

FORT JACKSON, GARAGE  
(Fort Jackson, Building No. 2495)  
Marion Avenue at Cleburne Street  
Columbia Vicinity  
Richland County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-692-B

HABS  
SC  
40-COLUM.V,  
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Southeast Region  
Department of the Interior  
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: Marion Avenue at Cleburne Street, Columbia Vicinity, Richland County, South Carolina.

Significance: The garage, erected in 1933, is the only extant example of fire-proof, brick, garage construction built by the National Guard in South Carolina (Gulf and Hardy, 1995: Appendix A). It was part of the first permanent construction program at Camp Jackson.

Description: Located on the west side of Marion Avenue at the southeast corner of the Parade Ground, Building 2495 is a one-story, masonry, 3- x 6-bay, rectangular structure built on a concrete slab foundation (Photograph SC-692-B-1). A driveway connects the north elevation with Marion Avenue and continues around the west side of the building to a parking area at its south side. The bricks are laid in a five-course American bond. A modestly decorative brick band is located directly below the corbelled brick cornice (Photograph No. 2). The front-gable, corrugated-metal roof has a metal vent at the ridge and brick flues and a tall cylindrical vent protruding from its slopes (Photograph SC-692-B-3).

The north and south elevations are three bays wide with the center bays containing an industrial type metal and glass door (Photographs SC-692-B-3, -4, and -5). The surrounding bays contain multi-paned, metal, transom windows with brick sills (Photograph SC-692-B-6). A small metal awning has been added to the center of the west window of the north elevation. This elevation also has a louvered, metal vent in the gable which appears to have been cut into the wall when the heating system was added in the 1960s. The south elevation, however, retains its original decorative brick oculus (Photograph SC-692-B-7).

The east elevation consists of six bays of windows that match those found on the north and south elevations (Photograph SC-692-B-8).

The west elevation has a brick, enclosed, side porch which runs the length of the building. It is topped with a corrugated-metal, shed roof. Attached to the porch at its southwest corner is a small, frame, one-story, shed-roof addition (Photographs SC-692-B-4 and -9).

The primary interior space is a large room with a high ceiling (Photographs SC-692-B-10 and 11). Secondary spaces include three, small, storage rooms in the west porch, each with an original fire-proof metal door opening into the main space (Photograph SC-692-B-12). An interior office has been created in the northwest corner of the garage with the installation of concrete-block curtain walls. Other interior details include painted brick walls and the original, exposed, rafters that support the metal roof. The rafters are currently obscured by a drop ceiling.

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The structure has a high degree of architectural integrity. Alterations to the building are relatively minor and reversible. No original blueprints of the building were located. However, later plans showing the floor plan are included with this document (Photograph SC-692-B-13).

History: The history of the Fort can be divided into five developmental phases: Pre-Camp Jackson (to 1917), Camp Jackson (1917-1919), Post World War I Transition Period (1919-1922), the South Carolina National Guard at Camp Jackson (1923-1939), and World War II to the Present (Parsons and Horne 1995: 22). Building 2495 was constructed during the fourth period.

During World War I, the U.S. government built 1,519 temporary structures and miles of roads and infrastructure at Camp Jackson, which was one of 16 National Army Cantonments established nationwide to train new recruits. With the exception of 31 buildings, the roads, and some utilities, all of the camp was demolished during the Post World War I Transition Period.

In 1923, the U.S. government granted part of Camp Jackson for National Guard training activities. In 1925 the Guard began a 16-year building program that included infrastructure and permanent structures. The garage, now known as Building 2495, was among the structures built during this period (Parsons and Horne 1995: 46-56).

Built as a fire-proof structure after fire destroyed several garages, Building 2595 was one of more than 100 buildings constructed by the National Guard at Fort Jackson prior to the Fort's acquisition by the U.S. Army in 1941. It represents the transition from a guard that trained with horses and that was mobilized by rail, to one that was motorized.

In 1941, the garage was converted to a Signal Field Maintenance Shop. Architectural evidence suggests that relatively little was done to the building to accommodate this change other than the construction of the frame addition on the southwest corner and interior concrete-block partitions to create individual office spaces. In 1960, the dropped ceiling and a heating system were installed. An exhaust fan was added in 1964 (Parsons and Horne 1995: 119).

Building 2495 is presently used as a storage and shop facility for the Post Museum. To provide adequate conditions for museum storage, the windows and portions of the garage doors have been covered and insulated on the inside to eliminate drafts.

Sources: Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. and Horne Engineering Services, Inc., *Historic Properties Maintenance Plan, Fort Jackson, SC*, December 1995. Gulf Engineers, Inc., and Hardy Heck More & Associates, Inc., *Fort Jackson, South Carolina: An Army Infantry Training Facility in the Southern Department and Fourth Corps Area, 1917-1946*, June 1995.

Historian: Julianne Mueller, Cultural Resources Project Manager, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., Fairfax, VA, 1999.

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