

ADDENDUM TO:
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 1)
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building
No. 1)
500 North Fifth Street
Hot Springs
Fall River County
South Dakota

HABS SD-24-A
HABS SD-24-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 1)
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building No. 1)

HABS No. SD-24-A

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

The coordinates for the Administration Building 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: Offices

Significance: Built between 1903 and 1907, the Administration Building is the centerpiece of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). 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.

Well-known Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball placed the Administration Building at the crest of a hill overlooking downtown Hot Springs, South Dakota. The tall Mission Revival building with a red tile dome over the center rotunda provided both the visual and operational focal point of the sprawling hospital structure. The rest of the Mission Revival hospital complex was located behind the Administration Building, including the six ward pavilions radiating from the circular connecting corridor and a service building/mess hall to the rear. When it opened the Administration Building included overnight accommodations for NHDVS board members, staff quarters, a laboratory, dispensary, and an operating room in addition to medical and clerical offices. The Administration Building continues to house office and clinical space for staff and veterans.

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

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1903-1907
2. Architect: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Omaha, Nebraska
3. Original and subsequent uses: The Administration Building originally housed administrative and medical offices, an operating room, dispensary, laboratory, staff quarters, and overnight accommodations for visiting NHDVS board members. Medical-related uses such as the operating room and laboratory were moved into updated facilities in the new Hospital starting in the 1930s. The Administration continues to be used for various offices.
4. Builder: Reynard and Oak, Omaha, Nebraska
5. Original plans and construction: The Administration Building for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designed by Kimball as the focal point of his cohesive Mission Revival hospital complex. Some copies of original Kimball floor plans were available for this report but a complete set of design documents has not been found.
6. Alterations and additions: Alterations to the Administration Building have been minimal and mainly reflect converting spaces with discontinued uses such as the operating room and enclosing the loggias. Additions containing stairs were added to the north (or rear) corners of the main block prior to 1953.

B. Historical Context: See overview historical context HABS No. SD-24 for additional information on the Battle Mountain Sanitarium and the NHDVS.

For individual building reports see:

- 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-K NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Bandstand
- HABS No. SD-24-Z NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Grand Staircase
- HABS No. SD-24-J NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Tuberculosis Hospital

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.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium, the tenth expansion of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, was built between 1903 and 1907 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Hot Springs was a mineral springs resort located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. 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. 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. The Administration Building was prominently sited to be the focal point of the hospital, with its tall red tile dome providing a striking landmark for the Sanitarium.

Construction of the Administration Building

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. Omaha-based architect Thomas Rogers Kimball designed a Mission Revival hospital of local red sandstone which included the 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 (Figure 1). Kimball was well-known in Omaha and regional, and becoming increasingly respected nationally. He would become a Fellow and then President of the American Institute of Architects and serve on many high profile competition juries and commissions.¹

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 1902.² In addition to the watercolor presentation drawings of the elevation, floor plans labeled "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium" are available in the Thomas Rogers Kimball Papers at the Nebraska State Historical

¹ 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.

² *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

Society. These drawings do not have a date, but seem to show the hospital complex largely as constructed (Figures 2-4).³ The role of the Administration Building in the complex was highlighted in a *Hot Springs Weekly Star* article:

The institution will be managed from the administration building. In this building also will be stored the supplies and medicines and it will be the operating room. The women nurses will have quarters on the third floor....The administration building will contain offices for a staff of about twenty officers and assistants, with rooms for five doctors and twelve nurses.⁴

Kimball visited the site in February 1903 to continue fine tuning his design and consult with his team. A copy of Kimball's revised plan for the first floor of the Administration Building shows that he switched the positions of the library and pathology laboratory, perhaps after this visit.⁵ 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."⁶

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.⁷ The general construction contract was let to Reynard & Oak of Omaha on August 5, 1903. Ground was broken for the Sanitarium on August 17th and grading began almost immediately.⁸

In October work was underway on a railroad siding for construction materials, as well as the extensive regrading of the hilltop site. Mild weather in January 1904 allowed stone work to continue, with large slabs from the local quarry being cut and finished on site. Work proceeded

³ The third floor plan was not available for this set. See RG 3607 - Thomas Rogers Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society.

⁴ "National Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 26 December 1902, 1.

⁵ A copy of Kimball's First Floor Plan for the Administration Building was in the Maintenance Collection on the Hot Springs Campus. Additional early plans were not available.

⁶ "Planning for Work," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 27 February 1903, 1.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

on the Administration Building foundations and Wards 4 and 6.⁹ After a mild start, the winter of 1904-05 turned out to be exceptionally severe, delaying construction. Delays in shipping construction supplies from Oregon, which the railroad blamed on a telegraph operators strike, also put the Sanitarium behind schedule.¹⁰

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 Mess Halls and Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 (now called 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."¹¹ A undated construction photograph shows the Administration Building nearly enclosed, but a gap remaining in the connecting arcade (Figure 5). 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."¹² At the end of March 1905 it was reported that "the administration building is now receiving its finishing touches by the masons. This is the largest and most expensive building of the group and will be the most beautiful of them all."¹³ It was expected to take another year to complete the Sanitarium.

Work continued through 1906, and offices of the National Sanitarium were moved into the new Administration Building in November 1906.¹⁴ Official 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.¹⁵ A newspaper account of the opening singled out the Administration Building for praise, stating "The Administration building, which is the most commanding and attractive of the group, contains the main offices surrounding the big, magnificent rotunda opening to the great dome of the building."¹⁶ The article also noted that "private apartments" for NHDVS board members and rooms for other officers, presumably the unmarried surgeons, were located in the Administration Building.

⁹ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 2 October 1903, 25 December 1903, 29 January 1904, Hot Springs Public Library; *Annual Report 1903*, 10.

¹⁰ *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.

¹¹ Clipping, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 31 March 1905, Battle Mountain Museum.

¹² *Annual Report 1905*, 10.

¹³ library file, 31 March 1905

¹⁴ library file, 23 November 1906

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ "Million Dollar Sanitarium for Veterans," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 17 May 1907, 3.

The Completed Administration Building

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.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸

Veterans could remain at Battle Mountain only as long as their conditions showed improvement. Battle Mountain specialized in treatment of musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, and respiratory conditions, as well as skin diseases which would benefit from hydrotherapy in the mineral spring plunge pool incorporated into a service wing of the hospital building.

In August 1907 the new flagpole was dedicated and electric lights were installed on the dome of the Administration Building - 42 around the cap and 72 around the lower edge.¹⁹ The 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 \$48,000.²⁰

The Administration Building housed staff quarters on the third floor as well as the operating room on the second. Early accounts note that the staff quarters were intended for the nurses who in this period were typically unmarried women who lived in communal quarters at the hospital. The nurses may have also been living in the quarters in the Mess Hall/Service Building, as noted in slightly later accounts. In keeping with current hospital design, the operating room faced north to eliminate harsh shadows from its skylight. It was placed on the second, or uppermost, floor of a rear ell projecting from the block of the Administration Building. This allowed the large window on the north wall to be continuous with a large skylight (Figure 6). As noted in the 1909 souvenir booklet, "[the operating room's] arrangement and finish is up-to-date and absolutely sanitary, including its dependencies, waiting, anesthetizing

¹⁷ "National Sanitarium Open," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 12 April 1907, 1.

¹⁸ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1907* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1908), 9.

¹⁹ library file, 16 August 1907

²⁰ 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.

and sterilizing rooms."²¹ An early floor plan of the Administration Building shows the ell containing the operating room is a shallow T-shape in plan. The operating room is located on the outside north wall, as noted, and the remaining space is equally divided into a sterilizing room, hall, and anesthetizing room (Figure 7). Each of the attached spaces had its own doorway into the operating room itself.

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.²² 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.

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.²³ 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. In 1922 improved hospital equipment was in place at Battle Mountain.²⁴

In the mid-1920s the Veterans Bureau began construction of the new tuberculosis hospital at Battle Mountain. Built 1925-26, this new hospital reflected the changing mission of the "second generation" of veterans' hospitals to rehabilitation and outpatient care through modern medical techniques.²⁵ Medical functions housed in the Administration Building began

²¹ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, 20. Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

²² 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..

²³ 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 Suzanne Julin, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Washington County, Tennessee. National Historic Landmark Registration Form, (2008), 25. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC.

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

²⁵ 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.

to gradually shift to the newer building. 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). In 1930 all three agencies were combined into a new Veterans Administration. The NHDVS was no longer an autonomous agency; now their primarily domiciliary services were just one of many offered by the Veterans Administration.²⁶

Veterans Administration Medical Center

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. Overall, the number of veterans being treated for tuberculosis in government hospitals decreased from 11,000 in 1922 to 6,000 in 1932.²⁷ A large addition was attached to the southeast side of the Veterans Bureau hospital in 1937-38. This wing had a rectangular footprint and a symmetrical elevation sheathed with stucco and a few minimalist Tudor Revival decorative details. The new construction housed a medical unit of 95 beds.²⁸ This hospital addition included an updated surgical suite that replaced the one in the Administration Building.

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 1920s 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 well as new automatic elevators in the Administration and Mess Hall/Service Buildings.²⁹

Floor plans of the Administration Building prepared in 1953 illustrate a number of changes to room use as well as some minor alterations to the plan itself (Figures 8-11). The spaces in the basement originally planned for storage had been converted into a variety of doctors' offices and the physical therapy department. On the first floor, the dispensary area set into the rear ell was now the Chief Psychiatrist Office. The rest of the first floor continued to be used for offices, including the former pathology laboratory and the library on the west side of the building. The second floor included the speech pathology department, some small wards, and additional offices and storage. The third floor was designated as a series of two-bed bedrooms, but it is not clear whether these were still used by staff or now domiciliary beds for veterans.

²⁶ Judith Gladys Cetina, "A History of the Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811-1930" (Ph.D. dissertation, Case Western Reserve University, 1977), 382-383.

²⁷ "Better Transportation Service Would Aid BMS," *Hot Springs Star*, 1 October 1942, clipping in Hot Springs Library; Spurlock et. al., 18.

²⁸ Clipping, B. "Spike" Fox, "Fine Facility for Veterans in S. Dakota," 24 February 1938, Battle Mountain Museum.

²⁹ 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.

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 1997.³⁰ Surgical cases requiring an overnight stay were now handled at Fort Meade.³¹ Today the Hot Springs is an active medical center providing care for veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and more recent conflicts. 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.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Administration Building is the signature building of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium's Mission Revival hospital complex. It features a large domed rotunda, red tile roofs, exposed decorative eaves, and a porte cochere with a shaped parapet.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 101 feet wide by 112 feet deep (from the entrance to the rear of the ell)
2. Foundations: The tall exterior foundations are constructed of rusticated local sandstone laid in random ashlar coursing. The foundations are topped by a dressed stone water table, approximately twelve inches wide.
3. Walls: The walls are constructed with the same rusticated sandstone as the foundations, also laid in random ashlar coursing. There is an approximately twelve inch wide dressed stone belt course along the tops of the windows at the first and the second floors. There is a carved stone drain spout at the center of the base of loggia on third floor.

³⁰ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota 1907-1997*, (1997) [90th Anniversary booklet]. Battle Mountain Museum.

³¹ *Celebrating a Century of Caring for America's Heroes - VAMC Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1907-2007*, (2007) [100th Anniversary booklet]. Battle Mountain Museum.

4. Structural system, framing: The Administration Building has load bearing stone walls with a wood truss roof system and some structural metal. The trusses were not accessible. The dome structure consists of wood beams and rafters extending from the stone drum and supporting the tile roof. The oculus section of the dome is a wood frame and plaster cylinder set within the main dome structure.
5. Porches, stoops, loggia:
Porte-cochere - There is a one story sandstone porte-cochere at the main entrance with a flared base at the bottom of the piers and round arch openings on the front and sides. It has a front gable form with a shaped parapet topped by dressed sandstone coping. The parapet steps down toward three dressed blocks resting on a carved stone bracket at the eaves. The arched openings have dressed stone blocks starting at the spring blocks and rusticated stone below. The side openings are flush with the wall surface while the front is recessed behind the flared piers and a corbelled blind arch. A medium relief Greek cross of dark red terra cotta is located in the front gable. Metal tie rods are also visible here at the front corbelled arch. Passing through the front arch there is a wide concrete platform connected to a walkway via two steps. The drive still directs automobile traffic through the side openings. The eaves have rounded stone dentils and support a gutter system. Its roof is sheathed with red tile.

First Floor Loggias - Two hipped roof loggias (labeled as "piazza" on original drawing) extend across the front corners of the main block, with an interruption at the porte cochere. Each loggia is one bay deep and extends three bays to either side of the porte cochere and entrance vestibule. They sit on a raised basement and have dressed stone round arch openings. The arches are supported by squat octagonal columns with a lamb's tongue motif at the spring block of each arch. The dressed stone of these arches meets the water table below, with rusticated stone between. The openings are now screened but were originally open. The roofs have decorative curved/notched rafter ends, external guttering, and red tile sheathing. The loggia floors are concrete. The loggias are accessed via two thin French doors at each adjacent office. The doors have two lights in each leaf and include brass knob and bar hardware. Each opening had a transom (now filled with a wood panel); on the exterior both the doorway and the transom are framed by dressed stone.

Third Floor Loggia - Now fully enclosed by a roof and windows (this alteration was made in the late 1980s), a loggia is located at the center of front elevation on the third floor, between the towers. Its shed roof has red tile sheathing and plainer rafter ends. Originally this loggia was open with decorative beams forming a pergola-type structure. The wood beams are still visible, as is the original crenellated parapet with alternating pointed and flat sections.

Stoops - At the rear of the building in the courtyard there is an original stoop of five gray stone steps flanked by stone knee walls. The doorway into the corridor here is a round arch opening with dressed stone, flanked by large round arch side lights with

separate dressed stone frames and quoining on the outer edges. The sashes here are recent metal replacements with divided lights and a dark brown finish. A later concrete stoop is located at the stairwell addition on the northeast corner of the main block of the Administration Building. There is a ramp to the door in the metal addition. The door is a wood panel door with nine fixed wire glass lights. Another added stoop is located in a similar position at the northwest corner stairwell addition. The metal addition here has a shed roof overhang at the doorway. It support by a metal frame and covered with corrugated plastic that resembles red roof tiles. The door here is a solid metal replacement.

6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main doorway at the porte cochere is accessed via three stone steps and has a round arch with dressed stones from the spring blocks. A large two-leaf wood door with a round arch fan light is set directly into the stone arch with a moderate reveal. The door is painted ivory on the exterior and each leaf has three square recessed panels with a raised circular medallion motif at the center. One leaf has a large brass handle with a thumb latch. The fanlight has a round arch divided light wood sash. This doorway leads to the vestibule, which is described below.

Two additional doorways are located on the side elevations at the raised basement, with the doors set into the foundation with a deep reveal. The door on the east basement opening has a transom and two over two divided lights in the top half and horizontal recesses below. The west door is a recent replacement with glazing in the top half. It is accessed via two stone steps. Additional exterior doors at the loggias and stoops are described above.

- b. Windows: At the basement level the typical window opening is rectangular with a nine over nine double hung wood sash set directly into the stone foundation. The window lights are square. At the first floor the window openings are larger rectangular ones with six over six double hung wood sash. These openings are framed by a dressed stone with a quoin motif. There is a separate wood sash transom also framed by dressed stone. The belt course forms the lintel over the transom. The windows at the loggias for the corner office water closets have privacy glass in the lower sash. The second floor has taller rectangular openings with six over six double hung wood sash and similar dressed stone frame. The third floor has round arch openings with rectangular six over six wood sash and a fixed fan light above. The corner towers have pairs of round arch windows with an engaged column with carved capitals in between. These paired openings are also set into a shallow recess round arch. The sides of the tower have smaller rectangular openings. The

second floor of the rear ell had large windows for the operating theater which have now been infilled with new stone and smaller windows. The original dressed stone frame is still visible. There are modern metal sash windows where the third floor loggia was enclosed in the late 1980s.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Building No. 1 has cross hipped roofs, covered with red tiles with ridge caps. The main block hipped roof is crossed by two thin hipped roofs shared by the front and rear corner towers. The rear ell roof is also a cross hip.
- b. Eaves: The wide eaves have exposed decorative rafter ends. The eaves rest on carved brackets supported on stone projections. Building No. 1 also has external gutters and downspouts.
- c. Towers: There is a hipped roof tower at all four corners of the main block rising from the third floor. There are also small octagonal roof towers at each corner of the dome drum base.
- d. Dome: The main block roof is topped by a large red tile dome. The saucer dome has open eaves and sits on a rusticated stone drum. The drum has a carved stone quatrefoil motif at center of front and rear. Each quatrefoil is flanked by similar but smaller carved trefoils. The top of the drum has a belt course of smooth dressed stone. A large band with a lamb's tongue motif appears above the belt course. The bowl-like dome overhangs the drum with plain exposed rafters capped by a soffit. A tall metal cylinder covers the oculus and supports the metal urn capping the structure. These metal features are painted silver.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The plan is centered around the rotunda, with suites of rooms or offices to either side (Figure 12). Some additional spaces are located in the rear ell and at the front of the plan. Each floor has a combination of some rooms in their original configuration and some minor changes to interior partitions. The existing floor plans are similar to those shown on the 1953 drawings (See Figures 8-11). The basement was redone in 2013 and no longer contains an octagonal room under the rotunda. It now houses the Dom Clinic and File Room.
2. Stairways: An entrance stair is within a vestibule located between the first floor loggias behind the porte cochere. The vestibule contains a flight of nine grey stone steps leading to a landing at a round arch opening. The stair continues

eleven more steps to the rotunda entrance. It has round brass railings and stone knee walls on either side (Figure 13).

The main stair is located in the northeast corner of the main block. It is an open well dogleg stair that goes from the basement to the third floor. The treads and risers are oak now covered with asphalt tile. The stair return has a cyma reversa molding along the bottom edge. The railing has turned balusters and square column newel posts with recessed panels and a flat pyramidal cap. There are newel drops at each corner of the stair well. The hand rails ramp at each landing. There are a plain wall mounted hand rails as well.

There are also dogleg stairs in stairwell additions at the rear corners of the main block. The one at the northeast corner goes from basement to third floor; on the northwest corner from first to third. These secondary stairs appear on the 1953 plans.

3. Flooring: The floors are hard pine covered with commercial grade carpet in the offices and first floor of the rotunda. The stair halls have ten inch square buff vinyl tiles. The rotunda balconies at the second and third floors are light gray terrazzo with darker grey chips. The basement has large (18 inch) square vinyl flooring with a faux marble appearance or wood grain laminate installed in 2013.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The entrance vestibule has a coffered wood ceiling with an oak finish. The walls here are smooth dressed large stone blocks laid in regular courses. The walls throughout the rest of the Administration Building are plaster on wood lathe, except for added wallboard partitions. There are tall wood baseboards with a tapered profile. The ceilings are plaster in the stair halls. The offices have drop acoustic tile ceilings with integrated light fixtures. Inside the former vaults the ceiling is curved.

The rotunda walls have decorative finishes that vary by floor. At the first floor the rotunda is octagonal and has recessed plaster arches on the diagonal axes between the primary and transverse openings. The two rear ones are blind arches while the front two contain doorways (see below). At the second floor the rotunda is also octagonal and has eight recessed plaster arches with a half-round wood edge. A band of crown molding is along the bottom edge of the third floor balcony above. The front and side openings contain doorways but the diagonal four are blind arches. At the third floor the rotunda is round and has the most elaborate decorative finish. This level also has eight recessed plaster arches, four with openings and four blind. Pairs of fluted Doric pilasters made out of plaster sit on wood plinths between each arch. A band of molding is located around the room at the top of the pilasters. The inner edge of the dome has another wide band of molding with dentils below.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: The front and rear main doorways in the rotunda (at the entrance vestibule and stair hall) are large round arch openings with two-leaf wood panel doors and fanlights set directly into the wall. The large fanlight is divided into triangular segments by curved and diagonal muntins. The doors have been removed from the rear doorway but the frame and fanlight remain. At the front the doors have glazing in the top half and one recessed panel in the bottom of each leaf. Similar reproduction doors and fanlights were added to the transverse openings in the rotunda, where originally there were simply round arch plastered openings. The two doorways in the plaster arches at the front of the rotunda contain smaller wood panel doors with round arch fanlights.

The second floor rotunda openings are rectangular doorways set within the tall plaster arches. The doors are either wood doors with two vertical, one horizontal and two vertical recessed panels or later metal doors with a small fixed square light. At the third floor the front opening has two-leaf wood panel doors with glazing in the top half like at the first floor. This opening leads to the former third floor loggia and also has a large round arch fanlight.

