## 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Other Name/Site Number: Mountain Home; James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Corner of Lamont and Sidney Streets Not for publication:

City/Town: Johnson City (Mountain Home Post Office) Vicinity:

State: Tennessee County: Washington Code: 179 Zip Code: 37684

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|---|
| buildings | 31 | buildings | 22 |
| sites | 2 | sites | 0 |
| structures | 1 | structures | 8 |
| objects | 2 | objects | 2 |
| Total | 36 | Total | 32 |

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

## 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 |
| Education | University |

## 7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Beaux-Arts; Colonial Revival

| | |
|---|---|
| MATERIALS: | Brick, Stone, Wood |
| Foundation: | Stone, Brick |
| Walls: | Stone, Brick, Wood |
| Roof: | Asphalt, Slate |
| Other: | |

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

## Description

Established in 1901 and opened in 1904, the Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) 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. The Mountain Branch 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. The Mountain Branch of the NHDVS represents the network of veterans' benefits that developed rapidly after the Civil War and became increasingly important in terms of medical care to veterans after 1900. The Mountain Branch reflects the attendant changes to the NHDVS after Spanish-American War veterans were granted admission to the homes.

The former Mountain Branch of the NHDVS is located in eastern Tennessee, about twenty miles south of the state border with Virginia and fifteen miles north and forty miles west of the state borders with North Carolina. Located within the boundaries of Johnson City, Tennessee, the facility has its own post office, Mountain Home, a local, popular name for the branch. Mountain Branch is located southwest of the downtown commercial core, with a district that is roughly bounded to the south by the Southern Railroad line; to the west by the Johnson Medical Center campus; to the north by West Main Street, and to the northeast and east by Sidney and Lamont Streets.

The historic district occupies 247.1 acres. Of this, 155.64 acres are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and 91.46 acres are administered by the National Cemetery Administration. The former Mountain Branch was incorporated into the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which provides domiciliary, nursing home, hospital and outpatient services to veterans.[1] The facility is affiliated with the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City. The medical school occupies a number of buildings on the grounds under an Enhanced Use Leasing Agreement.

The site is characterized by hilly terrain, and the intermittently wooded site slopes downward from north to south, affording views to the south of wooded hills and the Smoky Mountains in the distance. The well-designed historic Beaux-Arts brick veneer buildings constructed in the first decades of the twentieth century, are laid out in a formal symmetry, facing southeast. The wide streets and open landscape spaces complement the architectural style. The design represents a departure from earlier NHDVS branches which included a variety of architectural styles, on grounds designed in a picturesque or romantic style.

The Mountain Branch is an outstanding example of facilities developed by the NHDVS, exhibiting a high degree of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period 1901 to 1930. The original cohesive architecture and plan has influenced post-1930 buildings and expansion. As a result, the campus in its entirety strongly reflects the branch's original classically derived aesthetic vision and institutional goals. Thirty-one of the fifty-four buildings on the campus are contributing resources. The twenty-three noncontributing buildings were built after the period of significance. Three sites, including the road system/landscape, the cemetery, and the lake, and two objects (an obelisk and a burial marker), are contributing resources. The Mountain Branch has not been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

[1] Powerful Congressional Republican Representative James H. Quillen served four terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives before moving on to Congress, where he served from 1963–1997. He died in 2003.

prior to this nomination. However, resources that do not contribute to the significance of the NHL district may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or for determination of eligibility.

Joseph H. Freedlander designed the original plan and buildings of the Mountain Branch. Freedlander, a native of New York City, studied at the Boston Institute of Technology and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He was not yet thirty years old when the NHDVS Board of Managers chose his plans for the new institution from a field of six architects. Landscape Architect Carl Andersen may have been responsible for the landscape design. Andersen came to the facility from Marion, Indiana, and was buried in the branch cemetery after his death in 1908.[2]

Freedlander's final plan included a site roughly oriented to north-south and east-west axes; for purposes of description, primary compass orientations will be used. The main boulevard ran from east to west with the administration building anchoring the west end of this boulevard. The hospital complex faced west from the east end. Freedlander's most elaborate Beaux-Arts buildings, including the central mess hall with its prominent clock tower, defined the property's architectural style and fronted the main boulevard. To the rear of these prominent buildings, less ornamentally elaborate barracks were arranged east to west along narrower streets. The chapel and other social buildings were located north and uphill of the barracks. To the west, residences for branch officers were arranged in a circular fashion in an area of wooded hills and ravines. All of the residential buildings—both barracks and homes—faced south, exposing them to sunlight and to views of the Smoky Mountains in the distance. To the south, a prominent parade ground was surrounded by areas of woods, and interspersed with open spaces that sloped downward. The landscape included an artificial lake at the bottom of the slope and another, smaller lake to the immediate south of the administration building. The formal plan and the elaborate architecture contrasted with the rural wooded environs and the sweeping views to create a stunning effect, one that reflected the Board of Managers' goal to impress on both veterans and the public the extent of the public commitment to the care of men who had served the country in war. Few buildings were constructed on the site after the initial construction, until the 1920s, when large numbers of World War I veterans with specific medical needs prompted an expansion of NHDVS medical services. The Mountain Branch became a tuberculosis hospital during this period; many existing facilities were modified and some buildings added to serve the new veterans.

The general design of the Mountain Branch remains very much intact. The main boulevard, Dogwood Avenue, is bounded by the original administration building (Building 52) to the west and the central component of the original hospital (Building 69) to the east. This surviving element of the original pavilion plan hospital was a key anchor visually to the east end of the complex, and served as the heart of the medical facilities at Mountain Home. The mess hall (Building 34) is set between four ornately detailed barracks that line the north side of the boulevard; to the north, along Magnolia, Maple, and Memorial Streets, are the less elaborate barracks buildings, the chapel (Building 13), theater (Building 35), library (Building 17), and the cemetery. To the south, the open space of the parade grounds contains the bandstand and the wooded slopes leading down to the lake. The smaller lake, however, is gone. The residential area to the west remains largely unchanged as well. Duplex residences constructed to accommodate increased medical staff in the 1920s (Buildings 39–43) period have survived and with the exception of a duplex (Building 39), occupy a street corner in the northeast section of the property. Importantly, they are the only buildings on the campus that completely reflect the post-World War I transition to comprehensive medical care for veterans—the transition that helped to form the current DVA medical system. The interiors of most buildings have been renovated for modern uses, although some buildings, including the chapel, the library, Memorial Hall, and the mess hall retain a number of original interior elements.

Pre-1930 buildings which have been removed include the Freedlander-designed hospital "finger buildings," the laundry, the power plant, a recreational hall, a combination post office and canteen, several residential

[2] Johnson City (TN) Comet, June 18, 1908; New York Times, July 12, 1901.

buildings, wards for tuberculosis patients and African American members, a dairy barn, and a hotel. Some post-1930s construction has occurred within this historic core; a modern building has been constructed behind one of the main barracks, a large building has replaced the original laundry, and the power plant has been replaced with a new structure. Despite these changes, the Freedlander design is still clearly evident. A series of new buildings holding the hospital functions are situated to the east and are largely hidden from the historic core. A large domiciliary building is to the southwest of the hospital complex and southeast of the historic buildings. A new laundry and maintenance buildings are in the far southeast corner of the property, and a nursing home is located in the far northeastern corner of the campus. Much of the post-1930s construction artistically refers to the original architecture. The 1931 barracks/hospital annex on the main boulevard was built in imitation of the original barracks buildings and replicates their size, roofline, and materials, as well as many of their stylistic elements. The new power plant is built in the light and dark brick used in the original buildings and with decorative accents referring to them. The nursing home and domiciliary building feature angled bays recalling the end bays of the original barracks. As a result of this attention to the historic fabric, the Mountain Branch site is unusually cohesive and respectful to its architectural roots. The national cemetery to the north of the historic core is administered by the National Cemetery Administration and includes areas of pre-1930 burials.

The following description of resources is organized in general by building numbers assigned by the Veterans Administration/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In some instances, the VA uses the word “building” for resources that will be identified in this nomination as structures.

## CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

**Building 1** **Barracks Building** **1905** **Contributing**

This building is one of two nearly identical barracks buildings that flank the Mountain Branch’s mess hall. The trio presents the greatest concentration of Freedlander’s Beaux-Arts architectural designs. The main façade of the three-story rectangular Building 1 faces south and features a central entrance bay with long wings to each side. At the ends of the wings are semi-octagonal sections. The building sits on a limestone foundation. It is wood frame with a red brick veneer laid in a Flemish bond pattern. Buff-colored brick accents resemble corner quoins and window trim. Wide steps lead to a central projecting bay containing the main entrance. The doorway is surmounted by an elaborate architrave trim with a massive keystone and voussoirs. Above this is a semi-circular transom. At each side of the entry, a limestone column inspired by the Ionic order rises from a square base. Flanking the columns are buff-colored brick pilasters designed to resemble rusticated ashlar stone. On the front of each pilaster is an elaborate cartouche featuring a mascaron, a gargoyle, a helmet and gloves, along with other details. To each side of the recessed joint sections are brick walls with darker brick geometrical accent designs. The entry door is modern metal and glass set into the original slightly arched doorway. The transom is bricked-in and framed glass replaces the original side lights. Above the entry, decorative brackets and rafter tails highlight the truncated hip roof. A pedimented dormer window is centered above the doorway; the window is segmental arch under brick voussoirs and a keystone.

The wings on each side of the entry bay hold seven basement windows, most of them bricked-in. The main floor has seven twelve-over-twelve windows under bracketed cornices. The first-floor hooded windows are taller and more elaborately trimmed than the seven windows on the second floor, with large consoles and flat arches of buff brick. The second-floor flat window arches are created by brick voussoirs with keystones, and the keystones are incorporated into a continuous belt course that divides the windows from the eaves. The roof, covered in slate and single ply, carries three pedimented wall dormers alternating with eyebrow dormers.

At the ends of the wings are five-sided sections, each with a limestone staircase leading to an entrance on the end. New entry doors are set in original surrounds under light brick voussoirs with curved cartouches that depict

a sword, crossed rifles, a canteen, and other military-themed decorative elements. Red brick accents the doorway. Above the door are double twelve-over-twelve windows between very narrow six-pane windows. A centered gable dormer window matches the front dormer, but with a simpler keystone. The other angles of the end sections contain bricked basement windows, main floor twelve-over-twelve windows between narrow six-pane windows, pale brick voussoirs, and cartouches identical to those that highlight the end entry doors. There is a continuous belt course below the first floor, and a second dividing the first and second floors.

Originally the rear of the building wings was as elaborate as the front; it presently exhibits some of the same fenestration as the front, but most of the wing areas as well as the central bay are covered by a large irregularly shaped brick connection to Building 119, directly to the north. The building is now under lease to the ETSU Medical School.

**Building 2 Barracks Building 1905 Contributing**

Building 2 is nearly identical to Building 1; the two form a frame for Building 34, historically the central mess hall. The main entry door on the façade is a modern glass and metal door. The transom is bricked-in and the side lights have been replaced with modern metal framed glass. On the south face of the east end, a new stairway of parged cement blocks with concrete risers leads to a door set into a former window opening; the original end-entrance door opening is filled with cement. A modern brick tower housing an elevator shaft rises from the center on this building. The rear of the building carries the same elaborate detail as the façade. The first-floor windows on the central bay also include keystones in the arches. Eyebrow dormers and pedimented dormers alternate on the roof. The building is under lease to the ETSU Medical School.

**Building 3 Barracks Building 1905 Contributing**

Buildings 3 through 7 are barracks buildings located to the north and northwest of Buildings 1 and 2. Freedlander designed these buildings in a simpler, Colonial Revival-influenced style. They are two-story rectangular wood frame buildings with veneers of red brick laid in a Flemish bond. Foundations are limestone. The main entrances are located within a central projecting bay. The bay is open on three sides, supported at the corners with large brick pillars. Single, thinner pillars are to the inside. The sides of the bay are connected to the main mass by a second-story arch with keystone. There is a simple corbelled buff brick entablature at the top of the bay. The entablature is continued on the main mass of the building by a continuous line of corbelled brick above the second story windows. The one-story porches are enclosed by wood railings. Ornamental porch column “capitals” are created with curvilinear wood braces. Open balconies enclosed by wood railings appear on the second levels under courses of light brick; eyebrow dormers are centered in the pent roofs of the entrances. The wings feature seven symmetrical modern rectangular windows under flat arches on each floor. Full-width porches feature eight square brick columns. The low-pitched truncated hip roofs, covered in slate and single ply, have broad eaves and carry eyebrow dormer windows. Enclosed brick stairwells with flat roofs are at the ends of each building. The buildings face south, revealing a striking view of the countryside and distant mountains. Although Buildings 3 through 7 were designed to be nearly identical, some variations and modifications exist and are noted for each building below.

The Building 3 porch base walls have a cutout brick design that may have been implemented after construction for drainage or ventilation purposes. A new entry door is surrounded by multi-paned panels. A handicapped access ramp on the east side blends well with the porch. Building #3 is currently vacant.

**Building 4 Barracks Building 1905 Contributing**

The Building 4 entry steps and rails have been modified to a pyramidal shape, allowing access from two sides. A handicap access ramp east of the central bay is integrated within the porch and behind the supporting porch

columns. The building retains decorative brackets and rafter tails at the porch roof and main roof. The interior has been remodeled. The building is under lease to the ETSU Medical School and is used as its library.

**Building 5** **Barracks Building** **1905** **Contributing**

Building 5 has a handicap access ramp on the west side of the central bay which is integrated within the porch and behind the supporting porch columns. Decorative rafter tails and brackets appear on the porch roofs; rafter tails highlight the main roof. The porch base walls have openwork brick designs. Building 5 has been renovated and is vacant.

**Building 6** **Barracks Building** **1905** **Contributing**

Building 6 has boxed eaves under the roof, replacing the original decorative elements. In the rear, a small rectangular two-story brick addition, a one-story brick garage, and a brick enclosure for mechanical equipment cover much of the original fenestration. Building 6 is vacant.

