

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,
MARION BRANCH, BUILDING NO. 24
(Ward Building)
1700 East 38th Street
Marion
Grant
Indiana

HABS IN-306-AA
IN-306-AA

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,
MARION BRANCH, BUILDING NO. 24
(Hospital Annex No. 1)
(Barracks No. 8)
1700 East 38th Street
Marion
Grant County
Indiana

HABS IN-306-AA
HABS IN-306-AA

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS – MARION BRANCH,
BUILDING No. 24
(Hospital Annex No. 1)
(Barracks No. 8)

HABS No. IN-306-AA

- Location:** 1700 East 38th Street, Marion, Grant County, Indiana
Building No. 24 faces south towards Chapman Avenue. The building is directly east of the main hospital south wing (Building No. 22), and southeast of the main entrance gate on 38th Street.
- The coordinates for Building No. 24 are 40.520539 N, -85.631962 W. These coordinates were obtained in January 2012 and with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Northern Indiana Healthcare System
- Present Use:** Vacant, slated for demolition
- Significance:** Building No. 24 was constructed as a barracks for the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) during 1895-96. The NHDVS was a federal institution authorized by Congress in 1865 and charged with caring for Civil War veterans disabled by their military service. Congressman George Steele of the 11th Indiana Congressional District successfully promoted the creation of this Branch in Grant County with the promise of an on-site natural gas well for free heating and lighting. Founded in 1889 as the seventh NHDVS branch, the Marion Branch featured a picturesque campus of winding avenues and red brick Queen Anne buildings with wide porches and ornamental balustrades. By 1930 the NHDVS system had eleven branches and became part of the new Veterans Administration.
- The original Marion Branch buildings were designed by the Dayton, Ohio architectural firm of Peters and Burns. Building No. 24 is also attributed to this firm because it features a Queen Anne/Colonial Revival architectural vocabulary consistent with the rest of the complex. In 1921, the Marion Branch became the Marion National Sanitarium, a facility dedicated to the treatment of World War I neuropsychiatric cases, including what was then called shell shock and other mental disorders. The emphasis throughout the NHDVS had been shifting from residential campuses to more sophisticated medical care for veterans. Building No.

24 was renovated and likely was converted from a barracks to a hospital annex at this time. After 1930 the Marion Branch continued to specialize in psychiatric care as part of the Veterans Administration. In 1936, Building No. 24 (then called Hospital Annex No. 1) was designated an Infirmary Building with 45 beds for chronic patients.¹ The original hospital and many of the barracks were still used for patients until new psychiatric facilities were built on the west side of the site. Since vacated during the 1980s, Building No. 24 has fallen into disrepair and has been slated for demolition.

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, 2011

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1895-1896

In mid-1895, plans were underway to construct two new barracks, one of which was probably this structure (built as Barracks No. 8).² The other may have been what is now Building No. 18 (Barracks No. 9), which has a matching design and faces Building No. 24 on the other side of Chapman Avenue.

2. Architect: attributed to Peters and Burns, Dayton, Ohio

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Building No. 24 was built as a barracks for the Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. In 1921 the Marion Branch became a National Sanitarium dedicated to neuropsychiatric care and Building No. 24 was renovated and functioned as an annex to the main hospital. Patients with chronic conditions were housed here. Building No. 24 is now part of Marion Campus of the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System. The building was used for patient care and then Social Services offices until the 1980s and now stands vacant, awaiting demolition.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: attributed to S. C. Moore and Son³

5. Original plans and construction: Original drawings have not been located. Field inspection and historic photographs indicate that the original exterior appearance has been altered by the removal of character defining features such as chimneys,

¹ Typescript, Marion VA Hospital Inventory (29 April 1936), Marion and Grant County File, Marion Public Library.

² NHDVS Board of Managers, "Marion Branch Report," *Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1895* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1896), 154-155.

³ S. C. Moore and Son were the contractors for the mess hall and two barracks in 1895-96.

porches, and dormers (Figure 1). The current interior layout may be a c. 1921 conversion from open wards/barracks to many small rooms.

