

## Faded Treatment: The Georgia Mental Health Institute 10 Years After Closing

by Ben Miller



Constructed in 1964, the Georgia Mental Health Institute was located on a site that belonged to Asa Candler Jr., son of the founder of Coca-Cola. Prior plans for the 42-acre estate had included a veterans hospital and the Georgian Clinic, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.



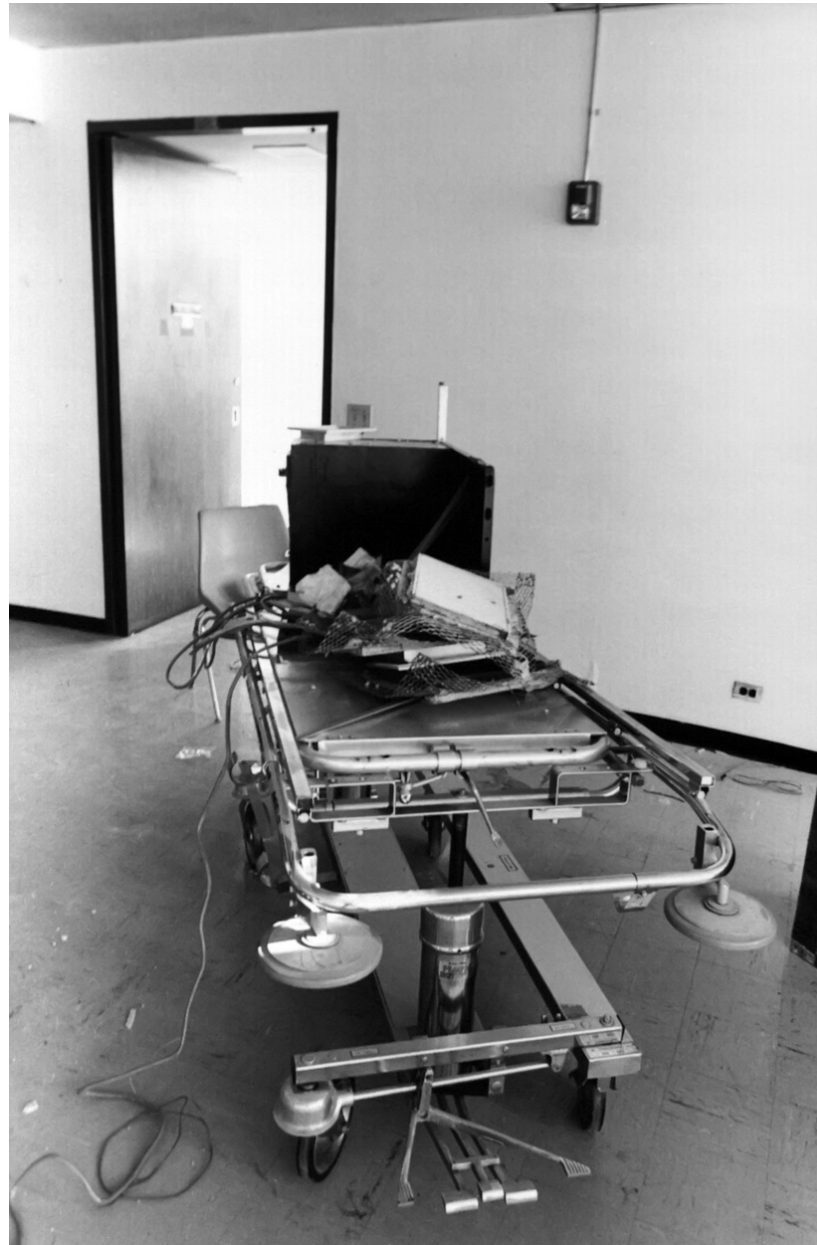
After the state of Georgia sold the land to Emory University in 1988 for \$2.9 million, the perfectly symmetrical and geographically aligned building was partially converted to office use. The east wing was cleaned and re-opened, while the north, south and west wings of the plus-sign shaped building remained cloistered.



Corridors leading to active offices on every floor often had spurs leading to doors accessing the dilapidated areas. This first-floor door led to the west wing, and holding and treatment areas for patients needing 24-hour observation.



Some areas of the facility, like the library located on the fourth floor of the north wing, were off limits to residents.



