

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

HAER NJ-142-B-7  
*HAER NJ-142-B-7*

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 3A  
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building 3A)

HAER No. NJ-142-B-7

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: 18.580248.4477913

Construction Dates: 1988

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Department of the Navy

Present Use: Port Services, "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 3A on Pier 3 was constructed in 1988 to house operations and administrative offices that support 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 3A (Port Services, "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. This twelve-sided building has housed operations and administrative offices since its construction in 1988.<sup>1</sup> The first floor of the building houses primarily reception and administrative support spaces, the second floor houses several observation areas with views to the piers, and the third floor consists of a single observation area.

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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), 74.

Part II: Descriptive Information

Building 3A (Port Services, "Wye" area) is a modern, twelve-sided, three-story, wood frame building constructed in 1988 in the "Wye" area between Trestles 2 and 3. Building 3A is in good condition.

Building 3A rests atop a concrete slab. The exterior of the building is covered with wood paneling. Most window openings in the building contain single-light, fixed windows. Window openings in the first story are octagonal in shape, as is a large opening in the second story of the northwest elevation. Entrances throughout the building contain glass and metal doors. The building's roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting.

The first floor of the building contains the activity and supply offices, restrooms, storage room, mechanical room, conference room, phone booth, and meeting room, all of which open onto a central lobby (see current floor plans immediately following Part III). A vestibule provides access to the lobby and the stairs to the second floor. The second floor rooms open onto a hallway surrounding a central spiral stairway to the third floor observation area.<sup>2</sup> The original uses and layout of interior spaces in Building 3A are unknown due to a lack of original construction drawings.

No interior photographs of Building 3A 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.

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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 3A, nos. 1 to 3 of 3.

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.

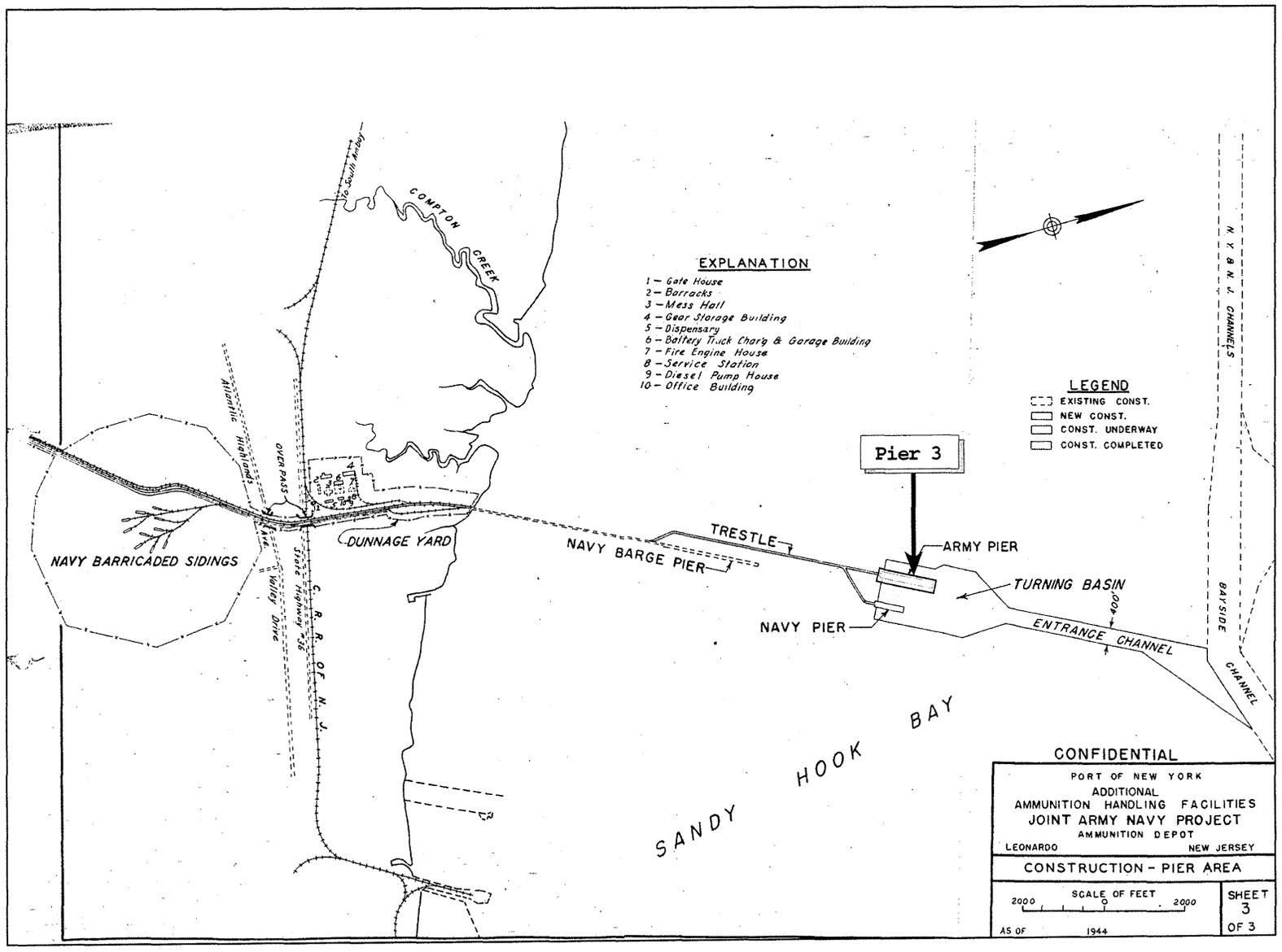
B. Interviews

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

C. Bibliography

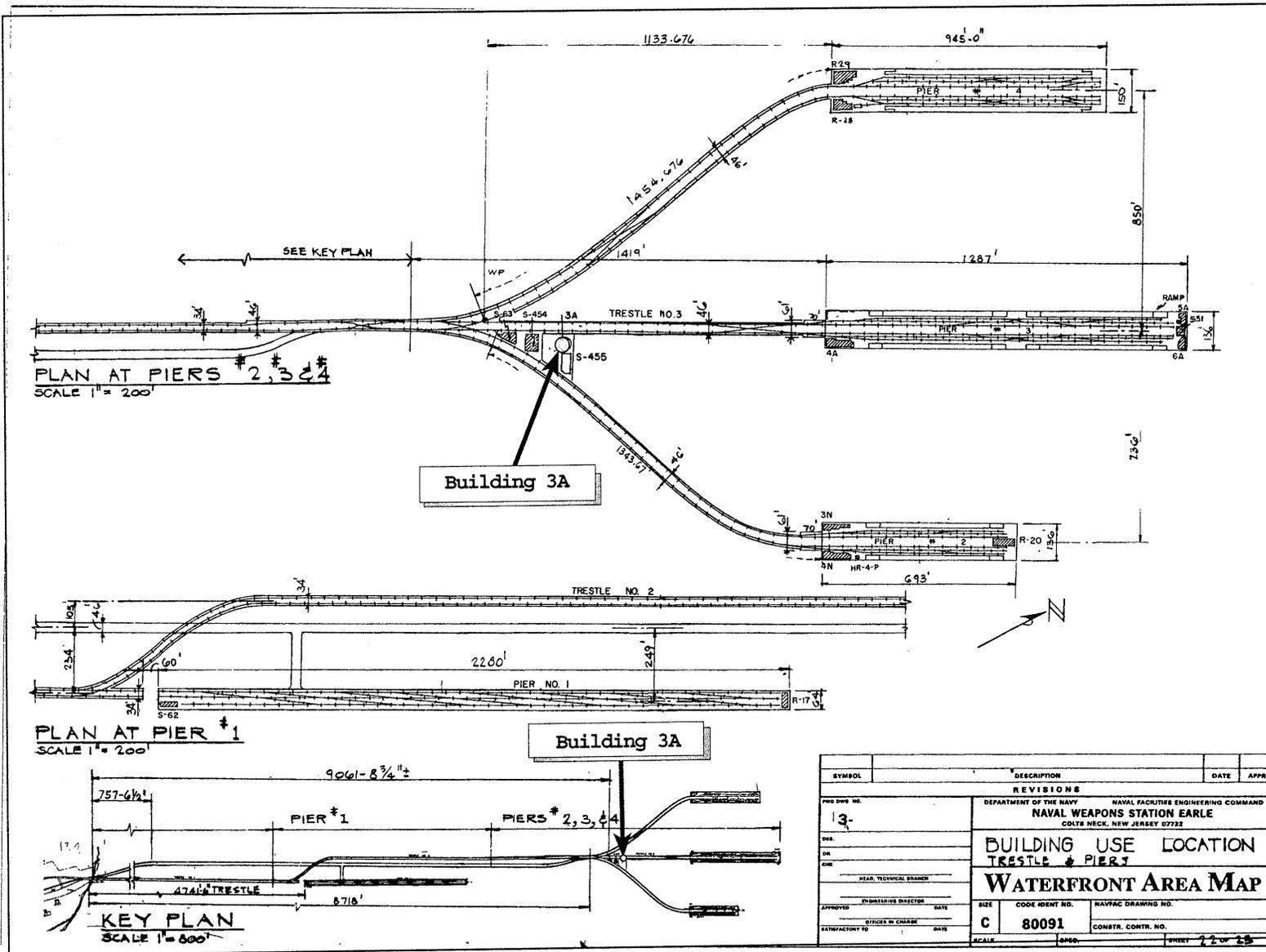
The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey." Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999. Photocopied.

