

## **Yaquina Hall Apartments** **2720 B Street NE, Salem, Oregon**

**Grand Opening Celebration April 5, 2023**

**Yaquina Hall Apartments** is located in a 70+ year old, historically relevant building at 2720 B Street NE in Salem. It formerly housed nursing staff for the Oregon State Hospital. It will provide 51 one-bedroom, one-bath and one studio, one bath apartment units. 51 of these units will offer income-based rent through the Project-Based Voucher program. The waiting list for these units will offer a limited preference to applicants who are disabled, homeless or at risk of homelessness, and who would benefit from the services provided who have been referred to the waiting list by partnering service agencies.



Service pathways for Yaquina-Southfair residents will be designed to address all relevant social determinants of health including economic stability, social and community re-integration, education, health care, neighborhood and environment, spiritual wellness, and many others. Participation in services is voluntary. Service Coordinators will engage with residents to support them in their path forward using trauma-informed principles. The identification of resident service needs will come from the residents themselves. Such service needs may include food stability, economic hardship resources for basic needs, access to health care services of all kinds, transportation, and others.

### **Yaquina Hall Community Room Dedication**

The Yaquina Hall Community Room is dedicated to Andrew 'Andy' Wilch for his 10 years of service at Salem Housing Authority, and for his vision of the historic preservation of Yaquina Hall into housing for the Salem community. Wilch, the former Salem Housing Authority Administrator, passed away March 2023.

### **Funding Partners**

Salem Housing Authority: Sponsor Funds

City of Salem: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Funding

US Bank: Equity Partner/Tax Credit Investor/Construction Financing

Oregon Housing and Community Services: Mental Health Housing Fund

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH): Permanent Financing

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Permanent Financing/ Construction Financing

Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund: Computer Lab Resources

**Landlord** Salem Housing Authority

**Service Partner** Crossroads Communities

**Service Provider** Marion County Behavior Health

### **Building Restoration and Construction**

AC+CO Architecture Community

Walsh Construction Co.

### **City of Salem Media Information:**

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/connect-with-us/media-information>

# Yaquina Hall Grand Opening Celebration

## April 5, 2023

**12:30 p.m. Guest Arrival**

**1:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Photograph** (Featuring speakers and invited project participants)

**1:30 p.m. Speaking Program**

Mayor Chris Hoy, City of Salem

First Lady, Aimee Kotek Wilson

Nicole Utz, Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority

Senator Deborah Patterson, District 10, State of Oregon

Ann Melone, Senior Vice President – Business Development Office, US Bank

Brian Guiney, Director – Oregon Field Office, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Representative Tom Andersen, District 19, State of Oregon

**2:00 p.m. Building Tours**

Guided – Tour begins at 2:00 p.m. and will start at the information table

Self-Guided – Maps are located on the information table, please feel free to view any open rooms in the building.

### **Helpful Information:**

Visit the information table for more project specific information.

Find anyone in a vest if you have any questions.

The attached Yaquina Hall history is provided by Continuum Preservation Consulting. Wall panels featuring the building history will be featured in the Yaquina Hall entry way.

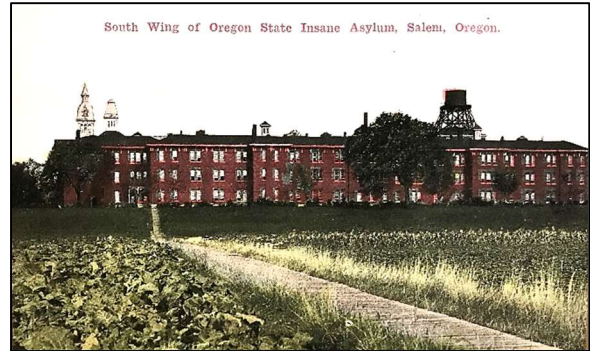


Scan QR Code to see "Before" photos.  
Photographs credit of Brian Stone Photography.

