

Fort Sheridan Fire Station
(Building No. 79)
Corner of Whistler and Ronan Rds.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-24

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/24-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

FORT SHERIDAN, FIRE STATION (Building No. 79)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/24-Location:

On the southeast corner of Whistler and Ronan Roads between the Mess Hall (Building No. 47) and the Infantry Drill Hall (Building No. 60).
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433010. 4673870.

Present Owner
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Fire House.

Significance:

A Holabird and Roche designed building which is an excellent example of a late 19th century firehouse and which contributes 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: James P. Corse and Sons and Company.
5. Original plan and construction: A rectangular, buff-cream brick building with the ridge of the hipped roof running north-south and two arched vehicular entrances in the north short end.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1927 a single-story, pink-red brick addition having a vehicular entrance and a flat roof was constructed on the east side and a two-story, pink-red brick addition with a hipped roof was constructed on the rear. The two-story rear addition provided office space and housed personnel. At some time the original vehicular entrances were squared off and overhead doors replaced the original sliding wood paneled doors. The slate roof has been replaced with cement asbestos shingles.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original Architectural Drawings:

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

2. Old views:

Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago,
H. G. Mackern, 1897, n.p.

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. 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 plain brick building with a hipped roof and large vehicular entrances in the facade. The character of the present building has been altered by two large additions. The original building is, however, easily discernible because of its distinctive buff-cream brick.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original rectangular block is 25' by 45'. The side addition measures 18' by 25' and the rear two-story addition is 27' by 45'. There are three vehicular entrances across the front.

2. Foundations: Not visible, but probably limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The original section is buff-cream brick; the two additions are pink-red brick. Both are laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. A stone belt course runs across the facade and along the sides of both the original building and the two additions at the level of the first floor window sills. A belt course, consisting of two rows of projecting brick, encircles both buildings below the eaves.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Three wide vehicular entrances on the facade have overhead paneled and glazed doors. The rear addition has two entrances, one on the west and one on the south. Both have oblong, single-light transoms and wood and glazed doors. The rear doors are reached by cement stairs with painted metal railings. Frames and trim are painted a peach color.
 - b. Windows: The west side of the original building has three rounded windows with arches formed by triple rowlocks. The windows are four-over-four-light double hung sash. The windows on the additions are two-over-two-light double hung sash. The frames are painted a peach color.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The original building has a hipped roof with the ridge running north-south. The rear addition has a hipped roof with the ridge running east-west. Both roofs are covered with cement asbestos shingles. The side addition has a flat roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The wide eaves on the original building have wooden outriggers. Soffits and outriggers are painted a peach color. Below the eaves on the facade a stone band has the name, "Fire Station No. I" flanked by two decorative crosses.
7. Other features: A plaque on the facade reads,
"Originally Constructed as Firehouse, 1893."

C. Description of Interior:

The original building and the side addition, form one large open space. The walls are painted brick and the floors are concrete. A partition not reaching to the ceiling forms two closets at the rear. The rear addition is divided into rooms for offices, kitchen and lounge on the first floor and a small bedroom, a bath and a large bunkroom on the second floor.

In one of the offices there is a switchboard and an Automatic District Telegraph, both used for a number of years in identifying alarm areas. The switchboard is still in use. The ADT is no longer used although it is in working condition.

D. Site:

The building faces north with the ridge of the roof on the original building running north-south. It is on the south side of Whistler Road across from the Water Tower (Building No. 49).

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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.