part, to the Asylums Act of 1808. The Tuke family ran the institution and used humanity, reason and kindness, combined

with restraint only when absolutely necessary. Medical intervention was minimised and the building and grounds were small scale. Routines were designed to be domestic and the building was referred to as 'the house'.²⁰ The contrast of these mild methods of treatment with those used at the York Asylum further stimulated debate on the care and treatment of lunacy at the time.²¹



Sketch of The Retreat, which opened in 1796.

¹⁸ York Herald, 9th February, 1861

¹⁹ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

²⁰ S. Rutherford, The Victorian Asylum, 2008

²¹ K. Webb, From County Hospital to NHS Trust: The history and archives of NHS hospitals, services and management in York 1740-2000, Volume 1, History, 2002

2.7.3 19TH CENTURY

In 1804 Dr Best partly took over from Dr Hunter, on his recommendation as the sole medical practitioner at the Asylum. Best continued using traditional forms of treatment, which saw all patients medicated as a matter of routine not only to cure but to subdue. Mechanical restraint was also used, without scrutiny, and was only regulated in the 1890s. In 1809 Dr Hunter died and the board of governors agree that Dr Best should continue in post as before, rather than increase the number of physicians. Increased patient numbers saw another new wing built in 1808 to meet the demand of additional patients.

Dr Best held public offices at the York Asylum and Acomb dispensary between 1804 and 1815, which also helped build up his private practice. Dr Best was initially well-regarded as a physician but his reputation suffered from the unfavourable reporting as part of the early-19th century reforms, implicating him in the mismanagement of the Asylum.

Concern for the condition of the patients and the management of the Asylum peaked in 1813, which saw local social commentators attempting to stimulate reform. This began in earnest following a call to examine accusations of mistreatment of a pauper patient William Vickers by Godfrey Higgins. Godfrey Higgins was a West Riding magistrate who spearheaded the reform of the York Asylum c.1814, supported by Samuel Tuke, the grandson of the founder of The Retreat. Higgins visited the Asylum and discovered:

*'To my great surprise that the house is yet in the most shocking state. I discovered a number of secret cells in a state of filth; horrible beyond description and which in my opinion, it was impossible could be produced by the occupation of one or two patients in less than several nights. In one of these cells was a chair and hand-cuffs affixed to a board in the floor...these cells were occupied the last night by women, the most miserable objects I ever beheld.'*²²

Only 7 keepers were employed to look after 199 patients (in contrast The Retreat had one keeper for every ten patients). The number of patients was at its highest in 1813 at 199, which coincided with a decrease in the standards of living and increased mortality. The annual reports did not indicate an increase in deaths but the steward's books showed that 61 deaths had been concealed between 1807 and 1813.²³

In December 1813, a governor's meeting failed to respond to the accusations of ill-treatment, which prompted approximately 40 local gentlemen to pay £20 to qualify themselves as new governors and take-over the board. This reforming party gained control of the Asylum in 1814 and brought in considerable changes to the government and finances.²⁴ Led by Samuel Tuke (the grandson of the founder of The Retreat), their first meeting was used to discuss reform at the Asylum. Tuke was and advocated a complete overhaul of the Asylum's administration, based on the well-documented cases of ill-treatment. In 1814, at the height of these debates, a wing of the Asylum burnt down. This was most likely caused by a chimney fire in an adjacent room but was thought at the time to be another example of mismanagement and obstructive staff. Four patients died in the fire.

In 1814 new rules for the institution were implemented and new staff appointed. The objective of the new administrators was to create a larger building that would reduce overcrowding and provide a good environment for the patients. The Building Committee commented on the existing building that:

*'The airing courts are very small and confined, and the number of patients in each lodging-room appears to your committee much too great. The manner in which the male and female patients are distributed in the main buildings, the want of connection with airing courts, and the difficulty of inspection, have all claimed the attention of your committee.'*²⁵

The committee recommended that the existing main building be used for male patients only and the fire-damaged wing be rebuilt to house female patients. A new wing containing four female wards was built in 1817 by architects Messrs Watson and Pritchett, with male patients situated on the four wards in the 1777 building. Other alterations were also made to make the Asylum a more appropriate environment, with better ventilation, lighting, flooring in the low gallery, and new WC and bathing facilities.²⁶

By 1818 the new structures were complete and the 'provision for the opulent class' led to an increase in applications from affluent patients.²⁷ This led to the construction of additional accommodation with rooms advertised as possessing 'security with freedom from unnecessary coercion' and 'every degree of privacy, which is compatible with security'. However, the accommodation for eight to ten patients was never popular and housed no more than three at any one time.

²² York Herald, 26 March, 1814

²³ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

²⁴ Webb, From County Hospital to NHS Trust: The history and archives of NHS hospitals, services and management in York 1740-2000, Volume 1, History, 2002

²⁵ A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

²⁶ Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, 1986

²⁷ Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, 1986

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In the same year the West Riding Asylum at Wakefield opened and some of the pauper patients from the York Asylum were removed here, but generally pauper numbers remained static. A change in policy in 1824 also saw an increase in the admittance of violent patients, which led to the erection of a new refractory ward in 1828 for 14 violent or 'troublesome' patients. A high proportion of these were initially placed under mechanical restraint but additional attendants were later appointed to lessen the need for personal restraint. In 1851-2 a further extension was added to the earlier refractory wing to the north-west of the Asylum site for male and female patients. These were both connected to the main buildings by two long passageways.

In 1840 a new physician Dr Wake was employed, who oversaw a rise in living standards as additional activities and forms of work and entertainment were provided for the patients. By this date the Asylum had 33 acres of pleasure gardens and fields.

