

U.S. VETERANS BUREAU HOSPITAL NO. 100, BUILDING 2
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek
Calhoun County
Michigan

HABS No
MI-392-B
HABS
MICH
13-BATCR,
5B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Midwest Support Office
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

HABS
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5B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU HOSPITAL No. 100, BUILDING 2

HABS No. MI-392-B

Location: 5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan
USGS Augusta, Michigan Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
16.640400.4689500

Significance: Clinical Building No. 2 is an example of the standardized clinical plans used during the period of 1923 to the 1940's, inspired by the Veterans Bureau, to improve care for the nation's veterans.

Description: Clinical Building No. 2 was designed to reflect Colonial Revival influences, and is constructed of brick laid in flemish bond. The building presents a simple massed or H-plan, and is crowned by a hipped roof. Rusticated brick and masonry water tables merge with brick corner quoins linked by terra cotta belt courses, while upper walls terminate classically inspired eave and cornice treatments. Simple window treatment includes terra cotta keystones and sills which originally enframed multiple lighted double-hung sashes.

History: The building was constructed in 1924 by A. Bentley and Son Construction Company of Toledo, Ohio. The three-floor 52,000 square foot building was one of the original 22 making up Veterans Hospital #100. The building was a complete hospital in itself, having accommodations for 125 patients. New patients were received in the west ward on the first floor and stayed for about 19 days. At that time they were thoroughly examined and observed to see if they had any contagious disease. They were then sent to other wards according to the classification of their mental or physical condition.

In the west end of the basement floor were located the Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy departments, which were considered an important part of the treatment. On the east end were located rooms for Occupational Therapy, where weaving and basketry was done. In the center or middle area of the basement was, and still is, located the Pharmacy. Next door to the Pharmacy was the office pool. It was here that all the doctors and department heads brought their correspondence, reports and records to be typed. On the first floor, about in the center, was the Office of the Medical Officer in Charge and other administrative officials. On the second floor were, and still are, the Laboratories,

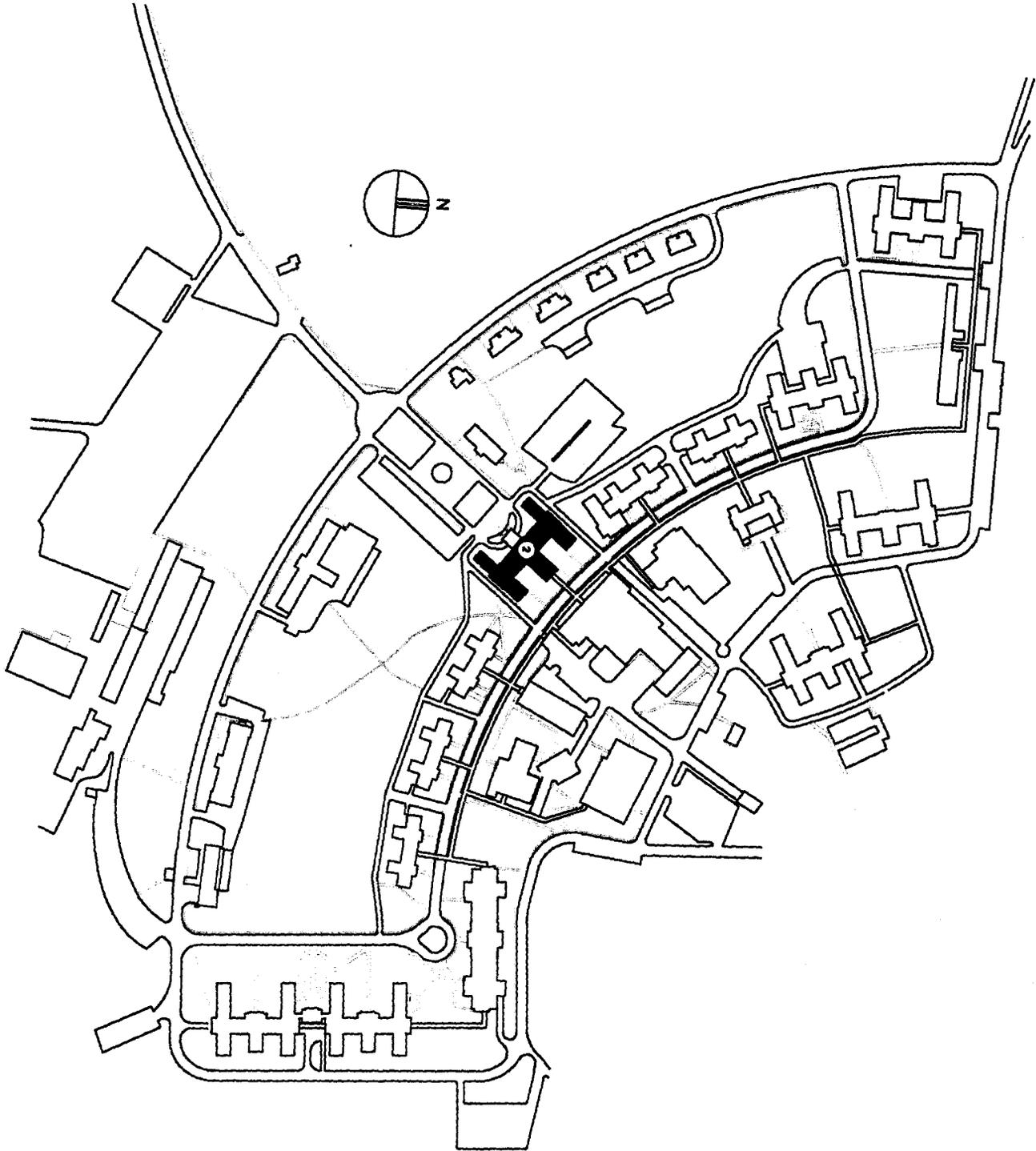
the X-ray Department, the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, and the Dental Clinic. The area originally contained an Operating Room as well.

