

ARLINGTON HALL STATION, BUILDING 503
4000 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington
Arlington County
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-1270-AB

HABS
VA
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
ARLINGTON HALL STATION, BUILDING 503

HABS No. VA-1270-AB

Location: Located in the northeast quadrant of Arlington Hall Station approximately 300 feet south of the intersection of Third and Fourth Streets. Arlington Hall Station is located at 4000 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia.

Significance: Constructed in 1944 as WAC barracks, Building 503 was part of the second major building campaign initiated by the U.S. Army at the former site of Arlington Hall Junior College (1927-1942). It is associated with the nationally significant development of Arlington Hall Station as the headquarters of United States Army intelligence activities during World War II. (For overview of Arlington Hall Station, see HABS No. VA-1270).

Description: Building 503 is a rectangular, two-story gable roofed, painted concrete block building measuring approximately 30 feet by 89 feet. Window openings are rectangular with concrete sills and six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Entries are centrally located on each gable end and on the south side at the southeast corner. A second story door on the west side is approached from a steel stair and stoop. The gable ends contain rectangular, louvered vents. Pipe vents are located at the side of the building and on the roof.

Interior rooms are arranged along a double-loaded corridor with a single run stair along one side of the corridor towards the east end.

History: Building 503 was constructed in 1944 for use as Woman Army Corps (WAC) barracks. The building is one of thirteen mobilization-type barracks constructed to accommodate 700 new WAC personnel assigned to Arlington Hall Station in January 1944.

The design of the building conforms to standardized United States Army plans for mobilization-type barracks. These plans called for wood frame, rather than concrete block, construction. It appears that in 1944 the Army determined to develop a more permanent presence at Arlington Hall Station, and chose to build standardized barracks of concrete block. The building has undergone general maintenance and repair since 1944.

Sources: Annual Reports, Arlington Hall Station. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

History Office, ODCSOPS. *Arlington Hall Station and Military Intelligence*. Arlington, VA: n.d. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

History Office, ODCSOPS. *INSCOM and Its Heritage: An Organizational History of the Command and Its Units*. Special Historical Series. Arlington, VA: n.d. On file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

History of the Signal Security Agency. Part of a classified 10 volume series. Declassified portions of the series on file at INSCOM Command Historian's Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Original drawings on file at Facility Engineer's Office, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia.

Historian:

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