

FORT BENNING, VETERINARY HOSPITAL COMPLEX HOSPITAL &
BARRACKS

(Main Post Veterinary Hospital & Barracks)

(Building No. 265)

6417 10th Division Court

Maneuver Center of Excellence

Fort Benning Military Reservation

Chattahoochee County

Georgia

HABS GA-2426-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

100 Alabama St. NW

Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VETERINARY HOSPITAL COMPLEX, Veterinary Hospital and Barracks (Building No. 265)

HABS No. GA-2426-A

Location: 6417 10th Division Court, Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia.

USGS 1955, photorevised 1985 Fort Benning, Georgia-Alabama
7.5' topographic quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
E690171 N3582508.

Present Owner: Fort Benning Military Reservation, Georgia.

Present Occupant: Gulf Coast District Veterinary Command, U.S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM).

Present Use: Veterinary Clinic.

Significance: The Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, is a contributing element to the Fort Benning Main Post Historic District, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Chattahoochee County, Georgia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1934. Construction of the veterinary hospital complex was completed on October 12, 1934. A date stone is located on the northeast elevation, at the base of the northeast corner.
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General for the U.S. Army.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army Infantry Center (presently MCoE), Fort Benning Military Reservation, Georgia.
4. Original and subsequent occupants: Originally occupied by the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. From 1994 through present occupied by the Gulf Coast District Veterinary Command, U. S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM).
5. Contractor: Smith-Pew Construction Company, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia.
6. Original plans and construction: Signed by the Supervising Engineer for the Construction Division Office of the Quartermaster General, the building's original drawings are dated December 29, 1933.

7. Alterations and additions: As originally constructed, the veterinary hospital and barracks consisted of: a basement with outside entrance, hall, store room, boiler room, and fuel room; a first floor with front entrance, hall, entrance to basement, office, first sergeant's office, officers' toilet, enlisted men's toilet, supply room, closet, operating room, dressing room, dressing floor, pharmacy, and pharmacy store room; a second floor with hall, two (2) non-commissioned officer's rooms, bathroom, toilet room, squad room, day room; and an attic.

From 1969 to 1971, a service bay with steel roller door was removed from the southeast façade and was replaced with three window openings. A partition in the waiting room was removed and a new frame partition fully separated this space from the operating room to the north and was possibly converted into a waiting room at that time. The pharmacy to the east of the dressing room was divided into three small spaces and a storage room was placed into the north corner of the operating room. Other minor changes included the installation of some additional doors in several partitions. In 1981, the quarry tile floor on the second floor patio was replaced.

In 1986, a renovation project resulted in the present floor plan. Interior alterations were made only to the first floor and included: division of the operating room for an office, drug storage room, work area and a small operating room; new concrete floor; pre-finished panels applied to cover the original salt-glazed tile walls; new quarry tile floor in waiting room; two exam rooms added to the east of the waiting area in the old pharmacy; laboratory created from the night attendant's room and storage room; new quarry tile floors in the new two exam rooms and laboratory; and addition of a small closet in the northernmost office. Exterior alterations included the removal of the last rolling steel door and three westernmost windows of the northwest side. The openings were filled in with concrete block, stuccoed, and painted. The fourth window from the west on the northwest side was converted into an entry door with canopy.

B. Historical Context:

The veterinary hospital complex at Fort Benning consists of three permanent buildings constructed in 1934: Building No. 265, veterinary hospital and barracks; Building No. 266, veterinary hospital ward; and Building No. 267, veterinary hospital ambulance garage. Constructed during the Depression Era building boom on the installation, the complex represents the continued importance of the Army's Veterinary Service in the years preceding World War II. The complex was designed and constructed with the intention of providing permanent housing facilities for the Veterinary Detachment, veterinary equipment, and sick animals. The veterinary hospital and barracks, Building

No. 265, was designed to house sixteen men, four Non-Commissioned Officers, and the offices and equipment of the Veterinary Department. Currently, the veterinary hospital and barracks building contains a veterinary clinic with office space for staff; examination rooms; operating room; waiting room; pharmacy store room, male and female toilets on the first floor; supply room, storage room and laundry room in the basement; offices, a conference/training room, and men's shower and latrine on the second floor.

Building No. 265, the veterinary hospital, was constructed as the primary and largest building in the complex. For historical context and history of the Army's Veterinary Service refer to the veterinary hospital complex overview in GA HABS No. 2426.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed in the Georgian Revival style, the exterior of Building No. 265 retains a high degree of architectural integrity in design, brickwork, and stylistic elements. Building No. 265 is the largest and most stylistically detailed building in the veterinary hospital complex. Despite alterations to the interior floor plan and changes to the fenestration, Building No. 265 retains sufficient architectural integrity as a contributing building of the veterinary hospital complex Main Post Historic District.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story rectangular-shaped building measures approximately 78'-0" x 50'-0" and 35' high at the gable. The basement under the eastern half of the building measures 27'-3" x 50'-0". The total area is 9,163 square feet. Attached to the southwest elevation is a 30'-0" x 49'-3" covered two-bay parking area (originally constructed as a dressing floor).
2. Foundations: Reinforced concrete; poured concrete water table.
3. Walls: Brick laid in common bond (5:1). A brick soldier beltcourse circles the building at the second floor window sill level and continues along the top of the parapet of the two bay covered parking area on the southwest elevation.
4. Structural system, framing: Concrete frame. Standard wood framing techniques employed for roof with decking on 2" x 12" wood joists at 16" on center. Brick piers support the second floor patio.

5. Porches, stoops: A small, classically-detailed entry portico with two brick columns and two brick pilasters is located on the southeast façade. A two-bay covered parking area with open patio on second floor is attached to the southwest side.
 6. Chimneys: One brick interior end chimney on the northeast ridge.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The building has an off-center entry portico on the southeast façade with gabled canopy, a modern door opening on the southwest side, a modern door opening with gabled canopy on the northwest rear, a basement entrance with poured concrete stairwell on the northwest rear, and an entrance door on the second floor patio. The main doorway on the southeast façade has double-leaf wood doors, with three lower panels and four lights in each leaf, and a four light transom. Other doors are also wood paneled with glass in the upper half. A three light transom is above the second floor patio door and basement door. All three original entry bay openings that once featured rolling steel doors were altered.
 - b. Windows: Six-over-six double-hung wood sash with brick sills. The original metal window guard on the pharmacy window on the southeast façade remains intact, while the two metal window guards on the northwest rear were removed. The southwest side has two modern fixed windows flanking the entrance door to the waiting room. Metal louvers in the gabled ends provide ventilation to the roof. Concrete basement window wells on the northeast side and on the southeast wall of the boiler room have metal gratings.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Side-gabled roof covered with red clay shingle tiles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Exposed wood rafter tails with simple scroll profile under the eaves on southeast façade and northwest rear. The building has a copper gutter system.
- C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The present floor plan of the first floor resulted from renovations conducted in 1986. The original operating room was divided into an office, drug storage room, work area, and a small operating room. Added to the east of the waiting area were two exam rooms (in the old pharmacy) and a laboratory (in what had served as the room for the night attendant and a storeroom). No changes were made to the second floor.
2. Stairways: The entrance hall stairway is concrete with soapstone treads, cement risers, square metal balusters, wood handrail, and cast iron newel post. The concrete basement stairway off the rear corridor has cement risers and treads, and a metal pipe handrail.
3. Flooring: Quarry tile and concrete flooring on the first floor. The second floor has replacement composition vinyl flooring on top of the salt glazed tile base. Original flooring material of the second floor was asphalt tile. The original wood base and salt glazed tile base on the first floor remains intact. Basement flooring is concrete.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Two original painted brick interior walls remain in the waiting room. The other two walls in the waiting room and the walls in the western half of the building are a mixture of modern wall systems: gypsum board and prefinished paneling systems on wood frame walls and painted concrete block. The corridor and three offices of the first floor, and the second floor, retain much of their original character with smooth plaster walls. Original salt glazed tile walls remain in the two lavatories on the first floor and in the shower and lavatory room on the second floor. Original finishes were replaced with acoustical tile.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The original doorways retain original six-paneled wood doors with simple molded wood trim; few feature a hinged glazed transom. The double-leaf doors at end of the second floor corridor remain intact. New doorways were added with renovations to the floor plan in 1986.
 - b. Windows: Simple molded wood surround. A large fixed window was added to partition wall in waiting room.
6. Hardware: The original hardware from the operating and dressing rooms was removed. All original shelving and cabinets were removed.