# The History of Yaquina Hall on the Oregon State Hospital Campus

## Oregon State Hospital

The Oregon State Hospital (OSH) opened its doors on October 23, 1883 after two and a half years of construction. As the state population increased in the new century and as psychiatry continually developed, the hospital swelled with patients. Over time, nationwide efforts took hold to address overcrowding and to update these facilities to reflect contemporary treatment approaches. In response, the State of Oregon appropriated funding toward new facilities on the North Campus, including the construction of Building 33 (Yaquina Hall) in 1948 as a nurses' dormitory, which would provide significant increases in hospital staff that worked directly with patients.



## Nursing Education Program Begins

Formal nursing education at the Oregon State Hospital began in 1944 with a voluntary program allowing nurses to devote three months of their education to intensive psychiatric nursing training. The trainee nurses, or “cadets” as they were called, were originally housed on the OSH South Campus prior to the construction of Yaquina Hall.



*Senior Cadet Nurses in 1944.*



*Student nurses learning from senior nurse.*

The elective course proved popular with aspiring nurses but was held back by the small number of nurses that could be housed on campus. Beyond providing valuable training for cadets, the students alleviated the nurse shortage at OSH during World War II. After the war, their specialized training also helped veterans who faced mental health struggles upon their return home.

The training consisted of 120 hours of classroom work, practical, clinical, and theoretical experience. Working for one to three weeks in different parts of OSH, nurses rotated to areas in the hospital including patient reception, active treatment, special services, occupational therapy,

physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy, and geriatrics. Cadets did rounds, dispensed medications, changed dressings, and performed other typical hospital tasks. Nurses had keys to most areas of the hospital and were allowed to transport patients through the underground tunnel system. They took classes in neurology, psychology, and psychiatry that were taught by the four nurses on the school staff or by OSH doctors. The young women would sometimes crowd into the hospital's surgical amphitheater to observe a brain operation or assist with electro-shocks.

## Salem Offers Well-Rounded Training

In 1949, it became mandatory for all new nurses in Oregon to complete the psychiatric training program at the Oregon State Hospital. Idaho also sent its nurses to Oregon State Hospital for psychiatric training. Their training included mandatory field trips to the other state institutions in the Salem area that included the tuberculosis hospital, Fairview (for people with development disabilities), Hillcrest (juvenile correction facility), the state penitentiary, the school for the deaf, the school for the blind.



*Superintendent Dr. Dean Brooks with student nurses. The shape of the nurses' caps indicated the hospital with which they were affiliated.*

## Tina Duerksen



*Nurse Tina Duerksen in 1950*

Nurse Tina Duerksen was hired by Oregon State Hospital in 1944 to establish the psychiatric training program for student nurses. She was born in 1905 in Hillsboro, Kansas and was trained in Topeka at the Menninger Clinic—a private psychiatric hospital—where she rose to the position of Supervisor of Instruction. Duerksen was published in *The American Journal of Nursing* in 1941 with a piece called “A Psychiatric Viewpoint for All Nurses,” where she wrote:

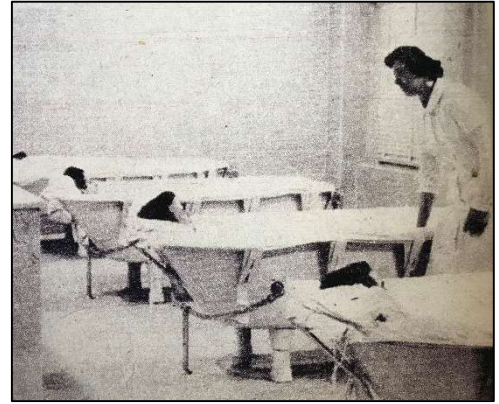
“One of the major needs and problems in nursing today is a better understanding of human nature especially during illness, the recognition that the mental and physical aspects of disease are inseparable, and that the influence of the nurse's personality on her patient's illness is inevitable. All nurses by keener observation and study can become better qualified to understand and help their patients, and also themselves.”

Tina Duerksen was 39 years old when she came to Salem to lead the program at OSH. At this time, nursing was one of the few career options where women could rise to such leadership roles. She went on to earn a master's degree at Portland State University. Later in her career she served as Director of Nursing at Emanuel Hospital and at Dammasch State Hospital in Wilsonville. The State of Oregon presented her with an award for 50 years of work in the field of nursing and, although she retired in 1974, she continued to take classes at PSU and to volunteer in health care until she was 80.



