

Veterans' Home - Background

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Joint Appropriations Committee



Wyoming
Department
of Health

June 20th, 2024

Agenda

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→ Background

- ◆ Purpose and mission
- ◆ History
- ◆ Current census and staffing

→ Capital Construction

- ◆ WDH Facilities Master Plan (2013)
- ◆ Skilled Nursing Facility
- ◆ Domiciliary Renovation

Mission

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- Per W.S. 25-9-101, provide **domiciliary** (assisted living facility) and **skilled nursing** care to:
- ◆ Honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces of the United States; and
 - ◆ Members of the state national guard disabled while on duty

Mission

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- Dependents and not veterans can also be admitted under certain conditions;
- All residents must:
 - ◆ Be, “by reason of wounds, disease, old age or other infirmities are unable to earn their living and have no adequate means of support” and,
 - ◆ Have been living Wyoming for at least five (5) years prior to application

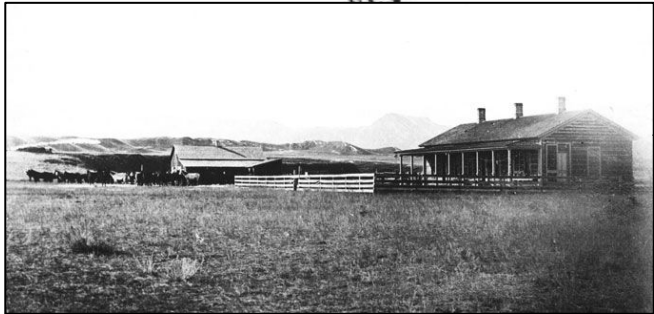
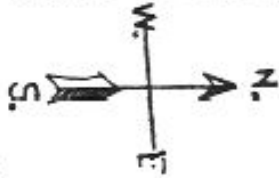
History

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- Est. in 1898 as the Wyoming Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Fort D.A. Russell in Cheyenne, operated by the Board of Charities and Reform.
- Moved to current location in Buffalo in 1903 (Ch 46, 1903 Session Laws), on site of historic Ft. McKinney, which was abandoned in 1894.



T A Ranch.



MOVABLE BREASTWORK
ON WHEELS.
6 FT. HIGH
40 MEN

B.W.
97 MEN.
TROOPS 6TH CAV.
U.S. ARMY.
C. D. H.

GOIDON'S
P P P
C.O.
STAFF
PLACE OF
SURRENDER.
FORT

STABLE
STABLE

ICE HOUSE
LOG BREASTWORK

B.W.
10 MEN
BREASTWORK
64 MEN.

B.W.
23 MEN

B.W.
15 MEN

CRAZY WOMAN CREEK
B.W.
20 MEN
B.W.
42 MEN

Current census and staffing

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- Census: 81
 - ◆ Domiciliary: 62
 - ◆ SNF: 19 / 36 (53%)
- SNF Staffing:
 - ◆ CNA: 11/19 filled (57%)
 - ◆ RN/LPN: 7/10 (70%)

2013 Facilities Master Plan

- Completed by HDR;
- Recommended prioritizing reconstruction of:
 - ◆ State Hospital (WSH)
 - ◆ Life Resource Center (WLRC)
 - ◆ Veterans' Home (VH)
- Facilities Task Force effort (2015-2018) reconstructed WSH and WLRC and clearly defined role of the State.

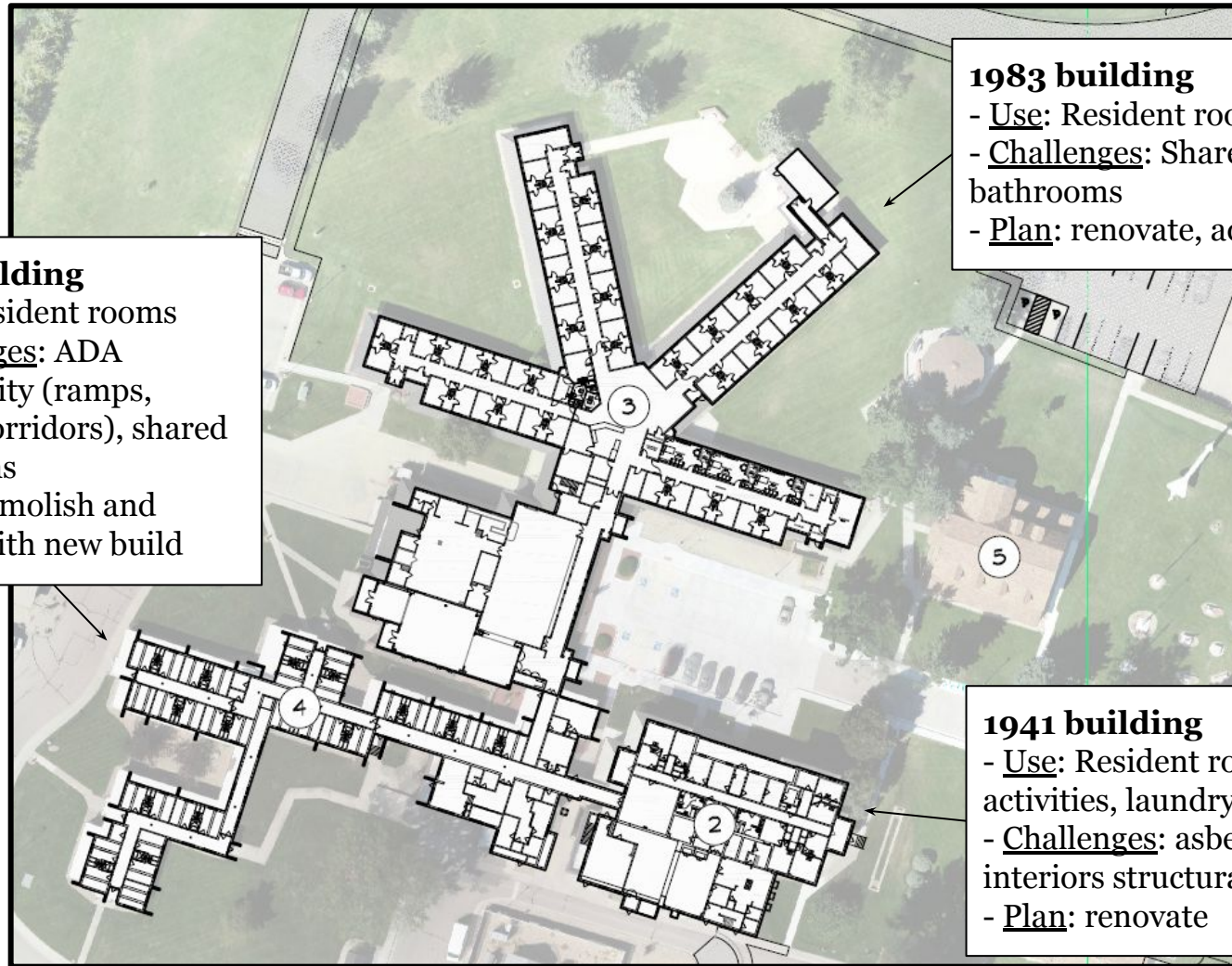
Skilled Nursing Facility

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- Veterans' Commission recommended construction of SNF in 2017;
- Needs assessments and grant applications to VA in 2018-2019.
- HEA104 (2019 General Session) established SNF in Buffalo.
- Construction began November 2020, finished February 2023, for total cost of \$17.6M



