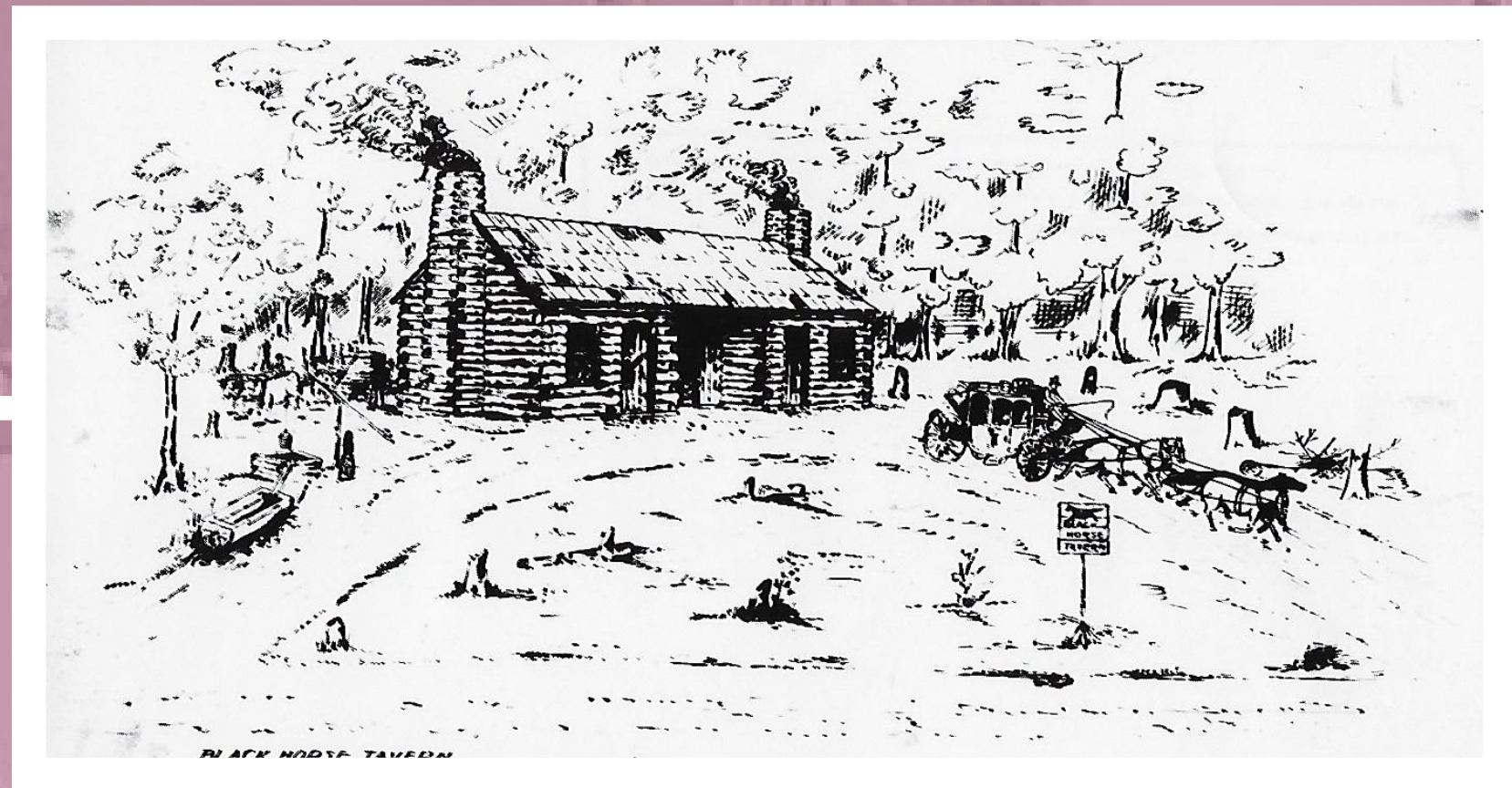
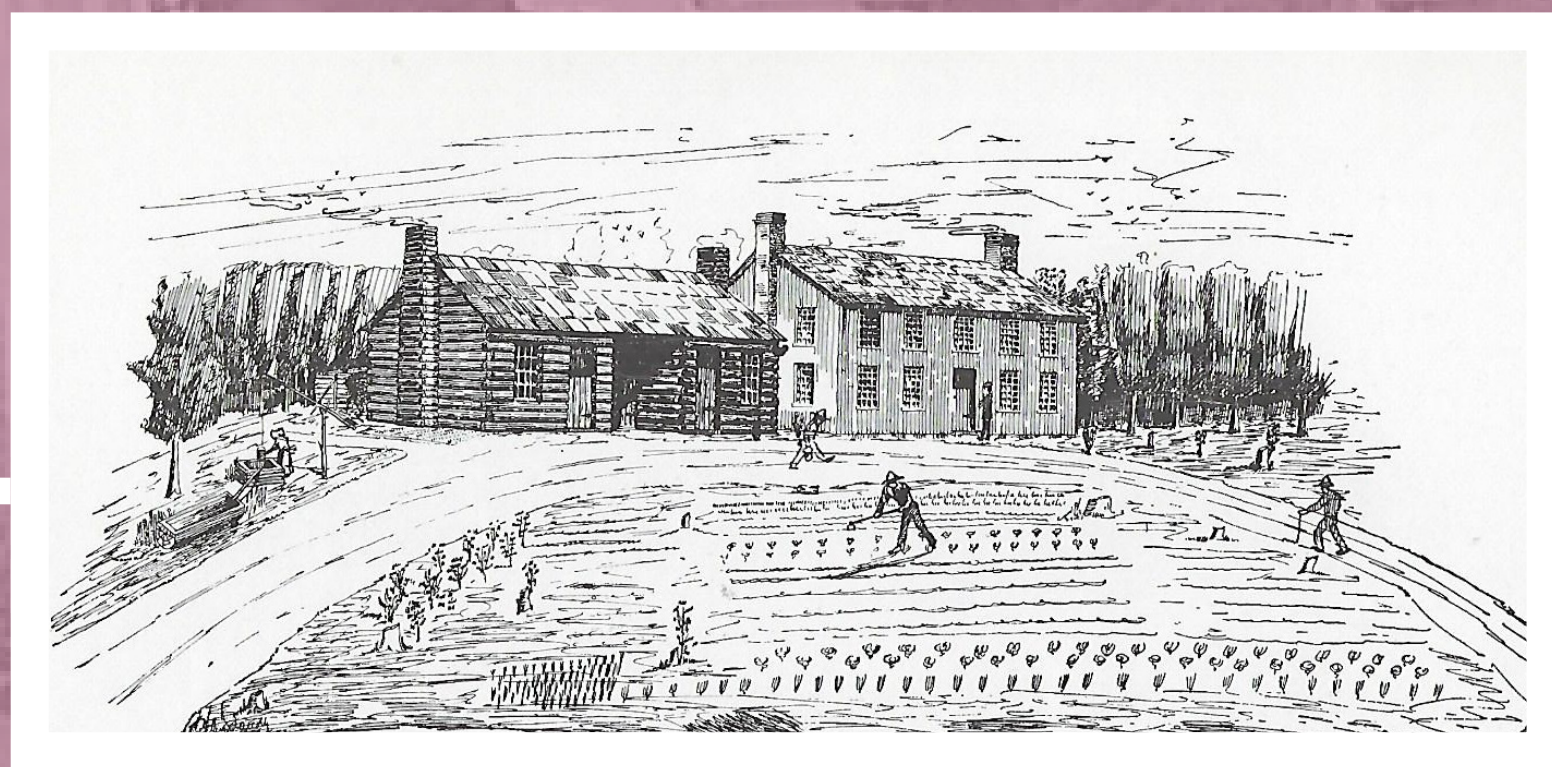


Eloise



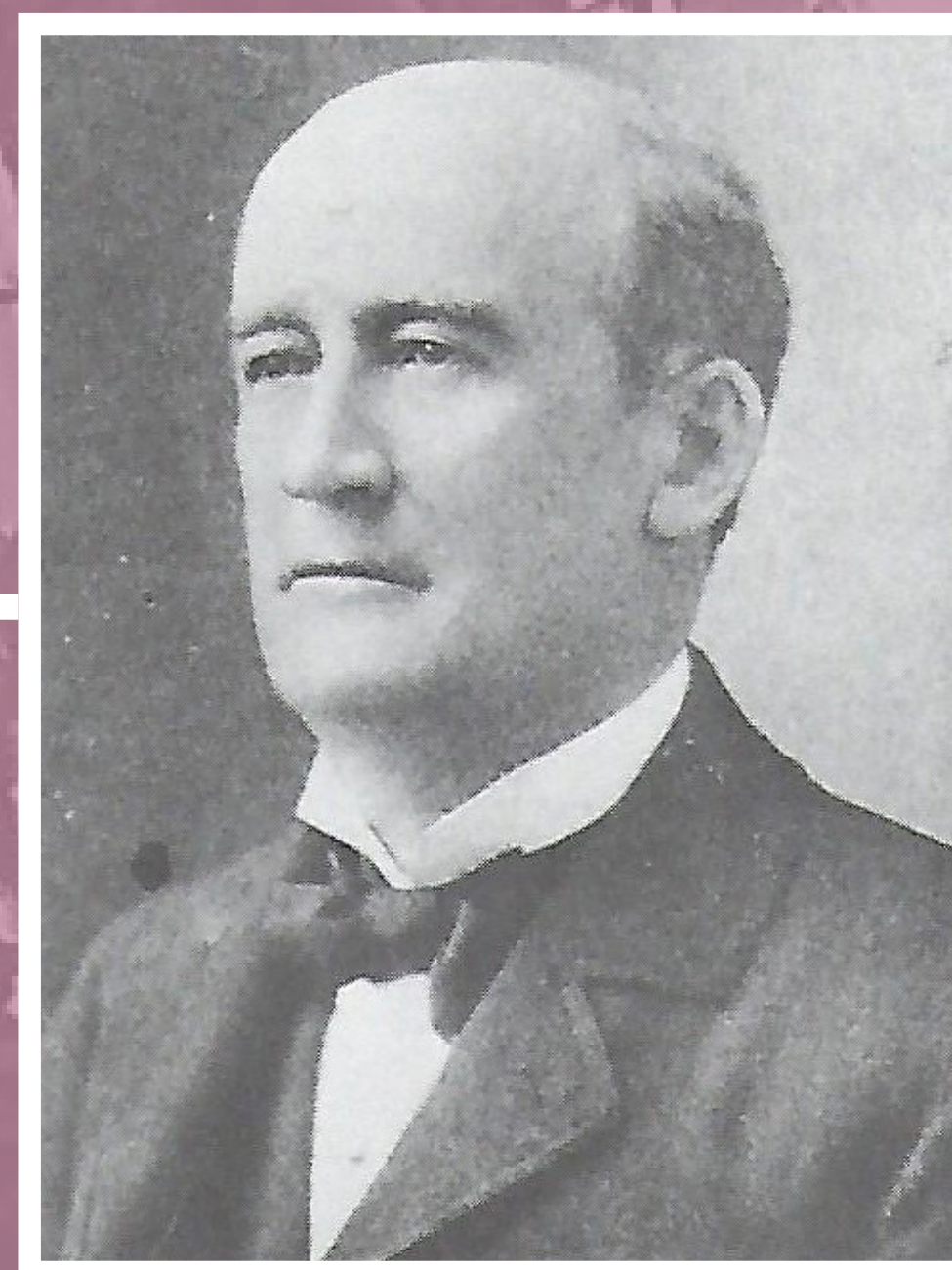
The story of Eloise begins when the county purchased the Torbert family cabin along the Chicago Road to create a poorhouse in 1839. The cabin was a stagecoach stop called The Black Horse Tavern and that same year 35 people moved from the poorhouse in Detroit out to the wilderness.



The Wayne County Poorhouse, (the official name), became a functional farm run by the paupers and a keeper who lived on-site. In the beginning, there was no distinction between the rational and insane at the poorhouse, everyone lived and worked together.



Over the years, the number of insane people at the poorhouse continued to rise until it was unbearable for the other people living there. In 1868, the county built its first building to specifically house the insane inmates, and it became known as the asylum.



