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Evaluation of 11 Buildings in the Fort McCoy Cantonment

Sunny E. Adams, Madison L. Story, and Adam D. Smith

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Cover Photo: Top Row, left to right: Buildings 2175 and 2569. Middle Row, left to right: Buildings 2199 and 1122. Bottom row, left to right: Buildings 905 and 1268. Photos were taken April 2021.

Evaluation of 11 Buildings in the Fort McCoy Cantonment

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Final Report

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Directorate of Public Works
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MIPR 0011555028

Abstract

The US Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the nation's most effective cultural resources legislation to date, mostly through establishing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NHPA requires federal agencies to address their cultural resources, which are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Section 110 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources, and Section 106 requires them to determine the effect of federal undertakings on those potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Fort McCoy is in west-central Wisconsin, entirely within Monroe County. It was first established as the Sparta Maneuver Tract in 1909. The post was renamed Camp McCoy in 1926. Since 1974, it has been known as Fort McCoy. This report provides historic context and determinations of eligibility for buildings in the cantonment constructed between 1946 and 1975 and concludes that none are eligible for the NRHP. In consultation with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer (WISHPO), this work fulfills Section 110 requirements for these buildings.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the Cultural Resources Program, Natural Resources Branch, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works (DPW) at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, under Project 493912, "Evaluation of 11 Buildings in the Fort McCoy Cantonment," MIPR 0011555028. The technical monitor was Ryan Howell (Cultural Resources Manager, DPW).

The work was performed by the Training Lands and Heritage Branch, of the Operational Science and Engineering Division, of the Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Dr. Chris Rewerts was chief, Training Lands and Heritage Branch; Dr. George Calfas was chief, Operational Science and Engineering Division; and Mr. Jim Allen was the Technical Director for Environmental Quality and Installations. The deputy director of ERDC-CERL was Ms. Michelle Hanson, and the director was Dr. Andrew Nelson.

COL Christian Patterson was commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the director.

1 Methodology

1.1 Background

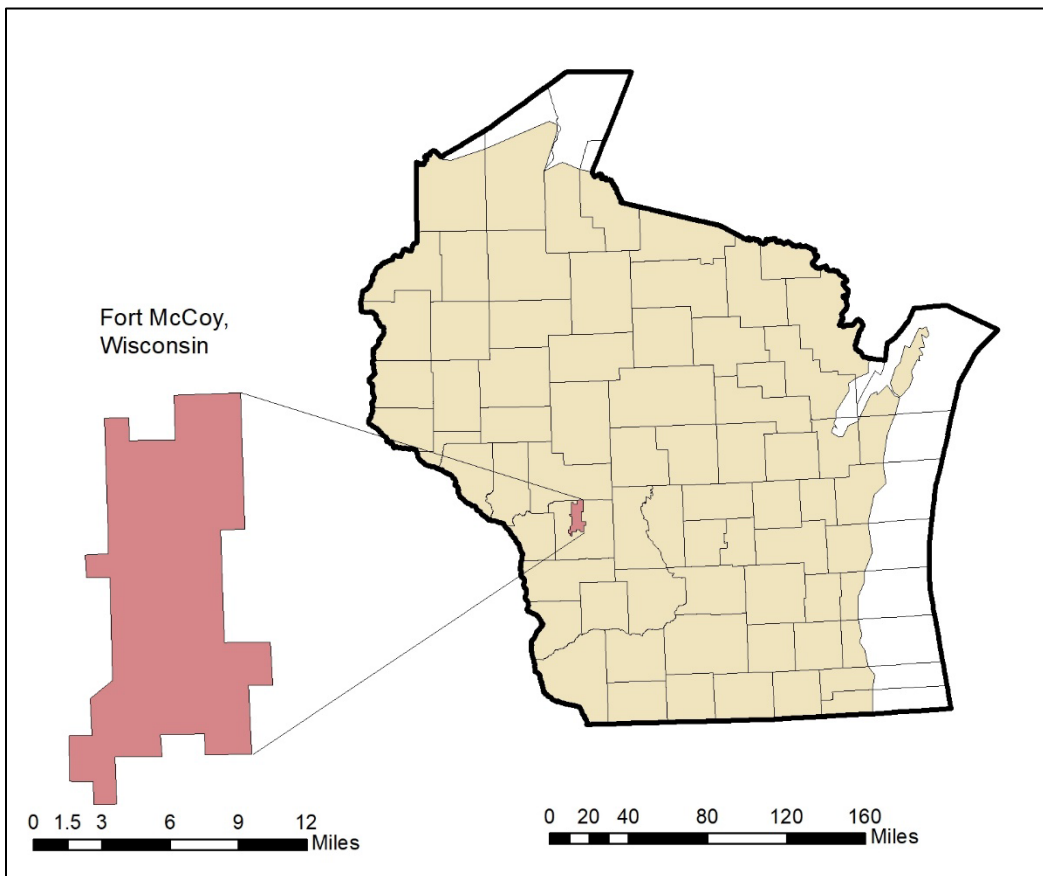
The US Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Nation's most effective cultural resources legislation to date, to provide guidelines and requirements for preserving tangible elements of the Nation's past. This preservation was done primarily through creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Contained within this piece of legislation are requirements for Federal agencies to address their cultural resources, defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object (NHPA, Sections 110 and 106). Section 110 requires Federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources. Section 106 requires the determination of effect of Federal undertakings on properties deemed eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Fort McCoy is located in west-central Wisconsin, east of La Crosse and between the towns of Sparta and Tomah (Figure 1). Fort McCoy lies entirely within Monroe County. The US Army first established the Sparta Maneuver Tract in 1909 as a field artillery training site. The post was renamed Camp McCoy in 1926, and a Citizens' Military Training Camp (CMTC)¹ was established at the southern end of the post. A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)² base was established in 1933 at the former CMTC and existed until 1939. After this, a new cantonment was planned north of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad using 800 series War Department mobilization building plans laid out in a triangular formation or, as the Army referred to it, "triad." The Army deactivated Camp McCoy on 1 February 1953, after which it was used for National Guard and Army Reserve training. The Army reactivated the post in 1970, and it was redesignated Fort McCoy in 1974.

1 CMTC was a program that allowed male citizens to obtain basic military training without an obligation to call-up for active duty.

2 The CCC was a public works relief program for environmental projects that operated from 1933 to 1942 for unemployed, unmarried men of ages 17–28. It was one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs during the Great Depression.

Figure 1. Boundary outline and location of Fort McCoy, in west-central Wisconsin
(Image from ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



1.2 Objective

The objective of this effort was to create a historic context regarding midcentury cantonment use and construction and assess the integrity of 11 buildings at Fort McCoy, WI, for listing on the NRHP. The 11 buildings are located within the cantonment of Fort McCoy (Figure 2). This survey satisfies Section 110 of the NHPA, and it was used to make recommendations regarding the eligibility of these 11 buildings for inclusion on the NRHP.

Figure 2. Location of the evaluated buildings within the Fort McCoy cantonment in 2022 (Map data. Google, 2022; *red building numbers* and *blue boxes* added by ERDC-CERL).



Analyses of the 11 buildings (Table 1) were performed, including basic history and assessment of current conditions. To qualify as eligible for listing on the NRHP, a property must meet at least one of the NRHP Criteria for Evaluation as established by the National Park Service (NPS), must be

significantly associated with an important historic context, and must retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance.³

Table 1. List of buildings within the Fort McCoy cantonment to be evaluated (DPW, Fort McCoy).

| Facility Number | Built Date | Historic Use | Current Use | Current Category Code |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 905 ⁴ | 1942 1952 | SERVICE CLUB NO. 3 | MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER | 73080 |
| 1122 | 6/14/1967 | RUMPEL FIELDHOUSE | PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER | 74028 |
| 1268 | 11/1/1967 | JOB CORPS WAREHOUSE | LIMITED USE INSTRUCTIONAL BUILDING | 17138 |
| 2176 | 9/11/1968 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS PROPERTY FACILITY | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 2186 | 10/28/1964 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS PROPERTY FACILITY | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 2198 | 12/24/1975 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | FLAM MAT STR IN | 44240 |
| 2199 | 7/7/1952 | PAINT SHOP | ENGINEERING/HOUSING MNT | 21910 |
| 2569 | 7/1/1946 | GENERAL PURPOSE WAREHOUSE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 8038 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | 73075 |
| 8040 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | 73075 |
| 10119 | 6/25/1951 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |

This final report's main text includes the Fort McCoy 1946–1975 historic context and determinations of eligibility for each of the 11 buildings.

1.3 Researchers

This project was conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research Development Center, Construction and Engineering

³ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997).

⁴ The original built date for Building 905 was 1942; however, in 1950, Service Club No. 3, Building 905, caught fire. The fire damaged most of the building, with only the superstructure, walls, and roof of the kitchen and adjacent boiler room, latrines, storage area, and corridor remaining. The footings and concrete piers of the structure also remained. To make use of the remaining features, the club was rebuilt following the 800 series standardized plan, #800-517, that was used for the original building, though it also incorporated the plans for a porch that was added in 1943. The rebuilding of Building 905 was complete in 1952, which is what is reflected in the current Fort McCoy Real Property database and not the original date of 1942.

Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL) in Champaign, IL. The research team included Adam D. Smith, Master of Architecture, as project manager, with 24 years of experience in military architectural history; Sunny E. Adams, Master of Architecture, as architectural historian, with 19 years of experience; and Madison Story, Master of Science in Historic Preservation, with 1 year of experience.

1.4 Site visits

ERDC-CERL personnel made two trips to Fort McCoy to inventory the buildings in April and August 2021. During April, personnel evaluated buildings for their historic architectural integrity and photographed the buildings being evaluated. During August, personnel conducted archival research.

1.4.1 Archival repositories

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted a review of books, archival repositories, and online resources related to Fort McCoy, training lands, and range building construction. The following were contacted and/or searched:

- NRHP listings and nomination forms (online at <https://www.nps.gov/Nr/publications/index.htm>);
- Historic drawings, maps, photographs, and information provided by the Cultural Resources Office of the Directorate of Public Works, the Fort McCoy Historian's Office, and the Real Property Office's database at Fort McCoy;
- Monroe County Local History Room and Museum;
- Wisconsin Historical Society (online at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS15310>);
- University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries Digitized Collections (online at <https://search.library.wisc.edu/search/digital>);
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, Maryland (NARA 111-SC, NARA 111-SCA, and 111-CCS).

1.5 Analysis and evaluation

After initial research was completed, the team analyzed the gathered information. Archival information and field information were integrated throughout the course of the project. The information available was

contained in text documents, photographs, and historic maps. Using archival sources, the research team extracted relevant historical information. The material was then combined to tell the story in both text and images.

Using information from the historic context, as well as two previously published historic contexts,⁵ the overarching historic integrity was evaluated per the NRHP's definition. A cultural resource can retain or lose its historic integrity, meaning that it either does or does not convey its historic significance. From this evaluation process, a recommendation of eligibility for listing on the NRHP was made. The evaluation followed guidelines published by the National Park Service in *National Register Bulletin #15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*;⁶ *National Register Bulletin #16A, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*;⁷ the National Register Bulletin, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations*;⁸ and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.⁹

5 HABS No. WI-308. "Fort McCoy (Camp McCoy)," Sparta vicinity Monroe County, Wisconsin, HABS No. WI-308. (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park District, Department of the Interior, 1988). Catalogued by Library of Congress as HABS WIS,41-SPAR.V, 1--: <https://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/wi/wi0200/wi0229/data/wi0229data.pdf>; .S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and Defense Ammunition Center, *Archive Search Report Findings (Volume I and Volume II) for Fort McCoy*, (Sparta, WI: Fort McCoy, July 1997), 9.

6 NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

7 NPS, *National Register Bulletin #16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997).

8 NPS, *National Register Bulletin: How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999).

9 Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* [rev. of 1995 document of same name by Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer] (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017). <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>.

