

ADDENDUM TO:
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center)
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus)
500 North Fifth Street
Hot Springs
Fall River County
South Dakota

HABS SD-24
HABS SD-24

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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ADDENDUM TO

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HABS No. SD-24

Location: 500 North 5th Street, Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota

The coordinates at the Administration Building for NHDVS - Battle Mountain Sanitarium are 43.436483 N, -103.478801 W, and they were obtained through Google Earth in June 2013 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Present Owner: Department of Veterans Affairs, Black Hills VA Health Care System

Present Use: Most of the buildings on the campus, including the original hospital, are still used for veterans' medical care and housing, and support functions such as administration, maintenance, and food services.

Significance: Battle Mountain Sanitarium of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) was built between 1903 and 1907. The NHDVS was a federal institution authorized by Congress in 1865 and charged with caring for Civil War veterans disabled by their military service. By 1930 the system had eleven branches and became part of the new Veterans Administration. The Battle Mountain Sanitarium was the tenth NHDVS facility and the only one built exclusively for medical care. Veterans typically would return to residential NHDVS branches after their course of treatment at Battle Mountain was complete. Due to the mountain climate and access to natural hot springs, Battle Mountain particularly treated those with muscular-skeletal problems such as arthritis. Well-known Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball designed a striking Mission Revival hospital complex with the wards and service buildings connected by covered walkways and an unusual series of ramps. Prominent Kansas City landscape architect George Kessler created the site plan on a hill overlooking downtown Hot Springs.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium was built at a time of shifting emphasis from residential campuses to medical care for veterans. The importance of the hospitals at the NHDVS Branches had been growing throughout the late nineteenth century as medical care became more sophisticated. The needs

of World War I veterans with lung diseases such as tuberculosis further pushed the shift to medical care as the most prominent aspect of veterans' services. The Veterans Bureau sponsored construction of a new tuberculosis hospital on the campus in 1925-26. Subsequent additions to this second generation hospital have turned it into the main medical/surgical facility at Battle Mountain. The original hospital complex is used currently for inpatient treatment. The VA is considering closing the Hot Springs campus in spite of community protest.

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Ph.D., HABS Staff Historian

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1903-07 - Original building campaign including hospital complex, governor's quarters, two officers' quarters, power house
2. Designers: Architect - Thomas Rogers Kimball, Omaha, Nebraska, with on-site supervising architect Frank Rooney
Mechanical Engineer - S. G. Neiler, Chicago
Hydraulic Engineer - Mr. Potter, Chicago
Landscape Architect - George Kessler, Kansas City
3. Original and subsequent uses: Medical care and housing for veterans, up to the present.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Reynard and Oak, Omaha, Nebraska
5. Original plans and construction: The Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designed by Kimball as the cohesive Mission Revival hospital complex still extant today. The original building campaign included the residential loop of officers' quarters with four single family dwellings in fashionable suburban styles. Some copies of original Kimball drawings were available for this report but a complete set of design documents has not been found.
6. Alterations and additions: Alterations to the main hospital complex have been minimal, except for the early addition (1915) of an assembly hall wing between Wards 7 and 8 and changes to the rear porches of the Service Building. Another early change was installing permanent window sash in the connecting arcade rather than having this area be open in the warm months. The interior of the plunge bath wing has been reconfigured into two floors - a ground level carpentry shop with a Protestant chapel above. The matching wing flanking the Service Building was converted into the Catholic Chapel on the upper floor. Additional interior alterations will be discussed in the individual building reports as relevant.

A bandstand, conservatory, stable, additional quarters, and other support buildings were added to the grounds in the early years of the Sanitarium (1909-15) and served to complete the overall vision for the campus. A major change to the overall site was the addition of the U.S. Veterans Bureau hospital directly to the southeast in 1925-27. This hospital has been expanded several times by additions and now serves as the main medical facility for the Hot Springs Campus of the VA Black Hills Health Care System.

B. Historical Context:

For individual building reports see:

HABS No. SD-24-A	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Administration Building
HABS No. SD-24-F	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Mess Hall/Service Building
HABS No. SD-24-T	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Ward 4
HABS No. SD-24-O	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Plunge Bath/Protestant Chapel
HABS No. SD-24-P	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Laundry/Catholic Chapel
HABS No. SD-24-B	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Governor's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-H	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Conservatory
HABS No. SD-24-W	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Treasurer's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-X	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Engineer's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-Y	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Duplex Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-J	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Tuberculosis Hospital
HABS No. SD-24-K	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Bandstand
HABS No. SD-24-X	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Grand Staircase

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (renamed National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1873) was established by an Act of Congress signed by President Lincoln in March 1865. Federal officials recognized the growing need to care for Union soldiers injured during their Civil War service and subsequently unable to support themselves. This unprecedented federal effort paralleled many state and local initiatives to care for disabled soldiers as the wounded filtered back North after years of fighting. The initial legislation did not specify where the Asylums would be located, but the general understanding was that several sites in different parts of the northern states would be needed. By 1930 when the National Homes were incorporated into the new Veterans Administration, the system had grown to include veterans of multiple conflicts cared for at eleven campuses located around the country.

The historic National Home sites are still part of the vast system of hospitals and other veterans' benefits managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (the Veterans Administration was converted into a cabinet-level agency in 1989). There was a long history of Federal pensions and other financial support for disabled veterans, dating back to a 1776 law enacted by the Continental Congress. In 1833 the Bureau of Pensions was created by Congress, thus inaugurating the first federal veterans' benefit bureaucracy. The Civil War would greatly increase the number of veterans and the size of the federal veterans' pension system. Perhaps the most direct stepping stone to the establishment of the National Asylums was the 1862 General Pension Law. Congress established pensions for veterans disabled by injury or diseases during

their service. By allowing for disease-related military disability for the first time, Congress greatly expanded the pension system. Historian Patrick Kelly has analyzed the unprecedented the scope of the National Asylums and the veterans' benefits bureaucracy in the nineteenth century as representing a unique social welfare intervention of the federal government in an otherwise laissez-faire era.¹

Battle Mountain Sanitarium, the tenth expansion of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, was built between 1903 and 1907. Its innovative hospital plan, with wards radiating from a circular corridor and ramps between levels, represented an advance in veterans' health care and a new approach for the NHDVS. The importance of the hospital within the NHDVS branches had been growing throughout the late nineteenth century as medical treatment became more sophisticated.

Federal Veterans' Benefits

There were a few, much smaller federal institutions for disabled veterans that provided some precedent for the National Asylums – the U. S. Naval Asylum in Philadelphia, and the U.S. Soldiers' Home and the Government Hospital for the Insane, both in Washington, DC. The U.S. Naval Asylum for disabled and elderly regular Navy and Marine veterans was authorized first in 1811 and the first building erected during the 1830s.² The U.S. Military Asylum, redesignated the U.S. Soldiers' Home in 1859, was created by Congress in 1851 after decades of debate. The Home was available to disabled and elderly regulars, or to volunteers with at least twenty years of service, who had contributed to its support through pay deductions. The Soldiers' Home administrative structure of a board of commissioners, branch governors, secretaries and treasurers parallels the one established for the NHDVS. Initially planned with three branches, the Home was centralized in Washington, D.C. by the late 1850s because of low demand.³ The Government Hospital for the Insane, soon known as St. Elizabeths, was established by Congress in 1852. This institution was founded to care for regular members of the Army and Navy, and residents of Washington, DC suffering from mental illness.⁴

None of these institutions would prove to be adequate to handle the demand resulting from the Civil War. Of the three million men who fought, over seventy percent were U.S. soldiers, many of them volunteers. By the end of the war, nearly 282,000 Federal troops had survived a gunshot wound and nearly 30,000 had survived amputation of a body part.⁵ The

¹ Patrick Kelly, *Creating a National Home: Building the Veterans' Welfare State, 1860-1900* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997), 2-4, 18. Kelly relates the unusual benefits of "martial citizenship" to the patronage traditions of the late nineteenth century.

² A Second Empire hospital designed by John McArthur was added to the site in 1868. Suzanne Julin, "Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Washington County, Tennessee. National Historic Landmark Registration Form (draft), (2008), 23. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC.

³ Kelly, 12; Judith Gladys Cetina, "A History of the Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811-1930" (Ph.D. dissertation, Case Western Reserve University, 1977), 50-53, 87; Julin, "Mountain Branch," 23.

⁴ Julin, "Mountain Branch," 24-25. In 1882, a law was passed allowing the National Homes to transfer mentally ill residents to St. Elizabeths.

⁵ Kelly, 15.

suffering of soldiers from wounds, disease, and psychological stress troubled many civilians who sought to help. Local efforts to provide meals, shelter, or medical care sprang up all around the country, but consensus was growing that a federal effort was needed.⁶

In the original 1865 legislation signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, the National Asylum administrative structure numbered nearly 100 prominent citizens. The sentiment to help veterans and the recognition of their potential political power had resulted in swift passage of the bill without a workable administrative structure or clear direction on the best way to proceed. The Republican-controlled Congress, reacting to growing discontent with delays, amended the original act in April 1866 to create a more efficient and effective twelve-member Board of Managers. The Board of Managers included the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, and the Chief Justice as ex officio members and nine men appointed by Congress. The political appointees were often veterans themselves. It was through their efforts that the Board of Managers fulfilled its charge of setting up branches of the NHDVS, conducting regular inspections, monitoring the organization's finances, and reporting to Congress.⁷

The Eastern Branch was opened in Togus, Maine on November 10, 1866 to serve veterans in the Northeast. The first of the original branches, the Togus property was a former health resort that offered a number of buildings for immediate use. The Northwestern Branch in Milwaukee also was established in 1866, after negotiations with the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society transferred the money and property already acquired by that group to the federal effort. The Central Branch was located outside of Dayton, Ohio in 1867 to be accessible to a large number of veterans in the lower Midwest, western New York and Pennsylvania, and states to the south. The citizens of Dayton donated \$28,000 to the effort, again illustrating local desire to capture the benefits of having a federal facility.⁸ The Southern Branch in Virginia was established in 1870 in order to have a branch in a warmer climate and one more convenient to African American veterans from the South. The property included preexisting buildings built for the Chesapeake Female College.

Expansion and Changing Philosophy, 1870s

Initially some thought the National Asylums would be temporary and cease to exist as the disabled soldiers were able to return to family or died off. However given the level of investment and effort put into early design and construction for the National Asylums, it seems unlikely that the Board of Managers ever really expected the need for their services to go away. A name change in 1873 from National Asylum to National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers officially acknowledged the long term resident status of most veterans as well as achieving the semantic change long sought by the Board. In 1874, Board of Managers President Benjamin Butler wrote of his surprise that the demand for accommodations was continuing to

⁶ Julin, "Mountain Branch," 26; Kelly, 21. See Cetina, Chapter 3 for a discussion of the debate over institutional versus non-institutional care and the role of the USSC. Care of veterans by the NHDVS also included "outside relief" payments to veterans remaining in their own homes or residing a state-run soldiers' home.

⁷ Kelly, 47-48, 54.

⁸ Julin, "Mountain Branch," 28.

grow, given the history of low enrollment at the regular Army Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C..⁹

A quasi-military system of drills and inspections sought to maintain discipline among the ranks and the fact that the administrators were also officers added to a hierarchy of authority and procedure.¹⁰ Residents of the home were required to wear a uniform, observe curfews, submit to inspections, and participate in work details if able. Infractions were punished by fines, loss of privileges, or expulsion. Governors, the lead administrator for each branch, stressed that strict military discipline was not expected but rules had to be enforced to ensure a healthful environment for all. Not surprisingly given the large number of men at a typical branch, the rules, particularly curfews and the prohibition on drunkenness, were frequently broken.

The demand for the National Homes continued to grow as the Civil War veterans aged and Congress broadened admission requirements. In 1884 there was a major expansion of the eligibility requirements for the NHDVS branches. Previously proof had to be provided that one's disability was a direct result of military service. Now any honorably discharged Union veteran was eligible for admission, as well as veterans of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. As previously self-sufficient veterans became disabled due to various causes, including the long term effects of their military service or simply old age, the demand for Soldiers' Home admission grew rapidly.¹¹

Previously reluctant to expand, the Board of Managers now moved rapidly to establish the Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1884, the Pacific Branch in Santa Monica, California in 1887, the Marion, Indiana Branch in 1889, and later the Danville, Illinois Branch in 1897. They also authorized a variety of new construction at the existing branches. The Spanish American War, beginning in April 1898 with conflicts in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, created a new population of wartime veterans requiring assistance. The Inspector General's report for 1900 raised the question of newly eligible Spanish American War veterans, with the comment that disability rules would be strictly enforced on these younger men. However demand for NHDVS membership still increased.¹² The Mountain Branch in Johnson City, Tennessee was founded in 1901 to address this need. Designed by New York architect J. H. Frelander with Beaux Arts architecture and a formal plan, the Mountain Branch also represents the new emphasis on medical care with construction of the hospital taking first priority.

Creating the Battle Mountain Sanitarium

The tenth branch at Hot Springs, South Dakota was established in 1902 and continued the trend toward sophisticated comprehensive architectural programs and state-of-the-art medical facilities. The Battle Mountain Sanitarium was a new type of NHDVS branch devoted

⁹ Kelly, 124.

¹⁰ Kelly, 141-48.

¹¹ Kelly 128; Cetina 171, 167. Disabled veterans of the Mexican War and War of 1812 were first eligible in 1871, but there was some confusion regarding how to interpret the law requiring proof of service-related disability.

¹² Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1900), 7.

exclusively to medical care. Hot Springs was a mineral springs resort located in the Black Hills. A territorial soldiers' home was established there in 1889. Local politicians and Hot Springs residents started promoting their location for a new NHDVS branch in the 1890s. Local attorney Colonel A. J. Keller introduced a resolution supporting creation of a national soldiers' home in Hot Springs to the South Dakota legislature in 1892.¹³ In 1893 thirty men from the NHDVS Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas received hydrotherapy treatment for their rheumatism at the South Dakota Soldiers' Home in Hot Springs and experienced significant relief from their symptoms.¹⁴ Many accounts point to General W. W. Averill, who inspected the state and territorial homes as well as the NHDVS branches in this period, as promoting the idea of establishing a national sanitarium in Hot Springs.¹⁵ The legislation establishing a Hot Springs NHDVS branch was rejected by the U.S. House of Representatives several times in spite of success in the Senate. South Dakota's U.S. Senator Richard Pettigrew spearheaded the initial effort in 1896 that did not pass in the lower house. At this time twelve-term Congressman and Appropriations Committee Chair Joseph Cannon was successfully promoting the establishment of a new NHDVS branch at Danville, Illinois, in his home district. Cannon's control of the appropriations process naturally impacted the Hot Springs proposal. While the idea of a new branch west of the Mississippi was generally popular, a consensus emerged that there would only be funding for one new branch at this time.¹⁶

Lobbying continued throughout the rest of the 1890s, including a Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) resolution supporting Hot Springs as the location for a NHDVS branch.¹⁷ Former GAR Commander and NHDVS Board Member Captain Henry Emerson Palmer assisted with the lobbying, addressing the House Committee on Military Affairs several times. In his testimony he took pains to point out that a new Sanitarium would serve the new veterans of the Spanish-America War, particularly noting the usefulness of the mineral springs treatment for those who contracted malaria.¹⁸ It was claimed that the benefits of curing rheumatism at a new sanitarium would far outweigh the costs of operation and construction. Concerns about the high cost of building materials in the vicinity were addressed by promises of access to fine local quarries and pine timber for construction.¹⁹ Finally the legislation was approved, prompting the *Hot Springs Weekly Star* to boast:

¹³ Suzanne Julin, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Washington County, Tennessee. National Historic Landmark Registration Form, (2008), 21. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC. See also Suzanne Julin, "South Dakota Spa: A History of the Hot Springs Health Resort, 1882-1915," *South Dakota Historical Collections* 41 (1982): 193-272.

¹⁴ Clipping, "For the Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Star*, 23 February 1900, Helen Magee Heritage Room, Hot Springs Public Library, Hot Springs, SD [hereafter Hot Springs Public Library].

¹⁵ "Million Dollar Sanitarium for Veterans," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 17 May 1901, 3. A 1909 souvenir booklet for Battle Mountain Sanitarium includes an account of this early history that seems reasonably accurate. See *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

¹⁶ Clippings, "The National Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Star*, 12 February 1897, 26 February 1897, Hot Springs Public Library. In 1903, Cannon would go on to become one of the most dominant Speakers of the House in United States history.

¹⁷ Clipping, "Resolved for the National Sanitarium," c. 1899, Hot Springs Public Library.

¹⁸ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, 36.

¹⁹ Clipping, "For the Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Star*, 23 February 1900, Hot Springs Public Library.

It means much for Hot Springs, for it establishes the town as a national resort, gives it a name that reaches beyond the boundaries of state lines, and fixes the permanency and upward and onward progress of the town that nothing can check. The place had already become established as a successful resort town, but to have a national sanitarium located here by our national congress is a recommendation of the health-giving properties of these waters and climate that will be far-reaching and effective.²⁰

Congressman Eben Martin was also given high praise for his work finally getting the bill passed in the House.

On May 29, 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill creating Battle Mountain Sanitarium. Captain Palmer, because of his history promoting the Hot Springs location to Congress and relatively close residence in Omaha, was chosen as the NHDVS local manager. The Board of Managers visited Hot Springs on July 28-29, 1902 to choose a site for the new sanitarium, which was required by the enabling legislation to be at least 100 acres. The Board was greeted by a party of local citizens and a band. They toured six possible sites, met with local officials, and spent an hour in one of the local plunge baths. The site chosen and promptly voted on officially was on "schoolhouse hill" overlooking Main Street (Figure 1).²¹ Local citizens donated the land and a long-term lease to one of the mineral springs, and also raised money to buy lots from a few hold outs.²² NHDVS Board of Managers President M. T. McMahan wrote in the fiscal year 1902 *Annual Report* that plans for the building were underway and construction would begin when the lease arrangement stipulated in the Act of Congress was complete.²³

Lieutenant Colonel Knox of the Inspector General's Office visited the proposed Hot Springs site on August 4, 1902 during his annual inspection of NHDVS branches. Knox offered a very positive assessment, noting that "it is on a commanding bluff over 100 feet above the town, along the main street, from which the surrounding country is in full view, and is very convenient, being practically in town."²⁴ Hot Springs was served by two railroad lines at this time. In addition the town was in an attractive landscape and the mineral springs offered "strong curative properties, especially for rheumatism and skin diseases, and will undoubtedly prove beneficial to the many members who are now suffering from rheumatism at the various Branches of the National Home."²⁵

²⁰ "Won Victory at Last," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 23 May 1902, 1. Another article quoted Captain Palmer at length regarding the importance of the Sanitarium to Hot Springs and all the new business it would inspire. See "Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Captain Palmer Still Continues to Enthuse Over the Location and the Surroundings," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 9 May 1902.

²¹ Clipping, "The Site is Selected," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 1 August 1902, Hot Springs Public Library; "Proceedings for Meeting 28 July 1902," in National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Report of the Board of Managers for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903*, (Washington, DC, GPO, 1904).

²² Clipping, "An Important Epoch," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 19 December 1902, Hot Springs Public Library.

²³ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1902* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1903), 10.

²⁴ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1902), 21.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

In September 1902 the Board passed a resolution to request a \$50,000 increase in the initial construction appropriation of \$150,000 in order to include a pumping station, electric light and heating plant, and two bathing pools in the building program. President McMahon noted in the 1902 *Annual Report*:

It is expected that this institution will grow to larger proportions than was contemplated in the act of appropriation, inasmuch as [sic.] the diseases which led to its establishment increase as the men of the Home grow older. When this sanitarium in South Dakota and the Mountain Branch in east Tennessee are completed, it is believed and hoped that no further demands upon Congress for the establishment of other Branches will be necessary.²⁶

Much more than the initial appropriation would be needed to complete Battle Mountain Sanitarium, which was indeed the last branch completely built by the NHDVS. The *Hot Springs Star* proudly announced that the NHDVS was already planning to request increased funds and had hired Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball for the design. The article noted that Kimball was one of the consulting architects for the upcoming Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. He made a planning visit to the site in late 1902. He was accompanied by Captain Palmer and Major A. J. Hull, Chief Surgeon at the Western Branch in Kansas. Hull was to advise on "sanitary arrangements" for the hospital.²⁷

Thomas Rogers Kimball (1862-1934) was born in Ohio and moved to Omaha with his parents when he was in his early teens. He studied at the University of Nebraska for two years before moving to Boston to study art and painting. He enrolled as an architecture student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1885. After a three-year course he continued his training in art and drawing in Boston and in Paris. In 1889 he opened an office in Boston and then in 1891 went into partnership with his MIT instructor C. Howard Walker and Herbert D. Best. Kimball was newly married and moved back to Omaha while Walker remained in a Boston office. With business connections via his father Thomas Lord Kimball, a railroad executive, Kimball's career took off quickly during the 1890s. He gained notice as a western architect with an East Coast and Beaux-Arts education. Some of Kimball's early commissions included buildings in Omaha such as a public library, St. Frances Cabrini Church, and the Burlington Train Station.²⁸

Kimball's profile was raised even higher when the firm was appointed architects-in-charge for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha. In that capacity he designed the overall site plan, several major and minor buildings, and the entrance "Arch of States." The

²⁶ *Annual Report 1902*, 10.

²⁷ The Bath, New York branch was added in 1930 right before the NHDVS was folded into the newly created Veterans' Administration. This branch was a former state home with many existing buildings. "Nothing is Too Good," *Hot Springs Star*, 10 October 1902, 1. The 1909 souvenir booklet for the Sanitarium contends that Capt. Palmer requested Kimball as the architect. Clipping, "Architect is Here," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 14 November 1902, Battle Mountain Museum.

²⁸ See David Lynn Batie, "Thomas Rogers Kimball (1890-1912): Nebraska Architect," *Nebraska History* 60 (1979): 321-356; Gerber and Spencer, *Building for the Ages*, 184-85.

architecture of the 1898 Exposition closely followed the example set by the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Monumental Neoclassical buildings were arranged in formal Beaux-Arts fashion around water features and linear walkways. Kimball withdrew from the firm after the Exposition and practiced alone for the next twenty years, with the exception of working with Walker on the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. This work was taking place concurrently with design of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium.²⁹ Later Kimball was appointed to the first Commission of Fine Arts and served as President of the American Institute of Architects.

Construction of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium

Unlike many earlier Branches of the NHDVS, which saw gradual expansion and additions to their physical plants, Battle Mountain Sanitarium was constructed in one, multi-year construction campaign (Figure 2). Kimball designed a striking Mission Revival hospital of local red sandstone which included an administration building with a dramatic dome, six wards arranged in a spoke-like fashion around a courtyard encircled with hallways, and a matching mess hall/service building attached at the rear. NHDVS did not conduct an architectural competition for Battle Mountain like the one just the previous year for the Mountain Branch. It appears they reverted to their typical procedure of directly selecting a regionally prominent architectural firm. Evidence is thin, but it is likely Palmer suggested Kimball for the job. Kimball was well-known regionally and quickly becoming more nationally prominent. He would later become a Fellow and then President of the American Institute of Architects and serve on many high profile competition juries and commissions.³⁰ He created designs in a variety of historic styles; other examples of Spanish Colonial Revival among his work include another major commission, St. Cecelia's Cathedral in Omaha.³¹ However this hospital structure was unique in his portfolio and reflected the input of various parties within the NHDVS.

One early account credits Palmer with the original concept of arranging the buildings around a central court and connecting them with an arcade and praised Kimball for refining the idea.³² An early newspaper description of the plan noted that:

The architecture planned for the buildings is of the Spanish or so-called "mission" type, which was considered to be best suited to the climate, the purposes of the establishment, and most economic use of available material. The plans...provide for widely separated ward buildings, placed on radiating lines and connected at their convergent ends by a circular arcade or covered way. This arcade will

²⁹ "Thomas Rogers Kimball" entry in Henry F. Withey and Elise R. Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles: Hennesey & Ingalls, Inc. 1970), 344-45.

³⁰ William L. Steele, "Thomas Rogers Kimball: An Appreciation," *The Octagon: A Journal of the American Institute of Architects* 6, no. 10 (October 1934): 3-4.

³¹ Typescript, David L. Batie, "St. Cecelia's Cathedral and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Spanish Revival Architecture, and the Great Plains," Battle Mountain Museum. Kimball also designed St. Philomena's Catholic Church in Omaha in 1908. This Spanish Renaissance Revival is also considered some of his finest work. See Kristine Gerber and Jeffrey S. Spencer, *Building for the Ages: Omaha's Architectural Landmarks* (Omaha: Landmarks, Inc., 2003), 89.

³² *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

enclose a court, shady and cool for the summer and protected for the winter....All the different buildings are to be connected by enclosed passageways and gentle inclines, so that the patients in bad weather will not have to encounter the open air and will not be obliged at any time to negotiate stairways."³³

While the site would include officers' quarters, a conservatory, stable, and powerhouse designed by Kimball, the building campaign began with the main hospital structure. The plans were approved by the Board of Managers in late 1902.³⁴ Kimball visited the site in February 1903 to continue fine tuning his design and consult with his team. He was accompanied by S. G. Neiler, a Chicago-based mechanical engineer, a Mr. Potter, a hydraulic engineer also from Chicago, and Frank Rooney from his Omaha office. Rooney would be moving to Hot Springs in a few weeks to serve as superintendent of construction. Test borings were taken and plans made to remove about 10 feet of earth from the site during grading. The local newspaper reported proudly that "Architect Kimball is occasionally changing his plans somewhat - improving upon his first designs - and proposes to make this sanitarium the finest in the world, having every modern improvement, not only being beautiful in architecture, but being supplied with every up-to-date device that such an institution should have."³⁵

Kimball returned to Hot Springs in late April 1903 to continue gathering information for the specifications, with plans to open the request for bids in a few weeks. An additional \$350,000 had been appropriated on March 3, 1903, plus \$10,000 to acquire more land around the entrance.³⁶ He was accompanied by Palmer, representing the NHDVS Board of Managers, and the general manager of the Burlington Railroad, who was planning for a switch to take building materials to the top of the hill via train.³⁷ The general construction contract was let to Reynard & Oak of Omaha on August 5, 1903. Although from Nebraska, this firm had built the Evans Hotel and the Minnekahta Block in Hot Springs. This made the contractors very familiar with the local sandstone. Their bid was chosen from among seven proposals. Ground was broken for the Sanitarium on August 17th and grading began almost immediately.³⁸

In October work was underway on the railroad siding for construction materials, as well as the extensive regrading of the hilltop site. A flight of wood steps was built into the hillside linking the Sanitarium site with the commercial district of Hot Springs by November 1903. The contractors had about 75 men working at the local sandstone quarry and on construction of Wards 1, 2, and 3. By the end of the year grading and foundation work were in process and officials were optimistic that work on the hospital would be completed by the contract deadline

³³ "National Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 26 December 1902, 1.

³⁴ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, Battle Mountain Museum Collection. This account also mentions that Palmer showed the plans to Congressman Cannon to gain the support of the House Appropriation Committee for additional funds.

³⁵ "Planning for Work," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 27 February 1903, 1.

³⁶ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1903* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1904), 10. Another \$75,000 was authorized on April 28, 1904. See NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1904* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1905), 10.

³⁷ "Large Plans Move Slowly," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 24 April 1903, 1.

³⁸ Clippings, "Contract is Awarded," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 9 August 1903; "Are Moving the Dirt," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 21 August 1903, Battle Mountain Sanitarium Museum.

of December 31, 1905. Mild weather in January allowed stone work to continue, with large slabs from the local quarry being cut and finished on site. Work proceeded on Wards 4 and 6 and the Administration Building foundations.³⁹

When the fiscal year 1904 *Annual Report* was issued, the NHDVS was less optimistic about the construction progress, but still positive. Hope that the work would be completed ahead of schedule was adjusted to a more realistic expectation that the full time would be necessary (Figure 3). By December 1904 the contracts for electric wiring, heating and ventilating, plumbing, and water supply distribution had been awarded. Kimball made an extended visit to the site that month to inspect the progress. The winter of 1904-05 turned out to be exceptionally severe, delaying construction. The weather issues were compounded by destructive spring floods that further interrupted progress. Delays in shipping construction supplies from Oregon, which the railroad blamed on a telegraph operators strike, also put completion of the Sanitarium behind schedule.⁴⁰

In March 1905 it was reported that nearly all the excavating for the main hospital was complete as well as the stone work on the service building and Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 (now Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8). Ward 5 (now Ward 7) was complete to the basement and the administration building was receiving its "finishing touches by the masons."⁴¹ The system of "switch back" ramps between the floors of the wards was especially noted and praised as uniquely suited to patients with rheumatism. The newspaper reported earlier that "a special feature to which the architect calls attention is the service tunnel, which will be located in the foundations of the arcade. This will provide a special distributing canal for all the service of the establishment. Distribution of food and supplies, collection and distribution of laundry, etc., will be confined to a way that will interfere with the use of no portion of the institution devoted to patients."⁴²

In May 1905 Kimball again visited the site with Captain Palmer and George Kessler, "a distinguished landscape gardener of Kansas City." Kessler (1862-1923) was indeed an accomplished landscape architect in a period when trained practitioners were rather rare. He recently worked with Kimball on the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, contributing the landscape design for the grounds. Kessler had already designed several important residential subdivisions such as Roland Park in Baltimore, Maryland and Euclid Heights in Cleveland, Ohio. His most extensive and well-known project was the 1893 park and boulevard plan for Kansas City, an early example of City Beautiful urban planning.⁴³

³⁹ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 2 October 1903, 25 December 1903, 29 January 1904, Hot Springs Public Library; *Annual Report 1903*, 10.

⁴⁰ *Annual Report 1904*, 10; Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 2 December 1904, Hot Springs Public Library; NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1905* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1906), 10.

⁴¹ Clipping, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 31 March 1905, Battle Mountain Museum.

⁴² "National Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 26 December 1902, 1.

⁴³ Kurt Culbertson, "George Edward Kessler," in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, eds. Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 212-215.

