

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Hospital (Building No. 17)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-0

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RABIDEAU CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP,
HOSPITAL
(BUILDING NO. 17)

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Location: One-half mile west of Beltrami County Highway 39, six miles south of Blackduck, Beltrami County, Minnesota.

Significance: The Hospital was constructed in 1935 as part of the Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, which operated on the Chippewa National Forest until 1941. The camp was later used by the University of Illinois as a summer field school from 1946 to 1972.

Description: Located on a hillside with a gentle slope to the south, the Hospital is a one-story, rectangular-plan frame building with overall dimensions of 20' x 54'. The building is covered with shiplap siding painted dark green and is capped with a low-pitch, trussed, gable roof covered with green rolled asphalt. The building is supported by a log-post foundation. The principal entrance is located on the east facade and includes a small porch and railings. One nine-lite casement sash is positioned to the left of the doorway, and one six-lite sash is located in the gable end. The west facade has an elevated central entrance (missing its steps), flanked by nine-lite sash; there is one six-lite sash in the gable end. Both the north and south side walls feature seven nine-lite sash. All door and window trim, as well as the corner boards, consist of plain wood planks painted green. Two metal chimneys project from the roof, one from each of the north and south slopes.

A waiting room is entered from the east doorway, with an examination room to the south. A central hallway, with a tunnel vault executed in plywood, extends from the waiting room to a large ward at the west end of the building. A bath, a staff bedroom (with built-in dresser), an isolation room, and one additional room open off the hallway. A groin vault is positioned at the intersection of the hallway and the entries to the bath and staff bedroom. The walls and ceilings throughout the hospital feature varnished plywood. The ward features a ceiling which gently curves as it meets the north and south side walls, several recessed lights, and decorative vertical wood strips below the windows.

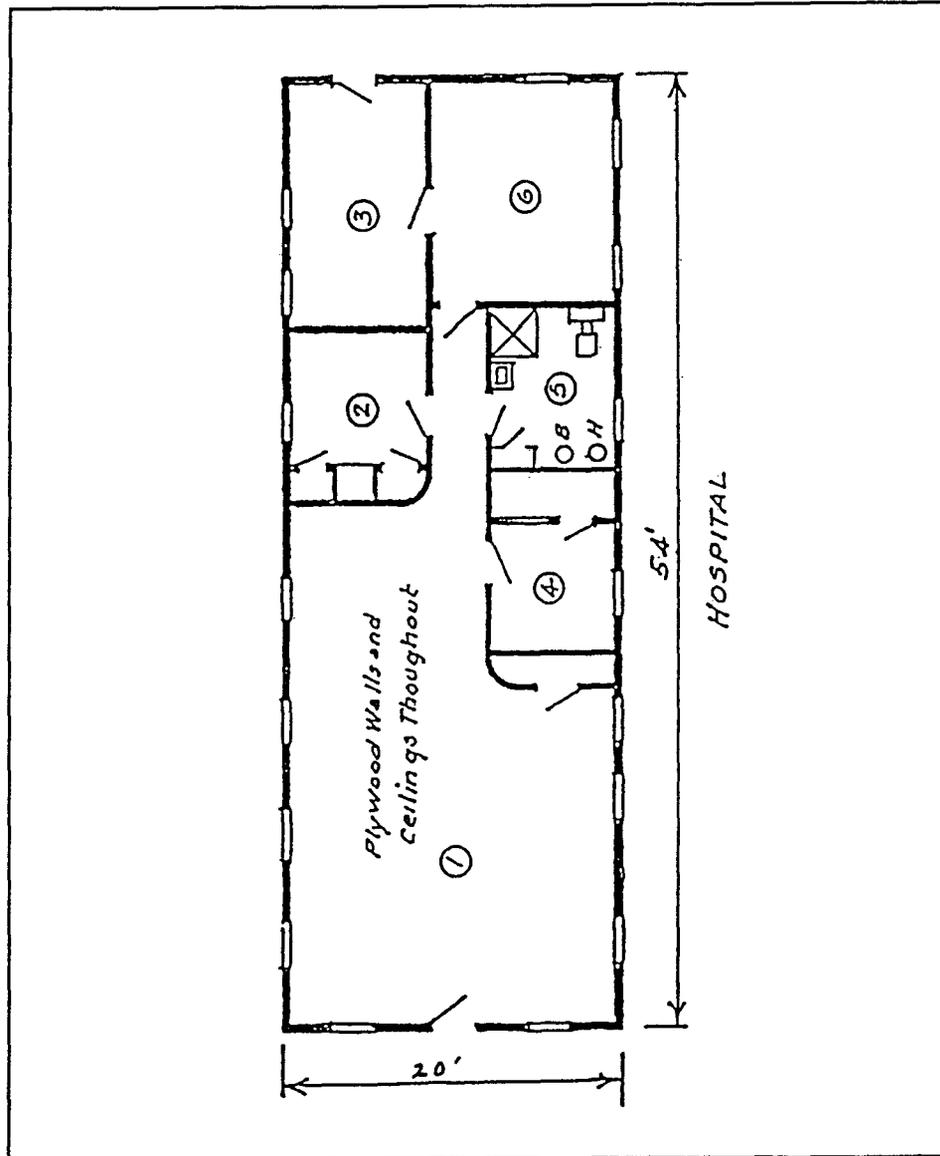
History: Both the CCC and the University of Illinois used this building as a hospital. The oldest known site plan for the camp shows the principal entrance door located at the east end of the north facade; evidence of this doorway is still apparent from wood infill. The entrance was then shifted to the east end wall. Other changes included shifting the wall between the waiting room and the examination room to the south so that the central hallway could be accessed from the waiting room. The original L-shaped ward was also modified by the construction of another room, giving the ward a squared appearance. These interior alterations probably occurred in 1939.

Sources: An undated history of the Rabideau Camp by the Forest Service, in a file on the

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Rabideau Camp at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake, Minnesota; the oldest known site plan of camp while still occupied by the CCC, entitled "Rabideau Camp F-50" (ca. 1936); and an undated and untitled floor plan of the hospital, both located at the University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil Engineering Subject File Record Series 11/5/1. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994



Floor plan of Hospital (Building No. 17), ca. 1945.
Source: University Archives, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.