

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 3, BUILDING NO. S  
-454

(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building S-454)  
Sandy Hook Bay  
Colts Neck vicinity  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey

HAER NJ-142-B-5  
*HAER NJ-142-B-5*

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 S-454  
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building S-454)

HAER No. NJ-142-B-5

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: 18.580243.4477898

Construction Dates: 1952

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Department of the Navy

Present Use: Pier Fire Station, "Wye" Area

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 S-454 on Pier 3 was constructed in 1952 to house the pier fire station in support of post-war 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 S-454 (Pier Fire Station, "Wye" Area) is situated between Trestles 2 and 3 in the area of the pier complex known as the "Wye" area, which is located where Trestles 2, 3, and 4 branch off from Trestle 1A. Building S-454 is commonly associated with Pier 3 and Trestle 3 due to its orientation toward these structures. The building was constructed in 1952. It was vacant when surveyed in 1996, but it underwent renovation in 1998 and reopened as the Admiral J. M. Boorda Fleet Recreation Center in October of that year.<sup>1</sup>

Building S-454 rests atop a concrete slab. The exterior of the building is covered with stucco. Most window openings in the building contain single-light, fixed windows. Three openings in the first story of the southeast elevation contain glass block. Entrances throughout the building contain metal doors. The building's hipped roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting. The interior spaces in Building S-454 include a vestibule, lobby, game room, electrical room, and stairwell on the first floor, as well as a T.V. room, "main room," restrooms, and a phone room on the second floor. The historic uses and layout of interior spaces in Building S-454 are unknown due to a lack of original construction drawings.

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<sup>1</sup> 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), 73; Naval Weapons Station Earle, "Command History, 1998" (Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1998), 25.

Part II: Descriptive Information

Building S-454 (Pier Fire Station, "Wye" area) is a square, two and one-half story, stuccoed building located immediately northeast of Building S-63 in the "Wye" area between Trestles 2 and 3. Building S-454 was constructed in 1952, and is in very good condition as a result of a complete renovation undertaken in 1998. According to David Smith, a member of the Base Civil Engineering staff, the building is brick beneath the stucco. Today, the pier fire station functions as the Admiral J.M. Boorda Fleet Recreation Center. The hip-roofed building sits atop a concrete base, and is five bays wide and two bays deep, with numerous door and window openings. The majority of the windows consist of aluminum fixed sash with tinted glass, and all of the pedestrian doors are metal. The building is devoid of architectural detail; however, two horizontal bands of stucco painted in contrasting colors serve to visually separate the first and second stories. Additionally, the building's former hose tower, located at the eastern corner, provides a verticality that is absent from the pier's other buildings.

The entrance is recessed in the building's eastern corner. An eight-light, fixed, aluminum-framed floor-to-ceiling window is visible in the northeast elevation, and a similar window and glass pedestrian door appear in the southeast elevation. Additionally, four fixed-sash windows appear in the northeast elevation: one on the first story, two on the second story, and one on the hose tower directly beneath the metal, standing-seam roof. Two metal and plastic circular lights and a metal fire alarm box are located around the main entrance.

The building's northwest elevation contains many door and window openings. The fenestration includes four square, aluminum-framed, fixed windows; three fixed windows containing architectural glass blocks; and a metal pedestrian door. A plastic and metal circular light appears above the door, and a marquis-style, two-piece, metal and plastic sign is located between the pair of horizontal stripes traveling the width of the building. The northwest elevation of an addition at the southwestern end of the building contains a metal door with a light on the first story and an aluminum-framed window on the second story.

The southwest elevation of the building is characterized by a stepped addition that runs two-thirds the width of the main block. The first story of the southwest elevation contains one window, two square, louvered vents, a plywood-covered opening, and a metal pedestrian door. A steel ladder located adjacent to the door provides access from the ground to the roof. A metal and plastic circular light appears above the door, and a steel, paired hose coupling and pipe are located to the right of the door. Three square windows of varying sizes and two louvered vents are visible in the main block above the roof of the addition. A stuccoed chimney rises from the flat roof of the addition along the southwestern wall of the main block.

The southeast elevation of the main block contains a bank of architectural glass block windows on the first story (as in the northwest elevation), and four fixed, aluminum-framed windows on the second story, one of which is located in the former hose tower. A large, metal, box-like structure sits on the sidewalk below the third bay and appears to be joined to the building. A second metal and plastic, marquis-style sign and three metal and plastic circular lights illuminate this elevation. Beyond the southern corner of the building, a metal door provides access to the aforementioned addition. A metal air conditioning unit sits on the roof above the door, and a cylindrical steel tank enclosed by four concrete pillars sits on the sidewalk adjacent to the door.

Most of the space on the first floor of the building is taken up by a game room and an entrance vestibule and lobby at the northeastern end of the building (see current floor plans immediately following Part III of Written Documentation section). Stairs in the northern and western corners lead to the second floor, which contains a large irregularly shaped main room over the game room. Restrooms are located along the southwestern wall. A partition at the northwest end of the room creates a phone room accessed by the stairs in the western corner. Above the entrance lobby at the northeastern end of the building is a TV room. Two rooms on the southwest elevation are only accessible from the exterior. The room in the southern

corner is an electrical room, and the function of the other is unknown.<sup>2</sup>

Only one interior photograph of Building S-454 is included in this documentation package. The photograph represents the former fire truck bays, a space that has new flooring, dropped ceilings, and altered wall fabric. The entire interior of the building has been altered dramatically to accommodate recreational space and offices. Additional photographs would not yield useful information.

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<sup>2</sup> Dewberry & Davis, *Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Plan, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle* (Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1999), Building S-454, nos. 1 and 2 of 2.

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.

B. Historic Views

Original photographs of pier complex at Naval Ammunition Depot Earle/Naval Weapons Station Earle. 1944-76. Filed at Naval Weapons Station Earle, Public Affairs Office.

C. Interviews

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

D. Bibliography

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.

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

Naval Weapons Station Earle. "Command History, 1998." Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1998.

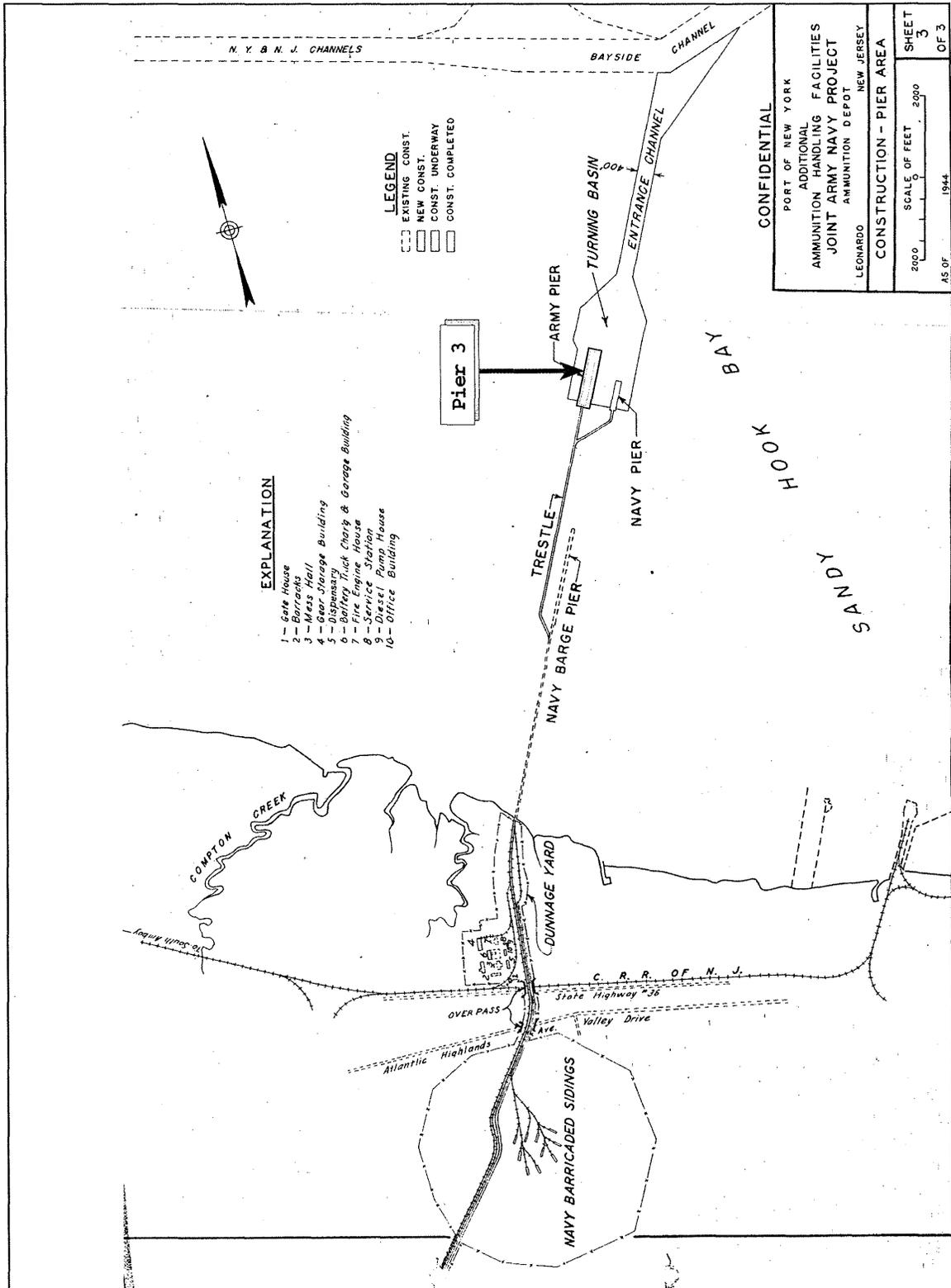
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E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

Records of the Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center,  
805 Kidder Breese Street SE, Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-  
5060.

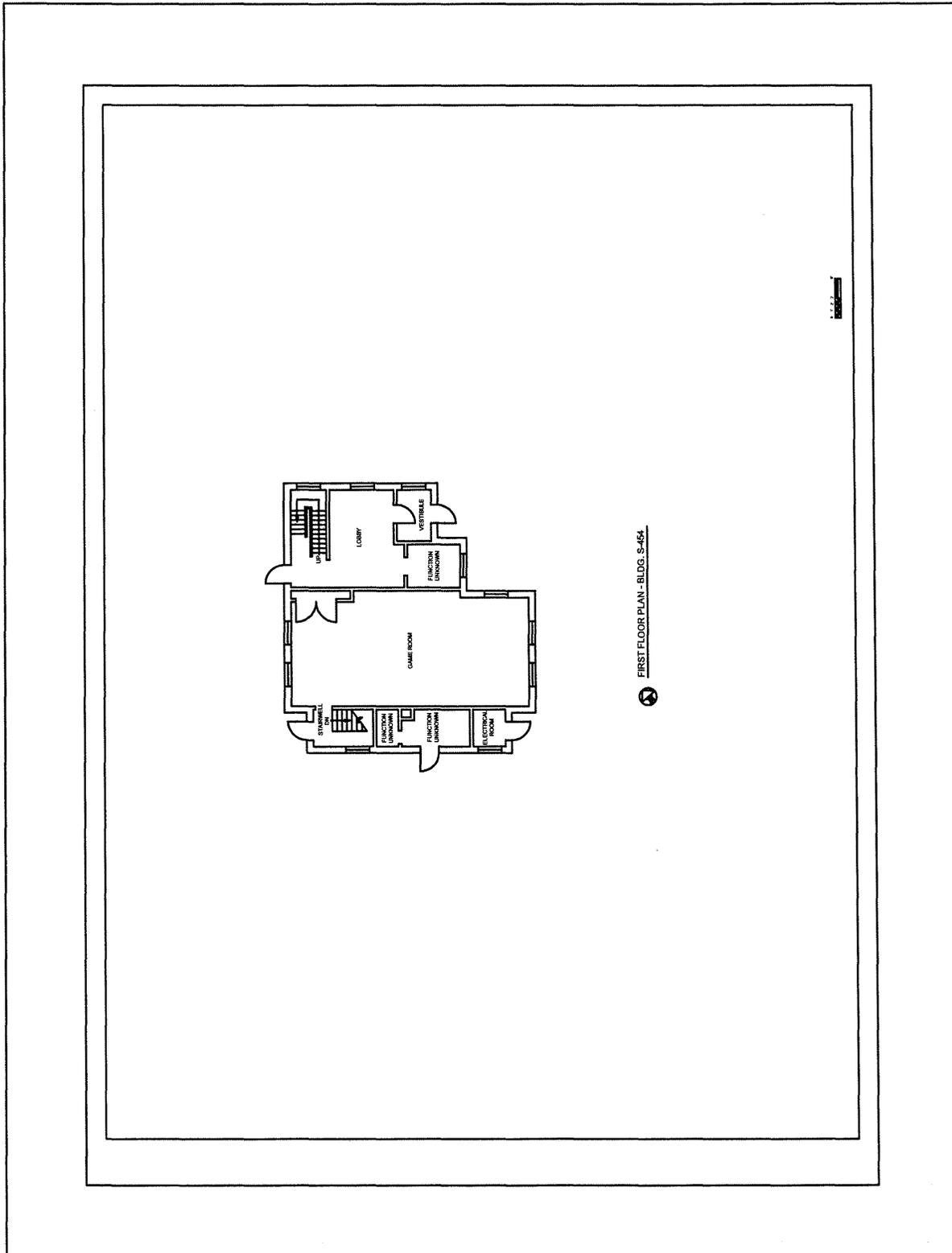
Records of the National Archives and Records Administration,  
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

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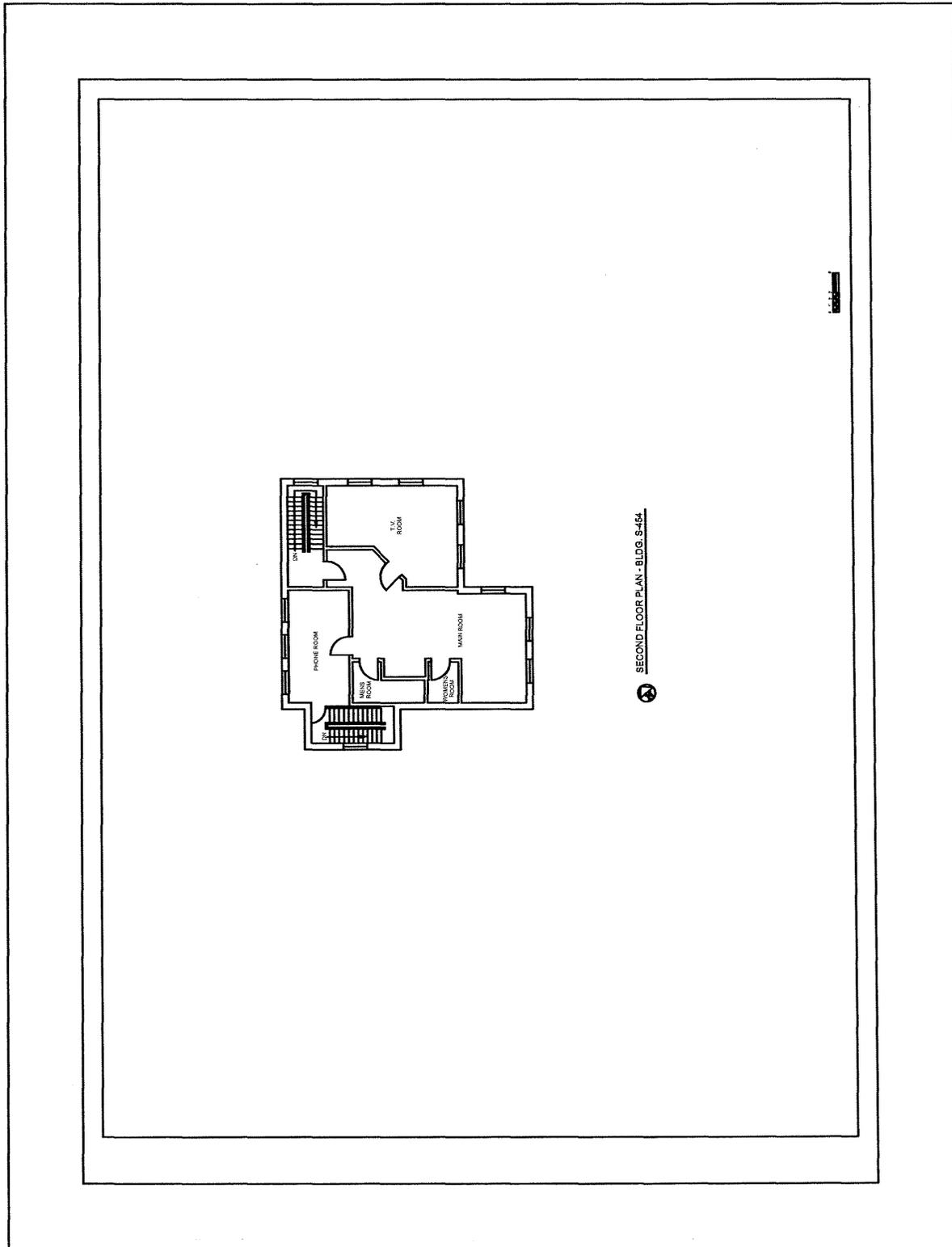


General Construction Map, Pier Area, 1944  
 (source: Lancaster 1945)





First Floor Plan, Building S-454, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Second Floor Plan, Building S-454, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)