

MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK
DETENTION BARN

Maywood Park Racetrack
8600 W. North Avenue
Melrose Park
Cook County
Illinois

HABS IL-1244

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED & INTERPRETIVE DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK DETENTION BARN HABS No. IL-1244

- Location: The Detention Barn is situated within the Maywood Park Racetrack, which is located at 8600 W. North Avenue in Melrose Park, Illinois. The property is part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 39 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian in Cook County (Proviso Township). It is bounded by North Avenue on the north; residential subdivisions on the south; First Avenue on the east; commercial development on the west, and is bisected by Fifth Avenue.
- USGS Quadrangle: Proviso.
- Present Owner: Maywood Realty Company LLC.
- Present Use: Vacant.
- Significance: The Detention Barn was built ca. 1969-73 as part of a major decade-long renovation of the Maywood Park Racetrack's facilities, which included the construction of a massive new Grandstand/Clubhouse Building and the replacement of virtually all original wood outbuildings with modern concrete structures, including new stables and motel-like dormitories. The Maywood Park Racetrack operated from 1946 to 2015 and served as one of the premier half-mile Standardbred racetracks in the United States for much of its history. The racetrack represented an era when harness racing was one of the most popular spectator sports in the nation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of construction: ca. 1969-73.
2. Architect: Probably C.G. Clark Associates, as this was the firm that designed the other stables of this period.
3. Contractor/Builders: Unknown.
4. Original and subsequent owners: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.

5. Original plans and construction: The one-story Detention Barn was built on a concrete slab foundation and had concrete slab walls, a large sliding metal door, and gable roof. The interior featured five horse stalls, two adjacent offices, one toilet stall and a feed stall.
6. Alterations and additions: The toilet stall may be a later addition.

B. Historical Context:

The Detention Barn was the location where horses were brought after races to have their blood and urine tested by the Illinois Racing Board's veterinarian, who used the offices in the corner of this building.¹

Historical context for the overall Maywood Park Racetrack is included in the Maywood Park Racetrack Report and features the following contextual essays:

1. Overview of Harness Racing in the U.S. and the Chicago Region.
2. Establishment of Cook County Fairgrounds on the site in 1930s.
3. History of Maywood Park Racetrack: 1946 to 1965.
4. Post-1965 History of Maywood Park Racetrack.
5. Original Owner Arthur T. Galt Sr.
6. Architect Lionel K. Levy.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: The one-story Detention Barn is built on a concrete slab foundation and has concrete slab walls, a large sliding metal door, and gable roof. The interior features five horse stalls, two adjacent offices, one toilet stall and a feed stall.
- B. Description of Exterior:
1. Over-all dimensions: The building has a total length of approximately 45'-0", and a total width of 32'-0".
 2. Foundations: Poured concrete.
 3. Walls: Concrete slabs with wood frieze.
 4. Structural system: Load bearing concrete slab walls.

¹ Information on this building's use was obtained by an interview on February 21, 2010 with Paul Tarleton, former Facility Superintendent of Maywood Park Racetrack.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The north elevation main entrance has a single sliding metal door.
- b. Windows: The west elevation has two pairs of sliding glass aluminum windows. The north elevation has a single window opening that is boarded over on both the exterior and interior.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable built-up roof with four large rectangular skylights.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The Detention Barn has an open central area with a strip of five horse stalls on its east side, two adjacent offices at its northwest corner, and a small feed stall at its southwest corner. A small toilet stall is adjacent to the horse stall at the southeast corner.
- 2. Flooring: Concrete.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior partition walls are concrete slab; the toilet stall walls are concrete block. The feed stall wall is corrugated metal. Steel beams span the length of the barn's metal ceilings.
- 4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The stall at the south end of the barn has a heavy wood door that is split horizontally into upper and lower halves. There are two hollow metal doors: one to the toilet stall and one with a small window opening onto the pair of offices. The door to the feed stall is corrugated metal.
 - b. Windows: No interior windows.
- 5. Decorative features and trim: None.
- 6. Hardware: Interior doors have standard hinges.
- 7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Wall-hung electric heating units.

- b. Lighting: A strip of fluorescent lights are hung across the ceiling of the barn. Both offices also have a strip of fluorescent lights.
- c. Plumbing: A toilet is situated in a small stall at the south end of the building.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:

The Detention Barn is situated on the east side of the racetrack, between the Paddock Building and Dormitory no. 6a.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: No architectural drawings were found for this building.
- B. Maps: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- C. Interviews: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- D. Bibliography: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- F. Sketch Plan: A floor plan of this building is attached to this Outline Report.
- G. Supplemental Material: The following materials are attached to this report:
Figure 1: Building Site Location Plan, 2019, drawn by Lucas Howser, MARS.

Figure 2: Sketch floor plan of the Detention Barn.

Figure 3: Main entrance on north elevation, looking southeast.

Figure 4: Main entrance on north elevation, looking southwest.

Figure 5: South and east elevations of barn.

Figure 6: Barn interior, view looking southeast.

Figure 7: Barn interior showing door to offices in northwest corner.

Figure 8: Barn interior, view looking southwest.

Figure 9: View of split door to horse stall and concrete block toilet stall.

Figure 10: Storage area at southwest corner of barn.

Figure 11: Barn interior, view toward main entrance.

PART IV. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH:

- A. Research Strategy: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- B. Actual Research Process: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- C. Archives and Repositories Used: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- D. Project Team: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.

PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

This HABS documentation project was undertaken to mitigate the adverse effects of a proposed commercial project by Maywood Realty Company LLC on cultural resources within the 55-acre project area. The terms of the mitigation were agreed upon and executed to ensure compliance with the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420).

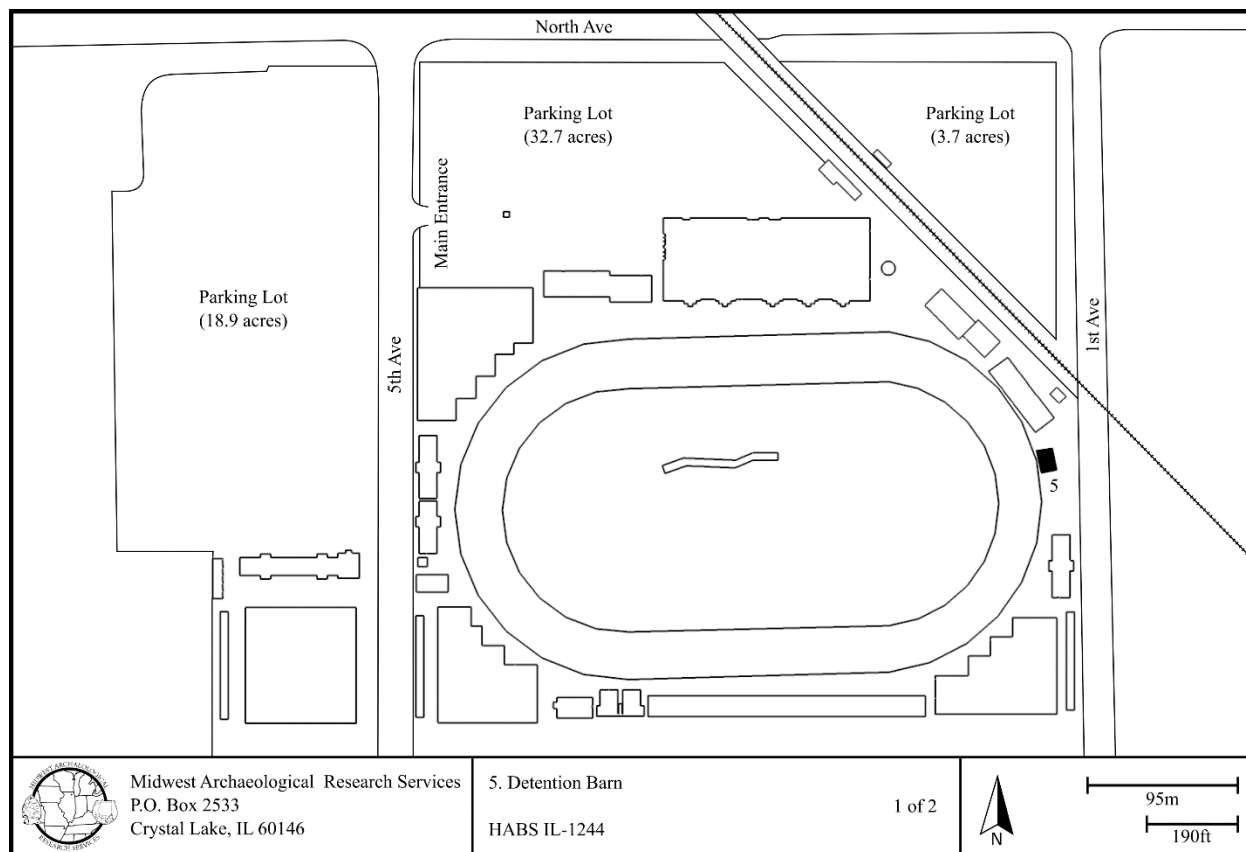


Figure 1: Building Site Location Plan, 2019, drawn by Lucas Howser, MARS.

