

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

ENTERED JAN 15 2004

REFNUM 03001412

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Other names/site number VA Medical Center and National Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 4100 West Third Street N/A not for publication

city or town Dayton N/A vicinity

state Ohio code 113 county Montgomery zip code 45428

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brian P. ... Dept. Head - Planning, Inventory, Registration August 28, 2003
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
44	12	buildings
2	0	sites
3	4	structures
4	0	objects
53	16	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/Institutional Housing
- Health Care/Hospital
- Health Care/Rest Home/Sanitarium
- Funerary/Cemetery
- Landscape

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Health Care/Hospital
- Health Care/Clinic
- Funerary/Cemetery
- Landscape

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late Victorian/Gothic/Italianate
- Second Empire
- Colonial Revival/20th Century
- Classical Revival
- Queen Anne
- California Bungalow
- Georgian Revival
- Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation stone, concrete
- Roof tin/slate/asphalt shingle
- Walls brick/stone/slate/wooden siding
- Other metal, marble, vegetation

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Name/Location Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Montgomery Co., Ohio

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Politics/Government

Social History

Landscape Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1867-1952

Significant Dates

1867, 1884, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

C. B. Davis

Lemuel B. Porter

Heinrich Schroeder

Name/Location Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Montgomery Co., Ohio

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 July 8, 1980
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 261.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	<u>16 734035 4402995 NW</u>	3	<u>16 735380 4402240 SE</u>
2	<u>16 735335 4403315 NE</u>	4	<u>16 734090 4401905 SW</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Name/Location Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Montgomery Co., Ohio

11. Form Prepared By

name/title organization Jeffrey M. Hull, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Matthew J. Jeffery/ Program Support Assistant

Dayton VA Medical Center (11D)

date August 7, 2003

street & number 4100 West Third Street

telephone (937) 268-6511, ext. 2486

city or town Dayton state Ohio zip code 45428

Name/Location Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Montgomery Co., Ohio

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veterans Affairs

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 273-5400

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20420

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers -
Montgomery Co., Ohio

The Dayton VA Historic District is located on the Dayton VA Medical Center and National Cemetery Campus in the city of Dayton, Ohio, approximately three miles west of downtown. The city of Dayton is located in the southwestern corner of Ohio, approximately 55 miles northeast of Cincinnati and 65 miles southwest of Columbus. Dayton is situated in the eastern portion of Montgomery County. The Mad River, a tributary of the Miami River, flows through Dayton heading southward towards the Ohio River.

The Dayton VA Medical Center and National Cemetery are located on a prominent ridge that overlooks the Miami valley. The 348-acre campus is roughly square in form using public roads as boundaries, of which 261.2 acres are being nominated. The boundaries of the current campus are West Third Street to the north, Gettysburg Avenue to the east, US Route 35 to the south, and roughly Liscum Drive to the west. The VA Medical Center occupies 249.8 acres of the campus. The National Cemetery occupies 98.2 acres along the north boundary of the campus. The demarcation between the National Cemetery property and the VA Medical Center property follows an east-west line that varies between 720 feet to 1305 feet south of West Third Street.

The boundaries of the Dayton VA Historic District roughly follow the north, east, and south boundaries of the current Dayton VA Medical Center and National Cemetery campus. The west boundary of the historic district excludes a nine story patient tower and adjoining buildings that were constructed from 1980 to 1992. The historic district occupies 261.2 acres and is comprised of 163 acres of the VA Medical Center property and the 98.2 acre National Cemetery. The demarcation between the historic district and VA Medical Center property that is excluded from the historic district follows a north-south line that is 1530 feet east of Liscum Drive and extends from the National Cemetery boundary south to U.S. 35.

The grounds and buildings retain a good degree of integrity: alterations to historic buildings have not resulted in a loss of their original overall character. New construction in the Historic District has occurred periodically over time. The central feature of the original campus design was a parade ground with a bandstand bordered by a row of barracks to the west, Headquarters to the north, a natural grotto to the east, and officer quarters to the south. This layout remains intact, although a patient care building (320) was constructed on the parade

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ground in 1981. This building is low in scale, simple in design, and does not disrupt the character of the district.

On March 29, 1960, the Federal government forfeited 25.315 acres south of the current campus, which included Thomas Hospital. The Job Corps currently uses this property. In 1994, 14 acres at the southeast corner of the campus were transferred to the State of Ohio for an extension of U.S. Route 35. Part of the former Deer Park area and approximately one half of a man-made lake were lost. However, much of the park-like atmosphere still exists as it was historically.

The entire site remains in use as a veteran care facility as it was originally intended. The Historic District can be entered from West Third Street to the north, Gettysburg Avenue to the east, and Liscum Drive to the west. The original entrance and Gate Lodge (Building 101) still remain at the intersection of West Third Street and Gettysburg Avenue. An ornate eastern entrance known as Anderson Gate (Object 1) also remains. The road pattern has an intricate system, which utilizes one-way traffic flow at the eastern entrance to minimize congestion. This traffic pattern was established in the 1880's to compensate for the high volume of visitors that the Home experienced each year. The present road systems abide by the original traffic flow theory with few alterations.

The buildings, structures and sites in the historic district range from the nearly identical 3 story brick patient care facilities of the 1930-40's, in a Colonial Revival style; to frame staff quarters in Tudor, Queen Anne, and Italianate styles. The Domiciliary Barracks (Buildings 401, 402) have an Early Classical Revival architectural design. The various styles of these architectural structures highlight the historical beauty of the district. The National Cemetery remains active and it continues to expand outward from the Soldiers Monument (Object 0).

The Dayton VA Medical Center and National Cemetery have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as one of the initial branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (VA Handbook 7545, Appendix B, March 27, 1996). The properties are managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is responsible for all VA Medical Centers and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is responsible for all National Cemeteries.

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DESCRIPTION

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for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers
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BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

The order in which the buildings are described follows the building numbering system used by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The current name (or status) follows the building number with the historic name given in parentheses. The date of the building's construction, and its status as contributing or non-contributing is noted. The relevant photograph number is also included. Buildings are identified on the site map using the Department of Veterans Affairs building numbers.

National Cemetery Property

Building 101 North Gate Shelter: 1868
(Photo # 4-6)

Contributing Building

Building 101 was originally a gatehouse for the property. It is a Gothic Revival style stone gatehouse with a gabled porch projection facing southeast at the intersection of two main roadways, (Gettysburg Avenue running north-south; W. Third Street running east-west). The gatehouse is a single story building with a basement. It has only one interior room. The stone walls support the steeply pitched cross-gabled roof and projecting gabled-roofed porch. The locally quarried foundation is made of quarry dressed rough-cut gray limestone laid in regular courses. Contrasting, bush-hammered white limestone plinths sit above the foundation. Both northeast and southwest foundations have basement windows covered with decorative wrought-iron grillwork with Gothic motif. A wooden, basement access door slants outward and extends from the northwest foundation. At the front entrance is a sidewalk with three concrete steps flanked by iron railing. The main entrance to the building is located under the portico. The portico has a white, wooden entablature supported by two square columns to the front and chamfered pilasters at the rear attachment to the stone structure.

Building 102 Firehouse # 17: 1939

Non-contributing Building

The Firehouse is a one-story Colonial Revival building with a full basement and an attic. It has brick walls, colonnade portico, and an architrave style entrance. The roof is asphalt shingle with cornice eaves and dormers. The Firehouse was constructed by the City of Dayton in 1939, and does not contribute historically to the district.

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Building 1301 Cemetery Administration Building: 1982 Non-contributing Building

Cemetery Administration is a one-story building built in the modern style. It is a pre-engineered building with a brick wall and a standing seam metal roof bent to form a wall. Some of the roof area is flat with a built up system.

Building 4801 Committal Shelter: 1982 Non-contributing Building
The Funeral Shelter does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Structure 0 Funeral Tunnel: 1870 Contributing Structure

The entrance to the funeral tunnel is located on a ridge that faces west. The tunnel entrance had an ornamental stone façade projecting from the ridge. Access to the cemetery from the top of the ridge was provided by stone stairs with metal tube railings on the north and south sides of the tunnel entrance. The tunnel is over seven feet in height. It is likely the tunnel was originally built for the Home Hospital boiler house, which set behind Home Hospital for safety purposes. The tunnel housed steam and water pipes and a small railway for transporting coal. The pipes and railway were eventually removed and the tunnel was used to transport veterans to their final resting-place. The ornamental stone façade has been removed and the entrance has been sealed with stone blocks. The stairways and railings remain.

Site 1 Dayton National Cemetery: 1867-1952 Contributing Site
(Photo # 96-101)

Dayton National Cemetery was established as the permanent burial site for residents of the Central Branch of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1867; approximately 52.8 acres were originally allocated for cemetery purposes. The first interment was September 11, 1867: Corporal Cornelius Solly, who served in Co. I, 104th Pennsylvania Infantry (Section A, Row 12, Grave 25). Veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Mexican War, two World Wars, Korean War, Vietnam War and Persian Gulf War are buried here. The cemetery is a designed cultural landscape composed of 98.2 acres, of which slightly more than 71 acres have been developed. This area is bounded by Liscum Drive on the west; Brown, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Gettysburg avenues on the south and east; and West Third Street on the north.

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The formal entrance to the cemetery is located on West Third Street. There is a network of curvilinear (east side) and orthogonal (west side) interior roads named for states that articulate and access 31 burial sections as well as administration/maintenance building and two monuments. The single-most visual cemetery feature is the lofty Soldiers Monument (Object 0), around which are laid out faceted concentric rows of graves. Approximately 35,700 full-casket burials and more than 1,400 in-ground cremains are contained in the topography of wide, shallow rolling hills. Scattered trees and vegetation dot the scene which, besides veteran headstones, includes non-military issued grave markers and cast-metal tablets. The Dayton National Cemetery is one of 21 Veterans Administration cemeteries transferred in 1973 to what was the new Veterans Administration National Cemetery System (now NCA within the Department of Veterans Affairs). The Dayton National Cemetery has been enlarged periodically with transfers of land from the VA Medical Center. In 1976, 17.3 acres were transferred from VHA to NCA in order to enlarge the Dayton National Cemetery; in 1993 another 17.7 acres were transferred from VHA to NCA; and most recently, in 1999, 10.4 acres were transferred from VHA to NCA.

Object 0 Soldiers Monument: 1873 date stone
(Photo # 101,102) Contributing Object

Atop a central mound within the cemetery stands the Soldiers' Monument. The cornerstone of the Soldiers Monument was laid on July 4, 1873, and covers a time capsule containing the Bible, Constitution of the United States, photographs, coins, muster-roll of officers and men of the National Home, major newspapers from ten cities, and other historical memorabilia. The Soldiers Monument is comprised of a 30-foot marble column, mounted on a granite base and crowned with an ornamental cap. "To Our Fallen Comrades" is one of the four inscriptions on the base. A Civil War Soldier at parade rest surmounts the marble column. The foot of the column is surrounded on the base by four figures representing the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Navy. Benjamin Henry Latrobe designed the column, and it previously adorned the facade of the Bank of Pennsylvania. Latrobe is most noted for his work on the White House and the Capitol in Washington D.C. He is credited with introducing Greek Revival as the style of American National architecture. President Rutherford B. Hayes delivered the dedication address and unveiled the monument on September 12, 1877, with about 25,000 visitors attending the ceremonies. The Central Branch veterans

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erected the monument as an everlasting symbol of gratitude to those who had given their life in defense of the Union.

Object 3 National Cemetery memorial, tablets, and cannon Contributing Object

- "Memorial to 33 soldiers of the War of 1812 Buried in this Cemetery..." Bronze plaque affixed to boulder ca. 4' tall x 4' wide. Text continues: "Honoring Josephine C. Diefenbach state president 1915-1932. Erected by the Ohio Society United States Daughters of 1812 on the anniversary of Perry's Victory - September 10, 1936." The memorial is located in Section i of the cemetery.

- (2) large wheeled cannons and (2) smaller fixed cannons located at base of Soldiers' Monument, 19th century.

- (7) *Bivouac of the Dead* verse tablets, ca. 1881-82. Manufactured of cast iron at Rock Island Arsenal, each tablet contains four different lines (a half stanza) from this popular poem, written by Theodore O'Hara to commemorate the losses of a Mexican War battle. Due to public interest, the Army had hundreds of these tablets made and erected in existing national cemeteries; during the 20th century many have disappeared. Today, Dayton is one of 16 NCA-managed national cemeteries to retain its original *Bivouac of the Dead* tablets.

- *Gettysburg Address* plaque, ca. 1909. Bronze. The Army placed one of these tablets in all Civil War-era cemeteries to honor the dedication of the first national cemetery by President Lincoln.

VA Medical Center Property

Building 105 Bus Waiting Shelter (**Depot**): 1917 Contributing Building
(Photo # 7,8)

The bus waiting shelter is oriented north/south with the front facing the east. The one story building is a symmetrical rectangular shape. The walls are yellow brick in stretcher bond pattern. The sweeping hipped roof is composed of a red Spanish tile. The roof forms a wide eave overhang with exposed rafters beneath. Five support braces are placed beneath the eave supporting the roof. The building sits on a concrete foundation with no basement. The south façade

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features an offset door with glass transom above. Windows flank the door providing light to the interior. The windows have been replaced with sheets of Plexiglas. Flat limestone windowsills are above and beneath each window. At the far right side of the front façade, there is a small, half size window.

Building 106 Gas Meter House: 1942 Contributing Structure
(Photo # 9)

This structure is used for gas service off Gettysburg Ave. The meter house has brick wall supports, and a shingle hipped roof. The foundation is made of concrete.

Building 111 Swan House: 1895 Contributing Structure
(Photo # 11,12)

The swan house is a small, wooden gazebo type structure constructed in a Stick style. Twelve square columns support the square shaped, hipped roof. The building is open on all sides. Between the columns are "X" shaped decorative wooden braces. Two black metal railings span the waterfront side of the building; single wooden railings flank the other sides with a wide entryway at the back. The swan house is supported by a concrete and stone foundation.

Building 113 Bandstand: 1871 Contributing Structure
(Photo # 13,14)

The Bandstand is a highly ornamental Italianate style building that was the centerpiece of the parade ground within the Main Campus. The Bandstand is located just to the south of the Headquarters building. Ironwork and wood trim decorate the exterior of the building. Sunshades protected band members from the hot sun during afternoon concerts. Gas lighting illuminated the Bandstand at night to facilitate nightly concerts during pleasant weather.

Building 115 Nursing Education (**Administration Building**): 1937 Contributing Building
(Photo # 15,16)

The Administration building is a two-story Colonial Revival building with a full raised basement. It has brick walls, colonnade portico, and architrave style

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entrance. The roof is asphalt shingle with cornice eaves, dormers, and a copper clad-cupola on the center ridge.

Building 116 Unoccupied (**Headquarters**): 1871 Contributing Building
(Photo # 17,18)

The Headquarters is a two-story French Second Empire style building with a full basement and an attic. The building exhibits Italianate features with brick walls, a roofed entrance porch, and arch windows. Originally, the porch surrounded the building, and extended out six feet. The porch was removed sometime after 1930. The main roof is shale shingle Mansard, flat built up on the top with dormers. The roof eaves have dentile cornices. The first floor has a twelve-foot ceiling with ornate tin borders. Administration offices for the Governor, Treasurer, Secretary, and Adjunct were originally located on the first floor. The second floor was originally nineteen feet in height, however a drop ceiling has been installed. The drop ceiling is partly damaged by water. The library comprised the second floor from 1871 until 1891. The Headquarters is currently unoccupied.

Building 118 Historic Chapel (**Home Chapel**): 1868 Contributing Building
(Photo # 19-23)

This is the oldest building in the Historic District. Construction began in 1868 and the Chapel was dedicated in 1870. The Home Chapel was the first permanent church built by the U.S. Government. The original name, "National Asylum Church for D.V.S." is engraved in stone on the east outside wall. The building exterior has undergone few changes. The Protestant and Catholic services were held in Home Chapel during the early years, until the Catholic Chapel was built. This provided a unique experience of worship and harmony in the same church.

The Historic Chapel is a one-story building with a basement. It is Gothic Revival style, with limestone walls reinforced on the side with buttresses of the same material. A bell tower with a high spire roof was added in 1876. It contains the 2539-pound "Centennial Bell" made by Meneely and Kimberly Foundries, Troy, New York. The "Centennial Bell" was made for the church of the National Soldiers Home from cannon captured from the confederate forces during the Civil War. The main roof is asphalt shingles with copper gutters. The original shingles were made of slate that featured a cross design.

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The main auditorium has 17 pews on each side of a center aisle. The altar is separated from the main auditorium by a wooden railing. A large pipe organ is built into the northwest corner next to the altar. The windows are of leaded art glass. The Chapel closed in 1998 due to safety concerns about its floor, but efforts are currently underway by the American Veterans Heritage Center to repair the Chapel and reopen it to the public.

Building 119 Catholic Chapel: 1898 Contributing Building
(Photo # 24-28)

The Catholic Chapel is a one-story building with a choir balcony and a partial basement. The Gothic Revival style building features yellow brick walls reinforced by buttresses of the same material. The bricks rest on a four-foot high limestone wall that wraps around the building. It has a small bell tower with a broached spire. The main roof is asphalt shingles with metal gutters. The windows are of leaded art glass. A magnificent altar is the centerpiece of the Catholic Chapel. The altar was Heinrich Schroeder's last completed work before his death in 1898.

Building 120 American Veterans Heritage Center, Inc. (**Patient**
Library/Quartermaster): 1880 Contributing Building
(Photo # 29-34)

The Patient Library is a three-story modified Flemish Eclectic style building with a full basement and an attic. The walls are painted brick with a roofed entrance porch, and a limestone foundation. The roof is a combination of gambrel and hip type, with asphalt shingles and two small cupolas for roof vents. Two skylights illuminate the center of the building. The third floor is open to the second floor through an open well, which is surrounded by wooden railing. The building was used originally as the Quartermaster's Building. In 1891, the building was converted into the Patient Library and two side wings were added. The south wing was expanded in 1904. This building was closed as a library in May of 2000, when volunteers were unable to staff it. The building was rededicated on April 10, 2003 by Anthony J. Principi, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, for use by the American Veterans Heritage Center, Inc. The American Veterans Heritage Center, Inc. is the preeminent non-profit organization that advocates for and assists in the preservation and development of the historic district.

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Building 126 Supply and Fiscal Offices: 1933 Contributing Building
(Photo # 35)

Originally constructed around 1886, the supply building burned almost entirely on March 11, 1932. Reconstruction in 1933 replaced the old building using the northern half of the original foundation. The three-story Neo-Classical Revival building is constructed of brick with a limestone base. An interior driveway runs the length of the first floor. A handicapped accessible entrance and elevator at the rear of the building is an added element. Fire escape stairs also were added to both ends of the building. The roof is comprised of asphalt shingles with gutter and cornice eaves.

Building 127 Research (**Canteen**): 1921 Contributing Building
(Photo # 36,37)

The Research Building is a one-story building with a partial basement. The building is brick on a concrete base, with stone coping and cantilevered canopies on two entrances. The roof is a flat built-up system. The original entrances and windows have been either altered or removed. The Research Building was originally constructed as a Canteen and Post Office until they were moved to Building 305 during the mid-1970's.

Building 128 Engineering Office: 1940 Contributing Building
(Photo # 38)

The Engineering Building is a one-story building with a partial basement. The low-scaled building is made of brick on a concrete base. The building is divided into multiple engineering shops. The roof is hipped with asphalt shingles and metal gutters.

Building 129 Police Service (**Clubhouse**): 1881 Contributing Building
(Photo # 39,40)

The VA Police Building is a two-story Renaissance Revival style building with a full basement, and a partial mezzanine floor. The building has brick walls and quoined corners on a stone base. The main entrance has an elaborate, arched ornament with a fleur-de-lis sculpted in relief. The second floor windows are

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colonnaded on all four sides. An exposed steel fire escape is at one side. The roof is hipped asphalt shingles with metal gutters and deep eaves, with exposed ornamental rafters. The building is separated into two sections by a central hallway. The northern section once housed the billiard room that was overlooked by two tiers of galleries, with small rooms that were used for club purposes. Two large halls occupy the southern section of the building. The upper hall was used by veteran organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union Veteran League, and the Naval Veterans Association. The lower hall was once known as the Social Hall, and was used by members for visiting, reading, writing, card playing, and chess.

Building 131 Transportation Building: 1971 Non-contributing Building

The Transportation Building is a one-story bay metal building. Ten-foot high concrete block walls are built inside on the two short ends of the facility.

Building 135,137 Maintenance/Storage (**Boiler House**): 1883/1891
(Photo # 41-45) Contributing Buildings (2)

Both of these buildings are one story with high bay areas. The buildings are Romanesque in character with painted brick walls. Bricked-in arch openings are very evident on the façades. The roofs are of pitched asphalt shingles, with metal gutters and cornices. One low area on Building 135 has a metal roof.

Building 138 Storage (**Shops**): 1891 Contributing Building
(Photo #46,47)

A stone foundation supports brick walls and a hipped shingle roof. The original windows and entrances have been altered and removed.

Building 139 Grounds Storage: 1942 Contributing Building
(Photo # 48)

This storage building has a concrete foundation, which supports concrete block walls, and a hipped shingle roof.

Building 141 Transformer Vault: 1950 Contributing Structure
(Photo # 49)

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A concrete foundation supports concrete block walls and a hipped shingle roof. Although Building 141 is a small simple, concrete building, it is associated with the modernization of the VA facilities.

Building 143 Laundry: 1957 Non-contributing Building

The Laundry is a two-story building with a partial basement. The building is a straightforward, rectangular shape, with all brick walls and a combination of glazed block and concrete block back up. The roof is a flat built-up roof system.

Building 147 Boiler Plant: 1962 Non-contributing Building

The Boiler Plant is a one-story high bay building, with a partial basement and an adjoining smokestack (Building 152). It has a partial four-story floor on the high bay area. The building face is brick and steel construction. The roof is a built up roof system.

Building 149 Gas Recovery: 1962 Non-contributing Structure

The gas recovery does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 150 Pipe Storage: 1962 Non-contributing Structure

Pipe Storage does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 151 Building Maintenance: 1962 Non-contributing Building

Building Maintenance does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 152 Smokestack: 1962 Non-contributing Structure

The Smokestack for the Boiler Plant (Building 147) is designated as Building 152. The Smokestack does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 154 Engineering Storage: 1962 Non-contributing Building

Engineering Storage does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

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Building 161 Storage: 1962 Non-contributing Building

Building 161 does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 209 Eleven-Car Garage: 1921 Contributing Building
(Photo # 50)

Building 209 is a concrete block garage that served the duplex quarters (buildings 210-214). It is a contributing resource as evidence of the ongoing modernization of the facility.

Buildings 210-214 Duplex Quarters (**Employee housing**): 1921 Contributing Buildings (5)
(Photo # 51-60)

These five buildings are identical to each other in design. They are vernacular examples displaying the symmetry and balance of Georgian Revival. The wood-frame, wood-sided buildings are cubic in form, with a hip roof that broadly projects beyond the wall plane. A large open porch extends the width of the first floor. Paired entry doors identify the buildings as duplex quarters. The duplex quarters were once known as "Doctors Row".

Building 220 Hospitality House (**Employee housing**): 1885 Contributing Building
(Photo # 61,62)

The Hospitality House is a Vernacular style two-story residential building with a full basement. The building has brick walls on a limestone foundation covered by a hipped asphalt shingled roof. It is currently leased to the VFW for use as a hospitality guesthouse. The relatives of patients who are hospitalized over night are welcome to stay at the Hospitality House for a nominal fee.

Building 221 Unoccupied (**Chaplain's Residence**): 1876 Contributing Building
(Photo # 63-65)

The Chaplain's Residence is a two-story Queen Anne style building with a full basement. The house has a pitched asphalt shingled roof, and asbestos shingle siding. The building has been closed over concerns about the floor support.

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This is believed to be the residence of the Home Chaplain, Chaplain Earnshaw. He was the first chaplain and librarian from September 1867 to his death in 1885.

Building 222,223 Storage (**Garage**): 1936 Contributing buildings (2)
(Photo # 66)

The garages have a wood frame construction with a metal roof. The building is supported by a concrete foundation. The garages once served duplex quarters (building 217), but the building has been removed. It is a contributing resource as evidence of the ongoing modernization of the facility.

Building 225 Liberty House (**Treasurer's Residence**): 1870
(Photo # 67-70) Contributing Building

Liberty House is a three-story building with a basement. The building is Italianate in style, with asbestos shingle siding on a limestone foundation. The roof is pitched asphalt shingles. Originally, a tower extended from the front of the building, but the apex has been truncated at the roofline. The original porch was replaced with a colonial revival porch around 1910. The Liberty House originally served as an amusement hall that contained billiard tables, bagatelle tables, and a bowling alley. The upper portion of the building was the quarters for the Band with a room for study and practice. When the clubhouse was built in 1881 (Building 129), Building 225 was remodeled into officers' quarters.

Building 226 Freedom House (**Staff Duplex**): 1872 Contributing Building
(Photo # 71-75)

Freedom House is a three-story Italian Villa building with a basement. The building is Italianate in style, with asbestos shingle siding on a limestone foundation. The roof is pitched asphalt shingles. Freedom House originally served as a duplex residence for the Secretary and the Steward. It is now used for administrative offices and conferences.

Building 227 Storage (**Garage**): 1936 Contributing Building
(Photo # 76)

The garage has a wood frame construction with a metal roof. The building is supported by a concrete foundation. It was a parking garage for the duplex

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residence, but is now used for storage. It is a contributing resource as evidence of the ongoing modernization of the facility.

Building 228 Garage (**Shelter**): 1870 Contributing Building
(Photo # 77)

Building 228 is an octagonal wood frame building that originally was used as a shelter in the Deer Park. The building was moved to its present location after the Deer Park was closed. Intricate Queen Anne influenced wood molding is located under the eaves. The roof is pitched asphalt shingles. The building is used today for storage.

Building 302 Patrick (**Patrick Hospital**): 1940 Contributing Building
(Photo # 78,79)

This Colonial Revival style brick building is three stories on a full basement. The original tile roof was later replaced with an asphalt shingle roof. Patrick Hospital was converted into a Geriatric hospital in 1950. Currently, the building is used for outpatient mental health services. General M. R. Patrick, who was Governor of Soldiers Home from 1880-1888, is the building's namesake. He was a graduate of West Point, and was well known for his services as Provost Marshal General of the armies operating against Richmond during the Civil War.

Building 305 Recreation Building: 1959 Non-contributing Building

The recreation building is a one-story building with a mezzanine. Brick walls support a flat built-up roof system. A covered corridor connects Building 305 with Buildings 409 and 410. The recreation building includes a modern theater, bowling alley, poolroom, craft room, canteen store, and post office.

Building 306 Sun Pavilion: 1959 Non-contributing Building

The Sun Pavilion does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 320 Domiciliary: 1981 Non-contributing Building

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Building 320 is primarily a single-story brick building built in a pod configuration. The central wing contains most of the ancillary space and common functions. A renovation project converted Building 320 into a nursing home complex in 2002.

Building 324 Back Flow Preventer: 1989 Non-contributing Structure

The Back Flow Preventer does not meet the fifty-year recommendation.

