

**Project Title**

Demolition of WWII-era Red Cross Building and Associated POW Stonework, Fort Leonard Wood

**Project Proponent**

USAG Fort Leonard Wood, Directorate of Public Works

**Description of the Undertaking and Area of Potential Effects**

Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) is proposing to demolish the WWII-era Red Cross Building (Building 430) and associated German POW-constructed stonework located immediately adjacent to the building and to the north where a WWII-era chapel once stood. Building 430 has been vacant for several years and attempts to find a new occupant have failed. A recent structural analysis conducted by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Engineer Division has determined the building is structurally unsound and poses a safety hazard. The north wing and lobby floor structural members yield under the weight of a person and the foundation exhibits quarter inch or larger cracks due to differential settling (Figure 1). In the south wing, the first rafter and kingposts are splitting due to the heavy load from the roof members. Water is infiltrating the basement during rain events, causing accumulated moisture and high levels of mold growth. The cost of repair/renovation exceeds 50% of the cost of replacement with an equivalent facility. Army policy prohibits repairs under these circumstances. Demolition will include removal of the Building 430, asphalt parking area and driveways, propane tank, concrete and stonework walkways, and stonework steps, culverts, and headwalls surrounding the building.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is depicted in Figure 2. The APE is bounded on the north by Headquarters Avenue, on the east by Missouri Avenue, on the south by Freedom Drive, and on the west by the driveway to the rear of the former location of the Old Post Headquarters (Building 401). The APE encompasses the Old Post Headquarters/Red Cross Building Historic Landscape.

**Identification of Historic Properties**

Building 430 was inventoried and evaluated in 2003, as part of an installation-wide inventory of facilities constructed between 1941 and 1956. The building was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C (Smith *et al.* 2003). In 2007, FLW conducted an inventory and evaluation of the landscape features of the cantonment area. This evaluation determined the landscape encompassing Buildings 401 and 430, the WWII-era post headquarters complex, was also eligible for the NRHP.

**Description of Historic Properties****Building 430**

Building 430 was completed in May 1941 under the U.S. Army Mobilization Program, to serve as the local Red Cross Field Director's Office (Figure 3). Architecturally, the building exhibits a unique cross-shaped plan form. The main (east) façade is symmetrical with a central pavilion that extends into a portico supported by four wooden

post columns (Figure 4). The floor of the pavilion has a cross scribed into the concrete, and tinted red (Figure 5). The central pavilion has a double door on center with two flanking lights and a single window to either side. To either side of the main pavilion, there are three evenly spaced windows. The windows are one-over-one double-hung windows.

The north façade is without windows or a door. On the south façade there is a single door with two flanking windows (Figure 6). A single rectangular louver is located on center above the door, just below the ridge of the roof. A poured concrete stoop of three steps leads up to the door (Smith *et al.* 2003).

The west façade of Building 430 is asymmetrical. The central pavilion on this façade has a double door with two flanking lantern lights and a single window to either side. To the right side of the pavilion is a flanking window and two spaced windows at the far end. On the left side, there is a door to the immediate left of the pavilion, then a single window, then another door to the left of the window, with two spaced windows at the far north end (Figure 7). The building has undergone changes since its construction in 1941, most notably the replacement of the windows and roofing material and the addition of metal siding over the original wood drop-lap siding (Smith *et al.* 2003).

A number of stonework features surround Building 430, both adjacent to the building and immediately to the north where the chapel once stood. These include a stone-lined culvert, bridges spanning the culvert, drainage headwalls, steps, and walkways (Figures 8 and 9). The stonework was constructed by German POWs interned at FLW from 1943-1946.

Building 430's significance lies in several areas. The building is the only extant WWII-era Red Cross Building in the State of Missouri. It is also significant because of the unique POW stonework features associated with the property. While the building has undergone changes since its construction in 1941, most notably the replacement of the original windows and roofing material and the addition of metal siding, the historical character of Building 430 remains intact.

