

Fort Riley, Arnold Hall
(Building No. 27, Old Building No. 177)
Arnold Avenue
Fort Riley
Riley County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-R

HABS
KS-54-R

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HARS
KS-54-R

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FORT RILEY, ARNOLD HALL
(BUILDING NO. 27, OLD NO. 177)**

Location: Arnold Avenue, just east of intersection
with Sheridan Avenue
Fort Riley Military Reservation
Riley County, Kansas

Note that Arnold Hall is actually in
Geary County, however, Riley County has
been used as the "official county" to
keep documentation together for Fort
Riley.

Date of Construction,
Alterations: 1908-1909 (Completed March, 1909); Repairs and
Alterations, 1930

Present Owner: United States Army

Present Use: Bachelor Officer's Quarters

Significance: Arnold Hall was built during the major
construction period at Fort Riley between 1880
and 1910. In its building materials, structural
engineering, and layout, Arnold Hall was highly
representative of residential quarters on the
Army post. It and other buildings of the period
contributed to the development of standardized
Army housing. Arnold Hall was named for Abraham
Arnold, a late Nineteenth Century post com-
mander, hero of the Civil War, and first presi-
dent of the United States Cavalry Association.

Historian and Date: Dennis M. Shockley
October, 1990

A. EARLY HISTORY OF FORT RILEY

In order to understand the historical significance of Arnold Hall, it is important to understand the development of Fort Riley as a frontier outpost, training center for the cavalry, and the location of major military housing construction. Arnold Hall shares a small part of the rich history which surrounds Fort Riley and the role this post played in the military framework of our nation's heritage.

Fort Riley is located in the eastern third of Kansas, approximately 135 miles west of Kansas City and 130 miles north-northeast of Wichita in the Flint Hills Uplands, which constitute a portion of the Central Lowlands region of North America.

In 1803, the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France, doubling the size of the United States. During the next fifty years, expeditions explored the newly acquired areas, trade and transportation routes were established, and new settlers migrated west displacing the native American populations. Territories which later became states were organized, such as Missouri in 1821 and Kansas-Nebraska in 1854. The westward movement was facilitated by the construction of military forts throughout the West, which were built to protect the overland trails and deter hostile Indians. The Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails and their ancillary routes were the major highways of westward expansion across Kansas in the Nineteenth Century.

Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River was established in 1827, but by 1840 it was too far from many Indian and wagon train troubles to respond immediately. Therefore, other forts were established, including Fort Scott, Camp Center (Fort Riley), and others.

Fort Riley's original site plan was created in 1852, when the Secretary of War, Charles M. Conrad, instructed General U.S. Clarke, the commanding general of the Department of the West, to locate the new post at the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers, where they join to form the Kaw or Kansas River. The Kansas, navigable by small steam vessels at that time, permitted provisions and equipment to be transported to the new fort. At this strategic location, Fort Riley could protect the Santa Fe Trail to the south, the Oregon Trail to the north, and the Smoky Hill Trail. The post was originally named Camp Center because the officers who picked the location, mistakenly believed it to be the exact center of the United States.¹

In 1853, Congress appropriated \$65,000 to begin construction of Camp Center and work began that summer under the command of Brevet Major E.A. Ogden. The establishment of the new post was further affected in June, 1853, by the death of Major General Bennett Riley, who had served with distinction as an Indian fighter and as a commander in the Mexican

War. Riley was also the leader of the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail. On June 27, 1853, the Secretary of War ordered the new military installation to be named in Riley's honor. Two years later in 1855, construction commenced on a permanent cavalry post at Fort Riley. Major Ogden died in an epidemic of cholera that year, however, the construction continued. The first permanent buildings were three sets of officer's quarters, one of which was later occupied by General George Armstrong Custer, when he served as post commander from 1866 to 1867. The first Kansas Territorial Capitol was also built nearby during this time at the short-lived town of Pawnee.²

In January, 1861, Kansas entered the Union as a free state. By April of that year, the nation had begun the Civil War. Building activity at Fort Riley came to a virtual standstill during the war. Troops stationed at the fort at the outbreak of war hailed from all over the country, and thus had divided loyalties. Some like Philip St. George Cooke remained in the Union Army and became a Civil War General, while others, including J.E.B. Stuart, enlisted with the Confederates. The regular army was transferred to the war fronts in the east, leaving Fort Riley manned with volunteer infantry and cavalry troops for the remainder of the war. In 1866, immediately after the war, two major events converged at the fort: the railroad reached Ogden; and, the Seventh Cavalry was organized under the command of Colonel Andrew Smith and Lieutenant Colonel George Custer. The Seventh Cavalry was stationed at Fort Riley to protect the railroad and settlers from the Indians. The Seventh Cavalry engaged in many famous battles, including Washita, the Little Big Horn, and Wounded Knee, and played a major role in the Great Indian Wars facing such famous Indian chiefs as Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Gall, and Black Kettle.³

