

commenced the decision of the Supreme Court was made declaring the State debt above a certain sum specified in the Constitution—which amount had already been far exceeded—unconstitutional and illegal. This decision rendered the appropriation unavailable, pending contracts based thereon and in the midst of the work for which it was designed to pay. The losses and extra expenditures incurred thereby by the contractors were met by the passage of relief bills in eighteen hundred and fifty-seven and eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, amounting to about eight thousand six hundred dollars, thus making the nominal cost of the north wing forty-eight thousand six hundred dollars.

In eighteen hundred and fifty-seven the present brick residence of the Medical Superintendent was erected, the appropriation for which was four thousand five hundred dollars. Subsequent additions have been made thereto, making the approximate cost seven thousand five hundred dollars.

In eighteen hundred and fifty-eight the two strong wards, under the antiquated and harsh appellation of "Mad Houses," or "Cells," were constructed; also the grounds in the rear of the principal buildings were inclosed by high brick walls, making the airing courts; and other valuable improvements, including the frame tower and water tank, were made, all of which were specifically authorized by the Legislature of eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, and for which a special appropriation of forty thousand dollars was made and expended.

In eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the institution having become full and crowded, a special tax was levied for "the erection of additional buildings, yards, and other improvements," which continued at the rate of five cents on each one hundred dollars for two years—eighteen hundred and sixty-three and eighteen hundred and sixty-four. From the funds derived from this tax were erected, in eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the large second story of brick over the dining-room and kitchen, known as the "Sixth Ward," the Brick Building designated as the "Upper Tenth Ward," additional airing courts in connection with the old asylum building, and wooden outbuildings; out of this fund also were purchased the two blocks of land adjoining the one on which stands the old asylum building—one block east and one block west thereof. About sixty-one thousand dollars were expended in connection with the present male department.