



Walking Tour Guide to Historic Carlisle Barracks



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Early beginnings at Carlisle

Carlisle, established in 1751 at the intersection of Indian trails along the Letort Creek, became a jumping-off point for traders and settlers heading west over the Allegheny Mountains. In 1757, the British established a military post at Carlisle under Col. John Stanwix during the French and Indian War.

In late 1776, the Continental Congress authorized a laboratory and magazine at Carlisle, which soon expanded to a manufacturing center and an arsenal, known locally as Washingtonburg. Washington wrote a detailed letter to Col. Benjamin Flower about his expectations at the “laboratory;” furnaces would be erected to cast cannon and ammunition, carriages would be constructed. The Hessian Powder Magazine is said to have been constructed during the Revolutionary War by captured Hessian soldiers; the fieldstone gunpowder storehouse complemented the foundry work to fill artillery requirements of the new nation.



The Hessian Powder Magazine, built in 1777.

In addition to Flower’s Regiment of Artificers, there was an artillery school under Capt. Isaac Coren. Carlisle played an important role in supplying artillery material to Henry Knox, Washington’s Chief of Artillery.

In 1801, the 27 acres of Carlisle Barracks became federal property when purchased from the heirs of William Penn for \$664.20.

Cavalry School Gives Way to Civil War Era

In 1836, the School of Cavalry Practice was established by Capt. E.V. Sumner. This school would be the forerunner of the Armor School. It recruited and trained officers and soldiers for frontier service with mounted units, and tested the equipment and tactics they would use. In time, cavalrymen trained at Carlisle would serve with both the Union and Confederate armies in the Civil War.

As of September 1861, the Mounted Recruiting Service at Carlisle Barracks trained new Cavalry officers.

At the height of the Civil War, in 1863, Confederate Brig. Gen. Albert Jenkins captured the post in a drive toward Harrisburg. It was occupied briefly by Confederate Gen. Richard S. Ewell, and then by Confederate Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, whose troops burned much of the town of Carlisle and all but one or two buildings on post. The Confederate stay at Carlisle was cut short in July by orders to turn south to Gettysburg.



Artist rendering of Carlisle Barracks in 1863.

Carlisle Indian Industrial School

In the aftermath of the Civil War, frontier support centers moved west. The post had been little used when Army Lt. Richard Pratt envisioned a vocational school for Native American children. In 1879, the post was transferred to the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs. Between 1879 and 1918, the Carlisle Indian Industrial School educated more than 10,000 Native Americans, representing more than 70 tribes. Early in the 20th century, annual enrollment reached 1,000 students who learned English and trades. The school’s athletes gained fame, but its once-progressive reputation diminished as cultural attitudes about the boarding school changed. World War I triggered the closure of the 39-year-old Carlisle Indian Industrial School. On September 1, 1918, Carlisle Barracks reverted to War Department control. Carlisle Barracks maintains the Army cemetery here, with honor and respect for the Indian children and the Soldiers who died here, far from home.



Indian School students in the 1900-era gym, still used today as Thorpe Hall.

Army Mission Returns

General Hospital 31 was established here in 1919 for wounded Soldiers of World War I. During its brief two-year existence, the hospital provided medical treatment, mental rehabilitation, and vocational training for more than 4,000 Soldiers returned from service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

In 1920, a major expansion of Carlisle Barracks began in support of the Medical Field Service School. Established under the command of Col. Peter M. Ashburn, the school drew upon the lessons of World War I to develop medical equipment and doctrine suitable for the battlefield. The school used classroom instruction and frequent field exercises to train the Army in the care and handling of casualties, and in the prevention of disease. More than 30,000 officers and noncommissioned officers passed through the school during its 26-year tenure at Carlisle Barracks. In 1946 the Army Medical School moved to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.



Students of the Medical Field Service School.

From 1946 until 1951, the Army created six schools to develop skills for post-World War II requirements. The Army Information School arrived first, followed shortly by the School for Government of Occupied Areas and then the Adjutants General School. The next year introduced the Chaplains School and the Military Police School. Finally, the Army Security Agency School began its training for classified operations in 1949. Carlisle Barracks was the Army’s test bed for new schools. These schools later moved to new locations to make way for the next phase at Carlisle.

