

ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. T38
(Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital, Staff Garage)
Southfield Expressway & Outer Drive
Allen Park
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-427-R

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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 T38
(Staff Garage)**

HABS No. MI-427-R

- 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 T38 was constructed in 1948 as a staff car garage, a function it appears to have served continuously. It is one of the few frame buildings on the hospital complex. Stylistically, it reflects typical residential car garages of the period. It is detached from the residences with which it is associated and has a gable roof and multiple car bays with rolling metal-frame doors. The building appears to have been built for use by the occupants of the Director's Quarters (Building 6) and Duplex Staff Residence (Building 14).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Date of Erection:** 1948.
- 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 T38 continually served as a garage since its construction.
- D. Original Plans and Construction:** No original plans for this building could be found.
- E. Alterations and Additions:** No alterations or additions have occurred.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural Character:** Building T38, which served as the staff garage, is a one story vernacular structure.
- 2. Condition of Fabric:** The building is in fair condition due to neglect.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The overall dimensions of the building measure approximately 40'-0" x 20'-0". The rectangular building is one story tall.
- 2. Foundations:** The foundation is poured concrete.
- 3. Walls:** The walls are covered with plywood.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The building is a wood frame structure. The roof is wood framed. The floor is poured concrete.
- 5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:** There are no porches, stoops, balconies, or bulkheads.
- 6. Chimneys:** There are no chimneys present.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors:** The garage has four entrances, a standard doorway and three vehicle bays. The front entrance has a simple plywood door; the vehicle entries each have jointed plywood overhead garage doors.
- b. Windows and Shutters:** There is the remnant of a one-over-one window in the west wall, and a louvered ventilation opening in the gable ends.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering:** The side-gabled roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, Eaves:** There is no cornice or eave decoration.
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers present.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plans:** The interior was inaccessible due to locked doors.
- 2. Stairways:** There are no stairways in the building.
- 3. Flooring:** The floor is unfinished concrete.
- 4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:** Unknown.
- 5. Openings:**
 - a. Doorways and Doors:** Unknown.
 - b. Windows:** Unknown.
- 6. Decorative Features and Trim:** There are no decorative features or trim.
- 7. Hardware:** There is no notable hardware within the building.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** There is no heating, air conditioning, or ventilation system within the building.
- b. **Lighting:** Unknown.
- c. **Plumbing:** Unknown.

D. Site:

- 1. **General Setting and Orientation:** This building is located near the southeast corner of the complex, along the south edge of Visitor and Employee Parking Area "C".
- 2. **Historic Landscape Design:** Mature ornamental coniferous and deciduous shrubs surround the building.
- 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 Baugnet 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:

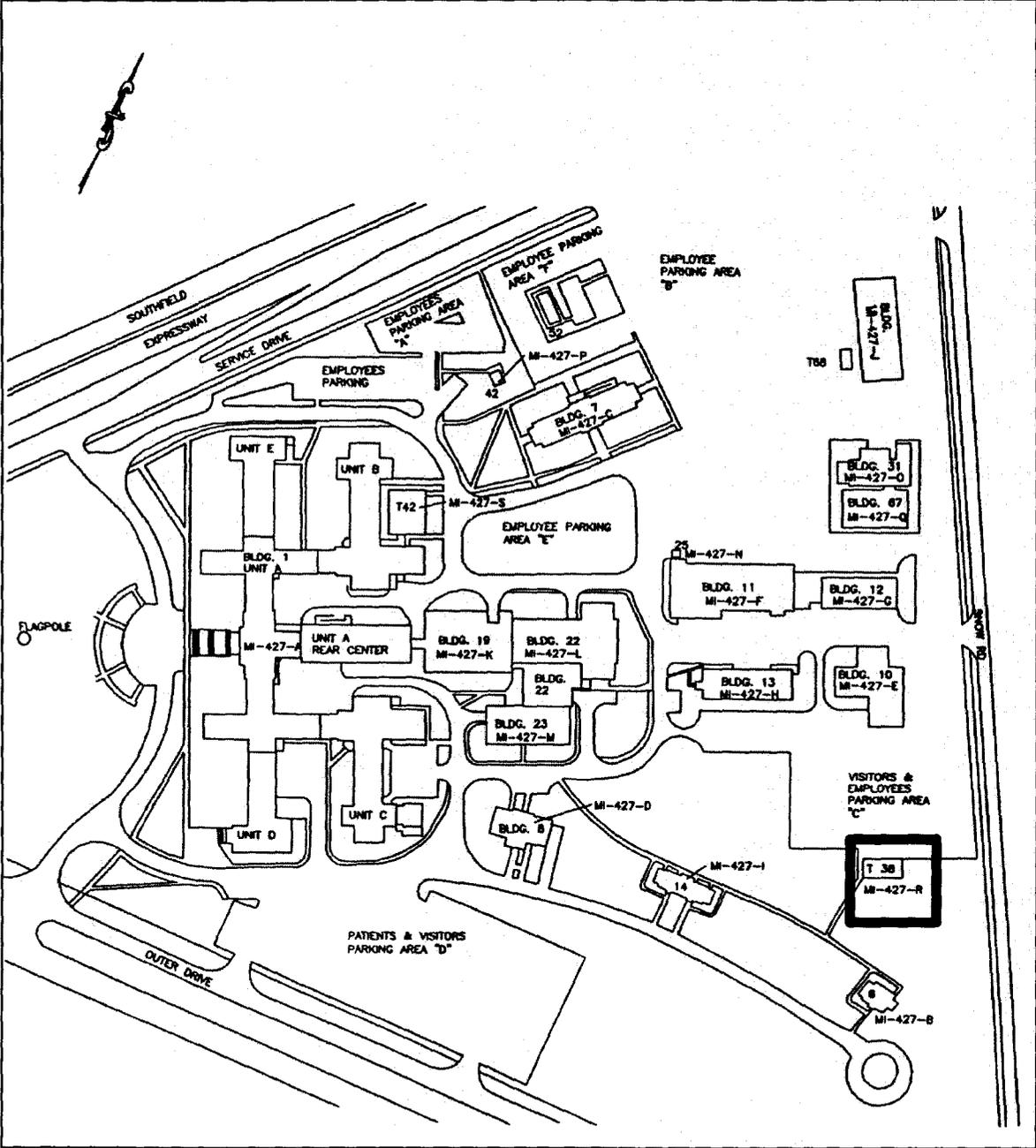
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. 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*, 2nd 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