Within the office suites on all floors the typical historic doors have a dark oak finish with recessed panels in a bible and cross or a two vertical, one horizontal, two vertical pattern. The matching trim is wide with a tapered profile. The typical door hardware is a brass pin hinges, round knob, and keyhole. Some later replacement doors are solid with a medium brown wood veneer, reproductions of the bible and cross doors, or more recent metal doors. Heavy metal two leaf doors are still extant on some of the vault spaces (i.e. in the basement).

- b. Windows: Each window is set into wall with a deep reveal and curved plaster edges. They have projecting oak finish sills with a stepped apron below. There is a wood section at the top where some of the transoms have been removed. The typical window hardware includes sash locks and recessed finger holds.
 - c. Oculus: The rotunda dome has a round oculus skylight divided by radiating mullions. The glazing is an opaque wire glass.
6. Decorative features and trim: There are cast iron and wood balustrades at the second and third floor balconies with a wide wood hand rails, bottom rails, and posts. The balusters are closely spaced thin cast iron rods within a thick frame. At the second floor, each section of the octagonal balustrade has a motif of a

Greek cross surrounded by a laurel wreath. The third floor has a similar, but simpler design with only the Greek crosses inscribed in a circle around the circular balcony. The spaces above these balustrades have been filled in with Plexiglas.

7. Hardware: The original two-leaf doors in the rotunda have Norwalk auto closers. See above for typical door and window hardware.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, ventilation: The Administration Building has radiant heat linked to the central boiler system. The radiators were replaced in the mid-twentieth century.
 - b. Lighting: There are two large original cast iron lanterns in the entrance vestibule with incandescent bulbs. Other lighting throughout consists of fluorescent ceiling fixtures, integrated into the drop ceilings on many offices.
 - c. Plumbing: The Administration Building was built with a water closet of sink and toilet for the Governor's and Assistant Surgeon's office on the first floor, and larger bathrooms in the office suites or staff quarters on each floor. The office suite bathrooms have been redone or moved, while the small water closets seem to have fixtures from c. 1930. Any plumbing associated with the operating suite in the ell is no longer extant. Exterior pipes have been installed in some areas.
 - d. Elevator: An elevator is located at the west side of the stair hall at the rear of the main block. The original elevator in this location had an iron enclosure and gate. The current elevator appears to date to the mid-twentieth century.

D. Site: See overview report HABS No. SD-24.

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. See footnotes and figures for specific drawings of the Administration Building accessed for this report.

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.

Published Sources and Reports –

Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota. c. 1909.

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

Battle Mountain Sanitarium: A Branch of the National Soldiers Home Veterans Administration, c. 1930.

Board of Managers – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Annual Reports*, various years; many volumes include *Proceedings* of the Board of Managers meetings.

Cetina, Judith Gladys. “A History of the Veterans’ Homes in the United States, 1811-1930,”

Ph.D. dissertation, Case Western Reserve University, 1977.

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.

Inspector General's Office. *Annual Report of Inspection - National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*. Washington, DC: GPO, 1894- . [author name and exact title vary]

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

Julin, Suzanne. "Battle Mountain Sanitarium, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota. National Historic Landmark Registration Form, 2008. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Mattison, James A. "The Development of the National Soldiers' Home Service," *Modern Hospital* 20, no. 1 (January 1923): 59-61.

"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.

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

Spurlock, Trent, 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.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of the Administration Building 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

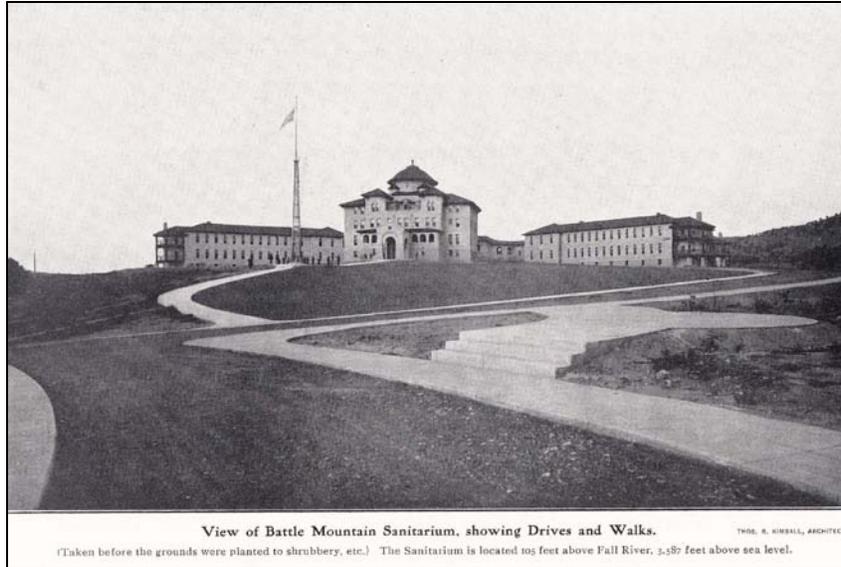


Figure 1: Administration Building, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

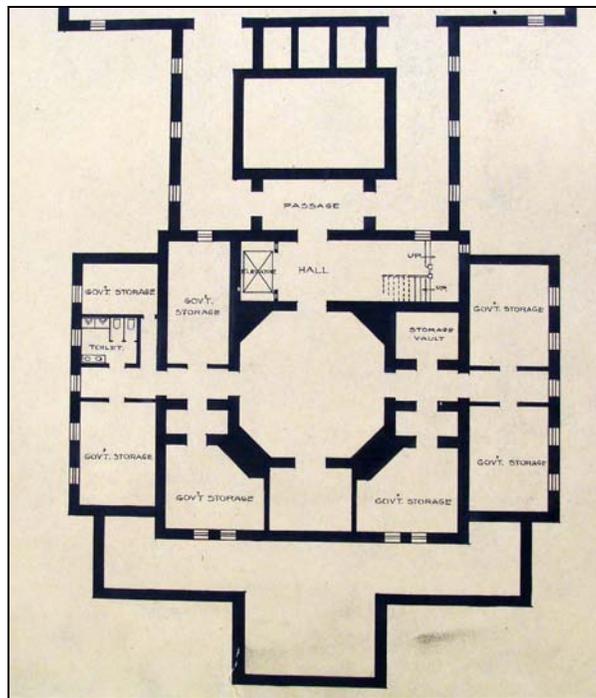


Figure 2: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium Basement Floor Plan"
showing Administration Building, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM,
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
HABS No. SD-24-A
(Page 20)

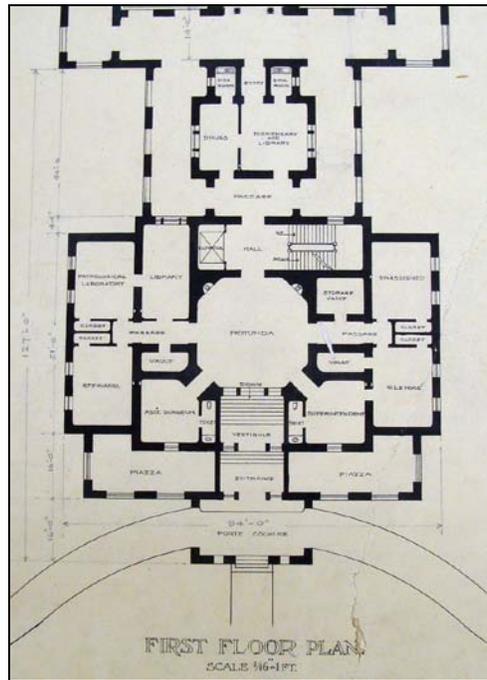


Figure 3: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium First Floor Plan" showing Administration Building, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society

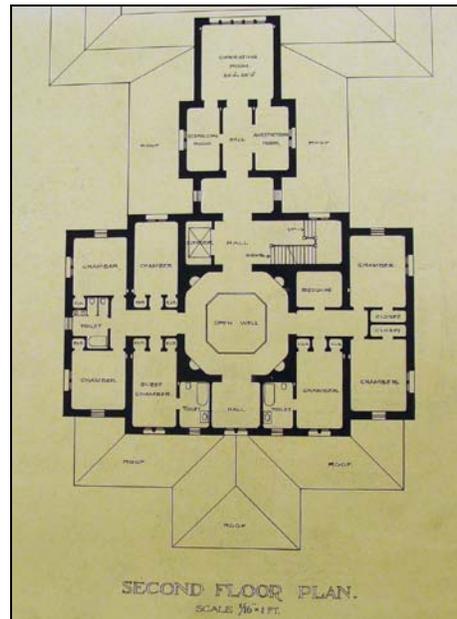


Figure 4: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium Second Floor Plan" showing Administration Building, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society



Figure 5: Construction of Battle Mountain Sanitarium, c. 1904
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection

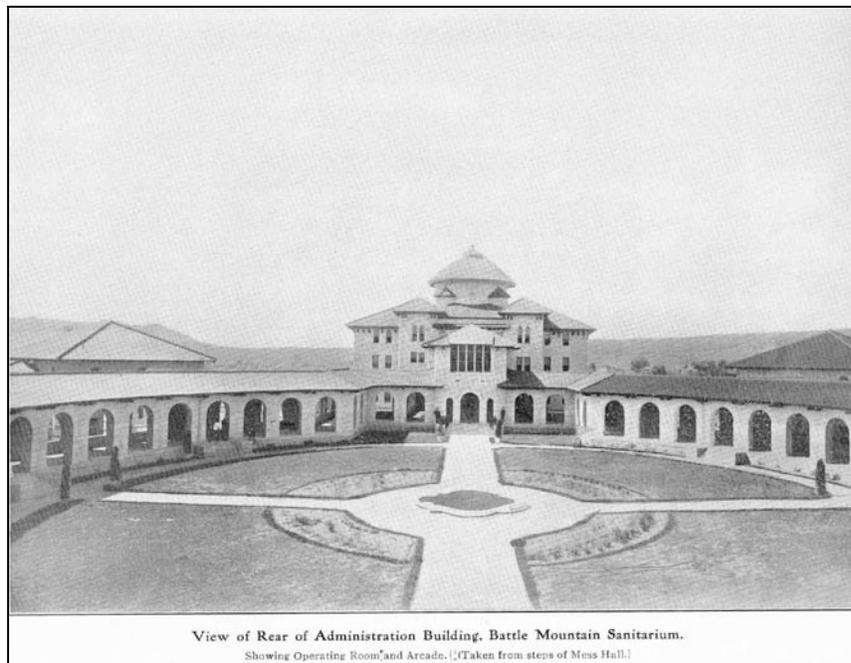


Figure 6: Rear Elevation of Administration Building From Courtyard, c. 1909
Note windows for operating room at second floor.
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
 BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM,
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 HABS No. SD-24-A
 (Page 22)

