

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION

National Register of Historic Places National Park Service

| Name of Property: Mountain View Officers' Club | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------------|--|
| Location: Ft. Huachuca | | 8 | State: AZ | |
| Request submitted by: COL. Daniel J. McFarland, Commander, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Huachuca, 2837 Boyd Ave. Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7001 | | | | |
| Date received: 01/25/2013 Additional information received: 2/4/13 (AZ SHPO Comments) | | | | |
| Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer: | | | | |
| X_EligibleN | lot Eligible | _No Response | _Need More Information | |
| Comments: | | | | |
| The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is: | | | | |
| <u>x</u> Eligible | | | Not Eligible | |
| Applicable criterion: | Α | | · | |
| Comment: | | | | |

The 1942 Mountain View Officers' Club building (#66050), Fort Huachuca, AZ as identified in the *Analysis of the Mountain View Officers' Club* Cultural Resources Report FH-12-5, dated September 2012, by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The areas of significance are for Military History/Ethnic Heritage: Black with a period of significance of 1942-1945. The Mountain View Officers' Club is located in what was historically the segregated south section of Fort Huachuca. It was part of a much larger cantonment of temporary buildings constructed by the military during World War II.

Used during a still segregated U.S. Army, the building served as an officers' club for the

black officers of the 93rd and 92nd Divisions. The 92nd and 93rd Divisions were all black troop divisions and Fort Huachuca was the only Army post in the country that housed a full division of black troops during World War II. The club building is all that remains at the fort that represents the achievements of black officers having attained leadership roles to command black troops. Officers used the club for relaxation and camaraderie. Lectures, concerts, and parties were hosted here providing breaks from the intensive military routines. The number of African American officers fluctuated with the changes in troop stationing and deployment. At one point, the report indicates the fort had between 520 and 800 black officers.

The 1942 Mountain View Officers' Club was built using the Type SC-3 standardized plan developed by the US Army for construction in new military installations or expansions of facilities during the 1940s. This building type is part of what is known as the 700 and 800 Series Construction and the SC-3 was mostly used for service clubs at many Army installations across the country. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) has recorded this type of building and series.

It is unclear whether this building was specifically built for African American officers or whether once it was constructed, a decision was made to use it as an African American officers' club. It is, however, one of only two remaining WWII-era African American officers' clubs—the other, using a different building plan, is located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

During this time period, the Lakeside Officers' Club was constructed for white officers. Separate recreation centers, theaters, non-commissioned officers' clubs (NCOs), churches, and a USO were also constructed. None of these buildings remain. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WAAC) was also associated with officers and service clubs serving as event hostesses and operating the guest houses used for visiting military families. A separate African American Women's Army Auxiliary Corps served at the Mountain View Officers' Club.

The report documents use of the Mountain View Officers' Club for socializing, dining, concerts, and in 1943, for an art exhibit by 37 African-American artists. A mural entitled *Progress of the American Negro (Five Great American Negroes)*,1939-40, was part of this exhibit and remained in the building until 1947, when it was moved to Howard University, in Washington, D.C.

After WWII, the officers' club was converted into a NCO club during the mid-1950s. The building has undergone modifications and remained in use until the early 1990s. It is still in its original location and retains its

overall form and floor plan as a service club. Enough of the building's historic setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association remain to convey its significance under National Register Criterion A.

We recommend the completion of a National Register nomination that includes not only the documentation about the building's use by African American officers but also information regarding the role the African American WAACs played in association with this club. Additional information regarding their training, duties, and the number of women who served would be useful in understanding the contributions made by female soldiers and documenting the African American women's experience during WWII at Fort Huachuca.

Keeper of the National Register

2-22-2013

Date

WASO-28