

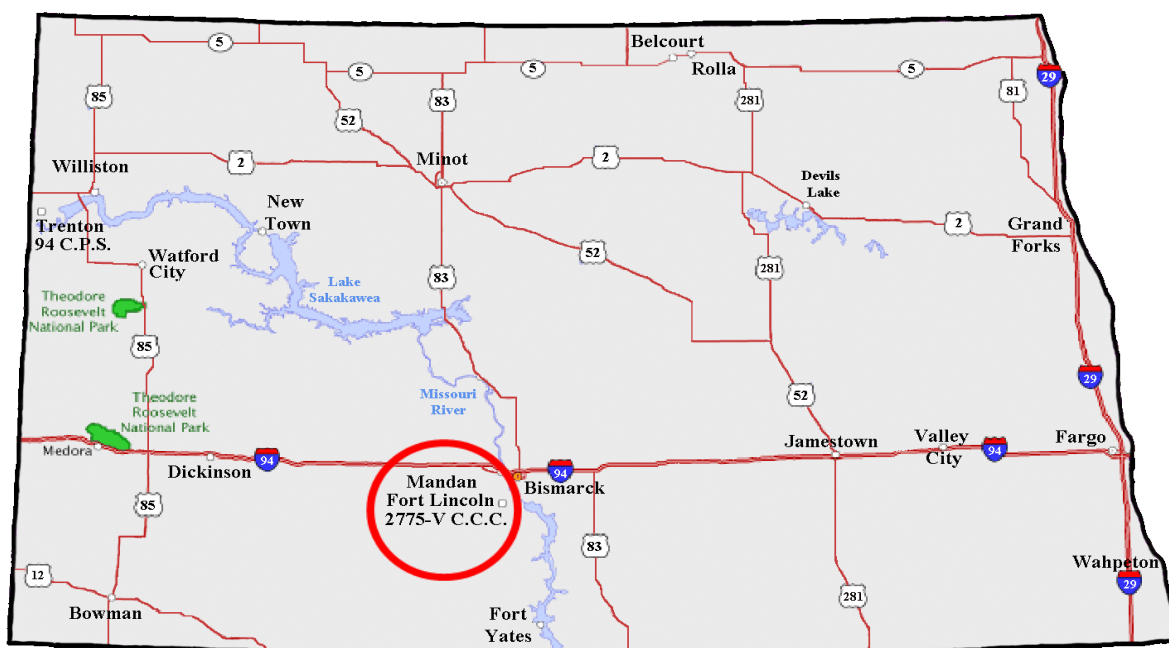
2775-V-C.C.C.

Fort Abraham Lincoln

Mandan, ND. 1933-1942



Overview of Fort Abraham Lincoln 1876
SHSND Coll. # 00200-0524



Company 2775 V-C.C.C. camp site Mandan, N.D.



This chimney is from the recreation hall and is all that remains of Camp C. C. C. 2775-V, Mandan, ND.

At a annual reunion July 15, 1989 of The National Association of CCC Alumni a plaque was placed on the chimney to mark the camp site that is south of Mandan at the old fair grounds. This plaque was designed and made by Merlin Dahl a CCC Alumni member and a past CCC enrollee.

This chimney is all that remains of the recreation hall from Camp C. C. C. 2775-V, Mandan, ND. On July 15, 1989 at a annual reunion of The National Association of CCC Alumni a plaque was placed on the chimney to mark the camp site that is south of Mandan at the old fair grounds. This plaque was designed and made by Merlin Dahl a CCC Alumni member and a past CCC enrollee.

