

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, SECURITY  
STATION & FRONT GATE  
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 89)  
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)  
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks  
Division)  
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division  
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive  
Saint Louis  
Independent City  
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-AI  
*MO-1943-AI*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS,  
SECURITY STATION (BUILDING 89) AND FRONT GATE

HABS No. MO-1943-AI

- Location:** Building 89, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri  
UTM Coordinates 16 7258517 E 9965014 N
- Date of Construction:** Front Gate, ca. 1952; Security Station, 2002
- Designer:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Contractor:** Unknown
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Present Use:** Security Station and Gate for Hospital
- Significance:** The Front Gate was constructed in the early 1950s as part of upgrades to the medical center. The Security Station (Building 89) was built in 2002 and reflects heightened concerns over security at federal facilities after the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001.
- Project Information:** This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

**Description:**

This resource consists of one building, the Security Station (Building 89) and the Front Gate (no building number). Together, the two resources mark the front entrance to the medical center complex. The Security Station and Front Gate are located on an asphalt driveway that allows vehicles to approach and leave the medical center complex via Coke Road, which offers access to Interstate 255. The Front Gate appears on a 1950 map of planned expansion facilities at the medical center and appears to have been added to the medical center ca. 1952 as part of a major upgrade to the facilities at that time. The orange brickwork of the Front Gate is similar to brick used in the buildings constructed at the medical center ca. 1952. The Security Station was installed in 2002 and appears to have been a response to heightened security concerns after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Front Gate is composed of two curved mirror-image orange brick walls, one on each side of the front entrance drive of the medical center, with the concave side of the curve facing the drive. Both walls have an end post on each end of the wall, and the inside end post (the one closer to the drive) is taller than the outside end post. The walls and each of the end posts are capped with a thin limestone coping. White letters on the two walls spell out the following, using similar lettering:

North wall:	South wall:
DEPARTMENT OF	JEFFERSON BARRACKS
VETERANS AFFAIRS	DIVISION
MEDICAL CENTER	ST LOUIS MO

The Security Station sits east of the north wall of the main gate and is a prefabricated wood side-gabled shed with synthetic siding and trim, a window, and a metal prefabricated nine-light door with plastic imitation muntins. The gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The interior of the Security Station contains a single room to accommodate one security officer. The Security Station was not in use at the time of fieldwork for this project.

**History:**

It is not clear what the original front gates of the U.S. Veterans Bureau hospital looked like during the 1920s through the late 1940s. The current front entrance, consisting of two curved brick walls, dates from the 1950-1952 campaign that converted the hospital campus from a general medicine facility to a neuropsychiatric hospital. A 1948 site plan<sup>1</sup> and a

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<sup>1</sup> Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Site Plan*, 1948, on file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

1950 master plan<sup>2</sup> map both show the two curved walls at the entrance to the hospital. Both maps also show a guard house situated at the location of the current Security Station (Building 89). In addition to being on the 1948 and 1950 site plans, the gate walls are also built of the same orange brick that was used to create horizontal accent stripes on most of the buildings that were built at the medical center in 1950-1952. Given that the front gate was part of the 1950-1952 construction campaign, it is highly likely that the front gate was designed by the architectural and engineering firm of Jamieson and Spearl, who designed all of the buildings completed at the hospital during the 1950-1952 construction campaign. It is unknown when the current lettering was added to the walls, or if the original walls featured any lettering. The appearance and character of the original guard house is also unknown, other than the 1950 map's depiction of a small square building.<sup>3</sup> These types of facilities were usually constructed of wood and had gabled, flat, or shed roofing.

The original guard house was demolished at an unknown date. A security station is not listed on a 1990 property list for the medical center, so it may have been removed by that time.<sup>4</sup> After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, additional security measures were put in place at many federal facilities. A new security station was placed at the location of the former guard house, and the original concrete slab foundation of the old guard house was probably used as the foundation for the new security station. The Security Station (Building 89) appears to be a prefabricated structure, and has a gabled roof, windows, a door, and synthetic siding. The Security Station did not appear to be in use during fieldwork, although it remains in place, should the government ever decide to increase security levels and more closely monitor vehicular access to the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division. Current redevelopment plans for the medical center do not call for the demolition of either the Front Gate or the Security Station.

**Sources:**

Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers. *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*. 1950. On file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

———. Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Site Plan*. 1948. On file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

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<sup>2</sup> Jamieson and Spearl, Architects and Engineers, *544-Bed Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Master Plan*, 1950, on file at St. Louis VA Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*, 1990, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*. 1990. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

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