

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, DETACHED DINING HALL
(Building No. 33)
544-560 Redwood Drive, Southeast
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS DC-349-AQ
HABS DC-349-AQ

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, DETACHED DINING HALL (BUILDING 33)

HABS NO. DC-349-AQ

Location: 544–560 Redwood Drive SE, Washington, D.C., on the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital

Present Owner: General Services Administration, United States Government

Present Use: Vacant (rehabilitation of St. Elizabeths West Campus in progress)

Significance: The Detached Dining Hall is significant for its association with the treatment of mental illness at St. Elizabeths Hospital and for its association with the daily life of the staff and residents of the hospital campus. The expansion of the facility in the 1870s and 1880s, undertaken to relieve the overcrowding of the original buildings, incorporated multiple detached cottages and wards rather than the echelon plan of the original hospital. The Detached Dining Hall was constructed in the 1880s to serve the population of these detached buildings. In addition to meals, the dining hall served as the main social common space for this portion of the campus and featured a stage at the north end of the building.

The Detached Dining Hall is also significant for its architectural design. The building has a distinctive basilica plan, with a continuous central hall area with clerestory windows and lower side aisles. The basic interior form is clearly expressed in the exterior massing of the building.

Also significant is the site placement of this building as the west side of a small quadrangle defined by the Atkins, Relief, and Home. This building group is united by the quadrangle layout and refers to the older Center Building group by use of a common orientation to the diagonal axis.

Historians: Mike Ford, Kenneth Itle, Tim Penich, and Deborah Slaton, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1885¹
2. Architect: Not known

¹ *Historic Resources Management Plan*, Devroux & Purnell Architects-Planners, PC, with Betty Bird, Historian, and Rhodeside & Harwell Inc., Landscape Architects, prepared for the D.C. Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of the Assistant City Administrator for Economic Development, Washington, D.C., September 1993.

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: St. Elizabeths Hospital (then the Government Hospital for the Insane) was placed under the control of the Department of the Interior by an act of Congress on March 3, 1855. Thus when the Detached Dining Hall was constructed in 1885, the hospital was under the control of the Department of the Interior and remained so until 1940, when St. Elizabeths was transferred to the Federal Security Agency. The Federal Security Agency was a new government agency that oversaw federal activities in the fields of health, education, and social insurance. In 1953, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created. At that time several of the functions of the Federal Security Agency, including control of St. Elizabeths Hospital, were transferred to the new department. In 1968, St. Elizabeths was transferred to the National Institute of Mental Health, an agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Institute wanted to demonstrate how a large mental hospital could be converted into a smaller, more modern facility for training, service, and research.² In 1979, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare became the Department of Health and Human Services with the creation of the Department of Education. The Department of Health and Human Services retained control of the hospital until 2004 when the west campus of St. Elizabeths was transferred to the General Services Administration.

Upon completion in 1885, the Detached Dining Hall served as the kitchen and dining hall for patients housed in the free-standing buildings constructed in 1878–1883, including Atkins Hall (Building 31), Relief (Building 32), and Home (Building 36). These buildings housed mild-mannered white male patients of the chronic class. The Detached Dining Hall also functioned as a campus assembly hall because it was larger than the chapel and other Center Building spaces.

By 1980, the Detached Dining Hall, along with the Detached Kitchen, was used as a vocational rehabilitation facility and was the headquarters for the campus information technology (IT) center. In 1992, the structure was still being used as a campus support facility.³

After control of the campus was transferred to the General Services Administration in 2004, the campus facilities were stabilized and the buildings, including the Detached Dining Hall, were mothballed by 2005. In 2011, renovation of the building began, as part of the rehabilitation of the St. Elizabeths West Campus.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known
5. Original plans and construction: The Detached Dining Hall was constructed as a rectangular basilica-type structure with clerestory. The building was situated southeast of the Center Building complex on a north-south axis and enclosed the courtyard created by the Home, Atkins, and Relief buildings. Original drawings for the Detached Dining Hall are unavailable. Based on archival photographic documentation and physical evidence, the two-story brick structure had a slate tile double-gable roof with clerestory, bracketed eaves, and brick end gables. A corbelled brick water table and blind arcade cornice wrapped the building. Wood-framed window and door openings had segmented brick relieving arches, corbelled brick drip moldings, and stone sills.

Along the north and south elevation end gables were two-level wood-framed porches with decorative brackets, wood balustrades, and a standing-seam metal hip roof. The porches consisted of five framing bays and provided access to the main dining space. Below the north porch, a brick

² 1970 *Annual Report*.

³ *Master Facilities Use Plan* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1980). The building is identified as a “support facility” in the 1992 Building Inventory.

enclosure at the ground floor contained the connection of the campus-wide service tunnel system into the ground floor of the Detached Dining Hall.

The open plan of the first floor dining area was a defining feature of the building. The space consisted of a central two-story hall and flanking side aisles with a proscenium arch and elevated stage on the north end. Exposed wood trusses provided the structure for the central hall and associated clerestory. The central hall and aisles were separated by fluted cast iron support columns. Archival photographs and annual reports indicate wood flooring and plaster wall finishes. The kitchen occupied the ground floor. Archival documentation has not been identified that confirms the appearance of the interior of the ground floor area; however, existing fluted cast iron columns are similar to those depicted in 1897 archival photographs of the dining space and are believed to be original to the structure.⁴

6. Alterations and additions: In 1900, the Detached Kitchen (Building 34) was constructed off the south end of the west elevation of the dining hall. The new two-story kitchen resembled the dining hall in height and material and was linked to the dining hall by a wood-framed breezeway at the upper level. Wood-framed windows were removed and openings were enlarged to provide access into the dining hall. The kitchen was fitted with upgraded kitchen accessories and the ground floor of the Detached Dining Hall was converted into a storage space.⁵

Between 1900 and 1902, a new two-level porch addition was made to the south porch of the dining hall. The new construction extended perpendicular from the east end of the south porch and connected the Dining Hall to the Home building, providing a covered access way. The wood-framed porch addition had similar detailing to the existing dining hall porch and included a wood balustrade and hip roof. Decorative column brackets on the north and south porch were removed prior to construction of the south porch addition.⁶

Between 1904 and 1926, the east end of the south porch was enclosed through the addition of wood-framed multi-light windows set into the existing wood balustrade and framing. A similar enclosure was constructed on the lower porch level of Allison D (Building 23) in 1926. It is assumed that the multi-light window infill was completed at approximately the same time.⁷

A 1912 archival photograph depicts a brick chimney extending from the upper roof of the northwest corner of the dining hall. By 1964, an aerial photograph indicates the chimney was relocated to the lower roof of the southeast corner of the building.⁸ No evidence is available through plans to suggest when the chimney was removed.

In 1915, an extensive renovation of the interior of the Detached Dining Hall was undertaken, as documented in construction drawings and the 1915 *Annual Report* and confirmed through various archival photographs. The open dining area was altered through extensive renovation of the first floor structural system and subsequent changes to the plan and material finishes. The original first floor framing was removed and replaced with a steel-framed structure with concrete slab and tied

⁴ *Historic Resources Management Plan; 1915 Annual Report.*

⁵ *Historic Resources Management Plan, 76.*

⁶ Comparison of a 1900 archival photograph and a circa 1902 archival photograph. The existence of the porch and removal of the wood brackets on both porches was verified through comparison with 1904 archival photographs.

⁷ Comparison of archival photographs from 1904 and 1963. 1926 *Annual Report, 7* mentions the enclosure of the porch around Allison D.

⁸ Comparison of archival photographs from 1912 and 1964.

to the existing structure with iron ties and threaded bolts.⁹ Ornate cast iron fluted columns separating the hall and aisles on the first floor were removed and replaced with new structural steel columns. The plaster proscenium arch and elevated stage on the north end of the building were removed and replaced by a dish washing room and interior iron staircase.¹⁰ In an effort to eliminate dampness and improve sanitary conditions, the wood floors, radiators, and the lower portion of the plaster walls were removed.¹¹ Hexagonal white tile was placed over the new concrete slab flooring, a steam coil heating system was installed in the wall cavity and covered by subway tile wainscot, and new lighting fixtures were added.¹² The ground floor structural system remained unchanged.¹³

In 1917, the ground floor of the building was converted into a shoe manufacturing facility. New machinery was installed and patients were trained in the skilled and labor-intensive profession. Initial cost of the raw leather was high and often limited the production of the shoes, slippers, and harnesses. However; for many years the program was successful in providing footwear for the institution.¹⁴

From the late 1930s through the 1970s, repairs at the Detached Dining Hall focused on addressing safety issues associated with the structural integrity of the wood-framed porches. Repairs were documented through archival photographs and documentation of maintenance issues in the Annual Reports.

In 1958, upgrades were made to the electrical systems of the Detached Dining Hall and Detached Kitchen that included the removal of historic pendant lighting fixtures and installation of new dropped fluorescent lighting.¹⁵

Structural changes were made to the north and south porches between 1945 and 2002. Wood columns were removed and replaced with metal pipe supports. Sections of the wood balustrades were removed and replaced with pipe metal handrails. During the same timeframe, the standing-seam metal roofing was removed and replaced with asphalt shingle.¹⁶

The south porch was modified between 1904 and 1963 by the removal of the wide central stair. A new wood-framed staircase was constructed in line with the building's south entrance. The ground floor garage door on the south elevation was widened. Porch support columns were offset from the first floor to accommodate the widening of the garage entrance.¹⁷ By 2002, archival photographs indicate that the two-level porch addition linking the Detached Dining Hall to the

⁹ Construction documents from May 1, 1915, supported by undated archival photograph that depicts the north interior elevation with a central door and two flanking doors with transom.

¹⁰ Comparison of 1904 photograph and undated archival photograph.

¹¹ 1915 *Annual Report*.

¹² Comparison of 1904 photograph and undated archival photograph.

¹³ Existing physical evidence in the ground floor indicates the historic fluted cast iron columns depicted in 1897 archival photographs.

¹⁴ 1917 *Annual Report*, 655 and 1920 *Annual Report*, 24–25.

¹⁵ 1958 construction documents and the 1957 *Annual Report*.

¹⁶ Public Buildings Administration, Detached Dining Hall Survey Sheet. Comparison of the *Report by the Public Buildings Administration* and 2002 archival photographs.

¹⁷ The garage door is first visible in 1963 archival photographs. It is unclear if it was a part of the original construction of the Detached Dining Hall, as the view is obscured by the wood-framed porch.

Home building was removed and the west end of the south porch was enclosed with plywood paneling to provide storage space.¹⁸

Between 1964 and 2002, numerous changes were made to the north porch. The west portion of the porch was removed and replaced with a concrete loading dock and stair with pipe metal handrails.¹⁹

In 1970, patients were vacated from all pre-1900 buildings, including the detached dormitories constructed in the late nineteenth century, and the Detached Dining Hall was closed for use as a patient cafeteria.²⁰ By 1980, the Detached Dining Hall, along with the Detached Kitchen, was used as a vocational rehabilitation facility and was the headquarters for the campus information technology (IT) center. In 1992, the structure was still being used as a campus support facility.²¹

Although the date is unknown, at some point the open plan of the ground floor was subdivided into small storage units along the perimeter of the space. The existing wood-framed partition walls and flooring were first noted in the 1992 Building Inventory.²²

After control of the west campus was transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services to the General Services Administration in 2004, the campus facilities were stabilized and the buildings mothballed. The window and door openings in the Detached Dining Hall were covered and protected with plywood.²³

In 2011, construction began to restore and renovate the Detached Dining Hall for future use by federal agencies.

B. Historical context²⁴

In 1877, William Godding (1831–1900) assumed control of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Following the approach that mental illness could be cured through the moral treatment of patients, Superintendent Godding encouraged the construction of small free-standing cottage buildings to promote a healthy environment and facilitate the orderly separation of patient groups. The change in architecture was a shift from the echelon plan of the earlier Center Building group on the campus, and from institutional to domestic imagery in caring for the chronically ill.

During Superintendent Godding's tenure, seventeen free-standing ward buildings were constructed on the St. Elizabeths campus in five separate clusters. Atkins Hall (Building 31), Relief (Building 32), and Home (Building 36), constructed in 1878–1883, housed mild-mannered white male patients of

¹⁸ Comparison of archival photographs from 1964 and 2002.

¹⁹ Public Buildings Administration, Detached Dining Hall Survey Sheet. Comparison of the *Report by the Public Buildings Administration* and 2002 archival photographs.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Master Facilities Use Plan*. The building is identified as a “support facility” in the 1992 Building Inventory.

²² 1992 Building Inventory and existing physical evidence.

²³ *St. Elizabeths West Campus Preservation, Design, and Development Guidelines*, Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates. Inc., Architectural and Historical Research, prepared for the General Services Administration, November 10, 2008, 18. A photograph of the building taken in 2005 by FMG Architects shows the building in a stabilized and protected state.

²⁴ A context history for the entire St. Elizabeths West Campus, as well as an overview history of the Detached Building Group, is to be developed under separate cover as part of this HABS documentation project.

the chronic class. The adjacent Detached Dining Hall (Building 33) was constructed to serve the patients housed in these three buildings.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The two-story Detached Dining Hall is oriented with a long axis running north-south. Wood-framed, hip-roofed porches and exterior entrances are located at the north and south ends. The central gable roof portion rises to the height of a two-story structure and has clerestory windows on the east and west sides, overlooking the lower sloped roofs of the side aisles. The dining hall is connected at its southwest corner to the Detached Kitchen (Building 34), a separate structure constructed somewhat later than the dining hall. The building has a distinctive basilica plan, with a continuous central hall area with clerestory windows and lower side aisles. The basic interior form is clearly expressed in the exterior massing of the building.

Exterior character-defining features of the building include the brick and stone masonry, corbelled brick detailing at roof eaves and gables, sandstone sills, projecting brick stringcourses, corbelled brick window hoods, and segmental brick arches at window and door openings; slate roofing at the main roof and exposed wood rafter tails with curved end profile; the wood-framed porches including wood columns at the ground floor and first floor, wood balustrades, wood tongue-and-groove decking, and wood beadboard ceiling; and the wood-framed, six-over-six double-hung windows, glazed transoms, and four-panel wood doors.

Interior character-defining features include the open volume of the main dining hall space, with the north wall containing the former stage opening/proscenium arch; the exposed wood trusses; exposed steel beam-and-girder framing and floor structure, and exposed iron beam and brick arch floor structure, at the ground floor level; ceramic tile wainscot; painted plaster; painted and stained wood window and door trim; tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling cladding; interior four-panel wood doors and transoms; cast iron columns with decorative capitals at ground floor level; hexagonal glazed ceramic floor tile; and the steel staircase including steel and wood balustrades. Notable characteristics also include the relationship of the Detached Dining Hall to the Detached Kitchen, and its connection to the campus-wide tunnel system.

2. Condition of fabric: At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/Building Preservation Plans project in 2009, the Detached Dining Hall was generally in poor condition. Distress conditions included open and eroded brick masonry joints on the facades; peeling and missing masonry coatings; efflorescence, rust staining, and organic growth on masonry; structural deterioration and loss of paint at the wood porches; loss of paint and wood decay at the clerestory cladding, trim, and eaves; and deterioration of roofing materials. Window and door deterioration included cracked and missing glazing, localized wood decay, and failed coatings.

