



LONG BARRACKS

HOME OF THE MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND



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Acknowledgment

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Foreword

In 1892, author Richard Harding Davis described Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as “one of the heavens toward which the eyes of the army people turn.” He was describing what was then known as the Upper Post but which we now know as Infantry Post. In the decades that followed, the Upper Post flourished, then declined in importance as newer areas of the Fort Sam Houston became the focus of activity. As it declined in importance, less attention was paid to maintaining the Upper Post.

Today, though, more than 100 years after Davis called Fort Sam Houston “one of the heavens,” things are looking up again for the Upper Post. In recent decades, the effects of a series of preservation efforts for these historic structures and other events are beginning to return the Infantry Post to its former grandeur.

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The post headquarters, Building B616, and officer quarters, buildings 618, 620, 622 and 624, stand out against the Fort Sam Houston skyline about 1886-1888 as members of Light Battery F, 3rd Artillery on the parade ground face generally southwest.

ONE

The Central Point

The year 1881 saw the Army fairly well established on Government Hill, about two and a quarter miles from the center of San Antonio. The Quartermaster Depot occupied the Quadrangle, sharing it with the Headquarters, Department of Texas. Quarters for the officers of the department headquarters had been completed in that year west of the Quadrangle. Temporary wooden barracks and quarters housed the hundred or so infantry Soldiers and their officers of the two companies from the 16th and 22nd Infantry Regiments, which constituted the garrison of the Post at San Antonio, as the installation was then called. The post headquarters occupied a tent.

With the Army's funds severely limited, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, commanding general of the Army, sought to concentrate the Army into fewer but larger posts. He had two objectives — first, to keep the operating expenses of the Army within the limits set by the Congress while still accomplishing its mission; and second, to improve the condition of the Army.

Concentrating the Army would eliminate most of the costs involved with shipping supplies to posts and installations scattered around the country. The money thus saved would be better spent on improving the Army's facilities, equipment and training.

Located near the center of the Department of Texas, San Antonio

was a natural site for a large post. Not only were the department headquarters and the Quartermaster Depot in the city, but there were also a good water supply, good lines of communication and a populace that was favorable to further expansion of the Army's presence. Sherman would say:

“Everything conspires to the conclusion that San Antonio must become the central point from which troops can and will radiate to the Rio Grande, from Fort Brown to the Pecos — 500 miles.”¹

Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley, commanding the Department of Texas from San Antonio, would agree with Sherman:

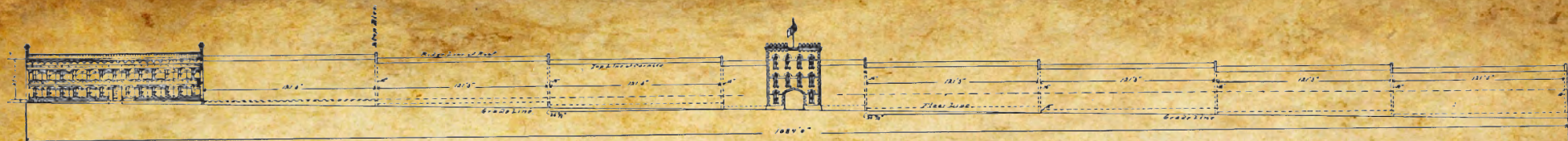
“It would be a great economy, for the concentration of troops here will enable us to abandon certain dilapidated, useless and expensive posts on private property, like Concho and Stockton. The central position of San Antonio and the cheapness of food and fuel in the market are good reasons for keeping troops here in readiness for any service.”²

To put this concept into motion, a tract of land east of and adjacent to the Quadrangle was purchased in 1882.

Plans and specifications for the barracks for 12 line companies, a band and necessary officer quarters were submitted for approval to General Stanley by Maj. J.G.C. Lee, department quartermaster. Architect Alfred Giles and civil engineer C.H. Millington designed

1. Conner, The Centennial Record of the San Antonio Army Service Forces Depot, 1845-1945, Page 93.

2. Letter, Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley, Dec. 23, 1885.



PLANS 'C'

OUTLINE ELEVATION

MAIN BUILDING FOR BARRACKS

Showing miniature Elevation of Quarters for
One Company and enlarged plans of Central portion
comprising Passage-way and Barracks for Band.

Prepared under the direction of
Major J. C. Lee Chief Qr. M.
Department of Texas

By A. Giles Archt.

Head Quarters Department of Texas,
Office of Chief Quartermaster,
San Antonio, Texas, May 16th 1866.

J. C. Lee
Chief Quartermaster

DIAGRAM OF BUILDING SCALE 3 FEET TO INCH



FRONT ELEVATION SCALE 3 FEET TO INCH

In order to provide in part for 12 Cos of Cavt
and Band, at San Antonio Tex. the Secretary
of War on June 16th 65 authorized \$76,000
for 4 Barracks & Quarters for 5 Officers
from the Special buildings funds as
authorized by Congress in Sundry Civil Bills
of July 7-64 & March 3-65

72nd-86
Div 9.
Qmldo.



Approved for Stone, without heavy walls.
S. B. Doak
Q. M. General.

Qmldo
June 8-65
72nd-86
Div 9

W. A.

PART SIDE ELEVATION

57
57

these buildings. Giles had previously worked on the quarters of the department staff on the Lower Post, later known as the Staff Post.

The proposed layout of the new addition to the post was typical for frontier forts in America. Around a central parade ground were to be arranged a line of barracks and a line of 26 company grade and two field grade officers quarters.

Located downhill from and east of the entrance, the line of barracks was arranged in a shallow U, with a sally port in the center of the line, facing the entrance to the post on the opposite side of the parade. On each side of the sally port were four company barracks. This string of nine buildings is referred to as the Long Barracks. Near each end of this building were two company barracks, at right angles to the Long Barracks.

A few changes were made in this layout before it was

implemented. A separate barracks was to be built for the band on the north side of the parade, between the last of the officer quarters and end of the line of barracks. The Guard House was relocated into the line of barracks over the sally port where the band was to have been quartered. Instead, a bachelor officer quarters and mess would later be built near the entrance. The library was deleted from the plan and in its place would be taken by two sets of line officer quarters.

Gen. John M. Schofield, commanding the Division of the Missouri — the next higher headquarters of the Department of Texas — described the layout of the post:

“I believe it to be, all things considered, much the most desirable arrangement that can be made ... It will leave



Construction of four buildings along the line of barracks began and were completed in 1885. The sally port and four additional barracks were added in 1887.



A view from the northeast corner of the parade ground illustrates the completion of the Long Barracks in the early 1890s. Between 1890 and 1891, the remaining four barracks were completed, forming the wings on the ends of the Long Barracks.

the ground for drills and parades of dismounted troops in front of the quarters of the Department Commander and his staff and it will give the barracks and quarters the ample open space and exposure to prevailing breezes which are necessary to health and comfort in that climate.”³

The Congressional appropriations for construction of the Upper Post also included \$18,000 for a post hospital, but this building would be erected on the Lower Post, or Staff Post. The San Antonio “Daily Express” noted, that construction of the barracks and quarters “will enliven business on government hill considerably and create a new boom there both in building and real estate.”⁴

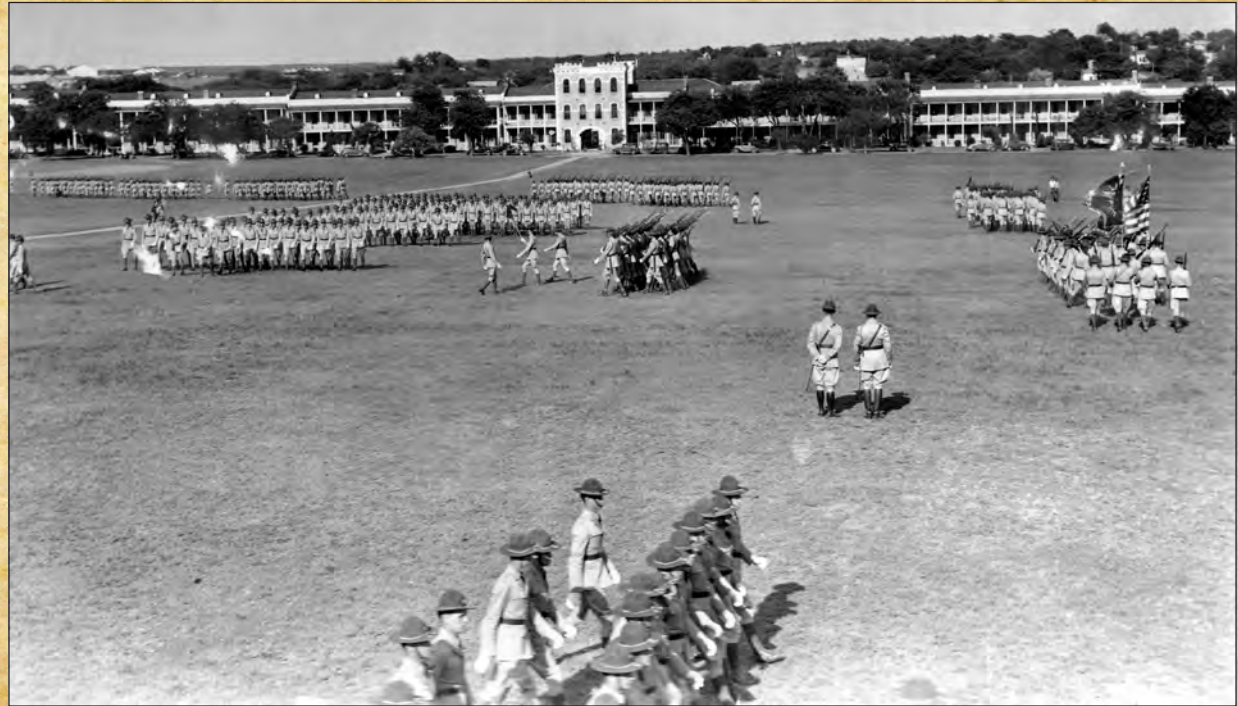


At the center of the line of barracks was Building 613 with a sally port leading from the parade ground to the service area behind the barracks.

3. Conner, Page 99, citing Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield's letter to the Adjutant General, May 25, 1885.

4. “Daily Express,” “Military Improvements,” Sept. 15, 1885.

The review of the 23rd Infantry emphasized the importance of space to conduct training at Fort Sam Houston, which included an enclosed parade ground of about 1,000-by-1,000 feet, or about 23 acres, to accommodate any close order drill formation or parade of the proposed 12-company garrison.



TWO

The Upper Post

The local newspaper spoke with pride in anticipation of the new barracks, “These barracks and quarters will be supplied with all modern conveniences.”⁵ Construction of the Upper Post had begun in 1885 and was carried out in stages by a series of contractors each fiscal year. These included W.S. Pleasants, T.W. Carrico, P.F. Shields, J.G. Marshall and William Braden, who had been contractors for the Quadrangle.

The key element of the Upper Post, and its reason for being, was the barracks. Construction was begun in 1885 with the four buildings along the north end of the line of barracks being completed in that year. The sally port and four additional barracks

were added in 1887, completing the “long barracks.”

Between 1890 and 1891, the remaining four barracks were completed, forming the wings on the ends of the Long Barracks. The Long Barracks formed a 1,084-foot long line of nine contiguous, two-story red brick barracks that closed the east side of the post.

The Long Barracks compares favorably in length with a modern aircraft carrier, being 44 feet longer than the Forrestal Class and 6 feet shorter than the nuclear powered Nimitz Class. The two 242-foot long wings of two barracks each, at the ends of and perpendicular to the barracks, formed a shallow “U.”

5. San Antonio “Daily Express,” Sept. 15, 1885.



The 18th Infantry conducts an evening dress parade Nov. 10, 1895.

Each of the two-story barracks was 121 feet long and 32 feet deep and was designed to accommodate one company of troops. Each of the barracks had two large bays upstairs for sleeping areas for a total of about 50 enlisted men. Downstairs were a kitchen and dining area, dayroom and library, washroom with three bathtubs, tailor shop, store room, pantry, sergeants mess, a room for a cook and one room for the first sergeant.

The size of the first sergeant's room seems to indicate it was his office as well as his billet. Ornate woodwork decorated the front and rear two-tier porches. The barracks roofs were covered with standing seam metal.

At the center of the line of barracks was a three-story block, Building 613, with a sally port leading from the parade ground to the service area behind the line of barracks. This crenellated



Each of the barracks had two large bays upstairs for sleeping areas for a total of about 50 enlisted men.

The original dark color of the bricks on the Long Barracks serve as a backdrop to Cavalrymen taking a break on the porch around 1895.



structure was intended as a barracks for the band. A separate building for the band was constructed in 1893, and the space over the sally port was converted into the post guard house.

All of the barracks, the quarters and the headquarters were supplied with “all modern conveniences and will have a perfect system of ventilation, drainage and plumbing and there will be a constant supply of warm and cold water.”⁶ Because flush toilets were not yet state-of-the-art, the quarters were provided with outhouses. These buildings also served as storerooms and woodsheds.

6. San Antonio “Daily Express,” Sept. 15, 1885.

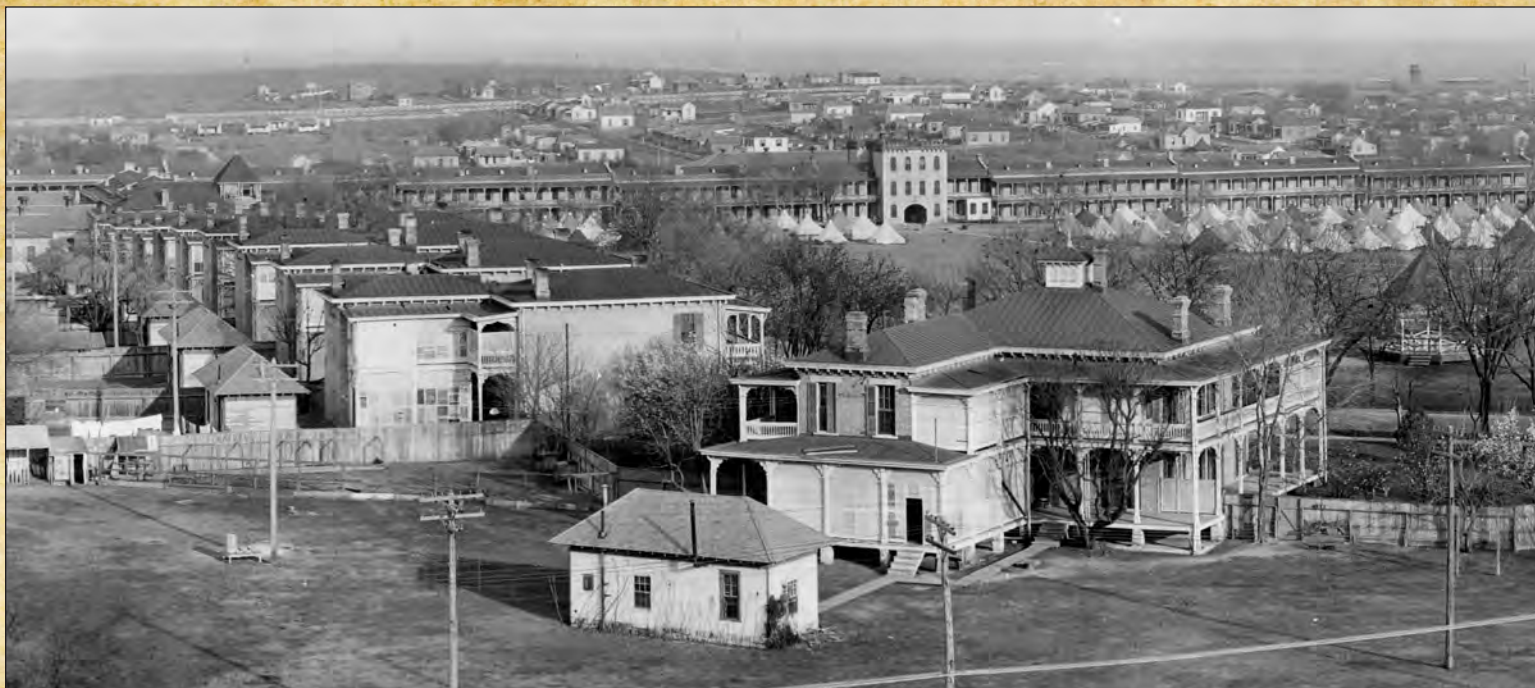


Standing at the porch of the Long Barracks is Sgt. Benjamin Bowen, who served with Light Battery F, 3rd Artillery. Bowen was promoted to 1st Sergeant of the battery in 1897 and remained with the unit until 1913 when he retired.

A panoramic view of the Long Barracks from across the parade ground in 1916 captures the 1,084-long structure and two 242-foot long wings of barracks at each end to form a shallow “U.”







A view from the Quadrangle tower in 1918 offered an excellent glimpse of the Long Barracks and Infantry Post.

THREE

The Infantry Post

With the emergence of the United States as a world power after the War with Spain, the Army was enlarged significantly. One of the new regiments, the 12th Cavalry, was organized at Fort Sam Houston in 1901.

Fort Sam Houston was designated to become a “brigade post” with more than two regiments of troops in the garrison. New construction between 1905 and 1912 would make Fort Sam Houston the largest Army post. This program would also allow the separation of the garrison units into discrete areas for each arm of the service — cavalry, infantry and field artillery.

In at least some of the barracks, the rooms formerly occupied

by the kitchen, the cook’s room, the mess room and pantry were eliminated. From these spaces, an additional squad bay the same size as each of the two bays upstairs was created.

The 9th Infantry replaced the 26th Infantry in the garrison in 1907. One of the officers serving with the 9th Infantry at that time was 2nd Lt. Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. He resided in Building 617.⁸ In 1910, the 9th Infantry departed the Infantry Post for the Philippines and was replaced by the 22nd Infantry. Typical garrison service during this period included guard duty and drill as well as field exercises at the new Leon Springs Military Reservation.⁹ The addition of machine guns to the infantry regiment brought change to

8. The street in front of this building was designated as Buckner Lane in 1998.

9. Starting in 1906, the War Department began purchasing land near Leon Springs for training areas and firing ranges. Previously, the Army had to borrow or lease land for such purposes.

the Infantry Post. To accommodate the gun carts, ammunition carts and draft animals for the four Colt-Maxim machine guns assigned to each regiment, some sheds and a stable were built behind the south end of the Long Barracks.

After the onset of Revolution in Mexico in 1910, garrison units performed periodic tours of duty along the Mexican border. In March 1911, a Maneuver Division was assembled at Fort Sam Houston ostensibly to conduct field exercises based on the new Field Service Regulations, using aircraft and the wireless telegraph to support maneuver units. The division was also in a good position to respond to events along the border.

The 22nd Infantry in the Infantry Post left its barracks for the nearby tent camp. During the Maneuver Camp, the units at the camp would march their troops to the Infantry Post to use

the bathing facilities. When the situation in Mexico stabilized in August, the Maneuver Division was disbanded and the 22nd Infantry returned to the Long Barracks. The Maneuver Division's experience did lead to improvements in the organization of the Army. In 1913, the 22nd Infantry Regiment was moved to Fort Bliss.

In August 1915, a hurricane and flood in Galveston, Texas, destroyed the military facilities there occupied by the 19th Infantry Regiment. The regiment was ordered to Fort Sam Houston and occupied the Infantry Post on Sept. 5.

Eight days later, Lt. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. Military Academy Class of 1915, arrived for duty with Company F, 19th Infantry and was billeted in Building 688, the bachelor officer quarters.



Cavalrymen and infantry make up the guard mount in front of the sally port, about 1895.

Lt. Dwight Eisenhower and Mamie Geneva Doud on the steps of Saint Louis College in San Antonio in 1916. By order of Maj. Gen. Fredrick Funston, Southern Department commander, Eisenhower was detailed to coach that college's football team.



On the Oct. 3, while he was leaving his quarters for a tour of duty as Officer of the Guard, Lieutenant Eisenhower was called over to the porch of Building 617 by Lulu Harris, wife of Maj. Hunter Harris, 19th Infantry. Mrs. Harris introduced Eisenhower to Mamie Geneva Doud, from Denver, who was visiting San Antonio. Ike and Mamie were married the following year, and she moved into his quarters on the Infantry Post.

Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus, N.M., on March 9, 1916, led to the dispatch of a Punitive Expedition into Mexico under the command of Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing. This in turn led to an expansion of the Army under the National Defense Act of 1916 and saw the new 57th Infantry Regiment formed from a cadre of the 19th Infantry, which included Lieutenant Eisenhower.

The National Guard of 47 states and the District of Columbia

was mobilized for border service and Lieutenant Eisenhower was one of the officers detailed to train the Guardsmen. The border crisis also sent one battalion of the 19th Infantry from Fort Sam Houston to the border.

The border situation was quickly eclipsed by the American declaration of war on Germany in April 1917. The 19th Infantry provided cadres for new units but remained at the Infantry Post until later in the war. As the wartime strength of units increased, some troops were billeted in tents on the Infantry Post parade ground. To train field grade officers for duties on regimental and division staffs, a Field Officers School was established at Fort Sam Houston.

Within the barracks, the number of rooms on the first floor of each barracks was further reduced by removing more walls, thereby



The open parade ground in front of the Long Barracks also made for an ideal baseball playing field.

A fatigue detail from Light Battery F, 3rd
Artillery behind the Long Barracks, Building
602, about 1895. Behind the details is the
band barracks.



increasing the billet space to 125 Soldiers. Typically, only two small rooms were retained downstairs as the orderly room and an office. All the remaining former mess rooms and kitchens inside the barracks buildings were eliminated.

There were numerous changes and additions to the Infantry Post after the First World War.

The Guard House over the sally port, rendered unnecessary by the 1934 construction of a post prison, Building 369, was converted into a regular barracks in 1935. In 1937, the upstairs rear porches of the barracks were enclosed to provide more billeting space in the barracks. A relentless windstorm in 1940 would severely damage the front porches on some of the barracks.



National Guardsman Private Joseph Hilscher, 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry at the barracks on Upper Post, is armed with the Trapdoor Springfield Carbine rather than the bolt action Krag-Jorgensen Carbine.



Cooks prepare turkeys for Christmas in the kitchen of Company L, 23rd Infantry, in 1934.

FOUR

Infantry-less Infantry Post

After war broke out in Europe in 1939, the United States took its first steps toward mobilization. As the draft began, the Army started to increase its strength. To accommodate the influx of troops, the Emergency Construction Program began. This program produced more than 500 temporary wooden structures — known almost universally as “World War II temporaries” even though most were completed before the end of 1941 — at the post.

The Infantry Post was spared any of this construction as newly assigned troops for the units in this area were accommodated in tents on the parade ground.

The completion of a major block of temporary barracks on post

allowed the 23rd Infantry to leave the Infantry Post in May 1941. The departure of the 23rd Infantry marked the beginning of the decline in the importance of the Infantry Post. Without a senior commander in residence, the Infantry Post lost an advocate. Other, newer areas of the post became the high-profile areas.

The stationing of a profusion of miscellaneous units continued throughout the war. Troops from the Headquarters Company, Third Army occupied the Long Barracks until 1944 when the Headquarters Company, Fourth Army moved in.

The Headquarters Detachment, Sixth Army, the Third Army Special Troops and the 4173rd Quartermaster Depot Company

variously resided in Building 646 and the two adjacent barracks. Part of Building 605 was briefly used as an Alien Detention Barracks in 1942 to house Axis civilians interned in the United States at the outbreak of the war until they were transferred to Dodd Field before being repatriated.

During the Second World War, there were many changes in the infantry-less Infantry Post. To create still more barracks space, all the remaining porches on the barracks were enclosed in 1942. This concealed or removed most of the distinctive decorative stone and wood on these buildings.

As modified, the barracks looked quite similar to the temporary barracks built in 1940. Some Soldiers who lived there were not aware that they were in a brick building. This visual loss of detail seemed to contribute to the decline of the area.



The porches and railing distinguished barracks 603 and 604 about 1935.



Enclosing the porches of the Long Barracks made these Victorian-era buildings resemble mobilization barracks used during the war in October 1948. During this time, the barracks were being considered for conversion into apartments for families.

The Long Barracks looked very much like the temporary barracks and just did not look like it was worth the upkeep. The enclosing of porches also planted the seed for future problems with the buildings as the porches were not designed or constructed to handle the increased load to which they were subjected.

The Long Barracks porches were enclosed to provide additional billeting space, which eventually led to structural problems.



FIVE

An 'Old Soldier' Fades Away — Almost

With the end of the Second World War, the mission of Fort Sam Houston changed from supporting a combat division in the garrison to serving as home for a medical training school.

Studies of post-war roles for Army installations had indicated that Fort Sam Houston no longer had sufficiently large training areas and firing ranges to support a garrison consisting of an infantry division. The organic firepower of a division was too great to be accommodated at Camp Bullis.

On the other hand, the post did have sufficient infrastructure to support a large garrison. To capitalize on this situation, Fort Sam Houston's mission would be changed. It would become the home

of Army medicine by eventually transferring most of the Army's medical training activities here. This began with the transfer of the Medical Field Service School in 1946 and the development of Brooke General Hospital into the Brooke Army Medical Center.

This change would have a significant effect on the Infantry Post.

The change in the mission of the post and the fact that a larger proportion of the post-war Army was married created an urgent need for additional family quarters and fewer barracks. The partial solution to meet the need for family quarters was to convert some of the numerous mobilization barracks on the post into apartments and to begin constructing three new family housing areas.



An aerial view of the Infantry Post in 1957, looking west, reveals 24 quadruplex family housing units that were built in 1948 on the Long Barracks parade ground.

In 1948, 24 brick quadruplex quarters were built on the Infantry Post parade ground. Eighteen of the quarters faced Infantry Post Road. Six in a row faced south and six north. Four faced west. At each end of the rows of six, one faced east toward the Long Barracks.

The intrusion of the new quarters on the parade ground surrounded by the original buildings of the Infantry Post was described as “giving the impression of an unmade bed or worn sheets with a pile of new clothes tossed into the middle.” Gone was the visual integrity of the site but, the needs of the Army for family housing had to be met.

Another blow to the appearance of the Infantry Post occurred in conjunction with maintenance and repair operations in 1950. The exterior red brickwork was painted over in a very light color

popular at that time. Many of the distinctive decorative details were being lost as the upkeep on the balustrades, post brackets and eaves brackets proved very expensive.

With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, the Infantry Post barracks and gymnasium were used as a reception center for new recruits and prior-service members who were recalled to active duty, known as “retreads.”

The 4006th Army Service Unit, an organized Reserve Corps unit, was mobilized to operate the reception center. In its first year, the center processed 30,000 recruits into the Army. The reception center headquarters occupied the sally port, Building B-613. Three Receiving Companies, lettered A, B and C, each occupied two barracks buildings.

Building 605 was used to interview, classify and test inductees.



During the Korean War, the Infantry Post barracks and gymnasium were used as a reception center for new recruits and prior-service members.





During the Korean War, more than 30,000 recruits were processed at the Long Barracks, which served as a reception center.

Clothing issue, medical exam, blood typing, inoculations and assignments were conducted in Building 615. Building 606 was used by the personnel section to handle insurance, savings bonds and allotments.

After the war, the barracks buildings of the Infantry Post were converted to other administrative uses. For quite a while after that, the Infantry Post was an area in search of a mission. Only a few miscellaneous units had been quartered there.

Most post information maps intended to point out key facilities or points of interest to newcomers in the 1950s and 1960s do not show any key facilities or points of interest on the Infantry Post. In fact, several of the information maps do not even show the Infantry Post. Engineer reports noted that the isolation of the Infantry Post reduced its suitability for troop use.

Plans to convert the barracks to family quarters or BOQs surfaced again in 1961 and 1962. In 1962, a notation was penciled in on a report that the officer quarters were “scheduled to be replaced by modern units” while the barracks were “not scheduled for retention.” The building numbers of the barracks were even changed to designate them as temporary buildings, such as T-607.

The installation’s Plan for Future Development dated Oct. 29, 1965, showed the entire Infantry Post replaced by new construction. The barracks were described that year as “run down through fair wear and tear.” Marginal notations on master planning maps as late as 1972 describe Infantry Post buildings as “existing but not to be retained.”

The recently formed Fort Sam Houston Historical Society had asked that the building be converted into a museum to save it from demolition but no reply to their request had been received from the Department of Defense. It took a literally last-minute telephone call to the assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Housing on June 27, 1968, to prevent demolition of this historic building.

The post then allocated about \$20,000 to convert the quarters into a home for the Fort Sam Houston Military Museum, which had occupied at least two other temporary locations in the year since its formation.

In the conversion, the ceilings in some of the rooms were covered with plywood, and florescent fixtures were installed in all the rooms. The building was saved and put back into use, but the threat to the rest of the Infantry Post remained.



With porches enclosed, the original windows and doors onto the porch of the second story were removed in this 1980 image of Building 602. This room retains the original pressed metal ceilings and early electric light fixtures. Duct work was added after the Second World War.



The 1953 barracks squad bay, which included pressed tin ceiling tiles, was configured with three rows of double bunks so that each squad room could billet 72 Soldiers.

SIX

Phoenix

The buildup of the Army for the war in Vietnam helped give the Infantry Post a new lease on life. Expansion of the U.S. Army Medical Training Center at Fort Sam Houston brought a 4th Battalion into existence in June 1966.

The Long Barracks at the north end of the Infantry Post was designated to receive elements of this unit, requiring major rehabilitation work to be performed in the area. The barracks were reroofed. The electrical, heating and plumbing systems were improved, and the latrines were upgraded.

The 4th Battalion headquarters moved into the old band building. Companies C and E moved into the barracks. Other

elements of the battalion occupied Buildings 615, the former consolidated mess, and Building 613, the sally port.

The 4th Battalion conducted a leadership preparatory course and the Modified Basic Training Course for conscientious objectors. The latter course produced 2,170 graduates in 1968 alone. These Soldiers lived in the northern section of the Long Barracks. South of the sally port, other medical units were billeted. At this time, the number of pay telephones in the area increased and reached a peak of 15.

The completion of a multi-million dollar barracks complex near the intersection of Garden and Schofield Roads in March of 1973

By 2001, the Long Barracks sat abandoned with windows boarded up waiting on a need for renovation and reuse.



permitted the relocation of the 4th Battalion out of the Infantry Post. At the same time, need arose for a new Army Reserve Center to replace the collection of temporary buildings at Dodd Field occupied by elements of the 90th Army Reserve Command. These Reserve units moved into the Infantry Post in 1974 starting with the U.S. Army Reserve Center (Medical) into Building 615. Other units followed, such as the Army Reserve's 321st Civil Affairs Group, moving into the barracks, buildings 601 and 602.

Meanwhile, Fort Sam Houston was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1975, recognizing more than a century of significant contributions to the United States. This status obligated the Army to maintain its historic buildings, including those on the Infantry Post, in accordance with standards established by the Department of the Interior.

But this was easier said than done as the landmark status did not automatically make any additional funds available to the post to overcome decades of deferred maintenance. The designation of Fort Sam Houston as a National Historic Landmark did focus the attention of private organizations like the San Antonio Conservation Society on the preservation of the buildings at Fort Sam Houston.

Despite some progress, the overall decline of the Infantry Post continued. One of the barracks, Building 611, was destroyed by fire in 1976.

In 1984, some of the medical training activities began moving back into the Infantry Post. The Academy of Health Sciences moved several clinical training courses and training development offices into the Long Barracks.

Several of the barracks continued to be occupied by Reserve

In 2001, the rear east-facing view of the Long Barracks illustrates the removal of porches with entryways boarded up.



component units and one unit of the Texas State Guard. The return of medical training and the presence of the Academy of Health Sciences meant the Infantry Post again had a major tenant and a general officer advocate.

Positive steps began to take shape as the result of a confluence of several trends and developments. The Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston Inc., a private, non-profit organization not affiliated with the Department of Defense but concerned with preserving Fort Sam Houston and its history, was organized in 1984.

It would serve as an advocate for preservation projects and had as one of its goals the rehabilitation of the Stilwell House. Closer coordination between Fort Sam Houston, the Texas Historical Commission and Texas State Historical Preservation officer and the

San Antonio Conservation Society began to focus effort and money on preservation.

The Department of Defense initiated the Legacy Resource Management Program. Its purpose was to promote, manage, research, conserve and restore the priceless biological, geophysical and historic resources that exist on public lands, facilities or property held by the Department of Defense.

As this series of developments focused effort on historic preservation, Fort Sam Houston came out from “behind the eight ball” to become a national leader in historic preservation.

In 1989, a Legacy Program Demonstration Project for parts of the Infantry Post was developed by the architectural firm of Komatsu/Wrangel Inc. The project outlined the rehabilitation of the Long Barracks, the Stilwell House and Building 611A. A

programmatic agreement for managing the maintenance of historic structures on the post was developed in 1991, along with an installation design guide to ensure new construction was visually compatible with historic areas.

The “Army Communities of Excellence” program, designed to improve productivity and the quality of life, addressed the preservation and promotion of cultural resources as one of its goals. For example, a historic building could be re-roofed with an appropriate standing seam metal roof because in the long run, it would be cheaper than several asphalt roofs. With this program, “historicalness” started being viewed as an asset rather than a liability.

The first Legacy Program grant of \$200,000 obtained by Fort Sam Houston in 1992 provided funds to design a project for the

revitalization of the Infantry Post. The rehabilitation of the three most significant elements of the Infantry Post — Stilwell House, Band Barracks and Long Barracks — was developed into a major preservation project.



A boarded up Long Barracks in 2008 awaits renovation and new tenants following decisions made by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton Jackson break ground at the Long Barracks ushering in the start of renovations in 2009. Also pictured are, from left, Lt. Col. Doug Kiser, Leroy Griffith, Lynn Christian, Gary Pinion and Staff Sgt. Gustavo Jackson from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Leisenring was the first MICC commanding general and Jackson was the unit's first command sergeant major.



SEVEN

Into the 21st Century and Beyond

In 2000, post engineers determined the enclosing of porches on the barracks and subsequent overloading of porches when the buildings were converted to administrative use was causing structural problems with the buildings. Consequently, the porches were removed and the windows and doorways were boarded up.

Consideration was again given to converting the buildings to apartments for junior noncommissioned officers, but nothing came of a proposal to convert the buildings in exchange for various tax credits in a public-private partnership. So the barracks remained idle and unused.

In 2005, the Department of Defense underwent the Base

Realignment and Closure process designed to reduce the overall cost of national defense by eliminating or consolidating military activities and installations. Under this process, it was determined that several major functions, units and activities would be moving to Fort Sam Houston, bringing a total of approximately 14,000 additional people to the post.

This influx meant that not only would there be major new construction but also that unoccupied space in historic buildings would have to be renovated to accommodate the new tenants. As a result of the BRAC, the Long Barracks as well as buildings 601 and 602 will be renovated.

Renovations to the Long Barracks got under way in September 2009 in preparation for it to serve as home to more than 300 members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command as well as other contracting entities on Fort Sam Houston.

Renovations to the Long Barracks cost approximately \$25.5 million and were completed by RKJ Construction of Lampasas, Texas, which has worked extensively with the Department of Defense and on other historic buildings on Fort Sam Houston.

The interior of the Long Barracks buildings were stripped down to wood to allow for replacement of all existing interior partitions, electrical wiring, plumbing, climate control systems and lighting fixtures. Their stairways, ceilings, wooden floors, structural roof members, interior and exterior doors and windows were repaired, refinished or replaced. Attention was also given to preserve the





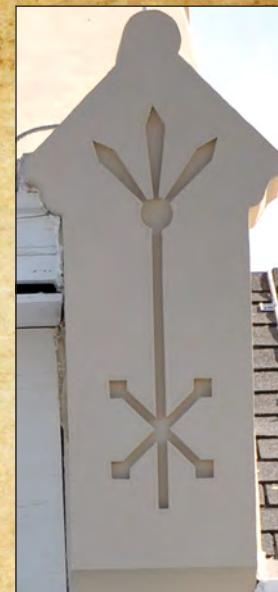
Above and on opposite page, extensive renovations to the Long Barracks got under way in September 2009 at a projected cost of approximately \$25.5 million.

same pattern of the original tin ceiling on a new dropped ceiling.

The barracks now serve as a contracting campus for the MICC headquarters, Mission Contracting Center-Fort Sam Houston and Mission Contracting Office-Fort Sam Houston as well as the 412th Contracting Support Brigade, which took occupancy of buildings 601 and 602 in early 2011. The contracting campus will serve as a hub for about 80 percent of all Army contracting organizations.

As a result of BRAC, the Residential Communities Initiative and efforts of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston Inc., the buildings of the Infantry Post are at full occupancy and well-maintained. At a quarter of the way through its second century, the Infantry Post is on its way to recovering its grandeur and resuming its proper place as an important and vibrant part of historic Fort Sam Houston.





This and opposite page, contractors completing renovations to the Long Barracks took specific measures to restore and preserve many of the historical features of the building.





Left and opposite page, the interior of the Long Barracks buildings were stripped down and renovated to allow for all of the amenities found in modern office buildings while preserving the historical exterior.



Courtesy Killis Almond & Associates

A rendering illustrates completed renovations to the Long Barracks that serves as the new home for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

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