6. Alterations and additions: Building No. 24 has had several alterations and additions. It was renovated in 1921. The exact nature of these renovations is unknown but perhaps the current double loaded corridor layout with many small rooms was put in place at this time. New stairwells were inserted into the southeast and southwest corners of the plan between 1937 and 1940 (Figures 2 and 3). Also, the wood porches were removed and the two-story brick porch on the east end of the building was rebuilt using brick and concrete during this time frame. Bathrooms on the east end of each hall were renovated in 1967, with a wall partially extended into the dayroom area.⁴ In addition to the porches, the original chimneys, dormers, and cupola were removed prior to 1981 (possibly as early as 1940). With these features in place the building had a more ornate, Victorian character that is no longer apparent.

B. Historical Context: See overview historical context HABS No. IN-306 for additional information on the Marion Branch and the NHDVS.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Building No. 24 is a Colonial Revival institutional building two-and-a half stories tall. It has a five-part Georgian plan with a center and end pavilions connected by recessed hyphens. The center hall entrance leads to a transverse double-loaded corridor. The Colonial Revival features include red brick walls, contrasting limestone foundations and quoins, and neoclassical wood dentilated cornice and door surrounds. Originally, Building No. 24 had a mixed Queen Anne/Colonial Revival appearance with cupolas, dormers, and ornate wood porches, but removal of these features and renovations have emphasized the Colonial Revival aspects of the structure. Building No. 24 is nearly identical to Building No. 18 which is located across the road to the south.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair. Building No. 24 has walls, ceiling, and floors damaged by water infiltration and the lack of climate control. Roof damage and animal infestation are also evident.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Building No. 24 is seventeen bays wide – divided into a five-part façade (3-3-5-3-3) - and three bays deep.

⁴ “Proposed New Water Section, Building No. 24,” Veterans Administration (20 April 1967), Engineering Services Drawing Files, Marion VAMC.

2. Foundations: The exterior foundation walls have a course of rusticated limestone at grade level on all elevations. On the front and rear (south and north), the rusticated limestone continues approximately forty inches high to a smoothly dressed limestone water table. The rusticated limestone has more deeply struck horizontal mortar joints, emphasizing this line. On the exposed west end elevation (the east has been covered by a porch) the foundation is brick between the grade level limestone course and water table. The water table is six inches deep with a sloped upper edge. There are rusticated limestone quoins at the corners. The interior foundations are riverstone with brick piers and wood beams.
3. Walls: The walls are red brick laid in a running bond. There is a smoothly dressed limestone belt course above the second floor windows on the front of the center pavilion.
4. Structural system, framing: Building No. 24 is supported by interior brick piers, exterior stone walls, and wood beams and floor joists. There are also metal I-beams running along the partially finished ends of the basement on brick piers. The roof framing is common rafter with a nailed ridge board and supporting trusses. The cross gable trusses have a combination of wood and metal members while the high main trusses are all wood beam.
5. Porches and stoops: Originally two-story wood porches with elaborate turned spindle balustrades were located on each end of the building. The hyphen areas were also filled by inset two-story porches that are no longer extant. A one-story hipped roof porch was located at the center entrance pavilion. Loss of these porches has altered the visual character of Building No. 24.

There is a two-story flat roof porch with brick piers, a stucco ceiling, and concrete floors on the east end of the building, replacing an original wood porch. This porch is screened-in and accessible from the interior day rooms only. It is in place by 1940.

Building No. 24 has three concrete stoops on the front or south façade – one at the each of the pavilion doorways. The center stoop has a straight run of seven concrete steps flanked by brick knee walls with concrete coping. There is a metal pipe railing running up the center of the steps. The two end pavilions have concrete stoops with six concrete steps and metal pipe railings on one side.

The rear center pavilion has a low concrete ramp leading to a one-story flat roof porch. This porch also has a tall flat wood cornice and wide eaves. There are small one light French windows on the side elevations with a limestone sill. The north side of the porch has a two-leaf screen door. Directly to the west of this rear porch is a brick and concrete stoop at an altered window opening. This high stoop is accessed via a straight run of seven concrete steps parallel to the building on its east side. These stairs have a metal pipe railing along their outer edge.

6. Chimneys: The original brick chimneys have been removed (prior to 1981) and the openings covered over. Metal ventilation pipes are still extant – four protruding from the north slope and four from the south slope of the roof. These ventilation pipes were likely installed when the interior was altered into a double loaded corridor of small rooms, c. 1921.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The center doors on the north and south are replacement metal and glass commercial doors with fixed sidelights and transoms. These later doors are set within pedimented Colonial Revival wood door surrounds. These surrounds project from the wall surface and have wide flat frames on plinths and are probably mid-twentieth century replacements. The end pavilions have similar Colonial Revival surrounds with older wood panel doors. These doors have two vertical panels in the lower half and twelve square divided lights above the lock rail. There is another example of this door at the rear stoop, which also has a wood frame screen door. The end pavilion doors were added after the original two-story wood end porches were removed.
 - b. Windows: The typical window is a two-over-two wood sash set directly into the brick wall with a projecting limestone sill and flush limestone lintel. Two of the window openings on the south façade of the west end pavilion first floor have been filled with brick. Three round arch two-over-two windows appear at the second floor of the center front pavilion. These windows have limestone sills and are topped by four flush courses of header bricks. Two longer two over four rectangular windows appear on the side elevations of the center pavilion second floor – these windows probably provided access to the porches that are no longer extant. The windows on the rear elevation are slightly thinner and more widely spaced. The attic level of the center pavilion (both front and rear) has a row of five small one over one wood sash rectangular windows. This window grouping shares a single limestone sill and lintel.

There is a large round arch window at the stair landing between the first and second floors on the rear elevation center pavilion. This window is composed of two rectangular two-over-two windows in its lower sections, sharing a single limestone sill and separated by a flat wood mullion. The upper round arch section is unevenly divided into sixteen lights in a horizontal rectangle pattern. The arch is outlined by four courses of header bricks.

8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Building No. 24 has a complex hipped roof with cross hips at the center and end pavilions. The main ridge runs east/west but each pavilion's taller cross hip is oriented north/south. The roof is of moderate to high pitch and

has a slight kick at the eaves. Originally covered with slate, these roofs are now sheathed with asphalt composite shingles. The flat roof porches have flat seam tin roofs.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Building No. 24 has a wide decorative cornice with dentils and thick brackets with curved ends supporting the box eaves. The eaves are wide with integrated gutters and coffered soffits.
- c. Dormers and cupolas: Building No. 24 has a tall hip roof wall dormer at the front center pavilion. Additional hipped roof dormers on the east and west end roof slopes and smaller versions of similar dormers on the south roof slope over the each connecting hyphen area have been removed. A louvered cupola with a octagonal roof was removed from the center pavilion roof peak.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Building No. 24 has a roughly rectangular footprint with a central entrance and a double-loaded transverse corridor running west to east (Figure 4). Larger day rooms (east) or four-bed wards (west) are located at each end of building while the halls are lined with small patient rooms, offices, and bathrooms. The center section of the basement has concrete floors and roughly finished rooms with arched openings. The ends of the basement are partially unfinished with dirt floors and lower ceilings. It is likely that when originally built as a barracks the floor plan included small rooms in the center pavilion and large open dormitories in the wings.
2. Stairways: Building No. 24 has three stairways – one at the center of the structure on its north side and one on each end at the south side. The center stair is original and features twelve-inch deep wood steps and seven-inch high risers with a no-skid tread on a metal carriage. It is a dogleg stair traveling from the basement to the second floor. The stair to the basement is an open, straight run wood stair. Between the basement and first floor there is a halfpace landing at the rear entrance porch. The first floor hall functions as another landing and the flight rising from here has a large rounded first step at the hall and thick molding framing the doorway. The first to second floor portion has a halfpace landing and wall-mounted wood handrails on the inner wall only. The second floor hall again creates a landing for a final all wood dogleg stair with halfpace landing up to the attic. There is a simple wood balustrade around the stair opening in the attic.

The end stairways were added between 1937 and 1940, and travel from the first to second floor in a large, high ceiled stairwell. These dogleg stairs have metal treads (11 ½ inches deep), risers (seven-inches high with a decorative rectangular panel), and strings on a concrete carriage. Large wire mesh security grilles were added to block the area above the half wall on the inner edge. There is a handrail mounted on the outer wall.

3. Flooring: The predominant flooring in Building No. 24 is resilient tile or sheet flooring over wood tongue and groove. There is a combination of white two-inch hexagonal tile and three-inch square tiles in the entrance hall. The first floor east end bathroom has two-inch square green ceramic tile and one-inch square red and black ceramic tiles arranged in a repeating square pattern. There is an area of six-inch square red quarry tile on the south side of the east dayrooms on both floors. The quarry tile continues on the landings of the east staircase. The bathrooms on the west end of the main hall have quarry tile floors. A few offices have commercial grade carpet. The west stairwell and basement have concrete floors. The attic has wood flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling are plaster on wood lathe. This fabric indicates that the many small interior rooms are an early change if not original. Some added dividing walls are built from structural clay tile covered with plaster, such as at the east end bathroom. The typical baseboard is an applied composite, or some remaining all wood baseboard with quarter round toe molding. The entrance foyer has an eight-inch high pink marble baseboard. There is a plain strip of molding three quarters of the way up some walls. There are white six-inch square tile wainscot on the west end bathrooms and small nurses' toilets. The east end bathrooms have a four-inch square gray tile wainscot.

The hall ceiling is highest near the center pavilion and lower on the other side of the hall doorways. The transverse hall and large end day rooms have a decorative plaster beam around the edges of the ceiling. The east end bathrooms have acoustic tile drop ceilings.

5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: There are doorways at each small room along the double loaded corridor and additional doorways into the stairwells at the end rooms. There are a few inner connecting doorways at the administrative rooms near the center entrance hall. The typical door is wood veneer with a small fixed diamond shaped opening filled with wireglass. The doors are set directly into the masonry wall without trim. A two-leaf set of these doors appears at the west end of the hall before the large west end room. There are a few metal doors with glazing in the top half. The ones at the west end stairways have six faux divided lights. The east end stairway doors have nine divided lights.

The entrance foyer has a wood two-leaf French door leading to the main hall. Each leaf is unequally divided into nine lights, with small squares at the corners. This doorway has fixed sidelights divided into two small squares and a long rectangular center and a segmental arch transom divided horizontally into six lights.

There is a plastic accordion-type door added to the nurses' room at the west side of the center entrance hall.