The Patients

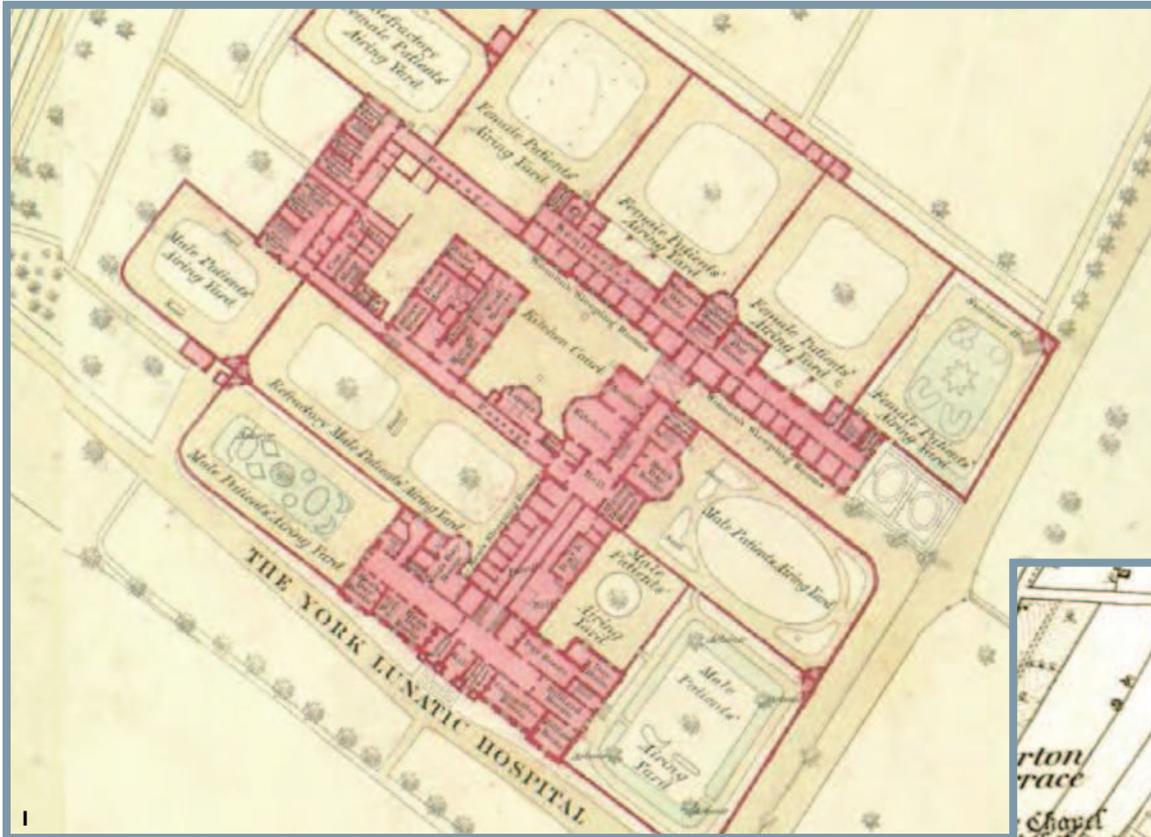
In 1838 there were 174 patients residing at the Hospital, of which only 20 were expected to recover. Two were convalescent, 105 suffered from imbecility, four from 'idiocy', five from epilepsy and two from paralysis. Five patients were thought to dangerous to themselves, 24 dangerous to others and 19 were disposed to destroy their clothes.

In the same year 59 patients were employed in some form of useful work. This increased to 96 by 1840 and continued to grow as the therapeutic value of this was recognised. The variety of activities and entertainment for patients grew from this period, corresponding with a rise in standards of living under the new physician, Dr Wake.²

By the 1850s the average duration of stay in the Asylum was 10 to 11 years. Male and female wings were separated, but as women consistently out-numbered the men, they were often subject to overcrowding.

In 1845, The Lunatics Act brought public asylums into line with each other. It made the provision of accommodation for pauper patients compulsory and required mental healthcare institutions with more than 100 patients to have a medically qualified superintendent at its head. It also required visits and inspections by a Lunacy Commission to increase scrutiny. At York, Mr Metcalfe was first employed, followed by Dr Edward Simpson in 1853. This date marks a watershed in the foundation of Lunatic Asylums and many large institutions were constructed nationally following this date. Interestingly, York Asylum became one of the few institutions that remained partly supported by charity and partly by patient fees.²⁸ In 1848 Clifton Hospital opened and many paupers were moved here from the York Asylum but only temporarily as there was not enough accommodation for them all.

²⁸ Webb, From County Hospital to NHS Trust: The history and archives of NHS hospitals, services and management in York 1740-2000, Volume 1, History, 2002



- 1 Town Plan of York, 1852, 1:500
- 2 1852 Plan of York and surrounding areas

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Dr Frederick Needham was appointed Medical Superintendent at the Asylum in 1858 and remained for 16 years. He had progressive ideas and contributed to the improvement of the patient environment at the Asylum. The perception of the Asylum as a curative hospital rather than a prison led to physical changes on the site. Heavy window and fire guards were removed, high walls around the airing courts were replaced by low walls (and hidden moats), new chairs, chests of drawers and washstands were installed, curtains were hung and cages of birds, hanging flower baskets and pictures were all provided to create a 'civilised' environment.²⁹ In 1871 Needham wrote:

*'I am satisfied that the influence of furniture and general surroundings is not even yet sufficiently appreciated in reference to insane persons. They are really important elements of cure.'*³⁰

Needham also oversaw major additions and modernisation on the site in the 1860s with the construction of the Medical Superintendent's house in 1862-3, the chapel in 1864 (the old chapel was converted to a billiards room) and the pauper wings in 1861-2. The two new male and female pauper wings were constructed on the site of the earlier refractory wing;

*'The new buildings, which are of two storeys, are erected in immediate proximity to and connected with, the western wards. They are spacious and airy, and contain each 14 beds. The sleeping rooms of the attendants also can be converted into three-bedded dormitories. The cost of the erection of the pauper wings had been about £1,800, including fitting and furniture.'*³¹

A recreation and dining hall was built 1871-2 and decorated as a baronial hall (in the characteristically elevated style of Victorian asylums).³² A new wash house, boiler house, kitchen, laundry and larder were also added and provision of gas cookers made domestic life easier. The old baths were replaced with enamelled ones, the hot water supply was improved and boards replaced old stone flags in some galleries and bedrooms. The improvements were described in a newspaper article of 1865:

'The various rooms and galleries are beautifully clean, cheerful and home-like, and are carpeted and furnished with the utmost comfort. There are open unguarded fires in all the rooms, book-cases and books, bagatelle boards, pianos, birds of various kinds, gold fish and indeed everything which can attract the attention of the patients and divert their minds from themselves.'

