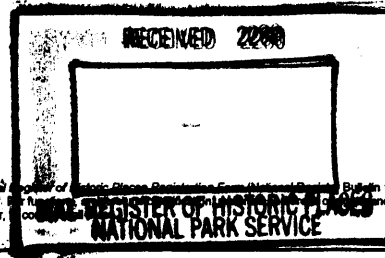


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 15). 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." Do not check "N/A" for items 1 through 10. 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, if available.

1. Name of Property

historic name Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District Amendment

other names/site number Iowa Orphans' Home, Annie Wittenmyer Home, Annie Wittenmyer Complex, Wittenmyer Youth Center

2. Location

street & number 2800 Eastern Ave. marked pages not for publication

city or town Davenport N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Scott code 163 zip code 52803

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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally, (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Donald J. Locke, Deputy SHPO November 1, 2005

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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 of certifying official/Title Date

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): additional Documentation Accepted

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12.1.05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
[] private
[X] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal
Category of Property (Check only one box)
[] building(s)
[X] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing
2 4 buildings
2 sites
1 structures
4 5 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
23

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
EDUCATION/school
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/graves/burials
HEALTHCARE/hospital
RECREATION & CULTURE/auditorium
RECREATION & CULTURE/Sports Facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/horticultural facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/school
RECREATION & CULTURE/theater
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
FUNERARY/graves/burials
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility
FUNERARY/Graves/Burials
GOVERNMENT/Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque Revival
OTHER/English Period Cottage

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE/Limestone
walls BRICK
WOOD/Shingle
roof ASPHALT
other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHEOLOGY/Prehistoric

Period of Significance

1865-1955

800 B.C. - A.D. 400

Significant Dates

1880

1882

1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Early to Middle Woodland

Architect/Builder

Ross, John W.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 31.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1] [5] [7] [0] [3] [8] [5] [0] [4] [6] [0] [2] [5] [6] [0] 2 [1] [5] [7] [0] [4] [2] [4] [0] [4] [6] [0] [2] [5] [6] [0]
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
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Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
[x] 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 Martys A. Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc. and Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Historians, L.L.C.

organization for Family Resources, Inc. of Davenport, Iowa date May 2005

street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road telephone 715/469-3300

city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 City of Davenport

street & number 226 W. 4th Street telephone

city or town Davenport state IA zip code 52801

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

Scott County, IA
State

7. Description

Materials (continued): foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD/weatherboard
STUCCO
roof: METAL/copper

Narrative Description:

The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District occupies a roughly triangular-shaped piece of ground located between the right-of-way of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad along the west and southwest edge, Eastern Avenue on the east side, and 29th Street on the north edge. The amended District nomination currently contains 34 resources: 25 contributing and 9 noncontributing. The 1981 Orphans' Home National Register nomination resource count included 27 resources: 23 contributing (22 buildings and one structure) and 4 noncontributing. Since 1981, two contributing buildings have been razed, two noncontributing buildings have been reevaluated as contributing, one prehistoric site (mound) has been newly identified, one historic site (the Orphans' Home grounds) has been newly identified, and 6 noncontributing buildings and one noncontributing structure (the pool) have been erected. The District is located approximately three miles north of downtown Davenport and the Mississippi River.¹ Duck Creek Parkway is located several blocks north of the District with U.S. Highway 6 or Kimberly Road running east-west approximately a half-mile further to the north. The District site plan appears on the following page.

The areas surrounding the Orphans' Home Historic District comprise a series of distinct land uses that developed over time. The blocks to the south along Eastern Avenue and to the southwest opposite the railroad track include residential subdivisions developed during the 1930s – 1950s. The houses are one, one-and-a-half, and two stories set on narrow, densely landscaped lots. The blocks to the southwest have seen the most change since the 1990s with the expansion of the Genesis Medical Center East Campus. Here, construction of parking lots has extended to the south edge of the District as far as the railroad tracks. The residential blocks located directly to the west remain largely unchanged with a mix of frame and masonry single-family dwellings dating from the 1930s – 1950s. These residences are similar in scale to those to the southwest and south.

North of the District and 29th Street, the Duck Creek Parkway parallels the east-west route of the creek of the same name. A paved trail is located along Duck Creek and connects a series of city parks. Garfield Park lies along the parkway northwest of 29th Street and Eastern Avenue. The blocks further north and to the northeast contain newer residential subdivisions dating from the 1970s – 1980s. Another large open-space feature, Oakdale Memorial Cemetery, extends along the eastern edge of the District. This cemetery contains a series of hilly upland sections stretching south of Duck Creek with a series of meandering drives and both naturalistic and formal landscape

¹The Mississippi River runs east to west through the Quad Cities with Davenport occupying the north (west) bank of the river.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

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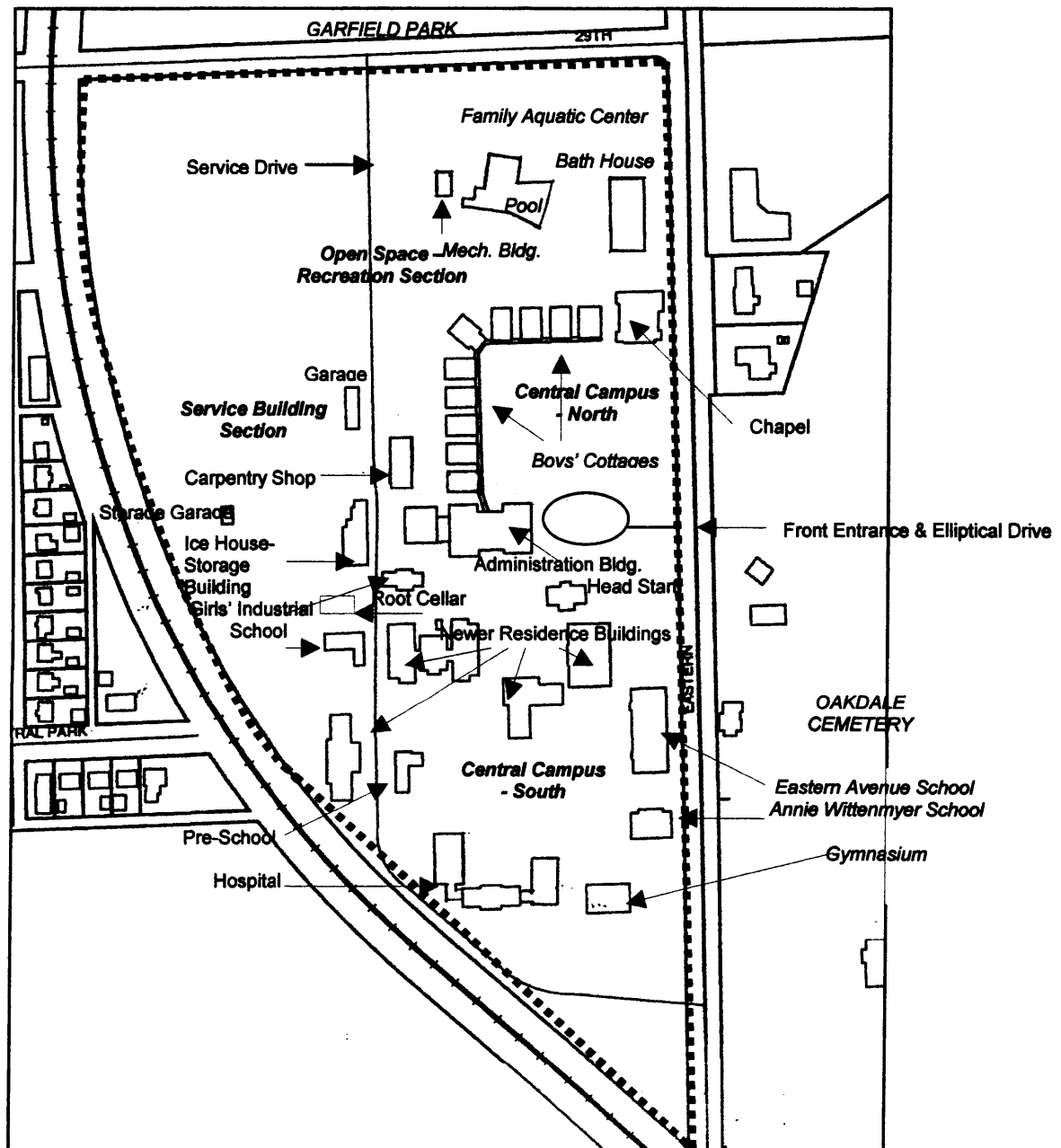
Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

Scott County, IA
State

elements that set off the cemetery's gates, fences, headstones, and statuary.

Site Map - Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District Boundaries, Grounds' Sections, and Selected Buildings: (City of Davenport, Community and Economic Development Department, 2001; modifications made to reflect new construction, 2002-2005)

N↑



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

Scott County, IA
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The grounds of the Orphans' Home Historic District site includes four distinct sections differentiated by building density; formal, informal, and utilitarian placement of buildings; topographic features; land use, and land cover. In 2005, the grounds contain a service building section along the west Oside, the north and south sections of the central campus located between Eastern Avenue and the north-south service road that links Eastern Avenue with 29th Street, and a large open-space and recreation section on the north. Because of the historic development of the site and grounds importance in the "cottage plan" developed for operation of orphanages, the grounds are considered a contributing resource and are described in greater detail below along with descriptions of both contributing and noncontributing buildings.

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Grounds (contributing) – Photos #10, #12, and #13

The grounds for the Orphans' Home (contributing site) were developed over 15 decades beginning with the establishment of Civil War Camp Roberts, later renamed Camp Kinsman, in 1862 and continuing through the present-day use of the site for a host of children's programs. Following establishment of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home in the former campground buildings (all nonextant) in 1865, they were converted to various orphanage uses and gradually replaced with more permanent buildings. In 1881 A.N. Carpenter, a landscape architect from Galesburg, Illinois, completed a landscape plan for the orphanage that incorporated the "cottage plan" of orphanage care into a permanent site plan for new buildings, drives, and plantings. By 1883, only the campground's frame stable (nonextant) remained.

As noted above, the Orphans' Home site is roughly divided into four sections distinguished by building density, placement of buildings, topography, land use, and land cover. The **Service Building Section** extends along a sloping edge of the site west of the service drive that runs on a north-south route through the District before curving to the east to connect Eastern Avenue with 29th Street. The service building section of the site historically contained buildings that provided operational support for the orphanage's physical plant needs. These buildings included the Engine House/Coal Shed/Boiler Plant (nonextant), Carpentry Shop/Maintenance Building (extant), Original Greenhouse (nonextant), second Greenhouse (mostly nonextant), Ice House And Cold Storage Building (extant), Stable (nonextant), Garage (extant), and a collection of barns and smaller agricultural outbuildings (all nonextant). The irregular sloping terrain of this section of the site allowed some buildings to have exposed basement levels with wagon delivery or truck entrances at both the main and lower levels. This arrangement also allowed for the efficient delivery of coal to the Boiler Plant from a short spur (nonextant) that extended from the railroad track. Off-loading of ice from rail cars for transfer to the Ice House was also done from this spur. In 2005, the service building section of the site consists of razed building sites, unpaved and partially paved parking areas, and paved parking and service drives surrounding the extant buildings. One small new metal pole frame building (extant) has been constructed in recent years.

The **Central Campus** is located on a level area paralleling Eastern Avenue. It is elevated above portions of the service building section to the west and all of the open space-recreation section to the north. It was originally laid out with its buildings facing a quadrangle on three-sides. The

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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centerpiece of this arrangement had the Administration Building located midway along the west side with Boys' Cottages (extant) and Girls' Cottages (nonextant) extending to the north and south, respectively, and around the top and bottom of the "E". Larger assembly buildings including an earlier school (nonextant) at the southeast corner and the Chapel (extant) at the northeast corner were built at the terminus of each leg. The upper corner of the "E" contained a cottage that served as a Dormitory (extant) for staff while the lower corner held the original greenhouse (nonextant). In this arrangement, the service building section of the site was located west of the administrative, residential, and assembly buildings. Since ca. 1910, new development on the central campus has been confined to the south half, thus establishing two distinct sections – Central Campus-North and Central Campus-South.

The main public entrance for the Orphans' Home divides the central campus into north and south halves. It extends west from Eastern Avenue and connects with an oval-shaped drive that passes through the Administration Building's porte-cochère. Drives connecting to the oval extend along both the north and south sides of the Administration Building connecting to the service road. The **Central Campus-North** section continues to contain the Administration Building (extant), Boys' Cottages (extant), Hospital-Cottage 20 (extant), and Chapel surrounding a grass-covered lawn. Historic views of this section of the site document the presence of playground equipment in various locations through the years. The area contains scattered ornamental shrubs, shade trees, and concrete walks. The original covered boardwalk connecting the cottages now has a concrete paved surface with the roof-covered walkway preserved and restored.

The **Central Campus-South** extends south from the main public entrance drive to the point where the service drive connects to Eastern Avenue. This level portion of the central campus originally contained the Girls' Cottages (nonextant) as well as a series of school, hospital, and recreation buildings constructed from ca. 1913-1940. In 1970, the Girls' Cottages were razed with the first school razed in 1940 and the receiving hospital and laundry razed at the turn of the 21st century. Construction of larger residential buildings and a paved parking lot occurred in the areas formerly occupied by the cottages during the 1970s-1990s. In 2005, the south half of the central campus continues to retain substantial open space with a series of buildings erected since 1965 widely scattered rather than the formal perimeter placement of buildings in the north half of the central campus. Large shade trees as well as ornamental shrubs and plantings occupy this portion of the campus. The large elms that occupied this portion of the campus and elsewhere were removed in the 1970s. In 2005, the **Central Campus-South** includes the Annie Wittenmyer School (extant), Eastern Avenue School (extant), Hospital/Sanders Building (extant), Gymnasium (extant), Pre-School (extant), Men's Dormitory/ Sewing Building (extant), and a series of newer buildings containing dormitory space and children's services. Of particular note in the south half of the central campus is a prehistoric burial mound.

At the north end of the site is the **Open Space-Recreation Section**, a level lowland that forms part of the Duck Creek flood plain. Approximately 10 acres are included in this area, which continues to remain prone to occasional flooding. This section of the District was historically used as seasonal

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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farmland, pastures, and appears on some site plans as the boys' play field. It eventually was developed with ball fields but retained its capacity to serve as a flood plain for seasonal or flash floods. At the south edge of the play field, a small hospital for contagious diseases (nonextant) was erected prior to 1900. In more recent years the open space-recreation section of the grounds at the southwest corner of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and 29th Street was used as a ball field for the municipal park system. In 2002, construction of the Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center was completed in this area. Its three noncontributing resources are described more fully below.

Building Overview

Extant buildings in the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District fall into five general categories defined by use rather than form or style. These categories include ***Administrative and Assembly Buildings, Residential Buildings, Schools and Hospitals, Recreation, and Maintenance and Support***. All of the buildings save one are of masonry construction. They range in scale from small one-story buildings to three-story blocks with attached wings. Foundations are either ashlar faced and dressed limestone (most common), poured concrete, concrete block, or brick. Walls are either reddish brown-colored brick (most common), dark brown brick, cream-colored glazed brick, tan colored unglazed brick, and tinted concrete block. Abundant windows characterize all of the buildings with window sizes, shapes, and configurations varying, the most common being 4/4 segmental arched double-hung sash. The largest buildings are designed in the Romanesque Revival Style, Colonial Revival Style, and PWA Moderne Style. The residential cottages are examples of simplified Queen Anne Style domestic architecture. Several smaller scale buildings are examples of English Period Cottages. Architects involved in the design of buildings included State-employed architects for the Board of Control as well as competing private architectural firms. A summary list of extant buildings by category appears below followed by full descriptions. Status as contributing or noncontributing resources within the District is also noted for each building.

Building Summary

Administrative and Assembly

- Administration Building, (contributing)
- Chapel, (contributing)

Residential

- Boys' Cottage 2, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 4, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 6, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 8, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 10, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 12, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 14, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 16, (contributing)
- Boys' Cottage 18, (contributing)

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Section Number 7 Page 6

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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-
- Cottage 20/Hospital/Boys' Dormitory, (contributing)
 - Children's Living Unit/Pinewood/Newcomb Building/ Victory House, (noncontributing)
 - Mental Health Unit/Children's Cottage/Shelton Building/S.U.M.M.I.T Building, (noncontributing)
 - Leslie Building, (noncontributing)
 - Boyd Building/Shelton Building, (noncontributing)

Schools and Hospital

- Annie Wittenmyer School/McKibben Building, (contributing)
- School/Eastern Avenue School/Kinsman School, (contributing)
- Girls' Industrial School/Men's Dormitory/Three Purpose Building (contributing)
- Pre-school/Porter Building, (contributing)
- Head Start Building, (noncontributing)
- Hospital/Sanders Building, (contributing)

Recreation

- Gymnasium, (contributing)
- Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center:
 - Swimming Pool, (noncontributing)
 - Mechanical Building, (noncontributing)
 - Bath House, (noncontributing)

Maintenance and Support

- Carpentry Shop/Maintenance Building, (contributing)
- Ice House-Storage Building, (contributing)
- Greenhouse, (contributing)
- Root Cellar, (contributing)
- Garage, (contributing)
- New Garage, (noncontributing)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 7

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

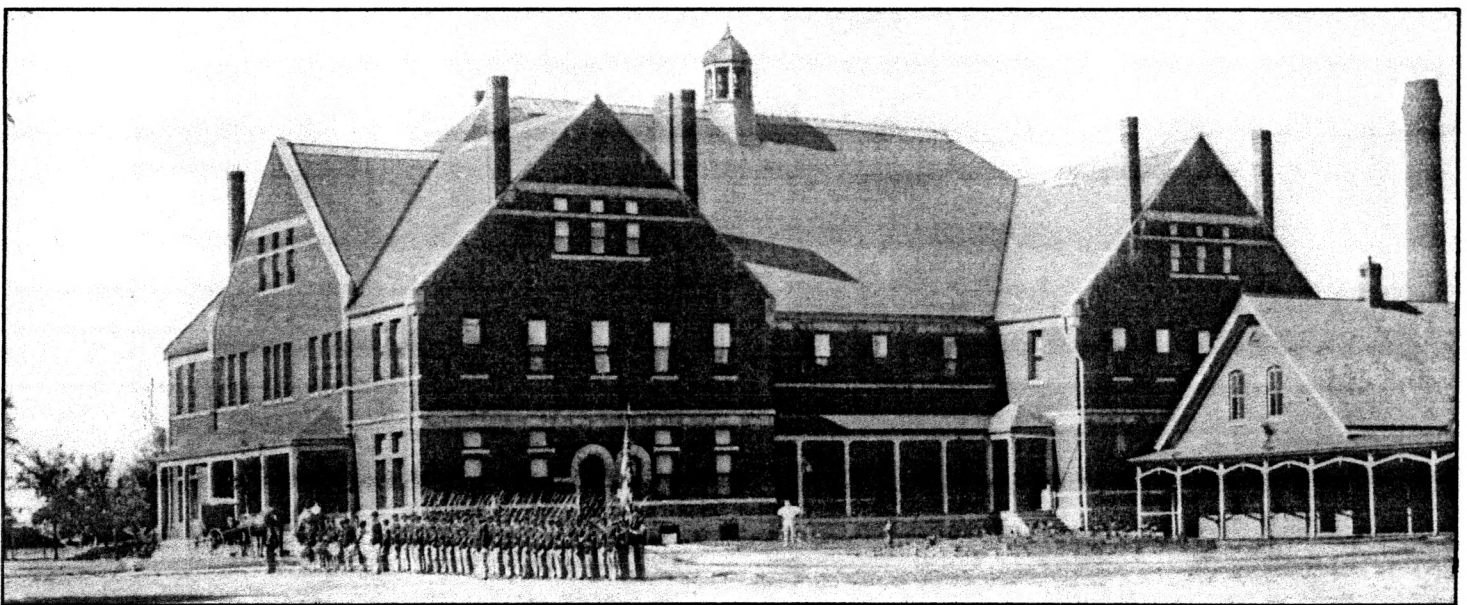
Scott County, IA
State

Administrative and Assembly Buildings

Administration Building (contributing) – Photos #1-#4

- The Administration Building is centrally located on the campus with its front façade facing east and the main entrance accessed off an elliptical drive connecting to Eastern Avenue. The Boys' Cottages are located to the north with service buildings to the west and newer school and residential buildings to the south. The Girls' Cottages (nonextant) and earlier school (nonextant) were originally located to the south and southeast.
- The Administration Building was constructed in 1890-1891 in the Romanesque Revival Style. John W. Ross of Davenport was the architect. The cornerstone date of 1890 appears at the southeast corner of the building.
- Overall shape and size of the building is I-shaped with a rear wing. The main block is approximately 141 feet by 93 feet and the rear wing measures approximately 50 feet by 60 feet.
- Rear wing was originally constructed as a freestanding boiler house and was converted to the laundry in ca. 1892 after a new Engine House/Boiler Room (nonextant) was constructed, and still later, to the central kitchen when a new laundry was built and the kitchen was moved from the basement of the Administration Building's main block to the newly attached wing.

Historic View – Administration Building, 1897: View shown is looking southwest with front of building at the left showing the original, more modest porch; right stack was on rear wing when it operated as the Home's boiler house. (Photo plate from *Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home and Home for Indigent Children*, June 30, 1897)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

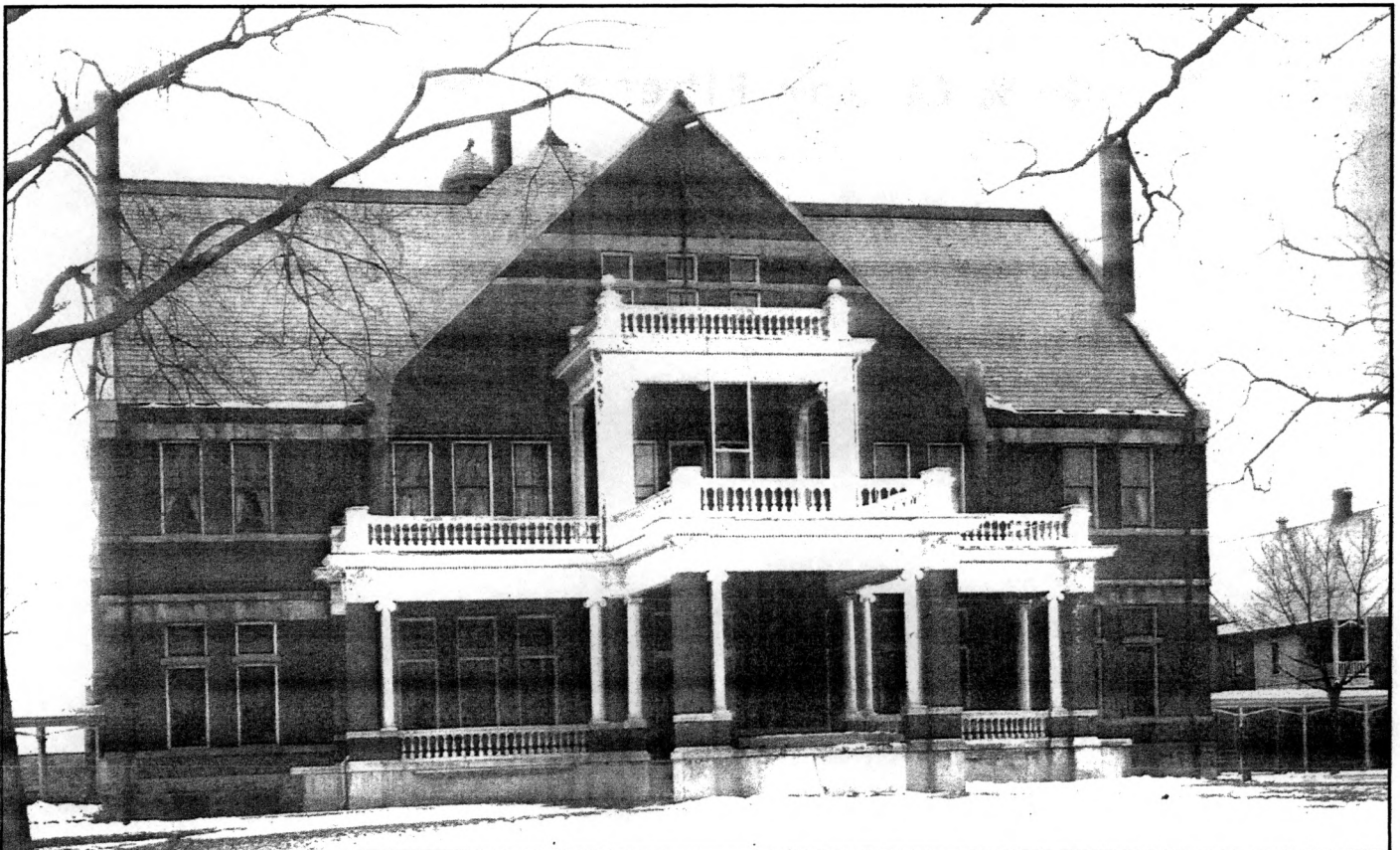
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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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State

- The main block has a complex roof with side gable sections with parapet end walls and stone coping and an intersecting gable that extends through the front and rear creating a parapeted front-gable section. Shed roofed porches face north and south in recessed pockets with the original standing seam copper roof on the north porch. The rear kitchen wing has a mansard roof with gabled attic dormers. The kitchen was attached to main building in ca. 1906 by a two-story connector.
- In the main block, the walls are composed of reddish-brown brick with ashlar faced limestone used for the foundation, beltcourse/window sills, window lintels, entrance surround, beltcourse above transom on first floor windows, both wide and narrow beltcourses between floors (alternating square and rectangular-shaped limestone pieces), sills, lintels, and beltcourses in the gable ends. Use of contrasting smooth brick and rough trim seen here was typical of finishes for walls and trim on Romanesque Revival buildings. The foundation stonework has extruded mortar joints.

Historic View – Administration Building, ca. 1910: View is taken after construction of the new front porch and porte-cochere, which were completed in ca. 1902. (Photograph Collection of Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 9

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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- The east or front façade has a two-story portico with one-story porch wings to either side and a one-story porte-cochère, all replacing the original more modest porch in 1901. H.F. Liebbe, State Architect for the Board of Control, was the architect. The porte-cochère centered on the front has brick columns, both poured concrete and stone column bases. The balustrades have been removed and replaced with wrought iron balustrades with curved fronts on center section of the porte-cochère and each half of porch balustrade. Dentils appear along the upper edge of the cornice and decorative terra cotta relief appears on the outer columns of the porch wings and the porte-cochère. The center bay of the second floor of the portico is enclosed with louvered glass windows and fixed sash transoms and narrow clapboard below. Corner columns have recessed vertical panels and a semi-circular carved top edge and bulls-eye inserts. Dentils are located along the cornice and a flat metal roof tops the portico.
- Fenestration in the in main building includes widely spaced 1/1 double-hung windows and window groups of similar sash, single-light transoms on first floor, stone sills, and lintels on first and third floors with brick jack arches on second floor. Three windows are located to either side of the front entrance with stone sills, 1/1 double-hung sash, transoms, and jack arches. The rear kitchen wing has 4/4 double-hung windows with stone sills and brick segmental arches.
- The front doors have been replaced with flush wood doors. Semi-circular arched openings are located on the south and north façades flanked by stone columns to either side of recessed opening. The side walls for recessed openings are covered in narrow bead board. The original doors have horizontal panels with beveled glass upper sash and single-light transoms above each door.
- The rear kitchen wing was originally built as freestanding boiler house and converted to laundry after the Administration Building was constructed. It was converted again in 1905-06 to the kitchen and connected to main block. The rear wing has a mansard roof with shingle-clad front-gabled attic dormers on the north, west, and south faces. Like the main block, it has reddish-brown brick walls with an ashlar faced limestone foundation. The connecting section between the main block and rear wing has distinctive stepped window openings (five total), each with a semi-circular arch and 1/1 double-hung sash. An elevation drawing for the connecting addition appears on the following page.
- A handicapped access ramp is located at the west end of the south porch. The balustrade is wrought iron. The porch skirting has square latticework with air conditioning condensers located along the front. A second handicapped access ramp is located at the southeast corner and connects to the front porch to provide access to the main entrance.
- The interior of the Administration Building originally housed the kitchen, storerooms, dining room, administrative offices, reception and visiting rooms, and housing for the superintendent's family and female staff. In 2005, the front portion of the building contains vacant offices and rear of the first floor contains a branch public library in former children's dining room. Sections of wide corridor remain with original beaded wainscoting, five-panel doors, and Eastlake Style trim intact. Floors are a combination of terrazzo, tile, and carpet over original tongue-and-groove wood floors.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
Name of Property

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Elevation Drawing, Administration Building, 1905: South façade showing new connection and remodeling of Old Laundry Building (drawing attributed to Office of State Architect, Board of Control, undated – ca. 1905, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library)



Chapel (contributing) – Photos #5, #6, #10, #13:

- The Chapel is located at the northeast corner of the central campus with its front façade facing south. The Boys' Cottages are located in a line to the west with Eastern Avenue down a steep incline to the east.
- It was constructed in 1901 in the Romanesque Revival Style. H.F. Liebbe, State Architect for the Board of Control, was supervising construction architect.
- The two-story Chapel has an exposed basement and measures approximately 90 feet by 105 feet. Its rectangular-shaped mass has slightly recessed and projecting wall sections and corners.
- Its complex roof pattern has a combination of a parapeted flat roof over the main auditorium and three-story bell tower at southeast corner and lower hipped roof sections at the other corners. The original cross-gabled roof over auditorium and pyramid roof over the bell tower were removed in the 1941 remodeling.
- The Chapel has tan-colored brick walls with darker tan-colored brick for trim (arches, corbeling, and quoining) and limestone for the foundation, pediments, and coping.
- The south façade has entrances at each outside corner. Five windows are widely spaced

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across the front wall including a projecting center section. Brick pilasters extend upward from the stone water table and a metal cornice is located above a band of semi-circular arches located at the top of the first floor. Three pairs of small 1/1 or 2/2 double-hung windows with semi-circular arches have a mix of clear and tinted glass with small transoms.

- The bell tower is at the southeast corner and housed the original main entrance. The entrance pediment is constructed of limestone with brick pilasters to either side. Stone trim and mottled tan brick is used for decorative effect. The double doors have four vertical panels with curved tops. Windows in the third floor of the bell tower are clear glass configured in 1/1 double-hung sash. The tower was shortened in 1941.
- The east façade has an irregular wall that extends a height of three levels due to the dramatic slope along Eastern Avenue. The result is a fully exposed basement level foundation that is built of alternating thick and thin rectangular slabs of dressed limestone – approximately 8' tall. The windows have a single course of darker tan brick headers forming the arches. The basement windows are short 2/2 double-hung sash. The larger semi-circular arched windows on the main floor contain tinted art glass and were originally operable.
- The north façade is the most simple of the four sides. It has a fully exposed basement level with the varying heights of the foundation accommodating the slanting downward slope of the ground level towards Eastern Avenue. Windows on this façade are a combination of double-hung and fixed sash, all clear glass. The original rear entrance doors have been replaced with flush wood or metal doors with wire glass lights.
- The west façade faces the row of Boys' Cottages. A new concrete entrance ramp is located at the southwest corner making the double-door access located here the principal entrance. A one-story rectangular projection on the first floor was part of a remodeling likely completed in 1964 when the building's interior spaces were updated and mechanical systems were updated.
- The interior of the Chapel has been modified for use as a children's theater with the former auditorium space containing the stage and seating areas on the main floor, balcony on the second floor, and rooms in the basement for practice, storage, and offices. Concrete stairs fitted with pipe handrails are located in the southwest and southeast corners leading to second floor balcony seats. The theater auditorium's lobby extends along the south wall with restrooms at the east end. All doors and trim were replaced in the 1980s.
- The main auditorium has been updated for performance purposes with a larger stage and new seating placed on graduated tiers leading from the stage up to the rear entrance level. The original raised balconies with Classical Style balustrades are located to either side of new stage with the original semi-circular arched paneled doors set beneath the balconies. Ceiling and upper sections of the auditorium's sidewalls have acoustic tiles glued to their surfaces. The balance of Chapel has simple finishes with five art glass windows on the east and west sides of the auditorium containing blue, red, green and clear glass. An elevation drawing of the original Chapel design appears on the following page.

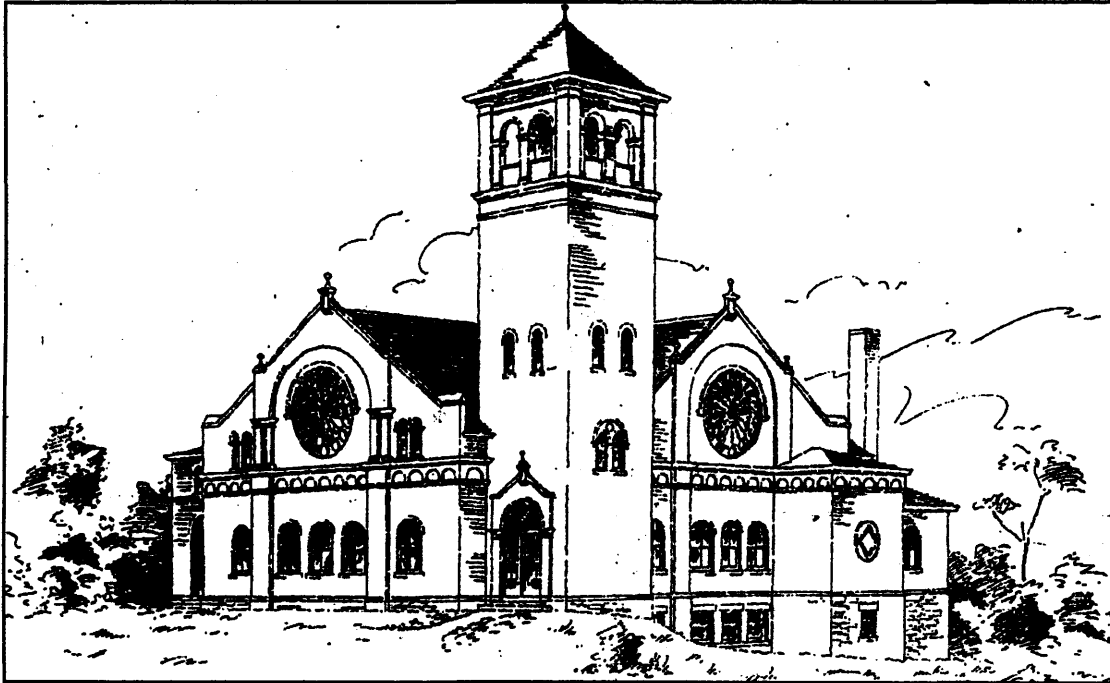
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Historic View – Chapel, 1901: View shown is architectural sketch showing the cross-gable roof and bell tower that were removed in 1941; view is looking northwest (Plate from *Eighteenth Biennial Report of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home*, July 1, 1901)



Residential

Boys' Cottages (all contributing) – Photos #7-#13

- The Boys' Cottages include nine individual buildings arranged in an L-shaped line that extends north of the Administration Building and west of the Chapel.
- Of the nine extant Boys' Cottages, five were built between 1880 and 1882, two were built in 1884, one was built in 1886, and one (Cottage #18) in 1888.²
- All but one cottage were built initially as a one and a half-story building. Cottage #18 was built as a two-story building. A second story was added to the other cottages in 1895

²*Biennial Reports* for the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home from 1876 through 1888 indicate initial construction of a total of 18 cottages as follows:

- 2 built 1876 – both Girls' Cottages (nonextant)
- 8 built 1880 – for both boys and girls
- 2 built 1882 – including 7 Girls' Cottages (nonextant) and 5 Boys' Cottages (extant)
- 2 built 1884 – including 7 Girls' Cottages (nonextant) and 7 Boys' Cottages (extant)
- 2 built 1886 – including 8 Girls' Cottages (nonextant) and 8 Boys' Cottages (extant)
- 2 built 1888 – both new cottages were two-story; of the 18 cottages present, 9 were Girls' Cottages (nonextant) and 9 were Boys' Cottages (extant); Cottage #18 (extant) was first two-story cottage built.

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(Cottages 12, 14 and 16) and in 1896 (Cottages 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). An historic view of the Boys' Cottages taken sometime during the transition to two-story construction appears below. Cottages are approximately 30 feet by 50 feet.

- As enlarged, eight of the nine Boys' Cottages (#2, #4, #6, #8, #10, #12, #14, & #16) are examples of an identical Queen Anne Style "Front-Gabled Roof" house form. Each of these two-story brick cottages is three bays wide and has a steeply pitched front-gable roof with the gable end clad in square-cut shingles in the lower half and fish-scale shingles in the peak, which projects forward slightly above a group of three narrow 1/1 double-hung windows. Cottage #18, which was originally built as a two-story building, has a pyramidal or hipped roof.

Historic View – Boys' Cottages, 1901: View looking northwest across grounds with two-story buildings on right and one and a half-story buildings on left (Plate from *Eighteenth Biennial Report of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home*, July 1, 1901)



- All of the Boys' Cottages are constructed of reddish-brown brick typical of the brick used throughout the Orphans' Home.
- The cottage windows have a 4/4 double-hung configuration with segmental arches consisting of two or three courses of header brick and dressed limestone sills. Original doors were six horizontal panels, most of which have been removed and replaced through the years.
- At the southeast corner of each of the identical cottages, is a recessed porch and second floor balcony. On the first floor, the porch has a concrete deck and no balustrade. On the second floor, the balcony balustrades have closely spaced square balusters with narrow clapboard siding on enclosed portion of the balcony. Some balcony areas have windows in the clapboard sections and access doors into brick wall side.
- All of the cottages share a covered walkway on the main level that appears as a continuous porch or colonnade. The L-shaped walkway measures approximately 560 feet in length. Originally built with a boardwalk, the walkway was converted to concrete sometime in the

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early 20th century.³ In 2003, the covered walkway roof and millwork were rebuilt based on original photographs and replication of original decorative trim. The shed roof was rebuilt with new hollow columns, each with chamfered corners installed on cast concrete bases. Architect for the project was Mark Miller of Rock Island, Illinois with Renaissance Restoration of Davenport serving as general contractor. An alteration in the design of the covered walkway is an extension that connects the walkway to the steps leading to the north porch of the Administration Building.

- Shed roofed rear porches extend across the north and west façades. These were rebuilt in the 1970s with less attention to matching the original dimension of millwork.
- Interior floor plans for the Boys' Cottages originally included a side entrance hall with open staircase leading to the second floor dormitory sleeping area at the rear of the building and the matron's apartment across the front. The main floor contained a parlor, play room, and cloak room. After the turn-of-the-20th century, indoor plumbing was added to the cottages with toilet rooms and lavatories on the first floor and eventually areas for baths. Floor and ceiling finishes were changed through the years with major upgrading completed during the 1950s and 1960s including installation of new staircases in some cottages. A representative floor plan for the Boys' Cottages appears on the following page.
- Sometime prior to 1974, large metal escape tubes were installed along a side wall of each of the cottages to serve as a fire-escape from the second floor dormitory to the ground level.

Cottage No. 20/Hospital/Dormitory (contributing) – Photos #7, #11, #12

- Cottage No. 20, the former hospital, is located at the northwest corner of the L-shaped line of cottages that extends north of Administration Building and west of the Chapel. The building is set at a 45-degree angle facing the open space and is connected by the covered walkway.
- Constructed ca. 1893, this building served as a boys' dormitory during periods of peak enrollment and later as a hospital and housing for the Home's teaching staff.
- The two-story building has a T-plan with small porches on the first floor in the ells and extending along the northeast side. A second floor balcony on the west side is nonextant as is the front-porch roof balustrade. Cottage No. 20 measures approximately 30 feet by 50 feet and is constructed of reddish-brown brick typical of the brick used throughout the Orphans' Home with an ashlar limestone foundation. The building has a low-pitched hipped roof with a flat center section.
- Windows have 4/4 double-hung configuration with segmental arches consisting of two or three courses of header brick and dressed limestone sills.
- In 2005, the former Cottage/Hospital/Dormitory is used as offices.

³Installation of "three hundred (300) feet of permanent concrete walks" is mentioned in the 21st Biennial Report of Superintendent F.J. Sessions of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport, June 30, 1905, p. 11, though the specific walks are not specified.

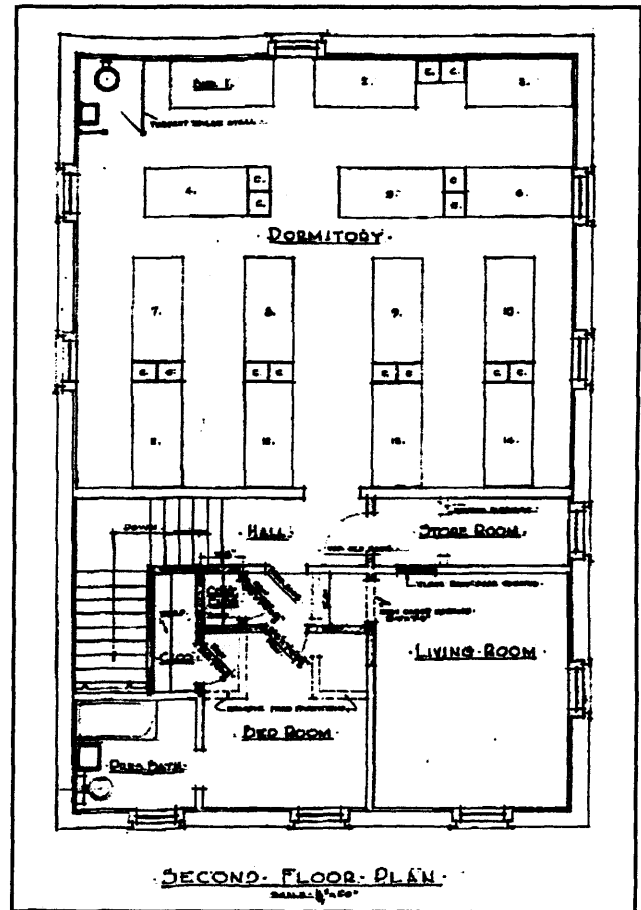
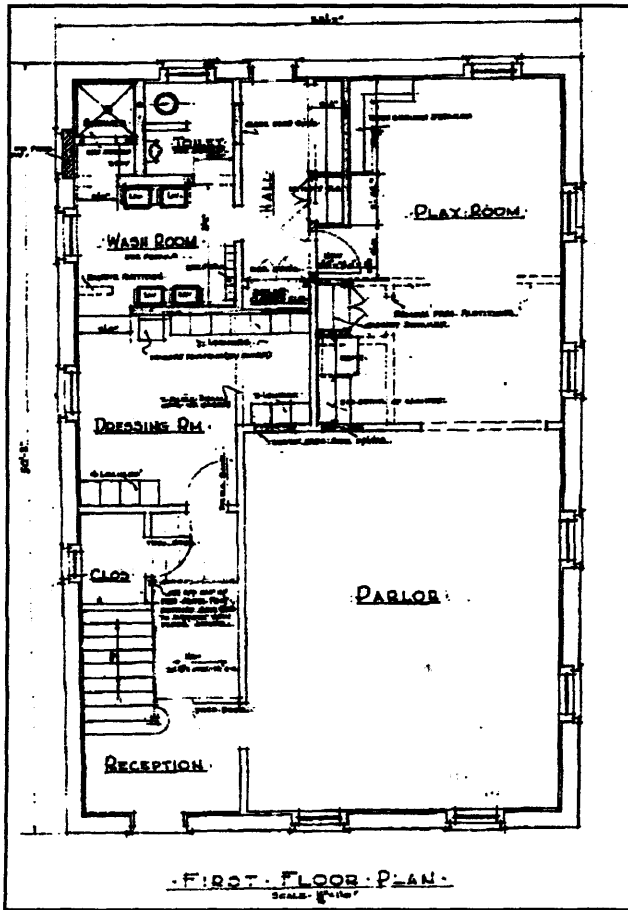
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Floor Plan - Cottage 18, 1953: Plans for first and second floor remodeling of Boys' Cottage 18, first of Boys' Cottages to be remodeled between 1954 and 1964 (1 sheet, original drawing by Ralph Arnold, architect, Board of Control, December 15, 1953)



Mental Health Unit/Children's Cottage/Willowcrest/Shelton Building/S.U.M.M.I.T. Building
(noncontributing) – Photo #16

- The original Mental Health Unit now known as the S.U.M.M.I.T Building is located between the north-south service drive and the railroad right-of-way at the south end of the site.
- It was constructed in 1965-1966 based on the Mental Health Unit-Children's Cottage plan developed by Frank N. Bunker, architect for the Board of Control, State Institutions Architectural Office. Contractor was Dean Fry Construction.
- It has a rectangular plan with a shallow projecting central bay. Overall dimensions are 154 feet by 54 feet including the 12 foot projecting bay that also extends 4 feet above the north and south sections. The building has a flat roof with aluminum coping along the overhangs.
- Masonry walls are clad in mottled cream and tan-colored brick with a solid tan colored brick used for wall sections below the windows. Sills are cut limestone and the brick pattern on

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front façade beneath the windows was specified by the architect to be modular face brick laid up in "Norman" or stack bond with running bond used for balance of the wall.

- On front (east) façade, windows in the center section are tall, paired vertical windows with hopper sash below. Four paired window groups in the south and north sections have 12 lights in each windows. The bottom row of four lights in each window operates as a hopper sash.
- Main entrances are set to either side of the projecting center section on the east façade. Doors are flush metal with a multi-light transom (3 lights) above the door and columns of sidelight windows to either side (7 lights)
- North and south façades have a door centered on the wall with a shallow depth wall (2 feet) extending outward on one side to provide wind protection. A flush metal door design is used for both openings.
- The west façade is the service side but its general wall and window arrangement is similar to that of the east façade. A basement entrance is located in the south section and several storage sheds are attached along the wall.
- Interior plan originally contained offices, kitchen and living areas in projecting bay on the east with dormitory rooms, toilet rooms, and storage areas in north and south sections.

Children Living Unit No. 1/Pinewood/Victory House/Newcomb Building (noncontributing) – Photos #15

- The original Children Living Unit No. 1 is located in the south half of the central campus, southeast of the Administration Building on the site of the former Girls' Cottages.
- It was constructed in 1971 based on a design prepared by the Iowa Department of Social Services, Office of Architecture and Engineering Services with C.F. Jacobson serving as supervising architect.
- "Pinewood" was the first name identified with the building shortly after its construction. It was renamed "Hawthorne" by 1976. By 2005, it was known as Victory House or the Newcomb Building. All name changes were associated with the transfer of programs between buildings.
- It is a one-story brick veneer building with no basement. It has an irregular L-shaped plan with overall dimensions of 99 feet by 102 feet. It has a combination of very low-pitched gable roofs on east and south wings and split gable or twin shed roofs with clear-story over the common area at the corner. Originally plans called for construction of second, mirror image residential building, Children Living Unit No. 2, to be located to the north with a courtyard created in between. This was never constructed.
- The building was designed as a dormitory for 20 medium security students with two separate dormitory wings and a common area for counseling, recreation, dining, and laundry.
- The building's walls have a mottled tan and light brown-colored brick veneer for the end walls with painted scored concrete for sidewalls.
- Windows are horizontal single-light windows in the dormitory wings. A total of 14 horizontal

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windows are located in the upper clear-story. Five large plate glass windows are on the front (north) façade.

Leslie Building (noncontributing) – Photo #17

- The Leslie Building is located in the south half of the central campus south of the Girls' Industrial School, east of the north-south service road, and west of the Victory House-Newcomb Building. Part of the site for the Leslie Building's west wing was formerly occupied by the Laundry (nonextant) and the east wing's location was formerly occupied by several razed Girls' Cottages.
- The building was constructed in 1988-89 based on a design prepared by the architectural firm of Stewart and Associates of Davenport.
- The Leslie Building is a one-story red brick building with a limestone water table and brick foundation. It has a modified H-plan with overall dimensions of 151 feet by 103 feet. It has low-pitched front gable roof sections for each of the east and west dormitory wings.
- The front façade (south) has three front-gabled sections with the larger wings at each end and a shorter center section that contains the main entrance in a projecting gabled bay. The gabled ends have cedar siding with a 4" exposure and the walls are constructed of oversized mottled reddish-brown colored brick with a stone beltcourse.
- Wings located to either side of the center section have low-pitched front gables with projecting gabled bays set in a contiguous line along the inner sides of the wings. The wall and gabled end finishes are similar to the center section.
- Aluminum windows are widely spaced, each configured with a fixed upper sash and an operable hopper-style lower sash. The windows use the stone beltcourse for the sills.
- A basketball court is located inside a chain linked cage at the rear of the west wing. It was installed in 1990.
- The west façade facing the driveway has a tall basement level covered in brick with the beltcourse/sill extending along the full length of this side. A small pediment is set in the cornice line midway along this facade.
- The interior plan has eight dormitory rooms in each wing along with a living room, craft area, toilet room, counseling rooms, storage areas, and office. A common area is located between the wings off the main south-facing entrance. The common area contains offices, a director's room, and a visitors' room with the kitchen and dining room located in the basement.

Boyd Building/Shelton Building (noncontributing) – Photo #18

- This building is located in the south half of the central campus, southeast of the Administration Building at the rear of the Head Start Building.
- The building was designed and built in 1995 by Russell Construction, Bettendorf, Iowa.
- This is a one-story masonry building with a rectangular floor plan and overall dimensions of 104 feet by 60 feet. It has an ashlar faced tan-colored concrete block (tan mortar)

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foundation, a limestone watertable, and walls constructed of oversized maroon-colored brick (reddish mortar). A low-pitched hipped roof with very broad eaves covered with enamel painted aluminum covers the building.

- A small pediment is located over the main entrance on the west façade. The entrance is centered between paired windows, each containing three horizontal lights. Lintels are dressed limestone and sills incorporate the stone watertable. The entrance bays is slightly recessed beneath the low-pitched pediment, which is clad in synthetic clapboard siding. In lieu of windows, glass block is spaced to simulate windows to either side of the entrance bay.
- The east façade has the same finishes as elsewhere with the same use of glass block to give the illusion of multi-light windows. The center bay has three window groups that match the horizontal light windows on the west side. North and south façades have glass block with off-centered door openings.
- The floor plan has the main entrance facing west flanked by service areas and offices; two commons areas to north and south with single, double and triple-sized bedrooms opening onto the commons. Light wells are located above each commons area. A large classroom is located opposite the main entrance on the east side with "quiet rooms," offices, and storage rooms in center of the floor plan.

Schools and Hospitals

Annie Wittenmyer School/McKibben Building (contributing) – Photo #19

- The Annie Wittenmyer School is located along the west side of Eastern Avenue midway between the main entrance and the service road entrance.
- It was constructed in 1913 based on a design by H.F. Liebbe, State Architect for the Board of Control. Its eclectic design blends elements of the Classical Revival, Prairie School and Mission styles. Its overall shape and size is rectangular with two stories and a raised basement. Its rectangular-shaped mass has curved end walls (east and west) and a projecting front (north) wall section. It measures approximately 62 feet by 48 feet and was erected for a cost of \$14,000.
- It has a combination of a low-pitched hipped roof over the classrooms and a front-gabled roof over the projecting front section that ends in a curvilinear stepped parapet.
- The schoolhouse has mottled reddish-brown colored brick walls with darker brick for the raised foundation and limestone for the watertable, coping, keystones, sills, and entrance trim.
- Windows are tall 2/1 double-hung sash with two-light transoms above the first floor windows. The openings have stone sills and brick and stone jack arches. The window openings appear in pairs on the north and south façades and in horizontal bands of five windows each in bowed walls in the east and west façades. Basement windows are two-light sash.
- A cutaway porch is located at the northeast corner of the building marking the main entrance. The darker brick foundation marks the height of the top of the closed balustrade with an

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extension of the watertable stone serving as the cap to the bricked balustrade. Square brick columns rest on the stone flanking the high steps. A limestone panel carved with the name of the building, "Annie Wittenmyer School," is located above the entrance steps. A course of brick dentils and a stone molding above the sign finish off the porch trim. The main entrance faces east and has a multilight transom above a pair of glass and metal replacement doors. A pair of 2/2 windows are installed high on the wall of the recessed entrance porch.

- The interior was originally laid out with two large classrooms on each floor furnished with the large windows providing abundant natural light. Narrow cloak rooms and storerooms were located between the classroom in the center of each floor. A teacher's room or principal's office was located on the second floor above entrance porch. On the first floor, the porch leads to a lobby that connects directly to the classrooms, cloak rooms, stairs to the basement, and stairs to the second floor. The stairs along the front of the building have stair-stepped windows with a landing and return between floors. Interior trim includes five-panel wood doors with each classroom door containing one glazed panel. Original floors were fir and survive beneath carpet and tile. It appears that the floors originally had both a paint and varnish finish depending on the location.
- The schoolhouse building was rehabilitated as offices and conference rooms in 2002-2003. Work included subdivision of classrooms to create separate rooms, new mechanical systems, new floor coverings, both new and retained doors, and retained wood trim.

Girls' Industrial School/Men's Dormitory/Three Purpose Building (contributing) – Photo #14

- The Girls' Industrial School is located along the east side of the north-south service drive directly south of the rear kitchen wing of the Main Building. The rear of the building faces the drive and the front now faces a small fenced playground. When constructed, the building was close to the Girls' Cottages.
- The building was constructed in ca. 1897 and originally served as the Girls' Industrial Building with space reserved for sewing rooms. Later it was referred to as the "Finishing Cottage for Girls." In 1910 due to overcrowding, a group of girls occupied the building as dormitory space.⁴ On later site plans, the building was referred to as a "men's dormitory, hall and sewing rooms." The *Biennial Report* for 1934 identified it as the "Three Purpose Building" because its uses were canning and preserving in the basement, the men's lodge for male farm workers on the main floor, and the sewing room on the third floor.
- The two-story stucco-clad building has a limestone foundation. Its cross-shaped plan has short projecting wings and a small porch in the northwest ell. The complex roof plan has a steep front-gable section over the main body and intersecting hipped roof sections over the short wings. The gable peaks were originally clad in square-cut shingles with the original finish surviving only on the west gable; the east closed gable is clad in stucco.
- The 1/1 double-hung windows have flat lintels and are grouped in threes or moderately

⁴23rd *Biennial Report of Superintendent of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport, Iowa*, June 30, 1910, p. 14.

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spaced. The abundance of windows likely reflects the planned use of the building for sewing rooms. The front entrance in the southeast ell has a simple shed roof door hood with small brackets. The entrance door has been replaced and its transom closed.

- An unexplained barred window appears in the basement level at the southeast corner.
- The building is used for storage with portions vacant in 2005.

Pre-School/Porter Building (contributing) – Photo #21

- The Pre-School is located along the east side of the north-south service drive northwest of the Hospital/Sanders Building.
- Constructed in 1933-1934 based on a design by J. Bradley Rust of Iowa City, it is an excellent example of Tudor Revival or English Period Cottage.
- The one-story L-shaped cottage has an intersecting gable roof with and hipped roof wings. It is approximately 70 feet by 45½ feet with the long side paralleling the service drive.
- The cottage's brick walls are a picturesque combination of brown, red, maroon, gray, and charcoal-colored brick with extruded reddish-colored mortar. Inset stones and brick are laid in a random pattern of curving courses with the only level or plumb courses around window and door openings. Larger stone sections are laid up at 45-degree angles at the outside corners of the building.
- A hipped roof wing ends over a small porch on the south façade. Porch alterations include a new balustrade and wood deck and a three-light metal door with staggered wire glass lights. The gabled wing has stucco and half-timbering in the east gabled end and the north gable end has a similar finish with the east slope extended over the entrance door. All barge boards and timbers are hand-hewn. Copper half-moon gutters remain in place along the eaves.
- Window openings have hand-hewn wood lintels and limestone sills. The original sash were paired wood multilight casement style and the present replacement sash are paired aluminum-framed sliding panels in each opening. The original window is retained in the north gable and consists of diamond-shaped leaded glass lights.
- One of two main entrances is set beneath a steeply pitched gabled hood at the inner corner of the ell facing southeast but the original door has been replaced. Random shaped stones form quoining around this opening. A second entrance on the north façade is located beneath the extended slope of the gable and its original door has been replaced as well. Stone half-walls line the entrance steps to the north door.

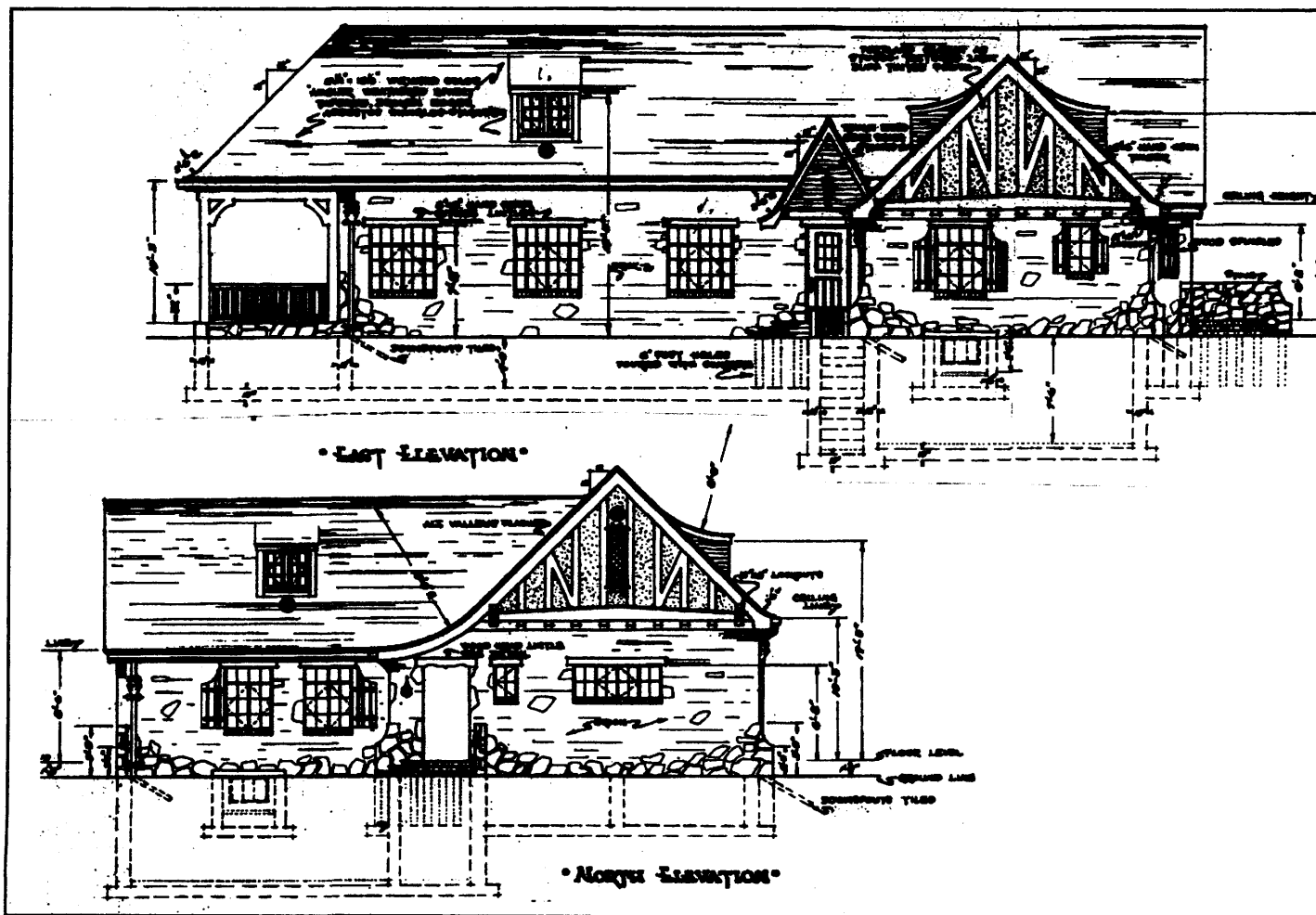
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Historic View – Elevation Drawings of Pre-School Unit, 1933 (Sheet 3 of 7, original plans and drawings by J. Bradley Rust, Architect, Iowa City, Iowa, August 1, 1933)



Grade School & High School/Kinsman School/Eastern Avenue School (contributing) – Photo #20

- The Grade School and High School/Eastern Avenue School is located along the west side of Eastern Avenue south of the parking lot near the main entrance and north of the Annie Wittenmyer School/McKibben Building.
- It was constructed in 1940-1941 based on a design by Henry J. Liebke, architect for the Board of Control and is an example of the PWA Moderne Style. Its original drawings show a site plan that shows it was originally intended for the site occupied by Children's Cottage/S.U.M.M.I.T Building. Contractor for the school was Kucharo Construction Co. and cost was \$82,409.

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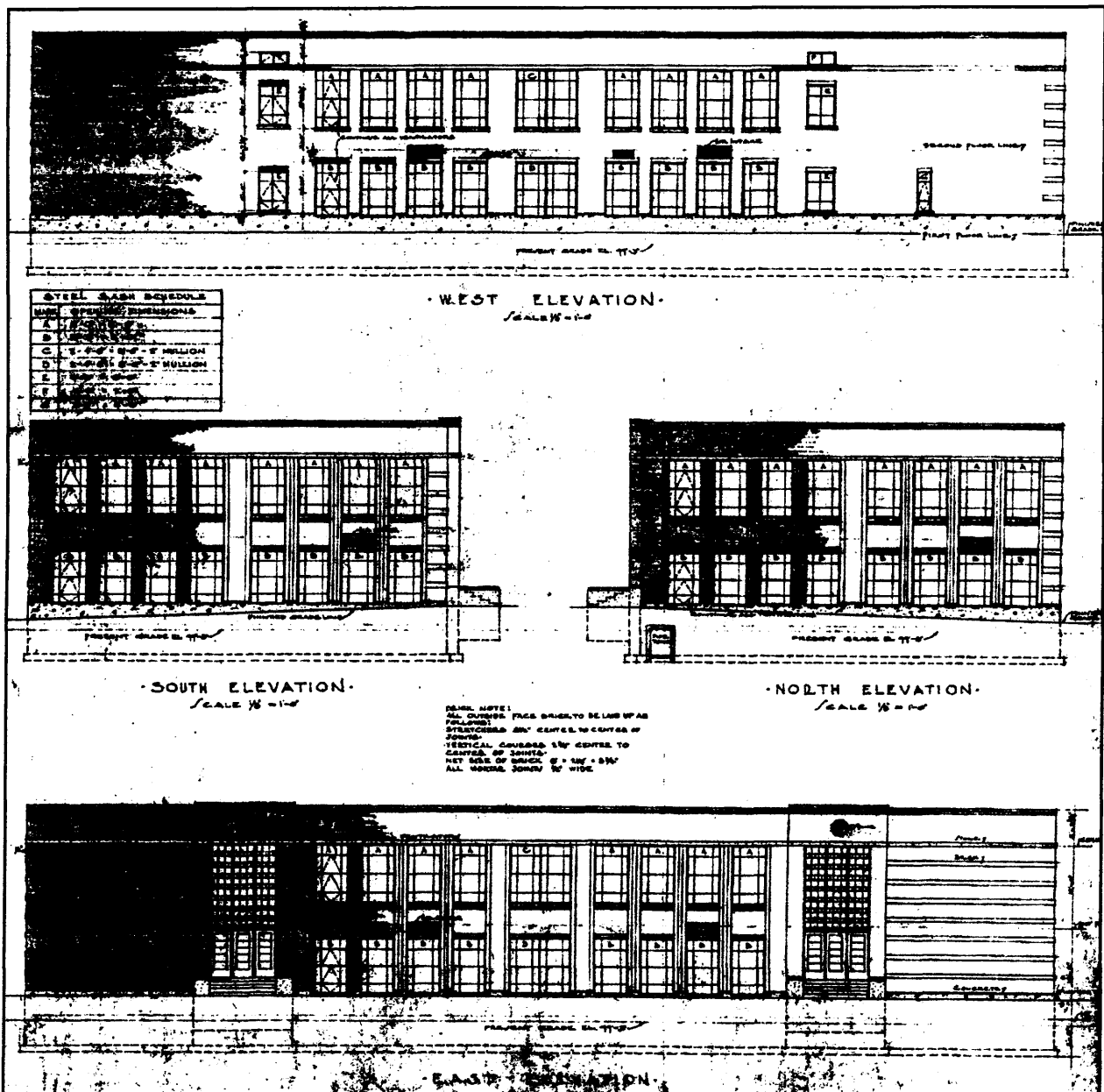
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- The two-storied school has a rectangular shape with a flat roof and a full basement. It measures approximately 151 feet by 61 feet with the long side paralleling Eastern Avenue and the front facing west. Original elevation drawings appear below.

Elevation Drawing of Grade School & High School, 1940 (Sheet 3 of 8, original plans and drawings by Henry J. Liebke, Architect, Board of Control, April 5, 1940; updated May 1, 1940)



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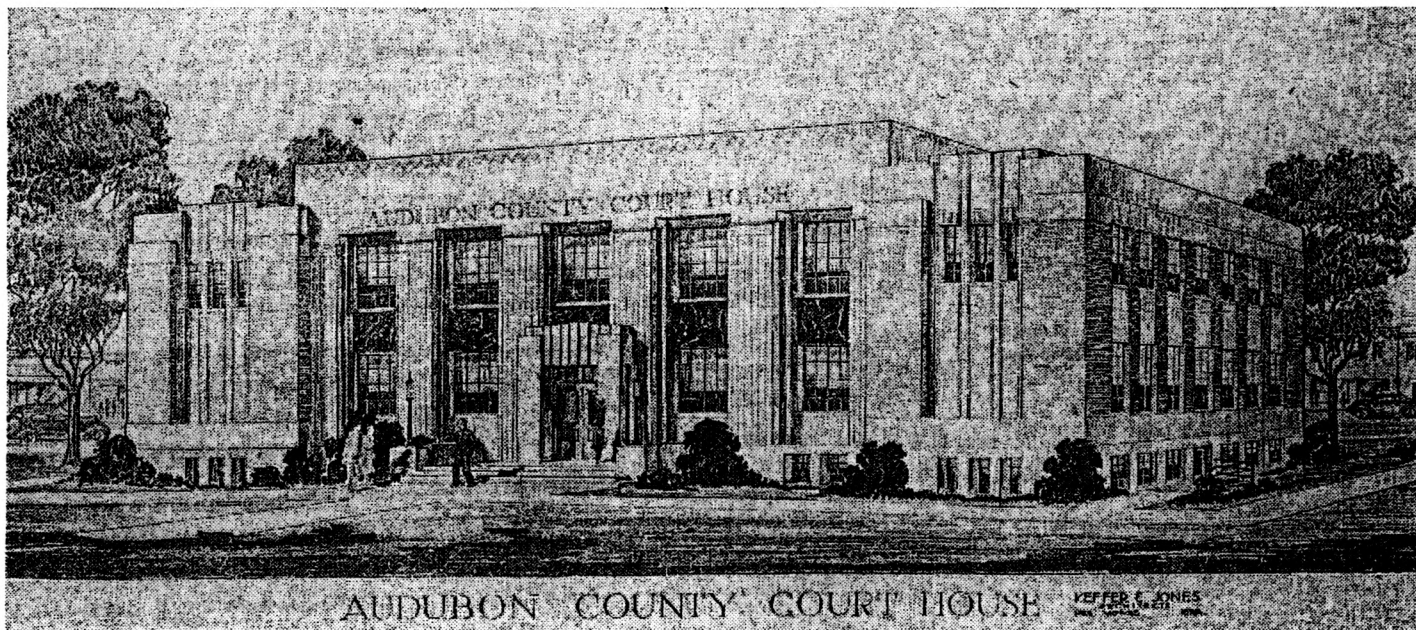
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Warren County Court House
Name of Property

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Preliminary architectural drawing of proposed Audubon County Court House prepared in 1939 bears a striking resemblance to Warren County Court House design²⁷



Summary:

In summary, the Warren County Court House derives its significance as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era with funding assistance from the federal Public Works Administration. Its construction represented a significant public investment of federal and local tax dollars made at a time when this rural county was hard pressed by the Great Depression. Designed by Des Moines architects Karl Keffer and Earl Jones, it is a well-preserved example of the PWA Moderne Style of public building architecture that dominated the 1930s and early 1940s.

Acknowledgement:

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²⁷"Drawing of New Warren County Court House," *The Advocate-Republican*, March 2, 1939.

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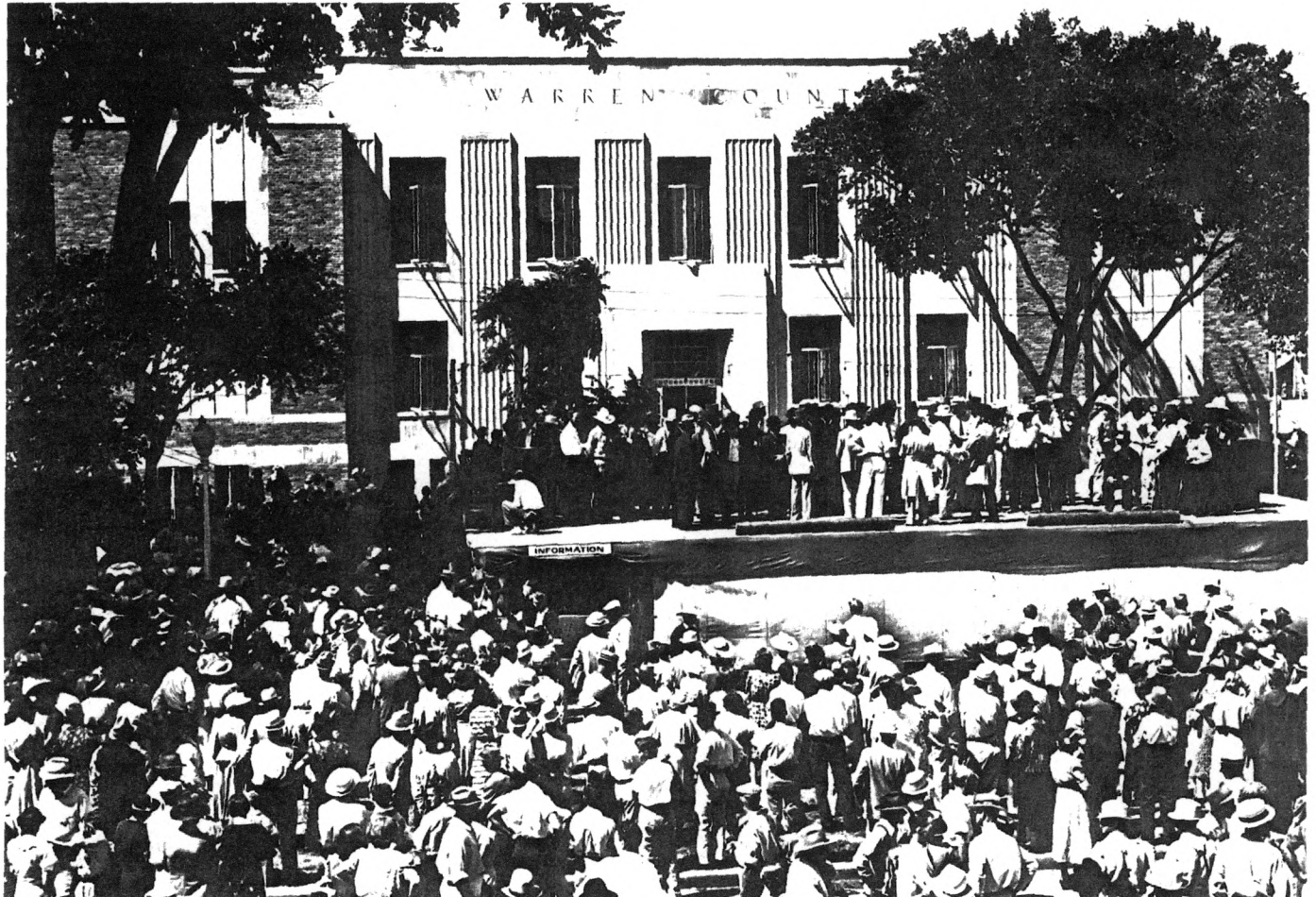
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Warren County Court House
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Warren County Court House dedication ceremonies, August 24, 1939²⁶



²⁶ "Warren County Courthouse Dedication, View #9498," WPA Photograph Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Recreation

Gymnasium (contributing) – Photo #24

- The Gymnasium is located at the far southeast corner of the campus immediately south of Annie Wittenmyer School/McKibben Building and north of the entrance to the service drive. A parking lot is south of the building, Eastern Avenue is to the east, and open space is to the northwest.
- The Gymnasium was constructed in 1921 based on an eclectic design by Office of State Architect for the Board of Control of State Institutions. A specific architect is not indicated on the plans.
- The building has a rectangular plan with an overall size of 76 feet by 48 feet with narrow end facing Eastern Avenue. The building is one-story in height with a raised basement. It was constructed for a total cost of \$30,000.
- The Gymnasium has a side-gable roof with stepped parapet gable end walls and round dome-roofed belvedere at the center of the roof ridge. The walls have mottled dark red brick with randomly placed gray brick. The foundation is poured concrete foundation with the watertable made of two courses of projecting brick above and below two courses of regular brick (all stretchers) to form a band. Bond pattern for walls is a variation of the American bond with every sixth course a header course and the balance stretcher courses. Flat window arches (not jack arches as shown in the original plans) are made of single courses of soldier brick. Segmental openings above the entrances are composed of three courses of headers. The windows have dressed limestone sills.
- The front façade (north) has nine bays with the main entrance on the upper level accessed by separate flights of steps and landings to either side of the main entrance landing. Sections of original geometric patterned metal balustrade and hand rail survive with most replaced by pipe rails. Entrance elements are set beneath a low-pitched cantilevered hipped roof supported by large angular brackets. A central semi-circular arched dormer in the projecting roof serves as a surround over the double entrance doors. Original drawings show side lights and a round arched opening filled with mullions and multilight sash. A single metal replacement door is in place in 2005 with transom and sidelights boarded over. The wider semi-circular arched opening beneath the main entrance landing originally contained a recessed multilight window but this opening is now infilled with concrete block. Separate entrances to the lower level are located to either side of the main entrance steps. The basement level entrance doors are recessed at the bottom of steps leading down from the ground level. The east opening is boarded shut.
- East and west façades are nearly identical. Two 6/6 double-hung windows with six-light transoms are located at the basement level to either side of an entrance door. Four of these windows remain intact or partially intact in each end at this level. Windows on the main level have six-light transoms above 9/9 double-hung sash. Some of these openings have been enclosed. The window sills are limestone with soldier brick forming flat arches. Ocular window openings centered in the stepped parapet ends originally contained nine lights and

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are now covered.

- In the south façade, windows are grouped in three bays with three windows in each bay at each level. The original windows were 9/9 double-hung sash with six-light transoms beneath flat arches; all but one window is closed with plywood.
- The interior contains a swimming pool and locker rooms on the basement level and a gymnasium on the upper level. Circular metal staircases in the northeast and northwest corners connect the floors.
- Four steel ceiling trusses are widely spaced with additional I-beams between end trusses and the outer walls. Stabilizing I-beams connect the trusses parallel to the walls.
- Elevation drawings for the Gymnasium appear on the following page.

Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center (noncontributing) – Photos #25 & #26

- Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center is located in the northeast corner of the original 33-acre orphanage site in a portion of the campus historically reserved for open space and recreation uses. The area lies in the flood plain for Duck Creek, which is located north of 29th Street. The Aquatic Center is one of two nearly identical facilities operated by the City of Davenport Park and Recreation Department. Fejervary Park Family Aquatic Center opened in 1999 and the Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center opened in 2002.
- Burbach Aquatics, LLC, architects and engineers of Platteville, Wisconsin designed the facility. Contractor was Frye Builders & Associates of Muscatine, Iowa. Total cost for the facility was \$1.6 million.
- The Aquatic Center consists of three noncontributing resources – the Swimming Pool, Bathhouse, and Mechanical Building. The chain link-fenced site has the Bathhouse at the east edge facing Eastern Avenue. The grassy area used by sunbathers separates the Bathhouse from the Swimming Pool located at the west end of the site. The Mechanical Building is located immediately west of the pool. A paved L-shaped parking lot extends along the west and north sides of the Aquatic Center site.
- The Bathhouse is a one-story rectangular brick building with a steeply pitched side-gable roof. Walls are mottled red and brown-colored brick that closely matches the orphanage buildings and the gabled ends and dormers are clad in synthetic siding. The front façade (east) has an off-center entrance porch with a shed roof and a pediment above the entrance bay; details of new porch match the porch detailing on the Boys' Cottages; vertical screening is located to either side to cover the locker room entrances. The attic roof has a widely spaced pair of gabled dormers that contain semi-circular arched louvered ventilation panels. The north façade contains a contiguous gable over the concession window; a concrete patio with fixed and movable metal tables serves as a food court. The west façade has three gabled ventilation dormers in the attic level.

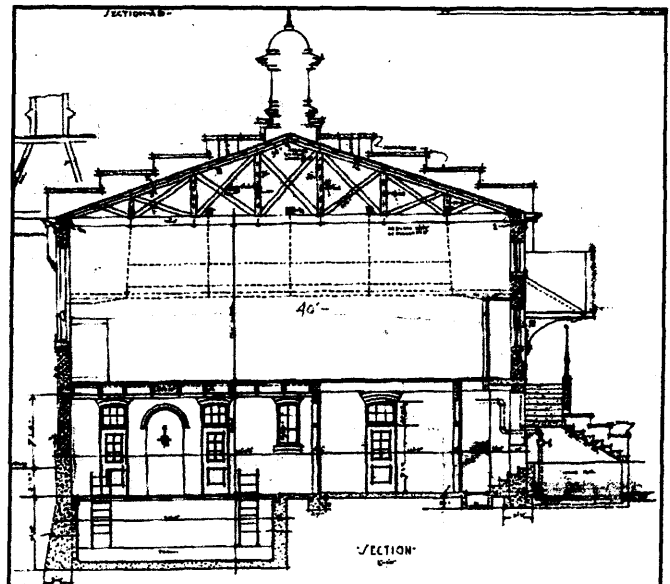
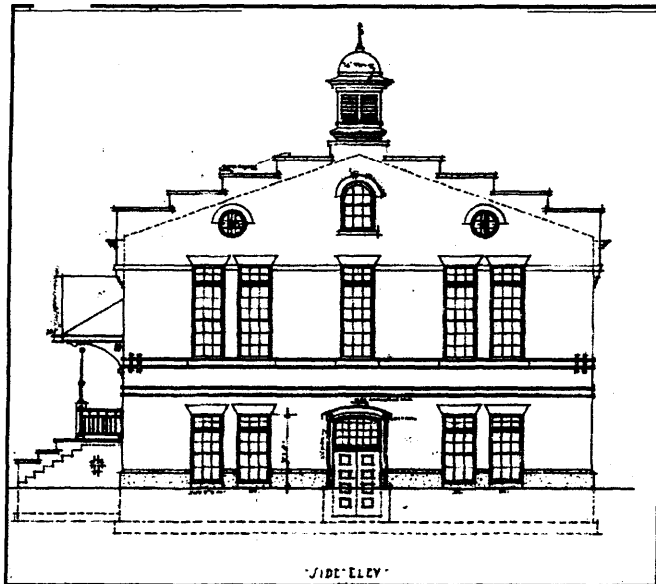
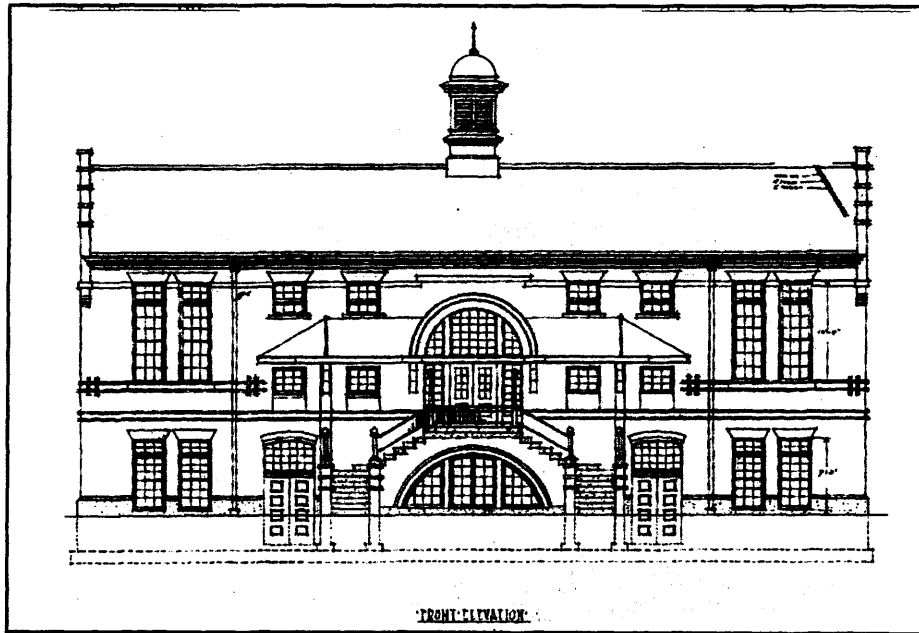
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Historic View – Elevation Drawing of Gymnasium, 1921 (Sheets 3 and 4 of 7, original plans and drawings attributed to Office of State Architect, Board of Control, undated – ca. 1921)



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- The principal feature of the Aquatic Center is the 6,300 square foot Swimming Pool, which has a capacity of 182,735 gallons. It is constructed of concrete with a rectangular six-lane pool in the center, a water slide area at the west end, and a shallow area in a fan shaped section at the east end. A concrete paved perimeter surrounds the pool and slide area. The bathing capacity of the pool is 354.
 - The one-story brick Mechanical Building is located west of the Swimming Pool. It houses the pumps and the high rate sand filtration system that serves the pool. The building's front gable faces 29th Street with the same mottled reddish brown-colored brick used for walls and synthetic clapboard in the gabled ends. Louvered vents are installed in several walls and mechanical access doors and passage door in the south end.

Maintenance and Support

Boy's Manual Training Building & Work Shop/Carpentry Shop-Blacksmith Shop/Maintenance Building (contributing) – Photo #27

- This building is located west of the central campus along the east side of the service drive opposite the northwest corner of rear kitchen wing of the Administration Building. Its hillside location allows the lower level to open at grade.
- This utilitarian one-story work shop building has a rectangular plan, flat roof, and parapet. It measures approximately 35 feet by 85 feet. The south two-thirds was constructed prior to 1898 and the north third added after 1910. It was originally used as both a workshop for carpentry and blacksmith work and as a manual training school for orphanage boys.
- Mottled red-brown brick walls are laid up in American bond. A limestone watertable sets on top of the rubble stone foundation with concrete parging in some areas. A fully exposed basement wall is on the west side where the condition of brick and mortar is poor.
- The front (east) façade has a dentiled parapet with concrete squares inserted for decoration. Two double-wide entrances with multilight transoms are set beneath segmental arches, each fitted with early tongue-and-groove doors. Seven closely spaced window openings are spaced along the wall, each containing 4/4 double-hung sash with segmental brick arches consisting of three courses of header brick and limestone sills. Doors appear to be set at wagon height for ease of deliveries.
- The south façade has a stepped parapet with concrete coping and brick corbeling. The parged foundation has its concrete scored to look like cut-stone. The parging was probably done at the same time that the north third of the building was constructed with a poured concrete foundation. The south wall has fixed four-light windows on the basement level and 4/4 double-hung sash on the main level.
- The west façade has both original and modified window and door openings. A lumber shed attached at the south end was removed prior to 1910. On the main level, nine windows

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provide abundant natural light and on the lower level, the south bay has a pair of access doors with recessed panels consisting of tongue-and-groove vertical boards. The north façade has no window openings on either level.

Ice House-Storage Building (contributing) – Photo #28

- The Ice House-Storage Building is located west of the central campus along the west side of service drive and directly west of the rear kitchen wing of the Administration Building. Its hillside location allows the basement level to open at grade.
- This building was constructed in 1905 to serve as a storeroom and cold storage building. Its garage addition was built in two phases prior to 1934. The original building design is attributed to Henry F. Liebbe, State Architect for the Board of Control of State Institutions. Its eclectic design incorporates Romanesque Revival, Craftsman, and Mission style elements.
- The main block has two stories and a full basement with an exposed wall on the west side. The building has a rectangular plan with a low-pitched hipped roof and single front-gabled attic dormers on each side. A front-gabled belvedere with shallow eaves, ventilation panels, and clapboard cladding is centered along the ridgeline with additional copper ventilation monitors located on both sides. Overall size of the main block is 38 feet by 64 feet. The one-story wing at north end contains three garage bays and measures approximately 28 feet by 40 feet with the long side paralleling the service drive.
- The building's masonry walls have poured concrete foundations with reddish-brown brick walls and dressed limestone trim for the window sills and the beltcourse that is placed several feet below the cornice. The front (east) façade of the main block has tall, recessed semicircular arched panels irregularly spaced to accommodate the interior layout. The north end panels have no windows because of use of this space for ice storage. Windows on each level are 3/3 (vertical lights) double-hung with true round-arch sash on the upper level and flat-arch windows on the lower level. The front-gabled attic dormer has a decorative parapet trimmed in stone. Stone trim also sets off twin round-arched 6/6 double-hung windows and an ocular brick pattern above.
- The porch/loading dock is centered on front façade has a front gable roof with exposed rafters and rafter tails. Brick columns set on limestone pedestals at the outer corners were rebuilt in 2005. A poured concrete deck set at wagon delivery height has steps and a hand-truck ramp at the side for deliveries. The main entrance doors have horizontal panels below and six lights above. A divided light transom extends over the door with divided-light sidelights to either side.
- The south façade of the main block has matching tall, recessed semicircular arched panels containing round arch and flat arch windows on upper and lower levels, respectively, with 3/3 double-hung sash in each opening. The dormer design is the same as the front façade. An exposed foundation reflects the slope of the site with some original openings now closed.
- The west façade of the main block has the primary grade level access. It was originally used for delivery of ice from rail cars. The exposed basement wall is a combination of concrete patches and original limestone. The ground on this side extends from a high point on the

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south to a low point on the north, which is where the main delivery door entrances are located. Round-arch and flat-arch windows are set in four recessed panels similar to those contained on the front and south façades. Two miss-aligned windows are in the north end. Basement level windows have three-lights with stone lintels incorporated into the watertable design.

- The north façade has one extant window opening on the second floor – a semi-circular arched opening with a 6/6 double-hung sash. Other openings have been bricked in.
- The one-story north wing has three garage bays beginning with a high entrance at the south end, a passage door in the center, and two more garage doors to the north. All garage doors have low segmental arches formed of soldier brick. The center garage door arch includes the passage door. The northernmost section of wing was constructed in a separate phase with concrete block foundation and different face brick. The north façade of north wing has one 6/6 double-hung, segmental arched window extant with all other window openings on the north and west closed.
- The interior originally had general storerooms and cold storage to serve the entire orphanage. Later, a canteen was added to the southeast corner where children would select clothing, make discretionary purchases, and during the summers, would bring their metal cups to receive servings of shaved ice and syrup. The north half of the main building originally had three full floors available for vertically stacking ice brought in by rail car. Later, mechanical cold storage and ice making equipment were added to the basement level of south half. Some butchering was originally done in this building evidenced by the inclusion of concrete gutters for collection of blood from slaughtering.
- The building is occupied as offices and a workshop for a construction company in 2005.

Garage (contributing) – Photo #29

- The Garage is located at the northwest corner of the developed campus with the upper, main level opening onto the north-south service drive. The hillside location allows the lower level to open at grade facing west.
- The building was constructed in 1933-1934 to serve as a garage for storage of employee vehicles. The original building was designed by Henry J. Liebke, architect for the Board of Control.
- The structure is an example of a utilitarian two-level garage building with an exposed basement. It has a rectangular plan with a flat roof with a slight downward pitch to the west. Half-moon gutters extend along the west side with a short, plain parapet around the other edges.
- Overall dimensions are approximately 22 feet by 72 feet with long side paralleling the service drive.
- The walls are constructed with a poured concrete foundation, mottled reddish-brown brick walls, and a concrete coping along the parapet.
- The east (front) façade has six garage bays evenly spaced with the original garage doors present for five north bays. This door design has two horizontal panels at the top and four

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vertical panels below. The south bay has a replacement fiberglass overhead door. A watertable level of brick is made of soldier bricks with the balance of the walls laid up in a pattern of alternating headers and stretchers for each course; a course of soldier brick used at the base of the wall sections separating each of the garage doors and above metal plates that serve as lintels over each of the garage doors.

- The south façade has a concrete walkway and steps leading to lower level. Pipe railing originally placed along the steps is missing. The single window is a metal eight-light fixed sash.
- The west façade's lower level has six garage bays – two openings are replaced with plywood panels and flush doors, two are replaced with v-cut horizontal fiberglass sheeting, and two have original doors. These doors are designed to look like wagon doors but are actually overhead doors with two six-light windows in the top third and recessed vertical panels containing diagonal boards in the lower section. The intact doors are in the south and central bays. Metal plates serve as door lintels with a continuous soldier brick course set above the plates. Upper level windows are metal eight-light sash with operable hopper sections.
- The north façade has a fixed metal window with six lights.

Root Cellar (contributing):

- The Root Cellar is located on the west side of the service drive with the front facing west. It is immediately north of the Greenhouse and south of the Ice House/Maintenance Building.
- The Root Cellar was constructed in 1931 based on a design by Henry J. Liebke, architect with the State Board of Control. The overall dimensions of the main room are 56 feet by 28 feet. It was built for \$3,500.
- Underground construction of the Root Cellar takes advantage of the natural slope of the site it occupies with the high side on the east several feet above the cellar ceiling and the low side on the west allowing for an exposed wall and entrance door at grade level. It was designed and built with 16-inch reinforced concrete floors, walls and ceiling; walls partially lined with clay tile set in 8-foot panels separated by concrete piers along the inner walls; and ventilation provided by three ventilation stacks measuring 3 feet by 5 feet extending down the center of the room.
- The west (front) façade has the only entrance. Its double doors are constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards with applied hinge hardware on the door fronts.

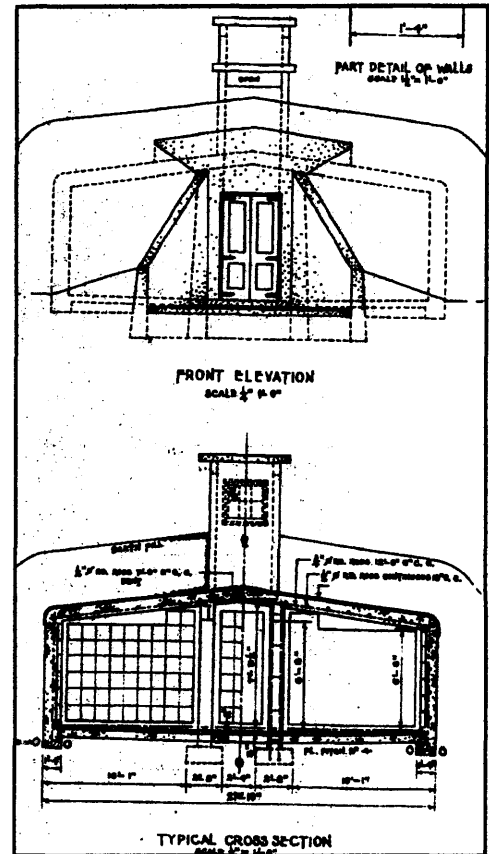
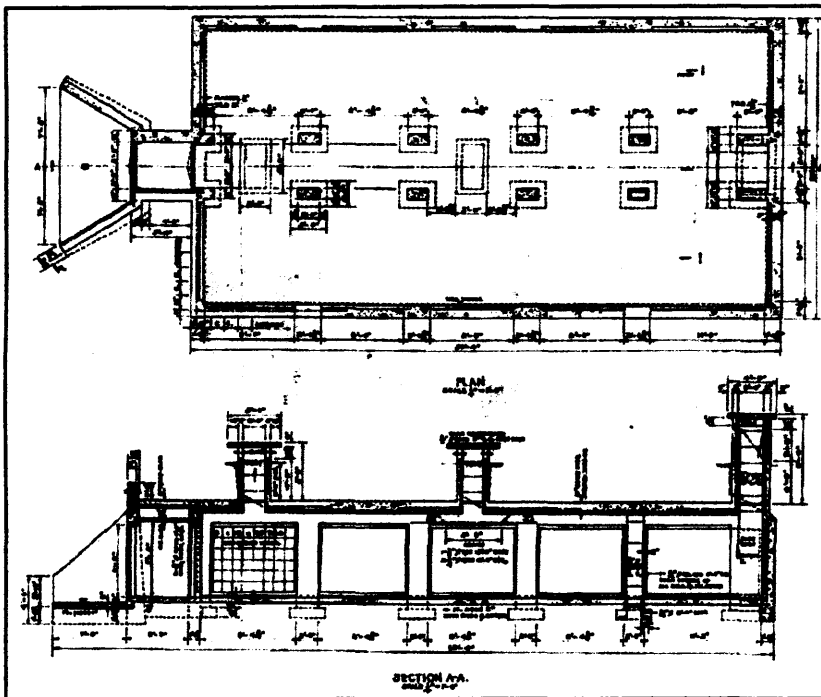
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Sections and Plan View of Root Cellar, 1931 (one sheet, original drawing by Henry J. Liebbe, architect, Board of Control, June 26, 1931)



Greenhouse (contributing) – Photo #30

- The Greenhouse is located along the west side of the service drive with the front facing east. The plant house (noncontributing) portion was replaced with a shop and office wing in 2002-2003. Contractor for the rehabilitation was Russell Construction of Rock Island, Illinois.
- The current building has an L-shaped plan with the original brick cottage at the southeast corner and a frame wing located at the north end and extending to the west. A change in elevation leaves the lower level of the wing with largely exposed walls on three sides. The original Greenhouse was designed by Henry J. Liebbe, architect with the State Board of Control. It is an example of an English Period Cottage Style. The overall dimensions of the main room measure 56 feet by 28 feet. Total cost of the original construction was \$3,500.
- The front (east) façade of the Greenhouse has a masonry cottage at the south end and a frame addition at north end with a stone wall extending further north at the edge of the building. In the cottage section, mottled brown and red brick walls include vitrified jumbo

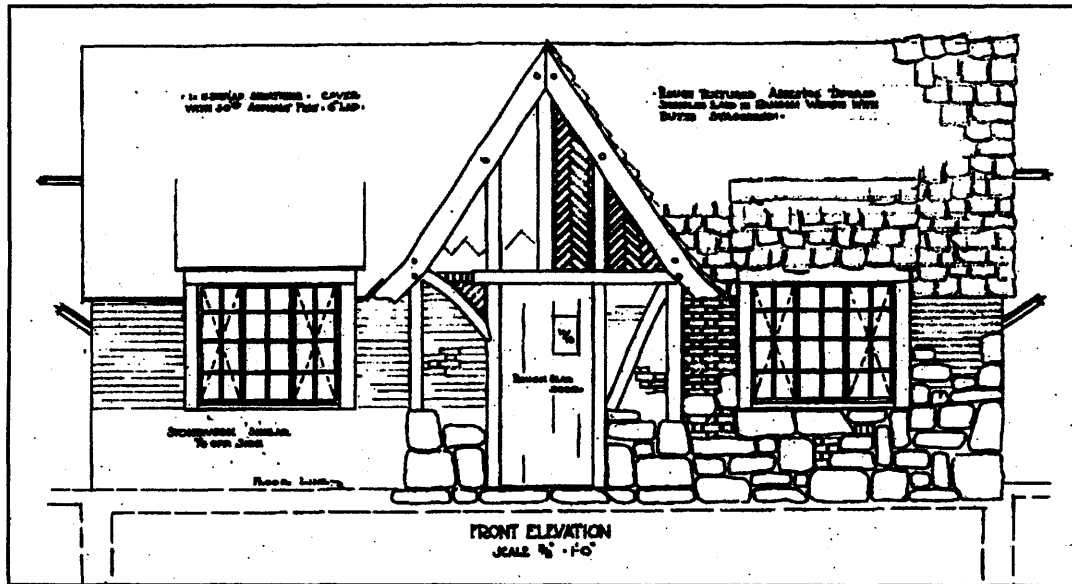
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Elevation Drawing of Greenhouse, 1932 (original drawing by Henry J. Liebke, architect, Board of Control, May 18, 1932)



brick – perhaps recycled paving brick – for the lower walls and a mix of stone and rough textured brick on the upper half. Herringbone patterned brick wall sections are located at the outer edges of the façade and panels of herringbone brick with a column of soldier brick in the center are located elsewhere. A steeply pitched front-gable entrance bay has half-timbering present. Cottage windows are in groups of three with eight-light casement style sash set beneath low, shed-roofed wall dormers to either side of the entrance.

- A new wing is attached to the north end of the cottage. Its wide gable end faces the service road. Its raised foundation is poured concrete with wide wood clapboard on the upper wall. A single entrance door is centered between pairs of six-light casement windows, and a simple shed-roof door hood has bracket supports. At the north end of the wing, a rustic wall composed of stones, common brick, and herringbone brick sections with a limestone cap continues for approximately 20 feet at the same height as the raised foundation. An undeveloped garden space extends west of the wall. It is accessed through an opening in the wall that connects to a lower grassed area via four or five limestone steps.
- The south and west façades of the original cottage section of the Greenhouse have a poured concrete foundation with brick for the upper walls that matches the front façade's upper walls. Windows are eight-light casement sash and the metal replacement doors have multi-light windows.
- The south, west, and north façades of the new wing have a poured concrete foundation that is nearly fully exposed on all sides due to a change in elevation. Its windows are multi-light, in some cases giving the appearance of paired six-light casements. At the west end, the lower level has a pair of flush metal doors at the left and a passage door with nine lights in the upper half in the center. A window with three square lights is at the right.

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Storage Garage (noncontributing) – Photo #31

- The Storage Garage is located on a level site east of the railroad tracks and directly west of the Ice House-Storage Building and the site of the former Engine House/Coal Shed/Boiler Room.
- It is a one-story utilitarian storage building constructed in ca. 2003. It has a roughly square plan with a nearly flat roof, concrete slab floor, and steel pole frame walls with corrugated steel siding. Openings include an overhead door with no windows and a flush metal passage door, both located on the front (east) façade.

Burial Mound (contributing) - Photo #32 (not for publication)

The prehistoric burial mound (Iowa Archaeological Site Number 13ST190) has been confirmed by the geomorphologist researching the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District as an earthwork of prehistoric origin predating all known historic resources in the District. The assumed function is for human interment and was only recently recognized as a prehistoric feature.⁵ The conical mound has an approximate diameter of 16 meters and a height of 1.3 meters. A mature oak, having a bole circumference of 4.4 meters, is growing in the center of the mound. The tree has a branch spread that extends well beyond the outer edges of the mound. Using a formula for calculating tree age from the tree's radius, as measured in 2003, and an average assumed annual growth ring of 0.2 inches per year, this tree may be around 128.76 years old, or dating from around 1874.⁶

The mound is much older than the tree and is assumed, based on soil development and size to potentially date from a broad temporal range encompassing the Early to Middle Woodland in eastern Iowa (i.e., 800 B.C. to A.D. 400).⁷ The overall size of the mound is generally much larger than those typical of the Late Woodland Period in Iowa, with the overall diameter more closely approaching known ranges for Early and Middle Woodland mounds. The height of the mound is in the low range for other known examples dating from the Middle Woodland Period in the Davenport vicinity. For example, the largest mound in the Cook Farm Mound Group (13ST82), once located along the Mississippi River near Davenport but now non-extant, was recorded during the late nineteenth century excavations of this site to have measured nearly 17 meters in diameter and 2

⁵Michael R. Finn and Nurit Goldman Finn, *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Addition to the Sanders Building at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex in Davenport, Iowa* (Anamosa, Iowa: Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc., 2003).

⁶Formula obtained from Athens-Clarke County Community Tree Program, "How Old is My Tree?" *Tree Conservation Notes* (<http://www.athensclarkecounty.com>, website accessed 07/21/2005).

⁷Lynn M. Alex, *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2000), p. 85; Joe Alan Artz, Letter Report on Site 13ST190 to Shirley Schermer dated September 8, 2003 (Copy on file at the Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City, Iowa).

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meters in height. Mound 3 of this grouping had a larger diameter of nearly 20 meters but was much lower in height at 0.9 to 1.2 meters in height. The Cook Farm Mound Group dates from 300 B.C. to A.D. 300 and is affiliated with the Hopewell tradition of the Middle Woodland Period.⁸ However, large conical mound construction is also known from the Early Woodland Period in eastern Iowa, with three mounds from the Turkey River Mound Group (13CT1) in Clayton County, dating from around 800-300 B.C., having diameters ranging from 9 to 30 meters and heights ranging from 1.4 to 1.8 meters.⁹ Therefore, a more precise affiliation of the mound at 13ST190 is difficult to define based solely on size and shape.

Geoarchaeologist, Joe Alan Artz, conducted a pedological evaluation of the mound at site 13ST190 in September 2003. He encountered the following soil profile within the mound feature:

The upper 35 cm of Core 1 is interpreted as historic fill because it contains coal and gravels that are not present in the site's original parent materials, but which are very common in historic Euroamerican archaeological contexts. The underlying, shallowly buried soil, exhibits properties consistent with an interpretation as prehistoric mound fill. The 9-cm-thick AE horizon is considerably thinner than the 15-23 cm thickness typical of Downs series A horizons. The Bt horizon in Core 1 is less clayey (heavy silt loam versus silty clay loam). The thinner A horizon and less clayey Bt horizons are both indicators that the mound profile is less well-developed than the expected Downs series soil. In other words, the soil in Core 1 has had less time to accumulate organic matter into an A horizon, and to accumulate clay into the Bt horizon, than the surrounding soil.¹⁰

Artz concluded the following concerning the mound feature at site 13ST190:

The earthen feature at 13ST190 is interpreted as a conical mound constructed by prehistoric Native Americans. Two lines of evidence support this interpretation. First, the feature's shape height, diameter, and relative symmetry are within the range of known mounds of eastern Iowa. Second, the soil formed beneath the mound summit is less well developed (in particular, with a thinner A horizon and less clayey Bt horizon) than the Downs series mapped by the NRCS as occurring at the site, consistent with observations on soils formed in prehistoric mound fill elsewhere in eastern Iowa.

Most mound fill soils examined in eastern Iowa and reported in the literature have A-E-BE-Bw or A-C horization....Mound fills with Bt horizons are uncommon. Somewhat speculatively, this may indicate that the mound at 13ST190 is older (with a more strongly developed soil) than other mounds in the region, and therefore may date earlier in the regional cultural history of mound building.¹¹

⁸Marshall McKusick, *The Davenport Conspiracy*, Report 1. (Iowa City: Office of the State Archaeologist, 1970), p. 9.

⁹Information from the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Turkey River Mound Group (13CT1) provided by Shirley Schermer of the Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City (E-mail to Leah Rogers dated 7/21/2005).

¹⁰Artz 2003, p. 2.

¹¹Ibid.

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Artz recently provided a further clarification of this interpretation of the mound's soil development by noting that at depths of 54 to 112 cm below surface in Core 1, the soil "tended to part into blocky shapes, a centimeter or so in size," with some of these blocks coated with thin films of clay.¹² The development of clay films is a slow process and "are almost never observed in the B horizons of burial mounds in eastern Iowa, and since most burial mounds were built after ca. 2000 years ago, it follows that, in eastern Iowa, it takes longer than 2000 years for these clay films to form."¹³ However, Artz further notes that clay films can form more rapidly if the parent material is "pre-weathered" as would be the case if a B horizon was dug up from one place and then piled in another. In other words, the B horizon in the new pile would have a "head start on (re-)developing a B horizon, compared to parent material that has to start from scratch."¹⁴ Therefore, it is very difficult based on the available evidence of one silt core profile to determine whether this mound feature was constructed before or during the greatest known period of mound construction in the Davenport vicinity (i.e., the Middle Woodland period) or whether it represents an earlier period of mound building in the region. A more precise conclusion is further confused by the presence of nearly one foot of historic fill on top of this mound, which to some extent has artificially expanded its size but also suggests that there may have been disturbance to the prehistoric feature during the historic period, perhaps artificially reducing the size of the original mound structure.

As a result, until such time that additional data are obtained concerning the composition and age of site 13ST190, a very general temporal/cultural affiliation is assigned to this feature of the Early to Middle Woodland Period (800 B.C. to A.D. 400). It is further unknown as to whether this mound was originally built as a single structure or was part of a grouping of additional mounds. The construction and landscaping activities for the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home through the years could certainly have destroyed evidence of other mounds; however, no historical references have been found to substantiate their presence. It is known that the C.W.A. project conducted at the Orphans' Home in the 1930s included grading and landscaping, with one reference to the grading being necessary "to bring the ground to a level and to make the surface smooth."¹⁵ Whether this activity could have flattened unrecognized prehistoric mounds or merely smoothed out natural swells and swales is purely speculative. The surviving mound feature may owe its survival to the oak tree that grew at its apex during the historic period. The aesthetics of this combination of a mound with a large spreading oak tree at its center may have resulted in its preservation on the Orphans' Home grounds.

A 1938 study of the Pre-School noted of the school's setting that the play yard, "enclosed by stained, irregularly cut pickets, is on two sides of the building and its wide expanse, which boasts a terrace and trees, offers ample room for wading pool and various kinds of apparatus for

¹² Joe Alan Artz, e-mail to Leah D. Rogers RE: Davenport mound dated 7/19/2005.

¹³ *ibid.*

¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁵ "Project #225 – Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home Grading and Landscaping," *Illustrated Record of C.W.A. Project, Scott County, Iowa 1933-34, Vol. 2*, on file Davenport Public Library, Davenport, Iowa.

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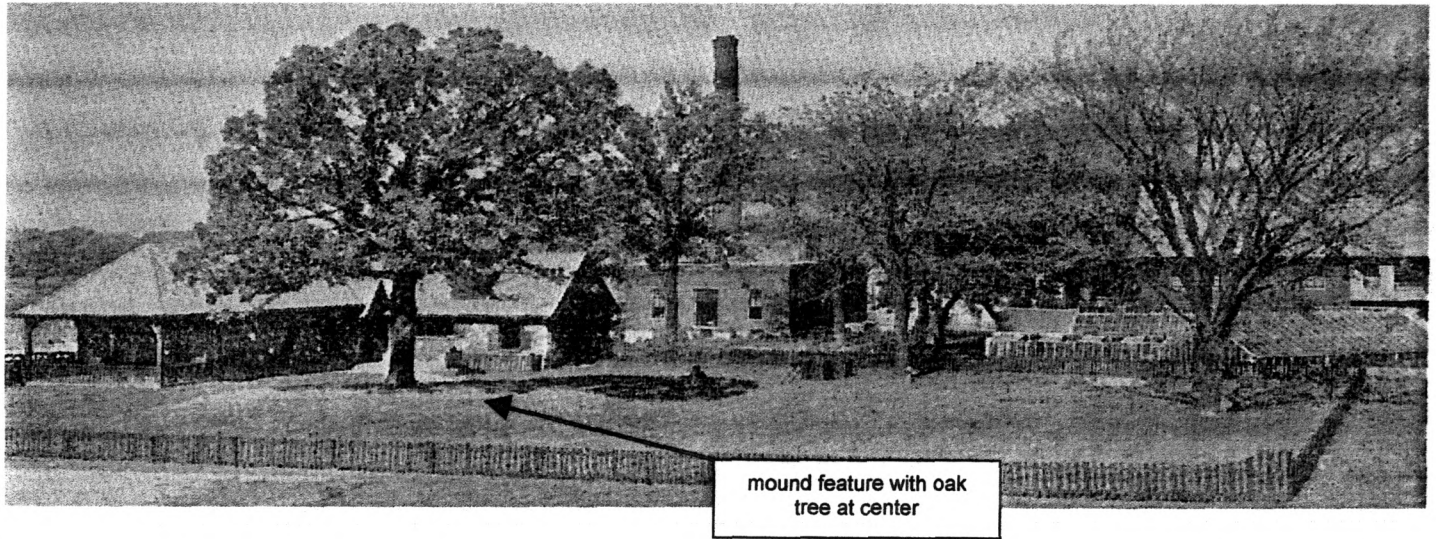
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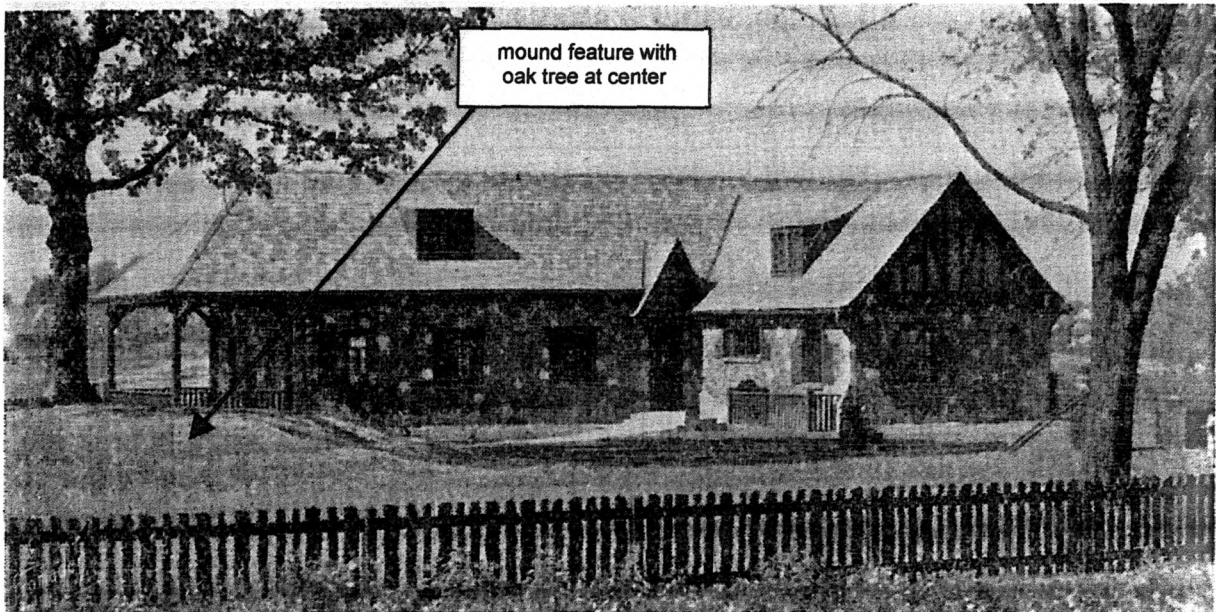
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c.1938 Photograph of the Pre-School's play yard: Photograph shows the mound and oak tree in the foreground within the picket fence enclosure, with the Pre-School to the left in the background. (Skeels et al. 1938, p. 20.)



c.1938 Photograph of the Pre-School's play yard: This second view is looking towards the Pre-School with the mound and oak tree partially visible to the left in the photograph. (Skeels et al. 1938, p. 22.)



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encouraging vigorous activity.”¹⁶ The photographs on the previous page that accompanied this study were taken of the play yard from a distance, with the burial mound the only “terrace” visible in the yard and the large oak tree among a few other trees within the yard enclosure. These are among only a few historic photographs to show the mound.

The 1938 reference to the mound as a “terrace,” coupled with the lack of historical references to the presence of a prehistoric mound on the Orphans’ Home property, suggests that this feature was never historically recognized for its prehistoric origin. It may be that the presence of the large oak tree during the historic period obscured the mound’s true association until recent investigations brought its prehistoric origins to light.

Summary of Integrity and Contributing-Noncontributing Resource Status

The overall integrity for the Iowa Soldiers’ Orphans’ Home Historic District reflects the organic development of the site as a public facility site over 140 years. The buildings were built, enlarged, and remodeled. Their use changed over time based on the changing requirements of the orphanage for a population whose age and gender shifted. All of the orphanage’s first buildings – temporary frame buildings converted from its use as a Civil War military camp – were razed by the 1880s. A substantial number of the next wave of state-built structures erected prior to 1900 were destroyed by major fires. Most of the pre-1900 buildings that survive have changes confined to early alterations. Examples of historic alterations include the expansions of the Boys’ Cottages from one and a half stories to two stories completed before they were even 20 years old or the replacement of the original front porch on the Administration Building with the current portico when it was just 15 years old. Other historic alterations occurred later in the life of buildings such as the roof changes on the Chapel made in 1941 and the interior floor plan and finish and changes in the Boys’ Cottages completed during the 1950s. Restoration of the front porches for the Boys’ Cottages was completed in 2003 under a local historic design review process.

The exteriors of many of the buildings constructed between 1900 and 1940 remain unaltered except for roof finishes and the addition of storm sash. Exceptions include the modifications of some of the windows in the Pre-School and Gymnasium. More significant rehabilitation work in recent years to post-1900 buildings has included historic rehabilitations completed for the exterior of the Grade School and High School building and the Annie Wittenmyer School and the building additions for the Hospital and Greenhouse, all completed under a local historic design review process.

The most substantial changes to the historic orphanage have taken place since 1965 and involved the construction of new residential buildings. These changes were completed in the south half of the central campus and followed the removal of the Girls’ Cottages. Four residential dormitory

¹⁶Harold M. Skeels, Ruth Updegraff, Beth L. Wellman, and Harold M. Williams. “A Study of Environmental Stimulation: an Orphanage Preschool Project.” *University of Iowa Studies, Studies in Child Welfare*, Vol. XV, No. 4 (Iowa City: University of Iowa, 1938), pp. 20-21.

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buildings were constructed by the 1990s.

Since the listing of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, the site has been altered by the removal of three contributing resources (the Laundry, the Engine House & Coal Shed/Boiler House, and the Receiving Hospital) and the construction of five noncontributing resources (the Storage Garage, Aquatic Center, and one dormitory). In addition two previous noncontributing resources have been newly designated as "contributing" as a result of their increased age (both are now more than 50 years old) and additional information regarding their architectural and historical significance to the orphanage. A third added contributing resource is a prehistoric burial mound not previously identified on the site. A summary of historic resources dated by decade appears below.

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District Extant Buildings & Structures by Decade	
Decade	Date of Original Construction
1880-1889	10
1890-1899	3
1900-1909	2
1910-1919	1
1920-1929	1
1930-1939	5
1940-1949	1
1950-1959	0
1960-1969	1
1970-1979	1
1980-1989	1
1990-1999	2
2000-2005	4
TOTAL	32 ¹⁷

In summary, the contributing historic resources of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District include 25 contributing resources (two sites, one structure, and 22 buildings) and 9 noncontributing resources (8 buildings and one structure). All of the contributing buildings are related to the operation of the Iowa Soldier's Orphans' Home, a state-owned and operated orphanage for the children of deceased veterans and indigent families. The orphanage site began as a former Civil War campground with its earliest extant buildings post-dating its campground use. The site was acquired for orphanage use in 1865 and the extant resources developed over 12 decades from ca. 1880 through 2000. The District's sites include the orphanage site itself and a prehistoric burial mound site. Structures include a root cellar and an in-ground swimming pool. Buildings range from

¹⁷This figure does not include the burial mound.

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one to three stories in height with nearly all built of reddish-brown brick with limestone foundations and trim. The buildings were previously used as residential cottages and dormitories, school buildings, an administrative building, chapel, hospital, an icehouse and storage building, carpentry and blacksmith shop, greenhouse, and garages. In 2005, the buildings no longer function as an orphanage but continue to house programs for children sponsored by not-for-profit organizations.

8. Statement of Significance

Significant Dates (continued) 1886, 1888, 1891, 1895, 1897, 1901, 1905, 1913, 1921, 1931, 1932, 1934, and 1940 (these dates include construction years for all contributing resources)

Architect/Builder (continued)

Liebe, Henry Frantz
Liebe, Henry James
Rust, J. Bradley
Arnold, Ralph
Bunker, Frank N.
Jacobson, C.F.
Gollehon, Schemmer & Associates
Stewart and Associates
Burbach Aquatics, LLC
Kucharo Construction Co. (builder)
Dean Fry Construction (builder)
Kan Build Company (builder)
Frye Builders & Associates (builder)
Russell Construction Company (architect and builder)
Carpenter, A.N. (landscape architect)

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General:

The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District is significant under Criteria A, C, and D at the local, state, and national levels. Under Criterion A it derives significance from its association with an important social welfare effort – a state-operated orphanage for the children of Civil War veterans and later, indigent families. These efforts fall under the National Register theme of "Social History." National level significance of the Orphans' Home is derived from the fact that it was the first statewide orphanage for veterans' children to open in the country in the post-war period. Its founder and first matron, Annie Turner Wittenmyer, went on to become a national figure serving as a major promoter of orphans' homes at the national and state levels. The orphanage also pioneered progressive child welfare initiatives including the Cottage System of orphanage operation that was replicated in other institutions, an early foster care placement program, and one of Iowa's first Montessori nursery school programs. The Home's preschool program was developed in conjunction with the State University of Iowa's Child Welfare Research Station. Psychological research studies conducted by Dr. Beth Wellman, a nationally prominent psychologist, at the orphanage led to major changes in the understanding of the impact of early education on intelligence. This new understanding, in turn, led to national reforms in early education programs. Though two other branches of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home were established in Glenwood and Cedar Falls, Iowa neither survives in 2005.

The Orphans' Home Historic District also derives significance under Criterion C under the theme "Architecture." The District contains well-preserved examples of architectural styles and vernacular building forms in use in Davenport from the late 19th century through the 1930s. The Orphans' Home evidences the adaptation of these styles and forms to the sometimes specialized needs of institutional buildings and orphanage use. Examples of the work of several important architects who designed both locally and at the state levels survive. These architects include the first two state architects associated with the Iowa Board of Control, Henry Frantz Liebke and his son Henry James Liebke, as well as subsequent state architects. Important architects in private practice included John W. Ross of Davenport and J. Bradley Rust of Iowa City. Work completed on the initial site plan was completed by landscape architect A.N. Carpenter of Galesburg. Taken together, the District's buildings serve as a significant collection of institutional buildings whose importance derives from their utilitarian form and functionality as well as their design.

The local and statewide archaeological significance of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home District is derived from the presence of a prehistoric burial mound (13ST190) dating from the Early to Middle Woodland (800 B.C. – A.D. 400). Site 13ST190 is considered contributing to the historic district under Criterion D for the site's potential to yield material items and deposits that might be important to the understanding of Early to Middle Woodland mortuary practices in eastern Iowa. Other archeological deposits associated with the Civil War period encampment, and with the construction and daily operation of the Orphans' Home may also contribute to the district significance. More research is need to assess this significance under Criterion D.

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The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District was cited as a historic resource in the "Historical and Architectural Resources of Davenport, Iowa (Part I and Part II) MRA" prepared in 1979-1983. The passage of time and the completion of additional historical research regarding the Orphans' Home have resulted in the identification of additional resources associated with the Orphans' Home as contributing. To better understand the property, its designation in this updated nomination is as a historic district rather than a single resource with multiple buildings.

Although no significance is asserted under Criterion B, the orphanage retains a strong commemorative association with the post-Civil War career of founder and promoter Annie Wittenmyer. Because of the attrition of buildings present during her active involvement with the orphanage, Wittenmyer's association does not meet the requirements of Criterion B significance. However, her association with the facility during its early years has been well documented and remembered through the years in numerous books, articles, speeches, and other published accounts. Her role was commemorated with the naming of a school building in her honor in 1912 and the renaming of the entire facility as the "Annie Wittenmyer Home" in 1949. Wittenmyer's historic role in the founding of the orphanage and the commemorative honors afforded her are discussed under Criterion A.

The period of significance for the District is 1865 - 1955. These dates mark the date for the earliest known occupancy of the former Camp Kinsman site as the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home under private operation and the 50-year cut off period established by the National Register for buildings to be considered significant. Throughout this entire period the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District was an important social welfare institution for the state of Iowa and the city of Davenport. The burial mound (13ST190) adds an additional span of 800 B.C. - A.D. 400 to the historic district's period of significance.

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The Historical Development of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District:

Civil War Campground

The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District is located on the original site of the former Camp Roberts–Camp Kinsman, a Civil War campground located outside of Davenport that was originally established on July 14, 1863. The site for the new campground was selected when Camp Hendershot located in north central Davenport was abandoned and a new site was selected – a “tract of ground comprising the old County Fair grounds and the grounds west of Oakdale Cemetery...it is retired from the city, is a very healthy spot, and with the improvements that are to be made it will be a most pleasant home for the soldier.”¹⁸

The campground was originally named for Brigadier General B.S. Roberts, commander of the Iowa district, who departed the city in December 1863 for service elsewhere. It was later renamed for Colonel William H. Kinsman, an adopted son of Iowa, who died heroically at the Battle of Black River Bridge in the campaign for Vicksburg in May 1863 under command of General Grenville M. Dodge of Council Bluffs. Camp Kinsman was one of five local military campgrounds during the Civil War, the last to be established and last to remain in operation. In September 1865 companies of the Veteran Reserve Corps remained doing guard duty as the camp was cleaned out. Unlike the buildings at Camp McClellan, the larger Civil War campground in East Davenport, the buildings of Camp Kinsman were to remain rather than be razed. Already on September 22, 1865 the *Davenport Gazette* wrote that “Camp Kinsman will probably be used for purposes of an Orphans' Home – and what a delightful spot it will be, high and green, with grateful shade, and retired from the bustle to the town.”

Iowa Orphans' Home Movement

Prior to the Civil War, orphanages in Iowa were private undertakings generally sponsored by religious organizations. Government funded care of orphans was generally limited to adjunct operations of county poor farms or other local facilities for the destitute, indigent, or mentally handicapped. The movement to establish an orphanage in Iowa for the children of deceased Civil War Veterans began as a private undertaking when Annie Wittenmyer, Iowa Sanitary Agent, returning from battlefield hospitals suggested that a major source of concern for the state's wounded soldiers was the care of their families and especially their children. In a meeting at the Soldiers' Aid Society in Iowa City on September 23, 1863 and before the State Convention of Aid Societies in Muscatine on October 7, 1863, the idea of forming an orphanage was discussed. Wittenmyer's resolution to establish “an asylum for the orphan children who have been made fatherless by this war” was passed at the Muscatine meeting. On Thanksgiving Day, Wittenmyer issued a statewide appeal for donations for the undertaking. On December 30, 1863, a sponsoring

¹⁸“Change of Location,” *Daily Democrat and News*, Davenport, Iowa, July 10, 1863, p. 1.

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organization, the Iowa State Orphan Asylum Association, later known as the Iowa Orphans' Home Association, was formally established. Wittenmyer served as a trustee for the organization and assisted in establishing the first home operated by the group. It opened in Farmington in Keokuk County in August 1864.

With the newly operating orphanage on her mind, Wittenmyer met with President Abraham Lincoln on March 2, 1865 to discuss the needs of Civil War veterans including their orphans. This visit preceded Lincoln's second inaugural by two days, an event that saw the President reflect on the coming post-war period and offer the memorable phrase "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." (Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865) In August 1865, a second orphans' home was opened in Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County. Soon both it and the Farmington orphanage were filling to capacity.

In October 1865 Wittenmyer returned to Washington to secure the use of Camp Kinsman and its collection of nearly new buildings for another larger orphans' home in Iowa. Here she met with officials in the War Department including the Quartermaster General, the Surgeon General, and eventually Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. Her efforts to secure the camp's use were successful and she returned to Iowa where a campaign was underway in Davenport and Scott County led by Judge John F. Dillon to raise local funds to support the effort. Contributions poured in from local residents and soon subscriptions from soldiers on the front came in as well. The enthusiastic support received by the orphans' home movement was later described by historian Lurton Dunham Ingersoll in *Iowa and the Rebellion* first published in 1867:

"There has never been any one work in the state that has convened so many people in large and enthusiastic assemblies, filled so many churches and halls, thrilled so many hearts, awakened so much emotion, suffused with tears so many eyes, commanded such great liberality, or enlisted so many great minds as the Soldiers' Orphans' home."¹⁹

Orphans' Home Begins

Wittenmyer returned to Davenport in October to ready the former campground for the arrival of orphans. She brought with her surplus War Department materials including hospital supplies, bedding, linens, and equipment valued at \$27,000. Wittenmyer became the new home's matron and went to work organizing it for opening the following month. On November 16, 1865, with the overcrowded Farmington home closed, 150 children arrived in Davenport aboard the steamboat *Keithsburg* from Keokuk. The children were fed and welcomed by women from local churches before being taken by wagon to the Home. Wittenmyer remained as matron during the orphanage's first 18 months and M.B. Cochran of Iowa City was named the first superintendent.

¹⁹Harry E Downer, *History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa, Vol. I*, (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co.), 1910, p. 664.

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Meanwhile back in Washington, Congressman Hiram Price from Davenport sponsored a measure to officially transfer ownership of the former Camp Kinsman to the Iowa Orphans' Home Association. According to some accounts similar efforts to sponsor transfers of former federal military establishments had proved unsuccessful at the end of the war, and Price's effort on behalf of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home was the first of its kind.²⁰ The measure was approved on January 22, 1866. Six months later on June 9, 1866, the Iowa General Assembly formally accepted transfer of the orphanage and the former Camp Kinsman property from the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Association. According to several sources, this became the "first institution of its kind under state ownership and direction in the United States."²¹ The State also took over operation of the Association's Cedar Falls orphanage at the time and established a third orphans' home in Glenwood in Mills County in November 1866.

During its first decade of operation, the temporary frame buildings of the former Camp Kinsman were retained and retrofitted for orphanage use. When the first biennial report was prepared in November 1867, the Orphans' Home had experienced a substantial growth in population. 1866 saw a peak of 428 children and 1867 saw the peak for the year reach 565 with an average attendance during the period of 479 children. To offset the cost of operation the orphanage maintained vegetable gardens on approximately 20 acres. Superintendent Cochran described the measures taken to convert buildings to residential cottages with each cottage staffed by a "cottage manager" and containing from 24 to 25 children. Other building conversions involved establishment of a hospital, school rooms, an ice house, sewing rooms, a bakery, a broom factory, a kitchen and dining room, a shoe shop, a tailor shop, and stable. Cochran also described a series of measures for improvement and expansion of the cottages needed in the future - establishing a chapel, building a well and cisterns, and establishing more vocational training opportunities for older children by creating a chair factory and brush factory. To carry out these measures the trustees requested an appropriation from the General Assembly of \$12,000.²² Both Cochran and Wittenmyer resigned their positions at the end of 1867 and were replaced by F.W. Pierce and his wife as superintendent and matron.

The pattern set in the first biennial report was continued in the 1870s. By the time the biennial report was published in 1872, the Davenport orphanage was housing an average of 310 children from more than 60 different counties. Thirteen remodeled cottages were available with as many as five vacant. This was due to the declining number of children of war veterans needing a home. Reported repair work regularly involved roofs, foundations, and floors. Superintendent Pierce

²⁰*Thirty-Fifth Biennial Report for the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home to the Iowa General Assembly and the Board of Control of State Institutions, "Superintendent's Report,"* p. 3.

²¹Charles E. Snyder, "Army Camp and Orphans Home," *Annals of Iowa*, April 1948, p. 312; A. P. Doe, "Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Its Rise and Growth - 'Tis a Model Institution," *Daily Times*, (Davenport, Iowa), September 29, 1900; Lucy Shelton Stewart, "Lest We Forget - Annie Wittenmyer." An address to the WCTU, August 20, 1915 in Evanston, Illinois. University of Iowa Special Collections.

²²*Report of the Officers of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, to the Twelfth General Assembly, November 4, 1867, Des Moines, Iowa: F.W. Palmer, State Printer, 1868.*

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described the property as "becoming more beautiful and valuable each year."²³ The staff for the Orphans' Home numbered 43 including 13 cottage managers and four teachers in 1872.

Expanded Mission, Disasters, and New Building at the Orphans' Home

By the mid-1870s discussion regarding needed changes in the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home system were being considered by the 16th General Assembly. Residents of the Glenwood and Cedar Falls facilities were moved to Davenport in February 1875 and June 1876, respectively. The Glenwood orphanage became a facility for "feeble minded" children and the Cedar Falls building was converted to Central Hall (nonextant) for use as classrooms for the new State Normal School. In July 1876 an impassioned plea was made by the Home's Board of Trustees to legislators to open the remaining Orphans' Home in Davenport to the children of the state's indigent families, not just veteran's children. President William H. Leas of the Board put the case as follows:

The State of Iowa, above all states of the Union, because, mainly, from her freedom from debt, can well afford to provide for and foster her indigent children... The true wealth of a community is not in its storehouses of wheat and corn; nor in its factories and mechanic arts alone; but in the proper culture of its children and their preparation for the real and useful duties of life...²⁴

The General Assembly approved the measure thereby launching a new phase in the development of the Orphans' Home. By 1877 the population of the Home stood at 240 with children from approximately 30 Iowa counties present. At this time, the orphanage operations continued to be carried out in a hodgepodge of retrofitted campground buildings laid out along Eastern Avenue north of the city limits. Trackage of the Milwaukee Railroad extended along the west side of the campus providing for easy delivery of ice and coal supplies. The tree-covered acres of Oakdale Cemetery were to the east where 30 donated lots were given by the cemetery association for use by the orphanage. Proximity to the cemetery brought concern, however, for the Home's drinking water. The meandering course of Duck Creek, located a quarter-mile to the north, was accessed by water wagons from the laundry during dry summer months. A view of the Orphans' Home in ca. 1875 appears on the following page.

²³Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, for the Two Years Ending Nov. 5, 1871, to the Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa: G.W. Edwards, State Printer, 1872, p. 7.

²⁴L.O. Cheever, "Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home," *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 6, June 1967, p. 259.

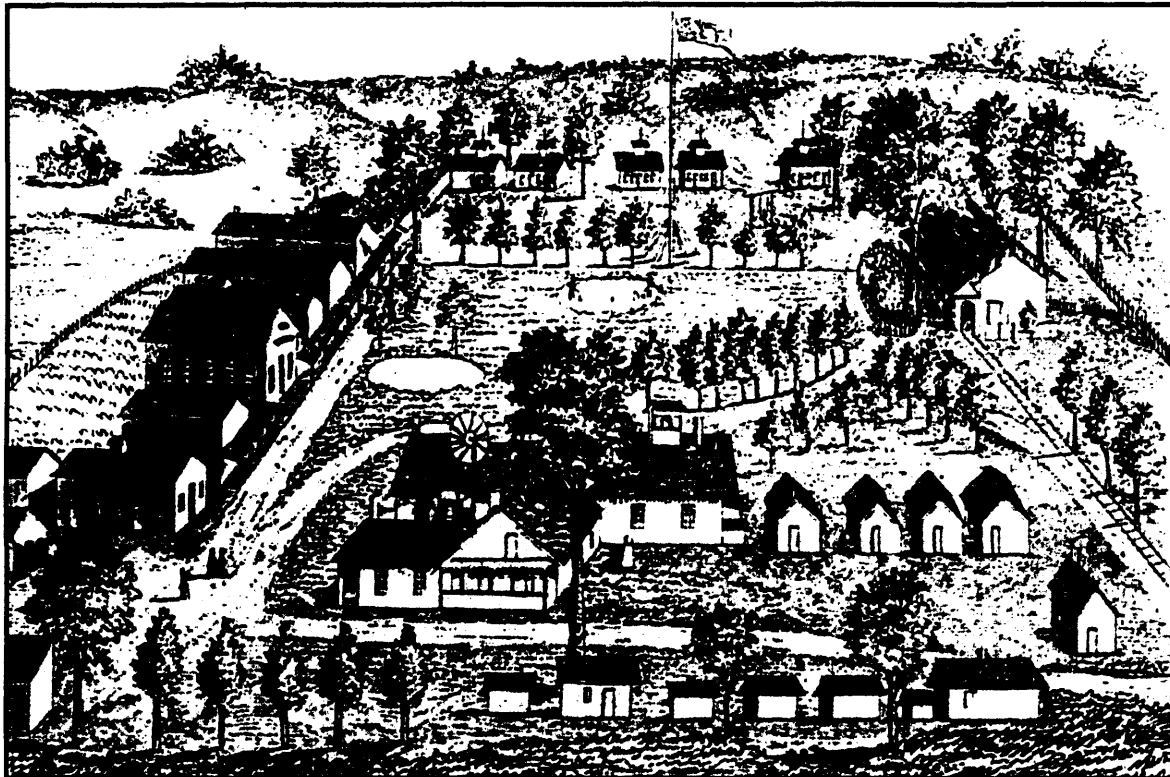
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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Site, 1875: Early view shows frame buildings constructed during use as Camp Roberts–Camp Kinsman from 1863–1865; orientation of the site plan is believe to be north at the top. (Andreas Atlas, 1875)



The consolidation decisions combined with the expanded mission given the Orphans' Home ushered in a twenty year-building boom that sought to replace the frame buildings of the Home with more permanent masonry buildings. Concern for fire in the buildings was expressed in nearly every biennial report. The opportunity to reduce maintenance costs was another justification for building replacements when the opportunity presented itself. For example, if an older frame building needed a new roof or foundation, the staff recommendation was usually to replace the entire building. It is likely that in the wake of the decision to expand the Home's mission in 1876, members of the staff and Board of Trustees gave considerable thought to a plan for the campus. Though this has not been confirmed, the deliberate placement of buildings constructed over an extended period of time, confirms the likelihood of a plan. Reference to the fact that a landscape architect, A. N. Carpenter of Galesburg, Illinois, was retained to develop a landscape plan in 1881 suggests some planning measures were being undertaken. Carpenter was at work elsewhere in Davenport at the time on a landscape plan for the Clarissa C. Cook Home for Indigent Women. He may have been recruited for the job at the Orphans' Home by an individual that both institutions had as a patron, Judge John F. Dillon – fundraiser for the Orphans' Home during its founding and a director of the Cook Home's board in the 1880s. Carpenter's landscaping jobs ranged from the laying out of house sites to cemeteries and parks to institutional grounds and subdivisions. The skill to establish the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home site plan would have been within his capacity and the timing of his involvement with the Home in 1881 supports this role.

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Once the rebuilding efforts at the Home began, the first priority was given to the construction of new cottages. Biennial reports list their construction by general location and gender of the occupants but in only a few instances identify specific buildings. Over a twelve year-period beginning in 1876-1877 cottage construction was as follows: two Girls' Cottages (nonextant) were completed in the south half of the central campus in 1877. In 1880, eight cottages were added including five of the Boys' Cottages (extant) in the north half and three additional Girls' Cottages (nonextant) in the south half. Biennial Reports for 1881-1882, 1883-1884, 1885-1886, and 1887-1888 identify construction of two cottages in each biennium with the descriptions suggesting that one was added in each half of the campus during these years. By 1888 a total of 18 cottages were in place, including the nine extant Boys Cottages in the north half of the central campus in 2005. Expansion of the cottages from one and a half-story to two-story began with the Boys' Cottages in 1895 and 1896. The Girls' Cottages saw their second stories added after 1900. Photographic documentation corroborates the phased development with the historic views on pages 7 and 13 showing both sizes of buildings in place. The exception to this phased development was the first hospital, later Cottage 20, built in 1882 at the corner of the cottage row, and Boys' Cottage 18 built in 1888. Both buildings were each constructed with two stories initially. A total of ten buildings survive from the decade of the 1880s.

Other buildings appeared and disappeared during the decade. On July 13, 1880, the building used as a dining-hall, kitchen, and bakery was destroyed by fire. It was replaced a short time later by what is believed to be the rear kitchen wing (extant) of the current Administration Building. A new primary school was erected in 1880 at the same time that eight cottages were constructed. By 1883 Superintendent Pierce was able to report in the *Ninth Biennial Report* that the "building erected for army purposes have all been removed, with the exception of the one used as a stable for horses and cattle."²⁵ A much sought after three-story Central Building was completed in 1884, a symbol of the maturity of the Orphans' Home as an institution and its growing administrative responsibilities. Disaster struck a second time that decade when a fire destroyed the nearly new Central Building on November 11, 1887, taking with it nearly all of the Home's records. Other nonextant buildings completed during the decade were an icehouse, brick outhouses, and a half dozen barns and outbuildings.

Despite the fires, resident population at the orphanage grew steadily during the decade of the 1880s as the Home's housing capacity grew. In a measure enacted by the General Assembly in 1880, the Home was opened further to "any dependent child in the state." A second legislative change that year saw the work carried out by the growing staff add responsibility for a foster placement program. As a result, tables for "Movement of Population" in the biennial reports published during the 1880s show a steady increase in resident population and an even larger increase in the number of children admitted and dismissed as successful adoptions and foster placements took place. In 1883 the mid-year population of the orphanage stood at 218. It grew to 293 in 1887 and 400 in 1891. The number of veterans' children declined to just 42 in 1887 but rose to 198 in 1891.

²⁵*Ninth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, June 30, 1883, Des Moines, Iowa: George E. Roberts, State Printer, 1883.*

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Orphanage Life

Orphanage life at the Orphans' Home was organized on the "Cottage Plan." This called for the grouping of children of the same gender and roughly the same ages in separate cottages designed to approximate life in a typical family setting. Each cottage was supervised by a resident manager or matron who was a single woman. She resided in a sleeping room in the cottage with little privacy. The goal of the "Cottage Plan" was to make each cottage a "miniature home, where all the surroundings and associations approximate as nearly as possible to the true ideal...every cottage is under the care of a Christian lady, whose business it is to see to the normal training of the children and look carefully after their behavior and personal welfare."²⁶ The "Cottage Plan" was widely copied by institutions in other states.²⁷ Prior to the expansion of the cottages in the 1890s to full two-story buildings, the cottages were crowded with living space and dormitory space on the same floor. The two-story buildings held 24 to 26 children. Dining was done in a congregate dining-hall, children wore Orphans' Home uniforms until the 1930s, and attendance at Christian Sabbath school was required but care was exercised "not to let any portion of this instruction partake of a sectarian bias."²⁸ Versions of this statement were reported in nearly every subsequent biennial report.

The provision of a sound education for the Home's children was an important goal throughout its years of operation. Classrooms were among the first buildings organized when the orphanage opened in 1865. A new school building was constructed in 1880 with additional buildings erected to house industrial education or manual training programs in the 1890s. The goal was to provide all children with classroom instruction through the 8th grade. Because many children were removed to foster homes, adopted, or returned to their families, 8th grade graduating classes were generally small. Like the cottage managers, the teaching staff was virtually all women. By 1900, nine full-time teachers were employed by the Orphans' Home. The industrial education or manual training was provided to prepare children for life after the orphanage. Boys worked in the Home's agricultural operations, carpentry shop, blacksmith shop, bakery, broom factory, and shoe shop. Girls received instruction in sewing and were responsible for sewing most of the Home's uniforms. Additional work assignments for girls included duty in the kitchen, laundry, and dining-hall. All older children were expected to work at least two hours a day with more hours added when they were not in school. Their labor was critical for the efficient and economical operation of the Orphans' Home, from the provision of milk and foodstuffs to the daily chores associated with feeding and clothing hundreds of children.

A measure of the Home's emphasis on self-sufficiency is seen in the careful listing of food production in the biennial reports. Selections that appear on the following pages are taken from biennial reports published in 1879 and 1910. They show the growth of the Home's production and an increasing emphasis on putting a cash value on its worth. Copies of the reports were distributed to state legislators and members of the public.

²⁶*Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, June 30, 1893*, Des Moines, Iowa: State Printer, 1893.

²⁷Cheever, p. 262.

²⁸*Report of the Officers of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home, to the Twelfth General Assembly, November 4, 1867*, Des Moines, Iowa: F.W. Palmer, State Printer, 1868, p. 20.

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Summaries of Production, 1878-1879 (below) and 1909-1910 (following page): (Biennial Reports, 1879 and 1910)

The live stock consists of 4 horses, 15 cows, 2 calves, 32 hogs and shoats, 12 pigs, and 100 fowls.

During the biennial period the live stock furnished, and we consumed, the following:

3,760 pounds beef killed, valued at.....	\$ 274.90
1,458 pounds veal killed, valued at.....	103.56
10,755 pounds pork killed, valued at.....	607.15
135 pounds poultry killed, valued at.....	13.50
68,640 pounds milk consumed, valued at.....	2,256.40
718 dozen eggs consumed, valued at.....	77.64
Total value.....	\$3,333.15

We commenced in May, 1879, with six stands of bees, from which we have taken 220 pounds of honey, valued at \$26.40. We now have 15 stands of bees, all in good condition.

The following is what has been grown on the land we have cultivated:

FOR 1878.		FOR 1879.	
Pounds grapes.....	600	Quarts raspberries.....	312
Bushels string beans.....	10	Quarts strawberries.....	256
Bushels shelled beans.....	15	Pounds grapes.....	800
Bushels peas.....	3	Bushels string beans.....	6
Bushels potatoes.....	20	Bushels shelled beans.....	2
Bushels beets.....	100	Bushels peas.....	4
Bushels carrots.....	80	Bushels potatoes.....	300
Bushels parsnips.....	60	Bushels beets.....	160
Heads cabbages.....	1000	Bushels onions.....	55
Pounds pie-plant.....	200	Bushels tomatoes.....	126
Bushels tomatoes.....	100	Bushels turnips.....	10
Bushels turnips.....	10	Pounds pie-plant.....	400
Pounds asparagus.....	200	Pounds asparagus.....	250
Pounds hops.....	5	Pounds hops.....	20
Loads pumpkins.....	20	Pounds sage.....	80
Pounds lettuce.....	10	Dozens cucumbers.....	80
Dozens cucumbers.....	300	Heads cabbages.....	2000
Bushels field corn.....	460	Loads pumpkins.....	2
Bushels onions.....	100	Bushels carrots.....	10
Dozens sweet corn.....	300	Bushels parsnips.....	25
Pounds sage.....	8	Pounds lettuce.....	10
		Bushels field corn.....	560
		Dozens sweet corn.....	600

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PRODUCTS OF THE HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.			
	For Year End- ing June 30, 1909	For Year End- ing June 30, 1910	For Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1910
Apples.....	194 bushels		194 bushels
Asparagus.....	115 pounds	49 pounds	155 pounds
Barley.....	310 bushels	374 bushels	584 bushels
Beans, string.....	6487 pounds	2160 pounds	8647 pounds
Beans, black.....	537 quarts		537 quarts
Beets.....	176 bushels	44 bushels	220 bushels
Blackberries.....	537 quarts		537 quarts
Cabbage.....	15,115 pounds	8900 pounds	23,715 pounds
Carrots.....	21 bushels		21 bushels
Cauliflower.....	670 pounds	1690 pounds	2360 pounds
Celery.....		75 dozen	75 dozen
Cherries.....	28 quarts	336 quarts	364 quarts
Corn.....	4000 bushels	3049 bushels	7049 bushels
Corn, green.....	6400 pounds	8125 pounds	14,525 pounds
Corn stalks in field.....	60 acres	49 acres	109 acres
Cucumbers.....	10,946 pounds	6640 pounds	17,586 pounds
Currants.....	164 quarts	396 pounds	480 quarts
Eggplant.....	45 pounds		45 pounds
Fodder.....	40 tons	65 tons	105 tons
Grapes.....	410 pounds	950 pounds	1360 pounds
Hay.....	90 tons	135 tons	215 tons
Kohlrabi.....	40 pounds	230 pounds	270 pounds
Lettuce.....	797 pounds	720 pounds	1517 pounds
Mango-peppers.....	90 pounds		90 pounds
Muskmelons.....	255 only		255 only
Milk.....	171,385 pounds	137,387 pounds	308,772 pounds
Oats.....	536 bushels	736 bushels	1272 bushels
Onions.....	80 bushels	124 bushels	204 bushels
Onions, green.....	2870 pounds	2975 pounds	5845 pounds
Parsnips.....	76 bushels		76 bushels
Peaches.....	30 bushels		30 bushels
Peas.....	840 pounds	2280 pounds	3120 pounds
Pie-plant.....	3380 pounds	1100 pounds	4480 pounds
Plums.....		31 bushels	31 bushels
Pop-corn.....	30 bushels		30 bushels
Pork.....	13,494 pounds	18,970 pounds	32,464 pounds
Potatoes.....	1235 bushels	1256 bushels	2491 bushels
Pumpkins.....	550 only		550 only
Radishes.....	3743 pounds	5283 pounds	9027 pounds
Raspberries.....	28 quarts	66 quarts	94 quarts
Spinach.....	600 pounds		600 pounds
Squashes.....	220 only	305 only	525 only
Straw.....	30 tons	30 tons	60 tons
Strawberries.....	274 quarts		274 quarts
Tomatoes.....	317 bushels	243 bushels	600 bushels
Turnips.....	76 bushels	82 bushels	157 bushels
Turnips.....	28 bushels		28 bushels
Timothy seed.....	238 pounds	459 pounds	697 pounds
Veal.....		306 only	306 only
Watermelons.....	31 only	29 only	60 only
Wives.....	98 only	80 only	178 only
Pigs.....			
Total value.....			\$ 27,811.39

The "healthy" diet provided to children at the Home in the 1870s and 1880s was proudly reported in the 1879 Biennial Report.²⁹

"For breakfasts – Baked beans, brown bread, white bread, and butter, three times a week. Oat meal and milk, bread, and syrup, twice. Potato soup, bread and syrup, and apples, once. Codfish, bread and butter, and apples, one morning.

For dinners – Vegetable soup, bread and butter, coleslaw or pickles, and apples, once a week. Hash, bread and butter, baked potatoes, pickles, and apples, twice. Noodle soup, baked potatoes, bread and butter, and apples, once. Bean soup, bread and syrup, pickles and apples, twice a week. On Sundays, bread and milk, pie or cake, baked apples, raw apples, and a part of the time cold meat.

²⁹ *Seventh Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, November 1, 1879, Des Moines, Iowa: F.M. Mills, State Printer, 1879, p. 9.*

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For suppers – Bread and milk, with gingerbread, three times a week. Mush and milk, corn bread, white bread, once. Bread and milk, warm rusk, once. Bread and milk, with sugar, cookies, and baked apples, once. For luncheon, Sundays, cake and cheese, and apples.”

Pride in Progress

Virtually every biennial report during the Orphans' Home's first half-century included lofty language describing the goals of the Orphans' Home or explaining its successes. The combination of moral leadership and a good education provided by the staff led Superintendent Pierce to state that, of the 1,450 soldiers' orphans cared for at the home from its opening through 1883,³⁰

“there have been but few instances of the girls being led astray, or of the boys becoming criminals...we find them as laborers, farmers, mechanics, teachers, physicians, county officials, in fact in all honorable vocations. Iowa has been most liberal in providing for the wants of soldiers' orphans, but in what direction could the State have invested the same amount of money with as good results?”

Six years later in 1889, Board of Trustees President Henry Egbert wrote in similar elevated language.³¹

“It is but just that this great State should throw her protecting care around every homeless, friendless child within her borders, furnishing it either directly or indirectly with a home, rescuing it from ignorance and vice, and securing for it such development of its powers as will render it self-supporting. . . Surely there can be no wiser expenditure than that which lifts innocent, helpless little children above degradation and misery, rescues them from pauperism and crime, and rears them to be good and useful citizens, whose happy and virtuous lives are an honor to the State that claims them.”

The decade of the 1890s saw the Orphans' Home continue to expand its physical plant. The most substantial addition was completion of the Administration Building in 1891 four years after the fire that destroyed the earlier Central Building. The new building housed the kitchen in the basement, the children's and employees' dining halls on the first floor, administrative offices and reception rooms on the first floor, and quarters for the superintendent's family and staff on the second floor.

Later in the decade two buildings were added that served multiple purposes. The Carpentry Shop-Blacksmith Shop was constructed in ca. 1895 and known briefly as the “Boys' Manual Training Building.” The Girls' Industrial School was built in ca. 1897 with sewing rooms on the second floor for sewing instruction and making clothing. Food preservation took place in the basement during the growing season. The main floor provided dormitory rooms for the Home's staff. These three uses gave rise to the building being referred to as the “Three Purpose Room” in later years.

³⁰*Ninth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, June 30, 1883*, Des Moines, Iowa: George E. Roberts, State Printer, 1883, p. 9.

³¹*Twelfth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, June 30, 1889*, Des Moines, Iowa: G.H. Ragsdale, State Printer, 1889, p. 11.

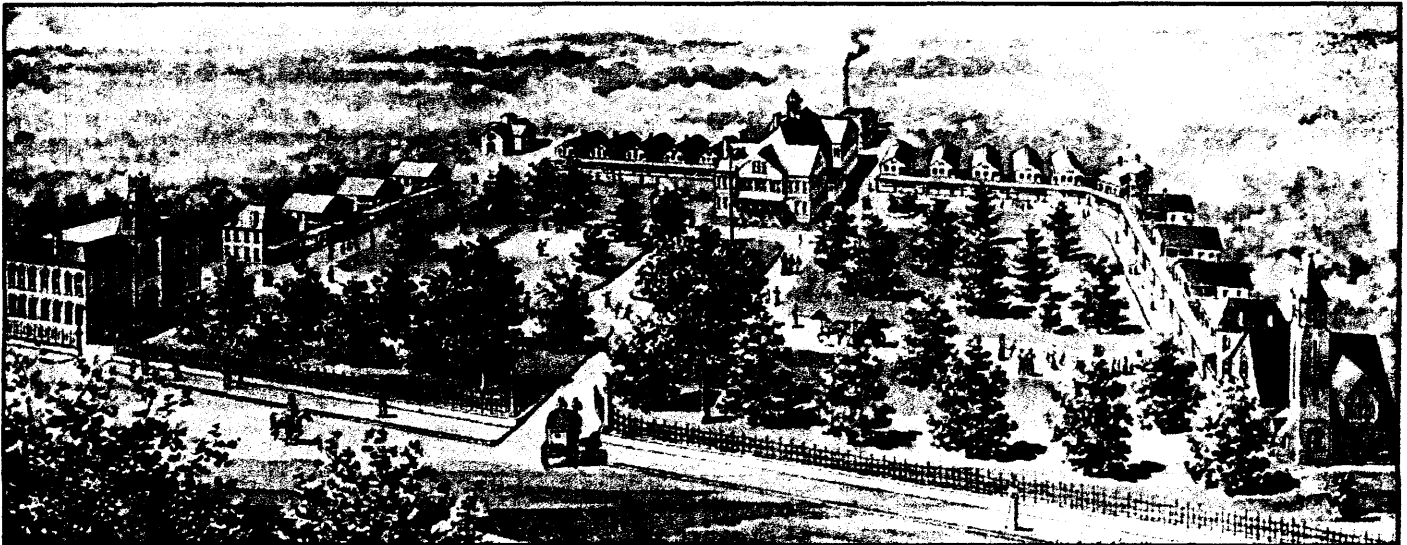
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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Site, ca.1897: Bird's-eye view of the planned site published in 1897 suggesting a design for a new chapel and expansion of the Girls' Cottages to two stories – projects that were not completed until after 1900. (*Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, June 30, 1897, Des Moines, Iowa: F.R. Conway, State Printer, 1897*)



In many respects, the most important changes to the campus as the century drew to a close were a combination of infrastructure changes begun in the 1890s and completed during the next decade. They were largely invisible but nevertheless critical to the improved living environment of the Orphans' Home. The first involved the installation of city water mains for fire fighting and to replace the Home's private wells as a source for drinking water, bathing, and laundry use. The second involved the elimination of the Home's large brick outhouses through the provision of municipal sewer service and installation in-door plumbing. The final improvement involved the construction of a system of centralized steam heating and below-ground distribution tunnels throughout the campus. A fourth infrastructure improvement involved the addition of electricity. With these improvements came attendant changes to nearly every building at the Home. The installation of bathrooms, wiring, and steam heating caused considerable upheaval in the operation of the orphanage and its resident population.

Board of Control of State Institutions

As the decade of the 1890s drew to a close, operation of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home was transitioned from management by a Board of Trustees to the newly formed Board of Control of State Institutions. The first governor-appointed board of three members included former governor William Larrabee, John Cownie, and L.G. Kinne, a former Iowa Supreme Court judge. Superintendent at the time was M.T. Gass. He took great pride in the work of the orphanage and was successful in persuading the Board of Control to make a name change by dropping "Home for Indigent Children" from the title in 1904. By 1910 the Board of Control was responsible for 17

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separate institutions including:³²

- Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown
- Iowa Soldier's Orphans' Home at Davenport
- College for the Blind at Vinton
- School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs
- Institution for Feeble-Minded Children at Glenwood
- State Sanatorium for the Treatment of Tuberculosis at Oakdale
- Industrial School for Boys at Eldora
- Industrial School for Girls at Mitchelville
- Mt. Pleasant State Hospital at Mt. Pleasant
- Independence State Hospital at Independence
- Clarinda State Hospital at Clarinda
- Cherokee State Hospital at Cherokee
- State Hospital for Inebriates at Knoxville
- Hospital for Female Inebriates at Mt. Pleasant
- Penitentiary at Ft. Madison
- Reformatory at Anamosa
- Industrial Reformatory for Females at Anamosa.

State Architect Employed

Another change made possible by organization of the Board of Control was the provision of centralized planning services. For the Orphans' Home this meant that a state architect with responsibility for the major building projects undertaken by the various institutions managed by the Board would now be available to plan the Home's building and remodeling projects. Henry Franz Liebke, an experienced architect from Des Moines, was appointed state architect in 1898.

The first decade of Liebke's tenure saw him supervise construction for the Chapel (extant) in 1901; a new entrance portico and front porch (extant) for the Administration Building the same year; an Engine House-Coal Shed-Boiler Room (nonextant) in ca. 1904; a new Laundry (nonextant) in 1905; an addition (extant) that connected the former laundry with the Administration Building in 1905; and an Ice House-Storage Building (extant) in 1905. Construction of this backlog of projects in just five years would not have been possible without the retention of a state architect.

Population at the Home remained the same or grew slightly from 1891 when the mid-year attendance was 400 to 1901 when attendance stood at 439. The next decade saw the Home's population rise more significantly with 585 children present in 1911. The increased number of residents was handled by finishing the second-story conversions of the cottages and converting buildings such as the Hospital to use as a dormitory. Every biennial report during this period

³²"Board of Control of State Institutions," *Iowa Official Register 1909-1910*, pages 262-269; available online at: <http://iagenweb.org/history/register/stateinstitutions.htm>; accessed May 24, 2005.

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identified critical building needs related to the increased population – more school rooms, more dormitory space, a receiving hospital, an isolation hospital, a gymnasium, etc. Child welfare planners could see that the centralized housing of orphans and indigent dependents was not the long-term solution, however, and continued building was not the only solution. Retention of the Home's first social worker in 1898 was the first step towards an alternative solution. The principal responsibility of the social worker was to find and supervise private home placements for children away from the Orphans' Home. Within a few years multiple state agents were placing children throughout the state. A second change to alleviate a growing orphanage population came in 1910 when the state authorized payments to parents to allow them to keep their children at home if their sole reason for being at the orphanage was poverty.

Despite these efforts, the Home's population continued to rise until reaching a high of 639 in 1915 and continuing to fluctuate between the mid-300s to the mid-500s during the 1920s. Such levels proved challenging for the staff of the Home to manage because of the fixed costs of operation and the varying levels of income that were provided on a strict per-capita basis. A solution for this came from Superintendent F.J. Sessions in 1914 when he recommended that the state provide a fixed income per month based on a population of 500. Basic operating income would still be derived from counties on a per capita basis for their placements and from the state for veterans' children.

Education and Child Development

To alleviate some of the problems associated with overcrowding at the Orphans' Home in the years leading up to and following World War I, special appropriations were approved by the General Assembly to fund new buildings. Projects completed before 1927 were the design work of State Architect Henry F. Liebke. Among the most desperately needed buildings was a new school. The building was completed in 1913 and named the "Annie Wittenmyer School" (extant) in honor of the orphanage's founder and first matron. Its construction succeeded in alleviating classroom overcrowding in the primary grades. The school was the first building located south of the Girl's Cottages. It housed four large classrooms on two floors when it opened with the boys' manual training classes later relocated to the basement level.

Operation of the orphanage's kindergarten program in the new school was of special note. When it opened in 1913 its university-trained instructor was using the Montessori method of instruction. The Montessori method was established in Italy in 1907, and the first school in the United States to operate using the Montessori method opened in 1912 in Tarrytown, New York. The popularity of the methodology swept the country with more than 100 Montessori schools opened by 1915. The Montessori program operated by the Orphans' Home appears to be among these early programs and may have been one of the first to operate in the state. Little has been identified regarding its longevity.

Another indication that child development efforts at the Orphans' Home were of a progressive nature at the time was the use of field psychologists from Child Welfare Research Station at the State University of Iowa after 1917. Their primary use initially was testing and placement of children

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"outside of the normal lines." In later years they would assist in the operation and evaluation of the pre-school program and other psychological testing.

The same year that the Annie Wittenmyer School was under construction, a new hospital (nonextant) designed by H.F. Liebke was built nearby. It replaced the former hospital located at the northwest corner of the Boys' Cottage row. Its construction allowed the former hospital to become "Cottage 20" (extant) and serve as an additional boys' dormitory. The new hospital served all of the resident population for a time but eventually became the "Receiving Hospital."

The third building for which an appropriation was received during the decade was a gymnasium. The advent of World War I, however, delayed the project due to increased cost and the unavailability of construction materials as the nation geared up for war. When the Gymnasium (extant) was completed in 1921, its opening was accompanied by the hiring of a physical education instructor. The facility, which was completed by the Office of the State Architect, contained an indoor swimming pool and basketball court.

The decade of the 1920s saw population at the Orphans' Home fluctuate from 400 to 500 residents. As the decade drew to an end, disaster struck the Home when three large dairy barns located at the southwest edge of the site burned on February 26, 1927. The Home's prize dairy herd suffered losses from the fire but strong northwest winds kept the fire from spreading to the main buildings and cottages. Within days, Superintendent R.E. Zerwekh met with Henry F. Liebke, State Architect, and the decision was made to rebuild the dairy barns several miles from the orphanage for safety reasons. The new dairy barn and outbuildings (nonextant) were eventually constructed along the south side of U.S. Highway 6, at the intersection of Bridge Avenue. The staff of the Home took considerable pride in the prize-winning Holstein herd maintained at the State-owned farm affiliated with the Home. In 1928, its cows produced a per head profit of \$221 and its daily production of 150 gallons of milk was used for the "healthful feeding of our children...the benefits of this wonderful food is reflected in the health of our children."³³

Before construction of the new dairy barn complex was completed, a new state architect took the helm. In June 1927 Henry Frantz Liebke died unexpectedly. His son, Henry James Liebke, who was serving as his assistant at the time, was promoted to replace his father a short time later. In his new position he supervised completion of the main dairy barn as well as a calf and test barn, a bull barn, litter pits, and hog house.

The Great Depression Years

As Iowa's economy worsened in the late 1920s due primarily to the agricultural recession in the Midwest, the Orphan's Home saw a steady increase in population with a new peak of 703 in 1933. The Home's dormitory space was nearly exhausted and its hospital capacity was reaching its limit when the General Assembly approved an appropriation for a new, larger hospital building that is

³³Thirty-Second Biennial Report of the Superintendent and Twelfth Biennial Report of the State Agency Department of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Davenport, Iowa to the Board of Control of State Institutions, June 30, 1928, (Anamosa, Iowa: Men's Reformatory Print), 1929, pp. 4-5.

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known today as the Sanders Building. The old hospital was converted to use as the "Receiving Hospital" (nonextant) when the new Hospital that was designed by Henry J. Liebbe opened in 1931. The Receiving Hospital's revised purpose was to provide an isolated location for housing newly admitted children where infectious disease was feared, a major concern with the numbers of children housed at the Home at peak levels.

The main Hospital was used to house a growing number of infants referred to the Home. Babies arriving without names soon received state-given names. Presidents, months of the year, and Iowa cities were often selected. An infant boy arriving before election day in 1928 was dubbed "Herbie Hoover Davenport."³⁴ Children under the age of three years lived at the hospital until they could feed themselves, sleep in a regular bed, were toilet trained, and could live in a group setting. The Hospital also provided care for sick children and was equipped for minor surgery. All other medical needs were referred to the State University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City. This practice had been observed by the Orphans' Home since passage of the Perkins Act in 1915 by the General Assembly, which mandated that the SUI College of Medicine provide care for the state's indigent children. In separate action later that year, the General Assembly funded construction of the 150-bed SUI Children's Hospital, which opened in 1919.

Following completion of the new Hospital, construction continued on the south half of the campus with several utilitarian buildings and a school. A new Root Cellar (extant) was completed in 1931, a new Greenhouse (portion extant) in 1932, the Pre-School (extant) in 1934, and the Garage (extant) the same year. The first two projects and the Garage were designed by Henry J. Liebbe and an outside architect, J. Bradley Rust of Iowa City, was retained to compile plans for the Pre-School.

The Pre-School was the most significant of the four buildings in terms of its progressive educational mission. Described as "the first of its kind in the United States,"³⁵ this seven-room building was intended for use in teaching and psychological testing for children ages three to five. The ongoing working relationship between the Orphans' Home and professional educators and psychologists associated with the Child Welfare Research Station of the State University of Iowa became the basis for the initial operation of the Pre-School.

The Pre-School began operation in 1934 with its programs under the direction of a trained psychologist. The declining age of children at the Home at the time created a growing need for the Pre-School's programs. By the end of the decade, an evaluation of the effects of a structured pre-school education on the lives of the Home's youngest children was completed by child psychologists at the Child Welfare Research Station of the State University of Iowa. The study evaluated the role of environmental stimulation explaining in detail the daily routine of orphans with and without access to the preschool. The new Pre-School building was evaluated by the psychologists and deemed adequate for its purpose at the Home.³⁶

³⁴"Picking Names for Kiddies a Difficult Task," *Davenport Democrat* (Davenport, Iowa), April 7, 1929.

³⁵George T French and H.E. Dissette photographer, *Illustrated Record of C.W.A. Projects, Scott County, Iowa, 1933-1934*, Vol. 2, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library, Davenport, Iowa., p. 11.

³⁶Harold Manville Skeels, Ruth Updegraff, Beth Lucy Wellman, and Harold M. Williams, "A Study of Environmental Stimulation; an Orphanage Preschool Project," *University of Iowa Studies, Studies in Child Welfare*, Vol. XV, No. 4, 1938.

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Among the team of psychologists to complete this study was Beth Lucy Wellman. A pioneer in her field, it was her comparative studies with children at the Orphans' Home Pre-School during the 1930s that demonstrated that a child's intelligence quotient can be changed based on stimulation from the environment. "Her findings shook the world of psychology and prompted the establishment of such programs as Head Start, Home Start and early education for the mentally retarded. Wellman's studies continue to hold implications for the battle against discrimination according to class, race and gender."³⁷ A summary of Wellman's Orphans' Home study provided by the University of Iowa Hospital Medical Museum follows:

"Another study that produced startling results was carried out by Wellman, together with her colleagues Skeels, Updegraff and Williams, on children aged two to five in the Davenport Soldiers' Orphans' Home. A preschool was established at the orphanage "to add richness to the lives of the children," as Beth Wellman explained in a 1939 interview. Two groups of preschool-age children were formed; the subjects in each group were matched at the beginning of the study according to age, IQ, sex, length of residence in the institution and nutritional status. Only one group attended the preschool during the three-year period. The research team found that preschool enhanced the intelligence of the children who attended it, and, more surprisingly, that the intelligence of those children who did not attend the preschool actually decreased.

The evidence for loss of intelligence was shocking. Wellman's findings suggested that placement in institutions for some mentally disabled children could have been avoided if they had received greater early intellectual stimulation. The results highlighted the need for improvements in state institutions and for early education of many disadvantaged groups in society."

While new buildings were going up in the early 1930s, a series of federally funded public works projects were also underway at the Orphans' Home. At least four individual projects were carried out during 1933 and 1934 under the auspices of the Scott County offices of the Civil Works Administration, the first federal agency established to handle federally funded public works projects during the Great Depression. Projects at the Orphans' Home included the following:

- Project #125 – Rewiring Pre-School and Tunnels: wiring of the Pre-School, Garage, and tunnels
- Project #129 – Grading Grounds: grading of the grounds around new buildings and laying out sidewalks.
- Project #131 – Plumbing Repair and Addition: installation of fixtures for 11 showers and baths in 9 cottages along with miscellaneous plumbing.
- Project #225 – Filling Behind Rip-rap wall: continuation of Project #129 including grading around the new Pre-School; constructing a new rip-rap wall near the south entrance to the Home and back-filling with excess earth from grading.

Photographer H.E. Dissette recorded work for Projects #125 and #225 in photos below.

³⁷"Bucking the System: Women in the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa, 1874 – 1950, Iowa Child Welfare Research Station," at the University of Iowa Medical Museum web site; available at <http://www.uihealthcare.com/depts/medmuseum/gallery/exhibits/womeninhealth/icwrs/icwrsnurses.html>; accessed 5/28/05.

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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Site: C.W.A. Project #129, February 13, 1934 shows the retaining wall (portions extant) being built along the south side of the service drive near the south entrance. The new Hospital (extant) is at the left and the Gymnasium is at the right. (Available online at <http://www.umvphotoarchive.org/cgi-bin/viewer.exe?CISOROOT=/scdpl&CISOPTR=475>, accessed 4/11/2005; George T French and H.E. Dissette photographer, *Illustrated Record of C.W.A. Projects, Scott County, Iowa, 1933-1934*, Vol. 2, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library, Davenport, Iowa)



Though population rose at the Orphans' Home, orphanage life was largely unchanged for the children from one generation to the next. A telling description of the daily routine was written by L.O. Cheever, an associate editor for the State Historical Society, who resided with his brother at the Orphans' Home from 1916 to 1923.³⁸

"The cottages were alike. On the first floor were the front parlor, sitting rooms for the matron and children, bath and washrooms, and a clothes room with a hook for each child... Upstairs were the matron's quarters, dormitory with a bed for every youngster, and a closet that held Sunday's change of clothes as well as providing storage for clothing and bedding according to the season. The children's life centered around the sitting room. Chairs ringed three sides of the room, ranging from small to large, depending on the occupant's age. Your chair was your castle. It was where you went to wait for the meal bell; where you read and studied; where you found your gifts on Christmas morning.

When the children reached the fifth grade they started going to school only a half day. The other half was spent in working..."

³⁸Cheever, p. 270.

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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Site: C.W.A. Project #225, March 15, 1934 shows grading work being completed north of new Pre-School; view shows three buildings – Greenhouse (portions extant) at center back, Laundry (nonextant) at right, and Girls' Industrial Building (extant) at far right. (Available online at <http://www.umnphotoarchive.org/cgi-bin/viewer.exe?CISOROOT=/scdpl&CISOPTR=475>, accessed 4/11/2005; George T French and H.E. Disette photographer, *Illustrated Record of C.W.A. Projects, Scott County, Iowa, 1933-1934*, Vol. 2, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library, Davenport, Iowa)



There was considerable interaction between residents at the Orphans' Home and "the warmhearted and generous people of Davenport" according to Cheever. Hundreds of children were fostered and adopted by local families. The Sunshine Committee made up of members of local luncheon clubs sponsored the "birthday table" in the dining hall where once each week a cake and favors were given to the children with birthdays. Mississippi Valley Fair Association, local churches, the Tri-City Symphony, the Friendly House, and the YMCA offered free tickets and sponsored special programs, Riverboat rides were offered to all of the Home's children by a local benefactor beginning in 1912 and continued as a provision of his estate following his death. The Orphans' Home Band participated in community events and parades. Among the most notable events attended by a group of children from the Home, was a revival meeting in Rock Island conducted by Billy Sunday – a former resident of the Orphans' Home who was much celebrated by the institution through the years.

One of the darkest episodes identified in the operation of the Orphans' Home came in the spring of 1939. Under the direction of Dr. Wendell Johnson, a psychologist from the State University of Iowa specializing in speech disorders, Mary Tudor began a study of one of Johnson's theories. Johnson, a stutterer himself, believed based on his personal experience that stuttering was not an inborn condition but something children learned. From January into May 1939, Tudor completed a study at the Orphans' Home using 22 children as subjects. The children were divided into two groups, with one group labeled normal speakers and given positive speech therapy, and the other group induced

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to stutter. Six of the orphans became chronic stutterers though their speech had been nearly flawless at the onset of the study. Tudor's unpublished dissertation that chronicled the experiment at the Orphans' Home became known as the "Monster Study" among succeeding generations of psychology graduate students at the University of Iowa. It was not revealed publicly until 62 years later when the *San Jose Mercury News* published a series of articles on it in 2001. In the months that followed, critical discussion about its use of orphans as experimental subjects as well as its controversial findings appeared in newspapers and psychological journals. Major law suits were filed against the University of Iowa and the State of Iowa on behalf of the six children in the experiment who became chronic stutterers.³⁹

World War II and the Post-War Years

The problems of over crowding at the Orphans' Home that had continued throughout the decade of the 1930s prompted construction of a new school building in 1940. Its construction cost was supplemented by a grant from the Public Works Administration. The 1880 building that stood at the east end of the Girl's Cottage row was razed and the new building was put in its place. Superintendent Syl McCauley introduced a number of improvements in the educational system following completion of the new school. Four-year college degrees were recommended for all teachers, children would now attend full-day school, and ninth grade was added to the regular program for all students. In an arrangement made with the Davenport School District, older children were transferred to the city school for high school after ninth grade.

The turnover of superintendents was high during the late 1930s and 1940s, with seven individuals occupying the post during the two decades. The onset of World War II saw Superintendent Harvey Daines leave for military service in 1942. Mrs. H.O. Hyatt replaced him as acting superintendent. She was the first female to hold the position since Annie Wittenmyer briefly held the post when the orphanage began operation. During Hyatt's tenure, the most difficult problems facing the home involved staffing. A dozen regular staff were drafted into military service and filling their positions with capable employees was a problem until the war ended. The Orphans' Home tallied 180 former residents serving in the armed forces during the war. In the post-war years population at the home declined to approximately 400 children.

The Annie Wittenmyer Home

On July 1, 1949 the Iowa General Assembly initiated a major commemoration of Annie Wittenmyer's association with the Orphans' Home by formally changing its name to the "Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home." The move was taken by the legislature nearly 50 years after Wittenmyer's death to acknowledge the important role she played not only in the establishment of the Home itself

³⁹Gretchen Reynolds, "The Stuttering Doctor's 'Monster Study,'" *New York Times Magazine*, available online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/16/magazine/16STUTTERING.html?ex=1048862555&ei=1&en=c3e38d28620c3d9c>, accessed May 27, 2005.

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but as Iowa Sanitary Commissioner during the Civil War. The bill to change the name of the Home was introduced by State Representative Fred Schwengel of Scott County. Despite the name change, the policy regarding state sponsorship of veterans' orphans continued with counties picking up half the cost of county wards and the state paying for the full cost of veterans' children.

The 1950s ushered in a new phase of professional care at the Annie Wittenmyer Home. Superintendent Leon Lyle who took charge in 1951 was the first person to hold the post who had both professional training and experience in child welfare. Under his leadership the Home placed more emphasis on child placement through both adoption and foster care. The Home's psychological and social service staff was gradually upgraded to professionals while in-service training was improved for all employees.

Population levels continued to decline slowly at the Home primarily as a result of improved economic conditions and greater success in placements. The optimum number of residents during the decade was set at 250. This was down considerably from the optimum of twenty years earlier of 500. Cottages now held approximately 15 children compared to an average of 24 in earlier years. The Home's daily average population stood at about 220 in 1956 and 1957, while the average period of stay dropped to about three years.

During the decade of the 1950s all of the cottages saw their interiors upgraded, a pair of buildings done each biennium as funding became available. Among the most important changes made during the decade was the discontinuation of the Home's independent electric power plant. When the process of conversion began in 1952, the Annie Wittenmyer Home was identified as one of the last places in the Midwest to make its own electricity.⁴⁰ The switchover from direct current to alternating current was a major undertaking for the Home.

In 1960, James Holmes was appointed superintendent of the Annie Wittenmyer Home. Population that year had climbed to 298 despite considerable success achieved in placing children. By 1963, the General Assembly had moved to reduce population by allowing counties to establish foster home care programs for children between three months and 10 years. Two years later, state legislation opened the Home to "all children found to be dependent and neglected, even though they might also be retarded, disturbed or delinquent."⁴¹ As a result, the majority of children left were considered "slow learners or hard to place."

Changing Population at the Home

To respond to the changing nature of its population, the Annie Wittenmyer Home put greater emphasis on providing good mental health care and special education programs in the late 1960s. The farm property operated by the orphanage totaled more than 270 acres at its peak and its operation formed the basis of much of the Home's vocational training. This land was sold beginning

⁴⁰Bill Wundrum, "Wittenmeyer [sic] Home to Quit Making Own Electricity," *Morning Democrat*, (Davenport, Iowa), May 14, 1952.

⁴¹Cheever, p. 285.

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in 1965.⁴² Funds from the sales in subsequent years were funneled back into the programmatic and construction needs of the Home related to its changing populations. In 1965-1966 a new Mental Health Unit-Children's Cottage building was completed to provide intensive mental health care for ten children, including their education, recreation, housing, and counseling needs.

By the time the Annie Wittenmyer Home celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1965, it had housed more than 11,750 children from throughout the state. According to the Home's centennial history, its mission had shifted over ten decades from providing for the care and adoption of veterans' orphans to all orphans, and then to dependent and neglected children. During the next few years, debate at the state level persisted about an appropriate role for the Annie Wittenmyer Home. According to local news accounts, the Home "had become a highly specialized institution for the evaluation, rehabilitation, education, and placement of children with serious behavioral and emotional problems."⁴³

Board of Control Ends and the Annie Wittenmyer Home Closes

In 1967 the state legislature discontinued the Board of Control of State Institutions and through a reorganization of state government transferred responsibility for the Annie Wittenmyer Home to the Iowa Department of Social Services. By the early 1970s, the state legislature enacted a series of decisions that further affected the operation of the Home. Local communities were given major responsibility for developing programs, services, and facilities for special education and mental health. By so doing, the state would no longer have need for such facilities as the Annie Wittenmyer Home.

In 1974 operation of the Annie Wittenmyer Home was set to phase out with a legislative mandate for closure in June 30, 1975. In 1974 State Representative Gregory Cusack of Davenport set up the Task Force on Residential Treatment for Youth to consider possible future use for the buildings at the Annie Wittenmyer Home as well as alternative programs for Scott County youth in residence at the Home. By mid-year, Family and Children's Service of Davenport, a local not-for-profit organization providing counseling and other programs, entered into an agreement to provide residential treatment for youth under a contract with the Iowa Department of Social Services using buildings located on the south half of the site. By late 1974, children at the former state-operated facility were being handled by Family and Children's Service.

Annie Wittenmyer Complex Established

Local debate continued about what to do with the balance of the Annie Wittenmyer Home. State officials met with county and municipal leaders in early 1975 but failed to resolve a sale for the

⁴²The farm buildings operated in conjunction with the Annie Wittenmyer Home were razed following the sale of the farmland in 1965. The last building in the farm complex razed was the dairy barn located at the southeast corner of Kimberly Road and Bridge Avenue. It was demolished in ca. 1992.

⁴³John McCormick, "That Venerable Home," *Times-Democrat*, (Davenport, Iowa), July 14, 1974.

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property. The county bowed out of discussions but the City of Davenport under the leadership of Mayor Robert Duax pressed negotiations. The value of the 48 acres maintained by the Home was appraised and negotiations proceeded with two purchasers. St. Luke's Hospital negotiated purchase of the 16 acres on the west side of the railroad right-of-way and the City of Davenport proceeded with negotiations for the 32 acres on the east side. The purchase price for the parcel containing the Annie Wittenmyer Home was set at \$170,000 and the City Council approved its acquisition in June 1976. A key figure in behind-the-scenes negotiations was John McCormick, a local newspaper editor.

In the months that followed acquisition of the Annie Wittenmyer Home it was renamed the "Annie Wittenmyer Complex" by the City of Davenport. Family and Children's Resources (Family Resources, Inc. in 2005) was extended a 50-year lease for nine buildings on the south 9.95 acres of the campus. These buildings would be used to house a growing number of youth counseling and residential treatment programs under the umbrella of the "Wittenmyer Youth Center." Buildings in the older, northern two-thirds of the campus were to be used to house a variety of municipal services and children's programs. The Davenport Junior Theater, a children's theater program operated in conjunction with the Davenport Park Board, was given use of several cottages and the Chapel. The Park Board also used the athletic area, Greenhouse, and a portion of the Garage. Other buildings were used for storage areas and maintenance staff. After first determining that the Administration Building was unsound, it was later rehabilitated to house office space for Camp Fire, Inc., a youth activities enrichment program; the Illowa Council of Boys Scouts of America; Junior Achievement of the Quad-City Area; and a branch library of the Davenport Public Library. Over the next two decades other local children's agencies and municipal programs were added to the Annie Wittenmyer Complex. The most recent came in 2002 when the Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center opened a new swimming pool and aquatic park at the north end of the property.

The former Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home was originally listed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 26, 1982. In April 1996 the east center section of the original Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home was listed as a local landmark on the Davenport Register of Historic Properties by the Davenport Historic Preservation Commission and the Davenport City Council.

National Orphans' Home Movement

Founding efforts on behalf of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home were on the forefront of a national movement that "caught the imagination of a Northern public longing for a silver lining to bloody war news."⁴⁴ Annie Wittenmyer's resolution in Muscatine in September 1863 appears to be the first in the country. In November 1863 just weeks after President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, he issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation that included a plea for Americans to remember widows and orphans in their prayers.

⁴⁴James Alan Marten, *Civil War America; Voices from the Home Front*, (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003, p. 282.

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The following year Governor Andrew Curtin was inspired to create a system of homes for war orphans in Pennsylvania. Another effort in Pennsylvania grew out of a national campaign to establish the National Homestead in Gettysburg in 1866. It was inspired by the publication of a photo of an unknown soldier clutching a photo of his three children as he died on the battlefield. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* headline read "Whose Father Was He?" The story was reprinted in many newspapers and journals in the North. His identity went unknown for some months until his wife Philinda identified him as New York soldier Amos Humiston. According to Civil War historian James Marten, by that time the two boys and their sister has been dubbed the "Children of the Battlefield."⁴⁵

On the national level during this period, Congress established a pension program for disabled soldiers and the families of soldiers who died in the war. In a number of Northern states, sympathy for widows and orphans manifest itself in the formation of state-operated orphanages in Post-Civil War Era included Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio, and New Jersey. In summarizing the founding of these homes, Marten cites several examples for the formation of these homes. Some involved private efforts such as the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, which were formed and then taken over by states. In some states the GAR contributed to the establishment of orphanages through the support of legislative campaigns.

The New Jersey Soldiers' Childrens' Home (nonextant) in Trenton, New Jersey was established in 1865 after it received a grant from the Camden and Amboy Railroad as seed money. Under a cloud of improper administration it closed in 1876. The Pennsylvania Railroad contributed funds for a statewide system of orphans' homes in Pennsylvania that included such facilities as the Bridgewater School (NRHP). It operated as an orphans' home for the children of African-American soldiers from 1865 until the mid-1880s. In 1886, an expose in the *Philadelphia Record* uncovered poor management and ill treatment in the state's system of homes with the National Homestead at Gettysburg among the many homes that were shut down by the early 1890s.

In Indiana, orphans along with veterans' widows were housed in the Indiana Veterans' Home established in 1867 in Knightstown. After a fire destroyed the veterans' building in 1872, the facility became strictly an orphans' home eventually taking the name Indiana Soldiers' & Sailors' Children's Home (portion extant). Like the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, its operation was based on a version of the cottage plan and its layout, which appears on the following page, was remarkably similar to the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home.⁴⁶

⁴⁵Ibid., p.280.

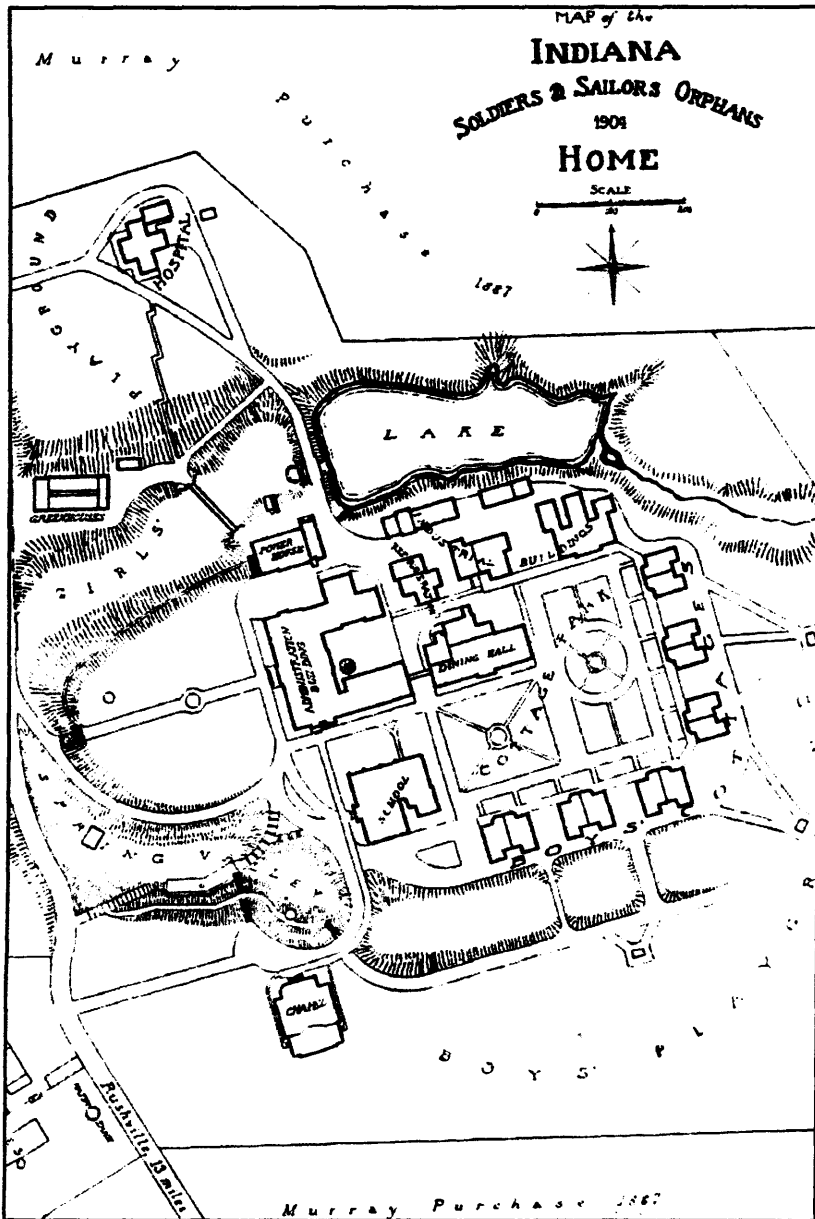
⁴⁶The facility remains open in 2005 operating as Indiana Soldiers and Sailor's Children's Home. A brief history of the home can be found at the Friends of the Indiana State Archives web site, available online at http://www.fisa-in.org/news/articles/sns_children.html; accessed 5/28/05.

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Historic View – Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, 1904: (Fifty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Trustees and Officers of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home," State of Indiana, September 30, 1930, front piece.)

Other orphans' homes were inspired by Republican politicians and patriotic veterans. In Ohio, Governor Rutherford B. Hayes was outraged that hundreds of orphans were living in county infirmaries or were homeless in his state. He successfully enlisted veterans to help pass orphanage legislation in 1870 and created the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home/Ohio Veteran's Children's Home in Xenia, Ohio, which remained in operation until the mid-1990s

In Wisconsin, the state-operated orphanage began when Cordelia Harvey, widow of Governor Louis Harvey, was appointed a state sanitary agent after her husband's death during the war while he was in Savannah, Georgia. She established Harvey Hospital (nonextant), a veteran's convalescent hospital in Madison, a facility that was converted to a state-operated orphanage in 1866. Like Annie Wittenmyer, she held the position of superintendent briefly after the orphanage's opening.⁴⁷ The budget for the orphanage was suspended in 1874

when Democrats took over the state government.

The Connecticut Soldiers' Orphans' Home (nonextant) was established in 1866 in Mansfield, Connecticut and operated until 1875. The building and grounds were a private gift. In Illinois, the Civil War Orphans' Home (nonextant) was offered to the town of Normal in 1867 after the state

⁴⁷The Soldiers' Orphans' Home" from *Centennial Records Of The Women Of Wisconsin*, Madison, WI: Atwood and Culver, 1876; available online at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/WIReader/WER1691.html>; accessed 5/28/05.

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legislature approved its establishment and the community raised money for the effort. It opened in 1869 and later became the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home following the Spanish-American War and World War I. Numerous investigations saw critics accuse the home of mismanagement and harsh behavior towards its residents. The home closed in 1979 and the buildings were razed.

The Kansas Soldiers' Orphans' Home was one of the last homes to open near Atchison in 1887. At first limited to veterans' children age five and under, regulations were altered in 1889 to admit all "dependent, neglected or abused children" between the ages of two and fourteen. It became the State Orphans' Home in 1909 and the Kansas Childrens' Home in 1953. In 2005 it is used as the Kansas Juvenile Correction Facility Center.

In the South, orphans' homes were established by private organizations such as the United Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Children of the Confederacy, and even the Ku Klux Klan.⁴⁸ As in the North, the orphanages and their children were used to maintain public support for their regional cause. During the post-war years, orphans and the homes they inhabited were frequently used to raise patriotic fervor.

The operation of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home-Annie Wittenmyer Complex remained on the forefront of child welfare initiatives nationally throughout its more than 100 years of operation. Strong support from the local community, its role in administering a statewide program of foster care and support for indigent families, and its affiliation with the State University of Iowa's Child Welfare Institute contributed to its long survival.

⁴⁸Marten, p. 286.

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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Population: 1866-1974⁴⁹		
Year	Total	Soldiers' Orphans
1866	479	
1867	565	
1872	310	
1875	109	
1876	92	38
1879	130	92
1883	218	68
1886	280	47
1887	293	42
1891	400	198
1893	458	248
1895	496	
1897	498	
1899	454	309
1900	434	258
1901	439	265
1903	491	
1905	469	
1906	496	
1908	501	138
1909	516	123
1910	509?	258
1911	585	
1912	549	62
1913	518	56
1914	530	52
1915	639 Peak	
1916	463	
1918	349	22
1919	408	17
1920	393	21
1921	403	22
1922	421	10
1923	405	19
1924	505	13
1925	480	23
1926	521	31
1927	507	26
1928	464	29
1929	565	28
1930	589	26
1932	691	91
1933	703 Peak	105
1934	686	96
ca. 1945	400	
1956	220	
1960	298	
1962	296	
1967	315	
1971	110	
1974	60	

⁴⁹Population figures are taken from various published sources, primarily from biennial reports and newspaper accounts. Population figures were either average occupancy figures or the number of residents recorded at the end of the fiscal year, which was either November or July depending on the year in which the report was published.

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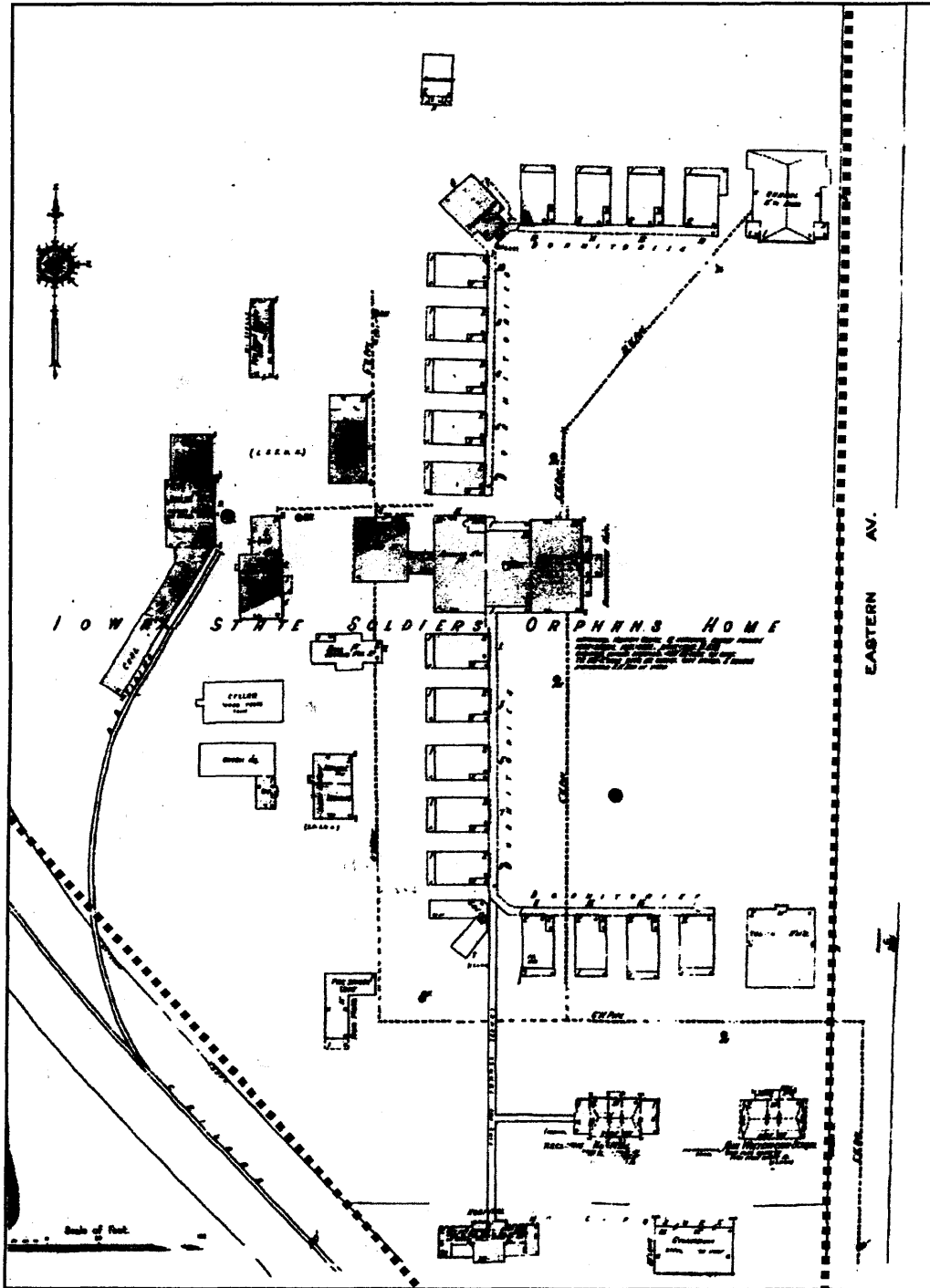
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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers Orphans' Home, 1910 Sanborn Map with updates through 1934: dotted line shows historic district boundary and buildings marked with triangles are nonextant; building identified on page 2. (Sanborn Map, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library, Davenport)

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The Architectural Development of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District

The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District is proposed for National Register eligibility under Criterion C due to the presence of several buildings that are architecturally important for their style, their vernacular building form, and/or their association with important Iowa architects.

The Orphans' Home Historic District includes a range of architectural styles from the late 19th through the early 20th century. The Late Victorian Queen Anne Style was adopted for domestic buildings while the Second Empire and Romanesque Revival styles were used for institutional buildings constructed in the decades prior to 1900. In the decades before and after World War I, state architects retained by the Board of Control introduced eclectic combinations of Romanesque, Mission, Classical Revival and Prairie School style institutional buildings. The 1930s saw the introduction of the picturesque English Period Cottage Style for several smaller scale and utilitarian structures and the adaptation of the "style of the decade" – the PWA Moderne – for one of the campus's largest buildings. Together these buildings provide a study in American architectural style adapted to an institutional setting and a variety of utilitarian and monumental building forms.

Iowa architects involved in designing the District's buildings included John W. Ross of Davenport who designed the Administration Building; Henry Frantz Liebbe and his son Henry James Liebbe, father and son architects who successively held the position of State Architect for the Board of Control of State Institutions for more than 40 years designing many projects including seven buildings and one structure that remain extant, and J. Bradley Rust of Iowa City who designed the Prep School. One landscape architect, Asaph Newton Carpenter of Galesburg, played a role in the design of the early landscape plan.

A Study in Styles

The earliest buildings at the home – the nine Boys' Cottages built between 1880 and 1888 – are examples of the **Queen Anne Style**. Each building, however, began its life as a much simpler one and one half-story, front-gabled house form constructed of reddish-brown brick and no ornamentation. Franklin Kirk, a local carpenter and contractor, was responsible for construction of the first two cottages in 1877, and he and his son may have built others as well during the succeeding decade. Initially each of the houses housed as many as 25 children. As the population of the orphanage increased, a full second-story was added to each of the cottages with fish-scale and square cut shingles added to the attic gables. The installation of front and rear porches with square columns, plain trim boards, and simple pendants completed the Queen Anne designs. Even after the cottages assumed their final form, they were able to retain an appearance described in the orphanage's 1877 Biennial Report as "plain [and] substantial."

The Orphans' Home began replacing its frame cottages soon after the General Assembly made two important decisions. The first was to close the branch orphans' homes in Glenwood and Cedar Falls and move the remaining children to the Davenport facility. The second decision was to allow the Orphans' Home to accept indigent children from throughout the state. This expanded mission for the orphanage saw its name officially changed to the "Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home and Home for Indigent Children."

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Biennial Reports list the construction of brick cottages to replace the former military camp buildings over twelve years. Beginning in 1876-1877, two Girls' Cottages (nonextant) were built in the south half of the central campus. In 1880, eight cottages were added including five of the Boys' Cottages (extant) in the north half and three additional Girls' Cottages (nonextant) in the south half. The 1980-1981 Biennial Report indicates that an unnamed architect was retained to prepared plans for the cottages and five other buildings on the campus. Biennial Reports for 1881-1882, 1883-1884, 1885-1886, and 1887-1888 identify construction of two cottages in each biennium with the descriptions suggesting that one was added in each half of the campus during these years. By 1888 a total of 18 cottages were in place, including the nine extant Boys Cottages in the north half of the central campus in 2005. Expansion of the cottages from one and a half-story to two-story began with the Boys' Cottages in 1895 and 1896. The Girls' Cottages saw their second stories added later in the decade and after 1900. Photographic documentation corroborates the phased development with the historic photograph on page 13 showing both sizes of buildings in place.

Replacement of other frame buildings at the Orphans' Home began in the late 1870s as well. The construction of a combination boiler house and laundry building came in ca. 1877. This mansard roofed building was one of several **Second Empire Style** buildings erected including the Central Building (nonextant) that was built in 1880 and destroyed by fire in 1887 and the first school, built the same year and razed for construction of a new school in 1940. Both were large-scale examples of the institutional form of the Second Empire Style. Each was three stories in height with a mansard roof its principal design feature.

In ca. 1906 the mansard roofed Boiler House-Laundry was converted to use as a kitchen and bakery and was physically connected to the Administration Building (see elevation drawing, page 10). This was made possible by the completion of the new Engine House (nonextant) several years earlier and a construction of a new Laundry Building (nonextant). The basic elements of the Second Empire Style that survive in the rear kitchen wing of the Administration Building today are its mansard roof and gabled-dormers. Stone foundations, brick walls, and segmental arched 4/4 double-hung windows are seen here and in other 19th century buildings on the site.

The construction of large-scale buildings began with the erection of the first school in 1880, which was designed by an architect who remained nameless in the Biennial Report for 1880-1881. Its Construction followed a fire in 1877 to the earlier frame school building. The new French Second Empire Style school was located at the southeast corner of the row of Girls' Cottages. Its mansard roof allowed it to provide three full floors of classrooms. It was under construction when the main dining hall building burned in 1880. Its replacement was not made until 1884 when the new Central Building was completed. This elaborately designed building incorporated the standard elements of institutional structures being erected at state-operated facilities during the decade of the 1880s – a symmetrical massing, mansard roofs, a bell or clock tower, and a prominent entrance porch. A view of this nonextant building is pictured on the following page. It provides an idea of how the trend begun with the construction of the Second Empire Style school in 1880 was continued with the richly ornamented design selected for this building. It had been used for just three years when a fire destroyed the building in 1887.

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Historic View – Iowa Soldiers Orphans' Home, Central Building (nonextant), ca. 1884: Looking northwest at main entrance shortly after construction was completed; the building burned three years later. (Mariys A. Svendsen, *Davenport A Pictorial History*, (Rock Island, IL: G. Bradley Publishing Co.), 1985)



Construction of a new central administrative building in 1890-91 saw the introduction of a new architectural style to the Orphans' Home campus – the **Romanesque Revival Style**. This style was well suited for massive institutional buildings such as the new Administration Building (see historic photo pages 7 and 8) constructed to replace the Central Building. The new building employed the basic elements of the style including the use of contrasting finishes for walls and trim – smooth brick and ashlar-faced stone, semi-circular or Roman arches for some of the openings, flat arches for many of the windows and doors, a steeply pitched gable wall dormer, parapet gable ends, but no turrets or towers. The lack of towers and the building's less elaborate ornamentation likely fit the cost-saving mood of the post-fire period. When completed in 1891 Superintendent Bowman

described the building for the benefit of state legislators as a “plain, commodious structure” reminding them that its cost of \$35,000 was substantially less than that of the Central Building that it replaced.

A variation of the Romanesque Style was employed for the Chapel, the campus' third large-scale building, when it was completed a decade later. The Chapel's design first appeared in a bird's eye view drawing of the Orphans' Home published in 1897 (see page 53). This publication predates appointment of a State Architect by the Board of Control in 1898 and construction of the building three years later in 1901. As a result, it is not clear who the building's designer was. The building contains several distinctive Romanesque elements. The first is the semi-circular arch used for the doors, the large art glass windows in the auditorium (side façades) and entrance vestibule (front façade), and the smaller paired windows on the second floor in the front façade. The second Romanesque feature is the embossed metal cornice/beltcourse that contains a series of semi-circular arches. It is placed between the first and second floors lining the east, south, and west façades of the building. The Chapel's original design shown on page 12 featured a cross-gabled roof. This was modified in 1941 to the flat roof present since then. Large semi-circular arched windows in the cross-gabled ends and a prominent spire over the main entrance tower were removed at the same time. The design remains distinctly Romanesque despite these changes. Its dramatic siting at the end of the row of Boys' Cottages with steep drops to the north and east

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enhances its architectural importance.

The last building constructed with Romanesque Revival overtones was the Ice House-Storage Building completed in 1905. Its most distinctive Romanesque features are the two-story semi-circular arched window panels and the gabled attic dormers that feature paired round-arched windows and stone trimmed parapet end walls. Like other building designs produced by the Office of the State Architect of the Board of Control during the first decades of the 20th century, this building also has design elements borrowed from other styles. As a result, these buildings are best described as *Eclectic*. The Ice House-Storage Building borrows its broad, low-pitched hipped roof and wide eaves from the Prairie Style and the front-gabled entrance porch with its exposed rafters from the Craftsman Style. The addition of utilitarian ventilation monitors typical of the Orphans' Home's many barns and outbuildings make it a truly Eclectic building.

Another Eclectic building on the campus is the Annie Wittenmyer School completed in 1913. Its Eclectic design successfully blends together elements of the *Prairie Style*, *Mission Style*, and *Colonial Revival Style*. Despite the building's narrow footprint, it has a horizontal appearance that comes from its Prairie Style attributes – the horizontal bands of windows in its bowed sidewalls and the broad, low-pitched hipped roof and wide eaves that extend over the main block. Its single Mission Style feature is the projecting front bay with its distinctive curvilinear parapet. Colonial Revival attributes include the jack-arched, keystone windows and the simple brick dentils and stone ornamentation found in various exterior locations.

After World War I, the Office of the State Architect of the Board of Control turned to another architectural style for inspiration for new buildings. Variations of the *Colonial Revival Style* were used for the Gymnasium (extant) completed in 1921 and both the Receiving Hospital (nonextant) completed the same year and the main Hospital (extant) finished a decade later in 1931. Both the Gymnasium and Receiving Hospital were designed with side-gable roofs with stepped gable ends and symmetrical front façades. The Gymnasium's interior uses required two tall levels to house the swimming pool in the lower level and the gym on the main floor. Its distinctive front entrance bay included a wide low-pitched hipped roof supported by large brackets with a semi-circular arch above the door. Other elements including the stepped parapets on the end walls, the raised basement, flat window arches, and symmetrical entrance stairs set above a semi-circular brick arch fit comfortably in the Colonial Revival Style. The Receiving Hospital that stood nearby had a similar massing but contained three levels with smaller windows suited to the interior floor plan.

The main Hospital was built substantially larger than either the Gymnasium or Receiving Hospital by incorporating a change in terrain to provide an additional level. Unlike the earlier buildings, the new Hospital had a low-pitched hipped roof with projecting bays in the center and an overall larger footprint. Like the earlier buildings, the Hospital was built with a poured concrete foundation. Colonial Revival styled multi-light windows (6/6 double-hung sash) were symmetrically arranged. The front entrance was marked by a side-lighted entrance, a Chicago window, and a single attic roof dormer – all simplified Colonial Revival treatments. Though not an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival Style, the Hospital retained the basic exterior elements while adapting the interior floor plan to meet the medical needs of the Home's residents.

As construction of new buildings at the Orphans' Home progressed in the early 1930s, a newly popular domestic architectural style – a variation of the *Tudor Revival Style* sometimes referred to

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as the **English Period Cottage** – was adopted for several small-scale buildings on the southwest side of the campus. This style was first used for the Greenhouse (extant) constructed in 1932, a building designed by the Office of the State Architect. The Greenhouse originally consisted of a small masonry cottage attached to a glass plant house wing (nonextant). The steeply pitched, side-gabled roof cottage incorporated herring bone patterned brick work in the walls, half-timbering in the front-gabled entrance bay, and groups of multi-light casement windows in the wall dormers – all design elements typical of the style. The combined result was suggestive of an English garden cottage.

The second building erected two years later in the same style was the Pre-School. This slightly larger cottage design incorporated both brick and randomized limestone in the masonry walls in a picturesque manner. Bricks were laid in waving, curving courses and vertical lines were only present around openings. Hand-hewn beams were used for half-timbering in the gables and similarly prepared bargeboards were incorporated into entrance hoods and trim. The overall effect was imaginative and playful – well suited for a building planned for occupancy by three to five-year olds.

By the end of the 1930s, an architectural style known as the “Depression Modern”⁵⁰ or “PWA Moderne.”⁵¹ This style described by one author as “scraped Classical with Art Deco touches”⁵² was lamented by contemporary critics for its boxy forms and dismal pallet of materials. Later authors would offer more charitable reviews celebrating the streamlined nature of many buildings and recognizing use of bronze, marble, and Bedford stone as long-lived, quality materials. The **PWA Moderne Style** grew popular during the Great Depression years for use in federally funded public works projects sponsored by the Civil Works Administration and later, the Public Works Administration – hence the name PWA Moderne. The new School (extant) constructed at the Orphans' Home in 1940 was designed in the PWA Moderne Style. The School's symmetrical façade incorporated the use of a number of new building materials – glazed brick walls, glass block for the tall transoms above the entrances, metal multi-light windows, glazed terra cotta tile for interior corridor walls, and terrazzo floors. The reader depicted in the stone plaques above the entrances was typical of ornamentation in PWA Moderne Style buildings.

Together, the designs of domestic and institutional buildings constructed at the Orphans' Home over six decades from 1880 through 1940 are a microcosm of American Architecture during the period. They demonstrate the skill of architects who were charged with submitting creative designs while maintaining strict budgets. They incorporate some of the best ideas in American Architecture while using locally available materials and craftsmen. They show the value of organic growth for an institution when a basic plan is established in advance and when basic rules regarding building materials are observed.

⁵⁰Martin Grief, *Depression Modern: the Thirties Style in America*, (New York: Universe Books), 1975, p. 113.

⁵¹David Gebhard, *The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America*, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), 1996 and David Gebhard and Gerald Mansheim, *Buildings of Iowa*, (New York: Oxford University Press), 1993.

⁵²Richard Pare, editor, *Courthouse A Photographic Document*, (New York: Horizon Press), 1978, p. 244.

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The Architects

Four architects and one landscape architect have been identified as designers of the buildings and grounds at the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home. John Ross was an architect in private practice, Henry Frantz Liebbe and his son Henry James Liebbe held the position of State Architect for the Board of Control of State Institutions, and J. Bradley Rust was an architect in private practice. A.N. Carpenter was a landscape architect in private practice. Brief discussions of the work(s) they completed at the Orphans' Home and how they fit into their professional careers appear below.

The first professional architect identified for a building at the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home was **John W. Ross** (? - 1914). Ross trained in Chicago and came to Davenport in 1874. He established a successful local career designing residences and public buildings including a number of schools and small to large scale governmental buildings. His earliest commission was the Hose Station No. 1-Fire King Fire Station (NRHP listed) in Davenport in 1877. This two-wagon firehouse is an example of how the Second Empire Style could be simplified for a small, utilitarian building. The designs for two other Second Empire Style buildings erected at the Orphans' Home in 1880 and 1884, the School and Central Building, may be the work of Ross as well but no original drawings survive. The Biennial Report for 1881 acknowledges the employment of an architect for the School but does not name him.

The decade of the 1880s saw Ross design a series of residences including a larger scale domestic design that became Ely House on the former campus of Griswold College (Main Street Historic District, NRHP listed). By the middle of the decade he was busy with work in Illinois as well as Davenport. Across the river in Moline, Rock Island, and Geneseo, Illinois he designed a total of four schoolhouses in 1886 and 1887. In 1887 he was retained to design the Davenport Masonic Temple and Office Building (nonextant). The following year he received his largest job to date when he was retained to complete superintending of the construction of the Scott County Court House in Davenport, a work originally designed by the eminent Chicago architect, John C. Cochrane who died in December 1887. These two projects solidified his growing identification with the design and successful erection of large-scale institutional buildings in Davenport.

In 1890 as Ross's experience was expanding, he was retained by the Trustees of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home to design the new Administration Building to replace the Central Building that had been destroyed by fire in 1887. For this building, Ross selected the Romanesque Revival Style. As noted above, his masonry design incorporated the use of red brick trimmed with ashlar limestone found elsewhere on the campus. The design was true to Romanesque treatment by contrasting the ashlar finished trim with the smooth brick walls and incorporating beltcourses and round arches of stone throughout the building. The parapeted wall-gable centered on the front of the building and the steep side gables gave the building a massing typical of the style and offered additional space without making the building seem out of scale for the cottages that surrounded it.

Successful completion of the Administration Building led to Ross's work on the Davenport City Hall (NRHP) in 1892-1895. Selected from amongst a number of competitive designs, this building was a more elaborate example of the Romanesque Revival Style than the Administration Building. A few

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years later, Ross was retained to design another similarly scaled building, the Cedar Rapids Masonic Temple (HABS, 1969; nonextant). Little is known about the later building designs completed by Ross. He died in ca. 1912 having been a member of the American Institute of Architects since his election in 1885.

Employment of a state architect by the Board of Control for State Institutions in 1898 saw work on buildings at the Orphans' Home transferred to **Henry Frantz Liebbe** (1851-1927). Iowa architectural historian Wesley Shank describes Liebbe as a pioneer architect in the state citing his work on many of the important architectural commissions in Iowa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Shank also noted the description of Liebbe published at the time of his death as the "father of Iowa architecture."⁵³

Henry Frantz (H.F.) Liebbe (1851-1927) began his architectural career as a draftsman in the offices of L.W. Foster & Co. in Des Moines in ca. 1873 and working in the same capacity for William Foster after 1876. In 1883 Foster and Liebbe formed a partnership, "Foster & Liebbe," and continued to work together until the late 1890s, during which time they took on a succession of partners that resulted in various name changes. After Foster withdrew in 1899 the firm became "Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen".

In 1898 about the same time that Foster left the firm, Liebbe accepted the position of "State Architect" with the Board of Control for State Institutions, a position he held while continuing his work as a principal with his private firm. This practice ended in ca. 1910 after the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was successful in seeing the State Architect position become full-time. Liebbe continued to hold this position until his death on June 5, 1927.

When Liebbe joined the firm of L.W. Foster & Co. as a draftsman and later went to work for William Foster, he was joining firms whose practices were well established. Their work included projects throughout the state but with a concentration in Des Moines. The exceptions were projects for state-owned institutions. L.W. Foster & Co. had just received the commission for the design of an addition at the Penitentiary in Anamosa when Liebbe joined the firm in 1873. By the time H.F. Liebbe went to work for William Liebbe in 1876, the William's firm had 27 buildings underway with an estimated value of \$410,000. Shortly after Foster and Liebbe formed their partnership in 1883, the firm received a commission for the Iowa Hospital for the Insane in Clarinda. The design for the hospital's main building that appears in the elevation drawing on the following page is nearly identical to the design used for the Central Building (see page 72) at the Orphans' Home the same year, suggesting a possible attribution for the Central Building's design.

⁵³Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*, (Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press), 1999, pp. 105-107.

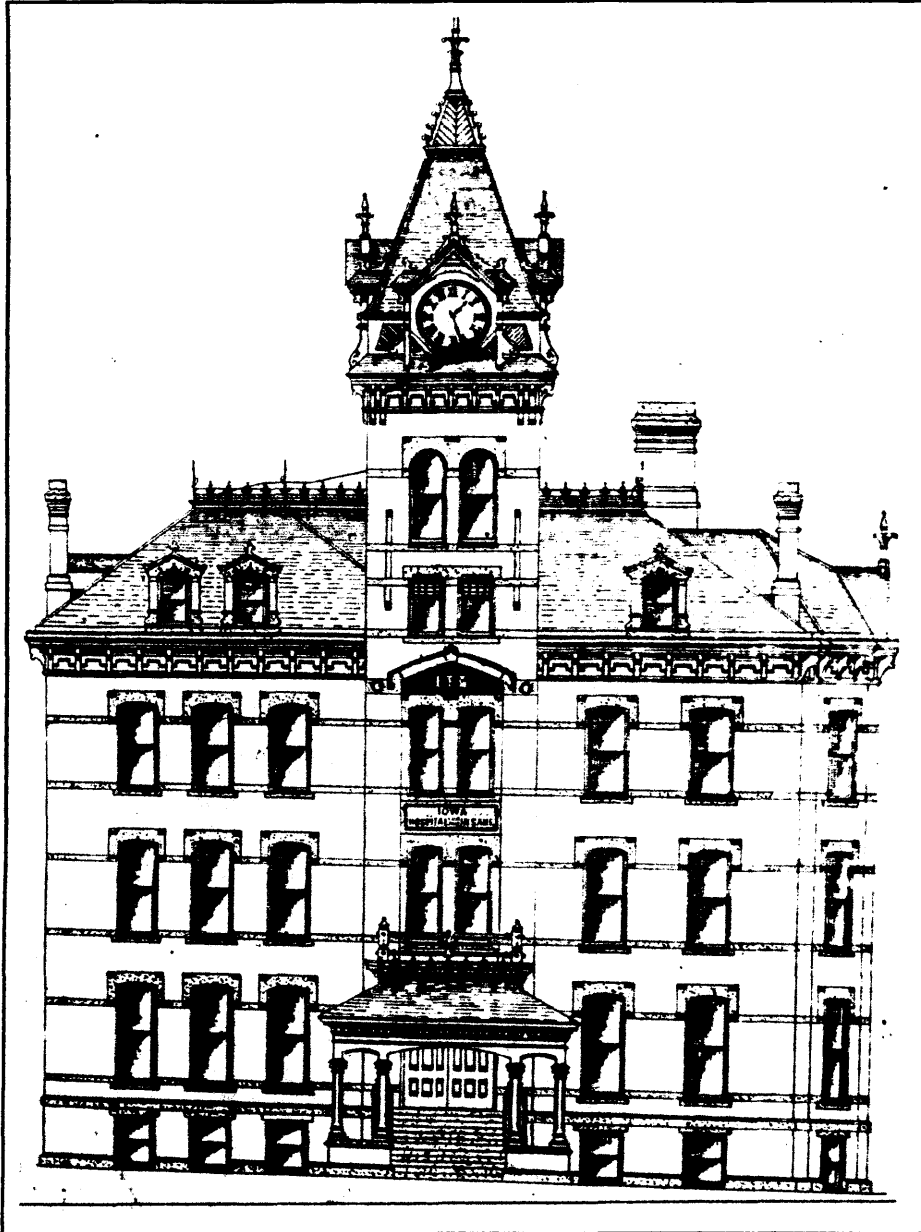
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Historic View – Iowa Hospital for the Insane in Clarinda, 1884: The design shares similarities with the Central Building (1884) at the Orphans. (Wesley I. Shank, *The Iowa Catalog Historic American Buildings Survey*, (Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1979), p. 61)



From 1884 until their partnership dissolved in 1898, Foster and Liebke specialized in the design of public buildings, including ten county courthouses in Iowa, a number of college and university buildings for the State of Iowa, and 15 years of construction for the Hospital for the Insane. Projects for private clients included churches, schools, and large residences.

Other major buildings designed during Liebke's tenure with the firm were:

- English Office Building (nonextant), Iowa State College, 1884, Ames
- Engineering Hall, Iowa State College, 1884, Ames (NRHP)
- Page County Court House, 1885-1887, Clarinda (NRHP)
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, (extant), 1885, Des Moines
- Washington County Court House, 1887, Washington (NRHP)
- First Methodist Church nonextant, ca. 1888, Des Moines
- Central Christian Church (nonextant), 1889, Des Moines
- Iowa County Court House, 1892-1893, Marengo (NRHP)
- Wapello County Court House, 1892-1894, Ottumwa (NRHP)

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- Lucas County Court House, 1893-1894, Chariton (NRHP)
- Warfield, Pratt & Howell Co. Warehouse (extant, threatened), ca. 1899, Sioux City
- First National Bank (nonextant), ca. 1899, Des Moines
- Unitarian Church (nonextant), 1899, Des Moines
- Younkers Building (extant), ca. 1900, Des Moines
- Iowa State Penitentiary Cellhouses 18, 19 (status unknown), 1900-1924, Fort Madison
- President's House, Iowa State College (extant), 1900-1901, Ames
- Ericson Public Library, 1900-1901, Boone (NRHP)
- Carnegie Public Library, 1903-1904, Perry (NRHP)
- Citizen's National Bank Building (status unknown), 1904, Des Moines
- W.W. Witmer House-Governor's Mansion, 1905, Des Moines (NRHP district)
- First National Bank, ca. 1907, Fort Dodge (NRHP)
- Tuberculosis Hospital (extant), ca. 1907, Iowa City
- Boone National Bank (extant), ca. 1908, Boone
- Des Moines Municipal Building, 1909-1910, Des Moines (NRHP)
- First Congregational Church (extant, modified), ca. 1911, Charles City
- First National Bank, 1911, Mason City (NRHP)
- Fairfield High School (status unknown), ca. 1912, Fairfield

During Liebbe's service as State Architect for the Board of Control, he designed or supervised the construction of dozens of buildings at state-operated institutions ranging from state schools and hospitals to asylums and penal institutions. Among these projects are four extant buildings and two significant alteration projects that were completed on the campus of the Orphans' Home. His first confirmed project at the Home was the Chapel completed in 1901. A preliminary design for the building was completed prior to his employment, and it is unknown whether or not Liebbe worked on this design as a private architect prior to his retention by the Board of Control in 1898. In a break with tradition, Liebbe selected a tan colored brick for the Romanesque Revival design, making it the first building at the Orphans' Home not to be constructed of red brick.

Two important alteration projects for the Administration Building were designed by Liebbe a short time later. They illustrate an important talent for an architect required to phase construction work over many years, as legislative appropriations became available. These projects also demonstrate his capacity to successfully adapt new construction to an existing design. The first renovation project involved the design for the new portico shown on page 8. The second entailed a more utilitarian structure designed to connect the Administration Building and the old Laundry-Boiler Building (page 10) and reuse the Laundry as a kitchen and bakery. Both projects were appropriately scaled and detailed for their respective placements on the Administration Building with the latter project very respectful of the Romanesque design of the building.

Three Eclectic designs by Liebbe successfully blended multiple architectural styles and design features. The Ice House-Storage Building built in ca. 1905 combined aspects of the Romanesque Revival with the Prairie Style and Craftsman Style. The Annie Wittenmyer School finished in 1913 combined the Prairie, Mission and Colonial Revival styles. And the third building, the Gymnasium, incorporated a distinctly Prairie Style entrance porch into a basic Colonial Revival plan.

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When Henry Frantz Liebbe died suddenly in 1927, his son Henry James Liebbe, who began work in the Office of the State Architect for the Board of Control in 1914, replaced him. His first work was as a draftsman and after serving in the armed services during World War I, H.J. Liebbe opened his own office. Following in the steps of his father, he joined the Office of the Board of Control in 1919 as assistant state architect, an office he held until 1927 when he succeeded his father. Liebbe was State Architect until his own death in 1941.

The first buildings designed during H.J. Liebbe's tenure were a group of barns and outbuildings (nonextant) to replace the dairy complex destroyed by a fire in early 1927 just months before his father's death. In 1931 he designed one of the orphanage's most important buildings – a new Hospital (extant). It was a critically important building for the Orphans' Home due to growing concerns about the potential for spread of disease on the densely populated campus. The relatively simple Colonial Revival design Liebbe selected for the exterior and its siting along a dramatic slope at the south edge of the site allowed the new building to fit with the scale of its neighbors – the Receiving Hospital and the Gymnasium – while containing about twice as much useable floor space. The relatively plain exterior and interior finishes fit the economizing being undertaken at all state institutions during the decade of the 1930s.

Later during the decade, Liebbe designed several utilitarian structures on the western edge of the campus that took advantage of the design opportunities afforded by the natural slopes in this area. The first was a fully modern Root Cellar (extant) designed and built in 1931 for vegetable storage for the Home's large kitchen operation. His creative use of clay tile walls, concrete floors, and ventilation stacks allowed this structure to operate efficiently with minimal food loss. The following year he designed another utilitarian building located along the service drive.

Like Liebbe's design for the Hospital, his plan for the new Greenhouse (extant) in 1932 succeeded in camouflaging its substantial size. He did this by designing the entrance to the building through a small English cottage section that was attached to a large two level work shop and glass plant house. Because of the sloping nature of the site, the lower level was hidden below grade when viewed from the service road but fully accessible from the rear driveway. The footprint of the complex remained half the size it could have been thus preserving open space on the campus. The Garage (extant) constructed further north in 1934 along the same service road was built with two levels – one opening onto the service road and one opening onto a lower driveway. Its smaller footprint was both efficient and less costly to build making it an attractive design for construction during the decade of the Great Depression.

The last building designed by H.J. Liebbe was the new School located along Eastern Avenue north of the Annie Wittenmyer School. It is not clear how much experience Liebbe had with the design of such buildings or if others in the Office of the State Architect for the Board of Control worked on the project. If it was the work of Liebbe it reflected a dramatic departure from his earlier buildings. Its use of modern materials and the new PWA-Moderne Style were unexpected for Liebbe making it likely that others in his office originated the building's design concept.

A fourth architect to design a significant building at the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home was J.

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Bradley Rust (1908-2000) of Iowa City. A native of Grinnell, Iowa, Rust attended Iowa State University and the University of Illinois studying architecture at one or both institutions. In 1932 he opened an architectural practice in Iowa City. Poor economic times generally limited his designs to commercial remodeling projects in downtown Iowa City and a handful of residences. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy, which maintained a training facility in Iowa City at the time. At the end of the war, he returned to Iowa City from a posting in Washington, D. C. to resume his architectural design work.

The post-war years saw Rust's residential design practice flourish as the demand for new housing stimulated construction. While his pre-war practice was largely confined to Iowa City, beginning in the late 1940s and succeeding decades he designed residences in Iowa City, Coralville, University Heights, Cedar Rapids, West Liberty, Ft. Madison, Kalona, the Amana Colonies, Tipton, Marion, Vinton, Newton, Knoxville, and Wever – virtually all in eastern Iowa. Several houses are located in residential historic districts in Iowa City. The demand for housing also saw Rust complete a number of new and remodeled apartment building projects.

The post-war years saw Rust continue to complete commercial remodeling projects in downtown Iowa City with noteworthy projects including dramatic Art Deco and Moderne style storefronts. As with his residential design work, his reputation allowed him to secure commercial commissions in other eastern Iowa communities. Though much of his commercial work continued to involve remodelings for businesses modernizing interior designs and floor layouts, he added a wide range of building types to his repertoire including banks, office buildings, auto showrooms, filling stations, and grocery stores.

By the late 1950s Rust became involved in designing and remodeling a new building type – the fraternity and sorority house. He treated these designs as monumental-scale residences, usually outfitting them with dramatic columned entrances. Between 1955 and 1992 he completed 18 separate projects on nine fraternity and sorority buildings in Iowa City. During these years he also continued to work on new construction and remodeling projects for lodge buildings and designed and remodeled more than a dozen golf clubhouses between 1947 and 1990 in Cedar Rapids, Fort Madison, Burlington, Muscatine, Bettendorf, Fairfield, Newton, Iowa City and Mapleton. Residential design work continued to be an important mainstay for Rust in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1970 he laid out and designed the Sutherland Square project in Cedar Rapids, a planned residential community that was fully developed in succeeding years.

Rust's sole design commission at the Orphans' Home is the Pre-School (extant) built in 1933-1934. It was among the first buildings designed by Rust as a professional and is the oldest of his surviving buildings in 2005. Its construction was experimental for several reasons. As noted above, it was an early example of a building being erected solely for use as a nursery school. Secondly, it can be considered an experimental example of an architectural form that Rust adopted for dozens of residential projects during the 1930s and 1940s – the English Period Cottage. These small domestic buildings incorporated Tudor Revival Style brick and stone treatments, decorative half-timbering to simulate the look of Medieval infilled timber framing, steeply pitched gables and dormers, deliberately sloped roof ridgelines, and hand-hewn trim boards. The combination of these

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features produced picturesque cottages that looked like they came directly from an Old English countryside. The Pre-School's design successfully combined a number of the features that Rust's English Period Cottages embraced. Its very early date (drawings on page 21, dated August 1933) suggest it was one of the first, if not the first, building he designed in this style.

The J. Bradley Rust Architectural Plans Collection is maintained by the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City. It covers approximately 472 construction and remodeling projects completed from 1932 through 1987 including 340 residences and 53 businesses. Though much of Rust's design work remains unevaluated, his earliest projects including the Pre-School at the Orphan's Home stand out for their creativity.

Several architects succeeded Henry James Liebbe in the Office of the State Architect. Their duties related principally to maintaining and modernizing the existing buildings during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Though this work was significant in the preservation of the Orphans' Home buildings, none of the architects designed major new buildings. Architects whose names appeared on remodeling project drawings after World War II included **Ralph Arnold** during the 1950s, **Frank N. Bunker** during the 1960s, and **C.F. Jacobson** during the 1970s. Arnold completed modernizations of the Boys' Cottages and Girls' Cottages throughout the decade of the 1950s as well as improvements to the Gymnasium and Administration Building in 1952. Bunker continued updating of the cottages and completed improvements to the Chapel in 1964. Jacobson designed kitchen and laundry improvements in 1970 and was likely responsible for installation of the tubular fire escape system for the cottages during the late 1960s or early 1970s.

In addition to the architects associated with the Orphans' Home, there was at least one landscape architect who contributed to the property's design. **Asaph Newton Carpenter** (1828-1906) was from Galesburg, Illinois. He was born and educated in Rehoboth, Massachusetts before he began a career as a carpenter. In 1854 he moved to Galesburg where he continued his trade as a carpenter and also studied architecture. During the next decade he added expertise in landscape design to his offerings. By 1870 he was employed exclusively as a "landscape architect" and by 1886 was furnishing plans for "some of the finest homes in this country, as well as for farms, parks, cemeteries and many other public and private grounds. Duplicates of these have been called for in Europe."⁵⁴ During his career as a landscape designer he was described by one source as a "natural landscape architect," a phrase that applied to innate ability rather than a naturalistic design quality. Works known to have been completed by Carpenter include the Fairfield Evergreen Cemetery, Fairfield, Iowa – 1870; the grounds of the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless in Davenport (NRHP listed) – 1881; Heartwell Park and Heartwell Park Addition in Hastings, Nebraska – 1886; Ames Cemetery – date unknown; and Hope Cemetery and Soldiers' Monument in Galesburg (ca. 1900).

Cemetery projects were the "bread and butter" work for many early landscape planners and in this regard Carpenter is no different. More unusual was the planned residential development that he

⁵⁴Charles C. Chapman & Co., *History of Knox County, Illinois*, (Chicago: Blakely, Brown & Marsh; reprinted Evansville, Indiana: Unigraphic), 1878 and 1975, pp. 919-920.

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completed in Hastings. Heartwell Park forms the centerpiece of the Heartwell Park Historic District (NRHP listed) and includes a linear park, lake, and curvilinear streets with large residential lots surrounding it. Though the park and lots were laid out in 1886, the lots remained undeveloped until after the turn of the 20th century.

In addition to these projects, Carpenter completed a design for the grounds of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home in 1881. The contents of this plan do not survive but it is likely that the plan included the basic layout of the E-shaped building lines with the main entrance off Eastern Avenue leading to the central building and a second service entrance established along the south and west edges. The establishment of a flat campus with a steep terrace on the north edge was also likely a result of Carpenter's plan. No copies of Carpenter's plan survive. Most likely they burned along with other Orphans' Home records in the fire that destroyed the Central Building in November 1887. Carpenter's retention for the Orphan's Home project came at the same time that he was employed preparing plans for the grounds of another charitable institution under construction in Davenport's west end - the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless. It may have been more than coincidence that one of the trustees of the Cook Home was John F. Dillion, who had served as an early fundraiser for the Orphans' Home.

Archeological Significance

The archaeological significance of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home District is derived from the presence of a prehistoric burial mound (13ST190) dating from the Early to Middle Woodland (800 B.C. – A.D. 400). Site 13ST190 is considered contributing to the historic district under Criterion D for the site's potential to yield material items and deposits that might be important to the understanding of Early to Middle Woodland mortuary rituals in eastern Iowa. While there may be some integrity concerns with historic impacts to the mound feature, the increasing rarity of extant mounds in Iowa and the comparative intactness of this mound in that it retains a regular profile and shape, indicate that this site retains sufficient integrity to be considered a contributing site to the historic district. In general, prehistoric mounds are considered significant because they are one of the few remaining physical representations of prehistoric ideology and ritual intensification as expressed in mortuary practices. Mound construction is also one of the more visible signs of social and political structure and complexity in prehistoric communities.⁵⁵

⁵⁵Michael Perry. The Woodland Period. (Iowa City: Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, 1996). Article accessed online at 222.uiowa.edu/~osa/learn/prehistoric/wood.htm, 7/9/2005); David Stanley and Lori Stanley. Prehistoric Mounds of the Quad-State Region of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. 1988 Draft. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. On file at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

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Significance Summary

The historical significance of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home Historic District is based on its 110 years of operation a state orphanage for the children of Civil War veterans and later, indigent families. It was the first statewide orphanage to open in the country in the post-war period with its founder and first matron, Annie Turner Wittenmyer, who went on to become a major promoter of orphans' homes at the national and state levels. Its significance as a social history resource is derived from the fact that the orphanage pioneered progressive child welfare. Among these initiatives were the Cottage System of orphanage operation, an early foster care placement program, and one of Iowa's first Montessori nursery school programs. During the 1930s, the Home's preschool program was developed in conjunction with the State University of Iowa's Child Welfare Research Station. Psychological research studies conducted by Dr. Beth Wellman at the Home led to major changes in the understanding of the impact of early education on intelligence. . This new understanding, in turn, led to national reforms in early education programs.

The architectural significance of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home Historic District is derived from the architectural story and design concepts related by its buildings as well as the individual significance of the architects and landscape architect who practiced here over six decades. Some buildings exhibit a single style including the Queen Anne Style, Second Empire Style, Romanesque Revival Style, Tudor Revival Style, and the PWA Moderne Style. Other buildings exhibit successful Eclectic combinations of the Prairie Style, Craftsman Style, Classical Revival Style, and Mission Style. Their disparate styles are held together by a compatible scale, their common use of masonry materials, and their organic development.

The archaeological significance of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home District is derived from the presence of a prehistoric burial mound (13ST190). This feature dates from the Early to Middle Woodland (800 B.C. – A.D. 400) and is considered a contributing resource in the historic district under Criterion D for the site's potential to yield material items and deposits that might be important to the understanding of Early to Middle Woodland mortuary rituals in eastern Iowa.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources:

By definition, a historic district is a collection of buildings, that when considered as a group rather than individually, possesses a sense of time and place. They may share a common building type, style, form, and/or material. They have a common period of significance that may extend through a few years or several decades. They consist of contiguous properties or multi-block areas with relatively few intrusions. Integrity for individual buildings, as well as their setting, should be high.

Buildings within historic districts are divided into two categories: noncontributing and contributing resources. Noncontributing resources are those buildings that do not share a common heritage with the district as evidenced in building type, architectural style(s), form, materials, or period of

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significance. Noncontributing buildings are generally considered to be intrusive in nature and would not be missed if removed from the district. Buildings less than 50 years old are considered noncontributing.

The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District contains a total of 34 resources including 21 resources previously listed as contributing resources when the Orphans' Home was listed on the National Register in 1981. The current nomination for the Orphans' Home has been reclassified as a historic district to better describe the collection of resources included. The updated District nomination includes 25 contributing resources – the Orphans' Home site, a prehistoric burial mound site within the former orphanage site, one structure (root cellar), and 22 buildings. The balance of the District is composed of 9 noncontributing resources – one structure (swimming pool) and 8 buildings that are less than 50 years old. Though important in understanding the early 20th century development of the site, the C.W.A. retaining wall at the south edge of the campus does not have sufficient size to be counted as a separate resource. It is included as part of the overall Orphans' Home site.

The evaluation of contributing and noncontributing status of resources within the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District was done using a set of standards that were consistent with National Register requirements and, at the same time, reflected the organic development experienced by buildings at the Home from ca. 1880 through the mid-20th century. The fact that buildings in the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District have been used to house programs for children since its founding through 2005, first by a state-operated institution and later by not-for-profit organizations, enhances their status as contributing resources.

Within the District it is expected that all contributing buildings will retain either their *original* appearance in terms of basic shape, proportions, rooflines, and important architectural features, or the appearance acquired during a subsequent alteration within the period of significance. In both cases, their principal façade(s) were expected to remain relatively unchanged in terms of placement and size of window openings, masonry detailing such as corbeling, and cornice design. Easily reversible alterations, such as the addition of fire escape ladders, metal escape tubes, or the temporary closure of windows with shutters or boards, were not considered significant. The replacement of multi-pane sash with reconfigured windows was acceptable (e.g. 4/4 double-hung sash replaced by 1/1 double-hung sash), but changes in the shape or type of windows were considered a more significant change (e.g. multi-light casement windows by single-light sliding bypass windows). The addition of storm sash was not considered an important change.

Alterations made to convert the use of institutional buildings in the Orphans' Home Historic District were commonplace from the orphanage's inception. These changes were considered insignificant unless they resulted in the loss of important interior public spaces. In summary, integrity standards for buildings in the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District assumed that the buildings in the district would have, by necessity, evolved and changed through time.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Within the City of Davenport, Scott County, Iowa:

Area roughly bounded by Eastern Avenue, 29th Street, and right-of-way of former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. More specifically, that part of the northeast quarter of NE quarter section 24-T78NR3E, beginning on the west right-of-way line of Eastern Avenue where the south right-of-way line of 29th Street intersects, thence south along the west right-of-way line of Eastern Avenue 1,945 feet; thence along the east right-of-way line of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad to the south right-of-way of 29th Street; thence east along the south right-of-way line 833 feet (plus or minus) to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary represents the original 33 acres contained in the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home site when it was transferred from the U.S. Government for use as an orphanage in 1865. This site in turn was transferred to the State of Iowa in 1866 for use as a state-operated orphanage and to the City of Davenport in 1976 for use as a facility to house children's programs and other civic activities. Areas to the south and west contain built-up residential neighborhoods and a hospital complex, to the north contain a municipal park, and to the west contain the large multi-acre site of Oakdale Memorial Cemetery.

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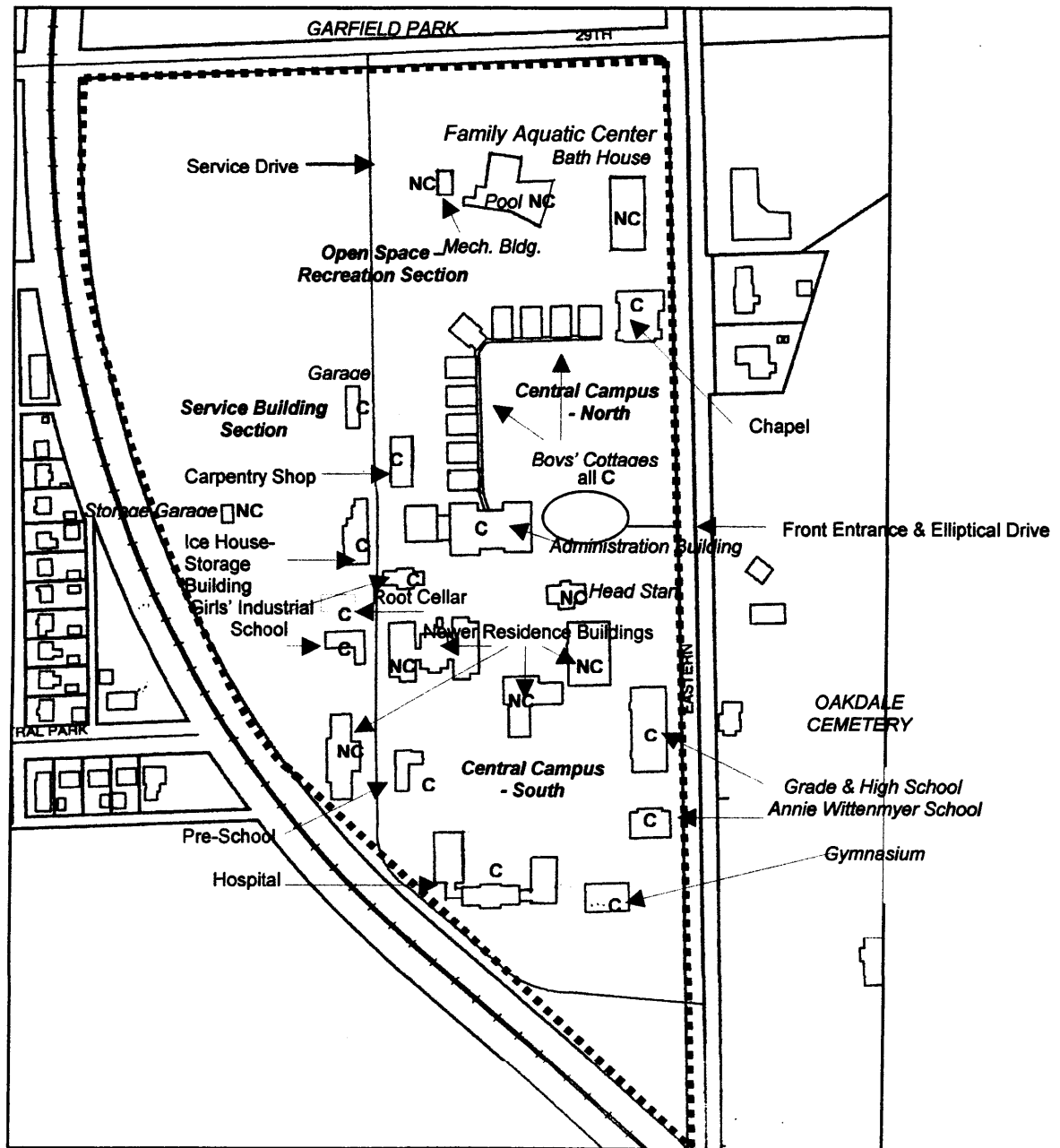
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Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District
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Site Map - Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District Boundaries: Contributing resources are labeled with "C" and noncontributing resources are labeled with "NC"; Note: location of the Burial Mound is not shown. (City of Davenport, Community and Economic Development Department, 2001; modifications made to reflect new construction, 2002-2005)

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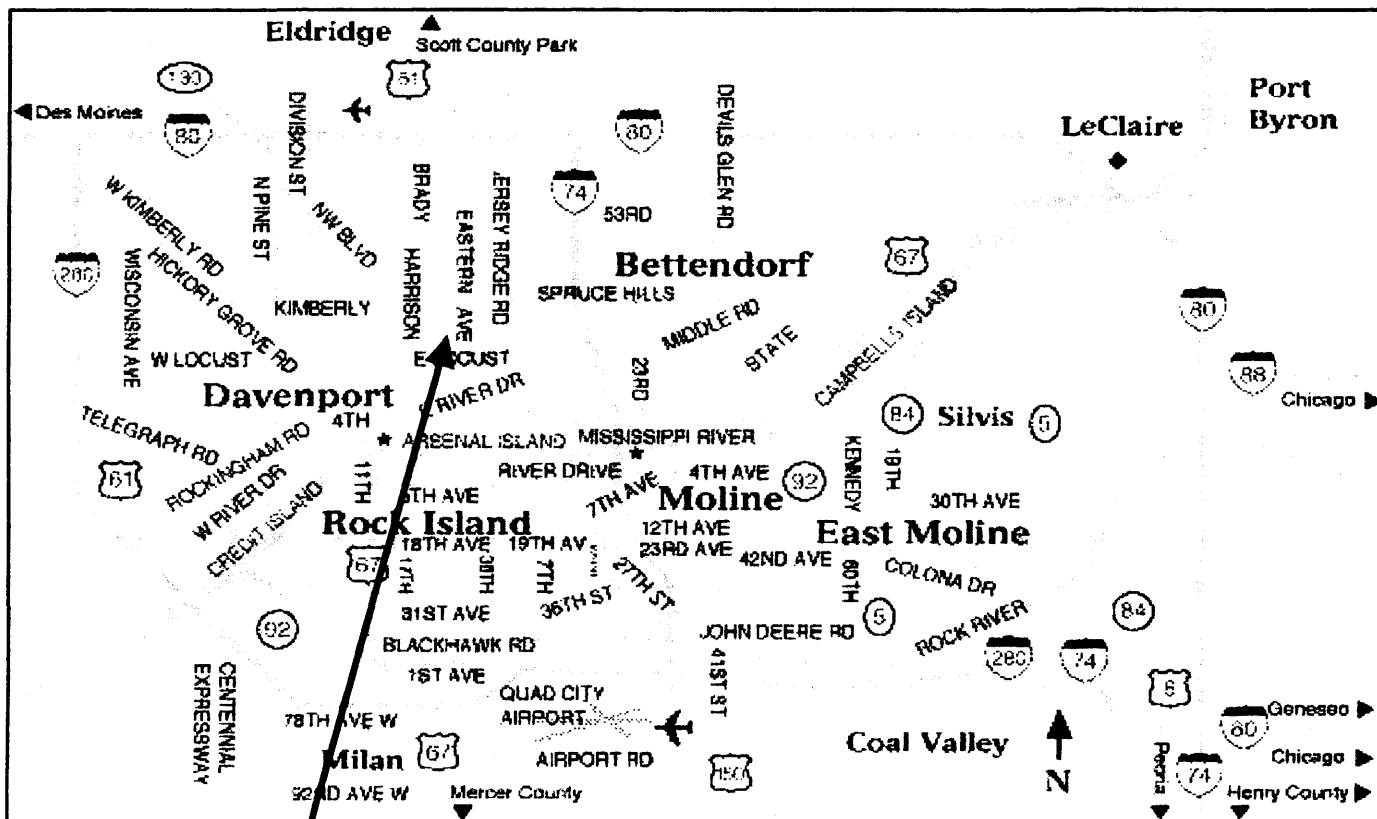
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Map of Quad Cities (Iowa-Illinois)⁵⁶ showing general location of historic district.

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**Iowa Soldiers'
Orphans' Home
Historic District**

⁵⁶Map from "Quad Cities Road Map" available at <http://quadcities.com/map2.asp>; accessed 3/31/03.

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Photograph Key for Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District:

Mariys Svendsen, photographer

Date taken: April 9-10, 2005

1. Administration Building, front and side façades, looking northwest
2. Administration Building, side façade, looking south
3. Administration Building, entrance portico, looking west
4. Administration Building, rear kitchen wing, looking northeast
5. Chapel, front façade, looking north
6. Chapel, front and side façades, looking northwest
7. Boys' Cottages 10, 20, and 12, looking northwest
8. Boys' Cottage 18, looking northwest
9. Boys' Cottage 16, looking north
10. Grounds, Boys' Cottages 14, 16 and 18 with Chapel at right, looking north
11. Boys' Cottages, west row with Cottage 20 and Cottage 12 at top, looking north
12. Grounds, Boys' Cottages, looking northwest
13. Chapel and rear of north row of Boys' Cottages, looking southwest
14. Girls' Industrial School/Men's Dormitory/Sewing Room, looking northwest
15. Children Living Unit No. 1/Pinewood/Victory House/Newcomb Building, front façade, looking south
16. Mental Health Unit/Children's Cottage/Willowcrest, front and side façades, looking northwest
17. Leslie Building, front façade, looking northwest
18. Boyd Building, front and side façades, looking southeast
19. Annie Wittenmyer School, front and side façades, looking southwest
20. School, front and side façades, looking northeast
21. Pre-School, looking southwest
22. Head Start Building, front façade, looking southwest
23. Hospital/Sanders Building, rear façade, looking northwest
24. Gymnasium, front façade, looking south
25. Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center, Bath House, front façade, looking southwest
26. Annie Wittenmyer Family Aquatic Center, Pool and Mechanical Building, looking northwest
27. Boy's Manual Training Building & Work Shop/Carpentry Shop-Blacksmith Shop, front façade, looking northwest
28. Ice House-Storage Building, front façade, looking southwest
29. Garage, upper level, looking northwest
30. Greenhouse, cottage section, front façade, looking northwest
31. Storage Garage, front façade, looking west
32. Prehistoric Burial Mound, looking northeast (archeological resource, *photo not for publication*)

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Photograph Map Key

Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Historic District Boundaries: (City of Davenport, Community and Economic Development Department, 2001; modifications made to reflect new construction, 2002-2005)

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