

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ~~XX~~

Fort Crook Historic District (~~Offutt Air Force Base~~)

AND/OR COMMON

Offutt Air Force Base

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Irregular pattern along Custer Road, Lincoln Highway, Sherman Turnpike, and Washington Square on Offutt Air Force Base.

CITY, TOWN

Bellevue

VICINITY OF

#2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

728 31

COUNTY

Sarpy

CODE

59 153

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

Strategic Air Command

STREET & NUMBER

Offutt Air Force Base

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Bellevue

STATE

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sarpy County Courthouse Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 370 & South 84th Street

CITY, TOWN

Papillion

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

U. S. Government Survey

DATE

1894 through 1948  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

U. S. Corps of Engineers

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Crook Historic District (Offutt Air Force Base) is composed of about 43 acres of land and 23 buildings comprising a portion of Offutt Air Force Base. The 43-acre tract is part of the 545.67 acres originally acquired to establish Fort Crook, now known as Offutt Air Force Base. The base is located adjacent to U.S. Highway 73-75 about 15 miles south of downtown Omaha, Nebraska. The base is adjacent to the southwest edge of the central business district of Bellevue, Nebraska.

The center of the Historic District consists of a parade ground or drill field which slopes gently to the east and south. The parade ground is bounded on the northeast by Sherman Turnpike, on the southeast by Washington Square, on the southwest by Lincoln Highway and on the northwest by Custer Road. The District includes lands adjacent to the parade ground on the northwest and southeast sides, as well as, two small strips of land adjacent to and extending in a southerly direction from the southwest and southeast corners thereof.

The northwest edge of the District is on a low ridge line of high ground extending in a northeast-southwest direction. The ridge slopes gently to the east toward the Missouri River located about 2.7 miles distant. The ridge also slopes gently to the southwest toward Papillion Creek (commonly known as Papio Creek) which makes a sweeping curve to the east and joins the Missouri River about 4 miles southeast of the District. The western slope of the ridge line is more abrupt and terminates at the Papio Creek flood plain about 300 feet west of the District. The flood plain is low-lying bottom land about one-half mile wide adjacent to the creek, which at this point, is near the western edge of the flood plain.

The ridge line originally overlooked the surrounding terrain, except to the north. The contours of the District have been changed very little by spoil from excavation for building foundations or basements and by minor leveling for streets and roadbeds.

The historic buildings included in the District are typical in design and construction to those built throughout the United States about the turn of the century (1800-1900). The architecture cannot be fixed to a specific type or era, such as Georgian or Victorian, although the buildings are all similar in design. The buildings are massive 2 or 2½ story brick structures with wooden porches and trim. The porch roofs are supported by wooden columns. The exterior walls are red pressed brick trimmed with red sandstone set on off-white limestone block foundations. The buildings all have partial basements except the fire station, Building 60. Generally, the inside of the basement walls are at least 18 inches inside the exterior wall. The roofs were originally natural slate shingles but have since been replaced as stated below. The floors are wood, except the ground floor of Building 60, the fire station; and, all floors in Building 88, a dormitory. The excepted floors are all poured concrete.

Construction of the historic buildings began in 1891 and 13 (now 14) of the buildings were completed in 1894. Seven of the buildings completed in 1894 were 2½-story duplex units designed for officer family quarters. The seven buildings are numbered 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14. They are also known as Quarters 1&2; 3&4; 5&6; 7&8; 9&10; 11&12; and 14&15, respectively. The seven buildings (14 units) are now used as General Officer Family Housing.

One of the thirteen buildings, Building 13, completed in 1894, was a 2½-story structure; except the kitchen area in the rear of the building, which was one-story. The building was designed for nine bachelor officer quarters and two officer family quarters. The upper half story was originally used for sleeping quarters. A small one-story addition was con-



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

structed on the south side of the building in about 1918. A 2-story lean-to was constructed along the entire north side of the building in 1940. In 1959 it was determined that the upper half story of the main building was no longer adequate for sleeping purposes and its use was discontinued. The building is now used as Bachelor and Visiting Officers Quarters. It consists of six apartments, a main dining room, a kitchen, a reading room, and a billiard room. Although the six apartments will sleep eight people, two of the bedrooms are inadequate for use as bachelor or visiting officer quarters due to the size of the rooms and the lack of a sufficient number of bathrooms.

