

Watervliet Arsenal
North Carriage Storehouse
(Building 15, Motor Pool Garage)
Buffington Street between Symington
Street and Dalliba Avenue
Watervliet
Albany County
New York

HAER No. NY-11

HAER
NY,
1-WAVL,
1/15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HAER
NY,
1-WAVL,
1/15-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

WATERVLIET ARSENAL
NORTH CARRIAGE STORE
(Building 15, Motor Pool Garage)
HAER No. NY-II

Location: Buffington Street between Symington Street and
Dalliba Avenue,
Watervliet Arsenal,
Watervliet,
Albany County, New York.
UTM: 18.605840.4730300
Quad: Troy South

Date of Construction: Probably 1839

Present Owner and Occupant: U.S. Army

Present Use: Motor Pool Garage

Significance: One of two similar structures apparently built in
1839 as carriage storehouses, this building
represents one of the few remaining vestiges of
carriage making and storage, an important element
of nineteenth-century manufacture at the arsenal.

Historian: Barbara E. Hightower, February 1985

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Probably 1839. In an 1841 letter to the Ordnance Department, the arsenal's commander, Major Rufus L. Baker, mentioned a brick structure, known as the north carriage storehouse (Kyle, p. 97). The dimensions (185' x 36') given in the letter closely correspond to the size of Building 15 before it was enlarged in 1942. According to Baker, the building was erected in 1839, and it appears on the 1845 map of the arsenal (HAER Photo No. NY-1A-79). The building was moved to its current location in the 1890s (Kyle, p. 9).
2. Architect: Not known. The building was probably designed by Ordnance Department personnel.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings were located. Two maps dated 1845 and 1863 (HAER Photo No. NY-1A-80) show a rectangular gable-roofed structure with its ridgeline oriented east-west. An intersecting gable was situated at the center of the building on the north side. An 1894 map of the arsenal (HAER Photo No. NY-1A-81) illustrates the building with a second intersecting gable on the south side. The outline of both gables can be seen on two undated photographs (HAER Photo No. NY-1I-4 and HAER Photo No. NY-1I-5), which show the building after construction of the high bay.
6. Alterations and additions: At some time before 1910, a gabled high bay was added to the center of the building. During the 1890s, the building was moved to its current location and remodeled, and the bay may have been added at that time. The bay was removed sometime after 1918.

The building was remodeled again in 1918. On the west elevation, new sliding doors were installed in the third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh bays, and window openings were replaced with doors in the third and ninth bays. Windows were replaced with new sliding doors in the fifth and ninth bays on the east elevation. A door replaced the window at the center of the north side. On the interior, a new concrete floor was poured, and partition walls and horse stalls were removed from the north end of the building. Drawings documenting the alterations are in the arsenal's Engineering Division.

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The building was considerably enlarged in 1942 with the erection of a steel frame, brick garage on the east side. The addition measures 163' 2" x 103' 7". A men's toilet room was placed in the southeast corner of the building at the same time. Drawings are in the Engineering Division.

Additional changes were made to the building after 1942. On the north side, a hollow metal and glass door replaced a window, and a new metal overhead door was installed in the center bay in 1973. At the same time, the wooden doors on the south end were removed and the opening partially bricked in to create a vestibule. The building's slate roofing was also replaced with asphalt shingles.

B. Historical Context:

This building is one of two similar structures, known as the north (Building 15) and south (Building 22, HAER No. NY-1H) carriage storehouses, apparently erected at the arsenal in 1839. The north storehouse was initially built facing present day Dalliba Avenue but was moved to its current location south of Buffington Street in the 1890s. It served as a carriage storehouse until shortly after the turn of the century and was partially used as a stable by the mid-1890s. The 1910 report on the arsenal's history (Stephenson) listed the building as a stable and fire engine house, and by 1919 it had been converted to a garage. The garage space was considerably expanded with an addition on the east side in 1942. The building is currently the arsenal's motor pool garage. (For further documentation see HAER No. NY-1A.)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Although utilitarian in use, the one-story, gable-roofed building exhibits minimal classical detailing common to other structures erected at the arsenal during the early nineteenth century.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition and is well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original section of the building (west side) is rectangular and measures 178' 1" (13 bays) x 34' 2". It

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has a slightly projecting pavilion at the center of the west elevation. The rectangular 1942 addition on the east side is 163' 2" x 103' 7". Both sections of the building are one story high.

2. Foundations: Foundations of the original section were not determined since they are below grade. The water table is sandstone. The addition foundation is concrete footings and piers.
3. Walls: Walls of the original section are red brick approximately 1' 8" thick laid in 5/1 common bond. Brick pilasters accent the corners of the building and the pavilion. Walls of the addition are also brick laid in 5/1 common bond.
4. Structural system, framing: Walls on the original section are load bearing. The roof truss is heavy timber with an 8" x 8" king post, 8" x 12" bottom chord, and 6" x 8" web members. Rafters are 3" x 6" set 2' on center. (Measurements were taken from the 1918 alteration drawings.)

The addition has a structural frame composed of steel I beams 20" on center set in a grid pattern (9 x 6). The roof trusses are steel.

5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Typical doors on the west elevation are glazed wood with x-bracing and brick segmental-arch lintels (HAER Photo No. NY-11-3). Originally sliding doors, they are no longer operable. The north door on the west is a double-leaf composed of vertical boards and diagonal bracing. New metal overhead and glazed metal personnel doors have been cut into the north side. Doors on the addition are either metal overhead or glazed metal personnel.
 - b. Windows: The original section windows are two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sash with brick segmental-arch lintels and stone lug sills. Windows in the addition are metal sash most of which are covered with insulating panels. Gable ends contain half-round openings with brick surrounds and stone lug sills filled with fan-shaped wood louvers.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roof of the original section is covered with asphalt shingles. The addition has a flat built-up roof.

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- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed wood eaves have returns at the gable ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The door on the south end of the original section opens onto a central hallway terminated on the north by a large room. Offices line the west side of the hall, and a restroom and small room are on the east side. Two doors east of the hall provide access to the addition which has an open plan with a small stock room near the southeast corner. (See supplemental material, floor plan)
2. Flooring: Floors are concrete.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exterior walls are brick. Partition walls are beaded wood paneling or dry wall in both sections of the building. Ceilings in the original section are heavy timber beams topped by the board flooring in the attic.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doors are glazed wood or glazed metal personnel.
 - b. Windows: Windows have no frames.
5. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The building is heated by heating units suspended from the ceiling.
 - b. Lighting: The building is lighted by fluorescent fixtures.
 - c. Plumbing: Plumbing fixtures are modern.

D. Site:

The building faces west onto Buffington Street between Westervelt Avenue and Dalliba Avenue. A brick wall accented by brick pilasters and corbelled courses runs east from the northeast corner of the building to enclose the paved parking lot between Building 15 and the Roads and Grounds Shop (Building 17, HAER No. NY-1F) on the east. To the north is a paved parking lot and to the south is the arsenal's cafeteria. Directly across Buffington Street is a parking lot, an expanse of lawn, and the Seacoast Gun Shop (Building 110, HAER No. NY-1B).

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

Alterations to Present Carriage House and Stable. 1918. 6 sheets, includes sections, east and west elevations, and floor plans. Watervliet Arsenal Engineering Division.

Addition to Building 15. 1942. 8 sheets, includes elevations, sections, utility layouts, and floor plans. Watervliet Arsenal Engineering Division.

Door Replacements, North and South Elevations. 1973. Watervliet Arsenal Engineering Division.

B. Early Views:

South and east elevations shown before removal of high bay over center of building. Possibly taken after 1892. Watervliet Arsenal Museum. (HAER Photo No. NY-1I-5)

South and west elevations shown before removal of high bay over center of building. Possibly taken after 1892. Watervliet Arsenal Museum. (HAER Photo No. NY-1I-4)

View taken from roof of barracks looking northwest toward the Seacoast and Field and Siege Gun Shops. 1910. Watervliet Arsenal Museum. (HAER Photo No. NY-1A-82)

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Stephenson, F. J. "Historical Sketch of Watervliet Arsenal." Watervliet, New York: Watervliet Arsenal, July 1, 1910. Record Group 156, Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Entry 30025-D, Subentry 227. Navy and Old Army Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Lists use of the building in 1910.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Building Technology, Inc. Historic Properties Report Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, New York and Rotterdam Family Housing Area, Rotterdam, New York. January 1985. The report and inventory cards for the arsenal are filed as field records in the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress under HAER No. NY-1A.

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Kyle, Francis K. A History of Watervliet Arsenal. Watervliet, New York: Watervliet Arsenal, 1920. Quotes contemporary correspondence on construction date and indicates that the building was moved to its current site in the 1890s.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Record Group 156, and Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group 77, Navy and Old Army Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. should be investigated further.

E. Supplemental Material:

Floor Plan, Garage (Motor Pool) Building No. 15. No date. Watervliet Arsenal Engineering Division. Current floor plan of the building.

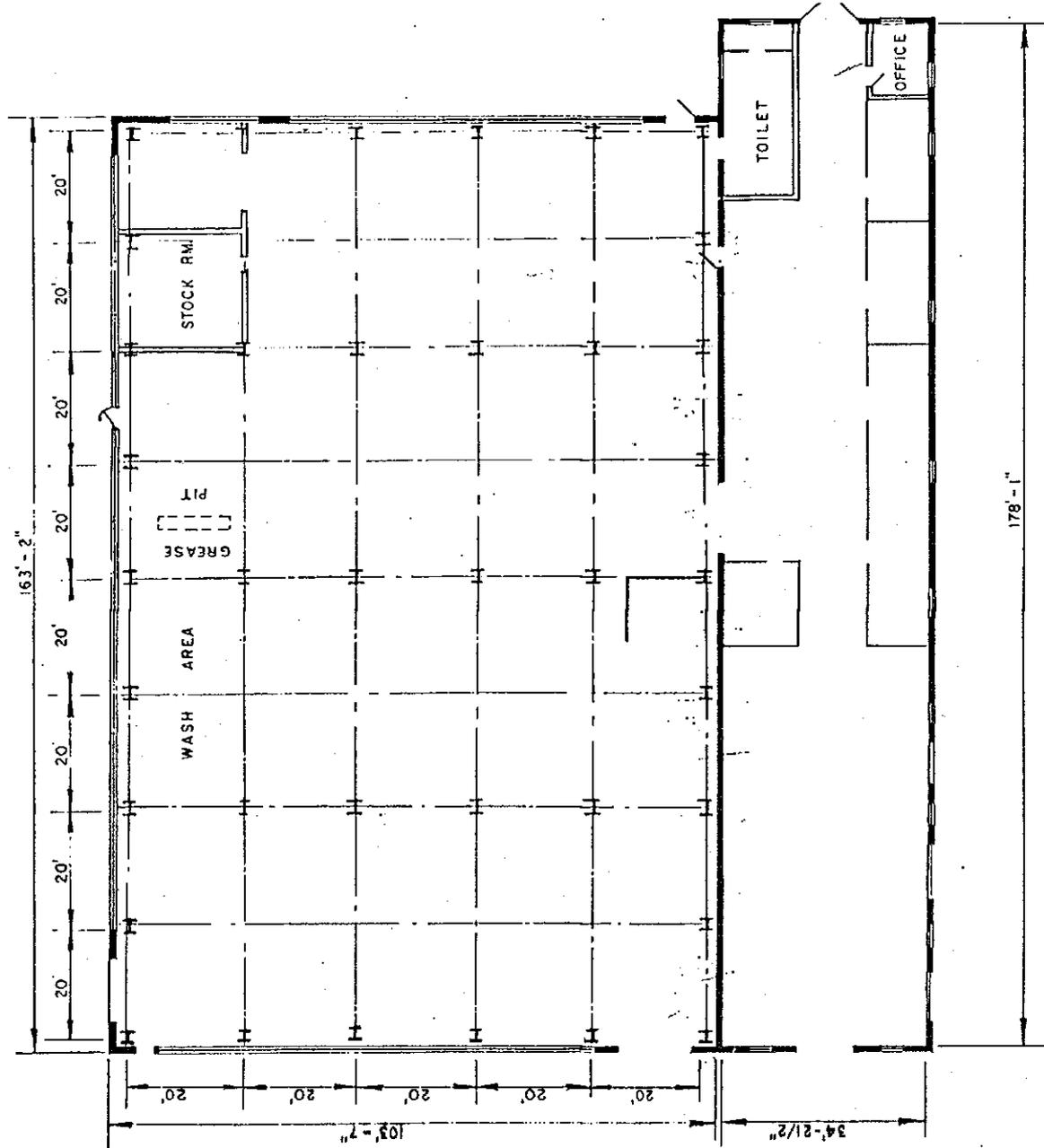
Prepared by: Barbara E. Hightower
Historian
MacDonald and Mack Partnership
February 1985

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Army. Stanley H. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Headquarters DARCOM, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, were program directors. Sally Kress Tompkins of HABS/HAER was program manager, and Robie S. Lange of HABS/HAER was project manager. Under the direction of William A. Brenner, Building Technology Incorporated, Silver Spring, Maryland, acted as primary contractor, and MacDonald and Mack Partnership, Minneapolis, was a major subcontractor. The project included a survey of historic properties at Watervliet Arsenal, as well as preparation of an historic properties report and HABS/HAER documentation for 17 buildings. The survey, report, and documentation were completed by Barbara E. Hightower, historian, Minneapolis. The photographs were taken by Robert A. Ryan and J Ceronie of Dennett, Muessig, Ryan, and Associates, Ltd., Iowa City, Iowa. Drawings were produced by Gary M. Louris, Minneapolis.

E. Supplemental Material
Floor Plan

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WATERVLIET, N.Y.

Drawn by: J.R. GANEM, A.E. App'd by: *[Signature]* Date: _____
Revisions: _____

**FLOOR PLAN
GARAGE (MOTOR POOL)
BUILDING NO. 15**

NET FLOOR AREA	22,865
Square feet	
FLOOR CAPACITY	1000 LBS
Per square foot	