

ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 12  
(Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital, Garage)  
Southfield Expressway & Outer Drive  
Allen Park  
Wayne County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-427-G

HABS  
MI-427G

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL BUILDING 12 (Garage)

HABS No. MI-427-G

- Location:** Southfield Expressway and Outer Drive  
Allen Park, Wayne County, Michigan
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420
- Present Use:** Vacant.
- Significance:** Building 12, the Garage, was the second building to be completed at the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital in 1939. The building exhibits characteristic Georgian Revival influences, typical of the Allen Park facility and of VA hospitals nationwide. The building's symmetry, side gable form, cornice returns, and sash windows are all reflections of the Georgian Revival style that was common for VA hospitals.
- The Garage building contains seven bays that open into one large space. Workshops, offices and bathrooms are situated off to one side. This design, original to the construction, remains unaltered.

## **PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- A. Date of Erection:** 1939.
- B. Architect:** Anonymous Veterans Administration Construction Division staff architect.
- C. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, Uses:** The building is part of a Veterans Hospital complex constructed for and owned by the United States Government from 1939 to the present. Building 12 has continually served as a garage since its construction.
- D. Original Plans and Construction:** The original drawing (showing the first floor plan) is dated November 5, 1937. The Veterans Administrations' Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Director of Construction, and Chief of the Technical Division signed the drawing. Except for a minor interior alteration, the building retains its original appearance.
- E. Alterations and Additions:** One new interior room was constructed.

## **PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

### **A. General Statement:**

- 1. Architectural Character:** Building 12, the Garage, is a 1½-story building. Its Georgian Revival style complements the other original 1939 buildings in the complex, including Building 1, Building 6, and Building 7.
- 2. Condition of Fabric:** The building is in good condition; it is physically sound and is largely unaltered from its original appearance.

### **B. Description of Exterior:**

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The overall dimensions of the building measure 98'-0" x 42'-0". The building is rectangular in plan and is seven bays long and four bays wide.
- 2. Foundations:** The foundation is poured concrete.
- 3. Walls:** The walls are constructed of common bond red brick, and feature a low concrete base around all four sides at the bottom.

4. **Structural System, Framing:** The building is a brick masonry structure. The roof is wood framed and supported by six steel scissor trusses.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:** There are no porches, stoops, balconies, or bulkheads present.
6. **Chimneys:** There are no chimneys present.
7. **Openings:**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors:** The main entrance to the building is located near the southwest corner of the west wall. It contains a single metal door with a narrow, vertical rectangular window. There are also seven large vehicular entrances, all of which are evenly spaced in the south wall. The center vehicular bay is taller than the others, adding a centralized focus to the building. All bays contain folding wood overhead doors with twelve lights divided into two rows.
  - b. **Windows and Shutters:** There are six wood-frame industrial-style windows, three in the west wall and three in the east wall. They have twenty panes, five across and four down. The top six panes in the center are an awning window. There is also a six-over-six awning window near the north end of the west wall, which is balanced by the main entrance near the south end of the west wall. A six-light fixed window is located above this entrance. The north wall has ten windows evenly distributed along its length. Starting at its east end are two six-over-six awning windows, four twenty-pane windows with central awnings, and four six-over-six awning windows. There are two semi-circular windows, one in each gable, with brick header trim and a limestone keystone above. All the windows in the garage have limestone sills.
8. **Roof:**
  - a. **Shape, Covering:** The garage has an end-gable roof with a moderate pitch. The roof is sheathed in treated terra cotta tiles manufactured to imitate slate shingles.
  - b. **Cornice, Eaves:** A simple wood cornice with boxed returns runs along the length of the building under the eaves on the north and south sides.
  - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers present.

### C. Description of Interior:

1. **Floor Plans:** The building is a one-story, open plan structure with a locker room, restroom, storage area, office, and shop located in the first two bays of the southwestern end of the building. A second office is located in the first bay on the northeastern end of the building. The remaining space is the garage. The building is entered through a door on the west façade. Vehicles enter the building through seven doors on the south façade.
2. **Stairways:** There are no stairways in the building.
3. **Flooring:** The floor is unfinished concrete.
4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The interior is unfinished, exposing the brick masonry structure of the building as well as the mechanical, electrical, and ventilation systems. The interior walls that form the locker room, restroom, storage, and office space in the west corner are concrete masonry units. The walls of the office in the northeast corner are drywall. The partition between the locker room and storage area is chain link fencing. The entire interior is painted white. The restroom has tan 12" tile running halfway up the wall. The wall space above the tile is painted white. The wooden roof trusses and roof deck are visible from the interior of the building.
5. **Openings:**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors:** The exterior standard-size and roll-up garage doors are of paneled wood within steel frames. The garage doors have two rows of six panes of glass along their top. The interior doors are two panel doors set within wood frames with the exception of the door to the office in the north corner of the building and the door from the locker room to the main garage area, which are single panel wood veneer doors set in a metal frame.
  - b. **Windows:** The sash windows have wood frames and no interior trim or windowsill.
6. **Decorative Features and Trim:** There are no decorative features or trim.
7. **Mechanical Equipment:**
  - a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** The heating system is steam-powered and is original to the building. Radiators are located throughout the building and have been left uncovered. Cooling is provided by large electric industrial cooling units located on platforms set between the trusses.

**b. Lighting:** The building is lit by fluorescent fixtures suspended from the roof trusses.

**c. Plumbing:** The bathroom contains an original porcelain sink and toilet.

**D. Site:**

- 1. General Setting and Orientation:** The Garage is located on the east side of the complex, just to the east of Building 11, the Laundry Building. It faces south towards Building 10, the Boiler House. To its east is Snow Road.
- 2. Historic Landscape Design:** None.
- 3. Outbuildings:** None.

**PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION**

This complex was recorded by URS Corporation, Gaithersburg, Maryland, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, from January to March of 2002. Architectural Historians Amy Barnes, Anne Brockett, and Caleb Christopher completed the fieldwork for this project in January 2002. The photographer was Andrew Bagnat and the Historian was E. Madeleine Scheerer. The project was reviewed by Fred Holycross and Mark R. Edwards.

As stipulated in the deed in which Henry and Clara Ford donated the land on which the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital is located, when the property ceases to be used as a veterans hospital, the land is to revert in ownership to the Ford family heirs. Since inpatient and outpatient veteran medical service is now provided at the John D. Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit, which opened in 1996, and the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital ceased all operations in 2002, the land is to be turned over to the Ford Motor Land Development Corporation (FMLDC) in compliance with the original deed. A Congressional appropriation of \$14 million, to be disbursed to the FMLDC over a seven-year period beginning in 2002, was designated for the demolition of the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital complex.

