## 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Battle Mountain Sanitarium, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Other Name/Site Number: Department of Veterans Affairs Hot Springs Medical Center, Black Hills Medical and Health Care Center

Designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on June 17, 2011

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 500 North 5th Street Not for publication:

City/Town: Hot Springs Vicinity:

State: South Dakota County: Fall River Code: 047 Zip Code: 57747

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property |
|---|---|
| Private: | Building(s): |
| Public-Local: X | District: X |
| Public-State: | Site: |
| Public-Federal: | Structure: |
| Tribal Lands: | Object: |

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|---|
| buildings | 32 | buildings | 14 |
| sites | 2 | sites | 0 |
| structures | 4 | structures | 3 |
| objects | 2 | objects | 0 |
| Total | 40 | Total | 17 |

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 38

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

## 4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

## 5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ Entered in the National Register
___ Determined eligible for the National Register
___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
___ Removed from the National Register
___ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

## 6. FUNCTION OR USE

| | |
|---|---|
| Historic: Health care | Sub: Hospital |
| Domestic | Institutional housing |
| Current: Health care | Sub: Hospital |
| Domestic | Institutional housing |

## 7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

MATERIALS:
Foundation: Stone (sandstone), Concrete
Walls: Stone (sandstone), Wood (weatherboard, shingle)
Roof: Clay tile, Asphalt
Other:

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

## Summary

Established in 1902 and opened in 1907, Battle Mountain Sanitarium is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as a property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our past; and NHL Theme IV, shaping the political landscape: governmental institutions, under the area of health/medicine. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is an outstanding representation of the development of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), the first national system to provide benefits to volunteer soldiers. The NHDVS was a precursor to the modern system of veterans' benefits and, as such, it was a precursor to the modern system administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Battle Mountain Sanitarium was the only NHDVS branch to be established as an independent medical facility rather than a residential institution. Its establishment represented the Board of Managers' acknowledgement of the need for specialized medical care for veterans. The waters from mineral springs situated nearby were used to treat musculoskeletal conditions while the high, dry atmosphere was believed to ease respiratory ills. The property also represents the goals of the NHDVS Board of Managers to create attractive, well-designed institutions that would provide a dignified home for disabled veterans. The primary complex features a prominent administration center connected to an innovative hospital complex that placed wards in rectangular spokes. The picturesque road layout and landscaping reflect the era's appreciation for naturalistic settings.

The former Battle Mountain Sanitarium, opened on approximately 101 acres in 1907, is located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Hot Springs is a trade center and former turn-of-the-century mineral water resort in the southwestern corner of the state and at the southern end of the Black Hills. Now reduced in size, the approximately 68-acre property occupies a bluff overlooking the canyon of Fall River and the Hot Springs resort district to the southwest. The resort district is characterized by Richardsonian Romanesque buildings constructed of locally quarried Fall River County pink sandstone.[1] The opposite bluff holds imposing late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residences built by prominent Hot Springs residents. On the north and west, the property is bounded by red-hued bluffs. Battle Mountain, the wooded elevation for which the facility was named, rises to the east. The particularly picturesque setting of the facility frames its unique architecture. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is now a unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Medical and Health Care Center and provides in-patient and out-patient treatment, substance abuse programs, and transitional housing. This NHL nomination excludes roughly 15 acres from the greater 68-acre property.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium exhibits a high degree of integrity and is an outstanding example of facilities developed by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). In addition, Battle Mountain Sanitarium, the only NHDVS branch developed solely as a medical facility, represents the role of the NHDVS in the development of the modern system of medical benefits for veterans. Thirty-one of the forty-five buildings on the campus are contributing resources; the noncontributing buildings are modified utilitarian buildings or buildings constructed after the period of significance (1902–1930). The majority of the original buildings are present and many of them continue to be used for their original purposes. Non-extant buildings were a small number of auxiliary buildings, and tuberculosis wards that were demolished and replaced by the 1926 hospital. Post-1930 construction is sited away from the historic core or is sympathetic to existing buildings, and most renovations and additions to historic buildings have respected original materials and designs. Some of the interiors of the primary buildings have been remodeled to serve modern uses; however, much remains intact. This includes the retention of the open wards in Buildings 3 through 8, along with their entry halls and ramps; the wall surfaces remain in the former chapels (Buildings 9 and 10); and although the shelving has been

[1] David L. Batie, "St. Cecilia's Cathedral and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Spanish Revival Architecture and the Great Plains," unpublished manuscript, Black Hills Medical and Health Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

removed in the library (Building 11), shelving and books remain in the upper arcade. Most of the residence buildings remain intact, although the kitchens were remodeled in the early 1980s with oak cabinets and laminate countertops. In addition to buildings, there are two sites, three structures, and two objects that are contributing. These include the power plant, the bandstand, the oil shed, the cemetery gates, the root cellar, the flagpole, and the landscape/road system. The road system is essentially unchanged from its original design. Curving roads encircle the original hospital complex and the residential areas; physical plant buildings and the conservatory are located in a hollow to the northeast of the main complex. The cemetery east of the campus is situated on a sloping site largely beyond views from the buildings.

Thomas Rogers Kimball, an architect from Omaha, Nebraska, designed the original buildings of Battle Mountain Sanitarium. He used a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival-inspired style that also incorporated elements of the Romanesque Revival/Richardsonian Romanesque architecture so visible in the town of Hot Springs. This unusual combination, as well as the use of local sandstone, created a particularly attractive facility in a striking location. Mission style features include smooth wall surfaces, shaped parapets, arched entry and window openings, and low, broad roofs covered with clay tiles. The use of this style was a departure in local architecture. Local stonemasons who had fashioned the area's resort and business buildings as well as a territorial home for soldiers, employed the Romanesque Revival/Richardson Romanesque style. They developed structures that featured rough sandstone, massive walls, bands of arched, deeply recessed windows, and arched entries. Elements of the Romanesque styles are seen on many of the Battle Mountain buildings. Kimball's design both reflected the architecture of Hot Springs and influenced it. In the decades following the construction of Battle Mountain Sanitarium, examples of Mission-inspired architecture, most particularly the 1932 post office building, were constructed in Hot Springs.[2]

Battle Mountain Sanitarium's landscape was designed by George E. Kessler of Kansas City, Missouri. The landscape complements Kimball's design with its flowing road system that linked the major hospital complex with the housing and support facilities. The hospital complex is sited at the highest point of the bluff; more specifically, the highest point appears to be the central part of the courtyard, from which the grounds slope away. Located in a hollow north of the hospital complex, views of the support buildings are visually reduced from the hospital complex. The Battle Mountain Sanitarium grounds were not as extensive or as elaborate as the designed landscapes at other branches. Members were not expected to stay at Battle Mountain for long periods, and so the need for extensive sidewalks, plantings, and other features designed to entertain and refresh the members may not have been considered necessary. There was an orchard area east of the hospital buildings, which is no longer within the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) boundary. The fruit trees are now gone. When it was first built, very little vegetation screened the hospital from the community below; today mature vegetation blocks many views to the hospital from the south.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium is an outstanding example of the branches developed by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. It exhibits a high degree of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As the oldest facility in the VA medical system established solely to provide medical care, the property is also highly symbolic of the development of medical benefits for veterans. The following description of resources is organized in general by building numbers assigned by the Veterans Administration/VA. The term "building" as used in the VA numbering system will continue to be used as an identifying title for resources that are identified as structures or objects for the purposes of this nomination. It should be noted that buildings listed as noncontributing for NHL designation may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or for determination of eligibility.

[2] Suzanne Julin, "Hot Springs Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (draft), October 10, 2005, Section 7, 3–4, 18.

## CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

**Building 1 Administration/Hospital Building 1907 Contributing**

This building is the focal point of Kimball's hospital design. The complex features a symmetrical pavilion plan designed around a 160' diameter inner courtyard. The circular design consists of a central administrative section and six radiating wards all accessed by a circular arcade. The administration/hospital building faces southwest towards the Hot Springs commercial district. It is built of pitch-faced sandstone laid in a rough cut random pattern and is three and one-half stories tall with a full daylight basement. Roof material is tile with decorative brackets. Rafter tails are at the eaves. Windows are generally six-over-six, set within openings trimmed with ashlar quoins. An ashlar string course above the windows creates a continuous window lintel for the first- and second-floor windows. The upper story windows have semicircular arches.

The main mass of the building is square with a truncated hipped roof. The central, circular atrium pierces the main massing to rise another story and is capped by a domed roof. The dome features Moorish/Byzantine decorative elements and has a metal finial. There are three-story, hipped roof wings on the northwest and southeast sides. The building faces southwest toward the town of Hot Springs, and has a one-story, full-width porch above the full daylight basement. The porch has six semi-circular arched openings with screens, and a pent roof. The openings are divided by a central porte-cochere with battered columns that features arched openings on the southwest, northeast, and southeast, allowing cars to pass through. A curved parapet carrying a stylized cross tops the porte-cochere and red clay tiles cover the roof. The main massing of the third story, southwest façade, has further elaboration with corner "towers" flanking a central porch. The towers have hipped roofs and a semi-circular arched opening within which is a set of recessed, narrow six-over-six windows. These windows have semicircular arches and are divided by a stone column. The porch, now enclosed with a clay tile shed roof and modern glass windows in wood frames, was once open. The scuppers directing water runoff from the porch floor can be seen above the second-story windows.

The entrance bay is accessed under the porte-cochere. The original wooden double door to the vestibule is topped by a half-round transom with segmented glazing. The vestibule leads into an octagonal atrium which is open to the dome. Five arched entries open from the atrium; four retain original doors and transoms. Metal balconies which repeat the cross design surround the atrium on two levels. Plexiglas shields have been added on these levels for safety purposes. To the rear, the building opens to an arcade. The wide arcade has tall casement windows with arched transoms on each side. The wood frames of the windows have been replaced with dark brown metal, but the original glazing has been retained. Rather than steps, areas of floors in both the arcade and the ward units were built on an incline to facilitate moving patients in wheelchairs and transporting other medical equipment. The 1:6 grade of the ramps is steeper than that deemed safe for modern purposes, but the use of ramps indicates an innovation in hospital care and service. A fountain holding a sandstone eagle that was originally located in the center courtyard has been removed. Kimball's design for the administration/hospital building included two libraries, a pathological laboratory, an operating room, and offices.[3] The medical libraries were moved out of the building in 1926 to the new hospital annex (Building 12). It continues today to serve as office space and the courtyard remains available to staff and patients for rest and relaxation.

**Building 2 Service Building/Mess Hall 1907 Contributing**

Building 2, which holds the original kitchen, mess hall, and food storage area, is centered between Buildings 9 and 10. Like the administration building, Building 2 is constructed of pitch-faced sandstone laid in a rough cut random pattern. It has a hipped roof covered in clay tiles, and six-over-six windows similar to those on

[3] Thomas Kimball, "Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, SD," Series Two Renderings, Tomas Rogers Kimball 1862–1934 Collection, RG3607, Nebraska Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Building 1. Building 2 is designed in two sections: a three-story section with an open porch on the northeast side and a two-story section immediately to the northeast that also has a hipped roof but is pierced by a central hipped dormer. This second, lower section has the typical windows on the northwest and southwest sides, sharing continuous lintels and sills. Three-story hexagonal towers on the southeast and northwest ends of Building 2 hold spiral staircases. There is a large stone interior chimney that was probably originally located on an exterior wall on an open porch. The porch has been infilled. A picket fence with stone columns extends northwest and southeast, enclosing spaces between Building 2 and Buildings 9 and 10. The mess hall ceiling has been lowered, but the space contains original woodwork and windows. The kitchen's original ceiling is still in place and the early exhaust fan is still present. A dividing wall has been erected to create a cooking classroom. Building 2 also originally served as quartermaster and commissary rooms. Both the kitchen and dining room are still used for their original purposes. The top floor of Building 2, originally used to house servants, has been renovated for classrooms and offices, and an elevator has been added.

**Building 3 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 3 is one of six ward buildings (Buildings 3–8) which radiate out from the central court of the hospital complex. The wards are oriented to include a sheltered porch on one side, and full-sun exposure on the other. They are nearly identical, although there are some variations in details and modifications. The wards are two stories tall with full daylight basements. The walls are pitch-faced sandstone laid in a rough-cut random pattern. Most of the window openings have ashlar quoins and contain the typical six-over-six windows. On the first floor the windows have three light transoms, and on the second floor the transoms are semicircular arch windows. A large water table of ashlar stone also serves as the window lintel for the basement windows. Hipped roofs are covered in clay tiles and feature exposed rafter tails; chimneys rise from the wing ends. Sandstone piers support the prominent porches. One full-width porch is located on the long side of each ward's wall, generally these face north. The porches wrap around the short end of each ward in a five-sided shape and carry polygonal/pavilion-shaped roofs. Portions of areas between the piers have been infilled on most of the wards. The first levels of the porches feature high, wide openings between posts and decorative braces at the corners create an arched effect. On the top level, each section carries four square openings covered by screens. The three-sided ends feature the same arrangement. Southernmost elevations carry no porches and reveal two bays and sixteen windows, with arched windows on the top level and rectangular windows on the lower levels. Main entrance doors are located in the wards' ends. Main entrance doors are located in the ward's ends, leading off the central arcade. All but two wards (Buildings 3 and 4) remain open as originally designed, with access to the wards through short, central entrance halls. They retain most of the original woodwork. Some contain portable cubicles for use as office space, although a number of the wards continue to be used for housing patients in treatment programs.

Building 3 follows this basic pattern. A one-story, hipped-roof porte cochere is on the southern end. The long porch is placed on the east side, with the short wraparound end facing south. The piers have not been infilled. A birdhouse is installed at the top of the chimney. Building 3 is used for domiciliary and administrative functions. As of 2010, the open ward in this building was being partitioned off for office space and private patient space.

**Building 4 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 4 is the same general design as Building 3 but has no entrance bay. The porch is on the northeast side. Building 4 is presently used as a domiciliary for female patients and will be converted for use by Gulf War veterans by 2011. Work will include installing an elevator and remodeling three floors, including partitioning the ward area for office space and patient space.

**Building 5 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 5 is the same general design as Buildings 3 and 4. The porch is on the north-facing side. A roof covered in red tile and supported by metal poles extends over the entrance to the street. Portions of the piers have been infilled. A two-story addition on the south-facing side is built of pitch-faced stones set in a rough-cut random rubble pattern. The stones are similar in color to those used in the original building. The addition carries a pent roof. Windows on each floor of the addition are six-over-six, with ashlar quoins and a semicircular arch. To the southwest is a covered walkway consisting of a gabled roof on pole supports. This was installed in 1988, when smoking was banned inside the building. Building 5 is used as a domiciliary and canteen.

**Building 6 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 6 follows the general design of the other wards. Its porch is located on the northeast side, and portions between the piers are infilled. A small one-story stucco addition on the northeast corner, constructed about 1978, has a door opening to a loading dock area but no windows. The addition is sympathetic to the original design, carrying sandstone decorative elements at the corners and a hipped roof covered in tiles. Building 6 is used as a domiciliary and warehouse.

**Building 7 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 7 also follows the design of the other ward buildings. Its porch is located on the northeast side. Portions between the piers have been infilled. A covered walkway similar to that on Building 5 leads to a north-facing door and to a west-facing door. Building 7 is used as a domiciliary and recreation building.

**Building 8 Hospital Ward 1907 Contributing**

Building 8 follows the design of the other ward wings. The long porch is on the north side of the building. Areas between the piers are not filled in. Building 8 is used as a domiciliary and recreation building.

**Building 9 Plunge Bath 1907 Contributing**

Two two-story buildings—Buildings 9 and 10—are located on the northeast side of the complex on each side of Building 2. They are constructed of the same pitch-faced stone as the administration building and wards. They feature polygonal end walls and hipped roofs with windows located near the eaves. Narrow rectangular windows are on the sides. An ashlar stone belt course is located at the first-floor window level. Both buildings were converted to chapels in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Building 9 held two plunge baths for therapeutic bathing in the mineral waters. The plunges were separated by dressing rooms. Building 9 is now the Protestant chapel, but original plunge bath steps and tile work remain in the basement. The original wood frame, double-hung windows were replaced with leaded stain glass windows in 1957. The walls remain intact on both levels.

**Building 10 Billiard Hall/Library 1907 Contributing**

Building 10 is nearly identical to Building 9. Kimball's plan for the building identified the building's primary use as a billiard hall, although the basement uses noted in pencil on the drawing were for laundry and amusement. By 1919 it held a chapel as well.[4] A small brick one-story, flat-roofed extension on the southeast side of Building 10 holds an emergency generator. The extension, built in the late 1950s or early 1960s, covers

[4] Kimball rendering; "National Sanitarium is Now Completed and Ready for Occupation," newspaper unknown, April 25, 1907, photocopy on file at Black Hills Medical and Health Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota; *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch of National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, n.p. [1919], unnumbered pg. 7 (hereafter cited as *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS*).

the rectangular windows on the first floor of that side. Building 10 is now the Catholic chapel. The original wood frame, double-hung windows were replaced with leaded stain glass windows in 1957. The walls remain intact on both levels.

**Building 11 Library/Amusement Hall 1914–1915 Contributing**

This building was constructed as an addition to the original complex to provide a multi-use space for a chapel, assembly hall, a billiard and card room, barber shop, library, and post store. The first floor was completed in 1914 and the auditorium space above finished in 1915.[5] The two-story building is an elongated octagonal located between Buildings 7 and 8. Like the administration and hospital wards, the library is built of pitch-faced sandstone laid in a rough-cut random pattern. The entry door faces northwest and is sheltered by a pent roof canopy. Windows are six-over-six, with second-floor windows matching those on the first floor of the wards. Building 11 has two entry doors, rectangular windows with transoms, and a fire escape on the northwest. The building is connected to the central arcade by a two-story gabled frame section with six-over-six windows. An elevator has been installed. The interior retains the original small stage with its lighting system and orchestra pit. Building 11 is used as a library and museum. The library was converted into a VISN call center in spring 2010. The walls remain intact but all shelving has been removed on the first floor. Part of the shelving and books are now in the upper arcade. Since 1996, the VA museum has occupied the north half of the building.

**Building 12 Hospital Annex 1926, 1937 Contributing**

This large hospital complex consists of the original structure built by the Veterans Bureau in 1926, a major addition built in 1937, and smaller additions built in the 1950s, 1980s, and 1990s. The original sandstone building replaced a barracks for tubercular patients on this location. The main façade faces northwest and presents eight bays that vary in height and roof form, combining elements of Mission, Tudor Revival, and Romanesque Revival design. Arched and rectangular windows, generally six-over-six, accentuated with voussoirs appear in each bay. The majority of roofing is red tile. From east to west on the south side, the bay heights and roof forms as follows: First is a two-story hipped roof bay with hipped roof dormers and a Tudor style wall dormer with "half timbering." Adjacent is a three-story hipped roof bay with Tudor "half timbering" in the upper story and large wall dormer. Centrally placed is a four-story Mission Style bay oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. It has a pyramidal hipped roof. West of this is a three-story bay with shallow parapets; then a two-story, gabled bay with gabled dormers and finally a two-story gable-end bay with a gable-covered entrance. Above the two three-story bays are additions dating to 1937 that consist of stucco over concrete. There is a small battlemented tower that rises behind (southeast) of the four-story pyramidal roof bay. A modern metal and glass door is inset in the original entry under the inscription "Veterans Bureau 1926." The central bay of its southwest facing façade holds an elevator tower with sandstone and half-timbering accents, stylistic elements that tie the addition to the original building. On the north side, the grade drops away, allowing for a full-daylight basement. Later additions to the hospital (see Building 65; Building 62, under Structures) are nearly invisible from the campus core. The interior of the original hospital building has been completely renovated to provide modern patient care.

**Building 13 Refrigeration Plant 1907 Contributing**

This one-story, rectangular, quarry-faced sandstone building with a parapet on gable roof is one of the original Kimball-designed group. Twelve-light rectangular windows line the south side, and three identical windows are

[5] Kimball rendering; *Hot Springs Star*, July 11, 1913, (abstracts) typed manuscript at Black Hills Medical and Health Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota; *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS,* unnumbered pg. 11.

on the west. The northern façade contains a nine-light entry door. A small stucco addition with gabled roof extends at the rear. The plant has been converted to a plumbing shop.

**Building 14 Engineering Building 1907 Contributing**

Designed as part of the original Battle Mountain Sanitarium complex, this building held the Engineering Department as well as the offices of the Home Band. The simple two-story Colonial Revival building faces the southwest and has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. It is sided in asbestos and has a full-width, one-story porch with square columns. Two entry doors on the first floor are spaced between six-over-six rectangular windows, and a row of similar windows line the second level. Another entry door is located on the rear. The Engineering Department continues to maintain its offices in this building.

**Building 16 Conservatory 1907 Contributing**

The Battle Mountain Sanitarium conservatory was designed to grow flowers and seedlings for garden vegetables used by the facility. The wood and glass structure faces south. The conservatory once held wings on each side; they have been removed. A sandstone foundation supports the building and its main façade has a centrally located door with a semi-circular, multi-light transom. The door is sheltered by a semi-circular canopy supported by consoles. On each side of the door are two bays with rectangular panes of glass. The top tier of panes is awning windows. They can be opened by the original pulley system, which remains intact. The eastern and western sides also feature multiple glass panes; angled wood frames rise from each side and meet at the top of each wall, indicating the placement of the former wings. The hipped roof holds retractable metal and glass panels. A centered square cupola with three windows and a hipped roof carries a finial. On the rear, north-facing façade, a centered sandstone extension has square six-pane windows and a stepped parapet at its end. The conservatory was vacated in 2006.

**Building 17 Stable/Carriage House 1907 Contributing**

One of the original group of Thomas Rogers Kimball buildings, the stable and carriage house was designed in a V-plan and features a north-facing entrance bay of pitch-faced sandstone laid in the typical rough-cut random pattern. The wide, recessed entry, created within a segmental arched opening, is under a shaped and stepped parapet. The original entry has been partially bricked-in and holds a new door. Two arched windows with sandstone voussoirs are centered above the entry. Wood frame wings on each side of the entry bay rest on sandstone foundations and angle to the southeast and northwest. They have hipped roofs covered in asphalt shingles. The wood walls, sided in yellow painted wood shingles, are flared at the base to meet the sandstone foundation. The easternmost wing holds five nine-over-nine rectangular windows; its end has two large vinyl garage doors and its west side features three rectangular windows. The westernmost wing has nine small six-light windows on its north-facing side. Its end is sandstone on the first level with centered double-wooden entry doors. A window on the second level holds a vent. The west side of this wing carries a row of twelve-over-twelve double hung windows and an entry door. The rear of the entry bay has a centered garage door under one arched window. Building 17 has been converted over to more modern work areas. All stable partitions were removed in the 1930s.

**Building 18 Power/Boiler Plant 1907 Contributing**

The power/boiler plant, part of the complex designed by Thomas Rogers Kimball, continues to be used to provide power to the facility. The sandstone plant was built with a wide, arched, recessed entry on the east-facing façade. Wall construction is the home's typical pitch-faced stone laid in rough-cut random rubble courses. The entry, highlighted by a keystone, has been bricked-in and three modern windows inset. To the north of the entry is a narrow window with stone voussoirs; to the south is the trace of a former window

opening, now bricked-in. Concrete stairs lead to a lower level. On the north side, eight arched recessed window openings have been partially filled-in with brick around modern windows. The south side has evidence of a ground-level opening now filled-in with brick and stone. A window and doorway are bricked-in. The rear, west-facing section of the boiler plant is an extension added in about 1929. Built of sandstone, it is on a slope and reveals two levels. A large entryway has metal and vinyl doors; a small entry door appears on the north and a small concrete block utility building extends between the two doors. The interior has been remodeled but retains the original two-level stone walls and two arched doorways between sections. A 600′ tunnel originally provided steam heat and power to the complex. Water came from Mammoth Spring.[6] A new steam tunnel, added to the building in 1985, leads from the plant to the Administration/Hospital complex and is painted to blend with the sandstone buildings.

**Building 20 Nurses Quarters 1910 Contributing**

This building, Neoclassical/Classical Revival in design, was originally built as nurses' quarters and later served as a residence for single male employees of Battle Mountain Sanitarium. The rectangular two-story frame building on a sandstone foundation is sided in wood shingles. The main façade faces southwest. A handicap access ramp is on the west end. A centered one-story porch with square columns and a pent roof shelters the wooden entry door framed by rectangular one-over-one windows; four symmetrically placed one-over-one rectangular windows are on the second floor. Small entrance porches appear at each side. The hipped roof, covered in asphalt shingles, has front-gabled dormers and broad eaves with exposed rafters. A single small hipped dormer is located on the southeast and northwest ends. The building was converted to three-bedroom apartments for employees in 1955 and later remodeled for its current use as a day care center under an Enhanced-Use Lease. The attic retains many small bedrooms, but they are no longer accessible.

**Building 21 Nurses Quarters 1926 Contributing**

Originally built as quarters for nurses working at Battle Mountain Sanitarium after World War I, this two-story Neoclassical/Classical Revival residence was converted to staff apartments in 1956. The wood frame building is on a sandstone foundation and is sided in shingles; its main façade faces southwest. A centered bay holds a portico-style porch with four square columns supporting a flat roof. A double door is placed between two sets of rectangular windows. The upper level of the bay presents a centered window with smaller windows to each side. Symmetrically placed six-over-six windows appear to the sides of the bay on each floor. Each end holds a fire escape. In the rear, an entrance in the central bay features concrete steps on sandstone piers and a pent roof with decorative braces and rafter tails. Multiple six-over-six windows appear to each side of the bay. The hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles. A single, small gabled dormer is located on the southeast and northwest ends. The building continues to provide staff housing.

**Building 23 Governor's Quarters 1907 Contributing**

Kimball designed this wood frame house, which is the largest single-family residence on the grounds and is located on a prominent site overlooking the town of Hot Springs. It was built as a home for Battle Mountain Sanitarium governors, who were also the chief surgeons in the early years of the facility's existence.

