

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

871



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Howard Home for Aged Men

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 940 Belmont Street

City or town: Brockton State: MA County: Plymouth

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>November 1, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO	
Date	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____ Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Joe Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.20.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/Office
VACANT/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND 20th-CENTURY REVIVALS/Georgian Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE/Slate; CAST STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The former Howard Home for Aged Men (Howard Home) is located on the 145.68-acre Brockton Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center campus, at 940 Belmont Street in the southwestern section of Brockton, Massachusetts.¹ The medical center is the largest governmental campus in the city. The Howard Home was constructed in 1924 in the Georgian Revival style. It is constructed of red tapestry brick, and rises 2½ stories over a raised basement to a gabled roof sheathed in slate tiles. Facing north, the building consists of a rectangular main block that extends eleven bays wide and three bays deep. One-story sunrooms flank the main block on its east and west elevations. A one-story ell extends six bays, slightly east of center from the south elevation. Though most of the windows have been replaced, original wood sash remain in the arched dormer windows. The façade dormers each have a double-hung, 6/6 sash, topped by an infill panel in the arched portion. Georgian Revival details include a semiovoid entry portico with attenuated, paired Corinthian columns on the main (north) elevation; an entry that features sidelights and an arched transom with original leaded glass tracery; a denticulated, modillion-blocked cornice that extends across all elevations; keystones above the windows; dormer windows; and a Palladian window.

The Howard Home retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The exterior of the building has seen little change over the years, and the interior retains its basic configuration including the circulation pattern, corridors, and overall layout. The Howard Home is a fine example of a Georgian Revival-style institutional building constructed during the first quarter of the 20th century. The building is in good condition.

¹ The original address of the Howard Home was listed as 892 Belmont Street before it was combined into the VA Medical Center campus.

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Narrative Description

Site & Setting

The Howard Home was constructed in 1924 in what was then a rural section of Brockton, which was primarily characterized by farmland. The city of Brockton is situated in Plymouth County in the eastern part of Massachusetts, 25 miles south of Boston, and 30 miles northeast of Providence, RI. The city is an urban area today with a population just under 100,000, according to the 2010 US Census.

Today, buildings constructed for the VA Medical Center in the 1950s surround the Howard Home. The main entrance to the VA Medical Center campus is accessed from Belmont Street, and consists of a series of driveways separated by open stretches of grass. The Howard Home was constructed on 9.42 acres of land at the northeast corner of the current medical center campus (Figure 2). Due to the addition of buildings throughout the years, the Howard Home now sits on approximately one acre of land, including an expansive lawn to the north and a surface parking lot to the east and south. The building faces northwest towards Belmont Street and fronts Bay State Road, a winding street located within the campus. The lawn to the north of the Howard Home extends beyond Bay State Road, terminating at Belmont Street. The property lines of the Howard Home are bound by Bay State Road to the north, Pilgrim Avenue to the east, the property line to the south, and an internal driveway to the west (Figure 13).

The remaining VA Medical Center campus immediately adjacent to the Howard Home consists of 72 buildings that were erected between 1953 and 1958. Landscaped grounds featuring a symmetrical design of open grassy lawns, trees, and shrubs make up the extent of the campus.

North Elevation

The cross-gabled north elevation (Photo 1) is the primary façade of the Howard Home. It rises 2½ stories over a raised basement, and is rectangular in plan. The main block is symmetrically organized, with a projecting three-bay-wide entry pavilion flanked by four bays to the east and to the west, and adjoining one-story sunrooms. It measures approximately 91 feet long and 34 feet deep, and features regularly spaced window openings, a cast-stone watertable, dormers, a denticulated and modillioned cornice, and a roof covered with slate tiles. The principal chimney is located at the western end of the building.

The front-gabled, pedimented entry pavilion (Photo 7) is located at the center of the north elevation, stretching three bays wide and projecting slightly from the face of the building. The entry pavilion features a semiovoid entry portico with attenuated, paired Corinthian columns. The portico is accessed via a set of rounded steps. Although the door itself is a replacement, it is surmounted by a fanlight and flanked by ¾-length sidelights original to the design. The fanlight is set with original leaded-glass tracery. The flat roof of the portico features an ornamental wrought-iron railing. The second story of the entry pavilion features a central tripartite window flanked by single double-hung windows, each with ornamental cast-stone keystones. Just above rests a cast-stone panel reading "HOWARD HOME." The attic level of the entry pavilion is set with a single arched window with a cast-stone keystone, which is flanked by two circular cast-stone plaques reading "19" to the west and "24" to the east, indicating the building's 1924 construction date. The pediment of the front-gabled roofline features the building's characteristic denticulated and modillioned cornice, which wraps around from the entry pavilion along the roofline of the main building.

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Four bays flank the entry pavilion to the east and to the west (Photo 1). Each bay contains double-hung sash in the first- and second-story window openings, surmounted by three ornamental keystones. All windows within the main block, in addition to the south ell, have cast-stone sills, and nearly all feature cast-stone ornamental keystones. The side-gabled roof of the main building is sheathed in slate tiles, and overhanging eaves are trimmed with the denticulated, modillion-blocked cornice. Four pedimented gabled dormers with 6/6, double-hung sash windows rise from the northern slope of the roof. Window openings are arched, recalling the arched entryway at the center bay, but the sash themselves are rectangular. Projecting from either end of the main block are one-story sunrooms with brick knee walls, pilasters, and eight-light oblong windows with sidelights along the western sunroom (Photos 1 and 2), and 6/6 sash flanked by sidelights along the eastern sunroom (Photo 6). The sunrooms have flat roofs that originally featured balustrades, no longer extant (Figure 9).

East and West Elevations

The east and west elevations of the main block are nearly identical, with a one-story, projecting, enclosed sunroom at the first-floor level, and window openings above at the second-floor level. The one-story sunroom features a band of 6/6, double-hung windows grouped in pairs on the east elevation, and three sets of eight-light fixed windows, arranged in groups of three, on the west elevation. All sunroom windows are separated by painted wood mullions in the form of decorative Corinthian pilasters. The sunrooms are topped with flat roofs. Above the sunrooms at the second-floor level are three 6/6, double-hung windows on the second floor, and two 6/6, double-hung, arched windows at the attic level within the gable (Photos 2, 5, 6). Window openings on the second-floor and attic levels are regularly spaced and symmetrically arranged, and feature cast-stone sills and ornamental cast-stone keystones. The gable roof is accented with the building's characteristic denticulated, modillioned cornice adorning the eaves. A red-brick chimney projects slightly from the center bay on the west elevation (Photo 2).

South Elevation

The south (rear) elevation consists of the main block, sunrooms, and a one-story ell, a stairtower, and an elevator shaft that extend from the center of the main block (Photos 3-5). Windows along the first and second stories of the main block hold regularly spaced, double-hung sash, and are adorned with cast-stone sills and ornamental cast-stone keystones. Another entry into the main block is located towards the westernmost bay. The door is accessed by a small set of cast-stone steps, and sheltered by a projecting canopy held up by brackets (Photo 3). Doorways located on the southern elevations of the east and west sunrooms also provide points of access into the building. A single, centrally located dormer, set with a Palladian window, rests on the roof of the south elevation of the main block. The gable roof continues its pattern of a decorative, denticulated, modillioned cornice adorning the eaves.

The ell extends six bays from the main block of the south elevation. It was constructed with the main block in 1924 as the kitchen for the Howard Home, and is topped with a flat roof. There is a projecting canopy that extends from the ell's south end. A door, located just under the canopy, is accessed by a set of stairs with a metal pipe railing extending to both the east and west (Photo 4). A chimney, located on the eastern side of the ell, as well as a one-story addition and two-story elevator shaft are located along the building's south elevation. All additions to the south elevation feature flat roofs.

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Interior

The interior of the Howard Home is typical of institutional buildings of its era. Wide, double-loaded corridors run roughly east to west on the basement, first, and second floors (Photo 8). The original layout of the building has been largely preserved over time, though bedrooms and common spaces have typically been repurposed for other uses. The floor plan, with rooms organized along a central corridor and a central stair, is typical of the Georgian Revival style.

Two sets of switchback stairs, located at the east and west ends of the building, provide access to all floor levels (Photo 11). The stairs have vinyl cladding on the treads and landings, but retain wood bases and railings. Stairwells are painted, with window openings at the landings between the floor levels. The basement was originally used for utilities such as laundry, storage, and mechanicals, but was finished to serve as office and storage space in the 1970s.

The first floor is comprised of several offices, located on either side of the central double-loaded corridor. The main entrance is located at the center of the building on the north side, and is enclosed by a small entry vestibule (Photo 10). The vestibule is constructed of wood, with leaded-glass tracery set within the fanlights and sidelights to match those on the main entrance. Adjacent to the entrance are steps leading up to the central corridor. A series of small rooms and offices, most of which originally served as bedrooms, are situated to the north and south of the corridors on both the first and second floors. The first floor also originally featured community rooms such as a living room, dining room, and large kitchen off of the east wing. The one-story enclosed porches located on the east and west ends of the building house two larger open rooms, originally used as sunrooms or sitting areas. A later addition, accessed by a corridor running south and slightly offset to the east, dates from 1979 and houses an elevator and stair. Two additional egress stairs, located to the east and west, serve as the basement, first-, and second-floor stair, as well as providing access to the attic.

Many historic interior finishes remain, including simple chair rails in the corridors, plaster-finished walls, some original woodwork around the windows, and some trim (baseboards, door surrounds, and crown moulding). A fireplace mantel remains from the former matron's living room on the first floor. Dropped ceilings exist in many locations, and house modern HVAC systems. Floors typically have carpet or tile.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the nominated property, sites may be present. Six sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the parcel indicate locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that support the presence of ancient Native sites. The Howard Home for Aged Men is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping topography, in close proximity to wetlands. Soils are generally fine, sandy loam. Wetlands are represented by two small ponds, connected by a small stream located a few hundred feet to the north and west of the Howard Home. The stream then drains to Dorchester Brook, located approximately one-quarter mile to the southwest. The entire area is located within the South Shore drainage. Given the information presented above, the size of the nominated parcel (less than one acre), levels of historic disturbance, and our knowledge of Native American subsistence and settlement patterns for this area of Massachusetts, a low to moderate potential exists for the recovery of significant ancient Native American resources at the Howard Home for Aged Men.

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A low to moderate potential also exists for the recovery of significant historic archaeological resources at the Howard House for Aged Men, although most of that potential remains to be demonstrated. When the Howard Home was constructed in 1924, the nominated area was a rural area of Brockton, primarily characterized by farming. The site itself, and most of the area on the south side of Belmont Street, consisted of farmland. No evidence exists at present to indicate that any structures were present on the property prior to the construction of the Home in 1924. Additional historical research, combined with a program of archaeological survey and testing, may identify potential outbuildings associated with domestic and maintenance use and located on the property. The Howard facility was intended to be self-sustaining, with a live-in staff to conduct maintenance and operation functions. When the ten-acre site was originally purchased, it was reported that the size of the lot afforded the establishment of a small farm to help provide for the home. It is presently not known whether the farm was already there when the property was purchased, or whether it was built as needed for the Home. Many questions remain about the farming activities conducted at the Howard Home. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may recover information about potential sites of agricultural activities and the scope of farming activities at the Home. Evidence of a farmhouse, workers' housing, barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist on the property beneath the large front yard, parking areas, and the Howard Home itself. It is also possible that any archaeological remains associated with farming activities at the Howard Home were destroyed by construction activities for the Home. In general, the Howard Home for Aged Men may contain archaeological information that identifies the role that the local community played in the development of a Progressive-era home for elderly men from the early to mid 20th century. This role changed somewhat ca. 1949 when the Federal government annexed the site as part of a plan to make the Home into a veterans' hospital. The detailed analysis of potential archaeological features, artifacts, and the structural remains of barns, stables, outbuildings, and alterations to the Howard Home may contain this information.

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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.)

- 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
A commemorative property
- F. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1924-1966

Significant Dates

1924 - construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ralph P. Jackson

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Howard Home for Aged Men (Howard Home) was constructed in 1924, under the provisions of the will of Horace W. Howard, as a residence for elderly men. The Howard Home was one of only two homes for the elderly located in Brockton at the time of its construction, and the only institution dedicated to the care of men. The Howard Home represents an important shift in social welfare institutions in the early 20th century, from the poorhouse or almshouse to a more specialized form of institutionalized care.

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The Home served in its original capacity until it was annexed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1949, on behalf of the United States government, as part of the site for a new Veterans Hospital. The hospital is still in operation today. The Howard Home is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of social welfare institutions in the city of Brockton, initially as a Progressive-era home for the local elderly population, and later as a component of a hospital campus for the city's veterans. The building is also locally significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a Georgian Revival institutional building, designed by local Brockton architect Ralph P. Jackson. The period of significance for the Howard Home for Aged Men is 1924-1966. It begins with the building's date of construction and extends to fifty years from the present. The latter was established by the National Park Service to allow adequate time for resources to be considered within a framework of objective historical perspective.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Health and Medicine: The Development of Social Welfare Institutions to Care for the Elderly

The Howard Home for Aged Men is a 20th-century institution that was influenced by a long history of public welfare. The poorhouse (also referred to as an almshouse, workhouse, poor farm, or county farm) dominated the structure of social welfare until the introduction of New Deal initiatives of the 1930s. "Indoor relief," as it was often called, took the form of a catchall establishment with the goal of confining, reforming, and assisting anyone in need. This population often included the sick, elderly, orphaned, widowed, single mothers, mentally ill, petty criminals, and vagrants. The poorhouse became "the cutting edge of poor relief policy in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, advocated by Utilitarians in England and forward-looking architects of state policy in America."² It is through the poorhouse that most other major American social welfare institutions were established: the mental asylum; the prison or penitentiary; the orphanage; the state school for the "feeble minded"; the nursing, old age, and boarding home; homes for unmarried women; and in some cases, even medical hospitals.³

The elderly were particularly at risk for institutionalization in poorhouses. Changes in economic organization and family structure, beginning in the mid 18th century and extending into the early 19th century, had demoted the elderly to a more menial status than had previously existed. Families were also more mobile in the modern industrial world, which "loosened home ties and family solidarity in the process."⁴ Without life insurance policies, pensions, or social security, those who were no longer able to work to support themselves were left to the care of their children who may or may not have been willing and able to care for them. Still others, particularly those with no children, were left completely destitute. Prior to the 19th century, no age-restricted institutions existed for long-term care, and the elderly who found themselves with nowhere left to go were often confined to the local almshouse. According to historian Michael B. Katz, the elderly comprised only nine percent of almshouse inmates in 1829. At the turn of the 20th century, the number of elderly poor was growing at an alarming rate, and by 1880-1886,

² Michael B. Katz, *In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America* (New York: Basic Books, 1986), 4.

³ David Wagner, *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005), 3.

⁴ Bortz, Abe. "Old Age Pensions: A Brief History." The Social Welfare History Project. Accessed March 23, 2015.

<http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/programs/old-age-pensions-a-brief-history/>

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their presence increased to 37 percent.⁵ In Massachusetts, the 1903 Census recorded 1,372 paupers aged 65 and older residing in almshouses, with an 80 percent increase by 1909.⁶

Particularly in New England, the 1890s became a turning point for separation of the poor by age and need. State laws began to expedite the removal of children and the mentally ill to more specialized institutions. By the 20th century, much of the United States was also moving towards this goal. According to an annual report by the Massachusetts Board of Charity, there were more than 1,000 corporations chartered as charities under the laws of the Commonwealth in 1919.⁷ The report notes, "Of the 969 charitable corporations which made returns to this Board during 1919, 102 are homes for the aged; 122 are child-helping agencies; 197 are agencies giving family aid; and 130 are organizations doing neighborhood and club work. The remaining 227 corporations form a miscellaneous group chiefly civic or eleemosynary in their nature."⁸

Brockton's social welfare institutions followed this development pattern. The city is located in Plymouth County, which has a rich history in experimenting with poor-relief practices, particularly in the communities of Bridgewater and Duxbury, which originally encompassed portions of the present-day Duxbury, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Brockton, and West Bridgewater. During the Colonial period, many towns relied on "outdoor relief" as the primary means of assistance to the poor.⁹ Beginning in 1766, pre-existing homes in Duxbury were rented to house the town's poor population. Records indicate that these homes operated under a family structure—often only taking ten inmates at a time—unlike the large almshouses of Boston, which occupied some of the largest city buildings.¹⁰ In 1779, Bridgewater voted to buy and enlarge a private home to serve as a poorhouse for the town.¹¹ The Bridgewater almshouse opened around 1854, at which time nearby almshouses worked together to separate inmates as best as possible—Bridgewater became home primarily for the criminal poor and mentally ill. The almshouse operated until 1887, when it was replaced. Brockton's almshouse was built in 1883 for \$12,000, and operated as a farm.

Social-welfare institutions began to diversify in Brockton near the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. By 1919, social welfare institutions in Brockton and the surrounding area consisted of the Brockton Day Nursery (1907; 39 Everett Street), Brockton Hospital Company (1890; 680 Centre Street), Brockton War Chest Association (1918; 188 Main Street), Family Welfare Association, Brockton Visiting Nurse Association (1910; 33 Cottage Street), Wales Home for Aged Women (1893; 553 North Main Street, BRO.177), Millet Sanatorium (1918; 60 Plymouth Street, East Bridgewater), Bridgewater Visiting Nurses Association (1911), Bridgewater State Workhouse (ca. 1854), Bridgewater State Farm, and the Duxbury Workhouse.¹² It appears that no poorhouse was in operation by 1919 in Brockton, although information regarding the closing date of the Brockton almshouse was not found. At

⁵ Katz, *In the Shadow of the Poorhouse*, 93.

⁶ Meltner, Heli, *The Poorhouse of Massachusetts: A Cultural and Architectural History* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2012), 76.

⁷ *Public Documents of Massachusetts: Being the Annual Reports of Various Public Officers and Institutions* (State of Massachusetts Printers, 1920), accessed March 19, 2015, <http://books.google.com/books?id=WVZBAQAAMAAJ>.

⁸ "Annual Report of the State Board of Lunacy and Charity," Vol. 20 (Massachusetts State Board of Lunacy and Charity, 1898) accessed March 18, 2015, <http://genealogytrails.com/mass/almshouse.html>.

⁹ "Outdoor relief" refers to various forms of assistance, such as money or food, provided without requiring that the recipients become residents of an institution. Conversely, "indoor relief" mandated residence within an institution as a condition for aid.

¹⁰ Turner, Jennifer. "Almshouse, Workhouse, Outdoor Relief: Responses to the Poor in Southeastern Massachusetts, 1740-1800." *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*. Vol. 31, No. 2 (Summer 2003). 23.

¹¹ Turner, *Ibid.*, 22.

¹² *Public Documents of Massachusetts: Being the Annual Reports of Various Public Officers and Institutions* (State of Massachusetts Printers, 1920), accessed March 19, 2015, <http://books.google.com/books?id=WVZBAQAAMAAJ>.

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this time, a state workhouse and state farm were still in operation in Bridgewater, as well as a workhouse in nearby Duxbury.

Social welfare in the United States was rapidly changing in the 1920s. State legislatures passed more than 400 new public welfare laws between 1917 and 1920.¹³ Most historians and social scientists agree that changes in economics, social welfare, and politics in the 1930s aided in the nation's shift to a more progressive "welfare state." Namely, "increased political power by working-class and poor people, combined with the political and social impact of the Great Depression and the consequent New Deal reforms, gradually ended the poorhouse."¹⁴ The Social Security Act of 1935 replaced much of the traditional forms of local relief through its enactment of old-age pensions, widows' and survivors' insurance, unemployment insurance, and federal welfare programs (Aid to the Disabled, Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, Aid to Dependent Children, etc.). Other factors played a role in providing security for the working class, including the rise of labor unions and the boom in wartime production. Alternative forms of aid were also growing, including boarding and lodging homes in low-income areas, as well as nursing and old-age homes, and other specialized institutions.

The Wales Home for Aged Women (553 N Main Street, BRO.177, extant) and the Howard Home were the only two Brockton institutions devoted to the care of the elderly in 1941.¹⁵ The Wales Home was constructed in 1811 by Thomas Wales, and occupied by him immediately after his marriage. Catherine Cobb, daughter of Thomas Wales, is remembered for her donation of the home in which she was born and raised to be used for the care and comfort of elderly women. The Ladies' Industrial Circle, composed of members of the Odd Ladies, is given credit for founding the home in the early years. The Wales Home opened on September 20, 1893, and is currently used by Lutheran Social Services. Women, particularly widows, were often more susceptible to destitution, especially after the loss of their husbands, which may help explain why the Home for Aged Women was constructed much earlier than the Home for Aged Men.

The Howard Home for Aged Men

The Howard Home was established under a provision of the will of Horace W. Howard, who died in 1913 in Providence, RI. Howard was a distant relative of the prominent Howard family, who played a significant role in the settlement of Bridgewater. According to *The Howard Genealogy* by Herman Howard, John Howard (ca. 1628-1700), a carpenter from England, "appears as one of the fifty-four original proprietors of the grant of land afterwards known as Bridgewater" in 1645, and "one of fourteen men whose allotment of land was in the easterly part of the grant."¹⁶ This line of descendants who remained in the Brockton area, which was once part of Bridgewater, played a critical role in the city's development and growth. The Howard family flourished with the shift in the town's development from farming to manufacturing, and were especially known for their philanthropic initiatives and for their contribution to the growing shoe manufacturing industry. Notable benefactions included the Howard Seminary, a school for girls that was established in 1876, and the Old Bridgewater Historical Society building. The Howard Home for Aged Men continued the family's tradition of community endowment, while providing a much-needed service for a particularly disadvantaged section of the population.

¹³ Katz, *In the Shadow of the Poorhouse*, 215.

¹⁴ Wagner, *The Poorhouse*, 132.

¹⁵ *Homes for the Aged in the United States*, Bulletin No. 677 (United States Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1941), accessed 3/21/2015, <http://books.google.com/books?id=tg1XKLvIdpUC&pg=PR5>.

¹⁶ Howard, Herman, *The Howard Genealogy: Descendants of John Howard of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, from 1643-1903*. Brockton, MA: The Standard Printing Company, 1903. Accessed March 19, 2015. <http://books.google.com/books?id=ELAR3FPppMC&pg=PA211.1>.

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Horace Williams Howard (1839-1913), a West Bridgewater farmer for much of his life, formerly resided in Brockton, where he had accumulated a large amount of money from investments in stocks and bonds. After the death of his wife (1841-1895), daughter (1881-1895), and son (1867-1911), Howard began to hoard his money while living as a recluse in a small room of a lodging house in Providence. His estate, worth nearly \$400,000 at the time of his death in 1913, was left primarily to charities in Brockton and to a few friends. Howard's younger sister, Maria Goward (1844-1924)¹⁷, contested the will, stating that her brother was not cognizant of his decisions due to poor health when he omitted her from all inheritance. The case was one of the most important in the history of Plymouth County at that time, with nearly a dozen lawyers retained for the hearing. During the trial, a number of witnesses, including one of the trustees of the Howard Seminary in Bridgewater and the former mayor of Brockton, reported that Howard had come to them prior to completing his will with questions regarding the needs of the various philanthropic institutions of the city. One of the witnesses recalled Howard specifically noting the absence of a home for aged men, and wondering if \$100,000 was a sufficient amount to found one.¹⁸

After more than a week of hearings, Howard was posthumously determined to have been mentally competent at the time of writing the will, and the lawsuit was dismissed.¹⁹ Howard left money to a variety of causes, including the Brockton Hospital, the Howard Seminary in Bridgewater, and the Wales Home for Aged Women in Brockton. Howard's largest bequest was \$185,000 to be used to erect, establish, direct, and maintain a home for aged men in Brockton.

The trustees of the fund left in Horace Howard's will purchased an approximately ten-acre site along Belmont Street from Brockton resident Charles E. Willis in October of 1923. The site was somewhat removed from the center of Brockton, in an area primarily comprised of open farmland and single-family homes. The site's distance from the town center afforded the residents some privacy, while the size of the lot allowed for the establishment of a small farm to help provide for the home.

The Howard Home was intended to be self-sustaining, with trustees who managed the financial aspects of the institution and a live-in staff who handled the maintenance and operation of the property. It was to be funded through investments made using the remainder of Howard's bequest, as well as any other potential charitable donations made in the future.²⁰ Francis B. Gardner, William A. Boyden, and Warren A. Reed served as the trustees of the Howard Home. All three men were well known in the community for their civic involvement and held a variety of positions throughout their lives.

Francis B. Gardner (1845-1926) was a trustee of the People's Savings Bank of Brockton, as well as a member of the bank's Board of Investment.²¹ Gardner served as a member of the State Board of Insanity from 1898-1902, during which time he served as Secretary of the Board.²² He also served as an Assistant Assessor, a Justice of the Peace, a Water Commissioner, and an Overseer of the Poor.

¹⁷ Maria had married Edwin T. Goward (1838-1912) in 1865 (Find A Grave Memorial# 66362138).

¹⁸ "Support Howard Will," *Boston Daily Globe*, January 14, 1914, 15.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Plans of the Howard Home for Aged Men are Showing Progress," *Brockton Enterprise*, December 22, 1923.

²¹ Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Savings Banks, 1895; Annual Report of the Bank Commissioner, 1907; "F.B. Gardner of Brockton Dead," *Boston Herald* 1 April 1926.

²² Seventeenth Annual Report of the State Board of Insanity, 1915.

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William A. Boyden (1866-1935) worked in real estate and insurance. He was a trustee of the Brockton Public Library and sat on many of the library committees.²³ Boyden also served as City Marshal for Brockton in the early twentieth century.²⁴

Warren A. Reed (1851-1927) was a Harvard-educated lawyer from a well-known Brockton family. As a lawyer, he specialized in the management of trust properties and the settlement of estates. Reed was a director of the Brockton National Bank and second Vice President of the People's Savings Bank. He served many different public roles in Brockton and throughout Massachusetts, including as a notary public, a Justice of the Peace, and a City Solicitor. Reed served as a member of the school committee, a trustee of the Brockton Public Library and of the Howard Seminary, and was a long-time member of the Board of Trustees for the Brockton Hospital.²⁵

Ralph Prescott Jackson (1882-1945), a Brockton-born architect, was retained for the project design, which was constructed in 1924. Jackson had previously served as the supervisor for the design of the Brockton Public Library, a position that would have acquainted him with the future Howard Home trustees Warren Reed and William Boyden, and likely later led to his commission for the design of the home.

Jackson was the son of Prescott and Lizzie Jackson, and was born in 1882 in Brockton. His father was listed as a builder in the 1900 census. Jackson was educated at Phillips Academy, an independent boarding school in Andover, MA. He returned to Brockton following his graduation and began working as a contractor, later transitioning to a practicing architect. In 1917, he signed a registration card indicating that he was working for George Howard and Sons Company, a local firm of contractors and builders, as an architect.²⁶ Beginning in 1919 and continuing through 1939, Jackson was listed in Brockton city directories as an architect and resident of the city. His architecture business was listed with two different partners early in his career, both with offices at 145 West Elm Street in Brockton: Jackson & Crocker in 1919, and Dennison & Jackson in 1922. However, by 1923 Jackson was practicing alone with a new office on Main Street. He also served as a Brockton building inspector for a short period of time in 1922. The design of the Security Federal Savings Bank in Brockton (BRO.640, 1929, extant), and the addition to the Plymouth County Nurses Residence in Hanson (HNS.106, 1939, extant) are both designs credited to Jackson. He was also commissioned for the design of a school on the west side of the city (ca. 1918).²⁷ Jackson's design of the Howard Home was consistent with similar local institutions of the period.

The design of the Howard Home, as can be seen in a 1923 rendering and the original 1924 floor plans signed by Ralph Jackson (Figures 3 and 7-12), was intended to convey a domestic sensibility rather than an institutional one, with details reflective of residential architecture.²⁸ The building was designed in the Georgian Revival style, featuring a symmetrical façade with a centrally located main entrance with sidelights, a fanlight, and an extended entry porch, topped with a denticulated, modillioned cornice. The

²³ City of Brockton, Massachusetts. Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library for the Year Ending November 30, 1915

²⁴ Inaugural Address of Hon. Edward H. Keith, Mayor of the City of Brockton, to the City Council January 2, 1905.

²⁵ "First Annual Report of the Massachusetts Commission on Mental Diseases of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1916," (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1917), accessed February 2, 2016, <https://books.google.com/books?id=ykE0nQEACAAJ&dq=inauthor:%22Massachusetts+Commission+on+Mental+Diseases%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj04cLfysDLAhUJdj4KHcH0Ad0Q6AEIJjAA>.

²⁶ George Howard was a distant cousin of Horace Howard, again showing the reach and influence of the Howard family in Brockton and the surrounding towns.

²⁷ Annual Report of the Board of Health of the City of Brockton, Massachusetts, 1917.

²⁸ Building plans (Figures 4-12) were re-labeled "Nurses Qtrs #60" after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924

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interior of the building was laid out to resemble a family home, with a large communal dining room located to the south of the main entrance at the center of the first floor, and a living room that opened to the sunroom at the west elevation. The rear ell housed a kitchen. Sleeping quarters were located throughout the first and second floors, with a matron's living room adjacent to the entryway on the first floor and matron's quarters above the entrance on the second floor. A matron's dining room was located to the west of the main dining room, with a doorway providing access between the two spaces.

Census records give a sense of the people who lived and worked at the Howard Home in the 1930s and 1940s. The 1930 and 1940 United States Federal Censuses list Albert Wetzell, age 63 in 1930, as the head of the Howard Home, with his wife Constance Wetzell serving as the matron. In her role as matron, Constance Wetzell acted as almost a housemother for the residents of the Howard Home, in addition to providing basic nursing care. She was also responsible for supervising the staff.

The Wetzells were Swedish immigrants who had come to Brockton in the late 19th century. Albert had worked in the shoe factories of Brockton prior to taking the position at the Howard Home, while Constance had been a homemaker. A live-in cook was the only other staff member in residence at the house, with a woman named Hannah Saltcullen as the cook in 1930, and Mildred Johnson in 1940.

The Howard Home listed six men as its residents in both 1930 and 1940. Only two of the men who lived in the house in 1930 were still living there in 1940. The residents ranged in age from 71 to 86 years old. Most were born in Massachusetts, though some were immigrants from Sweden and England. Almost all were long-term former employees of the shoe factories, though others held various laborer and office positions. None had living spouses or children in Brockton.

The Howard Home continued to serve as a home for elderly men until the late 1940s, when the property was acquired by the Veterans Administration.²⁹

The Veterans Administration Hospital (1950s - Present)

Beginning in the 1930s, efforts were underway to establish a Veterans Administration hospital in Brockton through appeals to the Federal Government by numerous civic leaders, though it would be nearly two decades before the hospital campus would be established. In March of 1940, Veterans Association leaders, Mayor Fred D. Rowe, and the Chamber of Commerce suggested a 125-acre plot of land off of Pleasant Street in Brockton Heights as a possible site for the new VA hospital. However, the proposals were not to come to fruition; a site that better aligned with VA requirements in West Roxbury was chosen for the new hospital. In 1945, the City of Brockton once again made efforts to secure a site for one of three newly proposed hospitals in Massachusetts, which also proved fruitless.

In March of 1949, General Carl Gray, Administrator for Veterans Affairs, came to Brockton to visit a newly proposed hospital site, which included the land surrounding the Howard Home. In July of that same year, Governor Paul A. Dever signed a petition permitting the City of Brockton to borrow \$200,000 to be used for land acquisition. The site, which had been a series of farm tracts, was acquired by the city in a number of transactions, beginning with the 1909 sale of 77.21 acres by Milo Manley of Brockton to

²⁹ It is unclear what became of the residents and staff of the Howard Home following the property's acquisition by the VA. As a privately owned and operated institution, the Howard Home's records were not included with the Brockton Annual Reports, and were not saved following the dissolution of the organization. Several resources, including the VA archives, local newspapers, the Brockton Historical Society, and the Brockton Library were consulted, but did not yield any results.

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the city for the extension of its sewerage beds.³⁰ The 217.4-acre tract owned by the City of Brockton was officially sold to the United States Government on November 7, 1949, at which time the Howard Home became part of the new VA development.³¹

In April of 1950, the VA announced that plans were underway for the new hospital campus in Brockton, and construction funds were appropriated by Congress shortly thereafter. The Brockton VA Hospital would focus on caring for veterans with psychiatric illnesses, with limited medical and surgical care. Veterans were transferred to the West Roxbury or Jamaica Plain centers for acute care.³² The new hospital design, contracted by in-house architects of the VA, was revealed to the public in the November issue of the *Enterprise*.³³ Bids for the construction of the hospital complex were opened in April 1951. The lowest bid was submitted by Gust K. Newberg Construction Company of Chicago for construction of the 24-building complex, and included building construction, roads, walks, fencing, grading, and drainage. Other low bidders were the Otis Elevator Company for elevators and dumbwaiters (including in the Howard Home), the Joseph F. Laundre Company of Boston for refrigeration equipment, and the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company for erection of a water tank. Mechanical contractors for the project were Reuben L. Anderson, Inc. of St. Paul, MN.³⁴ Initial work on the new hospital buildings began in May 1951, with a total of 72 buildings (including two secondary buildings that are no longer extant) erected between 1953 and 1958.³⁵

On June 26, 1953, Peter A. Pepper, M.D., former employee of the Perry Point, MD, VA Hospital, arrived in Brockton to become manager of the hospital. Dr. Pepper (1902-1973) was a nationally recognized psychiatrist with experience in organizing and administering large public mental hospitals, as well as being a veteran himself. Dr. Pepper's work tended to focus on the treatment of mental illnesses through incentivized work programs, including the use of financial compensation for tasks done well. It was in Brockton that Dr. Pepper developed a model work program that employed 82 schizophrenic patients in positions throughout the Veterans Health Administration center, eventually finding that 45 percent of those patients were able to return to independent jobs in the community. He attributed the high percentage of patients who were able to return to outside work to the benefits of working in the medical center.³⁶

In August of 1953, it was announced that the campus would create 1,200 new jobs for the city (*Enterprise*, August 30, 1953). On the following October 6, the hospital received its first group of 60 patients, who were transferred from Bedford. In the late 1970s, the Brockton VA Hospital began providing more inpatient and outpatient medical care to the veterans in the community.

The Howard Home remained in use by the Brockton VA medical center in a variety of capacities for several decades. Referred to as "Building 60" when the VA took over the property, the building served as a nurse's dormitory from 1953 through the 1970s. Though the VA does not have specific records relating to the inhabitants of the building at that time, the nurses tended to be unmarried women who lived alone. In the 1970s, the building was converted from a dormitory to a daycare center, serving as a mental hygiene clinic. In the 1980s, the building was converted to office use. It remained in use as offices by the

³⁰ Plymouth County Deed Book 1035:1, July 15, 1909.

³¹ Plymouth County Deed Book, 2064:286, November 7, 1949.

³² *Excellence in Veterans Care: Ceremony to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Brockton VA Medical Center*, Pamphlet, 2003.

³³ *Brockton Enterprise*, November 17, 1950.

³⁴ *Brockton Enterprise*, October 23, 1953.

³⁵ Demolished buildings include Building 63, a personnel garage that had stood behind the Howard Home, and a police guardhouse.

³⁶ Thomas W. Miller, ed. *The Praeger Handbook of Veterans' Health: History, Challenges, Issues, and Developments, Vol. 1: History, Eras, and Global Healthcare* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, LLC 2012), 315.

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VA through the early 2000s. In-house architects for the VA were responsible for the designs of the renovations.³⁷ The Howard Home was leased to Catholic Charities as a substance-abuse treatment facility from 2005 to 2010. From 2010 through 2015, the building was used as storage.

Architecture

Prior to the late 19th century, poorhouses or almshouses did not adopt a particular built form. Early poorhouses or poor farms were often established within existing buildings.³⁸ Specialized institutions for housing the poor and elderly began to emerge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which resulted in the development of identifiable building types. Homes for the elderly typically followed a recognized form, often adopting the forms of residential architecture on a larger scale, conveying a private, homelike appearance—a domestic sensibility, rather than an institutional one. This form included a domestic interior functionality as well, with first-floor communal living space and sleeping quarters on the upper floors. Both of Brockton's institutions devoted to the care of the elderly followed this model. Notably, the Wales Home was constructed as a family residence and later converted to institutional use, while the Howard Home was purpose-built as an institution to resemble a domestic home.

The Howard Home was designed in the Georgian Revival style, the dominant architectural aesthetic in domestic architecture in the United States at the time of its construction. The Georgian Revival style is a subcategory of the Colonial Revival style. Interest in reviving the designs of the mid 18th century can be traced to the nation's Centennial, which was held in Philadelphia in 1876. This was followed a few decades later by the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, which celebrated 400 years since the discovery of America. Both sparked an interest in the country's architectural heritage. The style remained popular through the mid 20th century, and it is still popular today, particularly in New England.

Georgian Revival-style buildings typically feature symmetrical façades with classical front-door surrounds, often with decorative entry porches, sidelights, and fanlights. Other typical features of Georgian Revival buildings include one-story side wings (either open or enclosed), denticulated and modillioned cornices, and double-hung windows with multipane glazing. The Howard Home incorporated all of these features: it has a symmetrical façade, a projecting entry pavilion, a centrally located main entrance with sidelights and fanlight set with leaded-glass tracery, and a denticulated, modillioned cornice. The sunporches were popular early 20th-century features. Dormers along the roofline provided light and air to the spaces at the upper level of the building. The building's symmetrical floor plan, featuring rooms located around a central stair, is also typical of the Georgian Revival style.

The 1923 rendering (Figure 3) of the building showed a two-story solarium at the west elevation, but by the time the building was constructed the following year, the solarium had been reduced to a one-story, enclosed sunroom. The original floor plans from 1924 that are signed by Ralph Jackson (Figure 7) illustrate a one-story, open sunporch on the east elevation that mirrors the enclosed sunroom to the west.³⁹

As the building changed uses throughout the 20th century, the interior was slightly altered to better suit the needs of the new functions. The open sunporch on the east elevation was enclosed, following the VA's acquisition of the building in 1949. In the 1970s, the building was converted from dormitory use to a

³⁷ VA Archives confirm that in-house architects were responsible for the alterations, but did not give any specific information about the architects themselves.

³⁸ *Brockton Enterprise*, October 23, 1953.

³⁹ Building plans (Figures 4-12) were re-labeled "Nurses Qtrs #60" after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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daycare center. New finishes, including vinyl floor tiles and baseboards, were installed, while some of the interior trim was removed. The basement was finished for use as additional office space. A new elevator shaft was constructed at the south elevation in the 1970s, as well. In the 1980s renovation of the property for office use, some of the vinyl finishes were replaced in-kind. New partitions were installed in the former living rooms and dining rooms, while some of the restrooms were converted for use as additional office space. Additional trim, including several fireplace mantles, was removed during these later renovations. Despite these alterations, the overall floor and corridor layouts were retained, as well as some of the wood trim throughout the building and one of the mantles. The entry vestibule was also retained.

Howard Home Rehabilitation

The Howard Home for Aged Men is still owned by the VA, but is the subject of a 75-year, long-term lease with the Howard Home LLC. The Howard Home is currently undergoing renovation to serve as veterans' housing, utilizing state and federal historic tax credits. The renovation will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Significant character-defining features, including the entry portico, entrance with sidelights and arched transom with leaded-glass tracery, denticulated and modillioned cornice, window keystones, and Palladian window will be retained. On the interior of the building, the main entry vestibule with its wood frame and leaded-glass tracery and overall floor plan will be retained, as will trim, including the fireplace mantle.

Archaeological Significance

Any ancient Native American archaeological resources recovered at the Howard Home for Aged Men may contain information that furthers an understanding of the Ancient-period subsistence and settlement patterns employed by Native peoples in what became the city of Brockton. Little amateur or professional research has been completed from within the city limits, making any sites potentially significant. Artifact collecting activity has also been poorly documented. Archaeological sites in this area may contain information that documents the importance of the interior Taunton River drainage to local and larger regional patterns of Native settlement and subsistence.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to help document the construction of the Howard Home, landuse modifications to the grounds, and the 19th- and early 20th-century evolution of social institutions in the Brockton area. Additional documentary research, combined with a more intensive level of archaeological survey and testing, may identify the sites of potential outbuildings associated with the maintenance and operation of the Howard Home. The above research and careful mapping can help reconstruct the complete history of landuse on the property. At the time of construction, the land where the Howard Home was built was comprised of open land and farmland. The site itself and most of the land on the south side of Belmont Street consisted primarily of farmland. No cultural resources associated with agriculture have been identified at the Howard Home.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BRO.622

HPCA # 29,802

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.065633 Longitude: -71.052937

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19 Easting: 330151 Northing: 4659102
330104 4658878

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Howard Home for Aged Men currently sits on a 34,950-square-foot plot of land in the northeast corner of the Brockton VA Medical Center Campus. The parcel is described in Deed Book 2064, Page 286, recorded in the Plymouth County Register of Deeds: "Thence S 33°44'41" E, one-hundred and 81 hundredths (100.81') feet by land now or formerly of Julie M. Enos. Thence a tie line S 51°10'20" W, one-hundred three and ninety-seven hundredths (103.97') feet, to the True Point of Beginning:

S 32°19'14" E a distance of one-hundred seventy-four and thirty-two hundredths (174.32') feet, thence;

S 62°25'11" W a distance of two-hundred twenty-three and sixty-eight hundredths (223.68') feet, thence;

N 39°01'53" W a distance of one-hundred twenty-nine and fifty-seven hundredths (129.57') feet, thence;

N 51°10'20" E a distance of two-hundred thirty-nine and sixty hundredths (239.60') feet to the True Point of Beginning."

The boundary is shown on the plan entitled "Enhanced Use Lease Building #60 Brockton VAMC, Brockton, MA," dated October 13, 2011, prepared by Alpha Surveying and Engineering, Inc. (attached as Figure 13).

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entire parcel of land associated with the long-term lease enacted between the Howard Home LLC and the VA.

11. Form Prepared By

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with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, and Karen Davis, Massachusetts Historical Commission
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date: November 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Howard Home for Aged Men
Name of Property

Plymouth County, MA
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Howard Home for Aged Men
City or Vicinity: Brockton
County: Plymouth State: MA
Photographer: Albert Rex
Date Photographed: 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:
(see photo key, figure 14)

- 1 of 11: North elevation, looking south.
- 2 of 11: West and south elevations, looking northeast.
- 3 of 11: South elevation, looking north.
- 4 of 11: South elevation, looking north.
- 5 of 11: South and east elevations, looking northwest.
- 6 of 11: East and north elevations, looking southwest (sun porch detail).
- 7 of 11: North elevation main entrance, looking south.
- 8 of 11: Typical second-floor interior corridor, looking east.
- 9 of 11: Typical first-floor interior room, looking northwest.
- 10 of 11: Main entrance, looking north.
- 11 of 11: Typical stair, looking south.

Figures

- 1 of 15: Brockton City Atlas, 1898.
- 2 of 15: Staking Plan, Veterans Administration, 1951.
- 3 of 15: Historic view of Howard Home, 1923.
- 4 of 15: Original site plan for Howard Home, 1924.
- 5 of 15: Original foundation plan, 1924.
- 6 of 15: Original basement floor plan, 1924.
- 7 of 15: Original first-floor plan, 1924.
- 8 of 15: Original second-floor plan, 1924.
- 9 of 15: Original drawing of north elevation, 1924.
- 10 of 15: Original drawing of west elevation, 1924.
- 11 of 15: Original drawing of east elevation, 1924.
- 12 of 15: Original drawing of south elevation, 1924.
- 13 of 15: Boundary map from the "Enhanced Use Lease, Building #60," Brockton VAMC, 10/25/2011.
- 14 of 15: Key to photo locations.
- 15 of 15: Assessors map, showing the location of the VAMC parcel on the lower left. The approximate boundary of the Howard Home is drawn in at the upper right corner of the parcel.

Howard Home for Aged Men
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FIGURES

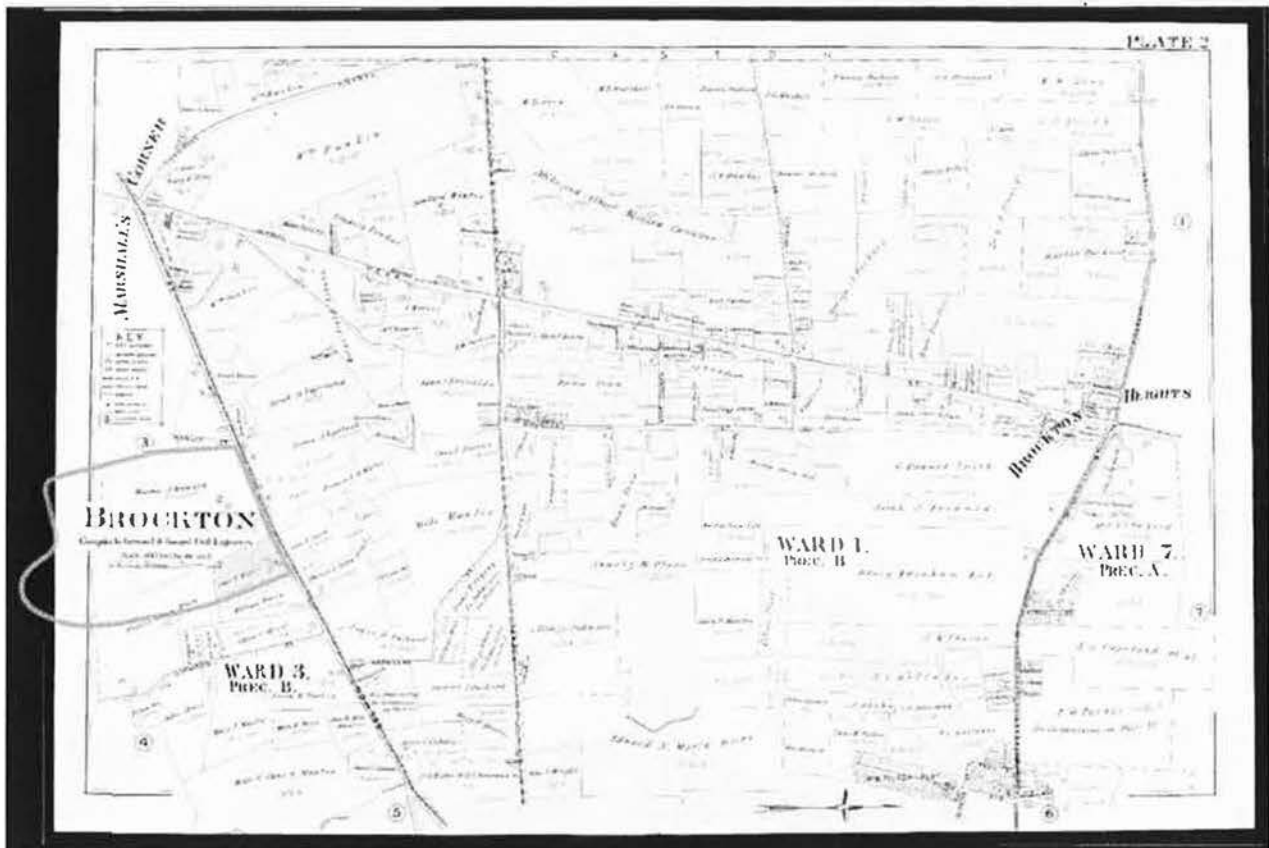


Figure 1: *Brockton City Atlas*, showing the outline of the current VA Medical Center Campus with the original site of the Howard Home for Aged Men highlighted in blue (Hayward & Howard Civil Engineers, 1898).

Howard Home for Aged Men
Name of Property

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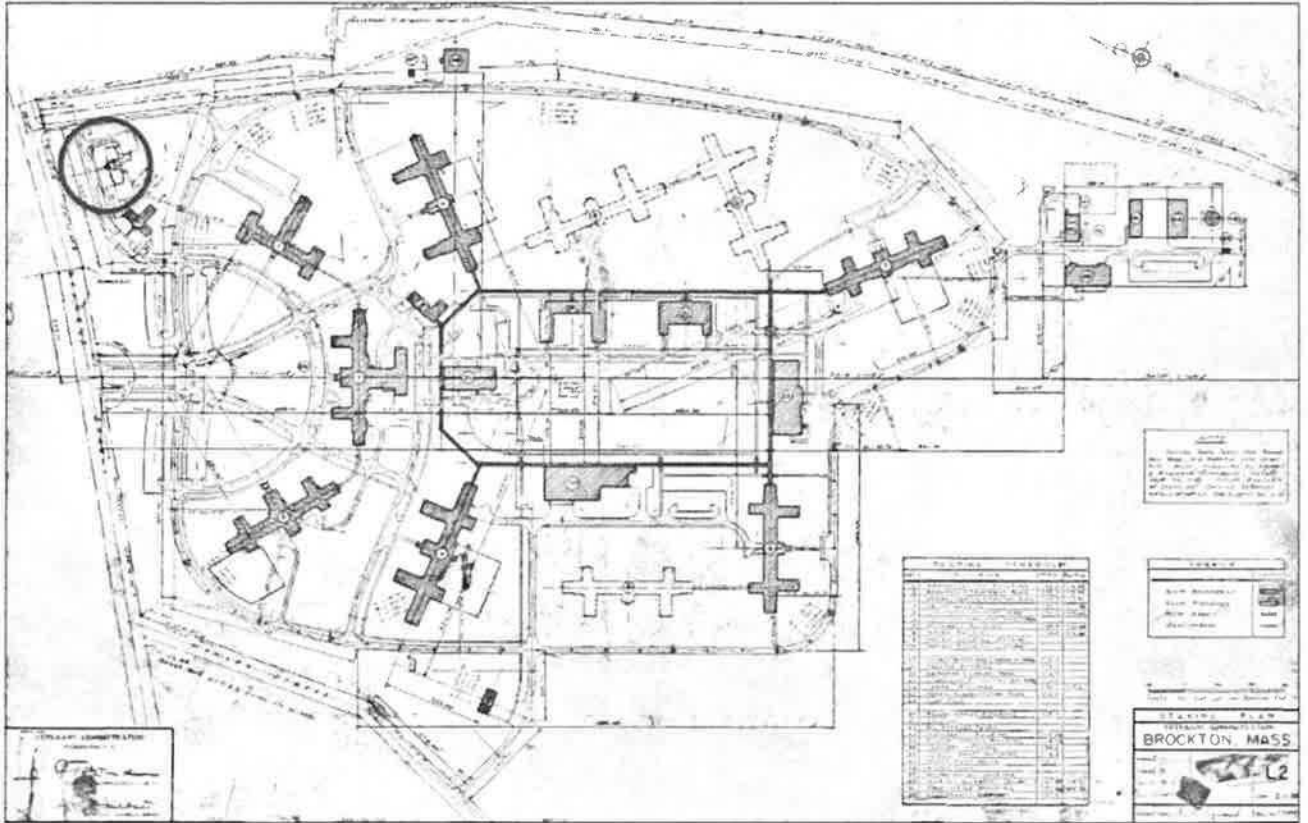
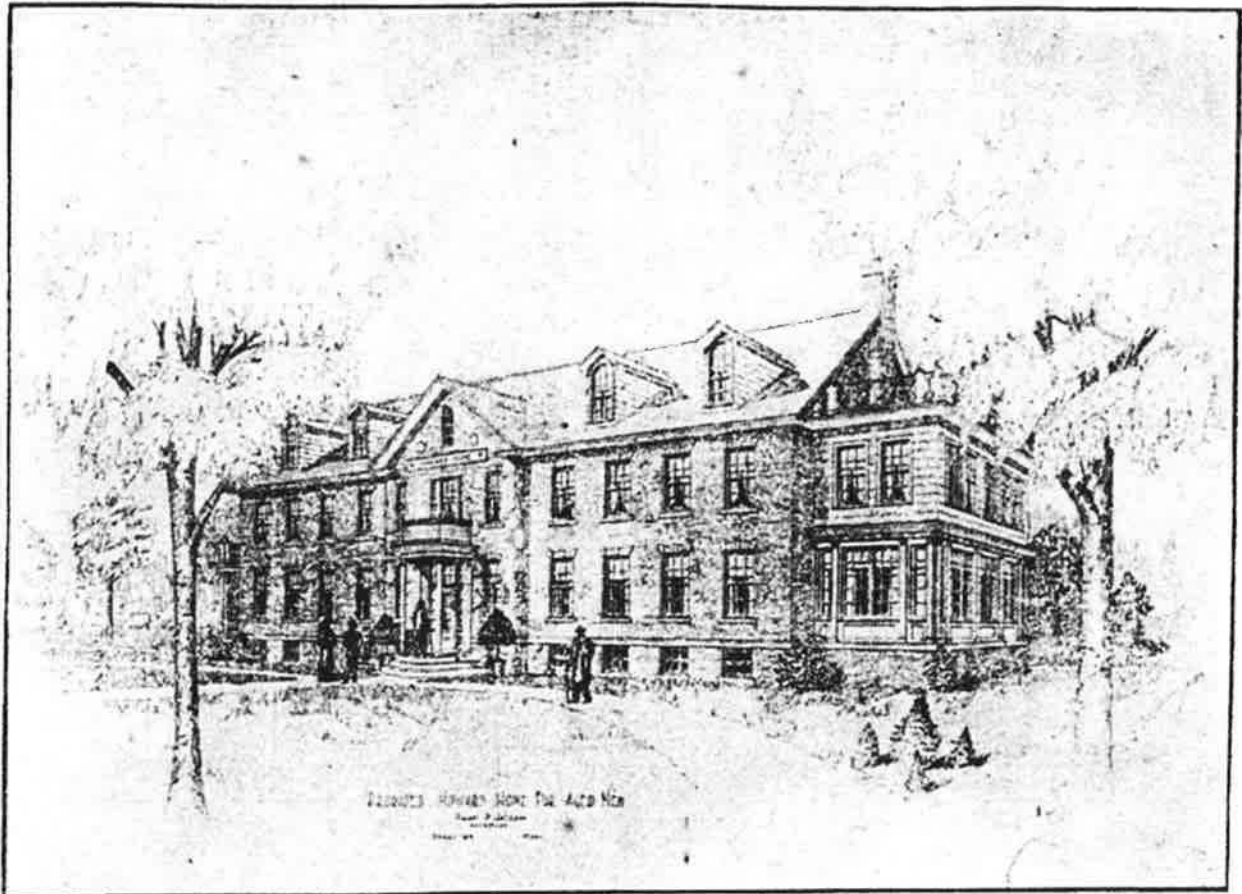


Figure 2: Staking plan showing the locations of original hospital buildings on the VA Medical Center campus. The Howard Home for Aged Men is located on the upper left corner of the drawing (Veterans Administration, 1951).

Howard Home for Aged Men
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HOWARD HOME FOR AGED MEN, AS PRESENTED BY ARCHITECT.

Figure 3: *Brockton Enterprise* article, "Plans for the Howard Home for Aged Men Are Showing Progress," December 22, 1923.

Howard Home for Aged Men
Name of Property

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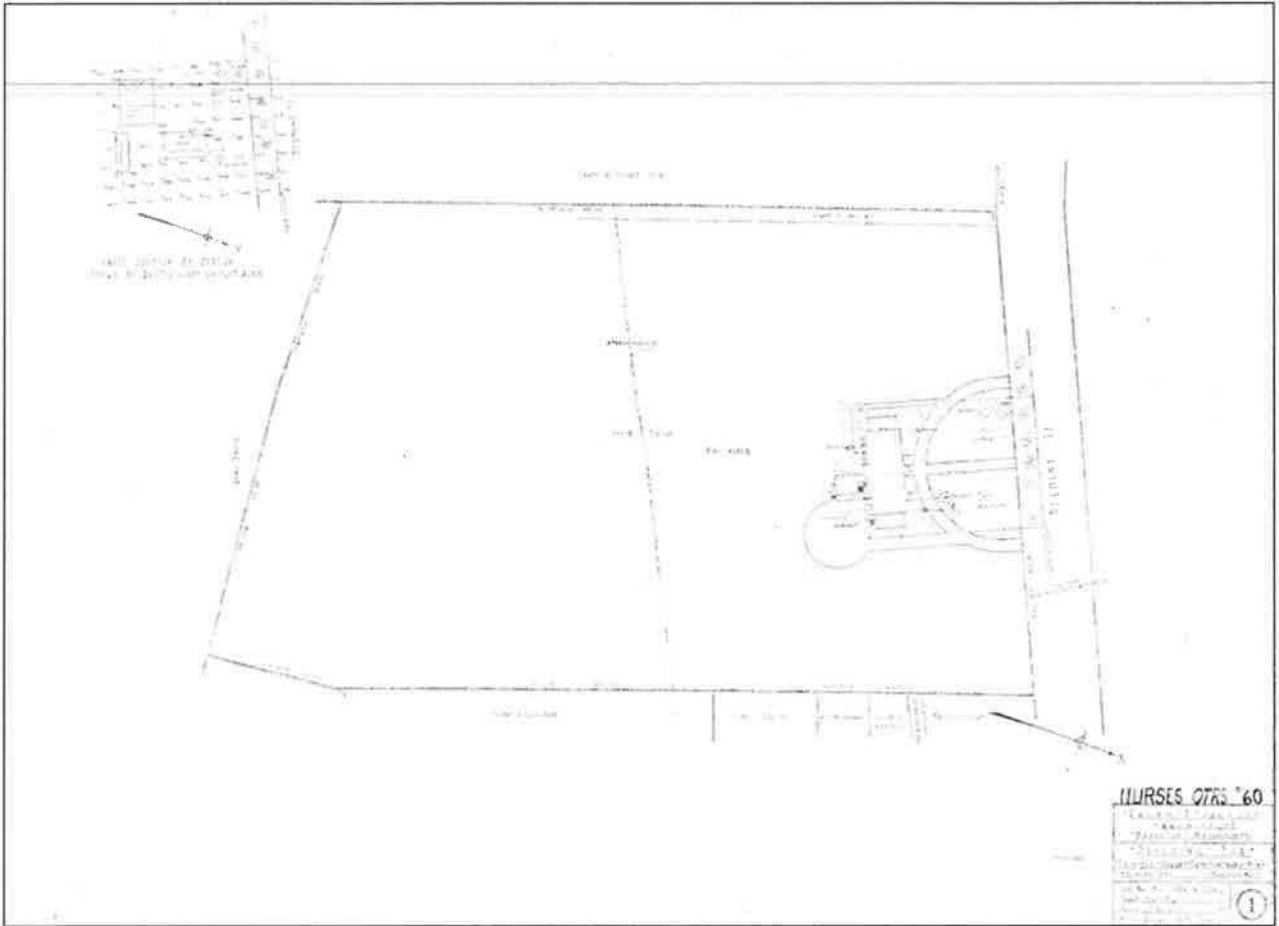


Figure 4: Howard Home for Aged Men original site plan (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924). NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

Howard Home for Aged Men
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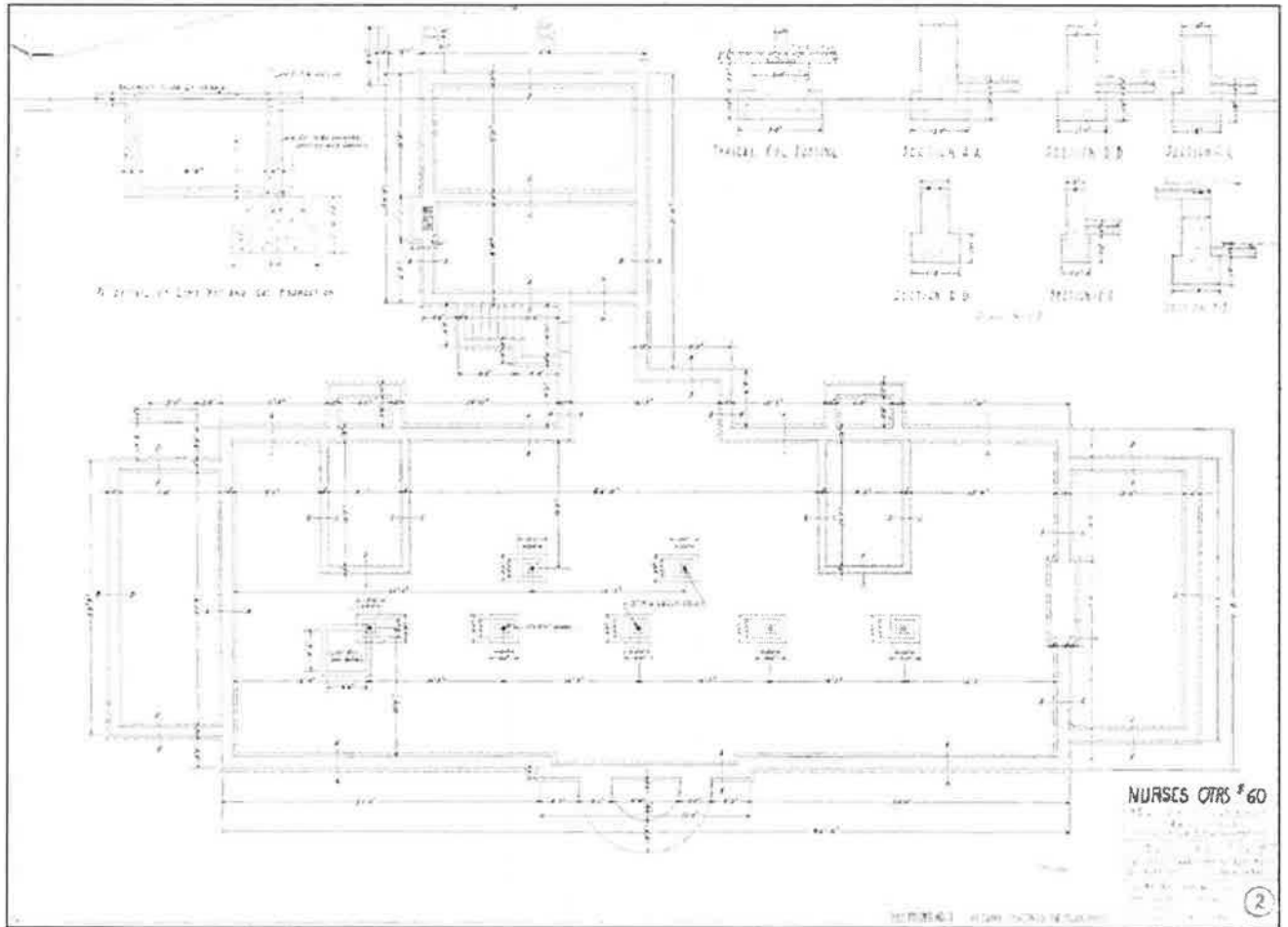


Figure 5: Howard Home for Aged Men original foundation floor plan (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).
NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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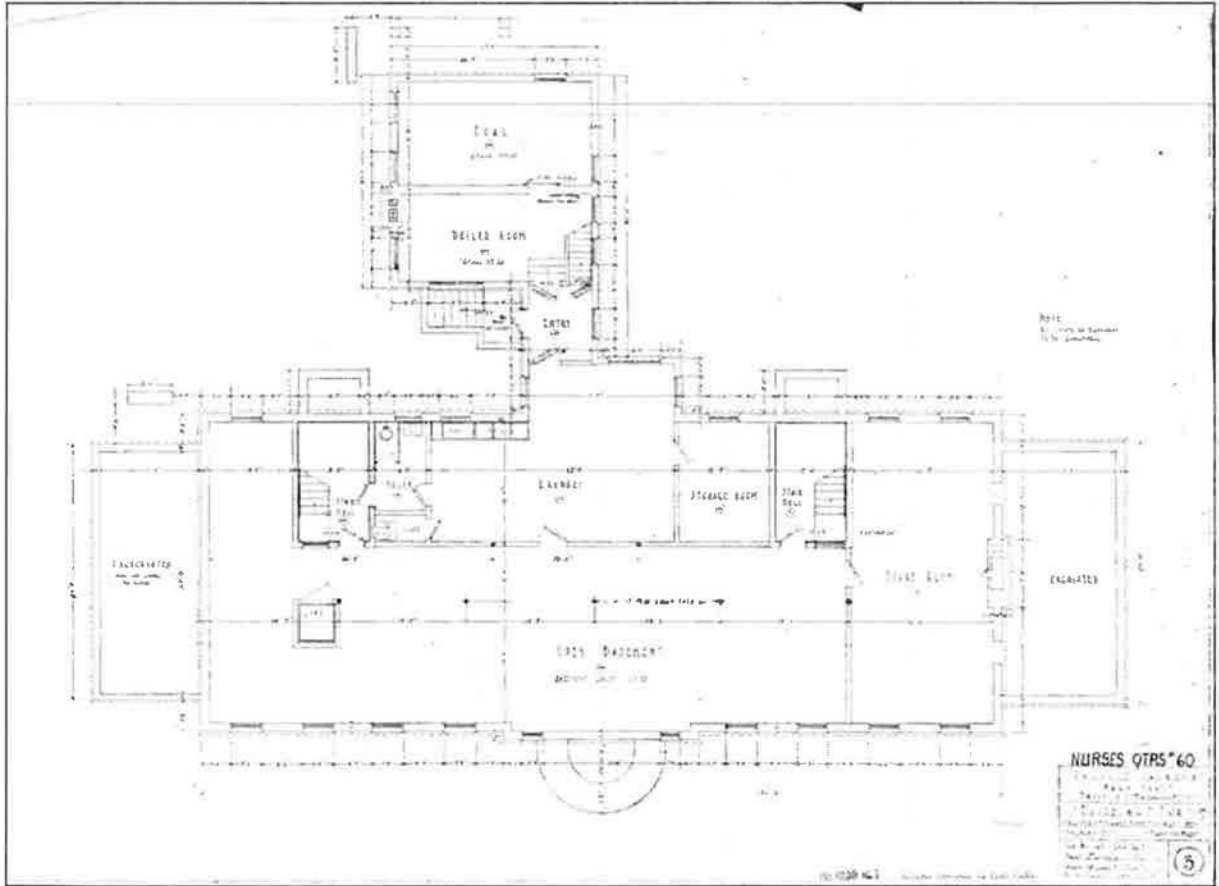


Figure 6: Howard Home for Aged Men original basement floor plan (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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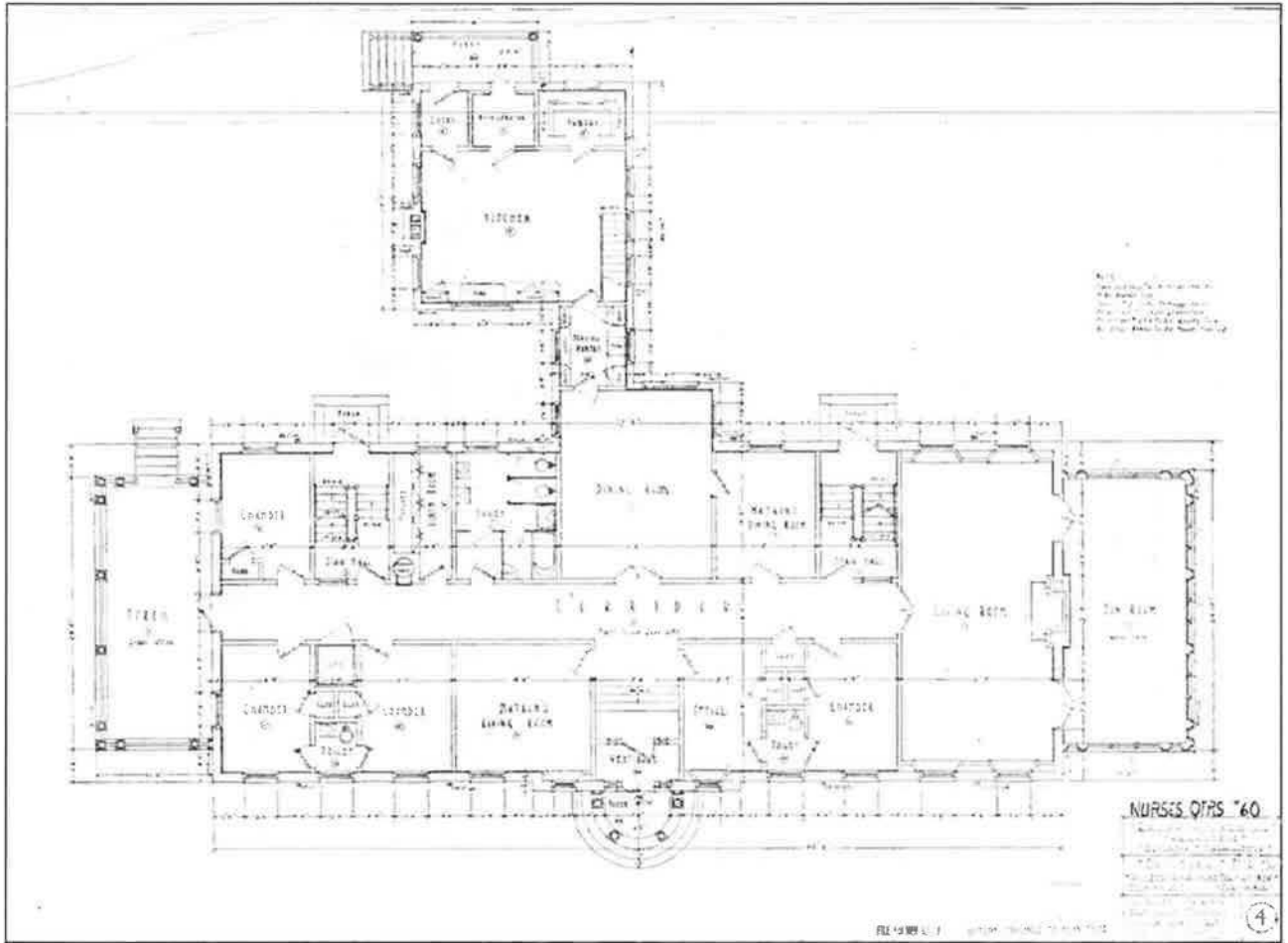


Figure 7: Howard Home for Aged Men original first floor plan (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).
NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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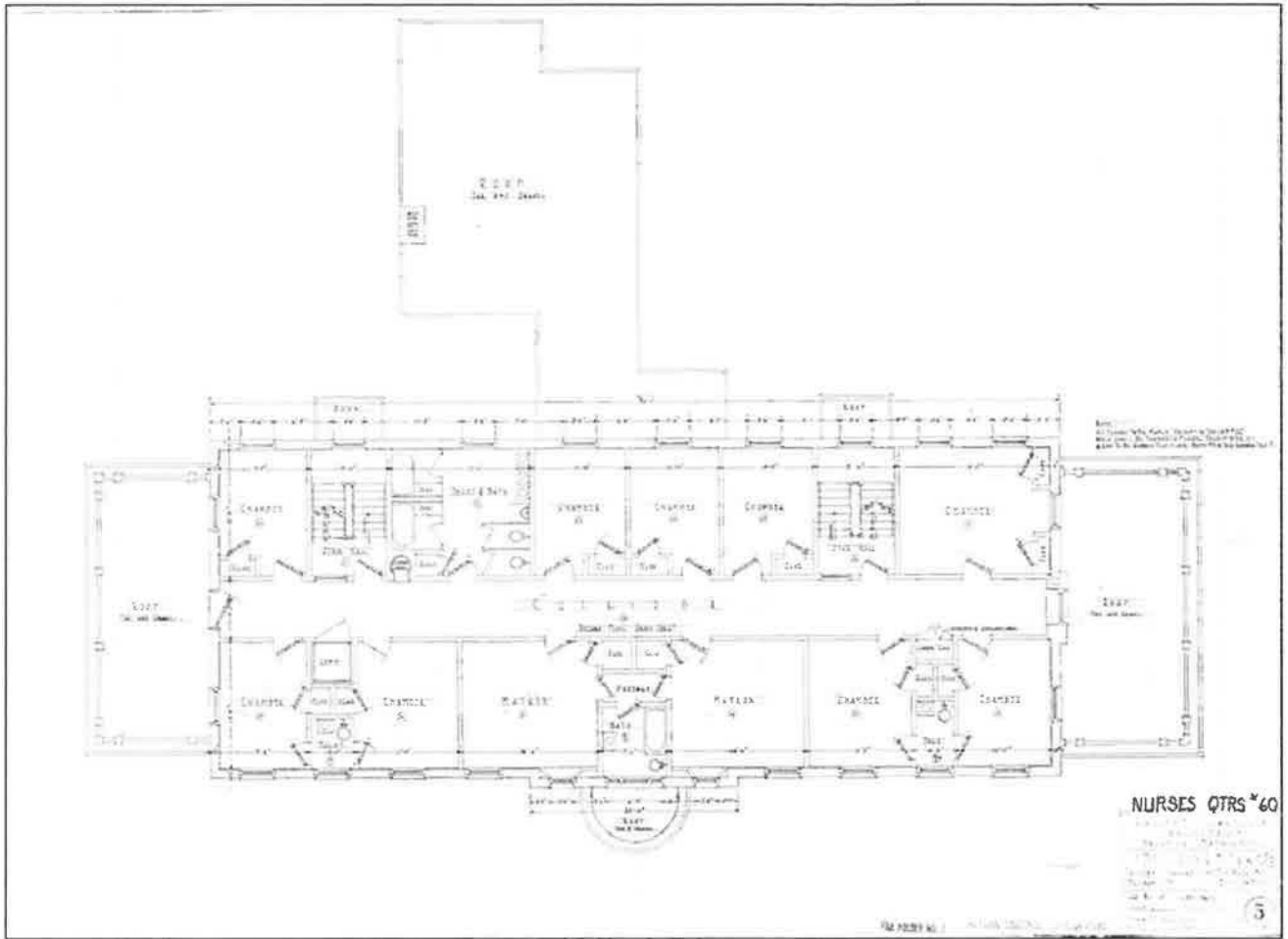


Figure 8: Howard Home for Aged Men original second floor plan (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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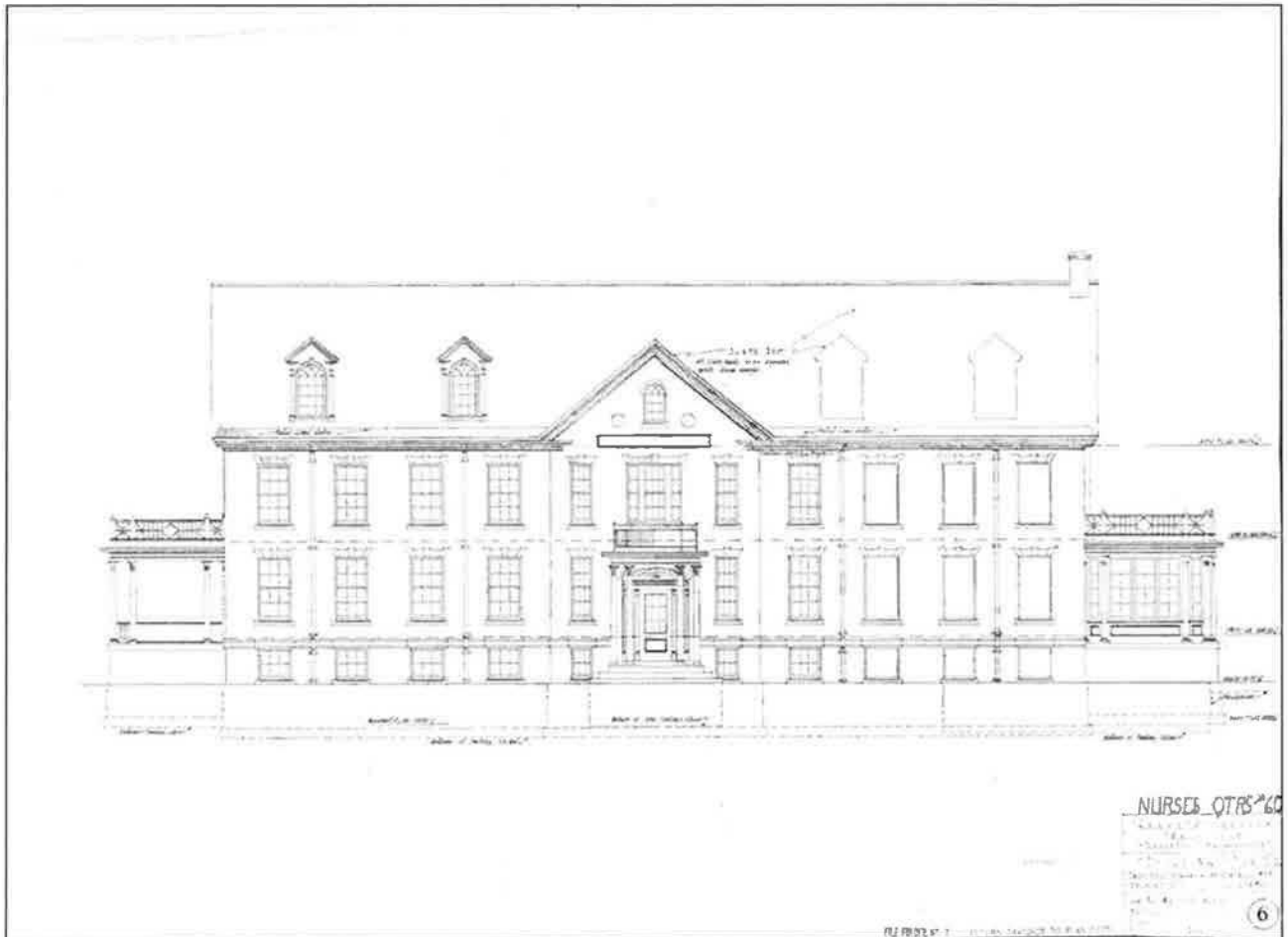


Figure 9: The Howard Home for Aged Men original north elevation drawing (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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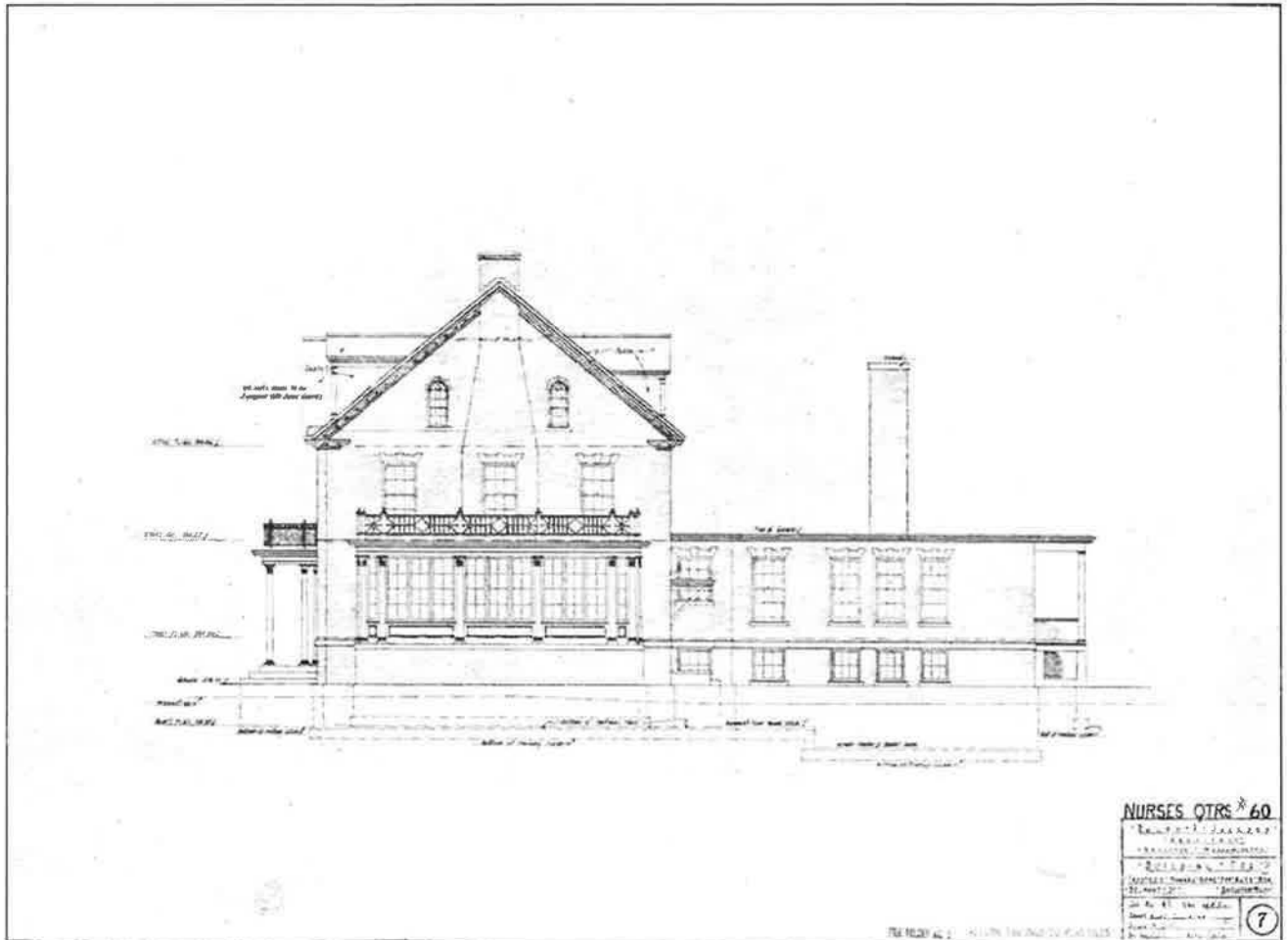


Figure 10: The Howard Home for Aged Men original west elevation drawing (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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Figure 11: The Howard Home for Aged Men original east elevation drawing (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

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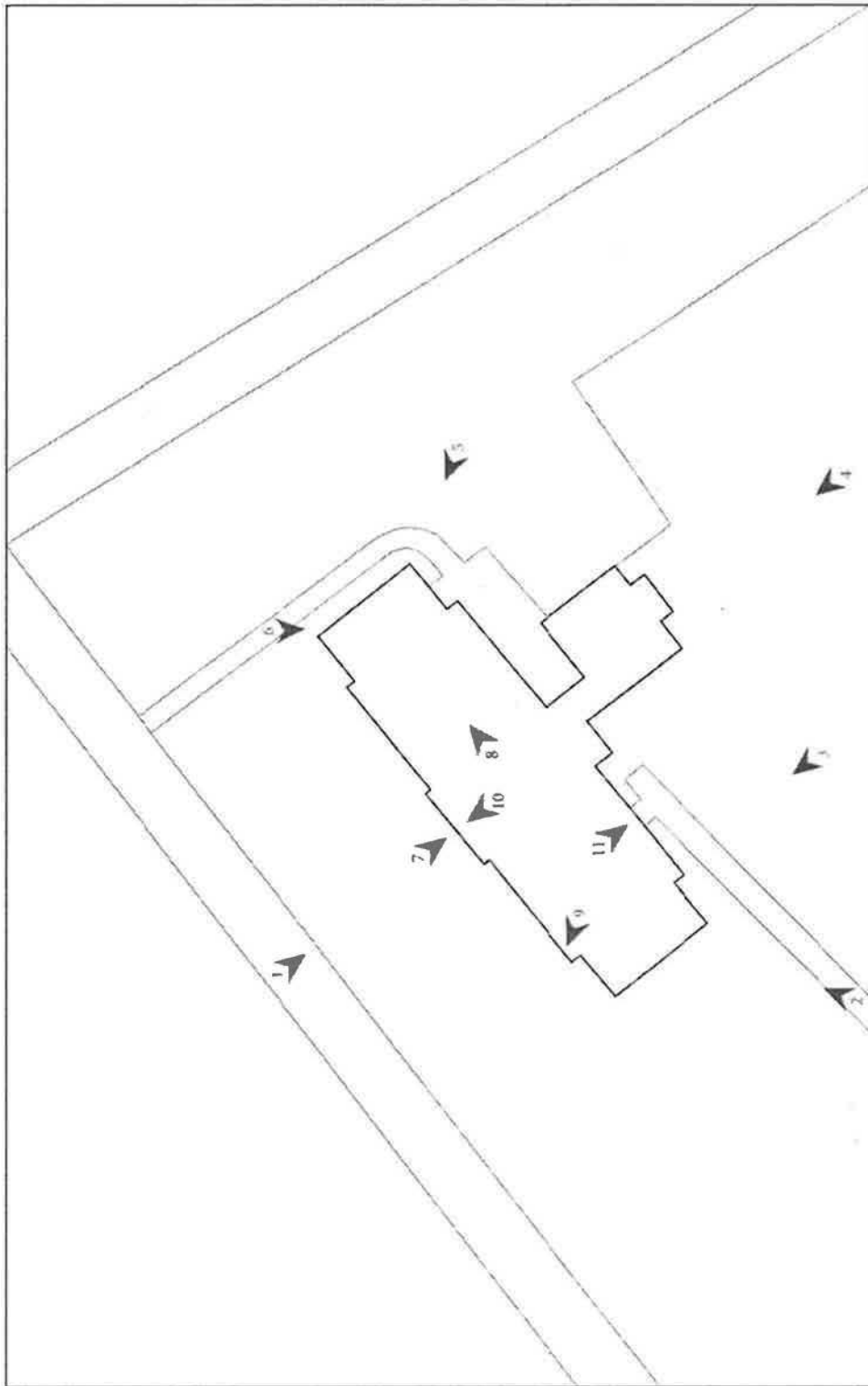


Figure 12: The Howard Home for Aged Men original south elevation drawing (Ralph P. Jackson, 1924).

NB: Building plans were re-labeled “Nurses Qtrs #60” after the VA took over the property. The title block in the lower right hand corner is signed by Ralph Jackson and dated 1924.

Howard Home for Aged Men
Name of Property

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Howard Home for Aged Men
Brockton, Massachusetts
National Register Nomination - Sketch Map

Figure 14. Photo Key

Howard Home for Aged Men
Name of Property

Plymouth County, MA
County and State

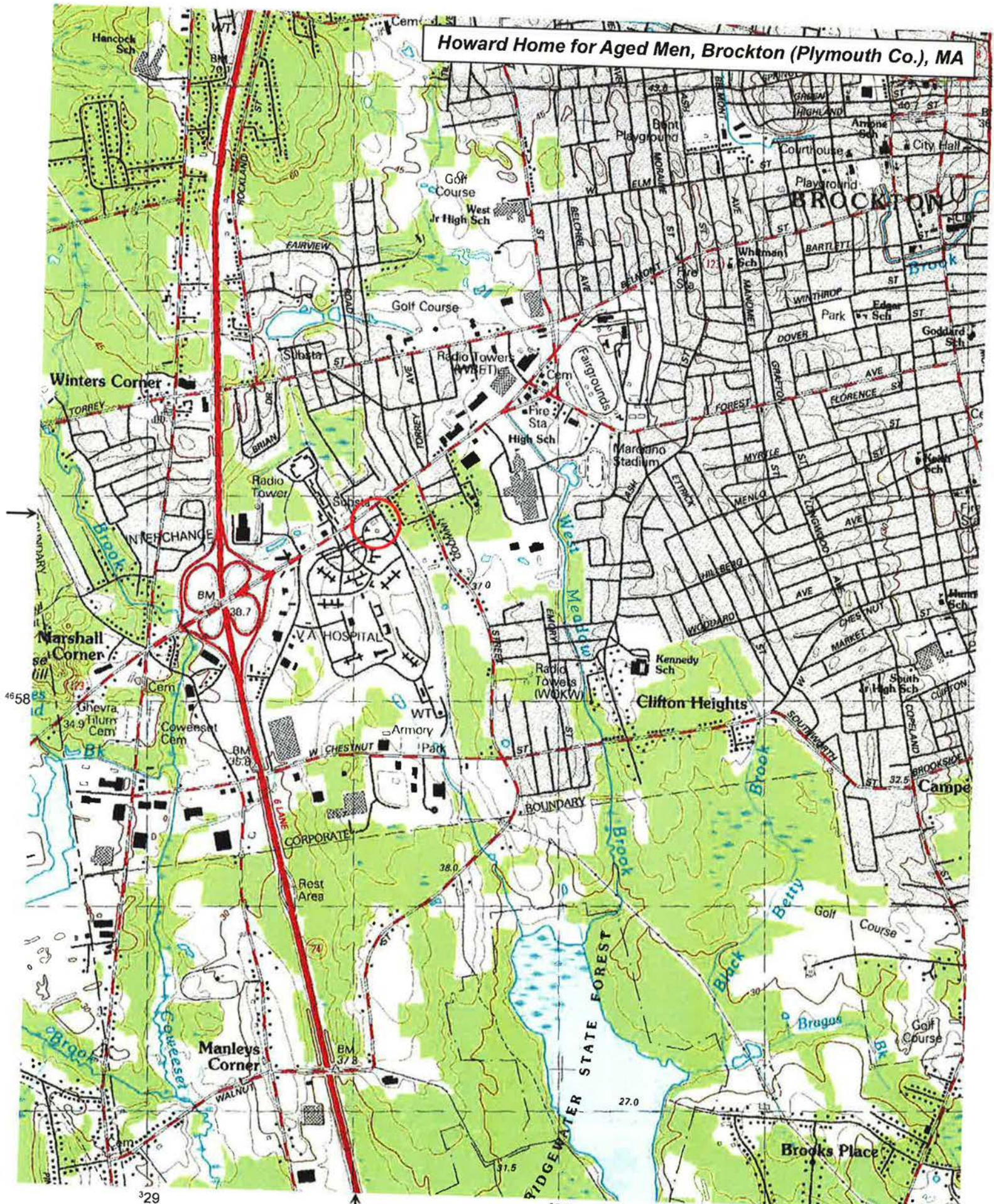


Figure 15. Brockton Assessor's sheet 19 showing approximate location of parcel

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Howard Home for Aged Men, Brockton (Plymouth Co.), MA





Building 60









CAUTION
CONSTRUCTION
OR
NEED PRECAUTIONING

04019





HOWARD HOME

60



EXIT

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

1

2



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60



EXIT







The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

November 1, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination forms:

Howard Home for Aged Men, 940 Belmont Street, Brockton (Plymouth), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Albert Rex, MacRostie Historic Advisors, consultant
Arnie Danielsen, Brockton Historical Commission
Mayor Bill Carpenter, City of Brockton
Elizabeth Collins, Howard Home LLC
David Wheeler, Brockton Planning Board



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
WASHINGTON DC 20420

April 2, 2018

Patrick Andrus
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Howard Home for Aged Men National Register Nomination (NRIS 16000871)

Dear Patrick:

In compliance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs supports National Register of Historic Places listing of the Howard Home for Aged Men, also known as Building 60, at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center, 940 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Pulak".

Douglas Pulak
Federal Preservation Officer