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Vernacular Architecture of Fort Riley Early 20th Century Postcards

Robert J. Smith

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FOLIO I
VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF FORT RILEY:
EARLY 20TH CENTURY POSTCARDS

Robert J. Smith

In the late spring and early summer of 1885, General of the Army Philip Sheridan and General Nelson Miles visited Fort Riley and assessed the feasibility of establishing the Army's Cavalry School at the post. Even though the generals found the post in poor condition they approved the expansion work needed to make Fort Riley a premier cavalry training center.

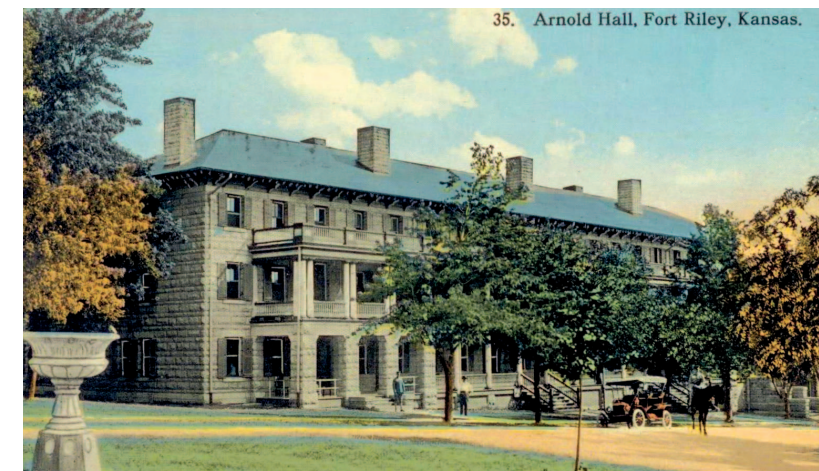
Captain George Pond, Quartermaster Corps, arrived at Fort Riley in September 1885 to oversee the expansion of the post. During his six years at Fort Riley, Pond supervised the construction of more than thirty permanent limestone structures on Main Post. For decades Pond's work in architectural design set the standard throughout the Army for officer and enlisted housing.

Examples of Main Post's 1880s to 1910s building expansion are evident in these early twentieth century postcards from the US Cavalry Museum's extensive collection.

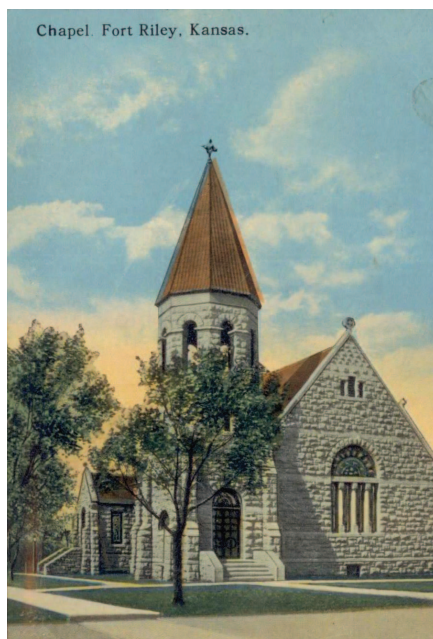
*Mr. Smith is Supervisory Museum Curator, US Cavalry Museum and First Infantry Division Museum
All postcards courtesy of United States Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas*



