

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Administration building, Post Hospital.

Location: 803 Garrison Avenue, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, 40,  
Muskogee County, 101.

Owner: Katherine O. Garrett, Route 1, Box 480, Fort Gibson,  
Oklahoma.

Description: Condition: very good, altered, original site.

This wooden building is the remaining portion of the Fort Gibson Post Hospital, authorized for construction August 27, 1867.

The Post Hospital originally consisted of the two story Administration building, and two, one story additions serving as a ward and a kitchen area. The specifications for the building were contained in Circular #4, War Department, Surgeon General's Office, "Plan for a Post Hospital", dated April 27, 1867. As described in an advertisement for bid for the project:

" The Hospital will consist of an administration building, a ward and a kitchen. The wing of the ward will be forty-four (44) feet long by twenty-four (24) feet wide, fifteen (15) feet in the clear from floor to eaves, and at least nineteen (19) feet from the floor to the ridge."

" The administration building will be square, thirty-three (33) feet by thirty-four (34) feet deep, two (2) stories high with a back building, (kitchen) one (1) story high. The height of each story in this building will be twelve (12) feet clear."

" A veranda twelve (12) feet wide and one (1) story high will be constructed around the whole hospital. The outside walls to be rough with the exception of the cornices and openings".

The construction of the hospital took place in 1871, varying from circular #4 only in the absence of a ventilation shaft or jacket. The buildings produced were wood frame, wood sided, being hip roofed on the administration building and verandas with pitched roofs on the ward wing and kitchen. The administration building roof also featured a widow's walk and four fireplace chimneys. All portions were set upon a laid, stone foundation. Drawings of the period also indicate the support columns at the front of the administration building may have been partially fluted with ornate brackets.

Another one room structure was added in an unknown location before the post was abandoned in 1890. On an unknown date following abandonment, the wing, kitchen, veranda and post-1871 addition were all removed, leaving the building in its present configuration.

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Today, the administration building retains the essential lines of the 1871 design. Front and back porches are the only protrusions and doors formerly connecting to the ward wing and kitchen are now used as exterior entrances. The building has been recently used for the purposes of a museum and as such has received exterior decoration and window coverings of a non-permanent nature.

As can be seen from present day photographs, the administration building was designed and constructed as a complete and integral structure and although the only remaining portion of the Post Hospital represents a large portion of the original.

Hospital: Statement of significance.

Significance: 1868; builder/architect, unknown.

The Administration building of the Fort Gibson Post Hospital is significant because it served as the central medical treatment center for the troops of the post and other individuals on and near the fort. The post hospital is an integral part of any permanent military installation. This was especially true upon the western frontier where it might well be the only treatment center for a great distance. The ability and facility to deal with the perils of sickness and injury might well determine the ability of the fort to function as an effective unit.

The Fort Gibson Post Hospital, authorized for construction on August 27, 1867, was to follow specifications contained in Circular #4, War Department, Surgeon General's Office, "Plan for a Post Hospital", dated April 27, 1867. The construction of the hospital took place in 1871, varied from circular #4 only in the absence of a ventilation shaft.

As seen in present day photographs, the administration building was designed and constructed as a complete and integral structure and though the only remaining part of the Post Hospital represents a large portion of the original. Though the wing and kitchen were removed following abandonment in 1890, this building represents a substantial and important portion of the installation.

Acreage: less than one acre. Quadrangle: 1:24,000/7.5 minute.

Verbal boundry: Lot 1, Block 19, Plat survey of Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, March 7, 1904. (Approved by the Secretary of the Interior.)

UTM: 15/296430/3964660

1" = 24,000'

"A" building