

Bureau of Mines Boulder City Experimental **HABS No.** NV-35-H
Station, Annex
(Building No. 800)
Date Street North of U.S. Highway 93
Boulder City
Clark County
Nevada

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BUREAU OF MINES BOULDER CITY EXPERIMENTAL STATION (Date Street Complex) ANNEX BUILDING (Building No. 800)

HABS No. NV-35-H

Location: Date Street Complex, bordered by U.S. Highway 93 Truck Route, and Elm and Date streets
Boulder City, Clark County, Nevada

Building 800 is located in the south central portion of the complex. Building 200 is located to the east, Building 100 is to the southeast, and Building 700 is to the northwest.

Boulder City, Nev., 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, U.S.G.S., 1958, Photorevised 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 11.694550.3983280 (approximate center of building)

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Present Use: Regional Training Center and Photography Department

Significance: Building 800, as part of the Date Street Complex, was part of the Bureau of Mines Electrometallurgical Research Facility located in Boulder City. As such, it is within the designated Boulder City Historic District. Although the building falls within the fifty year age criterion and has been a contributing element of the Bureau of Mines Research Facility, alterations to the exterior (e.g., siding, window and door openings, new entries, raised foundation) and interior have changed its original appearance, and thus, its integrity (Pfaff 1991:2; 1992:4). It is considered as non-contributing to the District. The significance of the Boulder City Historic District is tied to the Boulder Canyon Project (Hoover Dam) and to the history of American City Planning. This was the first community constructed following the federal New Towns model, as well as the "first fully-developed experience in new town planning as promoted by the Community Planning Movement, a movement which is recognized as the force which most influenced contemporary community planning practices" (Woodward et al. 1982:8.1).

Description: Building 800, another building from the Six Companies, Inc., was constructed in 1931 and used by the company as their carpenter shop. It was acquired by the Bureau of Mines in 1938 at a cost of \$6,000 (Metallurgical Division c. 1952:5). Because it was located outside of the Research Facility area, it was broken down into sections for transportation (Pfaff 1992:7). Called the Annex Building, the original use was as an electrolytic manganese pilot plant, but in 1944, it was converted to a special laboratory for station physical chemistry laboratories (Pfaff 1991:4; Metallurgical Division 1952:3, 9). A plan drawing from c. 1953 (NV-35-H-4) shows the internal changes made to the building. The footprint from this drawing shows the building measuring 137 feet long (east/west) by 51 to 54 feet wide (north/south). The current

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building measures 82 feet long (northeast/southwest) by 57 feet wide (northwest/southeast). In addition, the building has been moved slightly to the west of its original location (see Attachment 2, HABS No. NV-35). During the course of renovation of the building in the 1960s, alterations were made to the exterior that included incorporation of a raised concrete block foundation, changing window and door openings, and the addition of new openings.

The basic simple rectangular plan of the steel-frame building with corrugated metal siding (possibly aluminum) has remained unchanged from 1938 to the present. It is a one-story side-gable with a low pitch (7°) roof covered with sheet metal. It has a moderate overhang of approximately 8 inches around the entire building. There are five cylindrical ventilators on the roof ridgeline. On the north roof slope, near the center on the east end, is a square ventilator hood. There are doors on all four elevations, but only the east elevation has windows. The windows are 2-light horizontal slide types in metal frames. The lower portion of the building, approximately 1 to 3½ feet, is concrete block wall painted a dark color.

The primary (front) elevation faces south. Originally, the door was located near the center of the building, although by c. 1953 (NV-35-H-4), there were two entries, both of which were located in the west third of the building. One went into the original building, the other into an addition. There were three large windows on this elevation prior to the 1950s (Pfaff 1991:16), but as part of the renovations between 1963 and 1965, these were removed. Currently, the entry is near the center, offset to the east. It has a set of concrete stairs with a pipe rail and stoop, as well as a ramp for handicap access. The door is hollow metal in a metal frame. A narrow, approximately 4-foot wide landscape area with concrete curb on the east end has been planted with cacti. This curves around to the east elevation.