The two-and-one-half story house exhibits typical Colonial Revival massing with Tudor Revival detailing. The present color scheme is more appropriate to Colonial Revival, and obscures some of the Tudor detail. The house has 2600 square feet on each floor and a basement. It is sided in clapboard siding with corner boards on the first floor, and shingles on the second. The house has a hipped roof aligned on a northeast-southwest axis. A large cross gable is located in the center of the northwest (front) side with 'half timbering" in the gable end, infilled

[6] Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS, unnumbered pg. 9.

with fish scale shingles. Another, smaller hipped-roof cross gable is on the southeast (rear) side. The building sits on a sandstone foundation that includes a basement. The windows are one-over-one. The northwest wall has a full-width, one-story porch with a pent roof that shelters a centrally placed door and flanking windows. The porch columns are octagonal. One rectangular window is centered above the porch and a centered dormer appears in the cross-gabled roof. On the southwest side, a central entrance bay is covered with a pent roof supported by double pairs of decorative knee braces. There are two large sandstone exterior chimneys on this side, flanking the cross gable. The gable features fish scale shingles accented by decorative vertical boards. The southeast wall has a one-story hipped roof sun porch and an entrance door under a hipped roof. One-over-one double hung windows appear on the first and second floors and in the hipped roof dormer. On the northeast the house holds a central two-story recessed porch. One-over-one windows appear in the sections on each side of the porch.

The interior of the governor's quarters is largely intact and retains original woodwork, pocket doors, French doors, stairway, servants' stairway, fireplace, and an attic space referred to as the ballroom. A modern kitchen has been installed. The house is used as the director's residence.

**Building 23/3 Garage 1925 Contributing**

This one car, one-story, front-gabled, wood frame garage built to the rear of the governor's quarters has a modern vinyl garage door but retains its original massing and simple design.

**Building 24 Chief Engineer's Quarters 1907 Contributing**

This two-story frame residence was designed by Thomas Rogers Kimball and closely resembles Building 26. It has a Colonial Revival/Tudor mix of styles and siding materials; a wood string course divides brown shingles on the upper level from clapboard siding on the lower level. The house is on a sandstone foundation and carries a hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles. An end-gabled extension to the west features a porch with pent roof supported by square columns and decorative braces; a matching porch entrance is on the rear. Six-over-six double hung windows appear on the façade and side walls; the rear carries an asymmetrical arrangement of windows. The southernmost wall has a bay window and circular sandstone window wells at the foundation. An interior sandstone chimney is on the southwest side. The building continues to be used as a staff residence and is largely intact, although the kitchen was remodeled in the early 1980s.

**Building 25 Treasurer's Quarters 1907 Contributing**

Kimball designed this two-story Colonial Revival duplex residence as part of the original Battle Mountain Sanitarium employees' housing complex. The frame building is in a T-plan with a one-story, five-sided extension to the northwest, and a multi-sided extension to the southeast. One entrance is centrally placed on the northeast side, and another entrance is off-center on the southeast side with a frame, one-story porch with pent roof. The siding is clapboard on the bottom with corner boards, and shingle on the second floor. A wood string belt course divides the materials. The house is gabled with asphalt shingles; the gable ends have overhangs and pairs of ornamental brackets. The one-story addition on the southeast has a polygonal roof. An interior sandstone chimney is on the southwest side. The duplex continues to be used as staff residences and is largely intact.

**Building 26 Quartermaster's Quarters 1907 Contributing**

This two-story frame house was one of the original staff residences erected at Battle Mountain Sanitarium and closely resembles Building 24 in its Colonial Revival/Tudor mix of styles; a wood string course divides yellow shingles on the upper level and clapboard siding on the lower level. The house carries a two-story, end-gabled

extension to the northwest. The porch on the extension has a pent roof with decorative corner braces; another porch entrance is to the rear. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Six-over-six double hung windows in asymmetrical arrangement appear on the front and rear; the southeast side has a bay window and two semicircular sandstone window wells at the foundation. An interior sandstone chimney is on the southwest side. The building continues to be used as a staff residence and is largely intact, although the kitchen was remodeled in the early 1980s.

**Building 27 Chaplain's Quarters 1913 Contributing**

This two-story, Neoclassical/Classical Revival frame house rests on a sandstone foundation. A wood string course divides shingles on the upper level and clapboard siding on the lower level. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The house features a full-width porch with pent roof on square columns on its northeast facing, main façade. Under the porch roof, a door between two narrow rectangular windows is centered in an entry bay. Single rectangular one-over-one windows are on each side of the entry. On the second level, a pair of rectangular one-over-one windows is on the west, and a single window is on the east. An exterior sandstone fireplace chimney is on the northwest side and a three-sided bay window appears on the southeast side. The rear of the house holds a small screened porch. The building continues to be used as a staff residence and is largely intact, although the kitchen was remodeled in the early 1980s.

**Building 28 Duplex Quarters ca. 1927 Contributing**

A sandstone foundation supports this two-story Neoclassical/Classical Revival frame duplex, constructed when the completion of the 1926 Veterans Bureau Hospital required additional staff. The clapboard-sided duplex faces north; shallow steps with sandstone piers lead to a full-width front porch. The pent roof of the porch is supported by square columns and highlighted by a pediment. The entry doors and surrounding windows are divided by a partition that extends to the porch ceiling. The second level holds paired, centered four-over-four double hung windows with two six-over-six windows on each side. The rear has two entry doors and two sets of windows in varied sizes. The truncated hip roof with broad eaves is covered with asphalt shingles and features exposed rafter tails. The building continues to be used as a staff residence.

**Building 29 Duplex Quarters ca. 1920 Contributing**

This two-story frame, Neoclassical/Classical Revival duplex is sided in wood shingles on the second level and clapboard on the first level. The duplex faces north. A handicap ramp leads to the full-width porch with a pent roof supported by square columns and featuring a centered portico. Two entry doors are separated by a divider with square columns at each end. On each side of the door, eight-over-eight double-hung windows between narrow four-over-four windows appear. On the second floor, a pair of narrow four-over-four windows are centered above the porch's portico entrance; two six-over-six windows appear to each side. On the rear, cement steps on each end lead to entry doors. Two sets of double windows are between the doors. On the second level, six-paned casement windows appear on each end with two four-over-four windows in the center section. The truncated hip roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The residence is currently used for transitional rehabilitation housing.

**Building 30 Fire Station/Security Building ca. 1930 Contributing**

This former fire station is a one-story stucco building with a projecting entrance bay and a garage door to the rear. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. If future research determines a later construction date for the building, it will at that point be recategorized as noncontributing.

**Building 42 Automobile Garage 1925 Contributing**

This front-gabled, one-car garage exhibits Craftsman detailing in its exposed rafter tails at the roofline. A two-car carport roof extends to the southeast.

**Building 47 Automobile Garage ca. 1926 Contributing**

This one-car board and batten garage with front-gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles has modern doors but retains its original massing and overall design.

**Building 50 Automobile Garage ca. 1930 Contributing**

This three-car garage carries a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. If future research determines a later construction date for the building, it will at that point be recategorized as noncontributing.

**Building 57 Oil Shed ca. 1928 Contributing**

This small sandstone structure built to house an oil shed, features crenellation at the roofline, indicating an effort to match architectural designs common in Hot Springs. The shed has a door on the south side. Although assigned a building number by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the oil shed is considered a structure for purposes of this nomination.

**CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

**Structure 19 Bandstand 1909 Contributing**

The bandstand was built to accommodate performances by Battle Mountain Sanitarium's resident band. The octagonal structure is on a sandstone foundation. Eight sandstone piers are connected by rails with turned posts. Unusually shaped, six-sided columns support the roof, which is covered in asphalt shingle. Electrical fixtures have been installed in the ceiling. The bandstand provides a view across the town of Hot Springs and the Fall River Valley to the bluffs on the opposite side.

**Structure 35 Root Cellar 1914 Contributing**

An arched entrance in a concrete wall with a modern door leads into the former hillside root cellar, now used for storage of hazardous waste. The wall extends slightly above the hillside; half-height slanted reinforcing sections appear on each side.

**(No Number) Cemetery Entrance Walls ca. 1920 Contributing**

The unnumbered stone rubble construction walls flank the entrance road to the cemetery. Each wall features a tall battered pier next to the road, from which the walls taper down to a shorter pier, and then continue several feet as a level wall. Each pier bears a bronze plaque identifying the cemetery. One plaque depicts an eagle and the name of the cemetery, "Hot Springs National Cemetery;" the other bears the Veterans Administration seal.

**(No Number) Grand Staircase 1915 Contributing**

The Battle Mountain grand staircase leads from the head of National Avenue on the floor of Fall River Valley and the resort district of Hot Springs up to the facility grounds. It is made of pink sandstone and concrete. There are 204 steps connecting ten platforms and six rest places with seats. At the bottom are two sandstone piers inscribed "B.M.S. 1915" and topped by single light fixtures. These light fixtures originally held globe lights.

Between them, concrete steps rise to a landing flanked by two lampposts. Further up, the stairs separate and curve around an ornamental fountain, then join again at the next landing. The top of the staircase features lampposts and black iron railings on each side. The slope was planted in bluegrass. Originally the staircase contained eight five-light electroliers, and another two lamps with globe lights. Today, all of the lights have single light fixtures, and the fountain is not operational. A sandstone wall at the base of the stairs holds a Veterans Administration Center sign. The staircase has not been assigned a number.

## CONTRIBUTING SITES

**Landscape/Road System 1907 Contributing**

The original Battle Mountain landscape and road system are largely retained at the site. The original hospital, the wards, administration building, quarters, and a number of the physical plant buildings are on the bluff plateau, with the original hospital complex and the governor's quarters occupying the most prominent areas. The site commands views of distant hills to the northeast, wooded foothills to the north, and red- and buff-hued bluffs to the west. The site overlooks the town of Hot Springs in the Fall River Valley—specifically its turn of the century mineral water resort area—to the southwest. Mature vegetation now partially blocks that view. The bluff on the opposite side of the valley is thickly wooded and holds many of the grand houses of Hot Springs' boom era. The relatively small size of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium and its particularly scenic location may have eliminated the need for more elaborate landscaping. The site slopes down to the northeast at the rear of the hospital complex, visually reducing the presence of the conservatory, stable, carriage house, power plant, and root cellar, which are in the hollow at the slope's foot. The slope is covered with trees and shrubs and a row of evergreen trees extend across through a large open area in front of the conservatory; this area originally held a pond and its depression is still evident.

The staff quarters face primarily north and east, towards Battle Mountain. The yards of the duplex quarters, single quarters, and the governor's quarters are planted with trees and shrubs. The main entrances are from the south and the east. The main road runs roughly east to west along the south side of the original hospital/ administration complex (Buildings 1–11) and toward the cemetery. The road system is informal and curvilinear rather than formally rectilinear and creates two major spaces: one around the hospital complex and the second within the housing complex.

**Hot Springs National Cemetery ca. 1907 Contributing**

The 8.65 acre Hot Springs National Cemetery is located northeast of the hospital complex at the foot of Battle Mountain. The sloping site allows for a very open view to the mountains and hills to the north, but is not visible from the hospital complex. The slope's apex is at the southern end of the property. Mature trees, mostly coniferous, are arranged at the perimeter. Access to the cemetery is from the south, along the cedar-lined road, and through the stone entrance walls. The road climbs gently up the hill, and at the crest, drops north and downslope into the roughly triangular cemetery. The road branches into three routes, dividing the cemetery into two large sections, and two much smaller sections. At the northwest corner is a modern cemetery tool house. The burials are laid out in regular rows of white marble stones. Elijah F. Williams, Co. A., 1st New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, was the first man to be buried in the cemetery. His internment took place on May 4, 1907. The Hot Springs National Cemetery holds 1,484 graves, two of them civilians who reportedly died in 1918 in construction accidents on the site and whose remains were not claimed. Placed throughout the cemetery are six cast iron tables containing verse from "Bivouac of the Dead," and there is a Gettysburg Address tablet in Section 2. In 1914, a 32-foot-high obelisk monument with the inscriptions "National Home, Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Battle Mountain Sanitarium," and "In Memory of the Men Who Offered Their Lives in the Defense of

Their Country," was erected at the cemetery's highest point, and outside of the burial area. This monument is very similar to those found at the Eastern and Pacific Branches.

The cemetery is contributing per NHL Criteria Exception 5 since it derives its primary significance from its importance to the history of the NHDVS.

**CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS**

**Building 33 Flagpole 1907 Contributing**

This flagpole with sandstone and concrete base is located directly in front of the Administration Building. The base for the flagpole was laid in 1907. The Department of Veterans Affairs has designated it as Building 33, but it is considered an object for the purposes of this nomination.

**Battle Mountain Monument 1914 Contributing**

This 32-foot-high obelisk is built of pitch-faced sandstone laid in regular courses. The monument is located at the southeast corner of the cemetery at the apex of the slope that contains the burials. The inscription reads "National Home, Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Battle Mountain Sanitarium, 1914" and below, "In Memory of the Men Who Offered Their Lives in the Defense of Their Country."

**NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS**

**Building 23/2 Garage 1980 Noncontributing**

This one-story wood frame garage is to the rear of the governor's quarters. It carries a front-gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles. The garage was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 31 Auxiliary Building ca. 1932 Noncontributing**

This simple, small, one-story, stucco building has a front-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 43 Laundry 1943 Noncontributing**

The laundry was built by the Veterans Administration and the Works Progress Administration. It is a rectangular, two-story sandstone building with multiple windows and a metal canopy on metal poles over the entrance. The roof is gabled with asphalt shingles. A stucco addition extends at the rear. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 44 Automobile Garage ca. 1935 Noncontributing**

This garage was built as part of the Veterans Administration infrastructure after the facility was transferred to that agency. The one-car, stucco garage features a shaped parapet and a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles. It retains the original doors. The garage is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 45 Automobile Garage ca. 1935 Noncontributing**

This one-car, stucco garage with shaped parapet and gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles is noncontributing because it was built outside the period of significance.

**Building 53 Dietetics Building 1949 Noncontributing**

This two-story, flat-roofed, brick building on a concrete foundation is joined to the 1926 Veterans Bureau hospital by a small passageway. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 64 Utility Building 1977 Noncontributing**

This modern designed, one-story structure with hip-roof double doors, and lap siding holds high-voltage equipment. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 65 Computer Building 1985 Noncontributing**

This small one-story, flat-roofed, concrete building was built as an addition to the 1926 hospital (Building 12). The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 66 Fire/Police Station 1988 Noncontributing**

This one-story, brick building holds the fire and police station. It reflects Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Ranch stylistic elements. The fire engine garage is on the north end of the west-facing façade. Three sets of windows extend across the façade and a carport section is on the south end. The hip roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building A Physical Plant ca. 1950 Noncontributing**

Building A is a wood and metal Quonset-shaped structure with simple dormers and garage door. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building B Physical Plant ca. 1950 Noncontributing**

Building B is a Quonset-shaped structure featuring dormers on each side and entry doors at each end. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building C Physical Plant 2007 Noncontributing**

Building C is a new, one-story, metal building that has been erected on the footprint of a recently demolished, ca. 1970 Quonset hut. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 68 Incinerator ca. 1985 Noncontributing**

This large, brick, two-level incinerator with gabled roof has entrance doors on the south-facing façade. Although assigned a building number by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the incinerator is considered a structure for the purposes of this nomination. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**(No Number) Cemetery Tool House ca. 1990 Noncontributing**

The small, modern, one-story shed has a flat roof and access on the south side. It was constructed outside the period of significance.

## NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

**Structure 62 Recreation Shelter 1954 Noncontributing**

This post-and-beam type shelter behind the hospital was designed for open-air recreation and dining. Although assigned a building number by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the recreation shelter is considered a structure for purposes of this nomination. The structure is noncontributing because it was built outside the period of significance.

**Building 67 Oxygen Tank 1988 Noncontributing**

A concrete and metal fence enclosure houses an oxygen storage tank. Although assigned a building number by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the oxygen tank is considered a structure for the purposes of this nomination. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**(No Number) Storage Tanks, Vicinity of Building 18 ca. 1980 Noncontributing**

These unnumbered large metal storage tanks have surrounding concrete sidewalks with metal rails. The tanks are noncontributing because they were constructed outside the period of significance.

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

| | |
|---|---|
| Applicable National Register Criteria: | A X B__ C X D__ |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): | A__ B__ C__ D X E__ F__ G__ |
| NHL Criteria: | 1 |
| NHL Exceptions: | 5 |
| NHL Theme(s): | IV. Shaping the Political Landscape<br>2. Governmental Institutions |
| Areas of Significance: | Politics/Government; Health/Medicine; Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Social History |
| Period(s) of Significance: | 1902–1930 |
| Significant Dates: | 1902, 1907, 1926 |
| Significant Person(s): | n/a |
| Cultural Affiliation: | n/a |
| Architect/Builder: | Thomas Rogers Kimball, architect<br>George Edward Kessler, landscape architect |
| Historic Contexts: | *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Context Study* (2007) |

**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

## Summary

Battle Mountain Sanitarium is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as a property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our past; and NHL Theme IV, shaping the political landscape: governmental institutions, under the area of Health/Medicine. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is an outstanding representation of the development of a national system of medical and residential benefits for disabled veterans. The NHDVS was the first national system to provide such benefits to volunteer soldiers and, as such, is a precursor to the modern system of veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Established in 1902 and opened in 1907, Battle Mountain Sanitarium was the only NHDVS branch to be established as an independent medical facility, rather than a facility designed primarily as a residential institution. Its establishment represented the Board of Managers acknowledgement of the need for specialized medical care for veterans. Battle Mountain Sanitarium utilized the waters from nearby mineral springs to treat musculoskeletal conditions; the high, dry atmosphere eased respiratory ills. The primary complex features a prominent administration center connected to an innovative hospital complex that placed wards in rectangular spokes. The property also represents the goals of the NHDVS Board of Managers to create attractive, well-designed institutions that would provide a dignified home for disabled veterans. The picturesque road layout and landscaping reflect the era's appreciation for naturalistic settings.

A full discussion of the national significance of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) is provided in the associated document, *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers National Historic Landmark Context Study* (2007). The study establishes the history and evolution of the property type and provides a preliminary assessment of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) eligibility of the eleven NHDVS branches established across the country between 1865 and 1930. The study determined which of the eleven retained the highest integrity and represented most fully the development of veterans benefits in the United States, the commitment of the Board of Managers to honoring disabled veterans, and the original architectural and landscape designs.

The NHDVS represented a policy of veterans' benefits that directly influenced the development of a national system for veteran health care in the United States. The NHDVS was a notable departure from the previous focus on care for professional soldiers and officially set forth the concern and commitment of the federal government for the well-being of the civilian soldier. The history of the NHDVS can be organized into five phases. Phase One, 1865–1870, includes the formation of the NHDVS by Congress, the organization of the Board of Managers, and the establishment of the first four branches. During Phase Two, 1871–1883, the institution's operations continued to develop and growth occurred at the individual sites. During Phase Three, 1884–1900, the system expanded to include four new branches. In Phase Four, 1900–1917, two new branches were created and the system increasingly focused attention on the medical needs of veterans. Phase Five, 1918–1930, saw the impact of World War I, the establishment of the final NHDVS branch, and the incorporation of the NHDVS into the newly created Veterans Administration.

The NHDVS branches were designed for a variety of reasons and functions over a broad period of time and evolved in response to specific changes in NHDVS policies. Such policies are physically reflected in the campuses. No one property has survived fully intact from one period, but some branches retain pivotal and important resources that are associated with specific periods. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is one of four branches nominated for NHL designation. The period of significance for Battle Mountain Sanitarium is 1902–1930, representing Phases Four through Five and the evolution of the NHDVS from a primarily residential system to one offering extensive medical services to veterans.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium complements three other properties submitted for NHL consideration, under separate nominations, and representing distinct aspects of the NHDVS history:

- The Northwestern Branch, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, established in 1866 and opened in 1867. The Northwestern Branch represents all phases of the NHDVS history from the origins of the system and its evolution into the twentieth century. The Northwestern Branch was one of three original NHDVS facilities, and it retains the oldest buildings in the system. It also retains a largely intact picturesque landscape. It is particularly significant in representing the beginning of the network of veterans' benefits that began growing rapidly after the Civil War, and became increasingly important in terms of medical and geriatric care after 1900. The Northwestern Branch was the first NHDVS branch to institute such innovations as employing professional female nurses, and providing separate quarters for elderly members, inspiring similar changes in the operations of other branches. The physical development at the Northwestern Branch also influenced the way in which subsequent branches were designed. The period of significance for the Northwestern Branch is 1866–1930;

- The Western Branch, in Leavenworth, Kansas, established in 1885 and opened in 1887. The Western Branch was the first to be established after an 1884 change in policy dramatically broadened the standards for admission (allowing veterans with non-service related disabilities to enter the institution), and created a demand for additional facilities. It was the first branch constructed west of the Mississippi River, important for the great number of veterans living in western states and territories far removed from existing NHDVS branches. The Western Branch represents Phases Three through Five. The period of significance for the Western Branch is 1885–1930;

- The Mountain Branch, in Johnson City, Tennessee, established in 1901 and opened in 1904. The Mountain Branch represents Phases Four and Five, a time of increased attention to medical care. The Mountain Branch reflects the attendant changes to the NHDVS after Spanish-American War veterans were granted admission to the homes, and after particular conditions to which veterans of that war were susceptible, particularly yellow fever and tuberculosis, became evident. The Board considered the location particularly suitable for tuberculosis patients due to its climate. The Mountain Branch's symmetrical plan and uniform architectural style represent a departure from earlier branches, many of which included a variety of architectural styles and grounds designed in a picturesque or romantic style. The period of significance for the Mountain Branch is 1901–1930.

The Battle Mountain Sanitarium is an outstanding example of the branches developed by the NHDVS Board of Managers, exhibiting a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Newer development is very limited and the majority of noncontributing resources are small, providing little intrusion into the historic scene. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is included in the Hot Springs National Register Historic District, which was designated in 1972.

National Historic Landmark Exception 5 is applied because of the inclusion of Hot Springs National Cemetery in the nominated property. Hot Springs National Cemetery is historically associated with Battle Mountain Sanitarium and the NHDVS system.

**Establishment, Design, and Construction**

Battle Mountain Sanitarium was built in Hot Springs, South Dakota, located in the southwestern corner of that state. Located in the valley of the Fall River in a scenic mountain setting, Hot Springs was founded in the early 1880s as a warm-water mineral springs health resort. By 1900, Hot Springs was a popular destination for

regional health-seekers and tourists who enjoyed the benefits of its waters, the mountain scenery, the social life revolving around hotels and baths, and the local sandstone architecture of its resort and commercial buildings.[7]

Efforts to construct a hospital for disabled soldiers in Hot Springs began in the early 1890s, supported by local citizens and South Dakota congressmen. Colonel A. J. Keller, a local attorney, introduced a resolution supporting the establishment of a national veterans hospital in Hot Springs in the South Dakota legislature in 1892. Subsequently, South Dakota Senator Richard Pettigrew introduced a bill calling for the construction of such a facility in Hot Springs. Local promoters were encouraged by the reports of General William W. Averell, Inspector General for the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Averell conducted inspections of the State Soldiers' Home in Hot Springs and was impressed by the therapeutic qualities of the local mineral waters. In 1893, thirty disabled soldiers from the NHDVS Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas, were sent to Hot Springs for two months of treatment with reported good results. In 1898, the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) requested that Congress establish a sanitarium at Hot Springs. The GAR appointed Henry E. Palmer of Omaha, a prominent member of the GAR, to the committee formed to convince Congress to establish the facility. In May 1902, Congress passed legislation authorizing the sanitarium and providing an initial appropriation of $150,000 for buildings and $20,000 for equipment. Local citizens helped raise money to purchase the land for the site, located at an elevation of more than 3,400 feet on a bluff north and east of the resort section of the town of Hot Springs; some of the property was acquired through condemnation proceedings. Owners of the Mammoth Spring, a mineral water spring, leased rights for its use to the sanitarium. The NHDVS Board of Managers appointed Henry Palmer local manager for the site. In December 1902, Palmer convinced the House Appropriations Committee to increase the initial appropriation for Battle Mountain Sanitarium by $350,000, and also achieved other appropriations in the following years. Both the GAR and the Hot Springs Commercial Clubs officially commended Palmer for his efforts.[8]

Palmer's efforts complemented those of local and state politicians and the citizens of Hot Springs, who were well-versed in attracting both public institutions and private facilities to their town. Between its founding in 1880 and the 1907 opening of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs had won a bitter county division fight and emerged as the county seat, had become the home of the territorial soldiers' home, and had been designated the location of a Methodist College. In addition, the community, which continually touted its healthy climate and therapeutic waters, had developed into a medical center. Upon its opening, Battle Mountain Sanitarium joined Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Nichols Cancer Sanitarium, Hot Springs Sanitarium and Hospital (Hargens Hospital), and the Hygeo-Medical Sanitarium, as well as the South Dakota Soldiers' Home and numerous bathhouses in providing medical or health-related services. Battle Mountain Sanitarium also complemented Hot Springs' role as a resort. The highly visible site on a plateau overlooking the resort district formed a crowning glory to the sandstone hotels, bathhouses, and businesses below. Most were built in the Richardsonian Romanesque or Second Empire Styles and enhanced the stature of this small mountain town in a sparsely populated area.[9]

Groundbreaking for the facility took place in August 1903, and the original group of buildings was completed in 1907. At Henry Palmer's suggestion, architect Thomas Rogers Kimball of Omaha was commissioned to design

---

[7] Suzanne Julin, "South Dakota Spa: A History of the Hot Springs Health Resort, 1882–1915," *South Dakota Historical Collections* 41 (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1982): 196–272, discusses the founding and evolution of Hot Springs.

