

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -  
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, ENGINEER'S QUARTERS  
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No.  
24)  
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building  
No. 24)  
500 North Fifth Street  
Hot Springs  
Fall River County  
South Dakota

HABS SD-24-X  
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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

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –  
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, ENGINEER'S QUARTERS  
(Hot Springs Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 24)  
(VA Black Hills Health Care System - Hot Springs Campus, Building No. 24)

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

The coordinates for Building No. 24 are 43.435373 N, -103.478275 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 1905 and 1907 as the Engineer's Quarters for the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Building No. 24 continues to be used as staff housing for the VA Black Hills Health Care System. 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. Like military installations in this period, the officer's quarters resembled fashionable suburban architecture and were assigned according to the hierarchy of rank among the leadership. The Engineer's Quarters was one of the smaller, but still well-appointed dwellings. The Sanitarium's Chief Engineer was responsible for looking after the on-site powerhouse, central boiler, and other building systems.

Description: The Engineer's Quarters is a wood frame dwelling with an upright and wing form and Late Victorian/Shingle Style decorative details (Figures 1-2). The two-story "upright" section has a hipped roof while the one-and-a-half story wing has a side gable. The junction of the two sections creates a T-shaped plan with one-story shed roof porches on both the front and rear of the wing. The porches have square column supports with decorative brackets. The rear porch is now screened in but the original columns remain intact. The walls are sheathed in vinyl siding approximating the original clapboards on the wing and lower floor of the upright; and with wood shingles on the second floor of the upright. The exterior doorways are located in the side elevation of the upright at the porches. The original wood frame windows have been recently replaced with vinyl. There are two internal rusticated sandstone chimneys.

The interior of the Engineer's Quarters includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, and pantry arranged around a stair hall on the first floor and four bedrooms and a bath on the second (Figure 3). The living room includes a brick fireplace and the dining room has a bay with high window openings to accommodate a sideboard.

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. For photographs of Building No. 24 see HABS No. SD-24-S, East Campus Residential.

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 a set of four officer's quarters in addition to other support structures such as the powerhouse and conservatory. Like military installations in this period, the NHDVS branches each had officer's quarters which resembled fashionable suburban architecture and assigned according to the hierarchy of rank among the leadership. The Governor's Quarters, for the chief administrative officer/head surgeon, was the largest and it was sited slightly away from the other houses. The other three quarters were arranged in a row along a loop road just east of the Governor's Quarters. The Engineer's Quarters was first, then a large Queen Anne-style dwelling for the Treasurer (Figure 4). The next quarters in the row was a nearly identical house to the Engineer's Quarters, assigned to the Quartermaster.

The Sanitarium officially opened in May 1907 but construction of the Engineer's Quarters and the two adjacent quarters was still in progress. By September construction of the quarters was nearly complete, as well as the conservatory and improvements to the grounds. A souvenir booklet of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium published in 1909 indicates that John S. Goodrell, a former Civil War drummer boy, was the Chief Engineer residing in this quarters. During 1910 two additional structures were added along the residential loop. A boarding house for the nurses was built facing the original quarters row along the U-shaped drive. The final single family residence in the loop was the Chaplain's Quarters (Building No. 27) placed next to the Quartermaster's Quarters (Building No. 26). The *Hot Springs Weekly Star* noted that the "[Chaplain's Quarters] will rank with the rest of the residences on the Hill and they are commodious and put up in elegant shape."<sup>1</sup> The Chaplain's Quarters was similar in scale and form to the Engineer's and Quartermaster's Quarters.

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 expansion of the Hot Springs facilities in the 1920s included additional staff housing--two duplexes (from standard plans, built 1920 and 1927) and additional nurses' quarters (1926). These buildings were

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<sup>1</sup> Battle Mountain transcribed newspaper articles, November 1910, Hot Springs Public Library.

placed around the residential loop drive. The original hospital now functioned as a 548-bed domiciliary, while the 1920s hospital was a 255-bed medical/surgical facility. The Engineer's Quarters was designated Building No. 24. It continues to serve as staff housing for the Hot Springs Campus of the Black Hills VA Health Care System.

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

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

Project

Information: Documentation of the Engineer's Quarters/Building No. 24 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 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, Front and Side Elevations, "Officer's House No. 3," (November 1905)  
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

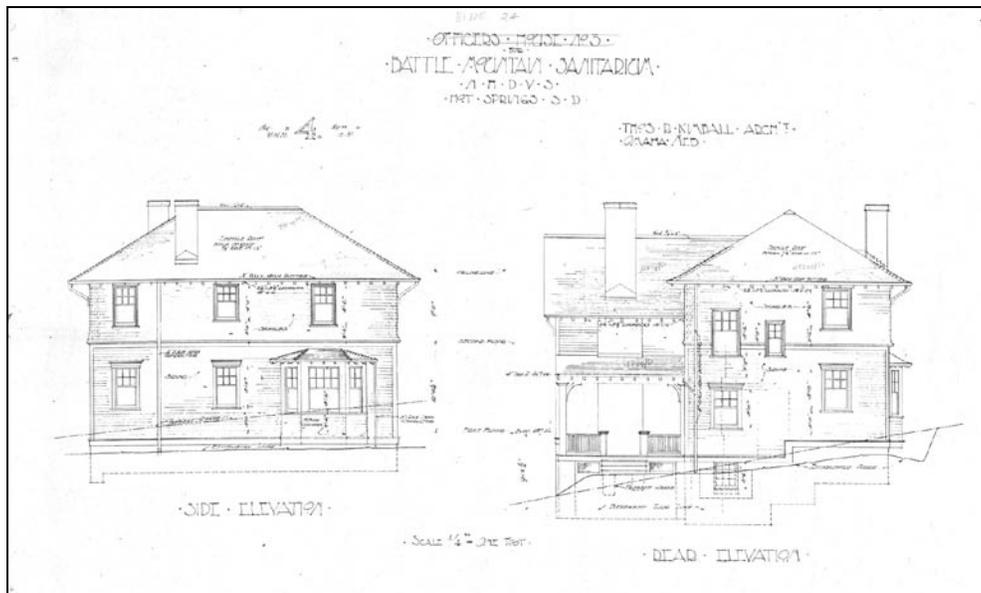


Figure 2: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Rear and Side Elevations, "Officer's House No. 3," (November 1905)  
Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

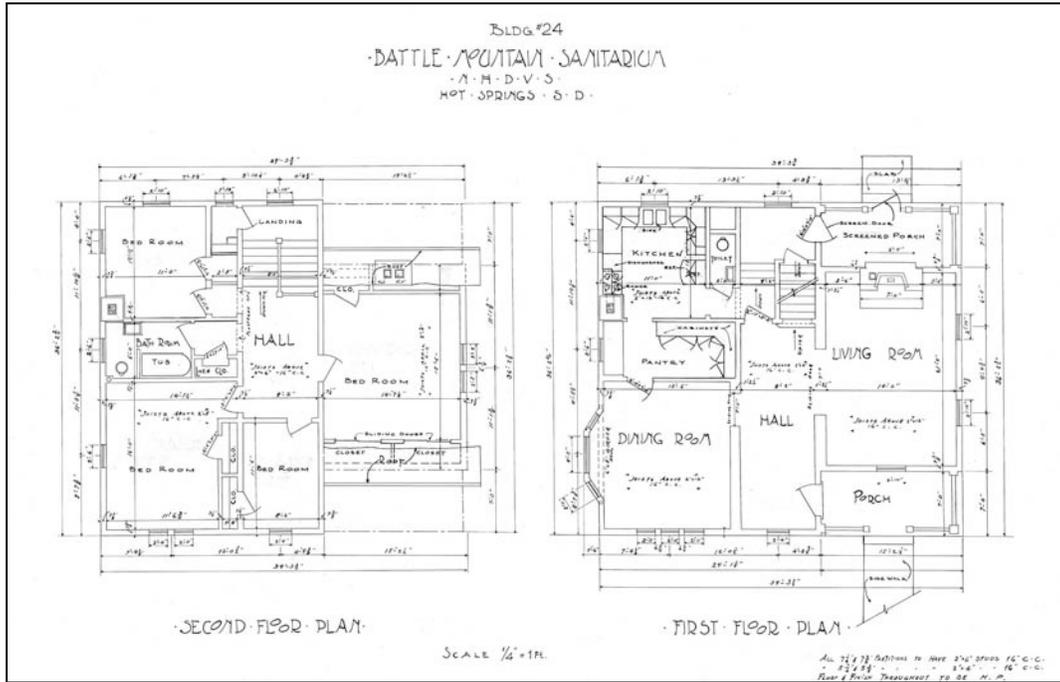


Figure 3: Record Drawings Copying Original Floor Plans, Building No. 24 (12 February 1953)  
 Source: Hot Springs Campus Drawing Files

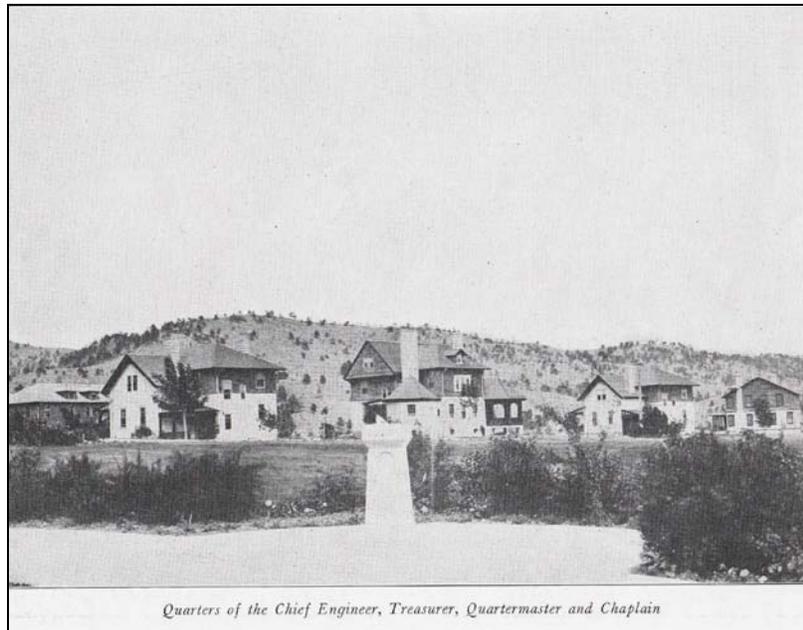


Figure 4: Officer's Quarters from Rear (Engineer's Quarters on left), c. 1919  
 Source: *Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*