

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS,  
ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE BUILDING  
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 17)  
(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-I  
*MO-1943-I*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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, ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE BUILDING (BUILDING 17)

HABS No. MO-1943-I

- Location:** Building 17, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri  
UTM Coordinates 16-----7258095 E-----9965687N  
Lat: 38.509198, Long: -90.289432, point obtained  
using Google Earth on 9 March 2012
- Date of Construction:** 1935
- Designer:** U.S. Veterans Administration (VA)
- Contractor:** Unknown
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Present Use:** Engineering Shops
- Significance:** The Engineering Maintenance Office was added to the U.S. Veterans Hospital property in 1935 as part of a New Deal-era campaign to improve the hospital. This small facility has continued to serve the Engineering Maintenance operation at the hospital to the present time. The facility was originally used as an office and now contains lockers, a restroom, and a lunchroom area.
- 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:**

The Engineering Maintenance Building (Building 17) is a one-story stucco-clad facility with a side-gabled roof. The building is situated in the north central portion of the medical center and is surrounded by maintenance and storage buildings. The interior contains a main room and a utility room.

The facade of Building 17 faces east and features two metal double-hung replacement windows and a one-light metal replacement door. The roof overhangs on this side of the building and has a wood cornice and a metal gutter. The north and south walls are gabled, with each gable having a wood raking cornice. The north wall has a single double-hung metal replacement window and a small arched louvered opening in the gable. The south wall has the same features. The rear wall of the building has two metal double-hung replacement windows, a wood cornice, and a metal gutter.

The interior of the building has a main room that is used currently as a locker and break room for maintenance personnel. The main room features gypsum board walls and ceiling and a concrete floor covered in older vinyl tile. The main room also features a conference table and chairs, and a series of steel lockers. The building also has a small utility closet located in the southwest corner of the interior. The utility room contains connections to the hospital's steam heating system.

**History:**

The Engineering Maintenance Building was built in 1935 as the first of a series of buildings constructed during the 1930s to improve the Veterans Administration Hospital at Jefferson Barracks. No original 1930s construction drawings were found for this building. A sheet of 1952 drawings with plans and elevations of the Engineering Maintenance Building shows a small side-gabled building clad in stucco with six-over-six double-hung windows and a paneled six-light front door. Presumably, the building was originally used as a small field office for maintenance personnel. By 1952, the building was in use as the Engineering Maintenance Office. The 1952 floor plan shows a mostly open interior with a small steam outlet for heating, and a fresh water outlet, likely for a sink or water fountain.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Veterans Administration, *Engineering Maintenance Building No. 17 and Concrete Platforms Nos. 44 and 45, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1952, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

By 1990, this building was characterized on VA facilities lists as a miscellaneous services building.<sup>2</sup> The Engineering Maintenance Building today serves as part of the medical center's maintenance shops, and as a break room, locker room, and restroom facility for maintenance personnel. The building currently has replacement doors and windows and replacement stucco exterior cladding dating to the last thirty years. Upcoming redevelopment plans for the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, call for the demolition of this building in the next few years.

**Sources:**

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.

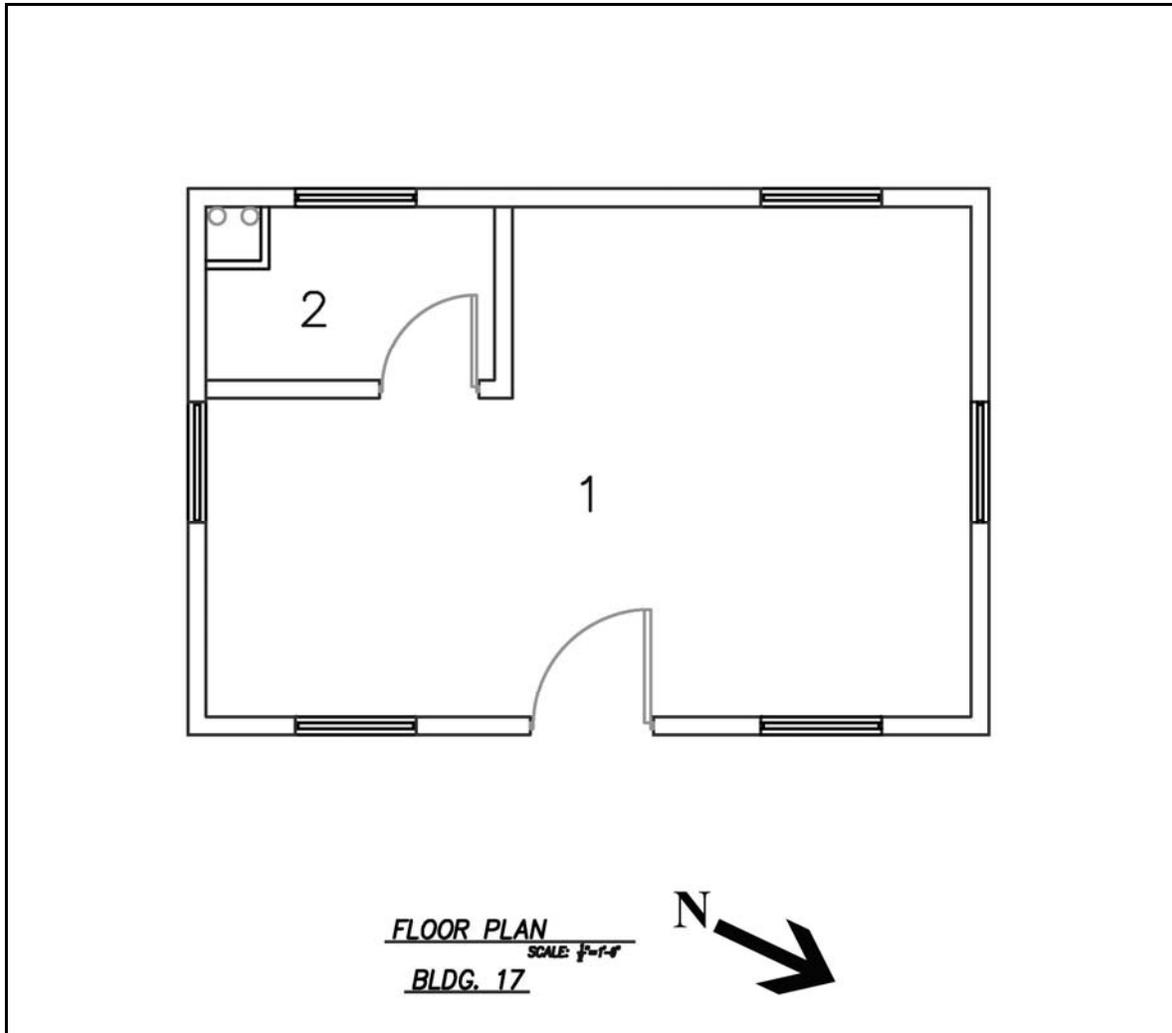
U.S. Veterans Administration. *Engineering Maintenance Building No. 17 and Concrete Platforms Nos. 44 and 45, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1952. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

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<sup>2</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.



Engineering Maintenance Building (Building 17), current floor plan