FORT BRAGG, OIL STORAGE BUILDING (Fort Bragg, Building No. 2-1152)
Northwest corner of Macomb Street & Sturgis Street
Fort Bragg
Cumberland County
North Carolina

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Location: Northwest corner of Macomb Street & Sturgis Street, Fort Bragg, Cumberland County, North Carolina
USGS Manchester, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.3891368.683307

Present Owner: Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Fort Bragg

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Oil Storage Building at Fort Bragg is a contributing part of an eligible Fort Bragg historic district for the National Register of Historic Places. Built right after World War II (WWII); the complex served the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Bragg. The Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop Complex was at the eastern edge of the Quartermaster Corps/Guard Compound as identified in the Fort Bragg Military Reservation Eligibility Report, May 2001.
PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. **Date of Erection:** 1948

2. **Architect:** Unknown

3. **Original and Subsequent Owners:** Department of the Army, Fort Bragg

4. **Builder, contractor, suppliers:** Unknown

5. **Original plans and construction:** Neither U.S. Army mass-produced oil storage building plans, nor maintenance and renovation plans for the Oil Storage Building were located.

6. **Alterations and additions:** The Oil Storage Building, Building 2-1152 (originally numbered T-583-B) windows were replaced by plywood at an undetermined date.

B. Historical Context: Oil Storage Building

1. **Introduction**

The Fort Bragg Old Post Historic District is the administrative center of Fort Bragg, located about ten miles northwest of Fayetteville in the Sandhills of eastern North Carolina. Fort Bragg contains approximately 140,000 acres located principally in Cumberland and Hoke counties. The Old Post Historic District, containing approximately 556 acres, lies at the eastern edge of the base, in Cumberland County where level terrain was suitable for buildings and parade grounds. Fort Bragg was initially established as a National Army Camp in 1918 in response to World War I. When Camp Bragg was designated a permanent installation in 1922 the Old Post Historic District developed as a planned community and was built from 1927 to 1939. It accommodated the field artillery training program between the two world wars. The historic district contains administrative, family housing, community, and recreational facilities interspersed with open, green spaces giving it the appearance of a campus. The 1918 and 1926 Beaux Arts landscape plan is composed of Spanish Eclectic and Georgian Revival-style buildings unified by the use of stucco and brick materials. Of 301 contributing resources, 298 are permanent buildings. Two sites are planned recreational landscapes: the Ryder golf course and Polo Field Nos. 1 and 2, and a statue commemorating the airborne trooper. Seventy-nine resources do not contribute, as they are temporary World War II buildings or post-1951 construction, or have lost architectural integrity.

The district is a cohesive, intact, representative example of Army planning and permanent construction during the period between World War I and World War II. Monumental architecture, tree-lined streets, and plaza-like parade ground and polo field are set in a Beaux

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Arts plan. The overall layout of the district is rectangular and oriented along the east-west axis of Randolph Street, which extends from Bragg Boulevard (the historic connector to Fayetteville) to the traffic circle where the airborne trooper “Iron Mike” statue stands. The traffic circle provides intermediary focus while unifying Randolph, Armistead, Dyer, Adams, and Dragonway streets and forms the point of the stylized “chevron” design. The parade ground area, known as the “civic center,” was designed in 1918 for the original World War I camp. The Main Post Chapel (1-1510) serves as a ceremonial anchor for the cross-axis of the parade. The officer’s housing area, known as Normandy Heights, is arranged along geometric streets around the parade ground, with one and two-story Spanish Eclectic-style houses set in mature landscaping of oak, maple, and magnolia. A picturesque Spanish Eclectic-style Officers Club (1-4930) and golf course forms the southern boundary of the officers’ area. The non-commissioned officer’s housing, known as Bastogne Gables, is a geometric grouping of approximately one hundred Spanish Eclectic bungalows arranged around a central park in the northeastern section of the district one block north of Macomb Street. Only three World War I period buildings remain: a gymnasmium (2-1705) and two warehouses (8-3201 and 8-3502).

The administrative zone extends in a linear grid along Macomb Street. At its heart, at the junction of Armistead and Macomb streets, the Post Hospital (1-1326) and Post Headquarters (1-1333) face one another diagonally across the intersection. Five large three-story barracks (2-1105, 2-1120, 2-1127, 2-1133, and 2-1138) stand along the north side of Macomb Street, two barracks units along both sides of Armistead Street (2-1728 and 2-1731), and one barracks unit (1-1242) on the east side of Hamilton Street. Other significant buildings that make up the original permanent post are the Theater (1-1202), Guard House (2-1143), Finance and Quartermaster Corps Office (2-1148), Telephone Exchange (2-1114), Red Cross (1-1139), Commissary (2-1256), and Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop (2-1252) along Macomb Street, with a Heavy Gun Shop (2-1549) and warehouses on adjacent streets.

2. Fort Bragg Historical Background

For more detailed historical context information, please refer to HABS No. NC-398.

3. Design Context

3a. Military Post Architecture

The architecture of the Old Post Historic District, which is predominantly Spanish Eclectic and Georgian Revival in style, is similar to that of other permanent posts in the southern United States developed during the 1920s and 1930s. Standardized building designs for all building types necessary for army posts had been part of the Army operating system since the late eighteenth century, but became the practice in the 1890s. Sometimes architect-designed buildings built at particular Army posts were incorporated into standardized plans, other times talented Constructing Quartermasters who work at a particular post contributed designs. By using these plans, the Army centralized building design. The Washington office sent building plans to the constructing quartermaster, who, instead of overseeing actual building construction using troop labor as in the nineteenth century, adopted the role of contracting officer as described in Federal Emergency Administration Of Public Works Bulletin No. 15, overseeing the work of
local contractors. The contract was offered in a bid and awarded through the *U.S. Government Combined Form No. O.K. 50*, an itemized contract of work, materials, and costs. The bid and contract process were standardized by the *War Department's Specifications for Construction*, which detailed the materials and construction methods of every building to be constructed.

The Quartermaster Corps introduced the concept of regional architectural styles into the standardized plans during the mid-1920s. Military construction had always tended to be simplified versions of nationally popular architectural styles, but now, in a radical departure from previous formal Army architecture, designs were tailored for local climate conditions and to reflect local architectural history. An early attempt, the erection of Dutch Colonial Revival style officers' housing at Fort Benning, Georgia around 1924, was criticized as unsuitable for the hot Georgia summers. The Army selected two primary styles, which they called the "Colonial" of the Atlantic seaboard and the "Spanish Mission" of the American Southwest, and standardized them for use throughout the country. The Colonial style, featuring buildings with brick exteriors and slate roofs, was built from New England south to Virginia, and is now known as Georgian Revival. Along the Mexican border, at posts in Texas and California, the Spanish Mission style prevailed. In this report it is known as Spanish Eclectic.

During the inter-war years, industrial buildings continued to follow functional, industrial designs, a pattern established about World War I, in contrast to the revivalist tradition for industrial structures common in the nineteenth century. By the late 1930s, military architects designed and built buildings that deviated from the standard revivalist mode, such as streamlined, Art Deco-influenced buildings. An example of this at Fort Bragg is the Heavy Gun Shop (2-1549) located in the Quartermaster Support Area, a steel and brick building with International detailing, built in 1934. Further examples are the Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop (2-1251) and its Boiler House (2-1150), both constructed in 1941 (see Figure 1).

### 3b. Landscape

Landscaping became a priority of the Quartermaster Corps by 1931, when landscape architects were incorporated into the permanent staff of the Construction Divisions of the Corps. Careful tree planting to assure future shade, and the arrangement of trees and shrubbery to enhance the charm of simple quarters was emphasized at posts throughout the country (probably accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps whose district headquarters was located at Fort Bragg at this time). In few locations around the country, would the mature tree cover and shrubbery have a greater impact than at Fort Bragg's Main Post, which thanks to the 1920s and 1930s landscaping, is a verdant oasis in the midst of the barren scrub oak and pine landscape of the Sandhills region.

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4 "Housing the Army," *Quartermaster Review* 10, March-April 1931, 11-13

3c. Buildings

From 1926 to 1939, the master plan was gradually completed with brick and stuccoed tile housing, civic, medical and office buildings. Domestic buildings, including housing, the officers’ club, and the chapel, are stuccoed Spanish Eclectic style, with barrel-shaped terra cotta tile roofs. The administrative buildings, hospital, and barracks are Georgian Revival style brick buildings with one exception: the Telephone Exchange (2-1114) is a simple Moderne style executed in stucco. Warehouses, repair buildings, and storage sheds are of standard industrial design and built of wood or steel frame with brick or metal cladding.

The archives of the Quartermasters Office at Fort Bragg contain individual record sheets for every permanent building in the district, generally with a photograph taken soon after construction (the Oil Storage Building is one of the exceptions). These sheets give the date of construction, square footage, construction materials, and specifications. No architect’s names appear in any of these records. Various architects of the Quartermaster Generals Office produced the original plans and blueprints for each structure. Area contractors constructed all of Fort Bragg’s buildings, and the names of some of them appear on their completion reports.

The public buildings in the Old Post Historic District, the 1934 Post Headquarters (1-1333), the 1932 Post Hospital (1-1326), and the 1933 Theatre (1-1202), occupy prominent positions on Macomb Street, while the 1934 Post Chapel (1-1510) stands nearby, facing the parade ground. The 1934 Federal Artillery Board Building (1-1554) faces the Polo Field on Scott Street, has a Georgian Revival design, with a central pedimented pavilion with stone entrance and balcony. The Macomb Street buildings have Georgian Revival design, with red brick walls and white stone, concrete and wooden trim. The most impressive building, the Post Hospital, has a three-story central block, set on a raised basement, accessed by the grand stone staircase with heavy turned balusters and paneled posts leading to the main stone-trimmed Doric entrance. To the rear, the original Nurses’ Quarters (1-1621) exhibit a less formal stuccoed Spanish Eclectic design, featuring an ornate stonework arched entrance with pedimented window and corner urns. The Main Post Chapel (1-1510), designed by the Atlanta firm of Hentz, Adler, and Schutze, exhibits such Spanish Eclectic features as the dramatically carved doors, large focal window, stuccoed walls, tiled roof and square tower.

At the east end of the Old Post Historic District, served by a network of rail spurs, stands the Quartermaster Support Area, containing the Quartermaster Office Building (2-1148), Quartermaster Maintenance Building (2-2055), Commissary (2-1256), Bakery (2-1361), Heavy Gun Shop (2-1549), and Ordnance Warehouse (8-3710), all constructed of brick in functional Georgian Revival, Moderne style, or utilitarian industrial design. Included in this area is the Oil Storage Building (2-1152), constructed for the Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop (2-1251) out of wood framing and sided by corrugated galvanized iron. The 1948 master plan shows the Oil Storage Building (2-1152) in its context (see Figure 2).

4. Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop Area

The Oil Storage Building (2-1152) was needed for to store spent oil and various machined parts utilized in the Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop (originally numbered 583 and currently 2-1251).
The Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop was necessary as the expanded post outgrew the Heavy Gun Shop (originally numbered 493 and currently 2-1549) with the war preparation construction in 1940 and 1941.

The Oil Storage Building (2-1152) was added to the Ordnance Repair Shop area on March 5, 1948. No construction plans could be found for this building; however, the dimensions of it correspond to the dimensions of the boiler room portion of the Boiler House (2-1150) although window and door placement are dissimilar. The Oil Storage Building is placed to the southeast of the Ordnance Repair Shop, creating a symmetrical frame to the Ordnance Repair Shop (see Figure 3). The building is constructed out of wood framing covered by corrugated galvanized iron siding. The interior consists of two floors with a wooden staircase.

The Oil Storage Building has a floor space of approximately 400 square feet on the first floor, and approximately 350 square feet on the second floor. A system of shelves on the west and south sides of the second floor would have contained storage space for the repair of ordnance and subsequently vehicles (see Figure 4).

The building has a good level of integrity both in fabric and context. The Oil Storage Building has its original doors, but the windows have been removed and covered with plywood. The interior has seen little change since the building was built in 1948. The Quartermaster Support Area in which the buildings are situated also retains most buildings that were located there when the building was built in 1948 (see Figures 5-7).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character:** The Oil Storage Building (originally numbered T-583b and currently Building No. 2-1152) is constructed out of wood framing covered by corrugated galvanized iron siding. The interior consists of two floors with a wooden staircase. The building has a high level of architectural integrity. Little was changed on this building through the years except for placing plywood in lieu of the original windows.

2. **Condition of Fabric:** The concrete shows paint delamination at the foundation wall. The building was originally painted white, followed by silver gray to match the color of the corrugated galvanized iron sheeting. The sheeting is dented and punctured in places on the lower story of the facade on all sides due to physical damage. The upper story is in excellent condition. There is no sign of chemical decomposition on the exterior.

The north facade has two windows; one centered on the lower story and one centered on the upper story, boarded over with plywood from the interior. The interior wood framing is in excellent condition. All original windows are missing. The roof is in good condition with little/no damage to the roof structure or galvanized iron details. A double wood door has silver paint delamination, and a concrete threshold in good condition.
The upper window on the east side is not boarded up, but is open to the elements. Nails attaching the siding to the wood frame are showing signs of rust discoloration. The roof stack shows reddish discoloration.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Oil Storage Building is composed of one large mass measuring 26'-1" x 15'-6" with a north-south orientation. It is a double story building. The entire building sits on a concrete block foundation with a concrete slab floor. The ridge height is 17'-8" above grade on the east facade and 15'-6½" above grade on the west facade. Differences in window and door placement produce four distinct elevations for all facades.

The north elevation (Photo NC-400-1) is marked by two matching openings placed one above another, 2'-3" from the east edge of the corrugated galvanized iron siding and 2'-9½" above grade. Plywood has been nailed over the openings. A pair of wooden doors is 10" from the west edge of the corrugated galvanized iron siding. The horizontal seam for the corrugated galvanized iron siding is 7'-11" above grade.

The east elevation (Photo NC-400-2) is composed of two window openings stacked on top of one and other along the central axis of the facade. The bottom window opening is nailed shut with plywood and the top window is opened. The horizontal seam follows the north elevation seam that is 7'-11" above grade from the north side.

The south elevation (Photo NC-400-3) is marked by no fenestration on the facade. The main element of the facade is a half-gable that slopes to the west. The corrugated galvanized iron siding sits upon a 20½" concrete foundation wall. The horizontal seam of the corrugated galvanized iron siding follows the east elevation.

The west elevation (Photo NC-400-4) is marked by no fenestration on the facade. The corrugated galvanized iron siding sits upon a 9" concrete wall at the east that slopes up to a 20½" concrete foundation wall. The horizontal seam of the corrugated galvanized iron siding follows the south elevation.

2. Foundations: Foundation is concrete wall with a concrete slab poured over compacted soil. Depth of slab is undetermined. No crawl space is extant.

3. Wall Construction: The perimeter walls are constructed out of 2" x 4" vertical wood studs between a 2" x 6" sill plate and 2" x 6" double top plate. The stud wall is resting on top of the concrete foundation wall, which varies in height from 9" at the north wall to 20½" at the south wall. Horizontal 2" x 4" and 2" x 10" floor joists are placed between the vertical studs for lateral bracing at 6'-5½" high. There are two 2" x 10" diagonal bracing at the east and west walls and one 2" x 10" diagonal bracing at the north and south walls. Insulating pressboard covers the walls. The exterior side of the walls is composed of 2½" corrugated galvanized iron (Photo NC-400-5).
4. **Structural System, Framing:** There are four wooden columns, measures 7' 1/2" x 7' 1/2" and 5'-8" high, running north south of the building. The columns are 7'-11 1/4" from the east side of the building and 6'-6" on center with the first column aligned with the north wall. The wooden beam resting on the columns is composed of three 2" x 10"s. There are two 2" x 4"s attached diagonally from the column to the beam forming a "Y" for bracing. The 2" x 10" floor joists for the second floor have a 4 1/2" overlap above the wooden beam. The floor joists run east west with x-bracing at the middle of the span.

The roof platform is 2" x 4" rafters 16" on center with x-bracings in the middle of the span.

5. **Porches, Balconies:** There are none.

6. **Chimney:** There are none.

7. **Openings:**

a. **Doorways and Doors:** The north facade entrance has the original door. This is a 5'-4" x 6'-7 1/2" door with four wooden panels. The wooden panels are 1'-11 1/4" x 3'-4" with 4 1/2" wood trim around it. The opening of the wooden doorframe is formed by the 2" x 4" wood studs with 1/2" x 3" trim with the corrugated galvanized iron siding nailed to it. There is a 4" x 3" galvanized iron drip edge extending 1 1/4" out from the top of the opening.

b. **Windows:** There are no windows.

c. **Openings:** The four openings are 2'-7 1/4" x 4'-6 1/2". Three of the openings are covered by plywood. All the openings have a 1/2" x 3" trim with the corrugated galvanized iron siding nailed to it at the jambs and a 2" x 4" sill. There is a 4" x 3" galvanized iron drip edge extending 1 1/4" out from the top of the opening. The first opening on the north facade is located 2'-3" from the east wall and 2'-9 1/2" above grade. The second opening on the north facade is directly above the first opening and it is 11'-5" above grade. The two openings on the east facade are located at the same heights as the north facade. They are 11'-9 1/4" from the south wall of the building (Photo NC-400-9).

8. **Roof:**

a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is a moderate slope half-gable. The 5 1/2" x 1 1/2" wood deck is covered by tarpaper with gray three-tab asphalt shingles.

b. **Cornice, Eaves:** The roof of the Oil Storage Building has close rakes with little overhang. The cornice on the roof consists of 12" galvanized iron nailed to the bottom of the roof deck and to the side of the corrugated galvanized iron siding. There are no gutters on the building.

c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There is one galvanized metal ventilator, measuring 1'-8 1/4" x 1'-7 3/4", in the middle of the roof.
C. **Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor Plans:**
   
a. **First Floor Plan:** The floor plan is an open plan, which measures 26'-1" x 15'-6".
   
b. **Second Floor Plan:** The floor plan is an open plan which measures 26'-1" x 15'-6".

2. **Stairways:** There is a stairway at the northeast corner of the building leading to the second floor.

3. **Flooring:** The first floor is bare concrete. The second floor consists of 2" x 8" wood planks nailed to the floor joists.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finish:** The inside of the walls are not covered by any structure or material (Photos NC-450-5 through 47-7). The main elements of the structure (wood) and the siding (corrugated galvanized iron sheeting) are displayed.
   
The inside of the ceilings are not covered by any structure or material. The main elements of the structure (wood) and the roofing material (wood) are displayed (Photos NC-465-5 and 47-7).

5. **Openings:**
   
a. **Openings:** There are none.
   
b. **Doorways and Doors:** There are none.
   
c. **Windows:** There are none.

6. **Decorative Features, and Trim:** There are no decorative features.

7. **Hardware:** Door locks and hinges are the only original hardware left in the Oil Storage Building, no date of manufacture or company was located.

8. **Mechanical Equipment:**
   
a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:** No HVAC equipment exists.
   
b. **Lighting:** The original lighting is still extant. It consists of five steel fixtures: three hanging from the underside of the second floor, and two hanging from the underside of the roof deck. Each fixture has the capability of having a wire guard to protect the incandescent bulb; however, only one is extant.
   
c. **Plumbing:** There is no plumbing.
d. Fixtures: There are no original fixtures.

9. **Original Furnishings**: There are no original furnishings.

D. **Site**:

1. **General Setting**:

The Oil Storage Building is located on Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It faces south with its long axis perpendicular to Macomb Street and is located approximately 19'-11" to the south of the Ordnance/Motor Repair Shop and approximately 100' to the east of the Boiler House. A large concrete parking lot is located to the west of the Oil Storage Building. This parking lot has an oil runoff protection system (see photographic documentation HABS No. NC-382-13 and NC-382-14). The site is predominately flat, but there is a very slight slope down to the southeast.

2. **Landscaping**:

The site, on which the building is located, is paved on all sides. There are no trees on the site. The surface of the concrete surrounding the building is abraded, exposing the aggregate on ninety percent of the area.

**PART III. Sources of Information:**

A. **Architectural Drawings**: There are none.

B. **Historic Views**: There are none.

C. **Bibliography**:

1. **Primary and unpublished sources**:

   Adjutant General J.G. Brackinridge, War Department, Adjutant General Office to the Quartermaster General, May 8, 1941; Memos re: AG 600.12 Fort Bragg; Records of the Adjutant Generals' Office, Record Group 407, Entry Number 363; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

   *Army Navy Register*, April 12, 1941, 6.


   Curtin, Major Raymond G., Ordnance Department Assistant, War Department to the Quartermaster General, April 2, 1941; Memos re: AG 600.12 Fort Bragg; Records of the Adjutant Generals’ Office, Record Group 407, Entry Number 363; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Ft. Bragg-10, Completion Report; Completion report for cantonment and Replacement Center February 23, 1942; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, RG 77, Entry Number 391; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Ft. Bragg-10, Property Record Card No. 1; Completion report for cantonment and Replacement Center February 23, 1942; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, RG 77, Entry Number 391; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


“Housing the Army,” *Quartermaster Review 10*, March-April 1931, 11-13

Illegible, Assistant Quartermaster General, to Adjutant General, April 12, 1941; Memos re: AG 600.12 Fort Bragg; Records of the Adjutant Generals’ Office, Record Group 407, Entry Number 363; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


Meyns, Lt. Col. L.J., Ordnance Officer IV Corps Area, to Fort Bragg Ordnance Officer, February 25, 1941; Memos re: AG 600.12 Fort Bragg; Records of the Adjutant Generals’ Office, Record Group 407, Entry Number 363; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.


Property Record Card No. 2 located at the XVIII Airborne Corps History Office, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Rising, Lt. Col. H.N., Ordnance Officer Fort Bragg, to Ordnance Officer, IV Corps Area, March 4, 1941; Memos re: AG 600.12 Fort Bragg; Records of the Adjutant Generals’ Office, Record Group 407, Entry Number 363; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
2. **Secondary and published sources:**


D. **Likely sources not yet investigated:**

None

E. **Supplemental material:**
Figure 1: Building 2-1251 (courtesy of the National Archives).
Figure 2: Portion of 1948 Master Plan with buildings in center right (courtesy PWBC, Fort Bragg).
Figure 3: Ordnance Repair Shop with Boiler House on left and Oil Storage Building on right (ERDC-CERL).
Figure 4: Current Property Record for Boiler House (courtesy PWBC, Fort Bragg).
Figure 5: Location of Ordnance Repair area in the cantonment of Fort Bragg (courtesy PWBC, Fort Bragg).
Figure 6: Portion of 2002 cantonment map with buildings marked in black (courtesy PWBC, Fort Bragg).

Figure 7: Comparison between the 1959 aerial and 2002 aerial with buildings in center of photographs (courtesy PWBC, Fort Bragg).
PART IV. Project Information:

The Cultural Resources Program in the Public Works Business Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina sponsored this project. The project was completed at the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch of the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) part of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The project historian was Adam Smith (CERL). Adam Smith (CERL), with assistance from Christella Lai and Elizabeth Campbell, produced the architectural description section of the report. Martin Stupich produced the large-format photographs contained in the report. Documentation was coordinated with the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program through preservation planner Cris Armstrong. The documentation was completed November 2002.