

Fort David A. Russell, Gymnasium
(Fort David A. Russell, Building 151)
Randall Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets
Cheyenne
Laramie County
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-155

HABS
WY-155

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Intermountain Support Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Fort David A. Russell, Gymnasium

HABS No. WY-155

General Information

- Site Location:** Randall Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets
Cheyenne, Laramie County, Wyoming
USGS quadrangle: Cheyenne North, WY (7½ Minute Series, 1994)
UTM coordinates: 13.511980.4555520.
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Defense.
- Present Occupant:** U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force.
- Present Use:** Gymnasium.
- Present Condition:** Excellent.
- Significance:** The Gymnasium was constructed in 1939-1940 to provide recreational facilities for troops stationed at Fort F.E. Warren. Designed by the army and built jointly by the Public Works and Work Projects administrations, it typifies the degree of cooperation between military and relief agencies during the Great Depression. The Gymnasium has formed an integral part of the fort's day-to-day operation, and its prominent position along the fort's main thoroughfare distinguishes it as a landmark in the historic district. With its red brick walls, white trim, and symmetrical facade with classical revival main entrance, the Gymnasium typifies the modified Colonial Revival architectural style widely used by the Army's Quartermaster General's office.

Historical Information

Physical History:

- Date of erection: 1939-1940.
- Architect: Quartermaster General's Office, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
- Builder, contractor: Work Projects Administration.
- Original and subsequent owners: This building is situated on land that has historically been owned by the United States of America as part of the Fort David A. Russell military reservation. It is located within the boundaries of both the National Historic District established in 1969 and the National Historic Landmark District established in 1974.
- Original plans and construction: Three drawings of the Gymnasium are on file in the Warren Air Force Base archives. Showing the Gymnasium's four elevations and base-ment plan, all were produced by the Base Installation Office after in-

itial construction of the building. Additionally, an inventory form was produced for the Gymnasium by the War Department soon after its completion in 1940. This form recorded the following information:

Completed: 15 June 1940
Total cost: \$207,372.88
Material: walls: brick
 foundation: concrete
 floors: wood and concrete
 roof: built-up asphalt felt and gravel over concrete
 slab and wood deck
Dimensions: main building: 100'4" x 171'6"
 wings: 96'0" x 60'10"
 96'0" x 41'10"
 basement: 100'4" x 171'6"

Alterations and
additions:

The Gymnasium has undergone relatively minor alterations that have impacted the building's architectural character somewhat, particularly its interior spaces and finishes. Completed in June 1940, the building has since undergone periodic maintenance and/or replacement of its exterior elements (e.g., painting exterior trim, replacing doors, re-roofing). The most noticeable exterior alteration involves construction of a single-story brick wing on the south side. Partially obscured by large spruce trees, this wing features a flat roof and quoined brick corner treatment to integrate it architecturally with the original building. The most serious alteration to the west facade involves the replacement of the doors, door frame and transom on the main entrance. Other side and rear doors have similarly been replaced within original doorways. Other than these modifications, the building's exterior appears essentially unaltered.

The interior has been altered more extensively. The main-level basketball court, with its upper-level bleachers, remains essentially unaltered, although the original clerestory window panes have been painted to obscure them. Smaller spaces on the second floor have been converted to office use by the addition of carpeting and suspended-grid acoustical ceilings. The basement, which originally housed a bowling alley and a small bar and grille, has been extensively remodeled. The bowling alley has been replaced by a weight room, with its bowling lanes removed and floor covered by rubber mats and its walls covered by wood and mirror paneling. The cafe has similarly been converted into an exercise room, with carpeted floor, wood-paneled walls and Celotex ceiling tiles.

Historical context: Fort David A. Russell was established in 1867 to provide military protection for the Union Pacific Railroad then under construction across Wyoming Territory. Positioned at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, the fort's general location had been dictated by the Pacific Railroad Act, which authorized the railroad's construction. As mandated by the act, this base would function as one of a series of outposts along the railroad from which troops would patrol the region against Indian hostilities. As stated by Department of the Platte General Order No. 33:

The new military post to be established on Crow Creek, D.T. [Dakota Territory], at its intersection by the Union Pacific Railroad, is named Fort D.A. Russell, after Brigadier General David A. Russell, U.S. Volunteers, Major 8th U.S. Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864.

