

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, GATEHOUSE NO. 2
(Building No. 78)
2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS DC-349-AX
HABS DC-349-AX

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, GATEHOUSE NO. 2 (BUILDING 78)

HABS NO. DC-349-AX

Location: 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue 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: Gatehouse No. 2 (Building 78) is significant as a context structure that contributes to the broader historic character of the St. Elizabeths West Campus. As a secondary entrance to the campus, Gatehouse No. 2 is individually significant as a part of the public face of the campus for neighbors, staff, and visitors to the site. From its original construction until the late 1970s, Gatehouse No. 2 functioned as a gatehouse and was occupied by security staff for the campus.

Gatehouse No. 2 is an example of vernacular style architecture with a simple palette of materials including brick masonry, steel casement windows, and cement asbestos shingles. Notable details include the exposed wood rafter tails and roof deck at the eaves and the open porch along the north side of the building. The gatehouse is also distinguished by its structural integration with the campus perimeter wall, including the limestone piers and gates in the wall for vehicles and pedestrians.

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: 1926¹
2. Architect: Not known
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 Gatehouse No. 2 was constructed in 1926, 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.² In 1968, St. Elizabeths was transferred to the

¹ *Historic Resources Management Plan*, 80.

² *Federal Register*, accessed at <http://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/saint-elizabeth-s-hospital>, January 5, 2012.

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.³ 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.

From its original construction in 1926 until circa late 1970s, Gatehouse No. 2 was used as an entrance station for the security of visitors, staff, and patients. By 1980, the gatehouse had been vacated and mothballed.⁴ In 2012, 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: In 1900, a south entrance was constructed at the St. Elizabeths west campus. The entrance was located to the east of the eventual location of the Administration Building (A Building, Building 74).⁵ A small wood-framed building, likely serving as a gatehouse, was situated next to the entrance.⁶ In 1905, Superintendent William White requested an \$8,600 appropriation for the construction of a new gatehouse to place at the south entrance.⁷ Using an \$8,000 appropriation that was granted for this work, a new south entrance was established with the construction of a brick paved road in 1914. The entrance was located approximately 200 yards north of the existing south entrance. No gatehouse or gates were constructed at this time.⁸ Based on historic photographs, it appears that the wrought iron entry gates and decorative stone or concrete entry piers predate Gatehouse No. 2 and may have also been constructed circa 1914. The gate piers were capped by iron light posts with globed light shades. To the south of the entry gates was a pedimented entry arch in the Italian Renaissance Revival-style. A vertical board-and-batten structure with a wood-shingle gable roof existed just inside the property walls. The exact date of the construction of the wood-framed structure is unknown.⁹

In 1924, the 1900 south entrance was permanently closed with the extension of the stone perimeter wall.¹⁰ Finally, in 1926, Gatehouse No. 2 was constructed as the south entry gate in delayed response to the completion of the A Building in 1905 and construction of the other

³ 1970 *Annual Report*.

⁴ Office of the Superintendent, *Master Facilities Use Plan, revised 1980* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1980).

⁵ 1899–1900 *Annual Report*, 6.

⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “South east from near the water tower to the new entrance,” December 26, 1900, Olmsted Archives, photograph no. 2825-6, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts.

⁷ 1905 *Annual Report*, 781.

⁸ 1913–1914 *Annual Report*, 588. 1914 *Annual Report*.

⁹ *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, 80; undated archival photograph estimated to be circa 1914.

¹⁰ *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, IV.10.

buildings of the lettered building group.¹¹ Gatehouse No. 2 was a load-bearing structure of textured brick on concrete foundation with a French-shingled, wood-framed hip roof supported on bracketed eaves.¹² Wood-framed multi-light windows were set within brick openings with concrete lintels. The north elevation of the structure had a concrete slab porch with an overhanging roof supported by brick piers. The pediment arch pedestrian entry was removed and the construction of the gatehouse was integrated into perimeter brick wall.¹³ The interior of the structure is described as having a tile floor with plaster walls, wood-framed windows, and an 11-foot-high concrete slab ceiling with a cement asbestos shingle roof.¹⁴

6. Alterations and additions: Limited documentation is available for changes to the gatehouse after its initial construction. Sometime after 1945, the globe light covers on the piers were removed.¹⁵ At some point, the original exterior door(s) were removed, brick masonry was added to reduce the size of the door opening, and a new hollow-core metal frame and door were installed. The structure was stabilized and mothballed prior to 2002, including blocking up the window openings on the interior side with concrete masonry.¹⁶ In 2011, when the gatehouse was returned to active use as a security checkpoint for construction traffic entering the site, the concrete masonry infill was removed from the east-facing window. Rehabilitation of the building is planned for 2012.

B. Historical context¹⁷

During the tenure of Superintendent William White (1903–1936), construction and improvements to the west campus initiated by Superintendent Alonzo Richardson continued. White guided the hospital toward a clinical perspective on mental illness; this shift in fundamental theory required new laboratory and patient service facilities. White continued the construction plan of the west campus outlined by Richardson but extended it to include the development of the new research and patient facilities on the east and west campuses.¹⁸

Throughout White's superintendence, St. Elizabeths Hospital continued to grow as a clinical institution, patient hospital, and research facility. The last building campaign on the west campus spanned from the 1910s through the 1920s and included the development of a series of staff facilities, support buildings, and campus improvements to the west campus. New single family staff residences (Buildings 15, 17, 27, 67, 76) and the Employee Cafeteria (Building 70) were constructed to address the success of the hospital as a clinical institution. Support buildings, such as the Storage Shed (Building 11) and Mechanical and Electrical Shop (Building 12), were constructed along the perimeter of west campus development. The Red Cross Building (no longer extant), a collection of small comfort stations (which include Building 77), and the General Store/ Canteen (Building 39), were constructed to improve security and patient conditions. Because of the extensive campus

¹¹ *Historic Resources Management Plan*, 80.

¹² Oehrlein & Associates Architects and Robinson & Associates, Inc., *Condition and Reuse Assessment* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, January, 2006), 29.

¹³ Observation made from 1945 Public Buildings Administration survey photograph.

¹⁴ 1945 Public Buildings Administration survey.

¹⁵ Observations made from comparison of 1945 and 2002 archival photographs.

¹⁶ Comparison of 1945 and 2002 archival photographs.

¹⁷ A context history for the entire St. Elizabeths West Campus, as well as an overview history of the Service and Support Building (Entrances) Group, is to be developed under separate cover as part of this HABS documentation project.

¹⁸ *Cultural Landscape Report*, IV.7–IV.8.

expansion of the early twentieth -century, the focus of activity on the west campus had shifted south toward the A Building (Building 74). As a result, construction of a new access gate and gatehouse situated closer to the Richardson-era buildings was required, leading to construction of Gatehouse No. 2.¹⁹

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Gatehouse No. 2 is a small vernacular style brick structure, approximately 350 square feet in plan, which replaced an older, smaller wood-framed gatehouse that stood on the same site. The main vehicular south gate is within the campus wall directly north of Gatehouse No. 2. Elements of the previous south gate, such as the double-leaf wrought iron vehicle gate with its cast stone piers, remain. The piers retain cast iron stanchions that supported globe lanterns. The gatehouse incorporates a pedestrian gate under its roof. Inside the gate, Pine Street is lined with granite curbs and bollards.

The rectangular, hip-roofed building uses a simple palette of materials including brick masonry, steel casement windows, and cement asbestos shingles. Other character-defining elements include the exposed wood rafter tails and roof deck at the eaves, the open porch along the north side of the building, the ceramic tile flooring in the interior, and the integration of the building structure with the campus perimeter wall, including the limestone piers and gates in the wall for vehicles and pedestrians.

