

ADDENDUM TO:
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, BANDSTAND
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No.
19)
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building
No. 19)
500 North Fifth Street
Hot Springs
Fall River County
South Dakota

HABS SD-24-K
HABS SD-24-K

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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

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NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS – BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, BANDSTAND (Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 19) (VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building No. 19)

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

The coordinates for Building No. 19 are 43.436304 N, -103.479676 W, and they were obtained through Google Earth in December 2014 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Significance: The Bandstand was built in 1909 for the entertainment and recreation of the veterans being treated at Battle Mountain Sanitarium. The pavilion-plan hospital at Battle Mountain Sanitarium and a grouping of residential structures for officer's quarters were designed by Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball and built from 1903-07. The Bandstand was also designed by Kimball and added near the main entrance to the hospital (Figure 1).

Description: The Bandstand is an octagonal gazebo structure with a rusticated sandstone base. Rusticated sandstone piers with thick caps rise from each corner. A wood balustrade with thick turned balusters is located between each set of piers, with a wide opening at the low stair closest to the hospital. The octagonal roof structure is supported by wood posts located approximately two feet inside the balustrade. The ceiling is sheathed with beadboard and curves inward to create an octagonal drop at the center. A recent light fixture is mounted here. The beadboard seams are covered with battens that accent the curve to the center. Incandescent light sockets line the outer edge of the ceiling just behind the soffit. The roof is sheathed with replacement asphalt shingles. The floor and steps are concrete.

History: See overview historical context HABS No. SD-24 for additional information on the Battle Mountain Sanitarium and the NHDVS, as well as a list of individual building reports.

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. Omaha-based architect Thomas Rogers Kimball designed a striking Mission Revival hospital complex built with local red sandstone. He also designed support structures such as the Bandstand. In a 1908 *Inspection Report*, it was noted that the new Sanitarium was under enrolled and lacked the "shaded walks and nooks where the members can walk and sit, as they do in other

homes."¹ An effort was made to improve the conditions of the grounds in 1909, with construction of the artificial pond, tree planting, and dedication of the new Bandstand on July 5th.² In addition to informal use of this gazebo, the Bandstand hosted regular concerts by the resident military band and visiting musicians. A 1919 booklet about the Sanitarium reported that the band played in the Bandstand every night during the summer.

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. At this time the tuberculosis hospital built by the Veterans Bureau in 1925-26 began to be used for general medical care. The original hospital now functioned as a 548-bed domiciliary, while the 1920s hospital was a 255-bed medical/surgical facility. The Bandstand was designated Building No. 19. It continues to serve as a recreation amenity for the Hot Springs Campus of the VA Black Hills Health Care System.

Sources: *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.

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

Project

Information: Documentation of the Bandstand/Building No. 19 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 reports were 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

¹ Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1908), 16.

² *Hot Springs Weekly Star*, 21 May 1909.

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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.



Figure 1: Panoramic View of Battle Mountain Sanitarium with Bandstand (left), c. 1919
Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*