

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

[Guides to Manuscript Collections](#)

[Search Our Collections](#)

1988

0482: Dr. Walter Freeman's Papers from Huntington State Hospital, 1897-1984

Marshall University Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/sc_finding_aids



Part of the [Applied Behavior Analysis Commons](#), [Clinical Psychology Commons](#), [Other History Commons](#), [Other Psychiatry and Psychology Commons](#), and the [Other Psychology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Huntington State Hospital Records, 1897-1984, Accession No. 1988/08.0482, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Search Our Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Guides to Manuscript Collections by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu, beachgr@marshall.edu.

Huntington State Hospital Records, 1897-1984

ACC 1988/08.0482

Please note: this collection does not contain individual patient hospital records or records about individuals who stayed here. The items in this collection come from Dr. Walter Freeman who worked here and his research.



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2019

Dr. Walter Freeman's Papers from Huntington State Hospital, 1897-1984

Summary:

Title: Huntington State Hospital Records

Span Dates: 1897-1984

Creator: Various

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 1988/08.0482

Accession 0584 has been merged with this collection.

Date Completed: December, 2019

Access to Collection: Open with restrictions

Note: This collection contains highly sensitive patient data and access is subject to archivist review. All requests for access will be analyzed with respect to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule.

Extent: 4.5 feet

Donor: Huntington State Hospital

Search terms:

Psychiatric care

Psychiatric hospitals

Lobotomies (medical procedure)

Huntington State Hospital

Biographical Notes:

“Huntington State Hospital, today known as the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, was established by the legislature as an insane asylum in 1897 and called the Home for Incurables. At the time of its inception, the public viewed such hospitals as places where the mentally ill were placed to remove them from society for custodial care. The tall wire fence and iron gates gave the facility in Huntington the appearance of a penal institution rather than a hospital. The gates were taken away in 1950, and the gate house at the hospital entrance was removed in 1961.

The site, consisting of 30 acres of land, was donated to the state by the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Huntington. On the eastern edge of Huntington, the hospital fronts on Norway Avenue. In 1901, the name was changed to West Virginia Asylum, and the patient census was 150. The peak patient population was about 1,460 in 1956. In 1916, the name was changed to Huntington State Hospital.

Tragedy struck the hospital November 26, 1952. A fire on the evening before Thanksgiving killed 14 patients, with three more patients later dying of injuries.

In July 1958, the vocational rehabilitation center was established at Huntington State Hospital, the first in the nation to be located on the same grounds with a state hospital. The center offered vocational, social, psychological, medical, and related services necessary to enable the patient to prepare for a return to community living.

In 1995, the legislature again changed the facility's name, renaming it Huntington Hospital. During the October 1999 celebration of the hospital's centennial, Governor Cecil Underwood announced the renaming of Huntington Hospital as the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, a tribute to Dr. Mitchell-Bateman's lifetime career of helping the mentally ill. The 110-bed psychiatric hospital is administered by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Twelve buildings are located on the site."

The above information is taken from e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia "Huntington State Hospital." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 02 March 2012. Web. 10 December 2019.

A notable individual mentioned in the collection is Dr. Walter Jackson Freedman II, colloquially known as the "father of the lobotomy". During the early 1950s, Freeman traveled to state hospitals throughout the nation performing lobotomies. During July of 1952, he performed 228 lobotomies in West Virginia alone. Many of these lobotomies were performed at Huntington State Hospital and were part of a study by Freeman to determine the effectiveness of lobotomies as compared to control groups. A binder from this project is present in the collection. From 1952 to 1955, 787 total West Virginians were lobotomized at the Huntington, Spencer, Lakin, and Weston State Hospitals.

The above information is taken from Spencer, James L. "West Virginia Lobotomy Project." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 27 May 2015. Web. 11 December 2019.

Scope and Content:

Note: This collection contains highly sensitive patient data and access is subject to archivist review. All requests for access will be analyzed with respect to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule.

This collection consists of historical materials from the Huntington State Hospital during the period 1897 through 1984. The collection includes correspondence of hospital personnel and patients, administrative records, newspaper clippings, and a large number of photographs. Significant to the collection are files relating to transorbital lobotomies performed by Dr. Walter Freeman in the early 1950's as part of a larger lobotomy project in West Virginia. The large time period over which the materials are dispersed means that most materials are present only in smaller quantities.

Processing Notes:

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created. Minimal changes to folder titles, order, or content were made.

