

State Pinpoints Only 23 Pct. Of Repair Costs at Gouverneur

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New York State today was able to account for only \$23,000 plus labor costs of the \$100,000 said to have been spent on remodeling once-abandoned Gouverneur Hospital.

At the same time, the state was unable to provide records showing that the obsolete Lower East Side institution—housing 208 mentally retarded children—has had a thorough top-to-bottom inspection for structural defects in the past four years.

A spokesman for the State Department of Mental Hygiene said that \$6000 of the renovation funds was spent to repair two elevators and another \$27,000 was used for paint, plaster and building materials.

Changes Inspected

The remainder went for labor costs, the spokesman said. This would be about \$80,000, according to the \$100,000 overall rehabilitation figure supplied by Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Gouverneur's parent institution, the Willowbrook School on Staten Island.

Hammond originally said "hundreds of thousands of dollars" had been spent to refurbish the 67-year-old building. "I was confused about the number of zeroes," he said, after correcting the estimate.

The State Public Works Department said it inspected these alterations in 1963 when they were completed. It described the job as "more or less minor work."

Work Planned

A Public Works spokesman said another \$30,000 contract to rehabilitate the elevator controls will be undertaken and should be completed within a year. He could not say why the additional work had to be carried out so soon after the initial renovation.

As for inspections of the en-

tire building, the Mental Hygiene Department spokesman said engineers had checked the antiquated hospital in 1961, before it was leased from the city. The spokesman could not say whether any inspections had been made since then.

Although the spokesman insisted the dingy building "has been inspected by any number of professionals," she was unable to furnish any dates when the hospital was checked since its acquisition. She also was unable to describe the extent of the inspections.

10-Year Wait

The state's uncertainty over specific inspection details was the latest development in the

furor over the hospital triggered last week when retarded children were found sprawled on floor mats.

The bleak hospital was meant only as a "temporary crisis provision," according to Gov. Rockefeller, who said the building would be closed as soon as possible.

But Hammond said it would be 10 years before the children could be moved out.

Inspected in 1959

Questioned as to the city's role in the inspections, Buildings Commissioner Judah Gribetz pointed out that under the state mental hygiene law, the city does not have authority to check the building.

While the building was oper-

ated by the city, Gribetz said, it was last inspected in 1959, when it underwent alterations.

On another front, the State Assn. for Retarded Children urged that jurisdiction over mentally retarded patients be

taken from the Mental Hygiene Department. Mrs. Ruth Gross, the organization's president, said the department "has demonstrated its bankruptcy with regard to the mentally retarded."

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