

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,
NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, OFFICERS QUARTERS
(Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Building No.
37)
5000 West National Avenue
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS WI-360-R
HABS WI-360-R

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,
NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, OFFICER'S QUARTERS, BUILDING 37

HABS No. WI-360-R

Location: Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 5000 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

UTM Coordinates
Zone/Easting/Northing
16T/420784/4763877

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Present Occupant: Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Built in 1907, Building 37 is an Officer's Quarters consistent with the model of staff housing envisioned by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Board of Managers. Private dwellings for officers differed from the institutional character of soldiers' barracks at the Home. Dwellings represented various architectural styles popular at each residence's date of construction. Many appear to be the result of plan books commonly used through military posts. Original drawings for Building 37, however, indicate the house was designed by H. C. Koch and Son Architects of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Historians: Jessica Berglin and Charlene Roise, Hess, Roise and Company, 2012

Project

Information: The Veterans Administration has commissioned this report to comply with a stipulation in a programmatic agreement between the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center, the Veterans Integrated Service Network 12, the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service regarding the construction of four Community Living Center facilities for veteran long-term care within the boundary of the Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Home National Historic Landmark (NHL) historic district. The construction will result in the demolition of Building 37, a contributing building in the NHL historic district. Hess, Roise and Company, a historical consultant firm based in Minneapolis, has prepared this documentation study as a subcontractor to Chequamegon Bay

Engineering, which has offices in Ashland and Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Dave Cleary and Nicholas Migan oversaw the project for Chequamegon Bay Engineering. The report was prepared by Hess Roise architectural historian Jessica Berglin and overseen by principal Charlene Roise. Jerry Mathiason completed the photography as a subcontractor to Hess Roise.

Building 93, a garage that was historically associated with Building 37, will also be demolished, and the setting of a nearby garage, Building 60, will be compromised by the new construction. The programmatic agreement also required HABS Level III documentation of both structures. These studies have been completed by the same team (see HABS No. WI-360-S and HABS No. WI-360-T).

Original drawings for the building are archived at the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center and are available to the public upon request. If the facility decides to deaccession the drawings, they will be disposed of in accordance with the Federal Records Act.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1907
2. Architect: H. C. Koch and Son Architects, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
3. Original owners, occupants, uses: This house was built as the Treasurer's Residence for the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). It is a two-story single-family dwelling characteristic of officers' quarters constructed in the early twentieth century. Over time it served as general personnel quarters for NHDVS. The house was vacated by 2010.
4. Builders, contractors, suppliers: Unknown
5. Original plans and construction: Original drawings by H. C. Koch and Son Architects are dated June 28, 1907. Drawings are housed in the engineering flat files of the Facilities Management Graphics Repository at Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
6. Alterations and additions: Drawings dated March 15, 1951, indicate updates made at that time. Specifically, the drawings show alterations to the kitchen and pantry, living room, and second-floor bedrooms. Drawings are housed in the engineering flat files of the Facilities Management Graphics Repository at Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Physical evidence suggests recent modifications as well. The 1951 kitchen remodeling has been updated and the two south bedrooms on the second floor were combined into a master bedroom suite. The alterations are visible in drawings dated January 31, 2011, though it is unknown when the modifications were made.

B. Historical Context:

Founding of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was created by an Act of Congress signed by President Abraham Lincoln in March, 1865. Though a soldiers' pension system had been in place, the establishment of a national institution for the care of Union soldiers wounded in the Civil War marked an unprecedented federal effort in veterans' care.

After the law passed in 1865, Congress devised a committee of one hundred members to oversee the creation of a National Home. Realizing the inefficiency of such a large committee, Congress appointed a nine-member Board of Managers in April 1866. Managers could not be members of Congress and no two managers could be residents of the same state. In addition to these nine

managers, *ex officio* members of the board included the president of the United States, the secretary of war, and the chief justice.¹

One of the first tasks of the Board of Managers was to select sites for the homes. Initial legislation called for the creation of three branches, though it did not specify where they would be located. To make the homes easily accessible throughout the northern states, the managers chose to locate one home in the Northeast, one in the Northwest, and one "near the geographical centre [*sic*] of the loyal states." A former health resort site in Togus, Maine, was selected for the Northeastern Branch, the first of the National Homes. The Northwestern Branch was located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and opened in 1867 as the second National Home. The Central Branch opened later in 1867 in Dayton, Ohio.²

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was renamed the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS or National Home) in 1873 to reinforce its identity as a domestic institution for injured soldiers rather than an almshouse for invalids. The National Home system grew during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, supporting elderly veterans and wounded soldiers. When the National Home system was absorbed into the Veterans Administration in 1930, there were eleven branches located throughout the country.