According to the news report "they arranged for the main entrance to the grounds on Tenth Street and a loop will be made in the making the ascent to the hill, which gives a very good grade."⁴⁴ In July 1905 Rooney received the drawings for the next round of construction contracts, which were to include the superintendent's house, power house, stables, reservoir and conservatory.⁴⁵ Appropriations had already been made of \$25,000 for the officers' quarters and \$7,500 for the conservatory. Additional funds would be needed for the other authorized buildings. The 1905 *Annual Report* noted that in spite of the delays, "the work was found to be very satisfactory, the buildings, constructed from stone taken from the local quarries, being fine in appearance and of the most substantial character."⁴⁶

Work continued through 1906. The delays were blamed on the remoteness of the location, which caused labor shortages for the contractor and difficulties with transporting building materials. The Sanitarium was nearly complete by the end of the year, but it was determined that a winter opening date was not suitable because of the need for patients to undertake the journey in cold weather. Opening was planned for the spring of 1907. On March 15, 1907 the Governor and Head Surgeon of the new Sanitarium, Col. Rudolphus D. Jennings, received Captain Palmer, Inspector General Elwell and other NHDVS officials. They stayed in the Administration Building guest rooms and ate in the officers' dining room. Mrs. Jennings was purchasing furniture for the governor's house.⁴⁷

The Completed Battle Mountain Sanitarium

Once opened, Battle Mountain Sanitarium began gradually admitting patients. The first to arrive in early April was Charles Wibert from the Marion Branch in Indiana. Nearly fifty more transfers, many from the Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas, were expected about a week later.⁴⁸ The official opening date was May 1, 1907. The NHDVS *Annual Report* for fiscal year 1907 stated:

[Battle Mountain] is fully equipped with modern appliances for the treatment of disease and is provided with skilled medical officers, nurses, and necessary attendants. Its facilities have not as yet been fully availed of by members of the Home, but it is hoped that as the curative properties of the waters of the springs and the advantages that this institution affords for the cure and alleviation of disease become better known it will be filled to capacity.⁴⁹

Veterans could remain at Battle Mountain only as long as their conditions showed improvement; in the 1908-09 fiscal year 865 veterans receive treatment here. Battle Mountain specialized in treatment of musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, and respiratory conditions, as well as skin diseases

⁴⁴ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 12 May 1905, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁴⁵ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 28 July 1905, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁴⁶ *Annual Report 1905*, 10.

⁴⁷ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1906* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1907), 6; Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 15 March 1907, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁴⁸ "National Sanitarium Open," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 12 April 1907, 1.

⁴⁹ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1907* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1908), 9.

which would benefit from hydrotherapy in the mineral spring plunge pools incorporated into the hospital building.

Once the main building was completed, planned improvements to the landscape could begin. George Kessler designed the grounds to emphasize the naturally rolling terrain of the site, including an artificial pond, curving roads and walkways, and open lawns (Figure 4). This deceptively simple design involved extensive grading and offered views of the surrounding foothills. Supervising architect Frank P. Rooney from Kimball's firm would remain on site to supervise the landscape work. The *Hot Springs Weekly Star* enthused about the landscaping plans:

The roadways around the main group will cover five miles and the cement walks planned will cover 26,500 square feet, with 125,00 square feet of gravel walks....The landscape gardening that will be undertaken will cover 50 acres. Thus one may form some idea of the great work that has been done and may yet be anticipated in making the surroundings still more attractive and beautiful - notwithstanding the fact that the sight [sic.] of this great institution is regarded as one of the most picturesque natural beauty spots to be found, situated as it is on a fine plateau at the base of Battle Mountain, overlooking Hot Springs and with a magnificent view of the surrounding pine-clad mountains and landscape.⁵⁰

Kessler had visited in January 1907 to make complete landscaping plans.⁵¹ Concurrently with this project, he was working on a widely praised park system plan for Cincinnati.⁵² In April an orchard of 700 fruit trees was planted and the grounds received lawns, vines, and over 600 ornamental shrubs, which were placed under the care of head gardener Mr. Ellsworth.⁵³ In July it was reported that "the new cement walks which are being completed in front of the administration building will be a great convenience and improvement in the appearance of the grounds."⁵⁴ Cement work included the base for the steel flagpole tower.

The new Sanitarium received a glowing inspection report after a September 1907 visit by Major Parker W. West, Acting Inspector General. The hospital was still only partially occupied. The employees included four male officers, 34 male civilians, and 24 female civilians. Four officers' wives, three civilian wives and two civilian children lived on site. Improvements to the grounds and construction of three officers' quarters and the conservatory were nearly complete, at a cost of just over \$48,000. The hospital, which could accommodate 336 patients, housed only 162 in June at the end of the fiscal year. The principle diseases treated in the hospital were

⁵⁰ "Million Dollar Sanitarium for Veterans," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 17 May 1907, 3.

⁵¹ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 25 January 1907, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁵² See Kurt Culbertson, "George Edward Kessler: Landscape Architect of the American Renaissance," in *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*, ed. William H. Tishler (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000), 99-116. Kessler had been trained in Weimar, Germany, after his German immigrant mother returned the family there upon his father's death in 1878 in Dallas. Specific evidence regarding his work on the Hot Springs grounds does not seem to have been preserved in his papers (K0355) at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

⁵³ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 26 April 1907, 3 May 1907, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁵⁴ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 26 July 1907, Hot Springs Public Library.

"myalgia," or muscle pain, and chronic articular rheumatism (arthritis). Two members had died on site and been buried in the cemetery, which had not yet been surveyed and formally established. Around this time Supervising Architect Rooney left Hot Springs for his next assignment overseeing construction of the Union Depot in Kansas City.⁵⁵

The Sanitarium experienced some administrative problems in its first few years, with frequent changes in the Governor/Head Surgeon position. Col. Edward T. West held that position starting on September 1, 1907. The *Annual Report* filed June 1908 noted continued under enrollment, with an average of 138 patients present for the fiscal year.⁵⁶ The Inspector General report from later that year gave Battle Mountain an "unsatisfactory" rating, in contrast to an "excellent" from the previous year. This rating was due to the high cost of supplies in the remote location and "poor management." The building itself was given high praise, with Lieut. Col. W. T. Wood writing:

The hospital building proper is a very handsome stone structure, and contains six wards radiating like the spokes of a wheel from an open court in the center. This building also contains the administration and supply offices, the storerooms, quarters for the two assistant surgeons, the matron, the female nurses, the chaplain, and some civilian employees, the kitchen and dining rooms for the member and employees, the bakery, the laundry, the chapel and library, cold-storage rooms, butcher shop, dispensary, etc.; so that the working part of the hospital is all virtually under one roof, which arrangement should be conducive to economy in light, heat, and service. The wards have a capacity for 336 men.⁵⁷

Lieut. Col. Wood found that the young assistant surgeons had troubling handling the patients and the Quartermaster, Capt. James L. Denman, was generally uncooperative. The mess, or meal service, was viewed as inadequate and discovered to be overseen by the hospital matron instead of the Quartermaster as was proper. Wood was perhaps most enraged by finding dirty spittoons being washed out in one of the bathing pools. He recommended a wholesale change in leadership, including transferring the surgeons in favor of bringing in older men and firing the Quartermaster.

Wood also speculated as to why the Sanitarium continued to be under enrolled:

The men do not like the sanitarium and do not remain if they can get away. ...So far as the men are concerned their dissatisfaction is due to the character of the institution, its location, administration, and the food supplied. It is a hospital governed by a surgeon and lacks many of the characteristics of the other homes. The location is isolated, and while the building is handsome the grounds are

⁵⁵ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1907), 34-38; Clipping, 6 September 1907, Battle Mountain Museum.

⁵⁶ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1908* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1909), 245.

⁵⁷ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1908), 15.

unattractive, without shaded walks and nooks where the members can walk and sit, as they do in other homes.⁵⁸

While the landscaping of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was still new and the location certainly remote, another contributing factor to underutilization was probably a rule only providing transportation to veterans already enrolled in a NHDVS home. In September 1908 this rule was changed so any eligible veteran could apply directly to the Sanitarium for treatment and be entitled to transportation costs. As of March 31, 1909, it was estimated that over eighty percent of their patients were either cured or benefitted from treatment. Specialized "hydrotherapeutic appliances" were not yet in use, so these benefits were derived from bathing in and drinking the mineral waters, as well as the mountain climate of Hot Springs.⁵⁹

Improvements continued in 1909 with plans for a separate tuberculosis ward, bandstand, and nurses' quarters, in addition to the artificial pond and tree planting.⁶⁰ The new bandstand was dedicated on July 5th and work began on the tuberculosis ward that same month. An illustrated souvenir booklet of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium published in 1909 provides an excellent overview of the facility in these early years (Figures 5 and 6). The Sanitarium had cost \$739,642.68 including all the permanent improvements up to this time. The Governor and Chief Surgeon was Col. James E. Miller, previously of the Mountain Branch in Johnson City, Tennessee. At this time the main group included ten attached structures -- the Administration Building, Mess Hall/Service Building, plunge bath house, combination chapel, library and laundry building, and six Ward buildings joined at the ends by a circular arcade.⁶¹

The author of the booklet credited the success of the building to careful planning, sound advice from medical professionals, and the expertise of the architect. Each 28-bed ward (two per ward building) had a ventilation system designed by Pierce, Richardson and Neiler, Engineers, of Chicago:

The fresh air for these ward rooms is thoroughly purified and cleansed by passing through coke screens and a strong jet of water, and then heated or cooled to the desired temperature, and automatically delivered through ducts located in the ceiling of each ward. There is a corresponding deliverance from the ward rooms of all foul air through a screened duct located under each bed. So perfect is this removal of tainted air that all unpleasant odors from medicines or anything else is undiscoverable.⁶²

This system represented an impressive version of the current best practices in hospital design. Although the belief that "bad air" or miasma caused illness had been abandoned, there was still a strong interest in using fresh air and sunlight to facilitate sanitary conditions. Calculations regarding air exchange and the cubic feet of air per patient were seen as crucial to healthy

⁵⁸ *Inspection Report 1908*, 16.

⁵⁹ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, (c. 1909), 38-39, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

⁶⁰ *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 21 May 1909.

⁶¹ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, (c. 1909), 20, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

⁶² *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, (c. 1909), 18, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

conditions. Also during these early years the circulation arcade was open in the warm weather and then enclosed with glazed window sash during the winter. The 1909 souvenir booklet author observed that this feature "looks upon a picturesque, natural landscape on the one hand and the work of the formal horticulturalist on the other, and...provides an absolute enclosing of the space intended for the use of patients, resulting in a degree of control as desirable as it is unusual."⁶³

In 1909, the Chief Surgeon of the NHDVS noted that as the Civil War veterans aged and died in increasing numbers, other younger veterans were taking their place. Many of these veterans suffered from tuberculosis, a vexing public health problem until the advent of antibiotics.⁶⁴ At Battle Mountain Sanitarium a separate wood frame 40-bed tuberculosis ward was under construction during 1909, using a special appropriation of \$3,910.22 (Figure 7). Inspector General Wood had advised against this course of action in late 1908, saying it would be a waste of money when there was room in the main hospital. He also expressed doubts that tuberculosis treatment was effective in Hot Springs, noting that several tubercular patients had lost weight.⁶⁵ The 1909 inspection, conducted by Acting Inspector General Major A. W. Brewster, reiterated the concern about proper tuberculosis treatment in Hot Springs. While giving the new Governor and Head Surgeon Col. James E. Miller credit for improved administration and excellent hospital care, Major Brewster strongly advised against sending tuberculosis patients to Hot Springs:

It is earnestly recommended that tuberculosis patients be not in any case sent to this sanitarium. They do not appear to improve there, and in most cases they get worse. Patients sleeping in the tuberculosis ward during the winter, where there is no heat and where the thermometer falls to 40 degrees below zero, it is said were covered at times with 18 blankets. If this sanitarium cannot be run with advantage as a hospital for rheumatism and kindred diseases, there is, in my opinion, no excuse for its existence.⁶⁶

The fresh air cure, in all weather conditions including extreme cold, was a common treatment for tuberculosis in this period. The desire to have separate tuberculosis wards persisted probably because of fear of contagion. The 1910 *Inspection Report* took a more positive view of the tuberculosis ward, saying it was more suited to the fresh air cure than the main hospital. The report did advise that a small addition be built for dressing rooms and that patients in the late stages of the disease not be subjected to the strenuous journey without sleeping car accommodations.⁶⁷

During 1911 a free-standing wood tuberculosis ward was also added to the grounds of the Mountain Home Branch in Tennessee, even though like Battle Mountain this branch had a

⁶³ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, (c. 1909), 20, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

⁶⁴ NHDVS Board of Managers, "Report of the Inspector-General and Chief Surgeon," *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1909* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1910), 85-86.

