

ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 25  
(Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital, Utility Soft Water Pressure Tank)  
Southfield Expressway & Outer Drive  
Allen Park  
Wayne County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-427-N  
HABS  
MI-427-N

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL BUILDING 25

(Utility Soft Water Pressure Tank Building)

HABS No. MI-427-N

- Location:** Southfield Expressway and Outer Drive  
Allen Park, Wayne County, Michigan
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420
- Present Use:** Vacant.
- Significance:** Building 25, the Utility Soft Water Pressure Tank Building, built in 1954, contained equipment for part of the hospital's water system. Due to its proximity to Building 11, the Laundry Building, it likely had a role in monitoring the water for the hospital's laundry facility. The hospital originally utilized a water tower to serve its needs and was later connected to the City of Allen Park's water system.

Care was taken in designing this diminutive building to maintain the architectural continuity of the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital. While it is more utilitarian in its style, Building 25 reflects the architectural styles of other buildings on the complex through its use of brick.

## **PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- A. Date of Erection:** 1954
- B. Architect:** Anonymous Veterans Administration Construction Division staff architect
- C. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, Uses:** The building is part of a Veterans Hospital complex constructed for and owned by the United States Government from 1939 to the present. Building 25 has continually served as a utility building since its construction.
- D. Original Plans and Construction:** No original plans for this building could be found.
- E. Alterations and Additions:** No alterations or additions have occurred.

## **PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

- A. General Statement:**
- 1. Architectural Character:** Building 25, which contained the utility soft water pressure tank, is a one-story industrial structure. Its building materials complement the original 1939 Georgian Revival style buildings in the complex.
  - 2. Condition of Fabric:** The building is in good condition; it is physically sound and is unaltered from its original appearance.
- B. Description of Exterior:**
- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The overall dimensions of the building measure approximately 16'-0" x 8'-0". The rectangular building is one story.
  - 2. Foundations:** The foundation consists of poured concrete.
  - 3. Walls:** The walls are constructed of common bond red brick.
  - 4. Structural System, Framing:** The building is a brick masonry structure. The roof is wood frame. The floor is poured concrete.
  - 5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:** There are no porches, stoops, balconies, or bulkheads.

6. **Chimneys:** There are no chimneys present.

7. **Openings:**

a. **Doorways and Doors:** There is a single entrance in the structure's west wall. Within this wood-frame doorway is a pair of wood doors, each featuring a single wood panel below nine lights.

b. **Windows and Shutters:** There are two wood four-pane hopper sash windows, one in the center of the building's south wall and one in the east wall.

8. **Roof:**

a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is flat and is covered with an unknown composite material.

b. **Cornice, Eaves:** An unornamented wood cornice surrounds the exterior at the roofline.

c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers present.

C. **Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor Plans:** The building is one room with no partitions.

2. **Stairways:** There are no stairways in the building.

3. **Flooring:** The floor is unfinished concrete.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The interior is unfinished, exposing the brick masonry structure of the building. The wood rafters and roof deck are visible from the interior of the building.

5. **Openings:**

a. **Doorways and Doors:** The doors are wood within a wood frame.

b. **Windows:** The hopper windows have wood frames and no decorative interior trim or window sills. The window frames are painted white.

**6. Decorative Features and Trim:** There are no decorative features or trim.

**7. Mechanical Equipment:**

- a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** There is no heating, air conditioning, or ventilation system within the building.
- b. Lighting:** The building is lit by a steel pendant light fixture suspended from the ceiling.
- c. Plumbing:** There is no plumbing system within the building.

**D. Site:**

- 1. General Setting and Orientation:** The Utility Soft Water Pressure Tank Building is located in the east-central section of the complex, northwest of the Laundry and Administration building. Employee Parking Area "E" is located immediately to the northwest.
- 2. Historic Landscape Design:** None.
- 3. Outbuildings:** None.

**PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION**

This complex was recorded by URS Corporation, Gaithersburg, Maryland, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, from January to March of 2002. Architectural Historians Amy Barnes, Anne Brockett, and Caleb Christopher completed the fieldwork for this project in January 2002. The photographer was Andrew Baugnet and the Historian was E. Madeleine Scheerer. The project was reviewed by Fred Holycross and Mark R. Edwards.

As stipulated in the deed in which Henry and Clara Ford donated the land on which the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital is located, when the property ceases to be used as a veterans hospital, the land is to revert in ownership to the Ford family heirs. Since inpatient and outpatient veteran medical service is now provided at the John D. Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit, which opened in 1996, and the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital ceased all operations in 2002, the land is to be turned over to the Ford Motor Land Development Corporation (FMLDC) in compliance with the original deed. A Congressional appropriation of \$14 million, to be disbursed to the FMLDC over a seven-year period beginning in 2002, was designated for the demolition of the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital complex.

#### **PART IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

##### **A. Collections:**

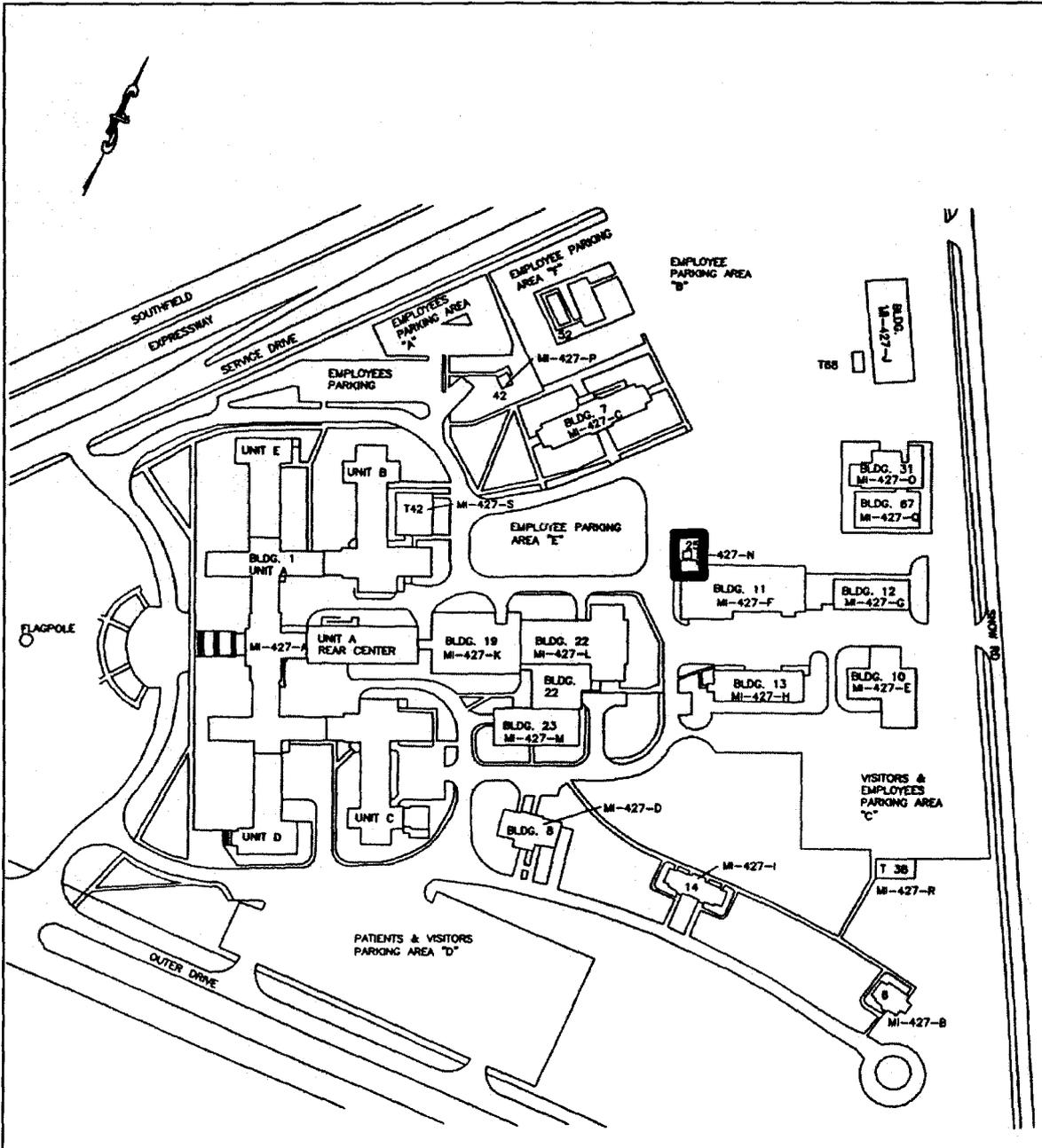
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Architectural Drawings Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Information and Media Section Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Audio Visual Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Office of Facilities Management Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Photograph Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. John D. Dingell Medical Center Audio Visual Collection. Detroit, Michigan.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Photograph Collection. Allen Park Medical Center. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Collection. Washington, D.C.

##### **B. References:**

- Ching, Francis D. K. *Building Construction Illustrated*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1997.
- Hoke, John Ray, Jr. *Architectural Graphic Standards*, 9th ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1994.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.
- Mollenhoff, Gjore J. and Karen R. Tupek. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for Allen Park Veterans Administration Medical Center," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 1980.

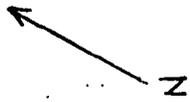
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Site Plan



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Reduced Copy of Current Plan, February 2002



NOT TO SCALE