**Building 7** **Barracks Building** **1904** **Contributing**

The front steps of Building 7 have been removed. The roof retains original decorative rafter tails and brackets. On the rear, the central bay is visible. Building 7 is vacant.

**Building 13** **Protestant & Catholic Chapels** **1905** **Contributing**

This chapel, designed by Freedlander, departs from the Beaux-Arts influence and presents a Mission style-inspired design. The chapel is constructed of brown brick laid in a Flemish bond and features a water table. A square tower at the southeast corner rises to a bell tower topped by a cross; arched openings on each of the four sides of the tower reveal the bell, which is intact. The tower's hipped roof accented by decorative brackets and exposed rafter tails. Two entrances off the tower lead to wings, one extending to the north and the other to the west. This design allows Catholic and Protestant congregations to worship in separate spaces at the same time. The gabled wings are terminated by parapetted walls highlighting roofs. The east and south facing walls carry five narrow arched windows. At the end of each wing, small gabled brick extensions provide additional access. Handicap access to the tower is provided by a sloped asphalt ramp partially covering the steps. An apse appears at the end of the north-extending wing; it carries a leaded glass window under a parapet. The interiors of both chapels are largely intact, with the original Gothic pendant lights, open truss ceilings, balconies, and pipe organs. The Catholic chapel walls retain the twelve Stations of the Cross. The chapels have not been used for their original purpose since the early 1990s because of structural issues, and the building now serves as storage and upholstery shop space.

**Building 15** **Single Quarters** **1904** **Contributing**

The brick steps of this two-story, rectangular frame Colonial Revival style residence lead to a double front door framed by narrow multi-paned panels under a multi-paned transom. Square columns support a nearly full-width porch on the south-facing façade. A full balcony is on the second level of the porch. The house has clapboard siding and the low-pitched hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has broad eaves and exposed rafter tails. The east wall has two rectangular six-over-six double hung windows on each level. The west wall has identical windows and a one-story, small square addition with no entry door. On the rear, a nearly full-width porch features four square columns supporting a flat roof. Building 15 is currently used as a guest house.

**Building 16** **Catholic Chaplain's Quarters** **1909** **Contributing**

This simple Colonial Revival style, two-story, rectangular frame house features a one-story porch on the south-facing façade that wraps around to the east wall. The house is on a masonry foundation and has clapboard siding. The porch carries a pediment over the entry steps; square brick columns support the porch roof, which is highlighted with decorative brackets and rafter tails. A new entry door leads into the house. Windows are one-over-one sash. On the west, a new board stairway provides access to a second-floor entry. The hipped roof features large overhanging eaves and is covered in asphalt shingles. Building 16 is under lease to the city of Johnson City.

**Building 17** **Carnegie Library** **1904** **Contributing**

Andrew Carnegie donated funds to build this library. The library is a rectangular building on an east/west axis. The building is red brick in a Flemish bond with buff brick accents that mimic corner quoins and a water table. On the south-facing façade, broad steps lead to a large, central projecting entrance bay framed by single, Tuscan order columns. Double entry doors carry decorative knockers; a six-pane transom is above the doorway, which is between narrow windows. To each side of the entry are tall rectangular two-light casement windows. The windows have heavy gabled hoods supported by oversized consoles. Between the hood and window lintel are flat arches of buff brick with a large keystone. The window sills include brackets. Small second-floor, two-light casement windows are centered above the first-floor windows. The mansard roof is highlighted by a tablet above the limestone cornice which reads "Carnegie Library Erected MCMIII." Below the cornice, "Homer" and "Virgil" are inscribed at opposite ends of an entablature. On the sides and rear, a horizontal emphasis is created by a water table and the decorative buff brick "water table," another belt course of buff brick above the first-floor windows, another course of buff brick above a series of dark brick "panels," and a large, blank entablature. The east and west sides have one tall rectangular two-light casement window with a segmental relieving arch and oversized keystone, above which are three raised, blank panels. The rear has the same windows as found on the east and west sides, four equally spaced, with a fifth opening to the east fitted with a modern metal door accessed by a handicap ramp. The library's mansard roof, symmetrical façade, and decorative elements point to its origins in Beaux-Arts design. The interior retains original French doors from the vestibule into the library, balcony rails around the library interior on the second level, and stained glass in the ceiling. The building is currently used as a lecture hall by ETSU and the DVA.

**Building 19** **Governor's Quarters** **1904** **Contributing**

The two-story Colonial Revival-style square frame house on a brick foundation faces south and is set on a rolling, wooded lawn. Broad steps lead to a nearly full-width porch supported by fourteen square columns with stylized pendant at the tops; columns are grouped in threes at porch corners and in twos at the entry to the porch. Under the porch, an entry bay extends slightly. Double French doors are centered between two narrow rectangular four-over-four windows. Above, a wide balcony on the porch roof is bounded by a balustrade anchored by square wooden piers above the entry and at the corners. Second-floor fenestration echoes that of the first floor. A continuous belt course above the second-story windows creates a blank entablature between the windows and the eaves. The low-pitched hipped roof has a hipped portion extending over the entry bay. Exposed decorative rafter tails highlight the roof line. The east wall carries a projecting two-story section in the center and a one-story bay section on the north. The west wall has symmetrically placed windows on both levels and concrete steps to the basement level. The rear section appears to have been added after the original construction and exhibits an aluminum door set into the original surround; one rectangular window framed by narrow windows appears on the first floor, and two symmetrical windows on the second.

The interior of the house retains original doors, windows, woodwork, and curved staircase as well as a servant's stairway off the smallest of the five bedrooms. A new bathroom was added on the first floor, the original dining room converted to a kitchen, and the original kitchen converted to a laundry. The residence was recently vacated.

**Building 20 Guardhouse 1904 Contributing**

The two-story rectangular building with a raised basement is built of red brick. The façade faces south. A central entrance bay features double doors with eight-light windows which may be original, set below a semi-circular arched transom. The transom is shielded by an iron bar grille. The entrance is illuminated by two globe lamps which appear in historic images. Two very narrow rectangular windows under segmental arches with oversized keystones appear on each side of the entrance. The second floor has five rectangular eight-over-eight windows. The hipped roof is highlighted by oversized eave brackets arranged in sets of two between the second-floor windows. Each of the outside bays also carries two narrow rectangular windows with keystones. The north wall holds four, four-over-four windows with keystones on the first floor—one of them bricked-in—and three windows on the second floor. A concrete handicap access ramp leads to an off-center door. On the rear, a recessed entry contains a new door. Three narrow four-over-four windows with keystones appear on each side, and nine windows are on the second floor. The southwest elevation has three narrow four-over-four windows on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. The horizontal massing of the building is emphasized by a cast concrete water table and a corbelled buff brick belt course on the second floor that creates a continuous lintel for the windows. The interior of the building retains an original curved staircase immediately to the right of the entrance foyer that once led to the building's courtroom. The building currently holds Human Resource Department offices.

**Building 34 Mess Hall 1902 Contributing**

The mess hall is the central element of the Joseph H. Freedlander-designed original campus and expresses his Beaux-Arts design. The building, set on an east-west axis, is veneered in red brick laid in Flemish bond with buff brick accents intended to mimic corner quoins, window trim, and other details. The T-plan building is on a limestone block foundation. The clock tower is sixty-eight feet high from foundation to roofline and is set within a projecting, one-story bay centered in front of the long, rectangular mess hall proper. The tower base is given visual weight by the use of buff bricks laid to resemble rusticated ashlar stone. The clock tower's door entry is accented by an oversized semi-circular arch detailed with rounded voisoirs, brackets, and a figurative keystone in the form of a warrior with weapons. The modern aluminum and glass double doors have sidelights and transom; the transom below the arch has been infilled with brick. Above the entrance, on the south, east, and north sides are sets of three narrow windows. The upper two stories of the tower contain the highest degree of elaboration, including clock faces on the south, east, and north sides surrounded by elaborate ornamentation and enormous corner cartouches of shields surmounted by rams' heads. Above, the clock tower opens on each side and forms balcony areas supported by decorative brackets. The low-pitched hipped roof is covered in slate and is supported by square brick columns accented by round columns. The center of the clock tower remains intact, with a curved iron staircase providing access to the tower. The clock works, built by the E. Howard Clock Company in Boston, are housed in the tower and continue to function. Directly in front of the clock tower entrance is a cement pool with a rectangular fountain featuring rams' heads on each side. The fountain was relocated from the original hospital courtyard in the 1980s.

The mess hall extends to each side of the clock tower; each wing carries sets of five six-over-six windows with semi-circular transoms and elaborate keystones. A water table and a belt course above the windows accent the building and cartouches with rams' heads appearing on the corners of the wings. On the east, the first window from the clock tower has been converted to a doorway; at the far east end, a cloth canopy covers concrete stairs

descending to the lower level. On the far end of each wing are sunrooms with broad eaves highlighted by decorative brackets. These rooms were built as open porches; windows and doors have been installed in the formerly open spaces, but the original construction is obvious. A handicap ramp provides access to the west end sunroom and wing. The west end of the original mess hall houses a museum and exhibits original interior columns and window frames. The rear elevation of the mess hall exhibits fenestration similar to the main façade, but most windows have been bricked-in. The low-pitched hipped roof, covered in slate and single ply, carries decorative brackets and exposed rafter tails. Two small towers emerge from the roof at the rear of the main section. The fenestration of the building's northern, irregularly shaped extension has been altered on the east-facing façade, but remains largely intact on the west. Engineering shops and research facilities utilize the east end of the original mess hall and the northern extension. The mess hall now houses the Museum at Mountain Home, a joint project of the VAMC, the James H. Quillen College of Medicine, and Johnson City.[3]

**Building 35 Memorial Hall 1904 Contributing**

This theater exemplifies Joseph Freedlander's Beaux-Arts design. The south-facing building is red brick laid in Flemish bond with limestone block foundation. The theater is rectangular with a truncated hip roof covered in slate and single ply. At the front are two small hipped-roof bays on the east and west; at the rear is a taller gabled and parapetted section for the stage area. Three sets of double entry doors at the façade's ground level are wood with six-light glazing and are highlighted by keystones. Above them, a limestone balcony is supported by large decorative consoles. Three large recessed arched windows overlook the balcony; their glazing features lyre motifs. The windows are topped by keystones with gargoyle accents, and elaborate cartouches including drama figures appear to each side. The broad eaves of the low-pitched roof are supported by prominent decorative brackets. On the main body of the building's east and west walls are located five recessed decorative panels with circular designs and keystones set in semi-circular arches. On the east wall, an arched window matching the main façade windows is on the south. Three double doors appear at ground level and iron stairs lead to a centered, slightly arched entrance opening holding French doors. A single entrance door is at ground level on the north. The west wall features similar fenestration with an additional three arched windows under keystones. On the rear, a projecting one-story section has a central door and arched windows. The upper section is solid brick with a course of light brick at the cornice line. The interior retains the original curved stairway, stage, proscenium, and three balconies on each side. The orchestra pit is also intact. The proscenium was refinished in the 1980s, and new seats and carpet have been installed. Memorial Hall has been rehabilitated and is leased by the Friends of Theatre at ETSU.

**Building 36 Morgue 1903 Contributing**

This one-story, T-plan building with gabled roof faces west and is constructed of the campus' typical red brick laid in Flemish bond with buff brick trim corner "quoins." A water table and two belt courses emphasize the morgues horizontal lines. The gabled-end entrance on the west side is recessed within a semi-circular arched entrance trimmed in buff brick voisoirs. The elaborate keystone over the door includes a cross symbol and a flame. The front-gabled roof is covered in metal and carries a cross at its peak. There is an oversized metal cornice with pairs of brackets near each corner of the building. The north façade is partially hidden by a metal utility building but reveals a rectangular window with keystone. The south side reflects the T-plan, with the cross portion of the T blank walls, the stem of the T pierced by three bricked-in windows. The rear wall carries a central entrance with a modern door bricked into the original opening. The interior of the building is largely intact and retains equipment used for mortuary purposes but is otherwise vacant.

[3] "Driving Tour," *The Museum at Mountain Home*, Technical Services/History of Medicine Library, East Tennessee State University.

**Building 37** **Nurses Quarters** **1903/1936** **Contributing**

This two-story red brick building faces west, and a three-story extension built in the 1930s extends to the east. The brick pattern is Flemish bond with buff quoin accents. The façade has a one-story enclosed brick entrance with a new aluminum entry door. To each side of the door, paired one-over-one windows are in aluminum frames. To the rear of the entrance, two sets of paired windows appear on the second level. Very broad eaves with closely set decorative brackets highlight the low-pitched hipped roof, which is covered in slate and single ply. A brick-sided handicapped access ramp is located on the south side of the building and leads to an entry door. A portion of the rear of the original building is visible and reveals rectangular windows. On the north side, cement stairs lead to the lower level and on the first level, French doors open onto a small balcony. Two rectangular windows are in the upper level. The 1930s extension carries fourteen windows on each floor and four front-gabled dormers on each side of the roof, which has decorative brackets and exposed braces. The extension is nearly invisible from the front of the building. Building 37 is currently used as a psychiatric facility.

**Building 39** **Duplex Quarters** **1921** **Contributing**

This duplex is one of the residences built to provide housing when the functions of the facility after World War I demanded additional medical staff. This two-story Colonial Revival-style square frame house with clapboard siding faces south and carries a truncated hip roof with asphalt shingles. Cement steps lead to a nearly full-width porch supported by square columns with stylized pendants at the top. Two entry doors are separated by a curved divider approximately four feet high. To each side of the doors are rectangular eight-over-eight double-hung windows framed by narrow four-over-four windows. On the second level, an entry-width balcony appears on the porch roof. A French door opens onto the balcony and six-over-six windows appear to each side. The eastern and western walls feature six-over-six double-hung windows with eight-over-eight casement-type windows on the north ends. The rear wall holds two entry doors on the main level, with six-over-six windows on each side. On the second level, casement windows are present at the corners and two six-over-six double-hung windows are in the center. The low-pitched roof has exposed rafter tails; a square brick chimney emerges on the north. The residence is vacant.

