

HISTORIC LITTLETON INC.

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July, 2003

Annual HLI Meeting to be at Fort Logan

The annual meeting of Historic Littleton Inc. will be Wednesday, August 20, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Field Officer's house at Fort Logan, 3742 W. Princeton Circle in Denver. Join us for refreshments and a special look at this historic Army base, which was constructed in the 1890's and used until 1946. The fort property contains a 32-acre parade ground (now used for soccer fields), century-old trees (planted as saplings), and numerous historic buildings, including 16 of the original 18 Victorian-era buildings known as "officer's row."

The evening begins on the porch of the Field Officer's house (the one with the cannon in the front yard) at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and wine, beer or lemonade. After a brief business meeting at 6 p.m., Dr. Jack Ballard and Earl McCoy will show a video and slide show of the history and restoration of this Army base and then lead us on a walking tour.

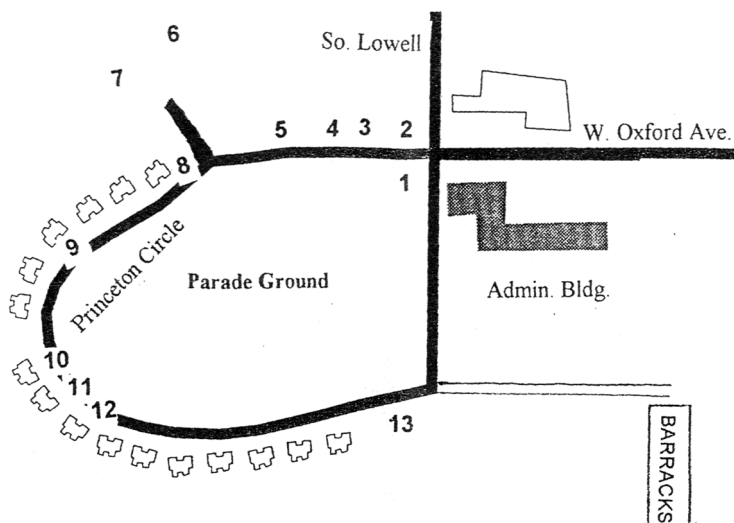
Dr. Ballard is a retired Air Force officer and the former president of the Littleton School Board.



He is currently president of Friends of Fort Logan, an organization that is dedicated to preserving these historic fort buildings. Earl McCoy is one of the founders of Friends of Fort Logan. Included in their presentation will be information on the unique Littleton connections to Fort Logan.

Fort Logan can be reached from Santa Fe or Federal by turning west at Oxford Avenue. Enter the grounds of the Fort Logan Mental Health Institute and drive left at Princeton Circle to building number 10 (number 11 on the map) which is the Field Officer's Quarters, a Denver landmark that is listed on the state register of Historic Properties. You can park anywhere along W. Princeton Circle.

The outing is free to all current members of Historic Littleton. Please RSVP to Rebecca Kast, 303-730-2639, by August 18.



Fort Logan was once named Fort Sheridan

Fort Logan was originally known as Fort Sheridan, named for Lt. General Phil Sheridan, who came to Denver in March 1887 to view potential sites for a new Army post near the city. He suggested the tract south of Bear Creek nearly ten miles from downtown Denver. Local citizens and businesses contributed money to buy 640 acres for a post. (Part of that land belonged to Colonel Robert Spotswood of Littleton.) Senator Henry M. Teller introduced a bill for the fort's authorization, and President Cleveland signed the act in February 1887.

General Sheridan, however, preferred to be honored by having his name associated with a new fort north of Chicago that had been known as Fort Logan, and a switch of names was made. John Alexander Logan was a U. S. senator from Illinois who had been a general in the Union Army. Logan had visited Colorado several times and invested in silver mines here. [Logan County in northeast Colorado was also named for him.]

The first troops arrived from Kansas forts and camped on a nearby ranch before moving onto the grounds October 31, 1887. Construction of permanent buildings began in 1888 with officers' quarters adjacent to the 32-acre parade ground and barracks for enlisted men nearby. (Charles Louthan, a carpenter who later became mayor of Littleton, moved here to help construct the fort buildings.) The Headquarters building, Commissary, Guardhouse and other buildings were built about the same time; the last building to be built around the parade grounds was the Bachelor Officers Quarters in 1897.

About 340 acres were added to the fort in 1908. It served as a recruit depot during World War I. Major Dwight Eisenhower was stationed there in 1924 and 1925. In the 1930s WPA and CCC programs did much to rehabilitate old buildings and build new ones.

In December 1940 the fort became a subpost of Lowry Field, and in 1941 the Army Air Corps trained clerks and later activated a Convalescent Hospital there. Many temporary buildings

were put up, with as many as 5500 persons stationed at the post during the 1940s. Fort Logan was closed in May 1946, and the Veterans Administration used the hospital until 1951. Part of the land was deeded to the State of Colorado in 1960 to establish a state hospital, Fort Logan Mental Health Center. Many of the historic buildings, some of which date back to 1889, are on the 232-acre campus today.

The Friends of Historic Fort Logan is restoring the Field Officers Quarters as it was in the 1890s and have created a museum there. Significant funding has been received from the Colorado Historic Preservation Fund. It is designated as a historic building on the State Register of Historic Properties and as a Denver Landmark.

Note: The above information has come from "A Brief History of Fort Logan, 1887-1987" and "Walking Tour of Historic Fort Logan," provided by the Friends of Historic Fort Logan and used with its permission. Doris Farmer Hulse helped research and edit this article.

National Trust Conference in Denver

The National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, "New Frontiers in Preservation," will be held in Denver September 30-October 5. This is a great opportunity to interact with preservationists from all over the country. Over 50 educational sessions and 30 field sessions are planned, including one field session in Littleton on Oct. 1. Educational sessions will be held at downtown hotels. For more information or to register, visit the website at www.nthpconference.org.

CALENDAR

August 20 — Annual Meeting at Fort Logan 5:30-7 p.m.

Sept 30-October 5—National Trust for Historic