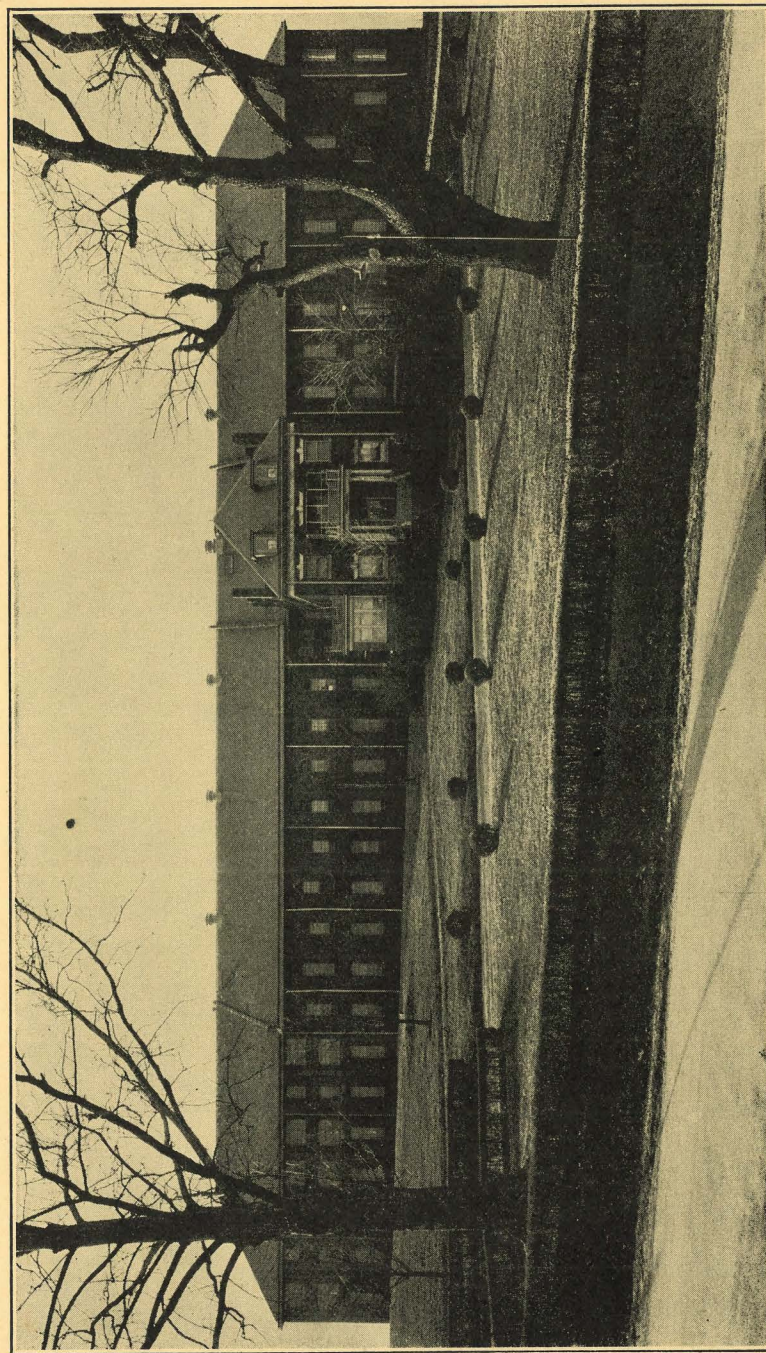


New Castle County
Workhouse
Wilmington . . . Delaware

BIENNIAL REPORT

1931 . . 1932



NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE

REPORTS
of the
Board of Trustees
of the
New Castle County Workhouse
to the
Levy Court

For the Fiscal Years Ending
November 30, 1931
and November 30, 1932

Wilmington - - - Delaware

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS
of the
NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE
1931

Board of Trustees

JOSEPH S. HAMILTON
Term expires March 31, 1936

DARLINGTON FLINN
Term expires March 31, 1932

A. V. LESLEY GEORGE
Term expires March 31, 1933

A. VICTOR HUGHES
Term expires March 31, 1935

ROBERT D. KEMP
Term expires March 31, 1934

Officers

President
JOSEPH S. HAMILTON

Vice-President
DARLINGTON FLINN

Treasurer
A. VICTOR HUGHES

Secretary
A. V. LESLEY GEORGE

Warden
ELMER J. LEACH

Women's Prison

HOPE S. LEACH, Superintendent

ELEANOR M. THARP, Supervisor

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

WILMINGTON, DEL.
December 17, 1931.

To the Honorable Members of
The Levy Court of New Castle County,

GENTLEMEN:—

Pursuant to the statutes of the State of Delaware establishing the New Castle County Workhouse, the Board of Trustees submits this its report for the year ending November 30, 1931.

The Board of Trustees felt the great responsibility placed on them to spend to the best advantage the \$200,000.00 authorized by the last Legislature for improving the institution, and before starting to make plans for the enlargements and improvements we had a survey made of the whole institution by Mr. Joseph D. Sears of New Jersey, a recognized authority on penal subjects. He studied our problem from many angles, and also our present and future needs. The Trustees have been greatly helped by his report in deciding on our program.

The erection of a residence for the Warden is now under contract. Plans and specifications for the additions and alterations to the main building are about ready for getting estimates from the contractors. The alterations and additions provide for a new kitchen, bakery, laundry, hospital and tubercular ward, accommodations for visitors, additional office space and a dormitory for the resident physician.

The employment of the inmates committed to us, as required by law, has given your Trustees much concern during the year.

As directed by a law passed at the last session of the Legislature, work was discontinued in our automobile paint and repair shop.

The Hawes-Cooper bill, a Federal law, which permits each State to regulate by State law the sale of all prison-made goods in that State, goes into effect in 1934. A number of States have already passed laws forbidding the sale of prison-made goods within their borders. Prisons working on contracts are already feeling the effect of this law and are trying to secure other employment for their inmates, as they believe this law will hasten the end of contract work. Our institution now has 250 men employed on contract work.

A number of Guards who are mechanics have been employed who work along with the inmates, training and directing them, in work in the quarry, painting, stone masonry and electric work. Stone is being quarried for our own building and roads. The electric wiring in the institution is being put in good condition.

The stone mason is working and directing our stone work. The painter is taking charge of the painting of our buildings.

During the year steam and electric current were run from our power house to the women's building. The labor to install this work was done entirely by inmates, directed by our Mechanical Engineer, Mr. Joseph H. Shaw.

Following the policy and experience of most of the States and the Federal Government in establishing Penal Farms as a means of employing more of their inmates, the Trustees decided to establish on Delcastle Farm a Penal Farm Unit, with a Superintendent in charge; here would be sent the better class inmates and those with short terms. This would relieve to some extent the present crowded condition of the shop and housing facilities at Greenbank.

The erection of a dormitory to accommodate sixty men has already been started.

In addition to the dairy and other work now being done on the farm, it is planned to produce more truck than is needed for ourselves with the hope of supplying other institutions with our surplus vegetables, both fresh and canned. A small cannery is included in our program.

Beginning on the first day of March of next year, at the expiration of our lease, we will give up the farm we have been leasing at the main institution, concentrating all our farming industries on the Delcastle Farm under the one leadership.

We wish to acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation to your Honorable body and your attorney for the wholehearted co-operation we have received in all matters pertaining to the institution.

The Warden's and other accompanying reports will show additional details in regard to the institution.

We desire to express to Warden Elmer J. Leach our sincere appreciation for the faithful and untiring service rendered by him in directing and supervising the work of the institution; also to Mrs. Leach and Miss Tharp for the able way they have directed the Women's Unit, and to all others, both employees and inmates, who have made possible the successful operation of the institution during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE
By JOSEPH S. HAMILTON,
President.

Attest:

A. V. LESLEY GEORGE,
Secretary.