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## Camp Sherman, Ohio: History of a World War I Training Camp

Susan I. Enscoe, Adam D. Smith, and Megan W. Tooker

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**Cover Photo:** Plaque on gatepost marking the southern entrance to the former Camp Sherman site (ERDC-CERL, 2014).

# **Camp Sherman, Ohio: History of a World War I Training Camp**

*Susan I. Enscoe, Adam D. Smith, and Megan W. Tooker*

*Construction Engineering Research Laboratory  
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center  
2902 Newmark Drive  
PO Box 9005  
Champaign, IL 61826-9005*

Final Report

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## Abstract

This document presents a historic context, integrity analysis, and evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) of the World War I era rifle range at the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, Ohio. The report meets the requirements in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for federal agencies to address their cultural resources—defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Identification of potentially significant properties is achieved only through a survey and evaluation to associate a property within a larger historic context. The Camp Sherman Rifle Range was constructed in 1917 for training soldiers in preparation for deployment to European battlefields. This function only lasted until the 1918 Armistice, but the range has been used by the Ohio Army National Guard for training over the decades since. It is the recommendation of this current survey that the 452-acre Camp Sherman Rifle Range (Camp Sherman Joint Training Center) is recommended not eligible to the NRHP due to a significant loss of integrity.

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## **Preface**

This study was conducted for the Adjutant General Department, State of Ohio, Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) under Project Number 448179, “Camp Sherman OH Firing Range Historic Context.” The technical monitor was Kimberly Ludt, M.S., Environmental Specialist II.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CNC) of the Installations Division (CN), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Dr. Michael Hargrave was Chief, CEERD-CNC; 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.

COL Bryan S. Green 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
feet	0.3048	meters
inches	0.0254	meters
miles (U.S. statute)	1,609.347	meters
square feet	0.09290304	square meters
yards	0.9144	meters

## Abbreviations

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
CCI	Chillicothe Correctional Institution
ERDC- CERL	Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHARNG	Ohio Army National Guard
POW	prisoner of war
RCI	Ross Correctional Institution
VA	Veterans Administration
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II

# **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 was done primarily through the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1966. Contained within the NHPA (Sections 106 and 110) 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 determination of the effects of federal undertakings on properties deemed eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP. Camps constructed by the War Department to meet the troop training needs for United States' entry into World War I (WWI) may have significance for the NRHP at the national level. In order to determine potential significance, a historic context needed to be created that provides sufficient background information on the camp.

## **1.2 Objective**

The objective of this effort was to research, analyze, and compile a historic context for the WWI-era Camp Sherman, located in Chillicothe, Ohio. The only remaining Camp Sherman land that is still in Army ownership was utilized in 1917 as a rifle range, and remnants of this land use remain today as the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, which is a 452-acre property used as an Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) training site. In addition to the rifle range, the training site contains several modern facilities constructed between 2005 and 2013: a Readiness Center, barracks, Facilities Maintenance Shop, and several Range Operations and Support buildings. This document will give the OHARNG an understanding of the history of Camp Sherman for use in compliance with the NHPA's requirements.

## **1.3 Approach**

### **1.3.1 Project funding**

Under a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), the Engineer Research and Development Center-Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL) was retained by Adjutant General Department, State of Ohio, OHARNG Environment Office to complete a historic context for Camp Sherman, Ohio.

### **1.3.2 Source material**

ERDC-CERL researchers conducted a review of books, archival repositories, and online resources related to Camp Sherman. The following places were contacted and/or searched:

- Library of Congress
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
- ERDC Library
- Individual military installations and bases (phone calls and email)
- General online searches
- Ross County Historical Society
- Ross County Courthouse
- Ross County Public Library
- Ohio State Museum Archives (Ohio Historical Society)
- Hopewell National Historical Park
- Union-Scioto Schools
- Veterans Administration
- Ohio Department of Corrections

### **1.3.3 Site visits**

Researchers conducted a site visit to Camp Sherman, Ohio, to tour the OHARNG facility and the remaining part of the rifle range in Chillicothe, Ohio. As part of this visit, archival repositories in the area were investigated including the Ross County Historical Society and the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, both located in Chillicothe. The Ohio State Museum Archives in Columbus were also searched. The site visit occurred in October–November 2014 to tour buildings and structures from the period of significance and to collect historical information and data about Camp Sherman.

## **1.4 Authors**

This project was conducted by a team of ERDC-CERL researchers from Champaign, Illinois. The authors were Susan Ensore (Ph.D. Geography), Adam Smith (M. Arch), and Megan Tooker (M. Landscape Arch).

## 2 World War 1 and the Development of Training Camps in the United States

### 2.1 A world war erupts

The first global military conflict began as a confrontation between two rival power blocs. The first bloc was Germany, Austria, and Italy which comprised the Triple Alliance. The second bloc originated when Britain and France joined in the Entente Cordiale, which merged into the Dual Alliance of France and Russia, to become the Triple Entente. Italy departed the Triple Alliance, leaving Germany and Austria to form the Central Powers, with the addition of Turkey and Bulgaria. The Triple Entente, with the addition of Italy, became the core of the Allied Powers.<sup>1</sup> The tension between the two blocs was shattered on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo, when a Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. The assassin and the victim were from opposing sides, and repercussions of the violent event rapidly escalated, until Austria declared war on Serbia on 28 July.<sup>2</sup> The conflict drew additional countries into both combatant blocs as fighting raged across Western Europe. Casualty numbers were horrifyingly high, partially due to the use of machine guns and improved artillery. By the end of 1915, the British and French alone had lost 1.5 million troops (dead, wounded, and missing).<sup>3</sup>

A stalemate ensued for several years, as both sides sought a breakthrough with massive numbers of conscripts, and the introduction of military innovations including poison gas, tanks, and the first widespread use of airplanes in war.<sup>4</sup> An Eastern Front developed where Russia was mobilized to support the Serbians. By early 1917, the Russians were collapsing along the front, and dealing with a revolution brewing at home. French soldiers on the Western Front were refusing to take part in offensive actions, and a disastrous attack by Austria in Italy had the

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<sup>1</sup> Richard W. Stewart, General Editor, *American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2008* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 2010), 1.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, 2.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, 3.

Italian's support for the war fading fast. With the Allies close to collapse, the United States entered the war.<sup>5</sup>

## 2.2 America joins the Allies

Meanwhile, the United States was increasingly impacted by the war and began to look to its defense establishment. By fall 1915, several bills were introduced to Congress to reorganize the Army; provisions in the National Defense Act of 1916 included increasing the number of training officers in the Army, creating an Officer's Reserve Corps, and establishing a Reserve Officer Training Corps.<sup>6</sup> America was maintaining a nonintervention policy and concurrently was seeking paths to peace for the combatants. This hands-off approach was threatened on 7 May 1915 when a German U-boat sunk the British ocean liner *Lusitania*, with over 100 Americans on board.<sup>7</sup> After a request to desist from President Wilson, there were no attacks on American ships until early 1917 when merchant ships were targeted in a new campaign. By spring 1917, the loss of seven ships and related heavy loss of American lives spurred Wilson to request of Congress a declaration of war against Germany. The declaration was approved on 6 April 1917, and America entered the war.<sup>8</sup>

The Allies asked for assistance in reinforcing the Western Front which ran from Switzerland to Belgium, and President Wilson agreed to this plan as it offered the United States a decisive role both in the conflict and in structuring the subsequent peace arrangements.<sup>9</sup> For the rest of 1917 and 1918, France and Belgium were the settings for American involvement in the war, which eventually involved over two million U.S. troops.<sup>10</sup> Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, the American force settled largely on the Allied's southern flank in the Lorraine region of France and began to build up their forces.

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<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, 6.

<sup>6</sup> Wilbur H. Siebert, *History of the Ohio State University, Volume IV: The University in the Great War, Part I—Wartime on the Campus* (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University Press, 1934), 2-3.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*, 4.

<sup>8</sup> G. Richard Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory* (Chillicothe, Ohio: G. Richard Peck, 2014), 4; Stewart, *American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2008*, 7.

<sup>9</sup> Stewart, *American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2008*, 7.

<sup>10</sup> *ibid.*, 8.

### 2.3 Need for training camps

The rapid entry into the war caught the U.S. military services not yet on a war footing. One of the most pressing problems was providing training for the large numbers of draftees created by the Selective Service Act of 18 May 1917.<sup>11</sup> A four-month training program was organized by military specialty such as “riflemen, artillery gunners, supply or personnel clerks, or medical specialists.”<sup>12</sup> Focusing on individual or small-unit skills, the training program neglected larger combined-arms experience, which the soldiers had to acquire once deployed. A massive construction program created by the War Department resulted in the simultaneous nation-wide construction of 16 new National Army cantonments and 16 new Army National Guard training camps.<sup>13</sup> In order to get the training facilities built rapidly and as cost efficiently as possible, temporary construction methods were first developed and then widely deployed.<sup>14</sup>

In the spring of 1917, the Army's Construction and Repair Division in Washington, D.C., had three officers and 53 civilians. The Construction and Repair Division had few plans for temporary construction and no plans for the organization and direction of a high-speed construction effort. On 7 May 1917, the Quartermaster Department received orders to construct 32 divisional cantonments by 1 September 1917. The Quartermaster Department formed a Committee on Emergency Construction of Buildings and Engineering Works, comprised of men with architectural and construction expertise, to oversee the massive effort. Committee members included: William A. Starrett, president of the architectural firm of Starrett & Van Vleck of New York City; Morton C. Tuttle, of Aberthaw Construction Company of Boston; Clemens W. Lundoff, vice president of Crowell, Lundoff and Little of Cleveland, Ohio; Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect, Brookline, Massachusetts; Leonard Metcalf, noted designer of water and sewerage systems, Boston, Massachusetts; and George W. Fuller of New York City and Asa E. Phillips of Washington, D.C., consulting engineers. The committee was able to mobilize many other talented civilian architects, engineers, construction

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<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*, 20.

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*, 21–22.

<sup>13</sup> The National Army was a combined volunteer and draftee force formed by the War Department for fighting WWI.

<sup>14</sup> Deborah K. Cannan, et al., *National Historic Context For Department Of Defense Installations, 1790–1940*, Vol I (Frederick, MD: R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., 1995), 199.

experts, and contracting officers to complete construction of the 32 cantonments.<sup>15</sup>

The 16 National Army cantonments established during WWI were Camp Devens, Massachusetts; Camp Dix, New Jersey; Camp Gordon, Georgia; Camp Jackson, South Carolina; Camp Lee, Virginia; Camp Lewis, Washington; Camp Meade, Maryland; Camp Upton, New York; Camp Custer, Michigan; Camp Pike, Arkansas; Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky; Camp Sherman, Ohio; Camp Funston, Kansas; Camp Dodge, Iowa; Camp Travis, Texas; and Camp Grant, Illinois (see Figure 1).<sup>16</sup>

The impact on the landscape was startling, as the future training areas were inundated with thousands of workers and millions of dollars worth of construction material. Local communities were overwhelmed with new arrivals of workmen building the camps, all of whom needed food and housing. The 16 new National Army cantonments were in effect brand new cities, and each seemingly appearing overnight with 35,000 to 45,000 inhabitants.<sup>17</sup> Aside from considerations of terrain, construction plans were similar across the 16 cantonments. When possible, the construction contractors were assigned a project in an area they were familiar with, often near their existing offices.<sup>18</sup> There was competition for the camps, particularly from civic officials seeking jobs and improved economies for their constituents. In the case of Camp Sherman, the community of Chillicothe, Ohio, offered “a healthy climate, a plentiful supply of clean water, and two thousand acres of flat, level land, immediately north of the city.”<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*, paragraph extracted largely verbatim.

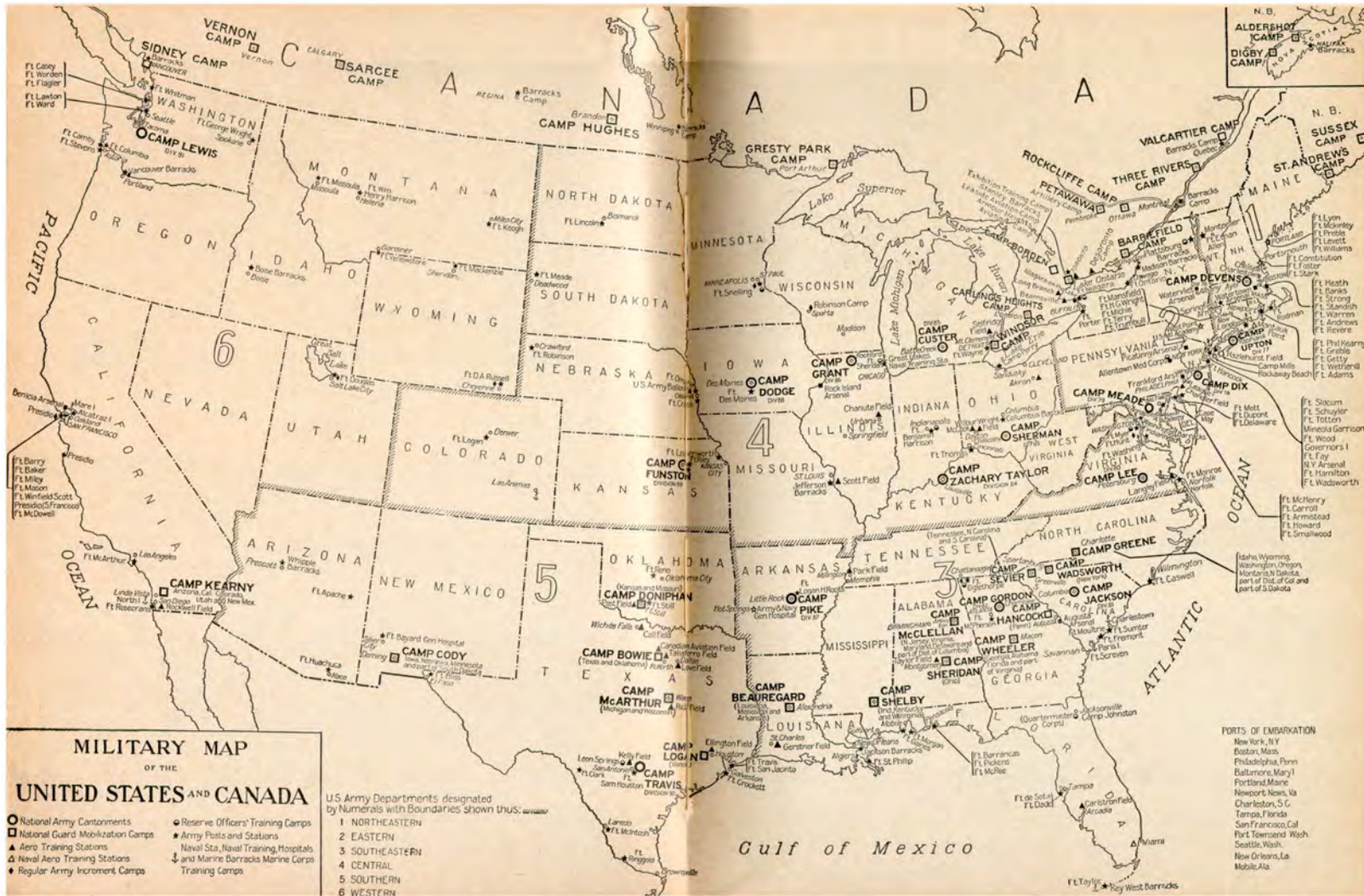
<sup>16</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Stone & Webster, *Building American Military Camps* (New York: Stone & Webster, 1918), 3.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> G. Richard Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, Second Edition (Chillicothe, Ohio: G. Richard Peck, 1972), 1.

Figure 1. Military map of the United States and Canada (Martin and Canfield 1920).



### **3 Creation and Use of Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio**

No one living in the vicinity of Chillicothe could have anticipated the massive construction program involved in the creation of Camp Sherman. Time was of the essence and construction proceeded apace, covering a large part of a previously quiet valley. The new cantonment was the training site for many thousands of young men, with all the energy and activity that implied. Yet, after less than two years the war was over and so was the recruit training mission of Camp Sherman.

#### **3.1 Site selection and construction of Camp Sherman**

The area that would become Camp Sherman was not new to military use. During the War of 1812, the site on the Scioto River valley at the northern edge of Chillicothe was a detention camp for British soldiers. Fifty years later, Chillicothe was the mobilization camp for the 73<sup>rd</sup> regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Efforts to bring one of the 16 National Army training cantonments to Chillicothe were spearheaded by two prominent businessmen: John Poland, president of the Chillicothe Chamber of Commerce, and R.D. Alexander, chairman of the state tax commission. Of the 15 cities in the area vying for the training camp, the efforts of the two Chillicothe men caught the attention of General Thomas H. Barry, who was commanding the Central Department of the Army. General Barry recommended the Chillicothe site to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, who announced on 8 June 1917 that the site had been selected to host the third largest of the training cantonments, which would train draftees from Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania.<sup>20</sup>

The selected property of 2,002 acres for the camp proper was primarily agricultural in use, and it had good transportation access via the B&O Railroad and two good roads (the current State Road [S.R.] 104 and Pleasant Valley Road). Additionally, a total of nearly 8,000 acres were acquired for three auxiliary training areas: (1) a maneuver area immediately west of the north entrance to the camp (2,083 acres), (2) a

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<sup>20</sup> "Chillicothe Changed Overnight from Peaceful Little City to Center of Great Military Activities," *The Scioto Gazette*, Camp Sherman Edition, October 1917, 1; Alan C. Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site, Chillicothe, Springfield Township, Ross County, Ohio* (Columbus, Ohio: ASC Group, Inc., 2004), 17.

rifle range east of the camp and across the Scioto River at the base of Mount Logan (630 acres), and (3) an artillery range 10–12 miles south of the main camp (5,000 acres).<sup>21</sup> Land acquisition efforts began soon after the camp's announcement, and a combination of federal funds and contributions from local businessmen eager for the camp to be realized resulted in an offer of \$20 per acre, considered a good price for the time. The needed parcels not acquired by initial lease (later, the government purchased most of the property) were placed under eminent domain and turned over to the government.<sup>22</sup> The War Department named the new cantonment Camp Sherman on 16 July 1917, in honor of the famed Civil War general and native Ohioan, William Tecumseh Sherman.<sup>23</sup>

Almost immediately, Chillicothe began filling up with workers, their families, materials suppliers, and many others looking for work or business. The town grew from a population of 16,000 to a city of nearly 60,000 within a few months. Along with this influx of people came associated needs for housing, and nearly 2,000 houses were built by October 1917, almost doubling the city's housing stock.<sup>24</sup>

A total of 13 construction contracts were let over the life of the camp, and construction was still going on when the war ended on 11 November 1918. The primary construction contract went to A. Bentley Sons & Co. of Toledo, Ohio. Additional contracts were let for grading, road building, and utilities including over 20 miles of streets, electric lights, water mains, sewers, and a sewage disposal plant for the camp.<sup>25</sup> Approximately 5,000 workers had arrived by 5 July 1917, and construction started the next day.<sup>26</sup> The first imperatives were to construct rail yards to bring in the necessary supplies, and to provide temporary housing and messing facilities on site for the vast tide of workmen required for the camp's creation. Building the initial wooden cantonment provided employment

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<sup>21</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 5-6.

