

**Third Generation
of Veterans
Hospitals
National Register
of Historic Places
Historic Context
and
Evaluations
Nationwide**



In 2010, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contracted for the development of a historic context for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) outlining the history and construction of veterans hospitals following World War II, the “Third Generation” of veterans hospitals. These hospitals were built during a massive nationwide construction campaign in the 1940s and 1950s to provide the

latest in healthcare to a burgeoning veteran population. VA had faced criticism its existing network of medical facilities was outmoded and providing substandard care; these new, sleek, modern buildings served as the architectural representation of VA’s new approach to healthcare for veterans.

Research for this project was undertaken at the National Archives and Records Administration, VA, and local repositories across the United States; all research was undertaken by historian who exceeded the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for history. The resulting historic context detailed changes to VA’s medical care, the role of VA Administrator Omar Bradley, the use of architects in private practice, and the development of a standards plan for hospital construction. Under this context, fifty-six VA medical centers were evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. Architectural historians that exceed the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for architectural history completed the assessments. High resolution digital photographs in compliance with National Park Service photo policy were taken at each medical campus. Research was completed at the individual VA facility and local archives. The resulting NRHP nominations and determinations of eligibility are pending.

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