

FORT SNELLING, ARTILLERY STABLE
(Fort Snelling, Bldg. No. 209)
northwest of Artillery Gun Shed
Minneapolis Vicinity
Hennepin County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-56-GG

HABS
MINN
27-FOSNEL,
2GG-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT SNELLING, ARTILLERY STABLE
(Fort Snelling, Artillery Stable)

HABS
MINN
27-FOSVEL,
266-
HABS No. MN-56-GG

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: According to the 1905 building record, the original design was based on "O.Q.M.G Plan #139-C"; the plan could not be located for this study.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1910, a 41'4" section was added to the northeast end for 32 extra stable spaces. (The original building had room for 102 horses.) The style matched the original section. Electric lighting replaced lanterns at an unknown date for an unknown price. Some side stalls were removed in 1926. The building was converted to motor storage for 54 vehicles in 1932 at a cost of \$3332. It was further remodeled in 1934 for a Civilian Conservation Corps clothing and equipage warehouse. The extensive remodeling for the CCC, which cost a total of \$6163.64, included the installation of a boiler, seven electrically-operated heating units, two wash basins, three toilets, partitions, and an electric light system consisting of 66 outlets. The dates of other alterations to windows and doors have not been documented, though changes were extensive. Many windows along the northwest and southeast sides have been replaced with siding; a 1905 picture also shows a few six-over-six double-hung sash windows along the southeast side. Around 1932, there were sliding doors all along the southeast side; these could have been original, but there are no earlier photographs documenting that side. These were replaced with single-pane fixed windows and recessed-panel wood doors. A 1905 photograph indicates six-over-six sash windows near the west corner, and double, wood panel doors along the northeast side like those on Buildings T203 and T203A. Photographs taken in the 1930s indicate three small chimney pipes along the northwestern slope. The building now has a small and a large chimney. The building record only indicates that "1 Stack, smoke" was installed 13 December 1934 at a cost of \$90. Undocumented alterations also include the installation of new asbestos siding, a large light, and a civil-defense type pipe-horn on the exterior. The slate roof was replaced by asphalt shingles in 1982 by the General Services Administration.¹

- B. Historical Context: For context of site, see HABS No. MN-56-AA: Fort Snelling, Building 202, Part I.B. Building 209 was constructed as a stable for 102 field artillery horses in 1903, and with an addition in 1910, the stable held 132 horses. It served that function until 1932, when it was converted to a motor storage shed. In 1934, the building became the Civilian Conservation Corps Warehouse and many of the alterations listed above were made then. After World War II, when Fort Snelling was decommissioned, this building was transferred first to the Veterans' Administration and then to the Air Force. During the 1960s and 1970s, after the building was turned over to the General Services Administration, the structure served as the Air Force Civil Engineering maintenance shop and as storage for several government

¹For information on original foundation and roof replacement, see U.S., General Services Administration. For other record of alterations, see Q.C., Building 209.

agencies, including the Department of Interior (Fisheries and Wildlife), the U.S. Postal Service, and the Department of Agriculture (Food and Nutrition Service).²

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The large, 1-1/2 story, rectangular building has a gable-roofed monitor.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Originally 66' x 184'; after addition 66' x 225'4"
2. Foundations: The foundation is stone with spread footings. The foundation of the original portion of the building has been covered with concrete; the stone of the northeastern 1910 addition remains visible.
3. Walls: New lapped horizontal siding, possibly asbestos, has been added to the first story of the northwest and southeast sides, and to the end walls of the building; the monitor is clad with nailed tarpaper and grey, mineral-surfaced, asphalt roll roofing.
4. Structural system, framing: Balloon frame with king-post roof trusses.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: None.
6. Chimneys: One 6-8" pipe is located near the monitor on northwest side and another 16" pipe is wired to the northwest slope just west of the other pipe.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The building's exterior doors vary widely. The majority are wood doors with recessed panels, some with windows. There are also two unglazed, flush, plywood doors on the northwest side; two sliding, panelled, wood doors on the southwest end; and an original, panelled, double door on the upper part of the northeast end, which was probably a hayloft door. There are also two panelled garage doors, and one boarded-up garage door along the southeast side. Along the northwest and southeast exterior sides, the large diamond-shaped stone blocks spaced equally along the ground were used to straighten and guide the horse-drawn caissons as they were driven into the stables.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The lower portion of the building has fixed single-pane windows. Along each side of the monitor roof, there are 22 paired, fixed, nine-pane windows.

²Q.C., Building 209; Grant; and U.S., General Services Administration.

8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: A gable-roofed monitor rises from a low-pitched gable roof. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: On the northwest and southeast sides of the monitor, the reverse-curve rafter ends are partially exposed, edged by wood fascia boards. On the lower part of the same sides, and on the gable ends of the monitor, ends of the exposed plain rafters are covered by wood fascia boards. The lower part of the gable ends have no overhang, and no exposed purlins. A few gutters and drainpipes remain, as well as hardware for some downspouts.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Records show floor areas ranging from approximately 12,000 square feet to 16,500 square feet.³ The main entrance into the building is through a pair of sliding, wood, panel doors on the southwest wall. The southwestern part of the building is divided roughly into thirds lengthwise by 2" x 4"s covered with wire mesh; the middle of this partitioning serves as a hallway. The central section of the building is divided into small rooms, including a boiler room and a bathroom. The northeast end is partitioned with 2" x 4"s and wire mesh like the southwest part of the building. The second floor can be reached either by a stairway in the south corner or by one in the middle of the building, next to the boiler room. This upper floor is not partitioned.
2. Stairways: There are two stairways: one open stairway is located southeast of the doors along the southwest end. The other, wide stairway runs up to the attic along the outside of the southwestern wall of the boiler room. It is accessible only through a door near the center of the northwestern wall.
3. Flooring: Concrete flat slabs on the lower level; wide plank timber flooring on the upper level.
4. Wall and ceiling finishes: The lower level has been partitioned by 2" x 4"s and chicken wire, with some particle board walls; the ceiling is painted particle board. The exterior walls in the upper portion of the building are unfinished, and rafters are visible.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the lower level, there are mostly open door frames; a couple of recessed-panel wood doors in the middle of the building appear to be original. Otherwise, there are modern factory-made doors or doors built of chicken wire and 2" x 4"s.
 - b. Windows: Some windows are barred on the inside; all are placed in simple wood frames.
6. Decorative features and trim: None.
7. Hardware: Standard metal doorknobs and hinges; little, if any, is original.

³Q.C., Building 209; and U.S., General Services Administration.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat and ventilation are provided by modern electric heaters mounted to the ceiling. The boiler, installed as part of the CCC Warehouse alterations and located in a room in the middle of the building, is not functional.

b. Lighting: Modern fixtures with exposed wiring.

c. Plumbing: Unlike the other buildings, water connections existed from its construction. The toilets, however, were added when the building was converted to a CCC warehouse.

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

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.

ADDENDUM TO:
FORT SNELLING, ARTILLERY STABLE
(Building No. 209)
Northwest of Building No. 207 on Bloomington Rd.
Minneapolis **VICINITY**
Hennepin County
Minnesota

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MIDWEST SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARTILLERY STABLE
FORT SNELLING, BUILDING 209
(Artillery Stable)
BUILDING 209

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This report is an addendum to a 4 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress in 1992.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

B. Description of Exterior:

4. Structural system, framing: The frame was originally wood throughout, with king-post roof trusses. The first floor now features steel framing. This modification might date to 1931-1932 when the building was renovated for service as a motor storage shed.