**Building 40** **Duplex Quarters** **1921** **Contributing**

Buildings 40 through 43 were also built to house post-World War I staff and are particularly significant because, along with Building 39, they are the only physical representation of the 1920s expansion to a tuberculosis hospital and the transition to a primarily medical rather than residential facility. Colonial Revival in style, their construction was identical and very similar to Building 39, but they carry some variations in modifications. They are square, two-story frame houses with clapboard siding on brick foundations. Steps lead to full-width porches supported by square columns with stylized pendants at the top. The columns are in sets of three at each entry corner. Two entry doors lead into the houses and rectangular windows appear on each side. The porch roofs carry entry-width balconies with balustrades anchored by corner piers. French doors open onto the balconies. Side walls feature two rectangular windows between two triple windows on the lower level, and a double window between two single windows on the second floor. Most windows are six-over-six double hung. In the rear, two entry doors are framed by one small and one larger window; on the upper floor, casement windows appear on each end with two six-over-six windows between them. Roofs are low pitched truncated hip with exposed rafter tails, covered in asphalt shingles and carrying brick chimneys and metal vents. The interiors have been converted to office space but retain elements including staircases and kitchen cupboards.

Building 40 faces south and has brick steps leading to the front entrance. A curved divider approximately four feet high separates the entrance doors. The large end windows on the rear are covered with lattice. The building houses engineering offices.

**Building 41** **Duplex Quarters** **1921** **Contributing**

Building 41 faces south and has cement steps and no divider between its entry doors. Lattice covers large end windows on the east and west façades. The building holds engineering offices.

**Building 42** **Duplex Quarters** **1921** **Contributing**

Building 42 faces southwest. Brick steps lead to the front porch. The curved divider separates the entrance doors. Building 42 holds engineering offices.

**Building 43** **Duplex Quarters** **1921** **Contributing**

Building 43 faces southwest. Brick steps lead to the front porch; the curved divider separates the entrance doors. The porch roof is covered with sheet asphalt. Large, first-floor windows on the rear and side façades are concealed behind lattice. The building is vacant.

**Building 44** **Single Quarters** **1905** **Contributing**

Buildings 44 through 47 were built as branch officers' housing and are nearly identical, although there are some variations in modifications. The two-story Colonial Revival style frame houses with clapboard siding face south and form an irregular semicircle north of the governor's quarters (Building #19); they are similar to that house. The surrounding area is hilled and wooded with views to the distant south.

Building 44 has a nearly full-width porch supported by columns grouped in threes at porch corners and in twos at the entry to the porch. Under the porch, an entry bay extends slightly and double French doors are centered between two narrow rectangular four-over-four windows. On each side are French doors opening to the porch. Above, the wide balcony on the porch roof is bounded by a balustrade with square wooden piers above the entry and at the corners. Centered French doors opening onto the balcony are highlighted by a crown and keystone, and two additional doors are on each side. The roof is truncated hip, with a hip roof portion extending over the entry bay. Exposed decorative rafter tails highlight the roof line. On the east wall, a bay area extends from the southern end; symmetrical windows, most of them six-over-six double-hung, appear on the first and second floors. On the west wall, a three-sided bay window area is to the south and a one-story flat bay area to the north. An arched window appears on the second floor between rectangular windows. The rear has an entry door on the west side, a window framed by two narrow windows on the east, and two symmetrical windows on the upper floor. The roof carries a narrow chimney on its north side. Building 44 is vacant.

**Building 45** **Single Quarters** **1905** **Contributing**

Building 45 is nearly identical to Building 44. The residence is vacant.

**Building 46** **Adjutant's Quarters** **1905** **Contributing**

Building 46 is nearly identical to Buildings 44 and 45, but the footprint is reversed, and the two-bay façade is on the east side. The residence is vacant.

**Building 47** **Single Quarters** **1905** **Contributing**

Building 47 is nearly identical to Building 46, but two windows rather than doors frame the French doors on the second level of the main façade. The residence is vacant.

**Building 52** **Administration Building** **1903** **Contributing**

The administration building is rectangular and built of red brick laid in Flemish bond. It has a brick foundation, is two stories high with a shallow projecting bay on the façade. The façade faces east, directly down Dogwood Avenue. The projecting bay holds the main entry and is highlighted by two single and two double brick columns. The walls on each side have raised brick panels that resemble quoins; another raised brick panel in the center carries a keystone. Entry doors are centered under light brick voussoirs with plain keystones. On the main mass of the building flanking the bay are single windows on both stories. The first-floor window is accented by a semi-circular arch in buff brick with keystone. All windows have aluminum frames set into original surrounds. A handicap access ramp appears on the north side. The low-pitched hipped roof is accented by very broad eaves and closely set decorative brackets and rafter tails. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. On the north, cement stairs to the basement level are visible. Seven windows are set into segmental arch surrounds on the first floor; seven windows are placed high under the eaves on the second. The south wall carries the same window pattern and an entry door. At the rear, a central bay is recessed and holds a new door set into the original doorway. An arched window appears above the door, and three arched windows are to each side. A water table is present on all sides of the building. Building 52 is under lease to ETSU.

**Building 53** **Post Office** **1908** **Contributing**

The post office is a nearly square, two-story, red brick building constructed into a slope so that only one story is visible from the south. The south wall has new aluminum doors set into partially bricked-in original openings. Two nine-over-nine windows appear to the east of the doors, and four windows are on the left. Windows and doors are highlighted by flat arches of buff brick. The windows have a continuous sill. On the east wall, an entry bay has small modern doors set into original door or window surrounds. A rectangular, nine-over nine-double-hung sash window appears to each side of the doors. Rigid plastic on poles covers the entrance area. The north wall reveals very symmetrical fenestration; rows of nine-over-nine windows appear on the first and second level, and the first level also holds two entry doors. The rear wall is partially obscured by the slope but reveals six nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The roof retains the original eyebrow dormers. The building continues to serve as the Mountain Home post office.

**Building 60** **Supply Warehouse** **1905** **Contributing**

This large, rectangular, two-story building is red brick in a Flemish bond pattern with decorative limestone courses. A water table, a continuous window sill on the first floor, and a continuous window lintel on the second floor create the horizontal emphasis of the design. The south-facing façade has a slightly projecting entrance bay highlighted by brick voussoirs and a keystone. The first-floor openings on either side of the central bay create a pattern on each side of three windows flanking the centrally placed modern metal door. First-floor windows have segmental arches with buff-brick voussoirs and keystones. On the second floor, seven rectangular windows appear under the eaves of the low-pitched hipped roof, which is highlighted by prominent decorative brackets and exposed rafter tails. Eyebrow dormers appear in the roof. The east and west walls have four rectangular windows on the first and second floors; some windows are bricked-in. The rear, in general, repeats the fenestration of the façade but has no central bay, and doorways on each end are bricked-in. A concrete loading dock runs the width of the building and is partially covered by rigid plastic on poles. Two centered entry doors are in original surrounds, which are partially bricked in. Building 60 is vacant.

**Building 69** **Hospital** **1903** **Contributing**

The Freedlander-designed Mountain Branch hospital represented a variation on the pavilion plan. It featured existing Building 69, the administration section, on the west side, with four two-story, T-plan wards to the east. Building 69 served as the eastern terminus for Dogwood Avenue, and physically balanced the layout of the campus. Immediately behind Building 69 was a courtyard garden, enclosed on the north and south by two wards each. All four wards were set on a north/south axis. A smaller T-plan building enclosed the garden on the east. The courtyard was filled by a hospital building in 1984 (see Building 77). The wards were demolished and their spaces are now occupied by the new hospital (see Building 200), the outpatient clinic and emergency room (see Building 204), and the laundry and warehouse (see Building 205). Most of the new hospital is invisible from the historic core. Buildings 204 and 205 form wings to Building 69 and are sympathetic to its design; the façade of Building 204 refers to the original structure with an arcade of arched openings.

Building 69 continues an important design role of anchoring the east end of Dogwood Avenue. A limestone foundation supports the building with its Flemish bond brick body and buff brick accents. Rectangular windows are recessed into the foundation. Cement steps rise to a slightly recessed entrance in a wide bay. The first and second stories of the central portion of the bay are distinguished by buff brick laid to resemble rusticated ashlar. Sets of Tuscan order columns support the second story shallow limestone balcony. Above the balcony, a pediment supported by brackets is centered over a French door, and two very narrow, deeply inset windows appear to each side. On each side of the central bay, the first floor carries recessed eight-over-eight windows under arched transoms. Brick voussoirs and keystones decorate the windows. A continuous belt course divides the first and second floors on the three visible sides and another belt course appears at mid-height of the third story windows, creating a blank frieze below the eaves. On the second floor of the façade, tall rectangular twelve-over-twelve windows appear under a cartouche. At the top corners of the second-floor level are cartouches with lions' heads detail. A continuous belt course appears at mid-height of the third-story windows. Cartouches appear at the upper outside corners. The broad eaves of the low-pitched hipped roof are highlighted by decorative brackets and rafter tails. The south wall presents the same window styles as the main façade and includes a metal fire escape. At the rear, a two-story brick extension connects the central section with the buildings to the east. On the south side, this extension is covered with board; on the west, original details, including a large arched, multipane window is retained.

The interior includes some original elements, including a staircase, brick walls surrounding the former courtyard area, and the outlines of the original openings to the courtyard, which are now bricked-in. The original hospital building is used for administrative and clinical offices.

**Building 83** **Automobile Garage** **1903** **Contributing**

This garage is associated with Building 19, the original Governor's House. The end-gabled, wood-frame garage with vinyl garage doors faces east and rests on a concrete pad. The garage has a vertical board, flat roof extension with plywood doors on the west end. While there are vinyl garage doors and an extension, the changes are not sufficient to remove all integrity.

**CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

**Structure 10** **Bandstand** **1905** **Contributing**

The octagonal bandstand has a concrete floor on a brick foundation. Stairs access the bandstand on the north and south sides. Eight round columns support a conical roof with exposed rafter ends; the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

## CONTRIBUTING SITES

**Road system/landscape 1903 Contributing**

The Mountain Branch road system and landscape retain the original street plan as well as the open spaces and vistas that characterized the site when it was constructed. Main avenues run roughly east and west with cross-streets running roughly north and south from the main boulevard. The rectilinear design of this core of the branch reflects a more formal plan than those employed in most of the other branches and is in keeping with the classicism of Freedlander's Beaux-Arts buildings and Beaux-Arts planning in general. The streets are named after trees, in keeping with the home's original pastoral setting. In order of importance, they are Dogwood Avenue (the primary core road about which the Home is arranged), Magnolia Avenue (to the north, a smaller street) and Maple Street (further north) with runs between the barracks). At the west end of the complex, curving, tree-lined streets form a roughly circular system that provided a suburban-like atmosphere for the officers' residential area. These streets and the surrounding wooded hills and open lawns are retained. On the northeast end of the complex, curving streets accommodated staff residences built following program growth at the home. The grounds slope down to the south and east and include the wide expanse of the parade grounds, highlighted by the bandstand, a flagpole and a granite obelisk, all in a line directly south of the mess hall. The grounds intersperse open spaces and wooded areas with deciduous trees and cedars and include a rock garden consisting of limestone ledges uncovered during original construction.

The Mountain Branch Lake, called simply "The Lake," is at the southern edge of the property and at the bottom of a pronounced slope. The lake is ringed by deciduous trees, including many willows, on its south shore. The Lake's north shore is bounded by a road and a hiking path. Three fountains within the lake spout water, and a modern wooden deck extends over the water on the west end. As late as the 1920s, a water park, consisting of two elevated ponds, drained into the lake from the west. Another lake, Lake Brownlow, was located south of the Administration Building. Both of these water features have been drained, but the depressions that held them are still obvious.

Three entrances offer access to the property: The main (south) gate originally included a gatehouse, which has been removed. Brick entrance piers now mark the south entrance and the north entrance as well. A third entrance is located on the west side of the property. This western entrance is largely unadorned. Viewsheds are largely intact, particularly to the south where distant mountains are seen beyond miles of rolling, wooded hills.

**Cemetery 1903 Contributing**

Mountain Home National Cemetery is located at the northern edge of the Mountain Branch campus. The cemetery now holds more than 10,000 graves and occupies nearly 92 acres. Winding roads lead through the irregularly shaped cemetery. The topography rises gently to the north, and mature trees are scattered across the grounds. The main road enters from the south, between two modern brick entry posts, and gently curves uphill north and east before branching into several large loops. Facing the road between Sections D and M is an open brick and stone committal shelter (no number). The focal point of the area is an oval formed by the road at the high point of the cemetery. It is part of the oldest development in the cemetery, and is sometimes referred to as "The Silent Circle" or "Monument Circle." Although the circle is reserved for officers, Walter P. Brownlow and his wife, Clayetta Brownlow, received special dispensation from the Board of Managers to be buried in the oval.[4] Their graves are marked by a private burial marker designed in the shape of an obelisk that carries their names. Most pre-1930 burials are in Sections A through H, roughly pie-shaped units surrounding the private Brownlow obelisk-shaped marker, and Memorial Section, or in Sections I through L, rectangular units in the northeast corner. An irregularly-shaped loop road south of the circle was developed in the early 1940s and the

[4] Susan Kay Hartman, "A History of Mountain Home," Master's thesis, East Tennessee State University, 1984, 20–21.

last portion to serve the cemetery is to the west, in the former ballfield. There are three Medal of Honor recipients buried in the cemetery: Sergeant Henry G. Buhrman (Civil War); Lieutenant Frederick Clarence Buck (Civil War); and Staff Sergeant Junior James Spurrier (World War II).

Graves of Civil War and Spanish-American veterans who died before 1940 are, in general, marked with upright stones which are curved at the top and carry a slightly recessed shield with inscriptions. Graves of World War I and later veterans are marked with upright, white marble stones which are slightly rounded at the top and carry inscriptions giving the soldier's name, rank, death date, and other information. Additionally, flat white marble markers are found in later sections of the cemetery. There are three Medal of Honor recipients buried in the cemetery.

