

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER,  
BARRACKS O  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center,  
Building 67)

HABS NO. VA-1210-C

Located between Black Avenue on the north and  
Averill Avenue on the south  
Hampton <sup>City</sup>  
~~Hampton County~~  
Virginia

HABS  
VA  
28-HAMP  
3C-

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, P.A. 19106

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER , BARRACKS O  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building 67)

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Location: Located between Black Avenue on the north and Averill Avenue on the south, Hampton, ~~Hampton County~~, Virginia

USGS Hampton, VA Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates  
18.381340.4097300

Significance: Building 67 was built in 1910 as the east structure of a pair of mirror-image barracks: Barracks O (Building 67) and Barracks G (Building 66). Both structures were built during the a 1906-12 modernization of the Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) -- later renamed the Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. The Southern Branch Home, founded in 1870, was the fourth in a series of eleven branches designed to serve the disabled veteran of the Civil War. It was made possible by Congressional legislation passed in 1865, which established regional-based soldiers' homes. The Southern Branch Home represents the first soldiers' home to be built specifically to care for this nation's African-American veterans. Building 67 (and its twin) were designed by noted Portland, Maine architect John Calvin Stevens and were two of eight barracks he designed for the campus modernization. The entire set of barracks were built in three stages: Buildings 69, 70, and 71 in 1908, Buildings 66 and 67 in 1910, and Buildings 43, 50, and 52 in 1912. The buildings within each of the sets are identical, while comparisons between sets show slight variations in architectural execution (rather than in floor plan). Building 67 represents the expansion and orderly growth of the Southern Branch due to new Home admission policies. The barracks were the first grouping of non-wood barracks at the Home. The use of brick was intended to prevent the spread of fire. The barracks were well-lighted from natural illumination through long windows, and had porches and cross breezes for good ventilation. On the interior, glazed wall tiles were used to promote easy cleaning. The barracks were military in feel, but were designed in the regional vernacular, the Colonial Revival.

Description: Building 67 is a two-and-a-half story, brick, cross hipped-roof structure based on a rectangular plan with short cross axis. The building retains most of its original architectural character. It is seventeen bays long and three bays deep. The windows on the first and second floor are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash with stone-haunch-block lintels and sills. First-floor windows feature a transom. Window heads on the first floor are segmental, while those on the second floor are flat-arched. Current windows are new units: aluminum frames and sash with fake muntins.

Door openings are located on all four sides. There is a handicapped accessible entrance on the east side of the building. The porch on the east face has been enclosed and glazed with triple windows. The dormers on the east and west walls are different: the east features a Flemish treatment while that of the west is a pediment. Today, the building is connected to Building 66 via a one-story, enclosed brick link. On the interior, the barracks were originally arranged with a central lounge and flanking open dormitories on both floors. Today, the interior is outfitted with movable office partitions. The original interior glazed-brick wall surfaces remain in the lobbies (first and second level) and in the corridors. A central stair connects the floor levels.

History:

In 1900, all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors (whether volunteer or Regular) who had served in any war and were disabled such that they had no means of making a living were eligible for admission into the Home system. In 1906, Governor Thomas Knox hired Portland, Maine architect John Calvin Stevens to prepare a plan for improvements to the Southern Branch Home, and to design new buildings in accordance with the plan. As part of those improvements, Stevens designed three different sets of barracks, based on a Colonial Revival treatment and a standard floor plan of his own design (i.e., not specifically an Army or Soldiers' Home standard plan): Barracks 69, 70, and 71 were constructed in 1908 along with a Mess Hall (Building 72); Barracks 66 and 67 were built in 1910; and Barracks 43, 50, and 52 were built in 1912. Building 67 remained a barracks for many years (housing first Company O and then Company 4). More recently, it has been used as an outpatient clinic.

Sources:

Material on John Calvin Stevens from Earle Shettleworth, Director, Maine State Historic Preservation Office.  
Photographic Collection, Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center.  
Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1908-1912.  
Plan Room, Department of Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C.  
(No original plans exist for this building.)

Historian:

Elizabeth Jo Lampl, Robinson & Associates, Inc., 1994.



SOUTHERN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR THE DISABLED  
VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS, BARRACKS O  
(Southern Branch of the National Home for the Disable Volunteer  
Soldiers, Building No. 67)  
(Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Barracks O, Building 67)  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center, Barracks O)  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 67)  
Hampton  
Virginia

HABS VA-1210-c  
VA, 28-HAMP, 3C

Addendum to  
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, BARRACKS O  
(Building No. 67)  
Hampton  
Virginia

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SOUTHERN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER  
SOLDIERS, BARRACKS O  
(Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Building No. 67)  
(Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Barracks O, Building No. 67)  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center, Barracks O)  
(Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building No. 67)

Addendum to  
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, BARRACKS O  
(Building No. 67)

HABS No. VA-1210-C

Since the completion of the original HABS documentation, research reveals that this structure was recorded under an incorrect name. The historic name of the structure is the Southern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, not Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. The name has been changed to reflect this.