

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 2, BUILDING NO. R-20  
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 2, Building R-20)  
Sandy Hook Bay  
Colts Neck vicinity  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey

HAER NJ-142-A-3  
*HAER NJ-142-A-3*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Custom House, 3rd Floor  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT EARLE, PIER 2, BUILDING R-20  
(Naval Weapons Station Earle, Pier 2, Building R-20)

HAER No. NJ-142-A-3

Location: Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Earle  
(currently Naval Weapons Station [NWS]  
Earle)  
Colts Neck Vicinity  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey

USGS Sandy Hook, NJ Quadrangle, 1:24,000  
UTM Coordinates: 18.580654.4478254

Construction Dates: 1976

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Department of the Navy

Present Use: Boiler House, Pier 2

Significance: Funded in part by the Army, Naval Ammunition Depot Earle was commissioned in 1943 as the only major ordnance transshipment depot on the East Coast. Its mission was to facilitate the movement of ordnance from stateside production and storage facilities to the Navy and Army forces, then in the European theater of World War II. Building R-20 on Pier 2 was constructed in 1976 to generate steam for ships docked at the pier.

Project  
Information:

The Department of the Navy plans to replace Pier 2, Pier 3, Trestle 2, and Trestle 3 at NWS Earle. These structures, and many of their associated buildings, were identified as meeting National Register Criterion A during a cultural resources investigation conducted at NWS Earle in 1999. The Department of the Navy and the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (NJ SHPO) have not reached an agreement concerning the specific definition or boundaries of the National Register-eligible architectural resources at NWS Earle to date; however, an assumption of eligibility for Pier 2, Pier 3, Trestle 2, and Trestle 3, as well as the historic buildings associated with these structures, was made for the purposes of this project. To mitigate the adverse effect of the proposed project to the piers, trestles, and associated buildings, the Department of the Navy, the NJ SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement stipulating written, graphic, and photographic documentation of the structures. This documentation was undertaken to fulfill these stipulations.

Historians:

Elizabeth Amisson, Sarah Farley, and Robert F. Panepinto, August 2003

Part I: Historical Information

Building R-20 (Boiler House, Pier 2) was built in 1976 to generate steam for ships docked at the pier. This allowed the ships to turn off their boilers in order to conserve fuel or conduct maintenance. A two-story addition was constructed at the southwestern end of Building R-20 in 1983. Today, Building R-20 continues to function as a utility plant, providing external power for ships tied up alongside the pier.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Mahoney, Base Civil Engineer, 2003, written communication, 24 July, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ; David Smith, Base Civil Engineer, 2003, conversation with authors, 2 April, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ; The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey" (Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999), 74.

Part II: Descriptive Information

Building R-20 (Boiler House, Pier 2), located at the northeast end of Pier 2, was constructed in 1976 as a one-story rectangular brick building. A two-story brick addition was constructed on the southwestern end of the building in 1983.<sup>2</sup> Building R-20 originally functioned as a boiler house, providing steam that allowed docked ships to shut down their internal boilers. The building is in good condition, and is currently used as a utility plant to provide power for docked ships.<sup>3</sup>

This flat-roofed building is two bays wide by eight bays deep. The brick walls are laid in a common bond, and a narrow band of metal flashing appears at the roof-wall junction around the original building's perimeter. Concrete coping tops the walls of the two-story addition. Window openings contain modern, one-over-one, double-hung sash.

The southwestern two-thirds of Building R-20 contain a boiler room (see current floor plans immediately following Part III of Written Documentation section). Stairs on the southwest wall lead to a large room on the second floor. North of the boiler room are a transformer room with an office and restroom on the southeast wall, and a generator room with a locker room in its southern corner.<sup>4</sup> The primary function of this building has not changed over time; however, it is unknown whether the current interior layout is the same as the original layout due to a lack of original construction drawings.

Three interior photographs were taken within building R-20. Two photographs of the boiler room and one of the second floor room convey the overall construction, use, and fabric of the building's interior spaces. The generator room contained new generator equipment, and the space was too small to yield valuable photographs. No photographs that would impart any

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<sup>2</sup> Mahoney, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> The Cultural Resource Group, 72; Smith, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Dewberry & Davis, *Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Plan, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle* (Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1999), Building R-20, Nos. 1 and 2 of 3.

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useful information about use or construction could be taken in the transformer room, and the open nature of the electrical equipment made it hazardous to walk through the room.

Part III: Sources of Information

A. Engineering Drawings

Dewberry & Davis. *Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Plan, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle*. Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, 1999. Printed from a CD provided by Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office.

Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office. *Building Use Location, Trestle & Piers, Waterfront Area Map*. Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office, 1994. Printed from a CD provided by Naval Weapons Station Earle, Base Civil Engineering Office.

B. Interviews

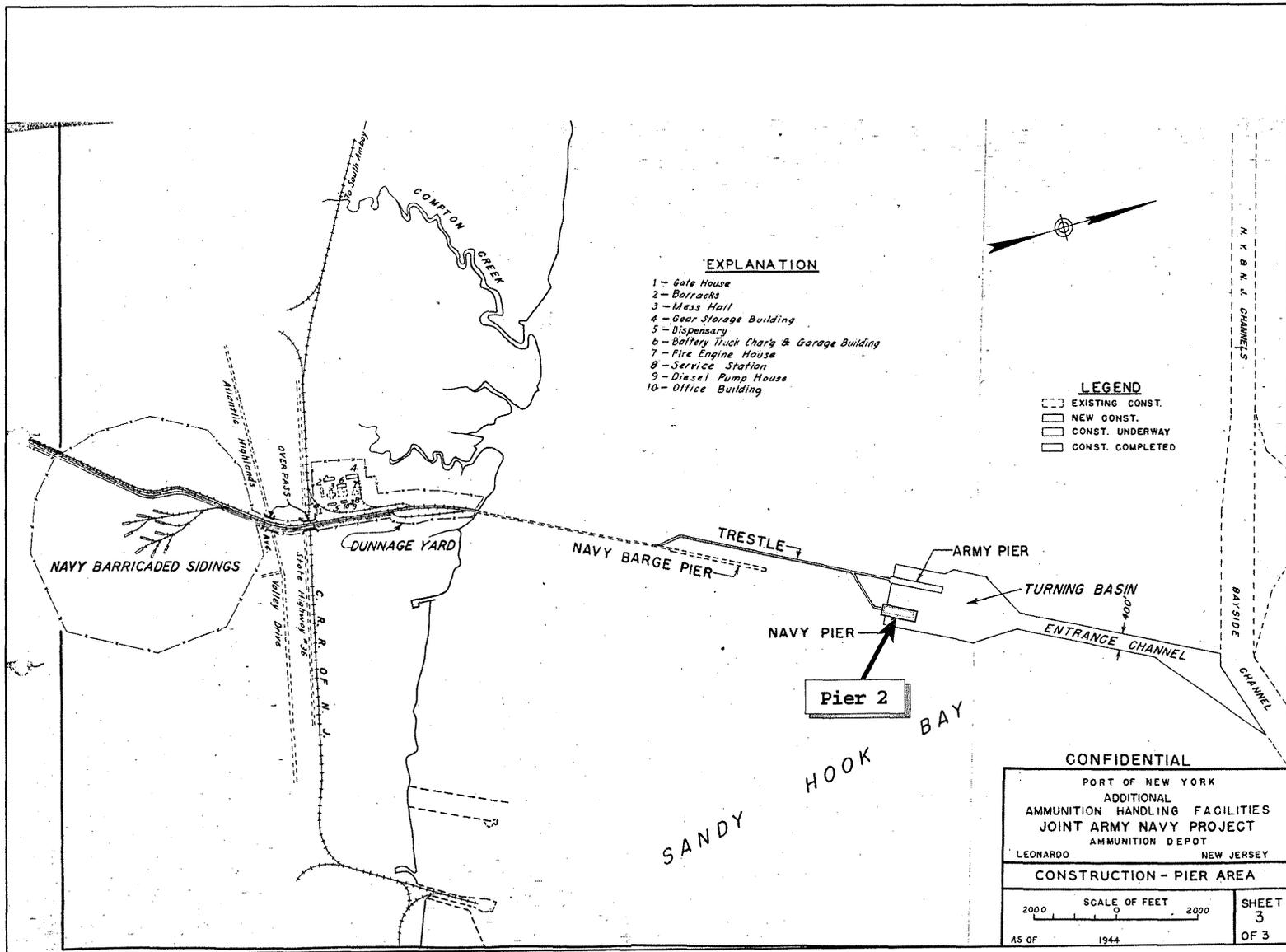
Smith, David, Base Civil Engineer. 2003. Conversation with authors, 2 April, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ.

