NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 an 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 **Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District**

other names/site number Marion Division, Veterans Affairs Northern Indiana Healthcare System

2. Location

street & number 1700 East 38th Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Marion N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Grant code 053 zip code 46953

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36CFR 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.)

Karen Rome Tupek, Federal Preservation Officer — 4/14/99
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

Department of Veterans Affairs
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.)

[signature] — 5/5/99
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrus — Date of Action: 8/2/99

Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer — Grant — IN

Name of Property — County and State

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
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
78	4	buildings
1	0	sites
1	2	structures
2	0	objects
82	6	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE:	Hospital
FUNERARY:	Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE:	Hospital
FUNERARY:	Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:	Queen Anne
19th & 20th c. REVIVALS:	Colonial Revival
19th & 20th c. REVIVALS:	Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	STONE
walls	BRICK
	WOOD: Weatherboard
roof	ASPHALT
other	STONE
	BRICK

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

Marion Branch, National Home for
Name of Property

Grant IN
County and State

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 contriibution 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 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)

HEALTH/MEDICINE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1890-1948

Significant Dates

1890
1921

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Peters and Burns

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic 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
☐ 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:

Marion Division, Veterans Affairs Northern Indiana

Marion Branch, National Home for
Name of Property

Grant IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 151

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	615320	4485720	3	16	616360	4486160
2	16	616060	4485740	4	16	616100	4486590

☒ 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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy J. Hubbard

organization The Troyer Group date 11/23/98

street & number 1407 Elmwood Avenue telephone 847-256-3406

city or town Wilmette state IL zip code 60091

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veteran Affairs, Attn: Rick Carey

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue NW telephone 202-565-6210

city or town Washington state D.C. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is located to the southeast of Marion, Indiana. The city of Marion is located in east central Indiana, approximately 65 miles northeast of Indianapolis and 55 miles southwest of Fort Wayne. Marion, the county seat of Grant County, is located in the center of the square-shaped county. The Mississinewa River, a tributary of the Wabash River, flows through Grant County from southeast to northwest.

The Marion Branch Historic District is located at the intersection of 38th Street and Lincoln Boulevard, approximately 2-1/2 miles southeast of the city center of Marion. The boundaries of the Historic District are 38th Street on the north, the railroad right-of-way on the east, the Mississinewa River on the southeast, Chambers Park (City of Marion) on the south and southwest, and Lincoln Boulevard on the west. The 212-acre site is roughly square in form with diagonal boundary lines on the south-east and the southwest eliminating those corners of the square. Originally, farming operations on the Home grounds included the area that is now Chambers Park.

Much of the park-like campus setting of the first phase of construction in the 1890s is retained in its present condition. The entire site remains in use as a veterans' care facility as it was originally intended. The grounds are entered at the midpoint of the northern boundary on 38th Street; the original entrance was at the southeast corner of the intersection of 38th Street and Lincoln Boulevard. The road pattern has its circulation core in the center of the site in Steele Circle, a circular road from which the principal roads radiate to the different areas of the facility.

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 since the 1950s has been concentrated on the west side of the site. These buildings have been either sympathetic to the historic building arrangement, as seen in Building 138, or have been screened from the historic district by larger historic buildings, as seen in the placement of Building 172. An acute psychiatric facility will be completed in 1999 construction in the open area between historic buildings of the original construction period (Buildings 1 and 2) and that of the 1940s (Building 124).

While these three newer, non-contributing buildings appear to intrude on the historic district, they are low in scale, simple in design, and use the same materials (brick with stone details) as found in the historic buildings.

The buildings in the historic district range from the nearly identical 2-1/2 story brick barracks and hospital complex of the 1890s, done in a simplified Romanesque Revival style; to frame staff quarters done in Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and vernacular styles; and Georgian Revival medical treatment buildings of the 1920s and 1930s. Building dates of contributing buildings, while ranging from 1889-1890 to 1948, are concentrated in the 1890s when most of the significant buildings were constructed.

In 1981, a Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for Federal Properties was made under Criteria A and C. As a result, since 1981, various projects have been reviewed by the Indiana state preservation office for compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

In 1992, the historic district was surveyed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (State Historic Preservation Office) as a component of the Grant County inventory of historic sites and structures. Eighty resources in the historic district were classified as Outstanding, Notable, Contributing, and Non-Contributing in the survey. Outstanding resources are those that are already listed on the National Register or should be considered for individual listing. Notable resources have above average importance and may be eligible for the National Register. Contributing resources are not eligible individually, but can be listed as contributing in a National Register historic district. Non-Contributing examples are not eligible due to age, degree of alteration, or incompatibility with the historical surroundings. Of the 80 resources identified in the Grant County survey in the Marion Branch historic district, two were "Outstanding," 22 were "Notable," 46 "Contributing." and 10 "Non-Contributing."

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

The order in which the buildings are described follows the building numbering system used by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The building number is followed by the current name 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 included. Buildings are identified on the site map using the Department of Veterans Affairs building numbers.

Buildings 1-6 Ward Buildings (Barracks): 1889-1890 Contributing
(Photo # 1-6/49)

Buildings 1 through 6 are nearly identical in design with the exception of two different roof treatments that break the repetition in the two rows of buildings. Buildings 1 and 3, on the north and south ends of the western row, and Building 5 in the middle of the eastern row are identical. Building 2, in the middle of the western row is identical to Buildings 4 and 6 on the north and south ends of the eastern row.

These six buildings are approximately 175 feet in length and 37 feet in width. They are 2-1/2 stories in height on a raised stone foundation wall. The exterior walls are brick. The main elevations are divided in five parts: a tall center pavilion in which the entrance is located; two recessed extensions flanking the center pavilion; and end pavilions that are narrower in width, but the same height as the center pavilion. The rear elevations have only the center pavilion to break the line of the wall. The buildings have very simple ornamentation, primarily in brick corbeling at the eaves.

The roof treatment on Buildings 1, 3, and 5 uses a hip roof with hip dormer on the center pavilion; Buildings 2, 4, and 6 have a gable roof on the center pavilion. The gables of the end pavilions in Buildings 1, 3, and 5 have a row of three double-hung windows with the center unit topped with a semicircular light. The end-pavilion gables on Buildings 2, 4, and 6 have a pediment defined in the gable with a stringcourse across the bottom of the gable; a single round-headed window is set in the upper portion of the

gable. The end pavilion gables in Buildings 2, 4, and 6 have a pair of double-hung windows topped with a full-width elliptical fanlight.

Dormers, chimneys, and cupolas which were on these buildings originally have been removed. The original wood windows on the first and second floor windows have been replaced with aluminum double-hung units with storm sash and screens. A 15' X 18' loading dock and concrete drive has been added to the south end of Building 3. Original rear sun porches have been enclosed on five of the buildings, with the exception of Building 2.

Building 7 Ward Building (Barracks): 1893 Contributing
(Photo #7/49)

Building 7 is much larger than the original barracks, being 218 feet across the main elevation, and 50 feet deep. However, the configuration of the elevation, the treatment of the end gables as well as the center gable, and the materials are identical to Buildings 2, 4, and 6. Building 7 is connected to Buildings 10 and 11 through an enclosed passageway off the rear/east elevation. A brick elevator shaft has been constructed in the recessed portion to the south of the center pavilion on the west elevation. A covered side entry has been constructed on the southwest corner of the building.

Building 8 Gymnasium Building: 1924 Contributing
(Photo #8/49)

Building 8 is a one-story gymnasium, constructed with brick exterior walls on a raised poured concrete foundation wall. It is 70 feet wide and 110 feet long. The roof structure is bowstring trusses with asphalt felt and roofing tar. There are tall, multipaned steel-frame windows set high in the north, east, and west walls. There are entrances on the north and south.

Building 9 Occupational Therapy School: 1923 Contributing
(Photo #9/49)

The reinforced concrete frame of this building is exposed on the exterior. It is two bays in width and seven bays in length (41 feet X 164 feet). It is two stories in height and has flat roof. Large steel-frame industrial windows extend the full width of each bay on both floors.

Building 10 Ward Building (Barracks): 1898 Contributing
(Photo #10/49)

Building 10 is identical to Building 7. An elevator shaft was constructed on the west elevation in the recessed portion north of the center pavilion.

Building 11 Ward Building (Barracks): 1898 Contributing
(Photo #11/49)

Building 11 is identical to Buildings 7 and 10. An brick elevator shaft has been added to the east of the center pavilion on the north elevation.

Building 12 Ward Building (Barracks): 1898 Contributing
(Photo #12/49)

Building 12 is identical to Buildings 7, 10, and 11. An elevator shaft has been added to the south of the center pavilion on the east elevation. Original wood windows have been replaced with aluminum double-hung units with storm sash and screens.

Building 13 Nursing Education and Medical Library: Contributing
1899
(Photo # 13/49)

The building massing is essentially a large cubic 2-1/2 story form on the north with a smaller cubic extension of the same height off its south elevation. The exterior walls are brick on a brick

foundation wall. The entrance is in the center of the north elevation and is flanked by a symmetrical arrangement of two pairs of tall windows on both the first and second floors. The windows in the upper portion east of the entry have been infilled with brick. Numerous other door and window openings on the sides have been infilled as well.

Buildings 15-17

These three buildings were designed by Treasury Department in a simplified Georgian Revival style which was the typical style used for the standardized designs being produced for the National Home in the 1920s.

Building 15 Ward Building/Administrative Office: 1929 (Photo #14/49) Contributing

The building has a narrow east elevation of 42 feet, but is almost 203 feet in length. This plan reflected the original interior arrangement of a long double-loaded corridor with patient rooms on either side which terminated at the west end in a dayroom and office area. It is two stories tall with brick exterior walls on a raised brick foundation wall. It has a hip roof with a ridge running most of the length of the building.

Building 15 is identical to Building 17.

Building 16 Ward Building: 1929 (Photo #14/49 and 15/49) Contributing

Building 16 is basically the same design as Buildings 15 and 17, but is one story higher.

Building 17 Ward Building): 1929 (Photo #15/49) Contributing

Building 17 is identical to Building 15.

