

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, OBSTETRICS WARD  
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 43)  
South side of Park Avenue, Naval Hospital Philadelphia  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6206-D

HABS  
PA-6206-D

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, OBSTETRICS WARD

(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 43) HABS No. PA-6206-D  
Dependent Hospital Unit-Family Facilities

Location: South side of Park Avenue, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

USGS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.484420.4417230

Significance: Building 43, the Obstetrics Ward, dating to 1946, is part of a connected complex of six Dependent Hospital Unit buildings (40 through 45) constructed in 1945 and 1946 to house medical services and patient wards for the dependents of Naval, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel. The Dependent Hospital Unit was designed and built during the wartime and immediate post-war expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia.

Description: The six long, one-story structures that compose the Dependent Hospital Unit are located along the west end of the southern boundary of the Naval Hospital property. Standing parallel to one another with each building aligned on a north-south axis, they are arranged in a row and are connected by a corridor that runs through the south end of each building. The corridor is enabled by the T-shaped design of five of the buildings (40 through 44). Building 45, the Administration Building for the Dependent Hospital Unit and the easternmost of the six buildings, departs from their general pattern in its shape, which is a plain rectangle, and in its ground dimensions, which is somewhat broader than the other buildings. In addition to the cross wing at the south end that houses the connecting corridor and confers the T-shape, each of the buildings has an abbreviated wing projecting eastward from its center.

The exterior and interior architectural detail of Buildings 40 through 45 is typical of the Naval Hospital's wartime construction. The buildings are constructed of concrete-block masonry. The cross-gable roofs are supported by wooden trusses and covered with asphalt shingle over concrete plank. Composition board fills the gables and forms the plain frieze that serves as the cornice treatment. The original wooden window sash and frames are intact; the sash is of the double-hung two-over-two type with the lights aligned horizontally. The window sills are composed of cast concrete. The long roof slopes are punctuated by low, shed-roofed dormer structures housing louvered vents. These dormers are evenly spaced along the length of each building, with three on each westerly slope and two on each easterly slope for Buildings 40 through 44 (the central space on the easterly slope is occupied by the cross gable formed by the wing). A varying number of large metal ventilators are positioned on the roof ridge of each building. An enclosed porch, fitted with two triple windows on each of its three elevations, occupies the north end of each building except Building 45. Entries to each building are located at the north end and within the

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, OBSTETRICS WARD  
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 43)  
HABS No. PA-6206-D  
(Page 2)

connecting corridors at the south end. A structure to extend the connecting corridor eastward to Building 46 (the Veterans' Outpatient Treatment Facilities; HABS No. PA-6206-E) has been added since 1946, as well as a structure connecting the north end of Building 42 to the south end of Building 51, the Occupational Therapy building of the Convalescent Ward.

The major portion of the interior of each building is organized as a central corridor running nearly the full length of the structure and lined with rooms along each side. At the south end, where the connecting corridor for the entire Dependent Hospital Unit runs through the cross wing, an additional pair of rooms is situated on the south side of the connecting corridor. In Buildings 40 through 44, the abbreviated east wing originally contained a central passage flanked by a pair of rooms to each side. In Building 43, the Obstetrics Ward, and Building 44, Surgery, the number of spaces in this wing was later reduced to a side passage and a pair of relatively large delivery or operating rooms. The interior finish of the Dependent Hospital buildings consists largely of asphalt tile floor covering, plasterboard wall surface, and acoustic tile ceiling. It appears likely that in many places the plasterboard represents surviving original finish. The delivery and operating rooms are walled with ceramic tile.