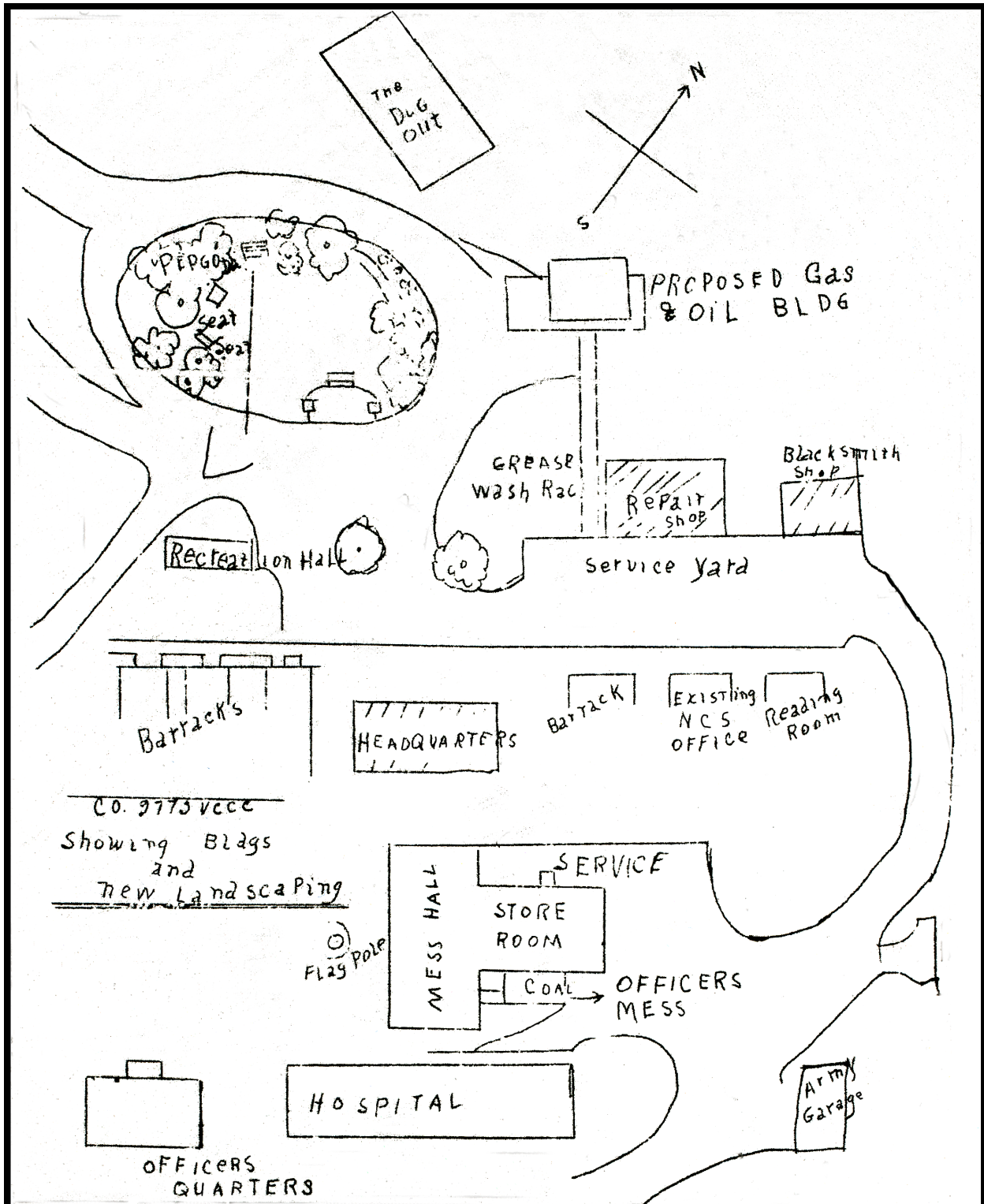
The plaque reads:

**CO.V 2775
ND C 106
NACCCA**

North Dakota Charter 106
National Association of CCC Alumni



Camp 2775-V C.C.C.



Layout of Camp 2775-V C.C.C. south of Mandan at the fair grounds.
Page 13 from Oct. 31, 1937 Veterans Bugle a weekly news paper.

History for Fort Abraham Lincoln

As the Northern Pacific Railroad advanced west across Dakota Territory, the US military kept pace. When the railroad reached the Missouri River in 1872, the city that would become known as Bismarck sprang up on the east bank of the river. June 1872 Fort McKean was established on the west bank of the river as a small infantry post. The name was changed to Fort Abraham Lincoln November 19, 1872 and in 1873 a cavalry post was added.

By 1874, Fort Abraham Lincoln housed three companies of the 6th and 17th Infantries and six companies of the 7th Cavalry, making the fort a nine-company command. With a total complement of about 650 men and 78 separate buildings, the fort was among the largest and most important on the Northern Plains.

June 1882 the cavalry and its headquarters were transferred to Fort Meade. With the completion of the railroad to Montana, Fort Abraham Lincoln had fulfilled its primary purpose and was abandoned in 1891.

After Fort Abraham Lincoln was abandoned area settlers dismantled many of the buildings for the material to build area homes and farms.

The land itself was deeded to the state in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Park development started in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), who built the visitor center, earthlodges, blockhouses, shelters, roads and placed cornerstones to mark buildings at the infantry center and cavalry posts.

2775 V - C.C.C. Work at Fort Abraham Lincoln

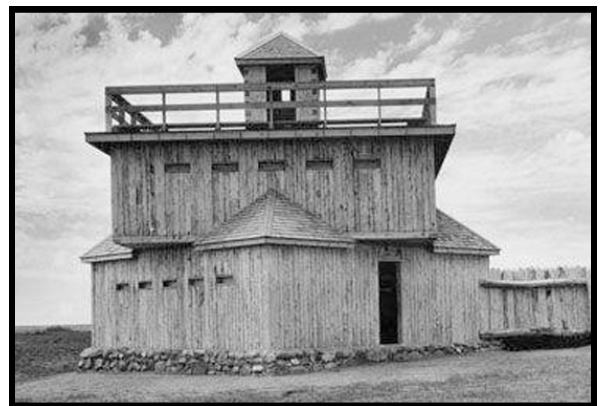
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in April 1933 and was active thru June 1942. The Corps was specifically intended for the purpose of relieving the widespread unemployment and distress existing in the United States. At the same time it was to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources (lands, forests, and parks) and the advancement of an orderly program of useful public works.

