

FORT SNELLING, ARTILLERY GUN SHED
(Fort Snelling, Bldg. No. 207)

Bloomington Road
Minneapolis Vicinity
Hennepin County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-56-FF

HABS
MINN
27-FOSNEL,
2FF-

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

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1903
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: United States Government
4. Builders, contractors, suppliers: Unknown
5. Original plans and construction: Unknown. The design could be based on O.Q.M.G. Plan No. 104-D, since it is so similar to Building 202, which follows that plan.
6. Alterations and additions: Oil lamps were replaced by electric lights at an unknown date for approximately \$75. Most metal garages along the northwest side have been replaced by wood panel garage doors, and some have been filled in with timber siding.

B. Historical Context: For context of the entire site, see HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part I.B. Building 207 was built in 1903 as a gun shed to store 17 guns for field artillery. This building was part of the area used as the post motor pool prior to World War II, and as tank storage during the war. After the war, the building was transferred first to the Veterans' Administration and then to the Air Force. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, after the building was turned over to the Bureau of Mines, the structure stored equipment, partly for the Civil Air Patrol.¹

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Since this building is essentially identical to Building 202, information is the same as that for MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part II, except for the following:

6. Chimneys: There is one square stone chimney on the roof's southeast slope near the southwest wall.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: See HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part II.7.a for a discussion of the general discussion of the doors. On the southeast side, the original eighteen corrugated-metal, overhead, rolling garage doors still exist; on the northwest side, only one metal door is extant in the bay closest to the southwest wall. Three filled-in garage bays and thirteen wood-panel garage doors occupy the rest of the openings. Metal bollards like those on those on Building 202 are present on this building as well. Two pedestrian, wood, recessed-panel doors open into the building from the southwest wall.

¹Q.C., Building 207; Osman, 2; Lander to Hellison; Grant; and Arthur Klippen to W.V. Morris, 6 July 1971, in file "Prop. Mgmt. PRM 8 Space 1966-1972" in the Administrative Officer's files at the Bureau of Mines, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

b. Windows and shutters: There are nine six-over-six double-hung sash windows with molded lintels. Each of the three filled-in garage bays on the northwest side hold one fixed, nine-pane window. The four original windows on the northeast end have been covered with plexiglass.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The medium-slope gable roof has slate shingles. "Fort Snelling" and an arrow pointing north were painted on southeast slope until the 1950s.

b. Cornice, eaves: Rafters and purlins on all sides are partially exposed, covered only by the wood fascia board. The rafters on the northwest and southeast sides end in a reverse-curve. Parts of the original gutters and downspouts still exist.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Conflicting building records list areas ranging from approximately 5600 square feet to 6100 square feet.² The single large room is accessible through doors on the southwest end. An attic above the southwestern half of the building is open, with no partitions or walls.

2. Stairways: A ladder to reach the attic is mounted against the southwest wall.

3. Flooring: Vitrified brick.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Walls along the exterior are painted particle board. The southern two-thirds of the interior has a dropped particle board ceiling which also serves as a second-floor "attic" for that part of the building. The flooring in the attic consists of timber planking on 2" x 6"s.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: On the inside, the steel rolling doors have chains and gears in the upper right hand corner of the door; some of these still work. The inside finishing of the wood-panel doors is the same as the outside.

7. Hardware: There is a gear-shaped fitting on the exterior between two garage door frames on both the northwest and southeast walls; its use is unknown [see photograph MN-56-FF-4]. Otherwise, the wood panel doors have latches with keys; doorknobs are metal.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Two small wood-burning stoves are located on the northwest and southwest walls; they are sheathed in brick.

D. Site: For site information, see HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part II.D.

²Q.C., Building 207.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

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.