*The whole of the bed-rooms, to the number of about 10, which were formerly white-washed or coloured have been papered with light, cheerful, inexpensive papers, and in these bedsteads of an approved pattern have been placed together, with chests of drawers, wash stands and looking glasses. The whole of the sitting-rooms have been repainted and papered, about a dozen of these have been entirely refurbished. The walls of all the galleries have been painted from top to bottom. The doors and casings have been painted throughout and everywhere upon the walls are busts and pictures. These are rarely destroyed, even by the worst patients.'*³³



1 Photograph of York Asylum staff outside the principal building between 1860 and 1890. BOO1/12/1



2 The recreation hall c.1910 (Annual Report, 1911)

29 A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

30 York 'A' and Tadcaster Hospital Management Committee report, 1958

31 Yorkshire Gazette, 21st June, 1862

32 York Herald, 23rd March, 1872

33 Yorkshire Gazette, 23rd December 1865

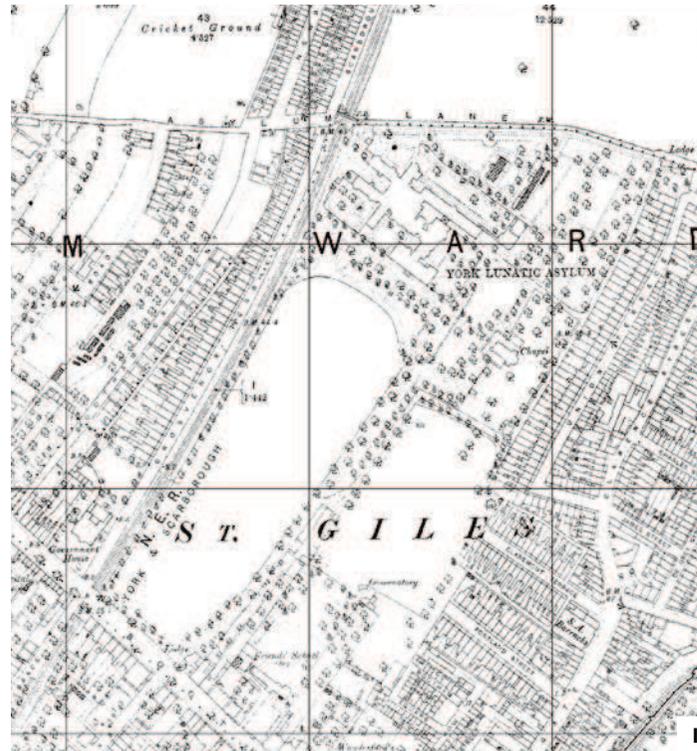
In 1877 the York Asylum celebrated its centenary and the Committee of Management stated that 5,214 patients had been treated in those hundred years, of which more than 1,500 had returned home. One hundred years on from its foundation in 1777, Yorkshire now boasted more than 50 asylums. For the centenary banquet the recreation hall was decorated:

*'The unusual decorations of the dining hall gave it the appearance of an ancient baronial hall, trophies of spears, lances, swords, foils, breast-plates, shields and stags heads ornamenting the walls. Banks of greenhouse plants along one side and at one end heightened the previously pretty effect of the apartment.'*³⁴

In 1884 Dr Hitchcock took over as Medical Superintendent and was notable for his medical innovations; he reduced the use of sedatives as treatment and was pioneering in his therapy of acute mania cases. This was cemented in 1909 when two American doctors commented that the Hospital 'was the most progressive institution they had visited in Europe.'³⁵

In 1886 the interior of the Asylum was entirely altered and refurbished.³⁶ Detailing that survives from this period includes a large number of Minton tile corridor floors, fireplaces, fine door cases and doors and three elaborate staircases with stained glass screens.³⁷ Hitchcock also installed a stage for theatrical performances and an indoor

American bowling alley (although was found to be disused by 1918³⁸). The major structural change of this period was the complete rebuilding of the link block between the 1777 building and the service wing to the north in 1886 by local architects Fisher and Hepper. When this was finally completed in 1891 a valuable 18th century oil painting by Johan Zoffany was donated to the Asylum by Alderman T. Walker.³⁹



1 OS map of Bootham Park Hospital, dating to 1892, 1:2,500.

2 The Bowling Alley c.1910

34 York Herald, 27th October, 1877

35 A. Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, Borthwick Papers, no.69, 1986

36 Borthwick Archives, catalogue information on the Bootham Park Hospital, 1995

37 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: RCHME: Outside the City Walls East of the Ouse: London: 1975: 47-9)

38 Bootham Park Hospital, Annual Report, 1918

39 York Herald, 20 June 1891. The painting was set to represent Samuel Foote in a comedy of his own writing at the Haymarket Theatre so must represent either 'The Mayor of Garret' (1763-4) or 'The Devil Upon Two Sticks' (1769).

2 UNDERSTANDING

2.7.4 20TH CENTURY

Dr Hitchcock continued his reforms into the 20th century and following the construction of the new link block, the entrance hall within the 1777 building was enlarged and redecorated, providing a new central staircase and main corridors. Electric lighting was fitted in all the bedrooms in 1911.

As the Asylum moved towards a more wealthy class of patients, it changed its name in 1904 from York Lunatic Asylum to the more respectable Bootham Park Hospital. This coincided with changes in policy and the understanding of mental healthcare nationally. The desirability of open-air treatment was emphasised for example, leading to the construction of verandas and extensive airing grounds. The move towards the accommodation of upper and middle class patients was further expedited by the opening of a new city pauper asylum at Naburn in 1906. This hospital had accommodation for 362 paupers, at which point all paupers departed from Bootham Park Hospital.



- 1 The grounds of the Hospital c.1900
- 2 Bootham Park Hospital prior to 1948
- 3 The entrance vestibule c.1904

- 4 An aerial view from a hot air balloon that took-off from a Gala in the Bootham Park grounds. C.1900. In 1913 the Yorkshire Gala and Flower show was held for three days in June in the park in front of the Hospital. Large and enthusiastic crowds gathered, including many patients. Photograph of Bootham Park Hospital in the early-20th century, showing formal planting in the grounds, c.1900

- 5 Photograph of the Children's Fete, held to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897.

In 1908 a substantial extension was built by architect A. Creer of York in between the 1817 female wing and the Medical Superintendent's house to accommodate affluent female patients. The wing was built to 'afford exceptional accommodation to patients in a position to pay higher rates.'⁴⁰ In the same year the male ward no. 6 was decorated and refurnished at a cost of £463. All this work allowed the Hospital to employ its own department of joiners. They repaired furniture and built new items such as staircases, altar rails and tables and upholstered furniture.⁴¹ Additionally, in 1922 the Hospital engaged a painter and painting assistant as two permanent members of staff to keep up with the redecoration required.



- 1 The Drawing Room in the Ladies Gallery No. 1 (on the first floor of the 1908 extension) c.1910
- 2 The corridor and lobby within the Ladies' Gallery No. 1 (on the first floor of the 1908 extension) c.1910
- 3 The Lounge (on the ground floor of the 1908 extension) c.1910

40 Bootham Park Hospital, Annual Report, 1908

41 Bootham Park Hospital, Annual Report, 1911

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Following the outbreak of war in 1914, many structural improvements were abandoned and only essential alterations and the redecoration of wards were carried out until the late 1940s. Minor changes include those carried out in 1924 when the boiler in the laundry was replaced, the boiler in the chapel condemned (but not replaced), stonework renovation to the chapel, purchase of new kitchen equipment, addition of two new rooms to the Medical Superintendent's house and alterations to the bathroom and lavatories in the female ward no. 6.⁴²

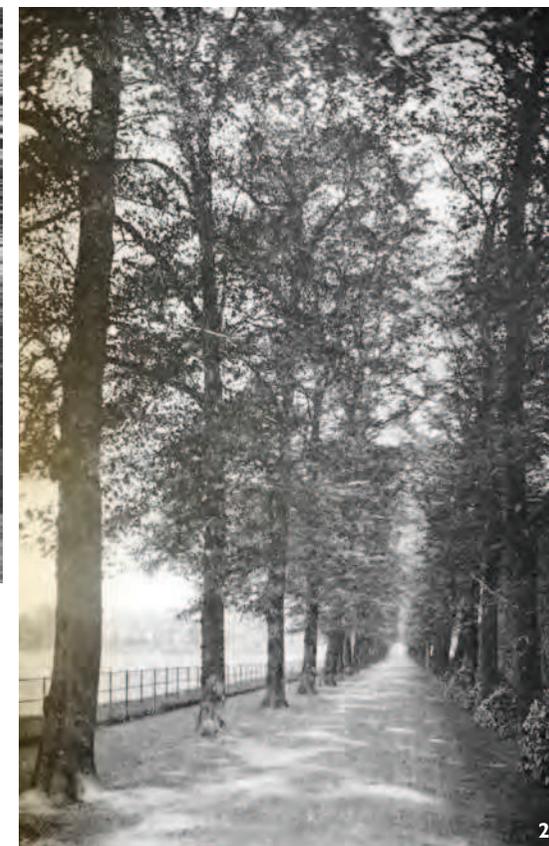
In the interwar period the Hospital began to take on increasing numbers of voluntary boarders and by 1939 85% of admissions were voluntary or temporary.⁴³ In 1930 the entire Hospital site was insured for an annual premium of £22.18 to cover the value of £44,687.13/4.

Following the outbreak of war in 1939, the colonnaded turret on the 1777 building was removed (the base was later removed in 1951 and the chimneys removed in the late-20th century).⁴⁴ The war also necessitated the windows to initially be blacked-out using paint while moveable opaque shutters were brought in. Many wards were moved downstairs to have the patients together and near the sandbagged shelters within the Hospital.

Between 1913 and 1920 houses in nearby Union Terrace were purchased to provide nurse and staff accommodation. The Hospital had extensive grounds with fruit trees, glasshouses, tennis courts, flower beds, a rock garden, cricket pitch and lawns in the 1920s. The Hospital had also acquired a large estate and extensive farmland during the 19th century, including the seven acre field fronting onto Bootham and a large area of fields to the north; the historic common land known as Bootham Stray. The Hospital also owned two farms; one on Haxby Road and another on Stockton Lane. The estate was of 33 acres in 1853 but the farms and land was being sold off by the early 20th century.⁴⁵



- 1 Photograph of the principal building, taken between the 1930s and 50s as the central colonnaded turret has been removed but its base is still visible, as are the chimneys.
- 2 The Avenue, looking north towards the Hospital buildings, c.1910