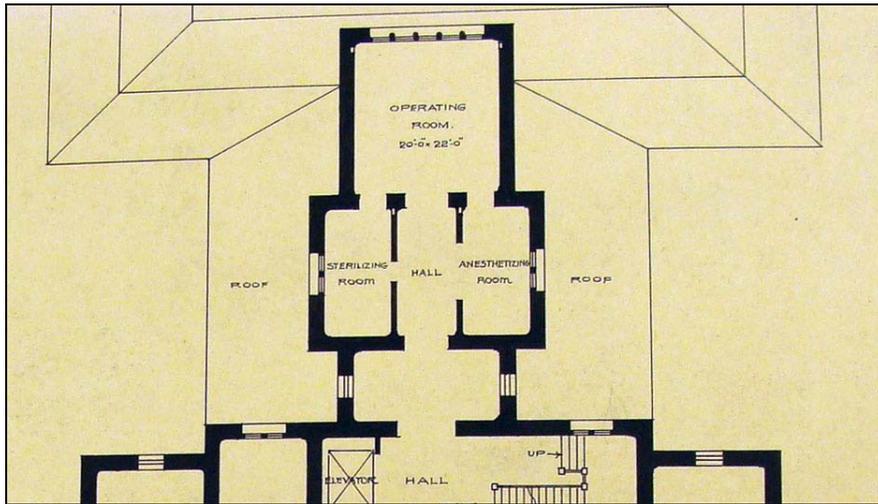


Figure 7: Detail of Operating Room in "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium Second Floor Plan"
 Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society

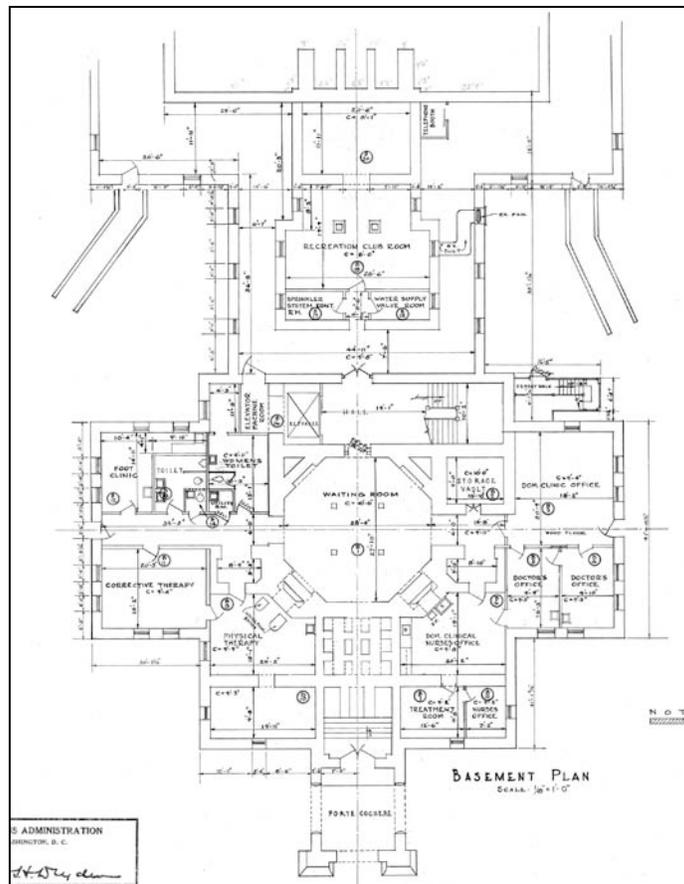


Figure 8: Building No. 1, Basement Floor Plan, 1953
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
 BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM,
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 HABS No. SD-24-A
 (Page 23)

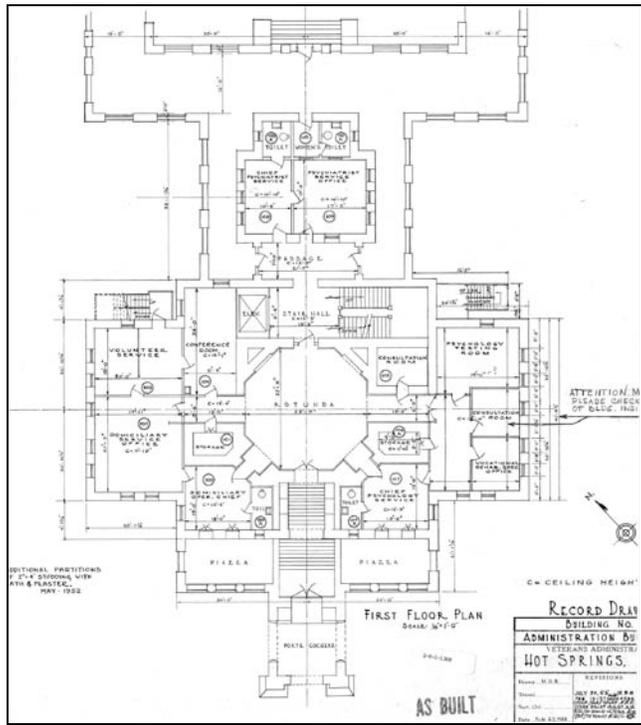


Figure 9: Building No. 1, First Floor Plan, 1953
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

