

Quarters Six



The Official Residence of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Foreword

Since 1962 this brick and granite house—Quarters Six—has “come with the job” of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, as this book richly displays, it is much more than a place for the US military’s most senior officer to hang his hat. It is a place of history, tradition, and special meaning.

The story of Quarters Six is interwoven with the history of Fort Myer. The post was established in 1863 for the defense of Washington and was originally designated as Fort Whipple after a distinguished division commander in the American Civil War. In its early years, the Fort was manned by artillery and infantry units and later became a cavalry post. It saw the establishment of the US Army’s Signal Corps and was subsequently renamed Fort Myer in 1882 to honor the Army’s first Chief Signal Officer.

In the early 1900s, Fort Myer’s broad parade fields witnessed some of the earliest developments of US military aviation. Given the proximity to the Capital City, its garrisons have been escort to hundreds of international and American dignitaries over the years, a showcase of military pageantry and precision. Quarters Six has played an important role in its own right, a place of history and beauty to host the Chairman’s guests.

Some of America’s most distinguished military leaders and their families have lived under this roof, each embracing the significance and tradition of this storied home, and each playing a key role in making the US military what it is today. As these Chairmen understood the responsibility to their successors and the American people to hold this residence in special trust, Deanie and I are deeply honored to share the Quarters Six story—their story—with you.

Martin E. Dempsey
General, United States Army
18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

A Family Home

The term “quarters” is described in old military regulations as buildings assigned to house military personnel. Our family has been fortunate to enjoy some of the oldest and finest quarters on military posts across the United States. With each move, we have found neighbors, surroundings, and history to amplify the experience and help transform our assigned quarters from a building to a family home. This is certainly true here at Quarters Six on Grant Avenue at Fort Myer.

Throughout this stately home, occupants and visitors are reminded of the unique heritage and tradition of this special place. Upon entering the foyer, the visitor sees a residency plaque accompanied by a companion image of each former Chairman. We feel a special affinity for General Lyman Lemnitzer, the 4th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first to occupy these quarters. This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of 110 Grant Avenue as the home of the Chairman.

Shaded by handsome trees, the grounds and unmatched vistas of Washington from these hills above the Potomac are a beautiful setting year round. A newspaper account from July 12, 1888, describes a residence that once stood here. “It would be impossible to imagine a more delightful home than on this high plateau commanding on every side views that are magnificent in their scope.”

We have been assisted by many knowledgeable people as we have made Quarters Six the Dempsey home. I want to especially recognize and thank Debbie Biscone, who was a huge help in decorating the quarters. We also appreciate the dedication of the Joint Staff historians and are especially grateful to former occupants for taking the time to share their memories. With this edition, we acknowledge this home’s unique status as a national and institutional landmark, and more significantly, we remember the families who have lived here over the past half century—it is their legacy we celebrate.

Deanie Dempsey

Prefatory Note

Quarters Six at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the official residence of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sits atop Arlington Heights overlooking Washington, DC. When completed in December 1908, the original structure was designed as a duplex housing the families of two lieutenants. As time passed, particularly during expansion of the Army in World War II, the quarters and other homes along Grant Avenue were occupied by increasingly senior officers and eventually became known as “Generals’ Row.”

Regretfully, many of the early administrative records for Fort Myer were consumed in celebratory bonfires following the Allied victories over Germany and Japan in 1945. Although this destroyed much of our knowledge of those who lived in Quarters Six prior to that date, evidence suggests that Major George S. Patton, Jr., lived there from 1921 to 1923, while commanding a squadron of the famous 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Other notable residents following World War II include Major General Ira C. Eaker, who lived there from 1945 to 1947, while serving as deputy commander of the Army Air Forces and chief of the Air Staff, and Lieutenant General George H. Decker, who lived there from 1950 to 1955, while serving as Comptroller of the Army. Five years later, Decker became the Army Chief of Staff and occupied Quarters One, situated at the head of Grant Avenue.

When established as the home of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962, Quarters Six was reconfigured as a one-family residence consisting of 34 rooms. General and Mrs. Lyman Lemnitzer were the first to occupy the remodeled quarters, and since then all but one of the Chairmen have lived there. For over one hundred years—in times of peace and war—the residents of Quarters Six have played a leading role not only in the military but also in national life. To recognize their significance, Quarters Six and the other dwellings along Grant Avenue were designated a National Historic District in 1972.

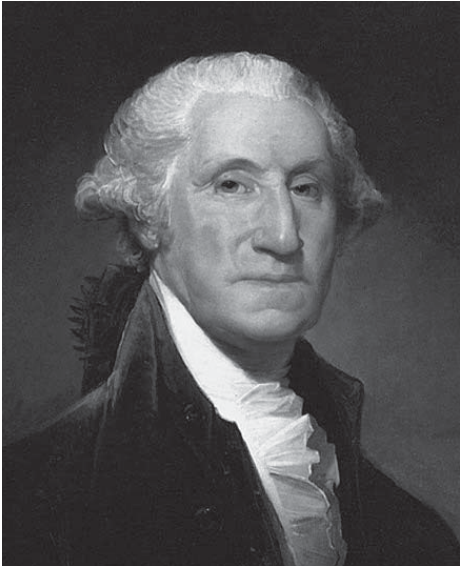
The Joint History Office would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in the preparation of this monograph: the Army Center of Military History for use of William Bell’s publication, *Quarters One, The United States Army Chief of Staff’s Residence, Fort Myer, Virginia*; Dee Spellman, Director of the Executive Management and Housing Directorate, and Kim Holien, Historian, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, for their research and insight; and Nancy Velez and Michael Vitanovec of the Joint Staff Graphics and Printing Office. Most important, we would like to thank General and Mrs. Dempsey for their interest and support in preserving the history of Quarters Six.

John F. Shortal
Brigadier General, USA (Ret.)
Director for Joint History

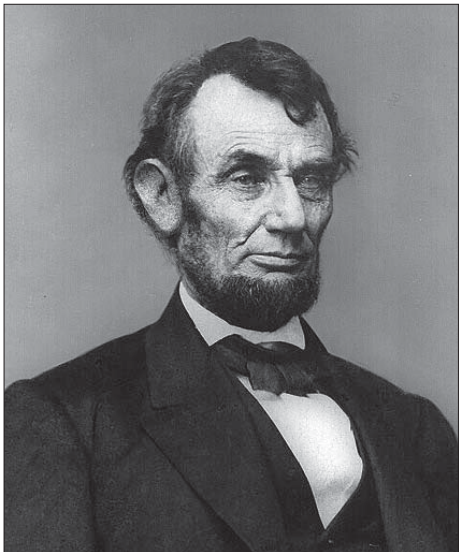
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The Defenses of Washington



“With respect to security against attacks of an Enemy, no place can have advantages superior to the Federal City and Alexandria. Should proper works be erected at the junction of the Potomac and Piscataqua creek, it would not be in the power of all the navies in Europe to pass that place, and be afterward in a situation to do mischief above. . . .” Thus wrote George Washington in September 1798 as the new capital city took shape.



“The people of Virginia have allowed this giant insurrection to make its nest within her borders, and this government has no choice but to deal with it where it finds it.” At 2 a.m. on 23 May 1861, the day after Virginia ratified her ordinance of secession, President Lincoln sent federal troops across the Potomac River to fortify the hills and ridges overlooking the Capital City from the south.

As the nation’s first commanding general and first president, George Washington had a natural instinct for protecting the capital. Although he had moved into retirement after completing his second term as the country’s chief executive, his deflection from the mainstream of events was short-lived. In 1798, as French and British contentions reached out to the New World and the prospect of war with France loomed, President John Adams recalled Washington to active service as commander in chief of “all the armies raised or to be raised for the service of the United States.”

Washington was sure that it would be the policy of the country “to create such a navy as will protect our commerce from the insults and depredations to which it has been Subjected of late,” and equally certain that “no place either north or south of [Washington] can be more effectively secured against the attack of an Enemy.”

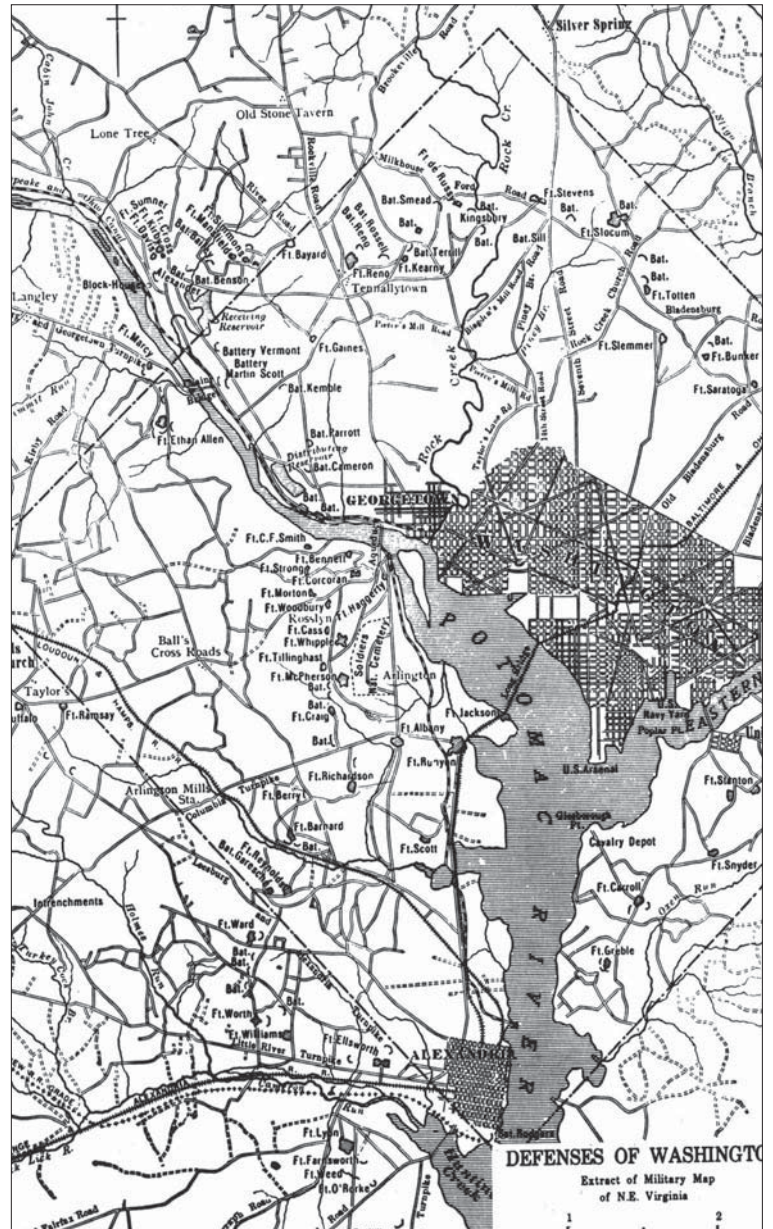
War with France slipped by, along with the opportunity to test, in his lifetime, Washington’s theory as to the capital city’s invulnerability to enemy mischief. Washington did not live to see his namesake city attacked in 1814 by British troops who left the official buildings in smoking ruins, or see British ships sail past his home and the key defensive work of Fort Washington, to plunder Alexandria and drop safely back down the Potomac River. It would take more than advantageous terrain to protect the city.

Those who would have used the disaster as an excuse to relocate the capital were doomed to disappointment. Congress rejected a bill for removal, rebuilding was started, and Washington “rose like the phoenix from the flames.”

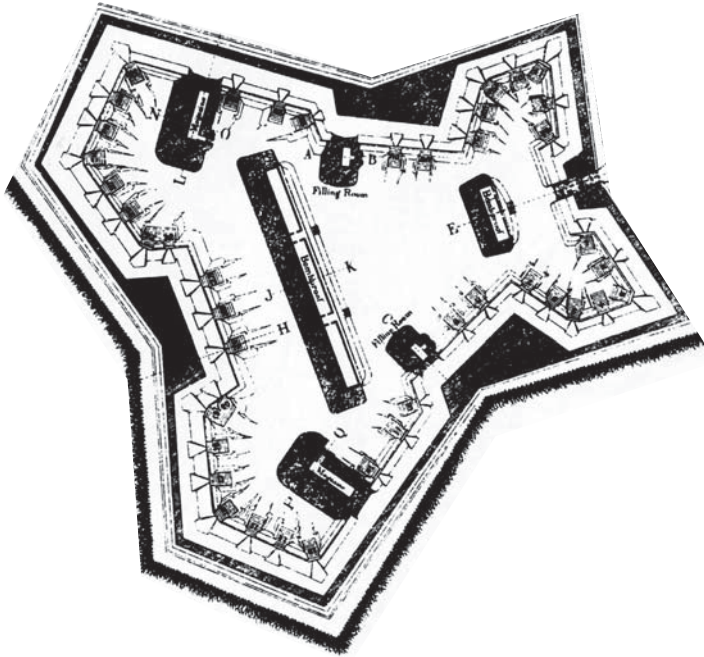
Four and a half decades passed before the nation's capital became vulnerable once again to the aggression of an enemy, and this time the threat proved to be internal rather than external. The slavery issue had divided the North and South, the southern states had seceded from the Union, Fort Sumter had surrendered to Confederate forces, and President Abraham Lincoln, within six weeks of his inauguration on 4 March 1861, had issued a proclamation declaring the southern states in insurrection.

As the contending governments mobilized their forces and developed their operational plans, Lincoln looked out upon an almost undefended capital city, boxed in by the Confederate state of Virginia just across the Potomac River to the south and the border state of Maryland with its Southern sympathizers to the north. Aware of the potent propaganda coup that capture of the Union capital would deliver to the enemy, Lincoln issued orders for mobilizing troop units to garrison the city, then moved to occupy Arlington Heights across the Potomac River before Confederate forces could seize the dominating terrain and bring the federal city within range of their guns.

The Union defeat at Bull Run in July 1861 disabused those who thought the rebellion could be put down overnight, revealed how vulnerable the capital really was, and demonstrated the need for more permanent defenses around Washington's perimeter. A presidential commission met to plan the work, and step by step, a cordon of fortifications was constructed to protect the federal city. The South, with mobilization problems of its own, sacrificed a golden opportunity.



Fort Whipple and Fort Myer



Fort Whipple, an earth and wood fortification whose engineer design plan is shown above, was constructed in 1863 on Arlington Heights northwest of the Lee Mansion and within the present Fort Myer. In the scene below, the Union artillery garrison stands to its guns in June 1865. The earthworks were leveled between 1869 and 1871 for construction associated with the establishment of the Army Signal Corps. Generals' Row now occupies this same space.



A sharp escalation in the intensity and scope of the war, the increasing proximity of regional actions, and a respect for the abilities of such enemy leaders as Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson lent credence to the threat to the Union capital. In October 1862, at President Lincoln's behest, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton appointed a commission to look into "the efficiency of the present system of defense for the city." The commission recommended that the defensive cordon already in place be strengthened with "a work on the spur behind Forts Cass and Tillinghast, which shall see into the gorges of these works, give an important fire upon the high ground in front of the line, and flank that line from Fort Woodbury to Fort DeKalb."

Construction of this main work on Arlington Heights, overlooking Washington and Georgetown to the north and the undulating Virginia countryside to the south, was begun in the spring of 1863. It received its official name, Fort Whipple, on 12 June, and its first occupants were artillery and infantry units.

If Fort Whipple were placed on the land within present-day Fort Myer, its outline would extend roughly along a line originating at Quarters Thirteen and project to the corner of Grant and Jackson Avenues, across to Quarters Six, thence to Wainwright Hall skirting Quarters One, and finally back to Quarters Thirteen to complete the redoubt.

Fort Whipple's defenses were never tested. That distinction fell to Fort Stevens on the northern perimeter, where General Jubal Early's attack in July 1864 was repulsed as President Lincoln looked on from the parapet.

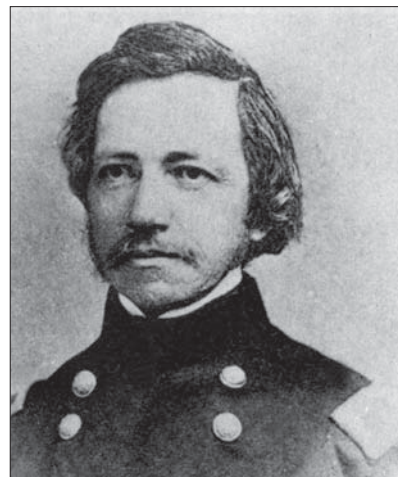
Several years passed before any permanent type of construction supplanted Fort Whipple's earthworks, tentage, and first generation frame structures. Then, more time elapsed before a name change brought the military installation into its modern configuration as Fort Myer. By the late 1860s the Signal Corps had taken over the site, and by 1872 new construction had added a hospital, barracks, kitchen, and guardhouse. A pair of one-story buildings, in use as quarters for students being trained in meteorological observation, also contained storerooms and offices. The buildings, identified in contemporary documentation as "officer quarters," were considered to be "old and unfit for the purpose." A peacetime viewpoint appeared to have set in.

Year by year, as funds were appropriated for construction and utilization was expanded, the post's future became increasingly secure. In the decades of the seventies, eighties, and nineties, the physical plant was enlarged and complex land problems were ironed out. On 4 February 1881, Fort Whipple was renamed Fort Myer, primarily to honor the late General Myer but also to eliminate confusion raised by the existence of a second Fort Whipple in Arizona.

Any doubt about Fort Myer's prospects evaporated when, on 4 February 1902, a board of officers, convened to consider and report on the location and distribution of military installations throughout the United States, recommended that Fort Myer, Virginia, be retained as a permanent post.

Given its location, associations, and use, the decision could not have gone any other way. Fort Myer was destined to be the capital's anchor post.

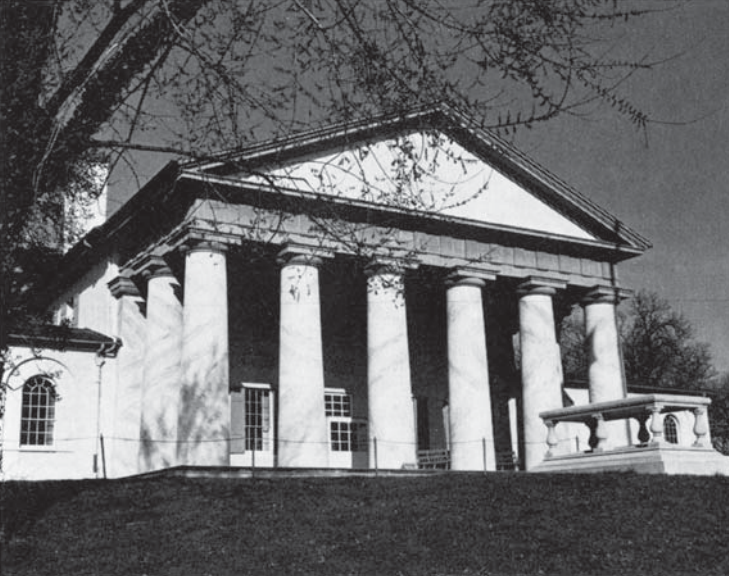
Brevet Major General Amiel Weeks Whipple, US Military Academy, 1841, served on the frontier before the Civil War; commanded elements of the Washington defense forces, and was a division commander at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Mortally wounded in the latter battle, he died in Washington on 7 May 1863. Fort Whipple, completed in June, was named in his honor.



Brigadier General Albert James Myer entered the Army in 1854 as an assistant surgeon. He turned to communications and meteorology, and under his leadership the foundations of the Signal Corps and Weather Bureau were laid. He was the Army's first Chief Signal Officer, and from 1869 to 1880 commanded the Signal School and Fort Whipple. The post was renamed in his honor after his death in 1880.



The Heritage and the Activities



The Custis-Lee Mansion is a centerpiece on Arlington Heights.

Fort Myer's garrison guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Quarters Six, Fort Myer, and Arlington Cemetery occupy land that was part of a tract of almost 1,100 acres purchased by John Parke Custis, the only son of Martha Washington by her first marriage. He was raised at Mount Vernon, married, and died while serving as General Washington's aide at Yorktown. Two of the Custis children—George Washington Parke and Eleanor—were raised by the Washingtons, and after their deaths, George Washington Parke moved to the Arlington estate and began to construct Arlington House. He married, and a daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the only one of four children to survive, grew up on the estate. In 1831 she married Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, and they resided at Arlington House when Army duty permitted their presence at home.

As the nation divided and the Lees cast their allegiance with the South, the government placed troops on Arlington Heights, levied a tax on the property, and, upon default by the absentee owners, purchased the estate at public sale for \$26,800. In June 1864 Secretary of War Stanton designated Arlington House and 200 surrounding acres as a national cemetery, and in July 1872 Secretary of War Belknap designated all that part of the estate outside the cemetery walls as the military reservation of Fort Whipple.

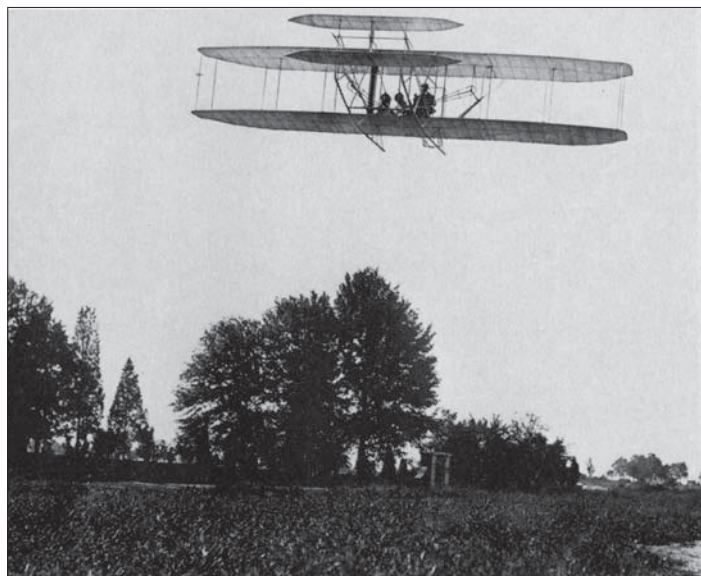
Mrs. Lee's parents died in the 1870s, leaving the estate to her. She, in turn, willed the property to her son, Custis, who, upon her death, sued the government successfully for its 1864 actions in a case that proceeded all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1883 Custis Lee relinquished his title to the property for the sum of \$150,000.

Thus, the modern outlines took shape.

For about five years following its redesignation as Fort Myer, the post was garrisoned by Signal Corps troops and its communications mission continued. Then in 1887, with General Philip H. Sheridan in the senior uniformed officer chair, Fort Myer was designated a cavalry post, and from then until 1942 some of the Army's most celebrated mounted regiments formed the garrison. Horsemanship was a central activity, especially in the period between the World Wars, when the Army had a leading role in Olympic equestrian activities.

Fort Myer was also the site for the earliest developments in the field of Army aviation. The Wright brothers had contracted with the Signal Corps to build a biplane and instruct two operators in its use. On 9 September 1908, Orville Wright made fifty-seven complete circles over the drill field. A crash on 17 September, in which Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge was fatally injured, was only a temporary setback, and military acceptance followed in 1909.

The year of that first test flight at Fort Myer was also the year when Quarters Six on Officers' Row was dedicated as a duplex designed to house junior officers and their families. As an established post with easy access to Army headquarters, initially in the District of Columbia and later in the Pentagon on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, Fort Myer has been home to a number of the highest-ranking officers of the Department of Defense. Since 1948, elements of the 3rd Infantry, complemented by the US Army Band, have formed the post garrison. Together they provide the formal military elements for the impressive ceremonies so traditional in the nation's capital.



Orville Wright demonstrated his plane at Fort Myer in 1908.

As a cavalry post, Fort Myer witnessed the best in equestrian skill.



Officers' Row



These first generation frame quarters formed Officers' Row in 1876, when the post was still Fort Whipple. The building in the foreground was the post commander's quarters.

By 1892 the commanding officer's house had been slightly modified and was occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Guy V. Henry, left of center.



In earlier times the Army post was a world unto itself, its inhabitants, by force of circumstance, an inbred society. Physical isolation was largely responsible for a social seclusion, if not exclusion, that was perhaps cultivated by the unique nature of military service. It was a life whose mobility and insularity denied or discouraged permanent associations with the general citizenry, and there is little doubt that, at least in peacetime, it inspired a class consciousness that cut both ways.

Posts were constructed along standard lines, and traditional layouts remain to this day. The heart of an installation was its parade ground. Flanking this grassy area on one side was Officers' Row, with houses of brick, stone, board, or log, depending upon funds, availability of materials, permanence, location, and labor. Across from the officers' quarters were the enlisted barracks, a hospital, quartermaster warehouse, and guardhouse. A headquarters building with offices usually occupied one end of the parade ground, stables were aligned behind the barracks, and outside the quadrangle were quarters for married soldiers and a sutler's store and canteen.

Because of its size, Fort Myer extended beyond conventional post outlines. The heavy concentration of commissioned personnel in the Washington area required a substantial number of accommodations. Therefore, the officer housing on post was extended to include several streets. The ranking quarters were finally grouped on the bluff overlooking the capital city, and several of them were designated for use by senior officers of the other services.

History of Quarters Six

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not have an assigned residence from 1947 to 1962. Quarters were provided by their respective services. Since 1962 Quarters Six has been the official residence of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Constructed in 1908, the same year that Orville Wright made the world's first military test flight at Fort Myer, the quarters was originally a duplex designed to house two junior officers and their families.

