

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
South Dakota

COUNTY:
Meade

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
MAY 22 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Meade District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Meade Reservation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Meade

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
District 2

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
46

COUNTY:
Meade

CODE:
093

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied & <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) V.A. Psychiatric Hospital

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U.S. Government (Bureau of Land Management)

STREET AND NUMBER:
316 N. 26 Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Billings

STATE:
Montana

CODE:
30

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
General Services Administration, Registration

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 41, Denver Federal Center

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE:
Colorado

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968** Federal State County Local

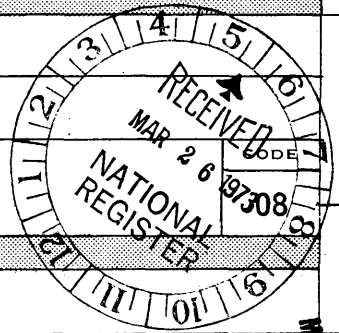
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Dakota Historic Preservation, W. H. Over Dakota Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
University of South Dakota

CITY OR TOWN:
Vermillion

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
46



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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DESCRIPTION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structural development of Fort Meade can be classified into four distinct periods. Original frame structures, dating from 1878 to 1900, were gradually replaced during the first decade of the 20th century with more permanent stone and brick structures. Throughout the 1930's, many of the remaining frame structures were refaced with fieldstone. Several wood and fieldstone buildings were constructed by W.P.A. crews. Continued construction from 1910 to 1971 has utilized a variety of materials with little or no concern for architectural distinction.

Four frame buildings survive the post-establishment period in original appearance. Three serve as quarters for hospital staff, while the fourth and oldest surviving structure is utilized for storage purposes. All 4 of the frame buildings are simple and unimpressive, though they are located along the perimeter of the parade grounds and representative of original construction at the post.

Eleven other buildings survive the post-establishment period, but were veneered with fieldstone in the 1930's as a W.P.A. project. All of these are quarters, 9 of which are presently in use, one remains vacant and one has been leveled to the foundation. Eight of these structures are located along the perimeter of the access road and the parade grounds, while the remaining three are to the east of the historical complex.

The most impressive structures at Fort Meade survive the post-improvement period from 1900 to 1910. Twenty of these structures remain in near-original appearance and all but 3 are located along the perimeter of the access road and parade grounds. Structures that remain from this period include: the headquarters building, the guard house, 4 barracks, nurses quarters, 3 stables, commanding officers quarters, flagstaff and 8 officers quarters.

The guard house, stables and 2 barracks are built of wood and locally quarried sandstone. The remaining buildings are of wood and brick. All of these buildings are presently being utilized with the exception of the 4 barracks and the nurses quarters. The buildings of this period were constructed in a distinctly classical style, which reflects a Grecian influence similar to that of the Greek Revival Period in American architectural history.

The remaining buildings at Fort Meade are a mixture of brick, steel, wood, and concrete. They are generally located to the north of the parade grounds, and served by a separate access road.

Apart from the access road and parade ground complex, the 3 sandstone stables are located on the northeast side of the entire installation. An additional building apparently of the post-improvement period, which probably served as the powder magazine, lies to the south of the complex. It is just below the original cemetery, which has been maintained by the Veteran's Administration since 1944.

continued . . .

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Specific Evaluation:

Barracks 53, 54, 58 and 60 were constructed during the post-improvement period along the northern perimeter of the parade grounds. They were built as permanent replacements for less pretentious frame structures. There is a classical influence in the design of all 4 buildings, which is consistent with all surviving structures of this period at Fort Meade. While not purely Grecian classicism, the buildings of this period reveal an influence similar to that of the Greek Revival Period. Historically, the status of the frontier in Dakota at the time of construction of these buildings, coincides with conditions nationally when this style of architecture flourished. The tradition of this influence represents a period of crystallization and stabilization of social and political institutions.

Built in 1901, barracks 53 and 54 are the oldest surviving structures of the post-improvement period. Located adjacent to one another, they lie immediately to the west of the former headquarters building. Both buildings were constructed of native sandstone and are identical in appearance. Together these buildings represent a significant contribution to the present aesthetic values of the historic portion of Fort Meade. They are the 2 largest surviving native sandstone structures along the perimeter of the parade grounds. Both buildings are structurally sound and the demolition of either would detract from the impressive appearance of the north side of the parade grounds.

