USDA PLANT QUARANTINE BUILDING
209 River Street
Hoboken
Hudson County
New Jersey

HABS NO. NJ-1231

HABS
NJ
9-HOBO,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake / Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
NJ
9-HOBO
9-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

USDA PLANT QUARANTINE BUILDING HABS No. NJ-1231

Location: 209 River Street, Hoboken, Hudson County, New Jersey

USGS Jersey City Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: 18.694600.2176800

Present Owner: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

Present Use: Limited USDA administrative activities.

Significance: Constructed in 1940 to carry out the provisions of the National Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the USDA Plant Quarantine Building is significant as an excellent example of a government building designed in the Art Deco style under the Works Progress Administration. The building is also important as a hub of maritime activity and the agricultural commodity trade. The function of the building was to allow for the detection and removal of plant pests that may be harbored on imported plant material. Plant pathologists at Hoboken became responsible for disease determination for nineteen ports in a territory extending from New York south to Norfolk, Virginia and west to Chicago, Illinois.

The building is located thirty feet west of the Hoboken Piers Headhouse, which is documented as HAER No. NJ-63.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. PHYSICAL HISTORY

1. **Date of Erection:** The construction phase of the USDA Plant Quarantine Building was completed and the building occupied on June 28, 1940. (USDA 1941: 3)

2. **Architect:** William L. Gill is listed as the architect on the plans for the building. Limited information exists concerning Gill. Gill worked under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration and developed the quarantine building design in the Art Deco style. The architect rejected the more traditional "classical" style of government buildings for a modern design which reflected the New Deal Philosophy. The 1939 Worlds Fair (The World of Tomorrow) was influential, as the Art Deco/Streamline Modern style predominated at the fair.

3. **Original and Subsequent Owners:** The United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has been the sole owner of the building.

The history of the property is summarized as follows:

1. On December 3, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation seizing from the North German Lloyd Dock Company the property called the Hoboken Piers, which is currently known as the South Waterfront. Included in that seizure was the parcel of land upon which the USDA building now sits.

2. On April 19, 1930 the Seventy-First Congress passed legislation allowing the federal government to sell or lease the property known as the Hoboken Piers with the exception of those parcels which today include the USDA Building and the U.S. Post Office.

3. On June 21, 1938 the Seventy-Fifth Congress passed legislation authorizing the lease of the Hoboken Piers (excluding the property excepted in #2 above) to the City of Hoboken. The lease agreement was signed on September 24, 1952.

4. On August 10, 1938 the United States Maritime Commission granted permission to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to erect the USDA building at its present site.

5. On September 27, 1982, Congress, through Public Law 97-268, authorized the sale of the Hoboken Piers to the City of Hoboken, excluding the site of the USDA Building and the U.S. Post Office site. The sale was closed in January 1984.

6. In November 1995, Congress passed and the President signed into law H.R. 2002, the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act which included Section 354, the transfer of the USDA Building and site to the City of Hoboken. This transfer is pending as of this writing.

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Albro Metal Products Corp.
960 Longfellow Avenue
Bronx, New York

Ceco Building Products
Ceco Steel Products Corporation
New York, New York

Federal Seabord Terra Cotta Corp.
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

General Electric Air Conditioning Systems
Northern Air Conditioning Corporation
21 Central Avenue
Newark, New Jersey

Lafayette Iron Works, Inc.
649-661 Grand Street
Jersey City, New Jersey

Peerless Monorail Systems
310 West 14th Street
New York, New York

Superior Fire Proof Door & Sash Co., Inc.
1811 Carter Avenue
New York, New York

5. **Original Plans and Construction:** The building was constructed in accordance with the architectural, mechanical, structural, refrigeration, electrical, heating and plumbing drawings of a 51-sheet plan set titled "Plant Quarantine Building, Hoboken, New Jersey" prepared for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service, dated January 1939, Job No. 39035D. These plans are located at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A grant of $40,000 was furnished by the Works Progress Administration for demolishing three buildings on the site and the Plant Quarantine Building was constructed under an allotment of $400,000 from the Public Works Administration. (USDA 1941: 3)

The building was described in December 1940:

> "[The building] is constructed of reinforced concrete with tile walls and buff brick on the outside. It is trimmed with four bands of brown glazed terra cotta with ivory terra cotta coping. Window sashes are steel, doors are metal clad, floors are cement with linoleum finish or quarry tile, the building being practically fireproof in every respect. The building is 144 feet by 52 1/2 feet, four stories with basement, boiler room, and penthouse." (U.S.D.A. 1941: 3)

Historic views of the building dating from 1942 are located in Becker, *The Hoboken Inspection House*. Becker describes the building as a yellow brick building with red and black trim. The original drawings indicate that a pair of cylindrical bronze and opal glass lamps flanked the main entrance. The lamps have been removed.

The historic descriptions of the building are generally consistent with its present appearance. The yellow or buff-colored building has black trim at the west entrance and brown-red terra-cotta trim parapets capped with ivory terra-cotta. No significant alteration of the building's original appearance has occurred.

6. **Alteration and Additions:** The Plant Quarantine Building has remained remarkably intact. No alterations of note have occurred to either the exterior or interior.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Plant Quarantine Building is situated on a property which was originally a tidal marsh on the Hudson River. Colonel John Stevens purchased the land of present day Hoboken in 1784. In 1804, Colonel Stevens began the first phase of landfills to extend the shoreline. The Hoboken Land and Improvement Company oversaw the significant landfill effort and in 1856 the current shoreline configuration was established. Hoboken rapidly grew as a center of industry and shipping in the nineteenth century. The North German Lloyd Lines acquired a site on the Bremen Docks in 1861, while the Hamburg-American Line was established there in 1870. The project site was located upland of the Bremen docks and the first structure was erected on the site in 1881.

The Plant Quarantine Building is in close proximity to four historic resources: the Southern Hoboken Historic District, the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad and Ferry Terminal, the Central Hoboken Historic District and the Stevens Historic District. The Southern Hoboken Historic District is composed of nineteenth century three-to-four-story brick residential and commercial structures. In 1906, the Erie-Lackawanna terminal was constructed. The innovative design of the railway and ferry terminal has significantly contributed to railroad engineering history. The Central Hoboken Historic District contains an array of residential architectural styles, which include Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Classical Revival. The majority of blocks are intact and feature uniform setbacks, and the buildings illustrate a high level of workmanship. The Stevens Historic District located on Castle Point is characterized by distinguished red brick academic buildings which date from 1870 to 1940.

Provision was made in Nursery Stock, Plant and Seed Quarantine No. 37, effective June 1, 1919, for the importation, in limited quantities and under special permit, of plant materials from almost all parts of the world for propagation purposes. (USDA 1941:1) Prior to that time, all importations were routed to USDA facilities in Washington, D.C. for inspection. Washington was the chosen location due to the proximity of the Department's corps of specialists and that office handled eighty to eighty-five percent of all inspections. Pressure from trans-Pacific concerns resulted in construction of facilities in San Francisco, Honolulu, and Seattle by 1932 that handled the remaining inspections. (USDA 1941: 2). However, most of the shipments that were inspected in Washington arrived in the United States via the Port of New York and the need for USDA facilities at that port became apparent as early as 1919. The increasing costs of transportation, labor charges and delayed delivery to final destinations necessitated a New York Harbor location to streamline the inspection and quarantine process. Planning for the USDA Plant Quarantine Building in Hoboken began in the 1930s and upon completion of the building, the Department's activities were transferred from Washington, D.C. to the Hoboken facility.

The activities in the building are the detection and treatment of plant pests that may be harbored on imported plant material. Upon commencement of activities in the building in June 1940, the first three floors contained plant quarantine activities and the fourth floor contained the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine's Foreign Parasite Introduction Station. Most of the following description of activities in the building is located in Becker, 1942.

The first floor of the building primarily contained the shipping and receiving activities. The approximately 3,200 square foot shipping and receiving areas were divided by a woven wire fence, but the space remained otherwise open. The crated plant material would remain in the receiving area until it was needed on the second floor, to which it would be taken by elevator. When inspection of plant material was complete, the material would be returned to the first floor and held in the shipping area until sent on to its final destination. Two cold storage rooms comprising 550 square feet (most recently used as offices) are located on the north end of the first floor and a 1,000 cubic foot vacuum fumigation tank, or chamber, is located in the south end. Crates would be wheeled into the cubical tank to be fumigated, which would be undertaken by connecting a cylinder of liquid fumigation gas to the tank. The machine room contains air-cleaning machinery that pulls the fumigation gas from the air as it leaves the tank as well as air-conditioning, and steam heating for portions of the building. (Please see Section III.E for a more detailed discussion of the fumigation tanks.)

The second floor contained all of the inspection and some of the treatment activities. In the south end of the building is the mail inspection room, in which mail and express packages were inspected. Cargo importations were inspected in the long inspection room along the east side of the building. Both inspection rooms have compressed air outlets which allow particles of soil or debris to be blown from the plant material. In the northeast corner of the second floor is the fumigation room which contained five vacuum fumigation tanks into which crates are wheeled in a similar fashion to the tank on the first floor. In contrast to the stand-alone fumigation tank on the first floor, the vacuum tanks on the second floor were tied into a gas supply system built into the building. In the northwest corner of the building is the heat treatment room. In this room are hot-water treatment tanks of an approximate capacity of 375 gallons. Plant material was placed in wire mesh baskets suspended from an overhead steel I-beam with a chain hoist and lowered into the tanks. The drying cabinet in this room removed excess moisture from the heat-treated material. Dry heat chambers and autoclaves were also located in this room. A laboratory is also located on the second floor and was used by pathologists for the preparation of solutions and the mixing of chemicals. This room contained metal cabinets, vacuum and compressed air outlets, a chemical fan hood and an autoclave.

The third floor contained thirteen offices and laboratories and a dark room and photographic laboratory. A laboratory such as the one on the second floor is located directly above it on the third floor. The plant pathologists' laboratory located in the southwest corner of the building, the entomologists'/ taxonomists' laboratory in the south east corner, and the inspectors' offices are all similarly furnished. The rooms contained a chemically-treated hardwood work bench along the exterior walls and compressed air, vacuum and gas outlets.

The fourth floor contained insect parasite work and included two parasite handling rooms, twelve insectaries where live insects were kept, offices, and four cold storage rooms.

As of 1990, the role of the entomologists and plant pathologists in the building was disease determination for nineteen ports in a territory extending from New York to Norfolk, Virginia, and west to Chicago. The pathologists also served as liaison officers to the states for post-entry quarantine whereby growth of an imported plant is monitored for a two year period to assure pest eradication. Scientists also performed the certification required under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Law for the exportation of endangered plant species. Many of the plants inspected in the building were seized in customs from travelers. These plants were inspected, and if healthy, were forwarded to specially assigned plant rescue centers at universities and botanical gardens. (Drobbin: 1990)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

1. **Architectural character:** The four-story rectangular structure is fashioned in an Art Deco style. The building is of reinforced concrete construction, clad with yellow, brown and orange mottled brick, and brown-red, ivory and black terra cotta. Elevations are divided into two distinct horizontal sections: the first three stories are an expressionistic arrangement of brick in a pilastered arcade and the fourth story is characterized by its lack of ornament except for three terra cotta bands at the cornice. With the exception of the ground floor, the interior of the Plant Quarantine Building consists of a series of offices and laboratories. The ground floor is devoted to large shipping and receiving rooms and small mechanical and electrical equipment rooms. The upper three stories are clinical laboratories designed for plant disease research.

2. **Condition of fabric:** The building is in good condition considering its age and usage. The building framing components have performed well and the various building elements have experienced normal wear and aging. The building exterior is brick with a concrete foundation and is in good condition. There are many locations of brick with cracks, cracked mortar joints, or open mortar joints. The expansive forces of rust and weathering have resulted in brick crack propagation. The concrete loading dock and the cantilevered concrete roof overhang (east elevation) are in poor condition. There is a great deal of efflorescence and cracking due to freezing and thawing. Adjacent to the garage (south elevation) are the fuel oil fill, clean out and overflow pipes, which show signs of spillage.

B. DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

1. **Overall Dimensions:** The four-story rectangular structure measures 144'-0" x 52'-6" and is 54'-6" tall (measured from sidewalk to top of roof coping at the northwest corner). The building has a partial basement with a floor area of 1,225 square feet.

2. **Foundations:** The concrete foundation walls and the basement slab are in good condition. However, the walls have random locations of efflorescence. At the north elevation, there is exposed reinforcing with resultant concrete spalls and cracks at the top of the foundation wall. The loading dock roof slab (east elevation) is in poor condition with considerable cracks, spalls, rusted reinforcement and extensive efflorescence.

3. **Walls:** Walls are constructed of reinforced concrete clad with yellow, brown, and orange-mottle brick, and brown-red and black terra cotta. A single brown-red terra-cotta belt course extends across the top of the third story. The brick walls are in good condition. The steel angle lintels (above casement windows), however, are severely rusted. The extensive rust has caused numerous condition: cracks in brick and mortar joints and open mortar joints. Crack propagation through the brick wall allows for the entrance of moisture into the interior of the building. Where the fourth floor exterior wall steps in on the southern portion of the east side of the building, there is a continuous expansion crack running from the balcony to the roof parapet wall. This expansion joint and a few less severe joints have been caulked and designated natural control joints.

4. **Structural system framing:** The framing components have performed well and may be expected to endure for many decades. The concrete floor slabs and framing beams at the second, third and fourth floors are in very good condition. The first floor slabs have some areas of cracks resulting from shrinkage and normal wear.

5. **Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:** Along the east elevation, the fourth floor balcony and balcony roof (similar construction to the main roof) are in poor condition. The parapet wall appears to be concrete with a steel pipe railing mounted on top. The parapet is decorated with four bands of brown-red terra-cotta interspersed with rows of brick and an ivory terra cotta cap.

6. **Chimneys:** The octagon-shaped brick boiler stack (east elevation) is detached from the building and in fair condition. The upper level of the boiler stack is brick construction with ornate glazed brown-red tile bands and caps. The top brick veneer of the chimney has severe damage; cracked brick, cracked and open mortar joints, and loose brick. There are further areas of cracking on the brackets supporting the steel ladder. The boiler stack tile patterns match those of the building.

7. **Openings:**

   a. **Doorway and doors:** The centrally located front entryway (west elevation) is recessed within a stepped frontispiece of black terra cotta. The entry is accessed by a short straight stair and the front entry has a transom of glass block. The double doors have morel metal grilles now painted black and medallions that in relief depict naturalistic scenes of varying climatic zones. The entryway tile is in fair condition with holes from removed signage and light fixtures. The south elevation houses the garage area, while the east elevation contains the concrete loading dock region. The stair nosings are corroded and bowing. The south elevation contains the garage area and the garage door is in poor condition. The east elevation comprises the concrete loading dock and entrance which too are decrepit.

   b. **Windows and shutters:** The windows throughout the building are the original metal casement windows with integrated mullions and single pane plate glass installed with window putty. The first three stories consist of nine bays recessed from the main plane of the facade, each distinguished by brick piers. Each bay contains a pair of casement-style windows, each with a small brick pilaster between them. Each third-story bay is capped

by a carbolate brick pilaster section at the third story. The metal casement window frames are rusting, the paint is peeling and the window putty is deteriorating.

8. **Roof:** The flat roof consists of built-up asphalt with stone slag and is in very poor condition. Large portions of the roof have been patched and have bubbled. Some sediment build-up, debris and vegetative growth is observed at various locations of the roof. Two roof drains with cast iron strainers are located on the east and west sides of the building, with an overflow scupper through the parapet wall. Various plumbing vents penetrate the roof with lead flashing which appears to be in good condition. Contiguous to the penthouse structure is an existing temporary greenhouse structure in fair condition and built directly on the roofing material. The mechanical and elevator penthouse is in fair condition; however, extensive cracks occur above the window and the window lintels are heavily corroded.

C. DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR

1. **Floor plans:** A partial basement under the southeast portion of the building houses three oil-fired boilers and an incinerator. The first floor space is used for building services such as a loading dock, building utilities and garage area. The north portion of the first floor has two refrigeration rooms that were recently utilized as office space. The northwest area supports the mechanical equipment and maintenance shop. The south portion of the first floor houses a large steel high pressure fumigation chamber. The southeast corner contains the garage area. A small vestibule and reception area are located at the west elevation entryway.

The second floor space is reserved for laboratories. The corridor ceiling height is 8'-9" and the laboratory ceiling height is 9'-4". The south laboratory double doors read "Caution Radiation" notating the use of radioactive isotopes. The north laboratory has four steel high pressure fumigation chambers. The third floor is designated for office and laboratory space with a corridor ceiling height of 9'-5" and laboratory ceiling heights ranging from 9'-1" to 8'-5". The fourth floor is designated for laboratory and office space. The corridor ceiling height is 10'-2" while the laboratory ceiling height is 10'-7". The northwest laboratory contains four cold storage rooms and the floor is built up 2 1/2" from the corridor, sloping to the passageway drainage along the west side of the building. Along the east side of the floor there is a long corridor with small fumigation rooms next to the outside wall and steel doors with airtight seal locks. The southeast office provides access to the balcony.

2. **Stairways:** The only stairway in the building has quarry tile floors at the landings, marble treads and risers, and glazed tile walls with plaster above on terra cotta block walls. The treads are 9 3/4" wide, while the risers are 7 1/4" high. The railings are 31" above the stair nosing and the fourth floor guard rail is 33" above the finished floor. There are 30" high guard rails at the intermediate windows on the landing. There is no fire separation at any of the floors. Each landing has a drinking fountain and electrical access panels.

3. **Flooring:** The first floor flooring system is a combination of concrete and quarry tile. The main entrance vestibule and the stairway landing have quarry tile floors. The garage and building service area have an exposed concrete floor, while the main shipping and receiving area has a painted concrete floor. The second and third story floors are composed of quarry tile. The fourth story flooring system consists of painted concrete floors and vinyl asbestos sheets. The remaining offices and laboratories have vinyl asbestos sheet flooring.

4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** The first floor walls and ceiling are a combination of concrete and plaster. The maintenance and loading dock area has exposed concrete walls and ceilings. The main shipping and receiving area has painted concrete block walls. The southeast garage area has concrete and plaster walls.

   The second floor corridor walls have terra cotta block with glazed tile on the corridor side and plaster on the other. The laboratories have plaster walls and ceilings while the east laboratory has 2 x 4 wood stud walls with gypsum board.

   The third floor corridor walls consist of terra cotta with glazed tile on the corridor side and lath and plaster on the other. The offices and laboratories have plaster walls and ceilings which show water damage. Roof leaks are evident by water damage on the exterior walls by windows in Room 303, 311, and 322.

   The fourth floor corridor walls are fashioned in the same manner as the second and third floor corridor walls. The northwest laboratory and cold storage rooms' interior walls appear to be either lath and plaster over terra cotta brick or lath and plaster over steel framing. The fourth floor lath and plaster ceilings are supported by the structural slab above. The remaining offices and laboratories have plaster ceilings. Roof leaks are evident by water damage at the southwest corner office above the south window and the southeast office above the access door to the balcony.

5. **Openings:**

a. Doorways and doors: The first floor main entrance doors open inward. There are three risers with ornate aluminum railings to the upper vestibule and first floor level. The upper vestibule has an ornate aluminum door leading to the utility space. The aluminum handrail and decorative aluminum panel doors are reflective of the Art Deco style. The east side of the building has two roll-up doors which lead to the loading dock.

b. Windows: Metal casement windows with integrated mullions and a single pane of glass are found throughout the building. The first, second and third story windows have a sill width of 4'-8", a sill height of 3'-2" and a height of 5'-10". The fourth floor windows are 3'-0" in width with a sill height of 3'-0". All windows are original to the building. The fourth floor balcony windows and screens are in poor condition.

6. **Decorative features and trim:** The first floor upper vestibule has the original oak public telephone booth. The first floor vestibule area contains a heat register grill, with a distinctive geometric motif, which reflects the building's Art Deco style.

7. **Hardware:** No unique or notable hardware has been identified.

8. **Mechanical equipment:**

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: From the first floor garage area access is gained to the boiler room shaft with stairs leading to the basement mechanical tunnel and boilers. The second floor northwest laboratory has an autoclave and a continuous overhead block and tackle hoist. The north laboratory has four steel high pressure fumigation chambers and the original fume hood. The fourth floor small fumigation rooms have a ceiling height of 7'0" to allow for a mechanical exhaust mezzanine. The mechanical exhaust mezzanine holds the exhaust units with a small catwalk for access.

b. Lighting: The utilitarian lighting fixtures in several areas of the building are illustrated in photographs included in Section III.E. of this report.

c. Plumbing: The first floor toilet is non-handicap accessible and has all the original finishes and fixtures. The second floor has a small non-handicap accessible toilet with original finishes and fixtures. The third floor men's and women's toilets are handicap accessible and in good condition. The toilets have

all the original finishes and fixtures with quarry tile floor and glazed wall tile. The fourth floor men's toilets are handicap accessible with the original fixtures, quarry tile floor and glazed wall tile.

d. Elevator: The original freight elevator is in good working condition with stops on floors one through four. There is no direct stop at the penthouse or the basement boiler room. The building does not have a passenger elevator.

e. Original furnishings: Laboratory furniture consists of built-in work tables, sinks and cabinets of a typical utilitarian style except for features particular to the specific plant studies performed, which are presented in Section III.E. of this report.

D. SITE

1. **General setting and orientation:** The Plant Quarantine Building is located in the Hoboken Piers Headhouse Complex which extends from the Hudson River Waterfront to River Street and from First Street north to Fourth Street. The building is a free-standing structure surrounded to the north, south and east by the asphalt lot of the Hoboken Piers Headhouse Complex. The building is situated west of Hoboken Piers A and C. The entire Headhouse Complex is encircled by a decorative but foreboding fence composed of cast iron spearheads. The west side of River Street, opposite the Headhouse Complex, is dominated by new mid-rise to high-rise construction. Between Newark Avenue and First Street, the structures on the west side are three to five stories high and represent the Southern Hoboken Historic District. North of Second Street the structures are outside the historic district. Furthermore, the structural character shifts to newer, high-rise buildings. Between First and Second Streets, the west side of River Street consists of a modern six-story brick commercial structure and an eight-story parking deck. The block opposite the Plant Quarantine Building contains two brick residential units (thirteen-fifteen stories) flanked by a six-story parking deck. Proceeding north, between Third and Fourth Street, the west side of River Street consists of two ca.1960 twenty-five story white concrete block residential structures and a six-story parking garage.

2. **Historic landscape design:** No areas for plantings are indicated on the 1939 plot plan of the site. The building extends to the property lines on the west and south sides. On the east side, two unpaved rectangular strips (6'-5 1/2" wide x 47'-0" and 43'-0" long respectively) are indicated between the building and property line. The entire area between the building and the property line on the north is designated as pavement.

3. **Outbuilding:** No outbuildings are present on the site. The 1939 plot plan shows a small guard house between the entrance and exit lanes of the driveway.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

Architectural drawings from the plan set titled "Plant Quarantine Building, Hoboken New Jersey" prepared for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service, dated January 1939. The drawings are located at the City of Hoboken Department of Human Services Office of Waterfront Development, 94 Washington Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, 07030.

B. HISTORIC VIEWS

Thirty-three historic views of the building are located in Becker, 1942, including three exterior views. (See Section III.E)

C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources

Becker, George C., United States Department of Agriculture, "The Hoboken Inspection House," 1942.

Lynn Drobbin Associates in association with Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, Inc. "The Plant Inspection and Insect Parasite Introduction Station" Draft Report, May 1990.

Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, Inc. "South Waterfront Development Cultural Resources Assessment and Alternatives Analysis," September 1995.

United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, "Facilities for the Inspection and Treatment of Material Imported under Special Permit," Foreign Plant Quarantines Memorandum No. 240, Washington, D.C., 1941.

2. Maps

Brelle, Robert C. General and Historical Map of the City of Hoboken, New Jersey, According to the Official Surveys, Embracing the History of Over a Century. Hoboken, New Jersey: Robert C. Brelle, 1906.

Douglas. Map Exhibiting the Town of Hoboken Comprising the Estate of the Late John Stevens, after 1839.

Hopkins, G.M. Plat Book of Hudson County. G.M. Hopkins Co.: Philadelphia, 1881.

Hopkins, G.M. Plat Book of Hudson County, New Jersey. G.M. Hopkins Co.: Philadelphia, 1923.

Loss, Charles. A Plan of a Town Plot at Hoboken in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, 1804. (Original copy located at Samuel C. Williams Library, Stevens University.)

D. LIKELY SOURCES NOT YET INVESTIGATED

No such sources have been identified.

E. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Two items of supplemental information are provided herein. The 60 pages of text, figures (diagrams and photographs), figure explanations and floor plans immediately following comprise an article entitled "The Hoboken Inspection House", dated January 29, 1942, prepared by George C. Becker, United States Department of Agriculture. The six pages of text following the Becker article include the one-page "Foreign Plant Quarantines Memorandum No. 240", dated January 11, 1941, prepared by E.R. Sasscer, USDA Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, to transmit a five-page memorandum entitled "Facilities for the Inspection and Treatment of Material Imported under Special Permit", dated December 1940, the authorship of which is attributed by Sasscer to a Dr. Strong.

THE HOBOKEN INSPECTION HOUSE

In a circular entitled "Facilities for the Inspection and Treatment of Material Imported under Special Permit", dated December, 1940, the late Dr. Lee A. Strong, then chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantines, discussed events leading up to the construction and equipment of the Plant Inspection, and Insect Parasite Introduction Station at Hoboken, New Jersey. In the same circular, Dr. Strong discussed the general layout of the building and its equipment for handling importations of plant propagating material. In the interest of completeness, a copy of that circular is incorporated and made a part of this report.

The present report will be concerned only with a discussion of the foreign plant quarantine facilities which involve the first three floors of the building; and with such general facilities of the building as a whole as involve work conducted on these floors. The specifications of that part of the building and its equipment, with which this report is concerned, were drawn up by Dr. L. A. Hawkins, in charge of the Division of Control Investigations, on the basis of plans prepared by Mr. E. R. Sasscer, in charge of the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, Mr. Peter Bisset for many years in charge of the old Inspection House at 12th

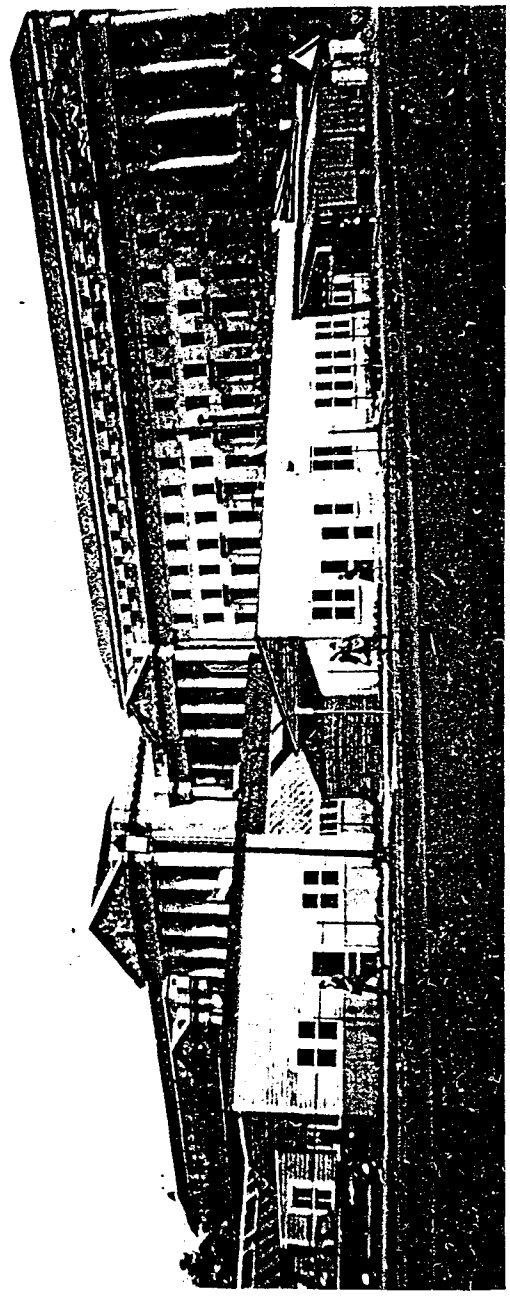

Fig. 1. Twelfth Street exposure of the old Inspection House at Twelfth Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

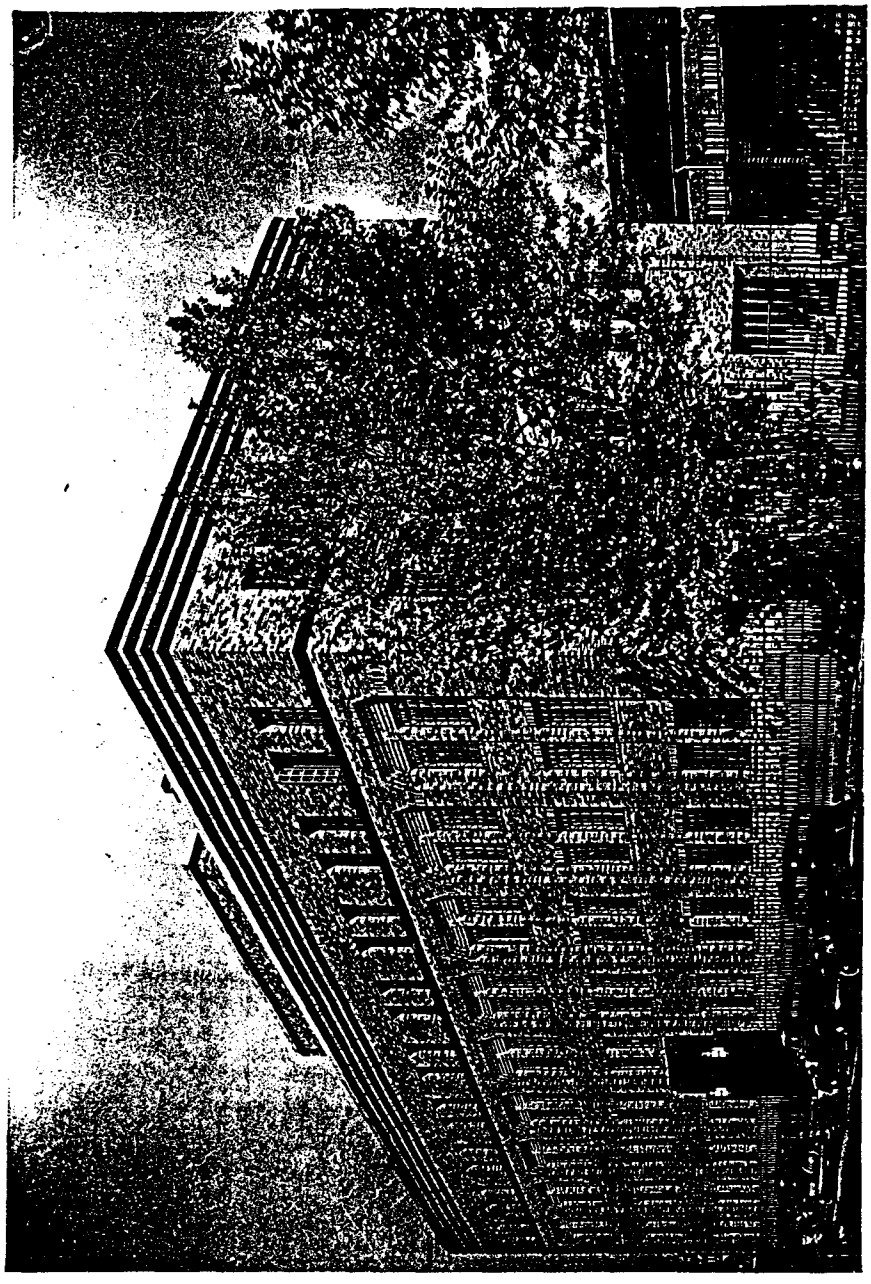

Fig. 2 (Hoboken 5). Southwest view of the Hoboken Inspection House as seen when approached from the direction of the ferries and the Hudson tubes.

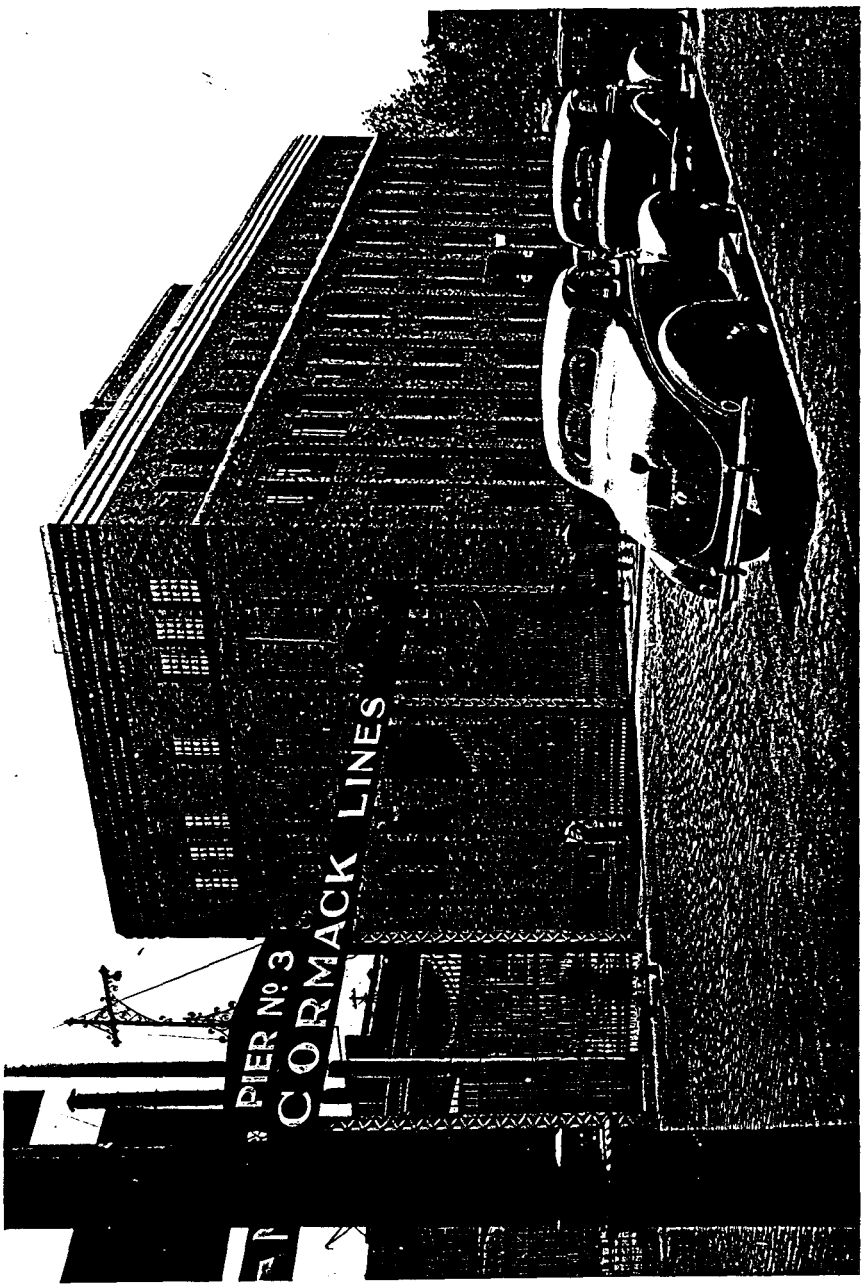

Fig. 3 (Hoboken 6). Northwest view of Hoboken Inspection House as seen when approached from the direction of the Holland American piers.

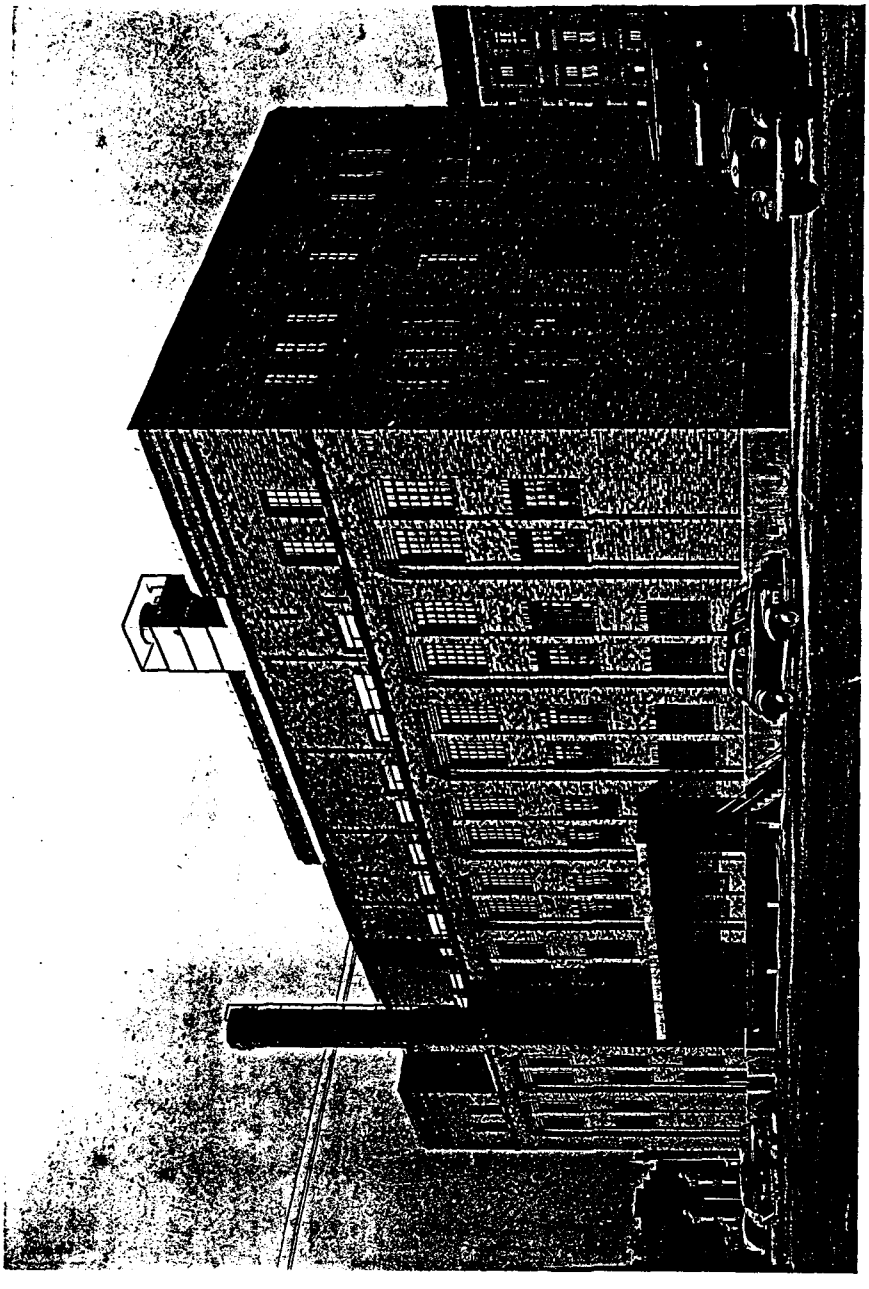

Fig. 4 (Hoboken 7). Northeast view of building showing loading and unloading platform. A railroad spur track is hardly visible in the foreground.

Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W., and Mr. Bisset's immediate successor, Mr. H. S. Dean.

The building itself is located at 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, and is in front of the building joining piers 3 and 4 of the old North German Lloyd Steamship Company which piers were taken over by the United States during World War I (see figures 2, 3, and 4 incl.).

The building has a frontage of 144 feet on River Street, and is 52½ feet deep. It is a four story building constructed of yellow brick with red and black trim. The first three floors are devoted to plant quarantine activities, and the fourth floor houses the Bureau's Foreign Parasite Introduction Station.

A discussion of the layout of the building will begin with boiler room and proceed upward. The boiler room (figure 6) contains approximately 1,225 Sq. ft. in which are three 50 horsepower fire tube Union Universal boilers. These are fired by type "PAH" Todd rotary fuel oil burners which consume Bunker C oil. Each boiler is equipped with a heating system to heat the fuel which is consumed. The boilers are supplemented by two steam pumps to furnish steam water, and a hot water tank to catch the return water. There is a dual vacuum pump system to empty the heating system. A separate tank with its own steam jacketed heating coil is installed for hot water used in the building.