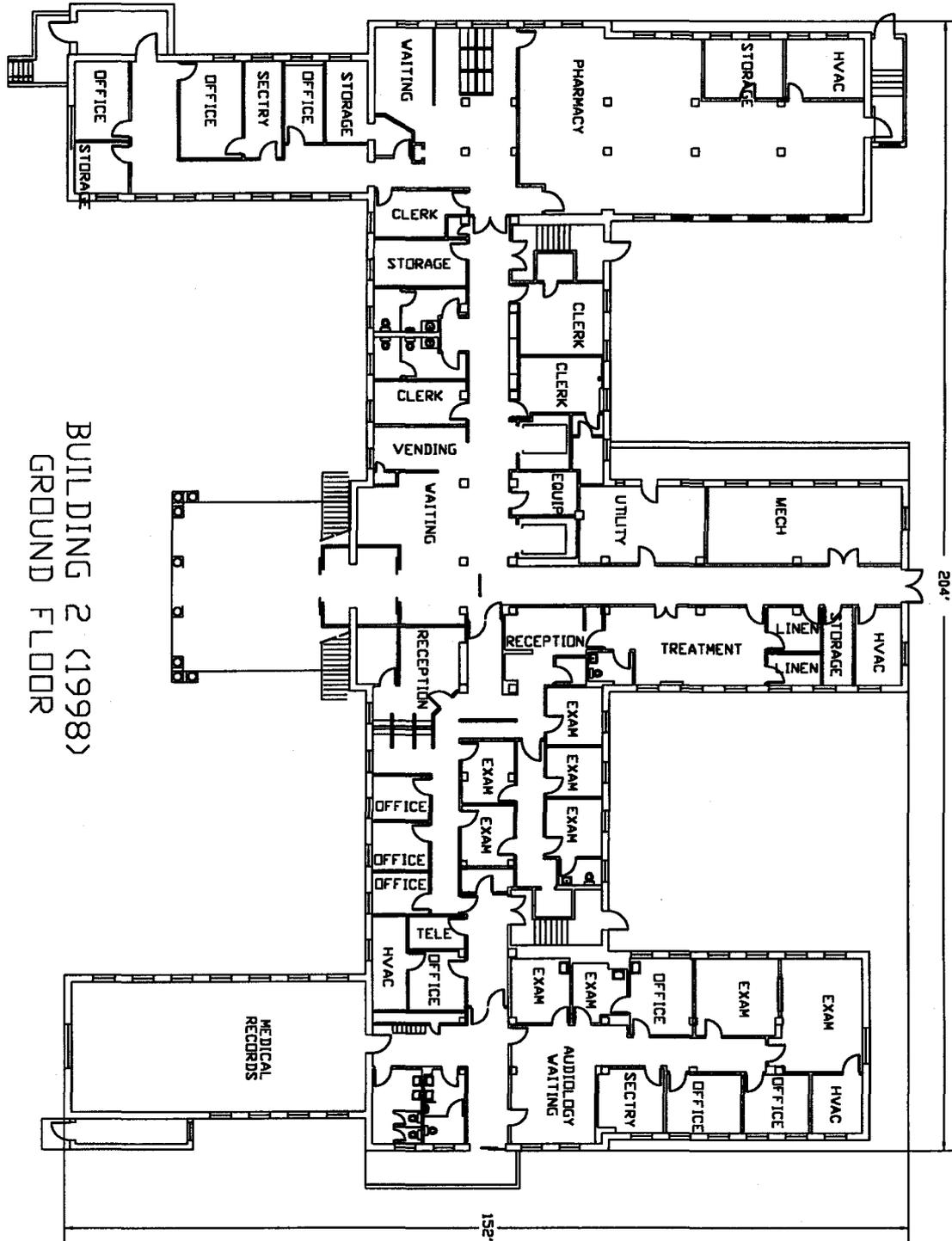
The building has undergone numerous interior renovations throughout the years, with the majority of these occurring between the years of 1968-1973. During this time Physical Therapy was moved to another building, and the building was no longer used to house patients over night. These changes created room for the needed expansion of the services, which remain today. The building is expected to remain clinical in nature, and serve as the main outpatient center as well as provide support to the remaining inpatient wards existing at the medical center.

Source: Hill, Barbara, G.; The Quiet Campaign; 1978

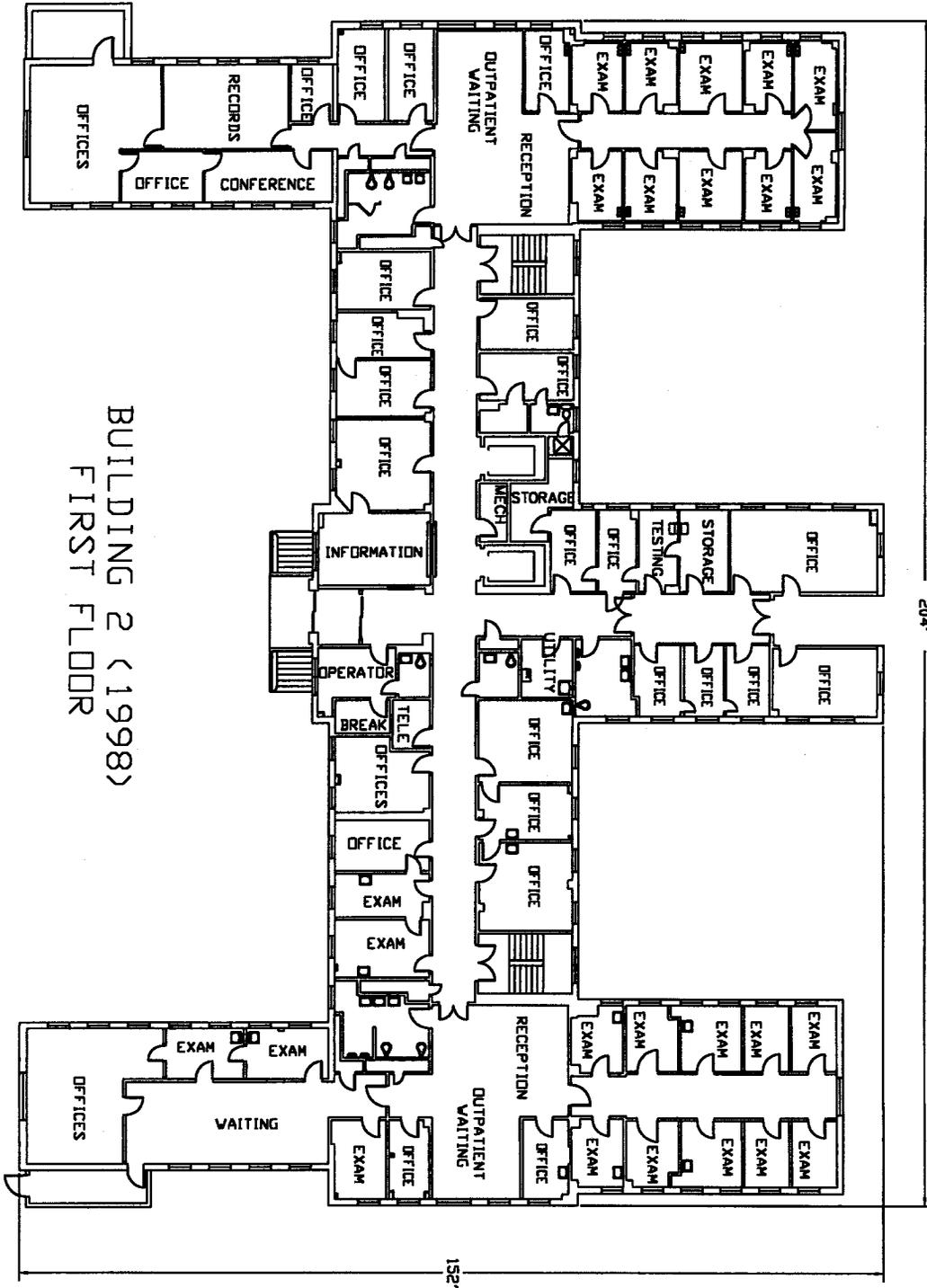
Historian: Randy J. Crandal, BSEE, Project Engineer
Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center
January 9, 1998

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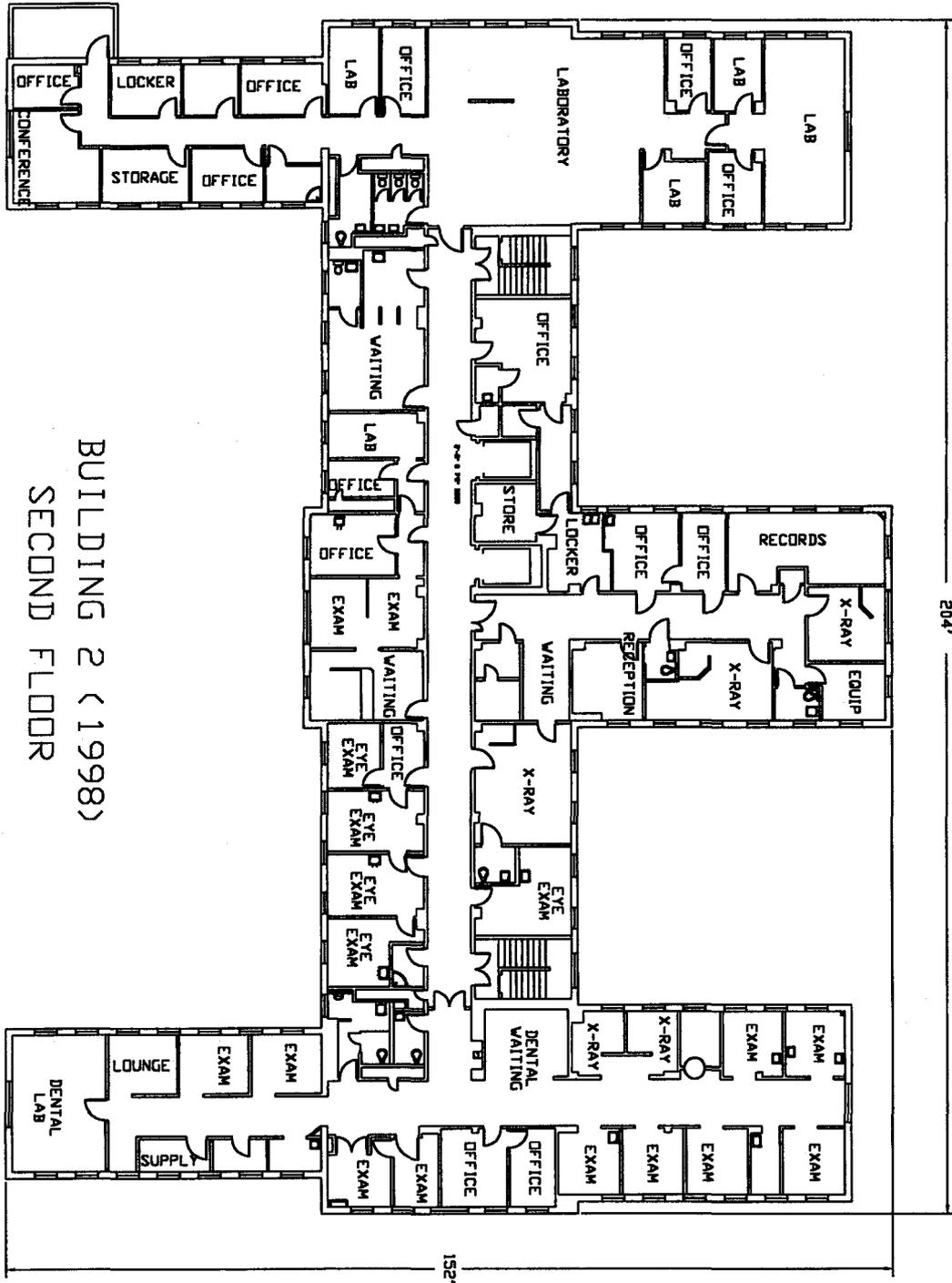




BUILDING 2 (1998)
GROUND FLOOR



BUILDING 2 (1998)
FIRST FLOOR



BUILDING 2 (1998)
SECOND FLOOR