

FORT BENNING, VETERINARY HOSPITAL COMPLEX WARD  
(Main Post Veterinary Hospital Ward)  
(Building No. 266)  
7140 10th Division Court  
Maneuver Center of Excellence  
Fort Benning Military Reservation  
Chattahoochee County  
Georgia

HABS GA-2426-B  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
100 Alabama St. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VETERINARY HOSPITAL COMPLEX, Hospital Ward  
(Building No. 266)

HABS No. GA-2426-B

Location: 7140 10<sup>th</sup> Division Court, Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia.

USGS 1955, photorevised 1985 Fort Benning, Georgia-Alabama 7.5' topographic quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: E690143 N3582526.

Present Owner: Fort Benning Military Reservation, Georgia.

Present Occupant: U.S. Army 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion and Veterinary Clinic.

Present Use: U.S. Army 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion Headquarters and Veterinary Clinic.

Significance: The Veterinary Hospital Ward, Building No. 266, is a contributing element to the Fort Benning Main Post Historic District, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Chattahoochee County, Georgia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1934. Construction of the veterinary hospital complex buildings was completed on October 12, 1934
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General for the U.S. Army.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army Infantry (presently MCoE), Fort Benning Military Reservation.
4. Original and subsequent occupants: Originally occupied by the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. From 1994 through present, occupied by the U.S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM).
5. Contractor: Smith-Pew Construction Company, Inc, of Atlanta, Georgia.
6. Original plans and construction: Signed by the supervising engineer for the Construction Division Office of the Quartermaster General, the building's original drawings are dated December 1933.

7. Alterations and Additions: As constructed, the veterinary hospital ward, Building No. 266, contained a central corridor; eight single stalls; four double stalls; four box stalls; grain room; saddle room; hay and bedding room; colic stall; and wagon stall. Entry bays were located in the center bay of each side of the building. Windows openings had exterior and interior window grills.

In 1979 and from 1981 to 1982, the interior of Building No. 266 (then the entomology building) was renovated. All of the original veterinary hospital ward stalls were removed and replaced with new concrete masonry wall units. The northeastern half of the building was renovated with the addition of a mixing room; filter room; herbicides storage room; pesticides storage room; powder /dusts room; men's latrine with showers and lockers; and floor slabs to slope down to floor drains. Renovations to the southwestern half of the building include the addition of an equipment work room; storage room for sprayers and parts; storage room for new uniforms and safety equipment; office; break room and kitchen area; and ladies latrine with showers and lockers. A human entry door was added to the northwest rear off of the mechanical room. In 1985, the interior was renovated with following alterations: closure of central drive through bay on northwest wall; demolition of concrete wall units for new floor plan with filter room, mixing room, workshop and four storage rooms, break room; and men's and women's latrines.

Exterior modifications include: replacement of entry bay door on southwest front with double-leaf wood doors; removal and replacement of original metal rolling door on northwest side; enclosure of entry bays on the southeast side and northeast rear with concrete; and removal of original exterior window grills. Historic photographs of Building No. 266 after its construction indicate the entry bays on the sides and rear of the building were constructed with double leaf wood doors and not the rolling doors as depicted on the 1933 drawing.

#### B. Historical Context:

The veterinary hospital complex at Fort Benning consists of three permanent buildings constructed in 1934: Building No. 265, veterinary hospital and barracks; Building No. 266, veterinary hospital ward; and Building No. 267, veterinary hospital ambulance garage. Constructed during the Depression Era building boom on the installation, the complex represents the continued importance of the Army's Veterinary Service in the years preceding World War II. The complex was designed and constructed with the intention of providing permanent housing facilities for the Veterinary Detachment, veterinary equipment, and sick animals. Building No. 266 was designed to house twenty-five horses and or mules and ten dogs.

Building No. 266, the veterinary hospital ward was one of the original structures built in 1934. For historical context and history of the Army's Veterinary Service refer to the veterinary hospital complex overview complex overview in GA HABS No. 2426.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed in the Georgian Revival style, the exterior of Building No. 266 retains a moderate degree of architectural integrity in design, brickwork, and stylistic elements. Despite complete alteration of its interior floor plan, Building No. 266 retains sufficient architectural integrity as a contributing building of the veterinary hospital complex and to the Main Post Historic District.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The T-shaped building is one story with attic. The main block measures 31'-4" x 99'-6" and the front block with drive thru measures 16'-11" x 42'-0"; a total area of 3,828 square feet.
2. Foundations: Reinforced concrete; poured concrete water table.
3. Walls: Brick laid in common bond (5:1).
4. Structural system, framing: Brick; standard wood framing techniques for gabled roof.
5. Porches, stoops: Wagon shed (drive-thru) on southwest front of building.
6. Chimneys: None.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The southwest front has a replacement central double-leaf door, with a Colonial Revival-inspired metal-paneled enframing, and an original single paneled entry door in the right bay. The northwest side has an entrance door and central entry bay with replacement metal rolling door. Original entry bays on southeast side and rear have been filled in with concrete.

- b. Windows: The building has hopper windows with four lights and stone sills. The front southwest façade has three windows flanking the central bay and a grouping of five windows on the southeast side of the front block. The southeast and northwest sides have thirteen windows. Paired windows flank the central bay on the northeast rear. Windows on the northwest half of the main block have metal guards. Each gable end has a single metal louvered window. Two window openings on the southeast side are filled in with concrete.
8. Roof:
- a. Shape, covering: The front block of the building has a side-gabled roof and the main block has a gable end. The roof has four original metal ridge ventilators. Southeast slope has seven metal roof ventilators and three vent pipes. Northwest slope has four metal ventilators and five vent pipes.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Exposed wood rafter tails under eaves on southwest façade, northwest and southwest sides of main block. The building has a copper gutter system.
- C. Description of Interior:
- 1. Floor plans: The original floor plans are attached. Interior of the building was renovated; 1985 floor plans are attached.
  - 2. Stairways: None.
  - 3. Flooring: Concrete. The main hallway and rooms in the southern portion of the building are covered in vinyl composition flooring and the latrines have ceramic tile flooring.
  - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior wall finishes include painted eight inch concrete block, painted drywall, and ceramic tiles. Ceiling finishes are drop ceiling tiles and smooth plaster with paint finish.
  - 5. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors: All interior doorways are modern except for the doorway in the southeast corner office. All interior doors are modern. No original entry bay doors remain.

- b. Windows: Hopper windows on the main block were laid out to provide natural light and ventilation for each stall of the veterinary hospital ward building.
  6. Hardware: All of the original hardware was removed, except for hopper window latches and chains.
  7. Decorative features and trim: All original interior features associated with the stalls in the veterinary hospital ward building were removed.
  8. Mechanical equipment:
    - a. Heating and air-conditioning, ventilation: The building has a series of roof mounted ventilation monitors and vent pipes. It has a Trane Climate Changer HVAC and an exterior AC condenser on northeast rear.
    - b. Lighting: Original lighting system and fixtures were removed. The building has mounted florescent lights and single light ceiling fixtures.
    - c. Plumbing: The building has running water. The only original plumbing feature remaining is the concrete watering trough on the southwest front. During renovations in the 1980s, the following features were added: floor drains; water closet; eyewash; toilets; sinks; shower stalls; and wall mounted emergency shower.
  9. Original furnishings: All original furnishings were removed.
- D. Site: The building is located on the northwest side of the veterinary hospital building, Building No. 265, at the northwestern end of Towne Street. Building No. 266 is the middle building of the three primary buildings in the veterinary hospital complex. The front of the building faces southwest. Towne Street runs through the drive thru (former wagon shed) on the southwestern façade. Tenth Division Court terminates near the northeast rear of the building. A grass lawn occupies the area between Building Nos. 265 and 266.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

#### A. Architectural Drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering

1981 Renovation of Entomology Buildings 266 and 1396, Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Benning Post Engineer Office, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in

Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing numbers FE-21238-21239.

- 1982 Demolition Plan, Bldg. 266. Renovation of Entomology Buildings 266 and 1396, Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Benning Post Engineer Office, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing numbers FE 23379-23380.
- 1985 Renovate Entomology Facility Building 266, Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Benning Post Engineer Office, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing numbers DEH 31611.A2-31612.A3; DEH 31614.A5; and DEH 31616.A7.

Fort Benning Post Engineer Office

- 1953 Bldg. No. 266. Fort Benning Post Engineer Office, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing number PE 2321.

Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division

- 1933 Fort Benning, Georgia, Veterinary Hospital Ward, Plans Elevations, and Details. United States Army Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing number SAV 6406-2816.

B. Early Views:

Historic Photographs: From the collection at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia (see Part V - Graphic Documentation).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Office of the Constructing Quartermaster

- 1934 *Completion Report for the Construction of Veterinary Hospital Building, Veterinary hospital, and Ambulance Garage Building at Fort Benning, Georgia,*

Number 6, War Department, Quartermaster Corps, Construction Division, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Real Property Office, Fort Benning  
1944-2007 Building 266, Real Property cards on file in the Office of Real Property, Master Planning Department, Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning Georgia.

2. Secondary and published sources: see HABS No. GA-2426.

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

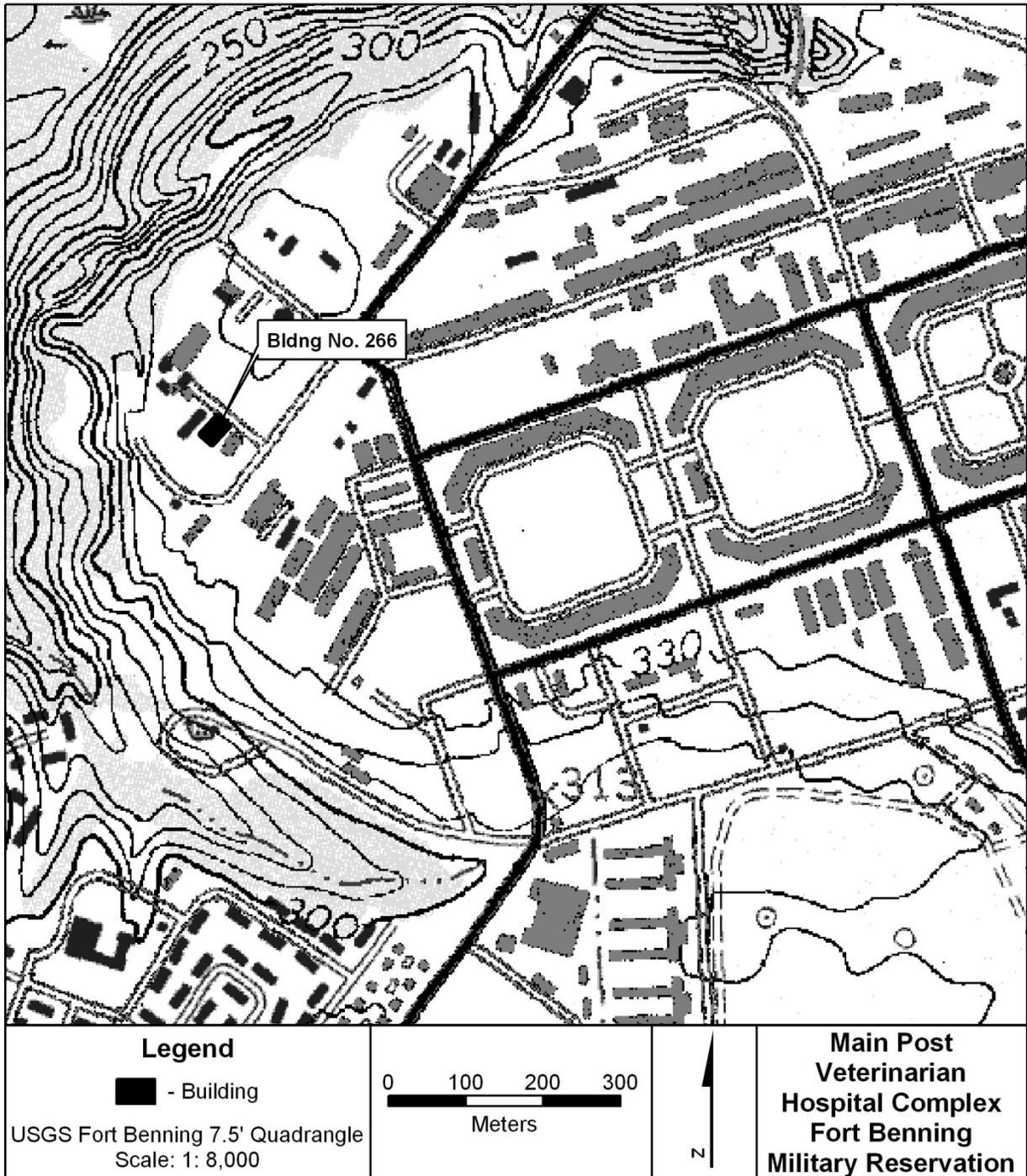
Constructed in 1934, the original veterinary hospital complex buildings, Building Nos. 265-267 are contributing elements of the Main Post Historic District. A Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Veterinary Clinic (Veterinary Hospital), Building No. 265, was required due to the proposed alterations of the interior spaces of the building. Building Nos. 266 and 267 were included in HABS No. GA-2426 because Building No. 265 is part of a complex that historically functioned as a cohesive unit to meet the mission of the U.S. Army Veterinary Service at Fort Benning Military Reservation.

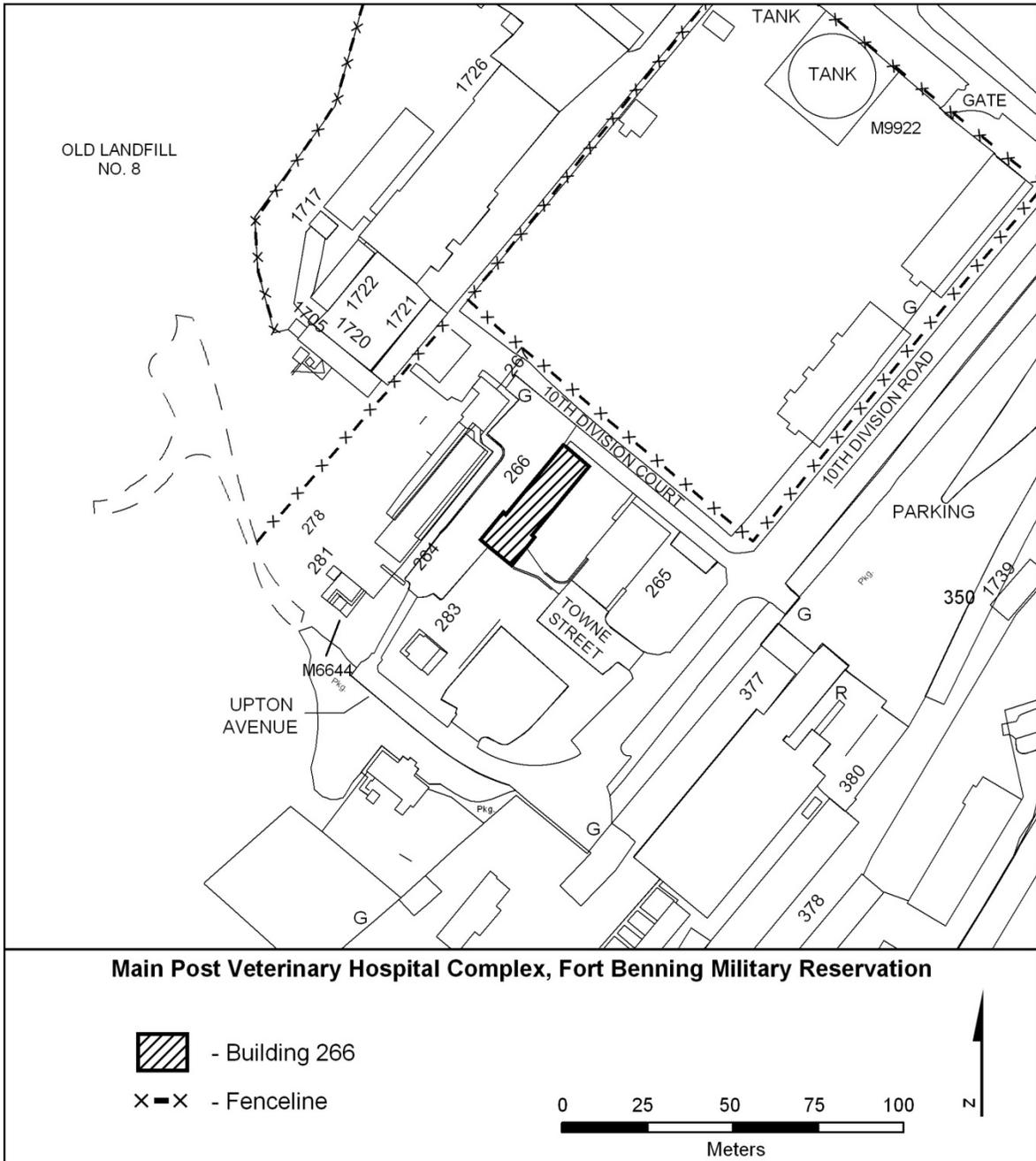
The veterinary clinic, Building No. 265, is scheduled for a phased renovation project of the 3,500-sq. ft. first floor and basement to provide updated exam rooms, surgery, surgery preparation, laboratory, pharmacy, and support spaces. During the renovation project, Building No. 266 will be utilized as a transitional space to allow uninterrupted operation of the veterinary clinic. Building No. 266 was partially renovated several years ago and interior modifications to the building will be kept to a minimum. The project does not include exterior work or repairs to Building No. 266.

At the request of Fort Benning's Environmental Management Division, fieldwork was completed in April 2010. The final documentation was prepared by Architectural Historian Christine M. Longiaru and Principal Investigator Stacey Griffin; Rachel Kyker, Editor; Mark Drumlevitch, Large-Format Photographer; all of Panamerican Consultants, Inc., 924 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404, (205) 556-3096.

PART V. GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION:

A. Location Maps





Site plan for the Veterinary Hospital Complex. Electronic database drawing available in Plans and Support, Master Planning Office, Directorate of Public Works, Building 6, Fort Benning, Georgia.

B. Historic Photographs



View of the southwest façade and southeast side of the Veterinary Hospital Ward, Building No. 266, facing northwest. In the left background, beyond the central bay of the wagon shed, is a wooden sign for the veterinary hospital. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/39:Buildings – Industrial Buildings).



View of the southeast side and northeast rear of the Veterinary Hospital Ward, Building No. 266, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, and Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/39:Buildings – Industrial Buildings).



View of the northwest side of the Veterinary Hospital Ward, Building No. 266, facing south. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/39:Buildings – Industrial Buildings).



View of the northwest side and southwest façade of the Veterinary Hospital Ward, Building No. 266, facing northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/39:Buildings – Industrial Buildings).



Interior corridor of the Veterinary Hospital Ward with box stalls in middle ground. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



Interior corridor of Veterinary Hospital Ward with open stalls in foreground. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



Single stall, double stalls, and box stall (from left to right) in the Veterinary Hospital Ward. Note original interior window grilles. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



Dog Kennel, Veterinary Hospital Ward. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49: Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).