

Palatka Health Care Center

110 Kay Larkin Drive

Palatka, FL 32177

Maria Owens-Wicker, NHA

386-325-0173

AHCA No. AFA064Contract

This is the final report of the Community Courtyard Wellness Enhancement Project for Palatka Health Care Center. In this report the successes, challenges, and analysis of things we would have done differently will be discussed.

Carol Jones, RN, DNP

Director of Nursing

The Community Courtyard Wellness Enhancement Project is a huge success! As can be seen by the before and after pictures the courtyards have all improved tremendously and will be enjoyed for years to come by our residents, families and staff. There were challenges to the project, areas we wished we would have planned better, but overall this project has been a major achievement for Palatka Health Care Center.

The successes of the courtyard project were mainly the phenomenal changes for the better of the courtyards themselves. In each of the three courtyards we increased shaded sitting areas, we added water features and attractive landscaping. The residents are thrilled with the courtyards and have enjoyed watching the process. In courtyard #1 (Oceanview/Putnam Landing), where we demolished the courtyard to the dirt, then rebuilt it, the residents enjoyed watching the daily process. One of the residents was our "supervisor" and we would check in daily with him about the progress and his opinion.

Being able to use our Maintenance Director as the contractor saved us money that we were able to invest in additional features. We were able to double the square footage of synthetic turf, add landscape lighting and improve the water feature to make it much nicer. We were able to add a sporting area where we will be able to play beach ball volleyball, crochet and other games. It is one of the areas of synthetic turf. Having the synthetic turf and the way the landscaping was done reduces the maintenance needed in the courtyards.

Challenges to the project included trying to hire a contractor to oversee the project. We ended up waiting for contractors to respond and offer a bid, just to be disappointed several times. In the end having the Maintenance Director as the contractor ended up being a positive. At the time, as time was ticking away, it was very stressful and we felt we needed to move forward in a

positive way. Once we decided we were going to be our own contractor we had to scramble at the last minute to set up contracts sub-contractors, and get equipment.

It would have been more beneficial to have an exact plan before starting. We should have thought about all aspects on improvements before breaking ground. For example, now that we are done the ladies in Activities would like electrical outlets by one of the trees so they can decorate it for holidays and they also want electricity at the game area. Pre-thinking all electrical outlets and water lines prior to breaking ground would be helpful. Just asking various people in meetings doesn't work as many people cannot visualize what they want. Taking various department managers out to the site and walking the site to help them see where additional electrical and water lines may be desired would have helped.

In courtyards #2 (Central Station) and courtyard #3 (Treasure Cove) we replaced the drainage. This worked well in Treasure Cove and the entire courtyard drains well when it rains, even when it rains really hard. In Central Station 'we didn't test the old lines hard enough and didn't replace all of them. With a major storm we have some drainage issues that will need to be addressed.

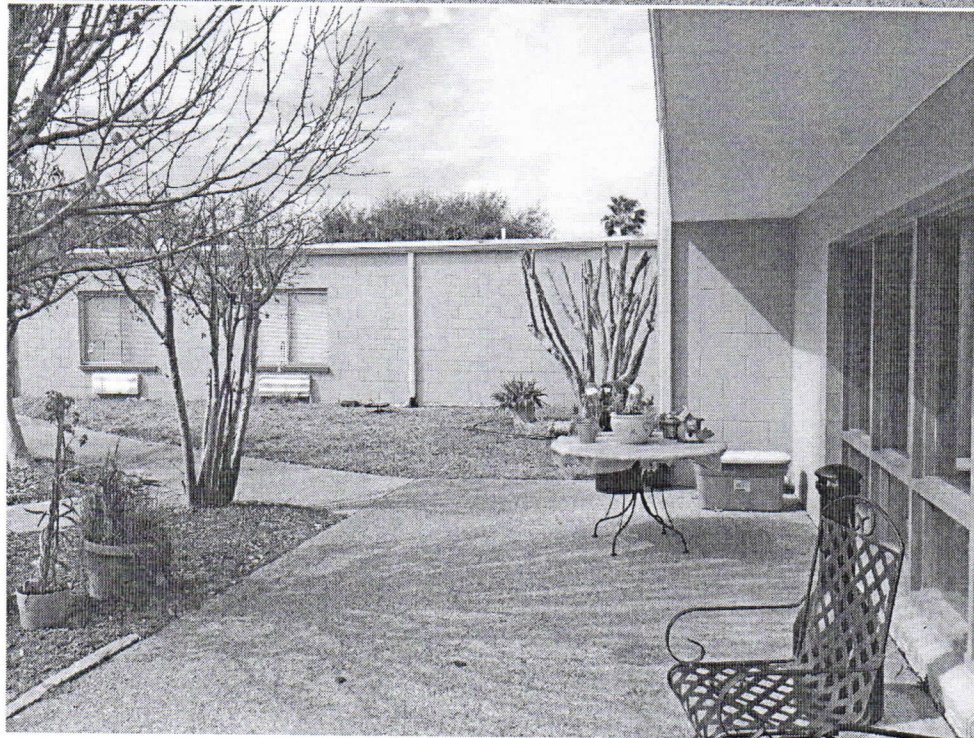
We liked the landscape lighting that was done on courtyard #1 (Oceanview/Putnam Landing) and decided that we now want to add landscape lighting to courtyards #2 and #3. If we had planned better we would have included this into the grant. We will now add this ourselves.

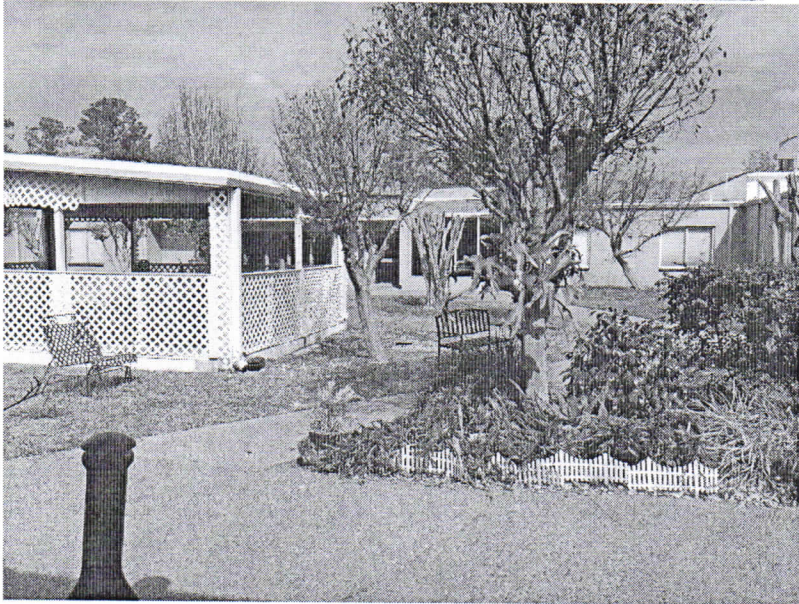
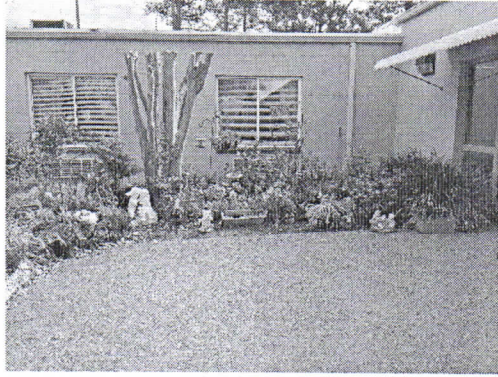
We also paid for a "landscape engineer" out of our pocket to help with the plan. When using a consultant like this it would have been more beneficial to identify exactly what you want on the plan. For example, the concrete sidewalks were just drawn in on the plan, but not exact elevations or the concrete "XY" coordinates. The Maintenance Director had to figure this out

himself. The “landscape engineer” was also supposed to oversee the contractor (our Maintenance Director) which did not happen. The responsibilities of this consultant needed to have been clearly written in the contract.