Preferred Citation:

Huntington State Hospital Records, Accession No. 1988/08.0482, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Access and Use:

For more information or to use any collection, contact:
Special Collections, Morrow Library
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
(304) 696-2343
speccoll@marshall.edu

Container**Contents**

Box 1 (RESTRICTED)

Fds 1-4 (MISSING, folder titles below from prior inventory)

Fd 1 Act, 1901

Fd 2 Legislation, 1915, 1953

Fd 3 Commission to Locate West Virginia Asylum for incurables, 1897
(photocopy of microfilm)

Fd 4 Commission to Locate West Virginia Asylum for Incurables--
Huntington, W. Va. promotional material, proposals (photocopy of
microfilm)

Fds 5 - 11 Administrative Correspondence, 1920-1964

Fds 12, 13 Correspondence re: Patients, 1944, 1981

Fd 14 Daily Report, 1928 Dec. 22

Fd 15 Employee Representative to Management.(ERMA), 1981-82

Fd 16 History, 1970
Fd 17 IPDP Plan, 1981
Fd 18 Legal: E. H. et al. v. Khan Matin, M. D., etc., et al.
Fd 19 Manuscript (Typescript): ".Accredited Mental Hospital"
Fds 20-22 Marshall, 1978-1980
Fd 23 Morris Report, [1980?]
Fd 24 Notes
Fd 25 Nursing Staff
Fd 26 Oil and Gas Exploration, 1981
Fd 27 Pamphlets
Fd 28 Patient Census, 1901-1983
Fd 29 Physician's Report (Blank Form)
Fd 30 Planning Committee
Fd 31 Porteus' Test, Goldie Bailey, 1926
Fd 32 Programs, Hospital Day, 1963-1967
Fd 33 Program, Greenhouse Dedication
Fd 34 Proposal, Training Center, 1981
Fd 35 Public/Press Relations
Fd 36 Quality Assurance Program
Fd 37 Risk Management
Fd 38 Sample Admitting Cards
Fd 39 Space Utilization Committee
Fd 40 Statement of Rights of Voluntary Patients
Fd 41 Survey. NIMH, 1973
Fd 42 Volunteer Services
Fd 43 West Virginia Civil Service Application (Blank Form)
Fd 44 West Virginia State Board of Control: Correspondence
Fd 45 Letters from Myrtle Brown, 1928-30
Fd 46 Letters from Stewart Burdette
Fd 47 Letters to Patients, 1931
Fd 48 Patients' Writings

Fd 49 Fire Victims, 1952 November
Fd 50 Grade Reports
Fd 51 Homemade Keys Used for Escape
Fd 52 Military Papers
Fd 53 Allyn, John: Receipts, etc.
Fd 54 Booth, John Inusurance Policy
Fd 55 Hall, Bell: Hair
Fd 56 War Ration Books
Fd 57 Miscellaneous Artifacts, Photographs, etc.

Box 2 (RESTRICTED)

Card file on patients
Fd 1-2 Sterilization Orders, 1955
Fd 3-5 Notices to Next of Kin, 1955
Fd 6 Individual Surveys
Fd 7 TOL Inquiry Questionnaire (Sample)
Fd 8 TOL - Loose Survey Sheets from Binder (Binder in Box 4) [MISSING]
Fd 9 Photographs and Correspondence found in Binder (Binder in Box 4)
Fd 10 List of Prospective TOL's
Fd 11 Patient Lists
Fd 12 Prefrontal Study
Fd 13 Description of Operations
Fd 14 Nurses' Record
Fd 15 Surveys, 1952-56
Fd 16 Reports, 1952-54
Fd 17 Reports to the State Board of Control
Fd 18 "Follow-up Review ... " [1953]
Fd 19 Walter Freeman Correspondence, 1946-1960
Fd 20 Walter Freeman Publications
Fd 21 TOL surgical instrument sales brochure
Fd 22 TOL articles, publications

Fd 23 TOL Newspaper clippings [MISSING]

Accession 584 items:

Fd 24 Spaulding case tapes (sealed)

Fd 25 Spaulding case, 1982-1984

Fd 26 Mary B****r Sick Leave Records, 1975-1979

Fd 27 Mary B****r employment and unemployment, 1975-1980

Box 3 (RESTRICTED)

Fd 1 Newspaper Clippings, 1920's

Fd 2 Newspaper Clippings, 1930's

Fd 3 Newspaper Clippings, 1940's

Fds 4-13 Newspaper Clippings, 1950's

Fds 14-23 Newspaper Clippings, 1960's

Fd 24 Photocopies of Clippings

Fd 25 Newspaper Clippings, 1970's

Fd 26 Newspaper Clippings, 1981

Fd 27 Newspaper Clippings, 1982

Fds 28-29 Newspaper Clippings, undated

Fd 30 Newspaper Clippings unrelated to mental health

Fds 31-39 Photographs and Snapshots

Fd 40 Negatives

Fd 41 Slides and Negatives

2 Framed Certificates

2 Signs

1 Plaque

Box 4 (RESTRICTED)

Binder Prefrontal/Transorbital Lobotomy Records, 1950-54: Survey Cards with photographs