

Fort Sheridan Gun Shed
(Building No. 89)
North side of Ronan Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-27

HABS
ILL,
49-FISH,
1/27-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-27

FORT SHERIDAN, GUN SHED (Building No. 89)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

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1/27-Location:

On the north side of Ronan Road across from
a Cavalry Stable (Building No. 65).
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432910. 4673730.

Present Owner
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Warehouse.

Significance:

A Holabird and Roche designed building which is an
excellent example of a late 19th century gun shed. The
building contributes to the comprehensiveness of the
historic building inventory at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1892.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: James P. Corse and Son and Co.
5. Original plan and construction: A long, single-story, buff-cream brick building with a hipped roof. A series of wide arched entrances in each of the long sides provided for ease in moving the larger guns in and out of the building. The interior is one large open space. Its capacity was listed as a battery of six guns.
6. Alterations and additions: Some of the rafters have been replaced because of fire damage. A large, rectangular vehicular entrance has been cut through the south gable end and an overhead door installed. Tie rods have been inserted through the short ends. The building has served a variety of functions. In 1922 it was remodeled as a transportation garage and in the 1940s it was used as an ordnance machine shop and a tin shop.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.
Plans, elevations, 3/4" scale details, details of doors, n.d.
Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

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

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, (contains specifications) 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: A long brick building with rows of wide arched entrances on each of the long sides reflecting the Richardsonian Romanesque influence characteristic of the other Holabird and Roche designs at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A single-story, rectangular block, 32' by 132'.

2. Foundations: Not visible but most probably limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. A string course encircles the building above the arched entrances.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Eight wide arched entrances line each of the long sides. The rounded brick arches are formed by four rowlocks and end in a stone impost which extends between the entrances. The double doors, recessed within each arch, are of board and batten construction with the boards placed diagonally. The top of the doors are glass panels with 30 lights, 15 in each half. The upper lights are curved to fit the rounded arch of the entrance. The doors are painted gray. On the west side two of the original doors have been replaced by double wooden doors formed by vertical boards with no glazing and single doors cut through the center. These newer doors are painted white. The south short end has a large vehicular entrance with a wooden overhead door. This entrance has a wooden lintel which is painted green. The door is painted gray.
 - b. Windows: On the north short end three banded arched windows are four-over-four light double hung sash. The sills are concrete, and the frames are painted dark green.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The hipped roof is covered with cement asbestos shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Overhanging eaves have wide wood soffits painted dark green.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior is one large room with a wire screen partitioning off one area. The floors are concrete, and the walls are brick. The ceiling is unfinished, and the roof structure is visible. Metal rods inset into grooves in the doors and attached to the sides of the entrances allow the doors to slide apart.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building now faces south on Ronan Road with the ridge of the roof running north-south. To the east and north of the building is an open area which has been planted with grass. On the west is a fenced concrete yard used for wire storage.
2. Outbuildings: A small, rectangular, cement block building with a gable roof is adjacent to the northwest corner of the building. Originally the boiler room, it is now used for storage of flammable materials.

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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.

ADDENDUM TO
FORT SHERIDAN, CUN SHED (BUILDING NO. 89)
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North Side of Ronan Road
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