

U.S. Naval Air Station,
Storehouse Building (Building 25)
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FL-237

HABS
FLA,
17-PENSA,
87-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

PHOTOGRAPHS...

HABS
FLA
17-PENSA
87-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FL-237

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION,
STOREHOUSE BUILDING
(BUILDING 25)

Location:

U.S. Naval Air Station,
Pensacola, Escambia County,
Florida.

Present Owner:

Commanding Officer.

Present Use:

Administrative offices and cafeteria

Significance:

The storehouse, built in 1848 and rebuilt in 1868, is an example of an early military utilitarian architecture. Extensively altered over the years, the building originally had sliding doors with multi-paned transoms on front and rear elevations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1848; rebuilt 1868.
2. Architect: The basic design of the building strongly suggests that it was modeled on a Thomas U. Walter design. Walter was an architect employed by the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Storehouse Building has been the property of the U.S. Navy since construction.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Construction was done by craftsmen and laborers employed by the Navy under the supervision of the Civil Engineer.
5. Original plans and construction: Building 25 was originally constructed in 1848. With the exception of the two large cisterns on the west end of the building, it was partially destroyed in 1862 when the Confederates evacuated the Navy Yard. In 1868 a liberal appropriation was made which permitted the reconstruction of several buildings, including Building 25.

Today, known as an office building, it has a total area of 36,844 square feet equally divided between the two floors each with 18,422 square feet. There is an area of approximately 40' x 60' on the west end of the second floor, the area above the two old cisterns, which is not being utilized at the present time. No

accurate figures are available on construction costs, but it is estimated that there is currently an investment of \$142,224 in the building.

6. Alterations and additions: The building was used as a storehouse from 1868 until the early part of the twentieth century when it was converted into a Seamen's barracks. While no details on the alterations are currently available, it is obvious that considerable work was required.

In 1939, about two-thirds of the first floor was converted into a civilian cafeteria. The rest of the first floor was made into storage, office and shop rooms.

Some time prior to 1945, the cisterns on the west end of the first floor were adapted into storage and office space. A ceiling was installed in order to divide the cisterns into upper and lower floors. Doors were cut through the exterior and cistern walls to provide access to the first floor rooms converted from the cisterns. The upper story over the cisterns which contains an area approximately 40' x 60' is not in use and there are no doors or other convenient entrances to that area.

In 1957 the second floor of the building was renovated for the use of the Industrial Relations Office, now the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office. Dropped ceilings and suitable partitions were installed to provide office space. The cost of renovation was \$23,200.

The building's exterior was altered in 1960 when the original brick parapets were removed and the roof extended at the same slope about two feet beyond the exterior wall.

In 1963 the Household Effects Branch moved into the building, and renovation for this new tenant cost \$2,255.

The Safety Office returned to the building in 1965 and \$1,480 was required to provide suitable facilities for this office.

Also, in 1965, part of the second floor was renovated at a cost of \$5,354. Acoustical ceiling, fluorescent lighting and paneling were installed to modernize about one-third of the space assigned to the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office.

Although no date has been assigned for it, at some time the area on the east end of the second floor porch was enclosed for a conference room and for storage space. Additional electric power needs by 1968 required that a small concrete block enclosure (18'-6" x 12') be built on the east end of the porch on the first floor. It is used as an electric power transformer room.

B. Historical Context:

A floor plan (ca. 1870-72) shows about one-third of the first and second floors utilized to store provisions and clothing, and about one-sixth of the two floors assigned respectively to Yards and Docks, Equipment and Recruiting and Station Engineering. Station Engineering also utilized the east end of the second floor. The northeast corner of the first floor was used as a Navigation Office and Navigation Storeroom. The southeast corner was assigned to the Paymaster. A vault was located under the steps on the east end of the building.

In 1878 plans were made to consolidate Buildings 1 and 25 by erecting a three-story structure between them, thereby forming one large building which was to be the consolidated storehouse. These plans never materialized.

In 1907, the building was classified as the General Storekeeper's storehouse. Within the next 2-3 years, however, part of the building, probably the second floor, was being used as a Seamen's Barracks.

Following the reopening of the station the building was designated as Enlisted Barracks in 1915. A 1917 floor plan shows the first floor with two large barracks rooms, a barber shop, ship's store, commissary, toilets and washroom. The same floor plan shows the second floor with four large barracks rooms, Chaplain's office, two lavatories, toilet and washroom.

