

Camp Hearne
1942 - 1946
Texas U.S.A.

Camp Hearne

World War II Prisoner-of-War Camp



A look into our more recent past
...our rural Home Front

Camp Hearne Historic Site

www.camphearne.com

THIS DRAWING SUPERSEDES DRAWING NO T.O.-700-5151 DATED JUNE 2, 1942.

SAFETY WARNING

Safety is essential. Walking in the footprints of WWII German prisoners can be a lot of fun, but fun ends quickly if you or someone gets hurt. As with any outdoor activity, there are potential dangers involved. These potential dangers can include, but are not limited to:

- rugged dirt roads that make driving rough,
- difficult terrain that can result in falls,
- 65 year old remains creating obstacles that might cause tripping,
- animals (deer, feral hogs, coyotes, stray dogs),
- insects (chiggers, ticks, fire ants),
- reptiles (poisonous snakes)
- plants & trees (thorny Mesquite, poison ivy, poison sumac), and
- unpredictable weather.

This requires that you

- be fully prepared for contingencies
- are in good enough physical condition
- pay attention to where you're going
- use caution when walking along roads by yielding to motor vehicles
- wear suitable footwear and clothing

RULES

1. Do not remove, destroy, or injure any natural or manmade trail features or facilities.
2. No metal detectors.
3. No overnight camping without permission.
4. No use of firearms, fireworks or explosives are permitted.
5. Keep pets on leashes.
6. No alcoholic beverages.
7. Illegal substances are prohibited.
8. Please do not litter on the trail or grounds.
9. Please leave all motorized vehicles in marked parking areas.
10. No Smoking—No fires.
11. Stay on open trails only. Do not leave marked trail.

CAMP HEARNE THEATER



Although not the original façade, the 1950s brick structure was built on the original foundation of Camp Hearne’s “pump house.” It housed two large pumps that provided water to the Camp. Completely hidden under a heavy blanket of briar and brush for years, its transformation into a shelter from the elements is nearing completion. It has become a perfect “bunker” for briefings and “movie theater” to tell Camp Hearne’s story.



Our plans for this structure are to install vintage folding wood seating similar to a typical movie theater in the 40s. Then, acquire a reel-to-reel projector for the sights and sounds of the theater experience.

The final touch will be showings of *Newsreels* and short War Department productions , important methods of communication during the War. For special occasions, we have many favorite films of the forties for viewing.

ALIEN ENEMY INTERNMENT CAMP LAYOUT

Camp Hearne's base layout conformed to U.S. Army *temporary mobilization* standards. Only about 58 acres of the 720 acres acquired by the army were used for the buildings and grounds. A total of 250 buildings were constructed at the camp, which was divided into three main areas: the prisoner compounds, the hospital, and the American sector.

Each POW compound was subdivided into four companies of 400 men each (8 - 50 men barracks) with a mess hall, lavatory, Co. office and two open areas. At the north end of each compound were an administration bldg.

infirmary, post exchange (PX) and two recreation buildings that serviced the entire compound. One large recreation area was available to all compounds for intramural games.

For security, two ten-foot tall fences strung with barbed wire surrounded the compounds, recreation area and hospital complex. The two upper feet of the fence was bent inward at an angle to discourage prisoners from trying to climb it. A single barbed-wire fence separated the compounds. A line of poles strung with a low wire was set five feet from the inside

of the perimeter fences and the fences separating the compounds. Prisoners were not allowed to enter the space between this low fence and the main fence.



BERT WHEELER BARRACK

EXTERIOR

The buildings within the compounds were not designed to be permanent structures. They were designed to last only 20 years. Each barrack had wooden floors supported by beams that rested on piers. The other buildings—latrines, mess halls, offices and common bldgs—had cement foundations. This configuration of cement foundations comprise the Camp’s “footprint” repeated throughout the grounds.



Our barrack replica was built from the 1940s War Department standardized plan-No. 700-5500 obtained from the Army archives. The original plan was designed for 32 men to be housed in a 20' x 100' framed structure. Due to the rapid increase in enlistments after Pearl Harbor, the “adequate” individual space requirement was lowered and this same barrack became home to 50 men.



It was the location’s climate and availability of materials that dictated how the exterior was finished. In the South, our compound buildings used 2x4’ stud walls with optional diagonal sheathing covered with tar paper held in place with batten boards. Interiors were unfinished except for the common buildings. Hospital buildings were more finished for obvious reasons.

Standards for POW camps were governed by the **Geneva Conventions of 1929** requiring prisoners to be provided housing that was “sanitary, healthful, adequately heated and lighted and generally conformed” to the same conditions provided for our troops.

BERT WHEELER BARRACK INTERIOR

#3 Barrack Replica



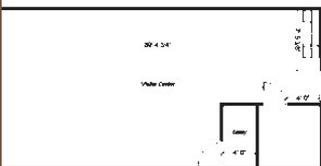
Interior of the front portion of the barrack has been left as it would have been during WWII. Details were authenticated by a set of 1942 Corps of Engineer plans and original photographs.

#4 Camp Hearne Exhibit Hall



Middle portion of barrack displays the photographs, artifacts and objects collected by Dr. Michael Waters and ROLL CALL—Friends of Camp Hearne. These tell the story of the Camp's origins and the Camp life of prisoners as well as the Americans that guarded them between 1942-1946.

#5 Visitor Information Center



The back room is a visitor's center where guests may relax, obtain tourist information and learn more about Camp Hearne. Books related to Camp Hearne and Robertson County & Hearne histories will be available for a donation. Donations will be used to continue the development of Camp Hearne's story.

GUARD TOWER



TRAIL

Walking over uneven terrain through heavy overgrowth may not be your idea of fun. This rough trail will take you to the heart of the prisoner compounds where remains of man-made fountains, castles, and theaters were found during the 1995 archeological survey. It is probably the heavy brush and vines and the very prominent poison ivy that kept intruders away over the years. If you do risk this 1 mile trek in the woods, be prepared to encounter poison ivy, chiggers, fire ants and ticks.

We strongly recommend you stay on the cleared trails.



CAMP HEARNE HISTORIC SITE LIVING HISTORY EVENTS



Camp Hearne hosts Living History events at least twice a year. Passionate individuals volunteer their time to re-enact WWII personas and events through their vintage uniforms, gear, vehicles & weapons. It is truly a hands-on experience

The Golden Rule - Matthew 7:12

WAR DEPARTMENT BASIC FIELD MANUAL FM 19-5 MILITARY POLICE

CHAPTER 11 PRISONERS OF WAR, SEC 130, b

"It is important for all military personnel to be fully informed of these [Geneva POW and Red Cross Conventions of 1929] provisions as a protection in the event of their own capture, and because violation of any of such provisions is not only a violation of the laws of the United States, but may also result in retaliation by the enemy against our own prisoners of war, and may subject this nation to unfavorable criticism in the public opinion of people throughout the world."

ROLL CALL—*Friends of Camp Hearne*



CAMP HEARNE
WWII HISTORIC SITE & EXHIBIT

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