With the passage of the Homestead Act during the Civil War, Congress further encouraged settlement in the West. In 1860, Kansas had a population of about 100,000. By 1880 it had grown to nearly one million. In 1884, General Philip Sheridan recommended Fort Riley as a headquarters for the United States Cavalry. The following year funding allowed for expansion and repair of the fort. In August of that year, Fort Riley was visited by Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles, commanding officer of the Department of the Missouri, and Major James Gillis, chief quartermaster of the Department. They pledged to make Fort Riley "a full regimental post", chose the locations of two new barracks and an officer's quarters, and authorized repairs on many existing buildings. The following month, September, 1885, Captain George E. Pond was assigned to Fort Riley as the post quartermaster. He would have a major impact on construction at the fort.⁴

Captain Pond was an 1872 graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 40 years until he retired in 1907. Following his graduation from West Point, he served with the Eighth Cavalry until he

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was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps in 1883. He won rapid recognition in the Washington, D.C. headquarters for his efficient execution of Army projects. On his arrival at Fort Riley in 1885 as post quartermaster, his duties included all phases of procurement and the construction of the new post. In 1887, Congress authorized creation of the School of Application for Cavalry and Artillery at Fort Riley and appropriated \$200,000 to complete quarters, barracks, and stables already begun, and to erect additional buildings. Pond's duties became so arduous as a result, that in June, 1887, he was relieved from his post quartermaster duties and allowed to devote all his time to the work of construction. Between 1885 and 1891, Pond's plans expanded Fort Riley by abandoning the original post plan of 1855, enlarging the cavalry parade grounds, and locating the new artillery post northeast of the original post. Pond's construction plans were conscious design efforts, employing landscape principles of the period and involving specialists in the fields of civil engineering, architecture, and landscape design.⁵

The purpose of Pond's 1887-1888 plans for Fort Riley was to create separate, but proximate cavalry and artillery posts. In order to preserve the separate identities of the two types of posts, Pond had to take into consideration the differences in cavalry and artillery training, operations, and regimental organization. The plans took advantage of the site topography. There are a few photographs from the Pennell Collection in the Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, which show building relationships between 1895 and 1900. Along the peripheries of both posts, Pond employed planning precepts in the tradition of Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of the American landscape architecture profession. To carry out the ambitious construction program, Pond hired specialists to concentrate on specific areas of the plans. For topographical surveys and the preparation of plans for roads, streets, and sewers, Pond hired W.H. Stair, a civil engineer. Pond supervised the expenditure of \$850,000 in construction in his six years at Fort Riley. He built five stables, six barracks, twenty-two officer's quarters, the cavalry administration building, the guard house, dispensary, mess hall, drill hall, and hospital in the cavalry post. In the artillery post, he had erected five stables, two gun sheds, two barracks, the artillery administration building, and five officer's quarters. In addition, he constructed a water works system for both posts with five miles of main lines and a 500,000 gallon reservoir, a sanitary sewer system, and a huge central steam heating plant. After Pond's departure, the Army completed his 1887-1888 plans with a "high degree of fidelity". In the mid-1890s, 1903, and 1909, expansions of the Cavalry and Artillery School resulted in the construction of additional buildings which were in general accord with Pond's plan. Thus, these additions provided infill around Pond's previously established post.⁶

B. ABRAHAM ARNOLD

Arnold Hall was named for Abraham Kerns Arnold, who served as post commander at Fort Riley from May 1, 1895 until March 31, 1898. Colonel Arnold was with the First Cavalry and became commander at Fort Riley when his troops were transferred from Fort Grant, Arizona. Arnold was born in Bedford, Pennsylvania on March 24, 1837. He served with George Custer in the Fifth Cavalry during the Civil War.⁷

Arnold graduated from West Point in 1859. He was commissioned as a full Second Lieutenant in 1860 in the Second Cavalry, and transferred to the Fifth Cavalry in 1861, becoming a First Lieutenant by the eve of the Civil War. He attained the rank of Captain in 1862. Arnold was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for action he participated in while serving in the Fifth Cavalry during the Civil War. It was during Sheridan's raid to the James River, May 9-24, 1864, where the Fifth Cavalry saw action at the Davenport Bridge on the North Anna River. Captain Arnold earned the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry on May 10 in a "charge against a superior force of the enemy", where he "extracted his command from a perilous position in which it had been ordered." He also saw action in many other battles of the war including Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and the Appomattox Campaign to name just a few.⁸

Arnold later transferred to the Sixth Cavalry, where he became a major in 1869. He also served in the First and in the Eighth Cavalry, where he achieved the rank of Colonel. He transferred back to the First Cavalry in 1891. He left active service in 1898, retiring as post commander at Fort Riley. Arnold then served in the U.S. Army volunteers, accepting in May 1898, the "highest brevet rank beyond lineal commission", that of Brigadier General. He retired from the volunteers on March 25, 1901. Arnold endeared himself to his fellow cavalry officers by serving as the first president of the United States Cavalry Association. He died at Cold-Spring-on-Hudson, New York, on November 23, 1901.⁹

C. ARNOLD HALL

The training facilities that Pond designed for the cavalry were opened officially in 1893, and became the theater in which Fort Riley would become known as the "Cradle of the Cavalry". The first large scale maneuvers in the United States were held there in 1902. In 1907, the War Department changed the designation of the Cavalry and Light Artillery School to the Mounted Service School. The name change was made on the recommendation of Brigadier General Edward S. Godfrey, post commander. The curriculum was devoted primarily to subjects directly relating to the horse. The report of the commandant for 1908 stated that "student officers each averaged 892 hours in the saddle, and many

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owning private mounts greatly exceeded these figures." An officer garrisoned at Fort Riley that year described his housing quarters as containing "a dressing room, kitchen, and a lounging room, where refreshments were served. It is surrounded by the polo field, golf course, tennis courts, baseball grounds, steeple chase course, and the traps for shooting clay pigeons". This description seems similar to a country club setting for the officers.¹⁰

It was in 1908 that another round of construction began at the fort culminating the following year. The considerable construction completed in 1909-1910 included at least seventeen buildings of which one was the bachelor officer's quarters subsequently named Arnold Hall (old Building 177/presently 27). Lieutenant Elliot, Acting Quartermaster, authorized construction of the bachelor building in September, 1908. The post newspaper reported in October of that year, that:

every section of the garrison from the quartermaster's corral to the post hospital, and from the artillery post to the cavalry section, buildings are going up and others are undergoing alterations. Stables are being enlarged, officer's and non-commissioned officer's quarters of the single and double variety are fast assuming shape while the large bachelor officer's hall [Arnold Hall] in the cavalry post has reached the top story. This building will be by long odds, the largest dwelling in the post.

It was estimated that all the work under construction that month totaled over \$300,000 and employed about 260 men with a monthly payroll of \$3,000.¹¹

Work on Arnold Hall was held up temporarily in December due to a lack of skilled masons, but construction continued through the winter. In January, a Junction City newspaper reported:

The contractors who have work at Fort Riley and who have their plasterers and cement workers at work have to keep a corps of firemen at work nights keeping the buildings warm so that the plaster and cement will not freeze. The large new officer's quarters which is about completed, and which is one of the finest buildings at Fort Riley, has been plastered and the cement men are working on the basement floors. Ten large stoves have been put up in the building that is barely enclosed and all night a fireman is employed to keep the fires and keep the building warm.¹²

Arnold Hall was completed in March, 1909, at a total cost of \$76,897.20. It had a stone foundation, wood and concrete floors, stone exterior walls, and a slate roof. The basement measured 5200 square feet, with the total of the other three floors measuring 22,000 square

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feet. The main three-story section of the building was 34 feet by 174 feet, 7 inches. The four two-story wings each measured 25 feet, 4 inches by 45 feet. The height of the first floor above ground level was 6 feet, 2 inches (Quartermaster standardized plan No. 188). The building was thoroughly modern and included electric lighting, plumbing, and four individual steam heating plants, one for each of the four sections. There were twenty-four separate officer's apartments with six in each section. In the back wing of each section on the first floor was a kitchen, pantry, and dining room, which had a radiator with a built-in bunwarmer. The second floor of the four back wings afforded two apartments for a cook and a butler/manservant. These second-story rooms were later converted to four additional officer's quarters making a total of twenty-eight separate accommodations. The American Radiator Company supplied the four 1,100 square foot boilers and all of the radiators which heated the building. Major repairs and alterations were made to the building in 1930 totaling approximately, \$13,800.¹³

At the time Arnold Hall was constructed it also had on its facade a covered first and second-story and an uncovered third-story porch that gave it a quite attractive appearance from the street. It was equipped with individual mail slots, call bells, and speaking tubes. Also, at the time it was built, there was a fountain in "the little grass plot" just east of the Wounded Knee Monument. W.F. Pride commented that Arnold Hall "must have been a very 'swell' building" and, in fact, he lived there while writing his now famous history of Fort Riley. Arnold Hall is still utilized as a "bachelor" officer's quarters today.¹⁴

The late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century architecture of Fort Riley, including Arnold Hall, can best be described as "prairie vernacular". The most important element of the building's character is the limestone exterior. The limestone used in the construction of Arnold Hall and so many of the other buildings at the post was quarried locally. It is found in great abundance in the river bluffs that border the Junction City-Fort Riley area. Also, the lack of timber necessitated an alternative construction material. Limestone is a sedimentary rock, and because it is found in stratified form or layers, it is easily cut into blocks for construction. When quarried, limestone is soft and pliable; after it is exposed to the atmosphere over time, it hardens and makes an excellent building stone. The Fort Riley Military Reservation includes a number of limestone quarry sites from which the stone used in the construction of these buildings was removed. These sites are located along the bluffs of the Republican, Kansas, and Smoky Hill Rivers. Another advantage of limestone is that it is found close to the surface, and thus, easily quarried.¹⁵

Early limestone buildings at Fort Riley were made of hammered and hard-cut stone. By the 1880s, the rock-faced ashlar limestone commonly used in construction into the Twentieth Century at Fort Riley was the

rule. These rock-faced stones were left untouched from the quarry; leaving one side of the block in such a manner reduced cost. Not only was this stone cheaper to produce, but by the 1880s had become fashionable with the introduction of H.H. Richardson's Romanesque Revival style architecture. The form and texture, rock-faced treatment combined quite well with the smooth-faced decorative elements such as lintels and sills. The limestone residences built at Fort Riley after 1880 have rock-faced walls and most have contrasting smooth-faced lintels and sills. In the late Nineteenth Century the walls were approximately eighteen inches thick, which was necessary to accommodate the increased size of the load bearing masonry structures built during this period. By the beginning of the Twentieth Century, wall thickness had shrunk to six inches and the rock-faced ashlar limestone walls had a narrower course every other row as exhibited in Arnold Hall.¹⁶

Arnold Hall ranks as a Category III Building in accordance with U.S. Army Technical Manual 5-801-1, Section 4. Although Arnold Hall would normally be ranked as a Category II building because of its importance in understanding the historical development of the post, it was severely modified, probably in 1930, by the removal of the front porch, balcony, and staircases. Therefore, its exterior retains little historical integrity. However, its interior retains much of its original appearance and harmonizes with similar quarters built during this time period. These Category II structures illustrate the development of military architecture during the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century, particularly experimentation with standardized plans. The entire ensemble of buildings constructed during the period from 1886 to 1909 are "substantially intact to the original master plan for the installation as laid out by Captain George E. Pond in 1887 and forms a coherent architectural group."¹⁷

D. HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERS OF ARNOLD HALL

Exterior Characters

Coursed, rock-faced ashlar, locally quarried limestone foundations and walls, rows alternating, thick and thin courses, and a smooth watertable

Composition shingles (replacing original slate tiles)

Hipped roof and four secondary hipped roofs over the rear wings

Nine rock chimneys with concrete caps

Four main entrances with two sets of glass and wood paneled doors, and two sets of light transoms

Two-over-two light double-hung sash windows, with smooth stone lintels and sills (any original exterior shutters have been removed)

Eight projecting shed overhangs on the front four and rear four entrances built circa 1930

Eight stone piers on the front concrete porch

Straight concrete steps at the front and at the four rear entrances

Continuous rake and eave boxed cornice with protruding underhanging supports

Eight coal chute doors at the rear

Period stable building, detached and to the north

Interior Characters

Numerous decorative cast iron radiators in a variety of shapes and sizes, four of which contain built-in bunwarmers

Twenty-four fireplaces with wood mantels and in-laid tile

Four half-turn service staircases with simple newel and square balusters from the kitchen to the rear second floor

Multiple panel wood doors with some period hardware and some with transoms

Period built-in buffets in the four dining rooms and built-in cabinets in the four pantries

Period chimney clean-outs in the basement

Period claw-foot tubs and tile in the bathrooms

Some period lavatories, plumbing, and towel racks

Some original push button light switches

Plaster walls and ceilings with wood base and molding throughout

Hardwood floors

Straight-run staircases in front to the second and third floors

complete with open stringer and balustrade

E. CONCLUSION

Besides its place in national military history, an important historical aspect of Fort Riley is its role in the national development and evolution of Army planning and construction. The evolution of Fort Riley's housing plan is a reflection of the Army's public image in the 1880s to 1910s and its steps toward standardized building plans. Pond and his successors at Fort Riley may have played a significant role in that regard during this period. The development of military architecture generally reflects civilian housing practices, within bureaucratic and economic constraints. Since the first decade of the Twentieth Century, when Arnold Hall was built, military construction has become almost entirely standardized and strictly controlled at the national level. Fort Riley undoubtedly contributed to the development of Army standardized housing during the crucial 1880 to 1910 period and even beyond. And Fort Riley accurately reflects the development of military construction on the national level.