<sup>22</sup> Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 17; Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, "Camp Sherman" (Chillicothe, Ohio: U.S. National Park Service, 2015), <http://www.nps.gov/hocu/learn/historyculture/camp-sherman.htm>

<sup>23</sup> Frank H. Ward, ed., "Camp Sherman Souvenir" (Cincinnati, Ohio: Lambertson Publishing Co., ca. 1918), 11.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> "Chillicothe Changed Overnight," 1; Ward, "Camp Sherman Souvenir," 11.

<sup>26</sup> *National Army Cantonments: Plans and Photographs* (Washington, D.C.: Construction Division, War Department, 1918), Plate No. 40; Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 17.

for 13,000 carpenters and many more laborers, and used over 2,000 carloads of lumber.<sup>27</sup>

Most of the constructed buildings adhered to standardized architectural plans. Various types of standard plans had been introduced in the Army during the 1860s, although it took many decades until they were utilized throughout the services. A consolidation of Army posts in the 1890s and associated construction in remaining posts provided an opportunity for the Quartermaster Department to develop hundreds of standard plans on a nation-wide scale. Standard plans were subsequently used for housing, administration, stables, communications, and training.<sup>28</sup>

By 1914, the Advisory Architect of the Constructing Division of the Quartermaster Corps had developed plans for temporary mobilization camps. The plans, designated the “600 series,” depicted modular buildings of wood-plank construction sheathed in board-and-batten siding. A 1917 revised plan for barracks depicted stud construction sheathed in horizontal siding. The typical WWI recruit training cantonment was comprised of barracks, laundries, bakeries, mess halls, hospitals, infirmaries, storehouses, stables, latrines, and administrative buildings, and most (except barracks) were constructed as temporary, one-story, wood-frame buildings. Cantonment buildings were arranged linearly, to house troops in organized military units.<sup>29</sup> WW I temporary construction is an early example of large-scale modular construction and formed the basis for the standardized 700 and 800 series of construction plans developed for World War II (WWII) mobilization.<sup>30</sup>

One of the advantages of standardized construction for repetitive buildings is speed. The most common structures at Camp Sherman were the enlisted men’s barracks. The Army plan for these cantonments’ layout was based on the company unit as the basic building block. A new enlisted barracks plan was developed by the Cantonment Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps in 1917, and it was utilized heavily at Camp Sherman. The barracks housed an entire 200-man company, and included a kitchen and mess hall. The two-story building was 43' x 140', with entries on the long sides (Figure 2 and Figure 3). These large buildings were replicated

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<sup>27</sup> “Chillicothe Changed Overnight,” 1.

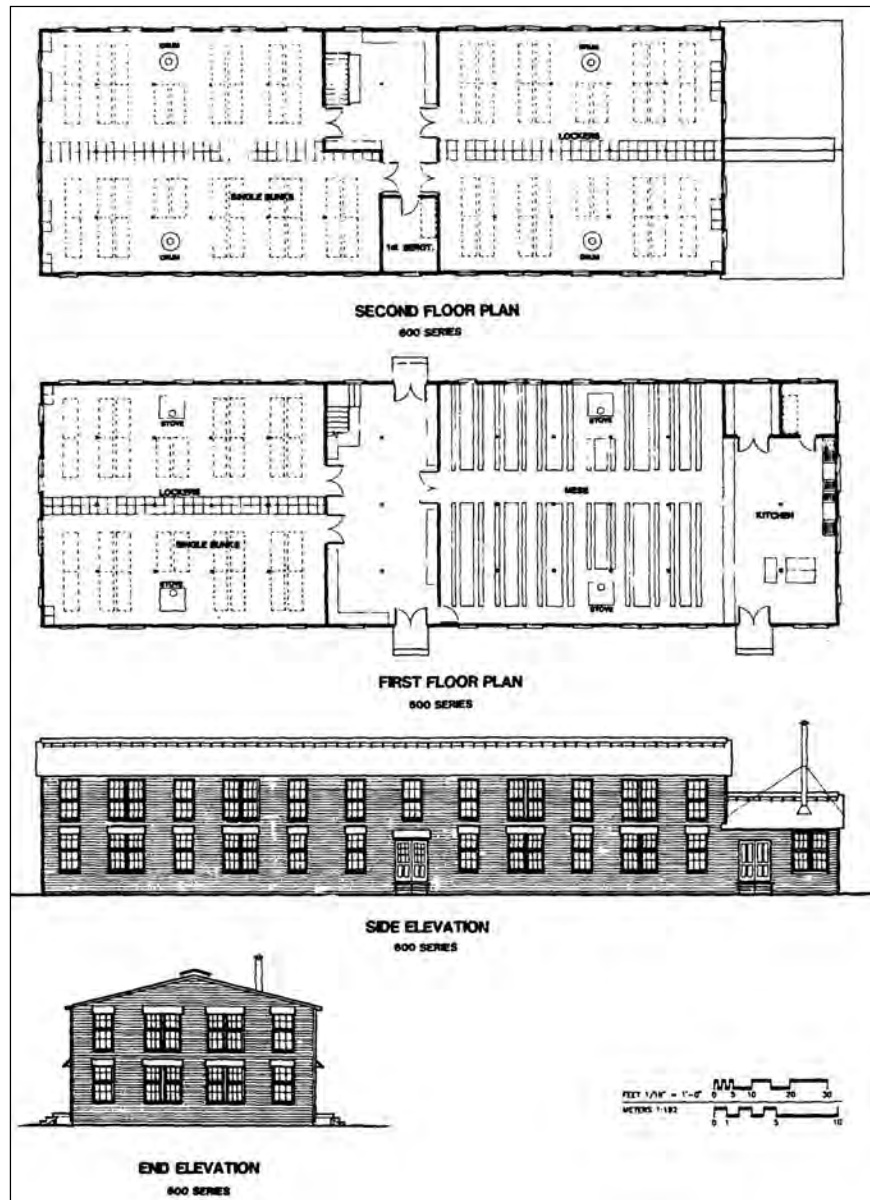
<sup>28</sup> Cannan, *National Historic Context for Department of Defense Installations*, 29, 47.

<sup>29</sup> *ibid.*, paragraph extracted verbatim., 199.

<sup>30</sup> *ibid.*

across the camps and were the central features of a WWI cantonment layout.<sup>31</sup> Groups of barracks would also have associated one-story lavatories and one-story officer's quarters in the immediate vicinity. The groupings were then repeated in a linear fashion down the central axis of the camp.<sup>32</sup>

Figure 2. WWI company barracks, standard plan (Garner 1993).



<sup>31</sup> John S. Garner, "World War II Temporary Military Buildings: A Brief History of the Architecture and Planning of Cantonments and Training Stations in the United States" (Champaign, IL: U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, 1993), 25.

<sup>32</sup> Construction Division of the Army, *Manual of the Construction Division of the Army* (Washington, D.C.: Section C, Engineering Division, U.S. Army, 1919), C-11.

This standard design and layout allowed the camps to be built with great speed, essentially creating a city in three months. At Camp Sherman:

It was reported that a barracks was completed every twenty minutes. This was possible because a couple of hundred men swarmed in as groups, each group doing its part. The first group would establish the footers for one barracks and move on to the next, the second group moving in to add flooring, the next would add walls, and so it would go until several barracks were finished with an average of twenty minutes each.<sup>33</sup>

Figure 3. Example of two-story enlisted barracks at Camp Sherman (*National Army Cantonments 1918*).



Most construction was completed on the east side of S.R. 104 by 11 July 1917. The first officers and men arrived on 5 September with the camp's construction at 95 percent completion after only two months of work. On 7 September, the Army increased the number of troops in a regiment, resulting in the need for 150 additional buildings at Camp Sherman.<sup>34</sup> C. H. Hollingsworth, general superintendent of A. Bentley Sons & Co. described how the large project was organized so the workmen knew where to report for work:

The camp was originally designed to contain one division, including infantry, artillery, and various subsidiary organizations. On the ground the camp was divided off into sections, each section being given a letter, running from A to Z, with additional names to designate outside Sections, such as remount station, sewage-

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<sup>33</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 27.

<sup>34</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 1.

disposal plants, quartermaster's warehouse, etc. These sections were numbered on the plans and blue prints, and along the main highway were erected large signs giving the section letter (see photos), so that a person could readily find his way to the various sections. In directing men or supplies, these section letters were always used.<sup>35</sup>

Two sections of the camp, N and O at the northern end, were constructed in an area containing burial mounds and ceremonial deposits of the Hopewell Native American culture. The mounds had been documented in the 1840s while still in pristine condition, but subsequent agricultural use had diminished the height of the mounds and created other disturbances. The Mound City Group, as this site was known, was acquired by the government as part of the Camp Sherman construction. The camp layout plan meant the two sections would be covered with two-story barracks. Due to the efforts of local preservationists, the Army was persuaded to try to limit further destruction of the mounds. The Army's method of constructing the buildings on piers instead of a complete foundation helped to slightly decrease the possible damage, and one barracks was sited perpendicular to the others to help protect Mound #7, the largest of the group (Figure 4).<sup>36</sup>

Initial construction was finished in October 1917, with a total of 48,000 men (replacements were common) employed in the construction of all necessary facilities including 1,528 buildings. Averaging across the entire three months of the project, this amounted to one building erected about every 38 minutes. The result was a camp equipped to house 45,000 men and approximately 12,000 horses and mules, at a total cost of approximately \$9.65 million.<sup>37</sup>

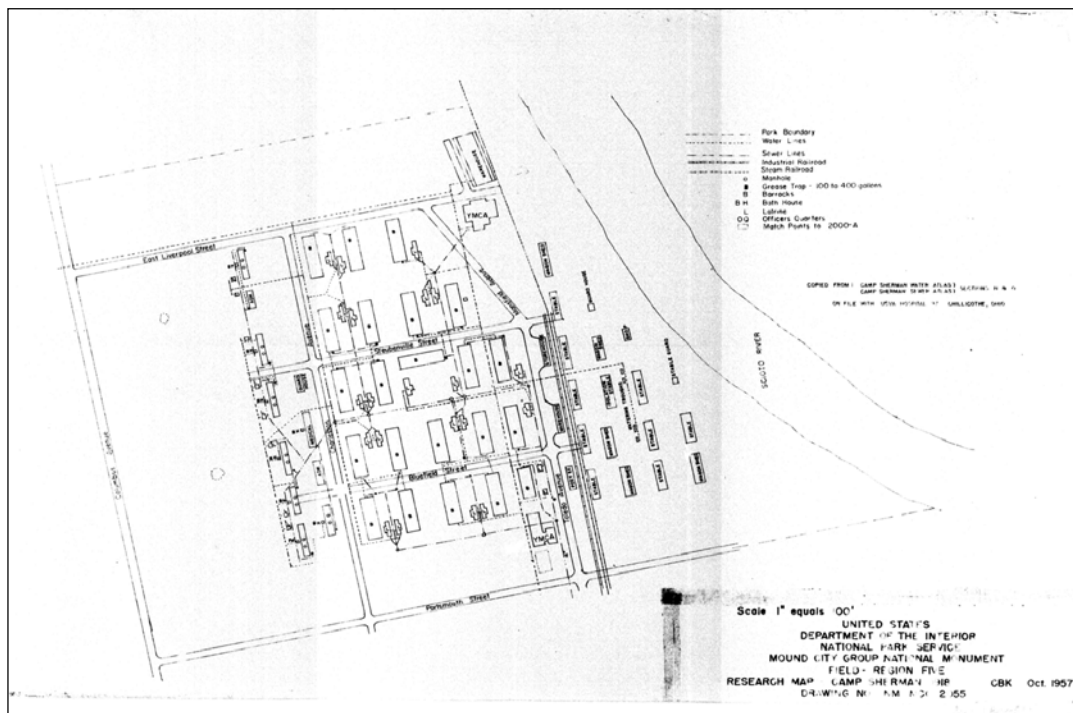
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<sup>35</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, "War Expenditures: Hearings before Subcommittee No. 2 (Camps) of the Select Committee on Expenditures in the War Department" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919), 2578.

<sup>36</sup> Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, "Camp Sherman;" Bret J. Ruby, "Authenticity and Integrity of the Mound City Group," draft report (Chillicothe, OH: Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, 2013), 6-7.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, "War Expenditures," 2543, 2545, 2551.

Figure 4. Map of the Mound City Group showing arrangement of Army buildings, 1957 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Although the main construction effort was completed and the camp was occupied, various other construction efforts were initiated in fall 1917. Beginning on 1 November, the D. W. McGrath [& Sons] company of Columbus, Ohio, undertook a series of contracts for “alterations, additions, and repairs” as needed at Camp Sherman.<sup>38</sup> This work was not fully completed until the first part of 1919. The supplemental projects included additional hospital facilities (including 12 convalescent wards), barracks, mess halls, kitchens, roads, and railroads.<sup>39</sup> A second contract this firm received in early September 1918 was for construction of the northern extension of the camp.<sup>40</sup> This contract also covered construction of a detention camp at the far north edge of the installation, consisting of a grid of 20' x 20' housing units.

Some construction continued after the Armistice ended the war, because about half the buildings in the camp extension were completed for use by soldiers arriving at Camp Sherman for demobilization after the war

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*, 2085.

<sup>39</sup> *ibid.*, 2083–2084, 2095.

<sup>40</sup> *ibid.*, 2095, 2101.

ended.<sup>41</sup> In the course of 1.5 years, the quiet rural valley was completely transformed. The total number of buildings constructed was reported in the *Camp Sherman News* as 1,870 in April 1919. Several years later, the total cost of building and equipping Camp Sherman was estimated at \$10 million.<sup>42</sup>

### 3.2 Description of Camp Sherman

At its largest extent, Camp Sherman included the Main Camp, the Hospital Area, the Camp Extension, the Detention Camp, the Maneuver Grounds, the Artillery Range, and the Rifle Range (Figure 5 and Figure 6). Tonetti provides an overview of the results of Camp Sherman's construction activity:

Transportation routes in and around the camp, including the B&O railroad, S.R. 104, and Pleasant Valley Road, shaped Camp Sherman. Buildings were aligned to these routes and they defined areas within the camp. The camp consisted of barracks, training ground, social, recreational, and ecclesiastical buildings, a 50-building hospital group connected by walkways, laundry services, facilities for 12,000 horses and mules, a grain elevator, warehouses, a standard-gauge railroad spur, a narrow-gauge industrial railroad, a modern septic system, and a rifle range, built across the Scioto River in Springfield Township on the Scioto River terrace against the western side of Mount Logan... At the south end, closest to railroad access, were warehouses, stabling, laundry, and other service facilities. In two columns paralleling each side of S.R. 104 were barracks, officer's quarters, latrines and other outbuildings. They were set back several hundred feet to provide training grounds and fire breaks. In the south-central part of the camp, on the west side of S.R. 104 near Pleasant Valley Road, was a group of recreational and social buildings called the Community Group. The Ohio & Erie Canal had been abandoned and drained, and a few buildings were built in the canal bed along S.R. 104. These buildings included a fire station, four post exchanges, two film theaters, and a film and stage theater.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> "The Quartermaster at Camp Sherman," *The Camp Sherman News*, 10 April 1919, 17.

<sup>42</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, "War Expenditures," 2287.

<sup>43</sup> Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 17–18.

Figure 5. Location of Camp Sherman, showing outlying training ranges, 1918  
(National Army Cantonments).

