

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: East Orange VA Hospital

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 385 Tremont Avenue

City or town: East Orange City State: NJ County: Essex

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

x national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	FPO	7/17/18
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>US Dept of Veterans Affairs</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

United States Department of the Interior
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Applicable National Register Criteria:

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_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title : <u>Assistant Commissioner and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper

9/4/18

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health Care / Hospital

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health Care / Hospital

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Deco _____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The East Orange campus of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System consists of thirteen buildings on a 34-acre site.¹ The medical campus is located in a largely residential neighborhood at the confluence of the municipalities of Newark, Orange, South Orange, and East Orange; as many of the buildings are located in East Orange, that city lent its name to the facility. The topography of the East Orange VA Hospital campus slopes steeply towards the south and east, allowing for the main hospital building to dominate the facility (Figure 1). The Veterans Administration (VA) hospital campus, which opened in 1952, retains nine original buildings; these are the contributing resources to the historic district proposed in this nomination. The remaining four buildings at the facility were added after 1952 and are clustered in the southern portion of campus. Due to the expansion of surface parking lots, site topography, and new construction, landscaping is limited to a few mature trees and scattered plantings (Figure 2).

¹ In 1988 the Veterans Administration was elevated to a Cabinet-level position within the Executive Branch; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs retained the federal administration's acronym – VA – allowing for consistency in shorthand reference. For the postwar veterans' hospitals built between 1946 and 1958, "VA" refers to Veterans Administration in historical context.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

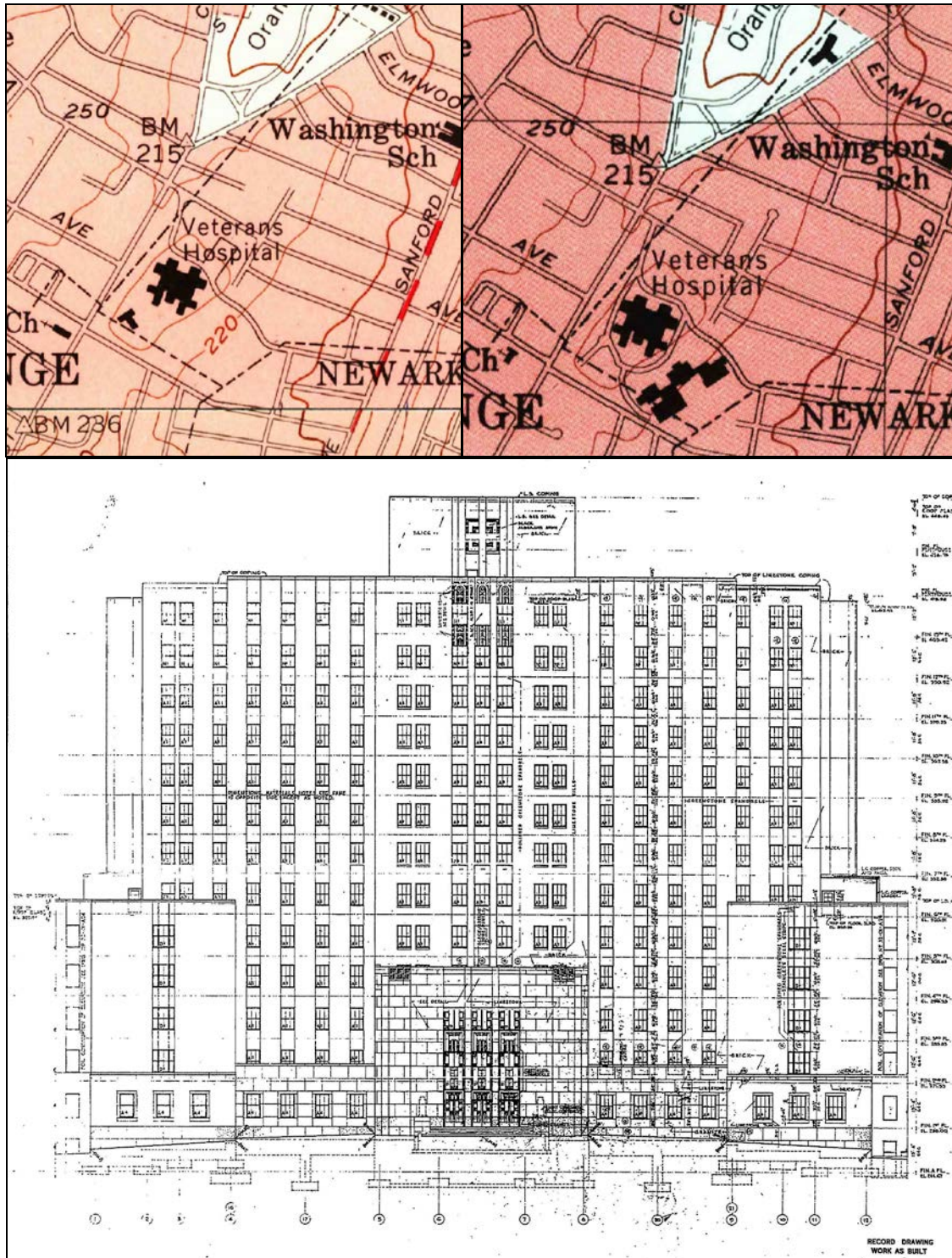


Figure 1. (above) topographical maps showing the location and building footprint of the East Orange VA Hospital in 1958 (left) and in 2000 (right), and an elevation drawing for the main hospital (Building #1) of the campus (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

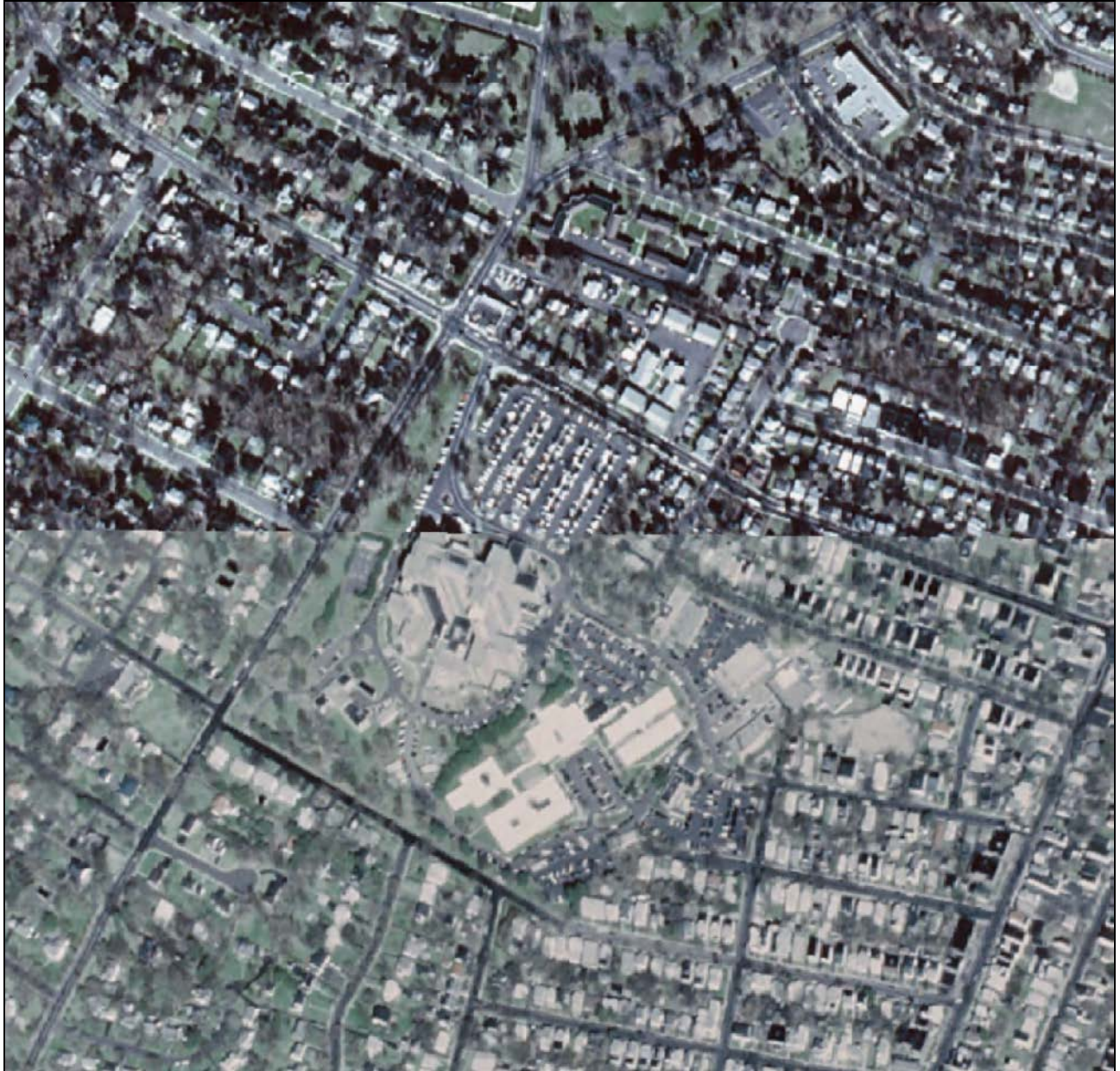
United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 2. Aerial views of the East Orange VA Hospital ca 1969, in the mid-1990s, and again in 2013, to show the site evolution over time, primarily consisting of the introduction of surface parking lots, and development of the surrounding neighborhood (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

