

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL, PHARMACIST'S QUARTERS H  
Williamson Drive  
Portsmouth *Independent City*  
~~Portsmouth County~~  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1287-S

HABS  
VA  
65-PORTM,  
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL HOSPITAL,  
PHARMACIST'S QUARTERS H HABS NO. VA-1287-S

HA  
VA  
65-PORTAL  
25-

Location: Williamson Drive, Portsmouth Naval Hospital,  
Portsmouth, ~~Portsmouth County~~, Virginia  
UTM: 18.383260.4078050  
QUAD: Norfolk South, VA

Significance: A representative example of Colonial Revival-style residential architecture of the early twentieth century, Pharmacist's Quarters H is significant as part of a row of five similar residences built to house U.S. Naval officers and their families.

Description: Pharmacist's Quarters H is a mirror image of Pharmacist's Quarters G, and identical to Pharmacist's Quarters F. Pharmacist's Quarters H is located facing north onto Williamson Drive in the southern portion of the Portsmouth Naval Hospital complex.

Pharmacist's Quarters H is a two-story, double-pile residence with a side-gabled roof. The residence, which extends three bays on the north and south elevations and two on the east and west, features a Colonial Revival-style door surround, two one-story, flat-roofed, enclosed side porches on the east and west elevations, and a later, one-story, attached, brick utility shed on the south (rear) elevation. The six-course, American bond, red brick residence sits on a raised poured-concrete water table topped by a stretcher-bond belt course. Most of the windows are six-over-six wood sash with flat brick arches, and precast-concrete sills. There is a belt course of header-bond brick at the second floor window-sill level. The roof has slate shingles, end gables, and wood cornices with returns. There is one interior end chimney on the east, and a brick flue on the south elevation.

The front facade (north elevation) is asymmetrical and features a pedimented, wood door surround with Tuscan pilasters and a denticulated cornice at the entrance in the western bay. Three concrete steps and a landing with black wrought-iron railings lead to the six-paneled wood entrance door which has a round-arched, leaded-glass transom. The two first-floor windows occur in the central and east bays; the three second-floor windows are located directly above the first-floor openings, although the window in the west bay is somewhat smaller than the other two.

The east elevation features in its north bay an enclosed, one-story, flat-roofed, wood porch, three bays wide by one bay deep. The porch has engaged, square Tuscan columns between each bay and at the corners, and an entablature with a two-fascia architrave,

plain frieze, and projecting cornice. The porch enclosure consists of a wood wainscot with recessed metal panels, and altered one-over-one, aluminum sash storm windows above. A window occurs in the south bay on the first floor. The two windows at the second floor are arranged symmetrically; the end-gable has an altered, brick semi-circular arched opening with a contrasting, precast-concrete keystone and sill.

The south elevation has a later one-story, one-bay, gable-roofed, attached, brick utility shed near the southwest corner that houses a water heater; a wood-paneled, hinged entry hatch to the crawl space is located just east of this addition. The two windows at the first floor and three windows at the second floor are arranged symmetrically, with the first-floor window in the west bay somewhat smaller than its counterpart in the east bay.

The west elevation has a one-bay deep, one-bay wide, enclosed, wood porch in the south bay. The porch has similar detailing to that on the east elevation, and has an entrance door on the north with four lights over two wood panels, a rectangular, four-light transom, projecting wood cornice, a landing with three concrete steps, and black, galvanized pipe stair railings. A small, four-light casement window occurs on the first floor just north of the porch. In the north bay between the first and second floors, a window with a blind, round-headed arch and contrasting keystone lights the interior stair hall. The second floor has one window in the south bay; the end gable has been altered to accommodate a rectangular, louvered, metal vent.

The plan of Pharmacist's Quarters H is a typical double-pile, side-hall layout featuring a two-story staircase. The first-floor rooms include the living room east of the hall, the dining room at the southeast corner, the kitchen at the end of the hall, and a half bath located under the stairs. Three bedrooms and a bathroom are located on the second floor; access to the attic is from a ceiling hatch above the second-floor stair landing.

The interior has varnished pine floors (although the halls and stairs are carpeted), white plaster walls, and Colonial Revival-style wood details. The majority of the doors are five-paneled wood. The door and window surrounds at both the first and second floors are plain wood, without beading or moldings. Generously proportioned, two-fascia baseboards occur at both the first and second floors. Located above the first-floor windows are Colonial Revival-type, scrolled-wood boxes containing curtain tracks for

draperies. Cast-iron radiators and free-standing, wood radiator covers with stamped metal grilles are located beneath many of the windows.

The staircase rises one story from the west wall of the hall. The staircase features a rounded wood banister, rectangular-sawn balusters, a bracketed wood stair, square baluster posts on each landing, and a square newel post on a plinth, with recessed panels, a cornice, and a rounded newel-post cap.

A large, rectangular opening in the east wall of the hall gives access to the living room and provides an unobstructed view of the east living room wall which features a centered Colonial Revival-style wood mantel with Tuscan pilasters, a one-fascia architrave, a plain frieze, and projecting cornice. A built-in wood bookcase flanks the north end of the mantel, while the paneled, wood door to the east porch is at the southern end. The dining room, which has a large, rectangular opening from the living room, features a Colonial Revival-style corner cupboard (southeast) with a traceried arched glass door, flanking pilasters, and a Chippendale-type broken pediment. The kitchen, which has a door from the dining room, has built-in wood cabinets and provides access to the adjacent west porch. Original and later plans indicate that kitchen alterations have occurred at various times, most recently in 1982.

The three bedrooms are located at the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the second floor; all the bedrooms have closets. The bathroom, which is at the top of the stairs at the northwest corner, has a white tiled floor decorated with a contrasting geometric pattern of green tile, and white tiled walls with green tile trim. Original plans suggest that later alterations to the bathroom have occurred, including the addition of a shower.

Pharmacist's Quarters H faces north onto Williamson Drive, a tree-lined avenue with traditional lampposts and concrete sidewalks. Two concrete sidewalks lead directly from the street to the house: the first extends to the front door; the second extends to the west porch off the kitchen and continues to the utility shed at the rear of the building. The front yard is planted with grass. Hollies flank the front entrance, and azaleas are planted along the front foundation. Various shrubs occur along the foundations of the west and east porches. There is a wood-frame outbuilding with a front-gabled roof in the southwest corner of the lot. A gravel lot recently has been laid northwest of the residence in preparation for the

demolition of Quarters D through H. A six-foot-high chain-link fence runs behind Quarters D through H, along the rear property line.

History:

Construction of the row of five quarters at the southwestern boundary of the Naval Hospital Complex occurred during a period of major expansion (1926-1928) that also included construction of new facilities for the Hospital Corps School. Original drawings show the porches enclosed by four-light casement windows above a wainscot, a wood balustrade on the roof of the east porch, and semicircular, traceried windows on the end gables. Built in 1928 for one of three Commissioned Chief Warrant Officers, known as Chief of Pharmacists, Pharmacist's Quarters H served until recently as a Senior Officer's Quarters. It is now vacant in preparation for demolition. Original shop drawings by Portsmouth Lumber Corporation indicate the General Contractor for Quarters D-H was Harrison M. Lucas of Portsmouth, Virginia. Designed by the United States Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, the property is owned by the United States Department of the Navy with caretaker responsibility assigned to the Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Portsmouth.

Sources:

Class 2 Property Record, Public Works Office, Portsmouth Naval Hospital.

Conaway, Captain T. H., Jr., "First and Finest Facts," Hospital Points (September/October 1990): 1.

Hanberry, Paul, Sr., owner of Portsmouth Lumber Corporation, Portsmouth, VA. Telephone interview February 25, 1991.

Portsmouth Lumber Corporation. "F. S. & Scale Sections & Elevations of Entrance Columns & Pilasters For Junior Officers Quarters, Naval Hospital, Norfolk, VA." Original construction drawings submitted by H. M. Lucas, General Contractor. U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Construction, Construction Battalion Center, Civil Engineering Support Office, Port Hueneme, CA.

U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards & Docks. "Pharmacist's Quarters, Elevations," (March 17, 1928). U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Construction, Construction Battalion Center, Civil Engineering Support Office, Port Hueneme, CA.

U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards & Docks.  
"Pharmacist's Quarters, Plans," (March 17, 1928). U.S. Navy,  
Navy Facilities Construction, Construction Battalion Center, Civil  
Engineering Support Office, Port Hueneme, CA.

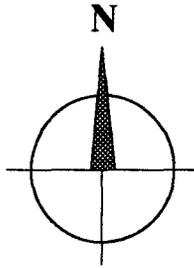
U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards & Docks. "Quarters  
Plot Plan," (March 17, 1927). U.S. Navy, Navy Facilities  
Construction, Construction Battalion Center, Civil Engineering  
Support Office, Port Hueneme, CA.

Historian:

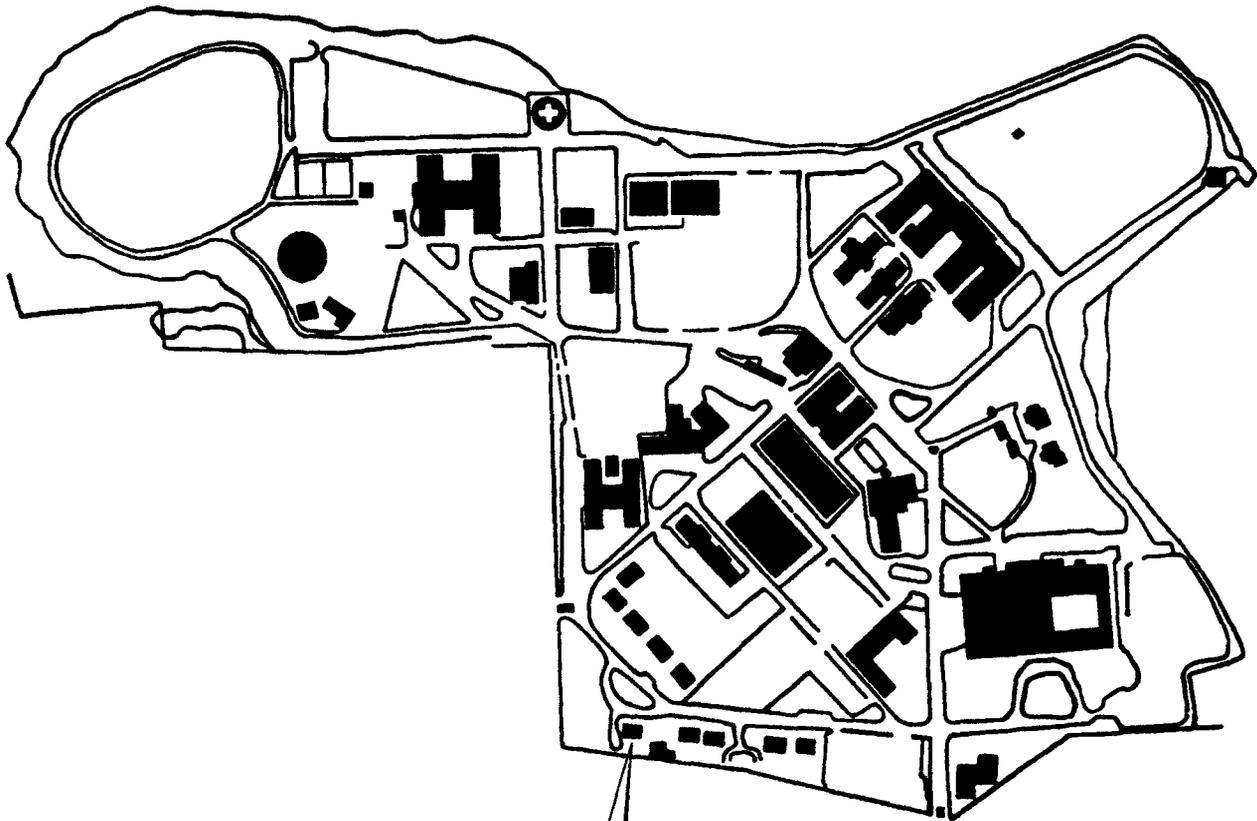
M. J. Wuellner, Land and Community Associates, January 1991.

