FORT McCOY
(Camp McCoy)
Sparta vicinity
Monroe County
Wisconsin

HABS NO. WI-308

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41-SPAR.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT McCOY
(Camp McCoy)
HABS NO. WI-308

Location:	Fort McCoy, Sparta vicinity, Monroe County, Wisconsin
Present Owner:	Department of the Army
Original Use:	U.S. Army seasonal training camp, known as Camp Robinson
Subsequent Use:	After World War I, enlarged and renamed Camp McCoy; military training facility and Civilian Conservation Corps Camp; later a World War II mobilization cantonment.
Present Use:	Fort McCoy, a U.S. Army Base and National Guard training facility.
Significance:	Fort McCoy is significant as the location of one of the largest concentrations of 800-series temporary buildings in the United States. Fort McCoy was built as part of a massive mobilization program designed to provide housing and training facilities for the troops, in preparation for United States involvement in World War II. The cantonment section of Fort McCoy today vividly recalls both the planning and construction phases of the camp. Its triangular division plan continues to provide pleasant perspectives along curvilinear avenues and occasional vistas of impressive buildings at the end of axial streets. Only a few hundred of the 1,500 wartime structures have been removed, and the exterior colors and materials on most buildings are unchanged from the 1940s. Nearly all of the mobilization building types remain intact. Thus, Fort McCoy represents one of the most complete collections of 800 Series standard buildings still in existence.

OVERVIEW

During the course of six months in 1942, Camp McCoy, a mobilization cantonment capable of housing 35,000 soldiers of the U.S. Army, was constructed near Sparta, Wisconsin. Although the other camps and cantonments were built during the early 1940's, none was larger than Camp McCoy. Today, the Wisconsin post, now known as Fort McCoy, claims an additional distinction as one of the largest surviving collections of World War II mobilization buildings and structures. An inquiry into the history of the planning and construction of Fort McCoy offers considerable insights into the mobilization effort mounted by the Army between 1940 and 1943 and the physical characteristics of the planned communities and architecture that resulted.

Camp McCoy began its existence in 1909 as a small, seasonal training ground located four miles to the southwest of the present McCoy cantonment. Until 1917, regular Army artillery batteries conducted occasional exercises on the grounds of a 14,000-acre military reservation created from the former McCoy ranch and adjacent tracts, some three and a half miles northeast of the town of Sparta, Wisconsin.[1]

With the entrance of the United States in World War I in 1917, the War Department, the Cabinet agency that oversaw the operations of the U. S. Army, decided to build a training camp for draftees in the upper Midwest region at the McCoy reservation, then known as "Camp Robinson." A gridiron plan was quickly laid out consisting of approximately seven blocks, and barracks, mess halls, warehouses, and stables were erected in parallel rows within the blocks. The buildings were constructed from standard mobilization plans prepared by the Construction Division of the War Department and were simple wooden structures, unfinished and hurriedly assembled, intended for temporary use and removal following the war. During the brief period between the completion of the temporary buildings and the Armistice ending hostilities, field artillery and infantry units occupied the camp and were trained.[2]

Following the conclusion of World War I, the barracks and mess halls were dismantled at Camp Robinson, and the reservation began a twenty-year period as a summer training post for regular Army artillery units, Army reserve troops, and National Guard detachments from the western Great Lakes area. During the 1930s, the reservation, now known as Camp McCoy, also became a district headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an unemployment relief agency of the New Deal. A few permanent buildings for administering the summer training activities were erected around the perimeters of the World War I cantonment site, which served as a field for the tent camps pitched annually by the visiting troops.[3]

In 1939, as events in Europe moved again toward war, the War Department secured the transfer of 9,500 acres owned by the Department of Agriculture to the Camp McCoy reservation. The following year, the Army General Staff decided that the Second Army, composed of 65,000 men, should conduct maneuvers, or "war-games," at McCoy. The open, varied terrain of the camp proper and of the surrounding countryside appealed to the commanding officers in the Second Army and other observers as especially well-suited for training exercises involving large numbers of troops.[4]

The maneuvers were conducted successfully in August 1940, and apparently contributed to the selection of Camp McCoy as a possible site for a new mobilization cantonment. In spring 1941, Major

Everett C. Hayden, Zone Constructing Quartermaster for the Sixth Army Corps area, sent Lieutenant Daniel C. Lamoreaux with a real estate appraiser to Wisconsin for an informal survey of the privately-owned land north and northeast of the Camp McCoy reservation. Lamoreaux and the appraiser reported favorably on the suitability of the adjacent area for a large training cantonment, and Hayden recommended to the Commander of the Sixth Corps that McCoy be considered for expansion.[5]