[8] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS;* Grand Army of the Republic, *Journal of the Thirty-Second National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic* (Philadelphia: Town Printing, 1898), 292, South Dakota State Historical Society Archives, Pierre, South Dakota (SDSHSA); *Hot Springs Star* (South Dakota), January 2, 1903, May 15, 1903, and March 23, 1906; Abstract of *Hot Springs Star* articles, typed manuscript, n.p., Black Hills Medical and Health Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota; *United States Statutes at Large* 32, pt. 1 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, n.d.), 282; "Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD, 1907–1982," n.d., Black Hills Medical and Health Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

[9] Julin, "South Dakota Spa," 256–59.

the original buildings. Born in 1862 in Linwood, Ohio, Kimball was the son of a Union Pacific Railroad executive. The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, when Kimball was in his teens, and Kimball studied at the University of Nebraska, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Êcole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Returning to Boston from Paris in the late 1880s, Kimball became a co-founder of the *Technology Architectural Review,* an MIT architectural journal. He also formed architectural firms in partnership with other architects. In 1891, Kimball and his wife moved back to Omaha, where he designed several Omaha business buildings and residences as well as the Omaha Burlington Railroad Station. In 1897, Kimball and C. Howard Walker, a mentor and professional partner, became architects-in-chief for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, held in Omaha. Kimball also designed a park for the 1904 Louisiana Exposition. He was appointed a member of the first national Commission for Fine Arts by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909, and he served as national president of the American Institute of Architects from 1918 to 1920. Kimball's works encompassed a wide variety of styles including Renaissance Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Shingle Style, and Italian Renaissance. His designs for Battle Mountain Sanitarium and St. Cecelia's Cathedral in Omaha were his most prominent Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival buildings. He died in 1934.[10]

In designing Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Kimball utilized local sandstone in a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival-inspired architecture that also included elements influenced by the Romanesque Revival style so prevalent in Hot Springs. His pavilion plan for the facility may have been influenced by earlier hospital architecture. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European architects had theorized about panoptical or radial designs that would benefit patient care through efficient organization and access to sunshine and fresh air. Johns Hopkins Hospital, built in Baltimore in 1885 with covered walkways connecting patient wards to a central administration unit, was an American manifestation of this philosophy. Kimball's design for the Battle Mountain administrative and hospital complex followed similar themes. The main building included the administration offices, nurses' quarters, and operating rooms. To the rear of the administrative building, six hospital wards, two plunge baths, and a mess hall/kitchen were constructed in a circular arrangement with the wards emanating as spokes on a wheel. An arcade connected the wards and service buildings and encircled an open courtyard with a fountain in its center. The design enabled staff to efficiently serve a large number of patients. It separated those with different diagnoses from each other in order to prevent contagion and allowed for optimal air circulation. A service tunnel below the arcade housed plumbing, heating, and lighting services, along with a tramway for food distribution. To facilitate cleaning, all internal and external angles in the buildings were rounded off. The wards were designed to allow for further extension if desired. Despite the "modernity" of the design, Kimball's plan more accurately represented a transition in hospital design and new understandings of infectious disease. The radiating ward plan, which allowed for the easy passage of clean air through the buildings, hearkens to the influence of the "miasma" theory of infection, and the belief that "bad air" spread disease. Yet the rounding off of all internal angles and attention to facilitating interior cleaning reflects an understanding of scientific discoveries about the spread of bacteria.[11]

In addition to the administration/hospital complex, Kimball designed a number of auxiliary buildings including a power plant, stable, carriage house, and houses for officers and staff. The Burlington Railroad built a switch to the construction site for the transportation of building materials. The firm of Reynard and Oak was awarded the contract to construct the original administration/hospital complex. They utilized pink sandstone from local

[10] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS*; Batie, "St. Cecilia's Cathedral," 9; "Kimball, Thomas Rogers," *Nebraska State Historical Society,* April 10, 2007, https://history.nebraska.gov/publications_section/kimball-thomas-rogers/; David L. Batie, "Thomas Rogers Kimball: Was He A Nebraska Architect?" (master's thesis, University of Nebraska, 1977), 108.

[11] For a synopsis on hospital design, see Isadore Rosenfield, *Hospital Architecture and Beyond* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1969), 20–30.

quarries which was hauled to the site by railroad cars and cut on the grounds. About 40,000 yards of earth were removed prior to construction.[12]

George E. Kessler, landscape architect from Kansas City, designed the landscape plan for Battle Mountain Sanitarium. Kessler was born in Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, in 1862. He immigrated with his parents to the United States, and his father eventually formed a partnership with a brother in a cotton plantation in Texas. After the elder Kessler's death in 1878, George Kessler and his mother returned to Germany, where he prepared to become a landscape architect by studying botany, landscape design, forestry, civil engineering, and civic design. In 1892, he returned to the United States. Subsequently, Kessler contacted Frederick Law Olmsted, who assisted him in finding an initial position designing a park for the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad. Within a decade, Kessler had designed Hyde Park in Kansas City, Missouri, as well as the city's park and boulevard system—a combination of the City Beautiful movement and Romantic Park ideals. In 1904, he and his wife moved to St. Louis temporarily while Kessler served as chief landscape architect for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Within two years, he had established a second office in St. Louis, where he directed the restoration of the city's Forest Park, among other projects. In 1910, he and his family relocated to St. Louis permanently. In addition to his professional work, he helped found the American Institute of Planners in 1917 and was one of the original members of the National Commission on Fine Arts. By the time of his death in 1923 he had completed nearly 250 projects in more than forty cities in the Midwest and the West and was nationally recognized for his skills and accomplishments as a landscape architect and city planner.[13]

**Initial Operations and Expansion**

In April 1907, Charles Wibert of the Marion Branch in Marion, Indiana, entered Battle Mountain Sanitarium as its first patient. Shortly thereafter, twenty-five members of the Danville Branch in Danville, Illinois arrived for treatment. Admissions from other branches grew, and during the 1908–1909 fiscal year, 865 Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans were cared for at the hospital. During the fiscal year 1911–1912, 591 patients were admitted to the sanitarium's hospital. Thirty-nine members died in the hospital and three expired elsewhere; the average age of death was 61.45 years. By this time, the hospital employed nineteen members and fifty-three civilians, including six female nurses. Initially, the most common diseases treated were rheumatism and arteriosclerosis; veterans suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted only if officials deemed them capable of making reasonable improvement or recovery. Men transferred to the sanitarium from other branches and stayed there only as long as they received benefits from treatment. Once that treatment was completed, they were discharged or transferred to one of the branch homes.[14]

Battle Mountain Sanitarium continued to expand in the decades after its establishment. In 1909, a bandstand, and a tuberculosis ward were constructed and an artificial pond was located in front of the conservatory. In 1910, quarters were completed for nurses. In 1911, two new wards doubled the capacity of the tuberculosis

[12] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS*; Batie, "St. Cecilia's Cathedral and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium," 7–11; Abstracts of *Hot Springs Star*.

[13] Previous associations between Kimball and Kessler are unknown. Kimball's job record and Kessler's known work do not coincide; however, by 1904, their work at the Louisiana Exposition probably brought them into contact with one another. *Battle Mountain Sanitarium*; William H. Wilson, "The City Beautiful Movement in Kansas City," Kessler Society, accessed January 27, 2008, http://www.georgekessler.org; Carolyn H. Toft, "George Edward Kessler (1862–1923)," Landmark Association of St. Louis, Inc., accessed April 25, 2008, https://www.landmarks-stl.org/architects/bio/george_edward_kessler/; Janice Lee, David Boutros, Charlotte R. White, Deon Wolfenbarger, eds., *A Legacy of Design, An Historical Survey of the Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Boulevards System, 1893–1940* (Kansas City: Kansas City Center for Design Education and Research and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City, 1995), xxi; *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS.*

[14] Abstracts of Hot Springs Star; U.S. Congress, House, Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1912, 62d Cong., 3d Sess.,1912–1913, H.R. Doc. 1009 (Annual Report, 1912), 39.

facility. By 1912, a chaplain's residence was built. In 1914, a root cellar was built to store perishables, and a combination chapel/library/auditorium building was added to the administration/hospital complex. Until this time, the basement of Building 10 was used as the library, chapel and amusement hall. In 1915, a sandstone staircase with 204 steps was constructed, linking the site on the upper town's eastern bluff with the valley floor and the town of Hot Springs. The same year an obelisk dedicated to veterans was constructed at the highest point of the branch's cemetery grounds, located to the north of the main buildings.[15]

A brochure published in 1919 presents an overview of the facility's appearance and operations twelve years after its opening. Members were admitted through a ground level entrance and reached their assigned bed via the enclosed "incline ways" or ramp passages leading from the arcade to the individual wards. Each of the six ward buildings contained two ward rooms with twenty-eight beds each; each ward also held a tea room, a smoking room, and access to the full-width open porches. The mess hall, at the rear of the hospital complex, could accommodate three hundred diners. Ambulatory patients took their meals at the mess, sitting on stools at long, narrow tables. The kitchen featured modern conveniences including a mechanical dishwasher and a mechanical bread kneader. Food, supplies, and laundry were transported by means of a service tunnel located in the arcade's foundation. The bathhouse, located in Building 9, held two plunges, and allowed a dozen or more men to comfortably wade in shoulder-deep, warm mineral waters. Hot water systems heated and cooled the wards and electric lights provided illumination. The power plant, west of the administration/hospital complex, used water from the local Mammoth Spring and burned coal to provide steam power for the complex, which was delivered through a 600-foot steam tunnel. Other buildings included the stable and carriage house, and the conservatory. The engineering building housed the offices of the home band, plumbing and carpenter shops, and residences for officers and staff. The facility grounds were slightly more than one hundred acres in size, with forty acres devoted to lawns, roads, 1000 fruit trees in the orchard, pasture and hayfields, and a garden that provided fresh vegetables for the kitchen and mess.[16]

**Medical Treatment for Veterans**

At its beginning, Battle Mountain Sanitarium specialized in the care of musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, and respiratory conditions, and skin diseases. These were all conditions considered likely to improve from bathing in or drinking the mineral waters. In about 1919, Battle Mountain Sanitarium issued a booklet illustrating the advantages of the branch and outlining its requirements for admission. Preference was given to veterans suffering from rheumatism, neuritis, nephritis, skin diseases, and "morbid condition due to defective elimination." Applicants noted their religion, their eye and hair color, and attached documents from physicians attesting to their diagnosis and physical condition. Veterans over the age of 75 were not accepted "unless well preserved and beneficial results are presumed." Members were admitted to the sanitarium for treatment only; when a man was considered to have received the full benefits of "special treatment and various forms of hydrothrapeutics [*sic*] here available" he would be required to accept a discharge from the system or a transfer to another branch.[17]

One Battle Mountain Sanitarium patient recorded his experiences in a series of articles. W. H. Johnson, a physician and a past surgeon general of the GAR and a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, entered the facility in 1913 after a long, debilitating illness. He arrived in Hot Springs on December 16 and was met at the train station by an ambulance that carried him to the hospital. He was admitted and placed in Ward 1, where he was assigned a cot accompanied by an arm chair, locker, and folding table at the foot of his bed. Three times a day,

[15] Abstract of Hot Springs Star; Battle Mountain Sanitarium; U.S. Congress, House, Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1915, 64th Cong., 1st Sess. 1915–1916, H.R. Doc. 126, 210; Annual Report, 1912, 39; Kimball renderings.

[16] Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS.

[17] Ibid.

attendants unfolded the table and placed on it table service and food unloaded from a large wagon which carried meals from the kitchen to the patients. In the evenings, Johnson attended moving pictures or orchestra concerts in the auditorium, which also served as the chapel. A library at the rear provided books and current periodicals.[18] When Johnson was disturbed by the moans of other patients, he was transferred to his own room and then afforded a special treatment. He was placed in a bathtub with water "as hot as I could bear and electricity turned on. In ten minutes I was put under the shower and a hose turned on me as though I was afire and had to be put out." After his initial treatment, Johnson took these baths three times a week and "felt much better after each bath."[19]

Johnson found the discipline at the home conducive to regaining health. Patients were forbidden to use or possess alcohol unless it was part of their medical treatment. Political discussions were discouraged because they might upset patients and interfere with their recovery. Meals were served punctually and the fare for those not on special diets was hearty. Johnson recorded the menus for one Monday which included hominy, steak, potatoes, and bread for breakfast; boiled beef, soup, greens, potatoes with gravy, and pudding for dinner; and beans with pork, rolls, green onions and applesauce for supper. After his treatment at Battle Mountain, Johnson returned home and expressed gratitude for the care he had received at the NHDVS facility.[20]

A wide variety of ills were addressed at Battle Mountain, but tuberculosis became a main focus of treatment. Men returning from the Spanish-American War and the conflict in the Philippines with respiratory ailments, as well as public awareness and fear of tuberculosis, prompted the NHDVS Board of Managers to pay particular attention to treatment of the disease. The board initially considered Battle Mountain Sanitarium, with its mild mountain climate, an ideal site for that treatment. It would serve as the primary medical facility treating the disease. The Mountain Branch, a residential home built in 1904, was also considered an appropriate location for those suffering from tuberculosis. In 1908, NHDVS Inspector General and Chief Surgeon W. E. Elwell recommended that all tubercular patients be sent to the Mountain Branch in Johnson City, Tennessee, or Battle Mountain Sanitarium, where the climate was agreeable and specialized care could be provided. He also suggested establishing special treatment facilities at the Pacific Branch in California. Consequently, the Board authorized the transfer of all tubercular patients to one of the specified facilities, as long as they were able to travel. Men who refused such a transfer were subject to discharge from the home. The Board specified that tubercular members of the Marion, Danville, Western, and Northwestern Branches should be sent to Battle Mountain.[21]

Subsequently, a fifty-bed tuberculosis facility was constructed at Battle Mountain Sanitarium in 1909 in order to segregate tubercular patients from those with other diagnoses. In 1911, the capacity of the facility was doubled. Battle Mountain's early success as a tuberculosis treatment center, however, was mixed. Inspectors complained that the journey to the relatively isolated site was too arduous for very ill men, that the landscaping did not provide the opportunity for quiet, refreshing walks, and that the young administrators were often in conflict with the older members. Tuberculosis treatment, however, remained an important part of the sanitarium's functions. By 1919, the sanitarium restricted admittance to those who demonstrated the potential for recovery.[22]

---

[18] W. H. Johnson, "Uncle Sam's Veterans Find Health at Battle Mountain," copy of a series of five articles on file at the Black Hills Medical and Health Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota (1913), 10.

