

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 3, BUILDING NO. S  
-455

(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building No. S-455)

Sandy Hook Bay

Colts Neck vicinity

Monmouth County

New Jersey

HAER NJ-142-B-8

*HAER NJ-142-B-8*

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-455  
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 3, Building S-455)

HAER No. NJ-142-B-8

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: 18.580263.4477903

Construction Dates: 1983

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Department of the Navy

Present Use: Battery Recharging Shop, "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-455 on Pier 3 was constructed in 1983 to house a battery recharging 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 S-455 (Battery Recharging Shop, "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-455 was built in 1983.<sup>1</sup> It was most likely designed to function in its current capacity as a battery recharging shop.

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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.

Part II: Descriptive Information

Building S-455 (Battery Recharging Shop, "Wye" area) is a rectangular, one-story, tan-colored concrete structure located in the eastern corner of the "Wye" area between Tresles 2 and 3. Constructed in 1983, Building S-455 is in good condition, and continues to perform its original function (see current floor plans immediately following Part III).

This flat-roofed building is six bays wide and two bays deep with numerous door and window openings. The window openings contain paired, single-light windows, and the entrances contain single and double metal doors. Several additional openings contain large, louvered vents. The openings in the façade (southwest elevation) are uniform in size and regularly spaced; however, all of the openings in the other elevations vary in size and spacing. The building features modest architectural details including a horizontal band of vertical, formed concrete "bricks" along the base, a similar horizontal band of header and stretcher "bricks" located below the roof-wall junction, and rectangular buff-colored concrete blocks running along the top of the walls. Additionally, formed concrete "bricks" appear as sills and flat arches above and below the building's windows and doors.

The interior of Building S-455 consists of a main shop area, generator room, boiler room, fuel storage room, and several other rooms of unknown function. The original uses and layout of interior spaces in Building S-455 are unknown due to a lack of original construction drawings.

Only one interior photograph of Building S-455 is included in this documentation package. The main room was the most appropriate to impart the character of the building's interior. The boiler room was completely occupied by a boiler tank. The generator room contained modern machinery, and featured construction similar to the main room. A modern brick wall segmented the main room.

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.

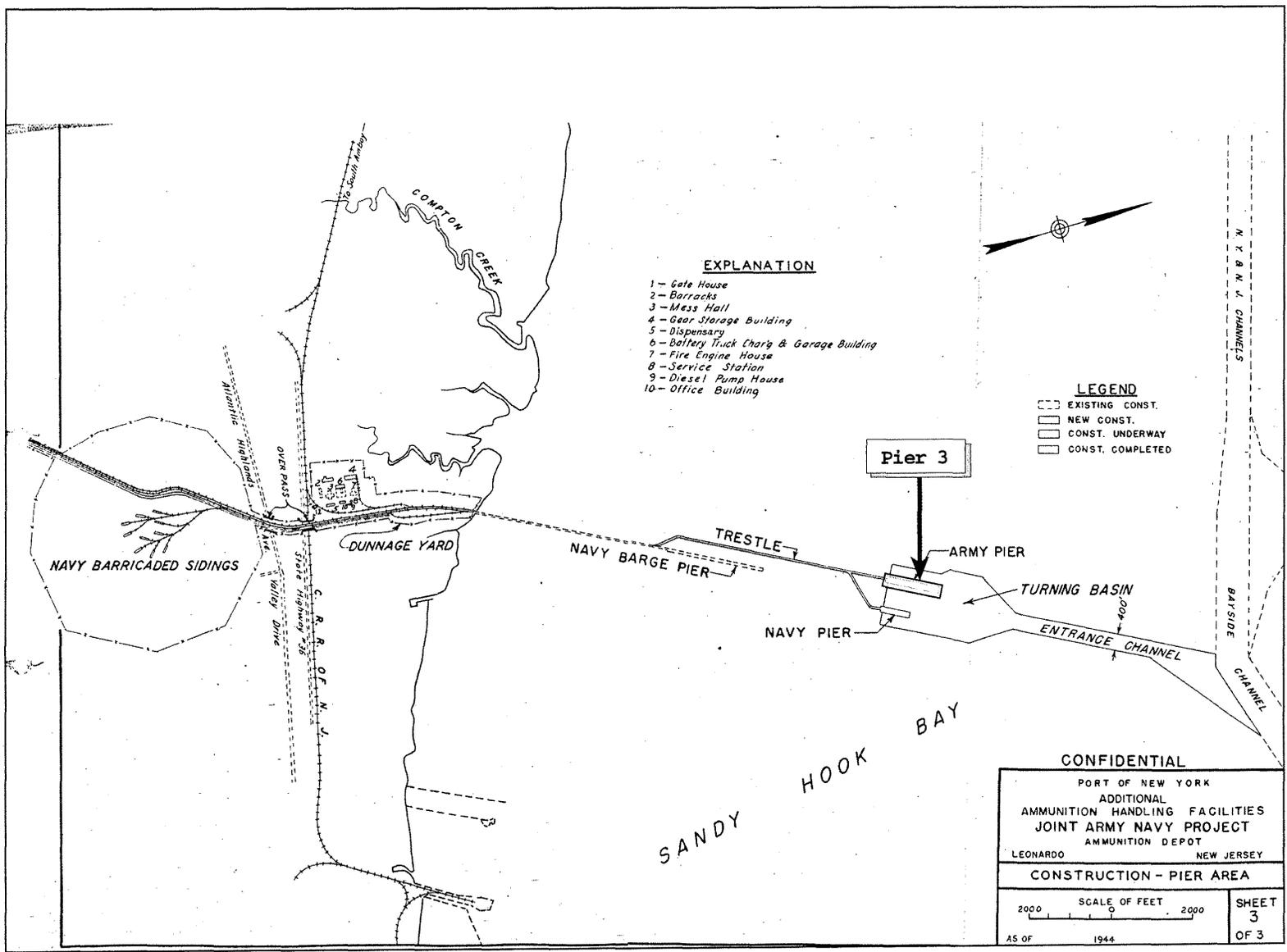
B. Interviews

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

C. Bibliography

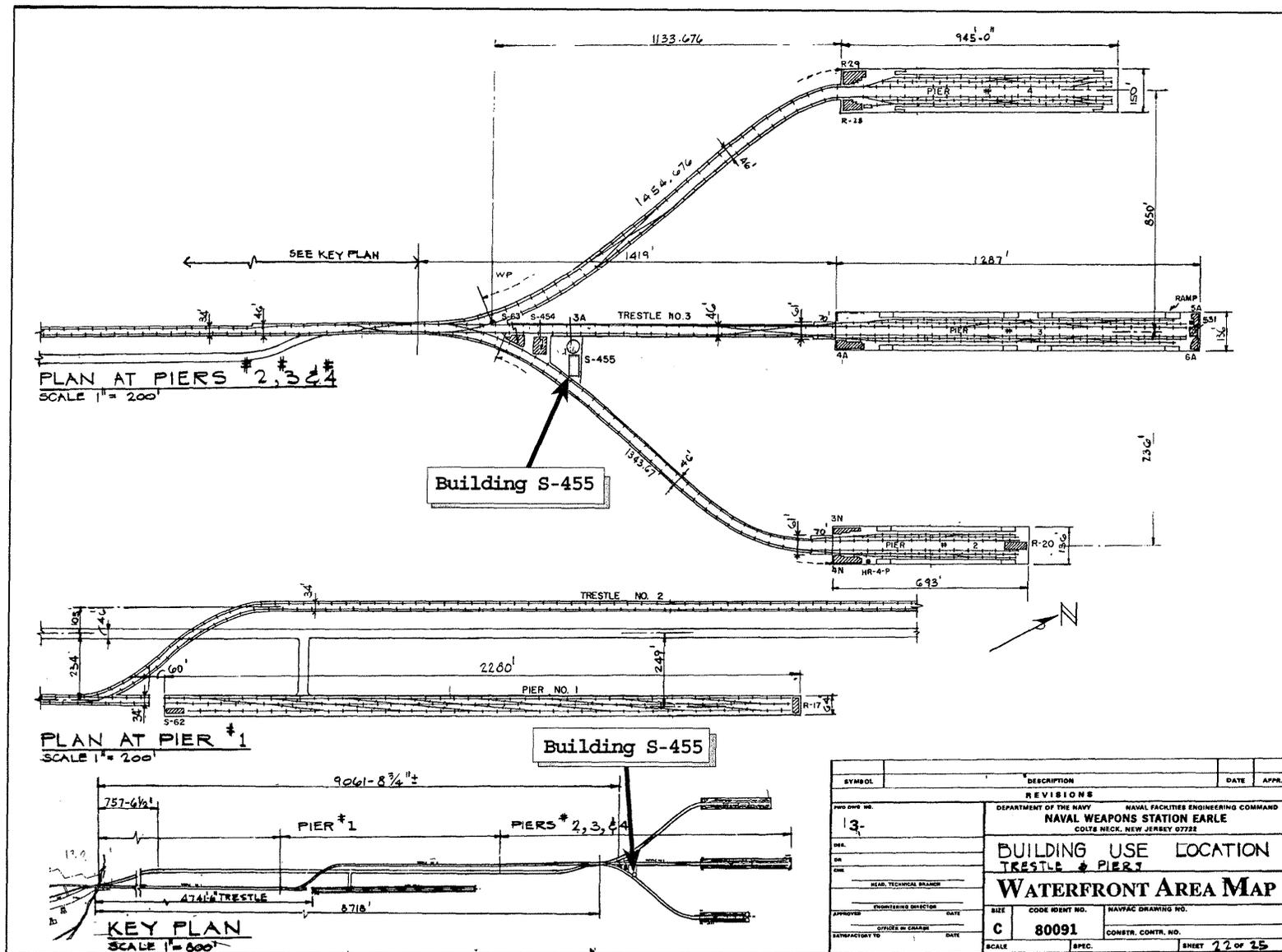
The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey." Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999. Photocopied.

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



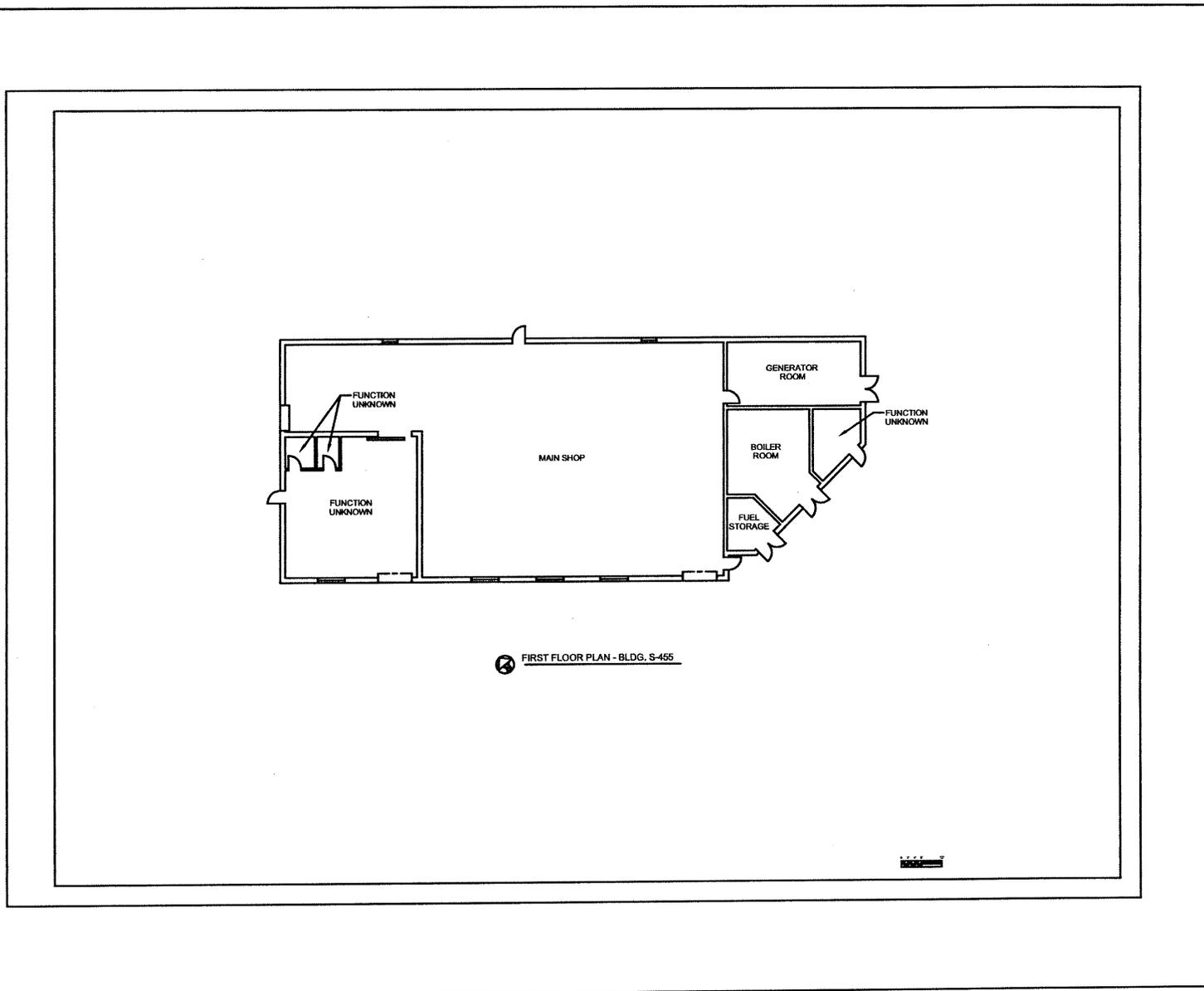
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General Construction Map, Pier Area, 1944  
 (source: Lancaster 1945)

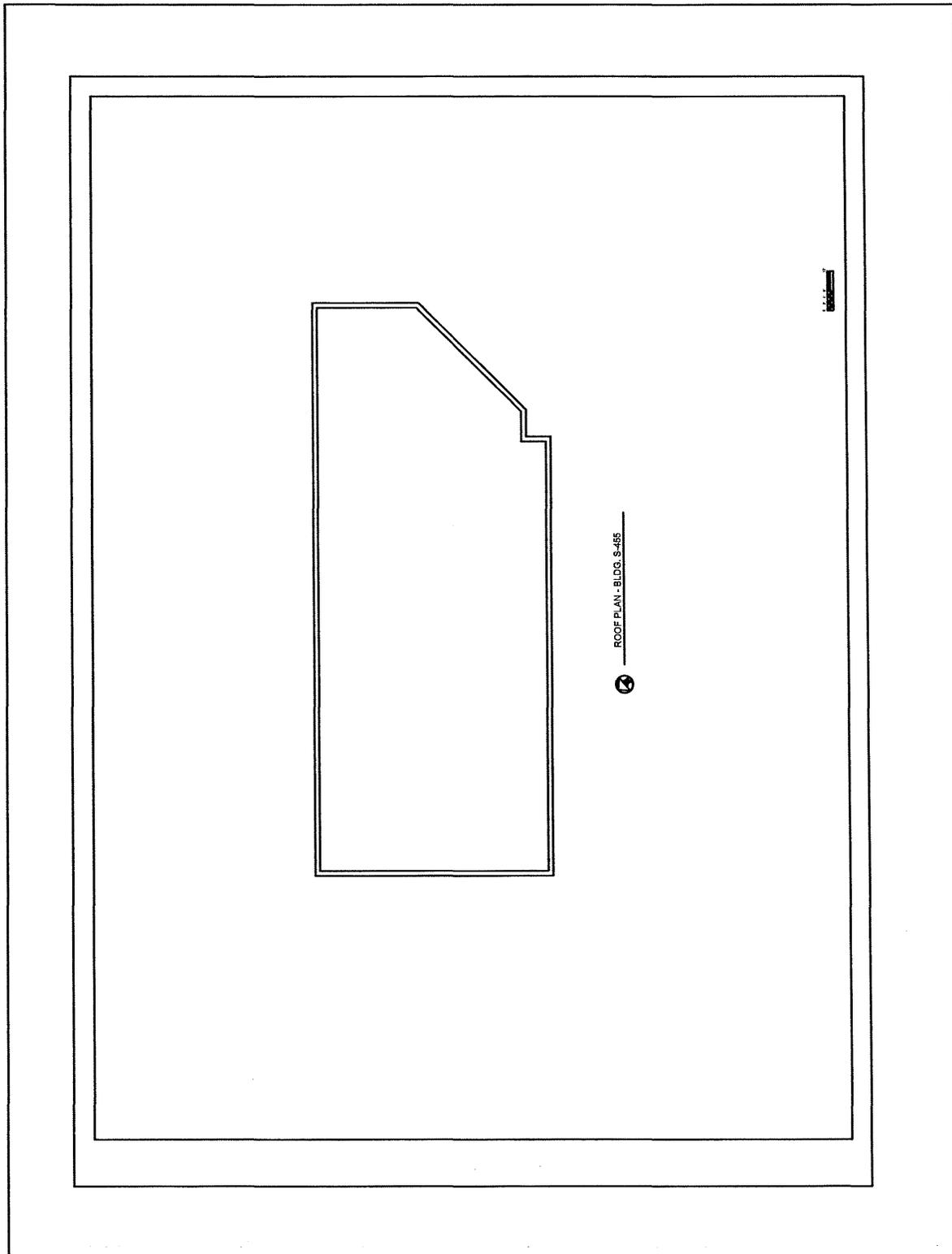


Location Map and General Plan, Pier Area, 1994  
(source: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office 1994)

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First Floor Plan, Building S-455, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Roof Plan, Building S-455, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)