

Collection #
P 0642

**UNITED STATES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION, 1930–1931**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box of photographs
1 half size manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1930–1931

PROVENANCE: Studebaker National Museum, South Bend, Indiana, 1992

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *'To care for him who shall have borne the battle' : a history of the Indianapolis Veterans Administration hospitals, 1928-1988.*
Bradley Kent Damon Thesis (M.A.)--Indiana University, 1990.
I.H.S. Library General Collection: UH464.I6 D35 1990

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1992.0448

NOTES: Architectural drawings came with the collection. They were cleaned, flattened, placed in 3 oversize folders and transferred to architectural drawings in 1992. At the time of the processing of this collection they have not been found. As the architectural drawings are processed they should be added to this collection.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first United States Veterans Administration Hospital built in Indiana was constructed in 1931. The dedication ceremony was held 13 December 1931 with the first patients admitted on 4 January 1932. The facility, on the northwest side of Indianapolis, was located on thirty-nine acres on a bluff overlooking White River at the corner of West Riverside Drive and 26th Street.

At the end of World War II, the Veterans Administration established a new hospital due to overcrowding problems, on West 10th Street near the Indiana University School of Medicine. The Veterans Hospital moved there in 1952 and the following year the old facility was converted into a tuberculosis treatment center.

In 1996, the Larue D. Carter Hospital was moved from west 10th Street in Indianapolis to its present location at the former Veterans Hospital. The address for the campus is 2610 Cold Spring Road. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. The current name for the facility is the Larue D. Carter Memorial Hospital.

The Ralph Sollitt & Son Construction Company was the contractor for the construction of the Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis in 1931. That company was founded in South Bend, Indiana, ca. 1920 by Ralph Shannon Sollitt. Ralph Sollitt's father and grandfather were successful building contractors in Chicago, Illinois, as the George Sollitt Construction Company. Ralph Sollitt was the vice president and general manager of the South Bend branch of the family business. The South Bend company had many important commissions over the decades but went out of business ca. 1993. As of 2018, the George Sollitt Construction Company, based in Chicago, is still in operation.

Sources:

David J. Bodenhamer; *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, ©1994. Indiana Historical Society Library Reference Room Desk: F534.I55 E4 1994

Bradley Kent Damon. 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle' : a history of the Indianapolis Veterans Administration hospitals, 1928-1988. Thesis (M.A.); Indiana University, 1990. Indiana Historical Society Library General Collection: UH464.I6 D35 1990.

<https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/3369.htm>

https://www.bsu.edu/-/media/www/departamentalcontent/library/drawingsdocs/collectionguides/dada030_sollitt_collectionguide2012.pdf?la=en

<http://www.sollitt.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains one box of photographs and one half size document case of manuscript materials. These materials document the construction of the first veteran's hospital constructed in Indiana in 1931.

The photographs were found in disorder. Most of the construction photographs are dated on the verso with some descriptions. These are arranged in chronological order. The construction photographs were taken by Charles C. Coffin the Superintendent of Construction for the Ralph Sollitt and Son Construction Co., the contractor for the project. The views date from 2 April 1931 to 1 November 1931.

The photographs of the completed interior and exterior views of the buildings are not dated but were probably made in December of 1931. Some of them were taken by Harry E. Clark an Associate Photographer in the Commercial Department of the Bretzman Studio in Indianapolis. Some but not all of these views are stamped on the verso with his information. These are arranged by subject.

The manuscript materials consist of a printed addendum with two dates, 15 December 1930 and 5 January 1931. It was issued by the Construction Division of the U.S. Veterans Bureau in the Arlington Building in Washington, D.C. It contains the specifications for the construction of the buildings and utilities for the U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. According to the specifications there were several buildings in the hospital complex. They were listed as: main hospital, utility building, storehouse, nurses' quarters, officers' duplex quarters, and valve house.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, 1931

CONTENTS

Groundbreaking and early construction views
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
April/2/ – April/24/1931

Subsoil drain and construction views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
May 21/ May 31/1931

Construction exterior and interior views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
July 2, 1931

Construction exterior and interior views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
August 1, 1931

Construction exterior and interior views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
September 1, 1931

Construction exterior and interior views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
October 1, 1931

Construction exterior and interior views,
taken by Chas. C. Coffin, Supt. of Construction,
November 1, 1931

Exterior and interior construction views,
n.d.

Exterior views of completed buildings

Interior views of basement areas with pipes, plumbing,
electrical, heating, and laundry equipment

Interior views of corridors and entrance areas

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

Interior views of kitchen and dining facilities	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 12
Interior views of restroom and bathing facilities	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 13
Interior views of office and storage areas, laboratories, surgery and medical equipment, and dental office	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 14

Series 2: Specifications for Construction, 1930, 1931

CONTENTS

Addendum No. 1
To Specification for Construction of Building and
Utilities for U.S. Veterans Hospital Indianapolis,
Indiana
Pages: 1-AD-13-C1

Addendum No. 1
Pages: 14C-1 – 26C-2

Addendum No. 1
Pages: 27C-1 – 34C-7

Addendum No. 1
Pages: A1P-1 – 9P-#10

Addendum No. 1
Pages: 11P-1 – A14H-1

Addendum No. 1
Pages: 14H-1 – A2E-1

Addendum No. 1
Pages: 2E-1 – 2S-3

Addendum No. 1
[cover pages]

CONTAINER

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 2

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 3

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 4

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 5

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 6

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 7

Manuscripts:
Box 1, Folder 8