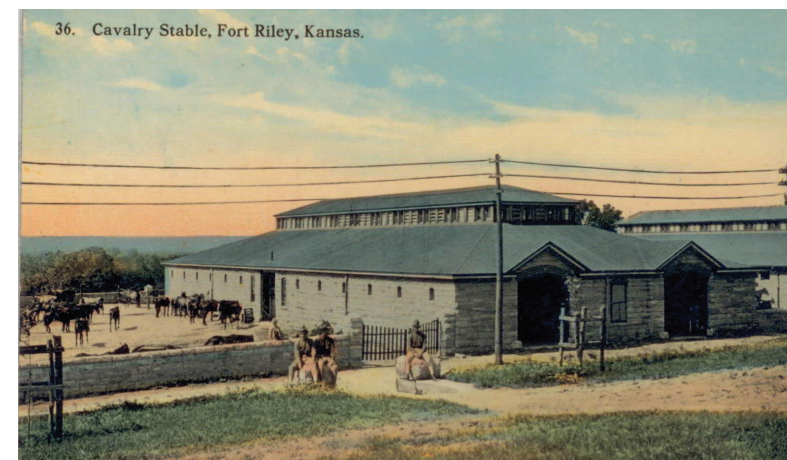
CAVALRY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Originally built as Fort Riley Hospital in 1855, this three-story structure of native limestone is located on the east end of the Cavalry Parade Field.



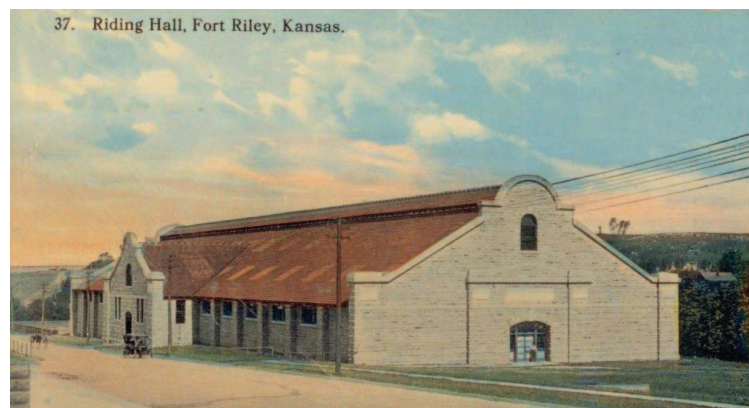
ARNOLD HALL
Named for Brigadier General Abraham Kerns Arnold, the building was constructed in 1909 from standard Quartermaster Corps plans.



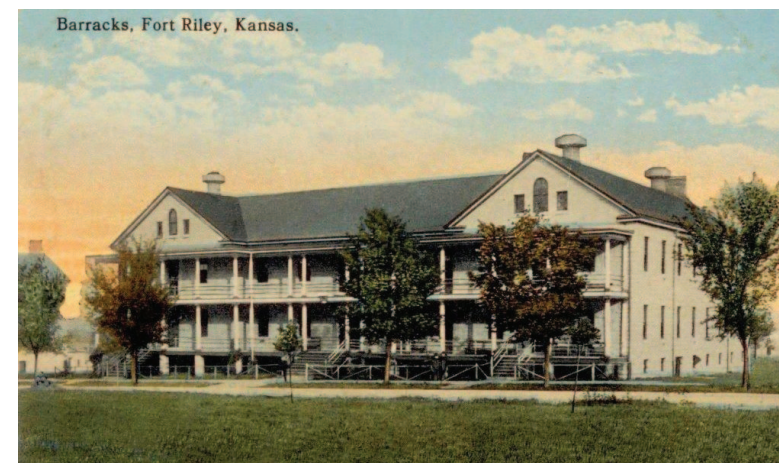
MAIN POST CHAPEL
Fort Riley's Main Post Chapel was completed in January 1898.



CAVALRY STABLES
Constructed 1900 to 1912, each stable had a hay loft, food storage area, and room for 50 to 75 horses. A small building called a Cavalry Guard House was located behind every two stables, allowing soldiers to maintain an around-the-clock watch on the horses.



WEST RIDING HALL
West Riding Hall, one of two riding halls constructed at Fort Riley, was completed in January 1908, nearly twenty years after the first phase of Fort Riley's expansion under General Sheridan's plan.



BARRACKS
Constructed in 1902 this building is located on Artillery Parade Field.