

## NURSES HOME AND SOUTH EMPLOYEES HOME



THE HILLTOP APARTMENTS EAST AND WEST occupy the former Nurses Home (1928) and the South Employees Home (1918-1920), both of which provided housing for female nurses. These buildings, among the very few that remain on the former Northampton State Hospital campus, were extensively renovated for mixed-income housing in Village Hill (2005-2006).

As the number of patients grew, and new wards were added to the Hospital, staff residences and dormitories were constructed on the Hospital grounds to attract qualified staff. The South Employees Home opened in 1920 and housed 63 female staff. A tunnel connected the building to the South Infirmary at the southern end of Old Main.

At the opposite end of Old Main, stretching across the top of Hospital Hill, the North Employees Home (1920) originally housed male staff. It had a tunnel connecting it to the North Infirmary.

The Nurses Home, with rooms for 99 nurses, was constructed to provide additional housing close to the Main Complex.

In the 1930s, the North Employees Home became housing for married employees.

The number of workers living on Hospital grounds declined through the 1960s and 1970s; the last occupants moved out in 1984.



**THE SOUTH EMPLOYEES HOME** housed female nurses. One employee who lived here in 1935 said: “About five o’clock in the morning you could hear the patients that were already rising from bed. I could make out who they were, too, from my ward.”



**TWO EMPLOYEES HOMES AND PATIENTS**  
This view, to the west, shows the Nurses Home to the left and the South Employees Home to the right. In the foreground, patients relax on the grounds under a grove of trees near the main driveway up to Old Main.



**FIVE NURSES WATCH A BALLGAME** near the main driveway with a view of the Holyoke Range in the distance to the east. This view typified an original purpose of the Hospital’s Moral Treatment, that the beautiful and serene surroundings would contribute to the care of the mentally ill.

*Photos: Moore & Schuleit Haber. Images of America: Northampton State Hospital (Arcadia Publishing, 2014)*

