IL HABS Documentation
of the
Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers
(IL HABS No. V-2003-2)
Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois

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Springfield, Illinois 62701

2003

Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers IL HABS No. V-2003-2
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DANVILLE BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS
IL HABS No. V-2003-2

Location: 1900 and 2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermillion County, Illinois

Present Owner: Ownership of the buildings and grounds associated historically with the Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers is divided between Danville Area Community College (DACC) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Present Occupant: Danville Area Community College and Danville VA Medical Center.

Present Use: The primary uses of the property today are as a college and a medical center. Buildings 5, 9, and 10 are vacant and slated for demolition. They have been recorded as IL HABS Nos. V-2003-2-A, B, and C.

Statement of Significance: The Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was founded in 1898. It was the eighth of ten "homes" established by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), nationwide, between 1866 and 1929. These facilities were developed to provide long-term health care and maintenance for the thousands of disabled or elderly veterans who had served in the Union forces during the American Civil War, and they pre-staged the modern system of veterans' medical centers. In 1930, the NHDVS was dissolved, and its ten branches were integrated into the newly created Veterans Administration (VA). In 1934, the Danville Branch was converted into a neuro-psychiatric hospital, a change that reflected the growing specialization of medical services provided to veterans during this period. The buildings constructed at Danville were based on distinct "architectural sets" utilized by the NHDVS and VA at multiple facilities around the country. The Danville Branch, NHDVS was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A (social history, in regards to the area of health/medicine) and under

Criterion C (architecture) in 1991. The period of significance cited for the district in the National Register nomination is 1898-1941.[1]

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection:

Contributing buildings and structures located within the Danville Branch, NHVDS Historic District range in between 1898 and 1940. The majority of buildings were erected during the initial development of the facility by the NHVDS in 1898-1903, or during the expansion of the undertaken by the VA the 1937-1940. Several buildings were constructed over the intervening years as well. Buildings 5, 9, and 10 (IL HABS V-2003-2-A, B, and C) were constructed in 1899-1900. They were significantly remodeled by the VA in 1934-1935.

2. Architect:

The architect(s) who designed the Danville Branch, NHDVS is not known. However, it has been speculated that the firm of Peters, Burns, and Pretzinger of Dayton, Ohio may have been responsible. This same firm designed the Central Branch of the NHDVS at Marion, Ohio, and the plans of the barracks and mess hall at this branch are very similar to those constructed at Danville.[2]

VA architects were responsible for the design of buildings erected at the facility post 1930. They also designed the various remodeling projects done on the older buildings during the 1930s and 1940s.

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The land on which the Danville Branch was developed was acquired by the federal government, under the auspices of the NHDVS, through multiple land transactions carried between 1897 and 1900. The earliest, and largest, of these occurred on July 6, 1897 and involved 220 acres purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Olehy and George Martin for $28,000. An additional 122.56 acres of adjoining land were acquired through nine separate transactions over the following three years. The United States retained full ownership and occupancy of this acreage until 1965, when it began to lease some of its vacant buildings to

[1] Alice Edwards et al., "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District" (prepared by The Urbana Group, Inc., Urbana, Illinois, 1990).

[2] Matthew D. Rector, "The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" (master's thesis, Ball State University, 2002), p. 59.

DACC.[3] The college now occupies the northern 125 acres of the property historically associated with the Danville Branch, NHDVS. The remaining acreage is still owned by the United States, under the management of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers:

The names of the builders, contractors, and suppliers involved in the original construction of the facility are not known. The remodeling and new construction projects undertaken during the 1930s primarily were done by Works Projects Administration (WPA) personnel.

5. Original Plans:

Selective floor plans and elevation views of seven buildings at the Danville Branch were included in the 1898 *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, which was published as House Document (H. Doc.) 55. A site plan for the complex also was included with this report. Copies of these plates have been attached in the supplemental materials as V-2003-S1 through V-2003-S8. The only original large format architectural drawings for the Danville Branch, identified to date, are for Building 7. See Part III.A for more information.

Plans showing improvements and new construction done by the VA post-1930 are on file at both the DACC and the Danville VA Medical Center. Each of these respective facilities has plans for the buildings they currently manage. The plans for Buildings 5, 9, and 10, for instance, are on file at DACC, selective copies of which have been included with this IL HABS documentation package.

B. Historical Context:

1. Background of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Government programs relating to the compensation of veterans dates back to the earliest years of the Republic, beginning with a pension act passed in 1789 by the First Congress. Subsequent legislation sought to reward veterans for their past service in the form of land, which was something the government had much more of at this time than cash. The Act of 1791, for instance, allowed any veteran who had served in the Revolutionary War to claim 100 acres of land. Land grants also were given to veterans of the War of 1812. A notable example of this was the Military Tract in western Illinois, a 3.5 million-acre reserve lying between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers specifically set aside for veterans. Qualified applicants could receive 160 acres of land. Underlying all this legislation was the idea that while veterans deserved to be rewarded for their service, the

[3] "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois," *The Bulletin*, 30 April 1965, p. 1, 3.

government's post-war obligations to them could be adequately fulfilled in monetary terms (pensions and land).

The United States government assumed a very limited role in providing direct long-term care for veterans prior to the Civil War (1861-1865). The only federal facilities designed for such assistance were the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia, and the Soldiers' Home in Washington D.C. The Naval Asylum was authorized by Congress in 1811 but did not actually open until 1833. It accepted officers who had formerly served as seamen or marines. The Soldiers' Home, which was established in 1851, admitted both officers and enlisted men from the Army who were elderly and/or disabled.[4] The modest size of the United States' peacetime military during this era limited the need for additional facilities like the Soldier's Home and Naval Asylum.

This situation changed as a result of the Civil War. This scope of this conflict far surpassed any of those the country previously had been involved in, both in terms of the number of service personnel involved and casualties. On the Union side alone, there was a reported 2,893,304 enlisted personnel, while the Confederacy had somewhere between 1,277,890 and 1,406,180 enlistees. Over 600,000 soldiers died during the war, and thousands of others were wounded in battle. In 1861, neither side was adequately prepared for the medical challenges they ultimately would face, but their capabilities improved over the course of the war. Soldiers wounded in battle were treated first at field hospitals and then transported to more permanent facilities located behind the lines. Some of the largest military hospitals were located in the respective capitals of Washington D. C. and Richmond. Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, which was established early in 1862, was equipped 6,000 beds and was the largest in the South. During the three years it was in operation, Chimborazo treated 76,000 patients. Washington had multiple hospitals and convalescent camps in its environs during the war, including Carver, Stanton, and Campbell Hospitals. Many other military hospitals were established around the North, typically being located at key transportation points.[5] One example was the hospital at Mound City, which was located just upstream from the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.[6]

The war gave the United States government extensive experience in the administration of large numbers of wounded soldiers, thousands of whom were permanently crippled and still required after the cessation of hostilities. The existing Soldiers' Home and Naval Asylum clearly were inadequate to

[4] Rector, p. 7. The Soldiers' Home also was a popular summer retreat for Presidents during the latter half of the nineteenth century, most notably Abraham Lincoln.

[5] National Library of Medicine, *Medicine of the Civil War* (n.d.).

[6] A National Cemetery was established in association with this hospital. Mound City also was the location of a naval shipyard during the Civil War.

accommodate the needs of these men, and, as noted above, these facilities were designed for Regulars rather than Volunteers, who represented the vast majority of the men who had served. Moreover, the previous system of allowing land grants could hardly be considered a just reward for service now that the Homestead Act (1862) allowed anyone to gain title to 160 acres of land for a nominal fee after five years of occupation. In an earlier era, veterans unable or having no desire to settle on their grant could at least sell it to another party and derive some measure of profit from it (albeit usually quite modest). Land had little value for a disabled veteran incapable of farming it. In order to address this situation, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a National Asylum for disabled volunteer soldiers and sailors, which President Lincoln subsequently signed into law on March 3, 1865. Management of the National Asylum initially was placed in the hands of 100 so-called "incorporators". The size of this body soon proved too cumbersome, however, and in 1866 it was reduced to a twelve-member Board of Managers. In 1873, the National Asylum was renamed the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS)—known colloquially as the "Old Soldiers Home"—a designation it retained until 1930. Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts played an important role in the early development of the organization, serving both as President and Treasurer of the Board of Managers for a time.[7] Butler had previously served as a Major General of Volunteers during the war and later was a member of Congress (1867-1875).

The Eastern Branch of the NHDVS was established at Togus, Maine in 1866. This was followed in succession by the Central Branch at Dayton, Ohio (1867), Northwestern Branch at Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1867), and the Southern Branch at Hampton, Virginia (1870). Additional branches were added over the years to accommodate the aging population of Union Civil War veterans. The 1880s saw the establishment of the Western Branch near Leavenworth, Kansas (1885), the Pacific Branch near Santa Monica, California (1885), and the Marion Branch at Marion, Indiana (1888). Danville, established in 1898, was the eighth branch founded.[8] The political clout of veterans no doubt contributed to the steady expansion of the NHDVS during this period. Veterans represented one of the most important constituencies in the country during the late nineteenth century, and their needs could not easily be ignored. The fact some of the most prominent politicians in the country had served in the war provided additional support for the NHDVS. Circa 1900, the NHDVS was caring for over 20,000 members at its different branches. Three additional facilities would be established by the Home in the early twentieth century: the Mountain Branch at Johnson City, Tennessee (1901), the Battle Mountain Sanatorium at Hot Springs, South Dakota (1902), and

[7] Veterans Administration, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS)," available at http://va.gov/facmgt/historic /NHDVS.asp.

[8] Ibid; National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Illustrated History of the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers 1861-1865* (Danville, Illinois: National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers), p. 6.

the Bath Branch at Bath, New York (1929).[9]

In terms of organization, the NHDVS branches resembled the United States Army. Members (as the residents were referred to) were governed by the articles of war, wore military uniforms, and were assigned to barracks with company designations.[10] This followed a model previously established at the ante-bellum Naval Asylum and Soldiers' Home.[11] The facilities provided at the branches, however, generally exceeded those found at the typical military post and often included chapels, libraries, beer halls, band stands, amusement halls, and theaters. In addition, the branches sometimes had farms and shops associated with them, which provided training and employment opportunities for members.[12]

Membership to the National Home initially was limited to volunteer soldiers who had been disabled in service to the Union during in the Civil War, but in 1871 it was expanded to include veterans of the War of 1812 and Mexican War. In 1884, any disabled veteran (including sailors and marines) was allowed admission to the Home, provided his disability was not the result of service against the United States. [13] Veterans who had served against "hostile Indians" became eligible for admission in 1908, and the following year eligibility was extended to those who had served in Philippines, China, and Alaska.[14] Veterans of United States Colored Troops were as eligible for admission as their white counterparts, although some degree of segregation was followed (numbers permitting) in regards to barracks and dining table assignment.[15]

A number of states established their own soldiers' homes following the Civil War. The Bath Branch of the NHDVS, for instance, originally was founded as the New York State Soldier and Sailor Home in 1877. The drive for the creation of such a facility in Illinois began during the middle 1880s, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). On February 18, 1885, during the annual Illinois State Encampment of the GAR, the department commander stated the need for a soldiers and sailors' home in Illinois and recommended "that each of our posts, in its organized capacity, and each and every one of our 20,000 members use all honorable means toward the attainment of this object." On June 26 of that same

[9] Veterans Administration, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers."

[10] Ibid.

[11] Rector, p. 8.

[12] Veterans Administration, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers."

[13] Ibid.

[14] Edwards et al., p. 8.2.

[15] Ibid.

year, the Illinois General Assembly approved a bill allowing the establishment of a state home servicing the needs of disabled and retired veterans of the Mexican War and Civil War. The bill appropriated $200,000 towards the construction costs. Thirty-five different towns were considered at possible sites for the Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, and Quincy, in Adams County, ultimately was selected. The Home was dedicated in October 1886.[16] That same year, the GAR initiated a campaign to establish a similar facility in Indiana. The Indiana State Soldiers' Home, located outside Lafayette, opened its doors in 1896.[17] In 1888, Congress authorized the Board of Managers of the NHDVS to pay $100 per annum for each veteran residing at an approved state veterans' home who might otherwise be eligible for admission to a NHDVS branch.[18]

In 1921, the Veterans Bureau was created through an Executive Order issued by President Warren G. Harding. The NHDVS was placed under the supervision of the new bureau but continued as a distinct entity. Charles R. Forbes, who had formerly directed the War Risk Insurance Bureau, was appointed to head the Veterans Bureau. During his short tenure (1921-1923) Forbes made a number of important contributions to the future care of disabled veterans. To begin with, he called attention to the inadequate and sometimes dangerous state of the existing facilities, particularly in regard to fire safety. With new funds appropriated by Congress, Forbes initiated a new building program, which followed a set of "standard" designs for specific building types.[19] This was not an outright diversion from previous practice. The military had followed standardized plans for the design of military posts, buildings, and furnishings for decades.[20] NHDVS facilities also shared many similarities to one another, and their design was tacitly military in character. Forbes' other major contribution was his promotion of separate treatment wards for different categories of patients. Previously, all classes of patients had been housed together, irrespective of their individual conditions. They now began to be segregated according to whether they represented general medical and surgical, neuro-psychiatric, or tuberculosis cases.[21]

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[16] *History of Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home (Illinois Veterans Home)* (N.p., n.d.), available at http://history.alliancelibrarysystem.com/IllinoisAlive/files/iv/htm1/ivtxt001.cfm.

[17] "Indiana State Soldiers' Home, 100 Years Ago," available at http://rootsweb.com/~intippec/SoldiersHome.html.

[18] Veterans Administration, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers."

[19] Gjore J. Mollenhoff, Karen R. Tupek, and Sandra Webb, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hartford, Vermont", form completed but not submitted to U. S. Department of the Interior, available at http://members.net/~connriver/V11-21.htm.

[20] Ibid; see also William L. Brown III, *The Army Called It Home* (Gettsburg, Pennsylvania: Thomas Publications, 1992).

[21] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, pp. 2,-4.

Despite his contributions to the future direction of the Veterans Bureau, Charles Forbes was forced to resign on February 15, 1923 after it was reveled that he had abused his position by entered into improper agreements with contractors and committing other improprieties.[22] He fled to Europe, and a subsequent Senate investigation found him responsible for looting $200 million from the Veterans Bureau. Charged with bribery and corruption, Forbes was returned to the United States, found guilty at trial, and forced to pay $10,000 in fines and serve two years in prison. The Veterans Bureau imbroglio was but one of a series of scandals to blacken the reputation of the Harding Administration. General Frank T. Hines succeeded Forbes as Director of the Veterans Bureau.[23]

On July 3, 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order consolidating the NHDVS, the Veterans Bureau, and Bureau of Pensions into a newly created Veterans Administration (VA). All staff members, offices, and facilities associated with the former organizations were to be transferred to the VA. General Frank T. Hines, past head of the Veterans Bureau, was appointed Administrator of the VA. The budget of the VA was approximately $800 million, making it one of the most important federal agencies.[24] Hines remained in this position until 1930, when the bureau was reorganized as the Veterans Administration, and then headed the agency through the end of World War II. He was succeeded by General Omar Bradley.[25] The Veterans Administration was re-christened the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1988.

2. Development of the Danville Branch

The selection of Danville as the site for a branch of the NHDVS is due in large measure to the political influence of Joseph Cannon. Cannon represented the Twelfth Congressional District in Illinois for forty-six years, serving 1873-1891, 1893-1913, and 1915-1923. Between 1903 and 1911, he served as Speaker of House and earned a lasting reputation as a tyrant for his dictatorial rule in the interest of "Old Guard" Republicans. Cannon began his political career in Tuscola, Douglas County, but in 1878 he relocated to the larger city of Danville, in neighboring Vermilion County.[26] Danville was a railroad hub, minor industrial

[22] Ibid, p. 4.

[23] Ibid.

[24] President, Executive Order, "Consolidation and Coordination of Governmental Activities Affecting Veterans, Executive Order 5398", (21 July 1930), available from http://www/75anniversary.va.gov/history/exec_order_5398.htm. Also Herbert, Hoover, "Statement About the Establishment of the Veterans Administration (8 July 1930); available from www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=222277.

[25] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, p. 4.

[26] Edwards et al, p. 8.3; Bridgewater, William, *The Columbia-Viking Desk Encyclopedia*, Volume 1 (New York: Viking Press, 1960), p. 216.

center, and also was located at the center of an important coal field. The establishment of a branch of the NHDVS within Cannon's district posed several advantages for him. To begin with, it recognized the considerable contribution Illinois veterans made during the Civil War. Illinois had enlisted 259,092 men into the service during the war, 34,834 of whom had died.[27] The state was one of the largest contributors to the Union cause, and was not unreasonable for Illinois be given a branch home of the NHDVS, based simply on need. Politically, the Home would provide good government jobs to Danville, which could then be filled through patronage, as was typical of the era. More importantly, Cannon's political base would be considerably strengthened by the addition of 2,500 to 4,000 veterans to his district, the vast majority of whom could be reliably counted upon to vote Republican. Cannon ultimately would be regarded as the "father" of the Danville Branch of the NHDVS.[28]

Congress approved the establishment of the Danville Branch on June 4, 1897.[29] The site selected for the Home was located in the rural environs of Danville, approximately one-mile east of the city limits. The land on which the facility was developed was acquired by the federal government, under the auspices of the NHDVS, through multiple land transactions carried between 1897 and 1900. The earliest, and largest, of these occurred on July 6, 1897 and involved 220 acres purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Olehy and George Martin for $28,000. An additional 122.56 acres of adjoining land were acquired through nine separate transactions over the following three years. By October 9, 1900, the NHDVS had purchased by 324.56 acres for the Danville Branch, having paid a total of $45,961.25 for the property.[30]

The original site plan for the Home called for a series of barracks buildings to be constructed around a large ellipse on the north end of the facility. Fifteen barracks ultimately were constructed. These were large, two-story brick structures and generally followed the same floor plan. At the center of the ellipse, within convenient access of the barracks, was mess hall and kitchen. The upper floor of the mess hall originally housed an amusement hall, library, and a social hall. East of the ellipse, a guard house, laundry house, commissary building, and a boiler and coal houses were constructed. These buildings were serviced by a rail spur running along the east side of the property. Three officers' residences

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[27] Robert P. Howard, *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Willia B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972), p. 318.

[28] Edwards et al., p. 8.3. The veteran vote at the Danville Branch likely served as a counterbalance to the growing mining population within Cannon's district, many of whom leaned Democrat politically.

[29] Ibid.

[30] Danville Veterans Hospital, "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois," *The Bulletin*, 30 April 1965 (Danville, Illinois: Danville Veterans Hospital), p. 1.

were erected to the west of the ellipse. An administration building, hospital, and mortuary were dispersed around the edges of the small grove on the southeast corner of the site. The hospital had four detached wings joined by connecting corridors. The east and west wings served as patient wards and were distinguished by the spacious two-story verandas wrapping around them.[31]

It took several years to complete all the buildings called for in the design plan. Even so, the Danville Branch began admitting veterans on October 13, 1898, and by December of that year there thirty-one members residing at the facility.[32] As of June 30, 1899, membership at the Home stood at 311. These men initially were housed in the hospital until the barracks buildings could be completed. Twelve barracks had been finished by June 1900, which allowed Home to increase its membership to 1,461 by the time it submitted its annual report.[33] Membership grew rapidly over the next few years, surpassing 4,000 by 1903.[34]

Additional buildings and structures were added to the Danville Branch in the first decade after its founding. In 1901, work began on a formal gate house, located on the north end of the facility, a lodge house for guests, and a theater known as Memorial Hall, which had a seating capacity of 812. That same year, construction also began on a sprawling green house, covering 11,800 square feet, which was constructed in three stages in 1901, 1902, and 1904.[35] A National Cemetery was platted on the eastern edge of the branch property during 1901-1902 fiscal year and began being used that same year.[36] Typical of such foundations, the cemetery was reserved for the interment of deceased veterans. An imposing Gothic Revival chapel also was constructed in 1901. Located immediately south of the barracks ellipse, the chapel seated 600 and was designed

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[31] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plates 1-8.

[32] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 1.

[33] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1900*, 56th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 62 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1900), p. 181.

[34] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903*, 58th Congress, 1st Session, H. Doc. 46 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), p. 175.

[35] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 8, 26-27.

[36] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1902*, 57th Congress, 1st Session, H. Doc. 56 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1902), p. 185.

to serve both Catholic and Protestant members. Chaplains of both denominations were kept on staff and held several services throughout the week.[37]

In 1907, a number of new buildings were constructed at the Danville Branch, including Barracks "G" (Building 11), a canteen housing a store and restaurant, and a library.[38] Andrew Carnegie donated $25,000 for the construction for the new library, was located directly south of the mess hall/kitchen complex.[39]

The Danville Branch was organized in the same manner as a regular Army post. Command was placed in the hands of Governor, who was a former or active member of the Army and assigned a military rank, as were his subordinate officers (Treasurer, Surgeon, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Commissary of Subsistence, etc.). Similarly, the members were organized by company, each assigned to a specific barrack with its own captain, clerk, and room orderlies. The members and staff were expected to conform to rules and articles of war, as if they were enlisted in the U. S. Army.[40] The military organization implemented at the Danville Branch was typical of the NHDVS and reflected a model earlier set by the original Soldiers' Home in Washington, D. C.[41] Colonel Isaac Clements served as first Governor of the Danville Branch, remaining in this position until his death in 1909.

Illinois residents represented the plurality of members at the Danville Branch in its early years of operation. Through June 1904, for example, 2,648 of the 6,699 (or 40%) of those admitted to the branch from the date its foundation were from Illinois. However, virtually ever other state in the nation also had been represented at the Home by this time.[42] It is note that the NHDVS did not adhere to the rigid segregation then so prevalent in the country; white and black veterans were allowed equal admission to Danville and the other branches operated by the NHDVS. When numbers permitted, black veterans were housed together and assigned separate tables, but otherwise they resided in the same barracks as white members and shared a common mess.[43] The member population was never static.

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[37] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 11.

[38] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 26.

[39] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1906*, 59th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 88 and 276 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1906), p. 269.

[40] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 4, 7, 22-25.

[41] Rector, pp. 7-8.

[42] House, H. Doc. 71 and 193, p. 187.

[43].Veterans Administration, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS)."

Although many of those who enrolled at the branch did so with the expectation of living the remainder of their days there, others stayed only as long their condition required and were discharged once returned to good health. Patients were admitted to the hospital when their condition required it. If they improved, they typically were transferred to the convalescent barracks (Barracks "G"), where they were housed until they had recovered sufficiently to be reassigned to their regular company.[44]

All members who were physically capable were expected to perform "light duty" (or "fatigue duty") about one-half day per week, doing such work as preparing vegetables for cooking and cleaning the lawn. Some members chose to do work on a regular basis—termed "extra duty"—and were paid for their services. These individuals served as cooks and waiters in the mess hall/kitchen, as police, hospital attendants, carpenters, painters, orderlies, and also as farm hands.[45] The branch had a farm associated with it from the date of its inception, and products grown upon it were consumed at the Home or sold for profit. A variety of manufactures also were produced by members. Similar agricultural and manufacture endeavors, aimed at self-sufficiency and vocational education, were carried out other branches operated by the NHDVS.[46] They also were employed by charitable institutions in Illinois during the early twentieth century.[47]

Members at the Danville Branch were afforded ample entertainment and recreational opportunities. A man-made pond allowed for boating, fishing, and skating. There also was a hired band on staff, which in 1903 gave two concerts a day (except Saturdays, and weather permitting) from the band stand at the south end of the barracks ellipse and in the grove by Lake Clements. The "Home Band" gave concerts for sick or disabled patients unable to attend the regularly scheduled open-air concerts, and played during funerals.[48] Part of the upper floor of the mess hall/kitchen was used for amusement hall and was equipped with billiard, pool, and card tables. A social hall located on this same floor was utilized by various social and fraternal organizations. In 1903, the Danville Branch was home to Lawton Post No. 792 of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Tunis A.

[44] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 11-12.

[45] Ibid, p. 10.

[46] At the Central Branch, in Dayton, Ohio, for example, all of the stockings used by the members and staff were produced at the facility. A printing plan also was established at the Central Branch, which printed reports and documents for the home.

[47] One state institution where these practices were employed was the Illinois Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children in Lincoln, Illinois (see Christopher Stratton and Amy Slocombe, "Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey for Logan Correctional Center Security Building [Il HABS no. LO-2000-1-A]," prepared by Fever River Research for Evan Lloyd Associates (2002), pp. 5-8).

[48] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 7, 9.

M. Craven Association of Naval Veterans, the John A. Logan, Jr. Commadary No. 194 of Spanish American War Veterans, Encampment No. 155 of the Union Veteran Legion, as well as a temperance organization.[49] Memorial Hall provided another outlet for social and entertainment gatherings. The 1904 *Annual Report* mentions the presence of a crochet grounds at the Branch, and in 1913, a baseball club was organized there. The club played at a ball diamond located northeast of Building 8.[50]

Members desiring further amusements could go into Danville. Convenient access to the city was provided by the Danville Street Railway, which had a line directly servicing the Branch. This railway ran east along Covington Road (now East Main Street) and then turned south along the west side the Home, terminating at a small station positioned southwest of the barracks ellipse. Circa 1905, the fare for a one-way trip into Danville was 5 cents.[51] This transportation link no doubt contributed to two of the most common infractions at the Home during the early years of the twentieth century: the possession and consumption of alcohol. In 1904, there were 859 instances of disciplinary charges being filed; of these charges, 256 were related to the bringing alcohol within the confines of the Branch (a major offense), two were for drunkenness on duty (a major offense), and 243 concerned general drunkenness (a minor offense).[52]

The Danville Branch did not see any major construction projects during the 1920s. However, a number changes were carried out during this period. One of the more notable of these was the conversion of Barracks "K" (Building 6) for use by ex-service women—a change that acknowledged the important contributions made by the nursing corps during the First World War. The building continued to be used for this purpose for three to four years. Movement between the floors was eased with the addition of elevators in Buildings 2, 3, 10, and 12 in 1921, Buildings 1, 4, 13, and 14 in 1922, Building 11 in 1926, and Building 6 in 1929. In 1921, a staff residence (Building 35) was built. Two duplexes (Buildings 39 and 41) were constructed in 1925.[53]

Danville was not entirely immune from the scandals that plagued the NHDVS during Charles R. Forbes' short tenure as head of the Veterans Bureau. Colonel Frederick E. Bury, who was appointed Governor of the Home on January 1, 1922, was asked to resign his position after less than two years of service due to various

[49] Ibid, p. 11.

[50] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 21.

[51] Ibid, p. 17.

[52] House, H. Doc. 72 and 193, p. 191.

[53] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 26-28.

alleged improprieties. Bury stepped down in December 1923, and was replaced by Colonel John A. Hadley.[54]

3. Danville Veterans Administration Facility

In 1930, management of the Danville Branch and other facilities formerly operated by the NHDVS was turned over the newly created Veterans Administration (VA). This marked the beginning of new era at the Branch, which hereafter was referred to as the Danville Veterans Administration Facility (or Hospital). In the years that followed, the facility benefited from the increased federal spending resulting from Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. In 1934, the facility was converted into neuro-pscychiatic hospital dedicated to the providing specialized care to veterans with neurological and psychological issues. That same year, a new General Medical and Surgical Building (Building 58) was erected immediately west of the old hospital. This was a large 5-½-story structure with an E-shaped footprint and represented the largest addition to the facility since the early 1900s.[55] Significant changes also were made to the old barracks during this period. Patients were no longer housed in common wards, but rather were segregated according to need, and the barracks were remodeled to meet the new standards. The most seriously ill patients, who were disturbed to the extent that they posed a danger to themselves or others, were housed in Acute Treatment Buildings, such as Buildings 10 and 14. Patients who were suffering from physical deterioration and could provide little to no care for themselves were housed in an infirmary located in Building 13. Able-bodied patients with chronic conditions or a degree a recovery for which restriction and observation were still required were assigned to Continued Treatment Buildings, of which Buildings 5-9 and 11-12 are examples. A fourth category of patients—those who were physically and mentally able to care for themselves with nominal supervision—typically would have been housed in a Parole Building; however, it is not clear which building served this purpose at Danville.[56] The remodeling activities undertaken on these buildings particularly focused on the fire safety and included adding sprinkler systems, interior fire hoses, and "fire hardening" the stairways. The plumbing and electrical systems also were updated during this period, and many of the large porches that once the graced the buildings were removed. This work primarily was undertaken by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), using plans drawn up by VA architects.

Some of the quainter features at the facility were abandoned during the 1930s. The Home Band, whose concerts had entertained the Branch members and Danville community for three decades, was disbanded in 1930. In December

[54] Ibid, p. 25; *Danville Commercial News*, 11 December 1922.

[55] Edwards et al., p. 7.7.

[56] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, p. 5; Edwards et al., pp. 7.3-7.5.

1936, the street car service to the facility was discontinued, and the following year the depot was donated to the VA, which ultimately used it as a barbershop..[57] The latter change is reflection of the restricted mobility of the patients housed at the facility (compared to the earlier era), as well as the increased use of automobiles. All of the staff quarters at the facility had garages erected adjacent to them in 1938.[58] Lake Clements was drained in the fall of 1940, and a golf course later was developed in this area.[59]

The 1939 *WPA Guide to Illinois* featured a short description of the Danville Veterans Administration Facility. The guide noted that the institution had served primarily neuro-psychiatric hospital since 1934 and covered 535 acres of "lawn and woodland." It noted the presence of "fourteen barracks arranged informally around the central buildings." The grounds and buildings were then valued at an estimated $3 million.[60]

A number of additional buildings, not previously mentioned, were added to the facility during the period 1938-1940, immediately preceding the United State's entrance into World War II. These included a recreation pavilion and barn (Building 66) in 1937, an engineering machine shop (Building 64) and linen handling facility (Building 69) in 1938, an implement storage building (Building 1939), and a cemetery tool house (Building 58) and maintenance building (Building 72) in 1940. Further construction would take place in the late 1940s and 1950s, when Buildings 89, 91-94, 96, 98, T110-T114, T116-T117, and T123-T124 were added.[61]

Some of the more dramatic changes to the facility occurred in the 1960s. Memorial Hall, the theater built in 1901, was demolished in 1960. In 1964, the original hospital (Building 15) was torn down. It had stood empty for a number of years prior. Also in 1964, the boiler house, which was one of the first buildings erected in 1898, was demolished following the completion of a new heating plant. The fountain located next to the canteen also was removed in 1964. The following year, Building 18, the original guard barracks, was removed.[62] The VA vacated most of the barracks buildings that had been serving as Continued and Acute Treatment wards during this period as well. These were replaced by a series of modern medical buildings clustered around the General Medical and

[57] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 9, 17.

[58] Edwards et al., pp. 7.8-7.9.

[59] Ibid, p. 17; Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 28.

[60] Federal Writers Project, *The WPA Guide to Illinois* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983), p. 404.

[61] Edwards et al., pp. 7.8-7.11..

[62] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 3, 8, 12, 28.

Surgical Building (Building 58). In 1961, the VA constructed an Admission and Treatment Building (Building 98), and this was followed by three Intermediate Medicine Units (Buildings 101-103) in 1965 and a Special Activities Building (Building 104) in 1966.[63]

In 1965, the VA leased Building 7, at the north end of the barracks ellipse, to Danville Community College. The college soon occupied a number of adjoining barracks buildings (including Buildings 5, 6, 8, 9) as they were vacated by the VA.[64] Most of the buildings were used for classroom space, while Building 7 housed the administrative offices. Established in 1946 as an extension of the University of Illinois, Danville Community College was reorganized as a public junior college in 1949 under the control of the Danville Public Schools. The institution initially was named Danville Junior College, but adopted the title of Danville Community College in 1951. In 1966, it became an independent two-year college. It was renamed Danville Area Community College (DACC) in 1979.[65]

In 1978, the Danville Veterans Administration Facility was renamed the Danville VA Medical Center, a change that reflected the improved medical and surgical services developed there over the preceding decade.[66] The VA facility has seen relatively little building development since the mid-1960s. The principal addition is a modern library (Building 125), which was erected in 1990.[67]

The DACC campus, by contrast, witnessed considerable development during the late twentieth century. New buildings constructed at the college include Bremer Conference Center, an Operations Facility, a Child Development Center, Technology Center, an Ornamental Horticulture Building, and a gymnasium named the Mary Miller Center. Most of these buildings are located to the north and east of the barracks ellipse. The college also has erected a building named Lincoln Hall in the space between Buildings 6, 7, and 8, with connector wings joining all four structures. The former mess hall/kitchen complex is used by the college as a cafeteria and was has been renamed by the Clock Tower Center. Barracks 1-4, which formed the southwest quadrant of the ellipse, have been demolished and their site is now occupied by a large parking lot. Three other

[63] Edwards et al., p. 7.10.

[64] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 3.

[65] Danville Area Community College, "Danville Area Community College, About Us," available at http://www/dacc.cc.il.us/about.php.

[66] Association of VA Psychology Leaders, "Danville VAMC Psychology Internship"; available at http://www.avapl.org/training/Danville/setting.htm.

[67] Edwards et al., p. 7.11.

former barracks—Buildings 5, 9, and 10—were vacated by the college early in 2003 and are slated for demolition.

In 1981, surviving buildings associated with the former Danville Branch, NHDVS owned by the Veterans Administration and greater than fifty years in age received a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1991, the URBANA Group (Champaign, Illinois) prepared a National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Danville Branch, NHDVS Historic District. The boundaries for the district encompassed property owned by both the VA and DACC.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

By the time the Danville Branch was developed, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers had developed a clear conceptual design for its facilities. Although each of the NHDVS branches had its own unique characteristics—in regard to site plan, architectural character, and specific amenities—their essential purpose and organizational structure were the same, and they shared common building types. Members were housed in large barracks, which typically were grouped together in close proximity to a common mess, or dining, hall. Other standard buildings present included a hospital, headquarters or administrative building, laundry house, commissary warehouse, guard house, chapel, a meeting hall, and individual residences for staff. All had National Cemeteries adjacent to them for the burial of deceased veterans.

The majority of the buildings erected during the initial development phase of the Danville Branch were of brick construction and were Georgian Revival in character, though other architectural styles were employed as well. In terms of architectural style and materials, the buildings erected at the Danville Branch were very similar to those at the Marion Branch in Indiana, and it is possible that same architectural firm employed at the latter facility (Peters, Burns, and Pretzinger of Dayton, Ohio) was involved at Danville.[68] As discussed above, the fifteen barracks were arranged in an ellipse on the north end of the campus and were nearly identical to one another. The Georgian Revival influence on these buildings was most evident in regard to the symmetry of their footprints and openings, raised rusticated stone foundations with watertable, transoms over the main entrances, pedimented dormers, and cross gable fanlight windows. However, they also showed some Romanesque influence in respect to the full-arched window openings and corbelled brick cornice found on the central block. Aside from Building 7, the barracks originally had spacious wrap-around porches

[68] Rector, p. 63.

on their east and west ends. Queen Anne-style spindlework was used for some of the porch balustrades. The headquarters building and officers' residences at the Branch followed a more consistent Georgian Revival design did not have the same mix of architectural elements found on the barracks.

The chapel and Carnegie Library were the two most notable departures from overall Georgian feel of the early campus. The chapel was built in the Gothic Revival style, while the library was Classical Revival structure. Memorial Hall, the large theater erected in 1901, exhibited a mixture of Classical and Georgian detailing. Another exception was the boiler house, built in 1898, which was the most overtly Romanesque building at the facility.

In the 1920s, the Veterans Bureau began to utilize a standard prototype for new or updated medical centers under their management. This prototype was intended to create a common siting/landscaping, floor plans, and health design strategy, irrespective of location. It established a consistency of design and function on the interior of buildings, but allowed for different architectural styles to be utilized on the exterior, depending on local setting and tastes. Georgian Revival was, by far, the most popular style employed, particularly in the Midwest and Northeast. The architects responsible for the prototype worked for the Treasury Department until 1930, when they were transferred to the newly created Veterans Administration. Their plans were applied to at least fifty Veterans Administration facilities around the county between the 1920s and early 1940s. These properties comprise the "VA's Architectural Set," a thematic multiple property nomination to the National Register of the Historic Places.[69]

Although the Danville Branch/Veterans Administration Facility is not included in the Architectural Set nominated to the National Register, the same prototype design used by the VA at other neuro-psychiatric hospitals was applied to it in 1934. Neuro-psychiatric hospitals operated by the VA were designed to have specific building types including: a Main Hospital Building, Acute Building, Infirmary Building, Continued Treatment Building, Parole Building, Dining Hall Building, Recreation Building, Residential and Quarters Buildings, Utility Group Buildings, and Connecting Corridors.[70] In the case of Danville, the VA accommodated its prototype design to the existing campus. The barracks, for instance, were converted to Acute and Continued Treatment Buildings and an infirmary. Most of their porches were removed, and their interiors were configured to allow for additional office space and activity areas, and to meet new sanitary or fire-safety requirements. The majority of the old barracks also had a large addition constructed onto one end. Connecting corridors were added

[69] Veterans Administration, Office of Facilities Management. "Architectural Set Medical Centers." Available at http:www.va.gov/facmgt/ historic/ Arch_Set.asp.

[70] Ibid.

between Buildings 10, 11, and 12, which housed the Acute and Infirmary patients. These corridors facilitated patient control and movement between the adjoined buildings, besides protecting staff during inclement weather.[71] The principal new building constructed during this period was the General Medical and Surgical Building (Building 58), a 5-½-story Georgian Revival structure with a modified E-plan.[72] The design of the latter building is based on that standard prototype followed by VA architects.

Buildings 5, 9, and 10, which are slated for demolition by DACC, are thus representative of two distinctive buildings types employed separately by the NHDVS and VA. On the one hand, their exteriors well illustrate the character of the barracks utilized by the NHDVS at the Danville Branch, and the original interior floor plans can still be discerned, even today. Their interiors also exhibit the basic layout and function of the Continued Treatment (Buildings 5 and 9) and Acute Buildings (Building 10) developed by the VA. Although the post-1834 floor plans of the three buildings were very similar to one another, there were distinct difference between them, which is indicative of the relative level of care and security required for the patients housed there.

B. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation:

The Danville Branch, NHDVS Historic District is located on the eastern edge of the city of Danville and occupies an irregular tract of land comprising nearly 300 acres. The district is bounded on the north by Main Street (U. S. Route 136/Covington Road) and extends south towards Vine Street. The terrain mostly is level, although there are several ravines running along the east and west sides of the property, leading into the Lick Creek drainage. Lick Creek runs along the east side of the Historic District (immediately below the National Cemetery) before turning west to intersect Stony Creek, a tributary of the Vermilion River. Once isolated from Danville proper, the historic district is now largely surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Danville Area Community College occupies the northern third of the district, while the remainder is utilized by the Danville VA Medical center.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

Although the Danville Branch had a decidedly military character in some respects, the facility did not have a rigid, uniform site plan typical of U. S.

[71] Ibid.

[72] Edwards et al, p. 7.7.

Army posts of the period. It also was less compact and more spread out than some of predecessors, such as that at Marion, Indiana.[73] The buildings at the Branch were arranged around a series of winding drives, rather than a rectilinear grid. The large barracks ellipse represented one of the most notable features of the facility. The barracks were arranged around the outer edge of the ellipse, while the dining hall/kitchen complex stood at the center. Anchoring the southern end of the building ring was an octagonal band stand, which was circuited by a ring of long benches. Additional benches were placed at other locations around the facility, such outside the chapel. A number of artillery pieces and caissons were placed at the north end of the barracks ellipse, lending a military appearance to the facility.[74]

The different buildings at the Branch were connected by a series of sidewalks, and early *Annual Reports* indicate considerable effort having gone into maintaining and developing walks. Gravel and boards appear to have been paving material of choice for the sidewalks initially, but this was soon supplanted by poured concrete. The 1904 *Annual Report*, for instance, indicated 40,000 square feet of concrete sidewalks having been laid over the course of the fiscal year. .Additional "grading"—presumably for walks (or roads)—also was mentioned in the 1904 report. That same year, thirty arc lights had been were installed on the grounds, at a cost of $6,637.88, and a 25'-diameter fountain equipped with four jets and stocked with gold fish was constructed. Crochet grounds also are mentioned.[75] The service roads at the Branch originally were paved with cinders. By 1905-1906, however, the roads had begun to be paved with brick.[76]

Historic photographs do illustrate ornamental plantings—both shrubs and trees—around the barracks, officer's residences, and other buildings at the facility. Flower beds adorned the grounds around the headquarters building, as illustrated in a 1903 photograph (see V-2003-2-S22). The natural surroundings at the site also were integrated into the landscape design. Two groves, pre-existing the foundation of the Danville Branch, were retained at the site for recreational/landscape purposes. The larger of these was positioned directly north of the original hospital building and

[73] Rector, p. 25.

[74] Danville Veterans Hospital, pp. 3, 14; [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p. 42.

[75] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1904*, 58th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 71 and 193 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1904), p. 183.

[76] Ibid; House, H. Doc. 88 and 276, p. 269.

provided an attractive buffer between the hospital (and the patients housed within) from the rest of the facility. The smaller grove was located directly south of the officers' quarters and was used early on as a site for summer band concerts.[77] The ravine abutting the east side of this grove was dammed to create Lake Clements, which covered about 20 acres. The lake was used for boating and fishing during the warmer months of the year and skating during the winter.[78] A boat house and footbridge were constructed along its banks (see V-2003-2-S31). The lake was a popular recreation area for members, as well as townspeople. It was drained in 1940, and a golf course later developed on the same site.[79]

Another landscape feature of particular note is the Danville Branch National Cemetery, on the east side of the site. Laid out in 1901, the cemetery covers approximately 30 acres and is accessed by means of a boulevard (leading from the west), which feeds into a series of three concentric circle drives around which the graves are arranged. A monument honoring the nation's war dead is located in the center circle of the cemetery. This monument is located over the grave of Colonel Isaac Clements, the first Governor of the Danville Branch (d. 1909). As of 1991, over 6,000 veterans had been interred in the cemetery.[80]

3. Buildings:

A total of seventy-eight buildings/structures are located within the circa 1900 boundaries of the Danville Branch, seventy-two of which lie within the boundaries of the Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Forty-seven of the buildings/structures are considered contributing resources to the district. Since that time, DACC has constructed a new Child Development Center, located immediately northwest of the barracks ellipse, as well as a connector addition known as Lincoln Hall, joining Buildings 6, 7, and 8, within the district boundaries

A full inventory and short architectural description of each of the contributing buildings present within the historic district in 1991 can be found in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form prepared by Edwards et al. Buildings 5, 9, and 10 have been documented in detail as IL HABS Nos. V-2003-2-A, V-2003-2-B, and V-2003-2-C.

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[77] House, H. Doc. 71 and 193, p. 183.

[78] Ibid.

[79] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 17.

[80] Edwards et al., p. 7.11.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

The only original, large-format, architectural drawings for the Danville Branch identified to date, are for a single building: Building 7, which originally served as a barracks and presently houses the administration offices for Danville Area Community College. The drawings include a longitudinal view through Building 7, which presently is on display at the college. This image of importance since it illustrates the original interior configuration of the barrack building, including the frame central stairway replaced post-1930. Small format architectural drawings for a number of the other buildings planned for the Danville Branch were included in the annual report submitted by the Board of Managers of the NHDVS to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1898, which subsequently was published as House Document 55. This document contains eight plates, including: 1) a site plan of the Danville Branch; 2) a first-floor plan of the hospital; 3) a front elevation plan of the hospital; 4) a first-floor plan of the mess hall and kitchen; 5) front and side elevation plans of the mess hall and kitchen; 6) floor and elevation plans of the boiler and coal houses; 7) north elevation and first-floor plans of the laundry building; 8) and a representative first-floor and front elevation plans of a typical barracks. These plates have been reproduced on microfilm by the National Archives as Serial Set House Document 3785, Volume 43, Number 55.

Large-format architectural drawings illustrating conditions and modifications made to the buildings at the Danville Branch post-1930 are available and were utilized for the IL HABS documentation project. As noted above, these plans presently are divided between DACC and the Danville VA Medical Center, depending on building ownership. The plans for Buildings 5, 9, and 10 were utilized for the IL HABS documentation project and are heavily referenced in the separate reports on these buildings (IL HABS V-2003-1-A, B, and C).

B. Early Views:

The 1903 *Illustrated History of the Danville Branch of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* includes photographs of the grounds and principal buildings of the Danville Branch. Some interior images also are included in this source. Additional historic views of the facility can be found in the 1907 *Atlas of Vermillion County, Illinois* and in a special commemorative edition of *The Bulletin* entitled “History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois,” which was published in 1965.

C. Interviews:

No interviews were conducted for this project.

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E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Personal information regarding the members enrolled at the Danville Branch can be obtained from through Record Group 955.003 at the Illinois State Archives. This record group contains thirty microfilms covering the period 1898-1934. The original records can be found in Record Group 15 at the National Archives' regional office in Chicago.

Newspapers published in and around Danville no doubt contain a wealth of information concerning the initial development and subsequent operation of the Danville Branch, NHDVS. Microfilm copies of local newspapers are on file at the archives department of the Danville Public Library.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentations have been prepared for a number of other Veterans Administration facilities, including the VA Medical Center in Marion, Williamson County, Illinois (HABS No. IL-1155) and that located outside Aspinwall, Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5438). These documentations, and other like them, may contain contextual information relevant to Danville.

Part IV. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

A. Research Strategy:

The research strategy first called for a detailed physical examination to be conducted of Buildings 5, 9, and 10 with the intention of documenting their original design, changes through time, materials, and any other construction details pertinent to the completion of the Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey outline. In conjuncture with the field investigation, documentary research was to be carried out at various local and regional archival repositories in order to locate materials relating to the construction of and subsequent development of these buildings (especially original construction plans and early photographs) and the history of the facility with which they are associated. General background research also would be conducted on the history of the NHDVS and the VA. The National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Danville Branch, NHVDS Historic District[81] served as starting point for the latter research.

B. Actual Research Process:

Prior to the initiation of the field investigation, attempts were made to locate any original and/or remodeling plans for Buildings 5, 9, and 10. Inquiries were made to DACC, the

[81] Edwards et al.

Danville VA Medical Center, and the VA in Washington D. C. Floor plans prepared by VA architects detailing changes made in 1934, and later, ultimately were found on file at the operational facility at DACC. These proved of great utility during the investigation and supplemented the existing condition plans prepared by Walton and Associates in 2003. Subsequent research located representative first floor and north elevation plans for the barracks constructed at the Danville Branch, showing their original configuration, in House Doc. 55. Although not comprehensive, the latter drawings were essential to understanding the evolution of Buildings 5, 9, and 10 through time. The field investigation of Buildings 5, 9, and 10 was carried out in May and June 2003. Primary goals of the investigation included the documentation of construction materials and the recording of structural features not illustrated on the historic floor plans. Large-format photographs of the buildings were taken in June 2003.

Site-specific documentary research was conducted at the Danville VA Medical Center library, the Danville Public Library's archives department, the Illinois State Library, and the Illinois State Archives. This research was intended to supplement the information contained in the National Register Nomination Form for the Danville Branch, NHDVS Historic District. Of particular help were the annual reports for the Danville Branch submitted by the Board of Directors of the NHVDS to Congress. Published as House Documents, these reports provide general statistical data on Danville Branch, but also detail the progress of construction projects undertaken at the facility. The report for 1898 includes eight plates showing the site plan and representative elevation and floor plans for the buildings erected at the Danville Branch. Copies of the reports are available on microfilm at the Illinois State Library. Other sources of information that were very useful included the 1903 *Illustrated History of the Danville Branch of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers* and the 1965 special edition "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois." As noted above, the 1907 *Atlas of Vermilion County, Illinois* also was useful, in respect to the historic photographs it has of the Danville Branch. Another source utilized during the project was "The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," a masters' thesis prepared by Matthew Rector. Rector compared the buildings at the Marion Branch with those at Danville and the Central Branch (Dayton, Ohio).

A number of web-based searches also were conducted, in order to obtain general background information for the historic context prepared for the report. Topics researched included: the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Veterans Administration hospitals, and state-run "Old Soldiers' Homes" in Illinois and Indiana. In addition, the National Park Service's web site was visited in order to assess other NHDVS and VA properties previously documented through the HABS program.

C. Archives and Repositories Used:

A number of repositories were utilized as part of this project. These include the archives department at the Danville Public Library, the Danville VA Medical Center library, the Illinois State Library, and the Illinois State Archives.

D. Research Staff:

1. Primary Preparer:

The written IL-HABS outline presented here was prepared by Christopher Stratton of Fever River Research. Stratton also participated in the field investigation of Buildings 5, 9, and 10 with Floyd Mansberger. All aspects of this project were coordinated by, and under the direct supervision of Floyd Mansberger, principal investigator, Fever River Research, P. O. Box 5234, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.

2. Photographer:

William Flesher, Fever River Research, was responsible for all of the large format photography taken for this project. Photographic Service Center (PSC) of Springfield, Illinois processed the large format negatives. Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton took supplemental 35mm prints of the site.

3. Delineator:

The 1930s-era floor plans included with the IL HABS document (Sheets A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, C-1, and C-2) were hand drawn by architects employed by the Veterans Administration. All floor plans and elevation views showing existing conditions were prepared by Walton and Associates Architects, P. C., 1227 South Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62703. These drawings (Sheets A-3, B-3, C-3, C-4, and C-5) were digitized using AutoCad software. The cover and building inventory sheets (Sheets 1 and 2) were produced by Christopher Stratton of Fever River Research.

4. Additional Staff:

All Fever River Research personnel involved in the preparation of this IL-HABS report have been mentioned in the preceding sections.

Part V. PROJECT INFORMATION

Early in 2003, Walton and Associates Architects, P. C., acting on behalf of Danville Area Community College (DACC), contacted the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) with plans demolish Buildings. 5, 9, and 10 on the DACC campus. The buildings in question had been constructed in 1899-1900 and originally served as barracks for the Danville Branch, NHDVS, and later were converted into treatment wards associated with the Danville Veterans Hospital. Since 1965, they had been used as classroom space by DACC. With the construction of modern buildings at the college, Buildings 5, 9, and 10 were no longer considered essential. After the reviewing the proposed demolition project, IHPA determined that a Level II Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey (IL

HABS) documentation package be prepared on the three buildings. This assessment was based on the fact that Buildings 5, 9, and 10 were contributing elements to the Danville Branch, NHDVS Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

This Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey project was undertaken to fulfill requirements stipulated in a memorandum by the IHPA's Preservation Services Division, with DACC as a concurring partner, concerning the demolition of Buildings 5, 9, and 10 at the former Danville Branch, NHDVS. The subject Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed and its terms carried out in order to ensure compliance by the participating state agencies with the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420). Once the MOA had been signed, DACC contacted with Fever River Research (as a subcontractor of Walton and Associates Architects, P. C. of Springfield, Illinois) to prepare the IL-HABS documents.

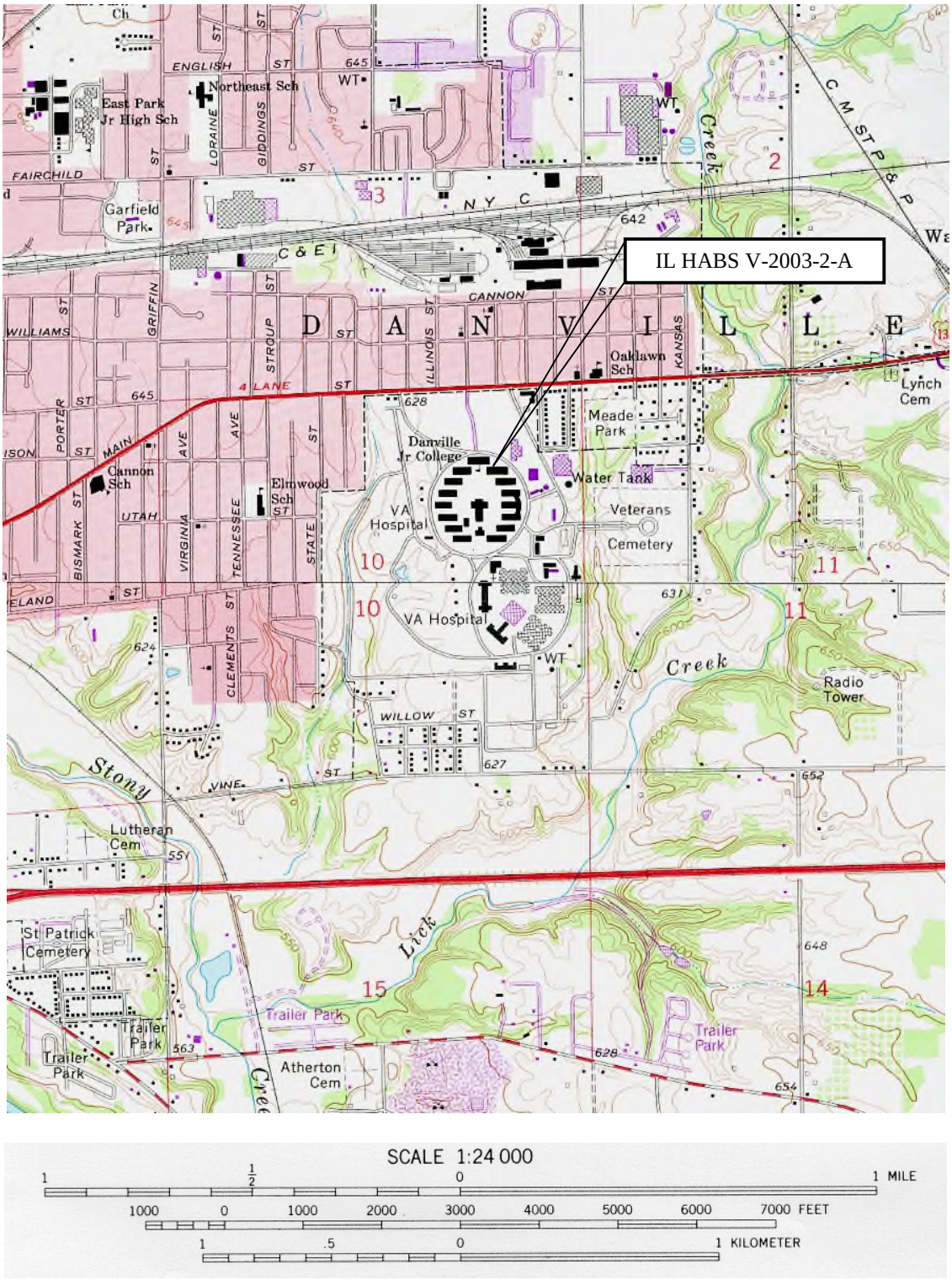


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (IL HABS V-2003-2).

