

## PWD Pennsylvania's historic home gets needed facelift

By George Morton

**N**AVFAC Midlant PWD Pennsylvania is housed in historic Bldg. 1 located at the Philadelphia Naval Business Center, the former Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Building 1 was originally designed and constructed as a storehouse and office space by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, the predecessor to NAVFAC, and was completed in 1875.

The completed building is very impressive with gable peaked pavilions at both ends projecting off the main block and topped by newly opened cupolas with copper roofs that glisten in the morning sun.

It is architecturally significant as a carefully detailed example of Italianate architecture.

It is also historically significant as one of the original shipyard buildings.

The building's grand, high style design established an architectural aesthetic for other early buildings at the yard.

Its roof truss gives the building engineering significance. The roof is supported by an early example of steel composite truss with iron tie bars.

The facility now houses Public Works Department Pennsylvania. Keeping in the tradition of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, the PWD designed the \$1 million dollar project.

Benaka Inc., the prime contractor, was awarded the contract to repair the existing roof by replacement and to restore the former roofline using original materials.

Through close coordination between acquisition staff, engineering, the contractor, and the contractor's exceptional field manage-



This before photo shows historic Building 1 that houses Public Works Department Pennsylvania. The building has a grand, high style and is a detailed example of Italianate architecture, but it was much in need of repair.



This after photo shows repairs completed to the roof with beauty intact.

ment team, critical repairs were made before the onset of the winter season and all work was completed and accepted on Jan. 5, 2006, over four and a half months early.

The AROICC on this project was Lt. Eddie Murray Jr., Michael Mack was the engineering technician, and Albert Fini was the lead designer for the project. □