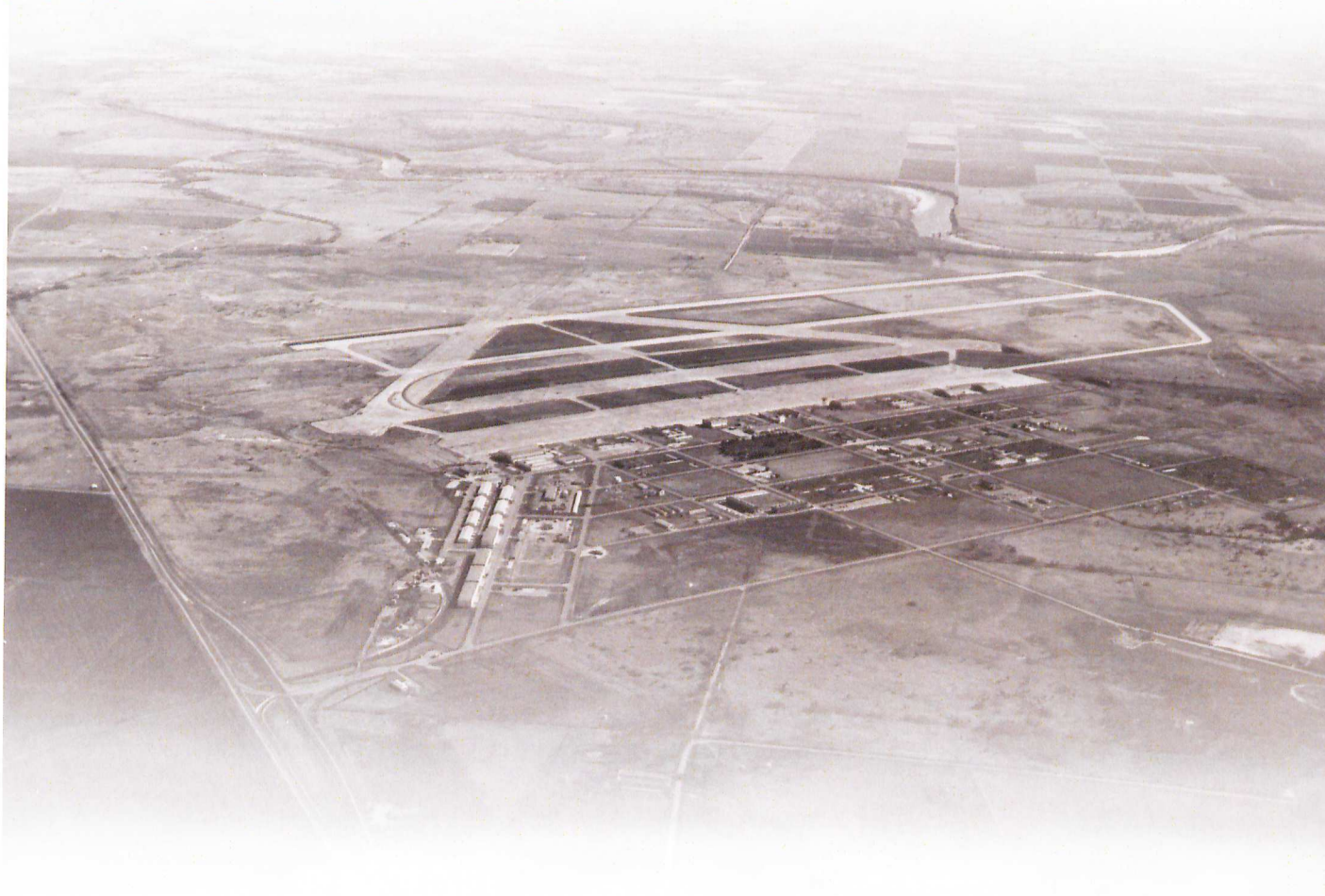


CENTER FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# Historic Structures Report Summaries

ARCH 648 FALL 2006



## **Barracks #8476-1943**

Heather K. Caldwell, Jeff Daulton, Elisa Lazo, Douglas Mullens

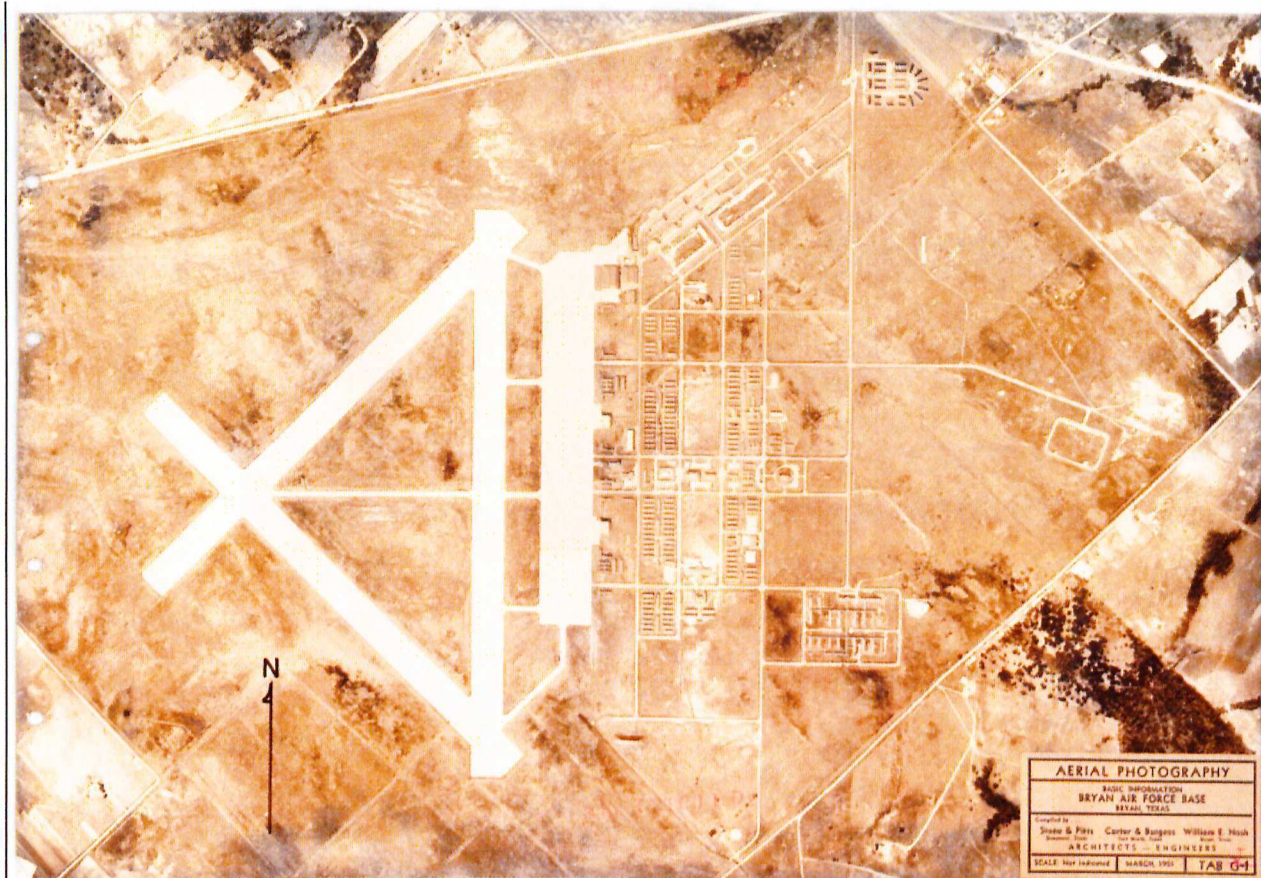
## **8522-8524 Warehouse Row**

Michelle Audenhaert, Kevin Sample, Jessica Thiebout

## **Hanger #46**

Aaron Cooper, Amanda Fry, Grace Lo





## THE BEGINNING

Texas became an excellent candidate for establishing Army Air Force Bases during World War II due to wide expanses of land, a large number of clear weather days, and relatively level terrain. Fourteen stations in all were established in Texas, including Bryan Army Air Force Field. Located six miles west of Bryan, the base was activated in 1943 and became instrumental as an instructors' school. One of its most significant contributions to pilot training was the development of the Full Panel Attitude System, making the instrument-training school the only one of its kind in the United States Army Air Forces.

Upon the separation of the Air Force from the Army in 1947, the base became Bryan Air Force Base. During World War II, the base had a large number of African American personnel stationed there, as well as a number of women air force service pilots or WASP. At Bryan Army Air Force Field the women flew AT-6's and BT-B's. It was deactivated at the end of World War II and reactivated in 1951 to train pilots for the Korean War. The base was deactivated permanently in 1961. In 1962, the land was deeded to Texas A&M University.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF BRYAN AAF BASE**

### **1942**

May 29, Army and officials from the city of Bryan met and recommended the purchase of Bryan Field site.

August 5, the official establishment of Army Air Force's advanced flying school is authorized.

August 7, the actual construction of the base began.

September 20, the commanding officer of the base Major Bingham T. Klein arrives at the base.

September 24, the enlisted men started occupancy of the field.

### **1943**

January 1, the construction of the base is 50% complete.

March 21, base is re-designated as Army Air Force's instructor school and the first instrument pilot class is enrolled.

June 6, Bryan Field is officially dedicated and the city's Citizen's Committee presents a P-51 to the base on behalf of the city of Bryan.

### **1944**

Training Program continues at the base for the whole year.

### **1945**

April 13, the 77<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing established at Bryan Field.

October 2, Bryan Field receives telegram from War Department stating that it will be placed on the inactive list effective Oct. 31, 1945.

October 31, Bryan Field placed on inactive list.

### **1951**

July 1, Bryan Air Force Base placed on active list.

July 20, Bryan Air Force Base named as pilot training school of advanced single engine planes. Base to use T-6's, T-33's, and F-80's in training program.

September 17, first class of Aviation Cadets arrived at the base. This class included Allied-National students from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Norway, in addition to American cadets.

### **1961**

Bryan Air Force Base is permanently de-activated.

### **1962**

The Bryan Air Force Base land is deeded to Texas A&M University.



## WASP AT BRYAN FIELD

Women Air Force Service Pilots were also stationed at Bryan Army Air Force Base. They flew At-6's and BT-13s as engineering test pilots at Bryan Army Air Force Base. Some of these women were: Ruth Westheimer (Newmark) (43-W-6), Suzanne Delano (44-W-6), Joan Michaels (44-W-6), Catherine D'Arezzo (44-W-4). Prior to being stationed at Bryan Field, they were all trained at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, which was a small west Texas town at that time.



Jacqueline Cochran who was a pilot herself initiated the program. She convinced the commander of the Army Air Force, General Henry Hap Arnold, that allowing women to take up roles of maintenance test pilots, would free up male pilots for flight missions overseas. The training program was rigorous and successful, producing 1074 pilots. A total of 18 classes graduated from Avenger Field. The women ranged from ages 18-28, and although they all had various flying experience, from as little as six months, to full flight instructor status, all had to be pilots to be accepted into the program.



The women bravely answered the call to serve their country even though they technically remained civilian volunteers through out their service. This meant they received no military privileges. Out of the 1074 women, 38 died in training or active duty. The military did not pay for their funerals or allow a flag to be draped over their caskets. Sadly, their own families even had to pay to fly their bodies home. Finally, in 1977, the U.S. officially recognized the WASP as military veterans.

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICEMEN**

Numerous African American personnel were stationed at Bryan Army Air Force Base during WW II and the Korean War. Unfortunately, few written records could be found, so oral records were collected. Wayne Sadberry, curator of the Bryan African American Museum, graciously shared his recollections of the era. He said the base played an integral part in both social and economic relations in the community during the WWII and Korean War. Since the community was still segregated at that time, the African American officers had no separate quarters on the base. They were given the choice of either sleeping with their enlisted men, or living off base in civilian housing, which many chose to do. This allowed them to integrate with the locals more freely and made the effects of the base more profound.

During the Korean War the officers were allowed to reside in the officers' quarters on base or live off base as well. This created a positive atmosphere in a community that was still segregated throughout. African American servicemen could have guests visit on base and use all the facilities, including the pool. Since the pools were segregated in Bryan, Wayne Sadberry recalls going swimming at the base pool many times. The servicemen, both black and white were instructed to sign in the children in as their guests so they could use the pool. He remembers waiting at the gate many times for a serviceman to walk by and sign him in as his guest. In 1942, the base had a total of twelve barrack buildings for African American enlisted men. Today only four of those survive. They are buildings 8476, 8475, 8474, 8473, 8483, 8487, and, 8488. This report will cover building #8476.



**Barracks # 8476 - 1943**  
Bryan Army Air Force Field  
Bryan, TX



Historic Structure Report  
Heather K. Caldwell  
Jeff Daulton  
Elisa Lazo  
Douglas Mullens  
2006

## ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURE AND EXISTING ASSESSMENT

After several trips to the barracks, when it was dry and when it was pouring rain, we were able to see the building inside and out. The trip during the rain proved most valuable because we were able to pinpoint the exact locations of ceiling leakage. The building, now over sixty years old, has seen better days and has been slowly deteriorating over the years.



Barrack's #8476 – November 2006

### EXTERIOR CONDITION

**"Good"** - The condition is good enough that the material does not need to be replaced or rehabbed and is structurally sound. IT is still performing its intended purpose well.

**"Fair"** - The materials condition may need some upkeep, cleaning, and very limited replacement, but its condition does not affect its overall ability to perform its intended purpose.

**"Poor"** - The material has a moderate amount of damage in places that it needs to be at least partially replaced or strengthened to continue to perform its intended purpose.

**"Very Poor"** - The material is in such bad condition overall that almost all of it needs to be replaced. It is no longer performing its intended purpose.



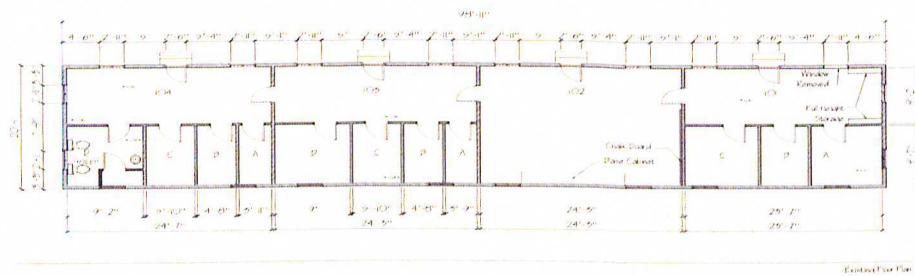
## # 8476 Avenue C

Wood Framed Rectangular building with asbestos siding and asphalt shingle roof.



Rear View of Barrack's #8476

Floor plan:

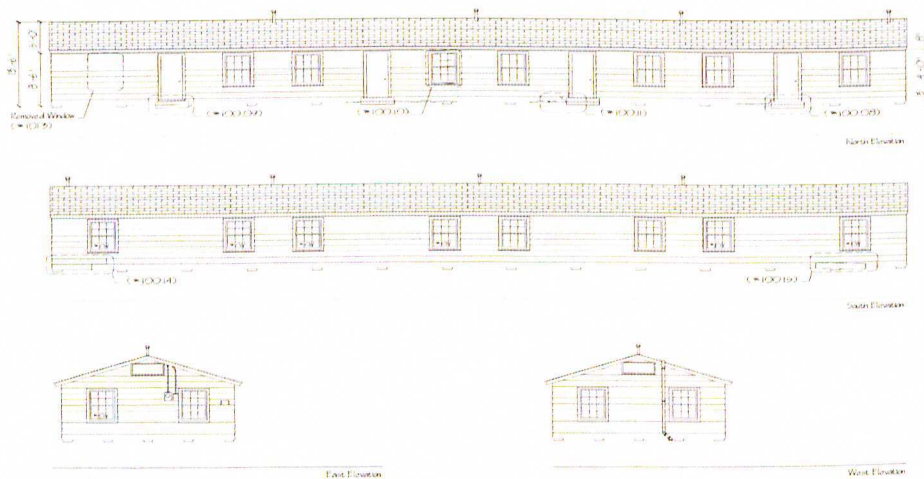


Areas of water damage to ceiling, doors, walls, and windows

Areas of exterior damage to ceiling. Ceiling is often colored or browned in at areas.

• (OOO) • Reference picture of that window

Elevations:



• (OO) • Colored Windows (from inside) - no longer operable

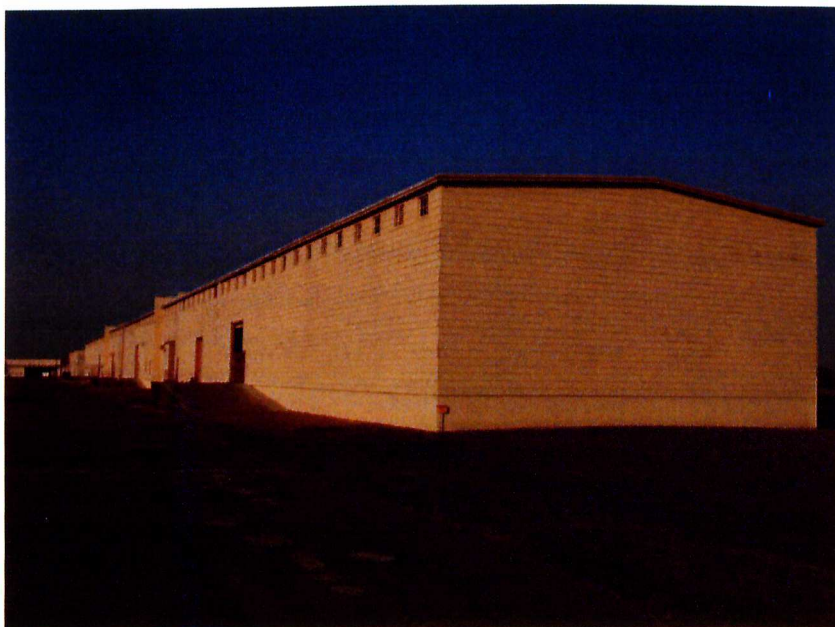


**8522-8524 Warehouse Row**

Bryan Army Air Force Field  
Bryan, TX

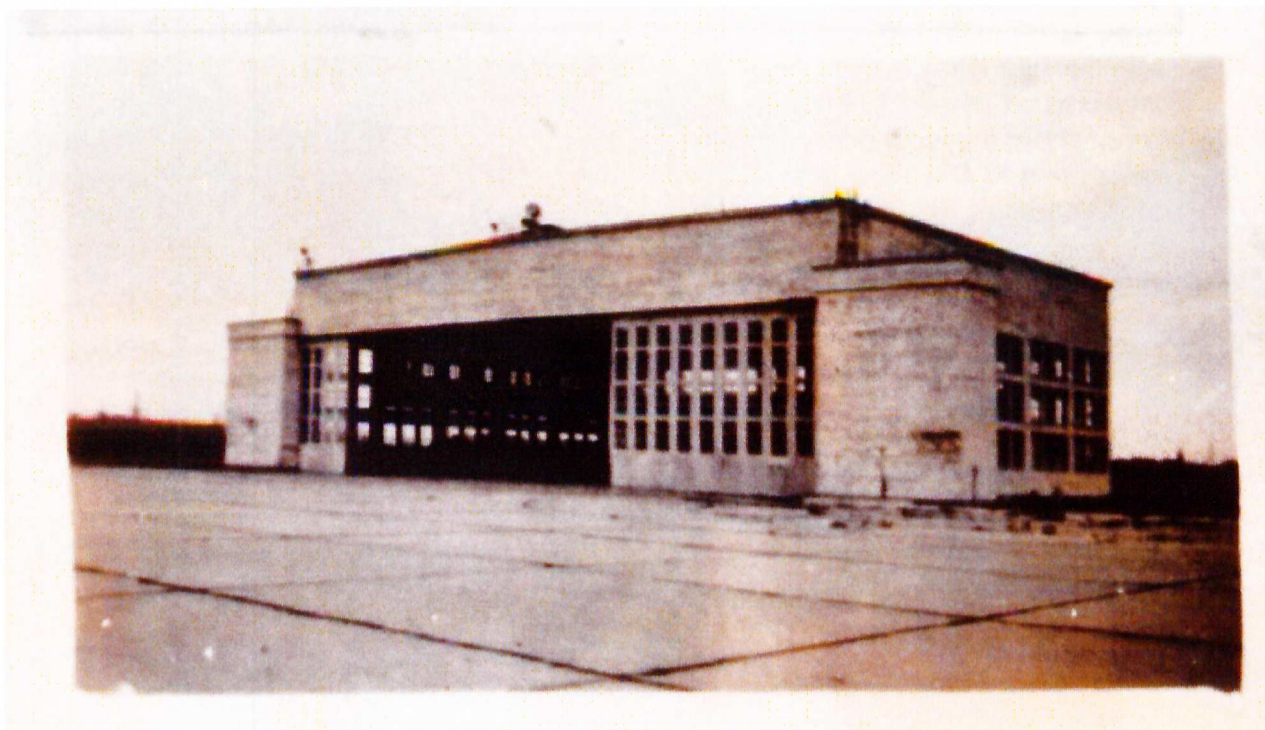


Historic Structure Report  
Michelle Audenhaert  
Kevin Sample  
Jessica Thiebout  
2006