Building 400 Miller Cottage: 1937 Contributing Building
(Photo # 80)

Miller Cottage is a three-story brick building on a full basement, with a concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The large front porch entrance displays the Georgian Revival style architecture. Miller Cottage was built in 1937 for female veterans. It is named after Mrs. Emma L. Miller, the first Matron of Home Hospital. Mrs. Miller looked after the neatness and order of the hospital linen, visited the sick, and assured cleanliness of the hospital. She also ran the tailor shop, the shoe shop, the knitting shop and the making of suspenders. She also ran the hotel for the visitors. Those who knew her said she had the characteristics, which make up the "Captains of Industry" blended with rare innate refinement and dainty womanliness. She was highly esteemed by all who knew her, and respected, trusted, and admired by her superiors. She died at 94 in 1914, and is buried in the National Cemetery within the district.

Building 401,402 Day Care/Army Reserve (**Barracks**): 1899/1900
(Photo # 81-83) Contributing Buildings (2)

Buildings 401 and 402 are in an Early Classical Revival design. They are three stories high, with partial basements. The buildings have brick walls resting on a limestone foundation. The roofs are pitched asphalt shingles. Building 401 was originally a Domiciliary Barracks; today it houses the Miami Valley Family Care Center. Building 402 was occupied as a domiciliary until the early 1980's when the patients were moved to a new domiciliary unit. The Army Reserve Unit used Building 402 from this time until 1995. Building 402 is currently unoccupied.

Building 408 VISN 10/Wellness Center (**Domiciliary**): 1903
(Photo # 84) Contributing Building

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Building 408 is an example of Neo Colonial Revival architecture, which is distinguished by an ionic portico. The three-story brick building sits on a full basement and a solid limestone foundation. The entrance features large Doric columns supporting a wood pediment. The roof is comprised of hipped asphalt shingles. Also known as the Colonel Harris building, its original function was as a domiciliary and dining hall for the veterans. Today it is utilized for administrative offices and Wellness Center.

Building 409 Vacant (**Domiciliary**): 1940 Contributing Building
(Photo # 85)

Building 409 is an example of Colonial Revival architecture. The three-story brick building sits on a full basement with stone ribbons, which rests on a concrete foundation. The predominately gable roof is comprised of asphalt shingles and copper downspouts. Building 409 was used as a Nursing Home, but it was vacated upon completion of the nursing home renovation project in Building 320.

Building 410 Domiciliary: 1940 Contributing Building
(Photo # 86)

Building 410 is an example of Colonial Revival architecture. The three-story brick building sits on a full basement with stone ribbons, which rests on a concrete foundation. The predominately gable roof is comprised of asphalt shingles and copper downspouts. Building 410 is used for domiciliary care and outpatient Mental Health programs. The third floor is leased space for a nonprofit substance abuse program.

Building 411 Nutrition and Food Service (**Dining Hall**): 1940 Contributing Building
(Photo # 87,88)

This one-story Colonial Revival building has a concrete basement and a partial second floor area. The building has three entrances and stepped colonnade porches. The walls are brick with arch articulation on the windows and doors. The predominately gable roof is comprised of asphalt shingles with cornices and dormers. Initially 411 consisted of four kitchens and two dining rooms, seating one thousand members.

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Building 412 MVHO (**Domiciliary**): 1902 Contributing Building
(Photo # 89)

Building 412 is a Neo Colonial Revival styled building, distinguished by an Ionic portico. The two-story brick building is supported by a solid limestone foundation. The pitched roof is made of asphalt shingles. It is also known as the General Franklin Building. Originally, this building served as a domiciliary for old veterans. It has been leased to the Miami Valley Housing Authority to function as a halfway house to incorporate the mentally and physically handicapped back into society.

The following contributing buildings are used for the maintenance and storage of the Dayton VA Medical Center. These buildings were built as temporary resident quarters in 1947, to meet a nurse-housing problem.

T-26 Transportation Storage (**Quonset Hut**): 1947 Contributing Building
(Photo # 107)

T-34/T-39 Grounds Storage (**Quonset Hut**): 1947 Contributing Buildings (2)
(Photo # 108)

T-38 Welding Storage (**Quonset Hut**): 1947 Contributing Building
(Photo # 109)

Site 0 Grotto Springs: 1868 Contributing Site
(Photo # 90-95)

The Grotto is set on the Lower East Side of the historic district. Work on the Grotto/Spring area of the campus began in 1868, when Mr. Frank Mundt, florist, started planting vines in the rock crevices. Mr. Mundt, a veteran, had worked as a florist and gardener in Germany. Mr. C. B. Davis, architect, laid out the garden in walks, promenades, and flower beds. This area provided visitors with shade, relaxation, and a refreshing drink from three springs. The Grotto/Spring area was truly a paradise of flowers and fountains. Time and neglect have erased the "garden showplace" aspects of the site, (along with other less significant amenities like the Menagerie and the Deer Park) and have damaged some of the major landscape features. Yet despite this damage, the site still reflects the expansive park-like setting envisioned by its developers and retains a sufficient

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amount of environmental detail to document the planned, integrated character of the overall landscape design. Many aspects of the Grotto, such as the stone steps, Grotto Arch (Object 2) and two springs remain.

Object 1 Anderson Gate: 1904 Contributing Object
(Photo # 103,104)

The Board of Managers approved \$4,000 for the construction of a gateway at the Gettysburg Avenue entrance in September of 1902. The gateway was erected in 1904. In September 1905, the Board of Managers authorized that the new gateway would be called "Anderson Gateway". General Charles M. Anderson, the gateway's namesake, was a manager of the National Home at the national level from 1894 to 1908. He was simultaneously the local manager of the Central Branch. This ornamental Italian Renaissance style structure consists of double stone pillars surmounted by eagles. Each pillar features decorative round seals, the seal of the United States, the inscription "E Pluribus Unum", and engaged Ionic columns.

Object 2 Grotto Arch Contributing Object
(Photo # 105,106)

The Grotto Arch was constructed around 1900, as an ornamental replacement for the original stone arch built in the 1870's. The structure is made of roughly hewn limestone, which gives it a unique architectural style. Two towers are located at the ends of the structure. Each tower is capped with a wood shingle hipped roof. The pinnacle of each tower is 16 feet from the ground. A stone walkway transverses the towers. A shingle-hipped roof connects the towers and supports a decorative wood arch. The clearance of the arch is 7.5 feet from the stone walkway below. Permanent wooden shutters have taken the place of the original ornamental windows. The Grotto Arch also has doors to the interior of the two towers, which have been cemented shut.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Dayton VA, Historic District
Montgomery County, Ohio

Photographer: Medical Media

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Date of photographs: 2002

Negatives are found at: VA Medical Center
Chief of Staff Office
4100 West Third
Dayton Ohio 45428

The current building name (or status) is used with the historic name given in parentheses, if different.

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14	Building 113, Bandstand South elevation View from southeast
18	Building 116, Headquarters Front/south elevation View from southeast
19	Building 118, Historic Chapel (Home Chapel) Front/west elevation View from the northwest
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SUMMARY

The Central Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (CB/NHDVS)/Dayton VA Historic District is significant at the national, state, and local levels under Criterion A in the areas of health/medicine, politics/government, and social care for veterans. The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) was made possible by congressional legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865. The Central Branch was one of the original three branches that served the disabled veterans of the Civil War. The immediate success of the Central Branch was particularly important because of setbacks at the Eastern Branch at Togus, Maine and the Northwestern Branch at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The success of the Central Branch demonstrated to the Board of Managers and the nation that the Federal government is capable of providing comprehensive care and rehabilitation to a large number of veterans. It also demonstrated that the home-like environment envisioned by the Board of Managers could be successfully implemented. The Central Branch became known as the Dayton Soldiers Home.

The Home was the forerunner to many of the Federal social programs existing today, as it provided for all the needs of a defined group of people. The requirements for admission were an honorable discharge from the volunteer service and disability by a war injury or sickness contracted during the war. The Dayton Soldiers Home was the first Federal institution to receive black veterans, eighty years before the integration of the U.S. military. Veterans were given a zest for life through healthful exercise, reading, music, charming surroundings, and healthcare programs that prepared them to re-enter society. A school was established in 1868 and the same opportunity for education was provided to all veterans regardless of race. The founders took great pride in establishing rehabilitative workshops during the first year of operation. The veterans were taught a trade, or how to carry on a business, in order to become independent of the Soldiers Home. Other branches were to establish workshops later, but no branch matched the variety and success of the Dayton Soldiers Home.

National focus was placed on the hospital, which opened in 1870 and was widely regarded as the best hospital in the United States at that time. The Home Hospital was a marvel of innovative and progressive design, with an interior

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elevator powered by steam, an operating room, indoor plumbing, and steam heat. National focus was placed on the Home Church since it was the first permanent church constructed by the U.S. Government. The veterans, many with war injuries, quarried the limestone for the church from the Home grounds. The church steeple contains the "Centennial Bell." The 2539-pound bell was cast from cannon captured from the Confederate forces during the Civil War. The campus became a popular tourist destination with accommodations that included a hotel and restaurant and attractions that included the 1500-seat Memorial Hall and animal exhibits. The Grotto and elaborate gardens received national recognition for beauty.

The Central Branch, like the other branches, was organized on military lines and everyone was subject to the articles of war. The veterans wore blue uniforms and held drills, dress parades, and inspections on the field near the bandstand. Sunrise and sunset were announced by cannon fire, and the orders of the day were announced by bugle calls. The Home Band was regarded as one of the best government bands in the nation and guest performers included John Philip Sousa.

By 1884, the Central Branch accounted for sixty-four percent of all Veterans who received institutional care provided by the U.S government, making it the largest facility of its kind in the world. The central role continued from its early years as the "Mother Home" through 1930, at which time the Veterans Administration was formed. As healthcare technology advanced, the focus shifted away from providing a home like environment to become a modern healthcare facility. In 1989, the Veterans Administration became the Department of Veterans Affairs at the cabinet level. The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to reflect the desires of a grateful nation to care for the men and women who have defended our country. The buildings of the Dayton VA Historic District are a testament to the vision and enthusiasm of the founders, and their major role in establishing what has become the largest integrated healthcare system in the United States.

The Historic District is nationally significant under Criteria C in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, and community planning and development. The historic district demonstrates the evolution of institutional buildings for the care of the disabled and aged in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The decentralized building scheme inaugurated at the Central Branch became the standard for the design of later branches. The buildings in the

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historic district embody a range of architectural styles including Late Victorian/Gothic, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Italianate, Classical Revival, Neo-Colonial Revival, and Georgian Revival. The period of significance is defined from 1867 to 1952, beginning with the founding of the CB/NHDVS, and ending with the 50-year termination date recommended by the National Register.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND: NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

Introduction

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established on March 3, 1865, to provide care for volunteer soldiers who were disabled through loss of limb, wounds, disease, or injury during service in the Union forces during the Civil War. Initially, the Asylum, later called the Home, was planned to have three branches: in the northeast, in the central area north of the Ohio River, and in the northwest. The Board of Managers, charged with governance of the Home, added seven more branches between 1870 and 1907 as broader eligibility requirements allowed more veterans to apply for admission. The impact of World War I produced a new veteran population of over five million men and women, which brought dramatic changes to the National Home and all other governmental agencies responsible for veterans' benefits. The creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930, consolidated all veterans' programs into a single Federal agency. World War II and conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf further increased the responsibility of the nation to care for those who have served their country.

The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was originally called the "National Asylum", in the legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Lincoln in March 1865. The term "asylum" was used in the 19th century for institutions caring for dependent members of society, such as the insane and the poor, who temporarily suffered from conditions that could hopefully be cured or corrected (Rothman, pp.131-133). However, the term had negative connotations in the early years of the National Asylum. The Board of Managers did not want these negative connotations attached to the deserving disabled veterans of the Union army. On January 23, 1873, the name of the institution was changed to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

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Before the creation of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

From the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, the small number of veterans of American wars had three sources of assistance from the Federal government. The vast amounts of land under the control of the government were offered to veterans as land grants for their support after service. The land grant system also benefited the government in encouraging veterans and their families to settle in undeveloped territories of the new nation. In 1833, the Federal government established the Bureau of Pensions, which made small cash payments to veterans; the low numbers of the veteran population and the more attractive offer of free land kept the pension system relatively small until after the Civil War.

The Federal government had established two military homes in the first half of the nineteenth century, which did serve as models for the creation of the National Home. When these military homes, the United States Sailors' Home and the United States Soldiers' Home, had been planned, European military asylums were considered as models, particularly the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, built in 1760 by Louis XIV; the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, designed by Christopher Wren in 1682; and the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich, a 1694 reworking of an unfinished royal palace. All three of these institutions were relatively small scale in operation, typically housing very old or disabled veterans who had made military service their careers.

The United States Navy had been authorized by Congress to establish a permanent shelter for its veterans in 1811, with construction eventually being undertaken in 1827. The United States Sailors' Home, located in Philadelphia as a part of the navy yard, was occupied in 1833 (Cetina, pp. 30-39). The idea of a similar institution for the army was raised by the Secretary of War, James Barbour, in 1827; however, lack of interest and lack of funding on the part of Congress delayed action on the realization of a soldiers' home (Cetina, pp. 39-53). In 1851, legislation introduced by Jefferson Davis, senator from Mississippi and former secretary of war as well as a graduate of West Point, was enacted by Congress and funds were appropriated for the creation of the United States Soldiers' Home. The Soldiers' Home was open to all men who were regular or volunteer members of the army with twenty years service and had contributed to its support through pay contributions.

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When the Soldiers' Home was being organized in 1851 and 1852, it was intended to have at least four branches, and its organization and administration were based on the army's command structure and staffed with regular army officers. General Winfield Scott proposed there be two principle branches, one in Washington D.C. and one near Cincinnati, Ohio (Lawton, p. 161). The plan for a system of United States Soldiers Home Branches never materialized. The largest number of total veterans present at the United States Soldiers Home through 1868 was 136, which occurred in 1861 (Goode, p.266). The Soldiers' Home was managed by a board of commissioners, although they were drawn from army officers. The institution had a governor, deputy governor, and secretary-treasurer; the members were organized into companies and the daily routine followed the military schedule; all members wore uniforms; and workshops were planned for members wanting to work (Goode, pp. 24-26, 45-46). When the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was being organized in 1866, the United States Soldiers' Home assisted the asylum's board by explaining its regulations and offering suggestions (Goode, p. 99). It is important to note that the U.S. Soldiers Home was considered to be a failure due to the low number of admissions and high number of complaints from the disgruntled residents (Kelly, pp.12, 13).

The Civil War was the first experience in the history of the United States that was truly national in the involvement of its citizens and in the impact on daily life in communities in both the north and the south. The Civil War was a war of volunteers, both military and civilian. Very early in the war, it became clear to social leaders in the North that new programs were required to deliver medical care to the wounded beyond what was available through the official military structure.

The leading civilian organization was the United States Sanitary Commission, which had secured permission from President Lincoln in the summer of 1861, to deliver medical supplies to the battle front, to build adequate field hospitals staffed with volunteer nurses (mostly women), and to raise funds to support the commission's programs (*U.S. Sanitary Commission*, pp. 3-4, 16-18). As the war continued, civilian leaders began to address the issue of caring for the large number of veterans who would require assistance once the war ended. The Sanitary Commission favored the pension system rather than permanent institutional care for the disabled veteran; the commission feared that a permanent institution would be nothing more than a poorhouse for veterans

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(Bremner, p. 146). Other groups were as strongly in favor of the establishment of a soldier' asylum as the Sanitary Commission was opposed to the concept. All the groups gathered information on use in either European military asylums, particularly the Invalides in Paris, to use in either opposing or supporting the creation of a disabled volunteer soldiers' asylum (Cetina, pp. 61-72).

Formation of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

When President Lincoln signed legislation creating the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in March 1865, the nation was in a period of heightened emotional response to the approaching peace. The victory of the Union was seen as the triumph of the nation, and the creation of a national institution to serve the defenders of the Union was an affirmation of that national victory. Eligibility for admission to the Home was based upon a disability contracted as a member of the volunteer forces of the Union. At the time of its creation, the supporters of the National Asylum probably had only limited awareness of the number of veterans who could potentially become members of the National Asylum. The number of troops which fought for the Union would have indicated the potential membership: over 2,000,000 men, a third of the white men of military age (13 to 43 years old in 1860), served in the Union army. If the number of men who were disabled in service through loss of limb, wounds, or disease equaled the number that died in the war, than the number eligible for admission to the National Asylum would have been over 300,000 (Vinovskis, p. 9).

Even with the establishment of the National Asylum by law in 1865, the institution experienced difficulties in being realized. The original corporation charged with its organization could not secure a quorum after a year in existence. In March, 1866, new legislation replaced the one-hundred member corporation with a twelve member board of managers; this group had to select sites, commission construction projects, and designate local officials while serving as unpaid volunteers of an independent Federal agency.

The Board of Managers of the National Asylum met for the first time in Washington, DC, on May 16, 1866. Major General Benjamin Butler was elected President and Honorable Lewis B. Gunckel of Dayton, Ohio was elected Secretary at the first meeting of the Board (*Proceedings of the Board*, May 16, 1866). The principal concern of the board was the selection of sites for the three

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branches of the national institution, based on geographic distribution. The Board established criteria for site evaluation: a healthy site with fresh air and ample water supply, located 3 to 5 miles from a city on a tract of at least 200 acres, connected to the city by a railroad (*Proceedings of the Board*, May 16, 1866). The Board issued a bulletin to newspapers and to governors of the northern states requesting proposals for sites to be donated or sold for the purpose of erecting branches. Proposals were due by June 20, 1866, with all sites to have been inspected by a member of the board before July 12. In addition, the Board advertised for plans, specifications, and estimates for the construction of asylum buildings. At the September 6, 1866, meeting of the Board, the managers accepted propositions for the purchase of a bankrupt resort at Togus Springs, Maine, as the site for the Eastern Branch. The Board also proposed the investigation of sites for the Central Branch in Ohio and the inspection of sites for the Northwestern Branch in Milwaukee (*Proceedings of the Board*, Sep. 6, 1866).

On December 7, 1866, the Board of Managers accepted a donation from the Ladies of Milwaukee in the amount of \$95,000 and twenty-six acres of valuable land in the city of Milwaukee as an inducement to locate one of the branches at or near the city. A committee was appointed to proceed to Milwaukee to purchase such property as deemed suitable to establish the Northwestern Branch. The veterans currently housed in the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee, operated by the Lady Managers of the Home Society were to be transferred as speedily as possible (*Proceedings of the Board*, Dec. 7, 1866). At the same meeting, the Board approved the purchase of the Togus site, although veterans had already been moved into the former hotel on the site in November 1866.

At the Board meeting on April 11, 1867, the Board officially authorized the purchase of 400 acres at \$113 per acre for the Central Branch. The deed records at the Montgomery County Court House disclose that the first piece of property was purchased on August 1, 1867. Construction of temporary barracks for the CB/NHDVS commenced immediately (*Dayton Journal*, Aug. 6, 1867). By August 24, 1867, approximately 380 acres were purchased from various owners. About five hundred soldiers in barracks at Columbus, Ohio were brought to the site to erect the initial buildings (*Dayton Journal*, Aug. 20, 1867). The property of Camp Chase was turned over to the Board of Managers by the State of Ohio to assist with the initial construction. The Camp Chase buildings were dismantled and the lumber was transported to Montgomery County for use in the temporary barracks

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(*Dayton Journal*, Sep 6, 1867). By 1868, the buildings of the Central Branch were sufficient to care for 1000 disabled soldiers with every necessity and comfort of life (*Proceedings of the Board*, Mar. 12, 1868). Subsequent pieces of property were authorized and purchased. At one time, the Home grounds were as large as 700 acres and included a farm and dairy operation.

The selection of the sites for the three branches was based on three motivations: practical, political, and economic. The Board needed a site that could be used immediately before the second winter after the war, and before the time of the November, 1866 elections. The Togus site, having been a resort, was acquired by the Board of Managers at less than one-third the amount the former proprietor spent for the land and buildings. The existing buildings were the appropriate types to immediately accommodate disabled veterans. There was vigorous competition for the site of the Central Branch. The powerful Ohio faction in Congress, as well as the numerous Union generals from Ohio, particularly William Tecumseh Sherman, wanted a National Home near Ohio. Columbus, among others, offered land at a lower price than Dayton, and a donation of \$20,000 toward the purchase. To make Dayton even with Columbus, the Dayton citizens were compelled to offer an equal donation (*Dayton Journal*, Sep. 18, 1867). Two hundred and twenty five citizens of Montgomery County, Ohio signed a \$20,000 bond toward the purchase of the property near Dayton. White Sulphur Springs, located about eighteen miles above Columbus, was also considered as a site for the CB/NHDVS provided they could arrange for permanent railroad accommodation at least once a day. White Sulphur Springs could not meet this requirement. The female managers of the Soldiers' Home at Milwaukee offered their labor, land, and funds to the Board of Managers for the construction of the Northwestern Branch (*Proceedings of the Board*, July. 12, 1866).

Tripler Military Hospital, near Columbus, Ohio operated as a Soldier Home beginning October 17, 1865. In March 1866 the state assumed charge of the home for about a year. On March 26, 1867 it was transferred with appropriate ceremonies by the state to the national government and became a national home. Due to the unhealthy location at Columbus, this function was transferred to the location near Dayton on September 1, 1867 (Drury, p. 749). Mr. Perry Trudden is recorded as the first Central Branch admission with an admission date of March 26, 1867 that corresponds to the date of transfer of the state soldiers home. The Central Branch was the second National Home to receive

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disabled veterans. The Northwestern Branch opened on May 1, 1867 (*Veterans Administration*, p. 69).

Expansion of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

The Southern Branch of the National Asylum was established in October 1870, with the Board's purchase of the Chesapeake Female College at Hampton, Virginia (*Proceedings of the Board*, Oct. 28, 1870). The main building of this new branch had been dedicated in 1854, as the principal structure of the college. After its use as a hospital for both Union and Confederate troops during the war, the college did not reopen. The reuse of existing facilities for a National Home branch followed the precedent established four years earlier with the purchase of the resort at Togus for the Eastern Branch.

The Southern Branch was created to provide a facility for older members in a milder climate, to house black members who the board felt would be more accustomed to a southern location, and to be associated with Fort Monroe, adjacent to the new branch site. The Federal troops at Fort Monroe and Union veterans at the Southern Branch would establish a strong Union presence near the strategic city of Newport in the former Confederate State of Virginia.

On January 23, 1873, Congress passed a resolution changing the name of the institution to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, reflecting age and increasing permanence of the institution and its membership. In 1875, the Board's report to Congress stressed the need for further construction of buildings (*Annual Report*, 1875, pp.4-5). The Home's growth projections by the Board showed an eventual decline in its early 1870's population due to an increase in death rate, but that this decline would be offset as more and more aging veterans applied for admission (*Annual Report*, 1875, p.5). From its inception, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was financed from a fund created by the accumulation of forfeiture for desertion, fines of courts martial, unclaimed pay and pensions of the War Department, and donations and gifts. After March 3, 1875, financing for the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was considerably modified in favor of direct appropriations from the Congress.

The Board concentrated construction at the CB/NHDVS as compared to all other branches, so that the other branches would be closed when the number of veterans decreased. It was the Board's policy that all the veterans would be

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concentrated at the CB/NHDVS when the number permitted (*Annual Report*, 1876 p. 2). The Board anticipated decreasing expenses by closing the smaller Southern, Eastern, and Northwestern Branches. They also anticipated disposing of the lands, buildings and equipment at those branches in order to increase their funds. The funds to be generated by closing all branches except the CB/NHDVS were expected to equal the costs (*Annual Report*, 1878, p. 8).

Statistics from the branches for the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882 show that the 50 to 70 year age groups made up over 50% of Home membership. At the Northwestern Branch, the 60 to 80-year group made up 30% of the population; at the Central Branch, 24%; at the Southern, 20%; and at the Eastern, 5%. The statistics also demonstrate that over 60% of the members at the Central and Northwestern Branches had been admitted to the Home because of sickness, not from disabilities caused by loss of limbs or by wounds (*Annual Report*, 1882, pp. 59,80,83,106,108). Civil War Veterans made up 97% of the membership.

Considering that the age range for Civil War participants ranged from 13 to 43 years in 1860, the Home could have expected continuing admissions well into the 20th century. The Board indicated a new understanding of the population makeup when it recommended that Congress change the eligibility requirements for soldiers unable to earn a living, without having to trace their disabilities to their military service (*Annual Report*, 1882, p. 3). The Board realized that denying benefits to this large group of veterans meant their only recourse was the poorhouse.

In 1883, the Board, recognizing the changes the Home would face with increased membership and increased medical needs of the members, conceded that an "institution like the National Home must in time become an enormous hospital," and that all new buildings for the Home must be planned with that need in mind (*Annual Report*, 1883, p. 3). As a result, the Board asked for congressional appropriations to enlarge the hospital at the Central Branch and to build a new hospital at the Southern Branch. At the September 1883, Board meeting, the managers considered asking Congress for the transfer of Fort Riley, Kansas, to the Home as a new facility, as the fort was likely to be abandoned and it would be easily adaptable to Home use. The Board tabled the motion, but the issue of establishing new branches of the National Home had been raised (*Annual Report*, 1883, p. 25).

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On July 5, 1884, Congress approved the Board's recommendation to change the eligibility requirements for admission, allowing veterans disabled by old age or disease to apply without having to prove any service related disability. In effect, the Federal government assumed the responsibility of providing care for the aged; what had been established as a temporary asylum for the disabled in 1866, had become a permanent home for the elderly. This legislation contained significant provisions for expansion of the National Home in authorizing the establishment of new branches west of the Mississippi and on the Pacific coast (Cetina, p.183, pp.196-197).

As a result of the Congressional Act, the Home experienced a 12% membership increase almost immediately, without receiving any additional funding from Congress. The Board returned to Congress with a request for deficiency funding, arguing that the Home could either go into debt, which was illegal under organic law, or it could discharge a large number of members to reduce expenses (*Annual Report*, 1884, p. 5).

Expansion at the four original branches proceeded more slowly after 1884. The 1884 Board of Surgeons Report recommended that the Central Branch was already too large and should not be expanded. The total number of veterans cared for at the CB/NHDVS in 1884 was 7146, which was over 64% of the total number of veterans receiving care at all branches. The Board also recommended that the severe climate at the Eastern and Northwestern Branches should limit their growth, and the Southern Branch should not grow over 1500 to 2000 members. The Board of Surgeons specified that the CB/NHDVS was the only branch well adapted for the treatment of all classes of diseases. They also specified which diseases were appropriate for the other branches. The Surgeons suggested that new branches were a better solution than greatly enlarging the older ones (*Annual Report*, 1884, pp. 30, 53, 77, 106, 117).

In September 1884, the Board selected Leavenworth, Kansas, as a new location, contingent on the city donating a tract of 640 acres and \$50,000 to provide for "ornamentation;" the city accepted in April, 1885 (*Proceedings for the Board*, Dec.17, 1884). At the same meeting, the Board took under consideration the establishment of a Pacific Branch in California, which opened in Santa Monica in January 1888. Even with the creation of the two new branches, the Board realized that increasing membership would continue, and proposed four solutions

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to the problem (Cetina, p.186). Additional branches could be established; existing branches could be enlarged; states could be encouraged to erect state soldiers' homes through partial funding from the Federal government; and outdoor relief to veterans could be increased.

Congress responded by establishing a new branch in Grant County, Indiana, on March 23, 1888, with an initial appropriation of \$200,000, with the residents of the county providing a natural gas supply sufficient for the heating and lighting of the facility. The site, which was selected, was in the vicinity of Marion, Indiana, and the branch was called the Marion Branch (*Proceedings of the Board*, Nov. 17, 1888). Additionally, Congress passed legislation to provide \$100 annually for each veteran eligible for the National Home who was housed in a State Soldiers' Home. In 1895, the Indiana legislature authorized the establishment of a State Soldiers' Home, which was built in West Lafayette.

Even with the establishment of the Marion Branch, the National Home continued to face problems of overcrowding and the need for more specific medical care. In 1898, Congress approved the establishment of a eighth branch of the National Home at Danville, Illinois. The Mountain Branch was established in 1903, near Johnson City, Tennessee. The last of the National Home branches was established at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1907, at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium. This facility was not a branch itself, but a facility open to members at any of nine branches suffering from rheumatism or tuberculosis. Most of the efforts of the Board of Managers were directed to these three new branches between 1900 and 1910. 10

In 1916, the Board of Managers believed that membership had begun to decline. Considering Civil War participants to have been between 13 and 42 years old in 1860, the youngest of the remaining Civil War veterans would have been 69 years old and the oldest 99, in 1916. As the death rate for the older members increased and fewer younger veterans entered the Home, membership would decline. However, on April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I. By the time of the armistice on November 11, 1918, almost five million Americans had entered the Armed Forces. On October 6, 1917, an amendment to the War Risk Insurance Act, originally enacted in 1914 to insure American ships and cargo against risks of war, extended eligibility for National Home membership to all troops serving in the "German War" and, most importantly, made the provision that all veterans were entitled to medical, surgical, and hospital care.

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Prior to the 1917 amendment, the only veterans entitled to such medical care were the members of the National Home who had access to the Home hospitals. All other veterans were dependent on civilian medical services. The 1917 amendment meant that all veterans were eligible for the same medical care as the members of the National Home. Clearly, there were not sufficient hospital facilities at the ten Home branches to care for the potentially high number of World War I Veterans.

After the armistice, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance did not have the resources, particularly medical facilities, to meet the needs of World War veterans. In 1919, the responsibility for veterans' services was distributed among several agencies: the United States Public Health Service took over the provision of medical and hospital services; the Federal Board for Vocational Rehabilitation assumed the task of organizing vocational rehabilitation programs; and the War Risk Insurance Bureau managed compensation and insurance payoffs (Weber, p.4). The burden on government hospitals, administered by the Public Health Service, was so great that it began to contract with private hospitals to provide health care for veterans.

On March 4, 1921, in response to the need for more hospitals serving veterans, Congress appropriated funds to the Secretary of the Treasury to construct additional hospitals for veterans covered by the War Risk Insurance Act amendment. In addition, Congress required the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to make allotments to the National Home to fund alterations or improvement to existing Home facilities for the purpose of caring for World War beneficiaries (*Proceedings of the Board*, March 17, 1921).

Immediately after the war, the National Home made several changes in its organization to accommodate the large number of returning veterans. First, by transforming the facilities of two branches into hospitals and categorizing them for specialized care (Marion for neuropsychiatry cases and Johnson City for tuberculosis); Second, modernizing existing facilities and establishing tuberculosis wards (Central and Pacific); and third, building an entirely new hospital (Northwestern), using funding from the Treasury Department (Cetina, pp.378-379).

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In August 1921, Congress acted to consolidate all veterans' benefits into a single independent agency, the Veterans Bureau. On April 29, 1922, this agency assumed responsibility for fifty-seven veteran hospitals operated by the Public Health Service as well as nine under construction by the Treasury Department (Weber, pp.16-17). By 1926, the Board began to see a new trend in veterans' use of the National Home. For the most part, the World War I veterans were receiving medical treatment and returning to civilian life rather than entering the domiciliary program of the Home (*Proceedings of the Board*, June 15, 1926). The board noted that hospital care costs were almost three times the cost of domiciliary care and required large capital investments in hospital, medical equipment, and professional staff. The Board concluded in 1928, that all Branches would be at full capacity within one or two years. A resolution was adopted recommending a survey be made to assess the future needs of the NHDVS, as compared to the probable demand for services (*Proceedings of the Board*, March 15, 1928). Legislation was already pending to furnish the CB/NHDVS with a new hospital to meet all demands on it for the next five years (*Proceedings of the Board*, June 21, 1928). On October 1, 1929, a committee appointed by President Hoover recommended that Congress give the President the power to bring all forces of the Government providing veterans' relief together under a common administration (*Veterans Administration*, p. 141).

On July 21, 1930, the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were consolidated into the Veterans Administration, with the National Home being designated the "Home Service." The name of the CB/NHDVS was changed at this time to the National Military Facility. On July 15, 1946, it became the Veterans Administration Home, and on September 10, 1946, it became the Veterans Administration Center. On March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration became the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Cabinet level. The Central Branch is now known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and National Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: CENTRAL BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR
DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS**

African Americans and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

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Membership in the Home was available equally to white and black veterans. The first black veterans admitted to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were seven former members of the U.S. Colored Troops admitted to the Central Branch on March 26, 1867. Eighty years before the United States military forces were officially integrated; white and black veterans lived together as members of the CB/NHDVS. In 1870, the Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia opened for African American veterans. Because of the warm climate, white veterans would soon flock to the Southern Branch as well. In 1874, 59 admissions to the Southern Branch were black veterans, which represents nine percent of the total number of veterans cared for at the Southern Branch during the year. This compares to 27 black veterans cared for during 1874 at the CB/NHDVS, one black veteran at the Eastern Branch, and one black veteran at the Northwestern Branch (Annual Report, 1874, p. 17, 24, 31, 36). An estimated 650 former members of the U.S. Colored Troops are in the Dayton National Cemetery, which far exceeds the number in any other cemetery in the State of Ohio.

The integration of white and black veterans took place without the slightest jar or misunderstanding. They ate and mingled together as fellow soldiers without an apparent thought of the distinctions of race or color (Annual Report, 1873, p. 2). The white and black veterans were equally well treated and lived on friendly terms, without thought of each other except as soldiers disabled in a common cause (Annual Report, 1871, p. 2). Nearly 10 percent of the Union Soldiers during the Civil War were black. By 1899, 669 black veterans were being cared for in all branches of the Home. This represented 2.5 percent of the total number of veterans present (Annual Report, 1899, p. 25). Although the proportion remained small, the fact that integration was achieved is viewed as testimony to the commitment of the federal government to care for all Union veterans given the racist nature of late nineteenth century America (Kelly, p. 99).

Building Scheme

The Board of Managers of the National Asylum had a number of models for a veteran care facility when they began their work in 1866. European models, such as the Hotel Des Invalides in Paris and Royal Hospitals in England, were large, single-building institutions. In the United States, the Federal Government had followed the European model of single, large buildings in the establishment

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of the United States Sailors' Home and the United States Soldiers Home, in the first half of the 19th Century.

The concept of a large building housing all functions of a health care institution was popularized through the work of Thomas Story Kirkbride, the superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane in Philadelphia. Kirkbride believed it was very important that the building should be in good taste, and that it should impress not only the patients, but also their friends and others who may visit it. He advocated improving the grounds with a variety of trees and shrubs, flowering plants, summer houses, and a variety of objects of interest. He recommended improving the grounds with roads and trees as soon as the site was located so it would appear finished when opened. He also recommended the grounds immediately adjacent to the centralized building have a gradual descent in all directions for drainage (Kirkbride, pp. 50-55).

The Eastern Branch at Togus was formerly a plush hotel and racetrack. The existing structures fit a centralized building scheme with a hospital and another building for a dining room. The dining room had dormitories over it and workshops underneath, with a kitchen and laundry attached. During its first years, the Eastern Branch was not the home like institution promised by the Board of Managers. The Home lacked a library and a church for the intellectual and moral uplift the residents desired. The rehabilitative instruction in workshops did not materialize for several years. The Eastern Branch offered its residents little more than custodial care (Kelly, p. 108). On January 8, 1868, the Eastern Branch met a very considerable loss by an accidental fire which burned the main building and proved to be a major setback for this Branch.

The Board of Managers granted local managers in Milwaukee, E.B. Wolcott, and Dayton, Lewis Gunkle, a large amount of autonomy in their choice of design for each of these branches. The two managers answered in fundamentally different ways to the question of what constituted a home like institution. E.M. Wolcott adopted a centralized building scheme for the Northwestern Branch at Milwaukee. The site was located in the country, but close enough to a city for easy access from the asylum to the city, and had large, landscaped grounds for the use of both the veterans and visitors. A large building, capable of housing a large number of veterans, incorporated all living functions in one structure. The plan for the main building proved to be flawed with inadequate ventilation and heat. Crowding into one centralized structure failed to create even the semblance

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of a homelike environment. Testifying before a congressional committee in 1884, the governor of the Northwestern Branch commented that the "great source" of the complaints of that Branch came from "herding men together as we do here". The governor, replying to a question about improvements to the main building, answered "I would tear down this building if I had plenty of money, and build barracks on the plan of the Central Branch" (*Committee on Military Affairs*, 1884, p. 583).

In contrast to the Eastern Branch and the Northwestern Branch, the plan used at the CB/NHDVS was based on a street pattern with a major thoroughfare dividing the residential barracks area from the administrative area, and with secondary cross streets. The buildings were set along the crest of a hill overlooking the parade ground and a landscaped park (Gobrecht, pp.84-94). At the Central Branch, a sense of a community or village was created, made up of buildings arranged by function into neighborhoods and a shared park area. This type of plan was much more adaptable to expansion as the Home grew; the street grid could be extended and more buildings constructed, and the sense of community maintained. In May 1870, the *Cincinnati Commercial* described the forty structures of the Central Branch as a "group of handsome buildings in the highest ridge of the tract," looking more like "a grand square in Paris than a simple American institution." These buildings were separated by wide graveled spaces neatly bordered with grass (Kelly, p. 117).

The decentralized building scheme first used at the Central Branch, became the standard for the design of later branches, with the Northwestern Branch gradually adapting its arrangement from the single-building form to the decentralized form as the branch was enlarged. The fourth branch of the National Home, the Southern Branch, was an adaptation of an existing institution, but both the Western and the Pacific Branches followed the decentralized model. Both had large open lawn areas around which were located the barracks, headquarters, hospital, dining hall, chapel, and, later, staff quarters. The original site development of the Western and Pacific Branches incorporated large open areas defined by gently curving roads and pathways.

Special credit is due to the Honorable Lewis B. Gunkle, who had the responsibility of the initial construction at the Central Branch. He was responsible for the rapid and economical manner in which the buildings were erected. Adam McHose, Esq., of Dayton, a competent mechanic, was employed

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to superintend the construction of the initial barracks. It was under his management that the work crews were pushed forward, so as to have the soldiers in residence before the first winter set in. (*Dayton Journal*, August 6, 1867). Mr. Davis was the architect (*Dayton Journal*, May 29, 1868). Chaplain T. B. Van Horn, of the United States Army, was detailed by the Secretary of War, at the request of the Board of Managers, to lay out the grounds. He is credited with the design of broad avenues, beautiful man made lakes, splendid groves, and cultivated lawns, presenting one of the most attractive places in the country. Within a few years of its creation the CB/NHDVS was the largest and most flourishing institution of its class in the world (Gobrecht, p. 28-29). Major E. E. Tracy, of Ohio, was elected Deputy Governor and Dr. Clark Mc Dermont Surgeon of the CB/NHDVS on April 12, 1867. Major Tracy had leave of absence as a result of his health in the service. General Timothy Ingraham relieved Major Tracy as Governor effective December 6, 1867. The Board of Managers appointed Col. Edwin F. Brown as Governor on October 8, 1868 after the death of Major Tracy.

Size

The initial property of the CB/NHDVS embraced about 400 acres on the Eaton Pike and included the farms of Abraham Roseberry, James Crosby, Philip Rike, and Elizabeth Roop. The property cost about \$53,000. (*Dayton Journal*, August 6, 1867) Under the direction of Mr. Gunkle, the most vigorous measures were taken to get the necessary buildings ready to accommodate large numbers of disabled veterans. Between September and December 1867, 916 veterans had received their care at the CB/NHDVS. This compares to 319 receiving care at the Eastern Branch for the entire year, and 212 receiving care at the Northwestern Branch. (*Annual Report*, 1906, p. 130). In contrast, the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, France afforded only custodial shelter without the rehabilitative milieu of the CB/NHDVS. In 1861, the Hotel Des Invalides supported 2,302 veterans (Kelly p. 39). This number was continuously exceeded by the CB/NHDVS after 1871.

Congress expanded the eligibility for admission to the Home in 1884. This required the establishment of additional Branches. The total number of veterans cared for at the CB/NHDVS reached 7,146 in 1884. This Branch accounted for over 64% of all veterans that received their care in the four Branches at that time. The CB/NHDVS was the largest facility of its kind in the world (Stevens, p.301).

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The CB/NHDVS was literally a city, which was completely self-sufficient. It was a planned community with barracks, mess hall, chapels, school, hotel, library, bandstand, amusement hall, theater, post office, and shops. Miles of smooth wide macadam roads spiraled through shady hollows. The campus was a wide expanse of peaceful rural beauty that included flower gardens, rare plants, trees, placid lakes, and a park occupied with varied wildlife (Stevens, p.287).

The prominence of the Dayton VA Medical Center continued well into the twentieth century. In the 1970's, it was still one of the largest field stations in the Veterans Administration with a total bed capacity of 2,153. A nationwide emphasis on ambulatory care and shorter lengths of stay resulted in further decreases in operating beds through the 1990's. The Dayton VA Medical Center currently has a total bed capacity of 500.

Therapeutic environment

As the first temporary buildings were being erected, the citizens of Dayton were already congratulating themselves that the Home would have a name and place among the most beautiful localities in the country. From the outset, veterans were given a zest for life through healthful exercise, reading, music, and charming surroundings (*Dayton Journal*, September 6, 1867). The healthful exercise was initially obtained by employing the veterans to construct the temporary barracks. Employment opportunities expanded as veterans were taught a trade, or how to carry on a business, in order to become independent of the Soldiers Home.

An organizational system of officers and soldiers was devised and partly carried out at the Eastern Branch, giving the soldiers who were inclined and able to work some remuneration. The Board of Managers wrote in 1867, this had worked admirably, but the small number of veterans seeking the benefits of the institution had prevented the experiment from being fully tried (*Annual Report*, 1866, p. 2).

Believing that men everywhere are more healthy and happy having something to do, it was the cherished objective of the management of the CB/NHDVS to encourage employment of every kind. Veterans were given a moderate compensation for every kind of labor. Mechanics of every description were given

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shops and encouraged to work at their trades. Workshops were being established and a school was in operation within months of the construction of the initial temporary barracks. The pupils were instructed so they could earn support for themselves (*Annual Report*, 1867, p. 2). Some, mostly black veterans who had never been in a school, learned to read and write. The success of the schools became evident in a study done by the Board of Managers in 1875. It was found that 92% of the veterans at the Central Branch could read and write (*Annual Report*, 1875, p. 21). The Central Branch also taught arithmetic, algebra, English grammar, natural philosophy, bookkeeping, and telegraphy. The Northwestern and Eastern Branches only offered basic reading and writing education, although schools in telegraphy were later established (*Annual Report*, 1875, p. 21).

In 1868, many of the veterans at the CB/NHDVS were being taught bookkeeping. A printing office was also established at the Central Branch, at which all of the necessary printing for the Board of Managers, and all of the other branches was done. A shop was also established to sell the small articles necessary for the veterans. The profits of this shop were devoted to increasing the library collection (*Annual Report*, 1868, p. 2). By 1871, veterans at the Central Branch were employed at blacksmithing, book-binding, broom-making, cabinet and carpenter work, cigar-making, harness-making, knitting stockings, painting, printing, shoemaking, plumbing, and telegraph instruction (*Annual Report*, 1871, p. 10).

The success of the workshops at each branch is evident from the profit margins. Year after year the Central Branch continued turning a profit in all areas of their workshops. The other branches either took a loss or reported a small net gain, which also included all farming production. In 1874, the workshops at the Northwestern and Eastern Branches lost money due to the depression, but the Central Branch cleared \$17,515.76 in profits (*Annual Report*, 1874, p. 13). This demonstrates the magnitude of success the Central Branch had experienced, with the first successful large-scale Federal rehabilitative workshops.

The construction of the hospital at the CB/NHDVS began in 1868. Mr. C. B. Davis submitted the plans to the Board of Managers. The hospital was one of the finest and best-appointed structures of its kind in the United States (*Annual Report*, 1871, p.4). The CB/NHDVS was the only branch adapted for treatment of all classes of diseases (*Proceedings for the Board*, December 19, 1883). The hospital was an imposing three-story structure. It was two hundred and ninety

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feet long and cost about two hundred thousand dollars. Towers rose from both ends of the building. These towers were one story higher than the building, topped with an ornamental roof and pinnacles. The center of the building projected from the wings twelve feet. The center terminated in an ornamented observatory that was the most elevated and central figure of the edifice, the dome being one hundred feet from the base. Midway between the center and the lateral towers, the wings were broken by a three-faced projection, which provided a bay window for each of the six wards. Embracing the front of the center was a massive porch forty-one feet long by ten feet wide, surrounded by an ornamental balustrade. A large elevator powered by steam carried the sick from the basement to the floors above. The operating room was in the basement. The building was heated with steam. The bathrooms and water closets were located in the towers so they were entirely disconnected from the wards. Each floor was supplied with a dining room, located in the rear of the center of the building. Dumb waters powered by steam transported food to each floor. The ceiling was thirteen feet from the floor. The walls were wainscoted with ash and black walnut (Gobrecht p. 74-80). The original 300-bed building was enlarged with additional wards to bring the capacity to 840 beds.

The physician-training program began on July 1, 1884 with the authorization for interns in the hospital. The physician-training program continues today in an affiliation with Wright State University School of Medicine. Brown Hospital was dedicated on June 21, 1931, replacing Home Hospital. Home Hospital was destroyed by fire on May 20, 1942. The building was unoccupied, although it had been fully equipped with 458 beds in readiness for any war emergency. A modern patient tower replaced Brown Hospital in 1992. The Dayton VA Medical Center continues to provide a complete range of inpatient and outpatient services including medicine, surgery, primary care, rehabilitation, mental health programs, and geriatric and extended care.

The construction of the Home Church began in 1868. It is the first permanent church ever built by the United States government (*New York Times*, October 30, 1870). It is a beautiful Gothic structure comprised of native limestone. The veterans, many with war injuries, quarried the stones themselves from the Home grounds. It is a model of architectural beauty, commanding a magnificent view of the city of Dayton. A bell tower was added in 1876. Meneely and Kimberly Foundries, Troy, New York manufactured the 2539-pound bell on May 17, 1876 and it has the inscription:

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1776, Centennial Bell, 1876 Made for the Church of the National Soldiers Home Dayton, Ohio, from cannon captured from the enemy during the War of the Rebellion

Meneely and Kimberly Foundries is known for its reproduction of the "Liberty Bell" that now hangs in the belfry of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The replacement for the "Liberty Bell" is also engraved "Centennial Bell". The bell was cast in June 1876, after the casting of the Home Church "Centennial Bell".

Morning and evening services were held in the church each Sunday, and there were weekly prayer meetings and Sabbath school. Rev. Henry Hill, of New Hampshire was appointed chaplain on April 12, 1867. Chaplain William Earnshaw succeeded Rev. Hill on September 5, 1867, until his death on July 17, 1885. Chaplain Earnshaw served as the first librarian and teacher at the CB/NHDVS. Earnshaw had also served as chaplain with the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War, and was in most of the hard fought battles in Virginia. He served as Chaplain and Commander of the Department of Ohio, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). He was elected Commander in Chief of the G.A.R. on June 7, 1879, and he was the first to hold that position under the rank of Major General (McGillicuddy, p.129). His last words were "Tell the veterans I loved them all." Chaplains have continuously served on staff through today. Guest ministers who frequently visited the Home included Bishop Milton Wright, the father of Wilbur and Orville Wright (Wright, p. 464). The church was also the site for speeches by visiting dignitaries. President Ulysses S. Grant addressed the veterans from the platform of Home Church on October 3, 1871 (Gobrecht, p. 198-199). The Home Chapel was closed to the public in May 1998 due to concerns about deterioration in the floor support.

A large, well-arranged reading room opened on May 28, 1868. The reading room was well supplied with daily newspapers and decorated with pictures on the walls to make it a place of great attraction for the veterans (*Dayton Journal*, May 29, 1868). Chaplain Earnshaw notified the Board of Managers on October 8, 1868 of the donation of a large and well-selected library collection by Mrs. Mary Lowell Putnam of Boston Massachusetts. The donation was named the Putnam Library as a memorial of her gallant son, Lt. William Lowell Putnam, who was killed during the battle of Ball's Bluff while trying to save a wounded comrade. Mrs. Putnam was married in 1832 to Samuel R. Putnam, the son of a well-known jurist

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of Massachusetts. For several years they lived abroad, and it was then that she bought many wonderful books, which she gave later to the CB/NHDVS. Many were bound by well-known binders in Paris (*Dayton Daily News*, April 4, 1926). The Putnam Library was located on the second floor of the Headquarters. The old quartermaster building was remodeled in 1891 as a Patient Library. The first floor was used as the reading room and the second and third floors were used for the Putnam and George H. Thomas Libraries. Donations from the Putnam family were received five times a year and over eleven thousand five hundred volumes had been donated by 1905. Many of the original volumes that are individually signed by Mrs. Putnam remain. The Headquarters is currently unoccupied. The Patient Library is currently used for the office of the American Veterans Heritage Center, Inc., a non-profit corporation raising funds to preserve and restore the chapel, patient library, Headquarters and barrack.

One of the first buildings erected at the CB/NHDVS was a large amusement hall. A temporary stage was erected, duly decorated, and curtained at one end of the hall. A magnificent American flag served as a backdrop for the stage. The best musical talent in Dayton was entertaining the veterans within months after construction of the barracks began (*Dayton Ledger*, February 19, 1868). By 1871, the amusement hall had four bowling alleys, bagatelle tables, and a billiard table. Soldiers Home Memorial Hall was built in 1880, and officially dedicated on November 7, 1881. The furnishings and equipment were surpassed by few opera houses in the country. The hall had seating for 1500 people. During the winter the Memorial Hall was considered one of the important stops on nearly all cross-country tours by show companies. Up to thirty-four dramatic companies performed at the Home each year (*Guide Publishing*, pp 18-19). Audiences were thrilled with the presence of Sarah Bernhardt, Robert Mantell, Edward H. Sothern, Fanny Brice, and Al Fields and his minstrels. Dramatic groups recruited from the CB/NHDVS personnel also performed. Many United States Presidents sat in plush walnut chairs with Home officials in the theater boxes (*Dayton Journal*, June 9, 1941).

The veterans constructing the temporary barracks formed brass and string bands. The bands gave the veterans pleasant entertainment at the end of each workday (*Dayton Journal*, September 6, 1867). Guest musicians included John Philip Sousa who gave a concert using a sousaphone. The Home Band continued under various leaders until 1933. It was believed that the music from the Home Band played a large role in maintaining the old soldiers' morale (Kelly,

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pp. 163-164). A concert was performed at the bandstand every evening during pleasant weather, and was moved into Memorial Hall when inclement weather occurred. The concert ended with the firing of the evening cannon. The Home Band also performed at funerals, inspections, and special events in the community. The Home Band gave Orville and Wilber Wright a grand welcome back performance when they returned to Dayton following their first flight. Captain William Henry Santelman, Director of the United States Marine Band, is credited with saying, "The Home Band outrivaled in quality of performance every other government band, but the one he conducted" (*Dayton Daily Journal*, January 27, 1923).

Central Function

The Central Branch had special consideration from the start of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The Honorable Lewis B. Gunkle took the liveliest interest in the success of the Central Branch. Mr. Gunkle of Dayton, Ohio was simultaneously the Secretary of the Board of Managers and local Manager of the CB/NHDVS. His zeal is evident in the resolution that he offered for adoption to the Board of Managers on July 12, 1866, "That for the present there be established one asylum only." Colonel Walker moved to amend by striking out "one" and inserting "two". Mr. Stanton moved to amend the amendment by striking out "two" and inserting "three" (*Proceedings of the Board*, July 12, 1866). As a result, three branches were established initially. It is likely that Mr. Gunkle wanted the Board of Managers to concentrate all of their efforts on creating a National Military Home near his hometown, Dayton, Ohio.

Due to setbacks and failures at the Eastern Branch and the Northwestern Branch, the immediate success of the CB/NHDVS was particularly important. The Eastern Branch and Northwestern Branch were relatively small and both initially failed to provide the home-like environment envisioned by the Board of Managers. The Eastern Branch offered little more than custodial care. The Eastern Branch had the additional setback of a devastating fire on January 8, 1868 that destroyed the principle building. The dormitory rooms at the Northwestern Branch were inadequately heated and ventilated. The Governor of the Northwestern Branch reported in 1874 that during the winter, "the veterans were corralled like cattle in the heated passages and corridors of the basement and lower floor, where there were no seats, and breathing in a poisonous atmosphere". The Governor described the failure to provide a home-like setting.

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"With the existence of such unfavorable circumstances - the poor soldier having no nook, seat, nor place which he could call his own, or to which he could take a book for perusal during the day or evening, and forbidden the proper use of his room until summoned by the bugle to retire in cold and darkness to his bed - it was impossible to create a feeling of home pride, establish any degree of home habits, or maintain requisite home discipline; and the wearied invalid, denied the comforts of warmth and a resting-place at the asylum, too often sought them in the low grogeries of the neighborhood" (*Annual Report*, 1874, pp. 27,28). The CB/NHDVS demonstrated to the Board of Managers and the nation that the concepts of a home like environment envisioned by the Board of Managers could be successfully worked out.

During the first nine years, the NHDVS was financed from a fund created by the accumulation of forfeiture for desertion, fines or courts-martial, unclaimed pay and pensions, etc., of the War Department, plus donations and gifts. As of March 3, 1875, this plan was considerably modified in favor of direct appropriations from Congress. Because of the difficulties at the other two branches, it is likely the NHDVS would have failed to receive appropriated funding from Congress without the success demonstrated by the Central Branch. Additional branches could not be supported without appropriated funds because the NHDVS already had serious financial concerns. The success of the CB/NHDVS demonstrated the Federal government is capable of providing comprehensive care and rehabilitation to a large number of veterans. This led to the Federal government's continuing role in directly provided health care to veterans and ultimately the creation of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Without the success of the CB/NHDVS, veterans' health care could have evolved very differently with more care provided at the local and state levels.

The CB/NHDVS had a central function in the administration of all branches. On June 14, 1868, the Board of Managers resolved that the Governor and Deputy Governors meet at Dayton to prepare a code of rules and regulations for the internal government and discipline of the local Asylums (*Proceedings of the Board*, June 14, 1868). In the 1874, Annual Report of the Board of Managers, the Board explained the central status of the Dayton Branch. "The board comes now to speak of the Central Branch, at Dayton; and although the name was given from its position rather than the number of its beneficiaries, yet it now well deserves the title, because of the large number of invalid soldiers who have repaired there to be kept in health and comfort" (*Annual Report*, 1874, pp. 2,3).