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

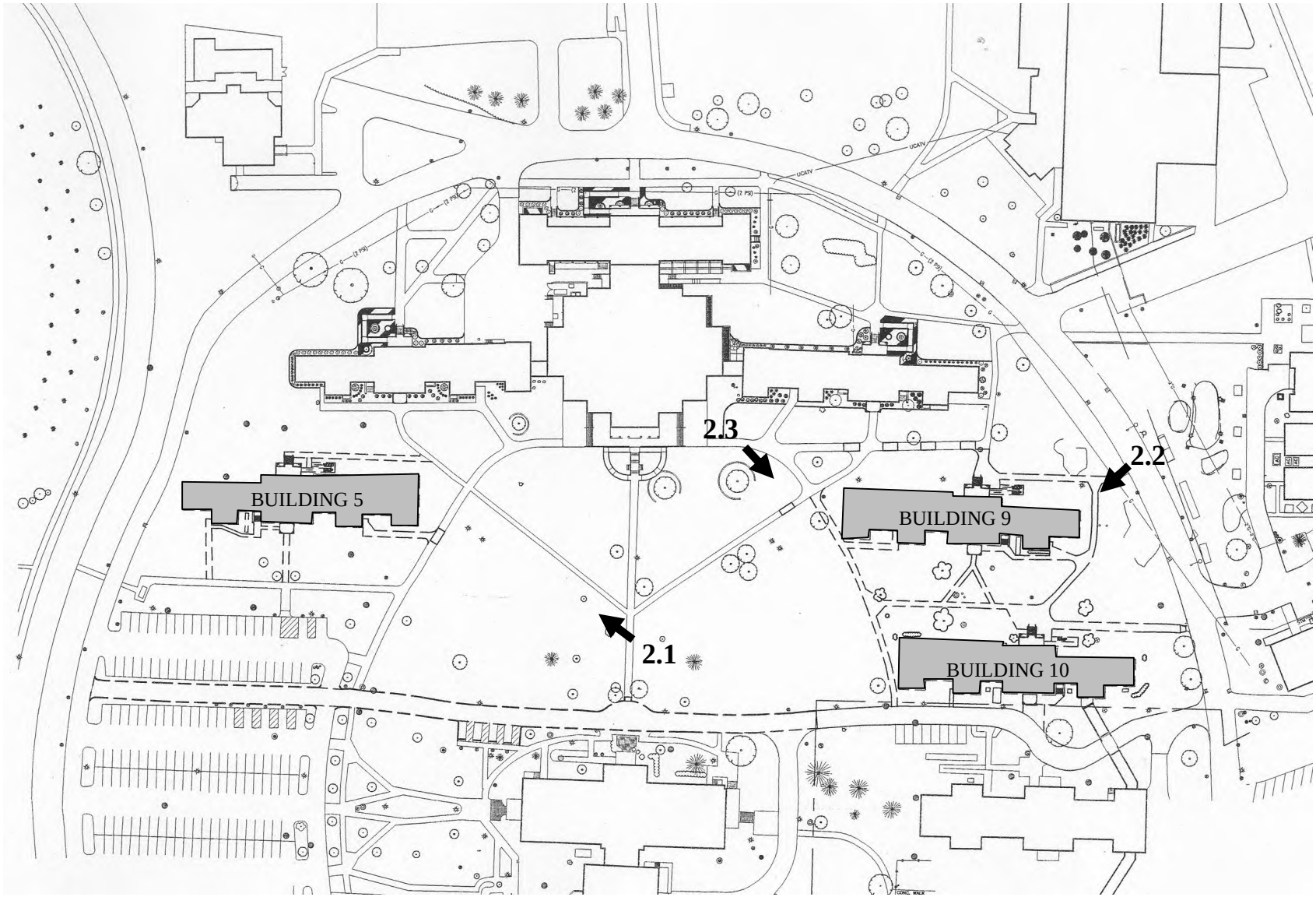
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital) IL HABS No. V-2003-2
1900 and 2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

Documentation: 3 photographs. William Flesher, photographer (June 2003).

V-2003-2.1 General view of the "barracks circle" at the Danville Branch, looking northwest from the interior of the circle. Building 5 is the structure at far left. Building 6, another barracks now named Prairie Hall, is shown in the center of the view, to right (north) of Building 5. Lincoln Hall, a modern structure connecting Buildings 6 and 8, appears at right.

V-2003-2.2 General view of Buildings 9 and 10, looking southwest from the driveway bordering them on the east. Building 9 is shown at right and Building 10 at left.

V-2003-2.3 General view taken from the interior of the "barracks circle", looking southeast towards Buildings 9 and 10. The west end of Building 9 appears at far left, and Building 10 is shown in the background.



Walbach Associates Architects, P.C.

IL HABS V-2003-2.1
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2.2
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2.3
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital) IL HABS No. V-2003-2
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermillion County
Illinois

V-2003-2-S1 Site plan of the Danville Branch of the National Home of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1898.[1] This map illustrates the buildings completed and under construction, as well as those planned in the near future (indicated by dashed lines). Elements of the original landscape design, including drives and groves, also are shown.

V-2003-2-S2 Photograph of the gatehouse and entrance to the Danville Branch, 1907.[2]

V-2003-2-S3 View of the barracks circle at the Danville Branch, looking southeast. Building 5 is the second building from right.[3]

V-2003-2-S4 Photograph taken from the interior of the barracks circle, showing the west side of the circuit, looking north, 1907.[4] Building 5 is the third building from left. The porch of the mess hall building appears at far right.

V-2003-2-S5 View of the barracks housing Company "L", 1903.[5] The northernmost building forming the barracks circle, this structure later was designated as Building 7 and presently served as the Administrative Building for Danville Area Community College.

V-2003-2-S6 View of the barracks building housing Company "E", 1903.[6] Note the two-story porch on the end of the building. Identical porches also were present on the east and west ends of the other barracks but were removed in the 1930s.

V-2003-2-S7 View of the barracks of Companies "I" and "K", 1903.[7]

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[1] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plate 1.
[2] E. S. Boudinot, *Atlas of Vermilion County, Illinois* (Danville, Illinois: E. S. Boudinot, 1907).
[3] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], *Illustrated History, Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Danville, Illinois* (Danville, Illinois: National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1903), p.15.
[4] Boudinot.
[5] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.42.
[6] Ibid, p.41
[7] Ibid, p.43.

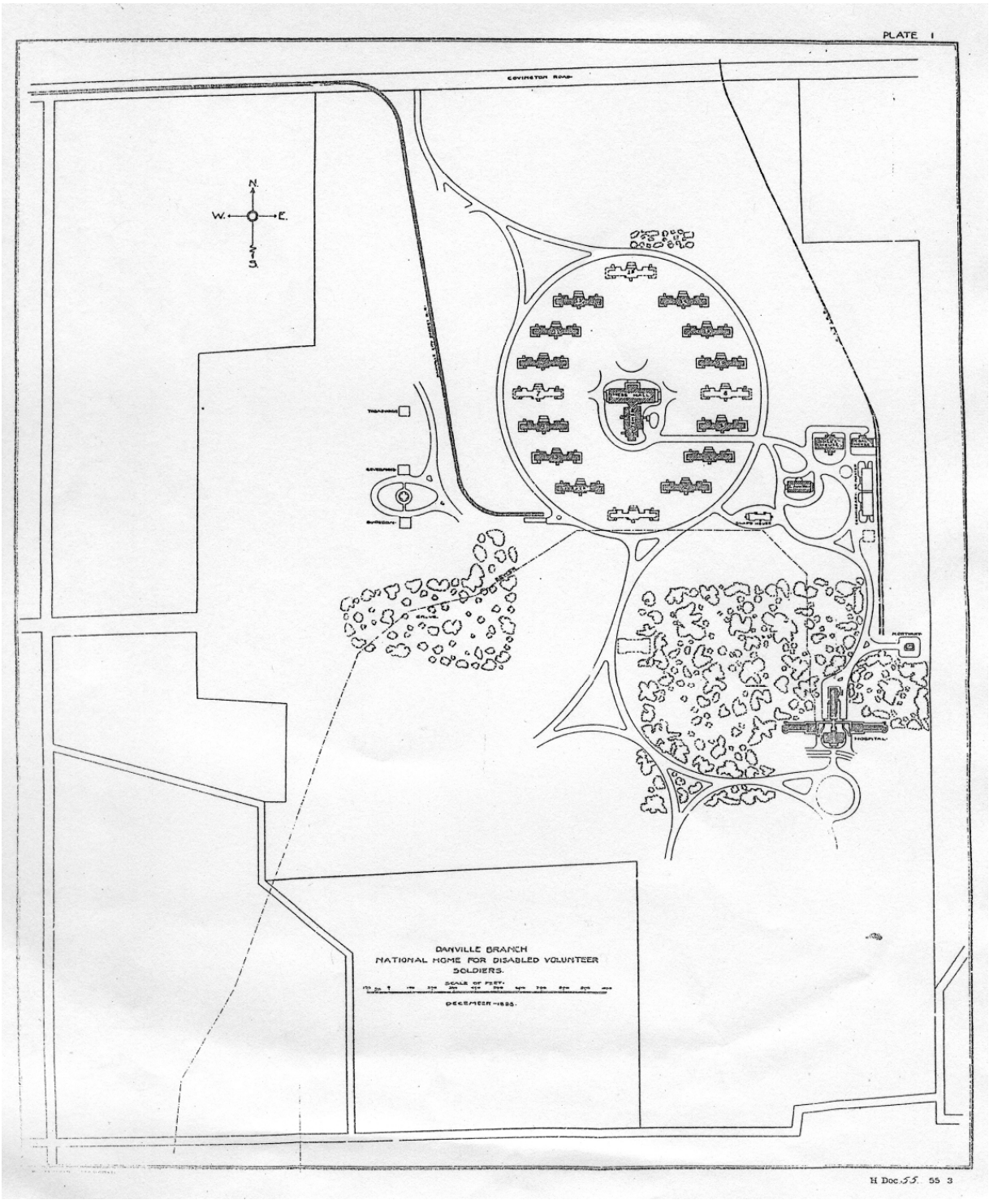
V-2003-2-S8	Photograph of the convalescent barracks, 1903[8]
V-2003-2-S9	Representative elevation plan and first floor plan for the barracks constructed at the Danville Branch, 1898[9]
V-2003-2-S10	Interior photograph of a ward in an unidentified barracks building at the Danville Branch, 1903.[10]
V-2003-2-S11	Exterior view of the mess hall at the Danville Branch taken from a point northwest of the building, 1903.[11]
V-2003-2-S12	View of the west side of the mess hall, kitchen, and bakery complex, 1903.[12]
V-2003-2-S13	View of the south side of the mess hall, kitchen, and bakery complex, 1903.[13]
V-2003-2-S14	Drawings of north and west elevations of the mess hall, kitchen, and bakery complex, 1898.[14]
V-2003-2-S15	Floor plan of the mess hall, kitchen, and bakery complex, 1898.[15]
V-2003-2-S16	Interior photograph of the kitchen, 1903.[16]
V-2003-2-S17	Interior photograph of the mess hall, 1907.[17]
V-2003-2-S18	Elevation and floor plans of the power house and coal house at the Danville Branch, 1898.[18]
V-2003-2-S19	Photograph of the guard house at the Danville Branch, 1903.[19]
V-2003-2-S20	Elevations and floor plans of the laundry at the Danville Branch, 1898.[20]

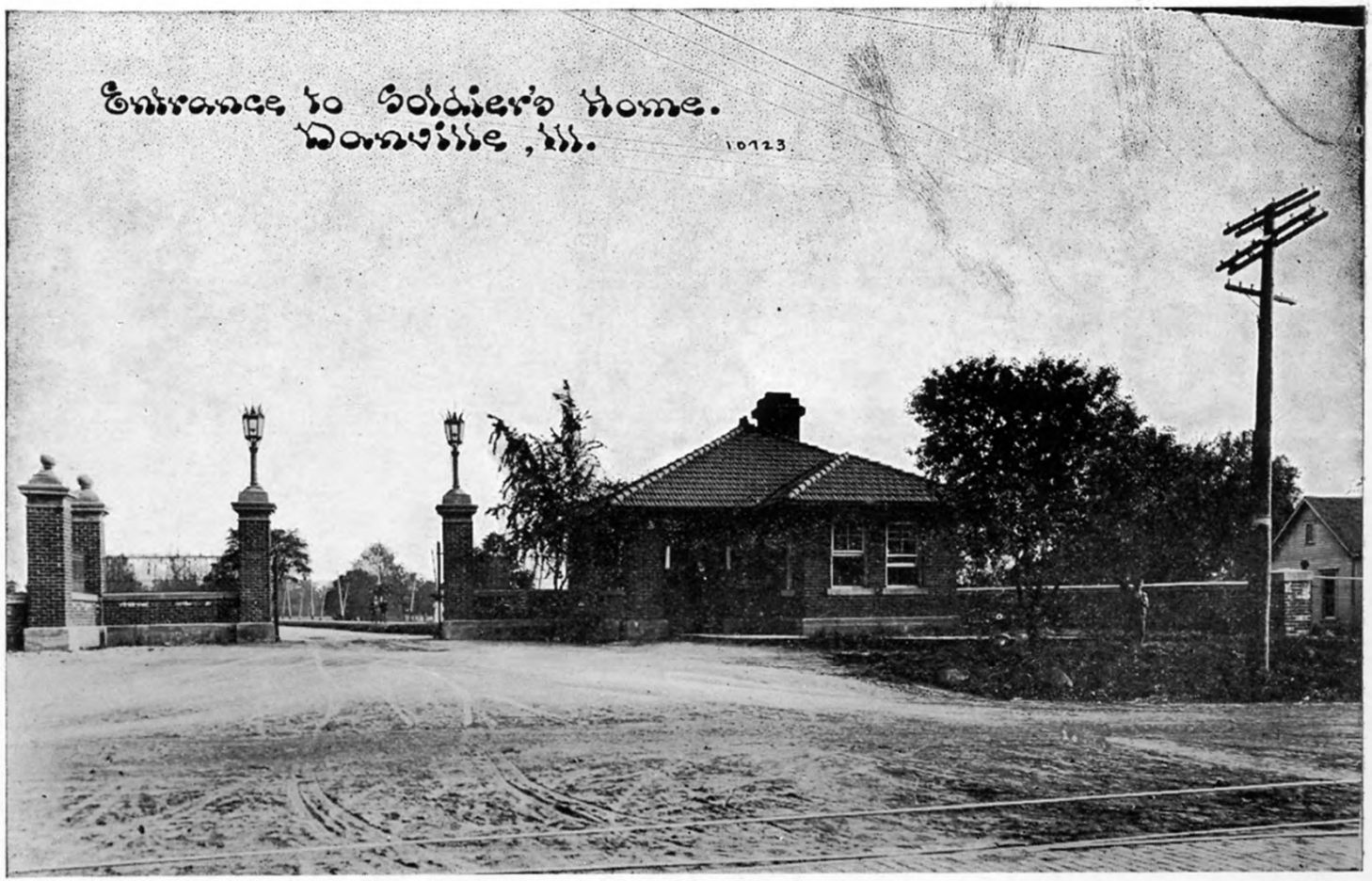
[8] Ibid, p.39.
[9] House, plate 9.
[10] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.44.
[11] Ibid, p.21.
[12] Ibid, p.25.
[13] Ibid, p.27.
[14] House, plate 5.
[15] Ibid, plate 4.
[16] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.31.
[17] Boudinot.
[18] House, plate 6.
[19] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.33.
[20] House, plate 7.

V-2003-2-S21	View of the north side of the headquarters building at the Danville Branch, 1903.[21]
V-2003-2-22	View of the south side of the headquarters building, 1903.[22]
V-2003-2-23	Photograph taken from the south end of the Danville Branch looking north, 1903.[23] The officers' residences appear at left, the headquarters building at right, and the barracks circle can be seen in the background.
V-2003-2-24	Photograph of the hospital building at the Danville Branch, showing the front (south) elevation, 1903.[24]
V-2003-2-25	Photograph of the hospital building, showing the front (south) elevation, 1907.[25]
V-2003-2-26	Elevation plan of the hospital building, 1898.[26]
V-2003-2-27	First-floor plan of the hospital building, 1898.[27]
V-2003-2-28	Photograph of Memorial Hall, 1903.[28]
V-2003-2-29	Photograph of Memorial Hall, 1907.[29]
V-2003-2-30	Photograph of the chapel at the Danville Branch, 1907.[30] This Gothic Revival structure served both Roman Catholic and Protestant residents at the Danville Branch.
V-2003-2-31	Photograph of a footbridge and boat house at the Danville Branch.[31] These structures further illustrate the recreational opportunities afforded to the members at the Danville Branch.

[21] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.11.
[22] Ibid, p.13.
[23] Ibid, p.45.
[24] Ibid, p.17.
[25] Boudinot.
[26] House, plate 3.
[27] Ibid, plate 2.
[28] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.35.
[29] Boudinot.
[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid.

V-2003-2-S1
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION





ENTRANCE TO SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.

Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

GROUP OF BARRACKS

PART OF CIRCLE OF BARRACKS, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.
Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

V-2003-2-S5
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

GUNS AND BARRACK, COMPANY "L"

V-2003-2-S6
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

BARRACK, COMPANY "E"

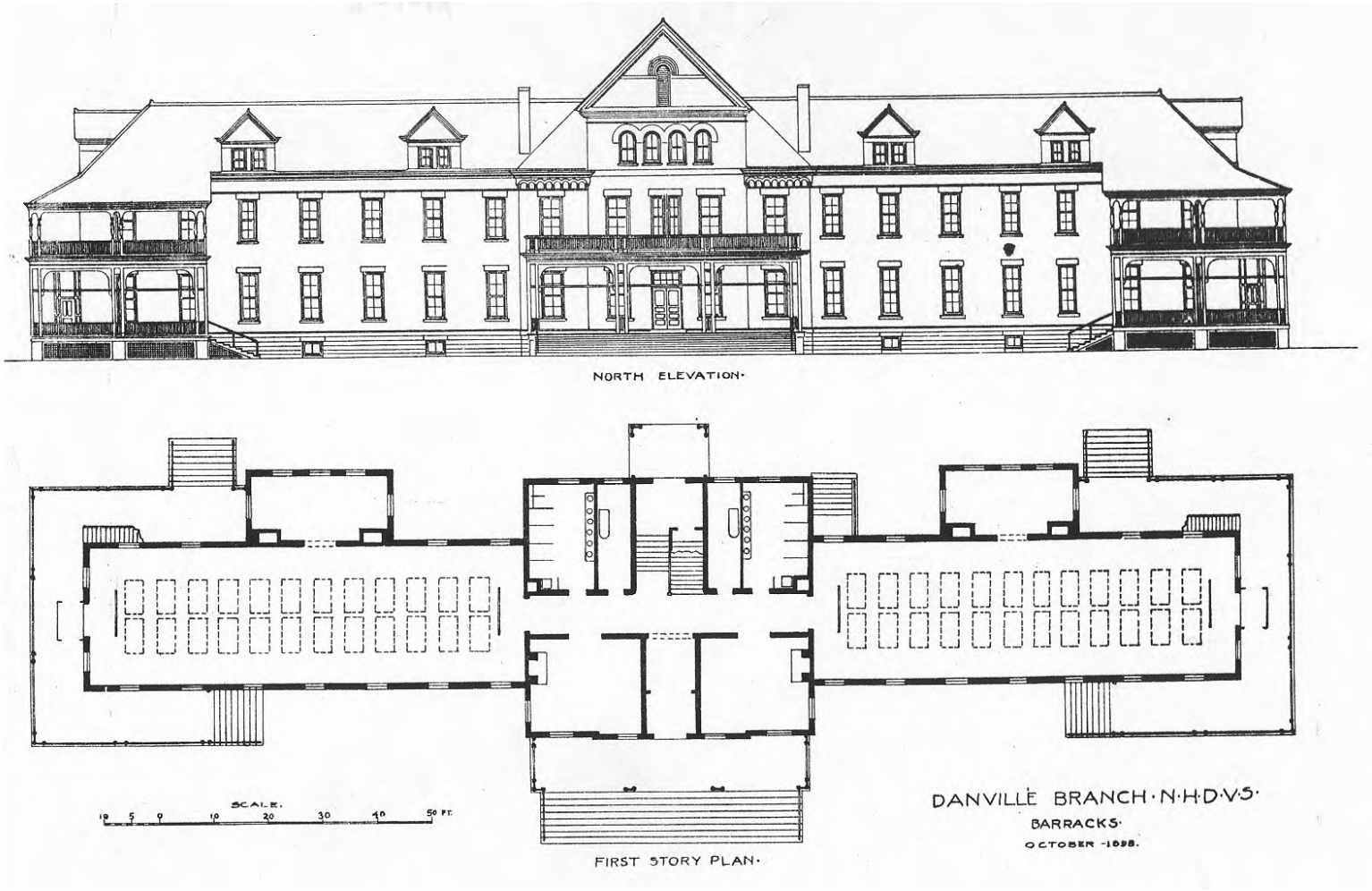
V-2003-2-S7
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

BARRACKS, COMPANIES "I" AND "K"

V-2003-2-S8
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

CONVALESCENT BARRACK, COMPANY "G"

V-2003-2-S9
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



INTERIOR OF WARD IN BARRACK

GENERAL MESS HALL—Northwest

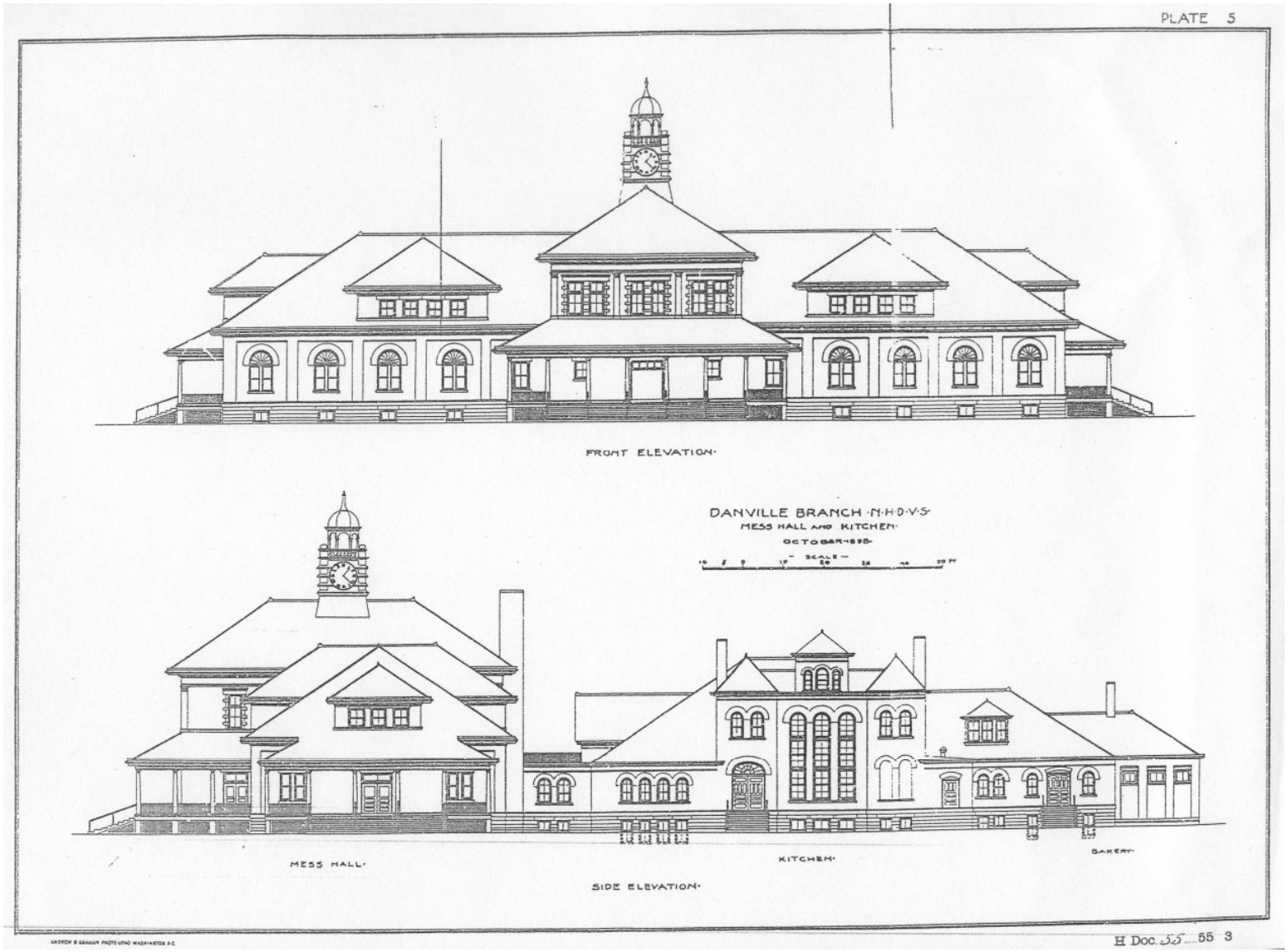
V-2003-2-S12
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

GENERAL MESS HALL, KITCHEN AND BAKERY—West side

V-2003-2-S13
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

GENERAL MESS HALL, KITCHEN AND BAKERY—South Side

SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-S15
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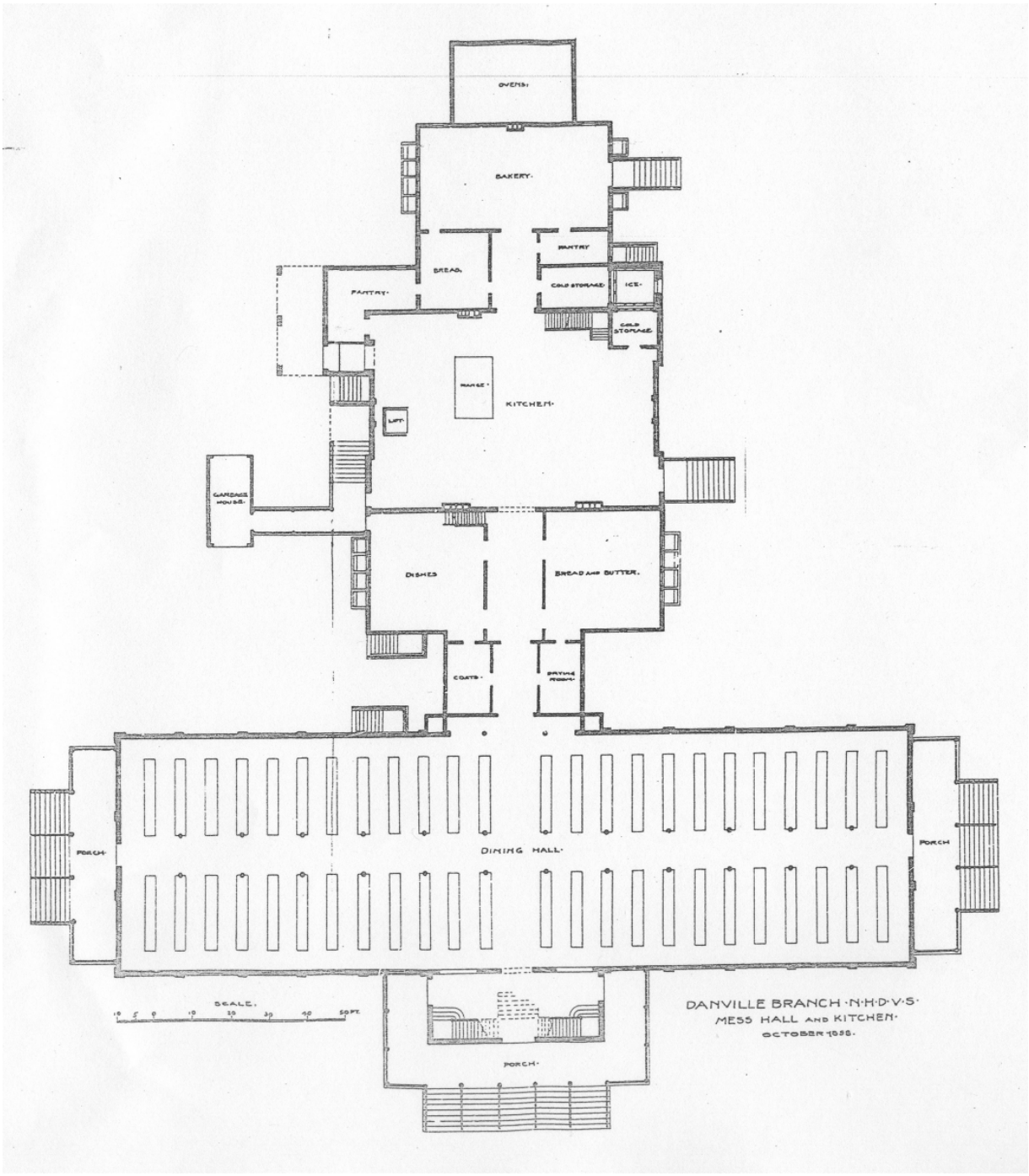
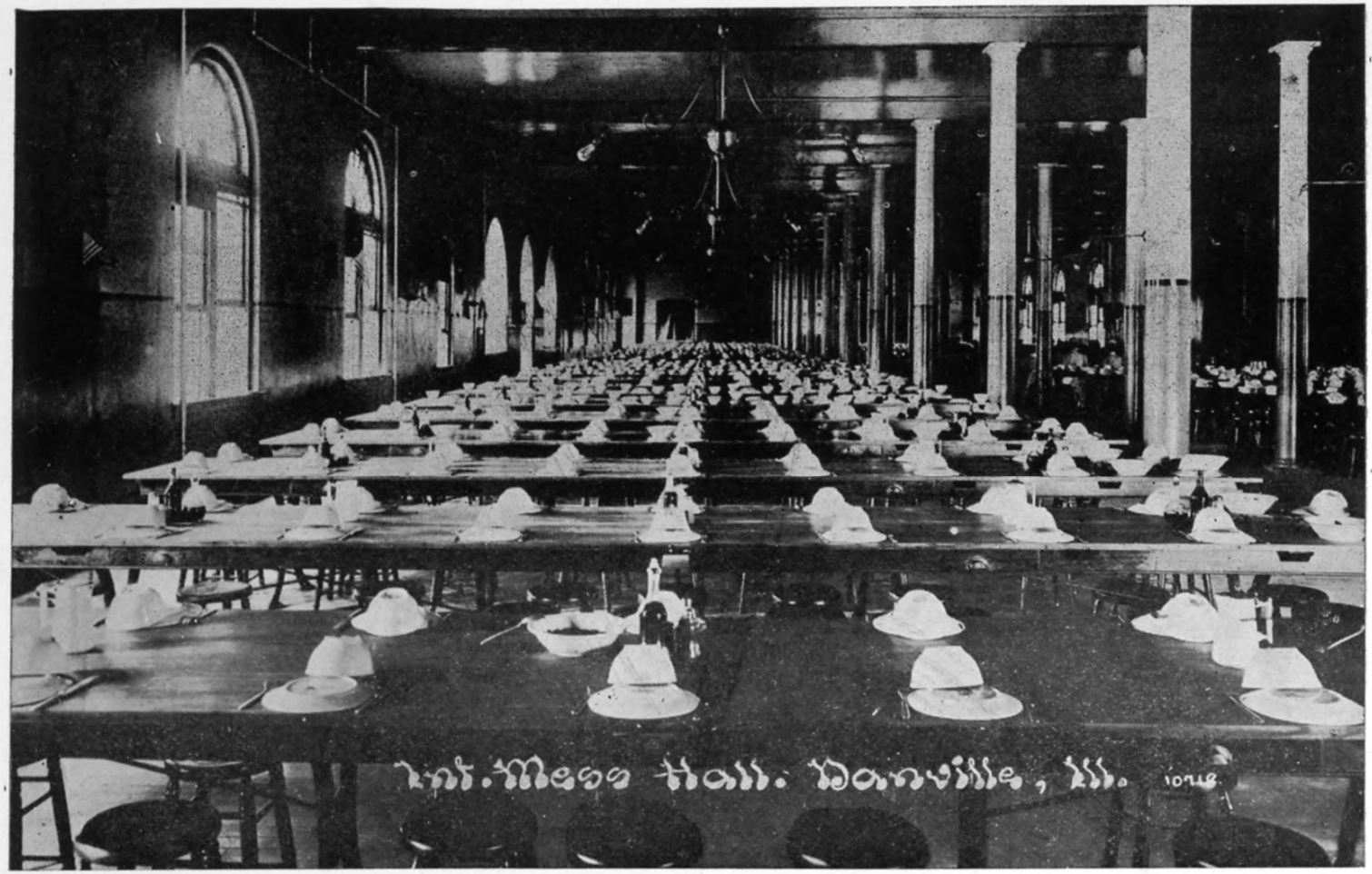
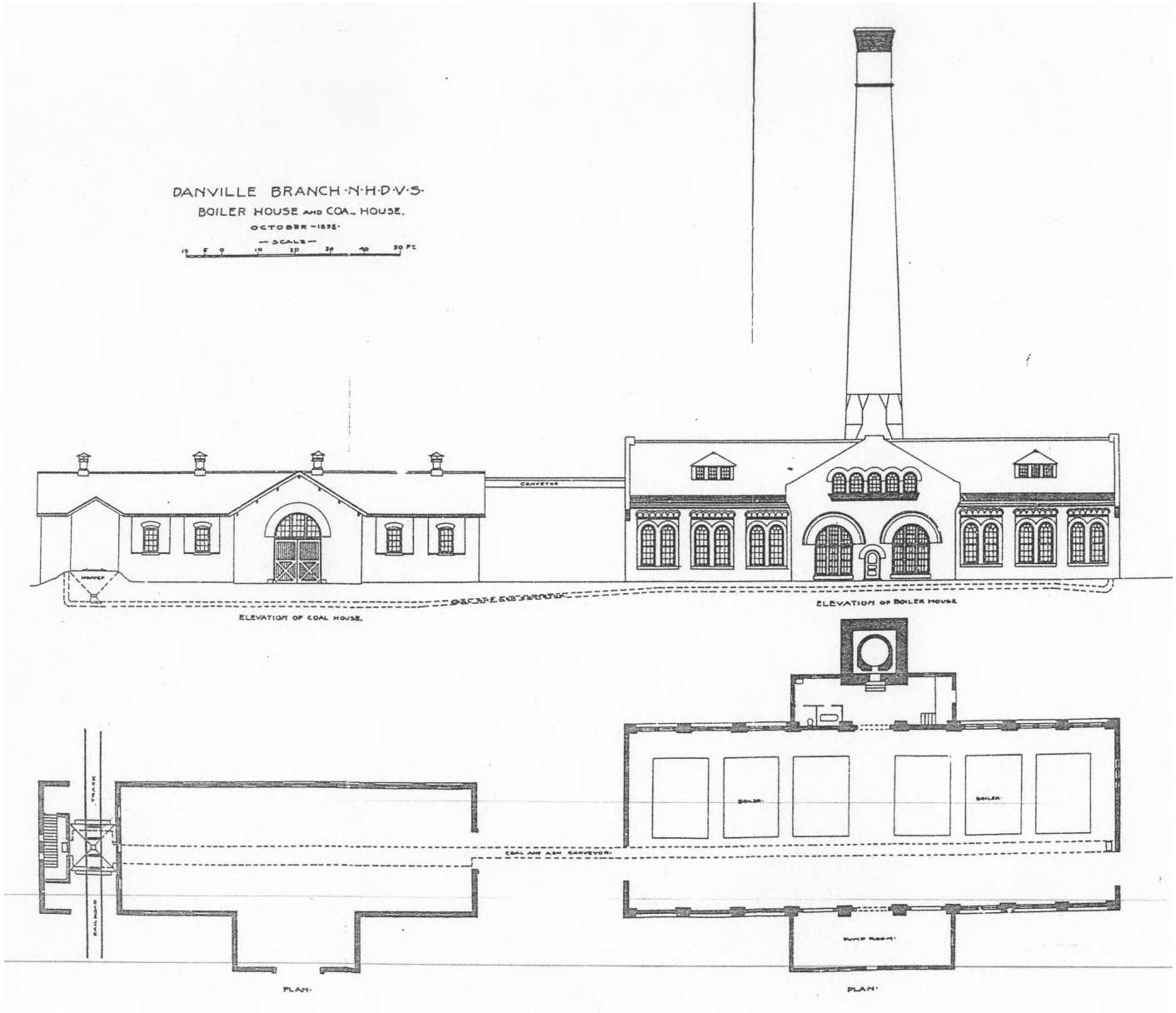


INTERIOR OF GENERAL KITCHEN



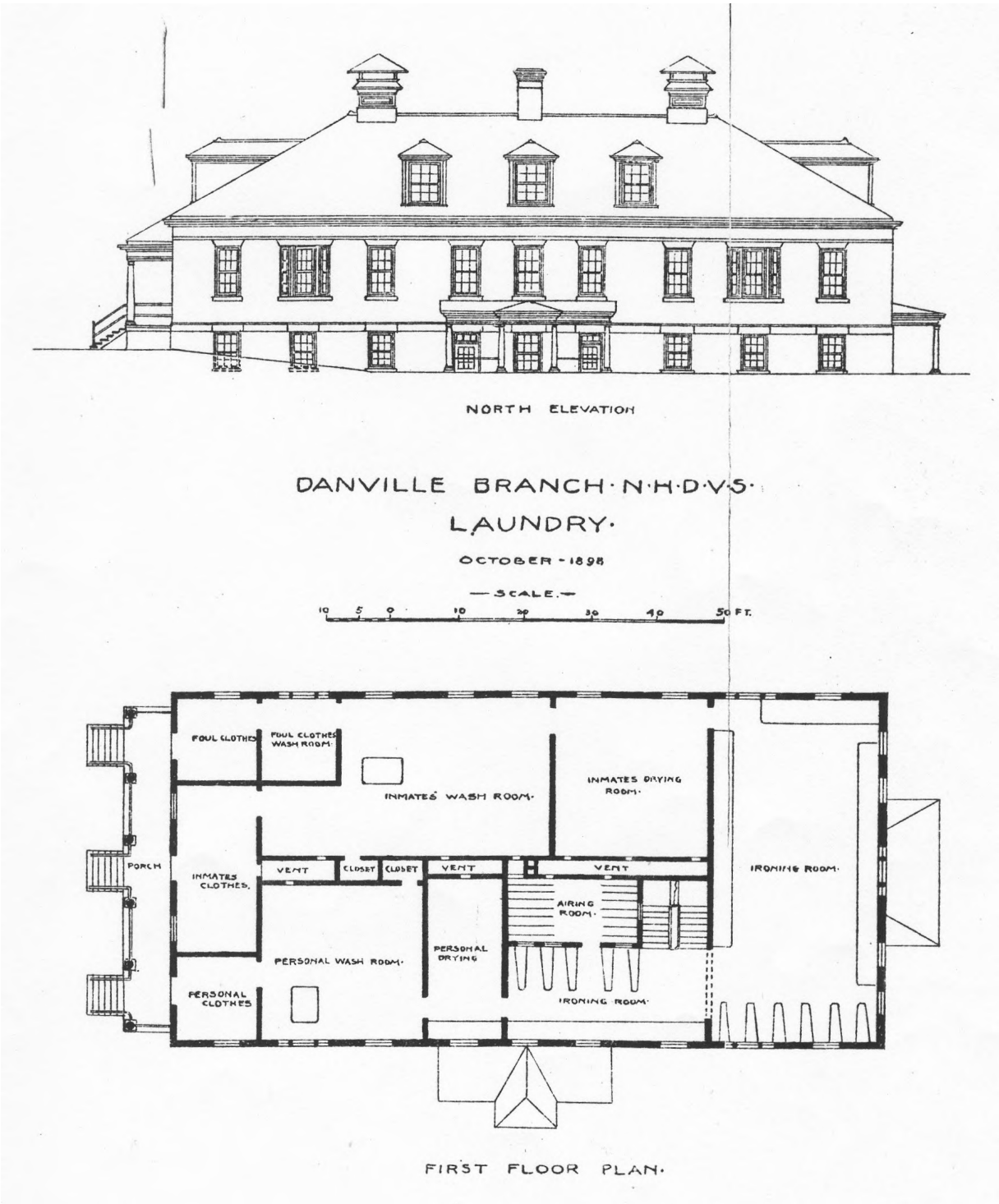
INTERIOR VIEW OF MESS HALL, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.
Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

V-2003-2-S18
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



GUARD HOUSE

V-2003-2-S20
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-S21
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

HEADQUARTERS—North Side

V-2003-2-S22
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

HEADQUARTERS—south side

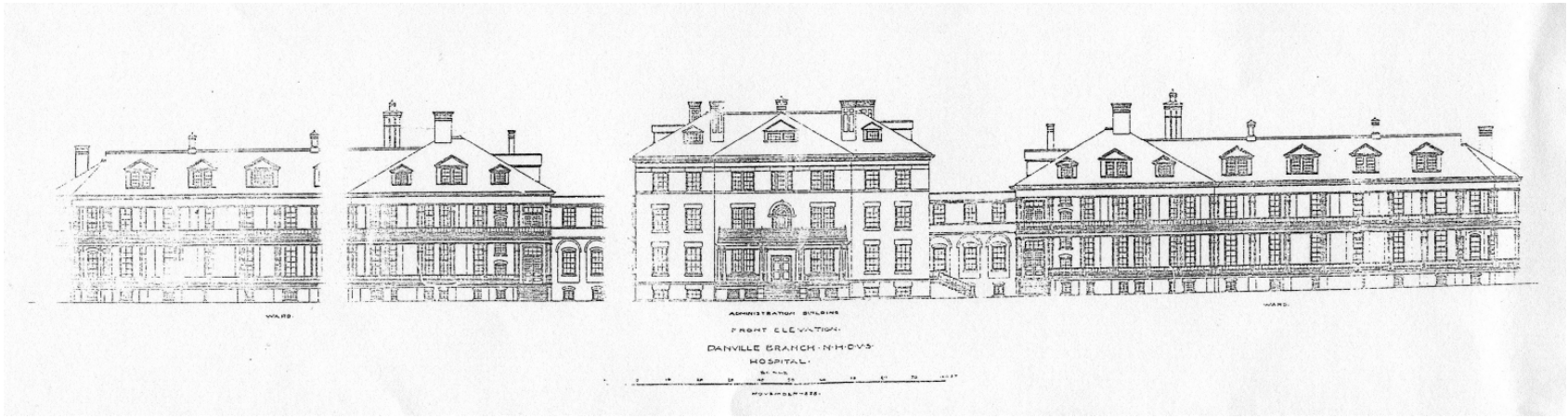
V-2003-2-S23
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

HOSPITAL—Front

HOSPITAL BUILDING, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.

Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

V-2003-2-S26
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-S27
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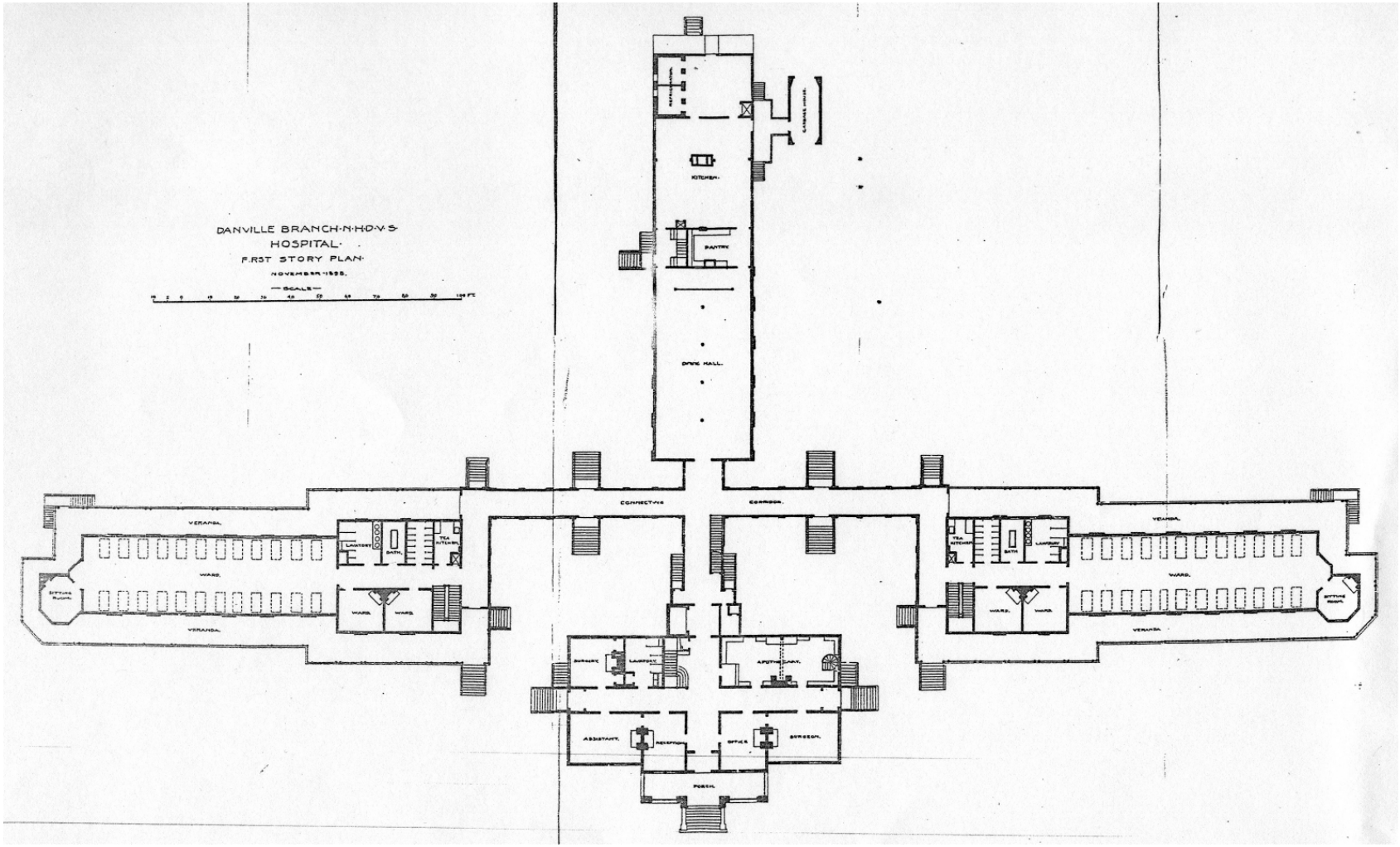

V-2003-2-S28
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

MEMORIAL HALL

MEMORIAL HALL, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.
Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

CHAPEL, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.

Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

BRIDGE AND BOAT HOUSE, SOLDIERS' HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.
Photo by C. U. Williams, Bloomington, Ill.

Building 5 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-A
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IL HABS No. V-2003-2-A

Location: Building 5 is located within the present grounds of Danville Area Community College, at 2000 East Main Street in Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois. The building lies on the western edge of the campus.

Present Owner: The building is owned by Danville Area Community College.

Present Occupant: The building has been vacated in expectation of its eventual demolition.

Present Use: Building 5 was vacated several years ago. It was last used as the Danville Area Community College's Vocational Tech Building.

Statement of Significance: Building 5 is a contributing resource to the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The district was nominated to the National Register under Criteria A (social history), in regards to the area of health/medicine, and under Criterion C (architecture). Danville was the eighth of ten such facilities ultimately established by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), nationwide, between 1866 and 1929. Building 5 is a large two-and-one-half-story, brick structure that was built in 1899-1900, during the initial construction phase of the Danville Branch. It originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for elderly and/or disabled veterans and later functioned as Continued Treatment (CT) ward after the facility was converted into a neuro-psychiatric hospital administered by the Veterans Administration—the successor to the NHDVS.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection: 1899-1900, 1934-1935

2. Architect:

The architect(s) who designed this building and the other barracks at the Danville Branch are not known. However, it has been speculated that the firm of Peters,

Burns, and Pretzinger of Dayton, Ohio may have been responsible.[1] The modifications made in 1934-1935 were designed by Veterans Administration (VA) architects.[2]

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The land on which Continued Treatment Building 5 is located was purchased by the NHDVS in 1897. In 1930, the VA assumed ownership of the facility. In 1965 the VA leased Building 5 and a number of adjacent structures to Danville Area Community College.

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers:

The specific builders, contractors, and suppliers employed in the original construction of the building are not known. The Works Projects Administration (WPA) directed the construction of the east addition and the other modifications made in 1934-1935.

5. Original Plans:

No original plans specific to Building 5 have been located. However, a representative first-story plan and an elevation view of the barracks buildings ultimately built at the Danville Home were included in the 1898 *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, which was published as House Document (H. Doc.) 55. These plans reflect the original design of Building 5 (see V-2003-2-A-S1).

Later floor plans specific to Building 5 do exist. These plans were drawn in 1934 and 1943 and were revised, as changes were made, through the early 1960s. Additional sheets of drawings specific to Building No. 5 are on file at Danville Area Community College.

--Basement and Attic Plans, Continued Treatment Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-2, drawn 31 August 1934, with revisions through 4 March 1960)

--Basement and Attic Plans, Continued Treatment Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-1, drawn 31 August 1934, with revisions through 4 March 1960)[3]

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[1] Matthew D. Rector, "The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" (master's thesis, Ball State University, 2002), p. 59.

[2] Gjore J. Mollenhoff, Karen R. Tupek, and Sandra Webb, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Hartford Veterans Administration Medical Center" (nomination prepared by the Veterans Administration, 1980), p. 4; available at http://members.valley.net~connriver/V11-21.htm. See also: Veterans Administration, Office of Facilities Management, "Architectural Set Medical Centers"; available at http:www.va.gov/facmgt/historic/Arch_Set.asp.

--First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-2, drawn 19 July 1943, with revisions through 24 March 1960 [original copy with hand-written notations])

--First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-2, drawn 19 July 1943, with revisions through 24 March 1960 [working copy with hand-written notations])

-- First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-2, drawn 19 July 1943, with revisions through 24 March 1960 [clean copy])

-- First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 5 (Drawing No. 5-2, drawn 19 July 1943, with revisions through 18 January 1962 [three copies])

--Auto Sprinkler System, Building No. 5 (3 sheets, drawn 23 February 1964 [two copies])
Sheet 1 (5-P1): Basement and First Floor
Sheet 2 (5-P2): Second and Third Floor
Sheet 3 (5-P3): Attic[4]

--Auto Sprinkler System, Building No. 5 (3 sheets)[5]
Sheet 44: Basement and First Floor
Sheet 45: Second and Third Floor
Sheet 46: Attic

6. Alterations and Additions:

As originally built, Building 5 had two-story porches located on the ends of its east and west wings, which continued around portions of its north and south elevations (see V-2003-2-A-S2). These porches were removed 1934-1935 when a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed addition was added onto the east end of the building. In conjuncture with this addition, a one-story enclosed porch was constructed on the north elevation, between the new addition and the central block, and a new front porch was added. The interior stairways and room configurations also were altered at this time. These and other changes are discussed in more detail below.

B. Historical Context:

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[3] Although having the same dates as the previously listed drawing, this plan shows later revisions.

[4] A duplicate set of these plans also is on file at DACC.

[5] These three sheets of drawings were drawn by the Century Sprinkler Corporation (Richmond, Virginia) and cover the same project as those listed immediately preceding it (Project No. 12-5249).

The historical background and structural evolution of the Danville Branch of the NHDVS is described in section I.B. of the cover document for IL-HABS No. V-2003-2. The following discussion is specific to Building 5. Aspects of the structure's original design and later modifications will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Building 5 was constructed in 1899-1900 and originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for disabled and/or elderly veterans. It was one of fourteen such buildings erected at the Danville Branch. The 1903 *Illustrated History* of the Danville Branch provided the following description of the barracks at the facility:

> Each barrack has a sleeping capacity for about one hundred and seventy-five members, is some two hundred and fifty feet long by fifty feet wide, two stories with basement and porches, heated by steam and lighted by electricity. There are bath room and closets ample for each building. Each barrack is occupied by a "company," with captain, clerk and room orderlies. The men each have a neat iron bed with wire springs, ample bed linen, wool mattress, wool blankets and pillow and a convenient wardrobe for clothing. Under the direction of the company captains the rooms and furniture are kept always scrupulously clean.[6]

A circa 1903 photograph of an unspecified barracks at the Danville Branch indicates that each member in the ward was supplied with a bed, a spindle-backed side chair, and small bedside table (see V-2003-A-S3). The bed frames were cast iron and had ornamental head and footboards. The tables are not well illustrated in the photograph, but they appear to have had marble tops and one or more drawers below. They may have served a dual role as a washstand and dresser. Coats and hats were hung from the headboards, and shoes were stowed below the beds. In respect to their general character and furnishings, the sleeping wards at the Danville Branch bore a strong resemblance to contemporary military barracks (see V-2003-2-A-S4 through S6).

The original company designation for the members housed in Building 5 is not known. An 1898 site map submitted by the Board of Directors of the NHDVS to Congress simply numbers the building as "11".[7] It is not clear whether this was a temporary number, adopted during the construction phase, or persisted for a time before being changed to "5" at a later date.

In 1934-1935, Building 5 was turned into a Continued Treatment (CT) ward as part of the conversion of the Danville VA into a neuro-psyschiatric hospital. CT wards housed able-bodied patients with chronic conditions, or individuals for whom restrictions and

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[6] Danville Veterans Hospital, "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois," *The Bulletin*, 30 April 1965, p. 4.

[7] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plate 1.

observations were still required. These patients were allowed to take their meals in the main dining hall and could participate in occupational therapy programs.[8] The conversion of Building 5 involved the construction of a new wing on the east side of the structure and the reconfiguration of the interior stairways and rooms. Furthermore, three original porches were removed and two new ones were built around this time. These changes were driven in large measure by considerations for patient safety. The gallery porches that originally wrapped around the east and west ends of the building possibly were viewed seen as being unsafe for the class of patients now being housed in the building. These were removed, and as an alternative a large day room was created on the first floor. Later on, detention screens were installed on the interior side of some windows to restrict patient access to them. Fire safety also was a concern. The stairwell in the central block was "fire-hardened" through the replacement of the original stairway with a steel-frame one with slate treads and the addition of tile-block walls in the attic and basement. Other partition walls added at this time were built with steel studs and wire lath, as a further fire-prevention measure. Also, two new stairways were added in the south bays of the wings (which had formerly served as sun porches), thus increasing the number of exits from the upper stories, and fire doors also were added throughout the building. Other changes effected during this period included a large-scale remodeling of the bathroom facilities, and the addition of clothing and dressing rooms and a small canteen on the first floor. These alterations were designed by VA architects, but the actual work was completed by the Work Projects Administration (WPA).[9]

In 1965, Building 5 and a number of adjacent structures were leased by the VA to Danville Area Community College. Building 5 was last used as the Vocational Tech Building at the college.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Building 5 is a large two-and-one-half story, hip-roofed, brick structure with a complex footprint consisting of a central block, two adjoining wings, and a large addition on the east. The central block stands out due to its two large wall dormers, each of which has a ribbon of arched window openings and is covered by a cross gable extending of the principal hip roof. Smaller roof dormers are located to either side the central block, on the north slope of the roof. Each of the wings has a large two-story rectangular bay projecting off their rear side, which also are covered by cross gables. Entrance porches are located on the north and south sides of the central block, the larger of these being located on the north (front) side and having grouped columns. Stylistically, Building 5 principally is Georgian Revival in character, as evidenced by the symmetry of its footprint and

[8] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, p. 5.

[9] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 3.

openings, raised stone foundations with watertable, transoms over the main entrances, pedimented dormers, and cross gable fanlight windows. However, it also shows some strong Romanesque influence in regards to the full-arched window openings and corbelled brick cornice found on the central block. The east addition, which was constructed in 1934-1935, was designed to match the original building stylistically

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

As originally constructed, the building measured 49'-0" (north/south) by 213'-0" (east/west) at its greatest extents, excluding porches. With the construction of the east addition in 1934, the building's dimensions were expanded to 50'-0" (north/south) by 240'-2" (east/west).

2. Foundations:

The original building has a raised perimeter foundation generally measuring 1'-5" to 1'-6" wide. Those sections of the perimeter foundations located below grade consist of irregularly coursed, rough-cut limestone whose interior face has been roughly tooled to create a smooth finish. The upper foundations (exposed above grade) have a regularly coursed, rock-faced, square-cut Bedford limestone veneer with brick backing[10] (see V-2003-2-A-S7). Interior foundation walls are built of brick laid in common bond. The addition and porch added in 1934-1935 have poured-concrete foundations with an above-grade brick veneer. The foundations beneath the east addition measure 1'-5" thick, while those below the porch are 1'-1" wide.

3. Walls:

The exterior walls of the building are constructed of machine-made, red brick and measure 1'-1-½" wide (including interior plaster). The brick are laid in common bond, with four stretcher rows followed by a header course. A 10" watertable of finely tooled Bedford limestone wraps around the perimeter of the building. Corbelled brickwork is present along the cornice. The corbelling along the wings consists of a series of stepped courses, while that around the central block has a row of full arches.

4. Structural System, Framing:

[10] The lower foundations stand 4'-1" above the finished floor. The upper foundations extend for an additional 3'10".

The lumber used for the framing of the original building primarily is circular-sawn, unsurfaced, yellow and red pine. Exceptions will be noted below. The first floor of the original building is carried by 2"x12" joists set 16" on-center. The joists run the width of the building, and their central span is supported by a 7-½"x9" beam placed on top of 1'-1"x1'-5" brick columns.[11] Sub-flooring, measuring 7/8"x5-¼" (possibly white pine), is laid diagonally over the joists. Similar sub-flooring is used for the two floors above. The floor joists for the second story are 2"x16-¼" band-sawn(?) pine and are set 16" on-center. Joists measuring 3"x12-½" with 16" centers support the attic floor, while the ceiling joists on this level are 2"x6"s with 2'-0" centers. Original partition walls in the basement and on the first and second floors are brick. Knee and partition walls in the attic are framed with 1-7/8"x2-¼"-to-3-¾" and 2"x6" studs set 2'-0" on center.[12] The roof is carried by 2"x8"-to-8-½" rafters with 2'-0" centers. The lower ends of the rafters sit directly upon the brick walls, while the upper ends are joined at a 2"x8" ridge board. The roof sheathing is surfaced-two-sides, yellow pine and measures 7/8"x7-¼"-to-8". The cross-gable roof over the central block is carried by a heavy timber-frame truss built with sawn stock joined with bolts (see V-2003-2-A-S7 and S8).

During the 1934 remodeling, steel studs were used for many of the partition walls installed on the first and second floors in an effort to fire-harden the building. Brick and clay-tile blocks were used to enclose the stairwell in the attic, and also for fire-barrier walls in the basement.

The east addition has reinforced concrete floors on the first, second, and attic stories. The roof over the addition is carried by 1-½"x9-½" yellow-pine rafters set 16" on center. The rafters are supported by 3-½"x3-½" pine purlins resting on a horizontal 3-½"x7" steel I-beam bolted to vertical 4"x6" I-beams. The addition has 1-½"x12-¾" valley ridge boards and a 1-½"x11-½" main ridge board.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, and Bulkheads:

As originally constructed, the building had multiple porches covering a large part of its exterior. Two entrance porches were located on the north (front) and south (rear) elevations of the central block. In respect to style and materials, the latter porches largely were same: they were of frame construction, were open sided, had a flat roof supported by grouped square posts with elongated brackets, and had a balustrade running along their roof. The upper deck levels were unroofed and were accessible from the second floor. There were a number of differences between the two

[11] The brick columns rest on concrete footings measuring 1'-5"x1'-5".

[12] The smaller dimensional studs are surfaced on one side, while the 2"x6" studs are rough on all four sides.

entrance porches, however. The north porch extended along the full width of the central block and had a raised deck. In contrast, the south porch was smaller—being only slightly wider than the entranceway—and had a masonry pavement nearly level to grade.

There also were open two-story, frame porches wrapping around the east and west ends of the building originally. These porches were directly accessible from the wards and served as a gallery, where the members/patients could get some fresh air in the shade. Their roofs extended off the principal hip roof of the building. Both levels of the porches had grouped posts; those on first floor were square and had elongated brackets (similar to those found the rear entrance porch), while those on the upper deck were turned. Historic photographs indicate that the porch rested on masonry piers and that the intervals between these piers were enclosed with lattice panels early in the building's history (see V-2003-2-A-S2).

In the 1930s, the east and west porches were removed and the north entrance porch was replaced with a new one. This work reportedly was carried out by the WPA.[13] The 1934 remodeling plans for the building indicate that these changes had been effected by that time.[14] The outline of the original porch can still be seen on the brickwork on the north elevation. The new porch is not quite as wide as the original was and is covered with a half-hipped roof supported by fluted steel columns. The porch deck, foundations, and stairs are poured concrete. The foundations are faced with a brick veneer.

The rear entrance porch largely has retained its original configuration, aside from the removal of the balustrade on the upper deck. The porch roof is covered with metal roofing and has built-in gutters. The posts supporting the roof rest on cast-iron blocks in order to protect them from water damage. The existing floor on the south porch is concrete. The ceiling is covered with narrow wood paneling.

The porch positioned between the east addition and central block measures 12'-5"x79'-5", is enclosed, and has a low-sloped shed roof. The porch has five large window openings positioned above a brick parapet wall and separated by brick columns. As originally designed, the window openings were to have screens and grilles installed.[15] The openings later were

[13] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 3.

[14] Veterans Administration, "First and Second Floor Plans Building No. 5, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois" (1943), sheet 5-2.

[15] Ibid.

infilled with a field of glass blocks surrounding a small window with double-hung sash. The date at which was done is not known.

A bulkhead for an exterior basement stairway is located in the southwest reentrant angle between the central block and west wing. The sidewalls of the bulkhead are rock-faced cut stone (like the above-grade building foundations), while polished Bedford limestone is used for a coping. The steps are also are stone. The bulkhead is protected by a half-hipped roof carried by square posts similar in character to those found on the rear entrance porch. The roof is covered with slate shingles and has built-in gutters.

6. Chimneys:

Early photographs of the building show that it originally had eight interior brick chimneys. Two of the stacks exited along the north slope of the roof and vented fireplaces located in the offices located in the central block. The other six chimneys were positioned along the south side of the building and presumably vented (or were planned to vent) heating stoves originally. Most of these probably had a relatively short period of active use, considering that all of the barracks at the Home were supplied with steam heat by 1902-1903.[16] A 1903 interior photograph of one of the barracks clearly shows heating pipes (see supplemental materials V-2003-2-A-S3). All of the chimneys eventually were removed below the roofline—a change possibly effected before, or during the 1934-1935 remodeling. The openings where the chimneys passed through the attic floor can still be seen. The chimneys were lined with clay tile (see V-2003-2-A-S9).

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

As originally designed, the building had a total of nine exterior doorways. One of these accessed the basement, and was associated with the bulkhead discussed above in section II.B.5. This doorway remained in use throughout the lifetime of the building and presently is equipped with a pair of paneled wood sash doors. The first and second floors each had four exterior doors originally, which were aligned to the four porches once present on the building. Most of these openings were modified as

[16] House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903*, 55th Congress 1st Session, H. Doc. 46 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), p. 175; Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 14.

part of the 1934-1935 remodeling: the west doorways were converted to windows after the porch here was removed; the north and south doorway on the second floor also were turned into windows due to the central stairway being reconfigured; and the entrances on the east were eliminated when the addition was constructed. The north and south doorways leading into first floor of the central block were the only ones to persist. These doorways are associated with the front and rear porches previously described in section 11.B.5, and both have a set of wood paneled sash doors, transom windows, Bedford limestone sills, and flat red sandstone lintels. One difference between them lies in respect to their transoms: the transom over the north entrance has a double row of lights, while that on the south has a single row. Both transoms are hinged at the bottom.

Two new exterior doorways were added on the south side of the building in 1934-1935. These were intended to serve as exits for the new stairways added during the remodeling. The entrances are at grade level and have paneled sash doors.

b. Windows and Shutters:

Most of the original window openings are rectangular in shape and are arranged symmetrically. The notable exceptions are the arched windows found on the attic level. The openings on the first and second floors originally had finely-tooled, flat, red sandstone lintels (12”) and sills (5”). In a number of locations, however, the sandstone sills deteriorated and were replaced with ones of Bedford limestone. There is no evidence—either photographic or physical—of exterior shutters having ever been present.

There are number of a number of different styles of windows present in the original section of the building. The window openings in the basement have hinged two-light hopper sash measuring 2’-6”x3’-5”. In contrast to the upper floor, the sills and lintels here are Bedford limestone. The sills are polished, while the lintels are rock faced.

The windows on the first and second floors of the building consist of double-hung, weighted, wood sashes with two-over-two lights (unless otherwise indicated), though there are differences in respect to size and style. The rough opening of the majority of the windows on the first and second floors measures 3’-8-½”x8’-8”, while the actual sash dimension is 3’-5”x8’-6”.

The wall dormers in the central block each have a string of four full-arched window openings measuring approximately 3'-9"x5'-9". They hold 3'-1-¼"x5'-5" double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights (the upper sash being arched). The sills are red sandstone, like those on the floors below, while the lintels are brick. A tall, arched, louvered vent is present in the gable of both wall dormers.

Each of the dormers has two rectangular windows, whose rough opening measures approximately 3'-0"x3'-10-¼". The windows sashes are double-hung with two-over-two lights and measure 2'-5-½"x5'-5-½." The two cross gables on the south elevation each have a large window opening (approximately 6'-9"x6'-0"), which holds a pair of four-light single sash (set beside one another) with a fanlight above. The sash measure 3'-4-¼"x3'-1-½".

A number of original window openings were bricked in as part of the 1934-1935 remodeling. Two of the arched windows in the south wall dormer in the central block, for instance, were eliminated when the fire barrier walls were built around the stairwell. Similarly, the south bays each had three windows enclosed on the first floor. This was done in order to accommodate the new stairways and exit doors that were installed here.

The window opening and sashes in the east addition generally reflect the size and character of those in the original building. This is particular true of those found on the first and second floors, which even follow the original design scheme of red sandstone sills and lintels.[17] The basement windows have polished limestone sills but have brick lintels (supported by a steel plate?), as opposed to stone. In the attic of the addition, there is one window in each gable end. These windows are arched, like those in the central block, and hold double-hung sashes with four-over-four lights. The sash dimension is 2'-8-½"x4'-3".

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering:

The building has a steeply-pitched principal hip roof that is punctuated by gables over the central block, south bays, and east

[17] There are several minor differences in respect to the sash in the two sections of the building. The sashes in the original building are hung with rope, whereas those in the addition have chain. The finger pulls on the lower sashes also are different.

addition. All sections of the roof are covered with plain gray slate shingles. Cast iron flashing runs along the ridges as fenestration.

b. Cornice, Eaves:

The building has boxed-eaves with built-in gutters. The original gutters appear to be lined with steel (galvanized?) that is soldered together and painted, while those associated with later front porch are copper lined. The downspouts also are copper. The eaves are continuous across the cross gables, creating a pedimented effect. As previously described in section II.B.3, the cornice is decorated corbelled brickwork around the entire circuit of the building. In addition, the central block has wood dentils running along the cornice and rake.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

The roof of the building is punctuated by a number of dormers providing light and additional space for the third, or attic, story. The central block has a large gable-roofed wall dormer on its north and south elevations. These two dormers each have a line of four windows with segmental arched openings, and above this is a tall louvered attic vent positioned in the center of the gable. The gable is enclosed with a continuous eave. Four smaller roof dormers are arranged two-to-a-side of the north wall dormer. These also have pedimented gables. The windows in the different dormers are described above in section II.B.7.b.

C Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

For a detailed picture of the interior layout of the building and its evolution through time, reference the attached floor plans. A representative first floor plan and front elevation view of the original barracks design used at Danville has been attached in the supplemental materials as V-2003-2-A-S1.

a. First Floor Description:

As originally designed, the first floor of the central block was divided into four quadrants, separated by intersecting hallways. The formal entrance on the north façade opened onto a hallway, running north/south, that terminated at a wide, open stairway leading to the basement and upper floors. Just short of the stairway, the hall intersected an east/west corridor leading to the

adjoining wings. There were two offices, located in the northeast and northwest corners of the central block. Each office was equipped with a fireplace, had three windows, and could be entered through a doorway off the east/west hallway. Two separate bathroom units were situated in the southeast and southwest corners of the central block, being separated by the stairwell. Each unit contained two rooms, the larger of which had toilets and sinks and the other of which had a tub. The two wings were large open sleeping wards. Original plans called for each ward to hold twenty beds, though the capacity later was expanded as enrollment at the Danville Branch increased. The wards had a doorway at their far end leading onto the open gallery-style porches originally present here. They also had access to the bays on the south side of the building. Although the original design plans do not specify what these bays were used for, we suspect them to have served as "sun porches" where the members could sit or socialize during the cooler months of the year.[18]

During the 1934-1935 remolding, the central block was subdivided in order to accommodate new specialized rooms, though the original hall configuration was maintained. The northeast quadrant was partitioned up to create a nurses toilet, suit room, and secretary's office. In the northwest quadrant, a doctor's office, visitors' room, small canteen, and hallway were created. The southern half of the central block saw fewer changes during this period, at least in regards to general function. The east room in the southeast quadrant continued to be used as a bathroom, but the tub room adjoining on the west was turned into a utility room. The bathroom space in the southwest quadrant was subdivided into specialized toilet, shave, and shower rooms. The western wing of the building continued to serve as a sleeping ward after the remodeling. A 1943 bed study indicated that the ward was supposed to contain thirty-two beds. The east wing of the building was used as a large day room post-1934. The entire east wall of the wing was removed, in order to access the newly built east addition, which served as an extension of the day room. One of the original window openings on the north side of the wing was converted into a doorway to allow access to the new porch constructed here.[19]

[18] House, H. Doc. 55, plate 8.

[19] Veterans Administration, sheet 5-2.

Another change effected during the 1934-1935 remodeling was the conversion of the bays on the south side of the wings to stairwells. The original doorways between the wings and bays were infilled and new doorways, with steel fire doors, were installed.[20]

A number of alterations were made to the building post-1965, after it began to be used by Danville Area Community College. The partition wall between the doctor's office and visitors' room was removed to create a larger office. Also, the west wing was partitioned up to create three classrooms and a connecting hallway.

The ceiling height on the first floor is 13'-0".

b. Second Floor Description:

The second floor plan of the building essentially mirrored that of the first floor, as originally constructed. The room usage also was similar.

During the 1934-1935 remolding, the central block was reconfigured to accommodate new rooms, like on the floor below. In the northeast quadrant of the block, the original office located here was subdivided to accommodate a coat room, suit room, and a nursing supervisor's office equipped with its own closet and private bathroom. In the northwest quadrant, a shower room and dressing room were created. A doorway in the east wall of the dressing room led into a clothing room, which was located within an area that had previously served as a hallway. This hall was no longer needed after the front (north) porch was replaced with one lacking an upper deck. The southeast quadrant of the central block mirrored that of the floor below, having a toilet room on the east and a utility room on the west. The southwest quadrant was divided between a clothing room, located on the east, and a toilet room on the west. The west wing continued to serve as a sleeping ward after the remodeling. The only changes made here were the elimination of an original doorway on its west end (due to the removal of the gallery porch) and the addition of a new doorway on the south to access the new stairway in the adjoining bay. In 1943, the ward held thirty beds. The east wing also continued to be used as a sleeping ward after the remodeling, though now had less space. The west end of the wing was partitioned off from the ward and divided up between two rooms with two beds (presumably used by staff), a clothing clerk's office, a suit room, and a connecting hallway. The remaining space in the ward

[20] Ibid.

accommodated twenty beds. A small nursing station was constructed in the southwest corner of the ward. The station was equipped with large steel windows, which allowed the nurses on duty to have an unobstructed view of the patients. The dividing wall between the east wing and the east addition was removed, as was done on the floor below. An additional sixteen beds were located in the addition.[21]

Post-1965, the large sleeping wards were subdivided by Danville Area Community College to create additional classroom space. The west ward was partitioned up into the three classrooms, with a connecting hallway. In the east wing, the ward here was divided up into two classrooms, with a hallway running along their south side. The east addition served as a single large classroom.

The ceiling height on the second floor is 13'-2".

c. Third Floor Description:

The third floor of the building is a half-story attic and can be accessed by means of the central stairway. The attic was used for sleeping quarters during the early years of the Danville Branch's operation, when the membership reached as high as 4,000.[22] The floor later appears to have been relegated to storage space. Most of the finished space in the attic is taken up by a long corridor, which follows the long axis of the building. The corridor is intersected at points by dormers and cross gables, which considerably increase the amount the amount of usable space. Doorways break the corridor into three distinct sections, aligned to the central block and two wings. The sections over the wings are not partitioned into separate rooms. A number of doorways are present in the knee walls, allowing access to the unfinished space behind them. There are several distinct rooms in the central block. One of these is located in the north wall dormer and is illuminated by the string of arched windows described earlier. Large closets flank this room on the east and west. The stairway accessing the floor is positioned in the south wall dormer of the central block and originally opened directly onto the center section of the corridor, which thus doubled as a stair hall. The stair opening is suspected to have been surrounded by a balustrade, and the hall would have been well lit by the arched windows on its south side. During the

[21] Ibid.

[22] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 27.

1934-1935 remodeling, however, the stairway was closed off with masonry fire walls. This necessitated the infilling (with brick) of two of the arched windows (see V-2003-2-A-S19). Closets are located to either side of the stair hall (just like the room located north of it). Each has a small window looking out into the hall, which would have shed natural light into their interiors prior to the construction of the fire walls. There is evidence of shelving and/or benches having been once present in the closets, and these rooms may have formerly been used for clothing storage.

The ceiling height in the central block of the attic is 11'-5". The remainder of the floor has a garrett ceiling that measure 8'-0" in the center and 5'-2-½" at the knee walls.

The attic in the east wing is unfinished. However, there are a number of steel pipes with hire hooks hanging from the ceiling here. This suggests that this area was once used for storage—most likely for clothing.

The attic level appears to have seen no active use after the building was occupied by Danville Area Community.

d. Basement Description:

The footprint of the basement grossly mirrors that of the floor above it. The central block is divided among six rooms, which are arranged in two ranks separated by an east-west corridor. The corridor continues through to connect the two adjoining wings, each of which comprises a single large room. Originally, the basement was accessible through only two points: the interior stairway in the central block, and the exterior bulkhead stairway positioned in the southeast corner of the west wing. The early use of the rooms on this level is unknown. However, the general spaciousness of the basement suggests that it was intended for considerable activity. Another indicator suggestive of regular use is the fact that the ceiling joists and underside of the first floor flooring—which originally were left exposed—were whitewashed.

During the 1934-1935 remodeling, the basement received two additional access points with the installation of the new stairways in the south bays of the building. Also at this time, the ceilings in the basement were covered with wire lath and plastered. According to a floor plan drawn in 1934, the west wing of the basement was to be used as a recreation and game room, while the east wing was to be used for the storage of raincoats and overshoes. In the central block, the north rank of rooms comprised

the following: a bathroom on the east, equipped with a single toilet and sink; a storage room in the middle; and room of undefined function on the west. The three rooms opposite these consisted of a locker room on the east, a stair hall in the center, and a utility service room on the west. A large hot water tank and electrical service panels were located in the latter room. The basement areas beneath the east addition and new porch appear to have been intended to have no prescribed function.[23]

Post-1965, Danville Area Community College the large basement rooms in the east and west wings were subdivided to create additional classroom space and other specialized rooms. Some of the messier vocational crafts (i.e. carpentry) appear to have been taught in the basement.

2. Stairways:

As originally constructed, the building had a single interior stairway, located in the south end of the central block, which accessed all four levels. The stairway was open and of frame construction. During the 1934-1935 remodeling, this stairway was replaced with one of steel-frame construction with slate treads. The new stairway did not follow the configuration of the original one.[24] Wire grill panels and doors were installed on the second floor and attic stair landings. During this same period, two new stairways of similar construction were added in the bays on the south side of the building.[25] The floors in the bays were removed, and these areas converted over to stairwells. A number of original window openings were bricked-in to accommodate the new stairways. These modifications represented an attempt to both fireproof the building and provide additional exits in the event of a fire.

3. Flooring:

The basement of the original building has poured concrete floors. The flooring used on the first and second floors is 7/8”x3” tongue-and-groove maple. Similar maple flooring runs down the center of the corridor in the

[23] Veterans Administration, “Basement and Attic Plans, Continued Treatment Building No. 5, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois” (1934), sheet 5-1.

[24] The field investigation found evidence for the location of the original stair stringers along the walls of the stairwell. The stringers had been attached to the brick prior to the wall being plastered, and after they were removed the resulting void needed to be filled with new plaster. This juncture between the old and new plaster is definable on the walls.

[25] Steel stair components similar those used in Building 5 are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, *Julius Blum Catalog No. 6* [New York: Julius Blum and Company, Inc., 1953], p. 74).

attic, while 7/8"x3-1/4" tongue-and-groove yellow pine is used for the remainder of the floor. The maple was thus used for the section of floor exposed to most traffic and wear.

Ceramic tile was put down in the toilet, shower, shave, and utility rooms on the first and second floors during the 1934 remodeling. Representative examples of the tile used in these areas are illustrated in the attached supplemental materials (see V-2003-2-A-S10 through S12). The wood flooring in most of the other rooms on the first and second floors eventually was covered with square vinyl tile.

In the east addition, the basement has an unfinished cinder floor. The three levels above it all have concrete slab floors.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:

The ceilings in the basement originally were left open, and floor joists and underside of the flooring were whitewashed. The ceiling later was enclosed with plaster applied over wire lath, presumably during the 1934-1935 remodeling (see V-2003-2-A-S10). This plastering episode reflects an attempt at better fireproofing the building, as well as creating a more finished space in the basement.

Original walls on the first, second, and third floors were covered with plaster applied over brick, while the ceilings had plaster applied over wood lath. Later partition walls have plaster and wire lath. Most interior walls and ceiling surfaces were painted historically. A notable exception are the shower rooms, where the stalls proper are lined with marble panels while the lower 6' of the walls in the remainder of the room is covered with ceramic tile (see V-2003-2-A-S11 and S12). Marble panels also were used to separate the stools in the toilet rooms. These materials were installed during the 1934 remodeling.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

The interior of the building originally was equipped with machine-made, wood, paneled doors. During the 1934-1935 remodeling and later, flush wood doors and steel fire doors were installed. Later doors have steel casings, compared to the wood casings used for the original doors. However, in a number of instances, older doors clearly have been reset within steel casings with heavy-duty hinges. Representative examples of the types of interior doors present in the building are illustrated in the supplemental materials as V-2003-2-A-S11 through V-2003-2-A-14.

Original interior doorways on the first and second floor held six-paneled wood doors. The doorways leading into the wings were wider and had paired doors (reference historic photograph attached as V-2003-2-A-S3). A number of these six-paneled doors still remain in place (mostly on the second floor); they measure 2'-2'-10" to 2'-11"x7'-10"x1-¾". The majority of the doors installed post-1934 on the first and second floors are flush, solid wood doors that are varnished and measure 2'-11-½"x6'-10-½"x1-¾".

All of the original doors in the attic have been removed, but they likely were paneled like those found on the floors below. The doorways dividing the central corridor in the attic measure 5'-0"x7'-0" and once held paired doors which swung in both directions. The pins on which these doors pivoted are still present in the floor and ceiling. The doorway accessing the room in the north wall dormer measures 3'-0"x7'-½". The knee wall doorways measure 2'-6"x4'-6-½". The doorway trim in the attic is varnished, which suggests that the doors were as well.

In the basement, three of the rooms in the central block have five-paneled wood doors, measuring 2'-7"x6-7½"x1-¾", which appear to be some of the older ones present on this level. These are set within brick archways and have frame infill around them. During the 1930's remodeling, the original wide arched doorways located at the opposite ends of the east-west corridor in the central block and off the stairwells were partially infilled with tile block and equipped with steel fire doors (with steel casings). The doors at the opposite ends of the corridor have two solid panels, while those accessing the stairwells measure 3'-5-½"x6'-11-½" and have a twelve-light sash (with fire glass) with a flush solid panel below. Identical fire doors were used in the stairwells on the floors above. Several two-paneled wood doors also were installed in the basement during the 1930s remodeling. These all have steel casings.

b. Windows:

The windows in the building have previously been discussed in section II.B.7.b. Some additional details will be offered here. The sides and top edges of the window openings on the first, second, and third floors are curved—an effect created through the use of molded brick that has been plastered over (see V-2003-2-A-S17). Interestingly, the windows openings that are rectangular on the exterior are segmental arched on the interior. The closet windows

in the attic measure 1'-6"x5'-3" and show no evidence of ever having sash present (see V-2003-2-A-S20).

The rooms that were added on the west end of the second floor of the east wing in 1934-1935 each have a single window looking onto the corridor connecting them. These widows have a single multi-paned, fixed sash and were intended to shed light into the corridor.

One of the windows in the east stairwell is equipped with a "Chamberlain Detention Screen" on its interior side, the patent for which dates to 1953[26] (see V-2003-2-A-S18). These screens could be locked and were designed for use in prisons, hospitals, and asylums to prevent inmates from escaping or jumping out windows. More may have once been present in the building.

Representative photographs illustrating the character of the different windows found in the building have been attached in the supplemental materials as V-2003-2-A-S17 through S21.

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

The building has limited decorative features on its interior, which is reflective of its utilitarian purpose. The original windows and doors were cased on the interior of the building with molded yellow pine trim, which generally measures ¾"x3-¾"and was stained and varnished originally. The trim on the exterior doorways on the first floor has an applied molding on its outer edge. These doorways also have "bulls-eye" head blocks. Similar trim possibly was used on the interior doorways on the first and second floors, but this not entirely clear, on account of the extensive removal of the original door trim on these floors during the 1934 remodeling. The doorways on the attic level have ¾"x3-¾" molded trim with a similar profile to that found on the exterior doorways, but lacking an applied molding. These doorways have a plain base block but lack heads blocks; instead, the head and casing trim are mitered together. During the 1934 remodeling, all of the original door trim in the basement, first, and second floors was removed and replaced with simpler ¾"x4-¼" pine trim. This trim has a slightly rounded at the edges but otherwise is flat.

The window openings on the first, second, and third floors have flat head and casing trim. Their apron trim, however, is molded and has a profile

[26] These screens were manufactured by the Chamberlain Company of America under U. S. Patent Nos. 224646995, 2537109, 2417711, 2591111, and 2633192.

similar to that used on the original doors[27]. Profiles of the window and door trim and baseboard found in the building are attached in the supplemental materials (see V-2003-2-A-S22 through S24).

7. Hardware:

The original framing in the building primarily is attached with machine-cut nails. A notable exception is some of the large framing used for the roof trusses in the central block, which are bolted together. Wire-drawn nails are used for the later framing in the building.

The original doors in the buildings primarily were held with brass butt hinges having ball-tipped loose pins (see V-2003-2-A-S25). Two exceptions were the paired doors partitioning the central corridor in the attic, which swung both directions on pivots. The original doors also were equipped with mortise locks. Most of the doors installed post-1934 are hung with heavy-duty butt hinges with ball bearings.[28] The bathroom doors on the first and second floors swing on pintel-type hinges marked 'Rixson / PATENTED / No. 20."

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

One of the first buildings completed at the Danville Branch was a boiler house designed to supply steam heat to all of the principal structures at the facility. The boiler house was located east of the barracks circle and had twelve boilers.[29] This heating system does not appear to have been fully operational at the facility until 1902-1903.[30] During the interim, Building 5 may have been heated with wood and/or coal burning stoves. Historic photograph indicate that the barracks buildings had eight chimneys originally.

After steam heat became available, cast-iron radiators were installed in the building. The existing radiators were manufactured by the American Radiator Company. Those in the basement are

[27] The apron trim in the original sleeping wards have two pairs of drilled holes (3/8" dia., 1-¾" on-center) that were later infilled with wood dowels. The holes possible were drilled for lag bolts (or similar hardware) used to hold bed frames in place.

[28] Similar hinges are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, p. 74).

[29] Ibid, p. 4, 7.

[30] House, H. Doc. 46, p. 175.

mounted on the wall (see V-2003-2-A-S26). The pipes running between the floors were enclosed during the 1934-1935 remodeling. Several of the radiators in the attic had benches with slatted panels built over them.

Window-mounted air conditioning units were used in the building later in its history.

b. Lighting:

The building was equipped with lighting throughout its period of active use. The first annual report submitted for the Danville Branch noted that electricity had been brought into the facility for lighting before the end of 1898.[31] A 1903 photograph of a typical barrack's ward at the Danville Branch shows three rows of lighting running down the length of the room. Two rows were located above the beds. These fixtures had a simple flat shade and two bulbs and were suspended from the ceiling with a narrow pipe. A line of more ornate, T-shaped light fixtures ran down the center aisle of the ward (reference historic photograph attached as V-2003-2-A-S3). Early knob-and-tube wiring and some incandescent light fixtures are still present in the attic level.

The electrical system in the building likely was updated in the 1930s. Although no electrical plans from this period were located for Building 5, such plans do exist for Building 10,[32] and it is not unreasonable to suspect that wiring updates were made in all of the preexisting structures at the facility.

Building 5 was illuminated most recently with fluorescent lighting. It is not clear whether these fixtures were added during the VA's period of occupation or by DACC.

c. Plumbing:

The original plans suggest that the building was supplied with running water from the date of its construction. Each of the four wards present on the first on the second floors was equipped with toilets, sinks, and a tub(s). The tub was located in a separate room from the toilets. During the 1934-1935 remodeling, the bathroom

[31] House, H. Doc. 55, p.10.

[32] Veterans Administration, "Electrical Distribution, Basement Plans, Buildings 10 and 12, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing E-7; Veterans Administration, "Electrical Details, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 10-10.

arrangement was reconfigured. The eastern tub room on each floor was eliminated, and this space turned into a utility room. On the first floor, the western tub room was expanded (to the west) and converted over to a combination shave and shower room. On the second floor, a whole new shower room was added on the south side of the hallway, opposite the western bathroom. A toilet and washroom also was added in the basement, in the northeast quadrant of the central block. "Standard" brand stools are present in the second-floor bathrooms.

Two generations of water heaters were located in the southwest quadrant of the central block. The older of these was wrapped in asbestos and equipped with a "Moeller Dial Thermometer" manufactured by the Moeller Instrument Company of New York City (Richmond Hill neighborhood in Queens). The newer water heater was manufactured by "Lawson" and holds 120 gallons.

The building ultimately was equipped with a sprinkler system, although the date at which this was first done is not clear. A basement plan drawn in 1934, but later revised, does show a sprinkler valve enclosure in the southwest corner of the west wing.[33] However, there also are plans, dated February 1964, for an automatic sprinkler system installed by the Century Sprinkler Corporation of Richmond Virginia.[34] It is possible that the latter plans pertain to an updating of an earlier system installed during the 1934 remolding. The sprinkler valve enclosure mentioned still remains in place (see V-2003-2-A-S27). Comprised of wire grille screens, the enclosure protects a series of control valves. One of these is an older "Star" brand check alarm valve, apparently manufactured in 1955[35], while another is a 4" diameter Model "D" dry pipe valve manufactured by the Reliable Automatic Sprinkler System of Mt. Vernon, New York.

Fire hoses also were installed in the building post 1934. The hoses were connected to the main water supply and were kept within closet set into the walls.

D. Site:

[33] Veterans Administration, Drawing 10-1.

[34] Veterans Administration, "Auto Sprinkler System, Building No. 5, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois," 3 sheets (1964); Century Sprinkler Corporation, "Sprinkler System, Building No. 5, Veterans Administration Hospital, Danville, Illinois," 3 sheets (n.d.).

[35] The number on the valve is "4-175 B 1955."

1. General Setting and Orientation:

Building 5 lies on the northwestern edge of the ellipse around which the original fourteen barracks at the Danville Branch were arrayed. The building faces due north and its long axis is oriented east/west. A modern parking lot lies immediately to the south of the building. This lot was added following the demolition of the two barracks lying to the south of it. The area between Building 5 and Buildings 9 and 10 (the two other former barracks slated for demolition) primarily is open green space, characterized by grass-covered lawn with scattered trees.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

Little is known about the historic landscape design around Building No. 5. However, historic photographs do illustrate ornamental plantings—shrubs and trees—around the different barracks, as well as a system of sidewalks running between the buildings.

3. Outbuildings:

Building No. 5 did not have any outbuildings specifically associated with it. It was part of a larger complex consisting of multiple specialized structures.

PART III (SOURCES OF INFORMATION), PART IV (METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH), AND PART V (PROJECT INFORMATION) OF THE OUTLINE FOR THIS BUILDING ARE LOCATED IN THE COVER DOCUMENT FOR IL HABS No. V-2003-2.

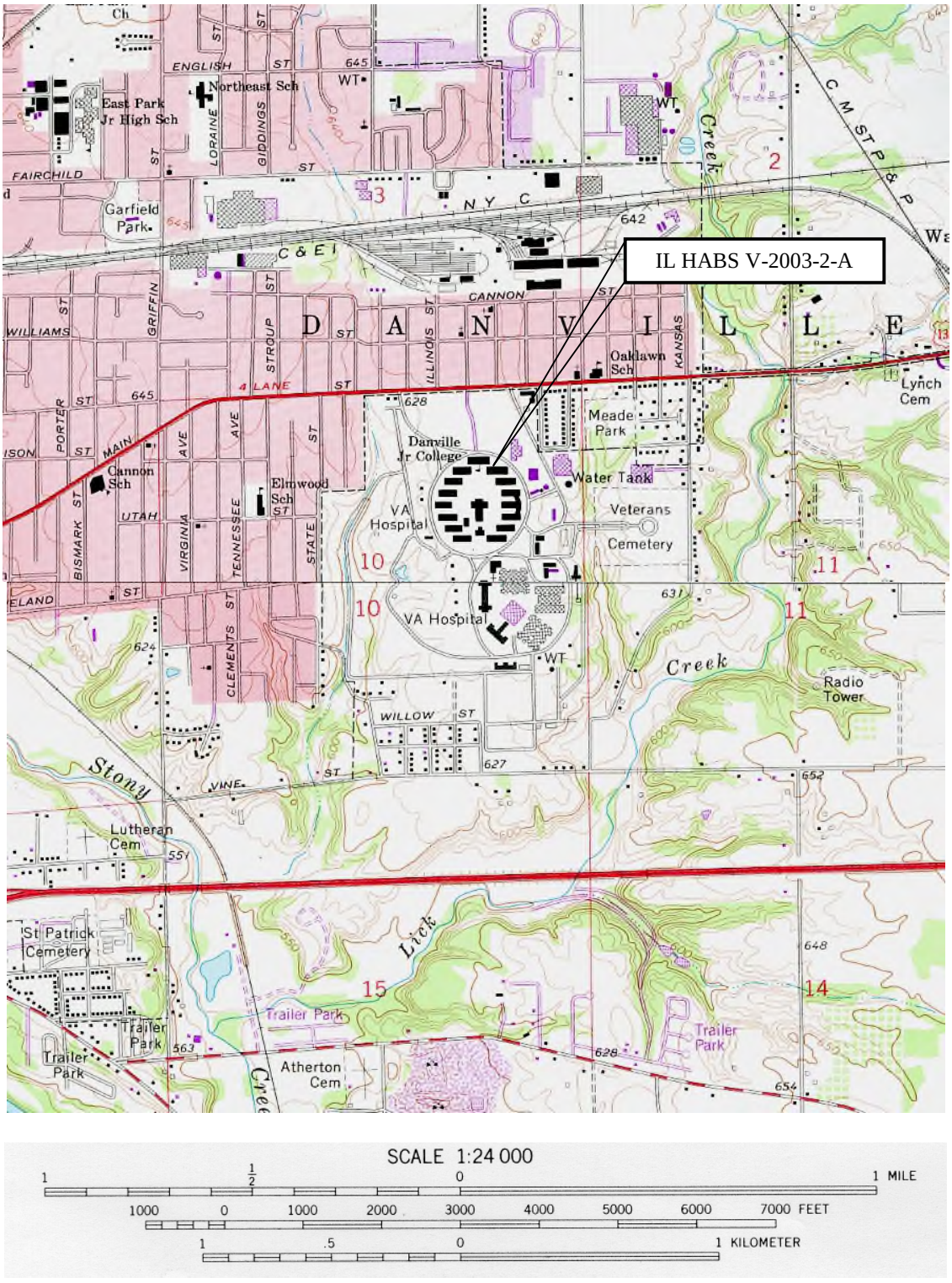


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of IL HABS V-2003-2-A.

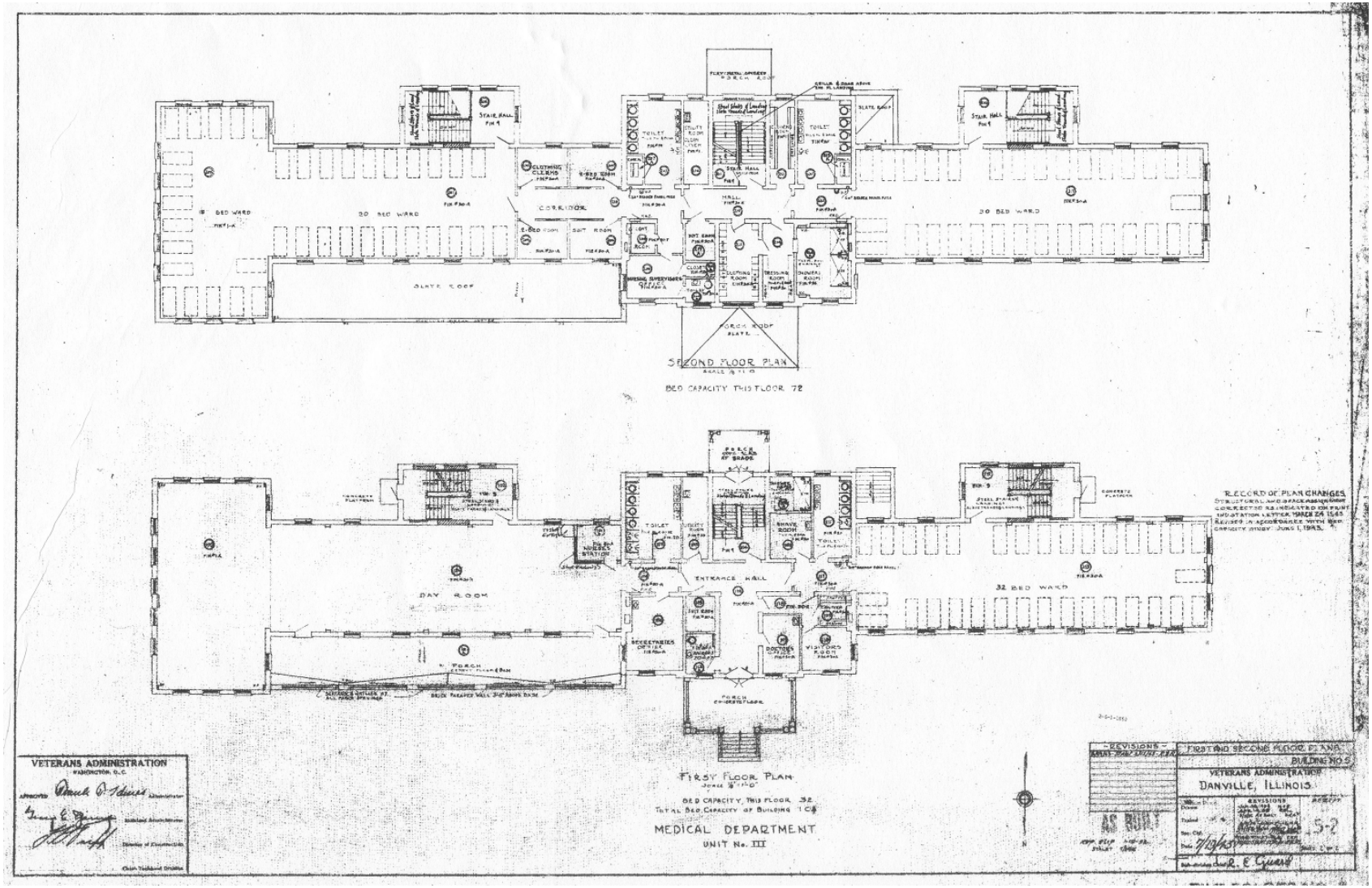


Figure 2. First and second floor plans of Building 5, showing modifications undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

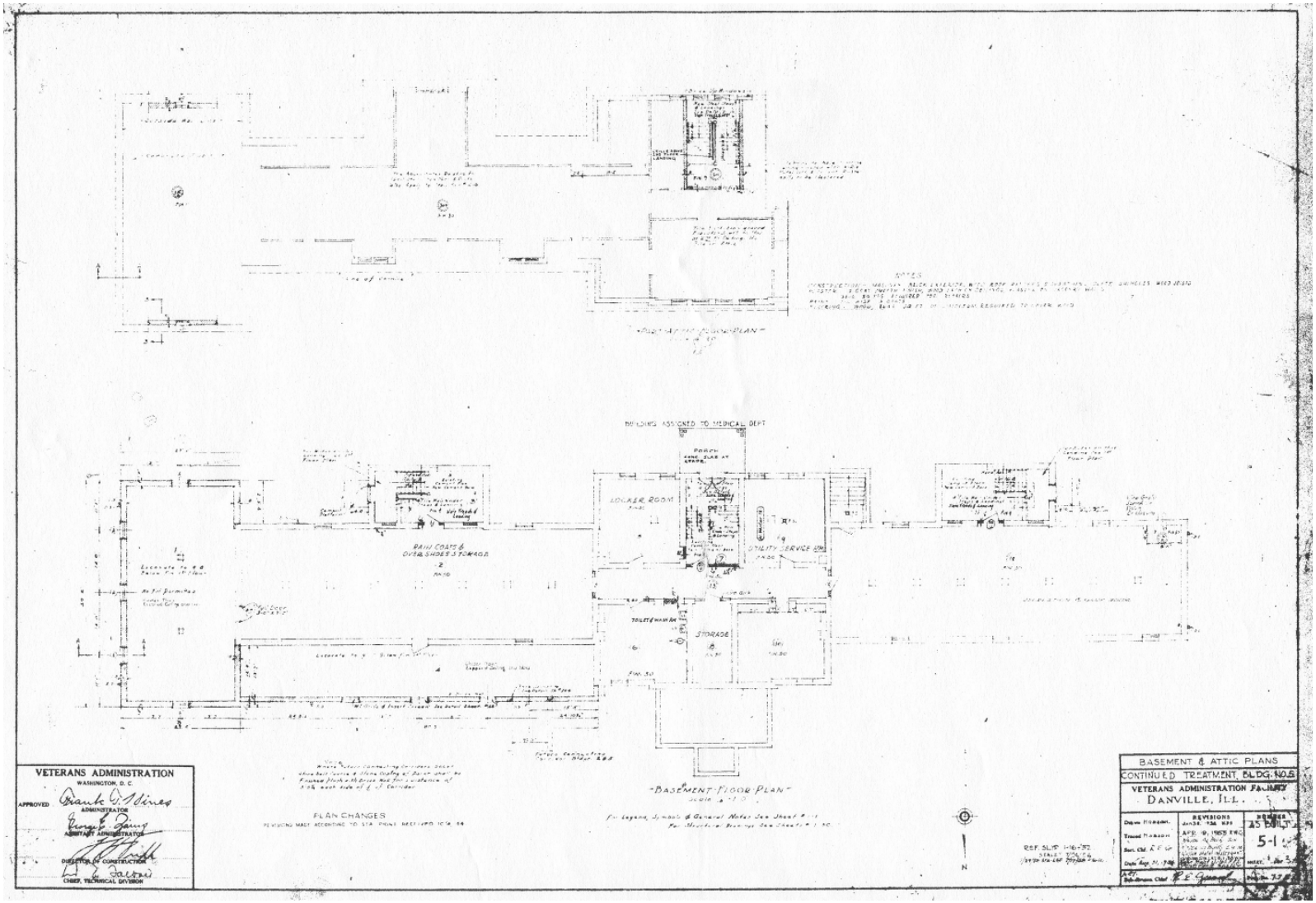


Figure 3. Basement and partial attic plans for Building 5, showing modifications undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

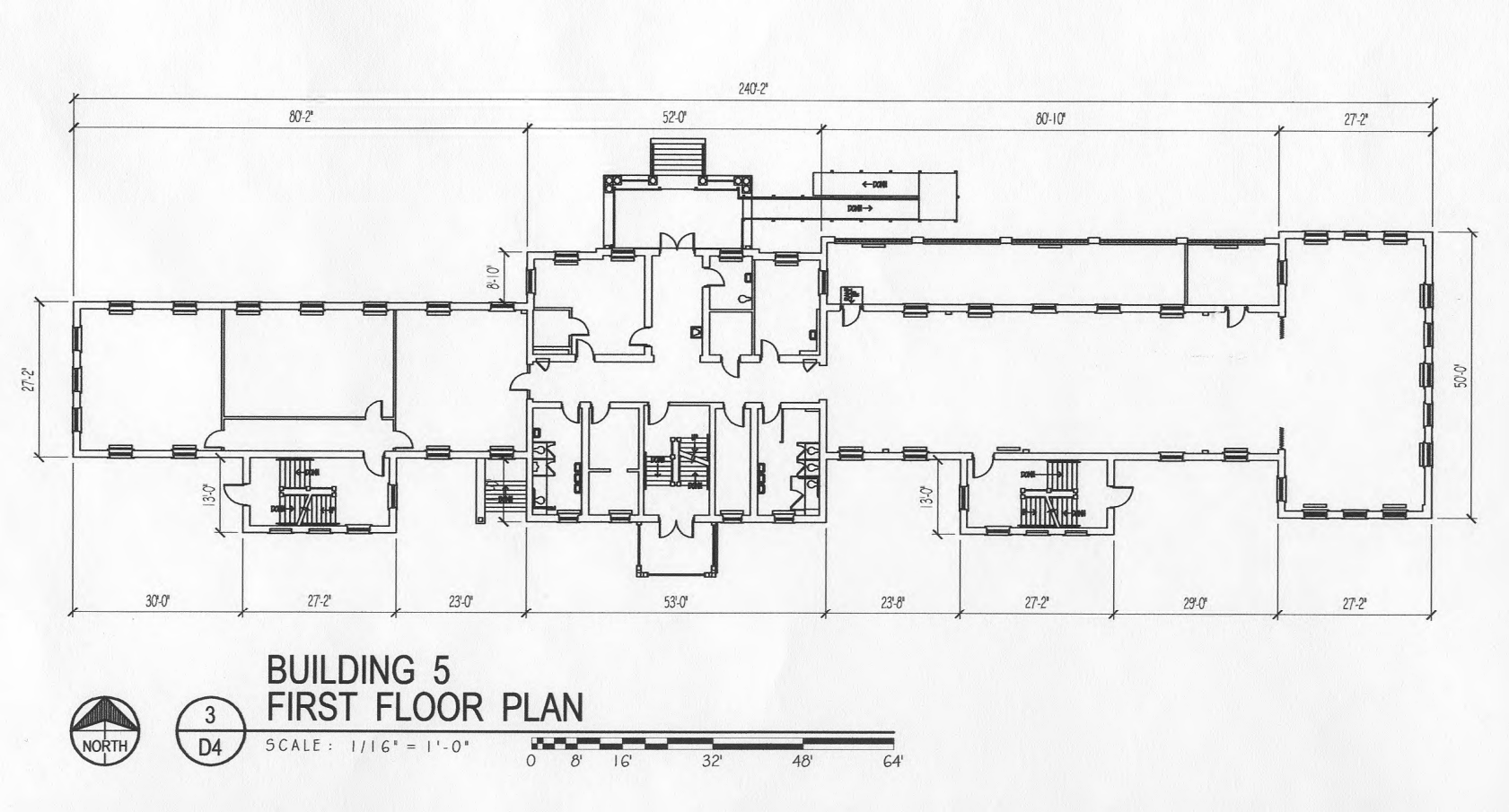


Figure 4. First floor plan of Building 5 showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

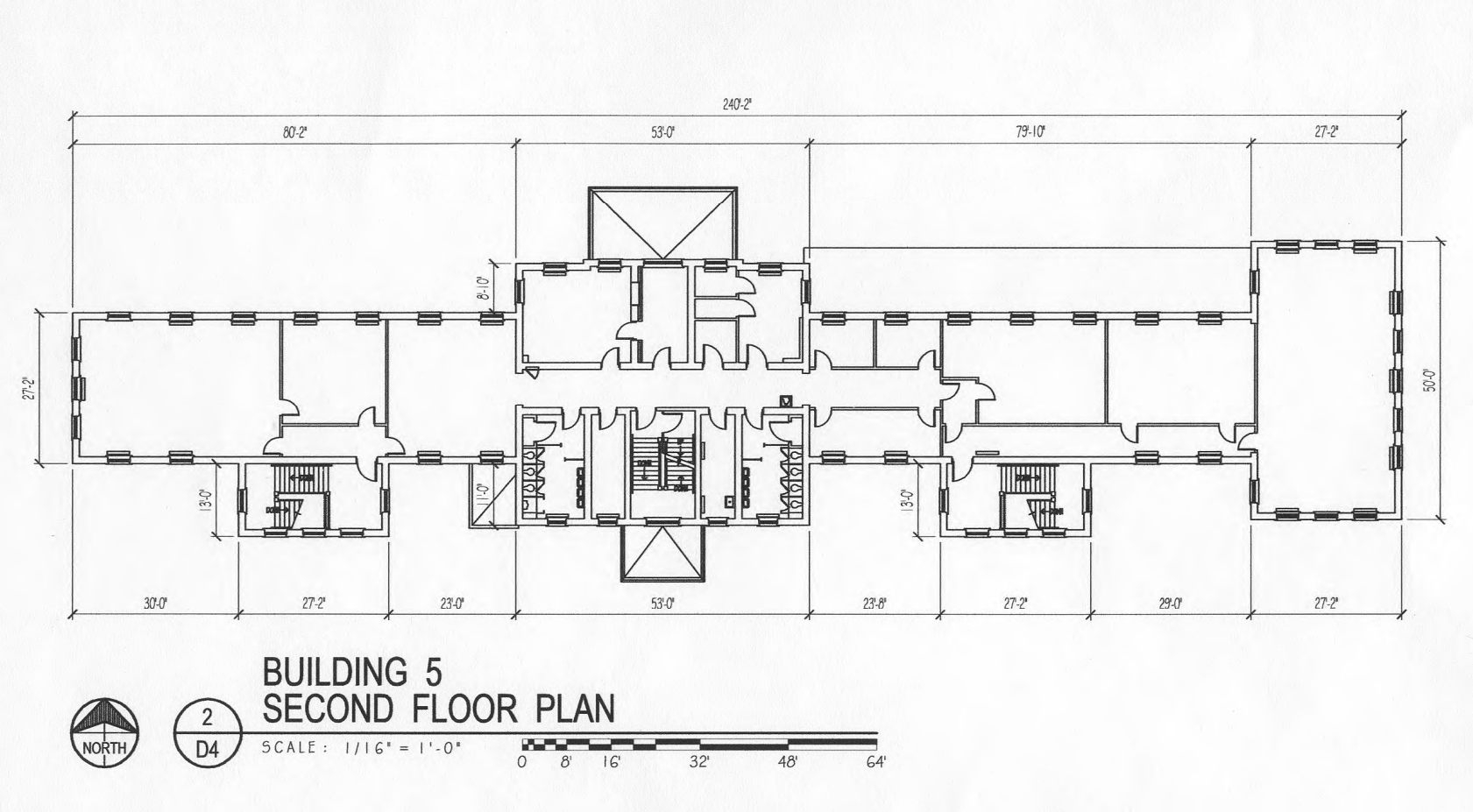


Figure 5. Second floor plan of Building 5 showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

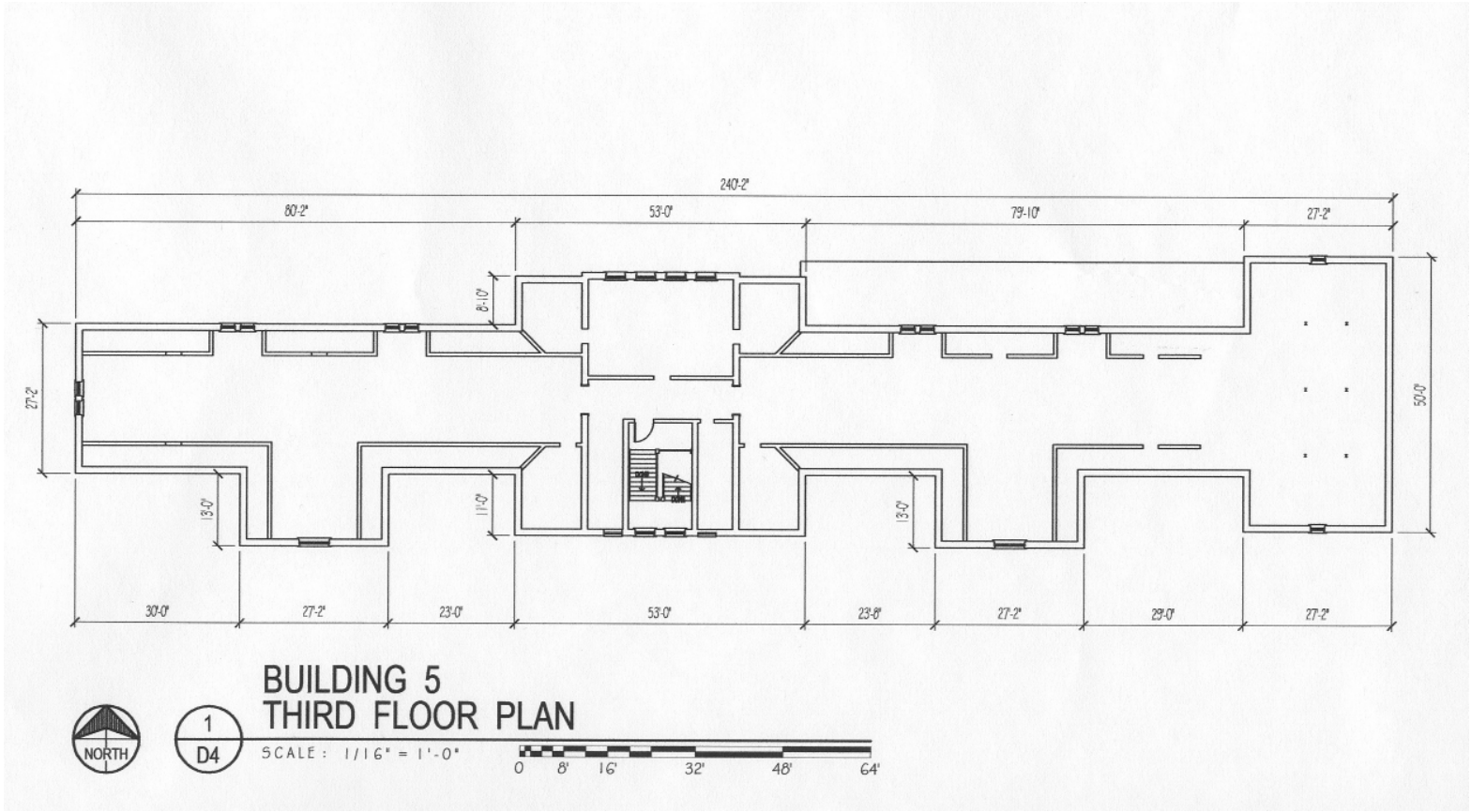


Figure 6. Third (attic) floor plan of Building No. 5 showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

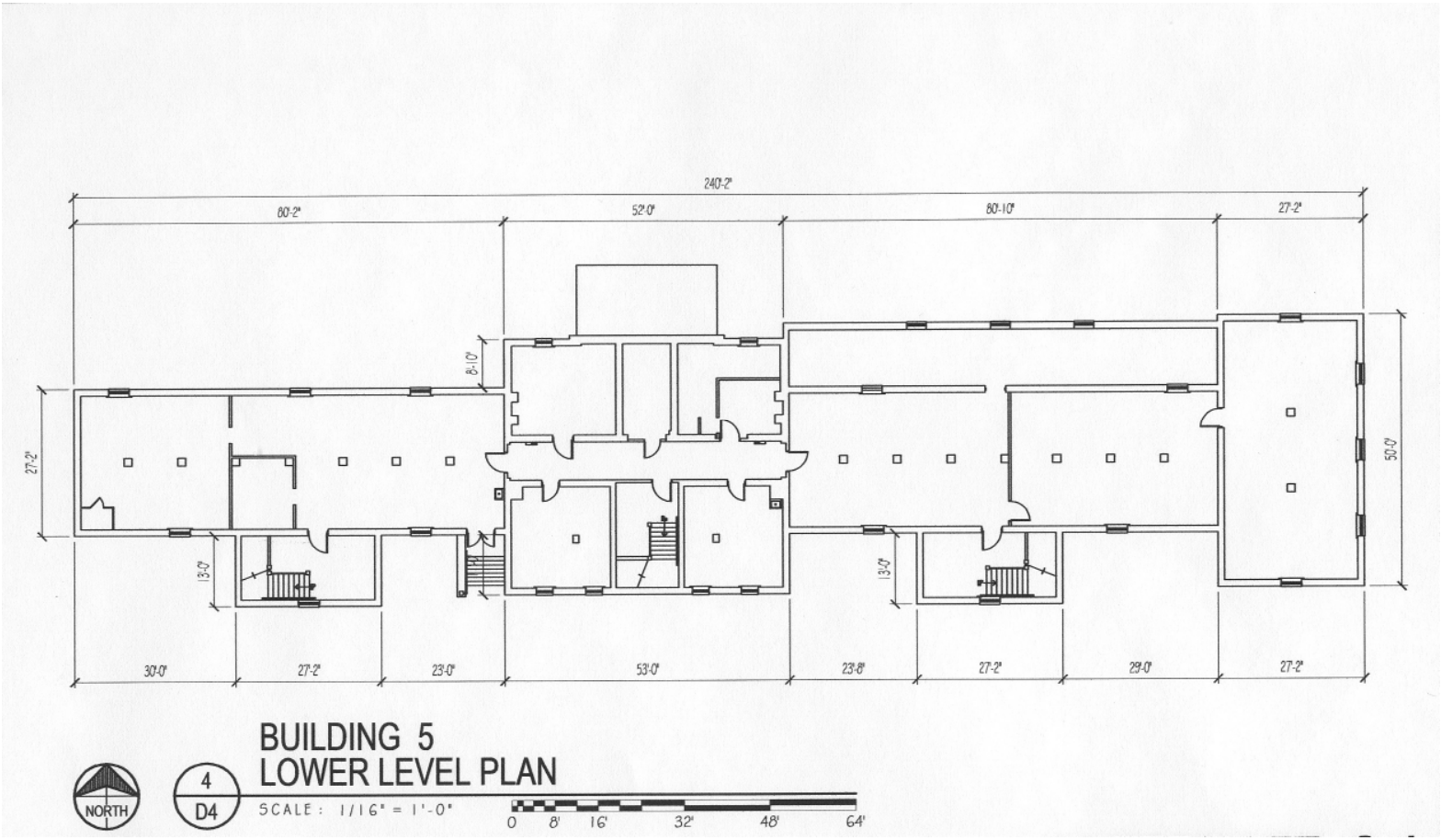


Figure 7. Basement-level floor plan of Building No. 5 showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Building 5 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-A
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

Documentation:	20 photographs. William Flesher, photographer (June 2003).
V-2005-1-A.1	Exterior view of Building 5, showing north elevation.
V-2005-1-A.2	Exterior view looking southeast, showing north and west elevations.
V-2005-1-A.3	View of west elevation of the building. Building 6 (Prairie Hall) appears on the far left.
V-2005-1-A.4	View of the west elevation of the building.
V-2005-1-A.5	View looking northeast, showing the south and west elevations.
V-2005-1-A.6	View of the south, or rear, elevation of the building, looking north.
V-2005-1-A.7	View of the south and east elevations, showing the addition added on the east end of the building in 1934.
V-2005-1-A.8	View of the east elevation of the east addition.
V-2005-1-A.9	Oblique view of building showing the east and north elevations. The enclosed porch added onto the north side of the east wing in 1934 also is shown.
V-2005-1-A.10	Interior view of the first floor of the east wing. This large open room originally served as a bed ward and later was used as a day room.
V-2005-1-A.11	Interior view of the porch added along the north side of the east wing in 1934.
V-2005-1-A.12	Interior view of the second floor of the east addition. This room served as a bed ward historically.
V-2005-1-A.13	Interior view of the central stairway, taken from the stair landing between the second and third (attic) levels.

V-2005-1-A.14 Interior view of the attic, looking west down the length of the west wing.

V-2005-1-A.15 View of attic, showing the west end of the west wing and dormer.

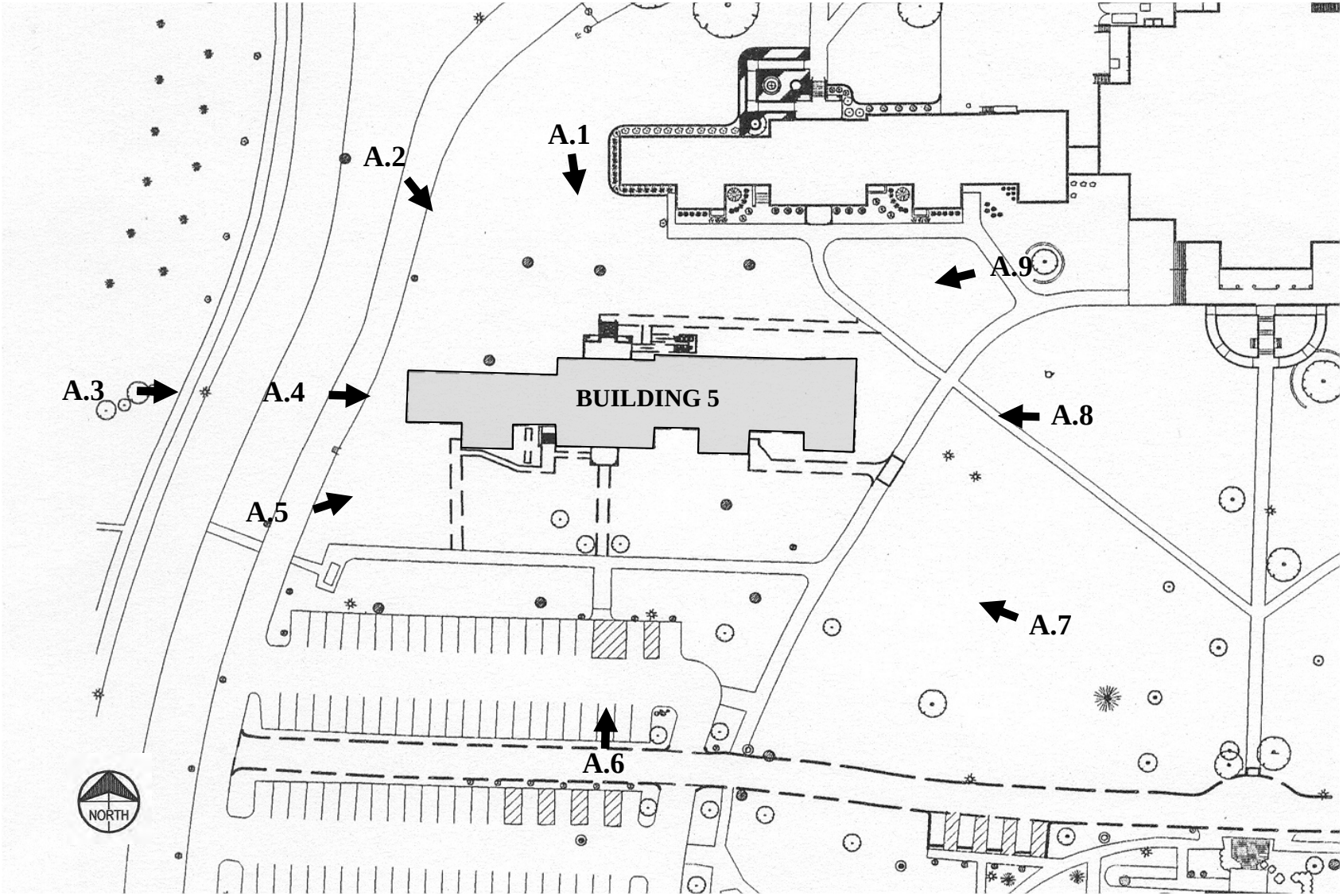
V-2005-1-A.16 View of attic, showing one of north dormers.

V-2005-1-A.17 View of the framing in the attic of the east addition.

V-2005-1-A.18 View of central stairway, taken from the base of the stairs in basement.

V-2005-1-A.19 View of east-west corridor in basement of central block.

V-2005-1-A.20 View of basement area beneath east addition. The foundations of the original building appear in the background.



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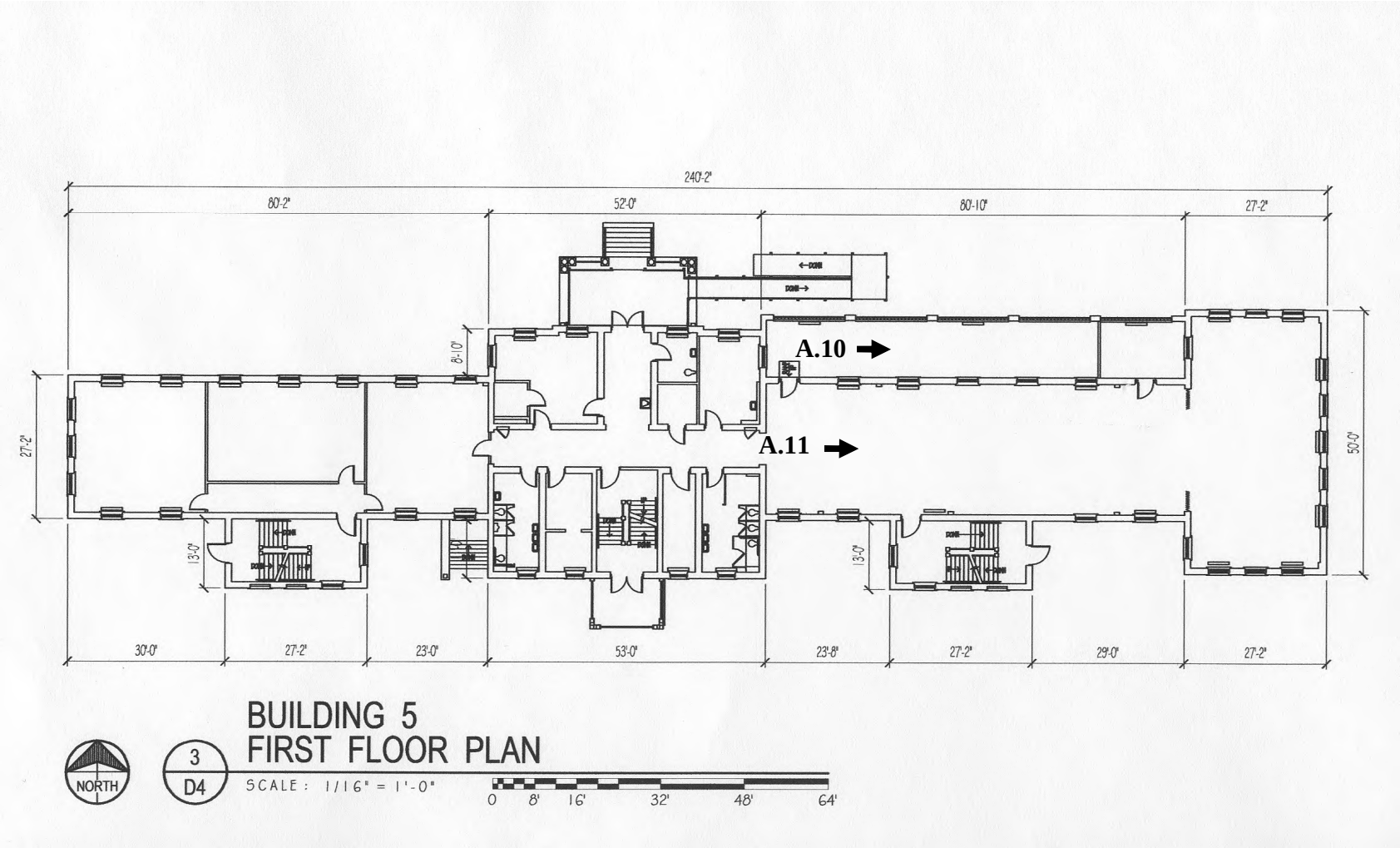

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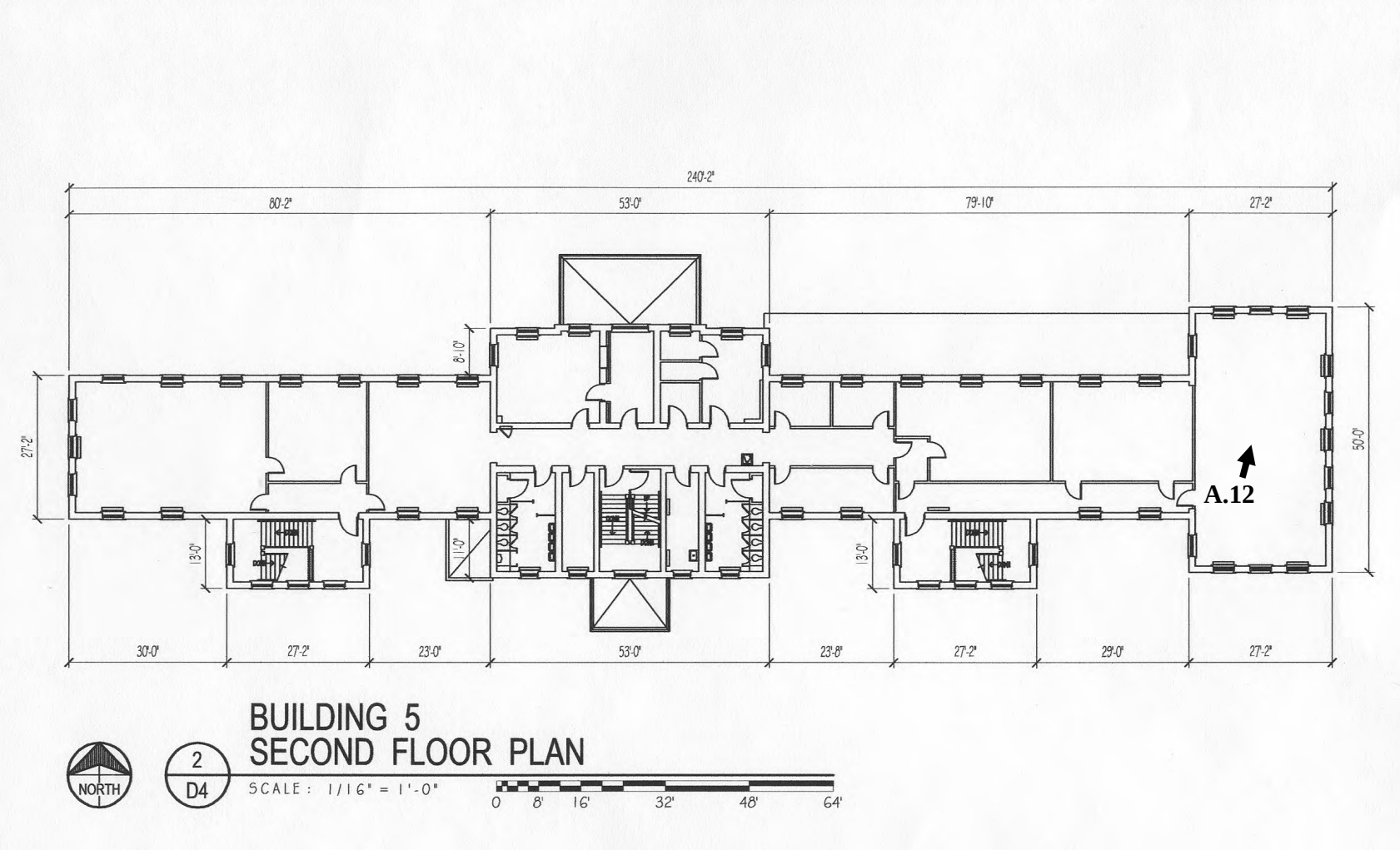

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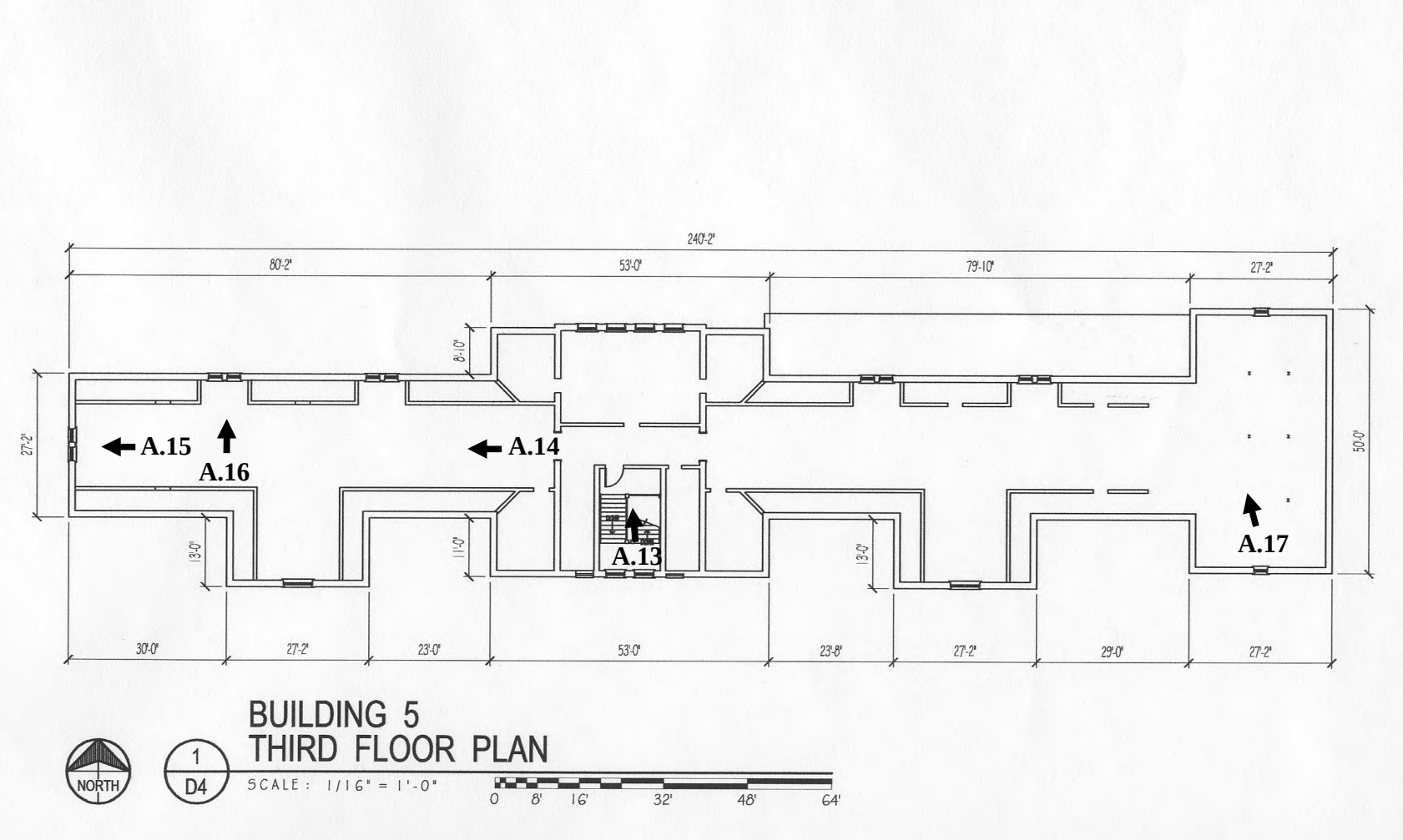

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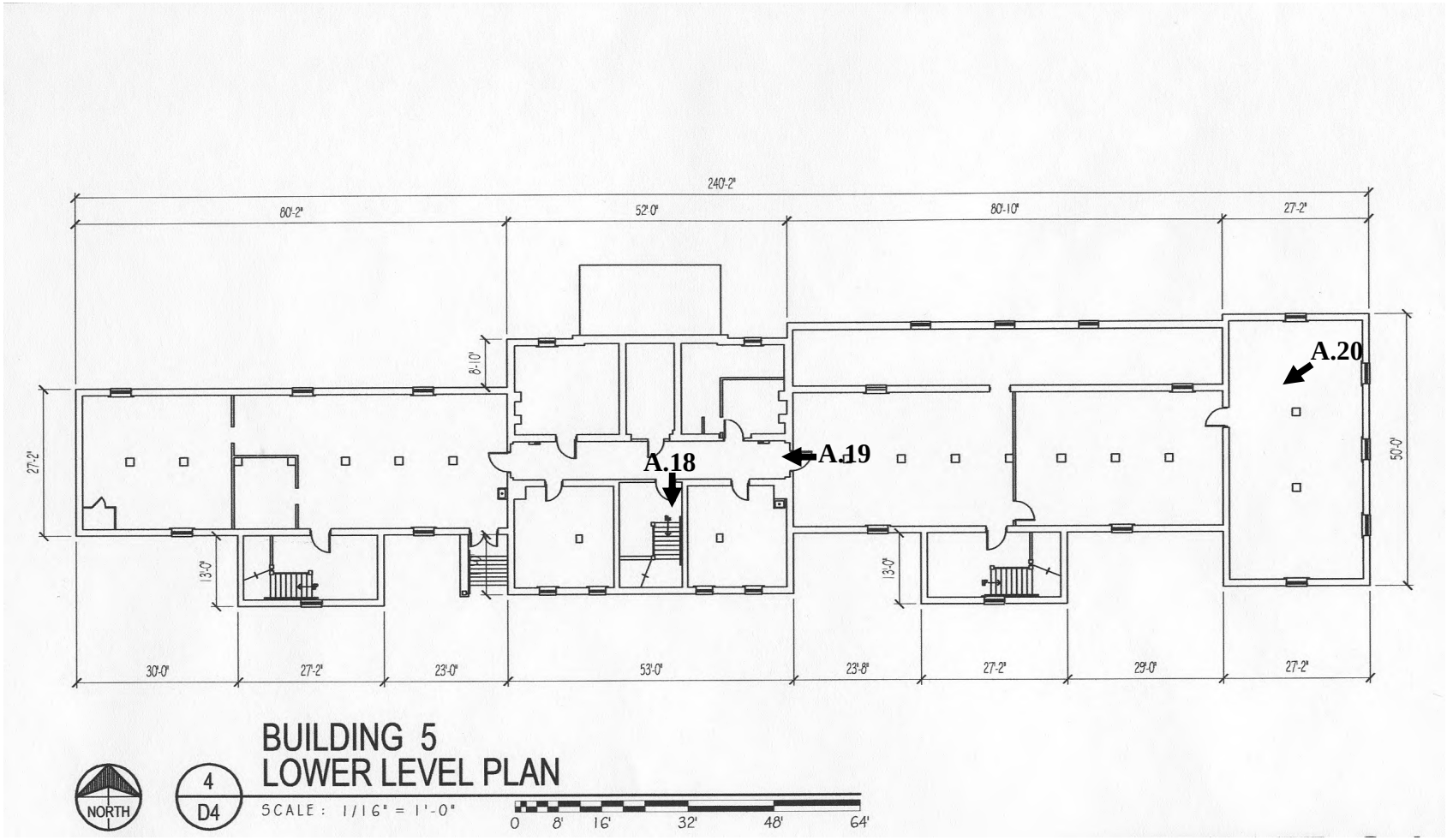
240'-2"
80'-2"
52'-0"
80'-10"
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8'-10"
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A.18
A.19
A.20
30'-0"
27'-2"
23'-0"
53'-0"
23'-8"
27'-2"
29'-0"
27'-2"
NORTH
4
D4
BUILDING 5
LOWER LEVEL PLAN
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"
0 8' 16' 32' 48' 64'

IL HABS V-2003-2-A.1
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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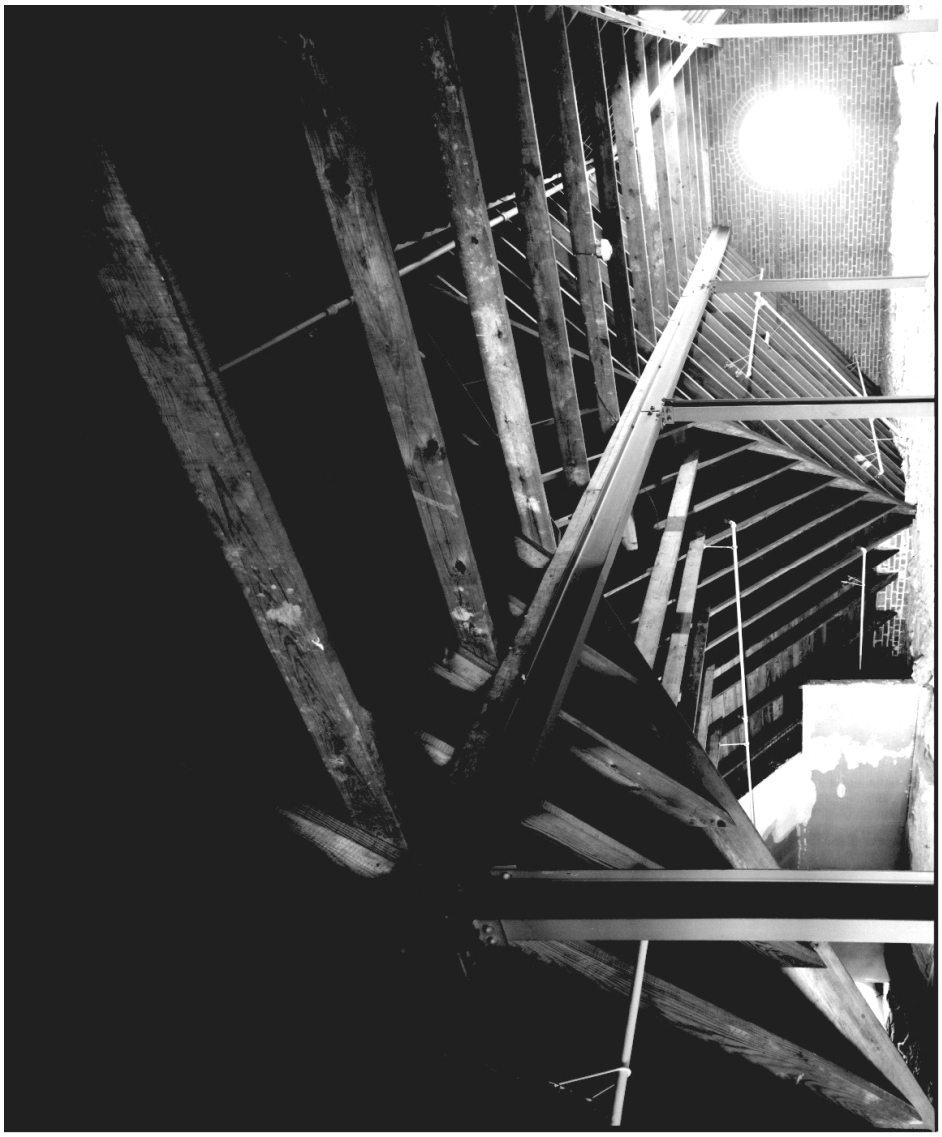

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INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Building 5 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-A
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermillion County
Illinois

V-2003-2-A-S1 Representative elevation plan and first floor plan for the barracks constructed at the Danville Branch, 1898.[1] Building 5, as built, followed this plan.

V-2003-2-A-S2 View of the barracks building housing Company "E" at the Danville Branch, 1903.[2] Note the two-story porch on the end of the building. Identical porches also were present on the east and west ends of the other barracks at Danville but were removed in the 1930s.

V-2003-2-A-S3 Interior photograph of a ward in an unidentified barracks building at the Danville Branch, 1903.[3]

V-2003-2-A-S4 Interior of a ward in Armory Square Hospital in Washington, D. C. This was one of a number of behind-the-lines hospitals established in the District of Columbia during the American Civil War. The general character of the barracks at the Danville Branch was similar to the ward shown here, despite being built forty years later.[4]

V-2003-2-A-S5 Interior of the cavalry (musicians) barracks at the Jackson Barracks, Louisiana, circa 1893-1896. [5] The furnishings and arrangement of this barracks are remarkably similar to those found at the Danville Branch early in the twentieth century and help illustrate the military influence evident the Home's original design.

V-2003-2-A-S6 Interior of an unidentified army barracks circa 1905-1910.[6] Like the previous figure, the furnishing in this barracks bear similarities to the wards at the Danville Branch, including two parallel rows of cast-iron

[1] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plate 8.
[2] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], p.41.
[3] Ibid, P.44.
[4] Constance Sullivan (editor), *Landscapes of the Civil War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995), p. 50.
[5] William L. Brown III, *The Army Called It Home* (Gettsburg, Pennsylvania: Thomas Publications, 1992), p.123, fig. 3.49.
[6] Brown, p.127, fig. 3.53.

beds separated by an aisle and small wardrobes at the head of the beds. The light fixtures also are similar to those used in the barrack wards at Danville.

V-2003-2-A-S7 (TOP) Photograph of the foundations showing the outline of the steps that accessed the east porch of the building, removed in the 1930s. The portion of the above-grade foundations visible outside of the steps was square-cut stone, while that beneath it was brick. (BOTTOM) View of the framing in the central cross gable. Note the truss and purlin supporting the rafters.[7]

V-2003-2-A-S8 Details of the heavy timbering used for the trusses and purlins supporting the roof over the central cross gable. Note the steel rods used to connect the truss framework.[8]

V-2003-2-A-S9 (TOP) Photograph showing the cutout in the attic floor for one of the original chimneys, which has been removed below the attic level. (BOTTOM) Photograph of the locker room in the central block of the basement. The sink shown is attached to the base of an original chimney.[9]

V-2003-2-A-S10 (TOP) View through the attic ceiling showing the first-story floor joists and subflooring, which were left exposed and whitewashed originally but later were covered with wire lath and plaster. (BOTTOM) Detail of the ceramic tile and baseboard used in the first-floor shower room, installed in the early 1930s.[10]

V-2003-2-A-S11 Two interior views of the main entrance on the north side of the Building 5. Note the paneled sash doors, overhead transom window, and paneled door casing.[11]

V-2003-2-A-S12 Photographs of two interior doors located in the central block of the first floor, showing original paneled door (LEFT) and flush steel replacement door leading into bathroom (RIGHT).[12]

V-2003-2-A-S13 (LEFT) View of the western doorway leading out onto the enclosed porch running along the north side of the east wing. (RIGHT) Photograph of one of the attic doorways accessing the unfinished storage space beneath the eaves. The door has been removed. Note the mitered corners on the door trim.[13]

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[7] Fever River Research, June 2003.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.

V-2003-2-A-S14 Photographs of the two-paneled steel door separating the central block and west wing in the basement (LEFT) and the steel fire leading into the central stairwell (RIGHT). Both of these doors are believed to have been installed in the early 1930s.[14]

V-2003-2-A-S15 (LEFT) Detail of one of the window openings in the east wing, showing molded brick used to create curved edges around opening. (RIGHT) Detail showing character of the original window sash. Note "finial" at the top of the lower sash.[15]

V-2003-2-A-S16 (LEFT) View of one of the second-floor windows in the east stairwell equipped with a Chamberlain Detention Screen. (RIGHT) Photograph of the central stairwell from the attic landing. Note the full-arched windows in the stairwell.[16]

V-2003-2-A-S17 (LEFT) View of the full-arched windows in the room located within the north side of the central cross gable. (RIGHT) Photograph of the narrow storage room in the attic, abutting the west side of the central stairwell, showing the enclosed window opening and brick fire wall added circa 1934. This space originally was open to the stairwell.[17]

V-2003-2-A-S18 (LEFT) View of attic window in west cross gable, showing character of paired double-hung sash and overhead fan light. (RIGHT) View of the closet window on the east side of the central strairwell in the attic. The paint line below the window is believed to demarcate the location of a removed shelf or bench. Also note the enclosed window opening to the right of closet window.[18]

V-2003-2-A-S19 Photograph of one of the basement windows, showing character of sash.[19]

V-2003-2-A-S20 Profiles of the casing trim around the main entrance (A), attic door trim (B), and replacement door trim in basement (C). Trim "A" and "B" are original to the building, while trim "C" likely was added during the 1934 remodeling.[20]

V-2003-2-A-S21 Profile of the original window apron trim present on the first and second floors and in the attic.[21]

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[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Fever River Research.
[21] Ibid.

V-2003-2-A-S22 Profiles of the original attic baseboard (A) and baseboard present on first and second floors (B).[22]

V-2003-2-A-S23 (LEFT) Examples of the ceramic floor tile (A) and baseboard (B) present in the utility rooms on the first and second floors. (RIGHT) Similar floor tile (C) was used in the toilet rooms on the first and second floors, but the marble baseboard (D) was installed in these rooms. The examples presented here are 50% of their actual size.[23]

V-2003-2-A-S24 Examples of the ceramic floor tile (A), wall tile (B), and baseboard (C) present in the first-floor shower room. The examples shown are 50% of their actual size. [24]

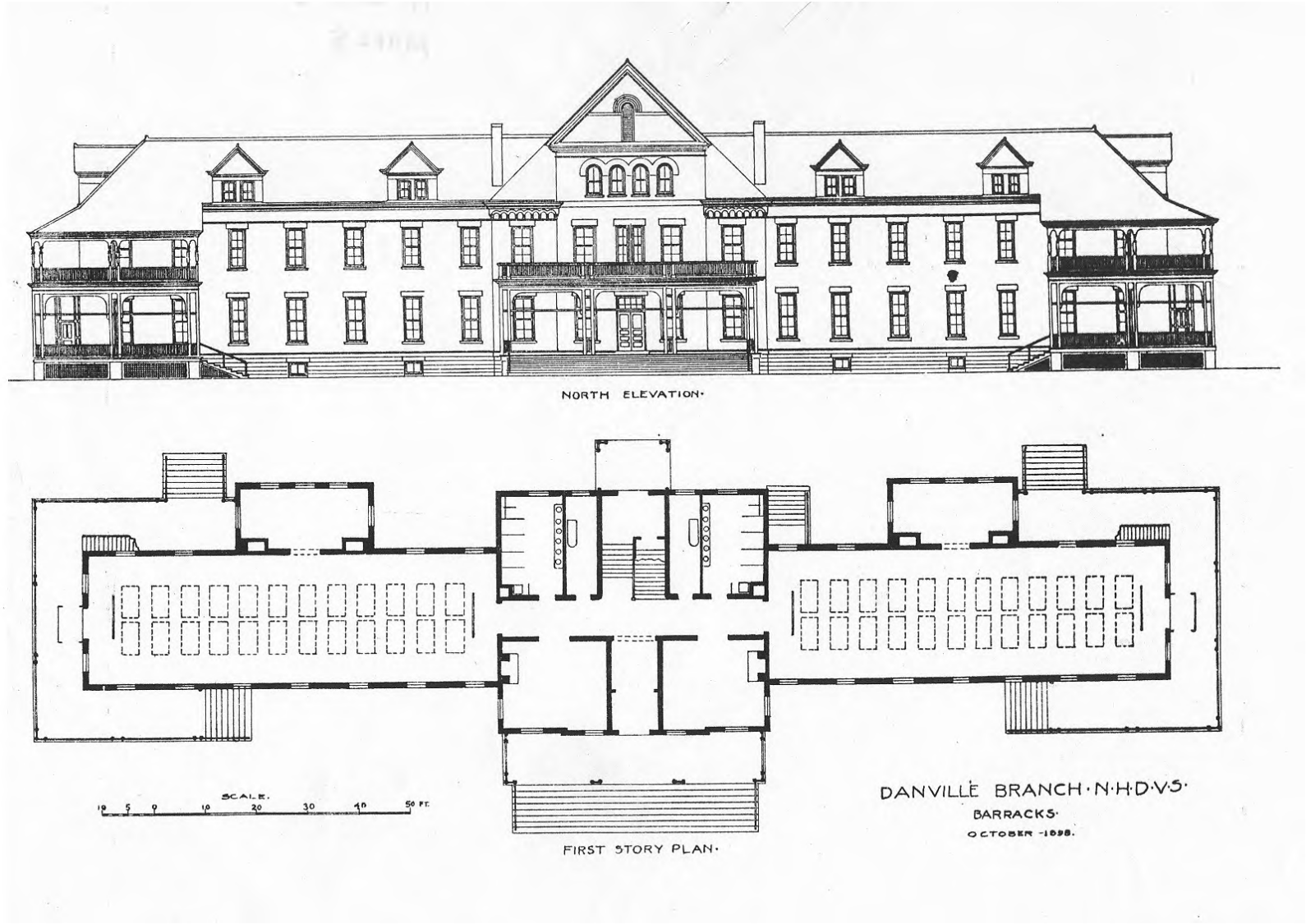
V-2003-2-A-S25 A brass hinge used to hang an original door in Building 5. This hinge (illustrated at actual size) also is representative of those used in Buildings 9 and 10 originally.[25]

V-2003-2-A-S26 Photograph of a radiator hung on the wall in west wing of the basement.[26]

V-2003-2-A-S27 Photograph of the cage enclosing the sprinkler system valves in the southwest corner of the west wing of the basement.[27]

[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.
[25] Ibid.
[26] Fever River Research, June 2003.
[27] Ibid.

V-2003-2-A-S1
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



BARRACK, COMPANY "E"

INTERIOR OF WARD IN BARRACK

V-2003-2-A-S4
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S5
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S6
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

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V-2003-2-A-S17
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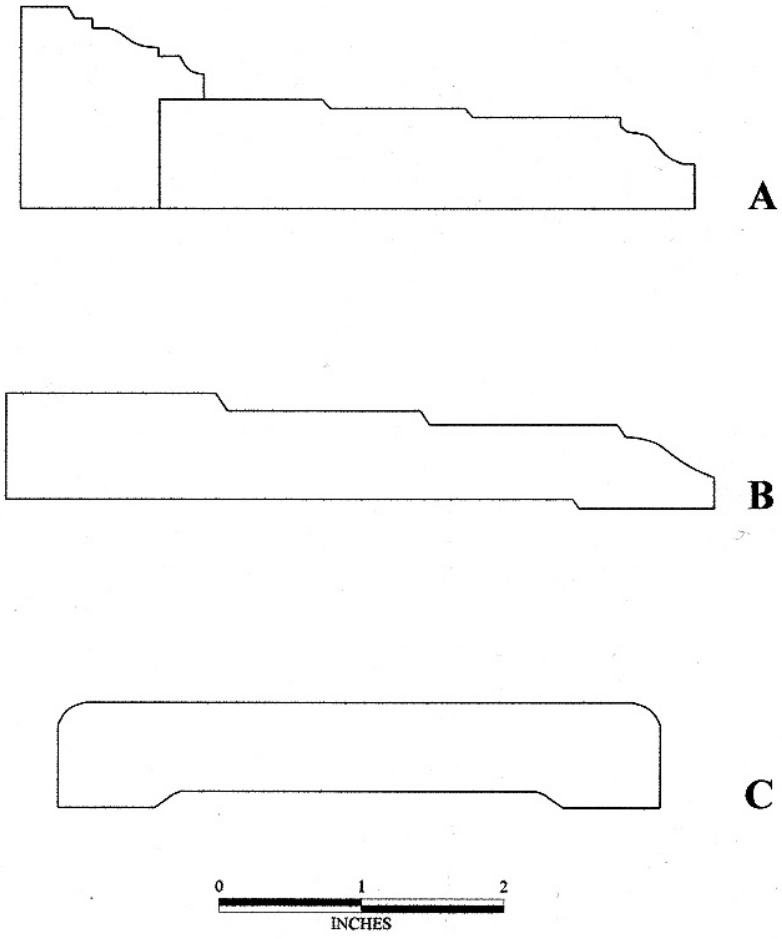
V-2003-2-A-S18
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S19
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S20
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



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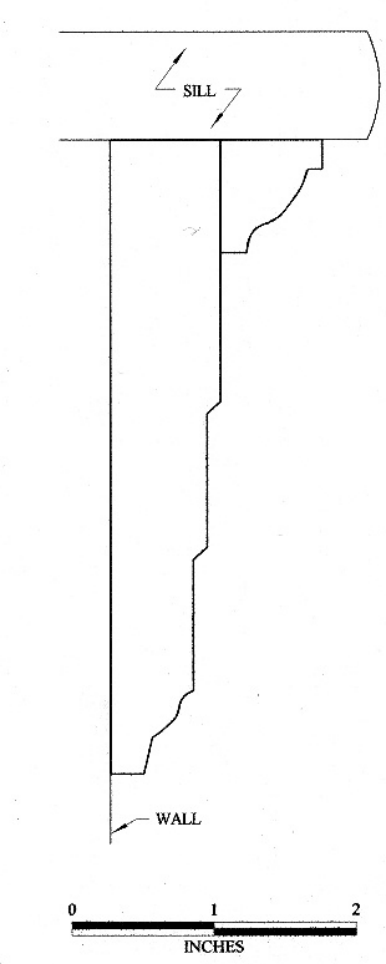

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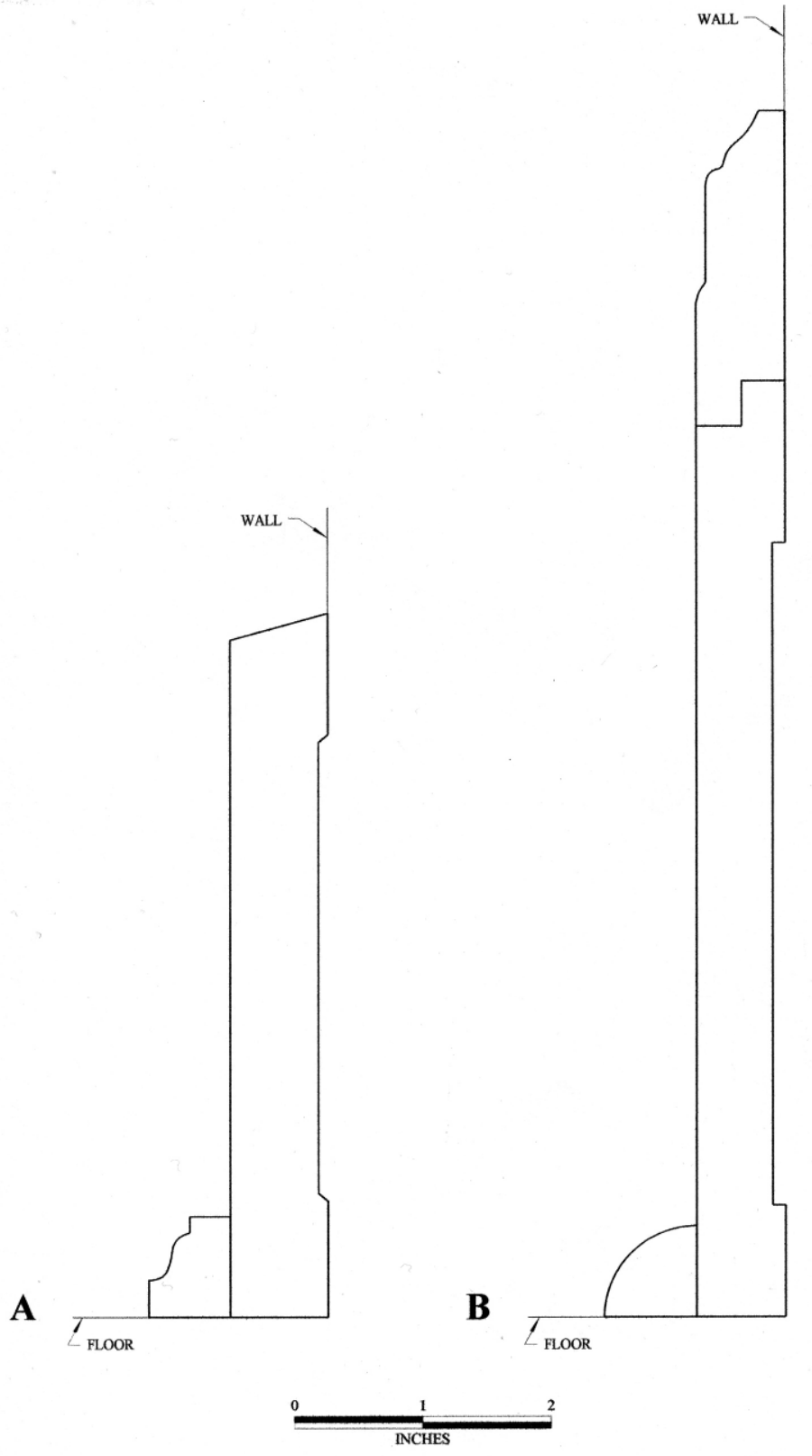
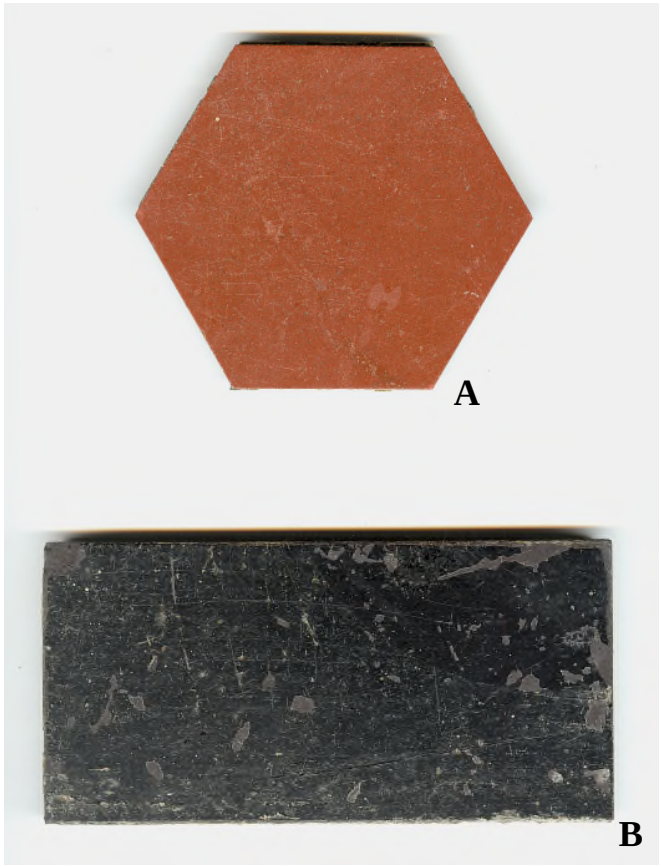
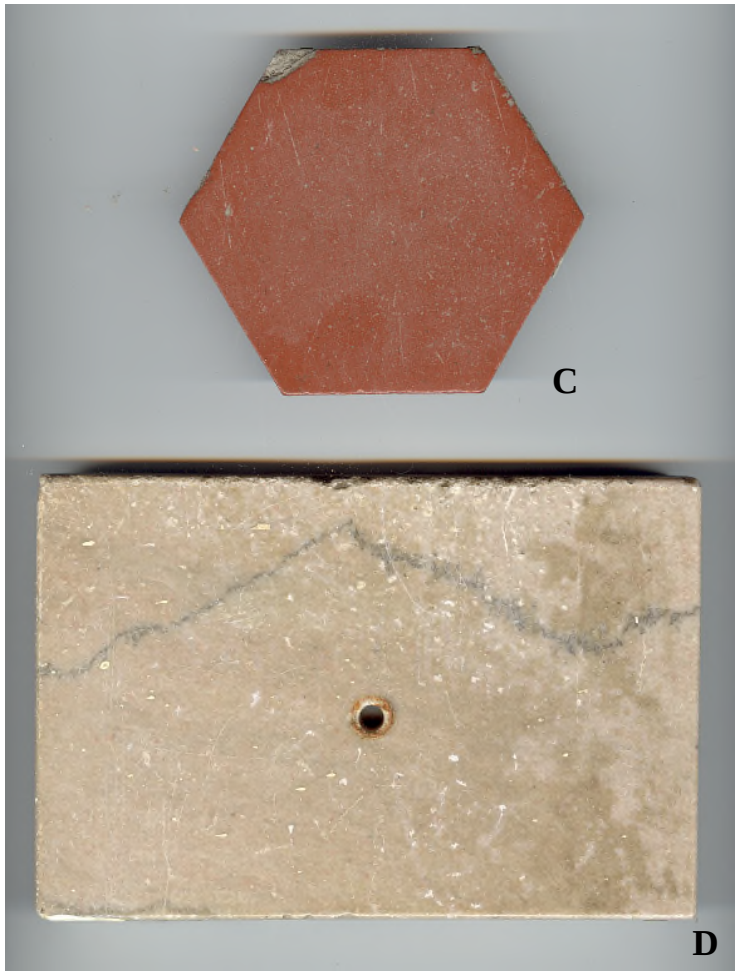
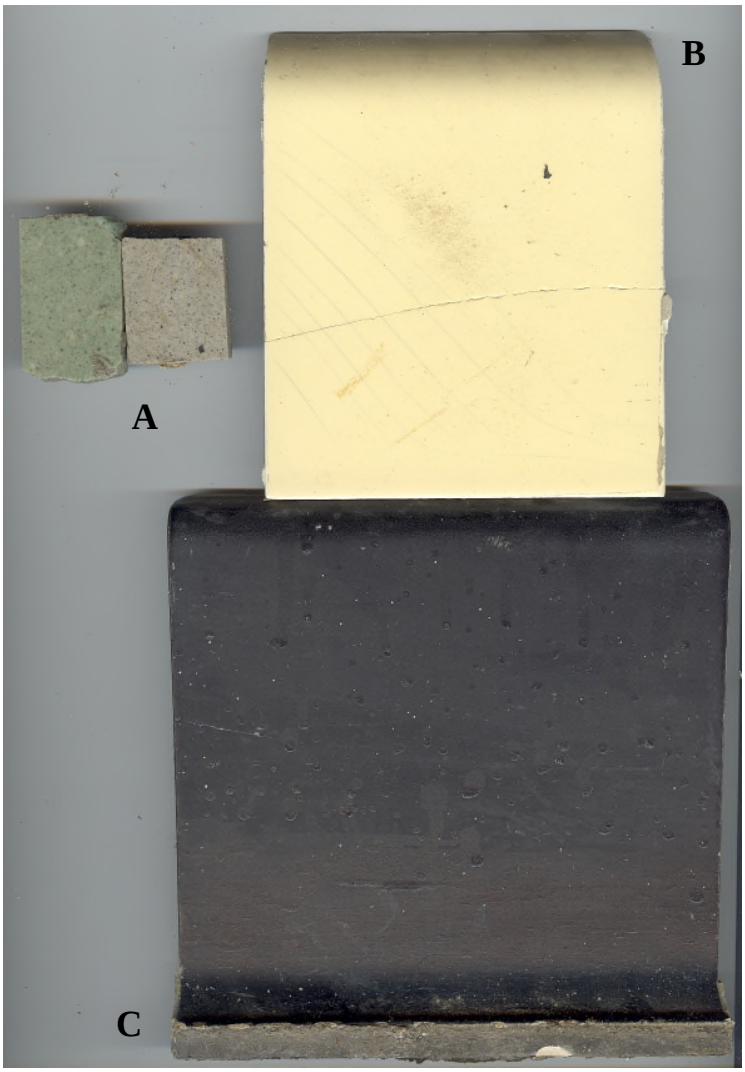



A
B


C
D

V-2003-2-A-S24
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-A-S25
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S26
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-A-S27
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

Building 9 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-B
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IL HABS No. V-2005-1-B

Location: Building 9 is located on the grounds of Danville Area Community College, at 2000 East Main Street in Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois. The building lies on the western edge of the campus.

Present Owner: The building is owned by Danville Area Community College.

Present Occupant: The building has been vacated in expectation of its eventual demolition.

Present Use: Building 9 was vacated several years ago. It was last used as the Danville Area Community College's Business Education Building.

Statement of Significance: Building 9 is a contributing resource to the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The district was nominated to the National Register under Criteria A (social history), in regards to the area of health/medicine, and under Criterion C (architecture). Danville was the eighth of ten such facilities ultimately established by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), nationwide, between 1866 and 1929. Building 9 is a large two-and-one-half-story, brick structure that was built in 1899-1900, during the initial construction phase of the Danville Branch. It originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for elderly and/or disabled veterans and later functioned as Continued Treatment (CT) ward after the facility was converted into a neuro-psychiatric hospital administered by the Veterans Administration—the successor to the NHDVS.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection: 1899-1900, 1934-1935

2. Architect:

The architect(s) who designed this building and the other barracks at the Danville Branch are not known. However, it has been speculated that the firm of Peters,

Burns, and Pretzinger of Dayton, Ohio may have been responsible.[1] The modifications made in 1934-1935 were designed by Veterans Administration (VA) architects.[2]

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The land on which Continued Treatment Building 9 is located was purchased by the NHDVS in 1897. In 1930, the VA assumed ownership of the facility. In 1965 the VA leased Building 9 and a number of adjacent structures to Danville Area Community College.

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers:

The specific builders, contractors, and suppliers employed in the original construction of the building are not known. The Works Projects Administration (WPA) directed the construction of the east addition and the other modifications made in 1934-1935.

5. Original Plans:

No original plans specific to Building 9 have been located. However, a representative first-story plan and an elevation view of the barracks buildings ultimately built at the Danville Home were included in the 1898 *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, which was published as House Document (H. Doc.) 55. These plans reflect the original design of Building 9.

Later floor plans specific to Building 9 do exist. These plans were drawn in 1934 and 1943 and were revised, as changes were made, through the early 1960s. Additional sheets of drawings specific to Building 9 are on file at Danville Area Community College.

--Basement and Part Attic Plans, Building No. 9 (Sheet 9-1, drawn 31 August 1934, with revisions through 20 May 1963 [2 copies])

--Basement and Part Attic Plans, Building No. 9 (Sheet 9-1, drawn 31 August 1934, with revisions through 20 May 1963 [3 copies])[3]

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[1] Matthew D. Rector, "The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" (master's thesis, Ball State University, 2002), p.59.

[2] Gjore J. Mollenhoff, Karen R. Tupek, and Sandra Webb, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Hartford Veterans Administration Medical Center" (nomination prepared by the Veterans Administration, 1980), p.4; available at http://members.valley.net~connriver/V11-21.htm. See also: Veterans Administration, Office of Facilities Management, "Architectural Set Medical Centers", available at http:www.va.gov/facmgt/historic/Arch_Set.asp.

--Basement Plan, Building No. 9 (Drawing No. 9-1, drawn 12 May 1965 [tracing possibly drawn for DACC revisions])

--First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 9 (Drawing No. 9-2, drawn 19 July 1943, with revisions through 26 September 1963)

--First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 9 (1 sheet, drawn 7 March 1966 [working copy with hand-written notations showing planned changes by DACC])

--Marble and Tile Work, Buildings 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 (Drawing No. 86, drawn 18 December 1934)

--Auto Sprinkler System, Building 10 (2 sheets, drawn 23 February 1964 [2 copies])
Sheet 1 (9-P1): Basement and First Floor
Sheet 2 (9-P2): Second and Third Floor

6. Alterations and Additions:

As originally built, Building 9 had two-story porches located on the ends of its east and west wings, which continued around portions of its north and south elevations. These porches were removed 1934-1935 when a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed addition was added onto the west end of the building. In conjuncture with this addition, a one-story enclosed porch was constructed on the north elevation, between the new addition and the central block, and a new front porch was added. The interior stairways and room configurations also were altered at this time. These and other changes are discussed in more detail below.

B. Historical Context:

The historical background and structural evolution of the Danville Branch of the NHDVS is described in section I.B. of the cover document for IL-HABS No. V-2005-1. The following discussion is specific to Building 9. Aspects of the structure's original design and later modifications will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Building 9 was constructed in 1899-1900 and originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for disabled and/or elderly veterans. It was one of fourteen such buildings erected at the Danville Branch. The 1903 *Illustrated History* of the Danville Branch provided the following description of the barracks at the facility:

> Each barrack has a sleeping capacity for about one hundred and seventy-five members, is some two hundred and fifty feet long by fifty feet wide,

[3] This drawing is the same as the one listed above it, but shows the full extent of the attic and roof line.

> two stories with basement and porches, heated by steam and lighted by electricity. There are bath room and closets ample for each building. Each barrack is occupied by a "company," with captain, clerk and room orderlies. The men each have a neat iron bed with wire springs, ample bed linen, wool mattress, wool blankets and pillow and a convenient wardrobe for clothing. Under the direction of the company captains the rooms and furniture are kept always scrupulously clean.[4]

A circa 1903 photograph of an unspecified barracks at the Danville Branch indicates that each member in the ward was supplied with a bed, a spindle-backed side chair, and small bedside table. The bed frames were cast iron and had ornamental head and footboards. The tables are not well illustrated in the photograph, but they appear to have had marble tops and one or more drawers below. They may have served a dual role as a washstand and dresser. Coats and hats were hung from the headboards, and shoes were stowed below the beds.

The original company designation for the members housed in Building 9 is not known. An 1898 site map submitted by the Board of Directors of the NHDVS to Congress simply numbers the building as "12".[5] It is not clear whether this was a temporary number, adopted during the construction phase, or persisted for a time before being changed to "9" at a later date.

In 1934-1935, Building 9 was turned into a Continued Treatment (CT) ward as part of the conversion of the Danville VA into a neuro-psyschiatric hospital. CT wards housed able-bodied patients with chronic conditions, or individuals for whom restrictions and observations were still required. These patients were allowed to take their meals in the main dining hall and could participate in occupational therapy programs.[6] The conversion of Building 9 involved the construction of a new wing on the east side of the structure and the reconfiguration of the interior stairways and rooms. Furthermore, three original porches were removed and two new ones were built around this time. These changes were driven in large measure by considerations for patient safety. The gallery porches that originally wrapped around the east and west ends of the building possibly were viewed seen as being unsafe for the class of patients now being housed in the building. These were removed, and as an alternative a large day room was created on the first floor. Later on, detention screens were installed on the interior side of some windows to restrict patient access to them. Fire safety also was a concern. The stairwell in the central block was "fire-hardened" through the replacement of the original stairway

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[4] Danville Veterans Hospital, "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois," *The Bulletin*, 30 April 1965, p.4.

[5] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plate 1.

[6] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, p.5.

with a steel-frame one with slate treads and the addition of tile-block walls in the attic and basement. Other partition walls added at this time were built with steel studs and metal lath, as a further fire-prevention measure. Also, two new stairways were added in the south bays of the wings (which had formerly served as sun porches), thus increasing the number of exits from the upper stories, and fire doors also were added throughout the building. Other changes effected during this period included a large-scale remodeling of the bathroom facilities, and the addition of clothing and dressing rooms and a small canteen on the first floor. These alterations were designed by VA architects, but the actual work was completed by the Work Projects Administration (WPA).[7]

In 1965, Building 9 and a number of adjacent structures were leased by the VA to Danville Area Community College. Building 9 was last used as the Business Education Building at the college.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Building 9 is a large two-and-one-half story, hip-roofed, brick structure with a complex footprint consisting of a central block, two adjoining wings, and a large addition on the east. The central block stands out due to its two large wall dormers, each of which has a ribbon of arched window openings and is covered by a cross gable extending of the principal hip roof. Smaller roof dormers are located to either side the central block, on the north slope of the roof. Each of the wings has a large two-story rectangular bay projecting off their rear side, which also are covered by cross gables. Entrance porches are located on the north and south sides of the central block, the larger of these being located on the north (front) side and having grouped columns. Stylistically, Building 9 principally is Georgian Revival in character, as evidenced by the symmetry of its footprint and openings, raised stone foundations with watertable, transoms over the main entrances, pedimented dormers, and cross gable fanlight windows. However, it also shows some strong Romanesque influence in regards to the full-arched window openings and corbelled brick cornice found on the central block. The west addition, which was constructed in 1934-1935, was designed to match the original building stylistically.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

As originally constructed, the building measured 49’-0” (north/south) by 213’-0” (east/west) at its greatest extents, excluding porches. With the

[7] Danville Veterans Hospital, p.3.

construction of the west addition in 1934, the building's dimensions were expanded to 50'-0" (north/south) by 240'-2" (east/west).

2. Foundations:

The original building has a raised perimeter foundation generally measuring 1'-5" to 1'-6" wide. Those sections of the perimeter foundations located below grade consist of irregularly coursed, rough-cut limestone whose interior face has been roughly tooled to create a smooth finish. The upper foundations (exposed above grade) have a regularly coursed, rock-faced, square-cut Bedford limestone veneer with brick backing.[8] Interior foundation walls are built of brick laid in common bond. The addition and porch added in 1934-1935 have poured-concrete foundations with an above-grade brick veneer. The foundations beneath the east addition measure 1'-5" thick, while those below the porch are 1'-1" wide.

3. Walls:

The exterior walls of the building are constructed of machine-made, red brick and measure 1'-1-½" wide (including interior plaster). The brick are laid in common bond, with four stretcher rows followed by a header course. A 10" watertable of finely tooled Bedford limestone wraps around the perimeter of the building. Corbelled brickwork is present along the cornice. The corbelling along the wings consists of a series of stepped courses, while that around the central block has a row of full arches.

4. Structural System, Framing:

The lumber used for the framing of the original building primarily is circular-sawn, unsurfaced, yellow and red pine. Exceptions will be noted below. The first floor of the original building is carried by 2"x12" joists set 16" on-center. The joists run the width of the building, and their central span is supported by a 7-½"x9" beam placed on top of 1'-1"x1'-5" brick columns.[9] Sub-flooring, measuring 7/8"x5-¼" (possibly white pine) is laid diagonally over the joists. Similar sub-flooring is used for the two floors above. The floor joists for the second story are 2"x16-¼" band-sawn(?) pine and are set 16" on-center. Joists measuring 3"x12-½" with 16" centers support the attic floor, while the ceiling joists on this level are 2"x6"s with 2'-0" centers. Original partition walls in the basement and on the first and second floors are brick. Knee and partition walls in the attic

[8] The lower foundations stand 4'-1" above the finished floor. The upper foundations extend for an additional 3'-10".

[9] The brick columns rest on concrete footings measuring 1'-5"x1'-5".

are framed with 1-7/8"x2-¼"-to-3-¾" and 2"x6" studs set 2'-0" on center.[10] The roof is carried by 2"x8"-to-8-½" rafters with 2'-0" centers. The lower ends of the rafters sit directly upon the brick walls, while the upper ends are joined at a 2"x8" ridge board. The roof sheathing is surfaced-two-sides, yellow pine and measures 7/8"x7-¼"-to-8". The cross-gable roof over the central block is carried by a heavy timber-frame truss built with sawn stock.

During the 1934 remodeling, steel studs were used for many of the partition walls installed on the first and second floors in an effort to fire-harden the building. Brick and clay-tile blocks were used to enclose the stairwell in the attic, and also for fire-barrier walls in the basement.

The west addition has reinforced concrete floors on the first, second, and attic stories. The roof over the addition is carried by 1-½"x9-½" yellow-pine rafters set 16" on center. The rafters are supported by 3-½"x3-½" pine purlins resting on a horizontal 3-½"x7" steel I-beam bolted to vertical 4"x6" I-beams. The addition has 1-½"x12-¾" valley ridge boards and a 1-½"x11-½" main ridge board.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, and Bulkheads:

As originally constructed, the building had multiple porches covering a large part of its exterior. Two entrance porches were located on the north (front) and south (rear) elevations of the central block. In respect to style and materials, the latter porches largely were same: they were of frame construction, were open sided, had a flat roof supported by grouped square posts with elongated brackets, and had a balustrade running along their roof. The upper levels were unroofed and were accessible from the second floor. There were a number of differences between the two entrance porches, however. The north porch extended along the full width of the central block and had a raised deck. In contrast, the south porch was smaller—being only slightly wider than the entranceway—and had a masonry pavement nearly level to grade.

There also were open two-story, frame porches wrapping around the east and west ends of the building originally. These porches were directly accessible from the wards and served as a gallery, where the members/patients could get some fresh air in the shade. Their roofs extended off the principal hip roof of the building. Both levels of the porches had grouped posts; those on first floor were square and had elongated brackets (similar to those found the rear entrance porch), while those on the upper deck were turned. Historic photographs indicate that

[10] The smaller dimensional studs are surfaced on one side, while the 2"x6" studs are rough on all four sides.

the porch rested on masonry piers and that the intervals between these piers were enclosed with lattice panels early in the building's history.

In the 1930s, the east and west porches were removed and the north entrance porch was replaced with a new one. This work reportedly was carried out by the WPA.[11] The 1934 remodeling plans for the building indicate that these changes had been effected by that time. [12] The outline of the original porch can still be seen on the brickwork on the north elevation. The new porch is not quite as wide as the original was and is covered with a half-hipped roof supported by fluted steel columns. The porch deck, foundations, and stairs are poured concrete. The foundations are faced with a brick veneer.

The rear entrance porch largely has retained its original configuration, aside from the removal of the balustrade on the upper deck. The porch roof is covered with metal roofing and has built-in gutters. The posts supporting the roof rest on cast-iron blocks in order to protect them from water damage. The existing floor on the south porch is concrete. The ceiling covered with narrow wood paneling.

The porch positioned between the west addition and central block measures 12'-5"x79'-5", is enclosed, and has a low-sloped shed roof. The porch has five large window openings positioned above a brick parapet wall and separated by brick columns. As originally designed, the window openings were to have screens and grilles installed.[13] Multi-paned casement windows currently are present.

A bulkhead for an exterior basement stairway is located in the southeast reentrant angle between the central block and east wing. The sidewalls of the bulkhead are rock-faced cut stone (like the above-grade building foundations), while polished Bedford limestone is used for a coping. The steps are also are stone. The bulkhead is protected by a half-hipped roof carried by square posts similar in character to those found on the rear entrance porch. The roof is covered with slate shingles and has built-in gutters.

6. Chimneys:

[11] Danville Veterans Hospital, p.3.

[12] Veterans Administration, "First and Second Floor Plans Building No. 9, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois" (1943), sheet 9-2.

[13] Ibid.

Early photographs of the building show that it originally had eight interior brick chimneys. Two of the stacks exited along the north slope of the roof and vented fireplaces located in the offices located in the central block. The other six chimneys were positioned along the south side of the building and presumably vented (or were planned to vent) heating stoves originally. Most of these probably had a relatively short period of active use, considering that all of the barracks at the Home were supplied with steam heat by 1902-1903.[14] A 1903 interior photograph of one of the barracks clearly shows heating pipes.[15] All of the chimneys eventually were removed below the roofline—a change possibly effected before, or during the 1934-1935 remodeling. The openings where the chimneys passed through the attic floor can still be seen. The chimneys were lined with tile.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

As originally designed, the building had a total of nine exterior doorways. One of these accessed the basement, and was associated with the bulkhead discussed above in section II.B.5. This doorway remained in use throughout the lifetime of the building and presently is equipped with a pair of paneled wood sash doors. The first and second floors each had four exterior doors originally, which were aligned to the four porches once present on the building. Most of these openings were modified as part of the 1934-1935 remodeling: the west doorways were converted to windows after the porch here was removed; the north and south doorway on the second floor also were turned into windows due to the central stairway being reconfigured; and the entrances on the east were eliminated when the addition was constructed. The north and south doorways leading into first floor of the central block were the only ones to persist. These doorways are associated with the front and rear porches previously described in section 11.B.5, and both have a set of wood paneled sash doors, transom windows, Bedford limestone sills, and flat red sandstone lintels. One difference between them lies in respect to their transoms: the transom over the north entrance has a double row of

[14] House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903*, 55th Congress 1st Session, H. Doc. 46 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), p. 175; Danville Veterans Hospital, p.14.

[15] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], *Illustrated History, Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Danville, Illinois* (Danville, Illinois: National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1903), p.44.

lights, while that on the south has a single row. Both transoms are hinged at the bottom.

Two new exterior doorways were added on the south side of the building in 1934-1935. These were intended to serve as exits for the new stairways added during the remodeling. The entrances are at grade level and have paneled sash doors.

b. Windows and Shutters:

The majority of original window openings are rectangular in shape and are arranged symmetrically. The notable exceptions are the arched windows found on the attic level. The openings on the first and second floors originally had finely-tooled, flat, red sandstone lintels (12") and sills (5"). In a number of locations, however, the sandstone sills deteriorated and were replaced with ones of Bedford limestone. There is no evidence—either photographic or physical—of exterior shutters having ever been present.

There are number of a number of different styles of windows present in the original section of the building. The window openings in the basement have hinged two-light hopper sash measuring 2'-6"x3'-5". In contrast to the upper floor, the sills and lintels here are Bedford limestone. The sills are polished, while the lintels are rock faced.

The windows on the first and second floors of the building consist of double-hung, weighted, wood sashes with two-over-two lights (unless otherwise indicated), though there are differences in respect to size and style. The rough opening of the majority of the windows on the first and second floors measures 3'-8-½"x8'-8", while the actual sash dimension is 3'-5"x8'-6".

The wall dormers in the central block each have a string of four full-arched window openings measuring approximately 3'-9"x5'-9". They hold 3'-1-¼"x5'-5" double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights (the upper sash being arched). The sills are red sandstone, like those on the floors below, while the lintels are brick. A tall, arched, louvered vent is present in the gable of both wall dormers.

Each of the dormers has two rectangular windows, whose rough opening measures approximately 3'-0"x3'-10-¼". The windows sashes are double-hung with two-over-two lights and measure 2'-5-½"x5'-5-½." The two cross gables on the south elevation each have a large window opening (approximately 6'-9"x6'-0"), which

holds a pair of four-light single sash (set beside one another) with a fanlight above. The sash measure 3'-4-¼"x3'-1-½".

A number of original window openings were bricked in as part of the 1934-1935 remodeling. Two of the arched windows in the south wall dormer in the central block, for instance, were eliminated when the fire barrier walls were built around the stairwell. Similarly, the south bays each had three windows enclosed on the first floor. This was done in order to accommodate the new stairways and exit doors that were installed here.

The window opening and sash in the west addition generally reflect the size and character of those in the original building. This is particular true of those found on the first and second floors, which even follow the original design scheme of red sandstone sills and lintels.[16] The basement windows have polished limestone sills but have brick lintels (supported by a steel plate?), as opposed to stone. In the attic of the addition, there is one window in each gable end. These windows are arched, like those in the central block, and hold double-hung sashes with four-over-four lights. The sash dimension is 2'-8-½"x4'-3".

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering:

The building has a steeply-pitched principal hip roof that is punctuated by gables over the central block, south bays, and east addition. All sections of the roof are covered with plain gray slate shingles. Cast iron flashing runs along the ridges as fenestration.

b. Cornice, Eaves:

The building has boxed-eaves with built-in gutters. The original gutters appears to be lined with steel (galvanized?) that is soldered together and painted, while those associated with later front porch are copper lined. The downspouts also are copper. The eaves are continuous across the cross gables, creating a pedimented effect. As previously described in section II.B.3, the cornice is decorated corbelled brickwork around the entire circuit of the building. In

[16] There are several minor differences in respect to the sash in the two sections of the building. The sashes in the original building are hung with rope, whereas those in the addition have chain. The finger pulls on the lower sashes also are different.

addition, the central block has wood dentils running along the cornice and rake.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

The roof of the building is punctuated by a number of dormers providing light and additional space for the third, or attic, story. The central block has a large gable-roofed wall dormer on its north and south elevations. These two dormers each have a line of four windows with segmental arched openings, and above this is a tall louvered attic vent positioned in the center of the gable. The gable is enclosed with a continuous eave. Four smaller roof dormers are arranged two-to-a-side of the north wall dormer. These also have pedimented gables. The windows in the different dormers are described above in section II.B.7.b.

C Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

For a detailed picture of the interior layout of the building and its evolution through time, reference the attached floor plans. A representative first floor plan and front elevation view of the original barracks design used at Danville has been included in the supplemental materials for Building 5 (V-2003-2-A-S1; see also V-2003-2-S9).

a. First Floor Description:

As originally designed, the first floor of the central block was divided into four quadrants, separated by intersecting hallways. The formal entrance on the north façade opened onto a hallway, running north/south, that terminated at a wide, open stairway leading to the basement and upper floors. Just short of the stairway, the hall intersected an east/west corridor leading to the adjoining wings. There were two offices, located in the northeast and northwest corners of the central block. Each office was equipped with a fireplace, had three windows, and could be entered through a doorway off the east/west hallway. Two separate bathroom units were situated in the southeast and southwest corners of the central block, being separated by the stairwell. Each unit contained two rooms, the larger of which had toilets and sinks and the other of which had a tub. The two wings were large open sleeping wards. Original plans called for each ward to hold twenty beds, though the capacity later was expanded as enrollment at the branch increased. The wards had a doorway at their far end leading onto the open gallery-style porches originally present here.

They also had access to the bays on the south side of the building. Although the original design plans do not specify what these bays were used for, we suspect them to have served as "sun porches" where the members could sit or socialize during the cooler months of the year.[17]

During the 1934-1935 remolding, the central block was subdivided in order to accommodate new specialized rooms, though the original hall configuration was maintained. The northwest quadrant was partitioned up to create a doctor and a secretary's offices. In the northwest quadrant, a visitors' room, small canteen, suit room, nurses bathroom, and hallway were created. The southern half of the central block saw fewer changes during this period, at least in regards to general function. The west room in the southwest quadrant continued to be used as a bathroom, but the tub room adjoining on the east was turned into a utility room. The bathroom space in the southeast quadrant was subdivided into specialized toilet, shave, and shower rooms. The eastern wing of the building continued to serve as a sleeping ward after the remodeling. A 1943 bed study indicated that the ward was supposed to contain twenty-nine beds. The west wing of the building was used as a large day room post-1934 and had a small nurses' office constructed in its southeast corner. One of the original window openings on the north side of the wing was converted into a doorway to allow access to the new porch constructed here. The west addition served as an extension of the day room, though a frame wall did separate it from the west wing.[18]

Another change effected during the 1934-1935 remodeling was the conversion of the bays on the south side of the wings to stairwells. The original doorways between the wings and bays were infilled and new doorways, with steel fire doors, were installed.[19]

A number of alterations were made to the building post-1965, after it began to be used by Danville Area Community College. The partition wall between the visitors' room and canteen was removed to create a single office. Also, the east and west wings were partitioned up to create additional classroom space. The west wing and the adjacent north porch last served as a computer center.

[17] House, H. Doc. 55, plate 8.

[18] Veterans Administration, sheet 9-2.

[19] Ibid.

b. Second Floor Description:

The second floor plan of the building essentially mirrored that of the first floor, as originally constructed. The room usage also was similar.

During the 1934-1935 remolding, the central block was reconfigured to accommodate new rooms, like on the floor below. In the northeast quadrant of the block, the original office located here was subdivided to accommodate a suit room, a short hallway, storage room, and a conference room with its own closet and bathroom. In the northwest quadrant, a shower room and dressing room were created. A doorway in the east wall of the dressing room led into a clothing room, which was located within an area that had previously served as a hallway. This hall was no longer needed after the front (north) porch was replaced with one lacking an upper deck. The southwest quadrant of the central block mirrored that of the floor below, having a toilet room on the east and a utility room on the west. The utility room also was used for clothing and show storage. The southeast quadrant was divided between a clean linen room, located on the west, and a toilet room on the east. The east wing continued to serve as a sleeping ward after the remodeling. The only changes made here were the elimination of an original doorway on its east end (due to the removal of the gallery porch) and the addition of a new doorway on the south to access the new stairway in the adjoining bay. In 1943, the ward held thirty beds. The west wing also continued to be used as a sleeping ward after the remodeling, though now had less space. The east end of the wing was partitioned off from the ward and divided up between two rooms with two beds (presumably used by staff), a psychologist's office, another office, and a connecting hallway. The remaining space in the ward accommodated twenty-one beds. The dividing wall between the east wing and the east addition was removed. Sixteen more beds were located in the addition.[20]

Post-1965, the large sleeping wards were subdivided by Danville Area Community College to create additional classroom space. The east ward was partitioned up into the two classrooms, a bathroom, and a connecting hallway. In the east wing, the ward here was divided up into two classrooms, with a hallway running along their south side. The east addition served as a single large classroom.

[20] Ibid.

c. Third Floor Description:

The third floor of the building is a half-story attic and can be accessed by means of the central stairway. The attic was used for sleeping quarters during the early years of the Danville Branch's operation, when the membership reached as high as 4,000.[21] The floor later appears to have been relegated to storage space. Most of the finished space in the attic is taken up by a long corridor, which follows the long axis of the building. The corridor is intersected at points by dormers and cross gables, which considerably increase the amount the amount of usable space. Doorways break the corridor into three distinct sections, aligned to the central block and two wings. The sections over the wings are not partitioned into separate rooms. A number of doorways are present in the knee walls, allowing access to the unfinished space behind them. There are several distinct rooms in the central block. One of these is located in the north wall dormer and is illuminated by the string of arched windows described earlier. Large closets flank this room on the east and west. The stairway accessing the floor is positioned in the south wall dormer of the central block and originally opened directly onto the center section of the corridor, which thus doubled as a stair hall. The stair opening is suspected to have been surrounded by a balustrade, and the hall would have been well lit by the arched windows on its south side. During the 1934-1935 remodeling, however, the stairway was closed off with masonry fire walls. This necessitated the infilling (with brick) of two of the arched windows. Closets are located to either side of the stair hall (just like the room located north of it). Each has a small window looking out into the hall, which would have shed natural light into their interiors prior to the construction of the fire walls. There is evidence of shelving and/or benches having been once present in the closets, and these rooms may have formerly been used for clothing storage.

The ceiling height in the central block of the attic is 11'-5". The remainder of the floor has garret ceilings that measure 8'-0" in the center and 5'-2-½" at the knee walls.

The attic in the west wing is unfinished. However, there are a number of steel pipes with hire hooks hanging from the ceiling here. This suggests that this area was once used for storage—most likely for clothing.

[21] Danville Veterans Hospital, p.27.

The attic level appears to have seen limited use during its later years. The room in the north wall dormer did eventually have veneered paneling installed on its walls, which suggests that it saw some activity post-1960s. The remainder of floor, however, was not updated.

d. Basement Description:

The footprint of the basement grossly mirrors that of the floor above it. The central block is divided among six rooms, which are arranged in two ranks separated by an east-west corridor. The corridor continues through to connect the two adjoining wings, each of which comprises a single large room. Originally, the basement was accessible through only two points: the interior stairway in the central block, and the exterior bulkhead stairway positioned in the southeast corner of the west wing. The early use of the rooms on this level is unknown. However, the general spaciousness of the basement suggests that it was intended for considerable activity. Another indicator suggestive of regular use is the fact that the ceiling joists and underside of the first floor flooring—which originally were left exposed—were whitewashed.

During the 1934-1935 remodeling, the basement received two additional access points with the installation of the new stairways in the south bays of the building. Also at this time, the ceilings in the basement were covered with metal lath and plastered. According to a floor plan drawn in 1934, the east wing of the basement was to be used as a corrective clinic/exercise and recreation room, while the east wing was to be used for the storage of raincoats and overshoes. In the central block, the north rank of rooms comprised a bathroom on the east, a storage room in the middle, and a clothing clerk's room on the west. The three rooms opposite these were a utility service room on the east, a stair hall in the center, and a nursing assistants' locker and dressing room on the west. A large hot water tank and electrical service panels were located in the utility service room. The basement areas beneath the east addition and new porch appear to have been intended to have no prescribed function.[22] The roof configuration in the basement has remained unchanged since 1934.

2. Stairways:

[22] Veterans Administration, "Basement and Attic Plans, Continued Treatment Building No. 9, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois" (1934), sheet 9-1.

As originally constructed, the building had a single interior stairway, located in the south end of the central block, which accessed all four levels. The stairway was open and of frame construction. During the 1934-1935 remodeling, this stairway was replaced with one of steel-frame construction with slate treads. The new stairway did not follow the configuration of the original one.[23] Wire grille panels and doors were installed on the second floor and attic stair landings. During this same period, two new stairways of similar construction were added in the bays on the south side of the building.[24] The floors in the bays were removed, and these areas converted over to stairwells. A number of original window openings were bricked-in to accommodate the new stairways. These modifications represented an attempt to both fireproof the building and provide additional exits in the event of a fire.

3. Flooring:

The basement rooms have poured concrete floors. The flooring used on the first and second floors is 7/8"x3" tongue-and-groove maple. Similar maple flooring runs down the center of the corridor in the attic, while 7/8"x3-¼" tongue-and-groove yellow pine is used for the remainder of the floor. The maple was thus used for the section of floor exposed to most traffic and wear.

Ceramic tile was put down in the toilet, shower, shave, and utility rooms on the first and second floors during the 1934 remodeling (see V-2003-2-B-S7). The wood flooring in most of the other rooms on the first and second floors eventually was covered with square vinyl tile.

In the west addition, the basement has an unfinished cinder floor. The three levels above it all have concrete slab floors.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:

The ceilings in the basement originally were left open, and floor joists and underside of the flooring were whitewashed. The ceiling later was enclosed with plaster applied over metal lath, presumably during the 1934-1935 remodeling. This plastering episode reflects an attempt at better

[23] The field investigation found evidence for the location of the original stair stringers along the walls of the stairwell. The stringers had been attached to the brick prior to the wall being plastered, and after they were removed the resulting void needed to be filled with new plaster. This juncture between the old and new plaster is definable on the walls.

[24] Steel stair components similar those used in Building 9 are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, *Julius Blum Catalog No. 6* [New York: Julius Blum and Company, Inc., 1953], p. 74).

fireproofing the building, as well as creating a more finished space in the basement.

Original walls on the first, second, and third floors were covered with plaster applied over brick, while the ceilings had plaster applied over wood lath. Later partition walls have plaster and wire lath. Most interior walls and ceiling surfaces were painted historically. A notable exception are the shower rooms, where the stalls proper are lined with marble panels while the lower 6' of the walls in the remainder of the room is covered with enameled steel tile (in contrast to the ceramic tile used in Building 5) (see V-2003-2-B-S7). Marble panels also were used to separate the stools in the toilet rooms. The architectural plans for the tile work were drawn up in December 1934, and the tile presumably was installed shortly thereafter.[25] Details of these original plans are included with the supplemental materials (see V-2003-2-B-S1 through S6).

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

The interior of the building originally was equipped with machine-made, wood, paneled doors. During the 1934 remodeling and later, flush wood doors and steel fire doors were installed. Later doors have steel casings, compared to the wood casings used for the original doors. However, in a number of instances, older doors clearly have been reset within steel casings with heavy-duty hinges.

Original interior doorways on the first and second floor held six-paneled wood doors. The doorways leading into the wings were wider and had paired doors. A number of these six-paneled doors still remain in place (mostly on the second floor); they measure 2'-2'-10" to 2'-11"x7'-10"x1-¾". The majority of the doors installed post-1934 on the first and second floors are flush, solid wood doors that are varnished and measure 2'-11-½"x6'-10-½"x1-¾".

All of the original doors in the attic have been removed, but they likely were paneled like those found on the floors below. The doorways dividing the central corridor in the attic measure 5'-0"x7'-0" and once held paired doors which swung in both directions. The pins on which these doors pivoted are still present in the floor and ceiling. The doorway accessing the room in the north wall dormer measures 3'-0"x7'-½". The knee wall doorways

[25] Veterans Administration, "Marble and Tile Work, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 86.

measure 2'-6"x4'-6-½". The doorway trim in the attic is varnished, which suggests that the doors were as well.

The doors present in the basement generally are similar in character to those described in the IL HABS documentation for Building 5 (IL HABS V-2003-2-A). The doors at the opposite ends of the central corridor have two solid panels, while those accessing the stairwells measure 3'-5-½"x6'-11-½" and have a twelve-light sash (with fire glass) with a flush solid panel below. Identical fire doors were used in the stairwells on the floors above.

b. Windows:

The windows in the building have previously been discussed in section II.B.7.b. Some additional details will be offered here. The sides and top edges of the window openings on the first, second, and third floors are curved—an effect created through the use of molded brick that has been plastered over. Interestingly, the windows openings that are rectangular on the exterior are segmental arched on the interior. The closet windows in the attic measure 1'-6"x5'-3" and show no evidence of ever having sash present.

The rooms that were added on the west end of the second floor of the east wing in 1934-1935 each have a single window looking onto the corridor connecting them. These widows have a single multi-paned, fixed sash and were intended to shed light into the corridor.

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

The building has limited decorative features on its interior, which is reflective of its utilitarian purpose. The original windows and doors were cased on the interior of the building with molded yellow pine trim, which generally measures ¾"x3-¾"and was stained and varnished originally. The trim on the exterior doorways on the first floor has an applied molding on its outer edge. These doorways also have "bulls-eye" head blocks. Similar trim possibly was used on the interior doorways on the first and second floors, but this not entirely clear, on account of the extensive removal of the original door trim on these floors during the 1934 remodeling. The doorways on the attic level have ¾"x3-¾" molded trim with a similar profile to that found on the exterior doorways, but lacking an applied molding. These doorways have a plain base block but lack heads blocks; instead, the head and casing trim are mitered together. During the 1934 remodeling, all of the original door trim in the basement, first, and second floors was removed and replaced with simpler ¾"x4-¼"

pine trim. This trim has a slightly rounded at the edges but otherwise is flat.

The window openings on the first, second, and third floors have flat head and casing trim. Their apron trim, however, is molded and has a profile similar to that used on the original doors[26].

7. Hardware:

The original framing in the building primarily is attached with machine-cut nails. A notable exception is some of the large framing used for the roof trusses in the central block, which are bolted together. Wire-drawn nails are used for the later framing in the building.

The original doors in the buildings primarily were held with brass butt hinges having ball-tipped loose pins. Two exceptions were the paired doors partitioning the central corridor in the attic, which swung both directions on pivots. The original doors also were equipped with mortise locks. Most of the doors installed post-1934 are hung with heavy-duty butt hinges with ball bearings.[27] The bathroom doors on the first and second floors swing on pintel-type hinges marked 'Rixson / PATENTED / No. 20."

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

One of the first buildings completed at the Danville Branch was a boiler house designed to supply steam heat to all of the principal structures at the facility. The boiler house was located east of the barracks circle and had twelve boilers.[28] This heating system does not appear to have been fully operational at the facility until 1902-1903.[29] During the interim, Building 9 may have been heated with wood and/or coal burning stoves. Historic photograph indicate that the barracks buildings had eight chimneys originally.

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[26] The apron trim in the original sleeping wards have two pairs of drilled holes (3/8" dia., 1-¾" on-center) that were later infilled with wood dowels. The holes possible were drilled for lag bolts (or similar hardware) used to hold bed frames in place.

[27] Similar hinges are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, p.74).

[28] Ibid, p.4, 7.

[29] House, H. Doc. 46, p.175.

After steam heat became available, cast-iron radiators were installed in the building. Several of the radiators in the attic had benches with slatted side panels built over them. The existing radiators were manufactured by the American Radiator Company. Those in the basement are mounted on the wall. The pipes running between the floors were enclosed during the 1934-1935 remodeling.

Window-mounted air conditioning units were used in the building later in its history.

b. Lighting:

The building was equipped with lighting throughout its period of active use. The first annual report submitted for the Danville Branch noted that electricity had been brought into the facility for lighting before the end of 1898.[30] A 1903 photograph of a typical barrack's ward at the Danville Branch shows three rows of lighting running down the length of the room. Two rows were located above the beds. These fixtures had a simple flat shade and two bulbs and were suspended from the ceiling with a narrow pipe. A line of more ornate, T-shaped light fixtures ran down the center aisle of the ward (reference historic photograph attached as V-2003-2-A-S3). Early knob-and-tube wiring and some incandescent light fixtures are still present in the attic level.

The electrical system in the building likely was updated in the 1930s. Although no electrical plans from this period were located for Building 9, such plans do exist for Building 10,[31] and it is not unreasonable to suspect that wiring updates were made in all of the preexisting structures at the facility.

Building 9 was illuminated most recently with fluorescent lighting. It is not clear whether these fixtures were added during the VA's period of occupation or by DACC.

c. Plumbing:

The original plans suggest that the building was supplied with running water from the date of its construction. Each of the four

[30] House, H. Doc. 55, p.10.

[31] Veterans Administration, "Electrical Distribution, Basement Plans, Buildings 10 and 12, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing E-7; Veterans Administration, "Electrical Details, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 10-10.

wards present on the first on the second floors was equipped with toilets, sinks, and a tub(s). The tubs were located in separate rooms from the toilets. During the 1934 remodeling, the bathroom arrangement was reconfigured, as has been detailed in section II.C.1.

The building ultimately was equipped with a sprinkler system, although the date at which this was first done is not clear. A basement plan drawn in 1934, but later revised, does show a sprinkler valve enclosure in the northeast corner of the central block.[32] However, there also are plans, dated February 1964, for an automatic sprinkler system installed by the Century Sprinkler Corporation of Richmond Virginia.[33] It is possible that the latter plans pertain to an updating of an earlier system installed during the 1934 remolding. The sprinkler valve enclosure mentioned still remains in place. Comprised of wire grille screens, the enclosure protects a series of control valves.

Fire hoses also were installed in the building post 1934. The hoses were connected to the main water supply and were kept within closet set into the walls.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation:

Building 9 lies on the northeastern edge of the ellipse around which the original fourteen barracks at the Danville Branch were arrayed. The building faces due north and its long axis is oriented east/west. Building 10 lies immediately to the south of it. The area to the west of Building 9 is open green space, characterized by grass-covered lawn with scattered trees.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

Nothing is known about the historic landscape design around Building 9. However, historic photographs do illustrate ornamental plantings—shrubs and trees—around the different barracks, as well as a system of sidewalks running between the buildings.

3. Outbuildings:

[32] Veterans Administration, Drawing 9-1.

[33] Veterans Administration, "Auto Sprinkler System, Building No. 9, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois," 2 sheets (1964).

Building 9 did not have any outbuildings specifically associated with it. It was part of a larger complex consisting of multiple specialized structures.

PART III (SOURCES OF INFORMATION), PART IV (METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH), AND PART V (PROJECT INFORMATION) OF THE OUTLINE FOR THIS BUILDING ARE LOCATED IN THE COVER DOCUMENT FOR IL HABS No. V-2003-2.

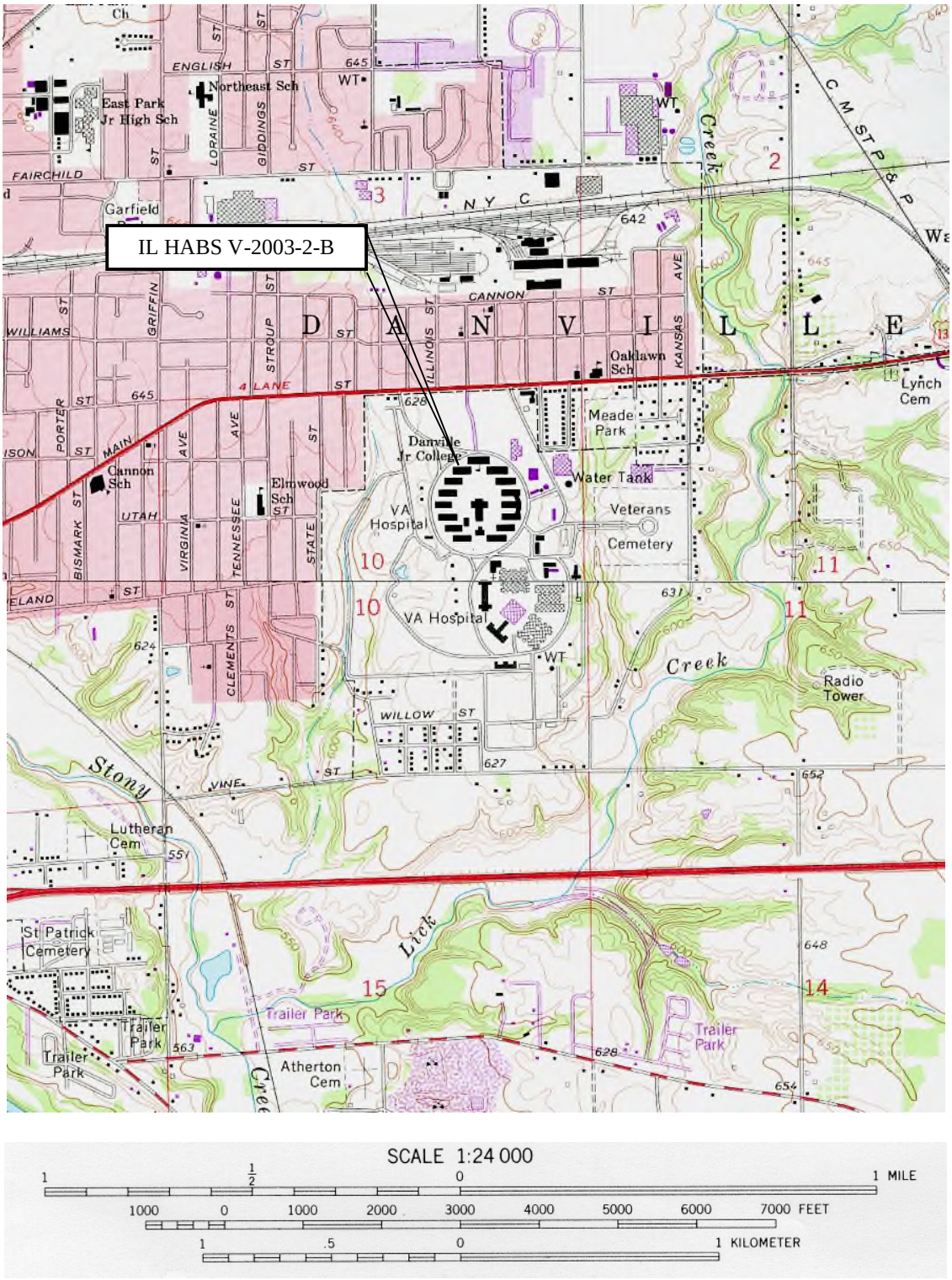


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of IL HABS V-2003-2-B.

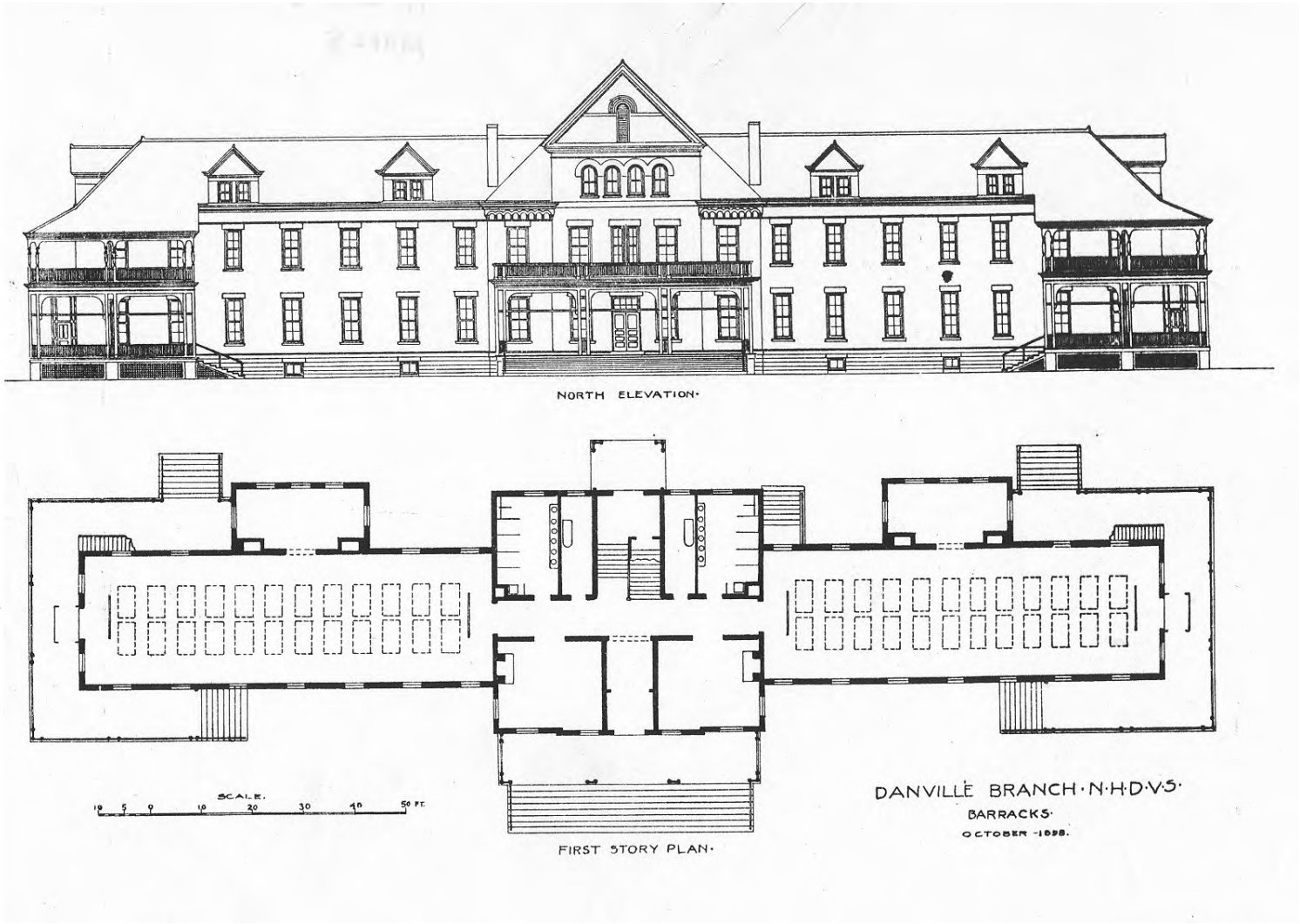


Figure 2. Representative plans of the north elevation and first floor of the type of barracks constructed at the Danville Branch, NHDVS. These plans reflect the original design of Building 9 (House Doc. 55, plate 8).

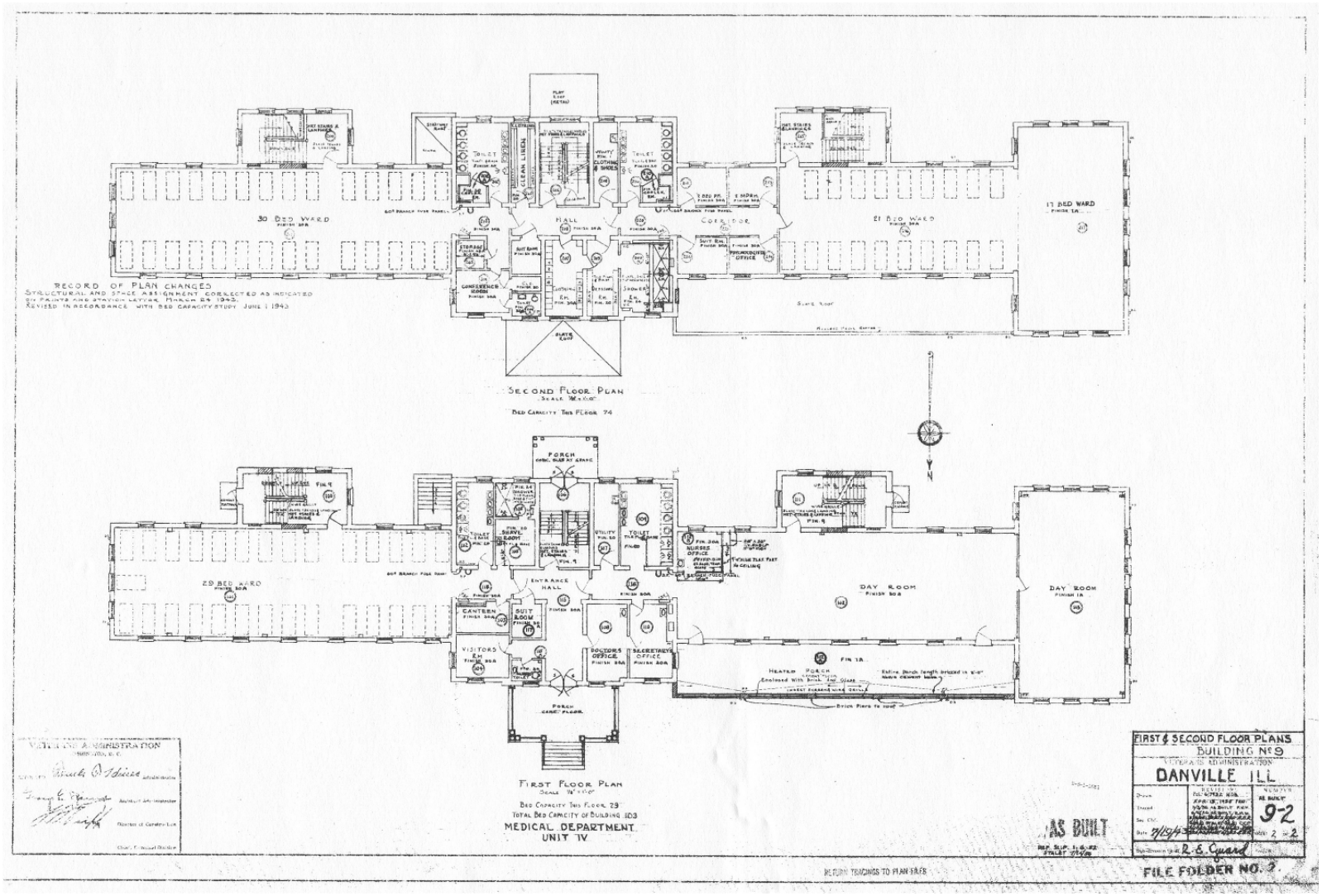


Figure 3. First and second floor plans of Building 9, showing modification undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

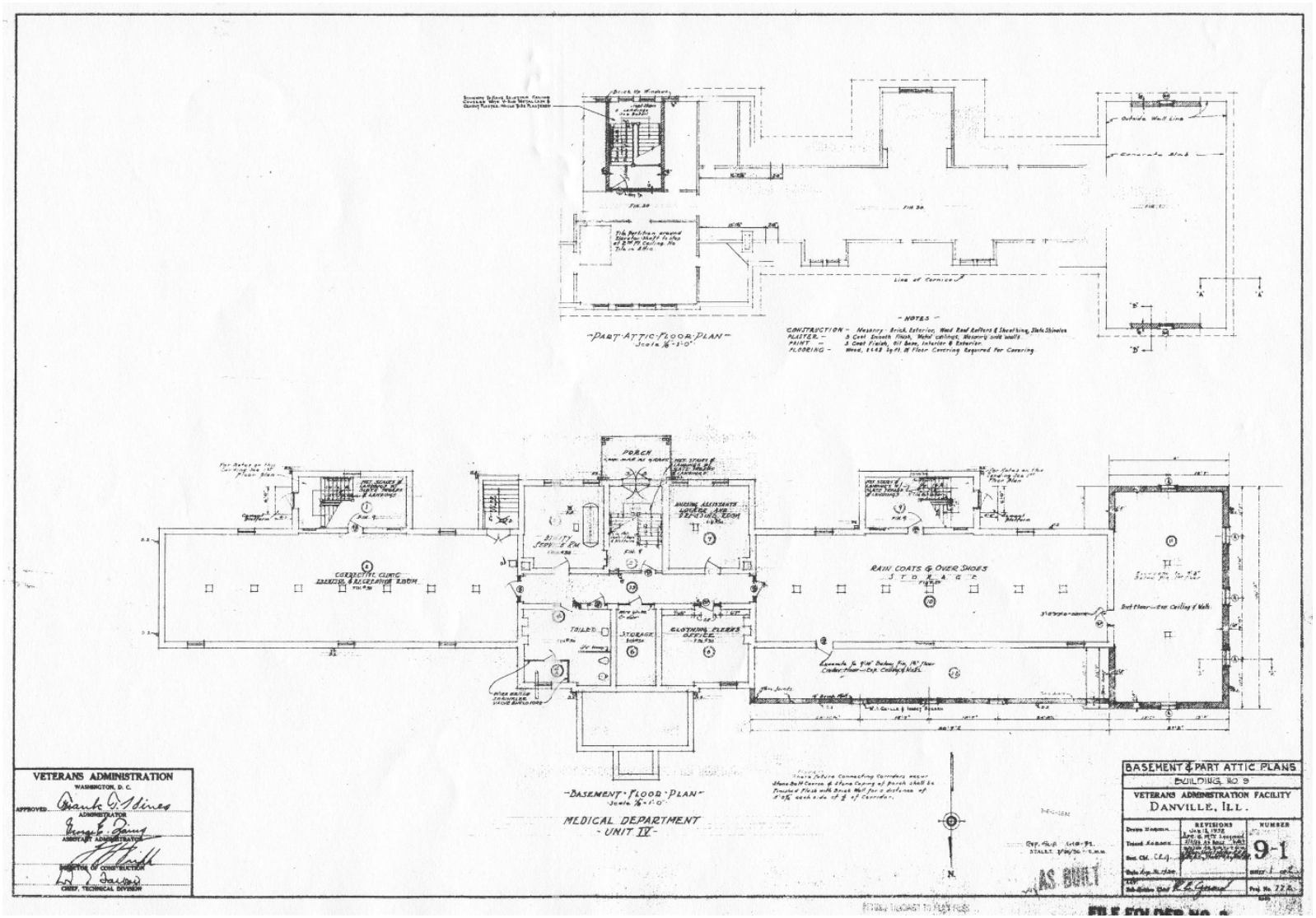


Figure 4. Basement and partial attic plans of Building 9, showing modification undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

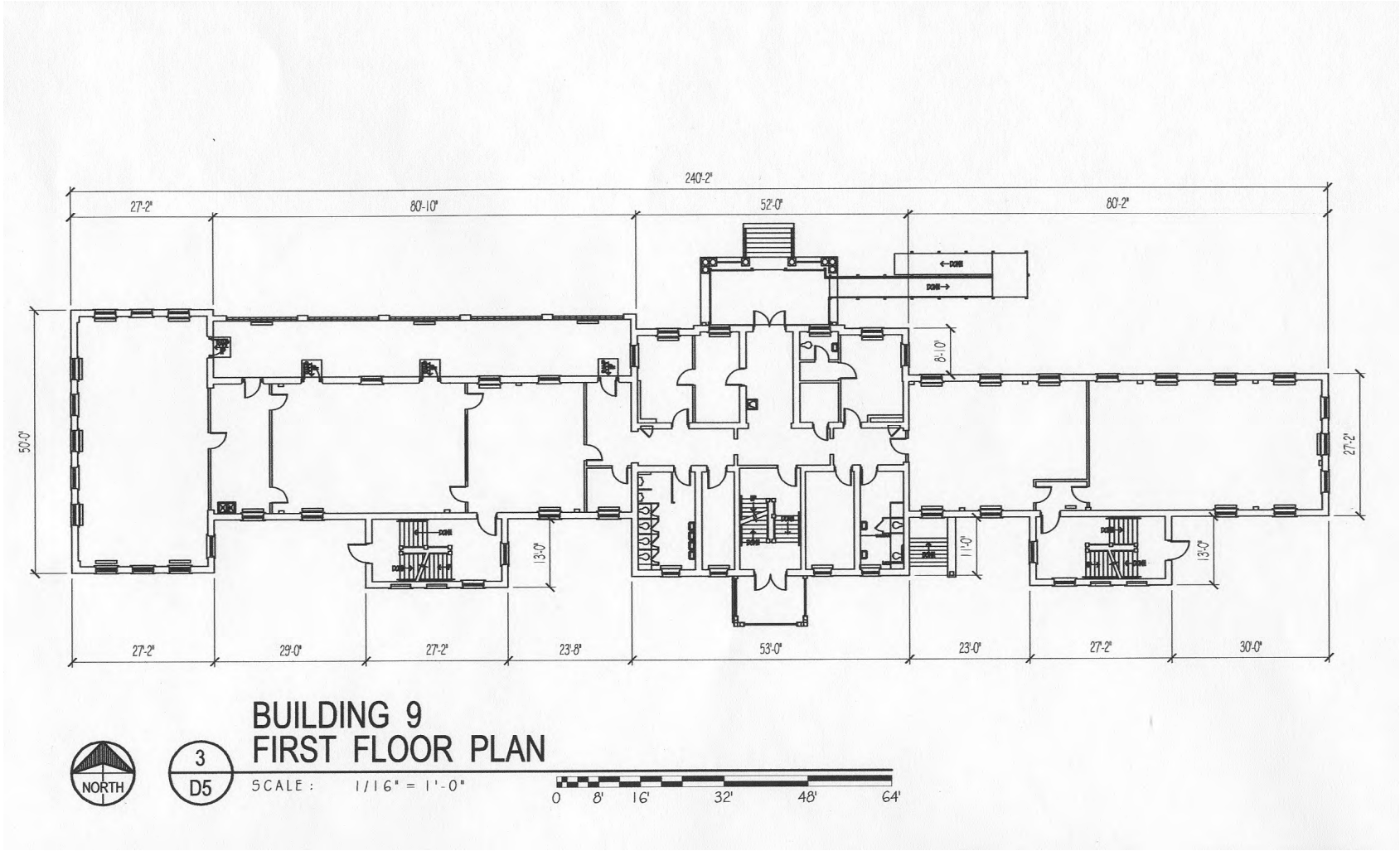


Figure 5. First floor plan of Building 9, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

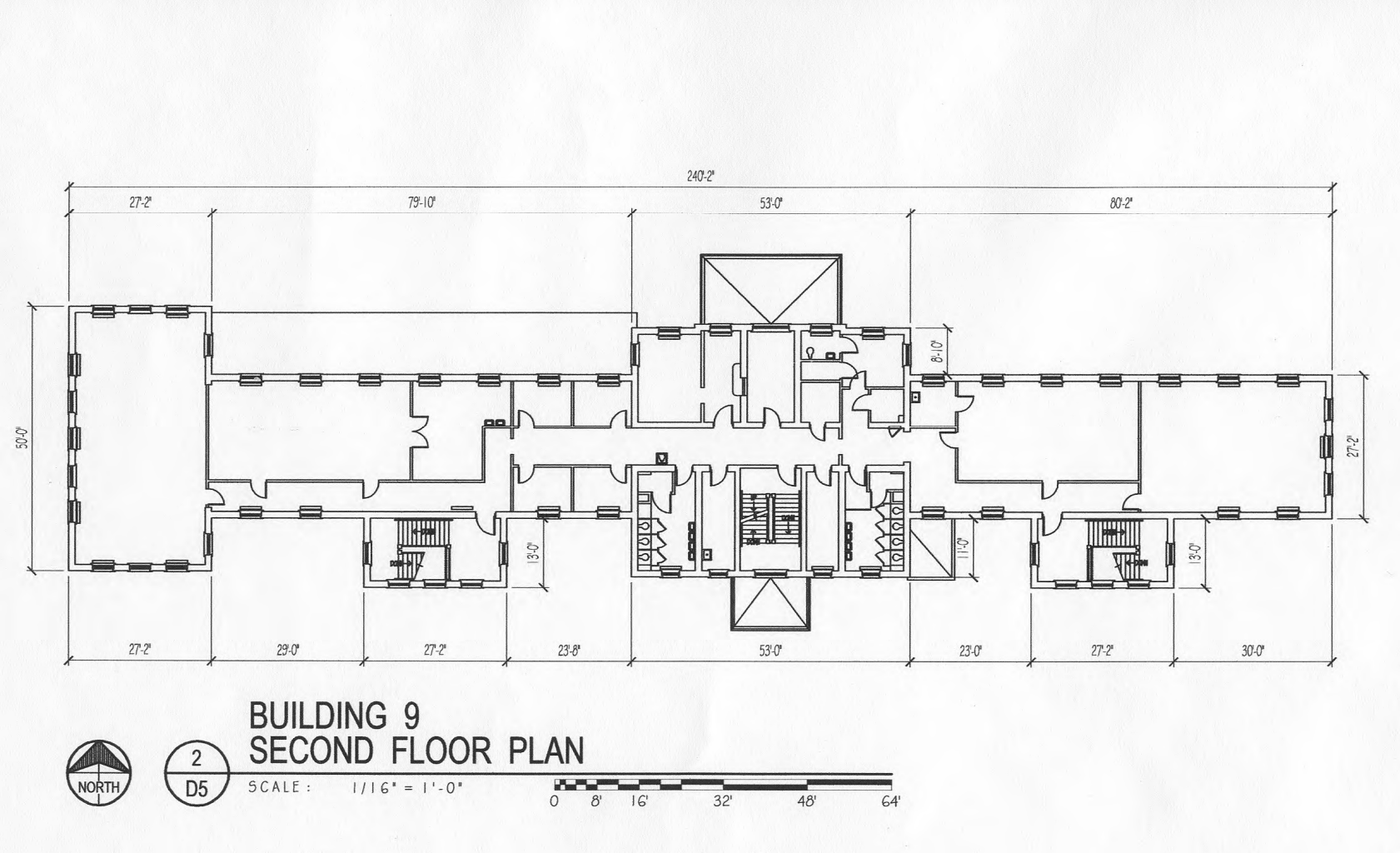


Figure 6. Second floor plan of Building 9, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

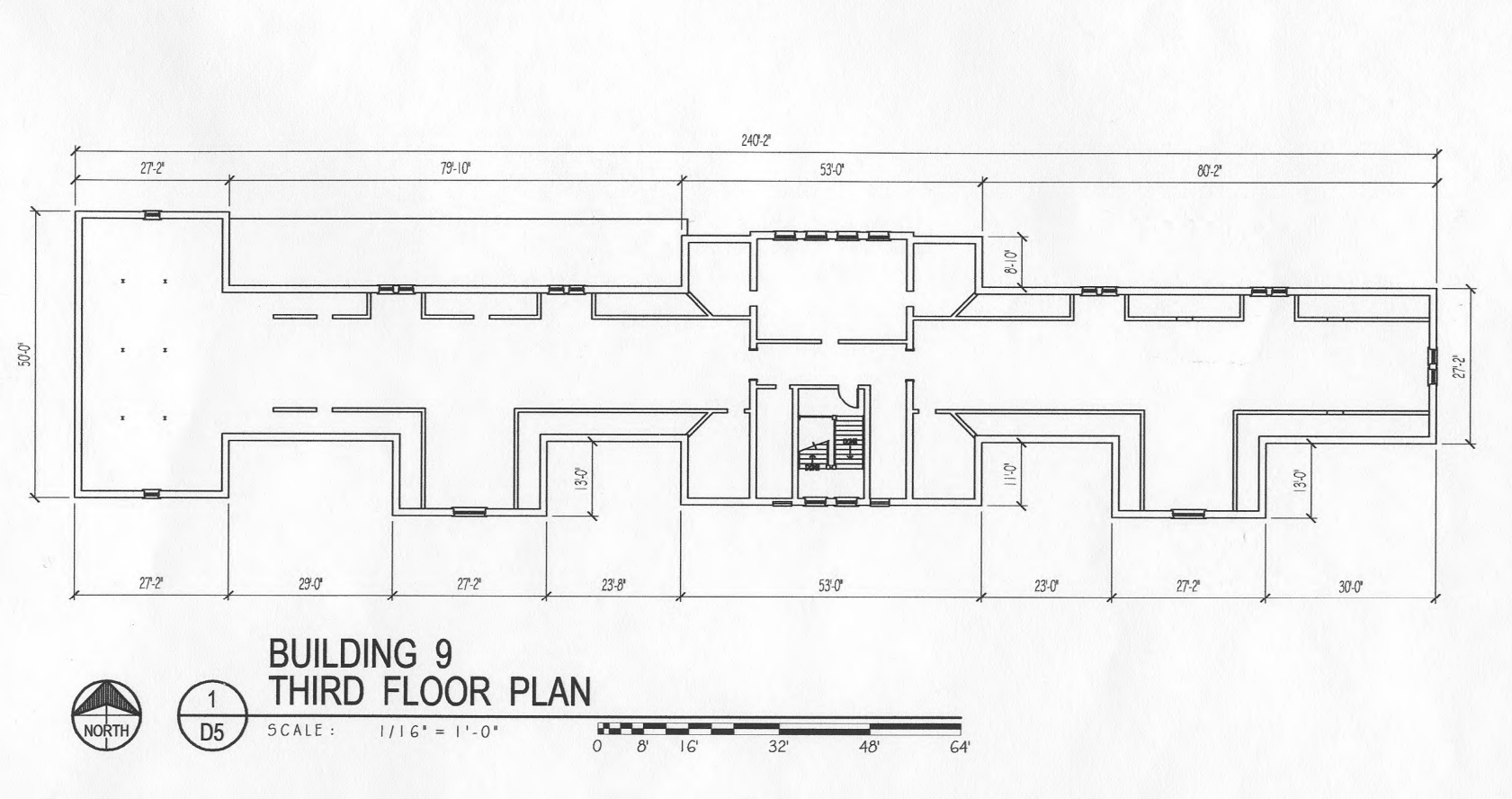


Figure 7. Third floor (or attic) plan of Building 9, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

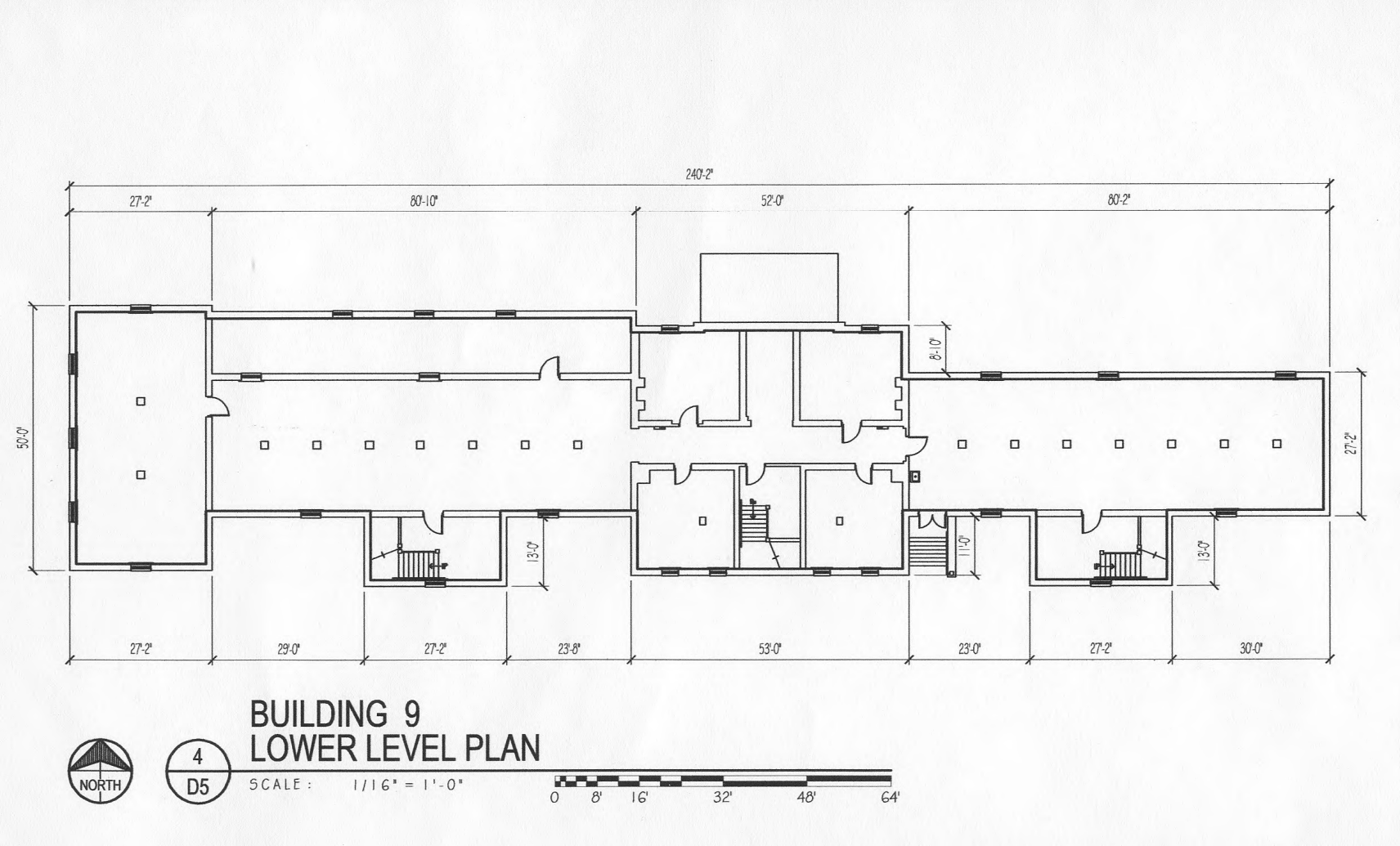


Figure 8. Basement plan of Building 9, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Building 9 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-B
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

Documentation: 8 photographs. William Flesher, photographer (June 2003).

V-2003-2-B.1 Exterior view of the north elevation, showing the enclosed porch added during the 1934 remodeling. The front entrance porch appears at far left.

V-2003-2-B.2 Exterior view looking northeast, showing the west and south elevations of Building 9. The section of the building at far left is the west addition added in 1934.

V-2003-2-B.3 View of the west end of the south elevation, showing the juncture of the west addition and original building. The two-story bay show at right was converted to a stairwell during the 1934 remodeling, resulting in the infilling of several original window openings.

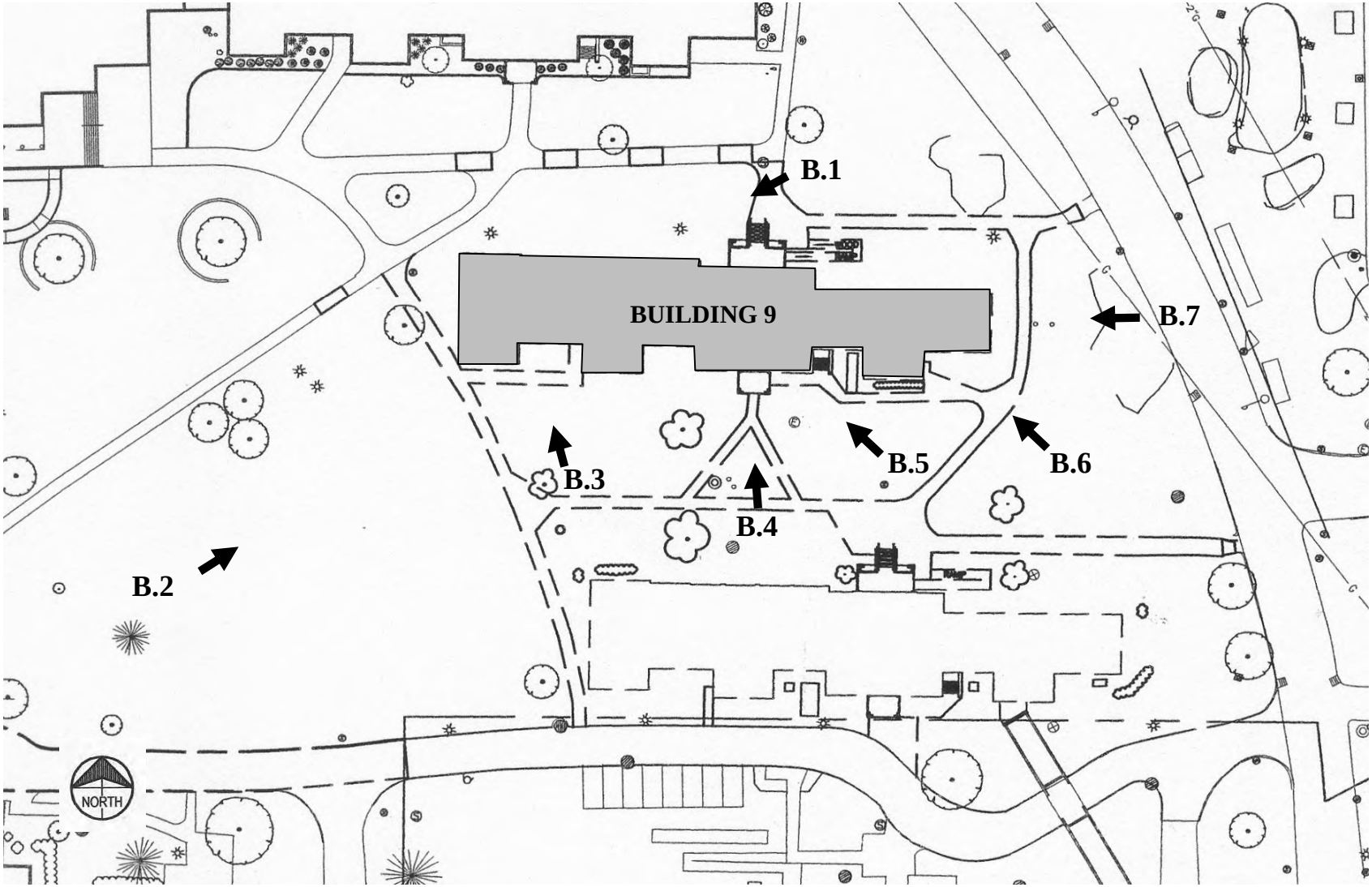
V-2003-2-B.4 View of the south elevation of the central block, showing the entrance porch and arched windows above it.

V-2003-2-B.5 View of the south elevation, showing the juncture of the central block and east wing. The porch for the exterior basement entrance also is shown.

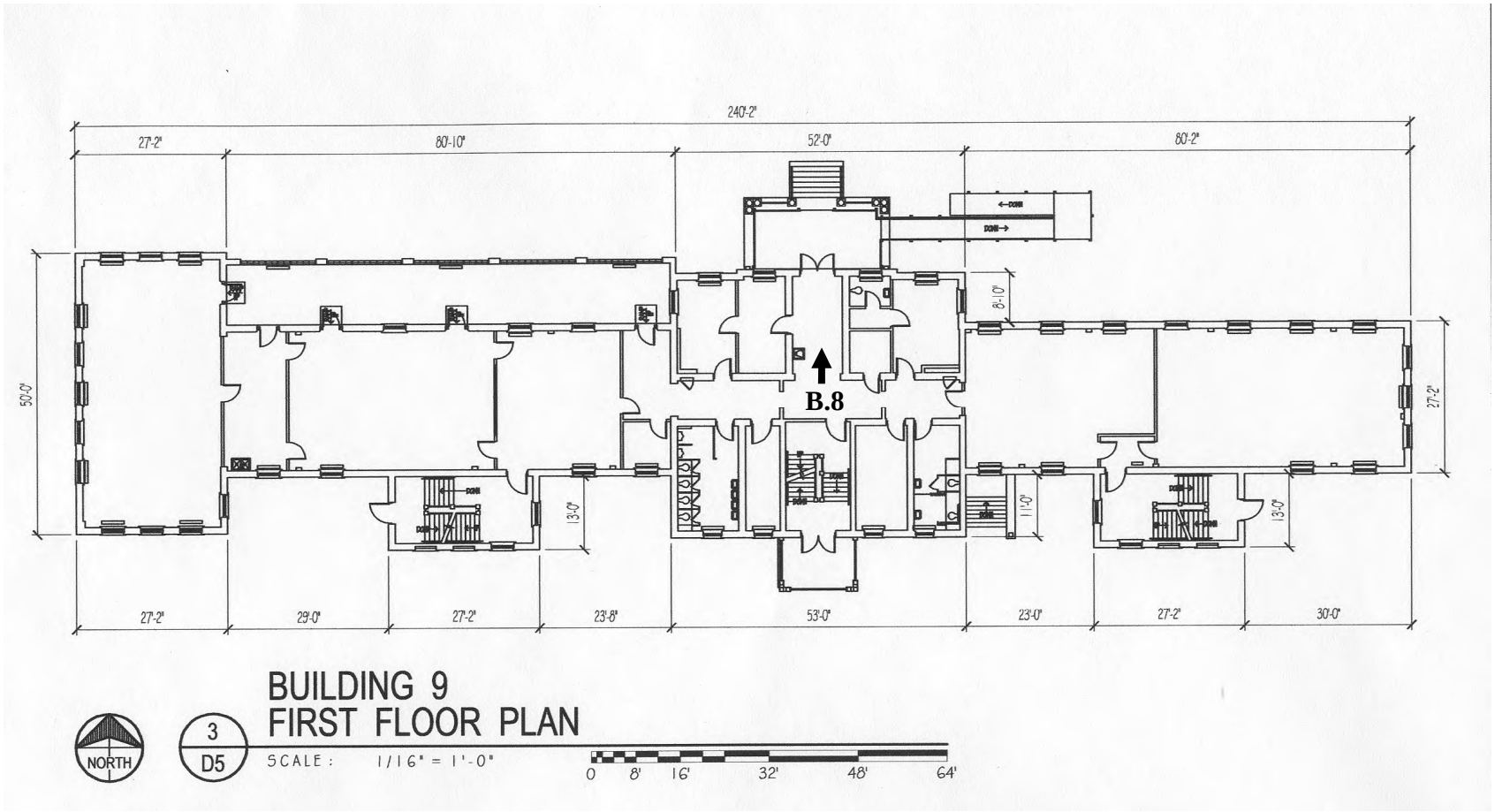
V-2003-2-B.6 View of the south and east elevations, showing east bay and wing.

V-2003-2-B.7 View of the east elevation, showing roof dormer.

V-2003-2-B.8 Interior view of front (north) entrance hall in the central block of the building.



Walton and Associates Architects, P.C.



Walton and Associates Architects, P.C.

IL HABS V-2003-2-B1
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B2
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B3
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B4
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B5
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B6
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-B7
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

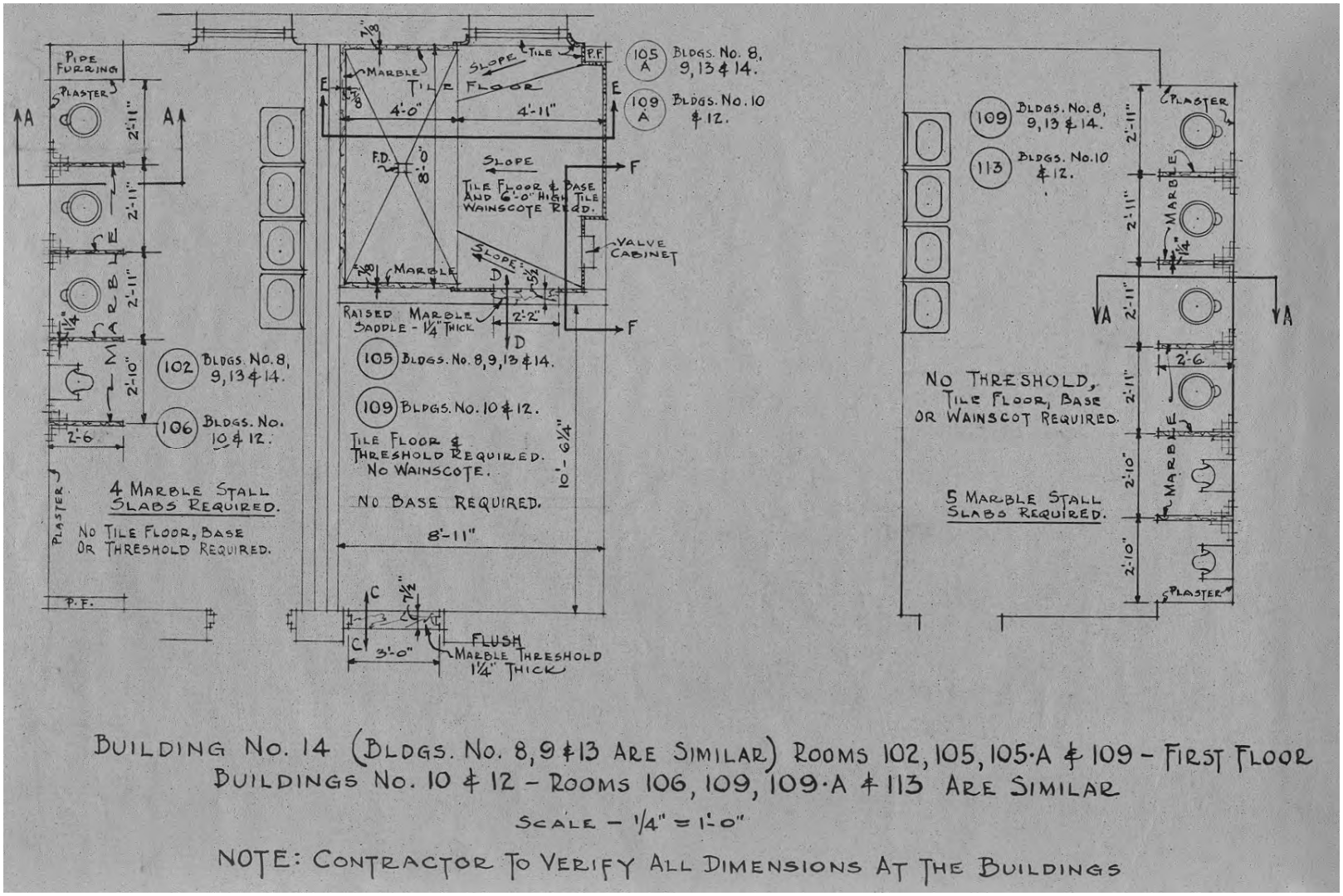
IL HABS V-2003-2-B8
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Building 9 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-B
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermillion County
Illinois

V-2003-2-B-S1	Plans for the bathrooms and shower rooms installed on the first floor of Building 9 during 1934 remodeling.[1]
V-2003-2-B-S2	Sectional views showing wall finishes in toilet stalls and around mixing valve cabinets in first-floor bathrooms.[2]
V-2003-2-B-S3	Sectional view through first-floor shower stall on showing wall finishes.[3]
V-2003-2-B-S4	Plans of bathrooms installed on second floor of Building 9 during 1934 remodeling.[4]
V-2003-2-B-S5	Plans of shower room installed on second floor of Building 9 during 1934 remodeling.[5]
V-2003-2-B-S6	Sectional view through second-floor shower room showing wall finishes.[6]
V-2003-2-B-S7	Examples of tile used in the shower rooms of the building. (LEFT) Enameled steel wall tile from the shower room on the first floor. (RIGHT) Ceramic floor tiles and baseboard from the shower room on the second floor.

[1] Veterans Administration, "Marble and Tile Work, Building Nos. 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14, Veterans Administration, Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934).
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Fever River Research.

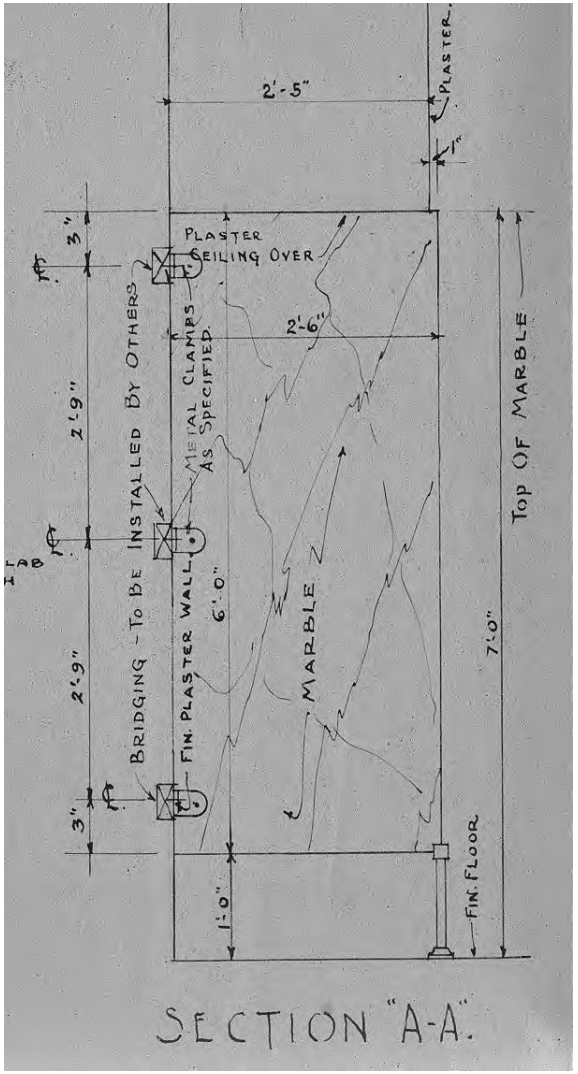


BUILDING NO. 14 (BLDGS. NO. 8, 9 & 13 ARE SIMILAR) ROOMS 102, 105, 105-A & 109 - FIRST FLOOR
BUILDINGS NO. 10 & 12 - ROOMS 106, 109, 109-A & 113 ARE SIMILAR

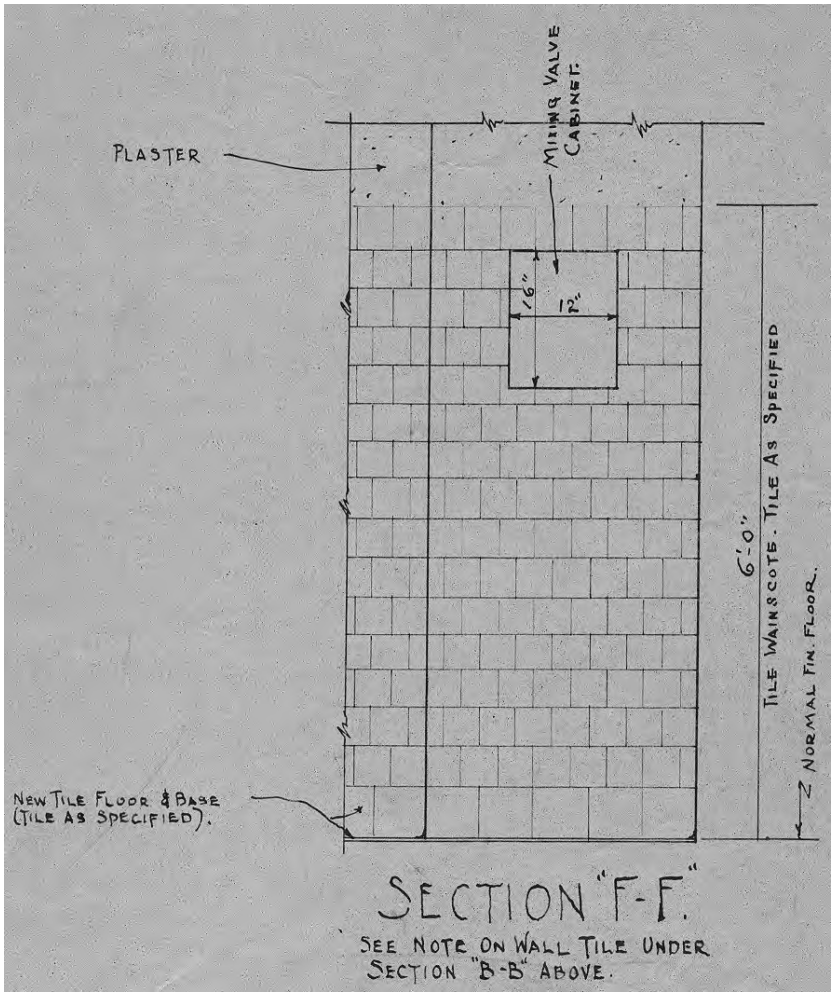
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

NOTE: CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AT THE BUILDINGS

SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



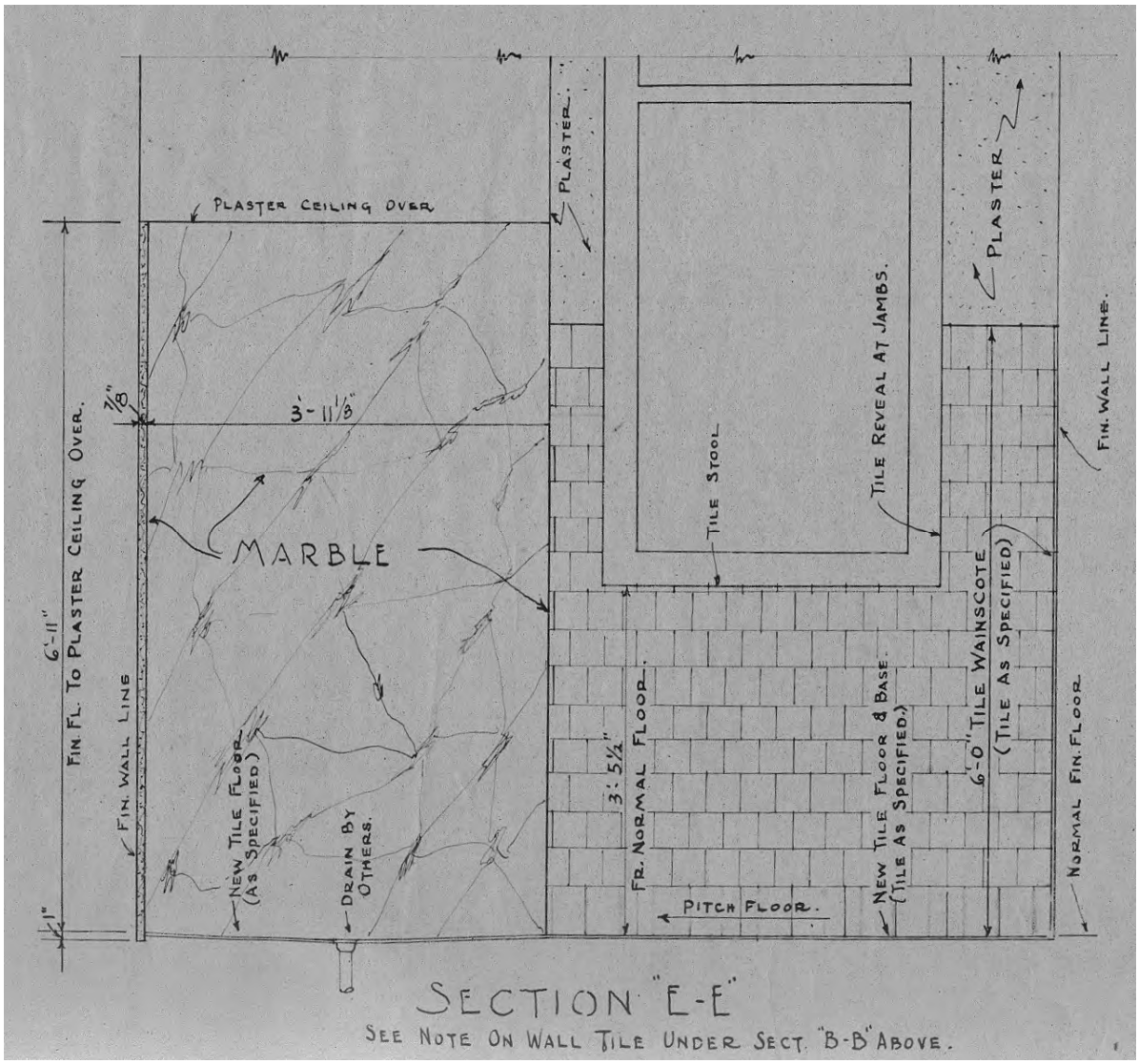
SECTION "A-A".



SECTION "F-F".

SEE NOTE ON WALL TILE UNDER SECTION "B-B" ABOVE.

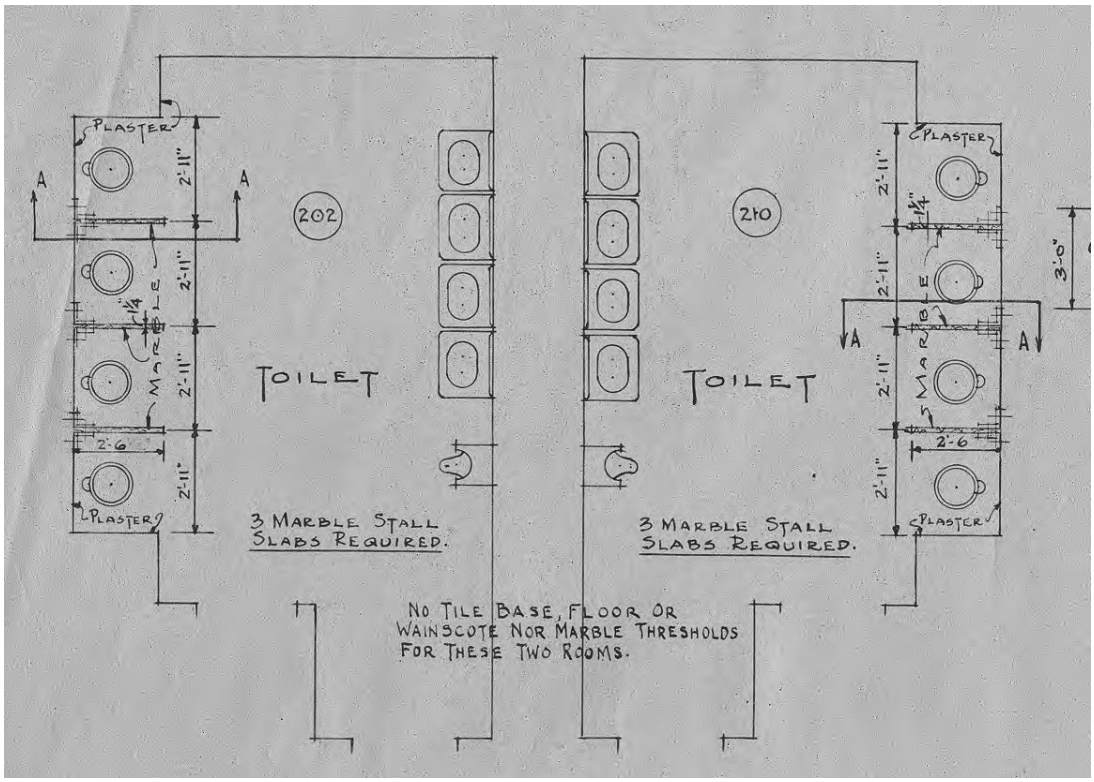
V-2003-2-B-S3
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



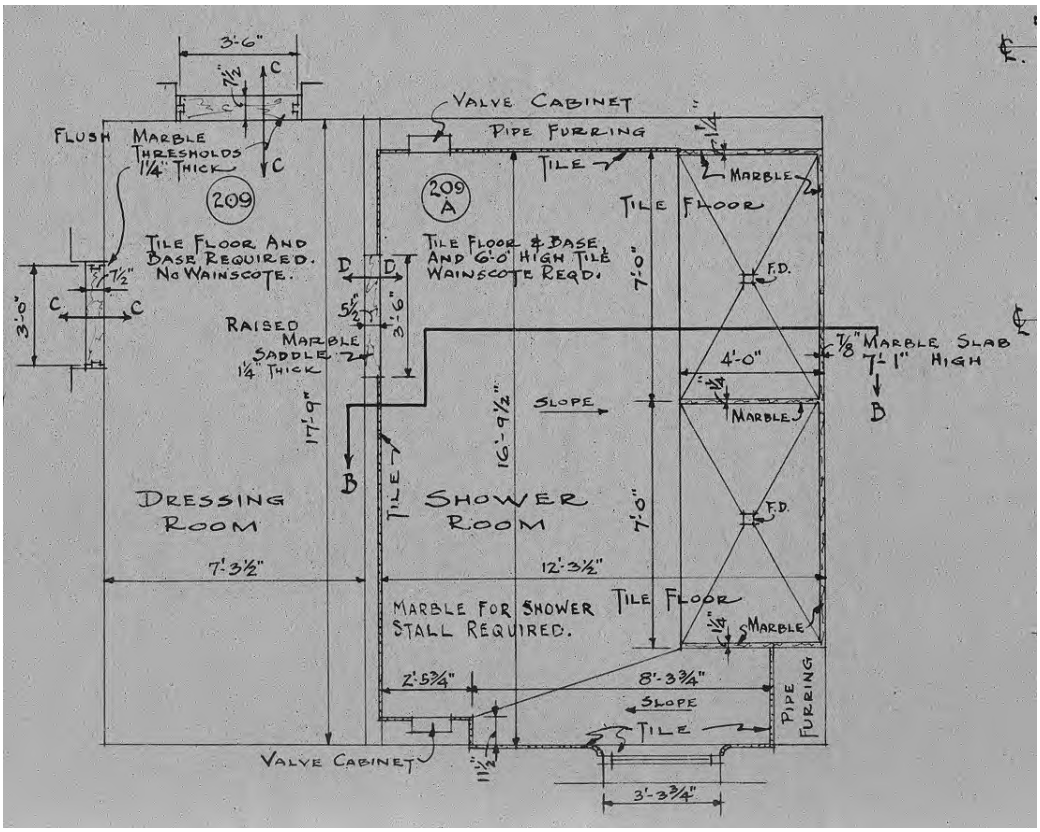
SECTION "E-E"

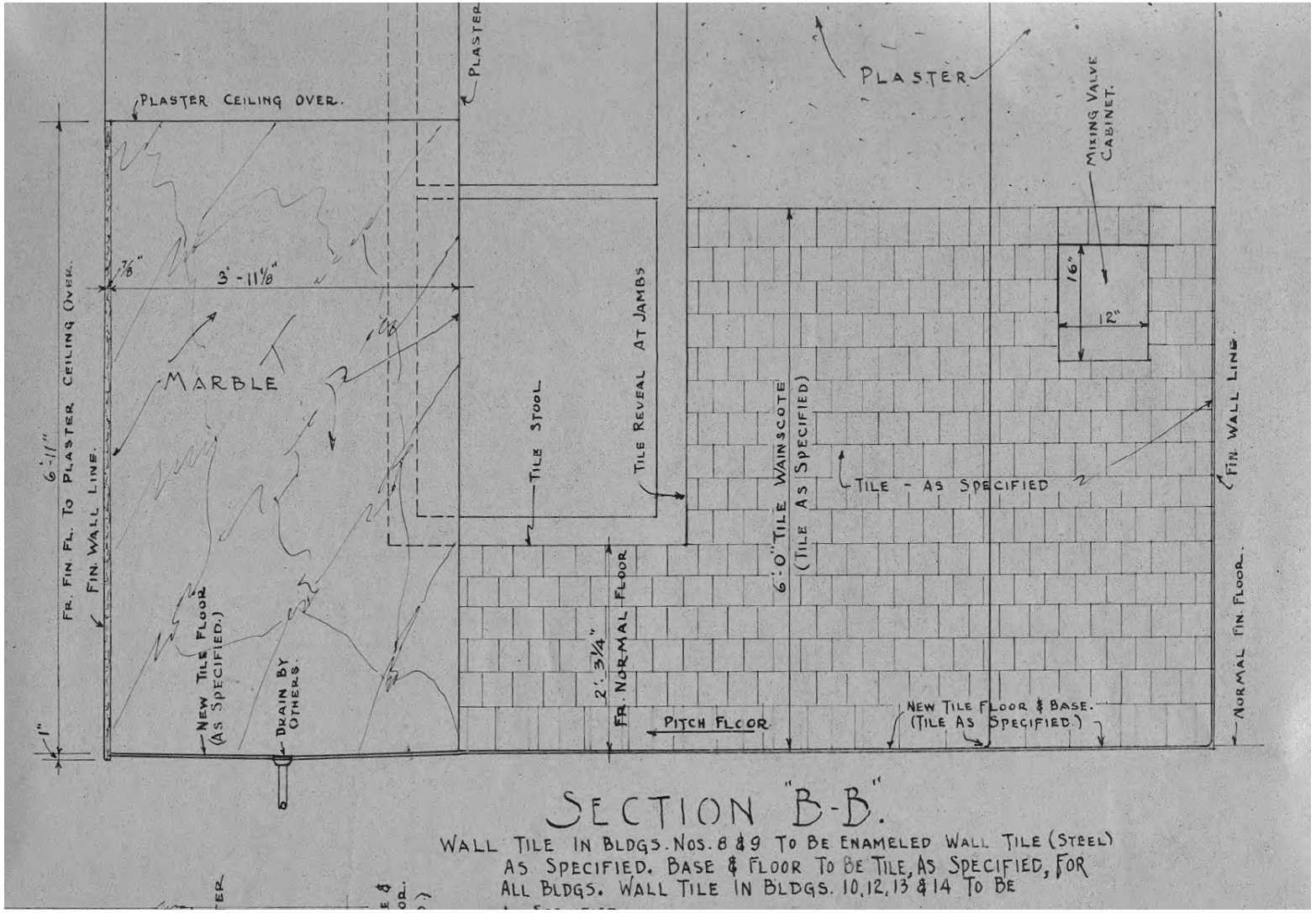
SEE NOTE ON WALL TILE UNDER SECT. "B-B" ABOVE.

V-2003-2-B-S4
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-B-S5
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

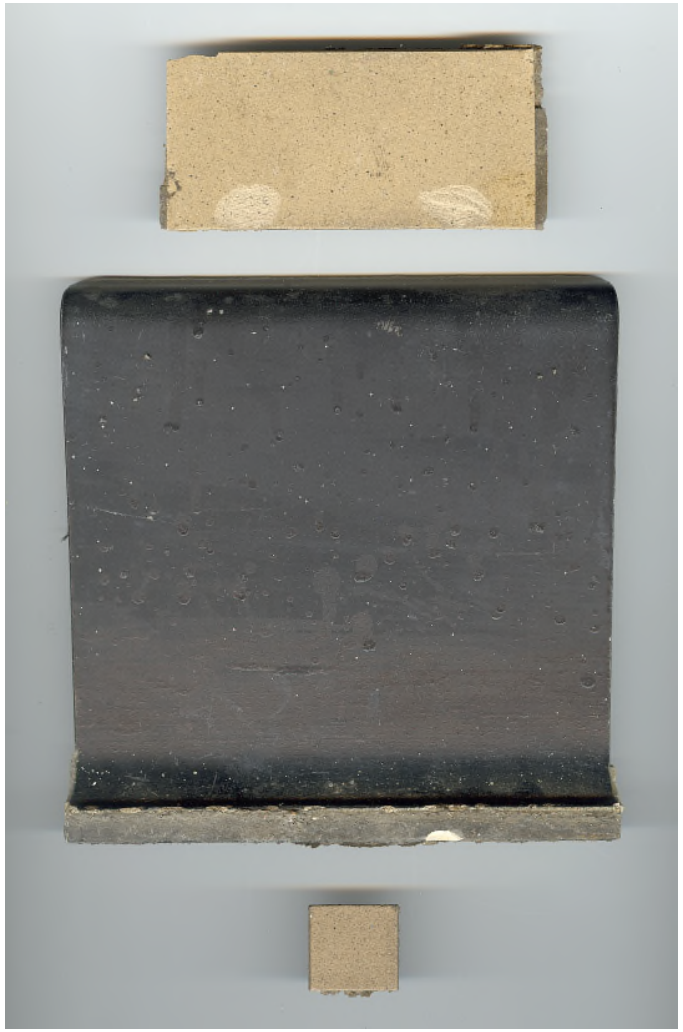




SECTION "B-B".

WALL TILE IN BLDGS. NOS. 8 & 9 TO BE ENAMELED WALL TILE (STEEL) AS SPECIFIED. BASE & FLOOR TO BE TILE, AS SPECIFIED, FOR ALL BLDGS. WALL TILE IN BLDGS. 10, 12, 13 & 14 TO BE

V-2003-2-B-S7
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



Building 10 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-C
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IL HABS No. V-2003-2-C

Location: Building 10 is located within the present grounds of Danville Area Community College, at 2000 East Main Street in Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois. The building lies on the southern edge of the campus.

Present Owner: The building is owned by Danville Area Community College.

Present Occupant: The building has been vacated in expectation of its eventual demolition.

Present Use: Building 10 was vacated several years ago. It was last used as the Danville Area Community College's Business Information Systems Building.

Statement of Significance: Building 10 is a contributing resource to the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The district was nominated to the National Register under Criteria A (social history), in regards to the area of health/medicine, and under Criterion C (architecture). Danville was the eighth of ten such facilities ultimately established by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), nationwide, between 1866 and 1929. Building 10 is a large two-and-one-half-story, brick structure that was built in 1899-1900, during the initial construction phase of the Danville Branch. It originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for elderly and/or disabled veterans and later functioned as and Acute Building after the facility was converted into a neuro-psychiatric hospital administered by the Veterans Administration—the successor to the NHDVS.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection: 1899-1900, 1934

2. Architect:

The architect(s) who designed this building and the other barracks at the Danville Branch are not known. However, it has been speculated that the firm of Peters, Burns, and Pretzinger of Dayton, Ohio may have been responsible.[1] The modifications made in 1934 (and later) were designed by Veterans Administration (VA) architects.[2]

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The land on which Building 10 is located was purchased by the NHDVS in 1897. In 1930, the VA assumed management of the facility. In 1965 the VA leased Building 10 and a number of adjacent structures to Danville Area Community College.

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers:

The specific builders, contractors, and suppliers employed in the original construction of the building are not known. The elevator installed in the building in 1921 was manufactured by the Montgomery Elevator Company of Moline, Illinois. The Works Projects Administration (WPA) directed the construction of the west addition, connector wing, and the other modifications made in 1934.

5. Original Plans:

No original plans specific to Building 10 have been located. However, a representative first-story plan and an elevation view of the barracks buildings ultimately built at the Danville Home were included in the 1898 *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, which was published as House Document (H. Doc.) 55. These plans reflect the original design of Building 10.

Later floor plans specific to Building 10 do exist and are on file at DACC. These plans were drawn in 1934 and 1943 and were revised, as changes were made, through the early 1960s. They are listed below:

--Basement and Attic Plans, Acute Building No. 10 (Drawing No. 10-1, drawn 31 August 1934, with revisions through 23 September 1963)

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[1] Matthew D. Rector, "The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" (master's thesis, Ball State University, 2002), p. 59.

[2] Gjore J. Mollenhoff, Karen R. Tupek, and Sandra Webb, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Hartford Veterans Administration Medical Center" (nomination prepared by the Veterans Administration, 1980), p. 4; available at http://members.valley.net~connriver/V11-21.htm. See also: Veterans Administration, Office of Facilities Management, "Architectural Set Medical Centers", available at http:www.va.gov/facmgt/historic/Arch_Set.asp.

--First and Second Floor Plans, Acute Building No. 10 (Drawing No. 10-2, drawn July 1943, with revisions through 15 June 1962)

--First and Second Floor Plans, Acute Building No. 10 (Drawing No. 10-2, drawn 17 October 1956, with revisions made 29 March 1962)

--First and Second Floor Plans, Building No. 10—Junior College Vocational Tech Building (undated drawing showing proposed changes post-1965)

--Electrical Details, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois (Drawing No. 10-10, drawn 15 August 1930, with revisions through 11 August 1934 [two copies])

--Electrical Distribution, Basement Plans, Buildings No. 10-12 (Drawing No. E-7, drawn 24 August 1934)

--Marble and Tile Work, Buildings 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 (Drawing No. 86, drawn 18 December 1934)

--Utility Connections, Acute Patients Building 10 (Drawing No. 10-5, drawn July 1960, using tracing of drawings prepared 1934-1940)[3]

--Auto Sprinkler System, Building 10 (3 sheets, drawn 23 February 1964)
Sheet 1 (10-P1): Basement and First Floor
Sheet 2 (10-P2) Second and Third Floor
Sheet 3 (10-P3): Attic

--Auto Sprinkler System, Building 10 (3 sheets)[4]
Sheet 1: Basement and First Floor
Sheet 2: Second and Third Floor
Sheet 3: Attic

6. Alterations and Additions:

As originally built, Building 10 had two-story porches located on the ends of its east and west wings, which continued around portions of its north and south elevations. These porches were removed 1934 when a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed addition was added onto the west end of the building. In conjuncture with this addition, a one-story enclosed porch was constructed on the north elevation, between the new addition and the central block, and a new front porch was added. The interior stairways and room configurations also were

[3] A traced copy of this drawing also exists.

[4] These three sheets of drawings were drawn by the Century Sprinkler Corporation (Richmond, Virginia) and cover the same project as those listed immediately preceding it (Project No. 12-5249).

altered at this time. Another major change made during this period was the construction of two-story connector wing between Buildings 10 and 11. These and other changes are discussed in more detail below.

B. Historical Context:

The historical background and structural evolution of the Danville Branch of the NHDVS is described in section I.B. of the cover document for IL-HABS No. V-2003-2. The following discussion is specific to Building 10. Aspects of the structure's original design and later modifications will be discussed in more detail in the sections that follow.

Building 10 was constructed in 1899-1900 and originally served as a barracks, or residence hall, for disabled and/or elderly veterans. It was one of fourteen such buildings erected at the Danville Branch. The 1903 *Illustrated History* of the Danville Branch provided the following description of the barracks at the facility:

> Each barrack has a sleeping capacity for about one hundred and seventy-five members, is some two hundred and fifty feet long by fifty feet wide, two stories with basement and porches, heated by steam and lighted by electricity. There are bath rooms and closets ample for each building. Each barrack is occupied by a "company," with captain, clerk and room orderlies. The men each have a neat iron bed with wire springs, ample bed linen, wool mattress, wool blankets and pillow and a convenient wardrobe for clothing. Under the direction of the company captains the rooms and furniture are kept always scrupulously clean.[5]

A circa 1903 photograph of an unspecified barracks at the Danville Branch indicates that each member in the ward was supplied with a bed, a spindle-backed side chair, and small bedside table. The bed frames were cast iron and had ornamental head and footboards. The tables are not well illustrated in the photograph, but they appear to have had marble tops and one or more drawers below. They may have served a dual role as a washstand and dresser. Coats and hats were hung from the headboards, and shoes were stowed below the beds.

The original company designation for the members housed in Building 10 is not known. The structure is labeled "10" on an 1898 site map submitted by the Board of Directors of the NHDVS to Congress.[6]

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[5] Danville Veterans Hospital, "History of Veterans Administration Hospital Danville, Illinois," *The Bulletin*, 30 April 1965, p.4.

[6] U. S. House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1898*, 55th Congress, H. Doc. 55 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), plate 1.

In 1921, an elevator was installed in Building 10 and three other structures at the Danville Branch.[7] The elevator in Building 10 was positioned in the northeast quadrant of the central block and accessed the upper three stories. This elevator apparently remained in use until 1934, when its shaft was converted over to other uses.

In 1934, Building 10 was turned into an Acute Building as part of the conversion of the Danville VA into a neuro-psyschiatric hospital. Acute Buildings housed disturbed patients who required intensive treatment or posed a threat to themselves or others. They were designed to isolate the patients but also provide specialized treatment.[8] The conversion of Building 10 involved the construction of a new wing on the west side of the structure and the reconfiguration of the interior stairways and rooms. Furthermore, three original porches were removed and two new ones were built around this time. These changes were driven in large measure by considerations for patient safety. The gallery porches that originally wrapped around the east and west ends of the building possibly were viewed seen as being unsafe for the class of patients now being housed in the building. These porches were removed, and, as an alternative, large day rooms were created on the first and second floors. Fire safety also was a concern. The stairwell in the central block was fire-hardened through the replacement of the original stairway with a steel-frame one with slate treads and the addition of tile-block walls in the attic and basement. Other partition walls added at this time were built with steel studs and wire lath, as a further fire-prevention measure. Also, two new stairways were added in the south bays of the wings (which had formerly served as sun porches)—thus increasing the number of exits from the upper stories—and fire doors were added throughout the building. Other changes effected during this period included a large-scale remodeling of the bathroom facilities, and the addition of small canteens on the first and second floor. The basement was subdivided to create multiple rooms dedicated to group therapy and the preparation and storage of medical illustrations/photographs, among other uses. These alterations were designed by VA architects, but the actual work was completed by the Work Projects Administration (WPA).[9]

In 1965, Building 10 and a number of adjacent structures were leased by the VA to DACC. Building 10 was last used by the college for its Business Information Education Systems classes.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Building 10 is a large two-and-one-half story, hip-roofed, brick structure with a complex footprint consisting of a central block, two adjoining wings, and a large

[7] Danville Veterans Hospital, p.27.

[8] Mollenhoff, Tupek, and Webb, p.5.

[9] Danville Veterans Hospital p.3.

addition on the west. The central block stands out due to its two large wall dormers, each of which has a ribbon of arched window openings and is covered by a cross gable extending of the principal hip roof. Smaller roof dormers are located on the north slope of the roof, to either side the central block, and on the east end of the roof. Each of the wings has a large two-story rectangular bay projecting off their rear side, which are covered by cross gables. A two-story connector wing, added in 1934, extends off the eastern of these bays and joins the structure to Building 11. A driveway passes through the connector. Entrance porches are located on the north and south sides of the central block. The larger of these porches is situated on the north (front) side and has grouped columns. Stylistically, Building 10 principally is Georgian Revival in character, as evidenced by the symmetry of its footprint and openings, raised stone foundations with watertable, transoms over the main entrances, pedimented dormers, and cross gable fanlight windows. However, it also shows some strong Romanesque influence in regards to the full-arched window openings and corbelled brick cornice found on the central block. The west addition, which was constructed in 1934, was designed to match the original building stylistically.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

As originally constructed, the building measured 49'-0" (north/south) by 213'-0" (east/west) at its greatest extents, excluding porches. With the construction of the west addition in 1934, the building's dimensions were expanded to 50'-0" (north/south) by 240'-2" (east/west).

2. Foundations:

The original building has a raised perimeter foundation generally measuring 1'-5" to 1'-6" wide. Those sections of the perimeter foundations located below grade consist of irregularly coursed, rough-cut limestone whose interior face has been roughly tooled to create a smooth finish. The upper foundations (exposed above grade) have a regularly coursed, rock-faced, square-cut Bedford limestone veneer with brick backing.[10] Interior foundation walls are built of brick laid in common bond. The addition and porch added in 1934 have poured-concrete foundations with an above-grade brick veneer. The foundations beneath the west addition measure 1'-5" thick, while those below the porch are 1'-1" wide.

3. Walls:

[10] The lower foundations stand 4'-1" above the finished floor. The upper foundations extend for an additional 3'-10".

The exterior walls of the building are constructed of machine-made, red brick and measure 1'-1-½" wide (including interior plaster). The brick are laid in common bond, with four stretcher rows followed by a header course. A 10" watertable of finely tooled Bedford limestone wraps around the perimeter of the building. Corbelled brickwork is present along the cornice. The corbelling along the wings consists of a series of stepped courses, while that around the central block has a row of full arches.

4. Structural System, Framing:

The lumber used for the framing of the original building primarily is circular-sawn, unsurfaced, yellow and red pine. Exceptions will be noted below. The first floor of the original building is carried by 2"x12" joists set 16" on-center. The joists run the width of the building, and their central span is supported by a 7-½"x9" beam placed on top of 1'-1"x1'-5" brick columns.[11] Sub-flooring, measuring 7/8"x5-¼" (possibly white pine) is laid diagonally over the joists. Similar sub-flooring is used for the two floors above. The floor joists for the second story are 2"x16-¼" band-sawn(?) pine and are set 16" on-center. Joists measuring 3"x12-½" with 16" centers support the attic floor, while the ceiling joists on this level are 2"x6"s with 2'-0" centers. Original partition walls in the basement and on the first and second floors are brick. Knee and partition walls in the attic are framed with 1-7/8"x2-¼"-to-3-¾" and 2"x6" studs set 2'-0" on center.[12] The roof is carried by 2"x8"-to-8-½" rafters with 2'-0" centers. The lower ends of the rafters sit directly upon the brick walls, while the upper ends are joined at a 2"x8" ridge board. The roof sheathing is surfaced-two-sides, yellow pine and measures 7/8"x7-¼"-to-8". The cross-gable roof over the central block is carried by a heavy timber-frame truss built with sawn stock joined with bolts.

During the 1934 remodeling, steel studs were used for many of the partition walls installed on the first and second floors in an effort to fire-harden the building (see V-2003-2-C-S3). Brick and clay-tile blocks were used to enclose the stairwell in the attic, and also for fire-barrier walls in the basement.

The west addition has reinforced concrete floors on the first, second, and attic stories. The roof over the addition is carried by 1-½"x9-½" yellow-pine rafters set 16" on center. The rafters are supported by 3-½"x3-½" pine purlins resting on a horizontal 3-½"x7" steel I-beam bolted to vertical 4"x6" I-beams. The addition has 1-½"x12-¾" valley ridge boards and a 1-½"x11-½" main ridge board.

[11] The brick columns rest on concrete footings measuring 1'-5"x1'-5".

[12] The smaller dimensional studs are surfaced on one side, while the 2"x6" studs are rough on all four sides.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, and Bulkheads:

As originally constructed, the building had multiple porches covering a large part of its exterior. Two entrance porches were located on the north (front) and south (rear) elevations of the central block. In respect to style and materials, the latter porches largely were same: they were of frame construction, were open sided, had a flat roof supported by grouped square posts with elongated brackets, and had a balustrade running along their roof. The upper decks were unroofed and were accessible from the second floor. There were a number of differences between the two entrance porches, however. The north porch extended along the full width of the central block and had a raised frame deck. In contrast, the south porch was smaller—being only slightly wider than the entranceway—and had a masonry pavement nearly level to grade.

There also were open two-story, frame porches wrapping around the east and west ends of the building originally. These porches were directly accessible from the wards and served as a gallery, where the members/patients could get some fresh air in the shade. Their roofs extended off the principal hip roof of the building. Both levels of the porches had grouped posts; those on first floor were square and had elongated brackets (similar to those found the rear entrance porch), while those on the upper deck were turned. Historic photographs indicate that the porch rested on masonry piers and that the intervals between these piers were enclosed with lattice panels early in the building's history.

In the 1930s, the east and west porches were removed and the north entrance porch was replaced with a new one. This work reportedly was carried out by the WPA.[13] The 1934 remodeling plans for the building indicate that these changes had been effected by that time.[14] The outline of the original porch can still be seen on the brickwork on the north elevation. The new porch is not quite as wide as the original was and is covered with a half-hipped roof supported by fluted steel columns. The porch deck, foundations, and stairs are poured concrete. The foundations are faced with a brick veneer.

The rear entrance porch largely has retained its original configuration, aside from the removal of the balustrade on the upper deck. The porch roof is covered with metal roofing and has built-in gutters. The posts

[13] Danville Veterans Hospital, p. 3.

[14] Veterans Administration, "First and Second Floor Plans Building No. 10, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois" (1943), Drawing 10-2.

supporting the roof rest on cast-iron blocks in order to protect them from water damage. The existing floor on the south porch is concrete. The ceiling is covered with narrow wood paneling.

The porch positioned between the west addition and central block measures 12'-5"x79'-5", is enclosed, and has a low-sloped shed roof. The porch has five large window openings, which are separated by brick columns and are positioned above a brick parapet wall. The openings have paired casement windows present, each having sixteen lights (or a total of thirty-two). The windows measure 4'-3"x7'-7". As originally designed, the porch windows were to have wire grilles on the interior.[15] .

A bulkhead for an exterior basement stairway is located in the southeast reentrant angle between the central block and east wing. The sidewalls of the bulkhead are rock-faced cut stone (like the above-grade building foundations), while polished Bedford limestone is used for a coping. The bulkhead is sheltered by a half-hipped roof carried by square posts similar in character to those found on the rear entrance porch. The roof is covered with slate shingles and has built-in gutters (see V-2003-2-C-S1).

6. Chimneys:

Early photographs of the barracks at the Danville Branch show that they originally had eight interior brick chimneys. Two of the stacks exited along the north slope of the roof and vented fireplaces located in the offices located in the central block. The other six chimneys were positioned along the south side of the building and presumably vented (or were planned to vent) heating stoves originally. Most of these probably had a relatively short period of active use, considering that all of the barracks at the Branch were supplied with steam heat by 1902-1903.[16] A 1903 interior photograph of one of the barracks clearly shows steam heating pipes.[17] All of the chimneys eventually were removed below the roofline—a change possibly effected before, or during the 1934 remodeling. The openings where the chimneys passed through the attic floor can still be seen. The chimneys were lined with clay tile.

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[15] Ibid.

[16] House, *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldier for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903*, 55th Congress 1st Session, H. Doc. 46 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), p.175; Danville Veterans Hospital," p.14.

[17] [National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers?], *Illustrated History, Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Danville, Illinois* (Danville, Illinois: National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1903), p.44.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

As originally designed, the building had a total of nine exterior doorways. One of these accessed the basement, and was associated with the bulkhead discussed above in section II.B.5. This doorway remained in use throughout the lifetime of the building and presently is equipped with a pair of paneled wood sash doors. The first and second floors each had four exterior doors originally, which were aligned to the four porches once present on the building. Most of these openings were modified as part of the 1934 remodeling: the east doorways were converted to windows after the porch here was removed; the north and south doorways on the second floor also were turned into windows due to the central stairway being reconfigured; and the entrances on the west were eliminated when the addition was constructed. The north and south doorways leading into first floor of the central block were the only ones to persist. These doorways are associated with the front and rear porches previously described in section 11.B.5, and both have a set of wood paneled sash doors, transom windows, Bedford limestone sills, and flat red sandstone lintels. One difference between them lies in respect to their transoms: the transom over the north entrance has a double row of lights, while that on the south has a single row. The transoms are hinged at the bottom and operate like a hopper window.

Two new exterior doorways were added on the south side of the building in 1934. These were intended to serve as exits for the new stairways added during the remodeling. The entrances are at grade level. The western of these has a wood paneled sash door, while that on the east has a steel replacement door.

b. Windows and Shutters:

Most of the original window are rectangular in shape and are arranged symmetrically. The notable exceptions are the arched windows found on the attic level. The openings on the first and second floors originally had finely-tooled, flat, red sandstone lintels (12”) and sills (5”). In a number of locations, however, the sandstone sills deteriorated and were replaced with ones of Bedford limestone. There is no evidence—either photographic or physical—of exterior shutters having ever been present.

There are a number of different styles of windows in the original section of the building. The window openings in the basement

have hinged two-light hopper sash measuring 2'-6"x3'-5". In contrast to the upper floor, the sills and lintels here are Bedford limestone. The sills are polished, while the lintels are rock faced.

The windows on the first and second floors of the building consist of double-hung, weighted, wood sashes with four-over-four lights (unless otherwise indicated), though there are differences in respect to size and style. The rough opening of the majority of the windows on the first and second floors measures 3'-8-½"x8'-8", while the actual sash dimension is 3'-5"x8'-6".

The wall dormers in the central block each have a string of four full-arched window openings measuring approximately 3'-9"x5'-9". They hold 3'-1-¼"x5'-5" double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights (the upper sash being arched). The sills are red sandstone, like those on the floors below, while the lintels are brick. A tall, arched, louvered vent is present in the gable of both wall dormers.

Each of the dormers has two rectangular windows, whose rough opening measures approximately 3'-0"x3'-10-¼". The windows sashes are double-hung with two-over-two lights and measure 2'-5-½"x5'-5-½." The two cross gables on the south elevation each have a large window opening (approximately 6'-9"x6'-0"), which holds a pair of four-light single sash (set beside one another) with a fanlight above. The sash measure 3'-4-¼"x3'-1-½".

A number of original window openings were bricked in as part of the 1934 remodeling. Two of the arched windows in the south wall dormer in the central block, for instance, were eliminated when the fire-barrier walls were built around the stairwell. Similarly, the south bays each had three windows enclosed on the first floor. This was done in order to accommodate the new stairways and exit doors installed here.

The window openings and sashes in the west addition generally reflect the size and character of those in the original building. This is particular true of those found on the first and second floors, which even follow the original design scheme of red sandstone sills and lintels.[18] The basement windows have polished limestone sills but have brick lintels (supported by a steel plate), as opposed to stone. In the attic of the addition, there is one window in each

[18] There are minor differences in respect to the sash in the two sections of the building. The sashes in the original building are hung with rope, whereas those in the addition have chain. The finger pulls on the lower sashes also are different.

gable end. These windows are arched, like those in the central block, and hold double-hung sashes with four-over-four lights. The sash dimension is 2'-8-½"x4'-3".

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering:

The building has a steeply-pitched principal hip roof that is punctuated by gables over the central block, south bays, and west addition. All sections of the roof are covered with plain gray slate shingles. Cast iron flashing runs along the ridges as fenestration.

b. Cornice, Eaves:

The building has boxed-eaves with built-in gutters. The original gutters appear to be lined with steel (galvanized?) that is soldered together and painted, while those associated with later front porch are copper lined. The downspouts also are copper. The eaves are continuous across the cross gables, creating a pedimented effect. As previously described in section II.B.3, the cornice is decorated by corbelled brickwork extending around the entire circuit of the building. In addition, the central block has wood dentils running along the cornice and rake.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

The roof of the building is punctuated by a number of dormers providing light and additional space for the third, or attic, story. The central block has a large gable-roofed wall dormer on its north and south elevations. These two dormers each have a line of four windows with segmental arched openings, and above this is a tall louvered attic vent positioned in the center of the gable. The gable is enclosed with a continuous eave. Five smaller roof dormers are arranged to either side of the north wall dormer, and on the east slope of the roof. A sixth dormer originally was present on the west slope of the roof but was removed in 1934 when the addition was constructed. These also have pedimented gables, like the wall dormers. The windows in the different dormers are described above in section II.B.7.b.

C Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

For a detailed picture of the interior layout of the building and its evolution through time, reference the attached floor plans. A representative first floor plan and front elevation view of the original barracks design used at Danville has been included in the supplemental materials for Building 5 (V-2003-2-A-S1; see also V-2003-2-S9).

a. First Floor Description:

As originally designed, the first floor of the central block was divided into four quadrants, separated by intersecting hallways. The formal entrance on the north façade opened onto a hallway, running north/south, that terminated at a wide, open stairway leading to the basement and upper floors. Just short of the stairway, the hall intersected an east/west corridor leading to the adjoining wings. There were two offices, located in the northeast and northwest corners of the central block. Each office was equipped with a fireplace, had three windows, and could be entered through a doorway off the east/west hallway. Two separate bathroom units were situated in the southeast and southwest corners of the central block, being separated by the stairwell. Each unit contained two rooms, the larger of which had toilets and sinks and the other of which had a tub. The two wings were large open sleeping wards. Original plans called for each ward to hold twenty beds, though the capacity later was expanded as enrollment at the branch increased. The wards had a doorway at their far end leading onto the open gallery-style porches originally present here. They also had access to the bays on the south side of the building. Although the original design plans do not specify what these bays were used for, we suspect them to have served as "sun porches" where the members could sit or socialize during the cooler months of the year.[19]

During the 1934 remolding, the central block was subdivided in order to accommodate new specialized rooms, though the original hall configuration was maintained. The northwest quadrant was partitioned up to create a doctor and a secretary's offices. In the northeast quadrant, a small hallway, toilet, visitors' room, and linen room were created, and a canteen was added in the corner

[19] House, H. Doc. 55, plate 8.

formerly used as an elevator shaft.[20] The southern half of the central block saw fewer changes during this period, at least in regards to general function. The west room in the southwest quadrant continued to be used as a bathroom, but the tub room adjoining on the east was turned into a utility room equipped with a sink. The bathroom space in the southeast quadrant was subdivided into specialized toilet, shower, and linen rooms.[21]

The eastern wing of the building continued to serve as a sleeping ward post-1934, but had less space than before. In the 1940s, it contained eighteen beds. The west end of the east wing was partitioned off to create space for five new rooms and a central corridor. Three rooms were located on the north side of the corridor and served as a protective clothing room, interview room, and treatment room. A suite room and clothing room were located on the opposite of the hall. The west wing of the building also was subdivided during the 1934 remodeling. The east end of the wing was turned into a day room, with a nurses' office (or station) installed in its southeast corner. The office had large windows which allowed the nurse stationed there to monitor the patients. A doorway was added on the south side of the day room to allow access to the enclosed porch added here. The west end of the west wing served as a bed ward, which extended into the west addition. Combined, these two areas accommodated thirty beds. [22]

Another change effected during the 1934 remodeling was the conversion of the bays on the south side of the wings into stairwells. The original doorways between the wings and bays were infilled and new doorways, with steel fire doors, were installed. The patients did not have direct access to the new stairways from the bed wards, presumably as a security measure. An original window opening in the southeastern bay was converted to a doorway to access the new connector wing leading to Building 11.[23]

A number of alterations were made to the building post-1965, after it began to be used by Danville Area Community College. The west wing was further partitioned to create additional rooms, and a new partition wall was built separating the wing from the west

[20] As noted previously, in Part I.B, this elevator was added in 1921.
[21] Veterans Administration, Drawing 10-2.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Ibid.

addition. The west addition also was subdivided. The ceiling height throughout the first floor is 13'-2."

b. Second Floor Description:

The second floor plan of the building essentially mirrored that of the first floor, as originally constructed. The room usage also was similar.

During the 1934 remolding, the central block was reconfigured to accommodate new rooms, like on the floor below. In the northeast quadrant of the block, the original office located here was subdivided to accommodate a short hallway, a canteen, and an interview room with its own closet and bathroom. A protective clothing room added in the area formerly used as an elevator shaft. In the northwest quadrant, a shower room and dressing room were created. A doorway in the east wall of the dressing room led into a clothing room, which was located within an area that had previously served as a hallway. This hall was no longer needed after the front (north) porch was replaced with one lacking an upper deck. The southwest quadrant of the central block mirrored that of the floor below, having a toilet room (with small locker room) on the west and a utility room on the east. The southeast quadrant was divided between a linen room on the west and a toilet room on the east. The east wing was converted into a large day room and had a nurses office (identical that in the west wing on the first floor) added in its northwest corner (see V-2003-2-C-S3). In addition, an original doorway in the wing's east end was converted to a window (due to the removal of the gallery porch) and a doorway was added on the south to access the new stairway in the adjoining bay. In the west wing, three rooms and a corridor were framed out the wing's east end. Two offices were located on the north side of the corridor, while a room with two beds was located on the south. The bedroom possibly was used by staff members, or perhaps served as an isolation room for more difficult patients. The remaining space in the west wing served as an open sleeping ward, which contained twenty-one beds in the 1940s. An accordion-style folding wall separated this ward from the west addition. The addition also served as a sleeping ward and had twenty beds.[24]

Post-1965, the sleeping wards on the west end of the second floor were partitioned up to create two classrooms and an L-shaped

[24] Ibid.

hallway. Two classrooms also were framed out within the day room in the east wing. The ceiling height on the second floor is 13'-½".

c. Third Floor Description:

The third floor of the building is a half-story attic and can be accessed by means of the central stairway. The attic was used for sleeping quarters during the early years of the Danville Branch's operation, when the membership reached as high as 4,000.[25] The floor later appears to have been relegated to storage space. Most of the finished space in the attic is taken up by a long corridor, which follows the long axis of the building. The corridor is intersected at points by dormers and cross gables, which considerably increase the amount the amount of usable space. Doorways break the corridor into three distinct sections, aligned to the central block and two wings. The sections over the wings are not partitioned into separate rooms. A number of doorways are present in the knee walls, allowing access to the unfinished space behind them. There are several distinct rooms in the central block. One of these is located in the north wall dormer and is illuminated by the string of arched windows described earlier. Remnants of the framework and machinery associated with the elevator installed in 1921 are still present in the southeast corner[26] (see V-2003-2-C-S7). Large closets flank this room on the east and west. The stairway accessing the floor is positioned in the south wall dormer of the central block and originally opened directly onto the center section of the corridor, which thus doubled as a stair hall. The stair opening is suspected to have been surrounded by a balustrade originally, and the hall would have been well lit by the arched windows on its south side. During the 1934 remodeling, however, the stairway was closed off with masonry fire walls. This necessitated the infilling (with brick) of two of the arched windows. Closets are located to either side of the stair hall (just like the room located north of it). Each has a small window looking out into the hall, which would have shed natural light into their interiors prior to the construction of the fire walls. There is evidence of shelving and/or benches having been once present in the closets, and these rooms may have formerly been used for clothing storage. The attic in the west wing is unfinished.

[25] Danville Veterans Hospital, p.27.

[26] The elevator was manufactured by the Montgomery Elevator Company. The names of the manufacturer and intended customer ("Natal. Soldiers Home") are stenciled on the steel beam supporting the elevator sheave.

The ceiling height in the central block of the attic is 11'-5". The remainder of the floor of has garret ceilings which measure 8'-0" in the center and 5'-2-½" at the knee walls. The attic level appears to have seen limited use during its later years.

d. Basement Description:

The footprint of the basement grossly mirrored that of the floor above it, as originally built. The central block was divided into two ranks of rooms separated by an east-west corridor. The corridor continued through to connect the two adjoining wings, which were not partitioned. Originally, the basement was accessible through only two points: the interior stairway in the central block, and the exterior bulkhead stairway positioned in the southeast corner of the east wing. The early use of the rooms on this level is unknown. However, the general spaciousness of the basement suggests that it was intended for considerable activity. Another indicator suggestive of regular use is the fact that the ceiling joists and underside of the first floor flooring—which originally were left exposed—were whitewashed.

The basement was drastically altered during the 1934 remodeling, with the addition of multiple rooms devoted to a print shop, the production of medical photographs and illustrations, group therapy, offices, and storage. The character of the remodeled basement was distinctly different those in Continued Treatment Buildings 5 and 9. The east wing remained largely open and served as the "P. M. & R. Print Shop."[27] (The acronym "P. M. & R." is not understood). A storage room was built across the east end of the wing, and a small office/drawing room was framed out adjacent to this. In the central block, the north rank of the rooms included two dark rooms and a storage room associated with the print shop. A room for medical illustration printing and developing was located west of these. The southern rooms in the central block consisted of men and women's bathrooms, a stair hall in the center, and utility service room on the west. Electrical service panels and a large hot water tank were located in the latter room. The west wing had a rank of rooms built along its south side, which was bordered on the north by a wide corridor. These rooms included medical illustration photo studio, a film editing

[27] We do not know what the acronym "P. M. & R." stands for.

room, and two adjacent offices that served as a medical illustration laboratory.[28]

In contrast to Buildings 5 and 9, the basement areas beneath the addition and porch added in 1934 were finished out as usable space. The porch area was devoted to group therapy and included two therapy rooms with an observation room in between (see V-2003-2-C-S6). The observation room had windows with one-way glass. The western of the group therapy rooms had microphones in its south wall. A storage and utilities room was located off the east end of the other therapy room. In the west wing, six rooms were framed out, including a clothing clerk and nursing supervisor's offices, a coffee room, and illustration storage room.[29] Several of the partition walls added in 1934 were removed by DACC in order to create larger rooms.

2. Stairways:

As originally constructed, the building had a single interior stairway, located in the south end of the central block, which accessed all four levels. The stairway was open and of frame construction. During the 1934 remodeling, this stairway was replaced with one of steel-frame construction with slate treads. The new stairway did not follow the configuration of the original one.[30] Wire grille panels were installed in between the flights of steps, and grille doors were put in place on the second floor and attic stair landings. This was done to prevent patients from falling over the rails, and control access between floors. During this same period, two new stairways of similar construction (also with wire grille panels) were added in the bays on the south side of the building.[31] The floors in the bays were removed, and these areas converted over to stairwells. A number of original window openings were bricked-in to accommodate the new stairways. These modifications represented an attempt to both fireproof the building and provide additional exits in the event of a fire. The connector between Buildings 10 and 11 could be

[28] Veterans Administration, "Basement and Attic Plans, Building No. 10, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 10-1.

[29] Ibid.

[30] The field investigation found evidence for the location of the original stair stringers along the walls of the stairwell. The stringers had been attached to the brick prior to the wall being plastered, and after they were removed the resulting void needed to be filled with new plaster. This juncture between the old and new plaster is definable on the walls.

[31] Steel stair components similar those used in Building 10 are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, *Julius Blum Catalog No. 6* [New York: Julius Blum and Company, Inc., 1953], p. 74).

accessed through doorways located off the east stairway. These openings were closed off after the college starting using Building 10.

3. Flooring:

The basement rooms have poured concrete floors. The flooring used on the first and second floors is 7/8"x3" tongue-and-groove maple. Similar maple flooring runs down the center of the corridor in the attic, while 7/8"x3-¼" tongue-and-groove yellow pine is used for the remainder of the floor. The maple was thus used for the section of floor exposed to most traffic and wear.

Ceramic tile was put down in the toilet, shower, shave, and utility rooms on the first and second floors during the 1934 remodeling (see V-2003-2-C-S5). The wood flooring in most of the other rooms on the first and second floors eventually was covered with square vinyl tile.

In the west addition, the basement has a poured concrete floor. The three levels above it also have concrete slab floors.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:

The ceilings in the basement originally were left open, and floor joists and underside of the flooring were whitewashed. The ceiling later was enclosed with plaster applied over wire lath, presumably during the 1934-1935 remodeling. This plastering episode reflects an attempt at better fireproofing the building, as well as creating a more finished space in the basement.

Original walls on the first, second, and third floors were covered with plaster applied over brick, while the ceilings had plaster applied over wood lath. Later partition walls have plaster and wire lath. Most interior walls and ceiling surfaces were painted historically. A notable exception are the shower rooms, where the stalls proper are lined with marble panels while the lower 6' of the walls in the remainder of the room is covered with enameled steel tile (in contrast to the ceramic tile used in Building 5) (see V-2003-2-C-S5). Marble panels also were used to separate the stools in the toilet rooms. The architectural plans for the tile work were drawn up in December 1934, and the tile presumably was installed shortly thereafter.[32] Details of these original plans are included with the supplemental materials for Building 9 (see V-2003-2-B-S1 through S6).

5. Openings:

[32] Veterans Administration, "Marble and Tile Work, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 86.

a. Doorways and Doors:

The interior of the building originally was equipped with machine-made, wood, paneled doors. During the 1934 remodeling and later, flush wood doors and steel fire doors were installed. Later doors have steel casings, compared to the wood casings used for the original doors. However, in a number of instances, older doors clearly have been reset within steel casings with heavy-duty hinges.

Original interior doorways on the first and second floor held six-paneled wood doors. The doorways leading into the wings were wider and had paired doors. A number of these six-paneled doors still remain in place (mostly on the second floor); they measure 2'-2'-10" to 2'-11"x7'-10"x1-¾". The majority of the doors installed post-1934 on the first and second floors are flush, solid wood doors that are varnished and measure 2'-11-½"x6'-10-½"x1-¾".

All of the original doors in the attic have been removed, but they likely were paneled like those found on the floors below. The doorways dividing the central corridor in the attic measure 5'-0"x7'-0" and once held paired doors which swung in both directions. The pins on which these doors pivoted are still present in the floor and ceiling. The doorway accessing the room in the north wall dormer measures 3'-0"x7'-½". The knee wall doorways measure 2'-6"x4'-6-½". The doorway trim in the attic is varnished, which suggests that the doors were as well.

The doors present in the basement generally are similar in character to those described in the IL HABS documentation for Building 5 (IL HABS V-2003-2-A). The doors at the opposite ends of the central corridor have two solid panels, while those accessing the stairwells measure 3'-5-½"x6'-11-½" and have a twelve-light sash (with fire glass) with a flush solid panel below. Identical fire doors were used in the stairwells on the floors above.

b. Windows:

The windows in the building have previously been discussed in section II.B.7.b. Some additional details will be offered here. The sides and top edges of the window openings on the first, second, and third floors are curved—an effect created through the use of molded brick that has been plastered over. Interestingly, the windows openings that are rectangular on the exterior are segmental arched on the interior. The closet windows in the attic

measure 1'-6"x5'-3" and show no evidence of ever having sash present.

The rooms that were added on the west end of the second floor of the east wing in 1934-1935 each have a single window looking onto the corridor connecting them. These widows have a single multi-paned, fixed sash and were intended to shed light into the corridor (see V-2003-2-C-S2).

6. Decorative Features and Trim:

The building has limited decorative features on its interior, which is reflective of its utilitarian purpose. The original windows and doors were cased on the interior of the building with molded yellow pine trim, which generally measures ¾"x3-¾"and was stained and varnished originally. The trim on the exterior doorways on the first floor has an applied molding on its outer edge. These doorways also have "bulls-eye" head blocks. Similar trim possibly was used on the interior doorways on the first and second floors, but this not entirely clear, on account of the extensive removal of the original door trim on these floors during the 1934 remodeling. The doorways on the attic level have ¾"x3-¾" molded trim with a similar profile to that found on the exterior doorways, but lacking an applied molding. These doorways have a plain base block but lack heads blocks; instead, the head and casing trim are mitered together. During the 1934 remodeling, all of the original door trim in the basement, first, and second floors was removed and replaced with simpler ¾"x4-¼" pine trim. This trim has a slightly rounded at the edges but otherwise is flat.

The window openings on the first, second, and third floors have flat head and casing trim. Their apron trim, however, is molded and has a profile similar to that used on the original doors[33].

7. Hardware:

The original framing in the building primarily is attached with machine-cut nails. A notable exception is some of the large framing used for the roof trusses in the central block, which are bolted together. Wire-drawn nails are used for the later framing in the building.

[33] The apron trim in the original sleeping wards have two pairs of drilled holes (3/8" dia., 1-¾" on-center) that were later infilled with wood dowels. The holes possible were drilled for lag bolts (or similar hardware) used to hold bed frames in place.

The original doors in the buildings primarily were held with brass butt hinges having ball-tipped loose pins. Two exceptions were the paired doors partitioning the central corridor in the attic, which swung both directions on pivots. The original doors also were equipped with mortise locks. Most of the doors installed post-1934 are hung with heavy-duty butt hinges with ball bearings.[34] The bathroom doors on the first and second floors swing on pintel-type hinges marked 'Rixson / PATENTED / No. 20."

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

One of the first buildings completed at the Danville Branch was a boiler house designed to supply steam heat to all of the principal structures at the facility. The boiler house was located east of the barracks circle and had twelve boilers.[35] This heating system does not appear to have been fully operational at the facility until 1902-1903.[36] During the interim, Building 10 may have been heated with wood and/or coal burning stoves. Historic photograph indicate that the barracks buildings had eight chimneys originally.

After steam heat became available, cast-iron radiators were installed in the building. Several of the radiators in the attic had benches with slatted side panels built over them. The existing radiators were manufactured by the American Radiator Company. Some of those in the basement are mounted on the wall. The pipes running between the floors were enclosed during the 1934 remodeling. Several of the radiators in the attic had benches with slatted panels built over them (see V-2003-2-C-S6). The enclosed porch on the first floor was heated with a blower type heating fan, hung from the ceiling.[37]

A basement plan produced by Veterans Administration architects in 1934 (and later revised) show three exterior air-conditioning units located along the south side of the building. Plans of the first and second floors, drawn in 1943, show two other air-conditioning

[34] Similar hinges are listed in the 1953 Julius Blum and Company catalogue (Julius Blum and Company, p. 74).

[35] Ibid, p. 4, 7.

[36] House, H. Doc. 46, p.175.

[37] Veterans Administration, Drawing 10-2.

units in the day rooms on those floors.[38] Window-mounted air conditioning units were used in the building during the period it was occupied by Danville Area Community College.

b. Lighting:

The building was equipped with lighting throughout its period of active use. The first annual report submitted for the Danville Branch noted that electricity had been brought into the facility for lighting before the end of 1898.[39] A 1903 photograph of a typical barrack's ward at the Danville Branch shows three rows of lighting running down the length of the room. Two rows were located above the beds. These fixtures had a simple flat shade and two bulbs and were suspended from the ceiling with a narrow pipe. A line of more ornate, T-shaped light fixtures ran down the center aisle of the ward (reference historic photograph attached as V-2003-2-S10). Early knob-and-tube wiring and some incandescent light fixtures are still present in the attic level.

The electrical service in the building was updated during the 1934 remodeling. An electrical distribution plan drawn in August 1934 called for the installation of a 100-amp main switch box (equipped with 90-amp fuses) and two 60-amp branches (equipped with 50-amp fuses) in the basement utility room. The power lines servicing Building 10 continued north to Building 9 through two underground electrical conduits.[40] The building was equipped with multiple communication systems, including: a public telephone; a dial telephone, possibly intended for intra-facility communications; and a radio system used for intra-building communications, such as calls between patient beds and nurses' stations. A fire alarm system also was installed in the building during the 1934 remodeling.[41]

Building 10 was illuminated most recently with fluorescent lighting. It is not clear whether these fixtures were added during the VA's period of occupation or by DACC.

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[38] Ibid.

[39] House, H. Doc. 55, p. 10.

[40] Veterans Administration, "Electrical Distribution, Basement Plans, Buildings 10 and 12, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing E-7.

[41] Veterans Administration, "Electrical Details, Veterans Administration Facility, Danville, Illinois" (1934), Drawing 10-10.

c. Plumbing:

The original plans suggest that the building was supplied with running water from the date of its construction. Each of the four wards present on the first on the second floors was equipped with toilets, sinks, and a tub(s). The tubs were located in separate rooms from the toilets. During the 1934 remodeling, the bathroom arrangement was reconfigured, as has been detailed in section II.C.1.

The building ultimately was equipped with a sprinkler system, although the date at which this was first done is not clear. A basement plan drawn in 1934, but later revised, does show a sprinkler valve enclosure in the southeast corner of the east wing.[42] However, there also are plans, dated February 1964, for an automatic sprinkler system installed by the Century Sprinkler Corporation of Richmond Virginia.[43] It is possible that the latter plans pertain to an updating of an earlier system installed during the 1934 remolding. The sprinkler valve enclosure mentioned still remains in place. Comprised of wire grille screens, the enclosure protects a series of control valves.

Fire hoses also were installed in the building post 1934. The hoses were connected to the main water supply and were kept within closet set into the walls.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation:

Building 10 lies on the eastern edge of the ellipse around which the original fourteen barracks at the Danville Branch were arrayed. The building faces due north and its long axis is oriented east/west. Building 9 lies immediately to the north of it. The area to the west of Building 9 is open green space, characterized by grass-covered lawn with scattered trees.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

[42] Veterans Administration, Drawing 10-1.

[43] Veterans Administration, "Auto Sprinkler System, Building No. 10, Veterans Administration, Danville, Illinois," 3 sheets (1964); Century Sprinkler Corporation, "Sprinkler System, Building No. 10, Veterans Administration Hospital, Danville, Illinois," 3 sheets (n.d.).

Little is known about the historic landscape design around Building No. 10. However, historic photographs do illustrate ornamental plantings—shrubs and trees—around the different barracks, as well as a system of sidewalks running between the buildings.

3. Outbuildings:

Building 10 did not have any outbuildings specifically associated with it. It was part of a larger complex consisting of multiple specialized structures.

PART III (SOURCES OF INFORMATION), PART IV (METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH), AND PART V (PROJECT INFORMATION) OF THE OUTLINE FOR THIS BUILDING ARE LOCATED IN THE COVER DOCUMENT FOR IL HABS No. V-2003-2.

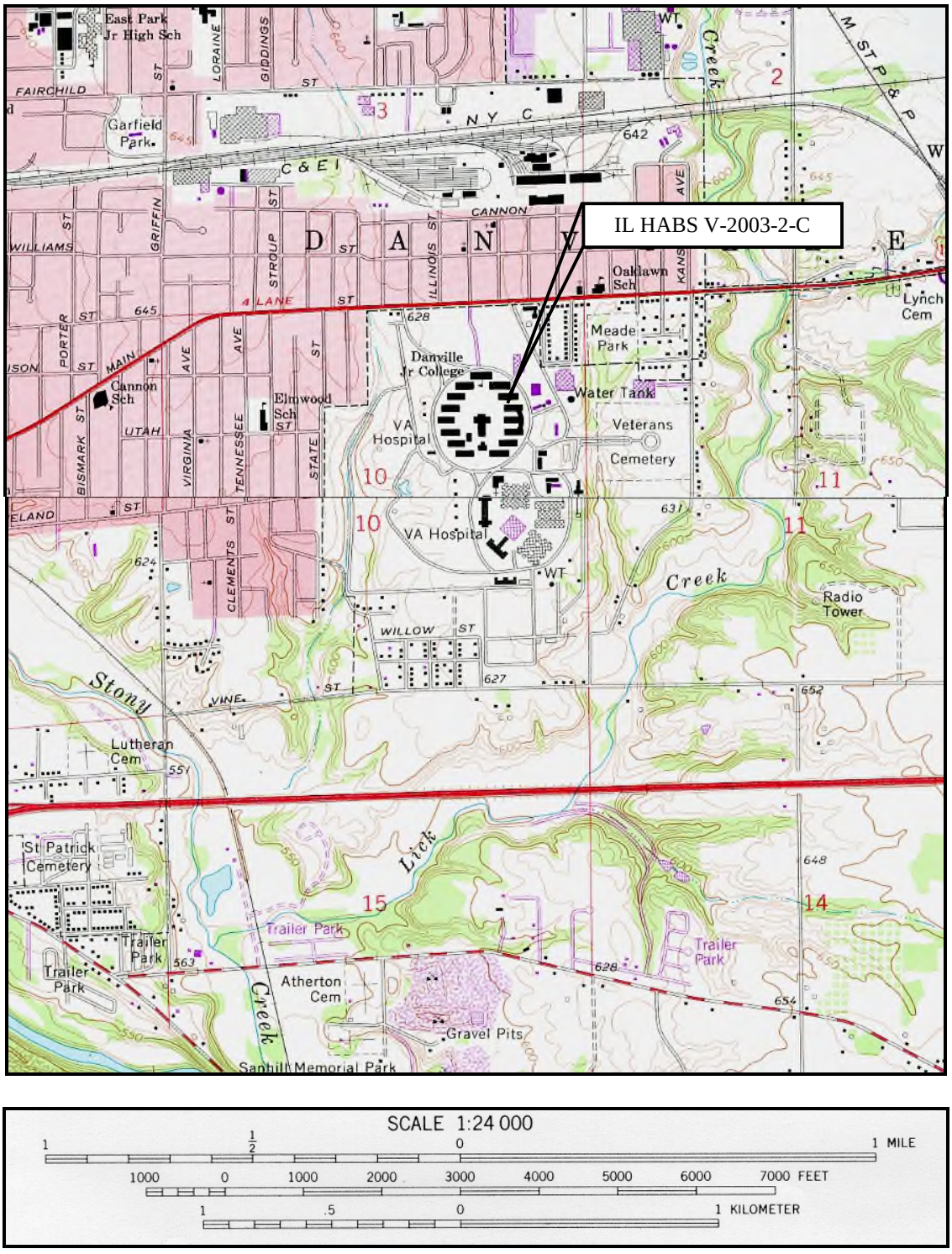


Figure 1. United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of IL HABS V-2003-2-C.

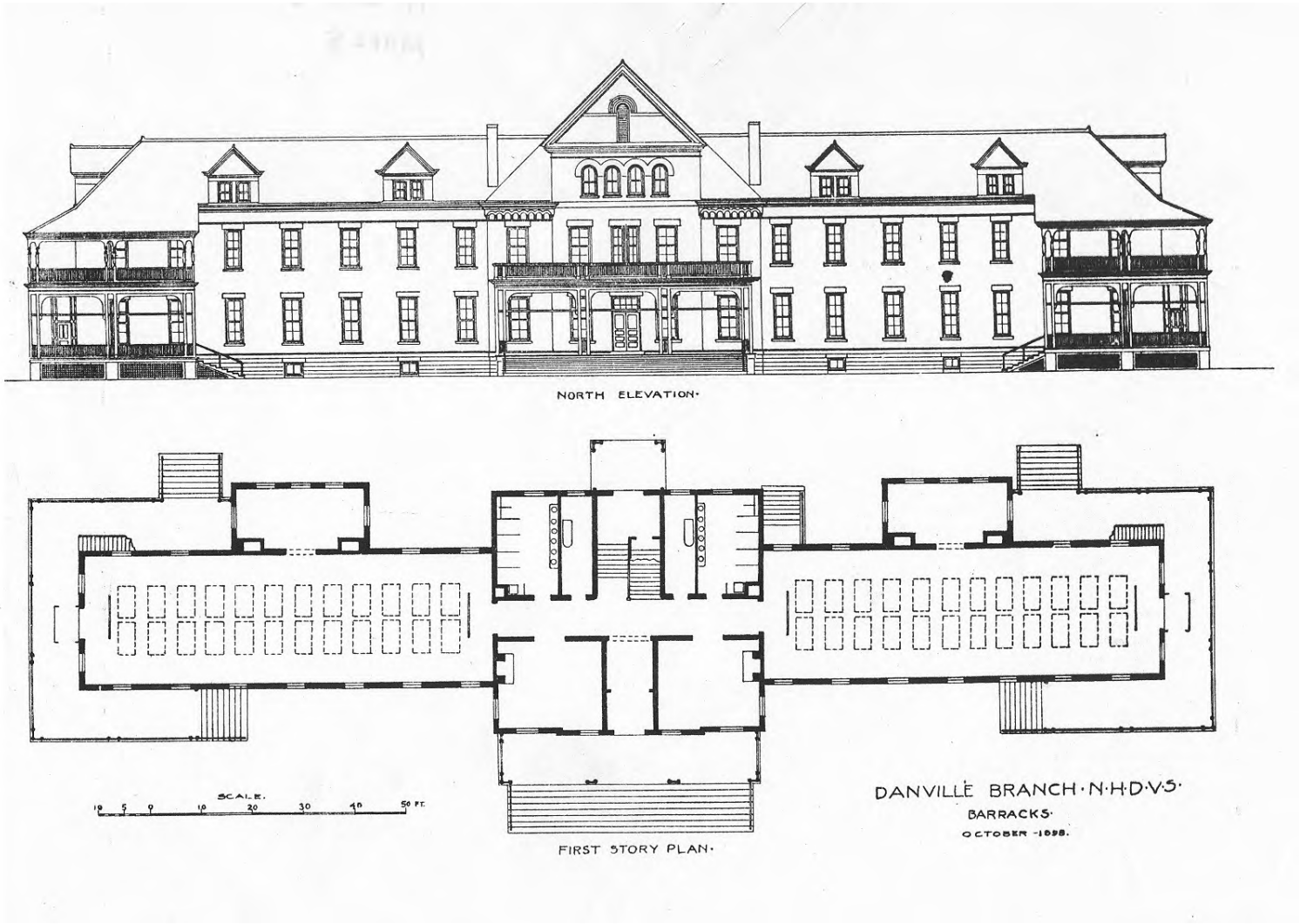


Figure 2. Representative plans of the north elevation and first floor of the type of barracks constructed at the Danville Branch, NHDVS. These plans reflect the original design of Building 10 (House Doc. 55, plate 8).

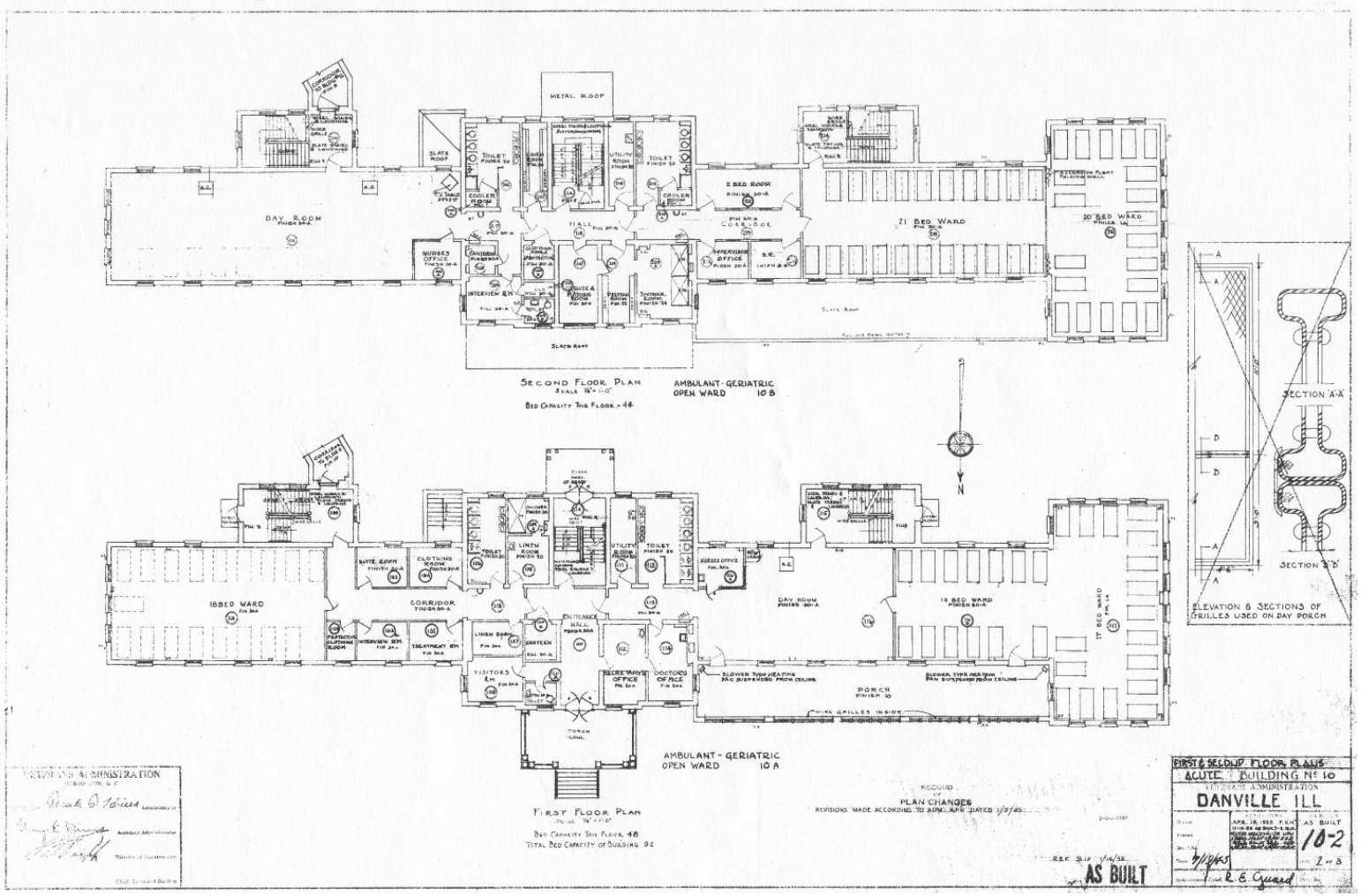


Figure 3. First and second floor plans of Building 10, showing modification undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

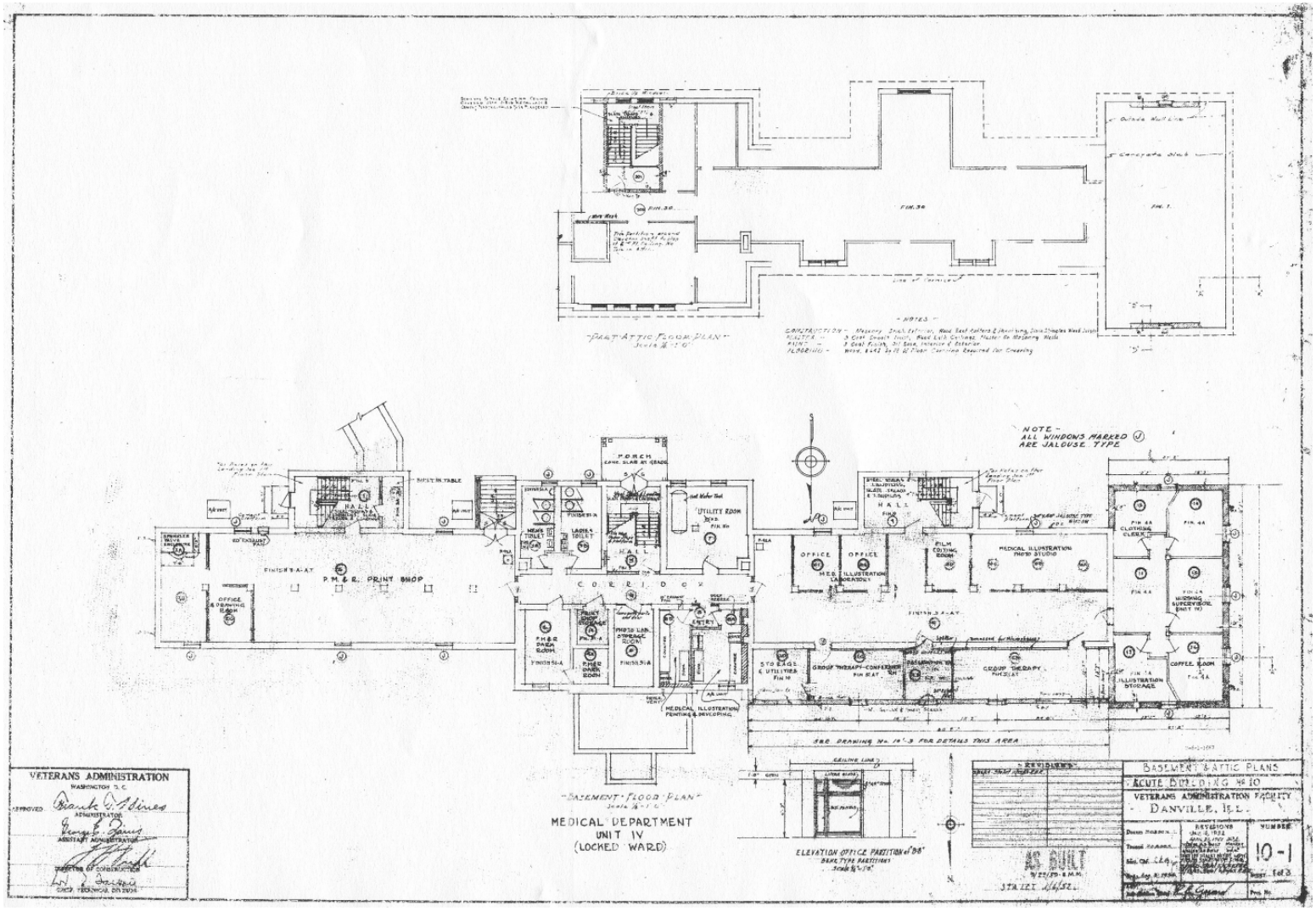


Figure 4. Basement and partial attic plans of Building 10, showing modification undertaken by the VA in 1934 and later.

Figure 5. Existing condition drawings of the south (TOP) and north (BOTTOM) elevations of Building 10 (Walton and Associates 2003).

Figure 6. Existing condition drawings showing the west (TOP-RIGHT) and east (BOTTOM) elevations of Building 10 (Walton and Associates 2003).

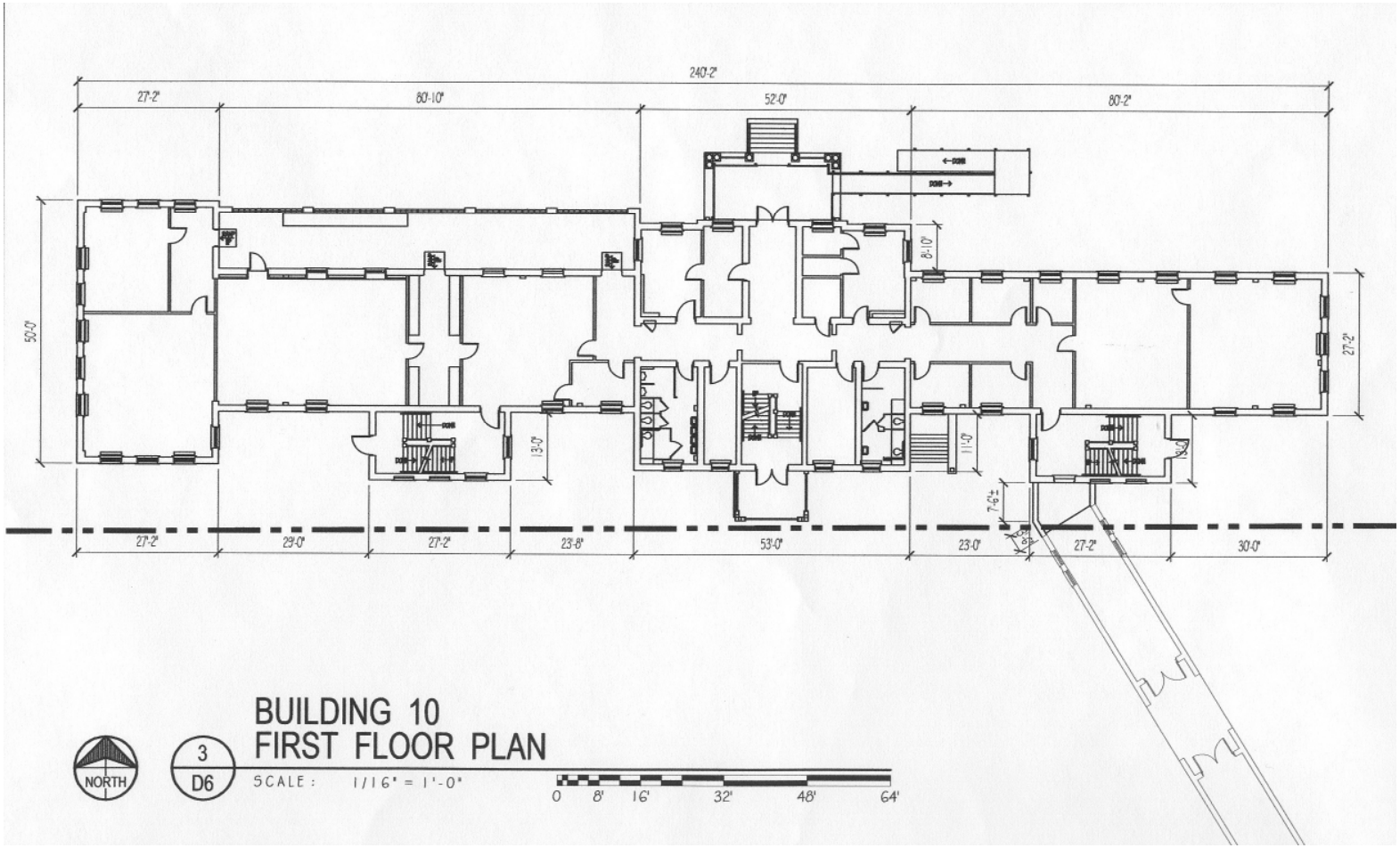


Figure 7. First-story plan of Building 10, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

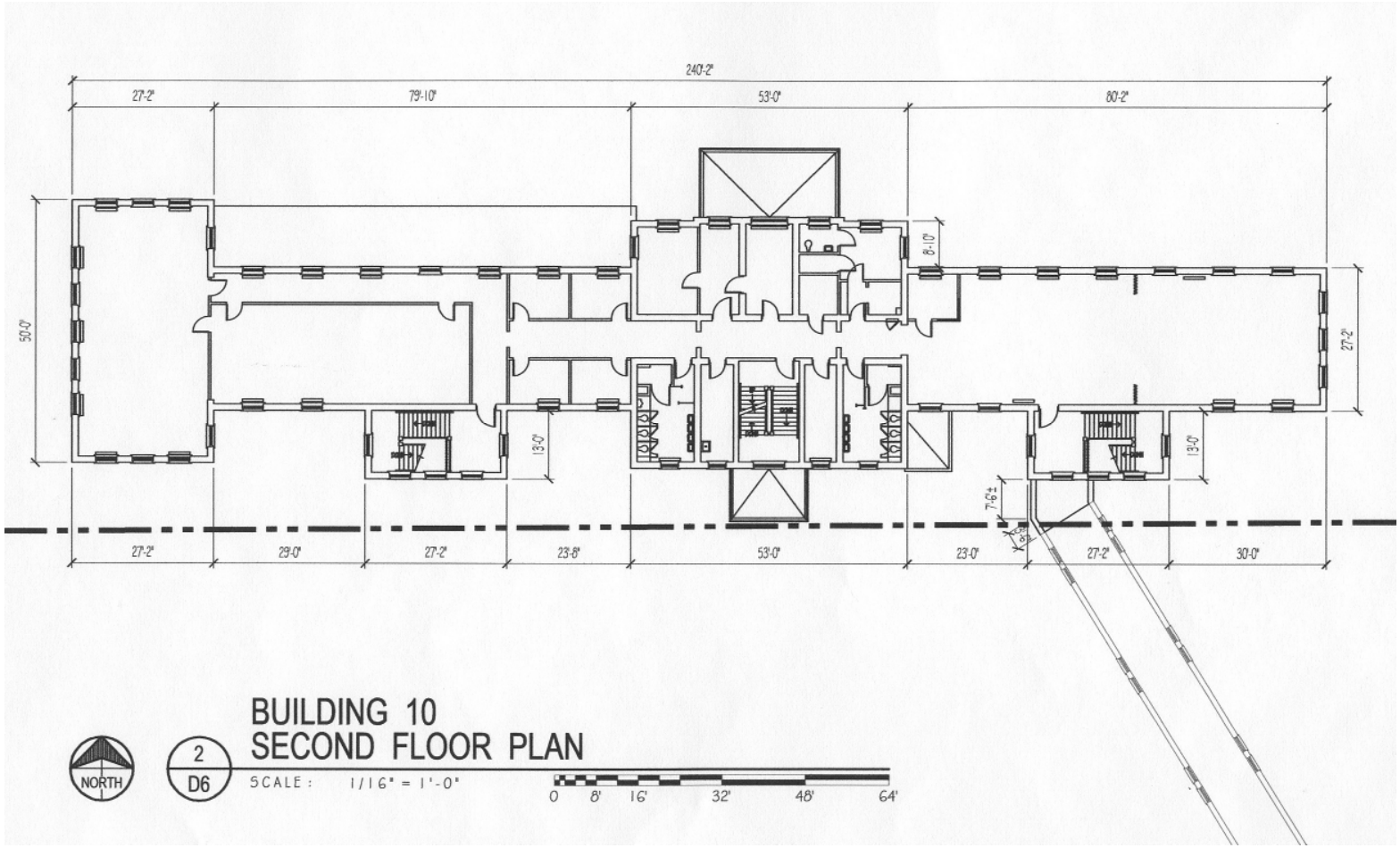


Figure 8. Second floor plan of Building 10, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

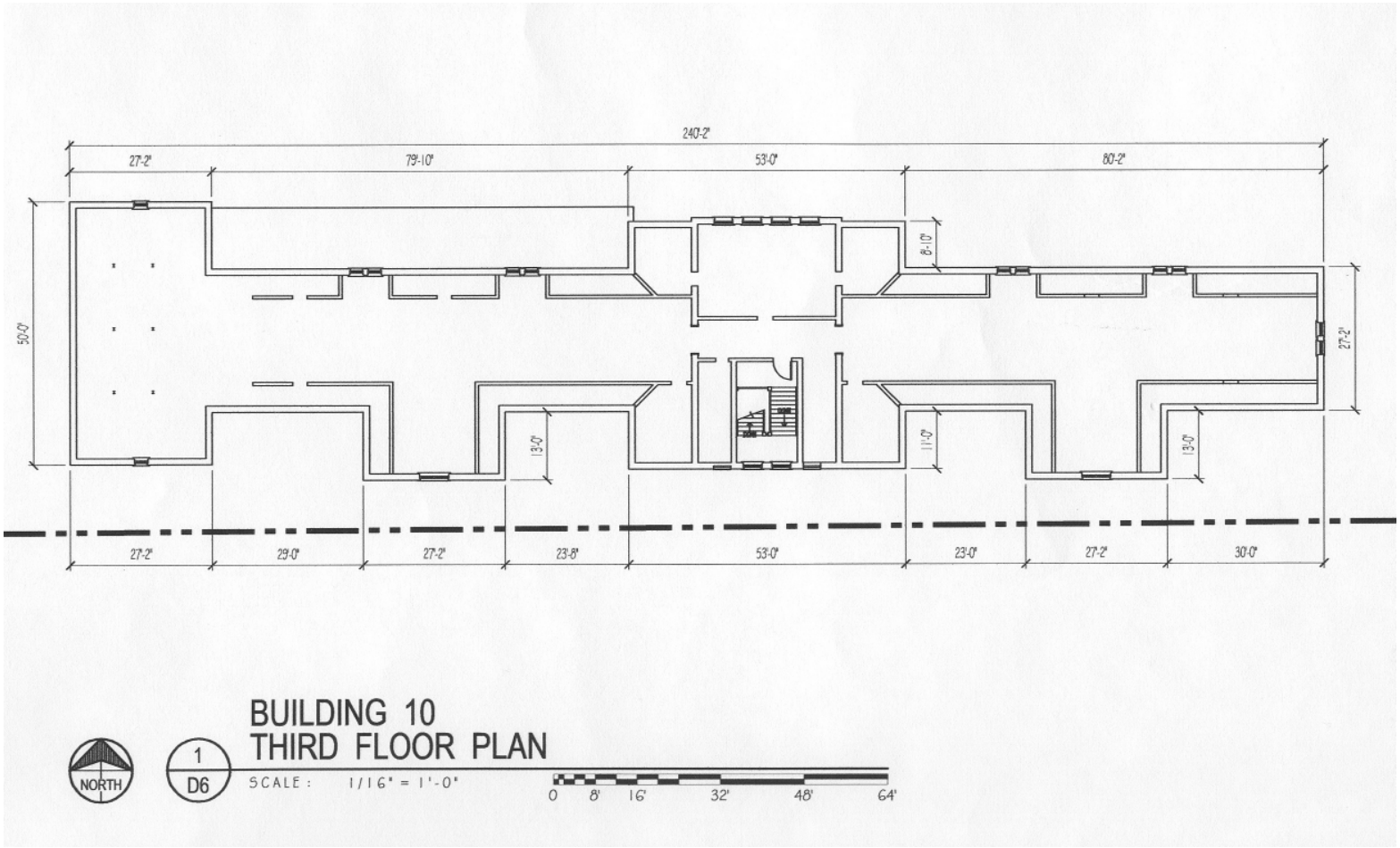


Figure 9. Third floor (or attic) plan of Building 10, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

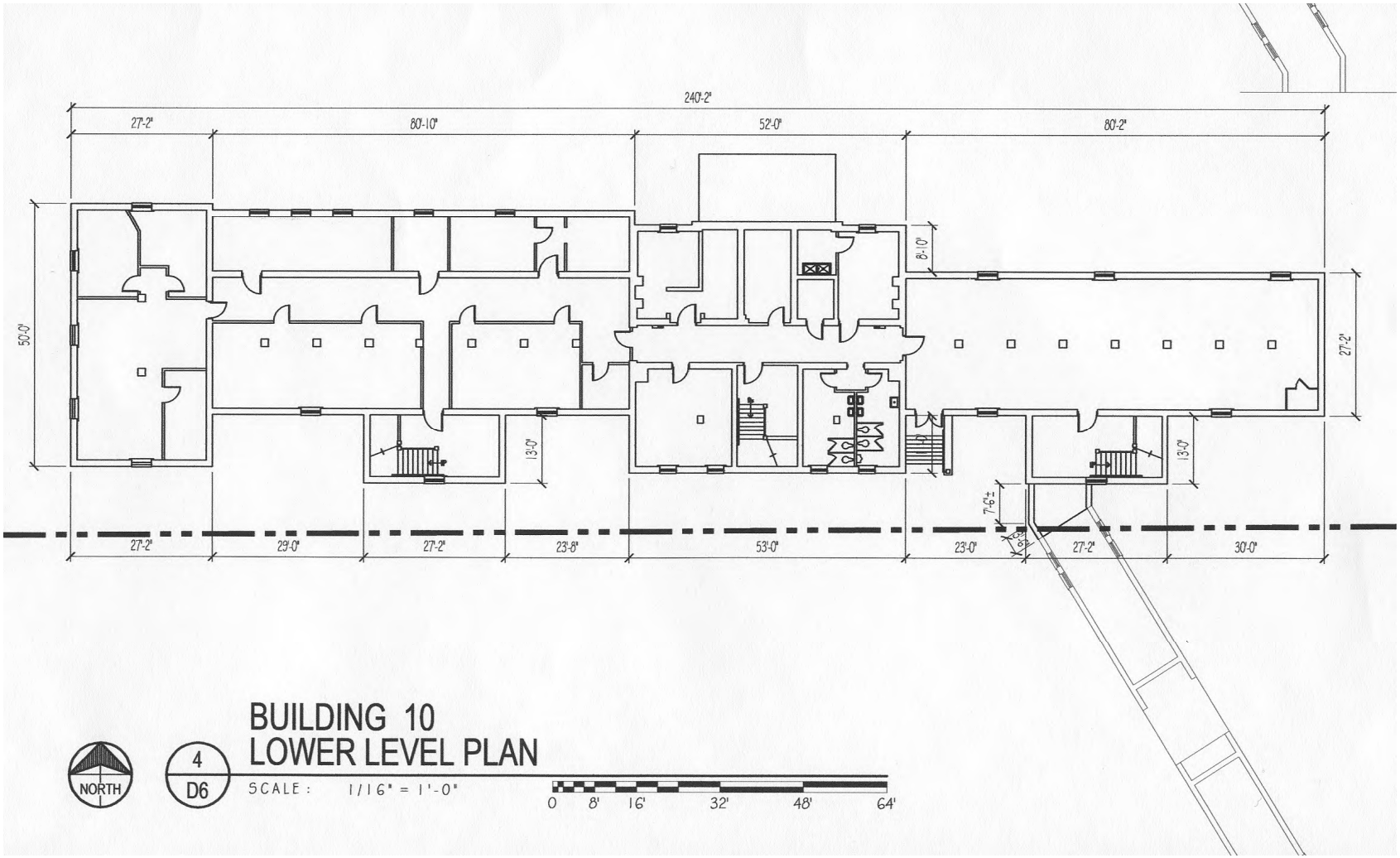


Figure 10. Basement plan of Building 10, showing existing conditions (Walton and Associates 2003).

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Building 10 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-C
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermilion County
Illinois

Documentation: 6 photographs. William Flesher, photographer (June 2003).

V-2003-2-C.1 Exterior view of building, looking southeast, showing the north and east elevations.

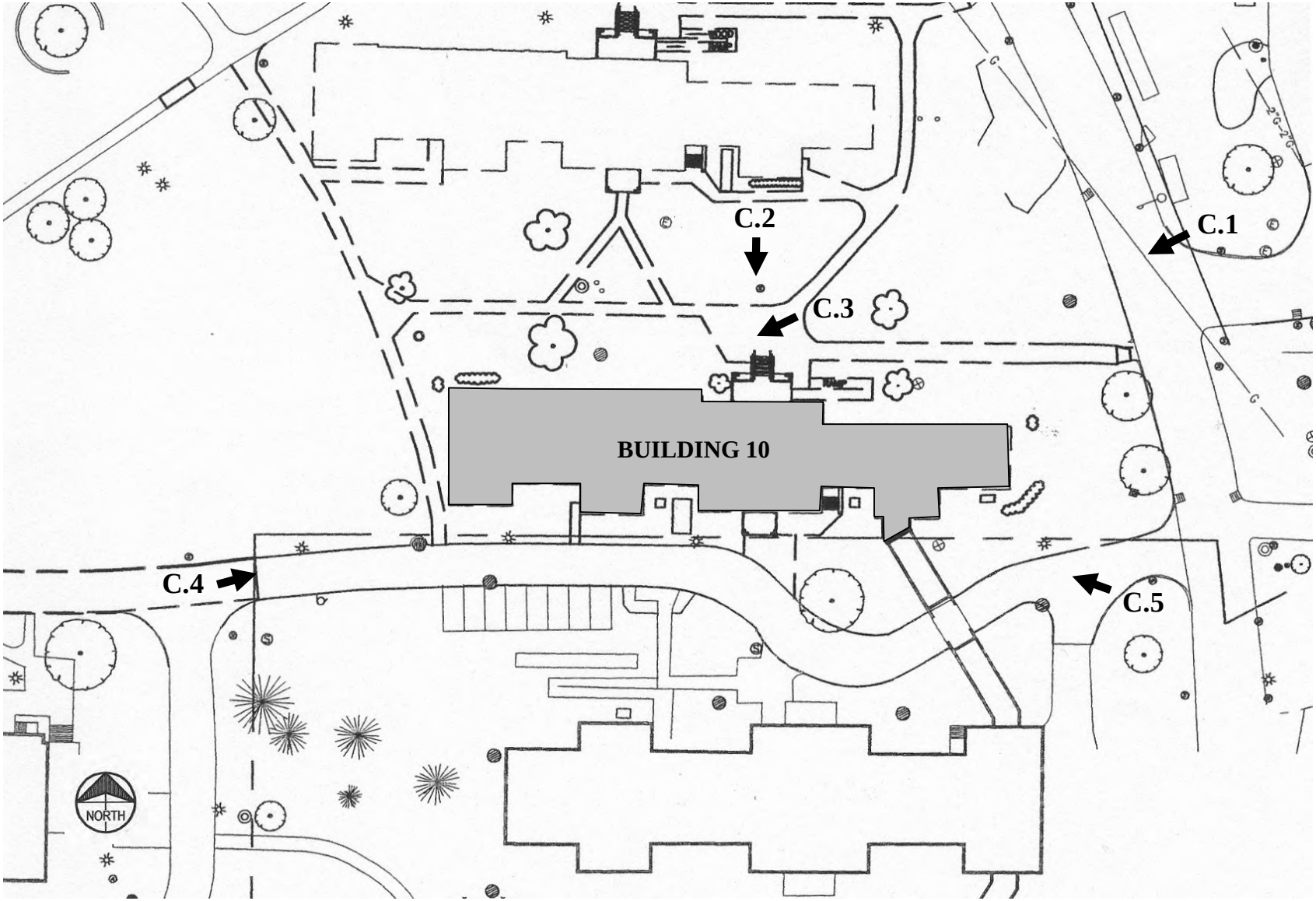
V-2003-2-C.2 View of the north elevation of the central block, showing the front entrance porch.

V-2003-2-C.3 Exterior view of the enclosed porch added along the north side of the west wing during the 1934 remodeling.

V-2003-2-C.4 View of the west and south elevations, looking down the driveway running along the south side of Building 10.

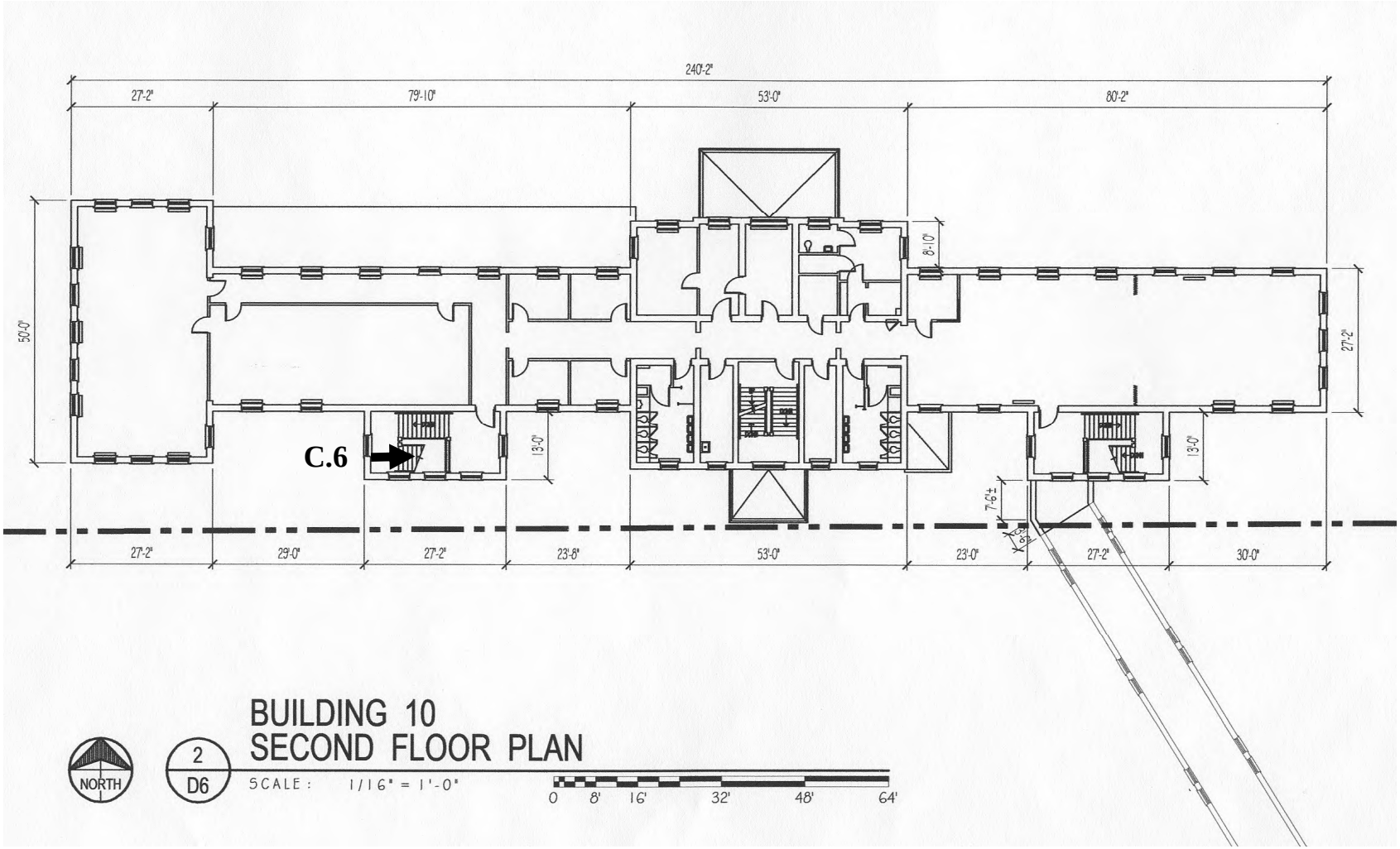
V-2003-2-C.5 View of the east end of the building, showing the two-story connector running between Building 10 and Building 11, located to the south.

V-2003-2-C.6 Interior view of the west stairway in the building, looking east from the stair landing between the first and second floors. Note the detention screen on the second floor landing.



Walton and Associates Architects, P.C.

IL HABS V-2003-2-C.2
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION



Walton and Associates Architects, P.C.

IL HABS V-2003-2-C.1
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-C.2
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-C.3
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

IL HABS V-2003-2-C.4
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IL HABS V-2003-2-C.5
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IL HABS V-2003-2-C.6
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Building 10 IL HABS No. V-2003-2-C
Danville Branch, NHDVS (Veterans Administration Hospital)
2000 East Main Street
Danville
Vermillion County
Illinois

V-2003-2-C-S1 (TOP) Photograph of the roof covering the the exterior basement stairway. This image illustrates the character of the slate shingles, cast-iron fenestration, and built-in metal gutters used on the original building. (BOTTOM) Photograph of the cast-iron base blocks on which the rear porch columns rest.[1]

V-2003-2-C-S2 View of the central corridor on the second floor, looking east. The multi-paned windows facing onto the corridor were added during the 1934 remodeling, as were overhead vent grilles.[2]

V-2003-2-C-S3 (TOP) Photograph of the nurses' station added in the northwest corner of the east wing in 1934.[3] (BOTTOM) Cut out for a ventilation grille (removed) showing steel studs used for one of the partition walls added in 1934.[4]

V-2003-2-C-S4 (TOP) Photograph a fire hose and water valve cabinet present in the central corridor. This presumably was one of the fire-prevention measures undertaken during the 1934 remodeling. (BOTTOM) View of a recessed light fixture present in one of the bed wards. This probably remained on at night in order to provide some light for nurses and patients negotiating the ward. It too is believed to have been added circa 1934.[5]

V-2003-2-C-S5 (LEFT) Photograph of the floor tile and ceramic baseboard used in the second-floor changing room. (BOTTOM) View of a second-floor shower stall. Note the character of the wall finishes (marble and tile) and large shower head.[6]

V-2003-2-C-S6 (TOP) View of one the group therapy rooms added in the basement in 1934. (BOTTOM) Photograph of a slatted bench in the attic which

[1] Fever River Research, June 2003.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.

originally covered a radiator. The slats in the bench allowed the heat to radiate.[7]

V-2003-2-C-S7 Photograph showing the location of the former elevator shaft in the attic. The elevator has been removed, but the shaft is clearly marked by the patched flooring and corner studs.[8]

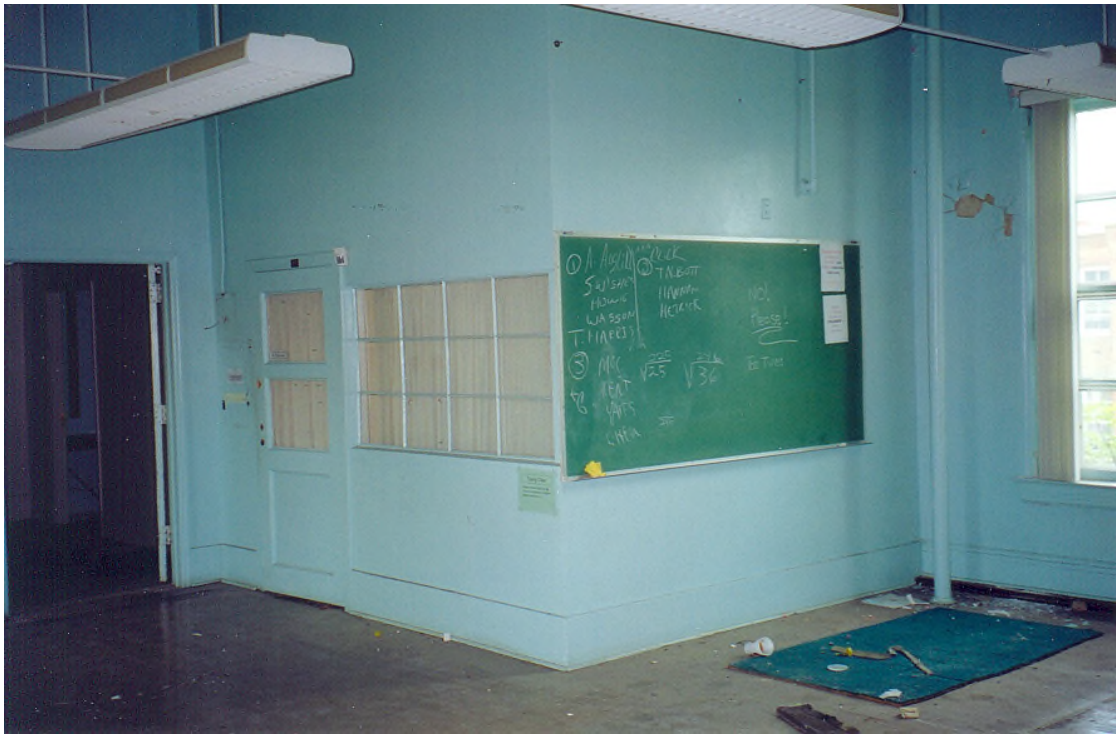
V-2003-2-C-S8 Photograph of the sheave (or pulley) for the elevator cable, which remains in place, as do the steel I-beams supporting it.[9]

[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.

V-2003-2-C-S1
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-C-S2
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-C-S3
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION



V-2003-2-C-S4
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-B-S5
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-B-S6
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

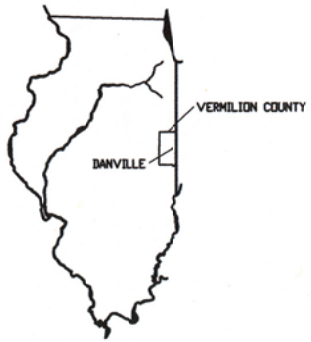
V-2003-2-B-S7
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

V-2003-2-B-S8
SEE INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR CAPTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IL-HABS BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL)
DANVILLE, VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

INDEX OF DRAWINGS



STATE LOCATION PLAN

SITE LOCATION PLAN

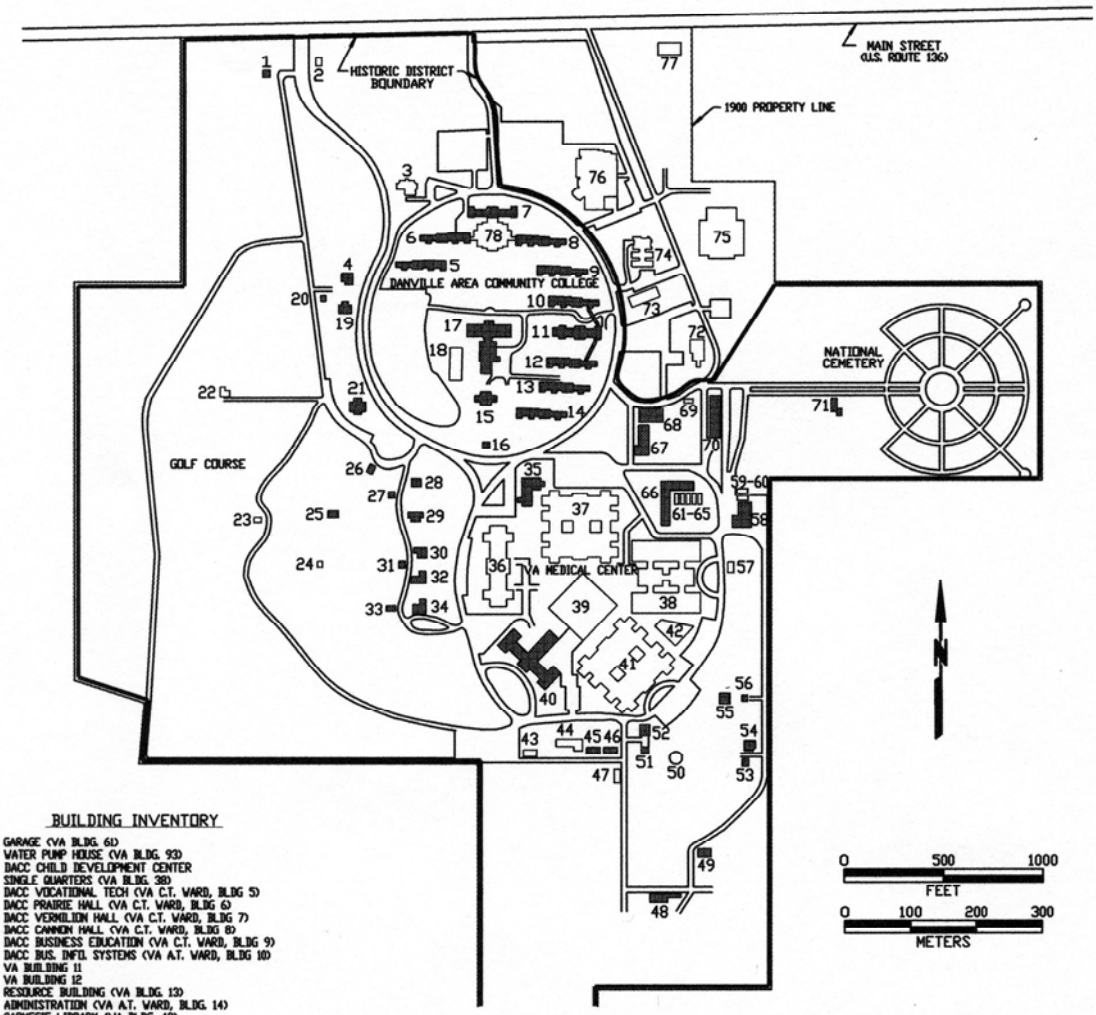
PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

THIS ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED IN A MEMORANDUM BY THE ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY'S PRESERVATION SERVICES DIVISION, WITH DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS A CONCURRING PARTNER, CONCERNING THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDING'S 5, 9, AND 10 AT THE FORMER DANVILLE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS (VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS). THE SUBJECT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WAS EXECUTED AND ITS TERMS CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE BY THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES WITH THE ILLINOIS STATE AGENCY HISTORIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION ACT (20 ILCS 3420).

THIS WORK WAS CARRIED OUT BY FEVER RIVER RESEARCH UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE IL HABS/HAER COORDINATOR AT THE PRESERVATION SERVICES DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY. FEVER RIVER RESEARCH PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT WERE FLOYD MANSBERGER, CHRISTOPHER STRATTON, AND WILLIAM FLESHER.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE DANVILLE BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS WAS FOUNDED IN 1898. IT WAS THE EIGHTH OF TEN "HOMES" ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS (NHDVS), NATIONWIDE, BETWEEN 1866 AND 1929. THESE FACILITIES WERE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE THOUSANDS OF DISABLED OR ELDERLY VETERANS WHO HAD SERVED IN THE UNION FORCES DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, AND THEY PRE-STAGED THE MODERN SYSTEM OF VETERANS' MEDICAL CENTERS. IN 1930, THE NHDVS WAS DISSOLVED, AND ITS VARIOUS BRANCHES WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE NEWLY CREATED VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA). IN 1934, THE DANVILLE BRANCH WAS CONVERTED INTO A NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, A CHANGE REFLECTIVE OF THE GROWING SPECIALIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO VETERANS DURING THIS PERIOD. THE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AT DANVILLE WERE BASED ON DISTINCT "ARCHITECTURAL SETS" ULTIZED BY THE NHDVS AND VA AT MULTIPLE FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS WAS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT UNDER CRITERION A (SOCIAL HISTORY, IN REGARDS TO THE AREA OF HEALTH/MEDICINE) AND CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE) IN 1991. THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE CITED FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION IS 1898-1941.



BUILDING INVENTORY

1. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 61)
2. WATER PUMP HOUSE (VA BLDG. 93)
3. DACC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
4. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 38)
5. DACC VOCATIONAL TECH (VA C.T. WARD, BLDG 5)
6. DACC PRAIRIE HALL (VA C.T. WARD, BLDG 6)
7. DACC VERMILION HALL (VA C.T. WARD, BLDG 7)
8. DACC CANNON HALL (VA C.T. WARD, BLDG 8)
9. DACC BUSINESS EDUCATION (VA C.T. WARD, BLDG 9)
10. DACC BUS. INFO. SYSTEMS (VA A.T. WARD, BLDG 10)
11. VA BUILDING 11
12. VA BUILDING 12
13. RESOURCE BUILDING (VA BLDG. 13)
14. ADMINISTRATION (VA A.T. WARD, BLDG. 14)
15. CARNEGIE LIBRARY (VA BLDG. 48)
16. BAND STAND (VA BLG. 56)
17. DACC CLOCK TOWER CENTER (VA BLDG. 17)
18. DACC BREMER CONFERENCE CENTER
19. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 37)
20. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 83)
21. VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND CREDIT UNION (VA BLDG. 61)
22. GOLF HOUSE (VA BLDG. 92)
23. MOWER STORAGE GARAGE (VA BLDG. 89)
24. SUMMER HOUSE (VA BLDG. 91)
25. ENGINEERING MACHINE SHOP (VA BLDG. 64)
26. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 61)
27. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 82)
28. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 35)
29. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 34)
30. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 33)
31. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 81)
32. SINGLE QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 32)
33. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 75)
34. DIRECTOR'S QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 31)
35. CHAPEL (VA BLDG. 49)
36. ADMISSION AND TREATMENT (VA BLDG. 98)
37. INTERMEDIATE MEDICINE UNIT (VA BLDG. 103)
38. INTERMEDIATE MEDICINE UNIT (VA BLDG. 102)
39. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (VA BLDG. 104)
40. GENERAL MEDICINE AND SURGICAL BUILDING (VA BLDG. 58)
41. INTERMEDIATE MEDICINE UNIT (VA BLDG. 101)
42. MODERN LIBRARY (VA BLDG. 123)
43. POTTING SHED (VA BLDG. T123)
44. GREENHOUSE CLINIC (VA BLDG. 25)
45. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 80)
46. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 79)
47. GARDEN STORAGE (VA BLDG. T124)
48. IMPLEMENT STORAGE (VA BLDG. 67)
49. BARN (VA BLDG. 66)
50. WATER TOWER (VA BLDG. 94)
51. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 78)
52. STAFF QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 41)
53. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 74)
54. STAFF QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 40)
55. STAFF QUARTERS (VA BLDG. 39)
56. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 77)
57. GARAGE (VA BLDG. 85)
58. MAIN GARAGE (VA BLDG. 26)
59-60. GARAGE STORAGE (VA BLDG. T116-117)
61-65. ENGINEERING STORAGE (VA BLDG. T110-114)
66. ENGINEERING MACHINE SHOP (VA BLDG. 72)
67. LINEN HANDLING FACILITY (VA BLDG. 69)
68. ENGINEERING STORAGE (FORMER LAUNDRY, VA BLDG. 22)
69. SCALE HOUSE AND TRUCK SCALE (VA BLDG. 96)
70. SUPPLY WAREHOUSE (VA BLDG. 19)
71. CEMETERY TOOL HOUSE (VA BLDG. 68)
72. VA BUILDING 100
73. DACC OPERATIONS FACILITY
74. DACC ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE
75. DACC MARY MILLER CENTER
76. DACC TECHNOLOGY CENTER
77. ARMY RESERVE
78. DACC LINCOLN HALL

NOTES

* SITE MAP BASED ON NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR DANVILLE BRANCH NHDVS HISTORIC DISTRICT (EDWARDS ET AL. 1991) AND 1999 USGS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH.

** SHADED BUILDINGS INDICATE CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES TO HISTORIC DISTRICT.

DRAWN BY: FEVER RIVER RESEARCH

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	IL HABS/HAER NO.: V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS: 2/13	2

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Drawn by VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	IL HABS/HAER NO. V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS 3/13	A-1

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	IL HABS/HAER NO. V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS 4/13	A-2

DRAWN BY: WALTON AND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	H. RAISE/HER NO.: V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS: 5/13	A-3

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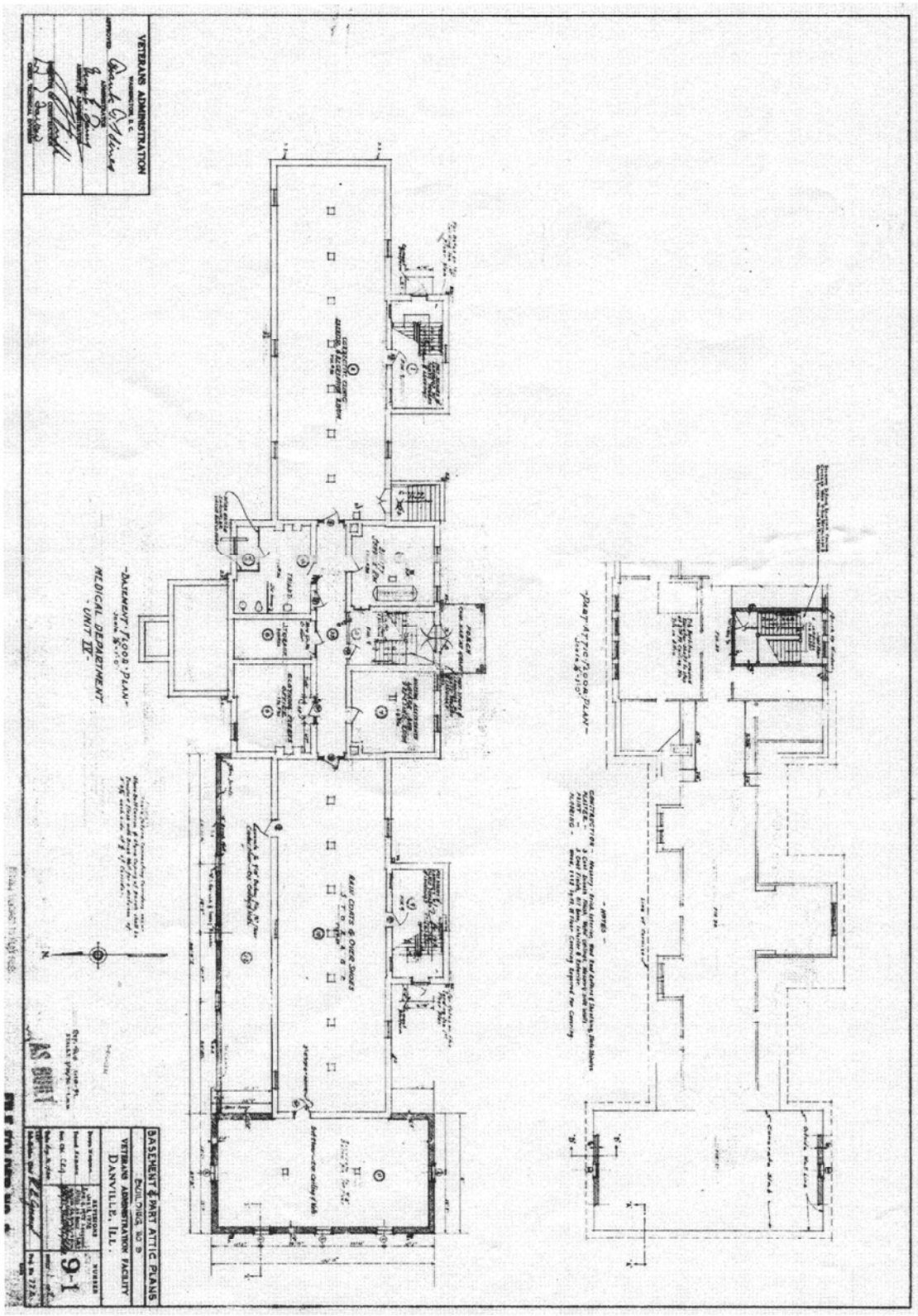

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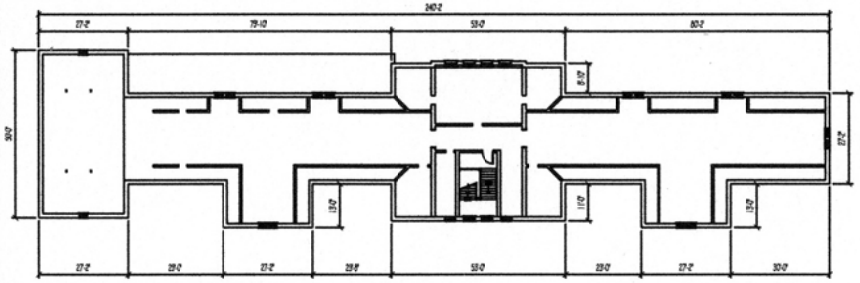
ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IL HABS/HAER NO.: V-2003-2

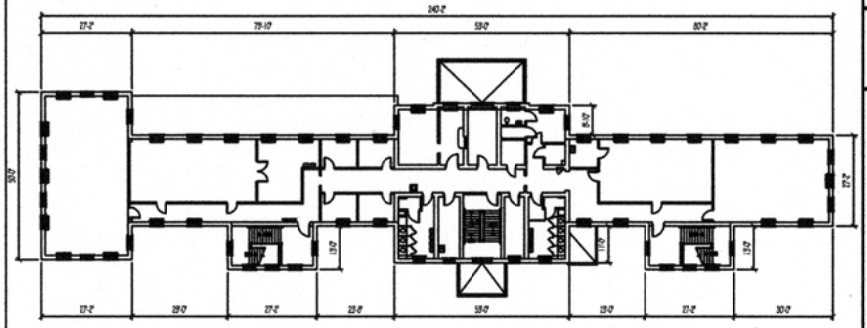
SHEET OF SHEETS: 7/13

B-2



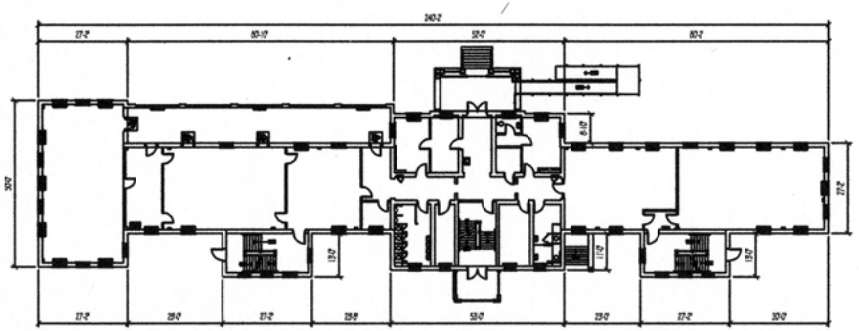
BUILDING 9
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

1/D5 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



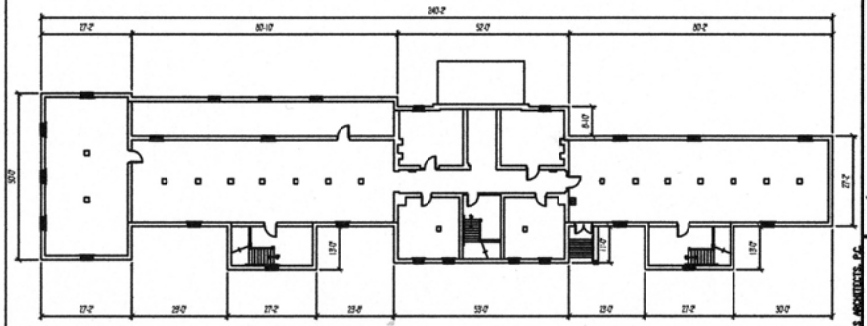
BUILDING 9
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

2/D5 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



BUILDING 9
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

3/D5 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



BUILDING 9
LOWER LEVEL PLAN

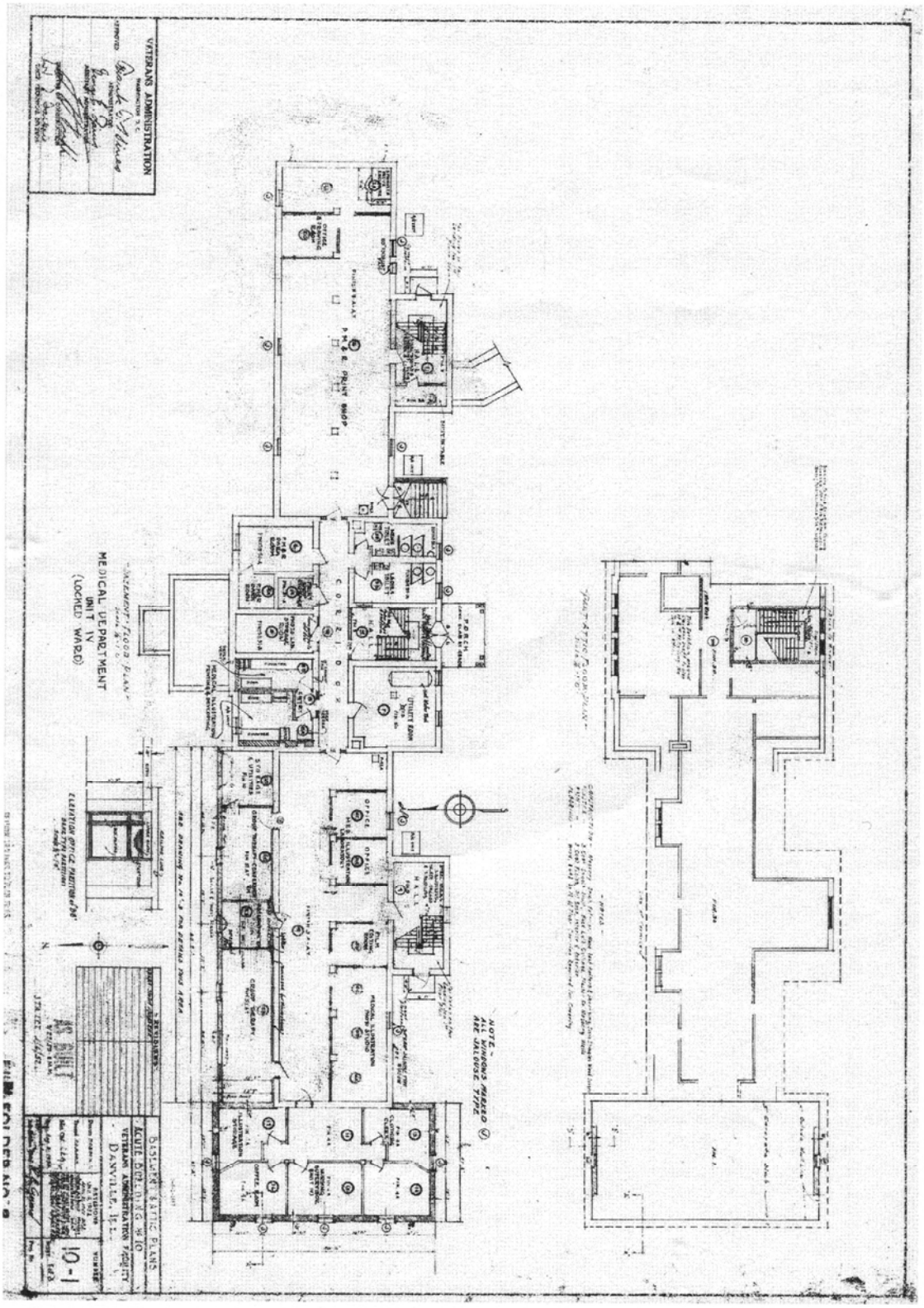
4/D5 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

HABS No. V-2003-2

SHEET OF SHEETS 8/13

B-3



DRAWN BY: VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	H. HABS/HAER NO. V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS 9/13	C-1

DRAWN BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	IL HABS/HAER NO. V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS 10/13	C-2

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DRAWN BY: WALTON AND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY	NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS	I.D. NUMBER/HABS NO.: V-2003-2	SHEET OF SHEETS: 11/13	C-3

DRAWN BY: WALTON AND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

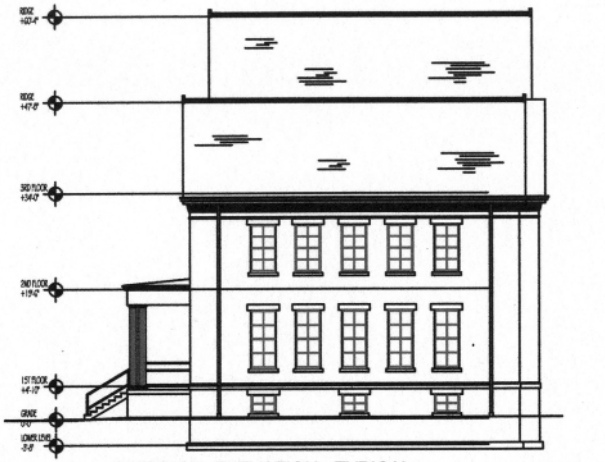
H. HABS/HAER NO.: V-2003-2

SHEET OF SHEETS: 12/13

C-4

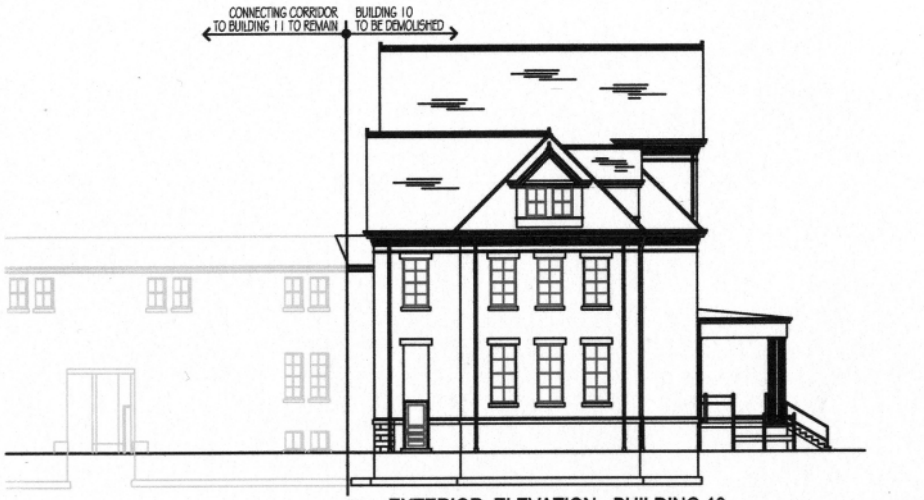
1 D8 EXTERIOR ELEVATION - TYPICAL

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



2 D8 EXTERIOR ELEVATION - TYPICAL

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



3 D8 EXTERIOR ELEVATION - BUILDING 10

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE:
DANVILLE BRANCH, NHDVS (VA HOSPITAL), VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IL HISTORIC RES. NO. V-2003-2

SHEET OF SHEETS 13/13

C-5

PREPARED BY: VALENTINE AND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

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