Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Wisconsin
COUNTY:
Brown
FOR NPS USE ONLY
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The Fort Howard Hospital, built in 1816-1817, is a relatively simple but dignified 1 1/2 story gable-roofed wood structure of Federal type architecture. It is 72 feet long and just short of 45 feet deep, including the porch. Its foundation and the large fireplace and chimney at each gable end are all of limestone random rubble. The front roof has three small, pedimented dormers and there is a recessed, seven-bayed, square-columned porch extending across the entire front of the building. First floor windows are mostly of double-hung, twelve-pane sash and flanked with green, louvered shutters. The building was originally constructed of logs and later sided. Siding on the front is flush; the back and gable ends are clapboarded.

Structurally, the building is in its original state, with heavy beams, the original plaster, and hand-adzed floors which still bear the marks of soldiers' hobnail boots. In 1867-69 when the old fort was being demolished for a railroad yard, the Fort Howard Hospital, which lay outside the picketed fort, was moved from its original site on the west bank of the Fox River but it remains on the same side of the river not a great distance from the original location.

The Fort Howard Hospital has been carefully restored and has been subjected to only minimal alterations. After the structure was moved, one fireplace had to be rebuilt, and this was done with the original stones. "The interior has been redecorated and refurnished, so that it presents very much the appearance that it possessed when occupied by the American soldiers. The floors are of wide softwood boards, and wallpapers of a pattern used at the time cover the walls." Some of the period pieces with which the hospital is furnished had some association with the original fort or with men who were garrisoned there. These include a table once owned by Zachary Taylor, who became commandant of Fort Howard in 1817, and a chest of drawers owned by Dr. William Beaumont, who was stationed there in 1826-28.





Newcomb, Rexford, "Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory," p. 127.

^{2.} Ibid.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	[X] 19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1816	-17	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In August 1816, about 500 U. S. Army troops arrived at the site of Green Bay to build a fort and protect the frontier from Indian attack. Fort Howard, the installation they built, was intended "to keep Green Bay in touch with the border forts—Mackinac, Brady at Sault Ste. Marie, and Dearborn at Chicago on the Great Lakes; Winnebago in the interior; Snelling near St. Paul, Crawford at Prairie du Chien, and Armstrong at Rock Island on the upper Mississippi." It was located near the entrance of the Fox River into Green Bay, on a site on the west side of the river where the French had built Fort La Baye in 1684, rebuilt it in 1718, and finally abandoned it in 1760. A British post, Fort Edward Augustus, existed there from 1760-63 but was then deserted and left to the elements until the establishment of Fort Howard fifty—three years hence.

Fort Howard was always closely associated with the developing frontier community, and during the three-year stay of the second post commander, Major Zachary Taylor, who arrived in 1817 and was three decades later to become the nation's twelfth President, "the fort was the center of social life for Green Bay." In the main, this situation continued through the regimes of a number of succeeding post commanders.

The garrison had remained relatively small, with only some 300 men in 1821, but in 1834 "was enlarged to eight companies and the fort became the dominating influence of the small settlement that was beginning to fill up with American pioneers." This dominating influence included the matter of providing medical attention as well as physical protection to the people, strengthening the ties between the fort and the community.

For a time in 1826-1828, Dr. William Beaumont was post surgeon here, coming from Mackinac where he had made his first observations and experimentations on gastric digestion on Alexis St. Martin. While at Fort Howard, Beaumont undoubtedly wrote a number of the preliminary reports of his observations, although a great deal of further experimentation on St. Martin lay ahead at Fort Crawford before Beaumont was finally ready to publish his classic studies which gave us our basic knowledge of the physiology of gastric digestion in humans.

In 1835, Fort Howard troops built a portion of the military road which eventually connected that post with Forts Winnebago and Crawford. Then in 1841, when the Seminole War broke out, Fort Howard's garrison was

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9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGE	RAPHICAL RI	FERENCES								
	Kellogg, Louise P., The Story of Old Fort Howard, pub. by Tercentennial, Inc., Green Bay, Wis., 1934.											
	Davis, Susan Burdick, Old Forts and Real Folks, pub. by Zoe Bayliss & Susan											
	B. Davis, Madison, Wis., 1939, pp. 41-138.											
	Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1950, p. 127.											
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		Milwaul	kee, 1960	, p. 30.								
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Date December 10, 1970

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

FORT HOWARD HOSPITAL

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withdrawn. For all practical purposes the fort had completed its primary mission at Green Bay, but for a time at the close of the Mexican War in 1849 it was garrisoned once more. Finally in May 1852, Lt. Col. B. L. E. Bonneville, the last regular commander of Old Fort Howard, was ordered to remove "with two companies of the Fourth [Infantry]. The great days of the fort had passed...Green Bay was no longer a frontier, the Indians had long since been removed..." and "a modern city was growing upon this site. The military reserve was needed for settlers. In 1863 the government ordered the sale of the reserve," and soon the grounds of Old Fort Howard were put into use as a depot and train yards when the railroad came into Green Bay on the west side of the river.

Both architecturally and historically, the original Old Fort Howard Hospital, removed from its original site to save it, and carefully preserved and authentically restored, is perhaps the most important remainder of early Green Bay and one of the most significant of Wisconsin's landmarks. Its architectural significance has been certified by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

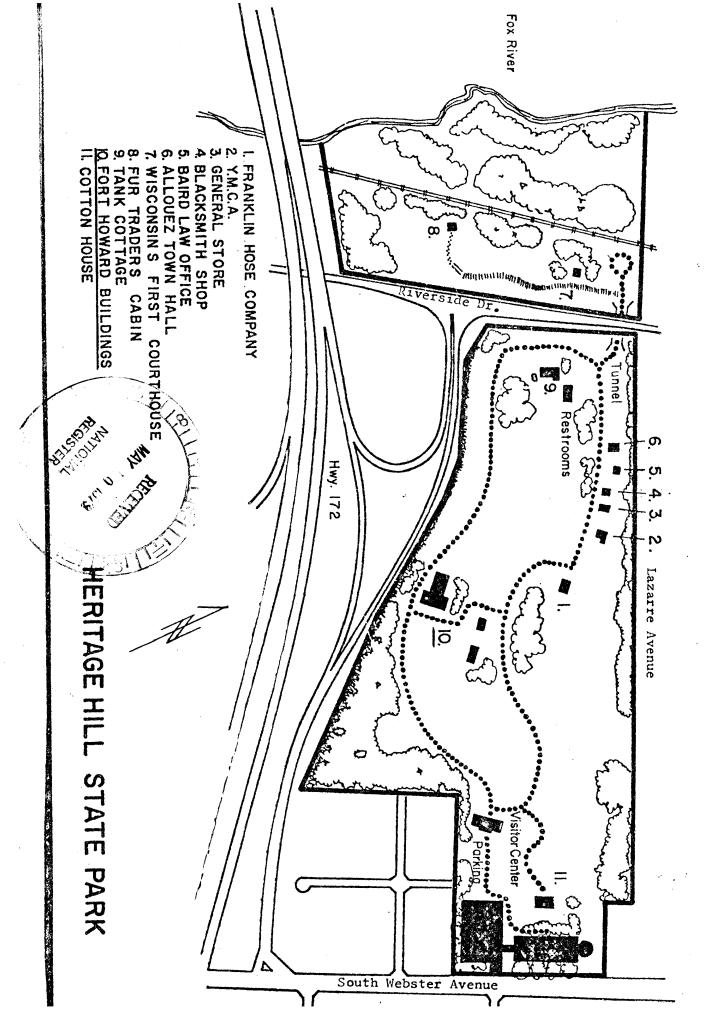


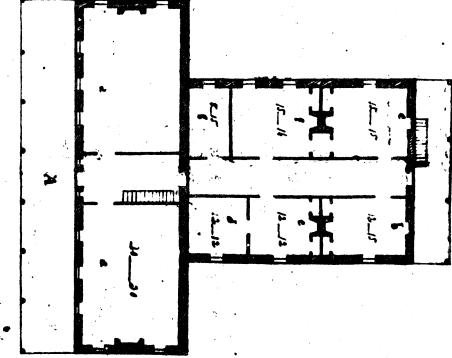
^{1.} Kellogg, Louise P., The Story of Old Fort Howard, p. 8.

^{2.} Ibid., p. 3.

^{3.} Ibid., p. 4.

^{4.} Ibid., p. 7.





Original Fort Howard Hospital

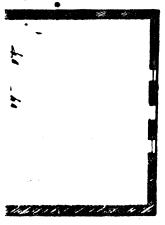


- storeroom

storage

mess hall (or scullery)







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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This renomination of moved National Register properties is submitted in compliance with provisions of 36 CFR 60.16 (b) (4). It combines into a single nomination three properties which were originally listed individually: the Fort Howard Hospital, Fort Howard Ward Building, and Fort Howard Officers Quarters. It also explains that two of these properties, the Hospital and Vard Building, have been reunited, restoring them to their original state as the single Fort Howard Hospital. Details are given below.

Hospital

The Fort Howard Hospital, built in 1816-17, is a relatively simple but dignified 12-story T-shaped, gable-roofed structure of the Federal-type style which was characteristic of the Fort Howard buildings as shown in old photographic reproductions and War Department plans. The front of the building, which comprises the cross member of the T. is 72% feet wide and 34½ feet deep, including the porch. Total length from the front of the building to the rear of the wing is 96 feet. The foundation and the large outside end chimneys at each gable end of the front part of the hospital are of limestone random rubble. The front slope of the roof has three narrow, symmetrically-placed, pedimented dormers, and there is a recessed, seven-bayed, square columned porch extending across the entire front of the building. The wing is just over 37 feet wide and 61 feet long. Its foundation and chimneys are also of random rubble. It also has an inset porch at the rear gable end which is supported by four square, paneled columns which match those at the front. All first story windows of the entire hospital are 12/12 double hung sash and have louvered wood shutters. Upper windows of dormers and gable ends are uniformly 9/9 double hung sash with similar shutters. The front of the building and the triangular area of the gable ends of the inset porch are sided with flush horizontal boards; all other outer wall areas are clapboarded. The entire structure was originally constructed of logs and later sided. The hospital, on its original site, stood outside of the Fort Howard stockade.

The last troops to garrison Fort Howard departed in 1852 after the commandant, Lieutenant Colonel B. L. E. Bonneville, received removal orders to evacuate. In 1863 the government ordered the sale of the reserve. "The fort was pulled down piece by piece; five of athe buildings were removed and are yet existing on the west side of Green Bay." (Written in 1934. Only four, including the two parts of the hospital, can be accounted for now.) The dismantling of some of the fort buildings and removal of others was spread over a period of a few years, however. In 1867-69, when the hospital was moved from the Fort Howard property, the wing was removed and the two parts of the hospital building were placed on a small lot, 100' x 120' at the northeast corner of Keldogg Street and North Chestnut Avenue. Because of the space limitations of the small lot, the two parts of the hospital were sited separately, with the porticoed front of the hospital proper facing south on Kellogg Street and the wing placed in a parallel position behind the front portion so that it was oriented in an east-west direction with the detached end facing west on North Chestnut Avenue. The front part of the building then became known as the Fort Howard Hospital and the former rear wing was first called the Fort Howard Annex and later the Fort Howard Ward Building.3

It was while the two parts of the old Fort Howard Hospital were separated in this manner that the front portion, then known as the hospital, was measured for the Historic American Buildings Survey--in the middle 1930s. The delineator, apparently unaware that the hospital and ward buildings were originally a single structure, did not measure the ward building. Probably he was also unaware that a lean-to addition had been built across the

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DATES 1816-17; 1866-69

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Howard buildings are significant for their architecture, a type of Federal Style which was common to nearly all of the fort's original buildings both inside and outside the picketed area. They are important as surviving structures of a military installation which had a significant role in the early history of Wisconsin and the Green Bay area and for the active role of Old Fort Howard personnel in the surrounding settlement's protection, well-being, and social life. They also have associations with historically significant individuals.