Assigned to the new post, the Thirteenth Infantry arrived two weeks later and set up camp three miles west of Cheyenne. While Union Pacific surveyors laid out the town in anticipation of the railroad's arrival, army surveyors laid out the post's military reservation. As delineated by Lieutenant R.W. Petriken, this reservation formed an irregular parallelogram two miles wide and three miles long that encompassed 3,840 acres. This was later expanded somewhat to accommodate the depot, named Camp Carlin (and renamed the Cheyenne Depot in 1871), on the reservation's southeast corner. "The Cheyenne Depot's mission was to provide supplies to all authorized users in the northern High Plains area," historian Gerald Adams stated, "including Fort D.A. Russell and the army forts to the north and west, plus several Indian agencies. An ordnance depot and a commissary of subsistence depot were also established at the Cheyenne Depot, but these facilities were sub-depots and much less extensive than the main quartermaster supply depot."

Soon after the arrival of the first train to Cheyenne, tons of supplies began pouring into the depot. Soldiers and civilian mechanics began building frame storage structures of all kinds to house the livestock and materiel. Sixteen warehouses were aligned in a double row straddling the railroad spur to the fort. These were accompanied by an array of wagon sheds, storage cellars and shops adjoined on the south by a maze of corrals and stables. Built largely by the Thirteenth Infantry with some civilian help, these buildings were utilitarian frame structures, with wood-shingled, gabled roofs and board-and-batten siding. Camp Carlin was manned by a civilian contingent of blacksmiths, saddlers, carpenters, wheelwrights and laborers that would eventually number 500 people. Serving as a supply point for up to twelve military posts in Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado, it was for a time the second-largest quartermaster depot in the country.

The officers and enlisted men at Fort Russell slept in tents or temporary log cabins through the summer and fall of 1867. Frame barracks for the enlisted men were completed in October; quarters for the officers the following February. Located on benchland immediately north of Crow Creek, these were organized around a diamond-shaped parade ground that had been laid out by Post Commander J.D. Stevenson and Post Surgeon C.H. Alden. Stevenson and Alden eschewed a stockade fence around the garrison as unnecessary.

New construction at Fort Russell was largely complete by the end of 1868, freeing the soldiers for soldiering. The Thirteenth Infantry had been joined in September 1867 by Company C of the Second Cavalry, which was later joined by other cavalry companies. By January 1868 eleven companies were quartered at the post, comprising 23 officers and 905 enlisted men. All but a few of these soldiers spent the summer and fall in the field, either guarding the construction crew or patrolling the completed line between Fort Kearney to the east and the Medicine Bow Mountains to the west.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869 changed the companies' deployment routines somewhat, but the men still patrolled almost continuously during clement weather. Construction of a branch line south to Denver, completed in June 1870, extended the fort's patrol area to northern Colorado. And increasing traffic along the Bozeman Trail to the Black Hills pulled the patrols northward. As the garrison's area of responsibility increased in the early 1870s, its complement of manpower decreased due to army-wide reductions in force. By 1876 the army had been pared down to a mere 25,000 men, stretched thinly across the country. That year General George Crook undertook an extensive winter march against the Indians, staged in part from Fort Russell. Continuing his far-ranging campaign from the previous summer, he was retaliating in part for Custer's massacre at the Little Big Horn in June 1876. Crook's brutal campaign essentially crushed large-scale Indian hostilities on the Great Plains, as bands of dispirited Indians began streaming onto the reservations the following spring.

The soldiers stationed at Fort D.A. Russell spent the remainder of the 1870s making incremental improvements to the post and chasing the dwindling bands of hostile Indians that remained. Meanwhile, with the Indian wars ebbing, the army continued its gradual dismantlement, reducing the size and number of infantry and cavalry companies and closing posts in the West. Nearby Forts Sanders and Fetterman were closed in May 1882, and some of their troops were re-assigned to Fort D.A. Russell. With the Cheyenne Depot still in full operation, the War Department decided later that year to maintain Fort Russell as a garrison for eight infantry companies.

The rough-sawn frame quarters built between 1867 and 1878 were by then badly deteriorated. Beginning in January 1885 the army began replacing them with more substantial brick structures. By 1889 some thirty new brick structures had been built, including six new quarters for non-commissioned officers [NCOs], eight new barracks, a hospital and eleven officers' quarters. The original diamond-shaped parade ground was retained as the post's centerpiece. The orientation of the command structure around it changed somewhat with a shift of the new Commanding Officer's Quarters to the diamond's west corner. But the functional arrangement of buildings remained unchanged: officers' quarters along the north side of the parade ground, enlisted men's barracks south. Shops, quartermaster warehouses, NCO quarters, the hospital and miscellaneous buildings lined the eastern and southern peripheries, and stables and corrals were located beyond these to the southeast.

Completion of the Cheyenne and Northern Railroad north from Cheyenne substantially decreased the necessity for the Cheyenne Depot. With trains available to carry supplies to the northern posts and reservations, wagons were no longer needed. In deteriorating condition after more than twenty years of use, the depot was closed in September 1889. This closure effectively signalled the end of the Indian wars. Most of the northern forts had since been abandoned, and almost all of the Indians were peacefully ensconced on reservations. A further indication that things were changing occurred the following July when the Senate voted to dispose of the military reservations at forts Fetterman, Steele, Bridger, Laramie and Sanders in Wyoming. Under the political protection of Wyoming Senator Francis E. Warren, Fort Russell appeared insulated from the military cutbacks that were depleting the western forces.

During the 1890s the eight companies of the Seventeenth Infantry at Fort Russell were principally engaged in construction and maintenance of post buildings. The troops were occasionally dispatched to quell incipient Indian uprisings, such as the Ghost Dance movement at Wounded Knee and the Bannock threat in Jackson Hole. They also escorted the defeated "army" of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association back to Cheyenne after the Johnson County War, and provided law enforcement for labor strikes in Wyoming and Colorado. But the garrison was largely quiet through the 1890s until war was declared with Spain in April 1898. The following month four companies were mustered to the Philippines to fight in the Battle of Manila. Another group headed to Cuba in June but never made it, after a series of mishaps.

After the Spanish-American War ended in 1899, Congress resumed dismantling the western outposts. Despite this, the War Department in March 1899 approved the construction of five new officers' quarters at Fort Russell to re-

place the 1867 buildings on the northeastern edge of the parade ground. Two years later the last remaining buildings from the fort's initial construction were sold. At that time the military population of Fort Russell had fallen to two officers and 77 men, prompting fears among the townspeople that the post may be closed. But returning troops from the Philippines soon bolstered the garrison to more than 500 men and 22 officers.

Early in 1902 Senator Warren, then on the Senate Military Affairs Committee, succeeded in having Fort Russell designated a permanent post that would house a full regiment of infantry and a battery of artillery. To accommodate the additional troops, 19 new officers' quarters (including a new house for the commanding officer), three NCO quarters and four barracks would be constructed, and eight existing barracks would be remodeled. Two more duplex officers' quarters had already been completed that year. Late in 1902 the army hired Cheyenne contractor--and mayor--M.P. Keefe to construct two major artillery barracks, in addition to several other buildings. These, like every building erected on the post since the 1894 Post Headquarters, were designed by the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D.C. The barracks were by far the largest structures built on the post to date, enclosing almost 23,000 square feet of above-ground space each. With their red brick walls, white trim and symmetrical facades with full-width, two-story colonnades and front pediments, the artillery barracks typified the modified Colonial Revival style that would dominate post architecture in subsequent years.

The following March the army built ten other buildings: two duplex officers' quarters, one duplex NCO quarters, one barracks, two shop buildings and a stable, gunshed, bake house and pump house. All but the stable and gunshed were to be built of brick and stone. The army soon thereafter authorized construction of more buildings, which were let for bid later that year. Construction of officers' houses and enlisted men's barracks continued unabated over the next three years, greatly increasing the size of the post.

Fort Russell's dramatic expansion after the turn of the century was attributable almost entirely to the patronage of Francis Warren, and the fort's improving fortunes were tied directly to those of the Wyoming senator's. In March 1905 Warren was named chairman of the Senate Committee for Public Buildings and Grounds. Later that year he became the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, a position he would hold for the next 25 years. Coincidentally, Fort Russell was increased to brigade size in 1905, which necessitated construction of even more facilities to accommodate the increased troops. In January 1907, for instance, the Quartermaster General contracted for 31 new buildings; in February 1908 for 48, including a 100-bed hospital and a cavalry drill hall that was termed "the biggest Army

building in the West" when completed the following year. In March 1910 contracts were awarded for ten more structures.

This intensive building program continued until 1913, with peak construction occurring between 1908 and 1910. Virtually all of the expansion occurred east of the original parade grounds, following the pattern that had been established in the 1880s. The original 1867 parade ground was later renamed the Marne Parade and the 1885 expansion became the Aisne Parade. The road extending from the eastern corner of the original diamond and along the northern edge of the Champagne Parade was named Warren Avenue. As it wound eastward in carefully executed arcs and bends, it defined three subsequently named parade grounds: Vesle, St. Mihiel and Argonne. The officers' quarters were spaced evenly along the north side of Warren, facing the enlisted men's barracks across the grassed parades. Eventually numbering 74 single and duplex houses, these quarters were landscaped in typical suburban fashion, with cottonwood and spruce trees interspersed with hedgerows in well-tended lawns.

The 29 enlisted men's barracks and administration buildings marched in an evenly spaced line down Randall Avenue, the name given to the street that became the main entrance from Cheyenne. The barracks' landscaping was similar to that of the officers' quarters, although the greater density of building mass here limited the number of trees and shrubs that could be planted. The aesthetic landscaping ended behind the barracks, where utilitarian buildings were grouped within large, dirt-surfaced staging yards.

Although greatly expanded, this organization represented a continuation of the functional hierarchy established in 1867 and reinforced in 1885. The officers' quarters formed the northernmost tier of buildings, aligned picturesquely along winding Warren Avenue. The officers and their families were separated visually and spatially from the men, materiel and livestock by a series of open-space parades. Facing the officers across the parade grounds were the enlisted men, housed in large-scale barracks, which, with their similar facades and unvarying setbacks, were characterized by uniformity.

Behind the men's quarters were the operational support buildings (e.g., fire stations, guardhouses, dispensaries), arranged loosely along side streets. Beyond these to the south were the livestock stables and munitions sheds, which, despite their disparities of size and function, aligned consistently along Second Avenue (now 10th Cavalry Avenue). The warehouses were located south of these, positioned in functional groups close to the railroad spur. Neither officers nor men, the non-commissioned officers formed the southern boundary of the post in their own discreetly separated compound.

Despite their different functions, most of the buildings at Fort Russell shared a commonality of scale, materials and design. Virtually all were built from plans furnished by the Office of the Quartermaster General [OQMG] in Washington. The OQMG stressed standardization as an efficient means to design and build large numbers of structures in a relatively short time. Standardization also afforded visual continuity for the post and allowed, through a subtle system of architectural form and detail, reinforcement of military hierarchy.

The Colonial Revival idiom fit OQMG's needs perfectly. The prevailing architectural style in America at the turn of the century, it represented a sense of heritage and a reference to the country's colonial origins--an ideal architectural statement for a military steeped in tradition and proud of its Revolutionary War record. Moreover, with its simple massing and unadorned surfaces, Colonial Revival was cheaper to build and maintain than the Victorian styles, with their asymmetrical footprints and sumptuous surface ornamentation.

At its conclusion in 1913, the expansion of Fort D.A. Russell involved some 150 new structures of varying sizes, functions and materials. The post size had increased severalfold. Entailing many of the post's most prominent buildings and parade grounds, the massive post-1902 construction virtually transformed the fort's architectural and landscape character.

With construction in full swing in March 1911, the post's military population plummeted from about 3,000 men to 300, as infantry, cavalry and artillery companies from the fort were dispatched to the Texas border in response to the Mexican revolution. The men returned later that year but returned to Texas in 1913, just as the fort's building program was concluding. Over the next three years, Fort Russell stood almost empty at times. In June 1916, for example, the fort was occupied by only two officers and 38 men--a ratio of over five buildings per man.

Troop numbers varied widely during World War I, as companies of regular and reserve forces passed through on their way to and from other postings. Immediately after war was declared in April 1917, Fort Russell's population increased to more than 5,000 men and 3,200 horses. Later that year only 105 officers and men remained. After the war, the post was designated a demobilization center for a five-state area, and briefly in 1919-20 it contained an airfield for bombing practice and the transcontinental reliability test.

On January 1, 1930, five weeks after Francis Warren's death, the post was renamed Fort F.E. Warren in honor of the senator's longstanding stewardship. The 1920s and 1930s were a period of relative stability for the post. The dramatic fluctuations of population that had occurred in previous years dimin-

ished markedly. Similarly, construction of new buildings was limited to a few infill structures and continuations of existing complexes. In 1931 the War Department listed 259 permanent buildings, ten more under construction, and 26 temporary buildings. A year later four Company Officers' Quarters were built on the northern side of the Argonne Parade Ground. At the same time the Detachment Barracks were built to replace two 1880s barracks buildings that had burned in the 1920s. The most significant expansion of the inter-war period occurred along Carlin Avenue with the construction of several duplex NCO quarters. These, like the barracks and officers' quarters, employed the OQMG's simplified version of Colonial Revival architecture.

By the late 1930s three unrelated national trends had emerged that would affect the fort's development. First, as part of its efforts to modernize, the army had phased out livestock as a motive force. In 1931 over 2,000 horses and mules were still stabled at F.E. Warren. These were gradually eliminated in ensuing years until only two mules remained in 1939. "Not in the 60-odd years of Ft. Warren's history has the mule population there been so low," the *Wyoming Eagle* reported in May 1939, "and this is because the army's infantry brigades are motorized." Rendered obsolete, the many livestock buildings and facilities at the post would eventually be converted to other uses.

The second trend resulted from government efforts to battle the Great Depression, then at its depths. Federal relief agencies such as Public Works Administration and the Work Projects Administration were actively seeking construction projects which could be used to provide jobs for the nation's legions of unemployed. During the late 1930s Fort Warren benefitted from this in the form of funds and labor to build ancillary structures.

The army was at this time also expanding. In June 1936, with Hitler's troops occupying the Rhineland and the destabilization of Europe threatening, Congress approved the largest peacetime defense appropriation to date. Intended for manpower increases and construction on existing posts, the legislation would have an immediate affect on F.E. Warren. The post's population, which numbered around 2,500 in the mid-1930s, soon grew to over 4,000. And in June 1936 the fort received a \$300,000 allotment for facility repairs and construction. Of this, \$70,000 were earmarked for a new barracks for the medical detachment, \$22,500 for telephone construction, \$14,000 for roads and fences, and \$200,000 for construction of a new gymnasium. With the arrival of Brigadier General E.D. Peek as the new post commander in July 1937, appropriations for construction further increased.

In April 1938, funded by a grant received from the WPA, a contingent of relief laborers began work on a new 900-seat movie theatre to replace the

existing 700-seat house. That month Congress reconsidered authorization for the medical barracks and gymnasium. "The post riding hall at Ft. Warren last fall was remodeled and converted into a gymnasium and recreation center," the *Eagle* stated. "Erection of a gymnasium and medical barracks are still badly needed, as the present hall could thus be returned to its former use." When the Congressional amendment containing the buildings' appropriation was rejected, Wyoming Senator J.C. O'Mahoney persuaded the WPA and PWA to fund the projects jointly. A WPA crew began building the barracks in July, but, as reported by the *Eagle*, the gymnasium still awaited approval. "Authority to spend additional WPA money for the basement of a new gymnasium had not been extended yesterday [July 8]. This building will be built under a similar arrangement with the WPA and PWA, and will cost approximately \$150,000."

Approval for the gymnasium was granted later that year, and in June 1940 the WPA construction crew had completed the building. Located centrally near the southeast corner of the Mihiel Parade, it was one of the more massive structures on the post. The building featured a modified version of the post's Colonial Revival architecture. Since its completion, the building has functioned as a gymnasium to the present. The main level is dominated by a basketball court--still in use in original condition--with smaller spaces on the smaller second floor. The basement originally housed a bowling alley with a small bar and grille off to one side. These spaces have recently been remodeled into exercise and weight-lifting rooms. The air force is presently planning further modifications to the building's interior.

Architectural Information

Architectural character: The Fort D.A. Russell Gymnasiums is a symmetrically massed, classically detailed structure, reflective of its army quartermaster origins. Housing a spacious basketball court at its center and a bowling alley in the basement, this building is a relatively large-scale brick structure with Colonial Revival detailing. The Gymnasium has undergone only minor exterior alterations and appears today much as it did when it was completed in 1940.

Condition of fabric: Exterior: excellent
Interior: excellent

Description of Exterior:

- Overall dimensions:** Main section: 100'4" x 171'6"; front (west) wing: 96'0" x 41'10"; rear (east) wing: 96'0" x 60'10". The building is massed as a large one-story main section over a raised basement, appended on the east and west by two-story wings and on the north by a single-story wing.
- Foundations:** Concrete perimeter walls on spread footings.
- Walls:** Red brick laid in common bond, with corbeled brick quoins at corners and on either side of main entrance.
- Structural system:** Brick masonry exterior bearing walls and reinforced concrete interior columns with reinforced concrete slab-and-beam floor and roof systems. The clear-span roof over the basketball court is supported by four rigid-connected Pratt trusses, with steel-angle lateral bracing.
- Porches, stoops:** Wide concrete stoop with flared treads, flanking bulkheads and steel pipe handrails at main entrance; smaller, secondary concrete stoops and stairs at other entrances on south and north sides.
- Doorways and doors:** The double-leaf main entrance is centered on the front (west) wall. With its classical revival surround, this doorway forms the architectural focal point for the building. The doors are hollow metal replacements, with six lights each; these are framed with cast stone jambs and moulded casings, outside of which are shallow cast stone quoins. The doorway is capped by a five-light, fixed-sash transom. Above it is a Greek Revival pediment, above which is an Italianate window, with brick voussoirs and cast stone keystone. The assemblage of doorway, transom, pediment and window is in turn framed by a large Romanesque arch with brick header voussoirs and corbeled brick springers. Flanking this arch are two quoined brick pilasters, each with a cast stone entablature. The doorway is flanked by two decorative cast iron, electric-light sconces. On one side is a commemorative brass plate that reads: "In Special Recognition of Brig Gen Gerald G. Fall, Jr. for Outstanding Leadership and Support of the Recreation Program. June 1972 [-] July 1974. F.E. Warren Air Force Base."
- Other, smaller doorways are located on the building's sides. Two-leaf doorways symmetrically placed on the main section originally provided direct access to the basketball court on the north and south sides. The east door on the north wall has more recently been eliminated by construction of the north wing, but the other three doorways remain in place. Each features two replacement hollow metal doors

in a hollow metal frame, a loose lintel, granite lug sill, and concrete stoop. Another two-leaf doorway is located in the building's southeast corner. Featuring all original components, it features wood five-panel doors, wood frame, loose lintel, granite lug sill and concrete stoop with wrought iron handrails. A similar single-leaf door is located in the northwest corner.

Windows and shutters: Most of the building's windows are located on both floors of the east and west wings. Evenly spaced along the brick walls, all feature steel, 12-light industrial windows with operable awning-type sash. The windows are framed by loose lintels and cast stone lug sills. The building's center section has no windows on its north and south walls, but it does have steel clerestory windows on its east and west sides, above the flanking wings.

Roof: Flat roofs with built-up asphalt felt roofing cover the main section and the three wings. The center section over the basketball court has a tongue-in-groove wood deck bolted to the superstructural steel trusses; the east, west and north wings have concrete slab roof decks. All roofs are bordered by brick parapet walls with cast stone copings. The parapets, like the roofs, are flat, with the exception of a shallow pediment over the main entrance on the front (west) wall.

Description of Interior:

Floor plans: The building's main entrance on the west side enters a first-floor lobby in the west wing. Beyond this lobby is a corridor that extends north-south along the length of the wing, with stairways on either end extending up to the second floor and down to the basement. The second floors of both east and west wings are divided into series of offices, exercise rooms, locker rooms and bathrooms, which are accessed by central hallways. The basketball court occupies the entire main level of the building's center section. This space features the court floor oriented north-south at ground level, with concrete bleachers on balconies that extend along the east and west walls. Accessed from the second-floor halls in the wings, these balconies are hung by pin-connected steel rods from the steel roof trusses. Below the court in the basement is the original bowling alley (now a weight room), adjoined on the south by the original bar and grille (now an exercise room). To the east of the grille, in the southwest corner of the center section, is the boiler room and attendant coal room.

- Stairways:** Half-turn, steel-frame, open-stringer stairways are located in each wings. These stairways extend from the basement to the second floor.
- Flooring:** The basketball court features a maple strip floor with vinyl baseboards. The concrete floor in the basement weight room is covered with interlocking rubber mats. Elsewhere in the building, the floors are typically carpeted, with vinyl or wood baseboards.
- Wall and ceiling finish:** The walls in the basketball court are unpainted, exposed brick. Those in the basement exercise rooms are painted concrete, covered in places with wood or mirror paneling. Walls elsewhere in the building are typically painted sheetrock.
- Doorways and doors:** Interior doors and doorways have generally been replaced.
- Windows:** Interior window treatment typically includes wood lug sills, moulded wood aprons and no casings.
- Decorative features and trim:** The building's interior is plainly appointed, with minimal trim and no noteworthy decorative features.
- Hardware:** Interior doorways feature mortised locksets and hinges. Windows feature metal sash locks.
- Mechanical equipment:** The building has always been served by electricity and plumbing. The original heating system, manufactured by the Pacific Steel Boiler Corporation, consists of a converted gas-fired boiler in the basement that feeds hot-water radiators.

Description of Site: The Gymnasium is situated along Randall Avenue, across the street from a series of enlisted men's barracks built around the turn of the century. Although this building and the barracks display a diversity of configurations, they all share similar characteristics of scale, materials, height, setback and landscaping. The Gymnasium is situated in a grassed lawn, with mature deciduous and coniferous plantings. Immediately north of the building is a paved parking lot; to the east is a small landscaped area containing the post's main flagpole, with ancillary structures.

Sources of Information

Architectural drawings: The Gymnasium was built from OQMG Plan Number 6560-145 through 6560-179. None of the original drawings have been located, but three later drawings showing the building's basement plan and its four elevations are presently kept at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base archives. These are reproduced as HABS Photo Nos. WY-155-18 through WY-155-20.

- Bibliography:**
- Adams, Gerald M. *The Post Near Cheyenne: A History of Fort D.A. Russell, 1867-1930*. Cheyenne, Wyoming: High Flyer Publications, 1997.
- "Architectural Survey: F.E. Warren Air Force Base," Volume 1: Architectural History. September 1984.
- "The Army Mule Is No More; Only 2 Left at Ft. Warren." *Wyoming Eagle*, 31 May 1939.
- "Barracks and Gymnasium to be Built Here." *Wyoming Eagle*, 22 June 1938.
- "Carey Obtains Big Allocation to Fort." *Wyoming State Tribune*, 2 June 1936.
- "Construction of Theatre at Fort Sought." *Wyoming Eagle*, 1 April 1938.
- "Fort Construction Begins." *Wyoming Eagle*, 30 October 1940.
- "Ft. F.E. Warren Is Third Largest U.S. Army Post." *Wyoming Eagle*, 28 July 1939.
- Fort Francis E. Warren Building Inventory: Building No. 151, 1940.
- "Ft. Warren Garrison to be Trebled in Spring." *Wyoming Eagle*, 9 October 1940.
- "Ft. Warren Troops To Go Streamlined." *Wyoming Eagle*, 29 June 1939.
- "Fund for Fort Remodeling Is Asked of WPA." *Wyoming State Tribune*, 23 June 1938.

"Gen. E.D. Peek New Fort Commander." *Wyoming State Tribune*, 1 July 1937.

"Historic Building Assessment: F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, Wyoming." Report prepared for HQ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Environmental Analysis Division, February 1997.

"Post Garrison Mobilized in Hour and Half." *Wyoming Eagle*, 2 April 1938.

"Post May Get \$145,000 More for Building." *Wyoming Eagle*, 27 June 1939.

"PWA Preparing for Billion-Dollar Program." *Wyoming State Tribune*, 16 June 1938.

"PWA Starts Pump-Priming." *Wyoming State Tribune*, 22 June 1938.

"62 Begin Work on New Building at Ft. Warren." *Wyoming Eagle*, 9 July 1938.

"277,000 for New Buildings at Fort Gets Initial Okay." *Wyoming Eagle*, 5 April 1938.

U.S. Department of the Air Force. "Historic Structures Inventory Form: Base Gymnasium, Building 151." Martha Bowers, URS-Berger, 18 May 1984.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Francis E. Warren Air Force Base," Inventory-Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places. Nedward M. Frost, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, 9 July 1969.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Francis E. Warren Air Force Base," Inventory-Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places (National Historic Landmark). George R. Adams, American Association for State and Local History, 1 September 1974.

"U.S. Prepares for War." *Wyoming Eagle*, 27 April 1939.

"Work on New Post Theatre Begins Today." *Wyoming Eagle*, 5 April 1938.

Project Information

This report was prepared by Fraserdesign of Loveland, Colorado, under a subcontract agreement with Labat-Anderson Incorporated of Bellevue, Nebraska. The Gymnasium was recorded photographically by Clayton Fraser, Principal of Fraserdesign, in May 1999; this report was produced by Fraser in June 1999.