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Fort Riley German POW Stonework Historic Context and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluation

Aaron R. Schmidt, Kayley R. Schacht, Sunny E. Adams, and Adam D. Smith

November 2023

Construction Engineering Research Laboratory

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Cover photo: *clockwise from top left*—an inscription on a culvert at Camp Funston, a headwall on an earth bridge at Camp Whitside, two initials on a ditch at Camp Forsyth, and a view of the ditch at Camp Forsyth. (Images from ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

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Final Report

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Abstract

This project provides a historic context for the German prisoner-of-war (POW) experience at Fort Riley, Kansas, and an inventory of stonework features constructed using POW labor during World War II (WWII). The purpose of this historic context and inventory is to determine the stonework's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the historic context and inventory, researchers for this project have determined that there is a potential noncontiguous historic district at Fort Riley. This "German POW Stonework Historic District" at Fort Riley is composed of three linear segments: one concentrated around a stone drainage ditch at Camp Forsyth, one concentrated on a series of stone check dams at Camp Whitside, and one concentrated on a stone levee ditch and culvert at Camp Funston. Additionally, researchers have determined that 12 additional stonework features outside the proposed historic district boundaries are potentially eligible for the NRHP. These include a stone vehicular culvert at Camp Forsyth and four drainage gutters within Fort Riley's main cantonment.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the Cultural Resources Program, Conservation Branch, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works (DPW) at Fort Riley, Kansas, under Project Number 370286, "WW2 Prisoner of War Labor," MIPR 11443253. The technical monitor was Ms. Theresa de la Garza (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, Ms. Angela Rhodes 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 Operational Science and Engineering. 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 Introduction

1.1 Background

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, defines responsibilities that federal agencies have to historic properties under their oversight. Section 106 of the NHPA stipulates that federal agencies must take effects on historic properties into consideration when planning and completing undertakings that it regulates, funds, or that occur on its lands. It defines "historic properties" as those listed or considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Additionally, Section 110 of the NHPA requires cultural resource managers (CRMs) to develop preservation programs to identify, evaluate, protect, and nominate historic properties to the NRHP.[1]

Fort Riley is located near the confluence of the Republican, Smokey Hill, and Kansas Rivers in east-central Kansas (Figure 1). Founded in 1852 as Fort Center (due to its proximity to the geographic center of the United States), the post's name soon changed to Fort Riley. The original purpose of the post was to protect individuals traversing the Santa Fe Trail.[2] As the post achieved a greater measure of permanence in the mid-1850s, Congress appropriated money for the construction of quarters, storehouses, and stables for five troops of cavalry.[3] After the US government had forced the majority of Native Americans onto reservations by the late 19th century, most frontier posts began to close. In contrast, Fort Riley remained active and became a cavalry training installation.[4] This was due, in part, to a decision by General Philip Sheridan (the commanding general of the Army's Division of the Missouri) to locate the US Cavalry Headquarters at Fort Riley in 1884.[5]

1. National Historic Preservation Act, Pub. L. No. 89-665, as amended by Pub. L. No. 96-515, Sections 110, 106 (1966).

2. "Fort Riley," Kansapedia, Kansas Historical Society, https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/fort-riley/17809.

3. Woodbury F. Pride, *The History of Fort Riley* (Fort Riley, 1926), 61, 65.

4. "Fort Riley," Kansapedia.

5. Carey L. Baxter and Michael L. Hargrave, "Geophysical and Archival Investigations of the World War II Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas," unpublished report, June 2009, ERDC-CERL, 5.

Figure 1. Boundary outline and location of Fort Riley, in north-central Kansas. (Image from ERDC-CERL, 2022.)

After the United States entered World War I (WWI) in 1917, a cantonment named Camp Funston was constructed five miles northeast of Fort Riley's main cantonment to house thousands of cavalry troops in WWI-era temporary buildings. Fort Riley continued to develop during the interwar years. In 1924, a National Guard camp was established in the Pawnee Flats between the main cantonment and Camp Funston. The camp was named Camp Whitside in honor of Colonel Warren W. Whitside, who oversaw its construction.[6] After WWI, the War Department also announced that all arms of the military would have their own service schools, and Fort Riley soon became a cavalry school. With the threat of another world war in the late 1930s, authorities made plans to expand training capacity at Fort Riley. In response, Camp Funston was rebuilt to house the surge of new troops, and in 1941, a new cantonment, which was named Camp Forsyth, was built in the Republican Flats southwest of the main cantonment. Both used WWII-era temporary buildings to house troops. During World War II (WWII), Fort Riley trained up to 125,000 Soldiers. After the American troops deployed for oversees service, authorities transformed part of Camp

6. Pride, *The History of Fort Riley*, 215.

Funston into a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp.[7] Between 1943 and 1946, thousands of German POWs captured in the North African and European theaters were interned at the camp.

During their internment, German POWs supplied labor for several infrastructural improvements at Fort Riley. Because locally sourced limestone was in abundance, POWs constructed and improved several stonework features on the installation, including a drainage ditch at Camp Forsyth, a series of check dams at Camp Whitside, and a levee ditch and culvert at Camp Funston. Additionally, POW labor may have been used to construct several stone gutters and retaining walls within the main cantonment.

1.2 Objective

This project satisfies three main objectives. First, it presents a historic context for the German POW experience at Fort Riley and the various stonework projects in which they participated. Next, it provides an inventory of confirmed and potential POW stonework at Fort Riley—the drainage ditch at Camp Forsyth, the check dams at Camp Whitside, the levee ditch and culvert at Camp Funston, and various stonework features found within the main cantonment. These efforts culminate in a determination of NRHP eligibility status for the stonework. Two appendices provide masonry repair and maintenance guidelines from the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and the Government Service Administration (GSA).

1.3 Approach

This project was conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research Development Center, Construction and Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL), based in Champaign, Illinois. The research team included Aaron R. Schmidt, master of public history with 2 years of experience as primary writer, Kayley R. Schacht (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education intern), bachelor of arts in history and pre-health studies; Sunny E. Adams, master of architecture with 20 years of experience in military architectural history, and Adam D. Smith, master of architecture, who has 25 years of experience in project management and military architectural history.

7. "History of Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division," US Army Fort Riley, https://home.army.mil/riley/index.php/about/history.

1.3.1 Site visits

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted site visits to Fort Riley from 19 to 23 April 2021 and from 13 to 17 September 2021 to document and photograph the stonework features. During fieldwork, researchers located and analyzed stonework structures that were considered to have been constructed by German POWs at Camp Forsyth, Camp Whitside, and Camp Funston. Additionally, while examining stonework in the main cantonment for a separate project, researchers observed and photographed additional stonework that is potentially attributable to POW labor.

1.3.2 Archival repositories

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted a review of books, archival repositories, and online resources related to Fort Riley's POW history. Research trips to Fort Riley occurred from 19 to 23 April 2021 and from 13 to 17 June 2022. Additionally, researchers gathered photographs at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at College Park from 29 November to 3 December 2021. The following places were either contacted or searched:

- Fort Riley Cavalry Museum—historic drawings, maps, photographs, and other information provided by the curator
- NARA at College Park—historic photographs

1.3.3 Analysis

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

2 German Prisoners of War (POWs) at Fort Riley, Kansas

The POW camp at Fort Riley was one of hundreds of POW camps established across the country during WWII. As such, its history is embedded within the larger history of WWII-era POW internment in the US. This chapter begins by recounting the highlights of that larger history, then transitions to the particulars of Fort Riley's POW camp.

2.1 The POW camp program in the United States[8]

2.1.1 Origin, development, and administration

In previous wars, US forces had not retained large numbers of prisoners from opposing armies, so the influx of Italian, German, and Japanese prisoners entered a system that was only partially organized. The provost marshal general's office held responsibility for POW operations throughout the war, but the events of late 1941 and the rapid mobilization that followed left little time for focusing on the few prisoners expected on US soil. Events conspired to alter these expectations, as Great Britain had run out of room to house prisoners by the first half of 1942 and approached the United States in August to relieve the shortage by accepting 50,000 POWs with 100,000 more moved to the United States shortly thereafter. The US military was already beginning to confine prisoners of their own, and the War Department decided in early 1942 to bring POWs back to the United States to save resources on the front lines. Applying the provisions of the Geneva Convention concerning feeding and housing of prisoners was much simpler if the military removed them to the United States.[9]

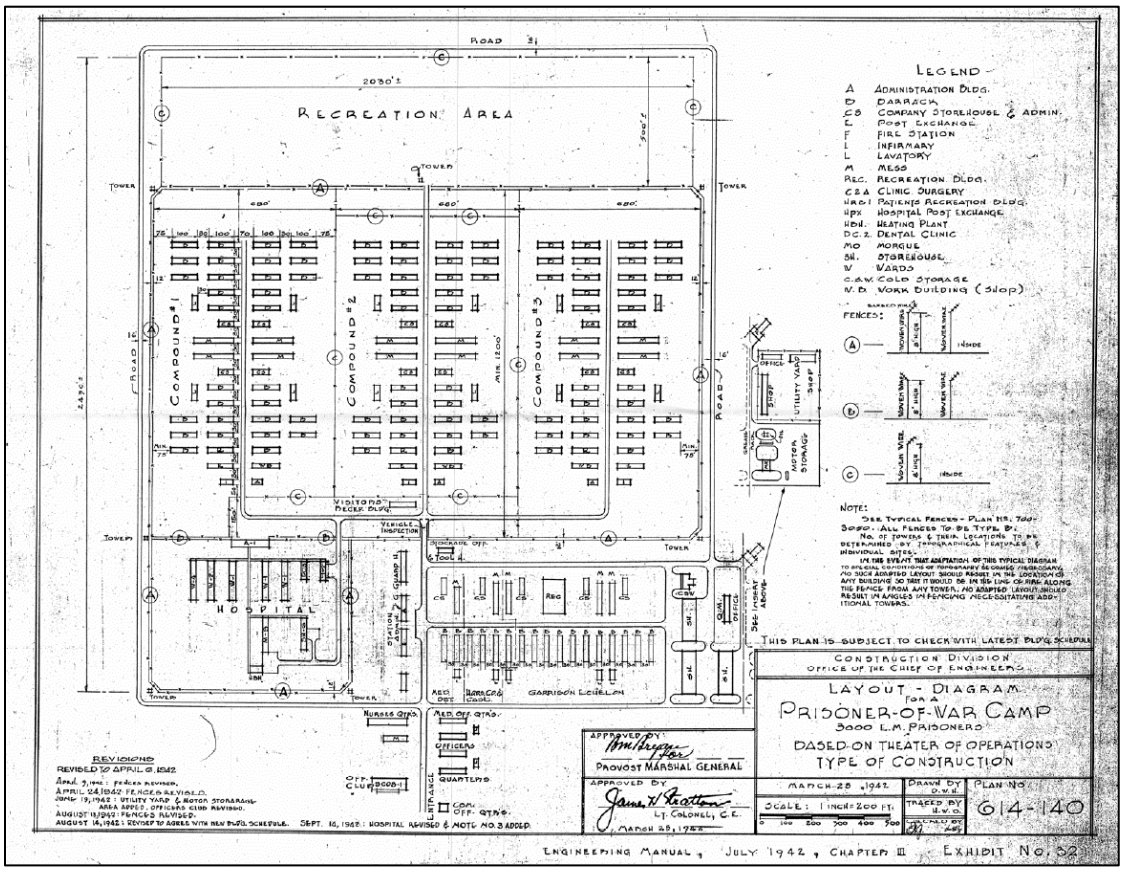
The logical place for prisoners from a security standpoint was on existing US military bases, and the provost marshal general's office placed a majority of POW camps at these sites. Needing more space, the provost marshal general's office built designated camps, mostly in the Midwest and Southern states. This placement met the requirement for camps to be isolated from major population centers and away from strategic military or

8. Section 2.1 has been reprinted and modified from Adam Smith et al., *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*, ERDC-CERL SR-06-30 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2006), 9–15. Public domain.

9. David Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us: POWs in Missouri during World War II* (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 2003), 5–6.

industrial sites. No matter where they were located, the camps generally followed a basic plan. Compounds designed to hold 1,000 men were the basic building blocks. If camps needed to expand, they built more compounds. Encased in barbed wire fences, monitored by armed guards in watchtowers, and patrolled by dogs, the camps presented a very secure appearance (Figure 2–Figure 3).[10]

Figure 2. Layout diagram for a prisoner of war (POW) camp accommodating 3,000 prisoners. (Image from National Archives and Records Administration [NARA] at College Park. Public domain.)[11]



10. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 11–12.

11. "Layout Diagram for a Prisoner of War Camp, 3000 Prisoners," March 25, 1942, Box 1439, Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, Record Group 389 (RG 389), NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 3. Typical street and barracks of an unidentified POW camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[12]

Organization within the camps relied on hierarchy and rank, concepts familiar to all soldiers. The compounds each had an elected leader from the ranks of the POW companies making up each compound. The company leaders reported to the compound leaders who, in turn, reported to the highest-ranking prisoner, the POW spokesman. This individual provided the liaison between the prisoners and the camp administration to hand down directives and forward up prisoner requests or complaints. The Geneva Convention authorized the spokesman to represent the prisoners to outside agencies that periodically inspected the camps such as the Swiss Legation, the International Red Cross, and the YMCA. This avenue of communication put the spokesman in indirect contact with the German Foreign Office and military high command through which they could affect the treatment of Allied prisoners by reporting on their own treatment. This influenced the treatment of the German prisoners, as it tended to reinforce the provisions of the Geneva Convention.[13]

2.1.2 Cost and POW labor to offset

Providing shelter and sustenance for these involuntary guests on American soil came at a substantial monetary cost. Prisoner labor helped offset this expenditure. Initially, Axis POWs housed in the United States during

12. Box 309, folder A, Photographs of the Allies and Axis, 1942–1945, Records of the Office of War Information (OWI), Record Group 208 AA (RG 208 AA), NARA at College Park, MD.

13. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 14.

WWII filled in for labor shortages on the military bases containing their housing compounds. They worked with the civilian laborers, and despite initial fears, this arrangement worked well. There were fears at the highest levels that the Germans would plant saboteurs as POWs; President F. Roosevelt worried publicly, and FBI Director J. E. Hoover warned this would be a "danger to our internal security . . . and the lives and safety of our citizens."[14] Despite these fears, WWII POWs in small groups first performed farm labor in the fall of 1942 during a period when there was a desperate need due to the severe labor shortage in this industry.[15]

Per the Geneva Convention and other international agreements regarding POWs, only lower-ranking POW soldiers could be used for work; noncommissioned officers (NCOs) could not be compelled to perform labor duties. Wages paid were based on European wage rates that were lower than US wages. Because contractors paid the prevailing United States wages for the POW workers, the Government made a profit ($100 million in 1944 alone). These profits paid for housing, feeding, and medical care of the POWs and made the POW program self-supporting. Additionally, the War Department estimated that $80 million was saved by the work done by the POWs on military posts. Government calculations were that the POWs performed a total of 19,567,719 days of work on military posts and 10,181,275 days of work for contract employers. Estimates developed by Army historians George Lewis and John Mewha placed government savings at more than $131 million for the work done on military bases by POWs, and collections from contractors netted $39 million.[16]

A typical workday for a POW was reveille at 0515 and assembly for work beginning at 0730 after breakfast and roll call. Prisoners worked until lunch from 1130 to 1300. Afternoon work was from 1300 to 1700 and then lights out at 2200 after supper. Prisoner NCOs served as supervisors or "straw bosses," so the men did not "promote trouble and foment unrest while in their barracks."[17] (Figure 4–Figure 9)

14. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 36.
15. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 35–36.
16. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 37, 41.
17. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 38.

Figure 4. POWs at unidentified camp march to their barracks after a day's work, 1943. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[18]

Figure 5. POWs providing manual labor at an unidentified camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[19]

18. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.
19. Box 308, folder 5, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 6. POW labor at a subsistence warehouse, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[20]

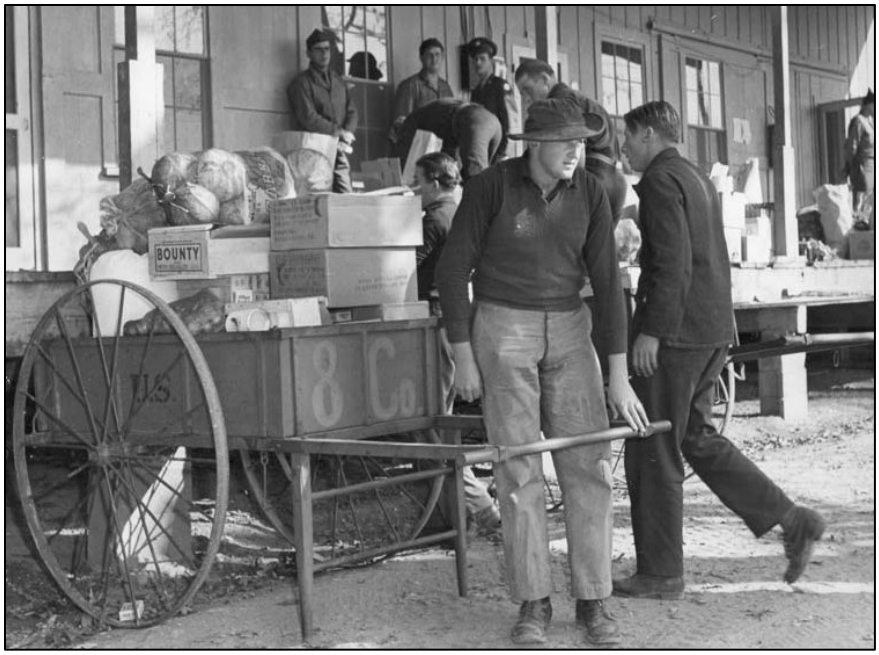


Figure 7. POW roadwork [note guard tower in background], no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[21]

20. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

21. Box 309, folder J, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 8. POWs doing maintenance work at Camp Crowder, Missouri, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[22]

Figure 9. POWs in mail room at an unknown location, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[23]

22. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.
23. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Because of acute labor shortages in the US and travel times to the work sites and farms, these work units needed to be located in closer proximity to where they worked. There was initial hesitation in setting up branch camps due to the large number of GIs needed as guards. Initial estimates were that it would take 90 guards for 300 POWs, and this was not possible in the early days of the war since the number of GIs available for this duty was limited.[24] After the initial experience with the low number of POWs trying to escape, it became obvious that this number was over-estimated and that the number of GIs needed for guard duty was less than 90. As a result, the Army established branch camps primarily for agricultural work across the country.

2.1.3 Reeducation programs

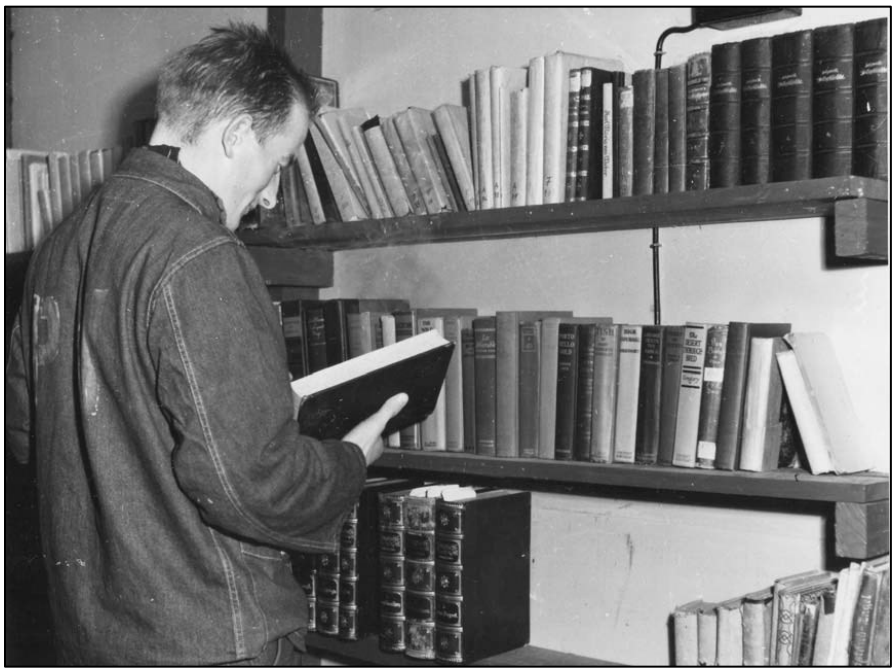
One of the most significant challenges by the administrators of the POWs in US camps was the influence and activities of the Nazi proponents in the camps trying to instill their ideals in the more moderate POWs. Any German prisoner showing interest in democracy risked punishment by fellow prisoners, including danger of physical attack. The Nazis even organized Gestapo units in the camps. Estimates of German POWs killed by their fellow prisoners range from 100 to 300.[25] Initially, US authorities failed to accurately assess the intimidation and political beliefs of the prisoners and segregate them or provide support for the more moderate prisoners. Authorities segregated the prisoners only by rank, the branch of the military they were from, and nationality. Eventually, US authorities improved at identifying Nazi prisoners and actively separated the "most hardened."[26]

Towards the end of WWII, the Army engaged in a covert reeducation program directed at the German POWs to teach them the "merits of democracy" in hopes of combating Nazi influence and increasing the chances of a successful postwar German transition to a democratic government. Although this program came close to violating Geneva Convention articles and was highly secret, a few civilian groups in the US publicly advocated similar programs. The program remained a secret until after Victory in Europe (V-E) Day in May 1945.[27]

24. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 39.
25. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 42–43.
26. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 43–44.
27. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 42, 44, 46.

Methods for teaching and indoctrinating the German POWs were to use films and books, as well as a nationwide German POW newspaper *Der Ruf* (The call) supplemented with individual newspapers for each camp (Figure 10). The more democratically minded prisoners were recruited to write for these publications, and their efforts provided a platform for a more open discussion of governance options in postwar Germany. The "Special Projects Division" was the name given the program to influence German POWs. The name was deliberately bland to belie the true purpose of propagandizing the Germans, and the authorities instructed the staff that the purpose was to "democratize" not "Americanize" the prisoners.[28] It is not known whether the reeducation program increased participation in labor programs.[29]

Figure 10. POW in a camp library, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[30]



2.2 From North Africa and Europe to Fort Riley

While the experience of Germans in POW camps differed from region to region throughout the United States, many endured a similar transit

28. Fiedler, *The Enemy among Us*, 45.

29. In Ron Robin's authoritative monograph on the topic of POW reeducation, the association between the reeducation program and labor programs is not expounded. Ron Robin, *The Barbed-Wire College: Reeducating German POWs in the United States during World War II* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

30. Box 309, folder S, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

process after their initial capture. As the United States and other allied powers recaptured Axis-controlled territory in northern Africa and western Europe, German POWs entered the United States in three major waves. The first surge followed the surrender of the *Afrika Korps* in May 1943, when approximately 150,000 German POWs were packed onto ships and sent to America. This stream of *Afrika Korps* arrived in the United States at a rate of 20,000 per month until June 1944.[31] After the successful Allied landing in Normandy on D-Day, a second wave of Germans was sent to America. This surge, which totaled over 170,000, arrived stateside at a rate of around 30,000 per month.[32] This flow continued until the spring of 1945, when a third major wave of Germans entered the United States at a rate of 60,000 per month in April and May. By the end of the war, America had around 372,000 German POWs distributed in camps across the country.[33]

The first POWs to enter Fort Riley hailed from the wave of Germans captured in the North African campaign in 1943.[34] After the *Afrika Korps* surrendered, the immediate detention of German soldiers was sometimes a haphazard process. Very few translators were available as the Allies attempted to disarm the Germans, and supply trucks returning from the front lines were often used to transport the POWs from combat zones to ramshackle holding compounds for processing.[35]

While in holding, officials administered immediate medical treatment for wounded POWs and standard medical examinations for healthy soldiers. The POWs were also assigned serial numbers indicating their nationality and their location of capture. The prisoners received a numerical code based on the theater of conflict in which they were intercepted. Each POW was documented on a form that recorded his personal information,

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31. Arnold Krammer, "When the Afrika Korps Came to Texas: World War II POWs in the Lone Star State," *Humanities Texas*, March 2015, 1, https://www.humanitiestexas.org/news/articles/when-afrika-korps-came-texas-world-war-ii-pows-lone-star-state; Roger D. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly* 48, no. 1 (2020), 4, https://www.tehistory.org/hqda/pdf/v48/v48n1p004.pdf.

32. Krammer, "When the Afrika Korps Came to Texas," 1; Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 5.

33. Krammer, "When the Afrika Korps Came to Texas," 1–2; Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 5.

34. Lowell A. May and Mark P. Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas: 1943–1946* (Manhattan KS: KS Publishing, Inc., 2007), 53.

35. Arnold Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, (New York: Stein and Day, 1979), 2–3, https://archive.org/details/naziprisonersofw00kram/mode/1up.

including medical history and relevant capture details. Importantly, this document was used by captors and the International Red Cross to inform the POW's family of his detention.[36]

After processing, German POWs in North Africa were transported by rail from the holding compounds to embarkation areas in Casablanca and Marrakech, Morocco, and Oran, Algeria. The prisoners would remain in these large camps until a Liberty- or Victory-class transporter ship became available to transport them across the Atlantic.[37] Those captured in Europe in later stages of the war were transported from encampments in France (mostly around Le Havre) on American vessels that had just unloaded troops, weapons, and other materiel, ultimately joining a convoy departing to the US from the UK.[38]

Convoys were necessary to protect the vessels from encroaching German U-boats, which targeted Allied ships in the North Atlantic. US sailors were not the only ones concerned about such an attack: a U-boat strike was the greatest fear for many of the German POWs during the journey too.[39] However, since there are no recorded cases of Allied vessels carrying POWs being sunk by U-boats, the most significant threat to the prisoners was seasickness or the confiscation of personal effects as American war trophies. Given the circumstances, most POWs had a positive experience during their ocean transport.[40]

After crossing the Atlantic, most German POWs arrived at one of three ports: Boston, Massachusetts; Hampton Roads, Virginia; and New York City (the latter being the largest receiving port) (Figure 11–Figure 12). As the first groups of POWs began pouring in, activity at these ports was chaotic as the War Department attempted to process and route thousands of prisoners to their respective camp.[41] After debarking the ship, POWs received routine medical examinations, were deloused, and eventually

36. Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 4–5.

37. Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 16–17.

38. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 11.

39. Rolf Petry, "Memories of My War Captivity from December 23, 1944, to June 26, 1946," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum Archives, KS.

40. Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 16–17.

41. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 7.

fingerprinted. They were also assigned a serial number if they had not already received one in North Africa or Europe.[42]

Figure 11. POWs arriving in Boston by ship, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[43]

42. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 15.

43. Box 309, folder EE, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 12. POWs arriving in Manhattan, 1945. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[44]

After completing port procedures, most German prisoners were transported to their respective POW camp via railroad. In early 1943, the War Department created the *Enemy Prisoners of War* technical manual, "which provided explicit guidance on how each independent railroad company was to conduct satisfactory PW transportation."[45] As part of this protocol, trains carrying POWs were prioritized as "special movements." As they traveled across the country in civilian Pullman cars, most Germans were astonished at the level of comfort that was afforded to them (Figure 13–Figure 14).[46]

44. Box 309, folder CC, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

45. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 9.

46. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 22.

Figure 13. POWs boarding a train in Boston, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[47]

Figure 14. POW transport train, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[48]

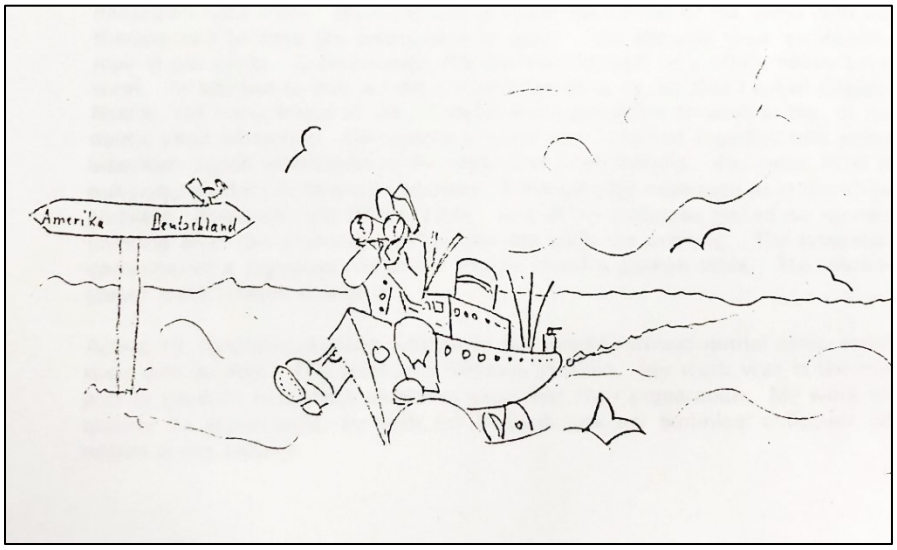
The experience of one Fort Riley POW, Rolf Petry, generally mirrored this sequence of events. American forces captured Petry and his company in the Ardennes in December 1944, and he remained in France until March

47. Box 309, folder EE, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

48. Box 309, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

1945. After moving between temporary holding camps, Petry and other German POWs were taken to the major embarkment camp in Oran, Algeria, where they eventually boarded a ship to America (Figure 15). After crossing the Atlantic, the ship anchored at Newport News, Virginia. The prisoners were given a medical inspection and interrogated after deboarding. Interestingly, Petry notes that other previously captured POWs were enlisted to help process and distribute the new prisoners into groups. After attending to these routine protocols, the POWs began the final leg of their trip: a three-day train ride to Fort Riley.[49]

Figure 15. Comical sketch by Rolf Petry, a POW at Fort Riley, of German prisoners being transported to America. (Image from Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS. Public domain.)[50]



2.3 Development of the Fort Riley POW Camp

During WWII, there were three main camps that handled POWs in Kansas: Camp Concordia, Camp Philips, and Fort Riley. The main camps were designed to accommodate between 1,000 and 4,000 POWs and were composed of multiple compounds large enough to support several companies of men. In addition to these main camps, Kansas also contained several smaller branch camps, where POWs often performed labor on a seasonal basis.[51]

49. Petry, "Memories of My War Captivity from December 23, 1944, to June 26, 1946."
50. Petry, "Memories of My War Captivity from December 23, 1944, to June 26, 1946."
51. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 15–16.

2.3.1 Layout

Before a POW camp opened at Fort Riley, Camp Concordia and Camp Phillips contained most of the state's POW population. In October 1943, authorities announced that Fort Riley would operate a POW camp of its own, although discussions were in motion to construct a 1,000 man camp as early as August 1943.[52] According to an early directive from the War Department, the prospective camp at Fort Riley was to make maximum use of existing buildings, and be located in a portion of the installation that would "minimize the necessity of movement of prisoners through troop areas."[53] A small sector of Camp Funston, a cantonment within Fort Riley, was chosen as the site of the new POW camp (Figure 16). This area was readily available to take in the prisoners since it had been modernized during WWII to house American Soldiers (Figure 17–Figure 18).[54]

52. Brigadier General W. A. Wood, Jr. to Chief of Engineers, August 30, 1943, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

53. Major E. W. Weber to 7th Service Command, September 3, 1943, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

54. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 53.

Figure 16. Location of Camp Funston within Fort Riley, demarcated with a *red outline*. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

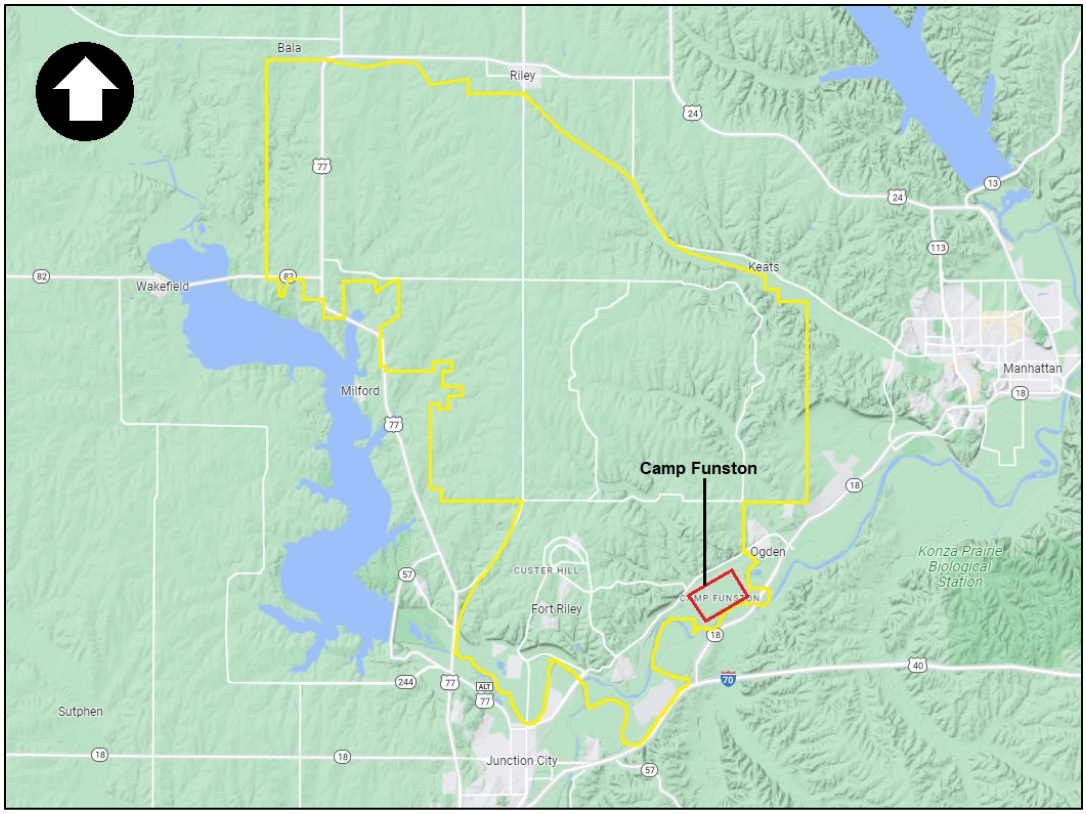


Figure 17. Location of the POW camp within Camp Funston, demarcated with a *red outline*. (Map from NARA at College Park. Modified by ERDC-CERL.)[55]

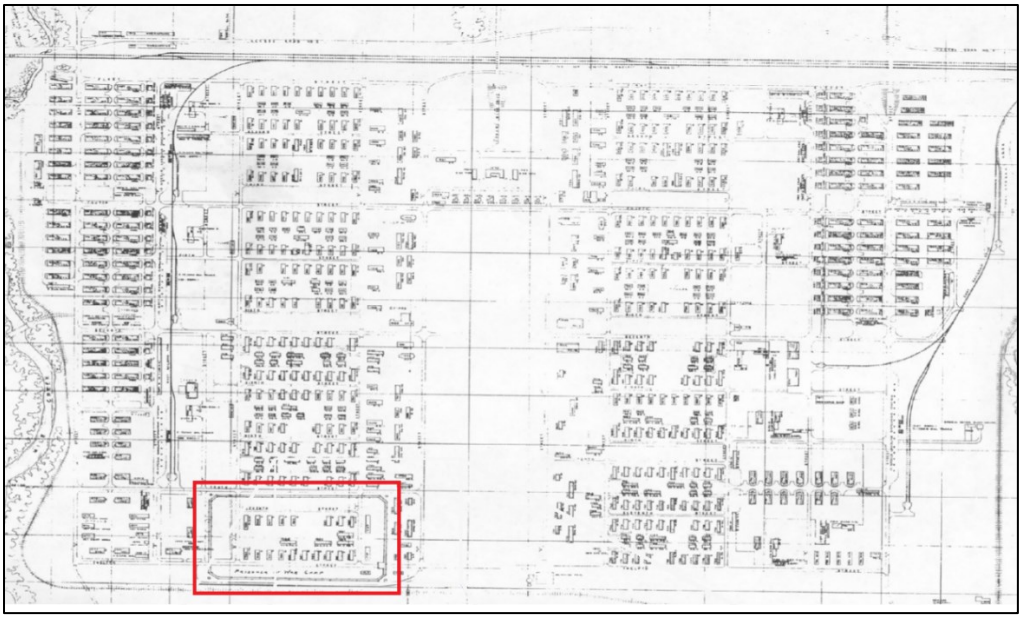
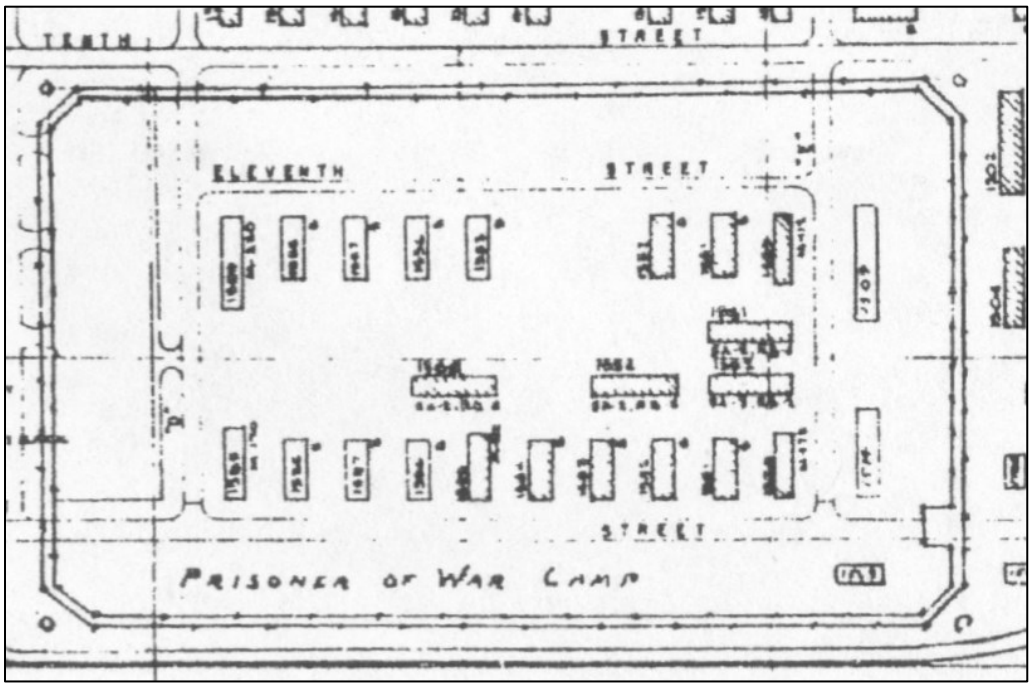


Figure 18. Enlarged view of the POW camp layout at Fort Riley, 1943. (Map from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[56]

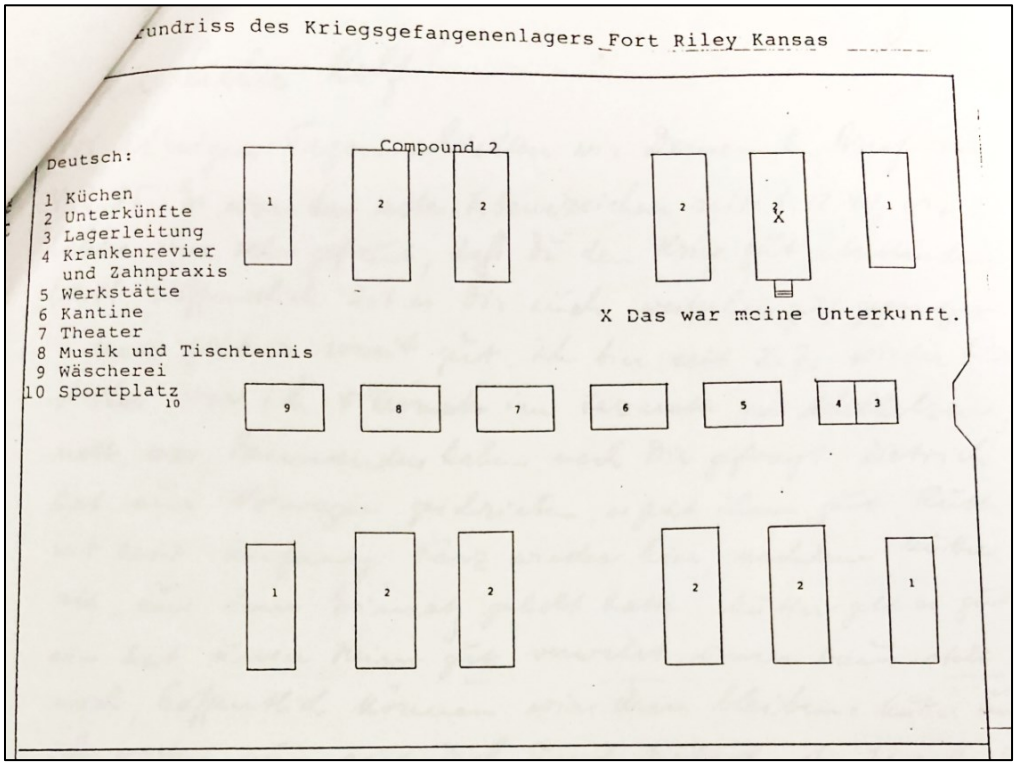


55. "Camp Funston Building Site Plan," March 27, 1943, box 2670, Office of the Provost Marshal General, RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

56. "Camp Funston Building Site Plan," RG 389, NARA at College Park, MD.

Eventually, Fort Riley's POW camp was divided into three sections: one for officers, which was able to house around 18 individuals; one for privates and NCOs; and one under construction at the time that the first prisoners arrived (Figure 19).[57]

Figure 19. Layout of Fort Riley's POW camp, drawn by former POW Rolf Petry in the 1990s. (Image from Fort Riley Cavalry Museum. Public domain.)[58]



2.3.2 Facilities

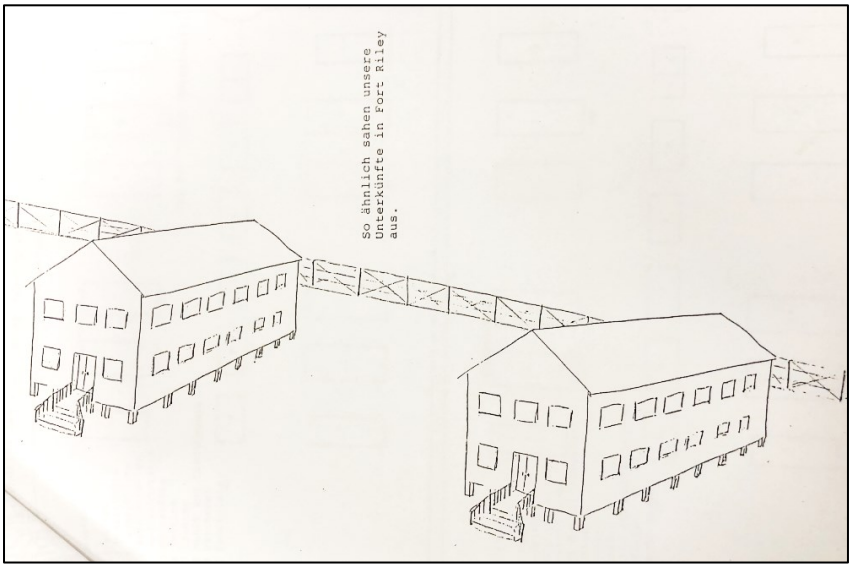
The POW compound at Camp Funston (part of Fort Riley) opened on 9 December 1943, and the first group of German prisoners entered the camp on December 12. At that time, the POW area consisted of two-story, WWII-era mobilization barracks that had been constructed for American Soldiers who had recently trained at Camp Funston (Figure 20–Figure 21). These frame buildings featured a bathroom on the first floor, heated water, and a coal-fired furnace. Consequently, the prisoners' accommodations at Fort Riley were considerably better than their counterparts at Camp

57. "Camp of Fort Riley (Camp Funston), Kansas, Visited by Mr. P. Schnyder on January 21 and 22, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

58. Petry, "Memories of My War Captivity from December 23, 1944, to June 26, 1946."

Concordia or Camp Phillips.[59] The compound contained 13 barracks at the time of its opening. Each barrack measured 29 × 81 feet and housed around 80 POWs.[60] Many prisoners took advantage of available living space by adding tables and benches that they constructed themselves.[61] Although efforts were made to make the compound more home like, the fence and guard towers surrounding the camp (constructed by Martin K. Eby of Wichita) were constant reminders of their limited freedom.[62]

Figure 20. Sketch of the barracks at Fort Riley drawn by POW Rolf Petry. The caption reads "Our accommodations at Fort Riley looked something like this." (Image from Fort Riley Cavalry Museum. Public domain.)[63]



59. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 53.

60. William B. Norris, Jr. "Report of Legation of Switzerland Visit to Fort Riley, February 12–14, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS. For a full list of the spelled-out forms of the units of measure used in this document and their conversions, please refer to *US Government Publishing Office Style Manual*, 31st ed. (Washington, DC: US Government Publishing Office, 2016), 248–52 and 345–47, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016/pdf/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016.pdf.

61. "Camp of Fort Riley (Camp Funston), Kansas, Visited by Mr. P. Schnyder on January 21 and 22, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

62. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 53.

63. Petry, "Memories of My War Captivity from December 23, 1944, to June 26, 1946."

Figure 21. Drawing of the camp at Fort Riley by POW Wolfgang Decker. (Image from *Fort Riley Post*. Public Domain.)[64]

During an inspection of the camp in January 1944, a representative from the Red Cross reported that other buildings in the compound included an infirmary, kitchen, dining hall, canteen, and a recreation room (which was undergoing modifications to accommodate a theater). Going into more detail, the investigator stated that all of the buildings were heated by coal and natural gas. He also clarified that POWs needing medical attention were accommodated in a wing that was attached to the main troop hospital. The investigator reported that a larger wing, under construction at the time of his visit, was scheduled to be completed in early February of 1944. The kitchen and dining hall occupied the same building, being divided by a service counter. To give the space some character, POWs decorated the space with some of their own art and pictures sent by the German Red Cross.[65]

In February 1944, a German-interests representative from the Legation of Switzerland and a representative from the US Special War Problems Division inspected Fort Riley's POW camp. In their report, the representatives documented that the camp contained four guard towers, four mess halls,

64. Gary Skidmore, "Former Prisoner of War Recalls Time at Fort Riley," *Fort Riley Post,* November 19, 1999.

65. "Camp of Fort Riley (Camp Funston), Kansas, Visited by Mr. P. Schnyder on January 21 and 22, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

and "a number of buildings being used for a library, supply and carpenter shop, barber shop, recreation hall, dispensary, canteen, and an orderly room." Another building in a separate section of the complex was used to house up to 16 German officers. On the west side of the complex, a 180 × 580 ft field was reserved for recreational purposes.[66]

During the first months of its operation, the complex at Fort Riley seemed to run more smoothly than the average POW camp. Although authorities at the camp may have experienced a few organizational obstacles associated with launching a new complex, on the whole, it appears the camp was administered competently, and the prisoners treated according to the standards of the Geneva Convention. In a glowing review issued by Field Secretary Howard Hong, who visited the camp in March 1944, he remarked, "This is a rare camp. There were fewer needs expressed here than any other camp I have visited, new or old."[67]

2.4 Camp life

2.4.1 Prisoner security and confinement

When Fort Riley's POW camp opened in December of 1943, German prisoners were transferred from Camp Concordia and Camp Phillips. These Germans had been under Erwin Rommel's command as part of the *Afrika Korps*. The average prisoner from this group was 22 years old.[68] Fort Riley divided its prisoners into 250-man companies, each of which had its own NCO who the company elected as its spokesman. Generally, the oldest or most seasoned personnel were chosen for the position.[69]

The POW population at Fort Riley grew steadily through the remainder of the war. In January 1944, the German prisoners numbered 849 enlisted men, 150 NCOs, and 18 officers. By March 1945, an International Red Cross inspection of the camp recorded that the population had grown to 2,185 enlisted men, 125 NCOs, and one officer. Just two months later, a May inspection counted 3,474 enlisted men, 137 NCOs, and five officers at

66. Norris, Jr., "Report of Legation of Switzerland Visit to Fort Riley, February 12–14, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

67. Howard Hong, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–7, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

68. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 53.

69. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 55.

the camp.[70] Between December 1943 and April 1946, over 10,000 POWs lived at Fort Riley. At one point, the main camp and its branch camps reached a peak population of 4,700.[71]

German POWs at Fort Riley were counted twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening after the prisoners returned from their work details. No women were allowed into the camp under any circumstances, and men visiting the camp needed to acquire a proper pass, which tracked the time in which they entered and left the camp.[72] Civilian visitors were not allowed to take pictures of the POWs; only Signal Corps officials could photograph them, and the POWs reserved the right to refuse being captured on film. In one exchange, an Army photographer attempted to photograph POWs at Fort Riley enjoying an evening meal, but the camp spokesman did not grant him permission. According to a visiting newspaper correspondent, "No reason was given for the refusal, and the officer in charge did not ask a reason. As camp authorities pointed out, the prisoners are guaranteed certain rights with the promise that American prisoners of war in Germany will be shown the same consideration."[73]

Apparently, the arrival of POWs at Fort Riley made some citizens of nearby Junction City paranoid, at least in the first months of their confinement. For example, in January of 1944, Junction City police received word that a POW had been spotted promenading along 6th Street. However, after conducting a search, authorities were unable to substantiate the report.[74]

Although there seemed to be fears that German POWs would pose a risk to the surrounding area, there were few recorded escape attempts. The camp maintained a clean escape record during its early period of operation; two months after the compound opened, an investigation by the Legation of

70. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 54; 57–58.

71. "Last German Prisoners of War Shipped from Fort Riley Saturday," *The Junction City Union*, April 23, 1946.

72. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

73. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

74. "Junction City Police Received a Report," *The Junction City Union*, January 24, 1944.

Switzerland in February 1944 found that no escapes had been reported.[75] Perhaps one of the first escapes was that of Private Xaver Dietrich, who left the camp one night but returned the following morning. However, even this was a unique case. No charges were filed, since the camp commander stated, "that the prisoner had used this means to obtain a private interview with him without letting the German camp spokesman or other prisoners know his purpose." No further details are provided, but it is possible that Dietrich felt unsafe around his fellow POWs due to an unfavorable ideological conviction.[76]

A more classic escape attempt occurred in May 1945 when two German POWs, 23-year-old Karl Schultz and 21-year-old Otto Heinz, left the camp and proceeded to hide out in an abandoned barn seven miles west of Junction City. It is possible they would have maintained their cover for a while longer had it not been for two boys from Junction City who happened to enter the barn out of curiosity. Discovering the POWs, the boys rode their bicycles seven miles back to Junction City and reported their find to the police. When officers arrived on the scene, they found the POWs were still hiding in the barn.[77]

Although disciplinary action was not a frequent occurrence at Fort Riley's POW camp, when discipline was administered, it was carried out with peculiar severity. A visit to the compound in March 1945 by Dr. Zehnder (it is unknown what organization he represented) noted that the camp's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel L. H. Shafer, was "quite severe" and "established his own system of punishments."[78] For example, on one occasion two POWs refused to go on a work detail in the rain because they did not have any coats or appropriate underwear. One of the POWs was especially concerned for his health, since he had had a case of influenza only a few weeks before, which was severe enough to take him to the hospital. The men were held in the detention cell without furniture or reading or writing material until the commanding officer thought "the moral effect of

75. Norris, Jr., "Report of Legation of Switzerland Visit to Fort Riley, February 12–14, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

76 L. S. N. Phillipp, "Report on Visit by Mr. Emil Greuter of the Legation of Switzerland, March 30–31, 1945," p. 6, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

77. "Boys Lead Police to Escaped Prisoners," *The Iola Register*, May 7, 1945, 6.

78. "Report on Fort Riley, Kansas, Visited in March 18–19, 1945, by Dr. Zehnder," pp. 3–4, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

the punishment" had been received. During detention periods, the POWs received a diet of bread and water. No prisoner was recorded as being detained for more than seven days.[79]

Security in the branch camps was considerably lighter. A report from Camp Phillips indicated that 18 American Soldiers were posted on guard at the camp, and the POWs were sent in groups of two to three to work on nearby farms, often without a guard. Though Service Command Headquarters questioned this policy, there were very few incidents because of the limited security measures.[80]

2.4.2 Political activity

Camp commander Lieutenant Colonel Shafer tolerated Nazi leadership among the POWs with the expectation that the leader would maintain control over the other Nazi prisoners. This tolerance resulted in a proliferation of Nazi ephemera and symbolism in barrack spaces.[81] Nazi ideology spread into camp newspapers over time. Camp officials grew wary of the creation and distribution of camp publications after the appearance of several bulletins containing Nazi propaganda, including the mass reproduction of a speech given by Hitler in January 1945 using a mimeograph machine.[82]

When ideological issues arose with Nazi POWs, Fort Riley's policy was to consolidate noncooperative prisoners from the branch camps to the base camp. This resulted in a large population of subversive prisoners at the main Fort Riley camp. Some of these prisoners were later distributed to designated noncooperative camps at Camp Clark, Missouri, and Fort Douglas, Utah.[83]

79. "Report on Fort Riley, Kansas, Visited in March 18–19, 1945, by Dr. Zehnder," pp. 3–4.

80. Alexander Lakes, "Field Service Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Phillips, Kansas, on 19 February 1945," March 20, 1945, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

81. Lakes, "Field Service Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, on 20–21 February 1945," April 9, 1945, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

82. Lakes, "Field Service Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, on 20–21 February 1945," April 9, 1945.

83. Lakes, "Field Service Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, on 20–21 February 1945," April 9, 1945.

2.4.3 Life's necessities

In many ways, German POWs at Fort Riley lived under the same conditions as the American troops stationed at the base. Recalling his experience at Fort Riley, German POW Wolfgang Decker stated, "It was a standard US Army installation from what I could tell. We ate the same food, had the same accommodations as the soldiers. The only real difference was the lack of freedom and movement."[84]

German POWs received the same rations as the American servicepeople, though they were free to prepare the raw foods in whatever way they saw fit (Figure 22 and Figure 23). There were very few complaints about food, and the POW cooks were lauded for their efficient preparation and minimal waste.[85] Towards the end of the war, rations were reduced, though calorie counts were always maintained in accordance with the Geneva Convention. This reduction was due to national food shortages in spring 1945, though many German POWs believed this adjustment resulted from the discovery of concentration camps and the maltreatment of American POWs in Europe.[86]

Figure 22. POW mess hall, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[87]

84. Skidmore, "Former Prisoner of War Recalls Time at Fort Riley," 5.

85. Report from William B. Morris, Jr. to War General Bryan, "Prisoner of War Camp. Ft. Riley, Kansas," March 23, 1944, p. 4, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

86. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 17.

87. Box 309, folder E, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 23. A typical POW camp garden, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[88]

According to the provisions of the Geneva Convention, POWs were required to receive the same medical care afforded to American GIs. Both regular physicians and dentists were on hand to provide regular check-ups and emergency services.[89] Daily sick call was available at the POW camp infirmary (Figure 24). More serious medical treatment was provided at Fort Riley's Station Hospital in a private ward for the German internees. There were no German doctors or dentists at the camp, but some experienced POWs acted as sanitary personnel and orderlies in the medical facilities.[90]

88. Photo 130071. Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111-SC (RG 111-SC), NARA at College Park, MD.

89. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

90. Report from William B. Morris, Jr. to War General Bryan, "Prisoner of War Camp. Ft. Riley, Kansas," March 23, 1944, 3.

Figure 24. POWs in an unnamed camp infirmary, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[91]

Since the German POWs lived in barracks constructed to house American troops, sanitation in the camp was equivalent to that at the main cantonment. Fort Riley's general sewage system connected to the POW camp area for efficient waste removal.[92] The base camp and all branch camps had flush toilets and bathing facilities, readily available hot and cold water, and a fully functional heating system.[93] Overall, the sanitary conditions were considered "above average."[94]

For daily attire, the POWs were allowed to wear their own uniforms or camp-issued blue denim fatigues (Figure 25). The prisoners were required to have "PW" stenciled on clothing worn during labor hours, so most opted to wear the denim fatigues during the day. Because of paint shortages, the uniforms were often inadequately labeled. The fatigues provided were appropriate for the climate, and the POW work details received extra sets of

91. Box 309, folder G, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

92. Report from William B. Morris, Jr. to War General Bryan, "Prisoner of War Camp. Ft. Riley, Kansas," March 23, 1944, 2–3.

93. "Camp of Fort Riley (Camp Funston), Kansas, Visited by Mr. P. Schnyder on January 21 and 22, 1944, Report sent to War Gen. Bryan, October 30, 1944," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

94. Report from L. S. N. Phillipp to War General Bryan, "Prisoner of War Camp. Ft. Riley, Kansas," April 18, 1945, p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

warm clothing in the winter.[95] Most of the prisoners wore their German military uniforms during leisure time and on special occasions, though this was not always the case (Figure 26). If additional clothing was needed, camp administration provided prisoners with old American uniforms.[96] Towards the end of the war, camp inspectors noted that the prisoner identification "PW" was not to standard on uniforms and that many POWs had excess clothing in their possession. In response, camp administration tightened clothing regulation, relabeled POW uniforms, and confiscated extra clothing.[97]

Figure 25. POWs doing their laundry at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[98]

95. Report from William B. Morris, Jr. to War General Bryan, "Prisoner of War Camp. Ft. Riley, Kansas," March 23, 1944, 4.

96. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 1943–1946, 17.

97. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 1943–1946, 58.

98. Photo 180069, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 26. POWs relaxing in their personal clothes at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[99]

2.4.4 Deaths at POW camp, Fort Riley

While in internment, a small number of POWs died at Fort Riley or the surrounding branch camps. Most are reported as dying of natural causes, like Gerhard Steenberg, who died in June 1945, or Private Walter Wolf, who died of heart disease in December 1944.[100] Some were killed in labor accidents, including Voegele Wilfred, who worked in the Eskridge Branch Camp and died of a farm injury in October 1945.[101] After the war, POWs who had died at Camp Concordia were exhumed and reburied at Fort Riley. According to an article published in 2001, Area J at Fort Riley Post

99. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

100. "German Prisoner Dies," *The Junction City Union*, June 29, 1945; L. S. N. Phillipp, "Report on Visit by Mr. Emil Greuter of the Legation of Switzerland, March 30–31, 1945," p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

101. "German Prisoner Dies," *Junction City Union*, October 11, 1945.

Cemetery accommodates 73 Italian and German POW graves (Figure 27 and Figure 28).[102]

Figure 27. German prisoners give the Nazi salute to Otto Kaewel, a fellow POW who died at Fort Riley, in October of 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)103

102. Stan Finger, "Protecting the Past," *The Wichita Eagle*, June 4, 2001.

103. "Prisoner of War Funeral," SE390372, Lot 9638, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 28. Guards at a POW funeral procession at Camp Chaffee, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[104]

2.5 Work life

The German POWs at Fort Riley were responsible for work details within the POW camp, throughout the installation, and eventually at farms and other miscellaneous sites outside Fort Riley. According to a visiting reporter from the *Junction City Union*, who observed POW camp life in May of 1944, the prisoners were compensated 10 cents per hour (or approximately 80 cents a day). Their wages were renumerated as "canteen checks," which were used to obtain goods at the camp's canteen, such as tobacco, drinks, sweets, hygienic items, and writing material. The reporter even noted that the POWs could buy beer at the canteen, but each prisoner was limited to two pints a day. From the canteen revenue, POW camp representatives could send for decorations, sporting items, and even orchestra instruments.[105]

Camp authorities had little trouble finding capable workers from among the prisoners. They remarked that most POWs possessed some kind of trade skill, stating that "among the men can be found stone cutters,

104. Photo 187982, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

105. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

mechanics, woodworkers, artists, musicians, or men with almost any skill required."[106]

2.5.1 Work in the camp

One of the most important jobs within the POW camp itself was at the mess hall (Figure 29 and Figure 30). Here, German prisoners cooked and distributed meals for the other POWs. Although the prisoners were restricted by the same ration rules as American Soldiers, they were allowed to prepare the food however they pleased. In most instances, this meant that the POWs cooked meals that appealed to the average German palate–for instance, meats usually appeared in stews instead of being prepared as a roasted or fried dish, and corn was never a staple item on the menu. During a visit to the German POW mess hall, a reporter from the *Junction City Union* observed that the supper he witnessed "consisted of chicken pot pie, spaghetti and peas, German fried potatoes, a salad made with head lettuce, oil and onions; bread from the Post bakery, hot sweet rolls, and coffee or tea."[107] The reporter surmised that the German POW mess hall operated more efficiently than any other mess hall at Fort Riley, observing that fewer than 12 pounds of food per 1,000 meals went to waste.[108]

106. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

107. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

108. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

Figure 29. Chef at a Pennsylvania camp, 29 January 1945. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[109]

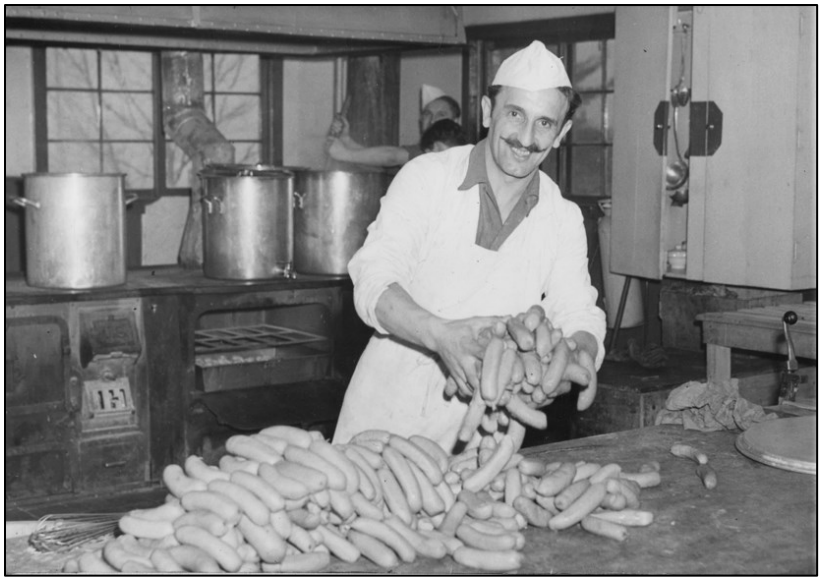
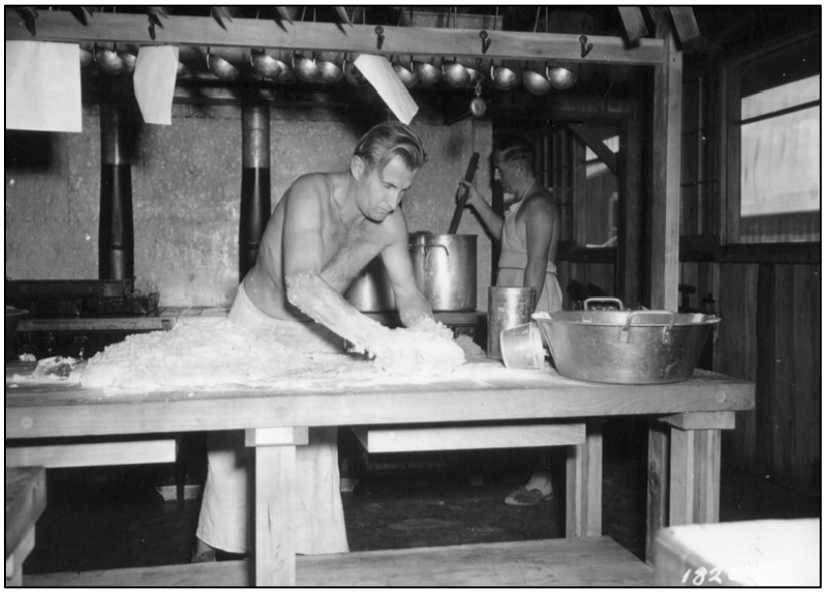


Figure 30. POW baker at Fort Riley, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[110]



109. Box 308, folder M, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

110. Photo 182696, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

2.5.2 Work on the post

When Fort Riley's POW camp opened, authorities originally planned to restrict German prisoners to work on the installation. Duties undertaken by the POWs included working at the post laundry, at the tire repair shop, in the salvage yards and warehouses, in other mess halls on post, and with construction projects as needed throughout the installation (Figure 31–Figure 34).[111] POWs were also engaged in tree planting, highway work, and more menial tasks, such as raking leaves off parade grounds.[112]

Figure 31. A German POW working on a tire at a Fort Riley shop in 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[113]

111. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 54.

112. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

113. Photo 235455, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 32. POW labor at Fort Riley laundry, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[114]

Figure 33. A German POW at Fort Riley stencils letters onto a sack in 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[115]

114. Photo 235456, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

115. Photo 235454, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 34. POWs scavenging materials for reuse at Fort Riley, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[116]

In their May 1945 inspection report, authorities tallied 66 men extracting rocks from the post's quarry, which were used for drainage revetment and street curb improvements. Although the inspectors believed that this work had some merit, they did not consider it essential. They were especially curious about why permanent stonework improvements were being conducted in areas of Fort Riley, such as Camp Forsyth, which were considered temporary in nature. Consequently, the inspectors recommended that POWs suspend their assignments in the quarry and cancel other "contemplated repairs to porches of permanent stone buildings."[117] Additionally, the inspectors recommended that all erosion and drainage control projects be "postponed temporarily."[118]

Leadership at Fort Riley took exception to these recommendations and wrote a detailed letter to the Seventh Service Command defending the necessity of POW labor to quarry rocks and execute various stonework projects. Colonel William Irvin, the letter's author, argued that using

116. Photo 235453, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

117. Army Service Forces Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, May 23, 1945, p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

118. Army Service Forces Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, May 23, 1945, 4.

POWs for this type of work would save the government money in the long-term:

> Rock quarry work is very essential in that it is necessary to produce rock for the construction of the new laundry building [and] approved soil erosion projects involving the maintenance and repair of permanent structures such as rock walls, buildings, and curbs. The prisoners are being used to quarry, break, crush and haul rock used for road maintenance, concrete construction of roads, parking areas, corrals and stables. . . . If prisoners of war were not used for this work, it would be necessary to purchase 50,000 tons of rock at a minimum cost of $1.45 per ton.[119]

This statement supports the supposition that some drainage features within the main cantonment, such as stone gutters and ditches, may have been constructed with POW labor. Colonel Irvin also contended that the inspectors had inaccurately classified stone drainage projects as nonessential labor. Using the ditch work at Camp Forsyth as an example, Colonel Irvin argued that drainage improvements were imperative to keep the cantonment in an operational status (see Section 3.2). Defending this work detail, he remarked,

> These prisoners are laying natural rock in the ditches along the road for proper drainage. Before it was decided that it was necessary to lay rock in the road ditches, a fair trial was given to the use of a ditch without a bottom cover. It was found that the area was so flat, the ditch would fill up and the bottom was destroyed on cleaning. . . . Sod ditches were also tried but the sod restricted the flow. It is true that this area is of a temporary classification; however, the work

119. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, p. 9. SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp. Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

> being done is considered necessary for proper maintenance at this time.[120]

Another stonework project that Colonel Irvin defended was the construction of a series of erosion prevention dams at Camp Whitside (see Section 3.3).[121] A detail of 22 prisoners worked here. In addition to drainage and erosion control features, Colonel Irvin endorsed the use of quarried rocks to improve buildings at Fort Riley. In the same letter, he explained,

> Exception was taken [by the inspectors] to the fact that rock was being used for contemplated repairs to porches of permanent stone buildings on Fort Riley proper. The use of this rock is in keeping with the permanent construction on the Post, and it is less expensive to quarry stone than purchase it. It is deemed advisable, because of constant maintenance and replacement due to rot, to replace wood porches with stone.[122]

2.5.3 Off-post work

German POWs were eventually allowed to work outside Fort Riley, laboring on an as-needed basis at area farms. In June of 1944, the first 100 prisoners were allowed outside the camp to help with agricultural work in Riley and Geary Counties. Farmers interested in using German prisoners for labor needed to prove to the local Farm Bureau officer that there were no civilian workers available. If the request was approved, farmers needed to pay the bureau for the anticipated labor, which was rated at 40 cents an hour.[123] According to Lowell and May, a typical day might be conducted in the following manner: "The prisoner detail, consisting of at least five, was picked up at the camp at 7:00 a.m. and transported to the work site. The prisoners were accompanied by a guard who also served as a timekeeper. Farmers were to provide the prisoners and guard a warm lunch, for which

120. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 10.

121. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 12.

122. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 10.

123. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 55.

they were credited twenty-five cents per meal. They were to be returned no later than 6:30 p.m."[124]

Although some were apprehensive at first, many farmers came to like the German POW laborers, appreciating their eagerness and their thorough work.[125]

In March of 1945, German POWs were also approved to work at the Kansas College of Agricultural and Applied Science (present-day Kansas State University). Here, the POWs worked to build an office addition onto Anderson Hall. The addition, which was of stone construction, was done with high precision.[126]

Reflecting on his time at Fort Riley and his labor outside the camp, former POW Wolfgang Decker recalled: "We worked in the fields with farmers. It was a nice way to spend the day. We'd go to the fields in the morning and return every day at 5 p.m. We ate and played with the farmers and some even became friends as time passed."[127]

2.5.4 Work at branch camps

As a base camp, Fort Riley managed 12 branch camps. According to May and Schock in *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 10 of these branch camps were in Kansas and 2 were in Missouri. Kansas branch camps were located in Council Grove (which operated from September 1944 to November 1945), El Dorado (October 1944–November 1945), Lake Wabaunsee branch camp in Eskridge (June 1944–July 1945), Lawrence (May 1945–November 1945), Neodesha (April 1945–November 1945), Ottawa (January 1945–November 1945), Camp Phillips in Salina (June 1944–April 1946), Peabody (August 1944–December 1945), Hutchinson (March 1945–November 1945), and at the Wadsworth Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Leavenworth (February 1945–June 1945). The two Missouri branch camps were located in Liberty (February 1945–November 1945) and Lexington (unknown period of operation).[128]

124. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 55.

125. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 55.

126. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 56.

127. "Former Prisoner of War Recall Time at Fort Riley," *Fort Riley Post*, November 19, 1999.

128. May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 61.

It may have been typical to use POW laborers from Fort Riley to set up branch camps in the surrounding region (Figure 35–Figure 37). For instance, in June of 1944, Fort Riley sent a group of about 20 POWs to prepare the Lake Wabaunsee branch camp in Eskridge for its opening. In a matter of two weeks, the detail had Lake Wabaunsee ready to detain 80–100 POWs.[129] In August of 1944, another 25 POWs from Fort Riley were transported to Council Grove, Kansas, to clean up Camp Fremont. This effort, which took only two days, was done to prepare the new branch camp for as many as 200 POWs. Officials anticipated that many of the incoming POWs, who would be assigned to farm labor, would constitute Germans who were recently captured at Normandy.[130]

Figure 35. German POWs doing agricultural work near Camp Peabody, a Fort Riley branch camp, in November of 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[131].

129. Penny Clark, "Farm Work and Friendship: The German Prisoner of War Camp at Lake Wabaunsee," (master's thesis, Emporia State University, 1988), *The Emporia State Research Studies*, 36, no. 3 (Winter 1988): 15, http://hdl.handle.net/123456789/355.

130. "Germans on Monday," *The Junction City Union*, August 31, 1944.

131. "Tour Made of Prisoners," November 30, 1944, SC Photo No. 1747-44-89-1, Photographic Division, Records of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA), Record Group 397, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 36. POWs doing agricultural work, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[132]

Figure 37. POWs loading hay, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[133]

132. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

133. Box 309, folder L, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

As of 1945, the primary work of most branch camps was agriculture; however, a few branch camps focused on nonagricultural labor. For example, at Lexington, Missouri, 70 POWs were working under the United States Engineer Department on the Missouri River diversion project, and at Eskridge, Kansas, 70 POWs were working at a Topeka Army plant to repair automobiles.[134] Some labor detachments from branch camps also raised mushrooms and did work in a local ice factory, milk cannery, slaughterhouse, paper factory, and canning factory.[135]

2.6 Off-duty life

When work was done for the day, off-duty hours were spent in a variety of physical, social, artistic, and intellectual pursuits. Camp administrators made sure the prisoners were supplied with the materials they needed to keep them acceptably occupied in their free time (Figure 38).

134. A representative from the Swiss Legation questioned if army vehicle repair was appropriate under Article 31 of the Geneva Convention. Camp authorities alleged that none of the Army vehicles would be armed, and it was agreed that was an appropriate interpretation of the rule. L. S. N. Phillipp, "Report on Visit by Mr. Emil Greuter of the Legation of Switzerland, March 30–31, 1945," pp. 2–3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

135. "Report on Fort Riley, Kansas, Visited in March 18–19, 1945, by Dr. Zehnder," p. 2, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

Figure 38. POW camp canteen at Fort Knox, 1944. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[136]

2.6.1 Recreation

Recreation took many different forms at Fort Riley's POW camp. For entertainment, the German prisoners formed a variety of ensembles, which included a drama group and a 12-piece orchestra (Figure 39 and Figure 40). Fellow POWs could enjoy performances in a recreation hall that the prisoners had turned into a makeshift theater. The theater consisted of a stage that the prisoners had constructed, along with curtains and raised seating. The camp provided materials for other creative activities, such as painting, drawing, and woodcarving, often through sponsorship from organizations like the YMCA and the International Red Cross.[137] For those sentimental toward animal welfare and companionship, some prisoners even tended to "several well-fed pigeon houses and a few stray cats."[138]

136. Box 308, folder P, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

137. Howard Hong, "Report on a Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley," October 22–23, 1944, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

138. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

Figure 39. Theatrical presentation with scavenged items for sets at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[139]

Figure 40. POW orchestra at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[140]

139. Photo 182691, RG 111-SC, NARA at College Park, MD.

140. Box 309, folder C, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Radio, literature, and motion pictures were regularly available for more passive entertainment (Figure 41 and Figure 42). The POWs were allowed to listen to American broadcasts on the radio, though many of them did not know enough English to fully understand the content.[141] English or German language motion pictures were also shown once a week. Regarding the films, a camp reviewer remarked, "Natural preference for German language pictures. Comic pictures are good if situation can be understood. Musicals are well liked."[142] Language barriers also proved to be an issue in reading activities. Magazines like *Life, Time, Silver Screen,* and *Esquire* were popular among the internees, but the camp cancelled subscriptions for the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Readers Digest* due to a lack of interest because of the challenging amount of English text.[143]

Figure 41. POWs reading *Life* magazine at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[144]

141. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944; May and Schock, *Prisoners of War in Kansas*, 54.

