

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

JUN 19 1985

Name of Property Old Hospital

Owner: Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Address: Wisconsin Veterans Home

Owner's Address: 77 N. Dickinson Rm 263

City: King, Wisconsin

County: Waupaca

Madison, WI

160 NRHP Certification Date (code)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AI)
- Boundary increased (BI)
- Boundary decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)
- Property moved (PM)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
- moved property (B)
- birthplace or grave (C)
- cemetery (D)
- reconstructed property (E)
- commemorative property (F)
- less than 50 years old (G)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

Historic Resources of the Wisconsin
Veterans Home

220 Area of Significance (code)

architecture _____
social history _____

180 NRHP List Name

Old Hospital

230 Period of Significance (code)

1929-1935

200 Level of Significance (code)

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

60 Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the inter-
section of the right of way lines of the two
access roads at the southwestern most corner
of the building, along the right of way line

* below

70 USGS Quad Map

King

190 District Classification (code)

- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99/999999/9999999)

16/328840/4911170

210 Applicable Criteria (code)

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

85 Listed Acreage less than one

340 Review Board Date April, 1985

*of the north-south road the the intersection with an east-west line approximately 10 feet from the north facade of the building, along this line to the intersection with a north-south line approximately 10 feet from the east facade of the building, along this line to the intersection with the right of way line of the east-west access road, along this line to the point of beginning.

RECORD NUMBER: Old Hospital

ADDRESS: _____

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source) 1929 (C)

580 Roof Shape (code) hipped

460 Date of Alterations/Additions (source) _____

590 Additional Description _____

480 Builder (source) _____

620 Condition (code)
excellent good fair poor ruins

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)
__ architect: _____
__ artist: _____
__ engineer: _____
__ interior designer: _____
__ landscape architect: _____
__ other: _____

650 Related Buildings (code)

510 Style or Form (code) Neo-Classical

HISTORY
430 Common/Current Name Old Hospital

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code) building

440 Historic Names (source) Hospital

530 Building Materials (code)
tile
(roof)
concrete
(foundation)
concrete
(trim)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

540 Interior Visited Yes No

670 Associated Events and 675 Dates (source)

550 Structural System (code) _____

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses and 685 Dates (source)

555 Source for Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) H-plan

570 Number of Stories 2 and 2.5

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DESCRIPTION

The old hospital is a simple Neo-classical inspired building consisting of a central, two and one-half story block with symmetrical two-story wings in an H-plan. A small two-story wing projects from the rear of the central block. The hipped roofs are covered with red tile, and a small shed dormer and chimney project from the central block to the rear of the building. The building is constructed of vermillion brick with a concrete foundation and concrete trim. Its Neo-classical features include a concrete entablature around the entire building, above which is an attic story in the central block. There is another entablature on the central block which features a denticulated cornice. There are concrete balustrades above the cornices of the sections of the building which connect the central block with the wings on the front facade. A balustrade also appears above the cornice of the small rear wing. The front entrance has a concrete frontispiece and modern glass doors. The first floor central windows of each wing have concrete surrounds and cresting. The interior still maintains most of its original floor plan, although some remodeling has occurred over the years. The building is currently vacant and the current home administration is considering alternative reuses for it.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SIGNIFICANCE

The old hospital is significant for architecture because it is a good example of a simple interpretation of the Neo-classical style. The building is not elaborately detailed, but this is not unusual given the probable constraints of budget, the function of the building, and the 1929 building date. The building possesses a symmetry and quality of construction still evident after 50 plus years. There have been few alterations, unusual for a medical facility, giving the building a high level of preservation and integrity.

The old hospital is also significant because it was the first significant building in the complex to appear "institutional", reflecting the future focus of the home. With their clapboard exteriors, picturesque and Queen Anne details, the large, frame buildings, now demolished, of the original home could have been large houses, hotels, or what the site originally was, a resort complex. The 1929 hospital building looked to the future, when bricks and concrete would replace wood, and large brick buildings would provide nursing care, replacing the cottages and dormitories which once provided residential care.

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- A. Hosea W. Rood and E. B. Earle. History of Wisconsin Veterans Home 1886-1926. Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1926.
- B. "Wisconsin Veterans Home at King," Wisconsin Blue Book, 1962, pp. 221-230.
- C. Wisconsin Veterans Home. Building Inventory April 1978. On file, Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- D. "Wisconsin Grand Army Home for Vets," Report to the Legislature, 1956. On file, State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library, Madison, Wisconsin.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1889, a small, frame, 40-bed hospital was built for the Wisconsin Veterans Home. This structure burned in 1898, and a larger, frame replacement was constructed in 1901. Changing medical technology and new patient needs meant that by the 1920s, the frame hospital was inadequate. The brick hospital, constructed in 1929, was typical of many institutional buildings built at this time in the state and included kitchen-dining facilities, patient wards, operating rooms, and staff quarters. After World War II, the focus of the Wisconsin Veterans Home changed as veterans continued to live in their private homes until they were forced by medical needs to come to the facility, and as new attitudes regarding treatment of the elderly infirm became popular. New, large, multi-level nursing care concepts meant new, large buildings, and gradually the hospital became obsolete. The hospital was phased out and the building is currently used for storage. (ABCD)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The old hospital is significant because it represents the changing medical needs and care-giving emphasis of the Wisconsin Veterans Home in the twentieth century. During the building's period of significance, the hospital served residents who still mainly resided in cottages or dormitories, and were usually ambulatory. Just as in any other community in the state, the large, frame hospital utilized up to that point, was replaced by a new, fire-proof building. The hospital was the last major building constructed while the Veterans Home was still a mainly residential retirement community. At the same time, it was the first significant "institutional type" building constructed on the complex grounds. Previously major buildings were larger versions of houses, with picturesque details and Queen Anne embellishments. The brick hospital was a sturdy, slightly Neo-classical building which could not be confused with a house or hotel. After World War II, the emphasis at the home would switch from residential living to nursing care. The construction of the hospital in 1929 foretold that fact. While typical of a hospital established for a community like King in the 1920s, it also was a move toward institutional medical care. The Great Depression probably slowed this development, but the perceived needs after World War II rapidly moved it along. The old brick hospital, then, was an historic first step toward the greater institutionalization of the veterans community, and as such, is a definite historic landmark.