

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Date listed 3/7/2012
NRIS No. 12000079
Oregon SHPO

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Oregon State Soldiers' Home Hospital

other names/site number Umpqua Valley Arts Center

2. Location

street & number 1624 West Harvard Avenue not for publication

city or town Roseburg vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Douglas code 019 zip code 97471

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

[Signature] 1/12/12
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE: Veteran's Hospital

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

CULTURE: Art Gallery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT, Shingles

other: N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1917, the Oregon State Soldiers' Home Hospital (Soldiers' Hospital) is located at 1624 West Harvard on the north side of the street in west Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon. Located on a 2.15-acre parcel adjacent to Fir Grove Park, the building is set back from the street with expansive lawn areas surrounding the Colonial Revival-style building. The horizontally-oriented brick building features a central, projecting full, two-story portico with gable roof, supported by six colossal fluted Ionic columns. The red brick tympanum is decorated with a central bulls-eye window. Concrete steps lead up to a centrally located entrance door that has a decorative fanlight transom and is flanked by multi-light windows capped with decorative, rectangular cast-stone panels. The one-story wings on either side of the central portico are identical in design. Regular-spaced, round-arch windows with cast-stone keystones are below the plain entablature and hip roof. The end wings, perpendicular to the elongated wings, have paired brick pilasters with cast stone bases and capitals, a Palladian style window with recessed cast-stone panels above, and a bulls-eye window in the gable end. The brick walls are laid in a common-bond pattern that extend to the beltcourse above the exposed brick foundation. Narrow side façades have elevated entrance doors and round arch windows. The rear façade is divided into five bays with projecting end and center wings. The three projecting bays have arched multi-light windows and the elongated wings have rectangular, double-hung windows. A newer entrance stairway and ADA ramp, built in the 1980s, is on the eastern side of the back facade. The original entrance in the 8,968 square foot building is blocked off, but the front door opening and receiving hall are intact. The entrance hall intersects the central east-west corridor that has a series of rooms on either side and larger rooms in the center and end wings. The corridor is finished with a decorative terrazzo floors with inlaid rose compass designs, high wood baseboards, plaster walls finished with a picture rail, and high ceilings. Large windows illuminate each room. The staircase near the north side entrance, leads to the second floor that is in the upper area of the portico. The second floor has a central east-west corridor that terminates at doors that lead to the unfinished attic spaces. The hall has original tongue-and-groove wood floors, plaster walls finished with a picture rail, and small rooms on either side of the hall that have simple built-in closets and the same detailing as the hallway. A partial concrete basement is under the central portion of the former hospital.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Soldiers' Hospital is located on the north side of West Harvard Avenue in a mixed-use area. Commercial and residential structures are south of the building across the street; a parking lot, and mature trees and gardens are east; Fir Grove Park and the Umpqua River are north; and Roseburg National Cemetery is to the west (Figure 3). The Betty Lone Unruh Theater, the Clay Barn, and other more recent park-related buildings are east of the parking lot.¹ Set back from the West Harvard Avenue on a flat lot, the Soldiers' Hospital faces south with an expansive lawn area in front (Photographs 1 and 2). An original feature to the grounds, the front lawn area is historically significant as an integral part of the initial site development of the hospital. A wide concrete sidewalk leads from West Harvard Avenue to a wide, semi-circular front landing that encompasses the area immediately adjacent to the concrete steps leading to the portico. Period pole light fixtures flank the stairs. Rose bushes and other shrubs are planted along the foundation on the front (south) and sides of the building. A sidewalk extends from the east facade door to the parking area northeast of the building and to the current entrance on the north facade. The rear façade has no plantings around the foundation. Lawn areas with scattered mature trees and soccer fields are to the north and west. A small concrete stage platform, near the north entrance, is a non-contributing feature in the nominated area (refer to Section 10).

¹ The Clay Barn was originally the heating plant for the Soldiers' Home and the Betty Lone Unruh Theater was the home's mess hall. Both buildings were erected in the mid-1920s. These buildings are not part of the nominated area.

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Exterior

Summary

Designed in the Colonial Revival Style with Georgian Revival style elements, the Soldiers' Hospital is horizontally oriented, and demonstrates symmetry in fenestration and proportions typical of classically designed buildings (Figure 6). Primarily rectangular in plan with a projecting two-story central portico and one-story end wings, the building is divided into five bays on the front (south) and rear (north) façades (Figure 6). The building features an elevated first floor defined by a brick foundation visually separated from the load-bearing brick walls by a slightly projecting rowlock stringcourse. A partial concrete basement is under the central rear bay that is illuminated by above grade multi-light windows. The red brick walls, laid in a Flemish bond pattern, have raked mortar joints. The majority of the fenestration is symmetrical, and includes a combination of rectangular multi-light, double-hung wood-sash windows, and multi-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows with fanlights in the upper sash. The fanlight windows have decorative cast-stone keystones with a floral design. All the windows have concrete sills that project slightly from the wall surface. A plain architrave, wide frieze board, boxed eaves, and a cornice comprise the full entablature. The combination hip and gable roof system is covered with asphalt shingles, and has two, tall interior brick chimneys rising from the north side. The gables on the end bays have deep eave returns.

South (Primary) Façade

Divided into five bays, the front façade is bilaterally symmetrical with two projecting end wings connected to the two-story central portico by elongated wings punctuated by a series of Georgian-style windows. Wide concrete steps lead up to the main entrance under the full, two-story portico that is supported by six colossal fluted Ionic columns with cast stone capitals. The columns are made of metal filled with concrete. A simple architrave, wide frieze, and cornice decorated with dentils embellish the pediment. The red brick tympanum, in deep relief, has a central bulls-eye window with cast stone voussoirs framed by triangular cast stone panels in a winged design. A flagpole rises from the apex of the pediment.

The centrally located entrance door under the portico has a decorative fanlight transom with a cast-stone keystone (Photograph 7). On either side of the door are built-in concrete benches below multi-light windows capped with rectangular cast stone panels decorated with garlands. The first story is separated visually from the upper story by a cast stone stringcourse along the bottom of the three upper story windows. The portico ceiling is constructed of painted tongue and groove boards. A cast stone plaque east of the door reads; "Hospital Building, Lewis Irvine Thomson, Architect — James Withycombe, Governor; Ben W. Olcott, Sect of State; Thomas B Kay, State Treasurer; R.B. Gooden, Sec Board of Control, Erected — 1917." Two original, iron wall-mounted light fixtures flank the entrance door.

The two bays on either side of the central portico are identical in design (Photograph 2). Six regularly spaced round arch windows with cast stone keystones and springers are below the plain entablature and hip roof. The end bays project a few feet from the elongated bays and are more decorative, the paired brick columns have cast-stone bases and capitals, a Palladian style window with recessed cast-stone panels above the outer rectangular windows, and a bulls-eye window with cast-stone voussoirs in the gable end (Photograph 8). Deep eave returns project over the paired brick pilasters.

Side Facades (East & West)

Identical in design, the east and west facades have three arched windows and entrance doors capped with fanlight (Photographs 3 and 6). Two windows are north of the entrance doors and one window is south of both entrances. A newer round awning was added above the east entrance door that obscures the fanlight window, and the door was replaced by a metal fire door. Large wrought-iron scroll brackets are under the east and west stair landing (Photograph 9). The west façade entrance door has also been replaced with a metal fire door, but the original wrought iron steps and railing are intact.

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Rear Façade (North)

The north façade is divided into five bays (Figure 6). Nearly identical in design, the two projecting end bays have three fanlight windows along the north façade above the raised foundation. The eastern-most bay has a concrete stairway that leads to a replacement metal door on the east side of the bay. A door, with a window in the upper section, is on the west side of the eastern-most bay, and a concrete ramp leads to this door.

The second bay from the east has been altered somewhat by the addition of a new ADA ramp and separate stairway (Photograph 5). This entrance was added when the building was converted to use as an art gallery in the late 1980s. The steps and ramp are lined with concrete sidewalls with brick coping and covered with a metal frame that supports a cloth canopy. The new entrance ramp/stairs lead to a concrete patio. The canopy framing is attached above the back door, which has been replaced with a new door and transom. An original window west of the entrance has been bricked in.

The central bay on the north façade has multi-light windows in the foundation level. A new entrance to the basement was built on the east end of the bay when the new north side entrance ramp was added (Photograph 4). The basement entrance projects out from the central façade and is constructed of brick. The structure has a flat roof covering the concrete stairs that lead down to the access door to the basement.²

Fanlight windows comprise the majority of the lower story of the north façade of the central bay, with windows and doors along the east and west sides (Figure 6). A shallow hip roof over the bay intersects the main north-south facing gable roof that extends over the two-story front portico. The north gable end has multi-light windows with a round vent window above, a full entablature with eave returns, and a stucco finish. A small gable dormer covered with shingle siding is east of the dormer and a shed dormer is to the west.

The center-west bay is recessed and has a series of windows across the façade. Two concrete stairways with metal railings lead up to doors on the side facades of the flanking bays. A door near the west side of the bay has been enclosed with brick. Two shed vented dormers and exhaust units are on the roof above this bay.

Interior³

Summary

The Soldiers' Hospital has a total combined square footage of 8,968 between the first floor and the finished area of the second floor. Organized around a central east-west corridor, the center north-south entrance hall and north wing bisects the main corridor. The intersection of the two halls create an octagonal entrance space with corners defined by arched doorways embellished with square, wooden engaged columns adorned with fluting and simplified Doric capitals (Photograph 10). The hall retains the original terrazzo floor, plaster walls, picture rail, and high plaster ceilings. New light fixtures and exposed water pipes are on the tall hall ceilings. The east end of the hall terminates at an exit door to the side yard, and the west end terminates at a door that opens into a large room currently used as a meeting and banquet room.⁴

Doors, at various intervals along both sides of the hall, access the studios, art galleries, storerooms, and offices (Figure 4). All the original doors to these rooms have been replaced and some of the original doorways have been covered when smaller rooms were combined to create larger gallery or office spaces (Figures 4 and 7). The galleries, studios, and offices generally have the plaster walls, wood baseboards, picture rails, and high ceilings intact although most of the original floors have been covered with carpet or new wood floors. For security and aesthetic effect, a decorative iron door with a vine motif was installed on the north side of the hall on the opening to the stairs to the upper floor. The second floor has an east-west hallway with smaller rooms on either side (Figure 5). Doors at either end of the hall lead into unfinished attic space.

First Floor Details

² The original access to the basement was on the east side of the central bay.

³ Original interior floor plans were not found during archival research; however, physical evidence and period newspaper articles specify some of the original room uses. A conjectural drawing of the original first floor plan can be found in Figure 7.

⁴ This room was originally divided into two rooms with the main east-west hallway between.

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The original entrance door in the central entrance hall is now closed off (Photograph 10). The small entrance hall has a terrazzo floor, sidewalls with windows that overlook the adjacent office/gallery spaces, and a high plaster ceiling finished with a wide crown molding. A semi-flush mount, iron light fixture with glass bowl trimmed with a stacked rope edging is in the center of the ceiling. The archway at the north end of the hall opens into the main east-west corridor.

The central corridor's terrazzo floors are designed with inlaid tan and white marble chips with darker brown-black chip dispersed for contrast (Photograph 11). A darker band of terrazzo is along the edges of the corridor and at intervals across the hall. A large golden-color, eight-pointed compass rose is in the center of the hall and has an octagonal center outlined in black (Photograph 14). A smaller version of compass rose is at both end of the hall near the east and west side entrance doors.⁵

Originally, ten small rooms and two slightly larger rooms lined the south side of central entrance hall; some of these rooms have been combined to make larger spaces (Figures 4 and 7). The rooms on the north side are service related with the kitchen and bathrooms on the west side of the central bay, and entrance foyer, reception, and office equipment storage room on the east side of the bay (Figure 4). The interior finishes in the larger gallery spaces in the east and west wings and the central bay have been modified to meet the needs of the art center.⁶ These modifications include removable partition walls, new floor coverings, and soundproof baffling on the ceiling (Photograph 13). The fenestration in these rooms is intact. The kitchen was remodeled in 1994 and does not retain any original features of the room with the exception of the windows; it is unknown if this room originally served as a kitchen.

Upper Story

The stairs to the upper story are located west of the north entrance foyer. The U-shaped stairway leads up the second floor. The dormer window at the top of the stairs illuminates the stair hall. The second floor is organized similarly to the first floor with a long, central east-west hall corridor (Figure 5). The hallway retains the original wood tongue-and-groove floors, wood baseboards, plaster walls, and picture rails (Photograph 15). Three rooms along the south side of the hall and two rooms (originally three) are on the north side. The small rooms along the south side of the hall retain the original built-in closets, as does one of the rooms on the north side (Figure 5 and Photograph 16). The bathroom is on the north side of the hall. Doors at either end of the hall open into the mechanical and storage areas. The door at the east end opens to a small anteroom with doors on the north and east walls that access the attic space. The five-panel doors in this room are original. The unfinished attic spaces over each end wing have wide wood-plank floors, some built-in storage areas, and the heating-and-cooling systems for the building.

Partial Basement

The basement is accessed by an exterior stairway on the north façade (Figure 4). The concrete stairway is sheltered by a brick enclosure that was built in the late 1980s when the original basement entrance was moved from the east wall of the center back wing to the north facade. The stairway leads down to a small basement area with board form concrete walls and a concrete floor. A small storage room with wood walls and shelving is on the south side of the basement. The original stairs to the basement were located in this room (Figure 4). A door on the west wall leads into the boiler room that houses the furnace and other utilities. A smaller room enclosed with wood walls is in the northeast corner of this room. The basement has daylight windows on the north walls.

⁵ Most likely, another compass rose is in the terrazzo floor under the carpet in the west meeting/gallery space.

⁶ These two end wings and the central bay were originally hospital wards.

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Alterations

Exterior Alterations

Most renovations date to circa 1988. The original double entrance doors were replaced with a wide single wood door; modern metal fire doors were installed on the east and west facades; and an ADA ramp and stairway on was built along the rear north façade (the original north veranda/porch was removed prior to the ADA ramp was erected)(Figure 7). An original window immediately west of the current north entrance was enclosed and the original basement access door was relocated to the east side of the north façade of the central bay. A new basement access stairway was built along the rear façade, which necessitated enclosing an original door on the second bay from the west on the rear façade. Original brick steps to the front portico were replaced with concrete steps when the semi-circular concrete landing was poured in front of the portico.

Interior Alterations

Some smaller rooms on the south side of the main corridor were combined to accommodate larger rooms for gallery and office space along with enclosing newly redundant doors to the some of the room so that there is only one point of entrance. A kitchen was either created or remodeled in the current kitchen space (c. 1994). It is not known if this is the original location for the kitchen. Wood floors were installed in some of the galleries and offices were carpeted, and some of the interior walls were removed. Sound baffling was added to the ceiling. Most light fixtures appear to post-date 1990.

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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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTHCARE / MEDICINE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1917, Date of Construction

1917-1933, Period of Operation

Significant Dates

1917, Date of Construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lewis Irvine Thompson, Architect

Stebbing Brothers, Contractors

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance under Criterion A, Healthcare and Medicine, begins when the hospital opens in 1917 and ends in 1933 when the building ceased being used as a veterans' hospital. The Period of Significance for Criterion C, Architecture, is 1917, the date the building was constructed and the full intent of the architect was realized.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Soldiers' Hospital, built in 1917, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on a statewide level under Criterion A, Healthcare and Medicine, for its unique association with the development of Oregon's health care system for aged and disabled volunteer war veterans. The Colonial Revival style hospital is also eligible under Criterion C, Architecture, as a good representative example of a hospital design that incorporated modern philosophies of health care into the pavilion plan. The Period of Significance under Criterion A begins in 1917 with the construction of the hospital and ends in 1933 when the building ceased being used as a veterans' hospital. The Period of significance under Criterion C is 1917, the date that the building was completed and the architect's plan was realized.

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

Criterion A: Health/Medicine

The Soldiers' Hospital is historically significant for its unique association with the early statewide development of a comprehensive health care system for aging and disabled Oregon volunteer veterans. With some funding from the federal government, the state took on a long-standing financial commitment to construct and maintain hospital facilities at the Oregon State Soldiers' Home (Soldiers' Home). The state's financial support of this institution was both more consistent and, per capita, out of proportion to state expenditures on other public health and rehabilitation facilities. The new Soldiers' Hospital of 1917 shows the state's commitment to the well being of the veterans. With the support of the City of Roseburg, and groups like the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Organization, the Soldiers' Hospital became the primary health care facility in Oregon for volunteer veterans of the Civil War, Indian wars, Spanish-American War, and World War I. The Soldiers' Hospital served the needs of volunteer veterans for over 15 years, from 1917 to 1933, when the Veteran Administration (VA) completed a new hospital in Roseburg, and moved the patients to the new facility.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Soldiers' Hospital, designed in the Colonial Revival style, is significant as a unique example of a twentieth-century hospital designed in a modified pavilion plan, a hospital typology developed and refined in the 1800s to improve health care. The pavilion plan emphasized long, narrow buildings with wings or pavilions, rows of large windows for good ventilation and light, and different wards assigned to similar illness or injury so the staff could treat the patients more efficiently. Gardens and outdoor verandas and porches were also integral to the design so patients would have a pleasant environment. The Soldiers' Hospital displays salient features of the pavilion concept in its long, narrow floor plan (measuring approximately 30 feet wide x 120 feet long), high ceilings, colonnades of windows across all facades to maximize illumination and ventilation, and separate wards in the center and end wings. The brick building was constructed of fireproof material, a twentieth-century concept in hospital design. The Soldiers' Hospital retains integrity of location, workmanship, association, feeling, materials, setting, and design on the exterior, and retains sufficient integrity on the interior to reflect the historic function and original floor plan. The Soldiers' Hospital is the only example of a state-built, -owned, and -operated veterans' hospital in Oregon.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Overview: National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

In 1811, Congress approved appropriations for the construction of a national home for disabled Navy veterans. Although funded, the first home was not completed until 1834 when the Naval Asylum was erected in the Philadelphia Naval Yards. Although other funds were set aside for homes of various branches of the military, it was not until after the Civil War that Congress passed a more comprehensive plan for helping war veterans. On March 1, 1865, Congress approved the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, later renamed the

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National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), to manage homes “for the relief of the totally disabled officers and men of the volunteer forces of the United States.”⁷ Congress appointed a board of managers to oversee the administration and construction of these new homes in various regions around the country. The NHDVS showed a commitment by the federal government for the care of *civilian* veterans. Policies guided managers in the governance and culture of these institutions, and the aesthetics of the homes through architecture and landscape design.⁸ The homes were not only a place to house the veterans, but to train and educate in an effort to help them re-enter private life. Administrators also encouraged the veterans to work at the institutional homes tending the gardens and farms, nursing the ill, repairing buildings, and helping with other tasks in the operation of the facility. Entertainment and recreation were also important to the well-being of the veterans and an integral part of the NHDVS program.

As the aging veteran population put more pressure on the NHDVS system in the later part of the 1800s, Congress passed legislation that appropriated funds to authorize the NHDVS board to pay states and territories a stipend of \$100 for the care of each eligible volunteer veteran.⁹ Although the board distributed funds to the state, the federal government did not have direct oversight of the state-managed homes.¹⁰ Some veteran's homes had been established prior to the government program by organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) that specifically helped veterans of the Civil War. The GAR was active in lobbying for a state soldiers' home in Oregon and in 1893, plans were made to construct a veterans' home in Roseburg.

Roseburg: The Site

The region around present-day Roseburg was home to Native Americans who lived, hunted, and fished along the South Umpqua River for thousands of years. Surrounded by mountains, the future site of Roseburg was in a valley on an alluvial plain along the east bank of the Umpqua River (Figure 1). The mild climate, abundance of game, and proximity to the river made it an ideal place of life. In the mid-1800s, Euro-American settlement and epidemics devastated the native population. Fur traders, missionaries, and agrarian farmers pushed westward into the Willamette Valley and south to the Umpqua Region.

One of the first permanent Euro American settlers was Aaron and Sarah Rose who, in 1851, purchased squatter's rights on land that would later become the City of Roseburg. The Rose home became a stopping point for miners and travelers following the Oregon-California and Applegate trails and developed into a small community called “Deer Creek.” The town grew fairly rapidly, especially after the town became the Douglas County seat in 1854. A year later, the headquarters for the Northern Battalion of the Oregon Volunteers was established in the vicinity. The headquarters consisted of five companies of sixty men and eleven officers during the Indian Wars.¹¹ In 1856, the area gained a further military presence when the army built a hospital for the care of men injured in the Rogue River Indian Wars.¹² The wood-frame building was a combination of hospital and billiards' hall, and served until it was abandoned in 1861.¹³

In the late 1850s, Rose platted a portion of his donation land claim for residential and commercial development, and changed the name to Roseburg. Businesses were constructed and small dwellings erected to house the influx of people. Rose then dedicated ten acres of land for a depot and railroad right-of-way to ensure Roseburg's place on the line. After much anticipation, the Oregon and California Railroad was completed to Roseburg in October 1872, and for a time, the city was the terminus of the line. Roseburg quickly

⁷ Treveor K. Plante. *Genealogy Notes: The Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers*. Spring 2004, Vol. 36, No.1.

⁸ Suzanne Julin. “National Home for Disabled Veteran Volunteer Soldiers: Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendation, 2005-2006.” <<http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/Downloads/NHDVS/NHDVS%20Draft%20Two.pdf>>

⁹ Julin, *Ibid*, p. 24. Congress had given states money previously but withdrew funding in 1869 because of perceived substandard care by the states.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 24. Between the late 1800s and 1933, forty-three states managed fifty-five homes throughout the country.

¹¹ E. A. Schwartz, *The Rogue River Indian War and its Aftermath, 1850-1880*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997).

¹² Nathan, Douthit, *Uncertain Encounters Indians and Whites at Peace and War in Southern Oregon 1820's -1860's* (Corvallis: OSU Press, 2002), p. 1.

¹³ Umpqua Valley Arts Center. Roseburg, Oregon. On-history of the arts center. <<http://uvarts.com>>

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became a major transportation center; extensive railroad yards were built surrounded by brickyards, canning plants, woodworking shops, and sawmills. Additional land was platted for new residential areas and Roseburg continued to prosper in the 1880s and 1890s. With the city's long association with the military, mild climate, and an active local GAR group, Roseburg was a logical site for the new state soldiers' home.

Development of the Oregon State Soldiers' Home in Roseburg

The GAR lobbied for the construction of the Soldiers' Home in Roseburg, and was influential in both the placement of the building in Roseburg, and its continued funding and day-to-day maintenance.¹⁴ The group started lobbying for the project several years before it was actually funded. A committee was formed to prepare a bill for the Oregon legislature that would establish funding of a new veterans' home in Roseburg. The first bill introduced in the 1891 legislature failed. A year later, the GAR drafted a new bill that added a provision for Indian war veterans who were not covered by the federal pension programs. HB 121 passed February 21, 1893. Bill HB 121 stated,

*The object of the soldiers' home shall be to provide a home for all honorably discharged ex-soldiers, sailors, or marines, who served in the army or navy of the United States during the war of the rebellion, Mexican, or Indian wars, and the volunteers who served in the Indian wars of Oregon, Washington, or Idaho, who are now or who may hereafter become citizens of the state of Oregon, who, by reason of wounds, disease, old age, or infirmities, are unable to earn their living, and have no adequate means of support.*¹⁵

The governor appointed a five-member, citizen board of trustees to oversee the home. The bill stipulated that a site chosen by July 1, 1893, and the 80-or-less-acre site had to take into consideration the elevation, sewer facilities, drainage, access. The cost of the land could not exceed \$4,000 and the cost of the building could not exceed \$8,000.¹⁶ The bill also stipulated an annual budget of \$12,000 a year.

The board of trustees began the search for the appropriate land and looked at 29 different proposals ranging from straight donations of land to offers of land priced up to \$6,500.¹⁷ By May, the board approved the purchase of a 40-acre tract in west Roseburg from the heirs of Thomas Brown for \$3,000 dollars (\$75 an acre). When it was selected as the location, special mention was made of the "highly fertile soil from the river-bottom land and the favorable climatic conditions."¹⁸ Roseburg was a natural location for the new state Soldiers' Home with its previous care for veterans, active veteran community and GAR, strong influential lobbyist, and offers of good land.

C.J. Knighton was selected as the architect to design the main building at the Soldiers' Home that was described as "a handsome two-story structure with a basement" that had dayrooms, fourteen sleeping rooms, and dining room (Figure 12).¹⁹ The cost of the building was over \$10,500 including the plumbing. The May 14, 1894 edition of the Roseburg *Plaindealer* newspaper described the grounds and lawn as semi-circular in design and divided by a 30-foot driveway, with groves of fir trees east of the buildings and the veteran's cemetery to the west (Figure 12). The dedication of the home on May 10, 1894 during the Oregon Encampment of the GAR was a community affair with a procession extending a mile and one-half from the center of Roseburg. The crowd at the dedication was estimated at 7,500.²⁰

¹⁴ Grand Army of the Republic. Dept. of Oregon Women's Relief Corps. Meade Corps. No. 18, 5 folders, Special Collections, University of Oregon Library.

¹⁵ *The Umpqua Trapper*. "The Old Soldiers' Home." Spring Hunt, 2001, Vol. XXXVII, No. 1 (Roseburg, OR: Mid-Oregon Printing), p. 4.

¹⁶ Oregon HB 121, Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon, pp. 105-108.

¹⁷ "Report of the Board of Trustees Oregon Soldiers Home to the Governor of Oregon. Organization to December 1, 1894." Salem, OR: Frank C. Baker, State Printer, 1894. Oregon State Library, Special Collections, Salem, Oregon.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ *Plaindealer* Newspaper. May 14, 1894, Roseburg, OR. The population of Douglas County was 14,500 and Roseburg 1,789.

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Over the next year, the home quickly filled to its maximum capacity of 60 people.²¹ The early residents were primarily veterans of the Indian wars along with a small number of Civil War veterans. The board of trustees made a point to create a welcoming environment. In the first biennial report in 1894 they wrote, "The board of trustees and the officers of the home have spared no pains to make the home a home in deed as well as in name."²² The residents appreciated the comfort and stability of the state home even though alcohol was forbidden at the facility.

Over the next fifteen years, other buildings were constructed including a hospital (1896), barns, wood shed, chapel, laundry (1899), barracks (1901), cottages for the married veterans funded by the GAR and Women's Relief Corps (1903), and a commissary (c. 1912).²³ A cemetery was platted west of the home and served as the final resting place for the veterans. Fruits and vegetables were grown in the orchards and gardens that extended north to the Umpqua River. The gardens were scientifically farmed and produced a large part of the fresh food used by the residents of the home. The surplus was sold and added materially to the fund for maintaining the institution. Produce included apples, loganberries, blackberries, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, beets, broccoli, beans, cabbage, carrots, corn, cucumbers, grapes, lettuce, melons, onions, peppers, peas, radishes, turnips, and tomatoes. Pork and beef were also raised for the use of the home. The grounds became a showcase for state buildings and attracted visitors from all over the country. The home became one of the major businesses in Roseburg.

The population of the home continued to increase, reaching its peak in 1913, at which time, the management of the home shifted from the Governor's office to the Oregon State Board of Control.²⁴ New regulations restricted admittance to those collecting less than \$20 a month in pension. The administrators continued to improve the grounds and facility, and in 1915, monies were allocated for the installation of an irrigation system to help with the productivity of the farm, which served over 25-acres of the farmland.²⁵ At this same time, the administrators of the home expressed the need for another new building because of overcrowding, a new hospital building. In the 1916 *Biennial Report to the Governor*, Commandant Robert C. Markee stated that the current hospital was seriously handicapped, stating that:

*[The] present hospital is very inadequate, both in capacity and in modern facilities, for successful treatment. We have forty-six patients in it and are treating a number in their quarters that should be in a properly equipped infirmary. It is impossible to give the veterans members the care and attention that should be accorded them in their quarters in the various buildings of the institution, and I would most earnestly request that the Board recommend to the Legislature to provide a new and larger hospital.*²⁶

He also noted that the old hospital could be made into needed barracks, which would help the overcrowding, especially after the chapel and assembly hall were destroyed by fire in 1916. The home was over capacity with about 187 veterans in the facility from twenty-seven Oregon counties.²⁷ Markee noted this was a fourth over the recommended number of veterans that could be cared for in a manageable way.²⁸ At that time, over 35 people were on the payroll at the home with another 75 people being paid for part-time contract work. Markee's request received a relatively rapid and positive response, unlike the financial requests of other state institutions during the same period. The legislature approved more than \$22,000 in appropriation for the construction and furnishing of a new hospital during the 1917-18 biennium. By March 1917, the State Board of Control solicited architects for the design of new state buildings. The new Soldiers' Hospital was among the contracts awarded. Portland architect Lewis Irvine Thompson received the contract for the new hospital

²¹ "Report of the Board of Trustees Oregon Soldiers Home to the Governor of Oregon. Organization to December 1, 1894."

²² Ibid.

²³ *News-Review*. May 10, 1932. Special Edition. Article written by employee of the Soldiers' Home in 1932 when the complex was deeded to the federal government.

²⁴ Eleanor Ruth Rockwood. *Oregon Documents*, Vol. 47, p. 277-80. The Legislation of 1901 dispensed with the Board of Trustees and placed the home under the direct supervision of the Governor's office.

²⁵ *The Umpqua Trapper*, 2001, p. 13.

²⁶ "Twelfth Biennial Report of the OR State Board of Control for Biennial Period Ending Sept. 30, 1916." Oregon State Library, p. 272-273.

²⁷ Twelfth Biennial Report, p. 272.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 274.

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building. Born in Albany in 1888, Thompson attended Hill Military Academy before furthering his studies at Yale and Columbia Universities where he studied architecture. After completing his studies, he moved back to Oregon where he first practiced architecture with the firm of Bennes, Hendricks, & Thompson in 1910.²⁹ A year later, he left the partnership to open his own office. Shortly thereafter, he was awarded the contract to design the first home of Reed College in downtown Portland at SW 11th and Jefferson streets. Thompson went on to design the Portland Union Stockyard Company's complex (c. 1916), the Oregon State Fair Stadium and Poultry Building in Salem (1921), and in Portland the Carmelita Apartments (1916), as well as several houses.³⁰ He was known for his Colonial Revival-style designs for both residential work and public buildings, using fanlight windows, formal porticos, brick construction, arched windows, symmetrical facades, and cast-concrete decorative details. Thompson brought these familiar classical design elements to his plans for the new Soldiers' Hospital.

The New Hospital Building

By the end of April 1917, Lewis Thompson had completed preliminary plans for the new hospital after conferring with Commandant Markee and the hospital's head physician. The cost of the building was projected at \$22,000.³¹ The design stipulated a brick Colonial Revival style building with a central, two-story formal portico, tall fluted Ionic columns, cast stone decorative details, and long symmetrical bays with rows of arched windows (Figure 10). Interior plans specified nurses quarters in the upper story of two-story, central portico with dining halls and a ward below. The first floor was laid out with large wards in the end wings and central, north bay, ten private rooms along the south façade of the central corridor, reception area, storerooms, physician rooms, a small dietary kitchen, operating room, and covered porches on the rear façade. The porches were intended for patients to convalesce in fresh air, as was a common treatment for many conditions during the era (Figure 7).³² Terrazzo floors, both beautiful and sanitary, were specified for the corridors on the first floor. The new design for the building employed some of the best practices in hospital planning, using elements of the well-established pavilion plan.

Thompson finalized the hospital design, and bids for the construction of the project were advertised in Salem on April 24, 1917. Although all the bids came in over budget, the State Board of Control came up with a compromise and awarded the contract to local Roseburg contractor Stebbinger Brothers for \$20,845.³³ The projected construction time was a short three months. Excavation on the concrete foundation started in May 1917, and local painters Halliday and Moore received the painting contract for the building. Work on the building continued throughout the summer until several conflicts arose with between Commandant Markee and architect Thompson. Markee ordered Thompson off the premises after accusing him of double billing for his travel time and of not listening to his ideas about sewer placement. In September, the State Board of Control reprimanded Markee for his quarrelsome nature, and threatened that if any more trouble between him and the architect or other staff people were reported, Commandant Markee would be removed from his position.³⁴ By October 1917, the building was almost completed but delays held up releasing the building to the state. The county continued to work on paving present-day West Harvard (formerly Melrose County Road) that extended in front of the Soldiers' Home. City officials wanted the paving completed so area farmers and staff at the Soldiers' Home would have an easier time hauling their goods to market, and the west section of Roseburg could be developed.

The new hospital was finally occupied and released to the State of Oregon after several inspections in January 1918. Visitors from the city and around the state toured the building, and were impressed with the quality detailing, and modern design and equipment (Figure 13). An October 1, 1918 report by the Commandant stated,

²⁹ Richard Ritz. *Architects of Oregon* (Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002), p. 385.

³⁰ National Register Nomination for the "Oregon State Fair Stadium and Poultry Building Ensemble," Salem, Oregon, 2002.

³¹ Ibid. "Hospital to Start at Roseburg." April 22, 1917, p. 7.

³² *Roseburg Review*. "Local Builders Given Contract." April 30, 1917, p. 1.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid. September 30, 1917.

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A most substantial hospital has been erected and furnished completely with the very latest appliances (also provided with comfortably furnished quarters for the use of the nurses and their assistants), the capacity of the hospital being fifty beds. This building was occupied for the first time in January of the present year, and is a monument to the generosity of the last legislature. . . . A wide cement walk has been laid leading from the street entrance to the front door for the new hospital building, also one connecting the new hospital building with the main entrance of the headquarters building, a portion of this replacing a walk worn out.³⁵

The final cost for the new building was \$22,500. The hospital quickly reached capacity as more aging Civil War veterans were admitted to the Soldiers' Home. In the 1917-18 biennium, there were a total of 172 veterans admitted, 147 veterans of the Civil War, 21 veterans of the Indian wars, and one veteran of the Spanish-American War.³⁶ Other improvements were made to the facility over the next decade. As the United States entered World War I, local and federal governments placed more emphasis on new hospital buildings knowing that there might be increased need to help soldiers injured during the war.³⁷

The 1920s at the Home

After World War I, the population of the Soldiers' Home began to stabilize as national military pensions increased and fewer veterans depended on government run homes. The home had an average of about eighteen fewer members per year. By 1920, the home was serving about 130 veterans.³⁸ Despite this, the home continued to be improved. Over the next decade years, a central heating plant was installed (extant 1921), pumping plant and fire hydrant (1922) erected, and kitchen and mess hall built (1923-24, extant but not in nominated area). The buildings were painted, including the wards and porch of the new hospital, fire escapes and stairways were added to some of the older wooden buildings, the grounds were improved with fencing and sidewalks, the original dining hall was remodeled into a recreation hall, and some of the residences were enlarged. The large vegetable gardens produced a majority of the fresh food required for the home. Any surplus was sold for profit to fund maintenance of the facility. Many visitors and residents alike toured the gardens around the home; the grounds became a show place in the town (Figures 8 and 9).

The Soldiers' Home maintained strong connections with the GAR and the Women's Relief Corps who often provided extra "homey" touches to the home along with bringing in programs and other entertainment to the veterans. In 1922, Frazier Ward, age 90, wrote "The Soldiers' Home as One of the Old Boys Sees It" describing life at the Roseburg home, which reads in part:

*The old men have an easy time.
We go to bed early, get up late.
Eat three meals a day and charge it to the state.
Walk around a little, have a little fun
Make up your beds and our day's work is done. . . .
There's one thing we old men have found out
That the Home is a good place to lounge about.
We don't know how long we may stay but we think we will
While we live and the State pays the bill.³⁹*

By the late 1920s, the Soldiers' Home complex consisted of the administration building, barracks, hospital, garage, heating plant, mess hall, cottages for the married veterans, laundry, barns, pig pens, pump house, septic area, a greenhouse and the veterans' cemetery (Figure 11). Distinct areas were set aside for the gardens, woodpile, orchard, lawn areas, and fir grove. A landscape gardener tended the grounds. The

³⁵ *Third Biennial Report of the Oregon State Board of Control for the Biennial Period Ending September 30, 1918 for the Thirtieth Legislative Assembly, 1919 (Salem: State Printing Department, 1918), p. 218.*

³⁶ *Ibid*, p. 221.

³⁷ Prior to WWI, the veterans' hospital was opened to draftees and other veterans, not only *volunteer* veterans.

³⁸ *Ibid*, *Fourth Biennial Report*, September 30, 1921.

³⁹ Oregon Historical Society. Vertical files, Portland, Oregon.

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complex served the needs of the veterans throughout the 1920s until the Great Depression changed the system of the veteran care in Oregon.

End of an Era: The Transfer of the State Soldiers' Home to the Federal Government

Before the Great Depression, the local Roseburg economy declined because the newly constructed Natron Cut-Off shifted rail traffic to an alignment along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River near Klamath Falls.⁴⁰ Roseburg lost its position as the division point for the Southern Pacific Railroad (formerly the Oregon and California Railroad) when Eugene became the new division point. The impact of the loss of railroad jobs was felt countywide. With this loss and the onset of the Great Depression, Roseburg civic leaders such as Guy Corden sought new ways of stimulating the local economy and assisting those in need.⁴¹

Members of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce and a doctor active in the American Legion, both familiar with the need for additional services for veterans, started promoting the idea of Roseburg being the location for a new federal veterans' hospital complex. The civic leaders mobilized, and quickly helped Roseburg's bid for the new facility. Discussions with other jurisdictions convinced the cities not to bid for the new facility, and at the same time, the businessmen enlisted the help of the state's congressional delegation. Members of the state legislature and promoters from Roseburg lobbied in Washington for the new hospital. All their efforts paid off when President Hoover signed a bill in June 1930, authorizing the construction of a new federal veterans' hospital in Roseburg. Although the bill had been signed, it was soon discovered that the site of the original veterans' hospital did not have enough land to construct the new facility. Other Oregon and Washington cities lobbied for the hospital in their community. Roseburg officials acted quickly, writing a bill that would allow local municipalities the legal right to purchase land outside the city limits, and donate it for state or federal use. The bill passed the Oregon legislature in January 1931. Several Roseburg veterans' groups endorsed locating the new hospital in the city. The Federal Board of Hospitalization recommended that the National Soldiers Home for the Pacific NW be located in Douglas County on the outskirts of Roseburg.

The decision to site the new facility in Roseburg was heralded by the community. Residents set off fire sirens and firecrackers, and danced through the streets, hotels, and theaters. On September 19, 1931, an estimated 10,000 gathered to celebrate the impending construction of the hospital complex. The Soldiers' Home buildings, including the 1917 hospital, and associated acreage were transferred to the federal government, and the state legislature ratified this action on February 16, 1932. Twenty-four parcels of land were purchased north of the original Soldiers' Home, totaling 410 acres. The new site was on the north side of the Umpqua River (Figure 3). The land was officially deeded to the federal government on March 10, 1932. The state was proud the Soldiers' Home had helped over 1,750 veterans during its 38 years of existence.

In April 1932, work began on the new facility. A Missouri contractor secured the bid for the project, but local firms were hired in the construction process. The first unit of the project included three hospitals, three convalescent buildings, service structures, and residences for the staff. The Colonial Revival style brick buildings were built around a circular drive surrounded by gardens and farmlands. A bridge was built over the Umpqua River that connected the new facility with the former Soldiers' Home and cemetery. Many of the staff members of the state home were retained especially the farm workers and gardeners.

In September 18, 1933, the ninety-three veterans from the Soldiers' Home were moved to the new facility. Under the oversight of the manager Colonel Tandy, patients of the hospital were transported first followed by others in need of help. The veterans were each assigned a room and only took their personal belongings. Twenty-three injured Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) enlistees who had been working in camps in the

⁴⁰ This section, *The End of an Era*, was taken liberally from the Umpqua Valley Arts Association on-line history. <<http://uvarts.com/uvaa-history>>

⁴¹ Guy Corden served in World War I and as district attorney for Douglas County, and was the state commander for the American Legion for many years while residing in Roseburg. He served in the United States Senate from 1944 to 1955. Throughout this career, Corden worked at ways to help the local economy and lobbied for veterans' benefits.

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vicinity were also transported to the new facility for care. More than 1,000 visitors inspected the new facility when the grounds were open to the public.

Federal Use of the Soldiers' Home and Hospital (1933-1955)

After the Soldiers' Hospital was vacated following the completion of the new VA facility in 1933, a new federal program brought life back to the former Soldiers' Home facilities including the hospital. As the Depression took hold of the country, more transient people moved across the United State in search of work. Federal relief program were establish to help those in need by giving grants to states willing to create programs for the homeless. Administered by the state relief agency, trained social workers developed programs to help people become more stable. Oregon established centers in Eugene, Portland, and Klamath Falls.⁴² Men who were willing to work received room and board if they worked in various USDA Forest Service camps including sites in the Roseburg area. Sick, injured, and aged men who could not work in camps were sent to the former Soldiers' Hospital to recover. In December 1934, there were twenty men at the Soldiers' Home and by January 1935, over 100 men were living at the home.⁴³ The program was one of only a few in the country and was so successful that it received national attention; a majority of the patients staying at the home or hospital were rehabilitated and found employment. However, after less than a year, the federal government terminated the program without much explanation. Federal managers suggested that a WPA work camp be established at the Soldiers' Home. Public officials and prominent citizens thought that this plan would be mutually beneficial and give the community the opportunity to complete construction and other public projects. One such project included completion of the landscape design for the new VA hospital complex.

By the late 1920s, veterans programs had been managed by three Federal agencies: the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. In 1930, Congress authorized the Veterans Administration (VA) to coordinate government activities affecting war veterans, and the three agencies became bureaus within the VA. The VA used the hospital building for both administrative purposes and to house some of the employees. During World War II, different branches of the military and the local reserves used portions of the building. By the mid-1950s, the former hospital housed some of the male attendants for the VA Hospital and members of the US Naval Reserve. VA employees leased the remainder of the building for a dollar a year. Thirty-four people were housed in the former hospital building in 1955.⁴⁴

The VA began leasing and conveying parts of the 400-acre reserve to other federal agencies. The Defense Department established training centers for the Army and Navy Reserves, and the Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service erected buildings for their work within the county on former VA land. Between 1957 and 1966, more VA property was conveyed to other entities including the City of Roseburg for the development of Stewart and Gaddis Parks and the Roseburg School District (now the Fir Grove School). In January 1963, the former Soldiers' Hospital, along with a 2.4-acre parcel, was deeded to the Department of the Navy for use as a reserve-training center. In 1966, a bill was introduced to the Oregon legislature that stipulated the land once a part of the Soldiers' Home be deeded to the city for park purposes.⁴⁵ The bill was approved; the land and the remaining buildings, including the hospital, heating plant, and mess hall, were deeded to the City of Roseburg. The hospital building served in a variety of capacities until it was leased to the Umpqua Valley Arts Association for use as the Umpqua Arts Center in the late 1980s. The Soldiers' Hospital currently houses galleries, studios, and offices for the arts association.

Pavilion Plan Concept

The architect for the Soldiers' Hospital employed the best practices in hospital planning, using elements of the well-established pavilion design first proposed by Florence Nightingale during the 1850s, and most famously

⁴² *The Umpqua Trapper*, 2001, p. 20.

⁴³ *Ibid*, p. 20.

⁴⁴ VA Clinical Care Building, VA Complex, Roseburg, OR. Display on Old Soldiers' Home in lobby.

⁴⁵ *The Umpqua Trapper*, 2001, p. 23.

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implemented at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore (1889). In 1874, Dr. John Shaw Billings' plan for the John Hopkins Hospital included pavilions connected by long corridors to help prevent the spread of infections and diseases. This, and earlier concepts, were modified over time in accord with the latest scientific and medical advancements, particularly when the miasma theory of disease began to be rejected in favor of germ theory.⁴⁶ Nonetheless, various interpretations of the pavilion plan were used throughout North American hospitals for several more decades. The pavilion plan emphasized natural light provided by bands of windows, a long and narrow building plan with projecting wings for the different wards, high ceilings, passive cross ventilation in the wards and rooms, and a small number of beds in each ward so one attendant could supervise the sick efficiently.⁴⁷ Ventilation and fresh air were considered particularly important to the design, as was the surrounding outside environment. Soothing, calm surroundings with picturesque settings were thought to have beneficial healing qualities. Outdoor solariums and porches were common so patients could enjoy the surroundings and fresh air. Having on-site staff members was important in patient care. Larger hospitals often had separate pavilion wings for staff.

Soldiers' Hospital architect Thompson employed the pavilion concept in the design of the Roseburg hospital. The different wards in the center and end wings were specified for patients with similar types of illnesses; the concept was to minimize the spread of contagious diseases. The individual rooms, along the south side of the central corridor, were used for special needs' patients or as isolation rooms. Service-related rooms, a small kitchen and clinic spaces were on the north side of the corridor. The wards and dayrooms had bands of windows that illuminated the rooms, and provided good ventilation and air circulation, both important features in the pavilion plan. The separate wards linked by a long central corridor minimized the contact between patients. The nursing staff had living quarters upstairs, assuring round-the-clock care when needed. Convalescence was considered as important as surgery, and the veranda and dayrooms Thompson designed imbued with fresh air was not just for pleasure, but was thought to be crucial to a patient's recovery. The veranda on the back of the hospital overlooked the Soldiers' Home extensive gardens and lawn area.

At the time the Soldiers' Hospital was planned, many commercial and institutional buildings, hospitals, libraries, and schools were constructed in the popular Colonial Revival style using fireproof brick for the exterior, cast-stone decorative details, multi-light arched windows, columns, and porticos. These classical buildings conveyed a sense of endurance and beauty complemented by the brick and stone construction. Architects of the time were influenced by the City Beautiful Movement that emphasized beautiful and sanitary urban areas. By shaping the physical environment through architecture and landscape, the movement sought to inspire people to lead better civic and personal lives. Hospital pavilion plans incorporated some of these concepts, advocating healthful and sanitary practices in an aesthetically pleasing setting as designed by Lewis Thompson in his plan for the Soldiers' Hospital. Thompson incorporated pleasing and enduring materials including the use of terrazzo flooring that could be cleaned efficiently. The Soldiers' Hospital is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival style hospital designed in the pavilion plan.

Other Similar Hospital Buildings

To determine how the Soldiers' Hospital compares to other similar hospital facilities in Oregon, the search in the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Sites Database was conducted to help determine 1) whether the concepts of the pavilion plan were used in these types of facilities; and 2) how many hospital were constructed in Oregon in the Colonial Revival style between 1910 and 1930. The initial search revealed that very few hospitals in the Colonial Revival style within this time period retain architectural integrity, still exist, or used the pavilion plan. The following is a list of hospitals in the SHPO database.

1. *Corvallis General Hospital, Benton County, 1921 (Loss of architectural integrity).*

The Corvallis General Hospital, built in 1922, is a brick building with a flat roof, rectangular plan with a central projecting block, Colonial Revival style with Georgian Revival elements, fanlight windows,

⁴⁶ See more in depth discussion on pavilion plan hospital in separate section of nomination.

⁴⁷ Annmarie Adams. *Medicine by Design* (Minnesota: University of Minnesota, 2008), p. 10: 1893.

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keystones at the window lintels, and a columned front entry porch.⁴⁸ In 1996, the hospital was surveyed and the building's integrity was so compromised that the original character had been "virtually destroyed."⁴⁹

2. *Mountain View Hospital, Deschutes County, 1920 (Non-Contributing, located in a National Historic District)*
The Mountain View Hospital was used from 1920-1931 as a maternity hospital. The modest, two-and-a-half story building has a side-gabled roof, is clad in horizontal wood boards, and has a square floor plan.⁵⁰
3. *Warm Springs Hospital, Jefferson County, construction date not listed (Eligibility undetermined, not listed)*
The Warm Springs Hospital is listed as a single story, brick building constructed in the Colonial Revival style. The building has not had any additions, but the windows have been replaced and numerous updates to the interior have taken place to convert the building to house various offices.
4. *Blackburn Sanitarium, Klamath County, 1911 (Eligible significant, individually listed)*
The Blackburn Sanitarium was the first medical facility in Klamath County. The two-story, brick, rectilinear building has a hipped roof and a symmetrical façade. The façade is classically proportioned in the Georgian Revival style. The building has been converted into an apartment complex. The building does not reflect the pavilion plan in its three-story block construction, proportions, or layout.
5. *Shriner's Hospital For Crippled Children, Portland, Multnomah Co., 1923 (demolished, previously listed)*
The Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children (Old) was one of the best examples of a Georgian Revival Hospital building in the state that was designed in the pavilion plan, but deconstructed in 2004.

Survey Findings

Only the Corvallis General Hospital and the Shriner's Hospital appear to have been designed with elements of the pavilion plan. However, the Corvallis General Hospital's architectural integrity has been compromised, and the Shriner's Hospital was demolished. From the survey results, the Soldiers' Hospital is the best example of a Colonial Revival style hospital utilizing the pavilion plan.

Oregon State-Owned Institutions

At the time that the Soldiers' Hospital was constructed (1917), the State of Oregon owned eight other institutions listed below. The Soldiers' Hospital appears to be the only extant stand-alone hospital building erected by the State of Oregon during the early 1900s.

List of Oregon State-Owned Institutions

1. *Oregon State Hospital Infirmery, Marion County, 1891 (Demolished, 1980s)*
2. *Eastern Oregon State Hospital, Pendleton, 1913 (Eligible Contributing, not listed) Craftsman style.*⁵¹
3. *State Institution for the Feeble-Minded, Marion County, 1908 (Demolished)*
4. *Oregon State Training School, Marion County, 1891 (Destroyed by fire in 1927)*
5. *Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital, Marion County, 1894 (unknown) No survey records found.*
6. *Oregon State School for the Blind, Marion County, 1872 (Demolished, 1950)*
7. *Oregon State School for the Deaf, Marion County, 1873 (unknown):*
8. *Oregon State Industrial School for Girls, Salem (unknown)*

⁴⁸ Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties, Corvallis General Hospital, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. 1.

⁴⁹ Ibid. 2.

⁵⁰ Ibid. 1.

⁵¹ O. Larsell, *OR Historical Quarterly*, "History of the Care of Insane In the State of Oregon," Dec 1945, Vol. XLVI No. 4. 320.

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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: Oregon State Archives
VA Medical Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.15 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>470131</u> Easting	<u>4784628</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

The nominated area includes all of Tax Lot 100, Map 27 6 23AA in the NE ¼, NE ¼ of Section 23, T 27S R6W, Willamette Meridian. This tax lot encompasses 2.15 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated area includes all of the current tax lot that includes the expansive front lawn area, and sufficient open space and mature trees around the hospital to convey its historic setting, location, and feeling. The small concrete stage, on the north side of the building, and portions of the parking lot are non-contributing features of the nominated area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Donovan, M.S., and Ayla Geller, B.A., Research Assistant
organization Donovan and Associates date July 30, 2011
street & number 1615 Taylor Avenue telephone (541) 386-6461
city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031
e-mail sally@donovanandassociates.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Oregon State Soldiers' Home Hospital
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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Soldiers Home
City or Vicinity: Roseburg, Oregon
County: Douglas **State:** Oregon
Photographer: Sally Donovan
Date Photographed: Spring 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Photo 1 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0001
South (front) and east (side) façades, looking northwest
- Photo 2 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0002
South (front) façade, looking north
- Photo 3 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiers'HomeHospital_0003
East façade, looking west
- Photo 4 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0004
West portion of the north facade, looking southeast
- Photo 5 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0005
North façade entrance access ramp, looking southwest
- Photo 6 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0006
West façade, looking northeast
- Photo 7 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0007
Detail of the front entrance of the south façade, looking north
- Photo 8 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0008
East wing of the south façade, detail of decorative details, looking north
- Photo 9 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0009
Detail of iron stairs bracket under west façade entrance stairway, looking southeast
- Photo 10 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0010
Interior view of front entrance hall from central corridor, looking south
- Photo 11 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0011
Interior view of central hall, looking west
- Photo 12 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0012
Interior view of east wing, looking southeast

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Photos Continued

- Photo 13 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0013
Interior view of west hall, looking northwest
- Photo 14 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0014
Detail of compass rose pattern in terrazzo floor at the intersection of the entrance and central halls
- Photo 15 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0015
Interior view of second floor central hall, looking east
- Photo 16 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0016
Interior detail of built-in closet in second floor room

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The City of Roseburg

street & number 900 SE Douglas Avenue telephone (541) 492-6750

city or town Roseburg state OR zip code 97470

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 18 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

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- Figure 2: Tax Lot Map #27-06W-23AA, Tax Lot 00100, 2.15-acre site
- Figure 3: Roseburg VA Medical Center in relationship to the Soldiers' Hospital
- Figure 4: Basement and ground floor plans, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011
- Figure 5: Second floor and roof plans, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011
- Figure 6: Elevations, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011
- Figure 7: Conjectural drawing of original hospital floor plan, ground floor
- Figure 8: *Oregonian*, August 12, 1917, p. 58
- Figure 9: *Oregonian*, August 12, 1917, p. 58
- Figure 10: Top: *Oregonian*, April 29, 1917, p. 23; Rendering of new hospital by Lewis Irvine Thompson.
Bottom: OHS Photograph, veterans on steps, No. 009540, Accession # 971D002, Master file, 018059
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- Figure 12: Historic view of Soldiers' Home before the 1917 hospital was erected, VA Medical Center archives, Roseburg, OR
- Figure 13: Historic photographs of Soldiers' Home.
Top: South (front) façade
Bottom: North facade (rear) with gardens, 1920s, Douglas County Historical Society Collection

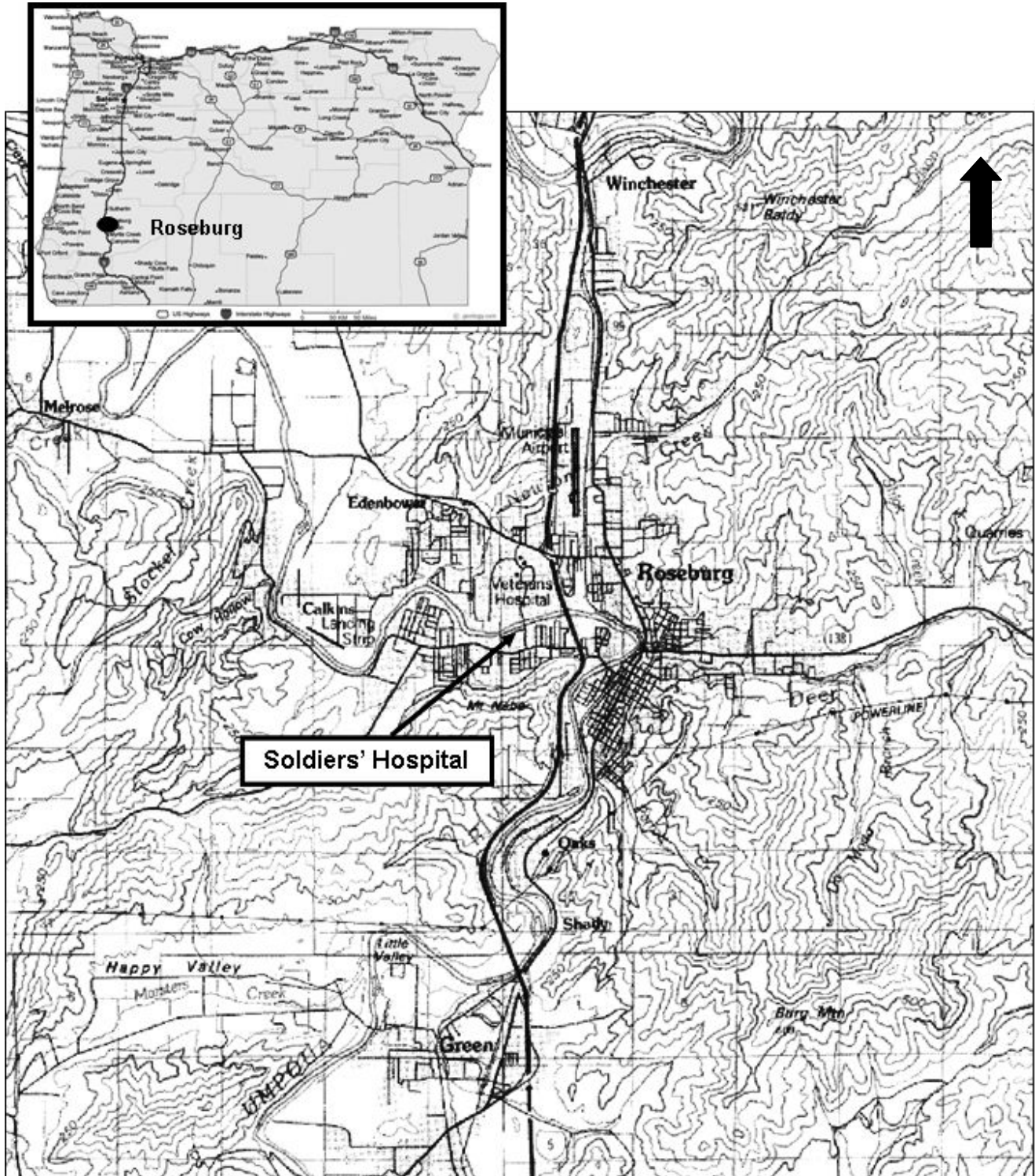
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Figure 1: Roseburg West Quadrangle, USGS Topographic Map



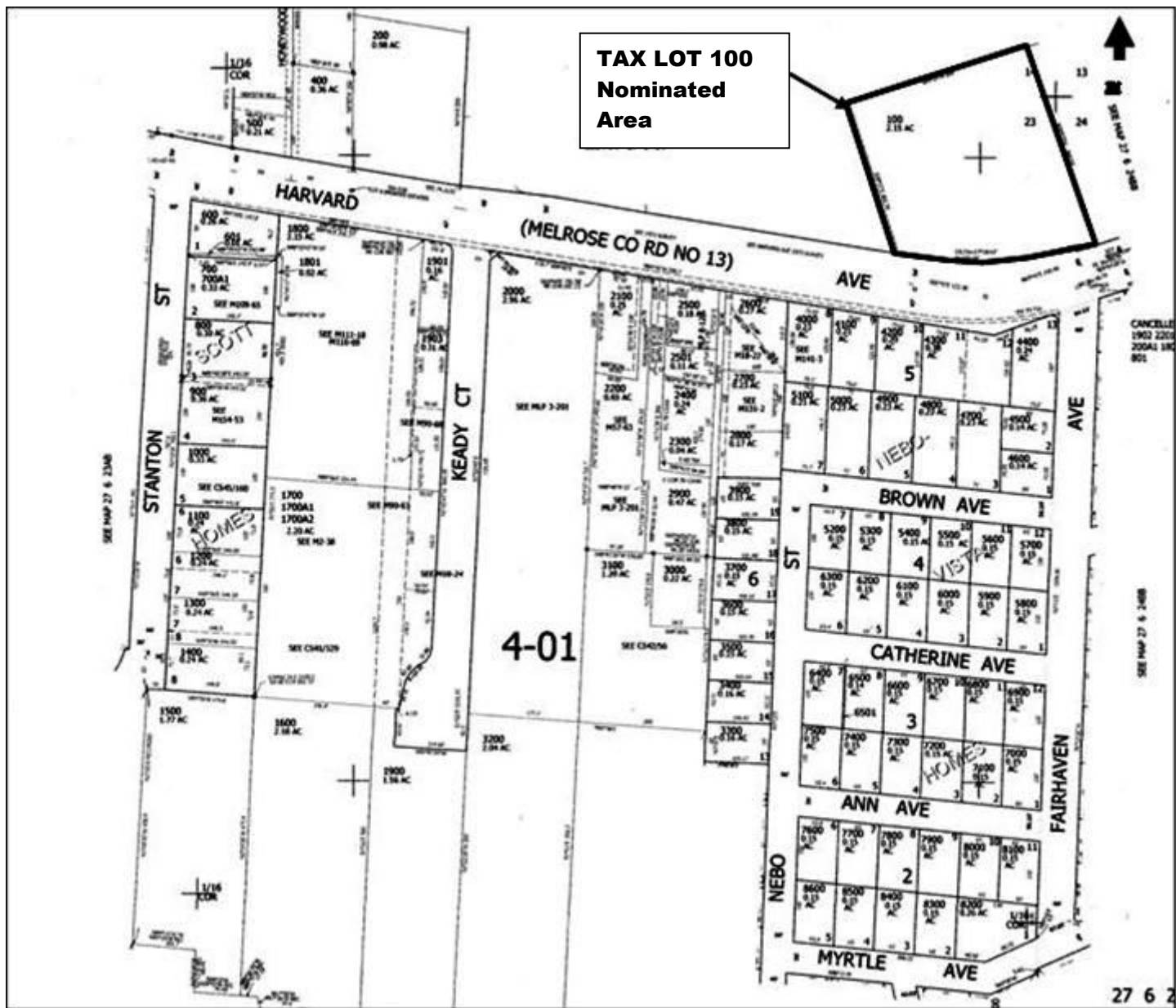
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Figure 2: Tax Lot Map #27-06W-23AA, Tax Lot 00100, 2.15-acre site



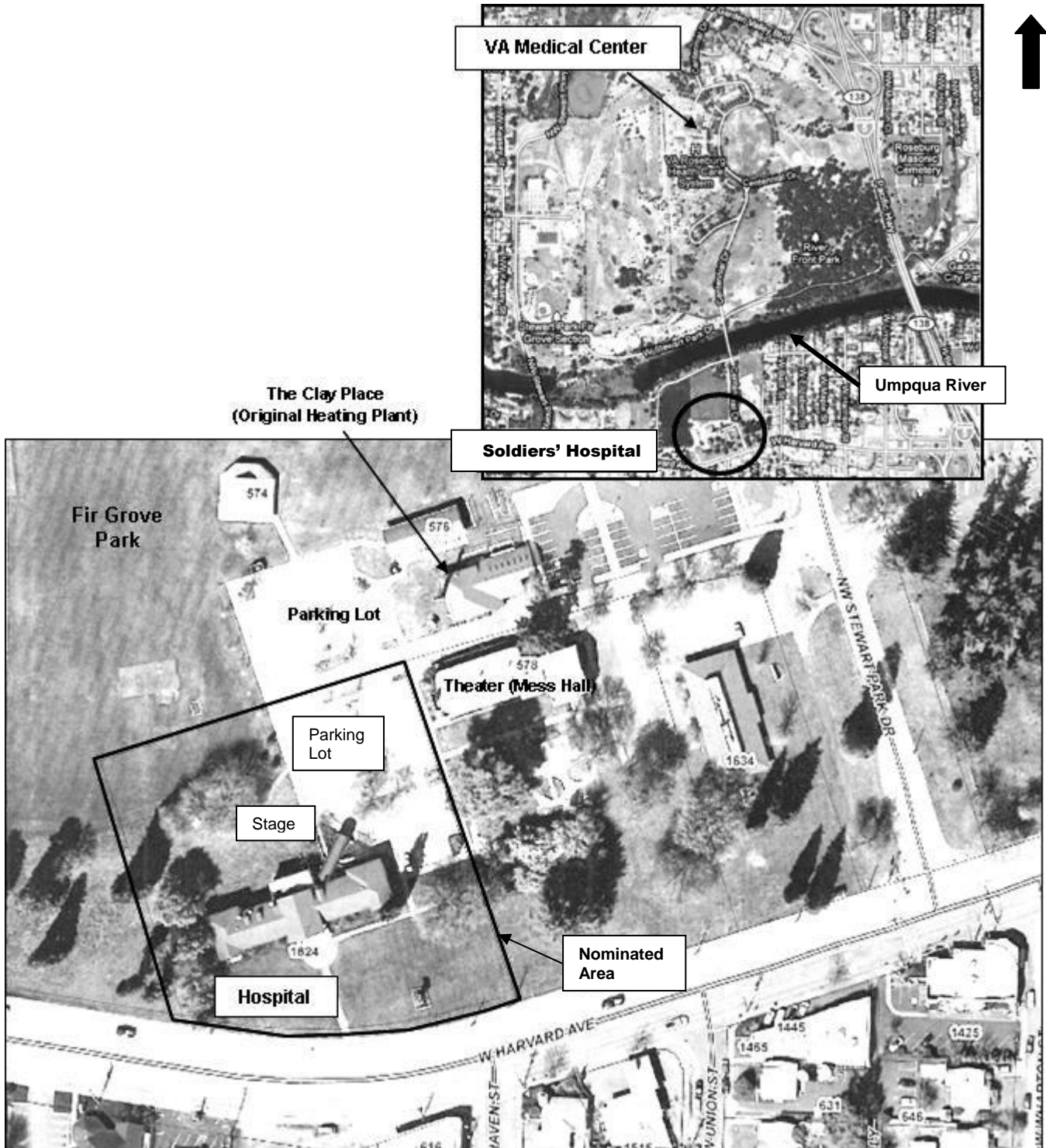
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Figure 3: Roseburg VA Medical Center in relationship to the Soldiers' Hospital



