

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District
other names/site number Dept. Of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Danville Area Community College

2. Location

street & number 1900 and 2000 East Main Street not for publication
city, town Danville vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Vermilion code 183 zip code 61832

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>47</u>	<u>23</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>48</u>	<u>24</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>24</u> objects
			<u>48</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: none

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William L. Wheeler Signature of certifying official 10-28-91 Date
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Karen Anne Kopeck Signature of commenting or other official 11/29/91 Date
Historic Preservation Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/hospital

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/hospital

EDUCATION/college

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Classical Revival

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

weatherboard

roof asphalt; slate

other sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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INTRODUCTION

Located south of U.S. Highway 136 (East Main Street) on the eastern edge of Danville, the Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District retains much of the campus and park-like setting from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Now occupied by the Danville Area Community College (DACC) on the north and north eastern portions, the National Home is still largely occupied by its original function as the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The grounds and buildings retain a good degree of integrity with alterations to historic buildings being minimal. New construction in the district during the 1960s concentrated within a second circle toward the south of the grounds, replacing the original 1898 Hospital Building. While these six newer buildings appear large in plan, they are low in scale and simple in design, therefore not overwhelming to the surrounding historic buildings and grounds. Nine Quonset huts account for most of the remainder of non-contributing buildings. Moved to the campus after 1945, the huts do not visually detract from the historic character of the district; they are "temporary" in nature, and are, in general, not located in prominent places. New construction for the Community College to the northeast of the Historic District has created a complete lack of integrity for a portion of the National Home property, which is excluded from the Historic District.

The buildings of the district range from a 5-1/2 story General Medical and Surgical Building (#58) and a series of ten nearly identical 2-1/2 story continued treatment wards (now Community College classrooms) of a simplified Georgian Revival style, to frame staff quarter duplexes and numerous stucco outbuildings. Overall, many of the buildings are Georgian Revival in influence, with simple red sandstone and metal details on red brick walls. The most highly ornamented building is the 1905 Carnegie Library, an excellent example of Classical Revival architecture, located toward the south of the hospital ward circle, near the bandstand. Building dates, while ranging from 1898 to 1941, tend to concentrate around the turn of the century, with several later phases of building in the mid-1920s, and numerous outbuildings constructed in the late 1930s.

The district contains almost three hundred acres, with two large loop roadways encircling building groups. The northern loop contains ten (originally fifteen) parallel 2-1/2 story red brick continued treatment ward buildings, many of them now in use by the Community College. The southern loop encloses a mixture of eight mostly newer buildings housing most of the modern treatment activities of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Along the west edge of the loop roads is a string of seven residences for officials of the Veterans Home. These separate the more densely built hospital areas within the loop roads from a substantial tract of rolling terrain comprising approximately the western third of the Historic District. The land is laced with several winding roadways giving access to a nine-hole golf course and restful gardens with a small pond and ornamental footbridge.

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In earlier decades, before the golf course was developed in the late 1940s, this western area had been dominated by the recreational boating pond known as Lake Clements. The long straight roadway extending southerly from the old Covington Road had, originally, been the track alignment for the Danville Street Railway which provided electric car service to the Veterans Home grounds, with a turnaround, waiting station, and small grocery in the vicinity of where Building #60 now stands. Sprinkled among the historic buildings are mature trees, historic streetlights, concrete benches, and a picnic grounds with brick barbecue pits and massive concrete picnic tables, adding to the general setting of the National Home. The curving entrance road is marked as a Blue Star Memorial Highway on a plaque placed by the National Council of State Garden Clubs as "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America." The winding avenues in the Historic District curve past the golf course, pond, and single family staff quarters, by the southern ring of low scale modern hospital ward buildings, past the Greenhouse Clinic and agricultural fields. The fields lie to the south of the southern loop road and extend a quarter of a mile to Vine Street at the southern edge of the Historic District. This section of the National Home property, historically, was used for small crop farming and separate plots tended by the residents of the Home. The gardens and related greenhouses served a therapeutic function in the treatment programs of the Home.

Along the eastern edge of the Historic District are found some additional staff residence quarters, a variety of service buildings, and the formally-patterned landscape of the thirty-acre National Cemetery, with drives and walks laid out in concentric circles. The sober formality of the cemetery's landscape design contrasts starkly with the romantic character of the western golf course area and the rural farmland to the south, all within the Historic District, and all contributing to the fullness of life for residents of the National Home.

The northeast corner of the original National Home property is excluded from the Historic District. It contains mostly new buildings and parking areas for uses unrelated to the historic areas, with one exception: the long diagonal service roadway leading to Building #100 follows the route of a railroad spur used to deliver coal to the heating plant of the original Home. The College entrance road leading to Building #7 is new since 1966.

In 1981, a portion of this Historic District received a Determination of Eligibility (D.O.E.) for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1981 D.O.E. included a Historic District (with Buildings 11-14, 19, 22, 26, 31-38, 48, and 49 contributing, and the National Cemetery) and Building #25 as an individually eligible building. That Historic District included only a portion of Dept. of Veterans Affairs property, excluding those properties which were conveyed to DAOC, but were part of the Danville Branch historically. This Historic District includes the entire historic grounds of the Danville Branch which continue to maintain integrity. Numerous buildings which were found to be "intrusions" in the D.O.E. Historic District are now listed as

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contributing, as these buildings now meet the fifty-year eligibility requirement. Building #25 does not contribute to the district, as reconstruction has taken place since the time of the D.O.E.

The Historic District includes 70 buildings, 47 of which are contributing. The district also includes one non-contributing structure (#94) and one contributing site (National Cemetery). Building descriptions as follows are listed by numbers as used by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Current building names, if available, are in bold; historic names or uses, if available, are in parenthesis.

DESCRIPTIONS

(Buildings #5 and 6, and #8-14 are nearly identical in plan. A complete description is given for Building #14, with differences in detailing noted for the other buildings.)

#5 **DACC Adult Education (VA Continued Treatment [C.T.] Ward):** 1900. Storm windows. Porch enclosed as on #6. Wood ramp on north. Contributing.

#6 **DACC Classrooms (VA C.T. Ward):** 1900. Differs only that second, not third, pavilion is entrance, mirroring those buildings across the circle. Same three first floor windows infilled. Rear porch infilled with glass block windows. Contributing. (photo #2/21)

#7 **DACC Administration, Student Services (VA C.T. Ward):** 1900. Double H-plan; 2-1/2 stories; side gable roof (slate) with four gable roof dormers; brick walls (four course common bond); stone foundation, lintels, and sills; Georgian Revival influence. Center gable entry pavilion with raking denticulated cornice and 1-story flat roof portico with fluted Doric columns; second story entry (to porch roof) infilled with sash; 2-story wood porches recessed between end and center pavilions with balustrades between fluted Doric columns on first story and fluted Ionic columns on second story; full entablature. End pavilions with Palladian gable windows. Band of four brick round arch windows in center pavilion gable. North and south elevations similar. Contributing. (photo #1/21)

#8 **DACC Nursing Education (VA C.T. Ward):** 1900. First floor second pavilion windows infilled, otherwise an exceptionally high degree of integrity. Contributing. (photo #2/21)

#9 **DACC Business Education (VA C.T. Ward):** 1900. Metal storm windows. Three west bay windows infilled as with several other in series. Contributing.

#10 **DACC Business Information Systems Classrooms (VA C.T. Ward):** 1900. A two story brick wing, similar to one connecting Buildings 11 and 12, attaches Building 10 with 11. This wing features a single car drive, and is otherwise the same. #10 has same west bay windows infilled as #12 and #13. Fanlighted window pairs on attic level. Metal cresting. First floor rear porch enclosed with windows; fluted columns. Corbeled cornice. Contributing.

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#11 DACC Job Training, Child Development Center, Art Studio (VA C.T. Ward): 1900. Connects to Building 12 with a brick 2 story wing with no attic level. Wing appears historic (although not original) with slate roof, paired 4/4 on first floor and 2/2 on second. #11 has entrance pavilion with rectangular 4/4; Palladian window group at attic. West end pavilion windows infilled and replaced with jalousie windows. Corbeled cornice. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.

#12 VA Building (VA C.T. Ward): 1900. A few first floor west bay windows infilled, but otherwise a high degree of integrity. Screened rear porch with fluted Doric columns. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.

#13 VA Resource Building (Infirmary): 1900. Original windows; a few openings infilled with brick. Smaller portico with double doors. Central round arched transom with 4/4 double hung sash pair at second floor. Rear brick porch with multi-pane windows. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #4/21)

#14 VA Administration (Acute Treatment Building): 1900. Generally rectangular in plan; 2-1/2 stories; central section stone foundation, with other sections in brick; brick walls; side gable slate roof with gable wall dormers; sandstone watertable, sills, and lintels; Georgian Revival influence. Asymmetrical facade facing south with 3-1/2 story entrance pavilion as the third of 4 projecting pavilions. Corbels on entrance pavilion. Metal denticulated cornice. Portico with grouped posts. Segmentally arched attic windows. Most windows and doors are modern. Rear porch enclosed with modern windows. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.

#17 DACC College Center (VA General Mess Hall): 1898. Irregular plan; center 2 story pavilion with flanking 1-1/2 story wings on raised basement; multi-hipped slate roof; large 4-light hip roof dormers on wings; brick (5 course common bond); Georgian Revival influence. Center with brick foundation, sandstone lintels and quoins. Wings with stone foundation and watertable. wood cornice with dentils and modillions. Raised center hip roof portico with metal fluted grouped Doric columns; new double door entry below four-course header brick arch. Replacement sash (bronze tinted, fixed 1-light); wings with four-course header brick arches set between pilasters. Wood clock cupola with open lantern with bell-curved roof and finial. Overall exterior integrity maintained; continues to play an important visual role among this circle of buildings. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo # 5/21)

DACC Bremer Conference Center and Theater: c. 1978. Red brick rectangular two story building with taller theater section to north; minimal fenestration. Non-contributing age). (photo #20/21)

#19 Supply Warehouse: 1900; rectangular plan; 1-1/2 stories on raised basement; hip roof with gable dormers and center gable wall dormer; brick; no style. Brick foundation with stone watertable. Cornice with brick corbeled "dentils." Three raised entries with

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metal stairs. Segmentally arched window openings with three course header brick arches and stone sills. Basement sash with lintels; some brick and glass block infill. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #6/21)

#22 Engineering Storage (Laundry): 1900; Rectangular plan; 1-1/2 stories on raised basement; hip roof with center hip roof dormer; brick (5 course common bond); no style. Stone belt course and sills; brick flat arches. Simple cornice. Below grade center entry: hip roof "portico" with four Doric columns and cornice with dentils. Double hung sash (6/6); center window with sidelights. Connected by small scale wing to #69. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.

#25 Greenhouse Clinic/Greenhouse: c. 1925 Clinic has low rectangular plan; side gable roof; rough aggregate stucco. Broad gable over entrance; door framed with 3 light fixed sash. Attached Greenhouse is triple in size and modern in construction, an early 1980s replacement of the historic greenhouse (1901) which was severely damaged in a rain storm. Modern structure generally follows the plan of the historic structure. While the Clinic and Greenhouse received DOE (individual building, outside of DOE Historic District) status in 1981, the new construction now makes this building non-contributing (age).

#26 Main Garage: 1900; L-plan; 1-1/2 stories; gable roof; brick (four course common bond); no style. Wood lintels. Projecting southern section with four overhead metal garage doors, 6/6 light double hung sash flank 9-light double doors in gable. Recessed northern section with three overhead garage doors, entry in corner. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.

#31 Director's Quarters: 1899. Rectangular plan; 2-1/2 stories; side gable roof with three dormers (pedimented dormers flanking center broken-apex arched pediment with volutes and finial); brick first story, narrow clapboard second story; Georgian Revival. Stone foundation, lintels (first story), and watertable. Full entablature with dentils and modillions. Large center entry with fanlight and sidelights. Full-width porch with porte-cochere on south, Doric columns, turned balusters. Central Palladian window. Brick bay on south elevation. (Garage #75 and Summer House #91) (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #7/21)

#32 Single Quarters: 1901. Generally rectangular in plan; 2 stories; brick first floor; narrow clapboard second floor; steeply pitched hip roof; Georgian Revival. Smooth cornice with modillions. Flared hip roof dormers. Full-width porch wraps to north with pediment and Doric columns at entrance. Fanlight with segmentally arched door surround. Delicate carved balustrade. North elevation Palladian window with heavy wood framing. Massive brick chimneys. Stone watertable and lintels. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #7/21)

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- #33 Single Quarters: 1899. L-plan; 2-1/2 stories; side gable roof with large brick chimney to south, small chimney on northwest corner and three pedimented dormers with segmented arch sash; brick first story, narrow clapboard second story; Georgian Revival. Stone lintels (first story) and watertable; full entablature with dentils. Center entry with fanlight and sidelights; full-width hip roof porch with four Doric columns between square end pillars. Brick bay on north elevation. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #8/21)
- #34 Single Quarters: Irregular plan; 2-1/2 stories; front gable roof with side gable pavilion (to north); center brick chimney; narrow clapboards; no style. Brick foundation; simple cornice with dentils. Enclosed full-width hip roof porch. Bay on south elevation. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo # 8/21)
- #35 Single Quarters: 1901. Square plan; 2-1/2 stories; steep gable front with returns; narrow clapboards painted white; brick foundation; no style. Nearly full-width hipped roof porch enclosed with storm windows. Twin windows in gable peak with wide smooth wood frames and prominent drip caps. South side bay. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.
- #37 Single Quarters: 1901. T-plan; 2-1/2 stories; hip roof with hip roof dormers and cross gable pavilion (on north); two brick chimneys; narrow clapboards; no style. Brick foundation. Enclosed full-width hip roof porch. 1/1 light double hung sash; bay window on south elevation. (Garage #83) (DOE Historic District) Contributing.
- #38 Single Quarters: 1903. Slight L-plan; 2-1/2 stories; side gable; brick foundation; narrow clapboards; no style. Full-width porch enclosed with storm windows; steep shed roof with gable over entrance. Central gable facade wall dormer; gable roof dormers on sides. Small frame addition to rear. Mature landscaping. (DOE Historic District) Contributing.
- #39 Staff Quarters: 1925. Rectangular plan; 2 story duplex; brick foundation; wide clapboards; truncated hip roof; similar to #41; no style. Eyebrow dormers. 6/6 double hung sash. Nearly full-width hip roof porch with pedimented entrance; enclosed with storm windows; double storm doors. "Summer sleeping rooms," rear, second floor. (Excluded from DOE Historic District; found not to be individually eligible.) Contributing. (photo #9/21)
- #40 Staff Quarters: c. 1880s; renovated when Danville Branch was established in 1898. L-plan; 2 story; gable roof; narrow width vinyl siding; no style. Brick foundation. Narrow corner boards. Enclosed porch in "L"-corner (southwest). 1/1 light double hung sash. (Excluded from DOE Historic District; found not to be individually eligible.) Contributing. (photo #9/21)

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- #61 Garage: 1938. Single car garage of rough aggregate stucco painted white; asphalt shingle hip roof. Contributing.
- #62 Garage: 1938. Single car stucco hip roof garage at entrance drive (on west) to Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Contributing.
- #64 Engineering Machine Shop: 1938. Rectangular plan; 1 story; side gable roof; brick (running bond); no style. South elevation with modified double door entry at east end and original 9-light and wood quadruple folding door at west end; east elevation with center infilled double door; decorative brickwork over entries. Multi-light metal sash with soldier course flat arches and concrete sills. Later attached to #72; built separately. Contributing.
- #66 Barn: 1937. Rectangular plan; steeply pitched bell cast gambrel roof; unpainted smooth stucco first floor; narrow clapboard second floor. Main facade faces west with sliding barn door; hay loft and lift above. Door to east infilled with concrete block. "Sheep door" (low door with concrete ramp) on south. Contributing. (photo #10/21)
- #67 Implement Storage: 1939. 11 bay cinder block garage-like building with stucco facing; hip roof; adjacent small car lot. Now used as long term parking for patients. Contributing.
- #68 Cemetery Tool House: 1940. L-plan; entrance on south. Hip asphalt shingle roof. Contributing.
- #69 Linen Handling Facility: 1938; generally rectangular in plan; 1 story; side gable roof; brick (running bond); no style. Stucco foundation. Simple cornice. Paired 12-light metal sash. Small loading dock on north end; modern loading dock addition on south end. Connects with Building #22. Contributing.
- #72 Maintenance Building: 1940. Rectangular plan; 1 story; gable roof; red brick; no style. Multi-mullioned industrial sash with central awning panels; concrete sills and soldier course flat arches. Gabled pavilion on east facade center. Only one pedestrian door on each facade. Numerous windows, usually grouped in sets of three. Extension added c. 1960 connecting to #64. Contributing.
- #74 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, 1 bay; 1 story; hip roof; stucco; no style. (behind #40) Contributing.
- Garage: 1938. Single car hip roof garage of rough aggregate stucco. (behind #31) Contributing.

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#41 Staff Quarters: 1925. Rectangular plan; 2 story duplex; brick foundation; wide clapboards; hip roof; no style. Full-width hip roof porch enclosed with storms; pediment over double entrance doors; posts with panels. 6/6 double hung sash. Second floor rear "summer sleeping rooms." (Garage #78) (Excluded from DOE Historic District; found not to be individually eligible.) Contributing.

#48 [Carnegie] Library: 1905-07; cross plan; raised 1 story; hip roof; brick (5 course common bond); Classical Revival. Banded stone foundation, stone quoins, belt course, and watertable. Full entablature with pulvinated frieze, modillions, and guttae. Center projecting entry pavilion with Doric columns in antis, pedimented gable with cartouche inscribed "1905," and center and side anthemion antefix; sandstone steps with pedestals. replaced 1/1 light double hung sash in segmental arch openings with alternating stone and brick voussoirs. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #11/21)

#49 Chapel: 1901; L-plan; steeply pitched slate gable roof wings; red brick; Late Gothic Revival. Catholic wing to east and Protestant wing to south united by flat roofed bell tower housing separate Gothic arched entrances with stone drip molds. Pointed arch windows in pairs between "buttresses." Triple rowlock arches with drip molds over paired vents on third level tower. Denticulated cornice. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo # 12/21)

#56 Band Stand: 1900. Octagonal plan; raised 1 story; octagonal hip roof (tile); wood and stone; Classical Revival. Banded rusticated stone foundation. Eight Ionic columns support open cornice; connecting wood balustrade. entry on south side with stone balustrade with end pedestals with urns. Concrete floor. (DOE Historic District) Contributing. (photo #12/21)

#58 General Medical and Surgical Building: 1934; modified E-plan; 5 1/2 stories; hip roof with three dormers on either side of center pavilion; brick; Georgian Revival influence. Stone foundation; banded rusticated first story with stone quoins. Center projecting gable entry pavilion; portico with rusticated stone base and surround with keys; three-story colossal Doric columns; full entablature and flat roof; three round arch double door entries with fanlights; new enclosed entry ramp to south. Triple 6/6 light double hung sash with wood spandrels separated by brick pilasters; end wings with 1/1 light double hung sash. (Did not meet fifty-year requirement at time of DOE in 1981, but was referenced as having potential.) Contributing. (photo #13/21)

#60 Voluntary Service and Credit Union: 1935; cross plan; 1 story on raised basement; gable roof; brick (5-course common bond); Georgian Revival. Banded rusticated basement, stone quoins and belt course. Center projecting gable entry pavilion with raking cornice with dentils and stone entry surround with segmental arch pediment. "U"-shaped stairs with center below grade entry to basement; secondary entry on east elevation. Double hung sash (20/15) with flat arches and keystones; double hung 8/8 light sash in basement. Contributing. (photo #14/21)

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#77 Garage: 1938. Double car rough aggregate stucco garage with hip roof. Two pedestrian doors face west toward rear of duplex. 3-light awning windows. (behind # 39) Contributing.

#78 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, two bay; 1 story; hip roof; stucco; no style. (behind Quarters #41) Contributing.

#79 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, five bay; 1 story; hip roof; stucco; no style. Contributing.

#80 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, five bay, 1 story, hip roof; stucco, no style. Contributing.

#81 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, two bay; 1 story; hip roof; stucco; no style. (between Quarters #32 and #33) Contributing.

Footbridge: Segmental arch pony truss footbridge of steel over pond adjacent to frontage road by golf course. Low rubble concrete retaining wall, with matching benches to the south. Mature landscaping of deciduous and evergreen trees. (photo #15/21) not counted

#82 Garage: 1938. Double car rough aggregate stucco garage with steeply pitched hip roof; two pane awning windows; overhead doors not original. Concrete bench to rear. Contributing.

#83 Garage: 1938. Rectangular plan, two bay; 1 story; hip roof; stucco; no academic style. (behind #37) Contributing.

#84 Recreation Pavilion: 1937. Rectangular plan with semi-hexagonal ends; 1 story; gable roof with "hip" roof ends; stucco; Classical Revival. Peristyle with Doric columns; restrooms at either end with new center concrete block section. Concrete foundation. 6-light sash. Contributing.

Adjacent Barbecue section: Two barbecues with stone bases; brick lined and red brick chimneys; at end of pavilion and around circular drive. Two massive concrete picnic tables of 1920s vintage; c. 5" slab tops with wood cross braces. Remnants of bases for 5 other tables.

#85 Garage: 1937. Single car garage; rough aggregate stucco; asphalt hip roof. Windows infilled and garage door altered with double pedestrian doors. Non-contributing (alterations).

#89 Mower Storage Garage: 1949. Single car garage with workroom. Hip roof; rough aggregate stucco; six pane fixed sash; no style. Non-contributing (age).

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- #91 Summer House ("Outdoor Stage"): 1952. Hexagon plan; 1 story; hexagon hip roof, painted stone and wire mesh screening; no style. Evergreen trees frame "yard" with corner bird bath, two massive concrete benches, and a historic street light. (Behind Quarters #31) Non-contributing (age). (photo #16/21)
- #92 Golf House: 1954. Rectangular, single story, frame side gable roof building. Non-Contributing (age).
- #93 Water Pump House: 1957. Rectangular single story hip roof red brick building; poured concrete foundation. Pedestrian doors at either end with 6 light windows off center toward west. At entrance drive (on east) to Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Non-contributing (age).
- #94 Elevated Water Tower: 1957. Round plan; metal water tower with six legs. Non-contributing structure (age).
- #96 Scale House and Truck Scale: 1953. Square plan; 1 story; red brick over concrete block; hip roof; multi-mullioned steel windows; pedestrian door on south. c. 10' x 6'. Adjacent drive-on scale. Non-contributing (age).
- #98 Admission and Treatment Building: c. 1961; rectangular plan; 3 stories; flat roof; buff colored brick; double hung sash; no architectural detail. Non-contributing. (age) (photo #21/21)
- #101 Intermediate Medicine Unit and Nursing Home Care: 1965; irregular plan; 1 story; flat roof; brick; modern. Slightly taller center entry pavilion with double door entry to south and four irregularly spaced windows to north; paired 1/1 light sash. Non-contributing. (age)
- #102 Intermediate Medicine Unit: 1965. Multiple rectangular wings; 1 story; low-pitched gable roof; aluminum sided in board and batten-like treatment. Non-contributing. (age)
- #103 Intermediate Medicine Unit: 1965. Nearly identical to #101. Non-contributing (age).
- #104 Special Activities Building: (central service/canteen) 1966. Square plan; 1 story; brick; aluminum "mansard" roof. Connected to #101, 102, and 103 by corridor wings. Non-contributing.
- #T110-T114 Engineering Storage (Quonset Huts): c. 1946. Series of 5 huts. Rectangular plan; poured concrete rough aggregate foundations; unpainted metal. 3-light awning windows. Pedestrian doors flanked by 6-light awning windows. #113 has vent inserted in facade right window. #111-113 have replacement doors. A fine grouping of Quonset huts, particularly #110 and 114. 5 Non-contributing. (age)

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#T116 and T117 Garage Storage (Quonset Huts): c. 1946. Rectangular plan; metal painted white. 3 sets of 3-light awning windows on side elevations; modern garage doors face west. 2 Non-contributing. (age)

#T123 Potting Shed (Quonset Hut): c. 1946; rectangular plan; monitor roof; metal. Entrances at each end. Metal pipe arbor nearby. Non-contributing (age).

#T124 Garden Storage (Quonset Hut): c. 1946. Rectangular plan; 1 story; round roof; metal; no academic style. Wood door with flanking 4-light sash on north. Three sets of paired 3-light awning sash. Non-contributing. (age)

#125 Modern Library: c. 1990. Generally rectangular in plan, with pie-shaped entrance bay; 1 story; red brick. Non-contributing. (age)

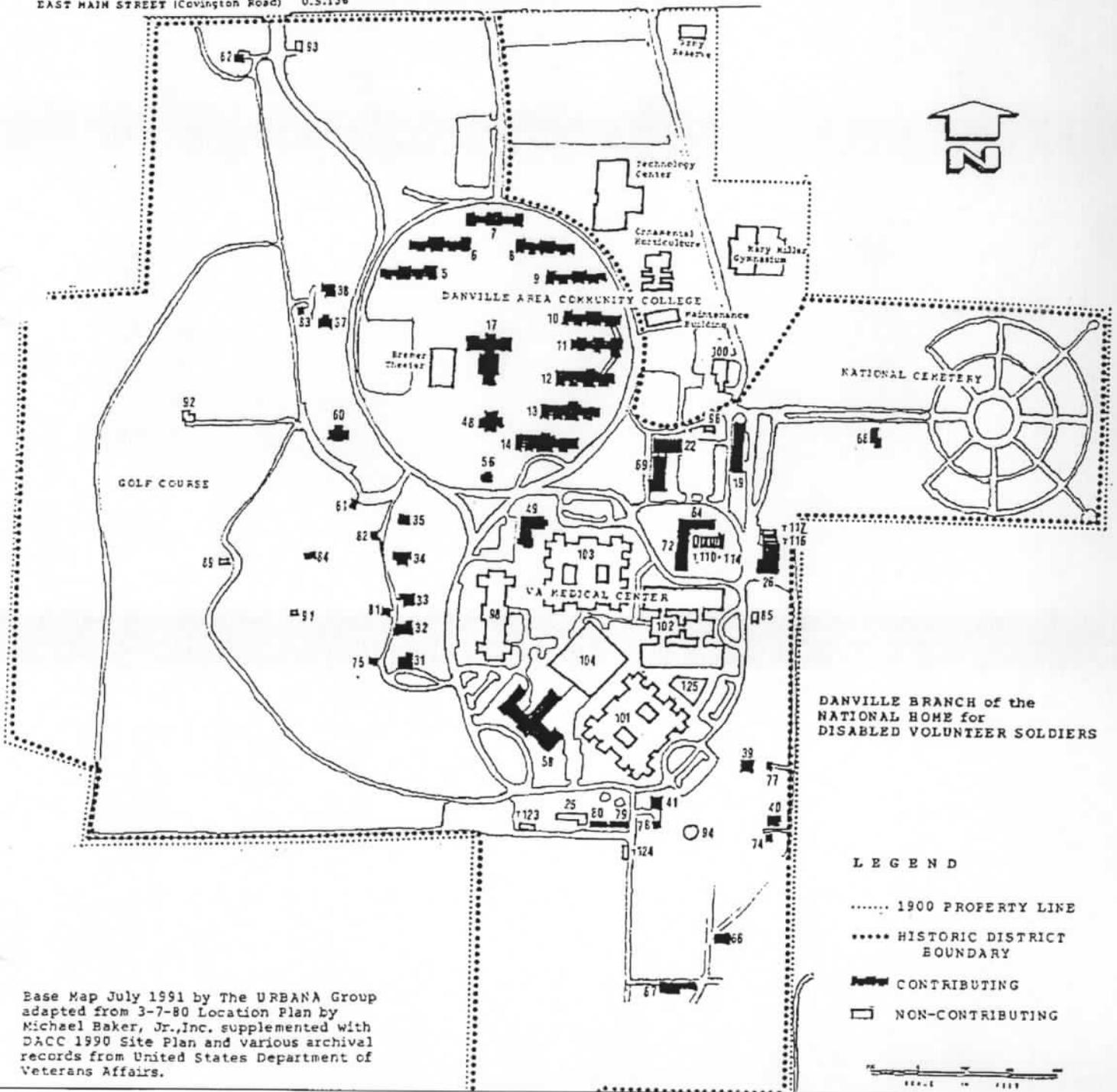
Danville Branch National Cemetery: 1901. Thirty acres, containing the remains of over six thousand veterans. Roadway leads into series of three concentric circles, the center of which contains the remains of the first Governor of the Danville Branch, Col. Isaac Clements (reinterred in 1909). Over his grave is a monument honoring the dead of the nation's wars; soldier statue of bronze on concrete base. Landscape dotted with numerous trees, mostly deciduous. Marble grave markers aligned in typical National Cemetery fashion; incised shield motif with name in raised letters within shield. (DOE Historic District) Contributing site. (photos #18/21 and 19/21)

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EAST MAIN STREET (Covington Road) U.S.136



Base Map July 1991 by The URBANA Group
adapted from 3-7-80 Location Plan by
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. supplemented with
DACC 1990 Site Plan and various archival
records from United States Department of
Veterans Affairs.

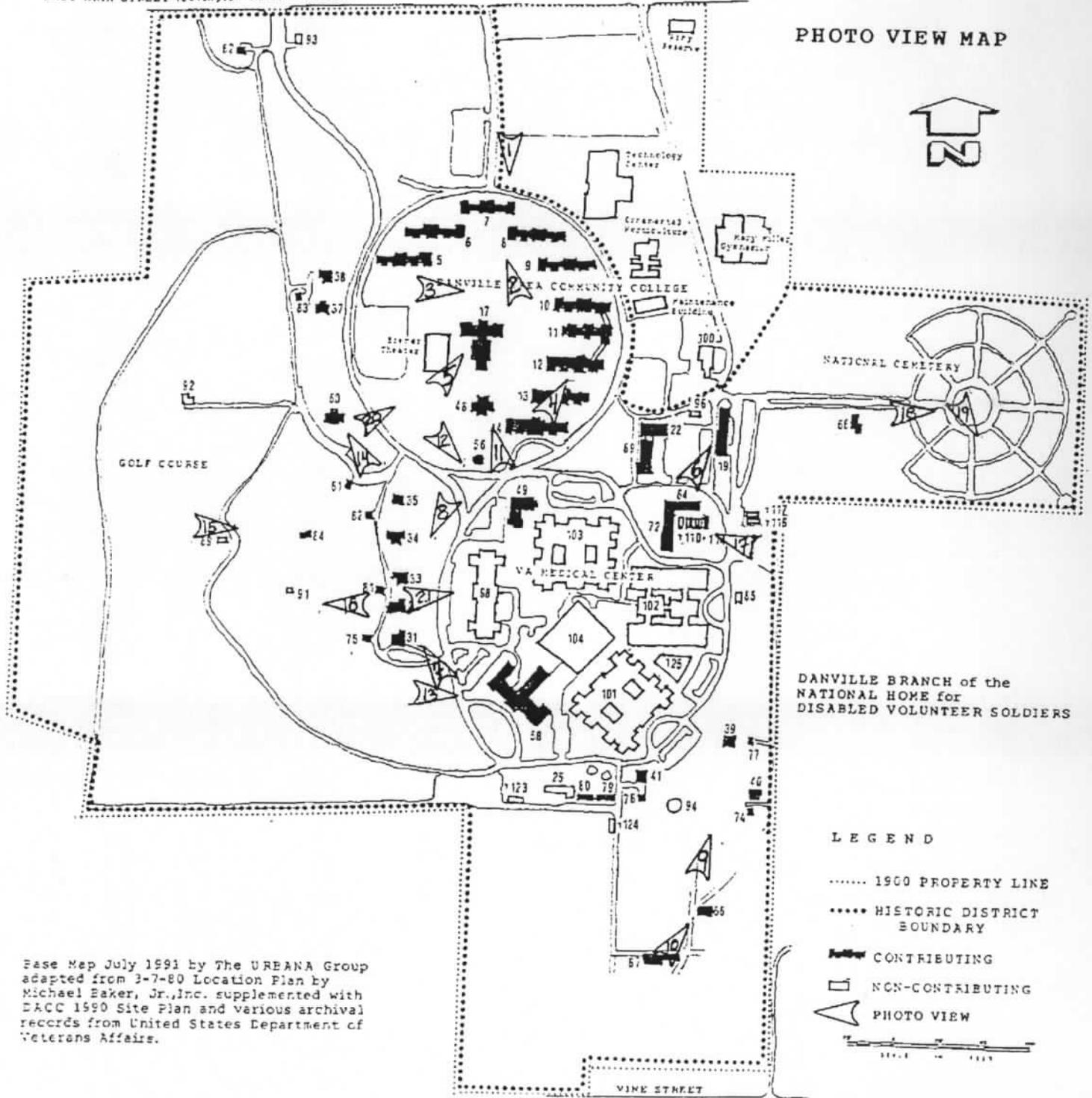
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EAST MAIN STREET (Covington Road) U.S.136

PHOTO VIEW MAP



DANVILLE BRANCH of the
NATIONAL HOME for
DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

LEGEND

- 1900 PROPERTY LINE
- HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- ▲ PHOTO VIEW



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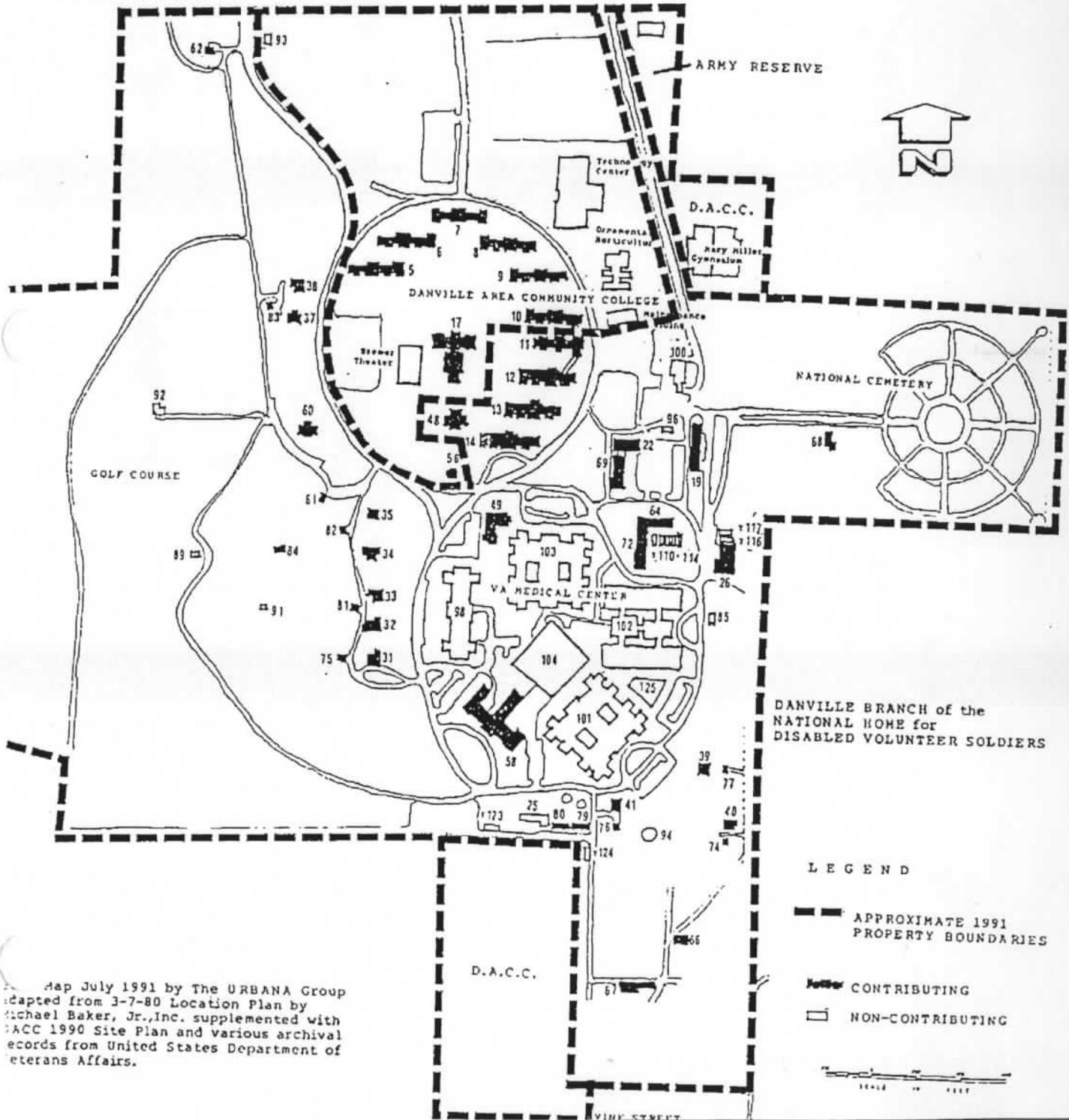
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EAST MAIN STREET (Covington Road) U.S.136