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General Marsena R. Patrick was appointed Governor of the Central Branch in 1880, because it was thought a model of government for the other Soldiers Homes should be worked out at the Central Branch. General Patrick was selected for this assignment for his known character as a man of discipline and highest integrity. The Honorable W.S. Rosecrans, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs investigating the NHDVS in 1884 wrote, "We come first to Dayton; because this is the mother Home, and because it has the most extended experience. It has the largest number of inmates; and whatever Congress has appropriated for the purposes of these Homes has probably worked out its natural fruits more completely at the Dayton Home than anywhere else" (*Committee on Military Affairs*, 1884, p. 41). The CB/NHDVS was the General Depot for the NHDVS, where much of the clothing of the various Branches was manufactured. It was also the site from which all clothing and large quantities of supplies were distributed to the various Branches (*CB/NHDVS General Orders*, Jan. 19, 1914). The CB/NHDVS served as the Headquarters for all of the Branches from 1916 until 1930, at which time the Veterans Administration was formed (United States Code, 24 USC).

Landscape

At the time of the original purchase of the 400 acres, the Dayton property was ordinary farmlands, but it possessed great natural beauty and had several natural springs. The citizens of Dayton recognized the property had the potential to become one of the most beautiful and attractive places in the west. The property was laid out to develop the natural beauty for a display of the pastoral and the picturesque (*Dayton Journal*, September 6, 1867). One of the initial residents was Mr. Frank Mundt, a florist and gardener. Mr. Mundt began his career in Germany under the instruction of his father, who was a florist as well as a landscape and architectural gardener under the grand duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Mr. Mundt set to work with zeal and commendable energy. He vigorously sought material from the surrounding country, and planted vines and wild flowers promiscuously in the crevices of rocks and upon the hillsides. By 1871, the intricate flower garden, lovely grotto, beautiful lakes, splendid groves, and cultivated lawns were nationally recognized in Harper's Weekly as "not equaled by any thing in our Central Park" (*Harper's Weekly Supplement*, February 18, 1871).

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By 1883, there were over twenty-five acres devoted to flowers and sub-tropical gardening. The beautiful design and execution was not surpassed by any garden in Europe, Philadelphia or New York. The chief attraction was an *Agave Americana*, which weighed over two tons in full bloom. It was moved out of the greenhouse early in May and placed in the center of the lawn facing the lake (Brand, pp. 289-290).

Much of the beauty of the flowers and sunken garden was due to the work of Mr. Mundt's successor, Major Charles Beck, the Home gardener from 1875 to 1906. Mr. Herman Haerlin, a Cincinnati florist, came to the Home as an assistant to Mr. Beck, and succeeded him as chief gardener in 1906. Tourists were attracted by the beautifully landscaped gardens considered to be a paradise of flowers and fountains. Rare water lilies were displayed in heated aquatic gardens. A magnificent conservatory with tropical plants was located at the side of one of the lakes. Visitors could watch swans glide along the surface of one lake from the Swan House and enjoy the lakes in rowboats supplied by the CB/NHDVS.

Several acres were enclosed with a wire fence as a deer park. An old soldier who was once the deer keeper to the King of Prussia kept the deer. Near the flowerbeds were large wire cages containing eagles, owls, and other birds. There was also a small pond containing alligators, the gift of a local merchant. The menagerie included a great bear of the Rocky Mountains and two smaller bears, which were taught by their keeper to perform many laughable antics. Adjoining the quarry was a strong enclosure containing two buffaloes. A monkey house included interior and exterior display areas.

Visitors

The citizens who donated the initial \$20,000 saw the potential of securing the incidental business advantages by having the Home located near Dayton (*Dayton Journal*, Sep. 5, 1867). These business advantages came in the way of tourists. Visitors representing every part of the country and Europe were numbered in the thousands. By actual count made at the gates, over 100,000 people visited the CB/NHDVS annually during the 1870's, which was three times the population of Dayton at that time (*Annual Report*, 1876, p. 23). By 1910, the population of Dayton rose to 117,349, and visitors to the Central Branch swelled to 669,059 annually. This was gratifying to the veterans, who took pleasure in extending every courtesy in their power to visitors, and the community benefited

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both economically and culturally. The combination of these factors made the CB/NHDVS a huge attraction for many years (*Annual Report*, 1874, p. 23).

For many, the Central Branch was a vacation spot with resort-like atmosphere. Visitors could enjoy a menagerie with various types of animals, a theater, and shops; however, the majority of people came to see the veterans and beauty of the Central Branch. Sitting and refreshment rooms were neatly furnished for the visitors at the Home Railroad Depot. Visitors in the mid-1870's were served hot coffee, ice cream, and other refreshments (Gobrecht pp. 62, 89, 94). The visitors were lodged on the campus in Home Hotel, which was constructed in 1879, and included twenty guestrooms and a restaurant. Visitors who enjoyed ice skating on the Home lakes included Orville Wright and his sister Katherine (Wright, p.351). The CB/NHDVS drew so many tourists that entrepreneurs developed attractions across the street. This area developed into a thriving business sector called Lakeside Park. The attractions included a cyclorama featuring a 360-degree canvas painting of the Battle of Gettysburg, an amusement park, and concession stands.

The benefit of visitors was not just therapeutic and economic, but also served as an everyday inspection. Representatives of the Board of Managers regularly inspected each Branch. The Governor of the branch to be inspected knew of the intended visit, which allowed ample time to correct potential problems the inspectors may report. However, this concern did not apply to the Central Branch; it had to be in perfect order everyday due to the volume of tourists. In a word, it was an everyday inspection of the most thorough and practical character, much of it being made by ladies, who were quick to see and sure to detect any fault in domestic economy of administration. And if any carelessness of fault were found, or wrong detected, the management was usually made aware at once, the matter investigated, and the concern speedily remedied (*Annual Report*, 1877 p. 31).

Dayton National Cemetery

Dayton National Cemetery is one of 11 federal cemeteries associated with the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The management of these cemeteries was transferred from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to the newly created Veterans Administration in 1930. These cemeteries remained the responsibility of the respective Veterans Administration

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facility until 1973 when they were transferred to Veterans Administration National Cemetery System along with more than 80 U.S. Army cemeteries. Today, Dayton National Cemetery is one of 120 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' or Confederate lots managed by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. Although the site was technically established as a national cemetery in 1973, the first burial occurred here in 1867 and therefore the actual date of establishment is concurrent with that of the CB/NHDVS.

The authority to establish this, and all national cemeteries, arose from the casualties of Civil War battles. The first legislation signed by the president was July 17, 1862, an omnibus act that gave the president the power "to purchase cemetery grounds, and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." Subsequent legislation of February 22, 1867, known as the Act to establish and to protect national cemeteries, provided explicit measures of protection and identification to be carried out by the Office of the Quartermaster General (Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862):

That in the arrangement of the national cemeteries established for the burial of deceased soldiers and sailors, the Secretary of War is hereby directed to have the same enclosed with a good and substantial stone or iron fence; and to cause each grave to be marked with a small headstone, or block, with the number of the grave inscribed thereon, corresponding with the number opposite to the name of the party, in a register of burials to be kept at each cemetery...

The Office of the Quartermaster General spent the five years following the conclusion of the Civil War, 1865-70, locating the remains of Union troops where they had been hastily buried in the wake of battle. Then came the grisly task of gathering up and transporting them to the site of a permanent and consolidated resting place, new cemeteries placed strategically throughout the theater of war—especially the Southeast. The locations for other cemeteries resulted from the proximity of major battles, hospital deaths, and depots that facilitated transportation. After reinterment the most immediate modifications to the cemeteries were simple but impermanent: wooden picket fences painted white enclosed them, a modest two-room dwelling built of wood housed the superintendent, and wooden headboards were painted white with black lettering. It was not until 1870 that the Army designed and initiated the construction of

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dozens of brick or masonry lodges, all in a Second French Revival style; brick and stone enclosure walls with cast- and wrought-iron gates at the entrances. These features were well underway by the mid-1870s when government officials finally determined the form of permanent marble headstones for the graves, which would be produced toward the end of the decade and into the next.

Of the nearly 253,000 estimated Union dead in need of grave markers after the Civil War, about 105,000 were for unknowns—individuals whose identities were lost shortly after they died or during the process of being relocated (Record of the Quartermaster General, Entry 576, Box 75). More than seven years of debate over headstone design and material included serious study of a cast-iron model that was eventually rejected as both unattractive and impermanent. The *unknown* soldiers' graves were marked with a 6" x 6" marble block that extends 30" deep, identified with a grave number only. The markers of the *known* dead—marble uprights measuring 12" high (exposed above ground) x 10" wide x 4" thick with a slightly rounded top—were inscribed with a recessed federal shield in which the name, rank or affiliation appeared in relief. Regular Army and the African-American United States Colored Troops would have "USA" or "USCT" inscribed rather than state information, and men were considered to be the rank of private if no other information was available, and "PVT" was not expected to be included in the inscriptions. Abbreviations such as this were necessary due to limited space but were also intended to be understood by the general public. The only major new form of headstone was introduced in 1906 when legislation passed permitting the burial of Confederate veterans in national cemeteries, their graves to be marked by a pointed marble headstone. In the early 20th century, the upright headstone grew slightly in size and the incised shield was omitted; flat bronze and marble markers, as well as columbaria niche covers were introduced much later (Record of the Quartermaster General, Entry 225, Box 17).

Layout

No strict system-wide guidance for ideal cemetery layouts has been ascertained, but clear patterns emerge thanks to some logical sources and the large number of designs underway during the late 1860s-early 1870s. Many cemeteries feature central or circular mounds, with or without square and rectangular sections arranged in a balanced composition. This orthogonal order and grid-based symmetry may be founded on familiar military bivouac and camp arrangements. However, these designs were occurring during the Victorian era

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when external influences included the dwindling Rural cemetery movement at the same time the Lawn-Park cemetery ideal was on the upswing; thus landscape trends within the sphere of private or community cemetery and park development is a likely source for the more naturalistic alignments of roadways and burial sections at other national cemeteries (Sloane, pp. 4-5).

The design of the national cemetery at the CB/NHDVS is attributed to Chaplain (and Captain) William B. Earnshaw, who was described as having "judgment and taste" in these matters. Chaplain Earnshaw served in the Army of the Potomac, then the Army of the Cumberland, from which he was named superintendent at Stones River and Nashville cemeteries. He and two other officers served on a commission charged with selecting and acquiring lands for the Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and Memphis national cemeteries. With the labor provided by black troops, he was tasked with locating, disinterring, and reintering the remains of 22,000 dead soldiers. "Disagreeable, offensive, and dangerous as was this work of love," Chaplain Earnshaw led "his detail of colored troops, with spade in one hand and musket in the other...". He arrived at the CB/NHDVS along with the first occupants coming from Columbus, Ohio in September 1867, having been encouraged to seek the position at the home by General George Thomas (*The Cincinnati Commercial*, Nov. 24 1878). Chaplain Earnshaw served on the staff of the CB/NHDVS until his death on July 17, 1885.

Soldiers Home cemeteries were to be "laid out and cared for, as far as practicable, in the manner prescribed for National Cemeteries. Graves shall be arranged in sections and rows and numbered in regular series to correspond with the burial record kept in the Headquarters' office. Administrators initially marked graves with the standard "temporary wooden board or tablet, giving name, company, regiment and date of death." On a semi-annual basis the governors of each branch were expected to requisition permanent marble headstones from the Office of the Quartermaster General, which supplied all such government-issued veteran headstones starting in the mid 1870s (NHDVS Regulations, p. 100). end quote?

When a death occurred in the hospital or a deceased veteran was delivered to the facility, the hospital's Council of Administration was to be notified and steps were taken to protect the man's person and belongings prior to his removal to the morgue. Among the permanent improvements to the CB/NHDVS in 1887 was the completion of a "new receiving vault connected with the hospital," which was

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a "very great convenience to the institution, as it enables us to hold in safety subjects for interment which, from any cause, it is desirable to hold a day or two for the arrival of friends, or other satisfactory reasons" (Annual Report, 1887, pp. 31-32). Every resident was to be buried in a "clean suit of the Home uniform" (NHDVS Regulations, p. 99).

National Home regulations included specifications for "coffin-lowering devices" as well as burial caskets:

To be made of good quality, well seasoned, soft lumber; to be covered with crapine, craponette or other suitable casket cloth of similar, inexpensive grade; to be lined inside with a good quality of bleached muslin, and to be provided with the usual trimmings of white metal; dimensions to be specified (NHDVS Supply List, pp. 140,144).

These would be placed in "casket boxes," to be:

...Made of good quality soft lumber, 1 inch thick, surfaced on both sides and matched. Tops to be cleated with 3-inch strips and fastened with six thumbscrews; to be provided with four strong iron drip handles; dimensions to be specified (NHDVS Supply List, pp. 140,144).

National Home regulations specified that "funerals will be conducted in accordance with military usage, the honors prescribed by the United States Army . . ." with a chaplain officiating. "The band of the Branch will attend all funerals, unless the weather is too inclement . . . and the drum corps or field music substituted" (NHDVS Regulations, p. 99).

Between 1867 and the late 1880s, annual deaths in the CB/NHDVS crept from six up to 847, a number that is "remarkably low, considering the age and debility of the subjects," according to an account in *Harper's* magazine (Butler, 695). Annual deaths at the CB/NHDVS by the end of the 19th century topped out at nearly 1,400. Between 1900 and 1930 (the year the Veterans Administration was formed), veteran deaths were at their highest between 1907-1918 (ranging from 2,331 to 2,352), with the highest single-year mortality in 1916 with 2,583 deaths. By this time, the small number of War of 1812 and Mexican War veterans were long gone, the youngest Civil War veterans were approaching

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their late 60s, and younger Spanish-American and World War I veterans would have taken up residency (*Annual Report*, 1930, p. 50).

Soldiers Monument

The soldiers monument in the Dayton National Cemetery was commissioned by funds collected by the Monumental and Historical Association. The Honorable Lewis Gunckel started the Monumental and Historical Association and Chaplain Earnshaw was the president. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1873. The 30-foot tall Greek Revival column was secured for the monument through the efforts of the Honorable Lewis Gunckel. This marble column with an ornamental cap was designed by the famed 19th century architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe and it previously adorned the facade of the Bank of Pennsylvania (Cohen & Brownell, p. 198). Benjamin Henry Latrobe is most noted for his work on the White House and the Capital in Washington, D.C. The column is mounted on a granite base and features a 10-foot statue of a United States Infantry soldier at parade rest on the pinnacle. Four military figures at the base represent the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and navy. This monument serves as the centerpiece of the National Cemetery and has witnessed over the years many Decoration and Independence Day ceremonies as well as visits by dignitaries such as General Sherman, President Grant, and others.

The soldiers monument was dedicated by President Rutherford B. Hayes on September 12, 1877. A crowd of 25,000 people gathered for the dedication. This was three quarters of the population of Dayton at the time. Dayton was festooned with festive banners and thousands of people gathered along the rail line to the CB/NHDVS to welcome President Hayes.

Significant Burials

According to an inspection of cemeteries conducted in 1869 by Bvt. Maj. Gen. Thomas, an estimated 32,284 African Americans USCT troops had been buried in national cemeteries and related government lots across the country by that year; of that number, nearly 19,000 were unknown. An estimated 180,000 African Americans are believed to have served in the Civil War, organized into more than 150 USCT Army regiments (The National Cemetery System, 402E). As a result, large numbers of USCT are buried in the national cemeteries at

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Beaufort, SC; Chalmette, LA; Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, NY; Hampton, VA; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; and Vicksburg, MS.

Dayton National Cemetery contains an estimated 650 USCT burials, which far exceeds any other single cemetery in the state of Ohio; the next largest collection of USCT graves are found at Woodland Cemetery, Cuyahoga County; Greenlawn Cemetery, Franklin County; and Union Baptist Cemetery, Hamilton County. Records have been confirmed for 3,052 USCT buried in Ohio, which researchers believe represents about 75 percent of the actual total. Findings based on this work, which is ongoing, include the fact that a disproportionately large number of USCT buried in Dayton National Cemetery were born in Kentucky (239), followed by Virginia (82), Ohio (62), Pennsylvania (46) and Tennessee (41). The rank of these men was predominantly that of private (506), followed by corporal (50), sergeant (30) and lieutenant (12); and a lone captain. The men buried here were assigned to 85 infantry regiments, 9 heavy artillery regiments and 8 cavalry regiments; several regiments are represented by 20 or more troops each, including the 27th, 100th, 114th, and 117th infantry; 5th cavalry and 12th heavy artillery ("USCT Buried In Ohio").

Although there is no other race distinction to be made at Dayton National Cemetery, it should be noted that the resident make up of the home, like the Civil War enlistees, reflected an array of nationalities—men who immigrated from Western Europe just in time to take up arms in a Civil War. The largest numbers of foreign-born soldiers came from Germany and Ireland, with smaller numbers from England, Norway, Scotland, Canada and France (Annual Report, 1876, p. 12)

Six recipients of the Medal of Honor are interred at Dayton National Cemetery ("U.S. Army Center of Military History"). This is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services.

Downs, Henry W. (Section Q, Row 7, Grave 24). Sergeant, Co. I, 8th Vermont Infantry. Place and date: At Winchester, Va., 19 September 1864. Entered service at Newfane, Vermont. Born in Jamaica, Vermont. Date of issue: 13 December 1893. Citation: With one comrade, voluntarily crossed an open field, exposed to a raking fire, and returned with a supply of ammunition, successfully repeating the attempt a short time thereafter.

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Field, Oscar Wadsworth (Section Q, Row A, Grave 9). Private, U.S. Marine Corps. Born: 6 October 1873, in Jersey City, N.J. Accredited to: New York. G.O. No.: 521, 7 July 1899. Citation: On board the *U.S.S. Nashville* during the operation of cutting the cable leading from Cienfuegos, Cuba, 11 May 1898. Facing the heavy fire of the enemy, Field set an example of extraordinary bravery and coolness throughout this action.

Geiger, George (Section N, Row 20, Grave 47). Sergeant, Co. H, 7th U.S. Cavalry. Place and date: At Little Big Horn River, Montana, 25 June 1876. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Date of issue: 5 October 1878. Citation: With three comrades, during the entire engagement courageously held a position that secured water for the command.

James, John H. (Section 1, Row 19, Grave 58). Captain of the Top, U.S. Navy. Born in 1835 at Boston, Massachusetts. Accredited to: Massachusetts. G.O. No. 45, 31 December 1864. Citation: As captain of a gun on board the *U.S.S. Richmond* during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, James fought his gun with skill and courage throughout a furious 2-hour battle, which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram *Tennessee* and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

Matthews, John C. (Section 3, Row 7, Grave 50). Corporal, Co. A, 61st Pennsylvania Infantry. Place and date: At Petersburg, Virginia, 2 April 1865. Born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Date of issue: 13 February 1891. Citation: Voluntarily took the colors, whose bearer had been disabled and, although himself severely wounded, carried the same until the enemy's works were taken.

Taggart, Charles A. (Section R, Row 9, Grave 14). Private, Co. B, 37th Massachusetts Infantry. Place and date: At Sailors Creek, Virginia, on 6 April 1865. Born in Blandford, Massachusetts. Date of issue: 10 May 1865. Citation: Capture of flag.

Two governors of the home are buried here:

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Patrick, Marsina R. (Civilian Section, Row 3, Grave 1). A U.S. Army general during the Florida Indian War, Mexican War and Civil War, he was the fourth governor of the home, from 23 September 1880 to 27 July 1888.

Thomas, Jerome B. (Civilian Section, Row 2, Grave 2). A U.S. Army colonel during the Civil War, he was the fifth governor of the home, from 17 November 1888 to 5 March 1905.

Other notable buried here:

Dunbar, Joshua (Section E, Row 14, Grave 8) Private, Co. F, 5th Mass. Cavalry Co. F, 55th Mass. Infantry
Father of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African American to gain national eminence as a poet.

Founders

The early leaders of the CB/NHDVS were dedicated builders and administrators. Colonel Edwin F. Brown, the third Governor of the Central Branch, had a distinguished career during the Civil War. In command of a New York regiment, he had been wounded several times, and lost an arm at the Battle of Cedar Mountain (Drury, p. 765). He later served as the military governor of Vicksburg, and then came to Dayton in 1868. He served as Governor of the CB/NHDVS for 12 years, then gave 22 more years as chief inspector of the NHDVS nationwide. General Marsena R. Patrick was appointed Governor September 23, 1880, and continued as Governor until his death, July 27, 1888. General Patrick was born in 1811, graduated from West Point in 1835, served in the regular army in the Florida and Mexican wars, and entered the volunteer army in 1861 with the rank of brigadier general. General Patrick was the Provost Marshal General of the armies operating against Richmond. He served in many Civil War battles including Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (Sparks, p. 245). He resigned in 1865 with the rank of brevet major general. Colonel Jerome B. Thomas, surgeon of the 24th Illinois Volunteers, gave 40 years of service to the Central Branch, first serving as Treasurer (1867-1888) then as Governor (1888-1907). Mrs. Emma L. Miller was a war widow enlisted in the Sanitary Commission in Cleveland, Ohio. She joined the disabled veterans at Camp Chase as a Matron. Mrs. Miller traveled with the first veterans coming to Dayton, and served as the first matron of the hospital. She simultaneously served as the Superintendent of the General

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Depot for all the homes nationally, from 1884 until her death on January 18, 1914 at the age of 94. She had the distinction of being the first woman buried with full military honors. She was one of the few women in the country who wore the bronze button of veterans of the Civil War. This right was conferred upon her by a special act of Congress.

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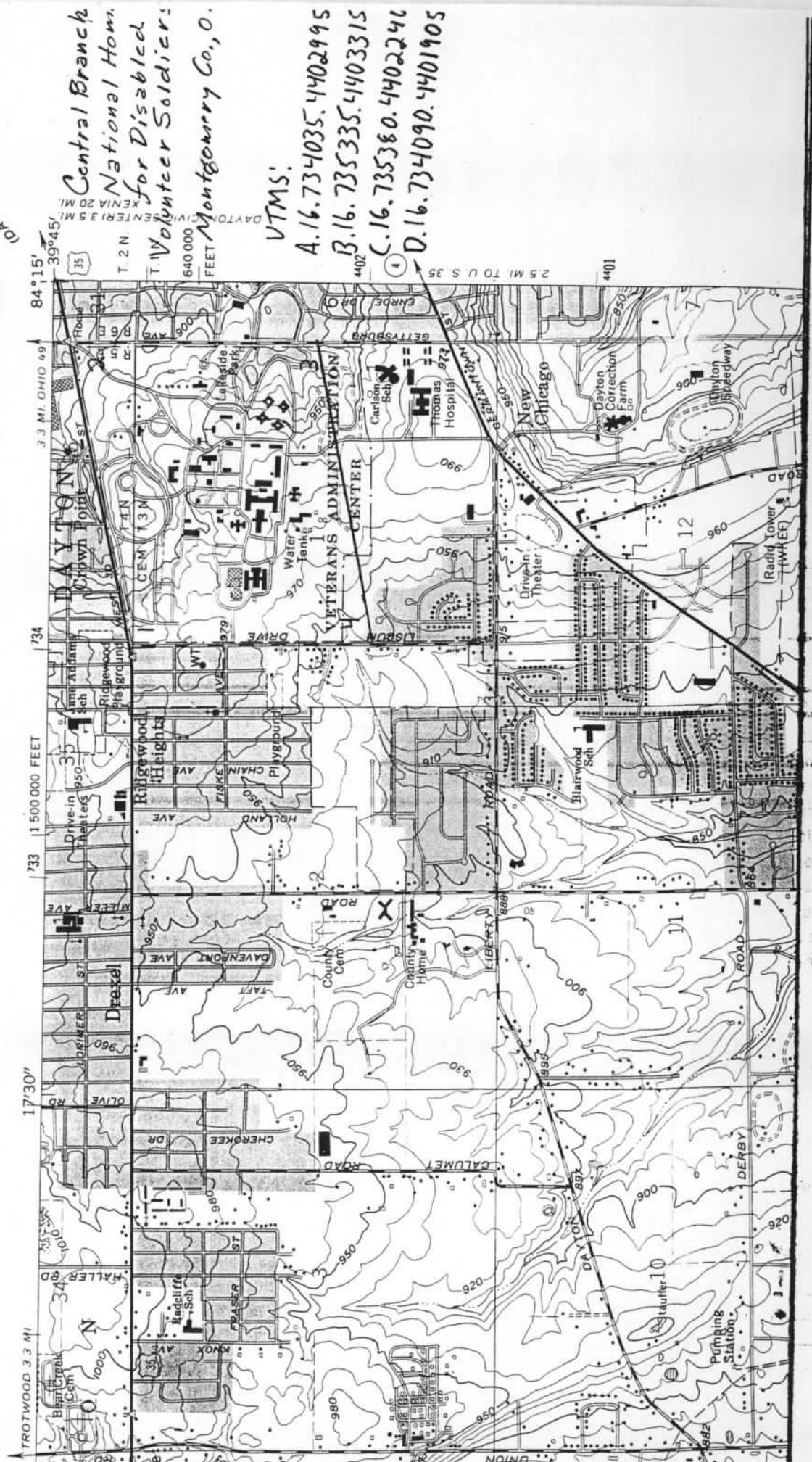
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Dayton VA Historic District is shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled "Survey, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and National Cemetery, May, 2003". Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Third Street and South Gettysburg Avenue in the city of Dayton, Ohio; thence westerly along West Third Street approximately 4320 feet to the intersection of West Third Street and Liscum Drive; south along Liscum Drive approximately 720 feet to a point adjacent to Michigan Avenue; thence easterly approximately 720 feet to the Laundry (Bldg. 143); thence south approximately 2700 feet to U.S. 35; thence easterly approximately 1260 feet and northeasterly approximately 1980 feet roughly following U.S. 35 to South Gettysburg Avenue; thence northerly approximately 2970 feet to the starting point of West Third Street and South Gettysburg Avenue.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The original land assembly made purchases in 1867, comprised of 355 acres in approximately the northern 1/3rd of Section 1, Township 3, Range 5E and extending the full length of the eastern border of said section and including the eastern 1/4th of said section, northerly 1/2 of said section, westerly 1/4th of said section, northerly 1/8th of said section, westerly 1/2 of said section and northerly 1/3rd of said section. Through additions to and reductions in the land in the last 136 years, the current campus is comprised of a total of 348 acres approximating the initial purchases. The historic district excludes a nine story patient tower and adjoining buildings that were constructed from 1980 to 1992. The historic district includes 163 acres of the VA Medical Center and the 98.2 acre National Cemetery for a total of 261.2 acres.

MIAMISBURG QUADRANGLE
OHIO—MONTGOMERY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Central Branch
National Home
for Disabled
Volunteer Soldiers
Montgomery Co., O.

VTMS:

- A. 16. 734035. 4402995
- B. 16. 735335. 4403315
- C. 16. 735380. 4402240
- D. 16. 734090. 4401905

419.1 SW
(DAYTON NORTH)

84°15'

3.3 MI. OHIO 49

734

1 500 000 FEET

17/30'

TROTWOOD 3.3 MI

39°45'

35

T. 2 N.

DAYTON CIVIL CENTER 1.5 MI.

640 000

FEET MONTGOMERY CO., O.

733

1 500 000 FEET

17/31'

3.3 MI. OHIO 49

84°15'

35

T. 2 N.

DAYTON CIVIL CENTER 1.5 MI.

640 000

FEET MONTGOMERY CO., O.

25 MI. TO U.S. 35

401

402

25 MI. TO U.S. 35

401

25 MI. TO U.S. 35