

Fort Sheridan Post Commandant's
Quarters (Building No. 9)
111 Logan Loop
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-2

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

ADDENDUM TO
FORT SHERDAN, POST COMMANDANT'S
QUARTERS (BUILDING NO. 9)
Fort Sheridan Historic District
111 Logan Loop
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-2

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013

FORT SHERIDAN, POST COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS
(Building No. 9)

FORT SHERIDAN MILITARY DISTRICT

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/2-Location:111 Logan Loop.
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois. 60057USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16.433410. 4674205Present Owner
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Officer's Quarters.

Significance:

One of the two brick residences in the Queen Anne style designed by Holabird and Roche for use as Post Commandant's Quarters. It was considered unusually elegant and luxurious for military housing at the time of its construction in 1890. The two buildings are the most elaborate on the post.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Reichelt and Company, Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: The buff-cream brick building is irregular in shape with both hipped and gabled roof sections. There is a round turret on the northwest corner. A semi-circular porch projects from the center of the facade. The ridge of the main roof runs north-south with the main entrance on the south.
6. Alterations and additions: A single story sun porch was added to the east side in 1936. The front porch was enclosed and glazed in 1938.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reproduced plans and elevations, 1888. Manuscript plans and elevations, n.d.

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Plans and elevations, n.d.

2. Old views:

Jenkins, Charles E., "Holabird and Roche," Architectural Reviewer, June 1897, p. 21.

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

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reference no. 92-F-61A-2.

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; U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records, Record Group 394, 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: An impressive brick residence in the Queen Anne style with bell roofed turret, projecting third floor gable and a rounded entry porch.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main building is 50'-8" by 42'-7" with a round turret on the southwest corner. It is two-and-one-half stories high with a full basement. A single-story sun porch addition on the east side measures 31'-6" by 22'-4". An entry porch and projecting wing on the rear are 11'-7" by 5'-10" and 5'-2" by 25'-11".
2. Foundations: Random ashlar limestone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one of headers. A brick water table runs between the window sills at the first floor level.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall. Exterior wall thickness at the first story level is 18".
5. Porches: A semi-circular, single-story entry porch has four attenuated columns with foliated capitals. The space between the columns has been filled with wood and glass panels and a door has been installed in the center. Each of the porches eight sides has nine lights above a paneled lower section. Above the columns is a metal denticulated frieze and a decorative pressed metal cornice. Concrete stairs between low brick walls lead up to the door. The concrete floor of the porch is presently covered with standing seam tin. The multi-faceted roof is covered with standing seam tin. The columns are painted black. The cornice and wood trim are painted beige.

At the rear of the house a single-story, brick entry porch provides access to the basement and first floor. Its low pitched, hipped roof is covered with standing seam tin.

6. Chimneys: There are four brick interior chimneys. They are located on the east side near the front, on the west side near the front, on the ridge of the intersecting gable roof on the east, and in front of a gabled dormer on the rear. The upper sections of the two front chimneys have been rebuilt. An ornamental cast iron brace supports the east front chimney.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The door into the front entry porch has two wood panels below and six lights at the top. There is a three-light oblong transom above the door.

The doorway from the entry porch into the house has a segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintel. The double doors are paneled at the top and a single-light oblong transom has the number "9" painted in black. The doors and frame are painted white.

The sun porch addition has two entrances. The door on the south is paneled with nine lights at the top. The wood panels are painted black, and the frame is painted beige. On the east side of the sun porch, concrete steps with cast iron railings lead up to double glass doors. Each door has ten lights. An oblong transom above the door has five lights and there are six sidelights on each side.

Three doors provide access into the rear of the house. Concrete steps with hollow metal railings lead up to a door in a brick entryway on the first floor level. The door is solid wood with three small lights. A second door in the brick entryway opens on to the landing of the rear stairs between the first floor and the basement. It has six wood panels. Both doors have oblong, single-light transoms.

A third rear door provides access to the basement down a single flight of concrete stairs. The double doors have three wood panels and one light.

All three rear doors are painted beige.

b. Windows: The basement windows and those on the first and second story levels have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels with a row of projecting headers above each one. The sills are limestone.

On the third floor level the fenestration is varied. On the facade a central projecting gable contains a modified Palladian grouping. One central window is flanked by two narrow windows separated by stone colonettes and tied together by a heavy stone lintel. Above the lintel a window with a rounded brick arch tops the central opening. On the east gable end banded round arches over three windows form another grouping. On the rear a gabled dormer contains two windows separated by a chimney. On the west side a hipped dormer contains three windows.