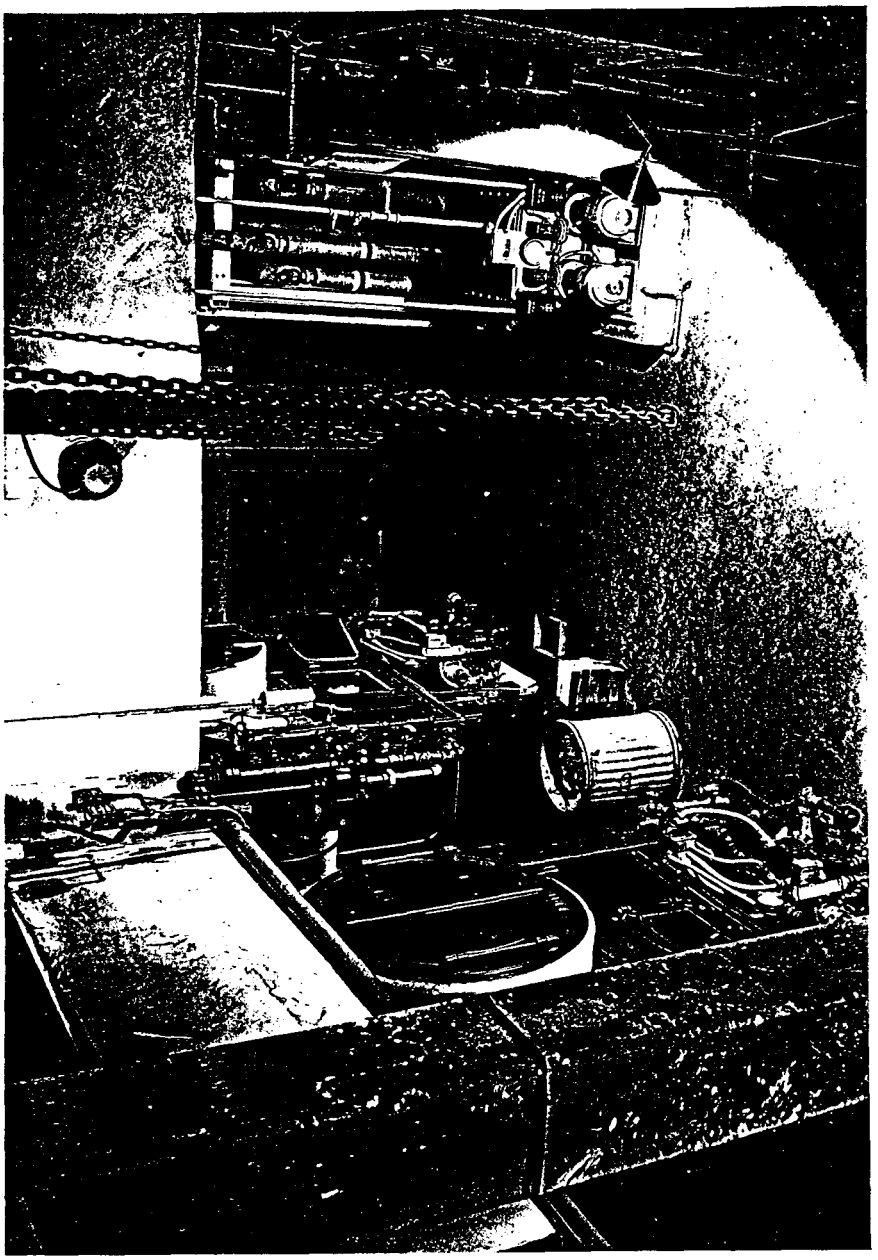

Fig. 6 (Hoboken 109). Looking down into the boiler room. To the left are shown portions of two of the three 50 h.p. boilers. On the right are the two steam pumps.

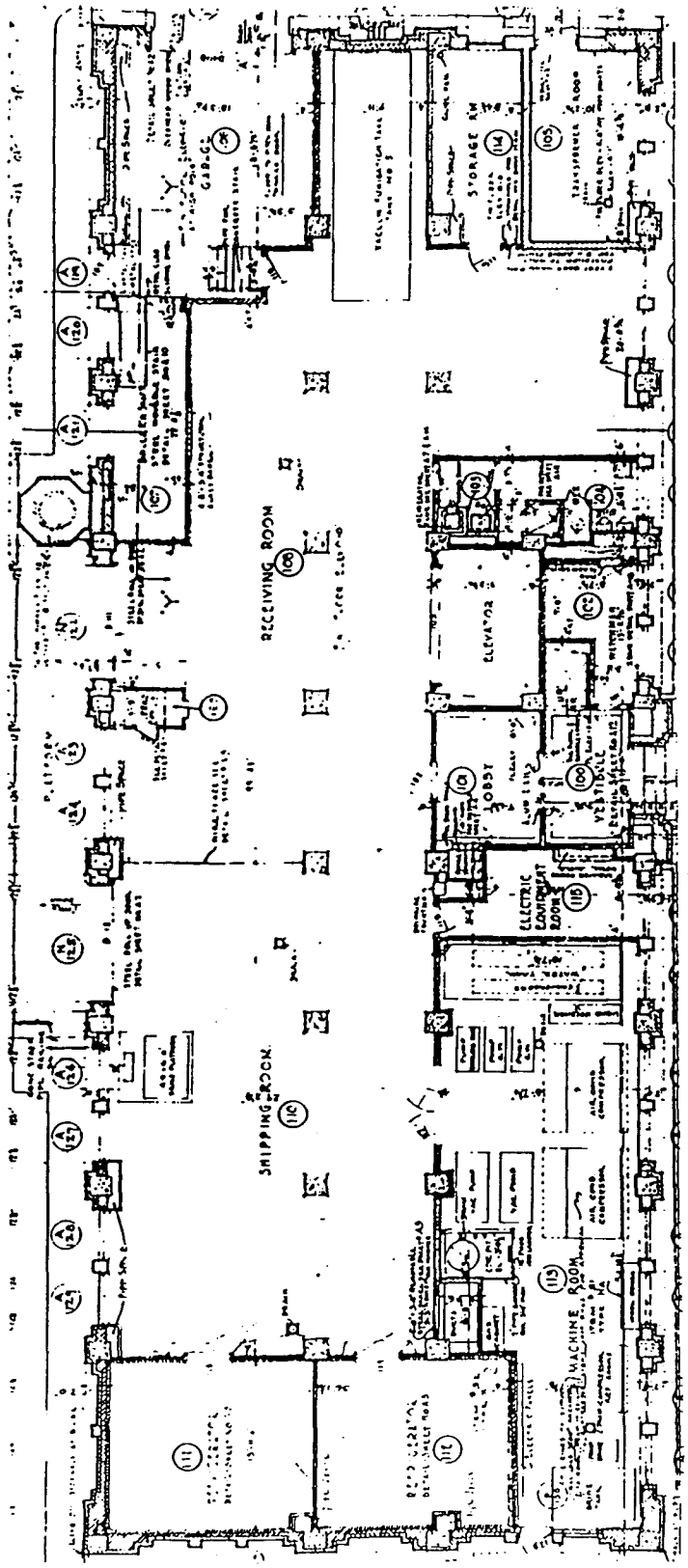

Fig. 6 (Hoboken 207). Floor plan of the first floor.

A "blow down" tank is likewise installed to catch water from the boilers before it is discharged into the sewer. Each boiler is equipped with a flow meter chart to show how many pounds of steam are generated in a 24-hour period.

In the boiler room is also installed an incinerator where plant refuse, packing material, etc. is consumed. This refuse can be disposed of from the second floor, where all the inspection work is done, by simply throwing it down the incinerator chute.

A smoke indicator is installed in the boiler room. The floor of the boiler room is 5 feet below low tide level. A sump pump has, therefore, been installed in this room.

Part of the south wall of the boiler room forms the north wall of a concrete oil storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately 10,000 gallons.

A two-car garage (106 in figure 6) and an electrical transformer room (105 in figure 6) are installed in the building at ground level.

The floor plan of the first floor of the building is illustrated in figure 6. Approximately 3,200 sq. ft. of space are provided on this floor (rooms 108 and 110 in figure 6) for accommodating incoming and outgoing plant material (see figures 7 and 8). This space is divided by a woven wire fence. The space on each side of the

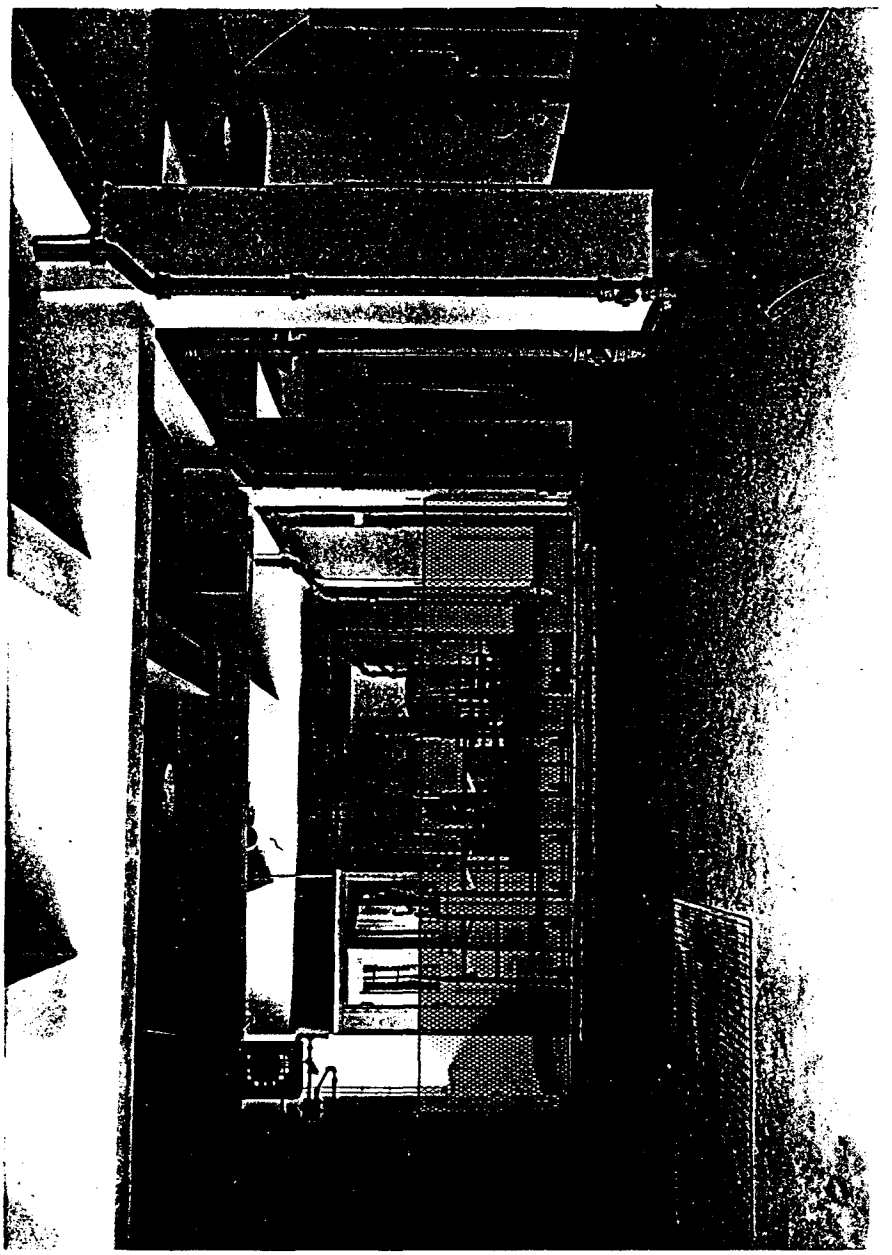

Fig. 7 (Hoboken 102). Shipping and receiving room. The walls were unfinished concrete when the building was taken over and were painted shortly after.

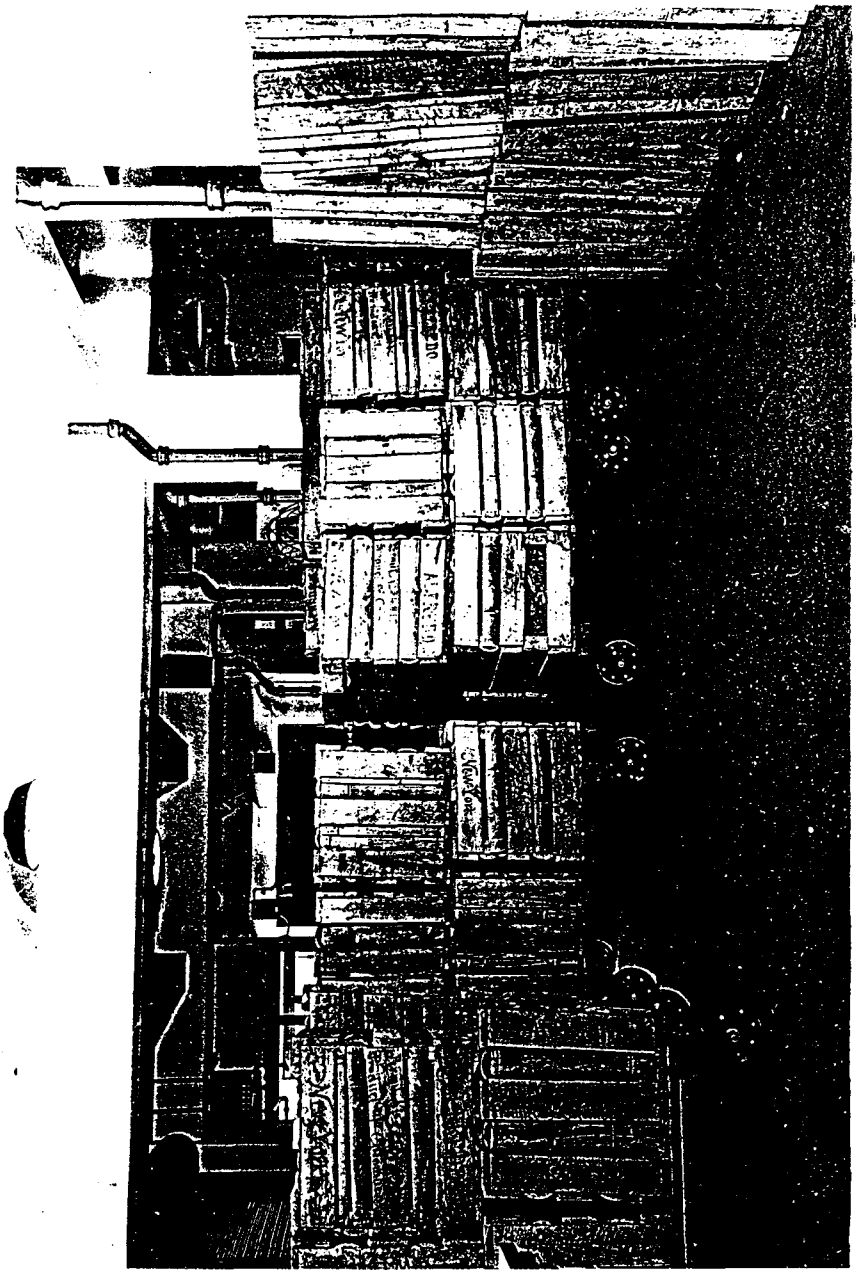

Fig. 8 (Hoboken 138). South American orchids in the receiving room awaiting inspection. The cases are stacked eight to the skid and will be rolled on the elevator and taken to the second floor when wanted.

fence is provided with a rolling door leading out to a loading and unloading platform. Incoming material is kept on one side of the fence, and outgoing material on the other. A small enclosure (109, figure 6) is provided for the use of a shipping and receiving clerk.

At the north end of the shipping and receiving room are two cold storage chambers (111, and 112, figure 6) one with approximately 2,500 cu. ft., and the other with approximately 2,600 cu. ft. of storage space. Figure 9 shows a part of the interior of one of these storage chambers.

At the south end of the shipping and receiving room is a vacuum fumigation tank of 1,000 cu. ft. capacity. This is illustrated in figures 10 and 11. This tank, unlike those on the second floor is not steam jacketed, nor is it tied in with the gas supply system for the vacuum fumigation tanks on the second floor. It has its own applicator, and when used, a cylinder of the liquified fumigation gas is trucked over to the tank and connected with the applicator.

Next to the large fumigation tank is a store room (114, figure 6) with approximately 150 sq. ft. of floor space.

Room 113 (figure 6) is the machine room. This has a floor space of approximately 885 sq. ft. The equipment of this room can best be discussed by referring to figure 12.

Next to the engine room is the electrical equipment room (115, figure 6) where various electrical switches,

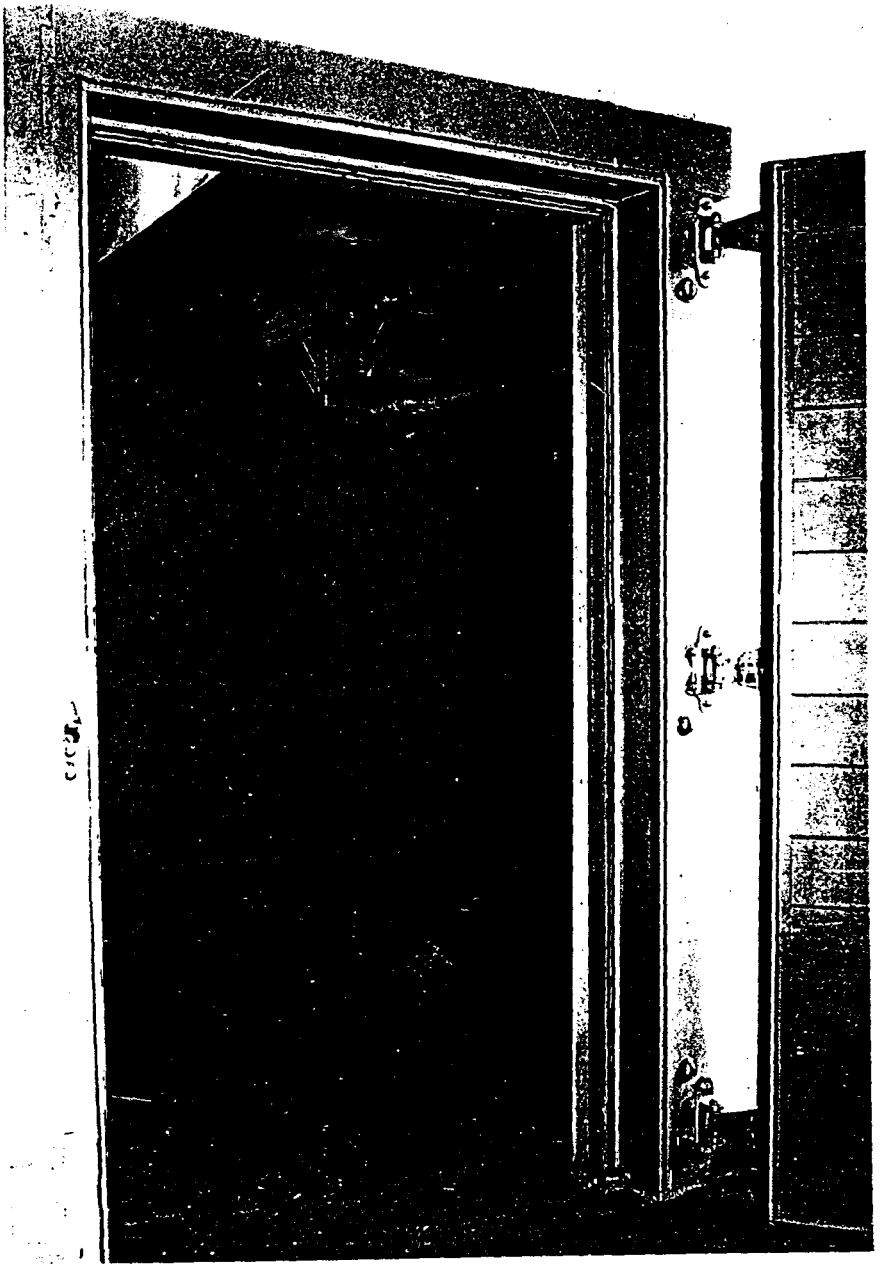

Fig. 9 (Hoboken 108). Showing part of the interior of one of the refrigerating chambers.

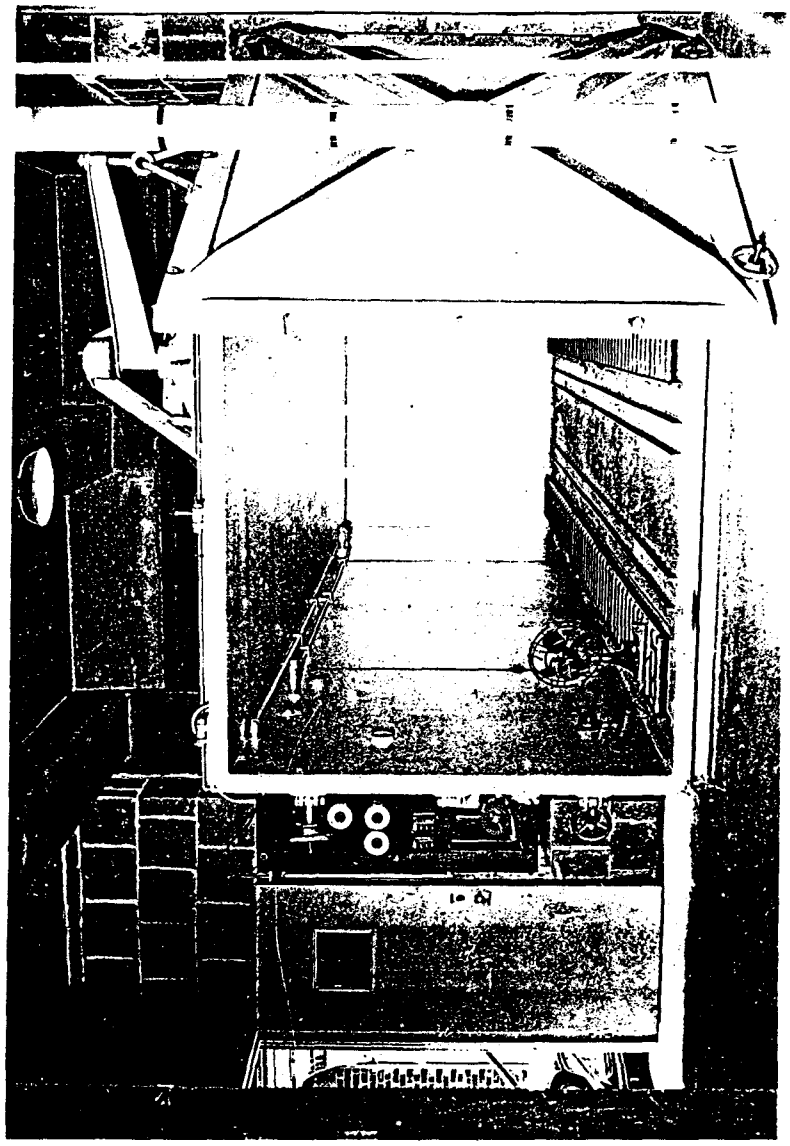

Fig. 10 (Hoboken 11). The 1000 cu. ft. fumigation tank on the first floor.

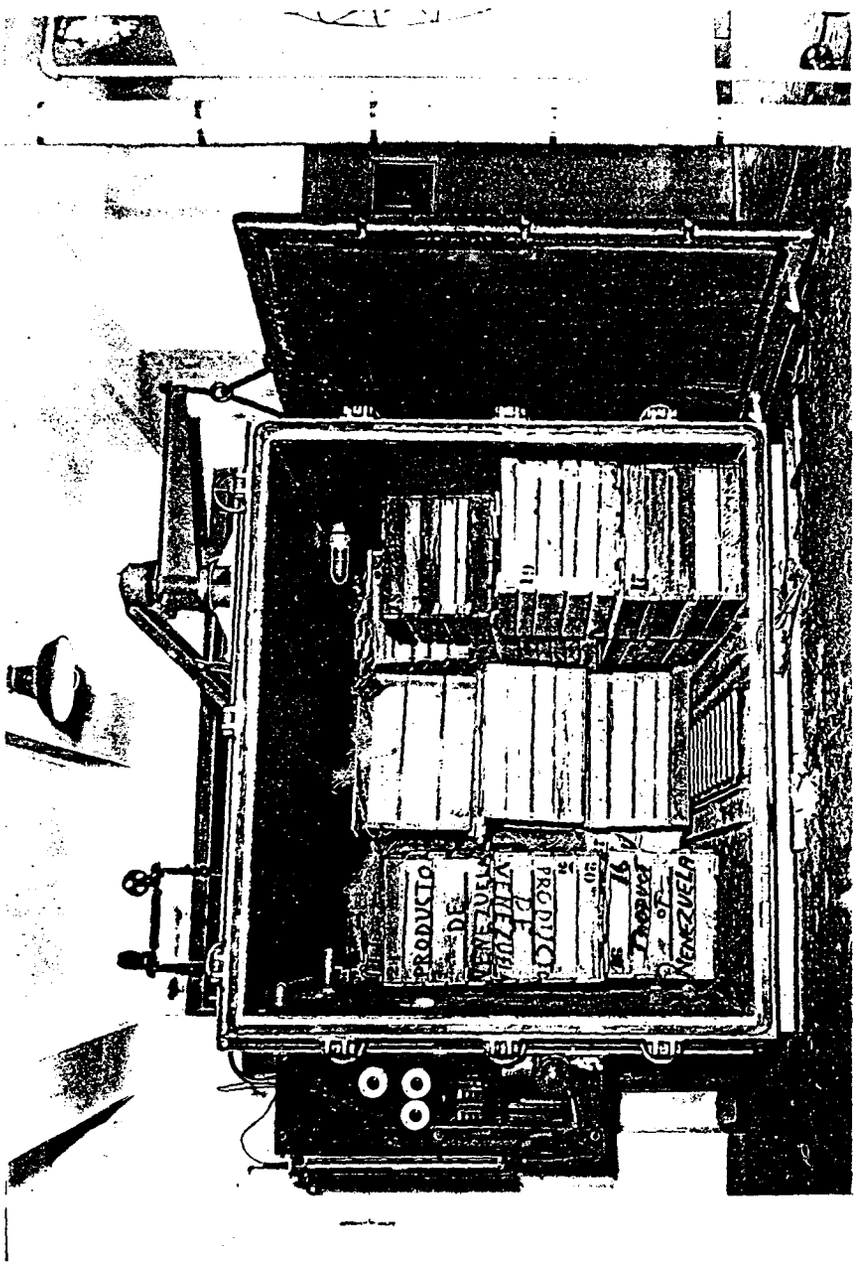

Fig. 11 (Hoboken 139). The 1000 cu. ft. tank is loaded for fumigation. About 85 of the cases shown in Fig. 7 are in the tank.

Explanation to Figure 12

Against the left wall and between the tile work and the iron railing will be seen the doors of a cabinet. This is the storage cabinet for cylinders containing liquid HCN and CH_3Br. This cabinet is equipped with a suction fan which is run for awhile before the cabinet is opened and is kept running at all times while the cabinet is open. The storage cabinet is located right under the panel board in the fumigation room on the second floor. Gas lines connect the cylinders in the cabinet to applicators on the panel board in the fumigation room.

The iron railing noted on the left of figure 12 extends around a pit in which is located a Klaw Knox gas cleaner. This cleaner is not visible in the photograph. Gases sucked from the fumigation tank are passed through this cleaner before being discharged into the open air. On the same side of the picture (figure 12) and beyond the railing, the end of a vacuum pump is visible. There are two of these pumps. They are 15 horsepower and are used to evacuate the fumigation tanks.

In the back of the room is the air conditioning equipment used for the Foreign Parasite Introduction Station on the fourth floor. The equipment consists of two 20 horsepower compressors, on the left, for chilling water; two 3 horsepower condenser water pumps on the right; and one 5 horsepower circulating pump also on the right. Only one of the compressor pumps is clearly visible in the photograph (figure 12); the other near the wall is almost too dark to be seen. The condenser and circulating pumps are on the floor and on the right beyond the heavy black pipes. In the foreground on the right are the large black pipes of the refrigeration system; beyond these (not visible in the picture) are one 10 horsepower brine compressor and two 1 horsepower brine circulating pumps.

The box-like structure in the lower right hand corner is the tank used for mixing brine. Just beyond it and at a little lower level than the top of the brine mixing tank is the drinking water circulating pump.

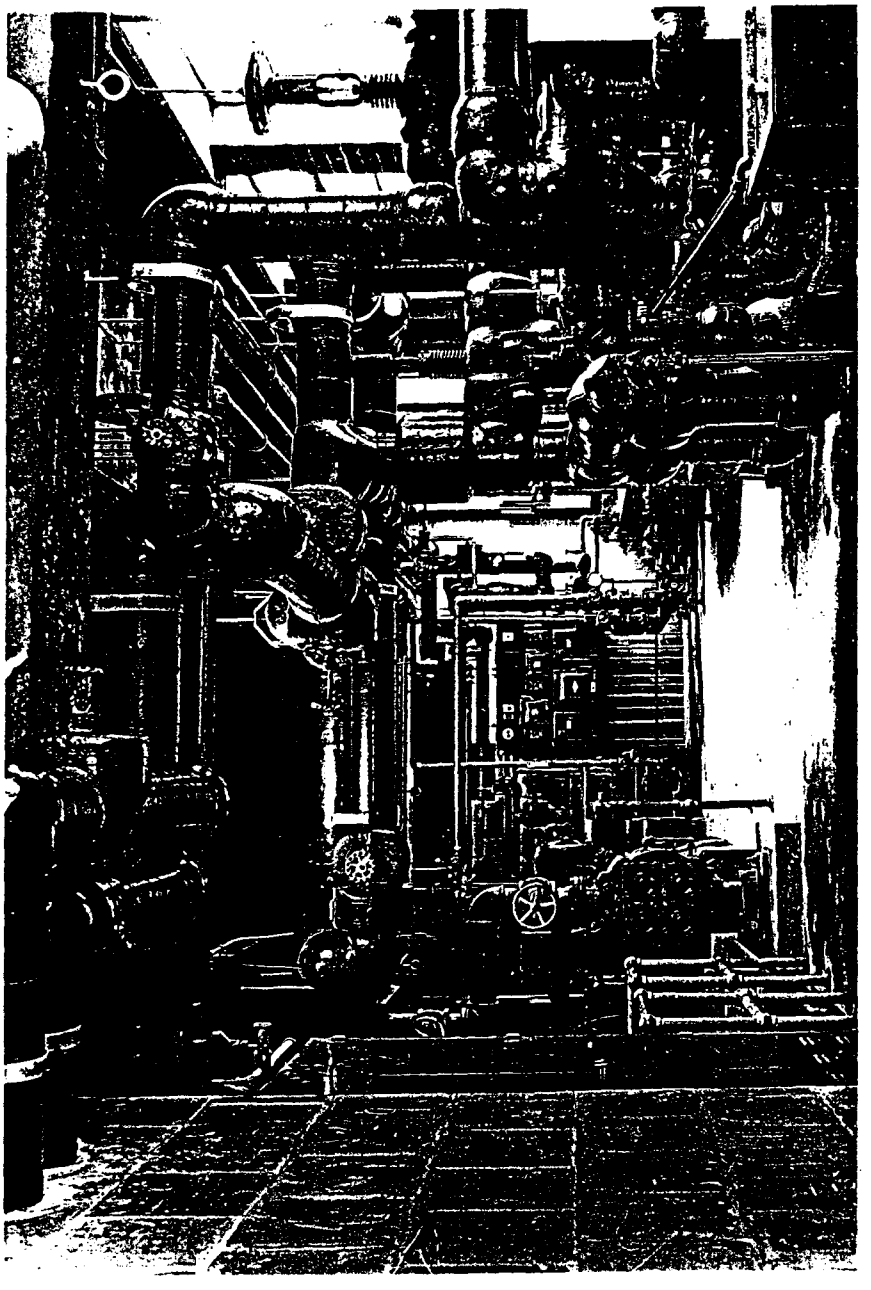

Fig. 12 (Hoboken 9). The machine room.

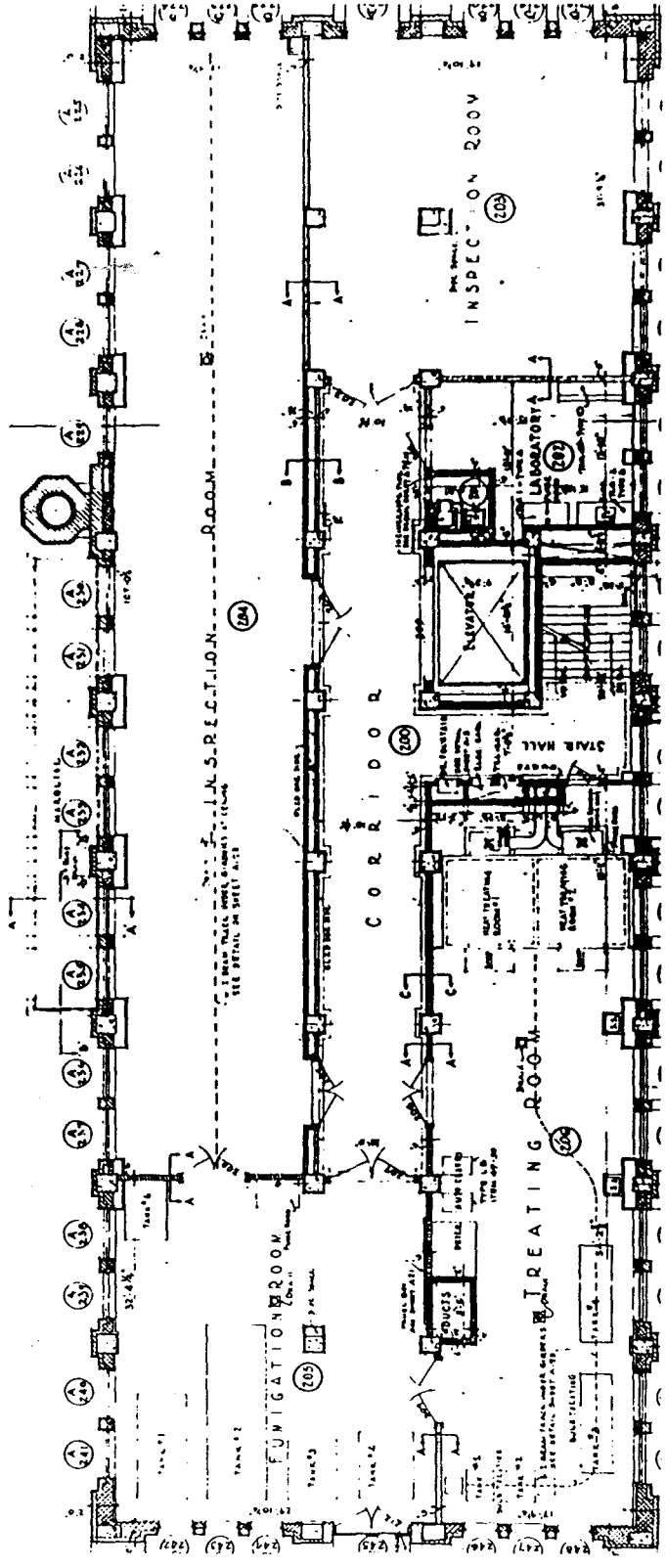

Fig. 13 (Hoboken 206). Floor plan of the second floor.

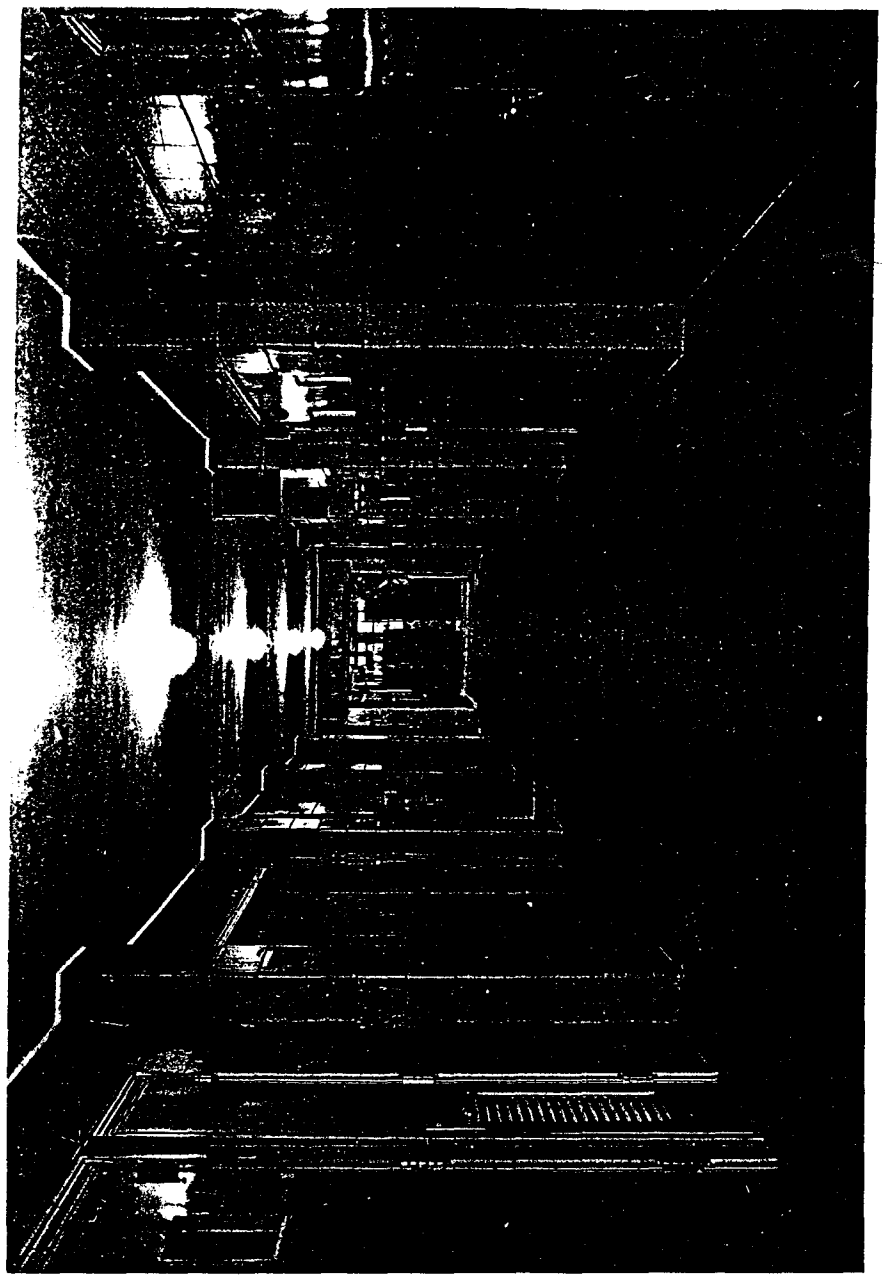

Fig. 14 (Hoboken 12). Corridor of second floor.

