

Fort Sheridan Workshops
(Building No. 36)
West side of Lyster Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-10

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, WORK SHOPS (Building No. 36)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Location: West side of Lyster Road between the Veterinary Hospital (Building No. 38 on the south) and Quartermaster and Commissary Storehouses (Building No. 35 on the north).

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432820. 4673440.

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Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Warehouse.

Significance: A building which exemplifies the appropriateness of form and fine detail which characterize the basically utilitarian structures designed by Holabird and Roche for Fort Sheridan. Constructed to house work shops, the building makes a notable addition to the comprehensiveness of the surviving 19th century building stock at the post.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Reichelt and Co.
5. Original plan and construction: A long, buff-cream brick building divided into sections housing a variety of work shops for the early post. The ridge of the hipped roof runs north-south. The entrances are in the east long side. Originally there were sky lights along the ridge of the roof.
6. Alterations and additions: The building remains very close to its original condition both inside and out. A yellow brick one-bay addition without windows or doors has been added to the rear. A window in the facade has been modified to serve as a seventh door. The glass in several of the semi-circular transoms has been replaced by wood. The chimneys have been rebuilt, and metal exhaust pipes installed at the rear of the building. The original slate roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles and the skylights removed.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.
Plans and elevations, n.d. Drawings have been water damaged.

Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence
File, 1784-1915, Record Group 92, National Archives and Records
Service, Washington, D.C. Front elevation and plans, 1888.

2. Old views:

Views of Fort Sheridan, ca. 1897, Record Group 92, Audio Visual
Archives, National Archives and Records Service,
Washington, D.C. Reference No. 92-F-61A-23.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster
General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office
of the Quartermaster General Construction Division, Record Group
92 (contains specifications). National Archives and Records
Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A long, buff-cream brick building with arched doors and windows reflecting the Richardsonian Romanesque influence common to the Holabird and Roche designs at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in generally good condition. The wooden doors and frames are deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one and one-half story building is 38' by 158'. There are seventeen bays on the long side which serves as the facade.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond, six rows of stretchers to one of headers.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Chimneys: One yellow brick interior chimney on the front of the roof, south of center. One red brick interior chimney on the rear of the roof, south of center. Metal exhaust pipes extend from the rear wall.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are seven entrances on the facade and two on the rear, all with gauged brick arches.

Entrances:

The southernmost entrance on the facade and on the rear have identical double doors. Each of the doors is constructed of a single piece of wood with grooves running diagonally across it. The tops of the doors are glazed with four lights in each door. Above the door is a semi-circular transom with eight lights. The doors are at street level.

The second entrance has a sliding door formed by diagonal boards. A small door has been cut through the center. A small window in this door has been boarded up. The door is at street level.

The third entrance has a single paneled door with a glazed panel now boarded up. There are two sidelights on each side and a semi-circular transom with four lights. Two concrete steps lead up to the door which is raised slightly above street level.

The fourth entrance has a single, paneled door with no glazing. The semi-circular transom is boarded up. The door is approximately 3' above street level with no steps.

The fifth entrance has rounded double doors with no glazing and no transom. The doors are formed by diagonal boards reinforced by vertical and horizontal battens. The sill is of limestone and is approximately 3' above street level with no steps.

The sixth entrance from the south has double paneled doors with the semi-circular transom boarded up. A limestone sill is approximately 3' above street level, and there are no steps.

The seventh entrance has double metal doors with the semi-circular transom boarded up. The concrete sill sits approximately 3' above street level and there are no steps.

The second entrance on the rear has been constructed from a window. The door has wood panels and one light. Above the door the upper section of the window with two lights has been left intact.

- b. Windows: The windows are formed by gauged brick arches and are two-over-two light double hung sash. There are ten on the facade, twelve on the rear and three on each side.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: There is a corbeled brick cornice formed by graduated projecting and recessed headers and a row of projecting stretchers.
- c. Dormers: Originally there was a gabled dormer on each of the short sides. On the south the dormer has been cut back giving the roof the effect of a gable-on-hip. On the northern end the dormer has been left intact with three single sash windows of six lights each.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior of the building is divided vertically by brick walls providing seven separate sections for the various work shops, including blacksmith, wheelright, pointer, storeroom for stones, plumber, saddler, and carpenter. The walls are painted brick. The floors are concrete and the wood floor of the loft forms the ceiling.

D. Site:

The building faces east with the ridge of the roof running north-south. It fronts on Lyster Road and is situated between the Quartermaster and Commissary Storehouses and Veterinary Hospital. The building is surrounded by concrete parking areas.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO
FORT SHERIDAN, WORKSHOPS (BUILDING NO. 36)
Fort Sheridan Historic District
West Side of Lyster Road
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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