

ADDENDUM TO:
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, MESS HALL
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 2)
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building
No. 2)
500 North Fifth Street
Hot Springs
Fall River County
South Dakota

HABS SD-24-F
HABS SD-24-F

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

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- Location: 500 North 5th Street, Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota
- The coordinates for the Mess Hall/Service Building are 43.437195 N, -103.477896 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 Health Care System
- Present Use: Dining room, kitchen, and offices
- Significance: Built between 1903 and 1907, Mess Hall/Service Building housed the dining room, kitchen, bakery, and staff quarters for 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 designed the Mess Hall to complement the rest of the Mission Revival hospital complex. The building features a hipped red tile roof and is attached to the rear of the circular corridors surrounding the courtyard. It is placed on axis with the Administration Building. The Mess Hall continues to house a dining hall, kitchen, and a variety of storage and offices on the basement and second floor levels.
- Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Ph.D., HABS Staff Historian

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1903-07

2. Architect: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Omaha, Nebraska

3. Original and subsequent uses: The Mess Hall/Service Building housed the mess hall for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium including a dining room, kitchen, and bakery. Storage was located in the basement and staff quarters on the third floor. These uses generally continue, except the third floor has been converted to offices.

4. Builder: Reynard and Oak, Omaha, Nebraska

5. Original plans and construction: The Mess Hall/Service Building for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designed by Kimball to be the main support structure of the Mission Revival hospital complex. Some copies of the original Kimball floor plans were available to this report but a complete set of design documents has not been found.

6. Alterations and additions: Exterior alterations to the Service Building have been minimal and mainly consist of enclosing the rear porch and the open portion of the second floor balcony. On the interior changes have been more extensive, including upgrading interior finishes and fixtures. The floor plan has been altered at each level, with the greatest degree of change on the second floor and the additional of a subbasement storage area.

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-A	NHDVS-Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Administration 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 Mess Hall/Service Building complemented the rest of the Mission Revival hospital complex and housed the main mess hall and other service facilities.

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 striking 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 the matching Mess Hall/Service Building attached at the rear. Kimball was well-known in Omaha and beyond, and on his way to being a Fellow and then President of the American Institute of Architects and serving 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. The *Hot Springs Weekly Star* reported that "the mess hall will contain accommodations for 300 patients. The kitchen in the basement of the mess hall will be connected by service tunnels with all of the ward buildings."²

Kimball visited the site in February 1903 to continue fine tuning his design and consult with his team. Perhaps one of the changes was moving the mess hall kitchen from the basement to a first floor rear ell. 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 ten 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

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

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."³

Floor plans labeled "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium" are available in the Thomas Rogers Kimball Papers at the Nebraska State Historical Society. These drawings do not have a date, but seem to show the Mess Hall/Service Building largely as constructed. The basement houses a large room for "Commissary Stores" under the main section and smaller rooms to the rear for a bakery, scullery, and storage for meat, ice, and additional "cook's stores" (Figure 1). The first floor plan included a 300-seat mess hall with the kitchen in an ell to the rear (Figure 2). The kitchen included a rear porch with a garbage hopper. A dog leg stair with a pair of dumbwaiters at the ell [no longer extant] was located in the kitchen at the center of the partition wall with the dining room. Circulation between the kitchen and dining room was accomplished via passages on each side of the stairs. One single passage led through a large serving closet labeled "Bread," while a pair of passages on the other side provided two-way traffic for servers, one past a china closet. The second floor was divided into separate sections for male and female employees, each accessed via its own stair tower on the side elevation (Figure 3). The male employee section occupied one third of the plan and included a large dormitory and a bath/shower room. The remaining two-thirds of the second floor included a smaller dormitory and bath for female employees, four small bedrooms, an "officers' dining room," and a serving room across the hall with access to the kitchen dumbwaiters. An L-shaped corridor in this section traveled from the spiral stair on the side to the upper flights of the dog leg stair leading to the kitchen.

The general construction contract was let to Reynard and Oak of Omaha on August 5, 1903. Ground was broken for the Sanitarium on August 17th and grading began almost immediately.⁴ 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 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."⁵ The 1905 *Annual Report* noted that in spite of delay, "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."⁶

Work continued through 1906, and offices of the National Sanitarium were moved into the new Administration Building in November 1906.⁷ 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

³ "Planning for Work," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 27 February 1903, 1.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Clipping, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 31 March 1905, Battle Mountain Museum.

⁶ NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1905* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1906), 10.

⁷ Battle Mountain Sanitarium transcribed newspaper articles, 23 November 1906, Hot Springs Public Library.

room in the Mess Hall/Service Building (Figure 4).⁸ The features of this section of the Sanitarium were covered thoroughly in a local newspaper article about the opening:

The service building contains the dining room, kitchen, commissary, etc....The kitchen is a model for convenience and equipment. A mammoth range occupies the center of the large, well lighted room, while soup, coffee and tea boilers are along one side of the room and are heated by steam. All sorts of cooking devices are conveniently located in the room. The dishes are washed by machinery in a room adjacent to the kitchen. The bakery is an interesting place, where bread is kneaded by machinery, and pastry made by the wholesale. The dining or mess room will seat 216 people at a time and is a splendidly lighted room in the service building. The tables are kept in regular military style, without linen, but look immaculately clean. The officers have a separate dining room.⁹

Early photographs of the interior of the dining room show the long tables, with a main access aisle running laterally across the room (Figure 5). This seems to represent a change from the early plans, which showed only windows on these side walls. In a souvenir booklet for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium the spaces listed in the "service building" included the dining room, kitchen, bakery, cold storage plant, sleeping rooms for help, band room, Quartermaster's and Commissary rooms.¹⁰

While the kitchen and dining room spaces on the first floor of the Mess Hall continued in their original use, more substantial interior alterations began at an early date on the basement and second floor levels. An *Inspection Report* from 1918 noted that the female dining room staff that lived in the dormitory on the second floor needed a recreation room. It was recommended that the officers' mess be modified for this use since it was no longer used for its original purpose.¹¹ The *Annual Report* from 1919 mentioned enclosing part of the back porch of the Mess Hall, near the ice plant.¹² At this point much smaller mess service was provided in the tuberculosis cottage (36 members) and the nurses' quarters in addition to the main mess hall. An early photograph of the Mess Hall/Service Building from outside the hospital complex to the east shows the two-story porch at the kitchen ell to be partially enclosed with wood exterior walls and supported by tall stone piers (Figure 6). Another photograph from c. 1935 seems to show this rear porch fully enclosed but the basement level between the piers still open (Figure 7). This area is now fully enclosed and covered with stucco; these changes appear to be the result of several periods of alteration.

⁸ 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.

⁹ "Million Dollar Sanitarium for Veterans," *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 17 May 1907, 3.

¹⁰ *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, c. 1909, 20. Battle Mountain Museum Collection.

¹¹ Inspector-General's Office, *Report of an Inspection of the Several Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers 1918* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1919), 9.

¹² NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1919* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1920), 151.

Designating Battle Mountain a sanitarium rather than another branch residential home indicated the growing emphasis on medical care by the NHDVS.¹³ 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.

In the mid-1920s the Veterans Bureau began construction of a 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.¹⁴ In 1930, NHDVS was reorganized 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.¹⁵ At this time 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. The original hospital functioned as a 548-bed domiciliary, while the 1920s hospital was a 255-bed medical/surgical facility. The Mess Hall continued to serve its original purpose for the domiciliary while the new hospital had its own kitchen facilities. 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.¹⁶

Floor plans from 1950s indicate the changing use of some areas in the Mess Hall/Service Building. The basement level housed a bathroom, storage room, office, and walk-in refrigerator in the former open area below the porch (Figure 8). The stairway and elevator was reconfigured, taking space away from the bakery. The storerooms in this area were also reconfigured into a single vending machine room. The large storage area under the main block was partitioned into several baggage storage rooms and a transformer room with cement block interior walls. A down staircase indicates the presence of the added subbasement. In 1959 stainless steel cafeteria fixtures were installed in the mess hall, replacing the table service provided in previous years with cafeteria-style self-serve.¹⁷ Presumably the kitchen would still provide tray service for any bedridden veterans. These changes were reflected on the revised first floor plan, including a new

¹³ 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, DC.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ "Cafeteria Service in Use at VA," *Hot Springs Star*, 22 January 1959, clipping in BM museum

food service counter and expanded openings between the dining room and kitchen (Figure 9). Two walk-in refrigerators were located in the originally open section of the rear porch.

On the second floor, the floor plan was altered to be more symmetrical, with a transverse hall running across the main block between the side spiral stairways (Figure 10). The partially open rear balcony was now fully enclosed and contained a large bathroom and a two-bed room. The rest of the floor contained a 14-bed ward, a 10-bed ward, a 6-bed ward and two 3-bed rooms. It seems that these were used to house patients, not staff in this period. Another drawing of the second floor from 1988 shows the floor plan as it exists today, with a double-loaded transverse corridor of small offices and meeting rooms, and an elevator and modern men's and ladies bathrooms at the rear section (Figure 11).

During the 1980s and 90s, changes to the complex continued to be focused on upgrades and expansion of the general hospital. In 1996 the complex's name was changed to Hot Springs Medical Center of the VA Black Hills Health Care System. This change represented a consolidation of the VA Medical Centers at Hot Springs and at Fort Meade. Surgical cases requiring an overnight stay were now handled at Fort Meade.¹⁸ Today the Hot Springs campus 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 with meals served in the Mess Hall. Recently the Department of Veterans Affairs was considering closing the Hot Springs campus in spite of community protest. Kimball's Mission Revival hospital complex retains its historic character and remains 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 Mess Hall/Service Building is a Mission Revival sandstone building attached to the rest of the Sanitarium complex through the system of corridors. This structure is encased by corridors on the lower floors. It includes a two-and-a-half story main block, a shallow two-story flat roof ell, and a one-story kitchen ell with a hipped roof. There is another slightly lower section at the rear of the kitchen ell that originally was an open porch. The Mess Hall also includes octagonal stair towers on both sides and corridors connecting to the chapels in Buildings No. 9 and 10. This complex series of ells and connecting corridors and buildings creates several small service yards around the Mess Hall. One at Building No. 10 on the north is partially filled by the Electrical Shop.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

¹⁸ *Celebrating a Century of Caring for America's Heroes - VAMC Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1907-2007*, (2007) [100th Anniversary booklet]. Battle Mountain Museum.

1. Overall dimensions: 124 feet, 3 inches wide by 100 feet, 7 inches deep
2. Foundations: The exterior foundations are constructed on rusticated red sandstone laid in random ashlar coursing. There is a dressed stone water table, twelve inches wide. The foundations are only visible at the rear, where they form a tall raised basement for the back of the main block and rear ells.
3. Walls: The walls are constructed with the same rusticated sandstone as the foundations, also laid in random ashlar coursing. The enclosed porch at the end of the kitchen ell has stucco walls.
4. Structural system, framing: The Mess Hall has load bearing stone walls with a wood truss roof system. The large trusses are visible in the kitchen ell.
5. Stoops: There is a concrete stoop at the west side of the rear elevation of the main block with pipe railings and six steps. A concrete ramp with pipe railings is located on the east. At the inner courtyard, the Mess Hall is accessed through the attached corridor via five gray stone steps with knee walls. There is a landing at the top of the five stair flight, and then one additional step. Once inside the corridor, the dining hall is accessed via ramps at each entrance (two sides, one center).

Balcony: There is a roof balcony at the two-story ell on the northeast side of the main block that now holds mechanical equipment. Square piers with dressed stone caps project from the cornice of the ell and serves as part of the balustrade. The wood balustrade between these piers has been replaced by metal.

6. Chimneys: There is a large internal chimney at the north end of the kitchen ell. The chimney is parallel to the north wall and constructed of rusticated sandstone blocks. The chimney cap is smoothly dressed stone ornamented with dentils around the bottom edge.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The door openings are cut directly into the stone walls. At the dining room, there are three doorways - one at the center of the inner corridor and one at each side hall. These openings have two-leaf doors with glazing in the top half framed by thick molding. The bottom half of each leaf has a single recessed panel also with thick molding around the edge. The round arch transoms have been covered. The typical hardware is a brass knob with an escutcheon and keyed lock. There are remnants of hinges for screen doors on the outer edges of these doorways. The typical door at grade on the rear façade is a replacement two-leaf metal door with a thin vertical light placed off center and filled with wire glass. In addition to the two doorways leading to the basement of the main block, there is a two-leaf door at the basement of the enclosed rear porch.

- b. Windows: On the main block the window openings are round arch, with wood sash set directly into the stone wall. The first floor windows are located inside the attached corridors on three sides of the dining room. These elaborate openings have original wood sash three-light French windows with brass hardware at the center, flanked by three-light fixed sidelights. There is a wood frame screen over the French windows. The tall round arch fanlight is divided into a round arch light topped by a curved muntin and four additional lights. The second floor round arch openings are also framed by dressed stone with quoins and have nine over nine wood sash with a curved upper rail.

On the ells all the openings are rectangular, but the size varies by floor. They are filled with six over six wood sash. On the first and second floors the window openings share a dressed stone frame with a quoin motif. The stucco portion of the kitchen ell just has lug sills. The octagonal stair towers have smaller rectangular windows with nine over nine square lights. The small connecting hyphens at the second floor of the stair towers have four light French windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The Mess Hall has a hipped roof on the main block, a flat roof on the first ell, and a cross hip for the kitchen ell. The stuccoed enclosed porch at the rear of the kitchen ell has a lower cross hip roof. The octagonal stair towers have octagonal roofs. All the roofs are sheathed with red clay Spanish tiles.
- b. Eaves: The eaves are open with exposed notched rafter ends and external gutters. The rafter ends are simpler than the Administration Building and do not rest on stone brackets.
- c. Towers: Octagonal towers attached to the corridors at the west and east sides of the Mess Hall contain spiral staircases. These towers are full height, rising two stories on a raised basement, but this is only visible in the secondary service courts because of the attached corridors across the north and south elevations. At the second floor a short hyphen with a gable tile roof connects the tower and main block.
- d. Dormer: The main block has a large hipped roof dormer with three small one over one windows on the rear slope of the roof. Also on the second floor there are two six over six windows placed high in the north wall of the main block where it joins the first ell.
- e. Monitor: The kitchen ell has a large hipped roof monitor with four one light windows on two sides for ventilation. The monitor is sheathed with red Spanish tile on its roof and flat tile on two sides. It has open eaves with decorative rafter ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: A change in grade between the courtyard and kitchen ell side of the Mess Hall means that one enters at the first floor level via the courtyard and at the basement level from the rear. The first floor contains the dining room in the main block, and kitchen and storage spaces to the rear in the ells. The second floor of the main block with its shallow ell is now a T-shaped hallway lined with offices and meeting rooms. The basement contains baggage storage under the dining room, and offices, mechanical rooms, and maintenance shop spaces under the ells. There is an added sub-basement below part of the basement that contains storage including walk-in refrigerators.
2. Stairways: Each tower contains open well spiral stairs that travel from the basement to the second floor of the main block. The wood closed stairs are cantilevered from the walls and covered with rubber treads. Molding is placed under each stair return. There is a curving wood stair rail at the outer edge with square balusters and a wall-mounted metal hand rail. A straight run stair in the ell only goes from the basement to a subbasement. This stair is a mid-twentieth century replacement for the original center stair at the kitchen. Another stair at the second floor of the main block goes up to the finished portion of the attic and balcony. Ramps in the attached corridors lead to the chapels (Buildings No. 9 and 10) from the north corners of the first floor. Additional ramps at the basement level of the corridors lead to the basements of Buildings No. 9 and 10.
3. Flooring: The flooring is twelve inch square vinyl tile that is white with black and gray specks in the dining hall and corridors. The kitchen areas have six inch quarry tile floors and baseboards. The upper floor of the main block and stair wells has tan vinyl tile floors or commercial grade carpet. In the second floor bathrooms the flooring is one inch square tan ceramic tile with black flecks. A former vending room under the kitchen ell has a tan terrazzo floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Exterior rusticated stone is visible in the corridor spaces. The dining room, kitchen, and offices have plaster walls. There is a plastic sheet wainscot in the kitchen and some pink six inch square ceramic tile on the walls closest to the dining room. The kitchen ceiling has exposed trusses, while the dining room and offices have with acoustic tile drop ceilings. The stair towers have smooth dressed stone block walls with regular coursing that have been painted, and a tall wood baseboard. The exposed rafters of the octagonal roofs are visible in the stair towers. The modern bathrooms on the second floor have a ceramic tile baseboard.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The center door to the dining room is on axis with the courtyard doorway. The side doors for the dining room are on axis

with the stair towers. The doors in these openings are two leaf wood panel with glazing in the top half, accessed via ramps. The large round arch fanlights have been covered. Doorways into the kitchen from the rear ramps have wood screen doors in addition to metal doors with nine lights in the top half with wire glass glazing. There are round arch door openings at the second floor of the stair towers with replacement metal doors in metal frames. The interior doors at the offices and storage areas are generally metal or wood veneer replacements, either solid or with an off-center vertical light filled with wire glass.

- b. Windows: The historic windows are intact and consistent throughout the Mess Hall. The typical double hung windows are set into the wall with a deep reveal, curved plaster corners, and a wide wood sill. The corners of the sashes have sash drops at the meeting rail. There is a plain apron under the sills and many of the sashes and sills are painted. They have the typical window hardware of sash locks and recessed finger holds. The interior of the large French windows in the dining room have wide wood molding and brass bar lock hardware.
6. Decorative features and trim: The exposed wood beams in the corridor spaces rest on stone brackets.
 7. Hardware: Stainless steel handrails have been added in some areas.
 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: There is a large metal exhaust hood near the center of the kitchen that used to be over the ranges.
 - b. Lighting: Fluorescent tube ceiling fixtures are incorporated into the acoustic tile drop ceiling, or mounted onto beams.
 - c. Plumbing: The Mess Hall/Service Building was built with plumbing for food preparation, dishwashing, and bathrooms. All of these fixtures and systems have been reconfigured and updated. There are external pipes in some areas (tower) due to later upgrades.
 - d. Elevator: A modern elevator is located in the two-story ell. It travels from the basement to the second floor. The dumbwaiters originally located in this area are no longer extant.
 - e. Food service: There is a cafeteria style counter line along the rear wall of the dining room. A walk-in refrigerator with stainless steel doors is at the rear of the kitchen.

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 Mess Hall 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-

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of the Mess Hall/Service 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

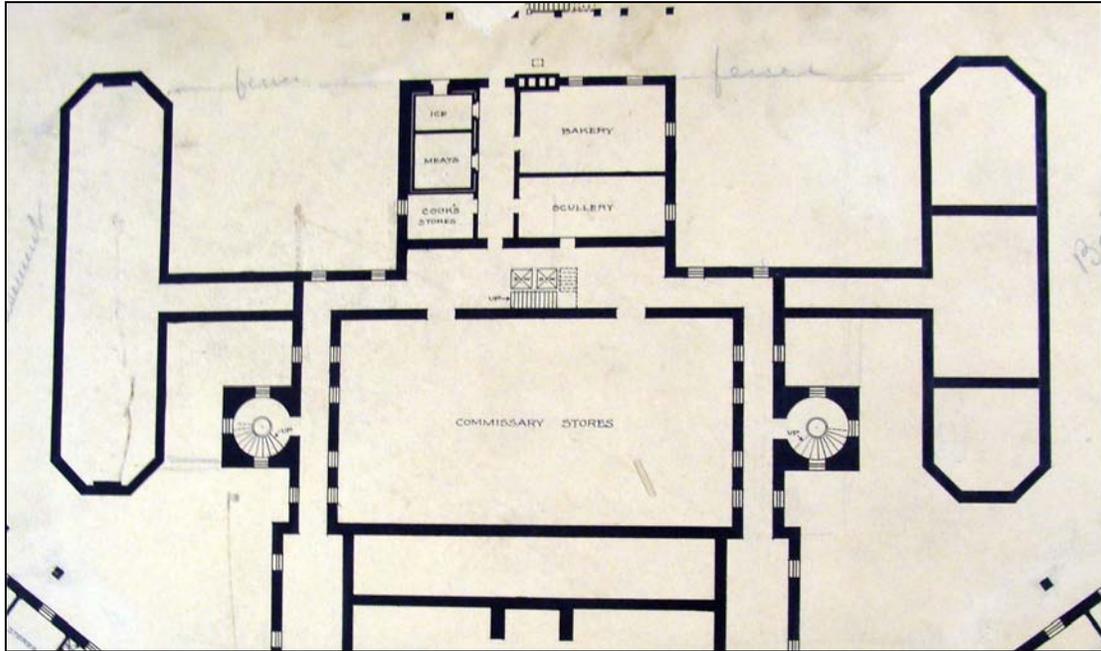


Figure 1: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium Basement Floor Plan" showing Mess Hall/Service Building, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society

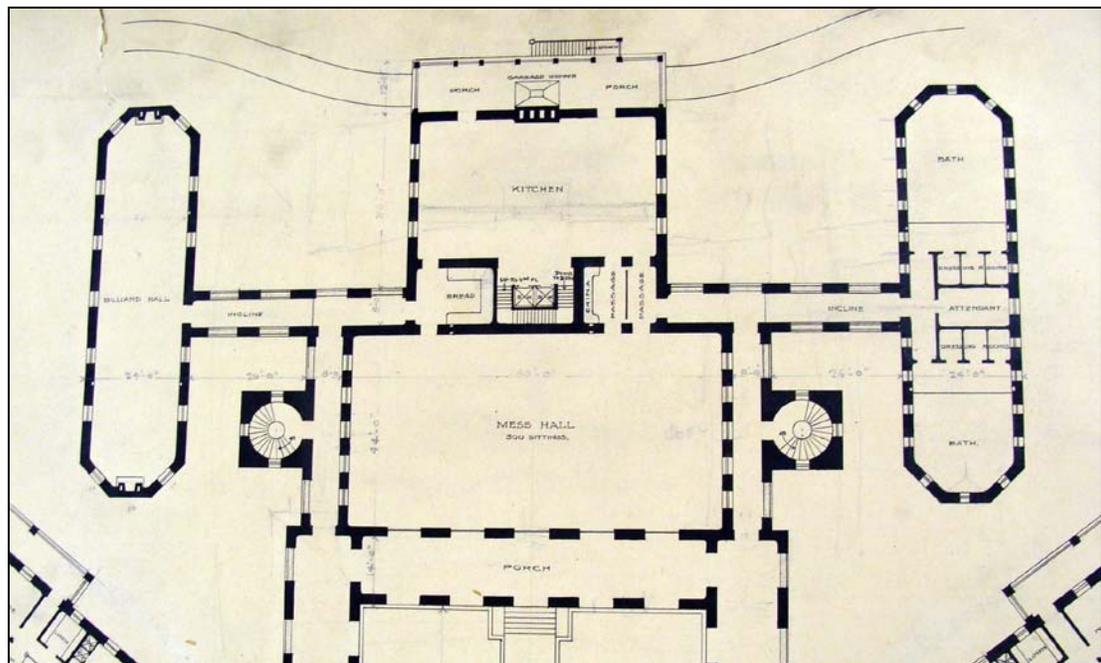


Figure 2: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium First Floor Plan" showing Mess Hall/Service Building, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society

