105-11

HISTORIC PROPERTIES REPORT

SENECA ARMY DEPOT

NEW YORK

DRAFT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Located 58 miles southeast of Rochester, Seneca Army Depot is situated between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes on approximately 11,000 acres of land in Seneca County, New York. Its primary mission is to receive, store, maintain, and dispose of special weapons, conventional ammunition, and other commodities. The installation also operates a Class C airfield and a calibration laboratory, and provides testing, condition assessment, and rehabilitation of Army equipment. Initial construction of the depot took place in 1941-1942. Following World War II, expansion of facilities was limited until the North Depot Activity was built in 1956-1957. An airfield and family housing from the former Sampson Air Force Base were transferred to the depot in 1957. The addition of Capehart family housing in 1960 completed the last major construction activity at Seneca.

There are no Category I or II historic properties at Seneca Army Depot. Building 2301 is a Category III property because it is a locally important example of early nineteenth century classical revival architecture.

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PREFACE

This report presents the results of an historic properties survey of the Seneca Army Depot. Prepared for the United States Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM), the report is intended to assist the Army in bringing this installation into compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its amendments, and related federal laws and regulations. To this end, the report focuses on the identification, evaluation, documentation, nomination, and preservation of historic properties at the Seneca Army Depot. Chapter 1 sets forth the survey's scope and methodology; Chapter 2 presents an architectural, historical, and technological overview of the installation and its properties; and Chapter 3 identifies significant properties by Army category and sets forth preservation recommendations. Illustrations and an annotated bibliography supplement the text.

This report is part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of the Army. The program covers 74 DARCOM installations and has two components: 1) a survey of historic properties (districts, buildings, structures, and objects), and 2) the development of archeological overviews. Stanley H. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Headquarters DARCOM, directed the program for the Army, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) directed the program for the National Park Service. Sally Kress Tompkins was program manager, and Robie S. Lange was assistant

program manager for the historic properties survey. Technical assistance was provided by Donald C. Jackson.

Building Technology Incorporated acted as primary contractor to HABS/HAER for the historic properties survey. William A. Brenner was project manager and Dr. Larry D. Lankton was the chief technical consultant. Major subcontractors were the MacDonald and Mack Partnership and Melvyn Green and Associates. The author of this report was Barbara E. Hightower. The author gratefully acknowledges the help of Stephen Absalom, John Liberatore, and Joseph Sacco of the Facility Engineer's Office, depot employee Bill Warne, and local residents Bill Hudson and Wayne Morrison.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This report is based on an historic properties survey conducted in 1983 of all Army-owned properties located within the official boundaries of the Seneca Army Depot. The survey included the following tasks:

- Completion of documentary research on the history of the installation and its properties.
- Completion of a field inventory of all properties at the installation.
- Preparation of a combined architectural, historical, and technological overview for the installation.
- Evaluation of historic properties and development of recommendations for preservation of these properties.

Also completed as a part of the historic properties survey of the installation, but not included in this report, are HABS/HAER Inventory cards for 85 individual properties. These cards, which constitute HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV, will be provided to the Department of the Army. Archival copies of the cards, with their accompanying photographic negatives, will be transmitted to the HABS/HAER collections at the Library of Congress.

The methodology used to complete these tasks is described in the following section of this report.

METHODOLOGY

1. Documentary Research

The Seneca Army Depot was largely developed in 1941-1942 and expanded in the mid 1950s with construction of the North Depot Activity. Documentary research focused on the physical development of the installation and its pre-military history, and was conducted at the Seneca Army Depot and the Waterloo Public Library in Waterloo, New York. The New York State Historic Preservation Office was also contacted about possible historic properties at the Seneca Army Depot, but no properties were identified through this source.

Army records used for the field inventory included current Real Property Inventory (RPI) printouts that listed all officially recorded buildings and structures by facility classification and date of construction; the installation's property record cards; and base maps and photographs supplied by installation personnel. A complete listing of this documentary material may be found in the bibliography.

2. Field Inventory

The field inventory was conducted by Barbara E. Hightower during a three-day period in November 1983. Stephen Absalom of the Facility Engineer's Office at Seneca Army Depot served as the point of contact for the surveyor and provided access to installation real property records. Joseph Sacco of the Facility Engineer's Office served as survey escort. Interviews with depot employees John Liberatore and Bill Warne and local residents Bill Hudson and Wayne Morrison provided information on the depot's history and on pre-military buildings at the installation.

All areas and properties were visually surveyed, but security requirements prohibited documentation of Buildings 803, 815, and 816 (see Appendix A). Building locations and approximate dates of construction were noted from the installation's property records and field-verified. An interior survey of Building 2301 was made.

Field inventory forms were prepared for, and black and white 35 mm photographs taken of, all buildings and structures through 1945 except basic utilitarian structures of no architectural, historical, or technological interest. When groups of similar ("prototypical") buildings were found, one field form was normally prepared to represent all buildings of that type. Field inventory forms were also completed for representative post-1945 buildings and structures. Information collected on the field forms was later evaluated, condensed, and transferred to HABS/HAER Inventory cards.

3. Historic Overview

A combined architectural, historical, and technological overview was prepared from information developed from the documentary research and the field inventory. It was written in two parts: 1) an introductory description of the installation, and 2) a history of the installation by periods of development, beginning with pre-military land uses. Maps and photographs were selected to supplement the text as appropriate.

The objectives of the overview were to 1) establish the periods of major construction at the installation, 2) identify important events and individuals associated with specific historic properties, 3) describe patterns

and locations of historic property types, and 4) analyze specific building and industrial technologies employed at the installation.

4. Property Evaluation and Preservation Measures

Based on information developed in the historic overviews, properties were first evaluated for historic significance in accordance with the elegibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These criteria require that eligible properties possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that they meet one or more of the following:[2]

A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in the nation's past;

C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

Properties thus evaluated were then placed in one of the five Army property categories listed in the Army Regulation on Historic Preservation:

Category I Properties of major importance

Category II Properties of importance

Category III Properties of minor importance

Category IV Properties of little or no importance at this time

Category V Properties detrimental to the significance of adjacent historic properties

These categories served as a framework for the development of a series of architectural, historic, and technological values that contributed to the final categorization decision for each historic property. The values developed for each category are as follows:

Category I. A property (district, building, structure, or object) that meets one or more of the following:

1) Has national importance as a work of architectural, landscape, engineering, or industrial design.

2) Has major importance as the first of a widely used historic architectural, engineering, or industrial design or process.

3) Is a rare example of a highly intact historic architectural or engineering type, architectural assemblage, or industrial process.

4) Is strongly associated with a nationally important person, program, or event.

5) Is nationally unique to an historic period or era.

Category II. A property (district, building, structure, or object) that meets one or more of the following:

1) Has regional importance as a work of architectural, landscape, engineering, or industrial design.

2) Has importance as among the first of a widely used historic architectural, engineering, or industrial design or process.

3) Is an important example of a highly intact historic architectural or engineering type, architectural assemblage, or industrial process.

4) Has a direct association with an important person, program, or event.

5) Is regionally unique to an historic period or era.

Category III. A property (district, building, structure, or object) that meets one or more of the following:

1) Has local importance as a work of architecture, landscape, engineering, or industrial design.

2) Has minor importance as among the first of a widely used historic architectural, engineering, or industrial design or process.

3) Is a good example of a highly intact historic architectural or engineering type, architectural assemblage, or industrial process.

4) Has a limited association with an important person, program, or event.

5) Is locally unique to a historic period or era.

6) Contributes to the importance of a Category I or II building or is a contributing part of an historic district.

Category IV. A property (district, building, structure, or object) of little or no architectural, historic, or technological interest at this time.

Category V. A property (building, structure, or object) which because of its placement, design, and usage, represents an intrusion in an otherwise historic area.

Following this categorization procedure, Category I, II, and III properties were grouped by developmental period to aid in the preparation of specific preservation recommendations. Each property was analyzed in terms of:

- Specific architectural, historical, or technological importance. This information provided the rationale for determining the categorization of each property, and whether or not it should be nominated to the National Register.

- Current structural condition and state of repair. This information was taken from the field inventory forms and photographs, and was often supplemented by rechecking with facilities engineering personnel.

- The nature of possible future adverse impacts to the property. This information was gathered from the installation's master planning documents and rechecked with facilities engineering personnel.

Based on the above considerations, specific preservation recommendations were developed for each individual property as circumstances required. These recommendations supplement the general measures presented in Chapter 3 that apply to all Category I, II, and III properties.

5. Report Review

Prior to being transmitted to DARCOM, this report and associated historical materials were subjected to an in-house review by Building Technology, Inc. and to a review by designated HABS/HAER staff personnel.

NOTES

1. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures (unpublished draft, 1982)

2. National Park Service, How to Complete National Register Forms (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, January, 1977)

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Seneca Army Depot is a part of the U.S. Army Depot System Command. Its primary mission is to receive, store, maintain, and dispose of special weapons, conventional ammunition, and other commodities. The installation also operates a Class C airfield and a calibration laboratory, and provides testing, condition assessment, and rehabilitation of Army equipment. Located 58 miles southeast of Rochester, the depot is situated between Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake on approximately 11,000 acres of land in Seneca County, New York.

The depot site was chosen in June 1941, and construction began shortly thereafter. Storage, administration, maintenance, and support facilities were largely completed by December 1942, and by war's end nearly 650 of the installation's present 879 buildings had been constructed. Although employment dropped substantially following World War II, the installation continued to be used for storage of ammunition and other commodities. The Korean War brought increased activity and limited additional construction of ammunition maintenance and storage facilities. Construction of the North Depot Activity in 1956-1957 added 51 buildings to the installation, including facilities for the storage and maintenance of special weapons and administration, barracks, and support buildings. The installation was further expanded in 1957 with the transfer of an airfield and family housing from the former Sampson Air Force Base. In 1960, 122 units of Capehart family housing were built in the administration area, completing the last major construction activity on the installation. (Illustration 1)

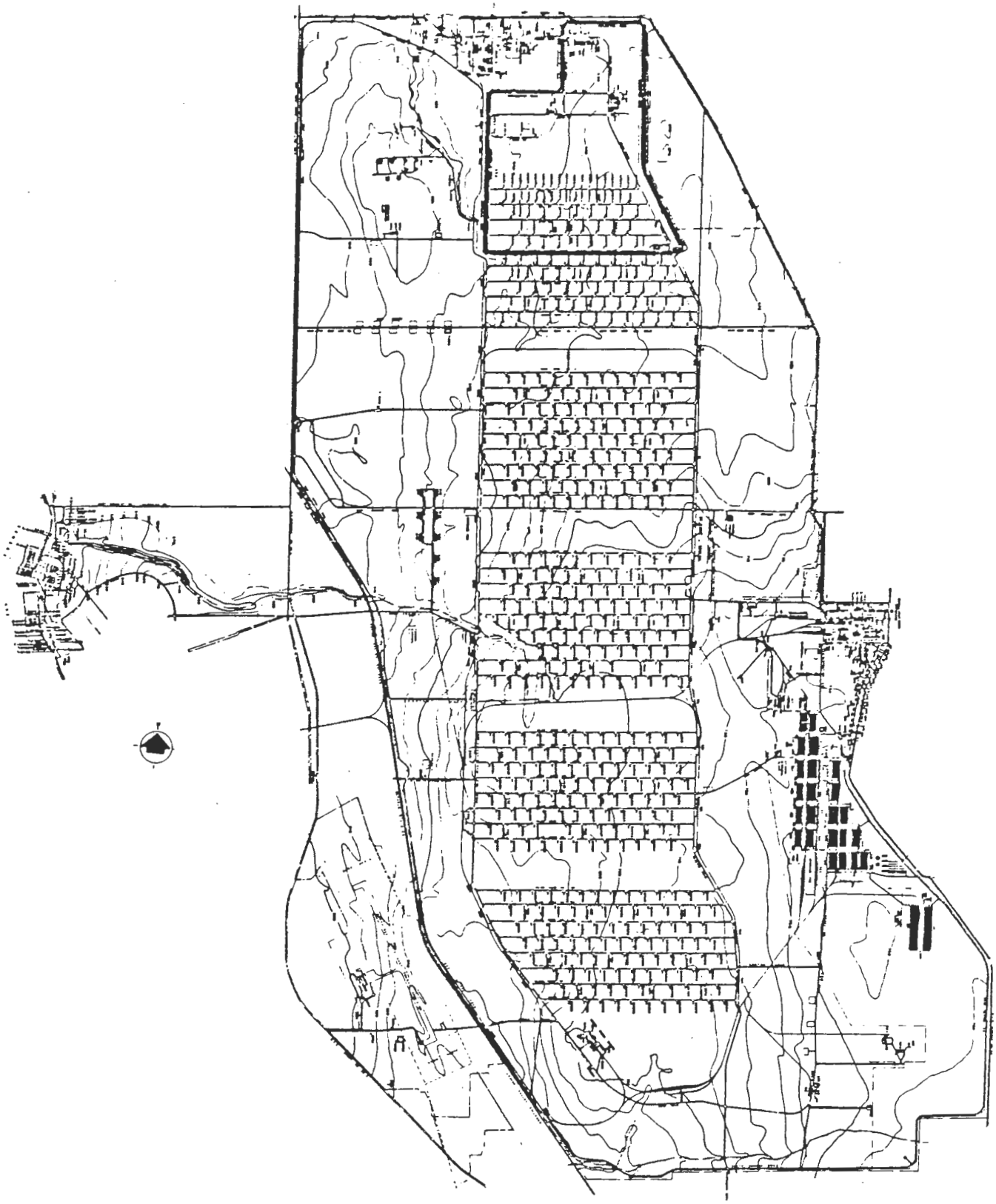

Illustration 1 Map of Seneca Army Depot. The depot is located on approximately 11,000 acres of land between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes in New York State. The installation consists of five major areas: igloo storage, administration, warehouse, North Depot Activity, and lake housing. (Source: DARCOM Installation and Activity Brochure, Seneca Army Depot, December 31, 1981.)

