

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Texas</b>
COUNTY: <b>Bexar</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Fort Sam Houston**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Post of San Antonio; Fort Sam Houston**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Northeastern edge of town**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**San Antonio**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**23**

STATE: **Texas**      CODE: **48**      COUNTY: **Bexar**      CODE: **029**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**United States Government**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of Defense, Pentagon**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.**

CODE:  
**11**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Office of the County Clerk**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bexar County Hourthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**San Antonio**

STATE:  
**Texas**

CODE:  
**48**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Texas Historical Commission; National Register (4 individual structures nominated to Register).**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1964; 1973**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Texas Historical Commission; National Register of Historic Places**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 12276; 1100 L Street, NW.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Austin; Washington**

STATE:  
**Texas; D.C.**

CODE:  
**48/11**

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**65.**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1876 Fort Sam Houston covered just 40 acres. Today it includes approximately 35,000 acres, about 54 square miles, along the northeastern edge of San Antonio. Structures survive in good condition from every period of the post's history and reflect the varying architectural styles of almost a century. Besides the Quadrangle, completed in 1879, four groups of buildings were erected on the Fort Sam Houston Reservation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These were the Staff Post, Infantry Post, Artillery Post, and Cavalry Post. Each group remains virtually intact, and except for the Infantry Post, none has a significant number of modern intrusions. Each group of structures is connected visually with the Quadrangle, and together they cover about 400 acres and include approximately 130 major historic edifices and numerous accompanying outbuildings such as kitchens, messrooms, and storage facilities. Some of the more significant structures are described below.

Quadrangle (building 16). Begun in 1876 and completed 3 years later, this gable-roofed quadrangular structure was the first building erected at Fort Sam Houston. It is constructed of gray limestone and measures about 624 feet along each side. The south side is two storied and contains offices, while the east and west sides are single storied and house shops, sheds, and warehouse space. A high wall forms the north side. A centrally placed, segmentally arched gateway in the south facade provides access to the courtyard. Stone lugsills and arched lintels decorate window and door openings throughout the immense structure.

Watchtower (building 40). This gray limestone edifice measures 15 feet square and approximately 90 feet high. Completed sometime in 1876 or 1877, it houses a watchman's room, a 6,400-gallon water tank, and a clock that has a face on all four tower sides. A 4-foot-square brick shaft extends from the base of the tower to the watchman's cubicle, and a stairway passes upward between the shaft and the exterior walls. At a height of about 60 feet, three semi-circularly arched casement windows open from each side of the tower onto a narrow, ornamental balcony.

Infantry Post Headquarters (building 616). Built of yellow brick in 1886, this rectangular-shaped, two-story, hip-roofed structure is the only Fort Sam Houston building that retains the white-painted gingerbread trim that once decorated all the post quarters. The structure measures approximately

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1876 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since 1879, when it replaced the old Post of San Antonio as the Army's principal southwestern U.S. supply base, Fort Sam Houston has been the focal point of military operations in that geographic region. The post has sustained other area installations regularly and housed in succession the headquarters of the Department of Texas, Southern Department, 8th Corps Area, 4th Army, and 5th Army. Furthermore Fort Sam Houston has played a significant role in numerous specific military operations and innovative activities. The post supplied the Rough Riders when they rendezvoused in San Antonio in 1898, furnished most of the men and material for Gen. John J. Pershing's campaign against Pancho Villa in 1916, and provided training facilities for thousands of troops during World War I. In 1910 Fort Sam Houston acquired the first airplane hanger in the Department of Texas, and during the next few years, Lt. Benny Foulois conducted aerial trials there that led to the establishment of the Signal Corps' aviation section. In addition post soldiers experimented with important new infantry tactics in 1937 and 5 years later carried out the Army's first airborne maneuvers.

Today Fort Sam Houston is a vital military installation serving a modern Army, but many of the historic officers' quarters, barracks, and other buildings remain in use. Of particular interest is the Quadrangle (1879), the first permanent structure erected on the post. Fort Sam Houston is an open base and maintains a museum for the public.

History

Every government that has controlled the American Southwest has recognized San Antonio as a strategic location. A detachment of Spanish soldiers established a military camp there in 1718 even before the first white settlers arrived. In 1773 Baron de Ripperda built the first permanent barracks there, and in 1836 a secularized San Antonio mission, the

(Continued)

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cosmas, Graham, An Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War (Columbia, 1971).

Handy, Mary Olivia, History of Fort Sam Houston (San Antonio, 1957).

