

Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1955

Willowbrook School

Enrollment

Up to 4,300

Building Program Stymied

Construction work on a single \$800,000 infirmary-dormitory type building continued today in the northeast sector of the Willowbrook State School tract as officials there admitted they still "have no idea" when an additional part of the long-awaited \$7,000,000 building program will get rolling.

Officials at the same time reported that the school's enrollment has risen to 4,300, highest in the history of the facility, which is operated by the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

The projected building program, which was to provide six new buildings to the growing facility, has been stymied by blueprint shuffling and restudies for more than three years.

ENLARGEMENT and modernization of the school's already huge laundry to meet demands brought on by new enrollment growth, also is being held up.

Dr. Harold Berman, the school's director, said alterations in conjunction with introduction of more and bigger equipment has been delayed because all bids for the work have been rejected. All, he said, were too high.

The building now under construction will be known as Building 10. It is modeled after present structures of the type now at Willowbrook, a move designed to speed up actual construction there. It was started March 1.

Five other buildings, now on blueprint, will be entirely new in type, and will be the most modern in their field, officials have said.