

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA
Bounded by South Twentieth Street, Hartranft Street,
South Broad Street, and Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6206

HABS
PA-6206

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA

HABS No. PA-6206

Location: Bounded by South Twentieth Street on the west, Hartranft Street on the north, South Broad Street on the east, and Pattison Avenue on the south, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

USGS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Quadrangle

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

A - 18.484350.4417450

B - 18.485120.4417310

C - 18.485080.4417060

D - 18.484310.4417200

Present Owner: United States Department of the Navy

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: A functioning United States Navy medical facility between 1935 and 1993, Naval Hospital Philadelphia consists of approximately 45 buildings and structures that document its construction between 1932 and 1935 as a coherent Art Deco-style complex, and its subsequent rapid expansion during World War II. The surviving eight buildings of the original hospital complex, the main Naval Hospital building (Building 1; HABS No. PA-6206-A), the Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 2), the Nurses' Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), the Garage (Building 4), the Sewage Pumping Station (Building 7), the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building A; HABS No. PA-6206-H), the Medical and Surgical Officers' Quarters (Building B/C; HABS No. PA-6206-I), and the Executive Officer's Quarters (Building D), all incorporate the same Art Deco elements. These buildings and their associated landscaped grounds compose a noteworthy institutional complex of Art Deco buildings designed by the locally prominent architectural firm of Karcher and Smith.

The remaining buildings composing the hospital complex reflect the facility's rapid enlargement during World War II. These buildings, in addition to the original complex, participated in Naval Hospital Philadelphia's significant wartime mission as the center for amputation, orthopedic, and prosthetic services for all naval personnel residing east of the Rocky Mountains. The Hospital also served as the principal treatment center for blind and hearing-impaired veterans of the Navy, Marines Corps, and Coast Guard. Naval Hospital Philadelphia also pioneered prosthetic research, development, and manufacturing of custom-built permanent artificial limbs for naval amputees.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

1. Historical Development: Needing larger facilities to handle the increased healthcare demands of local naval personnel and veterans, the Navy decided to erect a new medical facility in Philadelphia in the early 1930s. A naval hospital had operated since 1917 within the grounds of the Philadelphia Naval Yard, situated on League Island at the south end of South Broad Street, a short distance south of the site chosen for Naval Hospital Philadelphia, but had proven inadequate for current patient demands. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new facility, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, were held in 1931, and the cornerstone was laid in October 1933. The new hospital facilities included 10 buildings spread across roughly 20 acres of land. The complex included a 15-story main hospital building (Building 1; HABS No. PA-6206-A), a Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 2), a Nurses' Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), three senior officers' quarters (Buildings A [HABS No. PA-6206-H], B/C [HABS No. PA-6206-I], and D), a garage, a green house, a film storage building, and a pump house. The Hospital accepted its first patients in 1935, and boasted a total capacity of 650 beds. The cost of the complex's construction and land acquisition totaled roughly \$3.2 million (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:10).

The main hospital building, Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A), represented a radical departure from earlier naval hospital buildings. Prior to Naval Hospital Philadelphia's construction, the typical facility consisted of a collection of two- or three-story structures that provided the various medical services required. The League Island predecessor of Naval Hospital Philadelphia consisted of 35 one- or two-story buildings, each capable of holding 40 beds. The new Philadelphia facility was the first high-rise hospital erected by the Navy and centralized nearly all medical services into one structure. Wings containing open floor plan patient wards radiated outward from a core structure composed of towers or pylons separated by an elongated hyphen. The core structure's lower stories served as the heart of the administrative and medical services of the hospital, while the upper stories contained additional open plan wards for enlisted personnel, and semi-private and private rooms for junior and senior officers. The hospital also boasted the most modern healthcare apparatus. Each ward possessed a centrally located nurses' station with built-in medicine cabinets and sinks, as well as nearby heads, showers, linen closets, and utility rooms with wall-mounted sterilizers. Solaria appended to each ward helped patient recovery by providing healthful sunlight. Patients could also choose to relax to music from one of three different radio programs delivered to each bedside via wall headsets. The heads and foots of beds could be raised to further increase the comfort of patients (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:10-11).

The new complex also incorporated Art Deco design elements in order to visually and symbolically unify the entire complex. All of the buildings utilized cream-colored brick walling with buff-colored brick spandrels and decorative cast-aluminum panels to create vertical accents. Limestone copings and decorative surrounds further ornament the complex's buildings. The Beaux-Arts classicism of the centrally placed main building, Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A), with passageways connecting to the symmetrically balanced Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 2) and Nurses' Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), reach out to embrace and draw the ill and injured into the caring confines of Building 1. The complex's landscaped grounds further emphasize Building 1's central, nurturing role within the complex.

2. Trends in United States History: Congress first provided for the medical needs of seamen by its passage of an act establishing the Marine Hospital Service in 1798. At first created to tend to sick and injured merchant seaman, the act was expanded to include naval personnel the next year. The act authorized the deduction of 20 cents per month from naval personnel's pay to help defray the cost of instituting the marine hospitals at United States ports. The state of Virginia transferred its marine hospital, established in 1787 at Washington, Norfolk County, to the Federal government in 1798. This facility became the first marine hospital operated by the United States. The United States erected the second marine hospital at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Massachusetts in 1802 (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:7).

The Navy quickly grew unhappy with the marine hospital system, however. Most ports did not possess separate marine hospitals, and naval personnel in Philadelphia, New York, Savannah, and New Orleans were treated at local hospitals. At many other ports, ailing seamen were boarded in local homes. Opportunities for desertion increased the longer seamen were treated outside of the Navy's authority, and malingering occurred often. The Navy also did not believe the medical needs of its personnel were being met (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:7).

In 1810 the Navy petitioned for the establishment of naval hospitals. Congress subsequently enacted legislation creating the naval hospital system with funding appropriated from the balance of the marine hospital funds and continuing deductions from seamen's pay. Acquisition of sites for the construction of naval hospitals began in the early 1820s. During the 1830s the first naval hospitals were built at Chelsea, Massachusetts, and Brooklyn, New York. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, the naval hospital system included 10 facilities primarily situated at ports with access to the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, including one in Philadelphia (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:7-8).

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The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed the establishment of new and expanded naval hospital facilities throughout the United States. Near the beginning of this century, the entire naval hospital system had facilities for only slightly more than 800 persons. In 1914, the Navy established a hospital in San Diego, California. Within four years the San Diego facility had been expanded to provide medical services for over 800 persons by itself. By the 1930s the naval hospital system included facilities in Philadelphia; San Diego; New York City; Great Lakes, Illinois; Norfolk, Virginia; Chelsea, Massachusetts; Washington, D.C.; Puget Sound, Washington; Newport, Rhode Island; Annapolis, Maryland; Pensacola, Florida; Parris Island and Charleston, South Carolina; and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. By 1941, the naval hospitals included 16 domestic facilities with nearly 8,000 beds and staffed by nearly 14,000 doctors, dentists, nurses, and corpsmen (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:8).

The demands of World War II required a great expansion of the capacity of naval hospitals and the number of support personnel. By the end of the war, the Navy operated nearly 60 hospitals with a patient capacity of over 90,000 persons. At the height of the war, the Navy's facilities employed over 20,000 Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Hospital Corps, and Nurses Corps officers, and over 130,000 hospital corpsmen. The end of the war, however, witnessed the rapid deactivation of a large number of naval hospital facilities. Within a year of the armistice, the number of active naval hospitals had been reduced to 37, and bed capacity had been cut in half to less than 45,000. The number of personnel was reduced to about 14,000 officers and 48,000 corpsmen (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:8).

A comparable expansion of naval hospital facilities occurred during the United States' involvement in Korea. The naval hospital system consisted of 25 domestic facilities with a total patient capacity of nearly 15,000 prior to the United States' involvement. By June of 1951, the Navy had reactivated sufficient hospitals to increase the number of available beds to over 28,000. More than 30 hospitals were in operation by the end of that year (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:9).

During the 1970s the Navy reorganized the naval hospital system through the establishment of regional medical centers throughout the United States. Smaller hospitals and clinics were downgraded and became satellite facilities of the regional centers. Eight regional centers were established, at Philadelphia; San Diego, Long Beach, and Oakland, California; Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola, Florida; Millington, Tennessee; and Portsmouth, Virginia. The Navy's hospital at Bethesda, Maryland, became the National Naval Medical Center during this reorganization (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:9).

The current Naval Hospital Philadelphia is the successor to naval medical facilities located in this city since 1801. In order to ensure the quality of care given to their personnel and to stop sailors kept at public hospitals from deserting while outside the Navy's direct authority, the Southwark Navy Yard, located in what then composed the southern reaches of the city, began housing naval patients in 1801. A new wood frame building erected in 1813 replaced the first hospital building and served naval personnel until 1826, when the hospital facilities moved to newly acquired property located along the Schuylkill River. Although situated along Grays Ferry Road, a short distance southwest of the city's center, the new location effectively stood near the outskirts of the city's development. The Navy initially used the existing house and buildings on the property, but the Navy soon contracted Philadelphia architect William Strickland to design a new building for a hospital and an asylum for retired and infirm naval officers, seamen, and marines. The new Naval Home and Asylum opened its doors in 1833 (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:9).

Slightly more than 30 years later, Congress authorized the construction of a new Naval Hospital on the grounds of the Naval Home and Asylum. Designed by John MacArthur, Jr., who later designed Philadelphia's City Hall, the new hospital accommodated up to 100 patients (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:10).

Naval expansion during the late nineteenth century and World War I required larger ancillary services throughout the Navy, including the hospital system. As a result, in 1917 Philadelphia's naval hospital again moved to new facilities, this time to the grounds of the Philadelphia Naval Yard on League Island, a short distance south of the current Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Sixteen one-story frame pavilions or wards, with a capacity for 40 persons, were built of pine and supported by concrete pillars. Eventually, the League Island facility had a capacity of 750 persons in a total of 35 permanent buildings. During World War I, the capacity increased to 1,500 by constructing temporary buildings, which were demolished after the war. After the war, the League Island hospital served Veterans Administration patients as well as active-duty naval personnel. During the 1920s, the Navy's and the Veterans Administration's requirements out-paced the League Island hospital's physical capabilities, and plans began for the new, larger facility that became Naval Hospital Philadelphia (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:10).

B. SPECIFIC HISTORY OF THE SITE:

1. Initial Planning and Development: A 1931 planning document depicts the area under consideration for the Navy's new medical facility (Public Works Department Drawing No. D-1894). An area bounded by South Nineteenth Street, Hartranft Street, South Sixteenth Street, and Pattison Avenue was hatched and labeled "New

Naval Hospital.” A “canal” extended north to south across the parcel parallel to dashed lines denoting the location of Eighteenth and Seventeenth streets. A large “Lagoon” occupied the northeastern quadrant of the property as well. Vestiges of a waterway system that enhanced the landscaping of the Sesquicentennial International Exposition grounds for the 1926 celebration, the canal and lagoon still existed on the proposed Naval Hospital property, although portions of the waterway system north of Hartranft Street were described as “partially filled” on the planning document. Other portions of the former Sesquicentennial grounds later formed League Island Park, depicted to the south of the Naval Hospital property on the planning document (Public Works Department Drawing No. D-1894).

