

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Pappy Dunn Blvd. not for publication N/A
city or town Anniston vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Calhoun code 015 zip code 36205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. A. N. H. / SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

26 SEP 06
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 11.8.06

fore
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: Arms Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Utilitarian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

walls: STUCCO
CONCRETE

other: _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military
Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Period of Significance 1917-1943

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 27 ac.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>16</u>	<u>613167</u>	<u>3732622</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>613190</u>	<u>3732285</u>
2	<u>16</u>	<u>613489</u>	<u>3732500</u>	5	_____	_____	
3	<u>16</u>	<u>613408</u>	<u>3732296</u>	6	_____	_____	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David B. Schneider, Consultant; Christy Anderson, Alabama Historical Commission

organization Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC date 12/01/05

street & number 411 E. 6th Street telephone 256-310-3620

city or town Anniston state AL zip code 36207

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Anniston-Calhoun County Joint Powers Authority

street & number 180 Headquarters Dr., Building #61 telephone 256-236-2011

city or town Anniston state AL zip code 36205

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2. Location, Continued

The Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District is centered along Pappy Dunn Boulevard north of its intersection with Seaton Drive. None of the buildings or structures within the district have street addresses.

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7. Narrative Description

The Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District located within the developed core of the former 45,680-acre Fort McClellan Military Reservation. Located immediately northwest of the traditional limits of the City of Anniston and now incorporated within the city, McClellan was closed as a military base in 1999 and is currently being redeveloped for a mix of public and private uses. The fort developed in a relatively flat area at the base of Choccolocco Mountain which traditionally served as a natural barrier that provided an ideal setting for target ranges for everything from small arms to artillery. Within the developed area at the base of the mountain, a small city of facilities in which to house and train soldiers grew during the fort's eighty years of operation. Originally established as a camp in 1917, most of the present layout of the fort dates from improvements that occurred during the 1930s and 1940s. A low hill near the center of the developed area became the site of the headquarters area that included offices, a hospital, barracks, a church, a fire station, entertainment facilities and officers' quarters. The industrial area located to the northeast of the headquarters area was sited to take advantage of a natural flat area through which a railroad spur was constructed from the main tracks located west of the fort to a more central spot within the facility. The industrial area included a variety of maintenance facilities, storage areas and other facilities necessary to support the activities of the fort. Additional barracks housing was historically clustered around this central area and, over time, was infilled with a variety of training facilities. Firing ranges, training areas and munitions storage were located along the base of the mountain.

The Ammunition Storage Historic District is located to the northeast of the World War II Housing district. Topographically, the area is centered around Reservoir Ridge, with relatively flat areas to its west and south. Pappy Dunn Boulevard is the principal Street within the district and it enters at the west side of the district's south boundary and proceeds north before arcing to the northeast. An unpaved, unnamed road intersects Pappy Dunn Boulevard immediately north of the district's south boundary line and runs eastward before arcing to the northeast. Another unpaved, unnamed road intersects the previously described road east of Pappy Dunn Boulevard and runs north up the hill. Historic resources within the district are generally sited as follows: four stucco and brick ammunition storage buildings line the west side of Pappy Dunn Boulevard, two at the southwest corner of the district and two at the northwest corner; and two underground storage igloos are located along each of the two unpaved, unnamed roads. The district's two noncontributing buildings flank Pappy Dunn Boulevard between the two sets of historic ammunition storage buildings.

The contributing resources in the district include both above-ground buildings (Resources #1, 2, 5 & 6) constructed between 1917 and circa 1940 and earth-covered structures (resources #8-11). Three of the buildings (Resources #2, 5 & 6) date from 1917 and are the only surviving World-War I era permanent buildings that have been documented at McClellan. The four earth-covered "igloos" were constructed during World War II era. Five similar structures were recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey prior to their demolition in 1994. Six additional modern storage igloos are located to north of the district.

The Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District includes eight contributing resources and three noncontributing resource that date from 1917 to 1943. As a group these represent the ammunition storage area of the former military base. The design and layout of the district's resources are consistent with the overall planning that typified the fort's development during this period.

- | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Building #4401 | 1940 ca. | Pappy Dunn Blvd., W side | Contributing |
| Rectangular 1-story stucco ammunition storage building with a front-facing gable composition shingle roof with two round attic ventilators and a lightning rod system; faces west, 1x1 bay, 27'6" x 43'44"; rectangular entrance opening | | | | |

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at west elevation with double leaf steel doors, single small window at east elevation with steel shutters, no openings at side elevations; painted smooth stucco over hollow tile exterior walls; poured concrete foundation, concrete loading ramp at west elevation.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | Building #4402 | 1917 | Pappy Dunn Blvd., W side | Contributing |
| Rectangular 1-story stucco ammunition storage building with a front-facing gable composition shingle roof with a lightning rod system; faces east and west, 1x1 bay, 19'9" x 19'9"; rectangular entrance openings at east and west elevations with corrugated metal door, no openings at side elevations; painted smooth stucco over lath exterior walls; poured concrete foundation, concrete loading ramps at east and west elevations. | | | | |
| 3 | Building #4420 | 1960 ca. | Pappy Dunn Blvd., E side | Noncontributing |
| Rectangular 1-story frame building with a gable roof. | | | | |
| 4 | Building #4420 | 1995 ca. | Pappy Dunn Blvd., W side | Noncontributing |
| Rectangular 1-story concrete block building with a flat roof. | | | | |
| 5 | Building #4405 | 1917 | Pappy Dunn Blvd., W side | Contributing |
| Rectangular 1-story stucco ammunition storage building with a lateral gable composition shingle roof with a lightning rod system; faces east and west, 3x1 bay, 60" x 24"; central rectangular entrance openings at east and west elevations with double leaf steel doors flanked by small window openings, no openings at side elevations; painted smooth stucco over lath exterior walls; poured concrete foundation, concrete loading ramps at east and west elevations. | | | | |
| 6 | Building #4406 | 1917 | Pappy Dunn Blvd., W side | Contributing |
| Rectangular 1-story brick ammunition storage building with a front-facing gable raised seam metal roof with a lightning rod system; faces east, 1x1 bay, 8' x 10'; central segmental arched entrance openings at east elevation with steel door, no openings at side elevations; painted brick exterior walls set in common bond; continuous brick foundation. | | | | |
| 7 | Structure 4421 | 1970 ca. | Unnamed Rd., S side | Noncontributing |
| Rectangular concrete block structure with a flat concrete roof. | | | | |
| 8 | Structure #4415 | 1941 | Unnamed Rd., N side | Contributing |
| Rectangular underground ammunition storage igloo; faces south; exposed concrete headwall with central rectangular entrance with steel door; concrete floor system, arched corrugated metal structure covered with earth. | | | | |
| 9 | Structure #4416 | 1941 | Unnamed Rd., N side | Contributing |
| Rectangular underground ammunition storage igloo; faces southeast; exposed concrete headwall with central rectangular entrance with steel door; concrete floor system, arched corrugated metal structure covered with earth. | | | | |
| 10 | Structure #4413 | 1941 | Unnamed Rd., E side | Contributing |
| Rectangular underground ammunition storage igloo; faces south; exposed concrete headwall with central rectangular entrance with steel door; concrete floor system, arched corrugated metal structure covered with earth. | | | | |

