




FORT KNOX HISTORIC DRIVING TRAIL

SPOTTER INFORMATION



1  **The Army Education Center** was constructed in 1939 as the post school. Today, it maintains its legacy as a center of learning by housing multiple colleges and universities as part of the Army's Continuing Education Program.

2  **The Main Post Chapel** was constructed in 1899 to serve the (Roman) Catholic community in the town of Stithton and was originally named St. Patrick's Parish. When the

Army acquired the town in 1918, the church was used as an auditorium until 1938 when it became the Main Post Chapel. It remains the oldest building on post and the only recognizable building from Stithton.

3  **Fort Knox Fire Station No. 1** was constructed in 1934 as a fire station and guard house. Today, it retains its original use as a fire station and also serves as the Fort Knox Fire Department's administrative offices.


4  Construction on **Waybur Theater** began in September 1936 during the first phase of permanent construction at Fort Knox. As with most of the other buildings constructed at this time, this building was designed using

Colonial Revival elements. It was completed in June 1937. In 1950, it was memorialized to honor Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. David C. Waybur, who was killed during WWII. Today, it is the installation's largest auditorium and is used for meetings, ceremonies, presentations and as a movie theater.

5  **Chaffee Hall** was constructed between 1933 and 1935 as headquarters for the Mechanized Force during the first phase of permanent construction at Fort Knox. It was named


in honor of Maj. Gen. Adna Romanza Chaffee Jr. – the father of Armored Force. The building served as headquarters for the Armor Center and School and the Fort Knox commanding general until 2011 when the Armor Center merged with the

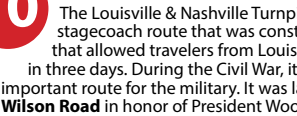
Infantry Center to form the Manuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia. Today, Chaffee Hall serves as Fort Knox Garrison Command headquarters, and it has been designated a Kentucky landmark.

6  On Dec. 23, 1941, **Brooks Parade Field** was named in honor of Pvt. Robert H. Brooks, the first Armored Force Soldier who was killed in WWII. Unknown until the time of the dedication was the fact that Brooks was an African-American serving in an all-white unit. Brooks Parade Field is believed to be the largest contiguous parade field in the U.S. Army's inventory.


7  Fort Knox was the site of a main prisoners of war camp between February 1944 and June 1946. Among the first German POWs at Fort Knox were members of the Afrika Korps captured in Tunisia in 1943. Their official insignia included a palm tree, which they applied to various chimneys while performing roof maintenance during their time here. An example of this **palm tree POW mark** can be found on the chimney of a house located at 1430 5th Ave.


8  The building that houses **Cadet Command headquarters** was originally constructed in 1933 as the post hospital. **Cadet Park**, located in front of the building, commemorates fallen ROTC graduates in U.S. conflicts from 1916 to the present. The three Civil War-era Napoleon cannons are named Duty, Honor and Country.

9  The Fort Knox prisoners of war camp was located in this area between February 1944 and June 1946. The POWs lived in barracks very similar to the WWII barracks building located at the Patton Museum. **McAdams Field**, formally a soccer field used by the POWs, is the only remaining feature of the camp. It is still in use today as Fort Knox High School's football field.


10  The Louisville & Nashville Turnpike was a popular stagecoach route that was constructed in the 1830s that allowed travelers from Louisville to reach Nashville in three days. During the Civil War, it also served as an important route for the military. It was later renamed **Wilson Road** in honor of President Woodrow Wilson who was in office during the establishment of Camp Knox.


11  This stacked stone feature once marked the **entrance to the Armored Force Replacement Training Center (AFRTC)** during WWII. Shortly after the establishment of the U.S. Armored Force at Fort Knox on July 10, 1940, the AFRTC was established to provide trained replacements for armored divisions and general tank battalions.

12  The **Maude Complex**, constructed in 2010, is the largest administrative center in Kentucky at more than 883,000 square feet. It is memorialized after Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, who was the highest ranking officer killed in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. This site was once home to hundreds of wooden World War II-era barracks, and this is also where the iconic "Razzle Dazzle" drill scene in the 1980 military-themed comedy movie "STRIPES" was filmed.


13  **Cavalry Chapel**, constructed in 1957, was designed by the father and son architectural team of Stratton and Neal Hammon of Louisville, Kentucky. It was built to serve the 6500 hammerhead barracks area. The concrete block constructed chapel represents the very best of modern Army architecture and illustrates what can be done with a limited budget within set architectural parameters. The principle steeple on Cavalry Chapel, which features a sunburst, is a defining element of the building. It now serves as the resilience center for Human Resources Command. This exceptionally well designed Contemporary style building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

14  The **Landing Ship Tank building** is a unique structure constructed at Fort Knox in 1942 to assist naval architects in the testing of ventilation systems for the LST – large amphibious landing ships, which became crucial to the Allies in WWII. The building is a full-scale and detailed mock-up of the well deck – the enclosed area where vehicles were held. The successful tests allowed the Navy to resume production on the ships in late 1942. The LST building remains one of Kentucky's most significant military structures, and it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

15  Since the establishment of Camp Knox in WWI, Fort Knox has utilized an airfield – the first in Kentucky. It was named for 1st Lt. Louis K. Godman, who was killed in an airplane crash in Columbia, South Carolina in 1918. **Godman Army Airfield's** location has been maintained since its construction between 1938 and 1945. Several notable units were stationed at the airfield including the 12th and 38th Observation squadrons of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the 73rd Observation Group – later known as the 10th Reconnaissance Group and Wing, and the 477th Bombardment Group – a black Army Air Corps unit. Today, it is home to the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment and Detachment 1, F Company, 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment.

16  Originally located in a WWII mobilization building, the **Patton Museum** was officially dedicated in May 1949. The museum was moved when the current facility was constructed in 1972 by the Patton Museum Foundation Inc. The museum remained in operation until September 2010 when the majority of its exhibits were relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia, with the Armor School so armor crewmen can better learn the history and evolution of their branch. The museum now focuses on telling the story of Army leadership from 1775 to the present. The Gen. Patton collection of artifacts is still displayed there. Adjacent to the museum, you'll find the Armor Memorial Park. Dedicated in 1990, the park pays tribute to the many armor and cavalry units that have served the United States Army from 1941 to the present.

17  Established in 1920, the **Main Post Cemetery** serves as the final resting place for notable military figures Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Gaffey and Medal of Honor recipient Ernest R. Kouma. Eighteen WWII prisoners of war are also interred here. The small chapel is believed to have been reconstructed from stones from the original St. Patrick's Church. Located just across the street, **St. Patrick's Cemetery** has long served as a final resting place for the area's (Roman) Catholic community. The oldest section was used by St. Patrick's Church from 1831 to 1918. Today, this active cemetery is still used by St. Christopher's Church in Radcliff. In 1899, the original St. Patrick's Church that was located here was replaced by a brick church in the town of Stithton now known as the Main Post Chapel on Fort Knox. In 2017, the Main Post Cemetery has achieved Army National Military Cemetery Shrine status due to its care of headstones, attention to detail, and accurate record keeping practices.

18  Due to its Spanish Mission Revival architecture, this building, built in 1919, is often informally referred to as "The Alamo." The building was initially under the general supervision of the Knights of Columbus, which had already provided other services to military and civilian personnel at Camp Knox. In 1928, the building served as a hospital annex and during WWII, it served as headquarters for the 1st Armored Division. It is the oldest building on post constructed for the Army. Today, it serves as Fort Knox's **Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation headquarters**.

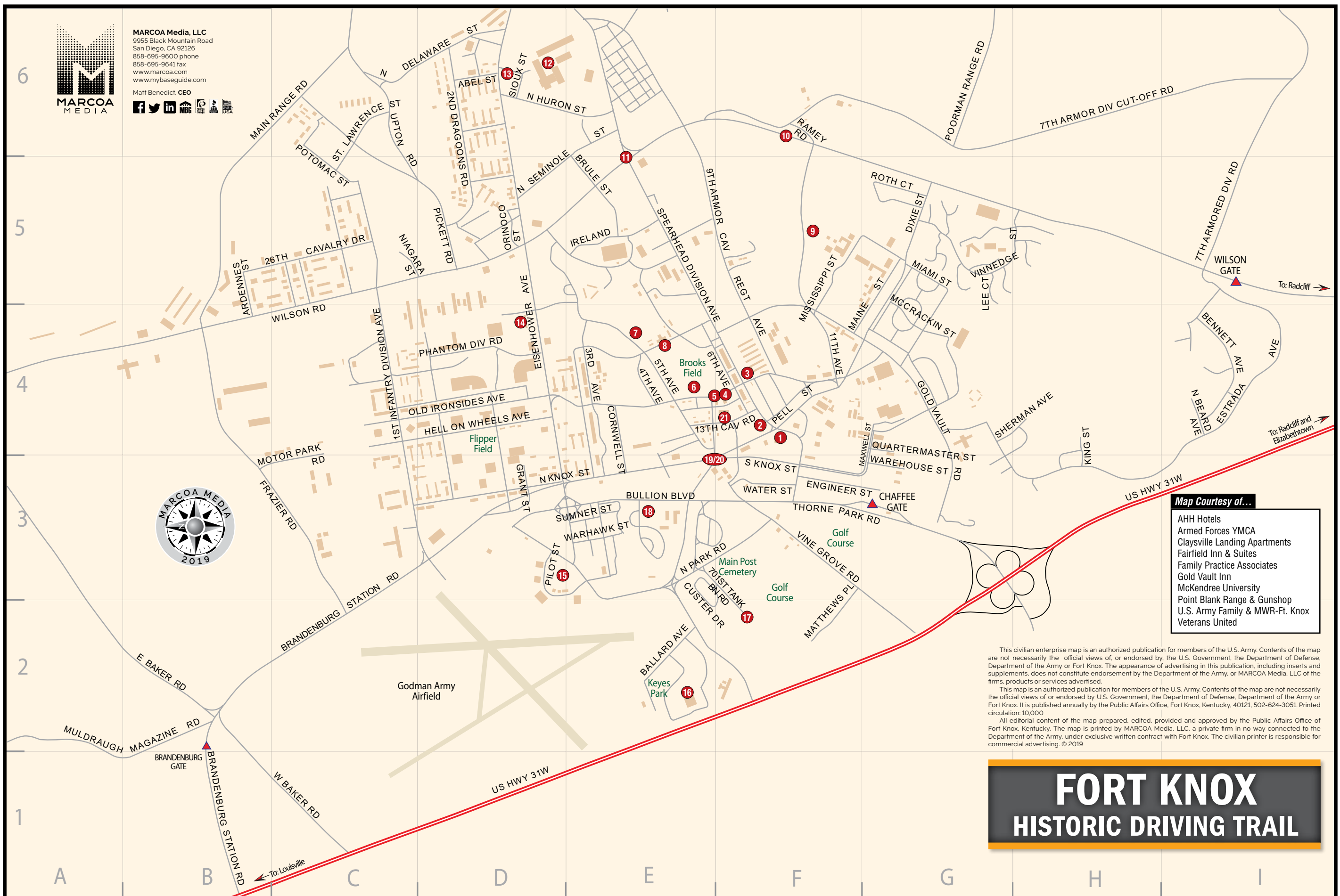
19  The **Stithton traffic circle** is traditionally known as the center of the town of Stithton – an agricultural community that was acquired by the Army in 1918 to establish Camp Knox. Stithton served as a major center for goods and services for all the small farming communities nearby. Stithton was an important stagecoach stop in its early years and was later intersected by the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike (Wilson Road) and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

20  The red brick structure, located just off of Stithton traffic circle and at the beginning of East Chaffee Avenue, is part of the **original Fort Knox main entrance gate**. The gate was constructed in 1935 and once included a gate guard office on the left. This entrance leads to interwar period historic quarters, unit/organization buildings as well as Brooks Parade Field - all of which are still used today.

21  The **Saber & Quill** (formerly The Leaders Club), was constructed in 1931 and has served as a gathering place for Soldiers and their Family members ever since. A fireplace mantel resides in the club's Lincoln Room that is said to have been built by President Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas. The mantel was purchased in 1919 by Maj. William Radcliffe, the namesake for the city of Radcliff, and was installed in its present location in 1934. The club is currently operated by Family and MWR and can be rented by the public for meetings, presentations, ceremonies and banquets.



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