## Nurses Had to Experience Patient Treatments

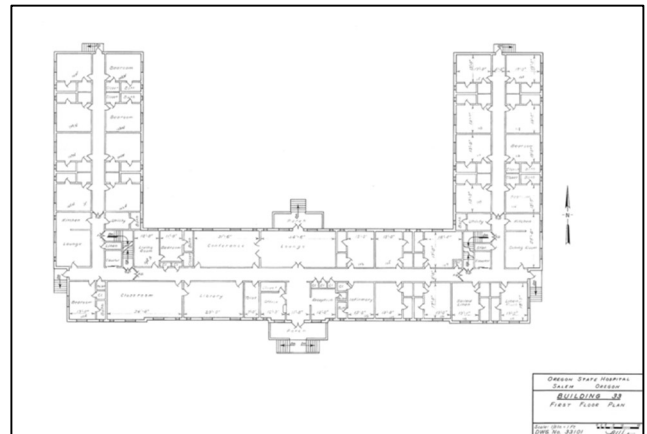
Annette Newman, a nurse on the psychiatric training rotation in 1954, recalled that she and fellow cadets underwent some of the same treatments that patients experienced so they could understand what it was like. Hydrotherapies (therapies using water) were popular treatments used in that era for calming patients. Annette remembered taking a “needle shower”—a therapy where her body was covered with salt and she stood under a spray of pressurized water that felt a bit like stinging needles. Other therapies included wrapping agitated patients in sheets wrung out in ice water and then covering them with blankets, which was thought to be calming. Many of the former nurses considered their experiences at OSH some of their most valuable during their training.



*Nurse monitors patients' hydrotherapy treatment in 1952.*

## Building 33 (Yaquina Hall) is Constructed

As the nurses training program continued to expand and prosper, larger accommodations were sought for the cadets. Salem architect Lyle P. Bartholomew was hired to design a dormitory building on the north campus, which was approved by the state in June 1946. Construction bids were accepted in August 1947 and construction was underway three months later. The nurses began moving in after the building was completed in late 1948. Building 33 housed the entirety of the nursing program, including classrooms and mandatory residence rooms. Student nurses shared dormitory rooms, which contained two sofa-beds, two dressers, two desks and chairs, a large closet and private bathroom.



*Original architectural floorplan by architect Lyle P. Bartholomew, 1946.*



*Yaquina Hall under construction, 1948.*

## Nursing Lamp Medallion

In the gable above Yaquina Hall's entrance is a medallion with a nursing lamp. The lamp is an international nurse symbol that is widely known to symbolize Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing during the Crimean War (1853-1856). Nightingale earned herself the nickname "the lady with the lamp" because she stayed up late at night compassionately checking ailing soldiers in the hospital. After the war was over, Florence returned to London and helped to establish the world's first nursing school where she formalized her guiding principles of compassionate health care, acting with a code of ethics, and preservation of confidentiality. A lamp was commonly used during graduations, held up by the new nurses while reciting a pledge inspired by Florence's nursing philosophy.



*Lamp medallion above the building's front entrance.*

## Tunnel System



*Photo of the hospital's tunnel system.*

Beneath the Oregon State Hospital lies a network of tunnels, originally designed to allow seamless and dry transport of people, food, laundry, and other goods from building to building without having to surface. During much of its history, a narrow-gauge rail system allowed fast movement of people and freight through the tunnels. Cars made out of bamboo were used and one of these is on display at the Museum of Mental Health. In later years, the rails were abandoned, made level with concrete allowing bicycles and nurses on roller skates to move from one building to another as expeditiously as possible. At one time, this subterranean element of the campus was home to an indoor swimming pool, weaving room, wood shop, and beauty parlor.

## Beehive of Activity

With the nurses-in-training on the campus, there were often 70 cadets helping to keep the patients occupied in ways that the handful of regular nurses could not. Director Tina Duerksen explained that the goal was to give the patients a pleasant reality and to keep them busy with activities so they would spend less time sitting and worrying in gloomy corridors. Cadets accomplished this by taking patients on walks of the campus, reading books, playing ping pong, working with them on projects, and providing counsel for their problems.



*Nurses assist patients with gardening.*

## Long Hours

The three months nurses would spend at OSH were often the busiest they had ever known. Typically, nurses worked 30 hours a week and spent ten additional hours in class. Each class hour produced two hours of studying in the evening, totaling 60 hours a week. Some of the hospital work entailed working the night shift. The dormitory's residents were arranged in the building to minimize disruption to those who had to sleep in the day. There was little down time, but the nurses did organize dances and parties that were hosted at the building. Curfew was set at 11 pm—later than any other hospital where nurses did rotations.



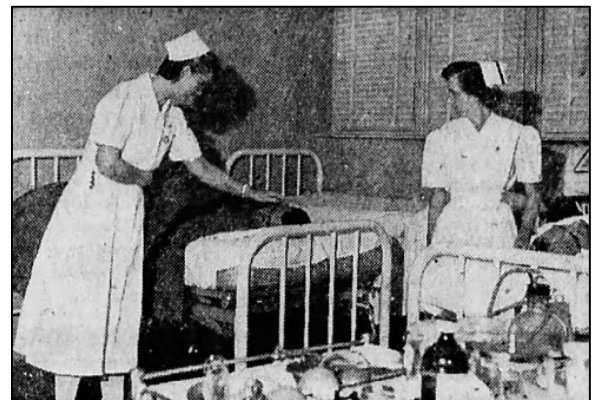
*Nurses help patients with projects. Tina Duerkson is on the right.*



*Nurses get some rare relaxation gathering to listen to the radio in Yaquina Hall in 1951.*

## Protocols Commended & Criticized

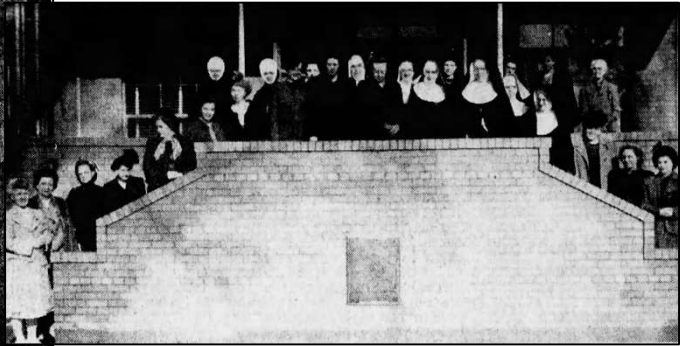
Like many mental health institutions under operation for over a century, there are practices to be commended and criticized. The OSH campus was once deemed integral to recovery by giving patients access to beautiful gardens, serene vistas, natural light, fresh air, and the intent of a peaceful, orderly, and stately setting. The tunnel system further allowed the grounds to be a peaceful setting with all the transportation activity moved underground. The companionship and leisure activities that the cadets provided



*A graduate nurse and a student nurse monitor a patient coming out of a deep insulin coma in 1951.*



were positive enhancements to the hospital's treatment regimens. However, there was undeniably a darker reality to patient life at OSH. Attempts to treat patients meant many were subjected to methods now deemed inhumane including straitjackets, shackles, electric shock therapies, lobotomies, ice baths, insulin shock therapy, drugs and sterilizations.



*Left: Nurses at the steps of Yaquina Hall in 1948.*

*Above: Directors of all schools of nursing in Oregon were photographed on the steps of Yaquina Hall after meeting with OSH staff in 1948 to formulate contractual agreements for psychiatric nurse training.*

## Yaquina Hall Changes Uses

Later transformations in psychiatric care led to decline in the need for campus staff housing by the 1970s. While it is unknown when Building 33 stopped housing student nurses, the shift happened by 1979 when the Mental Health and Developmental Disability Services Division of the Oregon Department of Human Resources occupied the building. In 1990, it received its present-day name.