

**Fort Riley Historic**

**Holiday  
Tour of Homes**



**Friday  
December 12, 2003  
4:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by  
The Historical & Archaeological Society  
Of Fort Riley**

## Foreword

This year's Historic Homes Tour showcases a much larger display of quarters than in previous years. An attempt was made to show various styles, sizes and types of houses in different locations throughout Main Post. You will visit limestone quarters that were part of the greatest era of construction and expansion at Ft. Riley from 1887-1916, as well as the limestone and brick quarters built after 1927 as part of an Army building program of permanent quarters to upgrade living conditions. Within this group of quarters you will also visit those built from 1933 to 1940 with funds allocated as part of President Roosevelt's Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration (WPA). Finally, you will visit a "new" set of quarters on Main Post that dates to 1950.

All of the homes possess a unique architectural character and charm not found on most military posts. In fact, all of the quarters and buildings on this tour meet the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria in that they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The families occupying these historic homes consider it an honor and a privilege to live in them.

As you tour the various homes, take the time to enjoy not only the exceptional architecture, but also the decorative creativeness and individuality of the occupants. The residents of these quarters are truly excited to showcase their homes for you today.

The homes being shown are designated by a "Tour of Homes" sign and luminaries in the front yards.

**THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY REQUESTS THAT YOU DO NOT SMOKE OR TAKE PICTURES IN ANY OF THE HOMES ON THE TOUR.**

## 2003 HISTORIC TOUR OF HOMES

**Our sincere appreciation is extended to the families in these historic quarters for opening their homes today.**

1. 24-A Sheridan Avenue ..... Custer House
2. 23-A Sheridan Avenue ..... LTC & Mrs. Michael Moyer
3. 22-B Sheridan Avenue ..... LTC & Mrs. Robert D. Knock
4. 15-B Forsyth Avenue ..... MAJ & Mrs. John Vermeesch
5. 10-A Forsyth Avenue ... CW4 & Mrs. Gregory L. Commons
6. 2 Barry Avenue ..... COL & Mrs. Richard R. McPhee
7. 4 Barry Avenue ..... COL & Mrs. Thomas G. Luebker
8. 100 Schofield Circle ..... BG & Mrs. Frank Kearney
9. 88-B Schofield Circle ..... LTC & Mrs. Richard M. Cabrey
10. 440-A Carpenter Place ..... MAJ & Mrs. Steve Allen
11. 517-C Rimrock Terrace ..... LT & Mrs. Taran Myrick
12. 123 Scott Place ..... MAJ & Mrs. Cameron A. Kramer
13. 160-B Lower Brick Row .. CPT & Mrs. Keith A. McWherter
14. 141-B Stone Court ..... CW3 & Mrs. Douglas Miller
15. 780 Ray Road ..... MAJ & Mrs. J. Shawn Perry
16. 784 Ray Road ..... MAJ & Mrs. James Schwartz
17. 786 Ray Road ..... MAJ & Mrs. Charles B. Elliott IV
18. 788 Ray Road ..... MAJ & Mrs. B. Scott Jones
19. 1 Barry Avenue ..... BG (P) & Mrs. Dennis E. Hardy
20. Building 259 Stuart Avenue ..... The Shoppe



### Quarters 24

The Custer House

Quarters 24 Sheridan is today referred to as the "Custer House". It is the only remaining set of quarters built in 1854. It is constructed of native limestone quarried on the reservation. It was used as officer's quarters from 1854 until June 1974 when the building was designated a National Historic Site and opened to the public as a museum.

LTC and Mrs. George Armstrong Custer were stationed at Fort Riley from 1866-1867. Although they never actually lived in these quarters, they did live in a set which was built at the same time and had the same floor plan as this building.

Nearly 10,000 visitors tour the Custer House each year. The Custer House and its companion B-side are the focal point of many Historical Society activities each year. In addition, Fort Riley Army wives use the B-side for teas, coffees, and other social gatherings.

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley undertook the restoration of Quarters 24-A. Furnishings and décor reflect the lifestyle of the mid to late 1800's.



**Quarters 23-A**

Home of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Michael Moyer and family

Quarters 23, a duplex, were constructed in 1886 at a cost of \$6,764 and are located on historic Sheridan Avenue. Imagine the good fortune of the occupants of Quarters 23 in Cavalry days - living right across the street from the Cavalry Parade Field and having the opportunity to watch all the parades and band concerts from their own front porch! Indeed, even today, its occupants have a birds eye view of the many impressive and traditional Change of Command ceremonies that take place on the parade field from late spring through the summer of each year.



**Quarters 22-B**

Home of Lieutenant Colonel & Mrs. Robert D. Knock and family

Quarters 22 was constructed in 1887 at a cost of \$3,690. This 9,426 sq ft. six-bay limestone double officers quarters is part of a harmonious row of quarters which faces the Cavalry Parade Field on Sheridan Avenue.

This set of quarters is constructed in ashlar limestone, two-stories, with five corbelled brick chimneys-two end-wall and three center. It has open and exposed plain rafters, and simple barge-boards at gable ends match all others along the street at gable ends, with a bulls-eye window below each end.



**Quarters 15-B**

Home of Major and Mrs. John Vermeesch and family

Quarters 15 is located on Forsyth Avenue, a street traditionally known as "Officer's Row". In these dozen homes, built between 1887 and 1903 live many of the post's senior officers and commanders. This particular duplex was constructed in 1889 at a cost of \$5,593. This home, as well as all of the others on Forsyth Avenue, was patterned after standard Quartermaster plans of the period but evolved from popular blueprints for homes being constructed on a grand scale in the civilian world.

Interestingly, in 1905, "Building No. 17" was designated as Double Officers Quarters, Capacity (1-2) Captains. The data sheet at the time listed stone walls and foundation, wood floors, and a tin roof (although a 1932 survey changed that to "slate"). While it was constructed with a water closet on each side, no mention is made of bath or shower units, although an entry is made for, "Tubs No....2." Each side of the quarters had 3,400 sq. ft. above a 751 sq. ft. basement.



**Quarters 10-A**

Home of CW4 and Mrs. Gregory L. Commons

Quarters 10 is located on Forsyth Avenue, a street traditionally known as "Officer's Row". In these dozen homes, built between 1887 and 1903, live many of the post's senior officers and commanders. This particular 10,418 sq. ft. duplex was constructed in 1890 at a cost of \$4,721. This home, as well as all of the others on Forsyth Avenue, was patterned after standard Quartermaster plans of the period but evolved from popular blueprints for homes being constructed on a grand scale in the civilian world.

A March 1, 1905 data sheet for this home boasted of water and sewer connections, 2 wash sinks, 1 wash basin, 3 laundry tubs, and 2 water closets - one each per unit, of course.



### Quarters 2

Home of Colonel and Mrs. Richard R. McPhee

Quarters 2 on Barry Avenue, was constructed in 1890 at a cost of \$6,800. Part of the "redesign" of Main Post during establishment of the Cavalry and Light Artillery School, these quarters were part of the single-family housing units. During the 20th Century, some its more famous occupants were Colonel Ben Lear, Jr. (1919), and Colonel Jonathan Wainwright (1935), and Brigadier General Terry Allen (1940).



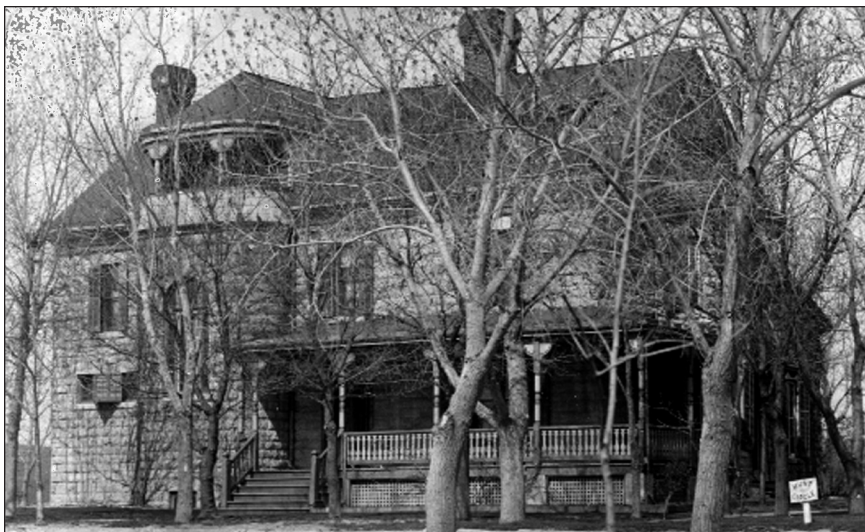
### Quarters 4

Home of Colonel and Mrs. Thomas G. Luebker and family

Quarters 4 was the only single family officer's quarters built in 1903. The construction cost was \$14,570. The house is nearly identical to its neighbors, Quarters 2 and 5 Barry.

Erected as part of the surge in construction on the fort after the post became a training center for cavalry and light artillery soldiers in 1886, the architect is unknown. However, William Goding worked with CPT George Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley from 1885-1891. Usually housing cavalry officers, #4, from 1923 to 1929 was the residence for a succession of Quartermaster clerks and their families.

The building has rock-faced machine-cut limestone walls and Queen Anne styling. The house contains three fireplaces that share a common chimney, as do the fireplaces in Quarters 1 Barry and 100 Schofield. A two-car garage has been built in the rear, probably a WPA project (Junction City Union, August 16, 1938).



### Quarters 100

Home of BG and Mrs. Frank Kearney

Quarters 100 was constructed in 1887 at a cost of \$8,474 during the massive building program that began in that year after Fort Riley was chosen as the location for the Cavalry and Light Artillery School. It is basically a twin to the Commanding General's quarters on 1 Barry Avenue. Located at the top of horseshoe-shaped Schofield Circle, it was originally the quarters for the Artillery Post's commanding officer. The third floor balcony in this home gave the artillery commander a clear view of his troops drilling on the parade field. Indeed, the view from outside these quarters looking down the parade field to the rolling hills of the Kansas River Valley is one of the most impressive on Main Post.

Prominent features in these quarters include the original picture molding on the first floor, a library at the north end of the living room and a rosewood banister.

This set of quarters currently serves as the designated residence of the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver.



### Quarters 88-B

Home of Lieutenant Colonel & Mrs. Richard M. Cabrey & family

Quarters 88 was constructed during the massive building program that began in 1887 after Fort Riley was chosen as the location for the Cavalry and Light Artillery School. It is one of ten two-and-a-half story rock-faced limestone duplex officer's quarters built on Schofield Circle between 1889-1897. This particular set of quarters was built in 1897 at a cost of \$5,700. Many of the duplex quarters on Schofield Circle are occupied by the post's senior officers and commanders.



**Quarters 440-A**

Home of Major and Mrs. Steve Allen

Quarters 440 was one of five brick student officer apartments built in 1928 around an open court located northeast of the Artillery Post on Carpenter Avenue. These apartments were constructed to help relieve the overcrowding that resulted from a fire in 1927 which destroyed two temporary buildings. The destroyed buildings had served as quarters for thirty-two company grade officers. Quarters 440, constructed at a cost of \$33,947.05, presently serves as Officers Family Housing.



**Quarters 517-C**

Home of Lieutenant and Mrs. Taran Myrick

Quarters 517 was constructed in 1950, under the housing program now known as "Wherry Housing," named after Nebraska Senator Kenneth Wherry. 517-C is a typical townhouse in the Colonial Revival style, containing a bit over 1,800 sq. ft. Its red brick veneer and regular spacing of units (or "bays") echoes townhouses still typical of the eastern seaboard.

Large numbers of such units were constructed across the country at this time, largely in response to the need for family housing as the Korean War approached and the population of soldiers increased at Fort Riley. The Wherry bill did not require specific designs, so many units were built from "off the shelf" designs that were being constructed for the civilian market. These units were designed by the USACE in Omaha, with steel framing designed by Kansas Industrial Products, in Manhattan.





### Quarters 123

Home of Major and Mrs. Cameron A. Kramer

Quarters 123, built in 1855, was originally a residence for the post chaplain. It has a smooth-cut limestone foundation and walls indicative of the architectural style of the pre-Civil War era and includes thirteen foot high ceilings. The house was reinforced in 1890 and partially rebuilt in 1926. The first occupant was Chaplain Daniel Clarkson, who served the spiritual needs of the post for seven years. He and his family cared for many of the victims of the 1855 cholera epidemic. A court-martial board met in this structure in October-November 1855 to hear charges against Dr. James Simons, who abandoned his post during the cholera outbreak. Serving on that board included Colonels Joseph Johnston and Robert E. Lee and Major John Sedgwick of Civil War fame.



### Quarters 160-B

Home of Captain and Mrs. Keith A. McWherter

Quarters 160 was one of six brick duplexes built for non-commissioned officers in 1931 on Brick Row and Lower Brick Row at a cost of \$14,194.45. The construction of these duplexes, along with Building 153 (built in 1939) completed the open court begun along Lower Brick Row in 1889. This type of quarters feature Colonial Revival style details and were built around open courts or facing open greens, exemplifying the type of planning which was growing in popularity at the time.



**Quarters 141-B**

Home of CW3 and Mrs. Douglas Miller

Quarters 141 is constructed of native limestone, and was one of ten duplexes for non-commissioned officers erected at Stone Court in 1939 at a cost of \$15,423.39. Funds from the Public Works Administration and funds and laborers from the Works Progress Administration were utilized in construction of these quarters. Quarters 141 presently serves as Officers Family Housing.



**Quarters 780**

Home of Major and Mrs. J. Shawn Perry

Quarters 780 is one of five homes on Ray Road adjacent to Marshall Army Airfield. These quarters were originally constructed with brick and tile in 1934 at a cost of \$12,395.98. Once accommodating officers who were assigned to Marshall Army Airfield, the quarters were redesignated as Colonel's quarters in 1962. Currently, the Ray Road quarters are occupied primarily by field grade officers.



**Quarters 784**

Home of Major and Mrs. James Schwartz

Quarters 784 is one of five homes on Ray Road adjacent to Marshall Army Airfield. These quarters were originally constructed with brick and tile in 1934 at a cost of \$14,491.49. Once accommodating officers who were assigned to Marshall Army Airfield, the quarters were redesignated as Colonel's quarters in 1962. Currently, the Ray Road quarters are occupied primarily by field grade officers.



**Quarters 786**

Home of Major and Mrs. Charles B. Elliott IV

Quarters 786 is one of five homes on Ray Road adjacent to Marshall Army Airfield. These quarters were originally constructed with brick and tile in 1934 at a cost of \$12,395.98. Once accommodating officers who were assigned to Marshall Army Airfield, the quarters were redesignated as Colonel's quarters in 1962. Currently the Ray Road quarters are occupied primarily by field grade officers.



### Quarters 788

Home of Major and Mrs. B. Scott Jones

Quarters 788 is one of five homes on Ray Road adjacent to Marshall Army Airfield. These quarters were originally constructed with brick and tile in 1934 at a cost of \$12,395.98. Once accommodating officers who were assigned to Marshall Army Airfield, the quarters were redesignated as Colonel's quarters in 1962. Currently, the Ray Road quarters are occupied primarily by field grade officers.



### Quarters 1

Home of BG (P) and Mrs. Dennis E. Hardy

The Commanding General's quarters, with its gracious architecture, spacious rooms and accommodations for four servants, was built in 1887 at a cost of \$9,474.71. It was built as the home of the commander of Cavalry Post and was first occupied by COL James W. Forsyth for whom Forsyth Avenue was named. The portico at the front of the house gave the Commanding Officer a clear view of his troops marching in review on Cavalry Parade Field.

The staircase in the reception hall is made of yellow pine, detailed with rosewood panels, cherry balusters and newel posts. Originally, there was a library at the north end of the living room, but the partitions were removed and a corner gas fireplace was installed. The den off the living room and the room above were built as sleeping porches. The kitchen has been remodeled several times and no traces remain of the butler's pantry which once separated it from the dining room.

Previously well known occupants of Quarters 1 include former Chief of Staff of the Army General Gordon Sullivan and Major General Thomas Rhame, who commanded the 1st Infantry Division during the Gulf War in 1990-91.



### **Building 259**

#### The Shoppe

This 2,076 square foot building on Stuart Avenue was built in 1904 at a cost of \$3,163. It was one of seven Cavalry Stable Guard Houses erected between 1897 and 1904 behind the Cavalry Stables lining Cameron Avenue, south of Cavalry Parade Field. Presently, building 259 is home to The Shoppe, a craft shop operated by the Officer's and Civilian's Spouse's Club.

\*\*\*The Shoppe will be open for shopping and gift wrapping between 4 and 9 p.m. tonight. A 10% discount will also be offered to Tour of Homes participants.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for helping to make this event a success:**

The Cavalry Museum for their support by providing photographs and historical homes information.

All of the volunteers who served as docents and hostesses; we couldn't have done this event without you.

Diane Hardy for her encouragement and unwavering support for not only this event, but for all that HASFR has done this year.

SFC Diane Arp for helping with the refreshments at Quarters 1.

The HASFR Board Members for taking on this event with enthusiasm, support, and a vision of excellence.

\*Special thanks goes to Tammy Hinkley for coordinating this entire event.