

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Devens Historic District,
Ayer and Harvard, Massachusetts

Section number 6 Page 1

Historic Functions (continued)

Health Care/Hospital
Industry/Communication facility

Current Functions

Health Care/Hospital
Industry/Communication facility

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Devens Historic District

other names/site number 1930s Permanent Cantonment Area, Fort Devens

2. Location

street & number Roughly MacArthur and Sherman Aves and El Caney,

Antietam and Auman Sts.

city, town Ayer and Harvard

N/A not for publication

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA

county Middlesex

code 017

zip code 01432

Worcester

027

01451

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
93	25 buildings
5	1 sites
1	14 structures
4	5 objects
103	45 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet

Signature of certifying official

Department of Army Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Judith B. McDonough, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Military facility

Domestic/Institutional Housing;

Secondary Structure

Recreation/Theater

Landscape/Plaza; Street furniture; Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Military facility

Domestic/Institutional Housing;

Secondary Structure

Recreation/Theater; Museum

Landscape/Plaza; Street furniture; Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th Century Revival/Georgian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick, Vinyl, Concrete, Asphalt

roof State, Asphalt Shingle

other Limestone, Cast stone, Copper,

Granite, Wrought iron, Steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The 1930s Fort Devens Historic District permanent cantonment area at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, is defined by a symmetrical U-shaped central circulation plan with a secondary wide-arc extension at its open end. Historically, functionally and aesthetically related housing, administration, training buildings, a hospital and a theatre are grouped around central parade grounds (Rogers Field and Hornet Field), as well as on outlying roads.

The approximately three hundred-acre district lies within Fort Devens, Ayer and Harvard, Massachusetts. It is the largest Army installation in New England (approximately 10,000 acres) and is situated on the hilly uplands bordering the south and east sides of the Nashua River. The district's historic buildings, predominately designed in the Georgian Revival style, were constructed primarily between 1929 and 1940. The district contains 93 contributing and 25 noncontributing buildings and five contributing discrete landscaped sites. The visual character of the 1930s cantonment area is defined by: regular arrangement of buildings, uniformity of architectural style, repetition of building (housing) types and the design of the overall plan. The design combines basic circulation symmetry around a central axis with asymmetrical elements; use and enhancement of topographic features; and contrasts of open green expanses with both formal plantings and natural vegetated areas. Study of historic photographs and plans indicates that the proposed district boundaries approximate the historically designed area and that, with the exception of a small number of later buildings and landscape changes, little alteration has occurred since the cantonment's creation. Today it is clearly distinguishable from the surrounding areas of later building and development.

The basic structure of the cantonment plan is derived from the layout of Camp Devens, the temporary World War I training camp established in 1917 on 1,000 acres of undeveloped sandy agricultural land in the towns of Ayer and Harvard. By 1958, only eleven buildings remained from this initial period of construction. The Officer's Clubs (Building No. T-18) in Rogers Field and the former Post Exchange (Building No. P-14) in the district are two of these remnants. The post, renamed Fort Devens, became a permanent installation in November, 1931. Demolition of wood-frame World War I buildings and construction of permanent masonry structures creating the Fort had already

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begun by late 1928. Removal of brigade barracks and training buildings from the south and north sides of the parade and the division headquarters complex from the western curved end of the parade left a circulation skeleton and open land for new permanent construction.

The U-shaped area is oriented approximately east-west, stretching across what appears to be a naturally occurring bowl in the landscape. From the flat (probably with grading assistance) expanse of the parade, the ground rises gently approximately twenty feet to an elevation of 275 feet at the western, curved end. At the eastern, open end the terrain drops down to Willow Branch Brook then continues across now-filled-in Little Robbins Pond and rises abruptly outside the district to 300 feet atop a small isolated hill, now used as antennae fields. South to north, the land pitches generally down towards the Nashua River. A double ring of roads (El Caney and Antietam Streets, Elm and Buena Vista Streets) forms the circulation pattern around the district's perimeter. Antietam and Buena Vista Streets continue east across Willow Branch Brook and loosely follow the north and east sides of the antennae fields hill in a broad parallel arc. Short, straight roads (Ball's Bluff, Division and Montana Streets, e.g.) connect the parallel major circulation routes. At the open end of the parade circulation area an undulating road (MacArthur Avenue) following Willow Branch Brook, provides primary access to areas of the post on either side of the center core. Modifications to the 1917 plan in the 1930s consisted primarily of elimination of some short cross streets and introduction of: Sherman Avenue with its oval "Memorial Circle" across the western third of the district; Walnut Street between Elm and El Caney Streets; and several narrow service roads. Localized grading and terracing also occurred in conjunction with buildings' construction.

The Army building program of the 1930s at Fort Devens as elsewhere was premised on standardization and uniformity. Invariably constructed of red brick laid in common bond (five stretchers to one header row) with slate gable or hip roofs (now mostly replaced with asphalt shingles), wood, limestone or cast stone trim and six-over-six double-hung-sash windows with splayed lintels, the Georgian Revival architectural design speaks clearly of its New England heritage. Buildings range in height from 1-story non-commissioned officers' (NCO) housing and utilitarian buildings (garages, bakery, gatehouse); to 2 1/2 story field and company officers' housing and administration buildings; to 3 1/2 story barracks. Housing is either single-family (officers), apartment buildings of three to five units (officers) or multi-troop bachelors' quarters. No double housing was built at Fort Devens during this period.

The arrangement of buildings within the post plan is logical, defining different residential, operational and administrative functional areas and reflecting the hierarchical military society. Field and company officer

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single family houses are along Elm and Walnut Streets with apartment units at the southern end. Directly opposite across Rogers Field is the barracks quadrangle formed by four large structures originally surrounding a green court, now used for parking. The post commander's residence sits at the curved end of the U-shaped circulation area. It is similar in design to field officers quarters, but distinguished by its isolated and elevated location. Between the Post commander's residence and the barracks on the north side of Sherman Avenue, the post headquarters and communications buildings face Hornet Field. Behind (northwest) of them at the perimeter of the district is the hospital. East of the barracks quadrangle outside the U-shaped area proper, Sherman and MacArthur Avenues form a triangular parcel containing the bakery and stable, then continue to converge at Verbeck Gatehouse at the West Main Street, Ayer post entrance. Clustered north and east of the barracks complex are a guardhouse/fire station, the post theater and the former post exchange. The final group of buildings, NCO single-family and apartment housing with contemporary multi-car garages, is set off on the east side of Willow Branch Brook.

In addition to these 1930s buildings, the district contains two earlier buildings, the now much-altered 1918 Officer's Club at the northwest corner of Rogers Field and the former post exchange off Buena Vista Street. Additional housing has also been added as the post has grown in the mid- and late twentieth century. These include a group of four identical, five-family NCO and enlisted quarters of red brick, 2 1/2 stories (1940); a group of ten 1-story single family houses (Lt. Col and Major) on Walnut Street and two on Antietam Street of red brick, rectangular in plan with low pitched gable roofs (1957 and 1958); four two-family wood-frame houses on Antietam Street (1965); and one 3-story (1956) and three 2-story (1965) red brick, gable roof bachelor's quarters off Sherman Avenue and Elm Street. Also dating from the early 1940s are the 100 foot high steel flagpole and the timber reviewing stand on Rogers Field.

A new red brick Officers' Club located at the edge of Rogers Field, replacing the old Officers' Club, and rows of flat-roof open carports in the NCO single family housing area have recently been constructed. In addition, alterations are in progress to enclose the originally open porches of the NCO housing to provide more living space. These changes were reviewed by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office.

The use of landscaping in the historic cantonment area was integral to the original design as it developed and remains so today. In general, the plantings suggested by the Quartermaster General and used at Fort Devens were sturdy, simple, native and required little maintenance, qualities similar to those found in the architecture. Trees, shrubs and lawns were preferred to flowers. Pine, oak, maple, black walnut and elm trees, native species which

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could be easily acquired or grown in sufficient quantities at minimum cost were used. Planting schemes were often standardized and regularized for different types of buildings. Elsewhere, the post itself may have designed the plantings, such as in Memorial Circle on Sherman Avenue, Foreman Gardens on Antietam Street, and the pine allee in front of the General's Quarters (P-300).

