

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FORT BLISS MAIN POST
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Fort Bliss
El Paso, Texas

2nd Edition
November 2000

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Fort Bliss [n/a] not for publication

city or town El Paso [x]vicinity

state Texas code TX county El Paso code 141 zip code 79916-5300

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>343</u>	<u>62</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>346</u>	<u>72</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register

1 (Fort Bliss Quarters #1, NR, 4/ 87)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DEFENSE/military facility
- INDUSTRIAL/industrial storage
- DOMESTIC/institutional housing
- LANDSCAPE/plaza

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DEFENSE/military facility
- INDUSTRIAL/industrial storage
- DOMESTIC/institutional housing
- LANDSCAPE/plaza

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Colonial, Mission/Spanish Colonial, Pueblo, Italian
Renaissance
- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman,
Spanish Eclectic, Prairie
- LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
- NO STYLE
- OTHER/Utilitarian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation concrete, stone
- walls brick, wood, hollow clay tile, metal,
limestone
- roof composition shingles, Spanish clay tile,
corrugated metal
- other stucco finish

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Landscape Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Periods of Significance

1891 -1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Army

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University

Other:

Name of repository:

National Archives of the United States

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

See continuation sheet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

[x] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheila A. Ellsworth, Susan I. Enscore, Patrick M. Nowlan, and Amy J. Woods.

organization Land Management Laboratory, USACERL, COE date 30 December 1997

street & number P.O. Box 9005 telephone (217) 352-6511

city or town Champaign state IL zip code 61821-9005

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Narrative Description

Over the course of its history, Fort Bliss has evolved from a small infantry outpost to a major cavalry post to an antiaircraft training and guided missile testing center. Today, Fort Bliss is home to the Army's Air Defense School and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. The Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District (FBMPHD) is composed of 346 properties that contribute to the architectural and historic associations of the district. Contributing resources are organized into seven thematic groups according to the date of their construction: the Initial Construction Period, 1891-1899; the Interim Period, 1900-1912; the First Expansion Period, 1913-1917; the 7th Cavalry Construction Period, 1919; the Second Expansion Period, 1918-1926; the Depression Era, 1927-1939; and the Post World War II Period, 1946-1950. A descriptive analysis of the resources associated with each thematic group is provided below, along with the National Register Criteria under which they are eligible. The site development and landscape design of the Main Post, Fort Bliss is considered a contributing site within the district boundaries and is eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C for Landscape Architecture and Community Planning and Development, and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. The evolutionary changes associated with this site are described in each relevant thematic group. Tables are provided listing the specific resources contributing to each thematic group, as is a table listing all non-contributing resources. Also included is a map locating the resources, their contributory status, and their thematic association. The buildings, site, and structures recommended for nomination retain the integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association necessary for inclusion as contributing elements to a National Register district.

Project Location

The main post of Fort Bliss, located in El Paso County in the western tip of Texas and approximately three miles north of the Rio Grande, is bordered on the south, west, and north by the city of El Paso, and on the east by the El Paso International Airport. The Fort Bliss Military Reservation with extensive training and firing ranges, and Biggs Army Air Base extend to the north-east. The entire installation, including its ranges and airfield, encompasses approximately 1.13 million acres of land in both Texas and New Mexico. This land is partly owned and partly leased by the U.S. government.

Located on a mesa, the flat expanse of the main post at Fort Bliss contrasts sharply with the soaring, jagged heights of the Franklin Mountains to the west. Native vegetation, adapted to the desert environment, included scattered tornillo, mesquite, grease wood, and bunch grass. Little of this native vegetation remains at Fort Bliss, where decades of construction and use have modified the natural landscape elements.

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1. Initial Construction Period 1891-1899

Twenty-seven buildings at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District within the Initial Construction Period thematic group. These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. Sixteen buildings also possess significance under Criterion C for Architecture. There are three landscape elements associated with this group. These buildings and site elements retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Historically, these resources are associated with the initial construction at the installation. The establishment of Fort Bliss was part of a larger Army effort to consolidate its smaller posts into larger, more permanent, posts at the close of the Indian Wars, and to establish a permanent Army presence on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Architecturally, many of the buildings in this group display features of the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical styles. Defining features of the Greek Revival style include a low pitched gabled or hipped roof, a wide band of trim emphasizing the main roof and porch roof's cornice line, porches supported by prominent square or rounded columns, and narrow sidelights around the door with a rectangular transom above. Sub-types can be distinguished by porch and roof configurations. The Greek Revival style was dominant for American domestic architecture from 1830 to 1860. Queen Anne is delineated through a steeply pitched, irregularly shaped roof (usually with a dominant front gable), patterned shingles or masonry, cutaway bay windows, an asymmetrical facade, a partial or full-width porch extended along one or both sides, and elaborate decorative detailing. Sub-types are distinguished by roof shape and exterior patterning. This style was dominant throughout the country from the 1880s into the 1900s. Colonial Revival style buildings were popular during the entire first half of the 20th century. This style is characterized by an accentuated front door (normally with a pediment supported by pilasters or columns) with fanlights or sidelights, a symmetrical facade, and double-hung sash windows with multi-pane glazing. Sub-types are distinguished by roof form and building height. The Neoclassical style was popular during the period 1895-1950, and is characterized by a symmetrically balanced facade dominated by a full-height porch roof supported by classical columns with Ionic or Corinthian capitals. Sub-types are principally distinguished by porch configuration.¹

As these were the first buildings constructed for the installation, they represent the mix of residential, administrative, and support facilities necessary for a functioning post. Family housing lines the west side of the parade ground, with barracks, administration and support buildings lining the east side.

¹Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 179, 182, 263, 266, 321, 324, 343-344.

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Table 1: Initial Construction Period, 1891-1899

Building Number	Date of Construction	Original Use
8	1893	Hospital
9	1893	Hospital Isolation Ward
13	1893	Enlisted Men's Barracks
19	1893	Bathhouse
21	1893	Mess Hall, Library, HQ's Office
111	1893	Enlisted Men's Double Barracks
128	1893	Pumphouse & Boiler
219	1893	Captain's Quarters
220	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
221	1893	Captain's Quarters
222	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
223	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
224	1894	Captain's Quarters
227	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
229	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
230	1893	Captain's Quarters
231	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
232	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
233	1893	Captain's Quarters
234	1893	Lieutenant's Quarters
235	1893	Captain's Quarters
241	1893	Guardhouse
2009	1895	Wagon and Wheelright Shop
2011	1893	Quartermaster Stables
2019	1895	Forage Shed
2021	1893	Quartermaster Storehouse
2022	1897	Storehouse

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**Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the
Initial Construction Period Thematic Group**

Building 8

Hospital / Administrative General Purpose

The two-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 4,845 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a limestone foundation, brick watertable and walls. The frieze band is embellished with a brick dogtooth course, brick stretchers and headers, wood mouldings, and metal cavetto moulding. The building has been painted cream. The building has a medium pitched hipped roof. The building's symmetrically placed windows are double hung wood sash with 2/2 lights and screens. The building originally contained a two-story Stick Style porch with shed roof that circled the entire building. Buildings 8 and 9 were originally connected by a one-story porch of the same style.

Architectural Style: Greek Revival. Original porch was Stick Style.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 9

Hospital Isolation Ward / Inactive

The two-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 968 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a limestone foundation, brick watertable and walls, and has been painted cream. The frieze band is embellished with a brick dogtooth course, brick stretchers and headers, wood mouldings, and metal cavetto moulding. The building has a medium pitched hipped roof. The symmetrically placed windows are double hung wood sash with 2/2 lights and screens. The building originally had a one-story Stick Style porch with shed roof that encircling the building. Buildings 8 and 9 were originally connected by a one-story porch of the same style.

Architectural Style: Greek Revival. Original porch was Stick Style.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 13

Enlisted Men's Barracks and Mess / Administration General

The three-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 27,553 square feet. The C-shaped building is constructed with a brick foundation and yellow brick walls. The building was built with a three-story center section flanked by two-story wings. The center section has a double-pitched hipped roof and gable dormer with decorative unglazed terra cotta. The wings have double-pitched hipped roofs with shed roof dormers. Two-story additions were constructed on the rear (east) side of the building's flanking wings with red brick. The additions were constructed with double-pitched gable roofs. The end walls have triple corbelled chimney piers below the roof line. The building's original two-story wood porches were removed and new concrete porches with pipe columns and railings were added in their place. The

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building is equipped with double-hung wood sash windows with 4/4 lights. The building also contains quarter-round windows set within the gables.

Architectural Style: Office of the Quartermaster General standard plan with simplified Queen Anne or Folk Victorian style elements.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 19

Bathhouse / Exchange Warehouse - Dry Cleaners

The one-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 1,115 square feet. The square building is constructed with a stone foundation, brick walls and a double-pitched hipped roof with louvered monitor. Cement stucco has been parged over the entire building. Double-hung wood sash windows with 9/9 lights and screens are used throughout the building. Three single doors, equipped with exterior concrete steps provide access into the building. A small fixed awning projects over the main entrance on the building's north side.

Architectural Style: Vernacular with Italian Renaissance influence.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 21

Mess Hall, Library, HQ's Office / Main Library

The two and three-story building was originally constructed in 1893. The building has undergone renovations and now contains 33,321 square feet. The building is constructed with a limestone foundation, concrete foundation, and brick walls with a watertable and corbelling under the eaves. The three-story, gabled center is flanked by three-story gabled wings. The center gable contains double wood doors with concrete steps, double hung wood sash windows, and a half-round louver set in the gable. The two main facade one-story porches have been removed. The gabled end walls of the wings contain brick pilasters, brick corbelling, and triplet of round topped windows. Both gabled ends also contain entry doors with either concrete steps or ramp. The east side of the building contains one-story building with monitor situated perpendicular to the main building. This one-story section terminates in a one-story square building with a steep double-pitched hipped and gable roof. This section has a projecting gable porch with spindle-work and concrete steps.

Architectural Style: Office of the Quartermaster General standard plan with simplified Colonial Revival and Queen Anne elements.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Building 111*Enlisted Men's Double Barracks / Administration General Purpose*

The three-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 26,802 square feet. The double-stem T-shaped building is constructed with a concrete foundation, parged watertable, and red brick walls. The building was built with a three-story center section flanked by two-story wings. The center section has a double-pitched hipped roof and gable dormer with decorative unglazed terra cotta and the wings have double-pitched hipped roofs with shed roof dormers. The end walls have triple corbelled chimney piers below the roof line. Two-story additions were constructed on the rear (east) side of the building's flanking wings. The additions were constructed with double-pitched gable roofs. The building's original two-story wood porches were removed and new concrete porches with cast iron pipes and steel railings were added in their place. The building is equipped with double-hung wood sash windows with 4/4 lights. The building also contains quarter-round windows set within the gables.

Architectural Style: Office of the Quartermaster General standard plan with simplified Queen Anne or Folk Victorian style elements.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 128*Pumphouse and Boiler / Dental Facility*

The one-story building was originally constructed in 1893. The building underwent renovations in 1944 and 1953. The attached wood well houses were removed and the building enlarged to the east and the north. The building's original construction materials and treatment (limestone foundation, and brick walls, decorative brick pilasters and corbelling along the roof line, double-pitched gable roof) were retained and used for the additions. The original shed roof porch has been removed. The total square footage of the building today is 3,830 square feet. The building contains double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens.

Architectural Style: simplified Queen Anne

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 219, 221*Captain's Quarters / Officers' Family Housing*

The two-story building with attic and basement was constructed in 1893 and contains 3,340 square feet. The cross-plan building is constructed with a stone foundation with concrete parging, running bond red brick walls, and a steeply pitched cross-gable roof with three chimneys. Terra cotta details are located in each of the four gables. A one-story projecting L-shaped porch wraps around from the east elevation to the south elevation. This replacement porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and floor, decorated metal porch supports, and a low pitched shed roof. The building has two entry doors on the east elevation. The main entry has double wood doors with exterior screen doors. The secondary door is a

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single paneled wood door with an exterior screen door. Cellar access, on the rear (west) elevation, is equipped with a concrete foundation and double metal doors. Double-hung wood sash 1/1 windows are used throughout. A pair of small quarter-round wood windows are located in each of the four gables. Watertable, lintels, and sills are red sandstone.

Architectural Style: Queen Anne

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Note:

Building 221: 3,320 square feet

Buildings 220, 222, 223, 227, 229, 231, 232, 234

Lieutenant's Quarters / Distinguished Visitor's Quarters

The two-story building with attic and basement was constructed in 1893 and contains 4,026 square feet. The irregular-plan building was constructed with a cement parged stone foundation, red brick walls with running bond veneer, and a steeply pitched gable roof with three brick chimneys. A one-story projecting L-shaped porch is on the east elevation. This replacement porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and floor, decorative metal porch supports, and a low pitched shed roof. The building has one door on both the east and west elevations. The front (east) entrance has a single wood door. The rear (west) entrance has a single wood panel door with an exterior screen door. Concrete steps with metal pipe rails lead up to the rear door. The rear entry originally contained a porch, the ghosting of which remains visible. The original opening has been filled with mismatched brick and the original transom has been filled over the rear door. Two original kitchen windows adjacent to the rear entrance were removed and shorter windows installed. Mismatched brick was used as infill. Adjacent to the rear door is the cellar access. The access is constructed with a concrete foundation, steps and double metal doors. Double-hung 1/1 wood windows are used throughout the house. Pairs of small double-hung wood windows are located in each gable. Red sandstone is used for the water table, lintels, and sills.

Architectural Style: Queen Anne

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Note:

Buildings 222, 227, 229, 232, 234: 3,390 square feet

Building 223: 3,837 square feet

Building 231: 3,831 square feet

Buildings 220, 223, and 231 have been designated as Distinguished Visitor's Quarters.

Buildings 224, 230, 233, 235

Captain's Quarters / Officers' Family Housing

The two-story building with attic and basement was constructed in 1893 and contains 3,320 square feet. The cross-plan building is constructed with a stone foundation with cement parging, running bond yellow

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brick walls, and a steeply pitched cross-gable roof with three chimneys. Terra cotta details are located in each of the four gables. A one-story projecting L-shaped porch is on the east elevation. This replacement porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and floor, decorative metal porch supports, and a low pitched shed roof. The main entry, located on the east elevation, is a wood door with an exterior screen door. The secondary door, located on the south elevation, is a single wood panel door also equipped with an exterior screen door. The area surrounding the door contains mismatched brick. Concrete steps with metal pipe rails provide access to the rear entry door. The original transom over this door has been removed and the space filled with brick. The original sandstone lintel remains. A cellar access, equipped with a concrete foundation and double metal doors, is located on the west elevation. Double-hung wood sash 1/1 windows are used throughout the house. A pair of small quarter-round wood windows are located in both the north and south gables. The east and west gables contain two small double-hung wood sash windows. Red sandstone is used for the water table, lintels and sills.

Architectural Style: Queen Anne

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 241

Guardhouse / Corps of Engineers Administration Building

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1893 and contains 3,100 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with brick with a cement parged foundation and watertable. The building has a medium pitched hipped roof with boxed eaves and a central shed dormer. A full-width replacement porch, located on the front (west) with exposed brick piers and concrete floor, is raised approximately 32 inches above grade. Four concrete steps lead up to the open porch. Six slender wood posts and two pilasters with brackets support the low-pitched hipped roof. Pipe rails span between the columns. Three single doors provide entry into the building. Cellar doors, on the south facade, provide entry into the basement. The building has double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights. The shed dormer has two 12 light windows.

Architectural Style: Neoclassical

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2009

Wagon and Wheelright Shop / NCO Wives Club

The one-story building, constructed in 1895, contains 1,657 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a native blue limestone foundation, coursed, quarry-faced blue limestone walls with a red sandstone watertable, a steeply pitched gable roof with figured rafter ends, and 2 brick chimneys. The original stable doors have been removed from the west elevation and replaced with a single wood door. The remaining opening has been filled. The south elevation contained bay doors which have been replaced with a single door and clapboard siding. A single door opening has been closed on the south

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elevation. Windows have segmented arches of stone voussoirs with keystones. Double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights, screens, and security bars are used throughout. The sills are painted chiseled red sandstone.

Architectural Style: Vernacular with influences from several styles within the Victorian period.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2011*Quartermaster Stables / Launderette*

The one-story building was constructed in 1893 and contains 5,984 square feet. The building was originally rectangular in plan with a native blue limestone foundation, coursed, quarry-faced blue limestone walls with a red sandstone watertable, a steeply pitched gable roof with figured rafter ends, and a brick chimney. The original stable doors, on both end elevations, have been removed and replaced. The east elevation contains an aluminum storefront door with transom and flanking six-light windows though the paneled casing survives on the west end. The west elevation now contains a pair of metal doors. The original windows are double-hung wood sash with 2/2 or 1/1 lights and security screens. Several windows are now covered with plywood. The lintels are rough-faced flat arch voussoirs, and the sills are red sandstone. An ornamental sandstone rondo is located in both gable ends. A rectangular, one story, shed-roofed addition on the building's north side was constructed with rubble limestone walls. A second addition was constructed of the same materials on the building's south side.

Architectural Style: Richardsonian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2019*Forage Shed / Inactive*

The one-story building was originally constructed in 1895. The original building contains 3,317 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, rough-faced limestone walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends. The removed wood floor was approximately four feet above grade (rail car height). The floor was replaced with concrete at grade. Both the southeast and southwest elevations have large entrances which have been removed. The building also contains wood double-hung windows with either 6/6 or nine lights and security screens. The lintels are sandstone. Sills are granite for the loading doors and sandstone for the windows. A concrete horse loading platform is located across the rail spur on the building's west side. Additions not sympathetic to the original building design were removed in 1996; their concrete floor/slabs lie outside the walls of the remaining original building. Remnants of an abandoned rail spur to the western side of the building illustrate the transportation system used to deliver supplies.

Architectural Style: Vernacular

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Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2021

Quartermaster Warehouse / Fort Worth Corps of Engineers Office

The two story building with basement was originally constructed in 1893 and contains 16,874 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a stuccoed limestone foundation with watertable, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched hipped roof with one chimney. The building underwent major renovations by 1916. The original gable roof was replaced with a hipped roof and the majority of the window openings were altered. The building contains both single wood doors with lights and a glass and aluminum storefront door. The windows are double-hung wood sash with 6/6 lights and screens. Lintels and sills are stuccoed brick. Two projecting porches are constructed with steel columns, steel I-beams, and exposed 2x6 wood framing.

Architectural Style: No style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2022

Storehouse / Exchange Warehouse

The two-story building with basement was originally constructed in 1897 and contains 11,100 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a limestone foundation and watertable, common bond red brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends and two chimneys. The interior floor level is raised to approximately four feet above grade (loading dock height). The building has both single and double wood doors. Windows are double-hung wood sash with 6/6 lights and exterior security bars. The basement contains awning style windows with security bars. Windows are segmentally arched with double rows of brick. The sills are rough-faced sandstone. The basement is accessible from the exterior through double cellar access doors on the building's north elevation.

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Site Development and Landscape Design

Three historic landscape elements are associated with this group. First is the original parade ground (District Map, Landscape Element #1), with a period of significance falling within the Initial Construction Period 1891 to 1899, and the First Expansion Period, 1913 to 1917. The second element is the row of Officers' Quarters along the west side of the parade ground (District Map, Landscape Element #2), significant within the Initial Construction Period 1891 to 1899, the First Expansion Period 1913 to 1917, and the Depression Era 1927 to 1939. The line of buildings along the upper east side of the parade

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ground forms the third element (District Map, Landscape Element #3), significant within the Initial Construction Period 1891 to 1899 and the First Expansion Period 1913 to 1917.

The landscape and site plan of Fort Bliss was an important component of installation development from the start. Perhaps the most significant element relating to the "Initial Construction Period" thematic group is the parade ground. Parade grounds, such as the one at Fort Bliss, were the traditional focal point of frontier forts. The original parade ground at Fort Bliss, laid out by Captain George Ruhlen in the early 1890s, is bordered by current-day Cassidy Road, Sheridan Road, Pershing Road, and an imaginary line (roughly) extended southwest from the intersection of Carter Road and Pershing Road to Sheridan Road.

Captain Ruhlen's first planning priority was to lay out the dimensions of the parade ground and then give it definition by the construction of the original buildings, surrounding roads and the planting of trees. Vegetation was added in the form of a lawn covering and trees planted along the edges of the parade ground. As the focal point of the post, the parade ground was the central landscape component around which all other elements and buildings were situated. The parade ground provided a good demonstration and reinforcement of the military hierarchy since the living quarters were separated by rank. The parade ground was also the site of post events relating to troop drill and training, athletic and recreational events, military ceremonies and an area of assembly during times of crisis (for example, during Pershing's Punitive Expedition against Pancho Villa in 1916). Another function of the parade, more difficult to assess, lies in its cultural value in terms of military tradition, and its aesthetic merit for those who view it as the post's "front yard."

The defining feature of the parade ground is its openness. To accommodate the uses for which it was designed, the parade ground needed to be free of obstructions.² Trees have been planted along the exterior of the parade ground in various forms over the years, but the majority of the parade ground has been left open. The openness of the southernmost quarter (from Adair Road to an imaginary line at the intersection of Carter Road) of the original parade was lost with the construction of Hinman Hall in 1954.

It is unknown how much of the vegetation on the parade ground remains from the period under consideration. Due to a lack of specific planting plans or documentation, the planting scheme of the historic periods can only be determined from historic photographs (those focusing on vegetation are few), written records (also limited), and comparisons with what is known about planting schemes at other posts of the day. It can be inferred that the current state of the overall pattern of vegetation along the periphery of the parade ground conveys a sense of its historic character.

Because it was so difficult to maintain the various types of trees planted at Fort Bliss, it was probably difficult to sustain a consistent, dense row of trees either along the periphery of the parade or as street trees. Drawings, paintings and proposed plans of frontier forts often presented a very formal, symmetrical layout of trees, often in a double-row arrangement. This ideal organization was rarely carried out, as evidenced by period photographs. Such was the case at Fort Bliss. Although it may have been intended to plant and maintain a consistent line of trees surrounding the parade ground, a variety of

²An exception to this was the bandstand and flagpole that were placed at the mid-point of Ruhlen Road as it crossed the parade ground, which were in place by 1904.

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circumstances (lack of funding, insufficient maintenance, high mortality of trees due to the harsh climate) over time has led to the asymmetrical, intermittent appearance found today. Additionally, there is no substantial vegetation planted on the parade ground, just the intermittent line along the edges. As a result, the appropriate openness, well documented in photographs, is preserved.

The buildings, significant both in their own right and as the prime edge determinant of the parade ground, have always been part of the viewing experience in and around the parade ground. The historic character was compromised when the flagpole and bandstand were removed sometime after WWII. With the establishment of the flagpole at Memorial Circle in 1948, the focal point of the cantonment shifted. A pump house currently is situated on the island in Ruhlen Road where the two historic features previously existed.

Monuments on the parade, including the Smith Bliss monument (1955), the Ruhlen monument (1976) and the POW/MIA monument (1971) are all later sympathetic additions. It is typical for parade fields on older installations to have acquired more park-like characteristics over time and, more often than not, this includes the addition of memorials dedicated to people and events associated with the history of the installation. These can be compatible and non-intrusive if their scale and appearance does not compromise the historic character and aesthetic nature of the parade or specific setting. The reviewing stand on Smith Bliss Field was originally constructed in 1945, and it is still used for reviews and military ceremonies.

A second significant landscape element constructed in this period is the row of officers quarters along west side of the parade ground. This line of officers quarters is bounded by Meigs Road, Club Road south to Cleary Road, Cleary Road south to Border Road, Border Road southeast to Ashburn Street, following the alley between Dickman Road and Ashburn, Ashburn Road to Pleasonton Road north, and Sheridan Road north to Meigs. Club Road was constructed in the early 1900s, and defines the rear (west) portion of the area. The row was established over various periods of construction between 1891 and 1939.

This area is defined by the brick quarters, bungalows, Pershing House, and stucco quarters constructed over time. Other defining features include the street trees along Sheridan Road, trees, shrubs, flower beds, and lawns around the quarters (the appearance of the vegetation is extremely varied from one quarters to the next), street lights, sidewalks, officer identification signs, and rear lawn areas bordered by a stone wall. Rock-bordered curb cuts between Buildings 2020 and 275 are also defining features of this area. These curb cuts mark the loop that the El Paso Electric Railroad streetcar tracks once made behind Building 241 and later around Building 275.

It is unknown how much of the vegetation throughout this line of officers' quarters remains from the 1930s period of construction or before. Due to a lack of specific planting plans or documentation, the planting scheme of the historic periods can only be determined from historic photographs from the early periods of significance (those focusing on vegetation are few), written records (also limited), and by comparison to what is known about planting schemes at other posts of the day. The vegetation in and around the quarters of the main cantonment appears to be a mixture of native species and those that have been introduced to the region, the latter usually needing extra attention in terms of maintenance and

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irrigation. Over the years, many studies of Fort Bliss suggested that, considering the inhospitable climate, the best course was to learn to use native species. Ruhlen was the first to suggest this, and this suggestion has been carried out to some extent. It can be inferred that the current state of the overall pattern and composition of vegetation throughout the officers quarters area conveys a sense of the area's historic character. Vegetation is also used to direct and frame views along Sheridan Road. The addition of the planted median along Sheridan at some point during the 1930s (exact date unknown) is an outgrowth of the general "city beautiful" principles that were incorporated into the Army housing construction program of the late 1920s and 1930s.

Captain Ruhlen laid out the initial set of red and yellow brick officers' quarters along the west side of the parade ground with very specific intentions regarding the surrounding residential landscape. The dimensions of the front yards were established by him, and he specified that walks would run from each house to meet with a single sidewalk that paralleled current-day Sheridan Road. In addition, Ruhlen intended for the residential areas to be planted with trees, shrubs and lawn cover. Since no specific plans were provided to detail exact species type or planting location, this has been open to interpretation over time, and a large variety of species have been planted. Many of the early attempts at planting vegetation failed due to the plants' inability to adapt to the harsh climate.

The line of brick officer housing was lengthened and infilled with bungalow quarters during 1913 and 1914. In 1928, a board was formed at Fort Bliss to provide recommendations for future expansion of the post. This board was named after Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Gaujot, who served as president. The Gaujot board plan, which elaborated on Ruhlen's plan, was instrumental in defining the historic cantonment as it appears today. It based its housing recommendations on the extension of this line of housing. The line followed a consistent, gradually curving arc that runs from the north to the south/southeast. It was completed by the construction of officers quarters during the 1930s. This line of housing, in addition to being the residential area for officers of Fort Bliss, is also important as the western edge and spatial determinant of the parade ground.

A streetcar line belonging to the El Paso Electric Railroad linked Fort Bliss to the city of El Paso for over thirty years. This line followed Meigs Road and originally looped around where present-day Building 239 and 240 sit. When these quarters were built, the loop was moved west and encircled Building 275. This streetcar line was a critical early transportation link between the installation and the city. Remnant features of the tracks are evident as rock-bordered curb cuts between Buildings 2020 and 275. Although the appearance of vegetation in the line of officers' quarters has changed somewhat due to loss from death or diseases, additions from new plantings, or shifting trends in landscape tastes, it still retains much of its original character.

A third significant landscape element from this period is the line of buildings along the upper east side of the parade ground to Carter Road. This area and group of buildings are defined by Cassidy Road, Slater Road, Carter Road, and Pershing Road, and the intermittent lawn, trees and shrubs that surround them. It includes those buildings that face the parade (Buildings 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, 21, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118) as well as those to the rear (Buildings 4, 5, 9, 15, 19, 122, 123, 125, and 127). The line was established during two periods of construction, between 1891 to 1899 and 1913 to 1917.

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The line of buildings is important as a historic grouping related to two historic periods in Fort Bliss history. The original three buildings from the initial period of construction are related to the establishment of Fort Bliss at its present location. This event was part of a larger Army effort to consolidate its smaller posts into larger more permanent posts at the close of the Indian Wars, and to establish a permanent presence on the U.S.-Mexican border. The barracks and mess halls along this line are associated with the construction programs that converted Fort Bliss from an infantry post into a cavalry installation. These buildings were the product of two periods of significance and, like the officers' quarters, were an integral component of the earliest layout of the post. Captain Ruhlen also intended this area to be landscaped with vegetation and sidewalks, and eventually this occurred, although not as extensively as the residential area on the west side of the parade ground. This line of buildings forms the eastern edge of the original parade ground, serving as an important spatial determinant. Although the landscape appearance of this line of buildings has changed somewhat due to fluctuations in vegetation composition resulting from death or diseases, additions from new plantings, or shifting trends in landscape tastes, it still retains integrity.

2. Interim Period 1900-1912

Six buildings and one structure at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District under the Interim Period. This thematic group encompasses the handful of buildings constructed at Fort Bliss between 1900 and 1912, including the Pershing House (Building 228) which was listed on the NRHP in 1987 as Quarters #1. Historically, these buildings are associated with the continued development of Fort Bliss as a border installation. These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military history and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. Building 228 is listed on the NRHP under Criteria A for Military History and Criteria C for Architecture. Building 51 possesses significance under Criterion C for Architecture. It displays characteristics of the Colonial Revival style (see Initial Construction Period discussion for details). The buildings and structure retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Army began using standardized plans for common building types in the 1860s, a practice that was widespread by the end of the century. Standardized plans provided an improvement in living and working conditions and resulted in savings of construction costs and time. Plans often were drawn for particular geographic regions, the most common ones being "North" and "South." Architectural styles and building materials varied according to these regions. Structures appearing most often in these plans include barracks, quarters, hospitals, storehouses, offices, and guardhouses.³ At Fort Bliss, standardized

³Cannan, Deborah K., et al., National Historic Context for Department of Defense Installations, 1790-1940, Vol. I, (Frederick, Maryland: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 1995), 154; Bethany C. Grashof, A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standard Plans, 1866-1940, Vol. I, (Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology, 1986), i.

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building plans appear as early as 1910, as evidenced by Building 228 (the Commanding Officer's Quarters) built according to “plan number 243” from the Quartermaster General's Office.

Table 2: Interim Period Group, 1900 to 1912

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
1	1904	Base Hospital
51	1904	Post Library
53	1909	Post Exchange, Canteen-Bowling
129	1910	Elevated Water Tower
228	1910	Commanding Officer's Quarters (NR, 4/87)
275	1912	Arms Storage Magazine
2010	1908	Horseshoeing Shop

Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the Interim Period Thematic Group

Building 1

Base Hospital / Administration

The cross-plan building, constructed in 1904, contains 30,340 square feet. The three-story building was constructed with a limestone and stucco foundation, brick masonry walls, and slate gable and hipped roofs. The building's gabled center section is flanked by wings with hip-roofs. Both wings contain exterior concrete steps with pipe railings and exterior fire stairs for egress from the second floor. Three chimneys project above the steeply pitched roof line. The double-hung wood sash windows contain 2/2 lights and screens. The building was constructed with a projecting one-story center porch.

Architectural Style: The building is constructed in a simplified Colonial Revival style.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 51

Post Library / Dependent's Nursery School, WIC

The one-story building was constructed in 1904 and contains 6,127 square feet. The cross-plan building is constructed with a blue limestone foundation topped with a substantial cut cream limestone water table, brick walls, and brick quoins. The central block is a medium pitched closed gable roof while the flanking sections were constructed with medium-pitched hipped roofs. Four chimneys project above the roof lines. Original construction included screened 9/9 double-hung wood windows. The building has undergone

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extensive alterations including: smaller replacement windows, additional doors and windows on south and east elevations, addition of a concrete block and concrete porch with aluminum shed roof and doorway, and a wheelchair access ramp.

Architectural Style: Colonial Revival.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 53

Post Exchange canteen - Bowling / Dependents' Nursery School

The one-story building was constructed in 1909 and contains 2,200 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a concrete foundation and parged watertable, brick walls and a medium pitched hipped roof. Double-hung wood windows with 6/6 or 2/3 lights are used throughout the building. The north side of the building contains two large 12/12 double-hung wood windows.

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 129/Structure

Elevated Water Tank / Elevated Water Tank

The water tank, constructed in 1910, has a capacity of 150,000 gallons. The tank, constructed with riveted steel plates, rests on an octagonal platform and catwalk, elevated 40 feet above grade with steel legs. Missile and cannons insignias of the Air Defense Artillery are painted on the water tank. This tank replaced an 1893 elevated wooden water storage tank located to the north of Building 128.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 228

Commanding Officer's Quarters/Garrison Commander's Quarters

The two-story building was constructed in 1910 and contains 5,874 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, watertable, running bond painted (white) yellow brick walls, and a low pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter ends and one chimney. The building contains a partial basement and crawlspace. A two-tier verandah is supported by eleven green-painted wood columns per level. The main entrance, originally double doors centered on the east elevation, has been altered to consist of a wood panel door with elliptical fanlight and exterior screen door. Secondary single wood panel doors are located on the south, west and north elevations. Double-hung wood windows with 2/2 lights are used throughout. Lintels are arched brick. Sills are concrete.

Architectural Style: Vernacular with French Colonial influence

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Already listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C for Architecture

Eligible under Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 275

Arms Storage Magazine / General Purpose Storage

The small one-story building was constructed in 1912 and contains 298 square feet. The square plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, board formed concrete walls, and a low pitched corrugated metal hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. A single ventilator is located at the peak of the roof. The single metal-plate door is located on the east elevation. Two window openings, centered high on the north and south elevations, are covered with double metal shutters.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2010

Horseshoeing Shop / Officers' Wives Club Giftshop

The one-story building was constructed in 1908 and contains 1,659 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a native blue limestone foundation enclosing a crawl space, coursed, quarry-faced blue limestone walls with a red sandstone watertable, a steeply pitched gable roof with figured rafter ends, and 1 brick chimney. Both original stable doors on the east and west elevations have been removed. The east elevation, main entrance, now contains a pair of metal doors with nine lights each. The rear door, west elevation, contains a single metal door. The remaining space around the new doors has been enclosed with either concrete block or wood. A single door opening on the south elevation has also been enclosed. Double-hung wood sash windows with 4/4 lights, screens, and security bars are used throughout. The lintels used throughout are radiating voussoirs. The sills are of chiseled red sandstone.

Architectural Style: Richardsonian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Site Development and Landscape Design

No significant landscape development occurred during this period.

3. First Expansion Period 1913-1917

Fifty buildings and three landscape elements at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District under the First Expansion Period. This thematic group encompasses the buildings constructed, and the landscape

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elements developed at Fort Bliss between 1913 and 1917. Historically, these buildings and landscape elements are associated with the construction program that converted Fort Bliss from an infantry post into a cavalry installation. This event was part of a larger Army effort aimed at massing a large cavalry force along the U.S.-Mexican border to prevent arms smuggling and to discourage and respond to any hostile acts against the United States.

The buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. Additionally, twenty-five buildings possess significance under Criterion C for Architecture. Buildings and landscape elements retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Standardized plans utilized during this period of construction include Enlisted Men's Barracks CQM-341 (Buildings 11, 12, 112-118), Mess Hall and Kitchen CQM-342 (Buildings 15, 122, 123, 125), Mess Hall and Kitchen CQM-371 (Building 127), Lieutenant's Quarters CQM-338 (Buildings 201-206), and Captain's Quarters CQM-337 (Buildings 207-218, 225-26, 236-240). Architecturally, many of the buildings in this group display features of the Colonial Revival, Prairie style bungalow, and Craftsman style bungalow. As mentioned above, the Colonial Revival style is characterized by an accentuated front door (normally with a pediment supported by pilasters or columns) with fanlights or sidelights, a symmetrical facade, and double-hung sash windows with multi-pane glazing. The Prairie style has a low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves. It is usually two stories with a single story porch or wing, with eave, cornice, and facade details emphasizing the horizontal. Sub-types are distinguished by roof configuration. The Prairie style was most popular between 1900 and 1920. The Craftsman style is defined by a one story structure with a broad porch supported by square columns. The roof is low-pitched and has a wide overhang displaying exposed rafters. Materials are most often wood and stone. Prairie and Craftsman style bungalows were often built during the first three decades of this century.⁴

Table 3: First Expansion Period Group, 1913 to 1917

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
4	1914	Hospital Isolation Ward
5	1915	Ambulance Garage
11	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
12	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
15	1915	Mess Hall & Kitchen
55	1916	Telephone Exchange & Barracks

⁴McAlester and McAlester, 321, 324, 439-440, 453-454; John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz, What Style Is It?, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983), 76-77.

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112	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
113	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
114	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
115	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
116	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
117	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
118	1915	Enlisted Men's Barracks
122	1915	Mess Hall & Kitchen
123	1915	Mess Hall & Kitchen
125	1915	Mess Hall & Kitchen
127	1915	Mess Hall & Kitchen
201	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
202	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
203	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
204	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
205	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
206	1914	Lieutenant's Quarters
207	1914	Captain's Quarters
208	1914	Captain's Quarters
209	1914	Captain's Quarters
210	1914	Captain's Quarters
211	1914	Captain's Quarters
212	1914	Captain's Quarters
213	1914	Captain's Quarters
214	1914	Captain's Quarters
215	1914	Captain's Quarters
216	1914	Captain's Quarters
217	1914	Captain's Quarters
218	1914	Captain's Quarters
225	1914	Captain's Quarters
226	1914	Captain's Quarters
236	1914	Captain's Quarters
237	1914	Captain's Quarters
238	1914	Captain's Quarters
239	1914	Captain's Quarters
240	1914	Captain's Quarters
242	1917	Post Electrical Substation
888	1916	Ammunition Warehouse
889	1916	Ammunition Warehouse

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890	1916	Ammunition Warehouse
1318	1917	Post Pumping Plant
1441	1915	Post Bakery
2014	1917	Veterinary
2020	1917	Administration Building

**Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the
First Expansion Period Thematic Group**

Building 4

Hospital Isolation Ward / Inactive

The rectangular two story building contains 7,321 square feet and was constructed in 1914. The building is constructed with a brick foundation, watertable, and walls. The windows are double-hung wood sashes with 8/8 lights and screens. A single medium pitched hipped roof covers the building. The building contains two porches, one each on opposite ends. The original ground floor porch and second level balconies have been enclosed with wood clapboard siding. The enclosed porches have shed roofs beginning at the eave line of the building's main body.

Architectural Style: Vernacular style with Colonial Revival elements

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 5

Ambulance Garage / General Storage

The one-story building was constructed in 1915 and contains 312 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a poured concrete foundation and brick walls. The hipped roof is of a medium pitch with composition shingles. Full height sliding wood doors allow entry into the building. The building also contains wood windows with four lights and brick rowlock arch.

Architectural Style: simplified Craftsman style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 11, 112, 114, 115, 116, 117

Enlisted Men's Barracks / Administration General Purpose

The two-story building was constructed in 1915 contains 9,351 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a poured concrete foundation, brick walls, and a brick belt course above the second floor windows. The building is covered with a medium double-pitched hipped roof. An open two-story full-width porch is located on the west side of the building and included under the building's hipped roof. Double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens are used throughout the building.

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Architectural Style: Vernacular

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 12, 113, 118

Enlisted Men's Barracks / Administration General Purpose

The two-story building was constructed in 1915 contains 10,511 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a poured concrete foundation, brick walls, and a brick belt course above the second floor windows. The building is covered with a medium double-pitched hipped roof. The original open two-story full-width porch located on the west side of the building has been enclosed with brick to provide additional usable space inside the building. Double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens are used throughout the building.

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 15, 122, 123, 125

Mess Hall & Kitchen / Administration General Purpose

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1915 and contains 4,372 square feet. The I-shaped building is constructed with a concrete foundation, brick walls and a double-pitched hipped roof. An open porch with brick columns and a low-pitched roof is set within the I-shape on the building's west side. Double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens are used throughout the building. Access to the basement is possible via exterior concrete steps equipped with pipe railings. The basement has a concrete floor with individual doors accessing the different rooms.

Architectural Style: Vernacular with Italianate influences.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 55

Telephone Exchange and Barracks / Office of Chief of ADA (also AFCEE)

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1916 and contains 5,763 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a brick and concrete foundation, brick walls and a medium pitched hipped roof. A frieze of two header brick dentils is located above a relief string of stretchers. Windows consist of double-hung wood sash with either 1/1, 4/4, 6/6 lights and woven wire security screens. The original porch with concrete steps, brick columns and wide arches has been enclosed with vertical chamfered tongue-and-groove boards. Double aluminum and glass doors has been set into the center arch. A wheelchair lift has been provided at the rear entry landing.

Architectural Style: Simplified Neoclassical Style

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Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 127

Mess Hall & Kitchen / Administration General Purpose

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1915 and contains 2,832 square feet. The T-shaped building (half the plan of 122, 123, and 125) is constructed with a concrete foundation, brick walls and a double-pitched hipped roof. An open porch with brick columns and a flat roof is set along the stem of the "T" on the building's west side. Double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens are used throughout the building. Access to the basement is possible via exterior concrete steps equipped with pipe railings. The basement has a concrete floor with individual doors accessing the different "rooms."

Architectural Style: Vernacular with Italianate influences.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 201, 202, 203, 205, 206

Lieutenant's Quarters / Officer's Family Housing

The one-story building was constructed in 1914 and contains 1,850 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with an exposed rubble limestone foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. A full-width recessed porch is constructed with an ashlar limestone foundation, stucco covered columns, concrete coping over solid balustrade, and concrete steps with low limestone wing walls. The building contains an exterior cellar entrance constructed with a brick foundation located on the northwest corner. The original double-hung wood sash windows were replaced with double-hung aluminum windows in 1978-79.

Architectural Style: Prairie style bungalow

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 204

Captain's Quarters / Officer's Family Housing

The one-story building was constructed in 1914 and contains 2,150 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with an exposed rubble limestone foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. A full-width recessed porch is constructed with an ashlar limestone foundation, stucco covered columns, concrete coping over solid balustrade, and concrete steps with low limestone wing walls. The building contains an exterior cellar entrance located on the northwest corner constructed with a brick foundation. A rear bedroom addition was completed in 1945. The original double-hung wood sash windows were replaced with double-hung aluminum windows in 1978-79.

Architectural Style: Prairie style bungalow

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Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 207, 209, 210, 211, 212, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 225, 226, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240

Captain's Quarters / Officer's Family Housing

The one-story building was constructed in 1914 and contains 2,174 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with an exposed rubble limestone foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. A full-width recessed porch is constructed with an ashlar limestone foundation, two rubble limestone columns, concrete coping over solid balustrade, and concrete steps with low limestone wing walls. An exterior entry door is located on the building's south and west elevations. The building contains an exterior cellar entrance constructed with a brick foundation located on the northwest corner. A rear addition consisting of two bedrooms and one bathroom has been added to the west side of the building. The foundation is parged with cement stucco. The original double-hung wood sash windows have been replaced with 2/2 aluminum windows with screens (1978-79).

Architectural Style: Prairie style bungalow

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Note: The following buildings are similar to Buildings 207 and 209. Differences are noted.

- Building 210: 2,188 square feet
- Building 211: 1,701 square feet
- Building 212: 1,953 square feet, rear entry on south only
- Buildings 214, 215, 217, 218, 236, 239, 240: 1,987 square feet, rear entry on south only
- Building 216: 2,185 square feet
- Building 225: 2,063 square feet
- Building 226: 2,609 square feet
- Buildings 237, 238: 1,987 square feet

Building 208

Captain's Quarters / Officer's Family Housing

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1914 and contains 2,814 square feet. The irregular shaped building is constructed with an exposed rubble limestone foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. A full-width recessed porch has an ashlar limestone foundation, two rubble limestone columns, concrete coping over solid balustrade, and concrete steps with low limestone wing walls. An exterior cellar entrance located on the southwest corner has a brick foundation. A one bedroom, one bath rear addition is located on the west side of the building. The foundation is parged with cement stucco. The original double-hung wood sash windows have been replaced with 2/2 aluminum windows with screens (1978-79).

Architectural Style: Prairie style bungalow

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Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 213

Captain's Quarters / Chaparral House - Distinguished Visitors' Quarters

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1914 and contains 2,697 square feet. The irregular shaped building is constructed with an exposed rubble limestone foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. A full-width recessed porch is constructed with an ashlar limestone foundation, two rubble limestone columns, concrete coping over solid balustrade, and concrete steps with low limestone wing walls. The building contains two rear entrances, on the west and south elevations, with concrete steps and pipe railings. The building contains an exterior cellar entrance located on the southwest corner and constructed with a brick foundation. A rear one bedroom, one bath addition has been added to the west side of the building. The foundation is parged with cement stucco. The original double-hung wood sash windows have been replaced with 2/2 aluminum windows with screens (1978-79). The building also contains extensive landscaping in the form of brick edging and wood perimeter fencing.

Architectural Style: Prairie style bungalow

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 242

Post Electrical Sub-station / General Storehouse

Building 242 was constructed in 1917 and contains 790 square feet. The one-story rectangular building is constructed with a fieldstone limestone foundation and walls. The steeply pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter tails covers the building. A single three panel, one light wood door is located on the east elevation. Double-hung wood sash windows are used throughout the building. The single door and six windows have a 3-course segmentally arched lintel.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 888, 889, 890

Ammunition Warehouse / General Storehouse

The one-story building was constructed in 1916 and contains 2,253 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a steeply pitched corrugated metal gable roof with exposed rafter tails. Louvers are located in the gable ends. The interior of the building is divided into three rooms each equipped with a single metal-plated door with strap hinges and open windows with security bars and screens. The windows and doors are set within reinforced concrete frames.

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Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1318

Post Pumping Plant / Potable Water Distribution System

The one-story building was constructed in 1917 and contains 12,921 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stucco-covered brick walls, and a parapet roof with crest tile, scuppers and downspouts. Both single and double doors are used throughout the building as well as double-hung wood sash windows with 9/9 lights and screens. A one-story concrete addition is located on the east elevation and houses reservoirs, a settling basin, pipes, and a pumping station.

Architectural Style: Spanish Colonial

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1441

Bakery / Jewish Chapel and Chaplain's Office

The one-story building was constructed in 1915 and contains 4,507 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter ends, attic vent louvers and a brick chimney. Both single and double wood doors are used throughout the building. The remodeled main entry, on the west elevation, consists of a pair of glass and aluminum storefront doors within a Mission style projecting vestibule. A pair of wood panel doors with three light transom is located on the east elevation. The building also has double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and screens.

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2014

Veterinary Storehouse / Storehouse

The one-story building was constructed in 1917 and contains 1,176 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, rubble fieldstone walls, and a low pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter ends and a brick chimney. Both the east and west elevations originally contained stable doors. The original doors on the east elevation have been removed and the opening filled with wood. The west elevation still contains the stable doors with a five panel wood door set into the left panel. A single wood entry door with screen door is located on the south elevation. The building contains single-hung aluminum windows with screens and interior security bars. The arched

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lintels are constructed with three rows of radiating brick soldiers with wings. The sills are red brick soldier courses.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2020

Administration / General Purpose Administration

The one-story building was constructed in 1917 and contains 765 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, rubble fieldstone walls, and a low pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. The building has both two single wood doors with one light and an exterior screen door, and paired wood awning windows with 4/4 lights and screens. The lintels are rubble stone and the sills are concrete.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Site Development and Landscape Design

The historic landscape elements associated with this thematic group are the original parade ground, the row of Officers' Quarters along the west side of the parade ground, and the line of buildings along the upper east side of the parade ground (District Map, Landscape Elements # 1, 2, and 3). See "Initial Construction Period" for discussion of these elements.

4. Seventh Cavalry Construction Period 1919

Nine buildings and one landscape element at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District under the 7th Cavalry Construction Period. This thematic group encompasses the buildings constructed and the landscape elements developed at Fort Bliss in 1919 that are associated with the original 7th Cavalry cantonment area. The construction of this cantonment was part of the early efforts of the War Department to create a cavalry division along the U.S.-Mexican border. The buildings in this group generally do not display any specific significant architectural style.

These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for military history and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. The buildings and landscape element retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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Table 4: 7th Cavalry Construction Period Group, 1919

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
440	1919	Mess Hall
442	1919	Mess Hall
443	1919	Mess Hall
444	1919	Mess Hall
448	1919	Enlisted Men's Barracks
449	1919	Enlisted Men's Barracks
450	1919	Enlisted Men's Barracks
451	1919	Enlisted Men's Barracks
452	1919	Enlisted Men's Barracks

**Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the
7th Cavalry Construction Period Thematic Group**

Buildings 440, 442, 443, 444

Mess Hall / Religious Education Center

The one-story building was constructed in 1919 and contains 2,054 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, common bond red brick walls and buttresses, and a medium low pitched gable roof with exposed rafters. Metal gable vents are located in both gable ends. The main entrance is located on the east elevation and consists of a pair of three panel wood doors with four lights each. Secondary doors are single five panel wood doors. The windows are wood horizontal sliders with six lights and screens. The lintels for the doors and windows are concrete. Red brick is used for the sills.

Architectural Style: No style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Buildings 442, 443: 1,766 square feet

Building 444: 1,785 square feet

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Building 448

Enlisted Men's Barracks / Religious Center and Chaplain's Office

The one-story building was constructed in 1919 and contains 8,775 square feet. The U-shaped building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, running bond red brick walls and buttresses, and a steeply pitched gable roof. The main entrance, on the east elevation, consists of a pair of three panel wood doors with four lights each. Secondary doors are single five panel wood doors with four lights. The windows are wood horizontal sliders with six lights and screens. The lintels for the doors and windows are concrete. Red brick is used for the sills.

Architectural Style: No style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 449, 450, 451, 452

Enlisted Men's Barracks / Religious Education Facility

The one-story building was constructed in 1919 and contains 6,892 square feet. The U-shaped building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, running bond red brick walls and buttresses, and a steeply pitched gable roof. The main entrance is located on the east elevation and consists of a pair of three panel wood doors with four lights each. Secondary doors are single five panel wood doors with four lights. The windows are wood horizontal sliders with six lights and screens. The lintels for the doors and windows are concrete. Red brick is used for the sills.

Architectural Style: No style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Building 450: 7,256 square feet

Building 451: 7,124 square feet

Building 452: 7,126 square feet

Site Development and Landscape Design

The historic landscape element associated with this group is the 7th Cavalry building area at Fort Bliss (District Map, Landscape Element #7), with a period of significance falling within the Seventh Cavalry Construction Period, 1919. The Seventh Cavalry building cluster is defined by Merritt Road, Pershing Road, Howze Street, Sheridan Road, and Gregg Road. It was constructed in 1919. What remains today is a small portion of the original grouping of buildings. The defining features of this area are four former mess halls (Buildings 440, 442, 443, and 444), five former enlisted men's barracks (Buildings 448-452), and the surrounding landscape area.

These buildings are the last reminder of the historic Seventh Cavalry cantonment area. The construction of this cantonment, originally consisting of thirty buildings, was part of the Army's Mexican

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Border Zone Project and early efforts by the War Department to create a cavalry division along the U.S.-Mexican border. The entire cantonment was slated to be razed after the construction of the First Cavalry barracks and stables to the east in the 1930s. The Gaujot board had envisioned that the Seventh Cavalry buildings were to be removed so that the area would be open and the original parade ground could be extended in a southeastern direction, terminating at present-day Pleasonton Road. Apparently, it was thought that extra building space was needed, because several of these buildings were allowed to remain. This had the effect of disrupting the continuation of an open parade ground, but the cluster is important as a physical reminder of a key part of Fort Bliss history. Although much of the original Seventh Cavalry cantonment has been demolished, the remaining nine structures in this area continue to form a distinct environment that adequately conveys a sense of the historic character of the area.

5. Second Expansion Period 1918-1926

Thirty-nine buildings, one structure and one landscape element at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District under the Second Expansion Period. This thematic group encompasses the buildings constructed and the landscape elements developed at Fort Bliss between 1918 and 1926. Historically, these buildings and the landscape element are associated with a period of construction that added twenty-four Mexican Border Zone warehouses and several other support structures to the installation. This construction was part of a larger Army effort to more efficiently manage its supply operations and to make Fort Bliss the nation's premier Mexican border post. The buildings in this group generally do not display any specific significant architectural style. Standardized plans utilized during this period of construction include "Warehouse CQM FB 165-23" (Buildings 1101-1124) and "Latrine CQM 165-25" (Buildings 1125-1128).

These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. Building 315 also possesses significance under Criterion C for Architecture. It displays characteristics of the Mission style of Architecture. Popular from 1890 to 1920, the Mission style has dormers or shaped roof parapets. Roofs are often covered in red tile and have wide overhanging eaves. Porches are supported by large square piers, commonly arched above, and wall surfaces are usually stucco. Sub-types of the Mission style are distinguished by having either a symmetrical or asymmetrical facade. This style was mostly confined to the Southwestern states.⁵ The buildings, structures and landscape elements retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

⁵McAlester and McAlester, 409-410.

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Table 5: Second Expansion Period Group, 1918 to 1926

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
54	1919	Fire Station
250	1919	Officers' Open Mess
273	1921	Recruiting Office
315	1924	7th Cavalry Service Club
1101	1921	Ordinance Office and Warehouse
1102	1921	Warehouse
1103	1921	Warehouse
1104	1921	Warehouse
1105	1921	Warehouse
1106	1921	Warehouse
1107	1921	Warehouse
1108	1921	Warehouse
1109	1921	Warehouse
1110	1921	Warehouse
1111	1921	Warehouse
1112	1921	Warehouse
1113	1921	Warehouse
1114	1921	Warehouse
1115	1921	Warehouse
1116	1921	Warehouse
1117	1921	Warehouse
1118	1921	Warehouse
1119	1921	Warehouse
1120	1921	Warehouse
1121	1921	Warehouse
1122	1921	Warehouse
1123	1921	Warehouse
1124	1921	Warehouse
1125	1921	Latrine
1126	1921	Latrine
1127	1921	Latrine
1128	1921	Latrine

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1334	1921	Motor Vehicle Repair Garage
1336	1921	Riding Hall
1361	1919	Quartermaster Granary
1372	1918 (1941)	Scalehouse and Scaleways
1456	1920	Tailor Shop
1480	1923	Medical Dispensary
2004	1926	Clothing Store
2032	1920	Loading Dock

**Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the
Second Expansion Period Thematic Group**

Building 54

Fire Station / Fire Station

The two-story building was constructed in 1919 and contains 8,987 square feet. The L-shaped building, with basement, is constructed with a concrete foundation, brick walls and a medium pitched, kicked eave hipped roof. A large brick four-story tower is located at the building's southwest corner and is used to dry the fire hoses. The tower has a low-pitched hipped roof and louvered openings on all four sides to provide ventilation. The building contains center-pivot steel windows and double-hung wood sash windows. The center pivot windows located in the second floor sleeping area are equipped with projecting wedge-shaped screens that allow sashes to operate. The building contains three segmented overhead doors on the west elevation and two segmented overhead doors on the east elevation.

Architectural Style: Vernacular with Italianate influences.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 250

Officers' Open Mess / Officers' Club

The two-story building was constructed in 1919 with a major renovation in 1947. The 28,928 square foot, irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, and stuccoed concrete block walls. Some of the original walls are constructed of adobe. The roof has both flat built-up roofs with parapets and a central gable roof with a shaped parapet. The main entrance is located on the north elevation emphasized with a shaped parapet and porte cochere. The front elevation has repeating arch reveals with decorative grillwork. The south elevation has a walk-out lower level with a stamped colored concrete slab, limestone walls, and a corrugated metal roof supported by wood columns. Several types of doors provide entry into the building: single and double wood doors and double storefront doors. The building also has several types of windows: sliding aluminum double and triple windows and fixed ribbon

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style windows. The lintels and sills are stucco covered concrete. The Officers' Club was extensively remodeled after the 1946 fire. The fire also destroyed Casilly Adam's famous painting "Custer's Last Fight".

Architectural Style: Mission, Spanish Eclectic and Modern styles

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 273

Recruiting Office / Corps of Engineers Resident Office

The one-story building was constructed in 1921 and contains 1,719 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, limestone rubble walls, medium pitched gable-on-hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. The main entrance is on the east elevation and consists of a pair of three panel wood doors with lights and exterior screen doors. The windows are double-hung wood sash with 6/6 lights with exterior security bars. A small rectangular addition is located on the west elevation. The addition is constructed with a concrete foundation, clapboard siding and a flat roof. A second single five panel wood door with exterior screen door is located on the north elevation.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 315

7th Cavalry Service Club / Post (Center) Chapel

The large open one-story building, constructed in 1924 and reconditioned in 1936, contains 8,073 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stuccoed rock walls with buttresses, and low-pitched gable-on-hipped roof. The main entrance is located on the southwest elevation emphasized by the projecting one story stucco covered arcade with shaped parapet. Single and double wood doors with transoms provide access into the building. The building contains stained glass, and single and triplet screened 6/6 double-hung wood windows.

Architectural Style: Mission Style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Buildings 1101, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124

Warehouse / Warehouse

The one plus story building was constructed in 1921 and contains 15,891 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with concrete footings and floor located at approximately four feet above grade, corrugated metal siding over a wood structure, and a medium pitched corrugated metal gable roof. The building was constructed as a large open space with a second story monitor extending the length of the

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building. Both long sides of the building (north and south elevations) have concrete loading docks. Horizontally sliding doors constructed of vertical wood tongue-and-groove boards with awnings are the predominate door type on the building. The hopper style windows contain security bars.

Architectural Style: Industrial

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105

Warehouse / General Purpose Warehouse

The one plus story building was constructed in 1921 and contains 16,000 square feet. The rectangular building is constructed with concrete footings and floor located at approximately five feet above grade, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched metal gable roof. The building was constructed as a large open space with a two story monitor extending the length of the building. Both long sides of the building (north and south elevations) have concrete loading docks. Horizontally sliding doors constructed of vertical wood tongue-and-groove boards with awnings are the predominate door type on the building. The hopper style windows contain security bars.

Architectural Style: Industrial

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128

Latrine / Inactive

The one-story building was constructed in 1921 and contains 424 square feet. The small rectangular building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, red brick walls, and a medium pitched gable roof. A single five-panel wood door provides entry into the building. The building also contains sliding and hopper wood windows with six lights and screens.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Building 1126: 420 square feet

Building 1334

Vehicle Shed / General Purpose Maintenance Building

The large one-story open bay building was constructed in 1921 and contains 32,426 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, steel framing, stuccoed adobe brick infill walls, and a standing seam metal gambrel roof. The adobe infill dates from 1934. The east elevation has a metal roll-up overhead door. Centered on both the south and west

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elevations are full-height metal sliding doors. The building has a combination of single, double and quadruple multi-light center-pivot steel windows with concrete lintels and sills.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian, standard military plan.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1336

Riding Hall / Recycling Center

The large one-story open bay building was constructed in 1921 and contains 31,347 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab, steel framed, corrugated metal paneled walls, and a standing seam metal gambrel roof. The east, west and north elevations have sliding metal doors. The building has paired multi-light center-pivot and awning style steel windows with steel lintels and sills.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian, standard Army plan.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1361

Quartermaster Granary / General Storehouse

The one-story building was constructed in 1919 and contains 8,651 square feet. The rectangular plan, wood-framed building is constructed with brick piers on concrete footings, corrugated metal walls, and a low-pitched built-up gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Three concrete loading platforms with vertical board sliding doors are located on the building's southwest elevation accessing the rail spur. Five vertical board sliding doors are also located on both the northeast and west elevations. Each sliding door is covered by a metal hood, a later addition.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1372

Scalehouse and Scaleways / Inactive

The small one-story building was constructed in 1918, with modifications in 1941, and contains 74 square feet. The square plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, brick walls, and a low-pitched tar-paper hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. A single wood door is located on the north elevation. Each of the remaining three elevations has one double-hung wood sash window with 6/6 lights and security screens. Both the lintels and sills are red brick soldier course. A Fairbanks weighing scale is located inside the building. The gauge markings read "Spinks Scale Co., Atlanta, Georgia" and indicate a designed capacity of 60,000 pounds. Two concrete and railroad tie drive-through scales are located on the building's north and south side.

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Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1456

Tailor Shop / Provost Marshal Liaison Branch

The one-story building was constructed in 1920 and contains 771 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, rubble fieldstone walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. A single glass and aluminum storefront door is located on the building's south elevation. A garage door has been removed and the opening filled with concrete. The building was constructed with double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights and exterior security bars. The lintels are concrete. The sills are rubble fieldstone.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 1480

Medical Dispensary / Inactive

The one-story building was constructed in 1923 and contains 1,317 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched hipped roof. The main entry is located on the south elevation and consists of double glass and aluminum storefront doors with a shed-roof awning. Two additional wood panel doors are located on the west and north elevations. A third door was removed from the east elevation and the opening filled with concrete. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood. The lintels are concrete and the sills are red brick soldier course. A small shed roof brick lean-to is located at the building's northeast corner.

Architectural Style: Prairie

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2004

Clothing Store/Army Welcome Center

The one-story building was constructed in 1926 and contains 5,234 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, rubble fieldstone walls and a medium-pitched gable roof with stepped parapet end walls. The main entrance is located on the east elevation. The original doors have been removed and replaced with a pair of wood and glass storefront doors. The remaining space around the doors has been filled. The original full-height full-width storefront windows have been removed, replaced with smaller aluminum windows and the remaining space filled. The south and north elevations have the original double-hung and awning windows with 6/6 lights. A rectangular

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plan one-story addition with a flat roof and parapet walls was added to the west elevation. The interior of the building was completely gutted and renovated in 1986 and 1995.

Architectural Style: Vernacular (mission and craftsman influences)

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 2032/Structure

Loading Platform/Inactive

The loading platform was constructed in 1920. The platform is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and slab. The platform is approximately four feet above grade. Both the north and south terminus of the platform angle down to grade. Two additional concrete ramps access the platform from the west side. The platform begins near Pike Road and extends southward past Building 2019 on its western side. The platform terminates near the eastward bend of Boyd Road. Remnants of a railroad spur following along the eastern side of the platform illustrate the role of transportation in delivering supplies and animals to Fort Bliss.

Architectural Style: No style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Site Development and Landscape Design

The historic landscape element associated with this group is the Mexican Border Zone Warehouse and former granary Building 1361 area northeast of the main cantonment at Fort Bliss (District Map, Landscape Element # 9), within the Second Expansion 1918 to 1926 period of significance. This Zone Warehouse area includes the twenty-four warehouses bounded by Baldwin Road to the north, Lufberry Road to the west, Cassidy Road to the south, and Irwin Road to the east; and Building 1361, the one remaining former granary to the northwest of the warehouses. The zone warehouses were constructed in 1921 while Building 1361 was constructed in 1919. The portion of abandoned track that runs from Building 1361 to the warehouses formerly served the granaries and is included in this sub-area. The group of twenty-four warehouses is arranged in a 4x6 array, and include four small latrines, Building 1361, active rail sidings, and the portion of abandoned track.

The features of this element were all constructed as part of the Mexican Border Zone Project, an effort aimed at improving the Army's ability to respond to crises along the U.S.-Mexican border. The Quartermaster used these facilities to supply border outposts in Texas and Arizona. The establishment of the zone warehouses, which were situated along a number of railway sidings, initiated a trend of post development to the east.

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6. Depression Era, 1927-1939

One hundred ninety-six buildings and seven landscape elements at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District Depression Era Group. This thematic group encompasses the buildings constructed and the landscape elements developed at Fort Bliss between 1927 and 1939. Historically, these buildings and landscape elements are associated with the major building program that added many new officers' and non-commissioned officers' quarters, barracks, stables, garages and other structures to the installation. This building program was part of a larger nationwide Army housing program that spanned the years 1927 to 1939. Beginning in 1934, the nationwide Army program played an important role in implementing government-sponsored Depression relief programs.

Architecturally, many of the buildings in this group display features of the Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance, Mission, Prairie, Craftsman, and Spanish Eclectic styles. Colonial Revival style buildings were popular from 1880 through 1955. This style is characterized by an accentuated front door (normally with a pediment supported by pilasters or columns) with a fanlight or sidelights, a symmetrical facade, and double-hung sash windows with multi-pane glazing. Sub-types are distinguished by roof form and building height. Italian Renaissance buildings are characterized by low-pitched hipped roofs (often covered with ceramic tiles), smaller upper story windows, arched doorways, and a symmetrical facade with the entrance area accented by small classical columns or pilasters. The sub-types are primarily distinguished by roof type. The Italian Renaissance Revival style was most popular from 1890 through 1935. Popular from 1890 to 1920, the Mission style has dormers or roof parapets shaped like those found on Spanish Colonial missions. Roofs are often covered in red tile and have wide overhanging eaves. Porches are supported by large square piers, commonly arched above, and wall surfaces are usually stucco. Sub-types of the Mission style are distinguished by having either a symmetrical or asymmetrical facade. This style was mostly confined to the Southwestern states. Prairie style buildings have a low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves. It is usually two stories with a single story porch or wing, and has eaves, cornices, and facade details that emphasize the horizontal. Sub-types are distinguished by roof configuration. The Prairie style was most popular between 1900 and 1920. Craftsman buildings are identified by a low-pitched, gabled roof with wide, open eave overhang and exposed rafters. Decorative beams or braces are often added under gables. Porches are either full or partial width with tapered square columns extending to the ground level. Sub-types are based on roof type and entry location. The Craftsman style was dominant for small houses across the country from 1905 into the mid-1920s. The Spanish Eclectic architectural style has a low-pitched, red tile roof with little or no overhang, one or more prominent arches placed above the door or principal window, and an asymmetrical facade covered with stucco. Roof configurations indicate sub-types. The Spanish Eclectic style was most popular in the Southwest and Florida from 1915 to 1940.⁶

Standardized plans utilized during this period of construction include: "NCO Quarters Plan No. 625-1530" (with some variations, Buildings 317-351, 353-357, 1400-1413, 1442-1454, 1457-1479, 1481-

⁶McAlester and McAlester, 321, 324-325, 397-398, 409-410, 417-418, 439-440, 453-454.

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1488); “Officers’ Quarters Plan No. 625-2448” (Buildings 400-404, 406-413, 426-429, 522, 523, 525-531, 536-544); “Bachelor Officers' Quarters Plan No. 625-2122” (Building 243); “Garage Plan No. 625-1934-42” (Buildings 244, 246, 247, 265-272); “Officer's Quarters Plan No. 625-2482” (Buildings 301, 303); “Commanding Officer's Quarters Plan No. 625-2380” (Building 302); “Enlisted Men's Barracks Plan No. 621-1135” (Buildings 500, 503, 504, 512, 515, 516); “Blacksmith and Saddle Shop Plan No. 676-121” (Buildings 611-613, 649-651); “Cavalry Stables Plan No. 677-115-118” (Buildings 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 635, 639, 641, 643, 645); and “Stable Guard Quarters Plan No. 676-119” (Buildings 627-629, 631-633).

These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. Buildings 243, 301-303, 311, 317-351, 353-357, 400-404, 406-413, 426-429, 500, 503, 504, 512, 515, 516, 522, 523, 525-531, 536-544, 1400-1413, 1442-1454, and 1457-1479, 1481-1488 also possess significance under Criterion C for Architecture. The buildings and landscape elements retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Table 6: Depression Era, 1927-1939

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
243	1939	Bachelors Officers’ Quarters
244	1936	Officers’ Garage
246	1936	Garage
247	1936	Garage
248	1937	Post Officers’ Club Servant's Quarters
251	1934	Girl Scout House
265	1936	Garage
266	1936	Garage
267	1936	Garage
268	1936	Garage
269	1936	Garage
270	1936	Garage
271	1936	Garage
272	1936	Garage
301	1934	Officer’s Quarters
302	1934	Commanding Officer’s Quarters
303	1934	Officer’s Quarters
304	1934	Officer’s Garage
305	1934	Servant's Quarters

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306	1934	Officer's Garage
311	1938	War Department Theater
317	1930	NCO Quarters
318	1930	NCO Quarters
319	1930	NCO Quarters
320	1930	NCO Quarters
321	1930	NCO Quarters
322	1930	NCO Quarters
323	1930	NCO Quarters
324	1930	NCO Quarters
325	1930	NCO Quarters
326	1930	NCO Quarters
327	1930	NCO Quarters
328	1930	NCO Quarters
329	1930	NCO Quarters
330	1930	NCO Quarters
331	1930	NCO Quarters
332	1930	NCO Quarters
333	1930	NCO Quarters
334	1930	NCO Quarters
335	1930	NCO Quarters
336	1930	NCO Quarters
337	1930	NCO Quarters
338	1930	NCO Quarters
339	1930	NCO Quarters
340	1930	NCO Quarters
341	1930	NCO Quarters
342	1930	NCO Quarters
343	1930	NCO Quarters
344	1939	NCO Quarters
345	1939	NCO Quarters
346	1939	NCO Quarters
347	1939	NCO Quarters
348	1939	NCO Quarters
349	1934	NCO Quarters
350	1934	NCO Quarters
351	1934	NCO Quarters
353	1934	NCO Quarters
354	1934	NCO Quarters

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355	1934	NCO Quarters
356	1934	NCO Quarters
357	1934	NCO Quarters
400	1934	Officer's Quarters
401	1934	Officer's Quarters
402	1934	Officer's Quarters
403	1934	Officer's Quarters
404	1934	Officer's Quarters
405	1934	Officers' Garage
406	1934	Officer's Quarters
407	1934	Officer's Quarters
408	1934	Officer's Quarters
409	1934	Officer's Quarters
410	1934	Officer's Quarters
411	1934	Officer's Quarters
412	1934	Officer's Quarters
413	1934	Officer's Quarters
414	1934	Officers' Garage
415	1934	Officers' Garage
425	1934	Officers' Garage
426	1934	Officer's Quarters
427	1934	Officer's Quarters
428	1934	Officer's Quarters
429	1934	Officer's Quarters
500	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
503	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
504	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
512	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
515	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
516	1934	Enlisted Men's Barracks
522	1934	Officer's Quarters
523	1934	Officer's Quarters
524	1934	Officers' Garage
525	1934	Officer's Quarters
526	1934	Officer's Quarters
527	1934	Officer's Quarters
528	1934	Officer's Quarters
529	1934	Officer's Quarters
530	1934	Officer's Quarters

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531	1934	Officer's Quarters
532	1934	Officers' Garage
533	1934	Officers' Garage
534	1934	Officers' Garage
535	1934	Officers' Garage
536	1934	Officer's Quarters
537	1934	Officer's Quarters
538	1934	Officer's Quarters
539	1934	Officer's Quarters
540	1934	Officer's Quarters
541	1934	Officer's Quarters
542	1934	Officer's Quarters
543	1934	Officer's Quarters
544	1934	Officer's Quarters
611	1934	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
612	1934	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
613	1934	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
614	1934	Cavalry Stables
616	1934	Cavalry Stables
618	1934	Cavalry Stables
620	1934	Cavalry Stables
622	1939	Cavalry Stables
624	1939	Cavalry Stables
627	1934	Stable Guard Quarters
628	1934	Stable Guard Quarters
629	1939	Stable Guard Quarters
631	1939	Stable Guard Quarters
632	1939	Stable Guard Quarters
633	1939	Stable Guard Quarters
635	1939	Cavalry Stables
639	1939	Cavalry Stables
641	1939	Cavalry Stables
643	1939	Cavalry Stables
645	1939	Cavalry Stables
649	1939	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
650	1939	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
651	1939	Blacksmith and Saddle Shop
730	1936	Garage
762	1939	Organization Garage

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769	1939	Organization Garage
801	1939	Organization Garage
1400	1933	NCO Quarters
1401	1933	NCO Quarters
1402	1933	NCO Quarters
1403	1933	NCO Quarters
1404	1933	NCO Quarters
1405	1933	NCO Quarters
1406	1933	NCO Quarters
1407	1934	NCO Quarters
1408	1934	NCO Quarters
1409	1934	NCO Quarters
1410	1939	NCO Quarters
1411	1939	NCO Quarters
1412	1939	NCO Quarters
1413	1939	NCO Quarters
1442	1930	NCO Quarters
1443	1930	NCO Quarters
1444	1930	NCO Quarters
1445	1930	NCO Quarters
1446	1930	NCO Quarters
1447	1930	NCO Quarters
1448	1930	NCO Quarters
1449	1930	NCO Quarters
1450	1930	NCO Quarters
1451	1930	NCO Quarters
1452	1930	NCO Quarters
1453	1930	NCO Quarters
1454	1930	NCO Quarters
1457	1930	NCO Quarters
1458	1930	NCO Quarters
1459	1930	NCO Quarters
1460	1930	NCO Quarters
1461	1930	NCO Quarters
1462	1930	NCO Quarters
1463	1930	NCO Quarters
1464	1930	NCO Quarters
1465	1930	NCO Quarters
1466	1930	NCO Quarters

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1467	1930	NCO Quarters
1468	1930	NCO Quarters
1469	1930	NCO Quarters
1470	1930	NCO Quarters
1471	1930	NCO Quarters
1472	1930	NCO Quarters
1473	1930	NCO Quarters
1474	1930	NCO Quarters
1475	1930	NCO Quarters
1476	1939	NCO Quarters
1477	1939	NCO Quarters
1478	1939	NCO Quarters
1479	1939	NCO Quarters
1481	1930	NCO Quarters
1482	1930	NCO Quarters
1483	1930	NCO Quarters
1484	1930	NCO Quarters
1485	1930	NCO Quarters
1486	1930	NCO Quarters
1487	1930	NCO Quarters
1488	1930	NCO Quarters

Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the Depression Era Thematic Group

Building 243

Bachelor Officers' Quarters / Bachelor Quarters and Mess

Building 243 was constructed in 1939 and contains 25,589 square feet. The two-story cross-plan building is constructed with a parged concrete foundation, stuccoed hollow clay tile walls, quoins, and low-pitched hipped roof with red barrel tiles. The main entrance is on the west elevation. A one-story projecting vestibule contains double wood doors and a medium pitched hipped roof with red barrel tiles. Wide concrete steps with three steel handrails lead up to the front doors. A balconette with two windows is located above the projecting vestibule. Two expansions, 1948 and 1950, enlarged the building to accommodate 40 unaccompanied visiting officers. The expansions added the two side wings (north and south) and the one-story east wing. The additions formed the current cross-plan. At the terminus of both the north and south wings are two-story projecting screened porches with flush decorative piers. The windows used throughout the building are steel casements with either 18 or 24 lights. The building also contains round attic vent grilles and a stone stringcourse integral with the second floor window sills.

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Architectural Style: Mission style.

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 244

Garage / Garage

Building 244 was constructed in 1936 and contains 1,387 square feet. The one-story rectangular garage is constructed with a poured concrete foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends. Each of the five bays is equipped with an overhead garage door on the east elevation and center pivot 9 light steel windows with concrete sill on the west elevation. Two blind windows with concrete sills are located on both the north and south elevations. Above each blind window and in the two gables are triangular and diamond shape blind brick patterns.

Architectural Style: Craftsman and Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 246, 247

Garage / Garage

Building 246 was constructed in 1936 and contains 1,184 square feet. The one-story rectangular garage is constructed with a poured concrete foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends. Each of the four bays is equipped with an overhead garage door on the east elevation and a blind window with concrete sill on the west elevation. Two blind windows with concrete sills are located on both the north and south elevations. Above each blind window and in the two gables in the north and south elevation are triangular and diamond shape blind brick patterns.

Architectural Style: Craftsman and Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 248

Servant's Quarters / Open Dining Office

Building 248 was constructed in 1939 and contains 1,261 square feet. The one-story rectangular building is constructed with a concrete foundation, stucco covered brick walls, castellated parapet and concrete canales. Repeating arch reveals are used on all elevations of the building. Single and paired aluminum double-hung windows or doors are set within the arch reveals.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Building 251*Girl Scout House / Billeting*

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 1,780 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stuccoed rubble rock walls with a castellated parapet and flat roof. Concrete and metal canales protrude through the parapet walls. The front entrance is located on the east side and consists of a pair of aluminum and glass storefront doors covered by a protruding barrel-shaped awning. Two single six panel wood doors are located on the west side of the building. The original windows were removed and replaced with a combination of aluminum casement and double-hung 1/1 light windows.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 265, 266, 267, 269, 270, 271, 272*Garage / Garage*

Building 265 was constructed in 1936 and contains 1,119 square feet. The one-story rectangular garage is constructed with a poured concrete foundation, red brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends. Each of the four bays, on the east elevation, is equipped with an overhead garage door and a blind window with brick sill on the west elevation. Two blind windows with brick sills are located on both the north and south elevations. Above each blind window and in the two gables in the north and south elevation are triangular and diamond shape blind brick patterns.

Architectural Style: Craftsman and Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 268*Garage / Garage*

The one-story building was constructed in 1936 and contains 913 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The original servant's quarters are located on the south end of the building. Two five-panel wood doors provide entry while double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights provide natural light into the building. Both garage bays, on the east side, have an overhead sectional garage door. Blind windows with brick sills are located on both the north and west sides. Triangular and diamond shape blind brick patterns are located in both gable ends.

Architectural Style: Craftsman and Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Buildings 301, 303, 400-404, 406-413, 426-429, 522, 523, 525-531, 536-544

Officer's Quarters / Officer's Quarters

The two-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 3,162 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stuccoed hollow clay tile walls, and a low pitched gable roof with red clay tiles and chimney. The south side originally contained a first floor open air sun porch and a second floor open air sleeping porch. The original screened openings were enclosed with aluminum double-hung windows in 1968. The front entrance consists of a single wood door with screen under a one-story arched gable-end porch. Aluminum windows with 2/2 lights were installed in 1968 replacing the original double-hung wood windows.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Note:

Buildings 301, 303, 406, 413, 525:	3,162 square feet
Buildings 400-404, 407-412, 426-429, 522, 523, 526-531, 536-544:	2,804 square feet

Building 302

Commanding Officer's Quarters / Commanding Officer's Quarters

The two story building with basement was constructed in 1934 and contains 3,803 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stuccoed hollow clay tile walls, and low pitched hipped and gable roofs covered with red clay tiles. A chimney is located towards the south end of the building. The wall area surrounding the main entrance is defined by double-raised surface and spanish tile inlay. A balconette and door are located directly above the main entrance. The building is constructed with large patios across the front, rear and north sides. The front patio, level with building's first floor, is not covered. The multi-level rear patio is covered by two shed roofs. The north patio has arched openings and is covered by the second floor. The windows used throughout the building are either double-hung aluminum windows with four lights or double-hung wood windows with 9/9 lights.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Buildings 304, 306, 524

Garage / Garage

The small one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 469 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with straight barrel red tiles and exposed rafter ends. Both short side elevations have blind arched windows with ornamental metal grilles and stepped sills. Three clay tiles set into a triangular pattern are located in the gables. The two sectional overhead garage doors are not original. A single three panel wood door with four lights is located on the northeast (backyard) side of the garage.

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The one window on this side is a wood casement with four lights. The building is also embellished with a rectangular recessed brick pattern on the northeast side.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 305

Garage and Servant's Quarters/Garage and Servant's Quarters

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 557 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with straight barrel red tiles and exposed rafter ends. The northwest side has a blind arched window with an ornamental metal grille and stepped sill. Three clay tiles set into a triangular pattern are located in both gable ends. Three five-panel wood doors allow entry into both the garage area and servant's quarters. A small shed roof with brackets is located over the northeast (backyard) side of the building. The two sectional overhead garage doors are not original. Wood casement with 2/2 windows and screens are used throughout the building.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 311

War Department Theater/Lecture Assembly Hall

The building was constructed in 1938 and contains 11,610 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and a steeply pitched hipped and center gable roof covered with Mission style red clay tiles. A single chimney projects from the building's southwest side. The main portion of the building is two stories in height to accommodate the theater. The center gable of the theater has a series of natural concrete plaster arched elements with drop pendants and other embellishments. An L-shaped one-story section wraps the southwest corner of the theater and houses the utilities and backstage. The front (northwest side) has a one-story projecting arcade with hipped roof. Two pairs of aluminum and glass storefront doors provide entry into the theater from the arcaded porch. Several steel doors located on the long sides of the building serve as emergency exits from the theater itself. The smaller section contains steel doors as well as ventilation louvers and aluminum casement windows with screens. The lintels and sills used throughout the building are concrete filled hollow clay tile.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

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Buildings 317-338, 1442-1454, 1457-1461, 1469-1473*Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters / Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters*

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1930 and contains 1,055 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, steep pitched gable roofs and hipped roofs with Mission style clay tiles, exposed rafter ends and a brick chimney located on an interior wall. Half circle louvers are located in the gable ends of the building. A projecting front porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and four brick columns supporting the hipped roof. A wood balustrade spans between the columns. The building has double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. A one-room, screened sleeping porch with hipped roof was added to the building some time after its original construction. This porch has since been enclosed with paired and triple double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. The lintels are flat arch red brick and the sills are cast stone.

*Architectural Style: Craftsman**Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture***Buildings 339-343, 1462, 1463, 1468, 1474, 1475, 1481-1486***Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters / Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters*

The one-story building with basement was constructed in 1930 and contains 1,141 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, medium pitched gable roofs with Mission style clay tiles, and a straight brick chimney located on an exterior wall. The projecting front porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and four brick columns with limestone base and capital supporting the gable roof. A metal balustrade spans between the columns. A half circle louver is located in the gable end of the porch as well as the two side gables. The front entry is centered under the front porch and is a single wood panel door with nine lights and an exterior screen door. The rear entrance is recessed and enters onto the kitchen. A flat cast stone header spans the opening. Double cellar entrance doors are located adjacent to the rear entry. The building has double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. A one-room, screened sleeping porch with gable roof was added to the building some time after its original construction. This porch has since been enclosed with double and triple double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. The lintels are flat arch red brick and the sills are limestone.

*Architectural Style: Craftsman**Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture***Buildings 344-351, 353-357, 1400-1413, 1464-1467, 1476-1479, 1487, 1488***Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters / Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters*

The one-story building, with basement and crawlspace, was constructed in 1939 and contains 1,100 square feet. The irregular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red

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brick walls, steep pitched gable roofs with Mission style clay tiles, and corbelled brick chimney located on an exterior wall. The projecting front porch is constructed with a concrete foundation and four large square brick columns with limestone base and capital and two pilasters supporting the gable roof. The porch railing was fabricated with a sunburst pattern of square metal tubing. A decorative metal balustrade spans between the columns. Louvers are located in both side gables. The front entry is centered under the front porch and is a single wood panel door with nine lights and an exterior screen door. The rear entrance is recessed under an arched opening. Double cellar entrance doors are located adjacent to the rear entry. The building has double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. A one-room, screened sleeping porch with gable roof was added to the building some time after its original construction. This porch has since been enclosed with double and triple double-hung wood windows with 6/6 lights and screens. The lintels are flat arch red brick and the sills are limestone.

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Building 414

Garage / Garage

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 913 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with straight barrel red tiles. Both short side elevations have blind arched windows with stepped sills. Three clay tiles set into a triangular pattern are located in the gables. The four sectional overhead garage doors are not original. Windows are wood casement with six lights.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 415, 425

Garage / Garage

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 913 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with straight barrel red tile and exposed rafter ends. Both short side elevations have "gun slit" reveals with stepped sills flanking a centered six light casement window. The long side contains gun slit reveals and six light casement windows. The four sectional overhead garage doors are not original. The building has wood casement windows with six lights.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Buildings 500, 503, 504, 512, 515, 516*Enlisted Men's Barracks / Administration*

The three story building with basement was constructed in 1935 and contains 59,327 square feet. The double-stem T-plan building is constructed with a raised reinforced concrete foundation, stucco covered hollow clay tile walls, and low-pitched hipped and flat roofs with red clay tile. The building has a parapeted central section with an arcaded cornice. The first floor windows on the front elevation are arched. The two main entrances have stone Renaissance Revival broken pediments and pilasters. The hipped roof wings are adorned with profiled wood rafter ends and a stone stringcourse below the third floor windows. The rear T-stem portions have hipped roofs. The outer reentrant angles of these sections include arched openings at the first level, and narrower two-story arched openings at the second-to-third level, creating three-story, two-sided arcaded porches.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History, Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, and Criterion C for Architecture

Note:

Building 503:	66,519 square feet
Buildings 504, 512:	64,985 square feet
Building 515:	65,544 square feet
Building 516:	53,366 square feet

Buildings 532, 533, 534, 535*Garage / Garage*

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 913 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, stuccoed brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof with straight barrel red tile and exposed rafter ends. Both short side elevations have brick reveals. The four sectional overhead garage doors are not original. The building has wood casement windows with six lights.

Architectural Style: Craftsman and Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 611-613*Blacksmith and Saddle Shop / General Storehouse*

The one-story building was constructed in 1934 and contains 1,400 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends and two brick chimneys. Small rectangular louvers are located in both gable ends. The building originally contained four bays with stable doors flanked by two five panel wood entry doors with transoms on the north side. The stable doors have been removed and replaced with overhead sectional garage doors or closed with drop siding. The windows, located on

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the east, south, and west sides, are double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 lights, security screens, and concrete sills.

Architectural Style: Simplified Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Building 613 Built in 1939

Buildings 649-651

Blacksmith and Saddle Shop / General Storehouse

The one-story building was constructed in 1939 and contains 1,415 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched gable roof with profiled rafter ends and two brick chimneys. Small rectangular louvers are located in both gable ends. The building originally contained four bays with stable doors flanked by two five panel wood entry doors with transoms on the south side. The stable doors have been removed and replaced with either tongue-and-groove wood or overhead sectional garage doors. The windows, located on the west, north and east sides, are double-hung 6/6 wood windows, security screens, and concrete sills.

Architectural Style: Simplified Craftsman

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 639, 641

Cavalry Stables / General Instruction Building

The one-story with hayloft building was constructed in 1934 and contains 15,192 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The floor was originally dirt in the stable area and concrete in the tack rooms. The building was originally divided into stables and tack room with second story hayloft with entrance door and window replacing hayloft opening and hoist beams. Exterior stairs, replacing surface mounted steel ladders (extant at south end of Building 622) provide access to the hayloft. The original stable area, which could accommodate 112 horses, has been renovated to accommodate either administration, instructional, or warehouse/supply space. The wooden overhead operated stable doors with transoms have been removed and the openings filled with concrete block, brick, or single wood or metal doors, or double aluminum doors with large strap hinges. The building also contains both double-hung wood and steel hopper style windows.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

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Building 616	14,880 square feet
Building 618	14,649 square feet
Buildings 620, 639	14,634 square feet
Building 622	13,559 square feet
Buildings 641	14,699 square feet

Buildings 624, 635, 643, 645

Cavalry Stables / General Instruction Building

The one-story with hayloft building was constructed in 1939 and contains 14,736 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a medium pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The floor was originally dirt in the stable area and concrete in the tack rooms. The building was originally divided into stables and tack room with second story hayloft with entrance door and window replacing hayloft opening and hoist beams. Exterior stairs, replacing surface mounted steel ladders (extant at south end of Building 622) provide access to the hayloft. The original stable area, which could accommodate 112 horses, has been renovated to accommodate either administration, instructional, or warehouse/supply space. The wooden overhead operated stable doors with transoms have been removed and the openings filled with concrete block, brick, or single wood or metal doors, or double aluminum doors with large strap hinges. The building also contains both double-hung wood and steel hopper style windows.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Buildings 635	14,699 square feet
Building 643	14,678 square feet
Building 645	15,247 square feet

Buildings 627-629, 631-633

Stable Guard Quarters / Officers' Quarters Transient

The one-story duplex building, with crawl space, was constructed in 1934 and contains 1,922 square feet. The rectangular plan building with projecting porch is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, common bond red brick walls, and a steeply pitched gable roof. A single chimney is centered in the length of the building located at the junction of the hipped roof of the porch and gable roof of the main building. Small rectangular louvered vents are located in the gable ends. The single projecting porch serves both halves of the building. The porch has a concrete foundation and floor accessed by concrete steps. Four square brick columns and two pilasters with concrete bases and capitols support the medium pitched hipped roof. An entablature extends the length of the hipped roof. A steel railing spans between the two center columns and between the pilasters and corner columns. The porch contains four wooden doors. The two center doors originally provided access to the two heater rooms with coal storage bins.

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Access to the two units was through doors with lights and exterior screen doors and flanked the two center doors. The building contains screened 6/6 double-hung wood windows.

Architectural Style: Simplified Colonial Revival

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 730

Storage/Organizational Garage / Blood Donor Center

The one-story building was constructed in 1920 and contains 9,455 square feet. The rectangular plan building was originally a seven bay garage constructed of wood with a wooden floor. Two-foot wide brick cavity walls replaced the roofing paper covered wood framing in 1936. 10" x 10" concrete pier footings and the wooden floor were removed and a concrete slab on grade was installed. The steeply pitched gable roof has stepped parapet end walls. The seven garage bay doors were removed and the openings filled with brick. A single steel door with light was installed near the south end of the east wall.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Buildings 762, 769

Organizational Garage / Instruction Building

The one-story hangar style building was constructed in 1939 and contains 14,678 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab, stucco covered adobe brick walls with corrugated metal and concrete block infills. The building is divided into two equal parallel low-pitched gambrel roofed sections. The exterior is faced with a wide parapet wall between the two sections. Large pilasters with stuccoed concrete coping are located at the corners of the building. The five bays on the long sides of the building originally contained multi-light windows. The end walls of the parallel sections originally contained large sliding doors. These doors have been removed and the opening filled with concrete block and single entry doors. Several windows have been removed, boarded or replaced with louvers.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Note:

Building 769 14,255 square feet

Building 801

Organizational Garage / Fitness Center

The one-story hangar-style building was constructed in 1939 and contains 20,235 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab, stucco

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covered adobe brick walls with corrugated metal fascia. The building is divided into two equal parallel low-pitched gambrel roofed sections. Large pilasters with stuccoed concrete coping are located at the corners of the building. A one-story large flat roofed, stuccoed masonry vestibule and concrete porch extends along most of the building's south side. The vestibule has large glass windows and aluminum and glass storefront entry doors. Extending across the building's north side is a one-story, flat roofed, stuccoed masonry addition. The five bays on the long sides of the building originally contained multi-light windows. Several windows have been removed, boarded or replaced with louvers. The interior of the building was renovated to house a fitness center complete with office and locker rooms.

Architectural Style: Utilitarian

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Site Development and Landscape Design

The historic landscape elements associated with this group are: the row of Officers' Quarters along the west and south side of the parade ground between Meigs and Pleasonton Roads (District Map, Landscape Element #2), the clusters of NCO housing at the northern edge of the parade ground and on the east side of the parade ground adjacent to Pershing Circle (District Map, Landscape Element #4), the First Cavalry barracks and stables area (District Map, Landscape Element #5), Noel Field (District Map, Landscape Element #6), the recreational areas between Noel Field and the 7th Cavalry area and the recreational area near Building 250 (District Map, Landscape Element #8), Pershing Circle (District Map, Landscape Element #10), and Pershing Gate (District Map, Landscape Element #11). The Officers' Quarters along the west side of the parade ground were extended southward during this period. (See "Initial Construction Period" for more complete discussion).

The cluster of NCO housing at the northern edge of the parade field is bounded by Sheridan Road, Lawrence Street, Pershing Road, and Cassidy Road. The cluster on the east side of the parade ground adjacent to Pershing Circle is bounded by Pershing Road, Carter Road, Doniphan Road and Merritt Road. This housing was constructed during the early 1930s. All these building clusters are composed of one-story brick buildings that are laid out in a horseshoe shape. The group at the northern edge of the parade ground has the open end facing away from the parade, while the two groups along the east side have the openings facing towards the parade ground. Additional quarters enclose the remaining three sides of these east-side clusters. The clusters are landscaped with the standard addition of lawn, trees, shrubs, and flower beds. There are playgrounds situated in the interior spaces of all three clusters.

The clusters of NCO housing are associated with a major building program at the fort that was part of a larger nationwide Army housing program that spanned the years 1927 to 1939. The clusters of NCO housing were one outgrowth of the Gaujot Board's recommendations. Their horseshoe shape, a common feature of 1930s city planning principles popular at the time in subdivision layouts across the country, was a unique addition to the generally linear patterns of housing arrangements at Fort Bliss. This arrangement formed an interior pocket of space which could support a number of uses. At Fort Bliss, playgrounds

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were constructed in these spaces. The positioning of these clusters further defined the parade ground, at the northern end and along the eastern edge, adjacent to Pershing Circle. Although the landscape appearance of the NCO housing clusters may have changed somewhat due to fluctuations in vegetation composition resulting from death or diseases, additions from new plantings, or shifting trends in landscape tastes, it still retains integrity.

The First Cavalry barracks and stables area north of southernmost extension of the parade field is defined by Shannon Road, Willard Holbrook Road, Merritt Road, Pleasonton Road, and Pershing Road. This set of buildings was constructed during the 1930s. This area contains the two sets of barrack buildings and rows of stables to the north that collectively form the First Cavalry area. The placement of the barracks formed interior spaces that ultimately gave way to a parking lot in one case (between Buildings 512, 515, and 516) and a landscaped area in the other (between Buildings 500, 503, and 504). This latter area has been termed "People's Park." It was developed in 1989 as part of the Army Installation of Excellence program. There is sporadic landscaping throughout this area. The majority of space between buildings is occupied by parking areas.

This area is important as a historic group of buildings relating to a particular historic period at Fort Bliss. This group of buildings represents the last concerted effort by the Army to maintain a force of cavalry at a time when the Army was phasing out this branch of the service. During the 1930s, the mission of Fort Bliss was still related to the patrol of the U.S.-Mexican border, and the use of cavalry was still the most efficient means of carrying out that mission. The First Cavalry barracks and stables are also associated with a major building program at Fort Bliss that was part of a nationwide Army housing program spanning the years 1927 to 1939. The First Cavalry area was a direct outgrowth of the Gaujot Board's recommendations. This group of buildings was constructed to replace Seventh Cavalry buildings that had been razed. Only a portion of those buildings remained on what became an extension of the parade ground. The First Cavalry buildings were constructed in a manner that respected and reinforced the southern extension of the parade field. As such, it is the last spatial edge determinant to the parade. The combination of this area and those previously discussed give the parade ground its form and spatial determination. Although the landscape appearance of the cluster of First Cavalry barracks and stables area may have changed somewhat due to fluctuations in vegetation composition such as loss from death or diseases, additions from new plantings, or shifting trends in landscape tastes, as well as the addition of a mess hall (Building 505) between the barracks, it still retains integrity.

Noel Field, named after Lieutenant Paul Noel who died while taking part in a polo match, was developed and first came into use during the 1930s. It is the southernmost extension of what the Gaujot board had intended to be one continuous parade ground. With the decision to leave several of the Seventh Cavalry buildings along this extension and the subsequent decision to build Hinman Hall on the southernmost quarter of the original parade ground, the board's intention was abandoned. Noel Field is defined by Pershing Road, Pleasonton Road, Sheridan Road, and Howze Street. Like the original parade ground, the defining feature of this area is its openness. There are some scattered trees along the periphery and a 1992 reviewing stand, but the field essentially remains a level, open area covered with grass, typical of standard military parade grounds.

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By the 1930s the original parade ground was being used primarily for equestrian events and baseball games. With the decision to retain several of the Seventh Cavalry buildings on the extension of the parade ground immediately south of Pershing Circle, a large, open tract was needed for ongoing drilling, review and ceremonies. The final extension of the parade ground, spatially defined by the construction of the First Cavalry barracks to the north, the remnant Seventh Cavalry structures to the west, and additional officers' housing to the south, was graded and seeded in 1934 and was in use shortly thereafter. Noel Field continues to be used as the post's main parade ground. Noel Field has remained essentially unchanged since it was developed in the 1930s. The reviewing stand, constructed in 1992, is a sympathetic addition. Parade fields traditionally have this sort of structure to provide a place for observers to sit or stand, often under shelter.

The nationwide Army building program that began in 1927 spawned many new innovations in construction and post planning, including an increased emphasis on recreational facilities. The Gaujot board, in its scheme for the expansion of the main cantonment at Fort Bliss, expressly included many recreational features. The features listed in this section were constructed in response to that planning effort.

The recreational features located between Noel Field and the 7th Cavalry building cluster, and those north of the officers' club, make up another significant landscape element at Fort Bliss. The swimming pool (demolished in 1996) and tennis courts between Noel Field and the 7th Cavalry building cluster, and the tennis courts and handball court north of the officers' club (Building 250) were constructed during the 1930s. Sympathetic additions to these areas include a new swimming pool, a combination court, playground and Little League baseball field. All of these retain their integrity.

Pershing Circle, as an area, is defined by the street of the same name and Pershing Road. It was developed during the 1930s. This is essentially an open grassy area, with some scattered trees around the periphery. Building 311, the post theater, is the lone building to have been built within Pershing Circle. Three other buildings originally planned for construction in this area were not built. The focal point of this area is Memorial Circle, which was built in 1948 as part of the Fort Bliss Centennial Celebration.

As part of their planned extension of the original parade ground and post, the board intended for Pershing Circle to be the new primary entry point of the post, in connection with Pershing Gate. Although the four buildings were not constructed within the Circle as originally planned, this area did become the main entry point. Memorial Circle, built in 1948, is considered a sympathetic addition to Pershing Circle. This memorial is a flagpole with a concrete base, and inset bronze tablets that commemorate the World War II service of the First Cavalry Division and the 200th Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft), New Mexico National Guard. Contemporary tablets are placed by units to commemorate their unit's 50th anniversary. Memorial Circle is frequently the site of post ceremonies, such as the 50-gun salute to the nation on the Fourth of July. Although Pershing Circle has changed somewhat over time due to the sympathetic addition of Memorial Circle, a parking area, utility outlets, and changes in vegetation, it still retains integrity.

Pershing Gate is located at a major entrance to Fort Bliss on Pershing Drive, southwest of Pershing Circle. It was built in the 1930s. Pershing Gate is stone-and-mortar in composition, flanked by two

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pillars and connected walls, iron gates, and a guardhouse. The Gaujot Board intended for Pershing Gate to be the new primary entry point of the post, leading to Pershing Circle and points beyond. Pershing Gate is the physical manifestation of this intention and retains its integrity.

World War II Era, 1940-1945

During the World War II era, Fort Bliss expanded both in terms of land and buildings. New range lands were acquired to accommodate the testing and development of increasingly complex and sophisticated antiaircraft and automatic weapons. By the end of the war, land controlled by Fort Bliss included the 5,000 acre post reservation, 52,000 acres of adjoining land to the east and northeast, the 3,272-acre Castner Target Range, and the 46,000-acre Dona Ana Target Range in New Mexico. In addition, Fort Bliss leased 350,000 acres of land in New Mexico for use as an antiaircraft range and had trespass rights on another 200,000 acres in New Mexico.

Although little permanent construction was undertaken at Fort Bliss during the World War II era, the installation did gain many standardized wooden temporary-type structures. Between 1941 and 1943, numerous mess halls, barracks, administration buildings, motor shops, recreational buildings, fire stations, latrines, storehouses, theaters, service clubs, and other miscellaneous structures were constructed across the main post. This construction included numerous wards and hospital buildings associated with the Fort Bliss Station Hospital (later known as the William Beaumont Hospital Annex), located in the then northeast corner of the installation. Another major temporary-type construction project for Fort Bliss took place in 1941-42 on an 1,800 acre tract of land approximately three miles northwest of the installation. This cantonment became known as Logan Heights and was used by the Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center during World War II. Determination of eligibility of temporary-type structures at Fort Bliss and Logan Heights is not part of this nomination because these structures have been demolished in accordance with the terms of a 1986 Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Biggs Army Airfield also received many new facilities in the World War II era including depots, storehouses, repair shops, and recreational facilities. Although the buildings added to Biggs Army Airfield were permanent structures, none have been determined eligible for the NRHP.

7. Post World War II Period 1946-1950

Sixteen buildings at Fort Bliss are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District under the Post World War II Period. This thematic group encompasses the buildings constructed at Fort Bliss between 1946 and 1950. Historically, these buildings are associated with the continuing development of Fort Bliss during the period when the installation was completing its transformation from a cavalry post into the Army's major air defense center following World War II. Rapid growth of the air defense sector necessitated more housing. Also during this period, the people of El Paso donated a group of five reconstructed adobe

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buildings from the original Fort Bliss in honor of that fort's centennial. The Fort Bliss Replica Museum has been part of the post for nearly fifty years. In interpreting life at the first Fort Bliss, this museum is an important commemorative structure for the city of El Paso.

Architecturally, the buildings in this group display minimal Spanish Eclectic influences and characteristics of Pueblo Revival. The Spanish Eclectic architectural style has a low-pitched, red tile roof with little or no overhang, one or more prominent arches placed above the door or principal window, and an asymmetrical facade covered with stucco. Roof configurations indicate sub-types. The Spanish Eclectic style was most popular in the Southwest and Florida from 1915 to 1940. The Pueblo Revival style has a flat roof with a parapeted wall above, irregular, rounded edges, projecting wooden roof beams extending through walls, and an earth colored, stucco finish. This style was most popular in Arizona and New Mexico, with Southwestern examples mostly from the 1920s and 1930s.⁷ There are no specific landscape elements associated with this group.

These buildings possess significance under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. The buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Table 7: Post World War II Period Group, 1946 to 1950

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
545	1948	Officer's Quarters
546	1948	Officer's Quarters
547	1948	Officer's Quarters
548	1948	Officer's Quarters
549	1948	Officer's Quarters
550	1948	Officer's Quarters
551	1948	Officer's Quarters
552	1948	Officer's Quarters
553	1948	Officer's Quarters
554	1948	Officer's Quarters
565	1948	Officer's Quarters
5051	1948	Museum Building
5052	1948	Museum Building
5053	1948	Museum Building
5053A	1948	Museum Building
5054	1948	Museum Building

⁷McAlester and McAlester, 417-418, 435.

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Architectural Descriptions of Buildings Contributing to the Post World War II Thematic Group

Buildings 545-554, 565

Officer's Quarters / Officer's Family Housing

The two-story duplex building with basement was constructed in 1948 and contains 5,150 square feet. The rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete foundation, stuccoed clay tile walls, and medium pitched gable roof with red Mission style tiles. Two chimneys (one per unit) project out from the face of the rear wall. Each unit has a single wood entry door with exterior screen under a projecting low-pitched gabled portico. Each unit also has a back door consisting of a pair of wood doors with lights. A medium pitched gable roof with red clay tiles projects over these doors. The building has double-hung aluminum windows with 1/1 or 2/2 lights and screens. A stringcourse is located below second floor windows.

Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 5051

Replica Museum / Replica Museum

The one-story building was constructed in 1948 and contains 2,467 square feet. The primarily rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, adobe walls and both flat and gable roofs. The museum is built using authentic construction techniques of adobe brick and stucco. The brown painted stucco replicates the original Fort Bliss barracks and shelter. Vigas are exposed on the embattled front. There is an arched bell shaped parapet entrance. The museum entrance has two rectangular plan display areas separated from the hallways with full-height anti-tampering screens.

Architectural Style: Pueblo style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 5052

Replica Museum / Replica Museum Restroom

The one-story building was constructed in 1948 and contains 429 square feet. The primarily rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, adobe walls, with both flat and gable roofs. The museum is built using authentic construction techniques of adobe brick and stucco. The brown painted stucco replicates the original Fort Bliss barracks and shelter. Vigas are exposed on the embattled front. Two wooden doors on the west side provide entry into the restrooms.

Architectural Style: Pueblo style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Building 5053

Replica Museum / Replica Museum

The one-story building was constructed in 1948 and contains 1,097 square feet. The primarily rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, adobe walls, with both flat and gable roofs. The museum is built using authentic construction techniques of adobe brick and stucco. The brown painted stucco replicates the original Fort Bliss barracks and shelter. Vigas are exposed on the embattled front. The museum display areas are separated from the hallways with full-height anti-tampering screens.

Architectural Style: Pueblo style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 5053A

Replica Museum / Replica Museum Stables

The one-story building was constructed in 1948. The primarily rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, adobe walls, with a shed roof and three parapet walls. The stable building is built using authentic construction techniques of adobe brick and stucco. The brown painted stucco replicates the original Fort Bliss barracks and shelter. Vigas are exposed on the embattled front. The front (west side) of the building has three open wagon / horse stalls. Two replica wagons and one cannon occupy the stalls. Replica display horses are tethered to a hitching post on the west side.

Architectural Style: Pueblo style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Building 5054

Replica Museum / Replica Museum

The one-story building was constructed in 1948 and contains 1,814 square feet. The primarily rectangular plan building is constructed with a reinforced concrete slab on grade foundation, adobe walls, with both flat and gable roofs. The museum was built using authentic construction techniques of adobe brick and stucco. The brown painted stucco replicates the original Fort Bliss barracks and shelter. Vigas are exposed on the embattled front. A taller entry mass is at the west end of the building. The museum displays are separated from the hallways with full-height anti-tampering screens. Display horses are on the east side of the building.

Architectural Style: Pueblo style

Eligible under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

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Site Development and Landscape Design

No significant landscape development occurred during this period.

Non-Contributing Resources

Some resources at Fort Bliss that were constructed within the defined period of significance of the FBMPHD do not qualify as contributing elements of the district. Some buildings are of a temporary nature. In some cases, the building is of minor historical importance and does not contribute to an understanding of the historical significance of Fort Bliss nor to an understanding of the historical development of the installation. Many of these buildings served a purely functional purpose, and although necessary in supporting the mission of Fort Bliss, are not associated with the historical themes shaping the history of the base. In other cases, the resource no longer retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, or association. There are also buildings located within the district boundary that were constructed after the period of significance. The table below lists the resources that do not contribute to the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District.

Table 8: Non-Contributing Resources of FBMPHD

Building Number	Year Constructed	Original Use
2	1954	Hinman Hall/Administration
28	1976	Pumphouse
45	1949	Red Cross - temporary
46	1941	Red Cross - temporary
48	1941	Gen. Purpose Administration - temporary
49	1941	Gen. Purpose Administration - temporary
50	1941	Gen. Purpose Administration - temporary
100	1987	Entrance directory
101	1987	Waiting shelter
253	1957	Toilet/Shower
254	1957	Swimming Pool
263	1922	Tennis Court
259	n.d.	Tennis Court
313	1949	Flagpole
446	1960	Ball Court
454	1970	Toilet/Shower
455	1964	Water Treatment
505	1955	General Purpose Administration

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615	1972	General Purpose
619	1957	Storage
623	1957	Storage
644	1958	Storage
897	1941	Ordnance Repair Shop
898	1920	Ordnance Paint Shop
1170	1932	Turbine Pump House
1177	1941	Warehouse
1178	1941	Warehouse
1179	1941	Warehouse
1180	1941	Warehouse
1181	1941	Warehouse
1235	1928	Latrine
1270	1941	Warehouse
1271	1941	Warehouse
1272	1941	Warehouse
1273	1941	Warehouse
1274	1941	Warehouse
1275	1941	Warehouse
1276	1941	Warehouse
1277	1941	Warehouse
1278	1941	Warehouse
1279	1941	Warehouse
1281	1941	Cold Storage
1301	1941	Exchange/Service Outlet - temporary
1310	1956	Snack Bar
1319	1959	Water Treatment
1326	1966	Fuel/POL Building
1328	1941	Gen. Purpose Maintenance - temporary
1330	1991	Wash Building
1332	1941	Gen. Purpose Administration - temporary
1438	1956	Family Housing
1439	1956	Family Housing
1440	1956	Family Housing
1489	1956	Family Housing
1490	1956	Family Housing
1491	1956	Family Housing
1492	1956	Family Housing
1493	1956	Family Housing

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1494	1956	Family Housing
1495	1956	Family Housing
1496	1956	Family Housing
1497	1956	Family Housing
1542	1920	Gymnasium
1780	1941	Sewage Disposal Pump
2065	1940	Outdoor Swimming Pool
2528	1941	General Purpose Warehouse
2529	1941	Motor Repair Shop
2535	1941	Flammable Material Storehouse
2637	1943	General Storehouse
2647	1941	Swimming Pool
2650	1940	Motor Repair Shop
2651	1940	Administration
4899	1941	Water Tank

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fort Bliss Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places with significance under Criterion A for Military history. The district is eligible under Criterion C for Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning and Development, and as part of a significant and distinguishable entity, the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District. The areas of significance are encompassed under seven thematic groups: Initial Construction Period 1891-1899, Interim Period 1900-1912, First Expansion Period 1913-1917, 7th Cavalry Construction Period 1919, Second Expansion Period 1918-1926, Depression Era 1927-1939, and Post World War II Period 1946-1950. Historically, these properties are associated with events that have made a contribution to distinguishable parts of Army history. Early events include the consolidation of smaller posts into larger more permanent posts at the close of the Indian Wars, and a permanent Army presence on the U.S.-Mexican border, the massing of a large cavalry force along the U.S.-Mexican border to prevent arms smuggling and to discourage and/or respond to any hostile acts against the United States, and the early efforts of the War Department to create a cavalry division along the U.S.-Mexican border. Later, there were Army efforts to more efficiently manage its supply operations and to make Fort Bliss the nation's premier Mexican border post. Additionally, construction occurred that was part of the nationwide Army housing program that spanned the Depression years and expedited government-sponsored Depression relief programs. Lastly, the installation was transformed from a cavalry post into the Army's major air defense center following World War II. Architecturally, the buildings comprising the Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District reflect many styles, including Queen Anne, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Prairie, Craftsman, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mission, Pueblo Revival, and Spanish Eclectic. The historic period when each style was used at Fort Bliss reflects wider national trends in architectural styles. The district has significance under Community Planning and Development as an example of the development of an Army border post. The evolving design of the installation reflects Army principles of efficiency, organization, and rank as well as nation-wide planning principles such as those of the City Beautiful movement.

El Paso del Norte

The city of El Paso, Texas takes its name from the pass through the Rocky Mountains originally known as "El Paso del Norte" (the Pass of the North).⁸ This pass was geographically important in the 19th

⁸Some confusion exists concerning the name El Paso. At the time of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848), the settlement of El Paso was on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River. There was no settlement on the American side until after the war. Soon after the war, three ranches were established on the American side and the village that eventually grew near these ranches became known as "Franklin." The post office of "El Paso, El Paso County" was established on July 26, 1852 although presumably the post office was located at Franklin. The town apparently went by two names for several years until it was officially incorporated as El Paso on June 18, 1873. Meanwhile, the Mexican settlement across the Rio Grande was known as "El Paso del Norte" until the Chihuahua State Legislature officially changed the name to Ciudad Juarez on September 16, 1882 (William J. Glasgow, "On the Confusion Caused By the Name of El Paso," Password, [El Paso County Historical Society] 11 (February 1957): 66-67.)

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century because it was the lowest perpetually ice-free pass between the Canadian and Mexican borders. As such, it became a natural pathway from the Eastern United States to California. The discovery of gold in California in January of 1848 only increased the importance of the pass as a rush of hopeful miners and migrants soon began streaming through the area.

Prior to 1848, the El Paso region was Mexican territory. Just weeks after the gold discovery in California, however, the Mexican-American War was coming to its conclusion. Hostilities between the two countries had begun when Mexico refused to discuss the annexation of Texas by the United States. The United States formally declared war on Mexico in May of 1846. Several battles took place in Mexico over the next year and half in which U.S. forces defeated their counterpart Mexican forces. The war formally ended on February 2, 1848 when Mexico and the United States signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The terms of this treaty dictated that, in addition to recognizing Texas as part of the United States, the Mexican government cede 500,000 square miles of Mexican territory, including the land that is now the city of El Paso, to the United States in return for the sum of \$15 million. The United States acquired additional land along the Gila River from Mexico with the Gadsden Purchase in late 1853.⁹ The former Mexican territory would eventually make up the states of California, Nevada, Utah, the majority of New Mexico and Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

With the addition of the vast new territory to the country, the U.S. government quickly recognized the need to survey the lands, establish routes, and protect westward-traveling migrants from marauding Apaches and Comanches. Consequently, on November 7, 1848, the U.S. War Department issued Order No. 58 calling for the exploration of and establishment of routes between San Antonio and El Paso del Norte. The order also called for the establishment of a military post at El Paso del Norte.¹⁰

The Post Opposite El Paso

The first U.S. troops at El Paso del Norte consisted of six rifle companies of the 3rd Infantry Regiment. They arrived in September of 1849. Leasing land from a local merchant and rancher, these troops established a military post known simply as "The Post Opposite El Paso." This early post, one of only two Army posts in the region (the other being the Post at San Elizario, Texas), was located in the western portion of the present day city of El Paso. The mission of this post was to establish law and order, to guard the local roads, to provide escorts to travelers through the area, to thwart Apache and Comanche raids and, in general, to maintain an American presence on the new international border.¹¹ The Post Opposite El Paso lasted less than two years. Motivated by economic considerations, the Army closed the post in 1851 and transferred the men to Fort Fillmore, located 40 miles to the north.

⁹The Gadsden Purchase also included the El Paso Upper Valley which contains one of the world's richest copper deposits. The establishment of copper smelts in the area contributed greatly to El Paso's growth and strategic importance.

¹⁰Army Times Guide to Military Posts (Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1966), 30.

¹¹Leon C. Metz, Desert Army: Fort Bliss on the Texas Border (El Paso: Mangan Books, 1988), 31.

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Establishment of Fort Bliss

The Army returned to El Paso in early 1854, establishing a new post in the area designated simply as the "Post of El Paso." The Army rented quarters for men of the 8th Infantry at nearby Magoffinsville. On March 8, 1854 the Army officially renamed the post Fort Bliss, in honor of Lieutenant Colonel William Wallace Smith Bliss, an Army assistant adjutant general who had been General Zachary Taylor's Chief of Staff during the Mexican-American War.

Gold miners and emigrants soon began streaming through the El Paso area, taking advantage of the military protection provided by Fort Bliss and three other military posts in the region. Troops at Fort Bliss occupied themselves by providing escorts to travelers and campaigning frequently against the Apache and Comanche in the region. During this period, the little settlement of El Paso began growing, due in large part to the stabilizing effect of the military and the resulting increase in traffic through the area.¹²

In 1861, with the specter of civil war looming on the horizon, Texas sided with the Confederacy and seceded from the Union. The commander of Fort Bliss, Major General David E Twiggs, being a Southern sympathizer, ordered the abandonment of the post in February 1861. By mid-summer of that year, the Confederate 2nd Regiment, Texas Mounted Rifles occupied the fort. The following year, as Union troops advanced upon the fort, the Confederates abandoned the fort, burning it before they left.

When the Civil War ended, the westward migration that had been interrupted by the war resumed once again. The renewed movement of people through the El Paso area prompted the Army to rebuild Fort Bliss in 1865 and 1866.¹³ Severe flooding of the Rio Grande caused extensive damage to the rebuilt post in 1868. As a result, the Army decided to move the fort to a less troublesome location. The new fort, situated approximately three to four miles north of the previous fort, was initially referred to as Camp Concordia because it was situated on land leased from the Concordia Ranch. In March 1869, the fort once again became officially known as Fort Bliss.¹⁴

In the mid-1870s, the U.S. government once again sought to save money by closing Army posts and Fort Bliss was among those targeted. In January 1877, the post closed for the second time. With the military absent, social and political stability in the El Paso area began to erode, culminating in the El Paso Salt War. Trouble began when El Paso politicians tried to collect fees from Mexicans living in San Elizario who took salt from beds located a hundred miles east of El Paso. Violence and mob action prompted the Army to return to El Paso to quell the civil unrest.¹⁵ This time the Army decided to stay. In February 1879, Congress appropriated funds for the purchase of land and the construction of a new post on a site west of El Paso called Hart's Mill. The Army used military labor to construct officers quarters,

¹²Charles H. Harris and Louis R. Saddler, Bastion on the Border: Fort Bliss, 1854-1943, Historical and Natural Resources Report No. 6, Cultural Resources Management Branch, Directorate of Environment, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center, Fort Bliss, TX, 1993, 2.

¹³Metz, 47-53.

¹⁴Harris and Saddler, 3.

¹⁵Metz, 56-58.

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enlisted men's barracks and a post hospital. The new post was completed in December 1880 and retained the name Fort Bliss.¹⁶

The year 1881 was an important year for El Paso and Fort Bliss as it marked the arrival of the railroad. In May of that year, the Southern Pacific Railroad, which had been building eastward from southern California, reached El Paso. Later that same year, the Southern Pacific joined its tracks with the westward-building Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad (Southern Pacific-controlled) and the Texas and Pacific Railroad.¹⁷ These developments had a dramatic effect on El Paso. Before the arrival of the railroad, El Paso was just a sleepy little town. Afterwards, the city's population boomed as merchants, bankers, real estate dealers, cattlemen, miners and others came to the city to take advantage of the presence of the railroads. By 1890, five American and two Mexican railroads converged at El Paso, making the city a vitally important commercial distributing center.¹⁸

The importance of Fort Bliss increased as El Paso rapidly transformed into an important railroad hub. The relationship between the western railroads and the Army was one of mutual benefit. The railroads relied on the Army to provide protection to its construction crews and then to the lines themselves once they were completed and the Army, in turn, came to rely heavily on the railroads for transport of troops and essential supplies. Troops stationed at Fort Bliss did provide protection to the railroad's construction crews and to the trains themselves. Initially, however, the railroads proved to be more of a nuisance to Fort Bliss than they were a blessing. In February 1881, the Santa Fe Railroad insisted that the best location for their tracks was right down the middle of the Fort Bliss parade ground. Incredibly, Congress gave its approval to the railroad's plan. In those days, railroad magnates wielded significant political clout. The arrangement predictably proved inconvenient for Fort Bliss. More pressing concerns, however, temporarily overshadowed this inconvenience.

When the Indian wars began to subside in the 1880s, the Army began consolidating its smaller posts into larger and more permanent facilities. This consolidation effort threatened Fort Bliss's existence. After touring New Mexico and parts of Texas in 1881, General Philip Sheridan, Commander of the Department of Missouri, recommended making Fort Selden, located some 54 miles north of El Paso, the major fort in the region. That meant that Fort Bliss would likely be closed. William T. Sherman, Commanding General of the Army, initially agreed with Sheridan's recommendation. Sherman changed his mind, however, after visiting Fort Bliss and Fort Selden in 1882. The strategic importance of Fort Bliss's position near the United States-Mexico border, the presence of railroads, and an adequate water supply all worked in favor of Fort Bliss. Although Sherman's final decision was delayed for several years while an uprising by Geronimo in Arizona occupied his attention, he ultimately chose to expand Fort Bliss and to close Fort Selden.¹⁹

¹⁶Ibid., 59-61.

¹⁷W.H. Timmons, *El Paso: A Borderlands History* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1990), 166.

¹⁸"El Paso, Texas, as a Military Post: The Railroad and Geographical Center of the Southwest and the Mexican Frontier." Brochure of the El Paso Progressive Association, 1890.

¹⁹Harris and Saddler, 4; Metz, 66.

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Although Fort Bliss had avoided being closed, other problems soon came to light. By 1889, trains stopping regularly at Fort Bliss were interrupting drills and marches, and generally making for a dangerous situation. In addition, it was becoming apparent that if Fort Bliss was to become the major fort in the region, it would have to expand significantly. Brigadier General David S. Stanley argued that the location of Fort Bliss made it vulnerable to attack if hostile forces were to occupy a range of hills directly across the Rio Grande. Stanley also pointed out that the location of the fort did not offer sufficient space for expansion. Consequently, the Army once again began to look for a new location that could support a regimental-size post. This time several prominent citizens of El Paso aided the Army, fully aware that a regimental-size post at El Paso would be a boon to the local economy. Forming a citizen's association, the group raised money and purchased 1,266 acres on Lanoria Mesa and then donated the land to the Army for the new post.²⁰ This land became the present-day site of Fort Bliss.

Fort Bliss at Lanoria Mesa

Congress authorized a \$150,000 appropriation for the new Fort Bliss in March 1890. Construction at Lanoria Mesa began in August 1891 and continued over the next two years. The original plan called for the new post to house four infantry companies with the possibility for future expansion (Figure 1). Laid out around a central parade ground that was situated along the curve of the mesa, the initial construction featured officers quarters lining the west side of the parade ground and barracks, a mess hall, and a hospital lining the east side. The north and south sides of the parade ground remained open for future construction. Captain George Ruhlen, assistant quartermaster, and his assistant, F.A. Gartner, were responsible for the layout of the post and the design of the buildings. Although Army standardized plans for buildings existed at the time, Ruhlen mainly went his own way, submitting his own designs to the Office of the Quartermaster General for review. Ruhlen's use of brick, as opposed to frame construction, reinforced the notion that Fort Bliss was to be a permanent post.²¹

The first occupants of the new fort, four companies of the 18th Infantry, arrived from Fort Clark, Texas in October 1893. Two years later Troop A of the 5th Cavalry arrived, becoming the first cavalry troop stationed at Fort Bliss. As this was to be a permanent unit, the War Department authorized the construction of stables at the post for the 5th Cavalry's horses.²²

Drills, ceremonies, band performances and occasional athletic contests were the main activities at Fort Bliss in the years before the Spanish-American War. When hostilities between the United States and

²⁰Metz, 67-68.

²¹Cannan, et al., 48; Perry Jamieson, *A Survey History of Fort Bliss, 1890-1940*. Historical and Natural Resources Report No. 5, Cultural Resources Management Branch, Directorate of Environment, Fort Bliss, TX, 1993, 3-5.

²²Metz, 71. These stables have since been torn down.

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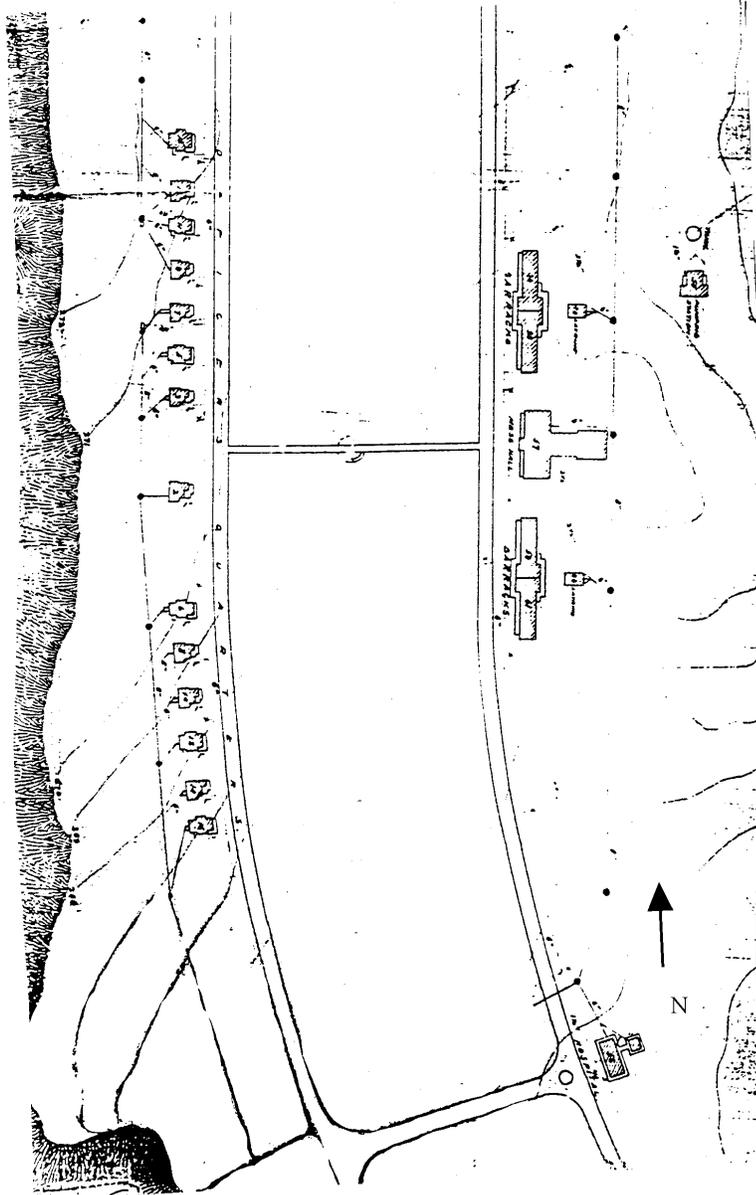


Figure 1: Original Layout of Fort Bliss, 1894

(National Archives, Record Group 92)

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Spain broke out in 1898, the men of Troop A initially stayed behind to garrison the fort while the 18th Infantry proceeded to New Orleans in April. A month later, Troop A also left for New Orleans, leaving only a handful of military and civilian men to garrison the fort. Troop A and the 18th Infantry both saw action in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. At the end of July, Troop F of the 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry arrived at Fort Bliss and garrisoned the post until the end of the war.²³

Shortly after the Spanish-American War ended, Army regulars returned to Fort Bliss and the routine of drills, marches and performances resumed at the installation. Noteworthy activities at Fort Bliss in this period include the construction of new roads, the installation of a telephone system, the repair of some of the old buildings, and the construction of several new buildings. The Army allocated funds for these improvements in the early 1900s in response to reports that the fort was falling into a state of disrepair.²⁴ Despite the improvements, the Army once again pondered closing Fort Bliss along with several other forts in Texas. This latest threat to Fort Bliss vanished in the late 1900s when Mexico's political situation became increasingly unstable. Because a significant amount of revolutionary activity occurred just across the Rio Grande in the city of Juarez, the advent of the Mexican Revolution made Fort Bliss a strategically important border installation. Over the next decade, activity at Fort Bliss was in large measure dictated by the revolutions and political in-fighting raging across the border in Mexico.

Fort Bliss and the Mexican Revolution

When revolution broke out in Mexico in 1911, the United States government assumed a stance of neutrality. To enforce that neutrality, the War Department began reinforcing Fort Bliss with cavalry, infantry and artillery troops. These troops patrolled the border and guarded the international bridges leading into Mexico in an attempt to prevent illegal arms smuggling and to discourage any hostile acts against the United States. That same year, the War Department decided on a major change for Fort Bliss. Prior to the outbreak of revolution in Mexico, Fort Bliss had served primarily as an infantry post. In November 1911, realizing a mounted force could much more easily patrol the border than could foot soldiers, the War Department decided to convert Fort Bliss into a cavalry post. The changeover began early the following year when Fort Bliss's infantry troops boarded trains bound for Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. Meanwhile, the 4th Cavalry arrived to garrison Fort Bliss and assume border patrol duty. To accommodate the 4th Cavalry's horses, the Army constructed four stables at the installation.²⁵

As fighting continued to rage across Mexico in 1913, the War Department became convinced of Fort Bliss's importance and authorized funds to expand the installation to accommodate a full regiment of cavalry (Figure 2). New construction began that year and by 1917 nine 70-man two-story brick barracks, and five brick mess halls had been added on the northeast side of the parade ground while twenty-five

²³Harris and Saddler, 6.

²⁴Ibid., 7.

²⁵Metz, 83. These stables have also since been torn down.

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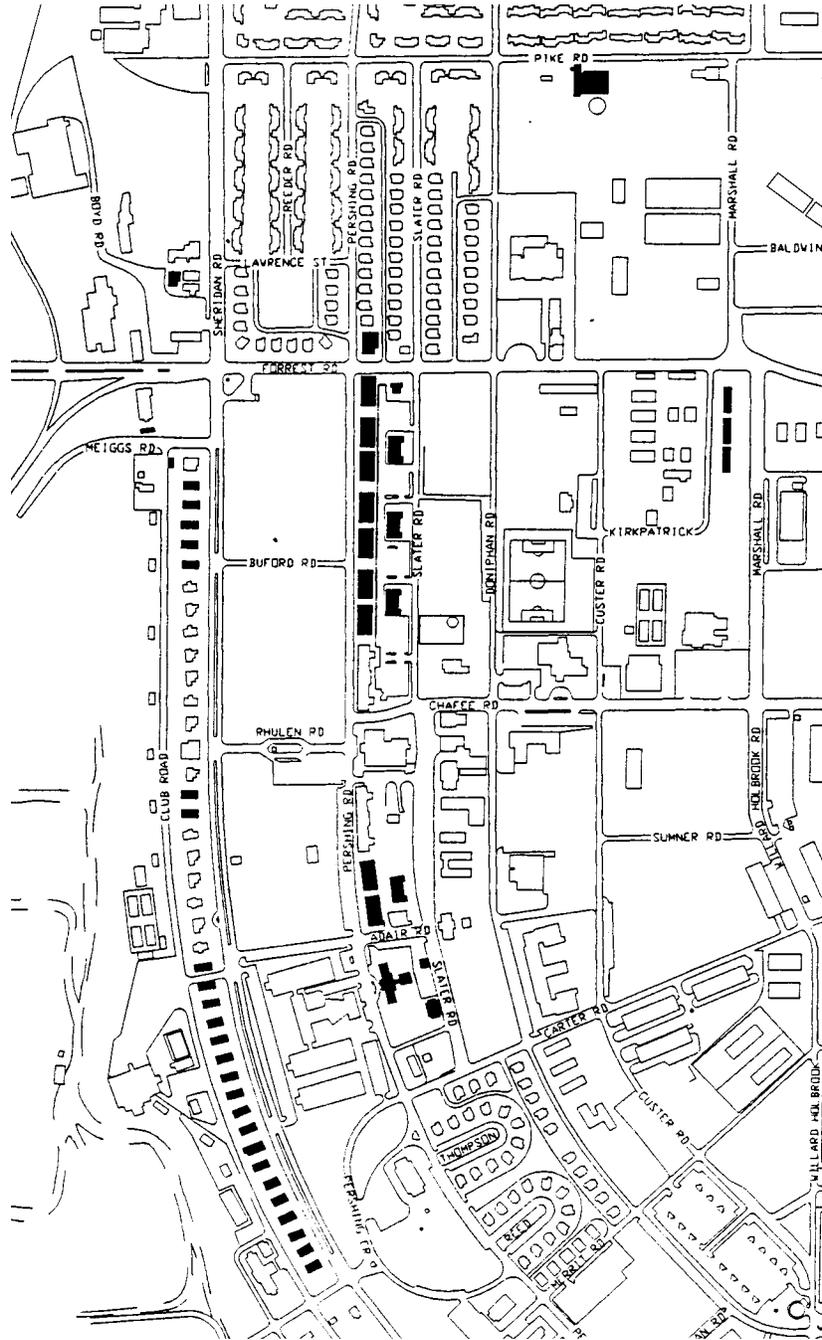


Figure 2 - Map Showing Buildings Constructed at Fort Bliss Between 1913 and 1917

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one-story stucco officer's bungalows were added along the southwest side of the parade ground.²⁶ Other construction completed at the installation by 1917 included nine stables (since demolished), a hospital, a post exchange, a post telephone exchange, a pumping plant, three ammunition warehouses, and a mess hall for non-commissioned officers.²⁷ The expansion of Fort Bliss could hardly keep up with the needs of the installation as more and more troops arrived throughout the mid-1910s in response to the deteriorating situation in Mexico. By mid-1914, troops at Fort Bliss included the 2nd Cavalry (replacing the 4th Cavalry), troops from the 12th, 13th and 15th Cavalry, the 6th, 16th and 20th Infantry Regiments, and several batteries of field artillery.²⁸

U.S. - Mexican Hostilities

Relations between the United States and Mexico gradually deteriorated as President Wilson struggled to form a policy regarding the revolutionary activity in Mexico. Tensions strained even further when Mexican troops briefly arrested eight American sailors in the Mexican town of Tampico in April 1914. After the incident, President Wilson ordered the U.S. Navy to occupy the port of Veracruz after the Mexican forces refused to fire a twenty-one gun salute to the American flag in penance for the incident. President Wilson's real motivation for the port seizure, however, was less related to the Tampico incident than it was aimed at preventing the landing of a German vessel loaded with munitions for the forces of General Victoriano Huerta.²⁹ Fearing a backlash against the U.S., the War Department sent more troops to Fort Bliss to help patrol the border and keep order. Arriving at El Paso in late April was General John J. Pershing with troops from the 8th Infantry Brigade (including the 6th and 16th Infantry Regiments). As there were not sufficient facilities at Fort Bliss, the troops took up quarters in the city of El Paso. General Pershing, based and housed at Fort Bliss, assumed command of the El Paso Patrol District. Contrary to some historical accounts, Pershing did not assume command of the post.³⁰ Events in 1916 brought Mexico and the United States to the brink of war. The revolutionary leader, Pancho Villa, frustrated at his declining fortunes and angered by the United States's moves to recognize the regime of his adversary, Venustiano Carranza, attacked the village of Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916. Seventeen American civilians and soldiers died in the attack. President Wilson, feeling he had no other options in the face of public outrage, ordered General Pershing to lead an expeditionary force across the border in pursuit of Villa's forces. The Army quickly assembled what became known as the Punitive Expedition from cavalry and infantry units from across the country. The Expedition, eventually numbering some 10,690 men, crossed into Mexico on March 15 and 16 and spent almost an entire year fruitlessly searching for Villa. Along the 300-mile journey, the Expedition clashed twice with troops from Carranza's army, bringing the United States and Mexico dangerously close to war.

²⁶Cannan, et al., 49.

²⁷Harris and Saddler, 51.

²⁸Metz, 85.

²⁹Richard N. Current, et al., *American History: A Survey*, vol. II, *Since 1865* (New York: Knopf, 1987), 645.

³⁰Metz, 85; Harris and Sadler, 45.

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Besides supplying two infantry and field artillery units to the Expedition, Fort Bliss served as a major staging area and as the main support base for the Punitive Expedition. In addition, Fort Bliss's base hospital, located in the main cantonment of the installation, served as the principal medical facility during the Expedition.³¹ By the summer of 1916, Fort Bliss was the headquarters for approximately 40,000 troops, making it the largest installation on the border.³² Troops left behind at Fort Bliss continued to patrol the border in the El Paso area. To help with this mission, President Wilson mobilized the entire National Guard. Units from all over the country, consisting of more than 100,000 men, converged at three camps near Fort Bliss in the summer of 1916. With the arrival of the National Guard units, El Paso became the site of the single largest gathering of troops in the U.S. since the Civil War.³³ Besides helping patrol the border, National Guard units at El Paso engaged in intense drilling and training exercises. These exercises, which continued even after the Punitive Expedition ended, eventually proved extremely beneficial to the Army. The border crisis and the subsequent build-up helped to reveal the extent of the general unpreparedness of the United States military. At the same time, the crisis gave the Army an opportunity to conduct much-needed large scale military maneuvers and extensive warfare training just prior to the country's entry into World War I.³⁴

While Mexico and the United States negotiated to avoid further inflaming their hostilities, President Wilson, seeing Germany as a larger threat than Mexico, quietly ordered the Expedition in Mexico to withdraw. Troops began returning to the United States late in January of 1917 and the withdrawal was nearly complete by February 5.³⁵ National Guard units also began leaving the El Paso area in early 1917.

Fort Bliss likely would have become a major divisional training cantonment in 1917 if not for Secretary of War Newton D. Baker. Despite nearly \$950,000 allocated for improvements at Fort Bliss, the training cantonment never came to be. Baker, a strict moralist, felt that the bars and prostitution in El Paso corrupted soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss. Although local politicians initiated an effort to "clean up" El Paso, Baker bypassed Fort Bliss and located the training cantonment at the town of Deming, New Mexico instead.³⁶ Fort Bliss nonetheless remained the nation's premier military installation along the border.

³¹The base hospital at Fort Bliss that served as the principal medical facility during the Punitive Expedition should not to be confused with William Beaumont General Hospital whose construction came later. Fort Bliss's base hospital was constructed in 1904. The Army constructed rudimentary temporary wards adjacent to the base hospital in 1916. These temporary buildings added about 900 more beds to the capacity of the base hospital.

³²Harris and Saddler, 84.

³³Metz, 92.

³⁴Harris and Saddler, 84.

³⁵Metz, 95.

³⁶Metz, 104; Harris and Sadler, 96.

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World War I and Continuing Border Problems

In World War I, horse cavalry forces proved almost useless and were therefore relegated mostly to support roles far behind the lines. Although ineffective at the Western Front, horse cavalry continued to be the best means of patrolling and defending the U.S.-Mexican border. Therefore, while Fort Bliss experienced a reduction in troop strength during World War I, the installation continued its transformation from an infantry post to a cavalry post as cavalry units left behind continued to patrol the border. During the war, activity along the border was limited to only a few minor skirmishes with Mexican bandits.³⁷

Eight months after the fighting in Europe ended, the U.S. Army's attention again focused on the border and Fort Bliss when Pancho Villa massed his forces and attacked Ciudad Juarez on June 15, 1919. Anticipating the attack, the Army had warned Villa that any stray fire into El Paso would result in American intervention. When casualties resulted from rounds landing in El Paso during the battle, the Army responded by shelling Villa's forces and sending cavalry and infantry units across the border to drive him out. As it turned out, this was both the last time U.S. forces crossed into Mexico and the last time the U.S. military used horse cavalry in a military engagement.³⁸

While Fort Bliss's troops were responding to Villa's attack on Juarez, the Army made its first use of air power along the border. The Army Border Air Patrol at Fort Bliss came into being on June 16, 1919 when the installation received 18 planes. Two days later, pilots began flying reconnaissance missions along the border, watching for and reporting any illegal activities by Mexican revolutionaries and bandits. For the next two years, Fort Bliss served as headquarters of the Border Air Patrol. Pilots flew surveillance missions out of Fort Bliss along the border between Nogales, Arizona and Sanderson, Texas. A cavalry drill field just east of the post served as the landing field. Although the Army disbanded the Air Border Patrol in 1921, six planes remained at Fort Bliss's makeshift airfield.³⁹

Horse Cavalry between Wars

World War I had clearly demonstrated that motorized vehicles and airplanes were the future of modern warfare. Consequently, in the two decades between the World Wars, the horse cavalry experienced a marked decline as the Army increasingly emphasized mechanization of its forces. The horse cavalry at Fort Bliss, however, was an exception to this national trend. Mounted troops continued to be the most efficient way to patrol the border because the rugged terrain of the Southwest did not lend itself well to the use of motorized vehicles. As early as 1917, the War Department had contemplated forming a six-regiment cavalry division at Fort Bliss. The Army had even begun making plans to construct new cavalry cantonments on a 728-acre tract of land near Fort Bliss. While this plan fell through Fort Bliss did ultimately gain new cavalry cantonments. In 1919, the War Department initiated new construction at Army installations in Texas and Arizona under its Mexican Border Zone Project. This project was an effort to improve border defense and to prepare for any possible crises caused by

³⁷Harris and Sadler, 97.

³⁸Ibid., 99.

³⁹Metz, 114-116; Harris and Sadler, 107.

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unrest in Mexico.⁴⁰ The head of the Mexican Border Zone Project was Constructing Quartermaster Major F.G. Chamberlain, who directed work from his headquarters at Camp Travis in San Antonio, Texas.⁴¹ At Fort Bliss, two separate cantonments were built for the 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments between 1919 and 1921. The 8th Cavalry cantonment, consisting of thirteen barracks, was situated in an area just east of the north end of the parade field.⁴² The 7th Cavalry cantonment consisted of thirty buildings and was situated in an area directly northwest of present-day Noel Field. Only nine buildings from the 7th Cavalry cantonment remained standing (Figure 3).

In 1921, as cavalry regiments at other installations were being deactivated, the War Department created the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss and gave it the task of patrolling and defending the international border. The War Department incorporated the 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments into the 1st Cavalry Division. Although the 1st Cavalry Division never fully achieved its assigned divisional strength, its formation transformed Fort Bliss into the nation's principal cavalry installation.

During the next two decades the 1st Cavalry Division was an important presence on the U.S.-Mexican border. 1st Cavalry Division troops spent the majority of their time patrolling the border, engaging in garrison duties, and participating in occasional military maneuvers. Polo games were a popular recreation activity. Peaceful conditions generally prevailed along the border during this period. The one major exception was in the spring of 1928 when revolution once again reared its head in Mexico. During this outbreak, the U.S. government supported the Mexican federal government and announced an embargo on arms to the Mexican insurgents. 1st Cavalry troops at Fort Bliss were principally responsible for enforcing this embargo.⁴³ The renewed rebellion in Mexico, which ended in mid-April, once again emphasized the importance of Fort Bliss and the Army presence on the border.

Fort Bliss Between Wars

The appalling loss of life and property in the First World War left many Americans with a deep sense of disillusionment. Isolationist sentiment took hold of the country as the American public, as well as many politicians, was none too eager for the nation to get involved in any other foreign wars. One manifestation of this national mood was a marked decline in military spending in the years following the war. The advent of the Depression in 1929 further restricted military funding. Despite the fiscally austere environment of the 1920s and 1930s, Fort Bliss expanded significantly during these years, adding

⁴⁰Funds for the Mexican Border Zone Project came from the line item "Barracks and Quarters" under the "Quartermaster Funds" appropriation in the annual War Department budget. There were no separate hearings or appropriations (Jamieson, 38).

⁴¹Jamieson, 38.

⁴²The barracks for the 8th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss have since been demolished.

⁴³Harris and Sadler, 105-106.

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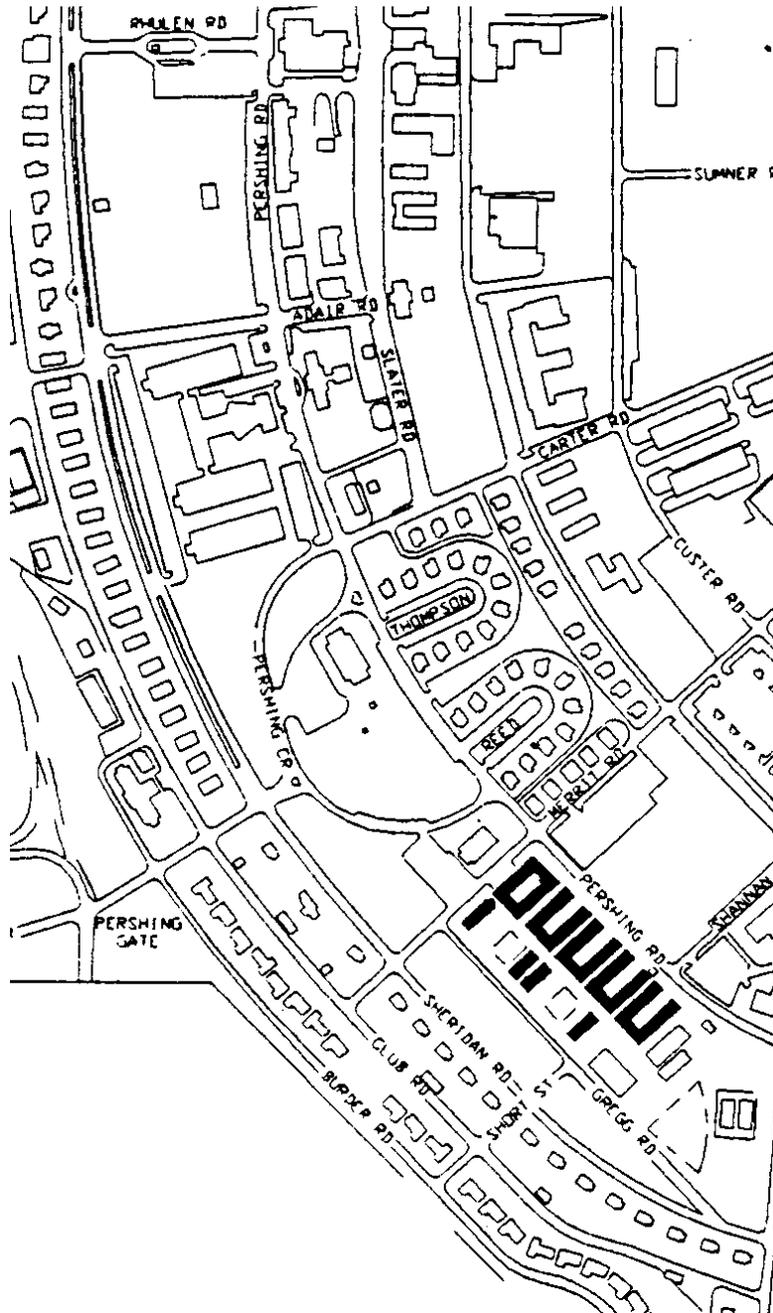


Figure 3 - Remaining Buildings of the Original 7th Cavalry Cantonment

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both land and facilities. The installation prospered during this time because the recurring problems along the U.S.- Mexican border had convinced Congress of the importance of maintaining a strong U.S. presence in the strategic El Paso region.

Two major construction projects began at Fort Bliss in 1920-21. The first was the construction of 48 tile and stucco buildings northwest of the main cantonment. These buildings made up the William Beaumont General Hospital. The second project was the construction of twenty-four 16,000 square foot Quartermaster storage warehouses.⁴⁴ These structures were built north and east of the parade ground on a former forage yard site (Figure 4). Railroad spur tracks running through the set of completed warehouses allowed easy freight car access for loading and unloading. The Army erected these warehouses for the Eighth Quartermaster Corps which supplied not only Fort Bliss but other Army installations in the region. Previous to their construction, the Eighth Corps had been storing materials and supplies in rented warehouses at various locations in El Paso.

Fort Bliss expanded physically in 1926 when the Army acquired two separate parcels of land near the post totaling approximately 4600 acres. The Army eventually used this land to create Castner Range for artillery and target practice and a new airfield designated Biggs Army Airfield.⁴⁵ Fort Bliss gained other small parcels of land over the next several years.⁴⁶

By the mid-1920s, Fort Bliss was facing a serious lack of adequate housing on the installation for officers and their families. To address this problem, a special board of officers, headed by Lieutenant J.E. Gaujot, convened in 1926. Noting that the Army was spending more than \$50,000 annually to house noncommissioned officers in El Paso, the board placed a high priority on the construction of permanent quarters for officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs).⁴⁷ In 1928, the Gaujot board (as it was referred to) developed a long-range installation expansion plan that guided construction at Fort Bliss in the 1930s. The plan generally followed and continued Captain Ruhlen's original post plan by placing new housing along the southern curve of the existing parade ground. The plan also called for new housing at the north end of the parade ground, eliminating a "No Man's Land" (board's terminology) in that area occupied by service tracks, temporary quarters, and miscellaneous structures.⁴⁸

Lack of adequate housing was a problem not unique to Fort Bliss in the 1920s. Army posts nationwide were experiencing the same problem as many of the temporary barracks and quarters built during World War I were still in use and were becoming severely dilapidated. Aware of the housing shortage, the War Department lobbied for and won approval from Congress for an Army housing program aimed at replacing the old temporary structures with permanent buildings for a peacetime army.

⁴⁴The construction of these warehouses was part of the Army's Mexican Border Zone Project.

⁴⁵Metz, 131; Harris and Sadler, 107.

⁴⁶Metz, 131.

⁴⁷Harris and Sadler, 108.

⁴⁸"Proceedings of the Board of Officers under paragraph 2, special orders Number 98, Headquarters, Fort Bliss, Texas, April 21, 1926." On file in Office of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center, Fort Bliss, Texas.

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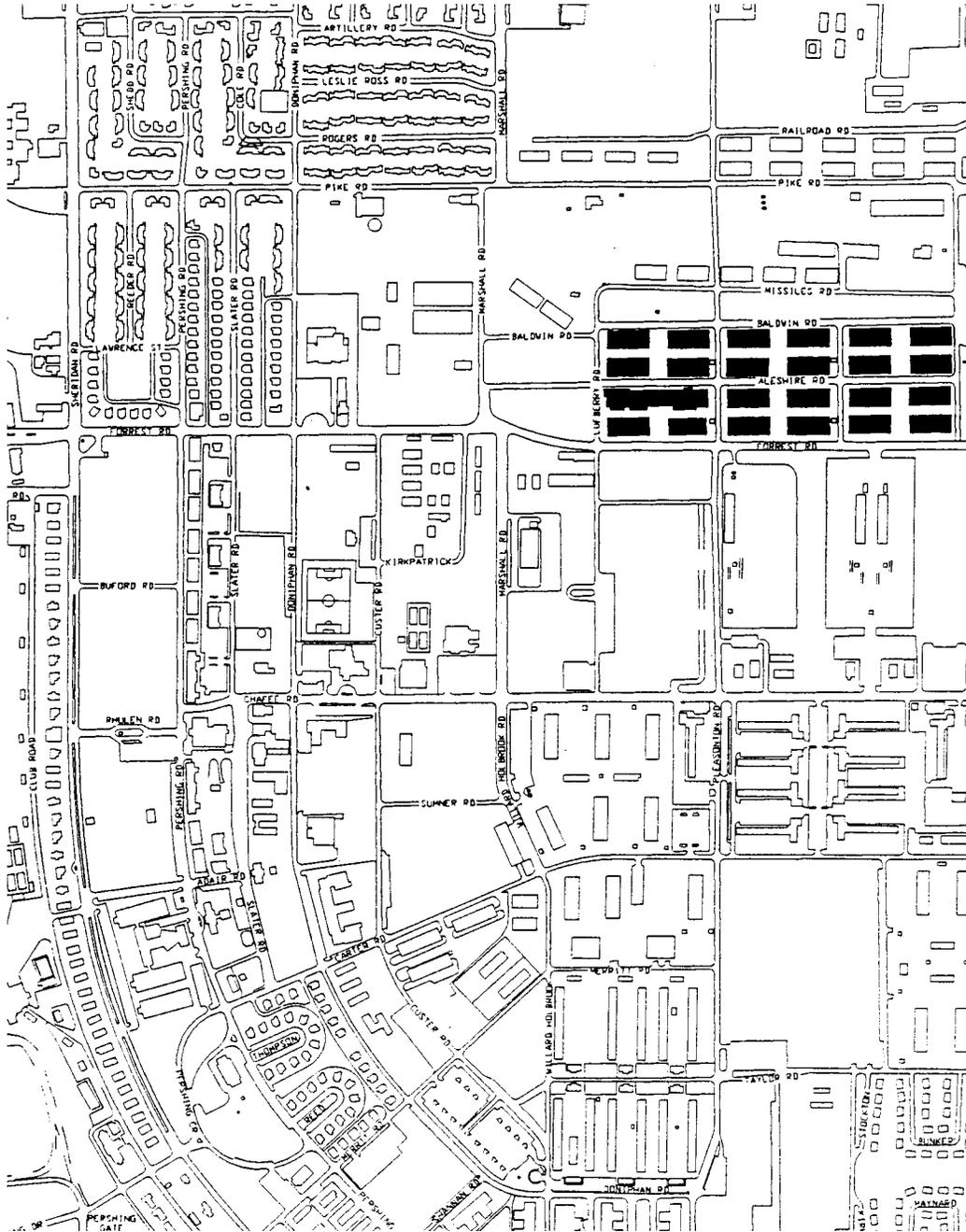


Figure 4 - Quartermaster Zone Warehouses Constructed at Fort Bliss in 1920-21

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The original plan presented to Congress called for the expenditure of \$110 million over a ten year period. The Army housing program began modestly in 1927 with an initial \$7 million appropriation for the construction of hospitals, barracks, and quarters. By 1937, Congress had allotted approximately \$150 million for Army construction projects⁴⁹ (Figure 5).

