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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE 1. DESCRIPTION: The Main Post lies adjacent to and north of the Kansas River. The main portion of the building area is bounded on the south by the Union Pacific Railroad and on the north by Kansas Highway K-18. The building and open area includes approximately 670 acres.

The terrace land on which the buildings are located is intersected by three ravines. Terrain features vary from areas which are relatively level to areas which have steep slope. The natural ravines through the area have growths of native grasses and trees along the drainage courses. Trees have been planted throughout the Main Post area with street plantings now being well established and building sites augmented with large trees.

The area is used for military bachelor and family housing, administration and operational purposes. It is centrally located with a network of roads radiating toward all other use areas. Kansas Highway K-18 passes through the northwest portion of the Main Post area, Interstate Highway (4-lanes) 1-70 is near the south boundary and US Highway 77 is close to the southwestern boundary.

CONDITION: The permanent construction remains virtually unchanged 2. appearance wise from the original plans. Most of the buildings have been modernized; wood porches have been replaced with concrete; horse-artillery stable and gun sheds have been converted to warehousing and operational buildings by the placement of concrete flooring. Original slate roofing has been replaced with composition shingles. The land area has had shrubs, trees and hard surfaced areas added, Some new permanent construction has been added, such as: EW Barracks, Family Housing, Patton and Wainwright Halls, Bachelor Officers' Quarters and other miscellaneous permanent type construction. The permanent buildings are of massive native stone construction. There is no singular descriptive word for the architectural style. They are irregular in shape and vary from 1 to 4 stories high. The same general style of construction has been maintained within the area.

The buildings listed herein are used for family and troop housing and operation and administrative purposes.

The listing of these buildings can be found attached to the inclosed Historical Site Location Map, Main Post Area.

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	8. SIGNIFI	CANCE (Check One or More as A	(
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		Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
		15th Century	17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
	SPECIFI	IC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1852, 18	55, 1866 and 1868	
the gran we	AREAS	OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	ck One or More as Appropriate	9)	
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g. Early battles and engagements of the 7th Cavalry near Fort Riley include: The Cimmaron Crossing, North and South Forks, The Republican River, Monument Station and Dawner's Station, Kansas, the Battles of Sand Hills on the Cimmaron and Canadian, and the famous Battle of the Wachita against Chief Black Kettle in 1868.

h. Famous names at Fort Riley include: Major E. A. Ogden who directed the first permanent construction at Fort Riley; J. E. B. Stuart, George A. Custer, James W. Forsyth, Warren W. Whitside, Frederick L. Funston, George H. Cameron, George S. Patton and Jonathan M. Wainwright.

i. Fort Riley is the home of the "Big Red One", 1st Infantry Division. The "Big Red One" was activated on June 8, 1917, and was the first American division to engage the enemy during WW I, participating in six major campaigns. In WW II, the division was the first division to reach England, first ashore in North Africa and Sicily, first at Normandy on D-Day and first to crack the Siegfried Line. The division served with distinction for four and a half years in Vietnam, defending the villages and participating in civil action programs.

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Bldg No. 3 - Post Chapel

This church was erected in 1855 by Episcopalians and was the first stone chapel erected in Kansas of native limestone. It was thoroughly renovated and reopened in August 1897. The cornerstone was laid by Chaplain Thomas W. W. Barry and it is interesting to note that this same Chaplain Barry served a short time as the Commanding Officer of the Post during the Spanish-American War. At one time, the chapel also served as a school for children of Fort Riley personnel. For 43 years, this chapel served all faiths. Today, it is the Catholic Chapel for the Post. In 1938, the chapel was again renovated and enlarged.



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Bldg No. 6 - Post Library

In August 1952, it became the permanent home of the Post Library. In 1965, the wood porches were replaced with concrete and fire escapes were installed.

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(Number all entries) Bldg No. 24 - Custer's Home

This home was one of the original buildings erected on the north side of the old Cavalry Parade Ground and the present location of Old Trooper Monument. It is well established that this house was once occupied by LTC George A. Custer and Mrs. Custer. The Custers occupied these quarters from 3 November 1866 to 26 July 1867. Nine years later COL Custer led the Seventh Cavalry into the battle at the Little Big Horn.

Since this home is currently private residence, visitors are requested not to enter the quarters.

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Building No. 30 was originally constructed in 1855 for a Base Hospital. In 1890, after reconstruction, it became Post Headquarters. For a short time after WWII, it was used for the Post Library. In 1957, it was the Fort Riley Historical Museum. In 1961, it was designated the US Cavalry Museum.

The museum and the Fort Riley - Junction City Historical Society were founded on September 27, 1957, to preserve items of historic nature on the Post and in the local community.

Adjacent to the museum are two concrete aprons where two WWII vintage vehicles, a Sherman Tank and a Half-track are on display.

The museum contains many extremely interesting items relating to both military and local history. The museum continues to grow in stature as scholars and visitors find it an increasingly important source of information.



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Building No. 34, now known as Wainwright Hall, was formerly a Student Officer Barracks and Mess, Cavalry School and before that, Academic Building of the Cavalry School. As a junior officer, GEN Patton had offices in this building as did GEN Merrill of Merrill's Marauders. These two had frequent rows over policy from immediately adjoining offices in the east end of the present building. Most American Cavalry Officers of WWII are familiar with this building.

This building was completely reconstructed in 1946, due to a fire in March 1945 which completely gutted the original building. The same style and materials were used in the reconstruction as that of the original 1890 construction. While it is a modern building on the inside, this does not affect the continuity of similar construction in this area and throughout the Main Post.

The NCO Academy was established in August 1955, first a local academy and then in 1965 as the Fifth Army NCO Academy. Currently, the Academy is designated as the US Army NCO Academy, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. Approximately 1,200 NCO's go through the Academy per year.



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There is no known recorded historic data concerning these buildings. However, <u>Buildings 90 and 92</u> are typical of the style and continuity of the construction of permanent buildings on the Main Post. They were a part of the Artillery Barracks complex constructed in the early 1900's in the area.

The wood (original) porches were replaced with concrete in February 1960.



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There are no known historic records concerning <u>Buildings Numbers 146, 38</u> and 39. They are, however, typical of the style and continuity of the construction of the cavalry barracks constructed in the area during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Wood porches were replaced with concrete on Building Number 146 in 1950 and Buildings 38 and 39 in 1941.

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There is no known historic record concerning <u>Building No. 165</u>. However, it is typical of the style and continuity of the Cavalry Barracks constructed in the area during the early 1900's.

The wood porches were replaced with concrete in 1941.



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This was the <u>Academic Building of the Cavalry School</u>, constructed in 1940. General Mike Davisson was a student as a Lieutenant here the first year it was open to classes, i.e., fall of 1940. Before construction of this building, the present Wainwright Hall was the Academic Building of the Cavalry School. Commandant, Staff and Faculty and classes all used this. COL Hiram E. Tuttle's office was here, as well as other famous officers.



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The present <u>Main Commissary</u>, the former West Riding Hall, was constructed in 1908 to supplement the East Riding Hall: Together these were two of the largest and finest indoor riding halls in the world and as such contributed heavily to the year-round training programs of the Mounted Service School and Cavalry School. Many nationally famous cavalrymen trained here, as well as students from all parts of the world. Immediately outside the south wall is the memorial to three of COL Tuttle's Dressage Horses, including Vast, the only known horse to be trained not only to canter backwards but change leads while doing so. This memorial is visible in center of photo, between street and the wall of the building.



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(Number all entries) Cavalry Stable

This is the last surviving example of the Main Stable Line of the Mounted Service School and Cavalry School with the original Cobblestone Floors almost completely intact; the drains, hydrants, stallwall support all still in place. Little other then the removal of the Bullet-deflector and a small quantity of cement work, plus reinstallation of the stall planking and mangers are required to revert to original condition. Once this floor is destroyed by cement, the originals would all be gone and the cost of restoration would be prohibitive. The interior is in surprisingly good condition at this writing. The exterior is in original condition. People coming through the Cavalry Museum frequently express a desire to see one of the original stables, which is not yet possible but could be.



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(Number all entries) Cavalry Monument

This monument is dedicated to the Cavalry and is a copy of Fredrick Remington's "Old Bill" that was on the cover of the Cavalry Journal for 40 years. The last Cavalry Horse living on the Government rolls, "Chief", died 23 May 1968 and is buried just in front of this statue.

The 'Old Trooper'' monument, standing on Fort Riley's Lower (cavalry) Parade Ground, is a monument to the Cavalry, a service that for three quarters of a century called this Post "home".

The life size horse and rider were built by soldiers stationed at the Post, using materials supplied by the Fort Riley Historical Society, an organization made up of individuals in the surrounding communities interested in preserving the history of Fort Riley and the adjoining communities.

The horse and rider are made of plastic material treated by a chemical process that is designed to increase its life span to more than a century. The weathering during the past few years has started to turn the statue a rich bronze color.

Dedication of the statue took place in 1961 during the Kansas Centennial celebration. Hundreds of former Cavalrymen from all parts of the United States came to the Post to see Major General Guy V. Henry, Retired, former Chief of Cavalry, unveil the monument.



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Forsyth Avenue, which runs between the Commander's Quarters and the Old Trooper Monument is known as "Officers' Row".

In these homes, which were built between 1887 and 1903, live some of the senior officers on the Post.

Many of the officers who have lived in these homes have gone on to become American Military Heroes. One excellent example was General Jonathan M. Wainwright of World War II fame.



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Quarters Number 1 on Barry Avenue were built in 1887 as the home of the Commanding Officer of the Cavalry Post at Fort Riley. At that time, there were two posts at Fort Riley, the Cavalry Post and the Artillery Post. The Artillery Commander's quarters were also completed in 1887 and are currently building number 100 on Schofield Circle.

The first occupant of quarters number 1 was Colonel, later Major General James W. Forsyth. Since then, the list of occupants, who are listed on a plaque inside the quarters, reads like an Army "Who's Who".

Since the quarters are the private residence of the Post Commander's, visitors are kindly requested to merely drive by the building.



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Summerall Hall was named in honor of General Charles P. Summerall on June 8, 1956. General Summerall had been a former commander of the 1st Infantry Division, the founder of the Society of the First Division and a former Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

During WW I, this was the famous "Section K" the surgical services section of the large Base Hospital was located at Fort Riley.



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The "Chaplain's Quarters" was long occupied by Chaplain Clarkson (See P. G. Lowe's "Five Years A Dragoon"). After the reconstruction in the 1880's, it was used as dwelling by Chief Clerk of the Quartermaster's Office. This is of course, one of the original 1855 buildings of the first Post Construction.

The quarters were rehabilitated and modernized in 1960.



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The Wounded Knee Monument was constructed in 1893 and erected at the junction of Sheridan and Arnold Avenues, where the 26th Cavalry Monument now stands. Dedicated 25 July 1893 in presence of Post Garrison and 6,000 visitors from all over Kansas. In 1925, COL Whitside had it moved to Sheridan Avenue and K-18 where it now stands.

The engagement at Wounded Knee in December 1890 was the result of extended efforts of the U. S. Army to pacify a group of renegade Sioux from the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota who were under the leadership of Chief Big Foot. The 7th Cavalry and a battery of the 1st Artillery under the command of Colonel Forsyth engaged the hostiles for the purpose of seizing their weapons and found themselves in a major engagement. This battle crushed the Sioux forever and broke the fighting spirit of these fierce warriors.

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Facility No. 269 - Ogden Monument:

The Ogden Monument was erected in memory of Brevet Major E. A. Ogden, the first commander and initial builder of Fort Riley. Major Ogden died at this post, a victim of cholera, during the 1855 epidemic. The original monument was erected by quarry men, stone-cutters, laborers and teamsters without cost to the Government. It was located on the hill above the road which is now K-18, which runs easterly and westerly through the center of the Main Post area. However, it did not weather well and a second shaft was erected in 1856, or 1866. This stone now stands in front of the U. S. Cavalry Museum, Building Number 30.

In 1877, General James W. Forsyth, then Colonel of the 7th Cavalry, took special pains to see that the monument was preserved properly. He secured a small allowance from the Post Quartermaster with which he had the shaft refaced and a permanent iron fence placed around it. A third and final monument was erected and still stands today on a site just off Kansas Highway K-18, near the Post Cemetery, where stone for the building of Fort Riley was quarried. This was done under the direction of Colonel W. W. Whitside then the Quartermaster of this Post, and Brigadier General E. L. King, Commandant of the Cavalry School in 1923.

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(Number all entries) Buffalo Corral

This is shown on a map in Pride's History of Ft. Riley, as being 1878 or before: The stone walls were to keep animals out. Hay was stored here in separate sheds, a small distance apart for fire protection. Stables were then wood, and there was much fire risk - and trouble. Hay was received, stored and issued from here, but not kept in stables.

In the early 1950's, the buffalo, long associated with westward expansion, had practically become extinct and relatively few were to be seen throughout the United States. Buffalo that did exist were in game preserves or private parks.

In early 1957, General David H. Buchanan, then Commander at Fort Riley, in conjunction with civic groups from Junction City, decided that every effort should be made to procure a small herd of buffalo for this area.

By enlisting aid of military and civilian leaders near Fort Carson, Colorado, a small herd was obtained from the Broadmoor Hotel Corral in Colorado Springs. This herd was transported to Fort Riley in February 1958.

The buffalo are kept in these pens and a large grazing area. They are a constant source of enjoyment for visitors, particularly for the many school children that visit Fort Riley yearly.



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Mr. H. B. Davis, Jr., Curator U. S. Cavalry Museum Building 30 Fort Riley, Kansas







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