

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, GALLEY AND MESS HALL
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 59)
South side of Myers Road, Naval Hospital Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6206-G

HABS

PA-6206-G

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, GALLEY AND MESS HALL

(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 59) HABS No. PA-6206-G

Location: South side of Myers Road, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

USGS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.484520.4417340

Significance: Building 59, constructed in 1945 to serve as the Naval Hospital's main location for providing meal service to staff and patients, was designed and built as an element in the wartime expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia.

Description: Building 59 is located between Myers Road, an internal Naval Hospital roadway that curves around Building 59 on the north and east, and the Convalescent Wards complex (Buildings 51 through 58) to the south and southwest. Building 59 is a 1½-story structure of irregular shape with a parapeted pitched roof of so gentle a slope that it lies nearly flat. The lateral axis of the building is aligned running north to south. The front of the building, i.e., the location of main public access, is to the south, where it intersects with the long east-west connecting corridor structure that also serves as the arterial corridor for the Convalescent Wards. The Convalescent Wards, the connecting corridor structure, and Building 59 were designed and erected as coordinated elements in the same installment of the Naval Hospital's construction program. From the front of Building 59, the connecting corridor structure extends eastward to cross over Myers Road and meet with Building 1, the main Naval Hospital building (HABS No. PA-6206-A).

The height of Building 59 varies from one section to another, as determined by the function of the areas within. Adjoining the connecting corridor, the south end of the building is one story in height. This public vestibule section contained four entry-exit passages, two cloak rooms, two toilet rooms, and a utility room. The greater central portion of the building originally contained the spacious southerly mess hall and northerly galley sections, with a passage for meal-service carts running along the west side of both sections; this central portion reaches 1½ stories. The mess hall and galley sections are built in skewed alignment, with the galley standing slightly to the west of the somewhat broader mess hall, creating the irregular shape of the building. The one-story north end of the building, somewhat narrower than the galley area, was originally occupied by storage for the galley and was arranged as a network of numerous small chambers and passages. A centrally positioned, recessed loading dock of cast concrete is located on the exterior of the north end.

Building 59's construction and its exterior and interior detail are similar to other buildings added to the Naval Hospital during World War II. It is built of concrete-

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block masonry with the roof supported by wooden trusses and covered with a built-up asphalt surface. A large metal ventilator rises from the roof in a central position. Columns and beams of reinforced concrete lend additional interior support to the structure. The roof parapet is composed of cast concrete, as are the window sills and lintels. The fenestration is irregular, as determined by interior function, with double ranks of two-over-two double-hung sash extending upward to the tall, original ceiling for the mess hall and galley areas, single pieces of two-over-two sash in other areas, and an absence of fenestration for refrigerated portions of the storage section. The original wooden window sash and frames are intact.

As originally constructed, the interior finish of Building 59 consisted largely of asphalt tile floor covering, with ceramic tile for the galley floor, and plasterboard for the wall and ceiling surfaces. The galley floor tile, the ceiling of the 1½-story areas, and the inner wall face of the structural walls are mostly intact, although the building has been extensively renovated over the decades. New ceilings of single-story height have been installed almost throughout the former 1½-story areas, and the mess hall has been subdivided into a number of rooms. The galley's ranges, ovens, and other cooking equipment have been removed, as well as the refrigeration equipment and fittings for the storage area.

