

FORT THOMAS MILITARY RESERVATION ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICERS' QUARTERS
(KHC Site #CP-FT-42, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73)
Fort Thomas Military Reservation
Alexandria Circle and Cochran Street
Fort Thomas
Campbell County
Kentucky

HABS KY-301
HABS KY-301

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT THOMAS MILITARY RESERVATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS' QUARTERS

HABS No. KY-301

Location: The ten administrative officers' quarters are located around Alexander Circle and along Cochran Avenue in the deactivated Fort Thomas Military Reservation and National Register of Historic Places district, Fort Thomas, Campbell County, Kentucky. Street addresses for the units include 1–9 Alexander Circle, 30–31 Alexander Circle, and 32–35 Cochran Avenue, Fort Thomas, Kentucky, 41075.

The buildings located on Alexander Circle all face inward toward the central green, whereas the two on Cochran Avenue, directly adjacent to Alexander Circle, generally face north. A central point within the green inside Alexander Circle lies at latitude: 39.068299, longitude: -84.441153, NAD 1983 (coordinate obtained 2010 utilizing ArcGIS Explorer).

Present Owner/

Occupant: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Present Use: The ten administrative officers' quarters are currently vacant.

Significance: The ten administrative officers' quarters are situated within the deactivated Fort Thomas Military Reservation and are included as contributing resources in the Fort Thomas Military Reservation National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) district nomination. According to the NRHP nomination, the Army post itself is nationally significant for its association with U.S. military history, and it has also achieved national significance as an infantry post and a recruitment and induction center for a variety of conflicts and for its association with events and persons of significance in American history. According to the NRHP nomination, the buildings remaining on the post, including the administrative officers' quarters, are also significant as a concentration of military architecture in a planned community.¹ In addition, some of the quarters are significant as examples of buildings constructed according to standardized plans for U.S. Army family housing under the direction of the Quartermaster General. Because the landscape, setting, and original site plan and design, much of which can be attributed to the first post commander Colonel Cochran, have also survived, the area containing the administrative officers' quarters continues to represent a late nineteenth-century planned military community.²

Historian(s): Ann Marie P. Doyon, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (Lexington, Kentucky), July–August 2010.

¹ Betty Maddox Daniels, "Fort Thomas Military Reservation District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form" (Kentucky Heritage Council, 1986), 8-1.

² Floor plans and drawings, Files of the Facilities Management Department of the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Project

Information: This recordation project was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in cooperation with the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The documentation was undertaken by Ann Marie P. Doyon, MHP, Architectural Historian, assisted by W. Trent Spurlock, Architectural Historian, of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. The project was completed during July 2010. The photographs were taken and developed by Robert Tucher. The work was completed under the supervision of Elizabeth G. Heavrin, MHP, and principal investigator Karen E. Hudson, Ph.D., of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

Part I. Historical Information**A. Physical History:**

1. **Date of erection:** The ten administrative officers' quarters were constructed between 1887 and 1891.
2. **Architect:** Office of the Quartermaster General
3. **Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses:**³
 - a. The original owner of the ten quarters was the U.S. Army, and the initial occupants were administrative officers of the Army stationed at the Fort Thomas Military Reservation.
 - b. In 1944 the U.S. Army Air Force assumed control of the post in order to use the 1938 barracks as a convalescent hospital. The hospital was closed in 1945. It is unknown who occupied the ten administrative officers' quarters during this period.
 - c. For a short time during 1945 and 1946, the post was controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but was quickly declared surplus property by the War Department.
 - d. In October 1946 the Veterans Administration (later the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) assumed control of the property. The 1938 barracks building was once again opened as a hospital/nursing home (established in 1947). Occupants in the ten administrative officers' quarters during this period included a variety of employees of the Veterans Administration.

³ Betty Maddox Daniels, "Fort Thomas Military Reservation Description and History," *Northern Kentucky Heritage* 6, no. 2 (1999): 1, 15; Betty Maddox Daniels, "Fort Thomas Military Reservation," in *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, ed. Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool (Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 2009b), 363; Paul T. Knapp, *Fort Thomas Kentucky Its History...Its Heritage* (Fort Thomas, Kentucky: Fort Thomas Centennial Committee?, 1967); and William Russ Stevens, comp., *Fort Thomas Military Reservation 1888 - 1964* (Fort Thomas, Kentucky: n.p., n.d.), 65.

