

ADDENDUM TO:  
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -  
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, LAUNDRY  
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Catholic  
Chapel)  
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building  
No. 10)  
500 North Fifth Street  
Hot Springs  
Fall River County  
South Dakota

HABS SD-24-P  
*HABS SD-24-P*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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, LAUNDRY (Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Catholic Chapel (VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building No. 10)

HABS No. SD-24-P

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

The coordinates for Building No. 10 are 43.437359 N, -103.478133 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:** Built between 1903 and 1907 as the original Laundry and Billiard Room for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Building No. 10 was later converted into maintenance shops and a Catholic Chapel. The pavilion-plan hospital at Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designed by Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball. The Mission Revival complex included an Administration Building, six wards, and a Mess Hall/Service Building arranged around a circular connecting corridor. Two small service wings were attached to the sides of the Mess Hall building via connecting corridors. The original Laundry was housed in the west wing. Battle Mountain Sanitarium was unique within the National Home system in its primary purpose as a medical facility. Veterans would travel for short term treatment of acute conditions before returning to other primarily residential NHDVS branches.

**Description:** Building No. 10 is a Mission Revival structure with a red Spanish tile roof with decorative rafter ends and rusticated sandstone exterior foundations and walls (Figure 1). It is one-story on a tall raised basement with three-sided bays at each of the end elevations. The roof form mirrors the three-sided end bays and includes prominent ridge tiles and galvanized metal ventilators. There is a lower electrical shop building added to the east side elevation by the 1930s. The electrical shop has a flat roof and rusticated sandstone walls. Another low, flat roof mechanical addition is attached to the west side elevation. This addition has stucco walls and appears to be fairly recent. A small yellow brick addition is also present near the north end of Building No. 10. There is one grade level exterior door at the north end of the original building created from a window opening. The original entrance was inside the connecting corridor that attaches Building No. 10 to the Mess Hall. Rectangular window openings defined by smooth dressed sandstone are located at the first floor level above the belt course and, at less frequent intervals, at the basement level. The basement level window openings have simple sandstone sills and lintels rather than a full surround. There are internal sandstone chimneys located at each end of the structure. Building No. 10 does not have any porches.

The interior of Building No. 10 has always been divided into two floors, unlike Building No. 9, the matching service wing to the east (Figure 2). The Laundry was located on the basement level and the upper level housed a large Billiard Room with fireplaces at each end. The Laundry was moved to Building No. 43 by 1944 and the basement of Building No. 10 converted to maintenance shops (Figure 3). By the 1950s, the basement included storage, shops, and a pool room (Figure 4). The upper floor was divided into several small offices and bathrooms on the south half. The north half served as the Catholic Chapel. Stained glass windows in the Chapel with Christian iconography are signed "Kansas City Art Glass Works, Designed by Paul McNeely, 1958." The Chapel includes wood pews and altar furnishings, plaster ceiling and walls, and a linoleum tile floor (Figure 5). It is likely that the original fireplace is encased behind the altar area. The lower level continues to serve as maintenance shops, with several later extensions.

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

Building No. 10 was built between 1903 and 1907 as the original Laundry and Billiard Room for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). The pavilion-plan hospital at Battle Mountain Sanitarium was designed by Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball. The Mission Revival complex included an Administration Building, six wards, and a Mess Hall/Service Building arranged around a circular connecting corridor. Two small service wings were attached to the rear of the connecting corridor flanking the Mess Hall. The original Laundry/Billiard Room was housed in the west wing.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium was unique within the National Home system in its primary purpose as a medical facility. Veterans would travel for short term treatment of acute conditions before returning to other primarily residential NHDVS branches. They 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.

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. With the wards serving as dormitory-style living quarters for veterans, this original portion of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium was now a residential facility like the other NHDVS branches. The Laundry was moved out of Building No. 10 and the space divided into maintenance shops and storage.

By the late 1950s, the Billiard Room on the upper floor was converted into offices and a Catholic Chapel. Prior to this time, the auditorium in Building No. 11 (added 1914) was used as the chapel for all religious services.<sup>1</sup> Before construction of Building No. 11 a room in one of the wards was used as a makeshift chapel.<sup>2</sup> The upper level of the other service wing, Building No. 9, became the Protestant Chapel. Offices for the respective clergy were provided at the south end of each building. Stained glass windows were added to both sanctuaries in 1958.

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

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.

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

Project

Information: Documentation of Building No. 10 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 Renee Bieretz. Vital assistance was provided by

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<sup>1</sup> NHDVS Board of Managers, *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1914* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1915), 223.

<sup>2</sup> Inspector-General's Office, *Inspection Report – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1913), 49.

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.

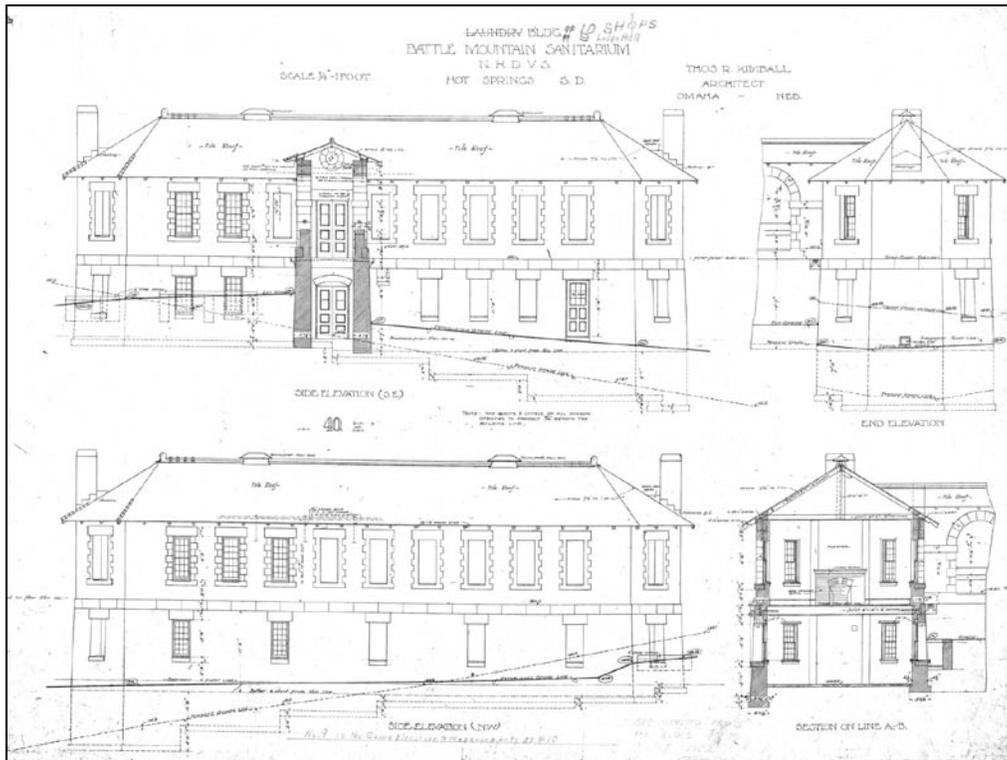


Figure 1: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Elevations and Section of Laundry Building, c. 1903  
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files



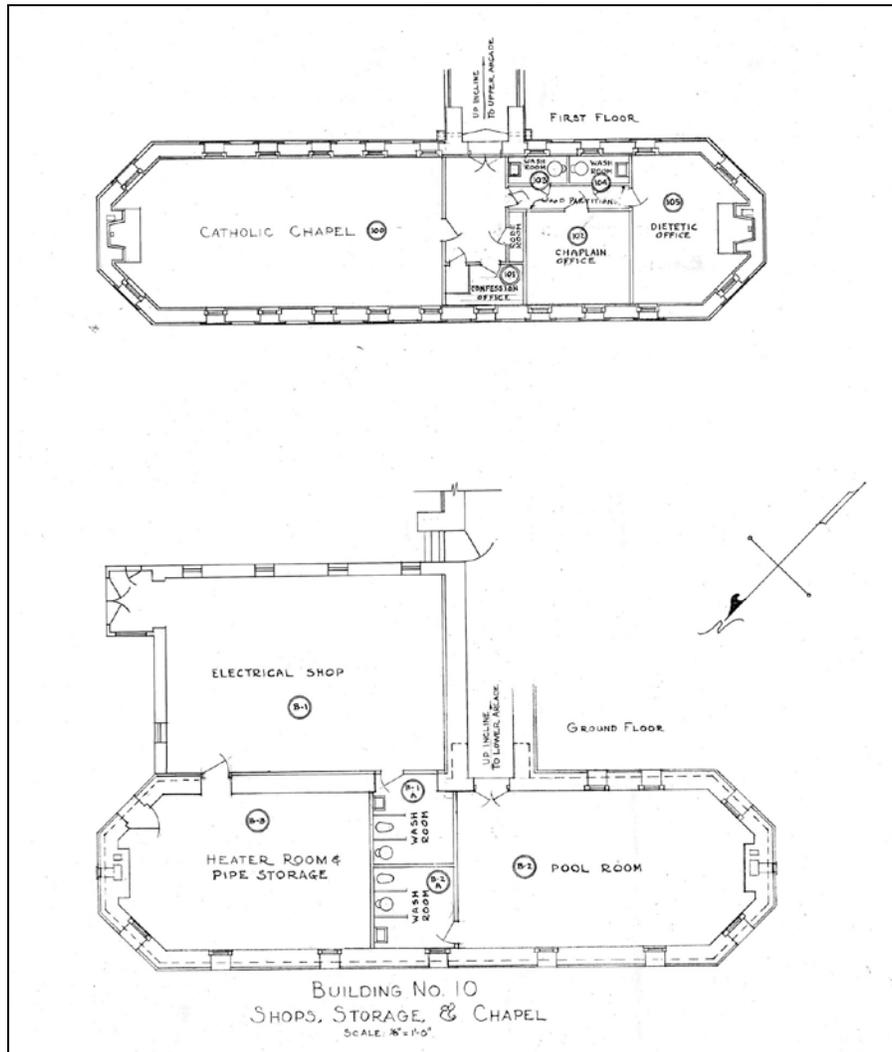


Figure 4: Detail of "Record Drawing, Buildings No. 9 & 10," (28 August 1952)  
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files



Figure 5: Interior of Catholic Chapel, c. 1955  
Note original windows have not yet been replaced with stained glass.  
Source: Battle Mountain VA Museum Collection