

## Farmhouse demolition on hold: Army to reevaluate building's history

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Planned demolition of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse at the Army's Carlisle Barracks is on hold indefinitely.



The farm and farmhouse, dating to the mid-1800s, supported the Carlisle Indian Industrial School during some of the school's 39-years at Carlisle Barracks, 1879-1918. The farm no longer exists but the farmhouse housed military families for decades until a decision of several years ago to replace it with modern homes.

New information offered by several Native American nations and a coalition of descendants of Indian School students has prompted the pause in order to address their concerns and questions about the cultural connections between the building and the Carlisle Indian School.

Carlisle Barracks has a one-of-a-kind relationship with Native American nations across North America and it's a matter of pride for the Army to honor the memory of the Native people who lived here during the Carlisle Indian School years," said Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general of Carlisle Barracks.

A new study of the farmhouse history and its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is underway. Carlisle has contracted the professional services of a team of historians to fully investigate historical records at the National Archives and local archives with respect to the new information.

“History matters to the Army and the nation, and we're going to make our decisions with a full understanding of history and of Native American interests,” said Cucolo. “I intend to reach out to every Indian Nation and we will consult with all interested parties.”

Much of the original Carlisle Indian Industrial School buildings are preserved today on the Carlisle Barracks Army base. The Army War College campus is now centered on the same buildings where Indian School students lived, studied, developed vocational skills, and played sports. Jim Thorpe was the most famous of the Indian School athletes who lived in the athletes’ dorm that stands today.

Existing structures connected with the Indian School include the superintendent’s quarters, bldg. 2; the administrative building, bldg 3; the athletes’ residence, bldg 7; Thorpe Hall Gymnasium, bldg 23; hospital, bldg 36; doctors’ quarters, bldg 37; the guard house, bldg 38; staff housing, bldgs 32-34, 311, 312, 318, 321; teachers’ quarters, bldg 24; print shop, bldg 313; laundry facility, bldg 314; warehouse, bldg 315; and the Leupp Indian Art Studio, bldg 322 -- as well as the cemetery where almost 200 Native Americans are buried. The former guard house is now the Hessian Museum that houses a self-guided tour of the Carlisle Barracks history to include the Indian School period.

## **Military housing construction project to continue, excepting the farmhouse**

The Department of the Army formally requested that Balfour Beatty Communities put the farmhouse demolition on hold, pending the re-evaluation. BBC is the Army housing partner which owns and manages the family housing here.

BBC will continue the rest of the project, excepting the farmhouse. Within days, BBC will issue a notice for the construction company to proceed with the final development phase of the base-wide Residential Communities Initiative development project, started here in 2006.

Within weeks, post residents will see fencing appear around the block of 69 houses that were built in the 1950s, in preparation for the 90-day demolition activities. March will bring work to lay in the infrastructure and full-scale site development for the construction phase of the project. The two-year project will create dozens of modern homes for military families with duty at Carlisle Barracks.

## **Links to history and to Native**

# American interests

Because of the significance of the Indian School legacy, Carlisle Barracks has communicated with interested Indian Nations through the years with respect to traditional cultural properties and sites within the boundaries of the Army installation. Previous studies and consultations by independent agencies in 1988, 1991, 1996, 2000, and 2004 identified a “non-significant” historical association for the farmhouse; the new study will add to the record and understanding of historic and cultural relationships.

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School photo collection tells a visual story of the students’ experience online at <http://www.ahco.army.mil/site/index.jsp>

Visitors are welcome to tour the historic Indian School campus, which is physically centered on the original parade ground of Carlisle Barracks. Walking Tour Guides are available from the gate guards, who ask for photo identification of all visitors at the entry gate at ‘Jim Thorpe and Claremont roads, Carlisle Pa. 17013.

Carlisle Barracks itself dates to 1757, with a long history of innovative Army schools in addition to the Indian School years, 1879-1918. Since 1951, it has been home to the U.S. Army War College which educates and develops leaders for service at the strategic level while advancing knowledge in the global application of Landpower.

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