With three stories and a basement, Quarters Six was the largest building among the stately homes of Officers' Row. Built at a cost of \$19,202, it was among the first homes at Fort Myer constructed with provision for electrical lighting; indoor plumbing was installed three years later.

The eleven-room neo-Federal style house was built using standard plan 120-H from the Army's Office of the Quartermaster General. The 120 plan series for family housing, issued in 1898, was based on standard plans designed in the 1870s under Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs and was widely used during the major building boom that started at Fort Myer after it became a permanent post in 1896.

The plan variation known as 120-H was issued in 1907. The dwellings built to this plan rose at the heart of Fort Myer. Their brick facades stand on granite block foundations and are representative of officers' quarters built on numerous military posts during this period.

The design of the house reflects an architectural transition from the complicated and elaborate forms and features of Victorian residential construction to the simpler, more classical character of the Colonial Revival. The use of stone below the water table is characteristic of the former, while the plain windows and pedimented facade are characteristic of the latter.

In 1960 planning began for conversion of the duplex into a single residence for the Chairman. The Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps had long had official residences, and in June 1960 an official home had been designated for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. There was, however, no specific set of quarters for the Chairman.

During congressional consideration of the proposal for official quarters for the Air Force Chief, Senator John Stennis asked if there were plans for permanent quarters for the Chairman. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called the Army Chief of Staff, General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, whom he had selected to be the next Chairman, to the White House to discuss the matter.

As the Chairman, Lemnitzer would have had the prerogative of remaining at Quarters One at Fort Myer, the official residence of the Chief of Staff of the Army, as General Omar Bradley, another former Army Chief, had done during his tenure as Chairman. However, the President wished Quarters One to be available for the new Army Chief of Staff. He asked Lemnitzer to arrange for a permanent residence for the Chairman.



In September 1960 the Army evaluated quarters at Fort Myer that might be suitable for conversion into permanent housing for the Chairman. General Lemnitzer selected Quarters Six, which was a few doors from Quarters One and next door to Quarters Seven, recently designated as the official residence of the Air Force Chief of Staff.

The projected cost of converting the duplex to a single dwelling was \$75,000. Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker recommended Quarters Six's conversion to Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates, Jr., and both Secretary Gates and President Eisenhower approved the choice.

Renovation of the house began in early 1961. The project included major exterior and interior changes and new mechanical and electric systems. Among the additions were a sunroom and a carport. The final cost of the renovation was \$105,487. As remodeled, the house has 7,365 square feet of living space.

General Lemnitzer and his wife moved into Quarters Six in early January 1962. Since then, most Chairmen have resided there with their families. As part of Generals' Row, Quarters Six belongs to the Fort Myer National Historic District.

Quarters Six: The Public Rooms



Guests are welcomed into the spacious foyer, which provides access to the living room, library, and kitchen; a staircase leads to the second floor. The portraits of the former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chairmen who have occupied Quarters Six are prominently displayed on the walls of the entryway.



With its spectacular view of Washington, DC, the sunroom is a favorite spot for guests. The sunroom provides additional space for guests of the Chairman and Mrs. Dempsey to mingle before dinner.



The large living room provides ample space for entertaining guests. The pictures and accessories shown here belong to the Dempseys—personal items collected throughout their thirty-seven years of service.





Set for an official function in this photograph, the dining room's extended table seats up to twenty-eight guests. The crystal, silverware, and china shown here belong to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and are used for official entertaining.



The kitchen was renovated just prior to General and Mrs. Dempsey occupying the quarters in August 2011. Removing a pantry, relocating the door to the dining room, and adding an island in the center of the back half of the kitchen provided more workspace for the preparation and service of meals during the many official dinners that the Chairman and Mrs. Dempsey host.



The front half of the kitchen provides the family a space for informal meals.

The Dempseys have four Enlisted Aides who maintain the official residence and prepare all of the official dinners at Quarters Six. Each is a top chef and they have won numerous culinary competitions.





The library provides the family with casual space to relax and entertain guests.



The official guest suite in Quarters Six.



The Chairmans' office includes a desk used by General of the Army Omar Bradley, the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Occupants of Quarters Six



Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA (1960–1962)

General Lemnitzer was born in 1899 in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation from the US Military Academy in 1920, he was commissioned into the Coast Artillery. Three years later he married Katherine (Kay) Mead Tryon and the couple had two children. Prior to being sworn in as the fourth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1960, Lemnitzer served as Chief of Staff of the Army and occupied the associated residence at Quarters One, Fort Myer, Virginia. At President Eisenhower's behest, a duplex several houses away was remodeled to serve as the new home of the nation's senior uniformed official. Early in January 1962, just as the renovations were being completed, the Lemnitzers moved into Quarters Six and became the first to inhabit the Chairman's official residence. During his two-year tenure as Chairman, Lemnitzer provided military advice to Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy concerning the Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba, the deployment of advisors to South Vietnam, and the Berlin Wall confrontation in Germany. Following his term, he was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and held that billet until his retirement in 1969.



Maxwell D. Taylor, USA (1962–1964)

General Taylor was born in 1901 in Keytesville, Missouri. Upon graduation from the US Military Academy in 1922, he was commissioned into the Army Corps of Engineers. Three years later, he married Lydia Gardner Happer and the couple had two children. For service as a division commander in France during 1944, he received the Distinguished Service Cross. He had preceded General Lemnitzer as Chief of Staff of the Army and lived in Quarters One before retiring in 1959, but he was recalled to active duty two years later and became the fifth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1962. During his two-year tenure as Chairman, Taylor provided military advice to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson concerning the Cuban missile crisis, establishment of a nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union, and the expansion of counterinsurgency and bombing campaigns in Vietnam. He again retired from the military in 1964, to become the US Ambassador to South Vietnam.

Earle G. Wheeler, USA (1964–1970)

General Wheeler was born in 1908 in Washington, DC. Upon graduation from the US Military Academy in 1932, he was commissioned into the Infantry and married Frances (Betty) Rogers Howell of New York. The couple had one child. Like Generals Lemnitzer and Taylor, he also had served as Chief of Staff of the Army and lived in Quarters One before becoming the sixth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 3 July 1964. He and his wife lived in Quarters Six until his retirement in 1970, the longest of any of the home's occupants. During his six-year tenure as Chairman, Wheeler provided military advice to Presidents Johnson and Nixon concerning the escalation and subsequent drawdown of American forces in Vietnam, as well as strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.



Thomas H. Moorer, USN (1970–1974)

Admiral Moorer was born in 1912 in Mt. Willing, Alabama. Following graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1933, he trained as an aviator. In 1935 he married Carrie Ellen Foy of Eufaula, Alabama, and the couple had four children. Prior to becoming the seventh Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 2 July 1970, he had served as the Chief of Naval Operations. During his four-year tenure as Chairman, Moorer provided military advice to President Nixon concerning the US withdrawal from Vietnam, continuing arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, and growing unrest in the Middle East.





George S. Brown, USAF (1974–1978)

General Brown was born in 1918 in Montclair, New Jersey. Following graduation from the US Military Academy in 1941, he trained as a bomber pilot. The following year he married Alice (Skip) Calhoun and the couple had three children. For service as the executive officer of a bombardment group during 1943, he received the Distinguished Service Cross. Prior to becoming the eighth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 July 1974, he had served briefly as the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. During his four-year tenure as Chairman, Brown provided military advice to Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter concerning strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union, transfer of the Panama Canal, and challenges to the US presence in East Asia.



David C. Jones, USAF (1978–1982)

General Jones was born in 1921 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He attended the University of North Dakota and Minot State College, but he left school to join the US Army Air Corps in 1942, earning his pilot wings and commission the following year. He married Lois M. Tarbell, of Rugby, North Dakota, and the couple had three children. Prior to becoming the ninth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 21 June 1978, he had served as the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. During his four-year tenure as Chairman, Jones provided military advice to Presidents Carter and Reagan concerning strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union and Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, as well as the Iranian revolution and confinement of US Embassy personnel in Tehran.

John W. Vessey, Jr., USA (1982–1985)

General Vessey was born in 1922 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He enlisted in the National Guard during high school and later earned a battlefield commission in Field Artillery during the Italian campaign of 1944. Immediately following World War II, he married Avis C. Funk, also of Minneapolis, and the couple have three children. For service as a battalion commander in Vietnam during 1967, he received the Distinguished Service Cross. Prior to becoming the tenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 18 June 1982, he had served as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. During his three-year tenure as Chairman, Vessey provided advice to President Reagan concerning operations in Lebanon and Grenada and the establishment of the US Space Command.



William J. Crowe, Jr., USN (1985–1989)

Admiral Crowe was born in 1925 in La Grange, Kentucky. After graduating from the US Naval Academy in 1946, he trained as a submarine officer. In 1954 he married Shirley Mary Grinnell, a flight attendant from Okeene, Oklahoma, and the couple had three children. Prior to becoming the eleventh Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1985, he had served as Commander in Chief, Pacific Command. Crowe was the first Chairman to serve under the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act, which enhanced his authority as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. During his four-year tenure, he provided counsel to Presidents Reagan and Bush on combating terrorism emanating from Libya, protecting shipping in the Persian Gulf, and maintaining America's strategic arsenal. He also established diplomatic relationships with his military counterparts in the Soviet Union to promote peace.





Colin L. Powell, USA (1989–1993)

General Powell was born in 1937 in New York City. Upon graduation from the City College of New York in 1958, he was commissioned into the Infantry through the ROTC program. In 1962 he married Alma Vivian Johnson, an audiologist from Birmingham, Alabama, and they have three children. Prior to becoming the twelfth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1989, he had served as Commander in Chief, Forces Command. During Powell's four-year tenure, he provided advice to Presidents Bush and Clinton concerning force realignment following the end of the Cold War, to include establishment of the US Atlantic Command, as well as combat operations in Panama and the Persian Gulf, humanitarian operations in Somalia, and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.



John M. D. Shalikashvili, USA (1993–1997)

General Shalikashvili was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1936; his family later immigrated to Peoria, Illinois, in 1952. Shortly after graduation from Bradley University in 1958, he was drafted into the Army, selected for Officers Candidate School, and commissioned into the Field Artillery. In 1966 following the death of his first wife, he married Joan Elizabeth Zimpelman, a teacher from Portland, Oregon. The couple had one child. Prior to becoming the thirteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 25 October 1993, he had served as Commander in Chief, US European Command. During Shalikashvili's four-year tenure, he provided advice to President Clinton concerning humanitarian operations in Bosnia, Haiti, and Rwanda. He also crafted Joint Vision 2010, an overarching strategy to prepare the military for the 21st century.

Henry H. Shelton, USA (1997–2001)

General Shelton was born in 1942 in Tarboro, North Carolina. Following graduation from North Carolina State University in 1963, he was commissioned into the Infantry through the ROTC program. That same year he married Carolyn L. Johnson, his high school sweetheart, from Speed, North Carolina, and the couple have three children. Prior to becoming the fourteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1997, he had served as Commander in Chief, US Special Operations Command. During Shelton's four-year tenure, he provided advice to Presidents Clinton and Bush concerning operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, the establishment of the US Joint Forces Command, and the initial offensive of the Global War on Terrorism.



Richard B. Myers, USAF (2001–2005)

General Myers was born in 1942 in Kansas City, Missouri. Following graduation from Kansas State University in 1964, he was commissioned through the ROTC program and shortly thereafter began flight training. In 1965 he married Mary Jo Rupp of Manhattan, Kansas, whom he had met in college. The couple have three children. Prior to becoming the fifteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 2001, he had served as the fifth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and before that as Commander in Chief of the US Space Command. During Myers' four-year tenure he provided advice to President Bush concerning the transformation of America's military, as well as campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq during the Global War on Terrorism.





Peter Pace, USMC (2005–2007)

General Pace was born in 1945 in Brooklyn, New York. Following graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1967, he became a Marine Corps infantry officer. In 1971, he married Lynne Holden of Ellicott City, Maryland. The couple have two children. Prior to becoming the sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 2005, he had served as the sixth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and before that as Commander in Chief of US Southern Command. During Pace's two-year tenure he provided advice to President Bush concerning the transformation of America's military, as well as campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq during the Global War on Terrorism.



Martin E. Dempsey, USA (2011–Present)

General Dempsey was born in 1952 in Bayonne, New Jersey. Following graduation from the US Military Academy in 1974, he was commissioned into Armor and married his high school sweetheart, Deanie Sullivan of Monroe, New York. The couple have three children, all of whom were commissioned by General Dempsey in the Army. They have six grandchildren. Prior to becoming the eighteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 2011, Dempsey briefly served as the 37th Army Chief of Staff, and before that as Commander of the US Army Training and Doctrine Command.