C. Bibliography

The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. "Architectural Resources Survey: Naval Weapons Station Earle, Monmouth County, New Jersey." Colts Neck, NJ: The Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999. Photocopied.

Lancaster, L. W. "Record Report, Contract NOy-7693, Ships Piers and Approaches." Colts Neck, NJ: Naval Ammunition Depot Earle, 1945. Photocopied.

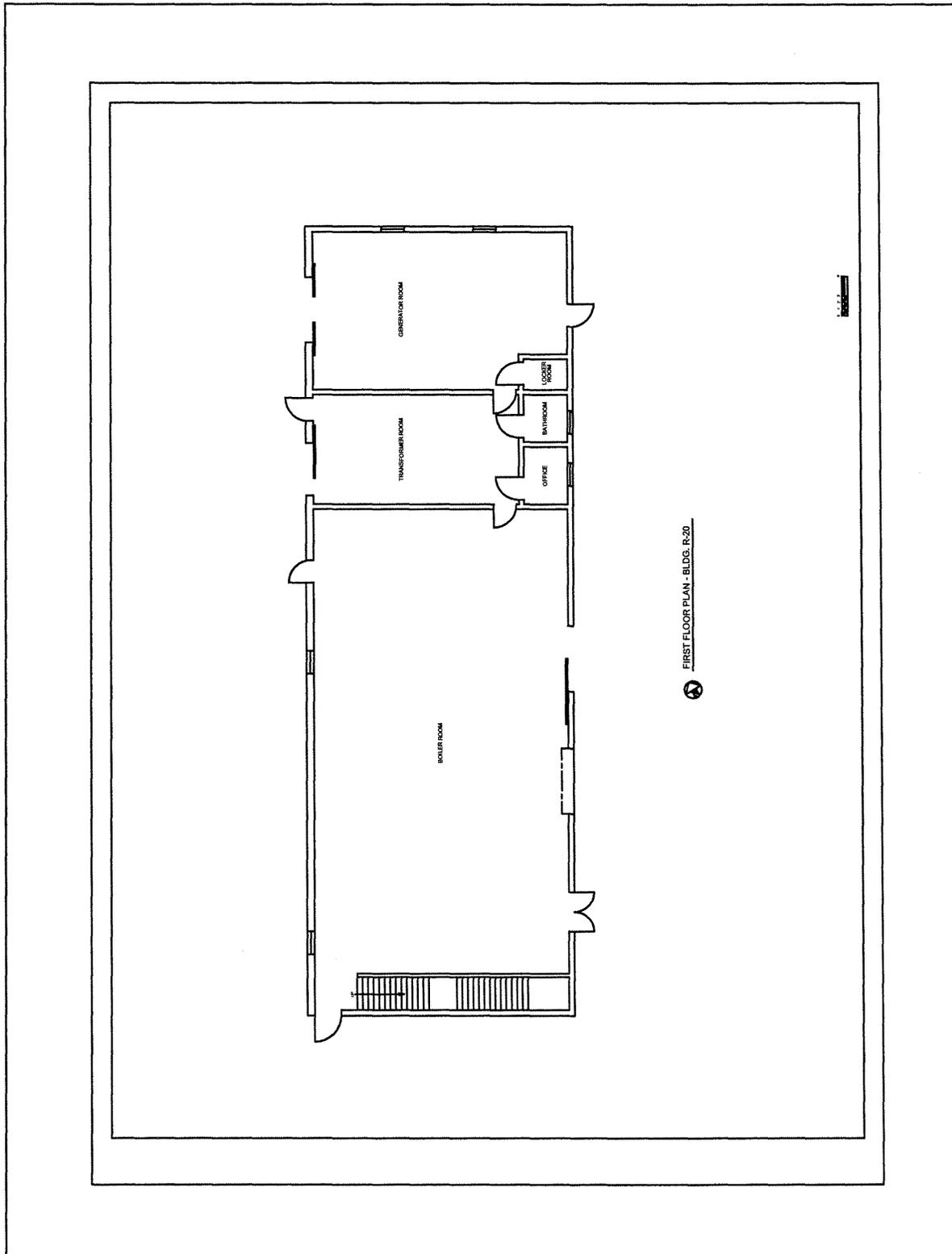
Mahoney, John, Base Civil Engineer. 2003. Written communication, 24 July, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, NJ.



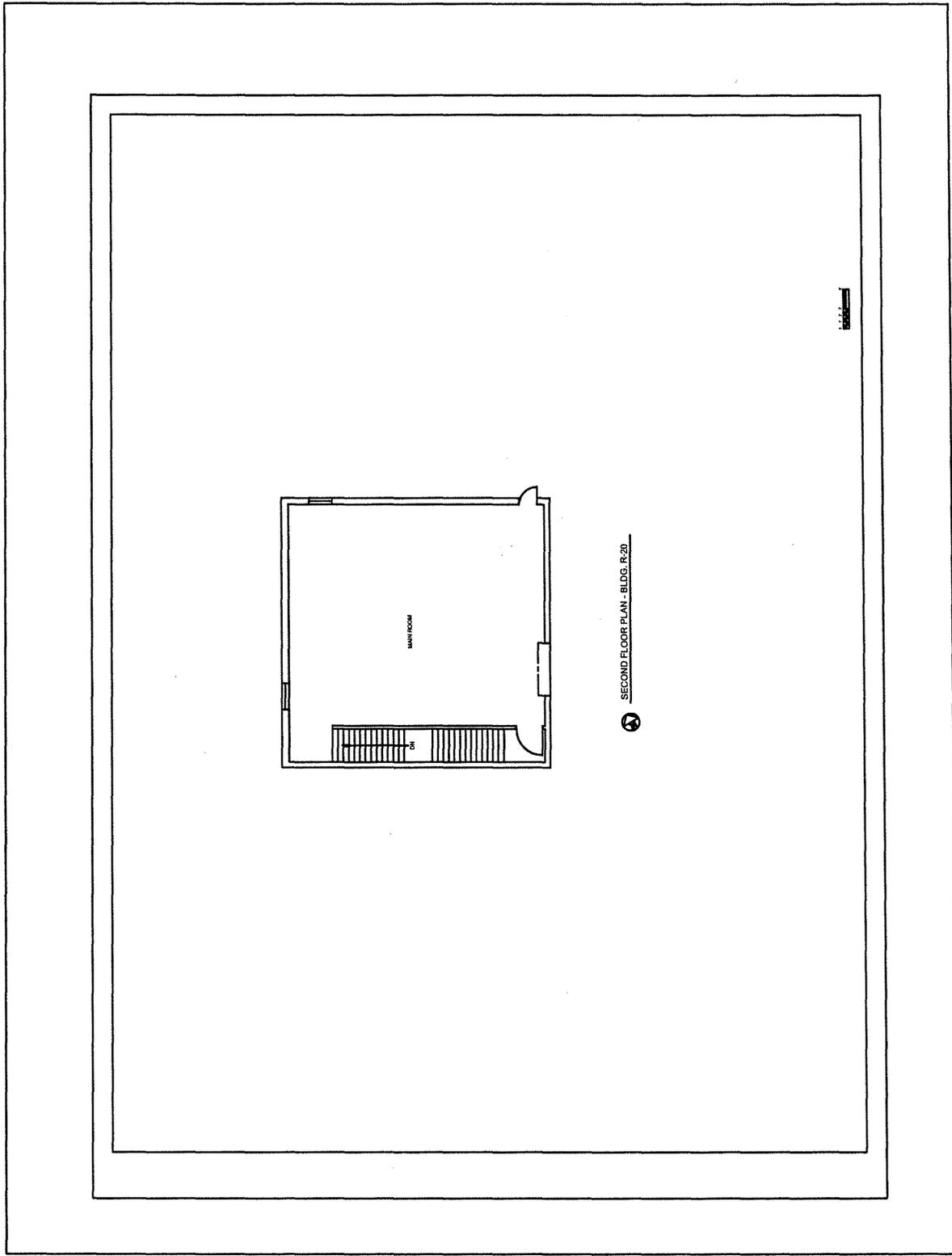
General Construction Map, Pier Area, 1944  
(source: Lancaster 1945)