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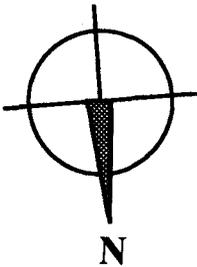
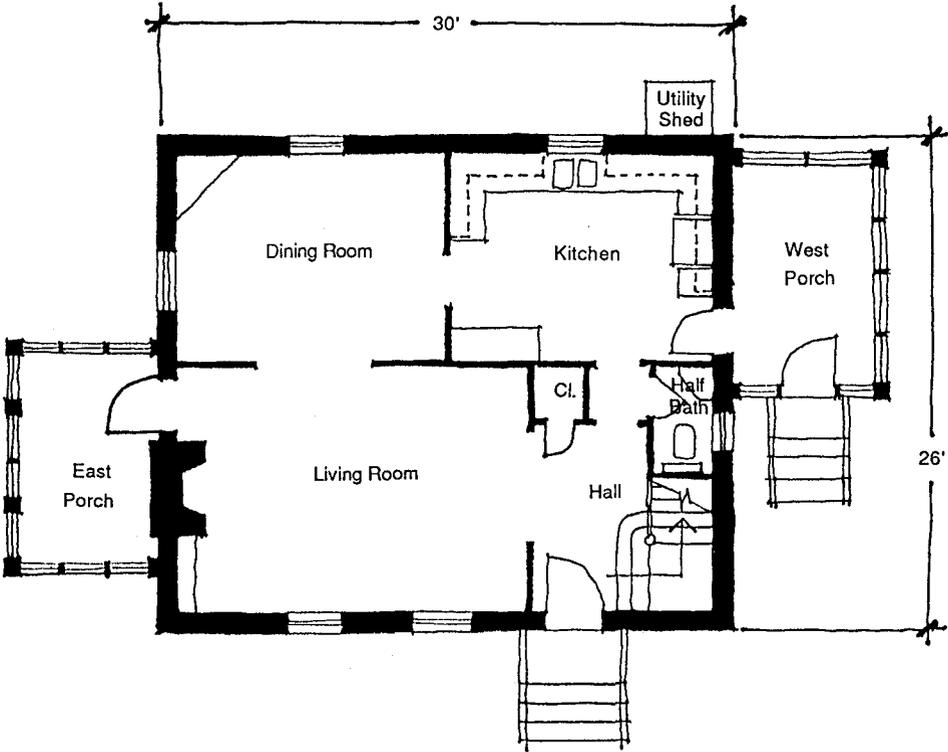


# NAVAL HOSPITAL Portsmouth, Virginia

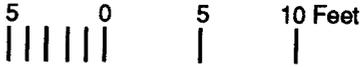


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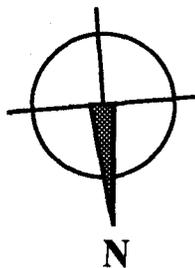
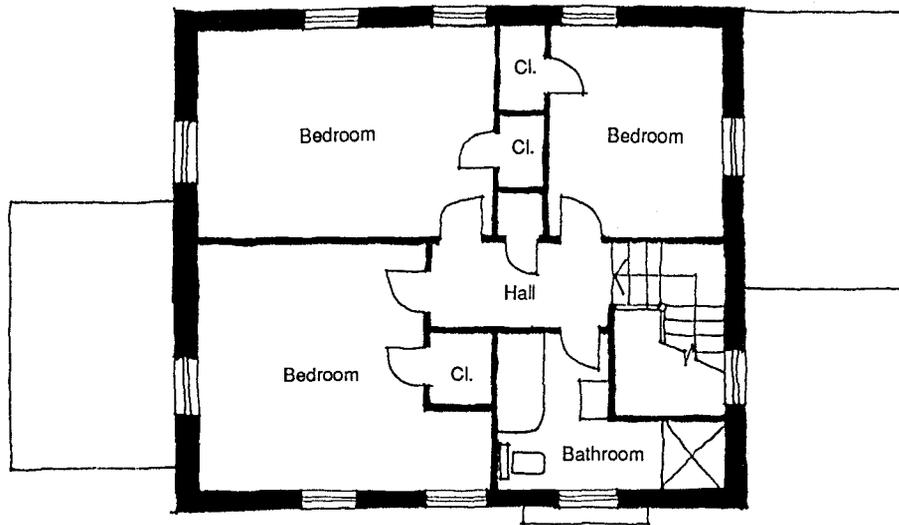


PHARMACIST'S QUARTERS H  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

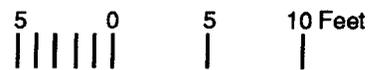


Scale: 1" = 10 feet

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PHARMACIST'S QUARTERS H  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Scale: 1" = 10 feet