7. Decorative features and trim: A polished plate wall mirror was relocated from squad room on second floor to entrance hallway on first floor.
 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating and air conditioning, ventilation: Lochinvar Copper Fin II Boiler. The building was historically heated by a gas stove.
 - b. Lighting: All original light fixtures were replaced with hanging ceiling mounted florescent lights.
- D. Site: The building faces southeast toward 10th Division Road. It is flanked on the northeast side by 10th Division court and to the southwest by Towne Court. Building No. 265 is the first and largest building in the veterinary hospital complex. Building No. 266 is to the northwest. The front of the building features a deep setback with lawn. A short poured concrete sidewalk extends across the façade from the northeastern corner of the building to the entry porch. A grass lawn occupies the area between Building Nos. 265 and 266.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

A. Architectural Drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering

1986 Renovate Veterinary Clinic Building 265. Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Benning Post Engineer Office, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing numbers DEH 32823.A1-32824.A2; DEH 32831.M1-32832.M2; DEH 32834.M4; and DEH 32837.M7-32839.M9.

Fort Benning Post Engineer Office

1970 Proposed Alterations to Veterinary Hospital, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing number PE 10667.

1971 Proposed Alterations to Veterinary Hospital, United States Army, Fort Benning. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing number PE 11277.

Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division

1933 Fort Benning, Georgia, Veterinary Hospital. United States Army Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C. On file in Plans and Support, Master Planning Department, Division of the Directorate of Public Works, Building No. 6, Fort Benning, Georgia. Electronic database drawing numbers SAV 22.145.A1-221.45A5.

B. Early Views:

Historic Photographs: From the collection at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia (see Part V - Graphic Documentation).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Office of the Constructing Quartermaster

1934 *Completion Report for the Construction of Veterinary Hospital Building, Veterinary Hospital, and Ambulance Garage Building at Fort Benning, Georgia*, Number 6, War Department, Quartermaster Corps, Construction Division, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Real Property Office, Fort Benning

1944-2007 Building 265, Real Property cards on file in the Office of Real Property, Master Planning Department, Directorate of Public Works, Building No.6, Fort Benning Georgia.

2. Secondary and published sources: see HABS No. GA-2426.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

Constructed in 1934, the original veterinary hospital complex buildings, Building Nos. 265-267 are contributing elements of the Main Post Historic District. A Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Veterinary Clinic (Veterinary Hospital), Building No. 265, was required due to the proposed alterations of the interior spaces of the building. Building Nos. 266 and 267 were included in HABS No. GA-2426 because Building No. 265 is part of a complex that historically functioned as a cohesive unit to meet the mission of the U.S. Army Veterinary Service at Fort Benning Military Reservation.

The veterinary clinic, Building No. 265, is scheduled for a phased renovation project of the 3,500-sq. ft. first floor and basement to provide updated exam rooms, surgery, surgery

