

Fort Sheridan Dead House
(Building No, 87)
Bradley Loop
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-26

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/26-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

FORT SHERIDAN, DEAD HOUSE (Building No. 87)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS
ILL
49-PTSM,
1/26-

Location: On Bradley Loop east of the Post Hospital Building No. 1).
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433360. 4673950.

Present Owner and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Flammable Materials Storehouse.

Significance: A Holabird and Roche designed building which provides an example of military dead houses or morgues of this period and adds to the comprehensiveness of the historic building inventory at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1893.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Corse and Jeffrey.
5. Original plan and construction: A simple, single-story brick building having only one room. The ridge of the gable roof runs north-south, and the entrance is in the long side.
6. Alterations and additions: The exterior of the building appears to be unaltered except for the replacement of the slate roof with composition shingles. On the interior, a sink and sewer and water systems were installed for use in performing autopsies.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.
Plans, elevations, sections and details, n.d.
Drawings are water damaged.

2. 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 simple, rectangular, brick building distinguished by blind windows. The two blind windows on the facade have stone crosses in high relief.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A single-story, rectangular building measuring 14'-3" by 18'-5".
2. Foundations: Rockfaced limestone, random ashlar.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Chimneys: One buff-cream brick interior chimney on the ridge of the roof on the north side.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: One doorway in the facade with double wood doors covered with steel sheeting and surrounded by hollow wood molding. The stone lintel above the door had four holes where a sign had been fastened. There is also a stone door sill.
- b. Windows: Three blind windows on the rear and two each on the north and south sides are infilled with buff-cream brick which matches the walls. The two blind windows on the facade, one on each side of the entrance are stone with crosses in high relief. The blind windows have limestone lintels and hammer-dressed limestone sills. A brick water table connects the sills above the foundations.

7. a. Shape covering: The gable roof is covered with composition shingles.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Overhanging eaves have wooden soffits painted green.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior is a single room with a sink in the northwest corner. The floors are concrete, the walls are plastered and have wooden baseboards. The ceilings are of composition board. The interior of the door is board and batten.

D. Site:

The Dead House is located east of the Post Hospital (Building No. 1) on Bradley Loop, the southernmost of the four loops that run between the parade ground on the west and the lake on the east. The building faces west overlooking the rear east wing of the hospital in which the laboratory was located. The ridge of the roof runs north-south. Immediately to the south a temporary World War II building, a long wood structure with a gable roof, is located. Beyond that the ground slopes down sharply toward Bartlett Ravine.

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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.