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Historic Context Study: World War II and Cold War Era Buildings and Structures

Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama

FINAL REPORT

New South Associates
6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

COESAM/PDEI-00-003

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Report prepared for:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

-and-

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P. O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628

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Final Report prepared by:

New South Associates, Inc.
6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

J. W. Joseph, Ph.D. - Principal Investigator

Denise P. Messick - Historian, Architectural Historian and Author

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Denise P. Messick
Author and Historian

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I. Introduction

Project Location and Background

New South Associates, as a subcontractor to Tetra Tech, Inc., has been retained by the Mobile District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to prepare a historic architecture context study for Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama. The context is to include permanent World War II and Cold War era buildings and structures within the main post area. The purpose of this study is to help fulfill the responsibilities of Fort McClellan under Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and specifically to complete inventory for the purpose of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in late 1999 and beyond. Properties constructed at Fort McClellan prior to 1940 have already been evaluated in previous surveys. The current study has been prepared to provide a basis for the evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for structures completed since 1940.

Fort McClellan is situated on 45,680 acres on the west side of the Choccolocco Mountain Range in Calhoun County, Alabama, at the margin between the Piedmont and Ridge and Valley physiographic regions. Located nine miles north of U. S. Interstate Highway 20 on Alabama Highway 21, the former U.S. Army training post is also near the town of Anniston (Figure 1). The installation was most recently home to both the U. S. Army Chemical School and the Military Police Corps. Approximately 7,000 enlisted military police and chemical entry soldiers underwent training annually through the U.S. Army Training brigade. Additionally, the Military Police and Chemical Schools trained approximately 9,000 officers and non-commissioned officers each year through basic and advanced professional development courses. As the home of the Army Chemical Corps, Fort McClellan has been the site of the only known live agent chemical training facility in the world -- the Chemical Defense Training Facility (CDTF).

The U. S. Army Training Brigade was established in 1977 and included a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and four battalions. The mission of the Training Brigade was to conduct initial entry training that produces chemical and military police soldiers qualified in basic and military occupational specialty skills. The

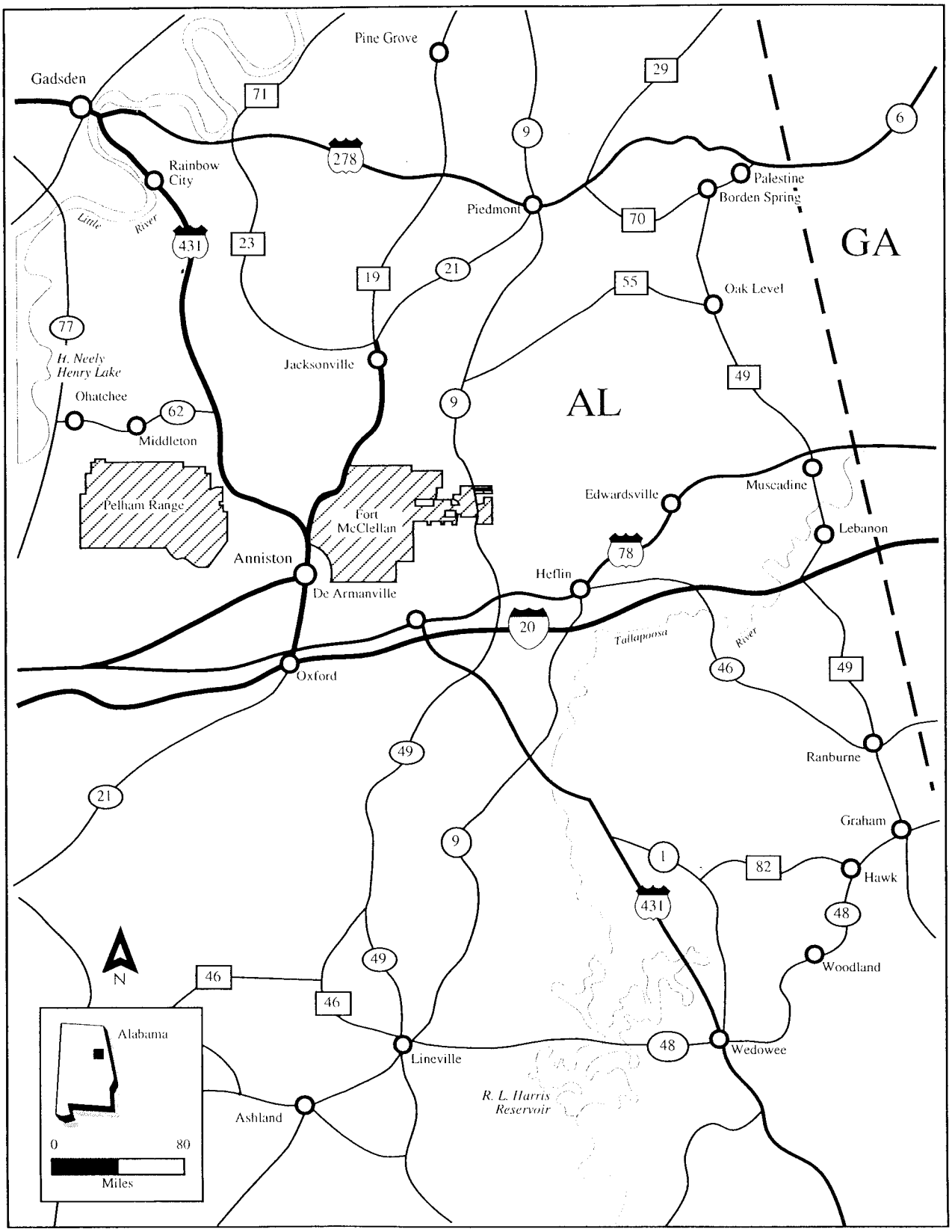


Figure 1
Project Location Map

process began at the 39th Adjutant General Battalion where civilian enlistees were received and processed for assignment to one of three training battalions. Each of these units, the 82nd Chemical Battalion, the 787th Military Police Battalion and the 795th Military Police Battalion, consisted of an HHC and four companies with the combined capability of processing more than 7,000 chemical and military police soldiers annually.

Fort McClellan was also a major multi-service training center. Over 1,100 U. S. Marine military police underwent their advanced individual training at Fort McClellan, along with approximately 250 Marine Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) specialists. The Navy operated its Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defense and Disaster Preparedness schools in conjunction with the U. S. Army Chemical School. Navy personnel also attended the Military Police Investigations course at the U. S. Army Military Police School. The Air Force recently trained approximately 1,000 airmen annually at Civil Engineer Readiness School at Fort McClellan. Fort McClellan also served as a training facility for U. S. Army Reserve and National Guard units supporting an annual cycle of approximately 37,300 soldiers. In 1998 the installation supported a military population of 5,500 service members and their families, as well as 2,500 civilian workers and their families. (Statistics in the previous three paragraphs were taken from the Fort McClellan home page, updated 01/06/99).

Fort McClellan began as a National Guard camp in 1917, in response to the entry of the United States to World War I. Other than landscape layout and some roads, there are few visible physical remains from this era. Additional construction took place in the late 1920s and 1930s, and three National Register eligible districts contain excellent examples of these pre-World War II buildings and structures. The next phase of growth involved a massive effort to train and house troops for World War II. Since much of this construction was temporary in nature, few permanent buildings remain from World War II. The fort was placed on inactive status from 1947 through 1950. By 1951 the post was reactivated to function as the home for the Army Chemical Corps School. Later, the Women's Army Corps Center and School and the Military Police School were also moved to Fort McClellan.

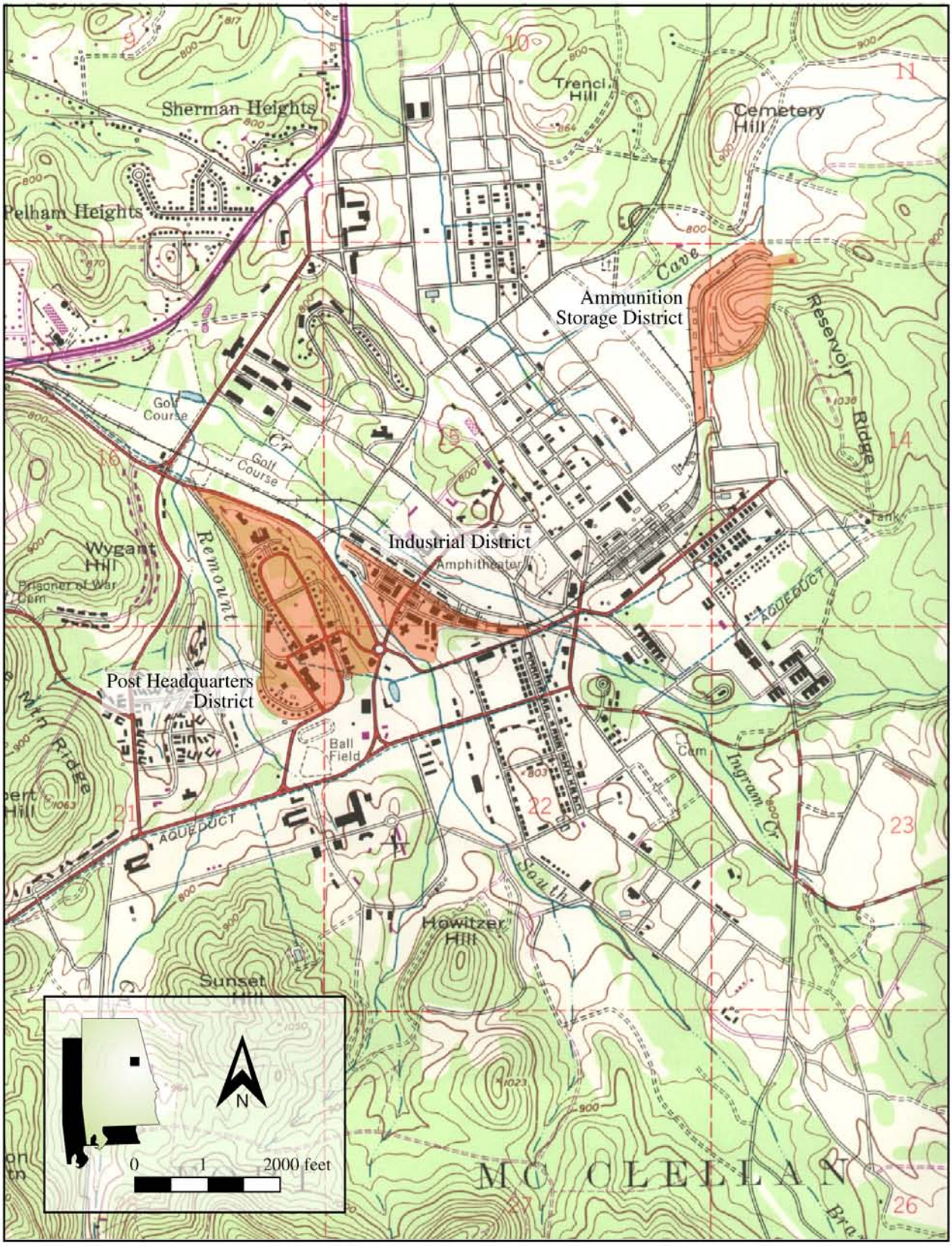
Previous Studies

A number of previous cultural resource studies have been conducted at Fort McClellan. Some examined only archaeological resources, and those will not be described in the following paragraphs. Several recent reports related to the above-ground built environment were prepared by New South Associates for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. *"The Military Showplace of the South," Fort McClellan, Alabama, A Historic Building Inventory* (Reed et al. 1993b) studied pre-1942 permanent construction and documented 123 buildings through historical research, photographs and floor plans. The Post Headquarters and Industrial areas were recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as districts showing well-preserved examples of 1930s military architecture and the application of city planning precepts, as well as for strong historical associations with the local community of Anniston. Seventeen more buildings that were inaccessible for the previous report were evaluated in a follow-up study, *Inventory and Evaluation of Seventeen Buildings* (Reed et al. 1994). Sixteen of these buildings were recommended eligible for the National Register.

Draft National Register nominations were prepared for the Post Headquarters District and the Industrial District (Messick 1994a, Messick 1994b). These were submitted to the Mobile District Corps of Engineers, but the districts were not officially nominated to the National Register. Another eligible district was later designated as the Ammunition Storage District (Reed and Messick 1995). While these districts were never listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the contributing buildings and structures within their boundaries are considered eligible for purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Figure 2 shows the location of the three eligible districts. Their contributing buildings are listed in Chapter III. The nomination forms are in Appendix A, B, and C.

Due to the proposed demolition of five historic ammunition magazines or igloos (buildings 4403, 4404, 4408, 4409, and 4414) in 1995, these were extensively documented according to Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Level 1 standards. A context study and description of each is contained in *Ammunition Storage: Early Twentieth Century Design and Context* (Reed 1995). Finally, New South Associates used much of the information in these and other technical reports, along with new research and historic photographs, to form the basis

for a popular report, *Fort McClellan: A Popular History* (Reed et al. 1996). This report explains the lines of evidence in interpreting the human past, and tells the story of the American Indian and pioneer settlement of the area, as well as the military presence on the site.



Source: USGS Quadrangle; Anniston, ALA., 1956 (PR 1972).

Figure 2
Eligible National Register Districts

II. Methods and Evaluation Criteria

Research Design and National Register Criteria

Historic resource surveys and their resulting inventories provide an important basis for planning decisions. In order to expedite compliance with federal regulations concerning the historic environment, it is necessary to determine what properties are significant in that environment. The federal agency's responsibility for completing cultural resource inventories is outlined in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Basic standards and guidelines for surveys have been published by the Department of Interior as part of the *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.* Additional guidance is given in National Register Bulletin 24, *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* (U. S. Department of Interior 1985).

The main purpose of the current study at Fort McClellan is to provide a context to identify all buildings and structures associated with World War II or those with Cold War significance, and to determine which resources are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), either as individual properties or districts. Once this evaluation is made, it will assist the Department of the Army in determining which properties to take into account when proposed projects may affect the area, as provided in Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The survey can also be used in long-term planning for land use and building programs, including leasing and transfer of property. While the inventory is an important first step, it is not a complete historic preservation plan. It is not within the scope of this project to present comprehensive strategies for preservation, rehabilitation or adaptive use.

The National Register of Historic Places is maintained by the National Park Service as the nation's official list of significant historic and prehistoric properties. This report will apply the criteria for evaluation according to the U. S. Department of Interior's National Register Bulletin 15. These criteria are also described as follows in the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60:*

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Generally, properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years are not eligible for the NRHP unless the nomination is able to support a claim of exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G (see Sherfy and Luce 1996). For this project, New South Associates did not systematically survey or evaluate any properties that are under 50 years of age, unless an established Cold War significance was found. This determination was made by reviewing the historical record and any pertinent documents regarding Cold War activities at Fort McClellan. Cold War significance is addressed according to guidelines established by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the U. S. Army. The DoD considers significant Cold War resources to include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts:

- that are directly associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are directly identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national pattern of United States Cold War history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained, or

- that are associated directly and importantly with the lives of persons <u>nationally significant</u> in the Cold War history of the United States, or

- that represent some great idea or ideal of the American people (e.g. Peace through Strength), or

- that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural, engineering, technological, or scientific type <u>exceptionally</u> valuable for a study of period, style, method, or technique of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Center for Air Force History 1994).

Evaluations are also made by reference to "Department of the Army Interim Policy for Cold War Era Historic Properties" (Department of the Army 1995) and *Thematic Study and Guidelines: Identification and Evaluation of U. S. Army Cold War Era*

Military-Industrial Historic Properties prepared for the U. S. Army Environmental Center (Lavin 1998). The latter report provides a national historic context specifically for properties associated with the Army's Cold War military-industrial theme, as well as guidelines for their identification and evaluation. According to Department of the Army Pamphlet 200-4, *Cultural Resources Management*, the following considerations apply to Cold War era historic properties:

> (a) The Cold War era extends from the "Iron Curtain" speech of Winston Churchill in 1946 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Properties that can attribute significance associated with this period are considered under the National Register Criteria of Exceptional Importance.
>
> (b) The Criteria of Exceptional Importance is applied to properties that are less than 50 years old in order to evaluate the National Register eligibility pursuant to 36 CFR 60.4. A Cold War property may have significance under National Register criteria A-D, due to association with major historical events or persons, technological or scientific design achievement, or as a fragile survivor of a class of properties. The significance of Cold War era properties may lie at the national level in association with military themes directly tied to the Cold War, or at the state or local level under other themes.
>
> (c) Examples of properties that should be evaluated for National Register eligibility in the military Cold War theme under the criteria of exceptional importance may include but not be limited to facilities associated with; nuclear weapons, research and development laboratories, testing and proving grounds, manufacturing, storage and maintenance sites. These types may represent the direct link between the U. S. commitment to defend its territory against Soviet expansion.
>
> (d) By contrast, base operations types such as motor pools, administration buildings, and housing are not normally types that would be considered exceptionally important under a nation-wide military Cold War theme since they were merely built during the Cold War era as part of the everyday operation of the Army and are not directly associated with the Cold War in strategic or tactical terms. However, such property types, in certain instances may have had such an exceptional impact on a state or locality that they could be eligible for the National Register under other state or local themes. . .