- b. Windows: The typical window is a two-over-two rectangular wood sash in a segmental arch opening. The lower corners of the upper sash have a curved drop. The sash is set directly into the masonry wall with a rounded plaster edge. Some windows have a six-inch wood sill that projects slightly beyond the edges of the opening and has a banded apron below. Other windows lack a sill and instead have a canted plaster ledge below. There are a few round arch windows at the center front gable pavilion. The sides of this pavilion each have a tall window opening that reaches to the floor. These openings likely originally provided access to the porches that are no longer extant. They are now covered with metal wire security grilles.
6. Decorative features and trim: N/A
 7. Hardware: Most of the door hardware is plain silver metal knobs and utilitarian hinges.
 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating and ventilation: Building No. 24 had cast iron radiators serviced by a central steam heating plant. Most of the radiators have been removed. An early gravity ventilation system of intakes and ducts in each patient room is still remarkably intact. Each room had an eight by twelve inch open air vent at floor level and a fourteen inch square vent higher in the same wall, covered by a decorative metal grille. A number of the original ventilation pipes that vented ducts from four different rooms are still extant in the attic. The pipes that have been removed reveal the four capped ducts gathered for each pipe. This type of natural airflow system was considered essential to good medical practice in this period. Wall-mounted fans were added to many rooms. A later exhaust fan in the east side of the attic was linked to some of the ductwork. This equipment is marked "New York Blower Co, LaPorte, IN."
 - b. Lighting: Fluorescent ceiling light fixtures appear throughout Building No. 24. There are a few pendant style ceiling fixtures on the east porch and remnants of incandescent ceiling fixtures.
 - c. Plumbing: Building No. 24 has six bathrooms. There is a large bathroom on the southeast side of each floor. These bathrooms have a porcelain coated cast iron tub on a base, a wall-mounted vitreous china sink, shower stall, two toilets with metal stall dividers, and a wall-mounted vitreous china urinal. Another patient bathroom is located at the southwest side of each floor. These bathrooms have a pink marble shower stall, two wall-mounted sinks, urinal and toilet with marble surround. A small nurses' bathroom with toilet and wall-mounted vitreous china

sink was located on each floor near the center stair. These bathrooms have wood stall doors with marble surrounds. There are wall-mounted vitreous china sinks in the day rooms and the nurses' room on the first floor. The utility room on each floor has a porcelain-coated cast iron utility sink. There are pipe chase access doors on both floors at each end of the transverse hallway.

- d. Dumbwaiter: There is a dumbwaiter for the serving kitchen on the west side of the main hall. The hoist machinery for the dumbwaiter is still located in the attic - - CJ Anderson, Chicago, Type CR 2 HP, 220 volts, Serial 30484. This electric motor has cables running through the floor below.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. **Architectural drawings:** Original or early architectural drawings for the Marion Branch buildings have not been located. The PLIARS database preserves many floor plans that serve as a record of existing conditions and change over time – the earliest of these drawings date to the 1930s. Engineering Services at the Marion VAMC has extensive flat files, but very little early material. Most of these drawings date to the second half of the twentieth century. Relevant drawings for Building No. 24 include:

- Floor Plans, “Infirmiry Building No. 24,” Veterans Administration (3 September 1937), PLIARS database, VACO.
- First and Second Floor Plans, “Infirmiry – Chronic, Building No. 24,” Veterans Administration (7 February 1944, revised 25 July 1963), PLIARS database, VACO.
- Proposed New Water Section, Building No. 24,” Veterans Administration (20 April 1967), Engineering Services Drawing Files, Marion VAMC.

B. **Early Views:** The only early view of Building No. 24 seems to be one published in a souvenir book from 1908 (see below).

C. Selected Bibliography:

Board of Managers – National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Annual Reports*, various years starting in 1867; many volumes include *Proceedings* of the Board of Managers meetings.

Hubbard, Nancy J. “Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District,” Grant County, Indiana. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1999. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Inspector General. *Annual Report of Inspection - National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*. Washington, DC: GPO, (annual – 1894-1925).

Julin, Suzanne. “National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers – Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations.” 2008. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C..

Kelly, Patrick. *Creating a National Home: Building the Veterans' Welfare State*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.

National Military Home Indiana. Wabash, IN: Press of the Plain Dealer, c. 1908.

Rector, Matthew D. “The Early Development, Design, and Construction of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers,” M.A. Thesis, Ball State University, 2002.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of selected buildings at the former Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was undertaken in 2011 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Kathleen Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer. Project development was coordinated by Catherine Lavoie, Chief, HABS and by Douglas Pulak, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, DVA. The field work was undertaken and the written histories were produced by Lisa P. Davidson and Virginia B. Price, HABS Historians. The large-format photography was undertaken by HABS Photographer Renee Bieretz; an initial photographic survey was completed by HABS Photographer James Rosenthal in 2008. Valuable assistance was provided by James A. Broyles, Project Engineer, Engineering Services, Marion Campus, VA Northern Indiana Health Care System.

PART V. ILLUSTRATIONS

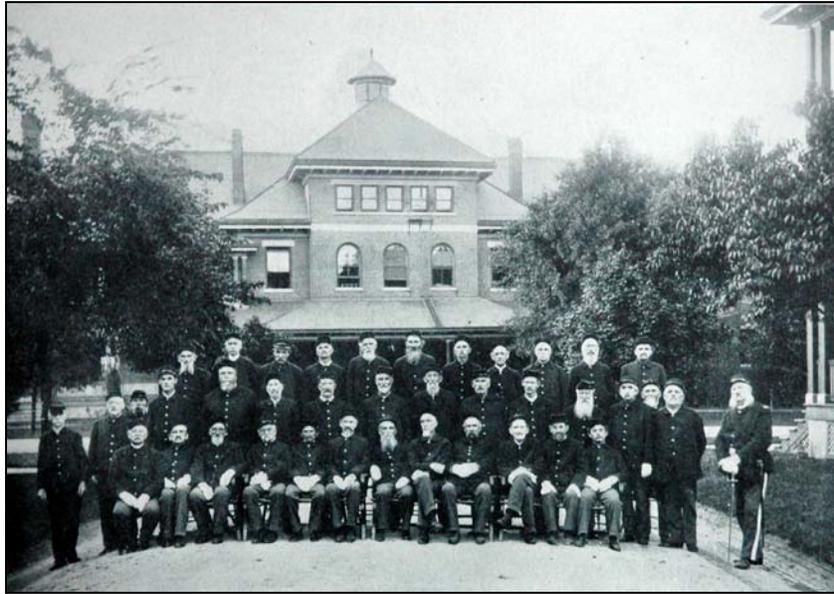


Figure 1: Company No. 8 in front of Barracks No. 8, c. 1908
Source: *National Military Home Indiana*, c. 1908, Marion VAMC files

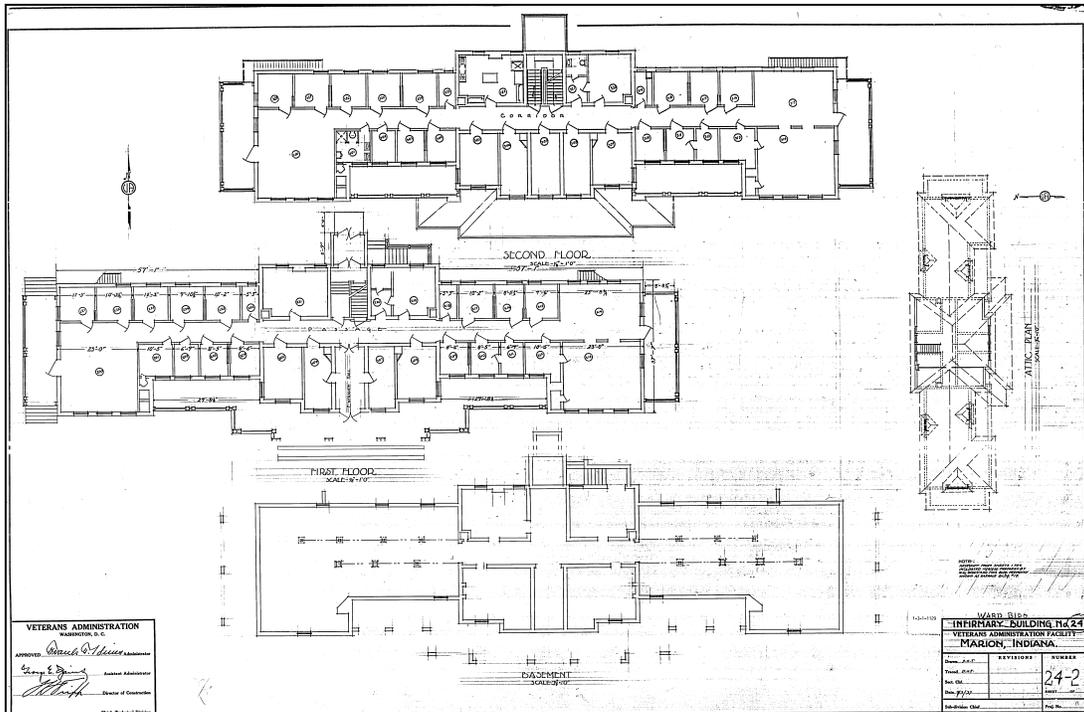


Figure 2: Building No. 24 Floor Plans, 1937
Source: PLIARS database, VACO

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
 MARION BRANCH, BUILDING No. 24
 HABS No. IN-306-AA
 (Page 12)

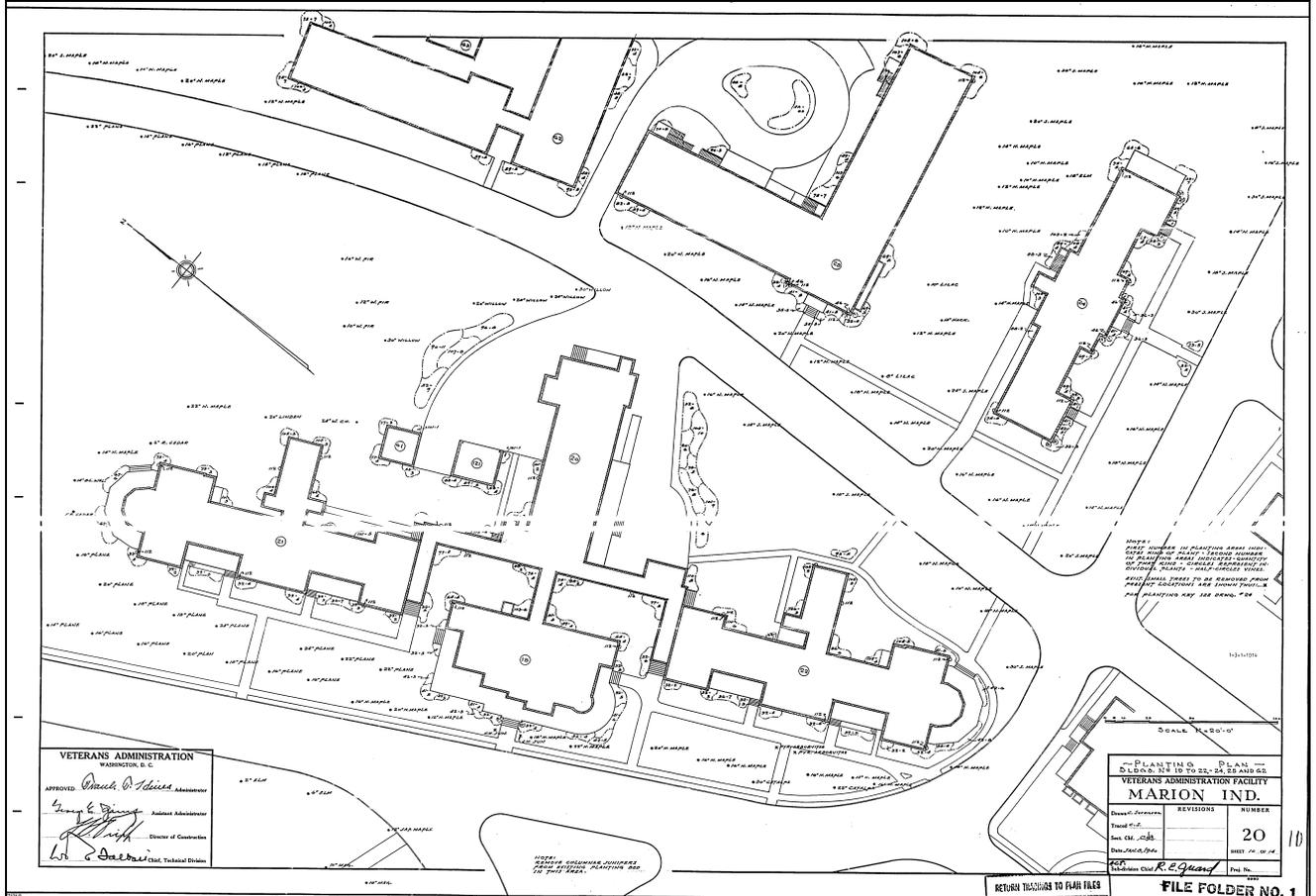
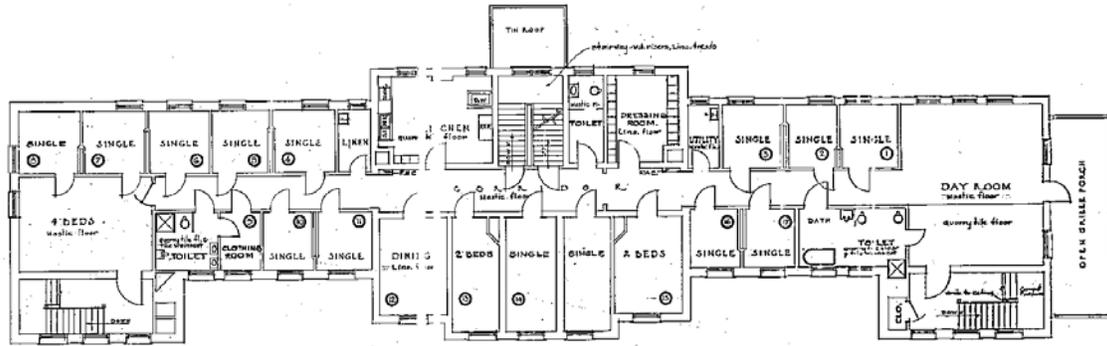
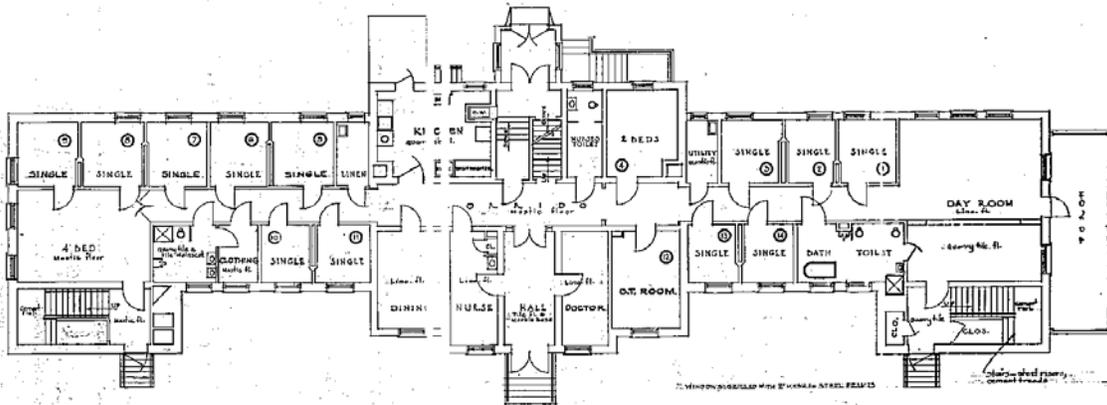


Figure 3: Site Plan of Marion Branch Hospital, 1940
 Source: PLIARS database, VACO

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS –
 MARION BRANCH, BUILDING No. 24
 HABS No. IN-306-AA
 (Page 13)



FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 CAPACITY THIS FLOOR, 22 BEDS.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 CAPACITY THIS FLOOR, 20 BEDS.

Figure 4: Building No. 24 First and Second Floor Plans, 1944, revised 1963
 Source: PLIARS database, VACO