

Green Matters

DPW ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Special Edition

“Uncovering the Past of Fort Gillem”

U S A R M Y

Artifacts are a tangible link to the past. Holding or viewing objects crafted by humans of another time, is both intensely interesting and humbling. Recent articles located on Gillem Enclave are reminders of the Army’s interesting history in the Atlanta area. In 1943, German and Italian prisoners of war (POWs) were sent to the Atlanta area. A portion of these POWs were assigned to Fort Gillem. This newly established Army installation was constructed in conjunction with the Atlanta Quartermaster Depot and the Atlanta Ordnance Depot. These installations operated separately until April 1948, when they were consolidated.



While housed at Fort Gillem, the POWs were involved in training courses and participated in manual labor programs. Upon completing a brick wall in 1945, one of the German POWs, a Mr. A. Werner signed his work. This moment in history has been preserved in concrete. Dubbed “Werner’s wall” by the Gillem Enclave environmental crew, it was recently located by a contract crew during their operations.

Other construction activities by the POWs may have included a water fountain located near the defunct Fort Gillem wastewater treatment facility. Ornamental plants in the area indicate the once relaxing nature of the fountain area.



The remnants of the past that are being uncovered during environmental surveys are not limited to the POWs. Dining ware once used by the US Army Quartermaster Corps (USQMC) in the 1940s has been unearthed. This pre-WWII chinaware was made by the McNicol China Company in 1940, specifically for the Quartermaster Corps.



Three-quarters of a century have seen many changes to the area now occupied by Gillem Enclave. Army personnel have come and gone, buildings have been demolished and new facilities built. Once important roadways have now become nearly forgotten byways. This photo of North 35th Street is a reminder of the constant forces of change on Army property.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
FORT GORDON GREEN MATTERS



U S A R M Y

DPW Environmental and Natural Resources

15th Street

Building 14600

Fort Gordon, GA

Phone: 706-791-2526

E-mail: usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil

Sources:

SUPPLY and DEMAND
A History of Fort Gillem

Written by: Jennifer Corcoran, Buckingham and Associates, Inc.
2012

Special thanks to Ron Smith and Bob Rose from Fort Gillem.