There are approximately 1900 buildings and structures at Fort McClellan that have been assigned an individual real property number. For purposes of this study, the contractor did not consider infrastructure items such as roads, sidewalks, fences, driving courses, utility lines or poles, flag poles, information signs, fuel storage tanks, sewer lines, pipelines, wells, antennas, cable lines, ramps, wash platforms, loading docks, or grease racks. Due to the large number of these facilities, the study also did not include individual landscape features such as parks, playgrounds, parade and drill fields, obstacle courses, firing ranges, confidence courses, running tracks, outdoor sports fields or courts, picnic pavilions or recreational shelters, swimming pools, bleachers or

grandstands, ponds, drainage fields or ditches, landfills, tent pads, trails, training bunkers, or other training facilities that do not include buildings or major structures. Excluding facilities in the above categories, Fort McClellan has approximately 120 properties that were constructed before 1940, plus 180 "temporary" World War II properties, 34 permanent World War II properties, 870 Cold War era (1946-1989) properties, and 40 properties constructed after 1989.

During mobilization for World War II large numbers of temporary buildings were hastily erected across the country from standardized Army designs. The majority of buildings constructed at Fort McClellan between 1940 and 1945 were temporary structures. In compliance with a 1986 programmatic agreement among the Department of Defense, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Army has completed a nationwide recordation program for its World War II temporary buildings. As a result these temporary Army buildings may be demolished without additional National Historic Preservation Act consultations. Therefore, the Fort McClellan World War II temporary buildings were not inventoried as part of this study.

The historic context and information from previous studies was used as the framework for applying the criteria for evaluation to specific properties or property types. Most potentially eligible properties in this study were expected to be significant under National Register Criterion A for their relationship to military mobilization and training at Fort McClellan during the years 1940 to 1945. The permanent properties from this era include ammunition storage magazines, warehouses, bridges, a former amphitheater, a sentry station, a studio, mess halls, a dispensary, a battalion headquarters, a National Guard headquarters, and a cemetery. These resources are evaluated with reference to the *Historic Context for Department of Defense World War II Permanent Construction* (Whelan et al. 1997). This report examines the history of World War II construction and provides a framework for identifying and evaluating permanent facilities using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. Historic contexts define properties by their historic rather than their current real property classifications. Buildings originally built as World War II temporary construction should be evaluated within that context and not within the context of this study.

The evaluation of historic properties at Ft. McClellan must take place within both the context of the fort itself and the history of military building programs. Potential research questions relating to these buildings and structures include:

- What was the basic layout and land-use plan of Fort McClellan? How has that changed over time, specifically from World War II to the Cold War era?

- How do the historic structures reflect the history and mission of Fort McClellan? What were their original uses, and how has that changed? What property types are represented? Are any significant in illustrating the historic context, as defined by the Scope of Work? Do they represent any important historical trends, or are any buildings specifically associated with important events or persons?

- Were any standardized military designs used, or did architects design unique plans for the structures at Fort McClellan? Who prepared the plans, how did the buildings look originally, and how do they relate to similar buildings and structures documented at other locations? (See Whelan et al. 1997.)

- How did the military meet the challenge of the fast-paced construction schedule at the beginning of World War II? (Temporary buildings will not be inventoried or evaluated, but their construction will be briefly discussed in the context study.)

- What are the character-defining features of the permanent World War II buildings or structures? How have they changed over time as they have been modernized or re-used for other purposes? Which have retained enough historic integrity to be eligible for the NRHP, either individually or as part of a potential district? (Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance through the retention of the property's essential physical characteristics from its period of significance.)

- Did Fort McClellan have direct associations with any critical events or persons during the Cold War period (1946-1989) "that possess exceptional historical importance to the Nation or that are outstanding examples of technological or scientific achievement," as defined in the 1994 DoD Legacy study and/or U. S. Army criteria? If so, what buildings or structures are directly related to these events or persons?

- Where are the NRHP-eligible resources located? Are there any other potential historic districts within the present boundaries of Fort McClellan, in addition to those that have been documented in previous studies? If so, where are the proposed boundaries and what properties should be included? What is the level of significance (national, state or local)?

Methods

The methodology for the field survey and research is partially described in the Scope of Work. Denise P. Messick served as the project historian for New South Associates. Field work was conducted from December 1998 through February 1999. The first task was to collect background data and review previous studies of the built

environment at Fort McClellan. These studies were described in the Introduction section (Chapter I) of this report. The project historian also reviewed current U. S. Army policies and historic context statements.

During the field work, New South obtained a complete property list and determined which buildings or structures were constructed between 1940 and 1945. The historian also collected the current real property cards on permanent buildings and structures that were constructed during World War II. This included approximately 34 properties, many of which have been surveyed or documented in previous studies and/or were already included in eligible historic districts. Five of the buildings now listed as permanent were found to have been originally constructed as temporary structures, and therefore not subject to this study. Only eight permanent buildings from World War II were found outside the eligible districts. There were also 15 World War II era bridges and a POW cemetery. These properties were located, documented, mapped, photographed and individually evaluated for National Register eligibility. Numerous roads, railroad tracks and electrical lines were also among the infrastructure dating to World War II, but these were only studied in a general sense as they related to the context.

It should be noted that many historic properties constructed prior to 1941, but utilized during World War II, have been documented in previous surveys. Three districts have already been determined eligible for the National Register, and their periods of significance extend through 1945. These are the Post Headquarters District, the Industrial District and the Ammunition Storage District (see Appendix A, B, and C). Each of these districts contains buildings or structures that were vital to World War II mobilization at Fort McClellan. Their current status was not re-evaluated for this study, since they were extensively documented within the past five years. For any World War II era buildings or structures that had not been fully evaluated previously, New South made determinations of eligibility according to applicable National Register criteria.

Historical research related to the Cold War period began with visits to the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Museum, the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Museum, and the Military Police Museum. The project historian collected information from the files of the curators at the Chemical Corps and WAC museums. Historians at the Chemical School and Military Police School were also consulted. The project historian then reviewed files at the Anniston-Calhoun Public Library and the Chemical School library.

Others at Fort McClellan assisted with information from their collections and/or names of possible contacts for oral history. While no formal oral interviews were conducted, numerous knowledgeable individuals did provide relevant data, as well as helping direct the focus of the study.

The project historian then developed information on four major training activities during the Cold War. These included the U. S. Army Chemical School, the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Center, the Military Police (MP) School, and Army Reserve and National Guard training. It was determined that the context study should focus on these four major areas of activity and the properties related to them. A review of real property lists and other documents then revealed that most buildings constructed during the Cold War period at Fort McClellan were either administrative or housing or other support facilities that were associated with Base Operations (Baseops). These types of facilities which have a mere temporal relationship with the Cold War do not qualify for consideration under the "exceptional significance" criterion. The literature search and property records were used to further narrow the focus of the study to exclude such facilities.

Due to the large number of Cold War era properties (over 870), it was not possible to do a complete inventory on individual structures, but properties were studied by functional groups. Maps and plans showing land use and major buildings related to the Chemical School, the WAC Center and School, and the MP School were created in order to create a context to illustrate these activities at certain periods in the history of the Cold War. Representative photographs were taken for the same purpose. Since National Guard and Reserve training was done in numerous buildings at various changing locations, as well as in the field, it was not feasible to illustrate this activity in a similar manner. The use of these facilities is discussed in the context. Finally, the "criterion of exceptional significance," as interpreted by applicable Army and DoD policy, was applied to these Cold War resources. For any properties thought to potentially meet this criterion, a more detailed physical inspection was made and more research was conducted. Two such facilities which were inspected were the Chemical Decontamination Training Facility (CDTF) and Building 3192 which formerly contained a radiological "hot cell."

III. World War II Overview and Evaluation

Synopsis of Pre-World War II History

The twentieth-century history of Fort McClellan is closely tied to that of nearby Anniston which was founded after the Civil War by the Woodstock Iron Company. Samuel Noble of Rome, Georgia, and General Daniel Tyler, a wealthy industrialist from Connecticut, set out to establish a model city, a progressive Southern town structured by industry. It was laid out on a grid plan on the valley floor adjacent to iron ore deposits. Trees were placed on major avenues to relieve the monotony, and parks were made part of the overall plan. The town was privately owned until 1883 and it enjoyed growth and prosperity until the depression of the 1890's. It began to actively look for ways to enliven its economy and, through pressure on influential members of Congress, was chosen as the location for Camp Shipp which occupied a site north of town on Blue Mountain from 1898 to 1899 (Gates 1978:141). By the time the reserve camp was closed, Anniston's iron making industry was being replaced by textile manufacturing and pipe making.

In 1912 Congressman Fred L. Blackmon made advances toward the War Department to spur interest in the Choccolocco Mountains as a range for artillery training. The federal government decided in 1917 to purchase the property north of Anniston. The acquisition was orchestrated by the Anniston Chamber of Commerce and, under the purchase agreement, farmers were allowed to work their fields through the summer of 1917. When the Army needed the land sooner than expected, the Chamber underwrote the crop loss.

The events of 1917 compelled the hasty construction of a National Guard camp. War was declared on Germany on April 6th and the Selective Service Bill was passed on May 18th. The Cantonment Division of the Army was mandated to have 32 camps ready by September 1. Camp McClellan was one of the chosen 32, a National Guard cantonment able to handle 27,152 soldiers. It was the first Southern installation named in honor of a Northerner, worse, the commander of the Union forces between 1861 and

1862. This challenge to Southern sensibilities was transcended in light of the economic boost the camp would inject into the town of Anniston.

In Washington a cadre of volunteers formed a Committee on Emergency Construction, with William Starrett as chair, to set up a building program. These men included industrialists, construction experts, architects and others who managed the complicated process of preparing typical layouts and plans. Charles L. Dulin was the Constructing Quartermaster placed in charge of Camp McClellan. Dulin chose the site of the new camp in the northwestern quadrant after completing a survey of the reservation which considered topography and geography (Dulin 1917). No towns or villages were displaced since the land use had been mostly agricultural. The area was fairly level, well-drained, and connected by existing roads to Anniston and Jacksonville. It was also closest to the tracks of the Southern Railway.

The World War I post was laid out in 26 blocks designated as areas, each performing a specific function and containing a set number of buildings. The layout of buildings within each block, particularly those devoted to housing the infantry units, was highly regimented. The positioning of the blocks was not quite linear and appears to have been dependent on the most advantageous way to use the creeks and topographical features of the site. The logistics of establishing this incipient city were laboriously orchestrated by Colonel Dulin as he struggled with water supply, finding laborers, dealing with labor strikes, and the scientific management of labor, road construction and heavy rainfall. Soldiers would be delivered by train, marched over fields and taken to a cleared area to begin constructing their camps. Only one-fourth of the materials used in the camp's construction was actually carried by rail to the site; the bulk were brought in by truck or wagon on the country road.

By November of 1917, all officers and enlisted men of the 29th Division, totaling 27,753 individuals, had arrived. Training at the camp was rigorous. Community relations were forged with the election of a town representative, W. P. Acker, to deal with the military. When the 1st Separate Negro Company of Maryland arrived, they were promptly introduced to the African-American community of Anniston to avoid the racial tension that occurred during the Spanish-American War (MacGregor 1981:7). By February of 1919, 1,534 buildings had been constructed at the division camp, plus 118 associated with the hospital, 28 built by military organizations, and 16 built by societies. The hospital was imposing, with single ward buildings aligned in four

columns and joined through walkways. The whole area was bounded by a circular street pattern and sited on an elongated knoll, ostensibly to ward off contamination and noise. This hill would later become the Post Headquarters area.

In the 1920s the incredible expansion of the previous decade was cut back, permanent construction was discouraged, and maintenance on a reduced budget became the Quartermaster Corps' primary mission. As the World War I camps began to fall into disrepair, the mood of the public began to swing in the direction of increased funding. In 1924 Secretary of War John Weeks submitted a long-range plan to Congress to replace temporary structures with permanent barracks, quarters, and hospitals and updated water and sewage systems. The Construction Service was awarded 126 million dollars by Congress between 1926 and 1930 and talented men were recruited to fill the ranks of the Quartermaster Corps.

Major General B. Frank Cheatham's vision of a new program of post development resulted in a period of successful and healthy growth which included Camp McClellan, now Fort McClellan by authority of a 1929 War Department order. Army Chief of Staff General Charles P. Summerall, who had negotiated the camp's purchase in 1917, was also influential in attaining its permanency as a Regular Army Post for one regiment of Infantry. Three infantry barracks were completed by February 1930 to be followed by quarters for officers and non-commissioned officers. Through 1932, 685 million dollars was expended by the government to construct mess halls, warehouses, hospital buildings, garages, and improvements to the National Guard Training Area (Lane 1955:12).

The intensity of the Depression halted further progress while military spending was curtailed in 1933. President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) to help stem unemployment. These programs and others which followed benefited construction at military posts across the country by channeling funds into relief programs which created and sustained work for the Construction Division. In 1936 and 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers constructed the Enlisted Men's Service Club, the gymnasium, assembly hall auditorium (Hutchinson Hall), the main post exchange, the officers' club now called Remington Hall, Silver Chapel, stables, garages, and numerous other buildings and structures ranging from coal trestles to warehouses to utilities, streets and lighting. Funds were also used to dismantle temporary structures

and to move and reassemble the housing known as the Rock Cottages to another site. New Deal programs defined and enhanced the post and provided work to the unemployed. In many ways the 1937 fort was a new and improved version of the 1919 camp. The layout of the permanent buildings was essentially grafted upon a site plan and design brought into reality in the haste of 1917. A strict grid arrangement was absent and streets and occupation areas conformed to the topography.

The 1930's post also benefited from the expertise of city planners, modern architects and landscape architects who were consulted and hired by General Cheatham to improve the beauty as well as the function of the new fort. George B. Ford's hand is evident in the plans of a score of other posts of that generation including Fort Benning in Georgia. Lt. H. B. Nurse (1928:15) gave the theoretical framework with which the posts were planned, citing five laws of design that are portrayed in nature: Unity, Consonance in Design, Diversity, Balance, and Radiation. Also considered were the three elements of Army posts: operation, administration, and housing. Buildings would be styled in one theme, surrounded by open spaces, and connected by broad main arteries and local streets of various plans and widths which followed natural contours. Plans were not simply generated in Washington, but each post commander and Corps Area Commander had an active voice in the planning process from the beginning. Posts would be divided into areas grouped by function and it was the planner's task to unify the whole. Ford was interested in creating an environment that would be a healthy place to bring up children. Cheatham also suggested that posts have individual programs for landscaping.

Barracks were usually among the first buildings constructed. During this period, these were typically three stories in height and 450 feet in length with a skeleton frame of reinforced concrete and an exterior finished in regional styles. Modern conveniences included up-to-date kitchens, lavatories and recreation rooms. When General Cheatham asked the wives of officers and non-commissioned officers about their housing preferences, they overwhelmingly endorsed single family homes. Interior arrangements and number of bedrooms were configured according to rank and were fairly standardized. A statutory limit was placed on how much could be spent on each type of house.

The Design Branch deemed Georgian Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival styles appropriate to certain regions of the country. While bases in New England

tended to have brick exteriors and slate roofs, stucco exteriors and tile roofs were more common in their Southern counterparts such as Fort McClellan. Climatic conditions were also considered. The updated installation was initially used by infantry units, ROTC units, National Guard units, and as headquarters for supervising 45 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the Southeast. By the 1940s Fort McClellan would be divided into at least five defined areas: the Post Headquarters Area, the Warehouse area, the Railhead area, the Hospital area, and the Magazine Area. Fort McClellan soon gained a reputation as the "military showplace of the South."

World War II Historic Context

The 1940s witnessed a second boom period for Fort McClellan directly hinged to world affairs. Asia was vulnerable to Japan's expansionism, France had fallen to Germany, and Great Britain was threatened. Delays in beginning mobilization evaporated as Roosevelt took steps to prepare for war. One hundred seventy-five million dollars were accorded to beefing up coastal defense works, updating arsenals, expanding existing military installations, and creating new posts. The Selective Service Bill of 1940 was passed on the condition that the draft would commence once proper arrangements were made for the draftees in terms of housing, sanitation, and medical care. Thus the need to house men, particularly draftees, was foremost and was needed proverbially "yesterday":

> The original timetable for housing Guardsmen and selectees was a construction man's nightmare. The schedule for the Guard camps was particularly rigorous. Counting from 9 September, the day appropriations became available, Hartman had from one week to three months to ready camps for the Guard divisions. Regulars and Guardsmen could rough it for a time, using field tents and latrines. But, Congress made it clear, draftees could not. Snug barracks, toilets, showers, heating, and electric lights would have to be available when they arrived. In other words, camps would have to be virtually completed (Fine and Remington 1989:199).

Hence, a new era in "best practice" in caring for America's military had arrived much like the progress garnered during World War I, and immediacy was once again key. The first camps to be prepared within this "construction man's nightmare" were Forts Jackson, Lewis, Dix and Sill. McClellan was placed within the second tier of forts to be ready by October 15, 1940. Many of the 18 sites were newly selected, unlike McClellan whose military association dated to 1917. Mobilization construction plans

were guided by five principles: speed, simplicity, conservation of materials, flexibility and safety (Wasch et al. 1993:25).

In order to maximize the scarce resources of time and material, the military used temporary construction wherever possible, especially for troop housing and training facilities. Since Fort McClellan was a training camp, the vast majority of its new construction during World War II was temporary in nature. However, selected buildings and certain types of activities required more substantial permanent construction. These included industrial facilities such as water or sewage treatment plants or heating plants/boiler houses; research and development facilities that required specialized or sterile laboratory conditions; and storage facilities for volatile or perishable supplies. At Fort McClellan permanent construction included bridges, cold storage warehouses, some administration or headquarters buildings, certain facilities for officers, an amphitheater, and a number of igloo-type ammunition bunkers. These ammunition magazines were low-scale, earth-bermed concrete structures designed with the latest safety features.

For the new camps, "typicals" were used to formulate layout. The typicals were a codification of prior experience in camp layout, as well as current improvements in design published by the Quartermaster's office. Architects and engineers would then work to suit the typical to local conditions :

> Incomplete and tentative, the typicals nevertheless served as good working guides. From them the engineers quickly ascertained the Army's principal requirements. Every unit, large and small, would remain intact. Companies would be grouped into battalions and battalions onto regiments. Regimental areas would adjoin a central parade ground. Hospitals would be in isolated spots, away from noise and dirt. Storage depots and motor parks would be near railway sidings or along main roads. To prevent the spread of fire, one-story buildings would be at least 40 feet apart; two story buildings, 50 . . . Showing grid platted streets and straight rows of buildings, the typicals envisaged a quadrangular arrangement (Fine and Remington 1989:208).

The typicals were widely changed to suit local conditions and also to suit the dictums of the Corps area commanders. The typicals were probably also helpful to planners involved with expanding older posts such as Fort McClellan. The company group typically had three barracks, a mess hall, a storehouse and a recreation building. The regimental group had additional buildings such as administration, infirmary, cold storage, garage and fire house. Regimental groups were separated by 250-foot fire breaks (Wasch et al. 1993:35).

A "Master Plan" dating to 1946 shows the World War II expansion of the main base area since 1937 (Figure 3). The 1946 map shows the careful evolution of functional areas, namely the Post Headquarters, Warehouse, Hospital, Railhead, and Magazine Areas. The areas which housed the troops remained situated as they were in 1937, albeit with more buildings. As discussed in the quote above, units remained intact within their separate camps; these areas are denoted numerically as 10, 12, 13, 5, 6, 8, and 14-20. Their autonomy was insured by the presence of adjacent mess halls, service clubs, and theaters. The sewage disposal plant, incinerators, post dump, cemetery, and magazine area were placed at some distance from the main post for sanitary considerations and for safety. A "Civilian Village" was added between 1937 and 1946, and this residential zone was laid out similar to the post command area. A traffic circle was also added by the firehouse joining the "Middle Gate Road" (now Baltzell), 15th Street, 20th Street, "South Gate Road," and Post Headquarters Road. Significantly, the base plan still retained the overall look of the 1917 camp, with the main areas still clustered around the railroad spur while the battalion areas remained in block formation stretching to the north and south.

Standardization in building design was practiced in World War I but truly refined during the Second World War. The expansion of the portfolio of temporary or wooden structures needed to house the army of World War II was the responsibility of the Quartermaster Corps. This entailed not only the composition of standardized plans for barracks, but also all the other buildings needed to care for the newly inducted soldier. Mess halls, hospitals, bakeries, laundries, storehouses, shops, administration buildings, recreation halls, post exchanges and theaters were all part of the inventory of designs created by the Quartermaster's staff. The evolution of the 700 Series, the 800 Series, and later the Modified Theater of Operations Series and the T. O. 700 series, is thoroughly explored in *World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Plan: A History of 700 and 800 Series Cantonment Construction* (Wasch et al. 1993).

Since both the 700 and 800 series buildings were developed before the country went to war, the designs were not as limited by the material and financial shortages which characterized the war years. The quintessential barrack of the 700 series was built in great numbers at Fort McClellan. The two-story frame building was 29' 6" wide and 80' long, and able to accommodate 63 men (Plan No. 700-1165). It stood on concrete or masonry footings, except for the internal showers and lavatory which were on a concrete slab at the end of the barrack. Windows were usually double hung with

Source: Fort McClellan DEH

Figure 3
Master Plan, 1946

six-over-six or eight-over-eight lights. Both first and second story windows were topped by a continuous eave known as an "aqua media." Chimneys, constructed of brick at the base and steel at the top, were located four feet from the interior wall. The wood frame roof was sheathed with a mineral-surfaced roofing material.

Standardized plans were like recipes in which various ingredients could be shuffled to produce a variation on a theme. Electrical, heating and plumbing details were identical for many building types, and structural plans were similar. The core of each company's physical organization included mess halls, administration/storehouses, recreation rooms and barracks. At the division level, there were even standardized plans for chapels. Although the cantonments were designed and constructed to meet the demands of expediency, they were also able to incorporate technological advances that had become standard by the early 1940s. Thus the "citizen soldiers" of World War II could get the comforts that many Americans now expected.

At Fort McClellan and all over the country, a large percentage of these "temporary" buildings outlasted their planned usefulness. From 1940 to the present, millions of American soldiers "passed through these buildings on their way to the battlefields of Western Europe, the South Pacific, Korea, and Vietnam" (Wasch et al. 1993:3). Figure 4 shows examples of these type of buildings at Fort McClellan that are still standing, but no longer in use. At least 40 one- and two-story temporary barracks, plus dining facilities and other related structures, still exist from the period 1940-43.

Both permanent and temporary construction took place at Fort McClellan in the 1940s to accommodate the 27th Division. This phase of construction was accomplished with 6.5 million dollars in federal funding. Two firms shared the McClellan contract for the projected construction: the Dunn Construction Company of Birmingham and John S. Hodgson of Montgomery. The policy set by the Quartermaster's Office was to hire local/regional firms capable of meeting the standards set by the government. Size and workload were two important criteria in the selection. Engineering skill was provided by an Atlanta firm, Weidman and Singleton, and supervision for all was supplied by Major Samuel C. MacIntyre (Lane 1955:15). An article in the *Anniston Star* (March 31, 1946) stated that the majority of the men of the 27th lived in tents until the summer of 1942 (Figure 5).

War Department construction, both temporary and permanent, was concentrated during the first years of the war. By December 1942, 85 percent of all World War II military construction was complete (Whelan et al. 1997). Lane (1955:15) dates the completion of the preparations of the fort for the 27th Division to February 10, 1942, but notes that the fort was adequately prepared for the troops' arrival by January 1941. Overall, this generation of buildings was constructed during the tenure of Commanding Officer Colonel John L. Jenkins. The improvements made included 47 miles of paved roads, 27 miles of unpaved roads, 27 warehouses, 9 igloo magazines, 12 shops and a small foundry, school buildings, a cold storage facility able to handle the needs of 40,000 individuals, sewage facilities to handle 50,000, a general hospital, new cantonments, 3 dormitories for civilian workers, 4 swimming pools, 2 libraries, service clubs, guest houses, 200 dayrooms, 3 bowling alleys, 5 theaters, and an amphitheater with a 12,000 person seating capacity (Lane 1955:25).

The large size of the hospital (1,728 beds) mandated the construction of numerous covered walkways to negotiate the entire facility. It consisted of a series of one-story wards resembling temporary barracks (Figure 6). None of these buildings still exist. The outdoor amphitheater was completed in June 1943, and named the Monteith Amphitheater in 1945 (Figure 7). It saw a host of musical and theatrical performances and exhibitions. By the close of the war, 17 million dollars were expended to further this generation of construction.

In addition to the buildings constructed during this period, the Fort was expanded to the east and west to provide more advantageous training facilities for the 27th Division. A 22,168 acre tract, now known as Pelham Range, was purchased for $675,000 and was used for artillery, tank, and heavy mortar firing and as a bivouac area (Lane 1955:21-22). The area was originally known as the Morrisville Maneuvering Area. This purchase would entail the relocation of 200 families associated with the town of Peaceburg as well as a number of homesteaders who had farmed along Cane Creek and its tributaries. To the east another corridor of land, totaling 4,160 acres, was acquired to connect the post with Talladega National Forest, allowing the military access to the forest for training maneuvers. A final area of expansion was the establishment of a munitions dump to be constructed by Dunn Construction and John S. Hodgson and Company in the vicinity of Eastaboga and then connected via highway with Fort McClellan.

Figure 4
Extant Examples of W.W. II Temporary Construction

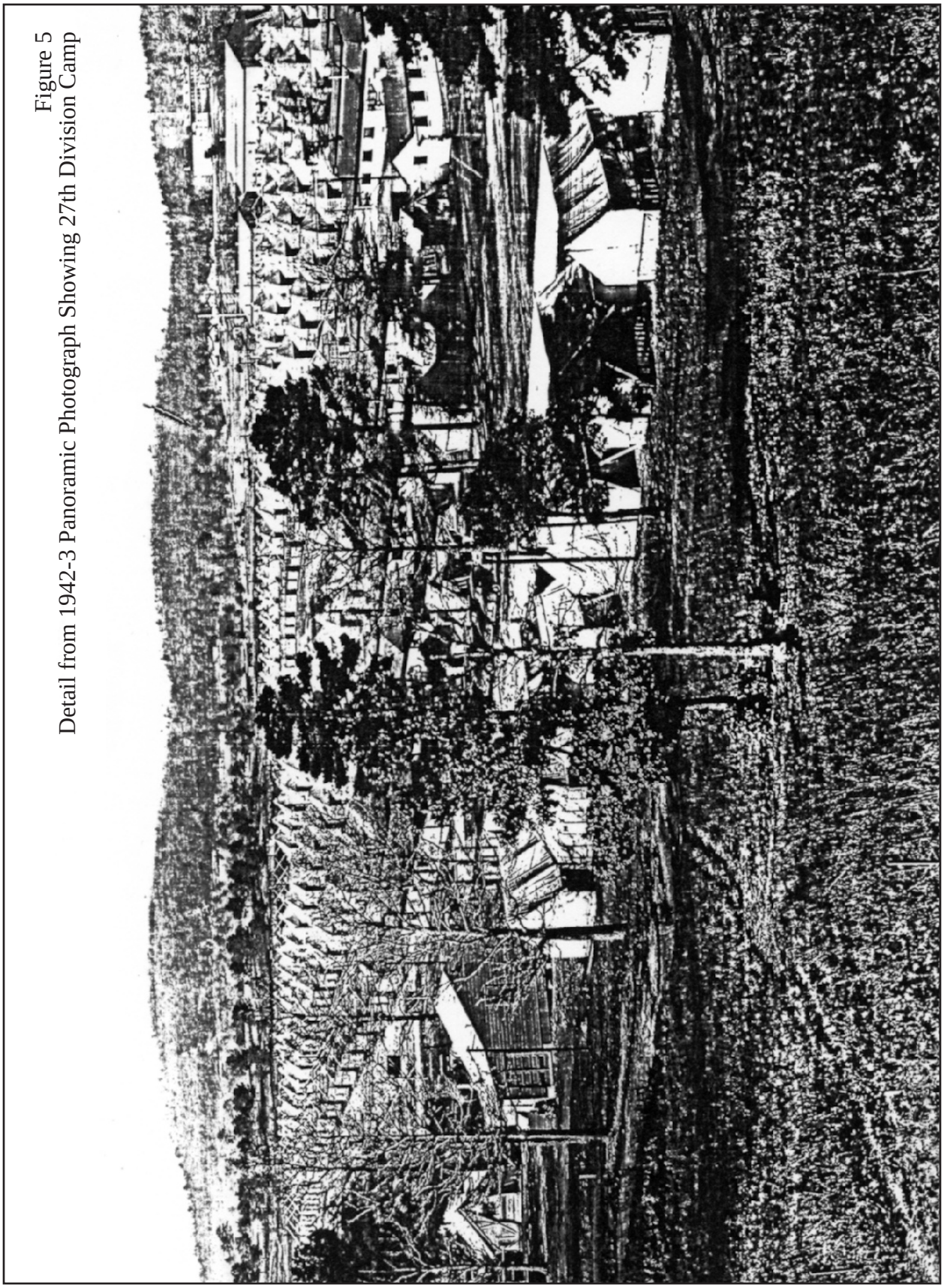


Figure 5
Detail from 1942-3 Panoramic Photograph Showing 27th Division Camp

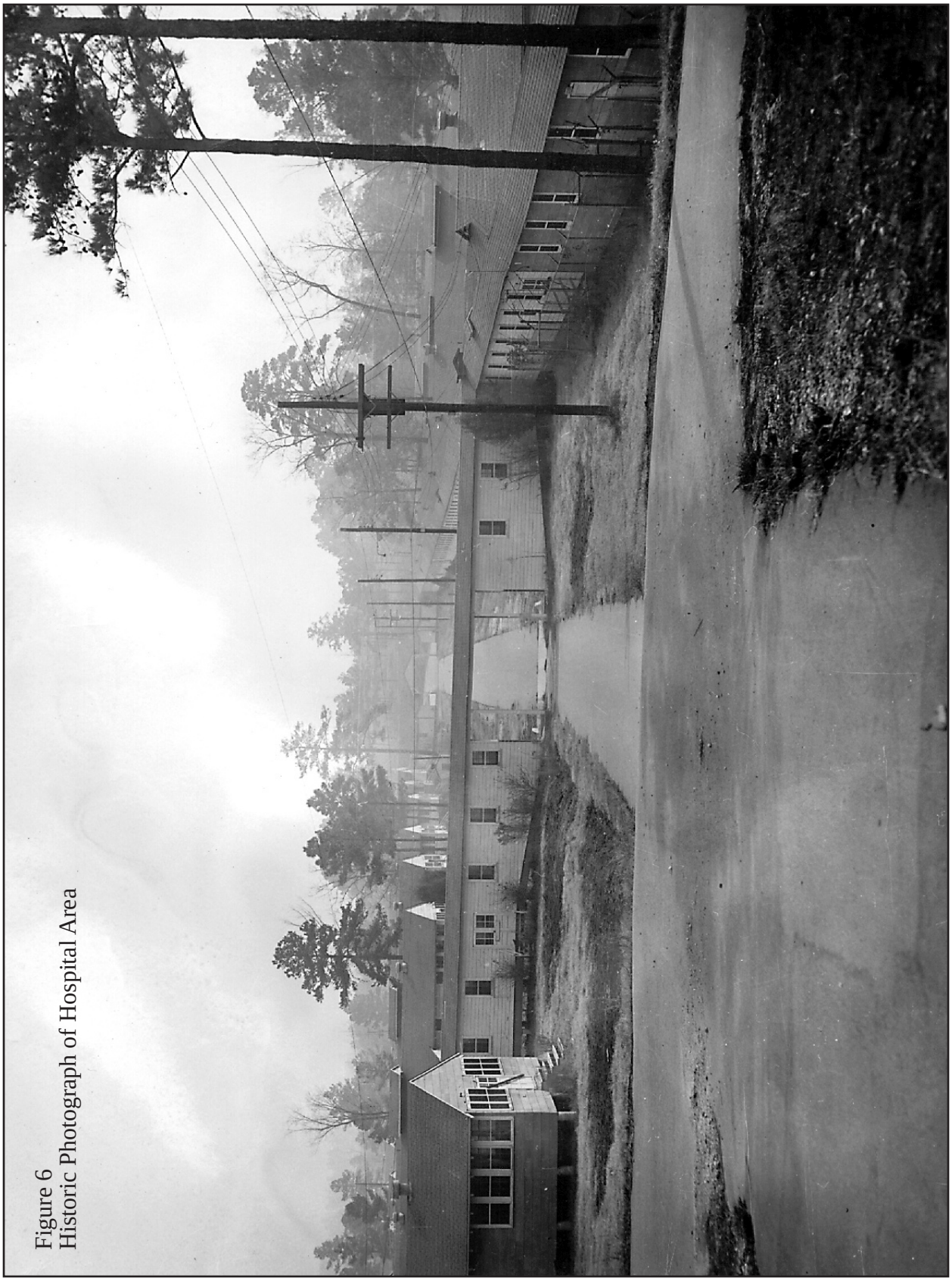


Figure 6
Historic Photograph of Hospital Area

Courtesy, Fort McClellan.

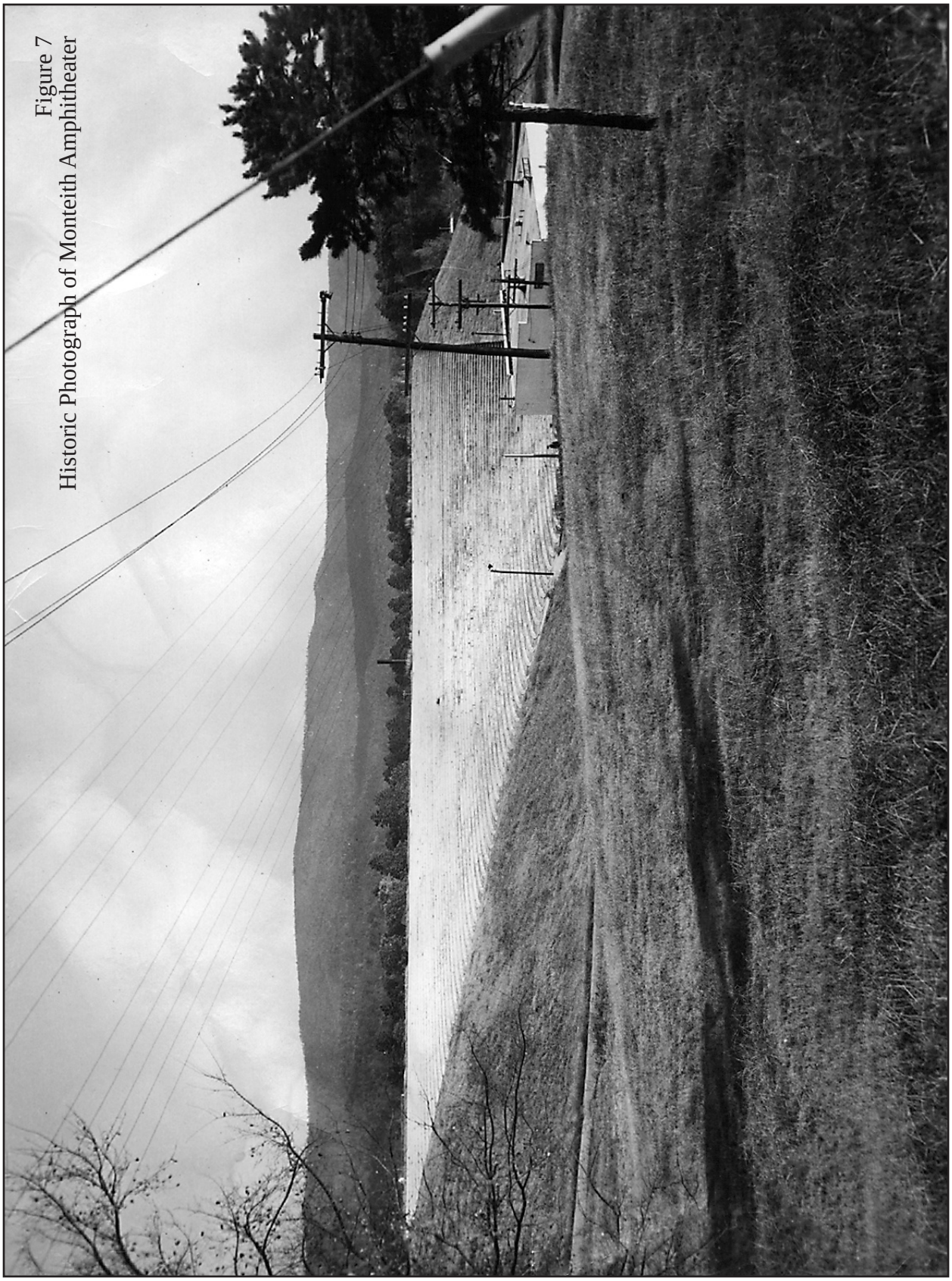


Figure 7
Historic Photograph of Monteith Amphitheater

Courtesy, Fort McClellan.

The 27th Division, a National Guard unit from the state of New York, was the first to enjoy the expanded post. The division, composed of 1,200 men and officers, was lead by Major General William N. Haskell. Their training, devised by the War Department, was staged in three levels. The first entailed a 16-week basic training, followed by combat training on a division level emphasizing cooperation between infantry, artillery and air corps branches. The final phase was devoted to actual field maneuvers involving the operation of division, corps, and armies.

The success of the first phase of training was actually tested at Fort McClellan. The test was conducted and watched by several high-ranking military officials. Major General Frederic H. Smith, Commanding General, VII Corps conducted the test while Lt. General Lear, Commanding General Second Army and Major General Leslie McNair, General Headquarters, Washington DC were observers. As it was the first test of its kind for the National Guard units, the testing process took on national significance. The 27th passed admirably, beginning the more detailed training within the set regimen. The field maneuvers involved in the last stage of training were held in Tennessee where the participating armies met in battle (Lane 1955:18).

As the 27th Division began to settle into the local environment, they and the city of Anniston began and continued to have a close and harmonious relationship. Articles published in the *Anniston Star* in 1941 herald the return of the 27th from maneuvers and announce a public dance held in their honor on Main Street, exclaiming happily, "A Yankee Army will invade Anniston tonight." The Anniston Chamber of Commerce sent individual invitations to Anniston women, and special cars were hired to ferry women from Birmingham Southern College and Jacksonville State Teacher's College to the gala (*Anniston Star*, October 8, 1941). Vaudeville shows and boxing events were also scheduled to hold the interest of the servicemen. Churches provided clubrooms for the soldiers. There was, however, some concern about the spread of bootlegging and roadside "honky-tonks" in a county that was dry (*Anniston Times*, August 6, 1941).

The rapport between Anniston and the 27th Division was interrupted after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The 27th Division was ordered to an "unknown destination" on December 19, 1941; they arrived in Hawaii on May 21, 1942. The 27th fought in the Pacific theater of war until 1945, and participated in the occupation of Japan.

The Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center (BIRTC) replaced the 27th Division at McClellan. Arriving on January 15, 1942, the BIRTC was one of two of its kind within the early days of mobilization and was actually an experiment in training centers. Basically, recruits received eight weeks of basic training including rifle marksmanship; close and extended order drill; field hygiene and sanitation; care of equipment; military courtesy and discipline; and defense against chemical, air and mechanized attacks. At ease with this set of military information, the recruit would then be sent to combat units for training or to a special branch of the Army if their civilian skills warranted such a selection. In 1943, the BIRTC was replaced by the Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC). The major change was the elongation of the training period to 17 weeks with combat training conducted within the last eight weeks.

Lane (1955:23) notes that during the first months of IRTC's existence, troops were sent to additional combat training areas after their training at Fort McClellan, but once the program was more established, trainees were sent immediately into combat positions. The training they received while at McClellan included infiltration courses, training within simulated urban areas, and overhead artillery fire, as well as experiencing the movement of tanks over foxholes built by the trainees. Geared toward war within the European theater, the accouterments and tactics taught changed after the end of the war with Germany. How to prevail over the site-specific problems of the Pacific theater took precedence, and training courses in tropical diseases were held. A final transformation of the program took place at the close of the war when it began to prepare the soldiers for occupation duty rather than combat. IRTC was phased out at Fort McClellan in 1946 when it was replaced by the Recruit Training Center (RTC).

After the leave-taking of the 27th Division, Fort McClellan had the distinction of acting as headquarters for the 92nd Infantry Division, the Army's second African-American Division. October 15, 1942 marked their activation under the command of Major General Edward M. Almond. Lane (1955:25) reports that 6,500 men were trained at McClellan from the 92nd, while others from that division were trained at Camps Robinson, Atterbury, and Breckenridge. Both the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Division were survivors of front-line combat during World War I. Moreover, the 93rd was noted as serving with distinction with the French forces (MacGregor 1981:7). Despite this track record, the Army still held rigidly to a segregationist policy, a legacy of World War I.

However, this policy came under fire as civil rights leaders began to take the Army to task. World War II brought into focus many of the stumbling blocks in the path of integration. The White House, civil rights groups and the military entered into a debate over how to enable the black soldier to participate fully within the American military.

Regardless of the talk at the top of the political and military hierarchy, most African-Americans who served during World War II would be housed and taken care of in "separate but equal" facilities. "There were no special drawings for black housing, although 'from a morale standpoint, it [was] believed highly desirable to house all colored troops in one area.' In the South, segregation was accommodated by adding separate toilet facilities for blacks in theaters" (Wasch et al. 1993:22). The impact of this policy at Fort McClellan is not visible on the 1946 map and the only map showing marks of a segregationist policy is a "General Map showing the BIRTC Area" which locates a "colored cafeteria." However, this may have been used by civilians who worked at the fort, rather than military personnel.

The men of the 92nd remained at McClellan until 1943. They were first moved to Arizona, then later ordered overseas to the European theater of war where the division fought in both the North Apennines and the Po Valley campaigns in Italy. The 92nd Division was deactivated in 1945 (Lane 1955:25).

Other groups housed on the post included the station complement which tripled in number during the War. In addition, the post complement embraced two detachments of Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), later redesignated the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The first detachment was white, the second group black. The women in these detachments acted in administrative and clerical roles at the Post Headquarters; handled the Post motor pool; and worked in the bakeries, service clubs, mess, and supply (Lane 1955:25). Women in the corps were afforded housing considered "separate but better" than that given to male soldiers. The essential WAC barracks was a converted Theater of War (T.O.) barracks. The plans involved either remodeling existing enlisted men's barracks or using new drawings.

> Female occupancy was accommodated by the installation of toilet partitions and doors; the subdivision of showers and hanging of shower curtains; the hanging of window curtains; the construction of a closed corridor from T. O. buildings to latrines; the inclusion of laundry tubs and ironing boards; replacing fire escape ladders with stairs; and adding a beauty parlor to the company group. In addition, women's housing was located at least 50 yards from the nearest men's housing. (Wasch et al. 1993:22)

The Prisoner of War (POW) camp established at Fort McClellan in June of 1943 also figures significantly into the history of the fort. Initially the United States had agreed to handle 50,000 prisoners stationed in England, but with the North Africa campaign ongoing, camps were needed to accommodate a greater number of prisoners. By May 1943, the Allies had cleared the Germans from North Africa. The thirty POW camps built in 1942 in the United States were soon followed by others (Walker 1988:21). World War II was the only war in which such large numbers of foreign nationals were held as prisoners on American soil. At the end of World War II, more than 400,000 Axis prisoners were in detention in over 500 scattered camps. Many were in the South and Southwest to take advantage of climate and provide replacement workers for the many rural laborers who were serving in the military. Alabama alone was home to more than 15,000 prisoners in four base camps across the state (Walker 1988:4-5).

Standards for POW housing were generally governed by the Geneva Convention of 1929. POWs were not to be confined in cells or within their barracks, but in enclosed stockades. Facilities were to be sanitary, healthful and adequately heated and lighted. Standardized plans used for POW barracks were similar to those used for military troops, except that they had separate latrines and bathhouses. "Each facility contained prisoner barracks, guard barracks, administration buildings, a warehouse and utility area, hospital compound, and a recreation area all within a stockade guarded by watch towers" (Wasch 1993:22).

McClellan's POW camp was completed in May 1943. Established west of the Headquarters area and south of "Middle Gate," the camp was designed with a standard layout for a POW camp for up to 3,000 individuals (Provost Marshall General, 1941-1945). The camp was laid out in three compounds, having rows of barracks in each section to accommodate 12 companies. The camp was essentially self-contained, featuring kitchens, orderly rooms, dayrooms, dispensaries, a library, a reading room, chapel, open air stage and athletic fields (Lane 1955:28).

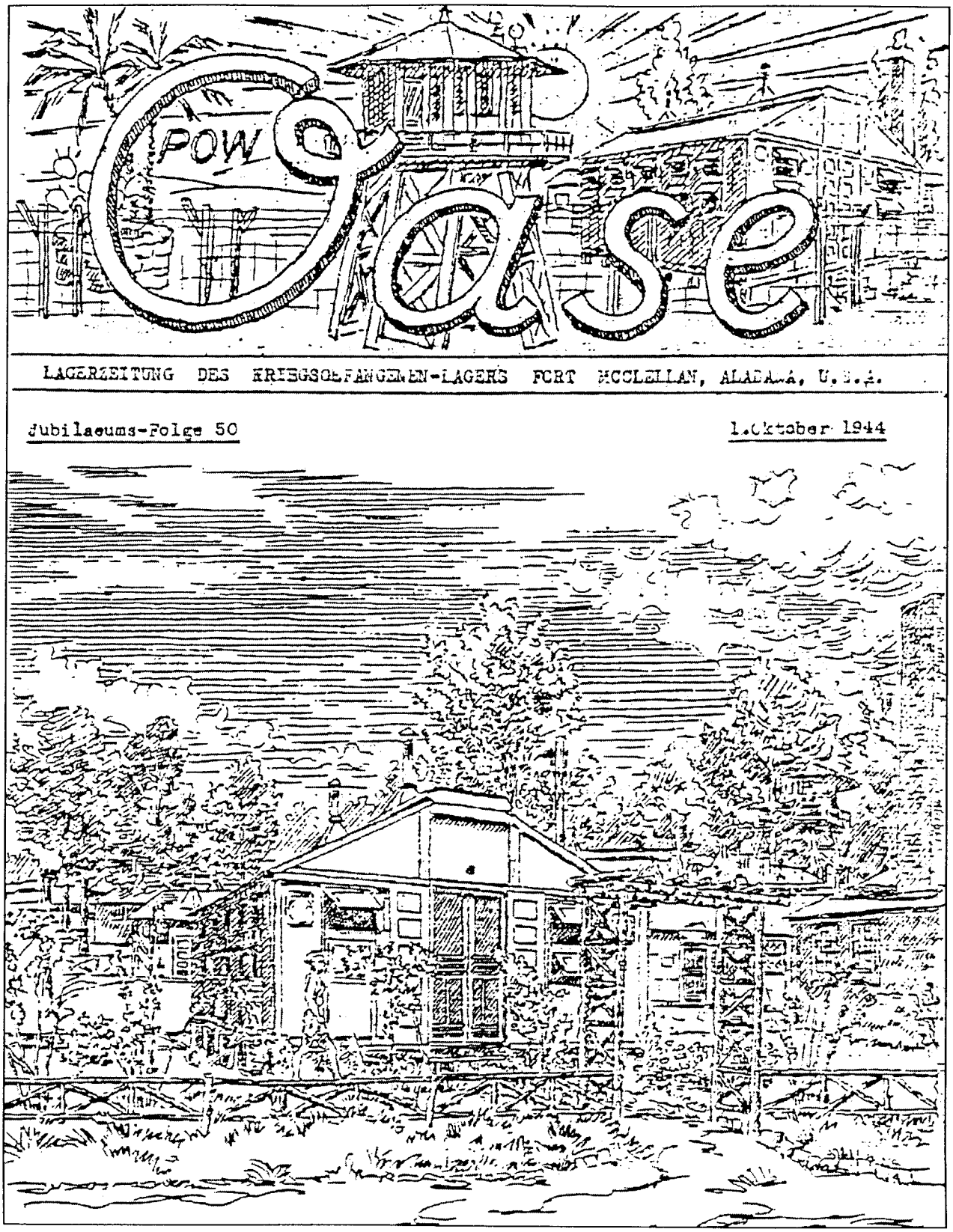
Shortly after receiving a complement of prisoners, the camp was visited by Captain Edward Shannahan of the Provost Marshall's Office. His report noted the presence of two officers and 3,002 enlisted men who were housed in barracks or "Caribbean type buildings,' measuring 20 feet by 40 feet. Twenty men inhabited one

barrack. A similar inspection occurring in July 1945 enumerated seven officers, 889 non-commissioned officers and 1,650 enlisted men.

