

FORT RODMAN MILITARY RESERVATION,
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
(Fort Rodman Military Reservation, Building T-44)
East of the Enlisted Men's Barracks
New Bedford
Bristol County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1256-M

HABS
MASS
3-NEBED,
27M-

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:** East of the Enlisted Men's Barracks buildings
Fort Rodman Military Reservation
New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts
- USGS Quadrangle: New Bedford, South
UTM Coordinates: 19.341350.4606310
- Significance:** The former company administration buildings at Fort Rodman are good examples of World War II structures built according to a standardized plan. Five company administration buildings were built at Fort Rodman; the three best preserved buildings were selected for documentation. Some of these buildings are virtually intact.
- Description:** A company Administration Building was one story, three-by-two bays, had a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles, small triangular vents in the peak of the gable, exposed rafter ends, wood drop siding (a form of tongue-and-groove boards laid horizontally), and was set on a cement foundation covered with a metal termite shield. There was a side entrance with a large sliding door, and on the right-hand gable end, an entrance near the corner and two windows. The back side had three windows and the left-hand gable end had two. The original buildings had two roof ventilators and two rear metal chimneys.
- Building T-44 has particle board siding below the windows, a single door flanked by a window on either side instead of a sliding door, and no roof ventilators or chimneys.
- History:** The company Administration Buildings at Fort Rodman were built according to standardized plan 700-376, part of the "700 Series" of structures erected by the Army in 1940-41. Like most of the 700 Series buildings at Fort Rodman, the company Administration Buildings were constructed in the late fall and early winter; these buildings were ready for occupancy between February 12 and 14, 1941.
- According to the completion report, the building was designed as a storehouse and about two-thirds of the floor space was used for storage. The building also contained an office for the commanding officer, another for the first sergeant, and a toilet. These smaller rooms were probably at the right-hand end, where the second exterior door was located.

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A company Administration Building was part of a company "block," which at Fort Rodman was comprised of three 63-men barracks, a 170-men mess hall, an administration or supply building, and a "day room" or recreation building. The buildings in each block were generally grouped together; T-44 was with barracks T-11 and T-12.

Company Administration Buildings were fairly prevalent. According to the database compiled by the Army's documentation study of World War II buildings, there are 1702 such buildings (both 700 and 800 Series) still standing on Army property. It is not clear whether there are any company supply buildings still standing in Massachusetts, and, if so, how many, for they are not inventoried separately in the Camp Edwards survey, and not inventoried at all for Fort Devens.

Source: Architectural Inventory Form, on file at Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

Historian: Nancy Seasholes, Boston University Office of Public Archaeology, 1989.