2 Historic Context

Fort McCoy was initially established in 1909 as the Sparta Maneuver Tract, a 14,000-acre reservation four miles southwest of the current cantonment and 3.5 miles northeast of Sparta, WI. Though barracks, mess halls, warehouses, and stables were constructed in a gridiron plan in 1917 to train draftees for World War I (WWI), permanent construction did not occur at the reservation until it became a district headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.¹⁰

In preparation for entry into WWII, Camp McCoy was expanded to 61,143 acres. This new acreage would serve as the home of vast training lands as well as a new cantonment.¹¹ The new cantonment was arranged in three curvilinear segments in a triad. This “New Camp” would house an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 troops during the height of WWII training at Camp McCoy.¹² Following V-E Day, a new personnel center was constructed for \$529,000.¹³ Activity largely ceased at Camp McCoy in 1947 following the end of WWII.¹⁴

2.1 Early Cold War and Korean War, 1945–1953

In June 1947, Camp McCoy was placed in inactive status with only a caretaking detachment assigned to the reservation.¹⁵ Until 1950, the primary activity at Camp McCoy was summer training for Army Reserves and National Guardsmen (Figure 3 and Figure 4).¹⁶

10 Adam D. Smith and Sunny E. Adams, “Determination of NRHP Eligibility for 26 Buildings at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin,” ERDC-CERL TR-18-38 (Champaign, IL: US Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Dec. 2018).

11 Smith and Adams, “Determination of NRHP Eligibility for 26 Buildings at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin;” “Fort McCoy: 90 Years of Service to America’s Army,” *Fort McCoy Triad Commemorative Issue* (Jan. 1, 1990), Monroe County Local History Room and Museum, Sparta, WI, 10.

12 “Fort McCoy: 90 Years of Service to America’s Army,” 10.

13 “The culmination of a dream,” *Monroe County Democrat*, Jan. 19, 1978, Military: Fort McCoy Newspaper Articles, Monroe County Local History Room and Museum, Sparta, WI.

14 *Engineering Manual of the Office of the Chief of Engineers* (March 1942), Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI. For more context regarding activity and construction at Camp McCoy during WWII, see Sunny E. Adams, Megan W. Tooker, and Adam Smith, *Fort McCoy, Wisconsin WWII Buildings and Landscapes*, ERDC/CERL TR-20-12 (Champaign, IL: US Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Nov. 2020).

15 Lou Ann Mittelstaedt and Kara Motosicky, “The Establishment of Fort McCoy: A Heart for Preparedness,” *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* 92, iss. 4 (Jan. 2009): 29–41, 37; Headquarters Camp McCoy, *History of Camp McCoy*, June 7, 1950, Military: Fort McCoy Newspaper Articles, Monroe County Local History Room and Museum, Sparta, WI, 4.

16 “31,850 Soldiers in McCoy Summer Camp,” *Monroe County Democrat*, Oct. 20, 1949, n.p.

Figure 3. A band concert held at Camp McCoy during the 1949 summer training season, August 1949 (Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office, "This Month in Fort McCoy History. August 2019," DVIDS, August 8, 2019, <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5652376/month-fort-mccoy-history-august-2019>. Public Domain).



Figure 4. Members of the Army National Guard from Bloomington, Illinois, train at Camp McCoy, August 1950 (Neil Mackay, "Bloomington, IL National Guard at Camp McCoy, 1950," Illinois Digital Archives, accessed 17 March 2022, <http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll56/id/4067>. Open Government License).



On 9 August 1950, the Department of the Army announced that Camp McCoy would reopen as a full-time training center for combat and service

Figure 6. Soldiers take a break from training to wait for mail from home, April 1951 (Photograph no. 372594, April 26, 1951, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #3, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Additionally, in November 1950, Service Club No. 3 at Camp McCoy (Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 9), Building 905, caught fire. The fire, whose origin is unknown, damaged most of the building, with only the superstructure, walls, roof of the kitchen and adjacent boiler room, latrines, storage area, and corridor remaining (Figure 10). The footings and concrete piers of the structure also remained. To make use of the remaining features, the club was rebuilt following the 800 series standardized plan, #800-517, that was used for the original building, though it also incorporated the plans for a porch that was added in 1943 (Figure 11, Figure 12, Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15, and Figure 16).²⁰ Service Club No. 1 (Building 2000) continued to be available for use during construction.²¹

²⁰ Building 905, Fort McCoy Real Property Office, Fort McCoy, WI; Amman & Whitney Architects-Engineers, *Camp McCoy, Wisconsin Mobilization Buildings Service Club Building 905 Area Plan*, Dec. 20, 1951, Fort McCoy DPW, Fort McCoy, WI; Office of the Post Engineer, *Porch Addition Service Club 1 & 2 (Bldg. #2000 & #905)*, Dec. 28, 1943, Fort McCoy DPW, Fort McCoy.

²¹ Photograph no. 401474, April 29, 1952, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #1, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD.

Figure 9. Blueprints for 1943 porch addition to Building 905, Service Club No. 3 (Office of the Post Engineer, *Porch Addition Service Club 1 & 2 (Bldg. #2000 & #905)*. Public Domain).

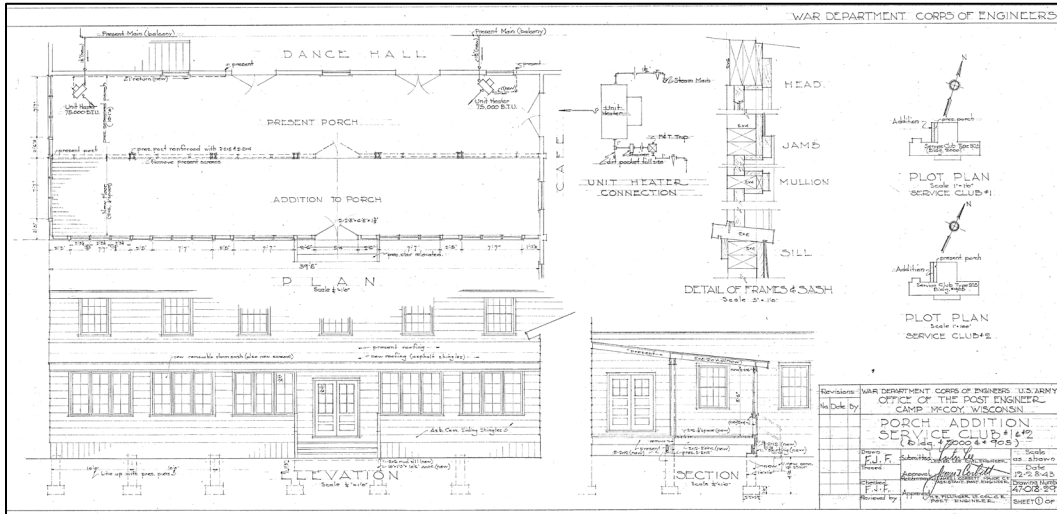


Figure 10. Building 905, Service Club No. 3, *Reconstruction & Renovation* plan showing Areas "A" through "H" left standing after the fire, 1951 (Amman & Whitney Architects-Engineers, *Camp McCoy, Wisconsin Mobilization Buildings Service Club Building 905 Area Plan*. Public Domain).

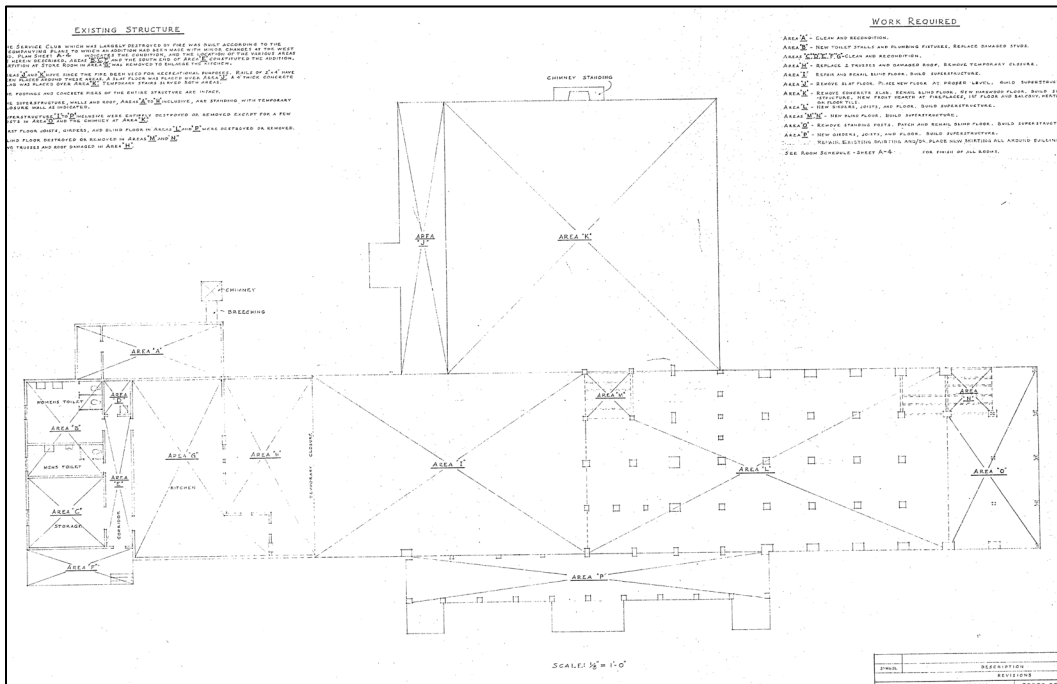


Figure 11. Building 905, Service Club No. 3, after reconstruction, January 1953 (La Crosse Sunday Tribune. Public Domain).



Figure 12. Building 905, Service Club No. 3, after being rebuilt, 1988 (HABS No. WI-308. Public Domain).



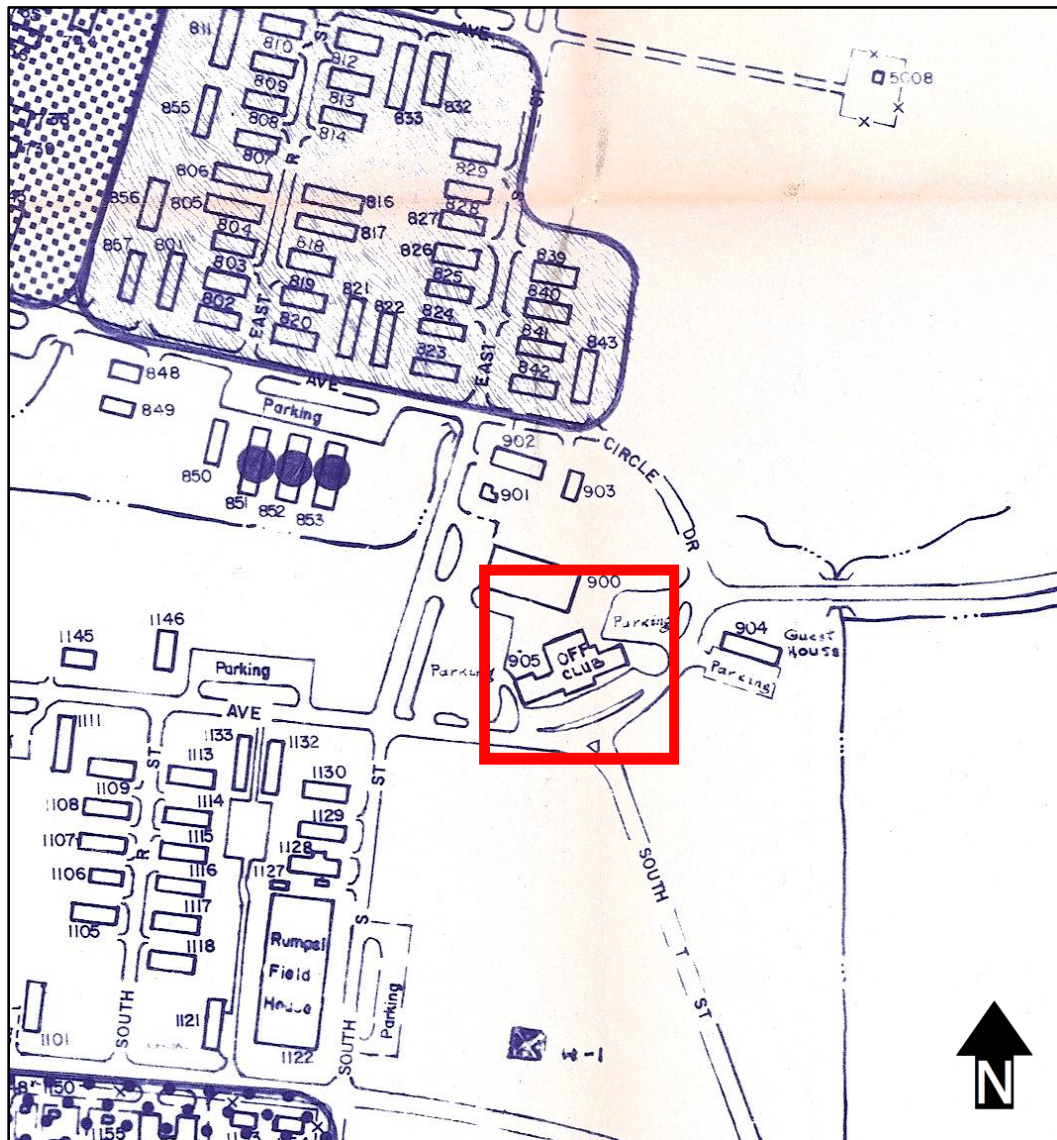
Figure 13. Building 905, Service Club No. 3, after reconstruction, December 1952 (Photograph no. 401475, April 28, 1952, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #3, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Figure 14. Aerial image showing Building 905, Service Club No. 3, and Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center, 1988 (HABS No. WI-308. Public Domain).



Figure 15. *Fort McCoy Demolition Plan* showing Building 905 labeled as an Officers' Club, 1993 (Image from Fort McCoy Cultural Resources Management [CRM] Office. Public Domain).



During the early 1950s, Camp McCoy continued to serve as a major training center for the 5th Army to prepare soldiers for deployment to Korea.²² Training activities included close-order drill and record firing on ranges and the use of open terrain for vehicle training. Facilities used included the

²² "McCoy to Go on Full Time," *Milwaukee Journal*, Aug. 10, 1950, n.p.

small arms ranges, artillery ranges, combined woods and village fighting course, classroom facilities (Figure 16), and grenade courses.²³

Figure 16. Soldiers receive training in communication techniques, May 1951
(Photograph no. 373981, May 16, 1951, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #3, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



These training facilities were constructed during WWII and simply reused for Korean War training. The hospital block was also constructed during WWII and reused during this period. The hospital was isolated from the cantonment area to reduce the impact of noise and dirt on patients and was organized in a gridiron plan. There were more than 100 buildings in

²³ Office of the Post Engineer, *Reservation Boundary Map*, Sept. 12, 1944; 48th Engr. Bn., *Camp McCoy*, Feb. 1954, 1:50,000, Camp McCoy, WI: US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort McCoy; [Photo of small building on rifle range], 1949, Fort McCoy Historical Center; [Photo of men on range], 1940, Fort McCoy Historical Center; [Photo of gun crew firing 80-inch howitzer], 1952, Fort McCoy Historical Center; [Photo of soldiers in training village], 1940, Fort McCoy Historical Center; [Photo of training village], 1951, Fort McCoy Historical Center; Photograph No. 359513, Jan. 12, 1951, McCoy, CP. WIS., Book #2, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD; Photograph No. 572579, April 9, 1951, McCoy, CP. WIS., Book #2, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD; "McCoy Activities In Past Year Told," *Tomah Monitor-Herald*, Dec. 26, 1960, 1, 6.

this block, including officers' quarters, barracks, store houses, mess halls, administration buildings, and, of course, hospital wards.²⁴

Camp McCoy's Reassignment and Separation Center, which had opened in October 1951, closed in January 1953 after processing around 33,000 soldiers.²⁵ The camp was officially deactivated on February 1 of the same year, shortly before the end of the Korean War.²⁶

2.2 Vietnam War, 1955–1975

After Camp McCoy's deactivation, summer training of Army Reserve and National Guard units continued. A large-scale range and training facilities improvement plan was implemented in 1958, though it is unclear if this had an impact on the cantonment.²⁷ By 1960, Camp McCoy reportedly hosted approximately 65,000 reserve soldiers and guardsmen each summer.²⁸ These soldiers continued to use the cantonment and facilities constructed during WWII.²⁹ Additionally, in 1955, the Wisconsin State Patrol established a training academy at Camp McCoy, as it was easily accessible and the necessary buildings and training facilities were already constructed (Figure 17).³⁰

24 Sunny E. Adams, Megan W. Tooker, and Adam Smith, "Fort McCoy, Wisconsin WWII Buildings and Landscapes," ERDC/CERL TR-20-12 (Champaign, IL: Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Nov. 2020).

25 Mittelstaedt and Motosicky, 38.

26 US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and Defense Ammunition Center, *Archive Search Report Findings (Volume) for Fort McCoy* (Sparta, WI: Fort McCoy, July 1997): 14.

27 Office of the Post Engineer, *Master Range and Training Facilities Improvement Plan*, Dec. 20, 1957, 1:25,000, Camp McCoy, WI: US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI.

28 "Thunder of Camp McCoy's Rockets Rolls Over Peaceful Farms in Monroe County," *The Milwaukee Journal*, July 7, 1960, 1.

29 "Thunder of Camp McCoy's Rockets Rolls Over Peaceful Farms in Monroe County," *The Milwaukee Journal*, July 7, 1960, 1.

30 "Fort McCoy: 90 Years of Service to America's Army," 14.

Figure 18. The 130th Infantry, 1st Battalion from Carbondale, Illinois, participates in riot control training during two weeks of training at Camp McCoy, July 1966 (Photograph no. 47-018-0147-3/AL 66, July 8, 1966, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #5, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Figure 19. Map showing construction and renovations since 1951 marked in *green*, 1968 (322 Engr. Topo. Co. Corps, 1968. Public Domain).

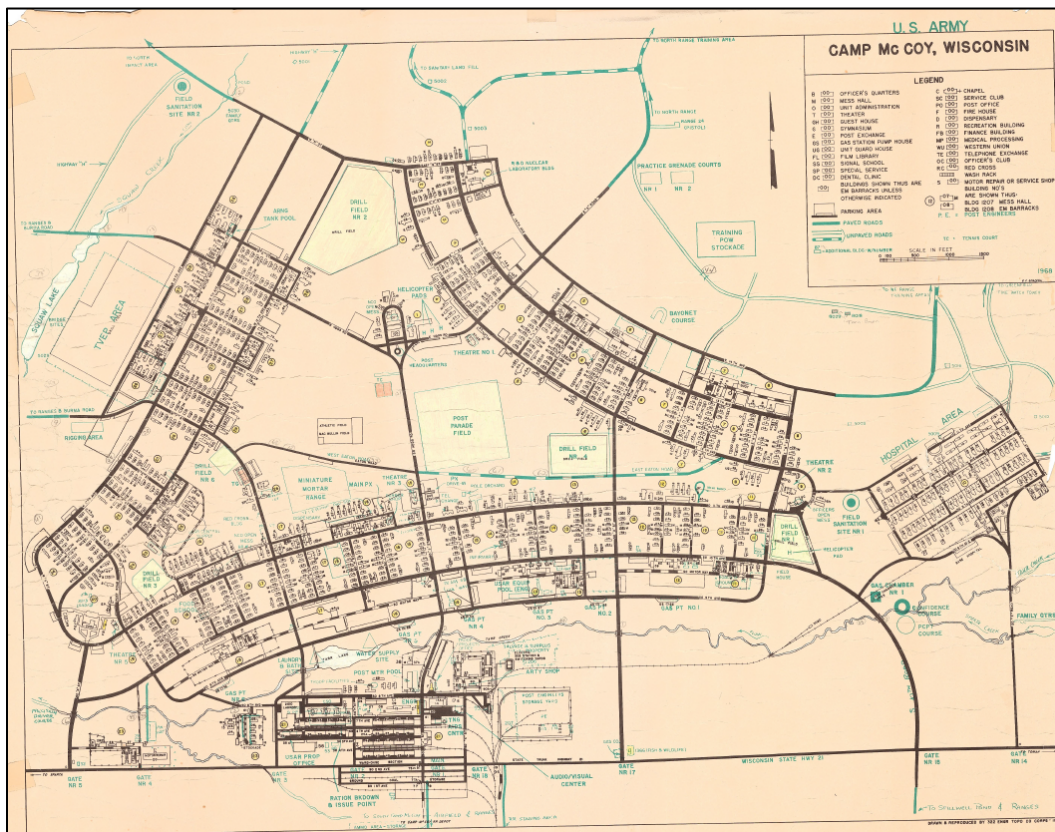


Figure 20. WWII-era barracks were still in use at Camp McCoy during the summer of 1965 (Photograph no. 47-018-0165-3/AL 65, July 7, 1965, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #5, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Figure 21. Interior of WWII-era barracks as reused for Vietnam War barracks, c. 1960 (Image from Fort McCoy CRM Office. Public Domain).



An exception to this was the renovation of 167 buildings for \$2 million as well as the construction of a fieldhouse with a swimming pool (Building 1 1122), warehouse, and gatehouse for \$750,000 (Figure 22, Figure 23, and Figure 24). These were constructed and used by Camp McCoy's Job Corps Training Center, a program at the camp that taught low-income teenage boys vocational, technical, and social skills. The Job Corps Training Center was open from 1966 to 1968, at which point the facilities were transferred to the Army.³⁴

Figure 22. Aerial image of fieldhouse, Building 1122, 1988 (HABS No. WI-308. Public Domain).



³⁴ US Army, "History."

Figure 23. Swimming pool in Building 1122, July 1978 (Photo no. 675942, July 25, 1978, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #5, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Figure 24. Special Services gym in Building 1122, July 1978 (Photo no. 675941, July 25, 1978, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #5, Record Group 111-SCA 400, NARA, College Park, MD. Public Domain).



Additionally, in 1968, the Post Engineer Office projects included sidewalk upgrades (Figure 25), changes to Theater No. 5 (Building 2017) (Figure 26), and the construction of a new oil storage building (Building 2191) (Figure 27).³⁵

Figure 25. Post Engineer Project sidewalks, 1968 (“Post Engineer Project Sidewalks South J Street,” Fort McCoy CRM Office. Public Domain).



³⁵ “Post Engineer Project Sidewalks South J Street,” 1968, Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI; “Post Engineer Project Enclose Side Exits to Theater #5,” 1968, Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI; “Post Engineer Project New Oil Storage Building 2191,” 1968, Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI.

Figure 26. Enclosed side exit to Theater No. 5, Building 2017 (“Post Engineer Project Enclose Side Exits to Theater #5.” Public Domain).



Figure 27. Oil storage building, Building 2191 (“Post Engineer Project New Oil Storage Building 2191.” Public Domain).



In July 1970, three enlisted soldiers stole explosives from a rock quarry near La Crosse, WI, and bombed a telephone exchange, electric substation, and water works at Camp McCoy. The soldiers held the rank of specialist fourth class and were stationed at Fort Carson, CO, but were assigned to temporary duty at Camp McCoy for summer training. The bombing resulted in an estimated \$100,000 in damages, though the power substation and water reservoir were only minimally damaged. No one was injured. The three men were indicted in February 1971, despite the American Servicemen's Union's advocacy for their innocence and release.³⁶

In September 1974, Camp McCoy transitioned into a year-round training facility and was redesignated as Fort McCoy. Troop training activities accordingly continued through the end of the 20th century and into the 21st.³⁷ To accommodate this, the first major new construction at Fort McCoy since 1942 began in the 1990s. Between 1990 and 2007, \$208.3 million were spent on new training and administrative facilities (Figure 28, Figure 29, and Figure 30).³⁸

Figure 28. Looking southeast at Building 1671, a new laundry facility, 2020 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



³⁶ "3 G.I.'s Indicted in Camp Bombing," *New York Times*, Feb. 12, 1971, 15, <https://www.nytimes.com/1971/02/12/archives/3-gis-indicted-in-camp-bombing-accused-of-july-explosions-at.html>.

³⁷ Mittelstaedt and Motosicky, 39; US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and Defense Ammunition Center, *Volume I*, 15; Terry Burt, "General: Fort McCoy Important," *La Crosse Tribune*, Oct. 30, 1997.

³⁸ Army Technology, "Fort McCoy," Projects, accessed Dec. 20, 2021, <https://www.army-technology.com/projects/fort-mccoy/>.

Figure 29. Looking east at Building 2840, a new administration building, 2020 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



Figure 30. Looking north at a not-yet-numbered mess hall under construction between the 2400 and 2500 areas between West 12th and West 13th Avenues, 2020 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



3 Determination of Significance

3.1 Categories of historic properties

The identification of historically significant properties is achieved only through the evaluation of their position within the larger historic context. According to the NRHP, historic contexts are defined as “the patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood, and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within prehistory or history is made clear.”³⁹ A historic property is determined significant or not significant based on the application of standardized NRHP criteria within the property’s historical context. To qualify as historic, a property must have an association with a relevant historic context as well as having retained its physical integrity through which its historic significance is conveyed. The NRHP categorizes significant properties as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects, defined as follows:

Building: A building is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. Examples of buildings include: administration building, house, barn, stable, train station, church, or shed.

Structure: Structures are distinguished from buildings by being functional constructions made for purposes other than creating human shelter. Examples of structures include: aircraft hangars, bandstands, bridges, canals, fences, kilns, or windmills.

Object: The term object is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples of objects include boundary markers, fountains, monuments, sculptures or statues.

³⁹ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 7.

Site: A site is the location of a significant event, a pre-historic or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Examples of sites include: battlefield, campsite, ceremonial site, designed landscape, rock shelter, or village site.

District: A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district can comprise both features that lack individual distinction and individually distinctive features that serve as focal points. A group of features lacking in individual distinction may even be considered eligible if the grouping achieves significance as a whole within its historic context. While a district derives its importance from being a unified entity, it can contain buildings, structures, sites, objects, or open spaces that do not contribute to the significance of the district if these properties do not adversely affect the district's integrity.⁴⁰

3.2 NRHP definitions and criteria

The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation describe how properties and districts are significant for their association with important events or persons (Criterion A and Criterion B), for their importance in design or construction (Criterion C), or for their information potential (Criterion D). A property may be significant under one or more criteria. The following is a brief description of each of the four NRHP Criteria for Evaluation, excerpted from *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*:⁴¹

⁴⁰ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 9.

⁴¹ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 2.

A. Event—associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. Person—associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Design/Construction—embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or that represents the work of a master; or that possesses high artistic values; or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Information Potential—yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.⁴²

Criterion Consideration G—a property achieving significance within the past fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.

A property that has achieved significance within the past fifty years can be evaluated only when sufficient historical perspective exists to determine that the property is exceptionally important. The necessary perspective can be provided by scholarly research and evaluation and must consider both the historic context and the specific property's role in that context.⁴³

3.3 Final recommendations of significance

The overall time period investigated for this report was from 1946–1975. Through researching the archival records and using the historic context developed in Chapter 2 of this report, the researchers determined that there were two periods of significance:

1. 1945–1953: Early Cold War and Korean War
2. 1955–1975: Vietnam War

⁴² NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 2.

⁴³ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 2.

Both periods of significance were used for this survey, depending on the building's age and use. There are 11 building reviewed that were built in either period of significance, and their integrity is addressed in Chapter 5.

3.3.1 1945–1953: Early Cold War and Korean War

In June 1947, Camp McCoy was placed in inactive status with only a caretaking detachment assigned to the reservation.⁴⁴ Until 1950, the primary activity at Camp McCoy was summer training for Army Reserves and National Guardsmen.⁴⁵

On August 9, 1950, the Department of the Army announced that Camp McCoy would reopen as a full-time training center for combat and service soldiers of the Fifth Army preparing to deploy for the Korean War.⁴⁶ Camp McCoy was able to quickly prepare for full occupancy because of the amount of WWII-era temporary structures that existed already and the condition of these structures. Along with housing the troops in WWII-era structures, training facilities that were constructed during WWII were simply reused for Korean War training. The hospital block was also constructed during WWII and reused during this period. The camp was officially deactivated on February 1 of the same year, shortly before the end of the Korean War.⁴⁷

A total of four buildings and structures that were constructed from 1946 to 1953 were surveyed for this report (see Table 2).

⁴⁴ Mittelstaedt and Motosicky, "The Establishment of Fort McCoy;" Headquarters Camp McCoy, *History of Camp McCoy*, 4.

⁴⁵ "31,850 Soldiers in McCoy Summer Camp."

⁴⁶ Mittelstaedt and Motosicky, "The Establishment of Fort McCoy," 37-38.

⁴⁷ US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and Defense Ammunition Center, *Archive Search Report Findings (Volume) for Fort McCoy* (Sparta, WI: Fort McCoy, July 1997): 14.

Table 2. List of buildings evaluated in the Fort McCoy cantonment constructed between 1946 to 1953 (DPW, Fort McCoy).

| Facility Number | Built Date | Historic Use | Current Use | Current Category Code |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 905 | 1942 1952 ⁴⁸ | SERVICE CLUB NO. 3 | MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER | 73080 |
| 2199 | 7/7/1952 | PAINT SHOP | ENGINEERING/HOUSING MAINTENANCE | 21910 |
| 2569 | 7/1/1946 | GENERAL-PURPOSE WAREHOUSE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 10119 | 6/25/1951 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |

The following section detail findings regarding the historical significance of the four buildings constructed between 1946 and 1953.

For Criterion A—Event

There is no significant event associated with Buildings 905, 2199, 2569, and 10119.

For Criterion B—Person

There is no significant person associated with Buildings 905, 2199, 2569, and 10119.

For Criterion C—Design and Construction

The design and construction of Buildings 2199 and 10119 could not be linked to a specific architect. These buildings do not embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, do not represent the work of a master, and do not possess high artistic values. The

⁴⁸ The original built date for Building 905 was 1942; however, in 1950, Service Club No. 3, Building 905, caught fire. The fire damaged most of the building, with only the superstructure, walls, and roof of the kitchen and adjacent boiler room, latrines, storage area, and corridor remaining. The footings and concrete piers of the structure also remained. To make use of the remaining features, the club was rebuilt following the 800 series standardized plan, #800-517, that was used for the original building, though it also incorporated the plans for a porch that was added in 1943. The rebuilding of Building 905 was complete in 1952, which is what is reflected in the current Fort McCoy Real Property database and not the original date of 1942.

construction of the buildings was not part of a large program of military construction funding.

The design and construction of the WWII temporary building could not be linked to a specific architect due to its construction from standardized War Department temporary building plans. It does not possess high artistic values; however, WWII temporary buildings in general were found to be significant for their design, construction, and technological innovation under Criterion C, but this building was erected outside that 1939–1945 period of significance.

For Criterion D—History

The available historical records provided no indication that Buildings 905, 2199, 2569, and 10119 have yielded, or were likely to yield, any information important in history.

3.3.2 1955–1975: Vietnam War

After Camp McCoy's deactivation, summer training of Army Reserve and National Guard units continued through the summer of 1968. A large-scale range and training facilities improvement plan was implemented in 1958, though it is unclear if this had an impact on the cantonment.⁴⁹ Minimal construction occurred within the cantonment through the 1950s and 1960s, and the cantonment structures built during WWII continued to be reused.

An exception to this was the renovation of 167 buildings for \$2 million, as well as the construction of a fieldhouse with a swimming pool (Building 1122) and warehouse.

In September 1974, Camp McCoy transitioned into a year-round training facility and was redesignated as Fort McCoy.

A total of seven buildings and structures that were constructed from 1946 to 1953 were surveyed for this report (Table 3).

⁴⁹ Office of the Post Engineer, *Master Range and Training Facilities Improvement Plan*, Dec. 20, 1957, 1:25,000, Camp McCoy, WI: US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort McCoy CRM Office, Fort McCoy, WI.

Table 3. List of buildings evaluated in the Fort McCoy cantonment constructed between 1955 to 1975 (DPW, Fort McCoy).

| Facility Number | Built Date | Historic Use | Current Use | Current Category Code |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1122 | 6/14/1967 | RUMPEL FIELDHOUSE | PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER | 74028 |
| 1268 | 11/1/1967 | JOB CORPS WAREHOUSE | LIMITED USE INSTRUCTIONAL BUILDING | 17138 |
| 2176 | 9/11/1968 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS FACILITY | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 2186 | 10/28/1964 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS FACILITY | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | 44224 |
| 2198 | 12/24/1975 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | FLAM MAT STR IN | 44240 |
| 8038 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | 73075 |
| 8040 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | 73075 |

The following section details findings regarding the historical significance of the four buildings constructed between 1955–1975.

For Criterion A—Event

There is no significant event associated with Buildings 1122, 1268, 2176, 2186, 2198, 8038, and 8040.

For Criterion B—Person

There is no significant person associated with Buildings 1122, 1268, 2176, 2186, 2198, 8038, and 8040.

For Criterion C—Design and Construction

The design and construction of Buildings 2199 and 10119 could not be linked to a specific architect. These buildings do not embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, do not represent the work of a master, and do not possess high artistic values. The

construction of the buildings was not part of a large program of military construction funding.

The design and construction of Building 1122 could not be linked to a specific architect for Criterion C significance. The building does not embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, does not represent the work of a master, and does not possess high artistic values. Military recreation is not a significant theme for broad patterns of history, and the construction of the building was not part of a large program of military recreation construction funding.

For Criterion D—History

The available historical records provided no indication that Buildings 1122, 1268, 2176, 2186, 2198, 8038, and 8040 have yielded, or were likely to yield, any information important in history.

3.4 Historic district

None of the 11 buildings were related to any existing historic district, and none of them were found to comprise a historic district related to the 1946–1975 period of significance.

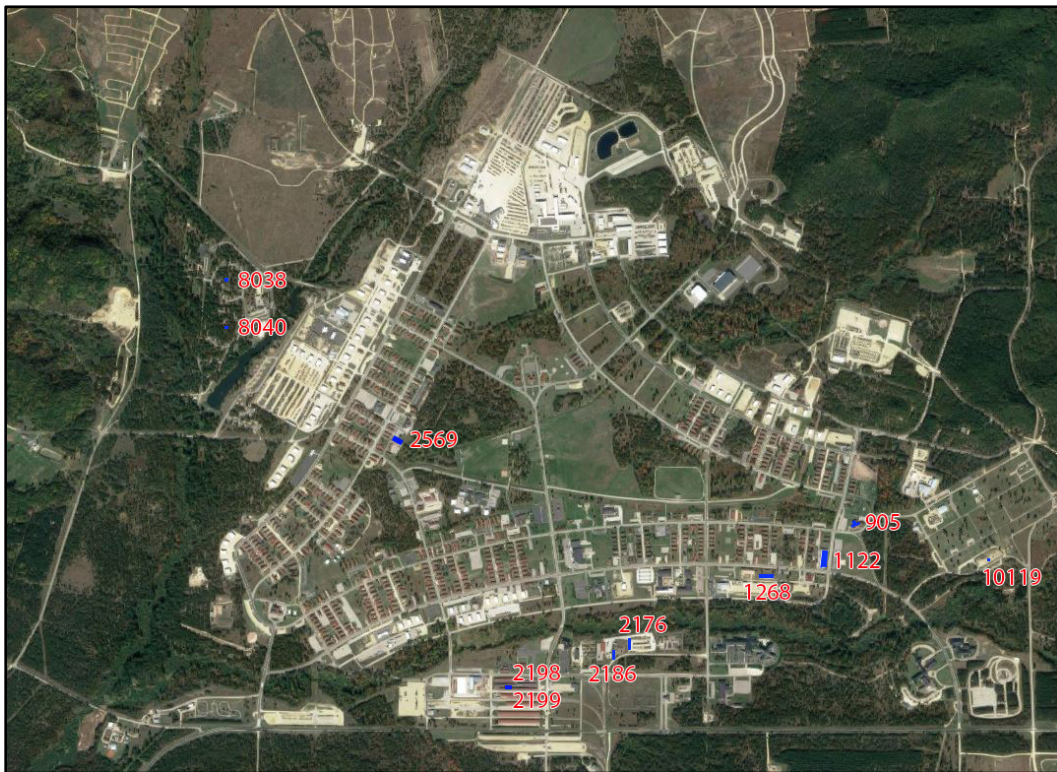
3.5 National, state, or local significance

The available historical records give no indication that these 11 buildings have any significance in a national, state, or local context.

4 Buildings

There are 11 buildings constructed from 1946–1975 on the list given to the researchers to evaluate (see Figure 31). This chapter will discuss their current condition, and the photos in this chapter are to give the reader a general idea of the exterior and interior, when applicable, of the 11 buildings. Please refer to the individual inventory forms in the appendix for more detailed descriptions and photographs.

Figure 31. Location of the evaluated buildings within the Fort McCoy cantonment in 2022 (Map data: Google, 2022; red building numbers and blue boxes added by ERDC-CERL).

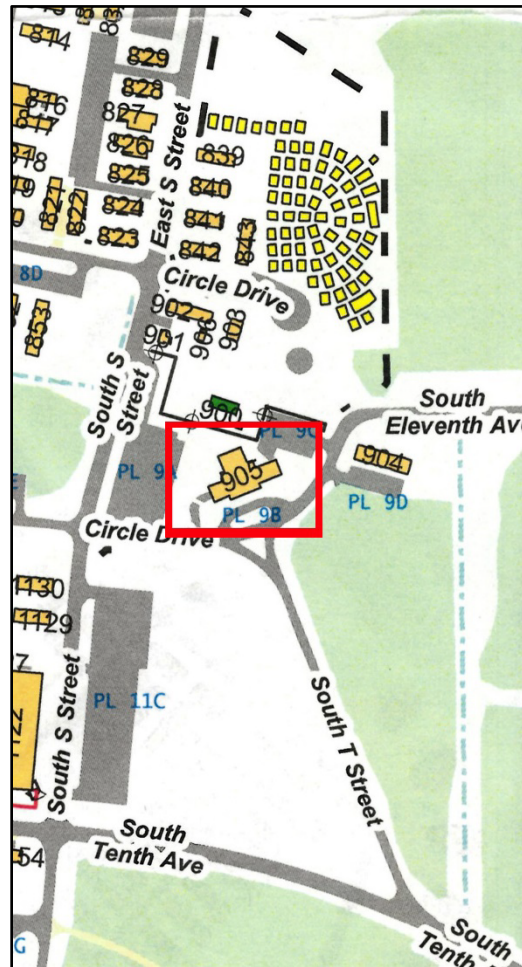


4.1 Building 905, Service Club No. 3

The 900 block is located in the southeast corner of the triangular cantonment and is encompassed by Circle Drive on the north, east, and south and South S Street on the west. The 900 block is composed of Service Club No. 3, Building 905, and a Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ), Building 904. A picnic pavilion and Building 900 (along with Buildings 901, 902, and 903), two recreation buildings, and a company officers' quarters have been

incorporated into the history museum complex, which is just north of the 900 block (see Figure 32).

Figure 32. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 1122 indicated by the red box (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 905 has a T-shaped footprint, concrete pier foundation with wood foundation skirting, wood frame construction clad with cement asbestos siding, a cross-gable roof clad with red asphalt shingles, and metal fascia and soffit (see Figure 33 and Figure 34). The windows are replacement one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows. The doors are replacement doors. The building has an approximate area of 18,140 sq ft.

The interior of Building 905 has undergone several renovations to include new finishes and fixtures; however, for the most part, the layout of spaces is intact. Few partition walls have been constructed to enclose what was original open interior spaces such as the dancehall, second-floor library

(east wing), and billiards room (west wing) (see Figure 35 and Figure 36). Most of the newer walls and smaller interior spaces created are located on the first floor near the main entry hall, the first floor in the east wing, and the second-floor area above the entry hall. All the interior doors have been replaced with newer wood doors. All the light fixtures have been replaced. All the woodwork, including exposed structural members, has been painted.

The construction of Building 905 was part of a massive, nationwide mobilization program designed to build cantonments in which to house and train the expanded WWII Army.

Building 905 was erected in 1942 as Service Club No. 3 using the Construction Division Office of the Quartermaster General, Mobilization Building, Service Club Type SC-3, Plan Number 800-517 standardized plan of the War Department. The 800 Series plans featured well-constructed wooden buildings with ample structural members and such comforts as indoor plumbing and forced, hot-air furnaces. Building 905 was one of two SC-3 Service clubs constructed in the main cantonment area of the “New Camp McCoy.”

In November 1950, “a fire of undetermined origin swept Service Club, Camp McCoy, early Sunday morning. The building was a total loss with the exception of the kitchen and boiler room.”⁵⁰ Camp McCoy decided to rebuild the structure using the original 800 Series service club drawing and constructing the building using in-kind materials as to the 1942 construction, such as wood framing members, asbestos siding, and asphalt shingles.

In 1968, modifications were done to the building to covert it from a service club to an officers’ open mess. In 1975, the interior was modified to include a kitchen addition. In 2003, the entire building underwent renovation to convert the building from a mess to a ceremonial hall. The renovation included adding new light fixtures, installing carpet throughout most of the interior with the exception of the wood floor in the original dancehall space, painting the exposed woodwork, constructing partition walls in the first-floor library space and second floor above the entry hall, and removing all of the kitchen equipment in the west wing. The building design and

⁵⁰ *Tomah Monitor-Herald*, Nov. 17, 1980, 12.

materials used during this renovation are the same that are present today. In 2004, a new roof was installed using red asphalt shingles.

The building is currently being used as a Multifunctional Community Center with an Army building code of 73080.

Figure 33. Southeast side of Building 905, Service Club No. 3 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



Figure 34. Northeast side of Building 905, Service Club No. 3 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



Figure 35. Interior view of the modified ballroom space in Building 905, Service Club No. 3 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



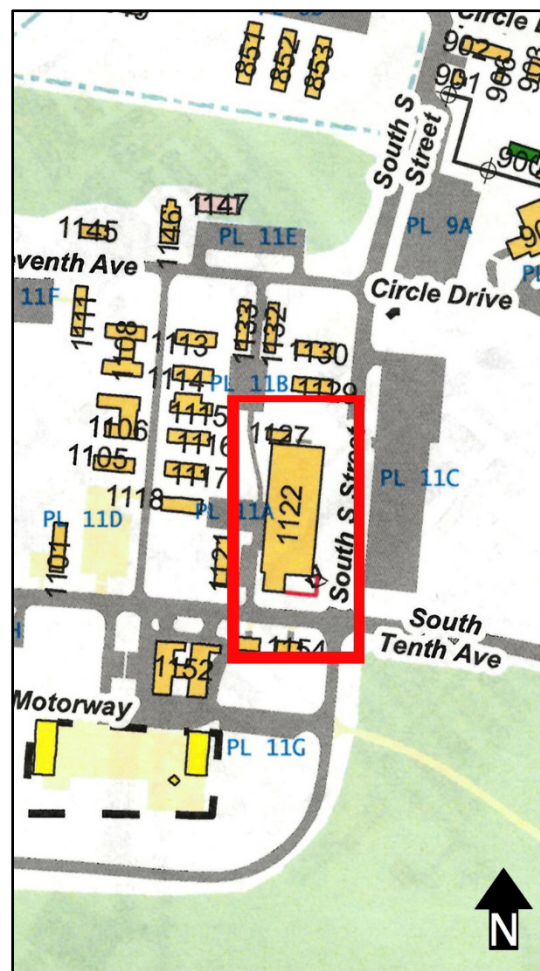
Figure 36. Interior view of the second floor in Building 905, Service Club No. 3 (ERDC-CERL 2020).



4.2 Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center

The 1100 block is located on the southeast side of the cantonment triad. The 1100 battalion block consists of WWII temporary buildings. Building 1122 is the most recent addition to the 1100 block, and it is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of South 10th Avenue and South S Street (see Figure 37).

Figure 37. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 1122 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 1122, originally the Rumpel Fieldhouse, was constructed in 1967 as a fitness center with an indoor pool, locker rooms, a weight room, and a large gymnasium space for a total of 37,800 sq ft (see Figure 40, Figure 41, and Figure 42). The building was built as a long rectangular structure with a one-story portion on the south end and a high-bay area on the north end. The building had metal cladding with standing metal seam siding. There

were two different gable roofs clad with standing metal seam panels (see Figure 38 and Figure 39).

At an unknown date, the original metal siding and roofing materials were removed, and newer metal materials were added. All the original, large, multipane industrial-style windows were removed and replaced with the current anodized bronze aluminum windows. All the original metal exterior doors have been replaced since the construction of the building. Two large sets of windows and a set of metal and plate glass doors with side-lights and transom were added on the southeast side of the wall, and a solarium addition was added to the southwest side of the wall; all of these changes were most likely completed in 1999. Also at an unknown date, a small sauna room addition was added on the southwest corner of the pool area. There are several original blonde interior doors intact (see Figure 43).

The building is currently being used as a fitness center with an Army building code of 74028.

Figure 38. Southeast oblique of Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 39. West side of Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 40. Interior view of the pool area in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 41. Interior view of the modified fitness area in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 42. Interior view of a modified locker room in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



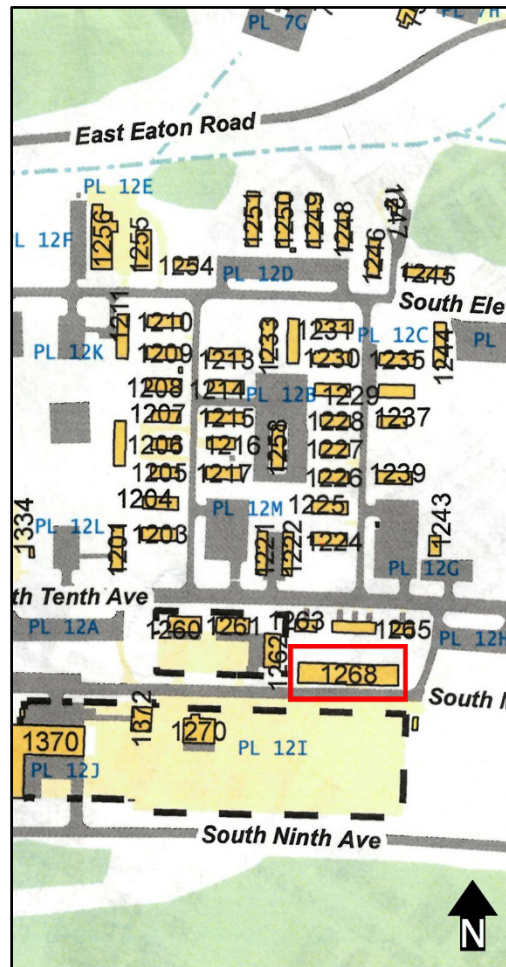
Figure 43. Typical original blonde-wood interior door with a large pane in the top half of the door in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.3 Building 1268, warehouse

The 1200 block is located on the south side of the triangular cantonment layout. The 1200 battalion block contains WWII temporary buildings. Buildings 1268 and 1270 are the only two buildings added to the 1200 block after the WWII construction. Building 1268 is located in the motor pool area on the south side of South 10th Avenue (Figure 44).

Figure 44. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 1268 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 1268 was constructed in 1967 as a Jobs Corps warehouse. The original building was built as a one-story, rectangular prefabricated metal structure. According to the map documentation provided by Fort McCoy DPW, a hyphen addition was constructed between Buildings 1267 and 1268 sometime between 1981 and 1993, and, sometime between 1993 and 2014, building number 1267 was removed from Real Property and converted to Building 1268, including the hyphen addition. It is unknown if the metal overhead doors and metal entry doors are original to the construction or if they have been replaced.

Building 1268 is a long, rectangular prefabricated metal building (see Figure 45). There are three separate buildings combined to make up Building 1268. The original Building 1268 is located on the east end, a newer metal hyphen addition is in the middle, and the original Building 1267 is on the

west end. The building has a concrete foundation, metal clad walls, and three separate metal gable roofs. The interior of Building 1268 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

Building 1268 is currently being used as a Limited Use Instruction Building with an Army building code of 17138.

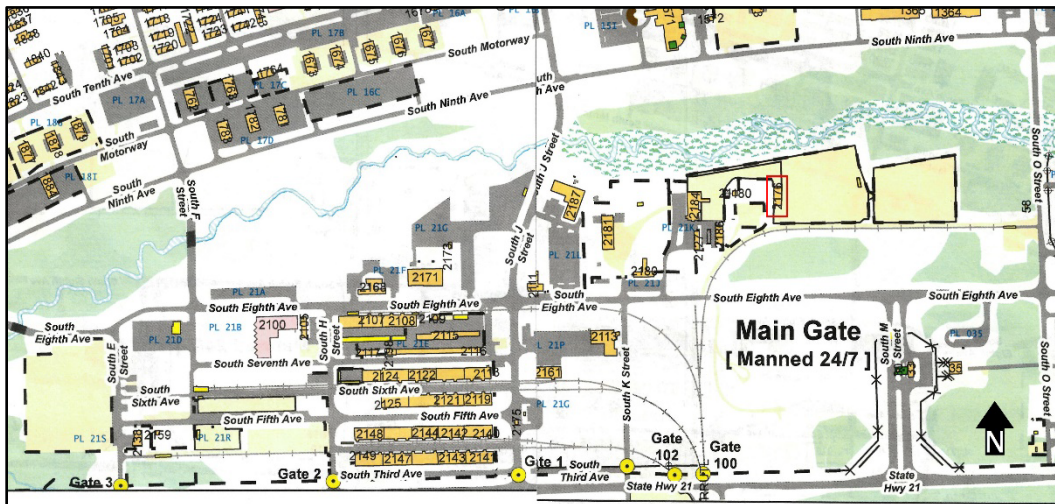
Figure 45. Southwest oblique of Building 1268 (with the original Building 1267 in the foreground, the hyphen addition in the middle, and Building 1268 in the background) (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.4 Building 2176, storage building

The 2100 block contains the support, warehouse, and quartermaster areas, as well as the rail lines into the cantonment, located south of the triangular cantonment plan. All the WWII storage buildings along the rail lines east of South H Street remain today. New construction in the 2100 Block includes Buildings 2100, 2171, 2176, 2186, 2187, 2189, and 2199. Building 2176 is located within a fenced area on the northeast side of the 2100 block (Figure 46).

Figure 46. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 2176 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 2176 was constructed in 1968 as a Quonset hut used for storage as a Government surplus property facility. The original construction of the Quonset hut was designed as a lightweight prefabricated structure of corrugated steel members that were bolted together on-site. At an unknown date(s), the original steel-framed windows on the north and south sides of the building were removed and the openings filled with a plexiglass material, and the original door(s) on the north side were removed and replaced with one large metal overhead door (see Figure 47 and Figure 48). The interior of Building 2176 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

Building 2176 is currently used as an organization storage building with an Army building code of 44224.

Figure 47. Northwest oblique of Building 2176 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



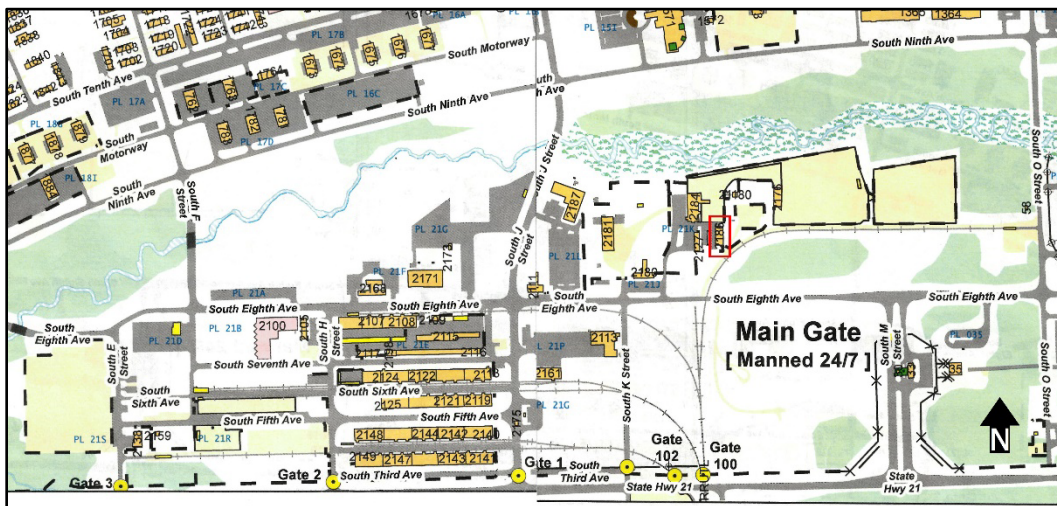
Figure 48. South side of Building 2176 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.5 Building 2186, storage building

The 2100 block contains the support, warehouse, and quartermaster areas, as well as the rail lines into the cantonment, located south of the triangular cantonment plan. All the WWII storage buildings along the rail lines east of South H Street remain today. New construction in the 2100 Block includes Buildings 2100, 2171, 2176, 2186, 2187, 2189, and 2199. Building 2186 is located within a fenced area on the northeast side of the 2100 block (Figure 49).

Figure 49. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 2186 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 2186 was constructed in 1964 as a Quonset hut used for storage as a Government surplus property facility. The original construction of the Quonset hut was designed as a lightweight prefabricated structure of corrugated steel members that were bolted together on-site. At an unknown date(s), the original steel framed windows on the north and south sides of the building were removed and the openings filled with corrugated metal sheets, and the original door(s) on the north side were removed and replaced with one large metal overhead door (see Figure 50 and Figure 51). The interior of Building 2176 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

Building 2186 is currently used as an organization storage building with an Army building code of 44224.

Figure 50. Northwest oblique of Building 2186 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



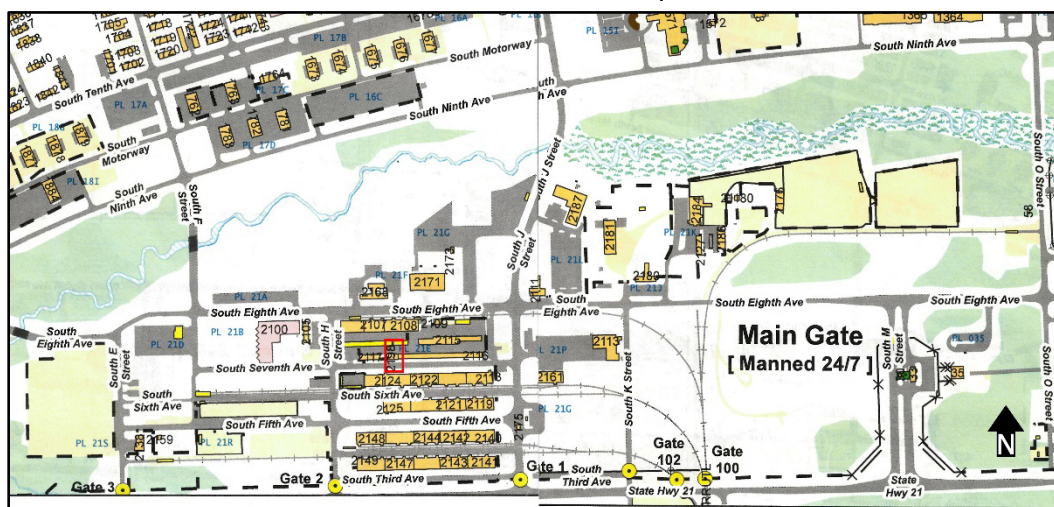
Figure 51. Southeast oblique of Building 2186 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.6 Building 2198, flammable storage building

The 2100 block contains the support, warehouse, and quartermaster areas, as well as the rail lines into the cantonment, located south of the triangular cantonment plan. All the WWII storage buildings along the rail lines east of South H Street remain today. New construction in the 2100 Block includes Buildings 2100, 2171, 2176, 2186, 2187, 2189, and 2199. Building 2198 is located in the warehouse area of the 2100 block (Figure 52).

Figure 52. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 2198 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 2198 was constructed in 1975 as a simple, utilitarian-style structure using concrete block for the exterior walls and a shallow, shed concrete roof with overhanging eaves (see Figure 53 and Figure 54). The building was used for flammable paint storage in the 2100 block warehouse area. At an unknown date, the original metal door on the north side of the building was removed and replaced with a newer metal roll-up door. It is unclear if there was an original window on the south side or if the metal louvered vent was original. The interior of Building 2198 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

Building 2198 is currently being used as a flammable material storage building with a current Army building code of 44240.

Figure 53. Northwest oblique of Building 2198 (*right*) and Building 2199 (*left*) (ERDC-CERL 2021).



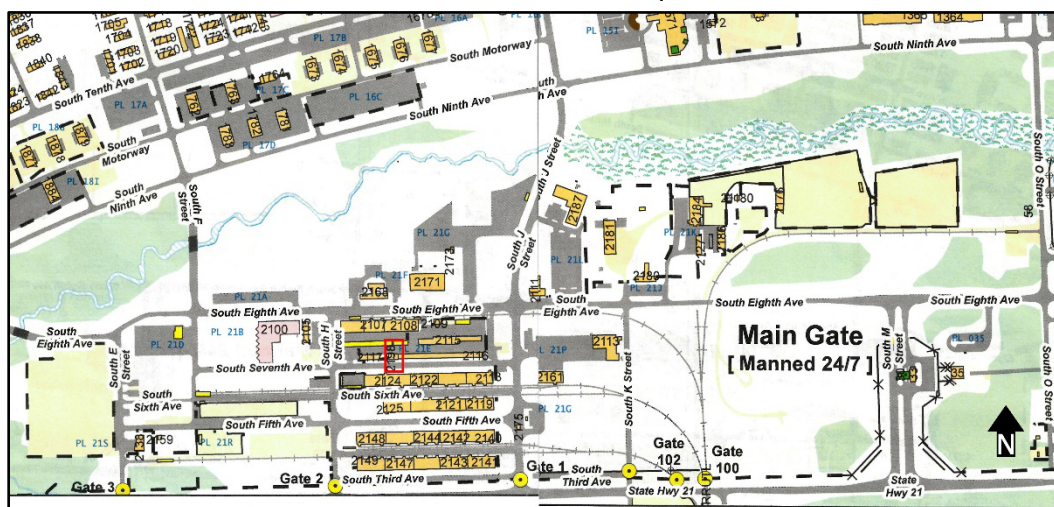
Figure 54. South side of Building 2198 (*left*) and Building 2199 (*right*) (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.7 Building 2199, paint shop

The 2100 block contains the support, warehouse, and quartermaster areas, as well as the rail lines into the cantonment, located south of the triangular cantonment plan. All the WWII storage buildings along the rail lines east of South H Street remain today. New construction in the 2100 Block includes Buildings 2100, 2171, 2176, 2186, 2187, 2189, and 2199. Building 2199 is located in the warehouse area of the 2100 block (Figure 55).

Figure 55. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 2199 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 2199 was constructed in 1952 as a simple, utilitarian-style structure using concrete block for the exterior walls and a shallow, shed concrete roof with overhanging eaves (see Figure 56 and Figure 57). The building was used for paint shop building in the 2100 block warehouse area. The building has undergone no exterior modifications. The original construction materials, including the wood glass and panel entry doors, small metal-sash windows, concrete windowsills, concrete lintels, metal fascia, and wood signs, are intact. The interior of Building 2198 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

Building 2199 is currently being used as an engineering and housing maintenance building with a current Army building code of 21910.

Figure 56. North side of Building 2199 (*left*) and Building 2198 (*right*) (ERDC-CERL 2021).



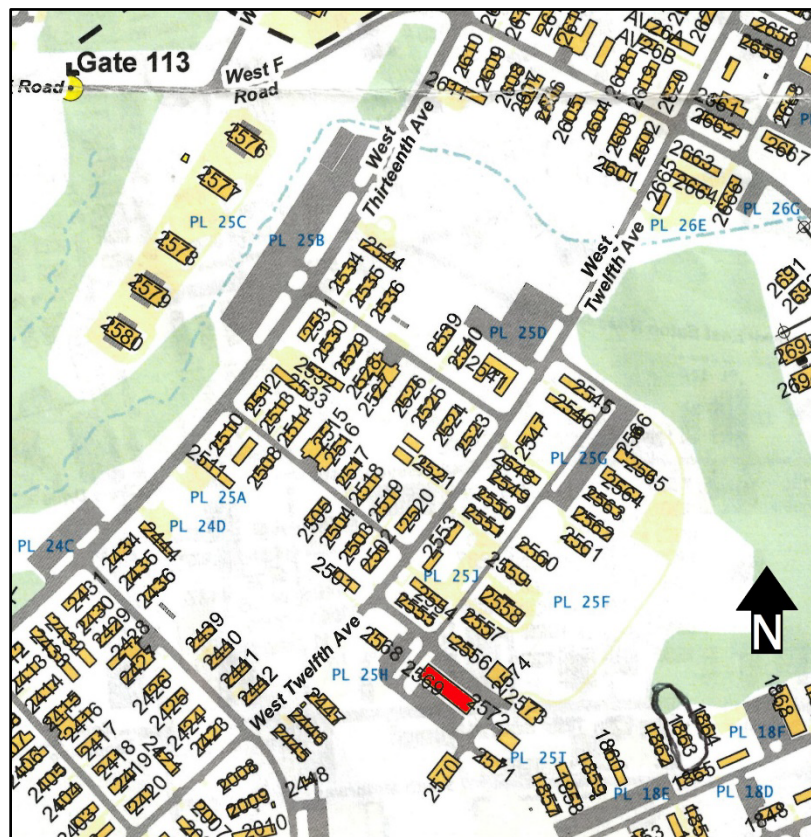
Figure 57. South side of Building 2199 (*right*) and Building 2198 (*left*) (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.8 Building 2569, general-purpose warehouse

The 2500 block is located on the west side of the triangular cantonment layout. The 2500 battalion block consists of WWII temporary buildings. New buildings added to the block include Buildings 2538, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, and 2574. Two new ammunition storage buildings were built behind Building 2521. New motor pool buildings (Buildings 2576–2580) have been added across West 13th Street (Figure 58).

Figure 58. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 2569 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 2569 was constructed in 1946 as a general-purpose warehouse. Building 2569 is a one-story structure with a rectangular footprint, a concrete foundation, and a side gable roof clad with red asphalt shingles (see Figure 59 and Figure 60). The exterior walls are clad with stucco-like wall panels. The original windows have all been replaced with vinyl double-hung windows. The fascia has been replaced with newer metal material. The interior of Building 2569 was not accessible to the researchers at the time of the survey.

At an unknown date(s) the original exterior was covered with the current stucco-like wall panels, the original windows were removed and replaced with the current vinyl double-hung windows, and the roof was replaced in-kind with red asphalt shingles (see Figure 59 and Figure 60).

Building 2569 is currently being used as an organizational storage building with an Army building code of 44224.

Figure 59. North oblique of Building 2569 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



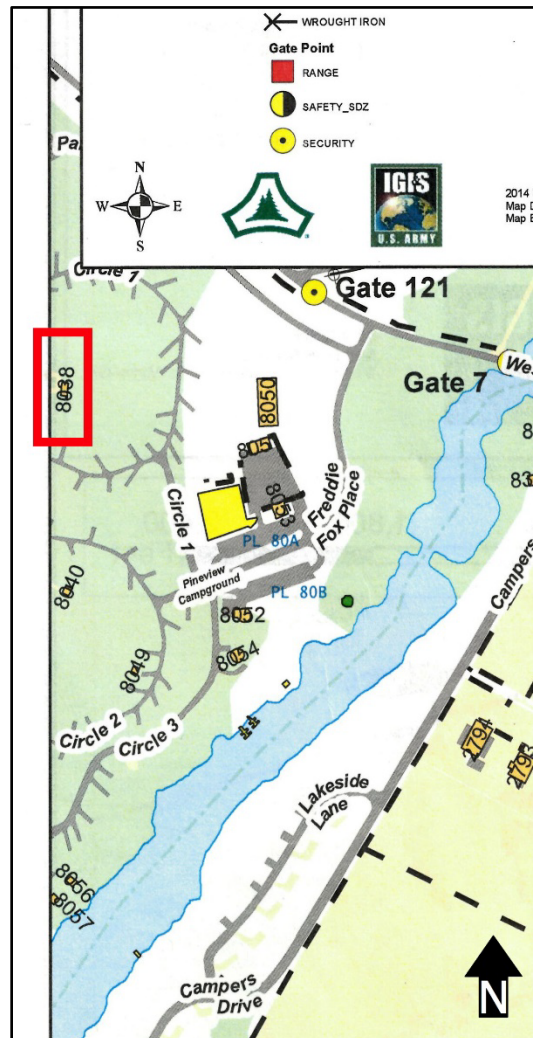
Figure 60. South oblique of Building 2569 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.9 Building 8038, campground shower

Pineview Campground recreation area is located to the west of the triad cantonment and is accessible via W J Street from the north. Squaw Lake and beach area is located on the southeast side of the recreation area. Associated buildings in the recreation area include 8040, 8049 8050, 8051, 8052, 8053, and 8054. The recreation area is mostly forest land with one exterior, circular road, Circle 3, providing access to two interior, circular roads, Circle 1 to the north and Circle 2 to the south. Building 8038 is in the middle of Circle 1 (see Figure 61).

Figure 61. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 8038 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 8038 was constructed in 1971 as a latrine and shower facility at the Pineview Campground recreation area. The building was constructed using concrete block for the exterior walls. At an unknown date(s) a log-like cladding material was applied over the original concrete block walls, and all of the windows were replaced with the current vinyl slider windows (see Figure 62 and Figure 63). The only design feature intact is the concrete lattice screen wall that is on the west side of the building. The interior was laid out in two separate spaces, with a latrine and shower area for men and another for women. At an unknown date, all of the materials and fixtures were replaced (see Figure 64).

Building 8038 is still being used as a latrine and shower facility with a category code of 73075.

Figure 62. West side of Building 8038 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 63. Southeast oblique of Building 8038 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



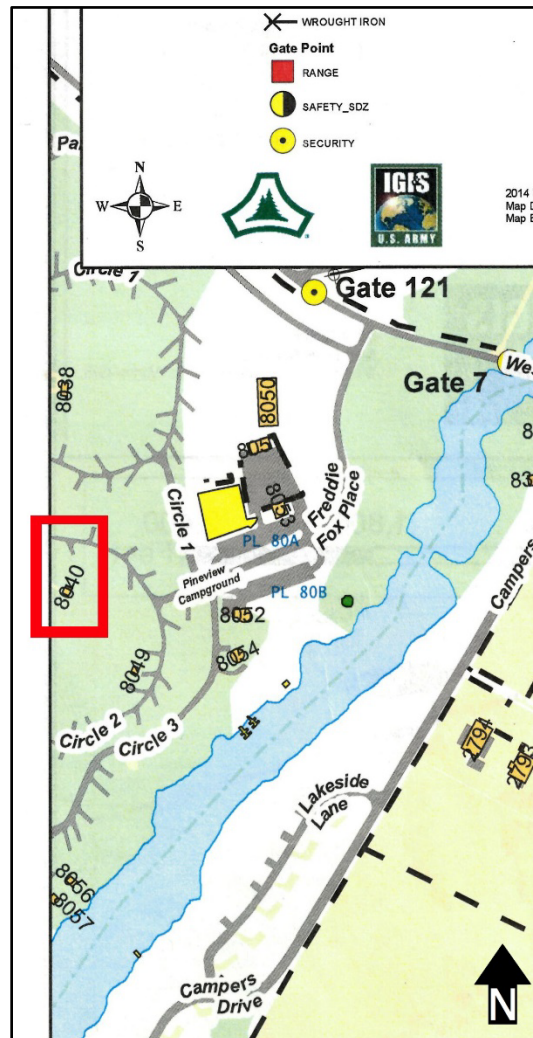
Figure 64. Interior view of the men's latrine in Building 8038 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.10 Building 8040, campground shower

Pineview Campground recreation area is located to the west of the triad cantonment and is accessible via W J Street from the north. Squaw Lake and beach is located on the southeast side of the recreation area. Associated buildings in the recreation area include 8040, 8049, 8050, 8051, 8052, 8053, and 8054. The recreation area is mostly forest land with one exterior, circular road, Circle 3, providing access to two interior, circular roads, Circle 1 to the north and Circle 2 to the south. Building 8040 is located in the middle of Circle 2 (Figure 65).

Figure 65. Portion of the 2014 *Cantonment Map Fort McCoy* with the location of Building 8040 indicated by the *red box* (Fort McCoy DPW, red box added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 8040 was constructed in 1971 as a latrine and shower facility at the Pineview Campground recreation area. The building was constructed using concrete block for the exterior walls. At an unknown date(s) a log-like cladding material was applied over the original concrete block walls, and all of the windows were replaced with the current vinyl slider windows (see Figure 66 and Figure 67). The interior was laid out in two separate spaces, with a latrine and shower area for men and another for women. At an unknown date, all of the materials and fixtures were replaced (see Figure 68).

Building 8040 is still being used as a latrine/shower facility with an Army building code of 73075.

Figure 66. Northwest side of Building 8040 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 67. Southwest side of Building 8040 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 68. Interior view of the women's latrine in Building 8038 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



4.11 Building 10119, flammable storage

Building 10119 is in the former WWII hospital area in block 10, which is east of the triad cantonment. None of the WWII structures remain, and several new buildings have been constructed in the area. South Eighth Avenue runs along the south side of the building (Figure 69).

Figure 69. Aerial view of the location of Building 10119 (Map data: Google, 2022)
(Red arrow and north arrow added by ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Building 10119 was constructed in 1951 in the former WWII hospital area, block 10, as a small one-story concrete block structure (see Figure 70 and Figure 71). The building has undergone no exterior modifications and is currently being used as an organizational storage building with a category code of 44224.

Figure 70. Southeast oblique of Building 10119 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



Figure 71. Southwest oblique of Building 10119 (ERDC-CERL 2021).



5 Aspects of Integrity

In addition to possessing historical significance, a property must also retain sufficient physical integrity of features to convey its significance and to be eligible for listing on NRHP.⁵¹ Integrity has very specific connotations in defining historic and cultural resources. Integrity is the authenticity of physical characteristics from which resources obtain their significance. Historic properties convey their significance through their integrity. Historic properties either retain integrity and convey their significance, or they do not.

5.1 Seven aspects of integrity

The National Register recognizes seven aspects or qualities of a property that define the concept of integrity. To retain historic integrity, a property must possess several, and usually most, of the seven aspects. The retention of specific aspects of historic integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant. The seven aspects of integrity are listed in *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* and summarized below:

1. *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed, or the place where the historic event occurred.

[All 11 buildings retain their integrity of location.]

2. *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. It results from conscious decisions made during the original conception and planning of a property (or its significant alteration) and applies to activities as diverse as community planning, engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Design includes such

⁵¹ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 44–45.

elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.

[Buildings 905, 2176, 2186, 2198, and 2199 retain the key elements of their design, such as layout, scale, door openings, and window openings.]

3. *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.

[Nine buildings retain their integrity of setting as individual buildings placed within a WWII temporary building area, with Buildings 8038 and 8040 retaining their integrity of setting within a recreational campground.]

4. *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration, to form a historic property.

[Only Buildings 2198, 2199, and 10119 retain the key elements of their architectural materials, such as doors, windows, wall materials, and roofing materials. The other eight buildings do not retain the key architectural materials due to removal or replacement of materials.]

5. *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

[Workmanship is not a key part of integrity for the 11 buildings surveyed.]

6. *Feeling* is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period.

[Feeling is not a key part of integrity for 11 of the buildings surveyed. These buildings were constructed between 1946 and 1975 and were individually built within WWII building blocks.]

7. *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

*[All 11 buildings retain their integrity of association.]*⁵²

Historic districts and individual resources are considered significant if they possess a majority of the seven aspects outlined above. Properties are classified as either “contributing” or “noncontributing” resources. Contributing resources date from the historic period of significance that has been established. They contribute significance and character through their historical associations and/or architectural values. Noncontributing resources are those that, due to the date of construction, alterations, or other factors, do not contribute to the district's historic significance or character.

⁵² NPS, *National Register Bulletin* #15, 44–45.

6 Final Recommendations and Conclusion

The identification of historically significant properties is achieved only through an evaluation which associates a property within a larger historic context. According to the NRHP, “Historic contexts are those patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately significance) within prehistory or history is made clear.”⁵³ Therefore, to qualify as historic, a property must have an association with relevant historic context as well as having retained its physical integrity through which its historic significance is conveyed.

6.1 Final recommendations

There were 11 buildings surveyed and evaluated individually for the NRHP by the research team, and none were found to be individually significant (see Table 4). These buildings are not important factors in the development of Fort McCoy, nor are the buildings rare or exemplary models that display the exceptional qualities of integrity necessary for individual listing on the NRHP, and no evidence was found to indicate any significance associated with these buildings. Except for Buildings 905 and 1122, these buildings are considered utilitarian with minimal significance to the development of the installation as a whole. Overall, the ERDC-CERL research team determined that the 11 buildings at Fort McCoy constructed from 1946 through 1975 are not individually eligible. The researchers also could not find a cohesive historic district of these support buildings within the cantonment.

Building 905 was originally constructed in 1942 as a WWII temporary building being used as a service club. Building 905 is not significant under Criterion A for WWII temporary building construction (1939–1946) since the majority of the building’s structure and detail were lost in a fire in 1950, and the building was reconstructed in 1952 using the original standardized plan for Service Club Type SC-3, drawing #800-517 (see Figure 72, Figure 73, and Figure 74). It is the recommendation of this report that Building 905 is NOT eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the national level due to the lack of integrity due to changes in

⁵³ NPS, *National Register Bulletin #15*, 7.

siding, window type, and doors; interior modifications; and a dismantled chimney stack from its reconstruction in 1952.

Figure 72. Comparison image of the southeast side of Building 905, Service Club No. 3. *Left image* from 1953 after the reconstruction of the building due to fire damage, and *right image* from 2021 (*Left* is from *La Cross Sunday Tribune*, January 11, 1953, and *right* is from ERDC-CERL. Public Domain).



Figure 73. Comparison image of an interior view looking northeast in the dancehall in Building 905, Service Club No. 3. The left image is from 1952 after the reconstruction of the building due to fire damage and the right image is from 2021 (Left image is Photo no. 417445, December 5, 1952, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #4, RG111-SCA-402, NARA, College Park, MD, and right image is from ERDC-CERL, 2021. Public Domain).



Figure 74. Comparison image of an Interior view looking northwest in the dancehall being used by soldiers dancing in Building 905, Service Club No. 3; *left image* from 1952, and *right image* from 2021 (*Left image* is Photo no. 401476, April 29, 1952, McCoy, CP. WIS. Book #3, Record Group 111-SCA 401, NARA, College Park, MD, and *right image* is from ERDC-CERL, 2021. Public Domain).



Building 1122 was constructed in 1967 as the Rumpel Fieldhouse (Figure 75–Figure 78). The design and construction of Building 1122 could not be linked to a specific architect for Criterion C significance. The building does not embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, does not represent the work of a master, and does not possess high artistic values. Military recreation is not a significant theme for broad patterns of history, and the construction of the building was not part of large program of military recreation construction funding. It is the recommendation of this report that Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center, is NOT eligible for the NRHP at the local, state, or national levels due to a lack of significance under Criteria A and/or C.

Figure 75. Comparison image of the east side of Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center. *Left* is historic photograph (no date) with original large multipane windows for the pool area, original recessed entry doors, original band of smaller metal windows, metal standing seam siding versus the *right image* from 2021 showing replacement windows for the pool, removal of the band of smaller windows, replacement entry doors with canopy, and replacement metal siding (*left image* is from Fort McCoy DPW, and *right image* is from ERDC-CERL 2021. Public Domain).



Figure 76. Comparison image of the north side of Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center. *Left* is historic photograph (circa 1970s) with band of original multipane industrial-style windows versus the *right image* from 2021 showing the band of windows removed, the opening filled in, and the exterior wall clad with a newer metal siding (*left* is from Fort McCoy Museum, and *right image* is from ERDC-CERL 2021. Public Domain).

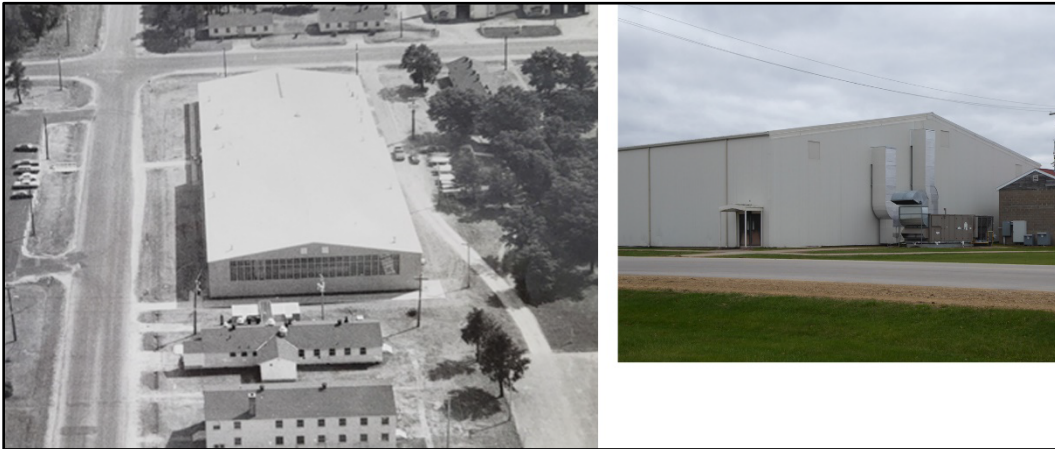


Figure 77. Comparison image of an interior view of the pool area looking southeast in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center. *Left* is historic photograph (1978) with original vaulted ceiling, concrete flooring, wall of large multipane industrial-style windows on the east side and no window openings on the south wall versus the *right image* from 2021 showing newer concrete flooring, replacement windows on the east wall, newer windows and doors added to the south wall, and a solarium addition added off the south wall (*left image* is RG111-SCA, Album 402A, SC675942, NARA, College Park, MD, and *right image* is from ERDC-CERL, 2021. Public Domain).



Figure 78. Comparison image of an interior view of the gymnasium looking northwest in Building 1122, Rumpel Fitness Center. *Left* is historic photograph (1978) with original vaulted ceiling, concrete flooring, wall of large multipane industrial-style windows on the east side, and no window openings on the south wall versus the *right image* from 2021 showing newer concrete flooring, replacement windows on the east wall, newer windows and doors added to the south wall, and a solarium addition added off the south wall (*left image* from RG111-SCA, Album 402A, SC675942, NARA, College Park, MD, and *right image* from ERDC-CERL 2021. Public Domain).

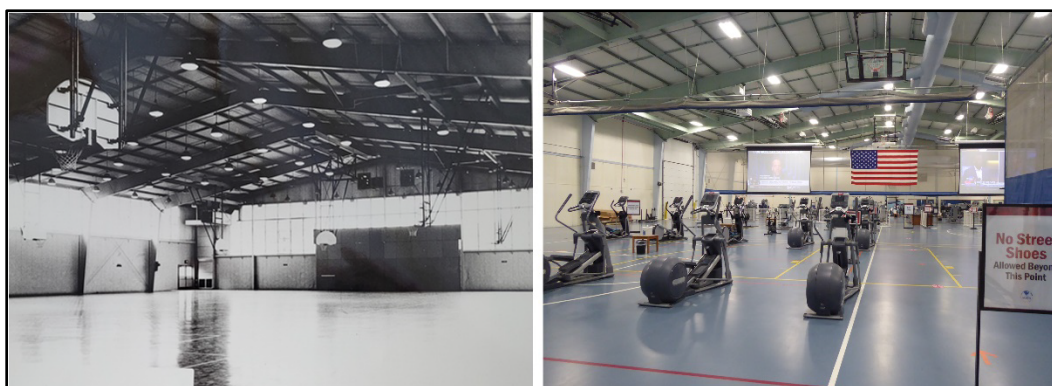


Table 4. List of buildings constructed from 1946 to 1975 and determination of their NRHP eligibility.

| Facility Number | Built Date | Historic Use | Current Use | Recommended Eligible for the National Register |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 905 | 1942 1952 | SERVICE CLUB NO. 3 | MULTI-FUNCTIONAL FITNESS CENTER | NO |
| 1122 | 6/14/1967 | RUMPEL FIELDHOUSE | PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER | NO |
| 1268 | 11/1/1967 | JOB CORPS WAREHOUSE | LIMITED-USE INSTRUCTIONAL BUILDING | NO |
| 2176 | 9/11/1968 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS WAREHOUSE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | NO |
| 2186 | 10/28/1964 | GOVERNMENT SURPLUS WAREHOUSE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | NO |
| 2198 | 12/24/1975 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | FLAM MAT STR IN | NO |
| 2199 | 7/7/1952 | PAINT SHOP | ENGINEERING/HOUSING MAINTENANCE | NO |
| 2569 | 7/1/1946 | GENERAL-PURPOSE WAREHOUSE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | NO |
| 8038 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | NO |
| 8040 | 9/13/1971 | CAMPGROUND SHOWER | SEPARATE TOILET/SHOWER BUILDING | NO |
| 10119 | 6/25/1951 | FLAMMABLE STORAGE | ORGANIZATIONAL STORAGE BUILDING | NO |

6.2 Conclusion

It is the recommendation of the authors of this report that Buildings 905, 1122, 1268, 2176, 2186, 2198, 2199, 8038, 8040, and 10119 are **NOT** eligible for the NRHP due to a lack of significance.

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Abbreviations

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|--------|--|
| CCC | Civilian Conservation Corps |
| CERL | Construction Engineering Research Laboratory |
| CMTC | Citizens' Military Training Camp |
| DPW | Directorate of Public Works |
| ERDC | Engineer Research Development Center |
| NARA | National Archives and Records Administration |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NPS | National Park Service |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| WISHPO | Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office |
| WWI | World War I |
| WWII | World War II |

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| 14. ABSTRACT The United States Congress codified the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the nation's most effective cultural resources legislation to date, mostly through establishing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NHPA requires federal agencies to address their cultural resources, which are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Section 110 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to inventory and evaluate their cultural resources, and Section 106 requires them to determine the effect of federal undertakings on those potentially eligible for the NRHP. Fort McCoy is in west-central Wisconsin, entirely within Monroe County. It was first established as the Sparta Maneuver Tract in 1909. The post was renamed Camp McCoy in 1926. Since 1974, it has been known as Fort McCoy. This report provides historic context and determinations of eligibility for buildings in the cantonment constructed between 1946 and 1975 and concludes that none are eligible for the NRHP. In consultation with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer (WISHPO), this work fulfills Section 110 requirements for these buildings. | | | | | | |
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