Building 18 Ward Building (Barracks): 1896 Contributing
(Photo #16/49)

Building 18 resembles the earlier-constructed barracks, but it has a different roof form with three broadly-projecting hip roofs on the center and end pavilions. Five small double-hung windows are pushed tight under the overhang of the center pavilion roof. An brick elevator shaft has been added to the east of the center pavilion on the north elevation.

Building 19 Credit Union; Barber Shop; vacant Contributing
(Hospital):1890
(Photo #17/49)

Building 19 was the original hospital of the Marion Branch. It is an excellent example of a simplified Queen Anne style institutional building with its tall offset tower, gabled roof dormer, corner turret, mix of rectilinear and round-headed windows, and wraparound porch. It is 2-1/2 stories tall, and constructed of brick. There are two-story porches on both the north and south ends of the building. The building is in poor condition.

Building 20 Vacant (Hospital Annex): 1890 Contributing
(Photo #18/49)

Building 20 was constructed off the east, rear elevation of Building 19, the original hospital to provide dining space on the first floor and additional wards on the second. It is 2-1/2 stories tall, built of brick on a raised stone foundation wall. It has a massive hip roof. The firs-floor windows have square heads; the second-floor windows are round-headed. A loading dock extends off the east end.

Building 21 Vacant (North Wing of Hospital): 1890 Contributing
(Photo #19/49)

Building 21 has the same basic elevation of the barracks (Buildings 1, 3, and 5) built at the same time with a five-part elevation. However, the entrance in the center pavilion in the barracks has

been eliminated in this wing of the original hospital because the entrance to Building 21 was from the hospital, Building 19. The west elevation of this center pavilion has a row of three elaborate windows at each floor. These windows are made up of four small double-hung units topped by a wide elliptical fanlight. The north end of the building is a rounded, five-sided projection. The windows on the first floor are square-headed; the windows on the second floor are round-headed. Rear projecting wings extended the floor area of the building.

The building is in very poor condition due to water damage.

Building 22 Vacant (South Wing, Hospital): 1890 Contributing
(Photo #20/49 and 21/49)

Building 22 is identical to Building 21. It is in very poor condition.

Building 24 Ward Building: 1896 Contributing
(Photo #22/49)

Building 24 is identical to Building 18 which is located directly across Chapman Avenue to the south. There has not been the addition of an elevator shaft to the south elevation of this building.

Building 25 Ward Building (Hospital Annex No.2): 1930 Contributing
(Photo #23/49)

Building 25 is very similar in style to Buildings 15 and 17. It was designed by Alvin M. Strauss, a prominent Fort Wayne architect. The similarity suggests that Strauss was required to work in the same design vocabulary as that used by the Treasury Department staff architects. In plan, the building is L-shaped with a long portion extending east-west and one north-south, as if Buildings 15 and 17 have been set at a right angle to each other. The building is a two-story brick structure with a raised brick foundation wall and hip roofs on both wings.

Buildings 26-31 Duplex Quarters: 1921, 1923 Contributing
(Photo 24/49)

Buildings 26-31 are duplex quarters located in the far northwest quadrant of the site on the north side of McMahon Avenue, the former entry road from the intersection of 38th and Lincoln Boulevard. The six quarters are arranged in a gentle curve to mirror the curve in the street.

Although Building 26 was built in 1923, and the other five were built in 1921, the six buildings are identical in design. They were done in a simplified Colonial Revival style that exhibits the symmetry and balance of the Georgian Revival style being used on the institutional buildings on the branch in the 1920s. The wood-frame, wood-sided buildings are cubic in form, with a broad hip roof that broadly projects beyond the wall plane. A enclosed porch extends almost the full width of the first floor. Paired entry doors to the porch identify the building as duplex quarters.

Building 32 Single Quarters: 1897 Contributing
(Photo #25/49)

Building 32 is one of three stylistically-elaborate quarters buildings arranged in a row on the east side of the present entry road. The three were built to house the branch director (Building 34), the chief surgeon (Building 32), and the treasurer and quartermaster (Building 33). These quarters are large, well-detailed residential buildings.

Building 32 is a wood-frame, 2-1/2 story Queen Anne style house with an asymmetrically arranged south elevation of a large gabled project on the west and a smaller second-story gable on the east. A tall chimney rises from the intersection of the west projection and the bulk of the house. The projection of the second floor over the wall plane of the first floor gives the house an enhanced scale. Decorative wood shingle work in the gables is derived from the Queen Anne style.

Building 33 Duplex Quarters: 1896 (Photo #26/49) Contributing

Building 33 is has two living units, but has an exterior configuration that suggests a single-family house. Large gables dominate the front (south) and side elevations; these gables are highly covered with fishscale wood shingles. The shingle treatment, a Palladian window in the south gable of the roof, and the turreted corners of the full-front width porch place identify of the style of this building as Queen Anne.

Building 34 Single Quarters (Director's House): 1896 (Photo #27/49) Contributing

Building 34 is a large Queen Anne style house with fishscale wood shingles surfaces on both the gambrel roof gables on the south and west elevations and on the entire wall surface of the second floor. The projecting second floor make the house seem even larger than it actually is. Bays project from the first floor on the south and east; Palladian windows have been placed in the gambrel roof gables on the south and east. The two-story entry porch is tucked under the south gable, creating a void space in the mass of the building. The structural support of the roof of the porch is being braced, awaiting repairs.

Building 35: Single Quarters: 1908 (Photo #28/49) Contributing

Buildings 35-38 are arranged in a row facing southwest, and are located to the east of Buildings 32-34. These quarters are smaller in scale than those in the other grouping, and are much more vernacular in style.

Building 35 is an American Foursquare style house with a cubic form, broadly-projecting hip roof, and little ornamentation. This house does have an interesting doubled-gable roof on the south dormer, a screened porch that extends almost the full width of the south elevation, and diamond-paned upper sash is the first-floor windows.

Building 36 Single Quarters: 1903 (Photo #29/49) Contributing

Building 36 is a simple vernacular house with very elaborate decorative trim in the roof gable of the south elevation. This trim includes Stick Style applied boards as well as Queen Anne fishscale shingles and small-scale Eastlake carved trim. The trim is applied on the west and east gables as well. The wraparound porch is equally interesting in the continuous denticulated trim under the eaves and the slender Doric columns.

Building 37 Single Quarters: 1916 (Photo #30/49) Contributing

Building 37 is a very simple house with a double jerkinhead gambrel roof. The front porch across the width of the first floor has been enclosed.

Building 38 Single Quarters: 1904 (Photo #31/49) Contributing

Building 38 is a simple vernacular style house which has a gambrel roof that drops down to the height of the first floor. The second floor has two shed dormers on the south elevation that break through the slope of the roof. The wall plane of the house's side flares out over the stone foundation wall. The full-width front porch is pushed back under the slope of the roof. The porch has three wide arched openings across the south, the west opening for the entrance.

Building 41 Transportation Office (Fire Station): 1895 Contributing

Building 41 is a simple brick building that originally housed the fire-fighting service for the Marion Branch. It was constructed in the first phase of development of the branch. The engine equipment doors are identifiable although they have been infilled with brick.

Building 42 Supply Service Building: 1905 Contributing
(Photo #32/49)

No information was found to identify the original use of this building. However, it is strongly residential in character which suggests that it may have been built as quarters, but was pressed into other use. It is a simple, vernacular style brick, 2-1/2 story building with a hip roof. It has a full-width open porch on the first floor of the north elevation. There is a small porch above the first-floor porch that opens into the second floor.

Building 47 Stinson Memorial Theater: 1891 Contributing
(Photo # 33/49)

The Stinson Memorial Theater was built with funds given by James Stinson to support the care of veterans It is three-story building, with two sets of double entry doors on the north elevation, under a classically-detailed open porch. Twin hip-roof towers anchor the corner of the main, north elevation. Bands of three small multi-paned windows are tucked tight under the overhanging tower roofs. The auditorium space is identifiable from the exterior in the three large arched windows that are visible on the east and west elevations. The rear of the building rises a floor higher than the auditorium to house the fly stage. The exterior walls are brick with stucco covering the wall surfaces of the two corner tower projections.

The overall dimensions of the building are 50 feet in width (east-west) and 95 feet in length (north-south). The building houses a 140-seat auditorium with 110 seats on main floor and 30 in the balcony. The auditorium has an open-beamed ceiling. The stage has a curved-front with floodlights, and measures 40 feet wide by 20 feet deep. The orchestra pit seats 40 musicians.

A handicap ramp was on the west side which required the addition of a door in the middle of the three arched windows on that side. The basement was rehabbed in 1985 to construct an internal handicap ramp, add central air-conditioning, and add patient therapy space.

Building 49 John Nelson Library: 1915 (Photo #34/49) Contributing

The Library is a Prairie Style brick building with a raised foundation wall that acts as a pedestal for the building; the hip roof has broadly-projecting overhangs; and the windows are tall, narrow casement units. Decorative stone squares are placed between the windows on both the basement and first floor.

Building 50 Canteen (Headquarters): 1890 (Photo #35/49) Contributing

Building 50, a 1-1/2 story brick building with a stone foundation wall, served as the headquarters for the Marion Branch until 1946. In plan, it is a broad U-shaped building with end projections on the south elevation, creating a shallow court on that side of the building. The north elevation is a continuous plane with the exception of the brick-enclosed entry porch, which was originally open. It has a hip roof with hip dormers on the east and west ends and on the roofs of the two projections on the south side. A gable dormer projects from the roof over the entry on the north side. The window on all elevations are tall and round-headed.

Building 51 Storage & Distribution/Engineering Shops: 1914 Contributing

The simple, brick engineering shops were built during the second phase of construction. Although the building has been altered with the addition of loading docks, it is a contributing resource due to its role in the overall operations of the facility.

Building 52 Engineering Building: 1914 Contributing

As with several of the support buildings in the historic district, this brick building is very basic in form and style, and has been altered to meet changing operational needs. It is contributing due to its role in the running of branch functions.

Building 53	Engineering Shops: 1914	Contributing
Building 54	Sheet Metal Shop: 1905	Contributing
Building 55	Warehouse: 1900	Contributing
Building 58	Water Treatment Plant: 1902	Contributing

As with Buildings 51 and 52, these simple brick buildings are contributing resources due their roles in the operations of the facility.

Building 60	Administration Offices/Educational Therapy (Medical Treatment): 1890 (Photo # 36/49)	Contributing

This building from the first phase of construction is unique among the buildings because it has no duplicates. Building 19 is the only other building with no duplicates. However, in comparing Building 60 with Buildings 2, 4, and 6, it appears that Building 60 is a reduced version of those barracks in which the end pavilions have been removed and the end wings extended. Building 60 is a 2-1/2 story brick structure with square-headed windows on the first floor and round-headed windows on the second, just as seen in Buildings 20-22. The roof is side-gabled, with a large, gabled dormer projecting over the entry pavilion in the center of the west elevation.

Building 62	Greenhouse: 1892; 1906 addition	Contributing

Large greenhouses were found at all branches of the National Home for use in occupational, physical, and psychological therapy programs for the veterans. Although the original glass and steel roof of the Marion greenhouse has been replaced with one of wood and plexiglass, the original purpose of the resource remains evident.

Building 65 Chapel: 1898-1899 Contributing
(Photo #37/49 and 38/49)

In plan, the Chapel is actually two chapels in one building: one on the south side of the building, aligned east (Protestant Chapel) and one on the north side, aligned north-south (Catholic Chapel). The style of the brick building is Late Gothic Revival as seen in the pointed arch windows, the steeply-pitched roof; the corner buttressing; and the use of limestone trim as contrast with the red brick.

Stained glass windows are found in both chapels. In the Protestant (south) Chapel, the windows are:

-west (altar) wall: 2 windows flanking cross over altar, each 3 feet by 11 feet
-south wall: Good Shepherd, 8 feet by 16 feet (large window in the gable projection on the south elevation)
-south wall: 3 feet by 8 feet
-east wall: Jesus, 8 feet by 16 feet (large window in the gable end of the east elevation)

The stained glass windows in the Catholic (north) Chapel are;

-north (altar) wall, left facing altar: Jesus, 3 feet by 8 feet
-north (altar) wall, right facing altar: Mary, 3 feet by 8 feet
-east wall: "In Memory of Our Dead," two windows, each 4 feet by 18 feet
-east wall, balcony: 4 feet by 5-1/2 feet
-west wall: "In Memory of Our Dead," two windows, each 4 feet by 18 feet
-west wall, balcony: 4 feet by 5-1/2 feet

Building 69 Cemetery Storage (Barn): 1894 (Photo #39/49 and 40/49) Contributing

Building 69 is an astylistic, utilitarian brick building with a hip roof, but its contribution to the historic district is based on its use in the farming activities at the Marion Branch from 1890 to the 1950s. The northeast portion of the grounds were used for farming until the cemetery expanded to the north in the 1920s. This building was a horse barn that was accessible at both the upper and lower levels. The top floor was used for storage of feed, as seen in the hoisting beam on the north elevation.

Building 72 Transformer House: 1905 Contributing

Although Building 72 is a small simple, brick building it is associated with the modernization of the Marion Branch to better serve the care of the veterans.

Building 73 Cemetery Administration & Service Building (Barn): 1905 (Photo #41/49) Contributing

Building 73, like Building 69, contributes to the historic district through its role in the farming activities of the National Home. Although the brick building has been converted to offices, evidence of its origin as a barn is seen in the cupola, the hoisting beams, and the hay loft door in the west gable.

Building 75 Sewage Plant Laboratory: 1905 Contributing

This small (372 s.f.) brick building is associated with the modernization of the facility to better serve the care of the veterans.

Building 76 Boiler House: 1934 (Photo # 42/49) Contributing

The large (8,595 s.f.) brick boiler house contributes to the historic district in its role in modernizing the Marion Branch during the early years of the Veterans Administration to better serve the needs of the veterans. A small brick incinerator building (Building 119, 1934) is located on the north side of the Boiler House, to the west of the Smokestack (Building 144); it is a non-contributing resource.

Building 79 Laundry: 1935/1939 Non-contributing

The laundry has been greatly altered through numerous additions since its construction. In 1985, it was found to be intrusion in historic district by the Indiana state historic preservation office.

Building 83 Cemetery Tool House: 1925 Contributing

The cemetery tool house is a small (360 s.f.) concrete block building located in the northeast portion of the National Cemetery. Although constructed of simple materials and serving as a storage building, its chapel-like appearance relates to its setting in the cemetery; therefore, it is a contributing resource.

Building 97 Masons' Shop: 1899 Contributing

The masons' shop is a simple small brick building located in the service area of the facility, close to the engineering and sheet metal shops, warehouse, and water treatment plant (Buildings 51-55 and 58). It is associated with the daily operations of the Marion Branch and, as such, it is a contributing resource.

Building 102 Duplex Quarters: 1894 Contributing
(Photo #43/49)

Although this building is classified in records from the 1920s as duplex quarters, it has the appearance of an agricultural building in the cupola and roof monitor. Originally, the area just to the south of this building was part of the branch farms, so it is possible that the building was constructed for farm use, but was converted at an early date. The use of red brick, the stone trim, the hip roofs, and the round-headed windows relate the building stylistically to the majority of early buildings in the historic district.

Building 105 Gate House: 1897 Contributing
(Photo #44/49 and 45/49)

The entry to the Marion Branch was marked at its original location by stone piers connected with a wrought iron arch, and a turreted stone gate house. The Romanesque Revival, almost Richardsonian Romanesque, style of the Gate House is seen in the heavily rusticated stone work, the small windows, the steeply-pitched roof, and the turret. The Gate House conveys a sense of fortification, a standing guard over the veterans protected within the grounds.

The building was taken out of service in 1973 when the original entry to the site was closed, and a new entry opened farther west on 38th Street. The entry road was blocked with the construction of a stone wall across the original opening. The iron arch was removed.

Building 114 Police Station: 1938 Contributing

The police station acts as a guard post on the entry road into the historic district and, as such, it contributes to the significance of the district. It is a simple small (312 s.f.) brick building, square in form with a hipped roof.

Building 118 Gardeners' Shop: 1906 Non-contributing

Building 118 is a small, simple concrete block structure that is not related to the areas of significance of the historic district.

Building 121 Storage Building (Morgue): 1895 Contributing

Although this small brick building has been altered to serve as a garage, it originally served as the morgue for the first hospital (Buildings 19-22).

Building 122 Mess Hall and Kitchen: 1937-1938 (Photo #46/49) Contributing

The Mess Hall and Kitchen was built to replace the original Mess Hall which was destroyed by fire in 1937. To make the new building more fire-resistant, it was built with a reinforced concrete frame and brick veneer walls. The Georgian Revival style used in the building is seen in the symmetry of the north elevation; the classical stone trim over the entry door; the denticulated trim of the entry gable; the oculus window in the front and end gables; and the large windows topped with tapered stone keystones. The building is 116 feet wide by 156 feet deep; the Dining Room extends across the full width of the building with the kitchen located to the rear.

Additions were built on the rear in 1955, but they are not visible from the main elevation on the north. Windows were replaced in 1984 with concurrence of the state historic preservation office. A handicap ramp was added to the east entrance in 1982 with SHPO concurrence.

Building 123 Twelve-Car Garage: 1941 Contributing

Building 123 is a clay-tile block garage that serves the six duplex quarters (Buildings 26-31). It is a contributing resource as evidence of the ongoing modernization of the facility under the Veterans Administration.

Building 124 Ward Building & Administrative Offices (Neuropsychiatric Hospital): 1942-1943 (Photo #47/49) Contributing

Building 124 is a clear demonstration of the Veterans Administration's use of the classically-derived Georgian Revival style for its standardization building design. The symmetry of the main elevation on the east; the temple front treatment of the center pavilion; the heavy stringcourse at the second floor; and the oculus in the center gable are all features of the style. The flatness of the wall surface and the very shallow roof overhang closely relate this building from 1942 to the features of Buildings 15-17 and Building 25 from the 1920s when stylistic standardization was typical of National Home building design.

Building 127 Telephone Exchange Building: 1947 Contributing

The telephone exchange is a small building (356 s.f.), but it demonstrates the ongoing modernization of the facility in support of the care of the veterans.

Building 135 Pump House: 1958 Non-contributing

The pump house does not meet the fifty-year requirement.

Building 136 Water Tank Tower: 1956 Non-contributing

The water tower is a non-contributing structure because it does not meet the fifty-year requirement.

Building 137 Equipment and Material Storage: 1951 Non-contributing

This storage building does not meet the fifty-year requirement.

Building 138	Ward Building & Administrative Office: 1958	Non-contributing

This large (115,635 s.f.) medical treatment building does not meet the fifty-year requirement.

Building 139	Pump House, Well No.4: 1957	Non-contributing

The building does not meet the fifty-year requirement.

Building 144	Smoke Stack: 1933-1934 (Photo #42/49)	Contributing

The 175-foot radial brick stack has a minimum diameter of 9 feet. The structure is a contributing resource through its association with the boiler house (Building 76).

Building 146	Cemetery Memorial Monument: 1900 (Photo #48/49)	Contributing

The stone and bronze statue is an object which contributes to the significance of the historic district. It is a replica of the 2nd Minnesota Infantry Regiment Monument on the Chickamauga Battlefield. It stands in the center of a circular drive at the east end of Chapman Avenue. It is placed between the original (1890s) souther portion of the cemetery and the 1920s cemetery expansion to the north. The grouping of three Union soldiers in battle clearly relates to the areas of significance of the historic district.

The following buildings do not meet the fifty-year requirement for the National Register of Historic Places:

Building 149	Transformer House: 1969	Non-contributing
Building 150	Comfort Station: 1970	Non-contributing

Building 153	Shelter House: 1976	Non-contributing
Building 155	Bandstand: 1981	Non-contributing

The bandstand is a non-contributing structure because it does not meet the fifty-year requirement. However, it is located close to the site of the original bandstand.

