

Officers Wood Quarters of Fort Mackinac  
Mackinac Island, Mackinac County,  
Michigan.

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Michigan

Historic American Buildings Survey  
F. Orla Varney, District Officer  
313 Garfield Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

OFFICERS WOOD QUARTERS OF FORT MACKINAC  
Mackinac Island, Mackinac County  
Michigan

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15.

OWNER: State of Michigan

CUSTODIAN: Mackinac Island State Park Commission - Mr. Manfred Burleigh, Chairman.

DATE OF ERECTION: Built between 1805 and 1817.

ARCHITECT: Unknown.

BUILDERS: American artisans and soldiers attached to Fort Mackinac.

PRESENT CONDITION: The exterior walls are of 8 x 8 squared horizontal timbers, tenoned into channels in upright square posts at corners and at intermediate points. The logs show chinking of the original plaster and traces of whitewash. The building was sided over for warmth and protection in 1828 which original siding has since been entirely replaced. The windows are also recent as well as all but two of the doors. These two are undoubtedly original and show interesting panels and moulding. There are two massive chimneys of limestone construction containing four fireplaces. Of the wood mantels, the one in the East Quarters only is original. It is well designed and has been carefully measured and recorded.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: Occasional references to this building are found in the records of the War Department from 1827 to 1853.

ADDITIONAL DATA: This building occupies the site of an earlier "Men's Barracks" noted on a map of a portion of the fort dated 1784 and now in the files of the War Dept. A later inspection report dated 1796 makes mention of a "small log barracks on the side toward the bay" size  $15\frac{1}{2}$  by  $20\frac{1}{2}$ . Both these structures appear to have been removed by fires, which were at all times prevalent among the early log structures. That the present log building dates from a time prior to 1827 is indicated by a letter from Capt. Alex. Thompson to the Adjutant General at Washington and now in the files of the War Dept. In this letter, Capt. Thompson says "The log officers quarters needs new doors, weather boarding and window repairs".

The interior of the building originally contained three sets of quarters and was heated by the four fireplaces. One original wood mantel remains, the other

ADDITIONAL DATA: (Continued)

three having been placed about 1930. It is well designed and worthy of preservation. The building is in a good state of repair. The floor construction was renewed and the space below the floor ventilated to prevent further decay, by the National Park Service during the summer of 1934.

The above data was taken from a report compiled by the writer on the history of Fort Mackinac. It was prepared for the National Park Service during 1934 and entailed months and entailed months of careful research.

(Signed) "Warren L. Rindge"  
District Officer  
December 15, 1936

F. Orla Varney  
F. Orla Varney  
District Officer  
May 3, 1937.

W 9/1/37