

EVALUATION: BUILDING NO. 117

Historic Name: Stable / Storehouse No. 5 / Transient Officers Quarters
Present Name: Quarters (LC,MJ)



Description

Building 117 is a two and one half-story, truncated hip-roofed, red brick quarters building (see HABS/HAER Inventory Form: 1982).

History

The building was built originally in 1885 as a stable, coach house, wagon shed and scale house. It was later used as a storehouse, and currently is used as military quarters (Comments 1994).

The building appears to have been built as a simple I-plan rectangular structure, oriented parallel to the road, in an east-west direction. Two major additions were added to the rear (south) giving the building its present U-shaped plan, which forms an open courtyard, facing east. Both rear additions are lower in height, narrower than the main building, and are roofed with simple pitched roofs. A photograph of the building as "Storehouse No. 5" was printed in the 1931 *History of Picatinny Arsenal*. In 1937, a sun porch was added on the east end of the old block, a pitch-roofed garage was added on the south end of the building, and most of the basement was filled with concrete for structural reinforcement. At this time, recessed arches in the brick were also removed.

Significant Features

Building 117 retains original siting, massing, and most of its original construction. One of Building 117's most remarkable features is its system of heavy timber roof trusses which survive in the attic of the oldest portion of the building. The trusses resemble those used to build military bridges, covered bridges, and railroad bridges in the 1880s, and are likely significant from a Historic Engineering viewpoint.

Evaluation

Building 117 is located in the Historic Quarters Area. It meets the criteria for listing as a contributing building to a National Register District under Criterion A (associated early development as powder storage depot, 1880-1906. and subsequent periods).