**Hangar #46**

Bryan Army Air Force Field  
Bryan, TX



Aaron Cooper  
Amanda Fry  
Grace Lo  
2006

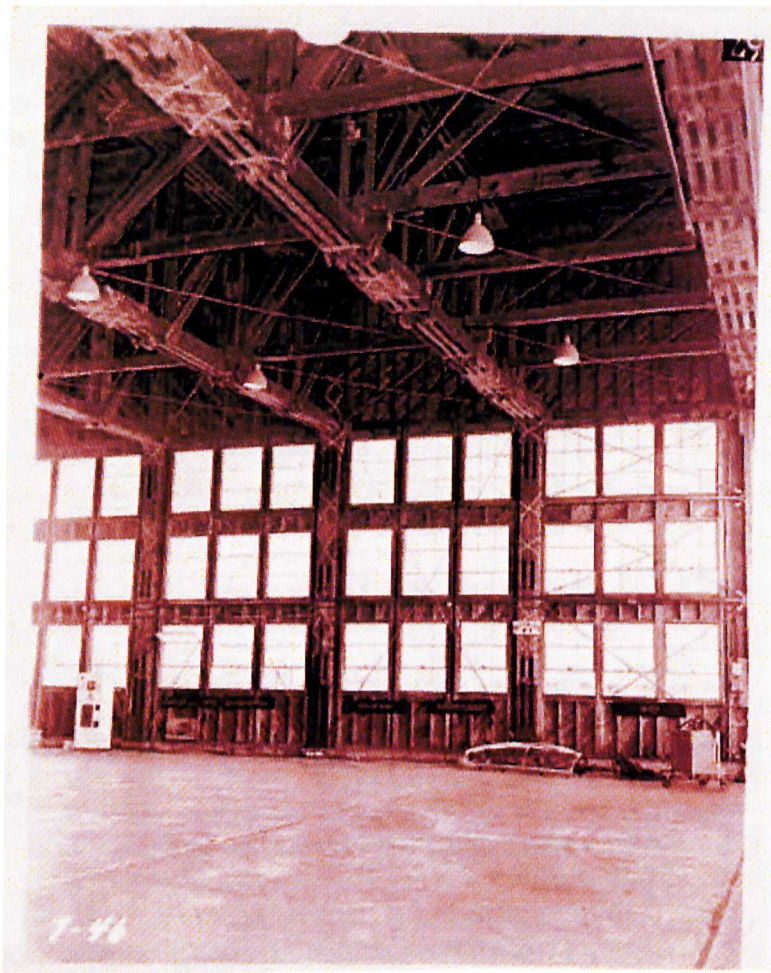


## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

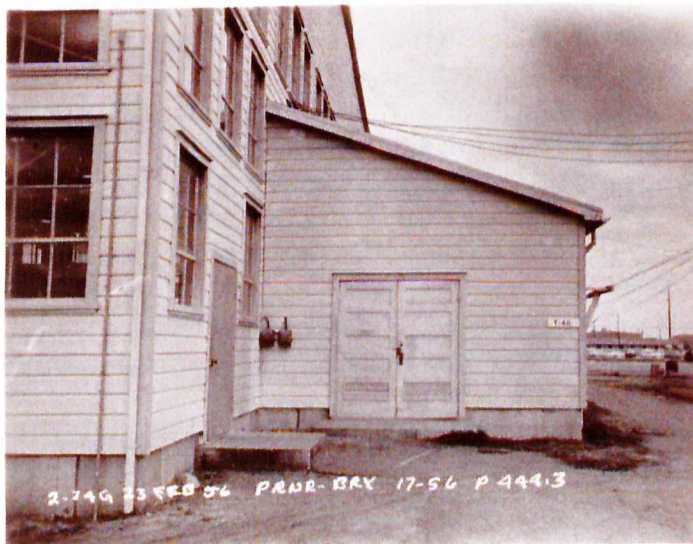
Hangar 46, (now building 7046) is wood framed with wood trusses. The doors are wood along with the siding. No interior finishes were used. The facility originally had large sliding fold up doors that slid into two large door pockets. The folding doors, along with the rest of the building, had a large number of windows. The main hangar area is rectangular in shape, 125' long by 80' wide with a lean-to extension on the east of it, which is 105' by 20'. The oldest photos of the building do not show the east side of the facility, but the photos from 1956 show a lean-to connected to the east side of the building. The building documentation does not mention an addition built on after the original construction.



1955 photo - West Facade



1955 photo - Taken from inside of the hangar



1956 photo-East Façade (Southeast corner)