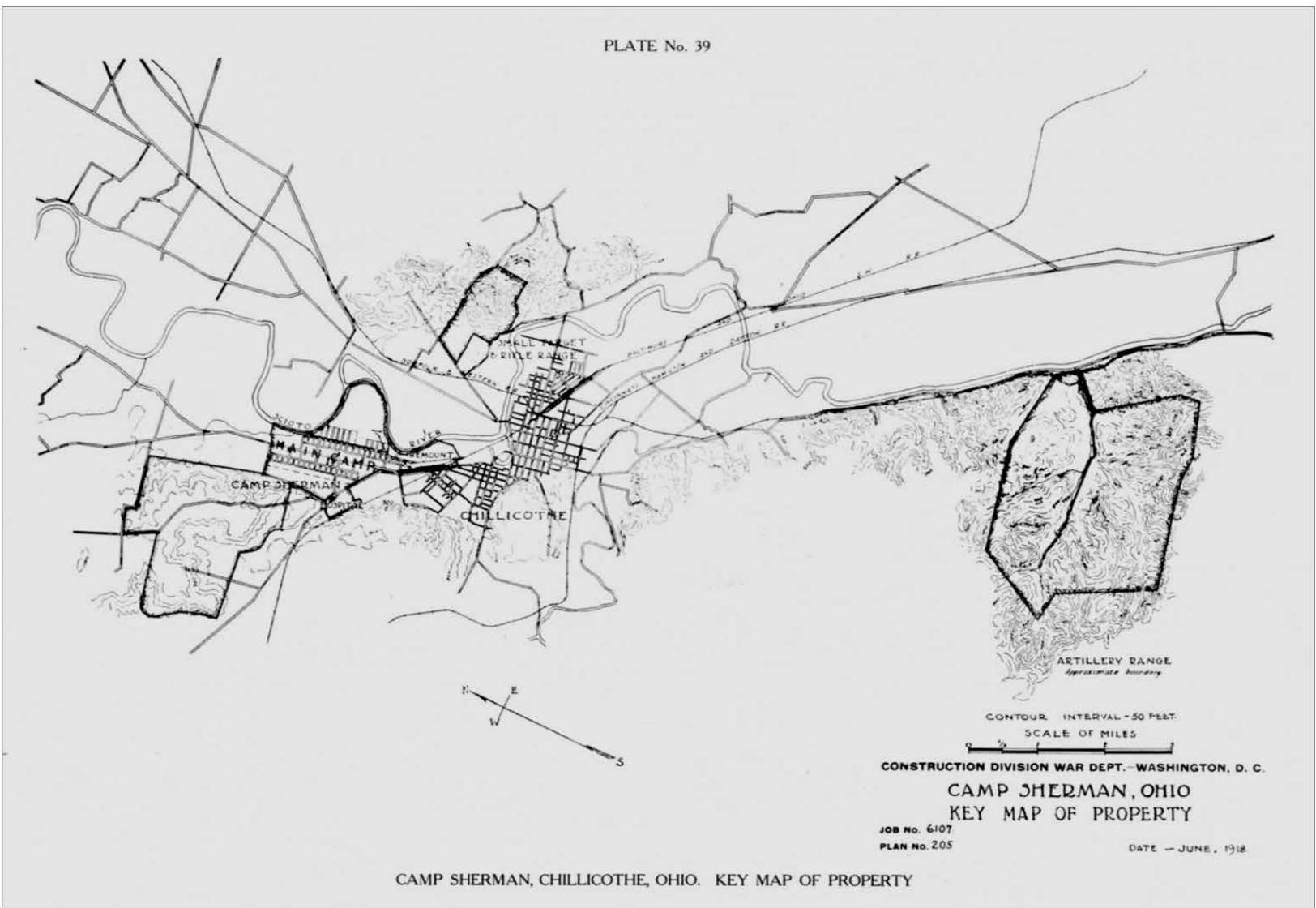
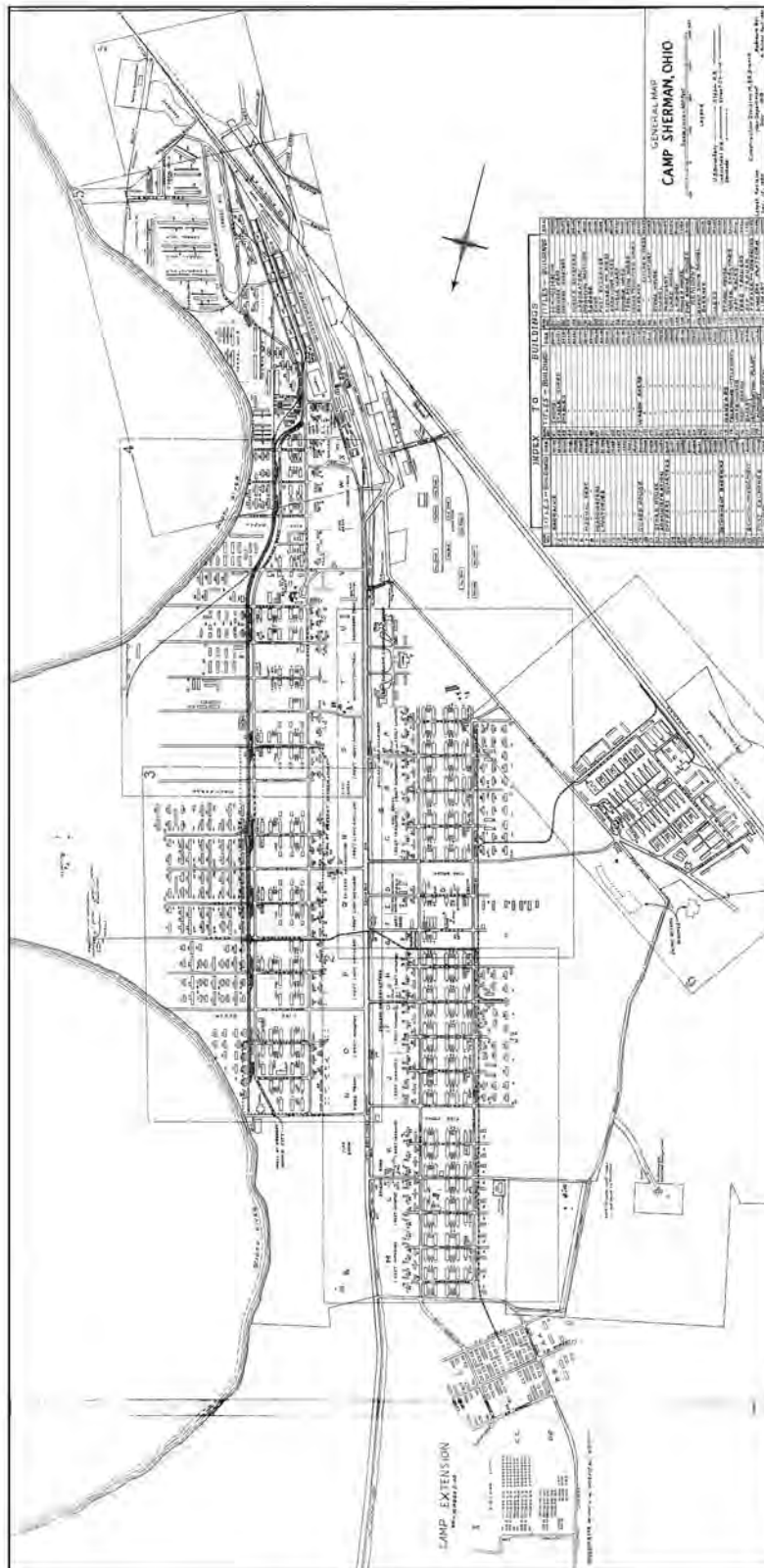


Figure 6. Camp Sherman in 1919  
(Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



There were existing buildings on portions of the land acquired for the camp. One of these was a large structure built in 1808, known as the Phillips farmhouse. The imposing building was utilized as headquarters during the life of Camp Sherman (Figure 7). This was not a new use for the building, as it had served as a headquarters in 1812, as part of Camp Bull, a British prisoner of war (POW) camp. The building was next used during the Civil War as a muster site for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and during the Spanish-American War, as a muster site for troops of Company H of Chillicothe.<sup>44</sup>

Figure 7. Headquarters Building (Ward, *Camp Sherman Souvenir*, circa 1918).



There were many camp exchanges that were built to offer goods for sale to the soldiers (Figure 8). Each section of camp had an exchange of its own, but there was also a main facility, Camp Exchange No. 1, located near the major social and recreational area of Camp Sherman, the Community Group, at the southern end of the western barracks sections. The exchanges served as gathering spots for the troops as well as personal supply points.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 20–21.

<sup>45</sup> *ibid.*, 22.

Figure 8. The Main Post Exchange, circa 1918 post card by the Corte-Scope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



The largest building in the camp was the laundry (Figure 9), located near the southern end of the camp. The laundry was so vast that it was designed with a sawtooth roof to allow light for the interior. All of the camp's laundry was processed here, and it eventually received laundry from other camps as well.<sup>46</sup>

Figure 9. Camp Sherman laundry facility, 1918 (*National Army Cantonments*). The saw-tooth roof design is visible at the left side of this photo.

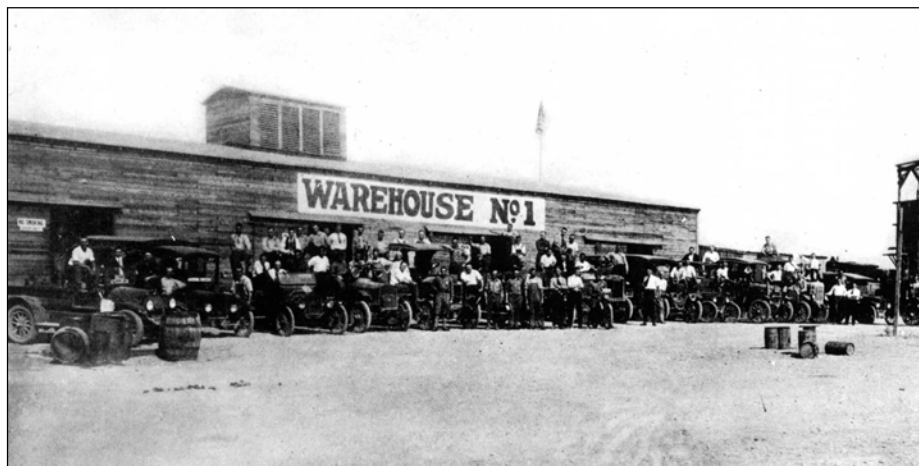


Vast amounts of supplies were needed to run Camp Sherman. The Quartermaster Department managed supplies that included uniforms, food, and fuel (mostly coal). Most of the materiel came by train to the rail yard at the southern end of the camp. There were 12 warehouses in this

<sup>46</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 2.

area to store nonperishable materiel (Figure 10). There also was a refrigeration plant for perishable goods in the same area.<sup>47</sup>

Figure 10. One of twelve warehouses in the quartermaster section of the camp (Ward, *Souvenir of Camp Sherman*, circa 1918).



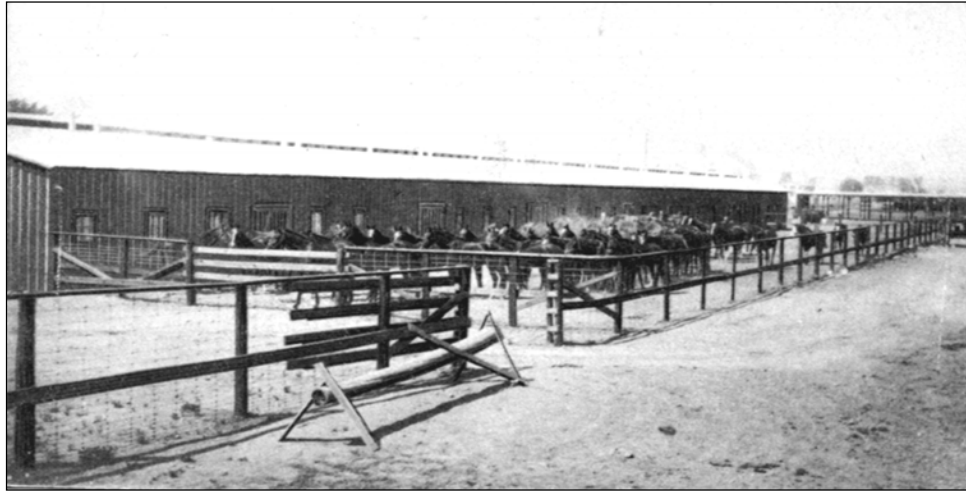
In addition to supplies for the men, there were 9,000 horses and mules to care for and train. Although military transport was shifting to motor vehicles (Figure 10), animal power was still essential in the WWI era. Most transport of goods throughout the camp was accomplished by horse-drawn vehicles. The animals were also used to haul artillery guns and other large weapons. The area of the post dedicated to the horses and mules was located in the southern end, just north of the quartermaster area (Figure 11). The activity associated with acquiring, training, feeding, and housing the animals was known as “remount.” The area with the horses and mules was known as the Remount Station, and the camp’s organization included a remount division to carry out these activities.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> *ibid.*, 32.

<sup>48</sup> *ibid.*, 40; “The Quartermaster at Camp Sherman,” 17.

Figure 11. One of the many corrals for the Camp Sherman horses and mules, circa 1918, published by the Scholl Printing Company, Chillicothe, Ohio (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



For free time, the soldiers had access to the largest collection of social support services in the state, including contract facilities run by the YMCA, the Knights of Columbus, War Camp Community Service, Y.W.C.A., Jewish Welfare Board, American Library Association, and the Salvation Army. Nurses and other female camp employees lived in the Y.W.C. A. building. Additional services were provided by the Red Cross, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Masons, the Elks, and the Odd Fellows. These facilities provided recreation, dining, education, and relaxation areas, and there were also rooms in lodges for relatives of soldiers, rented at \$1 per day. The Red Cross Community House was the largest of these facilities and offered reading, dining, and dancing facilities (Figure 12). The Community House was praised as an elegant haven:

In three weeks from the time of beginning, the Community House was opened, and its restaurant served dinner to nine hundred people. A real dinner, too, on linen, with flowers and silver and china. And the stage at the opposite end was hung with its blue velvet curtains and open fires gleamed, and low lamps with golden silk shades glowed, and the band played, and father and mother and sister, who had come disconsolately to see Jack bearing the hardships of war, found themselves seated in deep leather chairs, watching that same Jack dance with the prettiest girl on the floor. <sup>49</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Mary Robert Rinehart, "The Camp Sherman Community Project," in *The Camp Sherman Community, Camp Sherman, Ohio* (Chillicothe, Ohio: The Camp Sherman Community Committee), 26.

Figure 12. Camp Sherman Community House, a Red Cross facility  
(Ward, *Camp Sherman Souvenir*, circa 1918).



There were also churches representing several denominations in the camp. The Community House unfortunately did not survive as long as Camp Sherman, burning to the ground in 1920. By far the most utilized of the services were those provided by the YMCA. With 11 buildings in camp, there were 8.5 million visits recorded between September 1917 and September 1918. These YMCA “huts” supplied materials for writing letters, reading areas, motion picture screenings, educational classes, religious observances, and a small library (Figure 13). The YMCA also hosted an athletic department that organized many kinds of sports and games.<sup>50</sup> The YMCA constructed an auditorium with a capacity of 4,000 in the camp, and it was used for important lectures, entertainments, motion picture screenings, and basketball practice. The organization had a staff of 70 at the camp to run the various facilities.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> “Provide Every Home Comfort,” *The Celina Democrat*, 29 November 1918, 8.

<sup>51</sup> Lieutenant Alleyne C. Howell, *The Camp Workers and Their Work* (Columbus, OH: The F. J. Heer Printing Company, 1918), 18.

Figure 13. Inside one of the eleven YMCA buildings on post, post card by the Cortescope Co, Cleveland, Ohio, (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



Facilities for both live theater and movies were constructed at Camp Sherman. The Liberty Theater was located in the center of the cantonment, with a seating capacity of 1,300 and a large stage for productions (Figure 14). It was built by the Commission on Training Camp Activities and had a civilian manager. A variety of offerings were staged including musicals, plays, and vaudeville, as well as motion pictures were shown. Two additional movie theaters were constructed at the camp and operated by the camp exchange, showing first-run films.<sup>52</sup>

Figure 14. Liberty Theater at Camp Sherman, 1917 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



The camp boasted a large library provided by the American Library Association and completed in December 1917 (Figure 15). Originally stacked with 15,000 volumes, further contributions from various libraries

<sup>52</sup> Seibert, *History of the Ohio State University*, Volume IV, 12.

and library organizations increased the collection to 40,000 volumes by the end of 1918. There were also 22 branch libraries across the camp.<sup>53</sup> The building that was once used as the camp library is one of only four surviving buildings constructed for Camp Sherman. It now serves as a (remodeled) hay shed for farms belonging to the Ross Correctional Institution (Figure 16).

Figure 15. Camp Sherman Library, circa 1918 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Figure 16. Former Camp Sherman Library (building in back with open doorway), now part of the Ross Correctional Institute, 2014 (ERDC-CERL).



The Hospital Group was also constructed according to standard plans. “Most cantonment hospitals were one thousand-bed pavilion hospitals with corridors connecting the far flung buildings. Each building houses open wards for fourteen to one hundred patients with a private room near the nurses’ station for those patients who required closer supervision.”<sup>54</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Seibert, *History of the Ohio State University*, Volume IV, 12-13.

<sup>54</sup> Sarnecky, Mary T, *A History of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999), 123.

Construction of the Hospital Group at Camp Sherman began in 1917 and continued into 1918 (Figure 17). Patients were placed in wards holding several dozen men (Figure 18). The facility was so large, it needed a dedicated power plant to support its 50 plus buildings (Figure 19).

Figure 17. Camp Sherman Hospital Group under construction, 1918  
(*National Army Cantonments*).

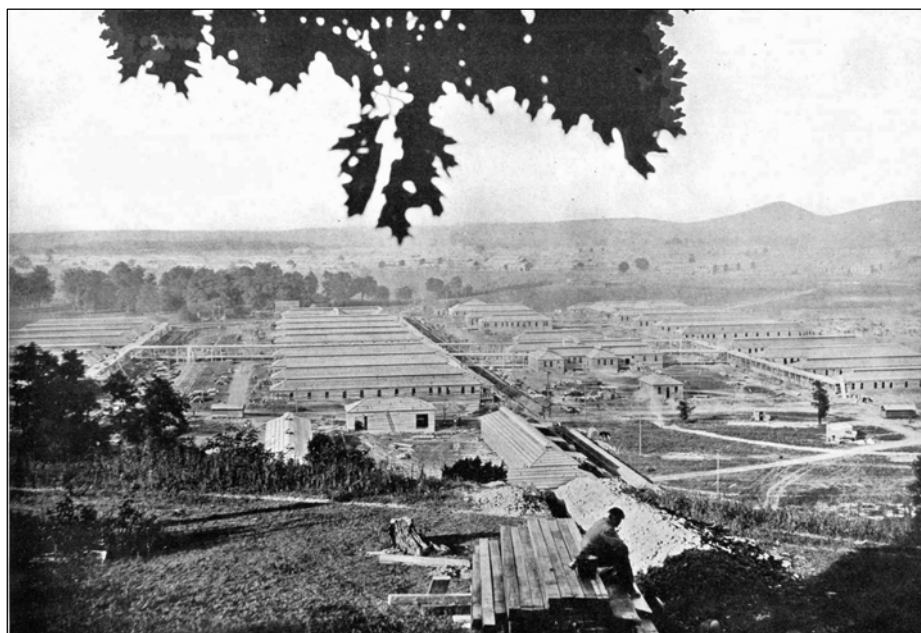


Figure 18. Interior of a Camp Sherman Hospital ward, circa 1918  
(Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).

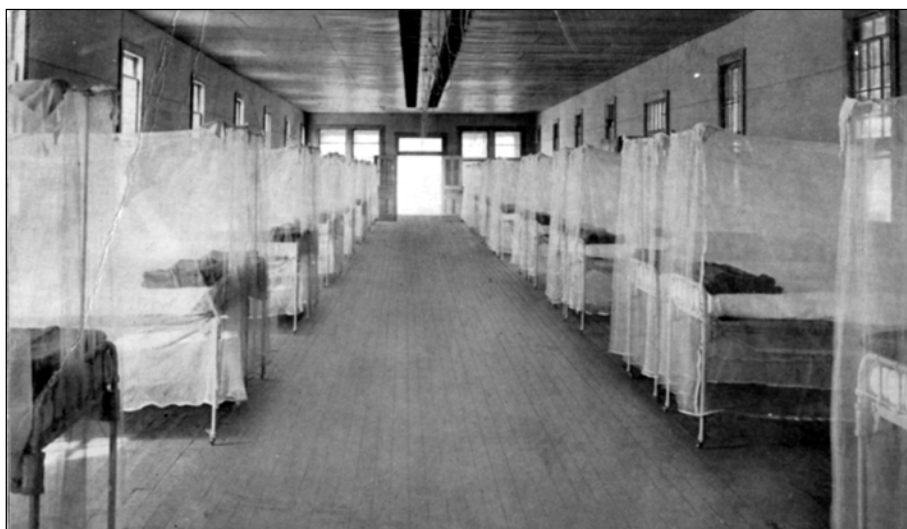
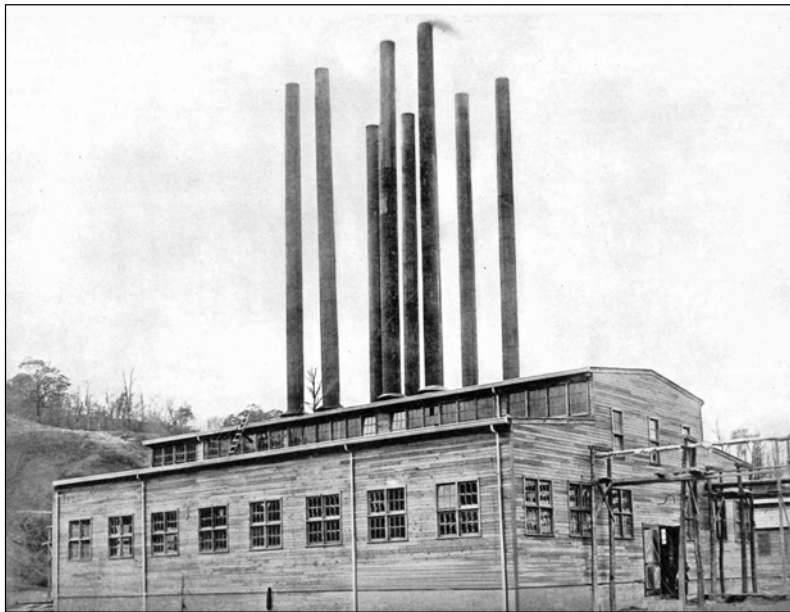


Figure 19. Power plant for the Camp Sherman Hospital Group, 1918  
(*National Army Cantonments*).



By the fall of 1917, the camp hospital had established departments of medical service, pathology, neuropsychiatry, roentgenology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, venereal service, gas defense, and tuberculosis. Army Nurse Corps and Red Cross nurses tended the patients (Figure 20). The nursing staff numbers fluctuated with patient levels, ranging from a low of 42 to a high of more than 100.<sup>55</sup>

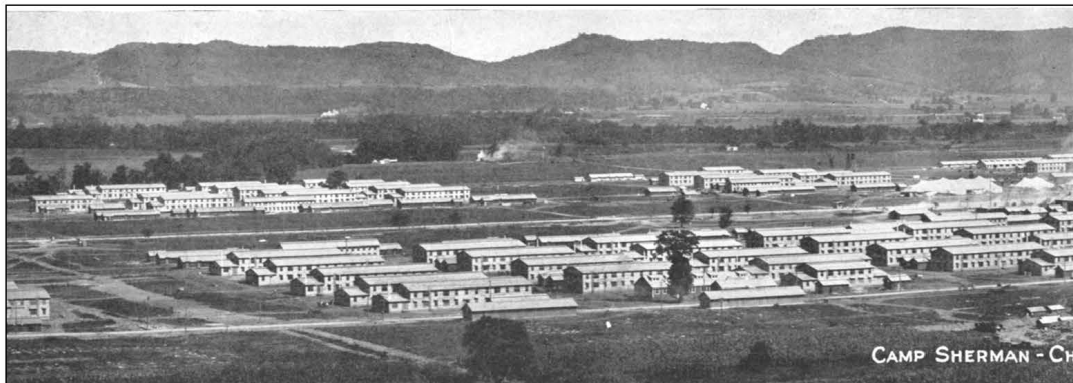
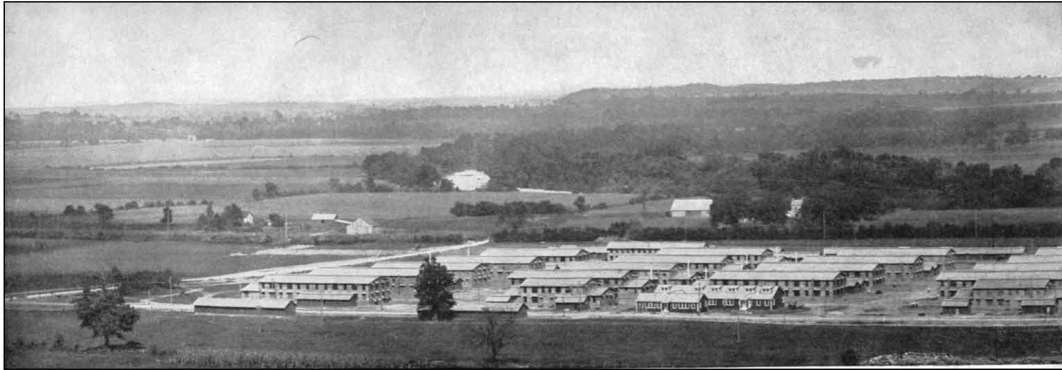
Figure 20. Massage class at the Camp Sherman Hospital Group, circa 1918  
(“Stateside Nursing in WWI”).

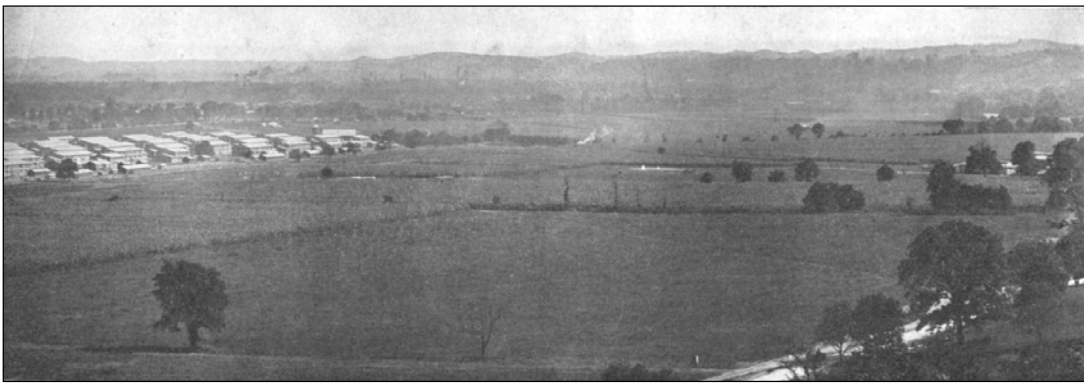
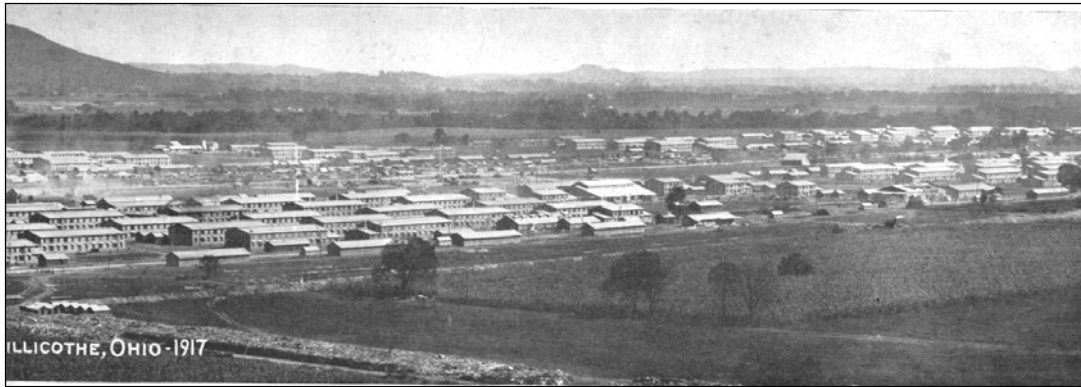


Figure 21 is a panoramic photograph, shown here in six parts on two pages that, when viewed top to bottom, gives a view of the completed Camp Sherman in 1917 from north to south.

<sup>55</sup> Ward, *Camp Sherman Souvenir*, 19.

Figure 21. Panoramic view of Camp Sherman, shown here in six parts, that depicts Camp Sherman from north to south in 1917, when viewed here from left to right, in sequence from top to bottom. (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).





### 3.3 Units and training at Camp Sherman

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Division of the Army organized and trained at Camp Sherman, made up mostly of Ohioans (Figure 22 and Figure 23). Commanding the troops was Major General Edwin F. Glenn, previously serving at Fort Benjamin Harrison. According to Mr. Hollingsworth of A. Bentley Sons & Co., the initial occupants of Camp Sherman were organized as follows:

The camp included accommodations for five regiments of Infantry, two regiments of Light Artillery, one regiment of Heavy Artillery, two training

battalions, one supply train, one ammunition train, one Sanitary train, one regiment of Engineers, one Engineer train, a detachment of military police, a bakery detachment, Field Signal battalion, telegraph battalion, machine-gun and trench mortar detachments, one remount station for 10,000 animals, one base hospital, four brigade headquarters, and one division headquarters.<sup>56</sup>

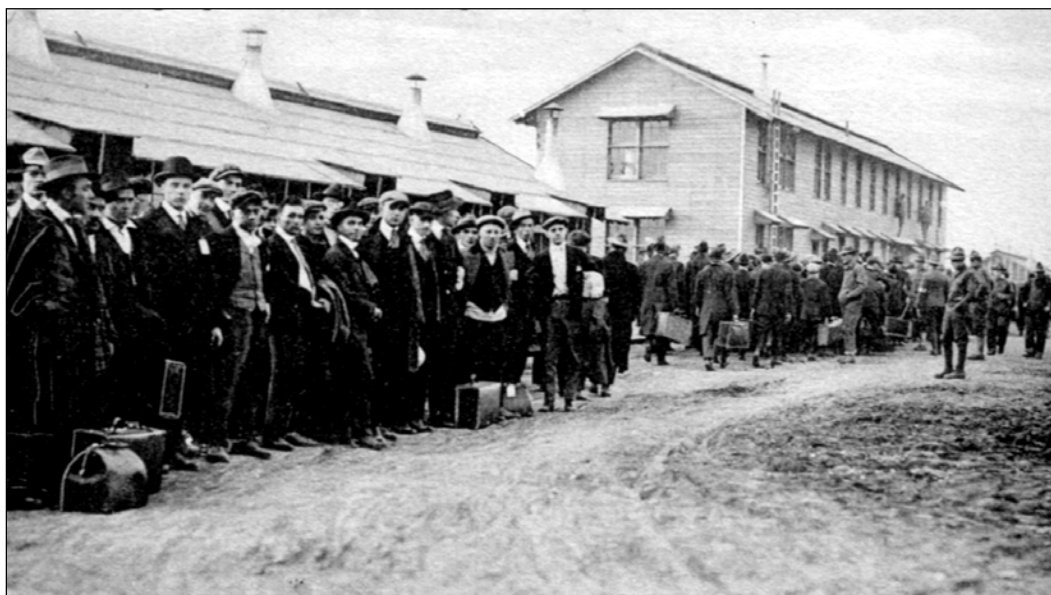
Figure 22. The first recruits arrive at Camp Sherman, 1917 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



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<sup>56</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, "War Expenditures," 2578.

Figure 23. New recruits arrive at Camp Sherman, post card by the Corte-Scope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



In all, four Army divisions received training at Camp Sherman. The 83rd Division shipped out 5 June 1918 for Europe. Almost immediately afterward, the 84th Division transferred to Camp Sherman from Camp Taylor, Kentucky. After training, the 84th departed for Europe in late August. The next month, a group of noncommissioned officers arrived to organize the 95th Division. Joining this group were 50 officers and 75 enlisted men from the British and French armies, assigned to train the recruits in European methods of combat.<sup>57</sup> The 95th was placed in the newly added camp extension to the north. A few regiments of the 96th Division were shortly added, but both these divisions did not complete their training, as it was ended when the Armistice ended WWI on 11 November 1918.<sup>58</sup>

The first stop for inductees upon reaching Camp Sherman was a medical examination and vaccinations against typhoid. Administration provided identification cards, and uniforms were issued. In acknowledgement of the inductees' "softness" from civilian life, they were eased into training with initially only one hour of marching and physical exercise. The other hours were spent in studying about military life and other pursuits. Over the course of their training, physical efforts were increased as the men became

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<sup>57</sup> This practice had begun on a smaller level with the 83rd Division's training.

<sup>58</sup> Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, "Camp Sherman;" Siebert, *History of the Ohio State University, Volume IV*, 15-16.

more fit.<sup>59</sup> Barracks and mess halls became major components of the soldiers' lives, providing some relaxation time (Figure 24 and Figure 25).

Figure 24. Soldiers relaxing in their barracks, circa 1918, post card by the Cortescope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



Figure 25. One of many mess halls for soldiers, circa 1918 post card by the Cortescope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



<sup>59</sup> Ward, "Camp Sherman Souvenir," 15.

Much of the training occurred in areas near the barracks, taking advantage of the wide central road and set-back buildings. Activities such as drilling, and classes on weapon components and use, and various communication techniques utilized these spaces (Figure 26–Figure 29). More formal drilling and regimental reviews took place at the Parade Ground (Figure 30).

Figure 26. Men in formation in the barracks area  
(Ward, *Camp Sherman Souvenir*, circa 1918).



Figure 27. Signal Corps practice, published by the Diehl Office Equipment Co., Columbus, Ohio (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Figure 28. Field artillery training at Camp Sherman, circa 1918, post card by the Corte-Scope Co., Cleveland, Ohio (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Figure 29. Machine gun training near barracks, circa 1918, post card by the Corte-Scope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).

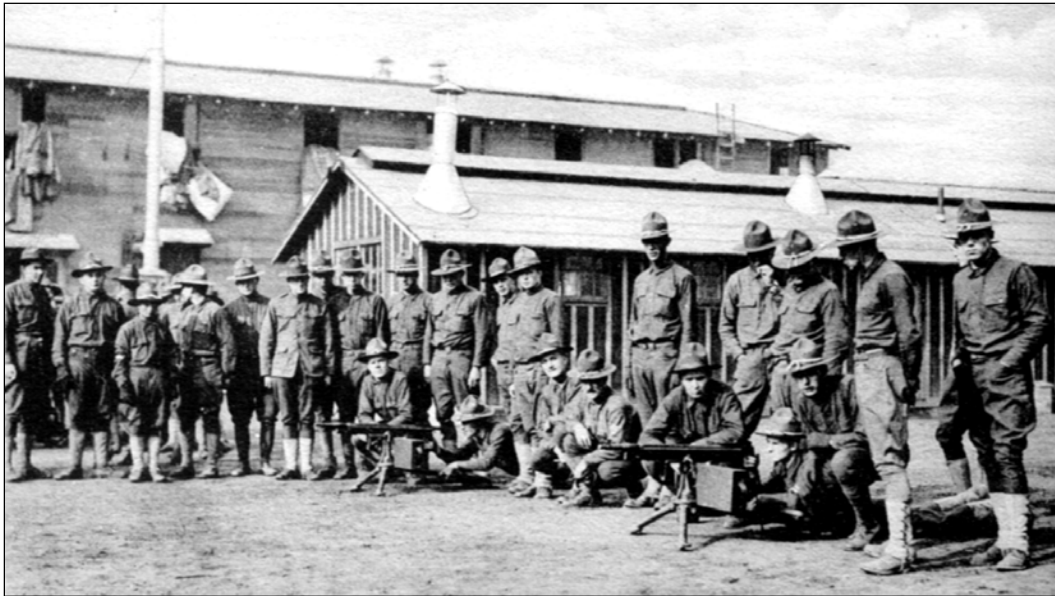
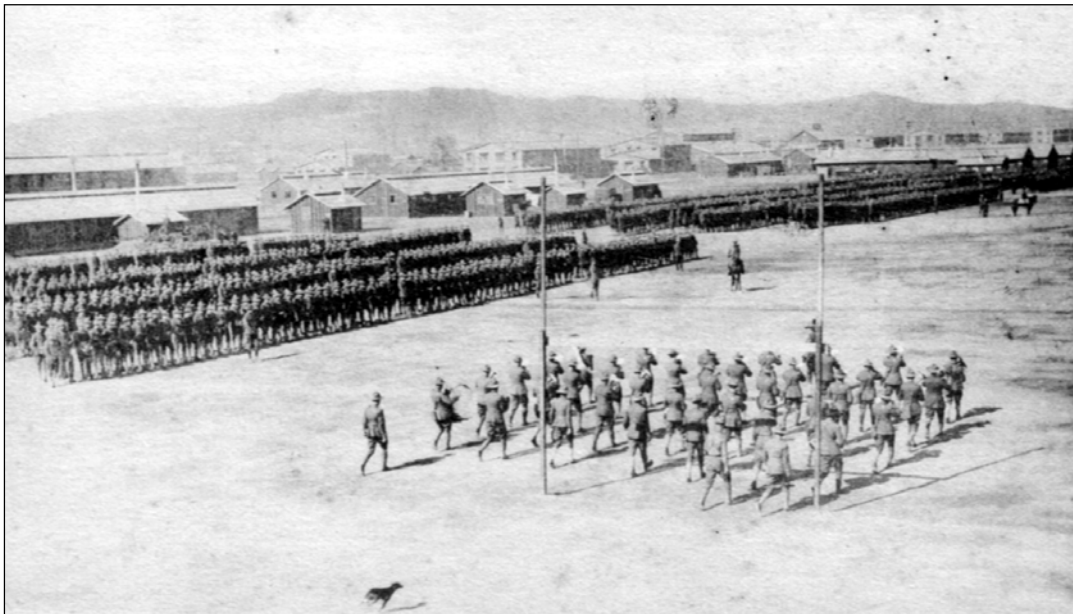


Figure 30. Regimental Review on parade ground, circa 1918, post card by the Cortescope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



In addition to training activities in the main camp, the installation trained recruits on the Maneuver Grounds, Artillery Range, and Rifle Range. The Maneuver Grounds were used to teach combat tactics, crucial in training soldiers for the trench warfare that characterized WWI (Figure 31). The Artillery Range was the first among National Army cantonments, laid out at a place called Stony Creek, about 10–12 miles south of the main camp. Due to the distance, soldiers training to fire Army guns had facilities in place at the range including a hospital, tents, and a YMCA hut.<sup>60</sup> Firing commenced at the range on 14 January 1918.<sup>61</sup> The Rifle Range is discussed in Section 3.4.

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<sup>60</sup> Ward, "Camp Sherman Souvenir," 23.

<sup>61</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 21.

Figure 31. Completed trench at the Maneuver Grounds, circa 1918, post card by the Corte-Scope Co, Cleveland, Ohio (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



By the time their training was completed, the soldiers were fit and had gained experience relevant to the tasks assigned their unit. A 1917 article in *The Democratic Banner* provides a look at their capabilities:

Practically every infantryman has had his turn at trench digging. That means that the great majority of four regiments of infantry and nine depot or training battalions, or more than 15,000 men have learned what "digging in" means. They know how to construct trenches that they are very soon going to line in and they have learned what trenches are like, what parapets are and the many other things that one reads of in European war dispatches but never sees in this country.

Nearly all battery members of the two light field artillery regiments have practiced fighting formations about real three-inch field pieces and they have had a turn at handling, studying and being around pieces that resemble very much the famous French 75's that they are going to turn on the Hun before many months.

Men in the heavy artillery have taken a swing at fixing gun emplacements and pits and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of some Russian guns that this week's announcements have on the way here.

French officers and non-commissioned officers have put in their first week of helping along with the training. The rudiments of the automatic

rifle have been taught. A grenade field has been mapped-out and trenches made in it. Field fortifications have been explained to many. Bayonet exercises have been taken up by a number. Bomb throwing is being improved upon. Organizations are becoming more complete in make-up with appointments of many non-commissioned officers and addition of new men.<sup>62</sup>

### 3.3.1 German “guests”

Due to bad timing, the crews of two German ocean liners (converted to German Navy service) were in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, Virginia, when America declared war in April 1917. The crews were interned, and the ships became troop carriers for the U.S. Navy. About 100 German POWs arrived at Camp Sherman for internment on 2 July 1918, and they were placed in two fenced-off Section R barracks next to the vegetable farm where they were put to work. The camp commander had to declare the facility off limits due to the large numbers of soldiers wanting to see them and take photographs. Another 100 arrived on 7 November 1918, causing the stockade area to be enlarged. There were plans to move them to the new camp extension, but the end of the war made those plans unnecessary. It was not until early in September 1919 that plans were in place to send the POWs home, and the prisoners were moved to Georgia for processing and release.<sup>63</sup>

### 3.3.2 A presidential portrait

On 21 October 1918, the men of the camp were immortalized by Arthur Mole, a Chicago photographer. He and his partner, Mr. Thomas, assembled 21,000 officers and enlisted men on the camp’s parade ground. A 76-foot tower was constructed, from which the photograph was taken. Arranging the men precisely, some in dark clothes and some in light, he produced a striking portrait of President Woodrow Wilson (Figure 32). The assemblage of men occupied a space 210 feet wide and 710 feet long.<sup>64</sup>

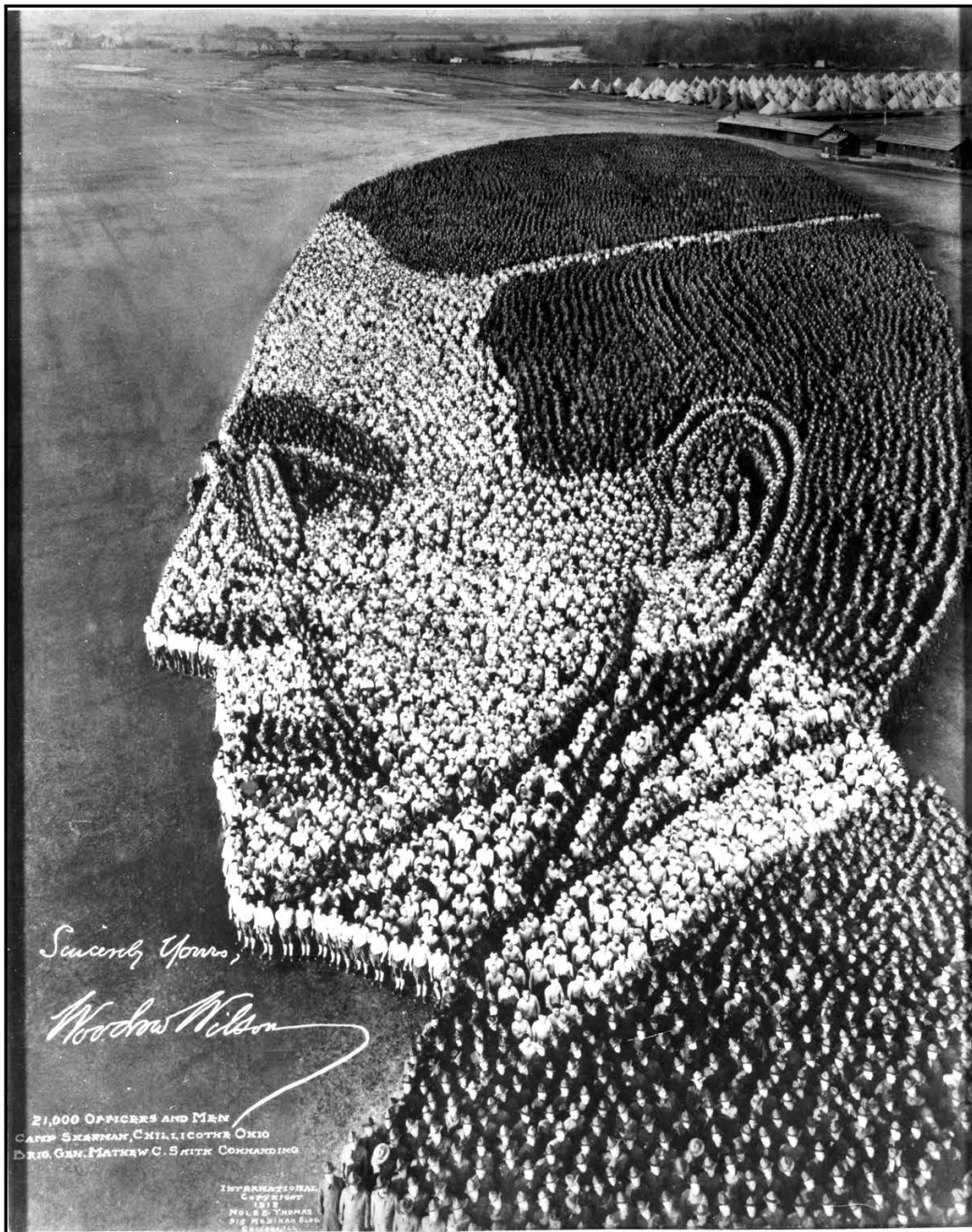
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<sup>62</sup> “Notes from Camp Sherman,” *The Democratic Banner*, 20 November 1917, 3.

<sup>63</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio’s WWI Soldier Factory*, 98-103.

<sup>64</sup> “President Wilson is Combed and Brushed on Camp Sherman Parade Ground for Photograph,” *The Camp Sherman News*, 5 November 1918, 5.

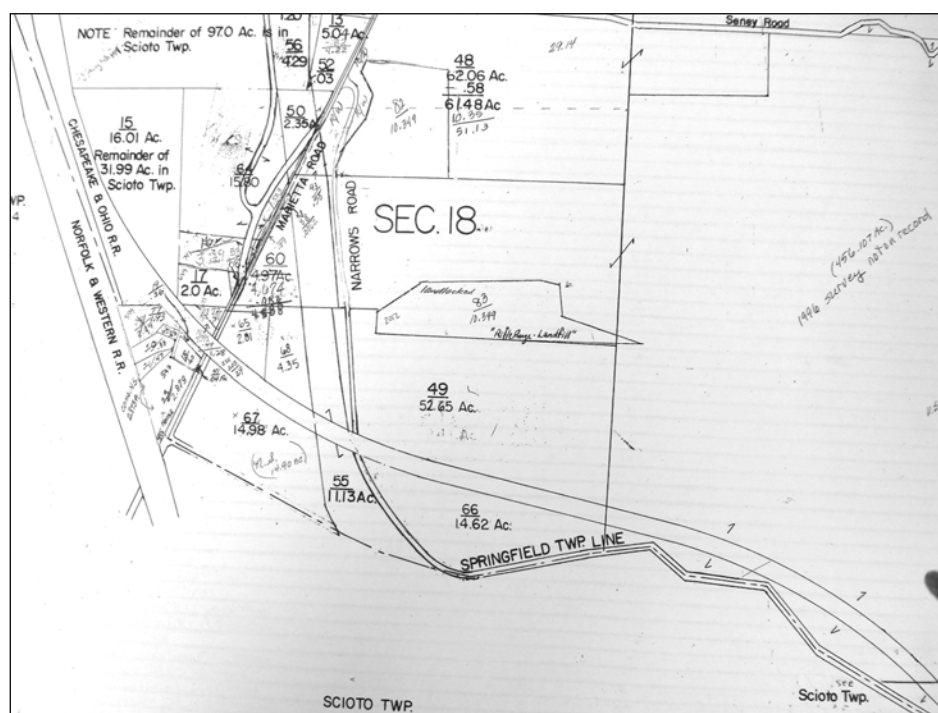
Figure 32. Thousands of Camp Sherman men create a portrait of President Woodrow Wilson, 1918 (Photograph by Noble and Thomas; Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



### 3.4 Fort Sherman Rifle Range<sup>65</sup>

The rifle range site, several miles east of the camp at the base of Mount Logan, was acquired by condemnation proceedings filed by Colonel Lawrence D. Cabell, Division Quartermaster at the camp (Figure 33). The four landowners were William H. West, Mary Johnson, Andrew Krug, and William Mettler, and the condemnation proceedings for their land were underway by 27 October 1917.<sup>66</sup>

Figure 33. Part of the land plat showing the area occupied by the Camp Sherman Rifle Range (Ross County Courthouse).



The \$50,000 contract for constructing the Rifle Range went to D.W. McGrath, and construction occurred in November and December 1917.<sup>67</sup> Located across the Scioto River from the main camp, the range was laid out with the base of Mount Logan behind the targets.<sup>68</sup> The firm was directed to complete the range as quickly as possible regardless of the weather. In order to accomplish this, 2,000–3,000 camp soldiers were

<sup>65</sup> Because the rifle range is the only area of Camp Sherman that remains in Army ownership, this report emphasizes this particular feature of the camp.

<sup>66</sup> "Rifle Range Decided; Mt. Logan Is Background," *Scioto Gazette*, 27 October 1917, 1.

<sup>67</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, "War Expenditures," 2104, 2514.

<sup>68</sup> Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center and Barracks*, 18–19.

assigned to assist with the construction. The work involved clearing the land, digging firing and target trenches, constructing a low ridge directly in front of the targets, setting up target mechanisms, and building firing platforms and targets.”<sup>69</sup> It was also necessary to bridge the Scioto River to provide soldiers access for walking from the camp to the range.<sup>70</sup> Pontoon bridges were used at first, but a 435-foot suspension bridge was in place by the spring of 1918.<sup>71</sup>

The range had three separate, parallel sections (north, south, and middle), and each section contained a range from 60 to 90 targets. Firing points were set up for 1,000-, 700-, 600-, 500-, 300-, 200-, and 100-yard distances. The entire range was one-half mile from north to south.<sup>72</sup> It is likely the range distances moved south to north along the entire range, with the shortest firing distances at the southern end.<sup>73</sup> The range was ready for use in late December, and the 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry began training immediately.<sup>74</sup>

Prior to their range training, troops spent a week at camp preparing for the range practice. The camp training consisted of lectures, drills, and movements to familiarize themselves with the Lee-Enfield rifle. Drills included exercises for position, aiming, trigger squeeze, sighting, and triangulation.<sup>75</sup> Once on the range, the soldiers practiced firing at the targets while standing in a wood-lined trench (Figure 34), lying prone behind a wooden parapet, or standing with their rifle resting on a platform that mimicked the top of a trench wall in height (Figure 35). At the target end of the range, a trench held the mechanism for raising and lowering the targets (Figure 36). The targets contained silhouettes of the upper part of a kneeling man, and were colored to blend in with the surroundings. Training methods were improved and by spring 1918, a more realistic

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<sup>69</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 14.

<sup>71</sup> *ibid.*, 107.

<sup>72</sup> Ward, *Camp Sherman Souvenir*, 25; Tonetti, *Phase I Archeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 20.

<sup>73</sup> “New Men End Rifle Practice Within a Week,” *The Eighty-Third Division News*, 8 May 1918, 1.

<sup>74</sup> “331<sup>st</sup> Infantry Out on Target Practice,” *The Eighty-Third Division News*, 19 December 1917, n.p.; “Expert with Rifles When Not Loaded,” *The Eighty-Third Division News*, 19 December 1917, n.p.

<sup>75</sup> “Expert with Rifles When Not Loaded,” n.p.

combat practice was in place with targets popping up at various angles and quickly retreating.<sup>76</sup>

An early account of the travails of the Rifle Range was printed in a local newspaper in 1968, looking back 50 years at Camp Sherman:

The firing range at old Camp Sherman during World War 1 was a long march from camp to the base of historic Mt. Logan. It was reached by way of a narrow suspension bridge which swayed sickeningly to the measured tempo of the marching soldiers and was an experience in itself. At the rifle range some troops were assigned to duty in the pits and some to learning marksmanship. The pit detail hovered in earth bunkers under the paper targets, lowered them after each round, held a marker aloft to show where the bullets hit and repaired the target with paper and paste. Inevitably they were showered with dirt and particles of earth when the beginner marksmen aimed low and their bullets struck the rear of the bunker. It was an all-day assignment and at noon a cook's truck arrived with some unsavory victuals with cold coffee slopped over the pie by the lurching truck.<sup>77</sup>

Figure 34. Postcard image showing men at the Camp Sherman Rifle Range, circa 1918 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



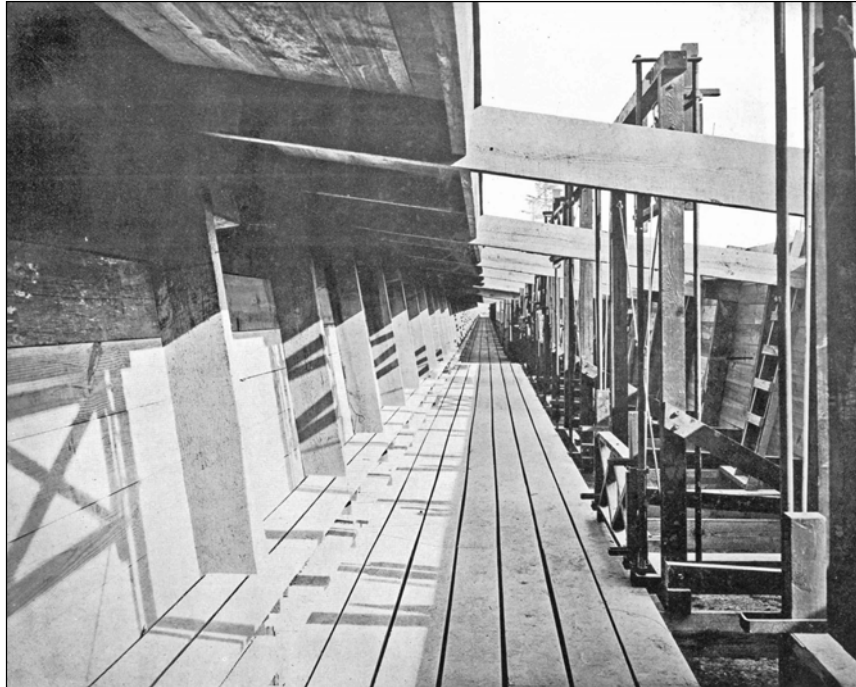
<sup>76</sup> Tonetti, *Phase I Archeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 19.

<sup>77</sup> Ray Higgins, "Came the False Armistice but Weary Soldiers Unaware," *Xenia Daily Gazette*, 7 September 1968, 4.

Figure 35. Image of men at the Camp Sherman Rifle Range, practicing firing from platforms simulating trench wall height (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Figure 36. Target trench at Camp Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky, similar to the one at Camp Sherman, with targeting mechanism visible on the right, 1918 (*National Army Cantonments*).



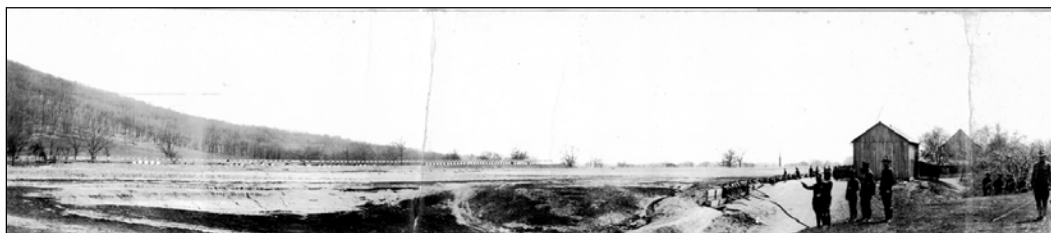
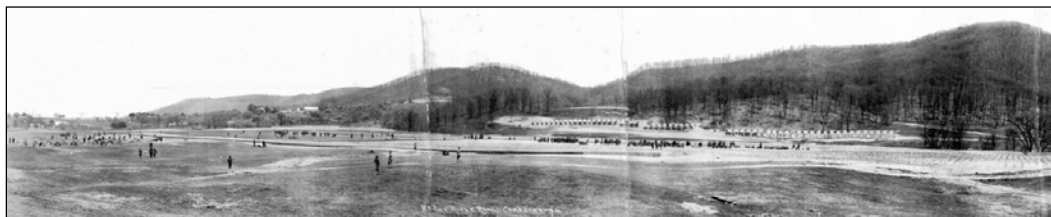
By spring 1918, target pits were manned by experienced soldiers so that trainees could spend all their time on firing practice. Instruction was given by both regular and noncommissioned officers assigned to the companies training at the range. Even though it was only a few miles walk each way, trainees often camped at the range to provide more training time. Practice

went on continually from 7 o'clock in the morning until it became too dark to see.<sup>78</sup> As the need for soldiers in Europe ramped up, the numbers training at the Rifle Range increased from 2,500–4,000 men per week in April 1918 to 14,000 men during one two-week session in May 1918.<sup>79</sup>

Kitchens were set up on site to provide meals, and tents provided shelter. In the evenings, there were a variety of entertainments ranging from informal music, to Victrolas, and to more organized events such as band concerts. The YMCA had a presence, with a hut where they offered a place for gathering and social activities.<sup>80</sup> At least once, the YMCA organized soldier/performers and brought a show to the range on the back of a truck complete with jazz band, soloists, quartet, and vaudevillians.<sup>81</sup>

Figure 37 is a panoramic photograph in three parts, showing the completed version of Camp Sherman in 1917 from north to south.

Figure 37. Panorama view (l-r, from top) of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range, circa 1918 (Ross County Historical Society).



<sup>78</sup> "New Men End Rifle Practice Within a Week."

<sup>79</sup> Tonetti, *Phase I Archeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 19–20.

<sup>80</sup> "New Men End Rifle Practice Within a Week."

<sup>81</sup> "Vaudeville Show at Rifle Range," *The Camp Sherman News*, 15 May 1918, n.p.

## 4 History of the Camp Sherman Site after World War I

### 4.1 Discharge station

On 16 November 1918, Camp Sherman received notification that an initial 12,000 men were to be discharged. It was announced on 26 November that Camp Sherman was to be utilized as a discharge station for its own troops as well as returning overseas troops from other Army facilities.<sup>82</sup> Upon initiation of the discharging process on 4 December, men were leaving at the rate of 1,500 per day.<sup>83</sup> The 83<sup>rd</sup> Division returned to Camp Sherman for discharge and demobilization on 8 October 1919.<sup>84</sup> The 95<sup>th</sup> Division was demobilized at the camp on 22 December 1919.<sup>85</sup> During this demobilization effort, injured soldiers were still arriving at the camp hospital. The Army kept 10,000 men at Camp Sherman in four Training and two Development Battalions, as well as the units necessary for camp maintenance. The Training Battalions would serve as camp guards, and the Development Battalions were planned to be used for vocational training of returning wounded soldiers.<sup>86</sup> By 16 July 1920, all but the remaining hospitalized soldiers had been discharged from the camp.<sup>87</sup> Camp Sherman was among the last WWI Army training camps to be decommissioned pursuant to War Department General Order 33 on 27 July 1921, but troops were still stationed at the peace-time Army camp in the first part of 1922.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> "Demobilization Point," *The Celina Democrat*, 29 November 1918, 8.