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- e. In 1961, 43.87 acres of the Fort Thomas Military Reservation were granted to the City of Fort Thomas for use as a park, named Tower Park. The hospital and administrative officers' quarters were retained by the government.
- f. In 1972 the former Army post was declared surplus property by the government and divided into five tracts: the Department of Veterans Affairs received two parcels (one with the hospital/nursing home and one with the ten administrative officers' quarters on Alexander Circle and Cochran Avenue); the Brooks-Lawler Army Reserve Center received one parcel; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers retained one parcel for its Antennae Farm; and the City of Fort Thomas received an additional 37-acre parcel, adding to Tower Park (and including the officers' quarters on Greene Street and the non-commissioned officers' quarters on Pearson Street). The ten administrative officers' quarters continued to be utilized as housing during this period.
- g. Sometime during the first decade of the twenty-first century, the buildings were vacated. They are currently owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as part of the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center and are surrounded by areas used by the City of Fort Thomas as Tower Park, a publicly accessible recreational site. The buildings remain vacant.

4. **Builder:** Henry Schriver (local builder/contractor)

5. **Original plans and construction:** The administrative officer's quarters are located on the northeast part of the original military reservation. Eight of these buildings are located on Alexander Circle facing a central green and overlooking the Ohio River, and two of the quarters are located on Cochran Avenue facing an open field. An early map of the reservation indicates that originally there was one additional residence, Building 10, on Cochran Avenue.⁴ The ten extant quarters are generally classified as Queen Anne-Victorian style dwellings, though some exhibit much less ornamentation than others. Buildings 1, 6, 7, 30, and 31 are single unit quarters, whereas Buildings 2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 32-33, and 34-35 are duplex quarters. Building 1 is a unique plan, directly attributable to Army family housing standardized plans, and Buildings 2-3, 4-5, and 8-9 are identical to one another in original plan, also attributable to Army standardized housing plans. Buildings 6 and 7 are the same plan, reversed from one another; Buildings 30 and 31 are the same, reversed from one another; and Buildings 32-33 and 34-35 are nearly identical to one another in original plan. See short forms (HABS No. KY-301-A through KY-301-J) for detailed information on each of the ten quarters.

6. **Alterations and additions:** It appears that all ten administrative officers' quarters have undergone alterations since the time of their original construction. Common changes to the quarters include replacement doors, the use of asphalt roof sheathing, kitchen renovations, the construction of additional bathrooms, enclosure of some fireplaces, and other alterations over time resulting from modernization and advances in technology.

⁴ "Post and Reservation Map of Fort Thomas Kentucky," made under the direction of Major James W. Younger Q.M.C. Quartermaster, Traced December 1937 from old tracing, Files of the Facilities Management Department of the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Buildings 6 and 7 feature replacement cladding on their upper level frame portions. The only additions of note are an enclosed porch and basement level garage, both added onto Building 1. Building 10 has been demolished. See short forms (HABS No. KY-301-A through KY-301-J) for detailed information on each of the ten extant quarters.

B. Historical Context:

The ten administrative officers' quarters are associated with the deactivated Fort Thomas Military Reservation in Fort Thomas, Campbell County, Kentucky. The dwellings were constructed between 1887, when the military reservation was first established, and 1891. They were designed by the Office of the Quartermaster General and constructed by a local builder, Henry Schriver.⁵ Several of the residential units feature fireplace surround tile work by the Kensington Art Tile Company of Newport, Kentucky.

The area today known as the town of Fort Thomas, encompassing approximately 5.7 square miles stretching along a ridge above the Ohio River, was originally incorporated as the District of the Highlands on February 27, 1867.⁶ The land "was part of a half-million-acre land grant awarded to the Ohio Land Company in 1749," a grant that was later preempted by the U.S. Congress, which then awarded the lands to Revolutionary War veterans.⁷ Though many had started to settle on the Kentucky lands across from present-day Cincinnati during the late eighteenth century, the first permanent settlers did not begin to arrive in present-day Fort Thomas until sometime during the early nineteenth century. By 1871, at the time of the first census for the area, the District of the Highlands recorded a population of 617.⁸

The Army's presence in the area began around the turn of the nineteenth century, when Colonel Taylor, a Revolutionary War veteran who possessed expansive land holdings on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River, granted 5 acres and 6 square poles of his land to the government so that the decaying Fort Washington in Cincinnati could be reestablished in Kentucky as the Newport Barracks.⁹ "Newport Barracks was garrisoned almost continuously until after the Civil War," primarily being used as a supply depot for ammunition and provisions. During the Mexican War, Newport Barracks served as headquarters for the Southern District and a significant recruiting barracks, and during the Civil War it was a recruiting barracks and volunteer training base for the Union.¹⁰ A number of additional small fortifications and gun emplacements were located around northern Kentucky as part of the Cincinnati Defense Perimeter during the Civil War. Those that were situated within present-day Fort Thomas included Lee Battery, a small fortification erected by the Army in 1862 as an observation point for river traffic situated approximately where The Loop, or Alexander Circle, would later be located; the Phil Kearney Battery, located on the ridges at the south ends of present-day Tower Place and Military Parkway; and Fort Whittlesey, which was situated almost directly across from the present stone water tower. Fort Whittlesey was the largest fortification in the area, featuring a large structure, concealed trenches and gun emplacements, and a subterranean passageway within two forts connected by a stockaded passageway.¹¹

⁵ Daniels, 1986.

⁶ Betty Maddox Daniels, "Fort Thomas," in *the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, ed. Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool (Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 2009a), 360.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 360–361.

⁸ Daniels, 2009a, 361; and Stevens, n.d., 9.

⁹ Stevens, n.d., 9.

¹⁰ Stevens, n.d., 9; and Knapp, 1967.

¹¹ Knapp, 1967.

Throughout the nineteenth century, a number of minor floods brought high waters to Newport Barracks. During the winter of 1883–84 the river stage reached 70', completely inundating the base with water. It was at this point the government decided to relocate the base and began speculating for a new Army post in Kentucky. Representatives of the Army, including Major Samuel Bigstaff of Bath County, Kentucky, and General Phillip Sheridan, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army who was dubbed "the greatest, dare-devil cavalry man" during the Civil War, quickly turned their sites to a nearly unoccupied area of land within the nearby District of the Highlands, containing primarily peach orchards at the time. Upon inspection of this site, General Sheridan was so impressed with what he saw that he proclaimed this new post would be "The West Point of the West!" He also announced that although the post was intended to be called Fort Crook in honor of General Crook, the new post would instead be named Fort Thomas in honor of General George H. Thomas, "The Rock of Chickamauga."¹²

Work began on the construction of the fort as soon as the Kentucky legislature ceded the land to the government, since the Army had already surveyed and platted the land and began planning construction prior to the closing of the land transaction. At the time construction began, the District of the Highlands was lacking any type of store or shop, public water supply, tavern or restaurant, or transportation; however, General Sheridan was confident these issues would work themselves out as construction of the Army base proceeded. By the time the whole military reservation was completed in 1893, the Midway, as the central business district just outside the post boundaries was known, was solidly built up and in full operation. By 1897, a business directory listed eleven saloons/restaurants, one shoemaker, one florist, one dairy, one barber, one bakery, one grocer, one hotel, one gold-melter, and one blacksmith. By this time, the City of Covington had installed a public waterworks, and the Green Line streetcar line was also in place, allowing soldiers to take a round-trip to Cincinnati and back for the cost of two nickels.¹³

The principal contractor/builder for the military reservation was Henry Schriver, a prominent resident of the District of the Highlands who utilized U.S. Army plans to construct the buildings. The designs took advantage of the local abundance of clay and brick yards with the use of double-wythe brick wall construction. Though approximately forty buildings and structures were planned for the base, the first building completed was Building 1, the Commandant's Quarters, completed in December 1888 on the north end of Carriage Loop, or "The Loop," for a cost of just over \$9,800.¹⁴ It was situated on the choicest site on post. It is said that Colonel Melville A. Cochran, the first commander of the new post, was "quite proud of his new quarters on the very edge of the bluff that towered almost 500 feet above the river directly below."¹⁵ The quarters constructed at Fort Thomas were considered "wonderfully comfortable and modern by comparison with accommodations found in [other] western Army posts."¹⁶ Four additional single dwellings (Buildings 6, 7, 30, 31) and three duplex quarters (Buildings 2-3, 4-5, 8-9) were also constructed on The Loop (later renamed Alexander Circle), and were reserved for administrative officers (full colonels) who did not rotate as field officers from base to base. All eight quarters on The Loop, as well as two additional administrative officers' duplex quarters (Buildings 32-22, 34-35) constructed in 1891 facing the

¹² Stevens, n.d., 11, 14; Knapp, 1967; and Daniels, 1999, 20.