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11 Structure #4411 1941 Unnamed Rd., W side Contributing
Rectangular underground ammunition storage igloo; faces south; exposed concrete headwall with central rectangular entrance with steel door; concrete floor system, arched corrugated metal structure covered with earth.

Archaeology

Extensive archaeological surveys were conducted of Fort McClellan and are summarized in An Historic Preservation Plan for Fort McClellan, Alabama by New South Associates, Inc. (1994). The report did not record any sites within the Industrial Historic District, however potential subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the district.

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The Fort McClellan World War II Ammunition Storage is significant under National Register Criterion A and C. The district's buildings and structures were constructed between 1917 and 1941 to serve as ammunition storage facilities for Fort McClellan. The 45,680-acre U.S. Army facility was established as a National Guard Training camp in 1917 and upgraded to a permanent fort in 1929. Closed in 1999, Fort McClellan was a major military installation for more than eighty years during which time it was also an integral part of the economy and the community character of the City of Anniston. Generations of American men and women received their military training at McClellan and the fort's trainees have fought in every military conflict from World War I through the present. During World War II alone, almost one-half million soldiers were trained at McClellan. Architecturally, the district includes representative examples of the U.S. Army's standardized plans for ammunition storage as constructed in both World Wars. The district is also an important component of the fort's overall military facility planning in the early 20th century. While purely utilitarian in function, the siting of the district was significant as it is located away from other developed areas of the fort, yet within close proximity to the fort's training facilities. Fort McClellan itself is representative of military facility planning in the early 20th century, a time during which "an outstanding group of city planners, architects and landscape designers who were trained in the principles of the City Beautiful and Garden City movements" were employed to create military installations that met high standards for both functionality and aesthetics. This attention to design detail coupled with McClellan's natural setting at the base of the the Choccolocco mountain range combined to earn the fort the reputation for being "the military showplace of the South." The period of significance for the district extends from 1917 through 1941 and reflects the construction dates of its earliest and latest contributing extant buildings.

The indented portions of the following historical narrative were prepared by Denise P. Messick of New South Associates in 1994 as part of a series of three draft National Register nominations completed under a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The nominations were based on their report: An Historic Preservation Plan for Fort McClellan, Alabama (Historic Preservation Plan). Additional documentation for this revised nomination was taken from other documentary sources as well as New South's 2000 report: Historic Context Study: World War II and Cold War Era Buildings and Structures. Fort McClellan, Alabama (WWII and Cold War Era Buildings).

Fort McClellan

The post's military significance derives from its roles in both world wars, first as a National Guard camp in 1917, and then as a permanent installation after 1928 with several divisions of soldiers later training there during World War II. These included the 92nd Division, which was the Army's second African-American division, as well two detachments of Women's Army Corps. The Prisoner of War (POW) camp established at Fort McClellan in June of 1943 also figures significantly into the history of the post. The German prisoners became a part of the labor pool and are credited with building stonework walls, landscape features and the exceptional murals which dress the Officers' Club walls. McClellan's evolution and transformation from hastily erected temporary structures to a permanent, planned community reflects the development of the United States military from World War I to World War II.

The twentieth century history of Fort McClellan is closely tied to that of nearby Anniston which was founded after the Civil War by the Woodstock Iron Company. Samuel Noble of Rome, Georgia, and General Daniel Tyler, a wealthy industrialist from Connecticut, set out to establish a model city, a progressive Southern town structured by industry. It was laid out on a grid plan on the valley floor adjacent to iron ore deposits. Trees were placed on major avenues to relieve the monotony and parks were made part of the overall plan. The town was privately owned until 1883 and it enjoyed growth and prosperity until the depression of the 1890s.

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It began to actively look for ways to enliven its economy and, through pressure on influential members of Congress, was chosen as the location for Camp Shipp which occupied a site north of town on Blue Mountain from 1898 to 1899. By the time the reserve camp was closed, Anniston's iron making industry was being replaced by textile manufacturing and pipe making. In 1912 Congressman Fred L. Blackmon made advances toward the War Department to spur interest in the Choccolocco Mountains as a range for artillery training. The federal government decided in 1917 to purchase the property north of Anniston. The acquisition was orchestrated by the Anniston Chamber of Commerce and, under the purchase agreement, farmers were allowed to work their fields through the summer of 1917. When the Army needed the land sooner than expected, the Chamber underwrote the crop loss. A key factor in the success of Anniston's proposal was the cohesive manner in which they approached the military as a harmonious economic unit.

The events of 1917 compelled the hasty construction of a National Guard camp. War was declared on Germany on April 6th and the Selective Service Bill was passed on May 18th. The Cantonment Division of the Army was mandated to have 32 camps ready by September 1. Camp McClellan was one of the chosen thirty-two, a National Guard cantonment able to handle 27,152 soldiers. It was the first Southern installation named in honor of a Northerner, worse, the commander of the Union forces between 1861 and 1862 (Atlanta Journal, April 13, 1959). This challenge to Southern sensibilities was transcended in light of the economic boost the camp would inject into the town of Anniston. In Washington a cadre of volunteers formed a Committee on Emergency Construction, with William Starrett as chair, to set up a building program. These men included industrialists, construction experts, architects and others who managed the complicated process of preparing typical layouts and plans. Charles L. Dulin was the Constructing Quartermaster placed in charge of Camp McClellan. Dulin chose the site of the new camp in the northwestern quadrant after completing a survey of the reservation which considered topography and geography. No towns or villages were displaced since the land use had been mostly agricultural. The area was fairly level, well-drained, and connected by existing roads to Anniston and Jacksonville. It was also closest to the tracks of the Southern Railway.

The World War I post was laid out in 26 blocks designated as areas, each performing a specific function and containing a set number of buildings. The layout of buildings within each block, particularly those devoted to housing the infantry units, was highly regimented. The positioning of the blocks was not quite linear and appears to have been dependent on the most advantageous way to use the creeks and topographical features of the site. The logistics of establishing this incipient city were laboriously orchestrated by Colonel Dulin as he struggled with water supply, finding laborers, dealing with labor strikes, and the scientific management of labor, road construction and heavy rainfall. Soldiers would be delivered by train, marched over fields and taken to a cleared area to begin constructing their camps. Only one-fourth of the materials used in the camp's construction was actually carried by rail to the site; the bulk were brought in by truck or wagon on the country road. By November of 1917, all officers and enlisted men of the 29th Division, totaling 27,753 individuals, had arrived. Training at the camp was hard. Community relations were forged with the election of a town representative, W. P. Acker, to deal with the military. When the 1st Separate Negro Company of Maryland arrived, they were promptly introduced to the African-American community of Anniston to avoid the racial tension that occurred during the Spanish-American War (MacGregor 1985: 7). By February of 1919, 1,534 buildings had been constructed at the division camp, plus 118 associated with the hospital, 28 built by military organizations, and 16 built by societies. The hospital was imposing, with single ward buildings aligned in four columns and joined through walkways. The whole area was bounded by a circular street pattern and sited on an elongated knoll, ostensibly to ward off contamination and noise. This hill would later

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become the Post Headquarters area.

In the 1920s the incredible expansion of the previous decade was cut back, permanent construction was discouraged, and maintenance on a reduced budget became the Quartermaster Corps' primary mission. As the World War I camps began to fall into disrepair, the mood of the public began to swing in the direction of increased funding. In 1924 Secretary of War John Weeks submitted a long-range plan to Congress to replace temporary structures with permanent barracks, quarters, and hospitals and updated water and sewage systems. The Construction Service was awarded \$126 million by Congress between 1926 and 1930 and talented men were recruited to fill the ranks of the Quartermaster Corps. Major General B. Frank Cheatham's vision of a new program of post development resulted in a period of successful and healthy growth which included Camp McClellan, now Fort McClellan, by authority of a 1929 War Department order. Army Chief of Staff General Charles P. Summerall, who had negotiated the camp's purchase in 1917, was also influential in attaining its permanency as a Regular Army Post for one regiment of Infantry. Three infantry barracks were completed by February 1930 to be followed by quarters for officers and noncommissioned officers. The first buildings in the Industrial District were a garage and stable, both completed in 1932.

The intensity of the Depression halted further progress while military spending was curtailed in 1933. President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) to help stem unemployment. These programs and others which followed benefited construction at military posts across the country by channeling funds into relief programs which created and sustained work for the Construction Division. In 1936 and 1937 W.P.A workers constructed warehouses, garages, stables, a wagon shed, bakery, blacksmith shop, coal trestle, and machine gun and howitzer shed in the Industrial District. They also built numerous buildings and structures in other areas plus utilities, streets and lighting. New Deal programs defined and enhanced the post and provided work to the unemployed. In many ways the 1937 fort was a new and improved version of the 1919 camp. The layout of the permanent buildings was essentially grafted upon a site plan and design brought into reality in the haste of 1917. A strict grid arrangement was absent and streets and occupation areas conformed to the topography.

The 1930s post also benefited from the expertise of city planners, modern architects and landscape architects who were consulted and hired by General Cheatham to improve the beauty as well as the function of the new fort. George B. Ford's hand is evident in the plans of a score of other posts of that generation including Fort Benning in Georgia. Lt. H. B. Nurse (1928: 15) gave the theoretical framework with which the posts were planned, citing five laws of design that are portrayed in nature: Unity, Consonance in Design, Diversity, Balance, and Radiation. Also considered were the three elements of Army posts: operation, administration, and housing. Buildings would be styled in one theme, surrounded by open spaces, and connected by broad main arteries and local streets of various plans and widths which followed natural contours. Plans were not simply generated in Washington, but each post commander and Corps Area Commander had an active voice in the planning process from the beginning. Land use zoning regulations were being developed in the United States in the 1920s. Posts would be divided into areas grouped by function and it was the planner's task to unify the whole. Ford was interested in creating an environment that would be a healthy place to bring up children. Cheatham also suggested that posts have individual programs for landscaping.

Barracks were usually the first buildings constructed, followed by single family homes for officers' families. The Design Branch deemed Georgian Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival styles appropriate to certain

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regions of the country. While bases in New England tended to have brick exteriors and slate roofs, stucco exteriors and tile roofs were more common in their Southern counterparts. Climatic conditions were also considered. The Spanish Colonial Revival Style of the Post Headquarters Area did not extend to the more utilitarian areas such as the Industrial District of Fort McClellan. By 1946, Fort McClellan would be divided into at least five defined areas: the Post Headquarters Area, the Warehouse (or Industrial) Area, the Railhead Area, the Hospital Area, and the Magazine Area. The Industrial District stands out as a compact and cohesive example of the implementation of Cheatham's ideas and Ford's plans for functional divisions of space in the new military community.

The period between the two World Wars was a time of transition for the Army. While it appeared clear to many military experts that the future conduct of war would be fought with modern mechanized armies, others were reluctant to change. Thus airfields, garages, and stables were built during the same era. Even in the mid-1930s most of the new buildings constructed in the transportation area of Fort McClellan were focused on the horse. However, by the end of the Second World War the horse and mule had become symbolic. The buildings were converted in the early 1940s to accommodate a modern mechanized Army. Today the facilities are used for the storage and repair of automobiles and buses.

