

## Project: Kansas – Santa Fe Trail Buildings Survey (2016-2017)

### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

**Assessment date:** 05/25/2017; 08/16/2017

**Assessor:** KSHS/Anderson, Rick.

**County:** Ford

**Site:** Fort Dodge – Dead House (Relocated)

**KHRI:** 057-1427

**Address:** 317 Pershing Street; Fort Dodge, Kansas 67843

**Sequence number:** FO\_007

**Attachments:** Sketches; photographs; research

**Coordinates:** [See notes.]

**Coordinates 1\*:** 37.731370 -99.937900

**Coordinates 2\*:** 14S 417354 4176425

**Coordinates 3\*:** 417357 4176424

**Assessment date:** 05/25/2017; 08/16/2017 **Area assessed:** Interior & exterior

**Type of resource:** Building

**Occupied:** No

**Ruins:** No

**Historic use:** Funerary/Mortuary: The Fort Dodge – Dead House (Relocated) was an example of the military's version of a morgue. The dead houses were used as temporary storage facilities for bodies especially during the winter months when the ground was frozen. Fort Riley in Riley Co. Kansas had a similar building referred to as "...well adapted for a post-mortem room". Fort Riley's building (12'x14') was about the same dimensions as that at Fort Dodge (10'x12') except that Riley's dead house was constructed of limestone instead of wood. Source: "Circular No. 4. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, December 5, 1870. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Descriptions of Military Posts." Washington, Government Printing Office, 1870. p. 289.

**Present use:** Vacant; storage

**Date of construction:** 1870

**Verified:**

**Reported:**

**Estimated:**

**Number of stories:** 1

**Plan:** Rectangle (10'x12'; cost \$38.50 in 1870.)

Map source: "Ground Plan of Fort Dodge, Kansas. Established 1864. Adjutant General's Library. U. S. Military Reservation at Fort Dodge, Kansas. Designated by General Orders, No. 17, Headquarters Department of the Missouri, 29 May 1868. President's Order June 22, 1868..." (See photo # 19 in "Images and Documents" below.)

**Architectural style:** Vernacular

**Chimney:** No chimneys

**Roof type:** Gable-Front

**Roof material:** Asphalt shingles; several layers

**Exterior wall material:** Wood-frame construction with lap-siding; gable-ends are clad in wood shingles. The square wood-framed shed addition has also lap siding but is narrower than on the original building. The north gable has a louvered vent for the attic. The shed addition's roof is flat, sloped to the south.

**Window type:** (4) 1/1, double-hung. One in the east and west elevation of the original building. One in the east and west elevations of the shed addition. There are no windows or doors on the south elevation. There is a louver vent in the north (front) gable and no vent in the south gable.

**Entrance:** A single door serves as the north (front) elevation's entrance. Upon inspection of the interior, it was noticed that the door and doorframe have been replaced with modern dimension lumber that abuts the older plaster and lathe in the wall. A poured concrete pad serves as a porch for the entrance.

**Foundation:** Unknown; building was relocated here from northwest of the Old Fort Dodge Hospital. The type of foundation under the shed addition is also unknown. There may be crawlspace access on the east elevation. (See photo # 002 of 08/16/2017 in "Images and Documents".)

**Landscape features:** There are no landscape features associated with the building other than a poured concrete pad at the front entrance. The lawn has been kept mowed on all four sides of the building.

**Interior:** The south wall of the original building was removed from the east to the west walls creating one large room extending into the shed addition. Approximately 2 ½-feet of the south wall remains overhead possibly serving as a header to support the opening. (Although currently there was a 2X4 propped up from the floor to the ceiling. See photo # 007 in "Images and Documents".) The shed addition walls have been covered with unfinished sheetrock; most likely done several years ago. All shed addition walls show indications of probably water intrusion. (See "Interior wall damage" below.) The original building's interior walls are covered with plaster and lathe. The plaster and lathe can be seen where the exterior door and door frame have been replaced with new dimension lumber. (See photo # 008 in "Images and Documents".) Except for the non-historic loose articles stored there, the interior is void of any other types of shelving, doors, cabinets, etc.

**Other notes:** the building was once wired for electricity. Tri-plex electrical cable runs from the alley electrical line to the back, south gable of the building. Only two wires (one insulated 110-volt cable and the ground cable) appear to have been used of the tri-plex indicating the building was only wired for 110-volts of electricity. Conduit carried the electrical lines around the gable to the west elevation where a power distribution box is located.

**Historic designation:** No; not assessed

**Is there a sign or plaque:** No

### **\* Evaluation of the building \***

**Collapsed or off foundation:** No

**Leaning, other structural damage:** Moderate; shed addition: The east elevation of the shed addition sags in the middle when looking at the exterior. (See photo # 001 and 002 of "Images and Documents"). On in the interior when comparing the south wall of the shed addition to the ceiling of the original building, the shed addition would seem to be leaning/sagging to the west. (See photo # 007 in "Images and Documents".)

**Damage to windows, doors:** Minor/none; entrance door and door frame have been replaced with modern dimension lumber

**Chimney, parapet, or other falling hazard:** There are no chimneys.

**Roof damage:** Minor/none; has multiple layers of asphalt shingles. The most recent layer has missing shingles that reveal the other layers underneath.

**Foundation damage:** Unknown

**Exterior wall damage:** Moderate; bottom three rows of siding on the east elevation are sagging. The bottom row is split and missing pieces of the board. The corner trim boards on the bottoms of the southwest corners of the original building and the shed addition have wood rot. All wood surfaces need to be scraped and repainted.

**Exterior structural cracks:** None evident

**Interior wall damage:** Water intrusion from the south gable's ends have leaked into the northeast and northwest corners of the shed addition. The sheetrock has water stains on all the walls indicating probable other water intrusion. (See photos # 005-007 of 08/16/2017 in "Images and Documents".)

**Interior structural cracks:** Not evaluated

**Damaging vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.):** None evident

**Insect/rodent/bird damage:** None evident

**Moisture damage/accumulation:** Severe; see "Interior wall damage" above.

**Estimated Building Damage:**

None:    1-10%:    10-30%:    30-60%:    X [40%]    60-90%:    90-100%:

**Intervention level:** Items noted need to be kept under observation. The multiple layers of shingles on the original building should be removed and then re-roofed. The shed addition should be shored back up to the correct height or remove the addition and repair the original building's south wall for period correctness and to save the building from further deterioration. (See "Leaning, other structural damage" above.)

**Association with the Santa Fe Trail - Direct Association:** in its original location, the relocated Fort Dodge – Dead House would have been located approximately 240 feet south of the trail. The north side of Fort Dodge is located on the Santa Fe Trail.

***APPROXIMATE PROXIMITY OF THE FORT DODGE – DEAD HOUSE (RELOCATED) TO THE SANTA FE TRAIL IS BASED UPON THE FORT DODGE GROUND PLAN MAP OF 1870. (See photo # 016 and 017 of "Images and Documents".)***

**Proximity to SFT – in approximately its original location: [See notes.]**

**KHRI-GLO \*:** 300 ft. (0.06 miles [north])

**NPS ARC-GIS \*:** 240 ft. (0.05 miles) [south]

**Ancillary structures/buildings:** Other Santa Fe Trail related ancillary buildings are as follows.

Fort Dodge – Commanding Officer's Quarters; ca. 1867 (KHRI: 057-1821-00002)

Fort Dodge – Enlisted Men's Barracks; ca. 1867 (KHRI: 057-1821-00003)

Fort Dodge – Officers’ House; ca. 1867 (KHRI: 057-1821-00005)  
Fort Dodge – Old Fort Dodge Hospital; ca. 1867 (KHRI: 057-1821-00004)  
Fort Dodge – Army Quartermaster Building; ca. 1867 (KHRI: 057-1399)  
Fort Dodge – Junior Officers’ Quarters; ca. 1872 (KHRI: 057-1426)

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**\* NOTES \***

**Coordinates:**

**Coordinates 1** - ACME Mapper Google coordinates [*default setting: NS d.ddd EW d.ddd*]

**Coordinates 2** - ACME Mapper Google coordinates [*UTM*]

**Coordinates 3** - Handheld GPS [*WGS84 datum*]

*A difference between UTM readings for ‘ACME Mapper Google’ and ‘Handheld’ coordinates would be the placement of the GPS unit outside center front of the buildings when possible.*

**Proximity to the SFT:** Two readings may be recorded per NPS’s advice whenever there are possible discrepancies in the distance from the trail to the resource when comparing the KHRI map measurements and the NPS ARC-GIS map measurements.