Barracks 58 and 60 are brick and wood buildings constructed in 1906 and 1908 respectively, again to serve as replacements for less pretentious frame structures of the post-establishment period. Although building 58 is the largest of remaining barracks, both are equally impressive while distinctly different in appearance. Located along the northern perimeter of the parade grounds to the east of the former headquarters building, both structures form a significant portion of the historical patrimony of Fort Meade.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

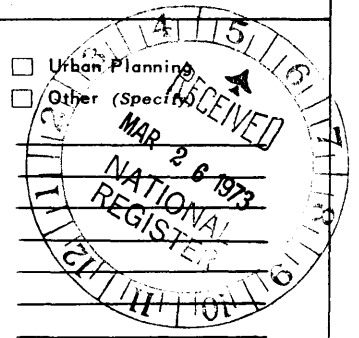
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1878 - 1944

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area surrounding Fort Meade was declared a military reservation on December 18, 1878. Fifteen days later, the military post within the reservation boundaries changed its name from Camp Ruhlen to Fort Meade, in honor of Major General George G. Meade (Commander of the Army of the Potomac from 1863 to 1865 during the Civil War).

Established in 1878 to control the Sioux and protect the Black Hills mining district, Fort Meade served as a military post until 1944. During its early years, Fort Meade was the headquarters of the 7th Cavalry. Commanche, the horse that survived the Custer Battle, was quartered at the stable from 1879 to 1887. It was at Fort Meade in 1880 that Major Marcus A. Reno, the controversial officer who led the initial charge at the Little Big Horn, was courtmartialed and dismissed from service. In addition to providing quarters for numerous other cavalry and infantry regiments, Fort Meade was the home of the 4th Cavalry between World Wars I and II.

As a peacekeeping institution, Fort Meade successfully protected major travel routes to the northern Black Hills and acted as a stabilizing influence which permitted more permanent agricultural and urban settlement. In 1890, Fort Meade was the key command post during the Sioux unrest that culminated in the Battle of Wounded Knee, in which the garrison's troops participated. The fort was also the center of military activity during the Ute uprisings of 1906-1908 and served to prevent range wars in western South Dakota, which were common to the expanse of the range cattle industry on the northern plains. After 1910 the post ceased to serve the purpose and function for which it had been conceived and established. In later years, the United States Army used Fort Meade to develop mechanized cavalry units and for training airborne troops.

An added note of interest concerning the fort's past relates to our national anthem. In 1892, Colonel C. H. Carlton assumed command of the Eighth Cavalry at Fort Meade. He ordered that "The Star Spangled Banner" be played at all military functions, and that all persons within hearing

continued . . .

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Site Report on Fort Meade, submitted to the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, July, 1971.

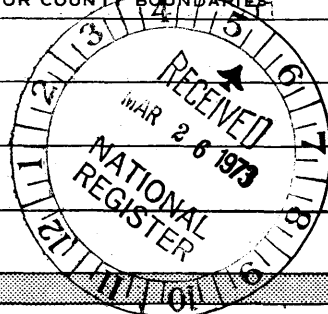
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	44 °	25 ' 51 "		103 °	29 ' 32 "			
NE	44 °	25 ' 51 "		103 °	27 ' 09 "			
SE	44 °	23 ' 40 "		103 °	27 ' 13 "			
SW	44 °	23 ' 40 "		103 °	29 ' 37 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3200 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Paul Putz, Research Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **South Dakota Historic Preservation** DATE: **March 12, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **W. H. Over Dakota Museum, University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Dr. James E. Gillihan*
 Title: State Liaison Officer
SD Historic Preservation
 Date: March 14, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/22/73

ATTEST:
J. Bradford
 Acting Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 5/18/73

NW 1/6 - 6620
 4920620
 0070224/0223220/4920700
 SE 1/3/623220/4916640
 SW 1/3/619960/4916590
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

distance remove their hats. This purportedly led to an eventual order from Secretary of War, Daniel E. Lamont, requiring "The Star Spangled Banner" to be played at every army post during each evening retreat.

Within the fort itself remains architecture reminiscent of the fort's most significant period. Barracks 53 (1901) and 54 (1901), built of native sandstone, and barracks 58 (1906) and 60 (1908), of brick and wood construction, are the last surviving barracks at Fort Meade. Erected near the end of the period during which the post served as an agent of the United States Government in control of the Plains Indians and as an instrument for assuring continuing permanent settlement, the barracks are good examples of the style of their time and remain structurally sound and unaltered in their appearance. Together with building 55, the barracks visually enclose the north side of the parade grounds.

Outside the fort, but within the reservation area are the firing range and Fort Meade Cemetery located north and south of the fort respectively.