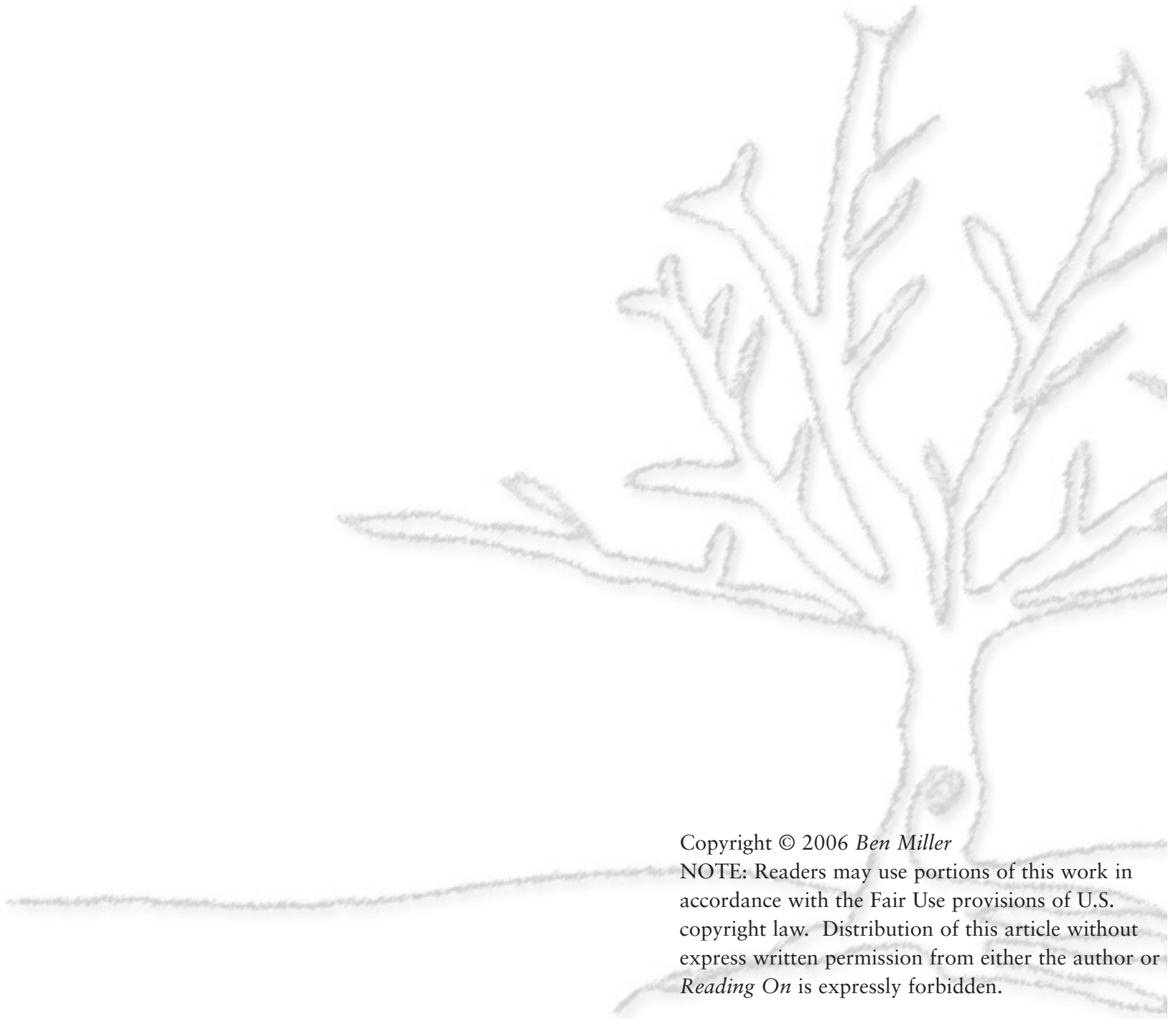
One term of the sale was that Emory would accept the facility in its current state of disrepair. The central building, depicted in the photos above, was littered with medical equipment and signage from its active period. Outlying residency buildings arrayed around the central building were in worse condition: overgrown, broken.



The security gratings that served as ornamental cladding and bars left characteristic light shapes throughout the facility.



Most rooms in the facility looked out onto the 42-acre estate. Although much of the view would be blocked by the building's cladding, and much of the grounds immediately surrounding the building had been paved and developed, the land just beyond was still rolling manicured hills and scattered southern trees.



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