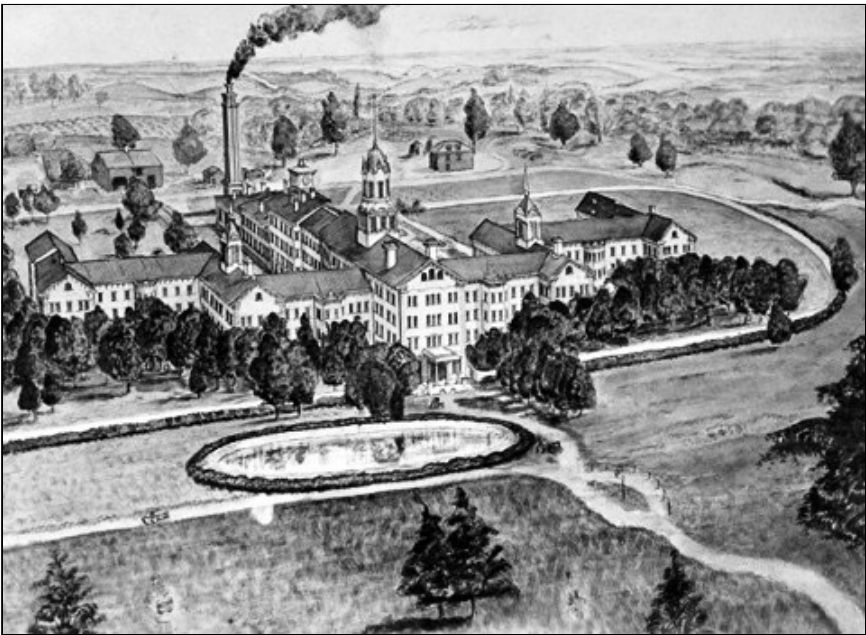


The Annals of Iowa

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In This Issue

MARILYN L. OLSON, a clinical pharmacist at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, describes the administration and distribution of poor relief in Cedar County between 1857 and 1890. She shows how Cedar County officials sought to balance their legal obligation to provide adequate care for the poor with their obligation to local taxpayers for budgetary restraint. By covering support for the poor outside the poorhouse as well as at the poorhouse itself, she reveals the broad networks of social support available in a nineteenth-century rural county.

JANE SIMONSEN, assistant professor of history and women's and gender studies at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, relates the architecture of the Hospital for the Insane in Mount Pleasant — and the evolution of that architecture over the course of the nineteenth century — to Iowans' understanding of the nature of mental illness and to their ideas about home, family, gender roles, domestic virtues, and institutional authority.

Front Cover

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Iowa Hospital for the Insane at Mount Pleasant had become a sprawling expanse, including an amusement hall, an industrial building, and separate infirmaries for men and women. The hybrid sort of construction combined the original building's monumental style with smaller, more homelike yet just as specialized spaces. For more on how changes in the hospital's architectural style reflected ideas about mental illness and domesticity, see Jane Simonsen's article in this issue. Image from State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.

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