PRE-MILITARY LAND USE

Prior to World War II, the area now occupied by the Seneca Army Depot was primarily agricultural. After acquisition by the Army in 1941, existing buildings were either demolished or moved, and lumber, copper, and other metals were salvaged for use in the depot's construction. One hundred and ten families were displaced from the area. The Romulus Baptist Church cemetery, established in the early nineteenth century, remains within the original boundaries of the depot. The cemetery is located along the western border of the igloo storage area and is maintained by depot personnel.[1]

Five wood frame buildings (Buildings 2401, 2403, 2404, 2406, and 2408), located west of the depot near the shore of Seneca Lake, also remain within the depot's original boundaries. The houses (used as senior officers' quarters) vary in design, but the prevailing style is Colonial Revival. The largest is the Commanding Officer's residence (Building 2408), a sprawling one-and-one-half-story house built on the site in the 1930s by the Alleman sisters. The other four houses were moved by the Army from elsewhere on the depot during initial construction of the installation.[2] (Illustration 2)

In 1957, property which was originally part of the adjacent Sampson Naval Training Station (and later the Sampson Air Force Base) was transferred to the Army. The following pre-military structures are located on this property:

- Brick house (Building 2301). This structure, located in the southwest corner of the depot, is a two-story gable-roofed building with brick walls and stone foundation. A one-and-one-half-story brick wing with front

Illustration 2 Commanding Officer's House (Building 2408). This one-and-one-half-story frame house was built in the 1930s by local residents, the Alleman sisters. It was acquired in 1941 and shortly thereafter became the home of the commanding officer. The building is one of five pre-military houses facing Seneca Lake that are used as officers' quarters. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

porch is on the east side of the main block. The front (south) facade is laid in the more elaborate Flemish bond while the remaining walls are laid in 5/1 common bond. The six-over-six-light double hung sash windows on the south and west facades have stone lintels and sills, and the main entrance, a wooden panelled door flanked by sidelights, is surmounted by a transom and stone lintel. Two chimneys on the west side were removed during an earlier remodeling. The interior, which has been altered, retains what may be the original spiral staircase, mantels, door and window surrounds, and wood flooring. (Illustrations 3 and 4)

No records documenting the building's date of construction were found, but it is typical of classical revival structures built in the area during the first several decades of the nineteenth century. During its early history, the building is said to have been a tavern and inn, but no records substantiating this were found. Since acquisition by the military, it has served a number of uses, including family housing, offices, and the depot rod and gun clubhouse. During the late 1950s, the building and the adjacent airstrip were leased by North Star Aviation. The house is currently undergoing remodeling for use as a training facility and offices.[3]

- Twenty-one family housing units (Buildings 2412, 2414, 2415, 2418, 2419, 2421, 2423, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2429, 2432, 2437, 2438, 2441, 2443, 2446, 2448, 2450, 2452, and 2453). These structures, located along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, were probably built in the 1920s or 1930s and were used as lake cottages. Since 1942, when the property was acquired by

Illustration 3 Building 2301, exterior view. This brick classical revival building was probably constructed during the first two decades of the nineteenth century and may have once been a tavern and inn. Under military ownership, it has served as family housing, offices, and the depot rod and gun clubhouse. It is now being remodeled for use as a training facility and offices. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

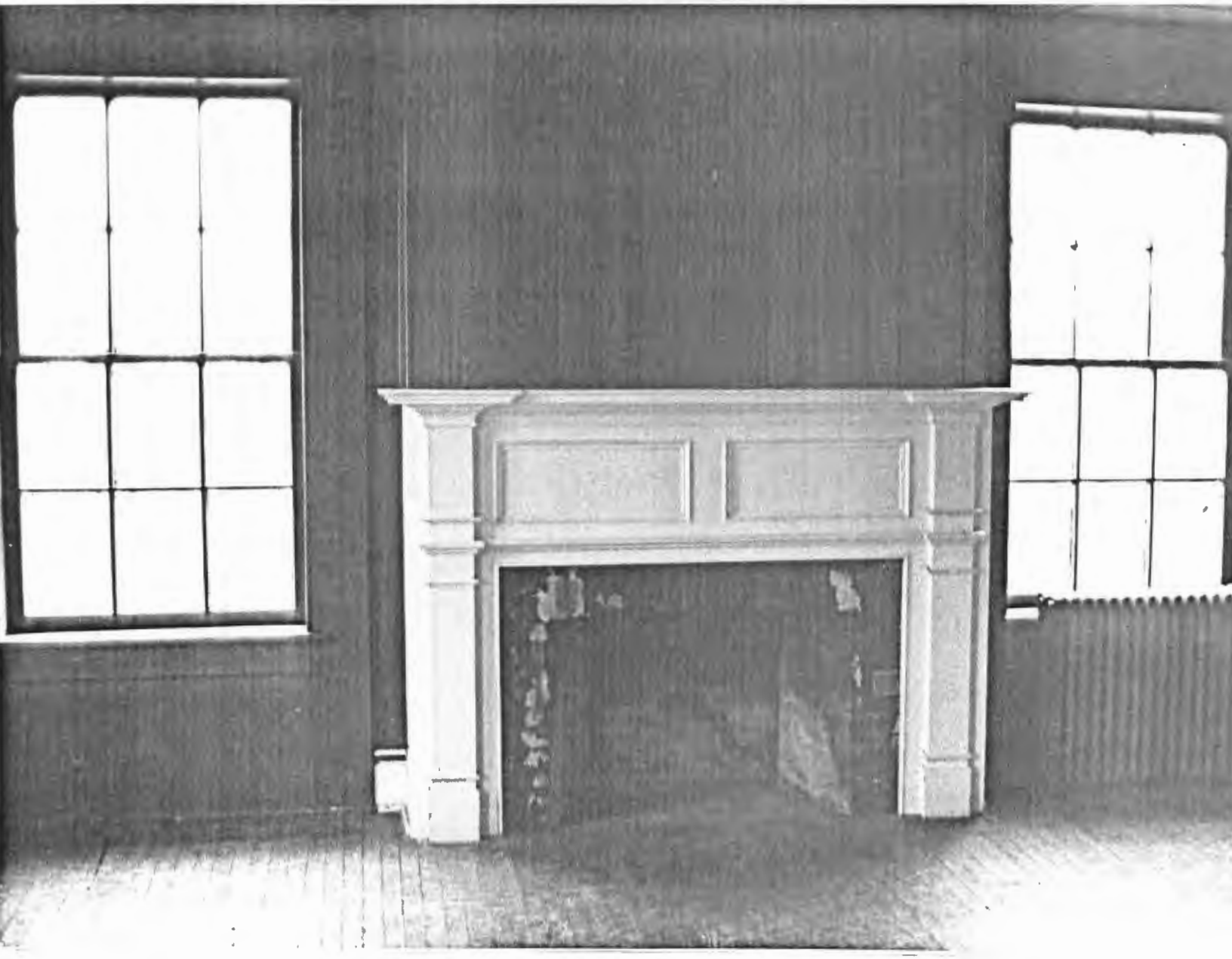

Illustration 4 Building 2301, interior view. Although altered, the interior of Building 2301 retains what may be the original mantels, stairway, window and door surrounds, and wood flooring. The fireplace, located in what was the southwest room on the second floor, is one of four major fireplaces in the house. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

the military, they have been used as family housing, first for Sampson Naval Training Station, later for Sampson Air Force Base, and after 1957 for the Army. The vernacular structures, which vary in appearance, are wood frame construction clad with vinyl siding and are either one, one-and-one-half, or two stories in height. (Illustration 5)

SITE SELECTION AND WORLD WAR II CONSTRUCTION

Increased Congressional appropriations for defense brought about by the fall of France in 1940 led to the expansion of ammunition storage facilities in the United States. Initial plans called for placing depots in the four corners of the country to support forces repelling attacks from any direction. By early 1941, increased ammunition production and implementation of the lend-lease program made the need for additional supply depots in the northeast, south, east, and Gulf Coast areas apparent. Several sites in New York State were investigated for the northeastern depot, and in June the Ordnance Department announced that approximately 11,000 acres in Seneca County between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes had been chosen.[4]

The Seneca site was chosen for four reasons: 1) it was located in a rural area away from major cities, thereby reducing the number of families displaced by construction of the depot and minimizing the potential for harm in the event of an ammunition explosion; 2) the site was relatively flat and much of the land had been cleared for agricultural use; 3) two lines of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which ran along the western and eastern boundaries of the site, were of vital importance for movement of construction materials and ammunition; and 4) the site was conveniently located near defense bases and ports on the northeast coast.[5]

Illustration 5 Buildings 2438 and 2437. These two houses located along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, are among 21 buildings used as family housing for depot personnel. The vernacular buildings were probably constructed during the 1920s and 1930s and used as lake cottages before being acquired by the military in 1942. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

Shortly after site acquisition was completed, work commenced under the direction of construction quartermaster Colonel Paul B. Parker. A contract was awarded to the Rochester architectural and engineering firm of William S. Lozier, Inc. for the design of the installation and its buildings. New York City contractors Poirer and McLane and John W. Harris Associates received the construction contract. Initial work focused on clearing land and expanding existing rail lines and roads to serve the igloo storage area.[6]

Between August and November, 500 igloos were constructed for storing bombs destined for Army Air Corps bases protecting the Atlantic coastline. These structures are standard reinforced concrete, vaulted, earth-covered storage igloos 27 feet wide and 60 or 80 feet in length. Because of a shortage of steel, their doors were made of reinforced concrete. The igloos, grouped in blocks of 100, occupy an oblong tract at the center of the depot and are arranged in rows along a system of parallel roads. Fifty "foxholes," small reinforced concrete, open-ended, earth-covered structures, are interspersed throughout the igloos to provide shelter in case of an explosion.[7]
(Illustration 6)

To facilitate the handling of ammunition in the igloo storage area, small storehouses (Buildings 9, 12, 301, 2126, 2129, 2200, and 2204) and open reinforced concrete loading docks were constructed along the rail lines and roads at the east and west boundaries of the storage area. The storehouses, set on raised reinforced concrete platforms, have brick pier structural systems and hollow clay tile walls; their roofs are either gabled or flat. Similar hollow clay tile structures (Buildings 5 and 7 used as bundle ammunition packing facilities) were erected east of the igloo storage area. (Illustration 7)

Illustration 6 Building 2070. This structure is one of 50 open-ended, reinforced concrete "foxholes" interspersed throughout the igloo storage area to provide shelter in the event of an ammunition explosion. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

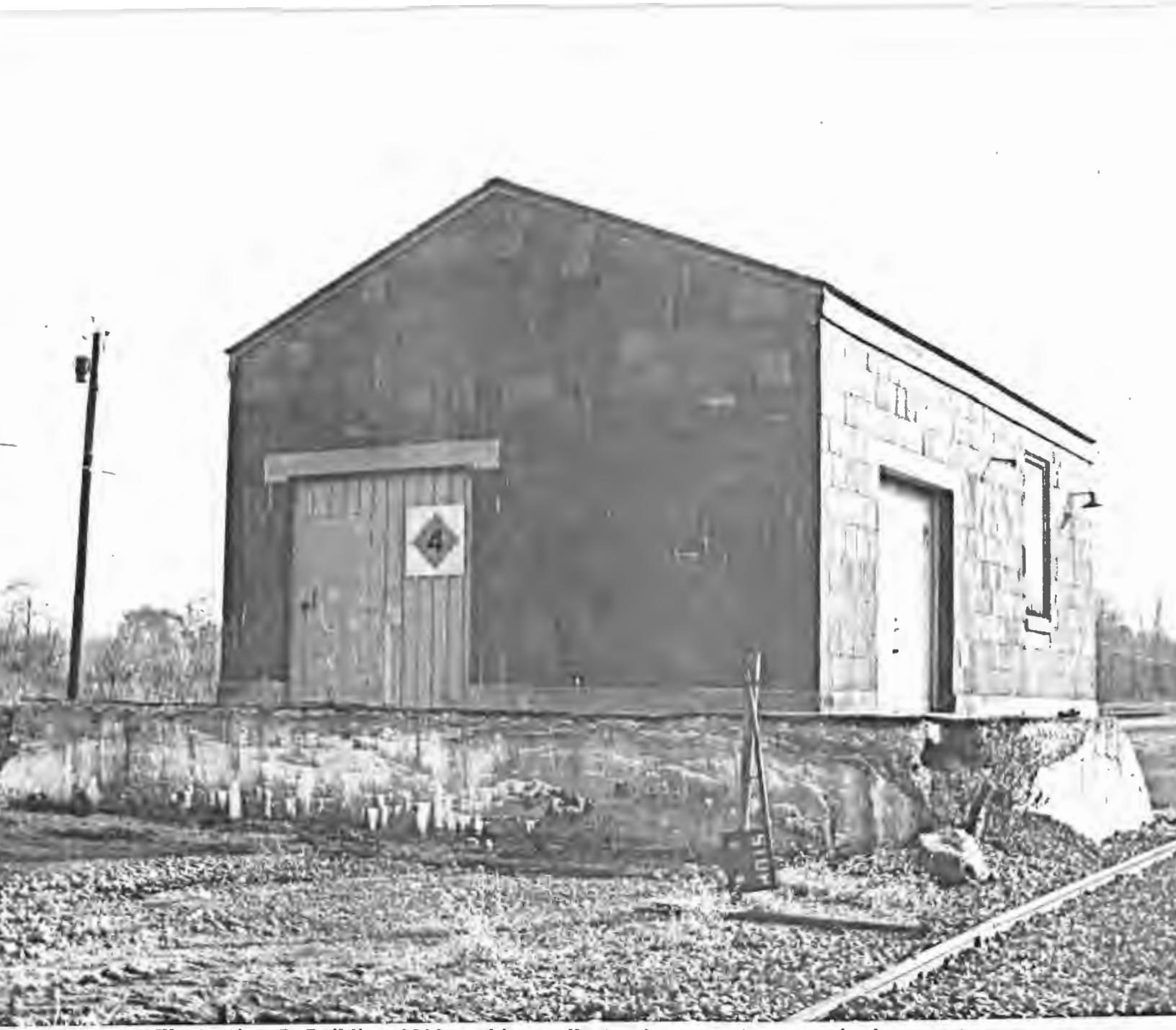

Illustration 7 Building 2200. This small storehouse, set on a raised concrete platform, has hollow clay tile walls braced by brick piers. It is one of seven similar structures erected along the rail lines and roads flanking the igloo storage area to facilitate the handling of ammunition. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

Eight standard above ground magazines (Buildings 2117-2124), situated along a rail line west of the igloo storage area, were constructed in 1941. These one-story rectangular structures, set on raised reinforced concrete platforms, are of steel frame construction with hollow clay tile walls. Their sides are lined with large loading platform doors, and their gable roofs are covered with corrugated sheet metal with metal ventilators at the ridgeline. (Illustration 8)

The administration area to the east of the storage facilities was also begun in 1941. A two-story brick headquarters building (Building 101) was started in September, and a second two-story brick structure (Building 103) housing the dispensary, guard house, and fire station was erected north of the headquarters building shortly thereafter. Additionally, three warehouses (Buildings 114, 115, and 116), two garages (Buildings 117 and 118), a machine shop (Building 122), a carpenter shop (Building 123), a paint shop (Building 124), a paint storage facility (Building 125), a locomotive house (Building 127), a heating plant (Building 121), and four sets of noncommissioned officers' quarters (Buildings 208 and 209) were constructed in the administration area. Most are steel framed buildings clad with yellow and brown brick. The use of permanent masonry construction for these buildings was typical of administration and warehouse facilities erected on other supply depots before the spring of 1942, when masonry materials became in short supply.[8] (Illustrations 9 and 10)

The depot's mission was expanded in 1942 when the Ordnance Department implemented a new storage policy for combat equipment at 12 of the new supply depots, including Seneca. Under this policy, construction of additional warehouse and shed facilities was authorized, and by the end of the year, Seneca's square footage of combat equipment warehouse space was greater than

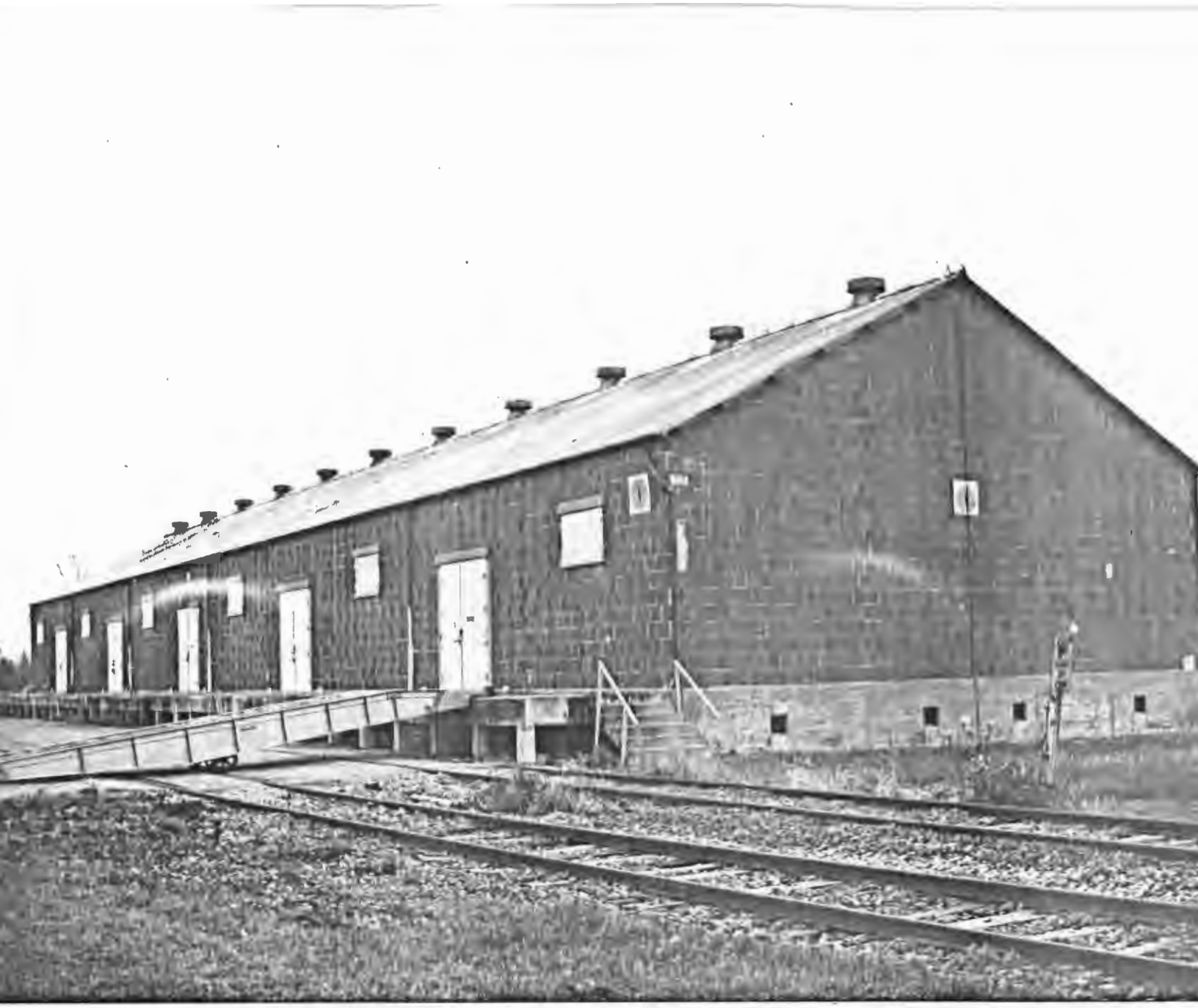

Illustration 8 Building 2119. The building is one of eight standard above-ground magazines erected west of the igloo storage area in 1941. The buildings are constructed with steel frames clad with hollow clay tile walls. Reinforced concrete loading platforms and double doors face the adjacent rail lines. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

Illustration 9 Headquarters Building (Building 101). The two-story brick headquarters building was begun in September 1941 and was one of the earliest structures erected in the administration area. Like administration buildings on other supply depots built before the spring of 1942, this building was constructed of permanent masonry materials that were not yet in short supply. (Source: Field inventory photograph 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

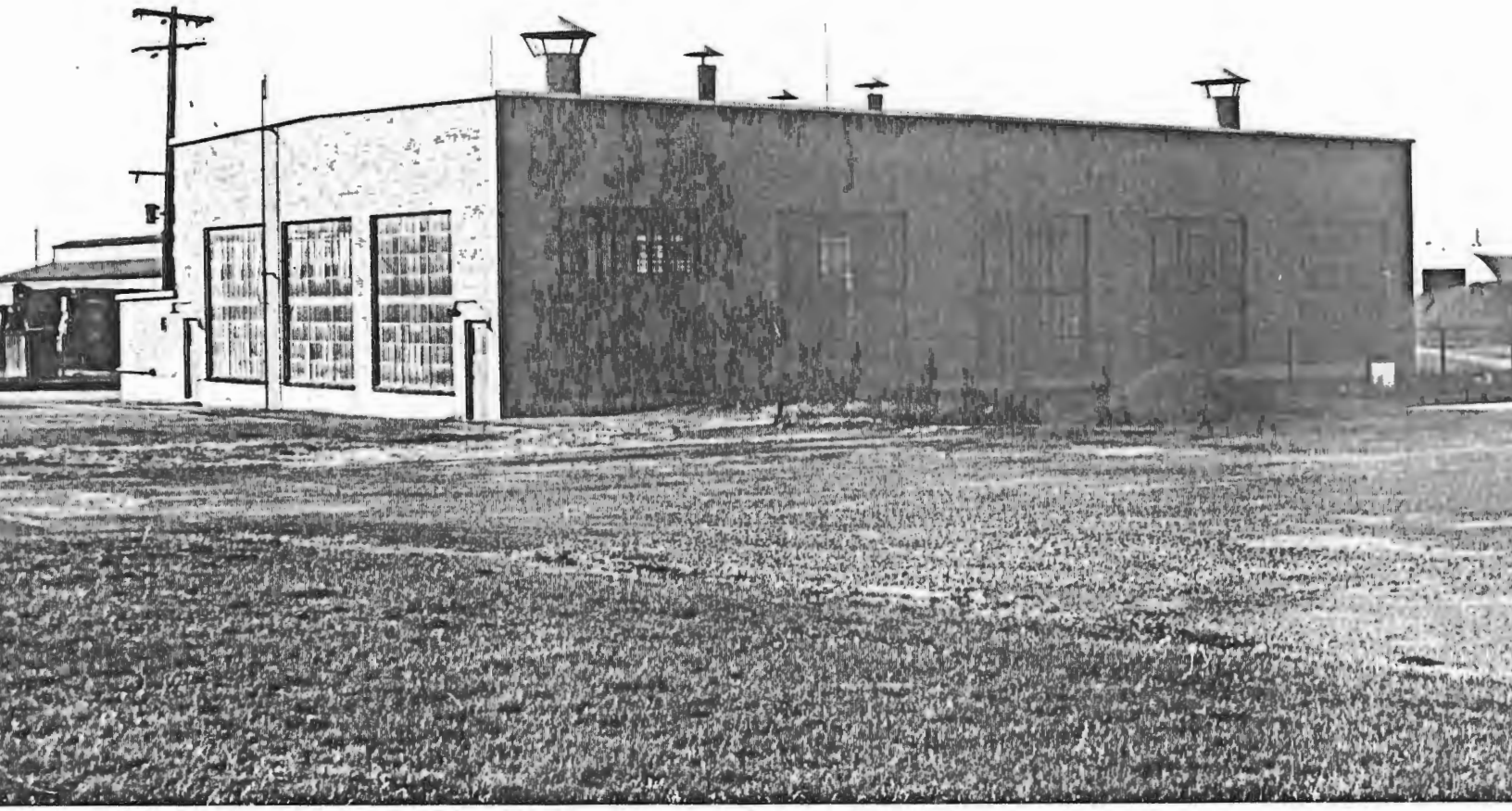

Illustration 10 Locomotive House (Building 127). Like the majority of permanent structures erected in the administration area during the initial phase of construction in 1941-1942, the locomotive house has walls of yellow and brown brick. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

that of ammunition storage. The new storage facilities were erected south of the administration area, and the major structures consist of 21 large rectangular warehouses of standardized construction. Ten warehouses (Buildings 323-332) are modified WH6 Standard Mobilization Warehouses with raised concrete loading docks, and the balance (Buildings 339-343 and 345-350) are modified ground-loading OS-1 Shed Type Storehouses. All the warehouses are similar in construction, with concrete block walls, flat roofs with stepped gables, single brick firewalls extending above the roofline, and loading doors along the sides. Three smaller concrete block buildings, an optical repair shop (Building 320), an optical warehouse (Building 321), and a small arms warehouse (Building 333), were built adjacent to the larger storage facilities. Two repair shops (Buildings 316 and 317) and a shop type warehouse (Building 318) were also located in the new storage area. They are of steel frame construction with corrugated iron cladding.[9] (Illustrations 11-13)

A second major storage area constructed in 1942 was a tank farm that consisted of 163 steel tanks of various sizes. They were erected east of the warehouse area for storage of dry materials such as ores. Most of the tanks have been demolished, and less than a dozen remain. (Illustration 14)

A "popping" plant (Building 311), one of five such plants in operation in the country during World War II, was erected to the west of the administration area in 1943. Spent shells from the war front, shells used for target practice, and defective shells were shipped to the "popping" plant for cleaning. At the plant, the metal shells were fed into a furnace where the powder residue in the primer exploded. After leaving the furnace, they were carried along a conveyor through a cooling tower before being dropped into rail cars. The

Illustration 11 Building 325. This building is one of 10 modified WH6 Standard Mobilization Warehouses constructed at Seneca in 1942 after the depot's mission had been extended to the storage of combat equipment. Loading platforms line the sides of these large concrete block structures. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

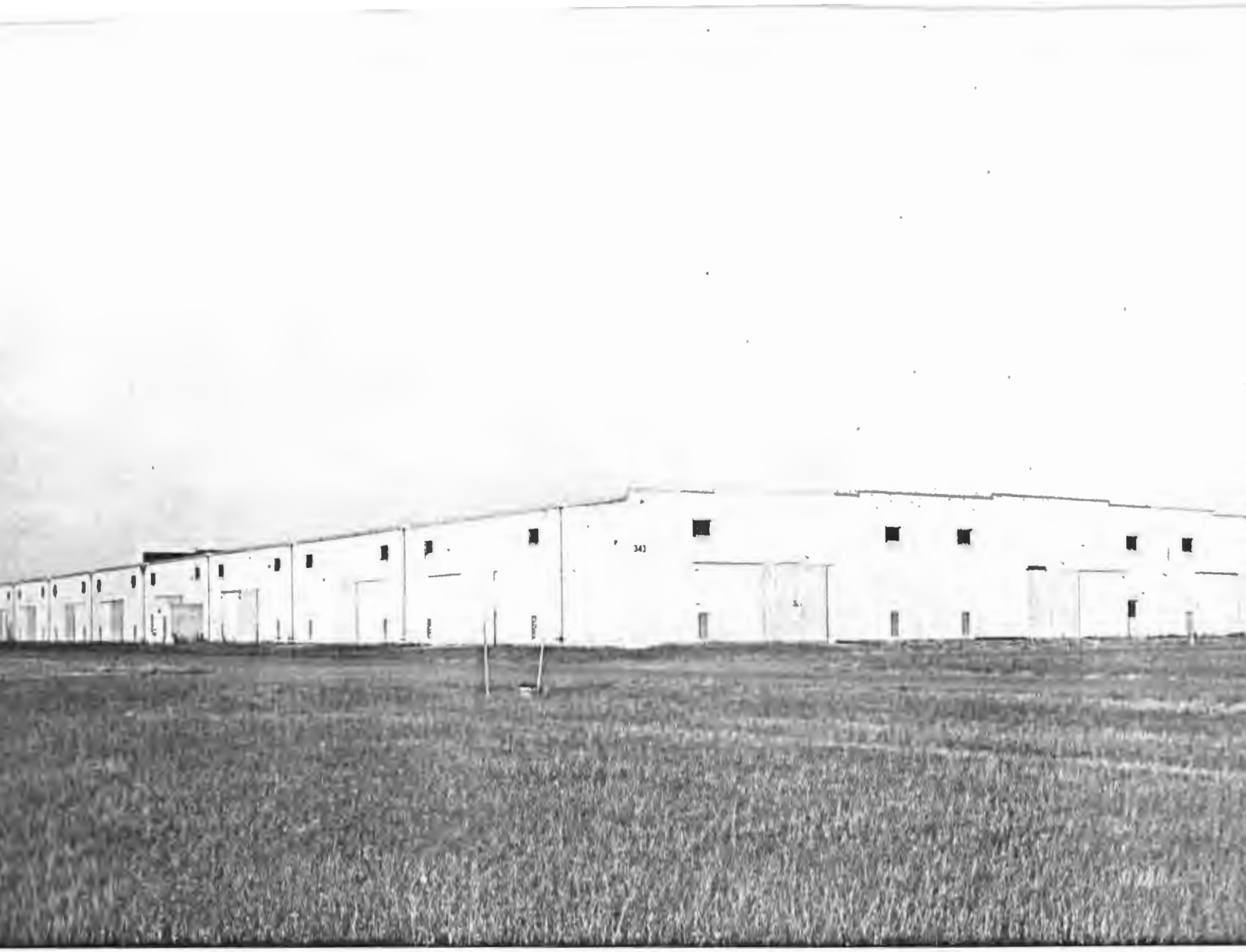

Illustration 12 Building 343. Although similar in construction to Building 325, this structure is a ground loading warehouse. It is one of 11 OS-1 Shed Type Storehouses built in the combat equipment storage area in 1942. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

Illustration 13 Building 318. This steel frame structure is clad with corrugated metal and comprises another type of storage facility built in the combat equipment storage area in 1942. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

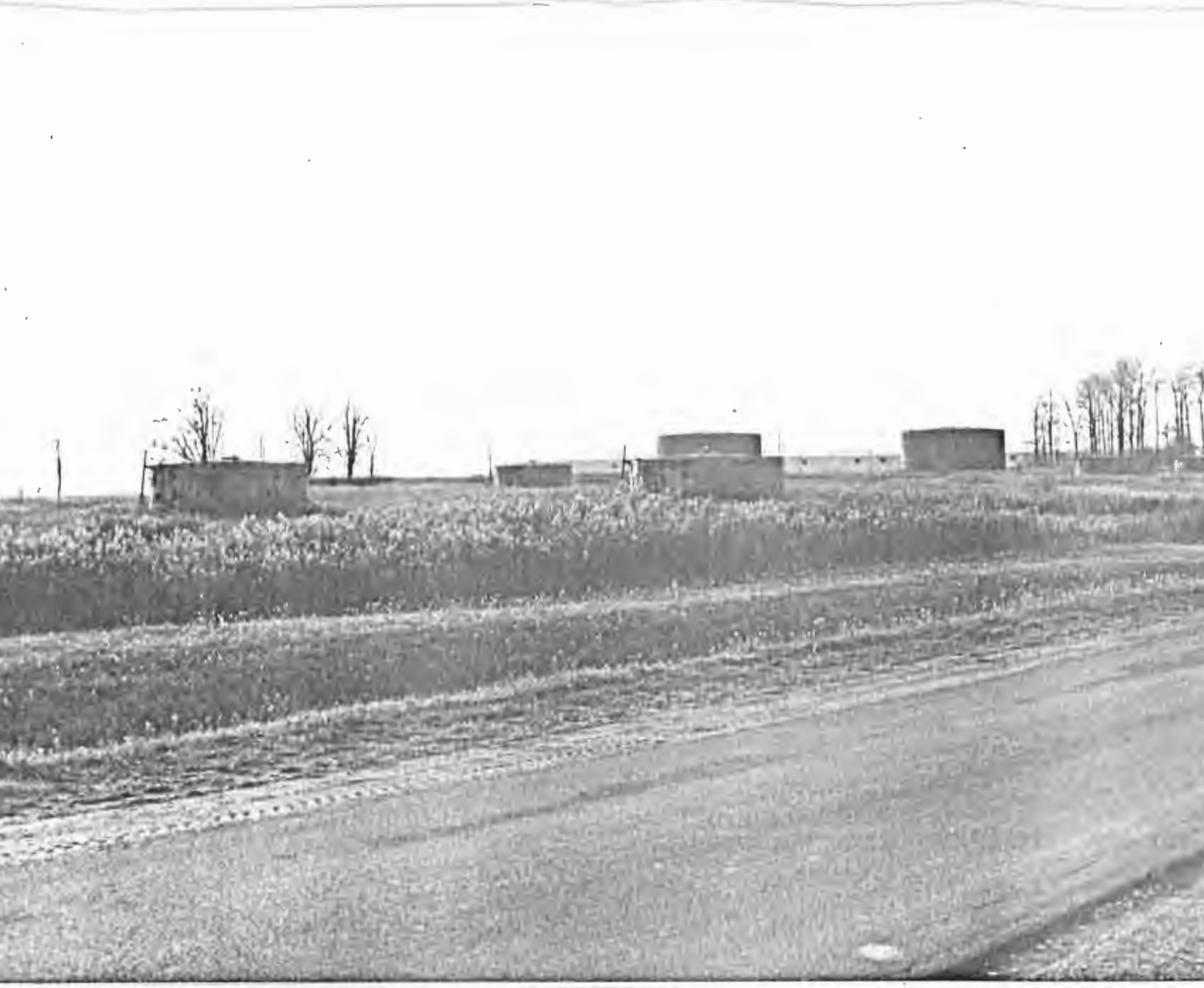

Illustration 14 Tank Farm. Located east of the warehouse area, the tank farm originally consisted of over 160 steel tanks used for dry storage. Most of the tanks have been demolished and less than a dozen remain. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

metal thus salvaged was reprocessed by manufacturers. Operation of the "popping" plants was an improvement over hand cleaning methods used during World War I and substantially increased the amount of metal that was salvaged.[10] (Illustration 15)

To alleviate a shortage of manpower, a unit of Italian war prisoners was assigned to the depot in May 1944 where they were employed in packing tank treads and loading and unloading ammunition and supplies. The Seneca depot was one of 60 installations across the country that housed prisoner of war units.[11]

POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

Although employment dropped in the immediate post war years, the depot continued to serve an important function. General war supplies and ammunition already stored at the depot required protection, renovation, and maintenenace, and additional supplies were shipped to Seneca from overseas theaters. However, little construction took place on the installation through the end of the 1940s.[12]

New construction accompanied the increased level of activity at the depot during the Korean War. A corrugated metal rocket overhaul shop (Building 2073) and two wood frame, transite-clad structures, a receiving building (Building 2085), and a paint and clean shop (Building 2084), were added at the south end of the base in 1950. Storage facilities on the installation were significantly increased in 1953 with the construction of a concrete block warehouse (Building 356) containing over 200,000 square feet of space. An identical warehouse (Building 357) was built the following year. The two are located southeast of the World War II warehouse area.

Illustration 15 "Popping" Plant (Building 311). Seneca's "popping" plant, built in 1943, was one of five such plants in operation in the United States during World War II. Cleaned ammunition shells were conveyed through the cooling tower at the south end of the building before being dropped into rail cars. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

A new wave of construction took place on the installation with development in 1956-1957 of the North Depot Activity, a project funded by the Atomic Energy Commission. Warehouses, ammunition renovation facilities, and igloos were built for the storage and handling of special weapons, and administration buildings, barracks, and support facilities were erected to house and service the military police unit required to guard the area. An enlisted mens' service club (Building 705) and post chapel (Building 740) were added to the area in 1959. Most of the buildings were constructed with reinforced concrete frames and concrete block infill walls. (Illustration 16)

In 1957, the depot acquired a portion of the former Sampson Air Force Base. This property, which was originally part of the Sampson Naval Training Station, was located on the depot's western boundary and included an airfield with a runway, a two-story operations building with control tower (Building 2306), and a hangar (Building 2305), all constructed in 1953. Between 1954 and 1956, when the air base closed, Mohawk Air Lines used the airstrip for commercial mail service. For a brief time in the late 1950s, North Star Aviation leased the airstrip to fly vacationers to up-state New York from New York City. The Sampson property also included 21 houses (see Pre-military Land Use, above) and a water pump plant (Building 2411).[13] (Illustration 17)

The last major construction activity on the installation took place in 1960, when the depot's housing facilities were expanded by the addition of 122 Capehart housing units in 43 buildings. These structures are located in the administration area south and east of the headquarters building.

Illustration 16 Building 722. This structure is typical of the buildings erected on the North Depot Activity during the mid-1950s. The buildings, which vary in size and function, have reinforced concrete frames and concrete block infill walls. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

Illustration 17 Building 2306. The two-story operations building and control tower were constructed in 1953 for the new airfield at Sampson Air Force Base. The base closed in 1956, and the property was transferred to the Army the following year. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1983, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

NOTES

1. Hilda R. Watrous, The County Between the Lakes: A Public History of Seneca County, New York, 1876-1982. (Waterloo, New York: K-Mar Press, Inc., 1983), pp. 7 and 21; Seneca County News, September, 1941.