#### Old Post Headquarters/Red Cross Building Landscape

The landscape surrounding Building 430 was designed and documented in the 1941 *Landscape Development Report* for the installation. The report noted the area was the main entrance to the installation and should reflect a formal, focal landscape to the public. The report also outlined a large court area with multiple buildings grouped around it. The ground was to be plowed, graded, and seeded to a fine turf with large shade trees planted in and around the buildings (Tooker *et al.* 2007).

In the 1940s, the building grouping included the post headquarters, a personnel office, several administrative buildings, the Red Cross building, and a chapel on the west side of Missouri Avenue, and the main post service club and several other support buildings on the east side of Missouri Avenue (Figures 10 and 11). POW stonework features were added to the landscape between 1943 and 1946. The remaining stonework features

consist of a 600 foot stone-lined embankment along Missouri Avenue, culverts, bridges, retaining walls, walkways, and steps).

In the early 1960s the buildings in the grouping and the formal landscape on the east side of Missouri Avenue were removed to make way for the post hospital, completed in 1965. The chapel and administrative buildings on the west side of Missouri Avenue were demolished in the late 1980s or early 1990s. The post headquarters building, also eligible for the NRHP, was demolished in 2011 (see Figure 11).

### **Effect of the Undertaking on Historic Properties**

Demolition of Building 430 is addressed under the 1986 Department of Defense Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement, which covers the demolition and deferred maintenance of WWII Temporary Buildings, with certain stipulations. The stipulations, which have been met, included development of an historic context for WWII military construction, documentation of one example of all major building types submitted to the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), and the preservation of select examples of some building types until such time as demolished or removed from DoD control. The Red Cross Building at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Champaign County, Illinois, was selected for documentation of this building type. Completed documentation for this building was submitted to the National Park Service HABS/HAER collection in 1992 (HABS Number IL-1161) (Enscoe *et al.* 1991).

However, Building 430 is also a contributing element to a NRHP eligible historic landscape. With the demolition of Building 401 in 2011, Building 430 is the only remaining building within the historic landscape. Removal of Building 430 and its associated POW stonework will result in a loss of over half of the historic landscape. The remaining landscape features will consist of the courtyard with the flagpole and stonework walkway, low stonework walls flanking the north and south sides of the courtyard, stonework retaining walls, stonework walkways surrounding the former location of Building 401, and approximately 300 feet of the stone-lined embankment along Missouri Avenue (Figures 12 and 13).

### **Finding of Adverse Effect**

Demolition of Building 430 and POW stonework surrounding the building will have an adverse effect on the historic landscape and may render it no longer eligible for the NRHP. Possible mitigation measures could include preservation and relocation of the red-tinted concrete cross, interpretive signage placed within the remaining courtyard area, and print and digital application versions of an updated FLW historical driving tour. FLW CRM personnel will work with SHPO personnel to develop a Memorandum of

Agreement outlining stipulations to mitigate the adverse effect to the historic landscape property.

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Signed: Stephanie L. Nutt Date: 30 Jan 2020

## References Cited

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1992 *Red Cross Complex, Southwest Corner of Eagler & Borman Drives, Rantoul Vicinity, Champaign County, IL*. HABS IL-1161. Tri Services Cultural Resources Research Center, U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, Champaign, IL.

Smith, Adam, Susan Enscore, Karen Zimnicki, and Elizabeth Campbell

2003 *Fort Leonard Wood Building Survey 1941 to 1956*. Engineer Research Development Center Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL.

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## Figures



**Figure 1. Foundation cracks due to differential settling.**



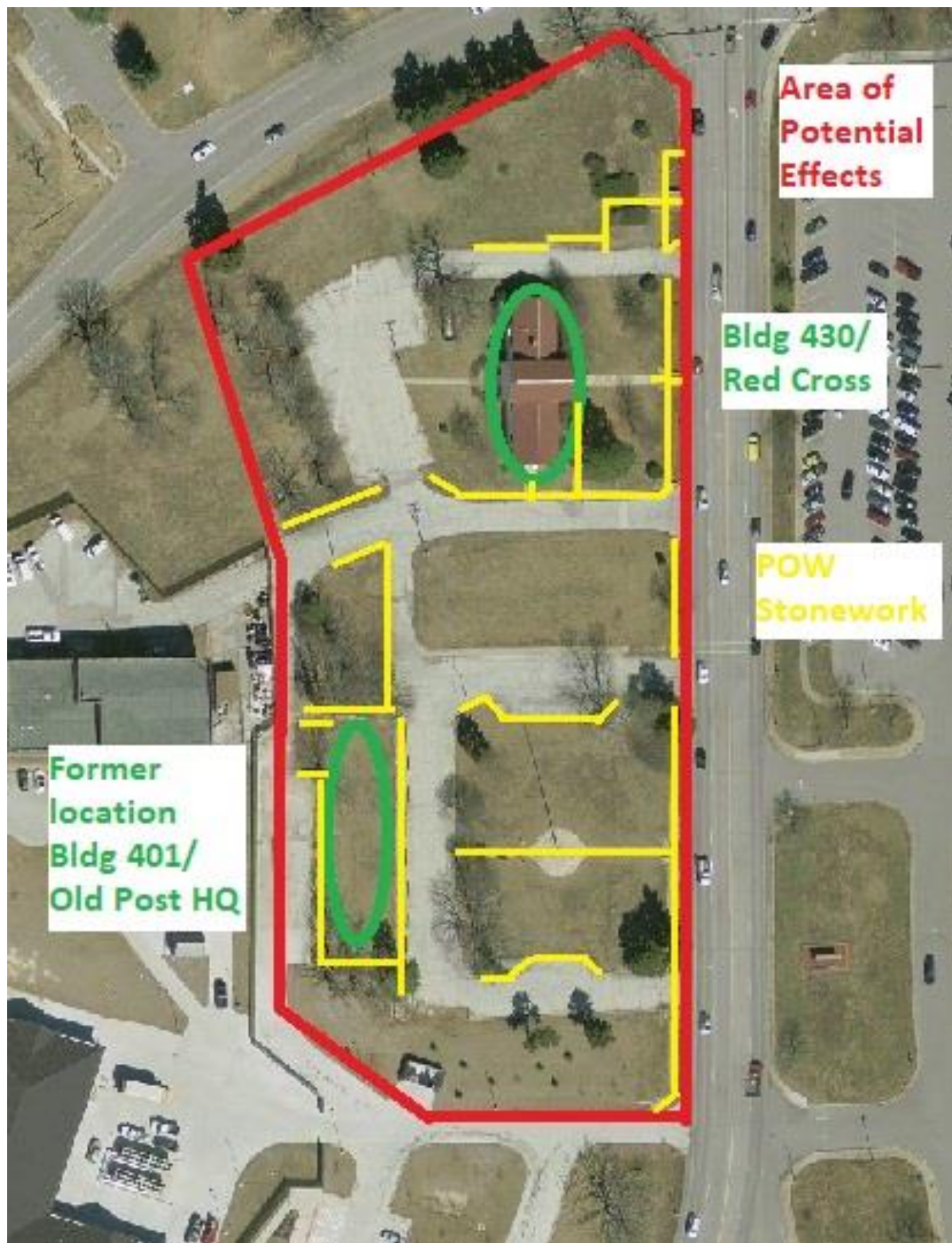


Figure 2. Area of Potential Effects showing POW stonework locations in yellow and building locations in green.