INVENTORY

Fort Devens Historic District
(1930s permanent cantonment area)
Fort Devens, Ayer and Harvard, Massachusetts

Following is a complete inventory of buildings, structure and features within the historic 1930s permanent cantonment area of Fort Devens. It is arranged by post-assigned building numbers and keyed to the accompanying map. Features without assigned numbers are keyed to the accompanying map. Features without assigned numbers are listed at the end of the inventory. The designation "P" indicates a permanent building; the designation "T" a temporary building. All buildings constructed between 1929 and 1937 are designated as contributing to the historic and architectural significance of the district unless subsequent changes have been so substantial as to destroy architectural integrity. Minor modification such as substitution of roofing and window materials and entrance alterations which, while detrimental, do not negate the original architectural design, scale and massing of a building are not considered sufficient for noncontributing designation within the overall context of the district. Noncontributing status is defined as loss of integrity and as all buildings and structures less than fifty years old. It should be noted, however, that a number of buildings and structures constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s at the end of, but clearly related to, the cantonment's initial development should be reevaluated when they meet the fifty year of test. Noncontributing buildings are marked (**).

Uniformity of construction materials, similarity of architectural design and repetition of building types are dominant characteristics of the buildings in the district. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings have: reinforced concrete construction; red brick walls laid in common bond, five stretcher to one header row; grey asphalt (replacing original slate) roof sheathing; cast stone or limestone trim; six-over-six double-hung-sash windows; and Georgian Revival style architectural design.

**P-1 Post Headquarters (Foreman Hall), 1934
Sherman Avenue and Buena Vista Street**

Rectangular 2 1/2-story (9-bay front) building with slate hip roof, gabled dormers and central square wood cupola with arched windows, bellcast roof and finial. Windows have limestone sills and splayed, keyed lintels. Central

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south bay features dentilated elliptical pedimented entry surround. Central north bay features heavy entablature-and-pilaster entry surround, surmounted by tripartite window in arched opening. Aspects of axial interior plan, finishes and original foundation and landscape plantings remain. Faces Rogers Field, excellently preserved and used continuously for post administration.

P-1A Fort Henry Cannons (2), 1862/1940
Buena Vista Street

Two 3 inch breech loading saluting guns located in front of Post Headquarters (Foreman Hall). Made in 1862 by the Phoenix Iron Company for Fort Henry in Boston, moved to Fort Devens in 1940.

P-2 Radio, Telephone and Telegraph Building, 1939
Buena Vista Street

Rectangular 2-story (5-bay front) building with slate hip roof and brick corner quoins. Windows are 9/9 sash with limestone sills and brick splayed lintels. Central south bay main entry displays monumental rusticated surround with gable pediment, fanlight, pair of copper lanterns and granite steps. Faces Hornet Field, excellently preserved and now used for Safety Management Administration.

P-3 250-man Infantry Regimental Barracks, 1929
Sherman Avenue and Buena Vista Street

Large, 3 1/2-story (13-bay front) rectangular building with central pedimented gabled and end hipped projecting pavilions, hip roof and hip dormers. Rear elevation has two 3-story projecting end wings, a central one-story band room connected by a covered corridor, and full length, 3-story open gallery concrete porches on main block and wings. Windows are set in pairs with three-light transoms above sash, cast stone sills and splayed lintels. Other windows consist of: fanlight in pavilion pediment; central second story windows of end pavilions set in brick raised arch panel surround; and windows over entries with cast stone segmental or gable pedimented surrounds. Original three main entries had porticos with pairs of columns (Tuscan and rusticated) and roof balustrades. Unfortunately, these were removed and replaced with simple wood pediments and pilasters (1970), although fanlights remain. Closes west end of barracks quadrangle and now used as Post Headquarters Annex.

P-4 Bakery (Lane Hall), 1930
Antietam Street

Small, one-story, square (3-bay front) building with hip roof topped by original metal upright vent. Window openings of various size, some blocked

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with plywood, with cast stone sills and rectangular lintels. Central south main entry and two side entries were originally identical with plain lintels and 4-light transoms. Main entry transom now blocked and shed hood has been added. Located in open area near P-5, Stables. Constructed as a bakery but proximity to stables disallowed use. The building had several functions and is now used as a television broadcasting studio.

P-5 Post Stables, 1930
Antietam Street

Long, 1 1/2-story rectangular building (3-bay front) with gable roof, exposed rafter ends and central hip roof ventilator. Windows are sliding, 6-light horsetall type set in recessed openings with cast stone sills and segmental arched brick lintels. Main entries at either end originally had square barn door openings with stone wagon guards. North entry is largely unchanged; south entry now reduced to common door size with simple pedimented surround. Original hay loft opening remains above. Located in open area near P-4, Bakery. Constructed to accommodate forty horses, subsequently used as a hobby shop, and substantially altered on the interior (1980s) for current function as Fort Devens Museum.

P-6 Fire station and Guardhouse, 1930; 1934
Smith Street

Nearly square fire station (3-bay front), 1930, with lateral guardhouse (3-bay front) and rear cell block addition (1934) all with gable roofs. Windows have cast stone sills and splayed lintels. Window types include: first story main (south) facade with transoms above sash, fanlight and quarter circle lunettes in gable ends, and modern one-light replacement windows in rear cell block, some with grills. Firehouse entry has brick segmental arched engine door (now blocked in); guardhouse entry has wood surround with gabled pediment, fanlight and pilasters. Set on high terrace adjacent to barracks quadrangle and in continuous use as guardhouse.

P-7 Main Entrance Sentry Station (Verbeck Gate), 1934
Sherman Avenue and MacArthur Avenue

Small, one-story, T-plan (3-bay front) building with slate hip roof and flanking brick walls with concrete capped end piers, wrought iron gates and lanterns. Windows have limestone sills and brick splayed lintels. Main entry (north facade) facing outside post has recessed double doors with "FORT DEVENS" inscribed in lintel. Excellently preserved building in continuous use as a sentry station.

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Rectangular, one-story (3-bay front) concrete block and sheet metal gable roof storage shed adjacent to P-6.

P-10 War Department Theater (Hodges Theater), 1932**Buena Vista Street**

Rectangular, 2 1/2-story (3-bay front) gable roof building with brick corner quoins, parapet gable end walls, projecting central entrance and small one-story rear mechanical wing. Main facade (south) windows have cast stone sills and brick splayed lintels with keys. Fanlight is centered in end gable. Original theater entry had double french doors on either side of ticket window under marquis canopy. Altered by addition of brick projecting enclosure filling in canopy (1956). Flanking arched openings with six-light door and fanlights remain. Constructed by Fort Devens' 13th Infantry troops under a special national program, the building is still used as a theater.

P-11 500-man Infantry Barracks, Old Bldg No. P-111 (Hale Hall), 1940**Smith Street**

Large, 3 1/2-story (23-bay front) rectangular building with two projecting pedimented gabled pavilions, hip roof and hip dormers. Rear elevation has four 3-story projecting rear wings and full length, 3-story open gallery porches of concrete and arched brick. Sash windows, set in pairs, have upper hinged transom, cast stone sills and brick splayed lintels. Other window forms include pavilion pediment fanlights and limestone molded surrounds on second story windows over entries. Four main entries have pedimented and rusticated surround with fanlight. Simple rear entries under porch. Aspects of interior floor plan and finishes remain. Planned as early as 1934 but not constructed until 1940, this building closes the south end of the barracks quadrangle and is the most intact of the group.

P-12 500-Man Infantry Barracks, Old Bldg No. P-112 (Revere Hall), 1929**Buena Vista Street****P-13 500-Man Infantry Barracks, Old Bldg No. P-114 (Allen Hall), 1929****Buena Vista Street**

Identical large, 3 1/2-story rectangular (23-bay front) buildings with four projecting gabled pedimented pavilions, gable roof and hip dormers. Altered rear elevation has four 3-story, projecting wings and full length, 3-story gallery porches (original) now filled in with wood sheathing covered by vinyl siding. Windows are set in pairs with three-light transoms above sash, cast stone sills and splayed lintels. Other windows include: quarter

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circle lunettes in gable ends; oval windows in outer pavilion pediments; and windows over entries with cast stone segmental or gable pedimented surrounds. Original four main entries had pairs of columns (Tuscan and rusticated) and roof balustrades. Unfortunately, these were removed and replaced with simple wood pediments and pilasters (1970), although fanlights remain. Buildings close north and south side of barracks quadrangle and are now used for general instruction, U.S. Army Intelligence School.

P-14 Main Post Exchange, 1918**** Buena Vista Street**

Rectangular, 1 1/2-story (5-bay front) building with gable roof, rear shed dormer, and two projecting one-story gabled end wings. Possibly originally a wood frame building with brick veneer added later. Recent fire damage has resulted in numerous modifications including single pane windows, modern glass and metal entries. Set back off Buena Vista Street and now used as Provost Marshall administration building, this much altered building is one of a few remaining from the original World War I temporary camp.

P-15 Dog Kennel, 1979**** Antietam Street**

Small rectangular, one-story, slab-on-grade concrete block building with gable roof adjacent to Building P-6.

P-19, P-20, P-21 Military Bachelors Officers Quarters, 1965**** Sherman Avenue**

Similar long, rectangular 2-story (6- and 8-bay front) buildings with parapet firewalls and hip roof, wood frame construction and brick veneer walls. Windows are 2/2 sash with horizontal muntins, set in triplets with cast stone sills. Main entries at either end of facade have flat projecting hoods, single sidelights and flat wood panelled surrounds. Building P-20 has one end chimney for heating system servicing all three buildings. Set in group on low terraces in natural wooded area, well screened.

P-22 Male Bachelors Officers Quarters (Washington Hall), 1956**** Sherman Avenue**

Long, 3-story rectangular (3-bay front) building with flat roof and one-story projecting entrance wing at one gable end. Constructed of wood, reinforced concrete with CMU stucco walls. Free standing brick chimney located at one end. Aluminum, one-light casement windows in groups of four set in splayed horizontal openings. Main entry has simple modern metal and glass treatment. Located in low area near Buildings P-19, P-20, and P-21 with vegetation screening.

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Sherman Avenue

Tapered steel flagpole, 100 feet tall, set in concrete base with 10 inch, 20 ounce spun copper, 22 karat gold leafed finial ball. May have replaced an earlier flagpole on the same site as indicated by a 1934 plan of the cantonment area. Located in War Memorial Park (1982) and on site line axis from P-300, General's Quarters, through allee of white pine trees, continuing down center of Roger's Field to hilltop at opposite end of cantonment.

P-25 Post Hospital, 1931
Antietam Street and Balls Bluff Street

T-plan building consisting of the primary rectangular block (11-bay front) with a central projecting, pedimented and gabled pavilion connected at center rear by a first story straight (original) and second story angled (addition) walkways to a rectangular secondary block. Both sections are two stories with a hip roof. Basic window form is three-light transom above wood-sash. Sleeping porch variant on second floor are pairs and triplets of casements and an arched stairhall window is located at center of rear elevation. All are vinyl/wood duplicate replacement sash, set in openings with limestone sills and brick splayed lintels. Central pavilion main entry has sidelights, transom and limestone portico with paired Tuscan columns, flat pilasters and roof balustrade surmounted by a second story tripartite rectangular window and fanlight in the pavilion gable pediment. Major aspects of the interior axial floor plan and finishes remain. Located on high terrain at an isolated edge of cantonment area, the building is now used as Headquarters, 1st Region Readiness and Mobilization Command.

**P-40 (Sample of 34 similar units, P-40 thru P-63, P-69 thru P-73,
P-75 thru P-79. Also P-300) Company and Field Officers Single
Family Housing, 1931**
Walnut Street and Elm Street

Rectangular plan two-story building (5-bay front) with gable roof, side sun porch and rear open porch (both two stories). Windows have limestone sills and brick splayed lintels; buildings P-40 thru P-63 have limestone key blocks on first story of front facade. Original multi-light porch windows have been replaced with 1/1 hinged wood-sash. Main central entry has sidelights, transom and wood portico with Tuscan columns, plain wide entablature and flat roof. Buildings P-4 and P-50 (Field Officer) porticos have blocked frieze, pedimented gable and no transom. Rear central entry has square wood posts supporting shed roof porch. Other features include: shouldered brick endwall chimney, interior center hall plan and some basement garages. Little altered houses arranged in linear rows on terraces in suburban-like setting with original tree plantings, now mature. This is a

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standardized housing plan, known to have been constructed at ten installations.

**P-65 (Sample of 5 similar units, P-65, P-66, P-84, P-85 and P-64)
Five-Family Housing, Lt. Colonel and Major (also 3-family,
P-64) 1940
Elm Street and Walnut Street**

Identical long, 2 1/2 story rectangular (8-bay front) apartment building with projecting gabled end pavilions, gable roof and shed dormers. Original multi-light casement windows replaced (1978) with 1/1 sash and fixed single panes with snap in muntin grids and limestone sills. Three front entries on main block have simple corbelled brick entablature. End pavilion entries have limestone molded and quoined surround. Five rear entries have simple shed hoods and transoms. Other features include: corbelled brick cornice, two story, side-by-side living units plan and original arborvitae and yew foundation plantings. Building No. P-64 is identical but lacks gabled end pavilions. Set in open landscape facing Rogers Field, this is essentially the same form as the Building P-130 group. This is a standardized housing plan, known to have been constructed at four installations.

**P-67 and P-68 Four-Family Housing, Lt. Colonel and Major, 1934
Elm Street**

Identical, long 2 1/2-story rectangular (10-bay front) apartment buildings with sun porches at each end, open porches at rear and gable roof with hip dormers. Duplicate replacement windows have limestone sills and brick splayed lintels. Windows are paired over entry porches and one round arch lunette is located in each gable end. Four front entries are paired with brick piered, flat roof and wood roof balustrade porches (removed). Four rear entries are plain. Other features include interior plan of two units per floor and original landscape plantings, now mature. Located in open setting facing Roger's Field, this is a standardized housing plan known to have been constructed at six installations.

**P-74 New Officer's Club, 1987
** Elm Street**

Cross-gable, cruciform plan (3-bay front), one-story building with west and south gabled ends, the building is sheathed in red brick with corner quoins and composition stucco board with large round louvered vents in the end gable pediments. Windows are single light and projecting polygonal bays with snap-in diamond grids. The main entry, facing Rogers Field has a single-pane transom, sidelights and pedimented porte cochere on thin metal columns. A large modern building with some architectural reference to the historic cantonment buildings, located adjacent to the old Officers Club.

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P-2003, P-2004) Five-Car Garage, Lt. Colonel, Major and NCO, 1940
Elm and Walnut Street Service Roads off Buena Vista Street**

Identical, rectangular, one-story (5-bay front) garages with corbelled brick cornice and hip roof. Five six-light stationery metal sash windows are located on the rear elevation. Segmental arched car bay openings contain flush metal doors replacing original overhead wood doors. Building No. P-80 is identical but is only 3 bays. All are associated with contemporary apartment housing.

**P-83 (Sample of 13 similar units, P-83, P-86 thru P-94, P-312 and P-313)
** Single Family Officers Quarters, Lt. Colonel and Major, 1957-1958,
Walnut Street and Antietam Street**

Identical, rectangular, one-story (3-bay front) buildings with red brick veneer siding, metal trim and low pitched tar and gravel gable roof. This linear cluster of modern buildings is relatively well screened by vegetation on Walnut Street. Two are located at the perimeter of the cantonment.

**T-95 Reviewing Stand, 1941, moved here 1954
Rogers Field**

Rectangular wood frame structure with shed roof, exposed rafter ends and fully exposed cross braced post framing. Possibly originally located west of Sherman Avenue opposite the flagpole, where a bandstand was proposed in 1934.

**P-96 Reviewing Stand, 1981
** Hornet Field**

Small, rectangular, open platform structure with metal railing on concrete slab.

**P-100 (Sample of 18 similar units, P-100 thru P-105, P-107 thru P-109,
P-118 thru P-126) See also P-110, P-112 thru P-117, Single Family
Housing - Non-Commissioned Officer, 1931
Auman Street**

Identical L-plan, one-story (3-bay front) bungalows with full, gabled, pedimented open (originally) front porch (unfortunately enclosed with brick, 1987) and rear sleeping porch ell. Replacement 1/1 vinyl/wood sash windows have cast stone sills and splayed brick lintels. Original central main entry under porch was simple; new entry located in center of enclosed porch. Rear entries located in central arched open vestibule (some now enclosed) with doors opening either side. Other features include: clapboards and half circle louvered vents in porch pediment, one brick straight end wall chimney. Set in

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linear rows on both sides of Auman Street which is lined with shade trees, this house form is essentially the same as the Building P-110 group, with subtle differences. This is a standardized housing plan known to have been constructed at nine installations.

**P-110 (Sample of 7 similar units, P-110, P-112 thru P-117) See also P-100 thru P-105, P-107 thru P-109, P-118 thru P-126, Single Family Housing - Non Commissioned Officer, 1934
Auman Street**

Identical, L-plan, one-story (3-bay front) bungalows with full gabled, pedimented open (originally) front porch (unfortunately enclosed with brick, 1987) and rear sleeping porch ell. Replacement 1/1 vinyl/wood sash windows have cast stone sills and splayed brick lintels. Original central main entry under porch was simple, new entry located in center of enclosed porch. Rear entries located in central arched open vestibule (some now enclosed) with doors opening either side. Other features include: flush board and triangular louvered vents in porch pediment, one brick shouldered endwall chimney. Set in linear rows on both sides of Auman Street which is lined with shade trees, this house form is essentially the same as the Building P-100 group, with subtle differences. This is a standardized housing plan known to have been constructed at nine installations.

**P-130 (Sample of 4 similar units, P-130, P-131, P-134, P-135)
Five Family Housing, Non-Commissioned Officers and
Enlisted Quarters, 1940
Bates Street**

Identical long 2 1/2 story rectangular (8-bay front) apartment building with projecting clipped gable end pavilions, gable roof and shed dormers. Vinyl/wood duplicate replacement 8/8 sash and 6/6 sash in triplets have limestone sills. Three front entries on main block have simple corbelled brick entablature. End pavilion entries are limestone molded with quoined surround. Five rear entries have simple shed hoods and transoms. Other features include: corbelled brick cornice, clapboards in clipped gable pediments, two-story side-by-side living units plan and original arborvitae and yew foundation plantings, now mature. Set on quiet residential side street with shade trees, this is essentially the same form as the Building P-65 group. This is a standardized plan, known to have been constructed at four installations.

**P-300 Single Family Housing, General, 1932
Buena Vista Street and Americal Drive**

This is the same standardized housing form, with basement garage described for Building No. P-49 and P-50 (Field Officers) under the entry for the

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Building P-40 group. It is distinguished primarily by its function and isolated, commanding location at the center of the U-shaped plan curve facing east onto the Parade Grounds. Surrounding original terracing and landscaping includes an allée of mature white pines with direct site line to Flagpole (P-23), Reviewing Stand (T-95), down Rogers Field to a hill at the open end of the cantonment.

T-301 -Garage, General, 1931
Buena Vista Street

Rectangular plan one-story (3-bay front) four-car wood frame (vinyl over wood) garage with flank gable roof. The three panelled garage doors are of varied size. Associated with Building P-300, the garage reflects the need of the highest ranking officer to house more than one vehicle.

T-310 (Sample of 4 similar units, P-308 thru P-311)
**** Two family Housing, 1965**
Antietam Street

Identical rectangular one-story (4-bay front) duplexes of wood-frame construction with low-pitched flank-gable roof. Aluminum siding covers original vertical board cladding. Grouped windows and recessed entries define facade. Set in linear rows along Antietam Street at perimeter of cantonment area.

Carports (12 double and 1 single), 1987
**** Service Roads 2 and 3 off Auman Street**

Square, one-story open structures of metal post construction with ribbed red concrete block storage area at rear. Associated with single family NCO bungalow housing.

Roger's Field, 1917, ca. 1930
Buena Vista and Elm Streets

The large central parade ground, oriented approximately east-west (2,000 feet x 1,200 feet) was created as part of the 1917 camp design and further defined in 1930. A flat, open, grassed area framed with rows of street trees, it forms the core of the 1930s cantonment area and sets the visual scale for both distant vistas and contrasting more intimately scaled areas surrounding it.

Hornet Field
Buena Vista Street and Sherman Avenue

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Significantly smaller (approximately 400 feet x 600 feet) than the grand space of Rogers Field, Hornet Field is bounded on the north and east by roads and on the south and west by natural wooded terrain. Used for review of troops.

General's Quarters Allee, 1930s Off Buena Vista Street and Americal Drive

Perhaps the most classically formal planting scheme in the 1930s historic cantonment, this allee of parallel clipped native white pines focuses the site line from the General Quarters (P-300) to the Flagpole (P-23) in Rogers Field, along the center line of the parade to a hill beyond. From the General's Quarters, reached by terraced steps, it extends approximately half the distance to Sherman Avenue, terminating in an informal tree and grassy treed area with no apparent specific function. To the north and south are natural wooded park-like sloped contours shielding the view from and to the General Quarters.

Memorial Circle, dedicated October 10, 1935 Sherman Avenue

An oval park (400 feet x 200 feet) at the southern end of Sherman Avenue (originally called "Axial Road"), crossed at the northern end by Elm Street, this is a level grassed area with a shallow pool at the center and planted with pine, maple, oak and flowering trees. Containing a tablet inscribed, "A contribution towards the beautification of Fort Devens, Massachusetts with the assistance of Emergency Relief Works of Clinton, Massachusetts and the CCC enrollees of the Third Civilian Conservation Corps District . . . Major August C. Jensen, Quartermaster. William W. Drummond and Leon R. Briggs, Quartermaster Corps, Engineers."

Foreman Gardens, 1930s Antietam Street

The gardens are located at the western extremity of the cantonment across from the Commanding Officer's house. Set on a raised terrace, and reached by a flight of cobblestone and concrete stairs, this small, nearly square garden is enclosed by evergreen and deciduous shrubs, mature pines and cedar trees.

Its symmetrical design includes a central shallow pool, benches and flowering trees in a lawn setting. It appears on neither modern nor historic map of Fort Devens; however, the maturity of the plant material and the garden's design strongly suggest it was created in the 1930s. It is used for formal receptions.

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War Memorial Park, dedicated 1982
** Sherman Avenue

A small irregular-shaped park at the southwest corner of Roger's Field containing concrete terraces, brick paving, tree and shrub plantings and the flagpole (P-23). Also containing a tablet inscribed, "To the soldiers who trained at Fort Devens, deployed and gave of their lives for this country. Daniel J. Clark, Designer."

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district or in the general area (within 1 mile), it is possible that sites are present. Locales with similar environmental characteristics are known to contain prehistoric sites. In general, however, the potential for significant archaeological survivals, either prehistoric or historic seems low because of extensive disturbances relating to 1929-1940 construction and extensive landscaping.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
 Landscape Architecture
 Military
 Community Planning and Development
 Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1929-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

U.S. Army, Quartermaster Corps
 Civilian Conservation Corps.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fort Devens Historic District, Ayer and Harvard, Massachusetts, is significant as a fine and well preserved example of U.S. Army post planning in the 1930s and contains fine representatives of the Quartermaster Corps standardized building types designed in the Georgian Revival style, constructed between 1929 and 1940. It also includes important landscape features which relate to the broader plan and contribute to the setting of the district. The Fort Devens Historic District is a cohesive entity which retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling. It continues to exhibit the qualities which associate it with the major Army national construction program for post housing, modernization and beautification of the 1930s and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Named for Brigadier-General Charles Devens, U.S. Volunteers, who was born in Massachusetts and served with distinction in the Civil War, Camp Devens was originally established in 1917 as one of sixteen temporary training cantonments. The camp's evolution into a permanent U.S. Army post during the construction program of 1929 to 1940 reflects U.S. Government and U.S. Army policies and the pattern of events which shaped the structure of the Army and its facilities in the inter-war period. The years between the end of World War I in 1918, and 1926 were generally ones of budgetary austerity for the Army. Both Congress and the military struggled to develop a viable military policy which would insure greater preparedness in the event of another global war than had been the case in 1917. The core of debate centered on the ratio of balance between regular and citizen components of the Army. Although the controversy did not end, passage of the National Defense Act in 1920 firmly established an important role for the citizen army and created a new organizational framework (Weighley 1984:395-401). The constraints of fiscal frugality imposed by Congress, however, caused reductions in army personnel and severely limited maintenance and new construction in army facilities. In 1921, Secretary of War, John W. Weeks announced that:

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Preliminary Documentation
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property Approximately 320 acres

UTM References

A 19 285460 4713900
 Zone Easting Northing

C 19 285900 4713940

B 19 285810 4714280
 Zone Easting Northing

D 19 285800 4713770

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The Fort Devens Historic District is roughly bounded by El Caney Street, Chance Street, Buena Vista Street, Balls Bluff Streets, then crosses Sherman Avenue and includes the buildings on the north side of Antietam Street to MacArthur Avenue, Antietam Street Service Road No. 2 east of Auman Street, Service Road No. 3 east of Bates Street (excluding Bldgs. No. T-150 and T-151), Cavite Street and MacArthur Avenue (excluding Bldgs. No. P-16 and P-17), back to El Caney Street. The district extends along Sherman Avenue, MacArthur Avenue and West Main Street. ☐ See continuation sheet Ayer to encompass the Main or Verbeck Gate (Bldg. No. P-7).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to include the primary area and buildings comprising the historic cantonment area created between 1920 and 1940. The boundaries were selected on the basis of historic cantonment plans and character defining qualities of spatial organization and architectural unity.

☐ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By** Virginia Adams, Architectural Historian, Marie Bourassa, Armyname/title Corps of Engineers with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director MHCorganization Massachusetts Historical Commissiondate March 1988/May 1991street & number 80 Boylston Streettelephone (617) 727-8470city or town Bostonstate MAzip code 02116

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No permanent construction will be undertaken where permanent construction can be postponed, and only such repairs and temporary construction necessary will be considered (Fine and Remington 1972:44).

Nevertheless, it was increasingly apparent that the deteriorated condition of hastily constructed temporary World War I buildings, of which Camp Devens had many, was creating a deplorable situation, in army housing in particular, and required immediate attention. The response of Congress was enactment of Public Law No. 45 in March, 1926 which authorized the Secretary of War to dispose of forty-three military reservations or portions thereof. The funds realized were to be placed in a special "Military Post Construction Fund" and to be used for permanent housing and hospital construction at retained posts. This new Army Housing program was to be carried out by the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps and to cost approximately \$148,000,000 over ten years (Horton 1928:7).

Among the posts selected for new permanent construction during the first three program years was Camp Devens. Appropriations were made in 1927, of \$500,000 for one 399-man Infantry Battalion Barracks and one 250-man Regimental Headquarters Barracks (Buildings No. P-3 and P-12, completed 1929); in 1928, of \$300,000 for the Hospital (Building No. P-25, completed 1931) and one Nurses Quarters (not constructed); and in 1929, an additional \$100,000 for the hospital and \$300,000 for one 399-man Infantry Battalion Barracks (Building No. P-13, completed 1930). The amount of funds for Camp Devens ranked third or fourth in a total of thirteen to eighteen posts funded (Ibid:5-8). The design of these buildings is discussed below.

Despite this considerable commitment of funds to Camp Devens, in 1930 the War Department considered placing the post on the list for disposal in an attempt to counteract the economic crisis heralded by the stock market crash of 1929. Camp Devens had been in caretaker status with a skeleton force of men on duty since the end of World War I, although it was still actively used for National Guard, R.O.T.C., and Regular Army summer training. From a national perspective, however, attention was necessarily focused on the larger posts. Nevertheless, Camp Devens, the largest military installation in New England, had made a significant contribution in 1917 and 1918 as the site where most troops from New England and northern New York were initially trained and all New England troops were discharged (U.S. Army 1958:4). In addition, the impact of the installation on the surrounding primarily agricultural communities was significant. One of the prime contractors for the four buildings recently completed was from the nearby city of Lowell (the others from Boston and Philadelphia), many subcontractors and laborers were based in the vicinity, and the community at large derived economic benefit from the presence of military troops. The cause was successfully taken up by Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Lowell, widow of the Hon. John Jacob Rogers, to whose Congressional seat she had been elected. On October 27,

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1931, the War Department established the permanent U.S. Army post, Fort Devens, and on October 7, 1932 Colonel Albert W. Foreman was installed as the first Commanding Officer. The Rogers' efforts on behalf of the post are honored in the designation of the central parade ground as "Rogers Field" (Ibid: 5).

With the completion of this sequence of events, Fort Devens' immediate future was secured. As development of the cantonment area continued during the depression years, Fort Devens served as headquarters for the Third Civilian Conservation Corps District, First Corps Area, from April 1933 to October 1937 and as the CCC Supply Depot from November 1937 to November 1940. The CCC work companies based at Fort Devens were largely responsible for the landscaping which took place (see below). Fort Devens has remained the principal U.S. Army installation in New England, eventually acquiring support responsibility for all subordinate and satellite stations.

The planning processes for development of a permanent post at Camp Devens were initiated as early as 1926 at the level of the post and the First Corps Area Command, Boston, and soon thereafter at the Officer of the Quartermaster General, Maj. Gen. B. Frank Cheatham. Post planning and layout was of fundamental concern to the Quartermaster Corps. Historically the Corps had drawn upon the expertise of both military and professional civilian city planners, architects, landscape architects and engineers. Frederick Law Olmsted, the noted landscape architect, for example, had participated in planning for the World War I camps, including Camp Devens.

The latest Army planning philosophy was clearly outlined in a 1928 article by 1st Lt. Howard B. Nurse, Chief Design Branch, Engineering Division Construction Service, Q.M.C., published in The Quartermaster Review. A successful post should have "a comprehensive plan of development" and should be conceived "as one great social organism." There should be unity of concept, consonance, diversity and balance of design and radiation (or systematic reference to a center) in order to create a post of "natural beauty" resulting in turn in a "happy and contented garrison." Essential details of post planning, according to Nurse included respect of topographic conditions; width and angular definition between main thoroughfares and local streets; treatment of buildings' architecture as units in a single composition, placement of quasi-public buildings in open spaces and enclosure of residences in vegetated areas for privacy; as well as the more mundane concerns of utilities and mechanical systems (Nurse 1938:14-16). Adherence to these principles and details of design are clearly apparent at Fort Devens as it was built and as it stands today.

The earliest known plan for permanent cantonment layout at Fort Devens was prepared by the Quartermaster Officers Reserve Corps, First Construction District, June 13-27, 1926 as a "Suggested General Plan . . . For an Infantry

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Brigade." This highly symmetrical and relatively complex plan enclosed the 1917 U-shaped area to create an oval, with an "overlook," an Officers' Club and "bowling green" on the long south and north flanks. The post hospital was situated at the west end and a curved officers row and post headquarters at the east end. East of the parade oval, a large square quadrangle with angled corners, surrounded by barracks buildings with rear vegetable gardens completed the primary components of the scheme. This plan exhibits influences of current landscape design practice in its geometry, grouping of related buildings and use of curved and straight lines. Several flaws are, however, apparent, most critical of which are lack of recognition of certain topographic features and costliness. Post headquarters are located in the low ravine formed by Willow Branch Brook and the barracks quadrangle lies in the area of an existing hill, requiring major land modification, for example.

As eventually constructed and illustrated in a "General Map, Regular Army Area," 1934, the cantonment was a much simpler, less symmetrical and presumably less costly design, relying on the basic structure of the existing layout and adapting new design elements and functional needs within that framework. The eastern end of the U-shaped area remained open with no new construction or landscape element to mark it. The barracks quadrangle is considerably reduced to a tight grouping in what may be a standardized barracks quadrangle plan; a similar barracks layout is illustrated by Nurse for use at Fort Sam Houston, Texas (Ibid: 16). The place of honor at the curved end of the cantonment contains the commander's residence, while post headquarters is located off to one side at a site which makes functional sense as it allows direct access to and from the main gate along Sherman Avenue. Sherman Avenue effectively terminates in the post with landscaped Memorial Circle, a device suggested by Nurse as forming "a place to which treatment great charm is attached through the sense of privacy and seclusion which it imparts" (Ibid). This smaller oval may also have been suggested by the large parade oval proposed in the earlier scheme.

Other details advocated by Nurse are present at Fort Devens including the placement of quasi-public operations buildings such as the headquarters and theater in exposed areas affording unobstructed views, while residential buildings for the most part (barracks being the most notable exception) are placed in more private settings with plantings creating a suburban atmosphere.

The use of plantings, primarily trees and shrubs, is an important design aspect of Fort Devens which also reflects Army policy of the time. In an open letter to all Quartermasters in The Quartermaster Review of March-April 1927 General Cheatham, on behalf of the Secretary of War, urged the use of landscaping "to harmonize with and complete the effect of the buildings," noting that while they expected to provide plans, execution would be the responsibility of post constructing Quartermasters. As no funds were specifically provided, establishment of nurseries and solicitation of

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assistance from local Garden Clubs was encouraged (Cheatham 1927:6). These recommendations were formalized in a memo dated June 19, 1930 from the Adjutant General to Corps Area Commanders requiring that inspection reports include a paragraph on the status of "Beautification of Army Posts" (NARS, AG 618.3). Implementation at Fort Devens, occurred largely in concert with the new construction activities of the 1932-1934 period under the auspices of the Civil Work Administration and through the efforts of the Civil Conservation Corps. Instructions were issued on planting and maintenance and typical landscaping plans prepared for different types of building in 1933 and 1934 (NARS, QM 618.32 C-P). Plans are known to have been developed for landscaping at the Post headquarters (P-1), Hospital (P-25) and "Officers Apartments" (P-67, P-68). The curved foundation planting beds as well as some plantings including yew (substituted for the proposed, less hardy box) and oak trees still exist at the Post Headquarters.

Many of the mature plantings which contribute to Fort Devens sense of time and place originated in this period and the immediate preceding years. With the passage of time these landscape elements have perhaps achieved the appearance envisioned when they were planted. The landscaping and planning elements have clear connections to City Beautiful, Garden City and park planning of the same period. Further research may reveal more specific information about the individuals involved in Army landscape design, leading to a broader understanding of the relationship between military and civilian landscaping history.

Set in this carefully landscaped and laid out plan, the buildings at Fort Devens are the major elements in the unity of the historic cantonment area. Construction of permanent buildings at Fort Devens initiated in 1927 and continued through 1940. Funding was provided primarily through a series of Congressional appropriations including the Army Housing program of P.L. No. 45 (1926) with additional funding in 1932, the National Industry Recovery Act (1933) and Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration funds (fiscal year 1939-1940). Responsibility for overseeing construction rested with a series of five Constructing Quartermasters assigned to Fort Devens during this Period: Maj. George H. Steele; Capt. Edwin V. Dunstan; Capt. M. B. Birdseye; Maj. August C. Jensen and 1st Lt. Carl M. Sciple. Construction contractors included firms from the nearby cities of Fitchburg and Lowell, Massachusetts, as well as Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

At the onset of the Army Housing Program in 1927, the architectural staff in Washington under General Cheatham included Lt. Col. Francis B. Wheaton, formerly with McKim, Meade and White, 1st Lt. Luther M. Leigsenring, a former associate of Cass Gilbert, and 1st Lt. Howard B. Nurse, formerly in private practice in Rochester, New York. With the assistance of a team of other professional architects, this group collaborated to produce new designs for housing, administration and operations buildings. Their goal was to draft

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plans which were economically feasible, but also aesthetically pleasing. Differentiation in standardized plans occurred largely through the use of historical regional architectural styles in various parts of the country (Fine and Remington 1972:48). The Georgian Revival style selected for Fort Devens was used in northern latitudes: New England, New York, Washington (State), and as far south as Virginia. Because of the collaborative nature of the design process, it is rarely possible to assign a specific architect to a particular design. Standardized planning for housing had been practiced by the Army since at least the 1860s. This period of development was distinguished by more overt and widespread use of standard designs oriented towards efficiency, economy and beauty, goals which also defined public and private civilian residential development of the time.

The permanent 1930s buildings of Fort Devens illustrate the Georgian Revival style mode of practical standardized design in the use of symmetrical arrangement of bays; local brick (over reinforced concrete), slate and limestone or cast stone construction materials and classically inspired design details such as pediments, columns and lunettes. The appeal of regional architectural character was illustrated by the Quartermaster Corps member as being "... particularly well exemplified in the design of the barracks at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, which will at once suggest to the trained eye the influence of the older buildings in the yard at Harvard ..." (Wheaton 1928:13). The loss of original entry porches in the 1970s is unfortunate as their projecting sculpted forms were important character-defining facade features. Nevertheless, the Fort Devens Barracks (P-3, P-12, P-13) are still unmistakably identifiable as the type of troops barracks building form constructed with variations on numerous posts. The exact formula for size, layout and architectural detailing was determined by the type of unit (e.g. number of men) a post was to house and its geographical location. The addition of a fourth barracks in 1940 seems to have been part of the original concept for a fully enclosed quadrangle. This type of layout had antecedents in European post planning, but differed from previous arrangements of barracks in rows or simply scattered on the landscape. It was now recommended by General Cheatham as promoting "unity of command" (Swanberg 1982:130), an important principle in all aspects of modern post planning.

A recently completed study of standardized U.S. Army single family and apartment housing types (Grashof 1986) has provided a detailed context in which to examine those categories of buildings at Fort Devens. Designs for company and field officers' and non-commissioned officers' single-family houses and four-unit apartment buildings of the early 1930s, as well as multi-unit apartments of 1940, are all documented examples of standardized housing forms constructed at other Army posts in the Georgian Revival or other more regionally appropriate architectural style (Grashof 1986:vol. 5).

The design of the company and field officers quarters as constructed

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diverged from a sketch published in The Quartermaster Review (Wheaton 1928:11) which proposed a pedimented entry treatment, two end wall chimneys, roof dormers and a one-story open porch with decorative balustrade on one side elevation. The final form eliminated the roof dormers and one chimney, brought the open porch to the entry and added a two-story side sunporch and rear open porch presenting a comfortable but simpler design, which actually provided more living space. A War Department comparative study between this and similar standardized company and field officers quarters' with contemporary commercial "model homes" concluded that "In permanent construction, the superiority of the Army house is unquestioned" (War Dept. Memo, 1930, NARS, RG 94, AGO 620). The thirty-five examples at Fort Devens are essentially intact with the exception of asphalt shingles replacing slate roofing material. With their terraced setting and dense landscaping, these buildings, like their counterparts elsewhere, would fit easily into suburban neighborhoods of the period.

The twenty-five one-story non-commissioned officers' bungalows were built in 1931 and 1934. In 1930, when the first group had most likely been approved but had not been constructed, a controversy arose in which the Adjutant General's Office suggested that bungalow quarters were more expensive than two-story, double quarters and that their construction should be discontinued until a study could be done. In response, the Quartermaster General's Office pointed out that bungalows were already under contract or planned for a number of posts, and while not refuting the cost figures, suggested that unforeseen individual circumstances affecting a contract could reverse the Adjutant General's Office's findings. The traditional suitability of bungalows to warmer climate was also pointed out. Eventually, the action recommended by the Secretary of War was to use two-story double sets as the preferred type and bungalows only where special conditions warranted and after specific War Department approval (Grashof 1986, vol. 1:52-53). Further policy issued in 1930 designated three types of non-commissioned officer's housing and the broad geographic areas in which each was to be used. A two-story double set, the "Fort Monmouth type" was to be used in the north (Ibid). Nevertheless, no Fort Monmouth type buildings were constructed at Fort Devens, and it is one of two northern locations, with Fort Lewis, Washington, where the southern form, or Fort Bliss type, was built (Ibid:53-54).

The remaining housing constructed in the historic cantonment area from the early 1930s through 1940 were apartment buildings housing three to five families. This was a relatively new housing type for the Army, generally limited to use by student officers for short periods of time, as input from military wives had indicated their preference for single or double units. The two earliest four apartment buildings at Fort Devens are a Georgian Revival style type also built at Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and elsewhere. The later three and five-family buildings begin to exhibit Tudor Revival architectural references, but are clearly of the same basic genre.

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For all city planners and architects during this period the impact of the automobile had to be addressed. The Army's solution was to construct basement garages, if bids allowed, since it was not a specifically funded item. Several examples in commissioned officer's housing are found at Fort Devens; others were constructed, but later closed due primarily to flooding problems. Subsequently, a number of WPA funded multi-car brick and slate roofed garages were constructed in association with the later apartment buildings.

Of the quasi-public historic buildings, only the Theater is known to have been an actual standardized plan developed for implementation at a number of posts. Theaters were viewed as highly desirable for improving the quality of life at posts, but did not fit any of the essential categories Congress was willing to fund. A special non-appropriated fund, reused construction materials and employment of troops made construction possible. Administration and operations buildings such as Post Headquarters, the Hospital, Stable, Bakery and Radio, Telephone and Telegraph buildings may have been designed specifically for Fort Devens, or adaptations of typical designs. Quasi-public buildings tended in general to be less standardized than housing.

The historic 1930s cantonment area at Fort Devens was created as part of an immense U.S. Army construction program between World Wars I and II which fundamentally changed the appearance of Army posts. The conceptual impetus evolved in large part from modern military goals and needs, but equally as important, from current city planning, landscaping and architectural design theory and practice. The significance of the Fort Devens Historic District is set in the context of these historic developmental themes and in the national context of similar installations of its type and period. While many individual building types as well as planning and landscaping elements were either standardized or typical, the actual use and layout at Fort Devens were dictated as much by the characteristics of the site, the function of the post as primarily a training facility, and decisions of the post commander, constructing quartermaster and Corps Area commander, as by uniform instructions. Many of the individual buildings at Fort Devens have counterparts at other posts, where they may be more numerous and/or better preserved. Larger posts such as Fort Lewis may be more visually impressive, and others may have specific historical associations with significant military events. Nevertheless, the magnitude of the important peacetime Army construction program of 1927 to 1940 and the variety of forms it created, gives significance to Fort Devens Historic District as an excellent and overall well-preserved example of its type and period. It retains all the buildings constructed between 1929 and 1940. The essential elements of the plan including circulation, clustering of buildings, open spaces and plantings remains largely intact. Although many buildings now have different functions, all are well maintained, and for the most part modifications have been minor. The location of new construction has not altered the functional zones established in the original plan. Consistency of building materials and use

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of landscape screening minimize their visual impact. Overall, the Fort Devens Historic District continues to possess the sense of time and place established between 1929 and 1940.

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Bash, Louis H., Brig. Gen.

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Carson, J.M.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1Fort Devens Historic District,
Ayer and Harvard, MassachusettsUTM REFERENCES (continue)

<u>POINT</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
E	19	285990	4713720
F	19	286020	4713480
G	19	286100	4713500
H	19	286140	4713220
I	19	286040	4713400
J	19	286010	4713270
K	19	285830	4713300
L	19	285800	4713640
M	19	285730	4713100
N	19	285500	4712950
O	19	284880	4713300
P	19	284830	4713500
Q	19	285130	4713960

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
P-1	Post Headquarters (Foreman Hall)	Sherman Ave. & Buena Vista St.	Georgian Revival	1934	C	B
P-1A	Fort Henry Cannons	Buena Vista St.		ca. 1940	C	20B
P-2	Radio, Telephone & Telegraph Building	Buena Vista St.	Georgian Revival	1939	C	B
P-3	Infantry Regimental Barracks (250 man)	Sherman Ave. & Buena Vista St.	Georgian Revival	1929	C	B
P-4	Bakery (Lane Hall)	Antietam St.	Georgian Revival	1930	C	B
P-5	Post Stables (now Post Museum)	Antietam St.	Georgian Revival	1930	C	B
	Luther Burbank Water Trough		---	ca. 1850	NC	OB
P-6	Fire Station & Guardhouse	Smith St.	Georgian Revival	1930/1934	C	B
P-7	Main Entrance Sentry Station (Verbeck Gate)	Sherman Ave. & MacArthur Ave.	Georgian Revival	1934	C	B
	Willard Farm Commemorative Boulder		---	1935	NC	OB
	General Verbeck Commemorative Boulder		---	1967	NC	OB
T-8 & T-9	General Storehouse	Smith St.	---	1963	NC	2B

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
P-10	War Dept. Theater (Hodges Theater)	Buena Vista St.	---	1932	C	B
P-11	Infantry Barracks/ 500 man (Hale Hall)	Smith St. (Vicksburg Sq.)	Georgian Revival	1940	C	B
P-12	Infantry Barrocks/ 500 man (Revere Hall)	Buena Vista St. (Vicksburg Sq.)	Georgian Revival	1929	C	B
P-13	Infantry Barraks/ 500 man (Allen Hall)	Buena Vista St. (Vicksburg Sq.)	Georgian Revival	1929	C	B
P-14	Main Post Exchange (Provost Marshall)	Buena Vista St.	---	1918	NC	B
P-15	Dog Kennel	Antietam St.	--	1979	NC	B
P-19 P-20 P-21	Bachelor Officer Quarters (P-19=F) (P-21,21=M)	Sherman Ave.	---	1965	NC	3B
P-22	Male Bachelor Officers Quarters (Washington Hall)	Sherman Ave.	---	1956	NC	B
P-23	Flagpole	Sherman Ave.	---	ca. 1940	C	O
P-25	Post Hospital (Hq. 1st Region Readiness & Mob Com)	Antietam St. & Balls Bluff St.	Georgian Revival	1931	C	B
P-40 thru P-63 P-69 thru P-73 P-75 thru P-79	Company & Field Officers Single Family Housing	Walnut & Elm Streets	Georgian Revival	1931	C	34B

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
P-65 P-66 P-84 P-85	Five Family Housing Lt. Colonel & Major	Elm St. & Walnut Street	Georgian Revival	1940	C	4B
P-64	Three Family Housing	Elm St.	Georgian Revival	1940	C	B
P-67 P-68	Four Family Housing Lt. Colonel & Major	Elm St.	Georgian Revival	1934	C	2B
P-74	New Officer's Club	Elm St.	---	1987	NC	B
P-80 P-81 P-82	Three Car Garage Five Car Garage Five Car Garage	Elm & Walnut St. Service Roads & off	---	1940	C	9B
P-129 P-132 P-133 P-136 P-2003 P-2004	Five Car Garage Five Car Garage Five Car Garage Five Car Garage Five Car Garage Five Car Garage	Buena Vista St.	---			
P-83 P-86 thru P-94 P-312 P-313	Single Family Officers Quarters Lt. Colonel & Major	Walnut St. & Antietam St.	---	1957-1958	NC	12B
T-95	Reviewing Stand	Rogers Field	---	1941	C	S
P-96	Reviewing Stand	Hornet Field	---	1981	NC	S
P-100 thru P-105 P-107 thru	Single Family Housing	Auman St.	Georgian Revival	1931	C	18B

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
P-109 P-118 thru P-126	Non-Commissioned Officers					
P-110 P-112 thru	Single Family Housing	Auman St.	Georgian Revival	1934	C	7B
P-117	Non-Commissioned Officers					
P-130 P-131 P-134 P-135	Five Family Housing: Enlisted & Non-Commissioned Officers	Bates St.	---	1940	C	4B
P-300	Single Family Housing General	Buena Vista St. & Americal Drive	Georgian Revival	1932	C	B
T-301	Garage, General	Buena Vista St.	---	1931	C	B
P-308 thru P-311	Two Family Housing	Antietam St.	---	1965	NC	4B
---	Carports	Service Roads 2 & 3 off Auman St.	---	1987	NC	13S
---	Roger's Field	Buena Vista & Elm Sts.	---	1930	C	Si
---	Roger's Field Commemorative Boulder		---	1934	C	O
---	Hornet Field	Buena Vista & Sherman Ave.	---	1930	C	Si
---	General's Quarters Allee	Off Americal Drive	---	1930	C	Si

<u>MAP #</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
---	Memorial Circle	Sherman Ave.	---	1935	C	Si
---	Foreman Gardens	Antietam St.	---	1930	C	Si
---	War Memorial Park	Sherman Ave.	---	1982	NC	Si
---	Sniper Tree	Sherman Ave.	---	1918	NC	O
---	Sweetheart Monument	MacArthur & Antietam Sts	---	1918	NC	O

TOTALS

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Building	93	25
Sites	5	1
Structure	1	14
Objects	4	5
Total	<u>103</u>	<u>45</u>

Key

B: Buildings
 Si: Sites
 St: Structures
 OB: Objects

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Devens Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/11/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/93 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/10/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000437

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: Y LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: Y SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/10/93 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Well preserved 1930s era U.S. Army
Post representative of planning and
standardized building type construction in
the Georgian Revival mode.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C'
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 6/10/93

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N ☒ see attached SLR Y/N ☒

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No. P-1 Post Headquarters

Front facade, looking NE

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll A # 13



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts
Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No. P-100 group NCO housing

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll B # 9



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg. No P-25 Hospital

Main facade, looking SW

Virginia Fitch

August 1987

Roll C # 6



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No. P-5 Stables, now Museum

facing NE

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll C #22



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No P-135 Five-Family Housing

Front facade, facing E

Virginia Fitch

August 1987

Roll D #17



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts
Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg. No P-40 Company and Field Officers
Single Family Housing

Front Facade, facing S

Virginia Fitch

August 1987

Roll E #2



40

Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg. # P-40 Company & Field Officers
Single Family Housing

Front facade, looking S

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll E #3



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg. No. P-65 Five-Family Housing

Front view, facing W, SW

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll E #12



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Building No. P-67 Four Family Housing

Front view, Facing West

Virginia Fitch

August 1987

Roll E #16



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts
Fort Devens Historic District

Memorial Circle, Sherman Ave.

