



Nationwide Context, Inventory, and Heritage Assessment of Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps Resources on Department of Defense Installations

07-357

Background:

Between 1933 and 1943, the CCC and WPA undertook a diversity of projects nationwide, including numerous projects on behalf of the military. To date, no nationwide historic context exists for assessing the historic significance of these cultural resources. This project seeks to fill that void and provide a tool to DoD cultural resource installation managers to assess and manage WPA and CCC resources under their care.



photo by Chad Blackwell

WPA-built Artillery Bowl, Fort Sill Military Reservation, Oklahoma

Objective:

This project consists of four components to provide assistance in identifying and assessing WPA and CCC resources located on DoD installations. The first is a nationwide historic context on the history of WPA and CCC resources on DoD installations. The second is an inventory of CCC and WPA resources at current DoD installations. The third component consists of representative surveys of WPA and CCC resources at five DoD installations using the developed national historic context. The final component is a public education booklet summarizing the history of the CCC and WPA and the military and the associated resources.

Summary of Approach:

Primary research was conducted at NARA, reviewing administrative records of the CCC and WPA. A questionnaire was distributed to installation cultural resource managers to identify potential targets for the representative surveys. WPA and CCC resources at five DoD installations were surveyed and evaluated as case studies for applying the historic context. Additional documentation found while conducting the surveys also added to the body of research used to complete the historic context. Information and photographs gathered during the

research phases were used to produce the public education booklet.

Benefit:

This project aims to provide DoD managers with additional tools to manage WPA and CCC resources on their installations. While many resources associated with the WPA and CCC have been identified and assessed, a significant portion remains unevaluated, or even unrecognized. The context, inventory, and representative surveys will aid DoD managers in identifying resources associated with the WPA and CCC and assessing their significance. The booklet will foster a broader appreciation of these important historic resources for the military and the general public.

Accomplishments:

Preliminary research was conducted in 2007 at NARA. A draft of the context and resource inventory was completed at the end of 2008. Five resource surveys were conducted between August 2008 and June 2009. The historic context was revised in June 2009, incorporating new information gathered during the resource surveys. The public education booklet was produced in May 2009.



Sample pages from public education booklet

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