

ALLEN PARK VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. T42
(Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital, Office Operations/Fiscal Services)
Southfield Expressway & Outer Drive
Allen Park
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-427-S

HABS
MI-427-3

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 T42
(Office Operations/Fiscal Services)**

HABS No. MI-427-S

- 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 T42 was constructed in ca. 1975 and may have been prefabricated off-site and moved to its location behind the main hospital. It added office space for administrative employees. The building has no significance at the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Date of Erection:** ca. 1975.
- B. Architect:** Architect unknown.
- 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 T42 continually served as office space since its construction.
- D. Original plans and Construction:** No original plans for this building could be found.
- E. Alterations and Additions:** There have been no alterations or additions to the structure.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural Character:** Building T42, which houses Office Operations/Fiscal Services, is a one-story, pre-fabricated metal structure. It is representative of the type of low-cost, mass-produced temporary buildings that have grown in popularity since World War II.
- 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 120'-0" x 40'-0". The rectangular building is one story tall. It is connected to the north wall of the southeast wing of Building 1, Unit B by a covered passage.
- 2. Foundations:** The foundation is a series of concrete block piers.
- 3. Walls:** The walls are covered with panels of fiber-cement exterior siding. The wall material extends down to the ground and conceals the foundation.
- 4. Structural System, Framing:** The building, roof, and floor frames are constructed of metal studs.

5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads:** A concrete landing is located at the exterior entrance. It is elevated several feet above the ground, and is accessed by a short flight of concrete steps flanked by metal railings.
6. **Chimneys:** There are no chimneys present.
7. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors:** The structure has one exterior entrance, located near the northeast corner of the east wall. The doorway contains a simple metal door with a narrow, vertical, rectangular single-pane window.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters:** All of the windows are paired single-pane windows with sliding metal frames. There are three in the main, or east façade; one near the southeast corner of the east facade, the second in the center of the east facade, and the third evenly placed between the second window and the main entrance. There are two additional windows evenly spaced in the building's south wall.
8. **Roof:**
 - a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is flat with a membrane covering.
 - b. **Cornice, Eaves:** There is no cornice or eave decoration.
 - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers present.

C. Description of Interior:

1. **Floor Plans:** The building is a one-story manufactured structure with offices. The eastern half of the building is an open plan office space with no partitions. The western half of the building has a central hall running from north to south. At the north end is a storage room. On the east side of the hall are three offices and a storage room. On the west side of the hall are three offices, a storage room, a mechanical room, and restrooms. The main entry to the building is on the east façade which opens into the open plan office space. There is a second entry at the southern end of the hallway into a covered passageway which leads to Unit B of Building 1.
2. **Stairways:** There are no stairways in the building.
3. **Flooring:** The floor is covered with brown industrial carpeting.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The walls of the manufactured structure are covered with wood veneer paneling designed to look like vertical boards. The baseboards are brown vinyl. The covered passageway has appears to have plaster walls but may be wallboard, which have been painted white with grey covered vinyl baseboards. There is a drop ceiling with acoustic tiles in the building. The covered passage ceiling is painted white and appears to be plaster but may be wallboard.

5. **Openings:**

a. **Doorways and Doors:** The doors within the building are covered with wood veneer and set in metal frames. The entry doors are steel fire doors with small windows in the upper portion set in metal frames.

b. **Windows:** The interior window frames are of metal with a simple 2” vinyl trim. There are no sills.

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. Multiple vents are located in each room.

b. **Lighting:** The building is lit by fluorescent light fixtures installed within the drop ceiling or attached to the finished ceiling.

c. **Plumbing:** The restrooms have standard porcelain toilets and sinks.

D. **Site:**

1. **General Setting and Orientation:** This structure is located in the northwest portion of the complex, just to the east of Unit B of Building 1. It overlooks Employee Parking Area “E” just to its east.

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*, 2nd ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1997.

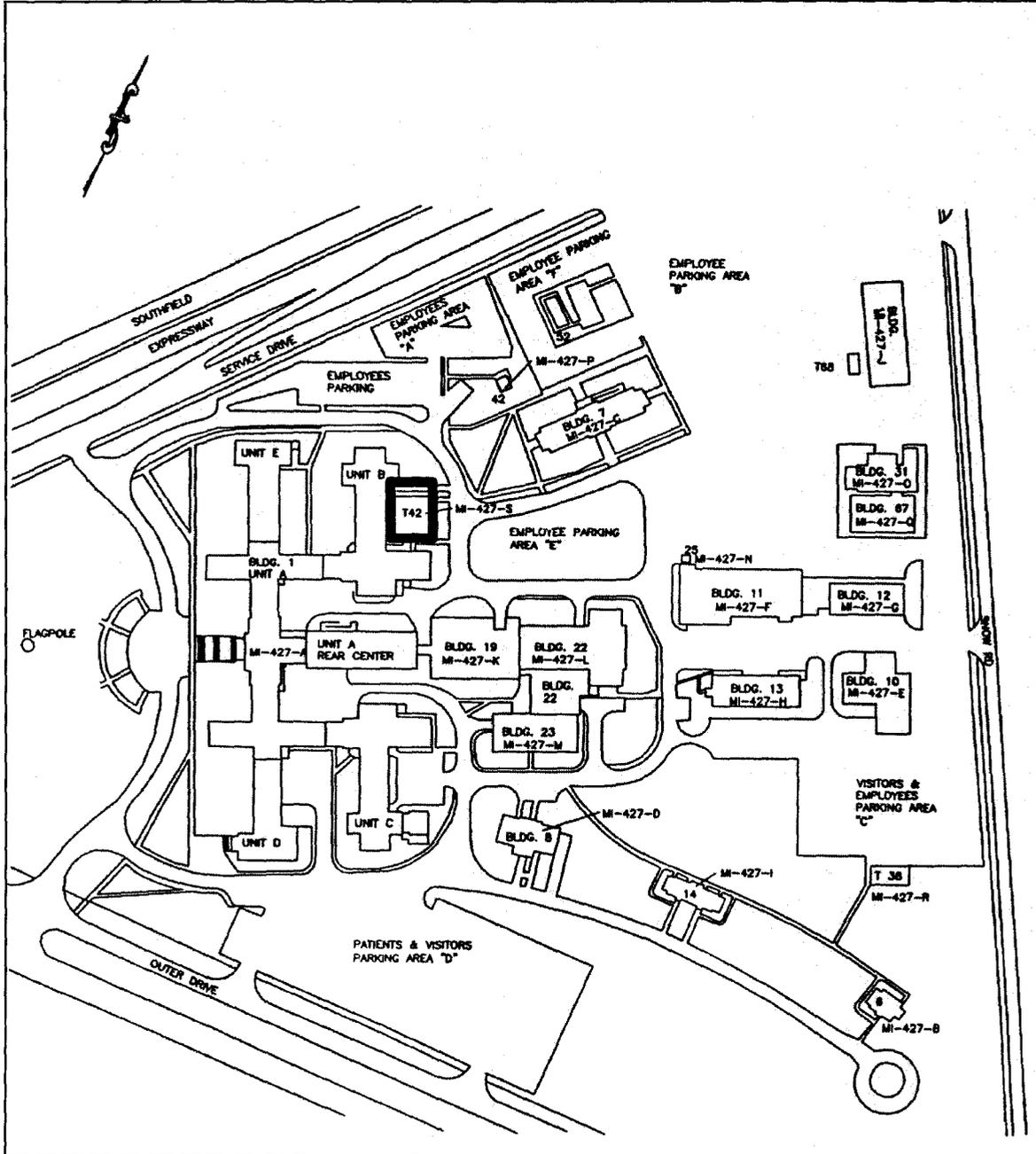
Hoke, John Ray, Jr. *Architectural Graphic Standards*, 9th ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1994.

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



Reduced Copy of Current Plan, February 2002