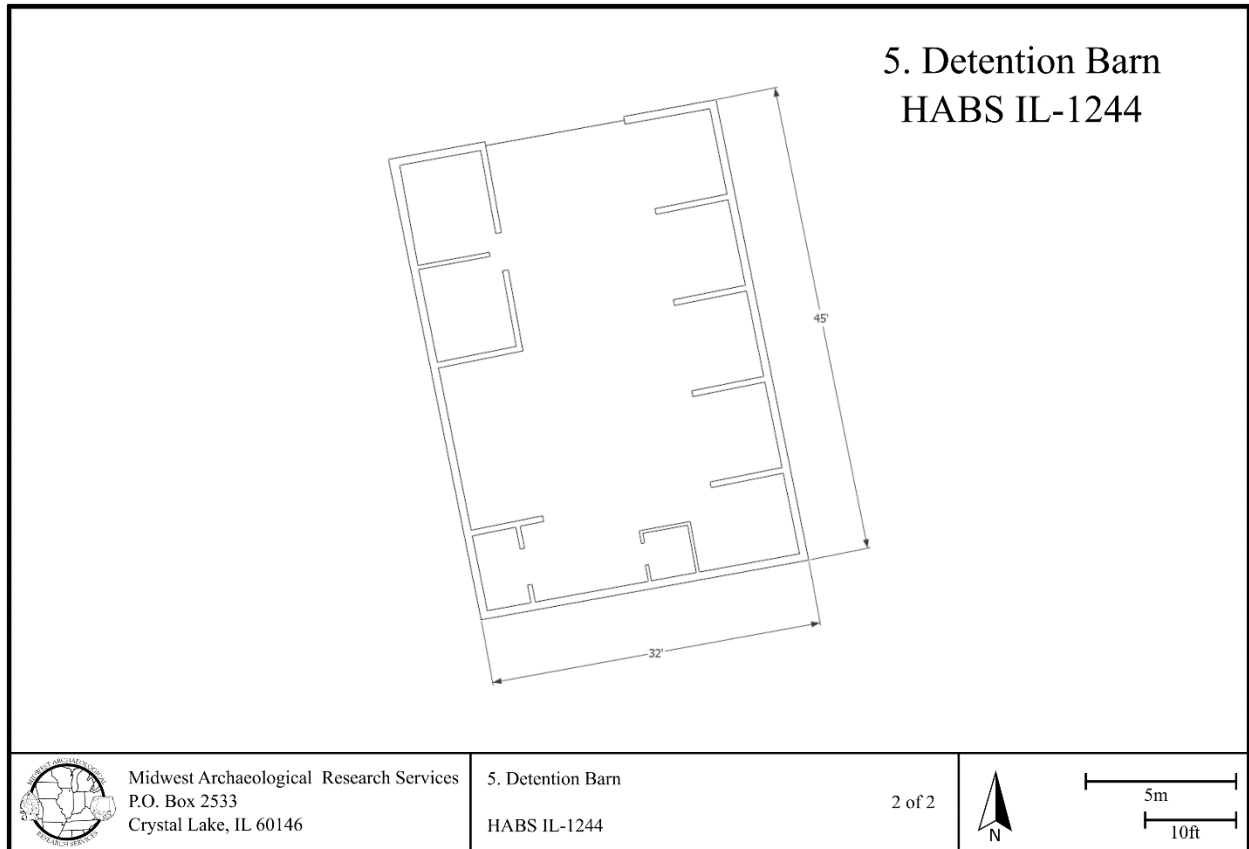


Figure 2: Sketch floor plan of the Detention Barn.



Figure 3: Main entrance on north elevation, looking southeast.



Figure 4: Main entrance on north elevation, looking southwest.



Figure 5: South and east elevations of barn.



Figure 6: Barn interior, view looking southeast.



Figure 7: Barn interior showing door to offices in northwest corner.



Figure 8: Barn interior, view looking southwest.



Figure 9: View of split door to horse stall and concrete block toilet stall.



Figure 10: Storage area at southwest corner of barn.



Figure 11: Barn interior, view toward main entrance.