The narrow windows in the third floor of the turret are tied together horizontally by a heavy stone lintel. A stone molding with a carved floral design at each end runs below the windows. This floral motif repeats at the bottom of the gable on the south, east, and north sides, and inside, on the wooden frame of the door from the vestibule into the stairhall. It also occurs on the trim on the ceiling of the sally port of the Water Tower (Building No. 49).

The majority of the windows are one-over-one light double hung sash. A central window on the second floor level of the facade is square and infilled with glass brick. Below it is a denticulated stone molding. A rectangular glass brick window is located at the first floor level on the west side. In a projection on the rear of the building the windows differ from those located elsewhere. The first floor windows are casement with eight lights, and the second floor windows are single sash with one light. The sun porch windows on all three sides are casement windows with eight lights in each window.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is hipped on the front with projecting gables on the east side and on the rear. There is a single bay, third floor projecting gable on the facade. The gable ends have raked parapets with terra cotta coping supported by foliated stone blocks at the bases. This foliated motif is similar to that on the turret. The third story projecting gable on the facade is flanked by brick piers with stone bands embellished with the same foliated motif. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The sun porch roof is flat with brick parapets and metal railings.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A plain box cornice painted beige.

- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: A turret in the southwest corner had a ribbed bell roof covered with asphalt shingles with a cornice of ornamental pressed metal similar to that on the circular porch. A dormer on the rear has a gable roof with a chimney separating the two windows. On the west side a dormer with three windows has a hipped roof.
9. Other features: A bronze plaque has been placed on the turret between the two first floor windows giving the date of construction and original use.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: The basement is divided into seven rooms with access from a central hall. There are rooms under both the circular entry porch and the turret.
 - b. First floor: The enclosed circular entry porch leads into a vestibule which in turn opens onto a stairhall. On the east side of the hall a large L-shaped living room and a dining room are reached through wide rectangular doorways. A sun porch addition on the east side is accessible through both the living room and dining room. On the west a small study projects into the turret at the southwest corner of the house. The staircase is located in the center of the hall. At the rear of the house are the kitchen, pantries and the rear staircase. A door from the kitchen leads to the outside through a brick entryway.
 - c. Second floor: A U-shaped hall surrounding the front and rear stairways provides access to bedrooms and baths.
 - d. Third floor: Two large rooms at the front and two on the east side open off a central hall. Bathrooms and storage rooms are on the north and west sides. The staircase is on the west.
 2. Stairways: The front staircase runs from the first to the second floor. It is open string with paneled wainscoting on the side. The stair is open well with three flights. Rectangular newel posts have rounded pyramidal tops. Similarly shaped pendants project downward from the ceiling above the stairs. The balusters are turned, narrowing toward the top. The staircase is constructed of oak. The balusters and paneling are painted white. The hand rail and the tops of the newel posts are painted black.

3. Flooring: The basement floor is painted concrete. Hardwood floors on the first, second and third floors are constructed of boards 2-1/4" across. The kitchen floor is covered with linoleum tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings throughout the house are plastered and painted an off-white. The walls on the first and second floor have a rough plaster finish up as far as the picture molding. The vestibule has paneled wainscoting. There are molded baseboards on both the first and second floors.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doorway from the vestibule into the stairhall is flanked by wood panels and sidelights containing eighteen lights. The frames are etched with the modified floral motif which is carved in the stone trim on the house. The doorways into the main rooms off the stairhall are wide rectangular openings with molded architrave trim. At the end of the stairhall a segmentally arched doorway leads into the rear of the house. The doorways on the second floor have molded architrave trim and paneled doors. On the third floor paneled doors have oblong glass transoms.

Doors, frames and the trim are painted an off-white color.

6. Decorative features and trim: Two identical fireplaces, one in the study in the west wall and one in the living room in the east wall are in projecting chimney breasts. They have rectangular openings with surrounds of polished verd antique flanked by fluted pilasters. Fluted central tablets and a row of dentils decorate the friezes below the mantelshelves. Two decorative metal grills are inset in each of the sides of the chimney breasts.

A built-in sideboard covers most of the north wall in the dining room. The doors and drawers are paneled. Casement windows flank a central mirror which is above the top shelf of the sideboard. Molded architrave trim surrounds the entire composition. The original wood has been covered with white paint.

7. Mechanical equipment: The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. Situated on a bluff above Lake Michigan, the house is the last building on Logan Loop, one of the four loops which run between the parade ground on the west and the lake front on the east. There is evergreen shrubbery around the house and along the semi-circular drive at the front of the house. Deciduous trees are spaced at irregular intervals on the lot.
2. Outbuildings: A small, frame garage of modern construction is located opposite a narrow roadway at the rear of the house.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
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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.