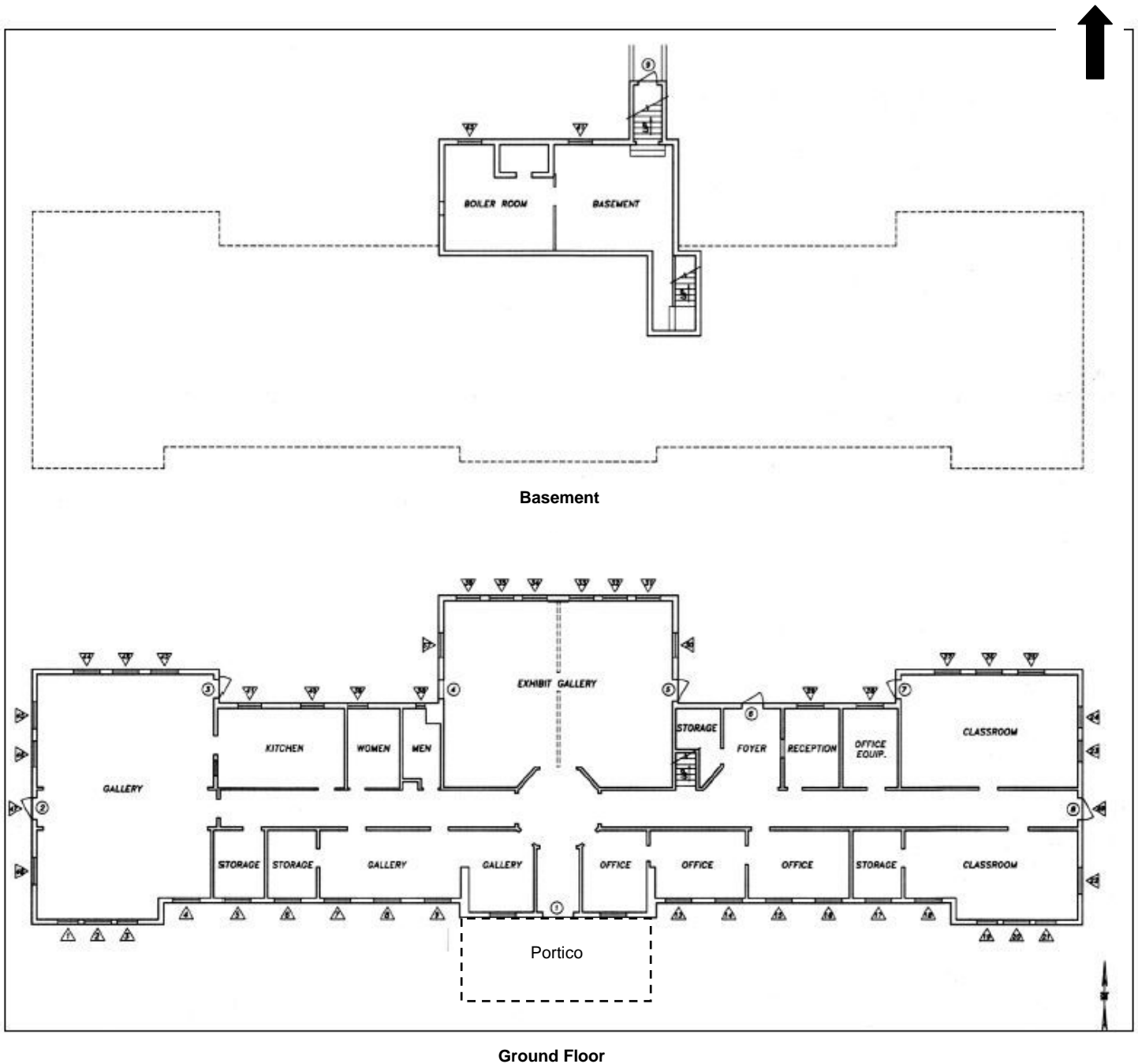
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Figure 4: Basement and ground floor plans, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011



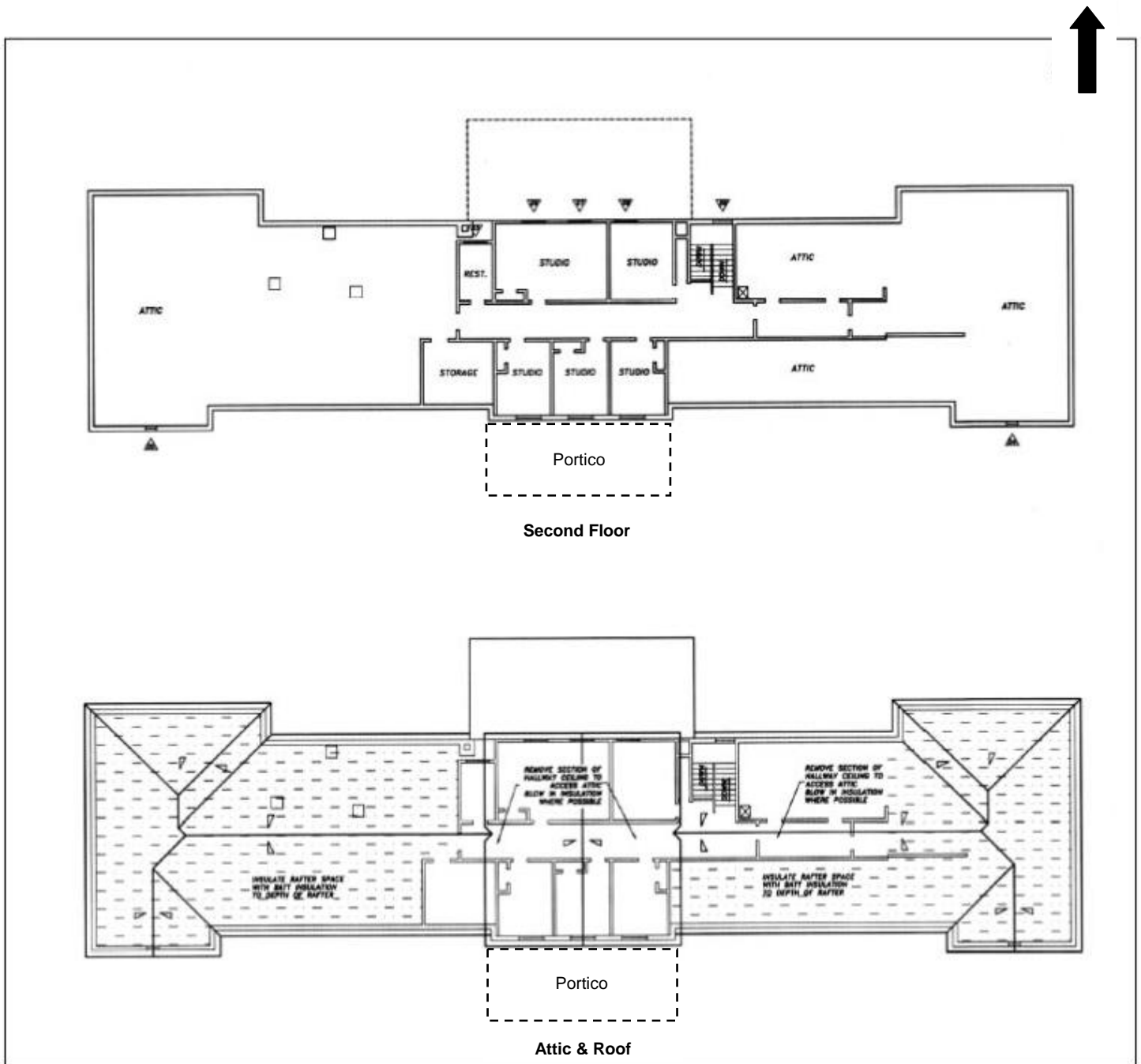
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Figure 5: Current second floor and roof plans, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011



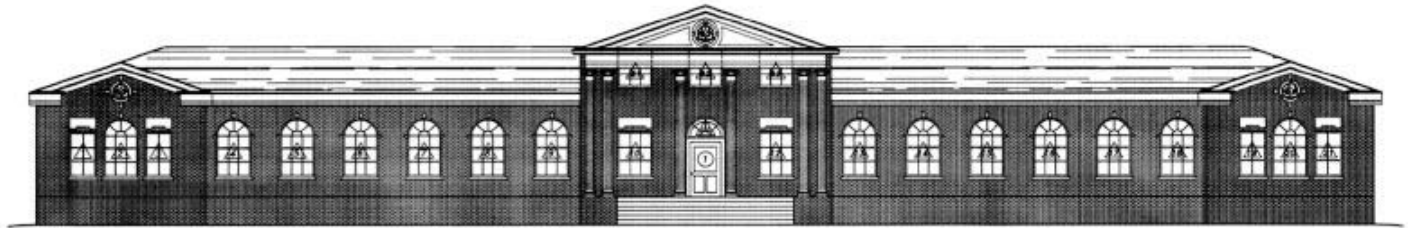
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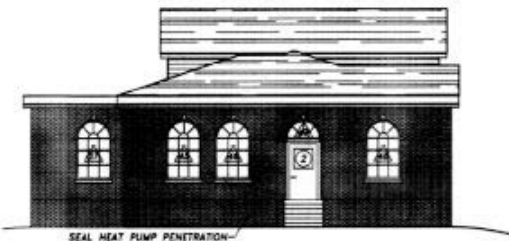
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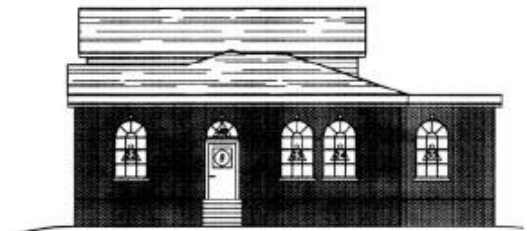
Figure 6: Elevations, drawn by Rogers Engineering, Roseburg, OR, 2011



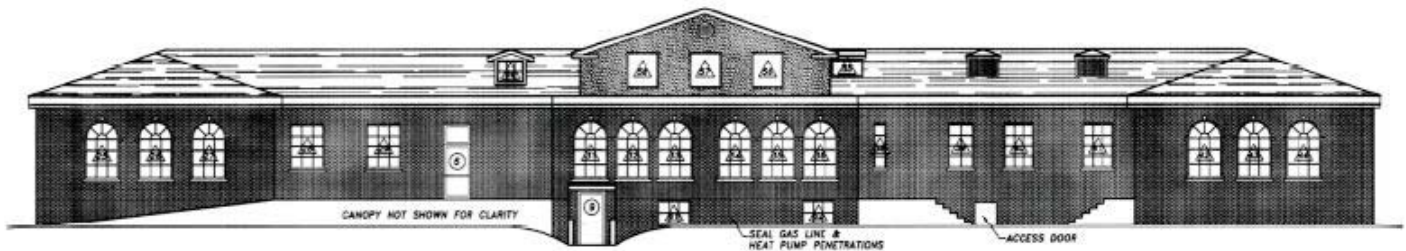
South Elevation



West Elevation



East Elevation



North Elevation

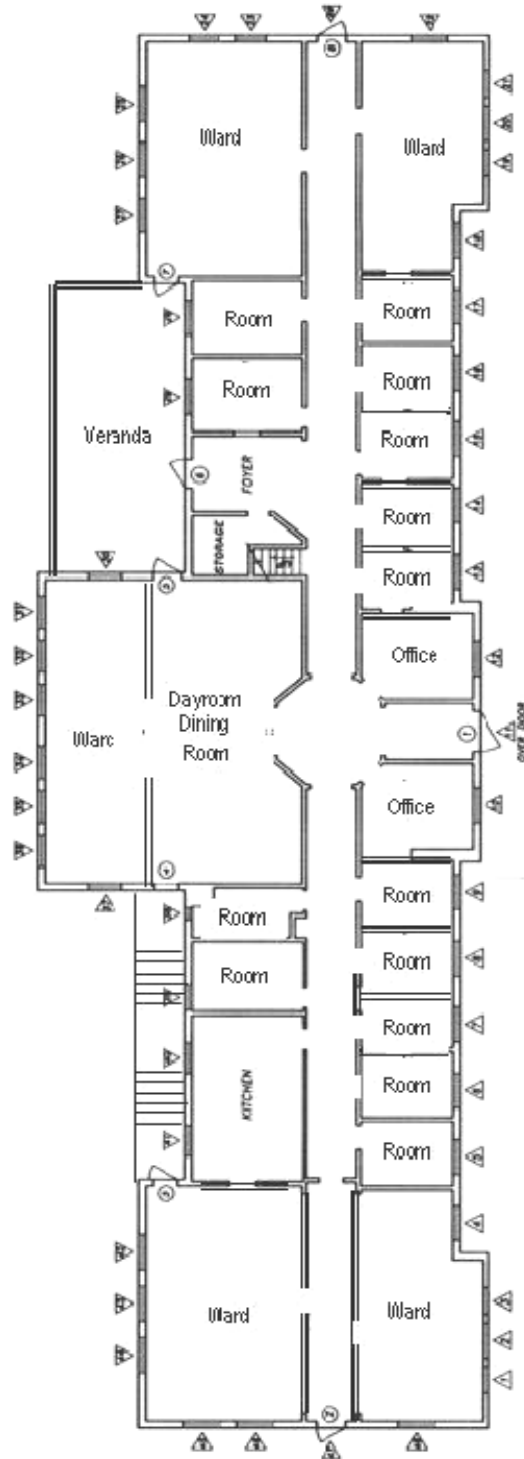
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Figure 7: Conjectural drawing of original hospital floor plan, ground floor



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Figure 8: *Oregonian*, August 12, 1917, p. 58

RIGID DISCIPLINE GIVES WAY TO GOLDEN RULE AT SOLDIERS' HOME AT ROSEBURG

Commandant Pinda Better Order Obtains When Men Are Happy and Entertainments Provided for Veterans Are Numerous, Young People Offering Services.



*R.C. Markee,
Commandant*



Main Building, Soldiers Home



Veterans Marching to Soldiers Home on July 4th

BY W. A. PETTIT.

ROSEBURG, Or., Aug. 11.—(Special.)—There is at least one state institution in Oregon where the "Golden Rule" is the predominating factor in the conduct of its charges, and where the leash, the straight-jacket and other forms of harsh punishment have been unheard of for many years. The institution to which I refer is the Old Soldiers' Home, situated on the bank of the picturesque Umpqua River about a mile and a half west of Roseburg.

There is something about the Soldiers' Home which is decidedly different from other state institutions which I have visited. It is in every sense a home—a playground where men who have given their best years in defense of their country and find are free to come and



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Figure 9: *Oregonian*, August 12, 1917, p. 58

pass their declining days.

It is not an institution where men are guided by repulsive rules; on the contrary it is a refuge where the charges are encouraged to make the best out of life and their every desire is satisfied.

In the language of one man who has passed more than ten years within its walls, it is a home which possesses and maintains all those requirements attendant to the comfort of its members.

Grounds Made Attractive.

As one nears the grounds at the close of a Summer day he cannot but be impressed with the stately and commodious buildings, the staff from which flies a huge American flag, the croquet grounds, the attractive and well-kept lawn, the massive cannon stationed in front of the main unit, and last but not least, the beautiful oaks and winding driveways.

The Soldiers' Home property comprises about 40 acres of land, two-thirds of which is under cultivation, and which is adding its mite to the food conservation campaign. Commandant Markee says four acres of the tract is planted to garden truck, while nearly 25 acres is utilized for general farming.

Although much of the labor necessary to cultivate the tract has to be employed outside of the home, past experience has taught the management that the farm has lessened materially the cost of conducting the institution.

Because of the age of a majority of the members of the home, none of them are required to work on the farm unless they so desire. At the present Commandant Markee says the garden is producing practically all of the vegetables necessary to feed the 175 men who comprise the home family. Potatoes and other more substantial articles of food are yet to be harvested and placed in storage.

The main building is a two-story wooden structure and was erected several years ago. It contains the offices, commandant's quarters, sleeping rooms, library and lounge-room, kitchen, dining-room and heating plant. This building has accommodations for 45 men, is equipped with fire escapes, and is in every way modern.

The hospital building, which is a few hundred feet west of the main structure, will accommodate 30 patients. It is equipped with a kitchen, dining-room and other apartments attendant to the comfort of the sick. A new hospital building is now under construction, and upon completion will have accommodations for 80 patients. The new hospital will cost approximately \$22,000, and will contain six distinct wards, ten private rooms, drug, linen and supply apartments, kitchen and dining-rooms.

Comfort of Patients Assured.

The plans and specifications for this structure were prepared by the architect after several conferences with the home physician, and nothing has been omitted which will add to the comfort of the patients and the convenience of the attendants. It is expected that the new hospital will be completed and in readiness for occupancy not later than November 1. On completion of the new structure the present hospital building will be converted into a barracks to replace the one which was destroyed by fire less than a year ago.

Commandant Markee says there are about 200 names on the home roster, but it is seldom that this number of men are in the institution at the same time. The great majority of the men receive pensions, and it is frequently their desire to visit friends and relatives at distant points. Because of these forays, the normal population of the home ranges from 165 to 175. Civil War veterans predominate, with Indian War veterans second. There are only a few Spanish-American War veterans at the home.

Troubles Are Not Frequent.

"I suppose you frequently encounter difficult problems in dealing with your charges," said a stranger who chanced to visit the home while I was conversing with the commandant. "No, not often," replied Mr. Markee, as he greeted his guest. "It is not our purpose to have trouble," said the commandant, "and furthermore that is the one thing we try to avoid. There was a time, I am told, when the home was guided by a set of rules as long as your arm. In those days the men were expected to practice strict discipline, and an infraction of the repulsive rules meant some kind of unwarranted punishment.

"For instance, if one of the old boys strayed away from the grounds without first getting a written permit his liberties were curbed for a specified length of time. The home was a kind of a machine in those days, and was practically devoid of community feeling.

"I have only one rule. Every man in my charge is supposed to know right from wrong, and as long as he does the right thing he is my friend. I despise rules, for I believe that all men are possessed of principles which they value above force. The old saying that you can drive a mule to the creek but you can't make him drink has been demonstrated too often in institutions which are top-heavy with rules.

View of Men Appreciated.

"I am a Civil War veteran myself and I have some idea of what it takes to bring happiness to men who are nearing the threshold of a new and everlasting life. As long as I am commandant of the home the men will be treated as members of my family, and I will do nothing which will add weight to their already heavy burdens."

Mr. Markee became commandant of the Soldiers' Home in October, 1916, and the manner in which he has conducted the institution is best attested by the many complimentary expressions by his charges. He believes in fair play, impartiality and personal liberty as long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others.

This combination of principles, put into active practice, has made Mr. Markee one of the most popular commandants that ever ruled the Soldiers' Home of this state. Although most of the responsibility for the conduct of the home is placed on Mr. Markee's shoulders, he is ably assisted by his estimable wife, who is matron of the institution.

Being a woman of sympathetic nature and a person whose chief object in life is to make others happy, Mrs. Markee is beloved by every man in the home. She is a home lady, and might be called the mother of the 175 veterans who comprise her family.

When Mrs. Markee first came to the home she realized the lack of amusements, and decided to provide some kind of entertainments for her boys. With the aid of her husband she arranged frequent entertainments, to which all of her charges were invited. The events proved so successful that they were continued at frequent intervals during the winter months.

Town Helps Interests.

The town people became interested in the work undertaken by Mrs. Markee, and it was with ease that she obtained sufficient talent for an evening's programme. The young people of the city were especially responsive to the call for assistance, and it was but a short time until the veterans realized fully the valuable services of their new matron.

Besides giving her personal attention

(Continued on Page 2, Column 6.)

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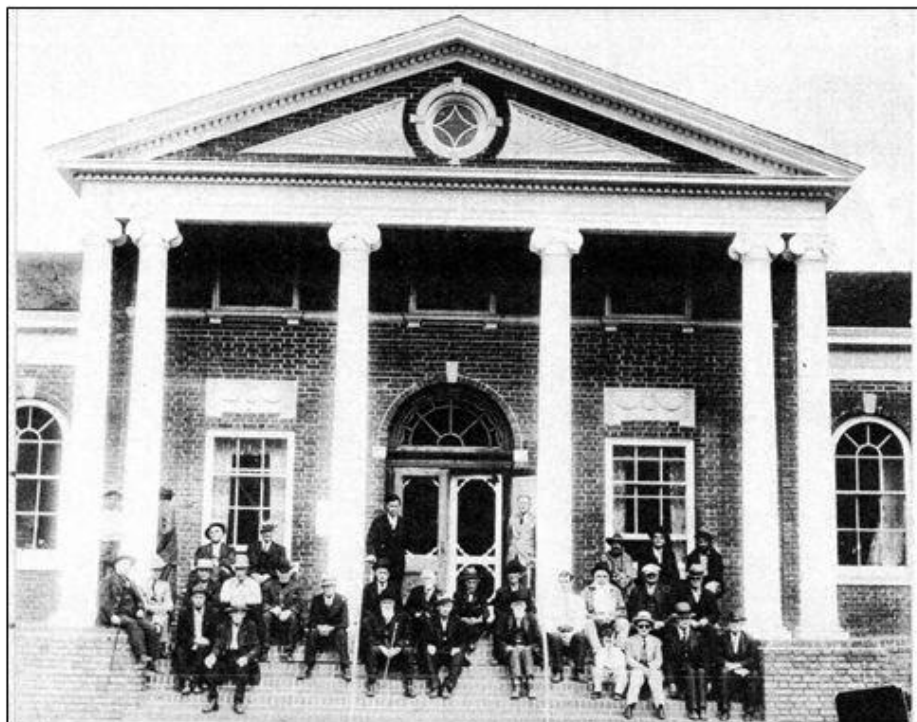
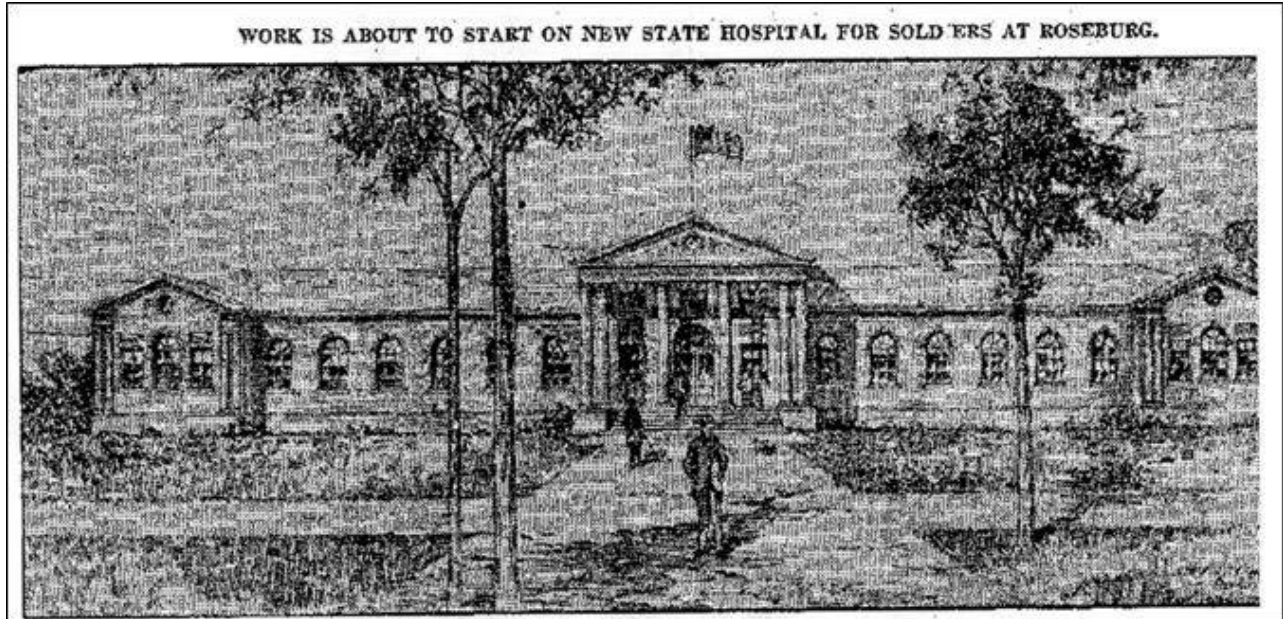
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Figure 10: Top: *Oregonian*, April 29, 1917, p. 23; Rendering of new hospital by Lewis Irvine Thompson.

Bottom: OHS Photograph, veterans on steps. No. 009540, Accession # 971D002, Master file, 018059



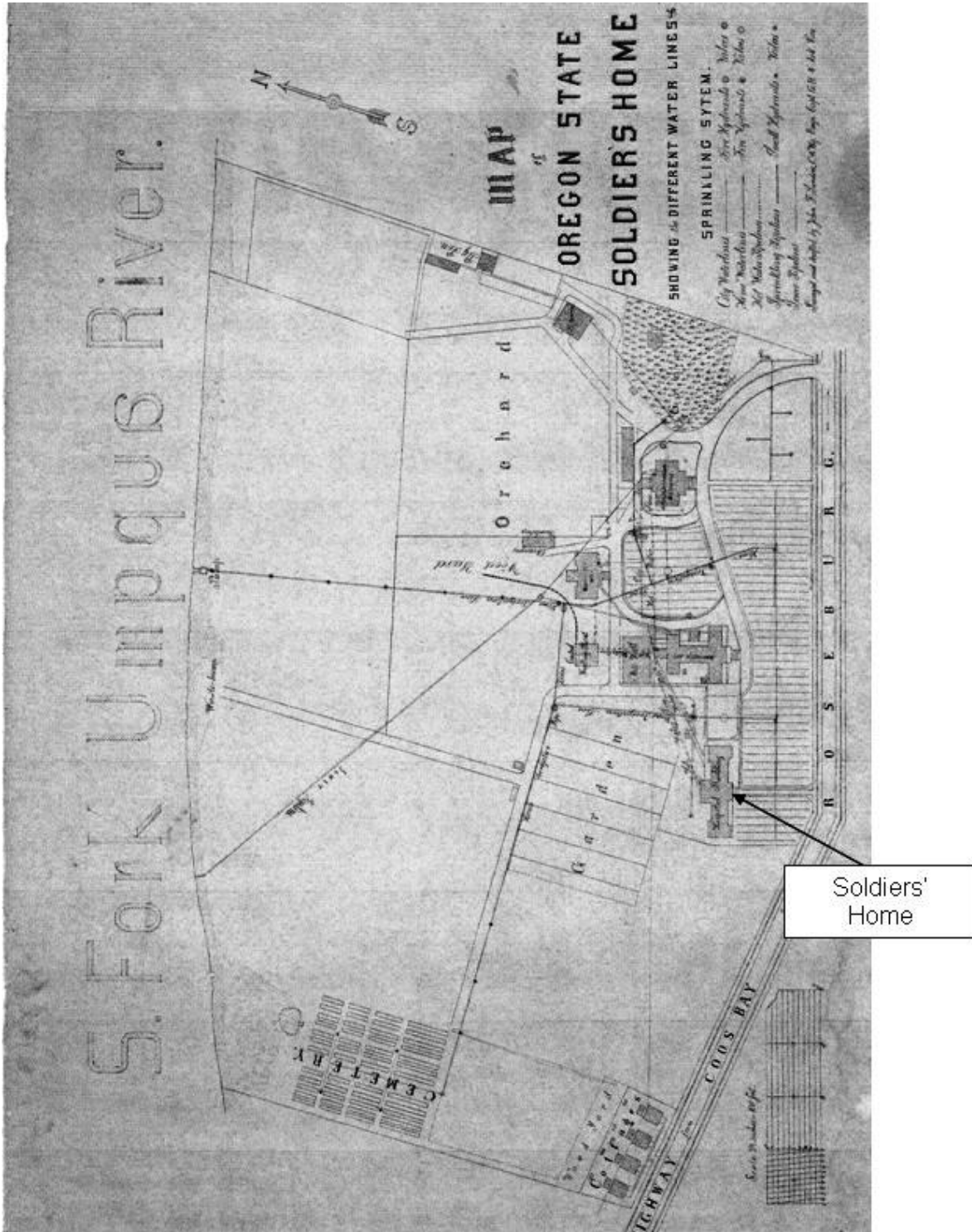
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Figure 11: Historic site plan of Soldiers' Home, Roseburg VA Medical Center archives, circa 1925



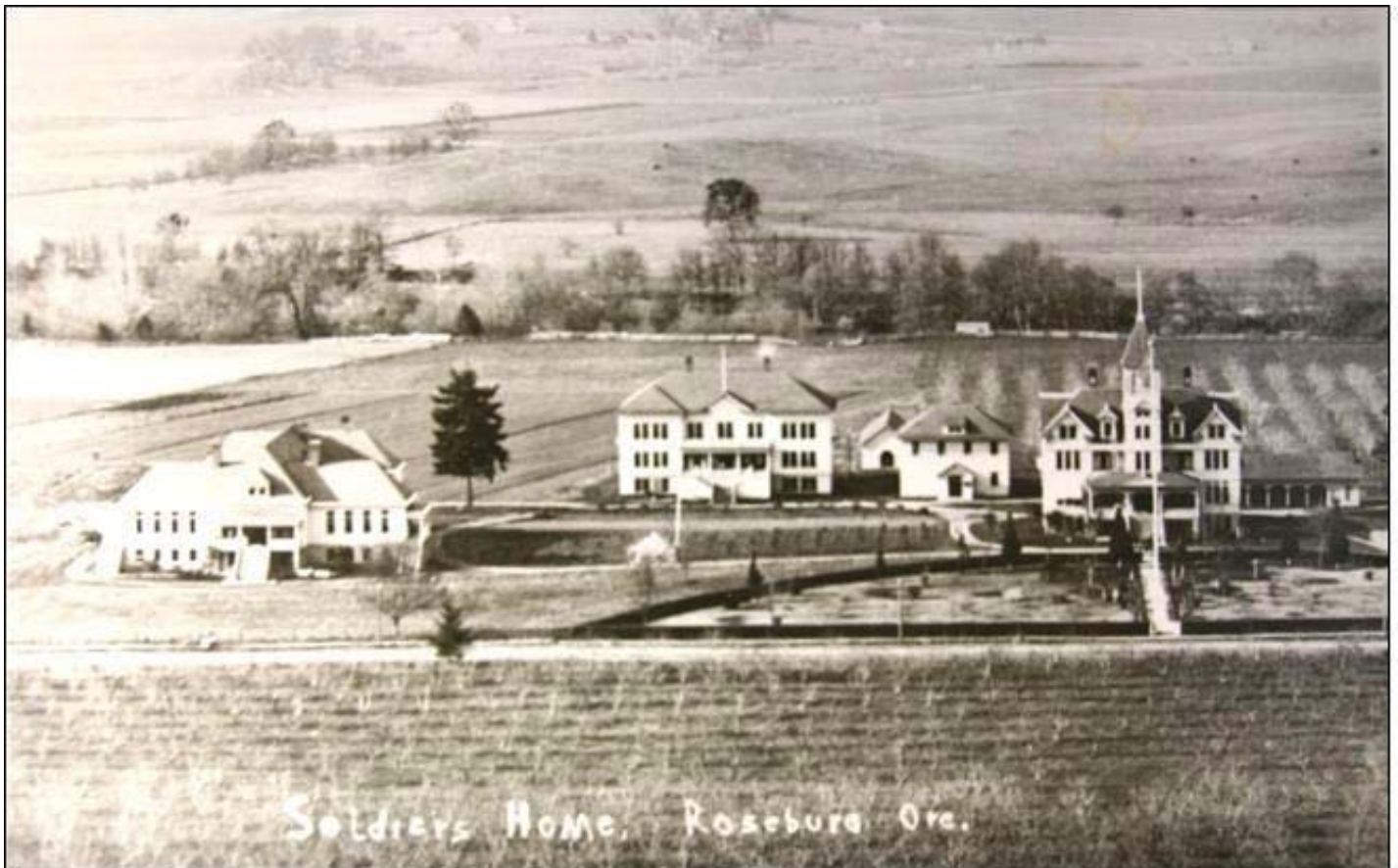
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Figure 12: Historic view of Soldiers' Home before the 1917 hospital was erected, VA Medical Center Archives, Roseburg, OR



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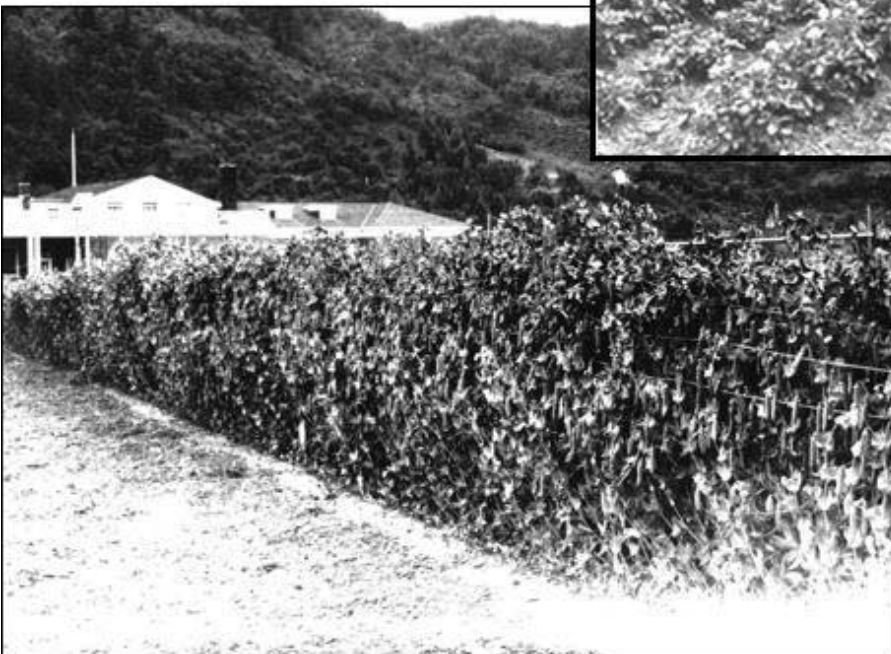
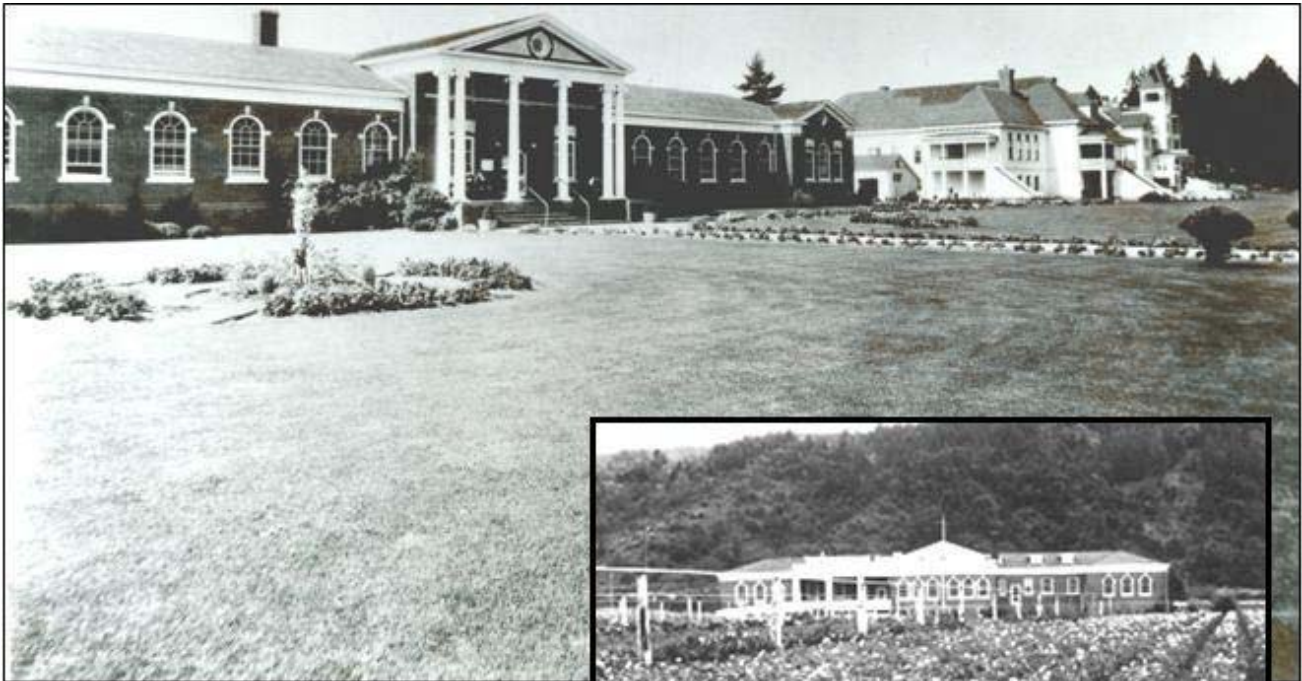
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Figure 13: Historic photographs of Soldiers' Hospital

Top: South (front) façade

Bottom: North facade (rear) with gardens, 1920s, Douglas Co. Historical Soc. Collection



Oregon State Soldiers' Home Hospital
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Photo 1 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0001
South (front) and east (side) façades, looking northwest



Photo 2 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0002
South (front) façade, looking north

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Photo 3 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0003
East façade, looking west

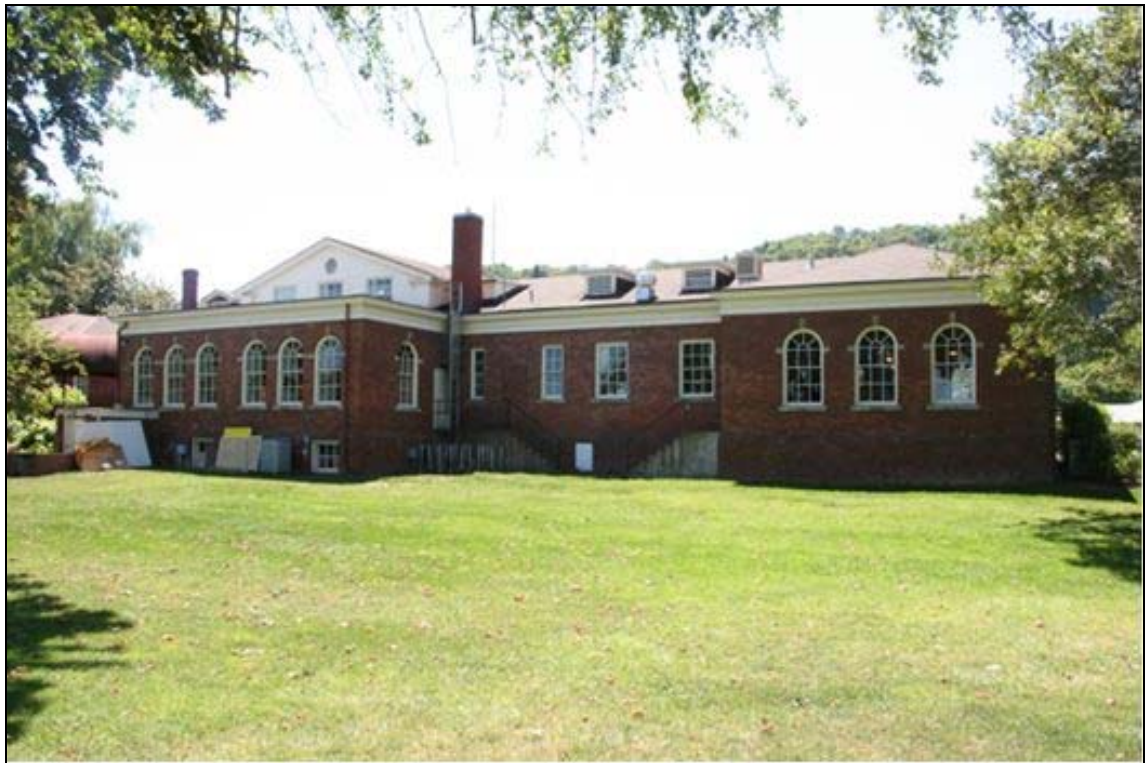


Photo 4 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0004
West portion of the north façade, looking southeast

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Photo 5 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0005
North façade entrance access ramp, looking southwest



Photo 6 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0006
West façade, looking northeast

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Photo 7 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0007
Detail of the front entrance of the south façade, looking north



Photo 8 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0008
East wing of the south façade, detail of decorative details, looking north



Photo 9 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0009
Detail of iron stairs bracket under west façade entrance stairway, looking southeast



Photo 10 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital_0010
Interior view of front entrance hall from central corridor, looking south



Photo 11 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0011
Interior view of central hall, looking west



Photo 12 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0012
Interior view of east wing, looking southeast



Photo 13 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0013
Interior view of west hall, looking northwest



Photo 14 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0014
Detail of compass rose pattern in terrazzo floor at the intersection of the entrance and central halls



Photo 15 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0015
Interior view of second floor central hall, looking east



Photo 16 of 16: OR_DouglasCounty_ORStateSoldiersHomeHospital _0016
Interior detail of built-in closet in second floor room