Fort Bliss first received funds under the Army housing program in 1928. As housing for NCOs was a top priority, the Constructing Quartermaster at Fort Bliss accepted separate bids for 50 sets and 16 sets (later increased to 20) of NCO quarters in early 1929. Construction began in March of that year and continued into early 1930. All 70 of these quarters are bungalow-type with brick and tile walls and four column fronts. Each had a sleeping porch added to the rear of the building.⁵⁰

On October 29, 1929, the New York Stock market crashed, signaling the beginning of the Great Depression. Surprisingly, the Depression only expedited the Army's housing program. As the effects of the Depression set in, the Federal government began looking for ways to stimulate the economy and create jobs. As it turned out, the Army's ability to quickly initiate and carry out large projects fit perfectly with the government's relief efforts.

President Hoover first connected the Army housing program to Depression relief measures in November 1929 when he directed the Army to expedite construction projects for the sake of economic relief. It was the New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration, however, that provided the greatest boon for the Army housing program. After entering office in March of 1933, President Roosevelt immediately began implementing his New Deal for the American people. Consequently, Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) in June of 1933, establishing the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA). PWA funds immediately provided a large appropriation for Army construction projects. The goal was to quickly put a large number of unemployed men to work. Taking full advantage of the windfall provided by the PWA, the Army constructed many new permanent quarters and facilities at Army installations nationwide throughout the 1930s. The Army also took advantage of other New Deal initiatives as well. The Civil Works Administration (CWA), created in 1933, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), created in 1935, provided additional funds and workers for Army improvement projects.⁵¹

Fort Bliss benefited greatly from the Depression-era New Deal recovery programs. Between 1933 and 1939, Army housing funds supplemented by PWA funds allowed the Army to construct an additional 33 brick NCO quarters, 38 tile and stucco officers quarters, six tile and stucco two-company barracks, eleven brick stables, and numerous garages, blacksmith shops, and miscellaneous buildings at the installation. The placement of these new buildings generally followed the plan developed by the Gaujot

⁴⁹Erna Risch, Quartermaster Support of the Army: A History of the Corps, 1775-1939 (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1989), 713-14.

⁵⁰These NCO quarters are located at three sites: north of the parade ground, directly northeast of Pershing Circle, and on Hayes Street near the William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Before construction could begin in the area north of the parade ground, several temporary frame buildings had to be removed.

⁵¹The Works Progress Administration was later designated as the Works Projects Administration.

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board in 1928. The NCO quarters were built in the same areas as the NCO quarters built a few years earlier. The new officers quarters formed a line following the curve of Lanoria Mesa, continuing the original line of quarters along the southern and western end of the parade grounds. The barracks and stables filled in an area south and east of the parade grounds.⁵² Fort Bliss also benefited from the CWA and WPA as these programs funded a variety of improvement projects at the installation including repairs to buildings and roads, landscaping, grading, seeding, and planting.⁵³

The growth of Fort Bliss during the 1920s and 1930s, both in terms of new construction and the addition of land, emphasized the War Department's perception of Fort Bliss as a strategically important border installation. Unfortunately, during this same period, the importance of the horse cavalry steadily declined. So effective for border patrol duty, the horse cavalry slowly but steadily became obsolete for military engagements as the Army continued to mechanize. Fort Bliss had felt the first effects of this trend in the late 1920s when the Army assigned several armored cars, motorcycles and trucks to the 1st Cavalry Division. Despite the inevitability of its demise, cavalry troops at Fort Bliss participated in extensive maneuvers as late as 1941.⁵⁴ Ultimately however, the outbreak of war in Europe spelled the end of the horse cavalry as mounted troops were no match for the airplanes and tanks used heavily by German forces in their blitzkrieg attacks.

World War II

World War II brought major change to Fort Bliss. Not only did the installation gain many new facilities and vast tracts of new training lands, it also gained a new mission. When the United States entered the war in late 1941, Fort Bliss contained the largest horse cavalry force in the nation. The 1st Cavalry continued to patrol the border during the early years of the war. However, the need for maintaining an outdated horse cavalry along the border all but vanished in 1942 when Mexico declared war on the Axis powers. The death knoll of the horse cavalry came in 1943 when the War Department dismounted the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss. The Army subsequently converted the 1st Cavalry Division into a mechanized infantry unit and sent it to the Pacific Theater where its men served with distinction.⁵⁵ When the 1st Cavalry Division left Fort Bliss, the installation had already begun its transformation from a horse cavalry post into a major anti-aircraft artillery training center.

In September 1940, the War Department made plans to send 8,000 soldiers to Fort Bliss for anti-aircraft artillery training. The mild climate and the enormous amounts of available land surrounding the installation made Fort Bliss an ideal location for such activity. During the following months, Fort Bliss acquired 1,800 acres northwest of the installation. By late 1940, the Logan Heights Anti-aircraft

⁵²In its 1928 post plan, the Gaujot board recommended adding buildings east of the south cantonment area so as to allow for "shortened interior lines of communication and supply for troops."

⁵³Fort Bliss also became involved in the New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program when the 1st Cavalry Division assumed responsibility for establishing and operating CCC work camps in Arizona and New Mexico. These camps employed some 62,500 men at one point (Harris & Sadler, 108).

⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵Harris and Sadler, 109.

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Artillery Training Center opened with soldiers living in canvas tents. The tents eventually gave way first to tar paper huts and then to wooden barracks in 1945. By that time, the center had become the nation's largest antiaircraft artillery training center.⁵⁶

Fort Bliss completed its transformation into the nation's premier antiaircraft artillery center in 1944 when the War Department moved both the Antiaircraft Replacement Training Center at Camp Callan, California and the Antiaircraft Artillery School at Fort Davis in North Carolina to Fort Bliss. By war's end, every antiaircraft unit that saw action in the war had received its early training at Fort Bliss.⁵⁷

Besides its antiaircraft artillery training role, Fort Bliss contributed to the nation's war effort in other ways. At the outset of the United States' involvement in World War II, Fort Bliss became one of nineteen national troop reception centers. During the war, Fort Bliss was instrumental in inducting National Guard units into the regular Army. The first National Guard unit arrived at Fort Bliss in the fall of 1940. Fort Bliss eventually housed five National Guard units during the war, more than any other post in the 8th Corps area.⁵⁸

Fort Bliss gained a new aviation role in 1941 when the Army began a \$10 million construction project at Biggs Army Airfield. Originally used by the Border Air Patrol, Biggs Field contained only three hangars, a few radio control towers, a restaurant, and a maintenance shop in 1939. The new construction converted the facility into a modern air base for heavy bombardment training. Throughout the war, hundreds of bomber crews flying B-17, B-24 and B-29 aircraft out of Biggs Field practiced missions around the clock. When the runways at Biggs Airfield were extended to accommodate the large B-29s in 1945, the facility occupied nearly four thousand acres.⁵⁹

By the end of World War II, Fort Bliss had expanded considerably. The installation's territory included the 5,000 acre post reservation, 52,000 acres of adjoining land to the east and northeast, the

⁵⁶"Post Layout Announced by Colonel," El Paso Herald Post, 9 October 1940; "Anti-Aircraft Replacement Training Center Moves Here," The Fort Bliss News, 27 April 1944, 1, 16; "Training Site Sprang to Life in Late 1940," El Paso Times, 27 February 1991, 2. Logan Heights eventually came to include many facilities including administrative buildings, guest housing, a gymnasium, theaters, a service club, recreation halls, a telephone center, a post office, a fire station, a motor pool, athletic fields, a confidence course, a bayonet course, and firing ranges. Since World War II, the Army has used portions of the site for a variety of functions including basic combat training.

⁵⁷Metz, 167; "Anti-Aircraft Replacement Training Center Moves Here," Army Times Guide to Military Posts, 32. The Antiaircraft Replacement training center was housed on the main post and utilized many of the former 1st Cavalry barracks. The War Department deactivated the center in November 1945, around the same time the first Antiaircraft and Guided Missile Battalion came into being.

⁵⁸Jamieson, 53.

⁵⁹Metz, 142. In 1947, when the Air Force became its own separate service branch, Biggs Field became Biggs Air Force Base, being placed under the Air Force' Strategic Air Command (SAC). After Fort Bliss donated land south of the base, the Air Force constructed the 800-unit Aero Vista development to offset the need for housing. Over the next ten years, numerous bombardment wings came and went as giant bombers such as the B-36 replaced earlier bomber aircraft. The B-52 Strato-Fortresses came to Biggs in late 1959 but by 1965, the Air Force felt Biggs Air Force Base was no longer vital to national security. Consequently, the Air Force deactivated the base the following year (Metz, 145). Reclaimed by Fort Bliss following its deactivation, Biggs Field presently operates as an Army airfield, maintaining facilities for transient fixed-wing aircraft.

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3,272-acre Castner Target Range, and the 46,000-acre Dona Ana Target Range. In addition, Fort Bliss leased 350,000 acres of land in New Mexico for use as an anti-aircraft range and had trespass rights on another 200,000 acres in New Mexico.⁶⁰

Fort Bliss During the Cold War

Germany's use of V-1 and V-2 rockets during the latter stages of World War II ushered in the era of guided missiles. After the war, as tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union increased, both countries sought to develop their own arsenal of guided missiles. Each moved first to exploit and then to improve upon Germany's advanced rocket technology. Fort Bliss played an important role in the United States's early missile testing and development effort.

Rocket research first began at Fort Bliss in early 1945 when a team of scientists from the Army Ordnance Department and the California Institute of Technology came to Fort Bliss to test fire a missile known as Private-F. The team fired 17 such missiles in April at a range located 28 miles north of the installation. By the following February, the Army brought 127 captured German rocket scientists, including Wernher von Braun, to Fort Bliss during Operation Paperclip. These scientists, housed in a former temporary hospital area at the installation, began conducting rocket research for the United States. Research and rocket fabrication occurred at Fort Bliss while facilities at the nearby White Sands Proving Ground (later designated White Sands Missile Range) supported engine and flight tests.⁶¹ Over the next four years, the von Braun team worked with and tested V-2 rockets and the Hermes II multi-stage rocket. By obtaining data and experience that formed the foundation for many future American missile programs. Their work also impacted experiments with the Corporal, and WAC Corporal missiles. The 1st Anti-Aircraft Guided Missile Battalion, organized at Fort Bliss in October 1945, provided support for these early efforts.⁶²

In July 1946, the 1st Anti-Aircraft Guided Missile Battalion came under the command of the newly-activated Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Guided Missile Center. The primary mission of the center was to train anti-aircraft artillery and guided-missile units. The Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Guided Missile Center's name has since evolved into the present-day U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center at Fort Bliss. This command has trained new missile units and evaluated the competence of commissioned units since the late 1940s.

In April 1950, the Army moved von Braun and the other German scientists to its newly designated missile development center at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama where they subsequently helped develop the Redstone and Jupiter missiles for the Army. That same year, the Army formed the Army Anti-Aircraft Command (ARAACOM) and activated the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Replacement Training Center (AAARTC) at Fort Bliss. The ARAACOM trained anti-aircraft Nike Ajax batteries and then deployed them to protect vital locations around the nation from possible Soviet bomber attack. The

⁶⁰Ibid., 134.

⁶¹The War Department established the White Sands Proving Ground, located in New Mexico, in July 1945.

⁶²Jamieson, 56.

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AAARTC trained soldiers for specialized assignments that utilized atomic weapons, heavy anti-aircraft artillery guns, computers and radars. The center also conducted eight-week basic infantry training courses for new army inductees.⁶³

The late 1940s also saw the creation of a commemorative property on the installation, the Fort Bliss Replica Museum. The citizens of El Paso presented five adobe reconstructions to Fort Bliss in 1948 during the Centennial Celebration of the original Fort Bliss. They were given as a symbol of the close ties that existed between the civilian and military community for many years. The museum buildings are reconstructions of those that housed Fort Bliss soldiers from 1854 to 1868. Museum exhibits the history of Fort Bliss and El Paso through their first 100 years of growth.⁶⁴

New construction and expansion characterized the decade of the 1950s at Fort Bliss. The installation gained thirty-one three-story permanent barracks with six motor parks in 1950, a school headquarters building in 1954, and a materials lab, additional classroom buildings, a guided missile lab, and a radar park in 1958. Also constructed in 1958 were 410 Capehart family housing units. New range acquisitions included the Red Canyon Range in southern New Mexico in 1953 and the McGregor Range in 1956. The Red Canyon Range supported training and annual practices for Nike-Ajax crews until 1959 when the Army transferred those activities to the McGregor Range. McGregor has also supported other missile firings including Nike Hercules, Hawk, Pershing and Patriot. In recent years, other countries have contracted to use the range to train their air defense batteries. Today, the McGregor Range is the largest inland air defense region in the United States.⁶⁵

Two other ranges also support the McGregor Range. Fort Bliss uses the approximately 450-square mile Dona Ana Range in the Organ Mountains of New Mexico for tank gunnery practice and for training National Guardsmen and reservists. North McGregor (also known as the Orogrande SHORAD Range) supports firings such as the Stinger and 25mm cannon.⁶⁶

At present, Fort Bliss includes nearly five thousand buildings and approximately 1.3 million acres of land with its ranges. The installation functions under the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) although the strategic army forces stationed there, such as the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, are subordinate to Forces Command (FORSCOM). Fort Bliss today is primarily a training installation. Its basic missions include training air defense forces, conducting basic and advanced training, maintaining the readiness of its military units, and supporting annual service firings at the McGregor Range.⁶⁷

⁶³Ibid., 57.

⁶⁴"The Fort Bliss Replica," in vertical file Replica Museum, Air Defense Artillery Museum, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center, Fort Bliss, Texas, 5.

⁶⁵Metz., 169-70. The Army only outright owns approximately 72,000 acres of the McGregor Range. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns the remainder. The Army presently uses the land under the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986.

⁶⁶Ibid., 173.

⁶⁷Ibid., 174.

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Cultural Landscape Development at Fort Bliss**Introduction**

Landscape components are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs; they may reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. On military installations, these components are determined primarily by a response to the particular mission in place; military cultural traditions expressed in both an organizational and aesthetic sense; and a response to the environment in the way the installation is planned and laid out. Types of landscape components may include circulation networks, varieties and patterns of vegetation, buildings, structures, site furnishings, and spatial relationships. This section will chronologically document the development of landscape components at the main cantonment at Fort Bliss.

The Influence of Captain George Ruhlen

The decision to relocate Fort Bliss from Hart's Mill to Lanoria Mesa was due to both mission and landscape-related requirements. The mission of Fort Bliss during the 1880s, as the major frontier fort in this region, was essentially to provide protection in various forms. This included protection from potential hostilities along the Mexican border (as El Paso had experienced in the late 1870s) and protection for the rapidly expanding railroad lines converging on El Paso. By 1890 the Atchinson, Topeka and Sante Fe, the Southern Pacific, and the Mexican Central railroad lines, among others, used the city of El Paso as a terminating hub (Figure 6).

When a railway was constructed directly through the parade ground at Hart's Mill, it became obvious that any further troop drilling and review at this site would be extremely difficult. Military officials intended for the fort to remain a major presence in this region and therefore additional acreage was necessary. There was logistic and strategic value in keeping the new fort close to the previous location, and it now became a matter of selecting the most advantageous site for construction. The Army was influenced in this endeavor by the El Paso Progressive Association, a group of citizens brought together by the desire to keep the fort nearby. The Association was able to raise the necessary funds to purchase 1,266 acres of land at Lanoria Mesa, located approximately 5 miles to the northeast of El Paso.⁶⁸

⁶⁸Metz, 67-68.

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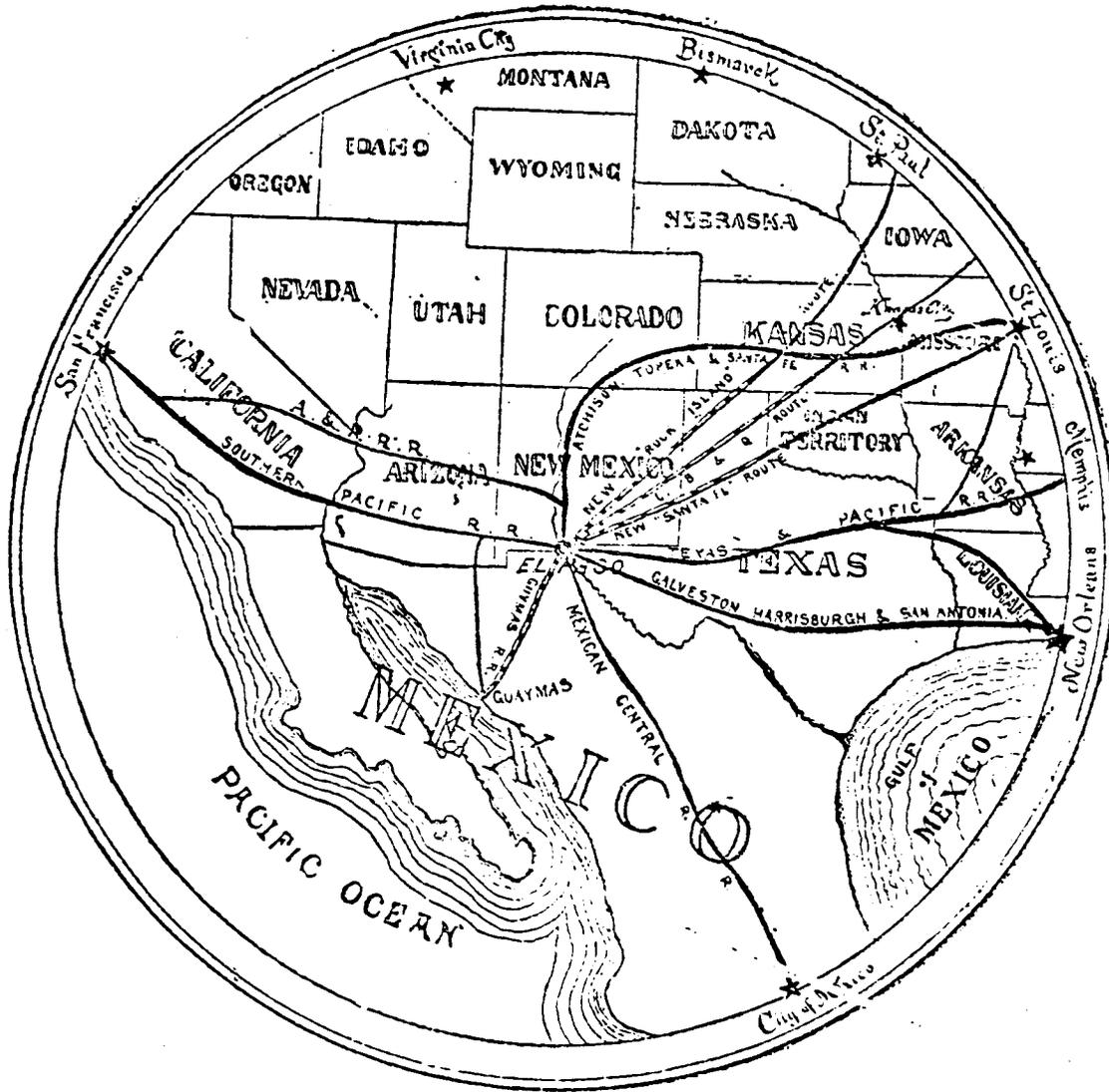


Figure 6: Railroads Converging on El Paso
(Courtesy of UTEP Special Collections)

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In July 1890 a board of U. S. Army officers consisting of Brigadier General D. S. Stanley, Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Bailey of the Medical Department, and Lieutenant Colonel George H. Weeks of the Quartermaster Department, came to El Paso to supervise the specific selection of land. Two conditions that influenced their decision were the room for future expansion, which this area offered, and the availability of drinking water, found to be plentiful after a test well was drilled at the site. Captain George Ruhlen, Assistant Quartermaster, was selected by the War Department as the officer-in-charge of the new post construction. After serving duty at the Quartermaster General's office in Washington, D.C., he arrived at the site in October 1890 to look over the site and give his recommendations to the board. After a delay in the acceptance of the site by the U.S. Government "because of the difficulty experienced by the Citizens Committee in procuring additional ground required by the United States," Captain Ruhlen began preliminary surveys and plan developments in March 1891.⁶⁹

Correspondence between Assistant Quartermaster George Ruhlen and the Army Quartermaster's Department during the years 1891 to 1894 reveals critical information regarding the earliest development of landscape components at Fort Bliss. From the outset, Ruhlen was extremely sensitive to the natural environment of this area and how it would impact the Post. Soon after Ruhlen officially began his duties, he thoroughly documented all aspects of the land that had been chosen for use by the military. He considered the "plateau or mesa portion" of the reservation to be the most appropriate location for the post proper; this covered 950 of the total 1271.78 acres. In a report to the Quartermaster Department in Washington, Ruhlen argued that "the low ground between the bluff line and the railroad [is] too uneven and in other respects undesirable for such a purpose, and the portion of the reservation west of the railroad too remote and limited in extent".⁷⁰

Other site observations by Ruhlen included the composition of the soil and vegetation, found to be extensively sandy with scattered tornillo, mesquite, grease wood, and bunch grass over the majority of the mesa, and a sand-free red soil covered with bunch grass in the "northeast portion," (undefined specifically by text or map). Ruhlen further discovered the presence of a limestone sub-base throughout the mesa. He also made a note of the prevailing breezes, which he determined to be from "the northeast, east, southeast", and that the west to northwest intensity of sun's rays was most intense from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.⁷¹ Ruhlen relied on these early site observations when planning the layout of the buildings and structures at the new post.

Ruhlen's plan for the new post employed the standard design of frontier post layout, positioning officer's quarters along one side of a parade ground with barracks, a mess hall and a hospital opposite.

⁶⁹George Ruhlen, Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army, "Summary Narrative of Construction of New Fort Bliss," In Major General George Ruhlen III Collection, Accession Number 883, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections, Library of University of Texas at El Paso, March 28, 1894, 2.

⁷⁰Idem, "Suggestions and Recommendations Relative to Location of Post on Reservation for Fort Bliss, Texas," Report to Quartermaster General's Office, September 28, 1891. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

⁷¹Ibid. Ruhlen made these observations in 1891; it must be noted that as of the writing of this report in 1896, the prevailing breezes are from the west and northwest.

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This spatial separation of rank was typical of frontier forts. Ruhlen's plan was distinctive in that it left the two remaining sides of the parade (in this case, the north and south ends) open, in anticipation of future expansion. His superiors at the U. S. Army Quartermaster's Department in Washington were in agreement with the necessity of a plan that allowed for practical growth. However, the Department's immediate concern was that the parade, as planned, was too large, and that a separate area should be chosen for use as a drill ground. Ruhlen's response was that the parade, as designed, provided the exact space needed for the placement of the prescribed number of buildings (as determined by him) and was an appropriate size for parades, reviews and other ceremonial activities. Specifically, this meant an area large enough to sustain a line of 30 buildings for the full complement of officers quarters (at least 3000 feet), and large enough to accommodate a body of 450 to 500 men. Ruhlen felt that an additional drill ground could be located on any part of the reservation, due to a lack of "natural obstacles".⁷²

Ruhlen acknowledged repeatedly in the frequent correspondence with Washington that the ground chosen for the post was level and devoid of any substantial vegetation; essentially a clean slate in terms of design considerations. Any additional plantings would be an improvement visually and in terms of human comfort. Although it was critical that the placement of the buildings respond to the climatic factors as previously noted, Ruhlen admitted that the ultimate layout would be "a matter of individual judgment."⁷³

The first phase of Ruhlen's post development dealt with the landscape infrastructure. The original roads that connected the city and the post, so crucial for the exchange of people and goods, were in a dilapidated condition at this time and were subject to washout during infrequent yet often intense rainstorms. Consequently, Ruhlen proposed a new, improved road that would branch off the existing County Road, which paralleled the north-south running Kansas City, El Paso and Mexican Railway (also called the White Oaks Railway). The alignment of this proposed road would take best possible advantage of existing grades to eliminate the amount of cut and fill work necessary, and would terminate in the southwestern corner of the post. It could also be paved using materials found on site, which included red clay, sand, and the limestone material removed from foundation excavations. Ruhlen felt it would be economically feasible to use these very accessible materials on both proposed outlying access roads and the one encircling the parade, which was at this point a higher priority. Ruhlen realized that it would be some time before the expenditures necessary for the construction of the new approach road would be made, and funds on hand needed to be used for construction related directly to the post site.⁷⁴

Ruhlen was cognizant of existing "desirable" topographical features when siting proposed sewer lines early in 1892. In a letter to the Quartermaster's Department, Ruhlen wrote: "The places for outlets were selected because they have certain topographical features that adapt them peculiarly for the purpose

⁷²Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster's Department, U.S. Army, Jan. 6, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

⁷³Ibid. Although he worked with an engineer, an architect, and several contractors, Ruhlen made the final judgment concerning the placement of the buildings. He did so after reviewing several options provided by the Quartermaster General's Office.

⁷⁴Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster's Department, U.S. Army, Feb. 16, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 451, File 41571.

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desired. They are both on knolls, and natural channels at the foot of a series of sandy hills are reached within fifty feet of the proposed intercepting cisterns.”⁷⁵

Later that year two wells were drilled east of the two northernmost barracks, and an accompanying boiler and pump house was constructed nearby.⁷⁶ By the latter months of 1892, construction of all essential post infrastructure was in full swing. Only after work on the wells, sewers, roads, and buildings was progressing to Ruhlen’s satisfaction did he begin to fully address more aesthetic concerns such as vegetation and grading, as evidenced by an increase in correspondence relating to those issues.

In addition to the layout of buildings and infrastructure, Ruhlen took responsibility for the landscaping of the fort. He was quite specific with regard to the area between the facades of the Officers’ Quarters and the edge of the parade ground:

“The plan contemplates a space 60 feet wide in front of Officers’ Quarters for front yard, bounded by a sod or grass strip 20 feet wide with a walk 5 feet wide, of gravel, plank, brick, or concrete, running through its center, then a driveway or road 40 feet wide bordered by another strip 20 feet wide. The parade ground will probably have to be covered with a layer of coarse sand and gravel mixed with clay to keep down the loose drifting sand. The 20 foot strip on each side of the road is to afford a space that may be used for beginning the cultivation of grass, trees, or other vegetation, to be extended and widened as experience and supply of water available for purposes of irrigation may justify.”⁷⁷

It is interesting to note that early on, Ruhlen admits that although he could envision the need for vegetation at this post, it was unclear to him what the proper varieties would be and what amount of irrigation would be necessary to sustain them. His suggestion that experience would be a necessary part of landscape development at this post would be reiterated throughout his tenure at Fort Bliss.

A report of expenditures dated October 1892 lists “improvement of grounds, setting out trees, etc.” as additional work necessary “for the full accommodation for a garrison of four companies.”⁷⁸ In December of that year, Ruhlen wrote to the Quartermaster’s Department to specifically address these concerns, once again urging the need for patience and experience:

“As buildings are completed, it will, in my opinion, be desirable to begin the work of clearing the ground, cleaning up, grading, etc., in a small way. I would also like to start

⁷⁵Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, May 13, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

⁷⁶Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, Sept. 28, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

⁷⁷Ibid.

⁷⁸Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, Oct. 5, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 451, File 41571.

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the work of planting trees, etc., say in February and March. To make trees grow, it will be necessary to dig large holes- 4 or 5 feet in diameter- through the rocky crust on the Mesa to the sand underlying it- then fill these holes with soil brought from the northeast corner of the reservation, and set trees in the soil so prepared. Soil for grading around buildings where grass is to grow must also be brought from the same place. This work being largely experimental, should be undertaken at first on a small scale, until the best method of accomplishing desired results can be learned.”⁷⁹

In addition to the new focus on required brush clearing and tree and grass planting, Ruhlen’s memo also addressed the problems of grading. The site chosen for the post, being essentially level, became inundated with ponding after the occasional intense rainstorm. Water that did accumulate after these storms had to be diverted away from building foundations and off the roads and lawns. Because the sandy topsoil on the post site was insufficient as a grading base, alternatives were employed. A heavier red soil was brought in from another location, and it was discovered that the limestone formation 12 inches below the surface actually could be reused after being unearthed from the excavations for building foundations. This stone, when removed and crushed into smaller aggregates, was used for site grading operations and as one ingredient of the “concrete dressing” (the term used by Ruhlen at the time) used as road infill and surfacing.⁸⁰

Ruhlen did feel that it was preferable to keep foundation excavation to a minimum, because removal of the rock could only occur at great labor and cost. The red sandstone and Mount Franklin limestone used for building materials were quarried from various exterior locations and hauled in. Soil to be used as “top dressing” (also termed by Ruhlen) over graded areas and soil to be used for the planting of vegetation would have to be brought in from another part of the reservation, because the existing topsoil was inappropriate due to its sandy composition.⁸¹

Ruhlen’s observations were corroborated by a visiting representative of the U. S. Quartermaster Department in December 1892. In the representative’s report of progress, the need for trees and grasses on the post was reiterated, as well as the difficulties to be faced as they are planted:

“From my own personal experience in Texas, I will state that it will be impossible to grow the ordinary grass in the sandy surface soil of the Mesa, and this soil only being about a foot in thickness, it will be practically impossible for trees to thrive in this thin earth cover. At Fort Clark, in Texas, it has been found necessary to adopt the means suggested, that is to dig large holes through the rock crust to the sand underneath, fill these holes with soil from the northeastern corner of the reservation, and set the trees in

⁷⁹Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, Dec. 4, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

⁸⁰Ibid.

⁸¹Ibid.

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the soil so prepared. As to the grass, it will doubtless be necessary to use Bermuda. This grass is peculiarly adapted for growth in such sandy places, and has been successful at Fort Bliss (old Post).”⁸²

In addition to his comments on tree planting and grading, the representative of the Quartermaster’s Department expressed satisfaction with all other phases of landscape-related work to this point. The water system and wells, sewer system, drainage work and the southern road as described previously all were in a satisfactory state of construction. The representative closed his report by paying tribute to the work done by Ruhlen, stating “he exacts from the contractors everything the specifications and exigencies of the occasion call for, and protects the interests of the Government at every point. He commences work early and stays up late, and by persistent application and well-directed effort endeavors in every way possible to properly interpret and intelligently carry out the instructions of superior authority.”⁸³

Construction continued through 1893, focusing primarily on the critical landscape-related infrastructure required for the new post. One of the first landscape elements to appear that was not critical but truly indicative of military culture and an ever-present feature at frontier forts was the flag pole. A 100' iron flag staff was installed, 150' directly in front of the mess hall, later Post Headquarters (current Building 21).⁸⁴ Photographs from this period indicate that a bandstand was also constructed in this central location. This is the first appearance of site furnishings situated on the parade. The combination of these two features acted as the focal point of the cantonment through World War II.

Civilian laborers from El Paso and elsewhere cleared brush off the first 35 acres of the parade ground in 1893. Troops were initially solely responsible for clearing brush, but funds were soon obtained to hire additional civilian workers. As buildings were completed, the workers also established a permanent grade for water runoff and placement of vegetation. Ruhlen was adamant about the continued preparation of ground for this purpose, and one of his last memos contained a recommendation for the additional expenditure of \$350 so that the required number of laborers could be employed to complete the task.⁸⁵

The culmination of Captain Ruhlen’s plans occurred in 1894 when a large number of trees were acquired and planted at the Post. This is the first documentation of exact species and numbers of trees. Three hundred chinaberry trees, of an unspecified larger number, did not survive the winter, and 750 cottonwood trees were brought in as replacements “for planting around the parade and public buildings.” Ruhlen stated that the trees could “be purchased in the immediate neighborhood” and that it was necessary

⁸²Memo, unidentified Capt. (name was illegible on letter) and Assistant Quartermaster to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, Dec. 15, 1892. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 146, File 13414.

⁸³Ibid.

⁸⁴Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, April 12, 1893 and March 5, 1894. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 451, File 41571.

⁸⁵Memo, Capt. Ruhlen to Quartermaster’s Department, U.S. Army, Aug. 9, 1893. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 145A, File 13414.

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that they be replanted in soil of the same character.⁸⁶ This trend of losing and replacing trees by the hundreds continued for the next ten years, as the learning process that Ruhlen had spoken of previously continued. Species of trees listed for use during this time, successfully or not, included cottonwood, chinaberry, eucalyptus, poplar, cedar, chestnut, and mulberry.⁸⁷ No mention or plan has been discovered that specifies the exact location of these trees as they were planted. Photographs generally indicate a line along both sides of the parade, and additional placement among the Officers' Quarters.

The first attempts at seeding lawns around the Officers' Quarters also occurred in 1894. A Colonel from the Army Headquarters in San Antonio, after visiting the post, requested the purchase and installation of grass seed, stating that "there is no grass whatever about the Post...it is dust and dirt in every direction, and in dry weather, to any depth, and in wet weather mud. The Post looks shabby without it. It is essential, not only to military decency, but to a partial feature of completeness, which the Post lacks everywhere."⁸⁸ Bermuda grass was the first type to be employed, and eventually a mixture more suited to the harsh climate was used (the specific mixture was never divulged).

One of the last articles of correspondence by Captain Ruhlen was written on March 28, 1894. In this article, entitled "Summary Narrative of Construction at Fort Bliss", Ruhlen briefly reviewed the origins of the post, contracts made for construction, and the funding limit for the completion of the post--\$300,000. He closes the document by stating that "except the hospital, the entire work under contracts made in June and October 1892 was practically completed in September and October 1893."⁸⁹

Summary of Ruhlen's Post Plan

Ruhlen's site plan for the Post was successful at several levels. It bore a striking resemblance to the U.S. War Department's unofficial 1860 plan for a garrison of four companies (same as Fort Bliss) with Officers' Quarters along one side "facing a parade ground open at both ends and varying in breadth at different posts, according to the ground and other circumstances...all other buildings on the other side from the Officers' line..."⁹⁰ Ruhlen no doubt was aware of this early attempt by the Army to standardize the layout and construction of Army posts, and also followed the later trend of post consolidation and permanence, expressed in the use of durable building materials and the construction of long-lasting wells, sewers and roads. Leaving the north and south ends of the parade open anticipated future growth.

⁸⁶Various memos between Capt. Ruhlen, Fort Bliss personnel, and Quartermaster's Department and Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, 1894-1904. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 729, File 63692.

⁸⁷Ibid.

⁸⁸Memo, Fort Bliss Colonel (name was illegible) to Quartermaster's Department, U.S. Army, Feb. 20, 1894. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 760, File 66198.

⁸⁹Ruhlen, "Summary Narrative of Construction of New Fort Bliss."

⁹⁰U.S. War Department, "Regulations Concerning Barracks and Quarters for the Army of the United States," (Washington, D.C.: George Bowman, Printer, 1861) in National Historic Context for DoD Installations, Volume I, R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Aug. 1995.

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Ruhlen was also successful in his response to the environment and the climate, at least in the orientation of officer quarters. Easterly prevailing winds would cool the fronts of the houses and the back of the building would absorb the hot afternoon sun. His continued insistence on preparing the ground for future planting of trees and grasses indicates he was well aware of the need for vegetation. Use of vegetation would help alleviate the intensity of the sun through overhead shade and reduce blowing dust and erosion through a well-sodded ground plane. Ruhlen's planning intentions set the stage for a post landscape that would accommodate critical utilitarian features needed in this climate as well as aesthetic elements that could afford a somewhat less oppressive setting and provide the sense of "military decency" spoken of previously by the visiting Colonel. Between 1891 and 1894, Ruhlen planned a garrison that was as responsive as possible to an unforgiving desert environment.

Although no landscape construction projects were undertaken during the Spanish-American War, the planting of trees continued. Usually, each report justified the planting of trees in response to the death of a large number the previous year. It was a continuous battle to find the proper varieties and keep them alive from one year to the next. It is interesting to note that of all the types listed, including poplar, cedar, chinaberry, and chestnut, it does not appear that anyone considered using the local varieties that were native to the region. Most soldiers and their wives, having been transferred to the fort from more eastern locations, had very deep-rooted convictions about surrounding themselves with the vegetation they were familiar with. Unfortunately, many hundreds of trees perished because of those convictions.

During this time the parade ground was bisected by a new road. A bandstand and flagpole were placed at the mid-point of road and parade (Figure 7). Much of the landscape-related documentation from the early 1900s focused on the need for an increase in all types of vegetation. Several specific comments reveal the impetus behind this. A request to enclose the entire reservation with barbed-wire fencing in 1904 was lodged to "prevent grazing, and to encourage the growth of native and other grasses, and relieve the arid conditions existing at this post."⁹¹ The post quartermaster considered cultivation of garden tracts necessary to relieve "the desert conditions of the post and reservation grounds," and to relieve "the surroundings from areas of dust storms and heat radiation."⁹² Planting of vegetation would reduce the harshness of the climate both visually and functionally.

⁹¹Fort Bliss Quartermaster Documentation, Dec. 20, 1904. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 4188, File 197440.

⁹²Fort Bliss Quartermaster Documentation, Feb. 23, 1905. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, Document Files, 1800 - 1914, Record Group 92, Box 4188, File 197440.

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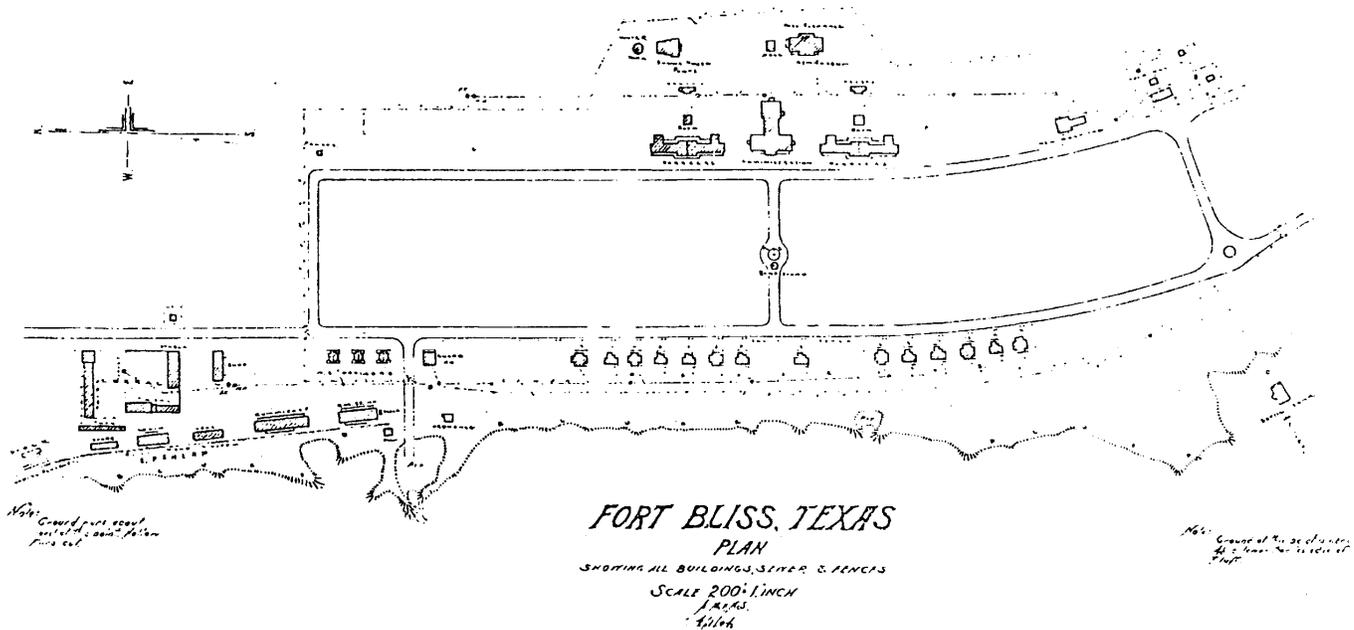


Figure 7: 1904 Map of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

Although it is difficult to pinpoint the placement of trees from historic maps (Figure 8), they certainly played a role in the spatial definition of the parade field and the post. Those that were planted along the road that surrounded the parade, as indicated on the 1909 map, created a very definite vertical edge. The road created a definable ground plane edge, and the buildings fronting the parade, although not filled in on the east and west sides until 1914, were the final spatial determinant to the post. As a final enclosure, the fence that had been requested in 1904 is indicated on the 1909 map as surrounding the entire post.

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Fort Bliss and the Mexican Revolution

In response to the unrest across the border in Mexico, the War Department authorized funds in 1913 to expand Fort Bliss from a battalion-sized infantry post to a larger regimental cavalry post. Instead of focusing on landscape improvements to the post as had been the case previously, the War Department strictly intended this money to be used for the construction of additional accommodations in anticipation of an increase in troops to fulfill the new mission. The layout of the post had not changed substantially up until this time, but as Fort Bliss geared up for a military response to the problems across the border and the subsequent Punitive Expedition, a period of rapid (albeit temporary) expansion was imminent. Between 1914 and 1916, new construction at the post included a hospital, post exchange, post telephone exchange, barracks, and officer's bungalows. These buildings were positioned within the original configuration of post facilities (Figure 9). By infilling the line of officers quarters along the west side of the parade with bungalows and erecting additional barracks along the east side, the cantonment was completely defined on two sides by the massing of the building facades. The size and orientation of the parade field remained unchanged, including the beginning of a distinctive curve to the southeast that followed the topographic landform. Both ends of the parade remained open as originally planned, but a stronger sense of enclosure was established. Temporary barracks and kitchens built on the northeast corner of the post in 1914, and cavalry stables and associated structures running parallel to the parade field to the east, were the first clusters of buildings set apart from the original configuration.

Construction of facilities at Fort Bliss during the time of U.S. - Mexican hostilities (1914 - 1916) could not keep up with the continuous influx of troops. Fort Bliss served as the major staging area and main support base for the Punitive Expedition. In addition to being home for approximately 40,000 troops of the Regular Army, over 100,000 men of the National Guard came to Fort Bliss to strengthen border defense and free the Regular Army for operations in Mexico.⁹³ The amount of land necessary to fulfill the new mission increased. The rapidity of land acquisition and subsequent development into mobilization camps is graphically represented in an aerial photograph taken in 1916 (Figure 10). Comparing this to the map from 1914, it is evident that there was an explosion of growth at the Fort within two years.

Prior to the Punitive Expedition, the War Department considered Fort Bliss an important component of a series of posts along the Mexican border. Fort Sam Houston, located in San Antonio, was considered the institutional center of these posts due to its role as the Headquarters of the Southern Department of the Army. By 1916, Fort Bliss had become the "preeminent military installation on the

⁹³Harris and Sadler, 73.

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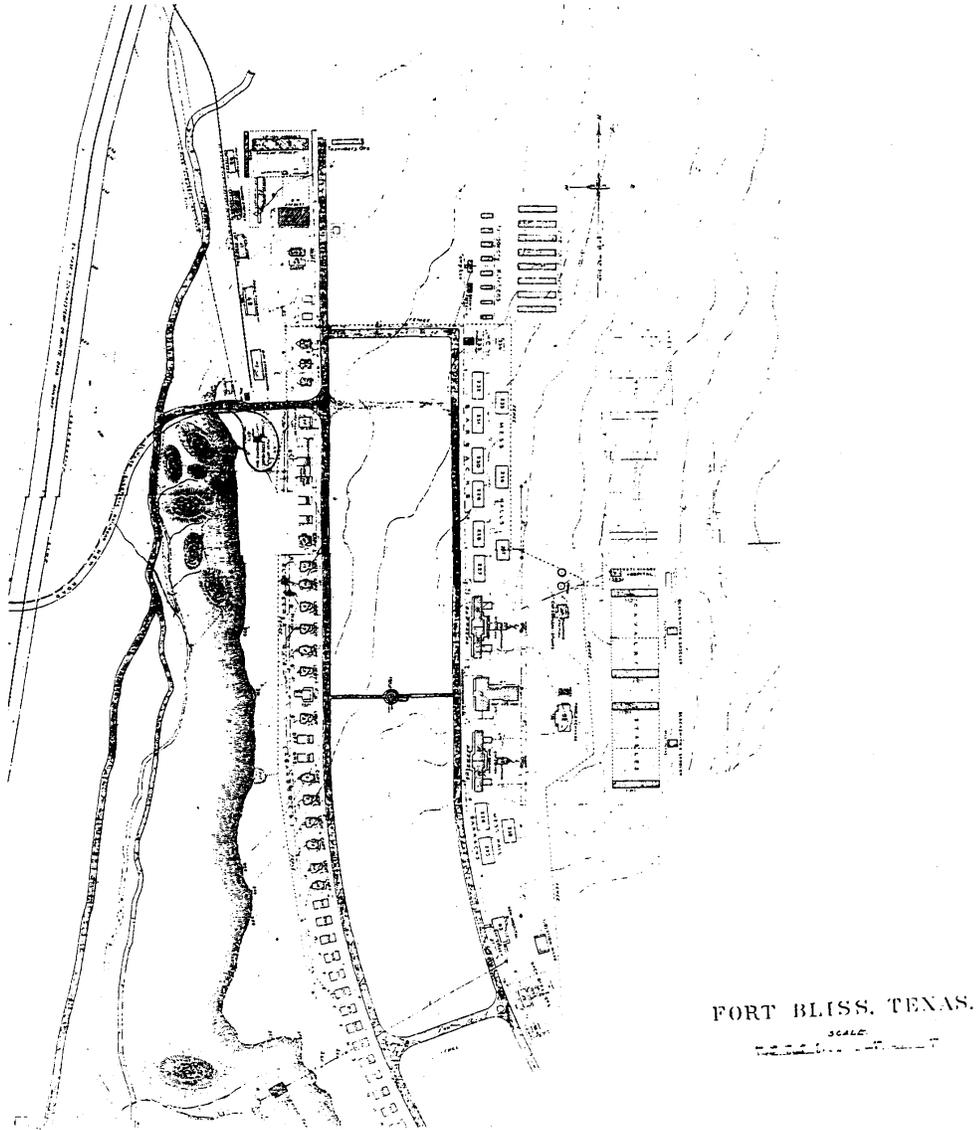


Figure 9: 1914 Map of Fort Bliss
(Courtesy of National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

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Figure 10: 1916 Aerial Photo of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Special Collections, Library of University of Texas at El Paso)

Mexican border.”⁹⁴ This was due to its strategic location and the logistical and communications requirements of Pershing’s campaign.⁹⁵ Fort Sam Houston’s infrastructure had a significant impact on the growth of Fort Bliss throughout this time, as the construction of many mission-related military facilities duplicated those already existing at Sam Houston. This included an auxiliary remount depot, a radio station, a vehicle-repair facility and the expansion of the post hospital and the quartermaster, signal, and medical supply depots.⁹⁶

The addition of many facilities and structures in and around the original post configuration was significant as a response to the Punitive Expedition, but it did not dramatically affect the layout of the post proper. Although the original post configuration remained intact throughout the 1910s, the areas immediately surrounding the post took on an entirely new look. To accommodate the huge influx of

⁹⁴Harris and Sadler, 65.

⁹⁵Ibid.

⁹⁶Harris and Sadler, 66.

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National Guardsmen, several satellite camps were quickly erected in areas that had once been open desert. Vast stretches of tent encampments appeared almost overnight.

The planning and construction of the National Guard camps predated the emergency construction program that arose due to the United States entry into WWI. To plan and supervise the construction of WWI mobilization camps around the country, the Quartermaster Department in Washington formed a Committee on Emergency Construction. The goal was to create plans that would be guided by a hypothetical ideal layout, and could be applied to any particular situation in the landscape. This committee was composed of civilian architects, landscape architects, engineers and construction experts, many very prestigious. Their plans stressed uniformity, order, and economy, with an expectation of flexibility to fit any particular site.⁹⁷

A committee of local civilian officials and Army officers selected and planned the camps required for the National Guardsmen around Fort Bliss in 1916, similar to and predating the WWI emergency construction program. This committee surveyed potential sites on the outskirts of the Fort Bliss cantonment and initially chose three locations. The committee eventually selected a fourth site to accommodate a second wave of Guardsmen scheduled to arrive. No maps have been found that detail the layout of these camps, but the 1916 aerial photo of Camp Pershing and other mobilization encampments indicates a very orderly and formal patterning of tents, temporary buildings, sanitary facilities, and roads. This was essentially the type of arrangement employed by the Committee on Emergency Construction during the mobilization effort of WWI for both Regular Army and National Guard camps.

The structured, orderly arrangement of military camps can be dated back as far as the Roman Legion. The concept merely has been reused and reinterpreted based on changing needs and situations over time. The fact that the planning of the mobilization camps of WWI was similar to the planning of camps at Fort Bliss, laid out a year prior to the national effort, is not that surprising. General hypothetical concepts for encampment or garrison layouts are essentially simplistic and have been used repeatedly. More specifically relevant to future development at Bliss is that subsequent post development occurred along many of the lines established during the period of the National Guard mobilization.

Expansion of the Cantonment after the Mexican Revolution

After the threat from Mexico subsided in early 1917 and the military refocused its attention on the affairs in Europe, Fort Bliss faced a period of relative stagnation in comparison to the major growth it had just experienced. The War Department was planning to locate a divisional training center at Fort Bliss, to be situated in areas recently vacated by the National Guard camps. This center would have brought in a large number of troops. Due to the influence of Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, the center was ultimately situated at another location, and Fort Bliss subsequently experienced a reduction in troop strength and a temporary halt to post development.⁹⁸

⁹⁷Cannan, et al., 199; David William Rhyne, Army Posts in American Culture: A Historical Geography of Army Posts in the United States, Master's thesis, Pennsylvania State University, 1979, 218-219.

⁹⁸Harris and Sadler, 96.

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Two camps erected during the Mexican Revolution, Camp Stewart and Camp Owen Bierne, remained in use during the WWI, and several new camps were built in the areas recently vacated. The intent from the beginning was that these camps, like those during the Mexican Revolution, would be temporary and dismantled after the War. This may have contributed to the fact that no plans have been discovered that would shed some light on their layout. A memo from the El Paso District Headquarters to the Commanding General of the Southern Department pointed out that salvageable materials from previous National Guard camps had been used to construct the WWI camps, and the Headquarters suggested that the same material be used for new construction after the war. However, the memo concluded by stating that none of the Mexican Revolution or WWI temporary buildings were worth saving.⁹⁹

A 1919 installation map reveals that many temporary buildings were in fact saved and used after the war (Figure 11). Nine buildings constructed along the road that, until this point, had acted as the northern edge of the parade, remained after the war and continued to be used as non-commissioned officers quarters. These buildings were most likely constructed in 1916 as part of the response to the Mexican Revolution; they can be seen in the aerial photo from 1916 and the map drawn that year (refer to Figure 10). From this time on, buildings would be used to create a permanent definition to the northern edge of the parade, halting the possibility of its expansion in that direction.

The 1919 map indicates many other temporary buildings scattered throughout the area north of the parade and the spur of the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad. However, it was evident that troops stationed at the post in 1919 were in dire need of additional permanent facilities. After the War Department appropriated funds for new construction in 1919, the area north of the spur became the home of the 82nd Field Artillery and the 8th Engineers. The placement of buildings for these cantonments followed the previous east-west line of temporary buildings, and were situated in the orderly, repetitive pattern indicative of earlier WWI cantonment plans. The smaller enclosed area immediately north of the parade remained a mixture of older temporary and new construction, lacking the order of the northern cantonments.¹⁰⁰

A grouping of tents or related temporary structures to the southeast of the main cantonment is discernible in the 1916 aerial photo. These buildings were removed and replaced with the construction of the Seventh Cavalry cantonment between 1919 and 1921, brought about by additional demands for facilities and subsequent War Department appropriations. Following the rigid, formal placement of the temporary structures, this group of buildings was positioned at a discordant angle to the more fluid lines of the parade field, as evidenced in a 1921 post map (Figure 12). As the non-commissioned officer housing had terminated the northern edge of the parade, the installation of the Seventh Cavalry buildings appeared to effectively terminate the southern end, in a somewhat abrupt manner. Essentially, the entire landscape pattern of the Seventh Cavalry cantonment also followed the precedent of WWI mobilization

⁹⁹Jamieson, 30.

¹⁰⁰Jamieson, 38.

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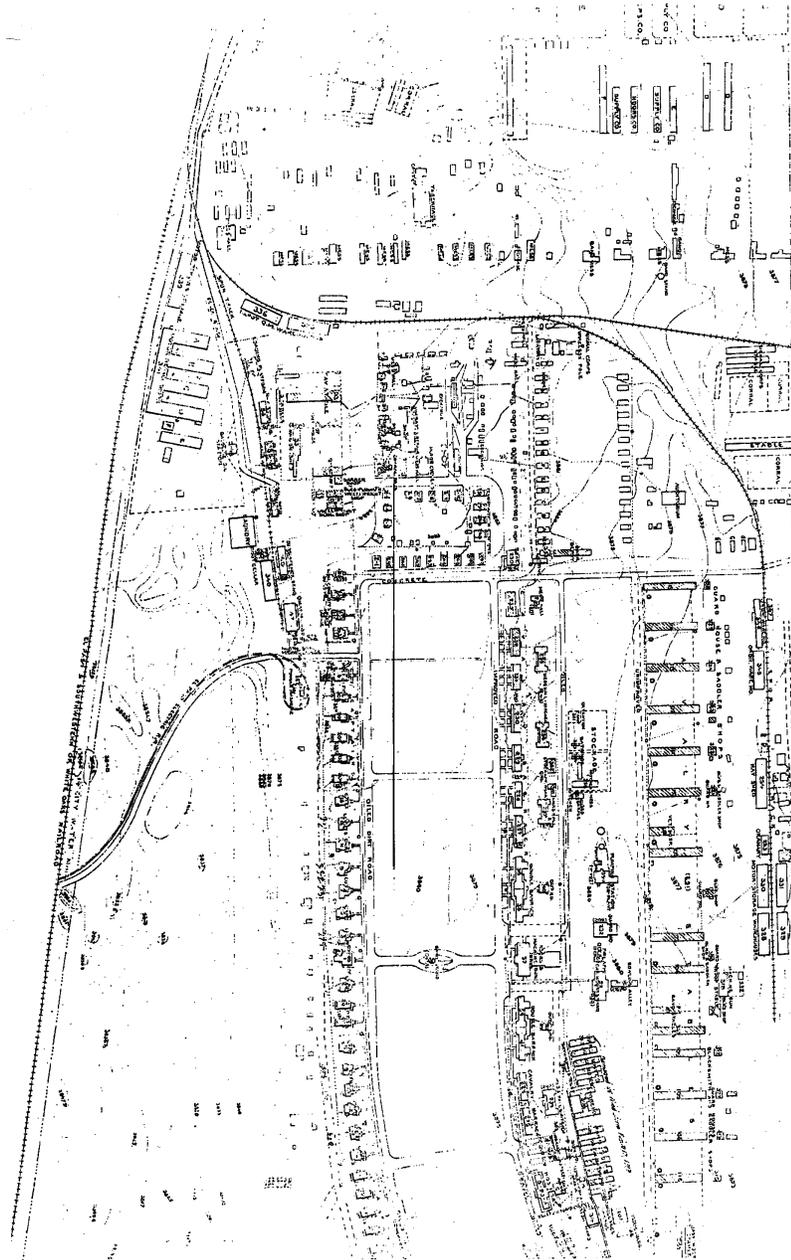


Figure 11: 1919 Map of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

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camps, where efficiency and order were paramount. This layout ignored the graceful design intent of Captain Ruhlen. The construction of the Seventh Cavalry, 82nd Artillery, and 8th Engineers cantonments as separate, unrelated entities was at least partially due to the lack of a comprehensive post-wide plan.

In addition to the installation of these cantonments to the north and south of the original post, other features played a critical role in subsequent post development. The convergence of several railroads in El Paso had been a key determinant in the initial siting of Fort Bliss. Railroad spurs that led into the installation would prove to be increasingly important with regard to the evolving configuration of the post.

Since the earliest days of the post, spurs of the El Paso Suburban Railway Co., the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad, and the El Paso Electric Railroad terminated at the northwestern corner of the post where a road leading from El Paso led into the post. This convergence of transportation routes established the northwest portion of the post as a key drop off point for both people and goods. By the late 1910s, a second spur of the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad split off the first, headed east along the northern edge of the post and curved south, servicing sheds and warehouses related to the Eighth Cavalry. A third spur branched off the second and ran further east, in the direction of the Texas School of Mines, which lay outside the post's boundaries (refer to Figure 11).

Post development followed the appearance of each railroad spur. Storehouses and coal sheds had been constructed along the first spur, Eighth Cavalry facilities along the second, and temporary structures and a forage yard along either side of the third. By 1921, yet another spur branched off the second and split into three tracks. In response to an increased demand for storage space, the Army constructed twenty-four warehouses along these tracks. These "zone warehouses," as they were called, were laid out in a rigid four-by-six grid, and each building was exactly the same dimension, 80 by 200 feet.¹⁰¹ The grouping of these warehouses created a unique landscape sub-area, defined by concrete and asphalt surfaces, railway spurs, and the mass of the warehouses.

Thus, by the early 1920s, the entire post had acquired a new pattern of development following a relatively short, intense period of growth. The construction of NCO housing, cantonments for the 82nd Field Artillery and the 8th Engineers, the construction of the zone warehouses, and the Seventh Cavalry cantonment established new patterns of post development to the north, to the east at a distinct right angle to the original post, and to the southeast. These new areas were all arranged in a more rigid, linear manner in contrast to the curved layout of the original parade ground. Although a discernible form had taken shape for the core cantonment area, it was apparent that the subsequent growth had occurred piecemeal, and no overall plan was being followed. After Ruhlen's establishment of a template for a post plan that exhibited a defining sense of unity, hierarchy, and organization, additional development occurred haphazardly.

¹⁰¹Jamieson, 39.

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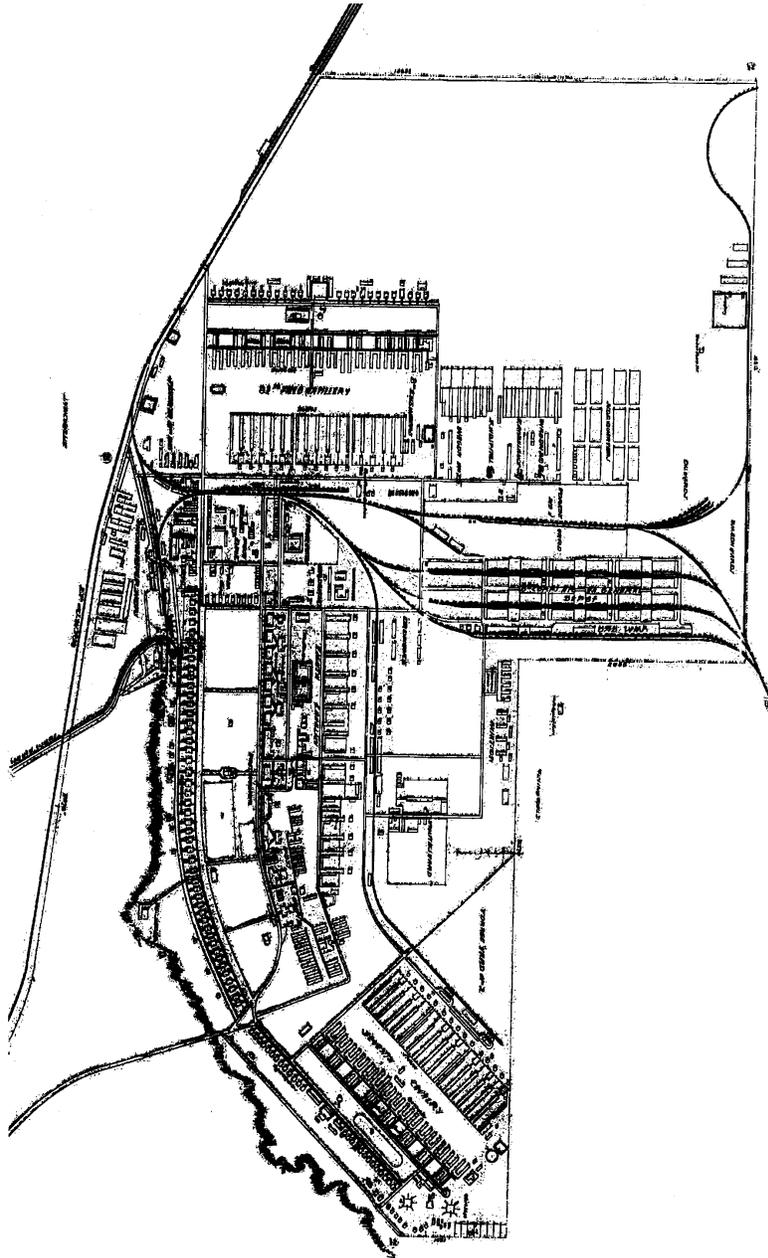


Figure 12: 1921 Map of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

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The Gaujot Board and the Establishment of a Comprehensive Plan

The rapid expansion during the Mexican Revolution had placed a severe strain on the approximately 1200 original acres of the post. In 1919 a report was filed by Major General J.T. Dickman of the Southern Department that brought to light the issue of overcrowding on the post. Dickman stated that "so many buildings, storehouses, hangars, etc. have been erected on the military reservation of Fort Bliss, that it is now overcrowded; the only space for drill is about 200 acres in the northern part which is used by the 82nd Field Artillery. There is no drill ground for the brigade of Cavalry, nor is there any space available for an aviation field," even though there were at the time 40 airplanes at Bliss.¹⁰² Six years later, Congress appropriated \$366,000 to purchase extra land, and by 1926 approximately 4,579 acres had been acquired. Biggs Field and Castner Range were two needed expansions that resulted from this acquisition. The William Beaumont General Hospital, another addition spatially separated from the post proper, had been completed in 1922.¹⁰³ This land acquisition and development did nothing to ease the congested situation in the main cantonment and the need for additional housing.

This problem led to the formation of a board of Fort Bliss officers, who studied the situation and presented several key suggestions pertaining to long-range growth. This board was named the Gaujot board after Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Gaujot, who served as its president. The board released its preliminary findings in 1926 and a final report in 1928.

The board stated that the post had "grown piecemeal, so that there exists several distinct areas having little or no relation to each other when considered from the planning point of view."¹⁰⁴ The board proposed that future growth and expansion follow a more defined, compact arrangement along the lines of development previously established by Captain Ruhlen. Although fairly specific with regard to location, types, and priority of new construction, the board admitted that "details of exact locations for new construction must be of necessity left to detailed projects to be submitted at a later date as required."¹⁰⁵

The board presented their findings in 1928, one year after Congress first appropriated funds for an Army housing program aimed at adding permanent quarters at installations nationwide. This national Army building program set in motion a wave of design and planning philosophies that had a profound impact on installations. To oversee this program, the Army assembled an interdisciplinary team consisting of noted architects, landscape architects, city planners, and engineers, a group similar in composition to the team assembled for the WWI mobilization effort. They would work with and advise the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps, who oversaw all aspects of the program. Because both military and civilian professionals were involved, traditional military planning concepts were interwoven with recently conceived city planning tenets popular after the turn of the century through the

¹⁰²Memo, Commanding General, Southern Department, to The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington D.C., Nov. 28, 1919. National Archives, Adjutant General's Office, 1917-. Record Group 407, Box 1159, Folder 601.1; Jamieson, 42.

¹⁰³Jamieson, 42; Harris and Sadler, 107.

¹⁰⁴Memo, "Housing Situation at Fort Bliss: Policy of Development," Office of the Division Commander, Fort Bliss to The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington D.C., April 6, 1928. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, General Correspondence, Record Group 92, Box 193, Folder 600.1.

¹⁰⁵Ibid.

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1930s, often referred to as the “City Beautiful” movement. Specifically, these tenets included the increased use of open spaces in subdivision layouts, lessened reliance on straight, grid-like streets, increased reliance on topography as a design determinant, and an overall focus on creating aesthetically pleasing environments, particularly in residential areas.¹⁰⁶

It is unknown how much direct influence the findings of this national team had on the Gaujot board. The thrust of the plan, what they termed “governing principles,” were primarily general guidelines that expounded upon the framework already in place. Specifically, these included the removal and relocation of the temporary NCO quarters so that the parade could be extended to the north, the extension of the original line of Officers’ Quarters to the south/southeast along the already established curve of the parade, future eastward expansion of the south cantonment area to accommodate any additional Cavalry troops, and the establishment of a recreational area in the low-lying depression west of the cantonment.¹⁰⁷

The Gaujot board plan departed from Ruhlen’s design with regard to the post’s relationship to the burgeoning city of El Paso. Ruhlen’s plan followed the standard fort layout where buildings faced the parade, creating an inward-oriented military community. The only physical connection to the city was by road and rail. The Gaujot board, perhaps as a response to city planning principles infiltrating the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps, completely reinterpreted the city-post relationship. The board felt that the low-lying ground immediately west of the post needed to be developed into a sort of “front yard,” because of its position between the city and the post. To establish the greenscape that would give the impression of a front yard, the board recommended that this area be converted into a recreation area, which by necessity would entail the planting of lawn grass. Additionally, the board proposed an additional line of officers quarters behind (west of) the original southernmost line of quarters. The front of these quarters would overlook El Paso, “thus giving them practically the same advantages as to location as the houses of Austin Terrace, the most desirable residential district in the city”.¹⁰⁸ This planned arrangement created a visual link with the city for the first time. Although park-like qualities of the parade were inaccessible to these quarters, they would still reap suburban amenities found in nearby civilian housing.

A plan of the post drawn by the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General in 1933 incorporated the board’s policy of development and interpreted their findings into an ideal planning scenario. This layout plan provided more specific details as earlier predicted by the board (Figure 13). By eliminating much of the “clutter,” (i.e., temporary buildings left over from mobilization for the Punitive Expedition and WWI), a better defined, more unified layout resulted. Although a majority of the board’s intentions were carried out, certain aspects were not. For instance, the parade was

¹⁰⁶Cannan, et al., 207; Rhyne, 236-237.

¹⁰⁷Memo, “Housing Situation at Fort Bliss: Policy of Development.”

¹⁰⁸Ibid.

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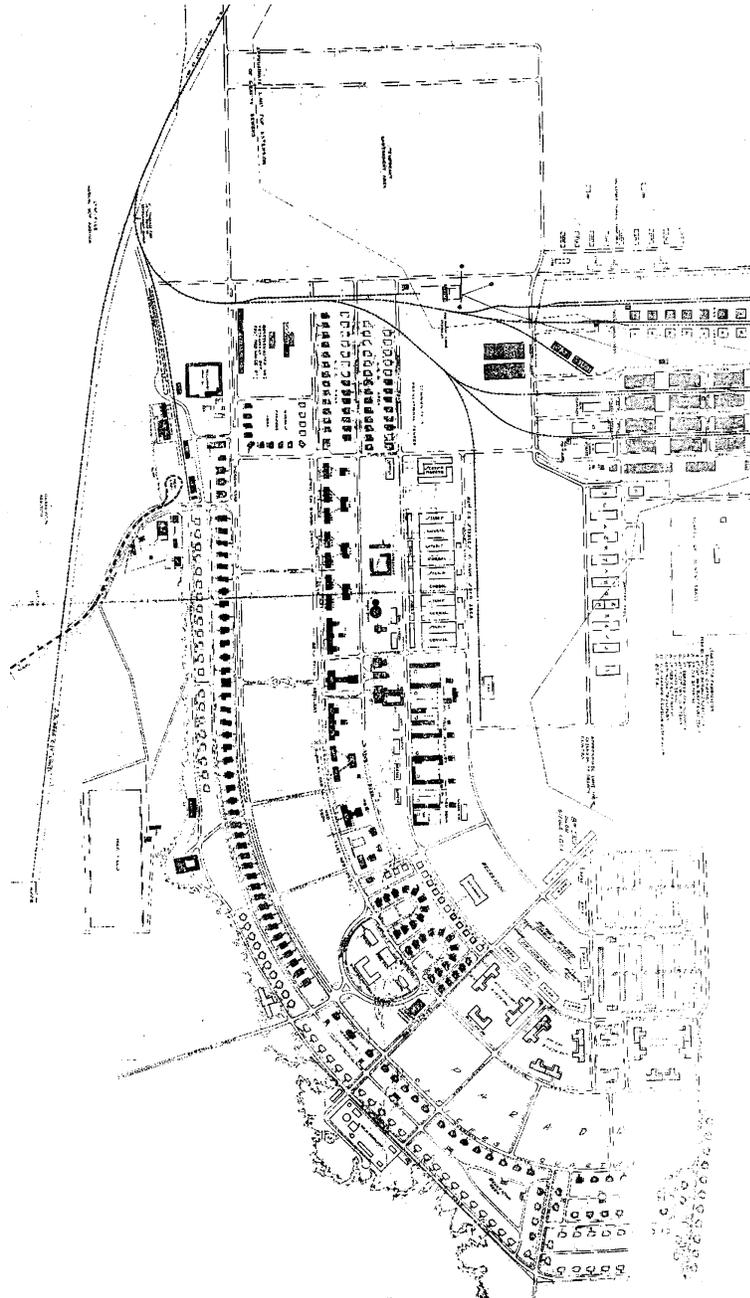


Figure 13: 1933 Layout Plan of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

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not extended to the north as the board had proposed; rather, the post quartermaster constructed permanent warrant (non-commissioned) officers quarters in the same block that once held the temporary quarters, and the northern edge as defined as early as 1916 was kept intact. These quarters, labeled "Warrant Officers Area" on the 1933 plan, were constructed between 1933 and 1939 as funding became available. The plan did present a scheme where the parade was extended further to the south and southeast along the natural landform as intended by Captain Ruhlen 40 years earlier.

The 1933 plan indicated that the Seventh Cavalry structures, situated at such a harsh angle in relation to the gentle curve of the parade, would be removed. New, permanent Cavalry barracks and stables would be constructed along the southeast line of the post extension, along the continuation of Pershing Road. The removal of the old structures would allow for the reinstatement of the full body of the parade along the south/southeast extension, balancing the original northern portion in size and form. The central "hub" of the entire parade was to be an ellipse, with a theater, post exchange, chapel, and division headquarters located within. The southern road that connected the post to El Paso (an extension of Pershing Road) would intersect this ellipse and thus replace the northwest corner as the primary entrance to the post.

The area enclosed by the main cantonment, the north cantonment (82nd Artillery and 8th Engineers), and the zone warehouses, referred to as the "no-man's land" in the board's report, was to be razed and reconstructed as additional NCO housing as well as quartermaster, veterinary, and ordinance facilities. The zone warehouse area to the east would remain unchanged, except that the southernmost railroad spur would be removed. The north cantonment was to be entirely removed and converted to a temporary cantonment area.

A 1940 map of Fort Bliss reveals that, for the most part, the intentions of the Gaujot board and the ensuing 1933 Construction Division plan were realized (Figure 14). The overall proposed form of the post was fulfilled due to the placement of new buildings as intended. One glaring difference between the intent and the result was the decision to leave several of the Seventh Cavalry buildings standing in the path of the parade field. It is not known why this decision was made. It can only be assumed that the need for additional buildings was greater than the need for the continuation of an open parade. Thus, although the lines of the parade were extended as planned, the space was disrupted by the decision to leave these structures standing.

The thrust of the Gaujot board's plan had focused on the layout of additional housing, and it was indeed the additional housing areas that primarily defined the extended layout of the parade. The new officer housing along the west side of the parade spatially defined that side of the parade and, by facing inward, retained the military tradition of officers quarters facing a park-like parade. Other new housing, situated at the southernmost corner, did not all face the parade, but its positioning was the beginning of a cluster that was typical of suburban subdivisions. This area would ultimately extend further to the south. The board's intent to situate an entire line of housing to the west of the completed line was not realized until 1961, and did face out over the city, as they had envisioned.

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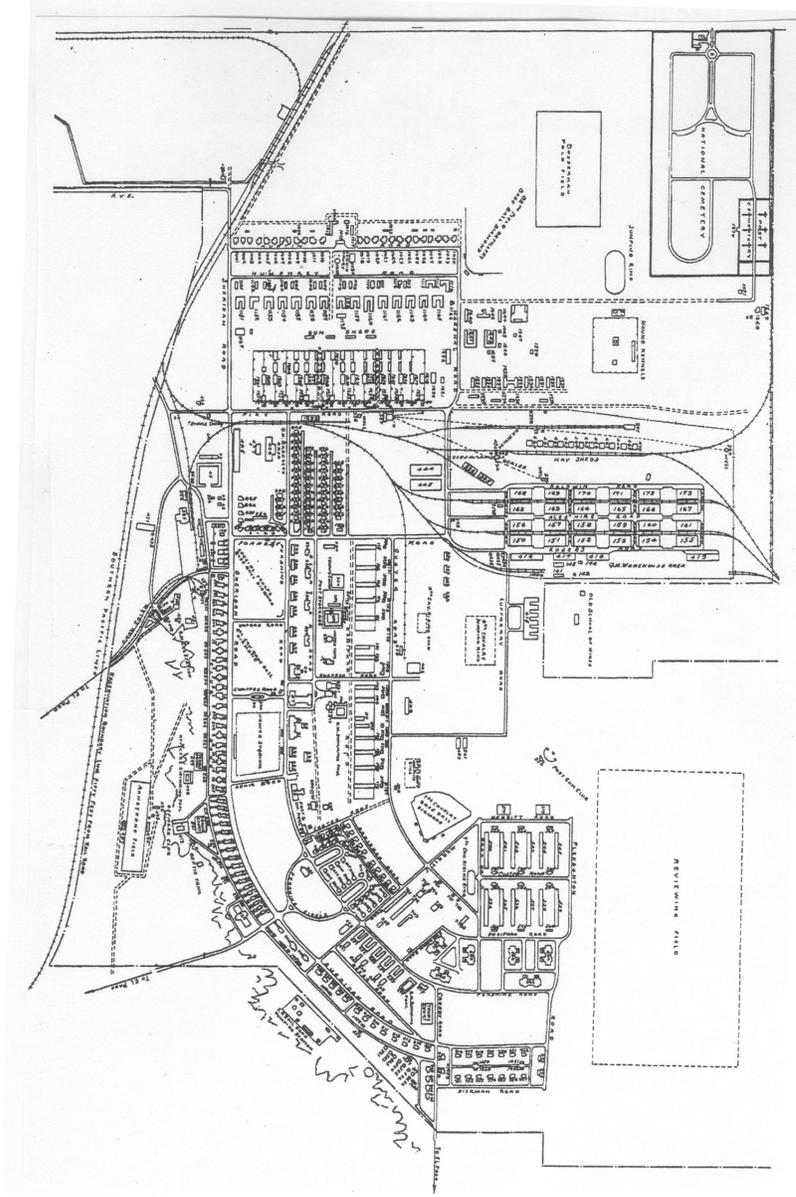


Figure 14: 1940 Map of Fort Bliss

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

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The final placement of housing constructed at Fort Bliss in the 1930s was very straightforward and continued the tradition of separation of rank. Officer housing was confined to the west side of the parade, following the original line and culminating in the new cluster at the southernmost end. Non-commissioned and warrant officer housing was clustered to the north and northeast edge of the parade, and east of the Pershing Circle ellipse. Enlisted men's barracks lined the upper east side of the parade and culminated in the three-building groupings at the southern end.

The layout of the NCO housing and enlisted barracks embraced aspects of 1930s city planning principles. Horseshoe-shaped building clusters, forming a partially enclosed green space, was a standard feature in subdivisions across the country and was eventually employed on installations during the Army building program. This design feature produced several beneficial effects: it reduced and slowed traffic; it created a central space which could be landscaped and where children could play and easily be observed by parents; and it saved space by clustering quarters rather than spreading them out along a line. The clustering of new enlisted Cavalry barracks in groups of three also created a central area in between the buildings.

The 1940 map indicates that other improvements unrelated to the Gaujot comprehensive plan were carried out. In conjunction with the 1930s construction of additional housing, existing roads were repaired and new roads were installed. This work was funded through the Public Works Administration (PWA) after an inventory of the condition of roads was completed by the post constructing quartermaster in 1933. This inventory was more efficiently executed as all roads had been named by that point. Road names first appear on a 1927 map, but with the increased post construction and subsequent need for additional roads, it became more critical to name existing and new roads.

According to the inventory, most of the major roads at that point were concrete and outlying roads were unpaved. The inventory described the condition of each road and provided recommendations for repair work. Curbing of the roads had commenced by the time this inventory was completed. It was suggested that repairs to roads, if needed, should be done with a bituminous topping over the existing concrete base.¹⁰⁹ A follow-up Construction Completion Report covering PWA-funded work in 1933 and 1934 thoroughly documents the construction and repair of roads. The report reviewed the resurfacing, widening, and patching of existing roads and installation of several additional roads.¹¹⁰

In 1933, authorization of Civil Works Administration (CWA) landscaping projects around the post (which were not specific as to plant material used or location of planting, typical of previous documentation) made possible a renewed emphasis on post beautification.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁹Memo, Constructing Quartermaster, Fort Bliss, to The Quartermaster General, Washington D.C., November 2, 1933. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, General Correspondence, Record Group 92, Box 198, Entry 1891, Folder 611.

¹¹⁰Construction Completion Report, 1933-1934. National Archives, Office of the Chief of Engineers, (1917-1943), Record Group 77, Box 41, Entry 391, volume 3a.

¹¹¹Memo, Quartermaster, Fort Bliss, to the Commanding General, Fort Bliss, December 20, 1933 and January 29, 1934. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, General Correspondence, Record Group 92, Box 199, Entry 1891, Folder 618.32.

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By 1939, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) had replaced the Public Works Administration (PWA) as the main source of revenue for post landscaping projects. This money covered an assortment of repair, rehabilitation and improvement work, all under the auspices of the post quartermaster. A 1939 WPA Completion Report lists typical landscaping projects as: the beautification of grounds, including grading, seeding, planting and drainage; improvement of the irrigation (sprinkler systems) and drainage on the parade grounds; repair of roads, which at this time still ranged from dirt to bituminous asphalt and concrete; and the rehabilitation of fences.¹¹²

The national Army building program that began in 1927 spawned many aspects of construction and post planning, including an increased emphasis on recreational facilities. Fort Bliss responded to this new aspect of installation planning by providing many recreational facilities for the troops. A portion of the parade field had been designated as an equestrian field as early as 1921. This area, named Howze Stadium after Brig. Gen. Robert L. Howze, is outlined on a map from that year as a large rectangular area southwest of the post headquarters, enclosed by Pershing, Chaffee, Sheridan and Adair Roads (refer to Figure 12). A photograph taken around 1927 shows that the Stadium was actively being used independently of the larger parade field (Figure 15). The Stadium was gradually improved and completed by the mid-1930s.

The original intention of the Gaujot board was that the low-lying area west of the cantonment would include a polo field, boxing stadium, football and baseball fields, children's playground and other assorted facilities. The Army named the field Armstrong Field in 1931 or 1932 after First Lieutenant Eugene V. Armstrong, a soldier killed while playing polo some years earlier.¹¹³

When the 1933 Quartermaster plan was released, recreational facilities were fully integrated into its scheme of the post landscape. The plan called for the inclusion of many recreational areas throughout the post, including Howze Stadium and Armstrong Field. The 1940 post map reveals what was actually constructed. Although no information has been found as to who was responsible, most likely the construction was carried out under the auspices of the Quartermaster Corps, who supervised other construction activities. The area near the northeastern NCO quarters was left open; a baseball diamond for the Seventh Cavalry and a "troops jumping ring" were constructed northeast of Pershing Circle; and several unidentified structures took the place of the recreation area behind the officer's housing. The map indicates the addition of many recreational facilities at other locations throughout the post. A second polo

¹¹²Final Narrative and Completion Report, July 20, 1939. National Archives, Office of the Chief of Engineers, (1917-1943), Record Group 77, Box 42, Book 4.

¹¹³Ibid.; Memo, the Office of the Division Commander, Fort Bliss, to The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington D.C., April 6, 1928. National Archives, Office of the Quartermaster General, General Correspondence, Record Group 92, Box 193, Folder 600.1.

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Figure 15: Howze Field, 1927

(Courtesy of Directorate of Environment, Conservation Division, Fort Bliss)

field was situated in a remote northeast corner of the post. This field was named Bosserman Field after Lieutenant Raymond Bosserman, who had died during a polo match.¹¹⁴ A baseball diamond for the 82nd Cavalry and another equestrian jumping ring were located near the polo field. Both a jumping ring and a riding ring were located east of the Eighth Cavalry structures. Tennis courts and two swimming pools had been constructed at several locations throughout the post (refer to Figure 14).

¹¹⁴Historical brief, Public Information Office, no author, no date. Vertical files, Fort Bliss Museum.

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On the parade, north of Howze Stadium, two more baseball diamonds were constructed, for Special Troops and the 8th Cavalry. At this point, there was very little space remaining on the parade for troop drill and review, its original purpose. There was a segment between Adair Road and Pershing Circle that remained open, but it was the southernmost segment that was ultimately used for drill and review. This area was named after yet another lieutenant, Paul Noel, who died in the midst of a polo match. Noel Field was graded and seeded in 1934 and used extensively by the late 1930s.¹¹⁵

Landscape Changes from World War II to the Present Day

During World War II the mission of Fort Bliss changed from that of Cavalry-led border defense to training for air defense artillery. As during other times of national crisis, small-scale landscape-related projects became less of a priority than the more pressing mission-related concerns. The installation's change of mission created a shift in landscape development away from the historic main cantonment to areas north, east, and south. The building programs of the 1930s had left the parade field totally enclosed except for the area across from the Seventh Cavalry buildings, the area between the Seventh Cavalry barracks, and at the east terminus of Pleasonton Road. The space across from the First Cavalry buildings was occupied by WWII temporary buildings, but any additional construction had to take place away from the main cantonment.

After World War II and to the present day, changes and additions to the main cantonment landscape have occurred sporadically and in many ways have resembled the piecemeal pattern so prevalent prior to the Gaujot board's plan. Landscape impacts have primarily been limited to added monuments and memorials, occasional beautification projects, and ongoing repair and maintenance.

In the larger national context regarding installation landscapes, demobilization after WWII led to an emphasis on providing housing for returning soldiers and an increase in administrative and service areas surrounding the original main post. Many structures erected hastily during WWII were retained for use in conjunction with the multiple-family housing built through the 1950s and 1960s. With the end of conscription in the early 1970s, it was suddenly necessary to provide more compelling environments for an all volunteer Army. Many of the WWII structures were demolished to make room for updated facilities and open spaces, and posts gradually took on an appearance similar to that of an average middle class American community. Distinct functional areas appeared for administration, services, housing, recreation, and open spaces. In addition to this shift towards typical community life, posts became more open and accessible, and it had also become more important to provide a visually pleasing experience to both residents and visitors.¹¹⁶

The changes that have occurred to Fort Bliss since WWII have generally fit this pattern. Modern housing areas and additional service, training, and administrative areas have all proliferated around the main cantonment. With El Paso residential and commercial establishments bordering the southern edge, the main cantonment was essentially engulfed with new development, both military and civilian. A

¹¹⁵Ibid.

¹¹⁶Rhyne, 270-279.

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freeway was constructed along the western edge of the reservation in 1965 and effectively supplanted the railway as the definitive western boundary. Amidst this onslaught of activity, the landscape of the main cantonment has essentially remained intact, representative of the original Ruhlen design and subsequent Gaujot Board master plan. Although the landscape has retained features from those significant periods, it has also become necessary to replace outdated man-made features as well as diseased or deceased vegetation. It has also become a staging ground for memorialization of military people and events from the past.

This trend began in 1948 when, as part of the centennial celebration, Memorial Circle was constructed within Pershing Circle, the elliptical area first depicted in the 1933 plan. This monument is composed of a large flagpole with a concrete base and imbedded bronze markers, and surrounding landscaping. Also in 1948, the Fort Bliss Replica and Museum was constructed east of Pleasonton Road, just beyond the eastern terminus of the historic cantonment.

As the historic record proves, there has been an ongoing effort at the post to improve the aesthetic experience via the use of vegetation since the earliest days of landscape development. As stated initially by Captain Ruhlen, plants that are appropriate for this region would gradually be learned. This learning process continues today.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 339

UTM References

13	363741	3520926	13	364892	3519783
1. Zone	Easting	Northing	6. Zone	Easting	Northing
13	364550	3520921	13	365094	3519221
2. Zone	Easting	Northing	7. Zone	Easting	Northing
13	365246	3520551	13	364815	3518851
3. Zone	Easting	Northing	8. Zone	Easting	Northing
13	364259	3520551	13	364430	3518910
4. Zone	Easting	Northing	9. Zone	Easting	Northing
13	364646	3519519	13	363796	3519698
5. Zone	Easting	Northing	10. Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the accompanying map entitled "Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District" and on the U.S.G.S. topographic map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated historic district contains the historic core of Fort Bliss, and is largely centered on the curving sweep of the parade ground. Along the northern edge, the boundary dips south along Sheridan Road to Lawrence Street, where new construction has made inroads. The boundary extends to the east encompassing the warehouse district associated with the railroad lines which entered the installation in the northwest corner. Moving to the south, the boundary line is placed to demark the visual barriers between the historic district and new construction as well as large areas emptied by demolition. At the southern edge of the district, the boundary line swings back north around the Depression Era stables and barracks which are surrounded by newer construction. The Fort Bliss Replica Museum forms the easternmost terminus of the parade ground and is also surrounded by open land and newer construction. Continuing to the west and north, the boundary divides construction during the period of significance from that of later periods. The boundary line extends westward to encompass the Pershing Gate, then continues northward. Along the western edge of the district, the boundary line coincides with a steep hillside dropping off toward the highway farther west.

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Section Photo Page 1 Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, El Paso County, TX

All 8 x 10 Black and White Photographs are of:

Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District
El Paso
El Paso County, Texas
Photographer: Sheila Ellsworth,

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: Cantonment; view looking southeast
PHOTO: 1 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 200 Area - Cantonment; view looking northwest
PHOTO: 2 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 0-99 Area - Cantonment; view looking northeast
PHOTO: 3 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 500 Area - Cantonment; view looking northwest
PHOTO: 4 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 400 Area with 500 Area in Background - Cantonment; view looking east
PHOTO: 5 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 500 Area; view looking northwest
PHOTO: 6 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 500 Area; view looking east
PHOTO: 7 of 26

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Section Photo Page 2 Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, El Paso County, TX

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: East elevation of Building 515; view looking north

PHOTO: 8 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: Northeast elevation of Building 452; view looking southwest

PHOTO: 9 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: Sheridan Road streetscape, view looking west

PHOTO: 10 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: Sheridan Road streetscape, view looking northwest

PHOTO: 11 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: 600 Area - Stables; view looking northwest

PHOTO: 12 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: East and south elevation of Stable - Building 622; view looking west

PHOTO: 13 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: East elevation of Stable - Building 622; view looking northwest

PHOTO: 14 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: 300 Area - NCO Quarters; view looking northeast

PHOTO: 15 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: Northwest elevation of NCO Quarters - Building 326; view looking southeast

PHOTO: 16 of 26

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Section Photo Page 3 Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, El Paso County, TX

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: General view of 1100 Area - Warehouses, east elevations of Buildings 1101 and 1107;
view looking northeast

PHOTO: 17 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: 1100 Area - Warehouses; view looking east
PHOTO: 18 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: South elevation of Building 1101; view looking northwest
PHOTO: 19 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: South and west elevations of Building 1102; view looking northeast
PHOTO: 20 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: West elevation of Building 1; view looking northeast
PHOTO: 21 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: Streetscape with east elevation of Building 226; view looking west
PHOTO: 22 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: Streetscape with east elevation of Buildings 201 and 202; view looking northwest
PHOTO: 23 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: East elevation of Building 220; view looking west
PHOTO: 24 of 26

DATE: May 9, 1996
VIEW OF: West elevation of Building 21; view looking east
PHOTO: 25 of 26

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Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 4 Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, El Paso County, TX

Non Contributing

DATE: May 9, 1996

VIEW OF: North elevation of Building 2C; view looking southeast

PHOTO: 26 of 26

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Section Map Page 1 Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District, El Paso County, TX

Maps included in Nomination package for:

Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District
El Paso
El Paso County, Texas

Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District

USGS map showing Fort Bliss Main Post Historic District

Photograph Key for 8 x 10 Black and White photographs