The Planning of Camp McCoy, 1941

The investigation of the Wisconsin site was part of a national effort in "advance planning" ordered by Brigadier General Brehon B. Somervell, Chief of the Construction Division in the Army Quartermaster Corps. Following the passage of the Selective Service Act in October 1940, the War Department had been faced with the immediate planning and construction of camps and cantonments[6] throughout the United States in less than four months. Sites had to be appraised and acquired; architect-engineering firms had to be retained and prepare detailed surveys and plans for layout and road and utility construction; general contractors had to be hired; and construction of the camps and cantonments had to be accomplished. While in civilian projects these activities would be carried out successively, the need to house almost immediately draftees and National Guardsmen forced the Construction Division to conduct them simultaneously. The results were delays, confusion, and large increases in cost.[7]

Somervell, who assumed the construction post at the end of 1940, resolved to avoid the embarrassment of delay and excess cost with the erection of the camps and cantonments that would be required for the next wave of draftees. He sent instructions to the Zone Constructing Quartermasters, such as Hayden, to look for suitable sites, and recruited a first-rate professional staff in Washington to coordinate real estate acquisition, site planning, architectural and engineering design, and construction management.[8]

To direct the efforts of the zone constructing quartermasters to acquire property, Somervell hired John J. O'Brien, a top real estate attorney at the Department of Justice. As chief of design in the Engineering Branch, the general appointed Major Hugh J. Casey, a brilliant structural engineer that he borrowed from the Corps of Engineers. To head the Architectural Unit within the Design Section, the Construction Division chief hired George E. Bergstrom, president of the American Institute of Architects. As Chief of the Civil Engineering Unit, Frederick H. Fowler, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was retained. To lead the site planning effort at the Construction Division, Somervell and Casey recruited Leon H. Zach, a former associate of the Olmsted Brothers, one of the most prominent landscape architecture firms in the nation. These newcomers were to play influential roles in the construction campaign that lay ahead.[9]

Late in May 1941, recommendations for camp and cantonment sites began to arrive at the Construction Division from the commanders of the nine Army Corps areas. Casey and the specialists in the Design Unit reviewed each proposal and commented on each with respect to any difficulties in construction or aspects likely to escalate costs. After the Army General Staff reviewed the evaluations of the Construction Division and the field commanders, the chief of staff, General George C. Marshall, made the final recommendation of sites to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. In May, the secretary approved nine locations, and in July, he approved fourteen, including Camp McCoy, for preparation of detailed surveys, site plans, and construction drawings. Only "advanced planning" for the twenty-three sites was to be undertaken; no funds for construction had been sought yet from Congress. General Somervell merely

wished to be ready with approved sites and building plans when the next call for mobilization camps came.[10]

In addition to the military and construction advantages found by the Army at Camp McCoy, the heavy lobbying of Wisconsin congressmen, senators, and state officials on behalf of the McCoy site undoubtedly influenced the War Department to consider the location favorably. In early 1941, Governor Julius P. Heil instructed the adjutant general of Wisconsin, Brig. Gen. Ralph P. Immell, to make the the Army aware of the advantages afforded by the western Wisconsin camp for training troops. Simultaneously, Congressman William H. Stevenson of LaCrosse, in whose district McCoy was situated, began to lobby for selection of the camp for expansion by the War Department. The two U.S. senators from Wisconsin, Alexander Wiley and Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., added their influence in Washington. Although Somervell was committed to building only in locations favorable to military training and expeditious construction, he did not object to choosing a site that also enjoyed political support. Hence, lobbying by state officials and legislators also helped assure the designation of Camp McCoy as an advance planning project.[11]

When Secretary Stimson approved the second group of locations in July, Somervell was ready with a list of architect-engineering firms that Casey's staff had endorsed for carrying out the "advanced planning." Although several companies had supervised the construction of camps or cantonments in 1940-41, some had experience in civilian projects only. In Wisconsin, the Construction Division sought the services of Mead, Ward and Hunt, a Madison firm falling in the second category. During the last week of July, Clayton N. Ward, a senior partner of the company, signed a "cost plus a fixed-fee"[12] contract with the War Department for $100,000 and the following week began to hire the first of some 125 engineers that eventually would work on the advanced planning for a McCoy cantonment.[13]

At the beginning of August, Ward opened a branch office at Camp McCoy. Topographical surveys, the first task in planning a camp, were started immediately. At the same time, Lieutenant Colonel Hayden, the zone constructing quartermaster, sent two officers from his staff to the camp to establish a local constructing quartermaster office for overseeing the work of Mead, Ward and Hunt. An officer from the real estate branch of the zone office arrived to begin appraisals on the private land needed for expanding the McCoy reservation. The proposed project would be immense. News releases at the end of July estimated that the old McCoy reservation would be expanded to approximately 55,000 acres and that a cantonment large enough to house 30,000 men would be built. The total cost of construction was placed at $22,800,000.[14]

