

EVALUATION: BUILDING NO. 333

Historic Name: Power House / Turbine House
Present Name: Human Engineering Laboratory



Description

Building 333 is a rectangular one-story brick building with an attic and attached ell, and a hipped roof (see HABS/HAER Inventory Form: 1982).

History

Building 333 was built in 1902, according to the Real Property Inventory (or 1905, according to the date on the datestone) as a power house, at the site of Middle Forge on Picatinny Lake at the outlet to Green Pond Brook. The building served as the fire station around 1950. It has been the human engineering laboratory for thirty years.

Significant Features

Original features of the building are a concrete foundation, steel roof trusses (exposed in the attic), brick walls with inset corbeled bays, steel windows with concrete sills and brick lintels, and a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The brick walls have had several alterations for window openings, and there was once an arched entrance. A single dormer on the east elevation has a semicircular window. The interior has been subdivided into offices, with the brickwork of the exterior walls visible, and a wood pen for pigeons and other animals at the back. A wood stair leads to the attic.

Evaluation

Building 333 is located in the Powder Production Area on a site that was located close to the dam on Picatinny Lake for the use of water, and it was thus one of the early support facilities on the installation. The building meets the criteria for listing as a contributing building to a National Register District under Criterion A (associated with early development as powder storage depot, 1880-1906, and subsequent periods). More research is needed to fully understand how the elements associated with the Turbine House were used and how Building 333 served to generate electricity for areas in its vicinity.

Building 333 relates to the following thematic areas: 300: Powder Production Area; Early Development as Powder Storage Depot, 1880-1906.