

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, BASE STORAGE FACILITY
(Building No. 5745)
Barksdale Field Historic District
Davis Avenue East
Bossier City
Bossier Parish
Louisiana

HABS LA-1247-C
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BASE STORAGE FACILITY

(Building 5745)

Location: The original Barksdale AFB Paint, Oil and Dope house on Davis Ave. East immediately behind the Air Corps Machine Shop on the west side of Barksdale Field. The Base is located east of the railroad tracks at U.S. Hwy 71 and Barksdale Blvd. in Bossier City, Louisiana. Bossier City is located in Bossier Parish.

Building 5745 is located at latitude: 32.4984666, longitude 93.6741555. This coordinate represents a point taken near the front door of the structure. This coordinate was attained on February, 12 2013 by plotting its location on the 1:24000 Shreveport East, LA USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map. The accuracy of the coordinates is +/- 12 meters. The coordinate's datum is North American Datum 1983.

Present Owner and Occupant: Barksdale Air Force Base. Building is currently vacant.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: Barksdale Air Force Base was built at a time when fighter planes were constructed primarily of wood and canvas. The canvas required periodic coatings of a petroleum based water-proofing compound referred to as "dope." This building was specifically built to house and store paint, oil and dope. The adjacent slab (fenced area) was constructed in September of 1940 for the storage of oil drums.

Historian: Kevin Bryan, Architect. Mr. Bryan is the current IDIQ Architectural Design Contract holder for Barksdale Air Force Base. This report was completed in February of 2013.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: The construction of Barksdale Field began in 1931 with the subject building being completed on 7 November 1932 and originally designated as building 36. The advent of all metal aircraft during WWII eliminated the need for dope repairs while the "Jet Age" following the war resulted in the conversion of the oil tanks into diesel fuel and solvent Storage. Sometime in the late 60s or 70s the tanks and their retaining walls were removed completely, the roof was converted to a conventional gable style, and the utilization was changed to storage for the jet engine repair shop.

2. Architect: The Construction Division of the Quartermaster General in conjunction with the Chief of the US Army Air Corps.

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses:

- a. The sole and current owner is Barksdale Air Force Base.
- b. Originally constructed as an oil paint and dope storage facility

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: Office of the Quartermaster General, Plan No. 6742- 1175.

5. Original Plans and construction: War Department QMC form 117 dated 7 November 1932 lists the original building as being 39'X17'5" with a "wing" measuring 6'4"X4'8" and having a total area of 711.5 square feet, at a cost of \$8,520.37 USD (1932). The entire structure is of hollow tile and stucco construction with a wood framed roof. Barksdale Field (later Barksdale AFB) was established in 1930 with the unifying theme of French Revival, however maintenance facilities do not adhere to this theme being built in a more utilitarian and functional style.

B. Historical Context

In 1927 Congress approved a program to expand the 3rd Air Attack Group based in Fort Crockett, Texas. For the five (5) year expansion, the Air Attack Group was going to need another airfield location. The City of Shreveport, Louisiana heard of this plan and decided to mobilize an effort to secure the new base. In determining the best location for the potential air field, Harold Ross Harris, Air Corps Captain, was hired to fly over the area. Captain Harris determined that a cotton plantation in Bossier City, Louisiana was the most appropriate spot for the new base.

December of 1928 brought the official selection of Shreveport, Louisiana as the new location of the airfield through political negotiation and in 1930 the site was turned over to the federal government by the State of Louisiana under Resolution No. 118 of 1930. By 1931, construction of Barksdale Field began.

The base was conceived as a "little French village" in an effort to reflect the area's French history and architecture of the time. The Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps, the Chief of the Army Air Corps, and landscape architect Captain Norfleet Bone, designed a traditional Beaux Arts site with the main, central axis- Barksdale Boulevard. The building in question was designed to be a central storage facility for petroleum products used in the operation and maintenance of the 3rd Attack Wings mostly fabric aircraft with reciprocating piston gasoline engines.

The majority of the original campus was constructed between 1931 and 1935 and incorporated similar architectural features throughout the buildings. While the Oil, Paint and Dope storage facility was built in a more utilitarian industrial style sharing few features with the majority of original buildings on Barksdale Air Force Base.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building is a single story structure originally constructed (replaced) with a saw-tooth roof the North facing side of which was glazed. The building exhibits no ornamentation. During World War II fabric covered aircraft were eliminated from the inventory also eliminating the need for dope storage. With the advent of the "jet age" following the war the requirement for large quantities of engine oil vanished. These technological advancements led to major changes in utilization and remodeling of the building between 1957 and 1960. A complete change of appearance and utilization was accomplished sometime in the 1970s and remains today.
2. Condition of Fabric: Fair. The building was used most recently to store excess jet engine parts and equipment. As such it was rarely visited and infrequently used.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Building 5745 is a single story building measuring 39'X17'5" with a "wing" measuring 6'4"X4'8" and having a total area of 711.5 square feet
2. Foundation: According to the original drawings, the foundation is as 5" thick reinforced concrete slab.
3. Walls: The original perimeter walls are detailed as load bearing walls constructed of hollow tile block with an exterior stucco finish. There are no coins or other ornamental features
4. Structural System, framing: The original perimeter walls are load bearing constructed of hollow tile block with an exterior stucco finish. The roof (not original) is wood frame tied to the walls. Flooring is concrete monolithically poured and reinforced with wire mesh.
7. Openings:
 - Doorways and doors: Wooden unequal leaf bi-fold doors are located on the buildings West side. The doors are original to the building.
 - Windows and Shutters: 1 single 2'X2'6" window remains in the buildings North side. The window sill is sandstone with stucco finish. Gable vents are installed in the East and West ends of the building.
8. Roof: Shape, covering: The roof (not original) is a gable style with a slope of 6 on 12 with no break. There are no dormers, cupolas, or towers on the building.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: As originally constructed the floor plan indicates a single room with unequal leaf by-fold doors on the West side. A single personnel door provides ingress to the electric meter room at the East Wing.

2. Stairways: N/A
3. Flooring: Monolithically poured and reinforced with wire mesh. No floor coverings are installed.
4. Walls and Ceiling finish: None. All interior surfaces are unfinished.
5. Opening: In addition to unequal leaf bi-fold doors on the West side the building has only one 2'X2'6" window along the North wall. The sill is sandstone with stucco finish.
6. Decorative features and trim: None
7. Hardware: Only the unequal leaf by-fold doors on the west side are unique, however they are no longer functional, the small leaf having been secured in place.
8. Mechanical Equipment: N/A

D. Site: Barksdale Field was designed in conjunction with Landscape Architect Captain Norfleet Bone. No features to note were or have been added to the building discussed in this survey.

Part III. Sources of Information:

A. Architectural Drawings: US War Department, US Army Quartermaster forms QMC 117 dated 7 November 1932, building 36. As-built drawings: Strategic Air Command dated xxxxxxxx.

B. Early Views: From Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
Photograph from QMC form 117 dated 7 November 1932.

C. Interviews:

Richard Parent, Real Property Accountability Officer, Barksdale AFB LA.

Gary Mackey, Cultural Resource Manager, Barksdale AFB, LA.

Nathan Tracer, Senior Architect, Barksdale AFB, LA

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

US Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratories Special report 96/19 dated December 1995.

City of Shreveport, Louisiana Resolution No. 118 of 1930, "Deed to Barksdale Field"

Real Property Accountable Records-Buildings, AF forms 1430 on file in the Real Property Office

E. Supplemental Material:

Drawings of original elevations and details from Barksdale AFB, LA.

Original acceptance documents, War Dept. Quartermaster Corps

Part IV. Project Information:

This project was sponsored by Barksdale Air Force Base, Lt. Col. Douglass F. Tippet, Base Civil Engineer, Suzanne M. Landry, Installation Asset Manager, T. Wayne Walsh, Community Planner, Gary Mackey, Cultural Resource Manager, Nathan Tracer, 2 CES Architect, and Richard Parent, Barksdale AFB Real Property Officer. The documentation was undertaken by Kevin Bryan, Architect. The photographic documentation was performed by Thurman Smith (Shreveport, Louisiana). Additional reproductions were produced by Shreveport photographer, Jeff Stierman.