The updated installation was used by infantry units, ROTC units, National Guard units and as headquarters for supervising 45 CCC camps in the Southeast. The 1940s brought a second boom period for Fort McClellan directly related to world events. The Selective Service bill of 1940 was passed on the condition that the draft would commence once proper arrangements were made for the draftees' housing, sanitation and medical care (American Public Works Association 1976: 596). McClellan was placed within the second tier of forts to be ready by October 1940. The 1940s saw the careful evolution of functional areas, but the areas which housed troops remained situated as they were in 1937, albeit with more buildings. Units remained intact within their separate camps. A civilian village was added between 1937 and 1946, and this residential area was laid out similar to the post command area. A traffic circle was added by the fire house. The base plan still retained the overall look of the 1917 camp, with the main areas still clustered around the railroad spur while the battalion areas remained in block formation stretching to the north and south. Standardization in building design was practiced in World War I but truly refined during the second World War. In addition to the temporary buildings constructed during this period, the fort was expanded to the east and west. The policy set by the Quartermaster's Office was to hire local/regional firms capable of meeting the standards set by the government.

The 27th Division, a National Guard unit from New York, trained at Fort McClellan with a new three-phase program devised by the War Department to test field operations. The city of Anniston continued to have a close and harmonious relationship with the troops by having public dances in their honor, bringing women from local colleges to the events, and staging vaudeville shows and boxing events. Local churches provided clubrooms for the soldiers. After the 27th Division left for the Pacific, the Basic Immaterial Training Center (BIRTC) was formed to give recruits eight weeks of basic training before being sent to specialized units for combat or other training. This was replaced in 1943 by the Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC). While an African-American division (the 92nd) was stationed at Fort McClellan, the Army still rigidly held to a segregationist policy with blacks being housed and fed in separate facilities. The two detachments of Women's Army Corps (one white and one black) were given clerical roles, handled the motor pool, and worked in bakeries, service clubs, mess and supply (Lane 1955: 25). The housing for women was considered

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"separate, but better" than that given to male soldiers. In 1955 McClellan would become the first permanent home of the WAC.

Fort McClellan's POW camp was completed in May 1943 west of the Headquarters area with a standard layout for up to 3,000 individuals. It had three sections with rows of 20-man barracks in each section. The barracks were shotgun-like buildings with dimensions of twenty by forty feet. The camp was essentially self contained with kitchens, orderly rooms, dayrooms, dispensaries, a chapel, library, reading room, stage, and athletic fields. Most of the men interned at McClellan worked on the post and some were involved with local employers in the agricultural and industrial sectors who contracted out for their labor. In their off hours and in jobs assigned to them on post, POW s created a substantial legacy at Fort McClellan in the realms of masonry and art as well as less visible improvements. Stone walls, chimneys, patios, drainage ditches, and landscaping are credited to the prisoners, as well as the carved bar at the Officers Club (now removed) and the murals which decorate its walls.

Since 1945 Fort McClellan has undergone changes in mission and facilities, and has on occasion had to fight for its very survival as an active fort, but the Post Headquarters District has maintained its character and integrity as an intact example of community planning in the context of military architecture between the two World Wars. It is also a visible symbol of the successful relationship between the military installation and the community of Anniston. The post has played a significant role in local political and economic history and it has provided a connection between a small Alabama town and the national preparations for war.

Fort McClellan was placed on inactive status in 1946 only to be reactivated in 1950. In 1951 the fort became the home of the Chemical Corps School, later known as the U.S. Army Chemical Center and School. New facilities were completed for the school by 1954 which began a program of eight weeks of basic training followed by eight weeks of chemical training. The chemical training included decontamination and chemical warfare procedures in addition to the use of smoke grenades and flame throwers. 1954 also saw the creation of the Women's Army Corps Center at McClellan, a receiving, processing and training facility.

The U.S. Army Combat Developments Command Chemical Biological-Radiological Agency operated at McClellan from 1962 until 1973 when it and the Chemical School were deactivated. During the Vietnam War, an Advanced Individual Training Infantry Brigade trained more than 30,000 soldiers between 1966 and 1970. The Chemical School was reestablished in 1979. By this time the average military population at McClellan stood at about 10,000.

Rising costs and shrinking budgets forced the Defense Department to begin reevaluating its military facilities in the 1980s. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) was formed to complete this reassessment and made its first recommendations for base closures in 1989. While Fort McClellan was included on the 1989 list, it was not until 1995, by which time the Army had formulated a plan to consolidate and relocate Fort McClellan's mission to Fort Leonard Wood, that the BRAC voted to close McClellan. The official closing ceremony took place on May 20, 1999. Since that time, much of the fort's property has been transferred to the Anniston-Calhoun County Joint Powers Authority (JPA), a nonprofit agency that is now overseeing the former fort's environmental clean-up and redevelopment. The JPA has since officially renamed the area McClellan.

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Ammunition Storage Historic District

The Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District includes eight contributing resources that date from 1917 to 1943. As a group these buildings and structures formed the principal ammunition storage area for Fort McClellan. The storage facilities within the district continued to be utilized until the fort closed in 1999.

The Magazine Area was laid out and constructed by Colonel Dulin, the Construction Quartermaster for Camp McClellan, as part of the new post. Once completed, it was considered part of the camp's Ordnance Depot under the direction of the 120th Ordnance Depot Company. The latter began operations on September 3, 1917 when its first warehouse was completed and designated for the storage of ordnance. This line of command was newly instituted. Prior to General Order No. 137, War Department, 1917, the Adjutant General of the Army directed Commanding Generals of the divisions in training to organize Field Depot Companies at their respective camps. This delegation of authority was pragmatic. As no centralized unit specializing in ordnance supply was in existence, the experience of these men was drawn upon. However, this arrangement led to a lack of uniformity of procedure that could not be countenanced within the scale of operations that were unfolding. The 1917 order removed the 34 Ordnance depots from control of the camp or division commanders except for purposes of protection, discipline, or coordination of supply. This change opened the door for centralized control of the field depots which manifested itself in the Field Depot Branch of the Supply Division in the fall of 1917 (Palmer 1915/1919a).

