

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS -
MARION BRANCH, BUILDING NO. 102
(Duplex Quarters)
1700 East 38th Street
Marion
Grant County
Indiana

HABS IN-306-AQ
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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

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NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS – MARION BRANCH, BUILDING No. 102 (Duplex Quarters)

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Location: 1700 East 38th Street, Marion, Grant County, Indiana. Building No. 102 is directly south of Water Street near Building No. 6, one of the original barracks. Building No. 102 is also south of the main entrance gate on 38th Street.

The coordinates for Building No. 102 are 40.518171 N, -85.636092 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.

Significance: Building No. 102 was built in 1894 as a pump house for the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and converted into duplex quarters during 1924-25.

Description: Building No. 102 is a one-and-a-half story red brick building with an asymmetrical footprint and compound hipped roof with large cupolas. The exterior elevation has bands of raised brick at the first floor and large round arch window openings that have been modified. Several shed roof wood porches extend from various elevations. The interior was not accessed.

History: 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.

Building No. 102 was built as a pump house for the Branch in 1894-95. The structure is still labeled “pumping station” on the January 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. 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 pump house was converted into duplex quarters during 1924-25, including a four-room unit and a three-room unit, each with a kitchen and a bath. After 1930 the Marion Branch continued to specialize in psychiatric care as part of the Veterans Administration. Building No. 102 is now part of Marion Campus of the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System and still in use as housing.

Sources: 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.

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

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2011

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.