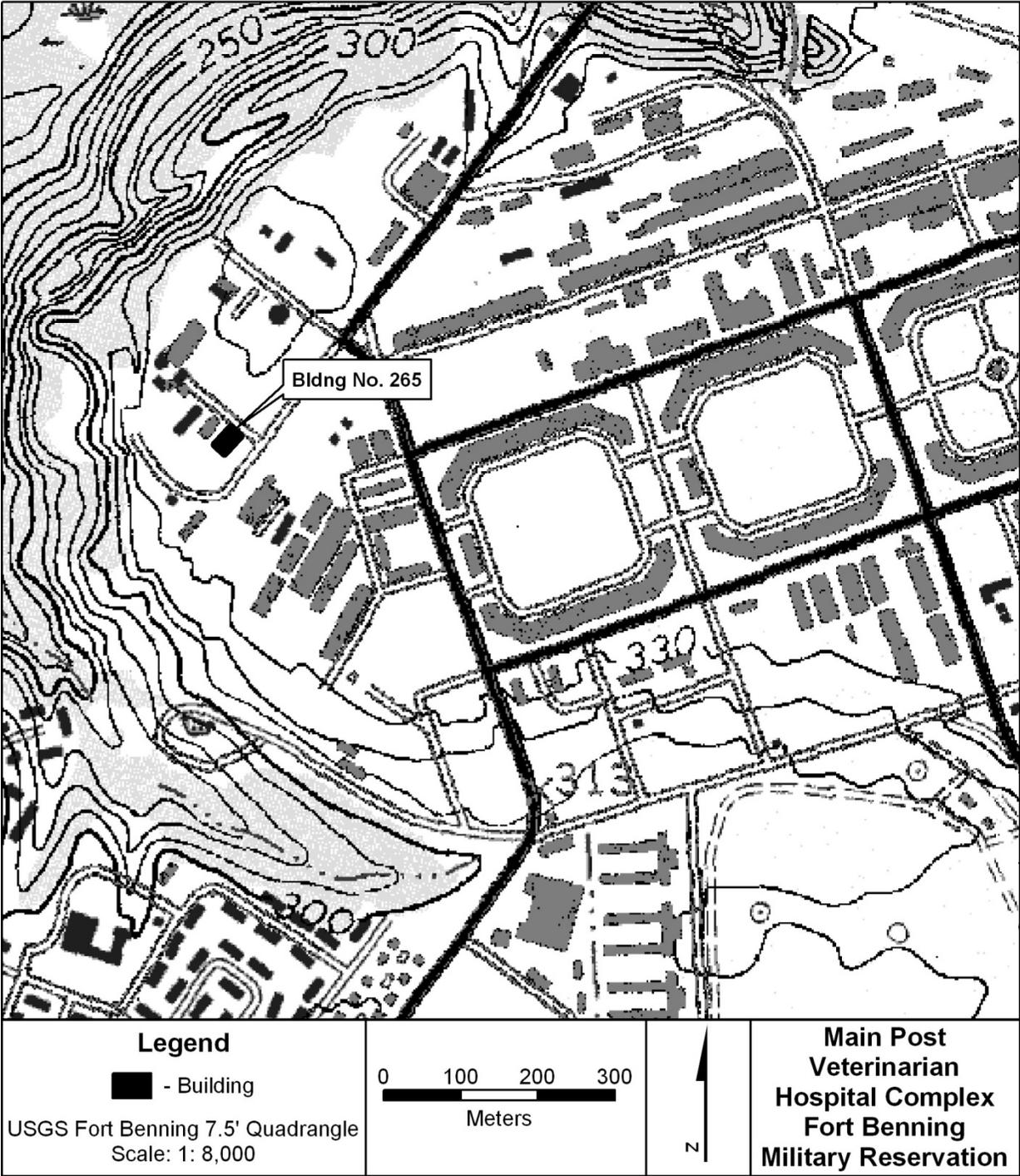
preparation, laboratory, pharmacy, and support spaces. During the renovation project, Building No. 266 will be utilized as a transitional space to allow uninterrupted operation of the veterinary clinic. Minor renewal will be performed in Building No. 266 to accommodate this purpose. Renovations to Building No. 265 will be respectful of the historical value of the building, particularly the exterior façade and overall character of the building. Renovation of the interior spaces is not a historical restoration, but rather an improvement project for the functionality of the veterinary clinic and upgrading of the facility to current codes. Exterior repairs will be limited to the replacement of the second floor patio floor tiles, repointing of deteriorated brickwork, repair of broken windows, repair areas of the tile roof, and painting of building entrance doors.

Interior architectural work will provide for improved functional flow of personnel, animals, and the public through the facility. Demolition is mostly limited to removal of existing interior walls and asbestos and abatement of lead-based paint. New interior spaces, finishes, etc. will be provided, based on applicable uniform facility criteria requirements, where practical. New casework will be installed. Most all of the veterinary equipment, exam and surgery tables, and portable accessories will be re-used. HVAC, plumbing, electrical, communications and fire alarm systems will be upgraded for the basement and first floor. The existing HVAC will be modified, as required, to maintain existing second floor service. Existing second floor plumbing, electrical, communications and fire alarm systems will remain in operation but will be tied into new work from the first floor. A fire protection sprinkler system will be extended to the building to serve the basement and first floor and will provide for future extension to the second floor.

At the request of Fort Benning's Environmental Management Division, fieldwork was completed in April 2010. The final documentation was prepared by Architectural Historian Christine M. Longiaru and Principal Investigator/Senior Architectural Historian Stacey Griffin; Rachel Kyker, Editor; Mark Drumlevitch, Large-Format Photographer; all of Panamerican Consultants, Inc., 924 26th Avenue East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404, (205) 556-3096.

PART V. GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION:

A. Location Maps



B. Historic Photographs



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, under construction, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, under construction, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/30:Buildings Headquarters Fire Depot).



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of the northwest rear and southwest side of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, facing northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of the northwest rear of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, facing northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/30:Buildings Headquarters Fire Depot).



View of Veterinary Hospital and Barracks, Building No. 265, with paddock in foreground, facing northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings-Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of dressing room, facing northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of dressing room with detail of original rolling door on southeast front wall, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



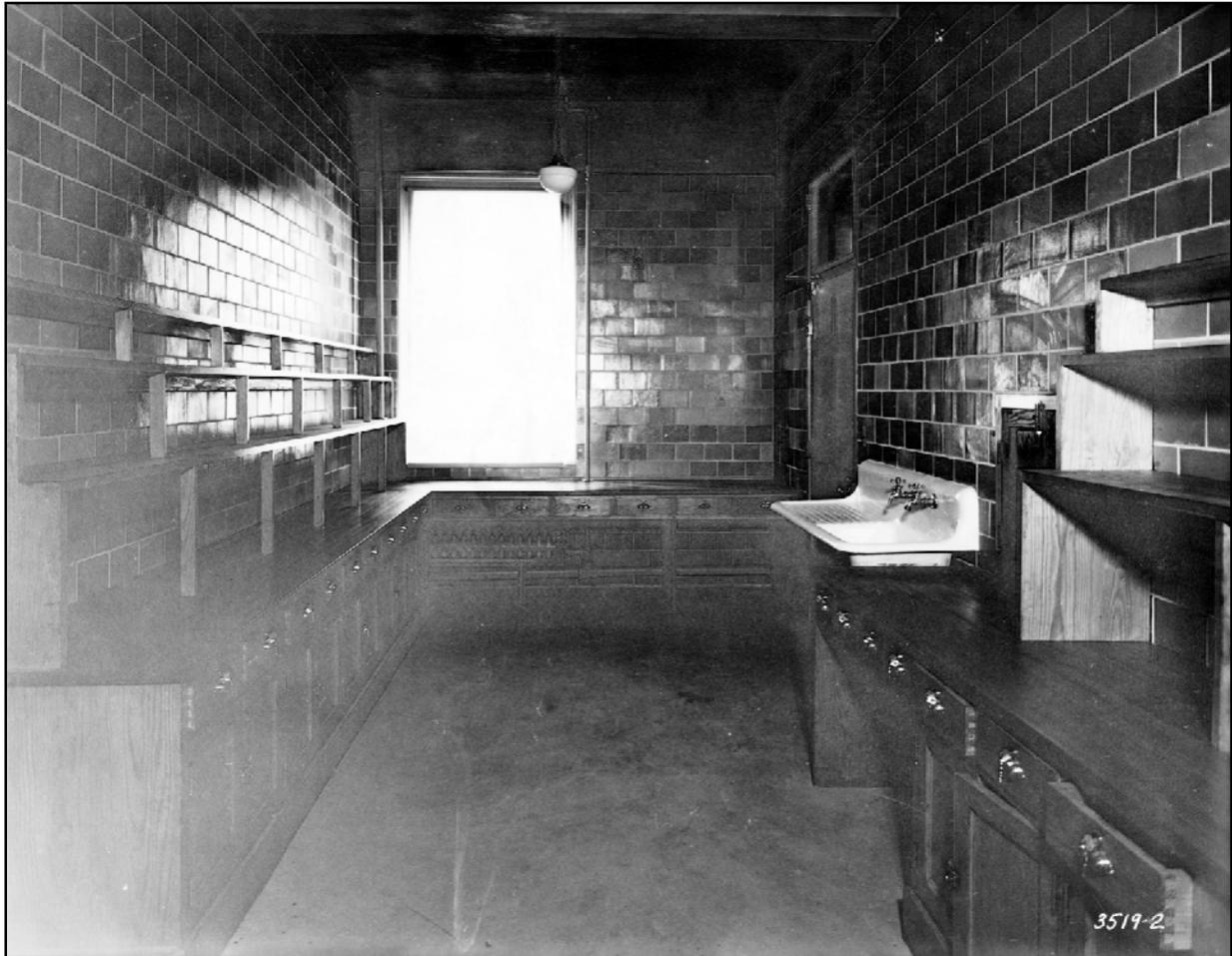
View of operating room, facing north-northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of operating room with horse operating table, facing north-northeast. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/3/48:Live Stock Area).



View of pharmacy, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of pharmacy, facing southwest. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).



View of original shelving and wall finish. Original photograph on file at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning Military Reservation, Columbus, Georgia (Folder 1/4/49:Buildings – Veterinary Hospital and Office).