

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fort Sheridan Historic District

and/or common Fort Sheridan

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Fort Sheridan

vicinity of

congressional district

state Illinois

code

17

county

Lake

code

097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Department of the Army

street & number

city, town Fort Sheridan

vicinity of

state

Illinois 60037

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lake County Courthouse

street & number County Street

city, town Waukegan

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sally Kress Tompkins
"National Register Survey"

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records National Park Service

city, town Washington

state DC

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Location

Fort Sheridan is approximately twenty-five miles north of Chicago. It is set among the prosperous suburbs built along the Lake Michigan waterfront. The towns of Highwood and Highland Park are to the south and west of the post, and Lake Forest is at the northern boundary. Fort Sheridan, which currently encompasses 714 acres, has an advantageous location extending along one and one-half miles of waterfront and running inland a distance which varies from three-eighths to three-quarters of a mile. The property sits on bluffs above the lake cut by a series of ravines extending back from the lake shore. The original buildings were constructed between two of the largest of these ravines.

Original Plan

The plan of Fort Sheridan, designed in the late 1880s, is based on the so-called "hollow square" in which buildings are constructed around a central parade ground. This organization was common to frontier forts built for defense and continued in use in a somewhat altered form for army posts built mainly to garrison troops.

The central focal point of the post is a 167-foot water tower, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The tower has a square base approximately 39 feet across and contains a 90,000-gallon tank. The tower is flanked by two buildings, each one 483 feet long, originally constructed as barracks. The water tower, which is still in use, and the barracks, now utilized as administration buildings, form a continuous complex more than 1000 feet in length which dominates the southern side of the parade ground.

The parade ground with its adjacent open land encompasses almost 54 acres. It separates the officers club on the north and tower and barracks on the south. The club was originally constructed as bachelor officers' quarters and open mess. Between the parade ground and the lake front on the east, four loops were constructed following the curvature of several small ravines which divide the bluff. Three of these loops provide access to houses which serve as residences for officers; the fourth contains the building which originally served as the post hospital and is now utilized as a library and education center. The separation of officers and regular troops was traditional as was the location of the hospital somewhat to the side of the other buildings and removed from the center of activity. The main entrance to the post is in proximity to the west side of the parade grounds. Encircling the parade grounds is an oval drive which provides access to the tower and barracks complex, the officers' club, and the residential loops along the lake.

Behind the tower and barracks to the south the majority of those remaining buildings which were necessary to support the operation of a military installation at the end of the nineteenth century were constructed. These include; housing for non-commissioned officers, kitchen and mess halls, fire house, guardhouse, bakery, stables, store house and shops, blacksmith, and veterinary hospital. The stables were at the edge of the development following the general practice which placed these nuisance type of structures as far as possible from living quarters.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 Builder Architect Holabird & Roche

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fort Sheridan is nationally significant in the area of historic architecture. It was designed by the nationally significant firm of Holabird and Roche at the turn of the century. The involvement of this firm with Fort Sheridan began in 1884 and continued into the 1890s. During this period of time some 66 structures were completed covering the entire range of buildings from docks and breakwaters to barracks, officers' quarters and drill halls, stables and to the great water tower which dominates the fort.

The Fort Sheridan Historic District is cohesive in design, material workmanship, and location. In addition to the sixty-six buildings designed by Holabird and Roche; twenty-six buildings were constructed from standardized plans from the Office of the Quartermaster General. The latter are common to many military posts of the period. All of the buildings were constructed within a twenty year period, from 1889 to 1908, utilizing the same buff-cream colored brick. Recurring architectural features provide further linkages among the buildings.

Fort Sheridan was planned and constructed during a period of transition in national policy which signaled the closing of the temporary frontier posts and the establishment of permanent garrisons of troops at strategic points throughout the United States. The fort also took form during the interlude between the establishment of a series of permanent military installations and the issuance of standardized building plans from the Office of the Quartermaster General.

The post, as constructed, remains almost complete today with stables, pumping station, warehouse, barracks, water tower, officers' quarters, fire station, hospital, guard-house, non-commissioned officers' quarters, magazine, gun shed, veterinary hospital and morgue. These buildings by design, usage, and relationship to one another are typical of the military traditions and values of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century army, exemplifying among other things the importance of the horse and the mule to the army, the separation of rank, the growing attention paid to the needs of the soldier, and the pomp and ceremony connected with military life at that time. Arranged around the parade grounds and enclosed by two large ravines, the district is a compact one. It evokes a sense of the old army and possesses strong associative values with United States military history especially that period between Fort Sheridan's inception in the late 1880s and the onset of World War I.

The Chicago architectural firm of Holabird and Roche is known primarily for its pioneer work in the use of the skeleton frame and in the construction of the early skyscrapers that characterize the Chicago school of architecture. The work at Fort Sheridan was done early in the firm's career and almost simultaneously with plans

9. Major Bibliographical References

Primary Sources

Records:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence File, 1784-1915. Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Continue

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 230

Quadrangle name Highland Park

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	3	3	3	6	0	4	6	7	4	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	6	4	3	3	7	0	0	4	6	7	4	0	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	6	4	3	2	7	0	0	4	6	7	3	1	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	6	4	3	2	2	4	0	4	6	7	4	1	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The district is bounded on the east by Lake Michigan. The southern boundary follows the south bank of Barlett Ravine from the lake front until its termination behind (continue

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harry Butowsky, Historian/Sally Kress Tompkins, Architectural Historian

organization National Park Service date May 16, 1983

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Washington state DC 20240

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

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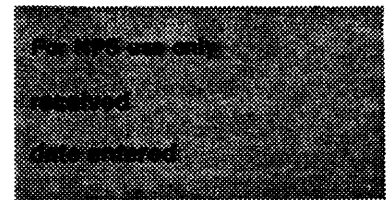
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

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North of the parade ground, behind the Officers' Club, a rifle range was developed, and the cemetery was in the northwest corner of the post. On the waterfront where one of the ravines opens onto the shore, a pumping station was situated. For the most part, however, the area to the north was left undeveloped.

By 1910 the initial planned construction was completed. The original 632 acres of land was enlarged by the acquisition of 96 acres on the south side, bringing the total acreage to 728. In recent years the total acreage has been reduced by cession to the city of Highwood and to government agencies, and the present post now encompasses 714 acres.

Later Growth

Periods of intensive use and growth during the twentieth century, particularly the World War I and II years, saw the construction of buildings on unused land within the confines of the original post and the development of open land to the south. The area north of the parade ground, much smaller than the area to the south, remained relatively unchanged. The cemetery was left undisturbed. An air field was constructed in the rifle range area during World War II. It now serves only as a helipad.

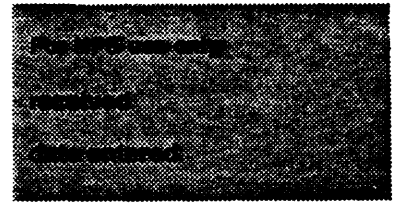
During and immediately after World War I the parade ground was filled with temporary hospital buildings. These buildings were later removed and a golf course laid out. Few buildings from the World War I period exist today. Many of the temporary buildings constructed during World War II remain. These long, one- and two-story buildings with wood siding painted light green, asphalt-covered gable roofs, and rows of plain windows were constructed from standardized plans utilized throughout the country.

These familiar barrack-type buildings also served as mess halls, administrative, recreation, and medical buildings. The majority of these are in the south section of the post outside the boundaries of the historic district as presently demarcated.

Architectural Description

The buildings within the historic district share many common characteristics. They are all of brick bearing wall construction. The brick, which was manufactured on the post, is a buff-cream color. The walls are American common bond. The foundations are random ashlar limestone or limestone rubble. Full basements often have ground level access on at least one side. Relatively low heights predominate; no building except the tower rises higher than three stories.

The buildings designed by Holabird and Roche have many additional similarities. Long brick walls with rows of narrow, arched windows, characteristic of many of the buildings, give a feeling of massiveness and are suggestive of a fortress. The use of wide arches around entrances and the ribbon-like rows of recessed arched windows suggest the prevalent influence of H.H. Richardson during the late 1880s. The two houses designed for the post commanders had no precedents for elegance on a military base. They reflect characteristics of the Queen Anne style with domed turrets,

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third floor projecting gables and columned porches, all enriched with terra cotta trim. In general, however, the Holabird and Roche designs are restrained, reflecting the constraints of military usage and economics. Decorative brickwork forming arches, friezes, cornices, and brackets provides the majority of the decorative detail.

Semi-rounded, segmental and flat brick arches are used over doorways and windows. The arches are gauged brick or formed by rowlocks. A projecting row of headers or a dentil course of projecting and recessed headers form extrados archivolt for many of the rounded arches. Friezes and cornices of dentiled, dog toothed, or corbeled brick appear frequently. In some of the more pretentious houses and buildings limestone is substituted for the brick in brackets, modified capitals, and water tables.

The roofs are gabled or hipped with gable, hipped and shed roofs appearing over dormers, which are numerous. The roofs were originally covered with slate; now they are covered with cement asbestos or asphalt shingles. Raked parapets with terra cotta coping on gable end walls and firewalls are utilized on numerous buildings from the commanding officers' residences to storehouses. Copper downspouts and gutters were used originally and many have been retained. Copper was also used on porch roofs.

The buildings within the historic district, which were constructed between 1905 and 1910 from plans prepared in the Office of the Quartermaster General, are less distinctive in design and plainer in treatment than the Holabird and Roche designs. The arches are flat or segmental of gauged brick. The raked parapets and wide rounded arches characteristic of the Holabird and Roche buildings are not employed.

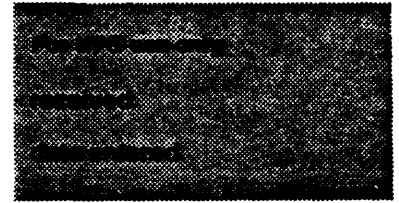
Remaining Buildings

A 1912 map of the post shows 112 standing buildings and five bridges. Fourteen of these buildings have since demolished or burned; one building was modified to form two buildings; ninety-nine buildings predating 1912 remain on the post today. None of the original bridges are extant; all the bridges presently on the post are of recent construction.

Few buildings constructed between 1912 and 1930 remain. As mentioned earlier, those buildings constructed during World War I were of a temporary nature and have been demolished. Of the remaining buildings constructed before 1930 the majority are utilitarian in nature and incompatible in style and construction material with the contributing buildings within the district. One exception is Building No. 119, constructed in 1913 as barracks and utilizing a buff-cream-colored brick. While undistinguished in design and relating neither to the Holabird and Roche designs nor the standardized military plans of the earlier period it is not considered an intrusion but rather as a background building.

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Five buildings dating from sometime before 1907 were not included within the boundaries of the historic district. The buildings, all of which are residences, were on land purchased by the government in 1907 and 1908 when the size of the post was increased. Three of these buildings, Nos. 109, 110, and 111, are located close together at the western edge of the post in proximity to the southern boundary of the historic district. The color of the brick and the style of these buildings differ from that of the original buildings. The other two buildings are farther south, one is brick and one is frame. They both sit on a diagonal to the post's streets. These five buildings have vernacular modifications of Palladian windows as major features of the facades. They do not suggest the designs of Holabird and Roche nor the standardized military plans. They were carefully considered for inclusion in the historic district, but were deemed as visually incompatible and unrelated historically, architecturally and geographically to the other buildings in the district. They were therefore dropped from consideration.

Alterations

The buildings have remained in continuous use since their construction. Most alterations have been dictated by changing utilization of the buildings or by modernization of the mechanical systems. These modifications have occurred to the interiors of the buildings. On the exteriors, modifications have been few and were for most part related to repair of some part of the building fabric. Common exterior alterations include chimney removal, partial or complete infilling of windows and doors, cutting through of additional windows and doors, removal or boarding up of cupolas, enlarging and squaring off of arched doorways to provide access for larger vehicles, and replacement of worn out brick. The replacement of brick after 1910 is particularly noticeable because the original buff-cream brick was not matched. A pink-red brick known locally as Chicago Common and an orange-rust brick were used for most replacements until recently. Some buildings have entire additions constructed of a different colored brick, or of a form of metal sheeting or cement block. Between 1965 and 1967 the brick walls on the buildings within the historic district were sandblasted.

The grounds within the historic district are basically the same as they were originally; the major exceptions being the building of structures on open spaces and the transformation of the parade ground into a golf course.

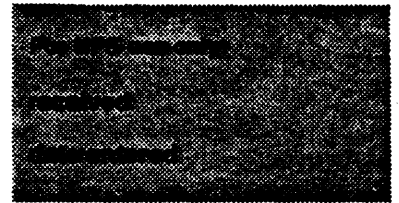
Evaluation of Intrusions

There are sixty-four intrusions in the district as opposed to ninety-seven buildings which are considered as contributing or background buildings. The intrusions do not represent as large a part of the district as the numbers appear to indicate. Many of them are small and not particularly obtrusive, such as concrete block storage buildings, garages, power houses, underground storage tanks, etc.

The significance of the Fort Sheridan Historic District is based on the unique position the Fort occupies in the development of planning for army forts and the visual cohesiveness of the Holabird and Roche buildings. These considerations

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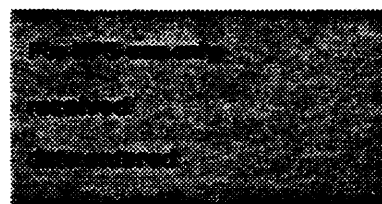
5

also dictated the drawing of the district's boundaries. The Fort also contains a large number of World War II temporary buildings which have not been evaluated during this study because they are less than fifty years old and because they do not contribute to the significance of the district as defined above.

The Fort Sheridan Historic District as described in the boundary description of this form was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS (94)

The buildings at Fort Sheridan were assigned numbers on maps as early as 1912. These numbers have remained uniform over the years while the uses of the buildings have changed. In the following descriptions the buildings are identified by numbers which correspond to those numbers on the enclosed 1978 map as well as on all earlier maps.

These short descriptions of the 94 contributing buildings do not include those shared characteristics of the buildings reiterated in the general architectural description. Unless otherwise noted the buildings are in good condition.

Buildings #1 and 2 Original Use: Post Hospital
Present Use: Building #1 Library
Building #2 Education Center and Health Clinic
Date of Construction:
Building #1 1893.
Building #2 1905-06
Architect: Office of Surgeon-General

Building #1 is a central three-story block with a mansard roof and two single-story side wings. A frieze formed by three dogtoothed courses and segmentally arched windows are the buildings main decorative features. In 1905, an addition to the hospital was constructed. It consisted of three wings connected to the main hospital through a passageway was removed and the three wings became a separate building now known as Building #2.

In the basement of Building #1 is a cistern which was the early water source for the post. Originally a wood veranda covered the facade and the two sides of the hospital.

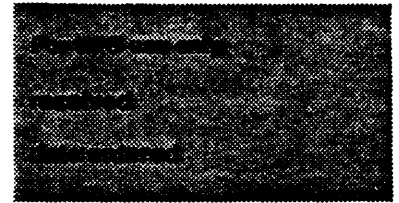
Buildings #3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 56

Original Use: Lieutenants' Quarters
Present Use: Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1890-1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

Two and one-half story brick residences distinguished by wide brick arches over entrances onto inset porches. These rectangular structures have gable roofs with main entrances in the gable end. A raked parapet with terra cotta coping and corbelled brick brackets sets off both front and rear gable ends of the buildings. A side projecting bay has a pyramidal roof. These houses are on a series of residential loops that run between the parade ground on the west and the lake on the east.

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Buildings #8 and 9 Original Use: Post Commanders' Residence
Present Use: Building #8 Deputy Post Commanders' Residence
Building #9 Post Commanders' Residence
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

These two and one-half story buildings are the most elaborate of the residences and have characteristics of the Queen Anne style. Corner turrets with ribbed domed roofs and projecting central gables on the third floor level have elaborate terra cotta trim. The windows in the projecting gables are flanked by truncated terra cotta columns with foliated capitals. Central single bay porches, rounded on Building #9 and rectangular on Building #8, have attenuated columns. Both porches have been enclosed. A sun porch has been added to the east side of Building #9. Building #8 has been remodeled for two families, and entryway additions constructed on both sides. The houses face each other on the bluffs above the lake at the end of one of the residential loops.

Buildings #10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 53, 54, 73, 74, 75, 76

Original Use: Captains' Quarters
Present Use: Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1890-1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

Larger versions of the Lieutenants' Quarters described above with the same wide arches and raked parapets. Short side wings replace the projecting bays employed on the Lieutenants' Quarters.

Building #28 Original Use: Field Officers' Quarters
Present Use: Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1905
Architect: Office of Quartermaster General

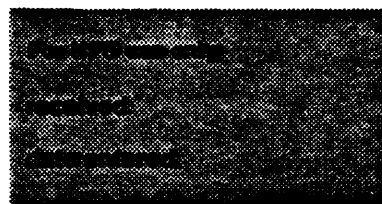
A two-and-a-half story building having a cross-plan with intersecting gable roofs. A porch covering the facade has attenuated Tuscan columns. Flat gauged brick arches above the windows have oversize stone keystones. This house is at the end of one of the residential loops on a bluff above the lake.

Building #9 Original Use: Pumping Station
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A rectangular building with a gable-on-hip roof and seven windows and three entrances in the long side. The windows and entrances have rounded gauged brick arches.

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Buildings #30, 46 and 52 Original Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Housing
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1890-91
Architect: Holabird and Roche

Two-family houses two stories high with gable roofs and the entrances in the long side. The facades are dominated by large central double gabled dormers at the second-story levels. Single-story inset porches have projecting gables over each of the two entrances.

Building #31 Original Use: Bachelor Officers' Quarters and Mess
Present Use: Officers' Club and Quarters
Date of Construction: 1892-93
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A rectangular two-and-a-half story building with the facade on the long side having eighteen bays. The west section, which serves as the Officers' Club, was reconstructed after a fire in 1956. The brick walls are a yellow-orange which does not match the original buff-cream bricks. The rebuilt projecting bay on the front contains the main entrance overhung by an oriel window. Below the window is a stone shield with a bas-relief of General Philip Sheridan on horseback.

The eastern section, which contains two-room apartments for officers' living quarters, is original. A two-story porch across the facade is inset under the gable roof. Supporting brick pillars hold two truncated columns at the porch's second level. The roof is cut by firewalls with raked parapets and has three gabled dormers.

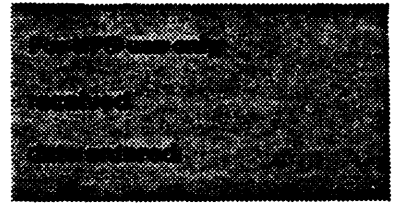
Building #32 Original Use: Bachelor Officers' Quarters
Present Use: Guest House
Date of Construction: 1907-08
Architect: Officer of the Quartermaster General

A plain, rectangular, two-story building with a gable roof and the entrance in the long side. A two-story porch covers the entire eleven bay facade. The building faces the parade ground and is immediately west of the Officers' Club.

Building #33 Original Use: Guardhouse
Present Use: Museum
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

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A single story central block with side wings. The central block, which is the original section, had a full porch inset under the hipped roof. Brick pillars with modified stone capitals support a series of narrow rounded arched openings which occur on three sides. The wings have rounded arched windows. Inside the buildings the cell blocks remain in excellent condition including a row of solitary confinement cells in the basement. A ramp for handicap access was recently added to this building.

Building #34 Original Use: Bakery
Present Use: Child Care Center
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A square single story building with a main entrance in the gable end. The building is unornamented except for a frieze of recessed brick panels across the facade. A front three-bay porch with brick pillars has been enclosed, and a side addition has been constructed.

Building #35 Original Use: Quartermaster and Commissary Storehouse
Present Use: Civilian Personnel Office
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A nineteen-bay one-and-a-half story building with a gable roof and a full basement. The entrance is in the long side. The building is distinguished by raked parapets with terra cotta coping and scalloped stone brackets at the gable ends at the central fire wall. There are six hipped dormers on the rear.

Building #36 Original Use: Workshops
Present Use: Warehouse
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

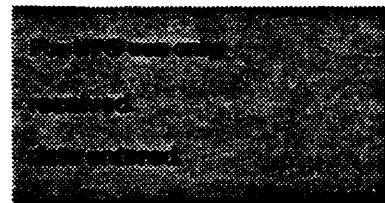
A long, single story building with a hipped roof cut by six fire walls with raked parapets with terra cotta coping. Six rounded arched entrances on the long side originally provided access to six different shops. A seventh entrance has been constructed from one of the windows. Other than this the building remains in its original condition.

Building #37 Original Use: Quartermaster Stables Guardhouse
Present Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A small, one-and-a-half story rectangular building with a full porch inset under the gable roof on the long side. The porch has brick pillars with inset stone bands. The gable ends have raked parapets with terra cotta coping. The building is across the street from three buildings which originally served as stables.

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Building #38 Original Use: Veterinary Hospital
Present Use: Post Office and Military Police Headquarters
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A T-shaped, one-and-a-half story building with the entrance on the long side and raked parapets on the gable ends. A central projecting bay contains the entrance on the first level and at one time contained a loft door at the second level. Above the loft door the tympanum of a rounded gauged brick arch has a checkerboard pattern of alternate projecting and recessed headers. This same composition repeats at the gable end of the rear wing. When the loft doors were removed the area was bricked in with a red-pink brick.

Building #39 Original Use: Forage Warehouse
Present Use: Warehouse
Date of Construction: 1891
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A two-story rectangular building with a flat roof distinguished by vertical bands of arcaded windows on the first and second floors interspersed between engaged brick pillars. Rows of massive stone and brick piers in the basement support the first floor. The second floor is constructed of 2 by 7 and 1/2-inch boards set on edge so that the floor is 7 and 1/2-inches thick.

Buildings #42, 43, 62, 63, 65, 80

Original Use: Stables
Present Use: Repair Shop, Warehouses and Offices
Date of Construction: 1890-93
Architect: Holabird and Roche

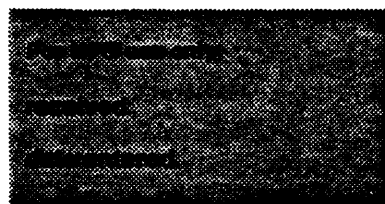
Long, rectangular, one and one-and-a-half story buildings with hipped roofs and large rounded arched entrances on all four sides. The long sides have continuous rows of small arched windows broken only by the central entrances. Hipped dormers on Buildings 42 and 43 provide light to a loft area. Buildings 62, 63, 65, and 80 have no lofts. Most of them have been removed. In some cases the rounded arched entrances have been infilled with brick or squared off. Handicapped access ramps were recently added to Building #62.

Buildings #44, 72, 78

Original Use: Saddler's and Stable Sergeants Buildings
Present Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

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Square, single story brick buildings with pyramidal roofs and full inset porches supported by brick pillars.

Buildings #45 and 102

Original Use: Hospital Corps and Sergeants' Quarters
Present Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1910
Architect: Office of Quartermaster General

Plain, rectangular, two-story houses with gable roofs. The main entrances are in the long sides and single story screened-in porches cover the facades. Segmental arches formed of triple rowlocks are above both windows and doors. The houses stand side by side southwest of the parade grounds.

Building #47 Original Use: Army Mess Hall and Central Heating Plant
Present Use: Post Exchange
Date of Construction: 1891
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A large, single story, rectangular building with a full basement. There are eight brick buttresses on each of the long sides, and enclosed brick entryways on the gable ends. The heating plant was housed in a long side wing with a raked parapet on the gable end. Two cupolas remain in place on the ridge of the roof of the main building. The structure has also been used as a gymnasium and a theater.

Buildings #48, 49, and 50

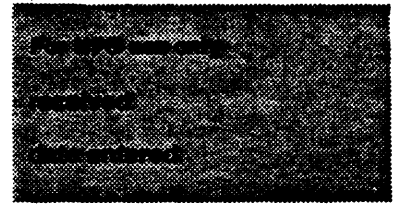
Original Use: Buildings #48 and 50: Barracks
Building #49: Water Tower
Present Use: Buildings #48 and 50: Administration
Building #49: Water Tower
Date of Construction: 1890
Architect: Holabird and Roche

Buildings #48 and 50 are long two and one-half-story buildings with full basements which flank the Water Tower (Building #49) and are connected to it. The buildings have gable roofs broken by firewalls with raked parapets with terra cotta coping and corbeled brick brackets. There are three projecting wings with hipped roofs on each of the facades. Handicapped access ramps were recently added to Buildings #48 and 50.

The Water Tower, Building #49, in the center of the composition, is 167 feet tall with a 39-foot square base. A sally port, 15 feet wide provides access through the base of the tower. Above the sally port, sections of rock-faced and hammer-finished limestone walls give way to brick. In 1939 the top of the tower with its steeply pitched pyramidal roof was removed and a low pitched octagonal roof constructed. At this time the height of the tower was shortened by 61 feet. The Water Tower was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

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Building #57A Original Use: Magazine
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A simple, single story, rectangular building with a hipped roof. The single entrance is in the gable end through two metal-covered, heavy wooden doors. The original windows, two on each of the long sides, have been infilled with brick.

Building #59 Original Use: Ordnance Storehouse
Present Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A single story, rectangular building with a hipped roof and the entrance in the long side. A full porch covers the facade. Brick pillars with modified stone capitals support the porch roof.

Building #60 Original Use: Infantry Drill Hall
Present Use: Gymnasium
Date of Construction: 1893
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A large, single story, gable roofed structure with raked parapets with terra cotta coping. A wide arched entrance in one gable end has been partially infilled with brick. The arch is formed by twenty rowlocks. On the long sides of the building engaged brick pillars alternate with large windows which have been infilled with glass brick.

Building #61 Original Use: Blacksmith Shop
Present use: Veterinarian Office
Date of Construction: 1910
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

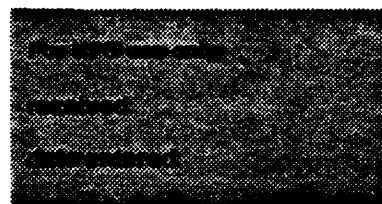
A single story rectangular building with a gable roof with the entrance in the gable end.

Building #66 Original Use: Post Office
Present Use: Administration
Date of Construction: 1907
Architect: Not known. Probably the Post Engineer

A simple, single story rectangular building with a gable roof with the entrance in the short side. It is constructed from an orange-rust colored brick which differs from the characteristic buff-cream brick of the other buildings.

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Building #77 Original Use: Blacksmith Shop
Present Use: Vehicle Repair
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A simple, single story, rectangular structure with a hipped roof and the entrance in the short end. The bases of all six of the original chimneys remain in the interior. Two the chimneys are still in place on the roof.

Building #79 Original Use: Fire Station
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1893
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A simple, single story, rectangular structure with a low pitched hipped roof and two vehicular entrances in the short end. A pink-red brick addition on the side and the rear provides room for additional vehicles and living quarters for the firemen.

Building #81, 82, 83, 84

Original Use: Cavalry and Artillery Barracks
Present Use: Administration
Date of Construction: 1905
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

These two and one-half story buildings are U-shaped with thirteen bays across the facade and two wings at the rear. Two-story porches cover part of the facades. These buildings flank the barracks and water tower complex, two on each side.

Building #85 Original Use: Quartermaster Storehouse
Present Use: Warehouse
Date of Construction: 1905
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

A long, single-story structure with a gable roof. There are three dormers on each of the long sides. Many of the windows have been partially infilled with brick.

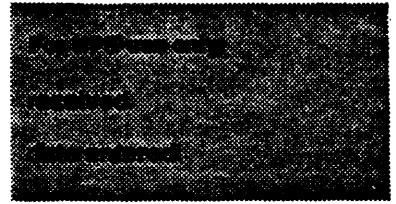
Buildings #86 and 98

Original Use: Stables
Present Use: Warehouses
Date of Construction: 1909-10
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

These one-story stables are wider and shorter than those designed by Holabird and Roche. The additional width allows for two wide entrances in each of the gable ends. Louvered windows in the broken gable roofs provide ventilation. A number of the doors and windows have been modified.

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Building #87 Original Use: Dead House
Present Use: Storage
Date of Construction: 1893
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A small, single story structure with a gable roof. The windows are all blind; the two windows flanking the single entrance contain stone crosses in high relief.

Building #88 Original Use: Ordnance Storehouse
Present Use: Storage
Date of Construction: 1893
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A small, single story, rectangular building with a hipped roof. A metal door is in the gable end and a single window in each of the sides.

Building #89 Original Use: Gun Shed
Present Use: Storage
Date of Construction: 1892
Architect: Holabird and Roche

A single story, rectangular building with a hipped roof and eight wide arched entrances with sliding double doors in each of the long sides.

Buildings #90 and 91

Original Use: Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1893
Architect: Holabird and Roche

Two-family residences, two stories high, with cross-shaped plans and intersecting gambrel roofs. Porches are inset inside the L's.

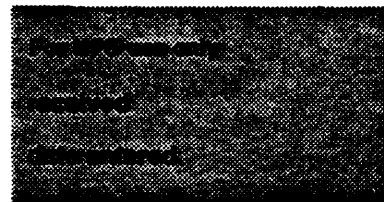
Buildings #92, 95, 96, 97

Original Use: Lieutenants' Quarters
Present Use: Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1905
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Two-family, two and one-half story houses shaped like crosses with intersecting gable roofs. A single story porch covers the entire facade. The trim is simple with flat gauged brick arches above openings and a blind window with a rounded arch flanked by two small rectangular windows in the front gable end.

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Buildings #93 and 94

Original Use: Captains' Quarters
Present Use: Officers' Quarters
Date of Construction: 1905
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Two-family houses similar to #92, etc., except that they are larger. The porch covers the sides rather than the facade, and there are two rounded arched brick windows rather than a blind window in the gable end facade.

Building #100. Original Use: Cold Storage House
Present Use: Storage
Date of Construction: 1897
Architect: Not known

A simple, single story rectangular building with a gable roof and the entrance on the long side. The structure has raked parapets characteristic of Holabird and Roche designs, but no documentation could be found which established that firm as the architects. The windows and a loft door have been infilled with brick. The brick is dirty, and the building shows some signs of deterioration.

Buildings #103, 104, 105, 106, 107, and 108

Original Use: Company Kitchen
Present Use: Administration
Date of Construction: 1907-08
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Two and one-half story buildings with full basements. These buildings were constructed in a row directly behind the tower and barracks complex and were originally connected to the barracks by covered passageways. These corridors were removed in 1922.

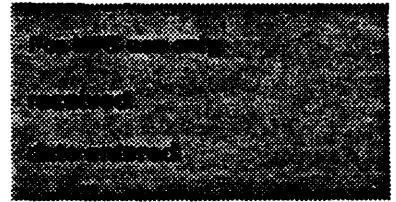
BACKGROUND BUILDINGS (3)

Building #119 Original Use: Barracks
Present Use: Administration
Date of Construction: 1913
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

A two-story, cream-colored brick building with a gable-on-a-hip roof and segmental arches over the window.

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Building #140

Original Use: Bakers' and Cooks' School
Present Use: Post Headquarters
Date of Construction: 1939
Architect: The Stearnes Co. Chicago

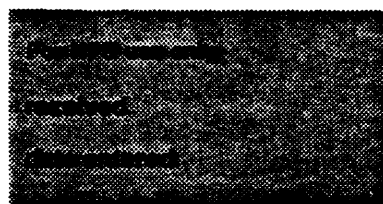
A two-story cream-brick building with a hipped roof than the entrance in the long sides. Brick quoins and flat gauged brick arches over doors and windows provide the decorative trim. Handicapped access ramps were recently added to this building.

Building #180 Original Use: Theatre
Present Use: Same
Date of Construction: 1932
Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

A two and one-half story, orange-yellow brick building with a hipped roof and the entrance in the short end. Oversized stone keystones in the flat and rounded stone arches above the windows and a lunette in the front gable form the decorative motif.

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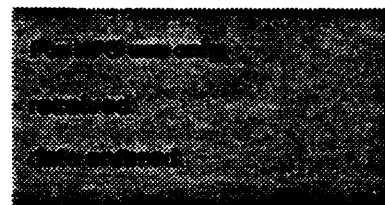
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INTRUSIONS (64)

Building No.	Current Use	Date of Construction	Construction Type
29A	Power House	n.d.	Concrete
40	Heating Plant	1967	Concrete Block
46C	Detached Garage	1969	Concrete Block
51	Motor Repair Shop	1931	Corrugated Steel
55	Vehicle Storage	1932	Corrugated Steel
57B	Fixed Ammunition Magazine	1929	Concrete Block
57C	Fixed Ammunition Magazine	1929	Concrete Block
S58	Vehicle Storage	1931	Corrugated Steel
S64	General Purpose Warehouse	1928	Metal
S112	Vehicle Storage	1932	Corrugated Steel
115	Diesel Fuel Station	1932	Brick
T118	Administration	1935	Wood
121	Scale House	1943	Brick
T134	Administration	1969	Wood
135	Oil House	1940	Brick

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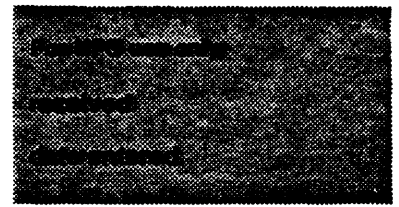
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INTRUSIONS (continued)

Building No.	Current Use	Date of Construction	Construction Type
T151	Dispatch Office	1959	Wood
154	Pool Filter Building	1964	Concrete
156	Bathhouse	1964	Brick
157	General Storehouse	1919	Stucco and Corrugated metal
159	Outdoor Swimming Pool	1964	
T170	Chapel	1941	Wood
T200	Sentry House	1978	Brick
T201	Bachelor Officers' Quarters	1943	Wood and Plaster Siding
202	Exchange Service Outlets	1934	Brick
204	Family Housing	1919	Frame
T205	Enlisted and Civilian Club	1941	Wood
206	Water Storage Tank	1966	Concrete

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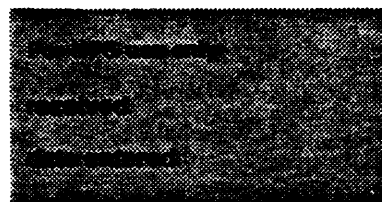
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INTRUSIONS (continued)

Building No.	Current Use	Date of Construction	Construction Type
207	Water Storage Tank	1966	Concrete
T210	Detached Garage	n.d.	Wood
216	Small Arms Repair Shop	1941	Steel
S216A	Flammable Material Storehouse	1941	Metal
296	Underground Holding Tank	n.d.	
297	Powerhouse	n.d.	Brick
298	Bathhouse	1946	Frame
T370	Vehicle Storage	1941	Wood
400-417	Detached Garages	1940	Concrete Block
T700	Administration	1941	Wood
T701	Administration	1941	Wood
T702	Administration	1941	Wood
T703	Administration	1941	Wood
707	Dispensary/Dental Clinic	1967	Concrete Block
718	General Storehouse	1941	Wood

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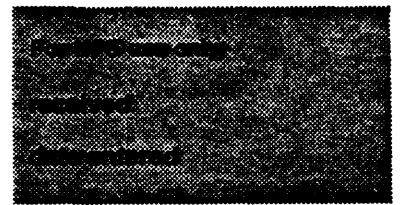
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INTRUSIONS (continued)

Building No.	Current Use	Date of Construction	Construction Type
T723	General Storehouse	1942	Wood
T724	Administration	1942	Wood
725	Skill Development Center	1942	Wingsheet Metal
T726	Medical Maintenance	1945	Concrete Block
71	Power House for Computer	1981	Concrete Block

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for the first-high rise office building to utilize the principles of skeleton construction throughout the facades. The twelve story Tacoma Building in Chicago was completed in 1888. The two, however, offer little basis for comparison. After the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Holabird and Roche turned away from Richardsonian architecture, which influenced their work at Fort Sheridan and began designing in the fashionable new classicism.

Very few military installations were designed by notable architectural and landscaping firms. This, combined with the unusual scope and size of the surviving building inventory, makes Fort Sheridan an architectural and historical resource of exceptional value. The buildings are distinctive, well designed, and appropriate in regard to usage. The design restraints within which the firm worked did not, except for the two houses, allow adherence to popular styles. As a result the buildings have an almost classic simplicity with clean lines, simple decoration and reliance upon the arch as both a structural and decorative device. The excellent design, good engineering and highly competent workmanship of the construction have made it possible to retain, adapt, and reuse all but a few of the buildings to the present time.

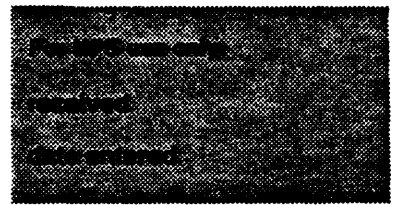
O.C. Simonds, who did the landscaping at Fort Sheridan, was a member of the firm of Holabird and Roche, until 1883, when he left to start a firm devoted to landscape gardening. Simonds work, which includes Graceland Cemetery, was well known in the Chicago area. The use of gradual curves and the preference for the natural over the formal landscape were characteristics of Simonds work, and both are apparent in his design for Fort Sheridan.

General History

The origin of Fort Sheridan has its roots in a complex set of circumstances which existed during the 1880s. These circumstances, in part, account for its uniqueness today.

The first circumstance concerned a change in national policy which resulted in the closing of temporary posts in the west in favor of the establishment of permanent garrisons where troops might be concentrated at various points throughout the country. This decision coincided with on-going efforts to provide decent housing and amenities for the soldiers. Fort Sheridan was one of the first posts to be constructed which incorporated these ideals.

The second set of circumstances arose out of labor unrest in the city of Chicago, which prompted a group of influential Chicago citizens in 1887 to arrange for land north of the city to be donated to the United States Government. More than 600 acres of land on the bluffs of Lake Michigan was deeded to the Government, and plans for the establishment of a post there got underway immediately.

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The third set of circumstances concerned the commission of Holabird and Roche, a private architectural firm in Chicago to design the buildings on the post. This somewhat unusual occurrence was no doubt prompted by the desire of Brigadier General Samuel B. Holabird, then Quartermaster General of the Army, to help out his son's newly formed architectural firm by awarding the firm a major commission. Between 1888 and 1891 Holabird and Roche designed all of the early buildings on the post, even such basically utilitarian structures as the pumping station and the garbage incinerator.

By 1890 the Quartermaster General's Office was issuing standardized plans for construction of buildings on army posts, and in 1896 legislation was passed which expressly prohibited the employment of a private architectural firm to design military installations, except by special Act of Congress. Thus all of the various circumstances which brought about the establishment of Fort Sheridan at the end of the nineteenth century coexisted for only a brief period of time. Early in the 20th century, travel brochures described the post as the last word in modern military posts and one of the most beautiful in the United States.

Since its inception in 1887 Fort Sheridan has been involved in the important military events of our history. Two companies of infantry first arrived on the land that was to become Fort Sheridan at the end of 1887. A year later, Camp Highwood as it was then called was renamed Fort Sheridan, after Lt. General Philip H. Sheridan, the Civil War general and the commanding General of the Army from 1883 to 1888.

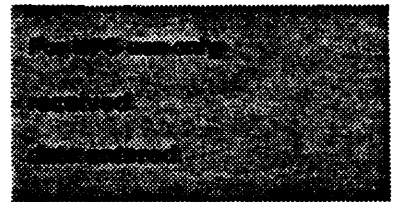
Construction of permanent buildings began in 1889. Infantry, artillery and cavalry units were garrisoned there in the early 1890s. Troops from Fort Sheridan were called during the Spanish American War in 1898 and the Mexican border incidents in 1916. In the interim years Fort Sheridan played an active role in the social life of Chicago's North Shore communities with horse shows, polo games, balls, receptions, and ceremonies such as guard mounting, drills, and parades.

The mule and the horse were important to the army of this period. Well built stables, a veterinary hospital, and buildings for saddlers, stable guards and blacksmiths visibly demonstrate this importance. New mules underwent a two month training program alongside experienced mules. Horses and their riders learned all forms of drill and command, a time consuming activity for both. A fully trained horse would stand its ground under artillery and rifle fire.

Many well known World War II figures spent some time at Fort Sheridan during this period. In particular, General George Patton was assigned to Fort Sheridan in 1909 as a young lieutenant out of West Point. His quarters are noted with a commemorative plaque. Generals Jonathan M. Wainright and Douglas MacArthur spent part of their boyhoods at the post, when their fathers were stationed there. In the years before World War I, Fort Sheridan took an active part in training a reserve military force. The innovative officers' training camps initiated by General Leonard Wood were held at Fort Sheridan beginning in 1916. When war was declared in 1917 the fort became a

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mustering point and training center for troops. In 1919 a base hospital was established, in spite of the protests of many North Shore residents, to treat wounded and convalescent soldiers.

The parade ground was crowded with temporary hospital buildings. The medical facility, which treated approximately 60,000 patients, was later named Lovell Hospital after Joseph Lovell, Surgeon-General of the Army from 1818 to 1836. The hospital was closed in 1921, and the temporary buildings were removed from the parade ground.

Post World War 1

Between World War I and World War II the 14th Cavalry, 2nd Infantry, 3rd Field Artillery, and 61st and 201st Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) were stationed at the Fort. Schools such as the Cooks and Bakers' School and a school for automobile mechanics were established there. Civilian Military Training Camps and Civilian Conservation Corps projects were located at Fort Sheridan. While the first stable was converted to a garage as early as 1914, horses continued to play a part, if an increasingly limited one, in Fort Sheridan's life until the end of the 1930s.

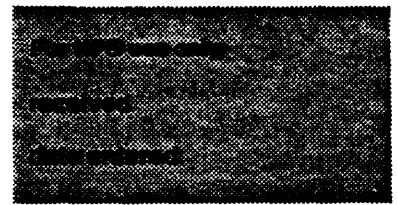
World War II

During World War II Fort Sheridan served as a Recruit Reception Center and at the end of the war as an Army Separation Center. More than a half million men and women passed through the post during their entrance into military service, and as many again on their way back to civilian life. During the war years Fort Sheridan also served as a rehabilitation center and as administrative headquarters for 46 branch prisoner-of-war camps in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

From 1954 to 1966 the 5th Region United States Army Air Command with responsibility for the region's Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules guided missile systems was headquartered at Fort Sheridan. In 1967 the Headquarters of the 5th Army moved from Chicago to the post and remained there until 1971. Today Fort Sheridan provides support to numerous tenant groups, most notably to the headquarters of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, U.S. Army Readiness Region V, the U.S. Army Reserves and the National Guard.

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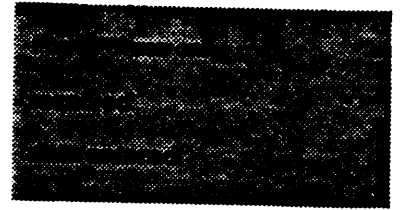
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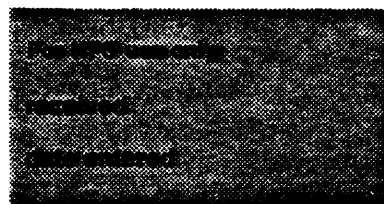
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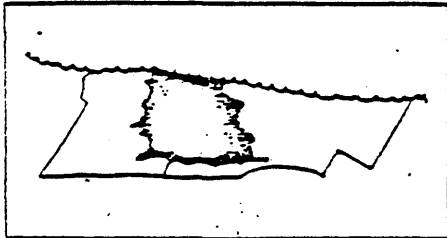
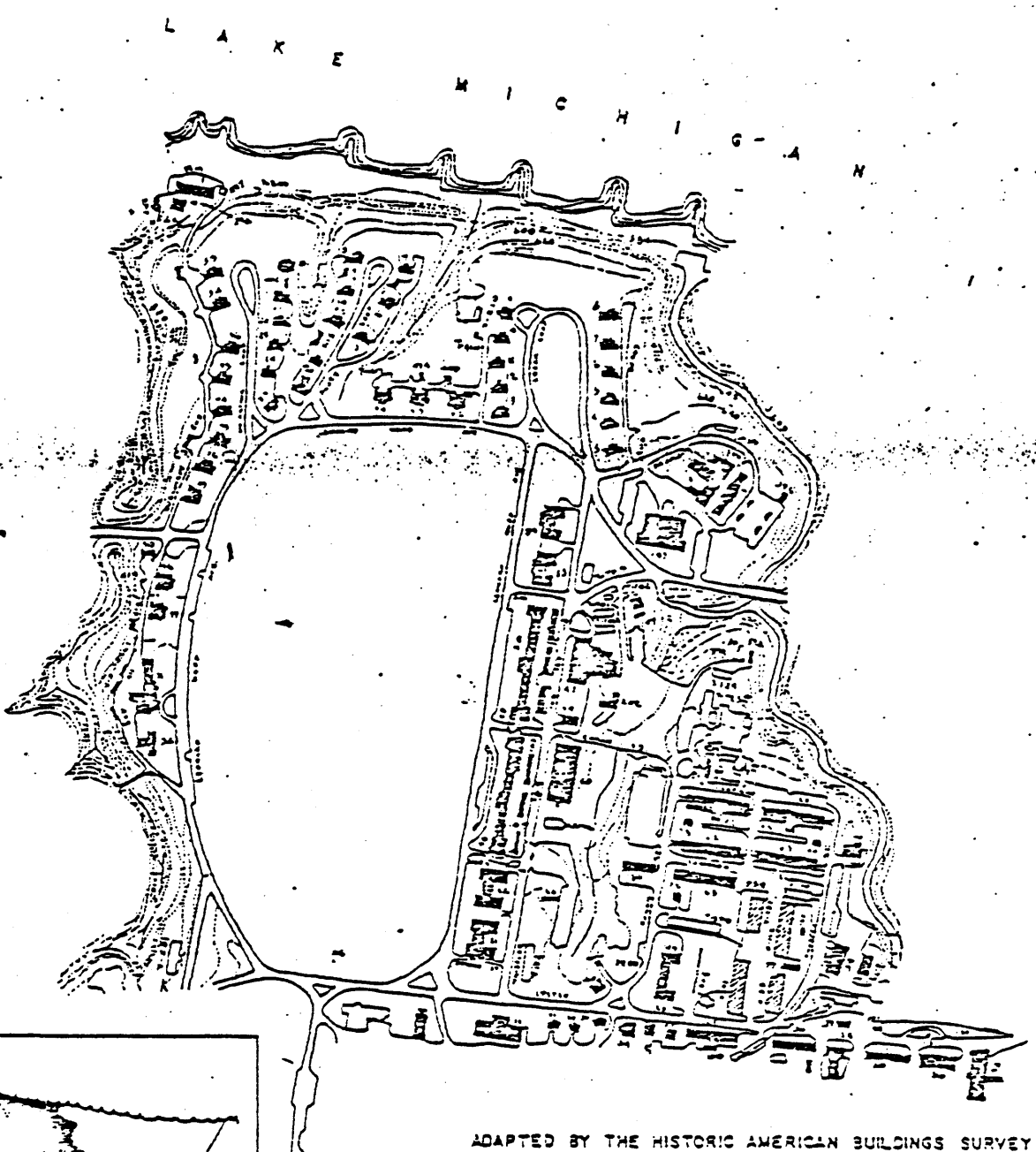
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Building No. 119. The boundary then extends southward behind the buildings on the east side of Lyster Rd. to First Street. It continues along First Street to the Truck Gate. The western boundary extends from the north side of First Street behind the buildings on the west side of Lyster Road to Leonard Wood Ave.

It extends westward along Leonard Wood Avenue east and north until it intersects with Bell Rd. The boundary briefly follows the eastern side of Bell Rd. until it passes the terminus of Hutchinson Ravine. The north boundary continues along the north bank of Hutchinson Ravine to the lakefront.

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT



ADAPTED BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FROM THE OFFICIAL POST MAP, DIRECTORATE OF
FACILITIES ENGINEERING, FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS, 1978.

THE PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT AS LOCATED
WITHIN THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF FORT SHERIDAN

MAP OF
FORT SHERIDAN-ILL.
SCALE 200 FT. TO ONE INCH
JAN 1916
POSTHEAD BOARD & STAFF