Arnold Hall illustrates the development of military architecture in the early Twentieth Century, particularly since it was a standardized plan. It is also a part of the congregation of buildings on the main post of Fort Riley which remain essentially faithful to Pond's original master plan of the late Nineteenth Century. Arnold Hall is certainly important in understanding the historical development of Fort Riley. It ranks as a Category III building in its historical importance only because of the alterations to its front in the 1930s. It also has some importance because W.F. Pride resided there in the 1920s when he authored the only book-length history of Fort Riley, which was published in 1926.

Arnold Hall is located on the Main Post of Fort Riley. The Main Post was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. HABS completed a detailed inventory of 17 historic buildings in 1985. Arnold Hall was not inventoried at that time.

The United States Army currently has plans to modernize the interior of Arnold Hall. This modernization will be conducted under the direction of the Directorate of Engineering and Housing at Fort Riley. Arnold Hall is the subject of a Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) between the Department of the Army and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations. The MOA is dated June 27, 1989. This HABS recordation and documentation is required by the MOA prior to modernization of the property. The State Historic Preservation Office declined to participate in the MOA.

ENDNOTES

1. Welcome To Fort Riley, a pamphlet, 3.
2. Ibid.
3. Robinson & Associates, Fort Riley: An Historic Overview, Vol. I, 12.
4. W.F. Pride, The History of Fort Riley (Ft. Riley, KS: Cavalry School, 1926), 189-90.
5. Ibid., 194-96; Junction City Daily Union, December 28, 1889.
6. Historic American Buildings Survey, Fort Riley Family Quarters Documentation Project, 1985, 5-7.
7. Register of the Army of the United States for 1901, 57.
8. Ibid.; Frederick H. Dyer, A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1959), 1691-92.
9. Dyer, 1691-92; Cavalry Journal, Vol. XIII (1902).
10. Fort Riley, Its Historic Past, a pamphlet, 7; Cavalry Journal, Vol. XIX (1908)
11. The Fort Riley Guidon, September 5 and October 10, 1908.
12. Ibid., December 5, 1908; Junction City Daily Union, January 2, 1909.
13. Real Property Ledger Books, U.S. Army, Arnold Hall.
14. Pride, 260.
15. Bulletin of the U.S. Geological Survey, No. 137.
16. HABS, 1985, 13.
17. U.S. Army, Historic Preservation(TM-5-801-1), 4-1.

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CONTACTS

Barbara Anderson, Kansas Office of Historic Preservation
(Meetings on July 11, August 1, 1990, and telephone contact)

Craig Grosser, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Riley
(Meeting on July 2, 1990)

Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Kansas Office of Historic Preservation
(Meeting on July 11, 1990)

Tom Matsala, U.S. Cavalry Museum and Library, Fort Riley
(Meetings on July 2, August 1, September 10 & 11, 1990, and
telephone contact)

Larry Ness, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Riley
(Meeting on July 2, 1990)

Pam Newman, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Riley
(Meetings on July 2, August 1, September 10 & 11, 1990)

Terry Van Meter, U. S. Cavalry Museum and Library, Fort Riley
(telephone contact)

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Geary County Historical Society. Junction City, KS

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Joseph Judd Pennell Collection, Spencer Library, Kansas Collection,
University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS

Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, Kansas Collection. Kansas City, KS

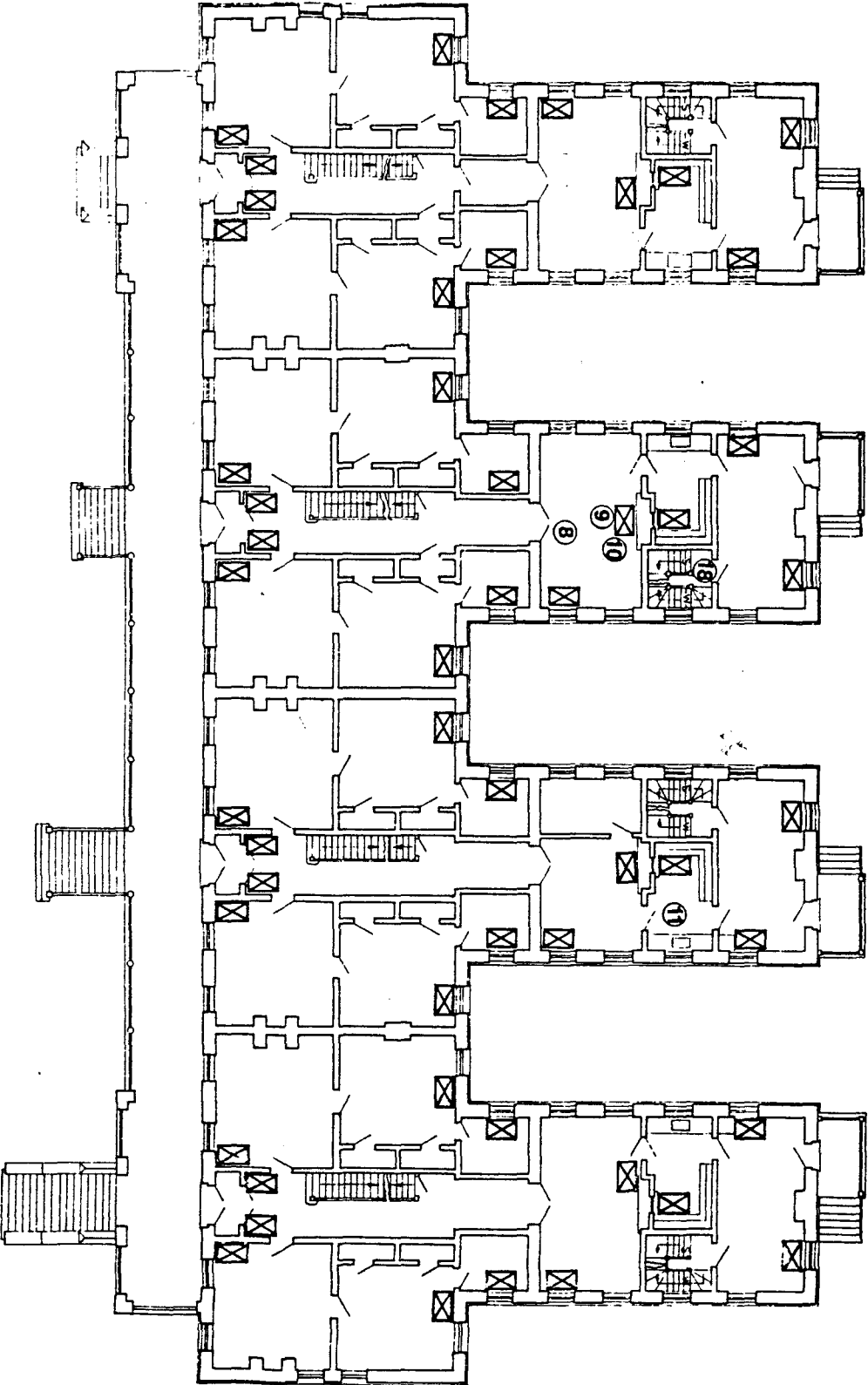
Kansas State Historical Library. Topeka, KS

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Topeka, KS

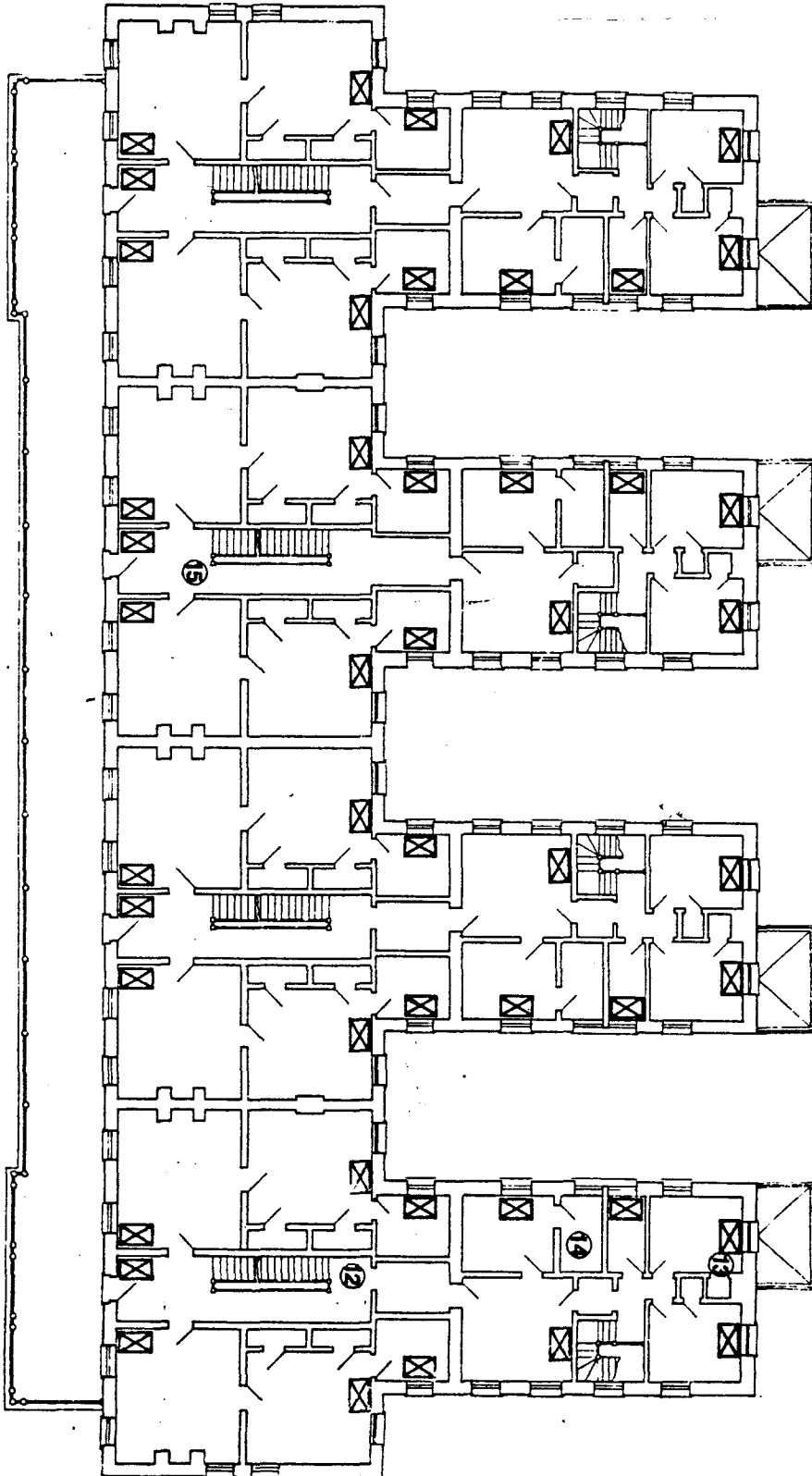
U.S. Cavalry Museum and Library. Fort Riley, KS

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INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS
FIRST FLOOR

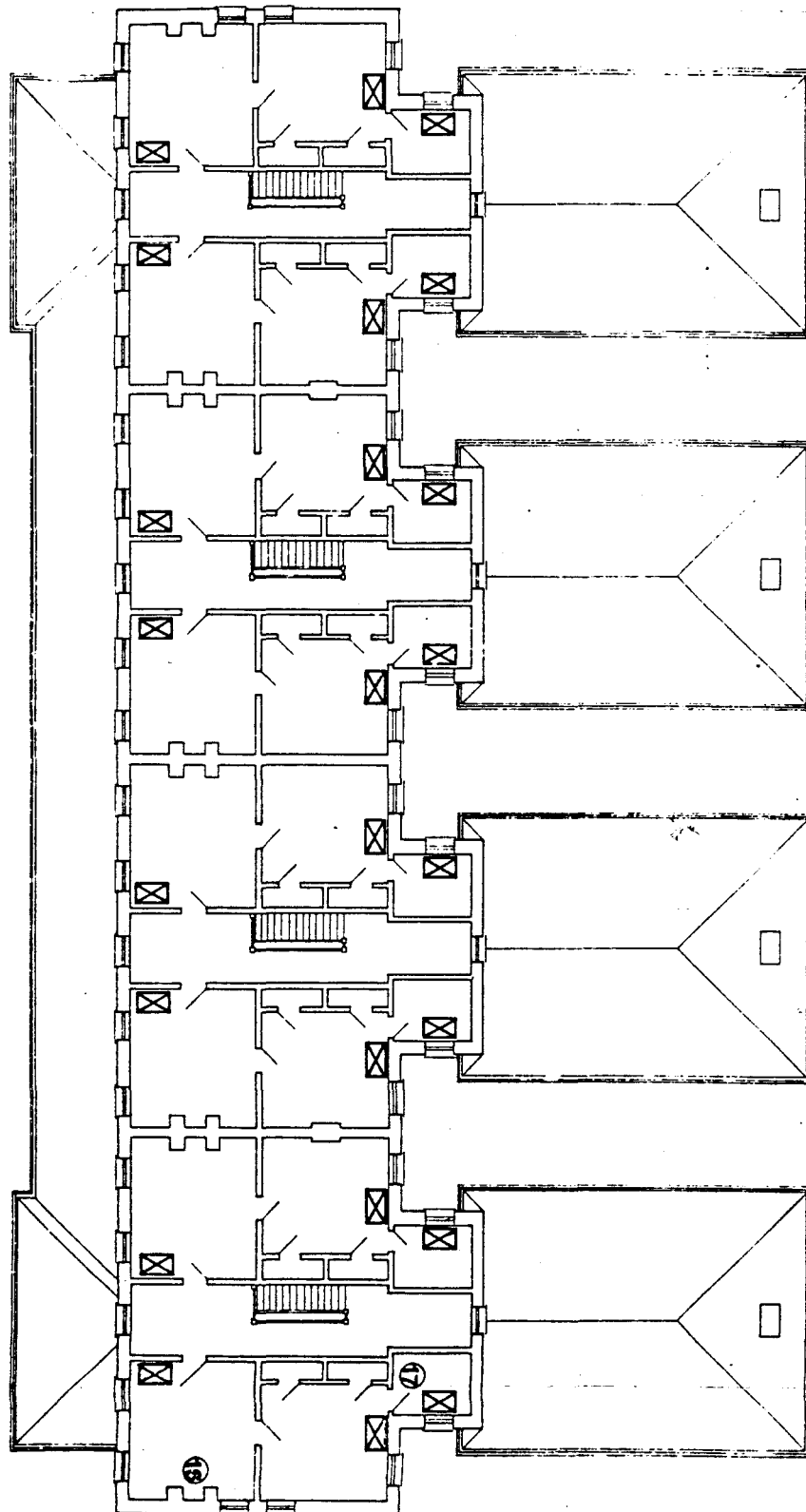


INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS
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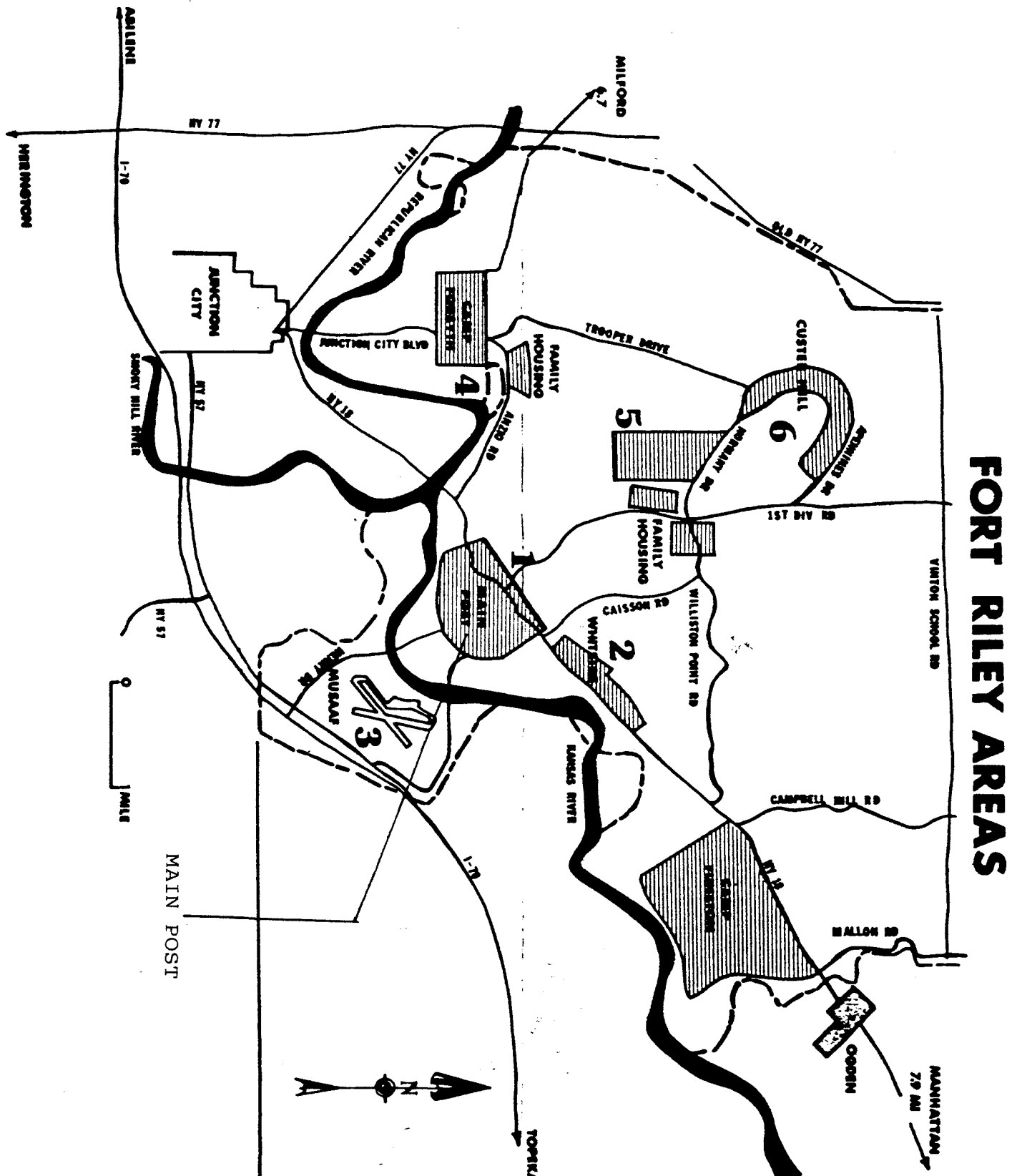


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INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS
THIRD FLOOR



BASE MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF MAIN POST



FORT RILEY AREAS

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BASE MAP SHOWING BUILDING LOCATION ON MAIN POST