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



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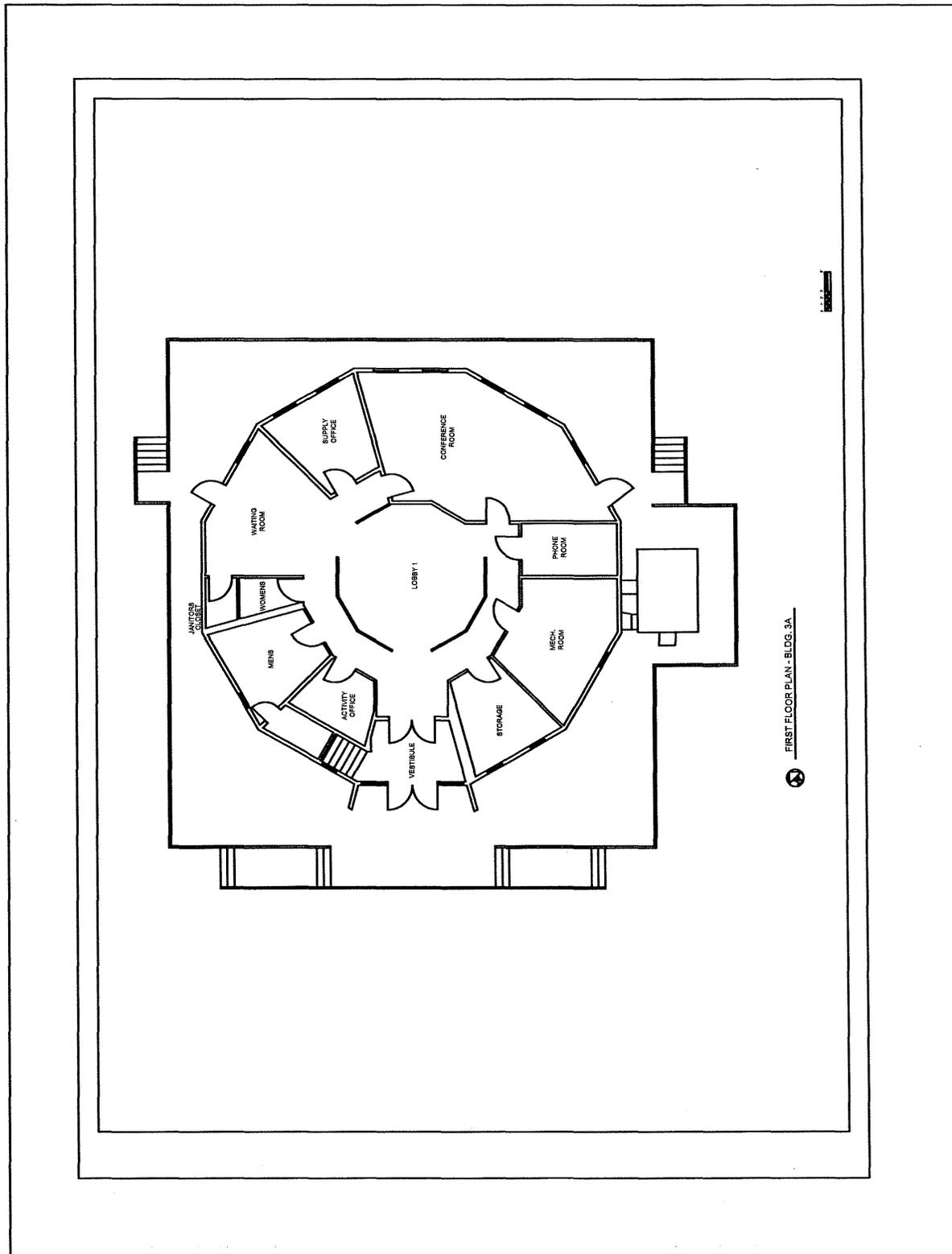
General Construction Map, Pier Area, 1944  
 (source: Lancaster 1945)