2. Condition of fabric: At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/Building Preservation Plans project in 2009, Gatehouse No. 2 was in fair condition. Minor masonry deterioration such as separations of the mortar joints and a crack in the lintel above the door were observed. At the southwest corner of the roof, an area of approximately 8 square feet of shingles had been replaced with sheet metal and mastic. On the interior, the plaster walls were in good condition, although the paint on the walls, ceiling, and wood trim had failed. The tile floors were in fair condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 11' -0" by 26'-0" rectangular building, 17'-0" to the peak of the roof
2. Foundations: The foundation is a concrete slab on grade.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of the gatehouse are clad with rough-textured brick that is laid in a common bond pattern with one header row every sixth course. The brick ranges in color from red to black, with no discernable pattern to the arrangements of colors.
4. Structural system, framing: The gatehouse structure has 12-inch-thick brick and concrete masonry walls that support a hip roof that is framed with 2-inch by 6-inch rafters. Window openings located on each elevation include cast-in-place concrete lintels. Concrete lintels are also located around the open porch on the north side and support the hip roof.

¹⁹ Gatehouse No. 2 was constructed in its current form in 1926. References made in annual reports and archival photographs indicate a watch guard station on this site as early as 1900.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads: An engaged open porch is located across the north side of the building. The outer corners of the roof are supported by L-shaped brick masonry piers. Concrete lintels span between the piers and the building walls to support the roof structure. The floor of the porch is a concrete slab on grade.
6. Chimneys: None present.
7. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is one exterior door opening at the north wall of the building, leading from the porch to the east room. The door and frame are non-original hollow-core steel. The door has been removed from its hinges and is stored in the east room. The door opening is secured by a steel security gate.
 - b. Windows and shutters: At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/ Building Preservation Plans project in 2009, the window openings had been previously covered with plywood on the exterior and concrete masonry infill on the interior. When portions of the plywood and concrete masonry were removed in early 2011, the original steel casement windows were revealed. On the east and west walls, a single large window opening contains a four-part steel window with ten-light outward-swing casement sash. On the north wall are two half-size window openings, each with a two-part steel window with identical ten-light outward-swing casement sash. On the south wall is one additional similar half-size window opening.
8. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: The building has a hip roof covered with cement asbestos shingles, with rounded shingles at the ridges and peak.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The roof has projecting eaves with exposed 2-inch by 6-inch wood rafters and exposed wood roof decking. Sheet metal ogee gutters line the perimeter of the roof. There is a sheet metal downspout at each corner.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None present.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Gatehouse No. 2 is a single level rectangular building. An open porch is located across the north side. The interior space is divided by one partition wall into a larger room to the east and a smaller inner room to the west. As the rehabilitation of the St. Elizabeths West Campus began in 2010, interior finishes of Gatehouse No. 2 were rehabilitated, including new gypsum board, cleaning of the flooring, and new light fixtures, to allow for the interim use of the building as a security checkpoint for construction traffic entering the site.
2. Stairways: None present.
3. Flooring: The floor is covered with white hexagonal ceramic tile and surrounded by a 7-inch-high wood baseboard.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling are clad with painted cement plaster. The east room has an attic access hatch in the ceiling.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Simple painted wood trim surrounds the door opening in the interior partition wall. The interior door has been removed from the frame and is missing.
 - b. Windows: The interior side of the window opening had been infilled with 4-inch-thick concrete masonry units prior to the 2009 Historic Structures Report project. This masonry infill was removed from some of the window openings in early 2011. The interior cement plaster finishes return at the perimeter of the window openings that contain the steel casement windows.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: None present.
7. Hardware: One leaf of each mortised steel hinge is present at the interior door frame. The exterior hollow-core metal door has steel hinges and a keyed dead bolt.
8. Mechanical Equipment
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Gatehouse No. 2 was apparently served by the centralized coal-fired steam heating system from the Power House (Building 56/57). One two-pipe hot water radiator is present at the east wall of the east room and one at the west wall of the west room, below the window openings. Exposed iron piping serving these radiators enters through the floor of the west room near the south wall; the location of the boiler that served this piping is not known. Natural ventilation was provided through operable windows.
 - b. Lighting: Interior lighting is provided by surface-mounted fluorescent tube fixtures in each room.
 - c. Plumbing: The west room has a sink at the partition wall. Neither a faucet nor water supply piping is present. The drain piping from this sink is cast iron.

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.

Gatehouse No. 2 is located on Pine Street SE, set back from Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE. It is separated from the other buildings of the campus by a large green area of lawns and trees. To the south are the letter buildings—Buildings B, A, C, and M (Buildings 75, 74, 73, and 72)—that line Persimmon Street along the east wall of the campus. To the west are Hitchcock Hall (Building 37) and Hagen Hall (Building 38), and to the north is a 250-yard expanse of lawn and trees that extends to Gatehouse No. 1 (Building 21).

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: None available.
- B. Early Views: Copies of selected historical views of Gatehouse No. 2 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.

Building Preservation Plan: Gatehouse No. 2 (Building 78), St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, D.C. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, March 12, 2010.

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

Condition & Reuse Assessment: St. Elizabeths West Campus (draft). Oehrlein & Associates Architects. Prepared for the General Services Administration, January 4, 2006.

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.

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), 05/27/1839–12/14/1938. 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.

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 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 Gatehouse No. 2 has been performed for this and other studies, as documented in the publications and other sources listed above.
- F. Supplemental Material:
1. National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland, Record Group 418, image P-324. Photograph taken February 2, 1913.
 2. General Services Administration, image DC1469SE0P002
 3. 1945 building survey (excerpt).
 4. 1945 building survey (excerpt).

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

GATEHOUSE NO. 2 (Building 78)
St. Elizabeths West Campus
2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
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HABS No. DC-349-AX



Figure 1. View from the west, February 2, 1913. Source: National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland, Record Group 418, image P-324.

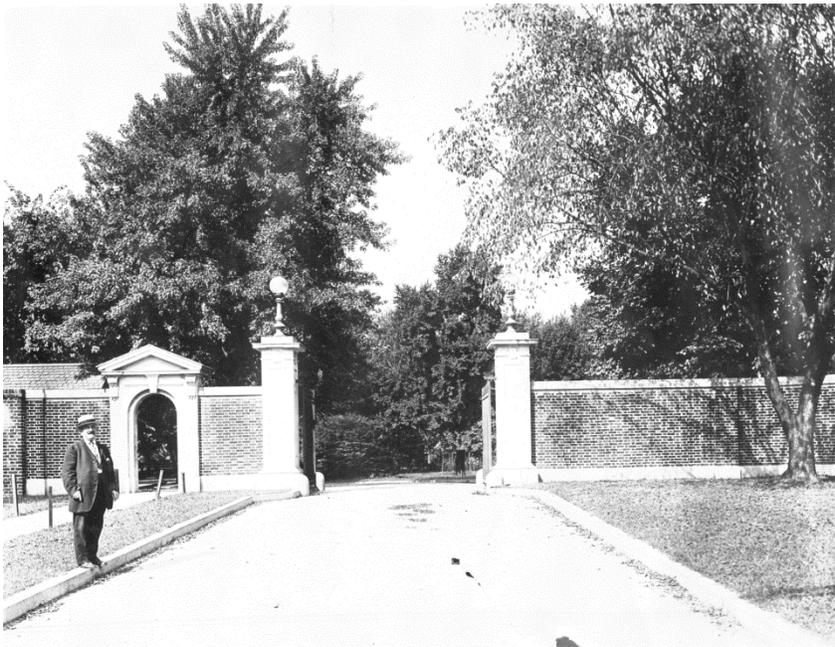


Figure 2. View from the east of the gate, circa 1910s. Source: General Services Administration, file DC1469SE0P002.



Figure 3. View from the northwest, 1945. Source: 1945 building survey (excerpt).



Figure 4. View from the southeast, 1945. Source: 1945 building survey (excerpt).