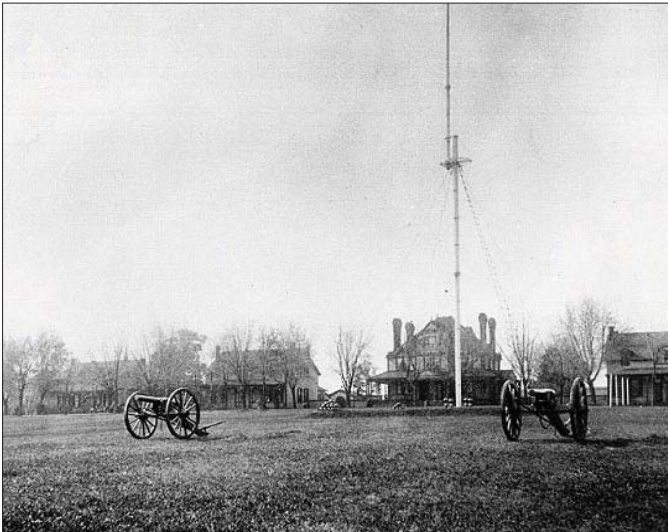
General Scenes, 1908–2011



The old Signal Corps School “Observatory” centered between Quarters 11 and 12 at Fort Myer, Va. The observatory, constructed in 1876, contained twelve rooms for instruction and served as the post headquarters. The quarters were added during the 1890s.



Frame officers' quarters on Grant Avenue, circa 1894.



A view of the parade field with frame officer's quarters in the background, circa 1894.



The railroad station, built in 1894, and hospital, built in 1896.



The new riding school at Fort Myer, Va., built in 1934 after a fire destroyed the original building.



The old Post Exchange at Fort Myer, Va., current headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Regiment.



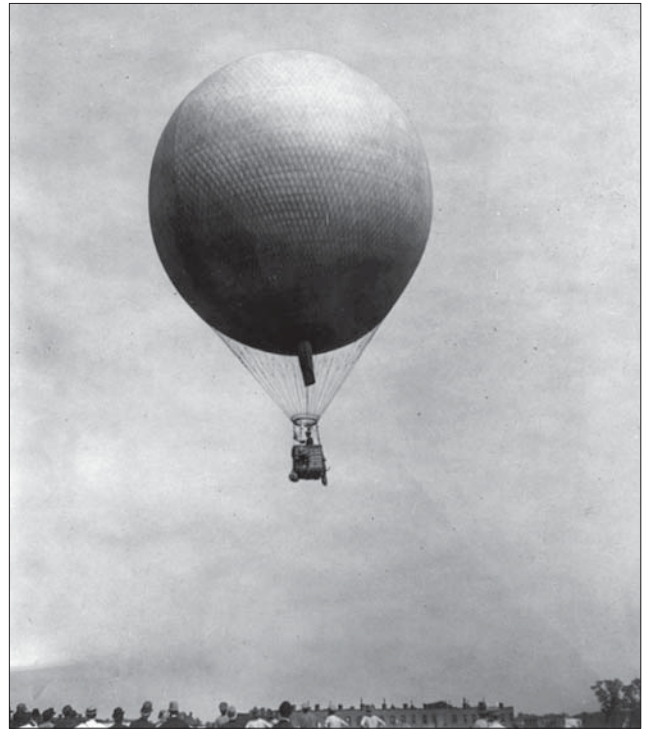
The stables at Fort Myer, Va.



Post Headquarters at Fort Myer, Va. Built in 1896, the facility was later renamed in honor of General George S. Patton, Jr., who commanded the 3rd Cavalry from 1938 to 1940, and it became the Officers' Club.



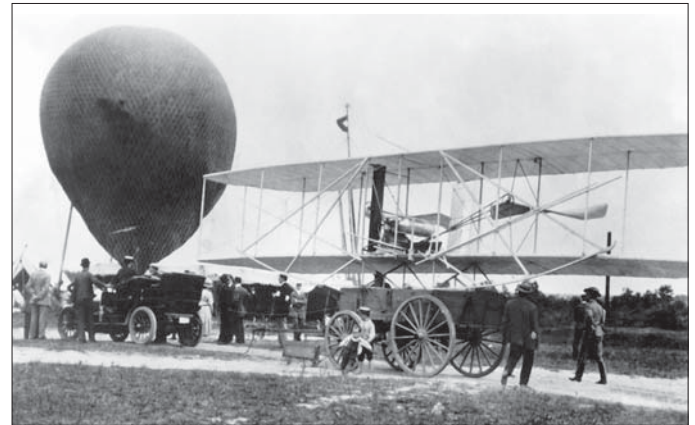
Mule-drawn mower in front of the Officers' Club and bachelors officers' quarters at Fort Myer, Va. Built in 1896, the facility was later renamed Wainwright Hall, in honor of General Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, who commanded the 3rd Cavalry from 1923 to 1925.



Balloon in flight during US Signal Corps operations at Fort Myer, Va., 1907.



Lee Avenue at Fort Myer, Va., circa 1910-1915; note the gas street lamps.



On 1 September 1908, the Wright Flyer arrives at Fort Myer, Va., aboard a wagon, attracting the attention of children and adults.



Orville Wright and Lieutenant Lahm of the US Signal Corps making the world's record flight at Fort Myer, Va., on 27 July 1909. The airplane flew fifty miles at a speed of about forty miles an hour.



Major General Irving J. Carr, Chief Signal Officer of the US Army, addresses an audience in 1932, during the unveiling of a memorial to Brigadier General Albert J. Myer at Whipple Field, Fort Myer, Va. Quarters Seven can be seen in the background.



The 15th Cavalry, US Army, at Fort Myer, Va. The riding school and post exchange appear in the background.



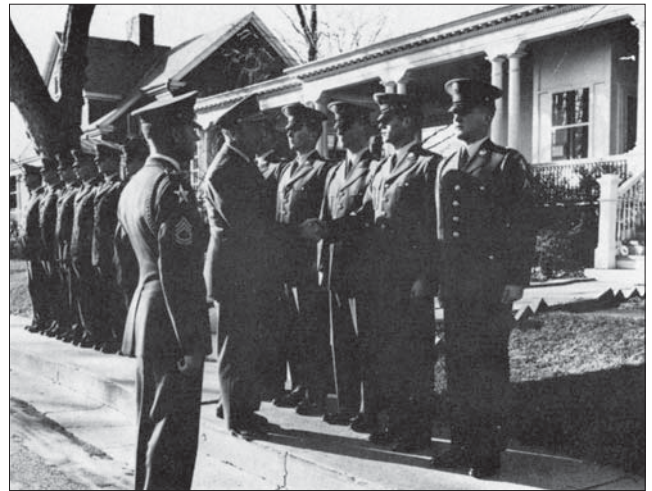
The memorial to Brigadier General Albert J. Myer, founder of the US Army Signal Corps, located on Whipple Field directly in front of Quarters Six.



On 1 November 1938, Colonel Jonathan M. Wainwright, commanding officer of the cavalry post, received his generals stars. Sergeant Major Timothy Carragher, left, of the 16th Field Artillery, and Sergeant Major Frank Benegas of the Third Cavalry, highest ranking non-commissioned officers of the post, made the presentation. Brigadier General Wainwright commanded the 3rd Cavalry for more than two years.



Corporal Samuel Carter, Machine Gun Troop, 10th US Cavalry, holds his mount steady, dressed in full field gear in 1934.



General Lyman Lemnitzer greets soldiers of the Honor Company, 1st Battle Group, 3rd Infantry, who were performing sentry duty at Fort Myer, Va.



General Maxwell Taylor and his wife, Lydia, pose for a photograph at Fort Myer, Va.



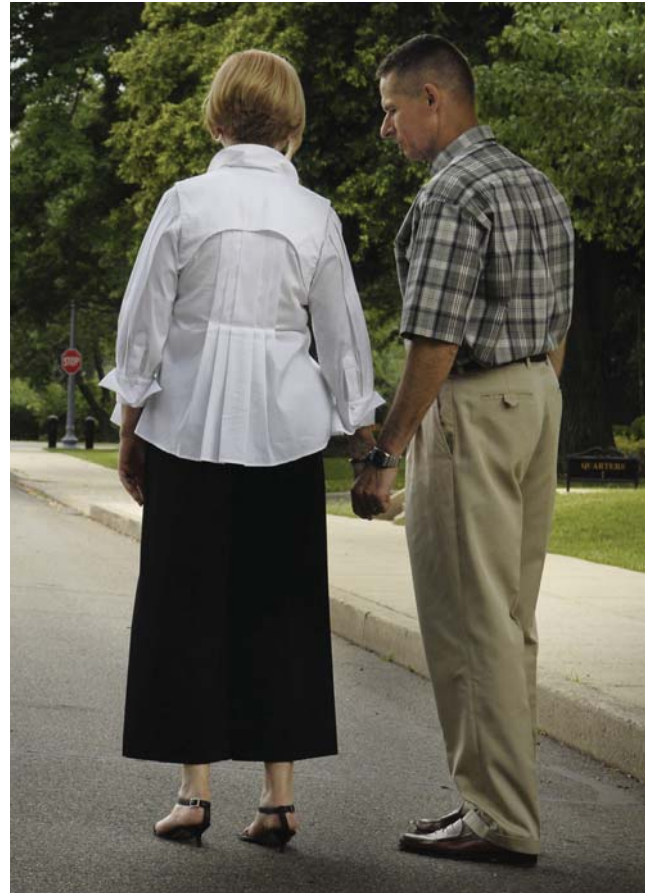
General Earle Wheeler and Brigadier General Hal Pattison, US Army Chief of Military History, unveil a portrait of J. Franklin Bell at Fort Myer, Va.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili, Joan Shalikashvili, President Bill Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore watch as troops from the joint services honor guard pass in review during the retirement ceremony for the Army general at Fort Myer, Va., on 30 September 1997.



US Army General Henry H. Shelton, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, salutes during the playing of the national anthem during his retirement ceremony at Summerall Field, Fort Myer, Va., on 1 October 2001. His wife, Carolyn, stands beside him.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine General Peter Pace and his wife, Lynne, watch as wounded US service members and their families depart 16 June 2007, following a picnic held in the service member's honor at Quarters Six on Fort Myer, Va. (Photo by Staff Sergeant D. Myles Cullen, US Air Force.)



General Richard B. Myers and his wife, Mary Jo, at Fort Myer, Va., 2005.



Outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen administers the oath of office to Army General Martin E. Dempsey as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the change of responsibility ceremony at Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., on 30 September 2011.



The Dempsey family poses outside Quarters Six before General Martin E. Dempsey was sworn in as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Right to left, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, his wife Deborah, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, Army General Martin E. Dempsey, his wife Deanie and other family members celebrate during Mullen's retirement ceremony and Armed Forces Farewell and Dempsey's swearing in as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Summerall Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., 30 September 2011.



Quarters Six through the Years



Officers' quarters along Grant Avenue, Fort Myer, Va., circa 1910-1915. Built between 1903 and 1909, the homes were sequentially numbered from right to left: Quarters One, Five, Six, and Seven.



A view of Quarters Six while still configured as a duplex prior to the 1961 conversion. The renovation included major interior and exterior changes.



The front of Quarters Six as seen from Whipple Field, after the 1961 conversion.

Quarters Six, 2011



Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Their Spouses

Chairman	Spouse	Term of Office	
* Omar N. Bradley, USA	Mary E. Bradley	16 Aug 49	15 Aug 53
* Arthur W. Radford, USN	Mariam J. Radford	15 Aug 53	15 Aug 57
* Nathan F. Twining, USAF	Maude Twining	15 Aug 57	30 Sep 60
Lyman L. Lemnitzer, USA	Katherine M. Lemnitzer	01 Oct 60	30 Sep 62
Maxwell D. Taylor, USA	Lydia G. Taylor	01 Oct 62	01 Jul 64
Earle G. Wheeler, USA	Frances R. Wheeler	03 Jul 64	02 Jul 70
Thomas H. Moorer, USN	Carrie E. Moorer	02 Jul 70	01 Jul 74
George S. Brown, USAF	Alice Brown	01 Jul 74	20 Jun 78
David C. Jones, USAF	Lois M. Jones	21 Jun 78	18 Jun 82
John W. Vessey, Jr., USA	Avis C. Vessey	18 Jun 82	30 Sep 85
William J. Crowe, Jr., USN	Shirley M. Crowe	01 Oct 85	30 Sep 89
Colin L. Powell, USA	Alma V. Powell	01 Oct 89	30 Sep 93
* David Jeremiah, USN, (Acting)	Connie Jeremiah	01 Oct 93	24 Oct 93
John M. D. Shalikashvili, USA	Joan E. Shalikashvili	25 Oct 93	30 Sep 97
Henry H. Shelton, USA	Carolyn L. Shelton	01 Oct 97	30 Sep 01
Richard B. Myers, USAF	Mary Jo Myers	01 Oct 01	30 Sep 05
Peter Pace, USMC	Lynne Pace	01 Oct 05	30 Sep 07
* Michael G. Mullen, USN	Deborah Mullen	01 Oct 07	30 Sep 11
Martin E. Dempsey, USA	Deanie Dempsey	01 Oct 11	

* Did not live in Quarters Six



The view of the capital city from Quarters Six.