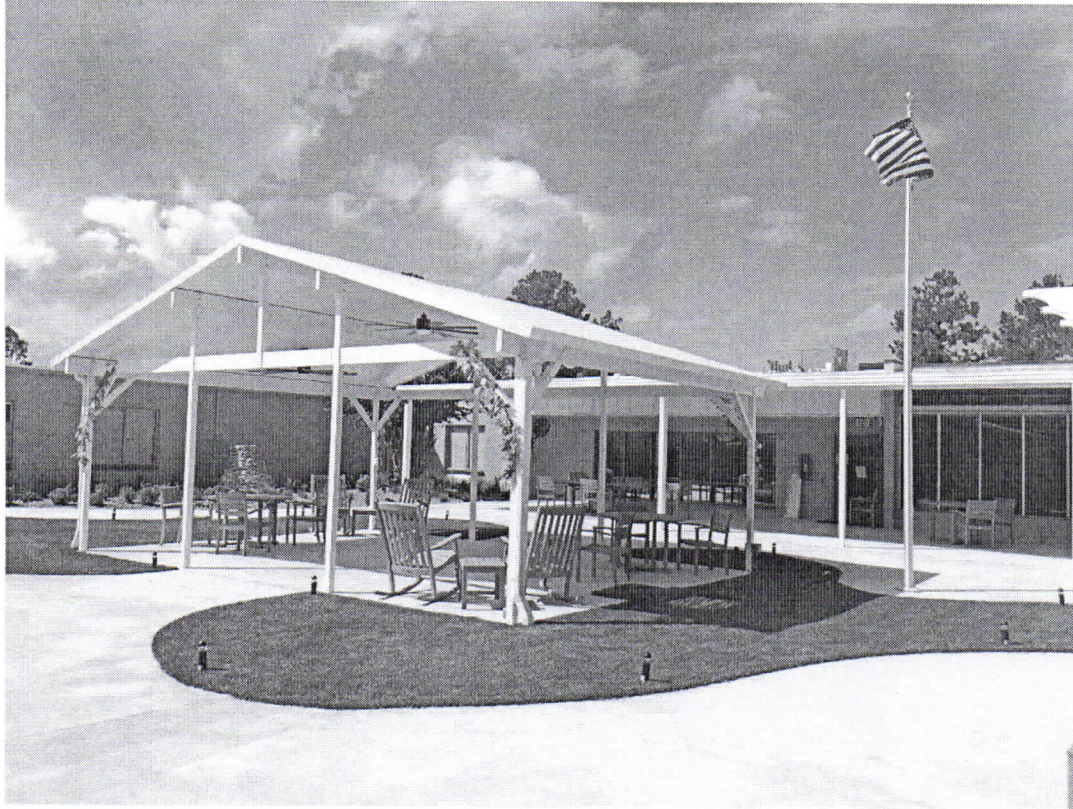
Despite some challenges the Community Courtyard Wellness Enhancement Project at Palatka Health Care Center has been a great achievement. We have tripled the shaded area on courtyard #1, made the sidewalks level and wider and dealt with our drainage problems and added a waterfall. In courtyard #2 we have improved the drainage, doubled the shaded area and added a waterfall. In courtyard #3 we have fixed the drainage problem, added a koi pond and a whisper glider for the residents. Overall we are delighted with the improvements and are grateful that we had the opportunity for this grant.

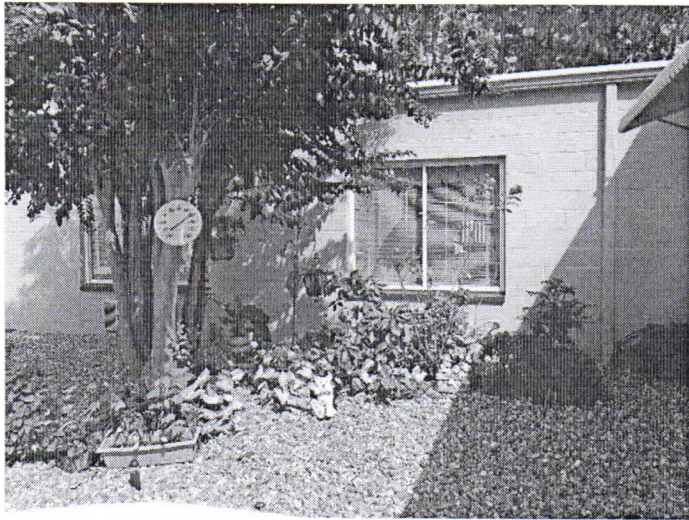
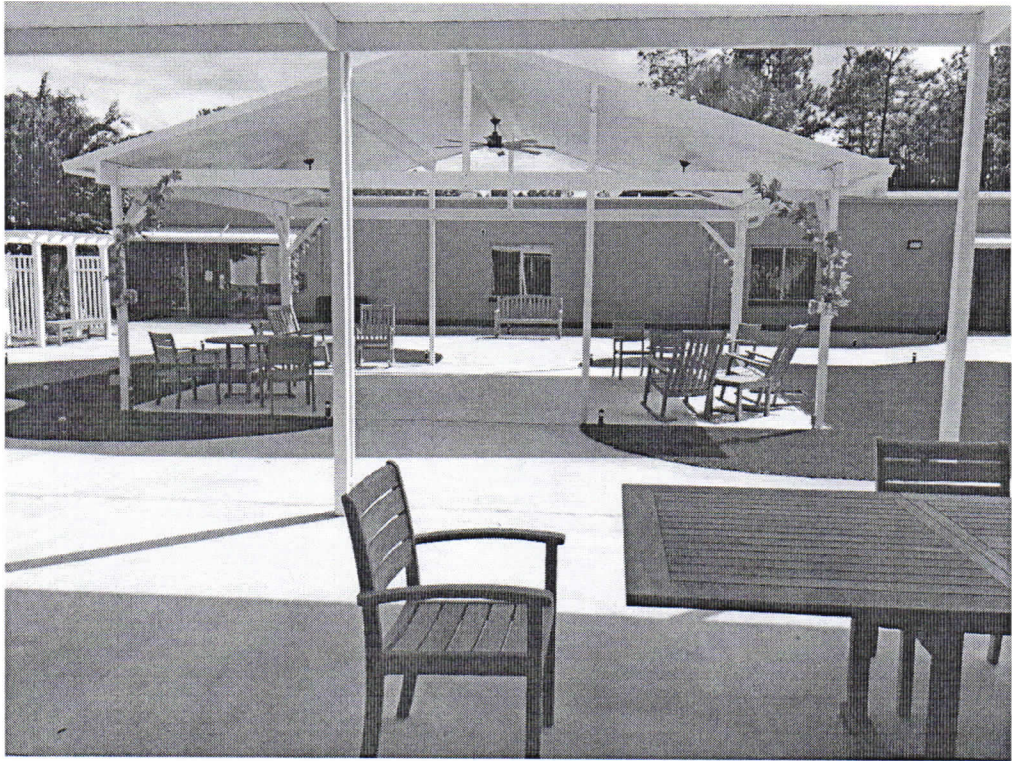
COURTYARD #1 (Oceanview/ Putnam Landing) BEFORE



