

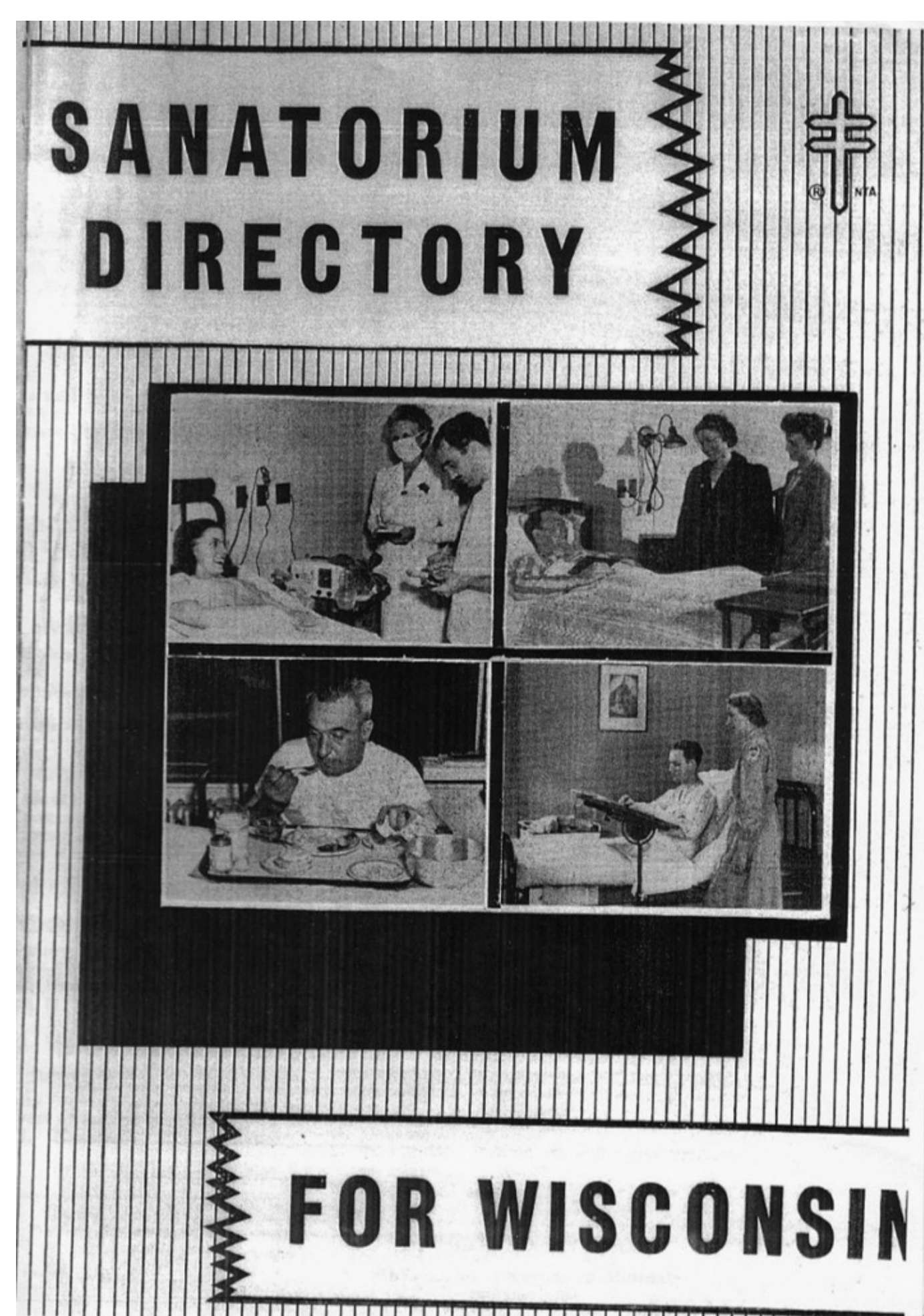
# Lake View Sanatorium Nurses' Dormitory for Help



Lake View Sanatorium, 1940 (source: Lake View Sanatorium, Tenth Anniversary Report of the Trustees and Superintendent, 1939—1940).

The Dormitory for Help was constructed in 1934 to house the entire staff to allow the staff living quarters on the fourth floor of the Main Sanatorium Building constructed in 1929-1930 to serve as additional patient rooms. The main sanatorium building was built with a capacity for seventy-five patients and by 1933, only three years after opening, the facility had 105 beds for patients that were filled at all times. After the Dormitory for Help was constructed, the patient bed capacity rose to 140. The Nurses' Dorm housed the employees of the Sanatorium from 1930 up until the Sanatorium closed in 1966.

Due to the hill-top location, the topography had to be altered for the construction of the Nurses' Dorm, resulting in the stone retaining wall that is visible today, just south of the building footprint. A small cement lined pond, referred to as Sputum Pond, was constructed at the bottom of the hill, including a small ornamental bridge that crossed it at one end. A cement-lined creek with ornamental plantings and walkway between the pond and the Nurses' dorm was constructed as a park-like space for patients and staff to use. There is a grotto opening within the rock retaining wall that water may have been directed to from a cement channel or pipe that captured water from the roof of the Nurses' Dorm. Try to find and explore these areas in the park to get a deeper sense of how the patients and staff experienced the grounds of the Sanatorium.



Wisconsin Sanatorium Directory, 1955 (source: The Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on file at Wisconsin State Historical Society Library)

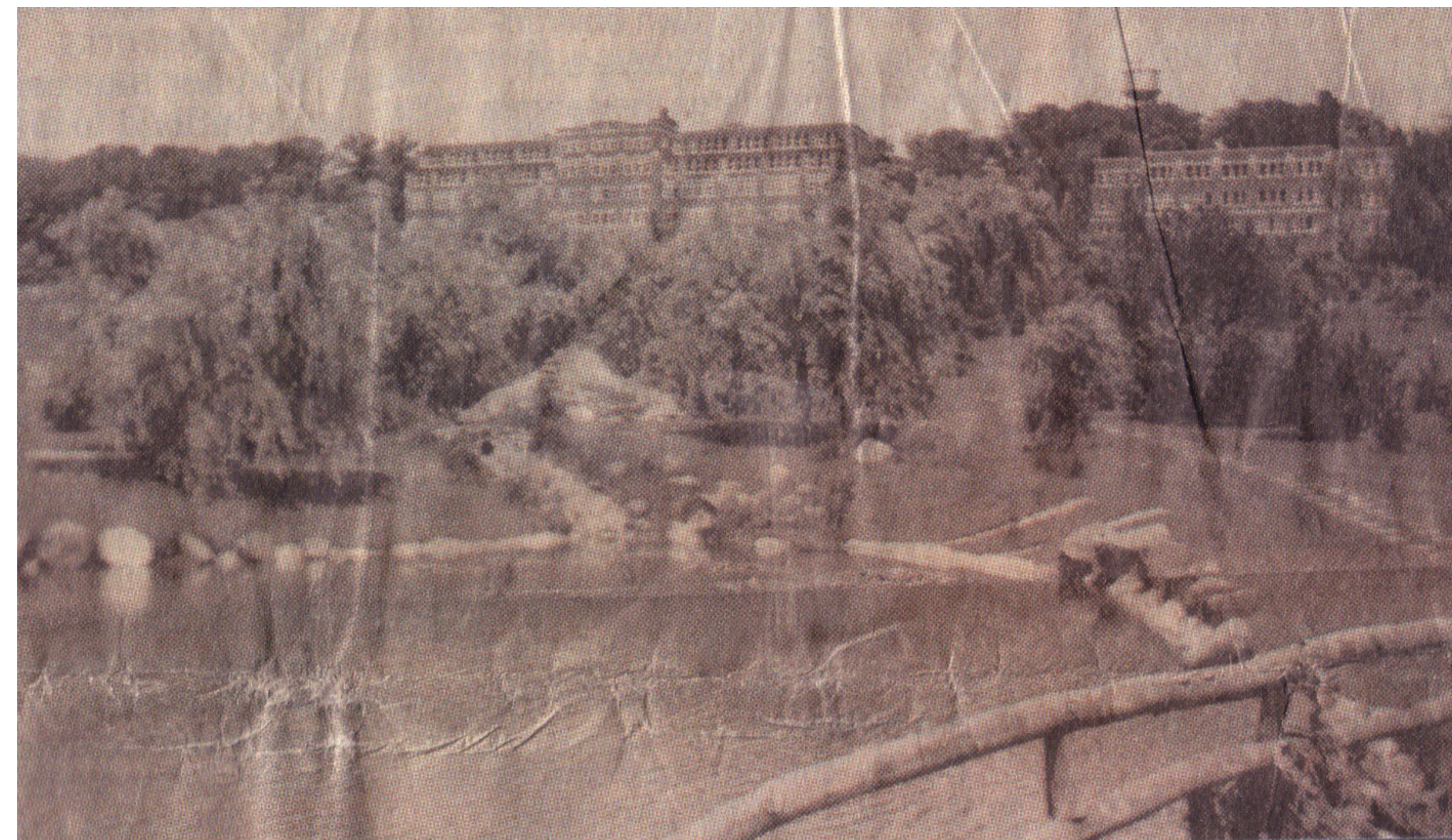
*The high land on which the Sanatorium stands not only provides the best atmospheric conditions available, but presents a beautiful view, almost unsurpassed in the state of Wisconsin. From these premises the eye may wander from the wooded hills in the west, over almost all of Lake Mendota to the University buildings, to the dome of the Capitol which always presents itself above the skyline of Maple Bluff, to the city of Madison straight to the south, and more to the east, a typical Wisconsin pastoral landscape. It is said that John Muir, the naturalist, in walking from Madison to Portage, paused on this hill to feast his eyes on this superb vista which he believed his last view of Madison.*

Source: Lake View Sanatorium, Tenth Anniversary Report of the Trustees and Superintendent, 1939—1940, 8-9.



Lake View Sanatorium under construction, 1929 (source: Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, 35103, by Arthur M. Vinje).

*According to a patient newsletter, the patients were curious and watched closely as the pond was constructed. They joked that the pond would be filled with sputum, and named it "Sputum Lake" (or Sputum Pond).*



Sputum Pond and Willow Trees at southeast corner of Lake View property, ca. 1940s-1950s. (source: Wisconsin State Journal, Memories of the San, by Janet Kujak, lent by Laura Huttner, date unknown)



Patient room at Lake View Sanatorium, 29 April 1931 (source: Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, 1927, by Angus B. McVicar).

Lake View Hill Park is situated on the former grounds of the Lake View Tuberculosis Sanatorium that was in operation from 1929 – 1966. You are standing inside what was once a veranda of the Dormitory for Help (also referred to as the Nurses' Dormitory). The building was one of the contributing structures of the Lake View Sanatorium State and National Register of Historic Places 1993 listing. The site is listed due to its distinctive design characteristics of the tuberculosis sanatorium in support of the open air treatment philosophy and the essential curative effects of open space for exercise and fresh air before the discovery of penicillin to cure the disease.

Features of significance include the isolated, hill-top location; landscaped grounds with paths so patients could walk and exercise; 'germ traps'; and porches for patients to take full advantage of the fresh air. All features were noted as typical of the medical establishment's view of the appropriate method of treatment before the discovery and wide use of penicillin to cure the disease. The facility is also listed for its local significance in the area of health/medicine.

## Lake View Sanatorium Timeline

### 1929 - 1930

Lake View Sanatorium constructed and opened.

### 1934

Dormitory for Help opened. Bed capacity rose from 100 to 140.

### 1939

South of the dormitory, ornamental cement lined creek and paved path leading to Sputum Pond in place.

### 1953

Only 95 beds of the 140 were occupied.

### 1958

The fourth floor of the Sanatorium was converted into a general hospital, the first "Dane County General Hospital."

### 1966

Sanatorium closed and administration of property transferred to Dane County Department of Health and Human Services.



Operating room at Lake View sanatorium, 27 April 1931 (source: Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, 1929, by Angus B. McVicar)

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