The Ordnance Depot Company, once properly established, had an unusual place within the division camps as its control stemmed from the Ordnance Department. It was not a tactical unit but a stationary organization. Business men commissioned in Ordnance were charged with the responsibility of setting up each depot, installing efficiency, and creating a rapport with the various organizations within the camps. The underlying concept was that the Depot was to "give actual service" that would expedite and ease the Supply Officers handling of ordnance activities.

The buildings associated with each Field Depot were uniform. Cooperation between the Supply Division and the Cantonment Division of the Quartermaster Department lead to the construction of an office, two storehouses, three magazines, an oil house, and a repair shop at each field depot. All of these were built according to standardized plans and particular attention was given to the storage buildings interior design. The Stores Division were the caretakers of the magazines, along with the warehouses and the oilhouse. A historical report indicates Camp McClellan's ordnance buildings were in accordance with the agreed upon plan with the Quartermaster's Department (Palmer 1915/1919b). Three magazines were finished early in October of 1917 and a black powder magazine was also built. No further mention is made of the magazines until November 1915 when a large platform was constructed "at the magazines" to provide storage for 60,000 rounds of artillery ammunition. The ammunition had been stored outside the magazines in piles for lack of adequate storage space. "The floor of one magazine had already cracked under the weight of the ammunition which was piled to the roof," (Palmer 1915/1919b).

According to a 1919 map, the initial layout of the Magazine Area created by Dulin was straightforward, placing the munitions storage area at the base of Reservoir Ridge, approximately a mile and a half from the main building area. The internal organization of the magazines was fairly simple between 1917 and 1919. Four of the magazines fronted the railroad spur on their west elevations while an unnamed street, perpendicular with Henry Street, was

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built along their eastern elevations. Three of these buildings were rectangular structures uniform in size. These are known currently as Buildings 4403, 4404 and 4405. Only 4405 is extant. Real property records indicate that each measured 24 feet x 60 feet. Gable roofs with ridge vents covered the frame and concrete buildings. Map information further indicates that a set interval was allowed between each of approximately 120 feet. A fourth magazine, Building 4402, was built south of Building 4403. This was a square, 20 feet on a side, magazine similar in construction to the other 1917 magazines. Two other magazines are noted on the 1919 map. Both of which were located away from the group on the railroad spur, Real property records identify these as powderhouses. A 1937 General Map of Fort McClellan shows only minor changes occurred in the Magazine Area since World War I. This is in sharp contrast with the expansion experienced by other areas at Fort McClellan that were targeted by the Housing Program for the Army. The main changes were the addition of a new approach from the south and the renaming of Henry Street to "Ordnance Road." The temporary building shown in 1919 disappeared and the beginning of the curve of the dogleg around Reservoir Ridge was more defined. Only one magazine materialized from a 1934 request for four additional magazines, Building 4401. Based on QM 652-297, this magazine was not constructed until May of 1936 after the 1937 Master Plan was completed. Listed as an Ordnance Magazine, it was a rectangular building whose gable end faced the railroad spur. While this was a departure from the earlier magazines, Building 4401 was still a sibling to the earlier Standard Ordnance Depot Magazine. The nine igloos constructed in 1941, however, were from another gene pool.

The lethargy that blocked adequate repair of Fort McClellan's magazines ended with the onset of World War II. Attention once focused upon the construction of camps and cantonments, now centered on munitions as Americans realized that industrial preparedness was a necessity. By October of 1940, the Army had allotted \$700 million for constructing and equipping new facilities to make and store munitions. Four months later the first munitions plant program was defined (Fine and Remington 1989:309). As in World War I, the Construction Division built the plants and storage buildings the Ordnance personnel would exclusively use. One thread within these linked stories was the upgrading of ammunition storage facilities and the establishment of regional ammunition depots. Fort McClellan was considered as a possible candidate for bomb storage but was passed over after a survey found no suitable ground available. Instead, Fort McClellan's ammunition storage area continued to store ammunition used in the training of the 27th Division, the National Guard Division from New York (Lane 1955:15).

Lane's history of the installation notes that Dunn Construction Company of Birmingham and John S. Hodgson Company of Montgomery were responsible for Fort McClellan's 1941 expansion of which the magazine construction must have been a part (Lane 1955:15). The new construction followed the layout created by Dulin extending Second Avenue to the northeast. The first four igloos to be built continued the World War I plan of aligning the magazines with the railroad. Both the spur and Second Avenue were extended to accommodate their construction and to afford service access. Five more igloos were constructed to the east of Second Avenue on two branches that are accessed from Second Avenue. The igloos identified as Buildings 4408, 4409, 4410, and 4411 are each over 300 feet apart. This spacing which was also afforded to Buildings 4412, 4413, 4414, 4415 and 4416 was guided by safety distances established by the American Table of Distances.

A new magazine design, the igloo, was adopted for the expansion. The igloo was designed after a tragic explosion brought safe ammunition storage to the nation's attention. A series of explosions induced by lightning at the Navy's Lake Denmark, New Jersey, Ammunition Depot occurred on July 10, 1926. High explosives, projectiles, black powder, and smokeless powder were stored in about one-third of the buildings at the depot located about

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three and a half miles from the City of Dover. A hollow tile magazine of fireproof construction and equipped with lighting rods akin to those at Fort McClellan was the first to explode. Other explosions followed as other buildings were ignited from embers, missiles or direct heat. Within a 3,000 foot radius from the initial explosion area, everything was destroyed. The disaster area was inventoried and analyzed to ascertain the cause of the explosion, to chronicle the chain of events, to evaluate the success or failure of safety devices in place, and to chart the distances impacted by the explosion. While the military community was bent on fact finding, the American public was horrified at the extent of the disaster and called for an investigation. The results of the official inquiry were published in 1928 under the title, Ammunition Storage Conditions, Letter from the Acting Secretary of War Transmitting Proceedings of the Joint Board Composed of Officers of the Army and Navy to Survey Ammunition Storage Conditions, Pursuant to the Act Approved December 22, 1927.

The board noted that after World War I enormous quantities of ammunition, en route to France piled up on the Atlantic seaboard and were diverted to the nearest depot. These depots were dangerously overloaded, and all ammunition considered not essential for future use was disposed of accordingly. This still left many depots over-extended. The board stipulated no problems had occurred where proper storage was practiced and that steps could be taken to remove any further concerns. Redistribution and rearrangement were posed as solutions as well as the establishment of a permanent Joint-Army-Navy Ammunition Storage Board to serve in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy (Thomson and Mayo 1991:361). Finally it noted a new design for ammunition storage was being implemented at Yorktown Naval Mine Center.

The new barricaded magazine being built at Yorktown was also commented on in the Engineering News Record (1928:112). A small article on naval construction activities described the magazines as semi-cylindrical structures of reinforced concrete, covered with earth except on their end walls which are protected by barricades of earth faced with creosoted wood. The Yorktown magazines were 40 feet long and 10 feet high at the crown of their arch and had a capacity for 140,000 pounds of explosives. They were laid out in groups of seven with 500 feet between each and 1,900 feet between groups. The design was attributed to Captain E. R. Gaylor (C.E.C.) U.S.N. under Rear Admiral L. E. Gregory (C.E.C.) U.S.N. Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

"The outstanding feature of the new design is that the magazines will be sunk into the ground and bulwarked at each end, that in case of an accident, the explosive force would be directed upward instead of horizontally" (Engineering News Record 1928:112). A second feature of the new design was a complex system of lightning protection which included lightning rods and a steel reinforcing rods, closely set and welded in the arch (Fine and Remington 1989:333). Essentially, all reinforcing steel and other metal parts were electrically connected to a copper girdle circling the entire structure and embedded in its footing (Cotter 1930:805). A plan for such a magazine, titled "Magazine Plan, Elevation and Sections", Yards and Docks Drawing No. 104260, was located on file at Yorktown Naval Weapons Center. This plan, dated July 15, 1927, shows that N. M. Smith was the Project Manager. Smith was Commander N. M. Smith, Civil Engineer Corps, Bureau of Yards and Docks, U.S.N., a member of the Ammunition Storage Condition Board discussed above. The designer is noted simply by his initials, "J. M.", but a companion sheet with an analysis of stresses shows the full name of the designer, Mr. J. M. Michaelson.

Michaelson's inspiration can only be guessed but as quickly as the igloo was created, its design was modified to suit differing needs and budgetary concerns. The igloos' diffusion was guaranteed as it was preferred by the Joint Army-Navy Ammunition Storage Board and the Ordnance Safety Board for all types of ammunition storage

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except small arms. Thomson and Mayo (1991:368) report that the Ordnance Department required in January 1941 that igloos be used in all future depot construction. However, with the construction of large depots looming, reducing construction costs and reducing the quantity of steel used in the construction became an issue. Redesign of the igloo was undertaken to force this reduction in money and materials. Colonel Casey, construction officer in charge of directing redesign projects, consulted with Dr. Karl B. McEachron, head of General Electric's high voltage laboratory, about the system of lightning protection the igloo featured. In the end, Casey adopted an idea proposed by Colonel Dunstan which eliminated the tie beams by reinforcing the concrete slab floor to take the thrust of the arch. Fort McClellan's examples show a further abbreviation of Michaelson's design that used materials such as Armco's Multi-Plates to expediently and efficiently create safe storage conditions.

Architecture and Facilities Planning

The Ammunition Storage Historic District contains distinctive architectural examples of best practice in two generations of ammunition storage design. These structures provide a timeline of technological change within a military context that yields information important to the history of technology. Each generation of magazines incorporated new knowledge about how ammunition could be safely stored. Period literature from the Ordnance Department indicates that the Fort McClellan 1917 magazines were "standard" types at field depots. These frame and stucco buildings were superseded by the hollow tile construction of the 1930s. Building 4401 is an example of this new construction type that was cast in the form of the 1917 magazines. The igloo with its arch and earth covering was a major departure in both form and construction. Its design, a response to a tragic explosion, is attributed to the Navy in 1927. Despite its novelty, the igloo became the new standard magazine of World War II. Fort McClellan's igloos are metal examples. These structures hold significant information about the prompt adoption by the military of new improvements in culvert and tunnel design and their application throughout the nation's ammunition depots.

The layout of the Ammunition Storage Area was also part of a military technology that was unfolding in World War I and improved upon in World War II. The initial layout of the Ammunition Supply Area can be credited to the Construction Quartermaster and engineers that established Camp McClellan in 1917. Their plan devolved upon an association of the railroad spur with the magazines within an area that was buffered from the main building area. The railroad spur was crucial as it tied the isolated area into the new camp's main transportation artery and allowed it to function within Camp McClellan's Ordnance Depot. Topography was also a consideration. Accordingly, the most level area was chosen for the first magazines and the railbed.

Its subsequent growth was a product of World War II. The outer buffer zone established in 1917 was still intact in 1941. The main challenge was to expand the magazine area using standardized safety distances without compromising the utility of earlier magazines and by fully using the land available. Much of the latter is Reservoir Ridge. Research has shown that where new magazine areas were being laid out in World War II contexts, standard layouts were followed. A distance of 600 feet between each unit was used to discourage induced or sympathetic explosions within the group. Such an organization was not attainable at Fort McClellan, where a functional area was already in existence and to a certain extent already defined. Adequate safety distances and topography were the factors that guided the situation of the nine World War II igloos.

The Ammunition Storage Historic District is an example of a distinctive and little studied landscape within military posts. It presents a timeline of architectural and technological change recorded in its buildings and its

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layout that is unparalleled in the information it contains about ammunition and men in a time of war.

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This nomination form is based partly on a two-volume historic building inventory prepared in 1993 by New South Associates, Inc. of Stone Mountain, Georgia, and ERC Environmental and Energy Services Co., Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee. Volume II of that report contains HABS inventory forms on all pre-1942 buildings at Fort McClellan. The report was submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile, Alabama. Some sections of that report are included verbatim in this nomination, which was also produced by New South Associates. References used for both are included in the following list. This nomination form is also based on two studies of Fort McClellan's ammunition storage buildings. The first titled Ammunition Storage Early-Twentieth Century Design and Context, Fort McClellan, Alabama was prepared by New South Associates for Mobile Corps of Engineers, 1995. This volume contains the results of the inventory of the post's ammunition storage building conducted in 1993 and the results of a HABS Level I documentation conducted for five of the magazines in 1994. The second is an interim report titled An Inventory of Seventeen Buildings also prepared by New South for Mobile Corps of Engineers in 1994.

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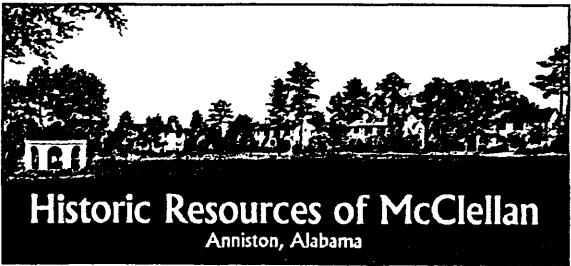
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Verbal Boundary Description

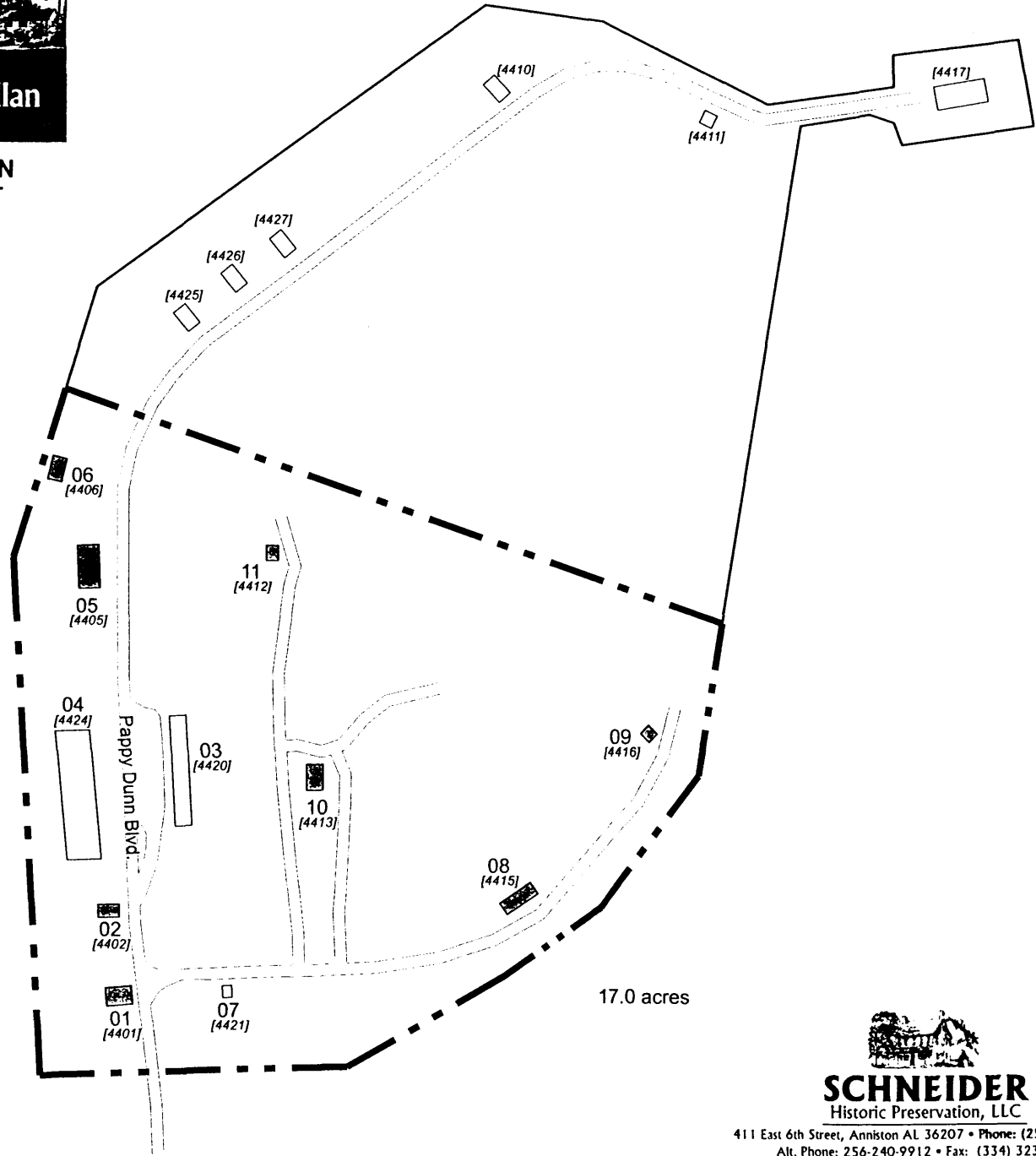
The boundaries of the Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage Historic District are indicated on an accompanying scaled map. The map was based on information obtained from U.S.G.S. topographic maps and U.S.G.S. satellite images.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based upon the historic boundaries of the ammunition storage area as delineated on historic maps and contained within an existing fence line. As a result of the recent replacement of resources in the northern portion of the traditional compound, an arbitrary boundary was chosen to exclude the northern area from the nominated district. Property included within the entire district is currently under single ownership and no individual parcels have yet been delineated.



**FORT McCLELLAN AMMUNITION
STORAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT**



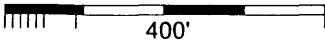
KEY

Contributing

Noncontributing

000 National Register Nomination Number

1000 Historic Building Identification Number

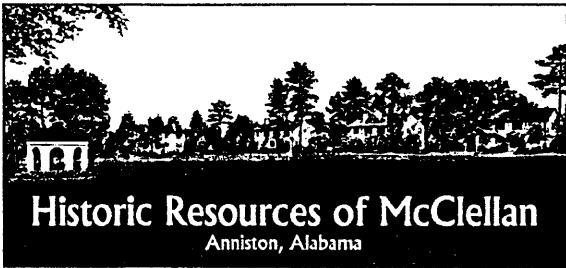


17.0 acres



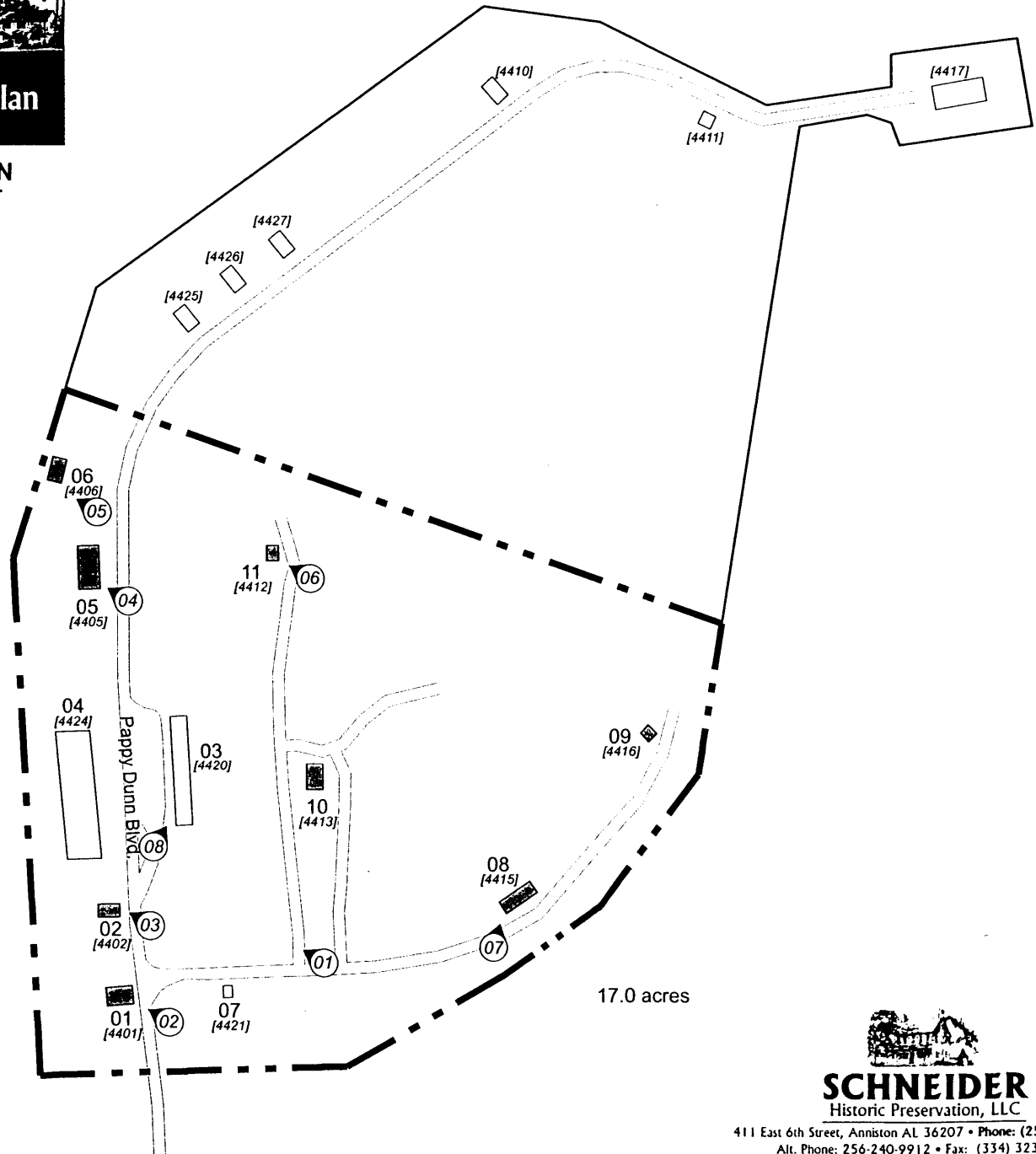
SCHNEIDER
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e-mail: dbschneider@bellsouth.net



**FORT McCLELLAN AMMUNITION
STORAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Photo Directions Indicated by:



KEY

- Contributing
- Noncontributing

000 National Register Nomination Number
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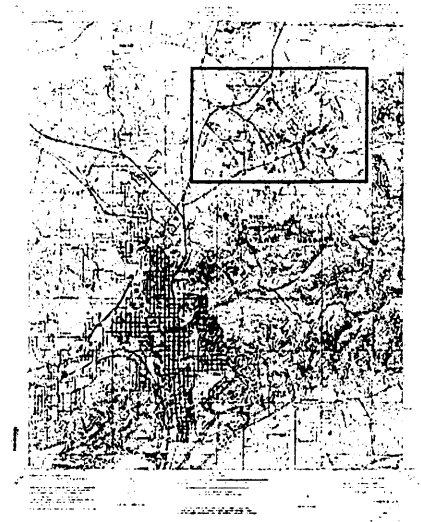
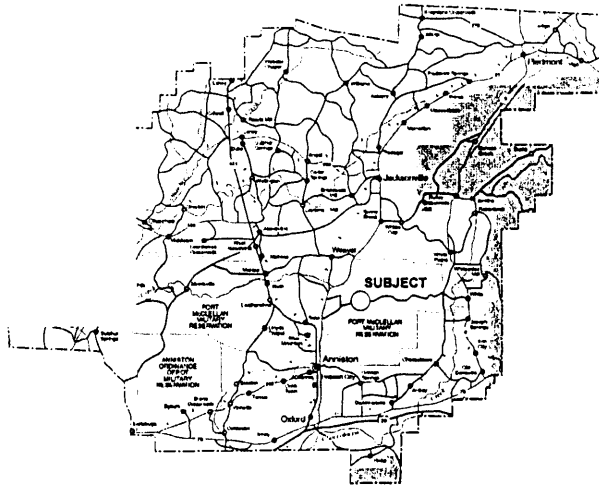
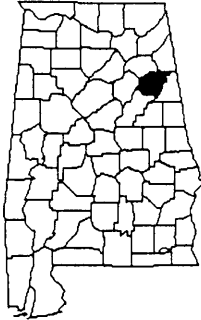
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort McClellan Ammunition Storage H.D.
Calhoun County, AL

Section number ____ Page ____

Accompanying Documentation Continuation Sheet #1



USGS Quad:
Anniston

