

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 3, BUILDING NO. 4A
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building 4A)
Sandy Hook Bay
Colts Neck vicinity
Monmouth County
New Jersey

HAER NJ-142-B-1
HAER NJ-142-B-1

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Custom House, 3rd Floor
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 3, BUILDING 4A
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building 4A)

HAER No. NJ-142-B-1

Location: Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Earle
(currently Naval Weapons Station [NWS]
Earle)
Colts Neck Vicinity
Monmouth County
New Jersey

USGS Sandy Hook, NJ Quadrangle, 1:24,000
UTM Coordinates: 18.580410.4478233

Construction Dates: ca. 2000

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Department of the Navy

Present Use: Powerhouse/Generator, Break Shop

Significance: Funded in part by the Army, Naval Ammunition Depot Earle was commissioned in 1943 as the only major ordnance transshipment depot on the East Coast. Its mission was to facilitate the movement of ordnance from stateside production and storage facilities to the Navy and Army forces, then in the European theater of World War II. Building 4A on Pier 3 was constructed ca. 2000 to house a powerhouse/generator and break shop in support of pier activities.

Project
Information:

The Department of the Navy plans to replace Pier 2, Pier 3, Trestle 2, and Trestle 3 at NWS Earle. These structures, and many of their associated buildings, were identified as meeting National Register Criterion A during a cultural resources investigation conducted at NWS Earle in 1999. The Department of the Navy and the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (NJ SHPO) have not reached an agreement concerning the specific definition or boundaries of the National Register-eligible architectural resources at NWS Earle to date; however, an assumption of eligibility for Pier 2, Pier 3, Trestle 2, and Trestle 3, as well as the historic buildings associated with these structures, was made for the purposes of this project. To mitigate the adverse effect of the proposed project to the piers, trestles, and associated buildings, the Department of the Navy, the NJ SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement stipulating written, graphic, and photographic documentation of the structures. This documentation was undertaken to fulfill these stipulations.

Historians:

Elizabeth Amisson, Sarah Farley, and Robert F. Panepinto, August 2003

Part I: Historical Information

Building 4A, constructed ca. 2000 at the southern corner of Pier 3, replaced the pier's decontamination and smokehouse, which was constructed at the same location in 1944 and was identical in form and function to Building 4N on Pier 2.¹ Building 4A currently functions as a powerhouse/generator and break shop.²

¹ Shaw, Naess and Murphy and Frank Grad and Sons, *Ships Piers and Approaches, U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Earle, New Jersey* (N.p.: Shaw, Naess and Murphy and Frank Grad and Sons, 1944), Y & D Drawing No. 279447. Hereafter, Y & D Drawing No.; The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc, "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey" (Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999), 74; David Smith, Base Civil Engineer, 2003, conversation with authors, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ, 2 April.

² Smith, 2003.

Part II: Descriptive Information

Building 4A is a one-story, four bay wide by one bay deep masonry building constructed ca. 2000 at the southern corner of Pier 3. Building 4A is in good condition. It replaced an older building also designated Building 4A in the same location. The original Building 4A was constructed at the same time as the pier (1944) and was identical in form and function to Building 4N on Pier 2.³

Building 4A rests atop a concrete slab. The exterior of the building is covered with stucco. Window openings throughout the building contain single and paired, aluminum, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The entrances contain metal doors. Box lights are located above all of the entrances. The building's main roof is hipped, and a cross gable projects slightly from the southwest end of the façade (northwest elevation). The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The interior spaces in Building 4A support the building's current functions as a powerhouse/generator and break shop; however, the specific functions of rooms are unknown due to a lack of original construction drawings or labeled floor plans.

No interior photographs of Building 4A are included in this documentation package. The building's interior spaces were modern and lacked significant architectural detail, and photographs would not yield useful information. In addition, the rooms were not large enough to yield valuable photographs conveying the interior layout.

³ Y & D Drawing No. 279447.

Part III: Sources of Information

A. Engineering Drawings

Dewberry & Davis. *Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Plan, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle*. Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1999. Printed from a CD provided by Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office.

Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office. *Building Use Location, Trestle & Piers, Waterfront Area Map*. Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office, 1994. Printed from a CD provided by Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office.

