

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL,
MEDICAL STORAGE BUILDING

HABS No. VA-1287-K

(Laundry)
South corner, intersection of The Circle
and Barton Avenue
Portsmouth
~~Portsmouth County~~
Virginia

HABS
VA
65-PORTM,
2K-

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,
MEDICAL STORAGE BUILDING
(Laundry)

HABS NO. VA-1287-K

HABS
VA
65-1077-1
2K-

Location: South corner, intersection of The Circle and Barton Avenue,
Portsmouth, Virginia
UTM: 18.383450.4078360
QUAD: Norfolk South, VA; 1965 (photorevised 1986)

Significance: Built in 1918 for use as a storage building for medical supplies, the Modern-style Medical Storage Building is one of a row of three early- to mid-twentieth-century utilitarian brick buildings along Green Street / The Circle (HABS No. VA-1287-L-1), and is significant as part of the first separate utilitarian complex to support the functional needs of the Naval Hospital.

Description: The Medical Storage Building is a two-story, rectangular, two-part, buff-colored brick building facing The Circle to the northeast, and adjacent to the Central Power House on the northwest across Barton Avenue. The original front, two-story mass (northeast) is connected by a two-story hyphen to a later large, rectangular, two-story rear addition (southwest). The rear addition was constructed in 1940, and the two-story hyphen was built in 1943.

The front block of the Medical Storage Building has a five-bay facade and is three bays deep, while the rear addition is three bays wide and five bays deep. The Medical Storage Building clearly was designed to reflect the handsome design and materials of the adjacent Central Power House. Likewise, the Medical Storage Building and its addition are almost identical in architectural character and materials, having a raised brick water table topped by a plain stone course, stretcher-bond brick facing, a stone cornice, and a brick parapet. The facade (northeast elevation) has an ornamental projecting three-bay central pavilion featuring four colossal, Tuscan, stone pilasters spanning two stories topped by a stone entablature. The entrance is marked by a late twentieth-century suspended aluminum canopy over an altered, double-door entry, with a bricked transom, concrete steps, and a handicapped access ramp. The original building has altered, paired, one-over-one sash windows with stone sills, and some openings have been bricked due to changes in the function of the building. The rear addition has large multi-paned steel transom windows with stone sills, some with ducts or vents inserted, and there is a loading dock on the rear elevation of the addition. The interior has been remodeled recently for office space.

Large ducts are located on the northwest side of the rear addition, with air conditioning equipment and an electrical substation located immediately adjacent at ground level. A one-story hyphen connects the Laundry to the Carpenter & Paint Shop. To the rear of the hyphen, between the two buildings, there is a work yard with chain-link fencing along the rear building line. Diagonal parking occurs at the rear of the building.

History:

The original, front, two-story portion of the Medical Storage Building dates from 1918, and was designed by the Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks as a storage facility. In 1940, the present rear laundry addition was constructed and connected to the front Medical Storage Building by a second-floor enclosed bridge; the Medical Storage Building was renamed the Laundry at this time due to its change in function. In 1943, a one-story hyphen was constructed under the second-floor bridge, connecting the Laundry to the Carpenter & Paint Shop on the southeast. Mackenzie, Ashley & Bogert, Architects & Engineers, New York City, New York, were responsible for the 1940-43 alterations. Recently the entire interior was remodeled to house the administrative offices of the Personnel Support Detachment.

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

Sources:

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

Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks. "Storage Building," elevations, February 19, 1918. Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. Blue-line print.

_____. "Storage Building," (1st & 2nd floor plans, February 19, 1918). Public Works Office, Facilities Management, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. Blue-line print.

_____. "Laundry Building Plans and Elevations," (original construction drawing, October 23, 1940). LANTDIV, Norfolk, VA. Drawing #13643. Microfiche.

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Mackenzie, Ashley & Bogert, Architects & Engineers, New York City, New York. "Additions and Alterations to Laundry Building," (elevations and sections, architectural and structural plans, October 10, 1943). LANTDIV, Norfolk, VA. Drawing #18953-4. Microfiche.

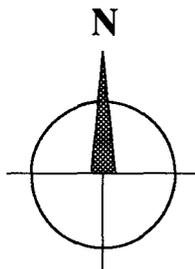
Scope of Work for Cultural Resources and Planning Services at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia. Attachment A: Buildings Within the Historic District and Level of Documentation. Prepared by LANTNAVFACENGCOM, 1990.

Historians:

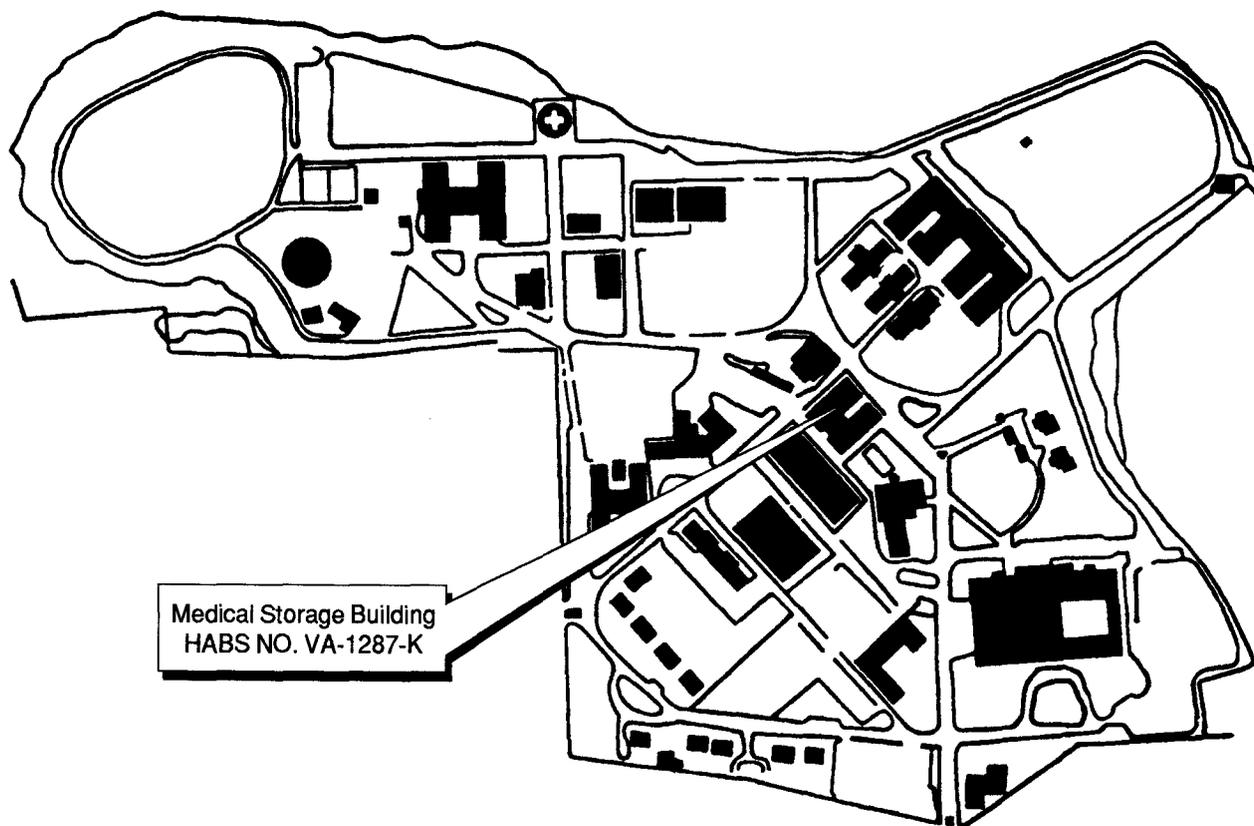
M.J. Wuellner, Frederick Schneider, Land and Community Associates, November 1991.

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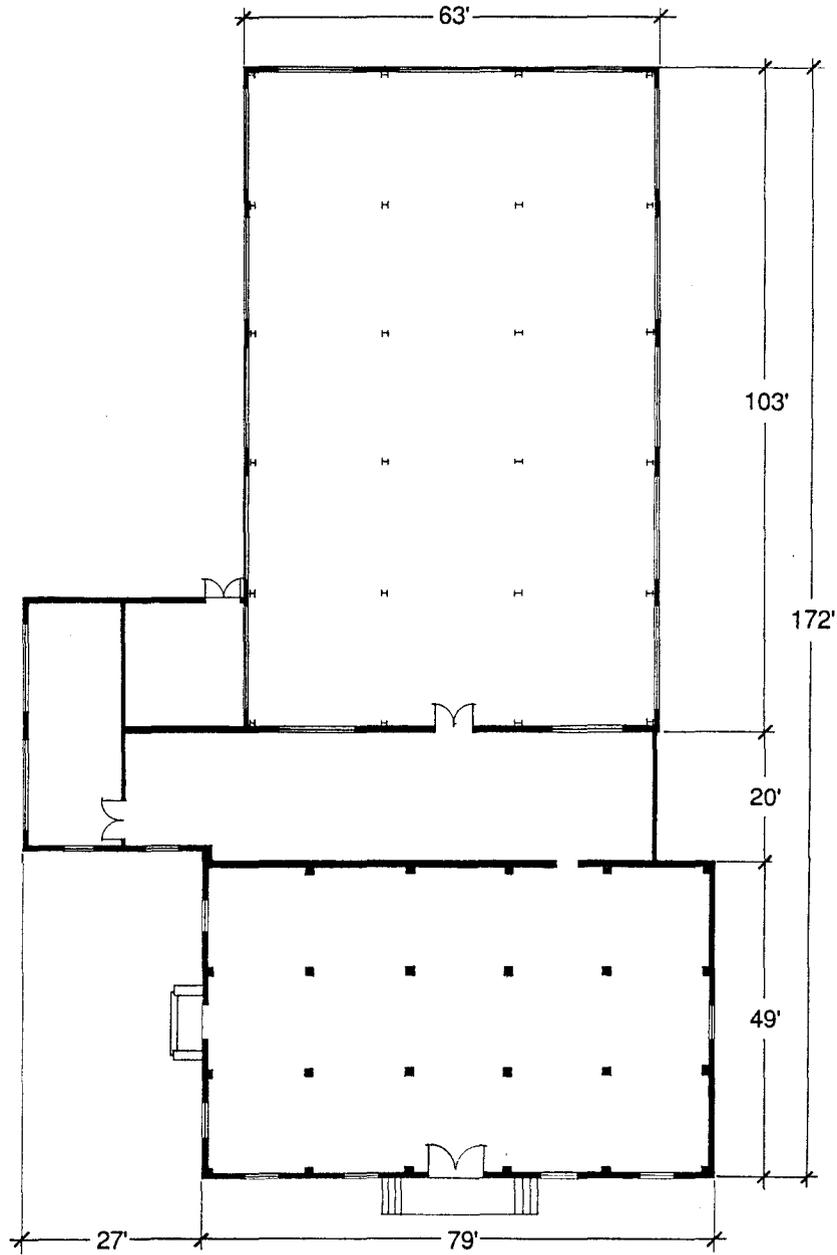
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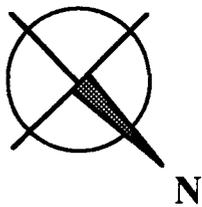
NAVAL HOSPITAL Portsmouth, Virginia



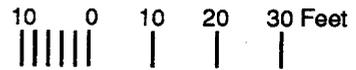
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FIRST FLOOR



MEDICAL STORAGE BUILDING
FLOOR PLAN (as of MAY 1991)



Scale: 1" = 30 feet