Several people who were not necessarily veterans but who had connections to the Mountain Branch are buried in what is referred to as the "Special Section," east of the Brownlow graves. John Powell Smith, the first Governor of the Mountain Branch, was buried here in 1918. His marker also carries the name of his wife, Florence Alexander Smith. Carl Andersen, the landscape architect associated with the Mountain Branch, was interred here in 1908, and popular Catholic chaplain John K. Larkin was buried here in mass vestments in 1910. Three children were buried in the section, including Clover Wadsworth, who died in 1908. Her father, C. W. Wadsworth, served as adjutant at the Mountain Branch and later as a director of the domiciliary unit of the Veterans Administration. A hospital at the Pacific Branch in California was named for him. The other two children were infant sons born to branch employees.[5] These graves are marked by a variety of private headstones rather than the standard white marble government-issued headstones found elsewhere in the cemetery.

Other resources in the cemetery include a modern office/visitor center and a storage building (Buildings 117 and 118). Also within the cemetery grounds are two flagpoles for the United States flag and a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag. The cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence. The cemetery has recently acquired portions of the branch grounds on the east and south for use in future expansion.[6] The cemetery is considered contributing per NHL Exception 5, as its primary significance derives from its importance to the history of the NHDVS.

**CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS**

**(No Number) Obelisk ca. 1922 Contributing**

The granite obelisk is in the former parade grounds. The obelisk carries the inscription "In Memory of the Men Who Offered Their Lives in Defense of their Country."

**Brownlow Marker ca. 1913 Contributing**

The obelisk marks the graves of the man responsible for creation of Mountain Branch, Tennessee Senator Walter Preston Brownlow, and his wife, Clayetta. On the east side of the obelisk is the inscription "Clayetta Ashland Brownlow Nov. 10, 1851, Oct. 25, 1913." On the west side is the inscription "Walter Preston Brownlow Mar. 27, 1851, July 8, 1910."

[5] Mountain Home National Cemetery: A Century of Serving ... A Lifetime of Caring, 1903–2003" (Johnson City, TN: James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, 2003), 3–5.

[6] Ibid., 3, 5, 8, 10–11.

## NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

**Building 8** **Hospital Annex** **1932** **Noncontributing**

Building 8 was constructed to match the Beaux-Arts style Buildings 1 and 2. The detailing, massing, footprint, and materials are nearly identical to the earlier buildings; the dark brick veneer is laid in a Flemish bond. Cartouches and other decorative elements are not present and windows are modern single glazed. Wings hold entry doors. A long entry ramp is located to the east. The building houses administrative, fiscal, and clerical offices. The design of the building is sympathetic to the historic core, but it is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the NHDVS period of significance.

**Building 77** **Clinical Support** **1984** **Noncontributing**

This three-story, brick building with a flat roof was built within the courtyard area of the original hospital complex. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 85** **Automobile Garage** **1948** **Noncontributing**

This front-gabled garage is associated with Building 44. It is built of horizontal board on a cement block foundation. Two vinyl garage doors provide access. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 98** **Automobile Garage** **1948** **Noncontributing**

This three-car garage is associated with Building 15. The south-facing, three-car garage is wood frame on cement block foundation, features a mansard-style roof, and has three vinyl garage doors. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 99** **Automobile Garage** **1948** **Noncontributing**

This two-car garage is located between Buildings 46 and 47 and was probably used by residents of both houses. The long, concrete block building has two multipane windows on each side and a vinyl garage door on each end. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 108** **Boiler Plant** **1970** **Noncontributing**

This two-story, rectangular boiler plant is red brick set in a Flemish bond pattern. It carries a flat roof and features symmetrical concrete panels on two sides. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 116** **Emergency Generator Building** **1978** **Noncontributing**

This small, square, utilitarian building carries a flat roof. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 117** **Cemetery Service Administration** **1978** **Noncontributing**

This is a wood frame, L-plan building with cross-gabled roof. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 118 Cemetery Storage 1992 Noncontributing**

This cemetery storage facility is a small wood-frame building. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 119 Medical School Laboratory 1983 Noncontributing**

This irregularly shaped large red brick building with a flat roof is directly behind Building 1. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 120 Emergency Generator Building 1983 Noncontributing**

The Generator Building is a small square brown brick building with flat roof. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 160 Domiciliary/Primary Care and Administration 1991 Noncontributing**

This large, irregularly shaped five-story brick building is south of the Mountain Branch's historic core. Its mansard-style roof, multi-angled bays, and square entry columns reference the Mountain Branch's traditional architecture. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 161 Emergency Generator Building 1991 Noncontributing**

Similar to Building 120, Building 161 is a small brick building with flat roof. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 162 Nursing Home 1990 Noncontributing**

The façade of this two-story, red brick building faces southeast. Its entrance features a porte-cochere supported by square and round columns. Three irregularly shaped two-story wings extend to the north of the entrance; their angles recall those of the end sections of Buildings 1 and 2. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 178 Basic Sciences Building 2001 Noncontributing**

This three-story brick building refers to the architecture of Buildings 3 through 7 in its truncated hip roof square columns, central entry, and symmetrical fenestration. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 200 New Hospital 1989 Noncontributing**

The New Hospital is a large, irregularly shaped building located behind the remaining element of the original hospital. The building is constructed of brick with limestone accents; irregularly shaped wings extend to the north, south, and east. The New Hospital is largely invisible from the historic core. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 201 Facility Maintenance 1985 Noncontributing**

This long, narrow, one-story brick building with flat roof has large equipment doors and smaller vehicle doors on the south side. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 204 Outpatient Clinic & Emergency Room 2001 Noncontributing**

Building 204 replaces one of the original hospital "finger buildings." Constructed of red brick in a Flemish bond, it recalls elements of the earlier building on this site with its square columns, west-facing arcade, truncated hip roof and broad eaves with brackets and belt courses between the first and second floor. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 205 Laundry/Warehouse 1999 Noncontributing**

This three-story, rectangular brick building is highlighted with courses of light brick. The brick is laid in Flemish Bond. The roof is flat. A loading dock and multiple doors are on the south façade. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 206 Facility Maintenance/Groundskeeping 2000 Noncontributing**

This building is a garage/equipment shed with multiple openings to accommodate large pieces of equipment. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 207 MRI 1999 Noncontributing**

The MRI building is a small, square concrete building with flat roof. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Building 208 Co-generator Energy Center 2001 Noncontributing**

This two-story building of light brick laid in Flemish bond was constructed on the footprint of the original laundry building and references the Home's architecture in its decorative voussoirs, keystones, and dark brick designs. The roof is flat. The building is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

**Structure 103 Water Meter/Valve House 1931 Noncontributing**

This small utilitarian structure is located at the south gate. It is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Structure 107 Water Tank 1965 Noncontributing**

This modern water tank provides 400,000 gallons of water storage. The water tank is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Structure 209 Thermal Storage Tank 2001 Noncontributing**

A chilled water storage tank sited adjacent to Building 207, this structure is 42 feet in diameter and fifty feet high. The storage tank is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

**Structure B-37 Smoking Shelter ca. 2007 Noncontributing**

Canopy area near Building 37. The smoking shelter is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(No Number)** | **Picnic Shelter** | **ca. 2007** | **Noncontributing** |

A small picnic shelter is located southwest of Building 160. The picnic shelter is noncontributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(No Number)** | **Entrance Posts** | **1930** | **Noncontributing** |

Brick entrance posts at the north and south gates have concrete caps. On the south side of the south gate posts are bronze signs carrying the Veterans Administration seal, dated 1930 (west pier), and VA Center Mountain Home (east). Directly north of these is a modern directional sign made of brick that incorporates cartouches salvaged from the original hospital building.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(No Number)** | **Cemetery Entrance Posts** | **ca. 1990** | **Noncontributing** |

Modern brick entrance posts stand at either side of the cemetery entrance and hold bronze plaques identifying the cemetery.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(No Number)** | **Cemetery Committal Shelter** | **unknown** | **Noncontributing** |

Little information is known about this structure. It has a hipped roof and faces the road between Sections D and M. Until additional information becomes available to change the status, it is considered noncontributing.

**NONCONTRIBUTING OBJECTS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Building 96** | **Flagpole** | **1968** | **Noncontributing** |

The flagpole is located to the south of Building 34 and across Dogwood Avenue in the former parade grounds. The 1968 flagpole replaced the original “Navy type” pole. The flagpole is noncontributing because it was erected outside the period of significance.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(No Number)** | **Cemetery Flagpoles (2)** | **unknown** | **Noncontributing** |

These two flagpoles are for the United States flag and a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag.

## 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 X 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, and Social History |
| Period(s) of Significance: | 1901–1930 |
| Significant Dates: | 1901, 1921, 1930 |
| Significant Person(s): | n/a |
| Cultural Affiliation: | n/a |
| Architect/Builder: | Joseph H. Freedlander, architect<br>Attr. to Carl Andersen, 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.**

**Statement of Significance**

The Mountain Branch of the NHDVS 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. The Mountain Branch 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 1901 and opened in 1904, the Mountain Branch of the NHDVS represents the network of veterans' benefits that began growing rapidly after the Civil War and became increasingly important in terms of medical care to veterans after 1900. 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. These changes included medical attention to the treatment of conditions to which veterans of that war were susceptible, particularly yellow fever and tuberculosis. 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 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 period of significance for the Mountain Branch is 1901–1930.

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." 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. The Western Branch NHDVS is one of four branches nominated for NHL designation.

The Mountain Branch 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 broadening 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 Battle Mountain Sanitarium, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, 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. 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. It outstandingly represents Phases Four and Five and the evolution of the NHDVS from a primarily residential system to one offering extensive medical services to veterans. The period of significance for Battle Mountain Sanitarium is 1902-1930.

The Mountain Branch 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 tends to be located outside of the core area, and the majority of noncontributing resources are small, providing little intrusion into the historic setting.

Newer development has been located outside of the core area, and the larger hospital facilities have shown a consideration of the home's historic construction materials and design. National Historic Landmark Exception 5 applies as the cemetery was established in 1903 as Mountain Branch was being developed. Its primary significance is as part of the NHDVS historical development.

## Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

### Establishment, Design and Construction

The Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, established near Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1901, was the ninth branch of the NHDVS. Walter Preston Brownlow, a powerful Congressman, was instrumental in convincing the Board of Managers to establish this branch in eastern Tennessee.[7] The Mountain Branch exemplifies the Board's goals to build attractive and appealing buildings that would convey the public's appreciation of war veterans. In addition, the branch symbolizes the system's increasing attention to medical care as a new population of disabled veterans was created by post-Civil War conflicts.

Walter Brownlow was born in Abingdon, Virginia, on March 27, 1851, and went to work at the age of ten after his father died. In his early teens, he reportedly walked from eastern Tennessee to Nashville to ask for help from his uncle, William Gannway Brownlow, who served as governor of Tennessee and then U.S. senator from that state. Walter Brownlow's biographers have credited this experience with making the young man determined to grant favors rather than beg for them. As a young man, Brownlow worked as a carpenter and a tinner and briefly studied law. In 1870, he married Clayetta Ashland Holbach, with whom he had six children, one of whom died in infancy. To support his family, Brownlow worked as a collector, salesman, and railroad engineer before briefly joining his uncle in the newspaper business. Brownlow eventually purchased his own newspaper, the *Jonesboro Herald and Tribune*, which he owned for the remainder of his life. He was intensely interested in politics and became active in the Republican Party. In 1881, he was appointed doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, a position that introduced him to influential politicians, elected officials, and foreign dignitaries. He also supervised more than a hundred employees. In the mid-1880s he was appointed superintendent of the U.S. Senate Folding Room, another position that afforded him access to influential people. In 1896, Brownlow won election to the House of Representatives from Tennessee's First Congressional District. He served seven terms in Congress before his death in 1910 and became well-known for his ability to gain federal projects and funds for his district. The Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was one of these projects.[8]

Histories of Mountain Branch give Brownlow almost total credit for its creation. As a member of the House Military Affairs Committee, he submitted a report to the House of Representatives noting that only one NHDVS branch—the Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia—was located in the South, although more than three hundred thousand men from Southern states, including more than thirty thousand men from Tennessee, had fought for the Union. He also noted that large numbers of men from Southern states had served in the Spanish-American War and others were fighting in the Philippines. Brownlow maintained that Southern veterans should be cared for in a Southern climate and referenced a report by the U.S. Attorney General saying that it was only humane to provide federal penitentiaries in the South so that southern prisoners were not subjected to a severe climate change by being sent North. The Congressman argued that veterans should be given at least as much consideration as federal prisoners. He touted Washington County, Tennessee, as an area that was progressive, patriotic, and rich in history, and Johnson City as a town with natural and industrial attributes conducive to the successful operations of a major federal institution. Brownlow encouraged the printing and distribution of the Military Affairs Committee report to Grand Army of the Republic chapters, which resulted in support for his legislation across the country. The bill passed the House unanimously and was signed into law on January 28,

[7] Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 11.

[8] Helen Still Beeson, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," (master's thesis, East Tennessee State University, 1967), 1–35; Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 12–14.