Building 165	Equipment Storage: 1979	Non-contributing
Building 170	Fire Station: 1985	Non-contributing
Building 172	Geropsychiatric Building: 1996	Non-contributing
Building 173	Greenhouse and Storage: 1986	Non-contributing
Building 174	Dietetics Building: 1996	Non-contributing
Building 175	Electrical Building: 1996	Non-contributing
Building T504	Paint Shop: 1947	Non-contributing

Although it meets the fifty-year requirement, the Paint Ship was erected as a temporary building; therefore its cannot be considered a contributing resource.

Building T516	Storage: 1947	Non-contributing

As with Building T504, this quonset hut was erected as a temporary building.

Site Marion National Cemetery: 1890 Contributing

The 61.5-acre Marion National Cemetery received its first interment in May, 1890. The original portion of the cemetery was laid out in a series of concentric pathways in the southern portion of the vacant east side of the grounds. By the 1920s, the need for more burial space resulted in the expansion of the cemetery onto the farm land in the northeast area of the grounds. The northern portion was laid out in a more formal grid arrangement with three parallel north-south roads and a cross road that connects the three. The symbolic focus of the cemetery is the statue (Building 146) of Civil War soldiers that stands in the roadway circle at the end of Chapman Avenue. This circle marks the point at which the original cemetery expanded to the north.

Object Remember the Maine Memorial: 1901 Contributing

There are a number of small memorial monuments scattered around the grounds of the Marion Branch historic district, but for the most part they are only plaques mounted on large stones. Examples of these are the plaque with the Gettysburg Address on the north side of the Library (Building 49), a concrete bench in Steele Circle dedicated to Gold Star Mothers, and a plaque north of the abandoned Greenhouse (Building 62) commemorating Vietnam veterans with a the development of a small park area. These objects are not included as resources due to their small scale and lack of artistic or historical significance. However, the Maine Monument is large, is prominently located, and does have historical significance in its use of a 500-pound shell from the wreck of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor.

The Maine Monument is located east of the intersection of McMahon Avenue, the entry road, and Steele Circle Drive, and west of Building 33. It is a concrete stele, approximately 5 feet high, and is inscribed with the donor's identity. The shell is placed vertically at the base of the west side.

The following buildings within the Marion Branch historic district were not counted as resources even though they have been designated as buildings by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For the most part, these buildings serve as electrical and mechanical equipment for Buildings 138, 172, 174, and 175.

Buildings 166-169 and 171, Emergency Generators
Buildings 176-177 and 181, Electrical Equipment
Building 180, Cooling Tower
Buildings 1183 and 184, Smoking Shelters

PHOTOGRAPHS

Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District
Grant County, Indiana

Photographer:	Nancy J. Hubbard
Date of photographs:	March 21, 1998 (exceptions are Photo #48/49 and Photo #49/49, May 11, 1998)
Negatives found at:	Nancy J. Hubbard, Preservation Consultant 1407 Elmwood Avenue Wilmette, IL 60091 847-256-3406

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

PHOTO #	BUILDING/VIEW
1/49	Building 1, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation on McMahon Avenue View from northwest
2/49	Building 6, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation on Black Road View from southwest
3/49	Building 4, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation on Black Road View from southwest
4/49	Building 5, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation on Black Road View from southwest
5/49	Building 2, Ward Building (Barracks) Rear/east elevation on Black Road View from southeast
6/49	Building 3, Ward Building (Barracks) Rear/east elevation on Black Road View from southeast

7/49	Building 7, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation on Flower Street View from southwest
8/49	Building 8, Gymnasium North elevation View from north
9/49	Building 9, Occupational Therapy Building North and east elevations View from northeast
10/49	Building 10, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/west elevation (beyond enclosed passageway) View from west
11/49	Building 11, Ward Building (Barracks) North elevation on Nelson Avenue View from northeast
12/49	Building 12, Offices (Barracks) Front/east elevation on Chapman Avenue View from southeast
13/49	Building 13, Nursing and Medical Education Library Front/north and east elevations View from northeast
14/49	Buildings 15 (right), 16 (middle), and 17 (left), Ward Buildings/Administrative Offices North and east/front elevations on McMahon Avenue View from northeast
15/49	Building 17 Ward Building (16 middle; 15 right) South elevation to Water Street and east/front elevation on McMahon Avenue View from southeast
16/49	Building 18, Ward Building (Barracks) Front/north elevation on Chapman Avenue View from northeast

17/49 Building 19, Credit Union/Barber Shop/vacant (Hospital)
Front/west elevation on Steele Circle Drive
View from west

18/49 Building 20 (left), vacant (Hospital Annex)
Building 140 (small building in middle), Trash House
Building 121 (right), Garage (Morgue)
North and east elevations
View from the northeast

19/49 Building 21, vacant (Hospital, North Wing)
West elevation on Steele Circle Drive
View from northwest

20/49 Building 22, vacant (Hospital, South Wing)
West elevation on Steele Circle Drive
View from southwest

21/49 Building 22, vacant (Hospital, South Wing)
East elevation to Flower Street
View from east

22/49 Building 24, Ward Building (Barracks)
South elevation on Chapman Avenue
View from southeast

23/49 Building 25, Ward Building (Hospital Annex)
Front/west elevation on Flower Street and south elevation
View from southwest

24/49 Building 27, Duplex Quarters
Front/south elevation on McMahon Avenue
View from southwest

25/49 Building 32, Single Quarters
Front/south elevation
View from southwest

26/49 Building 33, Duplex Quarters
Front/south elevation
View from southwest

27/49 Building 34, Single Quarters (Governor's House)
Front/south elevation
View from southwest

28/49 Building 35, Single Quarters
Southwest elevation
View from southwest

29/49 Building 36, Single Quarters
Southwest elevation
View from southeast

30/49 Building 37, Single Quarters
Southwest elevation
View from southwest

31/49 Building 38, Single Quarters
Southwest elevation
View from southwest

32/49 Building 42, Transportation Office
Front/north elevation on Orchard Avenue and east elevation
View from northwest

33/49 Building 47, Stinson Memorial Theater
Front/north elevation on Nelson Avenue and west elevation
View from northwest

34/49 Building 49, John Nelson Library
Front/north elevation on Nelson Avenue
View from northeast

35/49 Building 50, Canteen (Headquarters)
Front/north elevation on Nelson Avenue and west elevation
View from northwest

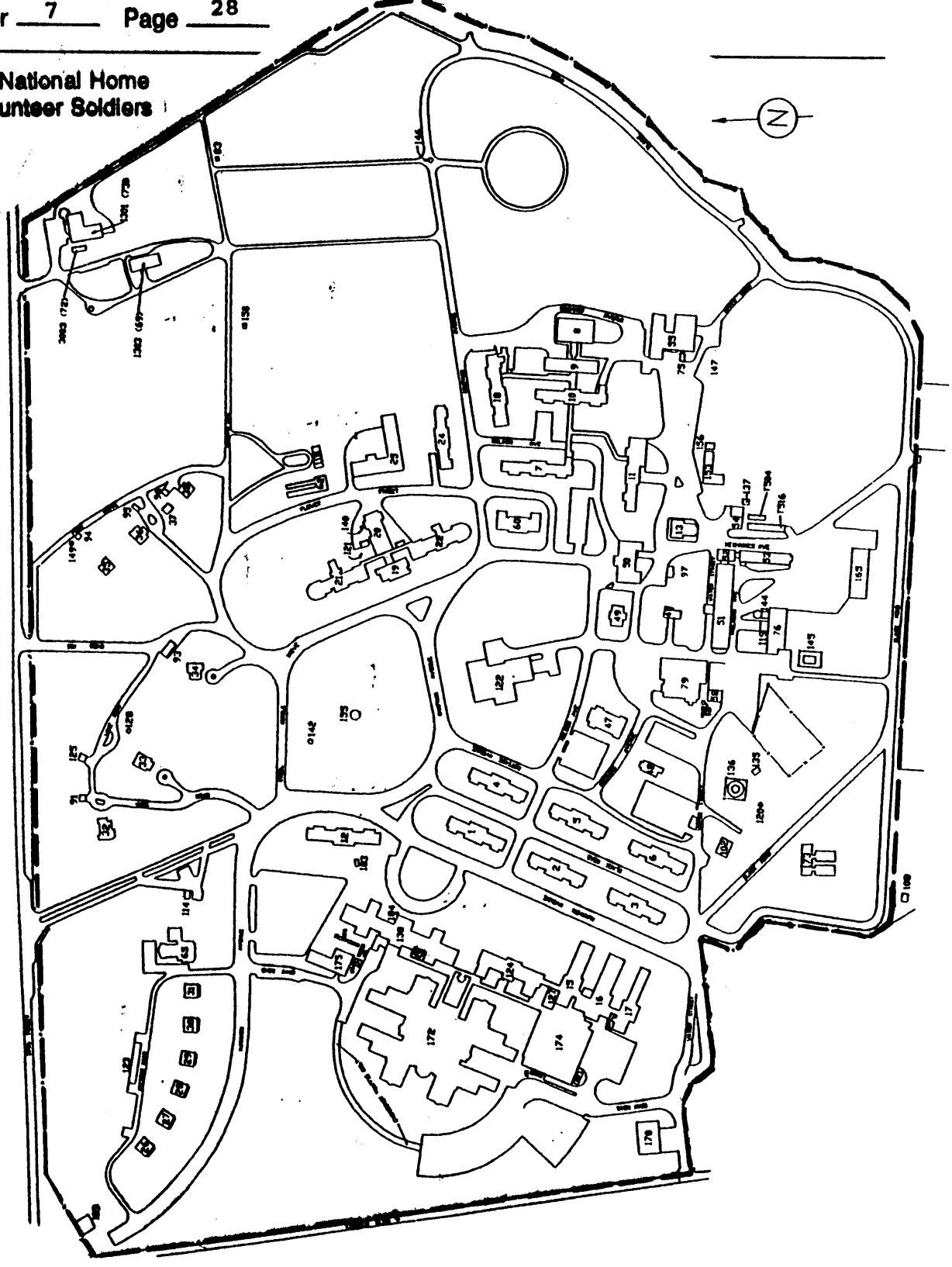
36/49	Building 60, Administrative Offices/Educational Therapy (Medical Treatment) Front/west elevation on Steele Circle Drive and south elevation View from southwest
37/49	Building 65, Chapel Front/south elevation on McMahon Avenue and east elevation View from southeast
38/49	Building 65, Chapel West elevation View from northwest
39/49	Building 69, Cemetery Storage (Barn) West and south elevations View from southwest
40/49	Building 69, Cemetery Storage (Barn) East and north elevations View from northeast
41/49	Building 73, Cemetery Office (Barn) Front/north elevation to 38th Street and west elevation View from northwest
42/49	Building 76, Power Plant Building 144, Smoke Stack East and south elevations View from southeast
43/49	Building 102, Duplex Quarters West elevation View from northwest
44/49	Former entrance and Building 105 (left), Gate House Southeast corner of 38th Street and Lincoln Boulevard View from northwest