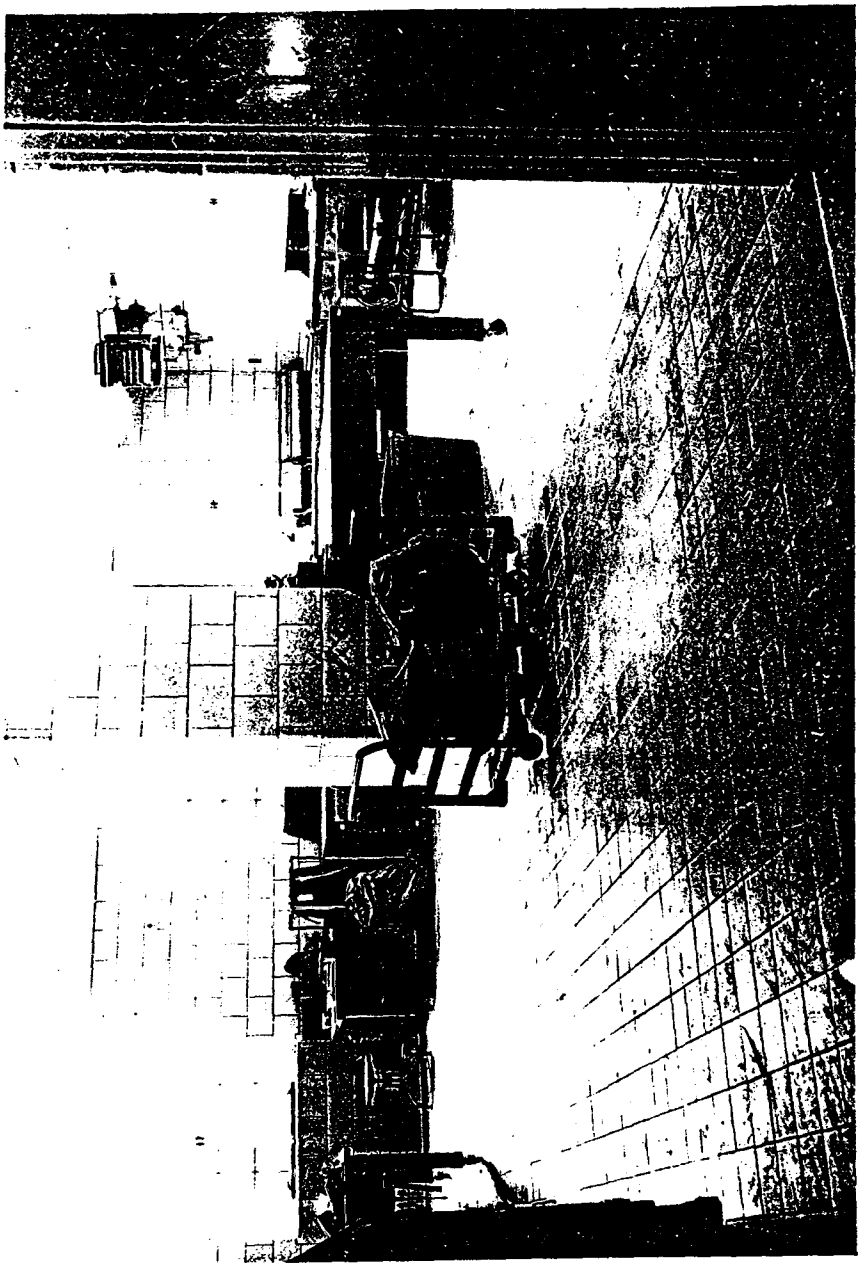

Fig. 15 (Hoboken 13). The mail inspection room.

controls, etc. are housed. Beyond the electrical equipment room is the entrance and lobby (100 and 101 in figure 6).

To the right, as one enters the building, and located partially under the stairs is a small room (102 in figure 6) used as the chief engineer's office. On the first floor is also a lavatory and a mop room with a slop sink.

The elevator which serves the building is an automatic freight elevator made by the Atlantic Elevator Company and is of 6,000 lbs. capacity.

All of the inspections and most of the treatments of imported plant material are done on the second floor of the building. Figure 13 shows the floor plan of the second floor. Figure 14 shows the corridor (200 in figure 13) of the second floor. It will be noted that, with the exception of the ceiling, the construction is of tile throughout, and the same is true of all rooms on the second floor.

Opening into the south end of the corridor is the mail inspection room (203 in figure 13). Figure 15 gives an idea of the arrangement of the room. This room measures 31'9¼" by 29'10½". There are two compressed air outlets in this room; these are useful in blowing particles of soil or debris from plant material which is being inspected. The room is used for inspecting mail and

Fig. 16 (Hoboken 34). Inspecting mail shipments in the mail inspection room. Left to right -- D. P. Limber, C. E. Prince, H. L. Sanford (with back turned) and E. Kostal.

Fig. 17 (Hoboken 35). Clerical staff recording cotton samples in mail inspection room prior to fumigation. Left to right in foreground -- Frank Hansen, Eleanor Dunn and Nellie Shaffer. In the background at another table is Lester Speasard (with back turned) and customs inspector Harold Church.

express shipments and for the handling of cotton samples prior to fumigation. Figures 16 and 17 show activites in this room.

Cargo importations are inspected in the large inspection room (204 in figure 15). This room runs along most of the east side of the second floor. It measures 107'0½" by 17'9½". Figure 18 shows a view of this room taken from the fumigation room. The room is equipped for air conditioning, and this is accomplished by units installed in the room which operate independently of the central air conditioning equipment in the machine room (113) and which is shown in figure 12. There are ten compressed air outlets in this room. An "I" beam equipped with a chain hoist runs the entire length of the room. Figure 19 shows the large inspection room in use.

At the north end of the large inspection room are double doors which open into the fumigation room (205 figure 15). Figure 20 shows part of the fumigation room as seen through these double doors. The fumigation room measured 32'4½" by 29'10½". It contains 5 vacuum fumigation tanks as follows: two 50 cu. ft. tanks, and one each of 100, 200, and 400 cu. ft. capacity. The two 50 cu. ft. tanks are built in one unit.

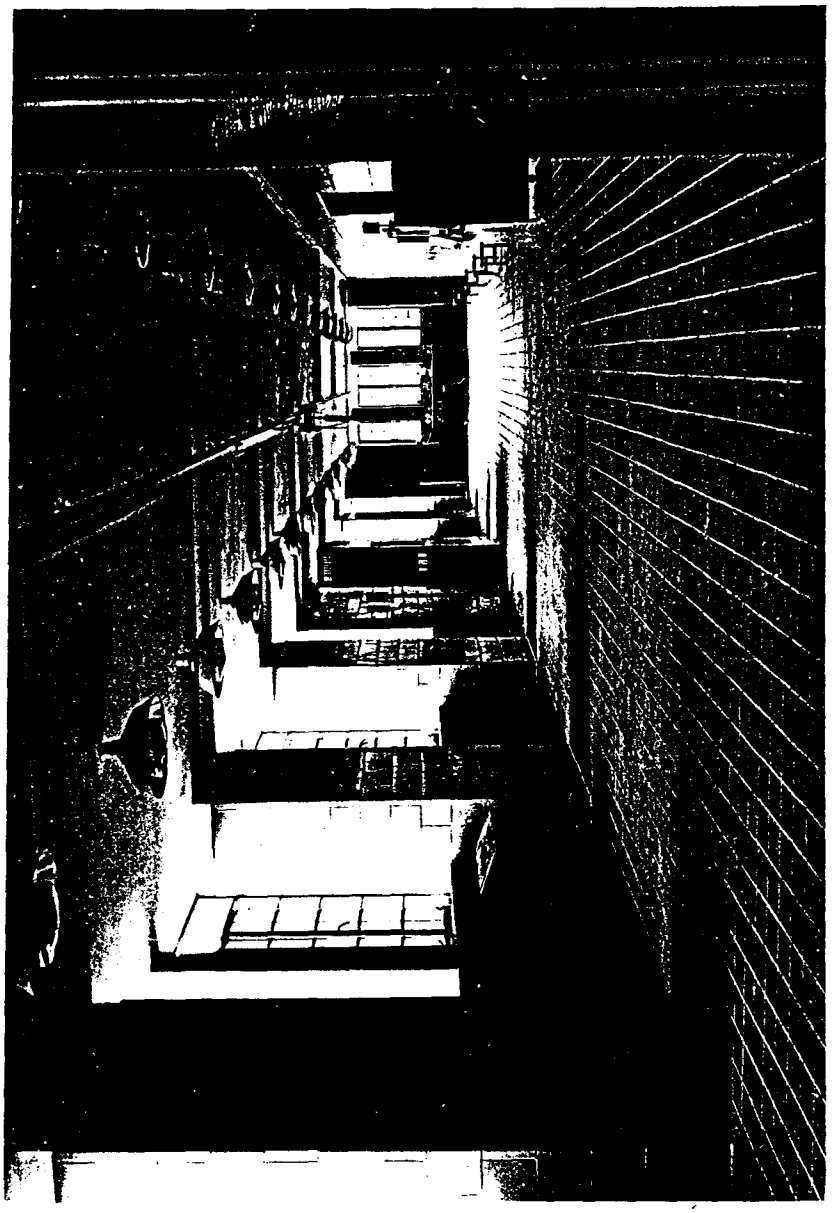

Fig. 18 (Hoboken 15). The cargo inspection room.

Explanation to Figure 19

In white coats from left to right are inspectors D. P. Limber, E. Kostal, C. E. Prince, L. L. Spessard, J. M. R. Adams and H. L. Sanford. Back of Mr. Prince standing with clip board in hand is L. Greenberg, shipping clerk. In the back of the room opening cases are laborers G. Janifer, M. P. Holmes and Martin Hansen.

Fig. 19 (Hoboken 33). The large inspection room in use.

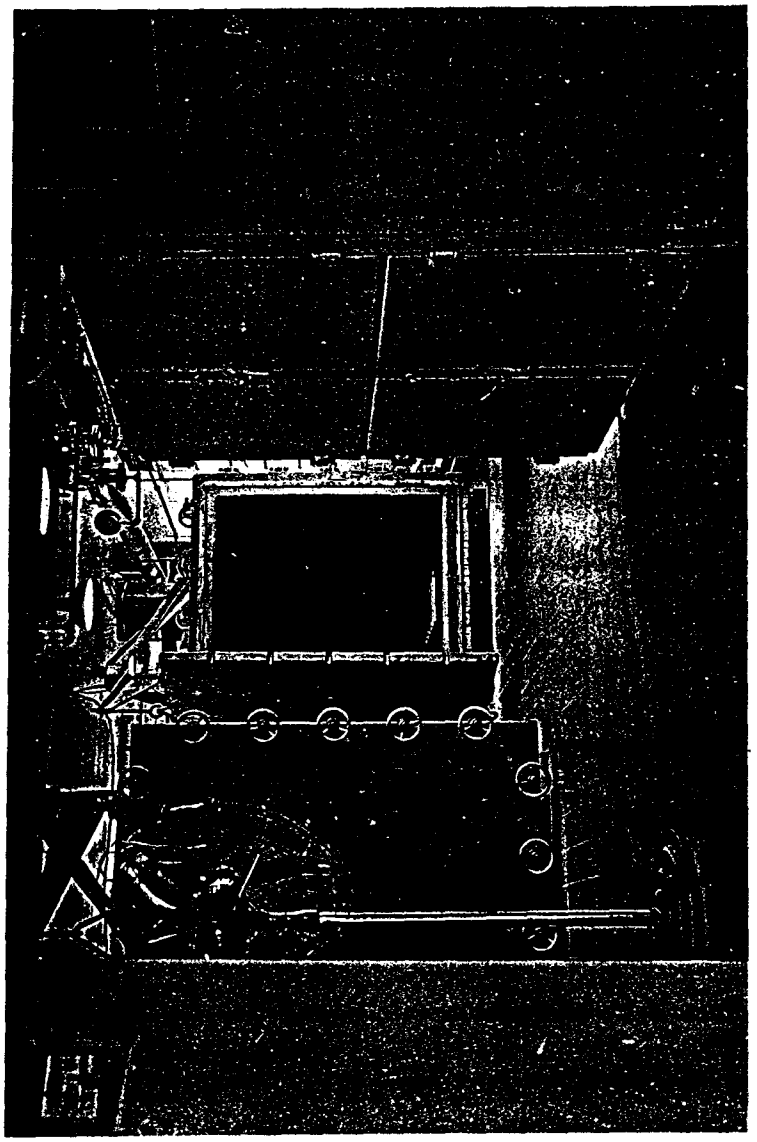

Fig. 20 (Hoboken 17). Fumigation room as seen through the open doors of the large inspection room. Closed tank (left), partially visible, is the 400 cu. ft. tank. The open tank is the 200 cu. ft. tank. On the right in the foreground are four 25 cu. ft. atmospheric fumigation chambers.

Figure 21 shows the interior arrangement of the 200 cu. ft. fumigation tank which is the same as the 100 and 400 cu. ft. tanks. Figure 22 shows the interior arrangement of one of the 50 cu. ft. fumigation tanks.

Figure 23 shows the four 25 cu. ft. atmospheric pressure fumigation boxes all built in one unit. These fumigation boxes have subsequently been connected with the vacuum system and a "snifter" valve has been installed to prevent lowering of pressure more than an inch or two. A small applicator has likewise been installed for these boxes. This arrangement makesit possible to lower the pressure in the boxes just enough to suck in the methyl bromide. The boxes are not used for fumigations with HCN.

Figure 24 shows the panel board in the fumigation room.

The installation of the applicators in connection with the rest of the fumigation system can be better understood by referring to the diagram shown in figure 25.

In the fumigation room there is also a fume hood, under which are two gas outlets, a compressed air outlet, a vacuum outlet, two electrical outlets, and a cold water spigot.

To the west of the fumigation room, and enterable either from the fumigation room or the corridor is the heat treating room (206 in figure 13). The equipment in

Explanation to Figure 21

In the foreground at the top of the tank will be seen the device from which the door is suspended. (Figure 11 gives a better idea of the door suspension arrangement). By swinging this around to the proper position the door can be fastened in place by the wheel lugs (better seen in figure 20). The hole in the upper left corner of the rear wall is the vent through which air is drawn. In the center of the rear wall is an electric plug mostly used for connecting a fan. The pipe on the ceiling of the tank is for admitting gas. The rod-like structure projecting from the ceiling near the left wall is part of the temperature-recording device. The tank is double walled and steam may be injected between the two walls for dry-heat treatments.

Fig. 21 (Hoboken 19). The 200 cu. ft. fumigation tank.

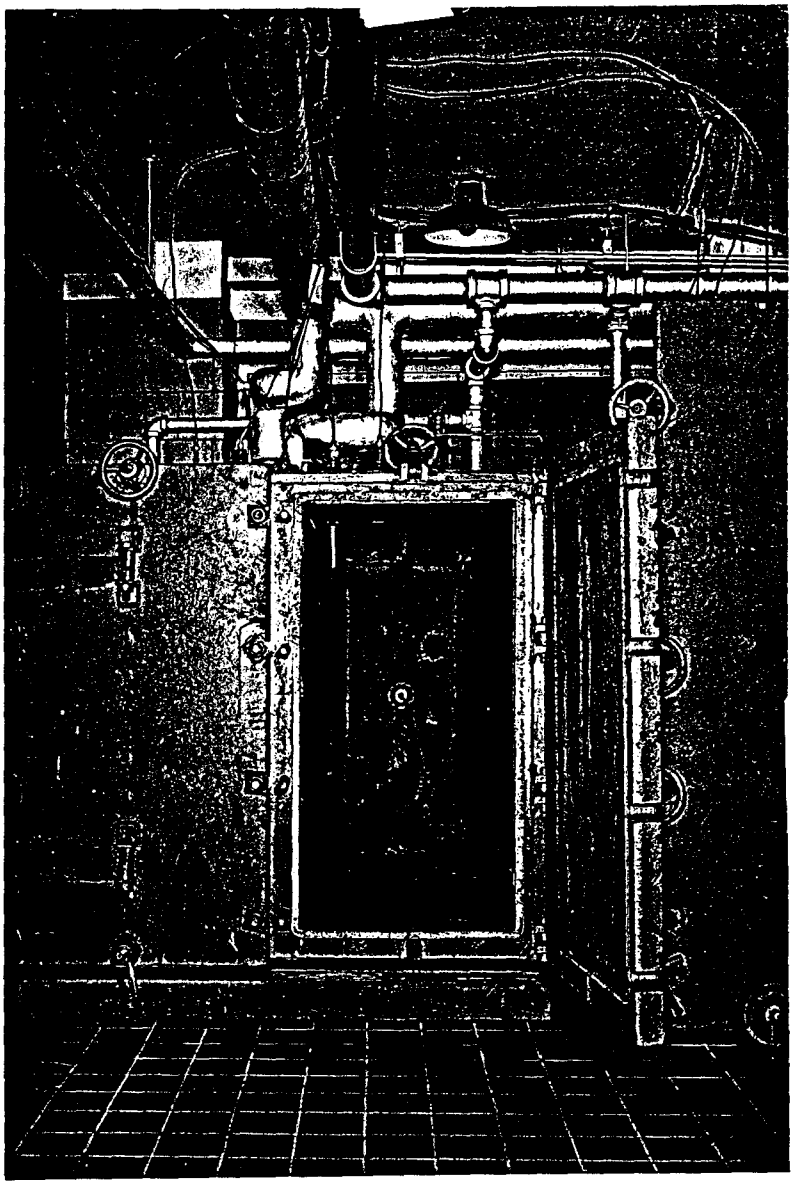

Fig. 22 (Hoboken 20). The two 50 cu. ft. fumigation tanks. These are built in one unit.

Explanation to Figure 23

On the upper right wall of the open box an opening is visible. Through this gas is drawn by means of a suction fan which serves these four units. A small rod is seen protruding from the front exposure of the partition between the open chamber and the chamber to the right of it. When this rod is shoved in the vent is closed.

Fig. 23 (Hoboken 230). The four 25 cu. ft. atmospheric fumigation chambers.

Explanation to Figure 24

This panel board consists of five panels; the first three panels bear the recording devices for the 200, 400, and 100 cu. ft. vacuum fumigation tanks, respectively. The fourth panel carries the recording devices for the two 50 cu. ft. tanks. At the top of the panel board will be noted a series of pressure gauges. The one on the left in each case records vacuum pressure, and the one on the right the steam pressure in the jacket for the tank concerned. The large recording device immediately under the gauges is for recording pressures. One arm registers the vacuum pressure in the tank, and the other registers the steam pressure in the jacket around the tank. Under the pressure recording device will be noted another recording device. This device also has two recording arms, one of which registers the temperature in the steam jacket, and the other temperature in the fumigation tank.

On the fourth panel from left to right will be noted three pressure gauges; the one on the left records vacuum pressure in one 50 cu. ft. tank, the one in the middle records pressure in the other, and the gauge on the right records the steam pressure in the jacket around the two tanks. The recording devices have three recording arms which record separately the pressure and temperature in the two 50 cu. ft. vacuum fumigation tanks and the jacket around them. Below each of the four panels mentioned are electrical switches for turning on the recording devices. The panel board on the extreme right carries two applicators, the one on the left for CH_3Br, and the one on the right for HCN. The two electric switches near the bottom of this panel operate the vacuum pumps.

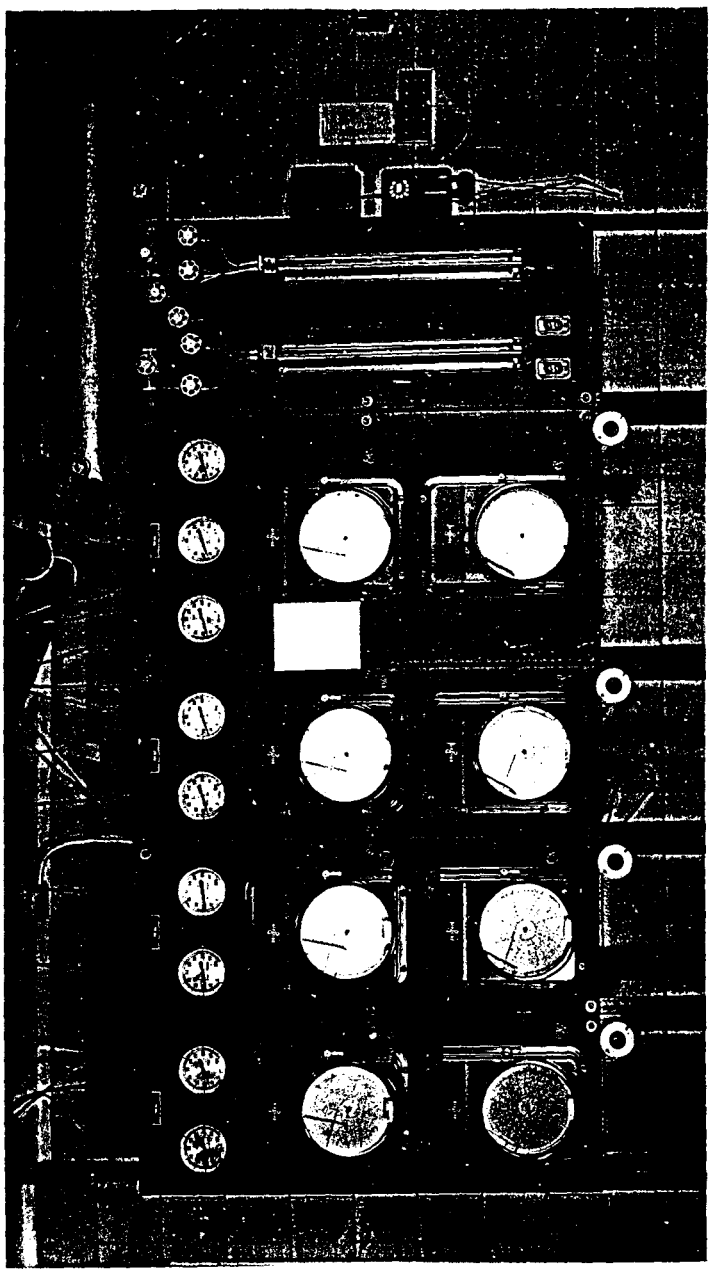

Fig. 24 (Hoboken 21). Panel board in fumigation room.

Explanation to Figure 25

This illustration is purely diagrammatic, no attempt being made to represent the various elements even approximately to scale.

To illustrate the operation of this set-up we will assume that a fumigation with HCN is to be conducted in the 100 cu. ft. tank. The first step in the procedure is to close gas valves (a) of tanks 3, 4 and 5. Valve (b) between tanks 2 and 3 is closed to shut off tanks 1 and 2. Valve (b) between tanks 3 and 4 and valve (a) above tank 3 are left open. Valve (c) of the CH_3Br volatilizer is closed and valve (c) of the HCN volatilizer is opened. All applicator valves (d, e, f, and g) are closed as well as the vent (h). A vacuum is now drawn in tank 3. Valve (e) of the HCN applicator is now opened and the required amount of liquified gas allowed to flow into the graduated applicator after which that valve is closed. In this process, the vent (h) of the HCN applicator may have to be opened. With valve (a) of tank 3 and the HCN volatilizer valve (c) now open, the liquid HCN will be drawn from the applicator into the volatilizer and then (as a gas) into tank 3 as soon as valve (d) of the HCN applicator is opened. This done, valve (f) is opened enough to blow out the applicator and the rest of the system in order to be sure that there is no residual gas.

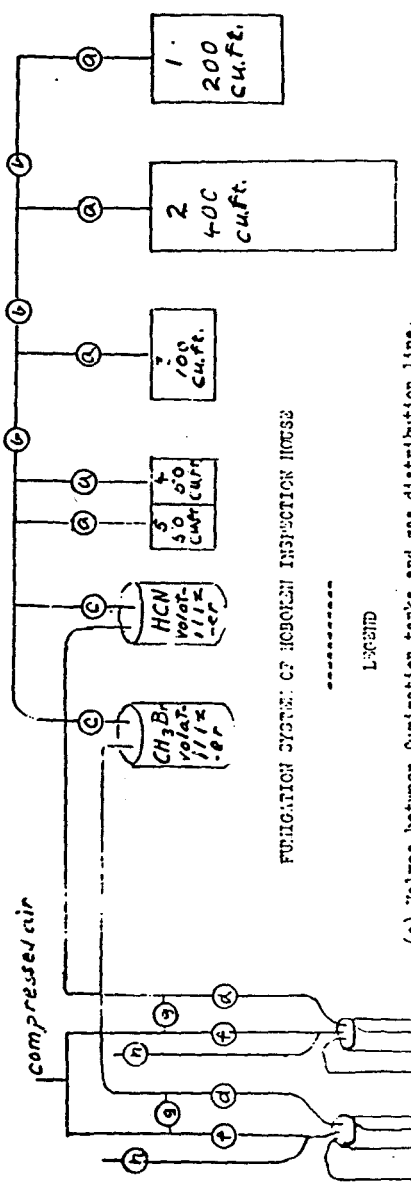

Fig. 25 (Hoboken 209). Diagram of fumigation system.

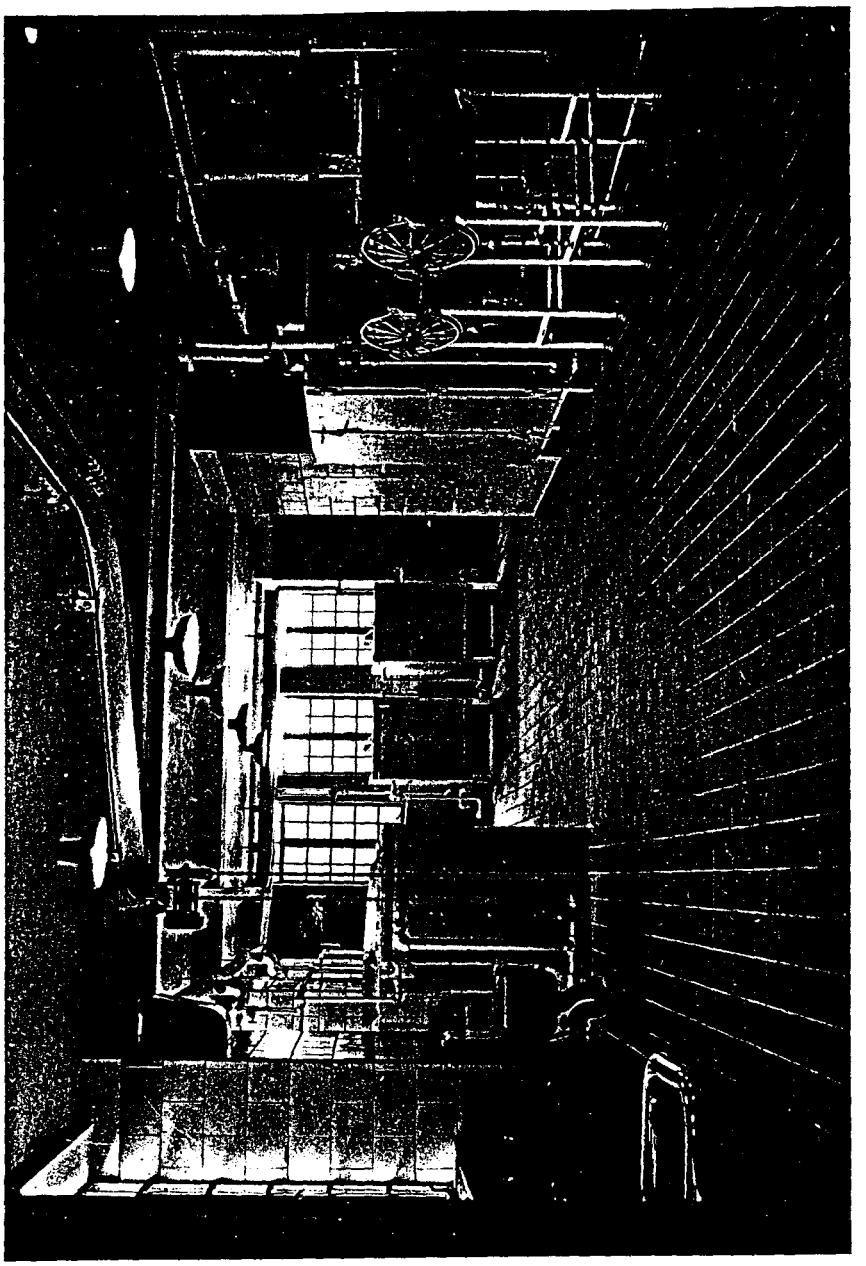

Fig. 26 (Hoboken 22). Interior arrangement of heat-treating room.

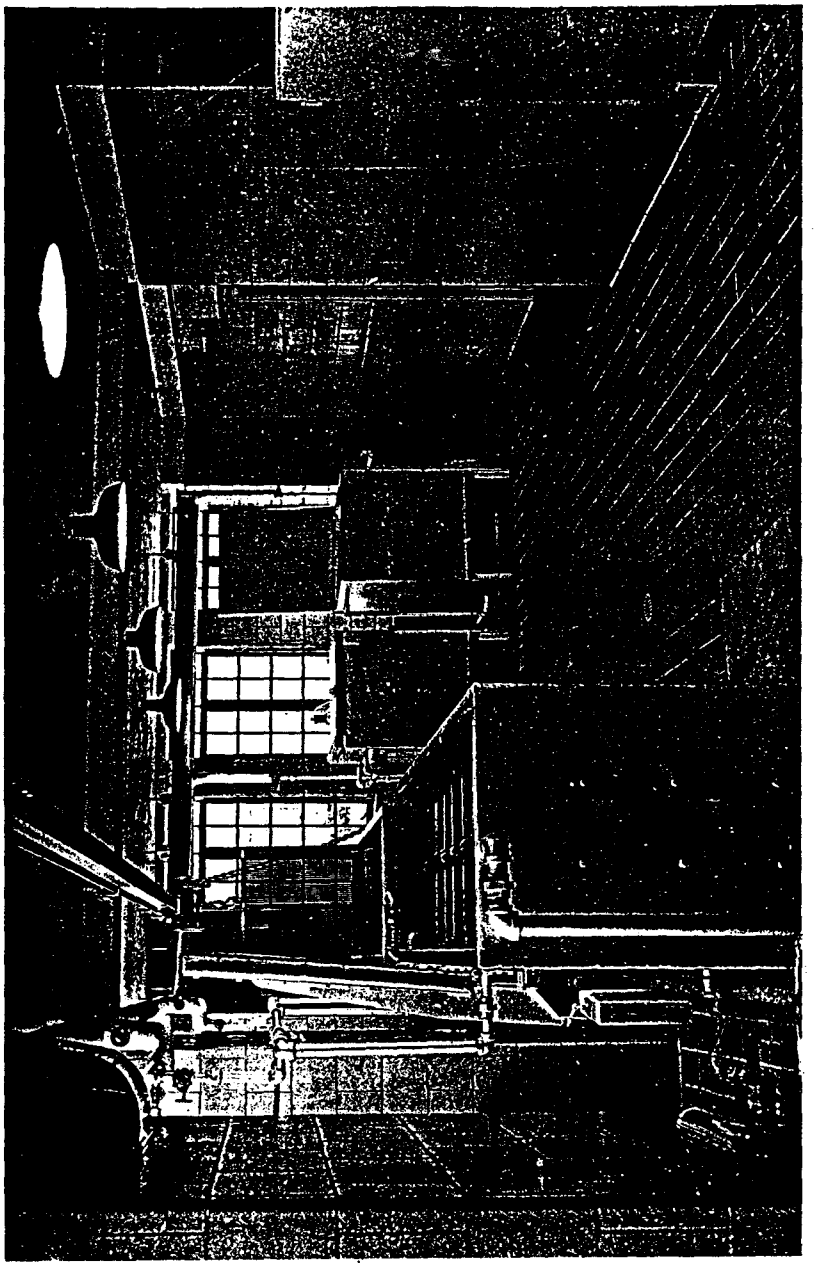

Fig. 27 (Hoboken 23). Hot-water treating tanks in heat-treating rooms.

this room consists of two hot water treating tanks of approximately 375 gallons capacity; two tanks of 112 gallons capacity; a drying cabinet; and two autoclaves. There are also two vapor heat chambers. Figure 26 shows the arrangement of the equipment in the heat treating room. An "I" beam is installed over the tanks from which a chain hoist is suspended. Figure 27 shows a closer view of the treating tank. From the hoist a wire basket will be seen ready for lowering into one of the large tanks. The large tanks each accommodate six woven wire baskets measuring 28" by 12" by 30½". The smaller tanks each accommodate two woven wire baskets measuring 30" by 12" by 30½". Extending along each side of the inside walls of the large tanks 10 inches from the bottom, a 2½-inch angle iron is welded. On these the treating baskets rest. There is a propeller shaft 4½ inches from the bottom of the tank and running the length of the tank. Near each end of this shaft is a two-blade 4-inch propeller. These are set in opposite directions so that when in operation water is circulated by being forced from both ends to the middle.

The small tanks are rounded at the bottom and the angle iron which supports the somewhat larger baskets is of 3-inch dimension. These small tanks are not provided with propellers, the water being circulated by pumps which

Fig. 28 (Hoboken 37). Woven wire hot-water treating baskets.

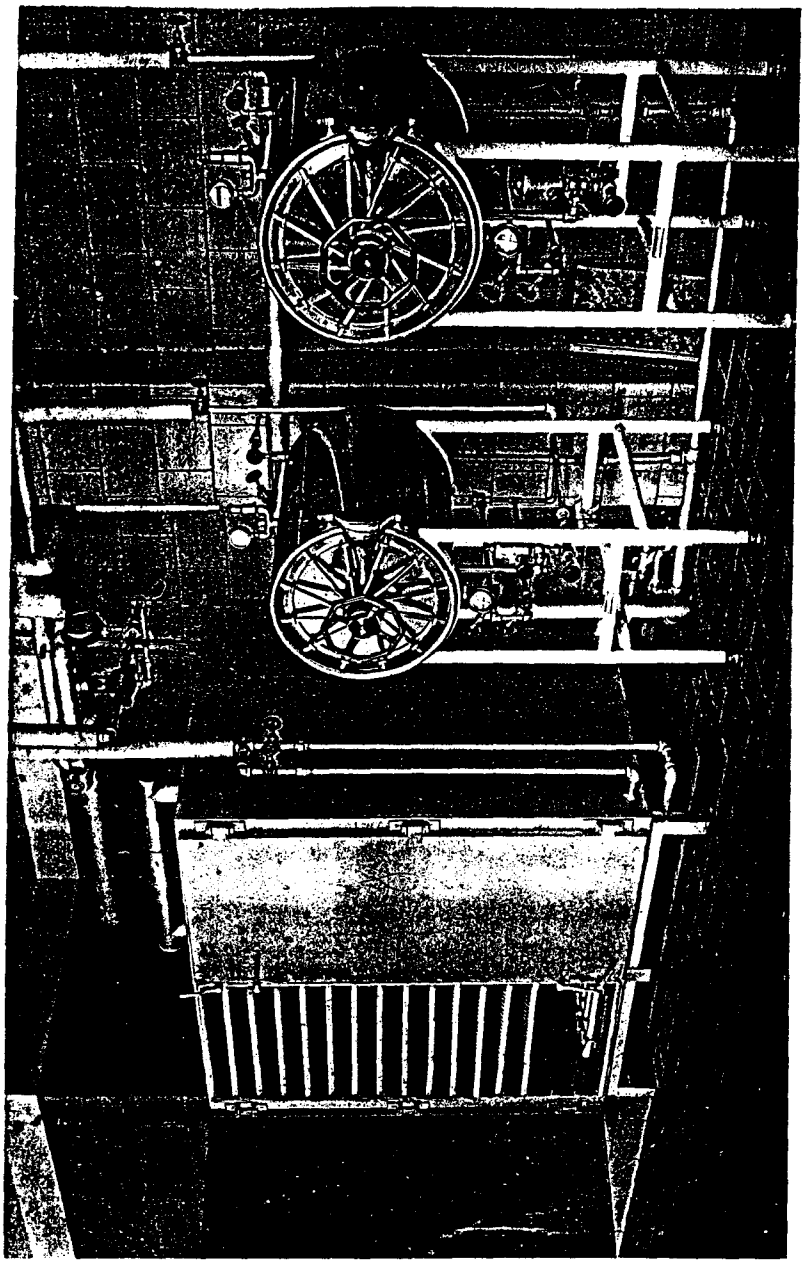

Fig. 29 (Hoboken 24). Drying chamber and autoclaves in heat-treating room.

draw the water off from the bottom and pump it back at the top. The water in the hot water treating tanks is heated by means of live steam.

The construction of the woven wire baskets used in the tanks is better seen in figure 28. They are made of 1/8" galvanized wire woven in a ½" mesh. They are reinforced with ½" round iron inside and, in addition, with 1-inch angle iron at the top and bottom. Eyelets are provided at the top of the frame for lifting the baskets with a chain hoist. One of the baskets shown in figure 28 has been loaded with bulbs, and gunny sack has been fastened across the top of the bulbs to prevent them from floating.

Figure 29 shows the drying cabinet used for removing excess moisture from material which received hot water treatment. The cabinet consists of two units each with inside dimensions of 62" by 48" by 30". Each unit accommodates 15 trays constructed of 1/8" galvanized wire woven in a ½" mesh. The frame of these trays is constructed of 1-inch angle iron. In the illustration the two bottom trays of one of the units have been removed to show the steam coil which supplies heat for thecabinet. A suction fan draws off heated air from the top. Figure 29 likewise shows two autoclaves in the heat treating room. These are approximately 30 inches long with a diameter of 24 inches.

Figure 30 shows the interior of one of the vapor heat chambers. Each of these chambers has a capacity of approximately 288 cu. ft. The heated and humidified air is blown in under the false flooring and is drawn out from the top by a suction fan. As the air goes through the heating elements, 10 percent of fresh air is added. The air is heated by being passed over a radiator enclosed in a chute. The temperature of the air must be manually controlled by means of a temperature regulator which makes this possible within a range of 80 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The regulator merely sets the flow of steam through the radiator. Steam vapor is added after the air passes over the radiator and this too must be controlled manually.

There is still another room on the second floor, namely, 202 in figure 13. This room is at present used by Dr. Bulger of the Division of Control Investigations, who is assigned to the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines to assist in fumigation problems. Besides the built-in cabinets and drawers the room is equipped with a stone sink and chemical hood. Under the hood are two gas, one compressed air, a vacuum, and two electrical outlets, also a cold water spigot.

The third floor is given over for the most part to office space. The floor plan is illustrated in Figure 31.

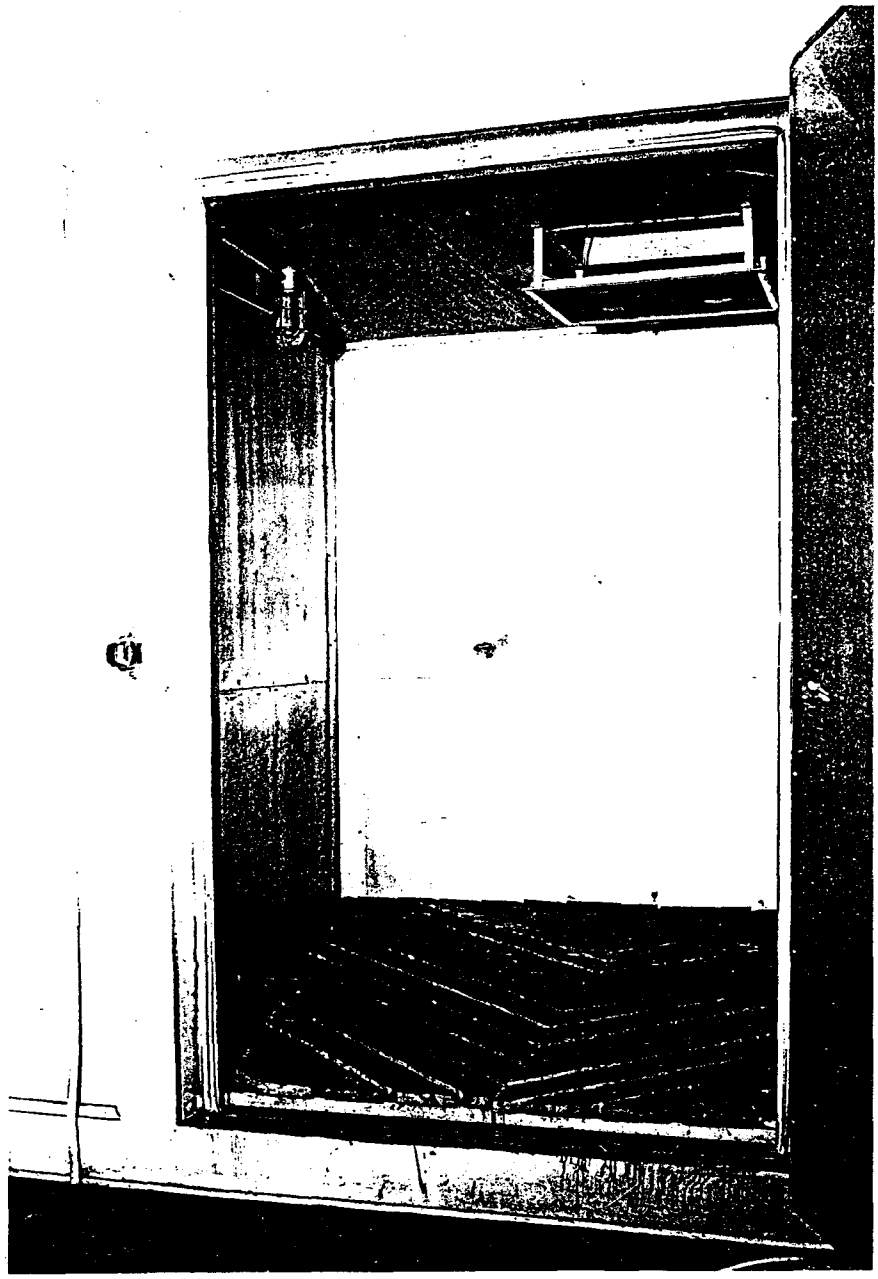

Fig. 30 (Hoboken 107). Vapor heat chamber in vapor-heat treating room.

