

HISTORIC WATER TOWERS 1 & 2

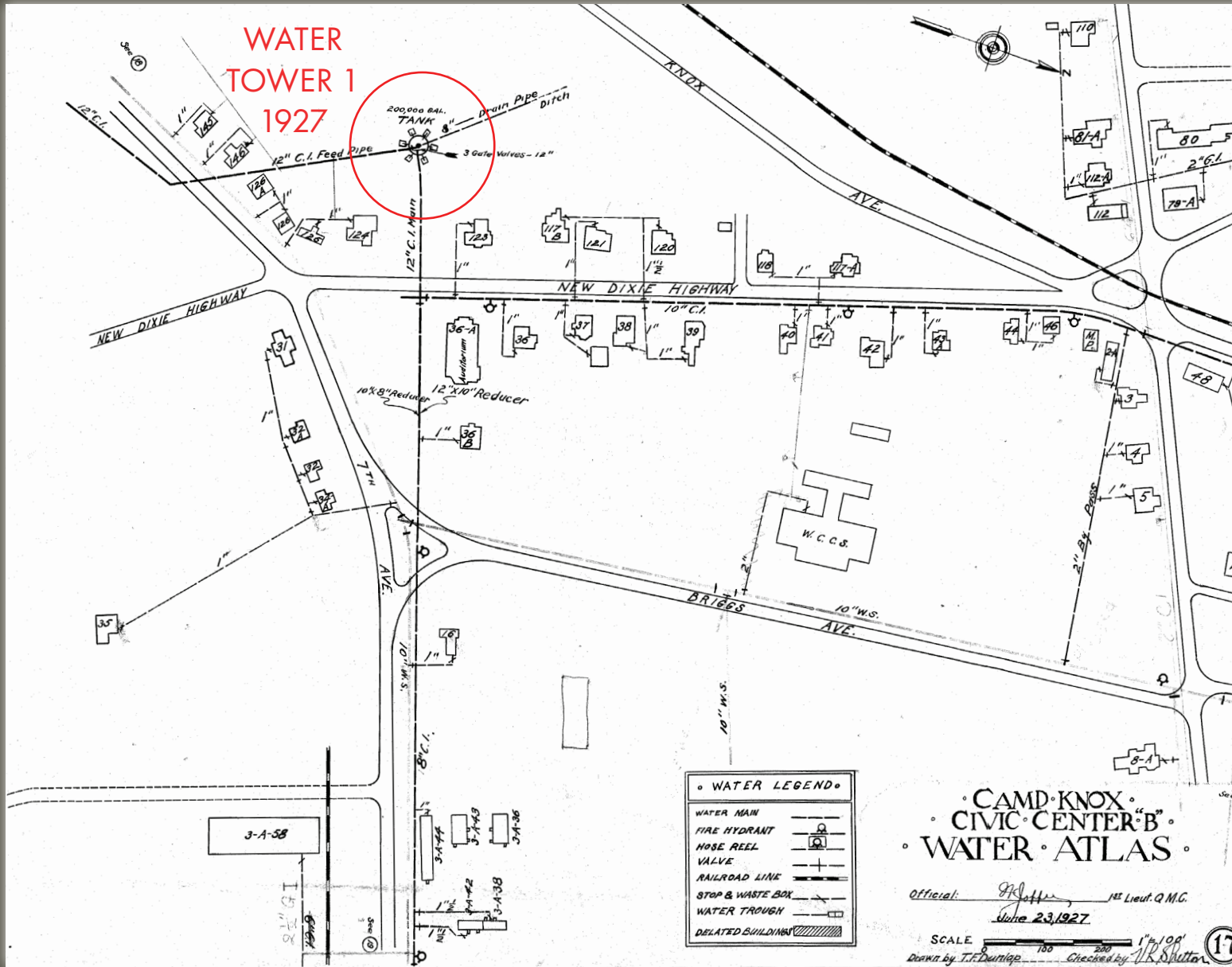
During the development of Camp Knox in 1918, the U.S. War Department pumped its water supply five miles from Otter Creek and McCracken Springs to Indian Hill, where the water was filtered, purified, and stored in two, gravity-operated, wooden tanks with a total capacity of 400,000 gallons. By 1919, two concrete reservoirs with a total capacity of 2,600,000 gallons replaced the wooden tanks. However, the Otter Creek source proved problematic for long-term use due to its distance from the post, complaints from a local mill owner, and pollution from nearby villages. As part of a larger waterworks improvement project in 1926, Camp Knox purchased Saunders Springs which was nearer the cantonment and required no filtering or treatment.



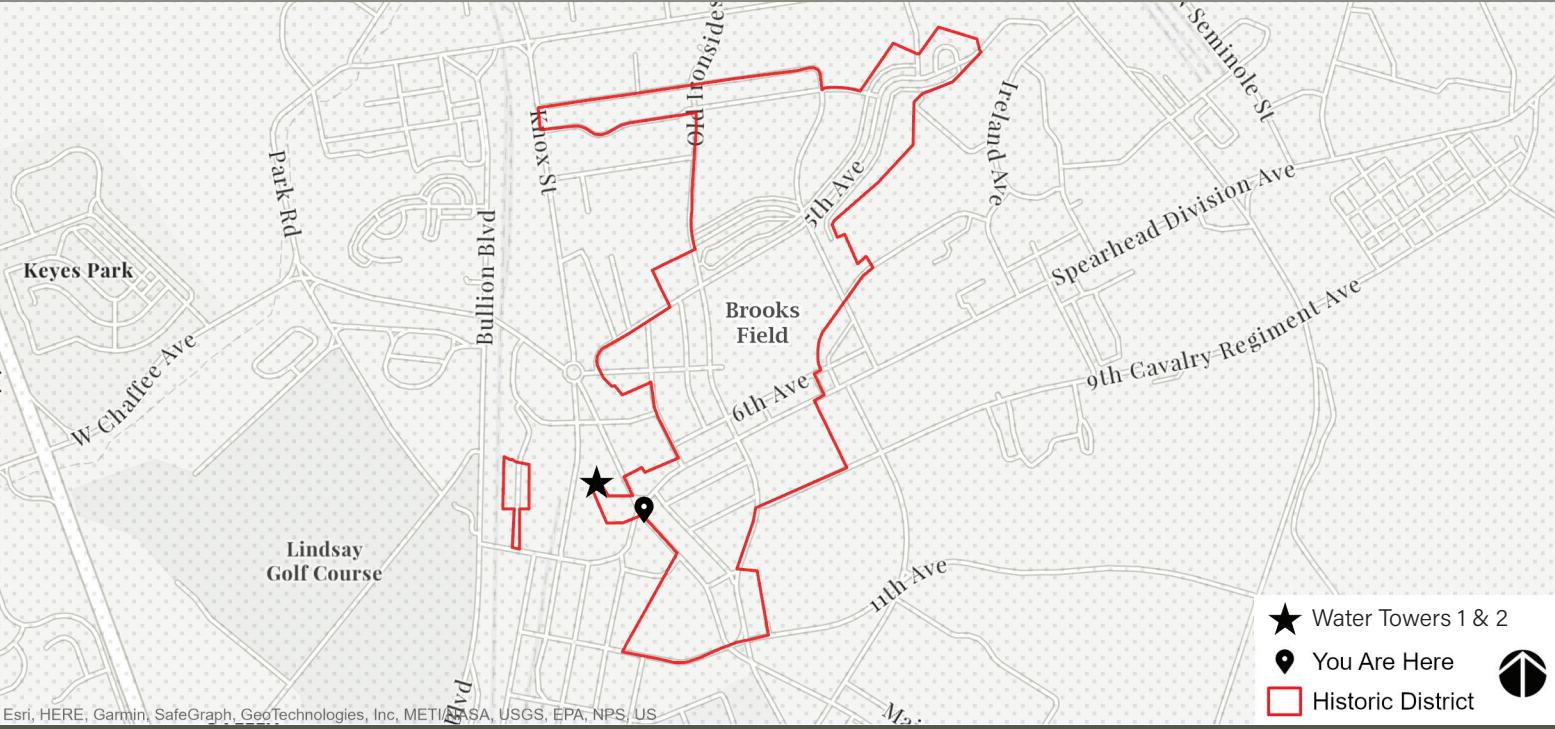
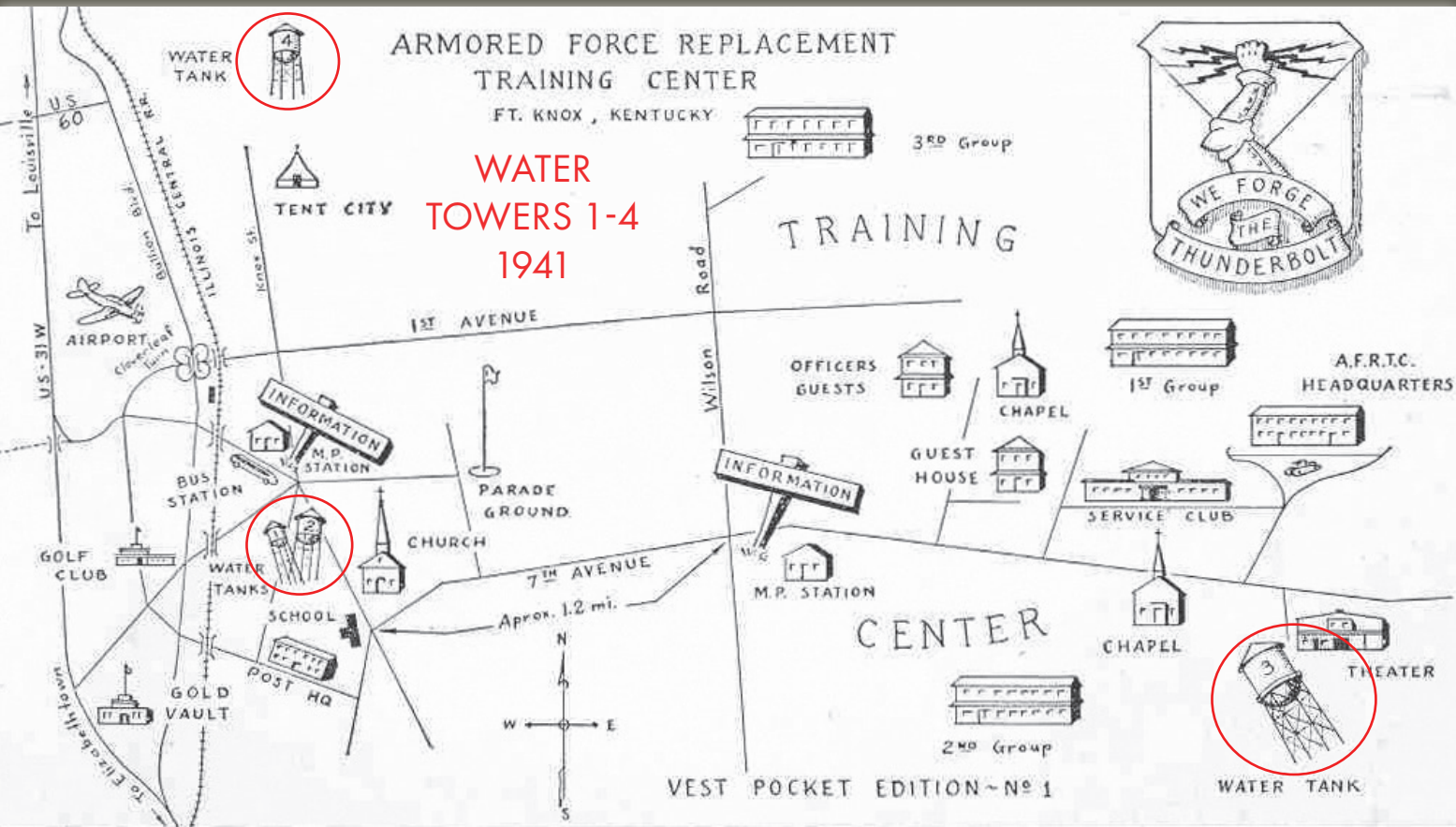
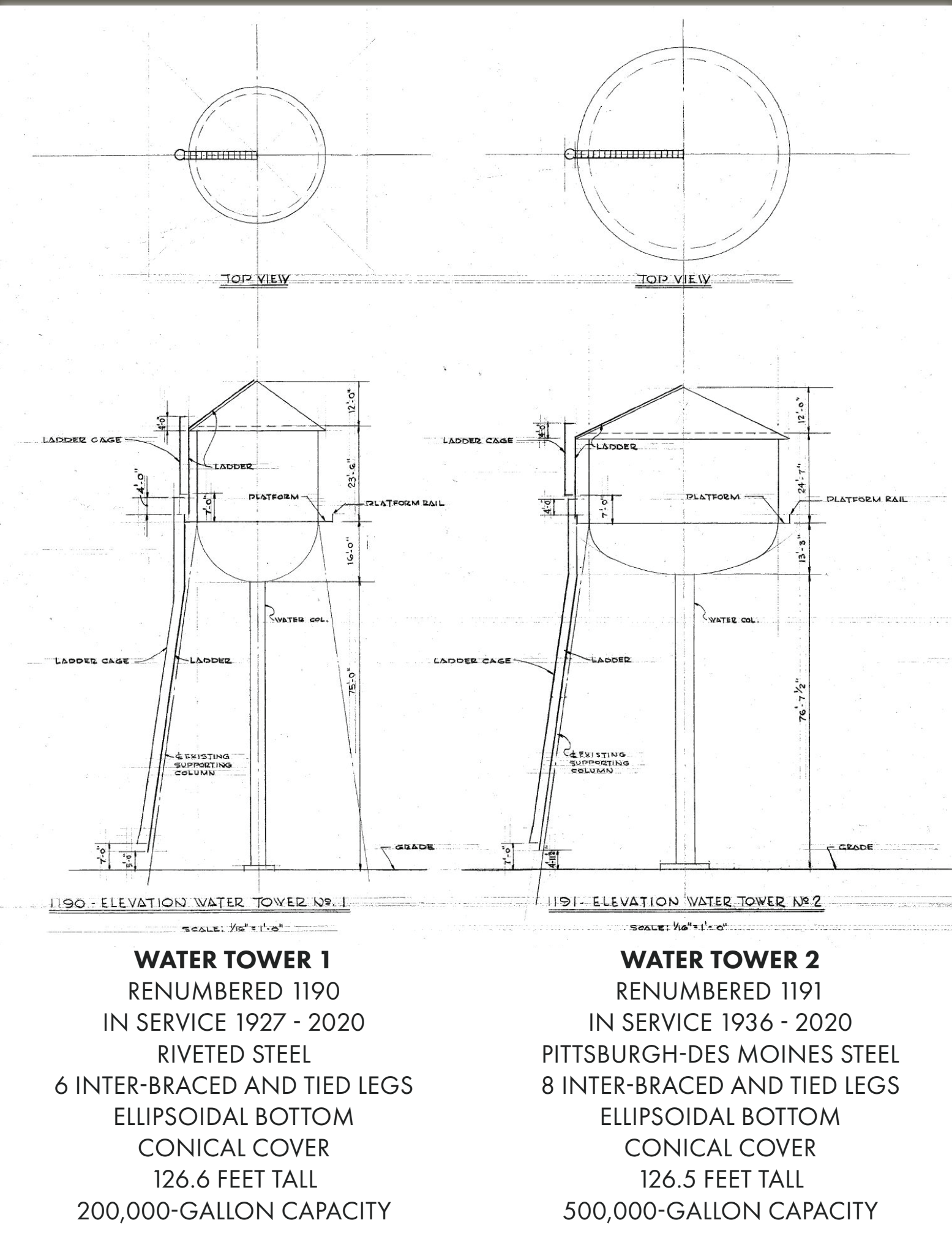
"Scenic View, Camp Knox, K.Y." at Otter Creek and McCracken Springs, which was the camp's original water source, photographed by F. N. Kirkpatrick of Indianapolis who published postcards of scenes nationwide and had a souvenir shop on post in the historic district.

In 1995, Fort Knox Cantonment Historic District was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with 180 contributing resources, including Water Towers 1 and 2. Water Tower 1 gained significance because it was one of the oldest Army built structures on post, while Water Tower 2 embodied permanent military engineering funded by the PWA in the 1930s.

Water Tower 1 was funded in 1926 and mapped below in 1927. New infrastructure was built on Sanders Springs, where water did not require filtering or treatment. At the time, the War Department used Camp Knox primarily for summer training, while two-thirds of its acreage served as a National Forest.



Water Tower 2, pictured right under construction in 1936, was erected immediately northwest of Tower 1 during construction of a new water supply system, as part of a much larger phase of building permanent facilities in support of the Mechanized Cavalry headquartered at Knox since 1932. The tower received funding from the Public Works Administration (PWA), which was created under the Secretary of the Interior in 1933 to create jobs in response to the Great Depression (1929-1939).



Given their height, the towers helped orient newcomers on base and made an appearance in the 1964 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) James Bond film Goldfinger when the villain flew planes past the Federal Revival style Briscoe Hall, which was dedicated in 1941 as a public school for children on post.



Both towers, along with Towers 3 and 4, which were added by 1941, continued to supply water to areas of Fort Knox until 2020, when they were replaced by much larger structures on another site.



FORT KNOX EST. 1918
HERITAGE TRAIL