¹³ Stevens, n.d., 18–22.

¹⁴ Daniels, 2009b, 363; and Daniels, 1999, 3.

¹⁵ Knapp, 1967.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

parade grounds and situated adjacent to The Loop on the Carriage Drive approach (later renamed Main Street and then Cochran Avenue) to The Loop, were constructed of locally made red brick set on brick and mortared fieldstone foundations and interior brick piers. Two of the buildings (Buildings 6, 7) also exhibit frame construction on the second levels. The roofs of the quarters were originally sheathed in slate tiles, though they now exhibit asphalt shingle roofing. Other original features included the use of parquet flooring, "USA" stained-glass windows, window seats, numerous fireplaces, transom windows, elaborate staircases, abundant closets and pantries, and full basements. It appears that all of the dwellings were also originally constructed with indoor plumbing and elaborately decorated, wood-framed, Victorian porches. The oval green within The Loop once featured a flag pole and rose gardens and provided a place for many local residents to enjoy the river views or even enjoy a fireworks show.¹⁷

Several of the residential units still exhibit intact fireplace surround and hearth tile work from the Kensington Art Tile Company, formerly situated along the Licking River in Newport, Kentucky. Though the origin of all of the tiles in the Fort Thomas quarters may not be the same, at least one pair of relief portrait tiles has been attributed to sculptor Hermann Mueller, who worked as a designer for Kensington between 1883 and 1893. Mueller, classically trained in Nuremberg and Munich, became a well known figure in American ceramics during the late nineteenth century, which was the heyday of the tile industry that boomed as the result of several factors combining at an opportune time during the industrial revolution.¹⁸ Both portrait and relief tiles were not only considered fashionable during the Victorian period, but ample variety and supply were available locally, due to the comparatively large number of tile companies in operation in and around Ohio at the time. The three-dimensional nature of these molded style tiles "created a range of new opportunities for innovative decorative schemes. The glazes pooled in the recessed areas of the molded surface [giving] the tiles added depth."¹⁹ Though a number of the quarters exhibit decorative relief tile work, some featuring other artistically similar portrait designs, an example of the exact portrait tile design directly attributed to Hermann Mueller and the Kensington Art Tile Company is found today in Building 1.

The design and layout of the site was due in part to the activities of the first base commander, Colonel Cochran, a perfectionist and hobby horticulturalist who planted rows of trees, groups of shrubbery, and varieties of flower beds. All of these elements came together, adding a serene and natural beauty and a campus-like setting to the military reservation. Much of what was added according to his original 1893 plan has not been changed to this day.²⁰ The building activities on the post also brought paved streets and sidewalks to the area, completed by the Warren-Scharf Asphalt Paving Co. of Cincinnati, as well as the large stone water tower at the western edge of the military post, which was built in 1890 by construction manager Henry Schriver and engineer Patrick Rooney and contained a standpipe with a 100,000 gallon capacity.²¹

¹⁷ Daniels, 2009b, 363; and Daniels, 1999, 4.

¹⁸ Norman Karlson, *American Art Tile 1876–1941*. (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1988); and Gordon Lang, *Ten Centuries of Decorative Ceramics 1000 Tiles*. (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, LLC, 2004).

¹⁹ Lang, 2004, 144, 150.

²⁰ Stevens, n.d., 36; Knapp, 1967; and Floor plans and drawings, Files of the Facilities Management Department of the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky..

²¹ Knapp, 1967; and Daniels, 2009b, 361.

During the Spanish-American War, Fort Thomas proved an important base and busy mobilization point for the Army. Two cannons, seized from scuttled Spanish ships in Havana Harbor, were placed at the base of the large stone water tower at Fort Thomas as a memorial to the Fort Thomas based soldiers who served in that conflict. Following the war, the base was converted into a hospital and was utilized primarily for caring for veterans suffering from various exotic fevers and illnesses.²²

By 1912 the city had grown up around the base so much that it had a large enough population to qualify as a sixth class city, an announcement that sparked debate among residents. In that same year, State Senator Webster Helm of the District of the Highlands secured passage of a bill establishing the district as a city under the name Fort Thomas. Petitions were filed, debate continued, and a community civil war ensued regarding the name of the new city,²³ most especially between those residents concentrated at the north end versus those concentrated at the south end. Eventually in 1914 the name became official, backed largely by the argument of supporters who claimed this had long been the widely accepted name for the area as well as the name of the post office and, therefore, the long since established mailing address for local residents.²⁴

As the years went on, the Fort Thomas Military Reservation began to lose its importance as a military post. In addition, partly because of the growth of the city around the post, it could not expand, nor could it provide the space necessary for a rifle range, which was, by necessity, constructed off-site.²⁵ New Army regulations, instituted prior to World War I, required three battalions per regiment of infantry; however, the barracks at Fort Thomas would only accommodate two. The outbreak of the Great War, however, saved the post from being abandoned, an option the Army had been considering. In 1919, Fort Thomas was reactivated as an infantry post. As a result, approximately twenty temporary buildings were added to the base, and a number of tents were erected to serve as temporary troop housing.²⁶ Throughout the 1930s, the base housed the Tenth Infantry, the Civilian Military Training Corps, the local district of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a U.S. Army Reserve Center, and an Army reception and induction center. Despite the lack of available training space at the post and the trend favoring extremely large military bases, including Fort Knox also in Kentucky, a new barracks was constructed at Fort Thomas in 1938. Though considered unnecessary by some, this construction project has largely been attributed to the building boom fueled by economic recovery projects of the New Deal era.²⁷ Men who were part of the Civil Military Training Corps, led by recent West Point graduates, were employed at the base digging stones from the ground and using them to construct walls along the south and west boundaries, gates at the entrances, and steps and benches throughout the reservation; these crews also worked to beautify the site with additional landscaping, some of the materials for which were donated by local residents.²⁸

During the late 1940s, the War Department announced that the Fort Thomas Military Reservation's last infantry unit, the Tenth Regiment, would be transferred out of Kentucky to join the Fifth Division at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was also declared that the limited space at Fort

²² Knapp, 1967.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Daniels, 2009b, 363.

²⁶ Daniels, 1999: 15.

²⁷ Knapp, 1967.

²⁸ Daniels, 2009b, 363.

Thomas rendered the post as simply too small to handle a modern Army regiment's requirements. Despite this, rehabilitations began in August 1940 with thirteen temporary structures added, and both street repairs and renovation of all structures on the base were completed.²⁹ Throughout the Second World War, Fort Thomas continued to function in a support capacity as an induction center but was suspended as such in 1944, when the U.S. Army Air Force assumed control of the post in order to use it as a convalescent hospital, which was housed in the new (1938) barracks building. This lasted less than two years, after which the hospital was closed due to its lack of a nearby airstrip. For a short time the post was controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was then declared surplus property by the War Department until October 1946, when the Veterans Administration (later the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) assumed control of it, utilizing the 1938 barracks building as a hospital/nursing home.³⁰

The remainder of the Fort Thomas Military Reservation has been used for a variety of purposes since the Department of Veterans Affairs assumed ownership of the site, including a military equipment storage site, an Induction Center during the Korean War, an Army Reserve Center, National Guard artillery unit headquarters, Veterans Affairs personnel housing, and more. In 1961, 43.87 acres of the property were granted to the City of Fort Thomas for use as a public park now known as Tower Park.³¹ The hospital and the officers' quarters were retained by the government at that time. In 1972 the government declared the post surplus, dividing the property into five tracts. The Department of Veterans Affairs received two parcels, one with the hospital/nursing home and one with the quarters on Alexander Circle and Cochran Avenue, which continued to serve as the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The other tracts consisted of the Brooks-Lawler Army Reserve Center parcel; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers parcel for its Antennae Farm; and approximately 37 additional acres for the City of Fort Thomas, added to Tower Park. Included in the parcels given to the city at this time were the quarters known as Officers' Row along Greene Street, and the non-commissioned officers' quarters known as Non-Com Row directly adjacent to the water tower on Pearson Street. The city rented the units to private residents until September 1992, when the former quarters were sold at auction as condominiums with easements protecting the historic appearance of the exteriors. Lighted tennis courts, a baseball/football field, and children's playground equipment were also added to Tower Park. On May 15, 1986, Fort Thomas Military Reservation was listed as a district in the National Register of Historic Places.³²

U.S. ARMY FAMILY HOUSING STANDARDIZED PLANS

A comprehensive study of U.S. Army family housing standardized plans was completed in 1986 by Bethany C. Grashof from the Center for Architectural Conservation at the Georgia Institute of Technology for the Assistant Chief of Engineering, Office of the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Each standard plan included as part of the study was assigned a unique number by the author. The first period of standardization identified by the study falls between the mid-1860s and 1890, during which time the Quartermaster Corps and the Corps of Engineers were

²⁹ Daniels, 1999: 15.