142. Army Service Forces Seventh Service Command Report, Prisoner of War Camp Fort Riley, Kansas, February 10, 1945, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

143. Army Service Forces Seventh Service Command Report, Prisoner of War Camp Fort Riley, Kansas, February 10, 1945.

144. Box 308, folder N, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Figure 42. POW clubhouse interior at an unnamed camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[145]

Athletics was also a popular pastime at camp (Figure 43). According to a visiting reporter from the *Junction City Union*, each company of POWs had their own sports kit, which came with a soccer ball, fist ball, and boxing gloves. A new athletic field was under construction outside the stockade area when the reporter visited the camp.[146] During his visit in May of 1944, the Junction City reporter observed that "Outside sports are going on at practically every free minute."[147] Throughout their confinement, soccer remained the most popular athletic activity among the POWs.[148] The men were allowed to use the space based on a newly implemented merit system. The system took into consideration each POW's "soldierliness" and work ethic.[149]

145. Box 309, folder V, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

146. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

147. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

148. "Last Prisoners of War Shipped from Fort Riley Saturday," *The Junction City Union*, April 23, 1946.

149. Howard Hong, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–7, 1944," p. 4, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

Figure 43. Soccer at an unidentified POW camp, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[150]

2.6.2 Education

Outside working hours, some POWs at Fort Riley filled their time with academic enrichment (Figure 44–Figure 45). The POWs had their own library, which was filled with books and newspapers. As of March 1944, the base camp library held 750 books, 600 of them in German. Books were usually provided by the War Prisoners' Aid, the International Red Cross, or the Lutheran Commission for Prisoners of War through the YMCA.[151] By March 1945, the library had expanded to contain over 2,000 volumes.[152]

150. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

151. Howard Hong, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–7, 1944," 3.

152. "Report on Fort Riley, Kansas, Visited in March 18–19, 1945, by Dr. Zehnder," p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

Figure 44. POWs in class at an unnamed camp [note large "PW" on clothing], no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[153]

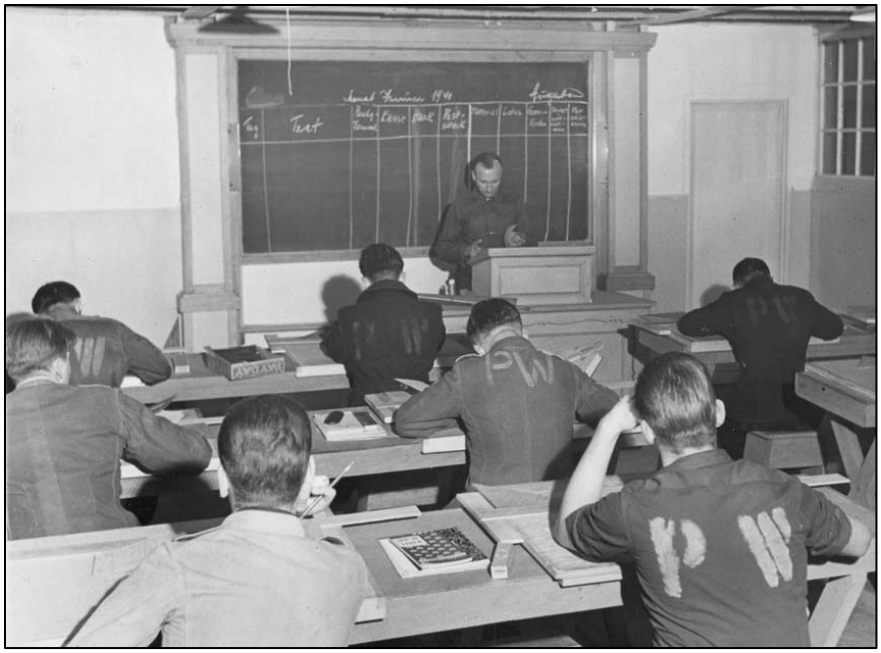
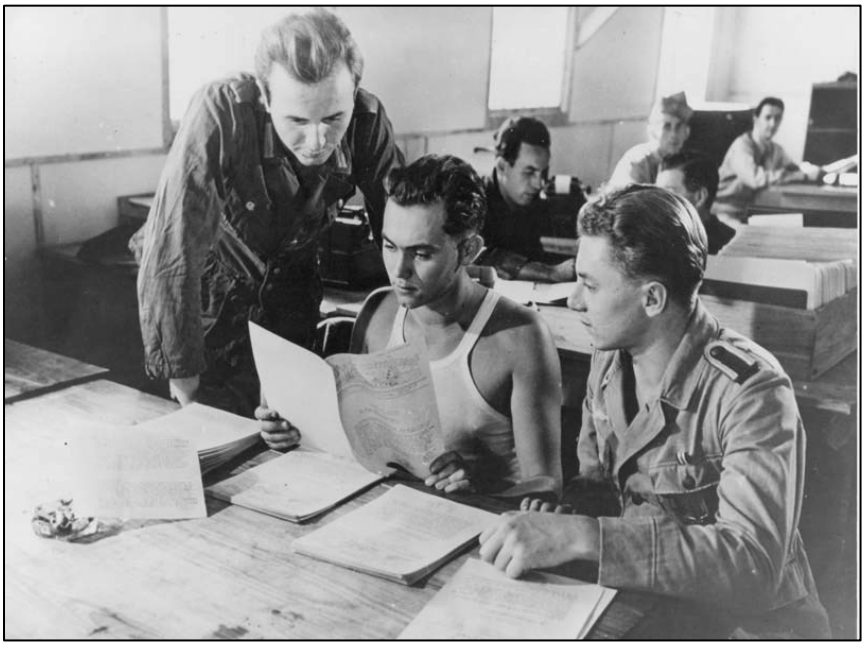


Figure 45. Reading a POW paper, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[154]



153. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

154. Box 309, folder Q, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

Besides reading for leisure, 15%–20% of German POWs used literary materials to organize their own courses of study.[155] Courses included English, German literature, world history, geography, architecture, sciences, mathematics, agriculture, bookkeeping, and automotive mechanics.[156] These classes took place in the evenings, since many POWs labored during the daytime.[157] Courses were usually taught by POWs who had limited time to prepare for instruction due to their responsibility in regular work details. To better accommodate the large number of classes and students, camp administrators responded to requests and assigned three POWs to full-time teaching positions in 1945.[158]

Without any prompting from camp officials, several POWs also expressed interest in developing ties with American universities through correspondence courses. POW teaching personnel were in the process of planning a distance learning course with Kansas State University in March 1945.[159] A few correspondence courses, including one in theology, were underway by April.[160] Many academically minded prisoners also requested scholarly journal subscriptions for independent learning.[161]

155. Army Service Forces Seventh Service Command Report, Prisoner of War Camp Fort Riley, Kansas, February 10, 1945, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

156. Army Service Forces Seventh Service Command Report, Prisoner of War Camp Fort Riley, Kansas, February 10, 1945.

157. "German Prisoners of War at Fort Riley Receive Much Consideration," *The Junction City Union*, May 4, 1944.

158. Howard Hong, "Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Branch Camp, Camp Phillips, April 19–20, 1945," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

159. "Report on Fort Riley, Kansas, Visited in March 18–19, 1945, by Dr. Zehnder," p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

160. Howard Hong, "Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Branch Camp, Camp Phillips, April 19–20, 1945."

161. Howard Hong, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–7, 1944," p. 3, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

2.6.3 Religion

There were three main religious groups among the POWs at Fort Riley: Lutherans, Catholics, and *Gottgläubig*.[162] At the base camp, Lutheran and Catholic services were held weekly, ministered by the two camp chaplains, of whom only the Protestant chaplain spoke German. One *Gottgläubig* prayer service occurred each month.[163] The religious services were first held in the original canteen building before being relocated to the new chapel-theater. By mid-1945, American and German ministers performed religious services at Fort Riley's post church. The POWs also established a church choir and a small bible study group.[164] Services at the branch camps typically had low attendance to the point that some branches stopped hosting services altogether.[165]

Spirituality was a significant part of life at the POW base camp, especially in the last months of the camp's operation (Figure 46). As the number of POWs in the camp dwindled, those that remained engaged in serious conversation with camp administrators and religious leaders regarding spiritual welfare and life after internment. Camp visitor Karl Gustaf Almquist noted in his report, "All were eager to take part in some constructive work and so prepare themselves for an uncertain future, in which, despite all, they believed. Quietly and modestly, they expressed their conviction that the good will to build a better order of things in their homeland was their first and last thought."[166]

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162. *Gottgläubig* translates to "believers in God." In Nazi Germany, the term was used to describe those who had faith in a higher power but had disavowed any organized religious institution. Richard Steigmann-Gall, *"The Holy Reich:" Religious Dimensions of the Nazi Ideology, 1919–1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 353, https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511818103.009.

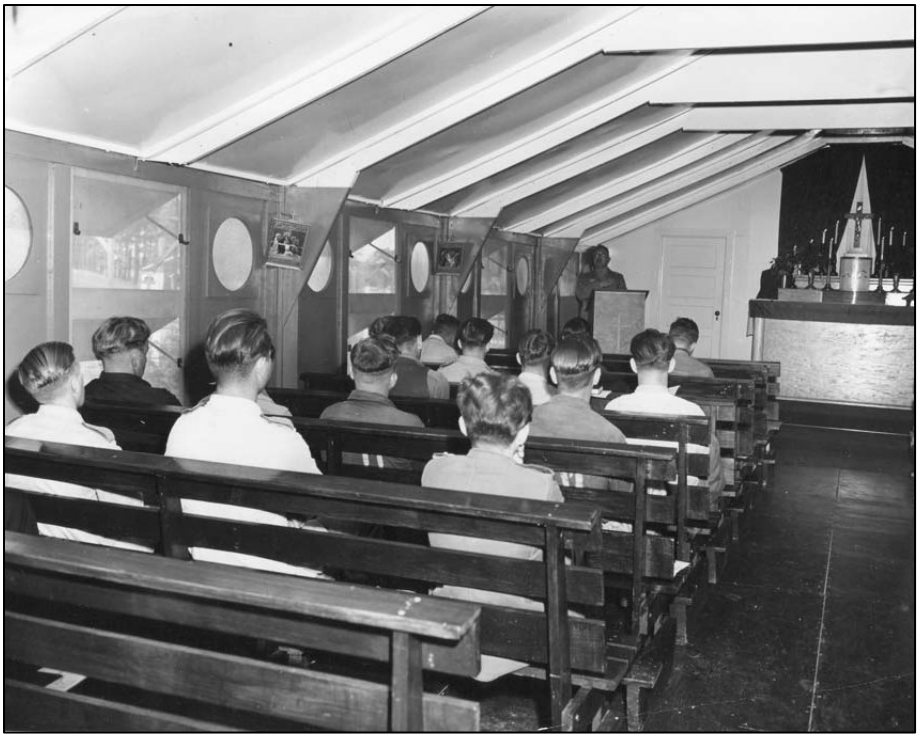
163. Army Service Forces Seventh Service Command Report, Prisoner of War Camp Fort Riley, Kansas, February 10, 1945, 3.

164. Howard Hong, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–7, 1944."

165. Sture Persson, "Report on Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, with Side Camps, July 20–26 and 28–29, 1945," SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

166. Karl Gustaf Almquist, "Report of Visit to Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Riley, Kansas, March 5–6, 1946," pp. 1–2, SD 125-22 Reading Files, Fort Riley Specific, Fort Riley POW Camp, Fort Riley Cavalry Museum, KS.

Figure 46. POWs at religious service, no date. (Image from NARA at College Park. Public domain.)[167]



2.7 End of the war: Closing and destruction of the camp

Even months after the Allied nations had declared victory in Europe, German POWs continued to be detained at Fort Riley. In fact, the last POWs were not removed from the camp until 20 April 1946.[168] As the men prepared to leave Fort Riley, Heinz Stadtfeld, the camp spokesman, offered the following words:

> In the name of my fellow prisoners . . . at Fort Riley, Kansas, I wish to express you [sic] gratitude for the correct and fair treatment and the good cooperation concerning our welfare as to clothing, food, and housing during the time from December 1943, till April 1946, when this camp was closed.[169]

167. Box 308, folder K, RG 208 AA, NARA at College Park, MD.

168. "Last German Prisoners of War Shipped from Fort Riley Saturday," *The Junction City Union*, April 23, 1946.

169. "Last German Prisoners of War Shipped from Fort Riley Saturday," *The Junction City Union*, April 23, 1946.

Over 10,000 POWs were confined at Fort Riley between 1943 and 1946. At its height, Fort Riley held 4,700 men in the base and branch camps.[170]

The experience of POWs at Fort Riley following V-E Day was like that of German prisoners detained around the United States. Many POWs remained in internment and continued their labor projects in and around the camps for almost a year after Germany's unconditional surrender.[171] Gradually, prisoners from smaller branch camps were relocated to the base camps. When the time for repatriation arrived, prisoners at Fort Riley departed from the Camp Funston rail depot and traveled to the New York transit installation, Camp Shanks.[172] Camp Shanks served as a gathering place for German POWs from the 155 base camps from around the country as preparations were made to transport them across the Atlantic.[173] On reaching Europe, many German POWs were required to provide war cleanup labor for the Allies in England, France, and Belgium. It was 1948 before some were allowed to return to their homes in Germany.[174]

170. "Last Shipment of Prisoners of War–494 Men—Departs from Fort Riley," *Manhattan Republic*, May 1, 1946, https://www.newspapers.com/image/422452796.

171. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 27.

172. "Last Shipment of Prisoners of War–494 Men—Departs from Fort Riley," *Manhattan Republic*, May 1, 1946.

173. Krammer, *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, 28; Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 27.

174. Thorne, "When German Prisoners of War Passed through Paoli," 27.

3 POW Stonework at Fort Riley

During their confinement, German POWs were engaged with a variety of stonework projects at Fort Riley. Most of these undertakings involved building localized water-control features to channel runoff and mitigate erosion. According to Lee R. Martin, a landscape architect who analyzed a series of small erosion-control dams built by POWs near Camp Whitside, German prisoners also quarried limestone at Fort Riley, with which they "constructed limestone porches on existing buildings [and] repaired limestone buildings and retaining walls."[175]

Fort Riley is not the only installation that employed German POW labor to construct stonework during WWII. Other posts, such as Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Camp Crowder, Missouri; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Fort Stewart, Georgia; also feature POW stonework from this period. It is possible that POW stonework exists at many other installations too, but in the absence of physical inscriptions on the stonework itself, it can be difficult to isolate POW involvement since specific projects undertaken by POW laborers often went undocumented.[176] There are three areas at Fort Riley where POWs are known to have engaged in stonework projects: Camp Forsyth, Camp Whitside, and Camp Funston. In addition, POWs may have improved or constructed bridge 213 near the intersection of G Street and Venable Drive in Camp Forsyth and worked on stone drainage ditches and retaining walls within the main cantonment.

One of the objectives of this chapter is to determine the NRHP status of the POW stonework at Fort Riley.[177] The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation describes how properties and districts are significant for their association with important events or persons (Criteria A and B), for their importance in design or construction (Criterion C), or for their information potential (Criterion D). The following is a brief description of each of the four

175. Lee R. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley" (Dynamic Corporation–Fort Riley, July 1999), 2, Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Fort Riley, KS.

176. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," 3.

177. This paragraph and its proceeding bullet points are reprinted and modified from Adam Smith et al. *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*. ERDC-CERL SR-06-30 (Champaign, IL: ERDC-CERL, 2006), 69.

criteria (excerpted from National Register Bulletin #15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*):

> **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**—embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
>
> **D. Information Potential**—yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.[178]

Historic properties either retain integrity (that is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of 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.[179]

178. National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin #15 (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997), 2.

179. National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, 44–45.

The seven aspects of integrity as outlined in *National Register Bulletin #15*, read as follows:

> **Location**—Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
>
> **Design**—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 elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.
>
> **Setting**—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.
>
> **Materials**—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.
>
> **Workmanship**—Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
>
> **Feeling**—Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period.

Association—Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.[180]

3.1 Stonework inventory at Fort Riley

Because stonework has been a major constituent of Fort Riley's built environment since its founding, the majority of stonework at the installation is not the result of German POW labor. Based on physical inscriptions or historic documentation, the authors of this report believe there are nine stonework features at Fort Riley that can be confidently attributed to German POW labor. It is likely that other stonework features at Fort Riley may have been constructed by POWs as well. However, in the absence of historic documentation or physical inscriptions, it is difficult to affirm with certainty whether a particular structure or improvement was the result of POW labor. Therefore, an educated inference is typically made based on the stonework feature's construction, which includes comparing factors such as stone cut, arrangement, and mortar width against examples of verified POW stonework. The proximity of a stonework feature to verified POW stonework is also taken into consideration. Based on these factors, the authors of this report believe there are an additional 28 stonework features at Fort Riley that could have been constructed by German POWs (Table 1).

Table 1. Thirty-seven stonework features constructed and possibly constructed by German POWs at Fort Riley.

Feature	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	Universal Transverse Mercator UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Box Ditch	Yes	Stone	Poor, Fair, and Good	14	688074.30	4325755.73	Camp Forsyth
Check Dam 1	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693215.56	4328640.59	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 2	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693203.74	4328649.52	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 3	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693192.42	4328655.79	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 4	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693175.42	4328650.26	Camp Whitside

180. National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, 44–45.

Table 1 (cont.). Thirty-seven stonework features constructed and possibly constructed by German POWs at Fort Riley.

Feature	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	Universal Transverse Mercator UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Check Dam 5	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693160.29	4328642.45	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 6	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693142.90	4328631.47	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 7	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693127.89	4328619.00	Camp Whitside
4th Street Extension Culvert	Yes	Stone and concrete	Fair	14	697387	4330950	Camp Funston
Trapezoidal Ditch	Possible	Stone	Poor, Fair, Good	14	688280.55	4325751.33	Camp Funston
Trooper Drive Culvert	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687874.69	4325775.61	Camp Forsyth
H Street Culvert	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	688123.92	4325758.69	Camp Forsyth
Bridge 213	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687684.18	4326959.09	Camp Forsyth
Hydraulic Jump A	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693403.74	4328541.72	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump B	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693383.15	4328548.09	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump C	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693367.62	4328556.49	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump D	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693342.71	4328570.20	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump E	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693323.77	4328583.61	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump F	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693282.73	4328608.48	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump G	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693259.66	4328620.91	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump H	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693102.75	4328603.17	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump I	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693085.47	4328587.53	Camp Whitside
Earth Bridge 1	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693304.43	4328595.58	Camp Whitside

Table 1 (cont.). Thirty-seven stonework features constructed and possibly constructed by German POWs at Fort Riley.

Feature	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	Universal Transverse Mercator UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Earth Bridge 2	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693241.84	4328631.13	Camp Whitside
Huebner Road Culvert	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693422.10	4328530.51	Camp Whitside
Union Pacific Culvert	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693436.23	4328522.52	Camp Whitside
Godfrey Avenue Drainage Ditch	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692200.47	4326860.22	Main Cantonment
Riley Place Gutter	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692037	4327382	Main Cantonment
Cameron Avenue Gutter	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692096	4325948	Main Cantonment
Miller Street Gutter	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	691967	4325819	Main Cantonment
Holbrook Alley Stone Gutter	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692162.80	4326313.56	Main Cantonment
Marshall Avenue Parking Lot Stone Retaining Wall	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692133.57	4326179.53	Main Cantonment
Law Avenue Stone Ditch	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691944.16	4325782.74	Main Cantonment
Carr Avenue Stone Wall	Possible	Stone	Good	14	692145.55	4326394.09	Main Cantonment
St. Mary's Chapel Stone Gutter	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691661.45	4326461.16	Main Cantonment
Pleasanton Avenue Stone Retaining Wall	Possible	Stone	Good	14	691522.01	4326073.29	Main Cantonment
Dickman Avenue Stone Culvert	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692197.99	4326162.63	Main Cantonment

3.2 Findings

Of the 37 stonework features confirmed to have been built with POW labor or potentially built with POW labor, it is the determination of the authors that 25 stonework features are contributing resources in one potential NRHP district, a "German POW Stonework Historic District," under

Criterion A for "WWII Prisoner of War Camps in the United States" and

Criterion C for "Vernacular Stonework Construction by German Prisoners of War."

The proposed historic district is a noncontiguous district featuring ditches, culverts, and check dams found throughout Fort Riley. Contributing resources in the district include 9 stonework features that are confirmed to have been constructed with POW labor through documentation or physical inscriptions, as well 16 stonework features that were possibly completed by German POWs. Although documentation or inscriptions do not confirm these 16 features were constructed by German POW labor, they are considered contributing because they are in close proximity to (or interact seamlessly with) features that are confirmed to have been constructed with POW labor. In total, within the boundaries of the proposed historic district, there are 25 contributing resources and 2 noncontributing resources (Table 2). The noncontiguous district contains three linear segments: one at Camp Forsyth, one at Camp Whitside, and one at Camp Funston.

Table 2. The 25 contributing and 2 noncontributing resources within the ""German POW Stonework Historic District.""

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Box Ditch	Yes	Yes	Stone	Poor, Fair, and Good	14	688074.30	4325755.73	Camp Forsyth
Trooper Drive Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687874.69	4325775.61	Camp Forsyth
H Street Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	688123.92	4325758.69	Camp Forsyth
I Street Culvert	No	Not Likely	Concrete	Fair	14	688280.55	4325751.33	Camp Forsyth
Check Dam 1	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693215.56	4328640.59	Camp Whitside

Table 2 (cont.). The 25 contributing and 2 noncontributing resources within the ""German POW Stonework Historic District.""

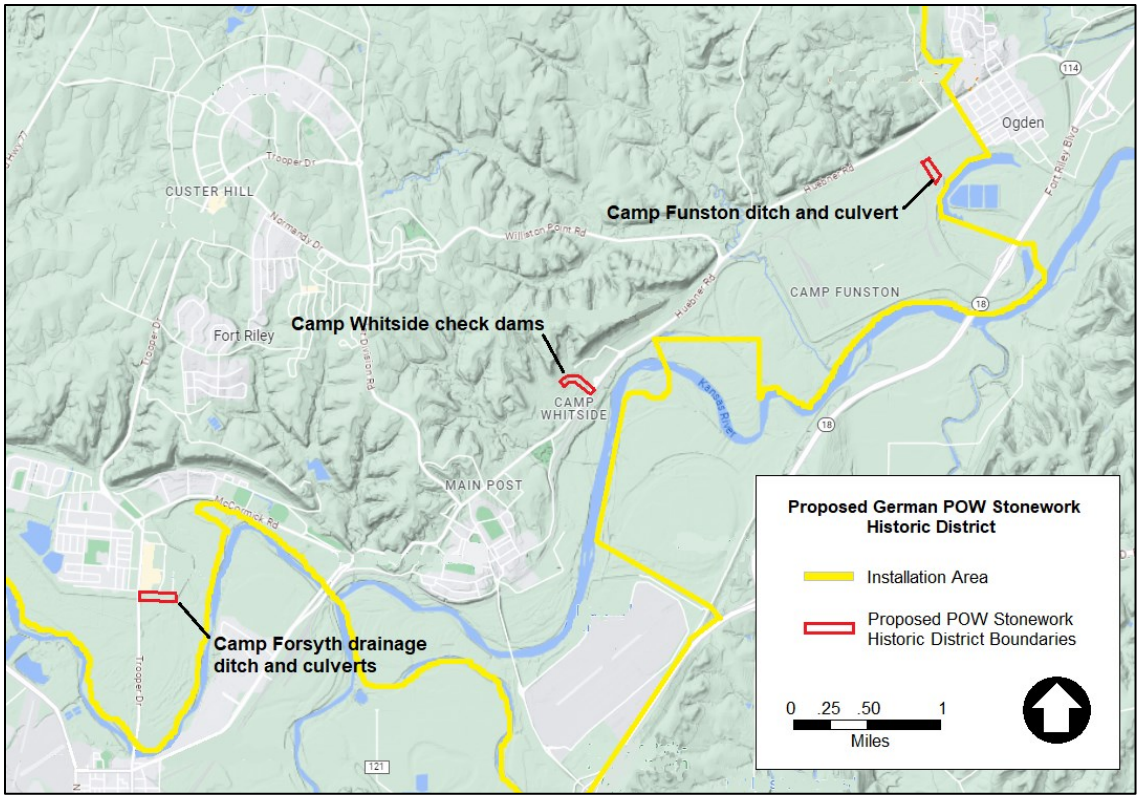
Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Check Dam 2	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693203.74	4328649.52	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 3	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693192.42	4328655.79	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 4	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693175.42	4328650.26	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 5	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693160.29	4328642.45	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 6	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693142.90	4328631.47	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 7	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693127.89	4328619.00	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump A	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693403.74	4328541.72	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump B	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693383.15	4328548.09	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump C	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693367.62	4328556.49	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump D	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693342.71	4328570.20	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump E	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693323.77	4328583.61	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump F	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693282.73	4328608.48	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump G	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693259.66	4328620.91	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump H	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693102.75	4328603.17	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump I	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693085.47	4328587.53	Camp Whitside
Earth Bridge 1	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693304.43	4328595.58	Camp Whitside
Earth Bridge 2	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693241.84	4328631.13	Camp Whitside
Huebner Road Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693422.10	4328530.51	Camp Whitside

Table 2 (cont.). The 25 contributing and 2 noncontributing resources within the ""German POW Stonework Historic District.""

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Union Pacific Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693436.23	4328522.52	Camp Whitside
4th Street Extension Culvert	Yes	Yes	Stone and concrete	Fair	14	697387	4330950	Camp Funston
Trapezoidal Ditch	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor, Fair, and Good	14	688280.55	4325751.33	Camp Funston
Railroad Grade Culvert	No	Likely by Railroad	Concrete	Fair	14S	697204.56	4331152.40	Camp Funston

The boundaries of the proposed "German POW Stonework Historic District" are comprised of three noncontinuous linear sectors. The linear sectors are focused on a drainage ditch at Camp Forsyth, a check dam watershed at Camp Whitside, and a levee ditch at Camp Funston (Figure 47). Each of these three linear sectors within the "German POW Stonework Historic District" are examined in detail in Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.

Figure 47. Proposed "German POW Stonework Historic District" within Fort Riley. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

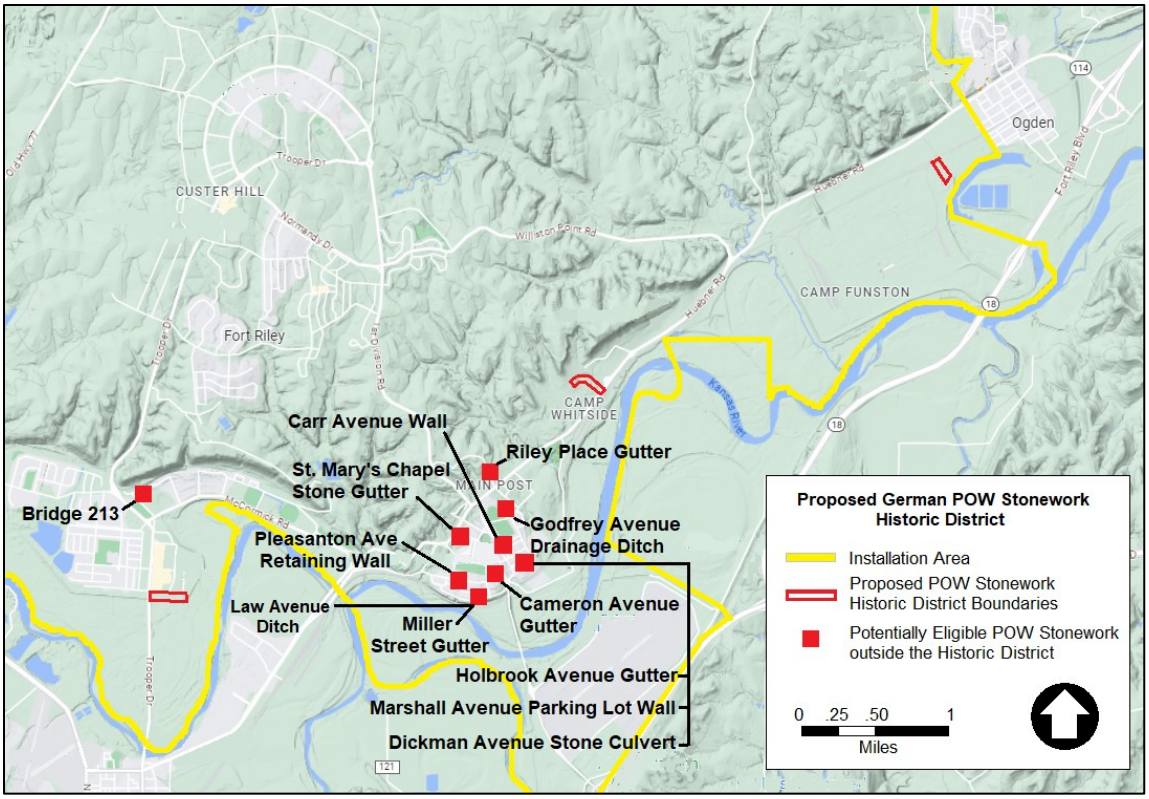


Outside the historic district, 12 additional stonework features may have been constructed with POW labor (Figure 48). These consist of bridge 213 at Camp Forsyth and 11 other stonework features at the main cantonment (Table 3). They are not considered contributing resources in the "German POW Stonework Historic District" for two reasons: first, documentation or physical inscriptions do not definitively prove they were constructed by German POWs, and second, they are not located within close proximity to stonework features that are proven to have been constructed by German POWs through documentation or inscriptions. However, because the stonework's size, arrangement, and mortar resemble that of confirmed POW stonework, they are potentially individually eligible for the NRHP.

Table 3. Twelve stonework features outside the "German POW Stonework Historic District" that are potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Bridge 213	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687684.18	4326959.09	Camp Forsyth
Godfrey Avenue Drainage Ditch	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692200.47	4326860.22	Main Cantonment
Riley Place Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692037	4327382	Main Cantonment
Cameron Avenue Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692096	4325948	Main Cantonment
Miller Street Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	691967	4325819	Main Cantonment
Holbrook Alley Stone Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692162.80	4326313.56	Main Cantonment
Marshall Avenue Parking Lot Stone Retaining Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692133.57	4326179.53	Main Cantonment
Law Avenue Stone Ditch	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691944.16	4325782.74	Main Cantonment
Carr Avenue Stone Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Good	14	692145.55	4326394.09	Main Cantonment
St. Mary's Chapel Stone Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691661.45	4326461.16	Main Cantonment
Pleasanton Avenue Stone Retaining Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Good	14	691522.01	4326073.29	Main Cantonment
Dickman Avenue Stone Culvert	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692197.99	4326162.63	Main Cantonment

Figure 48. Location of potentially eligible POW stonework outside the proposed historic district. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



3.3 Camp Forsyth segment: POW drainage ditch and culverts

During their confinement, German POWs worked on a stone-lined drainage ditch near the south side of Camp Forsyth. The ditch, which is still extant, is oriented from east to west and runs in a straight line between Trooper Drive and I Street (Figure 49). It parallels River Road approximately 250 ft north of a levee that protects the south side of Camp Forsyth.[181] From the east edge of Trooper Drive to the western edge of I Street, the ditch is approximately 1,300 ft long.[182] Although the condition of the ditch ranges between poor, fair, and good depending on which part of the feature is being examined, researchers for this project have determined that the ditch retains its integrity and is a contributing resource in the "German POW Stonework Historic District." Two culverts (at Trooper Drive and H Street) are in fair condition and also considered contributing resources in the "German POW Stonework Historic District." Although no documentation or physical inscriptions definitively prove these two

181. Fiona Price, "POW Built Features," October 21, 2020, Fort Riley DPW, Fort Riley, KS.
182. Measurement from Google Earth.

culverts were constructed with POW labor, their stone size, cut, arrangement, and mortar joints match those of the POW ditch to which they are attached. A small concrete culvert at I street is constructed of poured concrete and does not match the appearance of the ditch or other two culverts. It is considered a noncontributing resource in the "German POW Stonework Historic District." Two other small stone culverts to the west of Trooper Drive possess a lack of continuity with the rest of the drainage ditch system and do not fall within the boundaries of the historic district (Figure 50; Table 4).

Figure 49. Location of the POW stone ditch and culvert on the south side of Camp Forsyth. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

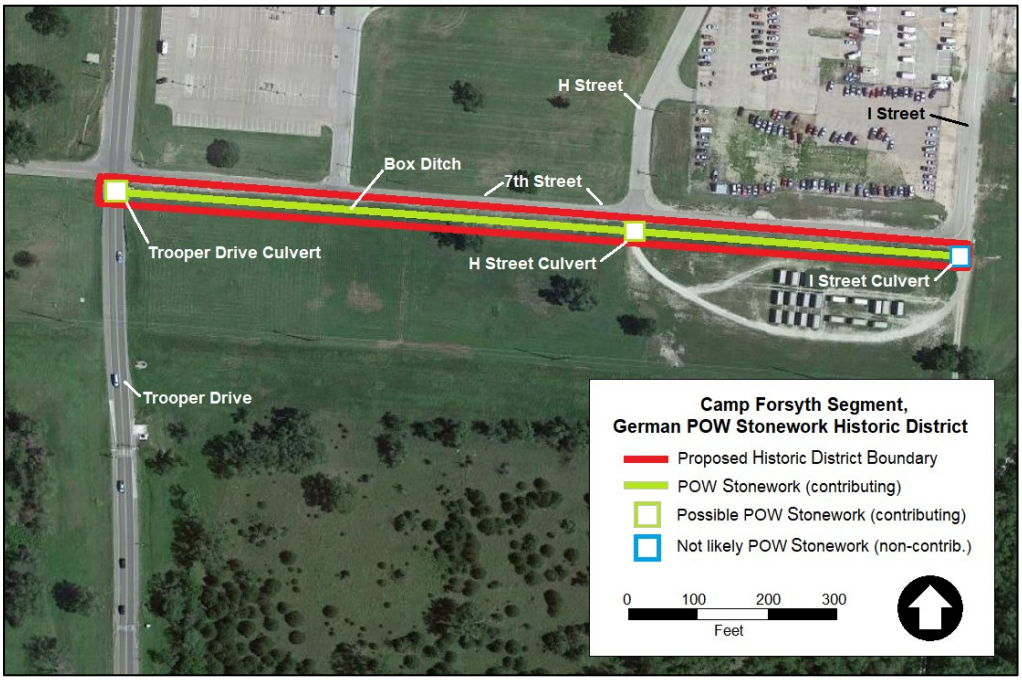


Figure 50. Location of two additional stone culverts west of the Camp Forsyth segment of the historic district. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 4. Contributing and noncontributing resources within the Camp Forsyth segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Box Ditch	Yes	Yes	Stone	Poor, Fair, and Good	14	688074.30	4325755.73	River Road
Trooper Drive Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687874.69	4325775.61	Trooper Drive
H Street Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	688123.92	4325758.69	H Street
I Street Culvert	No	Not likely	Concrete	Fair	14	688280.55	4325751.33	I Street

3.3.1 Contributing resources in the Camp Forsyth segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District"

3.3.1.1 Box ditch

An unimproved ditch already existed when POWs were dispatched to the project in 1945, and their efforts simply enhanced the feature by lining it with stone. This is supported in a letter written by Colonel William R. Irvin to the commanding general of the Seventh Service Command

Headquarters, in which he remarked that POWs at Camp Forsyth were "laying natural rock in the ditches along the road for proper drainage."[183] Before this effort was undertaken, Colonel Irvin explained that an unimproved ditch had been tried before, but it "was found the area was so flat, the ditch would fill up and the bottom was destroyed on cleaning." A sod ditch was also tried but restricted the flow of water.[184]

Dissected at a perpendicular cross-section, the ditch exhibits vertical walls and a level base. The walls themselves are lined with varying sizes of square-cut limestone. Flat, square-cut stones line the top rim of the ditch (Figure 51–Figure 57). Many of the stones on the south side of the ditch exhibit striated tooling (a method of shaping that made the stones have flat faces instead of rock faces), while the stones on the north side of the ditch exhibit rock faces (Figure 58–Figure 59). An inscription is seen on one of the stones on the south side of the ditch, between the H Street culvert and the I Street culvert. The inscription bears two initials, "R.C.C." for Replacement Center Camp (a designation given to Camp Forsyth) and "H.L.P." (Figure 60). The "H.L.P." inscription likely stands for *Heer Leichte Panzergrenadier*, a reference to the German Army's light infantry division. According to Fort Riley museum director Dr. Robert Smith, after the 90th Light Infantry Division surrendered in Tunisia, some of the soldiers were sent to the POW camp at Fort Riley.[185] During recent repair work on the ditch, stones have been reset and new mortar has been applied where the old mortar was failing (Figure 61 and Figure 62).

183. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9–10.

184. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 10.

185. Review comment by Theresa de la Garza, Fort Riley cultural resource manager (CRM), September 5, 2023.

Figure 51. Basic cross-sectional sketch of the POW ditch at Camp Forsyth. Not to scale. (Image by ERDC-CERL.)

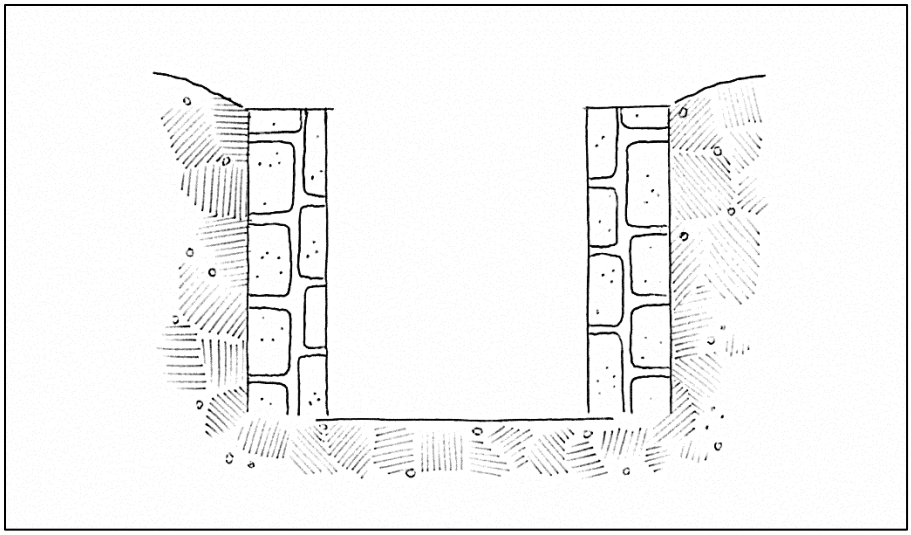


Figure 52. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch, looking west toward the H Street culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 53. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch, looking east toward the I Street culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 54. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch from the H Street culvert, looking east toward the I Street culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 55. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch from the H Street culvert, looking west toward the Trooper Drive culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 56. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch, looking east toward the H Street culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 57. A diagonal view of the drainage ditch, looking west toward the Trooper Drive culvert. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 58. A close-up view of the stones between H Street and I Street, which exhibit tooling striations and flat faces. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 59. A close-up view of the stones between H Street and I Street on the north side of the ditch, which exhibit rock facing. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 60. A close-up view of a stone bearing the initials "R. C. C." and "H. L. P." Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 61. Detail of POW ditch at Camp Forsyth showing recent mortar repair, looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 62. Detail of stones being reset, and new mortar being applied between the H Street culvert and the I Street culvert. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.3.1.2 Trooper Drive culvert

Three culverts are located along the ditch's course: one at the western node where the ditch interacts with Trooper Drive, a middle culvert that channels water under the H Street access road, and a third culvert where the ditch intersects I Street. Of these three culverts, it is possible that the Trooper Drive culvert and the H Street culvert were constructed or

improved by POWs, since the structures are of stone construction and appear to interact with the ditch naturally.

The Trooper Drive culvert features two square-cut limestone headwalls that are vertically oriented on the east and west side of the road. The west headwall consists of a single linear segment, while the east headwall contains two perpendicular segments, creating an L shape. A single metal pipe channels water beneath Trooper Drive, while a smaller metal pipe (located on the north segment of the eastern headwall) channels water beneath River Road. Stone coping is found at the top of both headwalls (Figure 63–Figure 65).

Figure 63. Aerial view of the Trooper Drive culvert at Camp Forsyth. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Figure 64. View of the Trooper Drive culvert headwall, looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 65. View of the Trooper Drive culvert headwall, looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.3.1.3 H Street culvert

The H Street culvert features two square-cut limestone headwalls that are vertically oriented on the east and west side of the access road. Viewed from the top down, each headwall is slightly concave so that the ends flair away from the access road. Two corrugated metal pipes, situated at the base of the culvert, channel water from the stone drainage ditch beneath

the access road. The ends of each pipe are flush with the vertical headwalls. Stone coping is found at the top of both walls.

Figure 66. Aerial view of the H Street culvert at Camp Forsyth. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Figure 67. Detail of the H Street culvert's west headwall at Camp Forsyth, looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 68. Detail of the H Street culvert's east headwall at Camp Forsyth. Looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.3.2 Noncontributing resources in the Camp Forsyth segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District": I Street culvert

The I Street culvert, located on the eastern nodes of the drainage ditch, is of concrete construction. Water runs through the culvert by way of two parallel, metal pipes. It consists of a vertical concrete headwall on the west side of I Street and a subgrade drainage grate approximately 45 ft east of I Street. This utilitarian structure is devoid of any stonework or ornamentation (Figure 69–Figure 71). Because its poured concrete construction differs with the stone construction seen on the ditch and the other two culverts, it is less likely that the I Street culvert was constructed with POW labor.

Figure 69. Aerial view of the I Street culvert at Camp Forsyth. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Figure 70. View of the west side of the I Street culvert. Looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 71. View of the drainage grate on the east side of the I Street culvert. Looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.4 Camp Whitside segment: POW check dam watershed system

A series of stone check dams and associated infrastructure (including hydraulic jump steps, two earth bridges, and two culverts) are found on the north side of Camp Whitside (Fort Riley Real Property 14GE3114). The entirety of the system follows an L-shaped course between 4th Street and Huebner Road. The northwest leg of the course runs parallel to the base of the river bluff and 10th Street, and the northeast leg runs in a southeast direction toward the Kansas River (Figure 72; Table 5).

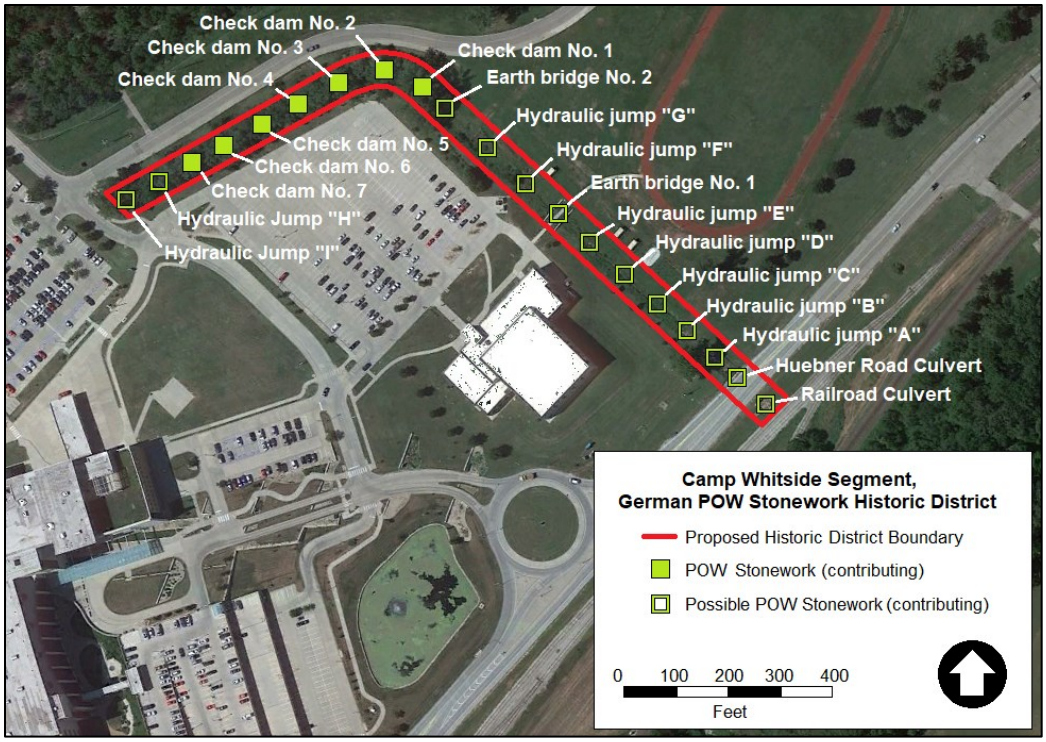
Table 5. Contributing and noncontributing resources within the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Check Dam 1	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693215.56	4328640.59	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 2	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693203.74	4328649.52	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 3	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693192.42	4328655.79	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 4	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693175.42	4328650.26	Camp Whitside

Table 5 (cont.). Contributing and noncontributing resources within the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Check Dam 5	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693160.29	4328642.45	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 6	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693142.90	4328631.47	Camp Whitside
Check Dam 7	Yes	Yes	Stone	n/a	14	693127.89	4328619.00	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump A	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693403.74	4328541.72	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump B	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693383.15	4328548.09	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump C	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693367.62	4328556.49	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump D	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693342.71	4328570.20	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump E	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693323.77	4328583.61	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump F	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693282.73	4328608.48	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump G	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693259.66	4328620.91	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump H	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693102.75	4328603.17	Camp Whitside
Hydraulic Jump I	Yes	Possible	Stone	n/a	14	693085.47	4328587.53	Camp Whitside
Earth Bridge 1	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693304.43	4328595.58	Camp Whitside
Earth Bridge 2	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	693241.84	4328631.13	Camp Whitside
Huebner Road Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693422.10	4328530.51	Camp Whitside
Union Pacific Culvert	Yes	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	693436.23	4328522.52	Camp Whitside

Figure 72. Proposed boundary around the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District." (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



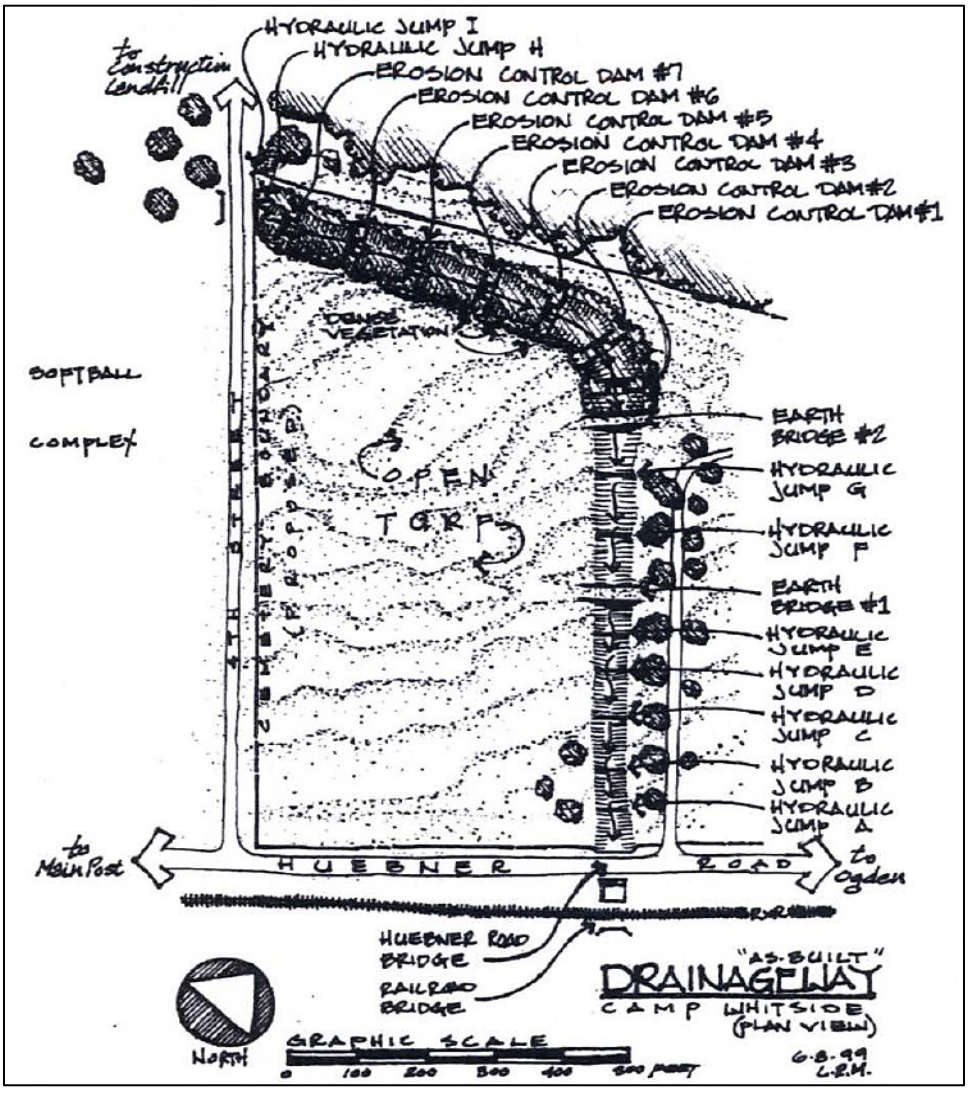
In 1945, a series of small erosion control check dams, constructed of square-cut limestone, were built by a detail of 22 POWs in Camp Whitside. This drainageway consisted of seven small check dams, spaced approximately 100 ft apart, and eight "hydraulic jumps"—shallow limestone retainers set into the hillside (Figure 73). Near the bottom of the drainage way (the south side), a series of four limestone culverts channel water under the Union Pacific railroad grade, Huebner Road, and two "earth bridges." The most comprehensive survey of these features was conducted by landscape designer Lee R. Martin in July 1999. According to Martin, authorities at Fort Riley assumed that all of these stone features had been constructed by Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews in the 1930s. However, the discovery of an inscription on one of the dams that read "POW 1945" led Fort Riley personnel to conclude the check dams were completed by German POWs (Figure 80).[186] Martin supports this conclusion by citing a 1945 document written by Colonel William R. Irvin, which states,

> A detail of 22 prisoners was engaged in the construction of local check dams spaced at

186. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," 4.

approximately every 100' in the Regional Hospital area at Whitside. These dams were necessary to check a serious soil erosion problem. Because of the contour in this area, rain water runs with such force that there is continual washing-out in the area and on the roadside. Check dams control the flow so that no damage is done. This work was not done until after a ditch without check dams and a sodded slope had proven unsatisfactory.[187]

Figure 73. Site sketch of Camp Whitside's erosion drainageway by Lee Martin, 1999. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)



187. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 12–13.

3.4.1 Contributing resources in the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District"

3.4.1.1 Check dams 1–7

Seven stone check dams at Camp Whitside were constructed to prevent soil erosion within a 66.7-acre watershed located between the bluffs and the Kansas River. An L-shaped drainageway directs water from the base of the watershed into the river. Within the drainageway, each check dam slows the water's velocity and gradually drops the water down a series of stone steps. The steps are enclosed between two vertical headwalls. At the base of the steps, water is distributed across a 6 ft tongue and continues on its descent until it is slowed at the next check dam. The seven check dams are spaced approximately 100 ft apart.[188] Field drawings of the check dams, created by Martin, show that each structure was built with square-cut limestone (Figure 74–Figure 75). Martin classified the features as dams 1 through 7, with the first dam located near a centrally located earth bridge, and the seventh dam located near 4th Street. Because of issues with accessibility, it was not possible for CERL researchers to investigate the check dams during fieldwork. Consequently, a current condition assessment and recent photographs are not provided. Photos of the check dams captured by Lee Martin are seen in Figure 76–Figure 83.

188. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," Section 1, 5.

Figure 74. Layout sketch of a typical check dam. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

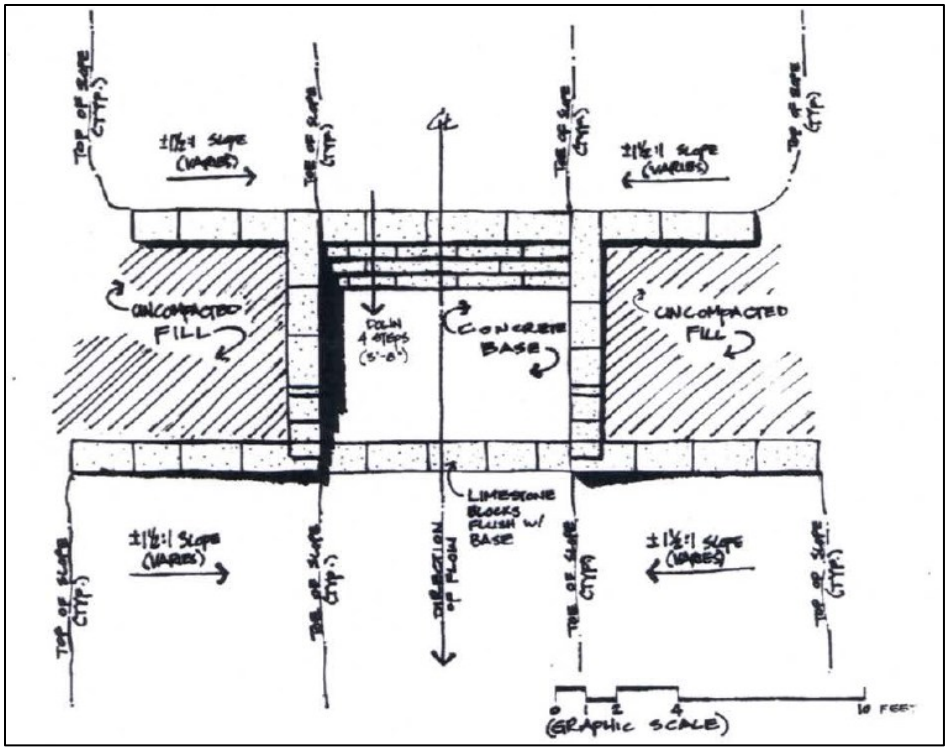


Figure 75. Oblique sketch of a typical check dam. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

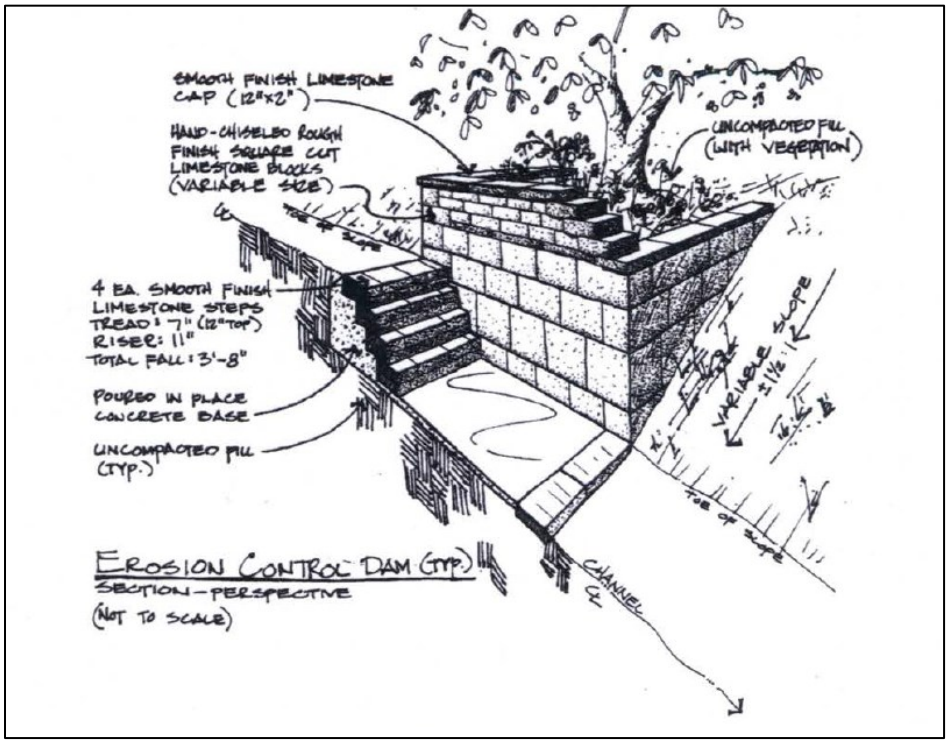


Figure 76. View of check dam no. 1 at Camp Whitside. Looking northwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 77. Detail of check dam no. 2 at Camp Whitside. Looking west. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 78. Detail of check dam no. 3 at Camp Whitside. Looking southwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 79. Detail of check dam no. 4 at Camp Whitside. Looking southwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 80. Detail of check dam no. 5 at Camp Whitside, which bears the inscription "P. O. W. 1945." Looking southwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 81. Detail of check dam no. 6 at Camp Whitside. Looking southwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 82. Detail of an inscription on check dam no. 6, which reads N. G. S. BERLIN N. DAK 62." This is a reference to the *Deutsche Afrika Korps*. Looking west. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 83. View of check dam no. 7 at Camp Whitside, looking southwest. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

3.4.1.2 Hydraulic jumps A–I

In addition to the seven check dams, a series of nine hydraulic jumps is found within the drainage way. The hydraulic jumps are simple structures that consist of square-cut limestone blocks arranged to form an elongated, single step. Two of these hydraulic jumps (I and H) are situated above the top (or seventh) erosion control dam. According to Martin, these were likely constructed at the same time as the erosion control dams and may have been built by German POWs. Hydraulic jump H is unique because it is attached to a concrete culvert near 4th Street.[189] In Martin's estimation, the six hydraulic jumps between the check dams and Huebner Road (A–G) may have been constructed between 1924 and 1940 (simultaneously with the rest of Camp Whitside), and Martin cites lower-quality workmanship as one piece of evidence to support his claim.[190] However, the authors of this report believe that the hydraulic jumps may have been installed by German POWs because they interact naturally, as a system, with the rest of the check dam watershed. It is recommended that all eight be considered contributing resources to the historic district. Because of limited visibility in the field, CERL researchers were only able to capture photos of hydraulic jumps A and B (Figure 84–Figure 85). Photos for hydraulic jumps C–I are reproduced from Martin's report (Figure 86–Figure 92). The condition of hydraulic jumps A and B appear poor to fair, though they are obscured by vegetation. Visibility restraints precluded a condition assessment of hydraulic jumps C–I.

189. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," Section 3, 9.

190. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," Section 3, 6.

Figure 84. View of hydraulic jump "A" at Camp Whitside, looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 85. Partial view of hydraulic jump "B" at Camp Whitside. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 86. View of hydraulic jump "C" at Camp Whitside. Looking west. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 87. View of hydraulic jump "D" at Camp Whitside. Looking west. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 88. View of hydraulic jump "E" at Camp Whitside. Looking southeast. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 89. View of hydraulic jump "F" at Camp Whitside. Looking north. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 90. View of hydraulic jump "G" at Camp Whitside. Looking north. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 91. View of hydraulic jump "H" at Camp Whitside. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

Figure 92. View of hydraulic jump "I" at Camp Whitside. (Image from Martin 1999. Public domain.)

3.4.1.3 Earth bridges

Two earth bridges are found within the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District." Martin catalogues these structures as earth bridge no. 1 (located midway between check dam no. 1 and Huebner Road) and earth bridge no. 2 (located immediately east of check dam no. 1). According to Martin, although it is possible the earth bridges were installed at the same time as Camp Whitside (c. 1924), the method of construction is similar to that seen on the POW-built check dams.[191] The authors of this report also believe that it is possible these earth bridges were constructed by German POWs.

Each earth bridge is principally constructed of tooled, square-cut stones, which form two vertically oriented headwalls. The headwalls of earth bridge no. 1 surround a grassy corridor, in the middle of which is located a contemporary sidewalk. Both headwalls of earth bridge no. 1 appear to contain newer stone coping. Three 36 in. corrugated metal pipes channel water beneath the structure. Earth bridge no. 2 is of similar construction but contains no sidewalk (Figure 93–Figure 96). Earth bridge no. 1

191. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," Section 2, 3.

appears to be in fair condition, while earth bridge no. 2 is in poor condition due to severe bowing of the southeast headwall.

Figure 93. View of the northwest headwall of earth bridge no. 1. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 94. Tooling detail on the northwest headwall of earth bridge no. 1. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 95. View of the southeast headwall of earth bridge no. 1. Looking north.
(Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 96. View of the southeast headwall of earth bridge no. 2. Looking west.
(Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.4.1.4 Huebner Road and Union Pacific culverts

Two stone culverts are found within the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District," one at Huebner Road and the

second at the Union Pacific Railroad corridor. According to Martin, although it is possible the culverts were installed at the same time as Camp Whitside (c. 1924), the method of construction is similar to that seen on the POW-built check dams.[192] The authors of this report also believe that it is possible these culverts were constructed by German POWs.

The Huebner Road culvert is of square-cut stone block construction. Two vertically oriented headwalls are located on the northwest and southeast sides of the road. Four corrugated metal pipes channel water through the culvert. The southeast headwall is attached to a rectangular stone basin system, which itself is joined to the northwest headwall of the Union Pacific Railroad culvert. A contemporary concrete watershed funnels precipitation into the south side of the basin. The railroad culvert's northwest headwall is also of square-cut stone construction and contains two corrugated metal pipes that channel water beneath the railroad corridor (Figure 97–Figure 100). The Huebner Road culvert and the Union Pacific culvert appear to be in fair condition, although the stonework exhibits a few fractures.

Figure 97. View of the northwest headwall of the Huebner Road culvert, looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

192. Martin, "POW Erosion Control Dams in Camp Whitside at Fort Riley," Section 2, 3.

Figure 98. View of the southeast headwall of the Huebner Road culvert, looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 99. A view of the concrete funnel that channels water into the south side of the Huebner Road–Union Pacific culvert basin. Looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 100. A view of the northwest headwall of the Union Pacific culvert, looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.4.2 Noncontributing resources in the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District"

There are no noncontributing resources within the Camp Whitside segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

3.5 Camp Funston segment: POW levee ditch and culvert

The Camp Funston segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District" contains two contributing resources, a stone levee and a culvert (14RY8144), and one noncontributing resource, a railroad culvert at the Union Pacific corridor (Figure 101; Table 6).

Figure 101. POW culvert and ditch within the Camp Funston segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District." (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

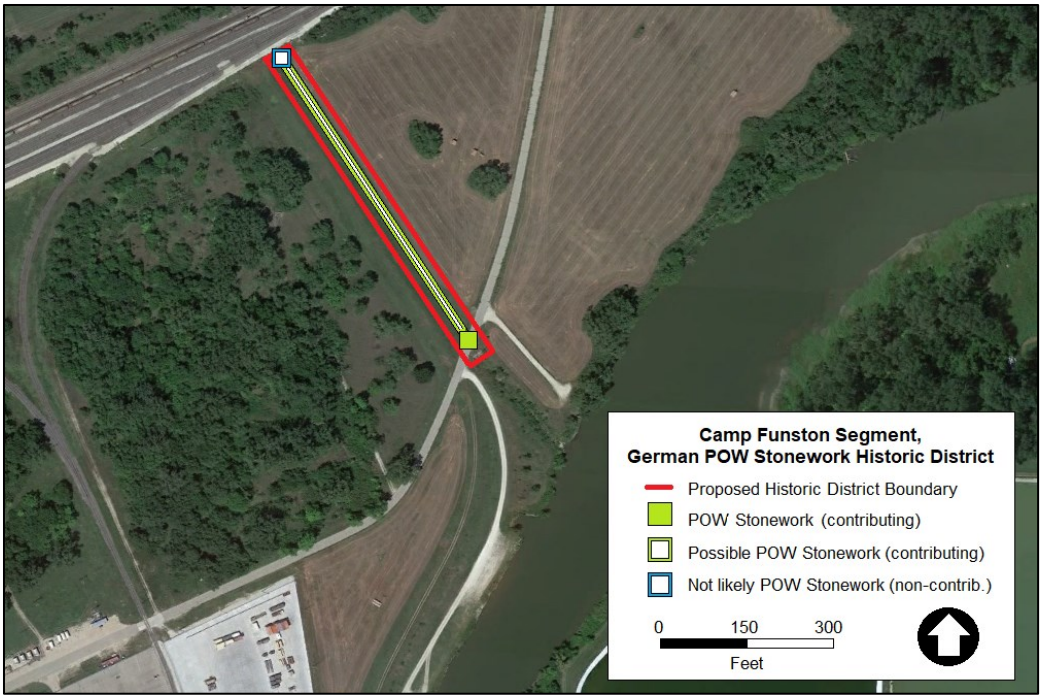


Table 6. Contributing and noncontributing resources within the Camp Funston segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

Feature	Contributing	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Trapezoidal Ditch	Yes	Possible	Stone	Poor, Fair, and Good	14	688280.55	4325751.33	Camp Funston
Camp Funston Stone Culvert	Yes	Yes	Stone and Concrete	Fair	14S	697387	4330950	4th Street Extension
Railroad Grade Culvert	No	Likely by Railroad	Concrete	Fair	14S	697204.56	4331152.40	Camp Funston

3.5.1 Contributing resources in the Camp Funston segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District"

3.5.1.1 Stone culvert (14RY8144)

In 1944, POWs built a stone and concrete culvert on the northeast side of Camp Funston. This culvert was constructed where the 4th Street Extension intersects a stone-lined ditch, approximately 350 ft from the west

bank of the Kansas River. At this intersection, the culvert channels water from the ditch underneath the roadway.[193]

This culvert features two square-cut limestone headwalls that are vertically oriented on the northwest and southeast sides of the 4th Street Extension road. This structure is classified as a culvert rather than a bridge because it spans less than 20 ft in length and, therefore, does not require inspection as a bridge.[194] Viewed from the top down, each headwall contains two segments. One segment of each wall is oriented to be parallel with the roadbed above, while the other segment is perpendicular with the ditch below (Figure 102). This arrangement resembles the headwalls of culvert 1BC213 at Camp Forsyth (see Section 3.6.1).

Figure 102. Aerial view of the stone culvert at Camp Funston. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

The facing of the culvert features square-cut stones. The stones on the northwest headwall appear to be installed with greater uniformity than the stones on the southeast headwall, which are stacked in a more variegated manner. A series of three concrete tubes is situated at the base of the culvert; the tubes channel water from the drainage ditch beneath the 4th Street Extension road. The ends of each pipe are flush with the culvert's vertical headwalls. A layer of concrete coping is found at the top of both vertical walls. On the southeast headwall, the POWs inscribed the words *1944 Deutsche Kriegsgefangene* (1944 German Prisoners of War) into the

193. "WWII POW Camp Funston Culvert," May 18, 2015, Kansas Archeological Site Inventory 14RY8144, DPW, Fort Riley, KS.

194. Review comment by Theresa de la Garza, Fort Riley CRM, September 5, 2023.

concrete coping, suggesting that POWs constructed or improved the culvert in that year.

Figure 103. Detail of the northwest wall of Camp Funston's stone culvert. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 104. Detail of concrete coping on a drainage culvert at Camp Funston. The inscription reads "1944 *Deutsche Kriegsgefangene*" or "1944 German Prisoners of War." Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 105. Course of the stone-lined ditch at Camp Funston. Looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 106. Detail of the southeast headwall of Camp Funston's stone culvert. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Although the inscription suggests that POWs were involved in the culvert's construction, there is always a slight possibility that German POWs did not construct the culvert but, rather, improved it by applying concrete coping (into which the inscription *1944 Deutsche Kriegsgefangene* was written). For example, the manner in which many of the culvert's stones were

cut and arranged seem to differ from what is found at Camp Whitside and Camp Forsyth. While many of the stones at Camp Whitside and Camp Forsyth were planed flat through tooling, there appears to be a higher volume of rock-faced stones on the Camp Funston's culvert. Additionally, the majority of stones at Camp Whitside and Camp Forsyth seem to be arranged in a systematic manner (similar-sized stones laid in uniform rows), whereas the size and arrangement of stones appears more variegated on Camp Funston's culvert, especially on the southeast headwall. There is a greater degree of uniformity in regard to stone sizing and arrangement on the northeast headwall (Figure 107).

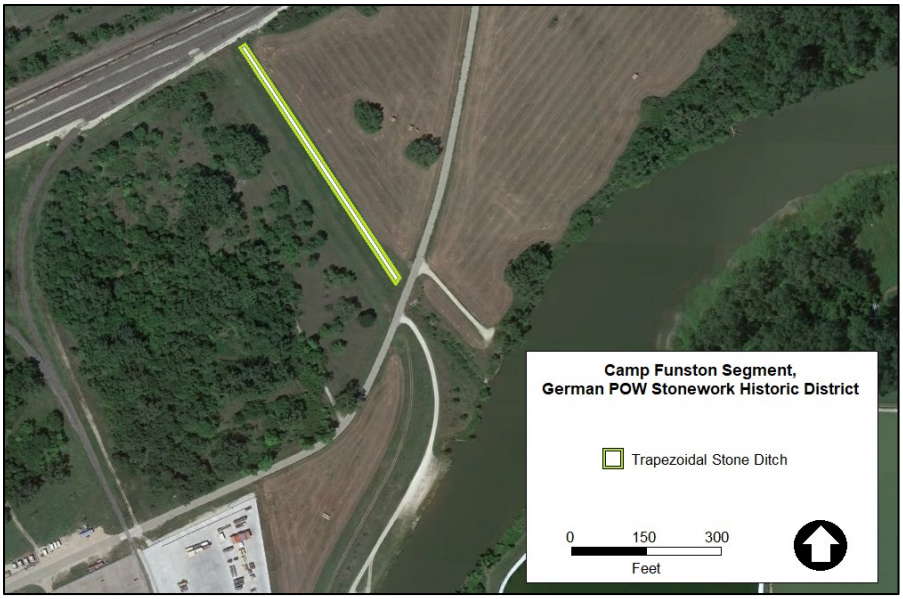
Figure 107. Detail of the southeast headwall of Camp Funston's stone culvert. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.5.1.2 Trapezoidal levee ditch

The elongated course of the ditch runs parallel to a levee that protects the northeast portion of Camp Funston from flooding. This feature follows a northwest to southeast orientation; it begins at the Union Pacific Railroad grade and proceeds in a straight course toward the Kansas River, where it terminates (Figure 108). A single road, the 4th Street Extension, intersects the ditch at a perpendicular angle approximately 350 ft from the west bank of the Kansas River. At this intersection, the POWs worked on a limestone culvert project to channel water underneath the roadway.[195]

195. "WWII POW Camp Funston Culvert," May 18, 2015, Kansas Archeological Site Inventory 14RY8144, DPW, Fort Riley, KS.

Figure 108. Location of trapezoidal ditch northeast of Camp Funston (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023).



From the southeast edge of the railroad grade to the Kansas River, the trapezoidal ditch is approximately 1,180 ft long.[196] Dissected at a perpendicular cross section, the feature exhibits walls that angle inward as they approach a level, stone-lined base (Figure 109). Between the railroad grade and the culvert, the ditch walls are lined with varying sizes of square- and rough-cut limestone. The condition of the stones and mortar varies between fair, poor, and good depending on which part of the ditch is examined (Figure 110 and Figure 114). Southeast of the culvert, the ditch is not lined with stones, and it is not apparent that POWs had ever lined it with stones. Flood waters from the Kansas River have repeatedly washed out this portion of the ditch, which is periodically filled with rubble to diminish erosion.[197]

196. Measurement from Google Earth.

197. Review comment from Theresa de la Garza, Fort Riley CRM, September 5, 2023.

Figure 109. Basic cross-sectional sketch of the trapezoidal ditch at Camp Funston, not to scale. (Image by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

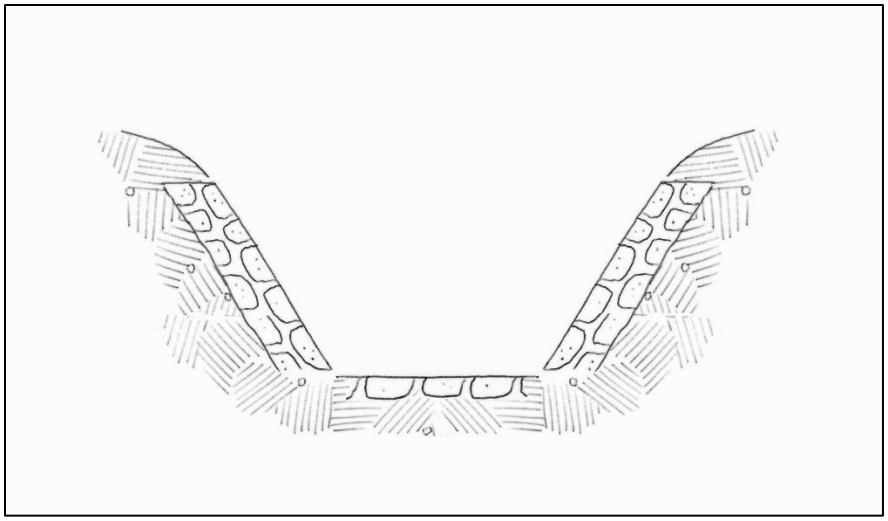


Figure 110. Diagonal view of the trapezoidal ditch from the 4th Street Extension, looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 111. Diagonal view of the trapezoidal ditch from the Union Pacific Railroad grade. Looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 112. Detail of the stones and mortar on the northeast wall of the ditch. Looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 113. Detail of the stones and mortar on the southwest wall of the ditch. Looking southwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 114. Detail of the northeast wall and the stone-and-mortar base. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Although affirmative documentation has not yet been found, German POW labor was likely employed on this trapezoidal stone ditch. In this scenario, it is possible that an unimproved ditch already existed when POWs were dispatched to the project, and their efforts simply enhanced the feature by lining it with stones. Alternatively, the POWs may have constructed the drainage ditch from the ground up. It is also possible that the

stone ditch was constructed before POWs came to Fort Riley, perhaps dating to the development of Camp Funston during WWI or the interwar period. However, the authors of this report believe it is most likely that POWs built or improved the ditch. This is because the ditch is attached to, and interacts naturally with, a stone culvert at 4th Street that bears a POW inscription (see 3.5.1.1 The size of the stones, facing, and coloration are also compatible with the stones on the culvert, especially on the culvert's northwest headwall.

3.5.2 Noncontributing resources in the Camp Funston segment of the "German POW Stonework Historic District": Railroad-grade culvert

A concrete culvert is attached to the northwestern terminus of the trapezoidal ditch. This feature, which contains two subways, channels water beneath the Union Pacific Railroad grade and into the stone ditch. This poured-concrete structure appears to be a relatively modern culvert (Figure 115). Therefore, although it is a part of the general drainage architecture of the Camp Funston levee ditch, it is recommended as a noncontributing resource in the "German POW Stonework Historic District."

Figure 115. View of the poured-concrete culvert at the Union Pacific Railroad grade highlighted in *red*. Looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6 Possible POW stonework potentially eligible for the NRHP

Outside the historic district, 12 additional stonework features may have been constructed with POW labor. According to Fort Riley's cultural

resources staff, any stonework features built in the main cantonment during WWII are most likely attributable to POWs.198 The stonework covered in this section consists of bridge 213 at Camp Forsyth and 11 other stonework features at the main cantonment. They are not considered contributing resources in the "German POW Stonework Historic District" for two reasons: first, documentation or physical inscriptions do not definitively prove they were constructed by German POWs, and second, they are not located within close proximity to stonework features that are proven to have been constructed by German POWs through documentation or inscriptions. However, because the stonework's size, arrangement, and mortar resemble that of confirmed POW stonework, they are potentially individually eligible for the NRHP based on their association with prisoner of war camps in the United States and vernacular stonework construction by German prisoners of war. However, even if these features were built before WWII (and consequently, not by POWs), they are still potentially eligible for the NRHP because they may be associated with Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor from the 1930s.

While conducting a field survey of stonework in the main cantonment, CERL researchers organized the stonework they encountered into different eras, including pre-WWI, WWI, interwar, interwar–WWII, WWII, WWII–post-WWII, post-WWII, modern, and unknown. The researchers determined which era was most appropriate for each structure based on the cut of the stones, their arrangement, and the mortar. Only stonework features that the researchers determined were built during the interwar–WWII era or the WWII era are presented in this section. This section excludes the main cantonment's cemetery stone wall; although CERL researchers surmised portions of this wall may have been constructed during the WWII–post-WWII era, the stonework's appearance is not consistent with known POW stonework at Fort Riley.

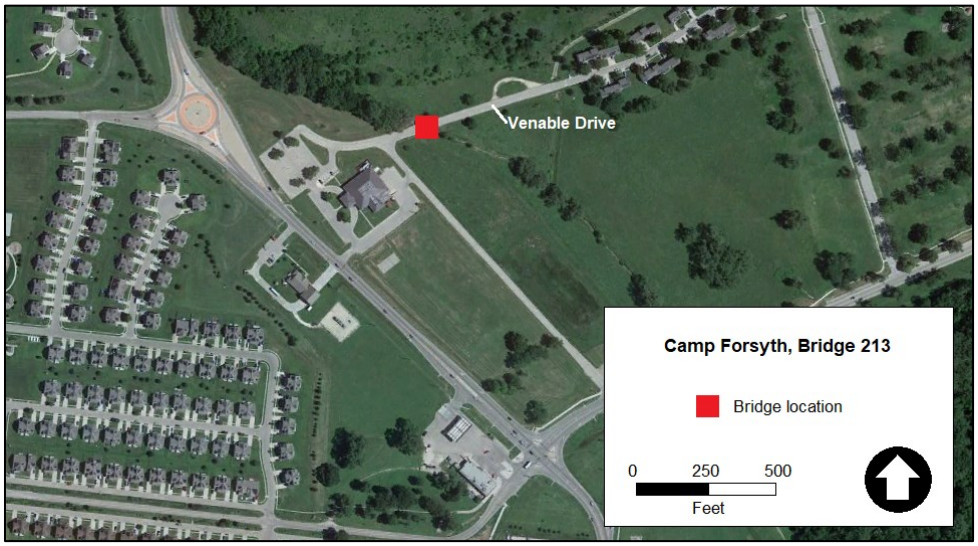
3.6.1 Camp Forsyth bridge 213 (facility no. 1BC213)

Bridge 213, which may have been constructed with German POW labor, is located near the intersection of Venable Drive and G Street in the northern portion of Camp Forsyth (Figure 116; Table 7). The structure is a vehicular bridge spanning three concrete pipe culverts with a stone head and wing walls. The entirety of the structure is categorized as a bridge instead of a

198. Email correspondence with Theresa de la Garza, Fort Riley CRM, September 14, 2023.

culvert because it has a span greater than 20 ft and, therefore, requires inspection as a bridge.[199] Each headwall of bridge 213 is segmented into two legs, one that is parallel with Venable Drive, and another that tilts away from the road. According to property data recorded in a 2017 inspection report, this structure is reported to have been constructed in 1960.[200] However, this may represent the date when the bridge was logged in real property records instead of the actual date of construction. Although it cannot be confirmed that this bridge was built with POW labor in the absence of documentation or structural inscriptions, it is known that POWs were engaged in various erosion and drainage control projects throughout Fort Riley, and the segmented construction of this culvert's headwalls resemble the POW culvert located at Camp Funston (Figure 117; see Section 3.5).[201] Additionally, the square cuts and tooled planes exhibited on many of the stones is similar to other POW stonework features at Camp Forsyth and Camp Whitside.

Figure 116. Location of bridge 213 in Camp Forsyth. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)



199. Review comment by Theresa de la Garza, Fort Riley CRM, September 5, 2023.

200. Mitchell Elben and Thomas Ross, "Routine Bridge Inspection Report Facility Number: BR213, NBI Structure No: DAPFORRIL0BR213, November 2017, Ft. Riley, KS," RBI-RIL-17-BR213, p. 2, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Riley, KS.

201. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9–10, 12.

Table 7. Components of bridge 213.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Bridge 213	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	687684.18	4326959.09	Venable Drive

Figure 117. Aerial view of bridge 213, *left* (Camp Forsyth), and the 4th Street culvert, *right* (Camp Funston), comparing the similarity of the segmented construction (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023).

Drawings for this bridge show that there is 32 ft between each headwall. The longest segment of each headwall (parallel to Venable Drive) is 36 ft, 8 in., with the shorter segment measuring 13 ft, 9 in. Each headwall has a roughly uniform height of 8 ft and a total length of 50 ft, 5 in. Three concrete pipe culverts, each having a diameter of 6 ft, are slightly skewed from northwest to southeast as they run beneath Venable Drive. The ends of each pipe culvert extend beyond the vertical surface of each headwall (Figure 118).[202] Square-cut limestone characterizes the facing of the headwalls, which is reminiscent to the stone facing seen on the Huebner Road culvert and Union Pacific culvert at Camp Whitside, and the 4th Street Extension culvert at Camp Funston (Figure 119–Figure 124).

202. Elben and Ross, "Routine Bridge Inspection Report Facility Number: BR213," 8.

Figure 118. Layout drawing of bridge 213 at Camp Forsyth. (Image from Elben and Ross 2017. Public domain.)

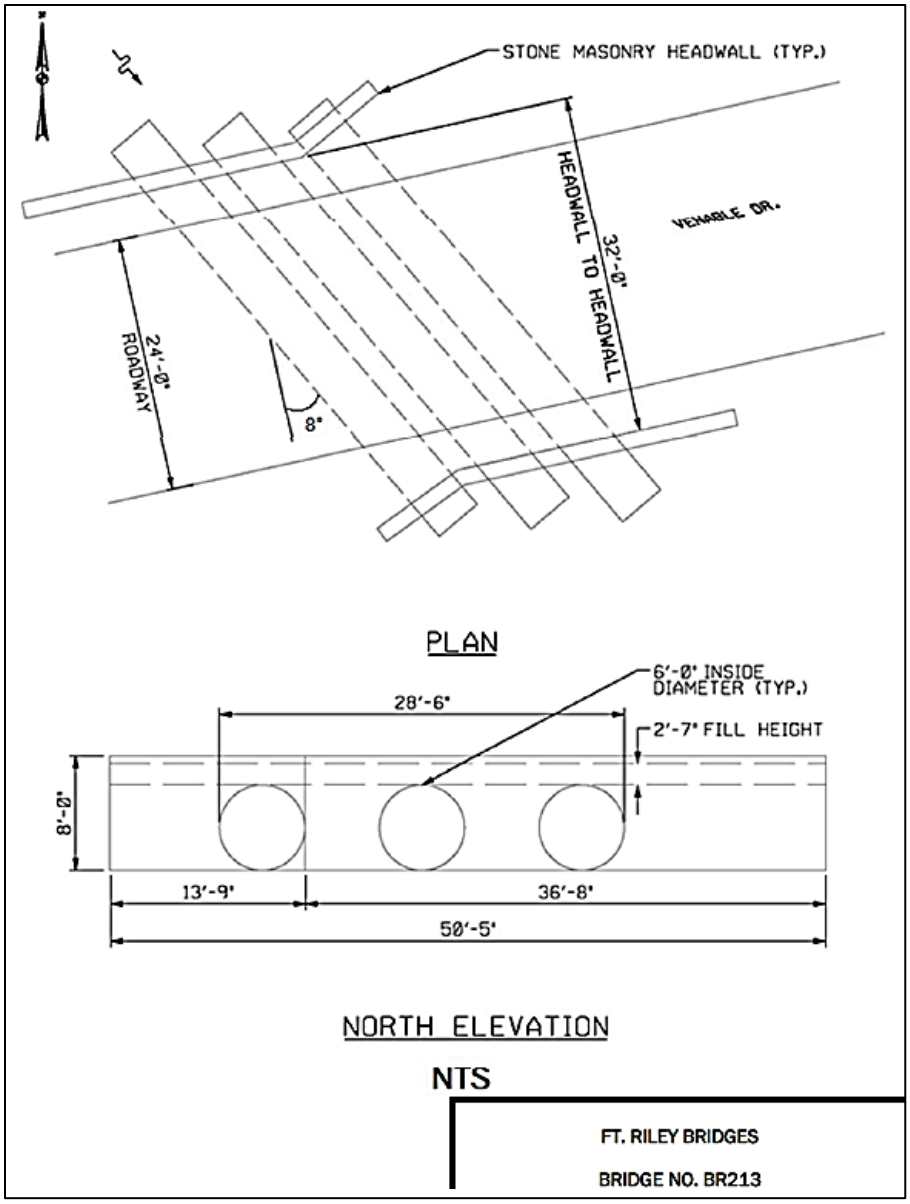


Figure 119. South headwall and pipe culverts at bridge 213. Looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 120. South headwall and pipe culverts at bridge 213. Looking north. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 121. South headwall and pipe culverts at bridge 213. Looking northwest. (Image from Elben and Ross 2017. Public domain.)

Figure 122. South headwall and pipe culverts at bridge 213. Looking southwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 123. North headwall and pipe culverts at bridge 213. Looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 124. Detail of the square-cut stone on the north headwall of bridge 213. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.2 Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch

Eleven additional stonework features within Fort Riley's main cantonment may have been constructed with POW labor. One, the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch, is located northwest of Godfrey Avenue in a shallow valley between Pershing Avenue and Carpenter Avenue (Figure 125; Table 8). The system consists of a stone box ditch that is approximately 560 ft in

length. Dissected at a perpendicular cross section, the ditch exhibits vertical walls and a level base. The walls themselves are lined with varying sizes of square-cut limestone with tooled faces (Figure 126–Figure 131). It is possible that German POWs constructed the ditch as part of a general POW labor program, outlined by Colonel Irvin in 1945, for "soil erosion projects involving the maintenance and repair of permanent structures such as rock walls, buildings, and curbs."[203] Although it is not possible to say with certainty that the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch was constructed with POW labor, the manner in which the ditch was constructed (i.e., square-cut, planed stones arranged in uniform rows) is similar to the quality of stonework found at Camp Forsyth's POW ditch and Camp Whitside's POW check dams.

Figure 125. Location of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch system in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

203. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9.

Table 8. Components of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Godfrey Avenue Drainage Ditch (Main Cantonment)	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692200.47	4326860.22	Near Godfrey Avenue

Figure 126. View of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 127. View of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. Looking southeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 128. View of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. Looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 129. Detail of the intersection between two segments of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 130. View of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 131. View of the Godfrey Avenue drainage ditch. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.3 Cameron Avenue gutter

Another gutter system within the main cantonment that may have been constructed with POW labor is the Cameron Avenue gutter. The Cameron Avenue gutter is a shallow stone drainage system that lines portions of

Cameron Avenue and two associated parking lots east of King Field House. For most of its course, the Cameron Avenue gutter is buttressed by a vertical stone retaining wall. In total, the gutter system is approximately 1,170 ft long, including the noncontiguous portions near the eastern terminus of Cameron Avenue (Figure 132; Table 9).

Figure 132. Location of the Cameron Avenue gutter system in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

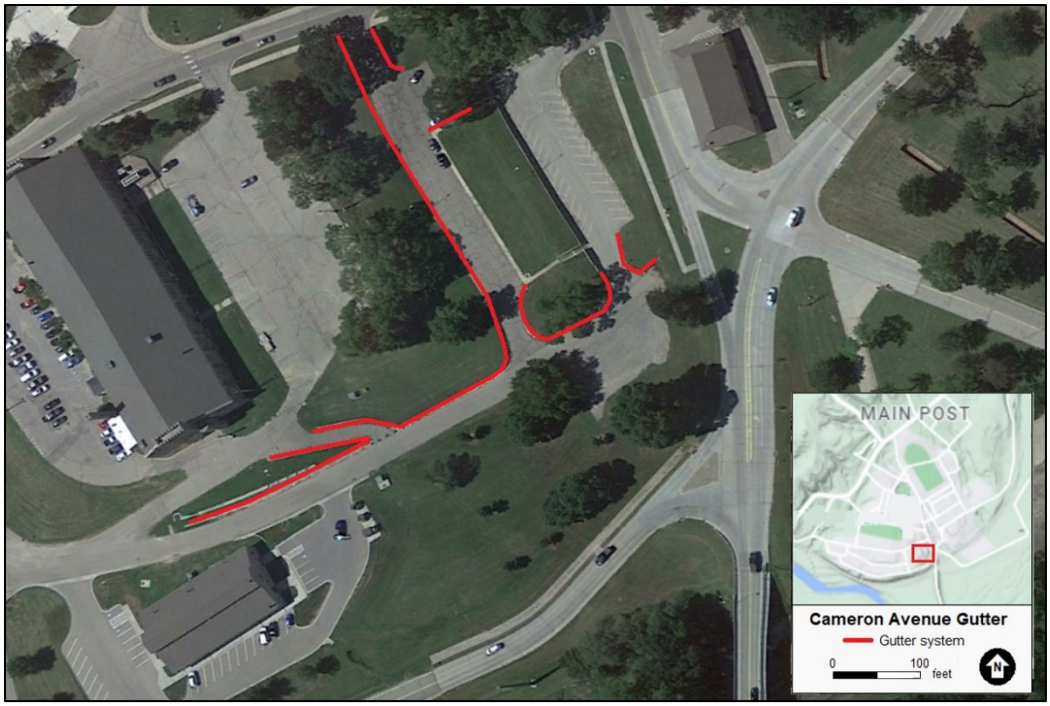


Table 9. Components of the Cameron Avenue gutter system.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Cameron Avenue Gutter (Main Cantonment)	Possible	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692091.79	4325950.69	Near Cameron Avenue

For most of its course, the gutter is composed of equally sized, square-cut stones that are laid in a uniform pattern. The gutter is consistently three stones wide, with the outer rows of stones forming a shallow trough around the lower, middle row of stones. The stone faces have been planed flat and are generally whiter than the stones found on the attached retaining wall. This color difference suggests that the stones for the gutter were quarried under different circumstances than the stones on the retaining wall, which also indicates that the gutter and retaining wall were

constructed at different times (Figure 133–Figure 146). By order of operations, it is most plausible that the retaining wall was constructed first. It is possible that German POWs laid the gutter as part of a general POW labor program for "soil erosion projects involving the maintenance and repair of permanent structures such as rock walls, buildings, and curbs."[204] Although it is not possible to say with certainty that the Cameron Avenue gutter system was built with POW labor, the manner in which the gutters were constructed (which includes the use of square-cut, planed stones arranged in uniform rows) is similar to the quality of stonework found at Camp Forsyth's POW ditch and Camp Whitside's POW check dams.

Figure 133. View of the stone gutter system and accompanying retaining wall near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking east.
(Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

204. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9.

Figure 134. View of the stone gutter system and accompanying retaining wall near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 135. A curve in the stone gutter system as it enters a parking lot near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 136. A curve in the stone gutter system as it enters a parking lot near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking north. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 137. Detail of the stone gutter system as it terminates in a parking lot near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking northeast. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 138. A section of the stone gutter in a parking lot near the intersection of Custer Drive. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 139. A section of the stone gutter in a parking lot south of the intersection of Custer Drive. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 140. A partially buried section of the stone gutter in a parking lot near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 141. A partially buried section of the stone gutter in a parking lot as it approaches the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 142. Detail of the stone gutter in a parking lot near the east end of Cameron Avenue. Looking southwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 143. Detail of the stone gutter on the north side of Cameron Avenue. Note the color difference between the gutter's stones and the retaining wall stones. Looking southwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 144. Detail of the stone gutter and retaining wall on the north side of Cameron Avenue. Looking northwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 145. View of the stone gutter and retaining wall on the north side of Cameron Avenue as it splits near the King Field House. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 146. View of the Cameron Avenue stone gutter and retaining wall near the south side of King Field House. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.4 Miller Street gutter

Another stonework feature in the main cantonment that may have been constructed with POW labor is the Miller Street gutter. The Miller Street gutter is a small stone drainage curb near the northeast intersection of Miller Street and Law Avenue. The visible portion of this stone guttering is approximately 40 ft long, although parts of the gutter may be buried (Figure 147; Table 10).

Figure 147. Location of the Miller Street gutter system in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 10. Components of the Miller Street gutter system.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Miller Street Gutter (Main Cantonment)	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691968.76	4325812.64	Miller Street and Law Ave.

The Miller Street gutter is of similar construction to the Cameron Avenue gutter. It is composed of square-cut, flat-planed stones arranged into three uniform rows (Figure 148). It is possible that German POWs laid the gutter as part of a general plan for "soil erosion projects involving the maintenance and repair of permanent structures such as rock walls, buildings, and curbs."[205] Although it is not possible to say with certainty that the Miller Street gutter system was constructed with POW labor, the manner in which the gutter was constructed (i.e., square-cut, planed stones arranged in uniform rows) is similar to the quality of stonework found at Camp Forsyth's POW ditch and Camp Whitside's POW check dams.

205. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9.

Figure 148. View of the stone gutter near the intersection of Miller Street and Law Avenue. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.5 Riley Place gutter

Another stonework feature within the main cantonment that may have been constructed with POW labor is the Riley Place gutter. The Riley Place gutter is a small curb located near the north side of the Riley Place housing area (Figure 149; Table 11). This feature is composed of square-cut, flat-planed stones arranged into uniform rows (Figure 150–Figure 151). The manner in which the stones were cut and laid is similar to the curbing seen near Cameron Avenue and at the intersection of Miller Street and Law Avenue. It is possible that German POWs laid the gutter as part of a general plan for "soil erosion projects involving the maintenance and repair of permanent structures such as rock walls, buildings, and curbs."[206] Although it is not possible to say with certainty that the Riley Place gutter system was constructed with POW labor, the way in which the gutter was constructed (i.e., square-cut, planed stones arranged in uniform rows) is similar to the quality of stonework found at Camp Forsyth's POW ditch and Camp Whitside's POW check dams.

206. Colonel William R. Irvin to Commanding General, Headquarters Seventh Service Command, May 30, 1945, 9.

Figure 149. Location of the Riley Place gutter in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 11. Components of the Riley Place gutter system.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Riley Place Gutter (Main Cantonment)	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692034.07	4327381.34	Riley Place

Figure 150. View of the stone gutter near the entrance of Riley Place. Looking southwest. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 151. Mortar detail of the stone gutter at Riley Place. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.6 Holbrook alley gutter

The Holbrook alley gutter lines the side of an access road near the intersection of Holbrook Avenue and Carter Avenue. This feature runs in a straight line that is approximately 240 ft long, and is characterized by flat, square-cut stones. The northern half of the gutter is partially buried in pavement. The stones in this gutter are similar in composition to the Cameron Avenue gutter system, and like the Cameron Avenue gutter, the Holbrook alley gutter parallels a stone retaining wall (Figure 152–Figure 155; Table 12).

Figure 152. Location of the Holbrook alley gutter in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 12. Components of the Holbrook alley gutter system.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Holbrook Alley Gutter (Main Cantonment)	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	692162.80	4326313.56	Near Bldg. 307

Figure 153. View of the Holbrook alley gutter. Looking north. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 154. View of the Holbrook alley gutter. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 155. Detail of the Holbrook alley stone gutter. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.7 Marshall Avenue parking lot stone retaining wall

The Marshall Avenue parking lot stone retaining wall is located east of the intersection of Marshall Avenue and Sheridan Avenue. This retaining wall is an L-shaped, stepped structure composed of square-cut stones that buttresses concrete steps. A wide vein of mortar runs down the middle of the wall (Figure 156–Figure 158; Table 13).

Figure 156. Location of the Marshall Avenue parking lot stone retaining wall in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

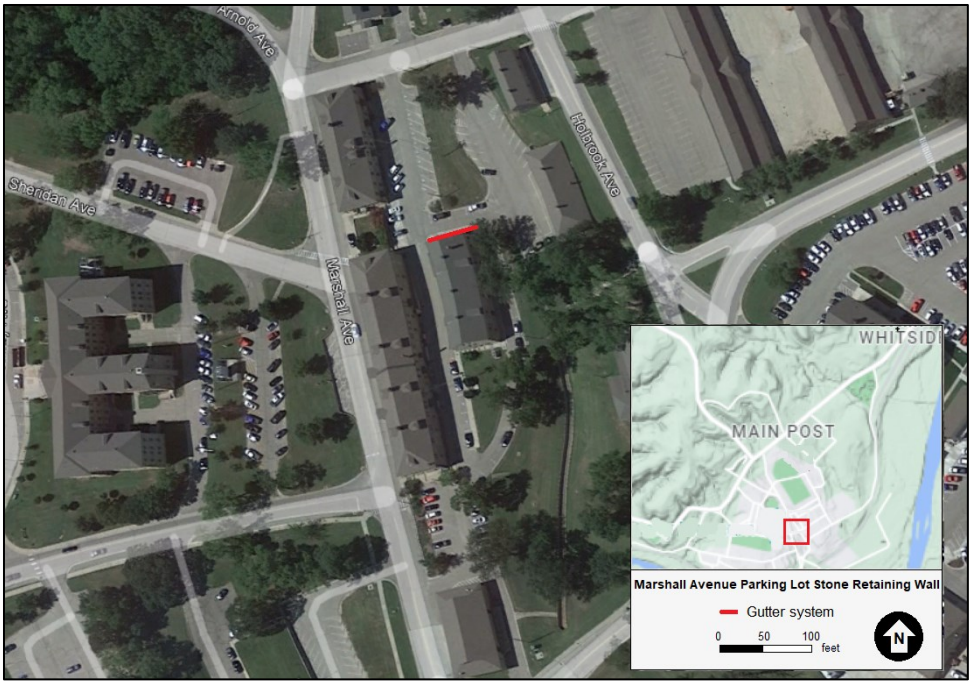


Table 13. Components of the Marshall Avenue parking lot stone retaining wall.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Marshall Avenue Parking Lot Stone Retaining Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692133.57	4326179.53	East of Marshall Ave. and Sheridan Ave.

Figure 157. View of the Marshall Avenue parking lot retaining wall. Looking west. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 158. Detail of the Marshall Avenue parking lot retaining wall. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.8 Law Avenue ditch

The Law Avenue ditch is located south of the intersection of Law Avenue and Miller Avenue. This L-shaped feature is composed of square-cut stones that form a spillway directed towards an area of woods. The ditch partially surrounds a modern pad of concrete, and it contains newer mortar between its stones (Figure 159–Figure 161; Table 14).

Figure 159. Location of the Law Avenue ditch in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 14. Components of the Law Avenue ditch.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Law Avenue Ditch	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691944.16	4325782.74	South of Miller Ave. and Law Ave.

Figure 160. View of the Law Avenue ditch. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 161. View of the Law Avenue ditch. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.9 Carr Avenue wall

The Carr Avenue wall is located between Pershing Court and Carr Avenue. This wall runs along an L-shaped course and is composed of square-cut stones arranged in a uniform pattern (Figure 162–Figure 163;Table 15).

Figure 162. Location of the Carr Avenue wall in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 15. Components of the Carr Avenue wall.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Carr Avenue Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Good	14	692145.55	4326394.09	Between Pershing Ct. and Carr Ave.

Figure 163. Detail of the Carr Avenue wall. Looking north. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.10 St. Mary's Chapel stone gutter

The St. Mary's Chapel stone gutter is located on the east side of a parking lot south of the church. The gutter is composed of square-cut stones that run in a straight course (Figure 164–Figure 165; Table 16). The manner in which the stones are cut and arranged is similar to the stonework seen on the Cameron Avenue gutter system.

Figure 164. Location of the St. Mary's Chapel stone gutter in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

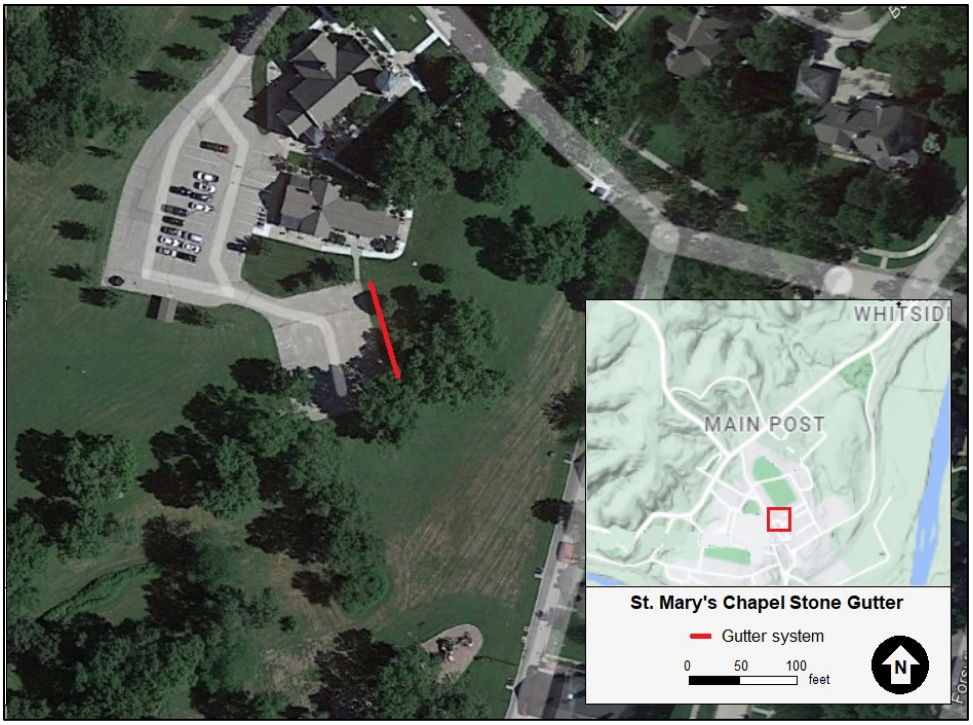


Table 16. Components of the St. Mary's Chapel stone gutter.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
St. Mary's Chapel Stone Gutter	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Fair	14	691661.45	4326461.16	South of St. Mary's Chapel

Figure 165. View of the St. Mary's Chapel stone gutter. Looking south. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.11 Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall

The Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall is located north of the intersection of Custer Avenue and Pleasanton Avenue. This small structure is an L-shaped wall composed of square-cut stones arranged in a regular pattern. While most of the wall is in good condition, there are anomalies on the north leg of the structure, including mismatched stones and missing mortar (Figure 166–Figure 168; Table 17).

Figure 166. Location of the Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

Table 17. Components of the Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Pleasanton Avenue Stone Retaining Wall	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Good	14	691522.01	4326073.29	East of Pleasanton Ave.

Figure 167. View of the Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall. Looking north. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 168. View of the Pleasanton Avenue stone retaining wall. Looking east. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

3.6.12 Dickman Avenue stone culvert

The Dickman Avenue stone culvert is located west of the intersection of Holbrook Avenue and Dickman Avenue. The structure is one of two culverts that are situated west of this intersection. CERL researchers believe the northern culvert was constructed during the interwar era, while the southern culvert was constructed in the interwar–WWII era. The southern culvert consists of a headwall constructed with square-cut stones. A metal pipe protrudes from the headwall and directs water into a stone basin. The culvert is in poor condition, and the stone basin portion of the structure is covered in grass (Figure 169–Figure 171; Table 18).

Figure 169. Location of the Dickman Avenue stone culvert in the main cantonment. (Map data: Google, 2023. Modified by ERDC-CERL, 2023.)

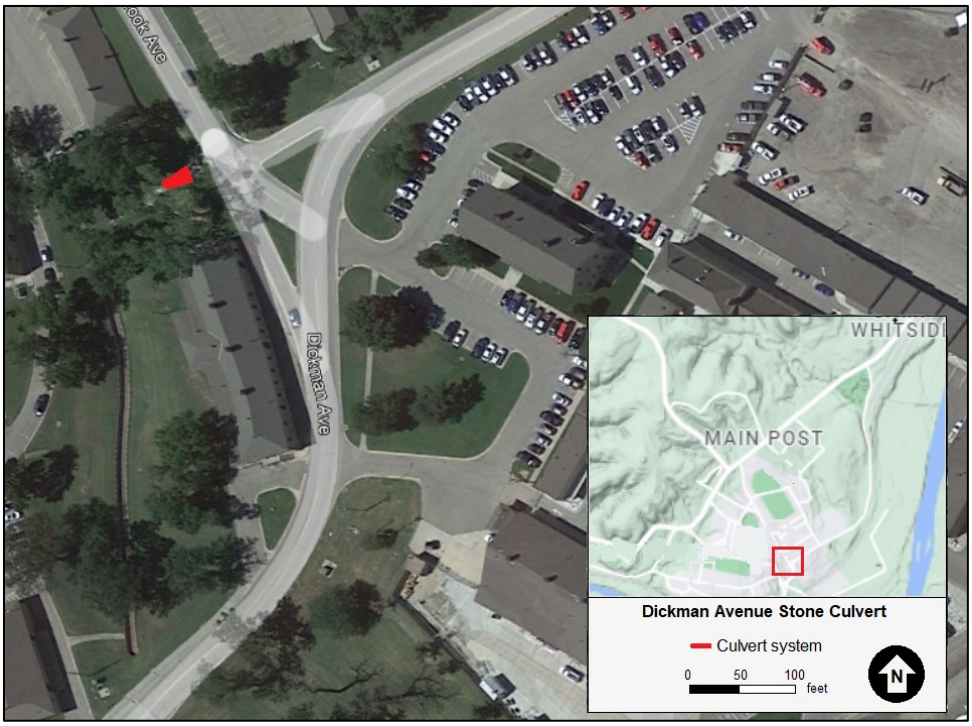


Table 18. Components of the Dickman Avenue stone culvert.

Feature	NRHP Eligible	Constructed or Improved by POWs	Primary Construction Material	Condition	UTM	Easting	Northing	Location
Dickman Avenue Stone Culvert	Potentially	Possible	Stone	Poor	14	692197.99	4326162.63	Dickman Ave. and Holbrook Ave.

Figure 170. View of two culverts west of Dickman Avenue. The culvert that was possibly built during the interwar–WWII era is on the *right*. (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

Figure 171. Detail of the Dickman Avenue stone culvert's headwall (Photo by ERDC-CERL, 2021.)

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The condition of the contributing stonework in the "German POW Stonework Historic District" and the NRHP potentially eligible stonework within the main cantonment generally ranges from poor to good. The following definitions for poor, fair, and good stonework were determined by ERDC-CERL researchers during an investigation of POW stonework at Fort Leonard Wood:[207]

Poor

- Stones are missing throughout the piece of stonework.
- Mortar is missing throughout the piece of stonework.
- The freeze-thaw cycle has cracked the piece of stonework.

Fair

- Stonework is missing only one or two stones.
- Mortar is missing or replaced in certain spots.
- The freeze-thaw cycle has created unevenness throughout the piece of stonework.

Good

- Stonework pieces are intact.
- Mortar is intact but may be cracked or separated from stones.
- The freeze-thaw cycle has not harmed the overall structure.

4.1 Conclusions

Between 1943 and 1946, German POWs at Fort Riley were engaged in several construction and improvement projects on and off the post. Today, a lasting vestige of their internment is found in stonework at Camp Forsyth, Camp Whitside, Camp Funston, and the main cantonment. Based on physical inscriptions or historic documentation, the authors of this report believe there are 9 stonework features at Fort Riley that can be confidently attributed to German POW labor and another 28 that may have been constructed with POW labor. Of these 37 stonework features, it is the

207. Definitions of poor, fair, and good stonework are extracted verbatim from Smith et. al., *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*, 193.

determination of this report that 25 stonework features are contributing resources in a potential NRHP district, a "German POW Stonework Historic District," under

- **Criterion A** for "WWII Prisoner of War Camps in the United States,"
- **Criterion C** for "Vernacular Stonework Construction by German Prisoners of War."

The period of significance for the stonework is the WWII-era (1941–1946). The stonework in this historic district retains integrity of location, materials, design, and workmanship. While the setting of the stonework is somewhat compromised at each location, the stonework still retains its integrity of feeling and association through its aesthetic expression and the tangible link it conveys to a particular historic episode during Fort Riley's WWII era. This association is reinforced through the physical inscriptions POWs left behind on some of the stonework.

In addition to the 25 contributing stonework resources within the proposed "German POW Stonework Historic District," the authors of this report believe the remaining 12 stonework features found at Camp Forsyth and the main cantonment are potentially individually eligible for the NRHP under

- **Criterion A** for "WWII Prisoner of War Camps in the United States,"
- **Criterion C** for "Vernacular Stonework Construction by German Prisoners of War."

Like the historic district, the period of significance for the potentially eligible stonework is the WWII-era (1941–1946). The stonework in this historic district retains integrity of location, materials, design, and workmanship. While the setting of the stonework is somewhat compromised at each location, the stonework still retains its integrity of feeling and association through its aesthetic expression and the tangible link it conveys to a particular historic episode during Fort Riley's WWII era. In the event that the assessed stonework was not built during WWII (and by extension, not by POWs), the next most likely era of construction is the interwar era. In that scenario, the stonework remains potentially eligible for the NRHP based on its probable association with CCC labor.

4.2 Recommendations

When attempting to determine if a stonework feature has been constructed with POW labor, it is recommended that a checklist be established to address the following points:

- Is there a physical inscription(s) that may be associated with POW labor?
- Is there documentation to support the hypothesis?
- Is the manner of construction similar to stonework on structures confirmed to have been built by POWs? (e.g., the Camp Forsyth ditch, Camp Funston culvert, or Camp Whitside check dams)
- Is the stonework in close proximity to a stonework structure confirmed to have been built by POWs?

This checklist will allow an investigator to reasonably conclude whether the stonework in question was constructed with POW labor. If it is reasonable to conclude that POWs built the structure, then the following points should be considered when determining eligibility:

- The aspects of integrity that are particularly important for stonework include location, design, materials, and workmanship—is the stonework in good enough condition to communicate these aspects?
- Based on the above, does the stonework have integrity?

If the answer to these points is "yes," along with reasonable evidence for POW involvement in the stonework's construction, then the individual feature may be potentially eligible for the NRHP. The authors of this report recommend that the installation strive to get all NRHP-eligible stonework up to the status of **fair** or **good** condition. Such efforts would ensure that Fort Riley is in compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA.

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Appendix A: Maintenance and Repair Guidelines for Masonry

According to *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, the proper procedure for maintaining cultural resources is to respect the significance of the original materials and features, repair and retain them wherever possible, and replace them only when absolutely necessary Table A-1–Table A-4).[208] The following recommendations for care of the historic masonry at Fort Riley are to be thoroughly read and understood before a treatment is specified. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* should also be consulted to determine the appropriateness of any treatment. The following is adapted from *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and Smith et al. (2006) *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*. Full documentation of the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* can be found at https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/treatment-guidelines-2017-part1-preservation-rehabilitation.pdf.[209]

208. This paragraph extracted verbatim from Smith et al., *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey*, 169.

209. Anne E. Grimmer, rev. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Washington: US Department of the Interior National Park Service Technical Preservation Services, 2017), 80–87.

Table A-1. Identify, retain, and preserve.

Recommended	Not Recommended
Identifying, retaining, and preserving masonry features that are important in defining the overall historic character of the stonework and details such as tooling and bonding patterns, coatings, and color	Removing or substantially changing masonry features that are important in defining the overall historic character of the stonework so that, as a result, the character is diminished Replacing or rebuilding a major portion of exterior masonry walls that could be repaired, thereby destroying the historic integrity of the stonework Applying paint or other coatings (such as stucco) to masonry that has been historically unpainted or uncoated to create a new appearance

Table A-2. Protecting and Maintaining.

Recommended	Not Recommended
Protecting and maintaining masonry by ensuring that historic drainage features and systems that divert rainwater from masonry surfaces are intact and functioning properly Cleaning masonry only when necessary to halt deterioration or remove heavy soiling Carrying out masonry cleaning tests when it has been determined that cleaning is appropriate. Test areas should be examined to ensure that no damage has resulted and, ideally, monitored over a sufficient period of time to allow long-range effects to be predicted. Cleaning soiled masonry surfaces with the gentlest method possible, such as using low-pressure water and detergent and natural bristle or other soft-bristle brushes Evaluating the overall condition of the masonry to determine whether more than protection and maintenance, such as repairs to masonry features, will be necessary	Failing to evaluate and treat the various causes of mortar joint deterioration such as soil subsidence, differential soil settlement, capillary action, or extreme weather exposure Cleaning masonry surfaces when they are not heavily soiled to create a “like-new” appearance, thereby needlessly introducing chemicals or moisture into historic materials Cleaning masonry surfaces without testing or without sufficient time for the testing results to be evaluated Cleaning masonry surfaces using more abrasive methods (including sandblasting, other media blasting, or high-pressure water), which can damage the surface of the masonry and mortar joints Using a cleaning or paint-removal method that involves water or liquid chemical solutions when there is any possibility of freezing temperatures Cleaning with chemical products that will damage some types of masonry (such as using acid on limestone or marble) or failing to neutralize or rinse off chemical cleaners from masonry surfaces Failing to undertake adequate measures to ensure the protection of masonry features

Table A-3. Repairing.

Recommended	Not Recommended
Repairing masonry by patching, splicing, consolidating, or otherwise reinforcing the masonry using recognized preservation methods. Repair may include the limited replacement in kind or with a compatible substitute material of those extensively deteriorated or missing parts of masonry features when there are surviving prototypes. Repairing masonry walls and other masonry features by repointing the mortar joints where there is evidence of deterioration, such as disintegrating mortar or cracks in the mortar joints Removing deteriorated lime mortar carefully by hand raking the joints to avoid damaging the masonry Duplicating historic mortar joints in strength, composition, color, and texture when repointing is necessary. In some cases, a lime-based mortar may also be considered when repointing Portland cement mortar because it is more flexible. Duplicating historic mortar joints in width and joint profile when repointing is necessary Applying nonhistoric surface treatments, such as water-repellent coatings, to masonry only after repointing and only if masonry repairs have failed to arrest water penetration problems	Removing masonry that could be stabilized, repaired, and conserved or using untested consolidants and unskilled personnel, potentially causing further damage to historic materials Replacing an entire masonry feature when repair of the masonry and limited replacement of deteriorated or missing components are feasible Removing nondeteriorated mortar from sound joints and then repointing the entire stonework feature to achieve a more uniform appearance Allowing unskilled workers to use masonry saws or mechanical tools to remove deteriorated mortar from joints prior to repointing Repointing masonry units with mortar of high Portland cement content (unless it is the content of the historic mortar) Using “surface grouting” or a “scrub” coating technique, such as a “sack rub” or “mortar washing,” to repoint exterior masonry units instead of traditional repointing methods Repointing masonry units (other than concrete) with a synthetic caulking compound instead of mortar Changing the width or joint profile when repointing Applying waterproof, water-repellent, or nonoriginal historic coatings (such as stucco) to masonry as a substitute for repointing and masonry repairs

Table A-4. Replacement.

Recommended	Not Recommended
Replacing in-kind an entire masonry feature that is too deteriorated to repair (if the overall form and detailing are still evident) using the physical evidence as a model to reproduce the feature or when the replacement can be based on historic documentation. If using the same kind of material is not feasible, then a compatible substitute material may be considered.	Removing a masonry feature that is unrepairable and not replacing it or replacing it with a new feature that does not match Using substitute material for the replacement that does not convey the same appearance of the surviving components of the masonry feature

Appendix B: Removing Biological Growth from Exterior Masonry and Stucco

This information is excerpted from the US General Services Administration's (GSA) historic preservation "Technical Procedures" (#420002S). The Cultural Resources person of contact (POC) and Fort Riley DPW will review all proposed work; in addition, these guidelines must be reviewed and followed by all personnel prior to performing these procedures.[210]

Part 1–General

1.01 Summary

A. This procedure includes guidance on removing biological growth such as lichens, algae, mold and mildew from masonry and stucco.

B. Biological growths such as lichens, algae, moss and fungi growing on masonry walls is usually an indication that there is excess moisture in or around the masonry. These growths should be removed, as they attract moisture to the masonry surface and hold it there, which can lead to more serious problems. Lichens and mosses in particular, produce oxalic acid which can damage certain types of historic masonry.

C. See 01100-07-S for general project guidelines to be reviewed along with this procedure. These guidelines cover the following sections:

1. Safety Precautions
2. Historic Structures Precautions
3. Submittals
4. Quality Assurance
5. Delivery, Storage and Handling
6. Project/Site Conditions
7. Sequencing and Scheduling
8. General Protection (Surface and Surrounding)

210. The subsequent material reproduces US General Services Administration, "Removing Biological Growth from Exterior Masonry and Stucco," #420002S, US General Services Administration, Last modified January 04, 2018, https://www.gsa.gov/technical-procedures/removing-biological-growth-exterior-masonry-and-stucco?Form_Load=88144. Public domain.

These guidelines should be reviewed prior to performing this procedure and should be followed, when applicable, along with recommendations from the CRM.

Part 2—Products

2.01 Manufacturers

A. ProSoCo, Inc.

2.02 Materials

A. For Removing Mold and Mildew:

1. Nonsudsing ammonia or one of the following bleaches:

CAUTION: DO NOT MIX AMMONIA WITH CHLORINE BLEACHES, A POISONOUS GAS WILL RESULT! DO NOT USE BLEACH ON BIRD DROPPINGS.

Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl):[211]

a. An unstable salt produced usually in aqueous solution and used as a bleaching and disinfecting agent.

b. Other chemical or common names include Bleaching solution; Household bleach; Laundry bleach; Solution of chlorinated soda.

c. Potential Hazards: CORROSIVE TO FLESH.

d. Available from chemical supply house, grocery store or supermarket, hardware store or janitorial supply distributor.

-OR-

211. For a full list of the spelled-out forms of the chemical elements used in this document, please refer to *US Government Publishing Office Style Manual*, 31st ed. (Washington, DC: US Government Publishing Office, 2016), 265, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016/pdf/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2016.pdf.

Hydrogen Peroxide (H202):

a. An unstable compound used especially as an oxidizing and bleaching agent, an antiseptic, and a propellant.

b. Other chemical or common names include Peroxide of hydrogen; Solution of hydrogen dioxide; Superoxol (hydrogen peroxide is commonly sold as a 3% solution; Superoxol is a 30% solution. Superoxol causes flesh burns; 3% hydrogen peroxide does not).

c. Potential Hazards: TOXIC (when concentrated); CORROSIVE TO FLESH; FLAMMABLE (in high concentration).

d. Available from chemical supply house, drugstore, pharmaceutical supply distributor, or hardware store.

-OR-

Calcium Hypochlorite (CaCl2O2):

a. A white powder used especially as a bleaching agent and disinfectant.

b. Other chemical or common names include Chlorinated calcium oxide; Bleaching powder; Calcium oxymuriate; Chloride of lime; Chlorinated lime; Hypochlorite of lime; Oxymuriate of lime.

c. Potential Hazards: CORROSIVE TO FLESH; FLAMMABLE (WHEN IN CONTACT WITH ORGANIC SOLVENTS).

d. Available from chemical supply house, dry cleaning supply distributor, drugstore or pharmaceutical supply distributor, janitorial supply distributor, swimming pool supply distributor, or water and sanitation supply distributor.

-OR-

Chloramine-T: Chloramine is any of various compounds containing nitrogen and chlorine.

2. Trisodium Phosphate:

NOTE: THIS CHEMICAL IS BANNED IN SOME STATES SUCH AS CALIFORNIA. REGULATORY INFORMATION AS WELL AS ALTERNATIVE OR EQUIVALENT CHEMICALS MAY BE REQUESTED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) REGIONAL OFFICE AND/OR THE STATE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

a. Strong base-type powdered cleaning material sold under brand names.

b. Other chemical or common names include Sodium Orthophosphate; Tribasic sodium phosphate; Trisodium orthophosphate; TSP; Phosphate of soda.

c. Potential Hazards: CORROSIVE TO FLESH.

d. Available from chemical supply house, grocery store or supermarket or hardware store.

3. Powdered detergent such as “Tide” or approved equal.

B. Proprietary cleaner such as “Limestone Restorer” (ProSoCo, Inc.), or approved equal.

C. Clean, potable water

2.03 Equipment

A. Garden hose and nozzle

B. Rubber or polyethylene bucket (DO NOT USE A METAL BUCKET AS IT MAY REACT WITH THE CHEMICAL CLEANER AND PRODUCE TOXIC FUMES)

C. Glass or ceramic mixing bowl

D. Knife blade

E. Stiff, natural bristle brushes (nonmetallic)

F. Tampico brush, roller or low pressure (50 psi maximum) spray such as pneumatic garden sprayer

G. Rubber gloves

H. Safety glasses

Part 3–Execution

3.01 Examination

A. Determine the source of excessive moisture, that is, leaky downspout, standing water, roof overhang, vegetation, etc., and make any necessary repairs before continuing with this task.

B. Determine the type of stain, that is, algae and lichens, or mold and mildew.

3.02 Preparation

A. Protection:

1. Provide adequate wash solutions (i.e., water, soap and towels) before starting the job.

2. Do not spray in the immediate vicinity of unprotected people and animals.

3.03 Erection, Installation, Application

NOTE: DO NOT ATTEMPT MORE THAN ONE TREATMENT ON A GIVEN AREA UNLESS THE CHEMICALS USED FROM ANY PRIOR TREATMENT HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY.

A. Removing Lichens and Algae (ONLY):

1. Remove as much plant growth as possible using a knife blade and stiff bristle brush.

2. Water rinse the surface to remove most of the plant material.

a. If the substrate is sound and dense, use low to medium water pressure (100–400 psi).

b. If the masonry is softer, use standard water pressure from the spigot.

3. Allow water to soak plant growth for approximately 30 minutes.

4. Gently scrub the surface with a stiff, natural bristle brush.

5. Thoroughly rinse the surface again with clean, clear water at low pressure from a garden hose.

NOTE: DO NOT USE ANY CHEMICALS WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING THE CRM.

B. Removing Mold and Mildew (ONLY):

CAUTION: DO NOT MIX AMMONIA WITH CHLORINE BLEACHES, A POISONOUS GAS WILL RESULT!

1. Mix the following:

3 oz. (2/3 cup) trisodium phosphate (TSP) cleaner

1 oz. (1/3 cup) powdered detergent (i.e., Tide)

1 qt. 5% sodium hypochlorite bleach (laundry bleach)

3 quarts warm water

-OR-

1 part ammonia with 3 parts water

2. Apply the solution to the affected area and scrub with a medium-hard natural bristle brush. Keep the surface saturated until the stain is bleached,

CAUTION: BE SURE TO WEAR RUBBER GLOVES AND SAFETY GLASSES WHEN APPLYING THE SOLUTION.

3. Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean, clear water from a garden hose and allow to dry.

4. Repeat the process as necessary to achieve the desired level of cleanliness.

-OR-

C. For treating any of the above (lichens, algae, mold or mildew), try using a proprietary cleaner such as Limestone Restorer (ProSoCo, Inc.), or approved equal.

1. Add 1 part Limestone Restorer to 3 parts water and mix in a rubber or polyethylene bucket.

2. Apply a flood coat of this mixture to the masonry using a low pressure spray (approximately 50 psi).

CAUTION: DO NOT USE A HIGH PRESSURE SPRAY WHEN APPLYING THIS SOLUTION AS THIS MAY CAUSE THE SOLUTION TO BE DRIVEN DEEPER INTO THE PORES OF THE MASONRY, MAKING REMOVAL OF THE SOLUTION DIFFICULT.

a. Begin spraying at the top of the vertical surface and move across horizontally. Allow 100 mm rundown.

b. Continue the next horizontal pass across the previous run down.

c. Allow the solution to remain on the surface approximately 5–30 minutes depending on the thickness of the growth.

d. Gently scrub the surface with a stiff, natural bristle brush.

e. Thoroughly rinse the treated area using pressure-applied water (approximately 400 to 1,500 psi) with a 40–60 degree fan spray or garden hose with nozzle adjusted to a tight stream. Rinse from the bottom of the treated area to the top.

f. Allow the surface to dry a minimum of 24 hours.

Abbreviations

CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CERL	Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
CRM	Cultural resource manager
DCPA	Defense Civil Preparedness Agency
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERDC	Engineer Research and Development Center
GSA	General Services Administration
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OWI	Office of War Information
POC	Person of contact
POW	Prisoner of war
TSP	Trisodium phosphate
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
V-E	Victory in Europe
WPA	Works Progress Administration
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II

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14. ABSTRACT

This project provides a historic context for the German Prisoner of War (POW) experience at Fort Riley, Kansas, and an inventory of stonework features constructed using POW labor during World War II (WWII). The purpose of this historic context and inventory is to determine the stonework's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the historic context and inventory, researchers for this project have determined that there is a potential German POW Stonework Historic Districts at Fort Riley. This noncontiguous district is composed of three linear segments: one concentrated around a stone drainage ditch at Camp Forsyth, one concentrated on a series of stone check dams at Camp Whitside, and one concentrated on a stone levee ditch and culvert at Camp Funston. Additionally, researchers have determined that five additional stonework features outside the proposed historic district boundaries are potentially eligible for the NRHP. These include a stone vehicular culvert at Camp Forsyth and four drainage gutters within Fort Riley's main cantonment.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

Building, Stone; Cultural property; Fort Riley (Kan.); Historic preservation; Prisoners of war--World War, 1939-1945; Stone bridges

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