

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Rock Island
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

NAME	
COMMON:	Rock Island Arsenal
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on attached map			
CITY OR TOWN: Rock Island		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17	COUNTY: Rock Island	CODE: 161

CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: United States Government			
STREET AND NUMBER: Department of the Army			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Installation Facilities Office, Rock Island Arsenal			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 102 Rodman Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Rock Island		STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1937		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arsenal is on the Island of Rock Island, midway between the cities of Moline and Rock Island on the Illinois side and Illinois and Davenport, Iowa. It is about three miles long, about 3/4 mile wide at its widest point, and consists of 945 acres.

The western end of the Island was the site of Fort Armstrong, which, at that time, sat above a sheer cliff. In 1863-67, the Clock Tower was built near the site of Fort Armstrong, which burned in 1855. "No name can be given to the exterior architecture", said Major D. W. Flagler, Commanding Officer in 1877, in speaking of the Clock Tower. "The walls are of buff limestone. All of the exterior is cut or bush-hammered work, and highly ornamented with projections, moldings, etc....it is well built but the building has no chimney, or ventilating flues and cannot be ventilated, warmed or dried.

In 1866, ten large shops were started and completed by 1876. These are on the center of the Island. These buildings are as massive as a king's castle. In most of them, the outside walls are three feet thick. The interior partition walls are 2 1/2' in width, tapering to two feet thickness in the attic. All walls are made from a single course of stone.

The massive stone shops have columns of cast iron and wrought iron in Phoenix shape. They have broad, sturdy iron stairways. Ceilings are 13 to 16 feet from the floor. Floors and roof decking were made of 2 inch white pine planks.

The Commanding Officer's Quarters and three other quarters were completed in 1870-74. Two others were added in 1905 and 1907. These homes are along the North shoreline. When the great stone houses for officers were built, fireplaces were placed in many of the rooms, including some of the bedrooms. But a few fireplaces wouldn't do very much to take the winter chill from a 24 room house built with castle dimensions. The earlier homes are almost completely built of ashler limestone.

The buildings of World War I and II extend to the west. Most of these are of concrete.

The northeastern half of the island is used by a golf club founded in 1905. The club house is frame and is next to Quarters 1. The southeastern half of the island is covered by a profusion of trees and shrubs. By comparison, the western half of the island is bare. The overall shape is that roughly resembling a Gurkha knife surrounded by water.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Description - continued

Access is gained by two bridges in the west and by one in the east. The swing-span government bridge to Davenport, Iowa was built in 1898 and is still in use. The upper tier of this bridge is for trains and the lower for vehicular traffic.

Among the interesting stone installations among the older works at Rock Island Arsenal is a stone bridge on the golf course, east of the clubhouse. This bridge is in a low area where formerly a lake of some sort existed. The bridge is like something from the old country, with its keyed arch and its gargoyles. The bridge probably was designed by the late W. O. Groehnen, who came to the Arsenal with Major Flagler in 1871 and who remained 40 to 50 years. Called a "delineator", he seems to have been the arsenal architect.

It is noted that most of the casting of fences and other iron molding was done by the Arsenal.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

- STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
1. Residence of Dred Scott, 1835.
 2. First bridge to cross the Mississippi, 1853-56 (Abraham Lincoln successfully defended the railroad interests). Pier still stands.
 3. Scene of service during Blackhawk War (Abraham Lincoln, Zachary Taylor, Winfield Scott, Jefferson Davis, Albert Sidney Johnson, Joseph E. Johnson, Robert Anderson of Fort Sumpter fame, Williams S. Harney, Edmond P. Gaines, Henry Atkinson, and Philip Kearney).
 4. Site of Fort Armstrong, 1816-36 (replica of blockhouse stands on site)
 5. Site of Confederate Prison, 1863-65 (Confederate Cemetery still on Island).
 6. Second Commander: T. J. Rodman famous for the Rodman Gun and his work on gun powder (his grave is on the Island) 1863-71.
 7. Site of Rodman shops still in use and majestic homes of the 1870's.
 8. Home of the Mound Builders before history was written (one mound still remains).
 9. Site of Colonel Davenport's home (first real home in this area) 1833.
 10. Site of one of the world's time capsules, 1968.
 11. Recognized by State of Illinois as a historic site, 1968.
 12. Site of swing-span government bridge of 1898.

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Bibliography - continued

Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, (Dover Publications, New York, 1964)

Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture From Territorial Times to Present, A Selective Guide, (University of Chicago Press), Chicago, 1968.

Connally, Earnest A., "Recommendations for the Development and Improvement of the Physical and Aesthetic Aspects of the Community, with Particular Emphasis on the Preservation and Utilization of Historic Structures" In The University of Illinois All University Committee for Community Problems Report, (University of Illinois, Bureau of Community Planning). Urbana, Illinois, 1959 (mimeograph)

Rock Island County Art Work, The W. H. Parish Publishing Co., 1893.

Pictures of Tri-Cities, C. J. Martin, Davenport, Iowa, 1901.

Drury, John, Old Illinois Houses, Illinois Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois, 1948. Page 127 of the book reads:

"There followed the construction of Davenport's frame house on the Island. "Early photographs of the house", writes Architect Earl H. Reed for the Historic American Buildings Survey, "show it to have been of a highly developed type for the Midwest, with well proportioned side and rear wings, one of the former having perhaps served as an officer.

"Davenport, who was a man of broad culture, traveled widely throughout the east and south and his familiarity with the finest colonial and post-colonial traditions shows in the architectural lines of his house. Its good proportions skillful assemblage of tasteful detail and the exterior chimneys, make the Davenport house uniquely interesting."

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ordinance Memoranda #20, History of Rock Island Arsenal, Flagler, 1877, Government Printing Office.
 War's Greatest Workshop, Rock Island Arsenal, Arsenal Publishing Company, 1922.
A History of Rock Island and Rock Island Arsenal From Earliest Times to 1954, Nothstein and Others, 1965, Rock Island Arsenal.
 Federal Writer's Project, Rock Island and Moline, American Guide Series, Chicago, 1937.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	90° 34' 00"	41° 31' 20"	0		
NE	90° 31' 00"	41° 31' 20"			
SE	90° 31' 00"	41° 30' 40"			
SW	90° 34' 00"	41° 30' 40"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 945

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Leonard E. Lock, Surveyer

ORGANIZATION: Rock Island Historical Society

DATE: August 18, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 822 11th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Moline

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (1) Ordinance Memoranda #20, History of Rock Island Arsenal, Flagler, 1877, Government Printing Office
- (2) War's Greatest Workshop, Rock Island Arsenal, Arsenal Publishing Company, 1922.
- (3) A History of Rock Island and Rock Island Arsenal from Earliest Times to 1954, Nothstein and Others, 1965, Rock Island Arsenal.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	90 ° 34 ' 00 "	41 ° 31 ' 20 "				
NE	90 ° 31 ' 00 "	41 ° 31 ' 20 "				
SE	90 ° 31 ' 00 "	41 ° 30 ' 40 "				
SW	90 ° 34 ' 00 "	41 ° 30 ' 40 "				

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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Leonard E. Lock, Surveyist

ORGANIZATION: **Rock Island Historical Society** DATE: **August 18, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
822 11th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Moline** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Wm F. Rufford*

Title *State Liaison Officer*

Date *8/20/69*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:
Hollis J. Ventrich
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS