

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, BUILDING NO.
57
200 East Beach Boulevard
Gulfport
Harrison County
Mississippi

HABS MS-269-O
HABS MS-269-O

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MS-269-O

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ACUTE INFIRMARY TREATMENT BUILDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, GULFPORT MEDICAL CENTER (Building No.57)

HABS No. MS-269-O

Location: East Beach Blvd, Gulfport, Harrison County, MS

Significance: The Gulfport Medical Center, originally referred to as Gulfport Veterans Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was established in 1923. It is among the earliest Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals designed from a modern prototype plan and health care delivery philosophy. Building 57, built in 1946, is one several buildings added to the original hospital complex.

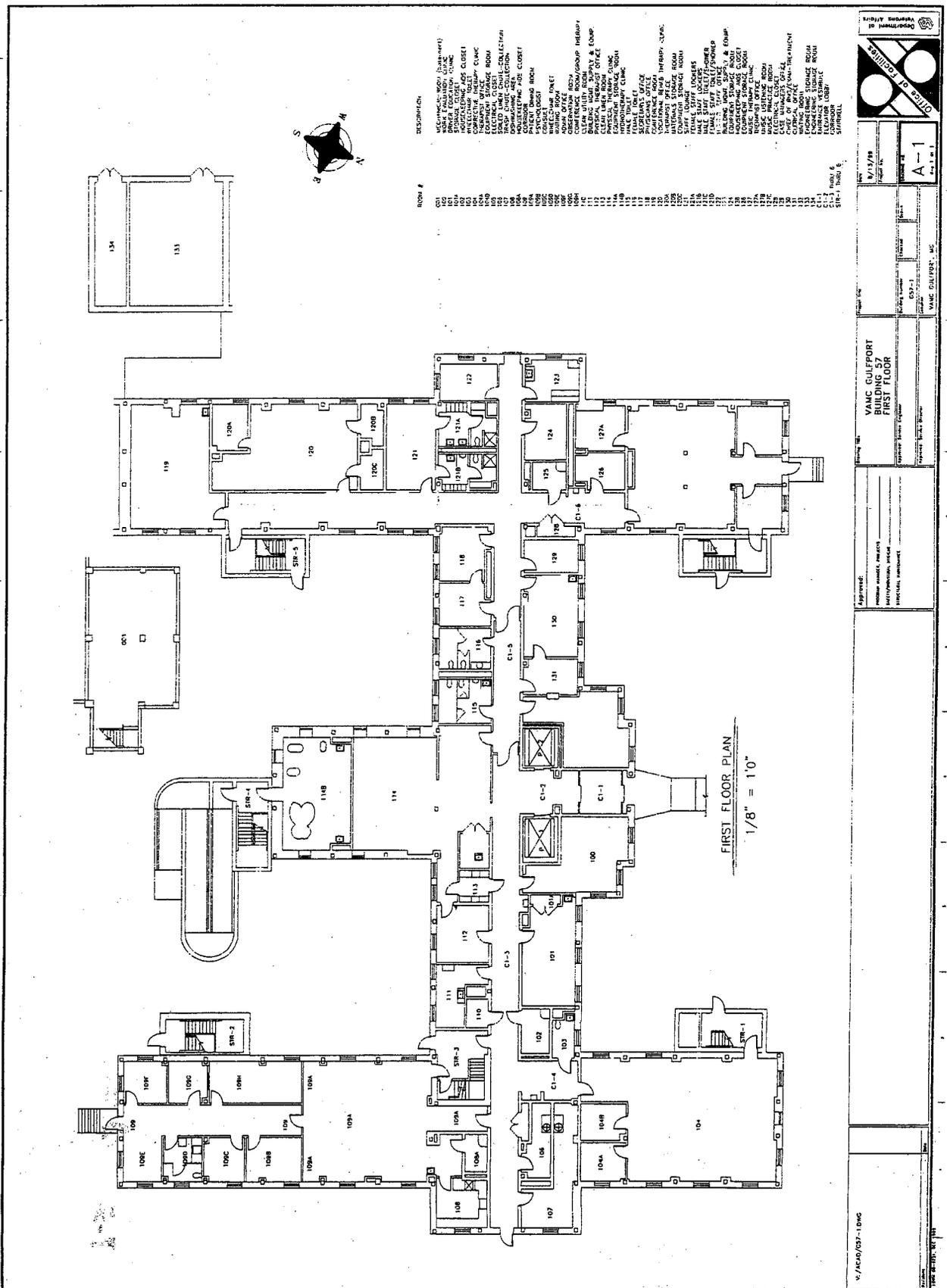
Description: Located at the southwest corner of the hospital grounds, Building 57 is oriented due north, on axis with Building 62. A three story building containing 57,648 square feet, its style can be termed Spanish Mission, expressed in the parapet top, round arched windows, quatrefoil window, wrought iron railings, and "balcony" on front pavilion. Constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow block, the original exterior wall finish was stucco, with door and window trim of cast concrete, with tile roof. The upper two floors contained 16-25 bed wards, day rooms and porches with safety detention screens. The basement contained electro- and hydro-therapy rooms, electroencephalograph room, occupational therapy rooms, and a dining room.

This building was updated several times to meet changes in medical practice, and as a result the original fiber and significance of the interior no longer exist. Open wards and porches have been divided into 2-4 bed rooms. Exterior walls are currently covered in Dryvit cladding. The original divided light wood sashes have been replaced with anodized aluminum insulated windows. Building 57 is the only building on the hospital campus that retains its original polychrome cast concrete molding.