The walls and floors of the third floor corridor are constructed of tile the same as the corridor and rooms of the second floor. The floors of the offices and laboratories of the third floor are concrete, and with the exception of the dark room and the chemical laboratory, are covered with a heavy grade of linoleum. All walls and ceilings of rooms on this floor are plastered.

Room 303 is equipped in exactly the same way as the laboratory on the second floor. This room is used by the pathologists for the preparation of solutions, mixing of chemicals, etc. In addition to metal cabinet space for the storing of chemicals, the room is equipped with a stone sink, a chemical hood, a water still and an autoclave. In the chemical hood are two electric, two gas, a compressed air, and a vacuum outlet, also a cold water spigot.

Adjoining this laboratory is the plant pathologists' laboratory, room 304 in figure 31. This room measures 24'3-3/4" by 18'7½". Along the west and south walls is a hardwood chemically treated laboratory work bench 30 inches wide, under a part of which are built-in drawers and cabinets. A stone sink is built into the bench along the west wall. On the bench are two compressed air, one gas and one vacuum outlet. There are six electrical connections along the wall above the bench. In the southeast

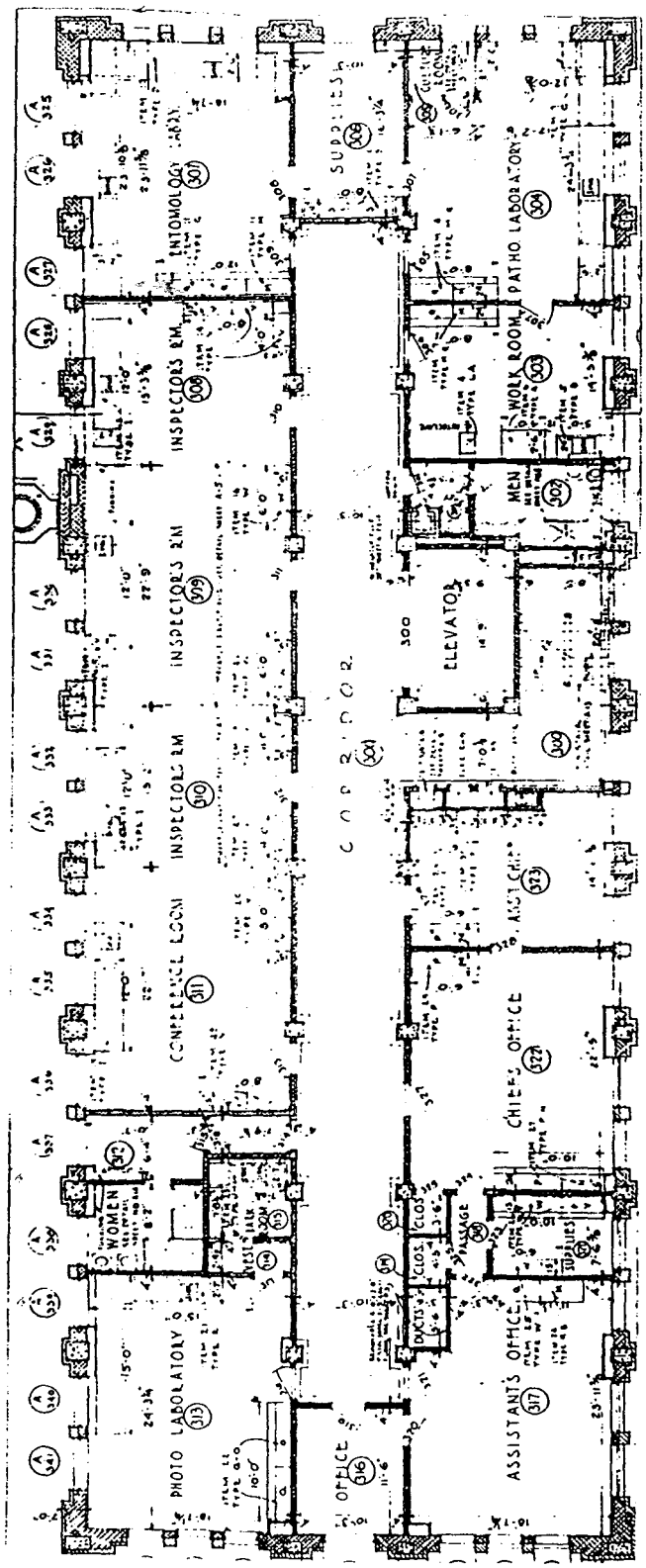

Fig. 31 (Hoboken 208). Third floor plan.

corner of the pathologists' laboratory is a culture room measuring 5' by 5'10" inside dimensions. This will be recognized in figure 52 which shows a corner of the pathologists' laboratory. Along the north wall, built-in metal bookcases and drawers have been installed.

Across the hall from the pathologists' laboratory is the taxonomist's laboratory room 507 figure 51, which measures 23'11-5/8" by 17'7½". Along the south wall and part of the east wall of this room the same type of bench has been installed as was described for the plant pathologists' laboratory; and under the bench drawers and cabinets have been installed. The bench along the south wall has a stone sink and three gas and one compressed air outlets. The bench along the east wall is provided with a stone sink and two gas, one vacuum, and one compressed air outlets. Along the north wall, built-in metal bookcases and drawers are installed. Figure 53 shows a corner of the taxonomist's laboratory.

Between the pathologist' and the taxonomist's laboratories is a small room, 506 in figure 51, designated in the floor plan as "Supplies". This room joins the two laboratories and is used by the clerk who keeps records on plant pest interceptions. Built-in metal shelves and cabinets are provided in this room. The pathologists' and taxonomist's laboratories were designed to supply

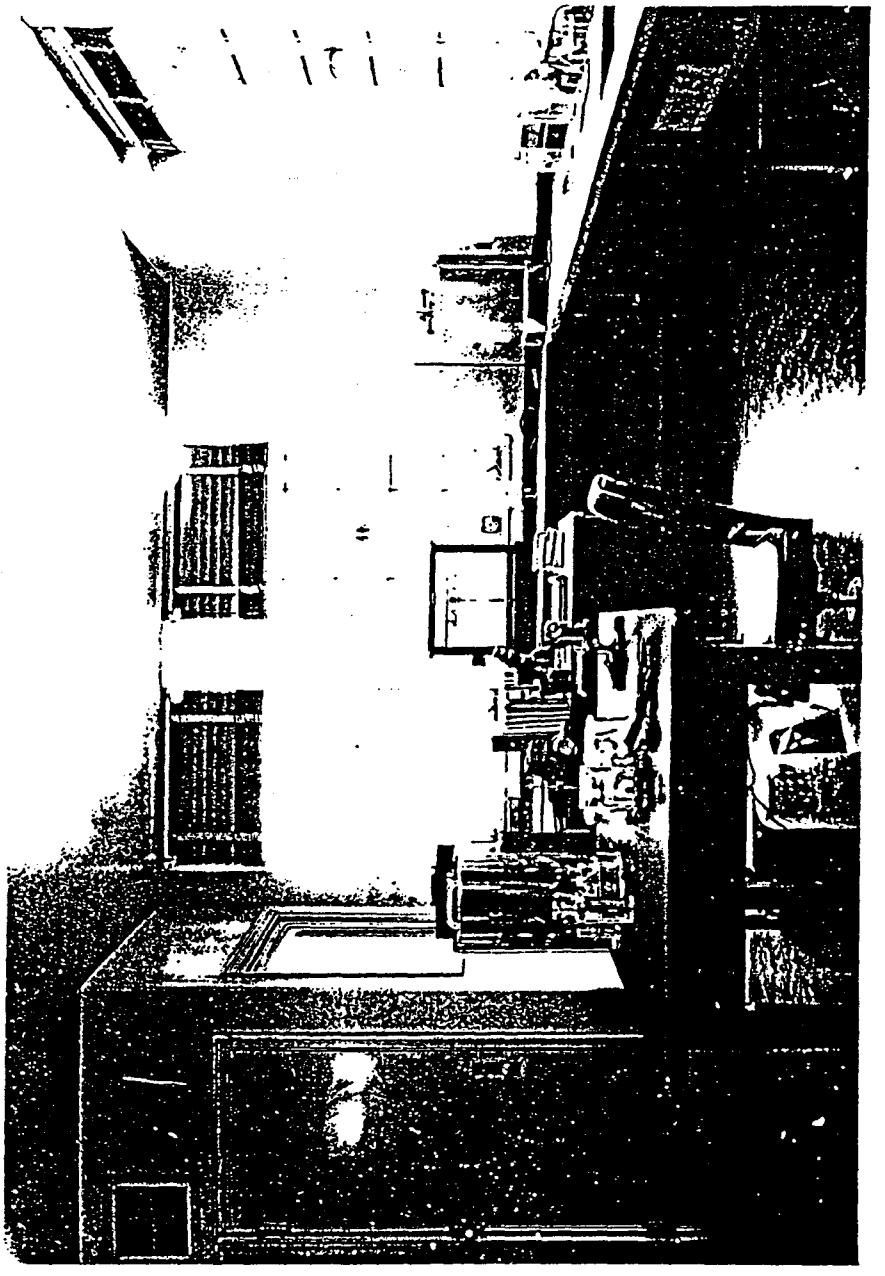

Fig. 32 (Hoboken 26). Corner of the pathologists' laboratory.

Fig. 53 (Hoboken 27). Corner of the taxonomist's laboratory.

space for specialists who identify or transmit for identification and keep all records on interceptions for both the New York and Hoboken offices.

Rooms 308, 309 and 310 (see figure 31) are inspectors' offices. Work benches are built along the east walls of these rooms the same as those installed in the pathologists' and taxonomist's laboratories. There is a stone sink installed in each bench. Each bench is also supplied with two gas, one vacuum, and a compressed air outlet. The inspectors' offices are also equipped with built-in metal shelving for books, bulletins and records. These have subsequently been glassed in. Figure 34 shows a corner of one of the inspector's offices. As will be noted from the floor plan, figure 31, inspectors' offices are not all the same size.

Room 311 is equipped in the same manner as the inspectors' offices. This is larger than any of those offices and is being used as a conference room, library, and museum. Technical works and herbarium material to which all of the technical staff need to have access are kept in this room.

In the northeast corner of the third floor is a laboratory, room 313 figure 31, which is used largely for photographic work. Work benches are built along the

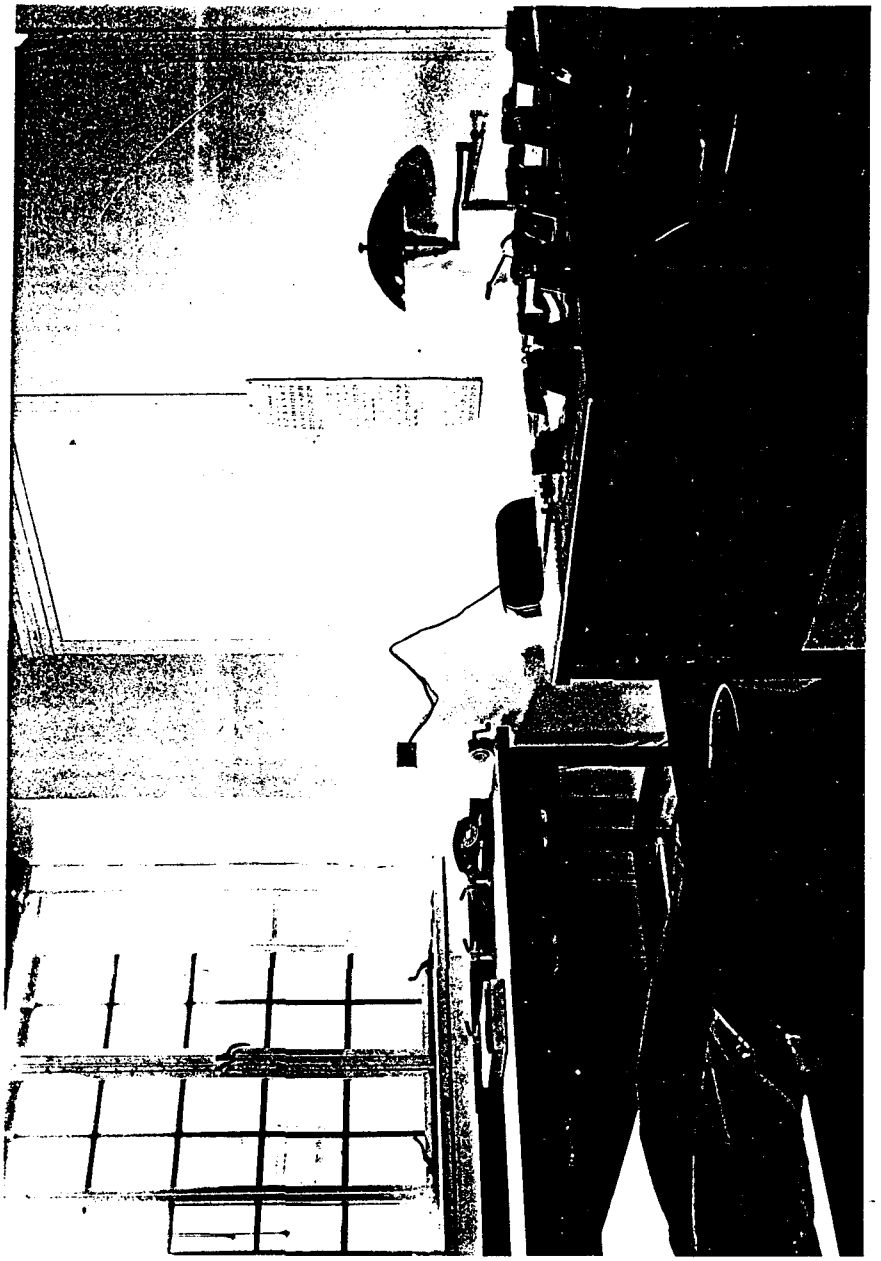

Fig. 34 (Hoboken 28). Corner of an inspector's office.

south and part of the east walls, the same as described for the pathologists' and taxonimist's laboratories. A stone sink and four gas connections are provided in the bench along the south wall. There are no vacuum or compressed air outlets in this laboratory. Built-in metal cases and cabinets are provided for storing glassware, chemicals, and other materials. The laboratory measures 24'3¼" by 18'7¾".

Opening into this laboratory is a dark room measuring approximately 7' by 7'6". Along the south wall of the dark room is a work bench under which are built-in metal drawers and cabinets. The entire bench is covered with heavy lead sheeting. There is a double sink in the bench constructed of heavy lead sheeting. There are two levels to the sink. One is especially designed for washing prints and negatives.

At the north end of the corridor of the third floor is a small room used as a chief clerk's office. Adjoining this office is the clerk's office, room 317 figure 31 which measures 23'11-5/8" by 18'7¾". Along the south wall of this office are built-in stationary cabinets and drawers. Figure 35 shows a corner of the clerk's office.

The clerk's office is joined to the office of the scientist in charge by a narrow passage on either side

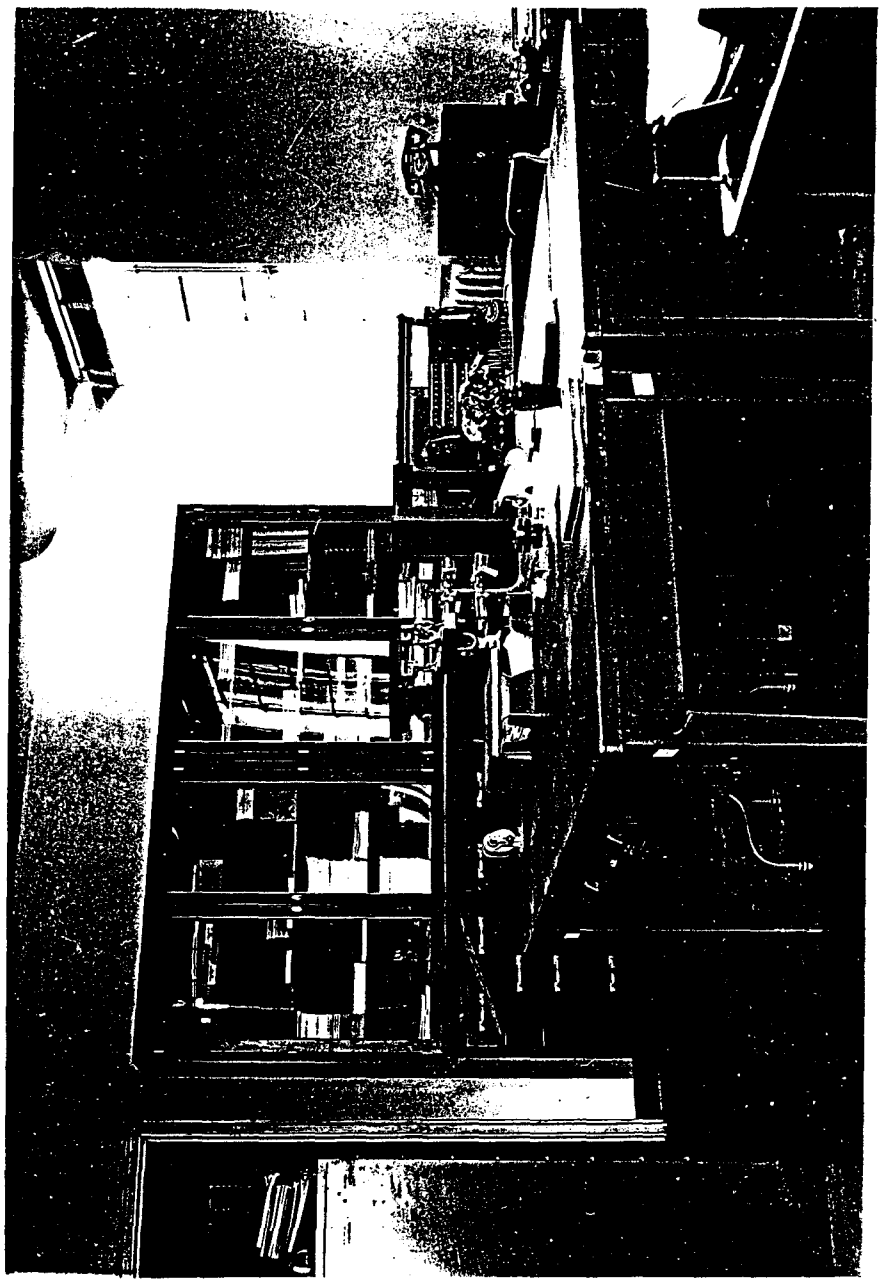

Fig. 35 (Hoboken 30). The clerks' office.

of which is a storage closet. One of these is equipped with built-in metal shelving for storing various office supplies.

The office of the scientist in charge, room 322 figure 31, measures 22'5" by 18'7¼". Built-in metal bookcases are installed along the north wall and along one side of the south wall. A sink is installed in the office and it is likewise supplied with a clothes closet - figure 36 shows a corner of this office. Adjoining this office is the office of the Chief Inspector, room 323. This office measures 14'6-3/8" by 17'8¼" and is equipped with built-in bookcases of the type installed in the office of the scientist in charge.

The Inspection House was put into operation on July 1, 1940. Figure 37 shows the first mail shipment handled on that day. It was the first shipment to arrive under the official green and yellow tag addressed to Hoboken. Figure 38 shows the first cargo shipments on the floor of the large inspection room.

