Fort Omaha, Nebraska

RG517 Fort Omaha, Nebraska
& film

Records: 1863-1949
Cubic ft.: 1
No. of Items: 3 orig. documents, 6 reels of 35mm microfilm, and 24 oversize blueprints & diagrams

HISTORICAL NOTE

Omaha became headquarters for the Military District of Nebraska Territory in 1862. It is not known whether the "post at Omaha" was located on the same site as the later Fort Omaha. Omaha was made headquarters for the Department of the Platte in April 1866. The present site of the fort was selected by Maj. Gen. C. C. Augur and inspected by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, for whom it was first named "Sherman Barracks." In 1869 the post became Omaha Barracks, and in December of 1878, it was designated Fort Omaha.

By 1895, the Army had found the fort too small for its needs and established a new post, Fort Crook, south of the city. The new fort eventually developed into Offutt Air Force Base. The garrison at Fort Omaha was withdrawn in 1895 and the post remained unoccupied for ten years.

A new stable and a new Administration were constructed in 1904 & 1905 when the post became a school for non-commissioned officers of the Army Signal Corps. This operation ended in 1913 and it was not until 1916 that the fort was again utilized. In 1916 the U.S. Army Air Service, 9th Naval District, Balloon and Airship Division opened one of the largest training centers for observation balloon crews in the United States at Fort Omaha.

In 1947 the Army declared the fort surplus property and it was taken over by the U.S. Naval Personnel Department as a reserve training center. Later it served as an administrative, recruiting and training facility for several branches of the service.

One of the historic buildings at Fort Omaha dating from this period is a home constructed in 1879 and first occupied by the famous Indian fighter General George Crook. The house is still standing (1993) along with department headquarters and storehouse all constructed in the same year. Other buildings constructed in the 1880s also stand on the site of the fort which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort Omaha Historic District is located along Thirtieth Street between Fort Street and Laurel Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska.
ADDED ENTRIES:

ARCHITECTURE--NEBRASKA--DESIGNS AND PLANS
Crook, Gen. George, 1828-1890
HOSPITALS, MILITARY--NEBRASKA
MILITARY ARCHITECTURE
MILITARY BASES--NEBRASKA
Omaha Barracks (Omaha, Neb.)
OMAHA (NEB.)--HISTORY
Sherman Barracks (Omaha, Neb.)
UNITED STATES--ARMED FORCES--MEDICAL CARE
United States Army Air Service. 9th Naval District.
   Balloon and Airship Division
UNITED STATES--ARMY--DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE
UNITED STATES--ARMY--MEDICAL CARE
United States. Army. Signal Corps
United States Naval Personnel Center (Omaha, Neb.)
United States Navy--Reserve Officer Training
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This record group consists of military and construction records of Fort Omaha, Nebraska, arranged into five series: 1) Post Returns, 1863-1916; 2) Building Records on Microfilm, 1878-1949; 3) Blueprints and Diagrams, 1904-1949; 4) Medical History Record, 1868-1889; and 5) Miscellany.

The post returns of Series One reflect the month to month activities of post personnel and duties performed, 1863-1916. This microfilm was purchased by the Historical Society from the National Archives in June of 1972.

Series Two & Three include construction records of Fort Omaha, 1868-1949. The Construction Records consist of building survey cards, 1905-1945, which include photo, date of construction, cost of construction, description of building, and repairs and expenditures or date of surplus, 1878-1941. Included are blueprints and diagrams of structural improvements at the fort, 1904-1905 & 1936, but mostly layout plans and maps of the fort and the balloon field at Florence, 1917-1949.

Series Four consists of one reel of microfilm, special ordered by the Archives in 1977, of the Medical History records of the fort, 1868-1889.

Series Five includes a dedication program for the Fort Omaha historical marker, 1868, and a tour guide brochure including a brief history of Fort Omaha. This Series including additional records is microfilmed at the end of roll #1, Series Two.

