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## **Fort Leonard Wood – Building 2101**

Interior Character-Defining Features, Inventory and Assessment

Adam D. Smith

April 2014



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# **Fort Leonard Wood – Building 2101**

## **Interior Character-Defining Features, Inventory and Assessment**

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Final report

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## **Abstract**

This document is an inventory and assessment of character-defining features for the interior of Building 2101 (former Black Officers' Club) at US Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. This survey satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and it was used to determine which elements of the interior of the building are character-defining features from the period of significance (World War II era). Building 2101 was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



# Table of Contents

|                                         |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Abstract.....</b>                    | <b>ii</b>   |
| <b>List of Figures and Tables .....</b> | <b>iv</b>   |
| <b>Preface .....</b>                    | <b>vii</b>  |
| <b>Unit Conversion Factors.....</b>     | <b>viii</b> |
| <b>Abbreviations.....</b>               | <b>ix</b>   |
| <b>1 Methodology.....</b>               | <b>1</b>    |
| 1.1 Background.....                     | 1           |
| 1.2 Objective.....                      | 4           |
| 1.3 Approach .....                      | 4           |
| 1.3.1 Previous reports .....            | 4           |
| 1.3.2 Current project .....             | 4           |
| 1.3.3 Site visits .....                 | 5           |
| 1.3.4 Researcher .....                  | 5           |
| <b>2 Analysis .....</b>                 | <b>7</b>    |
| 2.1 Walls .....                         | 12          |
| 2.2 Ceiling.....                        | 18          |
| 2.3 Flooring.....                       | 20          |
| 2.4 Heating.....                        | 23          |
| 2.5 Windows.....                        | 24          |
| 2.6 Doors .....                         | 25          |
| 2.7 Trim (casing).....                  | 26          |
| 2.8 Fireplaces.....                     | 29          |
| 2.9 Mural .....                         | 31          |
| 2.10 Plumbing fixtures .....            | 31          |
| 2.11 Floor plan .....                   | 37          |
| 2.12 Light fixtures .....               | 38          |
| 2.13 Miscellaneous .....                | 41          |
| <b>3 Conclusion .....</b>               | <b>43</b>   |
| <b>References.....</b>                  | <b>45</b>   |

**Report Documentation Page**

# List of Figures and Tables

## Figures

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 1. Location of Fort Leonard Wood in the Ozarks of Missouri (www.bing.com).....                                                                                                                                  | 2  |
| Figure 2. The location of Building 2101 at Fort Leonard Wood is indicated by the red arrow within the installation's cantonment area in the northeastern portion of the fort (DPW, FLW as modified by ERDC-CERL). .... | 3  |
| Figure 3. WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files). ....                                                                                                                                     | 8  |
| Figure 4. Elevation details of WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files). ....                                                                                                                | 8  |
| Figure 5. Floor plan detail of Type A12 building from WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files). ....                                                                                         | 9  |
| Figure 6. Building 2101 floor plan, 1965 (DPW at FLW). ....                                                                                                                                                            | 9  |
| Figure 7. Interior of Building 2101 ell, showing the floor, wainscot, red painted fireplace, and light fixtures, no date (DPW, FLW). ....                                                                              | 10 |
| Figure 8. Interior of surgeon's office at Fort Leonard Wood, no date (DPW at FLW). ....                                                                                                                                | 10 |
| Figure 9. Company administration office at Fort Leonard Wood, no date (DPW at FLW). ....                                                                                                                               | 11 |
| Figure 10. Interior of a Service Club at Fort Knox, Kentucky, 1952 (NARA College Park, RG111-SC-403177). ....                                                                                                          | 11 |
| Figure 11. Southeast hallway with original wainscot and original wallboard above (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                               | 14 |
| Figure 12. Closet off southeast hallway with original wood wainscot (FLW, 2014). ....                                                                                                                                  | 15 |
| Figure 13. Closet off southeast hallway with original wainscot and original wallboard above (FLW, 2014). ....                                                                                                          | 16 |
| Figure 14. Original wood wainscot in large southeast room (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                                                      | 17 |
| Figure 15. Original wood trim pieces in southeast hallway (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                                                      | 17 |
| Figure 16. Looking up to ceiling with original wallboard and original wood trim pieces (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                         | 18 |
| Figure 17. Non-original dropped ceiling in the shower room in the southeast shower room (originally an officers' toilet) of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                       | 19 |
| Figure 18. Original room vents on ceiling with original wood trim (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                                              | 19 |
| Figure 19. An example of an exposed structure (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                                                                  | 20 |
| Figure 20. Carpet covers the floors in the main rooms (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                                                                          | 21 |
| Figure 21. Example of vinyl tile that covers the floors in the kitchen, restrooms, and some minor rooms (ERDC-CERL, 2013). ....                                                                                        | 21 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 22. Original wood floor in the closet in the southeast side of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                                   | 22 |
| Figure 23. Example of rectangular main duct (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                                                            | 23 |
| Figure 24. Non-original round ducts (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                                                                    | 23 |
| Figure 25. Example of one of the non-historic windows (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                                                  | 24 |
| Figure 26. Example of one of the non-historic doors (FLW, 2014). .....                                                                                                                                        | 25 |
| Figure 27. Example of non-historic window trim (casing) surrounding a double window (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                    | 26 |
| Figure 28. Original trim surrounding the air intake vent into the heater room (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                                        | 27 |
| Figure 29. Original wood trim in close-up view to the right of the main-floor fireplace and below the mural (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                            | 28 |
| Figure 30. German POW stonework fireplace on the main level. The red paint is not original, but it is unknown when the stone was painted (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                               | 29 |
| Figure 31. German POW stonework fireplace in the crawlspace (FLW, 2014).....                                                                                                                                  | 30 |
| Figure 32. Mural by Samuel Countee (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                                                                                   | 31 |
| Figure 33. Non-original shower in southeast room which was originally an officers' toilet during WWII (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                  | 32 |
| Figure 34. View of original restroom in southeast end of the building with non-original partitions (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                   | 33 |
| Figure 35. Original urinal in the restroom in the southeast end of the building with partitions (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                        | 34 |
| Figure 36. Non-original kitchen with cabinets, sink, and shelf in the northwest portion of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                              | 35 |
| Figure 37. Non-original restroom in the northwest portion of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                                            | 36 |
| Figure 38. Existing floor plan (DPW, FLW – modified by ERDC-CERL).....                                                                                                                                        | 37 |
| Figure 39. Example of a "Type C" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 – ERDC-CERL files). This type of fixture can be seen at FLW in Figure 9 of this report..... | 38 |
| Figure 40. Example of a "Type B" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 – ERDC-CERL files). This type of fixture can be seen at FLW in Figure 8 of this report..... | 39 |
| Figure 41. Example of a "Type G" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 – ERDC-CERL files); a historic example of this fixture cannot be found at FLW.....          | 39 |
| Figure 42. Example of non-historic fluorescent light fixture (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                                           | 40 |
| Figure 43. Retro schoolhouse light fixture placed on the ceiling of the ell (ERDC-CERL, 2013). .....                                                                                                          | 40 |
| Figure 44. Example of an electrical box (center, left) marking the location of an original light fixture (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                               | 41 |
| Figure 45. Air conditioner placed into an opening cut into the wall (ERDC-CERL, 2013).....                                                                                                                    | 42 |

|                                                                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 46. An opening for an air conditioner turned into a window (ERDC-CERL, 2013)..... | 42 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

## **Tables**

|                                                                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1. Interior element classifications for Building 2101 (Black Officers' Club)..... | 44 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

## Preface

This study was conducted for the Department of Public Works at US Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, under MIPR #10411299: “FLW Sustainability Reports and Briefing.” The technical monitor was Stephanie Nutt, Cultural Resources Program Coordinator at Fort Leonard Wood.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CN-C) of the Installations Division (CN), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). Dr. Christopher White was Chief, CEERD-CN-C; and Ms. Michelle Hanson was Chief, CEERD-CN. The Deputy Director of ERDC-CERL was Dr. Kirankumar Topudurti, and the Director was Dr. Ilker Adiguzel.

Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein was the Commander of ERDC, and Dr. Jeffery P. Holland was the Director.

## Unit Conversion Factors

| Multiply             | By        | To Obtain     |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| acres                | 4,046.873 | square meters |
| miles (U.S. statute) | 1,609.347 | meters        |

## Abbreviations

| Term   | Spell-out                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| BRAC   | Base Realignment and Closure                          |
| DPW    | Directorate of Public Works                           |
| ERDC-  | Engineer Research and Development Center–Construction |
| CERL   | Engineering Research Laboratory                       |
| FLW    | Fort Leonard Wood                                     |
| MIPR   | Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request           |
| MSCoE  | Maneuver Support Center of Excellence                 |
| NHPA   | National Historic Preservation Act of 1966            |
| NRHP   | National Register of Historic Places                  |
| POW    | prisoner of war                                       |
| USACS  | US Army Chemical Corps                                |
| USAES  | US Army Engineer School                               |
| USAMPS | US Army Military Police Corps Schools                 |
| WWII   | World War II                                          |

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# 1 Methodology

## 1.1 Background

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

Fort Leonard Wood (FLW), Missouri, is located off Interstate 44 in the northern portion of the Ozarks region. FLW presently contains nearly 61,411 acres of the Missouri Ozarks and is located about 120 miles southwest of St. Louis, Missouri, and 85 miles northeast of Springfield, Missouri (Figure 1). The cantonment occupies approximately 6,000 acres in the northeast portion of the fort (Figure 2). Ranges and impact areas occupy most of the southern half of the fort.

The following three paragraphs of background information are excerpted from a previously written history (Roberts 2008):

The post was created in December 1940 and in early January 1941, the War Department designated the installation as Fort Leonard Wood. The post was named in honor of General Leonard Wood, a former Army Chief of Staff. FLW received its first soldiers in April 1941. While the post was initially designated as an infantry division training area, FLW quickly took on an engineer training mission for World War II (WWII).

In 1946, training ceased completely, and the post was put on the inactive list but reopened in August 1950 for the Korean Conflict. In 1956, the installation was designated the US Army Training Center-Engineer. Because of its new status as a permanent post, FLW received funds to replace the

wooden construction of WWII-era buildings with permanent brick and concrete structures.

In 1985, FLW entered yet another phase in its history. That year, the Secretary of the Army announced that the US Army Engineer School (USAES) would move from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to FLW. Then in 1999, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, Fort McClellan, Alabama, was closed, and the US Army Chemical Corps (USACS) and Military Police Corps Schools (USAMPS) were transferred to FLW, which was concurrently redesignated the US Army Maneuver Support Center. Today, FLW is designated a US Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (MSCoE).

**Figure 1. Location of Fort Leonard Wood in the Ozarks of Missouri (www.bing.com).**

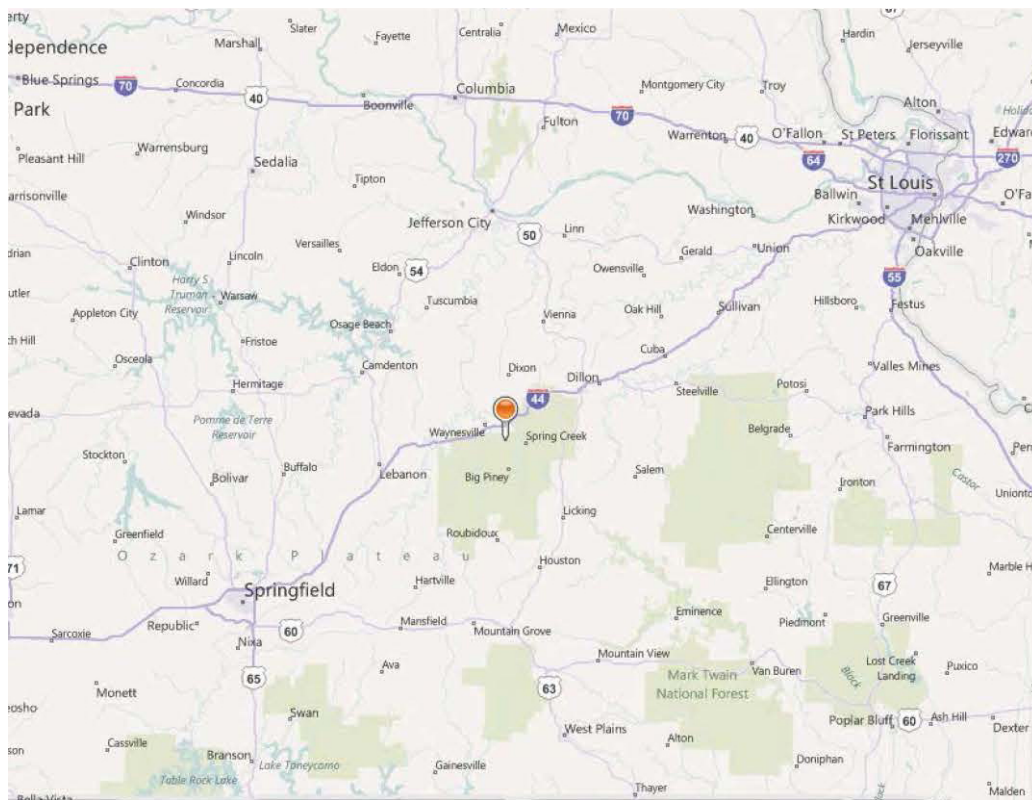
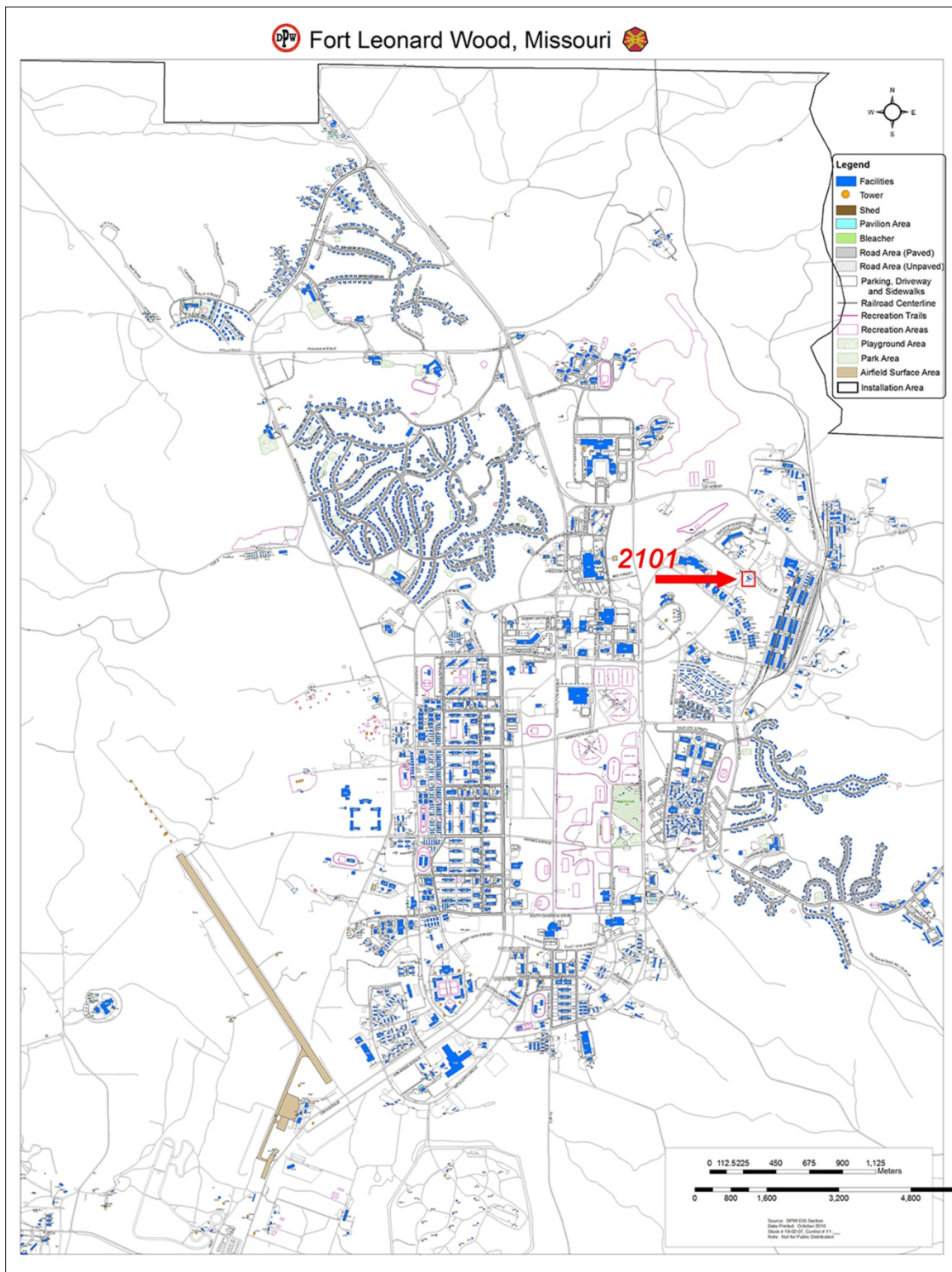


Figure 2. The location of Building 2101 at Fort Leonard Wood is indicated by the red arrow within the installation's cantonment area in the northeastern portion of the fort (DPW, FLW as modified by ERDC-CERL).



## 1.2 Objective

The objective of this effort was to inventory the interior of Building 2101 and assess that inventory to determine which elements are original to the building and also if those elements were character-defining features from the building's WWII period of significance. Those elements added after the period of significance are also listed and described.

## 1.3 Approach

### 1.3.1 Previous reports

The Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL) and others have performed six previous building surveys and evaluations of buildings for Fort Leonard Wood per Section 110 of the NHPA that include a discussion of Building 2101. These reports were used as background to inform the current work for Building 2101. The first of these reports was titled *Cantonment Historical Resources Survey, Report of Findings, Fort Leonard Wood, MO* (Harland Bartholomew & Assoc. 1987). A second report from Harland Bartholomew & Associates was titled *Installation Building Survey, Report of Findings, Fort Leonard Wood, MO* (McNerney et al. 1992). The third report dealt specifically with Building 2101 and was titled *A Historic Context Statement for a World War II Era Black Officers' Club at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri* (Smith 1998). The fourth report was an overall building inventory titled *Fort Leonard Wood Building Survey 1941 to 1956* (Smith et al. 2003) which determined Building 2101 was eligible for the NRHP. A fifth report was a maintenance and repair manual for the building titled *Fort Leonard Wood Maintenance and Repair Manual: Black Officers' Club* (Smith et al. 2005). And finally, the German POW stonework for the building was discussed in *Fort Leonard Wood German POW Stonework Context and Survey* (Smith et al. 2006).

### 1.3.2 Current project

Under a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), ERDC-CERL was retained by FLW to complete an inventory and assessment of the interior of Building 2101.

### **1.3.3 Site visits**

The researcher conducted one site visit in September 2013 to inventory, photograph, and assess the interior.

### **1.3.4 Researcher**

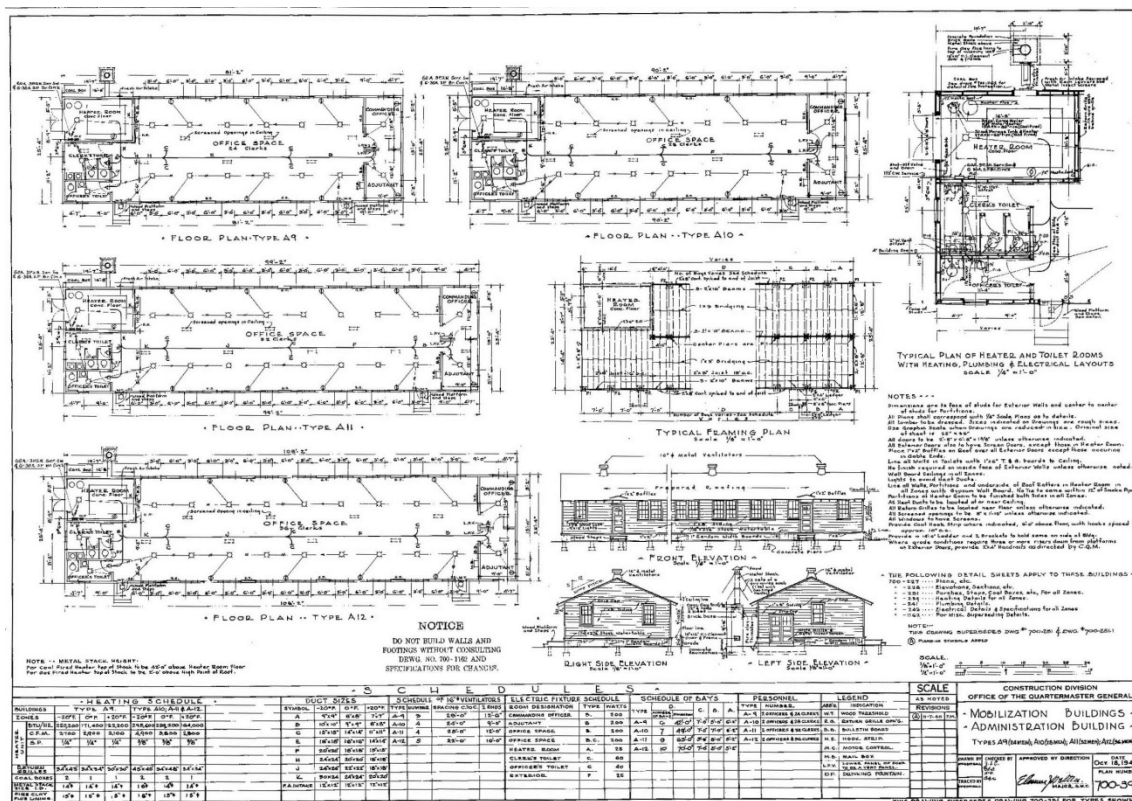
This project was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ERDC-CERL in Champaign, Illinois. The researcher was Adam Smith (M.Arch), with 17 years experience in military architectural history.

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## 2 Analysis

The building was constructed in May 1941 to the specifications of a WWII Series 700 administration plan (see drawing in Figure 3, with larger detail in Figure 4 and Figure 5). In the latter part of WWII, however, the building was converted to an officers' club for the post's African-American officers. Around this same time period, an ell was added to the west side of the building, and German prisoners of war erected a stone chimney with two fireplaces in the ell, along with a series of stone patios and retaining walls surrounding the exterior of the building. A floor plan of Building 2101 from the period of significance is not known to exist, but a floor plan from 1965 was found in the FLW Directorate of Public Works (DPW) drawing vault (Figure 6). Only one historic photograph of the interior of Building 2101 is known to exist (Figure 7), and it is only shows the interior of the ell; however, three other historic photographs showing the interiors of two other buildings at Fort Leonard Wood (Figure 8 and Figure 9) and a service club from Fort Knox, Kentucky, (Figure 10) were utilized to determine which materials and finishes were from the period of significance for Building 2101.

Figure 3. WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files).



**Figure 4. Elevation details of WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files).**

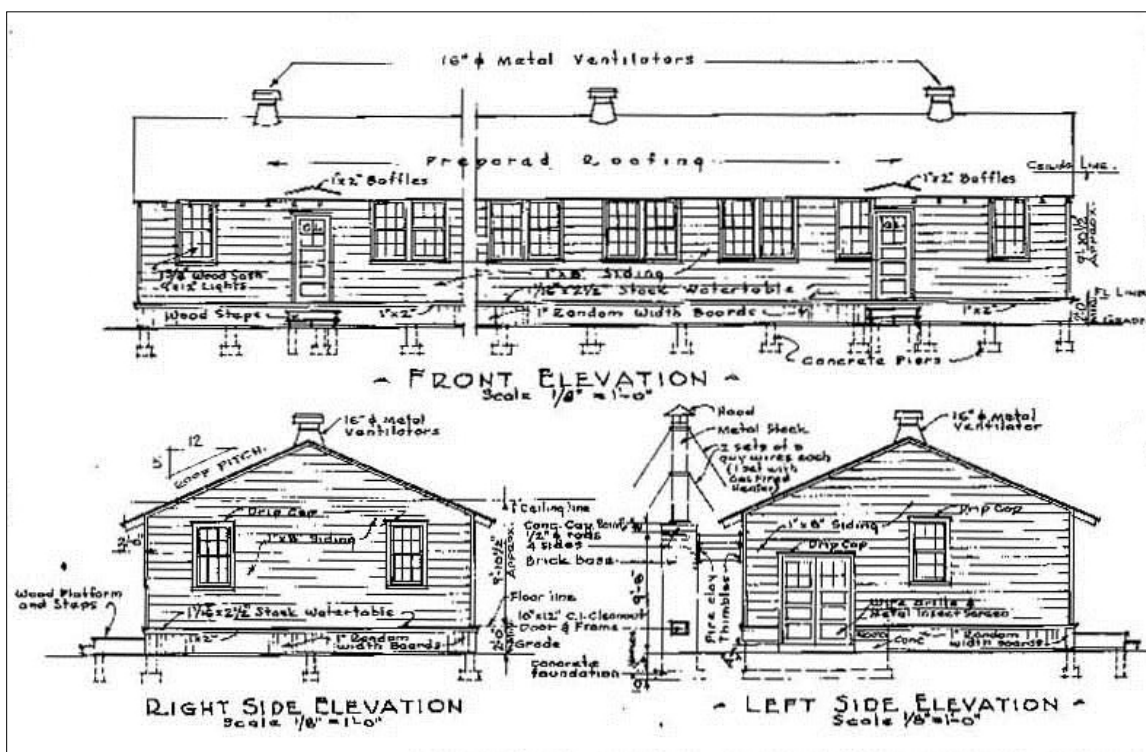




Figure 5. Floor plan detail of Type A12 building from WWII-era Series 700 administration building plan (ERDC-CERL files).