45/49	Building 105, Gate House Front/west and south elevations View from southwest
46/40	Building 122, Main Mess Hall and Kitchen Front/north elevation on Chapman Avenue View from northeast
47/49	Building 124, East elevation on McMahon Avenue View from northeast
48/49	Building 146, Cemetery Memorial Monument West elevation on east end of Chapman Avenue View from west
49/49	Remember the Maine Monument West side facing intersection of McMahon Avenue and entrance road View from southwest

Marion Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District

Historic District Boundary

Not to scale



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is significant at the local and state levels under Criterion A in the areas of politics/government and health/medicine as an exemplary step in the evolution of the Federal government's care for veterans. From its origins as a mixed domiciliary-hospital facility in 1890, providing housing and medical care to aging Civil War veterans, to its present role as a neuropsychiatric hospital open to all eligible veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility at Marion, Indiana, originally established as the Marion Branch, illustrates a comprehensive approach to health care of veterans by the Federal government.

The Marion Branch is significant at the local and state levels under Criterion C for architecture as a historic district representing an institutional type, a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Numerous good examples of historic building styles, such as Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Georgian Revival are found in the historic district. The surviving site design illustrates the original desire by the Board of Managers of the National Home to create park-like grounds that would be a therapeutic natural environment for the veterans as well as a social and recreational gathering spot for the local community.

The period of significance for the Marion Branch Historic District is 1890 to 1948, which begins with its date of origin in the establishment of the branch and ends in the arbitrary fifty-year eligibility date as required by the National Register of Historic Places. The Marion Branch has had several phases of development and construction, reflecting the institution's continuous use as a health care facility for veterans. All the buildings, structures, objects, and sites that contribute to the historic district relate to the original purpose of the Marion Branch of the National Home, and date from the period of significance, beginning with the first construction in 1889-1890 and ending with 1948, the 50-year exclusion set by the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration G.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established on March 3, 1865, to provide care for volunteer soldiers who had been disabled through loss of limb, wounds, disease, or injury during service in the Union forces in 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 what was then still considered the northwest, the present upper Midwest. 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, producing a new veteran population of over five million men and women, 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, the Korean War, and the war in Vietnam 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.(1) However, the term had negative connotations which the Board of Managers, in the early years of the National Asylum, did not want attached by the deserving disabled veterans of the Union army. In January, 1873, the name of the institution was changed to 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 benefitted 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 National 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.(2) 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.(3) 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.

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. The Soldiers' Home was managed by a board of commissioners, although drawn from army officers; each branch had a governor, deputy governor, and secretary-treasure; the members were organized into companies and the daily routine followed the military schedule; all members wore uniforms; and workshops were provided for members wanting or required to

work.(4) When the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was being organized in 1866, the National Soldiers' Home assisted the asylum's board by explaining its regulations and offering suggestions.(5)

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.(6) 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.(7) Other groups were as strongly in favor of the establishment of a soldiers' asylum as the Sanitary Commission as opposed to the concept. All the groups gathered information on European military asylums, particularly the Invalides in Paris, to use in either opposing or supporting the creation of a disabled volunteer soldiers' asylum.(8)

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 an national institution to serve the defenders of the Union was an affirmation of that national victory. 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.(9) If the number of men who were disabled in service through loss of limb, wounds, or disease equaled the sixth that died in the war, the number eligible for admission to the National Asylum would have been over 300,000.(10)

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 100-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 managers of the Asylum looked to past models and local efforts to guide the creation of the new institution.

The Board of Managers of the National Asylum met for the first time in Washington, DC, on May 16, 1866. The principal concern of the board was the selection of sites for the three branches of the national institution, based on geographic distribution. They 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.(11) 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 , 1866, Board meeting, General Benjamin Butler, the president of the Board, proposed the purchase of a bankrupt resort at Togus, Maine, near Augusta, as the eastern branch of the Asylum. In regards to a Milwaukee location for a northwestern branch, the Board directed that an Executive Committee visit the city to select a site. Possible locations for a central branch were discussed.

At the December 7, 1866, meeting of the Board, the Executive Committee announced its approval of a Milwaukee location, and was directed by the Board to return to Milwaukee to purchase a site and make arrangements for the construction of asylum buildings and the transfer of veterans currently housed in the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee, operated by the Lady Managers of the Home Society.(12) 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. The Central Branch location, near Dayton, was not selected until September, 1867.

The selection of the sites for the three branches was based on three motivations: practical, political, and economic. First, 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, had a sufficient number of the appropriate type of buildings for housing the disabled veterans. The Central Branch site at Dayton satisfied the powerful Ohio faction in Congress, as well as the numerous Union generals from Ohio, particularly William Tecumseh Sherman. The Northwestern Branch at Milwaukee had been a economic success for the Board of Managers which had received a large cash donation from the Ladies Managers to purchase a site and have funds left to begin construction.

As the first buildings at the Northwestern Branch were being completed in 1867-1869, the Board of Managers acknowledged a rapid increase in membership by concentrating building efforts at the Central Branch, and in rebuilding facilities at the Eastern Branch which had been destroyed by fire in 1868. Even though membership had increased in the first few years the Asylum was open, the Board felt membership would soon begin to decline. The Board based this opinion on the belief that any veteran who needed the Asylum had already entered it, and that as members regained their health or learned new work skills, they would leave the Asylum. In 1868, the Board adopted a resolution that limited the number of branches to the three existing ones.(13) However, problems with the construction of the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch and concern over the harsh winters at both the Northwestern and Eastern Branches led the Board to open a fourth branch in 1870, at a site in a warmer climate, with existing buildings for immediate use.

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.(14) 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 the increasing permanence of the institution and its membership. In 1875, the Board's report to Congress stressed the need for the construction of larger accommodations as quickly as possible.(15) The Home's growth projections by the Board showed an eventual decline in its early 1870s population due to an increase in death rate, but that this decline would be offset as more and more aging veterans applying for admission in the late 1870s and early 1880s.(16) Major construction projects began to be undertaken at the four branches in 1875, in part to provide more housing, but also to provide more hospital facilities to meet the changing medical needs of the members.

Statistics from the branches for the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, show that the 50 to 70-year age group 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%.(17) 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.(18) 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 admission to the Home by allowing benefits to all destitute soldiers unable to earn a living, without having to trace their disabilities to their military service.(19) 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.(20) 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.(21)

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.(22)

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 its organic law, or it could discharge a large number of members to save on expenses.(23)

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 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 surgeons suggested that new branches were a better solution than enlarging the older ones. They also recommended that certain diseases would benefit from treatment at the various branches. The establishment of new branches in the west and on the Pacific coast also limited the expansion of the older branches.

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.(24) 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 to the problem.(25) 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.(26) Additionally, Congress passed legislation to provide $ 100 annually for every veteran eligible for the National Home that 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 specialized 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 estab-

lished at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1907, as 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 was directed to these three new branches between 1900 and 1910.

In 1916, the Board of Managers believed that membership had begun to decline. Considering Civil War participants to have been between 13 and 43 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 State 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.

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 payouts.(27) 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 W.R.I. beneficiaries.(28)

Immediately after the war, the National Home made several changes in its organization to accommodate the large number of returning veterans by 1) transforming the facilities of two branches into hospitals and categorizing them for specialized care (Marion for neuropsychiatric cases and Mountain for tuberculosis); 2) modernizing existing facilities and establishing tuberculosis wards (Central and Pacific); and 3) building entirely new hospitals (Northwestern), using funding from the Treasury Department.(29)

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 veterans hospitals operated by the Public Health Service as well as nine under construction by the Treasury Department.(30) 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.(31) The Board noted that hospital care costs were almost three times the cost of domiciliary care and required large capital investments in hospitals, medical equipment, and professional staff. By 1928, the Board concluded that it was not capable of managing the National Home as a national medical service.(32) In June, 1929, the president of the Board of Managers was named to the Federal Commission for Consideration of Government Activities Dealing with Veterans' Matters; the work of this commission resulted in the creation of Veterans Administration.

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." In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt's relief programs put a temporary hold on funding for Veterans Administration construction projects. Two years later, in August, 1935, plans were announced for a $ 20,000,000 building program for the Veterans Administration. Several of the former National Home branches received funding for new medical treatment buildings, domiciliaries, storage buildings, and garages for staff quarters.

On December 7, 1941, another war brought a new period of change to the former National Home when an even larger number of citizens were called upon for military service. To meet the demand for services after World War II, and later the Korean and Vietnam wars, the former branches of the National Home were expanded and adapted once again to serve veterans.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: MARION BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

The area of Marion, Indiana, was first settled in 1826, with the original town plat prepared in 1831. It was incorporated as a town in 1838, and as a city in 1889. The growth of Marion had been slow between the 1830s and the 1880s, but with the discovery of natural gas in east central Indiana, Marion became a boom town. A major event in the growth of Marion in the 1880s and 1890s was the establishment of the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Just as Marion, Indiana, was growing in the 1880s, so was the National Home with the creation of the Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1884, and the Pacific Branch in Santa Monica, California, in 1888.