[19] Ibid., 10.

[20] Ibid., 10–13, 29–30.

[21] Judith Gladys Cetina, "A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811–1930," PhD diss., Case Western Reserve University, 1977, 365–67.

[22] U.S. Congress, House, Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1911,62d Cong., 2d Sess., H.R. Doc. 163, 246; House, Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1919, 66th Cong., 2d Sess.,1919–1920, H.R. Doc. 84 (Annual Report, 1919), 151; "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal

The expansion of benefits, particularly medical benefits, to veterans during and after World War I directly impacted Battle Mountain Sanitarium. In 1919, the facility was made available to the Public Health Service for treatment of veterans for five years. The site's role in treating tuberculosis, in particular, continued to gain importance; by 1919, a quarter of the deaths at the hospital were attributed to tuberculosis. In 1923, the tuberculosis facilities were full most of the time, and the sanitarium could not accommodate all the patients for whom the Veterans' Bureau requested treatment. In 1924, as part of its national hospital expansion plan, the Veterans Bureau began to construct a general medical and surgical hospital at Battle Mountain Sanitarium. The existing tuberculosis wards were demolished to make way for the new hospital, which opened in 1926. An east wing addition to the hospital was completed in 1938, and by 1941 the ward capacity reached 456 and the hospital 248.[23]

**Recreation and Entertainment at Battle Mountain Sanitarium**

Despite its status as a medical rather than a residential facility, Battle Mountain Sanitarium developed a variety of recreational and entertainment features for its patients. The addition of the chapel/amusement hall building to the hospital complex in 1911 increased these services for the men. The hall included a library, billiard and card room, barber shop, and post fund store, and was equipped with stage, curtains, footlights, and an up-to-date motion picture projector. In 1915, an annual report noted that entertainment provided for members that year included dramatic performances, vaudeville shows, concerts, readings, and bi-weekly movies. Pool and card games were available to ambulatory patients; bed-ridden patients were provided band concerts and gramophone music.[24]

The Home Band concerts were particularly important to the men as well as townspeople and visitors. In the summer, these concerts were held almost nightly in the illuminated bandstand. Twice a week, the band performed afternoon concerts in the courtyard or the arcade, and it also provided music for the raising and lowering of the flag. During the winter season, orchestra concerts were held six nights a week in the Chapel/Amusement Hall Building. The sanitarium installed a pipe-organ in its auditorium in 1923, expanding the opportunity for musical entertainment.[25]

As the grounds were developed and plantings matured, the landscape of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium provided more opportunity for ambulatory patients to enjoy park-like areas with pleasing vantage points. The sandstone stairway, built in 1915 and leading from the grounds down to the Hot Springs street level, was illuminated by electric lights and provided several areas where members and visitors could sit to rest and enjoy the surrounding scenery. About one thousand apple, cherry, plum, and pear trees planted in a swale east of the main complex were producing by 1919. The grounds also provided more active recreation after Battle Mountain Sanitarium developed a baseball field and baseball team in the early 1920s. Ground in a small canyon was leveled for the diamond, and the walls of the canyon created a natural amphitheater. Enthusiasm for the game

---

Year Ending June 30, 1922," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, DC, 9; Cetina, "A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States," 367–70.

[23] Cetina, "A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States," 367–82; "Annual Report, for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1923," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, DC, 14; *Battle Mountain Sanitarium*; Fall River County Historical Society, *Fall River County Pioneer Histories* (Fall River County, SD: Fall River County Historical Society, 1976), 335–38; Patrick Lyke, e-mail message to Dena Sanford, April 22, 2009, copy on file at National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, NE. The new hospital, built only twenty years after the first, demonstrated the popularity of the multi-story "monoblock" hospital design that became the accepted national architectural form for hospitals in the 1920s. This change came about due to a variety of reasons, including the costs of construction, operation, and maintenance, and advances in medical science. New duplex and multi-room housing was constructed during the 1920s to house the additional staff necessary to provide treatment for the veterans. See Rosenfield, *Hospital Architecture and Beyond*, 26–30.

[24] Annual Report, 1915; Battle Mountain Sanitarium.

[25] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium*; "Annual Report," 1923, 16.

grew slowly, but as the team—composed almost completely of sanitarium employees—became successful, nearly all the members became fans.[26]

Some patients at Battle Mountain Sanitarium found other ways to entertain themselves, and the facility experienced many of the same types of alcohol-related discipline problems seen at other branches. A Board of Managers annual report for the fiscal year 1912–1913 noted that principal offenses were "drunkenness, absence without leave, and bringing in liquor." Ninety-five hearings on charges of drunkenness were held during the year.[27] In 1923, a total of forty offenses were recorded, twenty-five of them related to excessive drinking.[28]

While the needs of patients at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, particularly those who were very ill, differed from those of members in other branches, the facility provided many of the same entertainment and recreational opportunities as men in residential facilities enjoyed. Music, stage entertainments, reading, games, and sports helped the veterans pass their time while receiving treatment for their conditions.

**Transition to Veterans Administration and Continued Development**

After the transition to the Veterans Administration in 1930, Battle Mountain Sanitarium continued to serve as a hospital facility for veterans; eventually, the 1926 Veterans' Hospital became the central medical facility and the original hospital wings were converted to domiciliary units. Major new construction included the 1937 addition to the hospital and the erection of the dietetics building and laundry in the 1940s. A renovation program in the mid-1950s remodeled the Engineering Building's office space and areas of the hospital and converted the Bachelors Quarters and the Nurses Quarters into staff apartments. New additions to the hospital were added in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1996, the Veterans Administration Medical Centers at Hot Springs and at Fort Meade, in the northern Black Hills, were consolidated into the Veterans Administration Black Hills Health Care System, including a psychiatric facility at Fort Meade in the northern Black Hills and outreach clinics in western South Dakota, northern Nebraska, and eastern Wyoming. The former Battle Mountain Sanitarium is now the Hot Springs Medical Center, Black Hills Health Care System, Department of Veterans Affairs.[29]

**Cemetery**

Cemeteries at the NHDVS sites were established soon after each branch's inception. The cemetery associated with Battle Mountain Sanitarium was created for the burial of members who died while being treated at the facility. By 1913, a burial ceremony had developed; funerals were held at eight in the morning and an honor guard and procession of ambulatory patients accompanied the caisson bearing the remains to the cemetery. After a brief ceremony, a gunfire salute and the playing of "Taps" honored the veteran who had died. The cemetery was transferred to the National Cemetery System in 1973 and is now known as the Hot Springs National Cemetery. The cemetery was closed to new burials in the 1990s.[30]

---

[26] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Branch NHDVS*; "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1924," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, DC, 16.

[27] U.S. Congress, House, Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending 1913, 63d Cong., 1st Sess., H.R. Doc. 140, 49.

[28] "Annual Report, 1923," 3.

[29] *Battle Mountain Sanitarium Hot Springs, South Dakota 1907–1997* (Hot Springs, SD: Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1997), 27.

[30] Department of Veterans Affairs, Burials and Memorials, Cemeteries-Hot Springs National Cemetery, accessed August 4, 2007, https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cemsnchp/hotsprings.asp; *Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota*,11; Johnson, "Uncle Sam's Veterans Find Health at Battle Mountain," 10–13, 29–30.

## Conclusion

Battle Mountain Sanitarium, the only branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers established as a medical rather than a primarily residential facility, outstandingly represents the development of veterans medical benefits in the United States, the commitment of the public to the ideal of respect and care for war veterans, and the use of architecture and landscape architecture to express that commitment. Battle Mountain Sanitarium retains its original Thomas Rogers Kimball-designed buildings and they display high integrity. In particular, the administration/hospital complex illustrates Kimball's innovative design and signifies the NHDVS Board of Managers commitment to high-quality medical care for veteran soldiers. George Kessler's landscape plan is largely intact, reflecting original roads and separation of building functions. The 1926 Veterans Bureau Hospital as well as the 1920s housing built to support post-World War I veterans' medical care represent the evolution of veterans' medical benefits in the United States. The road system and landscape are largely intact, and their compact nature helps to illustrate the difference between this medical facility and the larger residential branches of the NHDVS. Battle Mountain Sanitarium is the oldest facility designated for medical care within the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical System.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Batie, David L. "St. Cecilia's Cathedral and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Thomas Rogers Kimball, Spanish Revival Architecture, and the Great Plains." Black Hills Medical Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

———. "Thomas Rogers Kimball: Was He a Nebraska Architect?" Master's thesis, University of Nebraska, 1977.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium: Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1919, Black Hills Medical Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1907–1997. Hot Springs, SD: Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1997.

Cetina, Judith Gladys. "A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811–1930." PhD diss., Case Western Reserve University, 1977.

Fall River County Historical Society. *Fall River County Pioneer Histories.* Fall River County, SD: Fall River County Historical Society, 1976.

Grand Army of the Republic. *Journal of the Thirty-Second National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.* Philadelphia: Town Printing, 1898. South Dakota State Historical Society Archives, Pierre, South Dakota.

Johnson, W. H. "Uncle Sam's Veterans Find Health at Battle Mountain." Black Hills Medical Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Julin, Suzanne. "Hot Springs Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, August 15, 2005.

———. "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations." National Council on Public History and National Park Service, Midwest Region, 2007.

———. "South Dakota Spa: A History of the Hot Springs Health Resort, 1882–1915." *South Dakota Historical Collections* 41. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1982.

Kimball, Thomas R. "Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, SD." Series Two Renderings, Thomas Rogers Kimball 1862–1934 Collection. RG3607, Nebraska Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lee, Janice, David Boutros, Charlotte R. White, Deon Wolfenbarger, eds. *A Legacy of Design, An Historical Survey of the Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Boulevards System, 1893–1940,* 1st ed. Kansas City: Kansas City Center for Design Education and Research and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City, 1995.

Nebraska State Historical Society. "Kimball, Thomas Rogers." https://history.nebraska.gov/publications_section/kimball-thomas-rogers/.

Rosenfield, Isodore. *Hospital Architecture and Beyond*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1969.

Taft, Carolyn H. "George Edward Kessler (1862–1923)." Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. https://www.landmarks-stl.org/architects/bio/george_edward_kessler/.

U.S. Congress, House. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1911. 62nd Cong., 2d Sess., 1911, H.R. Doc. 163.

———. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1912. 62nd Cong., 3d sess., 1912–1913, H.R. Doc. 1009.

———. Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending 1913. 63rd Cong., lst sess., H.R. Doc. 140.

———. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1915. 64th Cong., 1st Sess., 1915–1916, H.R. Doc. 126.

———. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1919. 66th Cong., 2d sess., 1919–1920, H.R. Doc. 84.

*United States Statutes at Large* 32, Pt. 1. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, n.d.

"Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1907–1982." Black Hills Medical Center Archives, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Weber, Gustavus A., and Laurence F. Schmeckebier. *The Veterans' Administration: Its History, Activities, and Organization.* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1934.

Wilson, William H. "The City Beautiful Movement in Kansas City." Kessler Society, http://www.georgekessler.org.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_X_ Previously Listed in the National Register. NR # 74001890, Hot Springs Historic District
__ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
__ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
__ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
__ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State Agency
_X_ Federal Agency
__ Local Government
__ University
__ Other (Specify Repository):

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 52.95 acres

| UTM References: | **Zone** | **Easting** | **Northing** |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 13 | 623145 | 4810685 |
| B | 13 | 623540 | 4810870 |
| C | 13 | 623725 | 4810870 |
| D | 13 | 623599 | 4810616 |
| E | 13 | 623165 | 4810085 |
| F | 13 | 622816 | 4810340 |

Verbal Boundary Description:
The boundary of the historic district, containing approximately 52.95 acres, is marked in orange on the attached map titled “Battle Mountain Branch.” It encompasses 45.3 acres of the former Battle Mountain Sanitarium Branch of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (excluding a 15-acre parcel portion of land to the northeast), and 8.65 acres of the Hot Springs National Cemetery. Today, these parcels comprise the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Hot Springs Medical Center.

Boundary Justification:
The boundary of the historic district includes all of the surviving buildings, structures, objects, landscape, and cemetery historically associated with the Battle Mountain Sanitarium during the period of significance. This boundary coincides with most of the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cemetery property, but excludes a roughly 15-acre parcel of land to the northeast which contains three noncontributing modern water reservoirs serviced by an access road.

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Suzanne Julin

Address: 1001 E. Broadway-2, PMB 608
Missoula, Montana 59802

Telephone: 406-544-8606

Date: April 25, 2008

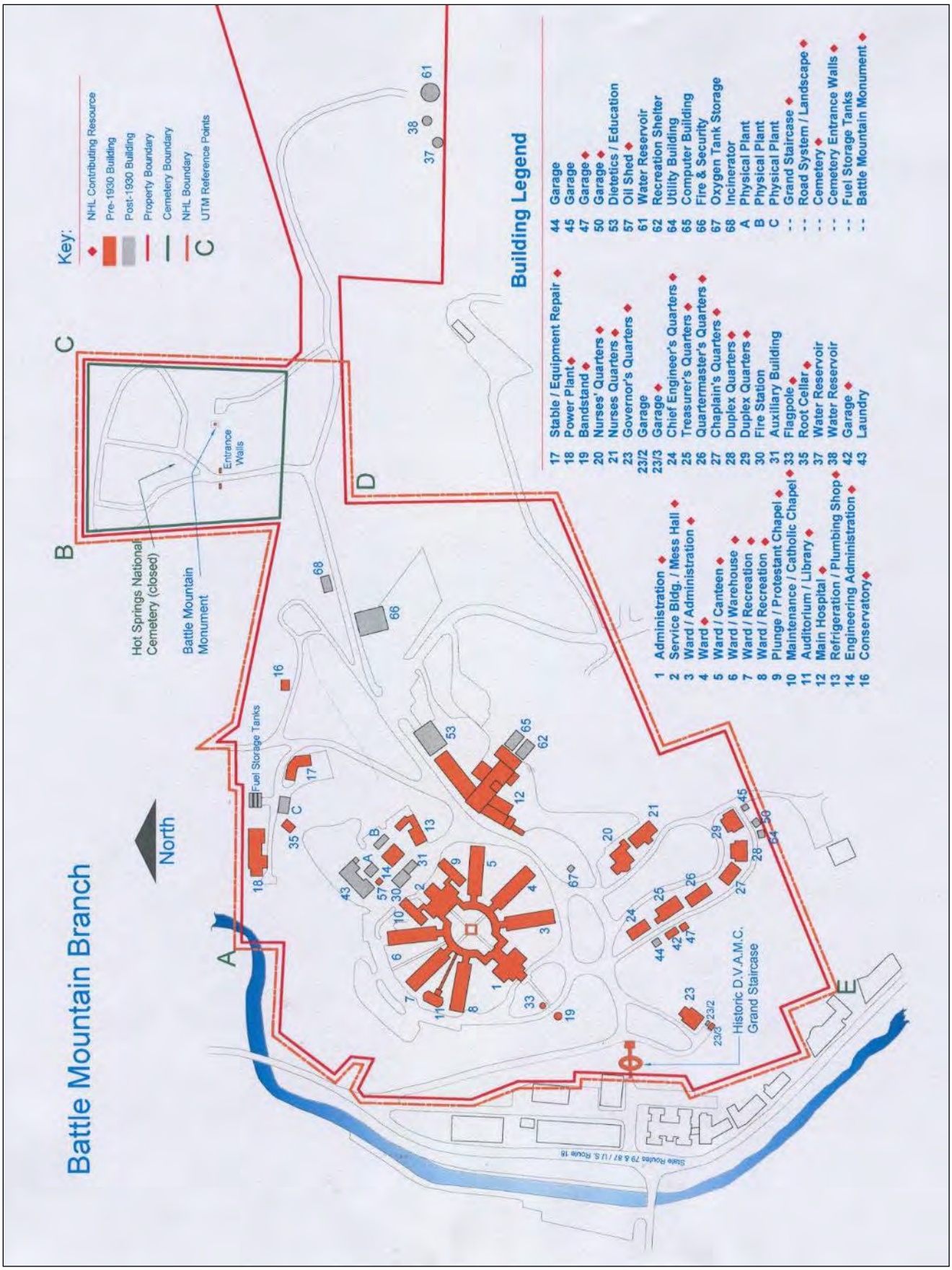
Edited by: Dena Sanford
National Park Service
National Register Programs
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

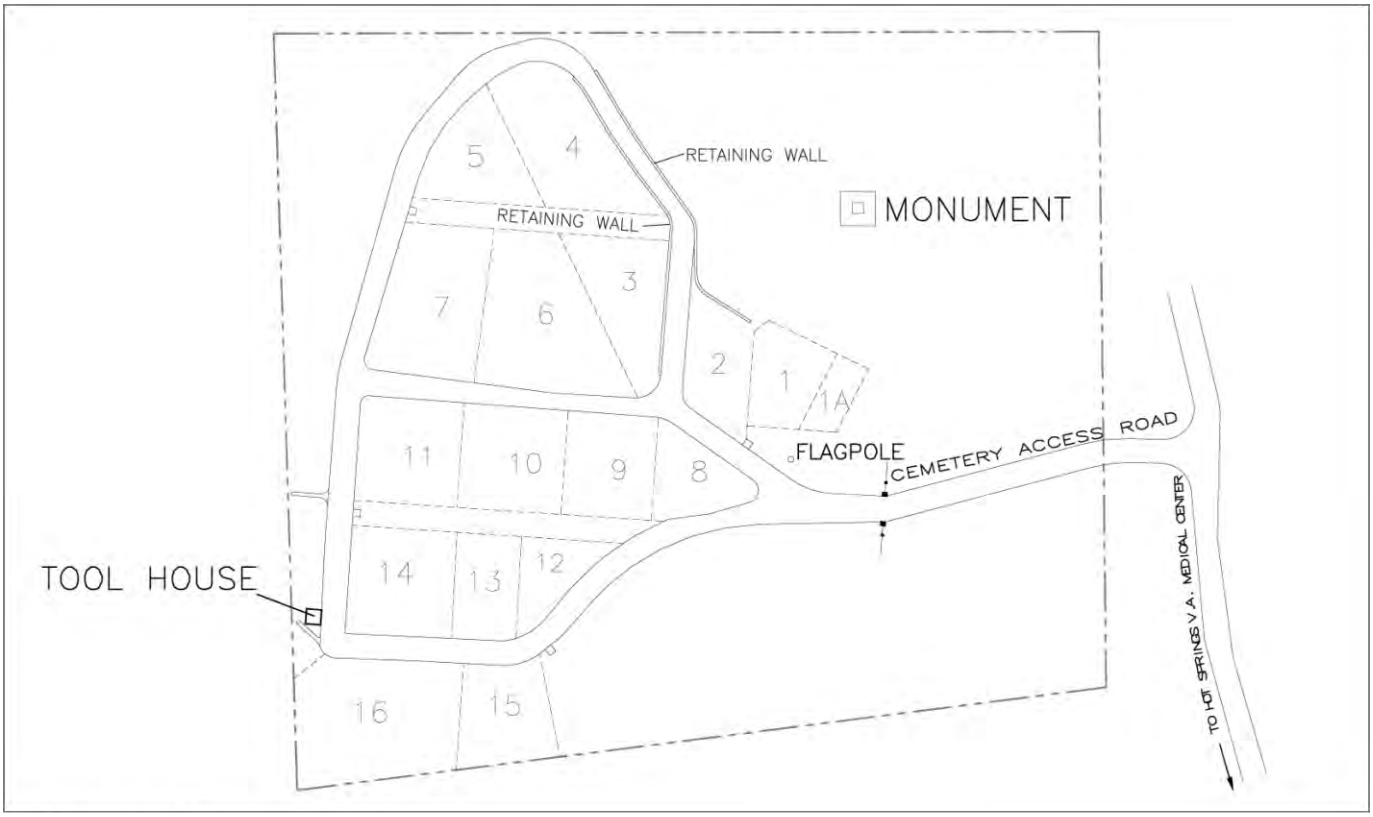
Telephone: 402-661-1944

Edited by: Alexandra Lord and Patty Henry
National Park Service
National Historic Landmarks Program
1849 C St., NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Telephone: 202-354-6906 and 202-354-2216

DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
June 17, 2011


Key:
NHL Contributing Resource
Pre-1930 Building
Post-1930 Building
Property Boundary
Cemetery Boundary
NHL Boundary
UTM Reference Points
Building Legend
1 Administration
2 Service Bldg. / Mess Hall
3 Ward / Administration
4 Ward
5 Ward / Canteen
6 Ward / Warehouse
7 Ward / Recreation
8 Ward / Recreation
9 Plunge / Protestant Chapel
10 Maintenance / Catholic Chapel
11 Auditorium / Library
12 Main Hospital
13 Refrigeration / Plumbing Shop
14 Engineering Administration
16 Conservatory
17 Stable / Equipment Repair
18 Power Plant
19 Bandstand
20 Nurses' Quarters
21 Nurses Quarters
23 Governor's Quarters
23/2 Garage
23/3 Garage
24 Chief Engineer's Quarters
25 Treasurer's Quarters
26 Quartermaster's Quarters
27 Chaplain's Quarters
28 Duplex Quarters
29 Duplex Quarters
30 Fire Station
31 Auxiliary Building
33 Flagpole
35 Root Cellar
37 Water Reservoir
38 Water Reservoir
42 Garage
43 Laundry
44 Garage
45 Garage
47 Garage
50 Garage
53 Dietetics / Education
57 Oil Shed
61 Water Reservoir
62 Recreation Shelter
64 Utility Building
65 Computer Building
66 Fire & Security
67 Oxygen Tank Storage
68 Incinerator
A Physical Plant
B Physical Plant
C Physical Plant
-- Grand Staircase
-- Road System / Landscape
-- Cemetery
-- Cemetery Entrance Walls
-- Fuel Storage Tanks
-- Battle Mountain Monument
Battle Mountain Branch
North
Hot Springs National Cemetery (closed)
Battle Mountain Monument
Entrance Walls
Fuel Storage Tanks
Historic D.V.A.M.C. Grand Staircase
State Routes 79 & 87 / U.S. Route 18




*Cemetery Map*



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Ward #8, Flagpole #33, and Administration Building #1), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Wards # 4 and #5), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Wards #6, #7, Auditorium/Library #11, and Ward #8), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to southeast.
Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Courtyard), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Interior Hallway off Courtyard), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Laundry #43, Oil Shed #57, Engineering #14, Fire Station #30, Ward #6), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to east. Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Plunge/Protestant Chapel #9, Mess Hall #2, and Maintenance/Catholic Chapel #10), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to southwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



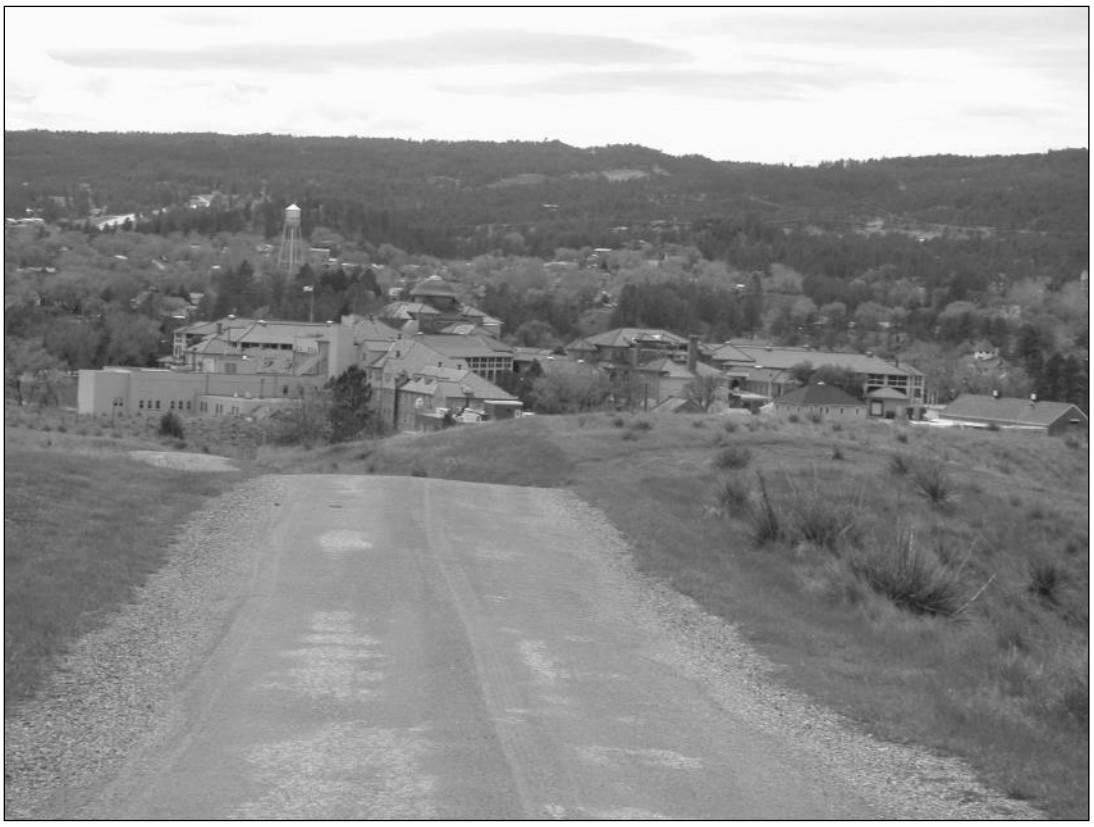

BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Hospital #12), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to southeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



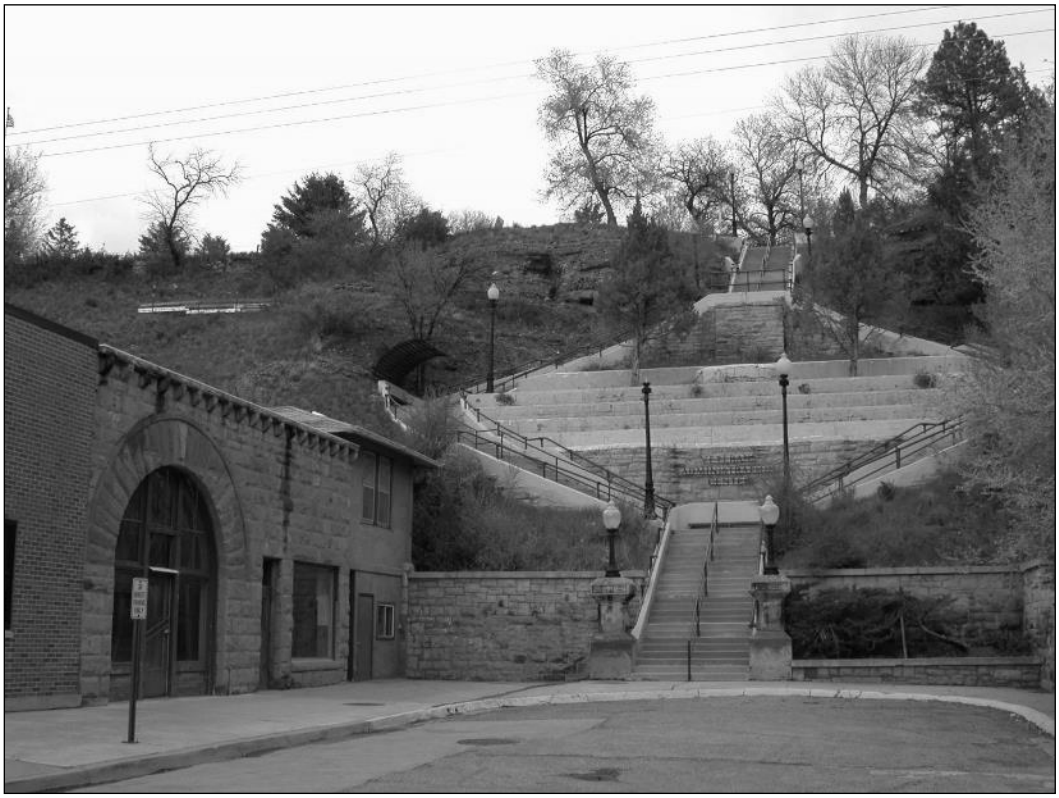
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Hospital #12, Wards #4 and #5), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to west.
Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Stable/Equipment Repair #17, and Power Plant #18), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to northwest.
Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



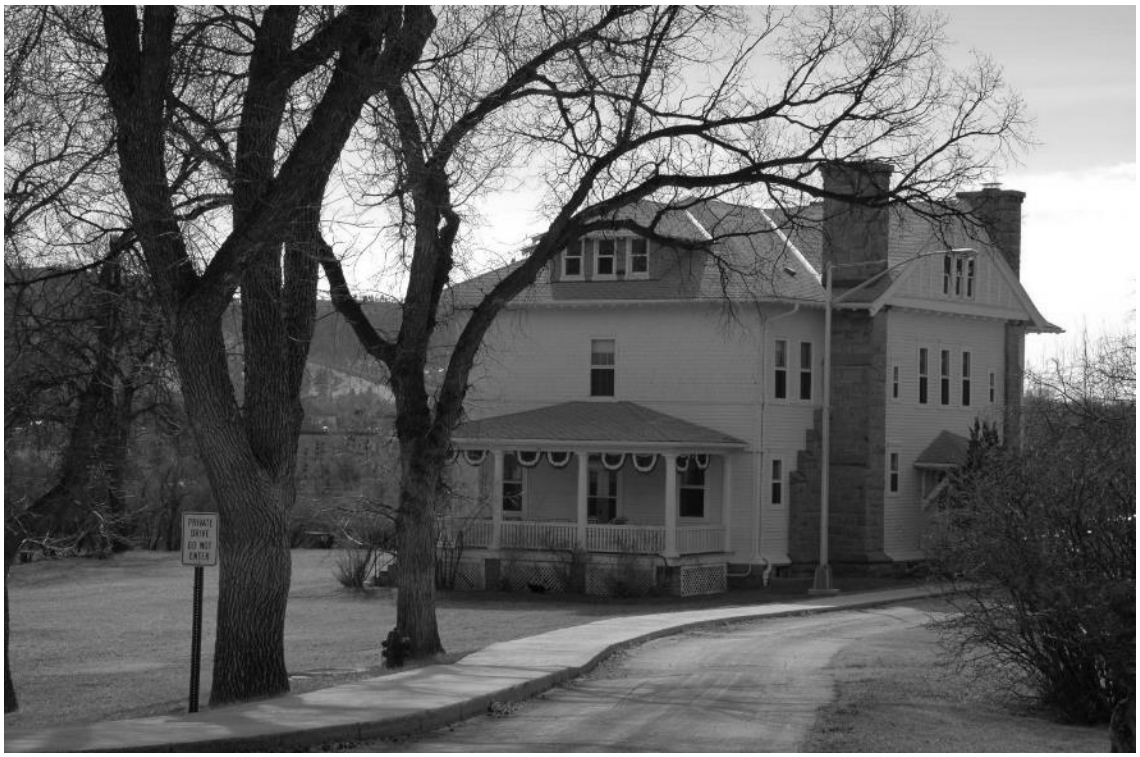
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS, REAR OF COMPLEX (Perspective: Distant), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to west. Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Grand Staircase), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to east. Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Perspective: Duplex Quarters #29 and #28, and Chaplain's Quarters #27), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to southeast.
Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Governor's Quarters #23), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Chief Engineer's Quarters #24, foreground, and Treasurer's Quarters #25), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



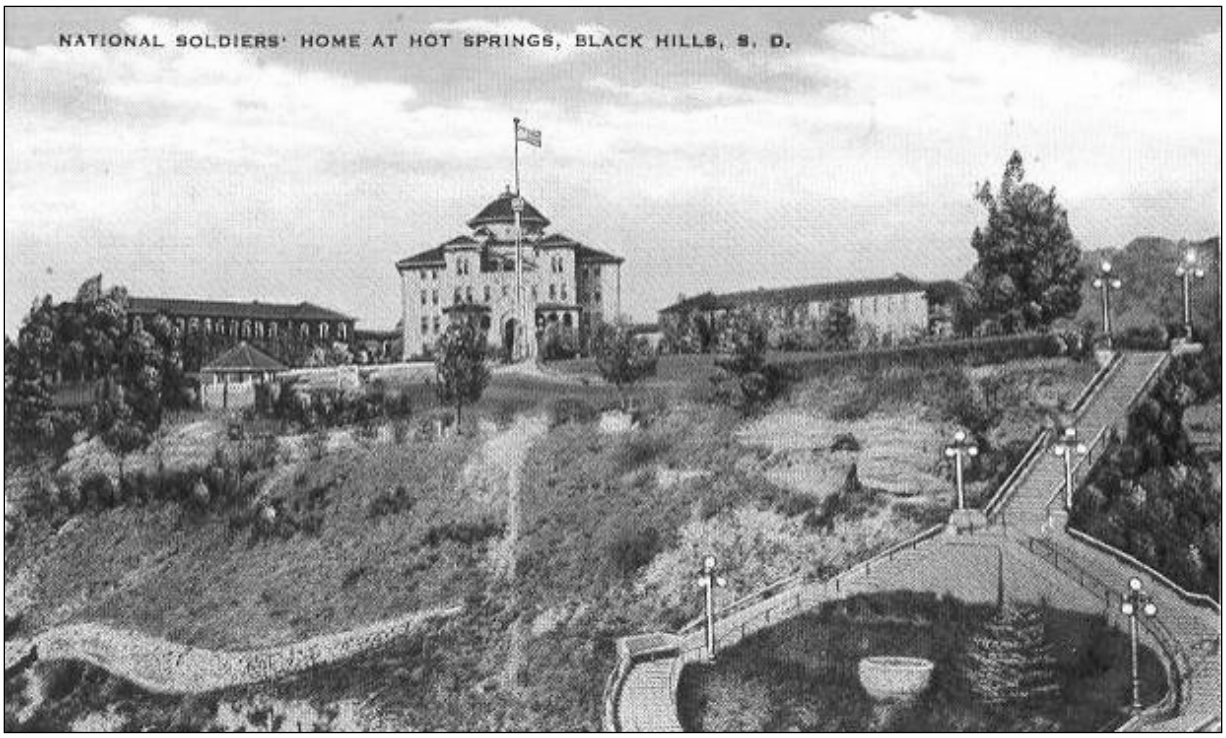
BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Treasurer's Quarters #25), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to southwest. Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Hot Springs National Cemetery Entrance Walls), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to north.
Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, NHDVS (Cemetery with Battle Mountain Monument in background), 500 North 5th Street, Town of Hot Springs, Fall River County, SD, view to south. Photograph by Dena Sanford, 2007.




DISTANT VIEW TOWARD BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM WITH GRAND STAIRCASE.
Postcard Photograph by unknown, ca. 1910, view to northeast. Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM WARD #8, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING #1, WARD #3. Postcard photograph by unknown, ca. 1908, view to northeast. Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD.



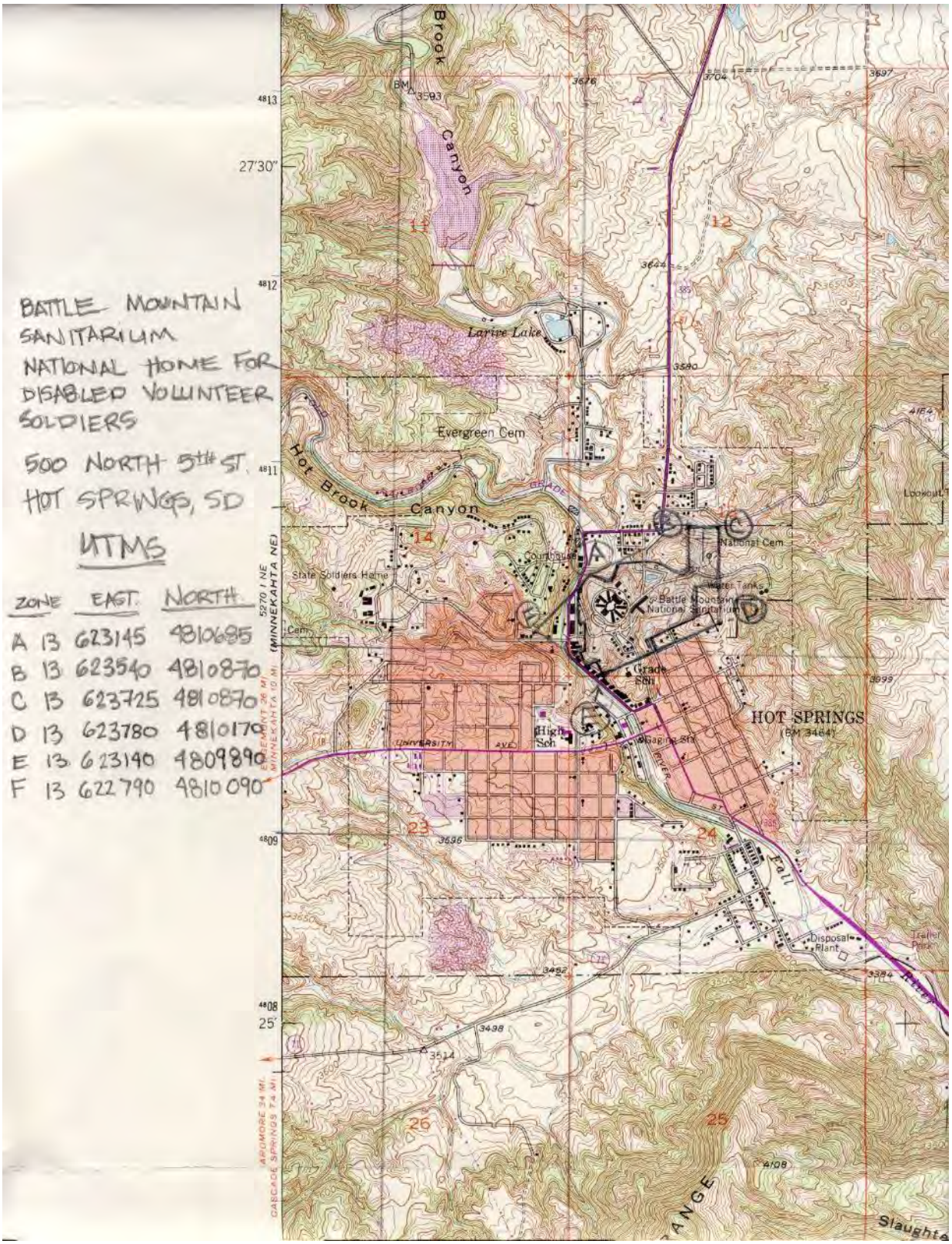

BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM COURTYARD. Postcard photograph by unknown, ca. 1908, view to southwest. Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD.



BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM COURTYARD. Postcard photograph by unknown, ca. 1940, view northeast. Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD.




AERIAL VIEW OF BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM. Photograph by unknown, 1965, view to northeast. Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD.




USGS Map showing location.