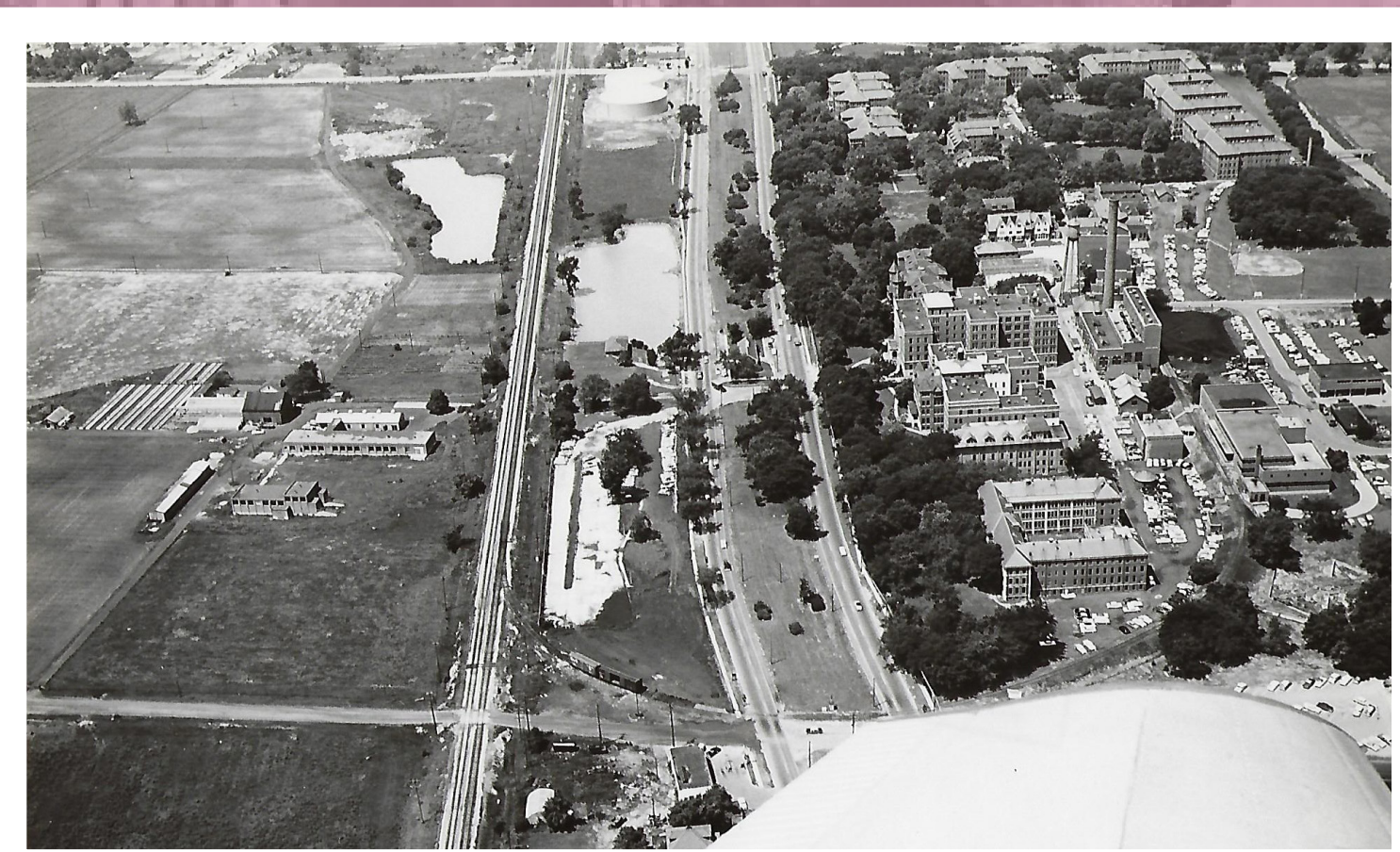
The asylum did not have an actual doctor on-site until 1881, when Ebenezer Bennett moved there from Ann Arbor. Bennett drastically changed and improved care for the insane, being an expert in mental diseases he cured many patients and was held in high regard.



The population at the poorhouse, by now called Eloise, continued to grow into the 20th century. The population by 1913 was 576 with a staff of 66. The complex was largely self-sufficient, with its own power generator, water supply, food production, post office and railroad station.



By the 1930s, Eloise had grown to the size of a small city, with 78 buildings on nearly 1,000 acres. During the Great Depression, the population reached a peak of 10,000 people and 2,000 staff members, more than the village of Wayne at the time.



Changing times began to see the decline of large psychiatric hospitals like Eloise. The number of patients continually fell after the 1930s, and by the 1950s the farming side closed down. The last patients left Eloise in 1979, and most of the buildings have been torn down.