

Fort Sheridan Company Kitchens
(Building No. 108)
North side of Whistler Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County, Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-31

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/31-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

FORT SHERIDAN, COMPANY KITCHEN (Building No. 108)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICTHABS
ILL,
49-FTSH
1/31-Location:

On the north side of Whistler Road immediately behind the Cavalry Barracks (Building No. 50). Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433120. 4673950.

Present Owner
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Administration.

Significance:

One of six similar buildings constructed from standardized plans for company kitchens from the Office of the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army. The building is an example of the standard company kitchen built in the early 20th century on military posts, and it adds to the comprehensiveness of the historic building inventory at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1907-08.
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General, United States Army.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: A two-story, rectangular, cream brick building with a full basement entered at ground level. The ridge of the hipped roof runs east-west. The main entrances are on the long sides. At one time corridors connected the building to the barracks complex on the north and to the other company kitchens on the west.
6. Alterations and additions: The exterior of the building has had few alterations. Some of the windows have been modified. Corridors connecting the six kitchens to each other and to the barracks complex immediately to the north were removed in 1922. In 1967 the interior was completely remodeled to serve as administrative offices.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Office of the Quartermaster General Plan No. A-2-668, Description of Special and Regular Drawings, 1893-1915; Quartermaster Standard Construction Drawings, 1890-1918; and Plans for Standard Army Post Buildings, 1903-10. Record Group 77, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

2. 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 Services, 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 utilitarian brick building with a hipped roof constructed from standardized plans from the Office of the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army. The segmental arches over the first floor windows, the rounded arches over the second floor windows and the brick cornice formed by an alternating recessed and projecting brick-on-edge course provide the only decorative features
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A two-story, rectangular block measuring 33'-6" by 105' with a full basement.
2. Foundations: Rockfaced limestone, random ashlar with a concrete water table.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Cream brick laid in stretcher bond. A belt course, formed by two rows of projecting headers, runs between the window sills on the first and second floor levels. A similar belt course connects the arches of the second floor windows. The basement walls are battered.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall. Wood trussed rafter roof.
5. Chimneys: One central interior brick chimney on the ridge of the roof.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the north side on the first floor level there are two double metal doors, one at each end. Each of the doors has three lights. Segmental arches above the entrances have been infilled with brick. The doors are reached by concrete stairs with metal railings. On the second level is a wood door with a single light. It is reached by a metal fire escape. This door probably replaced a window which was there originally. On the south side there are four metal doors with glass panels at the basement level. The one at each of the ends is a double door; the two in the middle are single doors. On the first level there are two single doors in the center of the building reached by a common set of concrete stairs with metal railings. The doors are metal. Green wooden planters have been placed in the landing of the stairway.

The doors and railings are painted peach color.
 - b. Windows: The windows on the basement and first floor levels have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels. The windows on the second level have rounded, gauged brick arches. Originally there was a large window over each of the two doors at the first floor level on the north side. These windows were between the first and second levels and lighted stairways within. The stair window on the east has been infilled with brick, as have several windows on the south facade and east and west gable ends.

The remaining windows are one-over-one light double hung sash. Some of the windows on the first floor level have protective wire screens over them. The wood frames and the wire screens are painted peach color. The sills are concrete.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hipped roof is covered with cement asbestos shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a dentiled cornice formed by alternating projecting and recessed brick on edge.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior of the building has been extensively remodeled for offices. Stairways are located at the east and west ends of the building. The basement has brick walls painted an off white and concrete floors. The ceilings are unfinished. On the first and second stories the floors are covered with linoleum tile, and the walls and ceilings are composition board.

D. Site:

The building is the easternmost of six buildings (Building No. 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, and 108) all company kitchens, which form a row running east-west behind the Barracks-Water Tower complex (Buildings No. 48, 49 and 50). The ridge of the roof runs east-west. The main access to the building is from Whistler Road on the south.

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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.