Shaw, Naess and Murphy and Frank Grad and Sons. *Ships Piers and Approaches, U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Earle, New Jersey*. N.p.: Shaw, Naess and Murphy and Frank Grad and Sons, 1944. Printed from a CD provided by Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office.

B. Interviews

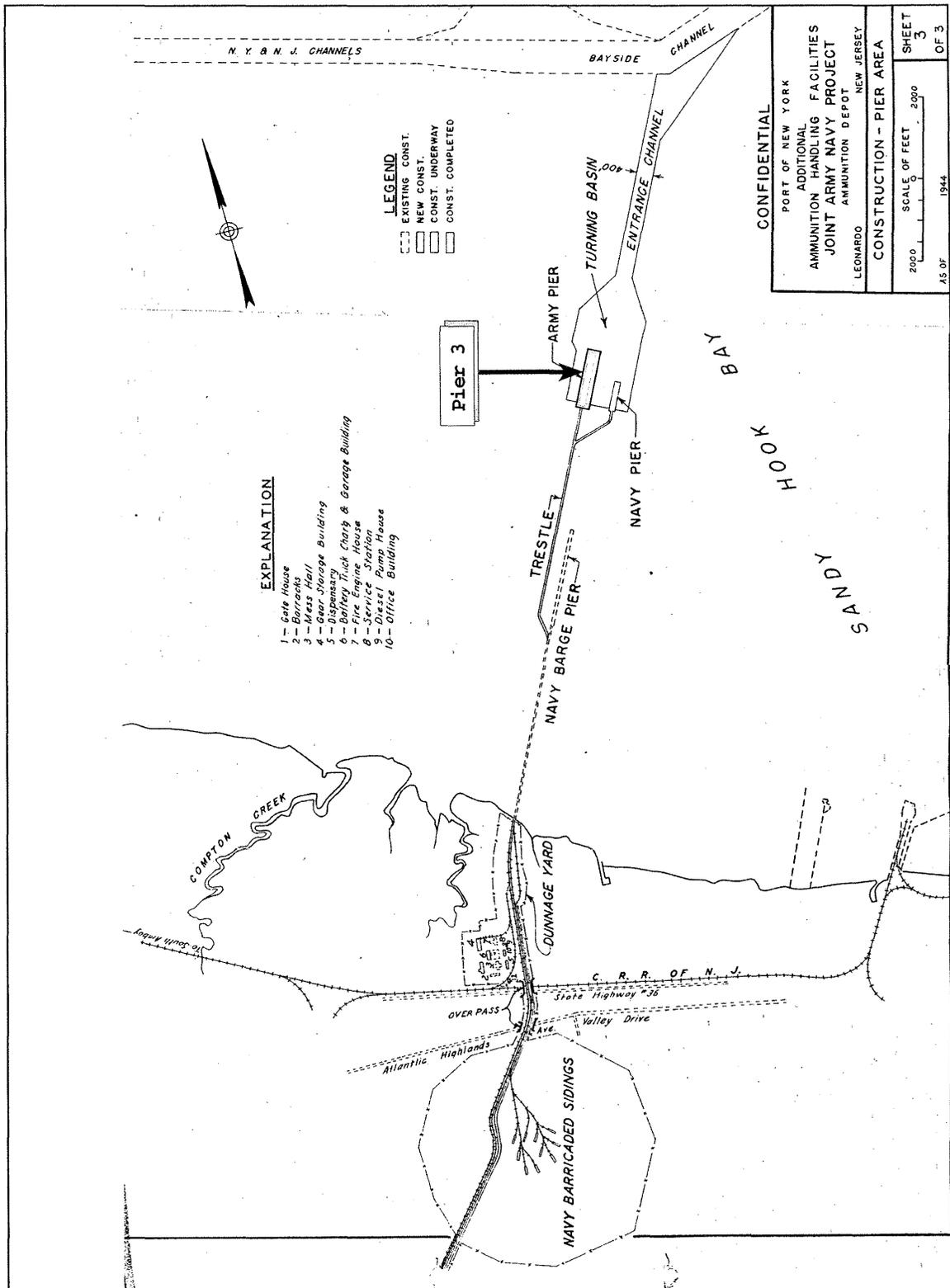
Smith, David, Base Civil Engineer. 2003. Conversation with authors, 2 April, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ.

