

## Fort Omaha, Nebraska

RG517  
& film

Fort Omaha, Nebraska

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 The garrison at Fort Omaha was withdrawn in 1895 and the post remained unoccupied for ten years.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

film

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

RG517  
& film

Fort Omaha, Nebraska

Sheet 3

AR#880

film

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

film

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

film

SERIES FOUR POST MEDICAL HISTORY RECORDS, 1871-1892



RG517  
& film

Fort Omaha, Nebraska

Sheet 7

Roll #1  
NARS  
RG94  
#16735

Post Medical History, v.219  
Nov. 1868 - Feb. 1874  
thru  
Post Medical History, v.221  
Dec. 1874 - Dec. 1889

film

SERIES FIVE MISCELLANY

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|-----|-----|---|
| B.1 | f.1 | <u>Welcome Aboard "Ft. Omaha"</u> - tour brochure,<br>U.S. Naval Personnel Center with brief<br>history of Fort Omaha, 1867-1967. |
|     |     | Dedication program - Nebraska State<br>Historical Marker, Feb. 4, 1968  |
|     |     | Q.M., Ft. Omaha to Adjutant Gen., Washington<br>Jan. 8, 1932 regarding disposition of<br>temporary buildings.                     |

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)
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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