Map July 1991 by The URBANA Group
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DACC 1990 Site Plan and various archival
records from United States Department of
Veterans Affairs.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine
Architecture

Period of Significance

1898-1941

Significant Dates

1898

1901

1907

1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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INTRODUCTION

The Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of health/medicine, as an exemplary element in the evolution of Veterans medical service facilities nationally. As a general hospital with wards for varied levels of treatment, with chapels, library, and specialized clinics, the Danville Branch illustrates the comprehensive approach to health care that began from concern for the well-being of veterans of the Civil War. The Danville Branch is additionally significant under Criterion C for architecture, containing numerous fine examples of Georgian Revival architecture, the dominant style used for both residential and institutional buildings at the Branch, as well as a Late Gothic Revival Chapel and an exceptionally detailed Classical Revival Library. The period of significance for the Historic District, 1898-1941, reflects the beginning of the Danville Branch and the arbitrary fifty-year eligibility date as required by the National Register. The Danville Branch has had several phases of building, contributing to the institution's continuous use as a health care facility for veterans.

One of eleven branch institutions built after the first Home in Togus, Maine, the Danville Branch was begun in 1898. The scope of the facilities at these institutions represented that of planned communities. The variety of education, training and readjustment activities appears to represent the earliest federal attempt at large scale rehabilitation programs. These complexes contained chapels reputed to be the earliest non-military construction of religious facilities by the federal government. Another significant departure from previous federal programs was in terms of veterans' eligibility for admission to these Homes.¹ Since initial eligibility was based on disabled veterans' status as members of the Union forces, it meant that white and black individuals were admitted to these Homes where rudimentary integration, by present day standards, took place. It would be another eighty years before the United States military forces integrated blacks and whites.

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The establishment of a "Military and Naval Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" by an act of Congress on March 3, 1865 represented the concern of the United States government to establish a home or hospital for Union Army veterans following the Civil War.² A later act of Congress changed the name of the "Asylum" to that of "Home" thereafter changing the name of the organization to the "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers". The first Home was established at Togus, Maine in 1867 and became known as The Eastern Branch. Between 1867 and 1929, ten other Home branches and one sanatorium were opened: Dayton, Ohio (The Central Branch) in 1867; Milwaukee, Wisconsin (The Northwestern Branch) in 1867; Hampton, Virginia (The Southern Branch) in 1870; Leavenworth, Kansas (The Western Branch) in 1885; Santa Monica, California (The Pacific Branch) in 1888; Marion, Indiana (The Marion Branch) in 1889; Danville, Illinois (The

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Danville Branch) in 1898; Johnson City, Tennessee (The Mountain Branch) in 1901; Hot Springs, South Dakota (The Battle Mountain Sanatorium) in 1902; and Bath, New York (The Bath Branch) in 1929.³

The Congressional act of 1865 created a corporate body of one hundred individuals in the District of Columbia to guide the operation of these Homes. Among these one hundred individuals were such well known figures as General Ulysses S. Grant, Admiral David G. Farragut, Andrew Johnson, General William T. Sherman, Richard J. Oglesby, General John A. Logan and Oliver Wendell Holmes.⁴ The Congressional act of March 21, 1866 later amended the original act by replacing this corporate body with a governing Board of Managers consisting of twelve members among them ex-officio, President Johnson, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and Chief Justice Salmon Chase.⁵ The operation of the facilities was funded by fines and stoppages of pay for courts martial, forfeitures of pay for desertion, and monies due and unclaimed for three years.⁶ This funding system was considered too complicated and uncertain, with the increasing size of and demands upon the Home, therefore Congress replaced it with federal funding in the form of direct appropriations for the Home in 1875, although it was not until 1881 that Congress forbade the collection of pension funds through fines, stoppages and limits upon the amounts allotted to pensioners to prevent "squandering".⁷

Military surplus provided supplies for these Homes and ornamentation, such as military field pieces, for the grounds. Because enrollment in State Veterans Homes was increasing, a new requirement was instituted in 1888, when managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were required to pay one hundred dollars each year per veteran in state Homes if they were eligible for federal Homes.⁸ This practice continues today with the federal per diem payments on behalf of the veterans in State Veterans Homes and federal grants for specific categories of construction at state Homes.

In 1867, The Northwestern Branch of the Home at Milwaukee, Wisconsin allowed veterans from the War of 1812 eligibility for admission. The other branches followed suit in 1871 also allowing veterans from the Mexican War admission eligibility. By 1884, a war veteran did not need to provide proof that disabilities incurred were a direct result of service as long as they were not received in action against the United States. Admission was extended to all honorably discharged officers, soldiers and sailors who were in active service in regular or volunteer United States forces in any war and were disabled, had no adequate means of support and were incapable of earning a living. Those who "served against hostile Indians" were eligible for admission to the Home in 1908, while veterans who served in the Philippines, China and Alaska were covered in 1909.⁹

Following World War I, a new governmental agency, the U.S. Veterans Bureau, was established to handle the hospitalization and rehabilitation of an increasing number of veterans. Under this agency, the National Home was publicly criticized for poor management, bad food, favoritism for the officers over the needs of its members and a lack of concern for the human needs of the veterans.¹⁰ The National Home for Disabled

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Volunteer Soldiers, which had become affectionately known as the "Old Soldiers' Home," had truly become an old soldier's final resting place with the Home constructing and operating facilities for World War I veterans. In the 1920s, veterans affairs were being administered by three different federal agencies--the Veterans Bureau and the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department, as well as the National Home. In order to consolidate and coordinate government affairs concerning war veterans, Congress authorized President Hoover to establish the Veterans Administration to assimilate the affairs of these three institutions on July 21, 1930.¹¹ The Home maintained its distinct identity for some time as the Home Service of the Veterans Administration, however, new construction by the Veterans Administration, a uniform admissions policy, and the passing of Civil War veterans signalled an end to the name "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers."¹² In recent years, the Veterans Administration has been elevated to Cabinet status as the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, with little change in the organizational structure within the overall agency.