The selection of Marion as a site for a new branch of the National Home was due to two factors: the availability of natural gas as a cheap, abundant fuel for the branch, and the political activities of George W. Steele, Sr., the Congressional representative from Marion.

In 1876, coal drillers had discovered natural gas near Eaton, Indiana, 20 miles southeast of Marion. However, at the time, no economic value was seen in natural gas, so the well was capped. In 1884, natural gas was discovered near Findlay, Ohio, in what came to be called the Trenton Gas Field. As a result of this discovery,

promoters from Findlay attracted numerous industries that required high heat for manufacturing, such as glassmaking. Findlay became a boom town between 1884 and 1886, when the gas supply began to give out.(33)

In 1886, the Eaton well was reopened, and the Indiana gas industry began, with overnight prosperity in east central Indiana. Natural gas was discovered at Marion in January, 1887. The Indiana gas belt was located northeast of Indianapolis to south of Fort Wayne, and centered on the cities of Anderson, Muncie, Marion, and Kokomo. By 1897, 5,400 wells had been drilled in the area, making it the largest gas field in the United States at that time. Between 1886 and 1893, some 300 factories had been built in the Indiana gas belt, with an investment of over $300 million.(34)

Natural gas was an ideal energy source for industries requiring high heat as well as an economical fuel source for heating large buildings, especially where a uniform temperature was desired. The buildings of a branch of the National Home had just those needs for heating. Use of natural gas was localized for much of the 1890s owing to the difficulty in transporting the fuel beyond the immediate area of the source. Natural gas is predominately methane, a highly flammable gas, that expands when it reaches the earth's surface; therefore, natural gas must be in sealed, pressurized reservoirs or pipes. From the late 1890s to the 1920s, transport of natural gas was possible for only 100 miles from a source; after the late 1920s, gas piping technology had improved to allow long-distance transport. As a result, industries and institutions using natural gas in the late 1880s and 1890s had to locate at the source of natural gas, rather than have the gas brought to them.

The existence of the Marion Branch was due, in great part to the leadership of George Steele, Sr. of Marion, who represented the 11th Congressional District of Indiana from 1880 to 1890. Steele was born in Fayette County, Indiana, in 1839, and was a graduate of Ohio State University. He served in the Union Army for the full four years of the Civil War, rising in rank to lieutenant colonel in June, 1863. After the war, he remained in the Army until 1876, serving in California and on the upper Missouri River. He returned to Marion in 1875, and worked in the pork-packing business. He was elected to Congress in 1880, and served five terms in the House of Representatives. During his last term, he introduced legislation to

establish a branch of the National Home in Grant County. In early 1890, Steele became the first president of the First National Bank in Marion. However, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, he took the position of governor of the Oklahoma Territory from mid-1890 to late 1891. Upon his return to Marion in 1894, he was elected Congressional representative for four more terms. In 1904, Steele became the third director of the Marion Branch, moving to the Director's House on the grounds and serving until his retirement in 1915. Steele died in 1922.(35)

In the spring of 1888, Steele introduced a bill in the second session of the 51st Congress, for authorization to locate a branch of the National Home in Grant County, Indiana. This legislation, approved on July 23, 1888, required a tract of land of at least 200 acres with a natural gas well or wells on the site. The cost of drilling the wells was to be paid by Grant County citizens. Once the site and the gas supply were provided, the Board of Managers would begin construction within six months. The initial Congressional appropriation for the project was $200,000. Approval of Steele's bill was received with great enthusiasm in Marion, where the local newspaper predicted that the expenditure for the branch would total at least $500,000.(36)

By October, 1888, a 220-acre tract had been purchased by a group of local citizens for donation to the Federal government for the National Home site. This tract was located in North Marion in a bend of the Mississinewa River on the "hilliest body of land in Grant County" from which there were views to the east and north as well as south to Marion.(37) However, this site proved to be unacceptable because the natural gas wells drilled on it were inadequate. Other sites were proposed.

In February, 1889, General Lew A. Harris and Colonel J. B. Thomas, serving as advisors to the Board of Managers, visited Marion to inspect possible sites for the branch. On March 2, 1889, the selection of a site along Jonesboro Pike, 2-1/2 miles southeast of town, was announced. The 216.84-acre site was assembled from 76.41 acres on the Geiger farm, purchased on March 28, 1889, and 140.43 acres purchased from Issac Elliott on April 20, 1889.(38) The two tracts were purchased for $26,435.30 or approximately $120 per acre. The Federal government had authorized no more than $90 per acre for the purchase, with local citizens donating the additional

money to secure the facility for Marion.(39) The site was enlarged through three purchases of small tracts in 1894 (19 acres), 1896 (34 acres), and 1897 (29 acres), reaching 298.84 acres at its largest size in 1897.(40)

On May 2, 1889, General Harris demonstrated the gas well on the branch site to the visiting Board of Managers. The Dayton architect, Silas R. Burns, accompanied the Board on this site visit, possibly to explain his design for the facility. The topographical map of the site, prepared by William Neal and Ancil Smith and dated May 7, 1889, shows the locations of the barracks to house 2,500 veterans. Construction began in spring or summer, 1889, with temporary barracks opened to 35 members in November, 1889. Officially, the Marion Branch of the National Home was ready for occupancy on March 18, 1890.(41)

The first buildings which were constructed in 1889-1890 were six barracks (Buildings 1-6), and the original Hospital (Building 19). The hospital was enlarged with an annex and a south wing (Buildings 20 and 22) in 1890. A headquarters building (Building 50) was built in 1891. In 1895, three additional barracks (Buildings 7-9), a general dining hall and kitchen (destroyed by fire in 1937), and Stinson Memorial Hall (Building 47) were constructed. Three new barracks (Buildings 10-12) were completed in 1896. The Chapel (Building 65) was built in 1898.

Enrollment at the Marion Branch during its first twelve years rose steadily from 56 members in 1890, to 518 in its second year (1891) to 1,782 in 1901, and reaching its peak membership before 1921 at 1,796 members. From 1902 to 1919, enrollment declined dramatically to 1,565 members in 1910, 1,235 in 1915, and 1,058 in 1919.(42) Between 1900 and 1921, with reduced demand on the branch, new construction was limited primarily to staff quarters and support buildings (laundry, barns, shops, and storehouses). However, after 1919, the returning veterans of World War I necessitated changes to the National Home.

At the September, 1920, meeting of the Board of Managers, approval was made of a proposal to convert the Marion Branch to a neuropsychiatric institution. Present members of the Marion Branch were transferred to other branches with most going to the Danville and Northwestern (Milwaukee) Branches. On January 1, 1921, the official

name of the Marion Branch was changed to the Marion National Sanitarium, with its primary function being the exclusive care of "nervous and mental patients," who were primarily World War I veterans. By March, 1921, 500 beds were available; by June, 1921, the number of available beds had increased to 1,000. By January 1, 1923, the former Marion Branch was completely a neuropsychiatric hospital, with an average occupancy of 643 patients. The only other neuropsychiatric facility in the National Home was located at the Southern Branch where a 460-bed neuropsychiatric hospital was paired with a 1,416-bed domiciliary.(43)

To support this new role of the Marion Branch, an occupational therapy building (Building 8) was constructed in 1922, and an eighty-bed neuropsychiatric tuberculosis hospital in 1923.(44) Between 1924 and 1929, the average number of patients in the hospital was 1,032, requiring a average staff of 476 employees. During this period, the Marion Sanitarium was the only non-domiciliary facility in the National Home.(45)

With the creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930, the name was changed to the Marion Veterans Administration Hospital. The former Marion Branch continued to expand to meet veterans needs with the construction of a new hospital in 1942-1943, and another in the mid-1950s. Since the late 1940s to the present, the Marion veterans facility has kept growing. In 1993-1994, a new 240-bed, 215,000 s.f. geropsychiatric hospital (Building 172) and a 58,000 s.f. dietetic center (Building 174) were constructed on the west side of the Main Hospital (Buildings 124 and 138) and clinic buildings (Buildings 15, 16, and 17). In 1998, construction began on a new neuropsychiatric hospital located on a site between the original barracks (Buildings 1 and 2) and the hospital (Building 124).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: MARION BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

The design approach of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in the second half of the 19th century borrowed from institutional asylum design and military post construction standards of the period to create a new institutional type, the veterans' home. The Board of Mangers of the National Asylum had a number of models for a veterans' care facility when

they began their work in 1866. European models, such as the Hotel des Invalides in Paris and the 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 of the United States Sailors' Home and the National Soldiers' Home, in the first half of the nineteenth 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, and the foremost authority on the design of hospitals for the insane in the mid-nineteenth century in the United States.(46) Kirkbride was a leading advocate of "moral therapy" for the insane which involved occupational and recreational activities for patients, emphasized outdoor exercise such as walking or gardening, and included social events and church services. In effect, Kirkbride was attempting to cure the insane by treating them as rational people engaged in "rational" activities. This form of treatment required an appropriately rational setting, so Kirkbride designed a model institution with "spacious halls, large and well-furnished parlors, and comfortable chambers" in a building with indoor plumbing and forced-air ventilation.(47) This building was to be set in park-like grounds where the patients could benefit from fresh air, sunshine, and nature in flower gardens and planting beds. He advocated the provision of greenhouses where the patients could occupy themselves as well as supplying the hospital buildings with flowers and plants. Although the disabled veterans who entered the National Asylum, as it was originally called, were not considered insane, Kirkbride's design for the building and grounds of the model asylum did fit the needs of the National Asylum.

Kirkbride's program for the model insane asylum was adopted by the Board of Managers for the first branch of the National Asylum, 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.

While the Northwestern Branch followed Kirkbride's design theories, another approach was taken at the Central Branch. The plan used there 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 grounds and a landscaped park.(48) 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, more buildings constructed, and the sense of community maintained.

While the model for the Central Branch may have been the typical small-town grid plan, it was more closely related to a new design approach to military posts that developed after the Civil War.(49) After the Civil War, the nature of military posts shifted from a fortified to an operational function. As an operations area, the military post became more open in its arrangement, with buildings separated by function, such as barracks for housing, mess halls for dining, hospitals for medical treatment, chapels for religious services, libraries and schools for education, theaters for entertainment, and landscaped gardens and grounds for parades and social events. In effect, the military post itself had taken on the character of a community, albeit military in nature. Considering the military organization of life in the National Asylum, the use of the military post was a logical model to follow in the design of the Asylum, and later National Home, branches.

The decentralized, military-post model, 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 originally 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. The fluidity of these site plans made the grounds more park-like than that found in the grid plan of

the Central Branch, although the Central Branch did have elaborate gardens laid outside its formal grid section.

The original proposed site design for the Marion Branch was published in the Marion Chronicle on February 28, 1890, shortly before the branch opened in March of that year. The site was to be entered at southeast corner of the intersection of what is now 38th Street and Lincoln Boulevard. The entry road, McMahon Avenue, followed the same route that it presently does with a gentle S-curve, first to the south and then to the north, before intersecting with a second road in the middle of the site. This second road was laid out in an arc from the southwest to the southeast portions of the site. A second arc was formed by a rail line that entered the site in the northwest corner, near the present National Cemetery entrance and exited in the southwest corner. Twelve barracks were located at the south end of the interior road. These were arranged in three parts with the southernmost group being three barracks deep, the middle group being four barracks deep, and the northernmost having five barracks. The first two rows of these three groups were constructed, as seen in the grouping of Buildings 1 through 6.

In the proposed 1890 site plan, the headquarters building was to be erected on axis with the entrance road, directly southeast of the intersection of the entrance road and the interior road. A memorial hall was to be located in line with the headquarters building, to its southeast. The hospital was to be built to the northeast of the headquarters building, at the end of a straight road entering the site from 38th Street. The proposed hospital was a Greek cross-shaped building on axis with the road from 38th Street. A six-acre park was planned for the rear of the hospital for use by invalid veterans. Quarters for the branch governor, treasurer, and surgeon (chief medical officer) were to be constructed in a north-south row which would parallel the road from 38th Street to the hospital. A chapel was planned for a location between the headquarters building and the hospital.

The site and building designs were done by the Dayton architectural firm of Peters and Burns.(50) Although very little is known about this firm, it appears to have been active in Dayton until it closed in 1905. The location of the firm in Dayton suggests a close tie with the Central Branch which appears to have functioned as the design office for all the branches until the creation of the

Veterans Bureau in 1921. This connection is reinforced through the work of Schenck & Williams, a prominent Dayton architectural firm between 1906 and 1944, at both the Marion Branch (Building 23, 1921) and the Northwestern Branch (Building 70, a tuberculosis hospital, 1922).

The heart of the proposed plan appears in the present form of Steele Circle. This area is the major circulation center of the road pattern with all roads leading off it to the various sections of the facility. Steele Circle is a transitional area between the living quarters of staff on the north and the veterans' area to the south. It divided what was the original hospital complex on the east (Buildings 19-22) from the domiciliaries (living quarters) of the veterans on the west (Buildings 1-6). Nonresidential and non-medical facilities, such as the headquarters, library, theater, and mess hall were located directly south of Steele Circle, in the area between the hospital on the east and the barracks on the west. The only major buildings outside this arrangement in the 1890 plan and construction in the 1890s were the Chapel (Building 65) and the now-demolished Building 14 on McMahon Avenue.

McMahon Avenue, originally called Black Avenue until 1930, was a wide, tree-lined road between 1890 and 1898 when the Gothic Revival style Chapel (Building 65) was constructed on the north side in 1898. McMahon Hall (Building 14; demolished in 1957 to built Building 138), a classically-detailed brick building, was located directly opposite the Chapel on the south side of Black Avenue. The addition of the Gate House (Building 105) marked the formal entry onto the grounds with its construction in 1897. The six Colonial Revival duplex quarters (Buildings 26-31) were not built for another 15 years, in 1921 and 1923. These six buildings, known as Doctors' Row, mark the transition of the branch from a treatment-domiliciary facility to a hospital.

Although the proposed plan was not realized in its entirety, its basic arrangement, building groupings and location, and landscape features are similar to what was actually constructed and is found today. The entry, marked with the construction of a stone gate house (Building 105) and entry piers, remained in use from 1897 to 1973 when the entrance was moved east on 38th Street to the mid-point of the northern boundary of the site.(51) The entry road that would have terminated in the hospital of the proposed plan remains

in place today between the two rows of quarters (Buildings 32-34 and Buildings 35-38) in the center of the north portion of the site; it is no longer used. A new entry road was constructed in 1973 in the area between the Chapel (Building 65) and Buildings 32-34 (quarters). The arc road from the southwest to the southeast survives in the southern branch of McMahon Avenue; the north loop of Steele Circle and the eastern extension of Indiana Avenue. The original location for the hospital remained the same in the constructed form, but the buildings (Buildings 19-22) were rotated from facing north to facing west. The proposed location for the headquarters building is approximately where the present Mess Hall and Kitchen (Building 122) is located today.

The northern portion of the area left vacant on the east side of the site in the 1890 plan was used for farming until the 1920s. The southern portion of the area was developed as the branch cemetery very soon after the first veterans arrived. The first internment in what became the Marion National Cemetery occurred on May 29, 1890, just two months after the branch opened. The design of the cemetery grounds has two-parts: a circular layout in the original southern half and a grid in the northern half. A visual as well as a symbolic link between the Home and the cemetery was made in 1900 when the Civil War memorial monument (Building 146) was placed at the east end of Chapman Avenue. This monument, a replica of one on the Chickamauga Battlefield in north Georgia, clearly symbolized the sacrifice made by the Civil War veterans being cared for in the National Home. The National Cemetery is a significant feature of the Marion Branch Historic District as a reflection of life in the National Home where veterans who had served their country were cared for in death as well as in life.

The Marion Branch was the last of the branches to be designed in the 19th-century Picturesque landscape style, employing curving roadways, naturalistic groupings of tree and shrub planting, and irregularly-configured green spaces. The designs of the last three branches of the National Home demonstrate a marked formality compared to those of the earlier branches. The initial building program for the Danville Branch consisted of over forty buildings arranged in a formal plan within a large circular road with the mess hall as the center of the circle and barracks staggered along the edge of the circle. All the buildings were done in a classically-derived Georgian Revival style.(52)

The Mountain Branch, which was established in 1903, near Johnson City, Tennessee, had French Chateauesque style buildings, grouped around a central courtyard to give the facility a heightened sense of monumentality. The facility received considerable praise when it was opened, as critics commended the Federal government for funding such a well-worked out scheme.(53) The last of the National Home branches was established at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1907, as the Battle Mountain Sanitarium. The facility was not a branch itself, but a facility open to members at any of nine branches suffering from rheumatism or tuberculosis. The buildings of the sanitarium were done in a Spanish Mission style and were arranged like the spokes of a wheel radiating out from a circular walkway around a interior courtyard.(54)

Development of the Marion Branch of the National Home occurred in four phases. The first phase, between 1889 and 1900, was that of initial construction in which the majority of the significant buildings were built. These buildings included twelve barracks (Buildings 1-6, 1889; Building 7, 1893; Buildings 18 and 24, 1896; Buildings 10-12, 1898); the original hospital and its enlargements (Building 19-22, 1890; Building 60, 1890); headquarters and administrative office buildings (Building 50, 1890; Building 12, 1898; Building 14, 1898/demolished in 1954); and the Stinson Memorial Theater (Building 47, 1891). Several staff quarters were built: duplex quarters for the branch director and chief surgeon (Building 102; 1894); more elaborate quarters for the governor (Building 34, 1896); quarters for the chief surgeon (Building 32, 1896); and quarters for the quartermaster and assistant surgeon (Building 33, 1897). The first mess hall and kitchen (destroyed by fire in 1937); the Chapel (Building 65, 1898-1899); the Gate House (Building 105, 1897), and the first library building (Building 13, 1899) were erected in this period. Only a few support buildings were built: a greenhouse (Building 62, 1892); a barn in the northeast corner of the site (Building 69, 1894); a fire station (Building 41, 1895); a morgue (Building 121, 1895) located on the north side of the hospital annex (Building 20); and a masons' shop (Building 97, 1899).

The veterans' care buildings of this period possess a design consistency, being built of brick with stone foundations and stone detailing, employing simplified Romanesque Revival style as seen in the arched forms and hip roof tower elements of the majority of the

brick buildings. These buildings share a basic elevation design, having a five-part form with a large center pavilion flanked by lower, recessed wings that terminate in end pavilions which repeat the form of the center pavilion on a smaller scale. Although the stylistic details of these buildings do vary from a low level on the barracks to more detail (i.e. elliptical transoms windows) in the hospital, the basic configuration of the buildings does not change. Most of these buildings originally had two-story wood porches off their ends as well as a one-story porch across their fronts; these were removed as they deteriorated.

The Chapel was done in a Late Gothic Revival style with a steeply pitched, massive roof; pointed arch window openings; corner buttresses; and contrasting brick wall surfaces and stone trim. The building houses two separate chapels: a Protestant chapel along the south side, aligned east-west; and a Catholic chapel on the north side of the building, aligned north-south. Both chapels share a common entry on the southeast corner of the building, with the narthex inside the entry giving access on the west to the Protestant chapel and on the north to the Catholic chapel. The large gable on the south elevation of the Chapel marks the ridge of the roof of the Catholic chapel on the north side; a tower at the junction of this ridge with that of the Protestant chapel roof links the two separate chapels together in the building's overall form.

The staff quarters of this period were built in wood (wood frame and siding) and in the Queen Anne style, both traditionally associated with residential architecture of the 1890s. The Governor's House (Building 34) is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style in its decorative shingle treatment, multiple roof forms, and Palladian windows.

The second phase from 1900 to 1921 was a period of completing the work of the first phase through the construction of the support facilities, such as shops, warehouses, barns, and garages for staff quarters. The only significant buildings erected during this phase were the Library (Building 49) in 1915, and four single quarters (Buildings 35-37). The use of brick and stone for veterans' care buildings is continued in this period. The style of the Library is Prairie Style as seen in its cubic form, pedestal-like raised basement, and broadly-projecting flat hip roof. The staff quarters

are much simpler residences than those built in the first phase, and are more vernacular in style than the earlier Queen Anne style staff quarters.

The third phase, from 1921 to 1930, marks a dramatic shift in the role of the Marion Branch from a mixed hospital-domiciliary institution to a specialized hospital, a neuropsychiatric treatment facility. In the history of the National Home as a whole, this phase saw significant changes in the organizational structure of veterans' care that culminated with the creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930.

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 W.R.I. beneficiaries. Not only were more hospitals to be constructed, but one or more branches of the National Home were to be converted to specialized hospitals based on recommendations of a committee of medical consultants.(55) It was this committee that recommended that the Marion Branch be converted totally into a neuropsychiatric hospital.

In keeping with the change in function at the Marion Branch, the buildings constructed during this phase were wards for housing patients (Buildings 15-17, 1921; Building 25, 1930), for doing occupational therapy (Building 9, 1923), and for engaging in physical therapy exercises (Building 8, 1923). A neuropsychiatric-tuberculosis hospital was erected in 1921 (demolished in 1965). Quarters for a larger medical staff were required as well, resulting in the six duplex quarters of Doctors' Row (Buildings 27-31, 1921; Building 26, 1923).

The identity of the designers of the buildings in this phase illustrate the transitional nature of the period. Both non-government and government staff architects provided building designs in the 1920s. In 1921, the Dayton firm of Schenck & Williams was commissioned to design the new neuropsychiatric hospital. The designs for new medical treatment buildings

(Buildings 15-17), constructed in 1928, were done by the staff architects of the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1929, Alvin M. Strauss of Fort Wayne designed a new hospital annex (Building 25). Strauss was a prominent architect in Fort Wayne, Indiana, between 1918 to 1958; and was the architect for important Fort Wayne projects such as the Embassy Theater and Indiana Hotel in 1928 (NRHP), the Lincoln Bank Tower in 1930, and the St. Vincent Villa complex in 1932 (NRHP).(56) For the most part, the veterans' care buildings of this period were done in a simple Georgian Revival style with stone quoins, rigid symmetry, and classical detailing. The duplex staff quarters were done in a Colonial Revival style as a more vernacular version of the Georgian Revival style. Both employ symmetrical building organization and low hip roof forms.

The design approach taken in the 1920s and 1930s was one of standardization. For example, the Wadsworth Hospital, built at the Pacific Branch in 1927 (demolished in 1975) was virtually identical to Brown Hospital at the Central Branch, constructed in 1930. Standardization of buildings was not new to the military, having been promoted through army design manuals since the 1870s.(57) For the National Home, standardization allowed the quick delivery of construction documents so that the branches could be enlarged as rapidly as possible to meet the new demands.

The fourth phase, from 1930 to 1948, begins with the creation of the Veterans Administration and ends with the arbitrary 50-year limit on National Register of Historic Places properties. However, 1948 also marks a new phase in the history of the former National Home as the impact of World War II was felt at the former branches as well as in new facilities constructed in the 1930s by the Veterans Administration. During this period at the Marion Branch, work focused for the most part on modernization of the facility with the construction of a new boiler house (Building 76, 1934) and smoke stack (Building 144, 1934) and a new laundry (Building 79, 1939). A new Mess Hall and Kitchen (Building 122, 1938) replaced the original one destroyed by fire in 1937.(58) The hospital function was expanded through the construction of a large treatment facility (Building 124) in 1943. All design work of this period was done by staff architects of the U.S. Treasury Department on assignment to Veterans Administration projects.(59)

When the Veterans Administration was created in 1930, all hospitals of all the various veterans' agencies were consolidated into a single agency. The architects from the Treasury department, but working for the Veterans Bureau, were transferred to the VA. With this transfer came the use of prototypical, standardized building design. Construction at VA sites in the 1940s and 1950s continued to follow this "architectural set," developed in the period between the two world wars. The representative building of the Veterans Administration in the immediate post-World War II period was the 500-bed, high-rise hospital. The VA built at least 20 of these in the 1950s. So that the buildings could be constructed quickly and on a limited budget, the style of these buildings was highly unembellished. Building 134 is an example of this design approach.

While the Marion Branch retains a high degree of integrity, the most notable changes to the original character of the facility have occurred since the mid-1950s with additional hospital construction. Building 14 was demolished for the construction of Building 138 in 1955. The large geropsychiatric building was erected on the west side of Building 124 in 1994; although this building is relatively hidden from within the historic district by Building 124, it is very visible from the exterior of the site on the west. The new Acute Care Building will eliminate the open area originally found on the west side of Buildings 1-3 and maintained with the construction of Building 124. Construction of this building will result in the first significant change in the road pattern since 1890. However, the historic buildings of the district retain their original forms, albeit with the loss of some elements, and the overall organization of the site remains evident.

The Marion Branch of the National for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District continues to reflect a significant national expression of concern for the care of those who have served the country. The design of the buildings and the site of the Marion Branch is evidence of the continuing evolution of that care as a branch of the National Home and as Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the southeast intersection of 38th Street and Lincoln Avenue in the City of Marion, IN; thence easterly along 38th Street approximately 3,100 feet to the intersection of 39th Street and the west edge of the railroad right-of-way, said point being the northeast corner of the original National Home property; then to the southeast approximately 1,250 feet to the top of the bluff at the Mississinewa River; thence southwest along the meander line of the river bluff, approximating a straight line of approximately 1,800 feet; thence west approximately 1,748 feet on the south edge of Black Road to the point where Black Road turns to the north; thence along the outer curb of Black Road to Water Street; thence west along the outer curb of Water Street to the east curb of Lincoln Boulevard; thence in a north-northwesterly direction along the east curb of Lincoln Boulevard, approximately 1,750 feet to the point of beginning at 38th Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The original land assembly made through purchases in 1889, 1894, 1896, and 1897 for the Marion Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers comprised 298.84 acres in the NE 1/4 of Section 20 and the NW 1/4 of Section 21, Township 24 North, Range 8 East, as well as three small tracts in the SE 1/4 of Section 20 and the SW 1/4 of Section 21, Township 24 North, Range 8 East. Currently, the site is 151.1 acres. The boundaries of the Marion Branch historic district contains all 151.1 acres which is the remaining portion of the tracts acquired by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The boundaries are defined to include all resources associated with the period of significance of the Marion Branch historic district.

UTM References

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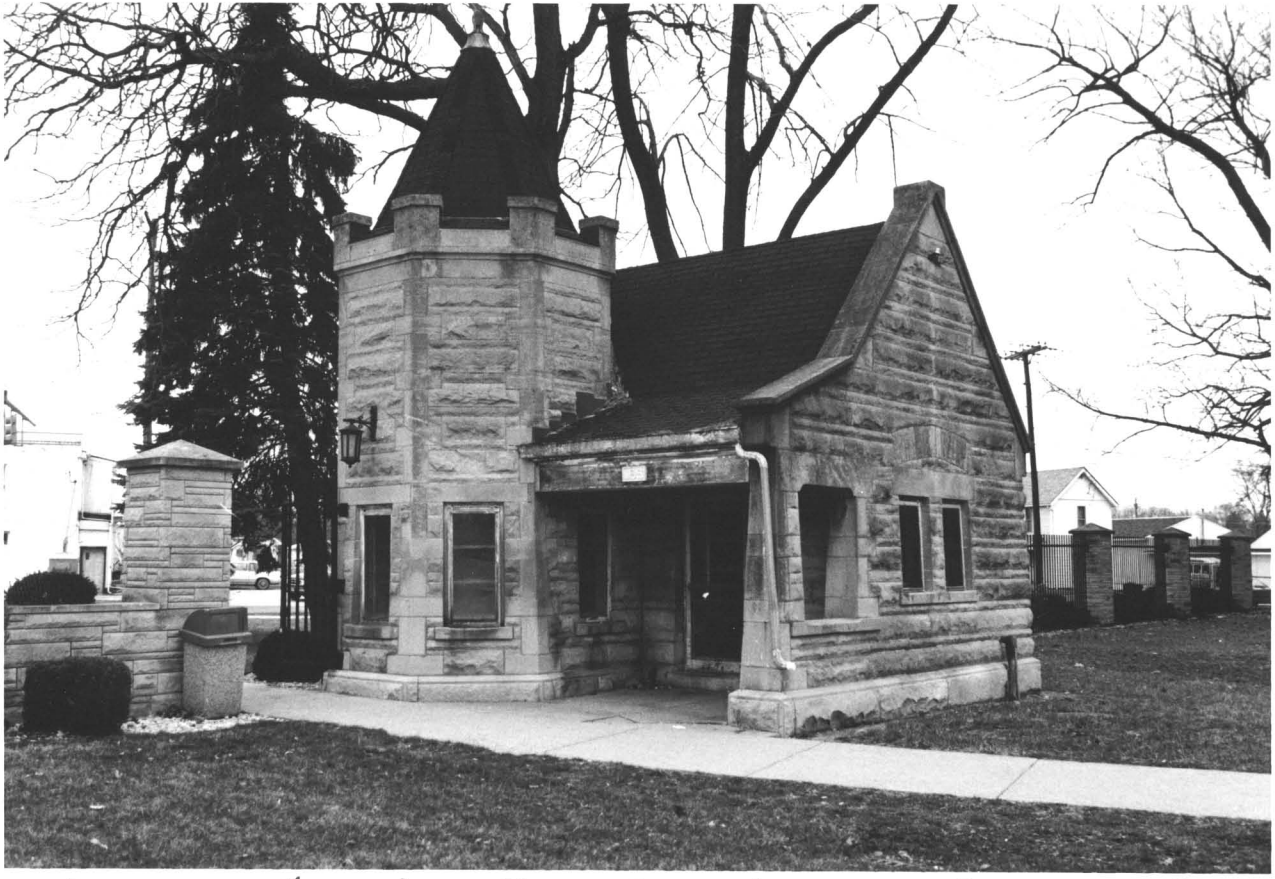

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