³⁰ Daniels, 1999, 1; and Daniels, 2009b, 363.

³¹ Stevens, n.d., 65; and Daniels, 2009b, 363.

³² Daniels, 2009b, 363; and Daniels, 1999, 20.

building Army housing.³³ Though vague notions of standardized housing had begun to emerge during the 1850s, an established program was not instituted until 1890, at which time the second period of standardization began. Nonetheless, a number of buildings, including the ten administrative officers' quarters at Fort Thomas, can be attributed to the first period of standardization.³⁴

The first period of standardized housing designs arose in response to severe criticism for the conditions under which the Army had been housing its men. Beginning around the mid-1860s, great strides were taken to improve Army living conditions. Quartermaster General Meigs began designing and/or gathering designs for standardized housing, primarily (at first) for barracks buildings and officers' quarters. The designs of early quarters had a direct relationship between authorized rank and the size or scale of the design. The relationship more commonly seen was the higher the rank, the larger the quarters by number of rooms; however, buildings of the same plan that simply provided larger rooms for higher ranked officers are also seen. Grashof's study also notes that much of the standardization during the first period took place within regional military departments, creating a number of regional variations on the standardized plans provided by the Quartermaster General's Office.³⁵

At Fort Thomas, Building 1, the Commandant's Quarters, is by far the largest and most elaborate of the ten administrative officers' quarters, and it was completed in 1888. The design for this residence was identified in the study on U.S. Army family housing standardized plans as one that was constructed as the commanding officer's quarters in both Fort Riley, Kansas (1887), and Fort McPherson, Georgia (no date). A comment notes that it was originally planned for Newport, Kentucky, but that the original drawings were marked "superceded" in 1890. This plan, however, named by the author of the study as OQ-43, is in fact Building 1 found at Fort Thomas, Kentucky.³⁶

In addition to Building 1 at Fort Thomas, Buildings 2-3, 4-5, and 8-9, three identical duplex quarters, also reflect a standardized plan named in Grashof's study as OQ-33. Quarters according to this plan were noted as being constructed in Fort Riley, Kansas (1887), and Newport, Kentucky (1890). It is assumed that the references to Newport, Kentucky, are simply generalizations referring to the larger or more established city in the vicinity of the post at Fort Thomas. The study also notes that the drawings were marked as being designed by George E. Pond and had been issued by the Department of Missouri.³⁷

As examples of standardized plans developed on the eve of the U.S. Army's first major program of standardization, these houses reflect evolving late nineteenth-century ideals about proper living conditions for Army officers and exhibit a style, spatial arrangement, and vision of domestic life embraced by the well-to-do middle classes. Although clearly indicative of the period in which they

³³ Bethanie C. Grashof, introduction to "A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans 1866-1940" Vol. 1 (Center for Architectural Conservation, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, May 1986a): i.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, i.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 19.

³⁶ Bethanie C. Grashof, "A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans 1866-1940" Vol. 2 (Center for Architectural Conservation, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, May 1986b).

³⁷ *Ibid.*

were built, these plans also reflect standardization policies, such as the practice of allocating space based on a rank, that continue to this day.

Part II. Architectural Information

The group of administrative officers' quarters at the deactivated Fort Thomas Military Reservation consists of five single residences and five duplex quarters situated around The Loop (Alexander Circle) and along Cochran Avenue at the northeast end of the original reservation property. They are one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half story, brick, Queen Anne style buildings, some of which are based on established Army standardized housing plans. See short forms (HABS No. KY-301-A through KY-301-J) for detailed information on each of the ten quarters.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Bibliography

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Daniels, Betty Maddox. "Fort Thomas Military Reservation District National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form." On file at Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1986.

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Post and Reservation Map of Fort Thomas Kentucky. Made under the direction of Major James W. Younger Q.M.C. Quartermaster, Traced December 1937 from old tracing. Files of the Facilities Management Department of the Fort Thomas facility of the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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