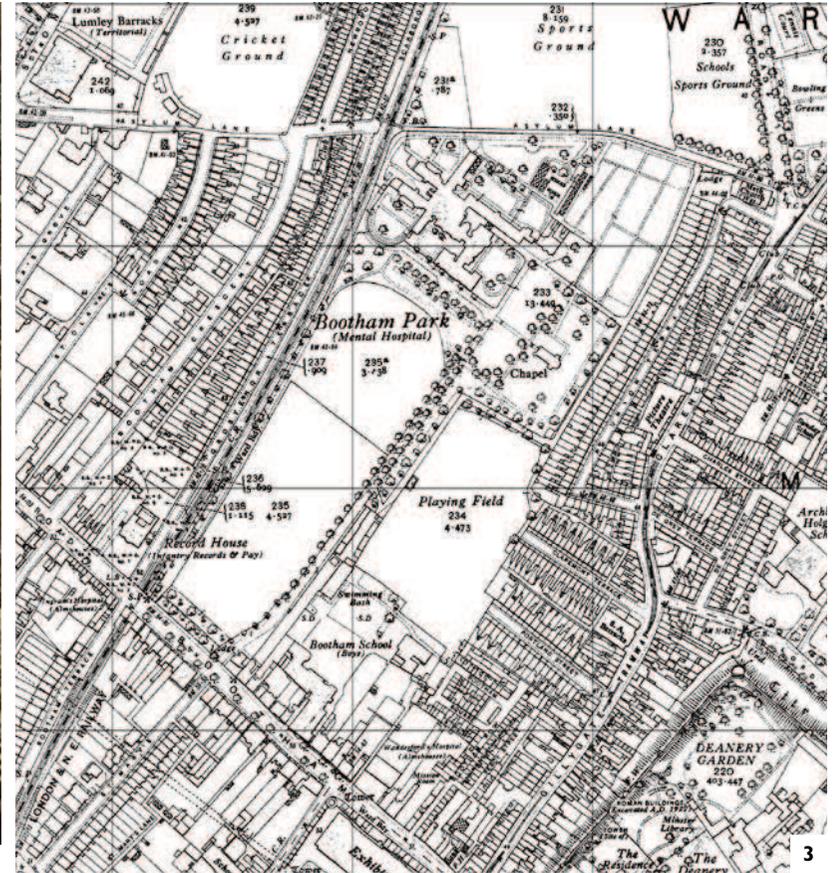


42 Bootham Park Hospital, Annual Report, 1924

43 The 1930 Mental Treatment Act had introduced the three classifications – certified, voluntary or temporary

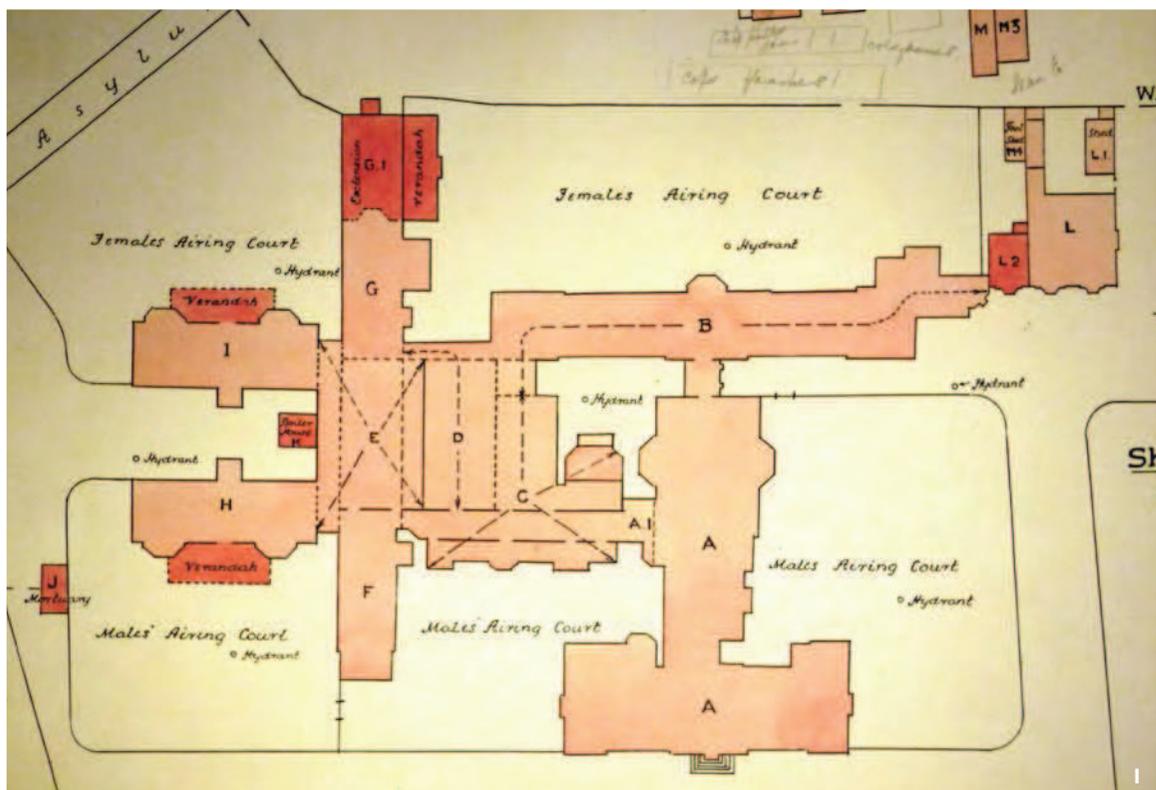
44 Digby, From York Lunatic Asylum to Bootham Park Hospital, 1986

45 Webb, From County Hospital to NHS Trust: The history and archives of NHS hospitals, services and management in York 1740-2000, Volume 1, History, 2002



- 1 The chapel c.1910. In 1989 the chapel was converted to offices by Ashfield Architects.
- 2 View of Bootham Park Hospital in the distance from the access road leading from Bootham, c.1910
- 3 OS map of Bootham Park Hospital, dating to 1931, 1:2,500.

