

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL, SERVICE BUILDING  
(Servants' Quarters)

HABS No. VA-1287-D

Between Williamson Drive and Green Street,  
adjacent to northern driveway behind  
Medical Officer's Quarters C

Portsmouth

~~Portsmouth County~~

Virginia

HABS  
VA  
65-PORTM,  
2D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Northeast Field Area  
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office  
National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL,  
SERVICE BUILDING  
(Servants' Quarters)

HABS NO. VA-1287-D

HABS  
VA  
65-PORTM,  
2D-

Location: Between Williamson Drive and Green Street,  
adjacent to northern driveway behind Medical Officer's Quarters C,  
Portsmouth, Virginia  
UTM: 18.383610.4078320  
QUAD: Norfolk South, VA; 1965 (photorevised 1986)

Significance: The vernacular Service Building, popularly but inaccurately referred to as a servant's quarters, is one of two outbuildings associated with Medical Officer's Quarters C (HABS No. VA-1287-B), and is significant as a reconstruction of a residential dependency that forms part of the most significant residential compound at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital.

Description: The Service Building is located southwest of Medical Officer's Quarters C, south of the northern driveway off Green Street. The long, rectangular, stuccoed, masonry building is one story in height with an asphalt-shingled side-gabled roof. The Service Building has a poured-concrete foundation, six-over-six sash windows, and louvered openings in the end-gable walls. The stuccoed wall finish and wood trim are painted white. A central interior chimney, also of stuccoed masonry, divides the single-pile structure into two sections. The main four-bay residential wing features a shed-roofed porch with five square columns along the entire length of the northeast elevation; to the southeast lies an attached two-bay garage. Only the facade under the porch has weatherboard siding. Two entrances open off the porch, with six-panel doors and screen doors, surrounded by simple door casings. There is an additional door opening from the porch to the garage, on the southeast end of the porch.

The Service Building fronts on a concrete driveway and parking area behind Medical Officer's Quarters C, in a garden setting surrounded by a lawn, shrubs, and trees. There are small shrubs planted at the foundation of the building, and a magnolia tree at the northeast corner in front of the Service Building. A large back yard with a chain-link fence extends to the southwest behind the Service Building.

History: The original Service Building was one of a group of outbuildings associated with Officer's Quarters A, "the Myrtles." It was probably designed by the same architect as Officer's Quarters A, and built around the same time. A plot plan from 20 May 1918 identifies and locates the Service Building in its original location in the yard

behind Quarters A, just southwest of the house. The Service Building was still in its original location in 1944, by which time a two-bay garage addition had been constructed ("U.S. Naval Hospital Plot Plan," November 25, 1944). The Service Building is clearly visible in a 1955 photograph (VA-1287-27) showing the group of outbuildings located behind Officer's Quarters A. The Service Building was demolished in 1956 when Officer's Quarters A and its associated outbuildings were removed in preparation for the construction of the 1960 high-rise Hospital on the site. At the request of the Commanding Officer at that time, Rear Admiral O.B. Morrison, Jr., a replica of the Service Building was reconstructed in 1956 behind his new residence in the 1904 Medical Officer's Quarters C. It is possible that the architects of the 1960 Hospital, Marcellus Wright & Son, Associates, of Richmond, VA, also were responsible for the 1956 reconstruction of the Service Building. The Service Building is now used as a storage building and garage.

The property is owned by the United States Department of the Navy with caretaker responsibility assigned to the Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Portsmouth.

Sources:

Bush, Ted J., "99-Year-old Quarters at Hospital Being Torn Down for New Building." *Virginian-Pilot*, section G, January 29, 1956.

Class 2 Property Record, Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA.

Cutchin, Al, telephone conversation, February 6, 1991. Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA.

Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards & Docks. "Emergency Hospital Buildings Plot Plan," 20 May 1918. Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. Yards & Docks #76701.

Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards & Docks. "General Development Plan, Existing and Planned Peacetime," June 7, 1957. Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. D.P.W. #3, Yards & Docks #4377.

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Photographic copy of historic photograph, outbuildings behind Officer's Quarters A, "the Myrtles"; Service Building on left, Gardener's Tool Shed on right, 1955. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, Portsmouth, VA.

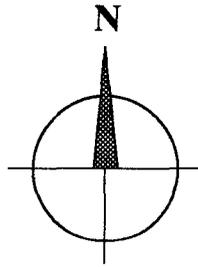
Scope of Work for Cultural Resources and Planning Services at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. Attachment A: Buildings Within the Historic District and Level of Documentation. Prepared by LANTNAVFACENGCOM, 1990.

"U.S. Naval Hospital Plot Plan," November 25, 1944. Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA.

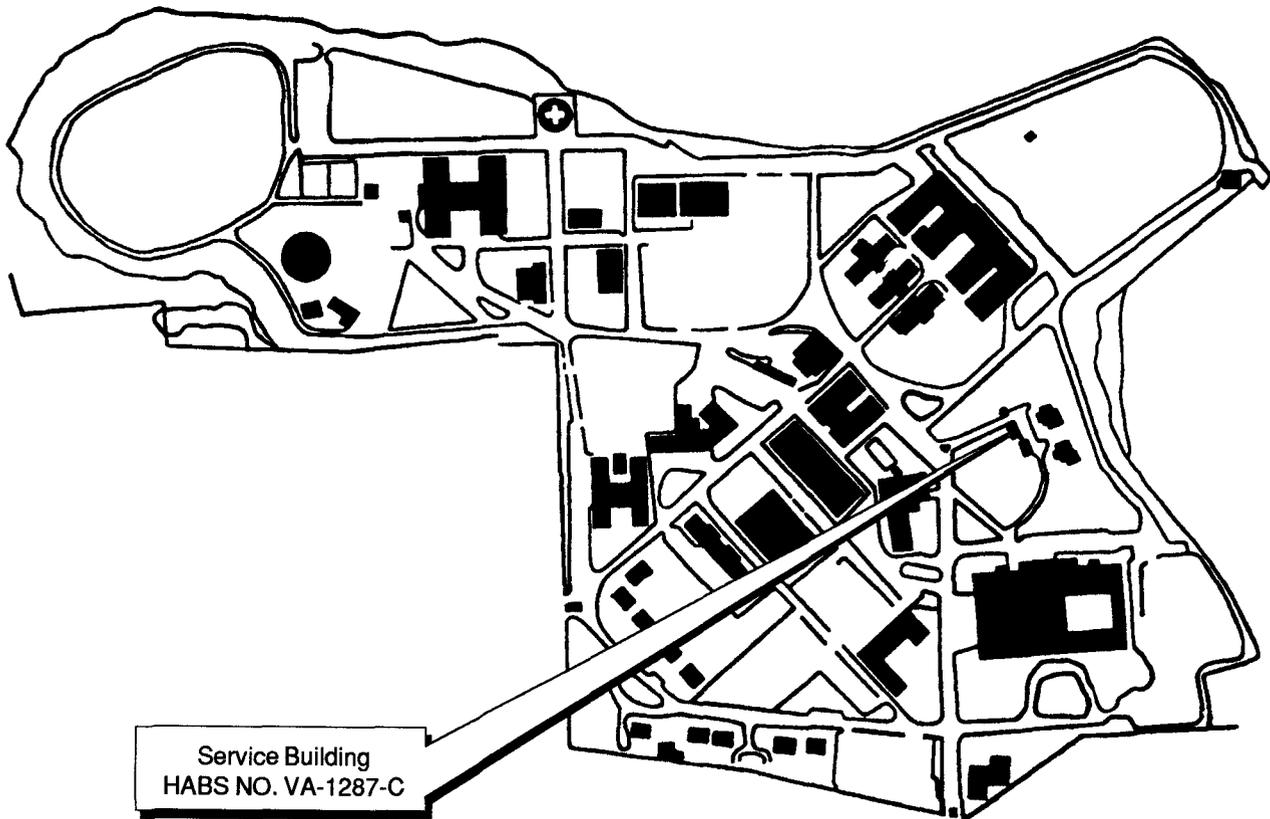
Historians:

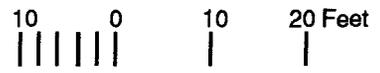
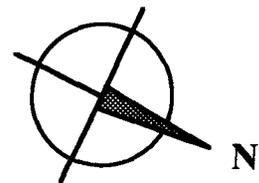
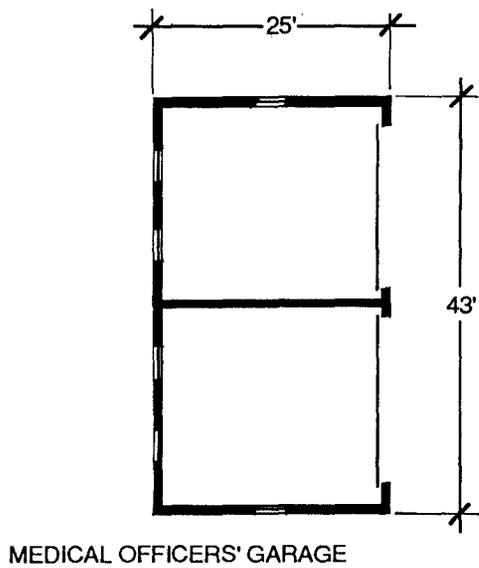
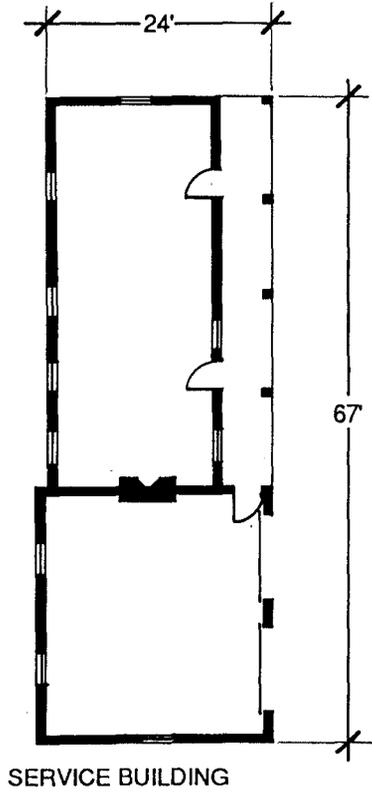
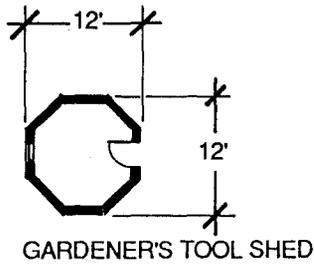
M.J. Wuellner, Frederick Schneider, Land and Community Associates, November 1991

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# NAVAL HOSPITAL Portsmouth, Virginia





Scale: 1" = 20 feet