C. Bibliography

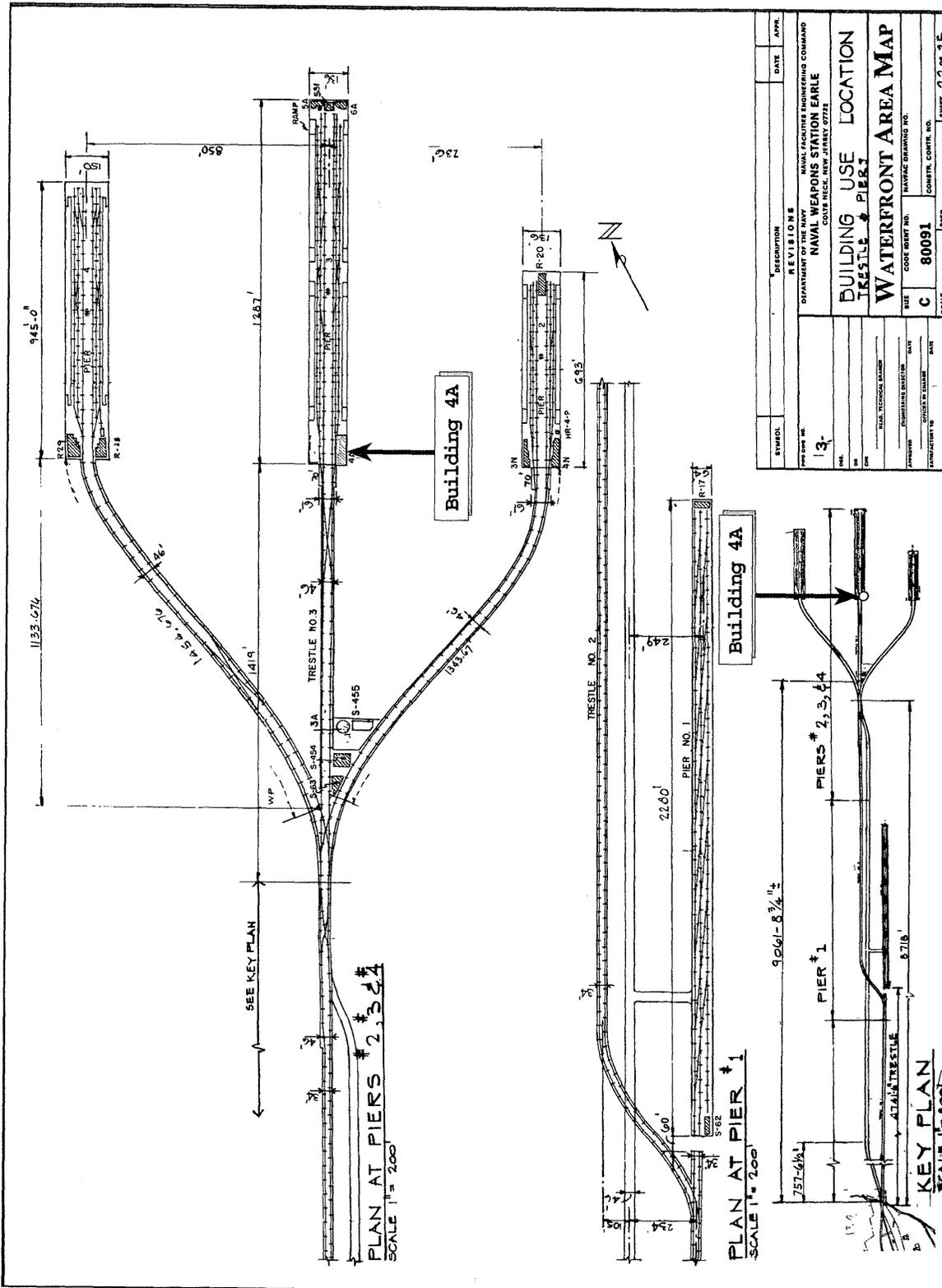
Lancaster, L. W. "Record Report, Contract NOy-7693, Ships Piers and Approaches." Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Ammunition Depot Earle, 1945. Photocopied.