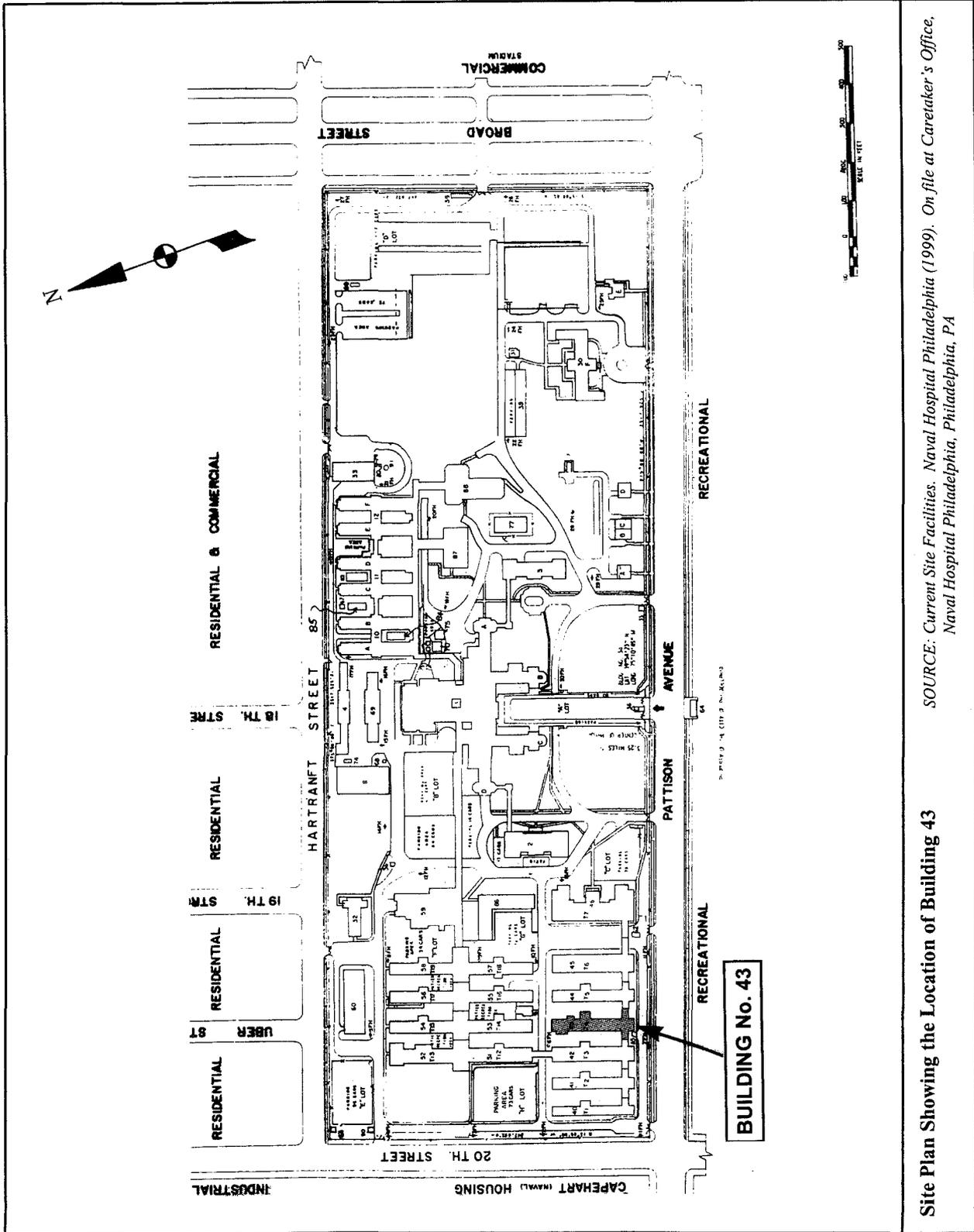
History: The Dependent Hospital Unit was constructed as an element of the expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia that took place during World War II and its immediate aftermath. The design was finished by the firm of Karcher and Smith in October 1944, and construction was completed during 1945 for Buildings 40 and 41, and during 1946 for Buildings 42 through 45. The first three buildings served as patient wards, while Building 43 housed Obstetrics, Building 44 contained Surgery, and Building 45 was the location of Administration, Outpatient Services, Laboratory, and Pharmacy. In recent years (circa 1980 onward), Buildings 40 through 44 were employed as laboratory space for ship equipment and electronics systems work, while Building 45 continued to function as a hospital ward and administrative space.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Cultural Resources Survey Form, Buildings 40 through 45, Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1993.

Original architectural and engineering drawings, Bureau of Yards and Docks Nos. 345569 through 345599 (1944). On file at the Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Historian: Philip E. Pendleton, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., September 1999

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, OBSTETRICS WARD  
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 43)  
HABS No. PA-6206-D  
(Page 3)



Site Plan Showing the Location of Building 43  
SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at Caretaker's Office, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA