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U.S. Department of War Records on Microfilm

ACC 1981/08.0340



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2019

U.S. Department of War Records on Microfilm

Summary:

Title: U.S. Department of War Records on Microfilm
Span Dates: 1821-1920
Creator: U.S. Government
Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)
Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019
Accession Number: 1981/08.0340
Date Completed: October, 2019
Access to Collection: Open
Extent: 8 reels
Donor: Purchase

Search Terms:

Military history
United States Government
United States Army

Biographical Notes:

N/A

Scope and Content:

This collection is composed of eight reels of microfilm purchased from the National Archives catalogue of microfilmed government records. The reel title is as follows: "Historical Information Relating To Military Posts And Other Installations Ca. 1700-1900". The material on the reel was originally taken from the following government record group: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94.

All scope and content information was taken from the stub record on the National Archives microfilm catalog by searching for the M661 publication number here: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov>

"On the eight rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced the 27-volume "Outline Index of Military Forts and Stations," containing historical information about military posts and other installations, and related historical information, for the period ca. 1700-1900. The volumes also contain a few 16th-, 17th-, and 20th- century references. The volumes are a part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94.

The information was entered in the volumes in a number of ways. In most cases it was copied by hand into the volumes. Sometimes the information was typed on sheets of paper and the sheets pasted into the volumes, as were extracts from general orders, annual reports, and other War Department documents. In a very few

cases, newspaper clippings, blueprints of post buildings, and even photographs were affixed to the volume pages.

The length of the entries varies from a line or two to several pages of information. An entry may include any or all of the following kinds of information about an installation: when and by whom established and abandoned; geographic location; origin or derivation of its name; names of units stationed there and their period of assignment; history, geology, and plant life of the surrounding area; aspects of the descent of its legal title; and construction details.

In addition to the information about the installations, the entries usually include one or more bibliographical references. These references have two functions: to substantiate the information given in the entry and to serve as a source of additional information concerning the installation.

Many of the references are to single documents among large 19th-century series of records of the War Department in the National Archives, such as the letters received by the Adjutant General's Office and the Headquarters of the Army, and general orders of the War Department and its various bureaus, offices, and commands. Most of the references, however, are to a wide range of printed works. Among the most frequently cited are *U.S. Statutes at Large*, the Congressional serial set, *American State Papers*, Hamersly's *Complete Regular Army Register of the United States*, Lossing's *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* and *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*, Chittenden's *History of the Fur Trade of the Far West*, *Niles Weekly Register*, and the *Army and Navy Journal*.

The volumes contain a number of entries on military subjects in addition to the entries for military installations. For example, volume "X," which contains no entries for installations, includes bibliographic entries for all wars fought on American soil to 1860, giving lists of published works on Indian wars from the Pequod War to the Third Seminole War, and on foreign wars from the French and Indian War to the Mexican War. This same volume has a heading "Indian Trading Houses" under which is given the name, location, and date each trading house was established; and a list of acts and public documents relating to the trading houses during the period 1795-1826.

The volumes also include entries for certain States and territories. Under the headings "Alabama" and "Alaska" in volume "A" are listed the names of all the Army posts within those areas. The "Arizona" and "Arkansas" entries in the same volume cite the acts of Congress relating to the establishment of the two Territories and States and list a number of published handbooks containing information about each. Finally, the "Outline Index" includes entries with such miscellaneous headings as "Florida Numbered Forts, 1839-1840" (vol. F), "Obstructions on the Potomac" (vol. O), "Army of Cuban Pacification" (vol. C), and "Hudson's Bay Company" (vol. H).

Also in Record Group 94 are related series of records containing information about military posts and installations. Among these are the main series of correspondence of the Adjutant General's Office, several of which have been reproduced in other microfilm publications, and the *Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916*, reproduced as [National Archives microfilm] M617. The monthly returns show the units that were stationed at a particular post and their strength, the names and duties of officers, and the number of officers present and absent, and include a record of events.

Information relating to military posts and other installations may also be found in other record groups. Among these are Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), Record Group 153, which includes a "military reservation file" consisting of documents and related correspondence of a legal nature, such as title papers, deeds of conveyance, and surveys; Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393, which contains many of the records created and maintained at the individual installations; Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92, which includes information on construction, repair, and other logistical activities of military installations; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group 77, which includes correspondence, maps, and blueprints relating to military installations; and Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49, which includes a large "abandoned military reservations file" containing fairly complete information on the creation, appraisal, and disposition of military reservations for the period 1822-1937."

These introductory remarks were prepared by David A. Gibson.

Processing Notes:

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created. No changes in folder content or name were made.

Related Collections:

Accession 0339 is the microfilm for "Brief histories of U. S. Army commands (Army posts) and descriptions of their records."

Preferred Citation:

U.S. Department of War Records on Microfilm, Accession No. 1981/08.0340, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Access and Use:

For more information or to use any collection, contact:
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Box 1

Microfilm reel

1. A-B
2. C-E
3. F-H
4. I-L
5. M-O (Includes "Mc")
6. P-R
7. S-T
8. U-Z