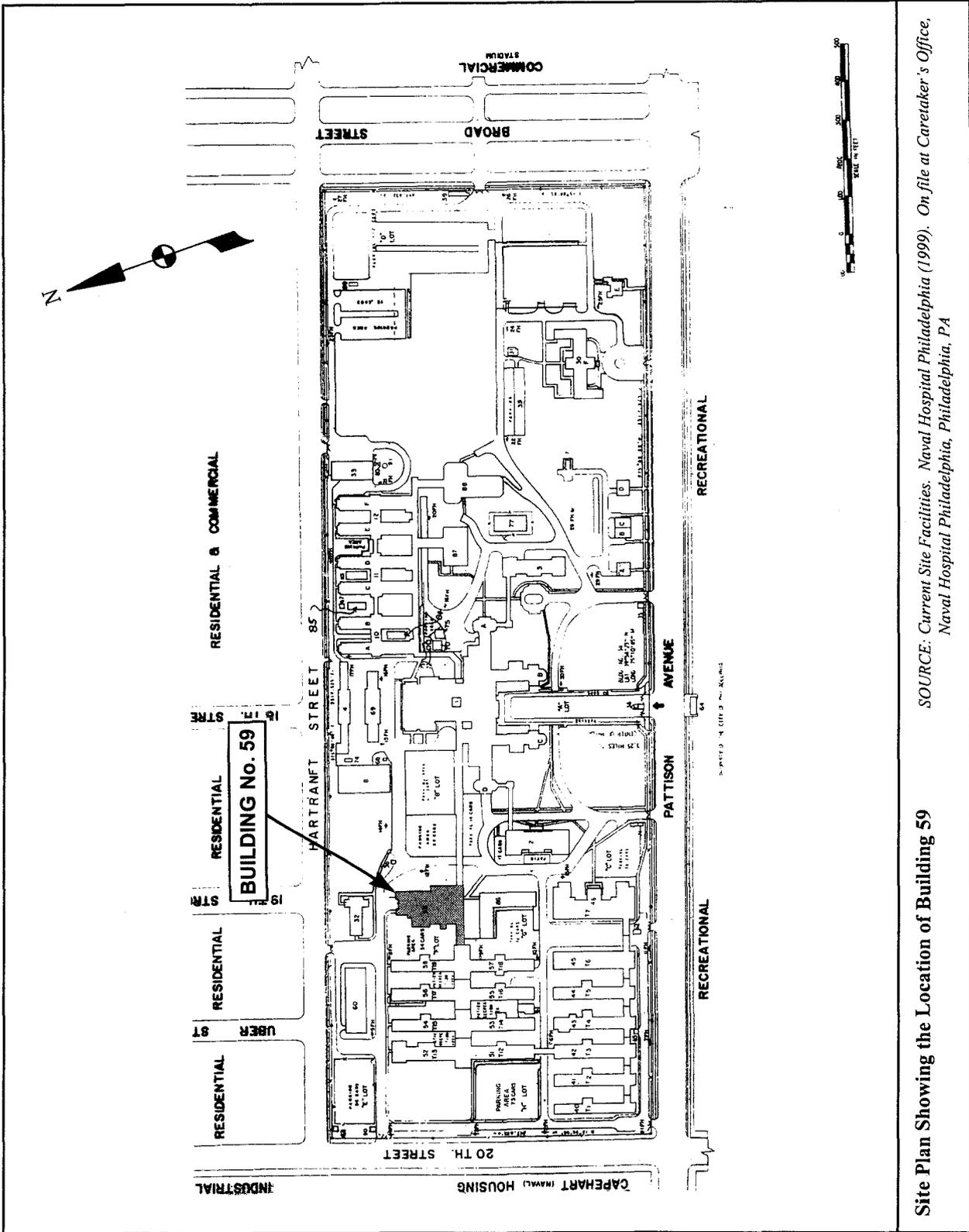
History: Building 59, the Galley and Mess Hall, was constructed as an element of the wartime expansion of Naval Hospital Philadelphia. The design was finished by the firm of Karcher and Smith in November 1944, and construction was completed during 1945. In recent years (circa 1980 onward), Building 59 was the location of the hospital laundry, with a snack bar occupying a portion of the former mess hall.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Cultural Resources Survey Form, Building 59, Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1993.

Original architectural and engineering drawings, Bureau of Yards and Docks Nos. 345605 through 345634 (1944). On file at the 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 59
 SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at Caretaker's Office,
 Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA