CE-1284
Bainbridge Naval Training Center (complex)
Port Deposit vicinity
Public (Restricted)
1900-1920; 1942-1970

The Bainbridge Naval Training Center is significant in national military history as the U.S. Navy's East Coast training center for enlisted men from 1942 to 1976, covering a period of three major wars. On a local level, the Center is significant as the major employer and economic force in Cecil County for most of its 34-year active history. Included in he Center's property is the former Tome School for Boys (CE-1285) which may be nationally significant in educational, architectural, and military history.

The Center is a complex of about 500 temporary and permanent buildings in varying states of deterioration, from minor to ruinous. Most buildings are frame with flat roofs and asbestos siding. Certain functional needs dictated more permanent construction, such as the brick administrative headquarters, ammunition dumps, and the brig.

Survey No. CE-1284

Magi No. 0812844813

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bainbridge Naval Training Center

2. Location

street & number ___ not for publication

city, town Port Deposit X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Cecil

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	X public	X occupied (PARTIALLY)	agriculture	museum
building(s)	private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	X educational	private residence
site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	entertainment	religious
object	in process	X yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	X not applicable	no	military	other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Navy, c/o Naval Facilities Engineering Command

street & number telephone no.: (804) 444-9041

city, town Norfolk state and zip code VA 23511

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Court House Declaration of Taking #1 liber W.E.B. 25

street & number folio 423

city, town Elkton, Maryland Declaration of Taking #2 ~~state~~ Liber W.E.B. 27 Folio 423

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CE-1284

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	X deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bainbridge Naval Training Center is a military complex of buildings and structures occupying an area of approximately 1118 acres northeast of Port Deposit, Maryland. Included in the Center boundary are about 500 temporary and permanent buildings built for recruit processing and training, barracks, recreational facilities, educational buildings for service schools, housing for Center staff and dependents, and support facilities. The grounds of the former Tome School for Boys are part of the complex.

Most of the Navy-built structures are frame and asbestos siding temporary buildings which have deteriorated greatly during the 40-year history of the Center. Certain buildings are of brick when functional needs required permanent structures, such as the administrative headquarters, ammunition dumps, and the base brig. The original Tome School for Boys consisted of several monumental stone buildings around a quadrangle. These buildings still stand and are located in the extreme southwest corner of the Center area. (See accompanying map.)

Access to the Center is via the main gate from Md. Route 222. Other gates around the Center boundary are no longer in use. Bainbridge Road, the main street of the Center, follows the route of the former county road which existed prior to the Navy's acquisition of the area. Several 19th and early 20th century houses were located along this road and the extant buildings of the period are included in the county historic site survey under individual survey numbers.

8. Significance

Survey No. CE-1284

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	X economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	X education	X military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1900–1920 (Tome School area) 1942–1970 **Builder/Architect** Boring and Tilton (Tome School) Eggers and Higgins

check: Applicable Criteria: ✓A ___B ✓C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ✓national ___state ___local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bainbridge Naval Training Center is significant in national military history as the U.S. Navy's East Coast training center for enlisted men from 1942 to 1976, covering a period of three major wars. On a local level, the Center is significant as the major employer and economic force in Cecil County for most of its 34-year active history. Included in the Center's property is the former Tome School for Boys (CE-1285), which may be nationally significant in educational and architectural history (see Determination of Eligibility).

The Center was established in August 1942 when 330 acres, including the Tome School, were condemned by the Navy at a sum of $941,820. In November 1942, a second condemnation of an additional 740 acres was acquired. These two actions formed the nucleus of the Center. Later acquisitions were made for a marina on the Susquehanna River, sewage facilities and housing projects. The Bainbridge site was one of four such training facilities in the U.S. and was planned to accommodate 20,000 recruits for basic training. In addition, the Fleet Service Schools were to be located at Bainbridge. These included radioman, gunnery, carpentry, electrical engineering, steam fitting, yeoman, quartermaster, and fire fighting schools. The Naval Academy Preparatory School was moved to Bainbridge from Norfolk in 1943, where it remained until 1974, except for the period between 1949 and 1951 when it was relocated to Newport, R. I.

The site had several existing 19th and 20th century farm houses and residences, most of which were converted to living quarters for officers. The largest house was Fairlawn (CE-1282), a substantial estate of several buildings. The house was destroyed by fire in the 1960's and demolished. A 19th-century school, the Franklin School, was located near the intersection of Bainbridge and Fiske Roads. It was demolished for subsequent construction. Bainbridge, Benson, and Fiske Roads follow the approximate routes of the existing county roads at the time of the Navy's acquisition.

Preliminary architectural plans were made by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, but most of the Center's buildings were designed by the New York firm of Eggers and Higgins. The firm was a prolific builder of U.S. Government and private commissions for institutional organizations during the 1940's and '50's. Eggers and Higgins planned four individual training areas, each containing barracks, drill hall, mess hall, classroom and recreational facilities grouped around a large drill field. The barracks and some of the service school buildings were two and three story temporary

frame structures with asbestos siding, flat roofs, and ribbon windows.

The Bainbridge barracks reflected the principles of Modern architecture developed over the previous three decades: straight lines, standardized parts, functional plans, lightness and airiness. All these elements benefitted under the Navy's need for units that could be quickly erected in repetitive units. The only concession to traditional materials was the extensive use of wood for structural and finishing purposes where steel would normally be specified. Steel was critical for war production, so Eggers and Higgins provided for laminated wood structural members even in the huge arched drill halls.

Work was begun on the Center in the spring of 1942. By September, the first group of recruits arrived for basic training. In December 1942 the first drill hall and Ships Service Center containing recreational facilities were dedicated. In June 1943, the indoor-outdoor stage and amphitheater were completed. This structure had a capacity of 10,000 for open-air events and was used for USO shows and other activities. The base hospital had a 1,500-bed capacity and included a school for hospital corpsmen. The hospital was a series of barracks-type buildings arranged along three radiating access hallways. During World War II, the hospital reportedly cared for 80,000 patients.

Bainbridge Naval Training Center processed almost 250,000 recruits during World War II. The peak wartime population of the Center was about 35,000, making it the largest population center in Cecil County. After August 1945, the Center served as a separation point for returning servicemen. The Center was closed down in 1947 and occupied by a security detachment until 1951. The Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) remained until 1949 before it was relocated to Newport, R. I.

The Korean War brought an increase in selective service quotas and the Bainbridge Center was reactivated in 1951. The service schools and NAPS were returned to Bainbridge. In addition, the entire WAVE recruit training operation was based at Bainbridge. The rapidly deteriorating temporary buildings had to be renovated for the return to fully active status.

Male recruit training ended at Bainbridge in December 1957 after about 550,000 seamen had been processed through the Center. WAVE basic training and the service schools remained active, but the permanent Center population dropped from about 12,000 to 4,500.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, several new commands, including some non-training units were stationed at Bainbridge. In 1959, the Personnel Accounting Machine Installation, the Enlisted Personnel Distribution Office, Continental U.S., and the Naval Security Group Detachment School were moved into the Center. In 1962, the Naval Reserve Manpower Center, a computerized records unit, and the Nuclear Power School, formerly based at New London, Connecticut, were brought to Bainbridge.

The Vietnam Conflict produced little change in the Bainbridge Center. By the late 1960's the departure of some of the service schools for other bases indicated the gradual phase-out of Bainbridge had begun. By 1974, only the Radioman "A" and Nuclear Power Schools and NAPS remained at Bainbridge, along with the Naval Reserve Manpower Center, Personnel Accounting Machine Installation (CONUS), and the Training Center Staff. NAPS was moved to Newport, R.I. in September 1974 and the Radioman "A" School was sent to the San Diego Naval Training Center. The Nuclear Power School was moved to the Naval Training Center at Orlando, Florida and the Bainbridge Naval Training Center was closed in early 1976.

8. Significance continued

Parts of the Bainbridge Center were used for short-term projects such as emergency housing during natural disasters and day camps after the de-activation, but no continuous use was made of the facilities until 1979, when the Susquehanna-Chesapeake Job Corps Center leased the former NAPS area (the Tome School buildings) and Camp Rodgers, the First Regiment sector. Since 1979, the Job Corps has removed some of the severely deteriorated buildings in the Rodgers area and built a new dormitory. The Tome School buildings are gradually being restored by the Job Corps students.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CE-1284

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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	Janet L. Davis		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	**date**	May 1982
street & number	21 State Circle	**telephone**	(301) 269-2438
city or town	Annapolis	**state**	Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

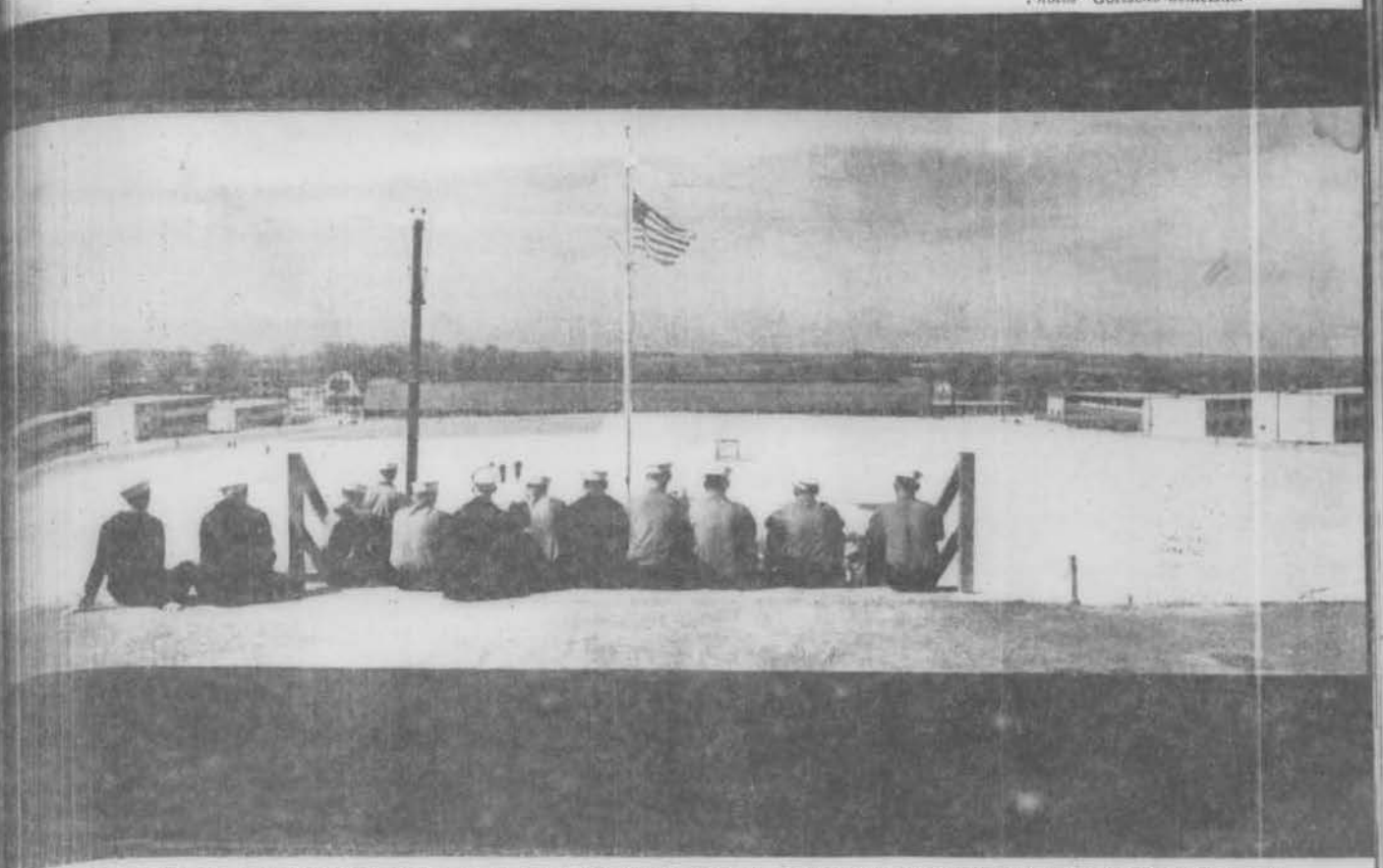
Arch. Forum 79 Sept. 43 47

CE-1284

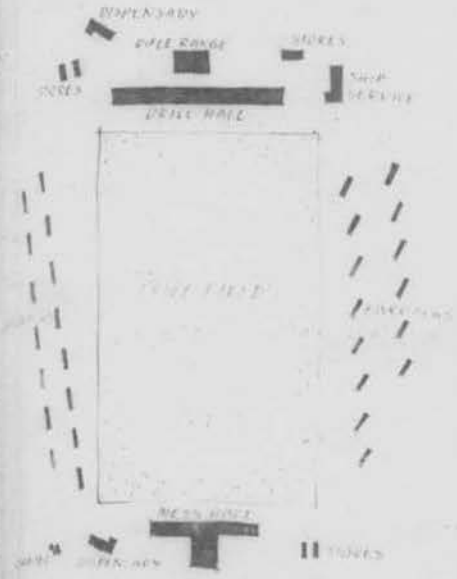
NAVAL TRAINING STATION: EAST COAST

Eggers & Higgins produce an admirable design for the Armed Forces, a camp for enlisted men built entirely of non-critical materials and planned to facilitate the Navy's extensive training program.

Photos: Gottscho-Schleisner



LIN BAKED CLAY ON UNFINISHED DRILL FIELD LOOKS LIKE SNOW. SITE IS EXCEEDINGLY DRY AND HEALTHFUL



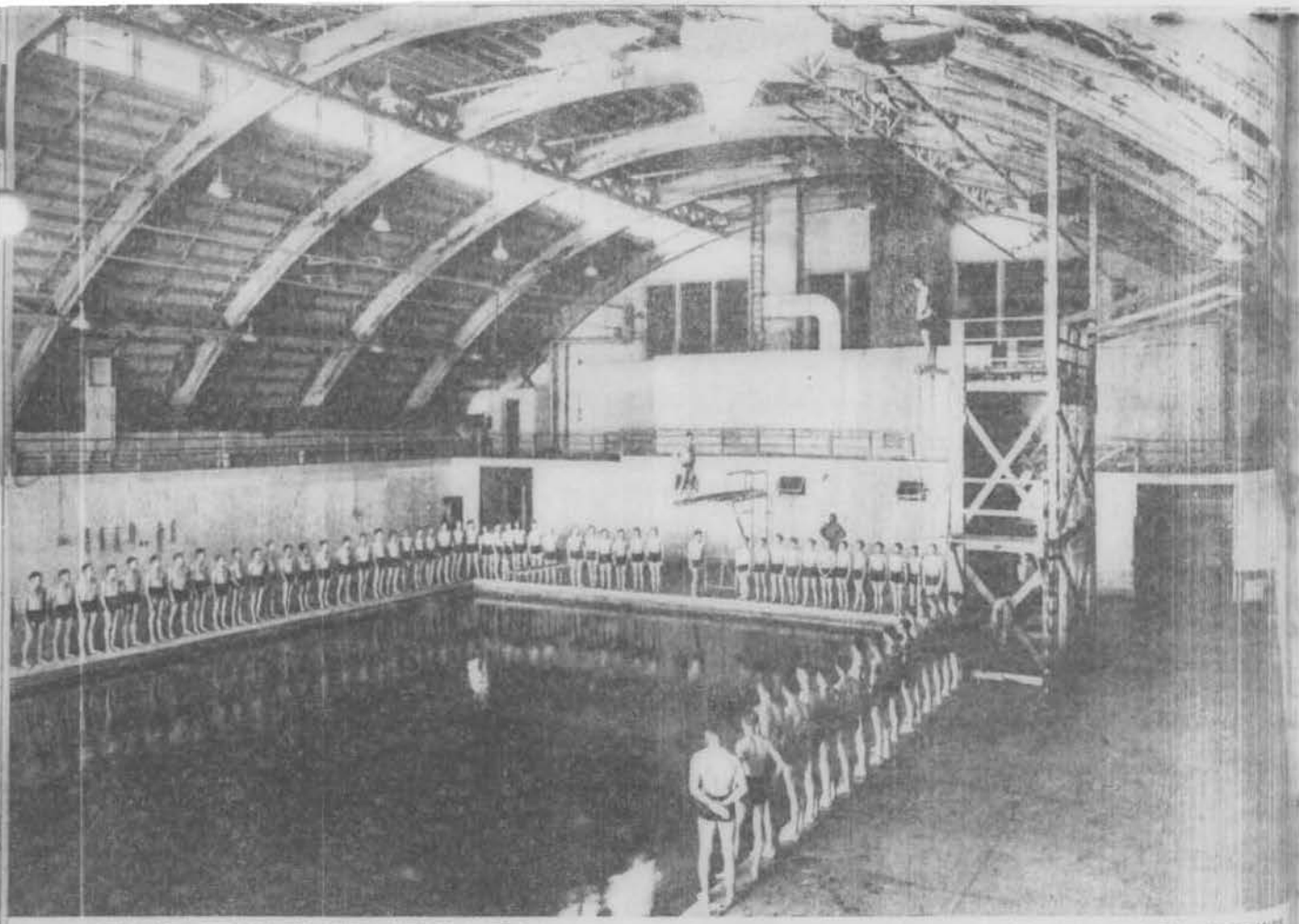
TYPICAL UNIT CENTERS ON DRILL FIELD

The Navy takes just eight weeks to transform a civilian into a sailor. Camps where recruits are given the basic training for their naval careers must therefore be equipped to turn out thousands of thoroughly trained men in minimum time with maximum efficiency. The logical way to handle such vast numbers is to divide the station into individual training units, each complete and self contained, with advance training schools, recreation and hospital facilities for the common use of all trainees. These requirements obviously establish the program for the site plan. The diagram at the left shows the fundamental elements of a typical group though it is not an actual plan. Conditions and routine to be found later aboard ship are simulated as accurately as possible in the training program.

A key to the magnitude of such a project can be found in the cost of this station, estimated at $45,000,000. Construction was completed in twelve months but in answer to the Navy's demand for increased personnel, the first recruits were graduated 28 weeks after construction began.

Architectural Forum, 79 (Sept. 1943), 47-54

CE-1284



RECRUITS LEARN TO SWIM BEFORE GRADUATING. TRAINING PLATFORM TEACHES ESCAPE FROM SINKING SHIPS

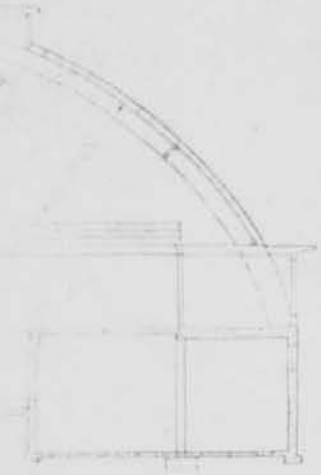
TRAINING **Buildings in this category illustrate the successful use of built-up timber and laminated wood in military construction.**

With the exception of marksmanship, all the indoor activities of the Navy's basic training program are conducted in the drill hall. Specialized courses such as fire-control, radio and anti-aircraft protection are taught in the buildings of the advanced training schools. The swimming pool where trainees learn their most vital means of self preservation is located at one end of the drill hall. It is oriented to the south and opens onto a brick sun terrace which may be used after swimming classes. Clerestory strips running the full length of the roof and a large sun window in the pool area provide interior lighting for the hall. Laminated arches provide the required height at the center of the building and eliminate waste space. These were built up to the required curvature and depth by glueing layers of timber under pressure. The wind thrust at the ends of the building is transmitted to the bracing system of the roof by means of latticed mullions placed between the doors.

Target practice, one of the principal courses, is conducted on a separate indoor range. Here, where no columns were wanted and no steel was allowed, the large trusses are composed of small sections of wood and split ring connectors. Buffles behind the ceiling bulbs cast all light to the targets and none to the marksmen.

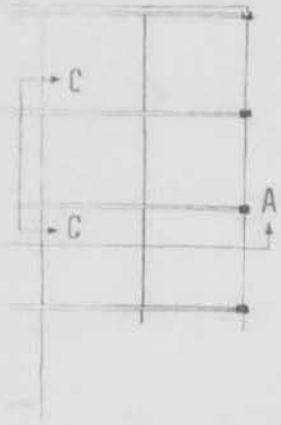
TRAINING STATION
COAST

CE-1284



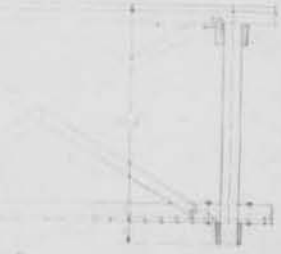
HALL SECTION

A-A



PLAN

B-B

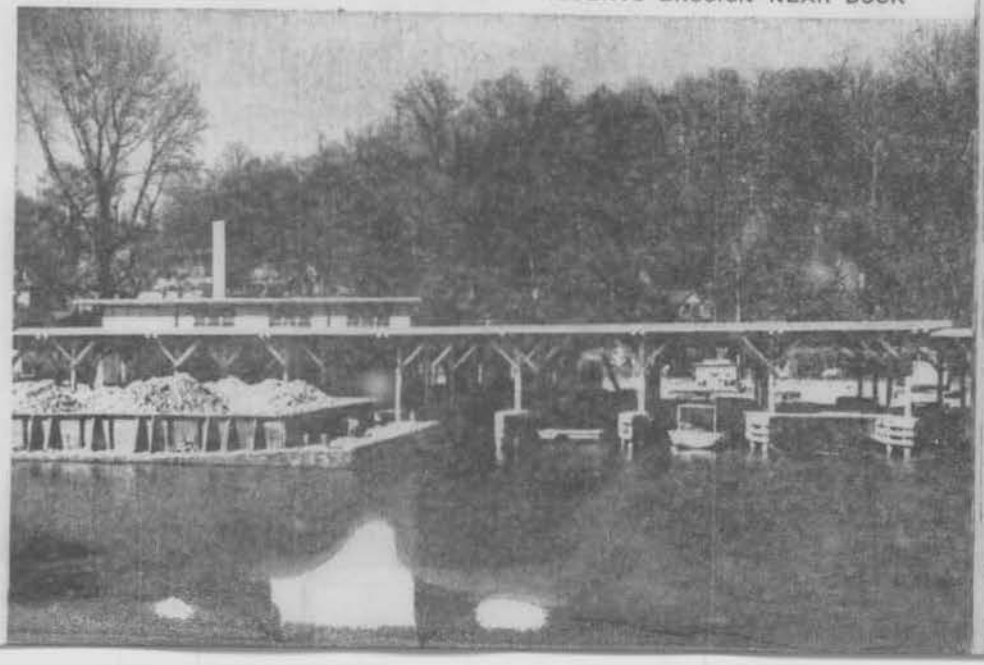


C-C

THE SURFACES OF FINISHED DRILL FIELDS WILL BE PLANTED WITH GRASS

THE TARGETS ARE BACKED WITH SAND FOR EASY RECOVERY OF BULLETS

GRAVEL SPREAD ON THE RIVER BOTTOM PREVENTS EROSION NEAR DOCK



CE-1284

GENEROUS SPACING OF BUILDINGS SAVED MANY LARGE TREES. OVERHANGS PROTECT THE TEMPORARY EXTERIOR

BARRACKS **Flat roofs, long ribbon windows and straight-line plans are all departures from previous designs for barracks.**

Each barrack (they are all identical in plan and construction) has its own small study area, where recruits can read, write letters, etc. This area, as indicated in the interior photograph, is not elaborate as regards space or equipment for it was incorporated only to supplement the more complete facilities located in other buildings.

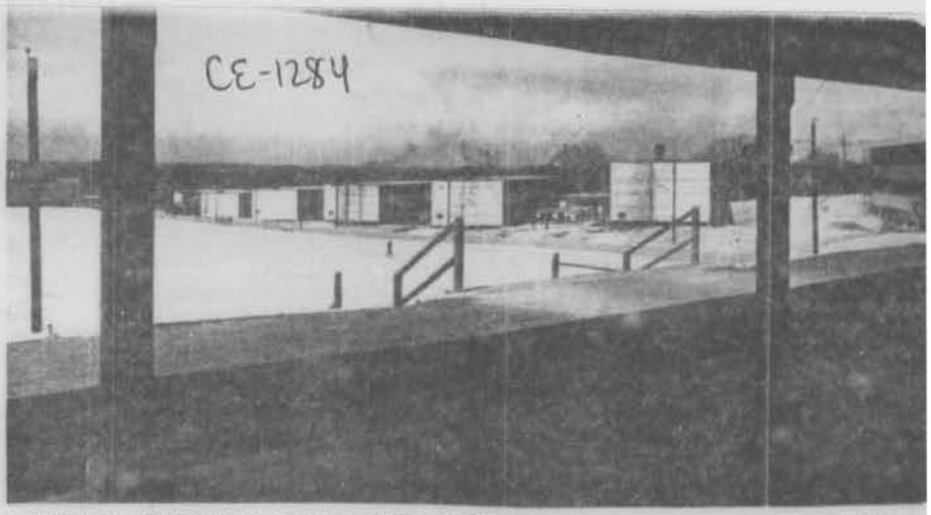
The dormitory structures are very simple in construction and appearance, consisting merely of a wood framework finished with sheets of asbestos-cement. The ribbon windows have been produced in a very inexpensive manner, by inserting stock wood double-hung windows between the studs. Interiors are largely exposed construction, except on the ends, and on the second floor ceilings, where plywood sheeting covers the roof insulation.

The trellises which appear at the ends of each building are fire escape ladders; they do not seem too satisfactory as safety features. In general, however, the appearance of the barracks in groups is excellent. The simple gray blocks are well suited for repetition, while the dark strips of windows serve to provide the needed continuity.

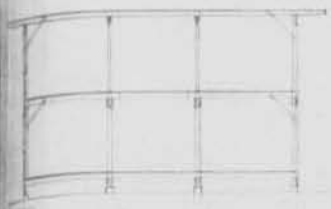
CHAPEL IS SIMPLE, CLEAN CU

NAVAL TRAINING STATION
EAST COAST

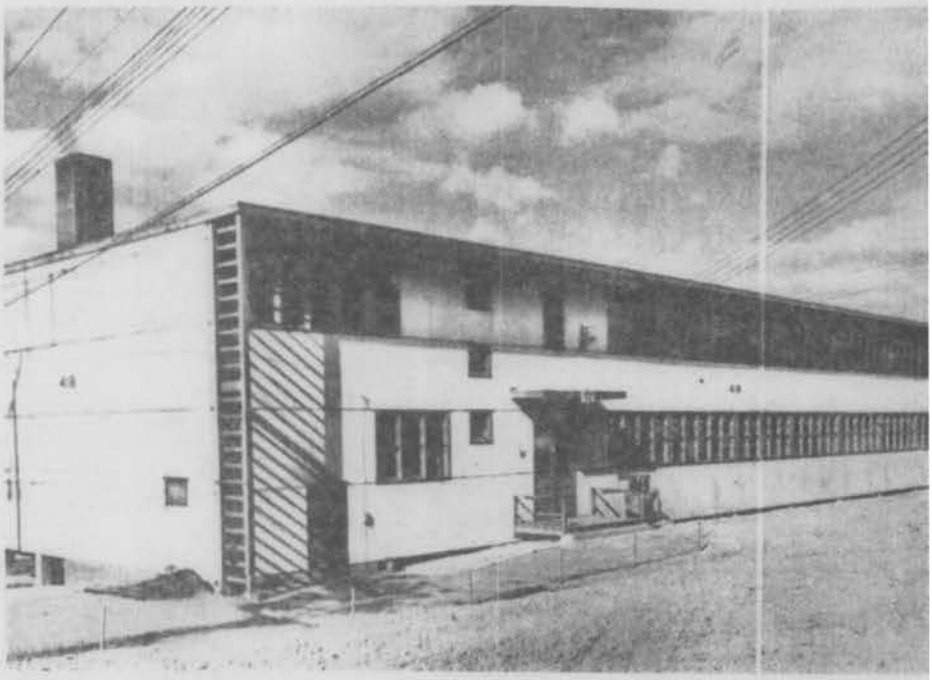
CE-1284



A TYPICAL BARRACKS GROUP SEEN FROM COVERED PORCH OF MESS HALL



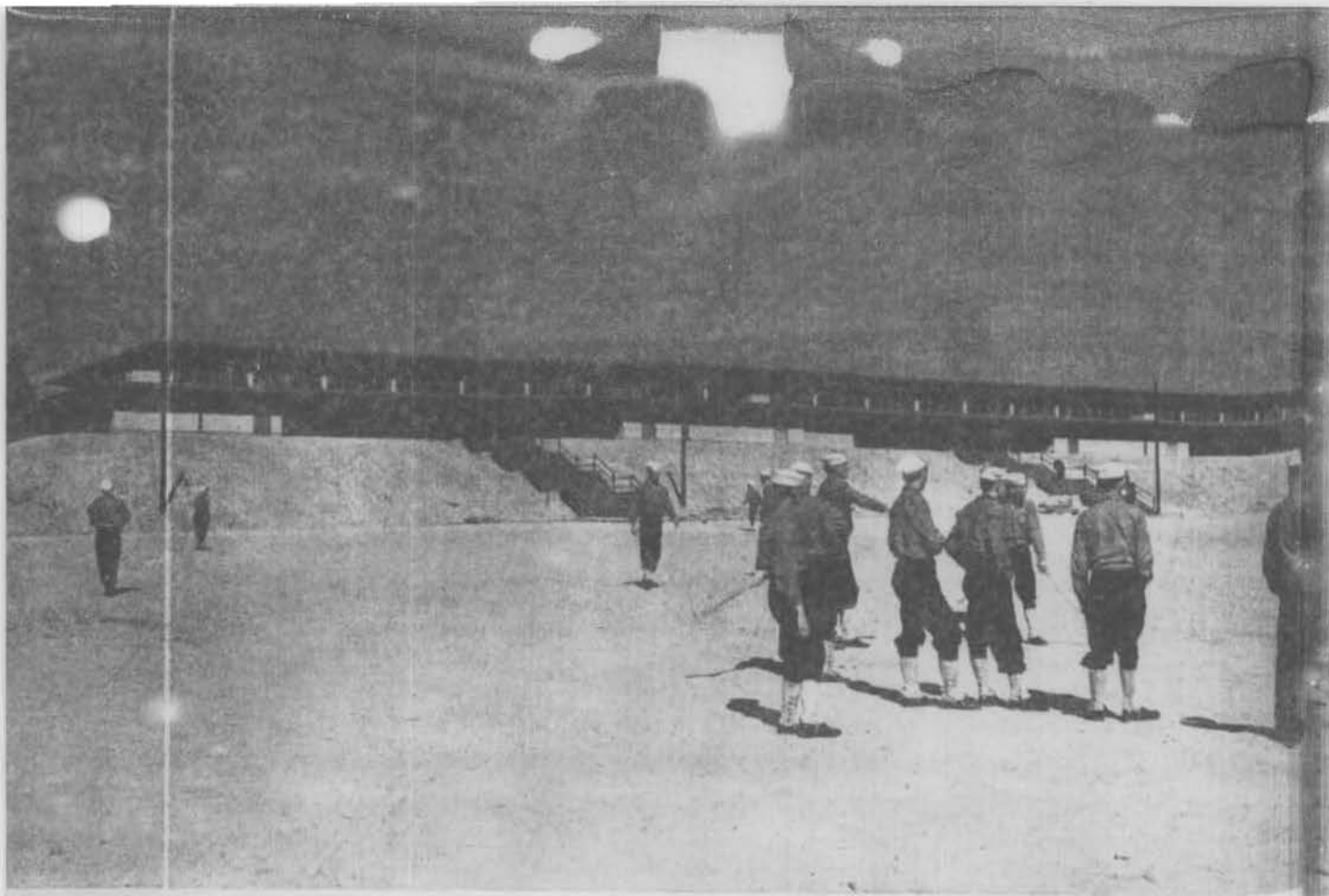
ECTION



CONSTRUCTION PHOTO SHOWS BARRACK BEFORE COMPLETION OF PLANTING

PLAN

THE RECRUITS SHARE DOUBLE BUNKS ARRANGED IN FOUR SINGLE ROWS



CAFETERIA FACES DRILL HALL ACROSS THE PARADE GROUND, SEATS 1,800. PORCHES SHELTER WAITING TRAINEES

CE-1284

MESS HALL, a new type for the Navy, replaces the standard H plan with a T-shaped unit.

Dining in the Navy is not a social activity. The feeding of a regiment is handled with the same precision and efficiency characteristic of the entire training program. The huge mess hall, which serves one entire unit is divided into three double sections, each serving 600 trainees from cafeteria counters. The galley, refrigerators and storage spaces are in the stem of the T, serving all three units. The main dining area occupies the entire front of the building and is lit by clerestory windows over the projecting porches and dishwashing units.

Trainees enter the building through one of the three porches at the front, serve themselves at the cafeteria counters, and empty their own trays of dirty dishes as they leave through the dishwashing units which flank the entrances.

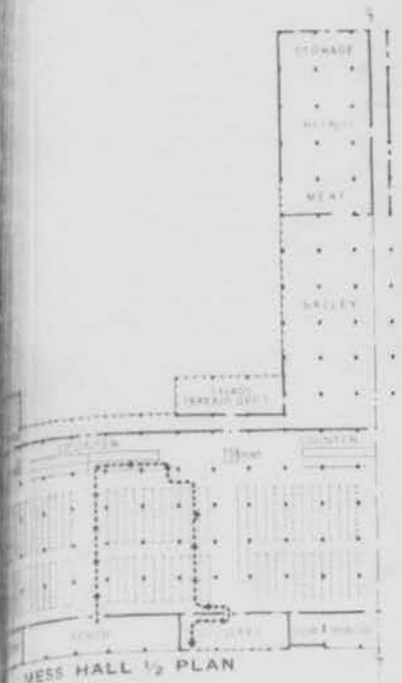
In keeping with the temporary construction of the whole station, the building is framed in timber, with most of the furnishings also wood. The furniture and concrete floor are painted Navy gray; ceiling and walls are cream. Quarters for the mess hall personnel are located on the second floor of the service unit at the rear.

CONSTRUCTION OUTLINE:

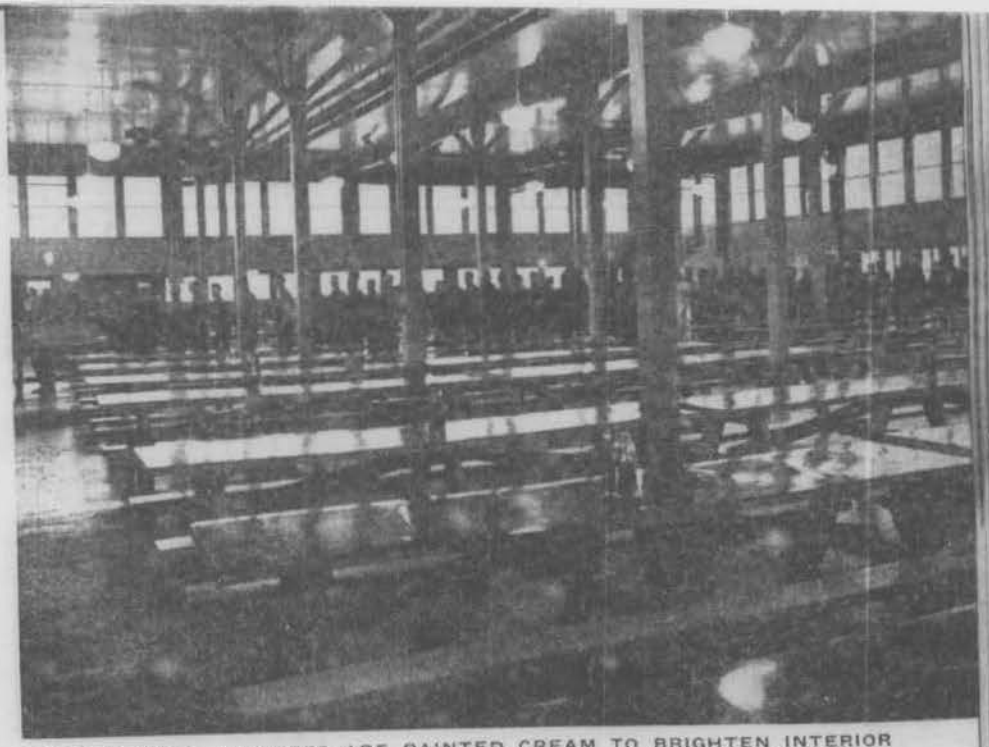
STRUCTURE: Exterior walls—wood frame, cement and asbestos board, inside—various wallboards, Johns-Manville, U. S. Gypsum Co. and Celotex Corp. Floors—maple, concrete or oak. ROOF—felt and gravel. INSULATION—mineral wool; Celotex on drill halls and auditorium, Celotex Corp. HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT—E. H. Sheldon Co. WOODWORK: Weiberg Baer Co. and Emblem Mfg. Co. FURNISHINGS—Gaylord Mfg. Co., Heywood-Wakefield Co., W. & J. Sloane and John Wanamaker. HARDWARE—Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co. KITCHEN EQUIPMENT—Nathan Straus, P. B. Polhemus Co., Federal Mfg. Co., I. J. White Co. and Reed Machinery Co. Metal—American Blower Corp. and Buffalo Forge Co. LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT—American Laundry Machinery Co. and U. S. Hoffman Machinery Co. BATHROOM EQUIPMENT—Kohler Co., American Radiator-Standard Sanitary Corp. and Crane Co. HEATING: Steam system. Boilers—National Boiler Co. and Springfield Boiler Co. Stokers—Iron Fireman Mfg. Co. Regulators—Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. Water heater—Patterson-Kelley Co., Inc. FILTER PLANT—Fairbanks Morse & Co., Nash Engineering Co., Permutit Co. and Wallace Tiernan Co., Inc. REFRIGERATION—York Ice Machinery Co. SWIMMING POOL EQUIPMENT—Permutit Co. SEWAGE DISPOSAL—Hardinge Co., Pacific Flush Tank Co., Wallace & Tiernan Co. (A number of products have been omitted from this outline because of incomplete information.)

CE-1284

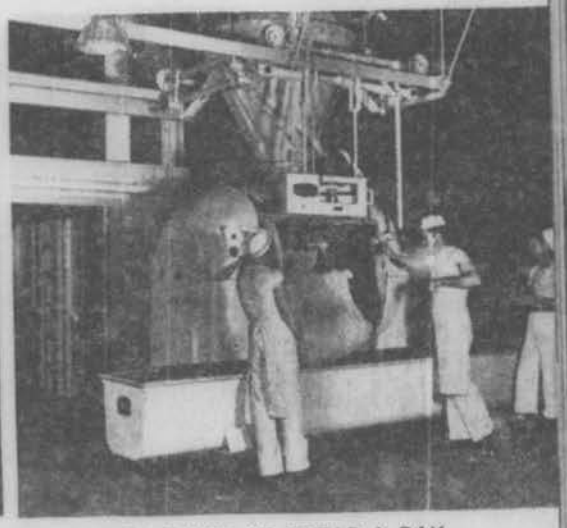
NAVAL TRAINING STATION
EAST COAST



MESS HALL ½ PLAN



EXPOSED WOOD MEMBERS ARE PAINTED CREAM TO BRIGHTEN INTERIOR



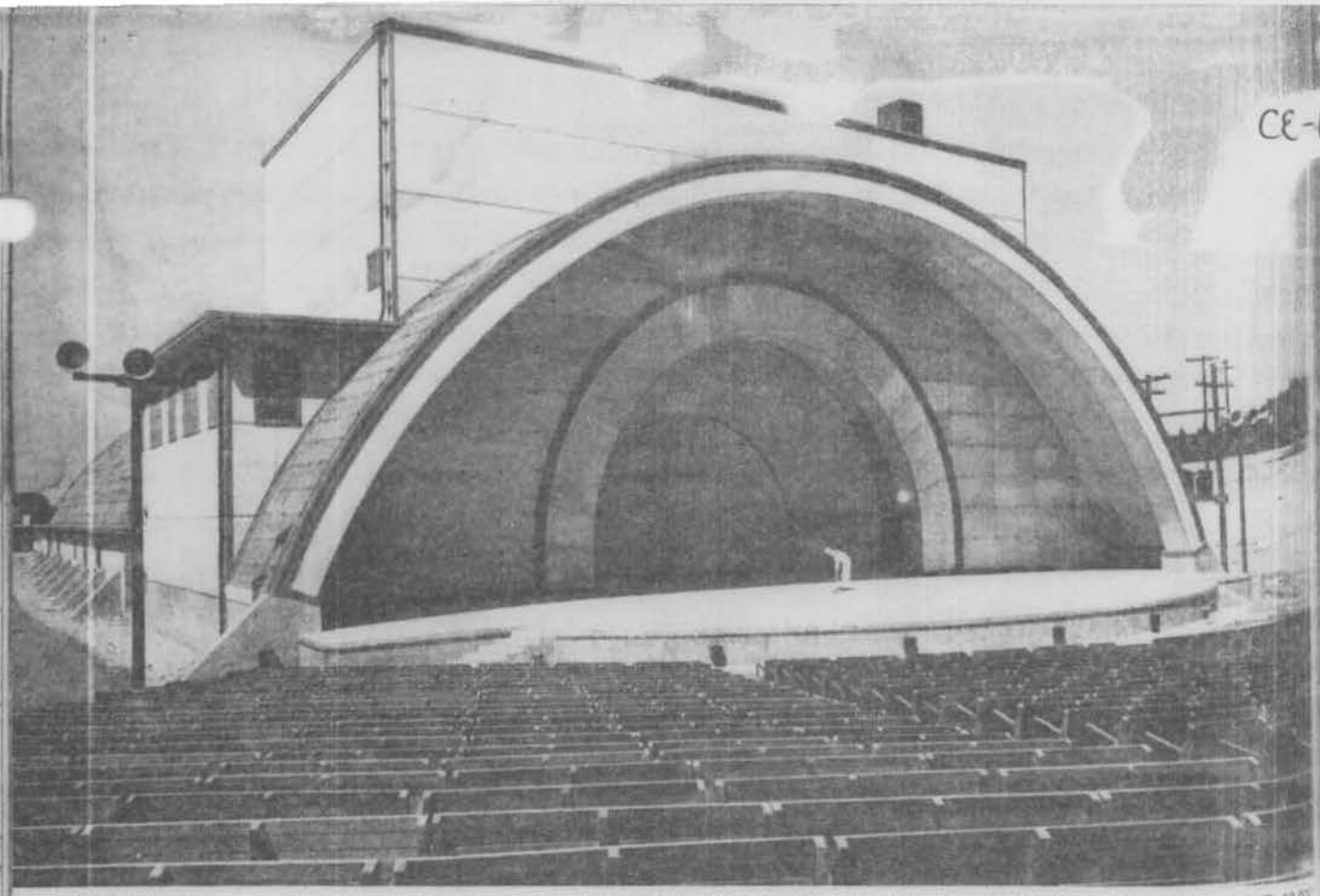
THE BAKERY IS EQUIPPED TO TURN OUT 20,000 LOAVES OF BREAD A DAY

HOSPITAL facilities include a school for the hospital corps—men who later act as male nurses aboard ship. All cases on the reservation are handled by the medical staff, which includes a number of specialists. Four special treatment buildings, for X-ray, surgery, eye, ear, nose and throat and physiotherapy, are provided. The hospital staff is quartered within the group area and has its own recreation unit.

HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT IS THE FINEST AVAILABLE

WARD INTERIORS ARE SOUND ABSORBING PLASTER BOARD

CE-1284



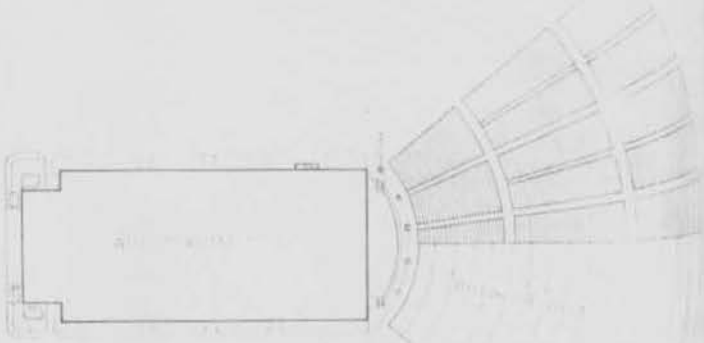
AMPHITHEATER AND ENCLOSED AUDITORIUM ARE USED BY THE ENTIRE STATION. TERRACES ON SLOPE SEAT 10,000

AUDITORIUM A single stage serves both indoor and outdoor theaters.

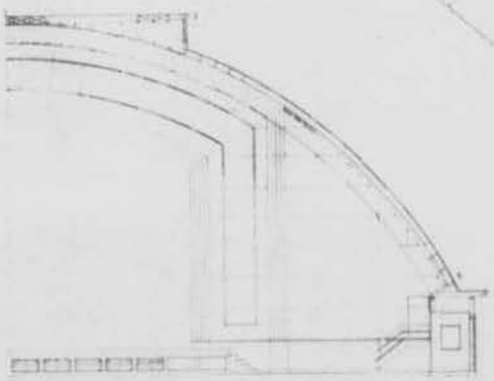
The large auditorium follows a familiar pattern in the provision of seating facilites both indoors and out, and its stage has been so designed that it works both ways. The auditorium proper can seat 3,000 spectators; the terraces outside, fitted with wooden benches, accommodates three times this number.

It is one of the interesting features of the project as a whole that standardization of elements was a factor in reducing costs and construction time. The auditorium, which uses laminated wood arches identical with those in the drill halls, offers another example of this practice.

The stage is equipped for almost any desired type of presentation, and has the standard gridiron used for scenery. It is probable that use of the amphitheater will be restricted to ceremonies and concerts, since the showing of plays to audiences of 10,000 presents great technical difficulties. However, the facilities of the indoor stage can be made available by opening a pair of large doors.



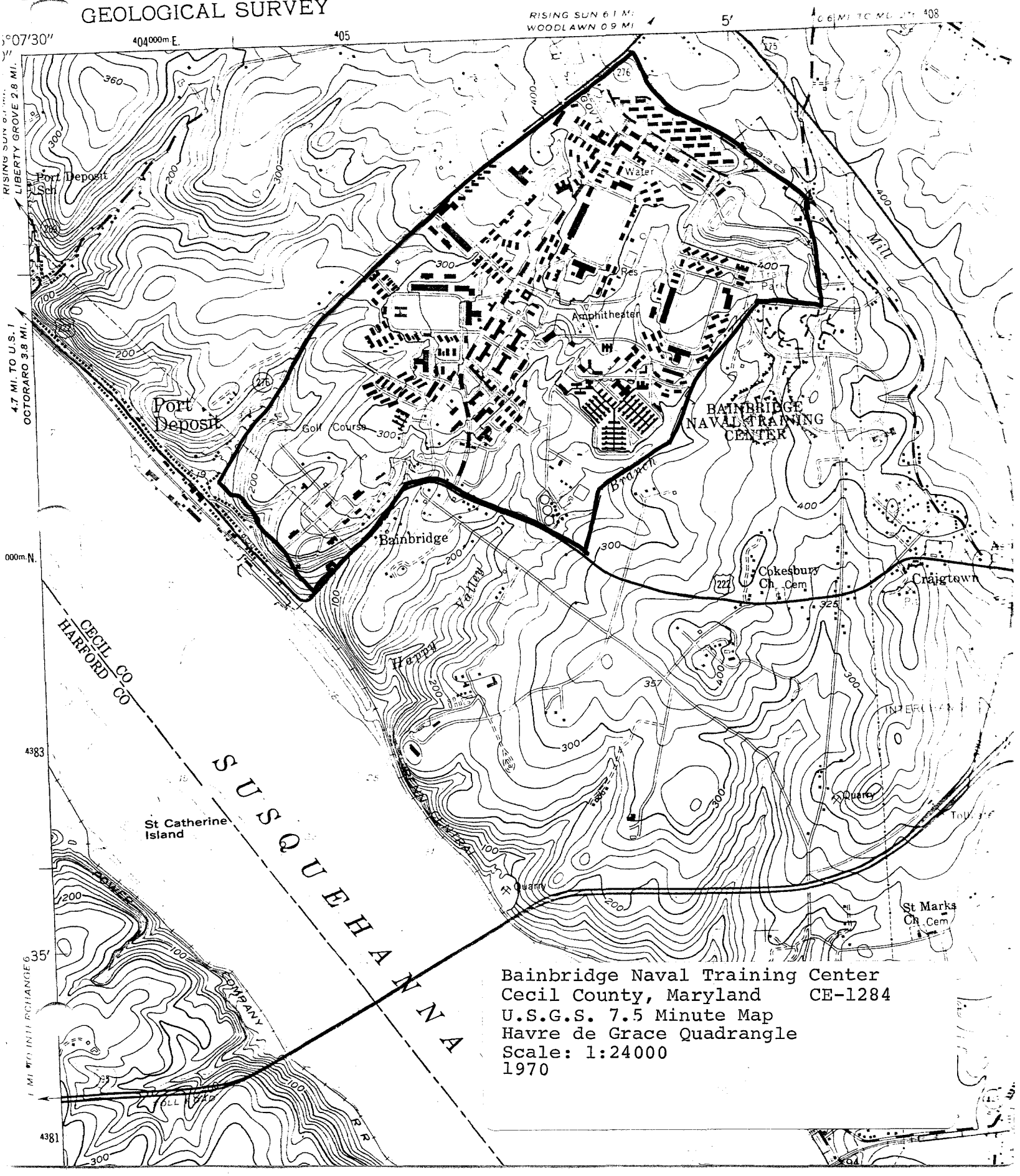
PLAN



SECTION

CE-1284

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Bainbridge Naval Training Center
Cecil County, Maryland CE-1284
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Map
Havre de Grace Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24000
1970

Bainbridge Naval Training Center
CE-1284
Cecil County, Maryland
photo: Janet Davis
neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust,
Annapolis, MD

May 1982
Outdoor Amphitheater 1/1