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HISTORIC FORT SAM HOUSTON

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX, USA

FORT SAM HOUSTON

The Army first came to San Antonio in 1845 and occupied several facilities, including the Alamo. The present installation began in 1870-75 with the donation of 92 acres of land by the City of San Antonio. Over the years, additional land was acquired to accommodate the expansion of activities at the post. In 1890, the post was designated "Fort Sam Houston."

Throughout its history, the post has performed two basic roles or missions. These are:

- HEADQUARTERS
- LOGISTICAL BASE
- GARRISON
- MOBILIZATION/TRAINING SITE
- MEDICAL SUPPORT

Today, Fort Sam Houston is home for the Headquarters, US Army Medical Command, with two of its major subordinate commands, the US Army Medical Department Center & School and Brooke Army Medical Center, and the Headquarters, Fifth US Army. Fort Sam Houston provides facilities and support for the activities of garrison units and other tenant organizations. The post also supports the thousands of Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers who train here year round. Soldiers from Fort Sam have participated in every American War since 1845 and have deployed world-wide in support of post-Cold War contingency operations.

Despite a great deal of expansion and modernization, growth and change, this historic post retains the essence of its past through the careful preservation of its historic buildings. On these historic grounds, today's soldiers share a common tradition of excellence with several generations of soldiers who have served here in the past.



Gen'l John E. Wool



Sam Houston

DID YOU KNOW...?

The Army brought camels to San Antonio in the 1850s to haul cargo.

Fort Sam Houston is the ninth oldest still-active Army post.

General David S. Stanley lived in the Commanding General's Quarters on Staff Post longer than any other resident (1884-92).

Apache Chief Geronimo was held captive in the Quadrangle for six weeks in 1886.

Porfirio Salinas, President Johnson's favorite artist, served here during World War II and painted murals and landscapes to brighten up the interiors of the barracks and messhalls.

Deer have been kept in the Quadrangle for more than 100 years. Local legend says they were introduced to feed Geronimo (but don't you believe it!).

German, Japanese and Italian prisoners of war were held on Dodd Field during World War II.

Fort Sam Houston has the largest collection of historic buildings of any active military installation (nine times as many as Colonial Williamsburg).

Within the State of Texas, the Quadrangle is surpassed in historical significance only by the Alamo, Cradle of Texas Liberty.

Among the distinguished Americans who served at Fort Sam Houston are two Presidents, one Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, twelve Army Chiefs of Staff, two Air Force Chiefs of Staff, the first Sergeant Major of the Army and a host of Army Surgeons General.



Gen'l Stanley

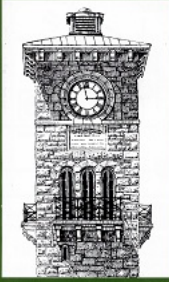


Geronimo



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WELCOME TO HISTORIC FORT SAM HOUSTON



A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF
FORT SAM'S HISTORIC SITES

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF FORT SAM HOUSTON

As a National Historic Landmark, Fort Sam Houston has a collection of historic buildings and sites second to none. This guide highlights many of the important buildings and sites. All buildings listed in this guide are in use by the Army. As a result, **ONLY** the Quadrangle, the two museums and the Gift Chapel are open to the public.

Static displays of military hardware are located near the Quadrangle and the Fort Sam Houston Museum. For more information about the history of the post or any of the buildings, visit or call the Fort Sam Houston Museum (Site #2 on the map below).



SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 1. THE QUADRANGLE.** Oldest building on post. Built in 1876 as supply depot. It is the HQ for the Fifth US Army. Open daily 8am to 6pm, weekends noon to 6pm. Call 221-1232.
- 2. FORT SAM HOUSTON MUSEUM.** Depicts the history of the post and of the Army in the San Antonio area. Open 10am to 4pm Wednesday thru Sunday. Free Admission. Call 221-1886.

- 3. THE GIFT CHAPEL.** Built with donations from local citizens & soldiers. Dedicated by President Taft in 1909.

- 4. US ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT MUSEUM.** Part of the AMEDD Center & School, it depicts the history of military medicine, 1775 to present. Open 10am to 4pm Tuesday thru Saturday. Free Admission. Call 221-6277. Gift Shop. Also on grounds is the Combat Medic Memorial, honoring soldier-medics.

OTHER SITES TO SEE

- 5. STAFF POST.** Designed by Alfred Giles & built in 1881 as quarters for officers of HQ, Department of Texas. Sam Houston House was built in 1886 as first permanent hospital (12 beds) on post.



named in honor of General of the Army John J. Pershing who lived here in 1917.

- 7. INFANTRY POST.** Built 1885-1905 to house 12 companies of troops, making Fort Sam 2d largest Army post at the time. Long Barracks at east end is 1931 long.



- 8. EISENHOWER BOQ.** Newlyweds Dwight & Mamie Eisenhower lived here in 1916.

- 9. STILLWELL HOUSE.** Built in 1888 as post commander's quarters. LTC Joseph W. "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell lived here 1939-1940. Building under renovation as community activities center.

- 10. ARTILLERY & CAVALRY POST.** Built 1905-12, this addition made Fort Sam the largest Army post. Barracks have been converted to offices, guardhouse to Learning Center and bakery to MP Station.

- 11. FIRST FLIGHT MEMORIAL.** Military aviation born near here in 1910 when LT Benjamin D. Foulois made his first flight in Army Aircraft #1.

- 12. CAMP WILSON MEMORIAL.** Marker commemorates mobilization of National Guard here in 1916 for service on the Mexican Border.

- 13. CAMP TRAVIS.** In 1917, a mobilization camp of 1,400 buildings was erected in three months to train draftees for service in World War I. More than 100,000 soldiers trained here; only two of the buildings remain.

- 14. CHINESE CAMP.** Occupied by Chinese who fled Mexico in 1917 to escape the wrath of Pancho Villa. Many were later employed by the Army during World War I.

In 1941. He was promoted to brigadier general while living here.

- 16. KRUEGER QUARTERS.** General Walter Krueger, commander of the 2d Infantry Division and 3d Army during his stay here, commanded the 9th Army in the Pacific in World War II.

- 17. NEW POST.** Begun in 1928 as the largest construction project on the post, it introduced Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Project included barracks, 300 family quarters, theatre, PX and commissary.

- 18. BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL.** Completed in 1937 as station hospital, designated as Brooke General Hospital and later as Brooke Army Medical Center. Converted to office space in 1966 when hospital moved into new facility.

- 19. GENERAL OFFICER QUARTERS.** Built in 1934 as quarters for a general officer of the 2d Division. Occupied since World War II by one of the senior Medical Officers.

- 20. WAAC MEMORIAL.** In 1942, Fort Sam Houston received the first unit of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Marker is on site of WAAC barracks.

- 21. PAT MEMORIAL.** After 26 years of service, this artillery horse was retired when the 12th Artillery was motorized. Pat died in 1953 at the age of 45 and was buried here.

- 22. ARMY MEDICAL DEPT CENTER & SCHOOL.** The Army's principal training facility for medical personnel.

- 23. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.** In 1975, more than 500 acres of Fort Sam Houston are designated as a National Historic Landmark.

- 24. COMMUNITY CENTER.** Commissary, Main PX, Food Court, Toyland/Four Seasons.