691-104 -

Post Plan No. Original Bldg. 702-100 Additional 691-106 & 691-103
 O. Q. M. G.: Plan No. Building No. 56

(C-88-57-55) (4-24-33-370) (APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION - BARKSDALE FIELD)

Place Barksdale Field, La. Capacity 30000 Gal.
 Designation of building Plant. 011 & Dye House Date completed Final Nov. 7th, 1932
 Total cost, \$ 8,530.37
 Material: Walls Roller Tilt & Slab Concrete
 Roof Main Bldg. Asph. Flg-Concrete Cop. Trusses
 Total floor area above basement, square feet 711.6
 Size: Main building 33' x 17' 6" Wings 0' 3" x 4' 0" Basement None
 a None (How heated) Height of first floor above ground None
 b None (Type of heat) How lighted Electric
 c None (Type of domestic hot water heater) Water connections None
 Sewer connections None
 Gas connections None
 METERS INSTALLED
 Gas, No. None
 Electric, No. 11531263-14404166
 Oil, No. None
 Steam, No. None
 Water, No. None
 COOKING RANGES INSTALLED
 MECHANICAL REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED
 Gas, No. None
 Electric, No. None

SEE REVERSE OF REVERSE SIDE
 ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

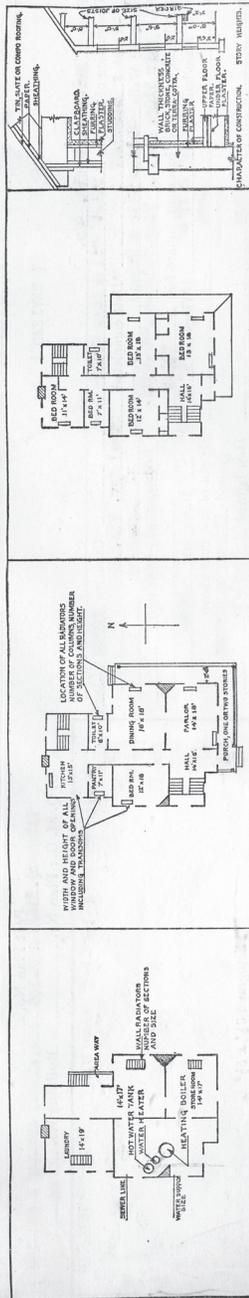
DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	COST
9-15-40	Construct concrete slab 20' x 41' at South side for outdoor storage of oil drums etc. Done by O.Q.M. 6" reinforced concrete on 4" gravel fill. (Labor \$104.50 Material \$150.70) W. O. # 1692.	295.50		

See reverse side of form.

INSTRUCTIONS: - "a." State whether heated from central heating or by individual heating plants, stoves, furnaces, or fireplaces.
 - "b." State whether steam, vapor, hot water, or hot air. If steam, vapor, or hot water, state square feet of radiation.
 - "c." State whether gas, coal, oil, or central heating plant.

3-2801 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934

Figure 1. War Department Quarter Master General Form indicating final project cost and construction specifics of the building after completion. Dated August 27, 1932. Front side shown.



BASEMENT IN SPACE BELOW SKETCH BASEMENT AND FLOOR PLANS OF BUILDINGS, GIVING DATA AS PER PLANS ABOVE

OIL STORAGE TANKS
 On concrete slabage tanks 10000 gal capacity, set on concrete foundation, the 3 cross walls are 18" wide, supported on concrete footing 50" wide & 12" deep, these concrete frames are 2'6" above grade.
 The outside dike walls are constructed of reinforced concrete, three sides of the outside dike walls are 6'6" above grade, while the wall next to the dike was constructed to a height of 12'. The inside floor is covered with crushed rock and gravel. A wrought iron ladder was constructed on wall of dike from outside grade continuous over wall and down to floor of dike, and was braced to concrete dike wall.
 On each dike one line is tanked electrically operated control valve, these valves are operated by a thermostat located in 2'6" x 6" box, and in wrapped up, that shows the temperature in the tanking rise above a predetermined safe point, as in case of fire, valves will close.
 2 motor driven pumps, installed to circulate oil, pump oil from tank over to storage tanks, and from heater tanks to main oil distribution to various lengths.
 A five gallon unit heater (Barfio unit heater #250, 115v., by Barfio Forge Co.) was installed in addition, to provide heat to oil heater tanks, heater is controlled by aquastat in each oil heater tank, a steel jacket was of #10 U.S. S.W. pipe about steel, was placed completely around the oil heaters, the bottom of these steel jackets was insulated with 1 1/2" Johns-Manville insulating blanket. Pipes and top is covered with 1 1/2" pipe, wire netting, with 1 1/2" coat of 107 masonry cement applied thereto.

U.O.#	Work Done	Date Completed	Est. Labor	Labor	Material	Total Cost	REMARKS
927	Paint oil storage tanks (& pipe lines thereto)	3-23-33	47.70	19.50	67.20		

INSTRUCTIONS

If plans of building are available, forward copy of same showing information called for above. These plans should be checked against the building and any variations from same in the building as constructed should be noted.
 If plans are not available make sketch plans and elevation in spaces above. The plans shown are typical of "quarters." Similar plans may be made for all types of buildings. There are 1' squares to the inch. Each square will represent 1', 2', 4', or 8', etc., as may be necessary to show entire building in the space allowed. Show inside dimensions and designation of each room. Indicate location of water and sewer connections. In space under heading "Details" show character of construction, story heights, etc.

