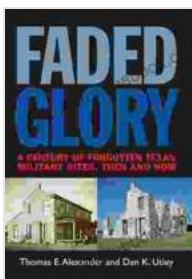


# Exploring a Century of Forgotten Military Sites in Texas: Then and Now at Tarleton State



## Faded Glory: A Century of Forgotten Military Sites in Texas, Then and Now (Tarleton State University Southwestern Studies in the Humanities Book 25)

by Thomas E. Alexander

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Tucked away in the vast landscapes of Texas, hidden from plain sight, lie remnants of a forgotten military past. Once bustling with activity, these installations played a pivotal role in shaping the state's history. Now, they stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time.

Tarleton State University, located in Stephenville, Texas, has embarked on a captivating project to document and preserve these forgotten military sites. Through extensive research and exploration, the university has uncovered a wealth of information, shedding light on the rich military heritage of Texas.

## **Fort Phantom Hill: A Lone Sentinel in the West**



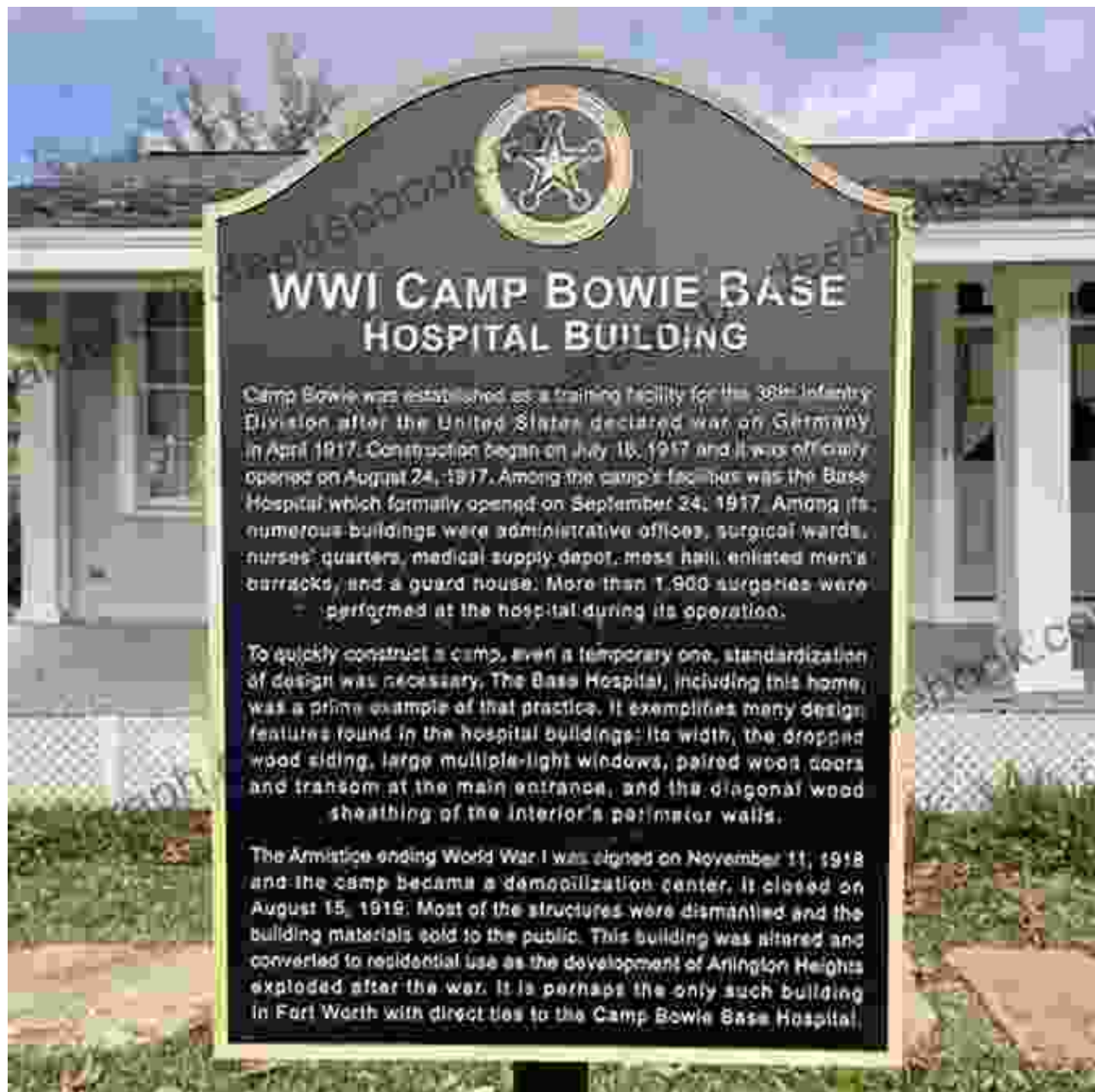
Established in 1851, Fort Phantom Hill served as a frontier outpost during the Indian Wars. Its remote location and harsh conditions made it a lonely and unforgiving place. Today, only a few crumbling walls and a reconstructed building remain, offering a glimpse into the challenges faced by the soldiers who once garrisoned there.

### **Camp Barkeley: A World War II Training Ground**



During World War II, Camp Barkeley became one of the largest training facilities in the United States. Over 800,000 soldiers passed through its gates, preparing for the battles that lay ahead. After the war, the camp was deactivated and eventually became a state park. Today, visitors can explore the restored barracks, mess halls, and other buildings, gaining insight into the lives of the soldiers who trained here.

## Camp Bowie: A Camp of Many Roles



### WWI CAMP BOWIE BASE HOSPITAL BUILDING

Camp Bowie was established as a training facility for the 38th Infantry Division after the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917. Construction began on July 16, 1917 and the facility officially opened on August 24, 1917. Among the camp's facilities was the Base Hospital which formally opened on September 24, 1917. Among its numerous buildings were administrative offices, surgical wards, nurses' quarters, medical supply depot, mess hall, enlisted men's barracks, and a guard house. More than 1,900 surgeries were performed at the hospital during its operation.

To quickly construct a camp, even a temporary one, standardization of design was necessary. The Base Hospital, including this home, was a prime example of that practice. It exemplifies many design features found in the hospital buildings: its width, the dropped wood siding, large multiple-light windows, paired wood doors and transom at the main entrance, and the diagonal wood sheathing of the interior's perimeter walls.

The Armistice ending World War I was signed on November 11, 1918 and the camp became a demobilization center. It closed on August 15, 1919. Most of the structures were dismantled and the building materials sold to the public. This building was altered and converted to residential use as the development of Arlington Heights exploded after the war. It is perhaps the only such building in Fort Worth with direct ties to the Camp Bowie Base Hospital.

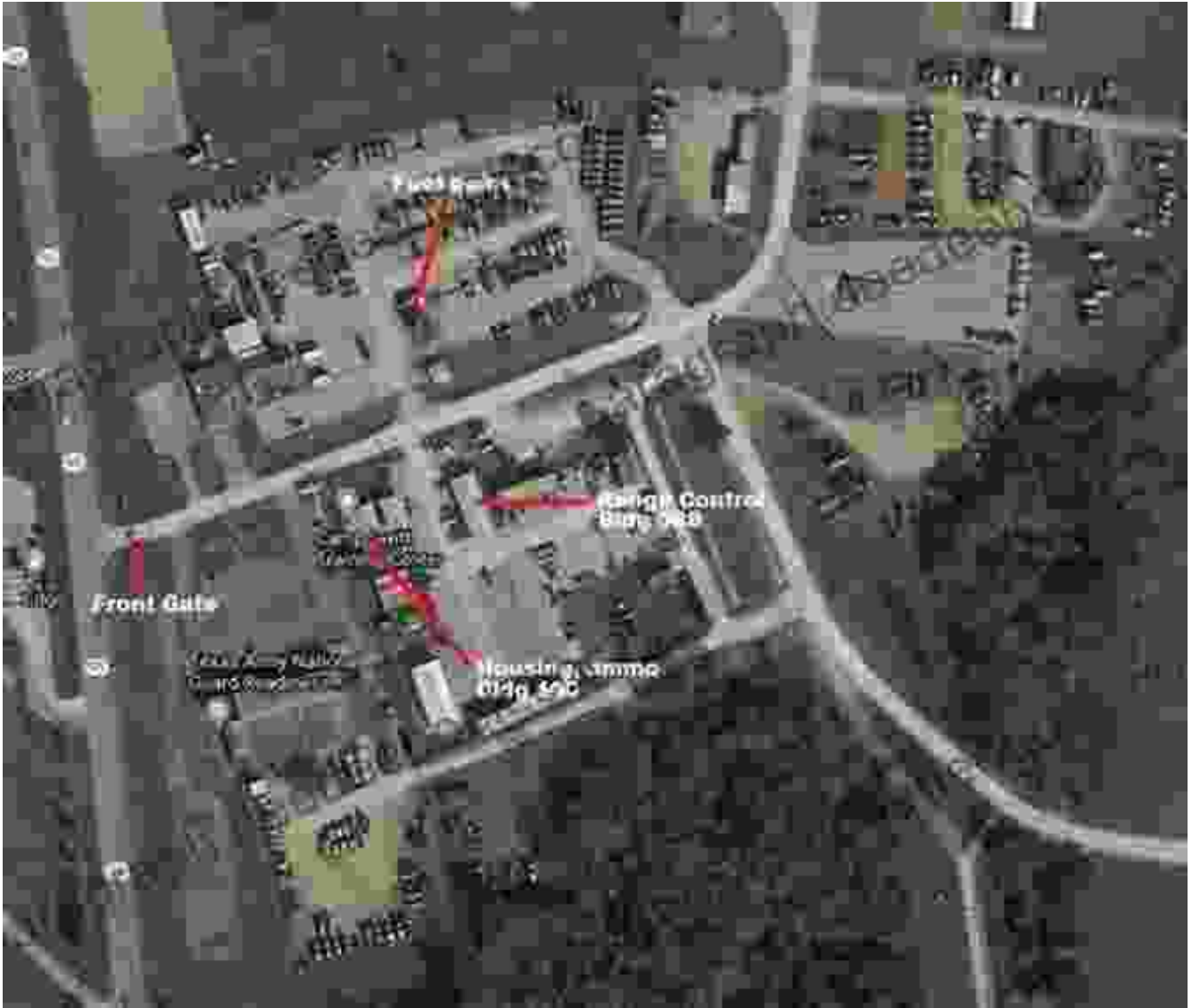
Located near Fort Worth, Camp Bowie was established in 1917 during World War I. It served as a training ground for both the Army and the Air Force during World War II and later became a mobilization center during the Korean War. Camp Bowie is now a residential neighborhood, but remnants of its past can still be found in street names and historic markers.

## Camp Maxey: A Training Ground for Logistics



Established during World War I, Camp Maxey specialized in logistics and transportation training. It played a vital role in the mobilization of troops and supplies during both World War I and World War II. After the war, the camp was closed and later became a business park. However, the legacy of Camp Maxey lives on in the surrounding community.

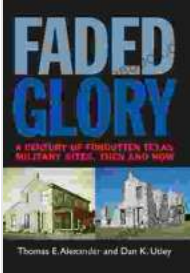
## Camp Swift: A Cold War Era Base



Camp Swift was established in 1942 as a training facility for infantry and armor units. It remained in operation until the end of the Cold War, serving as a major base for the 1st Armored Division. Today, Camp Swift is a residential area, but some of the original buildings remain, including barracks, mess halls, and a chapel.

The forgotten military sites of Texas provide a unique and tangible connection to the state's rich past. Through its meticulous research and preservation efforts, Tarleton State University has ensured that these sites

will continue to tell their stories for generations to come. By exploring these remnants of a bygone era, we gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions of those who served their country in Texas.

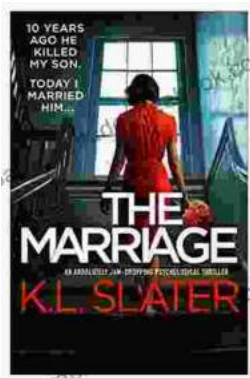


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