The interior of the building was in fair condition. The ceramic tile flooring had significant cracking in the tiles and widespread dirt and wear. The wall plaster was in poor condition with widespread loss of paint, deteriorating finish coat, and small patches of missing plaster. The tile wainscot was in fair condition with some regions of staining and discoloration. The wood ceiling was in fair condition with some peeling paint and damaged components.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 63' by 143' rectangular building, 42'-9" inches to the peak of the roof
2. Foundations: The foundation walls are constructed of brick masonry.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of the building are constructed primarily of red brick masonry in a common bond pattern, with headers every sixth course. At the level of the first floor, there is a continuous projecting string course consisting of three courses of brick masonry corbelled slightly from the plane of the wall. Below the overhanging roof eave at the top of the wall on all elevations, there is corbelled brick in a dog-tooth pattern.

Some exterior masonry elements are painted. The sandstone window sills, projecting string course, corbelled window hoods, and corbelled dog-tooth details are all painted white. Also, remnants of a previous red-colored coating were observed on the wall at the ground floor level.

The clerestory level on the east and west elevations is clad with white-painted wood siding.

4. Structural system, framing: The Detached Dining Hall is a brick masonry structure that is rectangular in plan. The main floor level has a large space that is open to the roof structure, with an interior masonry wall that separates smaller ancillary spaces about 19 feet from the north end wall. The main floor structure primarily consists of a reinforced concrete slab supported by metal beams and columns. The roof includes a series of king-post trusses and a continuous clerestory. The roof structure is supported by exterior load-bearing masonry walls and interior columns. The lower level floor is a slab on grade and the space is divided into storage areas by structural and nonstructural partitions composed of wood framing and concrete masonry. Interior walls located within the lower level at the northeast and northwest corners of the building are load-bearing.

The exterior masonry walls and foundations are composed of clay brick masonry and are about 18 inches thick. The window and door openings have segmental masonry arches that support the masonry above. The main floor of the building has three different structural systems. The majority of the floor structure is a steel-reinforced concrete slab that spans north to south about 4 feet 8 inches between 6 inch and 8-inch-deep iron beams. The beams are supported by three lines of 10-inch-deep iron girders that bear on a series of cast iron fluted columns that are about 6-1/2 inches in diameter. The concrete slabs are typically about 4 inches thick and are reinforced with an expanded metal rib lath.

The main floor structure at the northwest corner of the building includes brick masonry arches supported by wrought iron beams that bear on the foundation walls. A metal-framed stair that provides access to the lower level is located at the northeast corner of the building. The floor framing located within the middle portion of the main floor at the north end includes cast-in-place concrete slabs and concrete-encased wrought iron beams supported by interior columns and foundation walls.

The roof structure has a raised gable section along the center of the building that is flanked by lower shed roofs along the east and west sides, creating a clerestory. The upper portion of the roof is supported by a series of nine king-post trusses that are about 6 feet 9 inches deep. Eight of the trusses are located over the larger open dining hall, are spaced about 14 feet apart, and span about 34-1/2 feet east to west between interior columns. The ninth truss is located within the roof of the north end that spans between interior walls. The shed roofs along the east and west sides of the

dining hall typically have timber frames (aligned with the upper roof trusses) that span between the interior columns and the exterior masonry walls. An additional timber is located beneath the king-post trusses that spans across the building between the top of the opposing lower roof frames. The roof rafters presumably support the roof deck and span between the king-post roof trusses and masonry end walls at the upper roof, and similarly at the shed roofs. The interior masonry wall at the north end extends to the roof. Three metal bar joists are located about 12 feet above the main floor level that span north to south between the north end wall and interior wall and are spaced about 8 feet apart. These bar joists are currently used to support light fixtures within the north room of the building.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads: Two-story covered porches span across the full width of the south and north facades.

At the ground floor of the south elevation, the porch is supported on square wood posts resting on square stone blocks. The square posts have simple wood trim at the base and top. To accommodate a driveway, several original porch posts were removed and replaced with two round steel columns and a supplemental steel beam. A concrete curb edges the ground floor of the porch, aligned to the porch columns. The west half of the porch has been enclosed with non-original wood stud and plywood infill on top of the curb and between the original porch posts. The ground floor porch has a painted wood beadboard ceiling.

The first floor of the south porch is accessed by an exterior wood-framed stair with a welded steel pipe handrail. Wood pieces have been added underneath to shore the stair. The first floor of the porch has wood tongue-and-groove flooring; the floor surface aligns to the underside of the projecting three-course brick stringcourse of the elevation. Painted square wood posts support the porch roof, and a welded steel pipe guardrail spans between posts. The underside of the roof is clad with painted wood beadboard. The east half of the first floor porch is enclosed. Along the south wall of the enclosed space, the wall is finished with painted beadboard up to the height of the original guardrail, and the upper half is enclosed with paired twelve-light casement windows. The east wall of the enclosed space is a non-original wood stud and plywood wall. The west wall of the enclosed space includes a five-panel solid wood door with a three-light transom, with eight-light sidelights above beadboard knee walls on each side.

Historically, the south elevation porch continued east for one additional bay, then turned south and continued as an outdoor covered connection to the Home Building, to the southeast. This continuation of the porch has been demolished, and the formerly open east end of the first floor porch has been closed with a wood stud and plywood wall, clad with aluminum siding on the exterior. At grade, concrete curbing and square stone blocks that formerly supported the wood porch posts for the continuation of the porch are present.

The north facade porch is similar in its original construction to the south porch. Just north of the ground floor of the porch, there is a brick retaining wall, beyond which grade is located midway between the level of the ground floor and first floor. A welded steel pipe guardrail is located along the retaining wall. At the midpoint of the porch, a brick and concrete enclosure projects from the wall of the building that connects the ground floor of the Detached Dining Hall to the campus-wide underground tunnel network.

At about the midpoint of the north porch, the construction of the porch transitions from the original wood structure (east) to a newer concrete structure (west). The east half of the porch has wood structural framing, a wood beadboard ceiling at the ground floor, wood tongue-and-groove

flooring at the first floor, wood posts at the ground floor and first floor, and a wood balustrade with added aluminum guardrails between posts at the first floor. The east half of the porch has been structurally stabilized with timber shoring at the ground floor and plywood patches at damaged areas in the first floor. The west half of the porch has concrete structural framing supported on steel beams, steel pipe columns to support the first floor roof, and steel pipe guardrails at the first floor. The location of the steel pipe columns does not match the location of the original wood posts at the west half of the porch; a beveled detail on the original roof beam indicates the original post locations. A portion of the concrete porch floor extends to form a loading dock, with a concrete staircase adjacent. The porch roof structure is original and is finished with painted beadboard across the entire first floor. Near the east end of the porch, the location of one of the original staircases leading to the porch is indicated by the location of a newel post and plywood board-up instead of the typical balustrade.

6. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: At the ground floor of the south facade is a large non-original sliding unpainted metal door. Within the enclosed area of the south porch, one ground floor door opening is intact behind plywood board-up. At the first floor of the porch, one door leads to the enclosed portion of the first floor porch and one door leads to the open portion of the porch. Both of these doors are painted four-panel wood doors with simple round door knobs and boarded-up transoms. At the location of doors onto the porch, the three-course brick stringcourse is replaced by a stone unit forming the door sill.

At the east facade, one door is located at the second bay from the south end, and one door is located at the second bay from the north end. Both of these doors are non-original hollow-core metal doors with metal frames.

The north facade has one ground level door opening near the east end. At the first floor, there are two door openings, one at either end. The east door is a wood door with four panels and a transom. The west door opening has been widened, the transom area infilled with brick, and the original door replaced by a hollow-core metal door with a metal frame.

The west facade has one door at the ground floor in the second bay from the north end. This door is also a non-original hollow-core metal door with a metal frame.

- b. Windows and shutters: The ground floor window openings typically have flat rectangular sandstone sills and simple segmental arch heads composed of two courses of rowlock brick masonry. The first floor window openings typically have identical sandstone sills and feature elaborate segmental arch hoods of corbelled brick masonry. The upper level windows on the north and south elevation are detailed identically. All of the original windows on the building are six-over-six wood double-hung units, although the sizes of the windows vary. The sash are hung with rope cords. Many of the windows have wood-framed screens. The clerestory windows have simple painted wood trim.

7. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: The south and north porches have hip roofs with a shallower slope. The side aisle roofs are covered with standing-seam sheet metal, while the main gable roof is covered with slate. The south porch roof is covered with rolled asphalt sheeting, while the north porch roof is covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The overhanging roof eaves of both the main roof and side aisle roofs are white-painted wood and include exposed painted wood rafter tails trimmed to a decorative profile. The main gable roof has no gutters or downspouts; water drains from the edge to the lower roof levels. The lower roofs over the side aisles and the porches have continuous semicircular galvanized steel gutters, painted white. The gutters connect to circular galvanized steel downspouts, which originally discharged to cast iron subgrade piping; each downspout has been disconnected above grade and re-directed via plastic piping onto the site.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: A square brick chimney is located at the south end of the east elevation, projecting from the plane of the wall.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The Detached Dining Room has a relatively simple and open floor plan. The first floor consists almost entirely of a single room, the expansive main dining room, extending the whole width and almost the entire length of the building. Two rows of columns along the length of this space and aligned to the clerestory walls above define side aisles on the east and west sides of the room. At the north end of the first floor is a service vestibule at the west end, a pantry at the center of the building, and the stair hall at the north east corner. The ground floor functions as a basement-type storage space and is mostly open, with a few partitioned rooms at the north end and around the perimeter.
2. Stairways: The building has a single stairwell at the northeast corner of the plan. The stairs are steel treads and risers with a wood and steel balustrade. At the top floor landing, the floor is ceramic hexagonal tile accompanied by a concrete base.
3. Flooring: The floors in the main dining room, service vestibule, and stair hall landing are hexagonal ceramic tile with no accompanying base. The pantry floor is red square ceramic tiles in a running bond pattern. The ground level floor is a combination of brick in a herringbone pattern and concrete.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the main dining room, service vestibule, and pantry have a ceramic subway tile wainscot up to 5 feet with painted plaster above. The walls in the stair hall are painted plaster.

The ceiling of the main dining room, service vestibule, and pantry is wood tongue-and-groove paneling, with the exposed wood and iron truss system. The ceiling is stained in the main dining room but painted in the service vestibule and pantry. The stair hall has a painted plaster ceiling.

The ground floor rooms are partitioned with various materials, from brick to drywall to simple wood framing and metal mesh. The ground floor ceiling is painted exposed steel framing.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: There is one original interior door in the main dining room, leading to the stair hall. This door is a four-panel wood door with a four-light transom and a wood threshold. Interior door openings leading to the pantry and the service vestibule are cased plaster openings. The openings to the pantry maintain the tile wainscot up to 5 feet. The opening to the service vestibule has a concrete threshold. The door on the west wall to the Detached Kitchen has been removed, but painted wood trim remains at the opening.
- b. Windows: The six-over-six wood double-hung windows throughout the building have simple painted wood trim. The clerestory windows in the main dining room only have a stained finish on the sashes and trim.

6. Decorative features and trim: None present.

7. Hardware: The original doors at the stair hall retain the historic hardware including round iron knobs and mortised locksets. There is no window hardware.

8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The Detached Dining Hall was served by the centralized coal-fired steam heating system from the Power House (Building 56/57), which fed steam to the building through insulated cast iron pipes located in the ground floor and subterranean tunnel system. There are steam radiators throughout the perimeter walls composed of horizontal piping. There are also some steam radiators in the ground floor. Passive ventilation was provided through the extensive network of clerestory windows. For added ventilation, there are small window fans located throughout the building.
- b. Lighting: Suspended fluorescent light fixtures dating to the 1960s are present throughout the building. The building is served by a 208Y/120V electrical distribution panel located on the ground floor level. The distribution panel feeds individual panelboards located throughout the building. Wall-mounted unit battery packs were installed throughout the building to function as emergency lighting in the event of a power outage.
- c. Plumbing: Plumbing supply and waste is composed of cast iron pipes and fittings with some additions in polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: Documentation of the landscape of the west campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital can be found in Historic American Landscape Survey documentation submittal DC-11.

On the east and west sides of the building is a brick paved lane. The level of the brick paving is approximately equal to the ground floor level. Adjacent to the paving, the site slopes up away from the building. The Detached Dining Hall is connected to the campus-wide service tunnel system at the north side of the ground floor level. The tunnel entrance was infilled with concrete block and is currently not accessible.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: Copies of architectural drawings are included in the attached Supplemental Material. The archival drawing documentation is in the collection of the General Services Administration.
- B. Early Views: Copies of selected early and historical views of the Detached Dining Hall are included in the attached Supplemental Material. The original photographs and other archival photographic documentation are in the collection of the General Services Administration, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, or the St. Elizabeths Hospital Health Sciences Library archives on the St. Elizabeths East Campus.
- C. Interviews: No oral history interviews were performed for this documentation project.
- D. Selected Sources:

Annual Reports of the Board of Visitors and the Superintendent of Construction. Government Hospital for the Insane, 1861–1867, 1869, 1872, and 1875.

Centennial Papers: St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1855–1955. Winfred Overholser, ed. Washington, D.C.: Centennial Commission, St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1956.

Correspondence and Promotional Literature Relating Primarily to the Selection of Hospital Sites by the Federal Board of Hospitalization, 1928–1943. Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

Correspondence and Other Records Relating to Administrative Matters, 1909–1929. Records of the Office of the Superintendent, (1855–1967). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

D'Amore, Arcangelo R. T., ed., *William Alanson White: The Washington Years.* Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1976.

The DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths: Final Master Plan. Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

General Correspondence and Other Records of the Federal Board of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Records of the Office of the Superintendent, (1855-1967), Record Group 418.

Historic Preservation Report: St. Elizabeths West Campus, John Milner Architects. Prepared for the General Services Administration. December 7, 2005.

Historic Structure Report: [Detached] Dining Hall (Building 33), St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, D.C. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. March 12, 2010.

Letters Sent, "Executive Series" 1857–1906. Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Record Group 418.

Library of Congress. Washington, D.C.: Geography & Maps Reading Room. Collection contains various topographical maps for the District of Columbia and St. Elizabeths campus from 1855–1985.

Maps and Plans of the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths Hospital), 05/27/189–12/14/1938. Department of the Interior, St. Elizabeths Hospital (1916–06/30/1940). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

Master Facilities Use Plan, revised 1980. Office of the Superintendent, Washington, D.C.: The General Services Administration, 1980.

National Archives and Record Administration. Textual Documents Division. Washington, D.C. Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Entry 20, Records of the Superintendent, Annual Report of the Subordinate Units, 1919–1966.

National Archives and Record Administration. Textual Documents Division. Washington, D.C. Record Group 42, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Cartographic and Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. Record Group 418, Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Cartographic and Architectural Drawings Division, College Park, Maryland. Record Group 48, Records of the Secretary of the Interior.

Photographic Prints of Buildings, Grounds, and People, 1870–1920. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, St. Elizabeth Hospital (04/11/1953–08/09/1967). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

Photographs of Structures at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C., 1968. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Public Health Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, National Institute of Mental Health, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Office of the Superintendent (04/01/1968–07/01/1973). Records of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1820–1981. Record Group 418, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic Resources Management Plan. Devroux & Purnell Architects-Planners, PC, with Betty Bird, Historian, and Rhodeside & Harwell Inc., Landscape Architects. Prepared for the D.C. Office of Business and Economic Development and the Office of the Assistant City Administrator for Economic Development, Washington, D.C., September 1993.

St. Elizabeths Hospital Tunnel Inspection Report. Burgess & Niple, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., February 2006.