The Northwestern Branch Comes to Milwaukee

Milwaukee was selected as the site of the Northwestern Branch in 1866. Even before being chosen, the city had a very active citizenry engaged in soldiers' aid work. The lady managers of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Aid Society held a fair in Milwaukee in the summer of 1865 to raise funds to build a state institution to care for wounded soldiers returning to Wisconsin. The fair ran for three weeks and the women raised over \$100,000. George Walker, a Milwaukee native who was appointed to the Board of Managers, proposed that the lady managers use the proceeds of the fair to entice the Board of Managers to select Milwaukee as the site of their northwest facility. His suggestion caused much contention among the lady managers because they had already purchased a plot of land and had plans drawn for their State Soldiers' Home. George Allen, an advisor to the lady managers, argued in support of establishing a facility for the National Home. He contended that the money raised at the fair was "barely sufficient" to operate the home the lady managers envisioned and that ongoing support would be unsustainable, with funds coming from charitable donations or through public taxes. In June 1866, the society agreed to donate its funds to the National Home on the condition that one of the facilities be located in Milwaukee.³

By the end of August, a selection committee appointed by the Board of Managers arrived in Milwaukee to evaluate potential locations for the Northwestern Branch. The committee members

¹ *Report of the Board of Managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*, 40th Cong., 1st sess., 1867, House misc. doc. 45, 1-2 (hereafter *1867 Report of the Board of Managers*); Maria Barrett Butler, "The National Home for Volunteer Soldiers," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 73 (October 1886): 686.

² *1867 Report of the Board of Managers*, 2.

³ *Milwaukee Sentinel*, June 6, July 17, and October 21, 1865, June 15, 1866, quoted in transcript of newspaper articles, Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center Archives, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (hereafter VAMC Archives).

“had a view to the superior healthfulness of the city, the beauty of its surroundings, and its central location.” After reviewing several offers for land, an article on March 1, 1867, announced the location decided upon by the selection committee, just west of the city limits. The article claimed “this location, situated just outside of the city, is perhaps the best which could have been selected. It is picturesquely situated, giving a great variety of scenery, as well as a variety of land.” The site contained nearly four hundred acres combined from three farms.⁴

The Setting of the Northwestern Branch

The campus of the Northwestern Branch is an important example of the Picturesque landscape movement, which was popular throughout the late nineteenth century. The movement emphasized rolling topography with curvilinear pathways linking scenic vistas. Plans for the grounds of the Northwestern Branch were designed by Thomas Budd Van Horne, a landscape designer and a chaplain with the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He had previously designed military cemeteries at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Marietta, Georgia, and used the same rural cemetery landscape design principles for laying out the grounds of the Home.⁵

Van Horne's experience in cemetery design underscores the history of the Picturesque landscape movement in the United States, which had its infancy in rural cemeteries during the mid-nineteenth century. In 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery was opened in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston. It was the first rural cemetery in the United States. The mastermind of the commission was Jacob Bigelow, a doctor and botanist whose primary interests were the intersection of public health and botany. He proposed uniting Mount Auburn's cemetery commission with the newly formed Massachusetts Horticultural Society to create a cemetery with experimental gardens that would provide a contemplative haven for Boston's residents. The land at Mount Auburn was laid out with respect to the rolling hillside along the Charles River. Lush greenery, curvilinear pathways, and decorative gravestones provided the scenic vistas that became characteristic of the Picturesque movement. Other major metropolises followed Boston's example. Most notable were New York's Green-Wood Cemetery and Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery. The cemeteries' verdant landscapes became retreats from the congestion and industrialization of these growing cities. As historian David Schuyler comments in *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*, “at the cemetery the visitor could leave behind some of the cares of urban life, revel in the natural beauty of the scenery, and learn the moral lessons of the landscape and its monuments.”⁶

American citizens sought repose in rural cemeteries because cities had not yet developed public parks. Esteemed landscape designer and horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing commented in an editorial he wrote for *Horticulturist* magazine in 1849: “Indeed, in the absence of great public gardens, such as we must surely one day have in America, our rural cemeteries are doing a great deal to enlarge and educate the popular taste in rural [suburban] embellishment.” Support for public parks grew in antebellum years, drawing on the popularity of rural cemeteries. According

⁴ *Milwaukee Sentinel*, August 23, 1866, March 1 and March 2, 1867, quoted in transcript of newspaper articles, VAMC Archives.

⁵ *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 18, 1867, quoted in transcript of newspaper articles, VAMC Archives.

⁶ David Schuyler, *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), 54–55.

to Schuyler, parks would provide the scenic attractions of the cemetery “without the graves and without the funeral processions.”⁷

New York's Central Park was the first grand public park in the United States. Influenced by Downing, designers Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted submitted their Greensward Plan to the park's design competition in 1858. Their winning plan featured serpentine pathways, vast open spaces, groves of trees, water features, and picturesque monuments such as bridges, fountains, and pavilions.⁸

The enormous success of Central Park prompted many American cities to create their own public parks as places where citizens could enjoy social interaction and recreation in the fresh air of lush landscapes. As an oasis from the rigid urban grid, a city park could contribute to the mental, spiritual, and physical well-being of area residents. In the same way city leaders sought to improve life for their constituents by providing scenic retreats within the city, the NHDVS Board of Managers sought to provide peaceful, restorative landscapes where injured soldiers could recuperate and live healthfully at the national homes.

Van Horne's design for the Northwestern Branch exhibited many Picturesque elements: undulating topography, water features, a variety of trees and shrubbery, and winding avenues. The local newspaper regarded the campus as a “place of resort for our citizens and those who visit us” and optimistically claimed that “the grounds possess natural advantages and beauty superior to those of the great Central Park of New York.”⁹

Residential Architecture of the Northwestern Branch

The buildings of the Northwestern Branch complemented the Picturesque character of the grounds. Much like the elaborate gravestones of rural cemeteries, the decorative architecture augmented the campus's scenic charm. Institutional and administrative buildings were grouped at the center of the grounds. Quarters for officers and civilian staff, however, were scattered throughout the campus in small clusters. The Governor's Residence (Building 39) was the first residence constructed in the south residential cluster. Over time, the south cluster expanded to include a duplex (Building 38) and a single-family dwelling (Building 37).

Building 37 was designed by the office of H. C. Koch and Son in 1907. Henry C. Koch was the principal architect for the Northwestern Branch during its expansion period in the 1880s and 1890s. During that time he designed Ward Memorial Hall (Building 43), Wadsworth Library (Building 3), the Hospital (Building 6), Barracks (Buildings 5 and 7), and the Chapel (Building 12). Building 37 marked a departure from the institutional character of Koch's previous commissions and reflected the Board of Manager's concept of staff housing for the National Home. In contrast to the members' group domiciles, officers and civilian staff members had their own quarters. This duality of private family residences among soldiers' barracks was not

⁷ Andrew Jackson Downing, “Public Cemeteries and Public Gardens,” in *Rural Essays*, ed. George William Curtis (New York: George A. Leavitt, 1869), 155; Schuyler, *The New Urban Landscape*, 55.

⁸ Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* (New York: Abrams, 2001), 337–343.

⁹ *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 13, 1868, quoted in transcript of newspaper articles, VAMC Archives.

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uncommon for military posts. Women and children were not allowed to live in the veterans' barracks. The National Home system did not admit veterans' wives or families to the institution at all. The only females allowed to live on the grounds were nurses (who had their own barracks-style dormitory) and officers' wives and children. According to Elizabeth Corbett's memoir of growing up at the Northwestern Branch, some veterans' wives were able to take up residence in cottages surrounding the grounds, but not within the campus itself.¹⁰

With the exception of the Governor's Residence, staff houses were wood-framed. Many were duplexes and one was a triplex. Single-family houses, such as Building 37, were typically given to chief members of staff. According to the 1907 drawings, Building 37 was to be a residence for the branch's treasurer. Photographs and building schedules, however, indicate other residences for the branch's treasurer, including the duplex in the south residential cluster (Building 38) and a single-family dwelling west of Lake Wheeler (Building 47). Staff demands changed along with organizational changes, and many residences housed officers and civilian staff with varying titles.¹¹

Architectural styles also varied among the officers' quarters, reflecting popular taste at the time of construction. Building 37 is an example of the Colonial Revival style that was common throughout the first decades of the twentieth century. The feature most characteristic of Colonial Revival architecture is the prominent cornice along the perimeter of the second story and in each of the four gables. A centered gable and front porch create a symmetrical appearance for the west facade, further underscoring its Colonial Revival character.

Like many officers' quarters, Building 37 is situated atop a knoll in the undulating topography of the campus. As a part of the south residential cluster, the house's landscape is defined by expansive lawns and mature trees. The south and west lawns slope down to a creek. Winding roads and driveways connect the houses within the south residential cluster to one another and to the greater network of curvilinear avenues. These features created a suburban setting for the south residential cluster.

The suburb was the final iteration of the Picturesque movement. Like Downing's earlier commentary on horticulture and landscape design, the writings of Frank J. Scott bore great influence on architecture and garden design in the late nineteenth century. According to historian David Schuyler, "Scott maintained a romantic hostility toward urban life. He believed that residence in a city was unacceptable because it deprives people of daily contact with the 'charms of Nature.'" Scott's book *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* was first published in 1870. It offered guidance in "decorative gardening" to middle-class audiences who were moving

¹⁰ H. C. Koch and Son Architects, Drawings for Treasurer's Residence, Northwestern Branch, NHDVS, June 28, 1907, Facilities Management Records, Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (hereafter VAMC); Kristin Gilpatrick Halverson, "Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, January 25, 2005, 7:2-4.

¹¹ Drawings for Treasurer's Residence, 1907; Milwaukee Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building 38, Historic American Buildings Survey No. WI-303-A, Written Historical and Descriptive Data, 1; Undated photograph of Treasurer's Quarters, VAMC Archives; Map of Northwestern Branch, NHDVS, 1917, VAMC Archives.

to the periphery of cities. Suburban lots offered modest yards, which through simple landscape designs could become private park-like settings for residents. As Scott advocated, the nature retreat afforded by rural cemeteries and public parks could now be captured in one's own suburban lot.¹²

According to Scott, suburbs retained "all the benefits of rural pleasures, and many of the beauties of park scenery, without relinquishing the luxuries of town life." This notion of suburban social life was underscored in Elizabeth Corbett's memoir. Lamenting the isolation of other branch locations, Corbett recalled: "The officers' families were dependent on one another for diversion" and "the wives gave parties at which the faces were all too familiar." The Northwestern Branch, though, "was on the edge of a big city. The city not only offered us good plays and excellent restaurants; the families on the Grounds were all acquainted in town, and need have no more of one another's society than they chose to have."¹³

The design of Building 37 also reflected norms of social life at the turn of the century. Originally, the front entrance opened into a reception hall with a central staircase. A separate sitting room was connected to the reception hall through a wide opening. The dining room was connected to the reception hall on the opposite side. A library was located beyond the staircase in the reception hall. These rooms formed the social area of the house. Guests would be received in the reception hall and then ushered into the appropriate rooms.

Porches added to the house's social space and reinforced its integration with the outdoors. Corbett commented that "all the officers' quarters had fine large porches, where the families fairly lived in summer time. Everybody had a garden, too," further supporting Scott's suburban ideal. As automobiles became more common, garages were incorporated into the landscape as well. A single-car garage (Building 93) was originally built for the house in 1938. The original garage was replaced in 1988.¹⁴

Officers' families usually had hired help. A service corridor is apparent in the original first-floor plan of Building 37. A back ell contains the kitchen, pantry, and rear entry. Additionally, a rear staircase runs from the basement to the attic. The rear staircase and halls were closed off by doors, separating the service corridor from the social spaces of the house and allowing servants to move throughout the house without being seen.¹⁵

The second floor was the family's private domain. Originally there were five bedrooms and one bathroom concentrated around a hall. The central staircase featured a large window at the

¹² David Schuyler, introduction to *Victorian Gardens Part I: Suburban Home Grounds* by Frank J. Scott, a reprint of *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds of Small Extent* by Frank J. Scott (New York: American Life Foundation, 1982), n.p.

¹³ Frank Scott, *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds of Small Extent* (New York: D. Appleton, 1870), 29; Elizabeth Corbett, *Out at the Soldiers' Home*, 2nd ed. (New York: D. Appleton-Century, 1941; Skokie, Ill.: ACTA Publications, 2008), 110. Page references are to the 2008 edition.

¹⁴ Corbett, *Out at the Soldiers' Home*, 111; Building Schedule at Veterans Administration, Wood, Wisconsin, 1944, VAMC Archives; Drawing No. 93-1: New Single Car Garage Building 93 to Replace Existing, August 30, 1988.

¹⁵ Drawings for Treasurer's Residence, 1907.

intermediate landing. Doors in the northeast corner of the hall partitioned the rear staircase from the rest of the second floor.

The house has retained its basic original configuration. Drawings from 1951 indicate that the kitchen and pantry were remodeled. The drawings show new cabinets affixed to the north wall, a range, and two refrigerators. The icebox was removed, providing a new location for the pantry. The former pantry was remodeled into a first-floor bathroom and linen closet. In the hallway connecting the dining room and kitchen, a built-in china cabinet was reconfigured into a closet at the landing of the back stairs. Lastly, at the front of the house, the wall separating the reception hall and the sitting room was removed, creating a large and open living room. Rooms on the first floor retained original maple hardwood flooring except for the kitchen. The kitchen floor was replaced with linoleum.¹⁶

Also in 1951, the bathroom on the second floor was remodeled with new plumbing fixtures. A tub and shower unit and a linen closet were framed into the west wall. Original maple hardwood flooring was replaced with tile. The center bedroom on the west wall of the second floor was reduced in size to accommodate larger closets for the bedrooms in the northwest and southwest corners. The new closets featured 7'-0" x 7'-0" openings with "modernfold doors." Except for the remodeled bathroom, rooms on the second floor retained original maple hardwood floors.¹⁷

Physical evidence indicates the house has undergone additional remodeling, though the date of these modifications is unknown. The kitchen was updated with new cabinets and appliances, likely within the past twenty years. A new master bedroom marks the biggest departure from the original configuration. The two rooms on the south wall of the second floor were combined into a single, large bedroom. Lastly, carpeting was installed throughout the house, covering original maple hardwood floors.

Although the house was vacated in recent years and has since fallen into disrepair, it still retains characteristics of its original Picturesque setting, including its hilltop position and expansive sloping lawns. The house also reflects the lifestyle of chief staff members and their families. As part of the south residential cluster, Building 37 illustrates the Board of Managers' concept of staff housing distinct from the institutional character of veterans' facilities.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building 37 is a frame, two-and-one-half-story house that exhibits characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, which was popular in the late nineteenth century through the middle of the twentieth century. Original drawings from H. C. Koch and Son Architects are dated June 28, 1907. The feature most illustrative of Colonial Revival style is the cornice extending around the perimeter of the house and along the four gables. The nearly symmetrical west facade—the

¹⁶ Drawing No. 37-1: Basement, First, Second, and Attic Plans, Officers Quarters, Building No. 37, Veterans Administration, Wood, Wisconsin, March 3, 1951, Facilities Management Records, VAMC.

¹⁷ Ibid.

primary facade—is also indicative of Colonial Revival architecture. A centered gable with raked cornices forms a pediment above a centered one-story porch enclosure. The house's entrance, however, is asymmetrically placed within the porch and abuts a large, six-over-one picture window. The front door is flanked by sidelights, also characteristic of Colonial Revival architecture.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair. The exterior building envelope is in relatively good condition. The interior, however, has largely deteriorated due to moisture and mold. Walls and ceilings have collapsed in many rooms, leaving plaster debris scattered throughout the interior. Non-original laminate floors are warped and peeling away from the subfloor.

B. Description of the exterior:

1. Overall form and dimensions: Building 37 is an asymmetrical, cross-gabled, two-and-one-half-story house in an L-shape. The main axis runs north-south and measures 40' long and 26' wide. A 20' ell extends east 8' in the northeast corner.
2. Foundation: The limestone foundation is visible in the basement. Portions of the exterior foundation, however, have been faced with concrete block, brick, or plaster. The exterior foundation materials have been painted gray. In the basement, the foundation walls have been painted white.
3. Walls: The framed walls are clad in white clapboard siding with approximately 2.5" exposures and 1" x 6" vertical corner boards.
4. Structural system: The wall structure is wood-framed. The cross-gabled roof has common rafters nailed to a center ridge board.
5. Porches: A one-story entrance porch with a shed roof is centered on the west facade. The porch's wood floor measures twenty feet long and is accessed by four wood steps. Three equally spaced, square porch columns with cove brackets support the cornice beam. The porch has been screened in and has a skirting constructed from square balusters.

The rear entrance on the east facade has a one-story enclosure with a shed roof. A square column with cove brackets supports the cornice beam and roof. The enclosure has a concrete stoop at grade. To the right of the entrance is a one-and-one-half-story protrusion that historically housed the ice box. It is enclosed in clapboard siding and features a single, three-over-one, double-hung window.

6. Chimneys: The house's two chimneys have been plastered over. One is located on the east side of the south gable, while the other is on the south half of the east gabled ell.

7. Openings:

- i. Doorways and doors: The exterior doors are wood with glass panels. The front door is flanked by tall, single-pane sidelights. The doorways are trimmed with unadorned 6" casings.
- ii. Windows: There are many different window configurations on the house. A pair of three-over-one double-hung windows is located in each of the gables. Cove molding extends over these gable windows. Second-floor windows are primarily three-over-one double-hung windows. A three-over-one window centered on the west facade is flanked by one-over-one windows. The first floor contains three-over-one double-hung windows as well. Additionally, the first floor features seven large six-over-one windows in prominent rooms such as the library, dining room, and living room. The front door is flanked by tall sidelights and abuts the large six-over-one picture window in the living room.

8. Roof:

- i. Shape, covering: The gabled roof has two asymmetrical cross-gables. The primary axis runs north-south. One cross-gable is centered on the west facade and the other extends over the ell in the northeast corner of the house. The roofing material is rolled asphalt.
- ii. Cornice: A wood cornice runs the entire perimeter of the house below the gables. Each gable includes a raking cornice, further establishing the house's Colonial Revival character.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- i. Basement: A narrow hall runs along the east wall, connecting the laundry room in the northeast corner and a storage room in the southeast corner. A door in the hall opens into a large, open room that spans most of the basement.
- ii. First floor: The front door opens into the living room, which historically was two separate rooms: a central reception hall and a sitting room in the southwest corner. The library is located in the southeast corner of the first floor, just beyond the centrally located staircase. The living room is connected to the dining room in the northwest corner. A side hallway leads from the dining room to the first-floor bathroom and kitchen in the northeast corner of the house. The rear entrance opens onto a landing in the back staircase. The stairs and kitchen are connected by a back hall. Doors in the back hall and the side hallway can be closed to section off this service area from the dining and living rooms. Historically, servants would have been able to move throughout the house via the back service stairs from the basement to the attic without being seen from the formal areas of the house.

The kitchen was updated in 1951. Plans of the first floor reveal new cabinets, countertops, and appliances. The kitchen pantry was remodeled into the first-floor bathroom at that time. Physical evidence suggests the kitchen was more recently remodeled, likely within the last twenty years.

- iii. Second floor: Four bedrooms and a bathroom open to a central hall and staircase. The house historically had five bedrooms concentrated around the central hall; however, two bedrooms on the south end of the house were reconfigured into one master bedroom suite. The hall bathroom was remodeled in 1951. Physical evidence suggests recent remodeling as well. Though the date of this alteration is unknown, it was likely completed in the last twenty years.
 - iv. Attic: A spare room has been framed into the center of the north wall. The room appears on drawings dated March 15, 1951.
2. Stairways: The primary stairway is centrally located in the living room on the first floor. The stairs lead to an open central hall on the second floor, with an intermediate landing between the floors. Square newel posts with decorative caps mark the terminations of each floor and landing. The railing features square balusters that are turned forty-five degrees.

A service stairway in the back ell of the house extends from the basement to the attic, allowing circulation throughout the four levels separate from the main living areas.
 3. Flooring: Maple flooring was originally in all of the rooms on the first and second floors. The original hardwood floors have been covered with carpet in the living room, dining room, library, and bedrooms. Additionally, the primary staircase and second-floor hall have been covered with carpet. Floors in the kitchen, first-floor bathroom, and service stairway have been covered with linoleum flooring. The second-floor bathroom is tiled.
 4. Wall and ceiling finishes: There are plaster walls and ceilings throughout the house. Many walls were painted or wallpapered and are in a deteriorated condition due to severe moisture and mold problems. Finishes have separated from the walls and ceilings or were removed when mold was remediated. Debris from deteriorating plaster is scattered throughout many of the rooms. A dropped ceiling in the library has collapsed.
 5. Openings:
 - i. Doorways and doors: Multi-paneled wood doors throughout the house appear to be original. All of the doorways feature 6" casing. The casing on the first-floor doorways includes a decorative molding across the top panel. Second-

floor doorways lack decorative molding. The living room and dining room are separated by a 6'-wide cased opening.