On the opening of the new Inspection House, neither the engineering staff nor the custodial staff was complete. The organization was not completed until about the month of November. Figure 39 shows our first complete staff which lacks the photograph of one of the clerks, Miss Frances Ritt. The picture was taken January 14, 1941.

Prepared by Geo. G. Becker 1/29/42

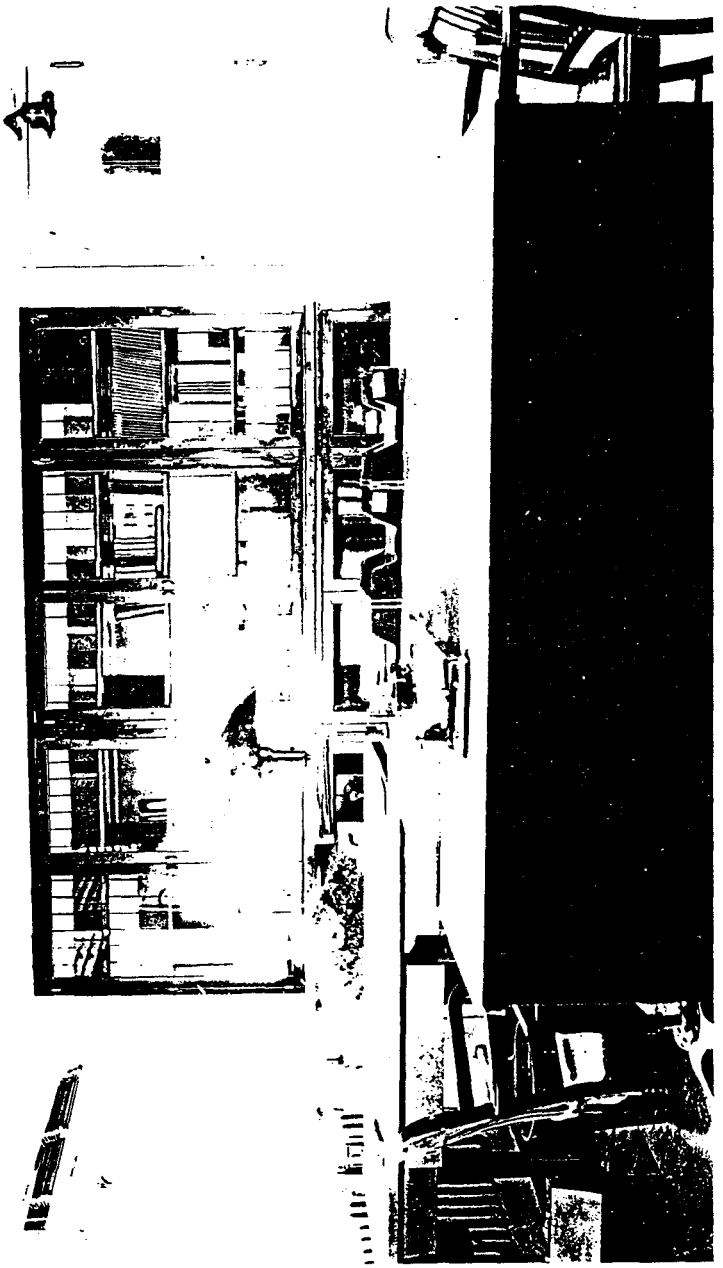

Fig. 36 (Hoboken 29). A corner of the office of the scientist in charge.

Fig. 37 (Hoboken 1). First mail shipment handled at Hoboken Inspection House on July 1, 1940.

Fig. 38 (Hoboken 3). First cargo shipments handled at Hoboken Inspection House on July 1, 1940.

Legend to Figure 39

Seated, left to right W. S. Fields P-4, Nellie B. Shaffer CAF-5, Harry B. Walsh CPC-10, Geo. G. Becker P-5, Emil Kostal P-4, Eleanor Dunn CAF-4, Frank R. Hannen CAF-6, Milton H. Sartor P-2; second left to right J. M. H. Adams P-2, Oscar H. Lowe CPC-8, D. P. Limber P-3, Nathaniel B. Smart CPC-8, Louis Greenberg CAF-3, L. D. Scrivens CPC-8, Martin Hansen CPC-3; top row left to right George Janifer CPC-3, H. L. Sanford P-3, E. Inman CPC-8, L. L. Spessard P-3, Charles E. Prince P-3, Michael P. Holmes CPC-3.

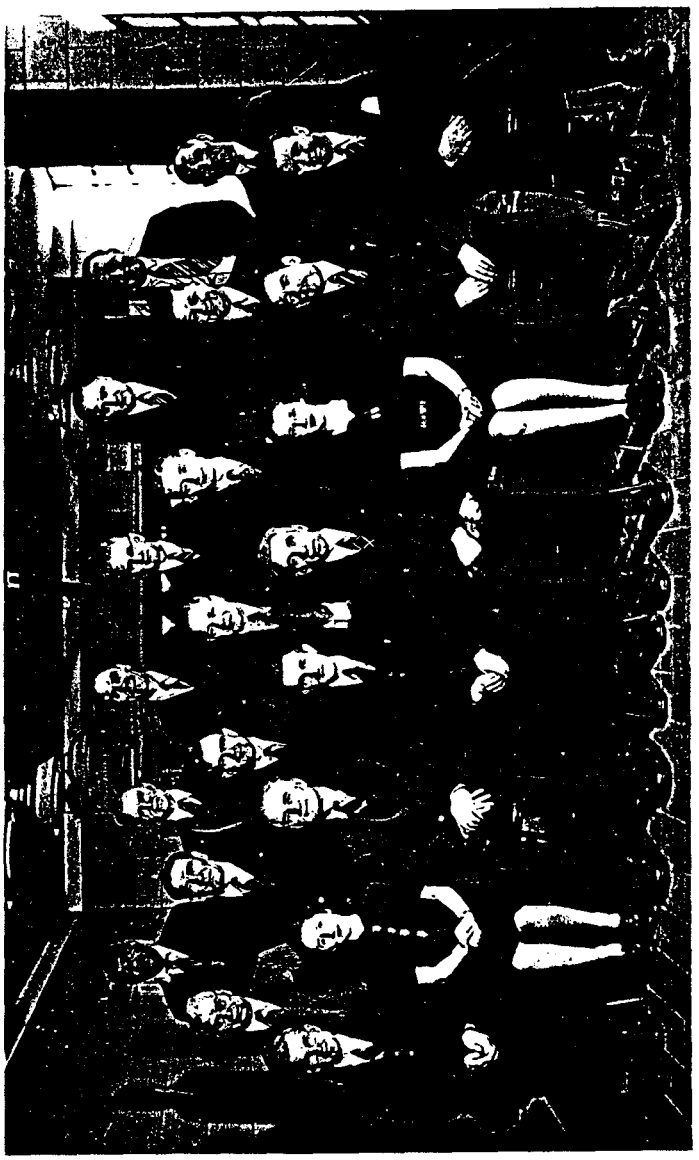

Fig. 39 (Hoboken 200). First staff of Hoboken Inspection House.

B/1 Special Permit
Material--Inspection
and Treating Facil-
ities

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1941.

Foreign Plant Quarantines Memorandum No. 240

FACILITIES FOR THE INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF MATERIAL IMPORTED UNDER SPECIAL PERMIT

Dr. Strong recently announced to the chief State plant quarantine officials that the inspection and treatment of special permit importations, formerly performed in Washington, is now carried out in the new inspection house in Hoboken. In order that these officials may be kept up to date as to the facilities for the inspection of special permit material, he, at that time, gave them a brief statement entitled, "Facilities for the Inspection and Treatment of Material Imported under Special Permit."

A copy is attached in the belief that this information will also be of interest and value to the personnel of this Division.

E R Sasscer

In Charge,
Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines.

FACILITIES FOR THE INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF MATERIAL IMPORTED UNDER SPECIAL PERMIT

Provision is made in Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantine No. 37 for the importation in limited quantities and under special permit of plant material for propagation purposes with the exception of those kinds which have been made the subject of special quarantines, and seeds, rose stocks, fruit and nut cuttings, and a few kinds of bulbs, etc., as well as plants produced in and shipped from Canada, the entry of which is provided for in regulations 2, 3, and 15 of the Quarantine. The kinds of plant propagating materials which may therefore enter under special permit include almost all genera and species from almost all parts of the world.

Since the effective date of Quarantine No. 37, June 1, 1919, importations under special permit have been limited to certain ports where there are better facilities for safeguarding the plants while carrying out the inspection and such treatment as might be found necessary. Three such ports are now so designated in the continental United States, namely, Hoboken, N. J., (port of New York), San Francisco, Calif., and Seattle, Wash. Similarly, San Juan is designated for special permit importations into Puerto Rico and Honolulu for such importations into the Territory of Hawaii.

With the promulgation of Quarantine No. 37 the Federal Horticultural Board, which then was charged with the administration of the Plant Quarantine Act, gave careful study to the question of the inspection of imported special permit material which would include rare plants from out-of-the-way places in the world. These might be infested or infected with little known insects and plant diseases and thus represent potentially large risk of introducing injurious pests. Consequently the best possible inspection and treating facilities available were desired for this work and it was decided that all such shipments would be routed to Washington, D. C. for inspection at quarters provided about 1915 for the inspection and disinfection of plants, seeds, etc., imported by the Bureau of Plant Industry for the Department's use. This decision took into account the important fact that in Washington there would be available for consultation the Department's corps of specialists, particularly entomologists, plant pathologists, and horticulturists, should any difficult problems arise in safeguarding an importation against possible pest introduction.

It was soon evident that, in the case of trans-Pacific shipments arriving at San Francisco for western destinations a transcontinental round trip was involved and arrangements were made for

the inspection in San Francisco of such trans-Pacific shipments. Similar arrangements were made in 1921 for the inspection at Honolulu, T. H. of shipments into the Hawaiian Islands. Special permit importations into Puerto Rico were handled at first by the Insular authorities but later there was some Federal supervision which culminated in 1930 in the Federal handling of such importations. Seattle was approved as a port of entry for special permit importations in 1932.

The first importation of special permit material inspected at Washington, of which there is record, arrived on November 1, 1919 and it was inspected at the quarters previously referred to and known as the "Inspection House." These quarters were located at 12th and B Streets, N. W. (now 12th Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W.) As the years followed, some additional space and facilities were provided in an effort to meet at least partially the demands occasioned by the handling of the increasing volume of importations under special permit. It was estimated at one time that from 80 to 85 percent of all special permit importations were inspected at Washington and the peak volume of these importations was reached in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927 when 46,625,648 plants, bulbs, etc., were imported.

The shipment of these importations to Washington for inspection, which for the most part arrived at the port of New York, involved extra handling and the possibility of escape of pests en route, increased cost to the importer for transportation charges, labor, etc., and delayed delivery to destination. Agitation for the removal of the inspection facilities from Washington to New York began shortly after the effective date of the quarantine because it would make possible a more expeditious handling of these importations at less cost to the importer.

Hoboken, N. J.

The Federal Horticultural Board concurred in the desirability of this move, and, under the leadership of the Chairman, made a series of attempts to obtain appropriations for this purpose by which suitable and adequate inspection facilities could be provided at the port of New York. The efforts were unsuccessful. Later, under the leadership of the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Quarantine and still later, the merged Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the available sites in that port were canvassed

for their suitability in relation to piers where most such importations are discharged and accessibility to transportation agencies. An ideal location was found in the site of the old Captain Mueller house on the east side of River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, between Piers 2 and 3 of the old North German-Lloyd Steamship Company which was taken over by the United States during the last World War. The site was allocated to the Department of Agriculture in 1938 by the U. S. Maritime Commission. A grant of $40,000 was furnished by the Works Progress Administration for demolishing three old buildings on the site and the new building was constructed under an allotment of $400,000 from the Public Works Administration.

This building which was occupied on June 28, 1940 serves both as a plant inspection house and as an insect parasite receiving station. It is constructed of reinforced concrete with tile walls and buff brick on the outside. It is trimmed with four bands of brown glazed terra cotta with ivory terra cotta coping. Window sashes are steel, doors are metal clad, floors are cement with linoleum finish or quarry tile, the building being practically fire-proof in every respect. The building is 144 feet by 52½ feet, four stories with basement, boiler room, and penthouse. Three 50 h.p. high pressure oil burning steam boilers are installed in the basement, the floor of which is approximately 5 feet below low tide. The oil tank contains approximately 10,000 gallons of fuel oil and is located beneath the first floor at the south end of the building.

The first floor comprises shipping and receiving rooms and has approximately 3,200 square feet of floor space for the handling of shipments. In addition two cold storage rooms with approximately 550 square feet of floor space are provided on this floor, together with a vacuum fumigation tube of 1,000 cubic feet capacity, 2-car garage, transformer room, electrical room, machine room containing two 20-ton and one 10-ton Freon compressors and two large 2-stage vacuum pumps with accessories.

The second floor is given over to inspection and treating rooms, there being one inspection room 107 feet long by 18 feet wide and another 30 feet by 32 feet. A fumigation room 30 feet by 32 feet contains 5 steam-jacketed vacuum fumigation tubes and 4 atmospheric fumigation chambers. A heat treating room is equipped with 4 hot water treating tanks, two large autoclaves for high pressure steam sterilization, a large steam drier, and two large chambers for treatment with moist heat or for drying. The finish of the rooms on this floor is ivory terra cotta walls with buff quarry tile floors. The large inspection room is air conditioned.

The third floor contains offices and laboratories and comprises 13 rooms fitted up either for office or laboratory work. A dark room and photographic laboratory are included.

The fourth floor is equipped for insect parasite work and consists of 4 office rooms and a work shop which are not air conditioned, 12 insectaries, a corridor, and two parasite handling rooms, which are air conditioned, with a separate installation for accurate regulation of the temperature and humidity of each room. The air conditioned rooms are provided with tight triple glazed windows. Four cold storage rooms are also provided in this section.

San Francisco, Calif.

At San Francisco the inspection room utilized for the examination of special permit material contains about 450 square feet of floor space and is provided with benches and tables for the inspection of this material under both natural and artificial light. The room contains a 12½ cubic foot vacuum fumigation chamber which can be used with several commonly employed fumigants under either reduced or normal atmospheric pressure. This apparatus is also equipped to be used as a steam sterilizer. There is a hot-water treating tank that will hold an average case of narcissus bulbs and there are trays for drying treated bulbs with air circulated by a fan. A small refrigerator is provided for holding, when necessary, small lots of material at low temperatures pending disposition.

Seattle, Wash.

At Seattle the comparable inspection room contains 552 square feet and is provided with three metal tables for inspection purposes. There is some natural light which is supplemented by fluorescent lamps affixed over the tables. Plant material requiring treatment has to be taken to a treating room located about 1½ miles from the inspection room where there is a vacuum fumigation chamber of 120 cubic foot capacity. This chamber is adapted for use with common fumigants either under reduced or normal atmospheric pressure. The equipment here also includes a hot-water treating tank 4 feet by 1½ feet by 1½ feet and a drying rack with fans for circulating the air.

At both San Francisco and Seattle larger commercial vacuum fumigation facilities are available for use with large shipments at the importer's expense. In San Francisco and in the vicinity of both San Francisco and Seattle, there are commercial hot-water treating tanks.

Honolulu, T. H.

At Honolulu, T. H. inspection is carried out by collaborators of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine who are employed by the Territorial Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry. The facilities include an inspection room with satisfactory lighting, tables, etc. In addition, there are adequate fumigation and hot-water treating units and laboratory facilities.

San Juan, P. R.

At San Juan, P. R., inspections are made in a room set aside for that purpose in the Federal Building. Material needing treatment is taken to a fumigatorium owned by the Insular Government where fumigants can be applied under normal atmospheric pressure.

December, 1940.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The City of Hoboken and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey plan to incorporate the building site into the South Waterfront Development Project. The proposed development identifies twelve parcels within three blocks along the Hudson River Waterfront. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) mandates that federal agencies must allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the historic resources before sale of a federal structure. The Plant Quarantine Building is within the city's redevelopment area, therefore, the structure's proposed demolition is reviewable in accordance with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection implementing regulations (Rules on Coastal Zone Management, N.J.A.C. 7:7E-3.36).

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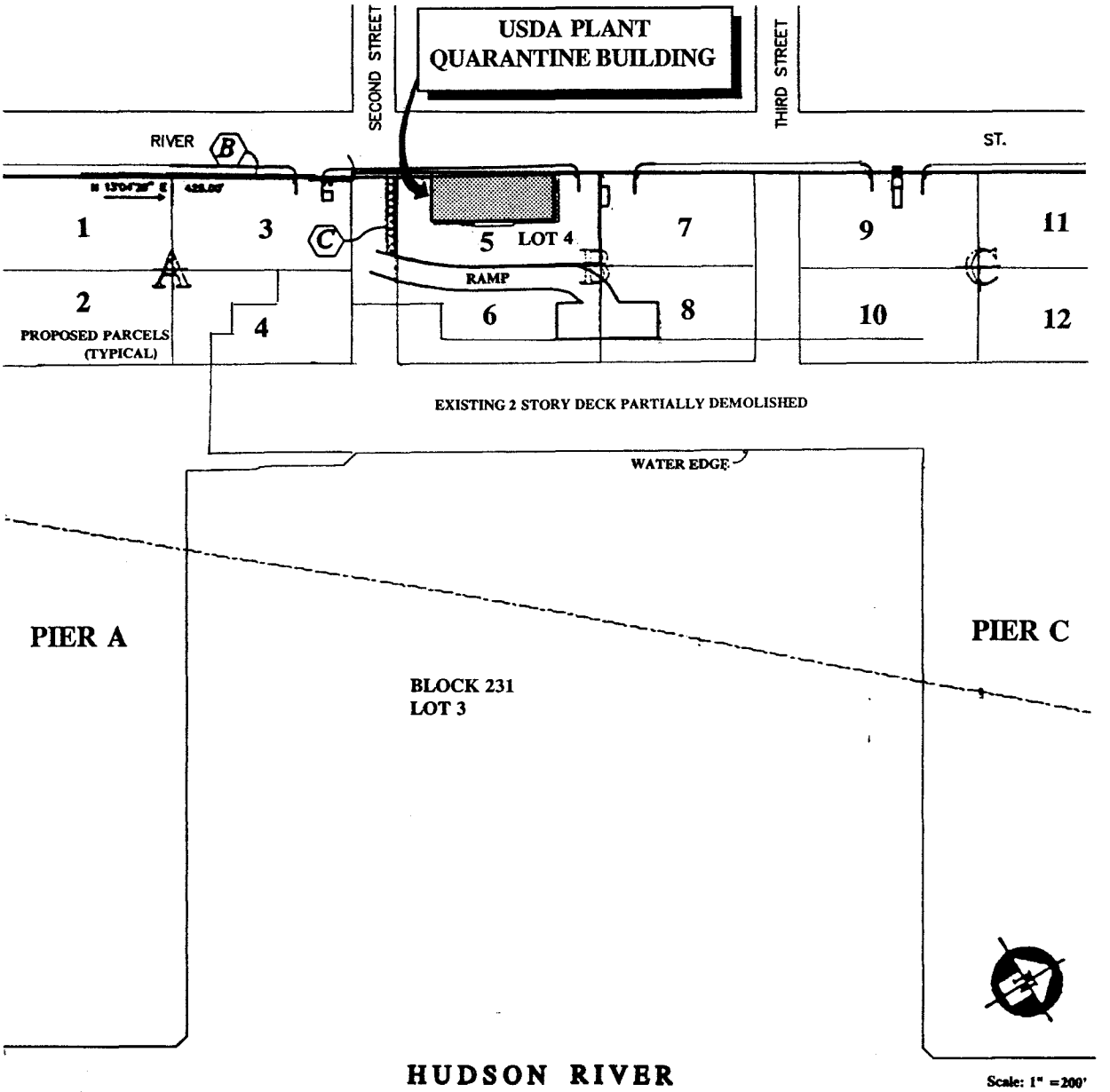
Date: May 1997



Legend:

(A) (OMIT)
(B) 5' X 425' STREET VACATION
(C) 10' X 90' AVG. EASEMENT FROM U.S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Source:

P.L. Caulfield Jr.
Professional Surveyor

SITE PLAN

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Warren, NJ 07059