Jones, Virgil Carrington, Roosevelt's Rough Riders (Garden City, 1971).

(Continued)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	29° 27' 17"	98° 28' 28"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	29° 27' 17"	98° 27' 15"				
SE	29° 26' 28"	98° 27' 15"				
SW	29° 26' 28"	98° 28' 28"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 400 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION: American Association for State and Local History      DATE: Dec. 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville      STATE: Tennessee      CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description (cont'd.)

41 by 60 feet and is distinguished by a two-tiered, balustraded veranda that extends across the front and both sides. On both stories four-over-four sash windows extend to the floor and have stone sills and lintels.

Infantry Post Officers' Quarters (buildings 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 628, 630, 632, 634, 638, 640, 642). These L-shaped, two-story, white-painted brick residences were constructed between 1886 and 1889. They are hip-roofed and have two-tiered verandas across the front and along one side. Front entrance to each is through a paneled double door topped by a rectangular transom. The windows are four-over-four sash, and they extend to the floor and have stone sills and lintels. Originally, gingerbread trim decorated each of these structures, but it has been removed. Quarters 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, and 641 are similar in appearance but have a slightly different rear configuration. They were erected between 1889 and 1891.

Infantry Post Barracks (buildings 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612). Constructed between 1885 and 1891, these rectangular-shaped, two-story, yellow brick barracks have parapet gable roofs and form a "U" at the east end of the Infantry Post. Formerly they had two-tiered front and rear galleries, but these were enclosed with wooden siding in 1942 to increase the living area. The original brick walls remain, however. At present Army Reserve and National Guard units occupy these barracks on an occasional basis.

Sallyport Building (building 613). Built of yellow brick and decorated by gray limestone quoins, hoodmolds, and crenelated parapet, this three-story structure is situated in the center of the "U" formed by barracks 601 through 612. The building was completed in 1887 as a band barracks, but it was converted into a guardhouse in 1893. Well-known Texas architect Alfred Giles designed both the sallyport building and the adjoining barracks.

Infantry Post Bell Tower Barracks (building 646). Originally this rectangular-shaped, two-story, gable-roofed, yellow brick building had a three-story, hip-roofed bell tower at the south end. The bell and third story of the tower have

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7. Description (cont'd.)

been removed, but a two-tiered veranda remains. It extends across the front and north side. The barracks was completed in 1893.

Infantry Post Bachelor Officers' Quarters (building 617). This modified T-shaped, 2 1/2-story, yellow brick edifice was finished in 1894. It is hip roofed, rests upon a stone foundation, and has a main block that measures approximately 140 by 42 feet. Both gable and hip dormers adorn the roof, and a two-tiered gallery extends across the north facade. White-painted wooden latticework and black-painted iron railings adorn the gallery. The structure has received two minor additions and numerous interior alterations.

Infantry Post Bachelor Officers' Quarters (building 688). Completed in 1900, this rectangular-shaped, 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed building measures about 33 by 87 feet. It rests on a stone foundation and is adorned on the south side by two large gable dormers and a full-length, two-story, balustraded veranda. Most of the windows are three-over-three sash, and the woodwork is painted white.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Building (building 626). This rectangular-shaped, two-story, hip-roofed, white-painted structure was built in 1888 as part of the Infantry Post. It is encompassed by a two-tiered, hip-roofed veranda and displays six interior red brick chimneys.

Staff Post Officers' Quarters (buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10). Erected in 1881, these irregularly shaped, two-story, limestone residences are in excellent condition and still serve as officers' dwellings. Each is hip roofed and has a two-tiered, screened veranda across the front, a one-story veranda across the rear, a one-story hip-roofed porch on the right side, and four corbeled brick chimneys piercing the roof.

Pershing House or Staff Post Commanding Officer's Quarters (building 6). This irregularly shaped, two-story, hip-roofed, random ashlar limestone residence was built in 1881 and is little altered. It is unique among Fort Sam Houston structures and may be the most interesting and attractive. A

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spacious, two-tiered, balustraded gallery extends across the front of the 11-room, 6 1/2-bath house and partly along both sides. The top level of the gallery is screened and glassed, and the whole is supported by ornamented posts and decorative brackets. A two-story, pedimented portico juts forward from the center of the gallery, and to the left of center, an octagonal bay rises from the first floor through the gallery roof and is crowned by a cupola and iron cresting. The transomed double entrance door and most of the windows are topped by segmentally arched limestone hoodmolds. Over the years, a number of well-known general officers have resided here. These include Christopher C. Augur, Ranald S. Mackenzie, John M. Schofield, F. D. Grant (son of Ulysses S. Grant), Tasker H. Bliss, John J. Pershing, Courtney Hodges, and Jonathan M. Wainwright.

Staff Post Officers' Quarters (buildings 11, 12, 13, 14, 15). These irregularly shaped dwellings were built in 1881 also. Building 11 differs slightly from the other four, but all are two-story, gable roofed, random ashlar limestone edifices. Each is distinguished by a one-story, hip-roofed, octagonal bay at the front of the north-south transverse, segmentally arched dripstones above the windows, a boxed cornice and paneled frieze with scroll brackets, and a two-tiered, screened, front veranda that extends across the south side of the east-west transverse.

Old Staff Post Hospital (building 48). Constructed in 1886, this T-shaped, green-painted brick building consists of a two-story, hip-roofed central block and two gable-roofed wings. It is greatly altered and serves currently as a visiting officers' quarters.

Artillery Post Officers' Quarters (buildings 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120). All these 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, red brick structures are similar in appearance. Erected in 1905-6, they rest on limestone foundations and have slate roofs. Each dwelling consists of a main block and a rear wing and has a two-tiered, balustraded veranda across the front and part way along one side. A full-height, pedimented portico accents the entrances. Windows are rectangular shaped but set into segmentally arched openings.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Cavalry Post Officers' Quarters (buildings 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 169, 170, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183). These two-story, hip-roofed, red brick buildings were erected in 1909. Each has a red tile roof, a two-tiered front veranda, and a hip-roofed front dormer. The front entrance to each residence is a double door flanked by side lights and topped by a transom. Four-over-four sash windows predominate and have stone lugsills and flat brick arches. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower occupied quarters 179 in 1941 shortly before he became General of the Army, and this structure has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Artillery Post and Cavalry Post Barracks (buildings 122, 124, 126, 129, 131, 134). Constructed in 1905, these large 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, yellow brick barracks average more than 12,000 feet of floorspace each. A short central block and two long ells give each building a rectangular appearance. The barracks appear to have had two-tiered galleries initially, but if so, these have been removed. Each structure is topped by six corbeled interior brick chimneys and two round, metal air circulators.

Artillery Post and Cavalry Post Barracks (buildings 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 2248, 2250). These two-story, red brick structures were built between 1905 and 1908. Like the other Artillery Post and Cavalry Post barracks, they consist of a short central block and two long ells. The central block is gable roofed and the ells hip roofed. A full-length, two-tiered gallery with white-painted Doric columns, black-painted iron rails, and full-height, centrally placed pedimented portico graces the front of each building. Main entrance is through a double door with side lights and segmentally arched transom. The ells contain single doors.

Veterinary Hospital (building 2186). Erected in 1908, this T-shaped, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, red brick structure contains more than 10,000 square feet of floorspace. It has been altered considerably, and at present it is used primarily for administrative purposes. Nearly all the original window openings remain unchanged and display stone lugsills and lintels.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Stable (building 2187). This rectangular-shaped, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, red brick building was constructed in 1918. It is little altered and still functions as a stable, housing the mounts of the Army pentathlon team. Distinguishing features of the structure include large semicircularly arched door openings at each end and small windows with stone lugsills and brick segmental arches along each side.

Chapel (building 2200). Citizens of San Antonio donated the funds and land for this Second Renaissance Revival structure, which was completed in 1909 and dedicated personally by President William H. Taft. The irregularly shaped, white-painted, brick building contains more than 21,000 square feet of floorspace. Among the many noteworthy exterior features are a copper dome, bracket-supported entablature and parapet that extend completely around the roofline, and recessed entrance portico distinguished by three semicircularly arched openings with flanking Corinthian pilasters. In addition there are 22 stained-glass windows that were added between 1929 and 1931. These are set in flat-arched openings. Inside, the main altar has undergone some remodeling, but other features remain unchanged. Included are a series of segmental and semielliptical arches and a balcony supported by Corinthian columns. Large bays to the right and left of the main chapel contain smaller worship areas, and one of these is designed especially to accommodate Jewish services.

Boundary Justification. The historic district includes the oldest post structure, the Quadrangle, and buildings that represent the first four major expansions of the fort. Also included is a portion of Arthur MacArthur Field, where Lt. Benny Foulois conducted his famous aerial experiments. There are no extant structures associated with his efforts. The field and all the building areas are connected visually. Structures that lie within the boundary but have no particular historical significance include buildings 661 and similar edifices in the Infantry Post, temporary buildings T-50, T-88, T-89, T-90, T-91, T-93, T-94, T-221, T-222, T-223, T-230, T-275, T-2240, T-2241, T-2242, and T-2253, and several other post-1920 structures.

Boundary (as indicated in red on the accompanying maps). Beginning at the intersection of Grayson Street and North New

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Braunfels Avenue, a line extending southward about 550 feet along the left curb of North New Braunfels to Carson Street; thence eastward about 1,800 feet along the left curb of Carson to Frank Street; thence northward about 1,175 feet along the left curb of Frank to Hood Street; thence eastward about 1,850 feet along the left curb of Hood to the far curb of North New Braunfels; thence northward about 1,150 feet along the left curb of North New Braunfels to the far curb of Wilson Street; thence eastward about 1,100 feet along the left curb of Wilson to Connell Road; thence northward about 350 feet along the left curb of Connell to Road No. S-14-S; thence westward about 600 feet along the left curb of Road No. S-14-S to Hancock Road; thence southward about 100 feet along the left curb of Hancock to Road No. S-4; thence westward about 350 feet along the left curb of Road No. S-4 to a point opposite the southeast corner of building 2250; thence northward, passing to the rear of buildings 2250 and 2248, about 450 feet to the south wall of building 2247; thence eastward about 100 feet to an unnumbered service road; thence northward about 100 feet to Stanley Road; thence eastward about 1,600 feet along the left curb of Stanley to Reynolds Road; thence northward about 750 feet along the left curb of Reynolds to Dickman Road; thence westward about 1,850 feet along the left curb of Dickman to North New Braunfels; thence northward about 800 feet along the left curb of North New Braunfels to Eleanor Avenue; thence westward about 1,600 feet along the left curb of Eleanor to the reservation north-south boundary; thence southward about 1,050 feet to Brackenridge Avenue; thence eastward about 125 feet along the right curb of Brackenridge to Road No. S-3; thence southward then westward about 1,500 feet along the left curb of curving Road No. S-3 to Dunstan Road; thence northward about 550 feet along the left curb of Dunstan to a point on a line extending along the south side of building 2010; thence westward about 470 feet, passing along the south

side of building 2010, to a point on a line extending along and beyond the east curb of North Pine Street; thence southward about 600 feet along the left curb of North Pine to Army Boulevard; thence eastward about 250 feet to the reservation north-south boundary; thence southward about 800 feet along the reservation boundary to Cunningham Avenue; thence westward

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about 1,350 feet along the left curb of Cunningham to the westernmost edge of the reservation boundary; thence southward a total distance of about 1,550 feet along the curving reservation north-south boundary to Nika Street; thence eastward about 1,125 feet along the left curb of Nika to North Pine; thence southward about 575 feet along the left curb of North Pine to Grayson Street; thence eastward about 2,975 feet along the left curb of Grayson to the starting point.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Alamo, figured prominently in Texas' struggle for independence. A few months before Texas' formal admission into the Union in 1845, Col. William S. Harney led the first U.S. troops into San Antonio. The following year the Army set up a quartermaster depot there, and during the Mexican War, it provided significant support for American military operations in northern Mexico. In 1849 the Post of San Antonio became the headquarters of the 8th Military Department, and except for the Civil War years, retained that distinction until 1869, when the headquarters were moved to Austin. Throughout this period the Post of San Antonio supplied forts all over Texas.

The quartermaster depot, which occupied the Alamo and several downtown warehouses, remained in San Antonio even after the departmental headquarters were relocated. Local citizens feared that the economically beneficial depot might be transferred too, so they offered the Army land for a permanent post. These civic efforts coincided closely with a Government decision to pursue a more aggressive peacekeeping policy along the United States-Mexican border, where marauding Indians, bandits, and smugglers passed almost at will from one nation into the other. Consequently the War Department accepted a tract of land north of town, and after sundry disagreements over the design and cost of the post, the Secretary of War authorized its construction in 1875.

In June 1876 the Army contracted with "Ed. Braden and Company" to build the installation, and during subsequent months the firm erected a quadrangular, gray limestone structure that measured 624 feet along each side. It contained 36 store-rooms, 20 offices, and numerous workshops and became the predominant physical feature of the new post. On December 22, 1879, Gen. Edward O. Ord, the depot commander, watched proudly as his troops moved into the completed facility, which, like its predecessor, was called the Post of San Antonio. Despite its newness, expansion of the depot began almost immediately. In 1880 the Army completed plans for 15 sets of stone officers' quarters to be erected west of the Quadrangle, and workmen started on the residences the following year.

