



Connecticut Valley Hospital Historic Preservation Plan Middletown, Connecticut

Date of Performance: 1999–2000

Client: Connecticut Department of Public Works

Established in 1866, Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) in Middletown was the first significant public effort to care for the mentally ill in Connecticut. Today the campus encompasses 100 acres and 52 principal buildings. Most of the buildings are in active use, but several of the large, early buildings are vacant and deteriorated. In the 1990s, programs at three state hospitals were consolidated at CVH resulting in plans for the demolition or rehabilitation of certain buildings and a new circulation master plan. PAL contracted with the Connecticut Department of Public Works (DPW) to prepare a historic preservation plan and undertake related tasks for the CVH, in consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

PAL prepared comprehensive documentation of the CVH to provide a broad-based understanding of the campus and its history, to assist in the development of a preservation plan, and to minimize future documentation needs. State-level archival documentation was completed for the entire campus, including narrative text, CAD mapping, and black-and-white photographs of building interiors and exteriors, landscapes, and architectural details.

The preservation plan effort included extensive data collection and analysis. It presented a summary of the historic development of CVH; an analysis and synthesis of historic preservation issues, goals and objectives; recommendations and action plans; and defined priorities for short- and long-term actions.



Connecticut Valley Hospital

The document is a comprehensive planning tool that will assist in the long-term management and appropriate use of historic resources at the facility in light of program and mission requirements. The state-level documentation cleared the way for several buildings to be rehabilitated or demolished. The project was conducted under the requirements of a Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

PAL SERVICES

- **SECTION 110 CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **STATE-LEVEL ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTATION**
- **CAD MAPPING**
- **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN**