

MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK
EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING

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

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MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING HABS No. IL-1244

- Location: The Equipment Storage Building 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 Equipment Storage Building was built ca. 1973 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. It 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. 1973.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Contractor/Builders: Unknown.
4. Original and subsequent owners: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.

5. Alterations and additions: The wall and ceiling finishes in the two offices may be non-original.

B. Historical Context:

The Equipment Storage Building was erected ca. 1973 on the site of the racetrack's original wood paddock building and was initially used as a paddock for several years. The paddock was where horses gathered prior to races. After a new paddock building was erected (Building No. 4), ca. 1978, this building was used to store equipment used to maintain the racetrack, such as front end loaders, tractors, and a water truck. It has two offices that were used by the facility maintenance staff.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 Equipment Storage Building is a one-story edifice with a rectangular footprint, load-bearing concrete block walls, and a flat, built-up roof. It is comprised of a single open space separated from a strip of two offices and a supply room at the south end of the building by a concrete block partition wall.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building has a total length of approximately 99'-0", and a total width of 49'-0".
2. Foundations: Concrete slab.
3. Walls: Concrete block with metal coping.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls.

¹ Information on this building's use was obtained by interviews with Tony Simone, Executive Director, Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association on February 12, 2019 and with Paul Tarleton, former Facility Superintendent of Maywood Park Racetrack on February 21, 2019.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front elevation has two tall, metal overhead doors on its north end with a metal service door in-between. A second metal service door with window is located at the south end of this elevation. The north (side) elevation has one metal service door.
- b. Windows: The front elevation has two pairs of one-over-one wood-sash windows and one pair of sliding glass windows. The rear elevation has five glass block windows, each of which has two rows of four glass blocks. The south (side) elevation has one small window opening that has been covered with wood.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Flat, built-up roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: This building consists of a single large open space with strip of three rooms at its south end that comprise two offices and a small supply room.
2. Flooring: The building has concrete flooring which is finished with linoleum tiles in the two offices.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The primary equipment storage space has a metal trussed ceiling. The offices/supply room have a suspended acoustical tile ceiling system. Walls within the offices/supply room are finished with wood paneling.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Office doors are metal with metal frames.
 - b. Windows: None.
5. Decorative features and trim: None.
6. Hardware: Exterior and interior doors have standard hinges and knobs. Double-hung windows have standard sash locks.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Baseboard heating units in the offices.

- b. Lighting: Fluorescent ceiling lighting fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: Not applicable.
- D. Site:
 - 1. General setting and orientation:
The Equipment Storage Building is located at the northeast corner of the racetrack, in-between the water tower and the Materials Storage Building, which abuts its south elevation.

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:
Tony Simone, Executive Director, Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association, February 12, 2019.

Paul Tarleton, former Facility Superintendent of Maywood Park Racetrack, February 21, 2019.
- 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 plans of Equipment Storage Building (No. 2) and the adjacent Materials Storage Building (No. 3).

Figure 3: View of building as seen from upper level Grandstand seating.

Figure 4: View of front and side elevations looking east.

Figure 5: View of front elevation looking northeast.

Figure 6: View of rear and side elevations, looking southeast.

Figure 7: View of rear elevation looking northwest.

Figure 8: Primary equipment storage space.

Figure 9: One of the offices at the building's far end.

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).

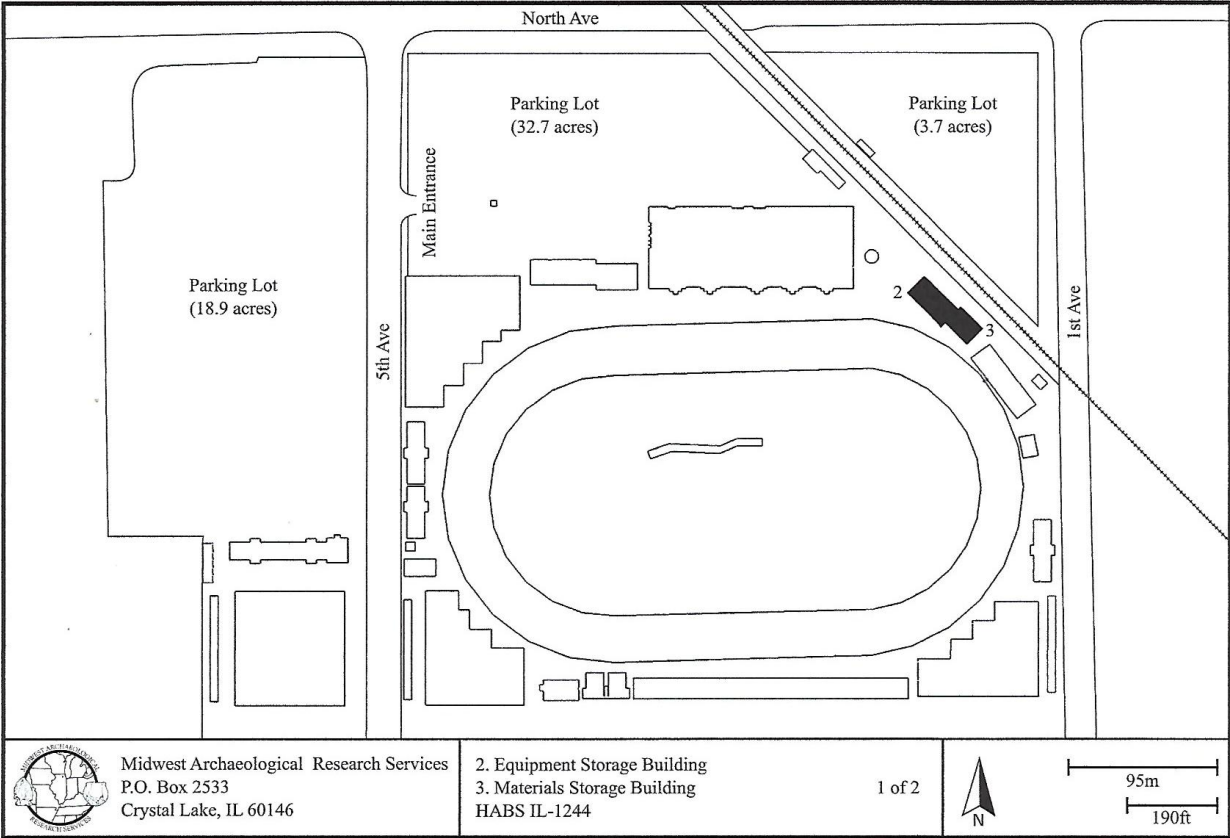


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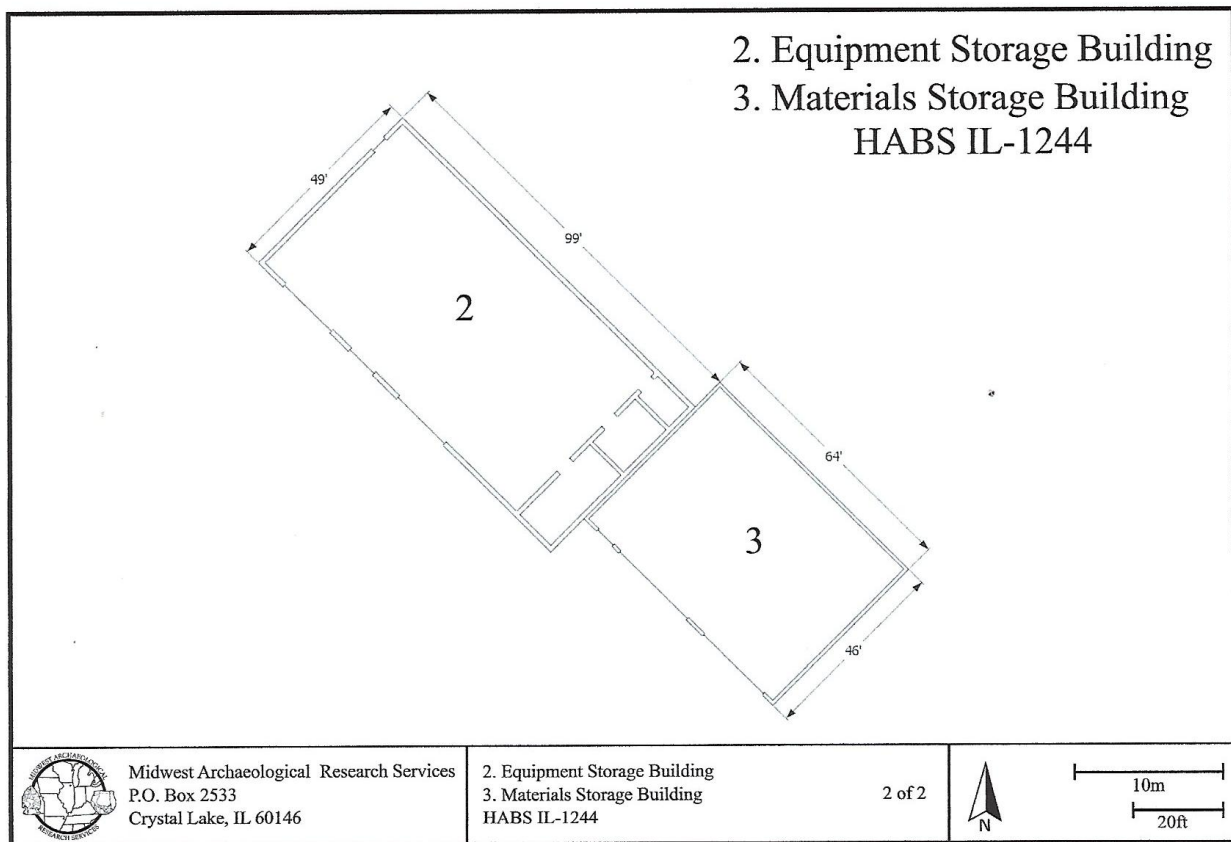


Figure 2: Sketch floor plans of Equipment Storage Building (No. 2) and the adjacent Materials Storage Building (No. 3).



Figure 3: View of building from upper level Grandstand seating.



Figure 4: View of front and side elevations looking east.



Figure 5: View of front elevation looking northeast.



Figure 6: View of rear and side elevations, looking southeast.



Figure 7: View of rear elevation looking northwest.



Figure 8: Primary equipment storage space.



Figure 9: One of the offices at the building's far end.