In August 1816, about 500 U. S. Army troops arrived at the site of Green Bay to build a fort and protect the frontier from Indian attack. Fort Howard, the installation they built, was intended "to keep Green Bay in touch with the border forts--Mackinac, Brady at Sault Ste. Marie, and Dearborn at Chicago on the Great Lakes; Winnebago in the interior; Snelling near St. Paul, Crawford at Prairie du Chien, and Armstrong at Rock Island on the upper Mississippi." The fort was located near the entrance of the Fox River into Green Bay, on a site on the west side of the river where the French had built Fort La Baye in 1684, rebuilt it in 1718, and finally abandoned it in 1760. A British post, Fort Edward Augustus, existed there from 1760-63 but was then deserted and left to the elements until the establishment of Fort Howard fifty-three years later.

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The garrison had remained relatively small, with only some 300 men in 1821, but in 1834 "was enlarged to eight companies and the fort became the dominating influence of the small settlement that was beginning to fill up with American pioneers." This influence included the matter of providing medical attention as well as physical protection to the people, strengthening the ties between the fort and the community. "Social relations between the garrison and the townspeople were most cordial, and brilliant social functions took place in the fort, at the hotels, and at the residences of the better class of civilians."

For a time in 1826-1828, Dr. William Beaumont was post surgeon here, coming from Mackinac where he had made his first observations and experimentations on gastric digestion on Alexis St. Martin. While at Fort Howard, Beaumont undoubtedly wrote a number of the preliminary reports of his observations, although a great deal of further experimentation on St. Martin lay ahead at Fort Crawford before Beaumont was finally ready to publish his classic studies which gave us our basic knowledge of the physiology of gastric digestion in humans.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE	٠				
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"City Offered Fort Building," Green Bay Press-Gazette, May 20, 1952					
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Proceedings (Madison, 1899), 128-146					
"Heritage Hill Park Approved," Milwaukee Journal, S	Sept. 13, 1974				
Kellogg, Louise P., The Story of Old Fort Howard (C	Freen Bay, 1934), passim.				
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



FORT HOWARD BUILDINGS, Green Bay, Wisconsin vicinity

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places 1970 State Historical Society of Wisconsin Madison

State

Wisconsin 53706

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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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entire back of the hospital building after the rear wing was removed, because he included the lean-to in his drawings. It is not known just when the lean-to was added, but it appears in photographs of c. 1900-1910, making it reasonable to assume that the addition occurred before the turn of the century, perhaps shortly after the building was removed from Fort Howard. The Fort Howard Hospital and the Fort Howard Ward Building were separately nominated to the National Register and entered into it on 7/31/71 and 8/14/72, respectively. The two parts of the original hospital building remained thus separated on the site at Kellogg and North Chestnut from c. 1869 until 1975, when both parts were moved to Heritage Hill State Park and recombined, finally restoring the hospital to its original state as constructed in 1816-1817. (See U. S. War Department plans and sketches.

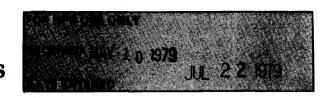
Interiors have been redecorated and made to possess, as closely as possible, the appearance when the building was occupied by American soldiers. Wallpapers of a pattern used at that time cover the walls. Some of the period pieces with which the hospital is furnished had associations with the original fort or with men who were garrisoned there. These include a table once owned by Zachary Taylor, who became commandant of Fort Howard in 1813, and a chest of drawers owned by Dr. William Beaumont, who was stationed there in 1826-28.

Officers Quarters

This is a 1½-story clapboarded structure with a rather shallow gabled roof and two long, narrow, pedimented roof dormers. It is an original Fort Howard building, dating to c. 1816, that was actually a detached kitchen for the commanding officer's quarters and is "the only building now in existence which once stood inside the fort stockade." An inset porch, supported by four square, paneled columns, extends across the entire front of the building. There is a large random rubble limestone chimney straddling the ridge at the center of the roof. At either end of the porch is a single door and a single window at the outer side of each door. All windows are double hung sash, the larger ones 12/12 and the smaller 6/6.

Around 1866-69 when the old Fort Howard reserve had been sold to the railroad company and the buildings were being razed, this building was moved to the northeast corner of Chestnut and Mather streets, not far distant from the original fort site. There it was converted to a dwelling. In 1952 the old building was presented as a gift to the Brown County Historical Society, which in turn presented it to the City of Green Bay. It was accepted and later moved to the grounds of the old Fort Howard Hospital and Ward Building and partially restored. This building has been adapted to museum use and is appropriately furnished with period pieces from early Green Bay families, many of whom were prominent residents during the days when Fort Howard was garrisoned. It was added to the National Register as a separate building on April 11, 1972 when it was still located on the property at the corner of Kellogg and North Chestnut. It now stands as part of the Fort Howard complex in Heritage Hill State Park, to which it was moved in

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December 1975. At Heritage Hill the inset porch, which had been removed at an unknown time before the building's 1952 move, was restored in accordance with the original plans.

To the left of the Officers Quarters is a recently constructed building which has been named the Fort Howard School. It is not an original Fort Howard building and is not considered important to this nomination.

Justification for the moving of the historic buildings; impacts of the move.

Members of the Brown County Historical Society had been thinking for some time of moving a number of their historically significant buildings to a common site, specifically a portion of state reformatory land in the Town of Allouez which possessed significance itself as part of the site of Camp Smith in the early days of Fort Howard (c. 1820-22). In 1960 the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported that at a meeting on February 3, the county historical society's proposed historical park received the endorsement of the Brown County Historical Commission. It was stated that "The Historical Society would like a mall development from Webster Avenue to the Fox River. Among the buildings which have been recommended for transfer...are the Henry Baird Law Office on the courthouse lawn, East Moravian Church, and the Fort Howard Buildings." Two important considerations in the evolution of the proposal were the facts that except for the East Moravian Church, all of the buildings had been moved at least once in order to save them, and that they were not receiving adequate care, maintenance, and protection from vandalism. As the concept developed further, it won approval in a local referendum. It also received the support of the State Historical Society⁸ and of the Wisconsin governor. Governor Patrick Lucey referred specifically to the advantages of moving the historic structures to the park "in which their interpretation, operation, maintenance and security can be handled more efficiently," and said that he hoped that community residents who had expressed reservations would give the park "the support which will make it a major cultural resource of the Green Bay tommunity and the state."

A series of events and cooperative efforts between state agencies and both local government and private agencies in the Green Bay and Brown County area made possible and gave impetus to the establishment of an ideal, permanent site for Green Bay's historic buildings, to be known as Heritage Hill State Park. In 1971 the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services transferred ownership of the needed acreage of state reformatory property to the Department of Natural Resources, which operates the state park system. Governmental and historical agencies of Green Bay and Brown County formed Heritage Hill Foundation, Inc., which worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the planning and development of Heritage Hill State Park as a Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial project. During 1975 and 1976 ownership of the Baird Law Office, Cotton House, Tank Cottage, and the Fort Howard Hospital, Ward Building and Officers Quarters was transferred to the State and those buildings not already on the park site were moved there. The Cotton House, which overlooks the entire park from the top of the hill, did not have to be moved.

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The historic Fort Howard buildings were moved from their longtime location at Kellogg and North Chestnut to the Fox River and then barged up the Fox River to Heritage Hill State Park. They were sited at the edge of an apple orchard on the south side of the park about halfway between the park's upper limits on the east and Riverside Drive on the west.

Whereas the new setting of the Fort Howard buildings is on land that possesses historical significance itself, the intrusion of these and other historic buildings which have been moved there cannot be said to have an adverse effect. For many years prior to the establishment of Heritage Hill State Park, the area of onetime Camp Smith that comprises the park was a hay field, orchard, and truck garden of the Wisconsin State Reformatory. In addition, there is a historical connection between the Fort Howard_buildings and_their new site. "In 1819, Colonel Joseph Lee Smith assumed command /of Fort Howard/. Colonel Smith was not satisfied with the location of the fort, and in 1820 had it removed to the other side of the river, some three miles further up stream, and on high ground about a half mile back from the river. This was subsequently called Shantytown... However, the garrison was back at Fort Howard in 1822; Camp Smith, which had been named in honor of the commanding officer, being abandoned." The area immediately surrounding the Fort Howard buildings is now lawn, with blacktopped pathways providing both visitor and service access to the buildings. At the rear of the buildings is a cover of tall grass which is left in a more or less natural state.

What now remains of the old Camp Smith site slopes westward from a crest along South Webster Avenue down to the east bank of the Fox River, a distance of some 2600 feet. Before the creation of Heritage Hill State Park, the Cotton House, which is situated at the eastern (upper) end of the park and faces westward, had an imposing view of the river. (See aerial photograph of the park site before development.) While creation of the park did not obstruct this view, it did introduce a visual intrusion. Mitigating against the seriousness of this intrusion is the fact that the Cotton House itself was moved to its present site in 1941, taking it out of its own original context. On its original location about a mile north of Heritage Hill, the Cotton House did not have the clear overview that it has now. Like the other historically significant buildings moved to Heritage Hill State Park, the Cotton House was saved from eventual loss by destruction, neglect, or vandalism.

^{1.} Newcomb, 127

^{2.} Kellogg, 7

^{3.} Rudolph, Press-Gazette, May 11, 1954

^{4.} Newcomb, 127

^{5.} Evans, 146

^{6.} Ibid.

^{7.} Press-Gazette, February 4, 1960

^{8.} Resolution, Board of Curators, State Historical Society of Wis., February 23, 1974

^{9.} Lucey to Wendels and Rood, Sept. 9, 1975

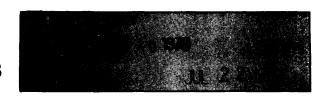
^{10.} Exchange, July 1976, 4

^{11.} Evans, 138-139

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In 1835, Fort Howard troops built a portion of the military road which eventually connected that post with Forts Winnebago and Crawford. Then in 1841, when the Seminole War broke out, Fort Howard's garrison was withdrawn. For all practical purposes the fort had completed its primary mission at Green Bay, but for a time at the close of the Mexican War in 1849 it was garrisoned once more. Finally in May 1852, Lieutenant Colonel B. L. E. Bonneville, the last regular commander of Old Fort Howard, was ordered to remove "with two companies of the Fourth /Infantry/. The great days of the fort had passed...Green Bay was no longer a frontier, the Indians had long since been removed..," and "a modern city was growing upon this site. The military reserve was needed for settlers. In 1863 the government ordered the sale of the reserve," and soon the grounds of Old Fort Howard were put into use as a depot and train yard when the railroad came into Green Bay on the west side of the Fox River.

Both architecturally and historically, the original old Fort Howard buildings, removed from their original sites to save them, and carefully preserved and authentically restored, are perhaps the most important remainder of early Green Bay and comprise one of the most significant of Wisconsin's landmarks. Their architectural significance—as typified by the hospital—has been certified by the Historic American Buildings Survey.⁶

^{1.} Kellogg, 8

^{2. &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, 3

^{3.} Ibid., 4

^{4.} Evans, 141

^{5.} Kellogg, 7

^{6.} Perrin, 45

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"History Afloat," Exchange, 18(2):4-6, July 1976

Letter, Governor Patrick J. Lucey to Miss Dorothy Wendels and Mrs. H. S. Rood, September 9, 1975

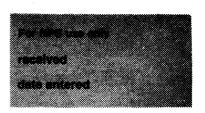
Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory (Chicago, 1950), 127
Perrin, Richard W. E., (Narrative), Wisconsin Architecture, Historic American Buildings
Survey (Washington, 1965), 8, 45

Resolution, Board of Curators, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, February 23, 1974

Rudolph, Jack, "Ft. Howard Museum a Priceless City Treasure," Green Bay Press-Gazette, May 11, 1954

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet	Item number	Page
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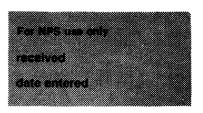
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