The Construction records of Series Two were loaned to the Archives for microfilming by the U.S. Naval Support Facility, Fort Omaha, courtesy of Commander J. R. Collins, on August 27, 1971.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE POST RETURNS, 1863-1916

Roll #1 Post Returns, August 1863
NARS thru
MC617 Post Returns, December 1873
AR#879

Roll #2 Post Returns, January 1874
NARS thru
MC617 Post Returns, December 1885
AR#880
SERIES ONE  POST RETURNS (cont)

Roll #3  Post Returns, January 1886
NARS  thru
MC617  Post Returns, September 1896
AR#881

Roll #4  Post Returns, July 1905
NARS  thru
MC617  Post Returns, December 1910
AR#882

Roll #5  Post Returns, January 1911
NARS  thru
MC617  Post Returns, December 1916
AR#883

SERIES TWO  BUILDING RECORDS, 1868-1946

Roll #1  Construction & Maintenance, vol. 1
MF  Building Survey Cards & Corres., 1905-1948
#08767  for Bldgs. constructed 1905-1941
thru
Construction & Maintenance, vol. 2
Building Survey Cards, 1905-1944
for Bldgs. constructed 1878-1941

NOTE: See Series Five or continuation of this roll

SERIES THREE  BLUEPRINTS AND DIAGRAMS, 1904-1949

OD122
Item 1-5  Blueprints (fair to poor condition)
Stable for 90 horses, Aug. 1904, sheets 1-5

Item 6  Administration Building, Fort Omaha
by John Kiewitt Jr., Oct. 1904
cross section and elevation

Item 7  Administration Building - Attic Plan
Maj. M. Gray Zalinski, Constructing Q.M. February, 1905

Item 8  Q.M. and Sub Storehouse - Longitudinal Section
Maj. M. Gray Zalinski, Constructing Q.M. February 1905
SERIES THREE BLUEPRINTS & DIAGRAMS (cont)

OD122

Item 9 Q.M. and Sub Storehouse - West Elevation
Maj. M. Gray Zalinski, Constructing Q.M.
February 1905

Item 10 U.S. Army Balloon School
Survey of Northern Sector, Aug. 1917
Revised Sept. 12, 1917

Item 11 Map of Fort Omaha (post map) - Dec. 5, 1917
Q.M. 7th Corps
Corrected & Revised to Oct. 11, 1929

Item 12 Map of Florence Field
U.S. Army Balloon School, May 1, 1918
Revisions to Sept. 25, 1918

Item 13 Map of Fort Omaha including Florence Field
U.S. Army Balloon School, May 1, 1918
Revisions to Sept. 3, 1918

Item 14 Plot Plan (copy)
showing location of new construction
Headquarters 7th Corps, U.S. Army
Dec. 14, 1934 w/ revisions to 1/23/1935

Item 15 Plot Plan
Revision May 3, 1936

Item 16 Plot Plan - Q.M. 7th Corps
Jan. 24, 1936 with revisions to 4/24/1942

Item 17-23 Service Club remodel into Officers Mess
Original pencil on paper, Oct. 10, 1936
Q.M. 7th Corps Area.

Item 24 Contour Map - Fort Omaha
U.S. Army Air Service, 9th Naval Dist.
Balloon & Airship Division, Sept. 27, 1949
RG517 & film

Fort Omaha, Nebraska

Roll #1
NARS Nov. 1868 - Feb. 1874
RG94 thru
#16735 Post Medical History, v.221
Dec. 1874 - Dec. 1889

Dedication program - Nebraska State Historical Marker, Feb. 4, 1968


NOTE: Microfilmed at end of Roll #1, Series Two Construction Records.

Roll #1 #08767
Historical Marker Legend and Dedication program
Tour Brochure (described above)
Building Inventory, 1917-1927
(lists date of construction, descr., & condition)
Diagrams
Brick Guardhouse (1883-1884)
Post Hospital (December 1883)

NOTE: Description (1 sheet) for above Diagrams precedes Building inventory on microfilm.

END OF INVENTORY
JEP/DDS/PMC 9/15/1971
JEP/PMC 7/22/1972
PMC/WP51 12/03/1993