Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitorium, Boonville, Arkansas

Located on the hill just a few miles outside of Booneville Arkansas stands the imposing campus that was once known as the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The entire campus is approximately 800 acres and was constructed in 1909 by Haralson & Mott, Erhart & Eichenbaum. The main hospital building was named after Senator Leo Nyberg who was a tuberculosis patient himself. At it's peak the campus was at a larger population then the city of Booneville with over 1,000 patients and 300 staff members.

The National Tuberculosis Association's mission was to set a network of Tuberculosis treatment facilities throughout the United States. Tuberculosis infection was specifically high in young people and those who lived in areas of poverty.

Doctors and nurses were sent out to diagnose both the well and sick to determine Tuberculosis infection. Pneumothorax was performed under local anesthesia to collapse the lungs in order to treat tuberculosis patients.

Rest, sunshine, and a milk and egg diet was also believed to be a remedy for the disease. Sanitoriums were constructed in locations to catch a breeze during all hours.

The city of Booneville donated more then 800 acres to construct the Arkansas Sanitorium. The price of patient admission was $10.00 a week. At the time it was its own city and was equipped with its own independent telephone system, masonic lodge, chapel, water treatment plant, dairy farm, dormitory, and even a fire department.

As more Tuberculosis vaccines were invented the decline of patients caused the closure of The Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1973. Today the campus is owned by the state and the patients of Booneville Human Development are housed in some of the buildings.
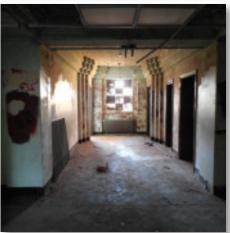
The Nyberg buildings first floor is completely renovated however the remaining four floors and basement are vacant.

The Arkansas State Sanitorium was added to U.S. National Register of Historic Places on October 5, 2006.