

Building 311: Enlisted Men's Barracks



Front (west) facade, February 2017

Construction Date: 1894

Current Use: Vacant

Historic Use: Residential (Barracks)

Square Feet: 21,684 (+10,842 SF basement)

Condition: Critical¹

Prior Cost Estimates: \$6,972,000²; \$5,240,000–\$6,550,000³

Building Typology: n/a

Building Evolution: This building appears to be largely unaltered since its construction.

¹ Hamilton Anderson Associates, 2015.

² For rehabilitation; Hamilton Anderson Associates, 2015.

³ For rehabilitation and conversion to dormitory/hostelry use; SmithGroup, 2008.

Interior Description: The building is two-and-one-half stories with full basement and is divided in half into two symmetrical sides. Each side's first floor contains an entrance toward the center of the building leading to a vestibule and main stair hall. This leads to a secondary hall flanked on one side with rooms for the company office, a sergeant's room with storage, and on the other with a Noncommissioned Officers room and a passage leading to the rear stair. This same hall leads directly to a large dormitory behind which are a mess hall and a large kitchen. The latter two functions were accessed from the rear stair with no connection between the dormitory and the mess hall. On the second floor the front and rear stairs connect in a hall which serves a day room, two large dormitories and a cook's room, barber shop and a tailor shop. In the basement the main lavatory provided restroom and shower facilities for all the occupants of each half of the building. Also in the basement are the boiler room and large spaces for storage.

General Condition: This building is in critical condition, according to a 2015 report, and appears to be near the point of structural collapse. A detailed conditions assessment was never conducted.

Utilities: None.

Character-defining Features: Significant exterior features include: overall U-plan, hip roof massing, a coursed ashlar limestone foundation, red tinted mortar, overall fenestration pattern and muntin configuration, jack-arched window openings with limestone sills, and projecting hip roof front porch.

Due to building condition, the interior was not evaluated in 2020 or during earlier assessments.

References: Additional background information, including the 2015 conditions assessment referenced above, and National Register of Historic Places documentation, is available at detroitmi.gov/historicfortwayne.

A floor plan for this building is not available.