



Storehouse A/Clock Tower Building
Constructed from 1863 to 1868
Rock Island District, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers since 1931

In 1862, an Act of Congress established an arsenal at Rock Island. Construction of a small arsenal for repair and storage purposes began a year later. The first Commanding Officer of Rock Island Arsenal, Major Charles P. Kingsbury, located and designed three buildings for the Arsenal. In 1863, the Ordnance Corps began construction of a storehouse on the western tip of the island near the ruins of Fort Armstrong. Storehouse A was the first permanent arsenal building.

The Clock Tower Building is also on the National Register of Historic Places. The gable roof, triple arched windows in a palatine style at each end and double pilasters at the corner of the building are all in giant proportions with an architectural emphasis on Italian Renaissance. Constructed with LeClaire limestone, the building has a 97-foot tall, 34-square-foot Italian villa style tower designed to provide a frame for a pulley-operated hoist to lift supplies to upper floors. Open arches at ground level provided access for horse-drawn wagons. The clock has four 12-foot faces.

Major Kingsbury experienced many difficulties with completing Storehouse A. He requested to be relieved of command and Brevet Brigadier General Thomas J. Rodman became the second Arsenal commander.

During the Civil War, the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps erected and operated a Prisoner of War camp from December 1863 to July 1865 on the north central section of

the island. The Arsenal officers' quarters along Terrace Drive were constructed on the prison barracks site. The Confederate Cemetery is the only tangible remains of the prison camp.

The Rock Island National Cemetery is one of 117 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.

After the Civil War, the newly established Arsenal was the repository for Civil War surplus. As the Arsenal buildings were constructed, Arsenal employees cleaned, repaired, and shipped the surplus Civil War infantry, cavalry, and artillery equipment to support troops on the western frontier.

As early as 1872, Rock Island Arsenal shops were busy manufacturing construction materials for Arsenal buildings and ordnance stores for troops in the American West. Several of the shops have been active since the days of the western Native American uprisings. They also supported the Army and soldiers during the Spanish-American War, the two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and conflicts in Southwest Asia. The Arsenal manufactures gun mounts, recoil mechanisms, ambulances, small arms parts, and other equipment. The shops continue to manufacture technology transitions needed for the future, including 3D printing of all sizes and shapes.

During the 1980s, Project REARM began a major renovation of the Arsenal's manufacturing operations and facilities, moving from 19th century buildings and operations to 21st century facilities and technology.

The Army Sustainment Command (ASC), headquartered at Rock Island Arsenal, directs the activities of the Army Materiel Command's Army Field Support Brigades; manages Army War Reserve materiel; manages the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP); and provides logistical support on every Army installation to deploy units and receive them when they return. The Joint Munitions Command (JMC) manages all conventional ammunition for the Department of Defense including manufacturing plants, contract oversight, and depot operations. Army Contracting Command executes billions of dollars annually for a wide array of contracts. First Army manages the training, deployment preparation, and reintegration of Army Reserve and National Guard units. Arsenal buildings are also home to about 60 tenant organizations with a total population of about 6,000.