St. Elizabeths West Campus: Cultural Landscape Report, Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration. April 2009.

St. Elizabeths West Campus Preservation, Design, & Development Guidelines. Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc., Architectural and Historical Research. Prepared for the General Services Administration. November 10, 2008.

- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Extensive research on the history of Detached Dining Hall has been performed for this and other studies, as documented in the publications and other sources listed above.

- F. Supplemental Material:
 - 1. GSA archives, image DC1472SE0P087.
 - 2. GSA archives, image DC1472SE0P100.
 - 3. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P009.
 - 4. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P006.
 - 5. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P007.
 - 6. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P011.
 - 7. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P001.
 - 8. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P003.
 - 9. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P004.
 - 10. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P010.
 - 11. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P008.
 - 12. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P012.
 - 13. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P014.
 - 14. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P013.
 - 15. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0102.
 - 16. GSA archives, image DC1452SE0103.
 - 17. GSA archives.

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This historical narrative was prepared by WJE in conjunction with Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC, who prepared the measured drawings, and Leslie Schwartz Photography, who prepared the photographic documentation. The HABS documentation was completed for the General Services Administration.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

DETACHED DINING HALL (Building 33)
St. Elizabeths West Campus
544–560 Redwood Drive SE
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-349-AQ



Figure 1. View of the Detached Dining Hall and Atkins Hall, 1964. Source: GSA archives, image DC1472SE0P087.



Figure 2. Aerial view of the Detached Dining Room, 1964. Source: GSA archives, image DC1472SE0P100.



Figure 3. View from south of south elevation of Detached Dining Hall, circa 1900. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P009.



Figure 4. View from south of south elevation, circa 1904. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P006.



Figure 5. View from southwest of south elevation, circa 1897. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P007.



Figure 6. View from west of west elevation, circa 1897. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P011.



Figure 7. View of Detached Dining Hall first floor interior looking south, circa 1889. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P001.



Figure 8. View of interior dining hall looking north, circa 1897. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P003.



Figure 9. View of interior dining hall looking northwest, circa 1900. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P004.



Figure 10. View of interior dining hall, looking north, circa 1897. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P010.



Figure 11. View from the northwest of the north elevation of Detached Dining Hall, 1912. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P008.



Figure 12. View of renovated dining hall looking north, circa 1915. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P012.



Figure 13. View of interior dining hall looking south, 1964. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P014.



Figure 14. View from south of south elevation of Detached Dining Hall, 1964. The porch of the Home Building is in the foreground at right. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0P013.

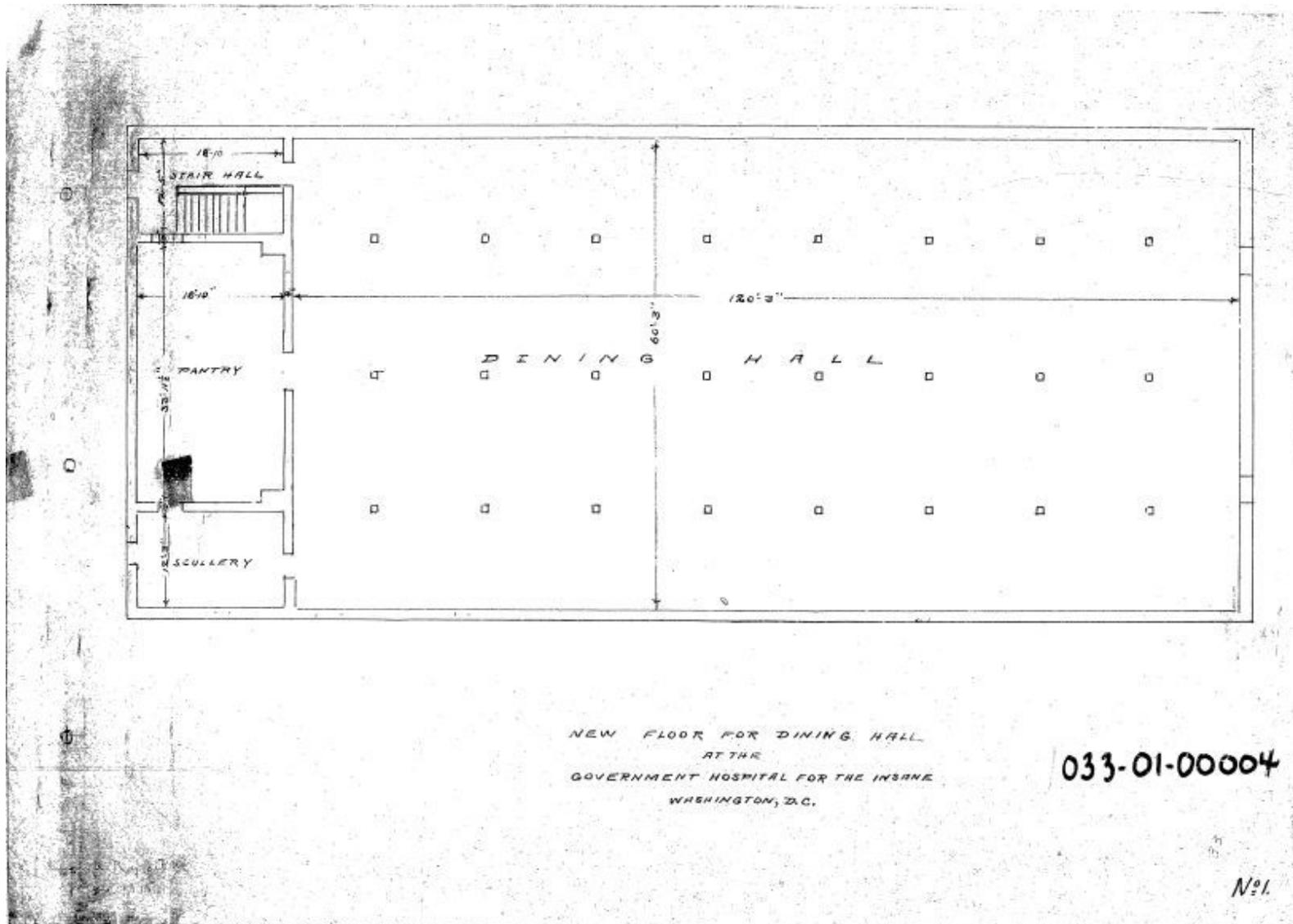


Figure 15. 1915 construction documents showing alterations to Dining Hall. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0102.

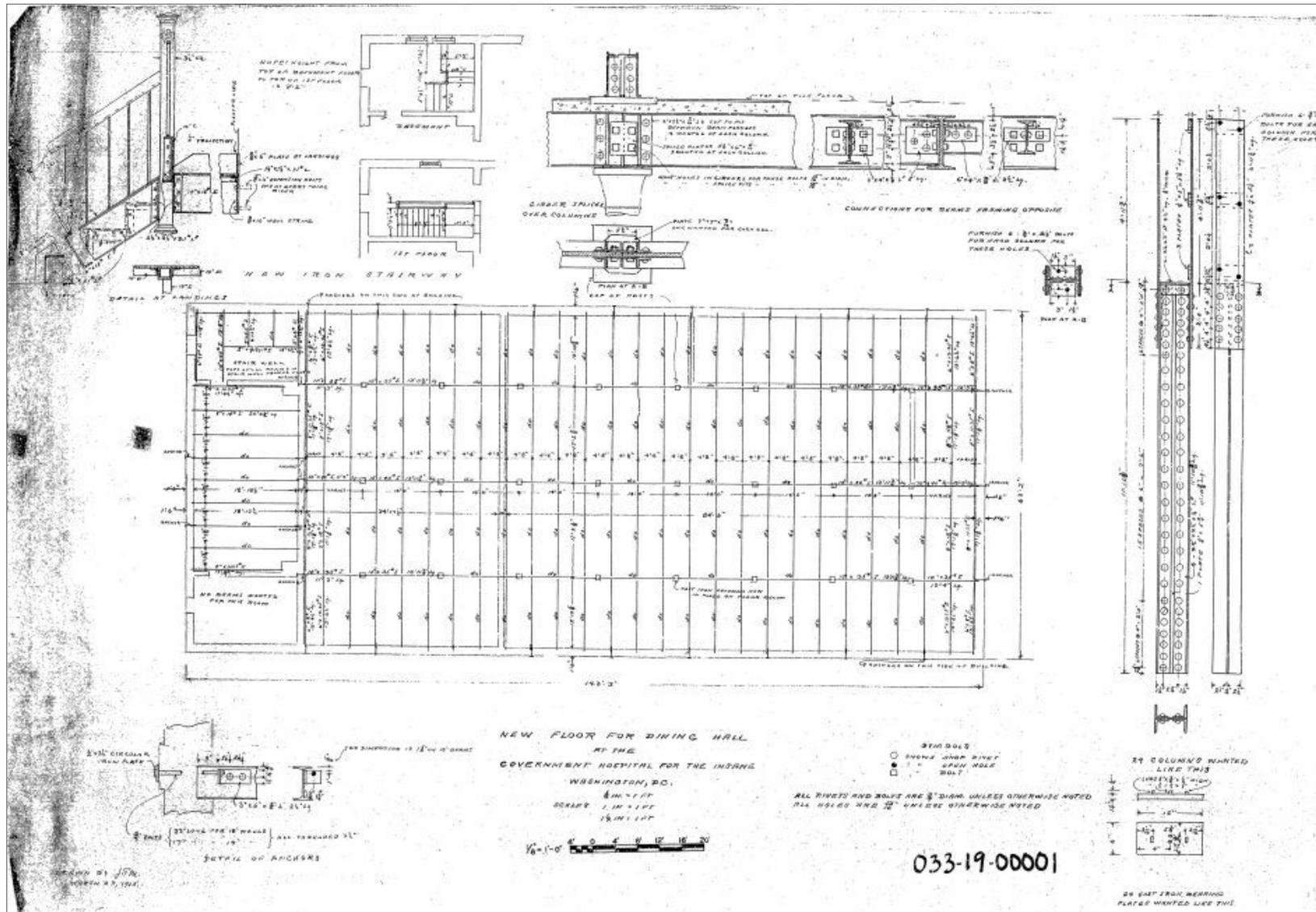


Figure 16. 1915 construction documents outlining alterations to Dining Hall, including new first floor framing. Source: GSA archives, image DC1452SE0103.