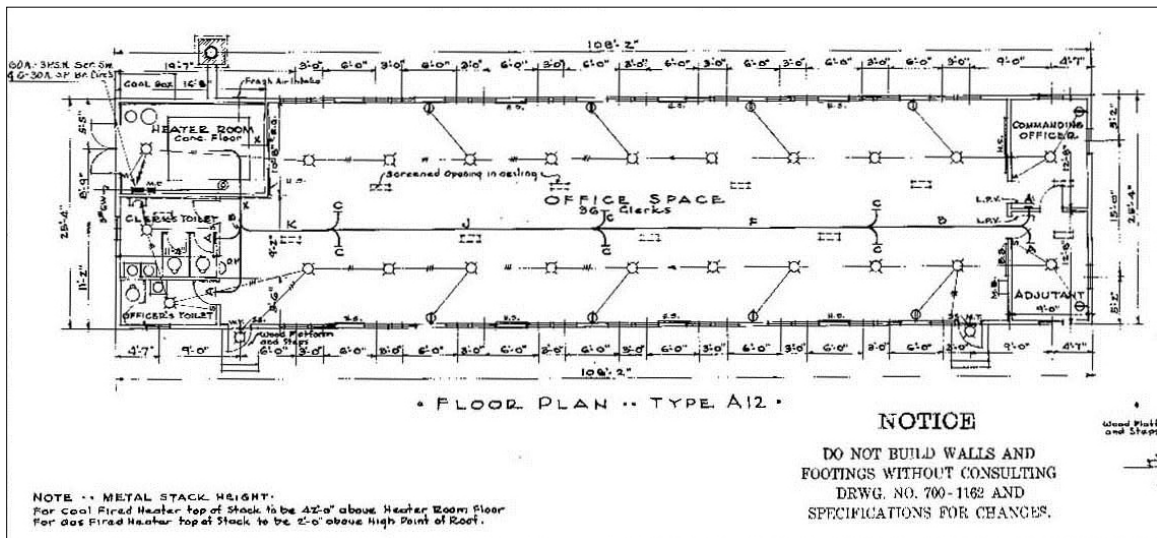


Figure 6. Building 2101 floor plan, 1965 (DPW at FLW).

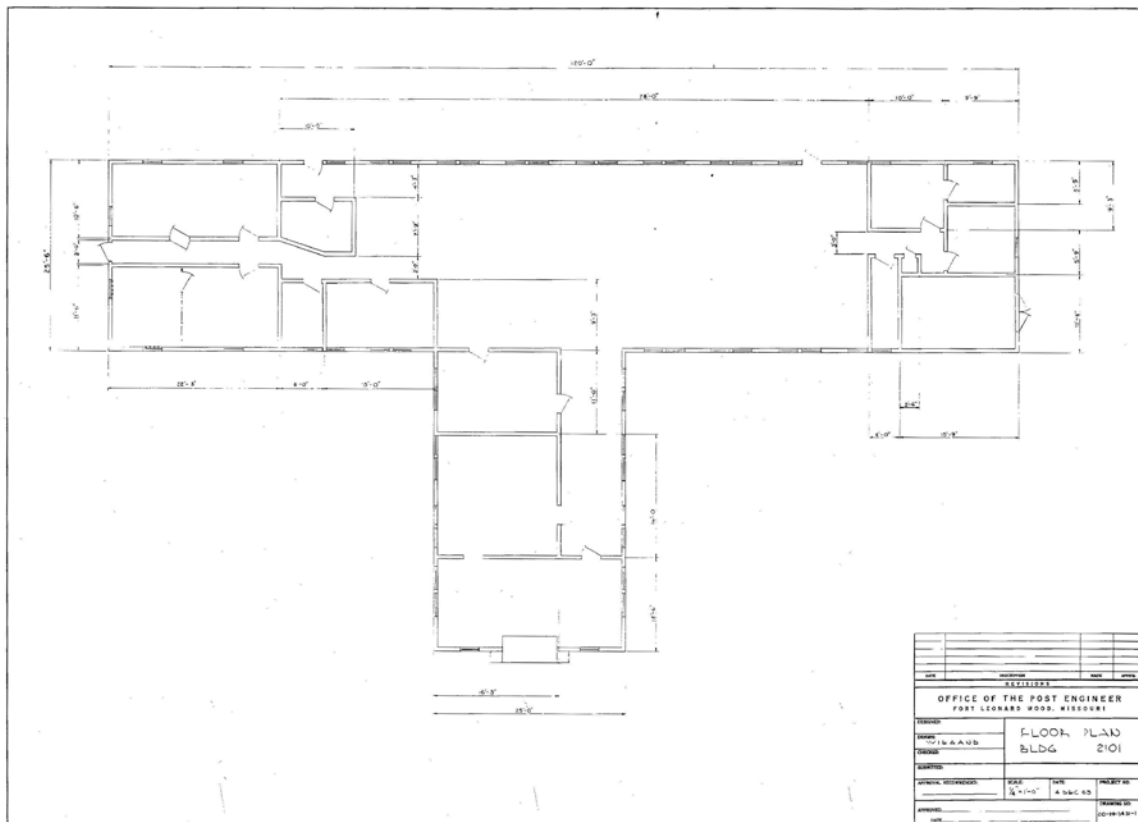


Figure 7. Interior of Building 2101 ell, showing the floor, wainscot, red painted fireplace, and light fixtures, no date (DPW, FLW).



Figure 8. Interior of surgeon's office at Fort Leonard Wood, no date (DPW at FLW).



Figure 9. Company administration office at Fort Leonard Wood, no date (DPW at FLW).



Figure 10. Interior of a Service Club at Fort Knox, Kentucky, 1952 (NARA College Park, RG111-SC-403177).



All WWII Series 700 administration buildings had typical interior finishes, no matter where they were constructed across the country. The quality of the finishes varied, depending on how public the building might have been used. For instance, a doctor's office would have had walls and ceilings covered with wallboard and a wood-paneled wainscot. The floor would have been covered with linoleum, and light fixtures would have had glass globes (Figure 8). A company administration office would have had walls without wallboard, a ceiling covered with wallboard, wood floors, and light fixtures with a simple enameled light reflector (Figure 9). A very public building like the Fort Knox service club would have had high-quality finishes (Figure 10). Since Building 2101 was constructed as an administrative building, it is assumed that it originally had walls with a simple wainscot at the bottom of the wall and open walls above the wainscot. The ceiling would have been covered with wallboard, and the light fixtures had a bare bulb with a porcelain light reflector. When the ell was constructed on the west side of the building and it was transformed into an officers' club, evidence from the closet suggests that the entire interior had wallboard installed above the wood wainscot. There is no evidence that the light fixtures were changed to ones that had glass globes. It could not be determined due to the existing carpet what the original flooring was in Building 2101.