Domiciliary - Existing



1983 building

- Use: Resident rooms
- Challenges: Shared bathrooms
- Plan: renovate, addition

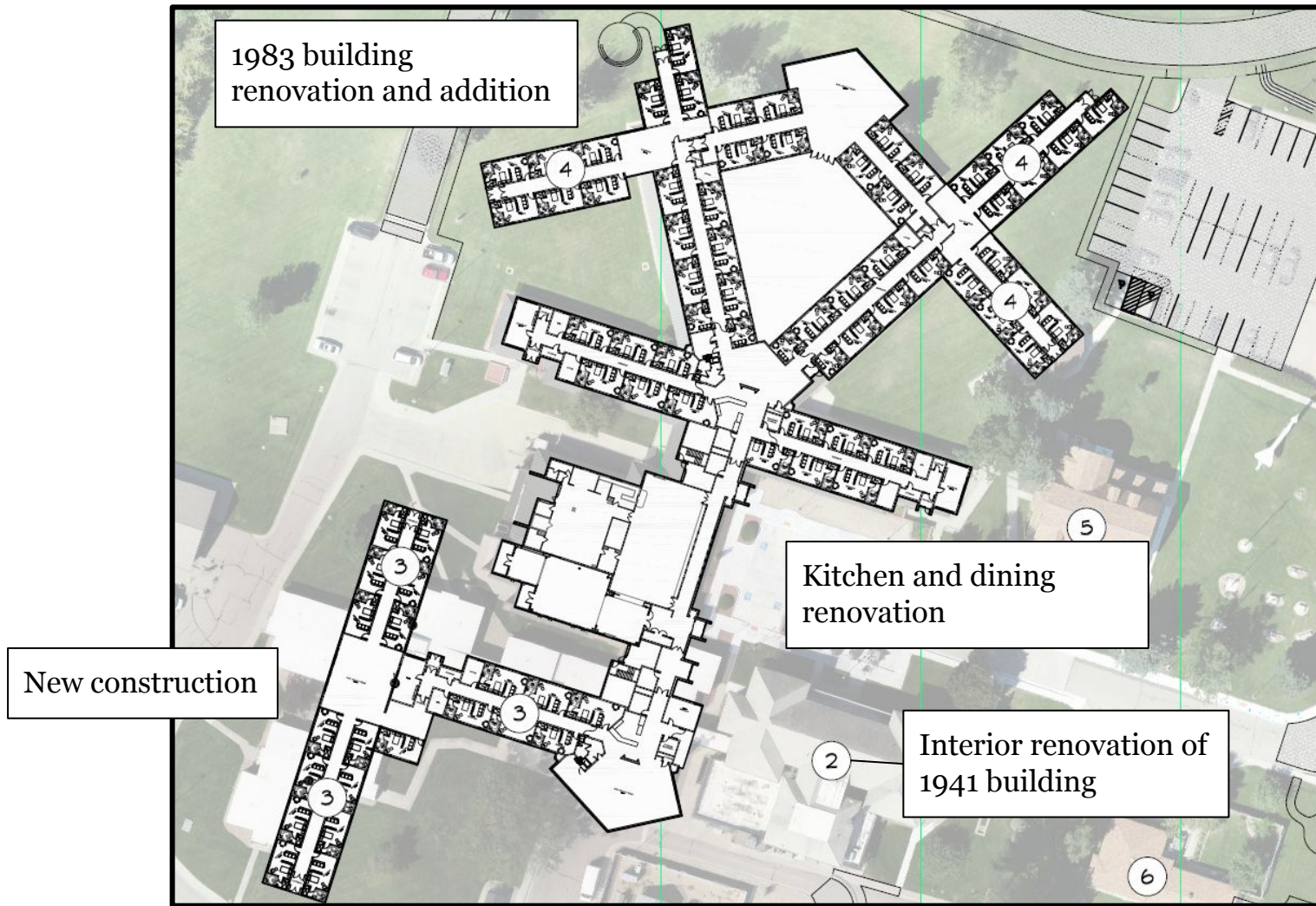
1973 building

- Use: Resident rooms
- Challenges: ADA accessibility (ramps, narrow corridors), shared bathrooms
- Plan: demolish and replace with new build

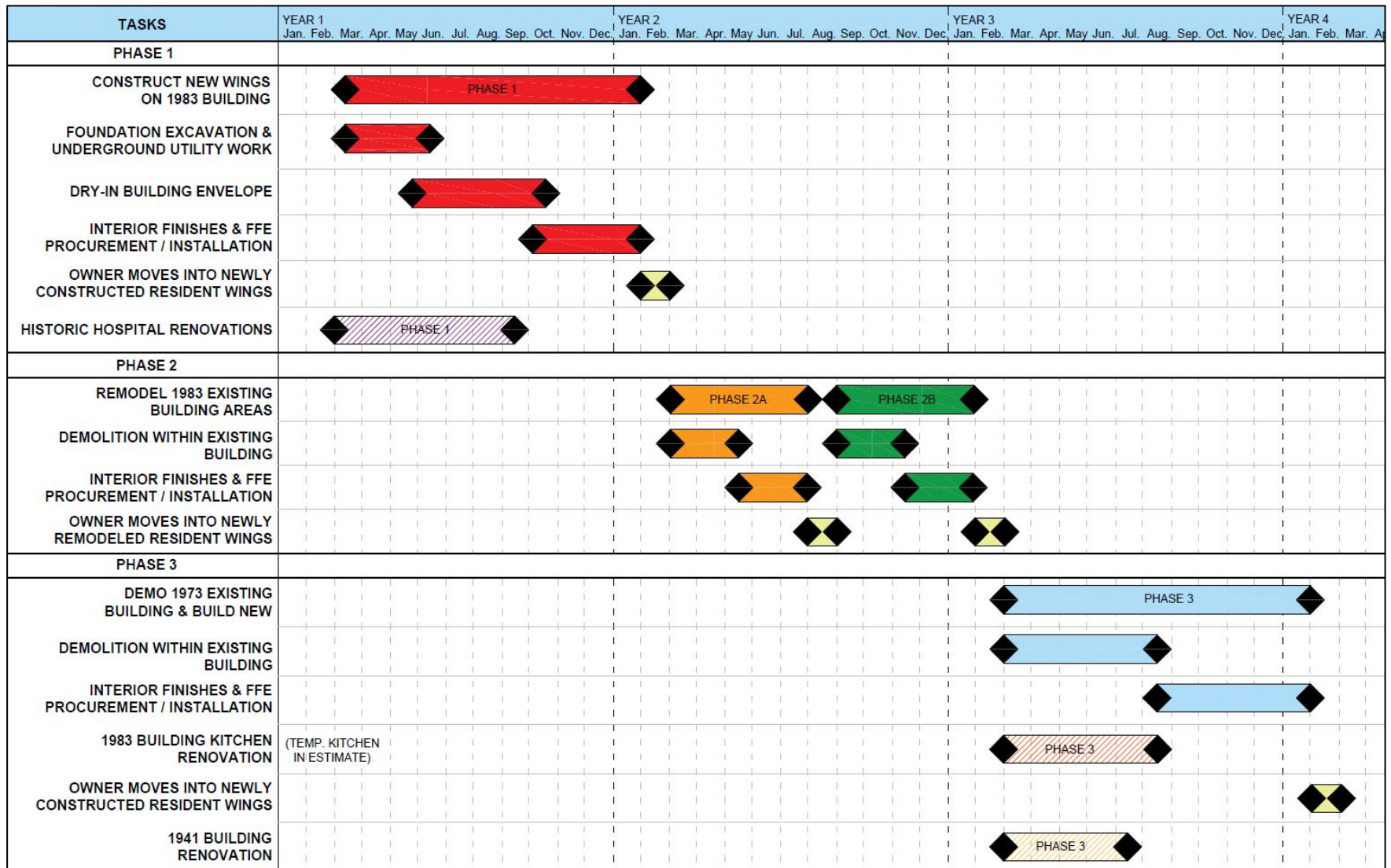
1941 building

- Use: Resident rooms, activities, laundry
- Challenges: asbestos, interiors structural walls
- Plan: renovate

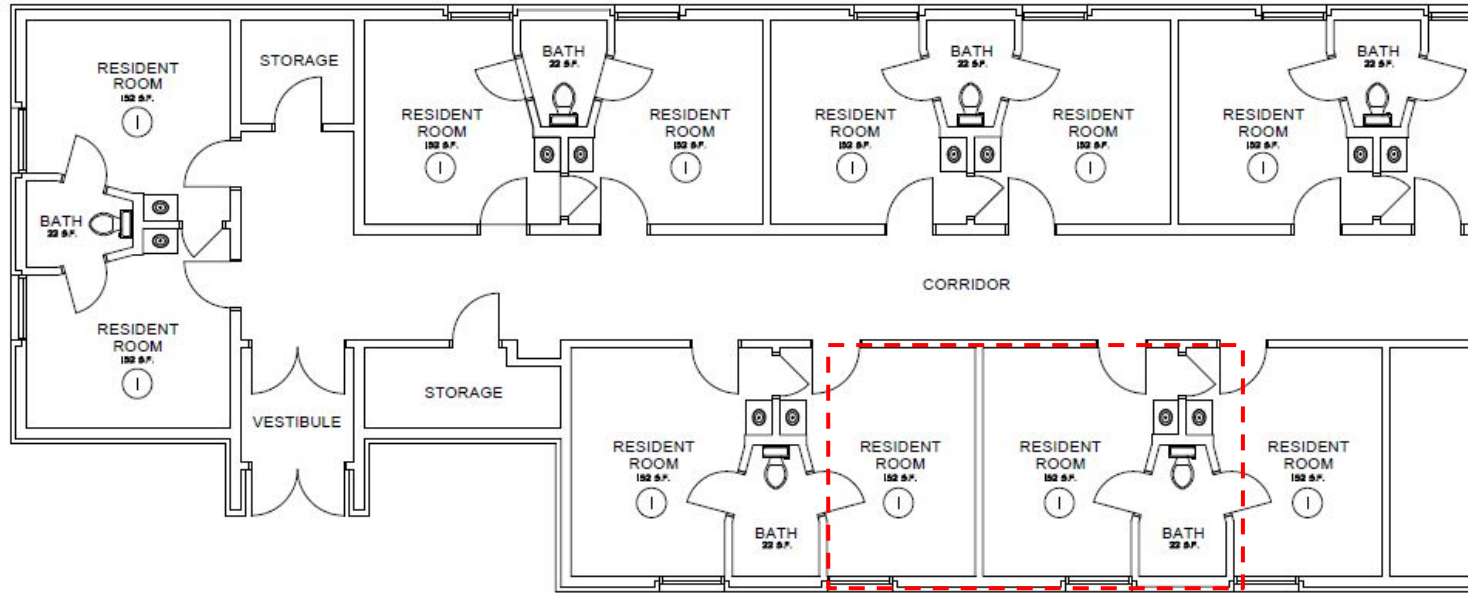
Domiciliary - Proposed



Domiciliary - Project phasing

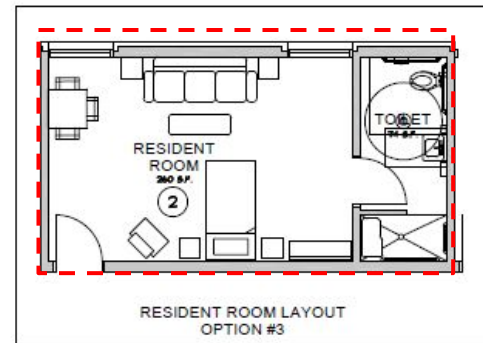
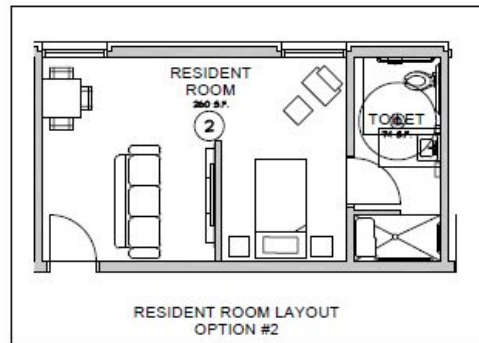
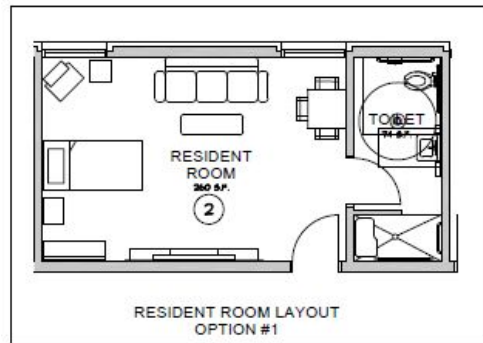


Domiciliary - Patient room changes



ORIGINAL 1983 BUILDING - RESIDENT ROOM LAYOUT

Conversion of shared bathrooms to private suite, over same plumbing



VA Grant Application Status - Domiciliary

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- State applied for VA grant in April 2022
- Total project costs for reconstruction estimated in Jan 2024 at \$88 M
- If funded today, VA would pay \$50,765,000 and State would pay the remainder, \$47,235,000

VA Grant Application Status - Domiciliary

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- State was approved for VA FFY23 priority list in group 1.4.F.
- ◆ This is a very low placement on the list, and not appropriate based on project scope.
- ◆ State appealed placement, no update (as of 6/1/24) on status.
- VA FFY24 priority list will likely be released June/July.

Questions?



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