Three of the buildings completed in 1894 were 2-story duplex units designed for non-commissioned officer (NCO) family quarters. The three buildings are numbered 34, 36, and 38. They are also known as quarters 34&35; 36&37; and 38&39, respectively. The three buildings (6 units) are still used for NCO Family Quarters.

One of the buildings, Building 42, completed in 1894 was a single-story structure designed as a jail. The building is still used as a correction facility by the Security Police at Offutt Air Force Base.

One of the buildings completed in 1894 was designed as a dormitory for enlisted personnel. The building is now known as Buildings 40 and 49. The dormitory comprised a 2-story main building, a 2-story wing located to the rear at the center of the main building, four single-story wings to the rear of the main building (two to the north and two to the south of the center wing), a single-story boiler room and a coal storage room located to the rear of the center wing. The center wing was connected directly to the main building and each of the four single-story wings was connected to the main building by a short 2-story corridor which also swerved as access to the main building and wings. Originally, the attic space over the center wing and main building was divided into squad rooms and used for sleeping purposes. The main building was divided into sections by fire walls located on each side of the center section and at the junction of the corridors leading to each of the other four wings. The center section of the main building and the entire center wing was numbered Building 40M. The other sections of the main building and each half of the other four wings were originally numbered as Buildings 40A through 40H, respectively from north to south. The dormitory when completed comprised 177,237 square feet of space including the basements, wings, corridors, the boiler and coal storage rooms, the attics over the main building and the center wing. Just before midnight on 30 December 1946 the center section or wing of the main building caught fire. The fire burned into the early morning hours of 31 December 1946. The fire virtually destroyed the center section of the main building and the center wing except the boiler and coal storage rooms. The adjoining sections of the main building were severely damaged. The fire damage was of such magnitude that a determination was made to raze the center portion of the building. The portion of the building that was razed comprised 32,634 square feet which had been used for sleeping quarters, latrines, administrative office, exchange and recreation including a one-lane bowling alley. As a result of the fire, the debris was removed; the basement area underlying the burned-out section and wing was filled with dirt; the exposed walls of the adjacent sections of the main building (now Buildings 40 and 49) and the boiler and coal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

storage rooms (now Building 51) were plastered with concrete; and, the remaining boiler and coal storage rooms, which were left standing alone, were renumbered Building 51. Building 51 is located just outside the District in its original location and configuration except the one wall which has been plastered with concrete. It comprises 2,183 square feet of the original building. The modifications necessitated by the fire left two dormitories each comprised of 71,210 square feet. In 1958 it was determined that the attics of the two buildings were no longer adequate for sleeping quarters and their use was discontinued. This action resulted in the deletion of 14,054 square feet of usable floor space from each of the two buildings. Each of the two buildings now consists of 57,156 square feet of usable floor space and is now used as a dormitory for enlisted personnel. In 1966 the use of the alpha suffices originally assigned each section of the buildings was discontinued and the buildings are now numbered 40 and 49. Other minor modifications have been made to the buildings in the past. Examples of the modifications are the replacement of porches at the rear of each of the four wings that remain with concrete steps and handrails; modernization of entrance doors; and, closure of window openings with bricks. Although construction of thirteen buildings was completed in 1894, the fire resulted in 14 of the 23 historic buildings being completed in 1894.

Construction of three buildings, Buildings 16, 19, and 21, was completed in 1896. Building 16 was a 2½-story single family dwelling designed for officer family quarters. The building was constructed to satisfy the requirement for the Post Commander's quarters, but has been used since 1948 by the General Officers who have served as the Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command. Buildings 19 and 21 were 2½-story duplex units designed for officer family quarters. They are also known as Quarters 19 and 20, and 21 and 22, respectively. Buildings 19 and 21 were identical to Buildings 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14, which were completed in 1894. The two buildings (4 units) are now used as General Officer Family Housing.

Construction of two buildings, Buildings 61 and 65, was completed in 1902. They are also known as Quarters 61 & 62, and 65 & 66, respectively. The two buildings were 2½-story duplex units designed for non-commissioned officer (NCO) family quarters. The floor plans of these two buildings are the same as the floor plans of Buildings 34, 36, and 38, which were completed in 1894. However, the roof design used on the buildings constructed in 1894 was different than the roof design on Buildings 61 and 65. The difference in roof design provided an additional bedroom for each family unit on the upper half story. In 1975 it was determined that the third, or attic bedroom, was inadequate for sleeping quarters and the four family housing units were reclassified as two-bedroom units. The two buildings (4 units) are still used for NCO Family Quarters.

Construction of two buildings, Buildings 60 and 67, was completed in 1905. Building 60 was a 2-story structure designed as a fire station. A hose drying tower was constructed in the southeast corner of the building. The capacity of the building when constructed was three vehicles and seven men. The upper floor of the station was used for administrative and sleeping purposes. The station was modernized in 1937 by the installation of a larger access door and construction of a 1-story lean-to across the back of the original building. The modernization was required to house a fire truck which was much larger than

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

the equipment envisioned when the building was constructed. The building is still used for a fire station, but its capacity is limited to one vehicle. The upper floor is used for administrative purposes but is no longer used for sleeping purposes. Building 67 was a 2-story single family dwelling designed for non-commissioned officer (NCO) family quarters. The building is still used for NCO Family Quarters.

Construction of Building 74 was completed in 1909. The building is also known as Quarters 74 and 75. It is a 2½-story duplex unit designed for non-commissioned officer (NCO) family quarters. The building is identical to Buildings 61 and 65, which were completed in 1902. The upper half story provided an additional bedroom for each family unit. In 1975 it was determined that the third, or attic bedroom, was inadequate for sleeping quarters, and the two family housing units were reclassified as two-bedroom units. The building (2 units) is still used for NCO Family Quarters.

Construction of Building 88 was completed in 1939. The building was designed as a dormitory for enlisted personnel. The dormitory comprises a 2½-story main building with a 2½-story wing at each end of the main building, which extends to the rear. The upper half story was finished and used for squad rooms until about 1962, when it was determined that this space was inadequate for sleeping quarters, and its use was discontinued. The building is still used as a dormitory for enlisted personnel.

Eleven of the 23 historic buildings are commonly known as Generals' Row. The eleven buildings consist of the nine duplex General Officer Family Housing (18 units); the single dwelling used by the Commander in Chief (1 unit); and, the Bachelor and Visting Officers Quarters. Generals' Row occupies the ridge of high ground along the northwest edge of the District. The buildings face the southeast overlooking the parade ground and the remainder of the District. Each of the nine duplex housing units has an offset in the front center and two wings that extend to the rear of the main building. The main buildings have gabled roofs with dormers and a gabled roof that extends to the front of the offset. The wings have hipped roofs with dormers. The main entrances are located at the front corners of the main building. Each family unit is served by a flagstone walk which leads from the curb of the street up an incline to the steps of an open wooden porch located at the front corners of the main building. The open wooden porches are centered on the main entrance and extend in front of the offset and from the offset beyond the edge of the main building and along a portion of the end of the main building. The porches rest on brick pillars and the areas underneath the porches are enclosed with wooden latticework. The porch roofs are supported by a series of wooden columns connected by wooden balustrades which also serve the steps that lead from the flagstone walks to the porches. The single dwelling designed for officer family housing (Building 16) has an offset on the side of the building which extends to the rear edge of the building. The building has a gabled roof with a gable over the offset and a smaller gable on the opposite side of the building, which is similar in all other respects to the porches on the duplex units. The building also has a flagstone walk. The entrance to each of the General Officer Family Housing units opens to a vestibule that leads into a spacious square hall with a grand antique oak stairway. The first floor consists of a parlor, dining room,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 27 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 5

half-bath, kitchen and butler pantry. The second floor, except the Commander in Chief's quarters (Building 16), has four large bedrooms and a full bath which open into a central hall. The second floor of Building 16 has 2½ baths. The upper half story of all units consists of two rooms and a bath which were originally used as the maid and butler quarters. There are handsome mantels above the fireplaces located in each unit. The fireplaces with mantels are located in the parlors, dining rooms, and each of the two principle bedrooms in each family unit. Building 13, the Bachelor and Visiting Officers Quarters has two offsets in front of the building and two wings to the rear of the main building. The main building has a gabled roof with a dormer on the north side of the building. A gabled roof extends over each of the offsets in the front of the building and the two wings have hipped roofs. Two open wooden porches extend across the front of the two offsets in front of the building. The porches are similar in all other respects to those located on the General Officer Family Housing units, except the porch furthest north has flagstone banisters with a lamp rising from each banister. The natural slate roofs originally placed on the buildings comprising Generals' Row have been replaced with cement-asbestos shingles. The porches and the original roof on the lean-to to Building 13 are sheet copper.

The seven buildings (six duplexes and one single unit) comprising the 13 units of NCO Family Quarters are located along the extreme southeastern edge of the District and face the west. The 2-story buildings (Buildings 34, 36, and 38) have hipped roofs and the 2½-story buildings (Buildings 61, 65, and 74) as well as the single unit (Building 67) have gabled roofs. The first floor of each family unit is comprised of a living room, dining room, and kitchen. The second floor of each unit is comprised of two bedrooms and a bathroom. The natural slate roofs on Buildings 34, 36, 38, 61, and 65 were replaced about 1950 with cement-asbestos shingles. In 1975 the roofs on Buildings 61 and 65 were replaced with 3 tab asphalt shingles. Also, the roofs on Buildings 67, 74, and 75 have been replaced with cement-asbestos shingles. The walks serving these buildings are similar to those serving Generals' Row, but they are not as elaborate. Each of these buildings has a wooden porch that extends across the entire front of the buildings. The porch roofs are covered with sheet copper and are supported by several wooden columns. The porches have metal banisters but the steps have no handrails. The duplex units have enclosed wooden porches across a portion of the back. The porches are divided to serve each unit. Building 67 has an enclosed wooden porch across the entire back of the building.

The dormitories (Buildings 40, 49, and 88) are located in the northeast corner of the District and face northwest. The main portions of the three buildings, the corridors of Buildings 40 and 49 and the wings of Building 88, have gabled roofs. The roofs on the wings of Buildings 40 and 49 rise several feet toward a peak, but are nearly flat on top. Dormers comprise a portion of the attic space on Building 40 and 49 as well as the half-story of Building 88. Buildings 40 and 49 have wooden front porches that extend across the front of the buildings. Each porch has five sets of concrete steps. The porch roofs are covered by sheet copper and are supported by several wooden columns. The porches and steps have iron pipe banisters and handrails. Building 88 has a 2-story

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 18 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 6

concrete porch that extends along the entire front of the main building (excludes wings). The roof over the porch area is supported by brick pillars. The second story of the porch has been enclosed. The banister and handrails on the first floor of the porch and steps are wrought iron. The natural slate roofs on Buildings 40 and 49 were replaced with green asphalt shingles in 1953. The natural slate roof on Building 88 has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The interior of the three dormitories was modernized to provide more privacy.

Buildings 42 and 60 are located across the street south of the southeast corner of the parade ground. These buildings have peaked roofs. Building 42 has a concrete porch which extends across the front of the building. The roof over the porch is supported by pipe columns. The banister and handrails on the porch and steps are metal pipe. The natural slate roofs on Building 42 and 60 have been replaced with asphalt shingles.

Four building intrusions were constructed within the District during the period 1933 through 1942. The building intrusions are numbered 53, 64, 78, and 123. All of the intrusions are located southeast of the parade ground. Buildings 53 and 123 are similar in design to the historic buildings located within the District. Buildings 64 and 78 are of military design and are typical of permanent buildings constructed to satisfy military requirements during and after World War II. The exterior walls of the four intrusions are red pressed brick set on concrete foundations. All the roofs are covered with 3 tab asphalt shingles. The building intrusions have partial basements except Building 78. The floors in the four buildings are concrete except Building 64, and the enclosed porch areas of Building 53. The excepted floors are all wood. Building 53 was originally comprised of a 2-story main building, a 2-story offset at the front of the building, a 2-story wing which extended to the rear of the building and a single story open wooden porch at the rear entrance. The roof of the porch was supported by brick pillars. The first floor of the porch has been enclosed with brick between the pillars and a new entrance has been constructed. A second story has been constructed of wood over the porch area. The building has a hipped roof with a gable over the front offset and a flat roof over the porch area. Also, the window on the west side of the building has been replaced with brick. The building was designed as a Headquarters Wing and is still used for administrative purposes. Building 64 was designed as an NCO Club with a gabled roof and a lean-to. In 1949 a wing with a lean-to roof was constructed on the west side of the building. An addition with a low hipped roof was constructed across the north end of the building in 1953. The building is now used for a Base Exchange Office. Building 78 is comprised of a 1-story main building with an offset at the front center. The building has a hipped roof and was designed for a barber shop and tailor shop. The original wooden entryway has been removed. The building is now used for an In-flight Kitchen. Building 123 was designed as a theatre and is comprised of one story with a mezzanine or projection booth at the front of the building. The building has a gabled roof and a brick facade that protrudes above the roof line just behind the entryway or lobby and at the rear of the building. The building is still used as a theatre. The 23 historic buildings and four building intrusions described above comprise the permanent structures located within the District. These four buildings are excluded from the nomination but are described and photographs of each are provided at the request of the Department of Interior.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Crook Historic District is located on Offutt Air Force Base adjacent to Bellevue, Nebraska, which has a great historic significance as the first town in Nebraska, and the home of the early trading post run by Peter Sarpy, one of the early settlers of this area.

A bill was <sup>Signed</sup> passed by President Grover Cleveland on 23 July 1888 to purchase 545.67 acres and to construct the buildings necessary for Fort Crook. The land cost at that time was \$122.20 per acre. On 3 March 1891, President Benjamin Harrison set aside \$500,000 and directed the fort be named in honor of Major General George Crook (182<sup>o</sup>-1890). The fort was built between 1891-1896 for \$473,678.03, and later the cost limit was raised to \$750,000 to make the fort a complete one with all necessary buildings.

The original construction was accomplished by local contractors and completed with the exception of the furniture when the troops were first ordered to be stationed at Fort Crook in 1896. Second Lieutenant David S. Stanley, Commander of Company C., 22nd U. S. Infantry and ten enlisted men arrived to find they had no bed, no food, etc., available. The Lieutenant resided temporarily in Quarters #16 in early June 1896. The next tenant of Quarters #16 was Colonel James S. Casey, regimental commander who took command of Fort Crook under General Order No. 1 in late June 1896. The 22nd Infantry <sup>had</sup> guarded the Indian tribe that annihilated General Custer and his troops at Little Big Horn. This was the first time the 22nd had been concentrated in one place. At this time they were introduced to close order drill at regular intervals directed by Colonel Casey on 15 July 1896.

On the 28th of January 1899, the 16th U. S. Infantry Regiment returned to Fort Crook under the command of Colonel Clarence M. Bailey. During this period, Colonel Bailey resided on Officers Row in Quarters #16. Fort Crook, in 1899, was used as transient billeting for Army organizations on the way to the Philippines. Some of the organizations were the 7th Infantry, which stayed from 15 March 1899 until 24 May 1899; the 16th Infantry, which left for the Philippines on 19 July 1899; and also the 39th Infantry, U. S. Volunteers under Colonel R. I. Bullock. On the 14th of October 1899, the 10th Infantry troops arrived from Cuba under the command of Major Duggan for a year. Major Duggan was another tenant of Quarters #16 during a period when the United States was called the American Empire and troops were needed for control of the Caribbean islands.

The facilities at Fort Crook were frequently used as a recuperation camp and recruit training center from 1896 to the early 1900's. During this period there were a number of officers in command. Some of them were: Colonel Gunner H. Lincoln, commander of Fort Crook and a veteran of the 50th U. S. Infantry and another tenant of Quarters #16. He



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

received command of the Fort from Colonel Evers, who had only been in command a month before his retirement. In July 1901 Secretary of War Elihu Root visited Fort Crook and ordered the Fort be raised to battalion strength. During this same period, Colonel Miller of the 2nd and 3rd battalion took command. Fort Crook was considered at all times the home of the 22nd Infantry even during their absence in the Philippines and during the Spanish-American War. During their absence, the reservation was made available to troops enroute to or from overseas and the western outposts because it was considered an excellent place to rest recruits and equipment. At one time during World War I, it was used as a training center for Motor Transport recruits and mobilized men for overseas. One such organization was the 16th Infantry, who made history as a member of a brigade under General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing. The trees which were planted at Fort Crook before 1900 were large enough to shade the 16th from the burning summer sun. In 1906 history records a storm at Fort Crook and Bellevue area which caused an estimated \$100,000 damage. Disasters such as this storm were common in the early days. Fort Crook was also used as a balloon school. In 1921, the 260 acres of land that had been leased to a farmer were plowed, levelled, and seeded to provide a landing strip where government mail planes could land for refueling. The field was dedicated on 10 May 1924 and named Offutt Field in honor of Lt Jarvis Jennes Offutt of Omaha, a World War I pilot killed delivering planes from factories in England to camps at the front in France.

In 1934 Colonel Thomas Anderson assumed command of the 17th Infantry and his tenure at Fort Crook was memorable for the following reasons:

A new post theatre was built at a cost of \$27,000.

A nationwide depression was in its third and fourth year.

The Formal Gardens were constructed just back of Generals Quarters #11 and 12 at a cost of \$35,000.

Records indicate that both the theatre and the Formal Gardens were completed before the end of 1933.

During the term of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Nebraska-South Dakota District Headquarters of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) was located at Fort Crook from 1 April 1933 until 16 April 1937. Work performed by the CCC included reclamation of State parks, forestry, biological survey, and soil conservation. In 1937 the CCC moved from the post and turned over the buildings to the Infantry. In 1938 a contract was awarded to build Facility 88, a brick barracks which cost \$157,332. This construction was performed during Congressional approval of an increase in military strength.

In 1940 Fort Crook and Offutt Field began its period of greatest expansion. An induction center opened on 8 November 1940 and was used until 1 June 1944 to process 77,000 selectees for active duty during the World War II period.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 27 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Two actions that <sup>a</sup> affected the war mission at Fort Crook was the establishment of a motor vehicle maintenance school and supply depot; the other was the leasing of 503.85 acres to the Glenn L. Martin Company for the production of B-26 and B-29 bombers. In January 1945, Fort Crook became an Italian prison camp. After the war ended, the aircraft factory was closed and the base became a reserve training center, serving several Midwest states. The base was under the Army's 7th Service Command until June 1946 when Offutt Field and Fort Crook were transferred to the 2nd Air Force and Air Material Command.

In 1948 a permanent home for the Strategic Air Command Headquarters was established. At this time Offutt Field was named Offutt Air Force Base and became a viable force under the command of Lieutenant General Curtis E. Lemay, who was given the task of developing SAC.

Since it was established, Offutt Air Force Base has been visited by many dignitaries, including members of foreign countries, United States Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Department officials. From 1952 until the present, five United States presidents have visited Strategic Air Command Headquarters, mostly due to the expansion of SAC operations at Offutt, such as the 544th Reconnaissance Technical Wing, activated in 1950 and its role in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1961, the Airborne Command Post (Looking Glass) alert in 1958, and the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS). In 1959 Offutt AFB saw one of the largest construction periods, when a total of 616 new family housing units and Atlas Missiles, totalling \$20 million in construction funds was added.

The Generals Row has been significant in housing additional families required to be near their work. Seven commanding generals of the Strategic Air Command have resided in Quarters #16 since 1948. They are included in the total of 71 commanders of Offutt who have resided in the same quarters throughout the entire history of Fort Crook and Offutt Air Force Base.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kermit L. Cox, Sgt, USAF. The History of Fort Crook and Offutt Air Force Base.  
 3902 Air Base Wing (Historian) 3902 Civil Engineering Squadron, Real Property  
 Records Office.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 43

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	25,4	9,2,0	4,5	5,6	6,8,0	B	1,5	25,4	9,0,0	4,5	5,5	9,4,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,5	25,4	3,6,0	4,5	5,5	9,6,5	D	1,5	25,4	3,8,0	4,5	5,6	7,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The starting point of the District boundary begins behind General Officers Quarters #1 and follows the driveway going north to Officers Quarters #22, turning east across Custer Road on Sherman Turnpike, continues to rear of Dormitory #40, turns south on driveway to Dormitory #88, turns east, follows driveway to the rear of NCO Quarters #38, continues south to Quarters #67, turns north on Lincoln Highway to the rear of fire station #60, around the jail and Bldg #53, returns to Lincoln Highway, north to Custer Road, turns south on Custer Road to Quarters #1, the point of beginning (See attachment for a more precise description).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	EDWIN P. McINTOSH, GS-7, Real Property Officer EARL G. CHERRY, GS-4, Real Estate Specialist
ORGANIZATION	3902 Civil Engineering Squadron
DATE	29 October 1975
STREET & NUMBER	Offutt Air Force Base
TELEPHONE	294-4943
CITY OR TOWN	Omaha
STATE	Nebraska

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*Martin H. Kuntz*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Cross B. Toole*  
 TITLE Director, Real Property and Natural Resources DATE 8-19-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
<i>Lawrence R. Berger</i>	DATE 12/12/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>Don Stutz</i>	DATE 12/16/76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

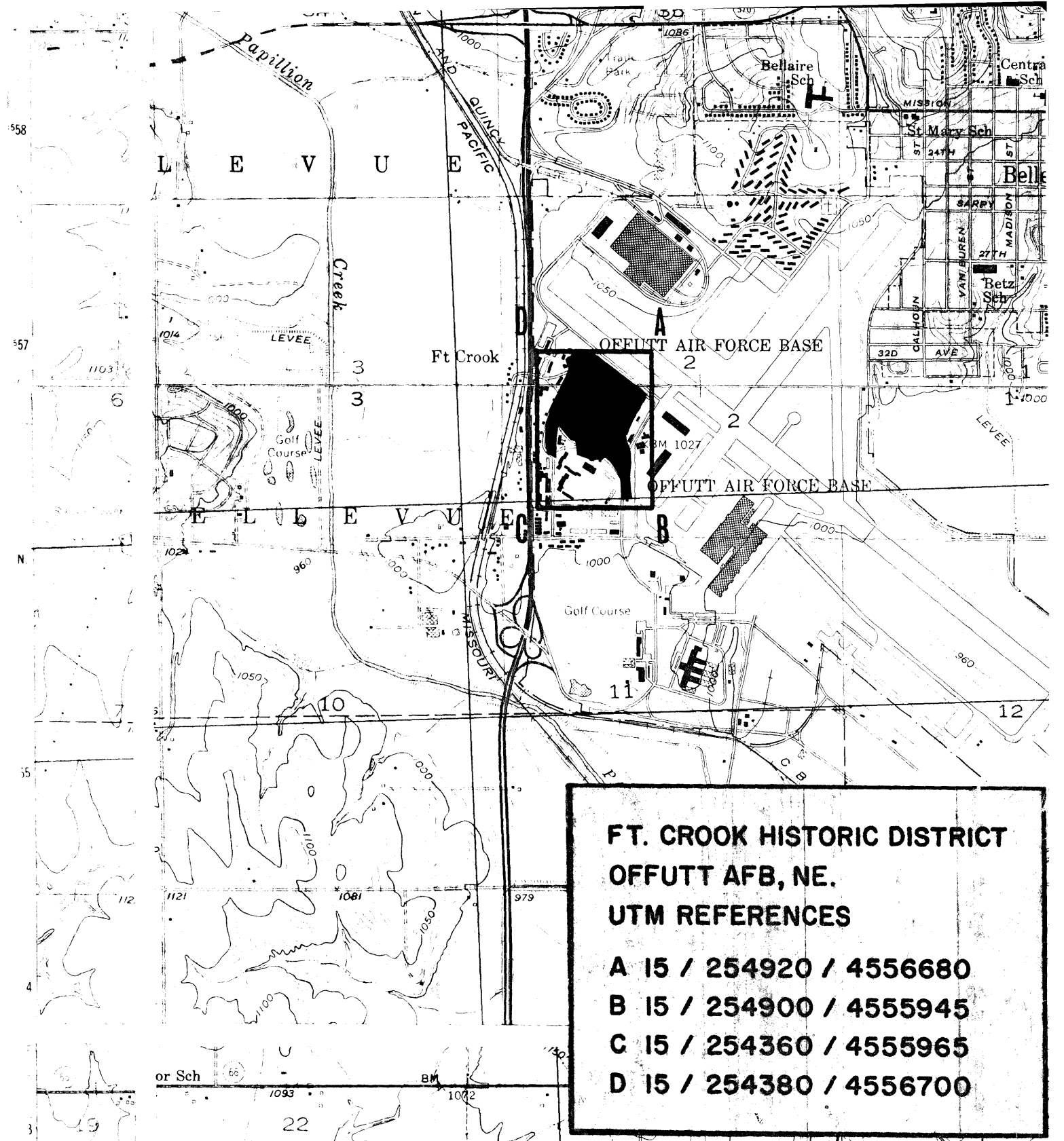
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION  
FORT CROOK HISTORIC DISTRICT

"A certain tract of land situated in the County of Sarpy, State of Nebraska, being part of Offutt AFB which is adjacent to the City of Bellevue and being an irregular shaped parcel of land beginning at a point on the west edge of the driveway behind and serving Quarters 1 through 16 and due west of Building 1; thence, in a northerly direction along the west edge of the driveway across Lincoln Highway to the junction of the driveway and Sherman Turnpike; thence, continuing north along the west edge of the driveway on a curve to the left to a point behind Quarters 19; thence, continuing northeast along the northwest edge of the driveway to a point northeast of Building 22, where the driveway turns to the right; thence, southeast along the northeast edge of the driveway to the junction of the driveway and Sherman Turnpike; thence, continuing southeast along the northeast edge of Sherman Turnpike across Washington Square to a point northeast of and directly behind Quarters 40; thence, southeast behind Quarters 40 and 49 on a curve to the left to the junction of Sherman Turnpike at a point north of Building 39 and southeast of Building 88; thence south along the east edge of the driveway behind and serving Quarters 34 through 39; thence, continuing south along the east edge of the driveway to a point south of Building 67, where the driveway turns to the west; thence, west along the south edge of the driveway to the junction of the driveway and the west edge of Lincoln Highway; thence, north along the west edge of Lincoln Highway, on a curve to the left, to a point south of the southwest corner of Building 64 and west of the northwest corner of Building 35; thence, west to a point south of the southeast corner of Building 60; thence, northwest to a point southwest of Building 53 on the eastern edge of the driveway serving the parking lot southwest of Building 53; thence, northeast along the driveway to the south edge of Lincoln Highway; thence, northwest along the southern edge of Lincoln Highway, on a curve to the right, to the junction of Lincoln Highway and the east edge of Custer Road; thence, southwest along the eastern edge of Custer Road, on a curve to the left, to the junction of Custer Road and the driveway serving Quarters 1 through 12; thence, west northwest along the west edge of the driveway serving Quarters 1 through 12, on a curve to the right, to the point of beginning."





PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FOUR BUILDING INTRUSIONS. THESE BUILDINGS  
ARE DESCRIBED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF ITEM 7 OF THE NOMINATION  
FORM.

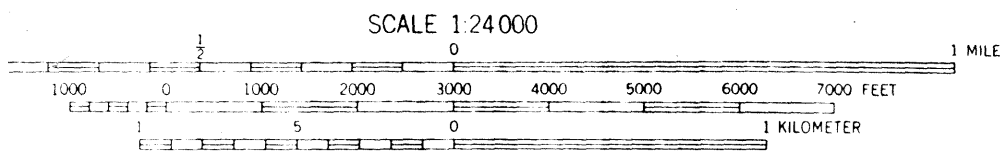


**FT. CROOK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
OFFUTT AFB, NE.  
UTM REFERENCES**

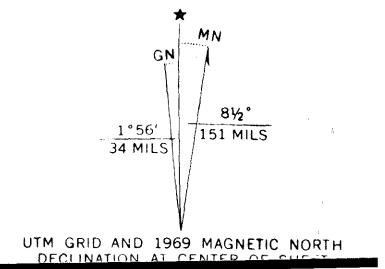
**A 15 / 254920 / 4556680**  
**B 15 / 254900 / 4555945**  
**C 15 / 254360 / 4555965**  
**D 15 / 254380 / 4556700**

or Sch 66  
 1093  
 BM 1042  
 22  
 (MURRAY)  
 6865 IV NW

557 ● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1970  
 MURRAY 1:62,500  
 NEBRASKA CITY 1:26 MI



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 27 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Fort Crook Historic District (Offutt Air Force Base)

AND/OR COMMON  
Offutt Air Force Base

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Offutt Air Force Base VICINITY OF Bellevue COUNTY Sarpy STATE Nebraska

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1 Inch = 24,000 Feet DATE 1956 (Photo Revised 1969)

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

