

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 149
(Electrical Substation)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-DD

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-DD-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Building No. 149. Electric Light Substation

This small building, completed on August 15, 1904, at a cost of \$2,372.00, stands northeast of the parade ground behind Building No. 47, the Cavalry Drill Hall. It has red brick walls joined in running bond with red-pigmented mortar. It also has a slate hipped roof and rests on a rusticated limestone foundation. The structure measures 18 feet by 18 feet and contains 286 square feet. A double door entrance with flat limestone arch and threshold is on the south side. A double sash window with plain lintel and limestone lug sill is on the east side, and another is on the west side. Above and north of the latter window is an opening for power lines with a lug sill and flat arch. The opening measures approximately 14 inches high by 34 inches wide. No window openings are on the north side, although a small gabled dormer with projecting eaves was built above a marble transformer box with limestone cover, which is supported by an angle iron bracket. The box has an opening to receive electrical power lines. The roof has iron I-beams and angle iron sleepers, and a string course encircles the building beneath the eave. Another string course runs around the structure 5½ feet above the foundation. Inside the substation is a single room measuring 16 feet 11 inches by 16 feet 11 inches. The exterior condition of the structure was good as of 1987. At that time the building was used for storage by the U.S. Navy. (44)

44. Card for Building No. 149. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987.