

FORT RODMAN MILITARY RESERVATION,
ENGINEER'S STOREHOUSE

(Fort Rodman Military Reservation, Building P-13)
At the southern end of the main access road, directly
north of Battery Barton-Walcott

New Bedford
Bristol County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1256-B

HABS
MASS
3-NEBED,
27B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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- Location:** At the southern end of the main access road, directly north of Battery Barton-Walcott
Fort Rodman Military Reservation
New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts
- USGS Quadrangle: New Bedford, South
UTM Coordinates: 19.341480.4606285
- Significance:** The former engineers storehouse at Fort Rodman is unusual because it is one of the few buildings on the site that was not constructed according to a standardized plan.
- Description:** The present building is one-story, two-by-five bays, has a gable roof covered with slate, a stucco exterior, and a cement foundation. There is a double door in a gable end and, next to it, a narrow segmental-headed door. On the left-hand side of the building are three tall narrow windows with cement sills, a door, and another window. At the back is a small shed-roofed ell and an exterior chimney, and on the right-hand side five windows, one of them cemented in. The Army's completion report and photo indicate that this building was originally brick, so the stucco is clearly a later addition. The photo also shows that originally there was a segmental arch over the double door in the gable end as well as one over the single door; the wide arch was probably covered over when the building was stuccoed.
- History:** The Engineer's Storehouse was built in 1902 apparently not according to a standardized plan, for no plan number is listed in the appropriate space on the completion report. The building was first used to store underwater mines that were part of the Endicott Period harbor defense. A 1905 map shows a railroad spur running into the south end of the building; this was off a track running between the wharf and a building to the west where the control cable for the mines was stored. The Engineer's Storehouse apparently continued to be used for storing explosives: on the 1924 completion report it is designated "Artillery Engineers Storeroom" and in 1941 it was used for ordinance; by 1959, however, the building was being utilized as a classroom and today is used for storage.
- Source:** Architectural Inventory Form, on file at Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.
- Historian:** Nancy Seasholes, Boston University Office of Public Archaeology, 1989.