

II. SUMMARY OF RESEARCH METHODS AND RESULTS

The recordation of Camp Wright involved a combination of field investigations and documentary research. These activities were performed to acquire additional information to supplement the 2006 Cultural Resources Survey (Coleman, Doms et al. 2006).

A. Summary of Field Investigations

The field investigations for this project consisted of detailed physical examinations of all above ground structures and the grounds of the Camp Wright property. Detailed field recordation was prepared for the thirteen main and secondary Camp Wright structures inventoried and registered with DE SHPO by the original 2006 Cultural Resources Survey (Coleman, Doms et al. 2006) (**Figure 2**). Specifically, these structures were:

- Arts and Crafts Building/Bunk House (CRS # N-14422.01)
- Gawthop Hall (CRS # N-14422.02),
- Bunk House #1 (CRS # N-14422.03),
- Kitchen/Dining Hall (CRS # N-14422.04),
- Bunk House #2 (CRS # N-14422.05),
- Caretaker House (CRS # N-14422.06),
- Gatehouse (CRS # N-14422.07),
- Washroom (CRS # N-14422.08),
- Medical Building (CRS # N-14422.09),
- Spring House (CRS # N-14422.10),
- Shed (CRS # N-14422.11),
- Pool (CRS # N-14422.12), and
- Basketball Court (CRS # N-14422.13)

Field recordation was prepared in the form of photographs, measured field drawings, and written field descriptions.

Photo-recordation was conducted using photographic still film and digital media. Film images were captured on 35mm black/white and color slide film. The level of film photo-recordation was equivalent to the former Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Level III guidelines. In accordance with the HABS/HAER Level III and DE SHPO guidelines, the exterior elevations of the structures were the primary subject matter of the black/white photography effort. The black/white photo-recordation was augmented with color slide and digital images of interior views (where feasible), as well as additional key architectural details and characteristics of the Camp Wright structures. Photographic key maps and photographic indices were also prepared.

Detailed field drawings were prepared based on field measurements for twelve of the thirteen key Camp Wright structures. Drawings included representative views of building elevations, and whenever possible, interior floor plans. Detailed written descriptions of physical attributes, construction techniques, architectural details, and spatial relationships were also recorded as part of the field investigations. Pursuant to the DE SHPO guidelines, the field drawings and accompanying written descriptions were prepared with the intent to sufficiently document and represent the relationship of primary building elements (e.g., doors, windows, and porches). The only structure that was not subjected to detailed field recordation was the Caretaker House. Access to the Caretaker House was denied due to tenant occupation during the course of the fieldwork. Recordation efforts for the Caretaker House consisted of a rough verbal description and photography of the building's exterior.

Field recordation materials for each of the main and secondary structures of Camp Wright are presented by structure in this recordation document. Copies of the completed DE SHPO CRS forms are also included therein.

Although the above noted structures were the primary targets for recordation, abbreviated field documentation for various representative ancillary structures and facilities identified within the bounds of Camp Wright was also prepared. The recordation materials for the ancillary structures are presented in a single section in this recordation document.

B. Supplemental Archival Research Methods

The recordation of Camp Wright also included supplemental archival research. For this effort, researchers focused on acquiring information in the form of archival documents that pertain to the camp's appearance and activities during the early twentieth century. Throughout the course of the project, concerted efforts were made to find materials beyond those acquired during the previous survey. Additional repositories consulted included the New Castle County Land Use Department, West End Neighborhood House, and Children and Families First. Research efforts also included interviews with knowledgeable individuals on the subject matter and collection managers (i.e., curators and archivists). Electronic media (i.e., internet resources) was also reviewed. Priority was given toward the acquisition of historic photographic images and materials pertaining to Camp Wright that are not readily-available or present within local mainstay research collections. Relevant information and reproductions of materials was acquired via on-site visitation, telephone conversations, as well as written and electronic correspondence. Postings to electronic list servers, bulletin boards, and subject-related websites were also undertaken for the solicitation of information and resources.

During the course of the project, it became quite apparent that very little information has been retained on Camp Wright. Numerous repositories were contacted and researched throughout the course of the 2006 Cultural Resources Survey and subsequent 2007 Recordation of Camp Wright. The collective list of repositories consulted during both studies included the:

- New Castle County Recorder of Deeds Office,
- New Castle County Register of Wills Office,
- New Castle County Public Library,
- New Castle County Department of Land Use,
- Delaware State Historic Preservation Office Site Files (DESHPO),
- Historical Society of Delaware (HSD) and HSD Bill Frank Collection,
- Delaware State Museum (DSM),
- Delaware Public Archives (DPA),
- University of Delaware Morris Library,
- West End Neighborhood House, and
- Children and Families First (formerly Associated Charities).

Two repositories that provided the most information were the University of Delaware Morris Library and the HSD. The West End Neighborhood House stated that they have no formal archives. Currently, their documentary materials associated with Camp Wright is not archived and is housed in deep storage. As part of the 2007 recordation effort, additional telephone interviews were conducted with representatives of the West End Neighborhood House. This effort resulted in the acquisition of a copy of a 1954 in-house status report on the conditions and operations of Camp Wright (West End Neighborhood House 1954). Additional interviews and coordination with representatives of New Castle County Department of Land Use were also conducted as part of the 2007 recordation. Despite concerted search efforts, no readily-available archival information pertaining to Camp Wright was discovered in the aforementioned repository.

A small collection of Camp Wright ephemera and artifacts was also encountered on-site during the recordation study. Representative photographs of these materials, as well as historic photographs, and copies primary documents are also included in this recordation document.