The CCC had several nicknames some of which were: College in the Woods, the Colossal College of Calluses, the Canvas Covered Convicts, Roosevelt's Tree Army, Roosevelt's Tree Troopers, Woodpecker Warriors, Soil Soldiers, Peaveys and "CCC's".

Most CCC camps were made up of enrollees between the ages of seventeen and twenty three, but to help the pressing problem of unemployed World War I veterans some camps were made up of veterans. These



Museum of native stone built by C.C.C.
on Fort Abraham Lincoln site.



Reconstructed Blockhouse
SHSND Coll. # 00200-0524

camps were designated with the letter “V” in the camp number and it was this type of camp that did work at Fort Lincoln State Park, Mandan, ND.

C.C.C. Camp 2775-V was located at the fair grounds south of Mandan, North Dakota. July 4, 1934 they started restoration of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park four and one half miles south of Mandan.

The primary aim of the Fort Lincoln State Park program was to preserve the history connected with the area. The program was carried out by the National Park Service in connection with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. It has within its boundaries two sites of unusual historical interest, the ruins of the Mandan Slant Indian Village, and the ruins of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Infantry and Cavalry Posts.

The main projects for historical preservation was the rebuilding of the block houses and palisades at the infantry post, the marking of the foundations and labeling of building sites for both the infantry and cavalry posts, the re-building of five Mandan earth lodges on the Slant Village Site, and the construction of a museum building of native stone to house historical displays which will tell the story of the area.

2775 V - C.C.C. Pottery

Each camp had a C.E.A., Camp Education Advisor. It was his responsibility to design lesson plans for any enrollee who wanted to volunteer and use his free time in the evenings and weekends to further his education.

Camp educational adviser, F. A. Nunn introduced a ceramics program to the camp. In a camp newsletter of August 1939 the ceramics/pottery program made several hundred articles the past year. The potter's wheel was used for making bowls, pictures, jugs etc. Moulds were used for making animals and flower pots. Much of the pottery was decorated in colors using a colored mineral oxide base. Some of the clay products were burned in out door kilns. In the fall of 1939 plans were being studied for the construction of a kerosene or gas kiln.

Below are highlights of letters between the Camp Educational Adviser Fred A. Nunn and Margaret Cable of the Ceramics Department at UND. In the letters the C.E.A. discussed pottery work they were doing.

Fred Nunn writes to UND Dep. of Ceramics Nov. 8, 1935 asking for information about making pottery. He says in their work project they had dug up hundreds of pounds of Indian pottery shards. Nunn said they plan to reconstruct some of the finding if it was possible.

Nov. 15, 1935 Margaret Cable sent bulletins and information to Fred and also informed him of the primitive methods of making, decorating and burning pottery. This was the course she put together after first hand study of how the Southwestern Indians made their world famous pottery with only their hands, the native clay and liberal supplies of cow dung for firing.

In a letter dated Nov. 29, 1935 Fred said a small group of enrollees were working on the reconstruction of primitive Indian pottery and had much of the pottery ready for burning and glazing. He said they had much success in glazing with hot tallow which gives the pottery a black color.

January 6, 1936 letter, Margaret Cable asks Fred why they want to glaze reconstructed Indian pottery.

January 8, 1936 letter to Cable, Fred said that the National Park Service that was in camp was very much interested in reconstructing the Indian pottery they find on the project. He goes on to say that tons of pottery shards, bones, human skeletons, bone awls, fish hooks, chippers, hide scrapers, hammers, celts, arrow heads, ornaments, corn cobs and many other things had been uncovered.

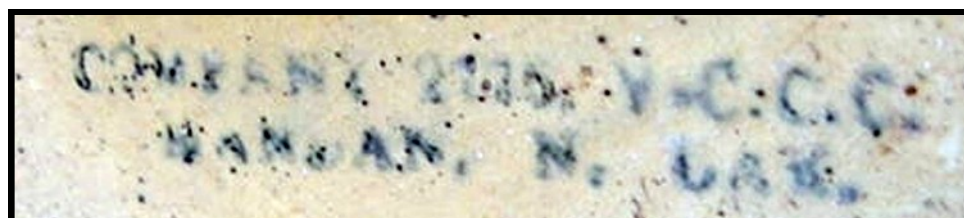
2775 V - C.C.C. Pottery



Found in Gregory, S.D.
4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " high by 4" wide



Found in Houston, Texas
5" long by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high



Stamp on the bottom
COMPANY 2775 V-C.C.C. MANDAN, N. DAK.

At this time (5-2018) these are the only two pieces known to exist.