2. Interview with Bill Hudson, November 30, 1983.

3. Information on the building's early use was provided by depot employee and local resident Bill Warne.

4. Harry C. Thomson and Lida Mayo, United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services: The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, 1960), pp. 363, 366-369, and 371.

5. Watrous, The County Between the Lakes, p. 8; Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, p. 371.

6. Watrous, The County Between the Lakes, p. 7; Seneca County News, July 31, 1941. William S. Lozier, Inc. also received the architectural and engineering contract for Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

7. Watrous, The County Between the Lakes, p. 21.

8. Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, p. 378.

9. Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, pp. 382-383. Although Ordnance Department regulations required new warehouse facilities to be of temporary construction after June 1, 1942, the use of masonry units such as concrete block was permissible provided that: 1) no shortage of masonry materials existed in the area, and 2) the cost of such construction did not exceed 15% of the cost of temporary construction. Ibid, pp. 381-382.

10. "Popping" Plants Are Created for Handling Used Cartridge Cases," The Iron Age March 22, 1945, p. 124. Other "popping" plants were located at Blue Grass Ordnance Depot, Richmond, Kentucky; Raritan Arsenal, Metuchen, New Jersey; Savannah Ordnance Depot, Savannah, Illinois; and Tooele Ordnance Depot, Tooele, Utah.

11. Watrous, The County Between the Lakes, p. 29.

12. Ibid, pp. 29-30.

13. Ibid, pp. 84 and 90; Interview with John Liberatore, November 17, 1983.

Chapter 3

PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

The Army Regulation on Historic Preservation requires that an historic preservation plan be developed as an integral part of each installation's planning and long range maintenance and development scheduling. The purpose of such a program is to:

- Preserve historic properties to reflect the Army's role in history and its continuing concern for the protection of the nation's patrimony.
- Implement historic preservation projects as an integral part of the installation's maintenance and construction programs.
- Find adaptive uses for historic properties in order to maintain them as actively used facilities on the installation.
- Eliminate damage or destruction due to improper maintenance, repair, or use that may alter or destroy the significant elements of any property.
- Enhance the most historically significant areas of the installation through appropriate landscaping and conservation.

To meet these overall preservation objectives, the following general preservation recommendations apply:

Category I Properties

All Category I properties not currently listed on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are assumed to be eligible for nomination, and as

such are subject to the "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800) of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP). The following general preservation recommendations apply to these properties:

a) Each Category I property should be treated as if it were on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Category I properties should not be altered or demolished without ACHP review, as specified in the above referenced procedures.

b) An historic preservation plan should be developed and put into effect for each Category I property. This plan should delineate the appropriate maintenance and conservation, rehabilitation, or restoration program to be carried out for that property. It should include a maintenance and repair schedule and estimated initial and annual costs. The plan should be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer in accordance with the above referenced ACHP procedures. Until the historic preservation plan is put into effect, Category I properties should be maintained in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.[1]

c) Each Category I property should be documented in accordance with HABS/HAER Documentation Level II, and submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.[2] When no

adequate architectural drawings exist for a Category I property, it shall be documented in accordance with Documentation Level I of these standards. In addition to Documentation Level I, in cases where standard measured drawings are unable to record the significant features of a property or technological process, interpretive drawings should be prepared.

Category II Properties

1) Category II properties currently listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register should conform to the general preservation recommendations that apply to Category I.

2) Category II properties not individually eligible for nomination to the National Register should conform to the following general preservation recommendations:

   a) Category II properties should not be demolished, and their facades, or other elements of the property that are significant, should be protected from major or irreversible modifications.

   b) An historic preservation plan shall be developed for each Category II property, similar to the requirements for Category I.

   c) Each Category II property shall be documented in accordance with HABS/HAER Documentation Level II and submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.[3]

Category III Properties

1) No special maintenance of Category III properties is required if they are not listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group. Such properties, however, should not be demolished, and their facades or those parts of the property that contribute to the historical landscape or visual value of the district or group, should be protected from major modifications. HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV has been completed for these properties, and no additional documentation is required.

2) Category III properties listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group should conform to the following general preservation recommendations:

   a) Properties should be treated as if they are on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Such properties may not be altered or demolished without ACHP review, as specified for Category I properties.

   b) An exterior maintenance plan should be developed for all properties in each such district or group.

   c) Properties that are endangered for operational or other reasons should be documented in accordance with HABS/HAER Documentation Level III, and submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.[4] Similar structures need only be documented once.

CATEGORY I PROPERTIES

There are no Category I properties at Seneca Army Depot.

CATEGORY II PROPERTIES

There are no Category II properties at Seneca Army Depot.

CATEGORY III PROPERTIES

Building 2301

Located in the southwest corner of the depot, this brick and stone building was probably constructed during the first two decades of the nineteenth century and may have once been a tavern and inn. Since acquisition by the military, it has been utilized as family housing, offices, and the depot rod and gun clubhouse. The interior, which has been altered, retains what may be the original spiral staircase, mantels, door and window surrounds, and wood flooring. (See Chapter II, Pre-Military Land Use, and Illustrations 2 and 3.) The building is a Category III property because it is a locally important example of early nineteenth century classical revival architecture.

Condition and potential adverse impacts. The building is in good condition and is being remodeled for use as a training facility and offices. There are no plans to alter or destroy the remaining significant architectural elements.

Preservation recommendations. Refer to the general preservation recommendations at the beginning of this chapter for Category III properties.

NOTES

1. National Park Service, Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, 1983 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1983).

2. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Annotated Standards for Structural Documentation (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, May 1983).

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Battaglia, Tom. Installation Environmental Assessment for Seneca Army Depot. May 1, 1980.

Facility Engineer's Office, Seneca Army Depot. Files contain original drawings, early maps (most were later revised), and photographs showing the early construction of the igloo storage area and construction details of other buildings on the installation.

"Popping Plants Are Created for Handling Used Cartridge Cases." The Iron Age. March 22, 1945, p. 124. Details the operation of five World War II "popping" plants.

Real Property Inventory, Seneca Army Depot. U.S. Army, DARCOM, March 1982.

Seneca Army Depot. Installation and Activity Brochure. DARCOM, December 31, 1981. DARCOM Brochure.

Thomson, Harry C. and Mayo, Lida. United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services: The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, 1960. Useful source for placing the development of Seneca Army Depot into the context of overall development of American supply depots during World War II.

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers. Seneca Ordnance Depot, Romulus, New York, Completion Report Job P. No date. Provides data on construction of the Combat Equipment Storage Area and lists existing buildings and projected facilities during the early World War II phase of construction.

Watrous, Hilda R. The County Between the Lakes: A Public History of Seneca County, New York, 1876-1982. Waterloo, New York: K-Mar Press, Inc., 1983. Contains useful information, taken primarily from local newspapers, on the World War II development of the installation.

APPENDIX A

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SENECA ARMY DEPOT
ROMULUS, NEW YORK, 14541

December 2, 1983

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Office of Facilities Engineers

Mr. William Brenner
Building Technology, Inc.
1109 Spring Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Brenner:

Ms. Barbara Hightower was not permitted to photograph or obtain written descriptions of Buildings 803, 815, and 816 during her visit to Seneca Army Depot on November 7-9, 1983. Security requirements prohibit documentation of these buildings.

Should any questions arise regarding this action, please feel free to contact me at Area Code 607, 869-1281.

Sincerely,

Stephen M Absolom

Stephen M. Absolom
Acting Chief
Facilities Engineering Division