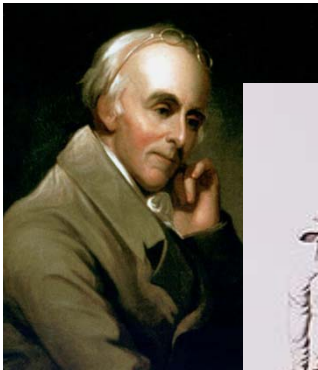


Transformations: The history of the asylum

THE 19TH CENTURY

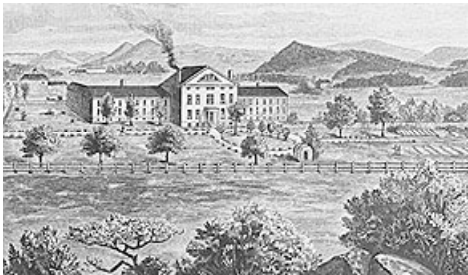
In the late 18th and 19th centuries, movements to create humane asylums took place through Europe and the United States. These movements resulted in creation of standards defining how these institutions should be built and how they would provide care for inhabitants residing therein. The reformers believed that design was an important part of the cure, so the guidelines for asylums issued in 1851 paid attention to the buildings and the landscape, including setting aside space for gardens, pleasure grounds and a farm. These guidelines also included standards for lighting, room size, and other internal features.



Left: Dr. Benjamin Rush (1749-1813), the "father of American psychiatry," worked to make care of mental illness more compassionate. He also created the "tranquilizing chair."



Below: An original and modern view of the Brattleboro Retreat. This retreat was founded by Anna Marsh, one of the many women who campaigned to reform health care in the 19th century. The retreat opened in 1834.



Above: Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) was an early 19th century reformer working for the humane treatment of mental illness and the creation of healing institutions.