By the end of August, Ward's surveyors completed the topographical field work, and draftsmen at the camp prepared maps for use in other surveys. During the same time, the Mead, Ward and Hunt staff investigated alternate sites within the proposed reservation area for the cantonment proper--containing the barracks, mess halls, administration buildings, service facilities, and social buildings of a training camp. Starting with five locations, the engineers and constructing quartermaster staff narrowed the choice to two possibilities: a) a relatively level tract between County Trunk Road "B" (now State Highway 21) and the LaCrosse River; or b) a more compact area between Tarr Creek, a small stream flowing roughly east-west, to the north of Trunk Road "B," and the Northwestern Railroad tracks, located south of the road. The engineers also devised tentative layout plans for a cantonment at either location.[15]

As the two layouts took shape in late August and early September, other members of the Mead, Ward and Hunt force began to prepare surveys for the six types of utilities and transportation features that would be constructed in the cantonment: a) rail spurs from the Northwestern Railroad, b) sources of water supply, c) a water distribution system, d) sewage disposal plant, e) roadways, and f) an electrical supply system. As each of the field investigations concluded, draftsmen in the engineering camp office began to prepare drawings depicting tentative designs for each system.[16]

As September passed, company designers prepared general plans for the cantonment in both of the alternate locations. On September 27, a representative of Mead, Ward and Hunt and Lieutenant Robert K. Sawyer, the Camp McCoy constructing quartermaster, presented Site Plan "A," the layout design north of Trunk Road "B," and Site Plan "B," the layout south of Tarr Creek, to Army representatives in Chicago. At the meeting, Major General Joseph M. Cummins, commanding general of the Sixth Army Corps area, which included Wisconsin, approved the selection of Plan "A" for construction of the cantonment.[17] The general's decision followed a field investigation of the two plans and sites the day before by officials of the Quartermaster Corps. The reasons given by Sawyer in a press release for selection of the northern location and layout included the greater room for future expansion available north of Road "B" and better possibility of adequate drainage. In addition, the more spacious bounds of the north site would allow a layout that provided a more pleasing architectural effect.[18]

The plan selected on September 27 was based on the principles set forth in the typical layout plans prepared by Leon Zach and the Site Planning Unit of the Construction Division. Mead, Ward and Hunt used the Zach layout as the basis for designing cantonment housing for the triangular infantry division, the type of army unit likely to occupy most of the advanced planning sites. The sample design issued by the War Department in summer 1941 was guided foremost by the training requirements of a triangular army division, the core of which was three infantry regiments.[19] In the diagram, one side of the central parade ground was occupied by six blocks pertaining to the three regiments, which could march to their training areas on the opposite side of the parade field without encountering traffic resulting from the movement of non-infantry troops. The artillery batteries of the division and detachments of special troops were arranged on the other two sides of the parade, allowing them to engage in their training activities without interfering with those of the infantry.[20]

Zach's typical blocks within the general layout were based both on military organizational requirements and city planning principles. Each block was to be occupied by a battalion of troops. Two blocks comprised a regiment. Within a block were six to seven companies, depending on the type of battalion involved. Along each street in a block were four mess halls at center, and ten or more barracks, with a company usually occupying three barracks and eating in one of the mess halls. To the rear of the barracks, at either end of each street were company administration buildings, one for each company. Zach arrived at the typical block designs after consulting with division officers in the field.[21]

The site planning chief also invoked city planning precepts in the model layout. Service, social, and cultural buildings--such as infirmaries, service clubs, theaters, and chapels were located within easy reach of each residential block. Incompatible mixtures of land use were avoided. Thus, the warehouse and maintenance structures were concentrated in a single block, away from the troop housing areas, and the hospital block, which was not shown on the typical plan, was isolated from the cantonment area to reduce the effect of noise and dirt on patients. Traffic circulation for motorized vehicles was carefully considered, with two parallel, main arteries flanking the ends of all troop blocks to avoid congestion. The

compactness of the overall configuration reduced travel time. Acknowledging the importance of motorized transport in contemporary warfare, Zach also provided generously for parking areas along the outside of each block. Fire prevention was fostered by placing 250-foot firebreaks between each block in the cantonment. Finally, as in any civilian community with a population of 30,000, Zach provided ample open space for recreation and designated the central parade ground for such use.[22]

In devising Site Plan "A" for the new Camp McCoy cantonment, Mead, Ward and Hunt adopted the block and regimental arrangements in the typical layout and observed the city planning principles implied in the model design. The general plan devised by the Madison firm, however, went considerably beyond the Zach layout in offering both an efficient arrangement of blocks and an aesthetically pleasing overall configuration.

In the design approved by General Cummins, the architect-engineers arranged three curvilinear segments, each containing from five to nine battalion blocks, in a triangular pattern. The three infantry regiments of the triangular division would occupy the northern segment, which was situated close to the infantry training areas in the proposed reservation. The eastern half of the southern segment was intended for the artillery of the division and battalions of special troops attached to the division. The artillery batteries, at the end of the southern segment, were located a short distance north of the firing ranges constructed earlier for artillery practice at the original Camp McCoy. Thus, the two principal groups of troops in a triangular division, the infantry and artillery, could travel quickly and unimpeded to their training areas.

Along the western half of the southern segment and along the entirety of the northwestern segment, the general plan called for occupancy by "non-divisional" troops, which would consist principally of detachments from the various service corps in the Army. The Ordnance Department, Signal Corps, Quartermaster Corps, Medical Corps, tank destroyer detachments, and other non-divisional units would be trained at locations situated away from the division blocks.[23] Within the triangle formed by the segments was to be built the headquarters of the infantry division, located roughly the same distance from all three segments, for ease of communication.

Mead, Ward and Hunt discarded the gridiron pattern of the typical design and substituted curving lines in all of the north and south segments and in the southern half of the northwest section. The avenues connecting the battalion blocks in troop housing areas would afford constantly changing perspectives as motorists or pedestrians traveled through the cantonment, counteracting the institutional character of the identical buildings and avoiding the monotony of large numbers of rectilinear blocks present in gridiron plans. The inspiration for the curvilinear design derived from the informal tradition in American city planning, which had begun in the late-19th century with the varied street patterns of suburbs laid out by pioneer landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and reached a peak of popularity with model communities planned after World War I, such as Radburn, New Jersey (1929) and the so-called "green belt" towns built by the federal government (1935-37).[24]

Mead, Ward and Hunt also worked more formal aesthetic elements into the Camp McCoy plan. The principle of siting monumental buildings at the end of axial streets, widely used in American cities in the early-20th century as part of the "City Beautiful" movement, found expression in Plan "A" with the location of the division headquarters building at the terminus of the main north-south avenue approaching the center of the triangle from the south. At other locations, the architect-engineers placed regimental

chapels at the end of battalion streets, providing a pleasing effect with the silhouetted spire.[25]

Mead, Ward and Hunt placed the service areas of the cantonment outside the triangular housing area, as the Site Planning Unit had recommended. The hospital block, a gridiron section containing over 100 buildings, was located about 1,000' east of the juncture of the northeastern and southern segments of the triangle. The warehouse district and post headquarters were placed in a rectangular block between the south segment and Trunk Road "B." Detention barracks were located to the west of the warehouses. The sewage treatment plant and three incinerators were erected away from the inhabited sections of the camp, about a mile southwest of the juncture between the northwest and southern segments of the triangle.

With the acceptance by the War Department of the triangular plan at the northern site, Mead, Ward and Hunt were able to complete detailed plans for laying out the cantonment and constructing the necessary roads, railroad spurs, and utilities. By the middle of October, the firm had completed some fifty-eight tracings in addition to the advanced planning phase of the Camp McCoy project.[26]

Meanwhile, the impetus to begin construction of the Wisconsin cantonment and the other twenty-two "advanced planning" projects diminished. A national emergency requiring immediate construction had not arisen in Europe or the Far East, and army chief of staff General Marshall did not wish to request an appropriation from Congress for new cantonments before they were justified. As a consequence, despite the hopefulness of local citizens in towns near Camp McCoy, the Construction Division directed the suspension of activity at the proposed reservation after the architect-engineers finished their work. The constructing quartermaster office at "old" Camp McCoy was closed, and the original post resumed its previous existence as an artillery training ground.[27]

The Construction of Camp McCoy, 1942

Early December 1941, the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the nation entered World War II. The national emergency justified the mobilization of an additional 500,000 men and the construction of the advanced planned cantonments. Early January 1942, General Somervell, who had been promoted in December to assistant chief of staff for construction (G-4), secured approval from General Marshall for the construction of six cantonments, including the expansion of Camp McCoy. By the end of January, fifteen such projects had been approved or were under construction.[28]

The 1942 cantonments were to be built by the Corps of Engineers, which had assumed responsibility for all army construction in December. Unlike the camps and cantonments of the 1940-41 construction "campaign," in which a single, large contractor undertook a complete project under a "cost plus a fixed fee" arrangement, the 1942 plans would be advertised for bids and awarded to multiple contractors, under a "fixed price" contract. Such an arrangement would control costs, which had greatly exceeded the original estimates in 1940-41, and permit smaller, regional contractors who lacked sufficient financial backing to undertake a single, $22 million project, to participate in the immense, multi-billion dollar emergency construction program ahead.[29]

In Chicago, Lieutenant Colonel Hayden, now assistant division engineer for construction in the Great Lakes Region of the Corps, ordered specifications to be prepared for the Camp McCoy project. The principal volume of specifications, "General Housing, Hospital Boiler House and Steam Distribution," was

compiled in late January and early February.[30] On February 14th, Hayden started taking bids in Chicago for the principal contracts. By February 25th, additional specifications had been prepared and released to prospective bidders covering construction of the sanitary and storm sewerage system, sewage treatment plant, water supply and distribution system, roads, drainage, parking areas, motor fuel storage and distribution, pump houses and water storage reservoirs, and electric distribution system, and all aspects of the hospital block.[31]

News of the revived McCoy cantonment arrived in Sparta, Wisconsin, via a telegram from LaCrosse congressman William H. Stevenson on February 5, 1942. Four days later, February 9th, the U.S. District Attorney in Madison, Wisconsin, filed a motion in federal court to condemn the 9600-acre site of the cantonment proper. Shortly after the motion was filed, real estate appraisers and negotiators from the Corps of Engineers arrived to begin negotiation with the owners of the private tracts comprising the cantonment site and larger reservation.[32]

About the middle of February, Colonel Hayden sent Lieutenant Daniel Lamoreaux to the cantonment site to establish a field engineering office for directing the construction work. The War Department took possession of the site on March 10th, so that construction could begin as soon as possible. Bids were opened and awarded between March 20th and April 2nd for most of the contracts. Nine contracts were let for the utilities, roadways, and railroad spurs. The immense work of constructing the 1,487 buildings of the cantonment was split into seven contracts, each pertaining to a different construction area.[33] All of the contractors came from the northern Midwest area. The principal contracts went to concerns in St. Paul or Minneapolis, Minnesota, the largest nearby cities.

Early in April, Lieutenant Colonel Hayden became area engineer of the McCoy project and thus assumed full responsibility for overseeing construction of the cantonment. Hayden was selected by the Corps of Engineers for the Wisconsin assignment because of his success in 1940 securing the quick and economical completion Fort Custer, a Michigan mobilization cantonment, one of the largest of the 1940-41 construction campaign. As area engineer, Hayden checked on the work of the contractors, overcame difficulties in supplies or logistics, and supplied standard War Department building drawings to the construction firms. He also supervised the preparation by his own staff of new tracings based on the plans of Mead, Ward and Hunt, providing guidance to the contractors on the general layout, drainage, utilities, and roadways.[34]

The building drawings used by the contractors were nearly all part of the 800 Series of standard War Department plans, prepared the previous spring and summer by George Bergstrom and the Architectural Unit of the Construction Division for use in the advanced planning cantonments. Despite impending shortages in many construction materials, General Somervell persuaded Secretary of War Stimson and General Marshall in January 1942 to allow the Corps of Engineers to proceed with the 800 Series plans, which featured well-constructed wood buildings with ample structural members and such comforts as indoor plumbing and forced, hot-air furnaces.[35]

During the previous peacetime construction campaign in 1940-41, the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps had used the 700 Series of standard drawings, which had provided uniform designs for nearly 300 distinct building types needed for the smooth operation of a mobilization cantonment. In the 800 Series, Bergstrom made slight structural improvements, removed superfluous features, and enlarged several basic building types, such as the troop barracks. Otherwise, he retained most of the features of the

1940-41 buildings. At Camp McCoy, Hayden distributed to the construction area contractors 800 Series plans for nearly all the building types to be erected. Where plans in the newer series were not available, 700 Series drawings were employed.[36]

Approximately 100 types of buildings were erected at Camp McCoy, most of which were devoted to housing, eating, storage and administration and recreation.[37] There were 469 barracks erected; forty-two bachelor officer quarters; 172 company mess halls; and 184 combined company storehouse, administration, and recreation buildings.[38] Structures in the troop housing blocks of the triangle were designed for use by certain kinds of army units. For example, a barracks was intended to house a platoon, and a mess hall or a storehouse-administration-recreation building for the use of a company. At the end of each battalion block were two battalion administration buildings and a row of bachelor officer quarters. At the edge of each regimental area was a cluster of regimental buildings: a post exchange, chapel, administration building, infirmary, and regimental commanders' quarters.

In the areas around the periphery of the triangular section were constructed building types associated with personal services and post maintenance. Block 10, the hospital section, contained several kinds of wards, clinics, and nurses' quarters. Block 21, the warehouse area, included rows of storehouses along rail sidings, a large laundry for cleaning the clothing of the cantonment residents, a bakery, cold food storage, and post headquarters buildings. Along the outer edges of the three segments in the triangle were motor pool and maintenance buildings and fire stations. At periodic junctures between regimental and detachment groupings were service (social) clubs and movie theatres.

The structural systems used in Camp McCoy buildings were either of balloon or platform construction, entirely composed of wood members. Wall sheathing and flooring were of softwood. The interiors were not finished with plaster or paint. Instead, "tempered pressed wood," fiber "insulation board," and gypsum board were used to cover walls and ceilings. The exteriors in the troop housing sections were of uniform appearance: grayish white, asbestos cement siding on the walls, yellow wood trim, gray wooden foundation "skirting," and red asphalt shingle roofs. In the warehouse section, wooden, "shiplap" siding was employed and painted yellow. The temporary nature of a mobilization cantonment was emphasized by the use of concrete piers, rather than excavated basement walls, for foundations.[39]

After the last of the contracts was let in April, the War Department curtailed the release of information to the public regarding construction activities.[40] As a consequence, few specifics are known about the efforts mounted during the next four months. Local lore relates that the demand for speedy completion caused Area Engineer Hayden and the contractors to employ some 20,000 construction workers to complete the project on time.[41]

In late August, Colonel George MacMullin, post commander of the new camp, hosted an open house for the public of the nearly completed cantonment. During the next month and a half, units from the old camp gradually occupied sections of the new area, while the contractors finished their work. The finished capacity of the cantonment was 36,836 officers and enlisted men; the total cost at the end of 1942 was $32,383,000. In October, 1942, the 100th Infantry Regiment from Hawaii became the first full Army detachment to occupy the McCoy cantonment.[42]

Conclusion

In October 1942, the Second Infantry Division of the Army arrived for training at the cantonment and remained for a year, leaving for action in the Italian campaign. The 76th Division then took over the cantonment for a year, departing for service in the liberation of Western Europe in December 1944. Also in 1944, Camp McCoy became a personnel center for the Army, receiving and redirecting soldiers for new assignments. As the war closed, the personnel center assumed the role of discharging veterans. The personnel center closed in May 1946, and most other functions at the camp halted a year later.[43]

After three years of relative inactivity, Camp McCoy was reactivated by the Defense Department for training of regular, reserve, and National Guard units in the Fifth Army area for service in the Korean War. A reassignment and separation center was also opened at the camp during the conflict. Since 1953, the camp has become a center for training reserve units of the Army and National Guard regiments of the Midwest region.[44]

The cantonment section of Fort McCoy today vividly recalls both the planning and construction phases of its beginnings. The triangular plan remains intact, continuing to provide pleasant perspectives along curvilinear avenues and occasional vistas of impressive buildings at the end of axial streets. Only a few hundred of the 1,500 wartime structures have been removed, and the exterior colors and materials on most buildings are unchanged from the 1940s. Nearly all of the mobilization building types remain intact. Thus, Fort McCoy represents one of the most complete collections of 800 Series standard buildings still in existence.

NOTES:

1. Post Engineer Office, "Historical Data Camp McCoy, Wisconsin" (Camp McCoy, January 15, 1946), 5 typescript copy of original report [in box marked "Historical Engineering Records, "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, Fort McCoy]; Martha Sorenson, "Post Becomes a Reality in 1909," *Triad* (Fort McCoy), Vol. 3, No. 11 (May 29, 1986), pp. 2-3.

2. See the postcard photographs depicting the barracks, mess halls, and stables at Camp Robinson, in the collection of the Monroe County Local History Room, Sparta, Wisconsin; Post Engineer Office, ibid.; Sorenson, ibid; and Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States, a volume in the series, United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services (Washington, D. C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, 1972), pp. 7-25.

3. Post Engineer Office, p. 11; historical photographs of Camp McCoy during the 1920's in the archive of the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy; Post Utilities Office, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, "Water Supply and Sewage System, Old Camp McCoy & Prisoner of War Area," Plan No. 50-64, dated September 12, 1942, revised to June 26, 1945 (linen drawing in map file, entry hall, Building 2111, Fort McCoy).

4. "22 Million Dollar Improvement for McCoy," Monroe County Democrat, July 31, 1941, p. 6; "Files Tell Events Leading to McCoy Expansion," Democrat, July 31, 1941, p. 1; "Maj. Gen. J. M. Cummins Sees McCoy Possibilities," Monroe County Democrat, August 7, 1941, p. 1.

5. "Officer Who Helped Build McCoy in '42 Recalls Post's Early Construction Days" [undated, c. 1950's newspaper clipping, probably either from the *Real McCoy* (Camp McCoy newspaper) or a Sparta newspaper, found in the archives of the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy]; Fine and Remington, pp. 344-46.

6. In the mobilization period before World War II, "camps" referred to posts in which the troops lived in tents, and "cantonments" to posts in which the housing was of wooden construction.

7. Fine and Remington, pp. 198-308 (See the discussion of the planning and construction of the the 1940-41 camps and cantonments in).

8. Ibid., pp. 344-54.

9. "Construction Division Expansion," *Civil Engineering*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (March, 1941), p. 180; Fine and Remington, pp. 333, 347, 401-7.

10. Fine and Remington, pp. 353-54.

11. "22 Million Dollar Improvement for McCoy," *Monroe County Democrat*, July 31, 1941, p. 6; "Success at Last," *Sparta Herald*, August 4, 1941, p. 1; Fine and Remington, pp. 377-78.

12. The cost plus a fixed fee contract had been developed by the War Department for emergency construction projects in which the conventional advertisement for bids method was too time-consuming. Under a fixed fee contract, the firm involved agreed to carry out a project for a set fee, and the government paid all expenses.

13. "22 Million Dollar Improvement for McCoy; Completion Set for March After Construction Opens," *Monroe County Democrat*, July 31, 1941, p. 1.

14. "Construction Qm. Office at McCoy," *Monroe County Democrat*, July 31, 1941, p. 1; "McCoy Land Appraisal Opens; Begin Activity," *Sparta Herald*, August 11, 1941, p. 1; " 22 MillionDollar Improvement for McCoy; "McCoy Survey Project on Schedule; Power Surveyed," *Monroe County Democrat*, August 21, 1941, p. 1.

15. "McCoy Survey Project on Schedule; Power Surveyed"; "Triangular McCoy Site Plan Approved by 6th Corps Area," *Sparta Herald*, September 29, 1941, p. 1.

16. "McCoy Survey Project on Schedule; Power Surveyed"; "Complete One M'Coy Survey," *Monroe County Democrat*, September 4, 1941, p. 1.

17. Among the Army officials present at the meeting and advising the general on his decision were Zone Constructing Quartermaster Hayden; Major G. R. Tyler, representing the Site Planning Unit of the Construction Division in Washington; and supply and medical officers on General Cummins's staff.

18. "Triangular McCoy Site Plan Approved by 6th Corps Area."

19. Figure A shows Plan No. 614-179, a "typical layout-diagram" prepared by Zach's staff soon after approval of the Mead, Ward and Hunt McCoy plan.

20. Also see the discussion of military training requirements in a triangular division plan found in Part III--"Army Ground Forces Stations," Chapter III--"Site Planning," *Engineering Manual*, Office of the Chief of Engineers (Washington, D. C.: War Department, April, 1943), sections 3-20 to 3-21.

21. See Typical Plan 614-179; Fine and Remington, pp. 351-53.

22. See Figure A; "Selection of Sites for Structures and Facilities for Economy," Section 3.03 in "Part I--"Selection of Sites," *Engineering Manual* (February, 1943); "Part III--Army Ground Forces Stations," Sections 3-20 through 3-23, *Engineering Manual.*

23. See the description of non-divisional troops in "Part III--Army Ground Forces Stations," Section 3-22 (e).

24. Mel Scott, *American City Planning Since 1890* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969), pp. 12-13, 259-61; 339-40.

25. Ibid., pp. 47-65.

26. "Index, Drawings from Area Engineer, Camp McCoy," February 19, 1944 (in box marked "Historical Engineering Records," "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, Fort McCoy).

27. Fine and Remington, pp. 413-17; "Prospects for McCoy Post Looking Bad," *Sparta Herald*, October 6, 1941, p. 1, c. 1; "184th Field Artillery Unit Arrives at Camp McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, October 13, 1941, p. 1.

28. Fine and Remington, pp. 479-82; "Camps Awarded and/or Underway [and] Advanced Planning -- Camps," January 22, 1942 (in National Archives, 107-23-894), quoted in Perry Busch and Diane Wasch, "?" (Washington, D. C.: Historic American Buildings Survey, 1988), p. 47. The other advanced planning cantonments constructed in 1942 besides McCoy included Camp Carson, Colorado; Camp Campbell, Kentucky; Camp Atterbury, Indiana; Camp Rucker, Alabama; Camp White, Medford, Oregon; Camp Pickett, Virginia; Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas; Camp Butner, Durham, North Carolina; Camp Adair, Oregon, Camp Gordon, Georgia; and Camp Beale, California. Busch and Wasch, ibid; "Status of Construction for Divisions to be Activated in 1942," [memorandum written in the G-4 construction office, Army General Staff], February 25, 1942 (from "Numerical File, 1921 to March, 1942, Director S. S. and P, G-4," National Archives, 165-234-469).

29. Fine and Remington, pp. 472-78; 521; 569-71;

30. See "The 'Daddy' of Camp McCoy to New Fields," *The Real McCoy* [camp newspaper during World War II], October 16, 1942, p. 8, c. 1; "Bids on McCoy Work Started February 14," *Sparta Herald*, February 16, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; and U. S. Engineer Office, Chicago, Ill. Construction Division, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army. Specification No. DE-11. "Camp McCoy. Sparta, Wisconsin. Volume 1--Specifications for Construction of General Housing, Hospital Boiler House and Steam Distribution and the Utilities Therein," Revised February 14, 1942 (original copy in box marked "1942 Specifications," "Meatlocker" storage room, Building 2145, Fort McCoy).

31. "Bids on McCoy Work Started February 14," *Sparta Herald*, February 16, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Work at McCoy Scheduled to Start About March 20," p. 1. c. 8.

32. "U. S. To Receive Bids for Camp McCoy Project," *Monroe County Democrat*, February 5, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Construction Is Authorized for Camp McCoy; Will Take Over 9600 Acres Land," *Monroe County Democrat*, February 12, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "Work Started on McCoy Building," *Democrat*, February 19, 1942, p. 1, c. 8.

33. "Bids on McCoy Work Started February 14"; "Work Started on McCoy Building"; "Camp McCoy Cost Is Increased Seven Million," *Sparta Herald*, March 23, 1942, p. 1, c. 1; "More Wisconsin Concerns Get Contracts at McCoy," *Monroe County Democrat*, April 2, 1942, p. 1, c. 7; and Plan E, attached to this report.

34. "The 'Daddy' of Camp McCoy to New Fields"; "Index to Drawings from from Area Engineer." The drawings prepared by the Area Engineer's office were given numbers beginning with 6150.

35. Fine and Remington, pp. 350-51; 479; 482-83.

36. Busch and Wasch, pp. 12; 42-43; 46; Fine and Remington, pp. 350-51.

37. Some of the building types listed were built between the end of the initial construction campaign and the end of the war. Others were the results of remodeling during the war, such as the Personnel and Separation Centers.

38. Although 469 were erected, several were remodeled for use as part of the Personnel Center in 1945. See Post Engineer Office, "Historical Data, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin," p. 10.

39. For detailed analyses of the construction of buildings in the McCoy cantonments, see the Historic American Buildings Survey documentation reports on Buildings 1129, 801, and 635, prepared in September, 1988 as companion pieces for this report.

40. No articles can be found in either of the Sparta, Wisconsin newspapers regarding construction activities at the cantonment between April and August, 1942.

41. The 20,000 figure was also used by Clayton Ward of Mead, Ward and Hunt in August, 1941, as an estimate of the number of workers required to build the cantonment. See "Doubled Population Predicted for Sparta, Tomah, Districts," *Monroe County Democrat*, August 14, 1941, p. 1, c. 8.

42. "New Camp McCoy Open Sunday," *Monroe County Democrat*, August 27, 1942, p. 1, c. 8; "'All Right, You Guys, We're Moving'--On to New Site," *Real McCoy*, Vol. 1, No. 6, August 28, 1942, sec. 1, p. 1; Sgt. Lew Elkin, "Post Headquarters in New Camp Now," *Real McCoy*, vol. 1, No. 10, September 25, 1942, p. 1, c. 1; "Picture Taking Now Permitted, But Cautiously," *Real McCoy*, October 9, 1942, p. 1; "List of Completed Jobs by Service Command," January 31, 1943 (from collection, "War Construction Program for Period January 31, 1943-April 30, 1943," National Archives?)

43. Post Engineer Office, "Historical Data," typescript copy of original report, pp. 6-7; handwritten notations on ditto original report, p. 18.

44. "Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office (?), Fort McCoy, n. d., c. 1985, p. 6; Lou Ann Mittelstaedt, "McCoy's History, 1947-Present," *Triad*, 3, No. 11 (May 29, 1986), p. 5.