About 1921 the building was designated as Marine Barracks and it so remained until 1939. An oft repeated statement that the lower floor had at one time been used as a horse stable could not be confirmed by the records.

In 1939 about two-thirds of the first floor was converted into a civilian cafeteria as plans were made for the expansion of the Naval Air Station and the augmentation of a large civilian work force aboard the station. There was also a tailor shop at the northeast corner of the first floor. Eventually two cafeterias were operating in the building, one for black and one for white employees. These were later consolidated into one cafeteria. Since 1939, much of the first floor has been used as a cafeteria with appropriate kitchens, storage and office spaces. The west end of the first floor, about one-third of the space, has been devoted to storage rooms, offices and shops. In 1945, there were two storage rooms, a tool room and a cabinet shop, the latter apparently part of the Station Hobby Shop, in the west end of the first floor. Also, in 1945, the second floor was divided between black and white barracks rooms with appropriate washroom facilities.

In 1947, several rooms on the first floor were being used by the Hobby Shop. The upstairs was in use as an Information and Education Office including testing rooms with some of the second floor also devoted to the Hobby Shop. Woodworking, metal, photo and machine hobby shops were in the building at this time. In 1955 the Information and Education Office moved out and some of the rooms were assigned for training and instructional purposes. Simulated flight training was housed in the first floor at the same time. The following year the second floor was assigned to the Public Works Center and in 1957 the training offices were required to relocate. The Public Works Center then moved some of its administrative offices into the upper floor. In 1957 the second floor of the building was renovated for the use of the Industrial Relations Office, now the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office. In the same year the Safety Office moved to the second floor of the building but left in 1962. In 1965 the Safety Office returned to Building 25, but this time was given space on the first floor which was renovated for its use. Simulated flight training moved out and that space on the first floor was given to the Pen Air Credit Union which remained there until 1963.

In 1961 utilization of the building was as follows:

First Floor	Civilian Cafeteria	75%
	Credit Union	10%
	Safety Shoe Store	10%
	Unused	5%
Second Floor	Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office:	
	Office Space	85%
	Conference Rooms	15%

With the movement of the Credit Union in 1963, the Household Effects Branch moved in. The Safety Shoe Store also left the building in 1963 and that space was assigned to the Household Effects Branch for file and records storage.

A variety of activities have and now occupy some of the rooms in the building. For example, the Officers Wives League about 1966 used one of the rooms for its meetings on occasion. The old cistern on the southwest corner is now a store room for Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office. The former tailor shop on the northeast corner is being used for storage by the Public Works Pipe Shop. The northwest corner (cistern) is now used by Data Processing for a storage area. The first floor still houses a number of tenants with diverse interests, while the second floor is being utilized exclusively by the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office.

At the present time (July 1972) use of the building is as follows:

First Floor	Civilian Cafeteria	70%
	Safety Office	10%
	Data Processing	
	Offices & Storage	15%
	Storage (Pipe Shop, etc.)	5%
Second Floor	Consolidated	
	Civilian	
	Personnel Office	
	Office Space	75%
	Conference Rooms	15%
	Unused (area above cisterns)	10%

In Mrs. Foley's unpublished typescript which is now housed at the Naval Air Station Library, it is apparent that her claim that the building "has served more departments than perhaps any other", seems well founded.

Prepared by: Dr. William S. Coker
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building 25, a long rectangular two-story structure, was originally built in 1848 and used as a provisions storehouse with two cisterns constructed into the west end. All of the building, except the cisterns on the west, was probably destroyed during the Civil War. It was built in 1868 as a general storehouse. The exterior has lost original roof parapets, while the interior has been extensively remodeled.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure is in good condition and is well-maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Measured drawings (dated October 7, 1969) in the Public Works Center indicate the building, rectangular in plan and two-stories high, is 60' -2" wide and 300' -8" long (6 bays not including the cisterns on the west end).
2. Foundations: On a drawing dated January 11, 1917 and located in the NAS Public Works Center files, the stepped granite wall foundations are indicated as 3'-6" in thickness and 4' high.

Foundations supporting the first floor columns are indicated as 2'-4" in thickness and 3' high.

3. Walls: The walls are common bond brick, originally salmon in color, now painted white, with the header course every fourth course. The first floor walls are 23" in thickness, narrowing to 18" at the second floor level to receive the floor joists. Walls of the cisterns, on the west end of the building, contain pilasters 4' wide that protrude 4½" from the exterior wall, with the exception of the west corner pilasters that are 4'-11" wide. Exterior walls of the cistern are 4'-8" in thickness and interior wall separating the cisterns 4'-11" in thickness. Iron tension bars, 1 3/4" in diameter with a 3 3/4" hex nut holding a 16" diameter flange plate, run through the cistern walls on the end pilasters and also in the center bay of the west facade. They are located vertically in sets of four with the first bar at ground level and spaced approximately 66" on center.

Two granite overflow blocks, one on the north facade and one on the south facade, are located 43" above the floor level of the second floor. The block extends clear through the wall and projects out 12" from the exterior wall. Its section measures 13½" x 15 3/4" with a half-round horizontal and vertical trough.

4. Structural system, framing: The exterior walls are brick bearing walls supporting the second floor 2" x 9½" ceiling joists, approximately 27½" on center. The roof trusses are constructed from 8½" x 12" members and 6" x 9" chords. 1¼" outside diameter vertical steel tie rods are introduced into each truss. The trusses carry 5 3/4" x 8½" purlins approximately 7' on center, which carry the 2" x 6½" roof rafters 24" on center and the roof sheathing consisting of 1" x 4½" tongue-and-groove board. At the first floor, a row of five 15" square chamfered columns, approximately 42' on center, originally ran down the center of the building from the cistern to the bay next to the end on the east carrying a beam 15" which supports the floor joists. Additional columns 11" square, approximately 42' on center, exist on either side of the center columns and run from the cistern on the west the length of the building to the east. These columns support 11" beams which also support the floor joists.
5. Porches: A second story, roofed wooden porch exists on the south facade and runs the entire length of the building. The porch is 12' wide and is supported by 5½" x 5½" wood columns, approximately 14' on center. Two stairways, approximately 80' from each end of the building, 60" wide, with a 10½" tread and 7" riser, lead to the second floor porch. A 3½" square newel post carries a plain 1½" x 3½" wood railing. Flooring is 3½" boards over joists 2" x 11½", approximately 16½" on center. The porch ceiling is exposed rafters which, along with the rest of the porch, is painted brown. In 1968, an area, 12' x 42', on the east end of the porch on the second floor, was enclosed for a conference room and storage space. In the same year, a concrete block structure, 18'-6" x 12', was built beneath the porch on the east end to house an electric power transformer.

6. Chimneys: A single chimney, with a cap consisting of a single course corbel supporting a two-course corbel, exists on the east roof.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: A circa 1868 drawing from the Library of Congress indicates that originally the building had sliding doors on wooden tracks over the opening in each bay on the north and south facades on both the first and second floors. First floor doors had solid wood rail-and-stile frames with a five-light transom, while the second floor doors, also with solid wood rail-and-stile frames, were slightly narrower and had four-light transoms. A similar first floor door was shown on the east facade but with a six-over-six window at the second floor instead of a door opening.

A second door with a top-hinged single light transom on the east facade appears to be original. It is a two-over-two light over two molded panels with glazing being 13" x 20" and having 2" chamfered muntins. A similar door also exists on the south facade as an entrance into the old cistern area, now converted to a storage area.

Most of the original door openings have been replaced with new modern doors while some have been replaced with six-over-six wood sash and 5" German siding.

- b. Windows: Typically, the windows, with flat arches a stretcher and header in width, have six-over-six light double hung wooden sash. The sills are smooth granite while the frames are solid stock, mortise and tenon at the heads with the glazing being 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 22". Original windows on the north facade of the building now used for the cafeteria, have been closed in with 5" German siding. Air conditioners and window fans exist in several other window openings.

On the west facade's second floor, two circular openings, one in each end bay, a stretcher and a header in width, house horizontal louvered vents for the cistern.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles, light in color, with a half-round metal gutter and round downspouts that carry to the base of the building on the north and south facades.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Narrow, overhanging boxed eaves now exist where originally there was a low-roof parapet wall with the parapet wall apparently containing recessed facade panels.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The circa 1868 drawing of plans for a storehouse shows the first and second floors of the first two bays east of the cistern as storage space for Provisions and Clothing; the third bay, first and second floor as storage space for Yards and Docks; the fourth bay as storage space for Equipment and Recruiting and the fifth bay as storage space for Station Engineering. The end bay contained a central east-west hallway with a door on either side. The north door led to the Navigation Office with a large Navigation Store Room to the west. The south door led to two rooms, both occupied by the Paymaster.

The central hallway contained a stairway that led to the second floor corridor that contained two rooms, both occupied by the Station Engineer. Beneath the stairway at the west end of the bay, was a vault, 5' 1" x 7' 10", the only access being through the Paymaster's Office.

Presently, the first floor, which has been altered many times to suit various uses, contains the civilian cafeteria which occupies about 70% of the six bays on the east end of the building with entrances from both the north and south. The remaining space, including the old cisterns, on the first floor, is partitioned and utilized for office space and storage.

- b. Second floor: The second floor is basically divided into partitioned office space, with a central corridor for use by the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office.

2. Stairways: The circa 1868 drawing indicates the only access to the second floor was by a stairway at the east end of the building. At present an enclosed stairway from the cafeteria and the original stairway on the east provide the only interior access to the second floor.

The original stairway, 38 3/4" wide, on the east end of the building, rises from the central hallway in a 7 1/2" rise and an 11" tread, open stringer, with plain step ends and two turned balusters, 1 3/4" diameter at the base and 6" apart, that support

a plain molded handrail. The handrail begins at a classical turned newel post terminating at an 8¹/₂" round top. The rail curves at the second floor and continues to the wall.

3. Flooring: Both the first and second floors are covered in vinyl tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior brick walls are painted light green, while interior metal partitions are also green. Suspended fiberboard ceilings on both floors are white.
5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are typically wood with five horizontal panels, some with louvers in the bottom two panels. Doors on the second floor central corridor are double wood doors with four panels.
6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Cast-iron steam radiators in the building supply heat.
 - b. Lighting: The lighting is modern fluorescent and incandescent.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The long axis of the structure is oriented east and west, with most of the major entrances to the building being on the south facade. A service driveway on the north side of the building provides access to a large warehouse located immediately across the driveway. To the west the building aligns with West Avenue with a 4' -10" wide concrete sidewalk running parallel to West Avenue. East of the building is the Public Works Maintenance Building.

Prepared by: John A. Sanderson
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
July - August 1972

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings and other records:

Measured drawings, floor plans and index cards indicating architectural, mechanical, electrical and general work on Building 25 in Engineering Department, Public Works Center, NAS Pensacola, Florida. Records are basically World War I to present.

Measured drawings, floor plans, Navy Yard maps in Bureau of Yards and

Docks Plan Files, Navy Department, on microfilm, copy in Old Military Records Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Index (16 mm.) see last part of Reel 13 and first part of Reel 14. Drawings of Pensacola Navy Yard are numbered 800-1-1 to 800-45-407, Reels 641 through 648.5 (35 mm.) Records date from about 1829 to end of World War II.

B. Early Views:

Five photographs in the photographic file of the Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, Florida include: (1) Aerial view of NAS taken in 1916 showing the building in a general view of the station, Negative #00519; (2) View taken 8 October 1918, showing the building in its World War I camouflage suit, Negative #010015; (3) An overall view of the station taken 15 July 1919, Negative #010065; (4) View taken aloft looking directly at the building dated 1 August 1919, Negative #010011; (5) A distant view taken in 1933, Negative #010026.

A photograph in the Facilities Management Office, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, shows a 1917 view of Buildings 1 and 25, Print No. 25-H.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Building Property Records, Plant Account Office, Public Works Center, NAS, Pensacola, Florida.

Pensacola, Florida. Naval Air Station Library. "Research for Captain Weart." (by Marie Foley).

2. Secondary and published sources:

Young, Lucien. United States Navy Yard. Written in 1910 and published in 1964.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service, The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Florida, and the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, by: Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS), June Project Supervisor; John A. Sanderson (University of Florida), July-August Project Supervisor; Dr. William S. Coker (University of West Florida), Historian; John M. Szubski (Princeton University), Architect; and by Student Assistant Architects: J. Tucker Bishop (University of Texas, Austin); John C. Hecker (University of Illinois, Urbana) and Scott A. Kinzy (University of Nebraska) at the United States Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. Susan

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION,
STOREHOUSE BUILDING
HABS No. FL-237 (Page 11)

McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written descriptive and architectural data in the fall of 1980. Jack Boucher, a HABS staff photographer, took the documentary photographs in March of 1974.