<sup>83</sup> Jamie Vosvick and Alan C. Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center, Chillicothe, Springfield Township, Ross County, Ohio* (Columbus, Ohio: ASC Group, Inc., 2004), 18.

<sup>84</sup> Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Steven E. Clay, *U.S. Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*, Volume 1 (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2010), 254.

<sup>85</sup> *ibid.*, 269.

<sup>86</sup> "500 Men to Depart for Homes Daily, Under Plans made for Demobilizing Depot Brigade," *The Camp Sherman News*, 19 November 1918, 1.

<sup>87</sup> Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center*, 18.

<sup>88</sup> Clay, *U.S. Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*, 357.

## 4.2 Disposal of property

Today, the only remains of the Camp Sherman's infrastructure are the camp's library building, now located off Moundsville Road and serving as hay storage; three temporary buildings (an engineering storage building, a rehabilitation medicine storage building, and a baling shed) located at the Chillicothe Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital and used for storage; and two pairs of concrete gateposts. There is also a house located at the VA facility that predates Camp Sherman, but was utilized by the Army when it was made part of the camp. Known as Mace House, it is used as a training center and a museum. One pair of gateposts is still in their original location, at the Wharf Street entrance to the southern end of the camp. A second pair of concrete gateposts was found buried in 2007 near the camp's north entrance. These posts were restored and relocated to the north entrance of the expanded hospital facilities which expanded over the years and are now known as the Chillicothe VA Medical Center.<sup>89</sup>

By early 1919, supplies and other property at Camp Sherman were put up for auction. First to be auctioned in January were over 1,000 horses and mules, along with their equipment.<sup>90</sup> Auctions and direct sales would continue for years for other property including clothing and buildings. The buildings were occasionally bought intact and moved, but far more commonly, the buildings were dismantled and the lumber reused elsewhere. This dismantling process continued as the lumber was needed, or as the buildings were taken for use by individuals or other organizations.<sup>91</sup>

## 4.3 Local, state, and federal uses of former Camp Sherman land

Local efforts were made to retain Camp Sherman, as residents believed it to be critical to the local economy. An article in *The Cincinnati* on 18 August 1921 presciently speaks to possible uses of the camp or the camp's lands:

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<sup>89</sup> "Camp Sherman," northamericanforts.com; VA Medical Center, "The Price of Freedom...A Brief History of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center," VA Pamphlet 538-89 (Chillicothe, Ohio: VA Medical Center, 2011), 7; Sandy Mays, Chillicothe VA Medical Center Public Affairs, telephone interview with author, 30 July 2015.

<sup>90</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 125.

<sup>91</sup> Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center*, 18.

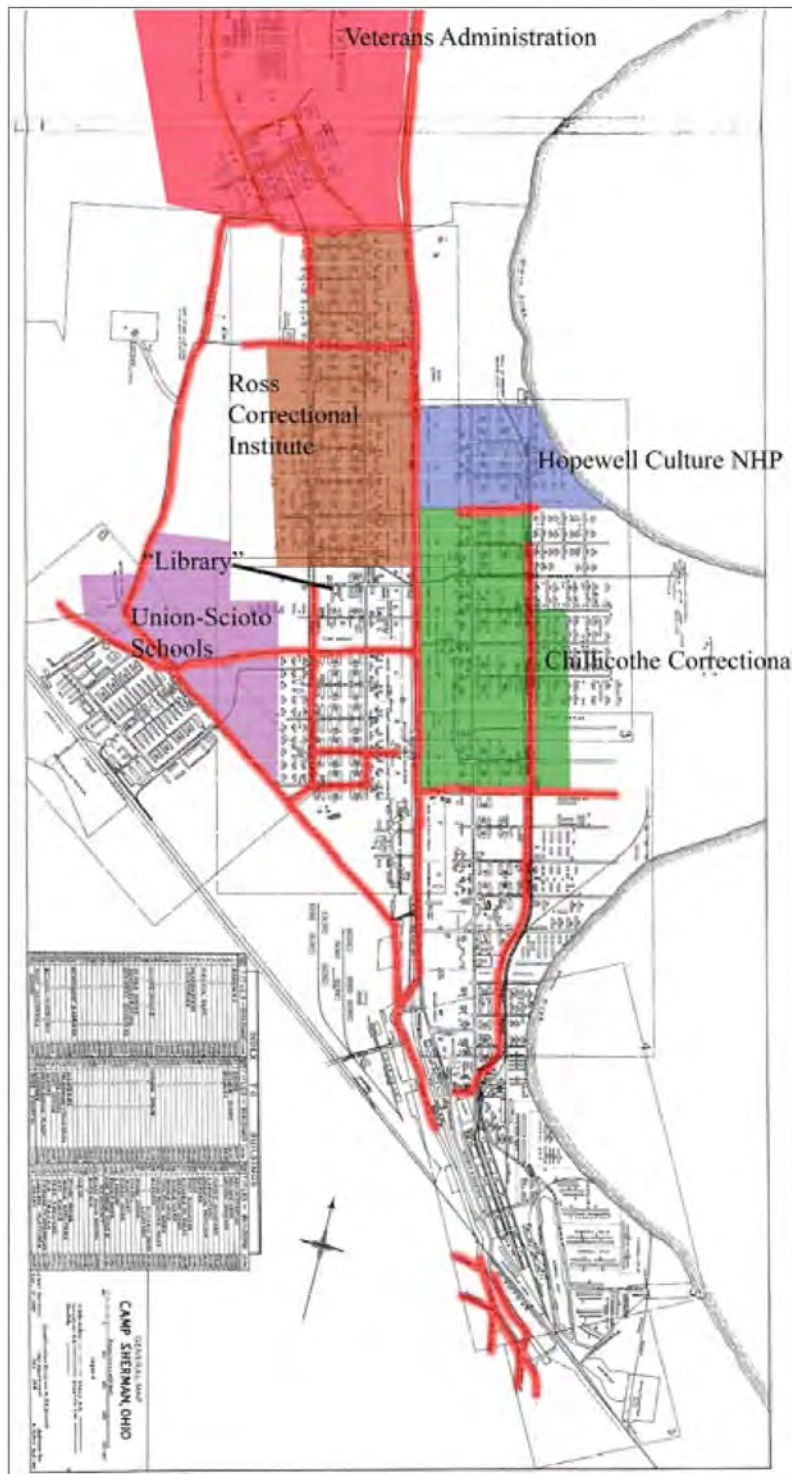
Hope still is being entertained by the Chamber of Commerce that its efforts to prevent the abandonment of Camp Sherman at Chillicothe, by the Government will be successful. While the War Department has expressed its intention to dismantle the cantonment, retaining only the land, roads and underground systems for future emergencies, the Department of Justice has taken cognizance of the request of the Chamber of Commerce with a view of having the camp utilized. According to a letter received Saturday from the office of Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty, the matter of the retention of Camp Sherman has been taken up by him with the Administration and with the War Department, it being suggested by him that the post be used as a penal institution where first offenders may learn some useful occupation while serving out their terms of commitment. It is expected that both President Harding and Congress will approve this plan.”<sup>92</sup>

The Camp Sherman land was designated a federal reservation and over the course of the next decade, several new uses for the land developed. These uses included the Veterans Bureau Hospital, the restored “Mound City” Hopewell Earthworks, the Federal Reformatory, and the Scioto Trail State Forest. Over time, the hospital became the Chillicothe Veterans Administration Hospital, the reformatory became the Chillicothe Correctional Institution (CCI), and the Hopewell Earthworks are now part of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. A second penal institution, the Ross Correctional Institution (RCI) has been added to the location, and several schools for the Union-Scioto School District have been built on former camp grounds. The location of these facilities in their current incarnations is overlaid on a 1919 Camp Sherman map in Figure 38. A current aerial view is shown side-by-side with the same 1919 map in Figure 39.

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<sup>92</sup> “Demand to Retain Camp Sherman is Encouraged,” *The Cincinnati*, 18 August, 1921, 7.

Figure 38. Current governmental uses of former Camp Sherman property, with extant camp roads in red (base map from Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio, and overlay done by ERDC-CERL).<sup>93</sup>



<sup>93</sup> NOTE: Map does not include the Rifle Range, former Artillery Range, or former Maneuver Grounds.

Figure 39. Side-by-side comparison of 1919 Camp Sherman layout (left) with aerial view (right) of current land use on former Camp Sherman land (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio, and ERDC-CERL).



#### 4.3.1 National Guard history and armories

The oldest among the United States military services, the National Guard began when early Colonial militias organized for local protection. Over the years, these early units received more training and became sufficiently proficient to have played significant roles in the Revolutionary War.<sup>94</sup> The militias remained after the new nation's independence was achieved, and they were called on to provide supplementary force when needed for national defense. State militia troops were utilized in large numbers for the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War.<sup>95</sup>

State and federal legislation during these years gave the militias a more organized and nationally supported framework, and by the early years of

<sup>94</sup> David Super, Julia Miller, and Renee Hylton, *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories* (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000), 1.

<sup>95</sup> *ibid.*

the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “National Guard” became their official title. Considered to constitute a federal reserve force, the National Guard is under orders from the respective state governors during peacetime, but by the U.S. president when called up for national service.<sup>96</sup>

The all-volunteer Army and Air Force National Guard units are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in several U.S. territories. Although equipped and trained to the same level as active duty personnel, National Guard units have both state and federal missions. In addition to responding to federal defense requirements, National Guard troops often serve as first responders during local incidents or emergencies.<sup>97</sup>

Militia units ususally had no central building for training or equipment storage. The idea for armories to fullfill these purposes arose in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in piecemeal fashion. The need for a large open space in which to practice marching and close-order drill in bad weather could be resolved by renting a floor in a large commercial building in the largest cities. Ammunition manufacture and storage facilities (arsenals) were available in a few states, but often lacked the necessary open space.<sup>98</sup>

Incidents of civil unrest, such as the Civil War draft riots in New York City, and post-Civil War labor unrest sparked the construction of dedicated buldings for state militias. These tended to be in the larger urban areas, and were constructed to appear as fortified buildings, in a style that became known as “castellated gothic.”<sup>99</sup> The armories contained administrative and storage areas, and a large drill area. The drill area was used for training and also for social functions. These social functions were either organized for the troops in training, or the large area was rented by community groups for social events, which is a pattern of use that continues today.<sup>100</sup> In Chillicothe, an Ohio National Guard armory was constructed in 1926 as part of a series of armories constructed across the state after WW I (Figure 40).<sup>101</sup> More utliitarian structures were built during the Great Depression with civil works project funds, and these new armories appeared largley in the south and southwestern part of the the

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<sup>96</sup> *ibid.*, 2.

<sup>97</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>98</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> *ibid.*, 3.

<sup>100</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>101</sup> “Yoctangee Park, Chillicothe, Ohio,” <http://www.chillicotheinfo.net/yoctangee-park.html>.

country. After WWII, smaller utilitarian armories were constructed across the country in smaller towns and often still serve as both military and community centers.<sup>102</sup> The armory shown in Figure 40 was given to the city of Chillicothe in 2005, once the Camp Sherman Readiness Center was under construction.

Figure 40. Former Chillicothe OHARNG Armory, 2014 (ERDC-CERL).



#### 4.3.2 Ohio Army National Guard

The OHARNG's history goes back to before statehood, when local militias protected settlers against attack by Native Americans. With statehood in 1803, a militia law was passed that laid out rules for organizing, equipping, and recruiting a state-wide militia.<sup>103</sup> The Ohio militia was first called up for national service in relation to the War of 1812, with three regiments formed and deployed to help defend neighboring Fort Detroit in Michigan Territory, while other members of the militia supported Army regulars at Fort Meigs near Toledo. Overall, 1,700 officers and 24,000 soldiers served in the militia during the war.<sup>104</sup> After the war, the state militia organization broke down, and local independent units were formed again.

In 1846, another call for national service arose from the Mexican War, and Army troops from Ohio rendezvoused near Cincinnati for deployment to

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<sup>102</sup> *ibid.*, 5.

<sup>103</sup> "Ohio National Guard History," (Columbus, OH: The Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2015), [http://www.ong.ohio.gov/information/history/history\\_index.html](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/information/history/history_index.html)

<sup>104</sup> *ibid.*

the front. By war's end, Ohio men involved in the war made up approximately one-eighth of all United States' land forces.<sup>105</sup> During the Civil War, Ohio supplied 319,000 men, and had casualties of 35,000. In addition, the governor of Ohio organized 41 regiments to assist with the defense of Washington, D.C., in 1864. These volunteers were the first to be formally known as the Ohio National Guard. In addition to protecting the nation's capital, regiments also remained in Ohio to guard Confederate POW camps.<sup>106</sup>

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, legislation provided funding for a more formal and professionally trained Ohio National Guard and units formed in most communities. Training, uniforms, and equipment were regulated, and standards were enforced by the Ohio Adjutant General. Ohio was not immune to the labor unrest of this period, and Ohio National Guard units were utilized to help protect citizens and property during the periodic violent strikes.<sup>107</sup>

After a short and fairly small involvement in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Ohio National Guard benefitted (as did all National Guard units) from the Militia Act of 1903 that provided increased funds and equipment in return for conformance to regular Army standards. In effect, this legislation changed National Guard units into a reserve component of the U.S. Army.<sup>108</sup> The Ohio National Guard was mobilized in 1916 for service along the United States' border with Mexico, and the following year took part in the vast mobilization for the first global conflict, WWI. The Ohio National Guard formed the 37<sup>th</sup> (Buckeye) Division at Camp Sheridan, Alabama, and several months later the division was deployed to France and Belgium. After returning from the war, Ohio National Guard units were reorganized and their training continued in a series of armories constructed across the state. There was also annual training at Camp Perry, on the shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio. An aviation unit was added in 1927 in Cleveland.<sup>109</sup>

The 37<sup>th</sup> Division arrived in the South Pacific in the summer of 1942 during the first year of WWII. The division fought battles on several

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<sup>105</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>109</sup> *ibid.*

different islands including a strategically important defense of airstrips on the island of Bougainville. Less than a year later in January 1945, the 37<sup>th</sup> had a leading role in the battle for Manila.<sup>110</sup> After the war, the Ohio National Guard was split into Army and Air National Guards. The 37<sup>th</sup> Division was federalized and sent to Korea in 1952 as individual replacement troops. In 1968, the 37<sup>th</sup> Division was disbanded, with the 73<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade and the 16<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade taking its place. These new units were soon tasked with security operations in various Ohio cities as a period of public riots shook the country in the late 1960s.<sup>111</sup> More recently, the OHARNG has been called on to protect and defend, as well as to fight, in such disparate places as Bosnia, Iraq, Central America, Egypt, and here at home, always serving with distinction and professionalism.<sup>112</sup>

#### **4.3.3 The Camp Sherman Rifle Range/ Ohio National Guard Camp Sherman Readiness Center**

When Camp Sherman was closed and the Veterans Bureau was using the former camp as a vocational training school, the rifle range was no longer needed by the Army. As with most of the remainder of the camp, the federal government kept ownership of the land, but at least part of the land was leased to the State of Ohio as early as 1922.<sup>113</sup> It could not be determined when the state first allowed the National Guard to utilize the land for training purposes, but the OHARNG took full control of the land in 1971.<sup>114</sup> The rifle range was likely used for troop training in anticipation of and during WWII, a use which necessitated updating the range in 1941. A new target butt was constructed, although it is not clear if they were updates of the existing ones or created from scratch.<sup>115</sup> No record of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range appears in the Adjutant General of Ohio's annual reports before 1947, although this does not necessarily mean the Ohio National Guard did not utilize the range.<sup>116</sup> The main training site for the organization was Camp Perry in northern Ohio, which possessed the largest and best firing range in the country. The 1947 annual report mentions plumbing work being done at the Camp Sherman Rifle Range,

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<sup>110</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Training Site*, 20.

<sup>114</sup> Clay, *U.S. Army Order of Battle 1919–1941*, 51.

<sup>115</sup> SFC Barnhart, Amory Range Control officer, interview by author, 4 November 2014.

<sup>116</sup> "Report of the Adjutant General of Ohio to the Governor of the State of Ohio," various years 1935–1964, Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collection, Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio.

and in the 1949 report, Camp Sherman Rifle Range is listed as one of eight active firing ranges and where a total of 2,401 men received training. The report's text infers that firing training had not occurred for some time:

For the first time, supplementary training in Section 97 of the National Defense Act for all Army Units of the Ohio National Guard was authorized by the National Guard Bureau in order to complete known distance firing with individual weapons on home ranges. Plans were made for firing the carbine, rifle, automatic rifle, sub-machine gun and pistol.<sup>117</sup>

An article in the *Zanesville Signal* from July 1950 mentions National Guard troops qualifying on the Camp Sherman firing range.<sup>118</sup> The 1960 Adjutant General's annual report lists Camp Sherman Rifle Range as one of the six rifle ranges being maintained and operated. There was also mention of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range's 467 acres being on a no-cost, indefinite lease from the federal government.<sup>119</sup>

In the early 1950s, the southernmost section of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range was declared surplus by the government and leased or sold to the City of Chillicothe. The city used the parcel to augment a larger area to the south that was converted to a landfill. There were protests at this plan, as the landfill would encroach on Mount Logan and desecrate the Great Seal of Ohio, which used an image of Mount Logan as its backdrop.<sup>120</sup> This protest was to no avail, however, as the landfill was developed as planned. On the northern end of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range land, a large parcel was also leased or sold to the City of Chillicothe and is used as a strip pit and dump.<sup>121</sup> In 1971, a portion on the western edge of the property abutting Marietta Road was given to the Ohio Department of Transportation for construction of the realignment of US Highway 23. The

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<sup>117</sup> D.F. Pancoast, Adjutant General, "Report of the Adjutant General of Ohio to the Governor of the State of Ohio for the Year 1946" (Columbus, Ohio: The F. J. Heer Printing Company, 1947), 20; Leo M. Kreber, Adjutant General, "Report of the Adjutant General of Ohio to the Governor of the State of Ohio, Jan. 1, 1949 to June 30, 1949" (Columbus, Ohio: The F. J. Heer Printing Company, 1950), 5.

<sup>118</sup> "Guard Qualify on Firing Range," *The Zanesville Signal*, 24 July 1950, 2.

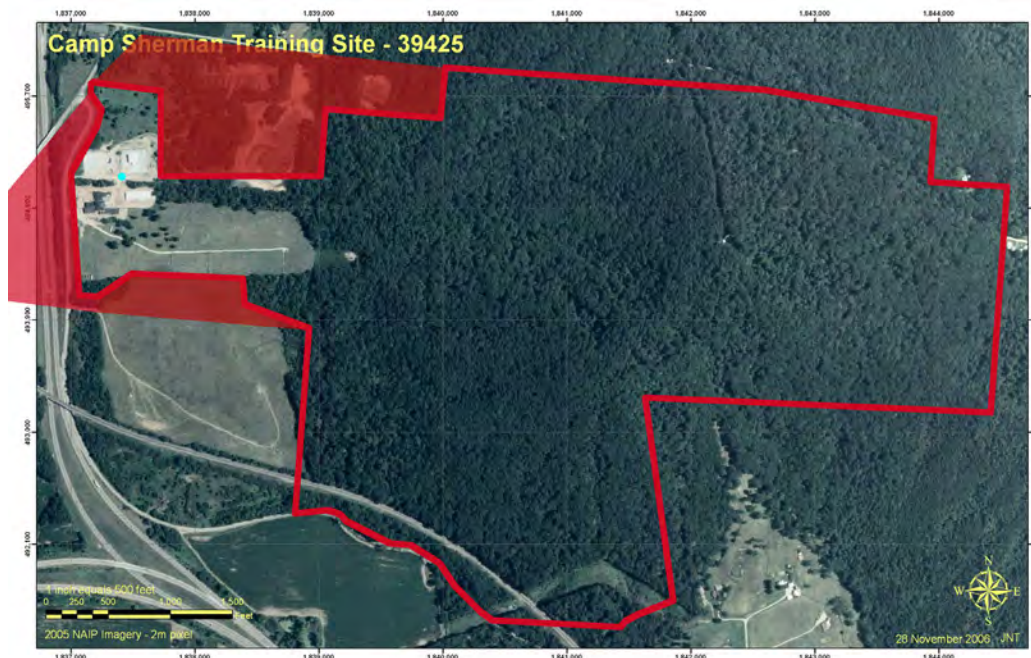
<sup>119</sup> "Report of the Adjutant General, State of Ohio, 31 December 1960" (Columbus, Ohio: unknown, 1961), F-2, 10.

<sup>120</sup> "State Seal Desecrated? Mayor Welcomes Probe," *Chillicothe Gazette*, 25 February 1955, 1.

<sup>121</sup> Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center*, 20, 23-24, 27.

three parcels lost from the original Camp Sherman Rifle Range property are shown as solid red areas on Figure 41.

Figure 41. Aerial showing the current boundaries of the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center outlined in red, with northern, western and southern areas which are no longer owned shown in solid red (OHARNG, with ERDC-CERL overlay).



By the turn of the 21st century, the existing armory in Chillicothe was outdated and no longer able to serve the requirements of the OHARNG. A new armory was needed, and plans proceeded for the construction of a new readiness center. The site selected was part of the 1917 Camp Sherman Rifle Range, by this time known as the OHARNG Camp Sherman Training Site. This choice allowed consolidation of the training and administrative functions of the Chillicothe area OHARNG.

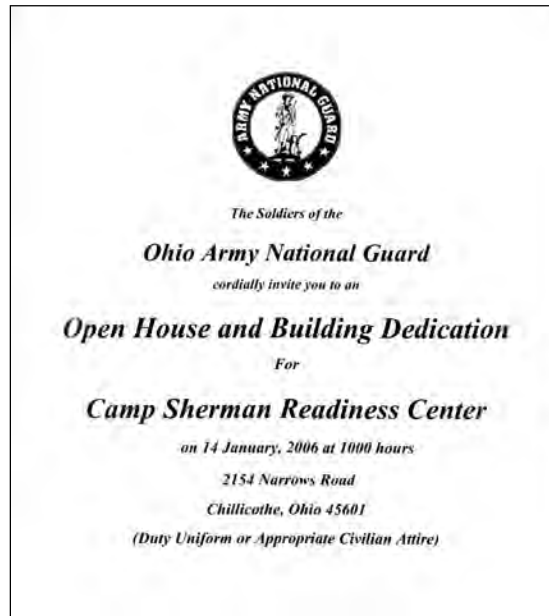
The OHARNG Camp Sherman Readiness Center was dedicated on 14 January 2006 (Figure 42). The \$8 million facility contains 35,000 square feet utilized as classrooms, administrative offices, fitness area, and room for equipment storage, as well as barracks housing up to 120 soldiers.<sup>122</sup> OHARNG Company A, 216<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is the resident unit at the training facility.<sup>123</sup> This new armory replaced the older one in Yoctangee Park in Chillicothe for OHARNG training. Improvements over the old

<sup>122</sup> "Guard, Community Celebrate New Armory," *Chillicothe Gazette*, 15 January 2006.

<sup>123</sup> "Readiness Center Prepared to Open," *Chillicothe Gazette*, 10 January 2006.

armory included a better layout, a bigger kitchen, and a maintenance garage.<sup>124</sup>

Figure 42. Invitation to dedication of the Readiness Center, 2006 (Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collection, Columbus, Ohio).



The Camp Sherman Training Center was designated a Joint Training Center in 2009, meaning that it is used for training by both U.S. Armed Forces and non-DoD law enforcement agencies. Training missions include wartime predeployment and homeland defense.<sup>125</sup> The center's site consists of 450 acres of federal land licensed to the OHARNG for use as a training site, and it includes the Readiness Center and the firing range. The firing ranges were updated in 2009 to their current configurations.<sup>126</sup> The OHARNG has four major training sites, and three of those have live-fire ranges: Camp Ravenna, Camp Sherman, and Camp Perry.<sup>127</sup> Some current OHARNG training exercises at the former Camp Sherman Rifle Range can be seen in Figure 43–Figure 45.

<sup>124</sup> "New Armory Unveiled to Community: Readiness Center Gets Good Marks," *Chillicothe Gazette*, 5 February 2006.

<sup>125</sup> Col. (ret) Jim Chisman, *The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter*, Vol. I, Edition 3, 13 March 2009, [http://www.ong.ohio.gov/Alumni\\_News/2009/Alumni%20News\\_Mar\\_13.pdf](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/Alumni_News/2009/Alumni%20News_Mar_13.pdf).

<sup>126</sup> SFC Barnhart, interview with author, 4 November 2014.

<sup>127</sup> Office of Public Affairs, Ohio National Guard, "Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report" (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2012), 34.

Figure 43. Camp Sherman Rifle Range, circa 1918 with central arrow showing the current location of the OHARNG's active Known Distance Range, photo by R.E. Wagner, Co. (Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio).



Figure 44. Soldiers from the Chillicothe-based 1194th Engineer Company of the OHARNG qualify with their M16A2 rifle at Camp Sherman, 2011 (Photograph by SGT Brian Johnson<sup>128</sup>),



<sup>128</sup> SGT Johnson, 216 Engineer Battalion, Joint Force headquarters, Michigan National Guard, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/85263/range-fire-camp-sherman-central-and-southern-ohio-national-guard-units-conduct-weapons-qualification>).

Figure 45. OHARNG soldiers check their targets at the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center Firing Range, 2011 (Photograph by Sgt. Brian Johnson).



#### 4.3.4 Chillicothe Correctional Institution

In 1923, part of the former Camp Sherman property had been authorized to become the site for a new federal prison. The United States Industrial Reformatory in Chillicothe, Ohio, opened to inmates in January 1926. The purpose of the prison was to give industrial training to the inmates for employment upon release. The institution was planned to primarily house inmates less than 30 years of age. Some Camp Sherman buildings including the brick superintendent's house, a wooden chapel, some Community Group buildings, as well as temporary buildings made up of six dormitories, dining room, kitchen, and auditorium, were reused to house convicted criminals while the reformatory was constructed. Once construction was completed in 1935, the Community Group buildings were abandoned and dismantled.<sup>129</sup>

An inspection team from the National Society of Penal Information, Inc. visited the reformatory on 12 March 1928. It was noted that the maximum number of inmates up to that time was 350; by 1929, this number had grown to nearly 1,000. There was a well-equipped hospital, and the visitors during the inspection remarked on the large, well-stocked library

<sup>129</sup> "United States Industrial Reformatory," Ohio Federal Writer's Project, Ohio History Connection, <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p267401coll34/id/3204/rec/16>; Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 54; Paul W. Garrett and Austin H. MacCormick, Eds., *Handbook of American Prisons and Reformatories* (New York: National Society of Penal Information, Inc., 1929), 27.

(the former Camp Sherman Library). It was also noted that the prison had a vegetable garden, and a dairy for milk and butter (farm buildings were in place prior to 1938). The reformatory buildings were considered adequate, but permanent facilities were needed.<sup>130</sup>

In 1929, Congress approved \$3 million to fund permanent buildings at the reformatory to accommodate 1,000 inmates. Construction of the new facilities began in 1929 and was completed in 1936.<sup>131</sup> A brick plant was constructed along the B&O Railroad on the site of the former Camp Sherman Hospital Group to manufacture the bricks for the construction and provide industrial education.<sup>132</sup> The prison's buildings, with the exception of the administration building, were mostly minimally styled (Figure 46 and Figure 47). The new reformatory facilities included a receiving building, one inside cell house, two outside cell houses, and eight dormitories, as well as a hospital building, mess hall, warehouse, six shops, and a school building and auditorium. Homes for the prison employees, called "Reservation Circle," were constructed where the Camp Sherman Community Group once stood.<sup>133</sup>

On 1 December 1966, the federal government transferred the reformatory to the State of Ohio after transferring all federal inmates to other facilities. State prisoners were moved into the facility now known as the CCI. The facility was run by the state's Department of Mental Hygiene and Correction until the early 1970s when management was taken over by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.<sup>134</sup>

The CCI is located on what were Sections P–S of Camp Sherman. Sections P, Q, and R were light artillery regiments and Section S was a heavy artillery regiment. The CCI cemetery is located today on the site of the former brick plant.

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<sup>130</sup> Garrett and MacCormick, *Handbook of American Prisons*, 28; Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase 1 Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center and Barracks*, 18.

<sup>131</sup> "United States Industrial Reformatory," Ohio Federal Writer's Project.

<sup>132</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 23.

<sup>133</sup> "United States Industrial Reformatory," Ohio Federal Writer's Project.

<sup>134</sup> "Ohio State Route 104: Columbus Pike and Camp Sherman," <http://www.horizonview.net/~ihs/Transportation/Transp-Story-SR104.html>

Figure 46. Photograph of U.S. Industrial Reformatory administration building, 1930–1940s (Ohio History Connection/Ohio State Archives Series 1039 AV).



Figure 47. Photograph of US Industrial Reformatory buildings, 1930–1940s (Ohio History Connection/Ohio State Archives Series 1039 AV).



#### 4.3.5 Ross Correctional Institution

The RCI was established on 1,707 acres in 1987. RCI is located northwest of the CCI, on land that was part of the CCI farms. The facility is a state prison for men that houses 2,037 inmates.<sup>135</sup>

The Camp Sherman Library was transferred from CCI to RCI along with the farmland. It is now a hay storage building. The RCI is located on what were Sections H–M at Camp Sherman, which housed regimental infantry areas and two brigade headquarters.

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<sup>135</sup> *ibid.*; “Ross Correctional Institution,” <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/Public/rd.htm>.

#### 4.3.6 Chillicothe Veterans Administration Hospital (now Chillicothe VA Medical Center)

The newly created Veterans Bureau initiated construction of a group of hospitals after WWI. Due to the number of still-convalescing soldiers at Camp Sherman, it was determined to site one of these hospitals at Chillicothe, Ohio. This would be the first Veterans' Bureau-managed hospital to become operational. In October 1921, 4,733 acres of Camp Sherman land was turned over to the Veterans Bureau. While some buildings were transferred along with the land, they were of a temporary nature. Hospital construction was to be permanent, and the first group of buildings constructed (Buildings 1–22 in 1923) was built in the Colonial Revival style (Figure 48 and Figure 49). The hospital was completed and ready for occupancy by 1 June 1924 at a cost of \$2.5 million and with a bed capacity of 452.<sup>136</sup>

In 1922, while the plans were still being completed for the hospital, the U.S. Veterans Bureau Training School was started on former Camp Sherman property. The school was built to allow veterans to learn trades including auto maintenance, agriculture, upholstery, electrical, woodworking, laundering, and tailoring.<sup>137</sup>

Figure 48. Chillicothe VA Medical Center, undated (Chillicothe VA Medical Center).



<sup>136</sup> "Chillicothe VA Medical Center," <http://www.chillicothe.va.gov/about/history.asp>; VA Medical Center, "The Price of Freedom, 5.

<sup>137</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 23.

Figure 49. Aerial photo of the Veterans Administration Hospital, undated (Chillicothe VA Medical Center).



The hospital operated its own farm for many years, raising livestock for meat and dairy, and canning vegetables (Figure 50). Convalescent soldiers maintained the vegetable farm, the cattle, the horses, and the nine teams of mules used for farm work. The grounds also included an orchard of 600 fruit trees. During the 1920s, the old YMCA building was remodeled into a building for occupational therapy purposes; a band, orchestra, and choir were organized, comprised of patients and employees; and the library was enlarged. In 1932, six buildings were constructed or remodeled including the dining hall, kitchen, and recreation buildings. By 1941, Chillicothe had 12 patient-care buildings providing 1,522 beds. The staff included 13 physicians, 2 dentists, 54 nurses, 264 attendants, 1 recreational aide, 1 pharmacist, and 1 x-ray technician.<sup>138</sup>

Recreation at the hospital included a baseball stadium completed in 1955, and a gymnasium and a 9-hole golf course, both completed in 1960. Today the gymnasium is still in use; the golf course is leased by the South Central Ohio Homeless Veterans Committee and is maintained by patients under the Compensated Work Therapy program. A chapel was dedicated in 1963 and seats 400. The pharmacy was renovated and enlarged in the 1970s, and an outpatient clinic addition was constructed in 1999..<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>138</sup> "Chillicothe VA Medical Center," <http://www.chillicothe.va.gov/about/history.asp>.

<sup>139</sup> *ibid.*

Figure 50. Photograph of VA hospital dairy, 12 February 1951 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



Following transfer of land to other government departments and to individuals, the facility's campus now contains 307 acres.<sup>140</sup> Nine acres were transferred to the Mound City Group in 1972, and two tracts along Egypt Pike were deeded to Ross County about the same time.<sup>141</sup> The Chillicothe Veterans Administration Hospital is located on what were Section AA, Section BB, and the Camp Extension at the northern end of Camp Sherman.

#### 4.3.7 Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

The Hopewell<sup>142</sup> earthworks complex known as "Mound City Group" was heavily damaged by the construction of Camp Sherman; only the largest mound was left intact. After Camp Sherman was decommissioned, the Mound City Group was declared a National Monument in 1923.<sup>143</sup> The Mound City Group National Monument was established by a proclamation signed by President Warren G. Harding in 1923 to preserve prehistoric mounds of "great historic and scientific interest."<sup>144</sup> The monument was first run by the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society (now known as the Ohio History Connection), which developed the site for

<sup>140</sup> VA Medical Center, "The Price of Freedom, 5.

<sup>141</sup> *ibid.*, 13.

<sup>142</sup> "Hopewell" does not refer to a tribe but rather to a Native American cultural period.

<sup>143</sup> Vosvick and Tonetti, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Camp Sherman Readiness Center*, 18.

<sup>144</sup> Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, "History and Culture."  
<http://www.nps.gov/hocu/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

tourism by adding picnic and recreation sites.<sup>145</sup> A restroom and shelter were added circa 1927. The Mound City Group National Monument underwent extensive restoration work beginning in 1925. The enclosure walls and most of the leveled mounds were located, and the principal features of the site were reconstructed by 1927.<sup>146</sup>

The National Park Service assumed management of the site in 1946 and began removing intrusive elements including some remaining Camp Sherman buildings and roads, along with a parking lot, the picnic shelter, and the restroom.<sup>147</sup> A visitor center was built in 1960.<sup>148</sup> In 1980 Congress expanded the monument by adding a portion of the nearby Hopeton Earthworks and in 1992, the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park was established. This park now preserves six earthwork complexes: High Bank Works, Hopeton Earthworks, Hopewell Mound Group, Mound City Group (Figure 51), Seip Earthworks, and Spruce Hill Earthworks.<sup>149</sup>

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park is located on former Sections N (headquarters training) and O (regimental infantry) of Camp Sherman.

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<sup>145</sup> Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 127.

<sup>146</sup> Ruby, "Authenticity and Integrity," 9.

<sup>147</sup> *ibid.*, 4.

<sup>148</sup> Peck, *The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman*, 26.

<sup>149</sup> Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, "History and Culture."

Figure 51. Photograph of Mound City Group at dawn, 2013 (Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe, Ohio).



#### 4.3.8 Union-Scioto Schools

A parcel of former Camp Sherman land near the hospital group was developed for public schools by the Union-Scioto Rural School District of Chillicothe. The area is currently occupied by the Unioto High School, the Unioto Middle School, the Unioto Elementary School, and the Union-Scioto Local School District administrative offices. The first school in the former Camp Sherman location was the Union-Scioto Rural School, constructed in 1936 and partially paid with Public Works Administration funds (Figure 52). The school served all grades until it was closed in the 1950s. After a long vacancy, it was reopened as a junior high school in 1995. In 2002, the junior high was closed, and the building again sat vacant until 2008 when it was restored for use as the school district's administrative offices. An elementary school was built in 1957 and demolished in 2003 after a nearby 1973 elementary school (the Unioto Elementary School) was expanded. The 1973 Unioto High School was remodeled in 2002, including a small addition. The Unioto Middle School began as a junior high in 2002, but it was expanded into a middle school

in 2014 after additions were constructed.<sup>150</sup> While no Camp Sherman buildings were located on the current site of the Unioto Middle School or the Unioto High School, it is possible that some camp buildings were located on what is now the outfield of the baseball field shared by both schools.

Figure 52. Union-Scioto Rural School, now the school district's administrative offices (<http://www.unioto.org/schools.aspx>).



#### 4.3.9 Scioto Trail National Forest

The federal government had never purchased the artillery range land, only leased it. After Camp Sherman was decommissioned, the land was mostly vacant. The State of Ohio began purchasing the roughly 5,000 acres that constituted the former Camp Sherman Artillery Range lands in 1922, as part of a larger parcel that became the Scioto Trail State Forest. Most of the development that occurred was done in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, including roads, lakes, and recreational facilities. The forest now covers 9,390 acres.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>150</sup> "The Union-Scioto Local School District," <http://www.unioto.org/schools.aspx>; Unioto Alumni Association, "History of the Union-Scioto School District," originally published in the *Chillicothe Gazette*, 1962, <http://www.uniotoalumni.com/History.html>; "Ross County Schools," [http://www.oldohioschools.com/ross\\_county.htm](http://www.oldohioschools.com/ross_county.htm); Michelle Bowdle, Union-Scioto Local School District, telephone interview with author, 28 July and 3 August 2015.