A 1932 architectural plot plan for Naval Hospital Philadelphia also showed the lagoon and canal traversing the complex’s property (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 115400). The plan noted that the lagoon would require sufficient fill to bring its minus 1-foot 1-inch level to 6 feet. The canal on top of which the east wing of the main hospital building (Building 1) would be built also required filling. The southern portion of the lot required extensive fill and grading in order to create the formal approaches to Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A). The architects, instead of placing Building 1 centrally within the lot enclosed by South Sixteenth and South Nineteenth streets, aligned Building 1’s north-south axis with the center of Eighteenth Street, probably to create significant approach viewsheds. Building 1’s east-west axis had been similarly aligned with the center of Hoyt Streets. The plan illustrates a building complex and landscape not unlike the current appearance of the complex (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 115400). A 1936 plot plan depicted the complex shortly after its completion (Public Works Department Drawing No. A-2265). Tennis courts had been placed in the open areas northwest of Building 1 and east of the Nurses’ Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), but otherwise the complex reflected its original design concept (Public Works Department Drawing No. A-2265).

2. Changes in Plan and Site Evolution: Naval Hospital Philadelphia has undergone a number of changes to its original plan and site since first built, mostly related to the United States’ involvement in World War II. As the United States’ entry into World War II became imminent, planning by the country’s armed services for participation in the worldwide conflict began in earnest. Realizing there would be a widespread need for additional medical facilities to serve the large numbers of casualties resulting from such a conflict, Naval Hospital Philadelphia had architectural plans executed for the construction of additional wards and a barracks. Completed in November 1941 prior to the United States’ formal entrance into the war, the plans outlined four buildings consisting of three interconnected H-shaped medical wards (Buildings 10 [HABS No. PA-6206-C], 11, and 12) northeast of Building 1 (HABS

No. PA-6206-A), and one H-shaped barracks (Building 9; no longer extant) northwest of Building 1. The three medical wards were originally designed as freestanding structures, but were instead built as connected structures with a corridor adjoining their southern elevations. An L-shaped passageway then connected the corridor with the north, rear wing of Building 1 (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 182128). These buildings were erected on portions of the original hospital property during 1941 and 1942.

After the Navy acquired additional property to the east and west of the original hospital complex in September 1942, plans were drawn to further expand Naval Hospital Philadelphia's facilities. A plot plan dated October 1942 shows additional wards, Buildings 13 through 16, and the proposed locations of similarly sized one-story wood-frame wards, Buildings 17 through 28, planned for the northeastern portion of the current property (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 135-1). The plan illustrates the southern corridor joining Buildings 10 (HABS No. PA-6206-C) through 13 extended eastward and then widening to form a central corridor, with the new wards stretching to the north and south. By 1944 the newly acquired eastern portion of the hospital complex had been completely improved. An aerial photograph of the Hospital complex taken in August 1944 shows Ward Buildings 13 through 28, the Transformer Building (Building 31), the Brace and Limb Shop (Building 39), and two H-shaped barracks (Buildings 29 [no longer extant] and 30 [now known as Building F]) on the southeastern part of the hospital complex.

In November 1944 architectural plans were completed for the western portion of the complex. Similar to the construction of Ward Buildings 13 through 28, a "Connecting Corridor" extended westward from Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A), facilitating the transport of patients between the main hospital building and the new buildings. As shown on a 1944 plot plan, this passageway first connected with the southern elevation of the Galley and Mess Hall (Building 59; HABS No. PA-6206-G) before forming a central corridor from which Buildings 47 through 58 (labeled T-8 through T-19) extended north and south (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 345605). A passage leading south from the south end of Building 51 (T-12) then connected to additional wards, Buildings 40 through 46 (T-1 through T-7). Building 40 and Buildings 46 (HABS No. PA-6206-E) through 60 were built during 1945. The remaining buildings shown on the plan were completed in 1946 (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 345605). Concrete block composed the principal building material for the western property's structures.

Prior to the war, the hospital complex had a total capacity of 650 patients; its expansion during the war raised its capacity to over 3,300 patients, making it one of the largest naval hospitals in the United States (U.S. Department of the Navy

1993a:8). In 1943, the Navy designated Naval Hospital Philadelphia as the amputation, orthopedic, and prosthetic center for all naval personnel residing east of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, the complex evolved into a research and development facility that pioneered the manufacture of custom-built permanent artificial limbs for amputees. Naval Hospital Philadelphia also served as a center for the treatment of combat fatigue victims, and blind and hearing-impaired Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard veterans (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:15).

A 1955 plan of the entire Naval Hospital Philadelphia property generally depicts the complex's configuration at the end of World War II as well as throughout the Korean War (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 565667). The plan also showed areas proposed for expansion by the hospital, including new wings on the Nurses' Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), a new rehabilitation building immediately west of Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A), and a new patient recreation area in the northwest corner of the hospital property. The plans also depicted 26 acres of land northwest of the hospital property that the Navy planned to acquire for the construction of three baseball and softball fields and an 800-car parking lot (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 565667). None of these proposed construction activities were ever undertaken. Despite these somewhat grand expansion plans, and the decrease in the facility's level of capacity during the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts, the hospital's physical plant remained relatively stable throughout the 1960s.

Although Naval Hospital Philadelphia functioned as one of the Navy's principal teaching institutions during the 1970s, its decreasing role in overall medical services resulted in the demolition of the unneeded buildings beginning in the early 1970s. By the end of the 1970s, a number of buildings had been dismantled, including Ward Buildings 21, 23, 25 through 28, 47, and 49, as depicted on a plot plan updated through 1979 (Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 980583). An aerial photograph taken in early 1986 shows a complex very similar to Naval Hospital Philadelphia's current condition.

3. Individuals Associated with the Site: The Philadelphia-based architectural firm of Karcher and Smith designed the original 1930s hospital complex and most of the western portion of the World War II-era expansion. Walter Thompson Karcher and Livingston Smith both received their architectural training at the University of Pennsylvania. Both men worked at the noted New York architectural firm of Carrère and Hastings before returning to Philadelphia. Prior to their joining in partnership in 1910, the two men also worked together in the offices of Horace Trumbauer. The firm of Karcher and Smith survived until Karcher's death in 1953 (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:11).

The work of both men during the early twentieth century displayed an eclecticism incorporating characteristics of Beaux-Arts, the Neo-Classical, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, Tudor Revival, and Art Deco styles. Other notable commissions by the firm include the office building of the Victor Talking Machine Company (Camden, New Jersey; 1915), the Camden Free Public Library (1917), the Coppin Recreation Center (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 1923), the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church (Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; 1926), and numerous buildings at Swarthmore College (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania).

The wood-frame wards (Buildings 10 through 28) and the Transformer Building (Building 31) located on the eastern portion of the World War II-era complex were designed by George W. Pepper, another Philadelphia-based architect. Following his academic training at the University of Pennsylvania, Pepper worked in the office of John T. Windrim for six years. He then joined the firm of Tilden and Register where he worked until his death in 1949. Pepper specialized in medical and commercial buildings. In addition to the Naval Hospital commission, Pepper designed several buildings at Byberry Hospital (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) and contributed to designs for alterations and additions to Abington Hospital (Abington, Pennsylvania; 1926-1927) and a children's infirmary at Mt. Alto Sanitarium (Mt. Alto, Pennsylvania; 1930) (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:12-13).

4. Historical Events Associated with the Site: As the Navy's center for amputation, orthopedic, and prosthetic medical services for personnel residing east of the Rocky Mountains during the final years of World War II, Naval Hospital Philadelphia admitted over 800 amputees and performed more than 400 operations to assist injured naval personnel. In order to provide custom-made artificial limbs, the Navy undertook construction of the Brace and Limb Shop (Building 39) in January of 1944. After hiring Basil Peters, a technician at the C.A. Frees Company, to oversee the shop and train enlisted woodworkers, bracemakers, and leather workers in the manufacture of artificial limbs, the Navy began outfitting veterans. During the war, more than 500 artificial limbs were fitted on over 300 patients (U.S. Department of the Navy 1993a:15).

PART II. DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

A. PHYSICAL CHARACTER OF THE SITE:

Naval Hospital Philadelphia spreads across nearly 50 acres of land bounded by South Twentieth Street on the west, Hartranft Street on the north, South Broad Street on the east, and Pattison Avenue on the south, in the city of Philadelphia. The northeastern portion of the hospital property slopes gently downward from South Broad Street toward the central

portion of the complex. Hartranft Street lies roughly 10 feet above the northern boundary of the complex's central portion. A steep rise extending north to south across the complex divides the western portion of the property from the central part of the complex. Fences enclose the entire property. The original 1930s fence, composed of wrought-iron bars fixed in a poured concrete base, stands along the Pattison Avenue side of the property. A modern chain-link fence parallels the interior side of the original perimeter fence. The remaining three sides of the property have a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire.

Although the gently undulating surface of the property appears to be in a relatively natural state, construction of the hospital complex required a great deal of grading and filling. Before the Navy's acquisition of the site, the property was part of the Sesquicentennial International Exposition grounds. The Sesquicentennial grounds, built atop marshland filled with earth removed during construction of the City's South Broad Street subway line, included a series of canals and lagoons, sections of which traversed the Naval Hospital property. These waterways were subsequently culverted, covered with fill and soil, and graded prior to the hospital complex's construction.

As shown on a 1936 plot plan, the central portion of the present Naval Hospital property reflects much of its original physical design and landscaping (Public Works Department Drawing No. A-2265). Now known as Ramp A, the formal entry drive flanked by grass lawns with scattered trees and symmetrically placed circular and oval gardens leads to the centrally situated main hospital building, Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A). A U-shaped drive arcs northward from Pattison Avenue on both sides of the main entry and runs underneath Ramp A, providing access to Building 1's ground level. Plantings still surround the three senior officers' residences lining the north side of Pattison Avenue east of the formal entry drive, while a tennis court still occupies an area east of the Nurses' Quarters, Building 3 (HABS No. PA-6206-B). Open land depicted on the 1936 plan in the northeast portion of the property now contains three wards, Buildings 10 (HABS No. PA-6206-C), 11, and 12 (Public Works Department Drawing No. A-2265). Open land and additional tennis courts depicted on the plot plan northwest of Building 1 have been macadamized and contain parking lots. Art Deco-style lamp posts stand sentinel along the complex's roads.

The eastern portion of the hospital complex, added to the original property in the early 1940s just prior to the United States' entry into World War II, generally consists of buildings scattered among mature trees and grass. The northeast quadrant of the lot contains asphalt-paved parking lots. The western third of the current hospital property, also added to the original section in the 1940s, features buildings on much of its surface, although asphalt parking lots lie on its western and northwestern edges. Asphalt and gravel roads snake their way throughout the entire hospital complex.

B. THE SITE'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Although located within the confines of one of the nation's largest cities, the area surrounding the Naval Hospital's site remains relatively open and generally devoid of intense urban commercial and industrial development. The American Swedish Historical Museum and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park, the successor of League Island Park and the location of part of the United States' Sesquicentennial celebration in 1926, occupy land directly south of the Naval Hospital complex. Philadelphia's major league sporting venues, a multi-use football and baseball stadium and two indoor arenas, line the east side of South Broad Street opposite from the hospital property. South Broad Street composes the principal north-south axis of the city and consists of wide, multi-lane boulevards divided by a broad grass median interspersed with trees. Two- and three-story rowhouses and apartment buildings erected during the last 35 years front the streets extending northward from Hartranft Street. Capehart family housing, a type of military residential housing built during the 1950s and 1960s, was constructed for personnel stationed at Naval Base Philadelphia located at the south end of South Broad Street; the family housing occupies the blocks west of the hospital complex. The upper stories of Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A) offer commanding views of Naval Base Philadelphia. The site's proximity to the Naval Base undoubtedly contributed to its selection for the Naval Hospital in the 1930s.

C. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE:

The roughly 60 buildings and structures currently standing on the grounds of Naval Hospital Philadelphia are perhaps best described in terms of the site's historical evolution. The original portion of the hospital complex erected during the early 1930s currently consists of 10 buildings and structures occupying the central portion of the hospital property. Incorporating a common architectural style and finish, and sharing a designed landscape, these resources form a coherent, unified complex of buildings that document Naval Hospital Philadelphia's earliest years, without modern intrusions or incompatible additions. The eastern and western thirds of the current property were both developed during World War II. Planning for construction activities on the eastern portion of the current property began prior to the United States' entry into the war; construction of many of these buildings occurred during the first years of the United States' active participation in the war. Planning and construction of most of the buildings on the western portion of the property occurred during the last year of the war and immediately after the war ended. Twelve buildings and structures erected after World War II and unrelated to the expansion of the hospital complex during the war are scattered throughout the eastern and western portions of the property.

Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6106-A), the main hospital building, stands as the focal point and heart of the Naval Hospital Philadelphia property. Building 1 is composed of two 15-story towers or pylons connected by a 13-story hyphen and possesses four-story wings extending

to the east, southeast, southwest, and west and terminating at five-story pylons. Building 1 forms the visual center of the original 1930s Art Deco-style hospital complex. One-story, partially enclosed passageways extend east and west from Building 1's east and west wings, physically connecting with the four-story Corpsmen's Quarters (Building 2) and Nurses' Quarters (Building 3; HABS No. PA-6206-B), and visually reinforcing the position of Building 1 as the hub of the complex. Building 1's symmetrically balanced wings and connected dependencies (Buildings 2 and 3) present a unified classical Beaux-Arts facade that reaches out and embraces the viewer. Although generally mirroring one another in massing and relationship to Building 1, the Corpsmen's Quarters forms an overall C-plan, while the Nurses' Quarters features an I-shaped plan. Three smaller two-story quarters for the Naval Hospital's senior officers, Buildings A (HABS No. PA-6206-H), B/C (HABS No. PA-6206-I), and D, stand along the north side of Pattison Avenue, southeast of Building 1. Featuring taller central cores with shorter balanced wings, each of the three quarters subtly presents the classical symmetry of Building 1 and its dependencies.

Building 4, a one-story garage located north of Building 1 and adjacent to the south side of Hartranft Street, and Building 7, a small one-story pump house located north of Building D, remain as the other surviving buildings forming part of the original hospital complex. Strictly utilitarian structures, both have been placed in somewhat isolated areas of the original complex, but both incorporate the same design elements as the larger buildings.

These eight buildings and the related passageways feature similar exterior finish, which reflects Art Deco architectural motifs that serve to further unify the complex. Each of the buildings exhibits cream-colored brick masonry walls embellished with buff-colored brick spandrels between windows that emphasize the vertical design elements of the complex. Additional vertical design elements include dog-tooth brick courses within the spandrels and cast-aluminum panels with raised lines. The buildings also feature copings, pier caps, belt courses, inset panels, and door and entry surrounds composed of limestone. The degree of ornamentation serves as a signifier of each structure's importance within the overall hospital complex hierarchy. Thus, Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A) displays a wider array and richer ornament than the Pump House (Building 7).

A large one-story garage (Building 69), a three-story warehouse (Building 8), and a small, one-story, hazardous-flammable materials storage shed (Building 68) stand to the north of Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A). Built during the hospital complex's World War II expansion, Buildings 8 and 68 blend in with the original structures of the central complex through their use of cream- and buff-colored bricks.

Three interconnected ward buildings, Buildings 10 (HABS No. PA-6206-C), 11, and 12, stand a short distance northeast of Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A). Consisting of paired, one-story frame structures connected at their midsections, these wards were the first

buildings erected after the United States' entry into World War II and mark the beginning of the hospital complex's massive expansion program. These buildings probably also reflect a period when wood remained readily accessible as a building material. As the war progressed and wood became a scarcer commodity, many military facilities that underwent expansive building campaigns during the war, such as Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, were forced to use concrete block and construction tile as a principal building material. Nearly all buildings at Naval Hospital Philadelphia erected during the latter years of the war utilize concrete block construction.

Two corridors extending to the south off the southern corridor and connecting Buildings 10 (HABS No. PA-6206-C), 11, and 12 lead to Buildings 87 and 88. Buildings 87 and 88 both stand one-story tall and are built of concrete block. Erected in 1969, Building 87 provided Physical Therapy services. Building 88, built in 1973, contained the base's bowling alley. Building 33, a large heating plant building erected in 1944 with a tall, adjoining smoke stack, stands immediately east of Ward Building 12, adjacent to the south side of Hartranft Street.

Southeast of the bowling alley, Building 88, stand four buildings constructed during the late 1940s at the end of the facility's World War II expansion. Building 39, the structure nearest the bowling alley (Building 88) and located along the south side of Flyers Avenue, served as the Brace and Limb Shop. Built in 1944, the one-story concrete block Brace and Limb Shop served as the center for prosthesis research, development, and manufacturing at Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Building 31, a Transformer Building erected in 1943, stands immediately east of Building 39. Buildings F and E, two Married Officers' Quarters constructed in 1947, stand to the south of Buildings 39 and 31 near the north side of Pattison Avenue.

A long, two-story, concrete-block-enclosed passageway extends westward from the northwest end of Building 1 (HABS No. PA-6206-A) and connects to the late World War II-era portion of the Naval Hospital Philadelphia complex. The passageway first joins the south end of Building 59 (HABS No. PA-6206-G), a one-story concrete block structure that served as the Galley and Mess Hall, and continues westward, connecting Building 59 with a wider corridor that leads westward, providing access to four ward buildings that extend both northward and southward from the corridor. Numbered Buildings 51 through 58 and consisting of eight elongated, one-story concrete block structures, the buildings shared an open plan that could be subdivided and adapted as needed for a myriad of medical purposes. For example, Building 52 functioned as the Acoustic Clinic specializing in the rehabilitation of hearing disorders, and Building 51 provided Occupational Therapy services. Building 54 (HABS No. PA-6206-F) served as a Convalescent Ward.

A corridor leading southward from the south end of Building 51 provides access to seven additional buildings located in the southwestern portion of the hospital complex and situated along the north side of Pattison Avenue. The seven buildings, 40 through 46, are interconnected by a corridor that links their southern elevations. Similar to Buildings 51 through 58, Buildings 40 through 45 consist of elongated, one-story concrete block structures that served various medical purposes. The first three buildings served as patient wards; Building 43 (HABS No. PA-6206-D) housed Obstetrics; Building 44 contained Surgery; and Building 45 contained Administration, Outpatient Services, a laboratory, and a pharmacy. The Veterans' Outpatient Treatment Facility, Building 46 (HABS No. PA-6206-E), located at the east end of the row of wards, housed a variety of services employed in the continuing medical treatment of veterans, including examinations, X-ray photography and processing, other diagnostic laboratory work, and physiotherapy. Building 46 consists of a two-story concrete block C-plan with a one-story central wing that gives the building an overall E-shape. Building 86, a two-story, L-shaped Enlisted Men's Barracks built in 1968, stands directly north of Building 46.

Two additional buildings stand along the northern portion of the complex, adjacent to the south side of Hartranft Street. Building 32, a two-story, concrete block, T-plan building constructed in 1943, served as the Marine Guard Barracks. Building 60, a large, rectangular, one-story, concrete block structure built in 1945, functioned as the Hospital Laundry.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

1. Karcher, Walter T., and Livingston Smith. "Convalescent Wards & Acoustic Clinic, Galley & Mess Hall and Laundry Bldg.," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing Nos. 345605 through 345634 (1944). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
2. Karcher, Walter T., and Livingston Smith. "Convalescent Wards - Bldg. T17 - Rev'd. For Rehabilitation of the Blind, Bldg. N^o. 56," Public Works Department Drawing No. C15694 (1945). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
3. Karcher, Walter T., and Livingston Smith. "Dependent Hospital Unit (Family Facilities)," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing Nos. 345569 through 345600 (1944). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4. Karcher, Walter T., and Livingston Smith. "U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Penna.," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing Nos. 115400 through 115641 (1932). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 5. Karcher, Walter T., and Livingston Smith. "Veterans' Outpatient Treatment Facilities," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing Nos. 345520 through 345533 (1944). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 6. "Master Shore Station Development Plan, Part II Section 2, General Development Plan," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 565667 (1955). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 7. "Naval Regional Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pa., General Development Plan," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 980583 (1979). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 8. "New Naval Hospital. Phila, PA. Existing Utilities, Broad St. and 20th St., Packer and Pattison Ave.," Public Works Department Drawing No. D-1894 (1931). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 9. Pepper, G.W., Jr. "Barracks & Ward Buildings, Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing Nos. 182128 through 182168 (1941). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 10. Pepper, G.W., Jr. "Plot Plan, Ward Buildings, U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.," Bureau of Yards and Docks Drawing No. 135-1 (1942). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 11. "U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., Showing Conditions on June 30, 1936," Public Works Department Drawing No. A-2265 (1936). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 12. Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at the Caretaker's Office, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- B. Historic Views: Aerial Photographs, 1944-1990. On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Naval Hospital Philadelphia

ca. 1971 "Naval Hospitals in Philadelphia." Typescript report in vertical file, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ca. 1942 Properties Composing Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Copy in vertical file, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

1993a Cultural Resources Survey Forms, Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. [JMA], West Chester, Pennsylvania.

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

1993b *Cultural Resources Survey of the Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania.

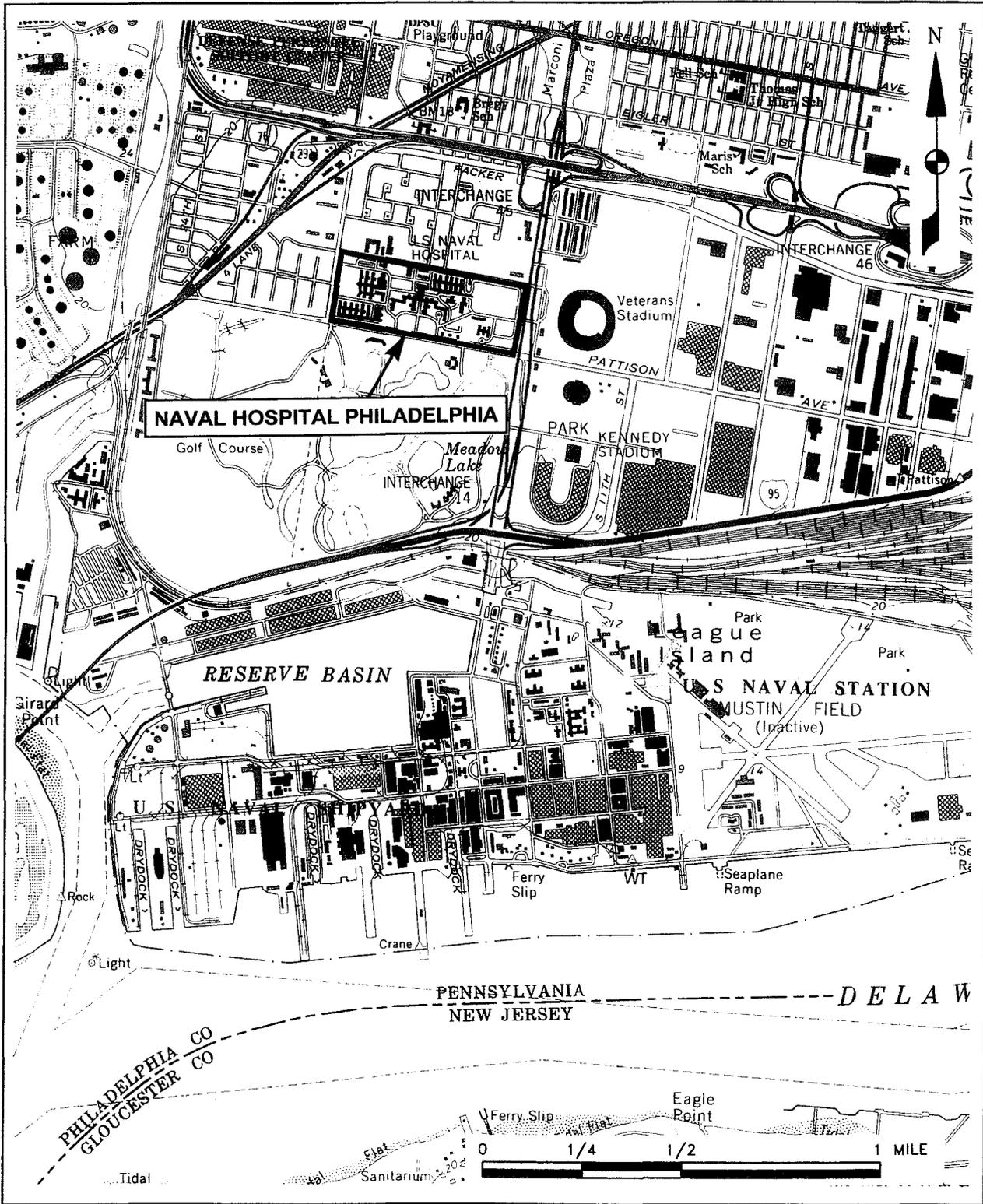
PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In 1990 the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended that Naval Hospital Philadelphia be closed. Several earlier studies conducted during the 1970s and 1980s had concluded that construction of a new hospital would be more efficient than fitting modern medical facilities and equipment into the existing building. In 1993 the Navy closed Naval Hospital Philadelphia and began studying reuse options for the site, including the disposal of the property.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Navy's Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NORTHNAVFAC), undertook an architectural and historical study of the hospital property in order to evaluate its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, NORTHNAVFAC determined Naval Hospital Philadelphia was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A, for its association with naval medical facilities during World War II. Naval Hospital Philadelphia served as the center for all naval patients with residences east of the Rocky Mountains who required

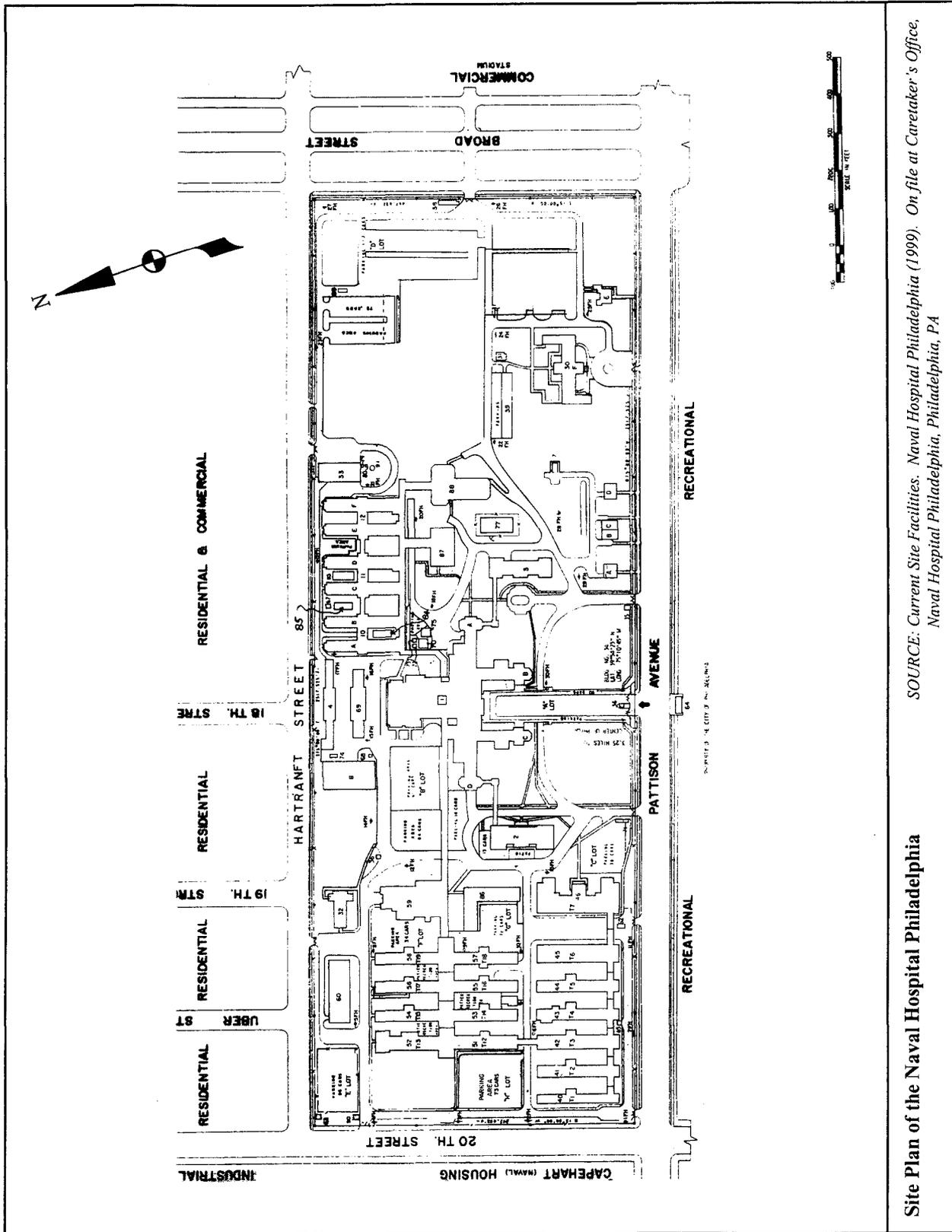
amputation, orthopedic, or prosthetic services, and as a treatment center for hearing- and vision-impaired veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. NORTHNAVFAC also determined the original 1930s core of the Hospital as eligible under National Register Criterion C, as an architecturally coherent complex of Art Deco-style buildings. As a result of these findings, the Navy undertook this narrative documentation of the Naval Hospital Philadelphia complex, as well as the compilation of individual reports on nine buildings within the historic district, prior to the hospital complex's final disposition.

Prepared by: Stuart Paul Dixon
Title: Senior Architectural Historian
Affiliation: Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.
Date: September 1999

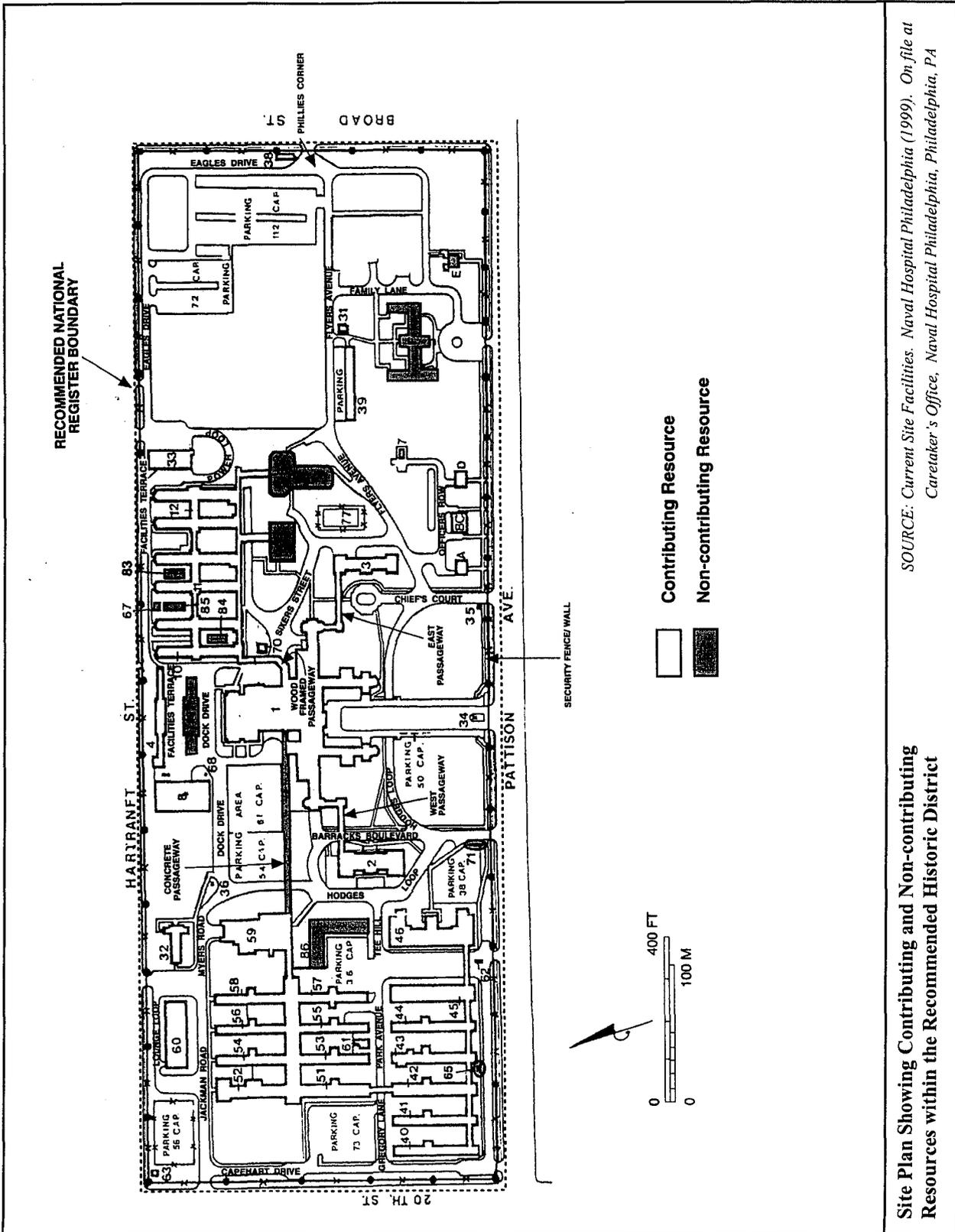


Location Map

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Philadelphia, PA 1967 (Photorevised 1994)



Site Plan of the Naval Hospital Philadelphia SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at Caretaker's Office, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA



SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at
 Caretaker's Office, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Site Plan Showing Contributing and Non-contributing Resources within the Recommended Historic District

ADDENDUM TO:
NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA
Bounded by South Twentieth Street, Hartrafnt Street, South Broad
Street & Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6206
PA-6206

HABS
PA-6206

FIELD RECORDS

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