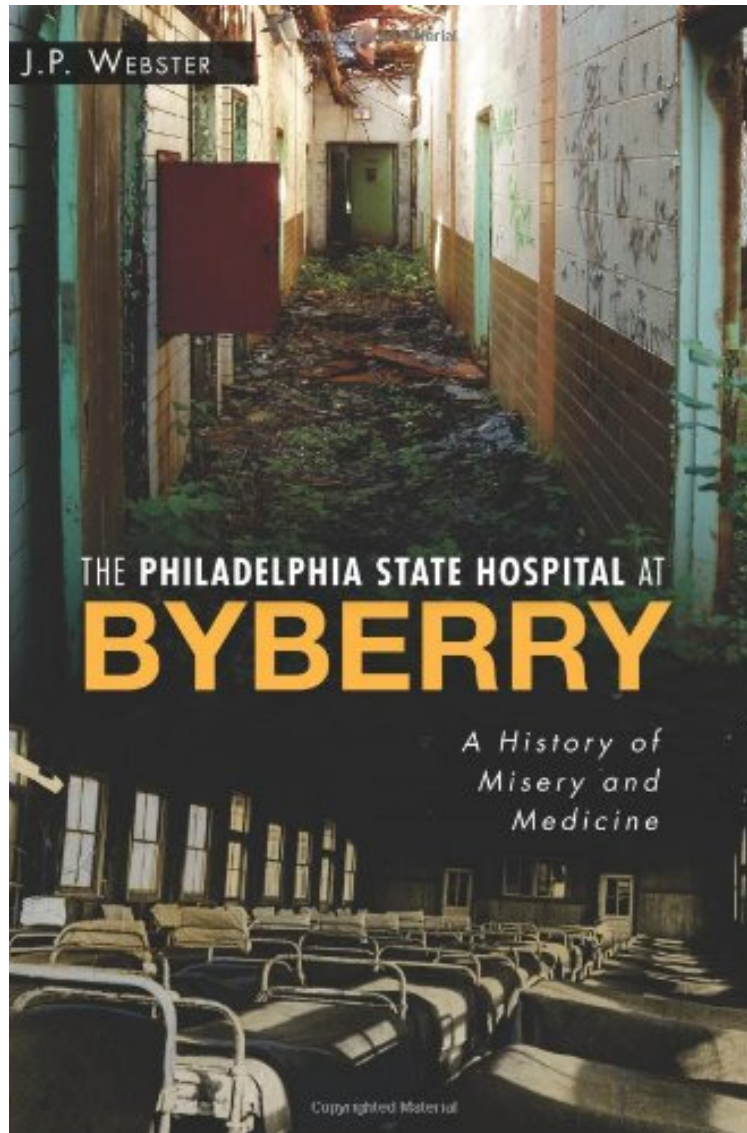


[Get free] The Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry: A History of Misery and Medicine (Landmarks)

## The Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry: A History of Misery and Medicine (Landmarks)

*J.P. Webster*

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**J.P. Webster : The Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry: A History of Misery and Medicine (Landmarks)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry: A History of Misery and Medicine (Landmarks):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Wow! By M. Jacobs Talk about a plethora of information. While I

realize the patients suffered the most in this facility, every single person involved in any aspect of this institution suffered as well. As a former Philadelphian. I am fully aware of the political tension and corruption in the city government in the past. But to see this corruptive behavior filtering into a facility such as Pennsylvania State Hospital is beyond appalling. After reading this book, I now realize that most of the money earmarked for this facility and the running of it simply ended up in the pockets of crooked politicians, figureheads, and so called appointees. Had this facility been run with it's full budget and not so shady contractors, I think we would have seen a much more successful result for the patients and our stigma on mental health would have been lifted long before. Take a moment to read this book and see what bad government can do for it's most needy. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well Documented History, Light On Personal Stories By Chris Scott The book documents the history of the hospital itself, laying out an intriguing and sordid history of corruption and political maneuvering. It doesn't though delve far in to the personal horror that the hospital brought on so many. There are a handful of tragic anecdotes but this mostly sticks too the political corruption that plagued the management of the hospital itself and often, the author gives the staff the benefit of the doubt without much proof one way or the other. Still, as one of the most horrific hospitals to ever exist, this is a fascinating look at part of it's history. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For Philadelphia History Buffs By Denise For Philadelphia History buffs, this is a good read as it really goes into detail as far as the politics of the time Byberry was erected and how the mental institution was viewed at the turn of the 19th century. For others, it may be a little dry reading but I enjoyed it, learned a few things and skipped over some of the more political situations.

The Quaker City and its hospitals were pioneers in the field of mental health. Yet by the end of the nineteenth century, its institutions were crowded and patients lived in shocking conditions. The mentally ill were quartered with the dangerously criminal. By 1906, the city had purchased a vast acreage of farmland incorporated into the city, and the Philadelphia Hospital dubbed its new venture Byberry City Farms. From the start, its history was riddled with corruption and committees, investigations and inquests, appropriations and abuse. Yet it is also a story of reform and redemption, of heroes and human dignity--many dedicated staff members did their best to help patients whose mental illnesses were little understood and were stigmatized by society. Join author J.P. Webster as he explores the fascinating and complex history of the Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry.

About the Author J.P. Webster is an avid Philadelphia historian, amateur photographer and urban explorer. His photos have been published in the Northeast Times, City Paper, Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Germantown Crier. John is a member of the Northeast Philadelphia and Frankford Historical Societies.