By that time the Army had designated the Post of San Antonio as headquarters for the Department of Texas, and during

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

the 1880's a number of well-known general officers commanded there. Among them were Christopher C. Augur, Ranald S. Mackenzie, and John M. Schofield. Escort, scouting, and patrol duty kept their troops occupied almost constantly, for unrest persisted along the Mexican border. In addition, in 1885-86 some Post of San Antonio soldiers took part in the campaign that led to the capture of famed Apache leader Geronimo in Arizona. Ultimately the entire garrison had a chance to see the heralded warrior.

Shortly after taking Geronimo and his small band of followers into custody in September 1886, military officials put them aboard a train and started them en route to Florida for imprisonment. President Grover Cleveland had wanted the Indians delivered to Arizona territorial authorities for trial, however, so he directed that the train be stopped in Texas and the prisoners held there until he decided what to do with them. The President spent 40 days reviewing the case. In the interim the Apaches were kept under guard in the Post of San Antonio Quadrangle. Eventually Cleveland concluded that under the terms of their surrender the Indians could not be tried in civil courts, and they resumed their journey to Florida.

While at the Post of San Antonio, the Apaches had aroused much curiosity and excitement among the soldiers and their dependents, as well as among the townspeople. With the Indians' departure, however, the troops returned to the more routine business of patrolling the border and supplying other installations in the Department of Texas. These were important functions, but perhaps the most singularly noteworthy event of the next decade was the naming of the post. For 45 years it had lacked an official title, so finally, in September 1890 the War Department designated it "Fort Sam Houston" in honor of the first President of the Republic of Texas.

If post operations became a bit ordinary in the early and middle 1890's, certainly the year 1898 brought a flurry of activity. For several years much American attention had been focused sympathetically on Cuba, which was engaged in a protracted rebellion against Spanish rule. On February 15, 1898, the battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded in Havana Harbor, and although the cause of the blast remained unknown, the

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

United States declared war against Spain less than 2 months later. Almost the entire Fort Sam Houston garrison became involved in the conflict within a few weeks. On April 16 the 18th Infantry received orders to proceed immediately to New Orleans, from which they embarked for Cuba, and the 5th Cavalry got similar orders the following month. These departures left only two officers and eight enlisted men at the post.

This void lasted only briefly. Three days before issuing a declaration of war, Congress had passed a Volunteer Army Act authorizing the President to raise special U.S. Volunteer units from the country at large. One of these groups, the so-called Rough Riders, was to become legendary. Commanded by Col. Leonard Wood and Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, this cavalry regiment was an aggregation of cowboys, Indian fighters, outlaws, college athletes, and well-to-do easterners who came together in San Antonio early in May. Arriving individually and in groups from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, New York, Massachusetts, and more than 30 other States and territories, the seemingly incompatible enlistees assembled at the fairgrounds, now Roosevelt Park. From Fort Sam Houston they obtained rations, fuel, tents, horses and forage, and after just 3 weeks of drill, they set out for Tampa, Fla. Mobilization activities at the San Antonio post did not cease with the Rough Riders' departure, though. The war with Spain lasted only a few months, and soon after it ended, the quartermaster depot commenced equipping and supplying U.S. troops who were en route to the Philippines to quell an insurrection there.

By 1900 growing quartermaster concerns had forced all other Army activities out of the Quadrangle, and the Government was paying over \$800 monthly for additional warehouse and encampment space. Consequently in 1905 the Army began an expansion program that, according to writer Mary Handy, made Fort Sam Houston the largest military installation in the United States.<sup>1</sup> In the late 1880's and early 1890's,

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Olivia Handy, History of Fort Sam Houston (San Antonio, 1957), 66.

69.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

the Infantry Post, a complex of quarters and support buildings, had been erected east of the Quadrangle, and now the Army added the Cavalry Post and the Artillery Post on the north.

