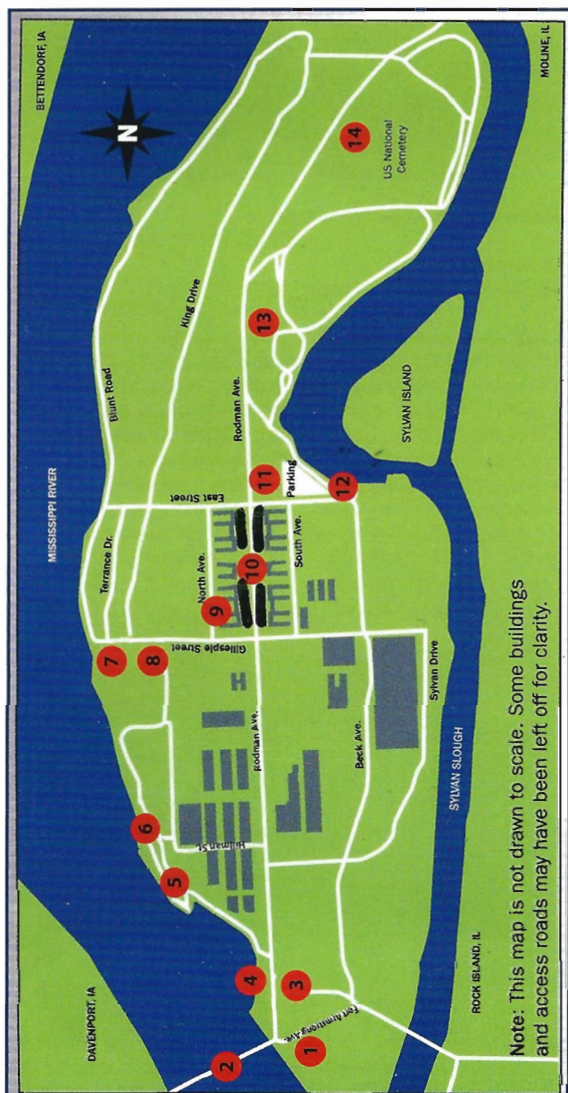


HISTORICAL PLACES OF INTEREST



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL,
ROCK ISLAND, IL.

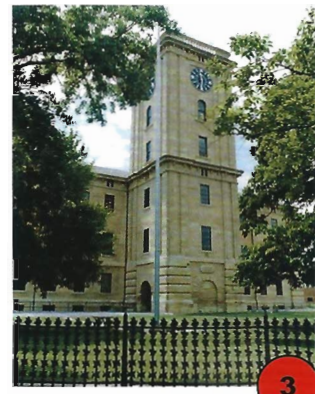
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Fort Armstrong

Building 200
Fort Armstrong Avenue

The 1916 replica of one of Fort Armstrong's blockhouses was erected for the fort's centennial celebration. Built in 1816, Fort Armstrong was one of a system of forts developed in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The fort's most important peace-keeping role was when it served as military headquarters during the Black Hawk War of 1832. The fort was abandoned in 1836, but remained an ordnance depot until 1845.



Clock Tower

Building 205
Rodman Avenue

The Clock Tower Building was the first permanent structure built on the Arsenal by Major Charles P. Kingsbury, the first Commanding Officer of Rock Island Arsenal. Construction began in 1863 and took four years to complete. The building was used primarily as a storehouse for arsenal operations. It gets its name from the large clock that is on top of its 117-foot tower. Each clock face is 12 feet in diameter. It is the only clock of its type still running with original parts. The building became the home of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1934 with the completion of Locks and Dam 15.



The Government Bridge

Structure 320
Corner of Rodman Avenue and Fort Armstrong Avenue

The Government Bridge, connecting Rock Island Arsenal to Davenport, Iowa, was built in 1896. It is a double-decker bridge with double railroad tracks above and a roadway below. It was built on the same piers as the first Government Bridge of 1872. Its swing span that can rotate 360 degrees for river traffic is a rare engineering accomplishment.



Mississippi River Visitor Center

Building 328
Rodman Avenue

Located at Locks and Dam 15, the Mississippi River Visitor Center is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. The Visitor Center provides an excellent vantage point to observe and learn about the function of the locks and dams system for the 9-foot channel project on the Upper Mississippi, the operation of the Government Bridge, and the importance of barge traffic on the Mississippi River. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed Christmas and New Years Day.

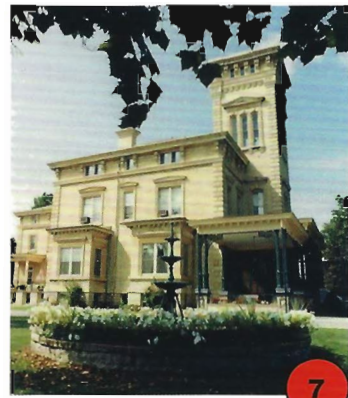


5

First Bridge Pier Monument

Structure 347
Davenport Drive

This monument marks the location of the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River. On April 22, 1856, the Mississippi & Missouri Bridge Company completed this wooden bridge with five spans and a swing span at mid-channel. Fifteen days after it was opened, the steamboat *Effie Afton* struck the bridge. The *Effie Afton* was destroyed, and part of the bridge was burned. This incident led to a famous court case that pitted steamboat interests against railroad interests. Abraham Lincoln, then a Springfield lawyer, defended the railroad. The trial ended in a hung jury. The US Supreme Court eventually decided a subsequent suit in December 1862, and the bridge remained operational. The first Government Bridge of 1872 replaced it.



7

Quarters One

Building 301
Gillespie Street

Situated on the northern shore of Arsenal Island, Quarters One is the former residence of 38 of the Arsenal's Senior Officers. At more than 20,000 square feet, Quarters One was the largest house owned by the Army and the second largest house owned by the U.S. government, next to the White House. The residence was constructed from 1870-1871 and was personally designed by Brevet Brigadier General Thomas J. Rodman, considered to be the Father of Rock Island Arsenal. The residence was constructed using day laborers under the supervision of Army ordnance officers with arsenal carpenters building much of the furniture for the home.



6

Colonel Davenport House

Building 346
Hillman Street

The restored home, designed in the Federal style of architecture, is the first permanent residence of any white settler in the area. Colonel George Davenport, a trader with Native Americans and supplier to the U.S. Army, built it in 1832-1833. Davenport earned the honorary rank of Colonel while serving as the volunteer quartermaster at Fort Armstrong during the Black Hawk War of 1832. The city of Davenport, Iowa, was named in his honor. Guided tours of the home are offered from early May to late October, noon to 4:00 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.



8

Arsenal Island Golf Club

Gillespie Street

The Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was founded in 1897 by Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt, Arsenal Commanding Officer. The current clubhouse was built in 1906 and replaced the original lockerhouse that was destroyed by fire. Secretary of War (and future president) William Howard Taft granted the golf course a license in 1905. The golf club remained private until 2009. In 2010 ownership was transferred to U.S. Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division, opening the course to the public for the first time in its long and storied history.



9

Rock Island Arsenal Museum

Building 60
North Avenue and Gillespie Street

Originally open to the public on July 4, 1905, the Rock Island Arsenal Museum is the second oldest U.S. Army museum. The primary mission of the museum is the history of Rock Island Arsenal and Arsenal Island. The secondary mission of the museum is the history of small arms development. The museum is well known for its significant weapons collection, which has been an important part of the exhibit area of the museum since its very beginning. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4:00 p.m. The museum is closed Sundays, Mondays, Federal Holidays, the day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve.



10

Stone Shops

Buildings 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110
Rodman Avenue

The ten stone shops were constructed from 1867-1893 as part of Brevet Brigadier General Thomas J. Rodman's plan for a national arsenal. The five buildings on the southern side were designated "arsenal row" and used for the manufacture and overhaul of general ordnance materiel, such as personal equipment for troops. The five buildings on the northern side were designated "armory row" and used for the manufacture and overhaul of small arms. The Rock Island Arsenal Model 1903 rifle was one of the small arms produced at Rock Island Arsenal.



11

Memorial Field

Rodman Avenue and East Street

In 1950, Rock Island Arsenal employees dedicated Memorial Field to the memory of the employees of Rock Island Arsenal who died while serving with the U.S. Armed Forces during the Second World War. Thirty-one ordnance systems are exhibited, with emphasis on systems used by the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of the artillery pieces are products of Rock Island Arsenal. The M50 Anti-Tank Gun, "Ontos" and the M51 Anti-Aircraft Gun, "Skysweeper" are illustrated.

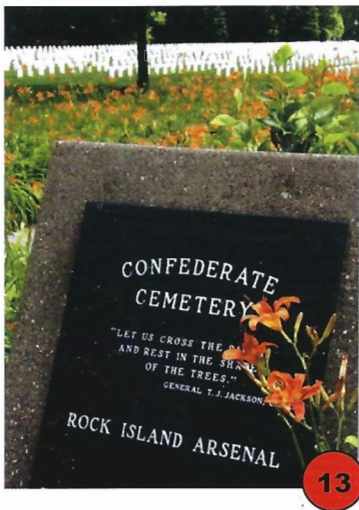


12

Hydroelectric Plant

Structure 160
East Street

Since 1879, Rock Island Arsenal has used the force of the Mississippi River water to provide manual and electric power to the buildings located on Rock Island Arsenal. The first power system was telodynamic which used four water turbines and a system of cables, belts, and pulleys. In 1899, a fire destroyed the powerhouse and the decision was made to replace the outdated telodynamic system with a hydroelectric system. Situated across the back channel of the Mississippi River on the south shore of Rock Island Arsenal, the hydroelectric plant has been in continuous operation since 1901 and generates 20% of the arsenal's electrical requirements.



Confederate Cemetery

Rodman Avenue

The only tangible remains of the Rock Island Prison Barracks is the Confederate Cemetery. The Rock Island Prison Barracks was one of 21 prison camps operated by the Union. From December 1863 to July 1865, 12,192 Confederate prisoners were held at the prison camp. A total of 1,964 prisoners died. Each gravestone identifies the individual soldier and his company and unit. The Veterans Administration maintains the Confederate Cemetery.



Rock Island National Cemetery

Entrance at Rodman Avenue and Goetsch Drive

The Rock Island National Cemetery is one of 130 national cemeteries operated by the Veterans Administration throughout the United States. Originally established in 1863 as the post cemetery for Union prison guards at the Rock Island Prison Barracks, this cemetery is among the 20 oldest national cemeteries. As of 2013, the cemetery covers 72 acres and has over 29,000 interments. It is among the 30 largest national cemeteries in terms of number of burials.