

FORT SNELLING, ARTILLERY BLACKSMITH SHOP
(Fort Snelling, Bldg. No. 206)
Bloomington Road
Minneapolis Vicinity
Hennepin County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-56-EE

HABS
MINN
27-FOSNEL,
2EE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Information is the same as HABS No. MN-56-DD: Fort Snelling, Building 205, Part I, except for the following:

6. Alterations and additions: According to the building records, oil lamps were replaced by electric lighting at an unknown date for approximately \$75. Historic photographs show that two garage doors flanked the middle door on the northeast side; these were removed sometime after 1938 and replaced with one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The newer windows were made to look like the others with segmental brick arch lintels and tooled stone sills. The building records indicate the original heating came from stoves, but a gas heater was installed 21 April 1942 at a cost of \$123.44. The interior walls, and the doors leading to the partitioned rooms, are not original. The building did not originally have plumbing; the Bureau of Mines later planned to tap the water line of Building 206, but there is no evidence that this was done.¹ The Bureau of Mines took out the window on the northwest side and replaced it with a plasterboard garage door during the early 1980s. The replacement of the original wood and brick floor by a tile floor is an undocumented alteration. Historic photographs also indicate a stone chimney along the ridge line; this was replaced by several metal pipes. Little on the interior remains that is historic.²
- B. Historical Context: For context of site, see HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part I.B. Building 206 was originally built in 1903 to house 3 field artillery blacksmiths. After World War II, the building was transferred first to the Veterans' Administration and then to the Air Force. Since the late 1960s, when it was turned over to the Bureau of Mines, it has been used as an auto maintenance administration office, as storage for large rock specimens, and as a methane ignition facility.³

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The information for this building is identical to HABS No. MN-56-DD: Fort Snelling, Building 205, Part II, except for the following:

6. Chimneys: There are three metal pipes: one four-inch pipe on the slope in the south corner, one six-inch pipe on the ridge line on the southeast end, and one eight-inch pipe just off the ridge line and close to the northwest side.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The building is entered through one wood, recessed-panel door on the northeast side with a modern screen door and a segmental arch crown. There is also a new overhead, particle-board garage door on the northwest side.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Three are six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and three are one-over-one double-hung sash windows. All have segmental arch lintels with tooled stone or concrete

¹Morris to Klippen.

² Information from Q.C., Building 206; and from Troop.

³Q.C., Building 206; Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 4; Grant; Lander to Hellison; and Department of Veterans Affairs.

sills. They are located symmetrically, with two windows each on the northeast and southwest sides, and one window each on the northwest and southeast sides.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Building records give conflicting information about floor areas, stating that the building ranges anywhere from approximately 730 square feet to 900 square feet.⁴ The door in the middle of the northeast wall opens into a small plywood-sided entryway; from here, another door leads to a larger central room. Access to the other rooms is from this central room. There are two doors on the southeasternmost wall; one enters into a smaller room in the south corner and the other leads to a room in the east corner. A third door along the northwestern wall opens into another room.
2. Stairways: None; a trap door apparently leads to the attic.
3. Flooring: Vinyl asbestos tile.
4. Wall and ceilings finishes: Exterior walls are painted brick; one interior wall is new fiberboard, one is concrete block. The ceiling is painted plywood.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doors and frames are modern additions.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Attic vents on both end walls and a circular vent just off the ridge line on the southwest slope ventilate the attic. A heater over the plywood-sided entryway conducts air through overhead, composite, pressed metal ducts to other rooms; some of the sections are missing.
 - b. Lighting: Modern fluorescent fixtures hang in the southern two-thirds of building, with exposed wiring along the ceiling and walls.
 - c. Plumbing: None.

PART III. SOURCES

See HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part III.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

See HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part IV. The report was prepared in October 1992 by historians Charlene K. Roise and Deanne L. Zibell of Hess, Roise and Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

⁴Q.C., Building 206; Lander to Hellison.