U.S. Army War College

When the Army War College arrived at Carlisle Barracks in 1951, it had already educated the senior military leaders responsible for the execution of two world wars. It had been established in 1901 by Secretary of War Elihu Root as both a military leadership school and a catalyst for strategic ideas about the “great problems of national defense, military science and responsible command.” Since its first class graduated in 1904 at Washington Barracks (now Fort McNair) the college has evolved to meet the realities of the ever-changing strategic environment, reflecting the Army’s commitment to professional education. The USAWC doors shut for two years during World War I and again in 1940, to be reopened in 1950 for one year at Fort Leavenworth before settling permanently at Carlisle Barracks.



Army War College students listen to a guest speaker in Bliss Hall.

Today, the Army War College develops the nation’s strategic leaders and the strategic ideas to guide decision-making through its wargaming center, its research and publications arm, its expert center in Peacekeeping and Stability Operations, and the Army’s premier military history archives and public military education: the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. AHEC is located adjacent to the original Carlisle Barracks, at 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, 17013.

Students of all the Army War College educational programs are officers of the Army and Joint Force: Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard, active and reserve, as well as senior civilians of the federal agencies associated with national security, e.g., the Department of State. As many as 80 International Officers from allied and partner nations, live in the Carlisle area. Their impressions of the United States are shaped by friends, neighbors, schools, ballgames, picnics, and a host of other experiences of central Pennsylvania life as well their professional relationships with U.S. Officers.

Dine with us

19th Hole Snack Bar, in the Golf House at 901 Jim Thorpe Road. Open 7 days a week, March - October. Mon-Fri 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat-Sun, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (717) 245-3267.

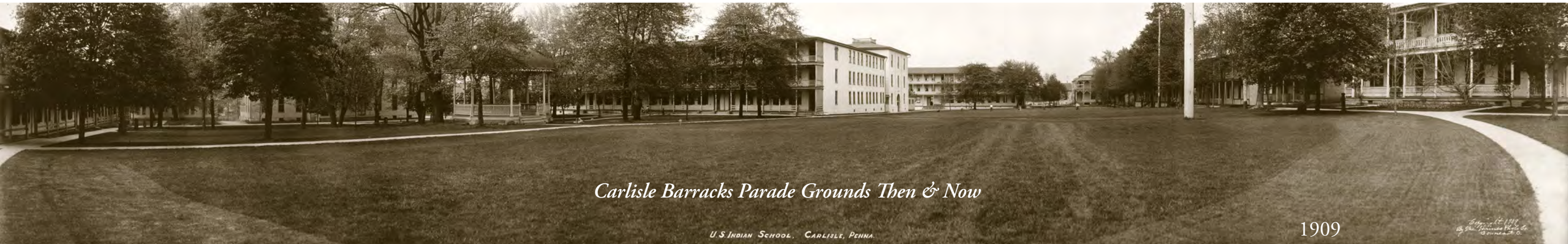
Café Cumberland, in the Army Heritage and Education Center at 950 Soldiers Drive. Open Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed all Federal Holidays except: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. (717) 245-3377.

Joint Deli in Root Hall (requires DoD ID card), 122 Forbes Ave., Mon-Fri 7- 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. -1:45 p.m.

Pershing Tavern, at 313 Lovell Ave. Open Wed/Thur 4 - 10 p.m., menu available 5-9 p.m. (717) 245-4450.

Strike Zone Snack Bar, 686 Letort Lane. Mon-Wed- 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Thur-Fri 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat. 1-9 p.m.

Subway, at 844 Sumner Road in the Exchange Plaza. Open Mon- Sat, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (717) 243-2463.



Carlisle Barracks Parade Grounds Then & Now

U.S. INDIAN SCHOOL. CARLISLE, PENNA.

1909



Carlisle Barracks Carlisle, PA

2009

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Wheelock Bandstand

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was created to prepare Native American students for life in American society through a curriculum focused on mastered English, vocational courses, and academic subjects. Extracurricular activities were used to develop students' talent and social skills. The considerable talent of the schools athletes and band was then used to promote the school's causes around the country. The band was invited to play presidential inaugurations and the 1892 Chicago World Fair. Celebrated composer Dennison Wheelock, who attended the school in 1890, became its first Indian Bandmaster. The modern bandstand, erected in 1980, and located on the parade ground was named in honor of him. Today, the bandstand hosts USWC graduations and Change of Command ceremonies.