The following elements in Building 2101 were determined to be original from the period of significance for this type of building:

- Wallboard (on upper part of walls and on the ceiling)
- Wood wainscot (including wood trim pieces that transitioned the wood wainscot to the wallboard and the wood corner half-rounds)
- Exposed roof structure
- Wood trim pieces on ceiling
- Rectangular heater duct
- Ceiling vents with trim

## **2.1 Walls**

There are only a few spots where the original wall material is still extant, and they are all in the southeast quadrant of the building. There is a small hallway with the original wood wainscot and original wallboard above (Figure 11), a broom closet off that hallway with the original wood wainscot and original wallboard above (Figure 12 and Figure 13), and a large room with the original wood wainscot and original wallboard above

(Figure 14). In all three areas, the original wood trim transition between the wood wainscot and wallboard is still extant as well as the wood quarter-round detail in the corner of the wainscot (Figure 15). No other wall surfaces are original in the interior of the building. What is left of the wallboard, wood wainscot, and wood trim transition pieces are all character-defining features.

Figure 11. Southeast hallway with original wainscot and original wallboard above (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 12. Closet off southeast hallway with original wood wainscot (FLW, 2014).





Figure 13. Closet off southeast hallway with original wainscot and original wallboard above (FLW, 2014).





Figure 14. Original wood wainscot in large southeast room (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 15. Original wood trim pieces in southeast hallway (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.2 Ceiling

The original wallboard ceiling with wood trim pieces is extant throughout the building (e.g., Figure 16), except for the dropped ceiling in the shower room and restroom in the southeast portion of the building (Figure 17). The ceiling also contains the original room vents, and the trim for those vents is original as well (Figure 18). The building has original exposed structures that exist from the ceiling to the walls (Figure 19). The original wallboard, wood supports, and the ceiling vents are character-defining features.

Figure 16. Looking up to ceiling with original wallboard and original wood trim pieces (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 17. Non-original dropped ceiling in the shower room in the southeast shower room (originally an officers' toilet) of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 18. Original room vents on ceiling with original wood trim (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 19. An example of an exposed structure (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.3 Flooring

It is not known what is under the carpet in the main rooms or the vinyl tiles in the kitchen and restrooms. Neither the carpet nor the vinyl tiles are original to those areas (Figure 20 and Figure 21). Since the building's original use was administration, the original flooring would have been wood (as in Figure 22); however, it is not known if linoleum was installed over the wood floor when the building was converted to an officers' club.

Figure 20. Carpet covers the floors in the main rooms (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 21. Example of vinyl tile that covers the floors in the kitchen, restrooms, and some minor rooms (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 22. Original wood floor in the closet in the southeast side of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





## 2.4 Heating

The main rectangular heating duct that runs the length of the building and the rectangular duct extension that runs into the ell are original to the building (Figure 23). These rectangular ducts are character-defining features of the building. However, the round ducts that branch off from the main duct line are not original (Figure 24).

Figure 23. Example of rectangular main duct (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 24. Non-original round ducts (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.5 Windows

None of the windows are original (Figure 25).

Figure 25. Example of one of the non-historic windows (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





## 2.6 Doors

None of the interior doors are original (Figure 26).

Figure 26. Example of one of the non-historic doors (FLW, 2014).



## 2.7 Trim (casing)

None of the trim (casing) that surrounds the windows and doors is original (Figure 27). The trim that surrounds the vent from the heater room is original (Figure 28). In addition, the trim on both sides of the fireplace and surrounding the mural is original (Figure 29). The trim that surrounds the ceiling vents, the heater room vent, and the fireplace is all character-defining. The trim that surrounds windows and doors is not character-defining.

Figure 27. Example of non-historic window trim (casing) surrounding a double window (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 28. Original trim surrounding the air intake vent into the heater room  
(ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 29. Original wood trim in close-up view to the right of the main-floor fireplace and below the mural (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.8 Fireplaces

The stone fireplace on the main floor (Figure 30) was added to the building during summer 1945 by German prisoners of war (POWs) who were being held at FLW (US Army 1945). This fireplace is a primary character-defining feature of the building, along with the ell where it is located. This fireplace is heavily documented in the Building 2101 maintenance manual (Smith et al. 2005). In addition, a second stone fireplace was added to the building in the crawlspace when the chimney for the fireplace on the main floor was added (Figure 31). The second stone fireplace also is a character-defining feature.

Figure 30. German POW stonework fireplace on the main level. The red paint is not original, but it is unknown when the stone was painted (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 31. German POW stonework fireplace in the crawlspace (FLW, 2014).





## 2.9 Mural

The mural was painted by Samuel Countee and placed above the German POW fireplace on the main floor in the summer of 1945 (Figure 32). It is a primary character-defining feature of the building.

Figure 32. Mural by Samuel Countee (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.10 Plumbing fixtures

The shower in the southeast room is not original. The southeast room was originally the officers' toilet when it was an administration building; it is not known when its use was switched from restroom to shower room. The restroom in the southeast end of the building is original (Figure 33 and Figure 34), but most of the plumbing fixtures are not original except for the urinal (Figure 35).

There is a kitchen and another restroom in the northwest portion of the building (Figure 36 and Figure 37). None of the plumbing fixtures in these two rooms are original.

Figure 33. Non-original shower in southeast room which was originally an officers' toilet during WWII (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 34. View of original restroom in southeast end of the building with non-original partitions (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 35. Original urinal in the restroom in the southeast end of the building with partitions (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





Figure 36. Non-original kitchen with cabinets, sink, and shelf in the northwest portion of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013).





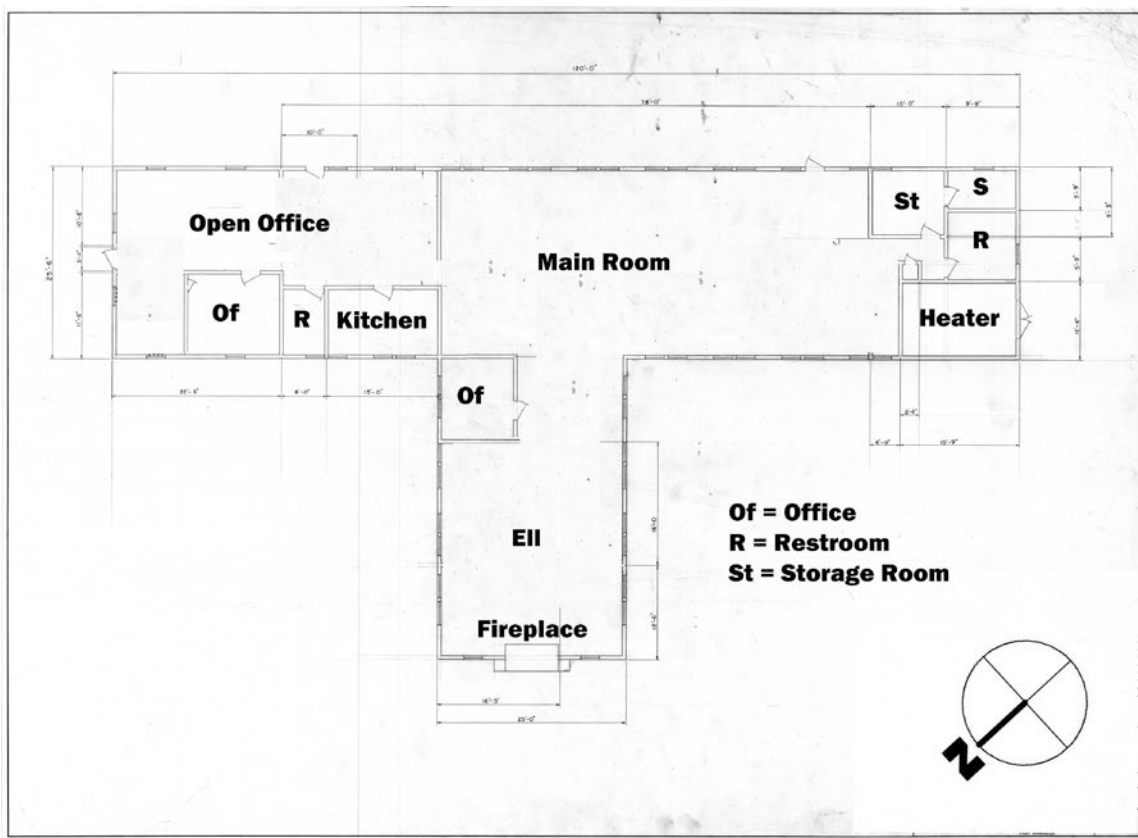
Figure 37. Non-original restroom in the northwest portion of the building (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.11 Floor plan

Since there is only one known historic photo of the interior of the Black Officers' Club and that photo is undated, and no drawings exist with DPW at FLW, the original floor plan layout after it was converted to a club is not known. The existing floor plan is shown in Figure 38, with room designations added. Due to the size of the ell and the placement in it of the German POW fireplace and the Samuel Countee mural, it has been assumed that the ell was a lounge/dance hall during the WWII period of significance. The heater room in the southwest corner of the building is original, but is not accessible by the public or from the inside of the building. The original wood wainscot in the southeast corner of the building (hallway, closet, and storage room) makes the case that those wall placements are original, and there were a series of small rooms at the southeastern end of the building. It is unknown if the full-height wall that separates the Main Room from the Open Office area dates from when the building was converted over to a club. It is also not known when the small rooms (kitchen, restroom, office) on the west side of the Open Office area were added to the building. The small office in the ell also is not original.

Figure 38. Existing floor plan (DPW, FLW – modified by ERDC-CERL).



## 2.12 Light fixtures

Light fixtures typical to the same type of building plan for WWII-era Series 700 buildings can be seen in Figure 39–Figure 41. These drawings informed the conclusion that none of the current light fixtures in the building are original (e.g., Figure 42). There are retro-style light fixtures in the ell of the building (e.g., Figure 43), but these are not replicas of the original light fixtures. In addition, there are electrical connection boxes on the ceiling that appear to mark the location of the original light fixtures (e.g., Figure 44).

Since no original light fixtures are extant and the only historic photo is of the ell (Figure 7), there can only be conjecture for what types of light fixtures were used when Building 2101 was an administration building and later, when the building was transformed into an officers' club. In addition, the chandeliers shown in Figure 7 are not found in any of the Army's Series 700 or 800 construction plans; however, since that photo does not have a date, it cannot be proven that the chandeliers date from the time Building 2101 was made an officers' club, although it is more than likely since the change in use and the addition of the ell occurred around the same time.

Figure 39. Example of a "Type C" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 – ERDC-CERL files). This type of fixture can be seen at FLW in Figure 9 of this report.

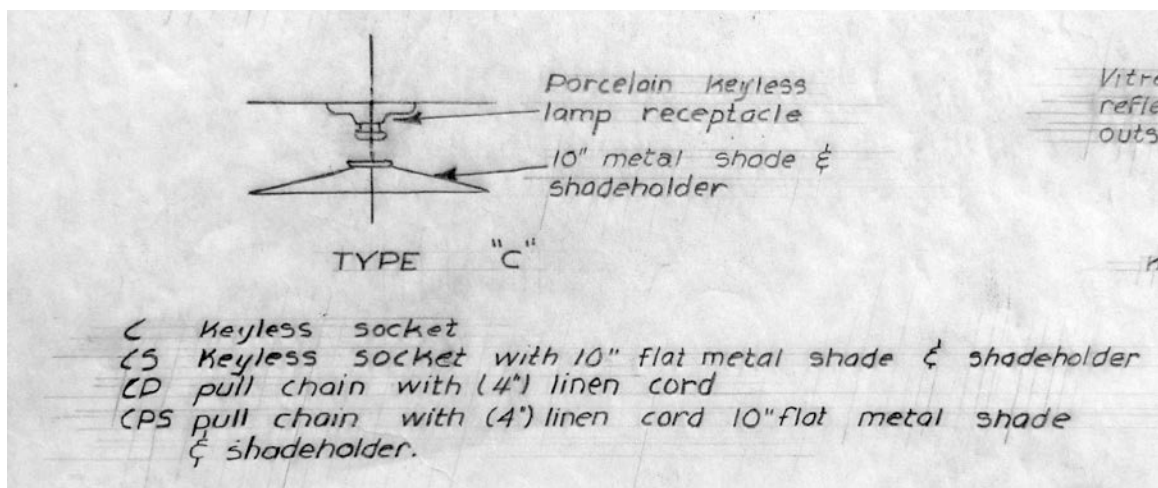


Figure 40. Example of a "Type B" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 - ERDC-CERL files). This type of fixture can be seen at FLW in Figure 8 of this report.