## **PART IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

### **A. Collections:**

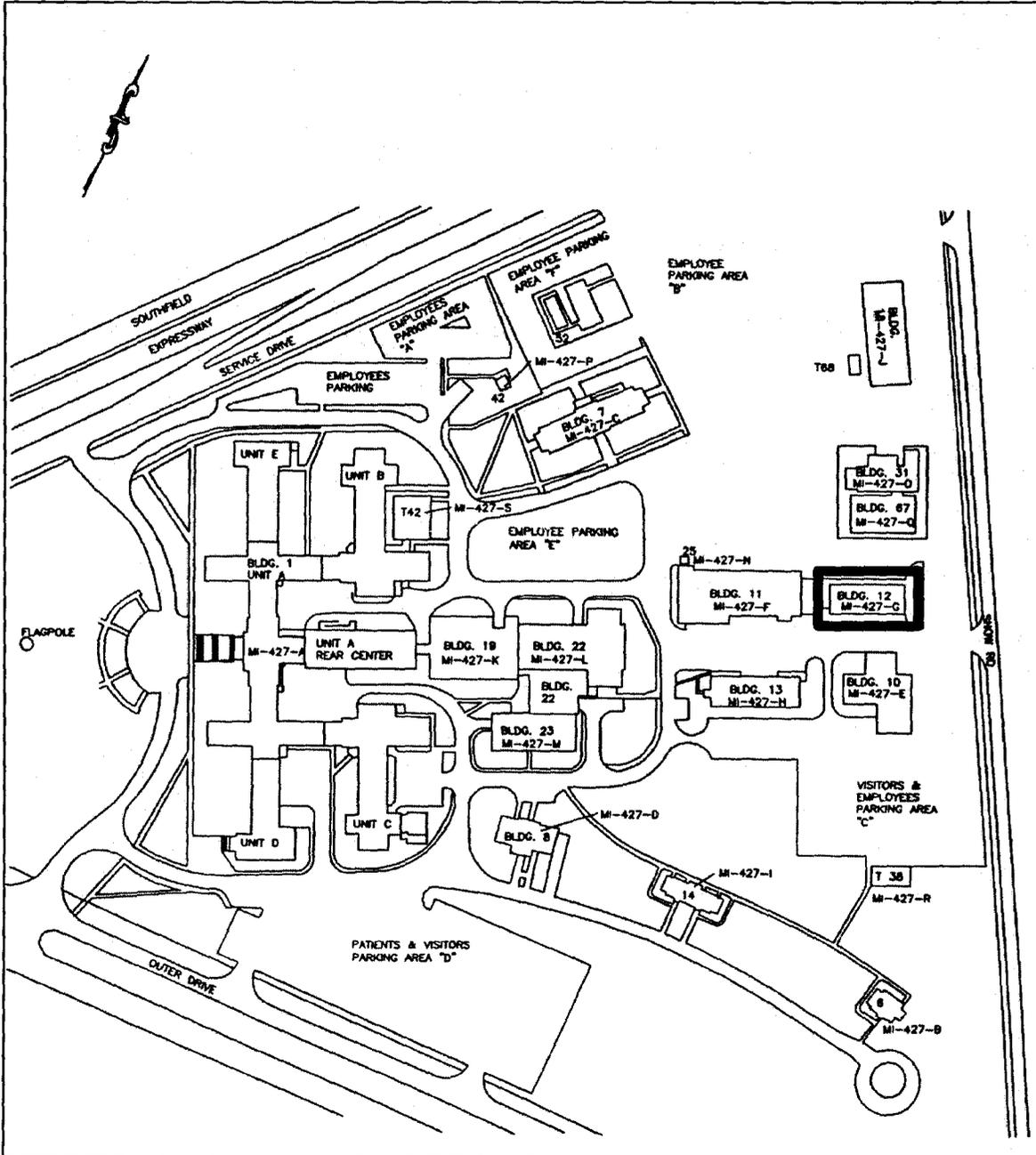
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Information and Media Section Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Audio Visual Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Office of Facilities Management Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Photograph Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Audio Visual Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Photograph Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.

### **B. References:**

- Ching, Francis D. K. *Building Construction Illustrated*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1997.
- Hoke, John Ray, Jr. *Architectural Graphic Standards*, 9th ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1994.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.
- Mollenhoff, Gjore J. and Karen R. Tupek. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for Allen Park Veterans Administration Medical Center," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 1980.

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Site Plan



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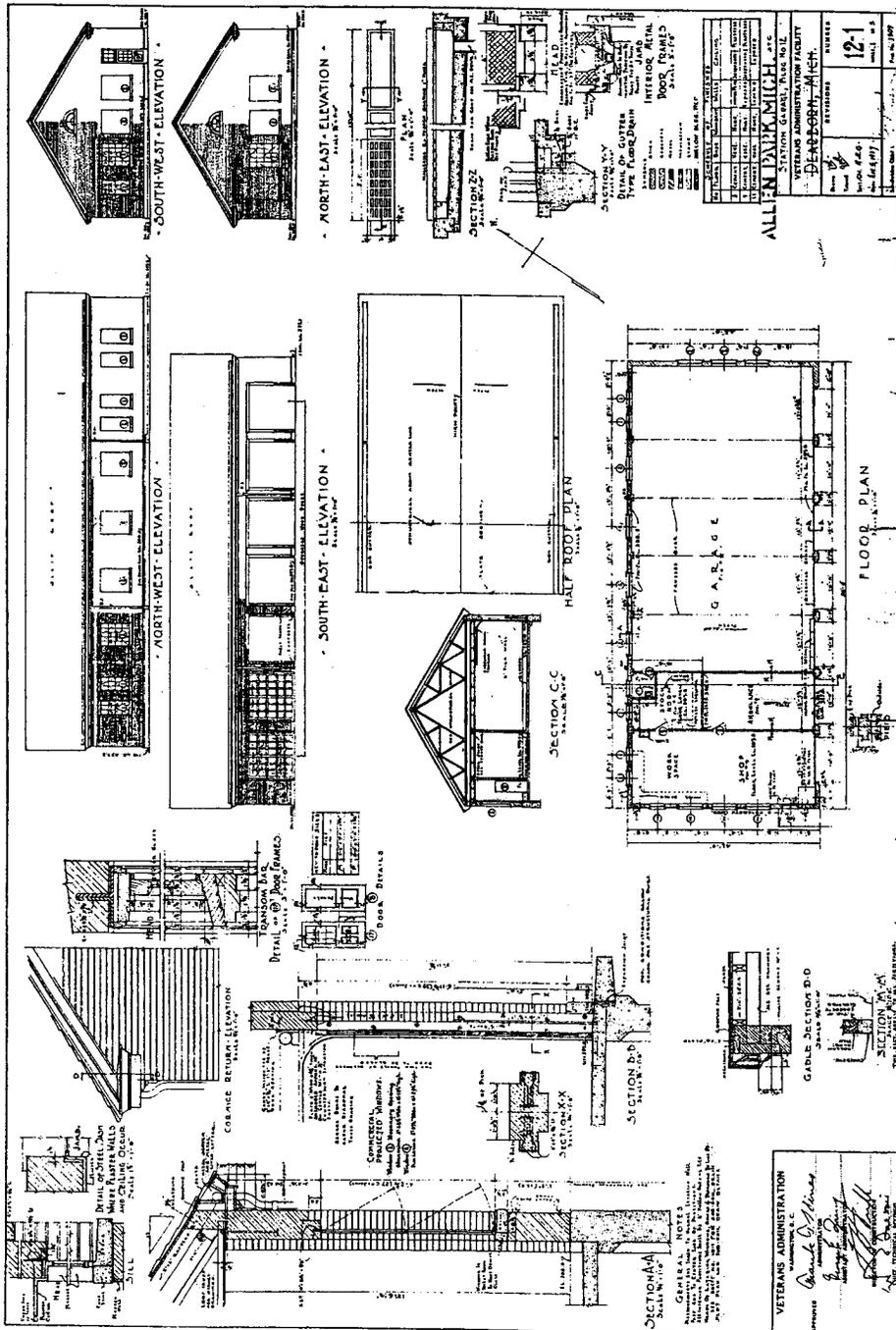
Reduced Copy of Current Plan, February 2002

This architectural drawing set includes the following components:

- Elevations:** NORTH-WEST-ELEVATION, SOUTH-WEST-ELEVATION, NORTH-EAST-ELEVATION, and SOUTH-EAST-ELEVATION.
- Sections:** SECTION A-A, SECTION B-B, SECTION C-C, SECTION D-D, SECTION E-E, SECTION F-F, SECTION G-G, SECTION H-H, SECTION I-I, SECTION J-J, SECTION K-K, SECTION L-L, SECTION M-M, SECTION N-N, SECTION O-O, SECTION P-P, SECTION Q-Q, SECTION R-R, SECTION S-S, SECTION T-T, SECTION U-U, SECTION V-V, SECTION W-W, SECTION X-X, SECTION Y-Y, SECTION Z-Z.
- Plans:** HALF ROOF PLAN, FLOOR PLAN, and GARAGE PLAN.
- Details:** WINDOW DETAIL, DOOR DETAIL, CORNER RETURN ELEVATION, DETAIL OF STEEL JOIST AND CEILING ORGANS, and GIRTS DETAIL.
- General Notes:** Located in the bottom right corner, providing project specifications.
- Approval:** VETERANS ADMINISTRATION stamp with signatures and dates.
- Project Information:** ALLEN PARK MICH, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FACILITY, and FILE FOLDER NO. 44.

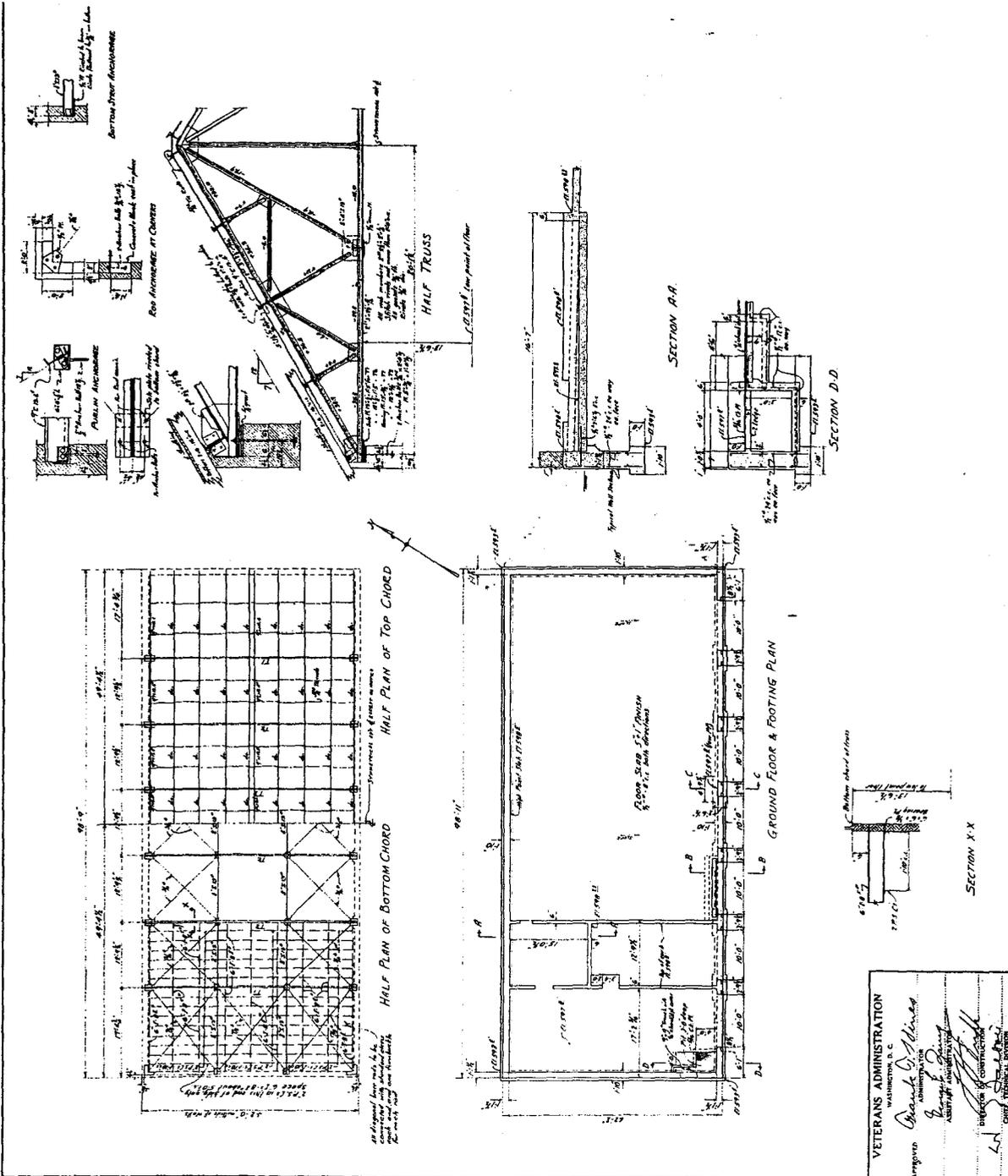
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Reduced Copy of Historic Plan, dated November 5, 1937. On file at the John D. Dingell  
 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan



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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
 WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 DIVISION OF ARCHITECTURE  
 APPROVED: *George E. Quinn*  
 CHIEF ARCHITECT