Figure 2. War Department Quarter Master General Form indicating final project cost and construction specifics of the building after completion. Dated August 27, 1932. Back side shown.

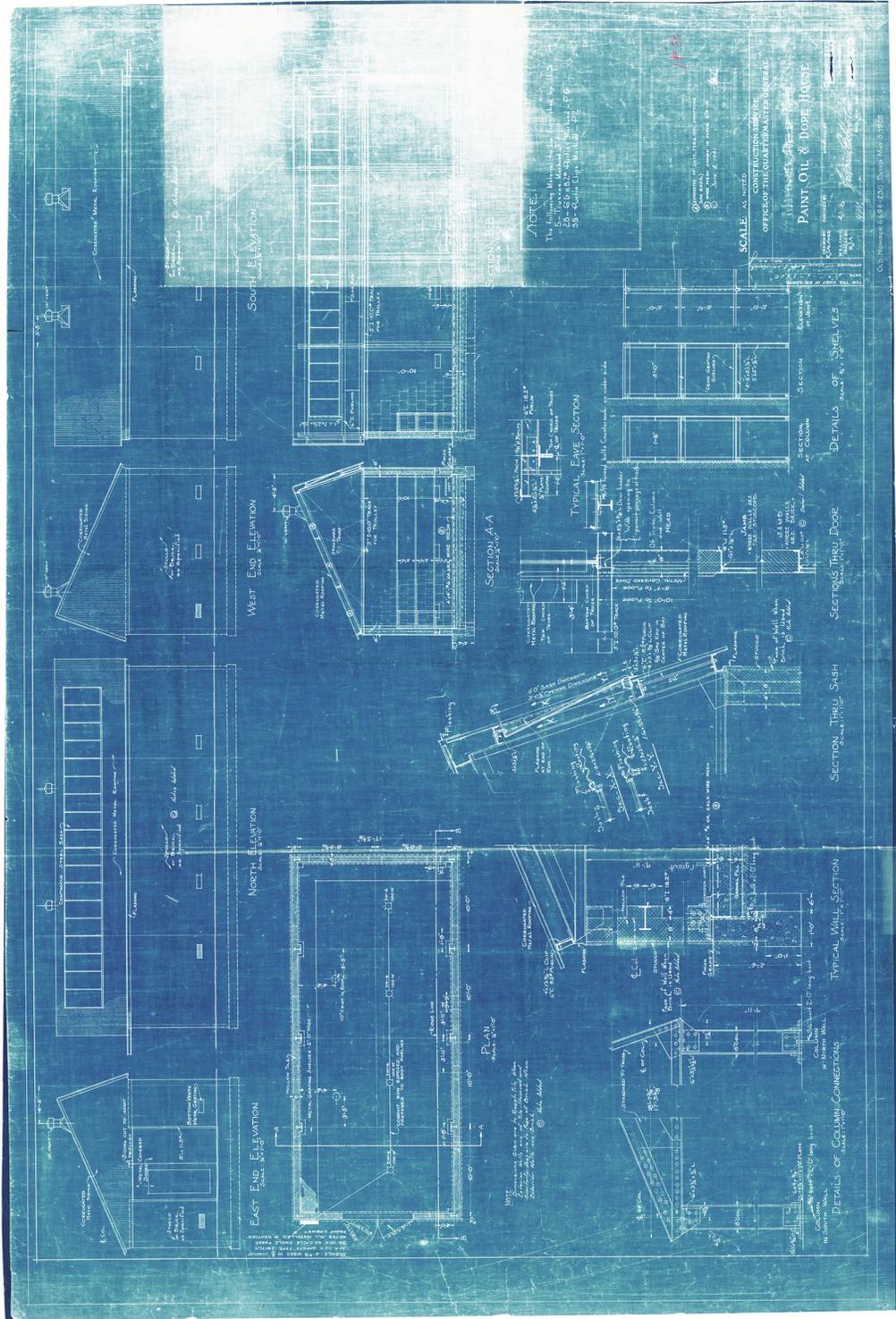


Figure 3. A single page from the original construction documents dated February 4, 1931. The title block is not legible enough to determine if this was the only sheet produced for construction purposes.

