

BUILDING SURVEY

INSTITUTION LAURELTON CENTER **DATE OF SURVEY** May 15, 1995

BUILDING: No. 10 **NAME** Johnston Building **DATE BUILT** 1952

DESIGNED USE Client Housing

PRESENT USE Storage

DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION Roof-asbestos shingles over wood frame; Walls - Exterior, stone, Interior, tile and plaster; Foundation and floors-concrete

GENERAL CONDITION OF BUILDING EXCELLENT V. GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR V. POOR
X

| SIZE FLOOR | GROSS HEATED | | GROSS UNHEATED | | FLOOR TOTALS | | AIR COND |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| | Sq. Ft. | Cu. Ft. | Sq. Ft. | Cu. Ft. | Sq. Ft. | Cu. Ft. | |
| | COL 1 | COL 2 | COL 3 | COL 4 | COL 5 | COL 6 | |
| GROUND/BASEMENT. | 4933 | 49330 | | | 4933 | 49330 | |
| 1st. | 4933 | 49330 | | | 4933 | 49330 | |
| 2nd. | 4933 | 49330 | | | 4933 | 49330 | |
| 3rd. | | | 4933 | 34531 | 4933 | 49330 | |
| 4th. | | | | | | | |
| 5th. | | | | | | | |
| 6th. | | | | | | | |
| 7th. | | | | | | | |
| 8th. | | | | | | | |
| BLDG. TOTALS | 14799 | 147990 | 4933 | 34531 | 19732 | | |

9866

REPAIRS OR CRITICAL REPAIRS OR RENOVATIONS REQUIRED:

CRITICAL

NONE

URGENT

NONE

DESIRABLE

NONE



Johnston Cottage

Protests Order To Remove 40 From Cottage At Laurelton Village

The president of the board of trustees at Laurelton State Village described an ordered removal of 40 women from an institution cottage as a "drastic" move capable of causing "great disturbance and chaos."

Fred W. Maue said at Shamokin that "this is drastic action and I hate to contemplate the disturbance and chaos which might result from this action."

Welfare Secretary Harry Shapiro ordered removal of 40 mentally defective women from the building Tuesday in another step in his campaign to clean up what he called "miserable conditions" in some institutions under his department's jurisdiction.

Shapiro described the building as "reminiscent of the dark ages."

"It must be remembered, Maue said in a statement, "that there are some 1,100 girls at this institution and that the secure cottage was built to isolate some 40 of them who became violently disturbed at certain periods."

He said that the women were put in this special cottage at the Union County institution "so that no harm will come to themselves or other girls."

Earlier, Dr. Effie Ireland, superintendent of Laurelton, protested Shapiro's order for removal of the women from the cottage.

Meanwhile, two officials of a five-man team continued a personal investigation today of the institution. Dr. Hilding A. Bengt, commissioner of mental health, said the group will report its findings to Shapiro.

Lays Responsibility

In a statement concerning conditions at Laurelton, Shapiro said "the failure of the board to take some measures to put an end to inhuman practices, places the responsibility for the continuance of these acts squarely upon them."

He said the board was told of such conditions at the institution as:

1. Patients kept in solitary confinement for as long as six months in 40 barred cells in Johnston cottage, with each cell sealed by a solid wooden door that had only a peephole and a slot for feeding purposes.
2. Using Johnston cottage for punishment for rules infractions.
3. Turning on cold water only once a day for washing purposes.
4. Limiting meals to a piece of bread with just as much food as could be placed on top of the bread slice.
5. Turning off the water supply for a toilet for a week.
6. Removing mattresses from beds and forcing patients to sleep on bare springs or on the floor.
7. Beating and dragging a patient around by the hair.
8. Restraining girls by strapping their arms together above their heads for as long as a week.

Shapiro said testimony on these conditions was provided by Mrs. Virginia Schmeberg, Mifflinburg, nursing director of the village; Miss Virginia Wilson, Milton, a nurse, and Mrs. Doris Marino, Lewisburg, a former social service worker at Laurelton.