Edouard Patte, a Red Cross inspector, visited the camp on December 11, 1944 and described the following activities of the imprisoned men:

> I had the most interesting conversation with Lt. Col. Schmidt, who controls the large POW camp and the only sub-camp left. Since my last visit 4 barracks were set aside as art studios. Within them are working a few painters, sculptors, toy-makers and handicraft addicts who do some commendable work. Those little studios with self-made benches, old canvas frames, tin cans full of red, blue, yellow, black and white, with paintings of European landscapes, of marines, of winter scenes, of still nature . . . you will find amidst them sincere artists who have found painting, drawing, and sculpting the best outlet for their inner force.
>
> With great understanding Col. Schmidt has helped those men in setting some space, in ordering materials and equipment, and in attempting to secure in the various canteens of the Fort a ready market for the finished work. Weaving, leather work, wood carving absorb the time of 120 men in special workshops . . .
>
> I had at the end of my stay at the Fort a most unusual experience in visiting the attractive little zoo, built by a POW who had been a circus attendant in Germany. After having been taken to the Airarium where beautiful birds of all colors and shapes - 38 different species - were kept, I was given for a few minutes a handful of snakes, half asleep, cold, black, silver, gray, brown. I must confess my preference for handling other animals. Then, as long as the alligator and the turtles were hibernating and therefore not ready for a social call, we passed to the next little house with flying squirrel, possums, and raccoons. The POW entered a small enclosure, moved a few stones, awoke a beautiful fox and tried with much skill, poise and persuasion, to teach to obey his voice. First frightened, then sneaky, then calm, then obedient, at last the captive animal tamed by a captive man learned the lesson; but as soon as the POW disappeared it certainly forgot it! The circus man had a smile - or was it a grin - when he said to me "Sir, neither man nor animal can ever learn anything when captive."

The prisoners also printed their own camp newspaper "Die Oase," translated "The Oasis." A number of mimeographed issues from 1944 have recently been found (Figure 8). According to Walker (1988:9), after the military Special Projects Division labeled the newspaper "militantly Nazi" and "very dangerous," the paper began to appear monthly rather than weekly (ostensibly due to a "paper shortage"), and its editor, POW Paul Metzer, was transferred to a camp for uncooperative prisoners. The issues that have survived mostly discuss daily life in the camp, including drawings and illustrations. The prisoners listened to German phonograph records, read German books, started their own band, and even organized a theater group and built a stage with curtains. Female roles were filled by men in appropriate costumes. The newspaper had sections with jokes, question-and-answer columns, and sports scores from teams in camp. Barracks



Source: Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library.

Figure 8
Cover of POW Camp Newspaper

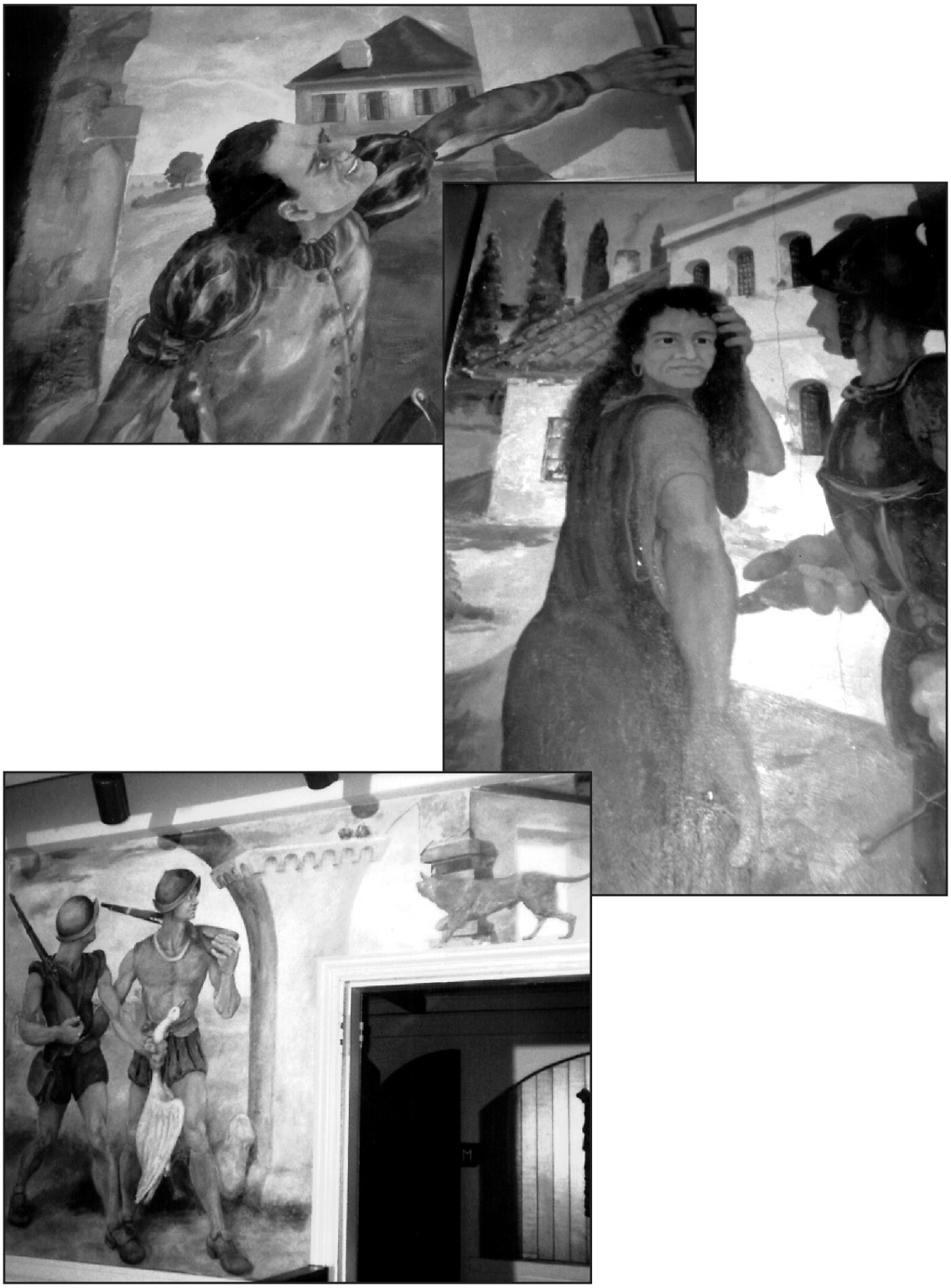
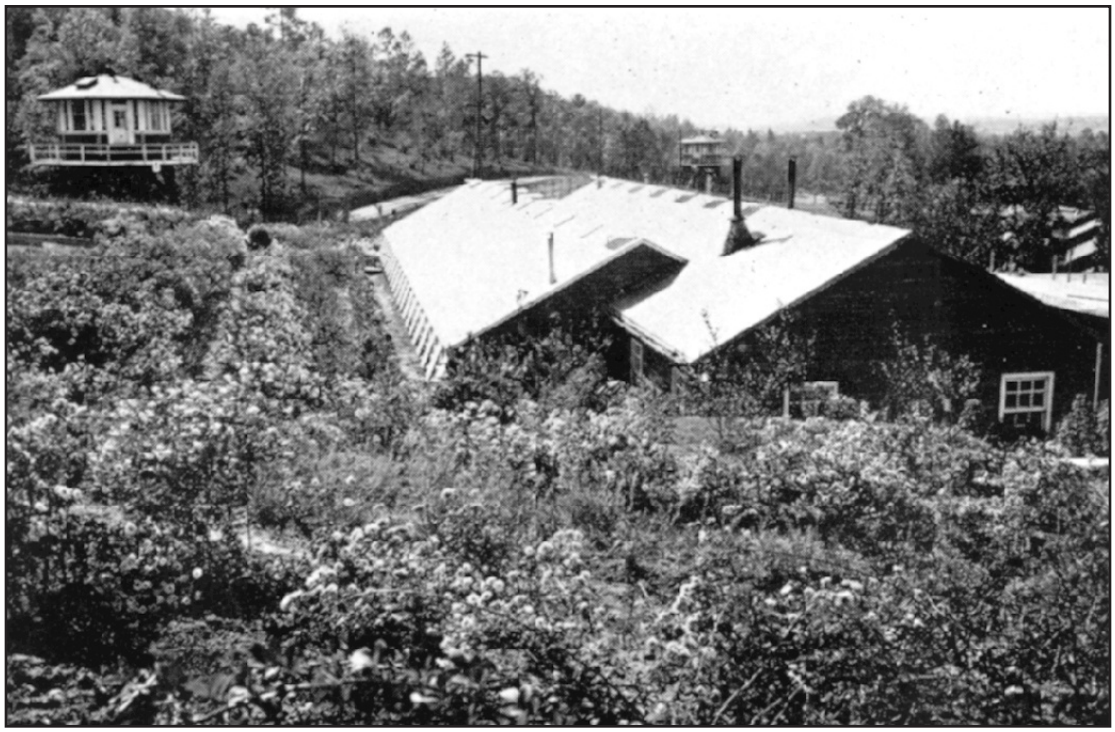


Figure 9
Examples of POW Murals in Building 51

POW Cemetery



Greenhouse in the rear of POW Camp

Courtesy, Fort McClellan.

Figure 10
Historic Views of POW Cemetery and Greenhouse

were described as places where pictures, homemade shelves and stools, and other items were placed to make them appear "homey." A camp canteen provided useful items for purchase. The weather was often under discussion. The heat in Alabama was compared to the heat in North Africa, where at least it cooled off at night. Some mention was made of burying comrades at the cemetery at Fort McClellan. Little discussion of the war or politics was found in these censored editions.

Religious services and classes in American history and government were often offered to POWs in the various camps. Krammer (1979:79-113) notes that by mid-1944 German POWs had become a significant part of the labor pool at many of the Army posts where they were interned. Their entry into the workforce freed up an already diminished corps of American soldiers and support staff who were much needed elsewhere. While military installations had first claim on the POW's labor, they could also be contracted out to work in the agricultural and industrial sectors with local employers.

In their off hours and in jobs assigned to them on post, POWs created a substantial legacy at Fort McClellan in the realm of masonry and art as well as less visible improvements. Lane (1955:28) states that 200 prisoners were detailed daily for excavation, drainage and clearing operations on the main post, 170 were involved in food preparation, and others worked on vehicles. Another source states numerous examples of stonework including stone walls, chimneys, a patio, drainage ditches and landscaping as examples of POW handiwork (*Fort McClellan News*, July 17, 1981). A carved bar at the former Officers' Club, which has since been removed, and the unusual murals on the club's walls are also credited to POWs (Krammer 1979:261). Figure 9 has recent photographs some of the murals, and Figure 10 shows the POW cemetery and greenhouse in the camp as they existed during the war.

The POW murals in Building 51, Remington Hall, were covered by paneling in the 1950s and uncovered in the 1970s. After an unprofessional re-painting job in the 1970s, some recent conservation work has left the murals with less grime and residue (*The Birmingham News*, November 10, 1998). The 17 murals lining the upper five feet of the plaster walls present a variety of themes that appear mostly unrelated (Figure 9). They are clearly the work of several individuals, with some scenes showing more mastery over the art than others. On walls with doors, the painters framed their work around the door. Mixing twentieth century elements with traditional folkloric and

possibly Biblical images, the artists tried to maintain some consonance with the Mediterranean flavor of the building. There are violent scenes of bloody hand-to-hand combat between scantily-dressed men, peaceful scenes of birds and women in various poses, and pastoral scenes of day-to-day activities in European villages. Human hands and feet are sometimes grossly distorted. Artists' signatures have recently been discovered on some of the work.

The names of most of the men who contributed to the changing face of the fort are only known in the aggregate. Official lists noting POW's former livelihoods give some information. While a 1943 POW Occupational Summary noted the existence of four artists, three stonecutters, seven woodworkers, 13 stonemasons and one sculptor, it did not associate occupations with prisoners' names (Records of the Provost Marshal General). The camp at Fort McClellan not only acted as the processing center for all POWs in Alabama, but it was the last camp to be deactivated on April 10, 1946 (Walker 1988:5).

Nearly 500,000 United States soldiers were trained at Fort McClellan during World War II. When the war ended, the IRTC trained soldiers for occupation duty until November 1946. With the cessation of war with Japan, the number of trainees at Fort McClellan diminished and a corresponding reduction took place within the post complement. The lean years following World War I were repeated after the Second World War as well, when a two billion dollar budget cut was applied to Army appropriations. Fort McClellan was placed on inactive status on June 30, 1947, despite all the pressure Alabama politicians tried to apply. Alabama's Congressional representatives went so far as to invite Army Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower to review the situation. On his visit, Eisenhower would admit that McClellan was a jewel among Army installations, noting that sometimes jewels must go when bread and meat are necessary (Lane 1955:30).

Evaluation of World War II Permanent Buildings and Structures

Large military training facilities, such as Fort McClellan, may be significant command construction installations within the context of World War II. The massive training and mobilization of personnel during wartime was a tremendously important event or pattern of events, potentially significant under National Register Criterion A.

However, the majority of structures associated with training activities were built using temporary construction, and thus few are associated with the permanent construction context that is the subject of this study. In addition, isolated or widely dispersed permanent buildings or structures typically do not convey the important association with mobilization training. Some of the infrastructure (such as roads, utility lines, and railroads) and landscape of Fort McClellan can be traced to World War II, but the overall layout was built on the earlier camp.

In general, World War II permanent construction first should be evaluated as potential National Register districts (Whelan et al. 1997:240). Fort McClellan was designed with interrelated component parts that functioned together to fulfill the purpose of the installation. The three districts that are already considered eligible each contain properties built prior to 1940 that were used during World War II. Based on the current study, no other areas on Fort McClellan had enough concentration of potentially eligible historic properties to delineate as additional districts. According to the *Historic Context for Department of Defense Facilities World War II Permanent Construction* (Whelan et al. 1997:241):

> For properties to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register within the context of permanent World War II construction, they should (1) clearly and explicitly reflect the important mission of the installation; (2) be regarded as emblematic of the installation or of an aspect of the World War II military mission; or (3) represent particularly significant examples of a type of method of construction or the important work of a significant architect. Infrastructure and support buildings are not individually eligible unless they were: (1) the site of a particular event; (2) directly associated with a significant individual; or (3) of exceptional note as an example of architectural or engineering design.

In addition to possessing significance within a historic context, a property must also have integrity in order to be considered eligible. "Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance through the retention of the property's essential physical characteristics from its period of significance" (Whelan et al. 1997:245). Seven aspects of integrity include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The reasons why a property is important should be established first, then the qualities necessary to convey that significance can be identified.

Through modifications over the years, many temporary World War II structures have been reclassified in real property records as permanent construction. Buildings originally built as temporary should be evaluated within the historic context created for

temporary buildings for the purposes of their National Register eligibility. "Temporary buildings modified to such an extent that they are not longer classified as temporary are unlikely to retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance" (Whelan et al. 1997:247).

The following paragraphs discuss the districts and individual properties associated with World War II permanent construction at Fort McClellan.

Post Headquarters District

The Post Headquarters District (see Figure 2) has already been determined eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C with a period of significance from 1917 to 1945. Fort McClellan's significance in military history derives from its roles in mobilization and training for both world wars. It is also significant in community planning, architecture and landscape architecture as an important example of the application of community design principles to standardized military construction. The proposed district includes 60 contributing buildings and structures and 14 non-contributing buildings set on a landscaped hill. Original uses included officers' single-family housing, garages, bachelor officers' quarters, non-commissioned officers' housing, Post Headquarters, Silver Chapel, administration buildings, enlisted men's barracks, a theater, a fire station and a band stand. Most buildings are Spanish Colonial Revival in style with uniformity of color, materials and decorative features.

Those buildings constructed in the district during World War II include a contributing 1941 addition to Building 51, the former Officers' Club (Remington Hall). This building also contains significant World War II POW murals on the interior walls, which should be considered a significant element of Building 51. Building 66, constructed in 1941, is also within the Post Headquarters District, but it is listed as non-contributing due to extensive alterations. The remainder of the contributing buildings in the district were constructed prior to World War II, but are associated with that war through their continued use. These are buildings numbered 1-20, 51, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 81-90, 102-107, 141-144, 161-163, 170, 181-183, 185-190, and 196-198. Since this district has been documented in previous studies, it will not be discussed in detail here (see Reed et al. 1993b; Reed et al. 1996; Messick 1994a).

Industrial District

The Industrial District (see Figure 2) has also been determined eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C with a period of significance from 1917 to 1945. Its areas of significance include military history and community planning and development. The proposed district includes 18 contributing buildings and structures and three non-contributing buildings. This warehouse area is laid out in a linear fashion along a railroad spur. Most buildings have simple utilitarian styling with brick exteriors, stone or concrete trim and asphalt shingle roofing. Original uses include shops, warehouses, garages, sheds, stables, bakery, cold storage, laundry and coal trestle. The proposed Industrial District lists Building 246 (c. 1941) as contributing and Building T-245 (c. 1941) as non-contributing. All other contributing resources were constructed in the 1930s, including 216, 228, 229, 230, 234, 236, 237, 238, 240, 241, 241A, 241B, 242, 243, 244, 247 and 252. Since this district has also been documented in previous studies, it will not be discussed in detail here (see Reed et al. 1993b; Reed et al. 1996; Messick 1994b).

Ammunition Storage District

Fort McClellan's ammunitions storage area has been extensively studied and documented (see Reed et al. 1994; Reed and Messick 1995; Reed 1995). The proposed Ammunition Storage District (see Figure 2) originally listed 15 ammunition storage buildings as contributing elements. Those constructed during World War II were igloos numbered 4408, 4409, 4410, 4411, 4412, 4413, 4414, 4415 and 4416. Five buildings in this district (4403, 4404, 4408, 4409 and 4414) were subsequently documented to HABS/HAER standards in anticipation of their scheduled demolition. The proposed district contains standard World War I field depot magazines, as well as earth-bermed igloos from World War II. Both sets of buildings provide information on the evolution and technology of safe ammunition storage. While igloos swiftly replaced earlier types, the materials used in their construction and the manner in which they were built varied. The Fort McClellan examples were constructed with corrugated steel plates and concrete, using engineering practices that were directly borrowed from early twentieth-century culvert or tunnel technology.

Buildings 130, 335, 336, 337 and 339

These five buildings (130, 335, 336, 337, 339) are shown on current Fort McClellan real property lists as permanent construction. All were built in 1941-43, but further review of property cards on each building indicates that they were originally "temporary" World War II construction and their status was changed many years later. For this reason, they are mentioned here, but they are not subject to evaluation by this study. Building 130, Miller Sports Arena, was a temporary field house in 1941, and its status was changed in 1975 after an extensive renovation project. Buildings 335 and 337, vehicle maintenance shops built in 1941, were each changed to permanent status in 1991. Building 336, a 1941 boiler house, was also given permanent status in 1991. Another vehicle maintenance shop, Building 339, was constructed as temporary in 1943 and changed to permanent status in 1991. These are only included here because a cursory review of current real property records might incorrectly show them as World War II permanent construction.

Building 270

Building 270 (Figure 11) was constructed in 1942 by the Corps of Engineers as a theater building with a stage for an outdoor amphitheater. The open-air amphitheater itself was built into the hillside utilizing masonry step-like seating with a capacity of 12,000 persons (see Figure 7). This seating was later removed, and pine trees are now growing on the hillside. The facility was named Monteith Amphitheater in honor of 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who was killed near Colle-sur-Mer, France, during the 1944 Normandy invasion. The former stage building is a single-story, rectangular, utilitarian-type structure measuring approximately 85 by 47 feet with partial remains of a semi-circular off-set stage on the east facade. The foundation is concrete and the walls are structural clay tile finished with stucco on the exterior. The flat roof is built-up asphalt and gravel with a stepped parapet. It has four exterior doors and several double-hung sash windows on three of the elevations.

The stage building was used for entertainment for troops stationed at Fort McClellan during World War II. Acts included Percy Grainger and his band, a Joe Lewis exhibition fight and several Broadway-type shows. The building originally consisted of dressing rooms, property rooms, an office and a partially-covered outdoor stage.

Major modifications in 1973 closed off the stage with an exterior wall on the east facade. The interior was reconfigured and used for a controlled-humidity warehouse. While the facility may have had some important historical associations, there is little remaining to convey the World War II use of this property. Because it lacks architectural integrity, it was recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, and that recommendation remains the same (see Reed et al. 1993b:247-248).

Building 1031

Building 1031 (Figure 12) is the sentry guardhouse for the north gate (now Galloway Gate). Constructed in 1941 by the office of the Quartermaster General, it has been changed extensively since that date. It is a small rectangular building measuring approximately 16 by 8 feet. Utilitarian in style, the building has a flat roof with wide overhanging eaves. It is built on a concrete foundation with concrete columns and large plate glass windows on all sides. Footings and a retaining wall were constructed around the exterior in 1988. The exterior facade was changed in the 1990s by removing a brick wall that enclosed an interior lavatory, and opening a 360 degree view for the guardhouse. Galloway Gate was named in honor of Colonel Irene Galloway, fourth director of the Women's Army Corps. The small building itself is not significant for any important historical associations to persons or events. Due to loss of architectural integrity, it was not considered individually eligible for the National Register in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248). Even more changes have been made since that time, and the recommendation remains the same.

Building 1122

Building 1122 (Figure 13) was constructed in 1941 as a battalion headquarters building. It is one story in height and originally measured 30 by 68 feet plus a 12 by 13 foot wing. The foundation is concrete, the walls are brick, and the side-gabled roof is supported by a wood truss system covered with wood sheathing and asphalt rolled roofing (originally asphalt shingles). It was converted for use as a credit union in the mid-1970s. At that time a rear addition was added and the interior plan was changed to accommodate banking services. The total square footage changed from 2196 to 3576. The original building followed the design of standardized plan 6344-108 by the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps. This building is not significant for any

Current Views

Rear and Side Elevations

Former Stage Area

Plan View, c.1943

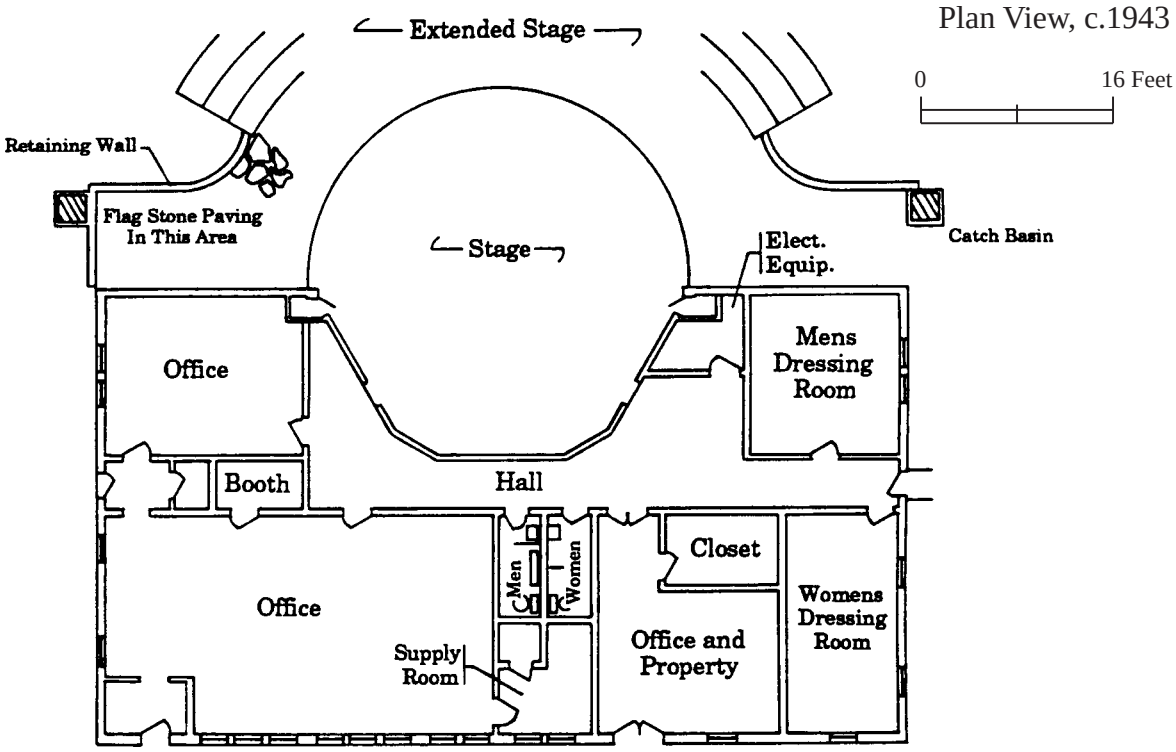


Figure 11
Building 270, Photo and Plan

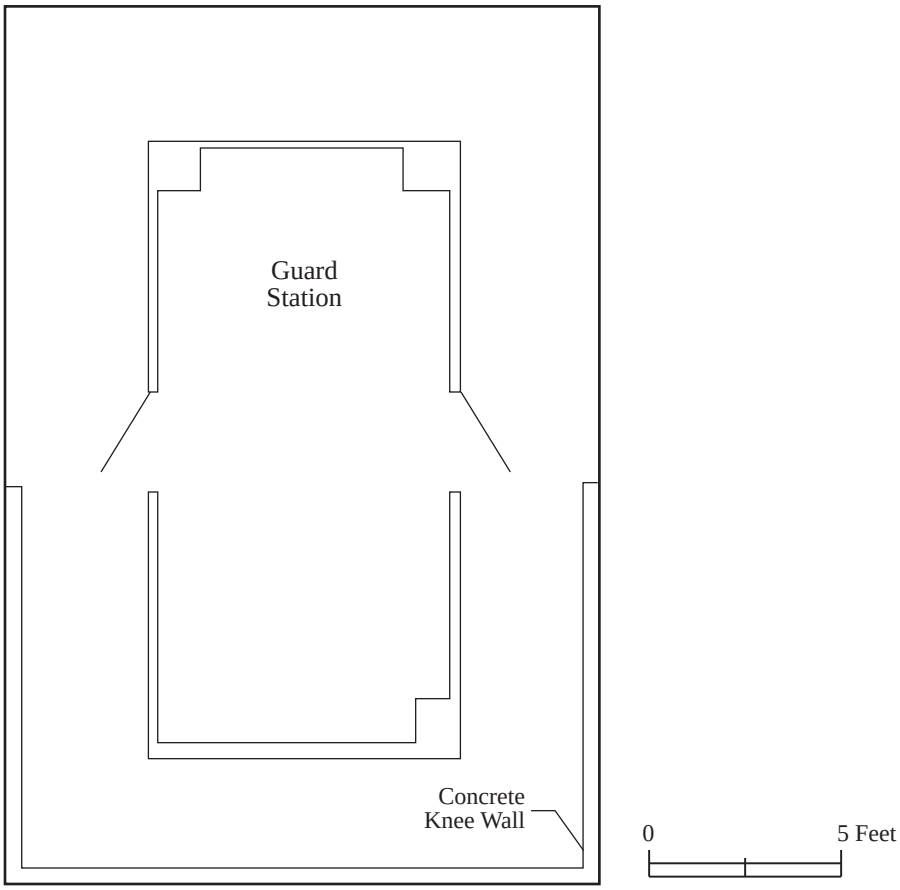


Figure 12
Building 1031, Photo and Plan

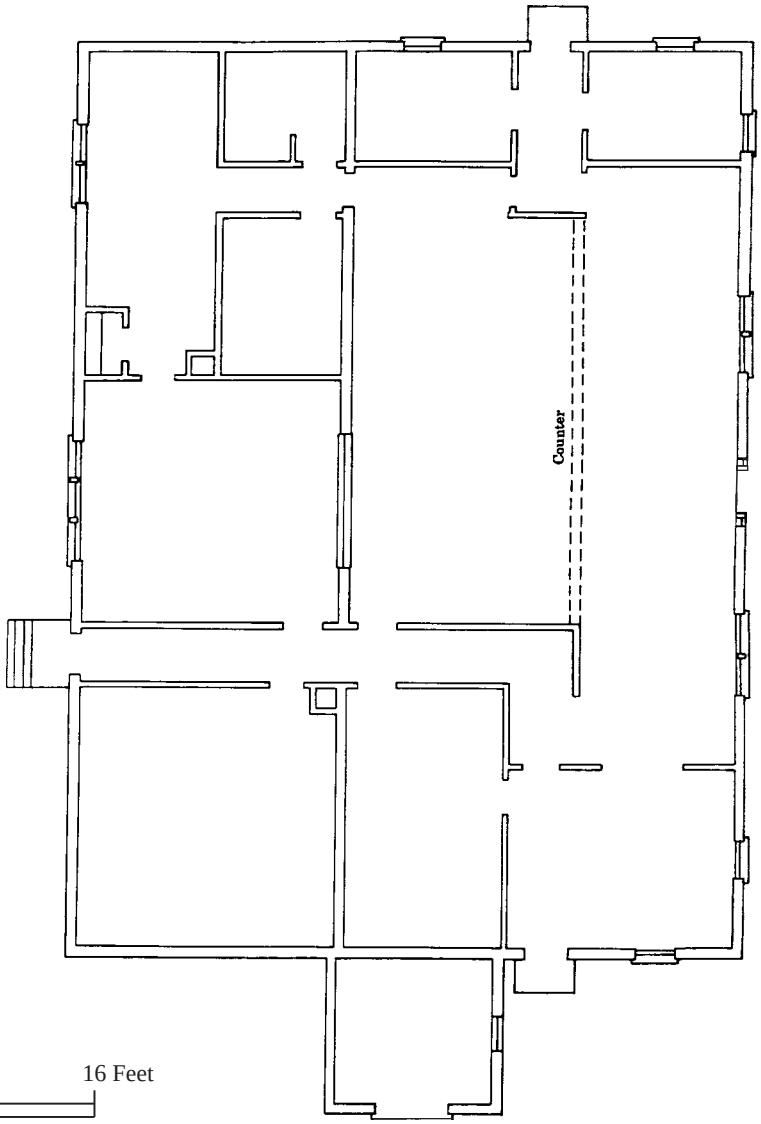


Figure 13
Building 1122, Photo and Plan

important historical associations to persons or events. Since it no longer retains its architectural integrity, it was recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248), and that recommendation remains the same.

Building 1919

Building 1919 (Figure 14) was constructed in May 1941 by the Quartermaster Corps under authorization from the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 for use by the National Guard. The utilitarian one-story building was once used as a Post Studio. It is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 32 by 37 feet. It has a concrete foundation, concrete walls and employs a gabled wood truss roof system covered with wood sheathing and asphalt roofing material. The building's original interior is unknown, but it has been partitioned into small offices. The floors were tile at the time of the 1993 survey. Most major modifications were made in 1967 when it was changed to a military intelligence building. All the windows have been removed and are sealed closed. There is one small door which was re-aligned in 1967. This building is not significant for any important historical associations to persons or events. Due to a loss of architectural integrity, it was not considered individually eligible for the National Register in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248). That recommendation remains the same.