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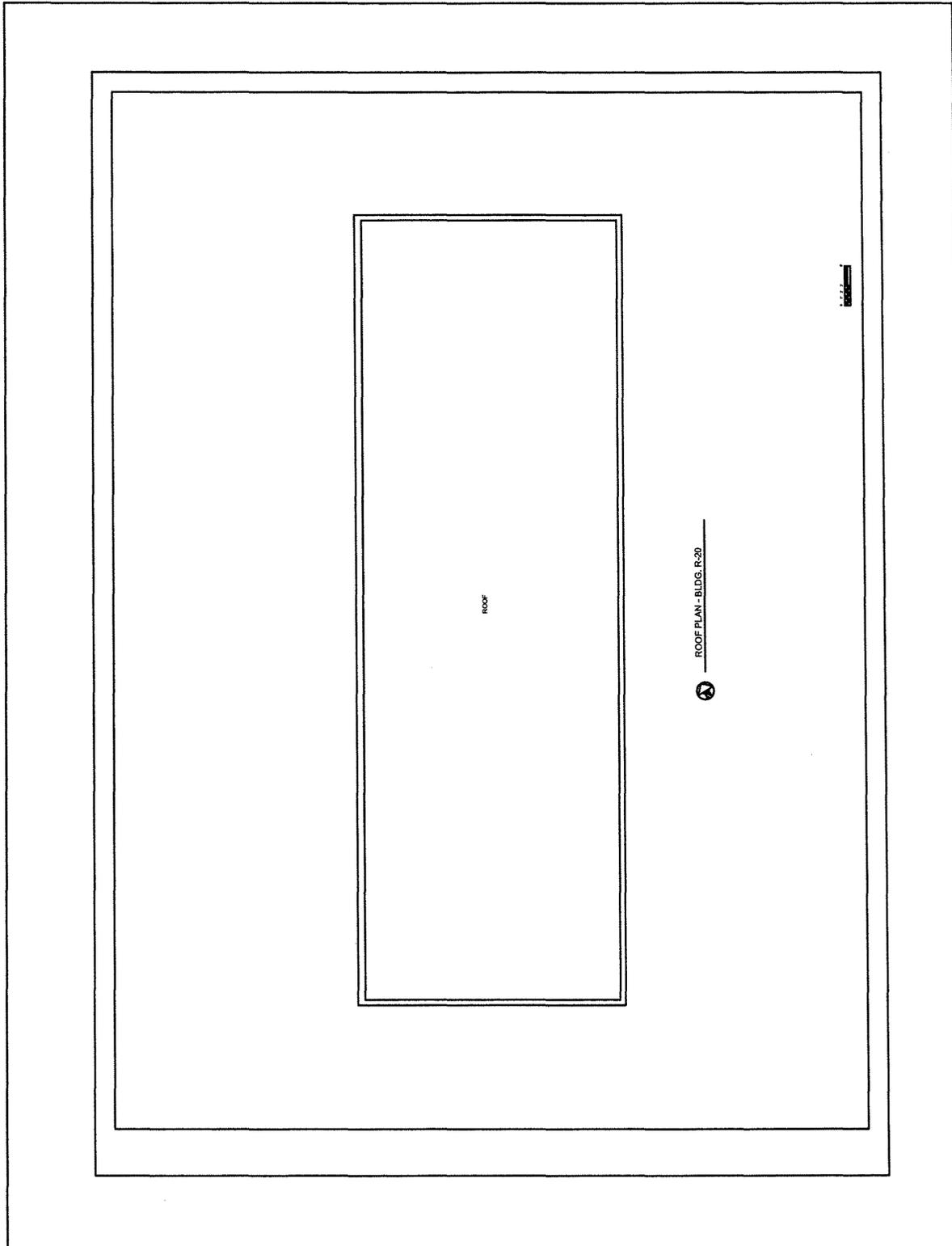




First Floor Plan, Building R-20, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Second Floor Plan, Building R-20, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)



Roof Plan, Building R-20, 1999  
(source: Dewberry & Davis 1999)