

Glore Psychiatric Museum

George Glore founded the Psychiatric Museum in 1968. He had a series of replicas built for a Mental Health Awareness Week open house. The exhibit was so popular that the hospital superintendent suggested that George determine what other types of artifacts, documents, and photos he could find to illustrate the history and perception of mental illness. Over the years the Museum has grown to become arguably the biggest and best collection describing the history of mental illness and its treatment in the country.

The Museum specializes in interpreting the 128-year history of this hospital, particularly as it relates to mental health treatment in Missouri and the Midwest.

The Museum was housed in the historic 1879 Center/Administration Building until the hospital moved into its new building in 1997. The Museum then moved into the former Medical/Surgical building adjacent to Frederick Avenue.

The collections have grown as former staff (and their families), individuals, other hospitals, and state and federal agencies have contributed items. In early 2002 the National Park Service donated more than 150 pre-1900 items that contributed greatly to the farming exhibits.

As the collections have grown, so has attendance. Our last full year in the old historic building saw slightly more than 6,400 visitors to the Museum. By early October this year we have seen more than 18,500 visitors—visitors from all 50 states and 27 countries.

Interest in our hospital's history continues to grow. As amazing as that growth is, the Museum will benefit greatly when the hospital campus receives Historic District designation.