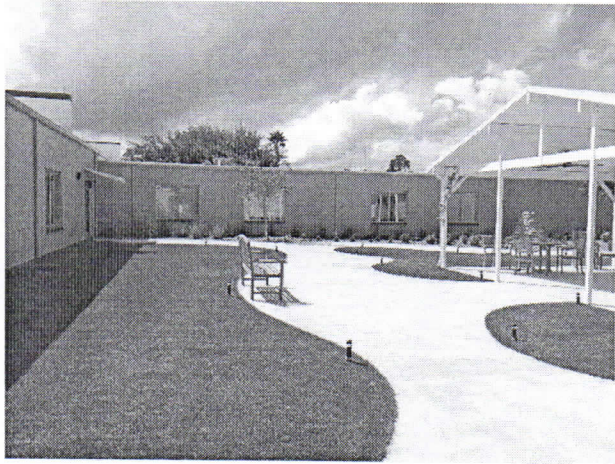
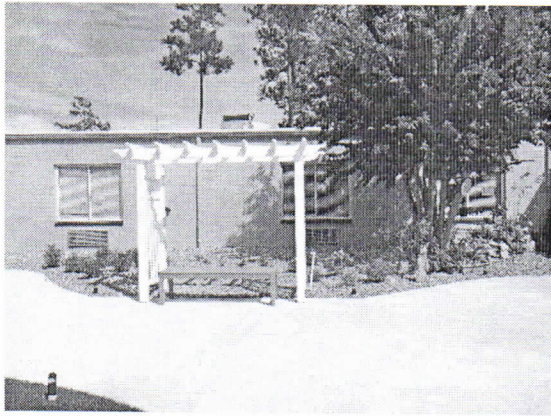


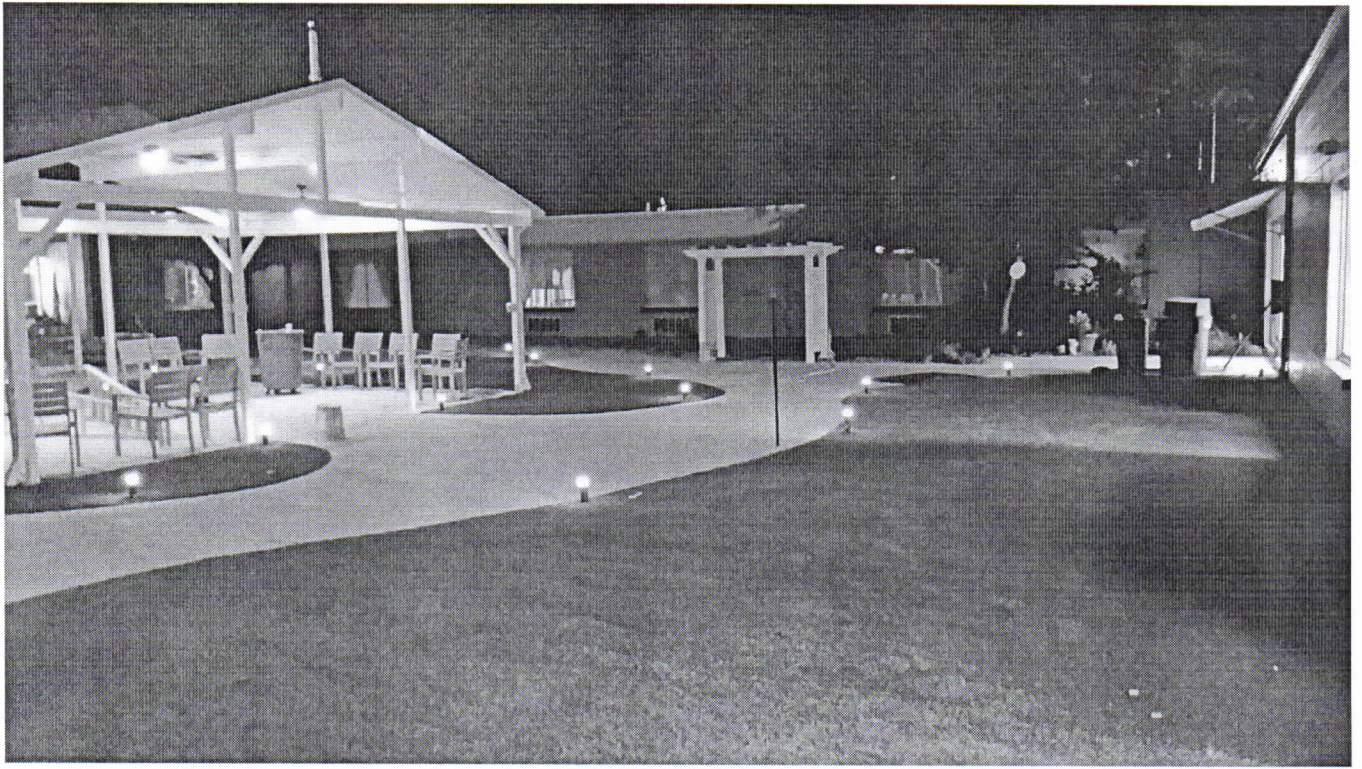
AFTER



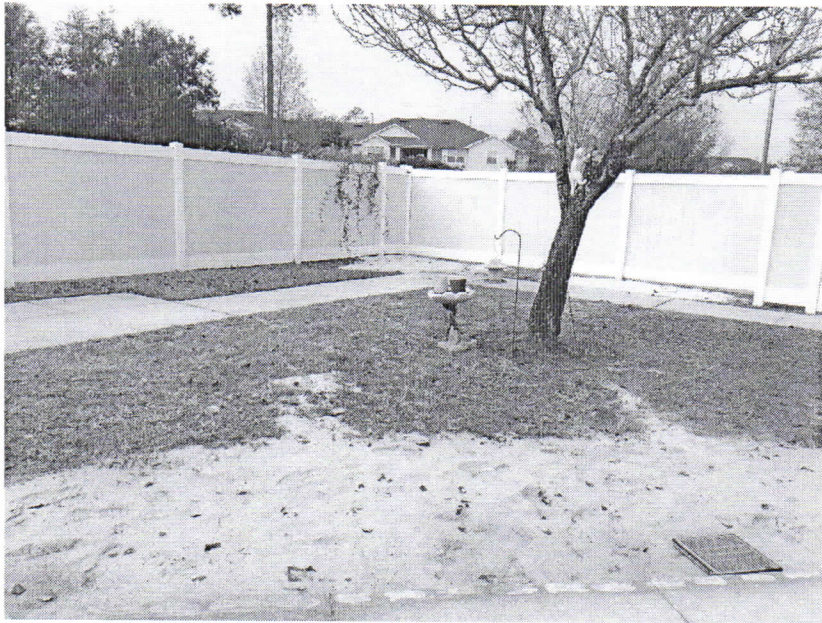




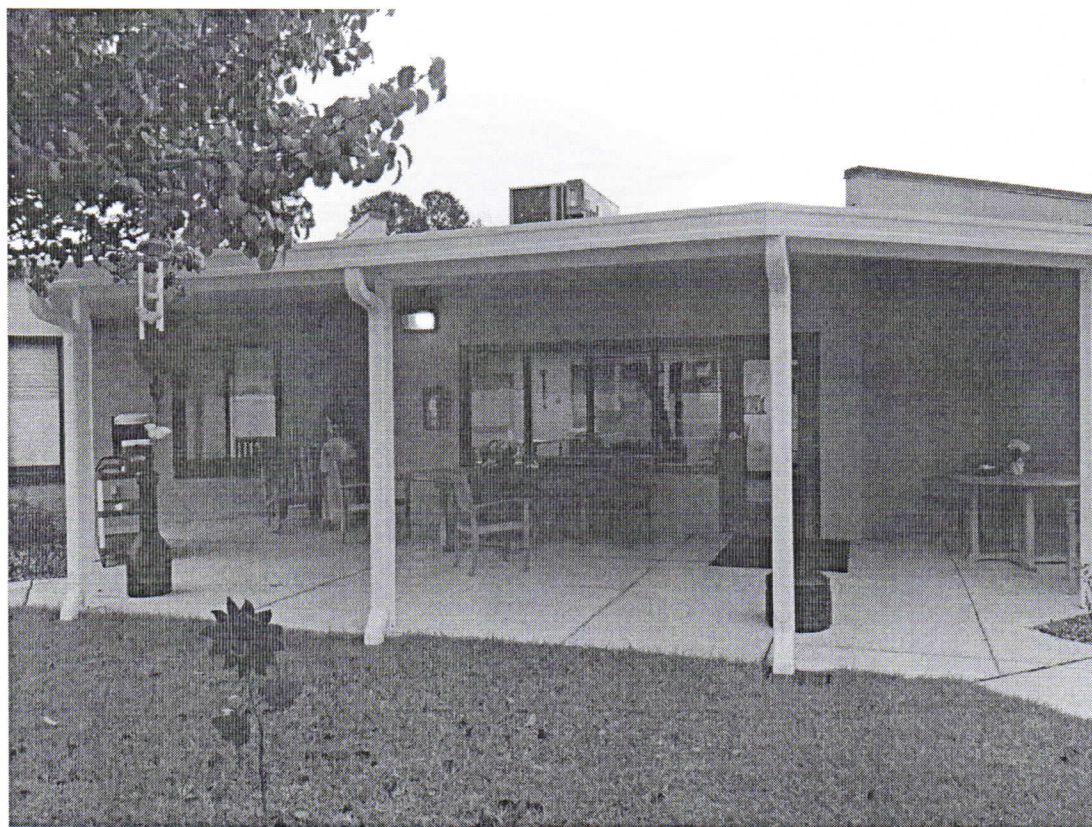


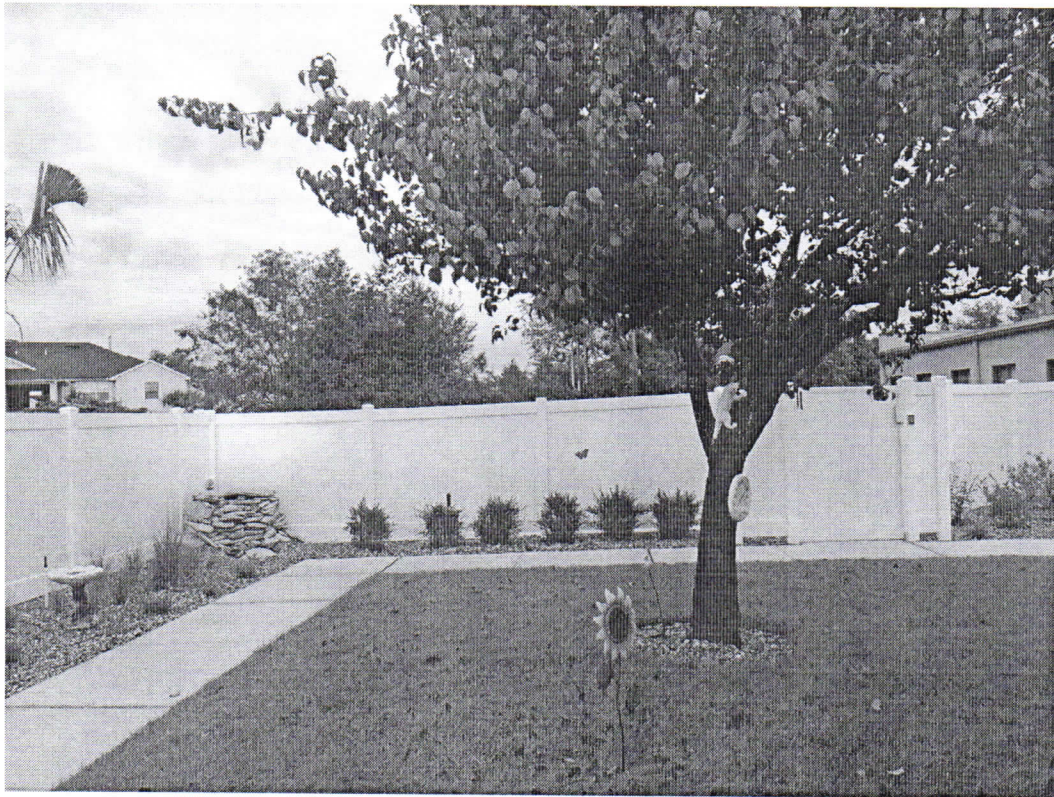
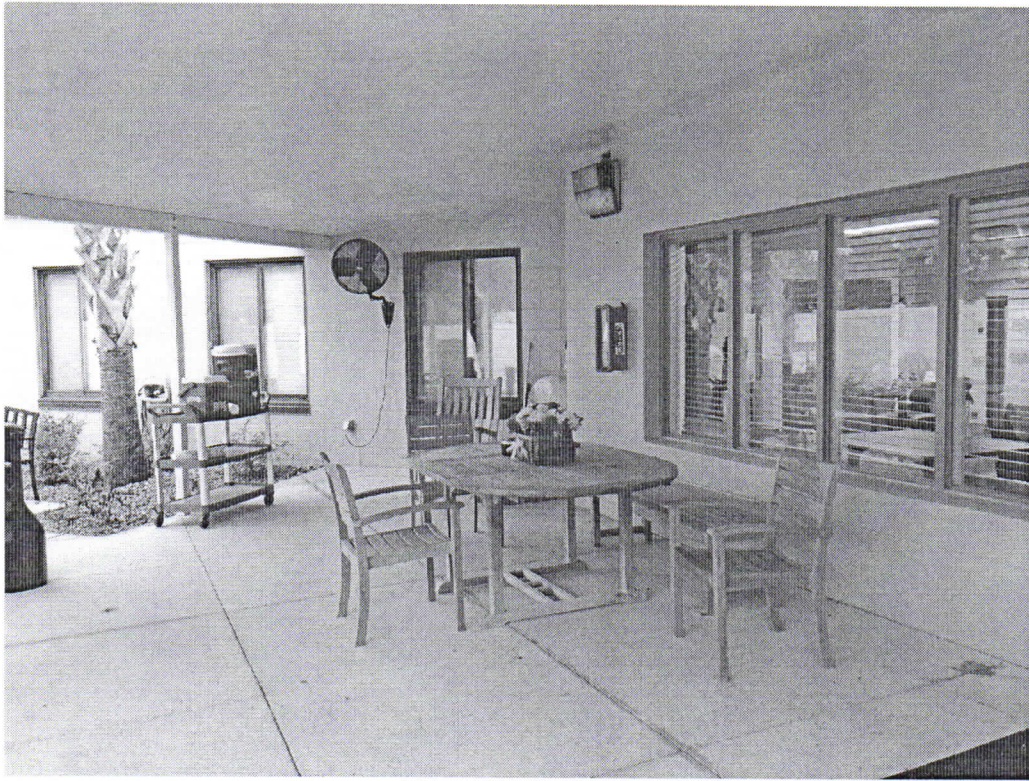


