

ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 67  
(Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital, ~~Research Building~~)  
Southfield Expressway & Outer Drive  
Allen Park  
Wayne County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-427-Q

HABS  
MI-427Q

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 67  
(Laboratory)**

**HABS No. MI-427-Q**

- 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:** Like Building 31 (Animal Research Building), to which it is attached, Building 67 demonstrates a shift in medicine from strictly patient treatment to medical research. The building represents a break in the use of the Georgian Revival style architecture that dominates the Allen Park campus. It more closely reflects contemporary architectural styles and its function as a hermetic laboratory facility.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Date of erection:** ca. 1975
- 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 67 continually served as a laboratory since its construction.
- D. Original Plans and Construction:** No original plans for this building could be found. However, "As Built" plans, dated July 5, 1988, were obtained. These plans were produced by Giffels Consultants Inc.
- E. Alterations and Additions:** No alterations or additions have occurred.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### **A. General Statement:**

- 1. Architectural Character:** Building 67, a laboratory, is a 1½-story red brick institutional structure.
- 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 85'-4" x 50'-0". The rectangular plan building is one story in height.
- 2. Foundations:** The foundation is poured concrete.
- 3. Walls:** The walls have a veneer of red brick in a running bond with a belt course formed by a double row of soldier bricks encircling the building halfway up the wall. A single row of soldier bricks runs along the south wall just above the windows.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The building is a load-bearing concrete block structure. The roof and floor are poured concrete.

5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:** There are no porches, stoops, balconies, or bulkheads present.
6. **Chimneys:** There are no chimneys present.
7. **Openings:**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors:** The building has a single exterior entrance. This doorway is located in the center of the west wall, and features a single metal door with a slender, vertical single-pane window. Within this doorway to the south of the door is a vertical rectangular fixed window above a single metal panel. The doorway has a surround of soldier bricks two rows high above the door opening and five rows deep to each side.
  - b. **Windows and Shutters:** The five single-pane fixed metal frame windows are all located along the south wall.
8. **Roof:**
  - a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is flat with a gravel and asphalt coating.
  - b. **Cornice, Eaves:** There is no cornice or eaves.
  - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers present.

**C. Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor Plans:** The building is one story in height and has a central hall plan oriented on an east-west axis. The main entry is on the west façade at the end of the hallway. Another entry to the building is on the north side through a hallway connecting the building to Building 31. Nine laboratories, a restroom, and a mechanical room are located off of the corridor. Safety equipment has been installed in the hallway.
2. **Stairways:** There are no stairways in the building.
3. **Flooring:** The flooring throughout the building is 12" white vinyl tile.
4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The interior walls are finished drywall which has been painted white. The building has coved grey vinyl baseboards throughout. The drop ceiling has rectangular acoustic tiles within a suspended metal frame.

**5. Openings:**

- a. Doorways and Doors:** The doors in the building are of wood veneer, set in metal frames. The entry doors are steel fire doors within metal frames with small windows in the upper portion.
- b. Windows:** The interior window frames are of metal. There are no sills or decorative interior window trim.

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

**7. Mechanical Equipment:**

- a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** The original heating and ventilation system is a centralized forced air system. The duct work for the system is located above the drop ceilings. In rooms without drop ceilings, the vents are located in the finished ceiling. Multiple vents are located in each room.
- b. Lighting:** The building is lit by fluorescent light fixtures installed within the drop ceiling.
- c. Plumbing:** The restroom has a standard porcelain toilet and sink. The laboratory areas have stainless steel sinks with gooseneck faucets.

**8. Laboratory Equipment:** The building contains laboratory work spaces complete with laminate cabinets and treated stone work surfaces. The cabinets in some rooms have been painted white. The majority of the upper cabinet doors have solid panels. The lower cabinet doors and drawers have solid laminate panels. Some rooms have open laminate shelving. Fume hoods and/or large pieces of equipment such as incubators and refrigerators are still located in many of the rooms.

**D. Site:**

- 1. General Setting and Orientation:** This building is located in the northeast-central portion of the Allen Park complex, and adjoins Building 31 to the north. It faces west, and is located just west of Snow Road.
- 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.

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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.

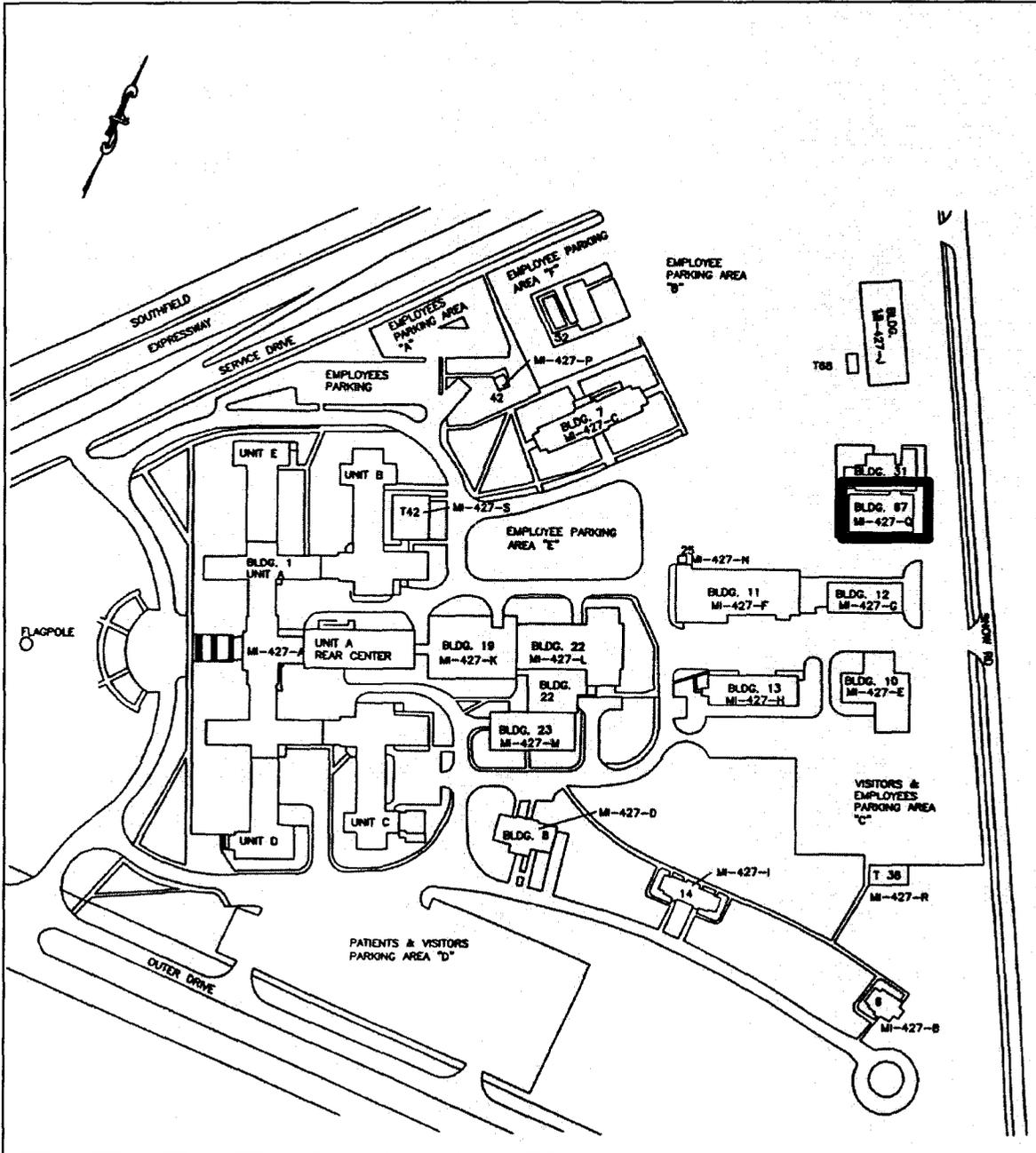
Hoke, John Ray, Jr. *Architectural Graphic Standards*, 9th ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1994.

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.

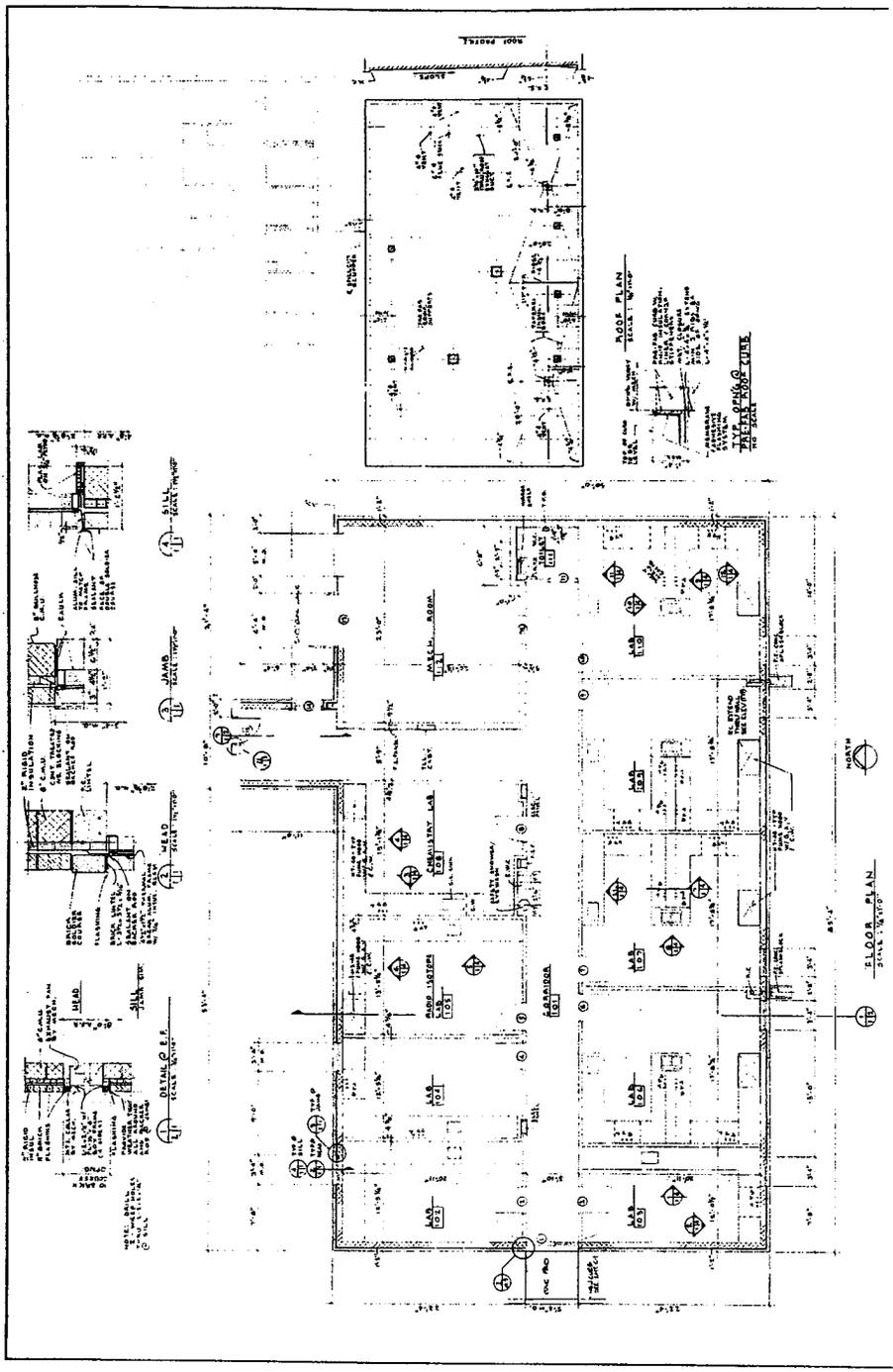
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Site Plan



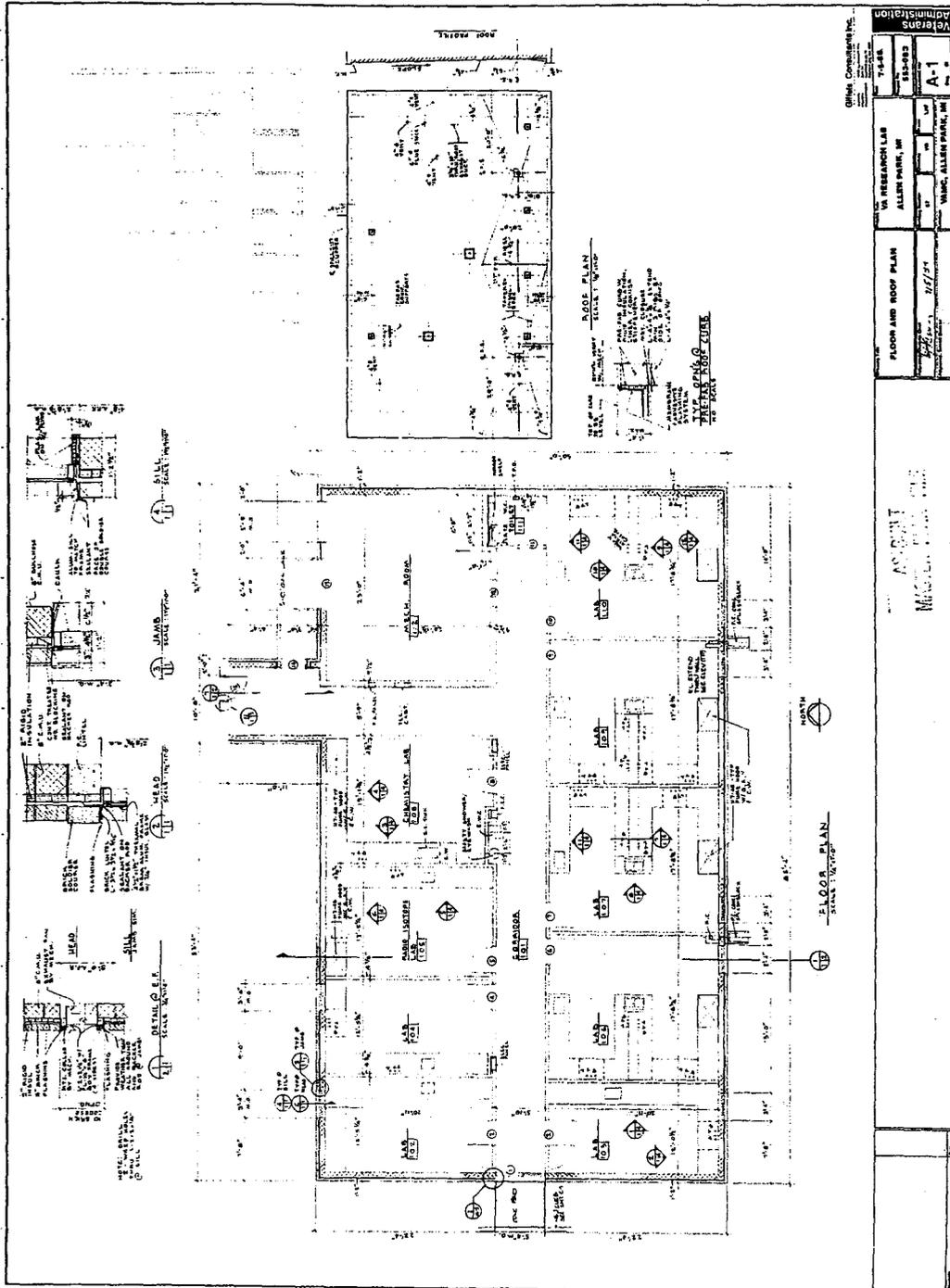
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Reduced Copy of Current Plan, February 2002



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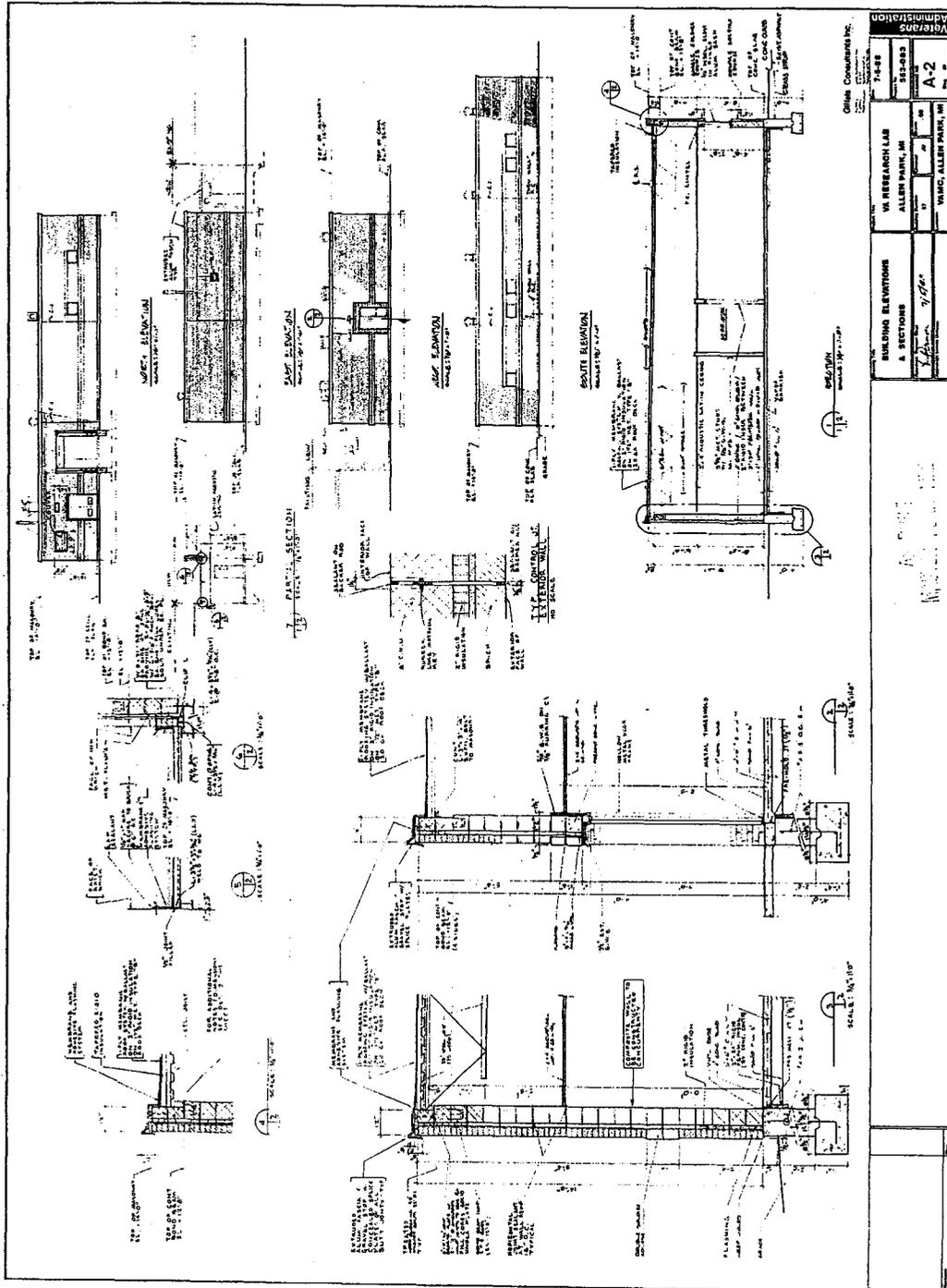
Reduced Copy of "As Built" Plan, dated July 5, 1988. On file at the John D. Dingell  
 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan



Giffels Consultants, Inc. 11111 W. FERRISON LANE ALLEN PARK, MI 48002		10-444 10-444
FLOOR AND ROOF PLAN 10/78		A-1 10-444
PROJECT NO. 10-444 DRAWING NO. A-1		10-444

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