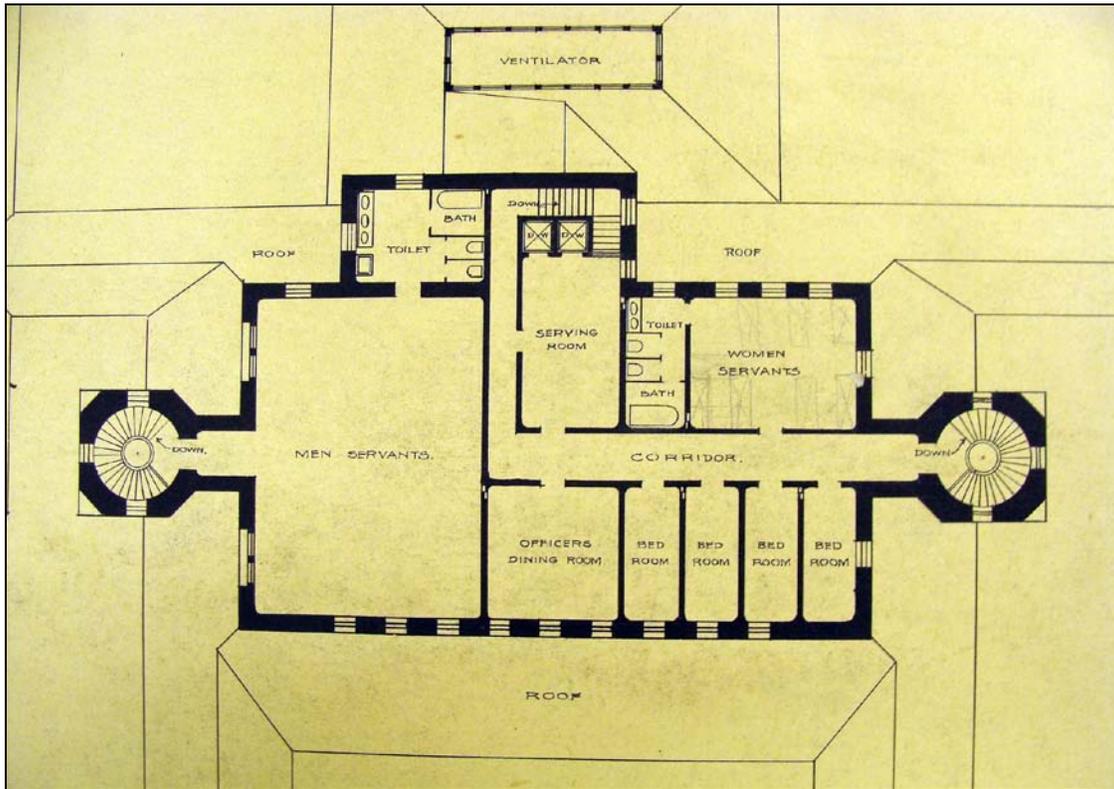


Figure 3: Excerpt of "Proposed Battle Mountain Sanitarium Second Floor Plan" showing Mess Hall/Service Building, Second Floor Plan, c. 1902
Source: Kimball Papers, Nebraska State Historical Society



Figure 4: View of Service Building from Courtyard, c. 1919
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*



Figure 5: Interior view of Dining Room, c. 1919

Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*



Figure 6: View of Funeral Procession Traveling to Cemetery, n.d.

Note open porch at Mess Hall kitchen ell.

Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection



Figure 7: View of Sanitarium from Rear, c. 1935
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection

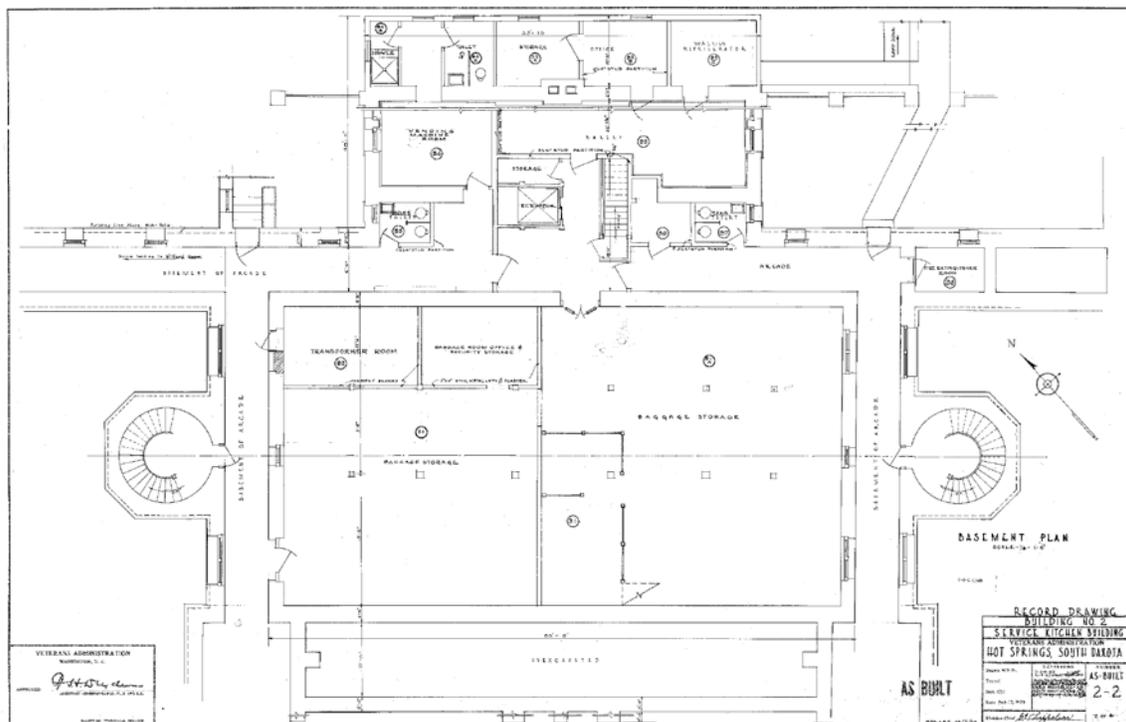


Figure 8: Building No. 2, Basement Floor Plan, 1953
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
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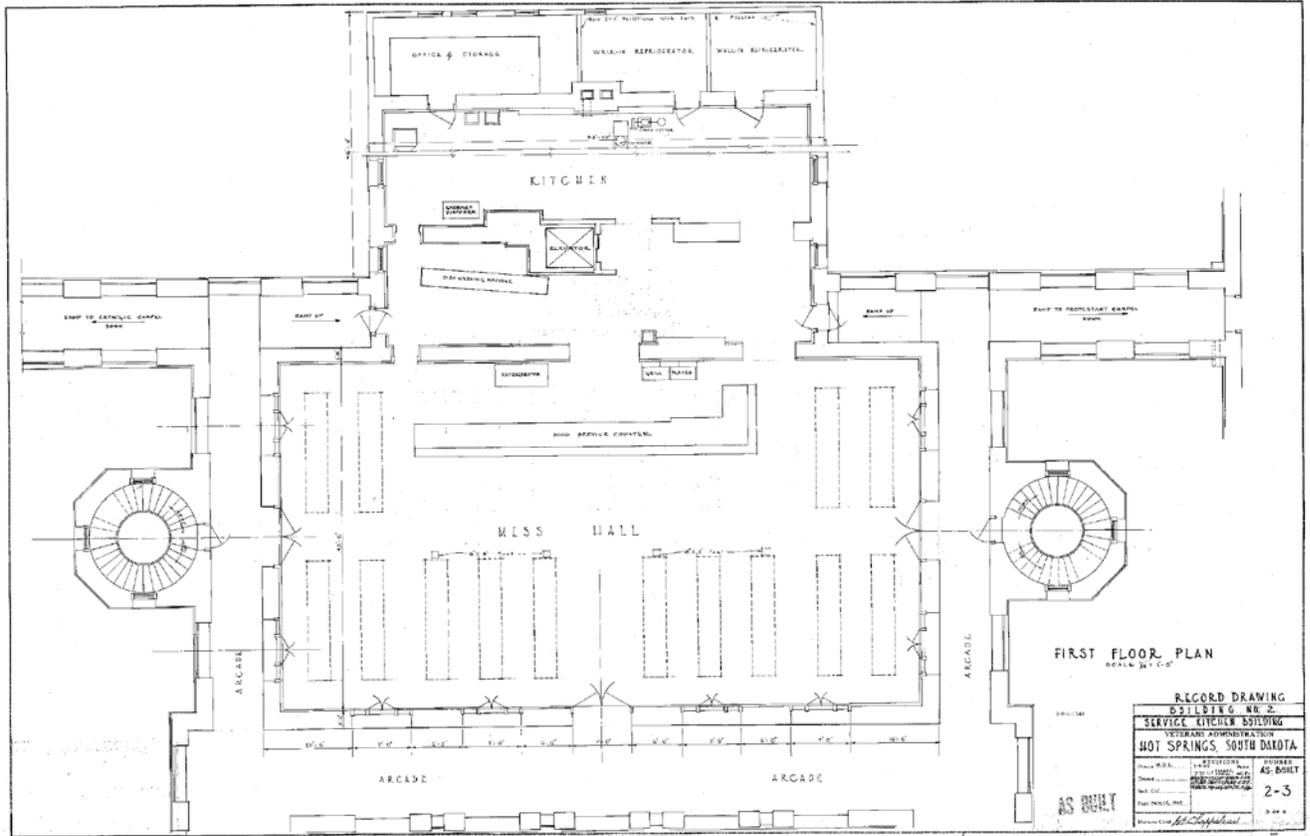


Figure 9: Building No. 2, First Floor Plan, 1953
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

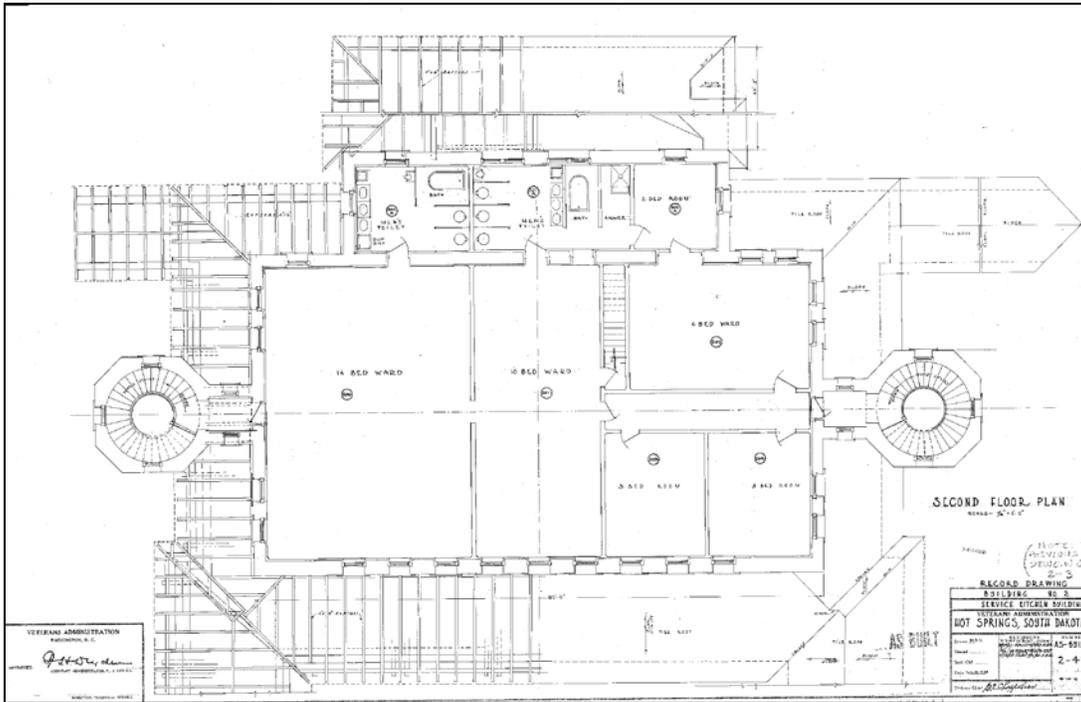


Figure 10: Building No. 2, Second Floor Plan, 1953
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

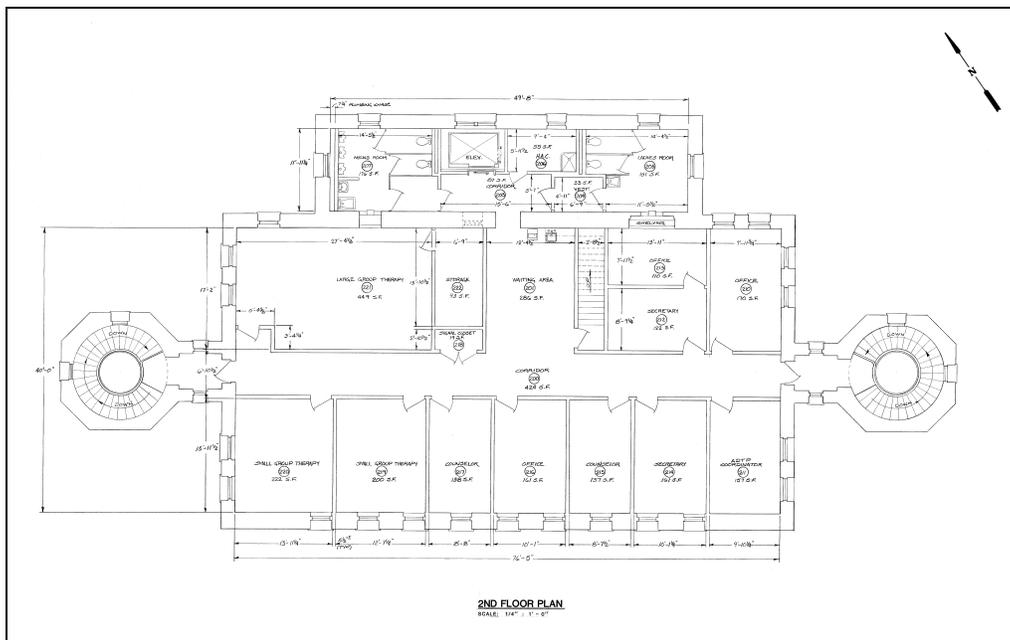


Figure 11: Building No. 2, Second Floor Plan, 1988
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files