2 UNDERSTANDING

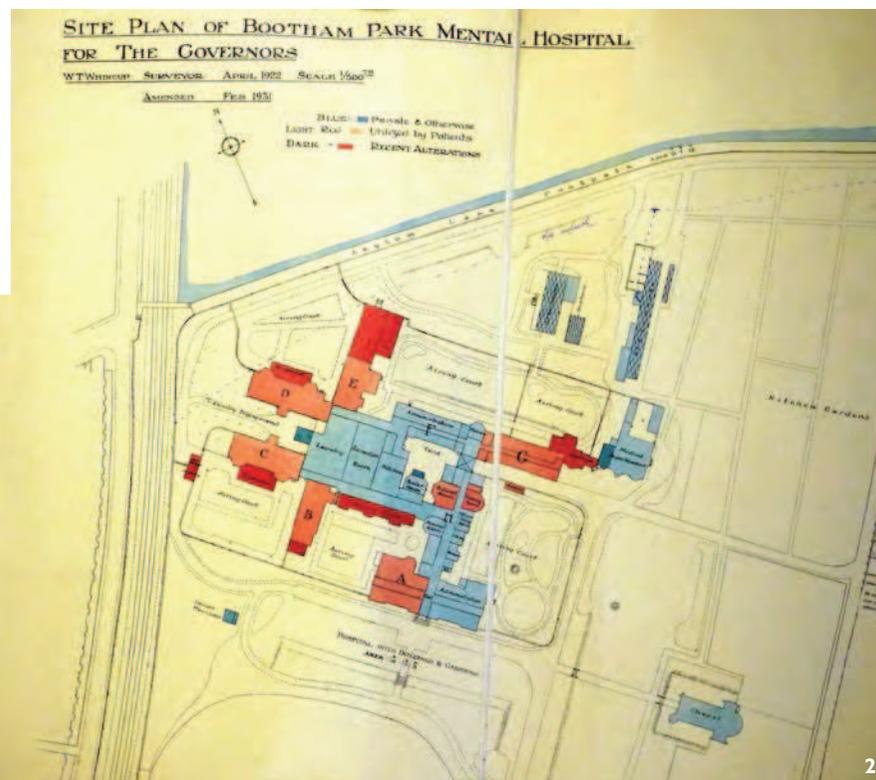


- 1 Block Plan for insurance, Borthwick Institute 1929, BOO2/1/1931 (1-6)
- 2 Site plan, 1931 showing patient (light red) and service areas (blue) and recent extensions (red)

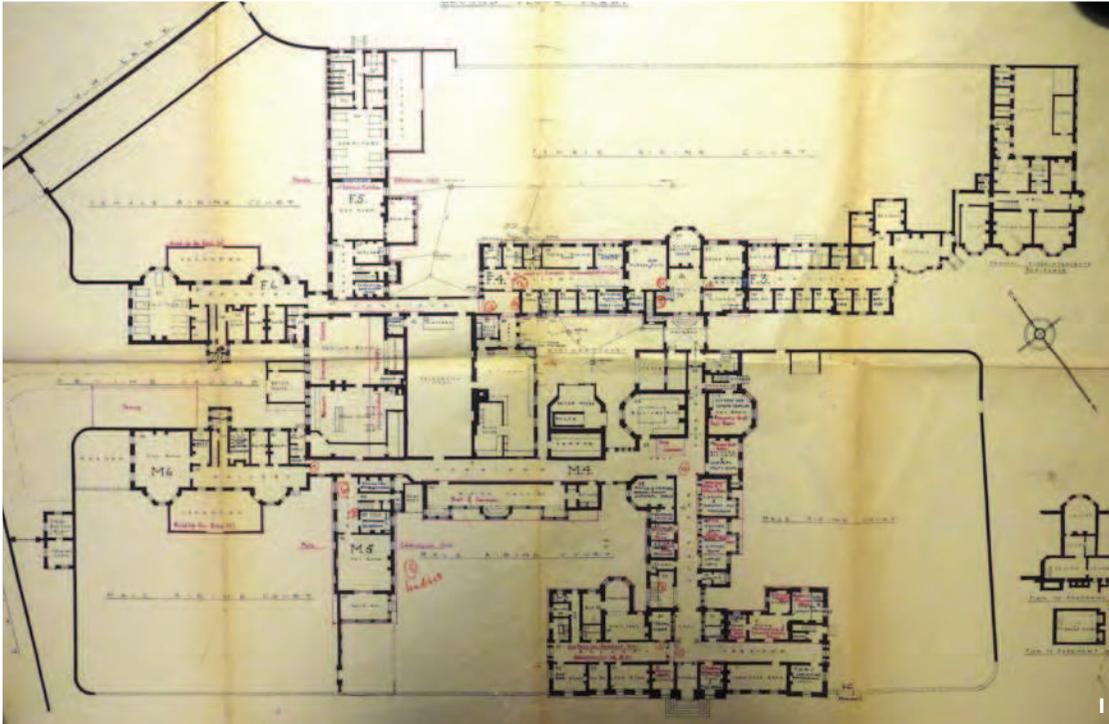
Guide to areas within the hospital as set out in the 1930s insurance plan.

A	Comprises entrance, waiting room, office, surgery, committee room, stores etc, also male wards nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4
B	Female wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 and small cellar
C	Steam boiler house, mechanics shop, meat larder; kitchen, corridor, patient's dining room and scullery
D	Recreation hall or ball room for concerts and other entertainments
E	Laundry with bedrooms over

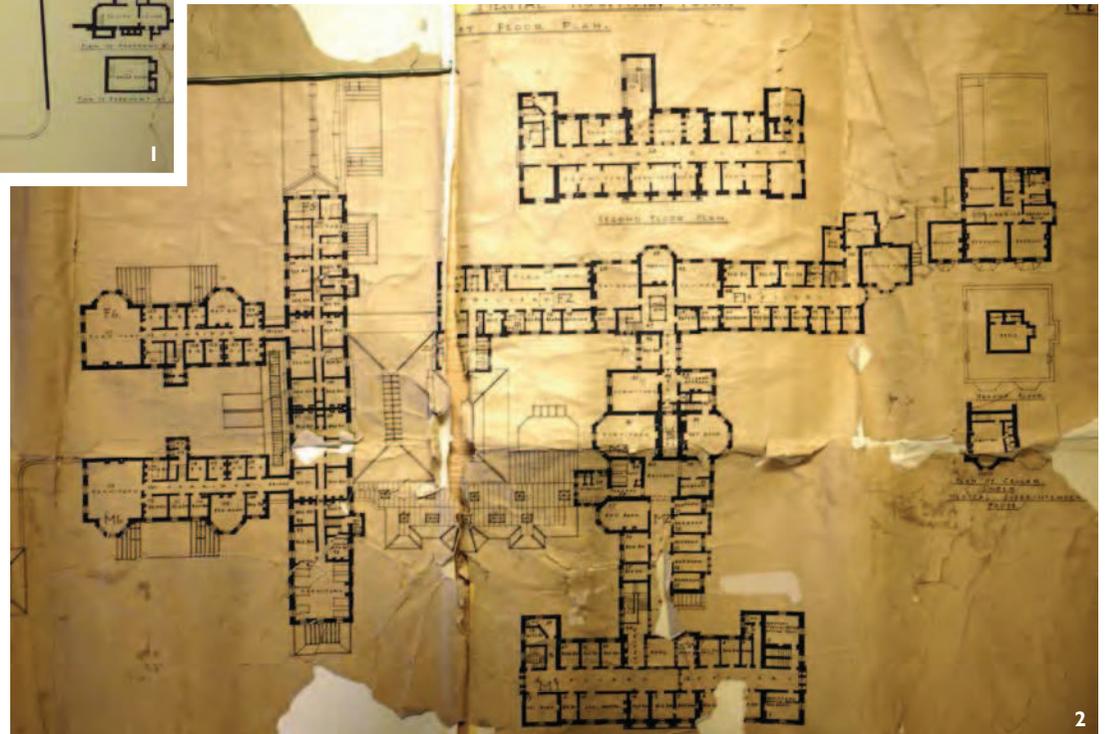
F	Male ward 5
G	Female ward 5
G extension	Single storey extension with nurses' rooms, bathroom, lavatories and veranda
H	Male ward 6
I	Female ward 6
J	Mortuary
K	Boiler house
L	Doctors dwelling house and outbuildings



2 UNDERSTANDING



- 1 Ground floor plan of the Hospital, 1938 - Borthwick Institute BOO2/1/1938(2)
- 2 First floor plan of the Hospital, 1938 - Borthwick Institute BOO2/1/1938(4)



In 1948 Bootham Park Hospital was included within the newly created National Health Service (NHS) and was designated a Mental Hospital within a group of 14 other hospitals in the region. The Hospital took on NHS patients but also those paying the full cost of treatment as previously. Following two decades of under-funding, the buildings and facilities were upgraded and the accommodation improved. The outcome of this was that the number of beds increased from 130 in 1948 to 172 in 1950. By 1960 this had risen again to 214. The small number of beds at the Hospital was seen as a disadvantage as the average mental healthcare facility had accommodation for over a thousand at the time.

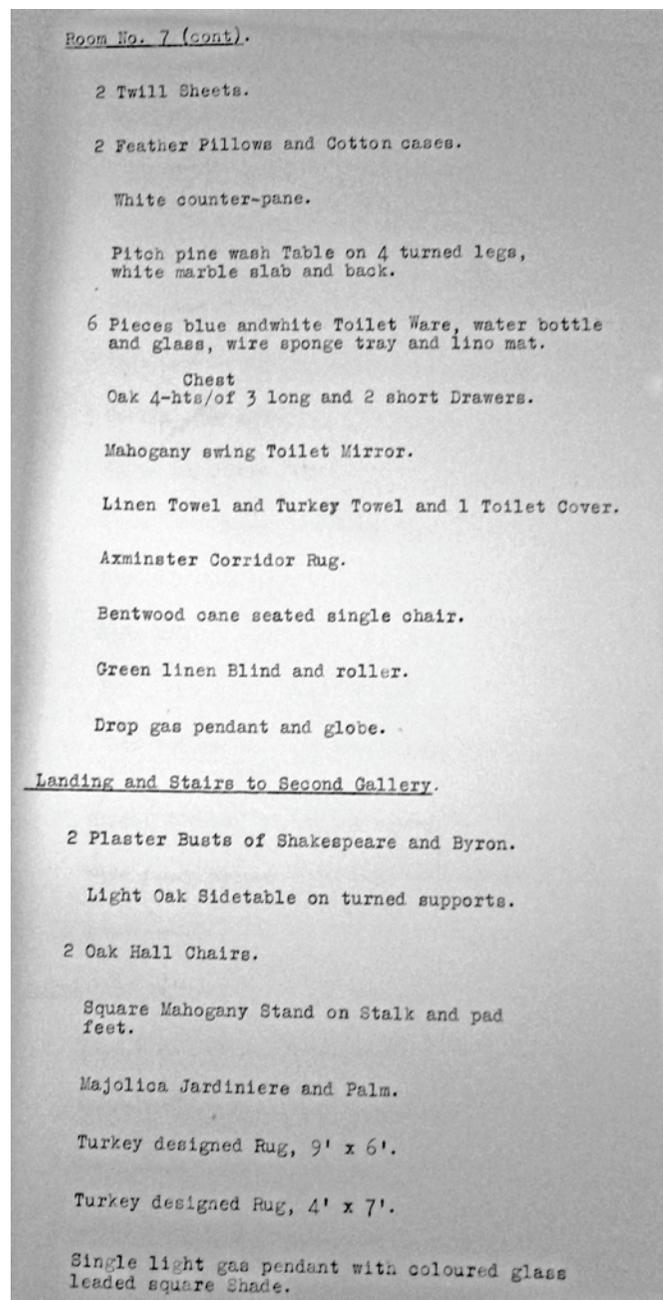
In 1952 Bootham Park Hospital was amalgamated with Naburn Hospital (former York City Asylum) and the two hospitals shared a catchment area and had a combined total of 583 beds.

The Hospital saw considerable structural alterations between 1947 and 1970; there was a new outpatient building in 1955-8 as part of the evolution of mental health practice towards care in the community, a new dining room in 1958, new neuro-psychiatric unit in 1966 and extensive internal refurbishment. From 1948 the 1777 principal building provided accommodation for the local NHS management and the Medical Superintendent's house became a separate ward.⁴⁶

*'It is interesting to see, at Bootham Park, in close physical proximity, the original York Lunatic Asylum façade of 1777 with its contained new Out-Patient Department, the adjacent Day Hospital, representing a still more recent advance and also a Neuro-psychiatric Unit in construction, heralding a yet further integration of the psychiatric and medical services.'*⁴⁷

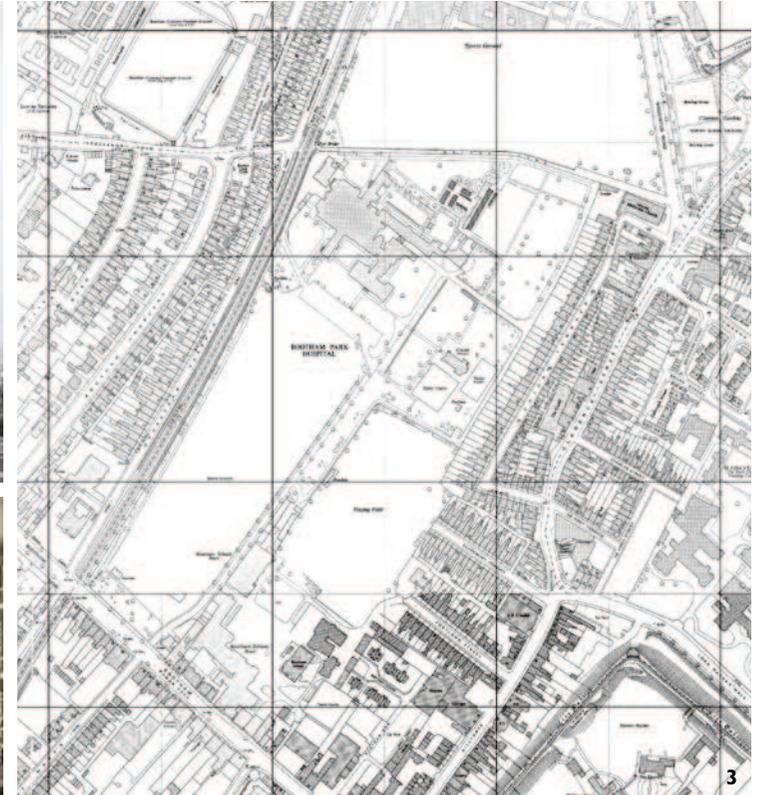
Expenditure at Bootham Park Hospital between 1948 and 1974 was £267,000. The neuro-psychiatric unit was opened at a cost of £72,000 in 1966.

⁴⁶ Webb, From County Hospital to NHS Trust: The history and archives of NHS hospitals, services and management in York 1740-2000, Volume 1, History, 2002
⁴⁷ York 'A' and Tadcaster Hospital Management Committee report, 1956



Example page from the 1929 inventory of the Hospital showing the wide range of items owned by the Hospital not only for patient use in the bedrooms, but for decorative and entertainment use as well in communal areas - Borthwick Institute BOO4/1/2 Inventory and Valuation of the contents and outside effects of the Bootham Park Mental Hospital, 1929

2 UNDERSTANDING



- 1 External appearance of the Hospital in 1954
- 2 The principal building in the 1960s, note that the chimneys are still intact at this date.
- 3 OS map of Bootham Park Hospital, dating between 1968 and 1987, 1:2,500.
- 4 The new dining room in 1958
- 5 The new Day Hospital extension of 1955, now the Occupational Therapy wing

Between the 1960s and 1980s changes in forms of mental health treatment once again had an impact on the physical structures. Many historic asylums had closed down by the 1960s as treatment began to integrate more closely with local communities to provide flexible and continuous care. By 1974 it was already claimed that Bootham Park Hospital was the oldest mental healthcare hospital still in use for its original purpose.⁴⁸

The 1980s saw further changes in mental healthcare strategies with almost all treatment being delivered in the community or in smaller specialist mental health units. Naburn Hospital closed in 1988. However, The Retreat remained open, partly because it had continued as a private charitable institution.

Between 1995 and 1996 a significant upgrade of services at Bootham Park Hospital was carried out, including refurbishment of wards and staff facilities. The Chantry Suite outpatient area was created in 1998 in the 1817 north wing, the Occupational Therapy Department was set-up in the 1950s wing and a new 24-bed ward for elderly patients was opened in 1996 on Ward 6 within the 1860s pauper wings.

2.7.5 21ST CENTURY

Bootham Park Hospital continues to evolve based on current medical guidance to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. There continues to be debate as to whether large mental health hospitals are economically viable or beneficial to patients. Government policy is potentially swinging back towards larger treatment centres in 2015.

Modernisation is a constant challenge as therapeutic care models evolve and the expectations of service users change. In 2015, Bootham Park Hospital continues to offer acute mental healthcare services and provides a central base for the smaller units within the community.



- 1 Principal elevation of the John Carr York Asylum in the 1980s
- 2 The interior of the entrance hall in the 1980s



48 Report of the York 'A' Hospital Management Committee, 1948-1974

2 UNDERSTANDING

2.8 PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

The plan below shows the phases of development of the principal building of Bootham Park Hospital. Similar development can be seen across the first and second floors.