During the first decade of the 20th century, Fort Sam Houston troops continued to perform vital supply and border patrol duties. Then in 1910 Lt. Benny Foulois brought something new to the post, a Wright plane. Soon the fort had the first aircraft hanger in the Department of Texas, and Foulois was engaged in a variety of flight-related experiments. These efforts resulted ultimately in the establishment of the Signal Corps' aviation section, forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

While Foulois performed his aerial tests, a revolution erupted in Mexico, and conditions worsened along the border. Faced with the possibility of war, President William H. Taft mobilized a provisional division at Fort Sam Houston in 1911. He did not order it into action, but the quartermaster depot equipped it nevertheless. In 1916, however, after Mexican revolutionaries under the command of Pancho Villa crossed into the United States and raided the village of Columbus, N. Mex., American troops did launch a campaign. Supplied largely by Fort Sam Houston and supported to some extent by Foulois' Aero Squadron, Gen. John J. Pershing led a fruitless, 11-month-long search for Villa in northern Mexico.

Less than a year after the end of that venture, Pershing, then commander of Fort Sam Houston, was ordered to Europe to lead the American Expeditionary Force in World War I. Col. Harry A. Rogers, departmental quartermaster at the post, became quartermaster general of the AEF. In addition, between 1916 and 1918, some 208,000 men trained at two camps adjacent to the post, leading author Handy to assert that Fort Sam Houston contributed "as much as any post in the United States" to the war effort.<sup>2</sup>

(Continued)

<sup>2</sup> Handy, History of Fort Sam Houston, 74.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

The post experienced some deterioration during the 1920's, but it underwent further expansion in the 1930's and 1940's. In 1937 the 2d Infantry experimented with important new ground-fighting tactics there, and in 1942 other post units participated in the Nation's first airborne maneuvers. Presently the home of innovative Brooke Hospital and headquarters for the 5th Army, Fort Sam Houston remains one of the country's key military installations.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

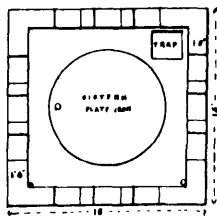
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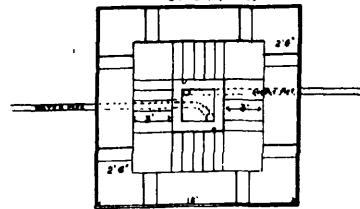
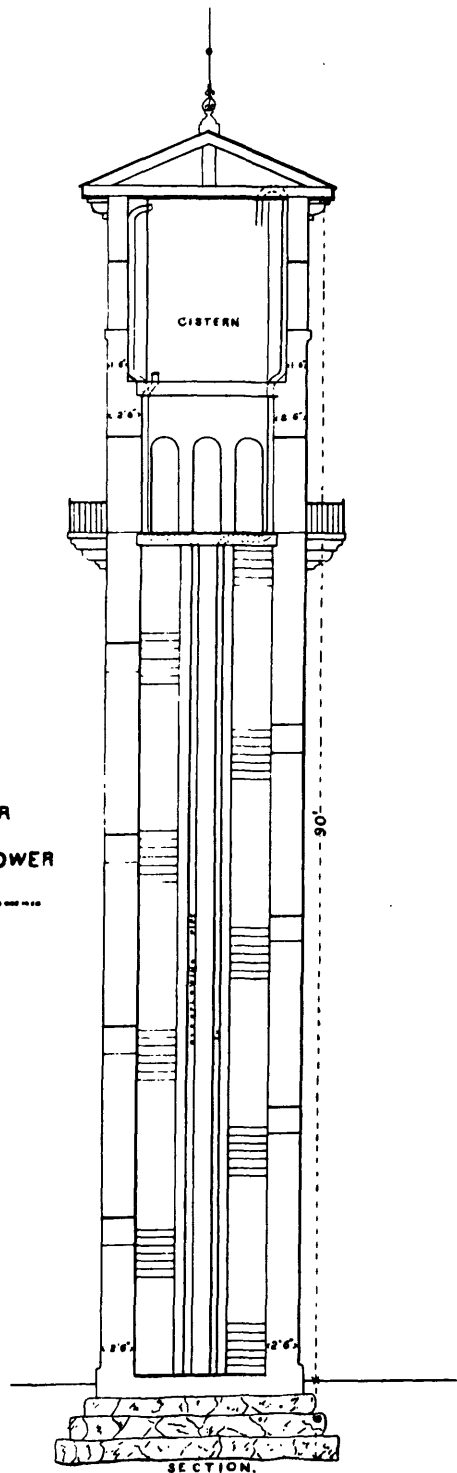


**SAN ANTONIO DEPOT  
TEXAS.**



**WATER  
AND  
WATCH TOWER**

SCALE: ONE INCH = FOUR FEET



Original plan for  
Depot water tower

from report of QM

General 1876