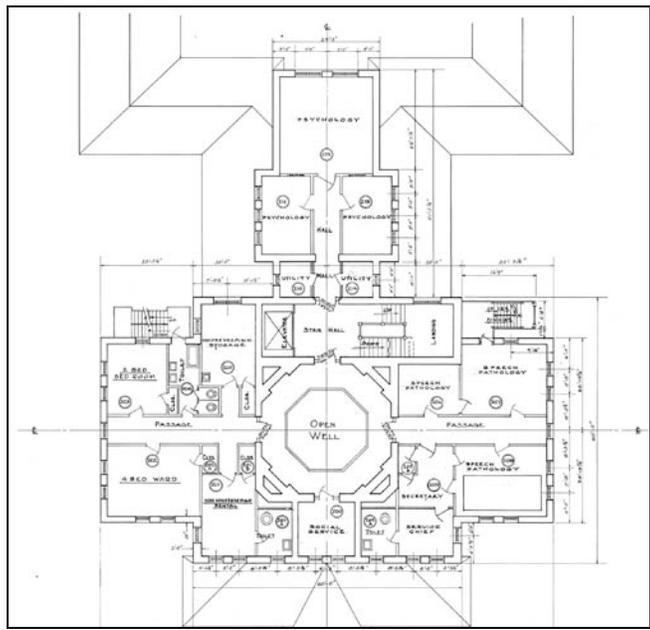


Figure 10: Building No. 1, Second Floor Plan, 1953
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM,
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
HABS No. SD-24-A
(Page 24)

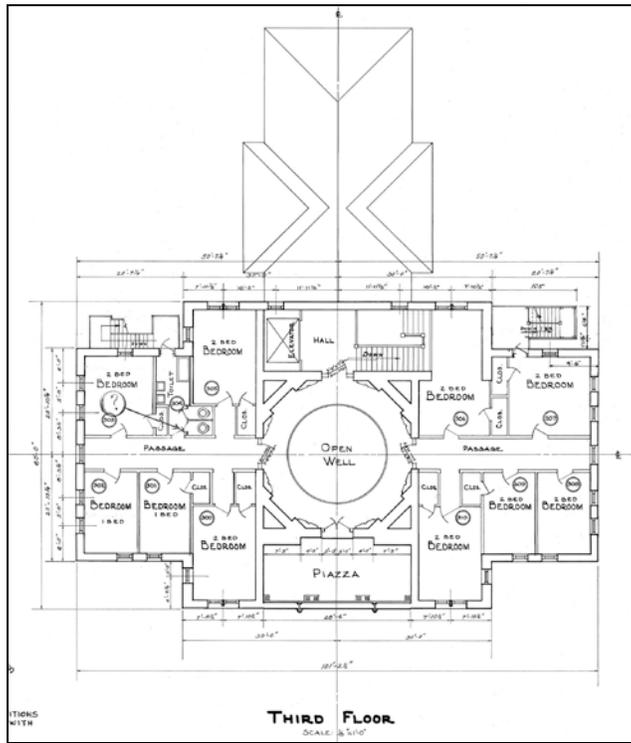


Figure 11: Building No. 1, Third Floor Plan, 1953
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

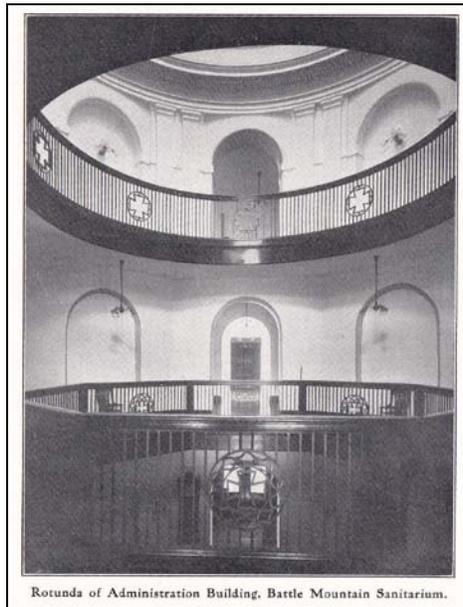


Figure 12: View of Rotunda, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

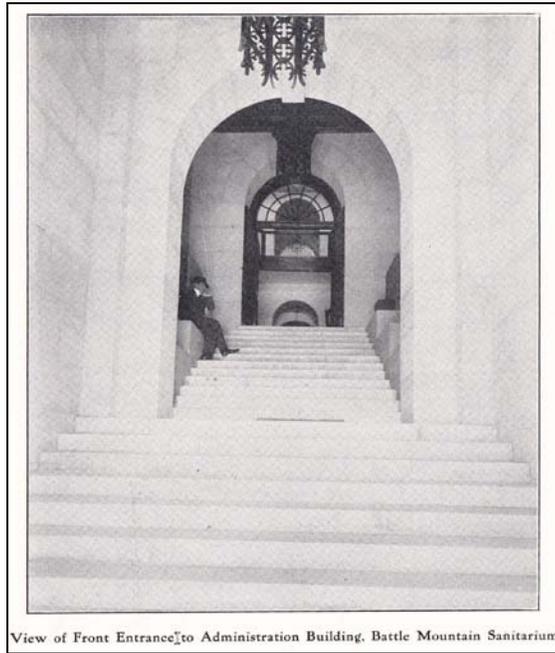


Figure 13: View of Vestibule, c. 1909
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*