

MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK
MATERIALS STORAGE BUILDING

HABS IL-1244

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

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
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HABS No. IL-1244

- Location: The Materials 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 Materials Storage Building was built in 1996 as the last new structure erected on the site of the Maywood Park Racetrack prior to its closure in 2015. Maywood Park opened in 1946 on the former site of the Cook County Fairgrounds 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. During the 1960s and 1970s, the facilities underwent a period of renovation 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.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of construction: 1996.
2. Architect: Milton J. Bejcek of Hinsdale, Illinois.
3. Contractor/Builders: Unknown.
4. Original and subsequent owners: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.

5. Alterations and additions: None.

B. Historical Context:

The Materials Storage Building was erected in 1996 to store materials used to maintain the racetrack, such as crushed limestone for the racing surface.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 Materials Storage Building is a one-story edifice with a rectangular footprint, load-bearing walls comprised of concrete and ribbed metal panels, a sloping, built-up roof, and a one-room plan.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building has a total length of approximately 64'-0", a total width of 46'-0", and is about 24'-0" in height.
2. Foundations: Concrete slab.
3. Walls: Lower walls are concrete; upper walls have ribbed metal panels with vinyl backed insulation.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front elevation has two tall, metal overhead doors and one metal service door.
 - b. Windows: None.

¹ Information on this building's use was obtained from an interview on February 21, 2019 with Paul Tarleton, former Facility Superintendent of Maywood Park Racetrack.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Sloping, built-up roof with two square skylights covered with metal ventilators.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: This building has a one room plan.
2. Flooring: Concrete flooring.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Lower walls are concrete; upper walls are metal. Ceiling has metal covering with metal beams.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: None.
 - b. Windows: None.
5. Decorative features and trim: Not applicable.
6. Hardware: Exterior door has standard hinges and knob.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Not applicable.
 - b. Lighting: Ceiling lamp.
 - c. Plumbing: Not applicable.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:

The Materials Storage Building is located at the northeast corner of the racetrack and abuts the south wall of the Equipment Storage Building. The Paddock Building is situated to the southeast of this building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Milton J. Bejcek, elevation drawings for "storage building" dated September 23, 1996.

- B. Maps: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
- C. Interviews:
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 digital color photos 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: Front elevation looking southeast.

Figure 4: Front and side elevations looking northeast.

Figure 5: View of the site and rear elevations, looking northwest.

Figure 6: Interior of Materials Storage Building.

Figure 7: Interior view of overhead doors.

Figure 8: Interior view of Materials Storage Building.

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).

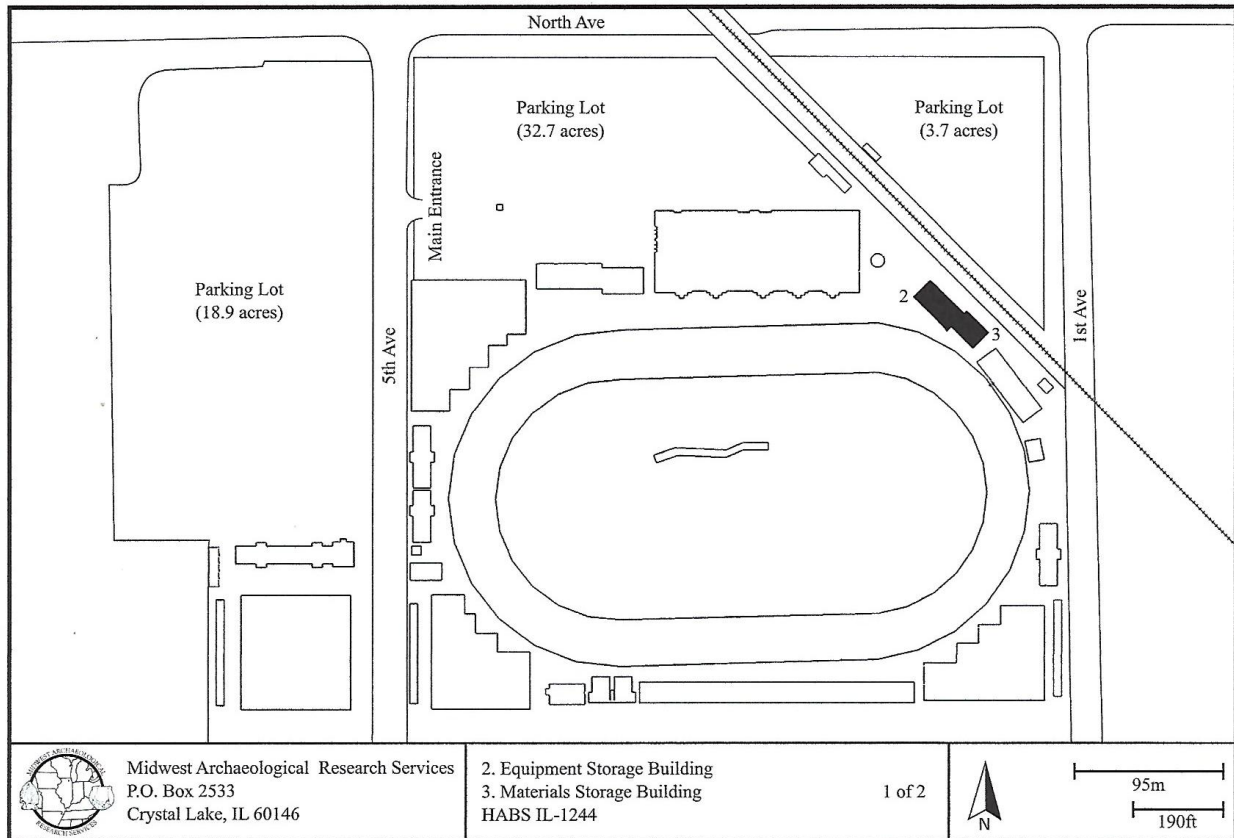


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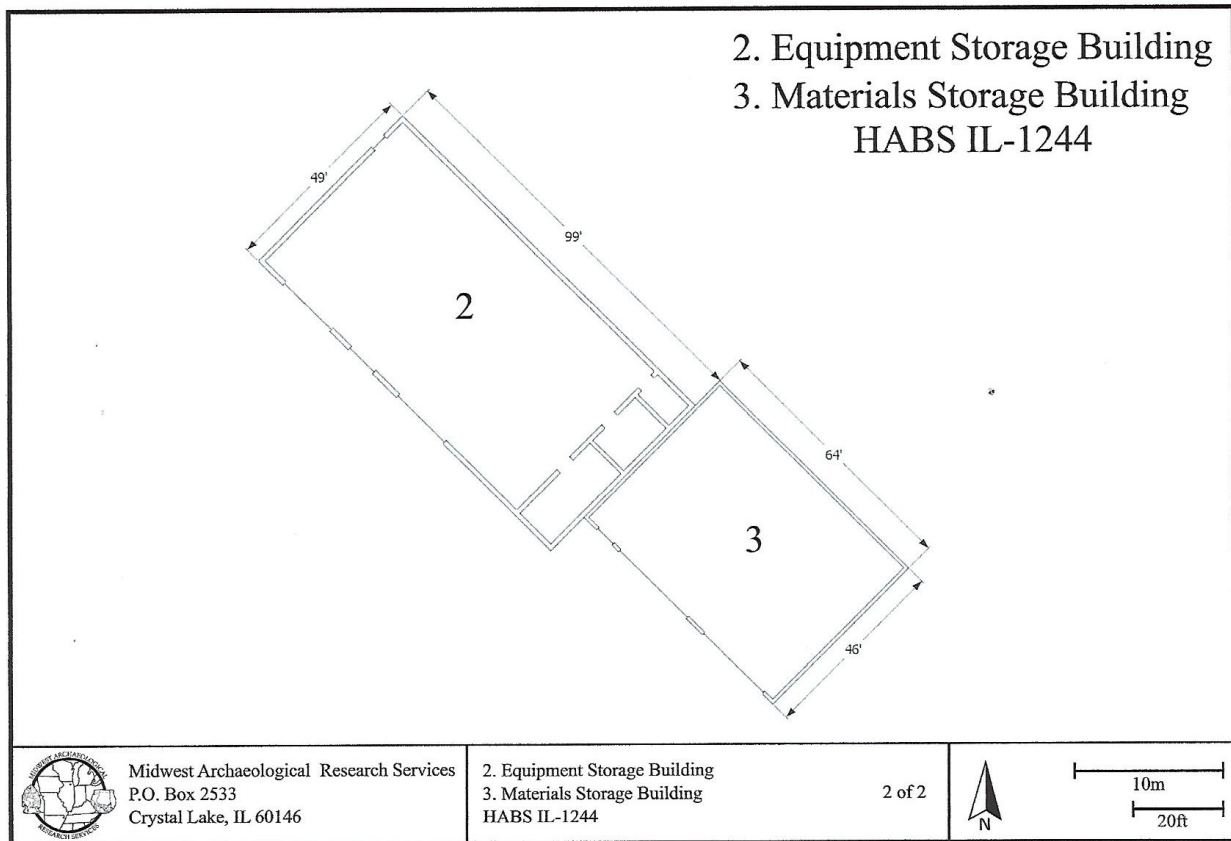


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