

ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, STORAGE BUILDING
(Building No. 130)
2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast, Holly Street,
Southeast
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS DC-349-BK
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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

STORAGE BUILDING (BUILDING 130)

HABS NO. DC-349-BK

Location: Holly Street SE, Washington, D.C., on the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital

Significance:

As a utilitarian structure, the Storage Building (Building 130) is not directly related to the historically significant function of the St. Elizabeths West Campus as a place for the treatment of mental illness. Although part of the campus as it existed circa 1982–2009, it is considered neither to have individual historic significance nor to contribute to the historic character of the campus. The Storage Building is characterized by its simple rectangular, gable roof shape and its use of sheet metal wall and roof cladding, with a steel structure exposed to the interior.

Description:

The following description was developed prior to the demolition of the building and reflects conditions as they existed in July 2009.

The Storage Building is an engineered metal building that sits on a cast-in-place concrete slab foundation. The building is a single-story structure with a rectangular plan. The exterior is clad with light grey metal panels shaped to resemble vertical planks. The roof is a low-sloped gable covered with sheet metal. On the east and west elevations there are attached metal gutters that are drained through four downspouts at each side. At the north and south elevations, there is a centered tall roll-up garage door with a metal swinging pedestrian door located to the west. At the upper portion of the wall, there are two vents, one located on either side of the garage door.

The building measures approximately 150 feet long by about 70 feet wide. Seven tapered steel portal frames span the width of the building and create six bays. The walls are supported by steel girts that span between frames near the one-third points along the height of the walls. The roof structure includes steel Z-purlins that span between portal frames. Diagonal tie rod X-bracing is located at one bay on both of the side walls and continues through the roof plane.

The interior of the building is a large open area with no partitions. The walls are composed of the exterior panel cladding and the floor is the concrete slab foundation. At the ceiling there are paired skylights within each structural bay.

The Storage Building contains no heating, ventilating, air conditioning, or plumbing systems or components. Electrical conduit enters the building at the north end wall and connects to an interior electrical panel at this location, but there is no permanent interior lighting.

At the time of the field survey for the Historic Structure Reports/Building Preservation Plans project in July 2009, the Storage Building was generally in good condition and unaltered since its construction in 1982.

History:

After the extensive building campaigns of the 1910s and 1920s, new development at St. Elizabeths was concentrated on the east campus while west campus structures were maintained through a cycle of repairs and upgrades.

In 1968, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare reorganized its management structure and placed St. Elizabeths under the control of the National Institute of Mental Health. The Institute sought to demonstrate how a large mental hospital could be converted into a smaller modern facility for training, service, and research. The change in administrative direction resulted in dramatic alterations to the planning and function of the west campus. By the 1970s, the patient population of the west campus had been reduced, although the utilitarian and support buildings at the western edge of the campus remained in use. The demolition of Howard Hall in 1960 had created a large open area to the south of the Mechanical and Electrical Shops (Building 12). The Storage Building was constructed in this open area in 1982.

Ownership of the west campus was transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services to the General Services Administration in 2004. As part of the construction of a new headquarters for the United States Coast Guard on the St. Elizabeths West Campus, the Storage Building was demolished on October 30, 2009.

Sources:

Building Preservation Plan: Storage Building (Building 130), St. Elizabeths West Campus. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Prepared for the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C, March 12, 2010.

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

Historians: Mike Ford, Kenneth Itle, Tim Penich, and Deborah Slaton, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), 2012.

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.