9

Coren Apartments

Since its original construction in 1838 during the Calvary School era, the Coren Apartment has burned down twice, in an accident in 1857 and by Calvary men in 1863. Each time it was rebuilt in a year. Named after Capt. Isaac the first Artillery School, the building has a long history of housing the teachers of the installation's schools. This tradition continues to today, as it is the houses of USAWC staff and faculty.



10

Frederick the Great

Frederick the Great was King of Prussia from 1740-1786. In 1785, he signed a Treaty with the United States, known as the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, which recognized the independence of the United States from British rule. This statue was presented as a gift to the United States in 1904 from King Kaiser Wilhelm II of Prussia. It was enshrined at The Army War College, because of Frederick's renowned reputation for brilliant military strategy and War campaigns.



11

Hessian Powder Magazine Museum

Hessian Prisoners of War built this structure in 1777, after Washington captured them at the Battle of Trenton. With 4 1/2 feet thick walls and a stone exterior, The Hessian Powder Room began as a storage facility for sulfur, brimstone, ammunitions and other explosive material for use during the revolutionary war. Over the years it has been used as a Calvary guardhouse, Indian school detention center, medical confinement quarters, and post office. Finally, in 1948 it was converted into a museum celebrating the barracks rich history as the second oldest military post.



1

Pratt Hall

The one-story structure was built in 1908, for use as doctors' quarters for the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, and is named after Brig. Gen. Richard Pratt, its founder. The dwelling, which has been repurposed as an Army lodging unit, has since been transformed in the two-story building that it is today.



2

Thorpe Hall

This structure was built in 1887, by the Indian School students, using bricks made at the school, and funded by money raised by the friends of the institution. The building was created for use as a physical fitness center, and is still used in this capacity today. It is named for one of America's most famous athletes, Jim Thorpe, who attended the Indian School from 1904-09 and 1911-13. Thorpe, a great football player under Pop Warner, was also a decorated Olympian who won gold medals in the Pentathlon and decathlon, before going on to a successful professional baseball career.



8

Upton Hall

Constructed in 1941, Upton Hall could be considered one of Carlisle Barracks newer buildings. Called Hoff Hall originally, it was used as the Medical School campus until it moved to Fort Sam Houston in 1946. Over the next five years, the building served the schools for Defense Education, Military Police, Adjutant General, Chaplain Corps, Army Intelligence, Civilian Affairs, and finally the Army War College. Once the USAWC relocated to its new facilities in Root Hall, the building was rechristened Upton Hall and is now home to the US Army Garrison and the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute.



7

The Grandstand

The original grandstand was built in 1902, on Indian Field, where sports greats Jim Thorpe, Luis Tewanima, and Charles Bender trained and competed with their Indian Industrial School sports teams. In 1940 the current structure was built on the same site, and is primarily used by USAWC students to watch their children's games.



6



Washington Hall

Built in 1884, Washington Hall began as a hospital for the Indian School, and later became the dormitory and dining hall for its great athletics department under the famed football coach, Glen Scobey "Pop" Warner. The building is named after President George Washington, who led two expeditions from Carlisle Barracks during the French and Indian War and The Whiskey Rebellion. Today Washington Hall is one of three Army Lodging Facilities on post.



5

Quarters 2

Quarters 2 was originally constructed in 1821 on the site where the headquarters of Col. John Stanwix, who established the original post during the French and Indian War, once stood. It was used as military officers quarters until Confederates burned it to the ground in 1863. However, by 1864 it had been rebuilt on a grander scale, with 10 rooms, two wings, and a large porch. From 1879-1904 it was the home of Brig. Gen. Richard H. Pratt, founder and superintendent of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.



4

Quarters 3

Quarters 3 was constructed in 1891 as a vocational project by Indian School students, under the direction of Carlisle Contractor Andrew Wetzel. The building served as administrative headquarters for the school until its closure on September 1, 1918. It was later remodeled and has been converted into family housing.



3

Indian Industrial School Cemetery

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School operated from 1879-1918. During that time, many children died, most from common diseases such as smallpox. Efforts were made to return sick children to their families; however, those suffering from contagious diseases such as tuberculosis remained in confinement at the school and were buried in the cemetery for containment purposes. More than 175 Indian children were buried in the cemetery and their graves are maintained on the barracks grounds.



Not on map--Near Gate