

# CARE FOR THE BRAVE AND DESERVING



Wisconsin Historical Society, WHS-07403

The National Soldiers Home Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011.

Soldiers gathered in front of Ward Memorial Hall near where you are standing.



Zablocki VA Medical Center Library, Milwaukee, WI

Following the Civil War, Congress established a nationwide system of Soldiers Homes to provide medical care and lodging to injured and ill Veterans. The Milwaukee Soldiers Home was founded in 1867 and remains the most intact of the eleven Homes constructed between 1866 and 1930.

Old Main welcomed Veterans to the site. The towering Gothic building originally housed residential, dining, and administrative facilities. Other buildings were added as needs changed. Many, like Ward Memorial Hall in front of you, supported the Home's recreational offerings. Residents enjoyed theatrical performances, vaudeville shows, concerts, and motion pictures in the auditorium, while a railroad ticket office on the side of the building connected them to destinations along the Milwaukee Road. A social hall, library, canteen, chapel, hospital, offices, dormitories, and staff housing completed the Home's village-like setting.



Zablocki VA Medical Center Library, Milwaukee, WI

**“Neither a hospital nor alms-house, but a home . . . a reward to the brave and deserving.”**

The Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

**LEARN MORE, DO MORE...**

**Enjoy walking around the grounds.**

**Search online for more information about the Milwaukee Soldiers Home or for a walking tour guide.**



Historic Photo Collection / Milwaukee Public Library

Hank Aaron State Trail sign panels at the Soldiers Home supported by Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, Beyer Stewardship Fund, Brewers Community Foundation, and Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail.

**HANK AARON STATE TRAIL**