

MAYWOOD PARK RACETRACK
PADDOCK 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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HABS No. IL-1244

- Location: The Paddock 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 Paddock Building was built ca. 1978 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. 1978.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Contractor/Builders: Unknown.
4. Original and subsequent owners: See Maywood Park Racetrack Report.
5. Original plans and construction: The Paddock was built as a one-story building with a long, rectangular footprint, concrete block walls, gable roof,

and concrete slab foundation. Most of the floor plan was comprised of a large open space used as the horse paddock. The north end of the building featured two storage closets, an office, snack shop/locker room, a shower stall and bathroom.

6. Alterations and additions: The acoustical tile ceilings and lighting fixtures may be non-original.

B. Historical Context:

The Paddock Building was built ca. 1978 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.

This building originally contained two main areas: the paddock where horses were gathered before races, and a large room that featured both a sandwich shop for workers and lockers for the drivers. The sandwich shop/locker room was converted to a carpentry shop in the 1990s after a new locker room was installed in the racetrack's Office Building. The paddock area was used for equipment storage starting in the 1990s when the group of barns at the northwest corner of the racetrack began use as the new paddock.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 Paddock is a one-story building with a long, rectangular footprint, concrete block walls, gable roof, and concrete slab foundation. A large open space formerly used as the horse paddock comprises the majority of the

¹ Information on this building's use was obtained through 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.

floor plan, with the remainder devoted to a carpentry shop, office, bathroom and shower stall.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The building has a total length of approximately 158'-0", and a total width of 49'-0".
2. Foundations: Concrete slab.
3. Walls: Concrete block.
4. Structural system: Load bearing concrete block walls.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front elevation has two metal service doors near its north end: one opening onto the carpentry room and the other opening onto the paddock area. The rear elevation has one metal overhead door and one metal service door, also near its north end. The south (side) elevation has a pair of large sliding metal doors.
 - b. Windows: The north side of the front elevation has five pairs of sliding glass windows that are boarded-over on the outside and only visible on the interior. The south side of the front elevation has five small glass block windows. The north elevation has one small window opening that has been boarded-over on the exterior and interior. The rear elevation has four small glass block windows.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Low gable built-up roof with six large rectangular skylights.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Most of the floor plan is comprised of a single large space that was originally used as the horse paddock. The north end of the building features two small storage closets, a small office, a large room most recently used as a carpentry shop, and an adjacent bathroom and shower stall.

2. Flooring: The paddock area has concrete flooring. The carpentry room, bathroom, and shower stall have quarry tile flooring. The office has linoleum tile flooring.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Concrete partition walls separate the paddock area from the carpentry room and office. Walls of gypsum board or drywall separate the carpentry shop from the adjacent bathroom/shower stall. The walls of the shower stall and bathroom are finished with ceramic tiles. The paddock area has metal ceilings with trusses. The various rooms on the north end of the building have suspended acoustical tile systems.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The partition wall separating the carpentry shop from the paddock area has a steel roll-up overhead door. Hollow metal doors open onto the office, carpentry shop, bathroom, and storage closets.
 - b. Windows: The wall separating one of the storage closets from the carpentry show has two windows with single glass panes.
5. Decorative features and trim: None.
6. Hardware: Exterior and interior doors have standard hinges and knobs.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Wall-hung electric heating units in the carpentry room/office. The paddock area has a ceiling hung heating unit.
 - b. Lighting: A strip of fluorescent lights is suspended along the length of the paddock area's ceiling. The other rooms on the north end have fluorescent lighting within the acoustical tile ceiling systems.
 - c. Plumbing: The bathroom contains one sink; its toilet has been removed. The carpentry room has a sink along its east wall.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Paddock Building is located at the northeast corner of the racetrack. It is situated in-between the Materials Storage Building and the Detention Barn.

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 and digital photos are attached to this report:

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

Figure 2: Sketch floor plan of Paddock Building.

Figure 3: Front and side elevations.

Figure 4: Side and rear elevations.

Figure 5: Horse entrance on side elevation.

Figure 6: Rear elevation.

Figure 7: Horse paddock area.

Figure 8: Interior view of side elevation entrance.

Figure 9: Paddock area looking toward carpentry room.

Figure 10: View from paddock area toward front elevation entrance.

Figure 11: Interior view of rear elevation door.

Figure 12: View from paddock area toward entrances to office and carpentry room.

Figure 13: Carpentry room (former sandwich shop/driver locker room).

Figure 14: Bathroom off the carpentry room.

Figure 15: Shower stall off the carpentry room.

Figure 16: Carpentry room, looking toward office.

Figure 17: Office in Paddock 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).

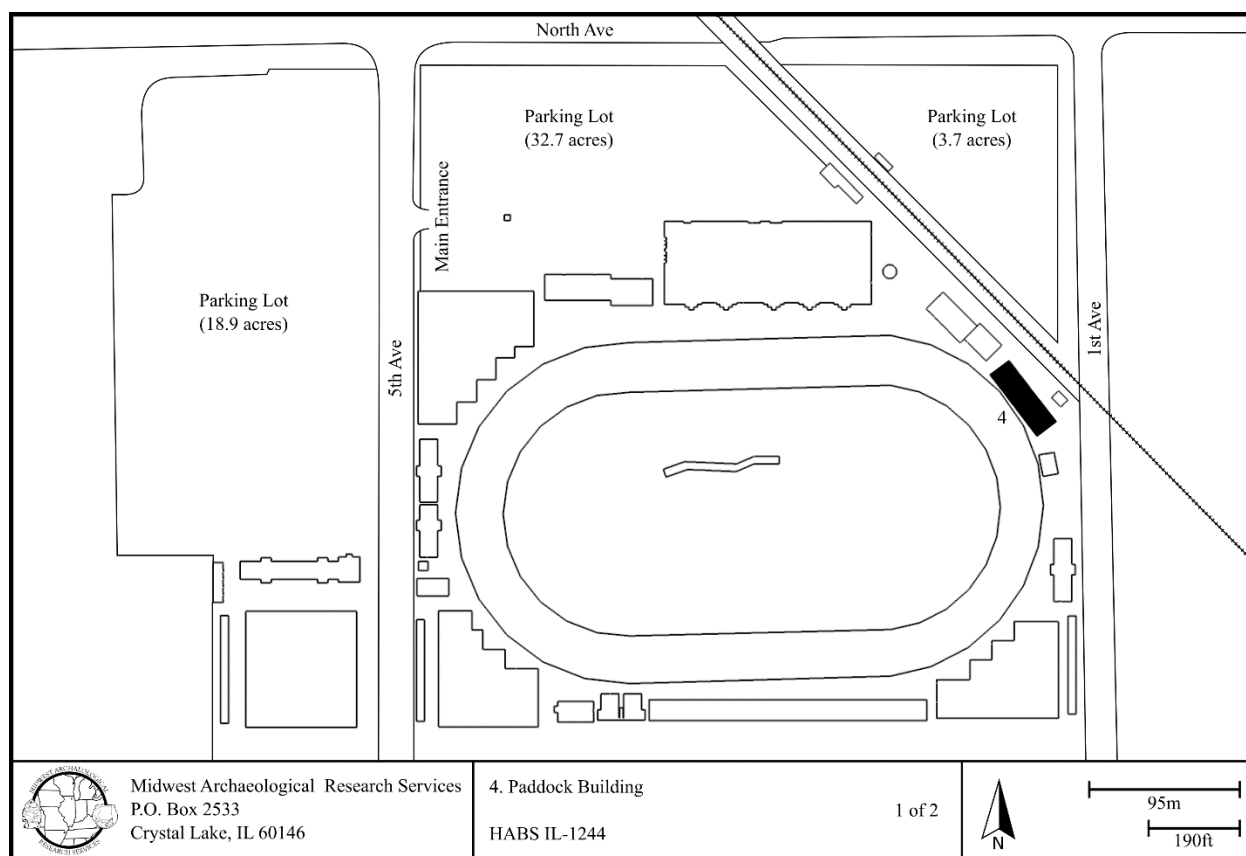


Figure 1: Building Site Location Plan, 2019, drawn by Lucas Howser, MARS.

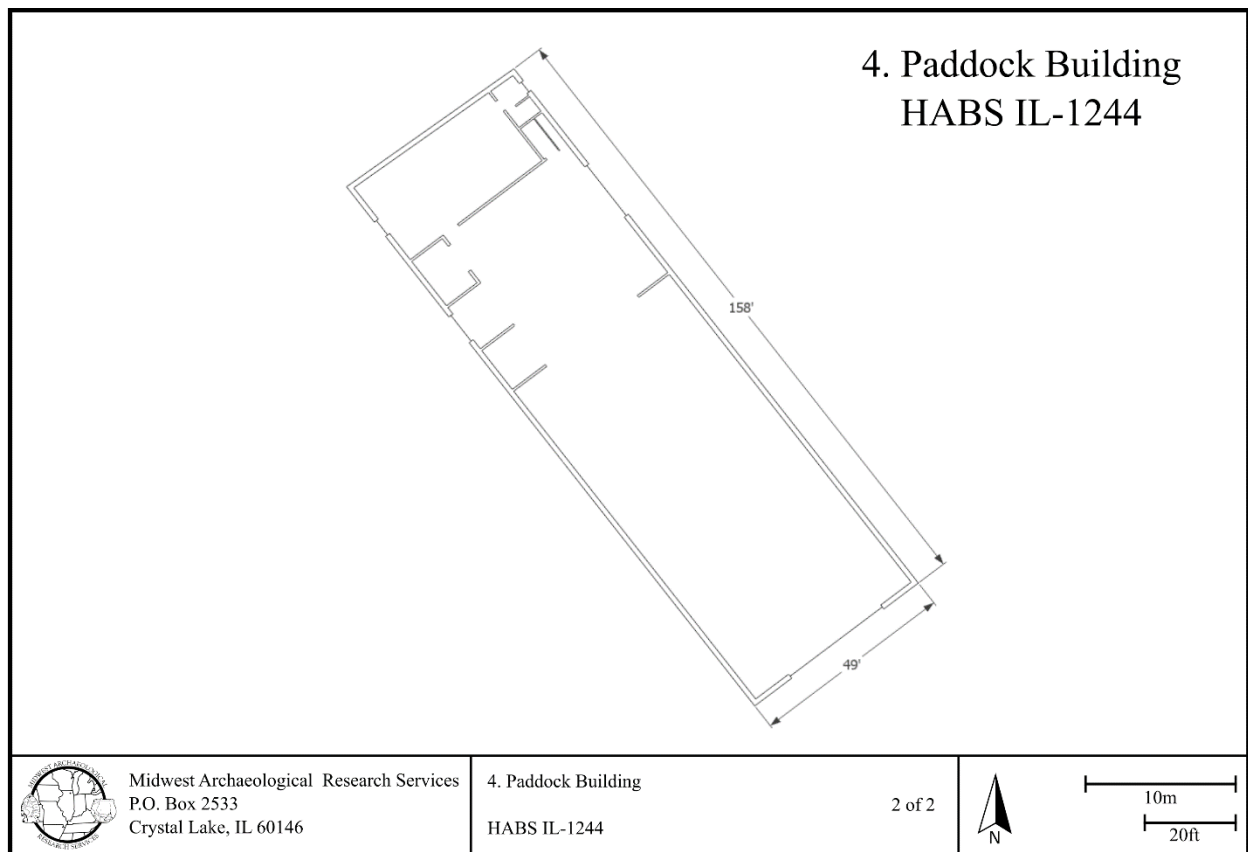


Figure 2: Sketch floor plan of the Paddock Building.



Figure 3: Front and side elevations.



Figure 4: Side and rear elevations.



Figure 5: Horse entrance on side elevation.



Figure 6: Rear elevation.



Figure 7: Horse paddock area.



Figure 8: Interior view of side elevation entrance.



Figure 9: Paddock area looking toward carpentry room.



Figure 10: View from paddock area toward front elevation entrance.



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Figure 13: Carpentry room (former sandwich shop/driver locker room).



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Figure 16: Carpentry room, looking toward office.



Figure 17: Office in Paddock Building.