COURTYARD #2 (Central Station) BEFORE

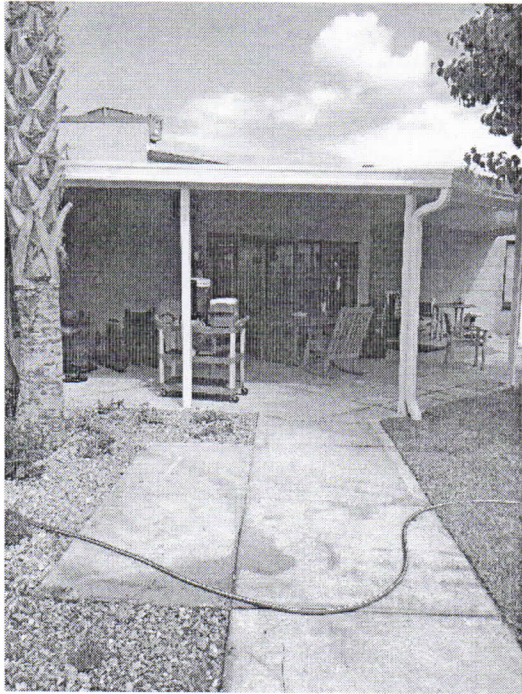
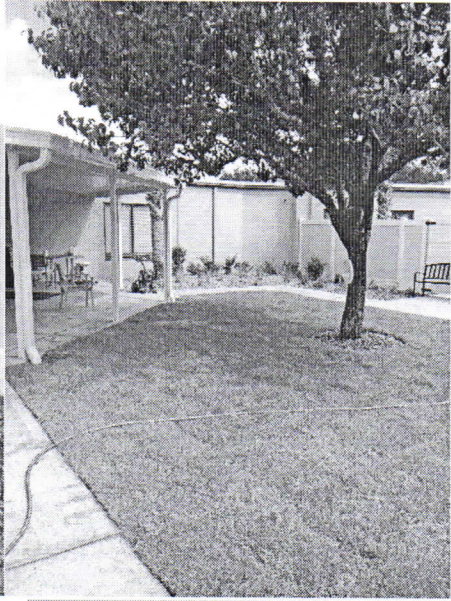


AFTER

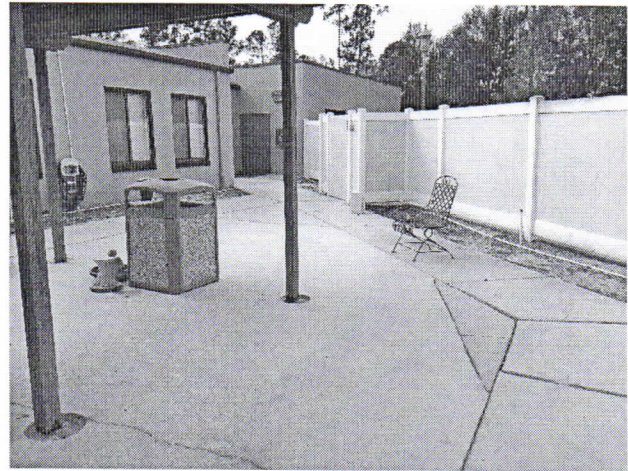
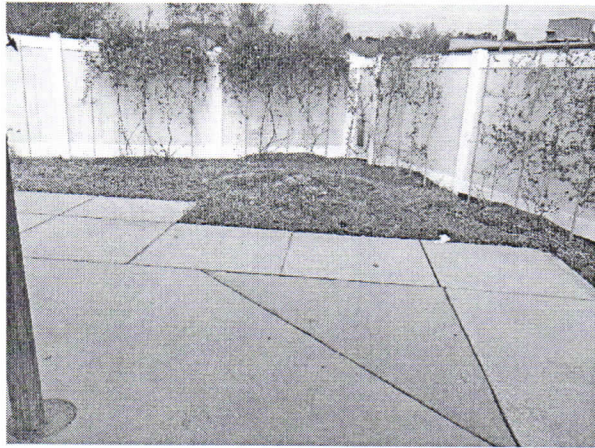
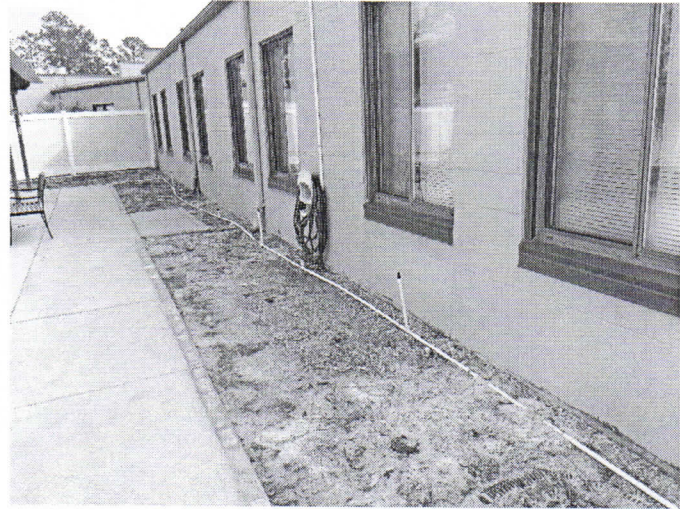








# COURTYARD #3 (Treasure Cove) BEFORE





AFTER