Building 1920

Building 1920 (Figure 15) was constructed in 1941 by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps as a permanent mess hall and kitchen for officers living and working in the cantonment area. It used standardized plan 6344-1111 at a cost of $6,556. It has no decorative elements. The building is "T" shaped in plan and single story in height with intersecting gable roofs. The roof employs a wood truss system which is covered with wood sheathing and asphalt roofing materials. The foundation and walls are concrete. The interior is now divided into office space with wood and wallboard partitions. The floors are covered in wood and carpet. The building was extensively altered in 1967 to accommodate new office arrangements for a military intelligence building. The main portion measures 21 by 67 feet with a 21 by 31 foot extension and offsets of 4 by 6 feet. Many of the windows have been removed and sealed closed. This building is not significant for any important historical associations

with individuals or events. Due to a loss of architectural integrity, it was not considered individually eligible for the National Register in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248). That recommendation remains the same.

Building 2020

Building 2020 (Figure 16) is similar to Building 1920, and was also constructed in 1941 by the Quartermaster Corps as a permanent officers' mess hall and kitchen. The utilitarian building used standardized plan 6344-1111 at a cost of $6,556. The building is "T" shaped in plan and single story in height with intersecting gable roofs. The roof employs a wood truss system which is covered with wood sheathing and asphalt roofing materials. The foundation and walls are concrete. The original interior plan is not known, but it has now been divided into offices. Major alterations occurred in 1967 when the building was converted to an administration building. The total area was changed from 1672 to 1717 square feet, although exact alterations are not clear. All windows appear to have been removed and sealed closed. This building is not significant for any important historical associations with individual or events. Due to loss of architectural integrity, it was not considered individually eligible for the National Register in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248). That recommendation remains the same.

Building 2090

Building 2090 (Figure 17) was completed in 1941 as a dispensary building for the National Guard. It followed the standardized Quartermaster plan 6366-100 with funds authorized under the National Recovery Act of 1933. The original construction cost was $8,937. The utilitarian single-story rectangular building measures approximately 66 by 26 feet. The foundation and walls are of reinforced concrete. The lateral gable roof is supported by a wood truss system covered with wood sheathing and asphalt roofing materials. The fenestration is unchanged with 19 six-over-six double-hung wood-frame windows and four doors. The building was originally heated with coal, and one exterior brick chimney remains. The only major alterations are to the interior offices, which consist of linoleum tile floors, drywall partitions, and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. In 1988 it was changed to a general purpose administration building.

While this building retains enough architectural integrity to potentially be eligible for the National Register, it must first be evaluated for significance. Absent a clear

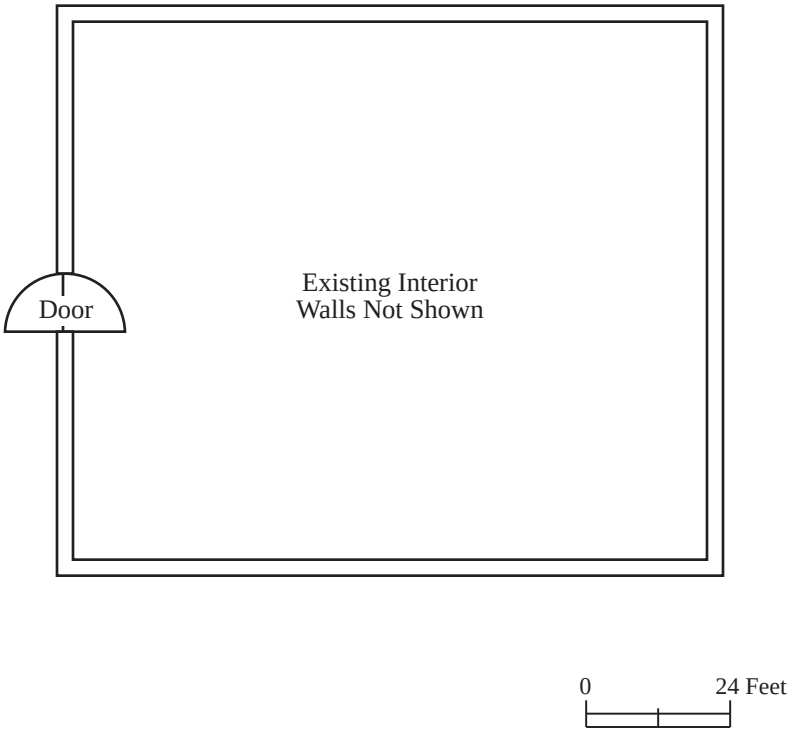
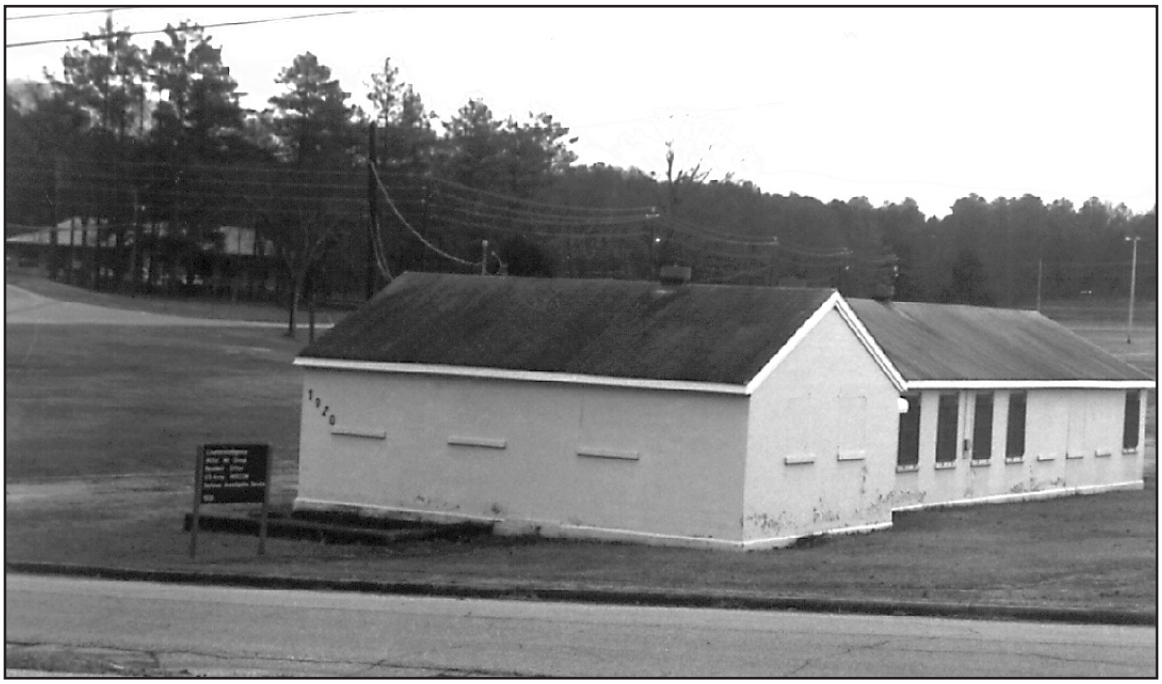


Figure 14
Building 1919, Photo and Plan



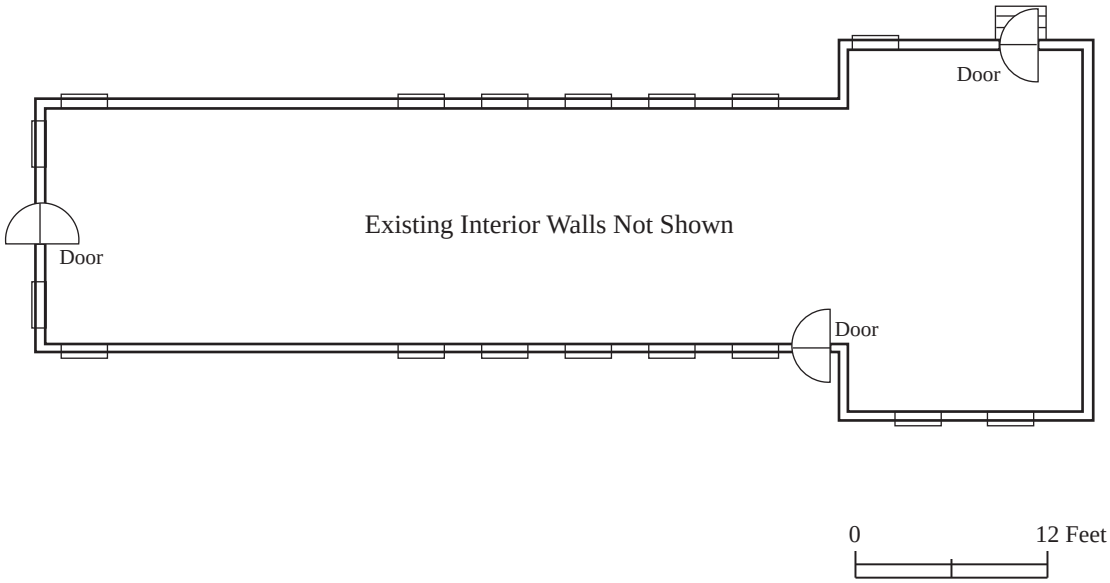


Figure 15
Building 1920, Photo and Plan

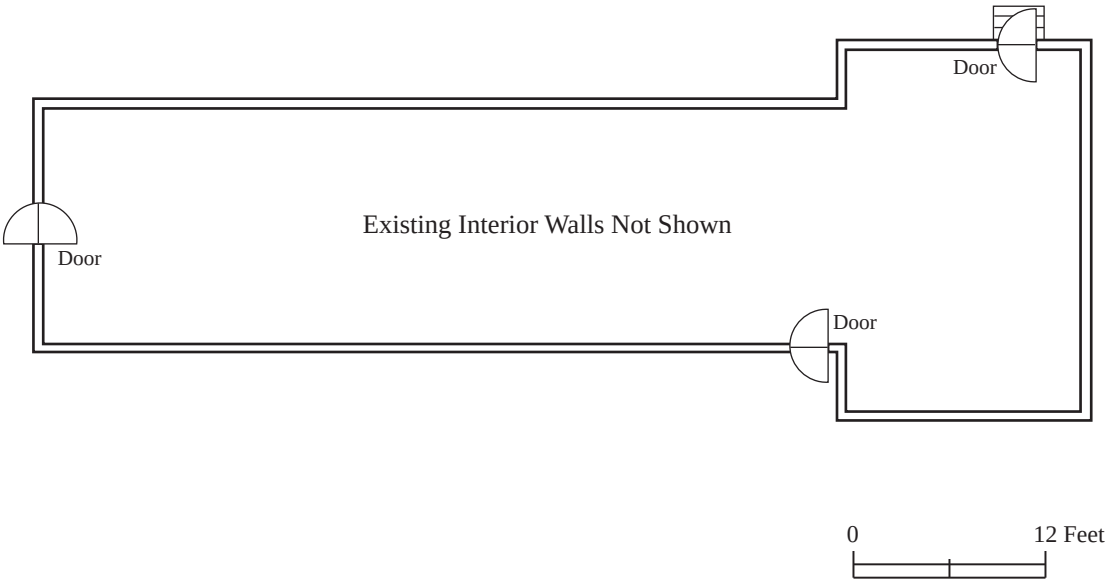


Figure 16
Building 2020, Photo and Plan

Building 2090

Building 2091

Figure 17
Views of Buildings 2090 and 2091

connection to any surrounding district, it must be shown that an infrastructure or support building was either (1) associated with a particular event; (2) directly associated with a significant individual; or (3) of exceptional note as an example of architectural or engineering design (see Whelan et al. 1997:241). Since none of these criteria appear to apply to Building 2090, it is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This is the same recommendation made in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248).

Building 2091

Building 2091 (Figure 17) was originally built in 1941 by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps as a camp headquarters building for the National Guard. It was authorized under the National Recovery Act of 1933. The single-story utilitarian building used standardized plan 5344-109 at a cost of $13, 617. It is "L" shaped in plan and measures 30 by 90 feet with a 30-by-38-foot wing. The foundation and walls are concrete. The gable roof is supported by a wood truss system covered with wood sheathing and asphalt roofing materials. Original six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows remain. Major modifications were made to the interior in 1974. The present interior consists of linoleum tile floors, drywall partitions and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. It became an exchange service outlet in 1986, an adjunct to the main Post Exchange.

While the exterior of this building retains enough architectural integrity to potentially be eligible for the National Register, it must first be evaluated for significance. Like Building 2090, it is not part of an eligible historic district. This support building was also not associated with a particular significant event; directly associated with a significant individual; or of exceptional note as an example of architectural or engineering design (see Whelan et al. 1997:241). It is therefore recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This is the same recommendation made in the 1993 survey (Reed et al. 1993b:247-248).

German-Italian Memorial Cemetery

The small German-Italian Memorial Cemetery has been assigned real property number 3430. Located along Baker Road, it contains simple white marble headstones for 29 graves, including 26 Germans and 3 Italians (Figure 18). These men all died during their World War II internment as prisoners of war, but no known records exist

as to their exact cause of death. Many of the graves are of men who had been imprisoned in other POW camp locations in Alabama (Aliceville), Mississippi (McCain and Como), Tennessee (Memphis), and Georgia (Rome). Most headstones contain name, military rank, nationality and date of death. Some also have a black "iron cross" symbol above the name. Dates on the graves range from mid-1943 to late-1945. The cemetery boundary is marked with a low concrete-block retaining wall. Early photos show a waist-high wooden fence around the cemetery. Outside the wall is a stone and concrete sign identifying the "German Italian Memorial Cemetery." A concrete Iron Cross monument on a rough stone foundation stands near the rear of the cemetery. This is a replacement (date unknown) for a similar one that was erected when the cemetery initially opened.

Outside the entrance to the cemetery there is also a concrete slab on the ground decorated with an eagle and the number "2" in a circle under the eagle's feet. This slab was originally upright at another location and was moved to the cemetery after 1981. That was the year an 11-year-old boy discovered a German document in a buried Nehi bottle that became exposed to the surface after the monument overturned near his playground. An English translation of the document reads: "USA, 3 September 1943, SFC Hoerter, Sgt. Kuther, Sgt. Klose and PFC Buettner created this monument for the 2nd Prisoner of War Company, Fort McClellan, Alabama, USA. It shall serve as a memorial and keep our faith in our beloved German homeland imperturbable during the time we have to stay here" (*The Anniston Star*, March 25, 1981). It was signed by Robert Heber, Master Sergeant and acting German company commander. The letter was turned over to post authorities for preservation.

The cemetery was once part of the 3,000-man POW camp at Fort McClellan, and is virtually the only remaining visible reminder of that camp. The burial of men from other camps probably means that McClellan's cemetery was used as a regional one. Normally a cemetery is not eligible for the National Register, except under special circumstances. One way it may be considered is if it derives its significance from "association with historic events." A POW cemetery is a very unusual historic resource in Alabama and the southeast, especially since there are few above-ground physical remains of the large POW camp at Fort McClellan and the other three camps in Alabama. This was an important part of McClellan's World War II history, and the cemetery is therefore recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (events that are associated with broad patterns of our history) and

Criterion Consideration D (exceptions for cemeteries that illustrate important events) with a statewide level of significance.

World War II Bridges

Fort McClellan has 15 bridges that were constructed during World War II (Figures 19-23). Eleven vehicle and foot bridges are numbered 4302, 4303, 4305, 4306, 4314, 4318, 4319, 4331, 4342, 4352 and 4363. Four railroad bridges are numbered 4702, 4703, 4705, and 4706. Historical data on these bridges is limited. No as-builts or War Department Quartermaster Corps forms were found on these structures. According to real property records, all were constructed in 1941, except Bridge 4363 which was built in 1942. They all cross Cane Creek or its tributaries, and most are small single- or double-chamber bridges with concrete guard rails. Most appear to use standardized construction. Three of the bridges make use of hand-crafted stone masonry on some part of the bridge. They are Bridge 4342, which is on the boundary of the Industrial District, and Bridges 4318 and 4319.

Bridges 4302 and 4314 are small vehicle bridges with concrete abutments, open concrete guard rails, and a flat sub-structure resting only on the abutments. **Bridges 4303 and 4306** are similar except that the guard rails are solid concrete. **Bridge 4305** is a concrete vehicle bridge with double-arched solid spandrels. Vehicle **Bridges 4318 and 4319** are single-arched structures with half-round corrugated metal liner plates underneath. Both have roughly-coursed rubble stone work in the concrete abutments and spandrels. A low side-wall along the roadway is capped with concrete coping. **Bridge 4331** is a concrete foot bridge over the golf course. It has two arched openings and two rectangular openings, all with closed spandrels. **Bridge 4342** is a single-arched concrete-and-stone foot bridge on the edge of the Industrial District. It is the most elaborate of all the bridges with uncoursed stone work, arched stone side-rails capped in concrete, and circular cut-outs along the side-rails and end-pillars. The creek in this area has been channeled and lined with similar stone work. Vehicle **Bridges 4352 and 4363** are double-arched solid-spandrel concrete structures with corrugated metal liner plates underneath.

Bridge 4702 and 4703 are railroad bridges supported on reinforced concrete piers. **Bridge 4705** is a former railroad bridge that is now a foot bridge on the golf course. It is a double bridge with one section formed by five closed-spandrel concrete

arches and one section formed by four rectangular openings with a low guard rail above. **Bridge 4706** is a very small railroad bridge supported by metal I-beams on concrete abutments.

It is recommended that one of the above bridges is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. **Bridge 4342** is the most architecturally exceptional of all the bridges. Although little is known of who constructed its stone work, it clearly involved a labor-intensive, manual effort. It is on the boundary of the Industrial District and should be included as a contributing resource in that district. This bridge meets National Register Criterion C for its workmanship and artistic value in a time of war when few efforts were made to embellish many buildings or structures.

The remaining bridges are recommended as not eligible for the National Register because they are standardized examples of infrastructure that have no particular significance related to any historical event or person, and they are also not of exceptional note as examples of architectural or engineering design (see Whelan et al. 1997:241). While two of the bridges (**4318** and **4319**) do display some handcrafted masonry work, this is crudely executed and not considered significant. Since they are not within the boundaries of an eligible historic district, they must be evaluated as individual structures. These bridges do not meet the National Register criteria for individual eligibility.

Figure 24 illustrates the location of the 15 bridges. Figure 25 shows the location of the other previously-discussed World War II properties, as well as Cold War facilities which will be discussed in the following chapter.

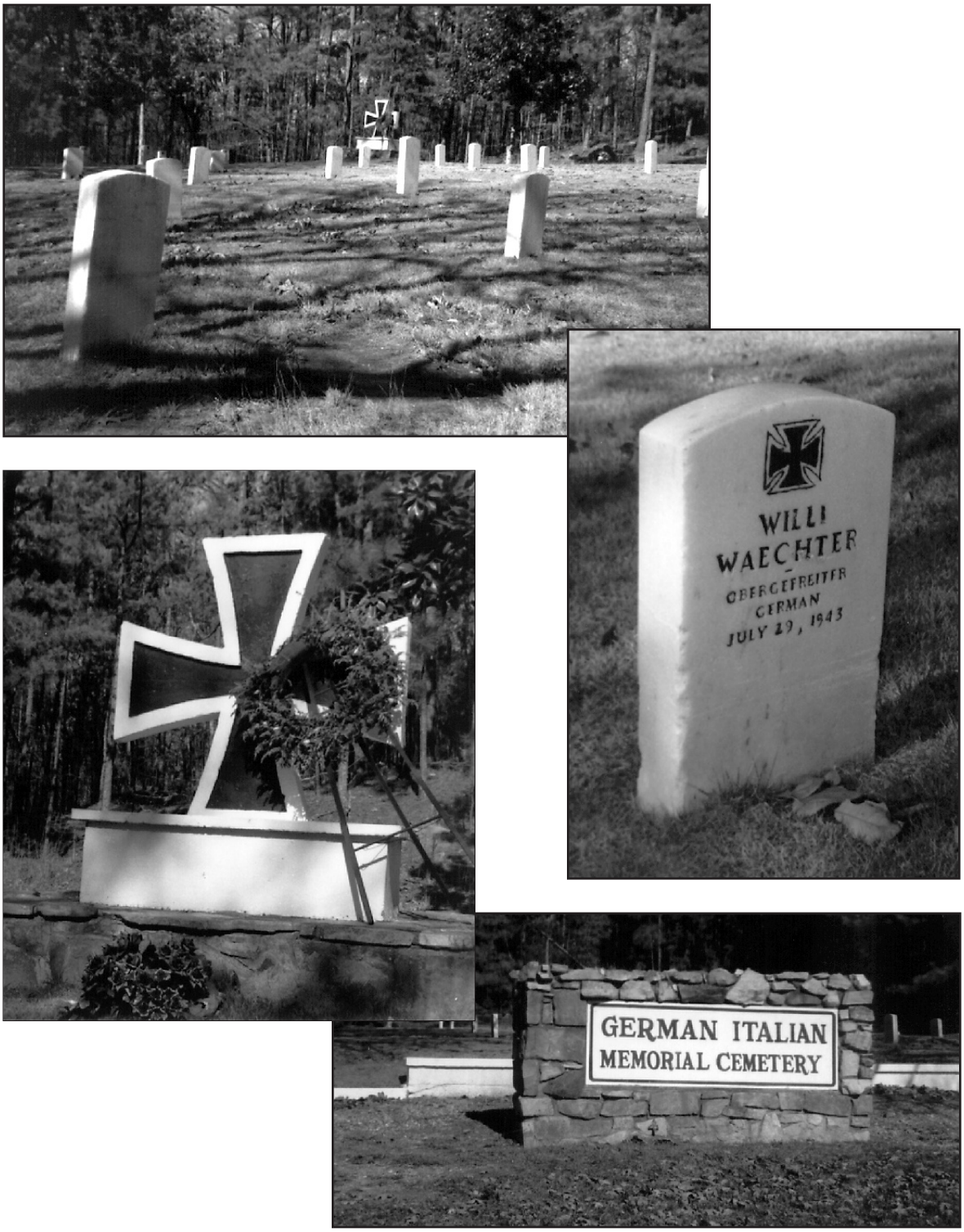
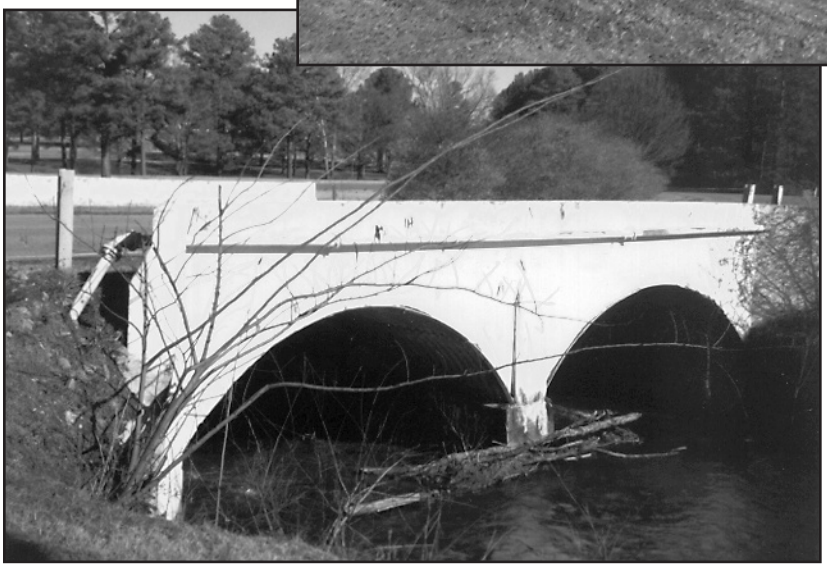


Figure 18
German Italian Memorial Cemetery

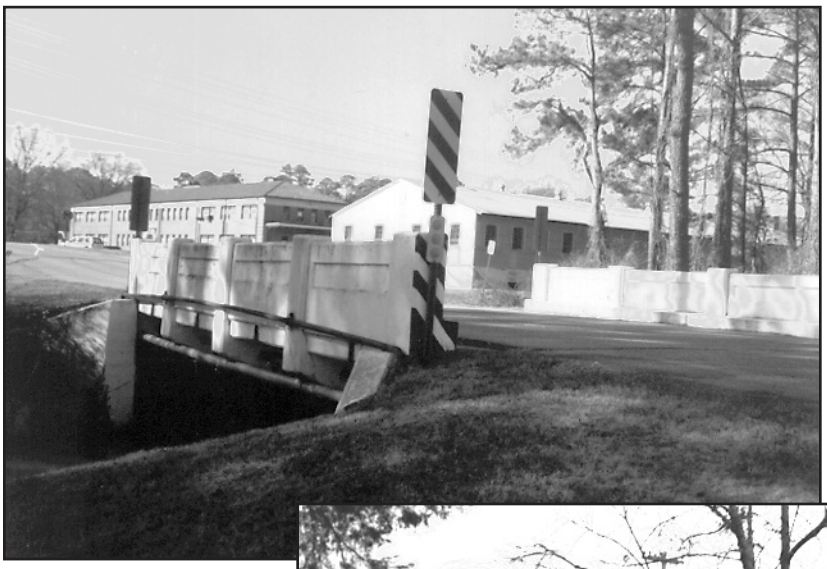
Bridge 4302

Bridge 4303



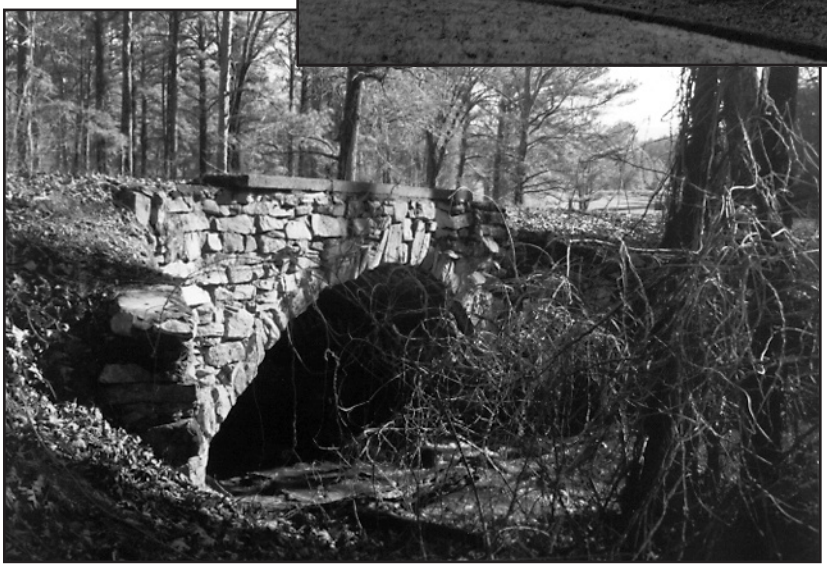
Bridge 4305

Figure 19
Photos of Bridges 4302, 4303, and 4305



Bridge 4306

Bridge 4314



Bridge 4318

Figure 20
Photos of Bridges 4306, 4314, and 4318

Bridge 4319

Bridge 4331

Bridge 4342

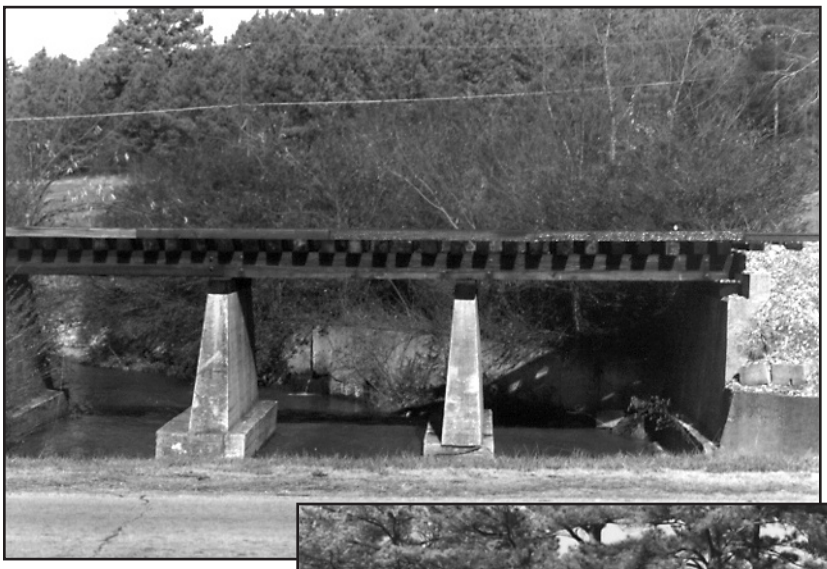
Figure 21
Photos of Bridges 4319, 4331, and 4342

Bridge 4352

Bridge 4363

Bridge 4702

Figure 22
Photos of Bridges 4352, 4363, and 4702



Bridge 4703

Bridge 4705

Bridge 4406

Figure 23
Photos of Bridges 4703, 4705, and 4406

Figure 24
Location of W.W. II Bridges

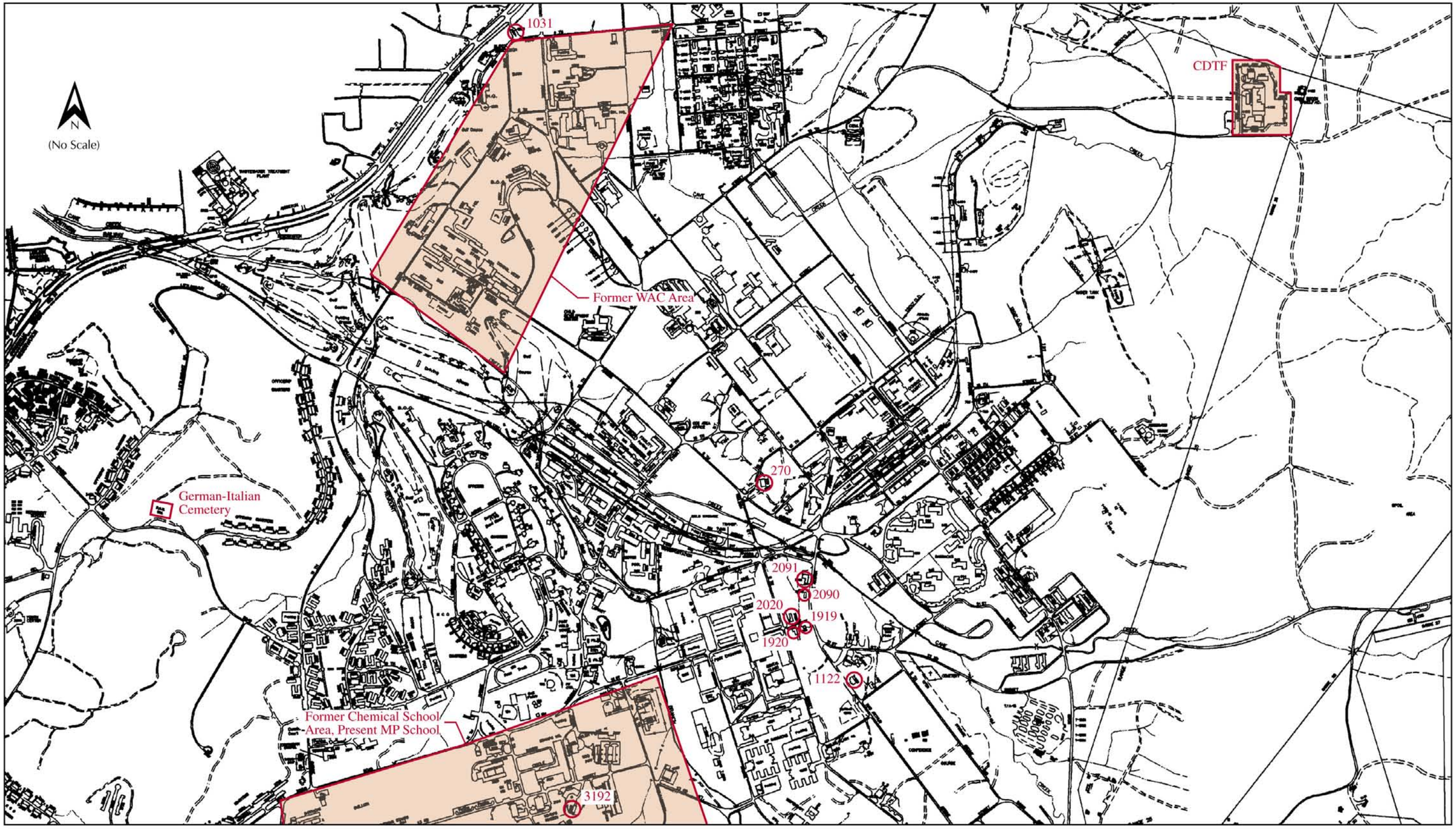


Figure 25
Location Map of Miscellaneous W.W. II and Cold War Properties