<sup>151</sup> "Scioto Trail National Forest," <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/sciototrail>; Peck, *Camp Sherman: Ohio's WWI Soldier Factory*, 24.

#### **4.3.10 Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area**

Located one mile east of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center, the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area contains land that was formerly part of the Camp Sherman Maneuver Grounds. Part of the area had previously been managed by the CCI, and then it was placed under management by the United States General Services Administration. The area was acquired as part of the 1,465-acre Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area in 1959–1960 by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The land had been used for agriculture, but as the Wildlife Area, the woodlands have been improved with the establishment of nesting areas, selective cutting of brushlands, controlled burning, and the addition of nesting structures.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> “Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area,” <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/pleasantvalley>.

## 5 Conclusion

As the training camp for over 100,000 men, Camp Sherman played an important national role in helping the United States provide high numbers of trained soldiers for combat in WWI. The speed with which Camp Sherman and the other WWI training cantonments were constructed, particularly the use of standardized layout and building designs, created valuable precedents that would be utilized in preparation for WWII 20 years later.

Although the camp ceased to exist both administratively and physically in the early 1920s, Camp Sherman marked the beginning of a period of government ownership of the property that continues today. Local, state, and federal entities occupy a majority of the land at present, including a large hospital complex, two correctional facilities, a school district, and a national park.

The one remaining component of Camp Sherman still used for its original purpose is the rifle range, now known as the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center. The Department of the Army licensed the facility for use by OHARNG as a training site. The site is used for training OHARNG troops and law enforcement agency personnel, including use of the firing range.

### 5.1 Recommendation of Eligibility for the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center

The identification of historically significant properties is achieved through the evaluation of their position within the larger historic context. According to the NRHP, historic contexts are defined as “...the patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within prehistory or history is made clear.”<sup>153</sup> A historic property is determined significant or not significant based on the application of standardized National Register Criteria within the property’s historical context.

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<sup>153</sup> NPS 1991.

### 5.1.1 Criteria for evaluation

The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation describe how properties and districts are significant for their association with important events or persons (Criterion A and Criterion B), for their importance in design or construction (Criterion C), or for their information potential (Criterion D). The following is a brief description of each of the four NRHP Criteria for Evaluation:<sup>154</sup>

1. **A. Event**—associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
2. **B. Person**—associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
3. **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 represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. **D. Information Potential**—yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### 5.1.2 Aspects of integrity

In addition to possessing historical significance, in order to be eligible to the NRHP, a property must also retain sufficient physical integrity of features to convey its significance.<sup>155</sup>

Historic properties both retain integrity and 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 seven aspects. The retention of specific aspects of

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<sup>154</sup> Excerpted from NPS (National Park Service), *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991.

<sup>155</sup> NPS *National Register Bulletin #15*, 44–46.

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.

Districts and individual resources are considered to be significant if they possess a majority of the following Seven Aspects of Integrity:<sup>156</sup>

- *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.

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<sup>156</sup> NPS *National Register Bulletin #15*, 44–46.

### 5.1.3 Final recommendations of significance

The following sections detail this study's findings regarding the historical significance of the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center.

#### *For Criterion A – Event*

The Camp Sherman Joint Training Center is significant under Criterion A for training soldiers during World War I as part of Camp Sherman.

#### *For Criterion B – Person*

There is no significant person associated with the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center.

#### *For Criterion C – Design/Construction*

The Camp Sherman Joint Training Center did not contain any unique design or technology from any other World War I-era firing ranges and is not found to be significant under Criterion C.

#### *For Criterion D – History*

The available historical records provided no indication that the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center has yielded, or was likely to yield, any information important in history in relation to its significance as a World War I firing range.

### 5.1.4 Final recommendation for eligibility

It is the recommendation of this report that the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for the National Register of Historic Places due to its lack of integrity of land, context, and built environment from its period of significance during World War I under Criterion A and/or Criterion C. There is no evidence that the site is likely to yield any information important in history pertinent to its World War I period of significance under Criterion D, and it could not be associated with any significant person under Criterion B.

## 6 Camp Sherman Historic Property: ERDC-CERL Inventory Form

<b>CAMP SHERMAN JOINT TRAINING CENTER HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM</b>			
<b><u>PROPERTY BOUNDARIES</u></b> See map.	<b><u>COMMON/HISTORIC NAME</u></b> Camp Sherman Firing Range now the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center		<b><u>STATUS</u></b> Usable
<b><u>ARCHITECT/BUILDER</u></b> US Army	<b><u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u></b> <b><u>DATE OF ALTERATIONS</u></b> 1917 for the original rifle range  Unknown demolition of 1917 rifle range  Circa 1940 concrete target  2009 construction of the other firing ranges	<b><u>NO. OF STORIES</u></b> NA	<b><u>FOOTPRINT</u></b> NA
<b><u>ROOF FORM</u></b> NA	<b><u>FOUNDATION</u></b> NA	<b><u>WALLS</u></b> NA	<b><u>ROOF</u></b> NA
<b><u>PROPERTY FUNCTION</u></b>		<b><u>NOTABLE FEATURES</u></b> None	
<b>HISTORIC USE(S)</b>	<b>CURRENT USE</b>		
Training	Training		
<b><u>RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BUILDINGS</u></b> None			



**Photo 1. Overview of Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, looking east (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 2. Close-up of south Camp Sherman Joint Training Center including firing point berms. (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 3. Old firing point berm (unknown construction date), looking south (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 4. Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, looking west (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 5. Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, looking west to the OHARNG range support buildings (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 6. Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, OHARNG range support building, east elevation (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 7. Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, OHARNG range support building, looking east (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 8. Old firing point berm (unknown construction date), looking south towards the landfill (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 9. Former target butt (circa 1940), looking south (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 10. Former target butt (circa 1940), looking southwest (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



Photo 11. Former target storage house (circa 1940) (ERDC-CERL, 2015).



Photo 12. Looking north along target butt to the north target storage house door (circa 1940) (ERDC-CERL, 2015).

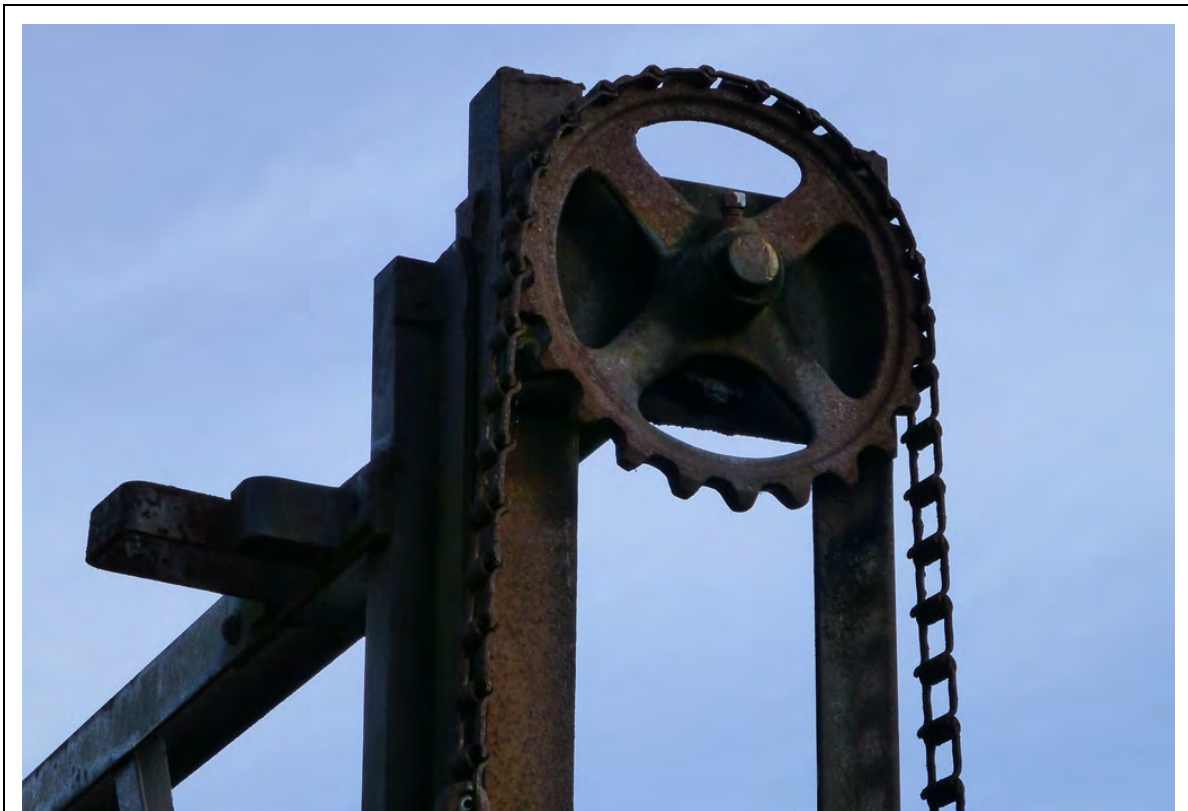


Photo 13. Close-up of the target pulley mechanism (circa 1940) (ERDC-CERL, 2015).



Photo 14. South target house storage door (circa 1940) (ERDC-CERL, 2015).



**Photo 15. Looking west from the target butt (circa 1940) (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 16. The 2009 firing range at the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, looking east (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**



**Photo 17. Close-up of the 2009 firing range at the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, looking east (ERDC-CERL, 2015).**

**COORDINATES**

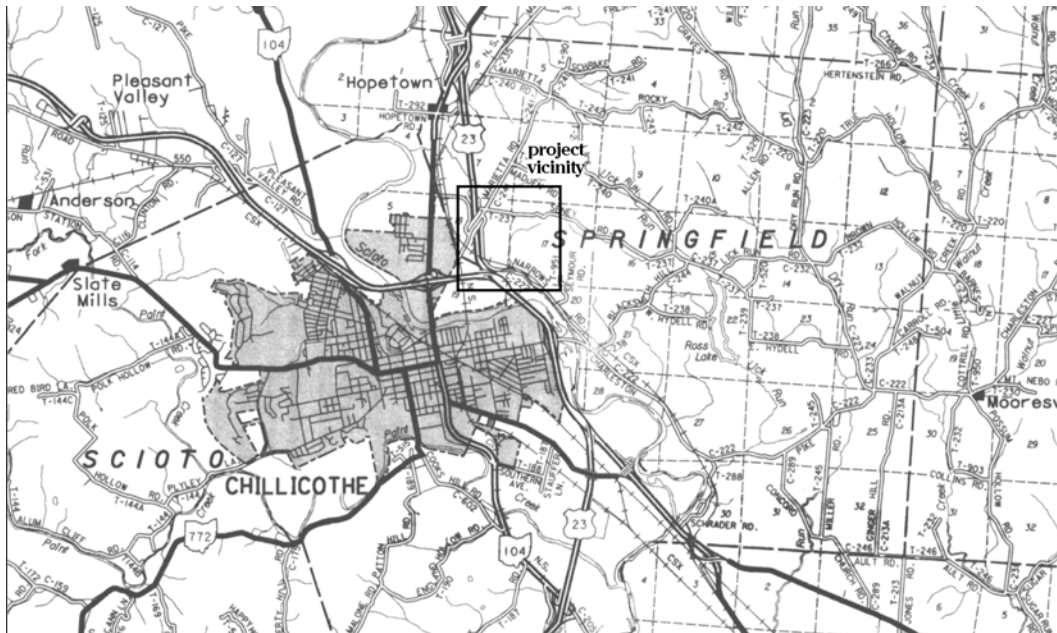
UTM 17  
4358281N  
331065E

**USGS QUAD**

Chillicothe East



Location of Camp Sherman Joint Training Center in comparison to the location of the old Camp Sherman (courtesy OARNG ).

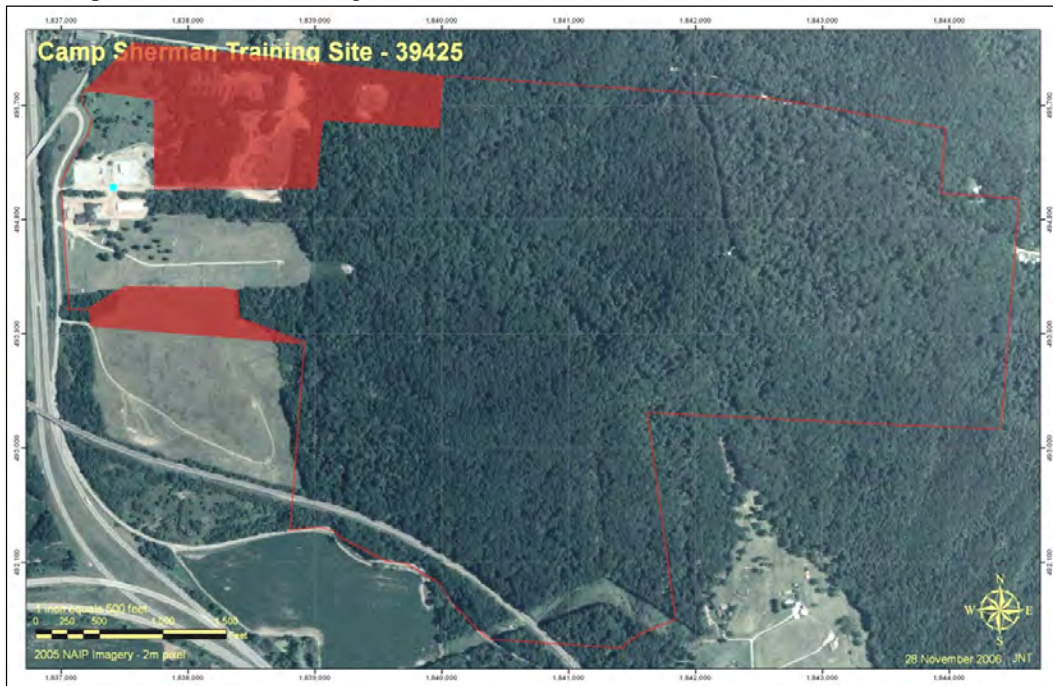


Location of the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center (courtesy OHARNG )

<p><b><u>PRESENT OWNER</u></b> Adjutant General</p>	<p><b><u>OWNER ADDRESS</u></b> Adjutant General 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road Columbus, Ohio 43235</p>
<p><b><u>GENERAL CONDITION OF PROPERTY</u></b></p> <p>EXCELLENT      GOOD      POOR</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      <input type="checkbox"/>      <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b><u>ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS</u></b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>IF YES, SEE HISTORY</b></p> <p><b>YES</b>      <b>NO</b></p>
<p><b><u>BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES</u></b></p> <p>Archibald, Dan, Adam Smith, Sunny Adam, Manroop Chawla. <i>Military Training Lands Historic Context: Small Arms Ranges</i>. ERDC/CERL TR-10-11. Champaign, IL: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 2010.</p> <p>Construction Division of the Army. <i>Manual of the Construction Division of the Army</i>. Washington, D.C.: Section C, Engineering Division, U.S. Army, 1919.</p> <p><i>National Army Cantonments: Plans and Photographs</i>. Washington, D.C.: Construction Division, War Department, 1918.</p> <p>“New Armory Unveiled to Community: Readiness Center Gets Good Marks.” <i>Chillicothe Gazette</i>, 5 February 2006.</p> <p>Stone &amp; Webster. <i>Building American Military Camps</i>. Boston: Stone &amp; Webster, 1918.</p> <p>Ward, Frank H., Editor. “Camp Sherman Souvenir.” Cincinnati, Ohio: Lambertson Publishing Co., ca. 1918.</p>	
<p><b><u>PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REGISTER DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY</u></b></p> <p>ELIGIBLE/CONTRIBUTING      NOT ELIGIBLE/ NON-CONTRIBUTING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b><u>FORM PREPARED BY:</u></b> Sunny Adams and Adam Smith Engineer Research and Development Center Construction Engineering Research Laboratory 2902 Newmark Drive Champaign, IL 61822</p> <p><b><u>DATE:</u> August 2015</b></p>
<p><b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b></p> <p>The Camp Sherman Joint Training Center is a 452-acre training facility located on the northeast side of the city of Chillicothe, Ohio. The site contains a large Readiness Center, barracks, maintenance shop, and training facility constructed in 2006, four support buildings, several structures, two firing ranges constructed in 2009, and a large wooded maneuver area. There is also an abandoned large target butt built of concrete with metal target pulleys that was constructed circa 1940.</p>	
<p><b><u>HISTORY</u></b> See Chapters 2 through 4.</p>	
<p><b><u>SIGNIFICANCE</u></b> The site is significant under Criterion A for training soldiers during World War I as part of Camp Sherman.</p>	

**INTEGRITY**

In the early 1950s, the southernmost section of the old Camp Sherman Rifle Range was declared surplus by the government and leased or sold to the City of Chillicothe. The city used the parcel to augment a larger area to the south that was converted into a landfill (see photo below). On the northern end of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range land, a large parcel was also leased or sold to the City of Chillicothe and is used as a strip pit and dump (see photos below). The extreme west end of the property was given to the Ohio Department of Transportation for construction of US 23. Nothing is extant from the World War I era. The remnants of a World War II-era target butt are extant (see Photos 9 through 15 above). The remaining portions of the firing range all post-date the Cold War (see comparison photos below). The old Camp Sherman Rifle Range is now called the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center.



**COMPARISON PHOTO**



**RECOMMENDATION OF CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING STATUS**

It is the recommendation of this report that the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for the National Register of Historic Places due to its lack of integrity of land, context, and built environment from its period of significance during World War I under Criterion A and/or Criterion C. There is no evidence that the site is likely to yield any information important in history pertinent to its World War I period of significance under Criterion D, and it could not be associated with any significant person under Criterion B.

**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**



Portion of a panoramic view of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range, circa 1918 (courtesy of the Ross County Historical Society).



Portion of a panoramic view of the Camp Sherman Rifle Range, circa 1918 (courtesy of the Ross County Historical Society).

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# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b>					
<b>14. ABSTRACT</b> <p>This document presents a historic context, integrity analysis, and evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) of the World War I era rifle range at the Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, Ohio. The report meets the requirements in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for federal agencies to address their cultural resources—defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object. Identification of potentially significant properties is achieved only through a survey and evaluation to associate a property within a larger historic context. The Camp Sherman Rifle Range was constructed in 1917 for training soldiers in preparation for deployment to European battlefields. This function only lasted until the 1918 Armistice, but the range has been used by the Ohio Army National Guard for training over the decades since. It is the recommendation of this current survey that the 452-acre Camp Sherman Rifle Range (Camp Sherman Joint Training Center) is recommended not eligible to the NRHP due to a significant loss of integrity.</p>					
<b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b> World War I, historic context, construction, Chillicothe, 83 <sup>rd</sup> Division, Ohio Army National Guard, National Army Cantonment, Rifle Range, Camp Sherman					
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