

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683493

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 13 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 21 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

OCT 19 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Camp Endicott

AND/OR COMMON

Davisville Construction Battalion Center

2 LOCATION

between 7th + 10th St.
Davisville Construction Battalion Center

STREET & NUMBER "B" Street, 10th Street, a nameless lane off U. S. Route 1
parallel to "B" Street, and 7th Street.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Kingstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

2 Hon. Edward Beard

STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

(U.S. Navy) Custody of: Commanding Officer

STREET & NUMBER

Naval Construction Battalion Center (Davisville)

CITY, TOWN

North Kingstown

STATE

Rhode Island

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

80 Boston Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

North Kingstown

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

An Historical Survey of United States Navy Property in Rhode Island.

DATE

August, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camp Endicott, in the heart of the Davisville Seabee Center, is surrounded by buildings and open spaces formerly used for a jumble of activities typical of a military post -- barracks, freight sidings, warehouses, a "mobile home" park, offices, a golf course, and officers' housing. The proposed district, covering about seven (7) acres, is laid out in a straight-forward street pattern with paved thoroughfares running east-west and north-south; the area being nominated is the best-preserved portion of the once vast training camp. Four roads define this neat, rectangular district: "B" Street on the north, 10th Street on the east, a nameless lane parallel to "B" Street on the south, and 7th street on the west.

Within this area stand seventeen 40-by-100-foot quonset huts* manufactured by the Great Lakes Steel Corporation and erected in 1942 by the George A. Fuller Company and Merritt, Chapman & Scott, contractors to the Navy for the development of Davisville and the Quonset Point Naval Air Station, immediately to the south. Built as training facilities for Camp Endicott, they are now vacant or used for storage (see photo # 1).

These prefabricated structures follow standard quonset hut design. Bolted to concrete foundations, their steel arch-rib frames support a skin of curved, corrugated metal sheets nailed in place. Originally this galvanized outer skin was left exposed; now all the buildings bear a coat of Navy grey paint. The ends or bulkheads of each hut contain a large two-leaf sliding metal door flanked by double, industrial six-light windows (see photo # 2). The treatment of a few bulkheads has been altered, usually by substituting a standard 3-by-7-foot doorway and smaller double-hung sash. Running ninety-six feet along the sides of each hut is a continuous range of windows glazed with ten-light wooden sash (see photo # 3). Each frame is hinged at the top and swings open from the bottom. Many of these windows are rather deteriorated and some have been replaced with translucent corrugated fiber-glass panels.

The interiors of several huts have been subdivided, but most remain as built -- single, uninterrupted spaces rising a full 20 feet. The walls are insulated between the arch-ribs with 1" blanket insulation, then furred-out and finished with curved 3/16" (See continuation sheet #1)

*The building numbers are: B-11, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, T-6, T-7, T-8, T-9, T-10, T-11, T-12, T-15, T-16, T-17, T-18, T-19.

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hardboard paneling (see photo # 4).

The area within the proposed Camp Endicott district contained more structures than stand there now, mostly other quonset huts. Though this building density has been diminished somewhat, what remains of this portion of the camp still gives a suggestion of the original complex, with the buildings placed in ranks along the narrow streets in the simplest arrangement possible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1942

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Davisville is an outgrowth of the secondary function of Quonset Point Naval Air Station during the Second World War as the base of operations for George A. Fuller & Company and Merritt, Chapman & Scott. These private contractors were employed by the government under terms of the Lend-Lease Act of March, 1941, to design, fabricate, and erect military installations for Great Britain. By February, 1942, the management and space requirements of this activity had outstripped the capacities of Quonset Point, and the Davisville base was established just to the north; it was the first advanced base depot. Here matériel was designed, tested, packaged, and shipped.

The quonset hut was created at Quonset Point (hence the name) by a team of architects and engineers working for the Fuller Company. Fabricated in several sizes (the most common being 20-by-56), it was conceived as a standard building unit -- inexpensive, easy to ship, easy to erect, and versatile in accomodation -- ideal for use at remote new installations where building materials and skilled workers were not available, and shipping was a problem. The 40-by-100 quonset, for example, required but 12½ tons of steel and occupied 350 cubic feet of cargo space; it superseded a vertical-walled structure of the same dimensions which used 20 tons of steel and occupied 650 cubic feet of shipping space. Moreover, a 40-by-100 quonset hut could be erected by a crew of twenty-four unskilled workers in four days. Soon bases were being built for the United States as well as Great Britain in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, and the demand for quonset huts was tremendous. The U. S. Navy alone erected over 160,000. Both in terms of design and because of its dispersion throughout the world, the quonset hut must be considered one of the most universal of structures.

The design-team included Otto Brandenberger, Tomasino Secondino, Robert F. McDonnell, and Dominic Urgo. These Fuller employees worked under Navy supervision in extremely hurried and tense conditions to produce plans and specifications. They based their solution on a concept supplied by the Navy which derived from the British Nissen hut developed during the First World War. The semi-cylindrical form of the quonset was taken from the (See continuation sheet # 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

; Building the Navy's Bases in World War Two; History of the Bureau of Yard's and Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps: 1940-1946; U. S. Government Printing Office; Washington; 1947.

(See continuation sheet 3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	29,740,0	4,610,836,0	B	1,9	29,739,0	4,610,826,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	29,709,0	4,610,828,0	D	1,9	29,710,0	4,610,838,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

"B" Street to 10th Street; 10th Street to a nameless lane parallel to "B" Street; the lane to 7th Street; 7th Street to "B" Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David W. Chase, Chief of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

September 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

(401) 277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence,

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

David W. Chase

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Sept. 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...

DATE

12/21/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WITNESSES

William ...

DATE

DATE

12/24/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William ...

10/10/78

(WLS/LLH)

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Nissen hut; its purpose was to create a structure of great strength which could be sandbagged without collapsing to protect it from artillery bombardment. But all particulars of quonset hut design, materials, and mode of fabrication -- the most important aspects of the building -- were new. Significant contributions to the final product were made by subcontractors, particularly in the development of new forming techniques to produce arch-rib frames and curved, corrugated sheet metal roofing. The structures were repeatedly modified and redesigned, but always with the same dual objectives: economy and utility.

The quonset hut epitomizes the dogged, adaptive, problem-solving approach of the American war effort -- a team of technicians given a specific problem for which a solution was demanded within a restricted time-frame. Credit for American success in the war is in part attributable to this nation's ability to produce solutions like the quonset hut. Universal and anonymous, it evokes a critical and still-familiar moment in world history.

As the war escalated in 1941 and 1942 it became imperative for the United States to have military construction units to build overseas bases, bridges, harbors, and other facilities within the war zone. The best-known of these were the Navy's Construction Battalions, the "Seabees". Camp Endicott, one of the first Seabee training stations, was established at Davisville in June, 1942. The 15,000-man camp was erected around the tents of the first trainees, and the seventeen 40-by-100 quonsets still standing there included in this nomination are the best-preserved part of the camp, as well as the best-preserved group of quonset huts in Rhode Island. They are significant, not only as quonset huts, standing where this building-type originated, but also in their arrangement, for they reflect the uncompromising matter-of-factness of a typical war-time military camp.

Long disparaged for their drabness, and neglected as a result of our national myopia to the impact of America's contributions to the Second World War, quonset huts, including those at Camp Endicott, are among our most under-appreciated historic buildings.

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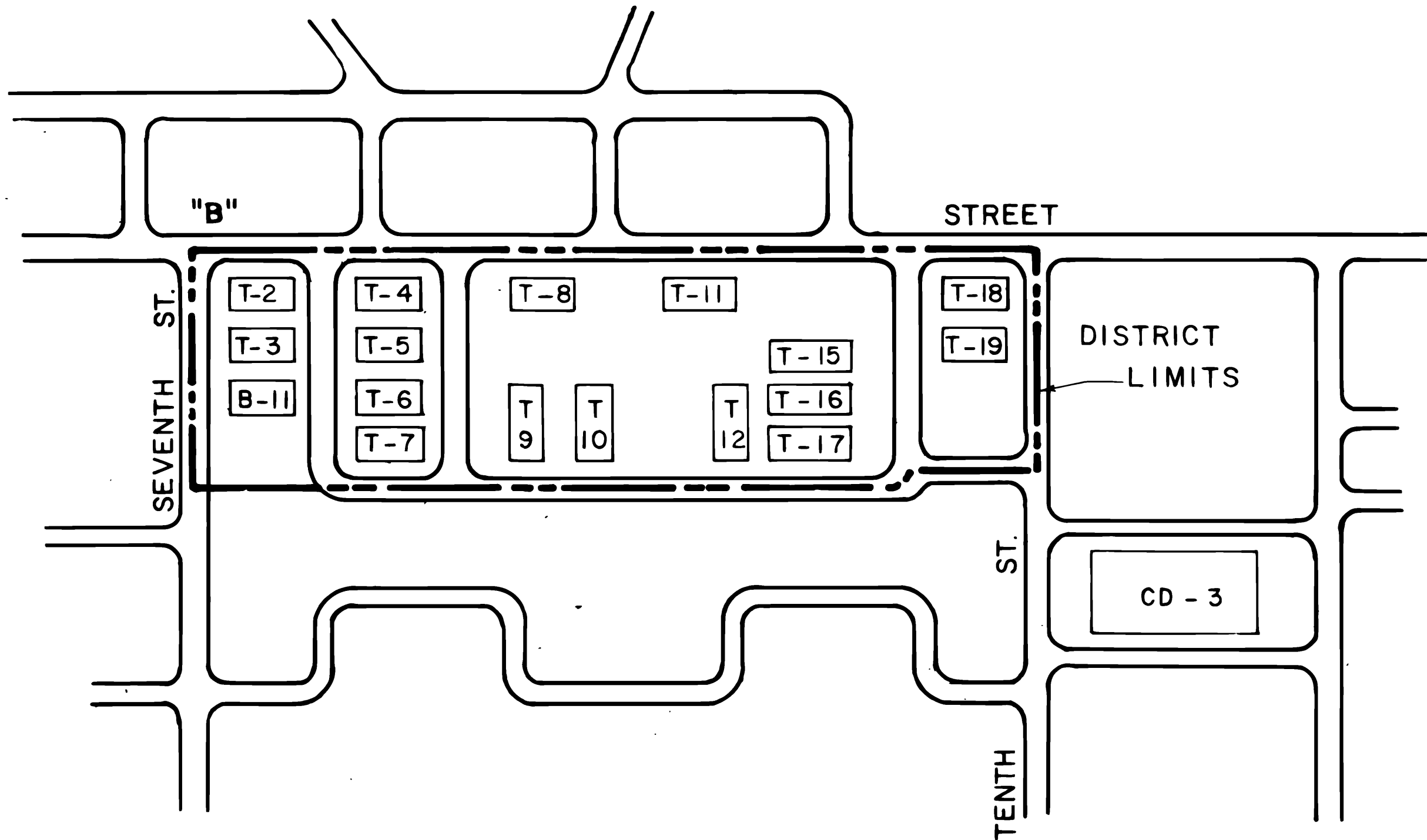
CONTINUATION SHEET 3 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Chase, D. W.: An Historical Survey of United States Navy
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Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center; building records.

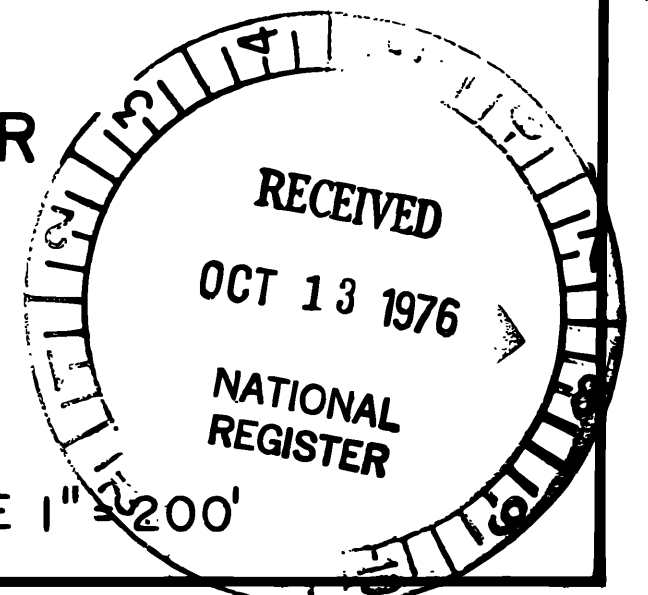
Jackson, Henry G; "The Quonset Hut"; Rhode Island History,
VI # 1, January, 1947; Rhode Island Historical Society,
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McDonnell, Robert F.; interviews, 1974.



**CAMP ENDICOTT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 DAVISVILLE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
 NORTH KINGSTON, R.I.**

DEC 21 1977



APRIL, 1976

SCALE 1" = 200'