

OLD PHILMONT #16 – SANATORIUM

By Charles R. Nichols

The building at the top of Main Street named Pine Haven Home is now a comprehensive nursing home for Columbia County residents, but it was not always such. In fact the present building was not the original building on the site, and the purpose was quite different.

In 1917, the County Board of Supervisors set in motion the purchase of land for the site of a County Tuberculosis Hospital. A 62 acre part of the Michael Farm of 121 acres was purchased for \$2,700, less than the \$4,000 authorized for land purchase.



ENTRANCE FRONT

The firm of Tooker & Marsh, architects designed the building, and the Moody Engineering Company got the construction contract. A two story wooden structure with slate roof, canvas covered wooden floors, steam heat, with basement, was complete in 1920. A local businessman, William E. Carney of Philmont installed the plumbing and heating. The architect's report indicates a price of \$90,000; the county said just over \$73,000 probably not including the land cost. The photos of both the front and back of this building show the original design. In 1931 a 'sun porch' was added on the south side of the building.



Photos, Paul J. Weber

REAR ELEVATION
TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL, PHILMONT, N. Y.
TOOKER & MARSH, ARCHITECTS

Plans on Back

Sometime before 1930 – probably late 1920's – a 'caretaker's' cottage was built on the grounds. This became the residence for the Medical Doctor for the hospital. It is shown in photo , changed a bit from the original appearance. It is at this writing a dentist's office.



During the 1930's the increasing number of children suffering from the disease called for a 'children's wing' to be added to the hospital, also making more room for adults in the original building. The photo shows this wing, sited next to the main building. This new wing had the center section shown, and wards on either side. This wing was finished in 1930 and still stands.



In 2006 a proposal to create housing for the county 911 center drew attention to this last structure as a possible site. In spite of certain advantages – existing building, center of the county, elevated site for communications, present county fire training facility among others – the Greenport location was chosen.

In 1951, the Tuberculosis Sanatorium was closed, and any such patients were to be referred to the Homer Folks State Hospital in Oneonta. Following this, in 1953, the building was converted to the County Home. That was the name for the property housing the poor and indigent County residents, who before this were in the County ‘Poor House’ which was in the hamlet of Ghent.

The original wooden building was eventually torn down. It was not fit, under the more modern requirements of health and safety, to be used. Plans were made in 1973 to create a new health related facility on the grounds. Utilizing an additional 6 acres of land, the new 40 bed facility was constructed and opened in 1978, and is shown in the photo below.





.A short 8 years later, the demand for services required an addition to the building. In 1983 approval was granted for an addition to about double the capacity of the home. This addition was completed and opened in 1985.



Over the years since, the need for this facility has grown, and at this writing, February 2009, the facility supports 120 patients.

Currently there are proposals, to change the makeup of the facility, under study by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors. Additions to the building; construction of another building on the grounds; an assisted living section among others. As someone once said, there is nothing new under the sun – In 1977 a proposal was debated about turning Pine Haven into a home for Seniors !!!!