DANVILLE BRANCH

The existence of the Danville Branch is due to the forceful leadership of Danville's colorful and highly influential Representative. Joseph Cannon, a Congressman from the then Twelfth Congressional District and future Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, campaigned for, and exercised his political influence to achieve, congressional authorization of a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Danville on June 4, 1897.¹³ Joseph Gurney ("Uncle Joe") Cannon was born on May 7, 1836 in Guilford, North Carolina, and lived in Tuscola, Illinois for nineteen years, before moving to Danville in 1878.¹⁴ From March 1861 to December 1868, Cannon served as state's attorney in Illinois. He graduated with his LL.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on June 10, 1903.¹⁵ First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1872, Cannon served 46 years in the House between then and 1923, only failing to gain reelection twice, for two-year terms, in 1890 and 1912.¹⁶ From 1903 to 1910, he served as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The acquisition of a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Danville would, in one action, serve three purposes. In addition to the Home being a tribute to needy Union Civil War veterans, its construction would bring federal money and patronage jobs to Danville while the veterans themselves would add between two thousand five hundred and four thousand grateful Republican voters to the local voting rolls.¹⁷ The role that Cannon played in the acquisition of the Home earned him the title "Father of the Home."¹⁸

Congress was anxious to have more say in the expansion of Home branches across the country at that time. Construction on the Danville Branch began in 1898, while the first veteran, Charles Butler, was admitted on October 13 of that same year.¹⁹ The initial building phase consisted of over forty buildings. The Home provided the veterans with a planned community which, at the Danville Branch, included a chapel, school, hotel, library, band stand, amusement hall, social hall, theatre, farm buildings, printing

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office and laundry as well as an array of shops.²⁰ The function of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was not that these institutions be hospitals or almshouses for veterans. Their purpose was that of a Home reinforced by a planned community. These Homes offered shelter, education, training and employment to the veterans while allowing them a period for readjustment following the trials of war. While the U.S. government provided the veterans with living quarters, clothing, religious instruction, employment and amusement, they were not expressions of charity but were intended as a reward for services rendered during wartime.²¹ The activities in which the veterans participated were as diverse as in any community. In terms of training and employment, the veterans were involved in the printing office, a machine shop, a carpenter's shop, a paint shop, a tin shop, a harnessmaking business, a shoe shop, a tailors and a blacksmiths as well as various farming activities.²² In addition to these opportunities for practical training, the library offered members of the Home the opportunity of furthering their education. Amusement and recreation were also catered for at the Home and the variety of activities in which its members participated further emphasize the diverse nature of the community. Early in this century, the Home boasted a brass, orchestral and string band composed of twenty five veterans.²³ In 1913, the Home established its first baseball club.²⁴ The campus of the Home provided the veterans with several recreational options. Lake Clements offered boating and other recreational facilities to members and to the public. The lake was originally named after General William B. Franklin, a former president of the board of managers of the Home, but was renamed in honor of the first Governor of the Home.²⁵ Upon drainage of the lake in the fall of 1940, its disappearance accommodated the establishment of a six-hole golf course on the grounds in 1949.²⁶ The course was converted into a nine-hole circuit between 1951 and 1952 while the golf house was erected in 1954.²⁷ A pavilion provided the Home band with the opportunity to play to the public as concerts were held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.²⁸ The Home also contributed to the community in the vicinity of Danville, serving as a showplace with its beautiful gardens and its boating and recreational facilities open to the public.

Population of the Danville Branch of the Home has varied considerably over the years. In the 1890s, Joseph Cannon envisioned the Danville Branch caring for over 3,000 men who at the time were without shelter and unable to care for themselves.²⁹ Initially, it is believed that the Danville Branch catered for as many as 4,000 veterans.³⁰ The Home cared for 1,583 resident patients in 1900³¹ while, by 1903, this number had risen to 2,457 increasing to 4,257 in 1910.³² In 1984, the Danville Veterans Administration Medical Center served, mostly on an outpatient basis, over 107,000 veterans from seventeen counties in Illinois and two counties in Indiana with an additional 5,000 new patients cared for each year.³³ At that time, the center employed a full-time staff of 1,250 people in addition to over a hundred part-time workers.

Veterans were quartered in Continued Treatment Ward buildings arranged in a circular pattern (Buildings #5 - #14). Scattered around this building formation, especially to the west and south, several single quarters are located. These structures were occupied by members of the staff. In 1953, for example, the governor of the Home resided in

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Building #31, the surgeon in Building #32, the treasurer in Building #33, the quartermaster in Building #34, the adjutant in Building #35 and doctors in both Buildings #40 and #41. The original development of the Danville Branch in 1898 included medical, surgical, and intensive treatment facilities in what was labeled the Hospital Building (#15, on the approximate site of the present building #125). This was a complex of six interconnected two-story brick structures containing eight wards, kitchen and other central services. It was torn down in 1964 subsequent to provision of newer facilities in Building #58 and the one-story structures within the southern building circle.

The campus of the Danville Branch has undergone several renovation and expansion projects since initial construction of a complex of over forty original buildings took place. The nature of the Home at Danville changed during the 1930's from a strongly custodial facility to a modern medical complex. During 1933 and 1934 conversion steps were taken so that on March 1, 1935, it had become a neuropsychiatric hospital.³⁴ At the present time, the Danville Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center still offers general medical and surgical care in addition to comprehensive neuropsychiatric services. Among the specialized programs offered by the institution are an alcohol-drug rehabilitation unit, joint medical-surgical intensive care unit, pulmonary function laboratory, respiratory center, nuclear medicine, audiology/speech pathology, mental health clinic, rehabilitation medicine, vocational rehabilitation unit, heart function laboratory and hypertension clinic in addition to a large geriatric program.³⁵ Publishing facilities were available on the grounds of the Danville Branch since 1909 when the institution published the "Home Bulletin". The Danville Branch was responsible for the publication of "The Bulletin" (formerly "Dynamo" from 1940 to 1943 and "Facility Bulletin" from 1943 to 1946).³⁶

The Historic District also includes a thirty acre National Cemetery containing the remains of over six thousand veterans. The cemetery was established in 1898 concurrently with the development of the Danville Branch of the National Home, in a small plot northwest of the present cemetery. Two years later, thirty acres of land adjacent to the east edge of the Home property was acquired and the present cemetery was plotted in a pattern of concentric circles. Ninety-nine graves were relocated to the new property. The cemetery is significant not only as a contributing site in reflecting aspects of the Home life, but also for its cohesive design and its role as a physical manifestation of our country's concern for its veterans and obligation to care for the Home members, men who served their country, upon their death.³⁷

Now divided between the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Danville Area Community College, the Danville Branch of the National Home continues to reflect its original design and development. Comprised of low scale buildings, curving avenues, and a landscape heavily dotted with deciduous and evergreen trees, the National Home depicts a restful, campus-like setting. Two circles contain the majority of the institutional buildings, which are ringed with staff quarters; the golf course (former lake), garden space, farmland, and the National Cemetery line the periphery of the grounds. Concrete

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benches, historic street lights (continued treatment ward circle), tree rows (staff quarters areas and the front circle to the west of the VA drive), and the sloping landscape of the golf course add to the park-like charm within the Historic District.

Largely brick in construction and Georgian Revival in style, among the most striking features of the Home is the ring of ten nearly identical Continued Treatment Ward and Administration buildings. Handsome in construction and detailing, these three-story brick buildings with extending pavilions exhibit partial sandstone foundations and window details, denticulated brick cornices, varied attic and entrance windows, and columned rear porches. Among the staff quarters are exceptional examples of the Georgian Revival style, most notably the Director's Quarters (#31), a brick and clapboard two and one-half story residence with a sandstone watertable and lintels, and a full entablature with dentils and modillions; a large central entry with fanlight and sidelights is concealed under a full-width porch, with a porte-cochere on the south. Its neighbor, Single Quarters #32, is similar in size, with a delicately carved balustrade and Palladian window with heavy wood framing.

Among the most individually outstanding buildings is the 1905-07 Carnegie Library, a significant example of Classical Revival architecture. Brick in construction, the Library exhibits a stone foundation, quoins, belt course, and watertable. Its full entablature with pulvinated frieze, modillions, and guttae, in addition to its central projecting entry pavilion with Doric columns in antis, pedimented gable with massive cartouche, and center and side anthemion antefix, make the Library an exquisitely detailed contribution to the Home. The nearby Band Stand also reflects the Classical Revival style, with eight Ionic columns supporting an open cornice and a connecting wood balustrade.

The Chapel Building is a fine example of Late Gothic Revival architecture. Built in 1901, the Chapels consist of a Catholic wing to the east and a Protestant wing to the south, united by a flat roofed bell tower housing separate Gothic arched entrances with stone drip molds. "Buttresses," pointed arch windows in pairs, and a denticulated cornice provide notable detail to the building.

The use of the Georgian Revival style was not limited to the initial phase and earliest phases of building at the Danville Branch. Buildings in the middle to late 1930s also reflect Georgian Revival stylistic influences. The General Medical and Surgical Building (#58), 1934, exhibits a banded rusticated first story with stone quoins, but is dominated by a central projecting gable entry pavilion. The pavilion includes three story colossal Doric columns, a full entablature, and three round arch double-door entries with fanlights. Building #60, 1935, includes a banded rusticated basement, stone quoins, and belt course. A central projecting gable entry pavilion includes a raking cornice with dentils and a stone entry surround with segmental arch pediment.

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Still other buildings, used for support functions, reflect the building details typical of their time. Building #19, Supply Warehouse, is brick in construction with a stone watertable and a cornice with brick corbeled dentils; segmentally arched window openings with three course header brick arches and stone sills lend additional detail. The stucco and clapboard barn, building #66, is rectangular in plan with a steeply pitched gambrel roof, sliding barn door, and hay loft with lift above. Numerous outbuildings, mostly garages, are finished with a rough aggregate stucco, and while they have no particular detailing, they blend well into the setting and reflect the continued use and changing needs of the Home.

While the Danville Branch continues to retain a good degree of integrity, the most notable changes to the original character of the facility have occurred since the transfer of land to the Danville Area Community College began in the mid-1960s. Several of the original Continued Treatment Wards on the front circle have been demolished in recent years, and new buildings dominate a parcel of land on original Home grounds, causing them to be excluded from this Historic District. Remaining historic buildings retain an amazingly high degree of integrity, most notably with staff quarters (one of which has been artificially sided) and the remaining Continued Treatment Wards (all but one of which retain original windows and roof materials, and have not suffered from sandblasting).

The Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District continues to reflect this significant national statement on care and concern for veterans. The architecture of the Historic District reflects the Home's continued and evolving use, in its identity as a National Home and as a Dept. of Veterans Affairs facility.

Endnotes

1. "Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, April 4, 1980, n.p.
2. Anon. "History of Veterans Administration Hospital, Danville, Illinois." The Bulletin, April 30, 1965, p. 1.
3. "Danville Branch..." Nomination Form, op. cit., n.p.
4. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 1.

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5. Ibid.
"Danville Branch..." Nomination Form, op. cit.
 6. Ibid.
 7. Ibid.
 8. Ibid.
 9. Ibid.
 10. Ibid.
 11. Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Annual Report 1986.
(Washington: U.S.G.P.O., 1987), p. xii.
 12. "Danville Branch..." Nomination Form, op. cit.
 13. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 1.
 14. Anon. Illustrated History of the Danville Branch: National Home
for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers 1861 - 1865. (Danville, Illinois: National
Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1906), p. 10.
 15. Ibid.
 16. Ibid., p. 22.
 17. Cullen, Kevin. "Danville's VA keeps historic vow to veterans."
Sunday's Commercial-News, Sunday, November 11, 1984, p. 1A.
 18. Illustrated History, op. cit., p. 22.
 19. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 1.
 20. "Danville Branch..." Nomination Form, op. cit..
 21. Anon. A History of the Danville Veterans Administration Medical
Center on the Observance of Its 50th Birthday: 1930 - 1980. (Danville,
Illinois: Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1980), p. 2.
 22. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 14.
 23. Illustrated History, op. cit., p. 26.
The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 7.

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24. Ibid., p. 21.
25. Ibid., p. 17.
26. A History of the Danville Administration Medical Center, op. cit.
p. 5.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid., p. 3.
29. A History of the Danville Veterans Administration Medical Center,
op. cit., p. 1.
30. Bob Wright. Danville: A Pictorial History. (St. Louis, Missouri:
Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1987), p. 68.
Sunday's Commercial News, op. cit., p. 1A.
31. Bob Wright. op. cit..
32. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 3.
33. Sunday's Commercial-News, op. cit..
34. A History of the Danville Veterans Administration Medical Center,
op. cit., p. 6.
Sunday's Commercial-News, op. cit., p. 10A.
35. A History of the Danville Veterans Administration Medical Center,
op. cit..
Sunday's Commercial-News, op. cit..
36. The Bulletin, op. cit., p. 28.
37. "Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer
Soldiers and Cemetery Historic District." National Register of Historic
Places, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, E.O.11593: Determination
of Eligibility, November 30, 1981, n.p.
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Volunteer Soldiers." United States Department of the Interior, National
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BUILDING COSTS

DANVILLE BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

Thirteen Continued Treatment Wards, 1900 Buildings #1-4 (demolished), #5 and #6, #8 - #14	\$ 29,225 each
Building #7, 1900	\$ 41,393
Mess Hall Building #17, 1898	\$153,859
Supply Warehouse Building #19, 1900	\$ 23,417
Original Laundry Building #22, 1900	\$ 24,013
Chapel Building #49, 1901	\$ 20,000

Source: *Souvenir, Illustrated History of the Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1906*

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- Cullen, K. "Danville's VA keeps historic vow to veterans" Sunday's Commercial-News, Sunday, November 11, 1984, p. 1A, 10A.
- "Danville Branch Cemetery of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, April 4, 1980.
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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The original land assembly in 1897 through 1900 for the Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers comprised approximately 325 acres. The principal portion is the East Half of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 11 West of the Second Principal Meridian (with the exception of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said Section 10). Additional smaller portions lie in the west 1/2 of Section 10 and the west 1/2 of Section 11.

The boundary of the historic district contains approximately 297 acres, and includes the entire tract acquired by warranty deeds to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers from ten various owners in 1897 through 1900, with the exception of the following parcel in the northeast corner of the original property:

Beginning at a point in the centerline of East Main Street approximately 1346.40 feet west of the northeast corner of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 11 west of the Second Principal Meridian; in line with the back of the eastern curb of the main entrance road to the Danville Area Community College; thence easterly along East Main Street to a point 561 feet west of said northeast corner of section 10, said point being also the northeast corner of the original Veterans Home property; thence southerly 855.36 feet to a point; thence easterly 561 feet to a point on the East line of said Section 10; thence southerly along said east line of Section 10 462.48 feet to a point being the northwest corner of the National Cemetery property; thence along a diagonal bearing southwesterly to a point being the intersection of the northern edge (extended) of the entrance road to the National Cemetery with the northern edge of the curvilinear road lying northerly of buildings 19 and 22; thence generally westerly along the northern edge of said curvilinear road to its intersection with the easterly edge of the main loop road lying easterly and northerly of buildings 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, and 7; thence along the back of the outer curb of said main loop road to its intersection with the easterly edge of the main entrance road to the Danville Area Community College; thence northerly along the eastern edge of said main entrance road to the point of beginning at East Main Street; which parcel contains approximately 27 acres.

UTM Reference -- continued

E 16 450270 4441830	F 16 450360 4441950	G 16 450720 4441950
H 16 450720 4441650	I 16 450330 4441650	J 16 450330 4440900
K 16 449910 4440850	L 16 449910 4441240	M 16 449380 4441210
N 16 449300 4441370	O 16 449310 4441940	P 16 449480 4441950

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District, Vermilion Co
Section number 11 Page 1 Illinois

11. Form Prepared By

The URBANA Group, Inc.
consultants to the Old Town Preservation Association, Danville
110 South Race Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 1028
Urbana, IL 61801-9028
217/344-7526

Section 7: Description
Alice Edwards/Vice President
Karen Kummer/Architectural Historian

Section 8: Significance
Alice Edwards/Vice President
Joseph Gallagher/Cultural Geographer

Mapping and Editing
Lachlan F. Blair/President

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

VA Medical Center, Danville

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 297 acres

UTM References

A	1,6	4,4,9,4,8,0	4,4,4,2,3,2,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	4,4,9,9,2,0	4,4,4,2,1,1,0

B	1,6	4,4,9,9,0,0	4,4,4,2,3,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,6	4,5,0,1,0,0	4,4,4,1,8,2,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel of land which has been historically associated with the property, excluding a northeast tract of land which is now dominated by modern architecture and no longer retains historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Edwards/Vice President; Joseph Gallagher/Cultural Geographer; see con't sheet
 organization The URBANA Group date July 1990
 street & number 110 S. Race Street, Suite 200 telephone 217/344-7526
 city or town Urbana state IL zip code 61801



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127



The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

FEB 14 1992

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 2/03/92 THROUGH 2/06/92

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, BAXTER COUNTY, Case--Shiras--Dearmore House, 351 E. 4th St., Mountain Home, 91000580, NOMINATION, 2/03/92
ARKANSAS, CLARK COUNTY, Kirksey Lov House, Co. Rd. 59 W of De Gray Lake, Fendley Vicinity, 91000586, NOMINATION, 2/03/92
ARKANSAS, PERRY COUNTY, Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District, Area surrounding and N of Lake Sylvia, Ouachita NF, Paron vicinity, 90001826, NOMINATION, 2/03/92 (Facilities constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS)
ARKANSAS, POLK COUNTY, Ebenezer Monument, Jct. of 9th and Church Sts., Mena, 91000689, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
ARKANSAS, STONE COUNTY, Bonds House, Co. Rd. 2 E of Meadow Cr., Fox vicinity, 91000691, NOMINATION, 2/03/92 (Stone County MRA)
CALIFORNIA, ORANGE COUNTY, Santa Fe Railway Passenger and Freight Depot, 140 E. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, 91002031, NOMINATION, 2/05/92
CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, Sexton, Joseph and Lucy Foster, House, 5490 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara, 91002033, NOMINATION, 2/05/92
GEORGIA, CATOOSA COUNTY, Ringgold Commercial Historic District, Nashville St. between Tennessee and Depot Sts., Ringgold, 002001, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
ILLINOIS, VERMILION COUNTY, Danville Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District, 1900 and 2000 E. Main St., Danville, 91001973, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
NORTH DAKOTA, WALSH COUNTY, Minto School, Jct. of Major Ave. and Third St., Minto, 91002002, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
VIRGINIA, ESSEX COUNTY, Port Micou, VA 674, at Rappahannock R., Loretto vicinity, 91002041, NOMINATION, 2/06/92
WISCONSIN, ONEIDA COUNTY, Tomahawk Lake Camp Historic District, 8500 Raven Rd., Lake Tomahawk, 91001987, NOMINATION, 1/30/92

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

V-H-17

2007-5

1. Name of Site:

Common

Danville Junior College & Vets Admin. General Hospital

Historic

suggested Old Soldiers Home Historic District

2. Location: E. Main (See map)

Street and Number

Township

Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

Danville
County

3. Vermilion Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

District

Buildings

Altered

Unaltered

Site

Structure

Moved

Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

Private

Occupied

Public

Unoccupied

Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural

Industrial

Religious

Commercial

Military

Scientific

Educational

Museum

Transportation

Entertainment

Park

Other

Government

Private Residence

SOCIAL-HUMANITARIAN

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

Excellent

Good

Fair

Deteriorated

Ruins

Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?

Yes

No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1897 established

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
Use additional sheets if necessary.

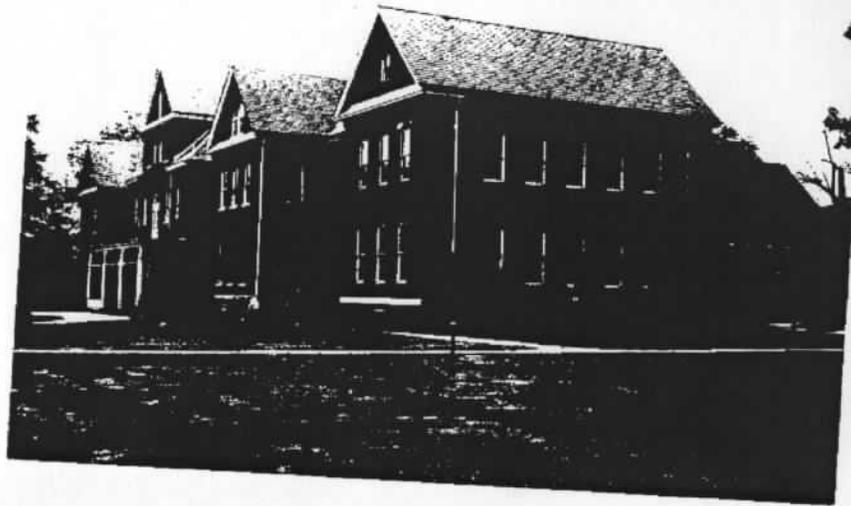
9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: _____
Organization: _____ Phone: _____
Street and Number: _____
City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

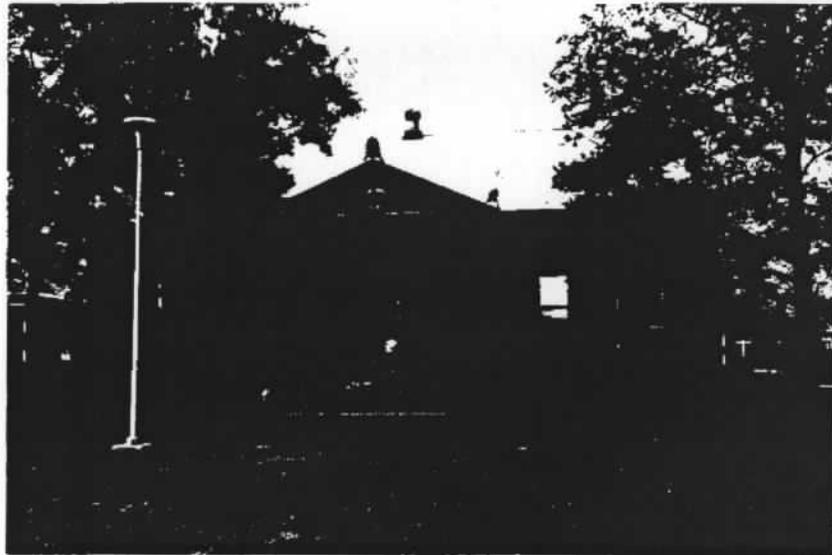
Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.



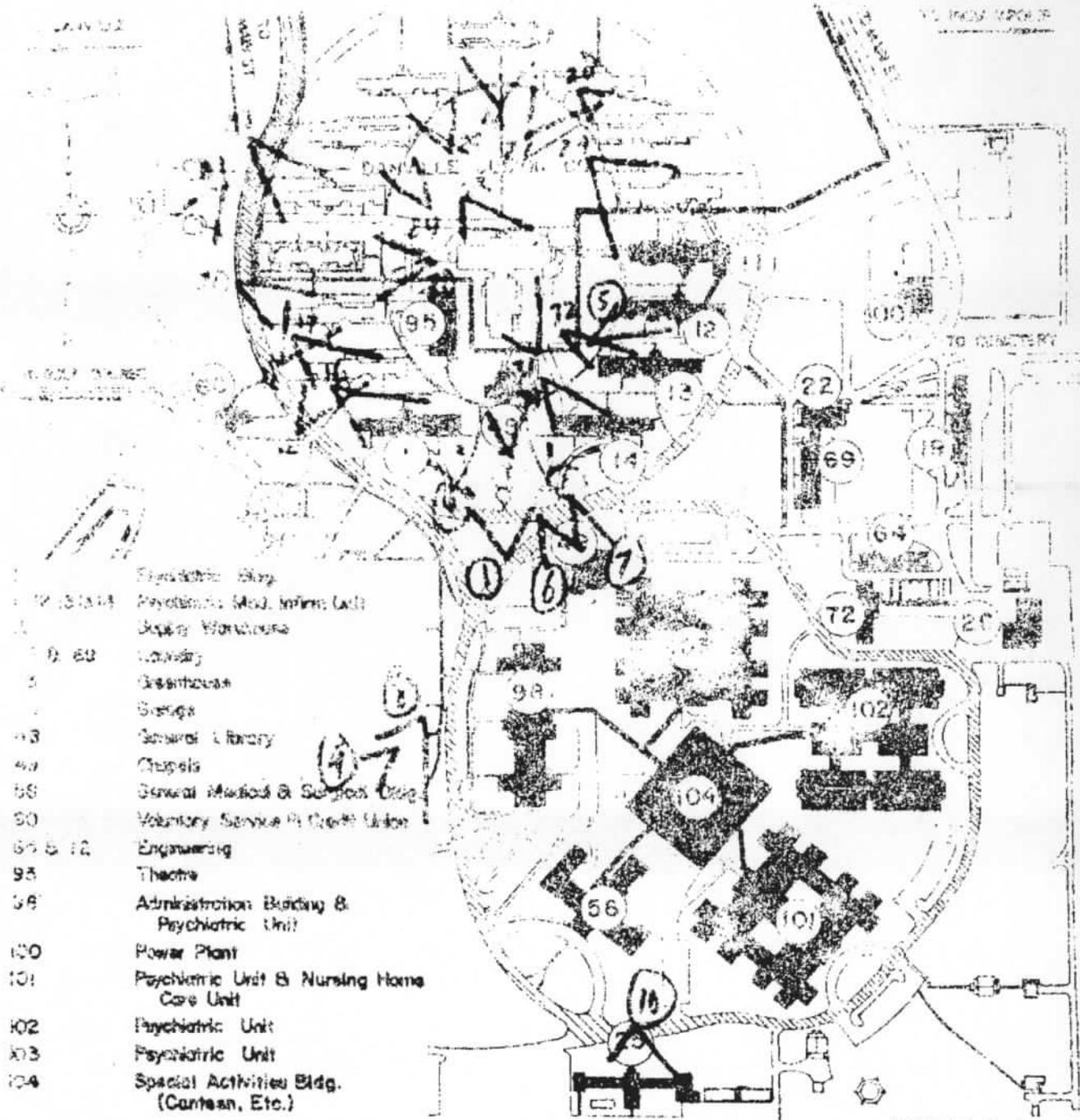
SIGNIFICANCE:

It was established in 1897 & was then part of a chain of national hospitals controlled by a national board. It was used at first for veterans of the Civil War, but later took in veterans from later wars. (Williams, pp. 463-6) Since 1934, it specialized in neuro-psychiatric work. (Federal Writers Project, pp. 408) The subsequent history of the institution has not yet been assembled.

"Turn-of-the-century institutional landscape; 14 infirmary buildings, mess hall, Carnegie library, staff houses, bandstand, & church bldg. containing Roman Catholic & Protestant chapels. High quality environment with few post-1915 structural intrusions. Once a retirement home for veterans of the Civil War & Spanish-American War." (Jaxle, "Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Vermilion County Illinois".)



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION GENERAL HOSPITAL
DANVILLE ILLINOIS



- 1 Psychiatric Bldg.
- 12 (31314) Psychiatric Med. Infirm. Unit
- 15 Supply Warehouse
- 19, 68 Laundry
- 3 Greenhouse
- 6 Garage
- 43 General Library
- 49 Chapels
- 58 General Medical & Surgical Bldg.
- 60 Voluntary Service Pt. Credit Union
- 65 & 12 Engineering
- 93 Theatre
- 96 Administration Bldg. & Psychiatric Unit
- 100 Power Plant
- 101 Psychiatric Unit & Nursing Home Core Unit
- 102 Psychiatric Unit
- 103 Psychiatric Unit
- 104 Special Activities Bldg. (Canteen, Etc.)

JUNE 1971