The historic property retains integrity to the period of significance, 1952-1958, from the year the hospital opened to the year the Veterans Administration's postwar or third generation of hospital construction ended. The East Orange VA Hospital was designed and built during this postwar program according to the guidelines established by the Veterans Administration for its new hospital facilities and through a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers commissioned private architects versed in contemporary hospital design to provide plans for the new, modern hospital campuses that the Veterans Administration urgently needed, and the Corps oversaw the construction of those properties – including the hospital in East Orange. As such, the East Orange VA Hospital exemplifies the property type for new hospitals identified in the multiple property documentation form, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*, prepared for submission to the National Register of Historic Places.²

The new Veterans Administration hospitals of the third generation program, like that in East Orange, were built in metropolitan areas where large numbers of veterans lived. They were also placed in proximity to medical schools to facilitate access to the most modern healthcare available and to support medical research, training, and staffing. The signature building of postwar VA medical center was a single, multistory or skyscraper main hospital where patient wards and their healthcare services were clustered. Several smaller buildings housed support or utilitarian functions for the medical center and generally were located behind or to the side of the main hospital. The buildings of the campus were all brick-clad and embraced modern architectural forms, here elements of the Art Deco add emphasis to the entrance and public spaces but overall a minimalist aesthetic based on linear qualities, planar surfaces, and structural ornamentation around the building fenestration characterized the new hospital centers (Figure 3). In East Orange, limestone and cast aluminum features helped set the main entrance apart while spandrels of greenstone and stainless steel strips accented the windows. In addition, limestone was used for the window sills and roof coping in contrast to the brick wall facing (Figure 4). Linking the buildings of the medical center were internal drives to guide patients and visitors from the main entrance to the main hospital, typically looping past a prominently sited flagpole. Landscaping was minimal due to lot size in the urban areas and to cost consciousness in the program planning as well as to the shift from the picturesque designs of earlier veterans' hospital campuses that had come to be seen as outdated.³

Created to provide modern medical care to veterans of World War II, the Veterans Administration hospital in East Orange continues to operate as a major healthcare center. It derives significance from this continued service, especially in the path-breaking research done on site which was integral to the third generation program's mission of advancing medical practice and modernizing how and where medical treatment was offered to veterans by the federal government. In the 1960s, East Orange answered this call in another way – integrating medical administration and practice with the appointment of Dr. Howard Kenney as its first African American director – and fulfilling the modern promise of the third generation program to VA hospital staff as well as to the patients.⁴

² Lindsay Hannah, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*, Multiple Property Documentation Form (draft) 2016, rev. 2017-2018, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Section F. (Copy on file, VA).

³ Hannah, Section F.

⁴ Hannah, Section E.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

The Veterans Administration hospital campus remains in its original location and continues to provide healthcare services to veterans. Additions to the campus are of comparable scale to the historic buildings and the most visible change is the surface parking in lieu of green space within the property boundaries. The campus plan and circulation patterns are largely intact (see Figure 2). The modernist aesthetic of the medical center and the Art Deco details of the main hospital are readily apparent. The main hospital remains the dominant feature on the property with its front façade plainly in view. Thus, the East Orange VA Hospital retains its integrity to the period of significance for design, setting, feeling, and association as well as materials and workmanship.

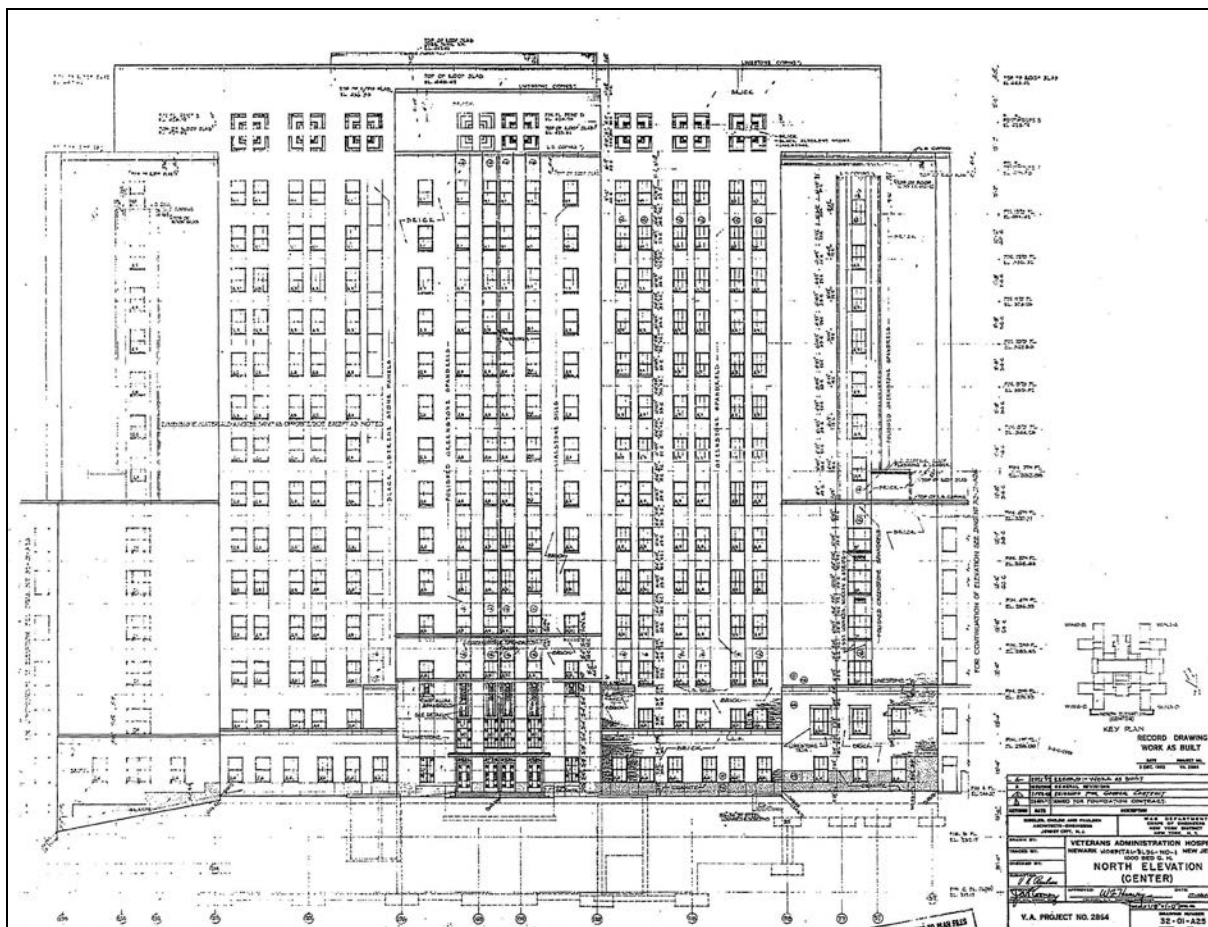


Figure 3. Elevation drawing (north, center) of the main hospital (Building #1) of the East Orange VA Hospital, 1952 (VA), and (below) perspective view of the main hospital building and entrance, plus an interior view of the lobby from the same time period. A contemporary view of the lobby is included for context (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

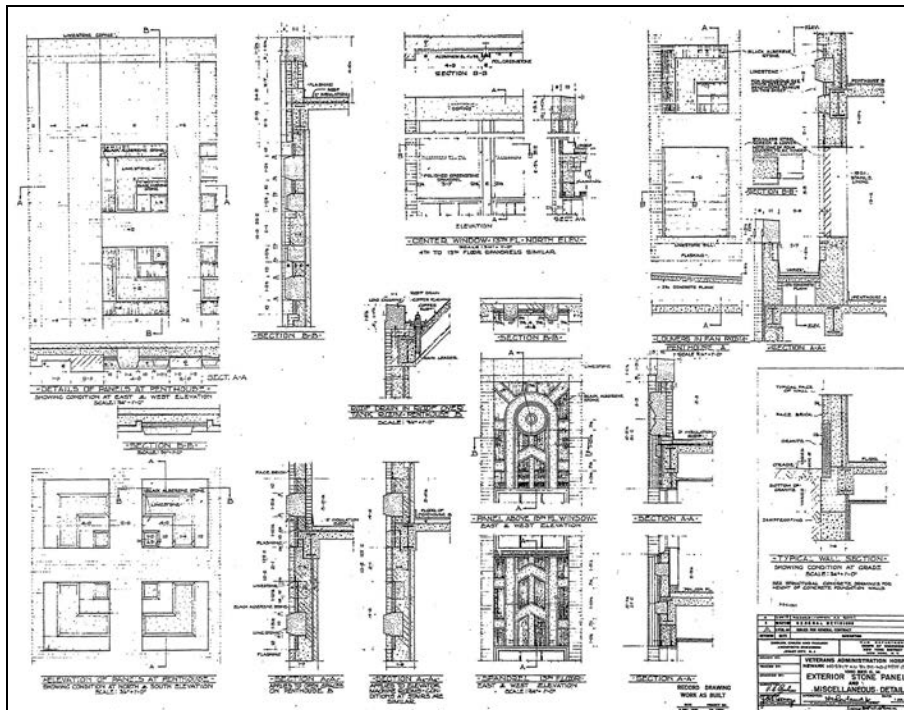


Figure 4. (above) Elevation view of the entrance, main hospital (Building #1) of the East Orange VA Hospital, ca 1952 (VA); and architectural drawing for exterior stone and miscellaneous details, 1952 (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Narrative Description

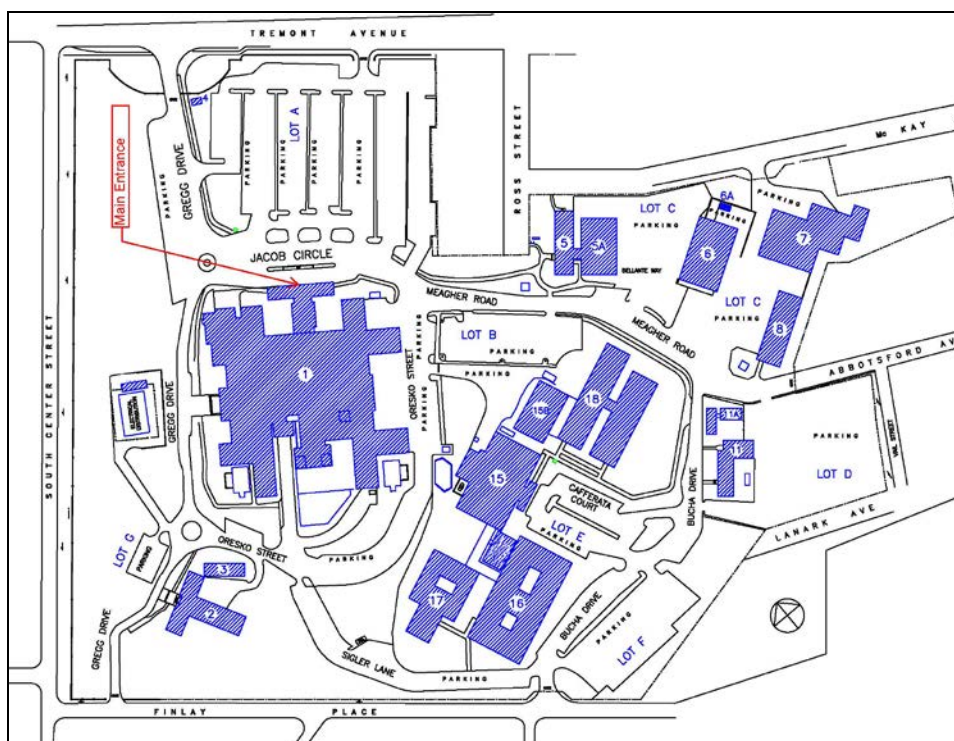


Figure 5. Sketch plan of the medical campus to show building footprint and site layout, 2005 (VA).

Contributing Resources Buildings (9)

Building #1

Historic / Current Use: Main Hospital Building

Year Built: 1950

Status: Contributing

Located on the highest elevation of the campus and rising to a height of seventeen stories, the main hospital building dominates the East Orange medical center. As a result of a series of small additions, the building footprint is irregular, but its original entrances and circulation patterns remain intact. The north elevation consists of a series of projecting wings and recessed bays. The exterior of the building is clad in tan brick, setting the standard for the architecture of the other original buildings of the hospital campus. Uninterrupted vertical bands of greenstone emphasize the building's height. At the uppermost stories, these bands culminate in decorative geometric patterns that reference Art Deco architecture. Rounded stair towers, also with greenstone spandrels, further stress the building's verticality.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

The building is oriented towards the north and the main facility entrance from Tremont Avenue. While a plain, low-rise porte-cochere has been added to the façade, the main entrance remains intact (see Photos 1-2). The entrance utilizes limestone panels and cast aluminum spandrels featuring a chevron pattern. Windows with decorative aluminum elements line the area below the spandrels. These features continue the singular Art Deco decorative elements of this hospital, distinguishing it among the new hospitals built during the VA's third generation hospital construction program.

The majority of Art Deco elements are concentrated on the entrance on the west elevation (see Figure 1). As with the north elevation, the west entrance is emphasized via limestone sheathing and aluminum elements. These aluminum spandrels feature stylized caduceus and geometric patterns. Aluminum abstract patterns also embellish the windows between the spandrels. Art Deco aluminum light fixtures flank the entrance (see Photo 3).

The remaining sections of the building are relatively plain. Several of the design features, such as the greenstone spandrels, rounded stair towers, and geometric motifs, continue. On the south elevation, additions now fill in the corners between the main block and projecting wings (see Photo 4). A decorative railing that references the original Art Deco features of the building has been added to several sections of the building (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Detail of the roof, November 2017 (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Building #2

Historic Use: Quarters

Current Use: HOPTEL / Child Care / Administration

Year Built: 1950

Status: Contributing



Figure 7. Perspective view of the west elevation of Building #2, November 2017 (VA).

The former quarters building is located at the southwestern portion of campus, near a secondary entrance from Finlay Place. The building has a largely T-shaped footprint. The exterior is clad in brick; darker red bricks create contrasting horizontal bands against the surrounding lighter, tan bricks. On the west elevation, the central three bays are emphasized via an interruption of the brick exterior through the use of spandrel panels of green stone and an entrance that is recessed slightly from the flanking sections (Figure 7). A shallow overhang over a single leaf door marks the main entrance (Figure 8). The building has a stepped appearance due to the varying heights of the different sections combined with the exclusive use of flat roofs; at its tallest, the building is five stories in height.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 8. Detail view of the west elevation of Building #2 to show entrance, November 2017(VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Building #3

Historic / Current Use: Garage

Year Built: [1950]

Status: Contributing



Figure 9. Perspective view of the garage located behind Building #2, November 2017 (VA).

Tucked behind Building #2, the garage is a simple, one-story building with a rectangular footprint (Figure 9). The building is oriented towards the southeast, as indicated by the series of large garage doors that puncture the elevation. The southernmost bay has been converted from a vehicular to pedestrian entrance through infilling the opening with brick and adding a single leaf metal door. A flat roof tops the structure. The building does not have any architectural ornamentation or excessive detailing.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Building #4
Historic / Current Use: Guard House
Year Built: 1950
Status: Contributing

Located at the main entrance to the hospital on Tremont Avenue, the guard house is a modest structure (see Photo 5). One-story in height, the guard house is oriented towards the west. A single door punctures the west elevation; the deep overhang created by the shed roof shields the entrance. Large sections of the north, west, and south elevations are given over to windows; the remaining sections of these elevations have been infilled with rough cut, regular courses of stone. The building has a rectangular footprint.

Buildings #5 and 5A
Historic / Current Use: Administration
Year Built: 1950, 1983
Status: Contributing



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 10. (above) General view of Building #5 and Building #5A to show the buildings' spatial relationship and close view of the connector between the two buildings, November 2017 (VA).

Building #5 features many of the characteristics of the original buildings on campus, including a tan brick exterior. The building is oriented towards the west and the main hospital building. The centrally located main entrance is indicated by a slightly recessed bay and green stone panels, referencing the architecture of the main hospital building (see Photo 6). The building is three stories in height and topped with a flat roof. The double-hung sash windows appear to be original. A narrow connection links these two buildings. Building #5A is a prefabricated building with exterior metal cladding. Small windows and mechanical equipment mark its southeast elevation (Figure 10).

Building #6

Historic / Current Use: Garage / Motor Pool

Year Built: 1950

Status: Contributing

The massive block of the garage building is part of the collection of support facilities clustered in the northeastern section of the facility. The building has an irregular footprint. Two stories in height, the building has a plain brick exterior. Garage door openings mark the southwest elevation while large windows ring the other elevations (see Photo 7). The flat roof is stepped to accommodate the slightly

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

lower height of the southernmost bay. The building does not feature any of the architectural ornamentation of the main hospital building.

Building #7

Historic Use: Laundry / Research

Current Use: Research

Year Built: 1950

Status: Contributing



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 11. (above) Perspective view of Building #7 and view showing mechanical equipment to the southwest, November 2017 (VA).

Building #7 consists of a large main block with projecting sections on the east end, resulting in an irregular footprint. Clad in the same tan brick as the other original buildings of the hospital campus, the building lacks the architectural detailing of the main hospital building. The building is two stories in height with a flat roof. Large mechanical equipment has been added to the space just southwest of the building, thus obscuring the majority of its façade (Figure 11).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Building #8

Historic / Current Use: Boiler Plant

Year Built: 1950

Status: Contributing



Figure 12. View looking to the southeast elevation with pedestrian entrance, November 2017 (VA).

Part of a collection of support facilities located at the eastern edge of campus, the boiler plant is a brick-clad building with a rectangular footprint. The building is three stories in height to accommodate the massive equipment within. Elongated narrow windows mark the otherwise plain exterior. A single garage door marks the northwest elevation, but the primary pedestrian entrance is on the southeast elevation (Figure 12). The building has a flat roof.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Buildings #11 and #11A
Historic Use: Attendants' Quarters
Current Use: Research
Year Built: 1950, 1994
Status: Contributing



Figure 13. Perspective view of the west elevation and main entrance, November 2017 (VA).

Once the attendants' quarters, Building #11 now houses research facilities for the facility. Building #11 had a rectangular footprint, but the addition of Building #11A to the north end of the building in 1994 has resulted in an L-shaped footprint. Both sections of the building are clad in tan brick. The original section of the building is oriented towards the west and the main hospital building. A recessed bay at the south end of the west elevation holds the main entrance (Figure 13). As with Building #2, a vertical band of green stone marks the entrance. Double-hung sash windows line the exterior. Unlike the main hospital building, Building #11 has no excessive architectural ornamentation. The addition is plain, featuring a tan brick exterior and a flat roof.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Non-Contributing Resources

Buildings (4)

Buildings #15, 15A, 15B

Current Use: Mental Health Clinic / Methadone Clinic / Administration

Year Built: 1969

Status: Non-contributing



Figure14. General view looking to Building #15 with the main hospital building rising behind, November 2017 (VA).

Buildings #15, 15A, and 15B are a collection of buildings that now serve a variety of functions. The exterior of the principal building (Building #15) in this group is clad in a mix of brick and metal panels; Buildings #15A and #15B are prefabricated buildings clad in metal panels (see Photo 8). The roof consists of a series of hip roofs over the entire building, including the covered walkway along its southeast elevation. The building complex does not feature any of the elaborate architectural detailing of the main hospital building. The overall footprint of the building group is irregular, but a central courtyard has been created by the intersection of the various sections (Figure 14).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 15. View looking to courtyard of Building #15, Building # 15A, and Building #15B, November 2017 (VA).

Building #16

Current Use: Multifunction / Vacant

Year Built: 1969

Status: Non-contributing



Figure 16. Bird's-eye view of Building #16 (center), Building #17 (right), and Building #15 (left), 2017 (VA).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

As with the other buildings added to campus in this period, Building #16 is a low-rise, one-story building. The rectangular footprint is punctured by two courtyards at the east and west ends of the building (Figure 16). The exterior is clad in a mix of metal panels and tan brick. A shallow gable-on-hop roof tops the building. The building does not have any architectural ornamentation.

Building #17

Current Use: Administration

Year Built: 1969

Status: Non-contributing



Figure 17. General view looking to Building #17, November 2017 (VA).

Located at the southern end of campus and obscured by the site topography from the main hospital, Building #17 has an irregular footprint. The one-story building has a shallow hip roof. The exterior is clad in metal panels. Windows are regularly spaced along the exterior walls (Figure 17).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Building #18

Current Use: Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Year Built: 1969

Status: Non-contributing



Figure 18. Perspective view of Building #18, November 2017 (VA).

Building #18 is sited at the southeastern end of the East Orange campus. The building consists of two parallel sections bridged by a narrow walkway, resulting in an attenuated H-shaped footprint (see Photo 8 and Figure 19). The exterior is clad in bricks at the eastern and western elevations. Metal cladding sheathes the remaining portions of the building. Windows are regularly spaced along the exterior. At the center section of the southeast elevation, a bank of windows and doors creates a modest entrance. Both sections have shallow gable-on-hip roofs (Figures 18-19).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 19. Bird's-eye view looking to Building #18 with its H-shaped footprint; note roof of Building #15 in the foreground as well as Building #8 to the back left and Building #11 to back middle of the photograph (VA).

Summary

The East Orange VA Hospital possesses the requisite integrity--most notably its materials, workmanship, design, setting, feeling, and association--necessary for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the national level as part of the multiple property submission, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*. Although changes have occurred to the site, circulation patterns are evident and the architectural character of the historic resources remains intact (see Figures 1-2). The location of the medical center is the same, and its purpose – that of providing healthcare to the nation's veterans – continues as well as the research program that was integral to the federal government's prescription for its third generation of veterans' hospitals.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health / Medicine

Period of Significance

1952 - 1958

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ziegler, Childs & Paulsen
Veterans Administration

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The East Orange VA Hospital arose out of a construction campaign initiated by the Veterans Administration (VA) to build modern hospitals for veterans returning from World War II. This campaign is referred to as the “third generation” of veterans’ hospitals by the VA, following the eleven branches of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers established after the Civil War for veterans of the Union and the second phase of medical and domiciliary care provided by the federal government to the nation’s veterans that was introduced after World War I. The post-World War II initiative by the Veterans Administration spanned the years 1946 to 1958 when the last hospital planned under the national program guidelines opened. In New Jersey, the architecture firm of Ziegler, Childs & Paulsen won the design contract for the medical center in East Orange. Their design work resulting in a streamlined mid-century modern hospital aesthetic with Art Deco detailing that set the hospital apart from others in the third generation building program. As one of the new medical centers of the third generation, the East Orange VA Hospital is included as an example of the new hospital property type designed by private firms, like Ziegler, Childs & Paulsen, in the multiple property documentation form, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*, prepared for the National Register of Historic Places. Along with upgrading its medical facilities and revamping patient care and medical treatment, the VA’s third generation program included research initiatives that targeted the diseases and conditions prevalent among the veteran population, from prosthetics to tuberculosis to post traumatic stress syndrome, as well as cardiac and pulmonary surgeries and studies. At East Orange, the research program was led by Dr. Oscar Auerbach. Auerbach is the pathologist responsible for establishing the causal link between smoking and lung cancer that ultimately led to the placement of health warnings on cigarette packages. These factors – the innovative design and construction protocol and equally transformative research initiative - render the East Orange VA Hospital as eligible for listing at the national level of significance in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its seminal influence over health and medicine in the twentieth century. The East Orange VA Hospital is a quintessential example of the United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, built by the Veterans Administration, and it retains integrity to the period of significance (1952-1958) as defined by the year the hospital opened and the year the third generation construction program ended.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

As World War II drew to a close, the Veterans Administration recognized that its health care network would soon face the task of serving an unprecedented number of veterans. To accommodate the burgeoning veteran population, the Veterans Administration (VA) initiated a massive nationwide construction campaign to build new hospitals. Unlike previous generations of these federal hospitals, these new Veterans Administration facilities were constructed in urban environments and employed

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

architects familiar with modern hospital design to ensure that veterans received the best health care available.

In 1945, the Veterans Administration announced its intention to construct a 1,000-bed general medical and surgical hospital in New Jersey.⁵ The Veterans Administration chose Newark as the location for the hospital in early 1946. After reviewing eleven potential sites for the new facility, the VA settled on a property at the juncture of the municipalities of Newark, South Orange, Orange, and East Orange. The property was the former Bamberger estate. Louis Bamberger built his wealth as the owner of the L. Bamberger & Co. department store in Newark (Figure 20). After selling the store to Macy's just weeks before the notorious stock market crash in 1929, he devoted his life to philanthropy, including funding the Institute for Advanced Studies that retained Albert Einstein as chair of mathematical and theoretical physics in 1932.⁶ At the time the Veterans Administration sought to obtain the property, the estate retained "one 2-1/2 story dwelling, three 2-1/2 story, one-family dwellings, a large garage and a greenhouse."⁷ Upon Bamberger's death and subsequent sale of the estate, the property had been bought by Newark realty developers George and Maurice Levin for the purpose of building "garden apartments."⁸ While there was some concern that the 35-acre site would be too large for a hospital of 1,000 beds, its proximity to Newark, the availability of utilities and public transportation, and a lack of other suitable sites prompted the VA to pay \$275,000 to obtain the property.⁹

The architecture firm of Ziegler, Childs, & Paulsen was retained to design the new facility. Political connections may have assisted the firm in obtaining the contract. Ziegler was purportedly the favorite architect of Jersey City Mayor Frank Hague, a supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and whose political machine had controlled dispersal of federal dollars in New Jersey during the New Deal (Figure 21). Through these ties, Ziegler received a commission for significant projects in New Jersey, including the Margaret Hague Memorial Maternity Hospital and Roosevelt Stadium. The latter structure, an Art Deco baseball stadium completed in 1937, witnessed Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in minor league baseball in 1946 (Figure 22).¹⁰



Figure 20. Louis Bamberger (1855-1944), n.d., Jewish Historical Society MetroWest

⁵ "Jersey Will Get Veterans' Hospital," *Trenton Evening Times*, May 4, 1945.

⁶ "Name Einstein to Faculty of New Institute," *Jewish Chronicle* (Newark, NJ), October 14, 1932.

⁷ Resolution, February 18, 1946.

⁸ "VA Reveals Option on Bamberger Estate," *Newark News*, February 28, 1946.

⁹ Resolution Adopted by the Federal Board of Hospitalization, February 18, 1946, Collections of Engineering Department, East Orange Campus, New Jersey Health Care System, East Orange, New Jersey.

¹⁰ Data Pages, Roosevelt Stadium, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS No. NJ-819, 1984. Available online at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/nj1029/> (Accessed July 2, 2014); Nancy Benecki, "The New Deal's Lasting Legacy in Jersey City," *Jersey City Independent*, March 6, 2009. Available online at www.jerseycityindependent.com/2009/03/06/the-new-deals-lasting-legacy-in-jersey-city (Accessed July 2, 2014).

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission



Figure 21 (left) A ca- 1920 photograph of Frank Hague (1870-1956) who was mayor of Jersey City for thirty years and whose legendary political machine shaped the social and built environment of his era, and Figure 22 (right), Roosevelt Stadium as photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1984 (both images, Library of Congress).

The VA hospital was expected to open in late 1950 and cost about \$17,000,000. The steel frame for the main hospital building was already in place by January 1949.¹¹ Delayed by material and work stoppages, the new facility finally opened 1952.¹² Before the new facility was dedicated, a battle for naming rights arose between the Veterans Administration and New Jersey. The Veterans Administration had been referring to the hospital as the Newark VA Hospital. However, only a sliver of the new hospital was located within Newark, leading to protests from East Orange. For almost two years, the debate strung along. Finally, since the hospital buildings had been constructed on the portion of the Bamberger parcel located within East Orange and since that municipality was going to be responsible for providing services such as street maintenance, the Veterans Administration designated the hospital the East Orange VA Hospital.¹³

When the East Orange VA Hospital opened, it offered 614 beds for general medical patients, 266 beds for neuropsychiatric patients, and 80 beds for tuberculous patients. To staff this facility, the Veterans Administration retained the services of 379 nurses, 42 physicians, and 5 dentists; payroll for the entire hospital was around \$1,500,000 annually. Patients found themselves at a hospital campus with the latest in modern medical care, and also with numerous amenities to make their stay more comfortable. Along with the expected canteen and chapel, the East Orange VA hospital offered a library for patients, an in-house radio station, and recreational facilities including a dedicated baseball field (see Figure 1).

¹¹ "Legion Leader Inspects Work On New Hospital," *Trenton Evening Times*, January 30, 1949.

¹² "Legion Urges End of Strike," *Trenton Evening Times*, May 30, 1949.

¹³ "Dedicated to Jersey's War Veterans," Special Section on East Orange Veterans Administration Hospital, *Newark Sunday News*, October 5, 1952, 6.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

The chief of laboratory services at the East Orange VA Hospital was Dr. Oscar Auerbach. Born in Manhattan, Auerbach studied at New York University and New York Medical College. He worked briefly at hospitals in Staten Island and studied in Vienna before moving to East Orange. Following years of tuberculosis research, Auerbach turned towards the issue of the relationship between smoking and lung cancer. Years of research suggested there was a connection between smoking and lung cancer, but Auerbach proved the causal link through the examination of thousands of slides of lung tissue. He also conducted smoking studies using beagles taught to inhale cigarette smoke. The results of these “smoking dogs” studies further illustrated the connection, as the nonsmoking dogs had normal, healthy lungs while those smoking unfiltered cigarettes developed tumors and emphysema. Auerbach’s research faced continued opposition from the tobacco industry, including threatening *Life* magazine with removal of their ads if that publication proceeded with an article about Auerbach. These studies eventually fed into the Surgeon General’s seminal *Smoking and Health* report, published in 1964, and the subsequent requirement that health warnings be added to cigarette packages. A staff member of the East Orange VA Hospital until 1980, Auerbach retained an office at the medical center until his death in 1997 at age 92.¹⁴

The Veterans Administration continued to make upgrades and alter the facility as medical requirements changed over the years. In 1969, a portion of the eleventh floor was converted into a faux apartment for patients to reacquaint themselves with everyday tasks. Patients spent between an hour to overnight in the apartment. The features in the apartment were built as close to “standard” as possible, thus allowing patients to assess their ability to live on their own and identify what adjustments may be required in a private apartment.¹⁵ In 1973, a drug treatment center with associated methadone clinic was added to the facility.¹⁶ On the ninth floor, a Special Diagnostic and Testing Unit (SDTU) opened in the main hospital building in 1976. The SDTU provided diagnosis and treatment for veterans suffering from rare or unusual diseases, such as pituitary disorders or rare forms of cancer.¹⁷ In 1983, the Veterans Administration spent \$33.6 million to renovate the facility, including adding central air conditioning, new elevators, and a major electrical upgrade.¹⁸

Research efforts undertaken at East Orange continued well into the hospital’s fourth decade. In 1994, East Orange became one of three VA hospitals to study the effects of environmental hazards on veterans of the Persian Gulf War.¹⁹

Conclusion

The East Orange VA Hospital espouses many of the defining characteristics of the third generation of veterans’ hospitals developed by the Veterans Administration following World War II. Located in an urban environment, the sleek, modern seventeen-story skyscraper reflected the current thinking of medical care at the time. Despite the Art Deco architectural detailing added to the main hospital building, overall, the buildings of the medical campus reflect the modernist emphasis on verticality and clean lines

¹⁴“Oscar Auerbach, 92, Dies; Linked Smoking to Cancer,” *New York Times*, January 16, 1997; Marguerite T. Hays, M.D., *A Historical Look at the Establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Research & Development Program*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2010): 241-45.

¹⁵ “VA Hospital Opens an ‘Apartment’,” *The Evening News* (Newark, NJ), March 19, 1969.

¹⁶ “Hospital for Veterans Is Being Modernized,” *New York Times*, June 3, 1973.

¹⁷ “One-of-a-kind hospital unit treats unusual medical cases,” *East Orange Record*, October 28, 1976.

¹⁸ “VA Hospital gains aid for major renovation,” *The Star-Ledger* (Newark, NJ), January 11, 1983.

¹⁹ “E. Orange VA takes on ills of gulf war,” *The Star-Ledger* (Newark, NJ), July 30, 1994.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

and planar surfaces that characterizes the architectural program of other hospitals of this period. In addition, the Veterans Administration's medical research program flourished at East Orange, particularly Dr. Oscar Auerbach's studies linking cigarette smoking and lung cancer. The alignment of the veterans' healthcare network with medical schools in the area supported research studies and patient care in the VA hospitals and advanced clinical trials of medicines, treatments, and therapies for the benefit of patients and – in Auerbach's work – raising awareness about health risks and conditions among the general public as well. The East Orange VA Hospital continues to fulfill the promise of the postwar or third generation construction program and upholds the mission of those medical centers built as symbols of modernity and for administering modern healthcare.

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Hannah, Lindsay and Susan Barrett Smith, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospital National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation*, 2016, rev. 2017-18.

Various, *The New York Times*.

Various, *The Star-Ledger* (Newark, NJ).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 34 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.751756 | Longitude: -74.238473 |
| 2. Latitude: 40.750298 | Longitude: -74.235055 |
| 3. Latitude: 40.754543 | Longitude: -74.236259 |
| 4. Latitude: 40.752826 | Longitude: -74.235090 |

Note: see USGS Quad Map with Plan View Boundaries below

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Current boundaries of East Orange VAMC.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lindsay S. Hannah / Project Manager
organization: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
street & number: 309 Jefferson Hwy, Suite A
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70121
e-mail: lhannah@rcgoodwin.com
telephone: 504.837.1940
date: August 2014

East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

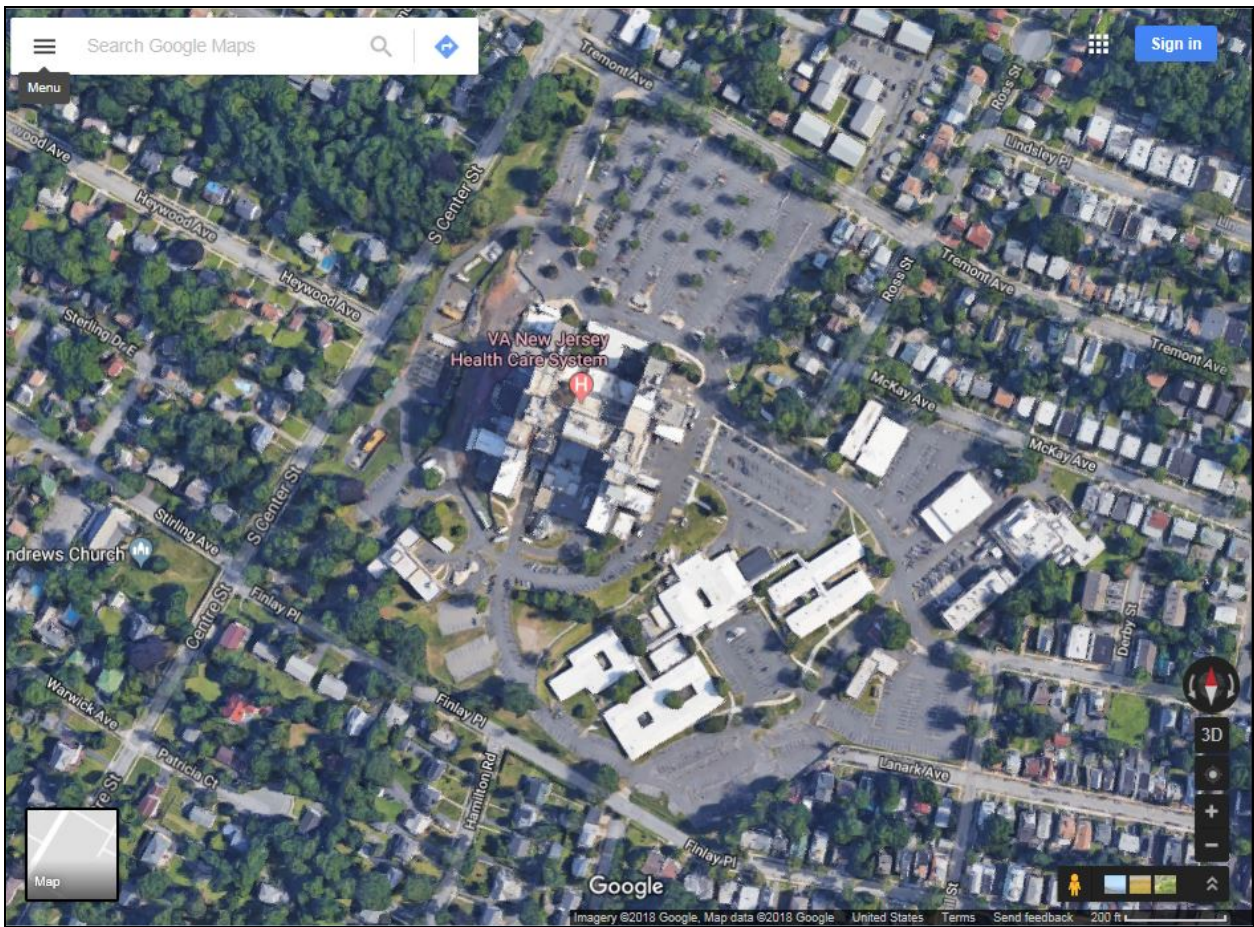
East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

General Locational Map: Google Maps 2018

A. Aerial View

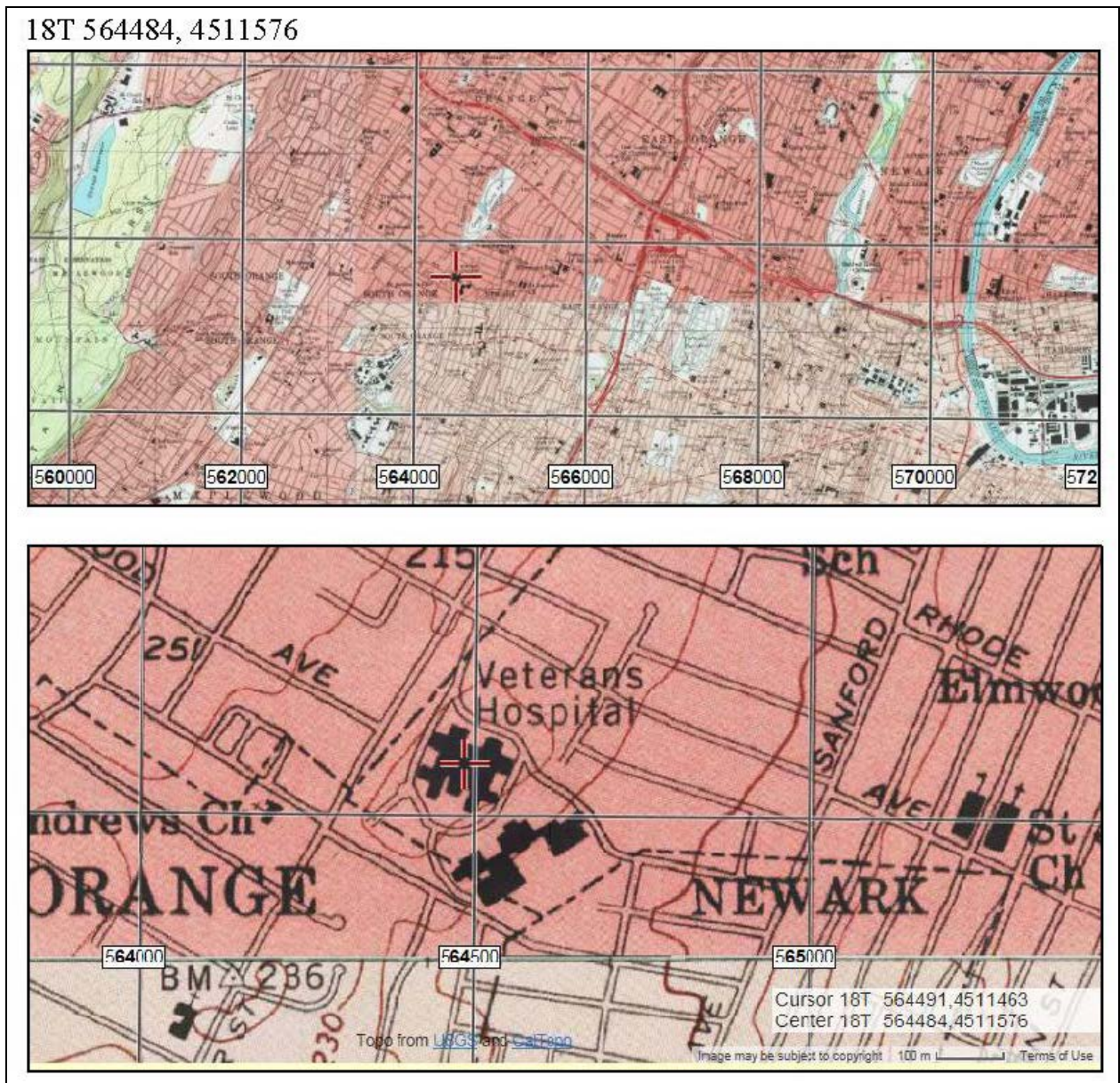


East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

B. UTM Coordinates Grid on Google Maps (USGS)

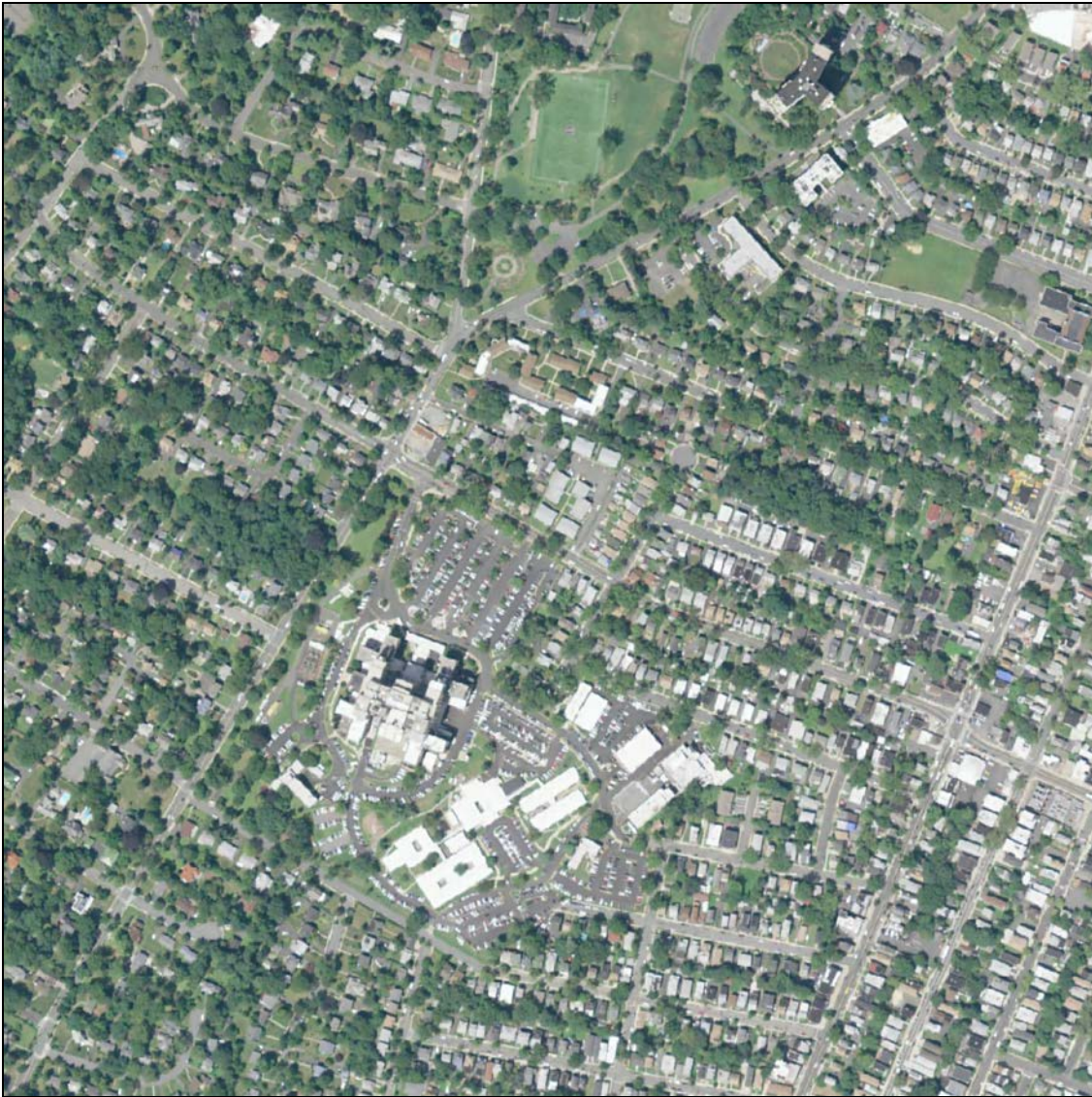


East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Locational Map: Aerial View, 2013 (VA)

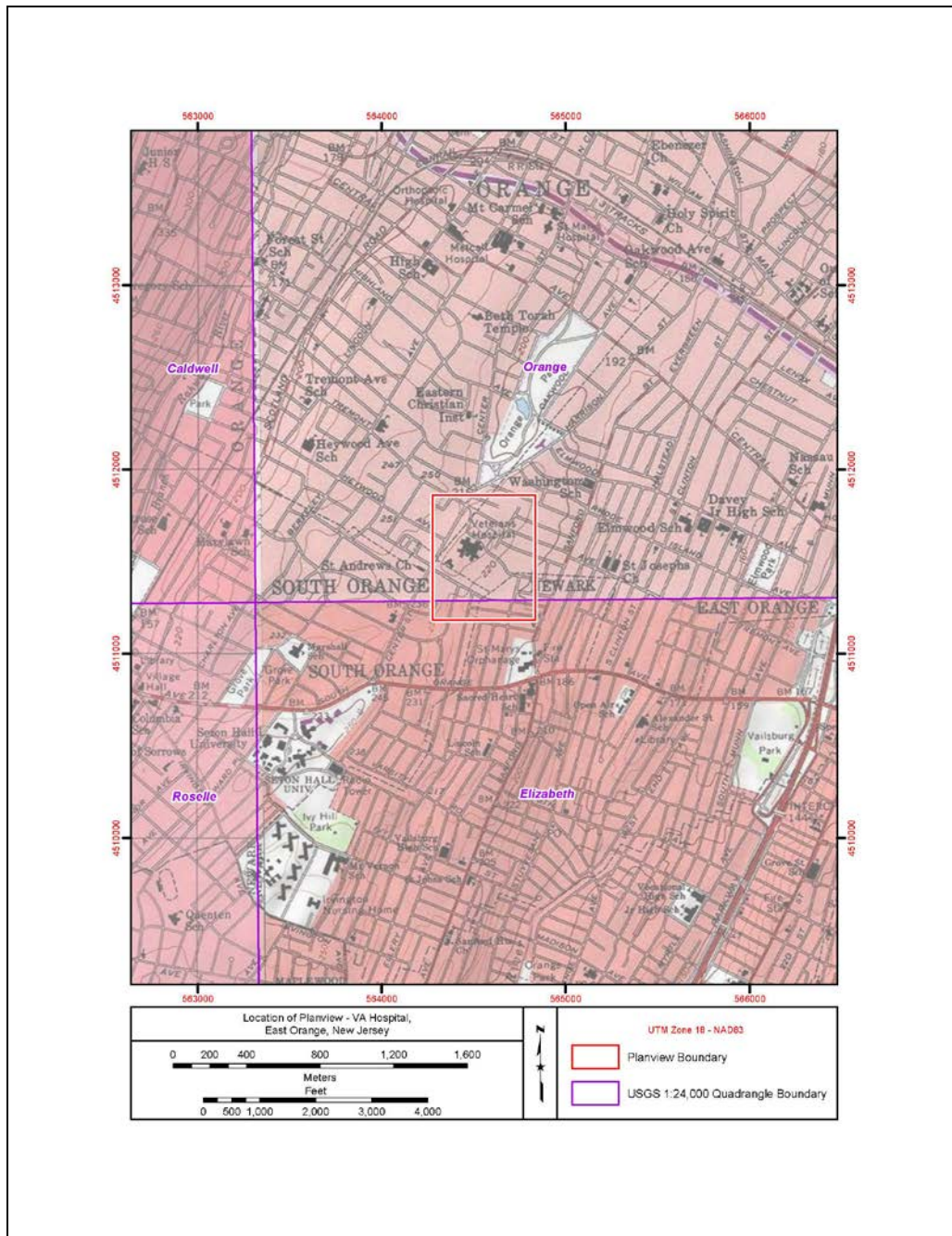


East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

USGS Quad Map with Plan View Boundary/Coordinates

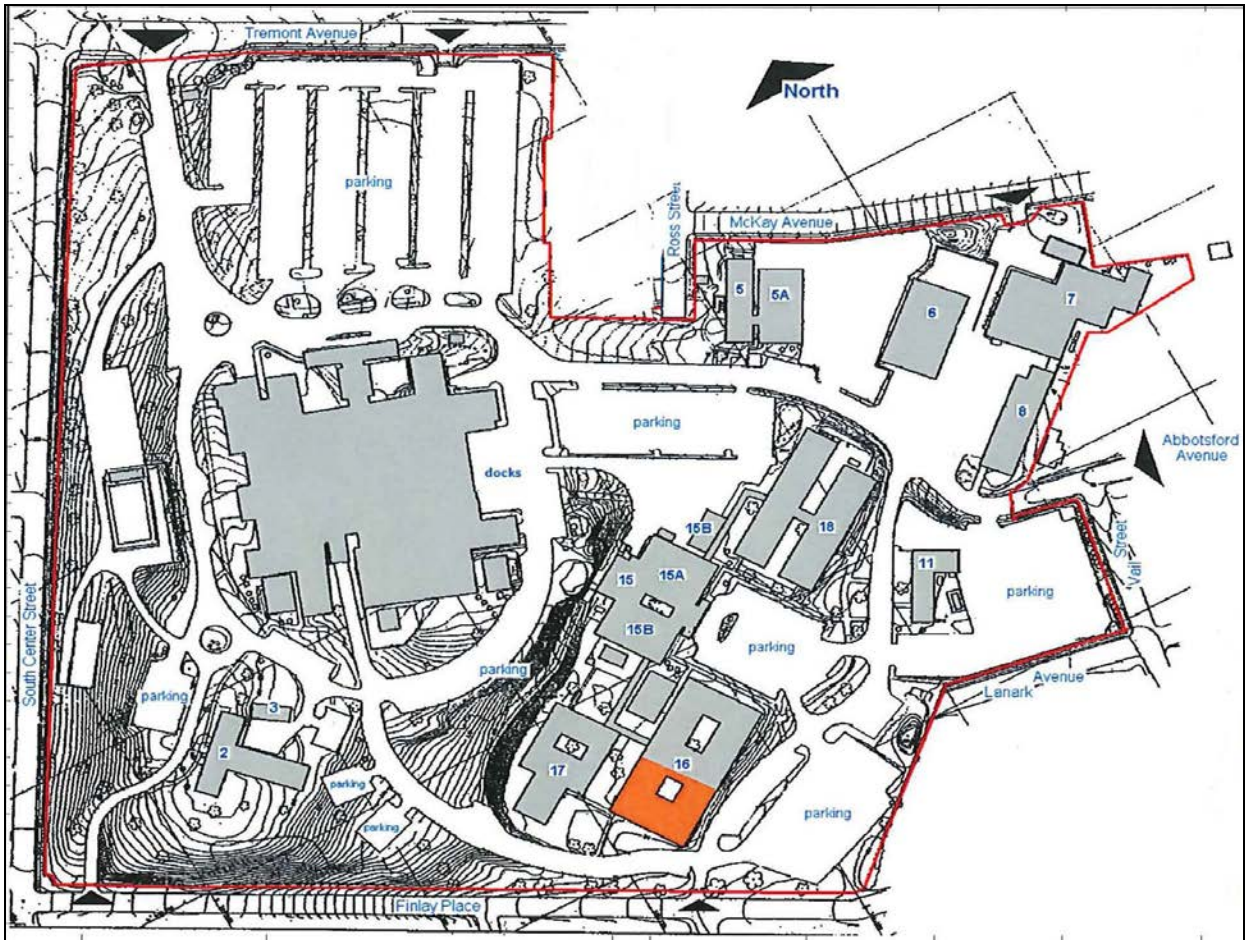


East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

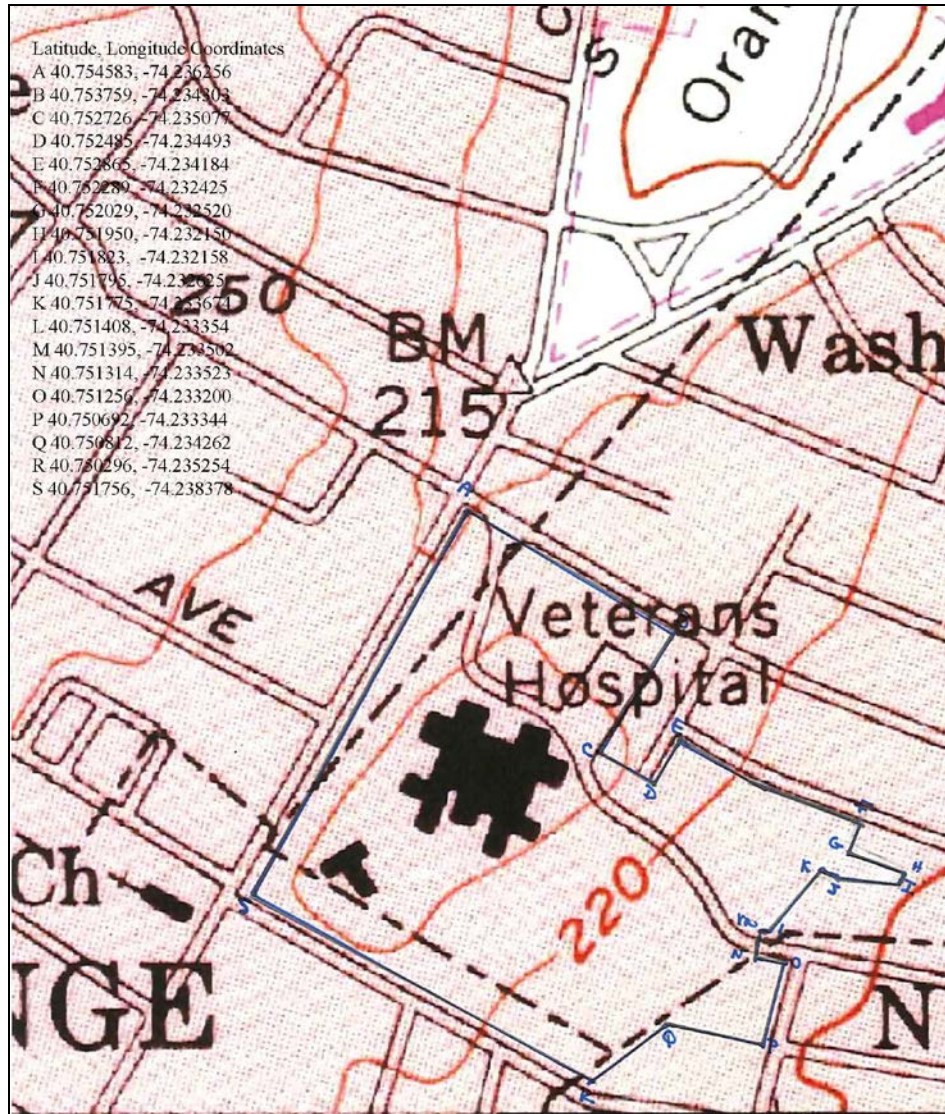
Sketch Map to Show Boundary (VA)



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

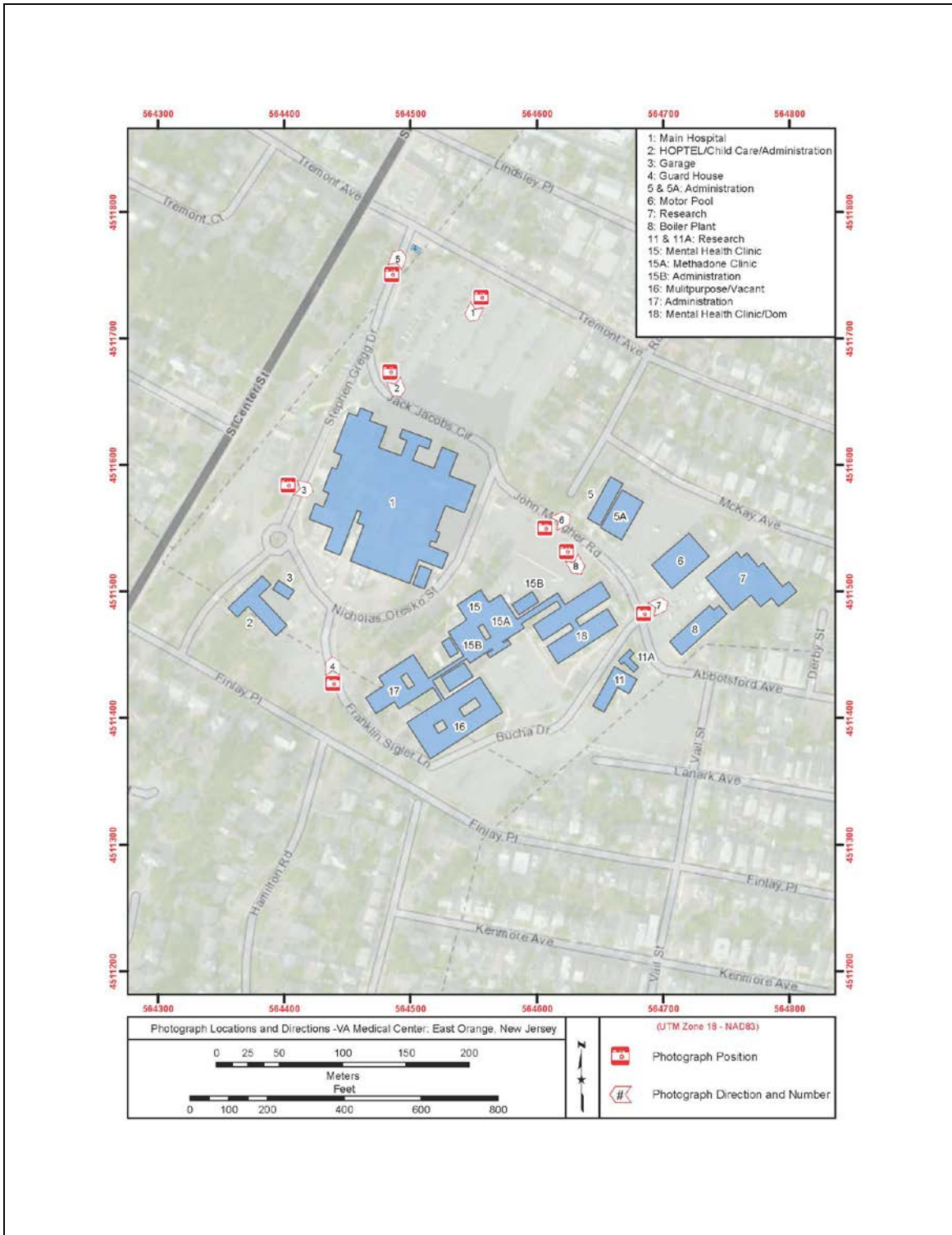


East Orange VA Hospital
 Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
 County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
 Multiple Property Submission

Sketch Map to Show Photograph Locations



East Orange VA Hospital
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958
Multiple Property Submission

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

East Orange VA Hospital
East Orange
Essex County
New Jersey

Photographer: Lindsay S. Hannah
Date Photographed: April 2013

1. North elevation of Building #1 and main entrance to hospital facility from Tremont Avenue. Camera pointed south.
2. Main entrance to Building #1 on the north elevation. Camera pointed southeast.
3. Former entrance on west elevation to Building #1. Camera pointed east.
4. South elevation of Building #1. Camera pointed north.
5. Southwest corner of Building #4. Camera pointed northeast.
6. Northwest elevation of Building #5. Camera pointed northeast.
7. North corner of Building #6. Camera pointed south.
8. Northwest elevation of Building #18. Camera pointed southeast.
9. Early photo of Building #1, ca. 1952. Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.











NO TRESPASSING

UTILITY
NO TRESPASSING

UTILITY

UTILITY



BLDG 5
Building
5
Administrative
Office





DANGER
CONSTRUCTION
AREA
KEEP OUT

LOT
C

Building
8
Water Plant

Government
Vehicles
Only

No. 2 Fuel Oil





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: East Orange VA Hospital

Multiple Name: United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958 MPS

State & County: NEW JERSEY, Essex

Date Received:
7/20/2018

Date of Pending List:
8/13/2018

Date of 16th Day:
8/28/2018

Date of 45th Day:
9/4/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100002831

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

9/4/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Streamlined modern hospital with Art Deco detailing. Nationally significant for the research work done by Dr. Oscar Auerbach, who studied the relationship between smoking and lung cancer. These studies fed into the U.S. Surgeon General's seminal "Smoking and Health" report. AOS: Health/Medicine, POS: 1952-1958.

Recommendation/ Criteria NR Criterion A.

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 9/4/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
WASHINGTON DC 20420



July 16, 2018

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Julie:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to submit the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the East Orange VA Hospital, in Essex County, New Jersey, under the approved multiple property cover, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*.

The New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites approved the draft nomination in July 2017, and the final nomination form for the East Orange VA Hospital was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office on April 27, 2018. In the interim, the election of a new governor also meant new appointments in state offices, including the State Historic Preservation Officer. By mid-May, that appointment was still pending. We hoped the appointment would move forward within the 45-day comment period, but as of July 5, there was no change in status. Under the circumstances, VA is submitting the National Register nomination form for the East Orange VA Hospital without a concurring signature from the state.

If you have questions regarding the nomination, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 202-632-5462.

Sincerely,

Douglas Pulak
Federal Preservation Officer

Encl.