History: In 1921 the newly established Veterans Bureau had initiated a massive construction campaign to produce prototype buildings that would promote the latest practices in medicine and psychiatry. With campus-like sites on the outskirts of towns, the fifty properties derived from this prototype, built in the 1920's, 30's and early 40's, constituted the "Architectural Set." Building 57 is one of the latest examples of this coherent design philosophy within the Veterans Bureau. The VA vacated the Gulfport Medical Center in 2005, just prior to Hurricane Katrina, which heavily damaged the site.

Sources: Original construction and subsequent alteration drawings, Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center.
Kathleen Schamel, Historic Preservation web pages, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, <http://www.va.gov/facmgt/historic/>

Historian: Joseph E.B. Elliott, contract photographer and historian, 2008.



ROOM #	DESCRIPTION
102	WASH. CALLING STATION (WASH)
103	WASH. CALLING STATION (WASH)
104	STORAGE CLOSET
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VAMC GULFPORT BUILDING 57 FIRST FLOOR

1/8" = 10'

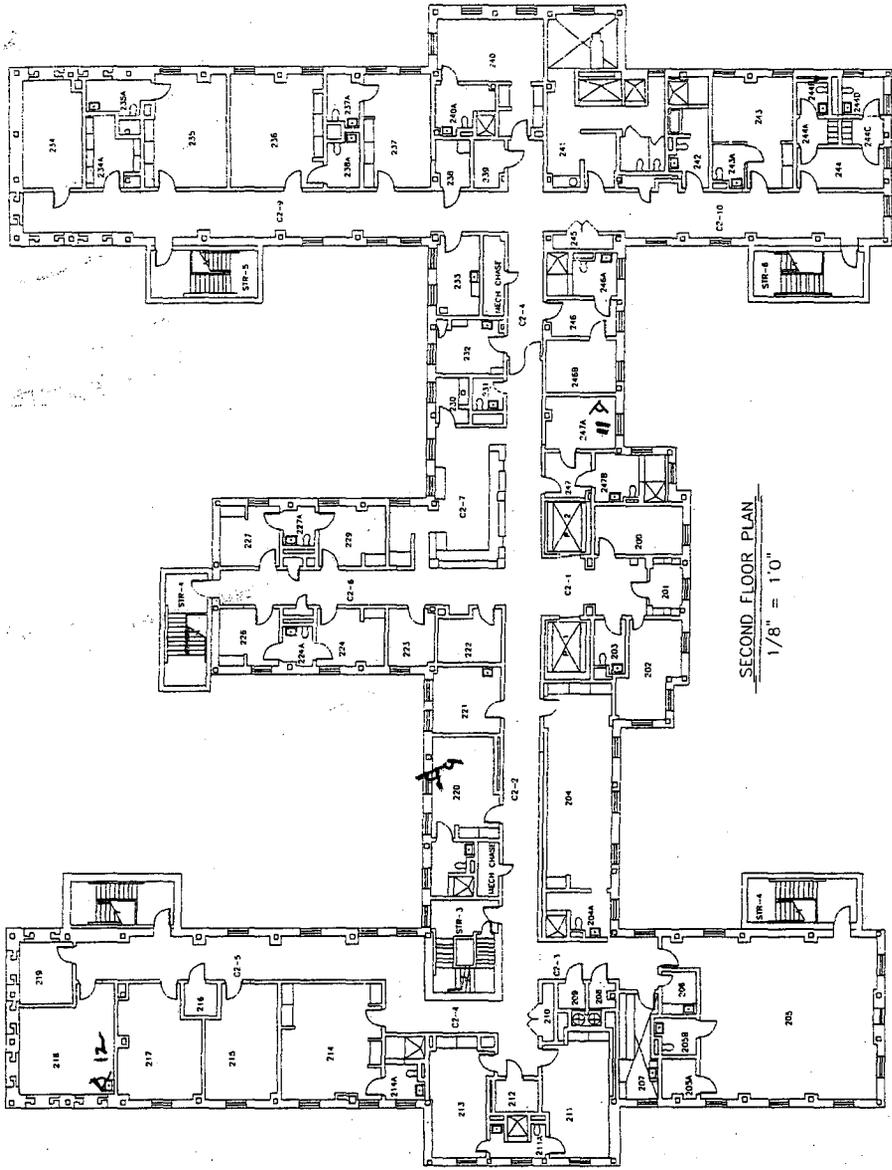
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CHECKED BY: [Signature]
APPROVED BY: [Signature]

SCALE: A-1
SHEET: 1 OF 1

PROJECT: VAMC GULFPORT, MS



- ROOM #
- 201 SPECIAL MESSAGE OFFICE
 - 202 WARD STORAGE
 - 203 VISITORS LOBBY
 - 204 WHEELCHAIR TONEL
 - 205 FOUR BED ROOM
 - 206 BATH
 - 207 DENTIST/RECEPTION
 - 208 WAITING AREA
 - 209 KITCHEN
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1/8" = 10"

<p>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE</p>	
<p>DATE: 8/13/88</p>	<p>SCALE: AS SHOWN</p>
<p>PROJECT: VANG GUINPORT BUILDING SECOND FLOOR</p>	
<p>DESIGNER: [Name]</p>	
<p>APPROVED: [Signature]</p>	
<p>DATE: 8/13/88</p>	
<p>PROJECT: VANG GUINPORT, 2DWG</p>	