1901. The legislation called for the location of an NHDVS branch at or within a five-mile radius of Johnson City, with acquisition of land to be completed within three months.[9]

The Board of Managers quickly visited Johnson City, Tennessee, the site for the new branch. In 1901, the population of Johnson City was five thousand and its assessed valuation was $750,000. Like other communities that had become NHDVS sites, Johnson City recognized the value of such a designation. By the time the initial Mountain Branch construction was finished, Johnson City's population and assessed valuation had doubled. The local newspaper ran a weekly column about the branch and noted that its establishment was a boon to the city and the entire region.[10]

Walter P. Brownlow continued to be influential in the development of the Mountain Branch. In 1902, he was appointed to the NHDVS Board of Managers and he was also designated local manager of the Mountain Branch. He successfully petitioned Andrew Carnegie to donate funds for the construction of the Branch's library and similar appeals to individuals and organizations resulted in donations of books, art, and musical instruments. He and a partner acquired a municipal franchise for a streetcar line that transported Mountain Branch members and visitors back and forth from Johnson City. His official residence was in Jonesboro, but he maintained an apartment at the Branch where he died in 1910. He and his wife were buried in the branch cemetery.[11]

In establishing the branch, the Board of Managers acquired about four hundred acres of land in a rectangular tract west of Johnson City at a cost of slightly over $22,000. The lands were owned by J. M. Martin, Robert F. Hale, Joseph and John Lyle, the heirs of C. J. Lyle, and the heirs of W. P. Miller. The Lyle family holdings, which constituted the largest part of the acreage, commanded impressive views of the surrounding wooded hills and distant southern mountains. The site was on the Southern Railway line, and the railroad made plans to build a station at the branch's southern entrance and sidings, providing means of transportation and supply. Farmhouses provided quarters for staff until permanent housing was built; a log cabin constructed in 1775 and located on the western edge of the property was partially restored in 1938 and moved to a city park in the 1970s.[12]

On July 11, 1901, the NHDVS Board of Managers announced that they had chosen Joseph H. Freedlander of New York City from a field of six finalists in a competition to design the Mountain Branch. Freedlander was only thirty years old when he was given the commission. A native of New York City, he had graduated from the Boston Institute of Technology and had studied at the Êcole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was a finalist in competitions to design the New York Public Library and the University of California and he had remodeled

---

[9] Beeson, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 88–91; Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 14–15; Committee on Military Affairs, *Branch Soldiers' Home, At or Near Johnson City, Tenn*., 56th Cong., 1st Sess., 1900, H.R, Rep. No. 312, 1–6; *United States Statutes at Large* 30 (1901), 745.

[10] Beeson, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 92; Daniel L. Kyte, "A History of the Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, n.d., in possession of author; Taffey Hall, "The Mountain Home Veterans Complex in Johnson City, Tennessee: A Symbol of a Progressive Upper East Tennessee Identity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century" (master's thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 2005), 38–39.

[11] Beesen, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 94–98, 146; Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 17–21. No records exist at the VA campus identifying the building occupied by the Brownlows, but it is surmised that the apartment was in a building now gone but near the Governor's House. Dan Kyte to Dena Sanford, email message, May 28–29, 2009, copy on file National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office.

[12] Veterans Administration, Mountain Home Tennessee, plot plan, Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Mountain Home Tennessee, rev. 1931 December 11, private collection, Daniel Kyte, Jonesborough, Tennessee; Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 16–17, 38; "For A New Soldiers' Home, *New York Times,* July 12, 1901; *Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1902*, 57th Cong., 2d Sess., H. Doc. No. 54, 8–10; *Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1904,* 58th Cong., 3d Sess., H. Doc. No. 71, 199–200.

Samuel J. Tilden's home and designed a club and a private villa. The Mountain Branch commission clearly was an important one for a young architect on the rise, and after completing the commission Freedlander went on to design projects including the Museum of the City of New York, the Bronx County Courthouse (with Max Hausle), and buildings at the Saratoga Spa in Saratoga, New York. He served as president of the Fine Arts Federation of New York and the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects. Freedlander died in 1943.[13]

Freedlander's original conception called for about thirty-five buildings, with the main buildings designed in the French Renaissance/Beaux-Arts style. Memorial Hall, the branch theater, would stand at one end of the parade grounds; the other end would be marked by conservatories and a canteen. The mess hall would serve as a center element, with twelve barracks grouped beside and behind it. The hospital would be built to the right of the barracks.[14] While Freedlander's final design and plan varied slightly from this description—for instance, Memorial Hall (Building 35) is located to the rear (north) of the barracks, the main boulevard of Dogwood Avenue is bounded by the administration building (Building 52) on the west and the hospital (Building 69) on the east, and only seven barracks were built—the general concept carried through to the final design. The linear plan holding complemented the Beaux-Arts buildings; at each end of the campus, curving or circular drives softened the design and provided a more naturalistic atmosphere for officer and staff residences.

The principal architectural style of the Mountain Branch is Beaux-Arts. The Beaux-Arts style in the United States was popular from about 1885 to 1930 and used particularly by architects who had attended the Êcole des Beaux-Arts in France. The Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 helped to promote the Beaux-Arts style when it featured Beaux-Arts architecture and site planning. The influence of the Exposition combined with the early nineteenth-century City Beautiful movement, which aimed to improve urban life through planning and beautification of buildings and public spaces, to influence community planning. For the next several decades, many cities and communities across the nation adapted Beaux-Arts architecture and landscape planning. Beaux-Arts style encompassed symmetrical façades, masonry walls, classical columns, elaborate ornamentation including garlands, quoins, and cartouches, and hipped or mansard roofs. Landscape architecture associated with Beaux-Arts architecture deviated from the popular naturalistic and picturesque plans popular in the late nineteenth century; Beaux-Arts buildings were typically set in formal, linear spaces with wide streets and open parks. [15]

The original landscaping of the grounds may have been the work of Carl Andersen, who came to the Mountain Branch from Marion, Indiana. After his 1908 death of acute appendicitis, the local newspaper called Andersen "chief landscape artist at the Soldier's Home."[16] He was buried in the branch cemetery, and his simple grave marker carries the inscription "Carl Andersen, Landscape Architect."[17] Landscape design at the Mountain Branch included two lakes, one just south of the administration building and the other at the southern edge of the property at the bottom of a sloping hill. Wooded areas were interspersed with park-like open sections, affording views of rolling wooded hills and distant mountains. A nursery and greenhouse grew plants for branch use. Joshua S. Gray, a native of Greene County, Tennessee, and a Spanish-American War veteran, began working at the branch about 1903 and became chief landscape gardener. He and his family lived on the grounds in a house behind the hospital for many years. His most widely known creation was the "rose circle," a metal

[13] *New York Times*, July 12, 1901; *New York Times,* April 27, 1934; *New York Times,* September 1, 1937; Saratoga's History Room databases, Saratoga Springs Public Library, https://www.sspl.org/, accessed September 7, 2007; Hall, "Mountain Home Veterans Complex in Johnson City, Tennessee," 46–47.

[14] *New York Times,* July 12, 1901.

[15] Dennis P. Doordan, *Twentieth-Century Architecture* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2002), 5–7; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 380.

[16] Johnson City (TN) Comet, June 18, 1908.

[17] Mountain Home National Cemetery, n.p.

frame covered with climbing roses located near the present Building 8. He also created flower beds in patriotic colors of red, white, and blue. Gray worked at the branch until 1929 and died in 1935.[18]

None of the new buildings had been completed when the branch accepted its first member on October 15, 1903, and the hospital complex—still under construction—was used for kitchen and dining purposes, barracks, laundry, officer's residences, and hospital through the end of the year.[19] By May 1904, the grounds around the hospital had been leveled and the lake banks next to the railroad track at the south side of the property were being filled to create the "Lake," which still exists on the property. Workers were using hammers and crowbars to remove a limestone ledge near the hospital because blasting it out would have damaged buildings. In June, barracks 1 and 2, the mess hall, laundry, ice plant, storehouse (Building 60), and morgue (Building 36)—connected to the basement of the hospital by a tunnel—were officially completed and transferred to the federal government. Thirty-seven buildings were erected in the original group, including the mess hall, seven barracks, the hospital complex, the administration building, the power house, the chapel (Building 13), a conservatory, Memorial Hall, morgue, and officers' residences.[20] Major E. D. Haynes, who wrote a "Soldiers' Home Notes" column for the Johnson City newspaper, declared chief engineer James A. Bradley "the busiest man in the home … he is on the go from early morning until late at night."[21]

A souvenir book printed in 1909 presents images of the Mountain Branch within a few years of its opening. The main entrance was framed by two brick pillars and a small guardhouse. Barracks 1 housed C and E Companies and barracks 2 sheltered A and B Companies. These two barracks faced Dogwood Avenue and were built in the extravagant Beaux-Arts style. Barracks 3 through 7 were built to the rear (north) of the first two barracks in a more simple style. The mess hall, with a seating capacity of over one thousand, was constructed between Barracks 1 and 2 and faced Dogwood Avenue. With its tall clock tower, long, narrow wings and elaborate Beaux-Arts decorations, the mess hall provided an important focal point. The building extended into a third narrow wing to the north which held the kitchen and storage areas. To the north of the mess hall, the power house (demolished) featured an imposing center bay, a low pitched hipped roof with eyebrow dormers, and a tall chimney with decorative brick work. The laundry building (demolished) was north of the power plant and presented a recessed entrance bay and rectangular windows with brick voussoirs and keystones. The chapel departed from the Beaux-Arts designs of the other major buildings and hinted at Mission influences with shaped parapets at the rooflines. A stable (demolished) carried a roof with broad eaves and eyebrow dormers similar to design elements on other buildings; the dairy barn (demolished) provided ample space for dairy operations and a row of dormers on its wing reflected the architecture of the main barracks. The hotel and store (demolished) was a two-story structure with low-pitched hipped roof and wide arched openings leading to the entrance and the porches. The Carnegie Library (Building 17) and Memorial Hall featured elaborate Beaux-Arts decorative elements. Officers' residences on the west side of the grounds (Buildings 19, 44–47) were built in the Colonial Revival style and surrounded by thick plantings of trees and shrubs interspersed with open spaces. Modest cottages on the east side (demolished) housed the branch's engineer and gardener.[22]

---

[18] Beesen, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 94; Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 41; Dorothy Hamill "Memories of the Home," *Johnson City (TN) Press-Chronicle*, November 29, 1981, copy held by Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

[19] Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 42, 49; *Annual Report 1904,* 199–200.

[20] Beesen, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 93–94; E. D. Haynes, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City (TN) Comet*, April 7, 1904, May 19, 1904, June 23, 1904. Designing a building to serve two denominations under one roof was often done for NHDVS Homes. Similar combination churches were constructed at the Northwestern, Western, Southern, Pacific, Marion and Danville branches. The Central Branch combined services in one building prior to construction of its separate Catholic church.

[21] Charles Cunningham, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City Comet,* September 3, 1903; E. D. Haynes, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City Comet,* August 11, 1904.

[22] *Souvenir Book: National Military Home, Tennessee* (privately published, Charles Edwards, 1909), n.p., Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Freedlander's buildings and plan received national attention and some criticism. In 1906, the *Craftsman,* Gustav Stickley's influential magazine dedicated to design, house building, and the Arts and Crafts movement, published an article entitled "Soldiers' Home in Tennessee: A Noteworthy Example of a Group of Buildings Planned as a Whole." The magazine praised the cohesive plan of the institution and suggested its central kitchen and dining area, its storehouse, and its laundry building could form a model for residential communities in a society increasingly independent of servants. The *Craftsman* noted that the buildings were constructed of native materials including timber, brick, and limestone; use of native materials was a hallmark of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic. The magazine also praised the buildings' wide porches and rooms with multiple windows, allowing sunshine and fresh air to enter the spaces.[23] In 1911, *Architectural Record* featured the Mountain Branch. "Fortunate Treatment of a Group of Institutional Buildings: The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, J. H. Freedlander, Architect," by Montgomery Schuyler praised the suitability of the plan to its rolling, wooded landscape but noted that the "exotic character" of the Beaux-Arts architecture was "especially striking among these mountains. It seems almost to have been adopted with the special view of astonishing the natives." Schuyler hinted that the architecture of the simpler buildings, including the chapel, were more appropriate for the site.[24] Schuyler particularly criticized the cartouches and other elaborate Beaux-Arts elements Freedlander had used to decorate his creations; without them, he said, many of the buildings could have maintained "the pleasant illusion that they are products of the soil."[25] Despite these criticisms, Schuyler concluded that "the most architecturally noteworthy of our Soldiers' Homes is as interesting in detail as it is successful in its general scheme."[26]

**Initial Operations**

The Mountain Branch quickly became a productive facility that sheltered a wide variety of men. During the first nine months of operation, the Mountain Branch laundered nearly twenty-one thousand pieces of clothing and bedding. The farm and dairy operation produced nineteen pounds of beets, twenty-four bunches of radishes, and more than three hundred gallons of milk for consumption by members. A typical weekday menu included bacon, potatoes, bread, and coffee for breakfast, roast mutton with gravy, mashed potatoes, and coffee for the noon meal, and stewed fruit, cheese, biscuits, and tea for the evening supper.[27] By the end of the fiscal year in June 1904, the Mountain Branch had served 363 members. Seven were veterans of the Mexican-American War or Indian conflicts; 321 were Civil War veterans; 32 had served in the Spanish-American War and two in the Philippines conflict, and one was a surgeon who had not served in the military. Of the 362 military veterans, 325 were volunteers, eighteen were Regulars, and nineteen were navy veterans; 173 of these men were married. One hundred of them recorded their occupation as farmer; fifty-four were laborers, twenty-nine carpenters, sixteen clerks, and ten blacksmiths. Additionally, seven lawyers, five physicians, four musicians, three teachers, an actor, and a dentist, as well as other professional and laboring categories were listed. Nearly 90 percent were native born and only seventeen of them were African American. The largest number of members (149) were citizens of Tennessee; eighteen came from Pennsylvania, sixteen from Ohio, fifteen from California, fourteen from Illinois, twelve from New York, eleven from Indiana, and others from various parts of the country. A total of thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia were represented in the membership. The majority of men (238) were from 56 to 67 years old. During that initial year, eighty-one cases were treated in the hospital and nearly three hundred at daily sick call. Most of the cases were gastrointestinal or respiratory in nature or considered disorders of the nervous system. These latter conditions included delirium tremens, dementia,

[23] "Soldiers' Home in Tennessee: A Noteworthy Example of a Group of Buildings Planned as a Whole." *Craftsman* 11 (December 1906): 348–56.

[24] Montgomery Schuyler, "Fortunate Treatment of a Group of Institutional Buildings: The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, J. H. Freedlander, Architect," *Architectural Record* 30 (August 1911): 145.

[25] Ibid., 146.

[26] Ibid., 150.

[27] Annual Report, 1904, 208, 211.

epilepsy, migraine headaches, and neuralgia. More than a dozen female nurses cared for patients in the hospital, assisted by eight to ten male stewards and nurses. A ward for the insane isolated psychiatric patients until they could be transferred to the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, D.C.[28] During the fiscal year ending in mid-1904, forty-seven charges were brought against members, seventeen of them related to alcohol abuse and one of them a result of "writing insolent and insulting letters to officers of Home."[29]

**Recreation, Entertainment and Visitors at the Mountain Branch**

Like other branches, the Mountain Branch attracted local visitors and tourists. In announcing the choice of Freedlander as architect, the *New York Times* said the branch would provide homes for about twenty-five hundred veterans and "incidentally" was expected to attract 300,000 visitors per year and "bring the beautiful mountain region in which it will stand into prominence both as a Winter and Summer resort."[30] The construction of a hotel encouraged these visitors, as did the imposing buildings, the expansive landscape and lakes and the beautiful view. Local people were proud to be connected with the facility. When the hospital complex opened in the fall of 1903, Walter Brownlow and a number of residents from Johnson City and nearby Jonesborough celebrated with a luncheon in the hospital kitchen. The branch's band held its first concert in a corridor of the hospital building. Both branch and Johnson City residents attended the concert. By the summer of 1904, the Mountain Branch was inviting the public to free band concerts on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings. A baseball field was developed about 1910 and baseball games provided further entertainment. A branch zoo became one of the popular diversions. Located on the north side of the grounds, the zoo included a bear, deer, elk, and peacocks. The zoo was closed in the early 1920s. The library was open daily and provided newspapers and magazines for reading; by 1923, the facility held more than fifteen thousand books. Members, area residents, and other visitors enjoyed movies and theatrical productions at Memorial Hall.[31]

Less savory entertainments also occupied some of the residents. In 1916, an official report noted that "there is a constant violation of both the State and National laws by bootleggers and what are known as 'blind tigers' outside but adjoining the home grounds." Members buying the bootlegged alcohol were seen not only as violators but also as victims, being "to a considerable extent robbed by these people and their associates."[32] In the mid-1920s, branch officials described their vigilance in regard to activities prohibited on the grounds. Six guards were "constantly on the alert" for gambling. Nurses, officers, and branch employees were told to report observations of gambling or intoxication. Guards also watched for the presence of men or women "of questionable character" during visiting hours.[33] The Mountain Branch, like other branches of the NHDVS, provided a wide variety of entertainment for its members and visitors, but could not completely counter the temptations of alcohol and other vices.

---

[28] *Annual Report, 1904,* 203–05; 209–10; Charles Cunningham, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City (TN) Comet,* August 27, 1903 and November 19, 1903.

[29] Annual Report, 1904, 206.

[30] *New York Times*, July 12, 1901.

[31] Charles Cunningham, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City (TN) Comet*, October 22, 1903; E. D. Haynes, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City (TN) Comet,* June 23, 1904; Charles Cunningham, "Soldiers' Home Notes," *Johnson City (TN) Comet,* January 21, 1904; Beesen, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican," 96; U.S. Congress, House, *Annual Report of Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, For the Year Ending June 30, 1913*, 63d Cong., 2d. Sess., 1913–1914*,* H. Doc. 459, 207; Hamill; "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1923," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, D. C., 8, 15-16.

[32] U.S. Congress, House, Report of An Inspection of the Several Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 64th Congress, 2d Session, 1916-1917, 50.

[33] "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers or the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1924," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, D. C., n.p.

**Tuberculosis Treatment at the Mountain Branch**

From the time it opened, the large, well-equipped and well-staffed Mountain Branch hospital provided treatment for a variety of illnesses as well as short-term psychiatric care. As soldiers who had served in the Spanish-American War or the Philippine conflict returned home with respiratory conditions, and as public attention to tuberculosis and its dangers grew, the branch expanded operations to provide specific facilities and treatments for tubercular patients. The mountain climate of the Mountain Branch was considered particularly conducive to the treatment of tuberculosis. At 1750 feet above sea level, the area afforded patients a temperate climate and dry air. The Board of Managers identified the Mountain Branch and Battle Mountain Sanitarium (established in South Dakota in 1902 and opened in 1907) as the most efficacious facilities for tuberculosis treatment, and decided that members with tuberculosis who were able to travel should be transferred to one of those sites. In 1911, the Mountain Branch built a tuberculosis cottage that could house more than fifty men and reserved a ward in the hospital for very ill tuberculosis patients. Men from the cottage who presented disciplinary problems were also confined to the hospital ward. This separation from the general population was an important factor in treatment of tuberculosis, and extended to social life as well as living quarters. By 1914, tubercular patients at the Mountain Branch were prohibited from attending night movie performances and restricted to matinees.[34]

Care for tubercular patients became increasingly important with the onset of World War I and the entry of more young men into the NHDVS. In 1919, George Wood, the President of the Board of Managers, reported to Congress that the services of the NHDVS could not keep up with the needs of patients with tuberculosis, and if a resolution by the Board to convert the Mountain Branch to a tuberculosis hospital was not heeded, the Board would request funding for a new facility dedicated to tuberculosis care. In 1921, after the Bureau of Risk Insurance was authorized to provide funds to the NHDVS for expansion of medical facilities, a committee reviewed the Mountain Branch and recommended its conversion to a tuberculosis hospital. Subsequently, the Mountain Branch became a tuberculosis sanitarium and for a period of time was renamed the Johnson City Sanitarium. Medical facilities were improved and expanded at a cost of almost $750,000. New services included a dental clinic, an eye, ear, nose and throat clinic, and a radiology department. The tuberculosis ward was updated and another ward was added for African American patients. The transition required an increase in medical staff, and five duplexes were built to accommodate the increased personnel. The construction of the residences and the remodeling program marked the most significant changes in the facility since the original buildings were completed. The tuberculosis wards were removed in the mid-1940s, but the housing stock remains in place, representing this pivotal transition in the Mountain Branch's history.[35]

The population of the Mountain Branch during the 1920s reflected the legacy of World War I. For example, the average age of the 2,971 men cared for during the fiscal year ending in June 1922 was 27.6 years, and the average age of members who died during the period was slightly over 30 years; ten years earlier, the average age at death had been 65.3 years. Pulmonary tuberculosis accounted for eighty-one of the eighty-three deaths in 1922. The hospital had beds for 240 patients. Convalescent quarters could accommodate more than eight hundred men, whereas the African American ward had a capacity of ninety. During this period, a separate mess

[34] Judith Gladys Cetina, "A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811–1930," Ph.D. diss., Case Western Reserve University, 1977, 358, 365-367; 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., 1912, H. Doc. 163, 234; 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., 3rd sess., 1912, H. Doc 1009, (*Annual Report, 1912),* 84; U.S. Congress, House, *House Documents, Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1914,* 63d Cong., 3d sess., 1914–1915, H. Doc. 1363, 90, 105.

[35] Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 37–38.

was maintained for tubercular patients. Other messes served the general population, elderly patients, the hospital, the surgeons, and the nurses.[36]

The Mountain Branch's transition to a tuberculosis hospital is significant in the development of medical benefits for veterans. Along with the establishment of Battle Mountain Sanitarium, the transition marked a shift in policy from emphasis on providing homes for disabled Civil War soldiers to medical care for soldiers of all wars.

**Transitions under the Veterans Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs**

By the mid-1930, the Mountain Branch was 447.8 acres in size, with nearly two hundred acres devoted to farming and dairy operations and fifty-nine buildings occupying the campus. In the decades after the NHDVS was absorbed into the Veterans Administration in 1930, the new hospital and nursing care facilities were built and many buildings were renovated. Elevators were installed in some buildings. Bathroom facilities, kitchens, and heating and electrical systems were updated, many wooden floors were replaced with terrazzo, and streets were paved. In 1972, the U.S. Congress passed the Teague-Cranston Act, which allowed the establishment of a limited number of medical schools at Veterans Administration facilities partnered with nearby state universities. In 1975, the Quillen-Dishner College of Medicine was established, pairing East Tennessee State University and the Veterans Administration facility at the former Mountain Branch. In the early 1980s, a master plan for the VA Medical Center was created and most of the significant post-1930 construction has occurred under that plan.[37] The original power plant with its striking smokestack was demolished in 1979, and the original hospital "finger wings" were torn down in the 1980s. New building projects in the 1980s and 1990s expanded hospital and domiciliary functions, but architects employed materials, colors, and exterior designs that complement the original architecture.[38]

**Cemetery**

The Mountain Branch cemetery was established in 1903 as the branch was being built. The cemetery is similar to the other ten cemeteries established at NHDVS branches during their early stages, which developed as the facilities grew. The first burial occurred on September 18, 1903. In 1973, the Mountain Branch Cemetery was incorporated into the National Cemetery system.

**Conclusion**

The Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers outstandingly represents the development of veterans benefits—particularly medical benefits—in the United States, the commitment by the federal government and the public to care for and honor those veterans, and the use of architecture and landscape design to express that commitment. The historic core exhibits high integrity, and Joseph Freedlander's site plan and Beaux-Arts architecture continue to define the property. Viewsheds, open spaces, plantings, and the facility's lake combine in a landscape remarkably similar to the one developed in the first

[36] "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1922," Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library, Washington, D. C., n.p. *Annual Report, 1912*, 84; "Annual Report, 1923," Washington, D.C., 14; Cetina, 378-379.

[37] Hartman, "History of Mountain Home," 49, 53–54; U.S. Congress, House, *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Report of Board of Managers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930,* 71st Cong, 3d sess, 1931, H. Doc. 546, 177, 187; Cetina, 350-360**;** Janet S. Fisher, "A New Medical School at Old Soldiers' Home, Mountain Home, Tennessee, U.S.A.: A Renovation/Preservation Project."

[38] "Executive Director's Report: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Mountain Home VA Medical Center, Johnson City, Tennessee, July 14, 1980," 1-2; Jeff Keeling, "Projects Won't Change VA's Look," *Johnson City Press*, March 8, 1998.

years of the branch's existence. The Mountain Branch is highly representative of the goals and accomplishments of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1922." Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

"Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1923." Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

"Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1924." Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

Beeson, Helen Still. "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican." M.A. Thesis. East Tennessee State University, 1967.

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

Cunningham, Charles. "Soldiers' Home Notes." *Johnson City Comet,* August 27, 1903.

_____. September 3, 1903.

_____. October 22, 1903.

_____. November 19, 1903.

Doordan, Dennis P. *Twentieth-Century Architecture.* New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2002.

Driving Tour," *The Museum at Mountain Home,* Technical Services/History of Medicine Library, East Tennessee State University.

"Executive Director's Report: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Mountain Home VA Medical Center, Johnson City, Tennessee, July 14, 1980.

Fisher, Janet S. "A New Medical School at Old Soldiers' Home, Mountain Home, U.S.A.: A Renovation/Preservation Project."

Hall, Taffey. "The Mountain Home Veterans Complex in Johnson City, Tennessee: A Symbol of a Progressive Upper East Tennessee Identity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." Master's thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 2005.

Hamill, Dorothy. "Memories of the Home." *Johnson City Press Chronicle*, November 19, 1981. Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Hartman, Susan Kay. "A History of Mountain Home." Master's thesis, East Tennessee State University, 1984.

Haynes, E. D. "Soldiers' Home Notes." *Johnson City Comet,* April 7, May 19, June 23, and August 11, 1904.

*Johnson City Comet.* January 21, 1904 to June 18, 1908.

Julin, Suzanne. "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.

Keeling, Jeff. "Projects Won't Change VA's Look," *Johnson City Press*, March 8, 1998.

Kyte, Daniel L. "A History of the Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers." n.d. In possession of author.

_____. Electronic mail correspondence to Dena Sanford, May 28-29, 2009. Paper copy on file National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Mountain Home National Cemetery: A Century of Serving … A Lifetime of Caring, 1903-2003. Johnson City Tennessee: James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, 2003.

*New York Times*. July 12, 1901.

_____. April 27, 1934.

_____. September 1, 1937.

Saratoga's History Room Data Bases. Saratoga Public Library. https://www.sspl.org/.

Schuyler, Montgomery. "Fortunate Treatment of a Group of Institutional Buildings: The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, J. H. Freedlander, Architect." *Architectural Record* 30 (August 1911).

"Soldiers' Home in Tennessee: A Noteworthy Example of a Group of Buildings Planned as a Whole." *Craftsman* 11 (December 1906).

*Souvenir Book: National Military Home, Tennessee*. [Johnson City Tennessee]: Charles Edwards, 1909. Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

U. S. Congress. House. *Branch Soldiers' Home, At or Near Johnson City, Tenn.* 56th Cong., 1st sess., 1900, H. Rept. 312.

_____. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30. 1902. 57th Cong., 2nd sess., 1902, H. Doc. 54.

_____. Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1904. Washington, D. C.: GPO, 1904.

_____. 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., 1912. H. 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., 3rd sess., 1912. H. Doc. 1009.

_____. Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1914. 63d Cong., 3d sess., 1915, H. Doc. 1363.

_____. Report of an Inspection of the Several Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. 63rd Cong. 3rd sess., 1915. H. Rept. 1354.

_____. Report of an Inspection of the Several Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. 64th Cong., 1st sess., 1916. H. Doc. 538.

_____. Report of An Inspection of the Several Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. 64th

_____. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Report of Board of managers for the fiscal year Ending June 30, 1930. 71st Cong., 3d sess., 1931. H. Doc. 546.

U.S. Statutes at Large 30 (1901)

Veterans Administration, Mountain Home, Tennessee. Plot Plan, Mountain Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Mountain Home Tennessee. Revised December 11, 1931. Daniel Kyte Collection, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ Previously Listed in the National Register.
__ 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:

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

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 247.10 acres

| UTM References: | **Zone** | **Easting** | **Northing** |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 17 | 375800 | 4019000 |
| B | 17 | 376630 | 4019570 |
| C | 17 | 377060 | 4019180 |
| D | 17 | 377120 | 4018760 |
| E | 17 | 376110 | 4018100 |
| F | 17 | 375820 | 4018410 |

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the historic district contain 247.10 acres, encompassing the 155.64 acres of the former Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (both owned and leased out by the VA) and the 91.46 acres of the Mountain Branch National Cemetery, which today comprise the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the historic district coincides with the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cemetery properties. The current boundary encompasses all the surviving historic buildings, structures, objects, the historic landscape and the cemetery associated with the Mountain Branch NHDVS. The surviving central administrative section of the Freedlander-designed hospital (Building 69) is included because of the critical role it played in the operation of the branch, and the important physical role as an anchor to the east end of Dogwood Avenue. The recent hospital buildings built immediately adjacent to Building 69 are therefore included, as there is no gap to allow for defining a boundary between the historic building and Buildings 77, 200, 204 and 205.

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Suzanne Julin, Ph.D.

Address: 1001 E. Broadway PMB Stop 2
Missoula, MT 59802

Telephone: 406-544-8606

Date: May 30, 2008

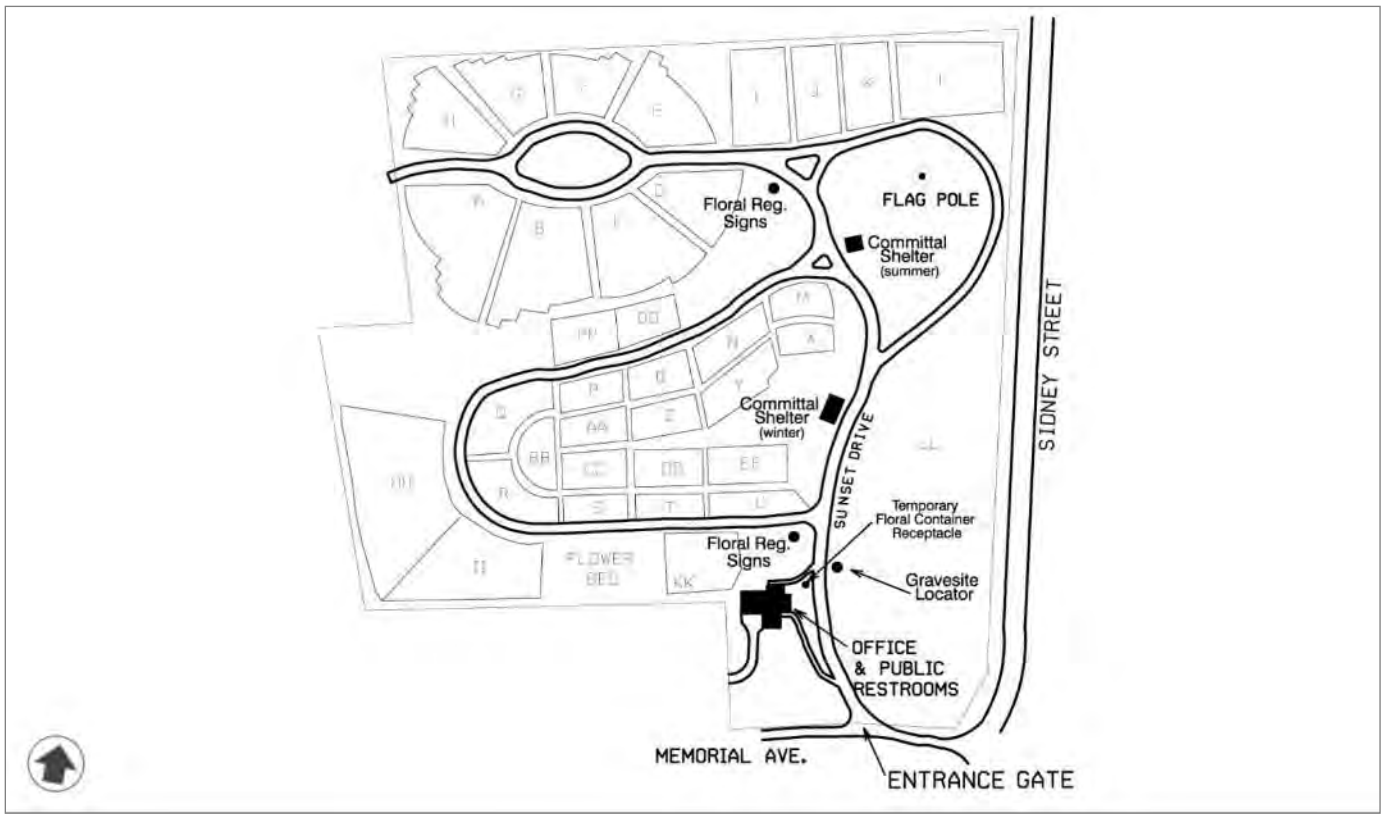
Edited by: Dena Sanford
National Park Service
National Register Programs
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Telephone: 402-661-1944

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

Telephone: (202) 343-6906 and (202) 354-2216


MOUNTAIN BRANCH
NORTH
Building Legend
1-7 Barracks
8 Hospital Annex
10 Band Stand
13 Chapel
15 Single Quarters
16 Catholic Chaplain's Quarters
17 Carnegie Library
19 Governor's Quarters
20 Guard House
34 Mess Hall
35 Memorial Hall
36 Morgue
37 Nurse's Quarters
39-43 Duplex Quarters
44-47 Single Quarters
52 Administration
53 U.S. Post Office
60 Supply Warehouse
69 Hospital
77 Clinical Addition / Surgery
83 Garage (altered)
85 Garage
96 Flagpole
98 Garage
99 Garage
103 Water Meter / Valve House
107 Water Tank
108 Boiler Plant
116 Emergency Generators
117 Cemetery Administration
118 Cemetery Storage
119 Laboratory
120 Emergency Generator
160 Domiciliary
161 Emergency Generator
162 Nursing Home
178 Basic Science
200 Main Hospital
201 Facility Maintenance
204 Outpatient Clinic Building
205 Laundry / Warehouse
Key:
NHL-Contributing Resource
Pre-1930 Building
Post-1930 Building
Property Boundary
Cemetery Boundary
UTM Reference Points
206 Facility Maintenance
207 MRI Building
208 CoGen Energy Center
209 Thermal Storage Tank
B-37 Smoking Shelter
-- Picnic Shelter
-- Road System / Landscape
-- Cemetery
-- Obelisk
-- Brownlow Monument
-- Entrance Pillars
-- Committal Shelter
Brownlow Monument
Open National Cemetery 41.4 acres
Committal Shelter
Magnolia Avenue
Maple Street
Dogwood Avenue
Obelisk
Picnic Shelter
Smoking Shelter
Entrance Pillars
Brush Creek
Southern Railroad
National Cemetery 54.08 acres (2005 transfer from VHA)
Johnson Medical Center
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
I




Cemetery Map – Feb 2002



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: View towards Flagpole #96, Bandstand #10, and former Parade Ground, along Dogwood Avenue). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: View to Barracks #5, Hospital Annex #8 and Barracks #3, along Maple Street). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to southeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: View to chapel #13, Catholic Chaplain's Quarters #16, and Memorial Hall #35, across Memorial Street). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: View to Administration Building #52 from Officers' Quarters area). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to east. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Mess Hall #34). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Barracks #2). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



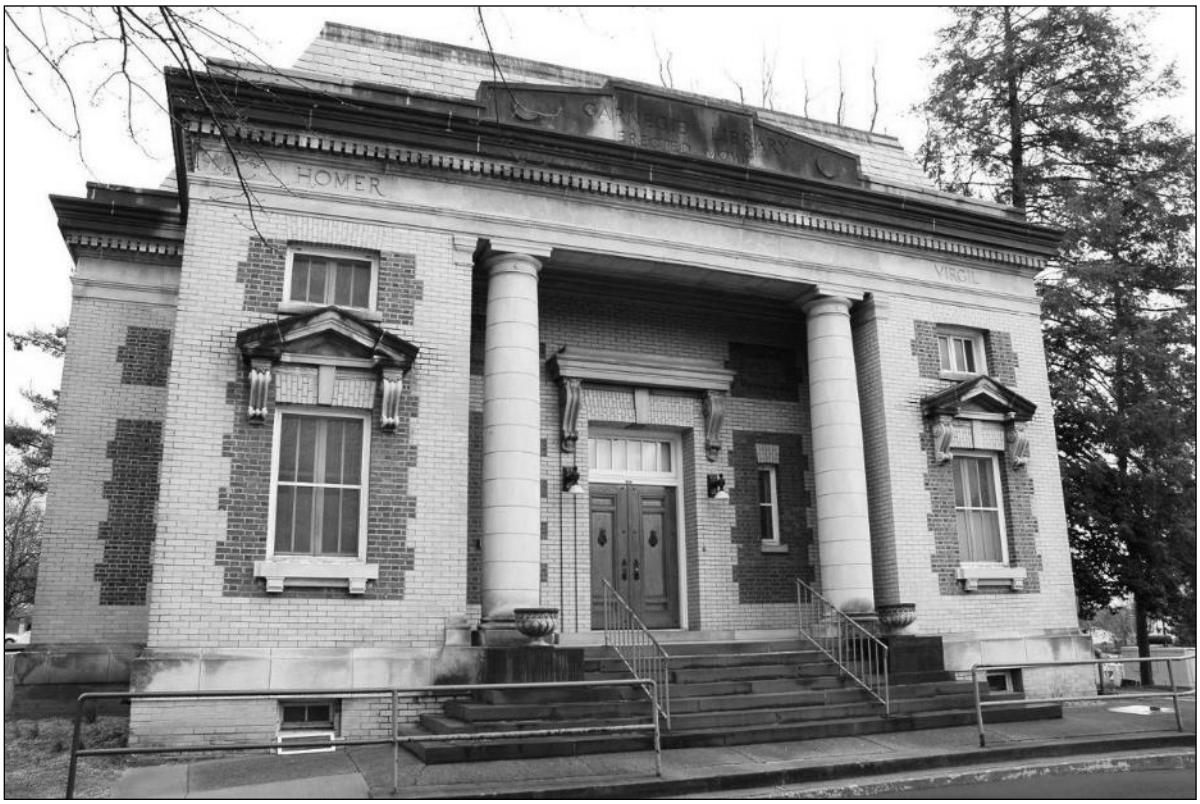
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: Barracks #2, rear). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Administration Building #52). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northwest. Photograph by Department of Veterans Affairs, 2003.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Hospital #69). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.




MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Carnegie Library #17). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Memorial Hall #35). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Interior of Memorial Hall #35). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets. View to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Chapel #13). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Perspective: Barracks #5 and Carnegie Library #17 along Maple Street). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to east. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Supply Warehouse #60 along Maple Street). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



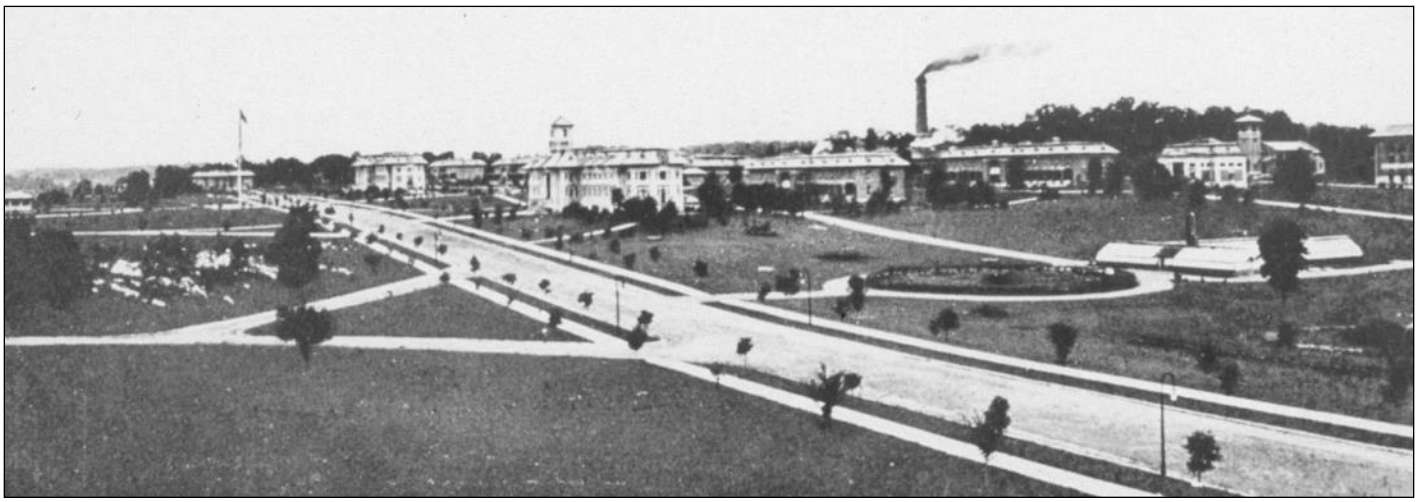
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Governor's Quarters #19). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to northwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Duplex Quarters #44). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets, view to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS (Morgue #36). Corner of Lamont and Sydney Street, view to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, CORE AREA. Photo by unknown, circa 1905. View to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, GOVERNOR'S QUARTERS #19, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING #52, BARRACKS #1, BARRACKS #6, BARRACKS #4, MESS HALL #34. Photo by unknown, circa 1905, view to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, GOVERNOR'S QUARTERS #19. Photo by unknown. Date unknown, view to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, ADJUTANT'S QUARTERS #46. Photo by unknown, date unknown, view to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



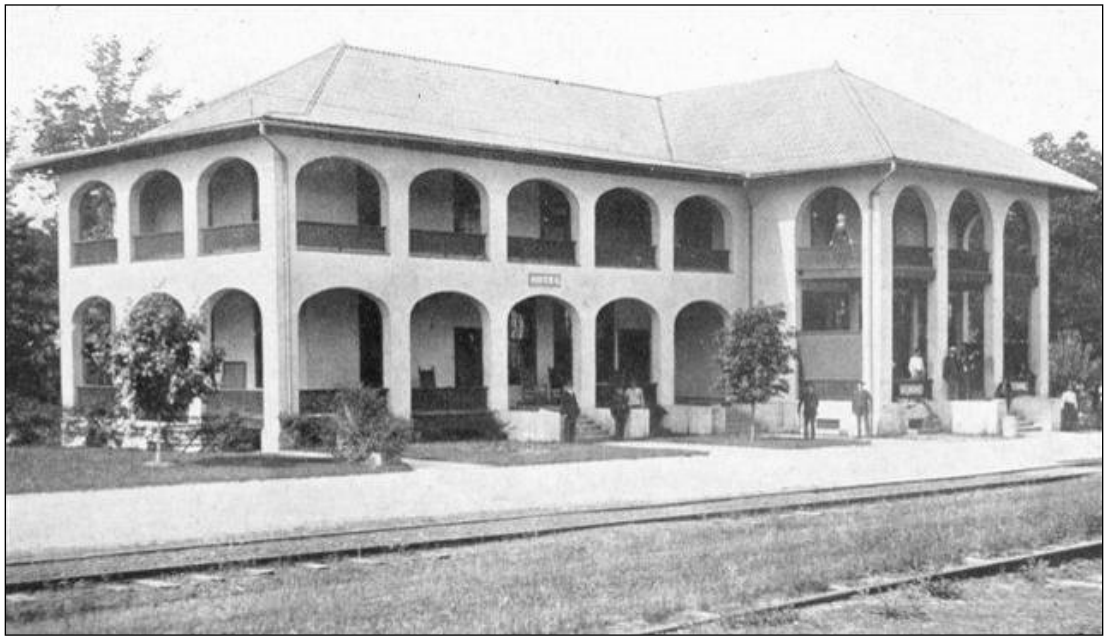
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, MEMORIAL HALL #35 AND CARNEGIE LIBRARY #17. Photo by unknown, date unknown, view to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



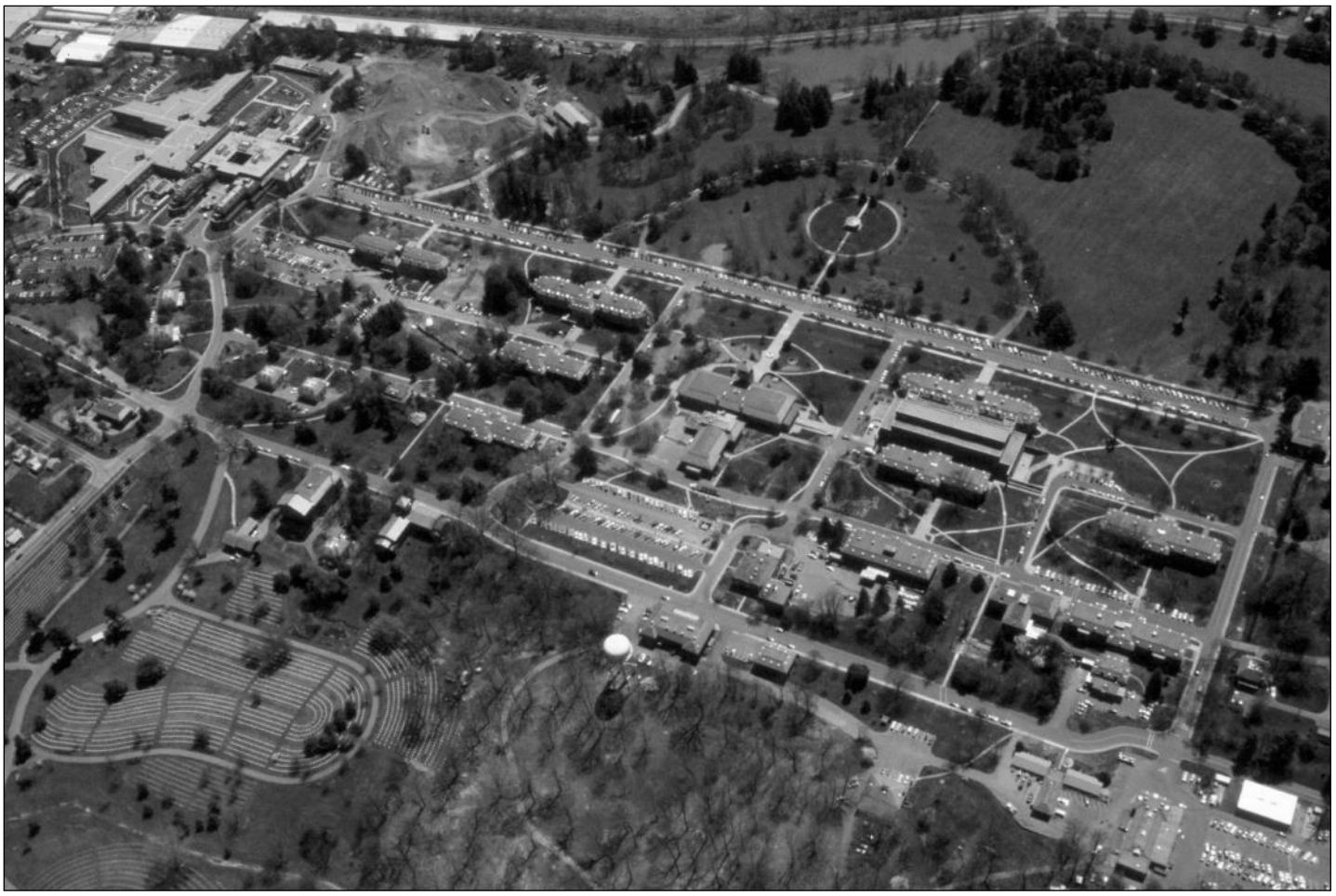
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, AFRICAN AMERICAN TUBERCULOSIS WARD (gone). Photo by unknown, ca. 1920, view to northwest. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



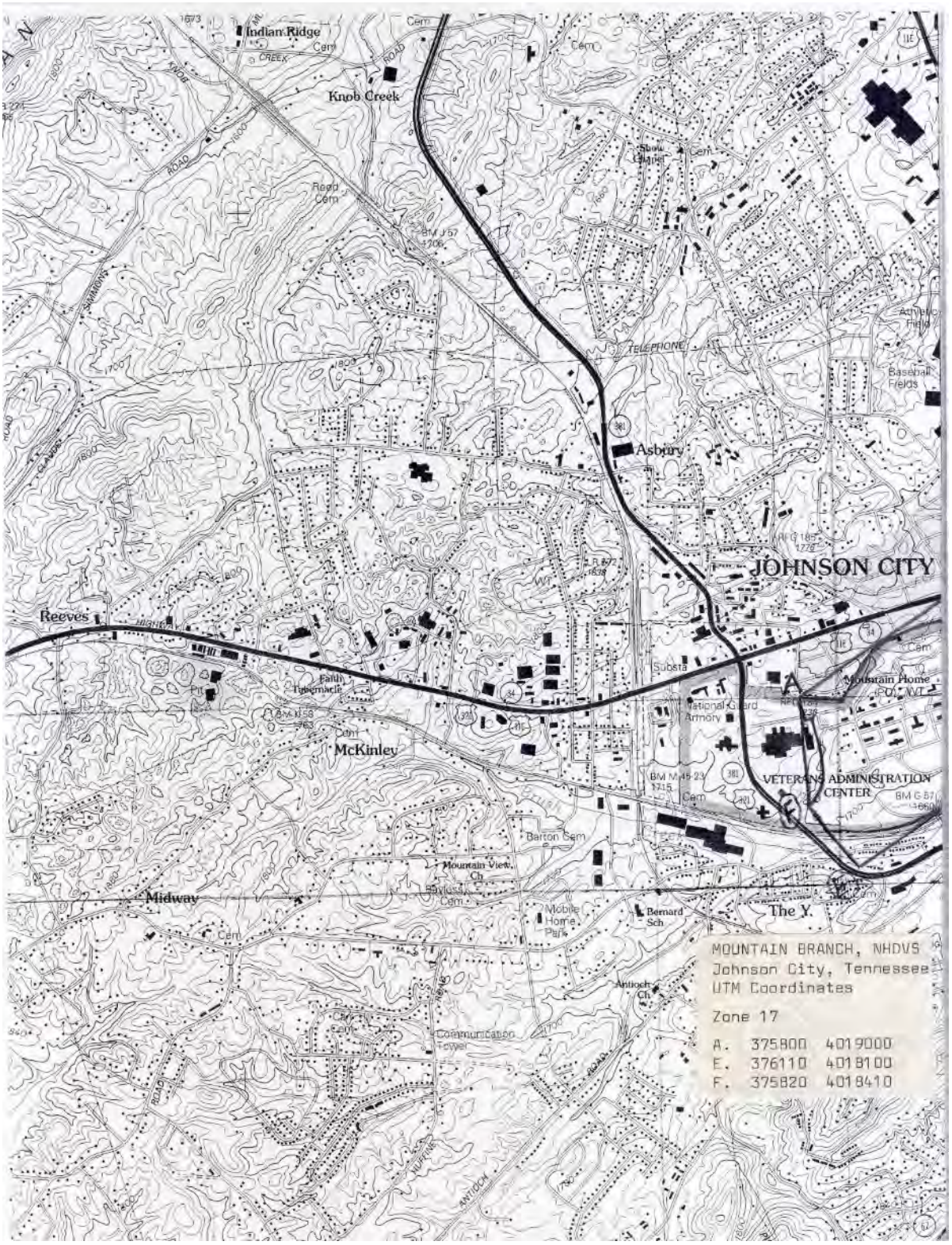
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, BARRACK #4, #6 WITH ANNEXES FOR TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.
Photo by unknown, ca. 1920, view to west. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



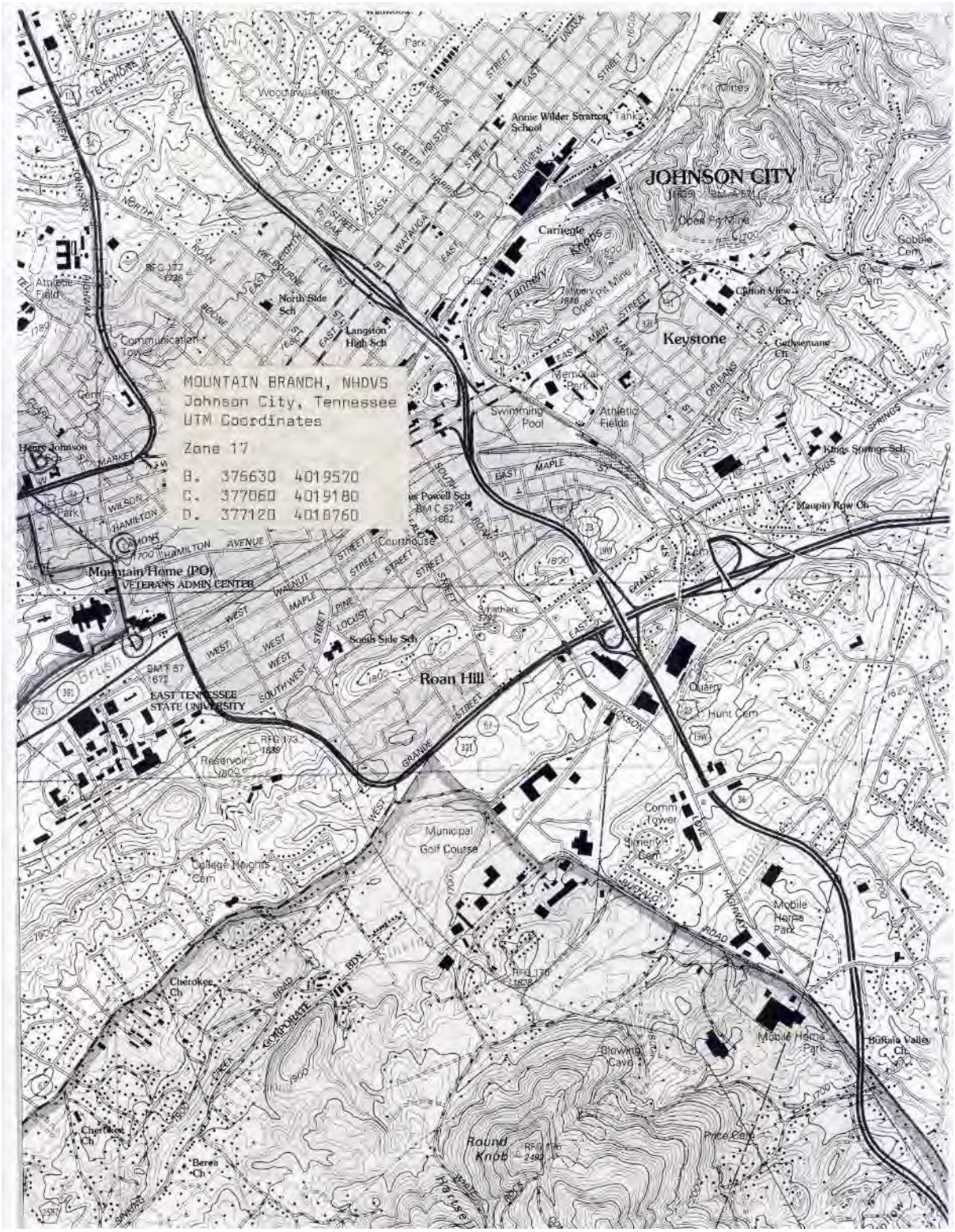
MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, HOTEL, POST OFFICE AND STORE (demolished).
Photo by unknown, date unknown. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NHDVS, AERIAL VIEW. Photo by unknown, 1999, view south. Courtesy of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.




USGS Map Showing Location, Part 1 of 2




USGS Map Showing Location, Part 2 of 2