

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL,
CARPENTER & PAINT SHOP
(Public Works Shop)
Green Street
Portsmouth
~~Portsmouth County~~
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1287-L

HABS
VA
65-PORTM,
2L-

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,
CARPENTER & PAINT SHOP
(Public Works Shop)

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VA
65-PORTM,
RL-

Location:

Green Street, Portsmouth, Virginia
UTM: 18.383470.4078350
QUAD: Norfolk South, VA; 1965 (photorevised 1986)

Significance:

The Modern-style Carpenter & Paint Shop, built in 1941-42, 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 Carpenter & Paint Shop is a rectangular, two-story storage building facing Green Street to the northeast. It is situated southeast of the adjacent Medical Storage Building, and is connected to it by a one-story hyphen. Reflecting its utilitarian function, the Carpenter & Paint Shop has a less elaborate facade than the earlier Medical Storage Building or the Central Power House. Nevertheless, the Carpenter & Paint Shop reflects the design of the adjacent Medical Storage Building in its use of similar materials, construction, and cornice treatment.

The Carpenter & Paint Shop is three bays wide and ten bays deep, and is constructed of cast-in-place reinforced concrete. It has a poured concrete foundation, buff-colored, stretcher-bond brick facing, and large, multi-paned steel transom windows with brick lintels and poured-concrete sills. It is crowned by a one-fascia stone frieze, plain brick architrave, stone cornice, and brick parapet. Due to changes in the function of the building, some windows are bricked, and some openings have ducts or vents inserted. The first story of the facade has a four-bay loading dock, and a two-light, single-door entry flanked by a nine-light steel transom window. The name posted on the building is CLINICAL INVESTIGATION, FORMS CONTROL, PATIENT RECORDS. There are five entrances on the southeastern side elevation; the rear elevation (southwest) has a second-story entrance in the center bay, and a steel exterior staircase. There is a rectangular, one-story, flat-roofed brick tower on the east corner of the roof; and there are two metal flues and a small, one-bay, square lantern on the standing-seam metal roof.

The interior has a rectangular, warehouse-type plan, with reinforced concrete floors and roof, and structural concrete piers at regular intervals. There is a steel staircase at the east corner surrounded by a fire-proof, structural clay-tile infill wall. Later

concrete-block partition walls, probably added when the facility was converted to a Public Works Shop, divide the first floor into several large rooms that are presently used for storage. The second floor has an open plan divided by recent wire-mesh partitions that provide secure storage areas for the building's current use as a medical storage facility.

There are parking areas to the rear (southwest), and on the southeastern side of the building.

History:

Built in 1941-1942 as the Carpenter & Paint Shop, the building was designed by Giffels & Vallet, Inc., Engineers & Architects of Detroit, Michigan ("Carpenter & Paint Shop," 1941). In 1943, a one-story brick hyphen was constructed to connect the Carpenter & Paint Shop to the adjacent Medical Storage Building ("Additions and Alterations to Laundry Building," 1943). The building served as the public works shop in the 1960s when the interior partition walls were probably added and some of the windows were bricked. Recently the building has been used for medical storage, and secure wire-mesh partitions have been added on the second floor for storage purposes. 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.

Giffels & Vallet, Inc., Engineers & Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "Carpenter & Paint Shop," plot plan, elevations, first floor plan, second floor plan; original construction drawings; September 16, 1941. LANTDIV, Norfolk, VA. Drawing #17597-07.

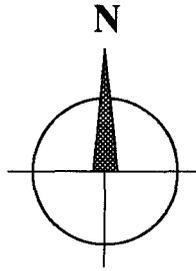
Mackenzie, Ashley & Bogert, Architects & Engineers, New York City, New York. "Additions and Alterations to Laundry Building," elevations and sections, October 10, 1943. LANTDIV, Norfolk, VA. Drawing #18953-4.

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.

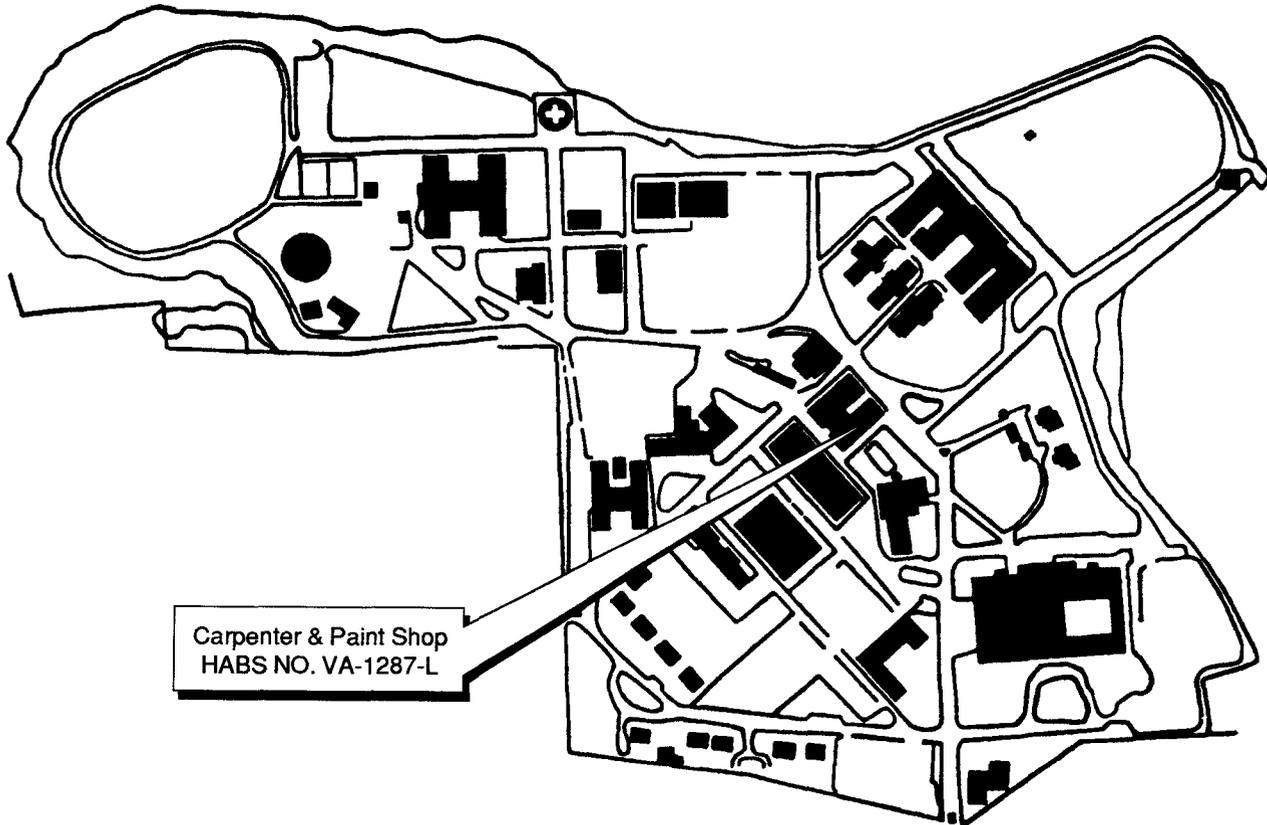
Historians:

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

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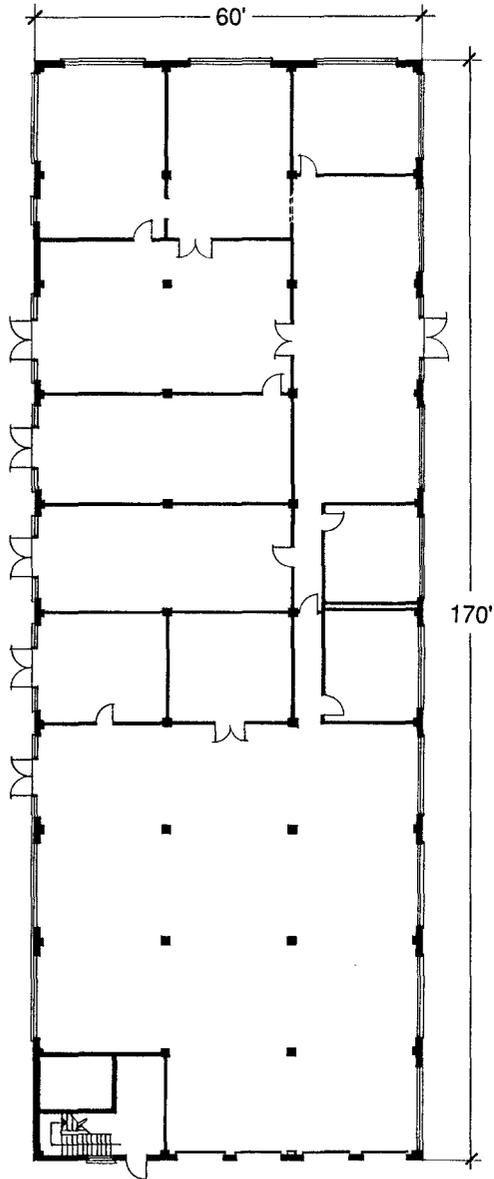


NAVAL HOSPITAL Portsmouth, Virginia

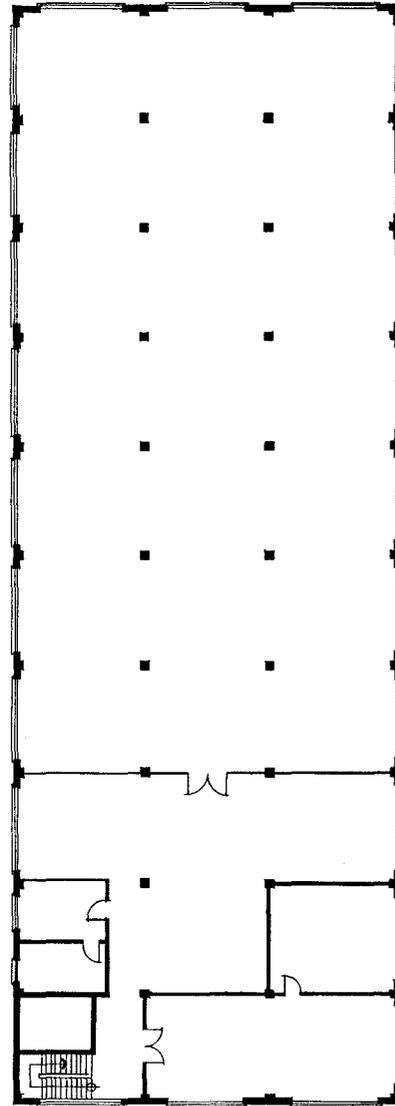


Carpenter & Paint Shop
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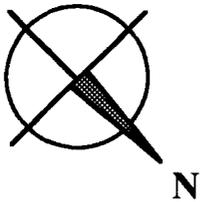
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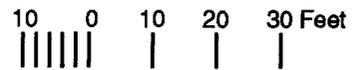
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



CARPENTER & PAINT SHOP
FLOOR PLANS (as of MAY 1991)



Scale: 1" = 30 feet