



Minnesota Security Hospital

The **Minnesota Security Hospital** is a secure psychiatric hospital located in St. Peter, Minnesota. It serves people who have been committed by the court as mentally ill and dangerous. It was established as St. Peter State Hospital in 1866 under the Kirkbride Plan.^{[1][2]} The original building is mostly demolished^[3] though the hospital is still active.

History

In 1866, the Minnesota Legislature approved the building of a state hospital for the insane, hoping to reduce the growing amount of mentally ill people in jails throughout the state. They first had to find an area willing to deed 20 acres (8.1 ha) of land for the hospital. St. Peter leaders bought a 210-acre (85 ha) farm for \$7,000 and lent it to the state.^[4]

The hospital was constructed in 1866 in the Kirkbride design.^[5] A fire destroyed the men's ward of the hospital on November 15, 1880.^[6] C. K. Bartlett was the superintendent of the hospital in its early years before his resignation in 1894.^[6]

Its first patient checked on December 6, 1866. The hospital soon became overcrowded, so the state built 3 other facilities in Rochester, Fergus Falls, and Anoka. The St. Peter location remained the main hospital. Other hospitals also opened to reduce the population of patients but either closed or turned into retirement homes for the elderly.^[4]

In 1911, the Asylum for Dangerous Insane officially opened on the campus of the St. Peter Hospital. The name was later changed to the Minnesota Security Hospital (MSH) in 1957.^[4]

After the attempted assassination of Bishop Patrick Heffron of the Diocese of Winona, Reverend Louis M. Lescher was committed to this hospital until his death in 1943.^[7]

In 1982, the current MSH building opened. The original hospital has since been demolished. The coordinates of the original hospital are 44°18′17″N 93°58′36″W﻿ / ﻿44.307958°N 93.982136°W﻿ / 44.307958; -93.982136.^[4]

Records

Records documenting the population and activities in the security hospital, including admission and transfer book (1911–1938), admissions index (1911–1963), daily movement of population record, dangerous insane (1911–1913), and scrapbook (1937–1987) kept by longtime medical director Charles G. Sheppard are available for research use.^[8]

References

- Hurd 1916, p. 848.
- "Letter from Thomas Kirkbride to the Leading Physician at St. Peter State Hospital" (http://carceralhistory.dash.umn.edu/inthearchive/exhibits/show/st--peter-state-hospital/item/89). *Incarceration in the Archive*. University of Minnesota. Retrieved May 10, 2017.
- "Saint Peter State Hospital: Still Standing" (http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/blog/saint-peter-state-hospital-still-standing#more-137). *Kirkbride Buildings*. September 3, 2008. Retrieved May 9, 2017.
- "St. Peter State Hospital history" (http://carceralhistory.dash.umn.edu/inthearchive/exhibits/show/st--peter-state-hospital). *University of Minnesota*. Retrieved July 28, 2020.
- Hurd 1916, pp. 848–851.
- Hurd 1916, p. 849.
- "One hundred years ago today: Bishop Heffron shot during morning Mass" (https://www.winonadailynews.com/special-section/pieces-of-the-past/one-hundred-years-ago-today-bishop-heffron-shot-during-morning/article_edde557e-87a8-5809-9f1b-51369daf5e09.html).
- "ST. PETER STATE HOSPITAL: MINNESOTA SECURITY HOSPITAL, An Inventory of Its Records at the Minnesota Historical Society" (http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/gr00086.xml). *Minnesota Health Services*.

Bibliography

- "State Services" (https://web.archive.org/web/20060220061846/http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_000087.hcsp). *Minnesota Department of Human Services*. Archived from the original (http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_000087.hcsp) on February 20, 2006.
- Hurd, Henry Mills, ed. (1916). *The Institutional Care of the Insane in the United States and Canada* (https://books.google.com/books?id=bnraAAAAMAAJ&q=topeka+state+hospital+kirkbride&pg=PA434). Vol. 2. Johns Hopkins Press. p. 434. ISBN 9780405052101 – via Google Books.

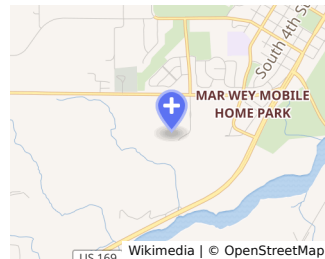
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Minnesota Security Hospital

State of Minnesota



St. Peter State Hospital, 1874 lithograph



Geography

Location St. Peter, Minnesota, United States

Coordinates 44.307958°N 93.982136°W﻿ / ﻿44.307958; -93.982136﻿ / 44.307958; -93.982136

History

Former name(s) St. Peter State Hospital

Opened December 6, 1866 St. Peter State Hospital; 1957 Minnesota Security Hospital

Links

Lists Hospitals in Minnesota