

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, TEMPORARY
DECONTAMINATION CENTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard, Facility No. 44)
Corner of Avenue D & Seventh Street
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-489
HI-489

HABS
HI-489

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, CA 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, TEMPORARY DECONTAMINATION CENTER (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard) (Facility No. 44)

HABS No. HI-489

Location:

Corner of Avenue D and Seventh Street
Pearl Harbor Naval Base
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

HABS
HI-489
(1992-2)

This building is at UTM coordinates 04.608360.2361450 and is within the boundaries of the Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard as defined in the location section of the overview report HI-483.

It is located adjacent to Facility 90(HABS HI-493), which abuts Facility 27(HABS HI-449). All three facilities are near a large shop building, Facility 155(HABS HI-496). This building and Facility 207(HABS HI-470) were designed for both men and women.

Significance:

Facility 44 was built as part of the great expansion of facilities at Pearl Harbor during World War II, built in response to the December 7, 1941 attack. This building could be considered, like the other types of casualty stations, a distinctive type and period of construction. It is the only extant example of this type. It is located within the Controlled Industrial Area, the Navy Yard, and the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark

Description:

Facility 44 is a splinterproof, slab-on-grade, single-story decontamination station. It is rectangular in plan, with slight projections from the main rectangle. It has a concrete structural frame and roof structure, with concrete tile block infill walls. The building has an overall dimension of 41'-4" wide and 75'-0" long and measures 9'-8" from grade to roofline. The decontamination station provides for a protected entryway, undressing area, shower area, and dressing area, for both men and women. Although several modifications of this building has taken place since its deactivation as a decontamination center in 1951, the following will detail the original plans and details of the decontamination center structure.

Interior spaces are designed to 'clean' a person who has been 'gassed'. The design follows a consecutive order by which to decontaminate oneself. First, one enters through the protected entryway and through an airlock into an 'undressing' room. There is an eye wash area and an area where oxygen canisters are kept. After undressing, one goes through another air lock and into the 'shower' room. There are ten showerheads on all four walls of the shower room walls. Each of the showers have individual shut-off vales and master mixing values with a thermometer. After one is cleaned off, one goes up a short ramp into a dressing room. Off of the

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dressing room are a toilet room and a clothing storage room. Exiting this building, one must go through another air lock and proceed out. A large water heater storage generator room is located on the outside wall of the dressing room, to the back of the building.

The building has a slab-on-grade foundation with a continuous footing along the perimeter and down the center of the building under the wall, which separates the men's side from the women's side. This continuous footing is curbed 8 inches above grade. The exterior wall thickness is 1'-4" thick, made of concrete tile block (8" x 12" x 16"). The roof is a flat roof with clipped eaves and projecting concrete hoods for ventilation. The concrete roof slab is four inches thick and is supported by 2 x 10 wood joists, which are supported by the concrete beams and columns. The roof is covered with a two-ply, #15 felt tar and gravel mixture. Copper flashing wraps the edges of the roof eaves. There are six roof ventilators, three on each side of the central dividing wall.

Door openings are located at both the narrower front end of the building and at the wider end of the building on the south side of the building. The front entries are 'protected' entries, such that the doors are protected by a high concrete frame and concrete tile block infill wall. The entry vestibule provides space for several canisters of oxygen and a notch was designed in the entry wall to hold a double-hinged fire hose rack. Also, at the entry doors, an 'airlock' between two separate doors was designed to guard against smoke and debris. All of the exterior and interior doors are typical five panel wood doors measuring 3'-0" by 6'-8", but they are specially designed to have a flap valve built into the bottom panel of the door. The flap valve is a top-hinged plywood panel (10" by 12"); the detail specifically states that the flap shall open toward the exterior walls and away from the shower in all cases. Another type of door is the deal counter that is located between the dressing and clothing storage room. The counter is at a 3'-4" height and two horizontal sliding plywood doors are located above. When opened, a pass-thru window allows for the disbursement of clothes and towels.

Windows in the building are single and paired 1/1 light double-hung which were added in a 1951 renovation. The building was originally designed with no windows. The only openings that originally allowed for ventilation are the roof vents. These twelve-inch square openings are located at each main room and the toilet rooms of both the men and women's areas. On the roof, a 6" high concrete curb surrounds the openings to keep out water and they are covered with a concrete cap that is supported at its four corners. The space between the rooftop and the underside of the concrete cap is filled with a metal screen to prevent insects and debris from flying in and an adjustable damper is attached to the roof joists on the interior side of the opening.

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The interior finishes are simple and utilitarian. The ceiling joists are covered with ¼" plywood boards for the ceiling surface in all rooms except for the dressing room. The shower walls are covered with ¼" masonite boards while all other walls are covered with ¼" plywood.

Major alterations of the spaces have been made to the building since the end of WWII. Soon after the war, in 1951, the structure was converted to a Safety Office. On the interior, the central walls that divided the men's and women's side showers and dressing areas were removed, as were all of the other interior walls, and one large room was created. The small room at the northeast corner of the building which held the hot water storage generator was converted to restrooms. A small room was added next to these restrooms which was used as the office for the safety engineer. The undressing rooms were converted to conference rooms and the protected entryways were enclosed and converted to a fitting room and shoe store. The main entryway was now the previous exit way off of the dressing room. On the exterior, several openings were cut into the walls in which double hung windows were installed. In 1979, another addition was constructed to the north side. This addition had concrete block walls (8 x 8 x 8) with several double-hung wood windows along its walls and wood joists supporting a flat roof, similar to the original design.

Currently, the walls and ceilings are covered with glued-in-place acoustical tile, the floors are finished with vinyl tile, and modern fluorescent lights hang from the ceilings. Air conditioning ducts are suspended from the ceiling. In some of the window openings, the original double hung windows have been replaced with jalousie windows.

Historical Context:

The original drawings of Facility 44 are dated September and November 1942, and are initialed "V.O." as the architect/engineer. This may be architect Vladimir Ossipoff, a well-respected architect in Hawaii who oversaw facility designs for the Navy during World War II.

Splinterproof casualty and decontamination stations were designed to treat, and temporarily shelter, victims of an attack. There were at least three different types of casualty station designs. The basic casualty station design was rectangular in plan, with the slight projections from the main rectangle. It appears that gas decontamination was usually incorporated into the function of the casualty stations, but in at least four instances, separate buildings were erected as "Gas Decontamination Stations," including Fac. 192 on Ford Island, the demolished Fac. 44 at West Loch, the extant Fac. 44 in the Shipyard, and a building now used by the Boy Scouts on Red Hill. Although not all decontamination centers were splinterproof buildings, Facility 44 at the Shipyard has a concrete frame with CMU infill, which the drawings indicate, is a "Type K Temporary

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Decontamination Station," whose design and construction is considered splinterproof.

It appears all the Casualty Stations were built in 1942, in response to the Pearl Harbor attack, although 1941-1944 dates are listed in the Navy facilities database. Although built in 1942, these buildings were not equipped and ready for operation until early 1943, according to an undated typewritten report on the WWII activities of the Yard Medical Department (Pearl Harbor Navy Yard n.d). Seven of the "Casualty Dressing and Gas Decontamination Stations" were built under the cognizance of the Yard Medical Officer, but only for a year or so, since in late 1944 and early 1945 five of these stations were decommissioned, and "made available for uses other than Medical" (Pearl Harbor Navy Yard n.d.). Facility 44 was later modified to fill the requirements of a Safety Office.

See HABS No. HI-390 for additional history of World War II Splinterproof Buildings and HABS No. HI-391 World War II Bombproof Buildings, for additional information on Architect Vladimir Ossipoff.

For an overview of the Naval Shipyard see HABS No.HI-483.

Sources:

Pearl Harbor Navy Yard

Typescript manuscript with 8 chapters, including 14-page one by "Medical Department" reporting on WWII activities of the Navy Yard's departments. From Robert F. Walden Collection, University of Hawaii Hamilton Library, Hawaii & Pacific Room. n.d.

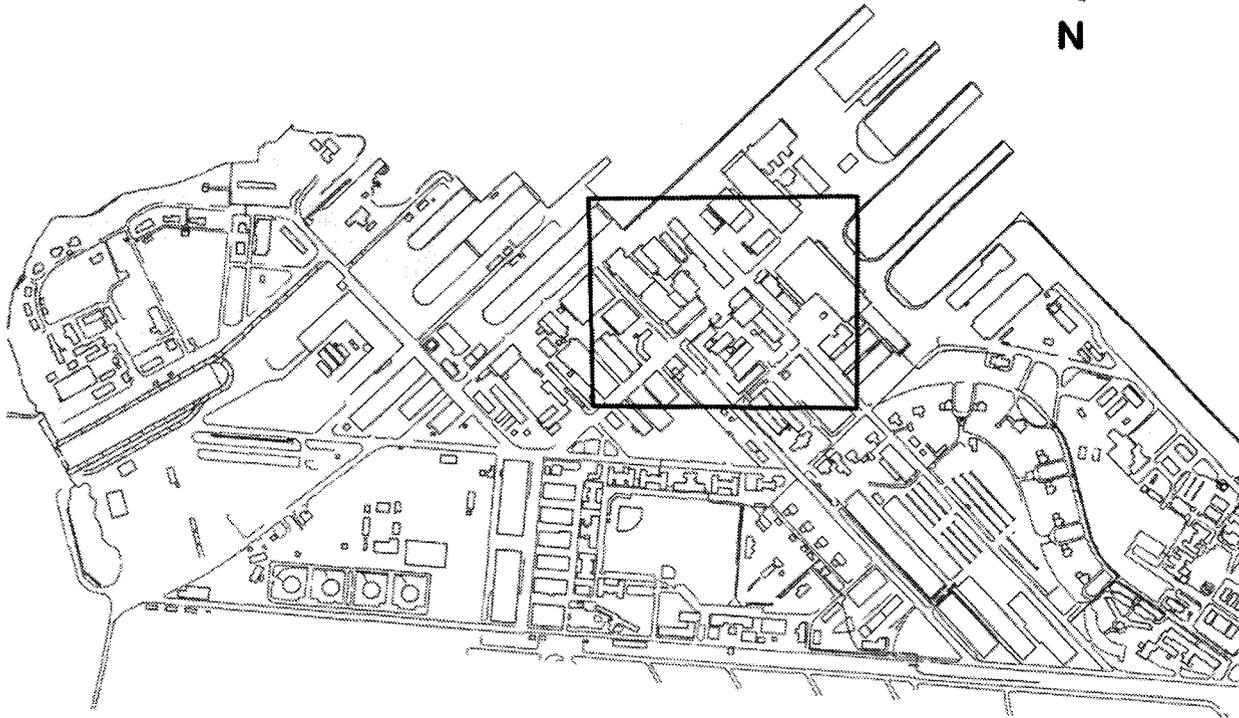
NAVFACPAC: Plan Files. Drawings for Facility 44.

Project Information:

Photo documentation and recordation of this facility by the Navy has been done in anticipation of future alterations or potential demolition of the structure. Photo documentation of historic facilities by the Navy assists in expediting planned undertakings by having the documentation prepared prior to taking actions. Also, photo documentation assists the Navy in gaining more information about its historic facilities to assist in making proactive management decisions. This project is being supervised by Jeffrey Dodge A.I.A., Historical Architect NAVFAC Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Lorraine M. Palumbo, Ph.D. Architectural Historian, of Mason Architects, Inc. prepared the written documentation. The field work and research was conducted for this report between July 2001 and December 2001.

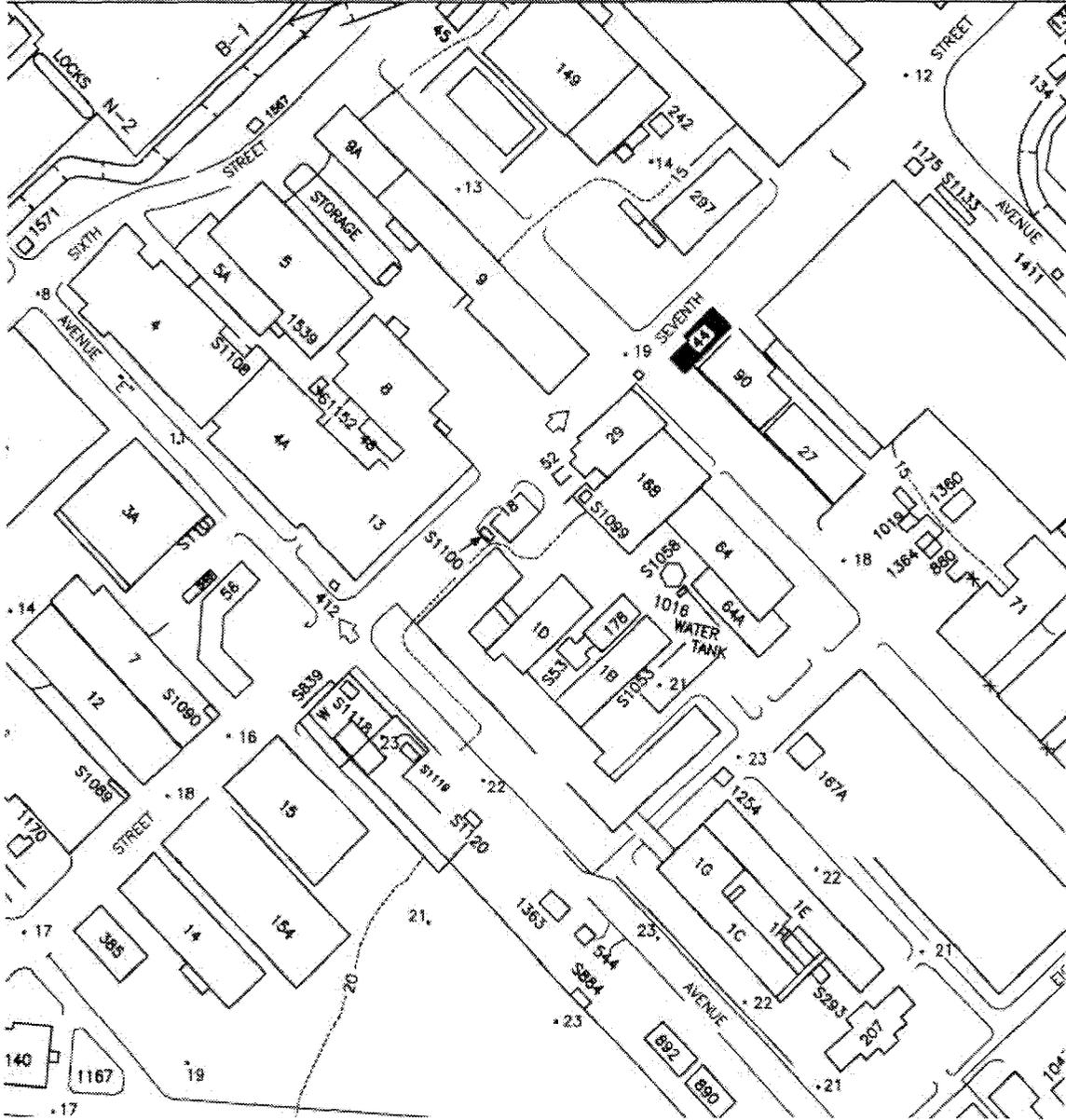
Shipyard Map

SEE ENLARGED MAP



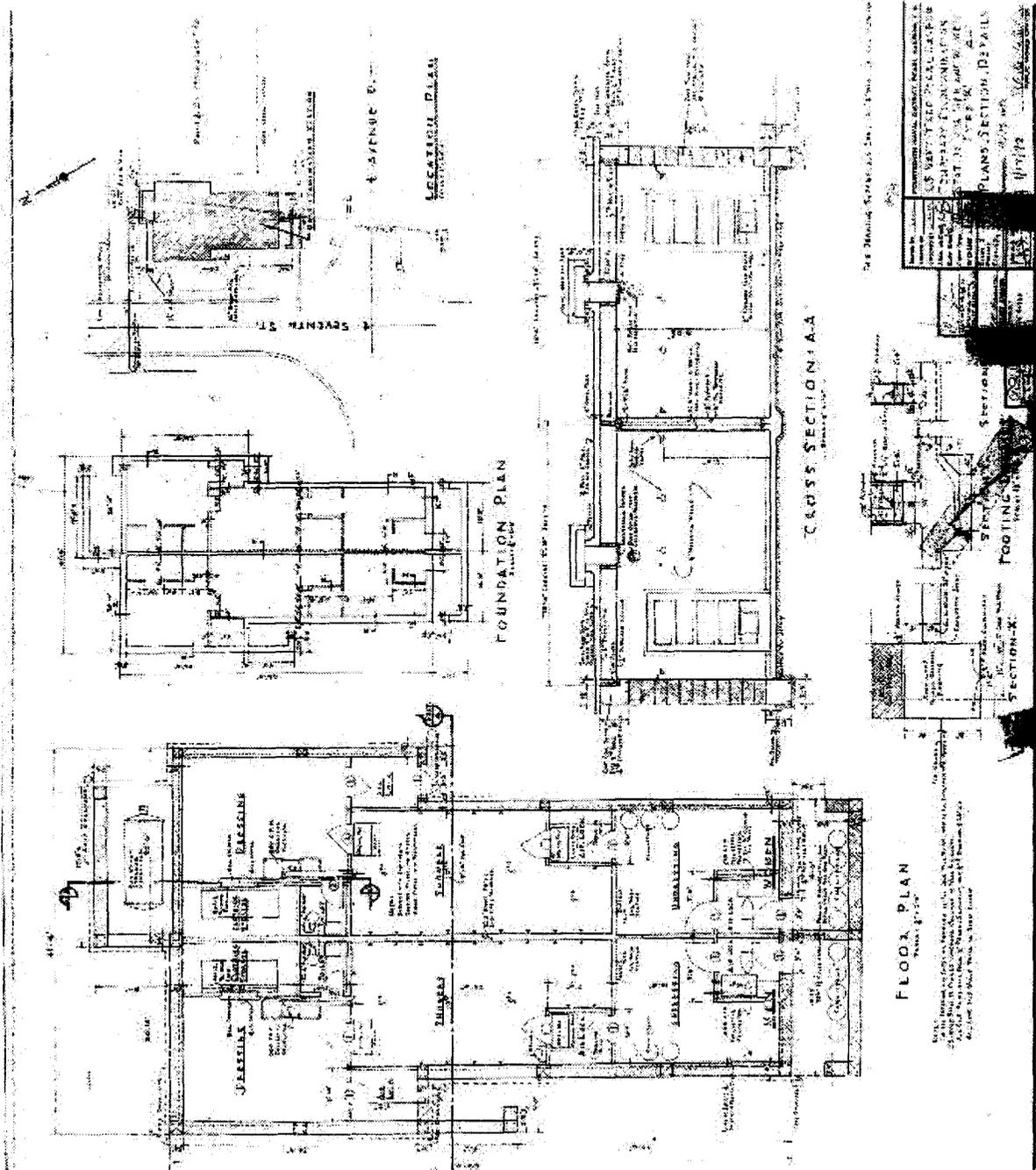
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Enlarged Area Map (reduced, not to scale)



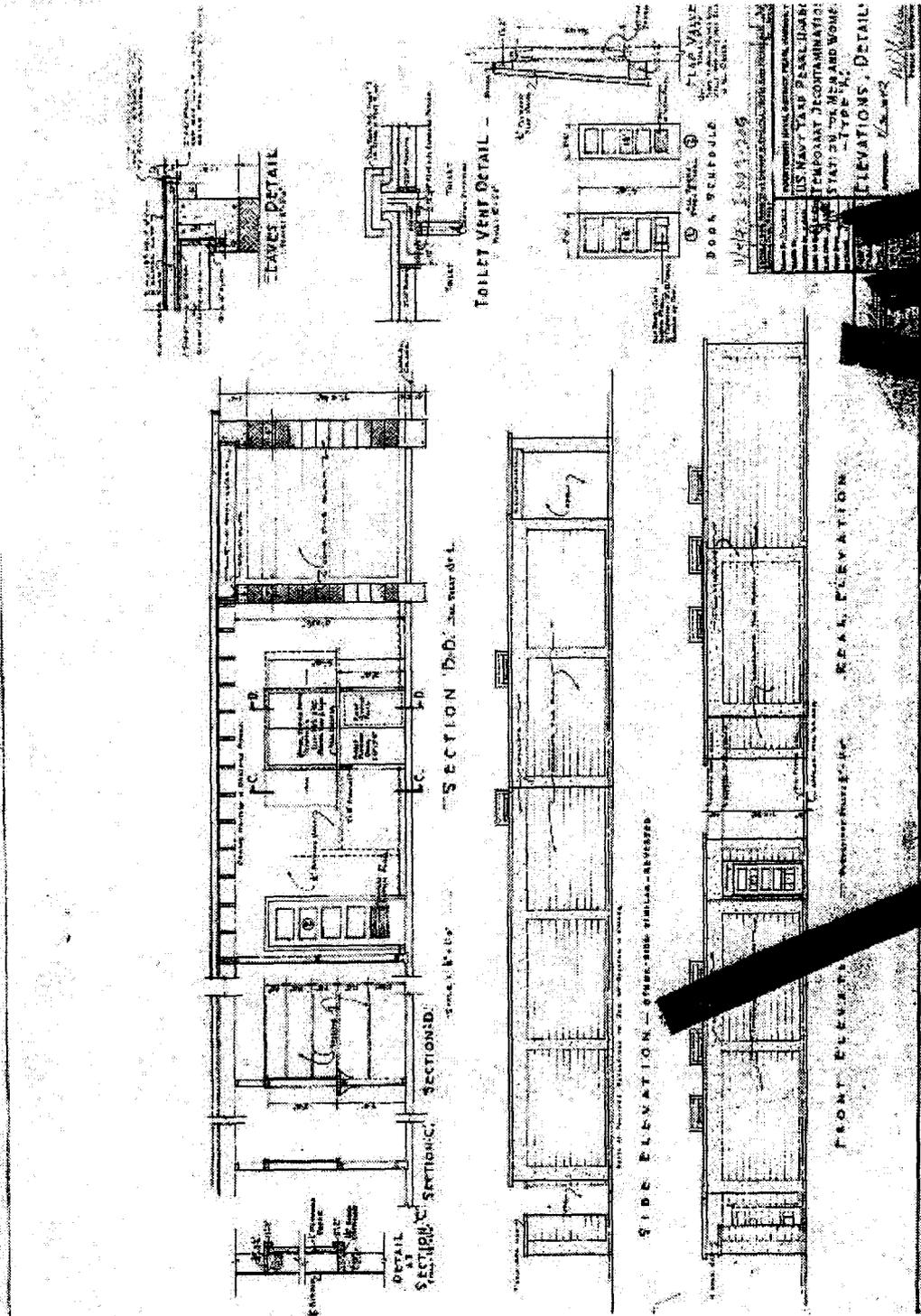
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Temporary Decontamination Station for Men and Women Type 'K'
Plans, Section, and Details (Drawing No. 841, dated 11/17/1942) (reduced, not to scale)



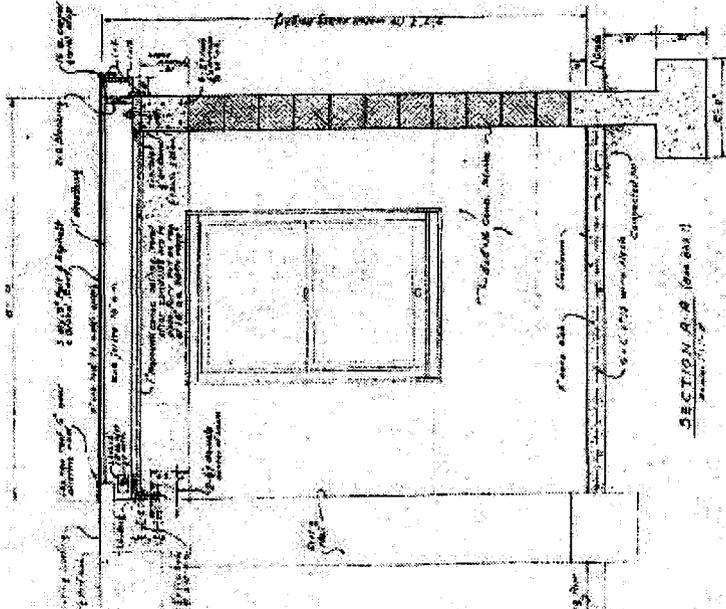
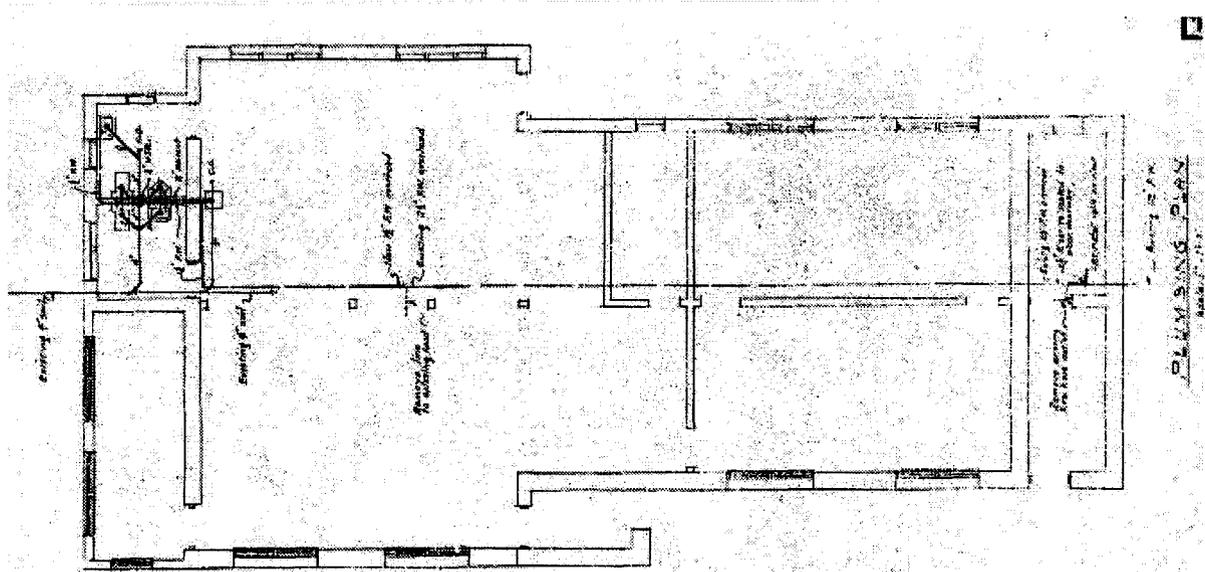
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Temporary Decontamination Station for Men and Women Type 'K'
Elevations and Details (Drawing No. I-N09-205, dated 11/14/1942) (reduced, not to scale)



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Facility 44 Safety Office, Alteration and Addition, Plumbing Plan and
Section thru new Addition (Drawing No. 488965, dated 1/10/1951) (reduced, not to scale)



NO.	SYM.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	REMARKS
1	DR	DOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
2	J	JAMB	2	1/2" x 6" x 8"
3	M	MASONRY	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
4	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
5	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
6	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
7	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
8	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
9	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
10	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
11	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
12	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
13	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
14	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
15	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
16	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
17	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
18	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
19	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
20	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
21	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
22	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
23	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
24	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
25	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
26	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
27	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
28	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
29	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
30	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
31	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
32	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
33	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
34	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
35	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
36	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
37	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
38	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
39	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
40	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
41	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
42	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
43	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
44	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
45	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
46	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
47	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
48	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
49	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
50	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
51	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
52	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
53	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
54	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
55	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
56	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
57	W	WALL	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
58	C	CASING	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
59	P	PIPE	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"
60	F	FLOOR	1	1/2" x 6" x 8"

1979 Extension to Facility 44 (Drawing No. 7026077, dated 2/1/1979) (reduced, not to scale)