**Figure 3. Building 430, Red Cross Building, 1969.**





**Figure 4. Building 430 main (east) façade, with POW stonework bridge, steps, and embankment.**





**Figure 5. Red tinted concrete red cross on pavilion floor at main entrance.**





**Figure 6. Building 430 south façade, with POW stonework walkway and lined culvert.**



**Figure 7. Building 430 west (rear) façade.**



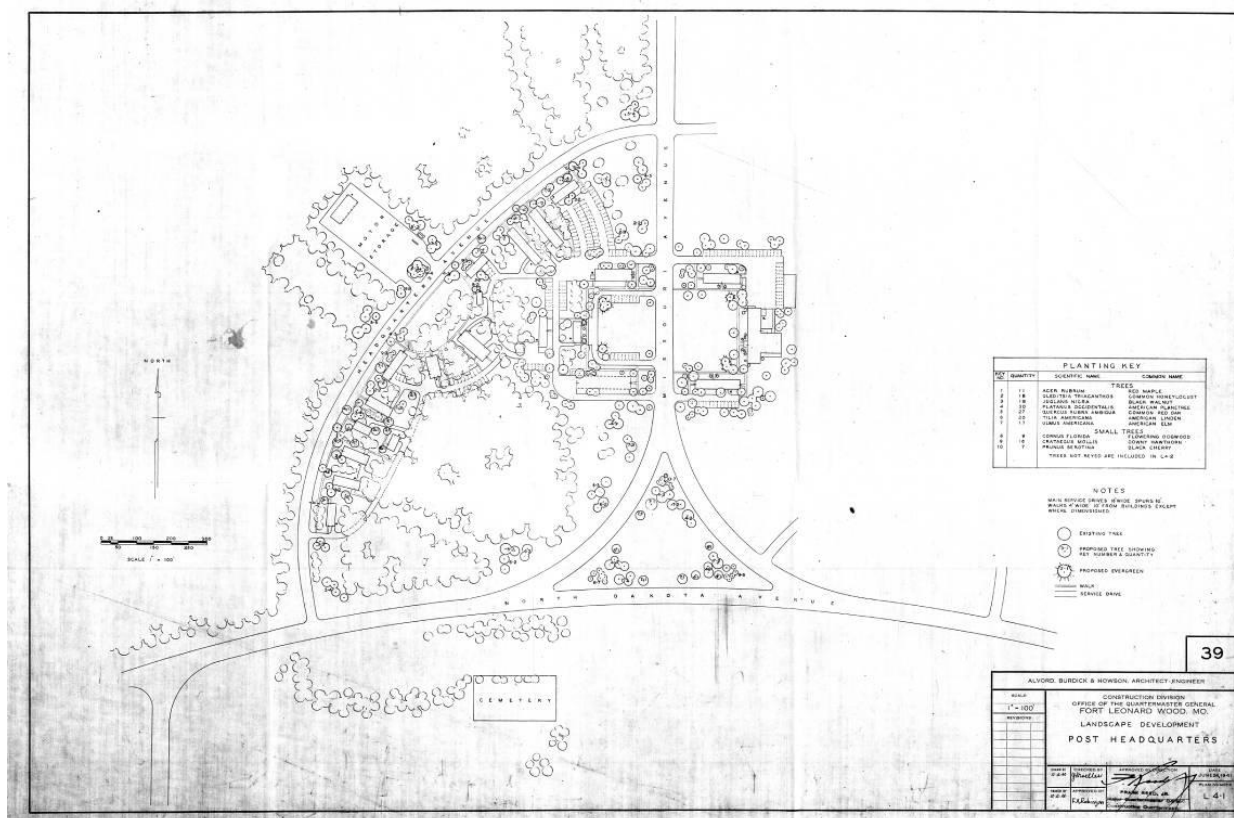


**Figure 8. POW stonework culvert and headwall.**





**Figure 9. POW stonework embankment, culvert with bridge, and steps leading to former location of WWII-era chapel.**







**Figure 11. View from FLW hospital looking west at Post Headquarters and courtyard, civilian personnel building, Red Cross building, and chapel, circa early 1970s.**



**Figure 12. Courtyard and flagpole with POW stonework walkway in front of former location of Building 401.**





**Figure 13. POW stonework retaining wall; former location of Building 401 to the left of the wall in the background.**