The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey." Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999. Photocopied.

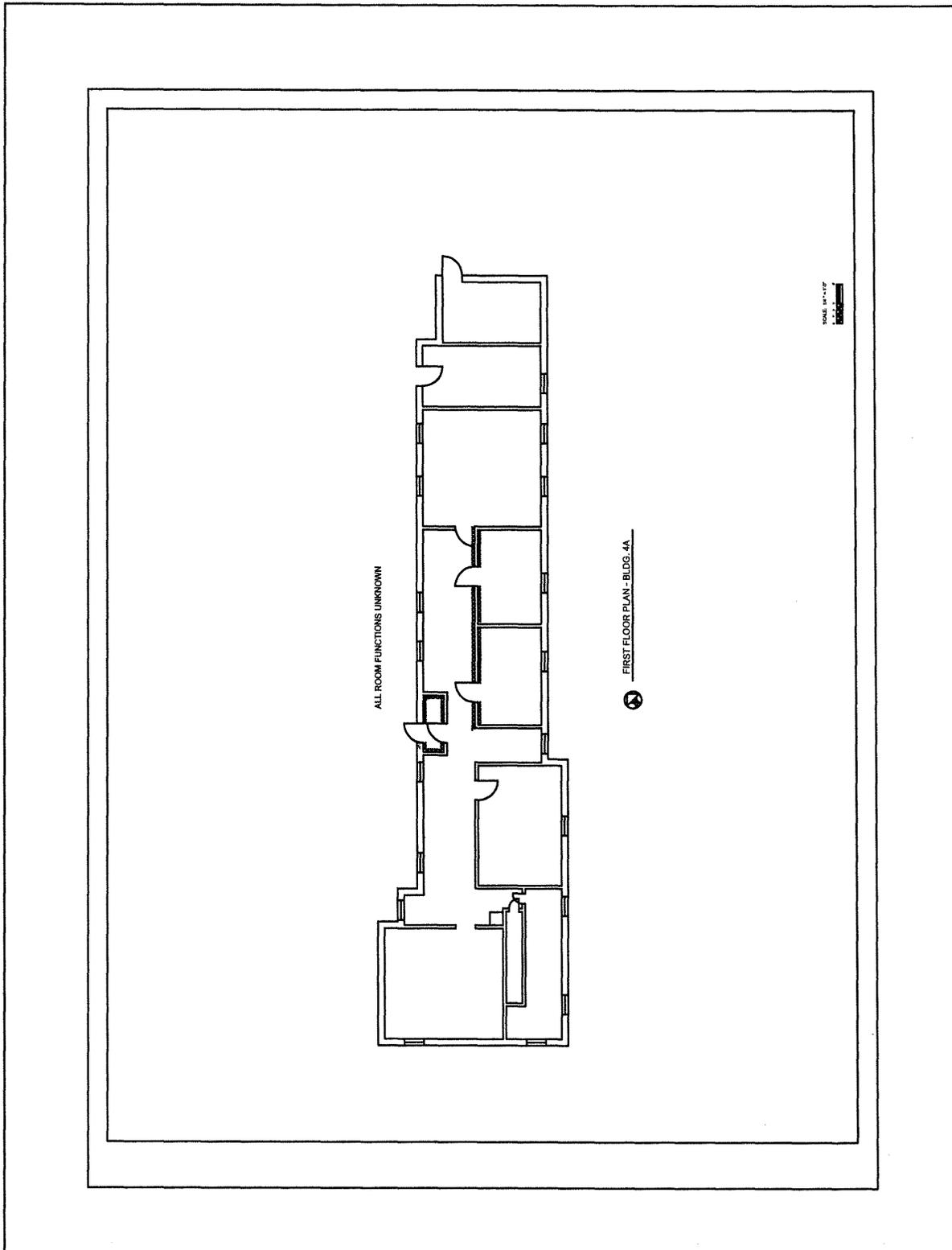
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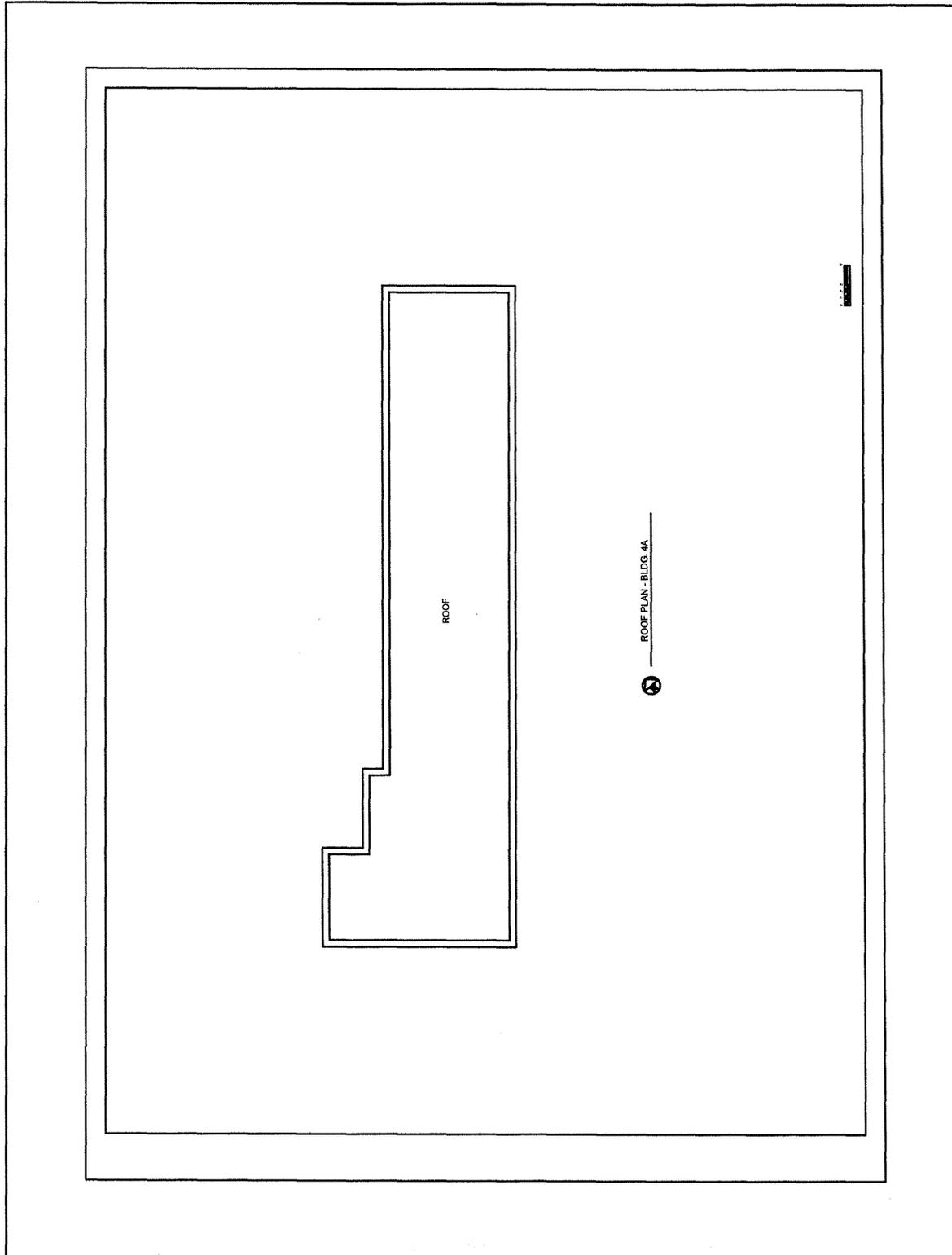
General Construction Map, Pier Area, 1944
 (source: Lancaster 1945)



Location Map and General Plan, Pier Area, 1994
 (source: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office 1994)



First Floor Plan, Building 4A, 1999
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Roof Plan, Building 4A, 1999
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)