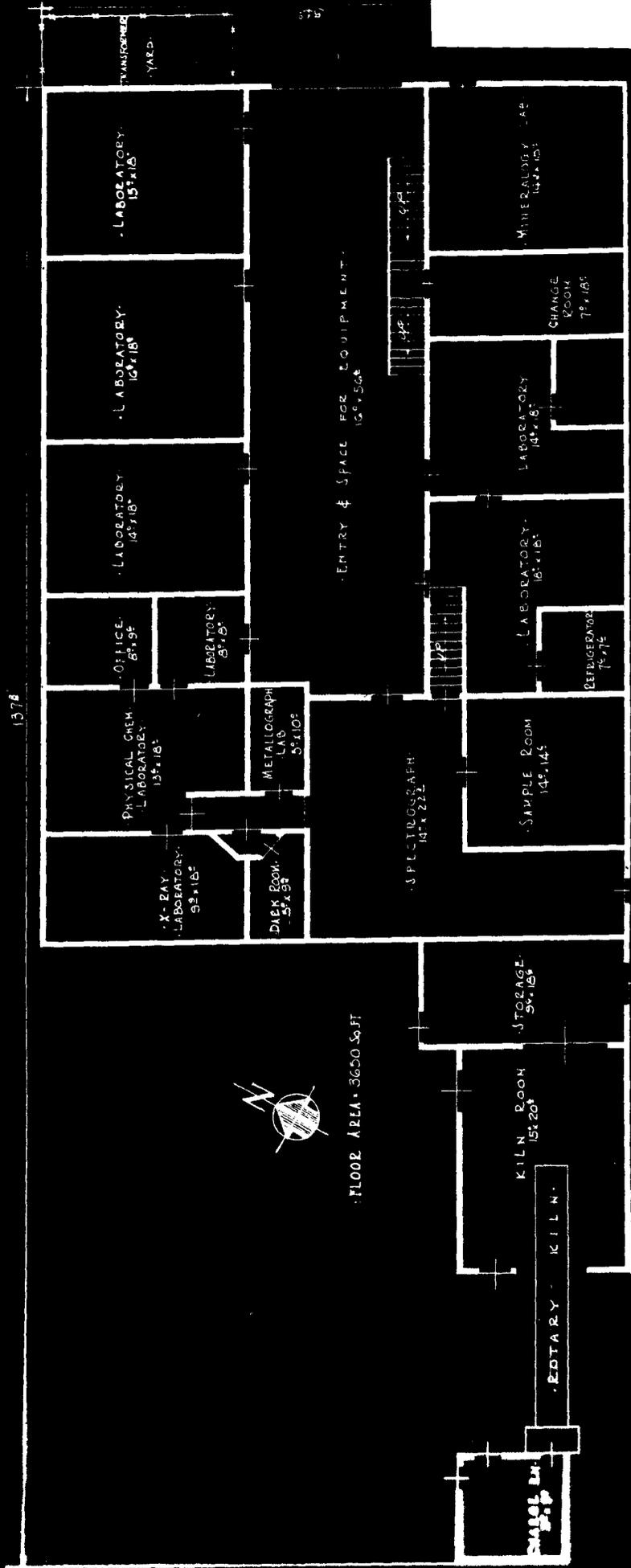
The east elevation has a louvered vent opening on the south end below the gable. A sign with the building number is in the center of the elevation. Patching near the south end suggests the location of a former opening, possibly a door, although a 1939 photograph (Pfaff 1991:16) shows a window in the upper part of that end of the elevation and an oversized door located in the center under the gable peak, which also is present on the c. 1953 plan drawing (NV-35-H-4). A 1952 photograph and the plan drawing (Pfaff 1991:18) both show that a second, smaller door had been added in the south half of the elevation, but it appears to be north of the patch. There are two windows on the north half of the elevation; one is near the center, and the other is close to the north end. They are not symmetrically placed, as there is a door along the north end of the elevation, and the north window is placed south of it. It is a slightly recessed hollow metal door in a metal frame. The landscaping covers a small length of the south end of the elevation before it is replaced by a poured concrete walkway to the door. A concrete wall separates the walkway from the interior complex road, which passes between Buildings 200 and 800. This was where the transformer yard for the Annex was located.

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On the north elevation is a three-part louvered vent just below the roof. The center is horizontal, and the two outside parts are vertical. The vents are located below the square ventilation hood on the roof slope. Near the center of the elevation is a door, which was part of the renovation process as it does not appear on the c. 1953 plan drawing (NV-35-H-4). The door is a half-glass metal in metal frame. Above it to the west is another louvered vent. Pipes are to the east and above the door. On the west is a framed area, possibly a bulletin board, as it is too low for a window. A patch in the siding to the west of this suggests the location of a small, horizontal window. This approximates where a window was located in a c. 1950s photograph (Pfaff 1991:17). A second, multi-light window, since removed, appeared at the northwest corner of the building. The photograph also shows how close the rail line was to Building 800. The concrete block wall/foundation is not as high on this elevation due to a higher ground surface.

The west elevation has a door in the center below the gable peak. It is probably metal in metal frame and has a poured concrete walkway leading to it. Pipes are on the wall above and beside (south) the door. Some of these go into an electrical box. A boarded window is on the south end of the elevation, and there may be a second door just to the north of it. A fence extends out from the southwest corner of the building. There is landscaping on this elevation, too, consisting of cacti placed on either side of the walkway. In the c. 1950s photograph this elevation is obscured by an adjacent gable-roofed shed. The c. 1953 plan drawing (NV-35-H-4) shows no entries on this elevation, either, suggesting that the current entry(s) result from the 1960s building renovation.





ANNEX BUILDING

Photocopy of plan drawing (c. 1953, photocopy in U.S. Bureau of Mines Lab Collection, MS-18, Department of Special Collections, Leid Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas). ANNEX BUILDING