⁶⁵ *Inspection Report 1908*, 17.

⁶⁶ *Inspection Report 1909*, 37.

⁶⁷ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1910), 34.

substantial masonry hospital building. Two wards were added to the tuberculosis pavilion at Battle Mountain this year as well. The Board of Managers enacted a policy stipulating that veterans with tuberculosis be treated at one of these two locations. Residents of the Eastern, Southern, and Central Branches were to be sent to Tennessee and of the Northwestern, Western, Marion, and Danville Branches to South Dakota. Tubercular veterans who refused transfer would have to leave the NHDVS system. Presumably veterans with tuberculosis could expect to spend a great deal of time at Battle Mountain, given that rest and fresh air were the only treatment in this period.

Aside from the new tuberculosis ward, during 1910 the nurses' cottage was completed in the residential area south of the hospital. This wood frame boarding house cost \$12,652.50 and allowed the female nurses to move out of the quarters they occupied in the Administration Building of the hospital. A Chaplain's Quarters also was added to this group in 1910, at a cost of \$4,759.53.⁶⁸ The Chaplain's Quarters was a single family dwelling similar in form to the Engineer's Quarters. The residential area now included four officers' quarters opposite the nurses' cottage, with the Governor's Quarters nearby to the southwest. The new bandstand also sat on this side of the hospital, near the edge of the hill overlooking downtown. The conservatory with its artificial lake was placed on the opposite side, between the hospital and the cemetery on the next hillside. Throughout the next few years continued efforts were made to improve the water supply, provide irrigation, improve the grounds, and add support buildings such as the shop building and additions to the tuberculosis ward and conservatory.⁶⁹

In fiscal year 1914, Battle Mountain Sanitarium was nearly at full capacity, with an average of 326 patients. One of these patients was Dr. W.H. Johnson, a Civil War veteran who arrived for treatment on December 17, 1913. Johnson was a past National Surgeon General for the GAR. He published an account of his experiences at Hot Springs that included a history of the NHDVS and patriotic and personal tributes to his fellow veterans. Johnson colorfully describes the "old boys" assembling the smoking room of each ward "to enjoy their smoke and fight over again their old battles."⁷⁰ He does not reveal his ailment, but describes losing weight and feeling progressively weaker. Johnson decided to travel from his home in Lincoln, Nebraska to the National Sanitarium for treatment, but feels homesick and exhausted when he arrives. After dropping his baggage in the storage room, he was taken to Ward No. 1 for a preliminary examination. Johnson praised the kindness and efficiency of everyone he encountered, from the orderly to the nurses to the doctor who examined him. He was put on a special diet and fed on a tray in the ward throughout his stay. After a sleepless night, the doctor transferred him to a private room where he rested and began to feel better. Johnson's treatment also included a regimen of hot baths "with electricity" and high pressure showers, three days a week. He claimed to improve after each one.

⁶⁸ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1911* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1912), 245.

⁶⁹ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1911), 30-32; NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1912* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1913), 206.

⁷⁰ W. H. Johnson, *National Homes of Uncle Sam's Vets: Battle Mountain Sanitarium Inside and Out by an Inmate* (Lincoln, Nebraska, c. 1914), 6. Heritage Room, Lincoln City Libraries.

Johnson's account includes brief, complimentary profiles of many staff members, including Nurse Marie Becker, Governor Col. James Mattison, and Major William H. Stanley, Treasurer and Quartermaster. Other than the 74-year-old Protestant Chaplain Capt. C. B. Clark, the staff was younger and not themselves war veterans. Johnson described the special bond between the older veterans and the comfort of being among them and keeping a military routine:

The clear, sweet strains of the bugle calls were music to my ears....Those bugle calls bring a flash to the eye of every old vet. I believe if some one [sic.] with a snare drum some night would rattle off the "long roll" half the old fellows would roll from their cots, grab their clothes, and look for their Enfields.⁷¹

Johnson made a point to mention the "politeness and veneration" of many of the Spanish American War veterans to the older ones. He also pegged the handful of troublemakers and complainers in the system as being part of this younger cohort. Johnson apparently made a full recovery, after staying at Battle Mountain at least until the end of May 1914. He includes an elaborate description of Decoration Day activities at the Battle Mountain National Cemetery adjacent to the hospital.

Dr. Johnson mentioned visiting the library and attending band concerts and religious services during his stay at Battle Mountain. At this time these activities took place in room in one of the ward buildings. Plans for a new wing attached to the main building between Wards 5 and 6 (now 7 and 8) were announced in 1913. It was to be a two-story stone building containing the post store, library, an assembly hall and other amusements. This wing was attached to the main hospital by a narrow enclosed two-story corridor and consisted of a rectangular building oriented perpendicular to the corridor. The 1915 *Annual Report* describes the wing as a "combined chapel and amusement hall" which cost \$34,554.⁷²

Improvements to the grounds were also ongoing. Most notable was the reconstruction of the pedestrian staircase leading from the Sanitarium to Main Street in 1914-15. During the 1914 inspection it was noted that the existing wood stair was badly worn and in need of replacement in more permanent materials.⁷³ In 1915 an elaborate sandstone and concrete staircase with multiple landings and seating areas was built into the steep bluff easing pedestrian access between the Sanitarium and the business district in Hot Springs (Figure 8). Completed in November, they were built by the Rapid City Pressed Stone Co., under the direction of foreman John Merritt.⁷⁴

Another souvenir booklet published in 1919 offers a snapshot of Battle Mountain Sanitarium right before major changes to the veterans' health care system in the post-World War I period.⁷⁵ As of March 1919, Governor and Head Surgeon James A. Mattison was on leave

⁷¹ Johnson, 13.

⁷² NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1914* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1915), 224.

⁷³ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1915* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1916), 210.

⁷⁴ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 26 November 1915, Hot Springs Public Library.

⁷⁵ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*. Omaha: Douglas Printing Company, c. 1919. Other portions of the booklet, such as the description of the hospital, were copies of what had been published a decade earlier.

servicing with the Medical Corps of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. Treasurer and Quartermaster Major William H. Stanley was serving as Acting Governor in the younger man's absence. Captain John P. Nuttall, Senior Assistant Surgeon, assumed the Acting Head Surgeon duties. The military band played in the bandstand nightly during the summer and within the hospital courtyard on two afternoons weekly. This ensemble was also called upon for the flag raising and lowering, and funeral services. An orchestra group played in the Assembly Hall most evenings during the winter. Moving pictures were also shown here in the winter or outside in the summer.

Some details were provided regarding which diseases could be treated using the mineral springs. The booklet specifies:

In allowing admission to the Sanitarium preference is given to soldiers and sailors suffering from all forms of sub-acute and chronic rheumatism, neuritis [inflamed nerve], the early stage of interstitial nephritis [a kidney disorder involving inflammation], skin disease, and morbid condition due to defective elimination. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis where the general condition is such to justify a reasonable hope of recovery or improvement under favorable conditions will be admitted to the Sanitarium.⁷⁶

It is unclear exactly how each of these conditions was treated at Battle Mountain, but there was clearly a common thread of using various types of hydrotherapies to treat inflammation, whether of the joints, intestines, nerves, skin, or other connective tissues. Veterans over 75 years in age were not admitted unless it was determined that they were active for their age and would benefit. The booklet indicated that 475 beds were available in addition to the 50 bed in the tuberculosis pavilion. This number would indicate that some of the basements of the hospital wards were being used for patient care.

Growth of Veterans Health Care After World War I

Designating Battle Mountain a sanitarium rather than another branch residential home indicated the growing emphasis on medical care by the NHDVS.⁷⁷ The aging of the member population and the steady decrease of their numbers presented a particular challenge to the NHDVS. More costly medical care was needed, increasing per capita costs. This situation persisted and grew more urgent with the advent of World War I. Now rather than slowly becoming obsolete through age and deferred maintenance, the Homes would need to serve a new generation of disabled veterans, many with tuberculosis caused by trench warfare conditions. The new conflict would create unprecedented veteran demand for medical care.

⁷⁶ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.* (Omaha: Douglas Printing Company, c. 1919). Battle Mountain Museum.

⁷⁷ Suzanne Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers – Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations." (2008), 32-33. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C..

The great influx of new veterans, mostly young men with acute medical or psychiatric conditions, tested the capacity of the entire federal veterans' benefits system. At this time the NHDVS and the Bureau of Pensions were the two federal entities serving veterans. In 1917 Congress passed an amendment to the War Risk Insurance Act that established vocational and medical benefits for those with service-related disabilities and a low-cost insurance system for the totally disabled veteran and his dependents. The Public Health Service and contract hospitals were enlisted to quickly expand capacity.⁷⁸ Within the NHDVS, World War service men were admitted via an Act of Congress on October 6, 1917. There was a growing realization that meeting new demands for more sophisticated medical care would require substantial reorganization. Colonel R. C. Humber addressed these issues in his Inspector General report for 1919. In his view, the current "perfunctory and routine manner" of medical care in the NHDVS hospitals would not suffice to treat the ailments of the newer veterans:

In the past the patients cared for in the hospitals were generally those afflicted with the diseases of old age. These patients required a minimum of treatment and a maximum of care and nursing, a permanent cure being, of course, impossible. ... An entirely new condition is now confronted. With the new members from the late war will appear diseases and disabilities of every character and degree, requiring from the surgeons, professional ability and skill of the highest order.⁷⁹

Changes in the needs of veteran patients were accompanied by major advances in medical treatment over the previous twenty years, including an increase in surgical treatment and other specialties. Battle Mountain was already ahead of this trend, with its emphasis on acute medical care and up-to-date facilities. It would face increased demand in the post-World War I years.

The need for specialized tuberculosis facilities was most pressing. Humber criticized the treatment of several hundred members with tuberculosis, mostly young World War veterans, scattered in various Branches. Growing numbers clearly made restricting tuberculosis patients to either Hot Springs or the Mountain Branch impractical. The need to place extra restrictions on the tubercular members as a precaution against spreading infections caused resentment and was loosely enforced in the generally open environment of the Home. The free movement of tuberculosis patients at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was seen as a problem. In the 1918 Inspection Report it was noted disapprovingly that patients of all ailments mingled in the mess hall, chapel, library, and other communal facilities.⁸⁰ The Tuberculosis Pavilion was continually full and Battle Mountain personnel struggled to keep up with demand. Humber recommended that one or more separate "sanatoria branches" be created, "in order that these patients may receive proper and scientific treatment, and in order to provide for the large influx of patients which may be expected as a result of the recent war."⁸¹ Humber concluded that, "without this

⁷⁸ Julin, "NHDVS Assessment of Significance," 34-35. The Battle Mountain Sanitarium was made available to the Public Health Service from 1919 until 1924 for veterans care. See Julin, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium," 25.

⁷⁹ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1919), 11.

⁸⁰ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1918).

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 12.

segregation the proper discipline cannot be enforced, hence the ideal therapeutic results are not possible. Every effort should be made to effect a cure, that these young men may be restored to useful citizenship.”⁸²

Acknowledging the failings of the current decentralized system and faced with a large increase in tubercular members, the Board unanimously adopted a resolution in 1919 to convert the Mountain Branch in Tennessee into a tuberculosis sanitarium.⁸³ Authorization to proceed with the conversion was granted in September 1920. The NHDVS also received appropriations on June 27, 1921 to build dedicated tuberculosis hospitals at the Northwestern (Milwaukee), Central (Dayton), and Marion Branches. Marion Branch was also received a new 1,000 neuropsychiatric hospital to treat "shell-shocked" World War veterans. The Pacific Branch hospital was modernized, including a tuberculosis unit.⁸⁴ Col. James Mattison, former Governor and Head Surgeon at Battle Mountain, was now Chief Surgeon for the reorganized Medical Service of the NHDVS. He listed the various upgrades and plans throughout the NHDVS system in an article for *Modern Hospital* in January 1923. In addition to the major projects listed above, he noted that the other branches, including Battle Mountain, were all receiving up-to-date laboratory and x-ray equipment. The previous two years had also seen the addition of many visiting specialist consultants and an increase of regular personnel including doctors, nurses, and dieticians. New quarters were added throughout the NHDVS to accommodate this increase in personnel.

Meanwhile Congress directed the Treasury Department, in its capacity to design and build federal structures, to establish additional facilities for the NHDVS. Immediately there was concern about inefficiency and duplication of effort, so the Veterans Bureau was established to oversee the various laws pertaining to World War I veterans.⁸⁵ The Treasury Department also commissioned a group of consultants, led by tuberculosis authority Dr. William Charles White, to analyze the various federal hospital systems and make recommendations. Dubbed the “White Committee,” this small group of mainly private sector doctors was charged with looking at the Federal hospitals in a holistic manner – including Treasury Department (Public Health Service, Office of the Supervising Architect, and Bureau of War Risk Insurance), Army, Navy, Department of the Interior, and NHDVS. They were to assess current capacity, present and future demand, and the best means of expansion to meet this demand. Their report acknowledged that the National Homes would provide a capacity for and experience with domiciliary (or live-in) care that would be important going forward. It also made specific hospital expansion recommendations, including new tuberculosis hospitals for Battle Mountain and the Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas.⁸⁶ Ultimately this report recommended expansion of the NHDVS, but also a new emphasis on outpatient care that deemphasized the

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ NHDVS Board of Managers, “Letter from the President,” *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1919* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1920), 6.

⁸⁴ James A. Mattison, “The Development of the National Soldiers’ Home Service,” *Modern Hospital* 20, no. 1 (January 1923): 60.

⁸⁵ Julin, “NHDVS Assessment of Significance,” 34-35.

⁸⁶ U.S. Treasury Department, *Report of the Consultants on Hospitalization Appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to Provide Additional Hospital Facilities* [White Committee Report] (Washington: GPO, 1923), 22, 26.

institutional model of the NHDVS. The study seems to have planted the seed for the modern VA Medical Center system and the disbanding of the older NHDVS and Pension Bureaus in favor of a new federal entity, the Veterans Administration.

In 1922 the improved hospital equipment was in place at Battle Mountain. The tuberculosis unit was also modernized, with a 40-bed capacity.⁸⁷ The member population at Battle Mountain continued to be a fairly even mix of older and younger veterans; at a July 1925 inspection there were 86 Civil War, 24 Indian War veterans, 132 Spanish American War, and 143 World War. In the early 1920s NHDVS reached two major milestones – the first service women were admitted and Civil War veterans were no longer the majority of the members. Board of Managers President George H. Wood reported that overall 45 percent of the members were Civil War veterans, while 55 percent served in other conflicts.⁸⁸

In the mid-1920s the Veterans Bureau began construction of the new tuberculosis hospital at Battle Mountain. This new hospital reflected the changing mission of the "second generation" of veterans' hospitals to rehabilitation and outpatient care through modern medical techniques.⁸⁹ Bids for the original section of this hospital were opened on August 4, 1925.⁹⁰ The architects were Madsen & Peterson of Minneapolis. This structure replaced the wood tuberculosis pavilion with a multi-story building. The block form of the new hospital followed the national trend away from the pavilion plan model used for the original sanitarium. The long structure has a rectangular footprint that angles back slightly from the center to follow the road at the east side of the original hospital complex. NHDVS Chief Surgeon B.F. Hayden described the status of the project in December 1925:

At the present time the Veterans' Bureau, in cooperation with the National Home, is building a new 159 bed tuberculosis service at this Branch. The old tuberculosis service has been torn down and temporarily the patients are being quartered in the main building. Very satisfactory arrangements for their care and comfort have been made, and it is felt that they can be properly cared for until such time as the new service is completed. The new hospital which is being built is of splendid type and will give one of the finest small tuberculosis services in the country when completed.⁹¹

Construction of the new hospital continued into 1926 (Figure 9). A new boiler plant to handle increased demand also was built at this time. Additional staff housing including two duplexes (from standard plans - one built in 1920 and the other in 1927) and additional nurses' quarters (1926) were constructed at this time. The new tuberculosis hospital had a Tudor Revival look to

⁸⁷ James A. Mattison, Chief Surgeon, NHDVS to General George H. Wood, President, NHDVS Board of Managers, (24 November 1922), VACO Library.

⁸⁸ NHDVS Board of Managers, "President's Letter," *NHDVS Annual Report* (1923), 6-7, typescript in VACO Library.

⁸⁹ See Trent Spurlock, Karen E. Hudson, Dean Doerrfeld and Craig A. Potts, "United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

⁹⁰ *Inspector General's Report NHDVS Fiscal Year 1925* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1926), 23.

⁹¹ B. F. Hayden, Chief Surgeon, NHDVS to General Wood, (5 December 1925), VACO Library.

its exterior, with rusticated stone walls and areas of half-timber decoration on the upper floors (Figure 10). The asymmetrical elevation varied from five stories at the center to flanking four story sections of unequal width to three story side wings. A variety of hipped tile roof forms, cross gables and a roof-top pergola further accented the asymmetry of the elevation. The building, initially known as the Hospital Annex, was completed by October 1926. The tuberculosis hospital had its own mess and capacity of about 160 beds. President Calvin Coolidge visited Battle Mountain Sanitarium and its newest facility in August 1927, while he was spending the summer in the Black Hills.

Around 1928, members of Congress began advocating for restructuring federal veterans' services. NHDVS Board President General George Wood defended the purpose and efficiency of his agency:

The National Military Home is to-day an important part in the Government's plans for caring for its disabled soldiers, with the demand for its care constantly increasing. It is believed that the above financial statements indicate that its work is being done efficiently and economically and with justice to both the Government and the members of the home. The board feels that the plans for expansion are fully justified by present conditions, and confidently hopes that Congress will carefully consider the recommendations and furnish the needed relief.⁹²

Looking back in early 1930, Wood testified before the House Committee on Military Affairs that the World War had dramatically shifted demand for the Home's services. Between 1907 and 1919 no substantial construction was undertaken anywhere in the system. By the end of the war, the potential membership had increased tenfold. In 1929, the state soldiers' home in Bath, New York became the eleventh branch of the NHDVS. This transfer was a partial solution for the rapidly rising demand in the late 1920s.⁹³

At this time three different agencies served veterans – the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the Pension Bureau, and the Veterans Bureau (founded in 1921 and primarily involved with medical care and insurance). Various restructurings were considered; the most straightforward and ultimately successful proposal was combining all three agencies under a new Veterans Administration. This proposal was approved by Congress on July 3, 1930 and instituted through an executive order. The NHDVS Board of Managers resisted the initial proposals, but finally their eleven branches were folded into the new VA. The NHDVS was no longer an autonomous agency; now their primarily domiciliary services were just one of many offered by the Veterans Administration.⁹⁴

⁹² NHDVS Board of Managers, "Letter from the President," *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1928* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1929), 6.

⁹³ Inspector General's Report – NHDVS published in *Construction at Soldiers' Homes, Hearings Before the Committee on Military Affairs*, House of Representatives, 71st Congress, 2nd Session (Washington, DC: GPO, 1930), 76.

⁹⁴ Cetina, 382-383.

Veterans Administration Medical Center

A souvenir booklet from around this time promoted the Battle Mountain Sanitarium "A Branch of the National Soldiers Home - Veterans Administration."⁹⁵ The healing properties of the mineral springs were again touted, even after a decade of emphasis on advancing medical care. Major James T. Coupal, President Coolidge's physician, was quoted as saying now that infectious diseases had been conquered, non-infectious diseases were next challenge. In his view mineral springs treatments, both bathing and drinking, were some of the only effective preventative measures for non-infectious conditions such as kidney disease, rheumatism, and gout. In spite of the construction of new Hospital Annex just a few years before, Battle Mountain had been filled to capacity, with the expectation that demand would continue to grow as the World War generation aged. The rest of the booklet lays out the case for expansion of Battle Mountain Sanitarium. Estimates of needed facilities included a new 150-bed surgical hospital and a 500 to 750-bed general hospital. It was noted that the heating plant, laundry and nurses' home were all expanded with the 1926 Veterans Bureau Hospital to also accommodate future additions.

By 1930 the large demand for tuberculosis treatment at Hot Springs was starting to wane and the new hospital began to be used for general medical care (Figure 11). Overall, the number of veterans being treated for tuberculosis in government hospitals decreased from 11,000 in 1922 to 6,000 in 1932.⁹⁶ A large addition was attached to the southeast side of the Veterans Bureau hospital in 1937-38 (photo). This wing had a rectangular footprint and a symmetrical elevation sheathed with stucco and a few minimalist Tudor Revival decorative details. The new construction would be a medical unit of 95 beds.⁹⁷ This hospital addition included an updated surgical suite that replaced the one in the 1907 Administration Building. It appears from photographs that this operating room still had movable windows. In 1963 an updated air conditioning system was added to this space.⁹⁸ An addition in 1950 on the northeast end of the original section housed dietetic services, including a new kitchen and dining room. Around this time the original hospital was converted into a domiciliary providing barracks-style housing for veterans.

Transportation to Hot Springs continued to be a challenge after World War II. Railroad service was no longer available to Hot Springs, so travelers had to come by bus.⁹⁹ Now officially the Hot Springs Veterans Administration Center, Battle Mountain celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1957. The original hospital functioned as a 548-bed domiciliary, while the "new" hospital was a 255-bed medical/surgical facility. During the mid-1950s, renovations to the domiciliary included new asphalt tile floors, fluorescent lighting, and new bathroom fixtures, as

⁹⁵ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: A Branch of the National Soldiers Home Veterans Administration*, (c. 1930). Battle Mountain Museum.

⁹⁶ "Better Transportation Service Would Aid BMS," *Hot Springs Star*, 1 October 1942, clipping in Hot Springs Library; Spurlock et. al., 18.

⁹⁷ Clipping, B. "Spike" Fox, "Fine Facility for Veterans in S. Dakota," 24 February 1938, Battle Mountain Museum.

⁹⁸ Clipping, *Hot Springs Star*, 18 April 1963. Battle Mountain Museum.

⁹⁹ Clipping, "Better Transportation Service Would Aid BMS," *Hot Springs Star*, 1 October 1942, Hot Springs Library.

well as new automatic elevators in the Administration and Service Buildings.¹⁰⁰ Other changes to the grounds in this period included filling the pond in front of the conservatory (the unrealized plan was to use the space for parking), repairing roads, walks, curbs, and gutters, and redoing "Palmer Circle" at the center of the residential area with a playground.

A Director's Report on Domiciliary Activities from 1966 noted that the facility continued to be near capacity with residents.¹⁰¹ Additional partitions and fans were installed in sections of the domiciliary at this time. The connecting corridors were still seen as an advantage in allowing veterans to move between living quarters in the former wards and other parts of the complex without being exposed to the weather. The innovative ramps, however, were now seen as too steep, especially for wheelchairs.

During the 1980s and 90s, changes to the complex continued to be focused on upgrades and expansion of the general hospital. A new clinical wing was added to in the early 1980s; A CT scan building was added in 1987. In 1996 the complex's name was changed to Hot Springs Medical Center of the Black Hills VA Health Care System. This change represented a consolidation of the VA Medical Centers at Hot Springs and at Fort Meade. A new Ambulatory Care addition including a new emergency room was added to the southeast side of the general hospital in 1997.¹⁰² Surgical cases requiring an overnight stay were now handled at Fort Meade.¹⁰³ Today the Hot Springs is an active medical center providing care for veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and more recent conflicts.

Recognition of the history of the Sanitarium has been early and sustained. The site was included in the Hot Springs Historic District when listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The Battle Mountain Museum was organized on site and opened in 1997. Concern with preservation of the original hospital has inspired careful maintenance and repairs sensitive to the historic fabric of the buildings. Due to its historic significance and integrity, the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011, the highest recognition for a historic site in the United States. The original hospital complex is used currently for inpatient treatment. Recently the Department of Veterans Affairs was considering closing the Hot Springs campus in spite of community protest. Kimball's Mission Revival hospital complex and Kessler's landscape retain their historic character and remain a highly significant federal medical facility for veterans in the Black Hills of South Dakota and beyond.

¹⁰⁰ Elks National Service Commission and Hot Springs Lodge, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Pictorial Portrayal of the Hot Springs Veterans Administration Center on the Occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary* (May 1957), 27. Battle Mountain Museum.

¹⁰¹ Typescript, "Domiciliary Program - VA Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota," (1966). Battle Mountain Museum.

¹⁰² *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota 1907-1997*, (1997) [90th Anniversary booklet]. Battle Mountain Museum.

¹⁰³ *Celebrating a Century of Caring for America's Heroes - VAMC Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1907-2007*, (2007) [100th Anniversary booklet]. Battle Mountain Museum.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

See individual reports on selected Battle Mountain Sanitarium buildings for detailed architectural information:

HABS No. SD-24-A	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Administration Building
HABS No. SD-24-F	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Mess Hall/Service Building
HABS No. SD-24-T	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Ward 4
HABS No. SD-24-O	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Plunge Bath/Protestant Chapel
HABS No. SD-24-P	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Laundry/Catholic Chapel
HABS No. SD-24-B	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Governor's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-H	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Conservatory
HABS No. SD-24-W	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Treasurer's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-X	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Engineer's Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-Y	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Duplex Quarters
HABS No. SD-24-J	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Tuberculosis Hospital
HABS No. SD-24-Z	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Grand Staircase

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: Copies of Thomas Rogers Kimball's drawings for many of the original buildings are located in the Maintenance/Engineering Office at the Hot Springs campus. The Department of Veterans Affairs Washington, D.C. central office (VACO) microfilm drawings collection (PLIARS) was not available for this project but many of the originals accessed at Hot Springs appeared to have been scanned for PLIARS. Additional original drawings, including presentation watercolors, are located in RG3607 Thomas Rogers Kimball Papers at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska. Some original drawings, including site plans, have not been located.

B. Early Views: The best sources of early views are the published souvenir books from 1909 and 1919. The Battle Mountain Sanitarium Museum located on site has copies of these publications as well as many original historic photographs. The Nebraska State Historical Society and the Helen Magee Heritage Room at the Hot Springs Public Library are other good sources for early photographs. See citations in the figure captions and in the footnotes.

C. Selected Bibliography:

Collections and Archives –
Hot Springs, SD -

Battle Mountain Sanitarium Museum (includes an informal archive), Hot Springs Campus, VA Black Hills Health Care System.

Maintenance/Engineering Department, Hot Springs Campus, VA Black Hills Health Care System.

Helen Magee Heritage Room, Hot Springs Public Library.

Lincoln, Nebraska -

RG 3607 - Thomas Rogers Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Washington, DC-

Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office [VACO] Library [NHDVS Annual Reports and Inspection Reports].

Battle Mountain Sanitarium files, Federal Preservation Officer, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, VACO.

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"Rogers, Thomas Kimball," in Henry F. Withey and Elise R. Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles: Hennesey & Ingalls, Inc. 1970), 344-45.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of selected buildings at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was undertaken in 2013-14 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Kathleen Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer. Project planning was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS; and by Douglas Pulak, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, DVA. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by Project Supervisor Mark Schara, AIA, HABS Architect, HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Daniel De Sousa, and Ryan Pierce, Jobie Hill (University of Oregon) and Emma Greenberg (Louisiana State University). The historical report was written by HABS Historian Lisa P. Davidson. The large format photography was undertaken in 2008 by HABS Photographer James W. Rosenthal and in 2013 by HABS Contract Photography Renee Bieretz. Vital assistance was provided by Dena Sanford at the Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, and by Patrick Lyke, Douglas Sprinkle, and other VA staff members at the Hot Springs Campus.

PART V. ILLUSTRATIONS

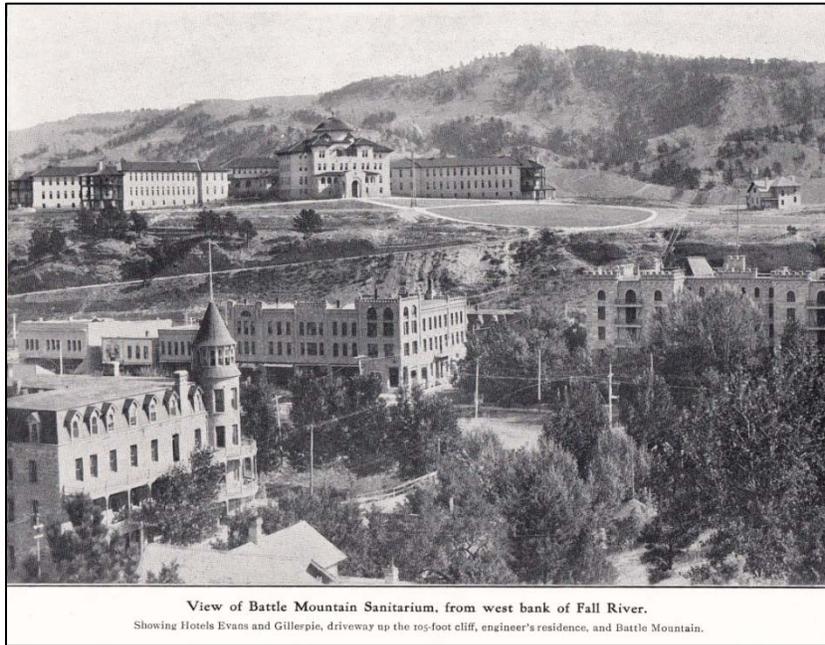


Figure 1: View of Battle Mountain Sanitarium from Hot Springs, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*



Figure 2: Thomas Rogers Kimball Rendering of Battle Mountain Sanitarium
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society



Figure 3: Construction of Battle Mountain Sanitarium, c. 1904
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection



Figure 4: Reproduction Postcard for Battle Mountain Sanitarium
Source: Author's Collection

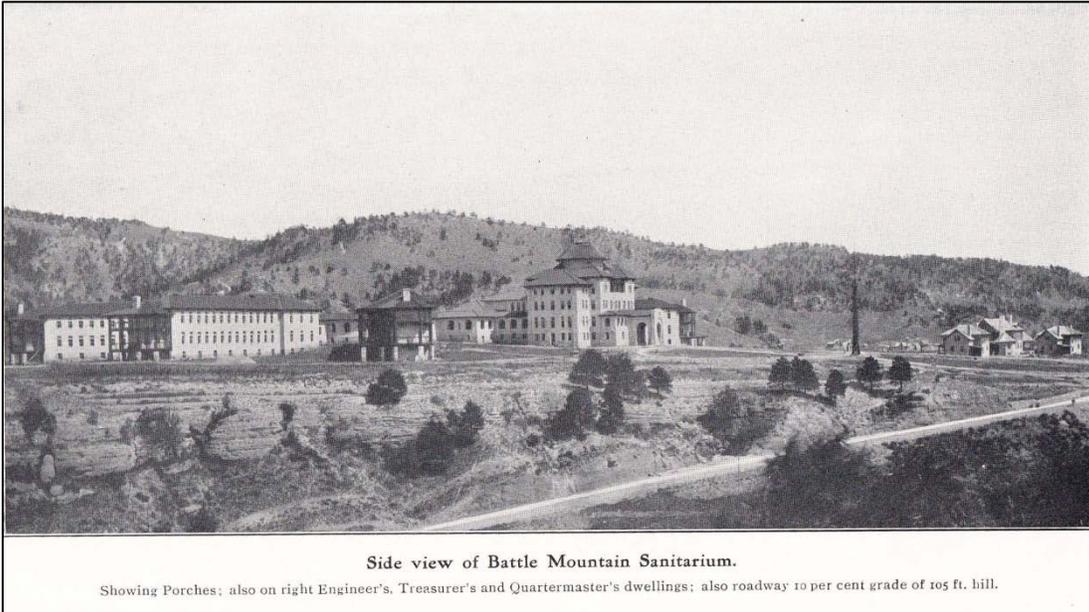


Figure 5: View of Grounds, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

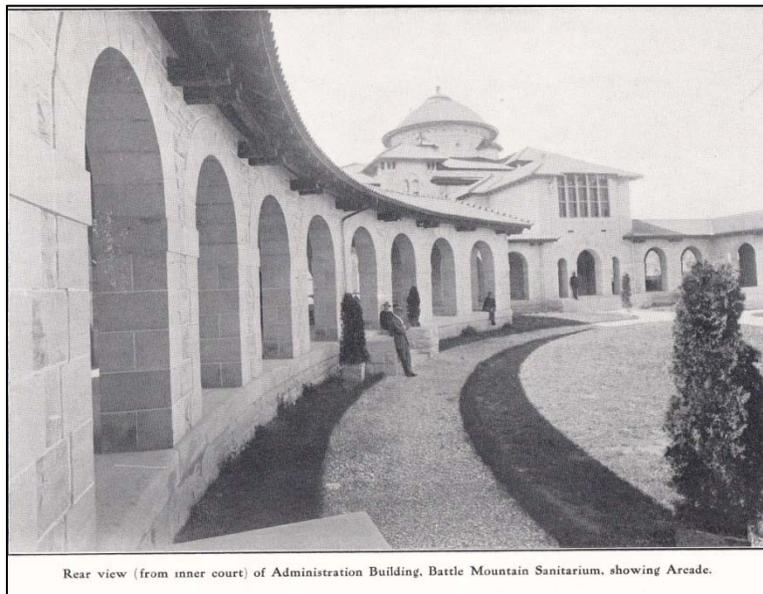


Figure 6: View at Inner Courtyard, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

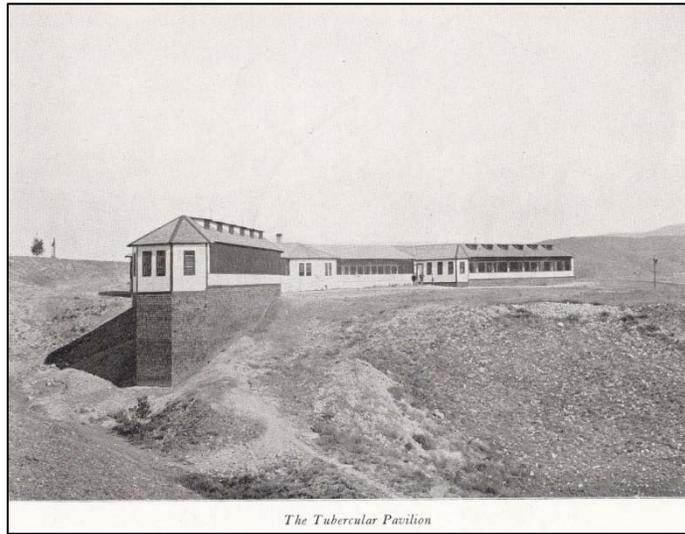


Figure 7: Tuberculosis Pavilion, built c. 1909

Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*
Omaha: Douglas Printing Company, c. 1919.

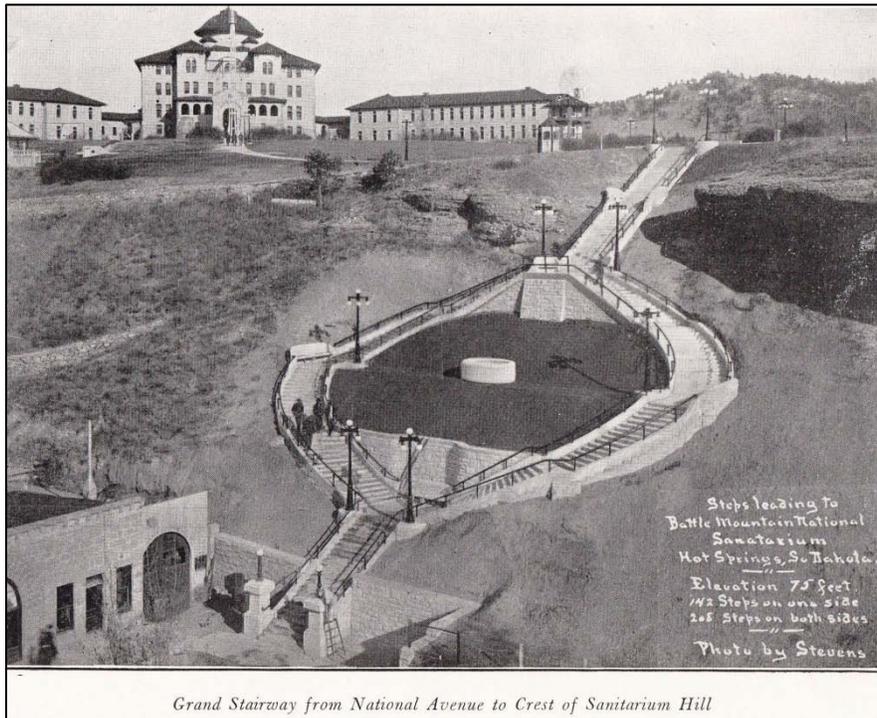


Figure 8: Staircase Between Hot Springs and Sanitarium, built 1915

Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*
Omaha: Douglas Printing Company, c. 1919.



Figure 9: New Tuberculosis Hospital/Hospital Annex Under Construction
View of South Wing, April 1926
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection



Figure 10: View of Hospital Annex, c. 1930
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection

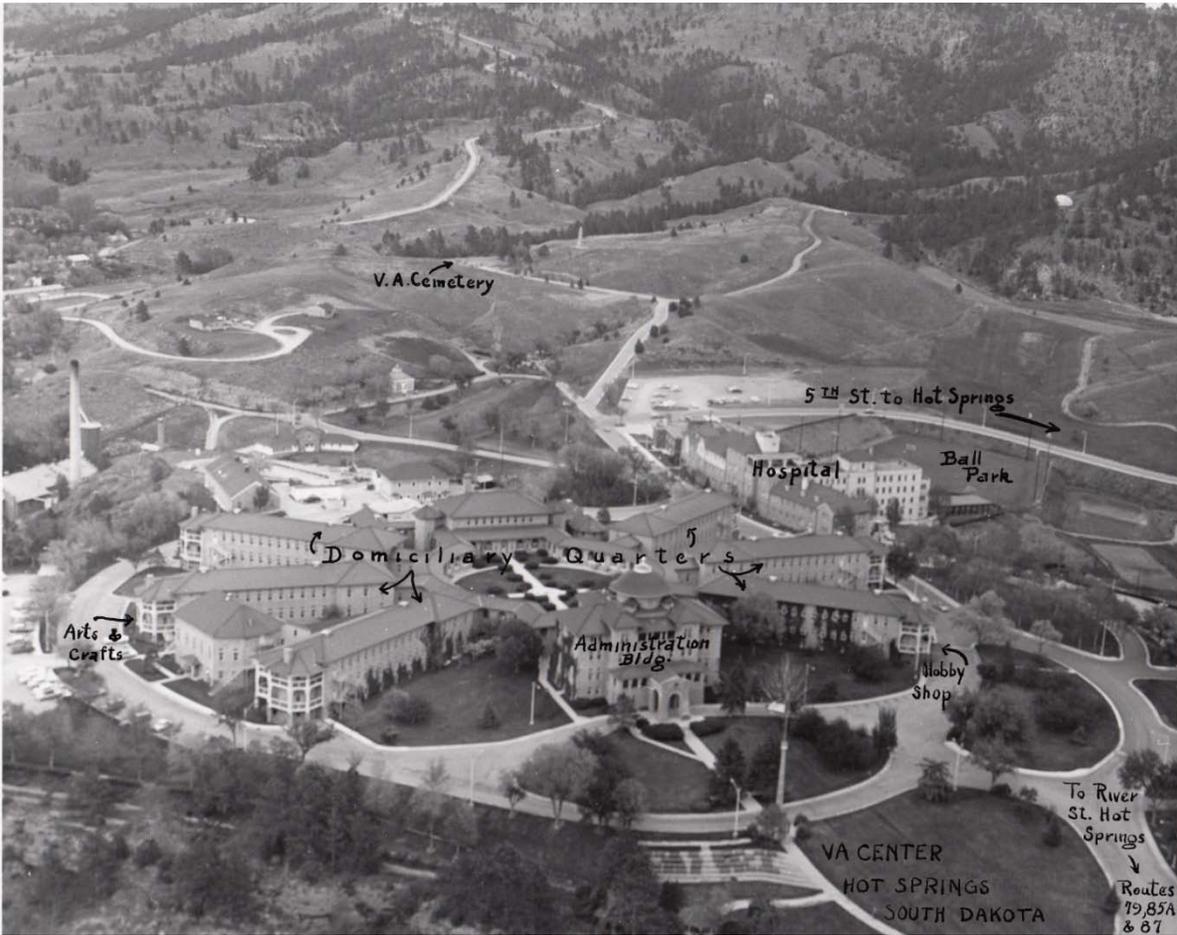


Figure 11: Aerial View of Hot Springs VA Medical Center, c. 1950
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection