

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 96000630**

**Date Listed: 6/16/96**

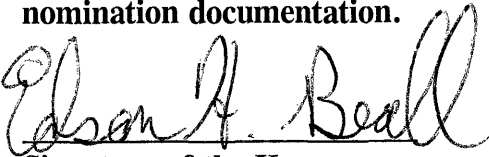
Veterans Administration Hospital  
**Property Name**

Salt Lake  
**County**

UT  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

  
**Signature of the Keeper**

6/28/96  
**Date of Action**

=====  
=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

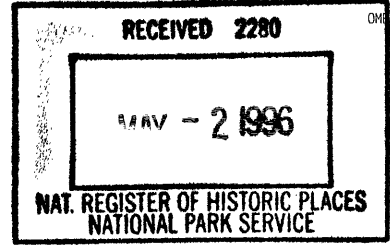
**Section 8. Areas of Significance**

Military has been deleted and replaced with Politics/Government as an Area of Significance for technical reasons. Military significance is not supported in the nomination. All previously listed Veterans Administration Hospitals are significant for Government and not for Military history. In the interest of consistency in the National Register Information System, Politics/Government is coded as an Area of Significance.

This correction was confirmed by Julie Osborne of the Utah SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Veterans Administration Hospital  
other names/site number Primary Children's Hospital Annex

### 2. Location

street & number 401 E 12th Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town Salt Lake City N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Salt Lake code 035 zip code 84103

### 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.)

*Wilson M. ...* 4/29/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
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 this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper *Carey D. Shuler* Date of Action 6-16-96

Veterans Administration Hospital  
Name of Property

Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/hospital  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Veterans Administration Hospital  
Name of Property

Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah  
City, County, and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

MILITARY

#### Period of Significance

1932-1946

#### Significant Dates

1932, 1939

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Veterans Administration Staff - Builders

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Veterans Administration Hospital  
Name of Property

Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 5.3 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/2/5/9/4/0 4/5/1/4/9/8/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

**Verbal Boundary Description**

BEGINNING at a point North 00°00'24" West 310.00 feet along the West line of "F" Street from the Southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 177, Plat "D", Salt Lake City Survey and running thence West 125.00 feet; thence South 188.00 feet; thence West 565.00 feet; thence North 32°00'00" West 107.02 feet to a non-tangent point on a curve (radius bears North 64°29'27" West 125.00); thence Northeasterly 55.65 feet along this curve to the left (chord bears North 12°45'16" East 55.19 feet); thence North 155.00 feet to a point of curve; thence Northeasterly 133.52 feet along an 85.00 foot radius curve to the right (chord bears North 45°00'00" East 120.21 feet); thence East 258.00 feet to a point of curve; thence Southeasterly 135.61 feet along a 222.00 foot radius curve to the right (chord bears South 72°30'00" East 133.51 feet); thence Southeasterly 86.74 feet along a 142.00 foot radius curve to the left (chord bears South 72°30'00" East 85.40 feet); thence East 34.78 feet; thence South 00°00'24" East 27.15 feet along said West line to the point of BEGINNING.

Property Tax No. 09-30-455-003-0000

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**Boundary Justification**

These are the current boundaries of the property on which the old Veterans Administration Hospital complex is located.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lora Knight and Utah SHPO Staff

organization University of Utah - Graduate School of Architecture

date March 1996

street & number 455 E 700 S

telephone (801) 575-6311

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84111

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

● **Continuation Sheets**

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or 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**

name Park City Construction (50%), Karen Wright (20%), Gough Construction (15%), Thomas Wolff (15%)

street & number 401 E Twelfth Ave.

telephone (801) 322-2266

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84103

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

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## Narrative Description

Constructed in 1932 and 1939, the Veterans Administration Hospital on Twelfth Avenue in Salt Lake City is a red brick neoclassical style complex that faces south. It is set back from the street on a steep hill, giving it a stately presence. The main building, constructed in 1932, has a gabled, five-and-a-half story central section with four-story cross wings extending east and west. It is attached in the rear (west side) to the smaller 1939 annex by a three-story L-shaped brick connector. There are two fairly minor exterior alterations to the main building. The wide, floor-length windows on the third and fourth floor southeast and southwest corners have been bricked in, and the stairway leading to the second floor front entrance of the main building has been removed and replaced by a ground level entrance. The building retains most of its original integrity and contributes to the historic qualities of the area.

Subdued exterior classical details found on both buildings include symmetrical facades, pedimented entryways, circular windows with garland embellishments on the tympanum, keystones above the window openings, dentils, and Ionic pilasters. Twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows exist throughout the Veterans Hospital. incorporate central gable pediments. The roofs are gabled and the main building incorporated three dormers along the front. The four-story wings have flat roofs. The connector service wing has a flat roof. All roofs are asphalt.

The main building has a central corridor running the length of the building with single and double rooms and multiple-bed wards on each side. Changes include the bricking in of the large windows in the southeast and southwest corners of the third and fourth floors. Originally day porches, they were changed to rooms suitable for six-bed wards. The annex floor plan originally included large, open administrative and meeting spaces supported by pillars. These spaces have since been closed into small rooms. Some of these rooms now serve as offices for the current owner, Park City Construction. Ceilings in both buildings have been lowered. The overall integrity of the interior spaces remains good.

Just outside the present boundaries of the property to the northeast of the main hospital building is the only small outbuilding dating from the original construction period. It is a two-story brick maintenance and repair shop. Though historically part of the hospital property, it is currently part of another parcel and is scheduled for demolition.

\_\_ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

## Narrative Statement of Significance

The Veterans Administration (V.A.) Hospital, built in 1932 with a 1939 addition, is significant in its role of providing medical and rehabilitation services for veterans of the United States armed forces. The main building was constructed in 1932 and the annex building in 1939, fulfilling plans that had begun in 1924 to build medical facilities in response to the needs of World War I veterans in the intermountain west region. This hospital provided services to veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War, and describes the involvement of the military in providing for those who participated in war. The V.A. Hospital influenced both direct and indirect federal revenues it provided for the community. The building of the hospital helped with easing unemployment in Salt Lake City during the Depression era. It also represents the medical influences and trends in the area between the period of significance, 1932-46. The association between the V.A. Hospital and the University of Utah Medical School beginning in 1946 provided facilities, equipment, and research funding for the school and allowed the V.A. Hospital to participate in main-stream medical research and education to provide veterans with the best medical care available.

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The Veterans Administration was created by Executive Order No. 5398 on July 21, 1930. It was a consolidation of the Bureau of Pensions, the U.S. Veterans Bureau, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and was charged with administering all laws relating to the relief of, and other benefits provided by law for, former members of military and naval forces, for veterans and dependents of deceased veterans of all who served in wars or during time of peace. Along with compensation and pensions, insurance, death and retirement benefits, it also managed hospitalization and domiciliary care for veterans of all wars. The V.A. hospital located at 401 E. Twelfth Avenue in Salt Lake City, Utah, was part of that health care delivery system, and served veterans of the U.S. military exclusively.<sup>1</sup>

The hospital had been under consideration by the old Veterans Bureau as early as 1924.<sup>2</sup> By October 1930, it had been approved and an architect's drawing of a site plan appeared in the *Salt Lake Tribune*.<sup>3</sup> It included the main, recreation, patients, and utility buildings, as well as officers and nurses quarters removed from, but in proximity to, the complex of four primary structures. The main hospital, however, is the only building from the original plan that was actually built, and it was somewhat simplified from the original blueprints. However, the basic configuration, size, and

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<sup>1</sup> "Historical Record". Veterans Administration Hospital Medical Library. (Not dated but appears to have been written prior to 1952 and the building of a second VA Hospital in Salt Lake.)

<sup>2</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*. "Hospital in Utah is Favored", June 27, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 18, 1930.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Veterans' Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

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classical detailing remained in the final design that was typical of other V.A. hospitals constructed in the post-World War I era.<sup>4</sup> Standardized plans would allow for constructing the building with what was anticipated to be a relatively short period of time alleviating the need for such a facility in the region. Additionally, building the hospital was considered "a means of relieving the unemployment situation in Utah."<sup>5</sup>

The federal government purchased three city blocks from the state of Utah and part of two blocks more from Salt Lake City and eight private interests. The hospital was accepted on June 10, 1932. On July 5, Oliver J. Hunter, a World War I veteran, was its first patient.<sup>6</sup> Formal dedication exercises were held on July 24, 1932, Pioneer Day, a state holiday in Utah. On July 1, 1939, work began on the hospital annex. After moving administrative and recreational activities out of the main hospital in 1940, the facility's capacity increased to 158 beds, or an emergency bed capacity of 202.

The V.A. Hospital admitted only veterans and dependents and, therefore, was never an integral part of the Salt Lake or Utah health care community. Major Salt Lake hospitals in operation at the time the V.A. facility opened in 1932 included Salt Lake St. Mark's Hospital, organized in 1872 by the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Holy Cross Hospital founded in 1875, the L.D.S. Hospital (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) which opened in 1905, the L.D.S. Children's Convalescent Hospital, the Salt Lake County General Hospital opened in 1912, and the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, opened in 1925. There was also a military hospital at Salt Lake's Fort Douglas.<sup>7</sup>

The outbreak of World War II put new demands on the V.A. hospital system nationally. "On March 24, 1943, Congress approved a Vocational Rehabilitation program for honorably discharged veterans of World War 2 suffering vocational handicap due to their service in the Armed Forces.<sup>8</sup> As a result, rehabilitation became a major effort of the Salt Lake facility. In 1946, as part of a nation-wide plan to bring V.A. hospitals into the mainstream of medicine, research, and education,

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<sup>4</sup> Photographs of over 40 VA hospitals are collected in a scrapbook dated 1923-1933, belonging to General Frank T. Hines, and located in the library of the new Veterans' Administration Medical Center, 500 Foothill Blvd., Salt Lake City, Utah. Also, the *Salt Lake Tribune* article dated October 30, 1930 states that "...it will be of a design which follows the same general lines of other hospitals of similar capacity which already have been erected..."

<sup>5</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 18, 1930.

<sup>6</sup> "VA Hospital Moving Day Near", *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 10, 1962.

<sup>7</sup> Kate B. Carter, *Hospitals in Utah*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1938, pp. 4-19.  
*Salt Lake City Directory*, Salt Lake City: R. L. Polk and Company, 1932.

<sup>8</sup> "Historical Record", VA Library.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Veterans' Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

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and to provide them with the best medical care each community affords,<sup>9</sup> the University of Utah medical school entered into a cooperative agreement with the V.A. to supervise medical activities at the Salt Lake Veterans hospital. Plans included a residency program at the V.A. for doctors in the services during World War II that may have had their training interrupted by the war, a program that was open until 1949, only to doctor-veterans. Additionally, it allowed the medical school to provide professional guidance and service to the hospital while the hospital afforded opportunities for the training of doctors.<sup>10</sup> The University Medical School had been established in 1904 and first became a four-year program at the Salt Lake County Hospital in 1942. The federal contract with the V.A. greatly enhanced the medical school's research capabilities.<sup>11</sup>

World War II brought another major medical facility to Utah. On October 10, 1942, the U.S. Army opened the Bushnell Hospital in Brigham City, Utah, which operated through the war. It had 3000 beds, approximately fifteen times the number of beds at the Salt Lake V.A. Hospital.

The war also touched off major national hospital building program by the Veterans Administration. The March 3, 1946 *Salt Lake Tribune* carried an Associated Press article about the planned construction of 77 new hospitals, and the acquisition of several more that would increase the total number of permanent hospitals from 98 to 183. Salt Lake City was approved to receive a second V.A. facility - a rarity justified by the fact that it was the only city in the intermountain west with a medical school and a large enough corp of specialists to support it.<sup>12</sup> Work began on the second Salt Lake V.A. Hospital on a 270-acre site once part of the Fort Douglas Military reservation in 1950. It opened as a Neuropsychiatric and Tuberculosis hospital in 1952 with an original bed capacity of 546. It brought the total number of hospitals operated by the V.A. to 155.

The task of consolidating the two Salt Lake facilities took place over a number of years as the new hospital grew. Management of the two hospitals was combined in 1955.<sup>13</sup> Between 1952-62, Salt Lake was one of the few cities nationwide to operate two V.A. hospitals. In February, 1962, the 12th Ave. complex ceased to function as a hospital and patients were transferred to the Fort Douglas V.A. Hospital. It was used to house laboratories and various research facilities.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, "U. of U. to Direct V.A. Hospital Medical Activity", July 19, 1946.

<sup>10</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 6 and 19, 1946.

<sup>11</sup> Harry P. Plenck, ed, *Medicine in the Beehive State, 1940-1990*. (Salt Lake City: Utah Medical Association, 1992) pp 21-22.

<sup>12</sup> *Salt Lake City Tribune*, January 27, 1946 and March 3, 1946.

<sup>13</sup> *Deseret News*, September 1, 1955.

<sup>14</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 10, 1962 and *Deseret News*, February 12, 1962.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Veterans' Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

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Several potential buyers considered the old V.A. hospital. The University of Utah made a tentative offer in September 1961. The Utah Public Welfare Commission made an official request for the property in October. In April, 1962 the Salt Lake City Board of Health rented the facility. The Veterans Administration declared the site "surplus" as of July 1, 1963. At that time V.A. experimental laboratories and the Health Department were using the building.

On Dec. 1, 1964, the U.S. General Services Administration transferred title of the old V.A. property to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). The Church exchanged church-owned property valued at \$763,400 and \$25,000 cash for the property. The Church used part of the facility as an annex to its Primary Children's Hospital. The buildings also housed some classes for the Church's Brigham Young University Salt Lake Center.

The LDS Church sold the property on December, 17, 1987 to IHC Hospitals Inc., which subsumed Primary Children's and a number of other Church owned facilities. When a new Primary Children's Hospital was opened in April of 1990, the old V.A. Hospital was left vacant. On January 30, 1995, IHC sold the property to Park City Construction. The original 28 acres was subdivided and sold to developers, with Park City Construction retaining the 5.3 acres on which the hospital itself sits. Their intention is to retain the historic exterior as nearly as possible and remodel the interior into condominiums. The company offices are currently housed in the annex. The main building is vacant while the remodeling takes place. A small maintenance and repair shop building was part of the original hospital construction. It is located to the northeast of the hospital on a parcel now owned by the LDS Church and is scheduled for demolition.

The integrity of the Veterans Administration Hospital buildings has been maintained and they contribute to the historic qualities of the Avenues Historic District area. Current plans appear to provide for appropriate reuse of the buildings and safeguard their continued use.

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National Park Service

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Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UT

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## Bibliography

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Plenk, Henry P. *Medicine in the Beehive State, 1940-1990*. Salt Lake City: Utah Medical  
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*Salt Lake Tribune*, 1931-1978.

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Veterans Administration Hospital, *V. A. Hospital, Ft. Douglas Station, Salt Lake City, Utah,*  
*Historical Record*. Salt Lake City, UT: unpublished, @ 1952.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 7

Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah

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### Common Label Information:

1. Veterans Administration Hospital
2. Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah
3. Photographer: Julie Osborne
4. Date: March 1996
5. Original on file at Utah State Historic Preservation Office

### Photo No. 1:

6. South elevation of 1932 portion of building. Camera facing north.

### Photo No. 2:

6. Southeast elevation of 1932 portion of building. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 3:

6. Southwest elevation of 1939 portion of building. Camera facing northeast.

### Photo No. 4:

6. Northwest elevation of building. Camera facing southeast.

### Photo No. 5:

6. South entrance of 1932 portion of building. Camera facing north.

### Photo No. 6:

6. South entrance of 1939 portion of building. Camera facing north.