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

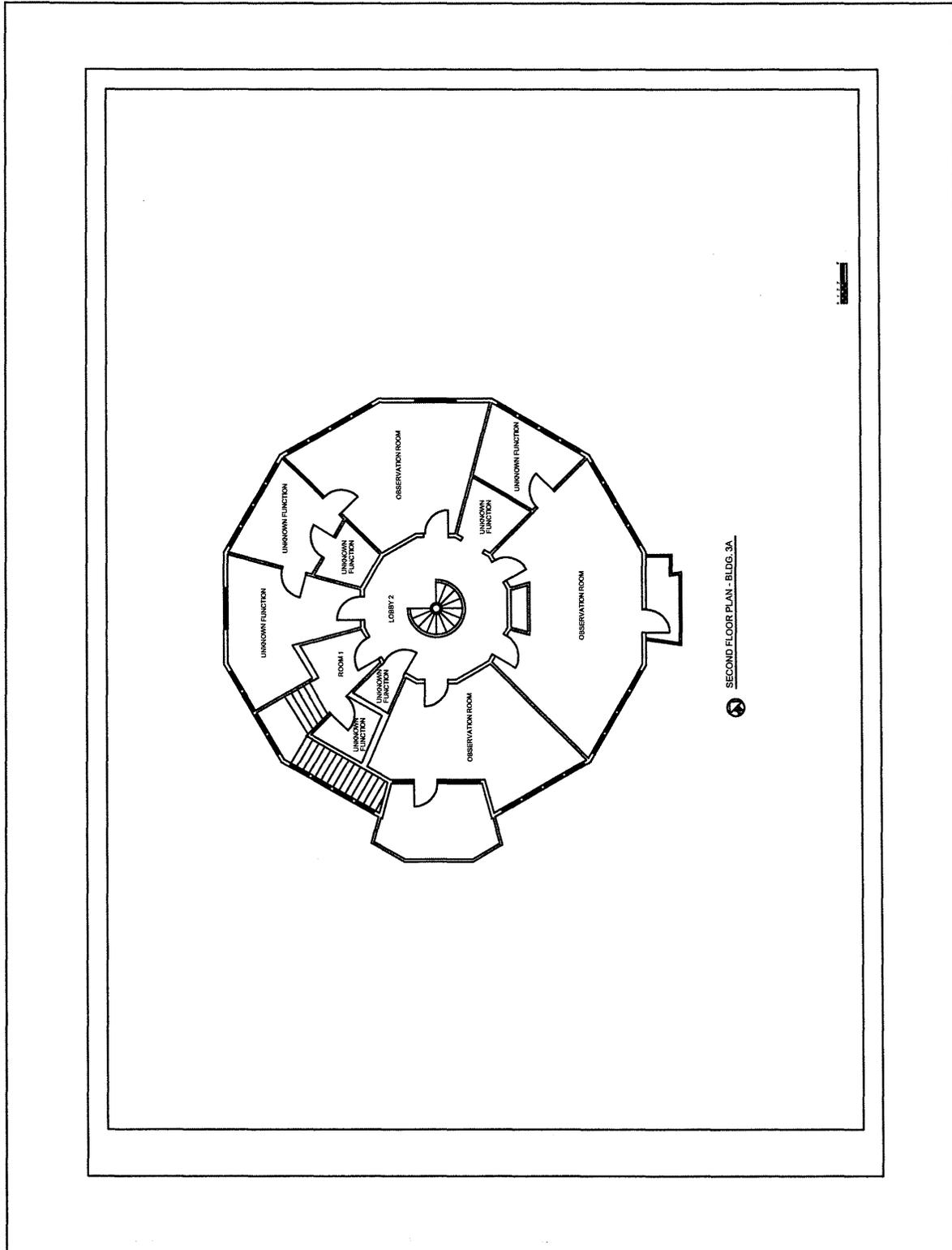
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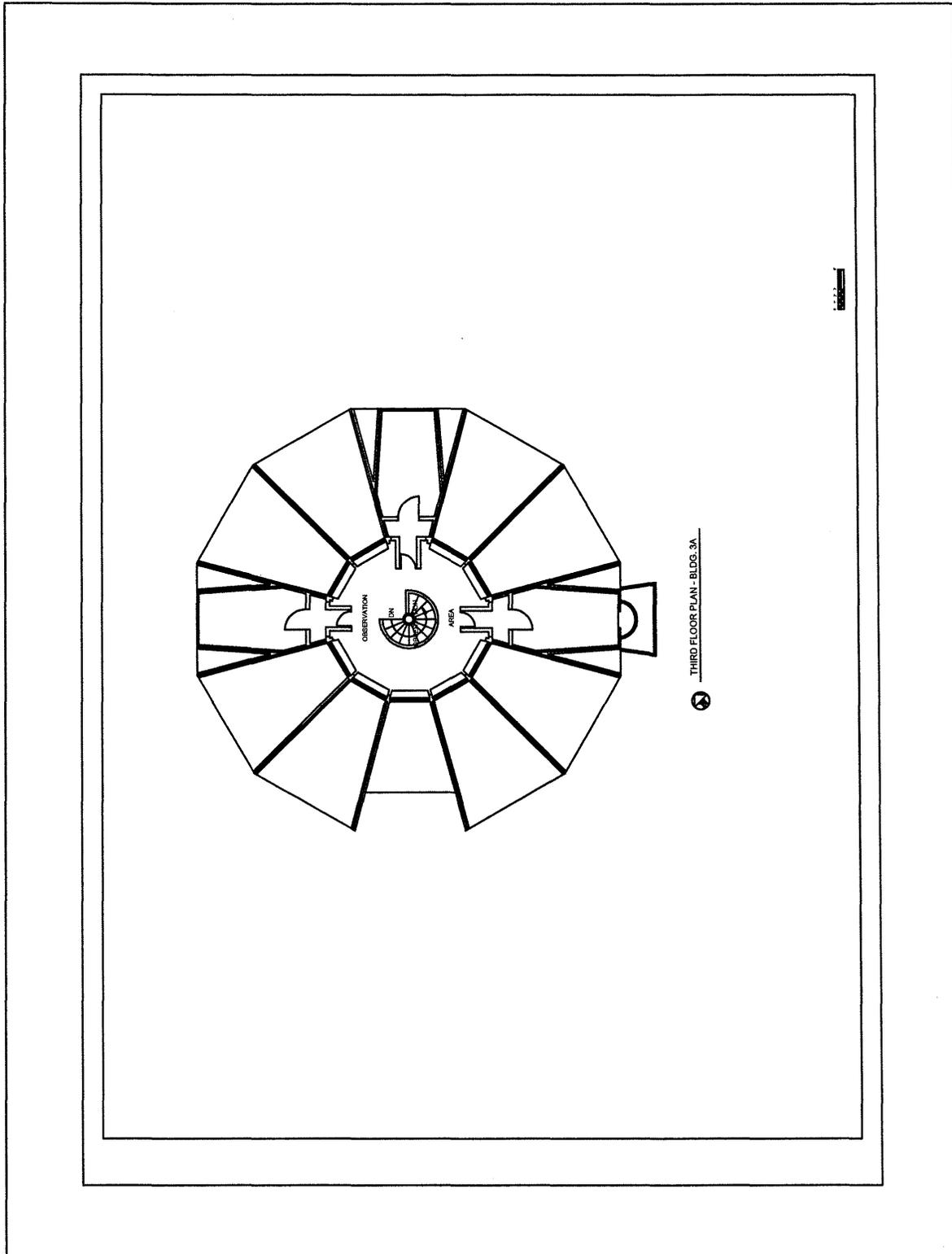


First Floor Plan, Building 3A, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)

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Second Floor Plan, Building 3A, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Third Floor Plan, Building 3A, 1999  
Source: Dewberry & Davis 1999