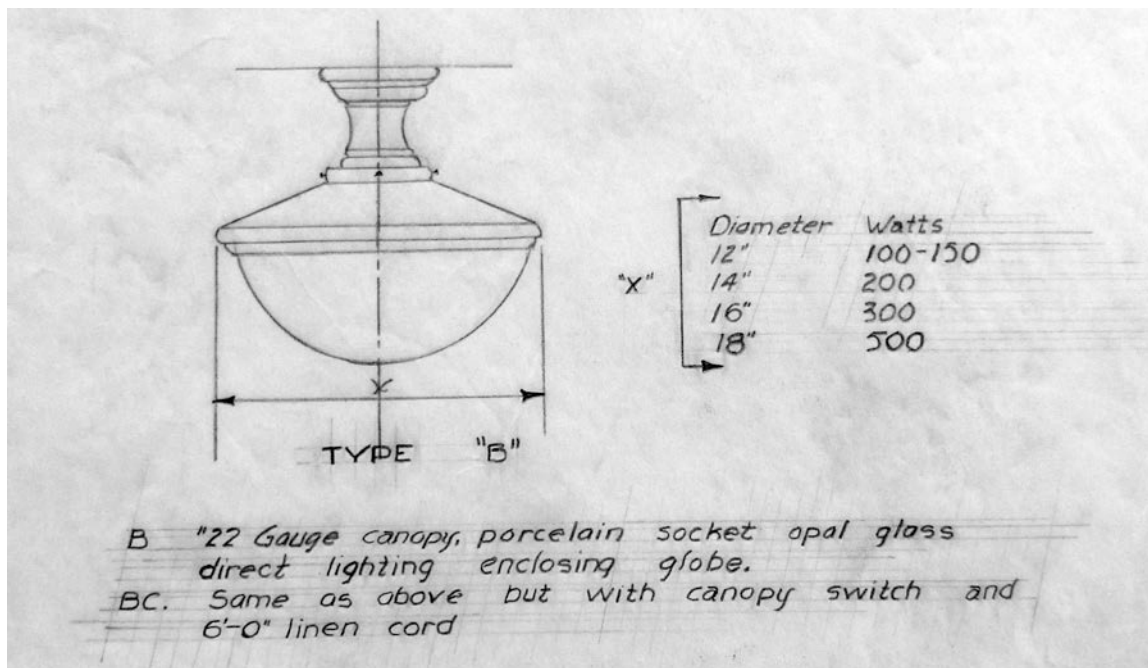


Figure 41. Example of a "Type G" light fixture found in Series 700 temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-243, 1937 - ERDC-CERL files); a historic example of this fixture cannot be found at FLW.

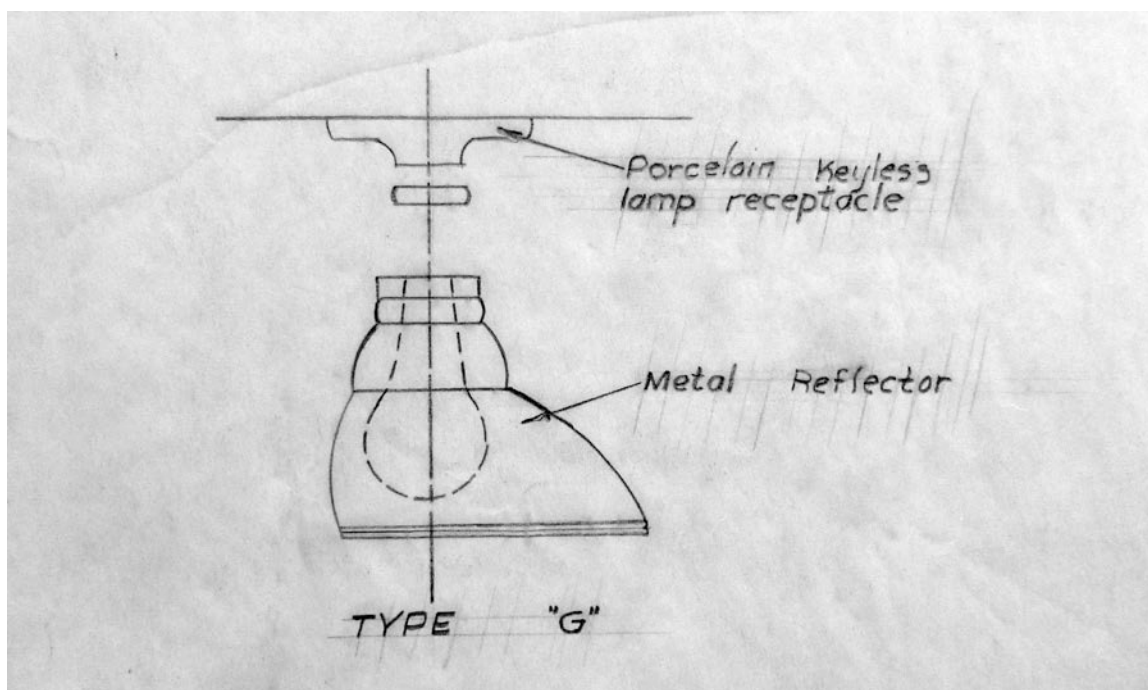




Figure 42. Example of non-historic fluorescent light fixture (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 43. Retro schoolhouse light fixture placed on the ceiling of the ell (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 44. Example of an electrical box (center, left) marking the location of an original light fixture (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



## 2.13 Miscellaneous

There are room-size air conditioners placed in wall openings cut for that purpose (e.g., Figure 45), and other wall openings where air conditioners once were located (e.g., Figure 46). None of these are original.

Figure 45. Air conditioner placed into an opening cut into the wall (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 46. An opening for an air conditioner turned into a window (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



### 3 Conclusion

This inventory and assessment report has identified a series of elements for the interior of Building 2101 that are from the period of significance. While these elements can be considered character-defining features, generally the interior of the building lacks integrity from the period when it was utilized as a black officers' club except for the fireplace, mural, and openness of the main room and the ell. While the building can be occupied again simply by painting walls and installing new carpet, Fort Leonard Wood needs to consider the interior elements listed in Table 1 below and to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation when developing large-scale renovation plans of the interior. There are 10 standards for rehabilitation set forth by the US Secretary of Interior and administered by the National Park Service (NPS n.d.). The eight standards that apply specifically to Building 2101 have been extract verbatim below and preceded by the number used by the National Park Service website:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.



6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced.

Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

**Table 1. Interior element classifications for Building 2101 (Black Officers' Club).**

| Historic Interior Elements                  | Non-historic Interior Elements               |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Ceiling wallboard                           | Flooring (carpet and vinyl tile)             |
| Exposed structure between the wall and roof | Windows                                      |
| Ceiling vents                               | Doors                                        |
| Rectangular heating ducts                   | Casing trim                                  |
| German POW stonework fireplaces             | Plumbing fixtures                            |
| Samuel Countee mural                        | Light fixtures                               |
| Wood wainscot                               | Room-size air conditioners and wall openings |
| Wallboard                                   | Wallboard                                    |

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| <b>14. ABSTRACT</b><br><br>This document is an inventory and assessment of character-defining features for the interior of Building 2101 (former Black Officers' Club) at US Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. This survey satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and it was used to determine which elements of the interior of the building are character-defining features from the period of significance (World War II era). Building 2101 was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                    |                                       |                                             |                                                                      |                                                  |
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