

# *War Department, U. Students Wonder About Blockhouses*

Oldest name on the campus—and nobody seems to know exactly where it came from, not even members on its staff, the Blockhouse.

Although most students when questioned have vague remembrances of having studied it some time in elementary history, the exact details are not usually recalled. Toledo, when first settled in 1794, was known as Fort Industry. Blockhouses

were built inside forts with the upper story projecting over the lower, and through the floor were loopholes. Thus if Indians were successful in scaling the stockade wall, men could retreat into the blockhouse and fire down upon the enemy's heads as they tried to batter in the doors.

One of the first necessities of a fort is water, since at any time it might be besieged and the water supply cut off. Solution of this problem was simple to Toledo pioneers because the fort was next to the Maumee River.

Anthony Wayne in 1794 cleared the Indians out of Maumee Valley from Toledo to Fort Defiance. Later he negotiated a peace treaty with them and built Fort Industry. Until 1808, 150 men were quartered in it, simply to guard the United States territory against Indians.

It is not unusual that students have little knowledge of the Blockhouse, since few historians, not even the War Department at Washington have information on the subject.