- ii. Windows: No original windows remain. They have been replaced with modern vinyl windows. The vinyl windows, however, replicate many of the original window configurations with three-over-one sashes. Larger windows on the first floor have six-over-one sashes. First-floor windows also feature wood casing and sills as well as decorative molding along the top panel.
6. Decorative features and trim:
 - i. Fireplace: A brass fireplace is located in the living room. The fireplace contains a glass screen and is surrounded by decorative tile with green glazing. A tile hearth matches the tile surround. A wood mantel has decorative molding and classically inspired columns supporting the mantel shelf. The chimney is flanked by built-in wood shelves.
 - ii. Trim: Baseboards with decorative curved molding run throughout the first and second floors. Walls on the first and second floors also feature coved molding along the ceiling joints. Doorways and cased openings include plinth blocks where the vertical trim joins horizontal baseboards. Trim finishes are pine according to the original drawings dated June 28, 1907. Finishes have been painted white.
 7. Hardware: Original hardware includes round brass doorknobs with rectangular brass escutcheon plates.
 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - i. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The house is heated and cooled with a modern forced-air system. Original drawings indicate a coal-burning furnace and wall vents in every room. The house switched to an oil-burning boiler according to drawings from 1951, which also show radiators installed in the kitchen and the newly constructed first-floor bathroom. Two central air-conditioner units appear on the exterior of the south wall of the house in a drawing dated November 7, 1990.
 - ii. Lighting: The house has modern electric light fixtures. According to the original 1907 drawings, the dining room, reception hall, and sitting room contained an overhead fixture with four globes, whereas fixtures in the library and kitchen had two globes. Fixtures were centered in each room. Light fixtures were originally centrally located in the second-floor bedrooms as well, although the drawings do not indicate how many globes each fixture held.

- iii. Plumbing: The house was constructed with indoor plumbing. Original drawings reveal a sink in the kitchen, as well as a bathtub, sink, and toilet in the second-floor bathroom. Additionally, utilitarian wash trays, a slop sink, and a water closet are visible in the original basement floor plan.

D. Site:

1. Historic site design: The house is situated atop a knoll in the south residential cluster. It has an expansive, rolling, south lawn that slopes down to a creek. The lawn is marked with mature deciduous and coniferous trees. A winding asphalt driveway to the north and west connects to the campus's circulation network. A single-car garage (Building 93) was constructed to the east in 1938 and rebuilt in the same location in 1988. An asphalt parking area is between the house and garage.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Records

Materials available at Engineering Flat Files, Graphics Repository, Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.:

H. C. Koch and Son Architects, Treasurer's Residence, NHDVS, Drawings 1-9, June 28, 1907.

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Plunkett Raysich Architects, Floor Plans and Elevations, Building 37, January 31, 2011, included in "Mold Remediation Feasibility Study," February 11, 2011.

Materials available from the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog at the Library of Congress:

"Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 5000 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisc." Historic American Buildings Survey Report (HABS No. WI-360).

B. Photographs

Historic Photograph and Postcard Collection. Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center Archives, Milwaukee, Wisc.

C. Reference Bibliography

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Souvenir of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. N.p., 1916.

Souvenir of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. N.p., 1924.

Souvenir of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. N.p., n.d.

U.S. Congress. House. *Report of the Board of Managers of the National Asylum for
Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: 1867.* 40th Cong., 1st sess., 1867.

D. Newspaper Articles

Transcripts of newspaper articles available at Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical
Center Archives, Milwaukee, Wisc.:

Milwaukee Sentinel, June 6, 1865.

Milwaukee Sentinel, July 17, 1865.

Milwaukee Sentinel, October 21, 1865.

Milwaukee Sentinel, August 23, 1866.

Milwaukee Sentinel, March 1, 1867.

Milwaukee Sentinel, March 2, 1867.

Milwaukee Sentinel, March 13, 1868.