August, 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll E #18



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No P-7 MAIN Entrance / Sentry Station

VERBECK GATE

September 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll E #21



FORT DEVENS

VERMONT STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PLATE 101 - A COPIED COPY
OF THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF VERMONT
PLATE 101 - A COPIED COPY
OF THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF VERMONT
PLATE 101 - A COPIED COPY
OF THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF VERMONT

Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No P-7 MAIN ENTRANCE / Sentry Station

VERBECK GATE

September 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll E #22



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts
Fort Devens Historic District

Pine Allée

looking W

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll F #11



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Building No P-300 Commanding Officers Quarters

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll F #15



ALL-ARMY SOLDIER SHOW
21 OCT. 1930 HRS: HODGE'S
THEATRE! FREE ADMISSION
CALL 2342 FOR MORE INFO

10

Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No. P-10 Hodges Theater

Front facade, looking N

September, 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll G # 6



Fort Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts

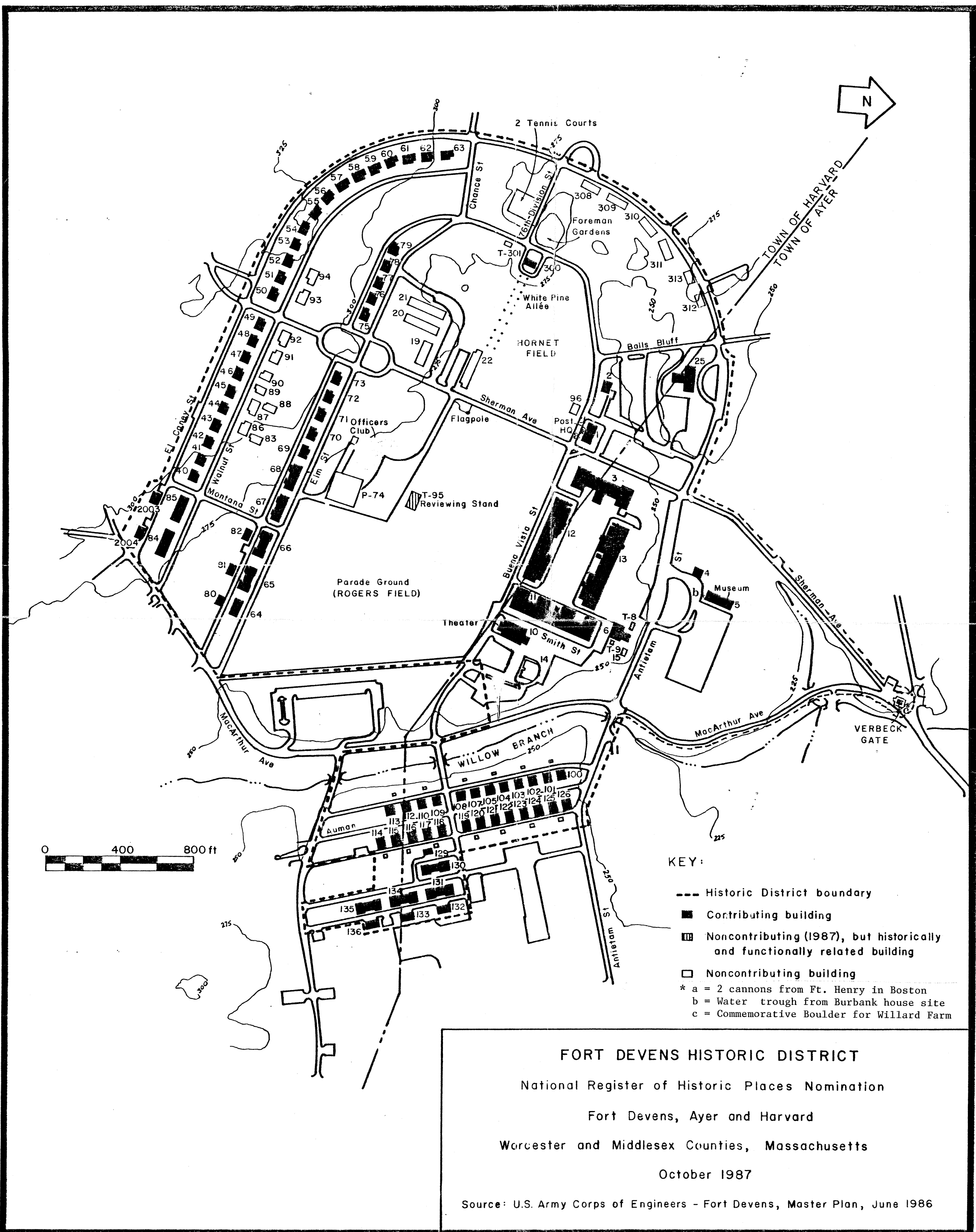
Fort Devens Historic District

Bldg No P-50 Single Family Housing (Officers)

August 1987

Virginia Fitch

Roll # #2



42° 37' 30" N
71° 37' 30" W

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

AYER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

42° 37' 30" N
71° 37' 30" W



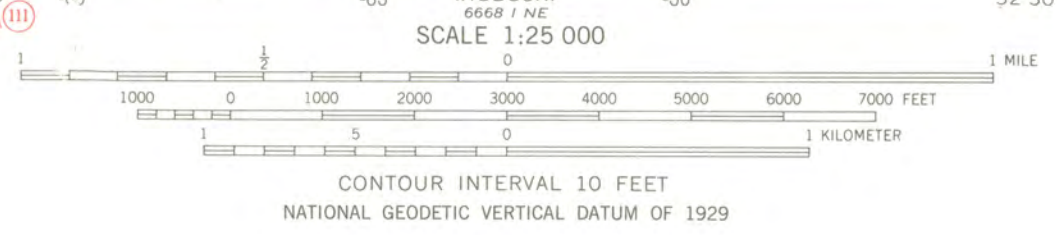
CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
1000	305
2000	610
3000	914
4000	1219
5000	1524
6000	1829
7000	2134
8000	2438
9000	2743
10000	3048

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

FORT DEVENS
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1923 and 1935. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— State Route ———



AYER, MASS.
N4230—W7130/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6669 II SE—SERIES V814

MIDDLESEX CO MA



March 25, 1991

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

RE: Ft. Devens Historic District

Dear Ms. Shull:

The members of the Massachusetts Historical Commission wish to commend the Department of the Army for moving to designate Fort Devens in the National Register. This important historic resource is well deserving of recognition in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Connolly
Secretary of State
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission



HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451

P.O. Box 104
Harvard MA 01451-0104
Mar. 11, 1992

Ms. Constance Ramirez
U.S. Army Housing & Engineers Support Center
ATN: CEHSC-SN
Building 358
Fort Belvoir VA 22060-5516

Dear Ms. Ramirez:

The Harvard Historical Commission includes among its duties the oversight of two State Historic Districts and helping in the nomination of historical properties and areas of Harvard to the National Register.

It is our understanding that you are currently reviewing the nomination of the Fort Devens Cantonment area in Harvard to the National Register of Historic Places. While we did not participate in the preparation of the Fort Devens application, we would like to go on record as enthusiastically in favor of it. We would appreciate your efforts in helping move this important historical site along to its rightful place on the National Register.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Martin
Chairman