

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA,  
VETERANS' OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FACILITIES  
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 46)  
South side of Hodges Loop, Naval Hospital Philadelphia  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6206-E

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PA-6206-E

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, VETERANS' OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FACILITIES (Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 46) HABS No. PA-6206-E

Location: South side of Hodges Loop, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

USGS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.484500.4417200

Significance: Building 46, constructed in 1945 to house outpatient facilities for veterans of service in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, was designed and built during the wartime expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia.

Description: Building 46 is located along the southern boundary of the Naval Hospital property, between the Dependent Hospital Unit (Buildings 40 through 45) to the west and the front plaza of the original Hospital complex to the east. Two stories in height with a cross-gable roof, the building is constructed of concrete-block masonry on an E-shaped plan. The wings of the "E" extend eastward, with the center wing abbreviated in comparison to the end wings and limited to one-story in height. The end wings terminate in short, narrower stairwell sections. The principal entry leads into the center wing, with secondary entries at either end of the main block and at the end of either wing. At some date after 1946, a one-story structure was built connecting the south end of Building 46 with that of Building 45.

The building's exterior and interior architectural detail are typical of the Naval Hospital's wartime construction. Supported by wooden trusses, the roof of Building 46 is 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. Low, shed-roofed dormer structures fitted with louvered vents are positioned on the roof, along with several large metal ventilators. The interior finish of the Veterans' Outpatient Treatment Facilities building 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.

As originally constructed, the chief organizing plan element on both the first and second floors was an L-shaped corridor running the length of the main block and the north wing; this passage was lined by rooms on both sides. The rooms along the corridor on the first floor were mostly offices and examining rooms, with a large waiting room occupying the one-story center wing; the second-floor rooms consisted of clinics, waiting areas, and laboratories. The spatial arrangement of the south wing

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was that of one large open space on the first floor, punctuated by supporting columns and employed as the Records Office. On the second floor the south wing was taken up by the Physiotherapy department, with therapy rooms and booths organized around a large exercise area toward the west and a smaller hallway toward the east. The means of access between floors consists of an elevator and an adjacent stairway at the center of the main block, two stairways located at the respective ends of the main block, and two more that occupy the spaces at the ends of the north and south wings. The spatial arrangement and function of Building 46 appear to have continued with relatively little alteration through the building's history of use, except that at some date the south wing was reconfigured, with both floors organized as corridors lined with rooms on both sides, thus creating a continuous corridor through the overall building.

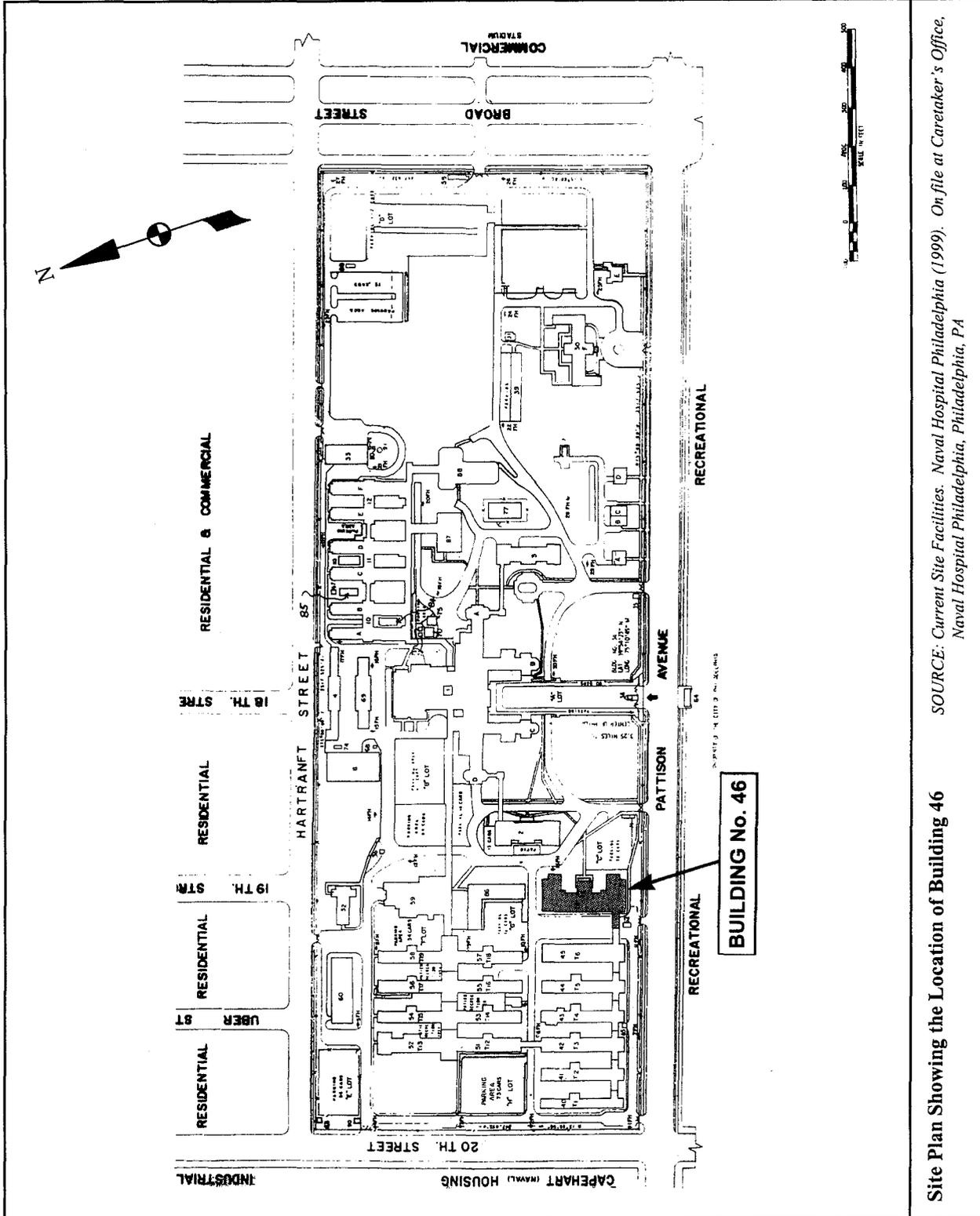
History: The Veterans' Outpatient Treatment Facilities building was constructed as an element of the expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia that took place during World War II and its immediate aftermath. The design was finished by the firm of Karcher and Smith in November 1944, and construction of the building was completed during 1945. Building 46 housed a variety of services employed in the continuing medical treatment of veterans, including examinations, X-ray photography and processing and other diagnostic laboratory work, physiotherapy, and related administrative activity. Building 46 continued to serve these functions through the active history of the overall Naval Hospital complex.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Cultural Resources Survey Form, Building 46, Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1993.

Original architectural and engineering drawings, Bureau of Yards and Docks Nos. 345520 through 345532 (1944). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

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Site Plan Showing the Location of Building 46  
 SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at Caretaker's Office,  
 Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA