

Collection #  
P0214

## FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON CONSTRUCTION ALBUM, MAY–SEPTEMBER 1917

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Greg Hertenstein and Dorothy A. Nicholson  
June 26, 2013

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 PAA size photograph album

COLLECTION DATES: May to September 1917

PROVENANCE: Kurt W. Schlicht, Indianapolis, 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: IHS Digital Image Collections: W.H. Bass Photo Co.  
P0130\_P\_BOX30\_FOLDER9\_UNNUMBERED\_001

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1997.0058

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Fort Benjamin Harrison was established as a training center for the Indiana National Guard in June of 1904. Shortly after the Spanish-American War of 1898 the Secretary of War added Fort Harrison to a group of new military installations for the expanded national army. The federal government purchased 1,994 acres in Lawrence Township of Marion County for the site. At the request of President Theodore Roosevelt the fort was named after Benjamin Harrison, the 23<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States and Indiana resident.

During World War I Fort Harrison, because of its proximity to major highways and railroads, became one of the largest Army training and mobilization sites in the country. In May of 1917 an Army training camp was established there to train 5,000 men to become officers in the reserve corps. Officer training camps were held at the fort from May to August and from August to November 1917 to prepare the leadership of the army headed for the battlefields of France. The new officers then in turn trained the thousands of recruits at the fort.

The Gaylord Engineering and Construction Company of Scranton, Pennsylvania was engaged exclusively by the government to erect barracks at Fort Harrison in May of 1917. The company opened an office in the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce building to recruit local workers for the project. As the men were hired they were sent to the fort to live and work. The company needed 3300 men including carpenters, plumbers, electricians, concrete finishers, and laborers. Only 1,000 men were recruited locally, the remainder were brought in from out of state.

On May 20, 1917 War Department consulting engineers arrived in Indianapolis from Washington D.C. with plans to enlarge the army post. A new sewage plant was to be constructed involving the erection of an Imhoff reduction plant and the laying of miles of sewer and water pipes. On May 31, 1917 Charles H. Hurd, the former chief engineer and vice president of Indianapolis Water Company, was selected by the War Department to take charge as consulting engineer of the reconstruction of the water supply system at the fort. The goal was to supply 3,000,000 gallons of water every day and rebuild a sewage disposal system. Before this water for the fort was obtained from wells; the new system would obtain water from Fall Creek about one mile above the government reservation and beyond Indian Creek. The project was to be completed in four to six weeks with Gaylord Engineering and Construction Company performing the actual construction.

Sources:

*Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*

*Indianapolis Star*, May 16, 20, and 31, 1917

Municipal Journal & Public Works, Jan. 25, 1917 Google Books Result

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is comprised of one photograph album that documents the construction of barracks, and sewage and water systems at Fort Benjamin Harrison by the Gaylord Engineering and Construction Company from May 17, 1917 to September 4, 1917.

Early images show open fields with barracks going up, and the Gaylord offices at the fort where workmen are assembled. Later images show workmen excavating and digging ditches by hand, building concrete forms, pouring and finishing concrete, trenching, laying pipe, building sewage and water treatment facilities, constructing a pump house and power house and a large circular wood and concrete water tank.

The 108 black and white photographs in the album are glued to linen backing. Each image has the hand-written caption "Gaylord Eng. & Const. Co. Ft. Benj. Harrison" along with the date and a report on the weather for the day. Most images are also numbered on the front. The photographer is unknown.

The processors transcribed the information that was written on each image: the date, weather report, and the photo number. None of the images had descriptions or names of people in the photos. The processors descriptions are in square brackets.

For easy access to specific images the processors numbered each photo on the verso of the upper left corner of each page sequentially from 1 to 110.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

May 17, 1917, Fair  
Photo number: 104 [reversed image]  
[men working in a field with stacks of lumber and  
trenching of a pipeline]

May 20, 1917, Cloudy  
Photo number: 107  
[view of field with men in the distance working with  
lumber around a house]

May 20, 1917, Cloudy  
Photo number: 108  
[men constructing wooden barracks]

May 20, 1917, Cloudy  
Photo number: 109  
[men constructing wooden barracks]

May 25, 1917, Fair  
Photo number: no number  
[view of field with men in the distance constructing  
wooden barracks]

May 25, 1917, Fair  
Photo number: no number  
[view of field with men constructing wooden barracks]

May 25, 1917, Fair  
Photo number: no number  
[view of dirt road with vehicle driving away]

June 4, 1917, Fair  
Photo number: 123  
[wooden office building with men lined up, sign on  
top of building "Time Office / Gaylord Engineering  
and Construction Co. / Quickest and Best Service /  
Scranton, Pa., Binghamton, N.Y., Washington, D.C."]

### CONTAINER

PAA Album Storage  
Page 1

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

Page 6

Page 7

Page 8

- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 9  
Photo number: 126  
[wooden office building and small wooden building with men standing in front, sign on top of building “Time Office / Gaylord Engineering and Construction Co. / Quickest and Best Service / Scranton, Pa., Binghamton, N.Y., Washington, D.C.”]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 10  
Photo number: 127  
[wooden office building with large group of men gathered, sign on top of building “Time Office / Gaylord Engineering and Construction Co. / Quickest and Best Service / Scranton, Pa., Binghamton, N.Y., Washington, D.C.”]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 11  
Photo number: 131  
[wooden office building with large group of men gathered, sign on top of building “Time Office / Gaylord Engineering and Construction Co. / Quickest and Best Service / Scranton, Pa., Binghamton, N.Y., Washington, D.C.”]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 12  
Photo number: 125  
[wooden barracks under construction with men working and sign on step “162,” completed buildings in background]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 13  
Photo number: 128  
[wooden barracks with braced walls]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 14  
Photo number: 129  
[wooden barracks under construction with men working, some completed buildings in background]
- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 15  
Photo number: 130  
[wooden barracks under construction with men working Some completed buildings in view and automobiles in background]

- June 4, 1917, Fair Page 16  
Photo number: 132  
[wooden barracks under early construction with men working, completed buildings at right of photo]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 17  
Photo number: 188  
[wooden barracks behind wooden fence, brick officer's quarters roof tops visible in background]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 18  
Photo number: 187  
[wooden board and batten barracks with men standing in doorway of two buildings]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 19  
Photo number: 189  
[view between two rows of wooden barracks with wooden walkway leading to each building. Clothing hanging on wall outside, group of men standing at the end of walkway, some men sitting on building steps]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 20  
Photo number: 196  
[various wooden buildings and pile of trash in foreground]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 21  
Photo number: 200  
[back side of single story wooden barracks with tent behind one building and area with a wooden fence]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 22  
Photo number: 202  
[back of wooden buildings, mostly barracks, foreground appears to be a graded road under construction]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 23  
Photo number: 203  
[wooden fence around wooden barracks, brick buildings and water tower in distance]

- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 24  
Photo number: 205  
[open field with pipe stacked in the foreground, several completed single story barracks in the background and one tent]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 25  
Photo number: 207  
[empty wagons for hauling materials lined up around single story wooden building, water tower and brick buildings in distance]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 26  
Photo number: 110  
[wagons and mules in a stable shed area, sign over a building in background: "Army Y.M.C.A. No. 3"]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 27  
Photo number: 281  
[group of men in military clothing in stable area, some sitting on cots and saw horses, a tent is at the right]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 28  
Photo number: 148  
[rail yard, unloading pipe from a railroad gondola car onto horse/mule drawn wagon; pipe is being moved by a steam powered crane assembly using pulleys and cables, wagons are waiting to be loaded, one loaded wagon is moving out.]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 29  
Photo number: 149  
[men moving lumber for construction, brace appears to be supporting a cable to bring materials across a creek, Fall Creek?, also in photo 150 on page 30]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 30  
Photo number: 150  
[three men on a platform being ferried across a creek via a cable, Fall Creek?]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 31  
Photo number: 152  
[men standing and working in two rectangular pits, in background is a trench and sections of pipe]



- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 32  
Photo number: 147  
[concrete being mixed to pour down wooden chutes into forms constructed in a pit in the ground, men standing in the forms wait for concrete to be poured, other men standing around the top of pit]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 33  
Photo number: 155  
[lumber being lifted across a creek via a cable lift, probably Fall Creek]
- June 21, 1917, Fair Page 34  
Photo number: 157  
[man watching lumber being lifted across a creek via a cable lift, probably Fall Creek]
- July 1, 1917, Cloudy Page 35  
Photo number: 165  
[group of construction workers around foundation forms with large pipe sections in the background, a steam boiler, iron beam and cables are shown.]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 36  
Photo number: 199  
[workers building wooden forms in the ground possibly for a holding tank, a steam boiler is in the background and steam is being released]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 37  
Photo number: not numbered  
[concrete mixer at a construction site with wooden forms in the background]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 38  
Photo number: 226  
[wooden forms and pilings extending into a creek]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 39  
Photo number: 233  
[ditch going to an excavated pit with wooden forms being constructed, equipment and steam boilers appear in the background]

July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 159 [two men digging a ditch by hand]	Page 40
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 160 [path going up a small hill to wooden buildings under construction, large two wheeled dolly in foreground]	Page 41
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 161 [large excavated area could be the start of a retention pond with a surrounding path]	Page 42
July 1, 1917, Fair Photo number: 162 [several wooden single story buildings and two tents, utility poles and pipeline in foreground]	Page 43
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 163 [graded area with open trench, short sections of pipe in foreground and long sections in distance, three-story brick buildings in the background]	Page 44
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 164 [excavated trench, presumably for a pipeline, with forms to keep sides from collapsing]	Page 45
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 166 [open trench with pipe in place and utility poles beside the trench, workers in distance by the trench]	Page 46
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 167 [wooden form in a creek with a trench leading into it and pipe in the trench leading to the form, workers standing beside the trench]	Page 47
July 1, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 168 [single and two-story wooden buildings under construction]	Page 48

- July 1, 1917, Cloudy Page 49  
Photo number: 169  
[open trench with partially completed pipeline and sections of pipe lying on the ground, wooden barracks in the background]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 50  
Photo number: 175  
[pipe in open trench, tents and people in distance]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 51  
Photo number: 183  
[trenches being dug to the brick pump house that is under construction, building has a large smoke stack]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 52  
Photo number: 197  
[workers in a trench with large pipe and valve plus small pipes running into brick pump house]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 53  
Photo number: 201  
[brick pump house with large smokestack under construction, water tower behind building, automobile in the foreground]
- Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Page 54  
Photo number: 348  
[brick pump house with large smoke stack]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 55  
Photo number: 186  
[large poured concrete tank partially below ground with two pipes coming out of the side, workers on top of the structure]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 56  
Photo number: 191  
[large poured concrete tank partially below ground with two pipes coming out of the side, workers are on top of the structure, sections of pipe stacked in the foreground, brick buildings in distance]

- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 57  
Photo number: 208  
[two cast iron pipes rising out of a pit inside concrete tank, one pipe goes through a wall and the other extends straight up without being connected]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 58  
Photo number: 192  
“Company 4”  
[group of men in military uniforms sitting and standing on top of poured concrete tank, brick buildings in distance]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 59  
Photo number: 193  
“Company #2”  
[group of men in military uniforms sitting and standing on top of poured concrete tank, brick buildings in distance]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 60  
Photo number: 204  
[two men and two women standing on top of a poured concrete tank]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 61  
Photo number: 206  
“Company #3”  
[group of men in military uniforms sitting and standing on top of poured concrete tank, brick buildings in the distance]
- Sept. 5, 1917, Fair Page 62  
Photo number: 345  
[large poured concrete tank with a hut on top and a large pipe protruding from one side, utility wires connected to the hut]
- July 21, 1917, Fair Page 63  
Photo number: 153  
[construction site with teams of horses pulling grader buckets]

- July 21, 1917, Fair Page 64  
Photo number: 154  
[construction site with men digging, man on horseback supervising the men, horses and brick buildings in the distance]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 65  
Photo number: 195  
[men working on poured concrete floor sections which are below grade]
- July 23, 1917, Fair Page 66  
Photo number: 198  
[men working on poured concrete floor sections which are below grade]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 67  
Photo number: 229  
[men working on poured concrete floor sections which are below grade, they are placing pipes in evenly spaced rows onto the concrete]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 68  
Photo number: no legible number  
[closer view of men working on poured concrete floor sections below grade, they are placing pipes in evenly spaced rows onto the concrete]
- Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Page 69  
Photo number: 353  
[pipe and associated valves coming through a poured concrete wall over bed of limestone rocks]
- Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Page 70  
Photo number: 347  
[pipeline supported above ground crossing the gravel field and connected to concrete tank]
- Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Page 71  
Photo number: 354  
[gravel water aeration and filter field in partial operation with half of the sprinklers turned on]

Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Photo number: 359 [side view of gravel water aeration and filter field in operation, sprinklers are on and pipes are located under the gravel allowing the water to flow into a trench at the edge of the field]	Page 72
Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Photo number: 355 [wooden hatch for access to drain or cleanout pipe]	Page 73
Sept. 4, 1917, Fair Photo number: 361 [Wooden hatch door for access to pit filled with water]	Page 74
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 238 [path with wooden stairs through a wooded area]	Page 75
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 239 [poured concrete drain in side of a hilly wooded area]	Page 76
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 240 [suspended section of pipe crossing a gully]	Page 77
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 241 [poured concrete foundations with gravel and pipes]	Page 78
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 243 [clearing in a wooded area with vents above ground]	Page 79
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 242 [framed gravel field, part of a water filtration system, man holding his nose is standing on the gravel]	Page 80
Aug. 21, 1917, Cloudy Photo number: 244 [framed gravel field, part of a water filtration system]	Page 81

June 21, 1917, Fair Page 82

Photo number: 151

[construction site for large circular water tank, wooden frame being built with men and horses excavating the soil, crane-like towers on the site]

July 5, 1917, Fair Page 83

Photo number: 171

[construction site for large circular water tank, outside of the structure men are digging a trench for pipe, crane-like tower structures on the site]

July 5, 1917, Fair Page 84

Photo number: 176

[construction site for circular water tank, men pushing wheel barrows filled with gravel up a wooden ramp, small one story building behind them, water tower and other buildings in distance]

July 5, 1917, Fair Page 85

Photo number: 170

[interior of large circular water tank with wooden frame construction, in the center a wooden frame sits over a square hole in the ground, a trench surrounds the frame and hole; a straight trench leads to the outer wall of the circular structure]

July 5, 1917, Fair Page 86

Photo number: 174

[interior of large circular water tank with wooden frame construction, in the center a wooden frame sits over a square hole in the ground, a trench surrounds the frame and hole; a straight trench leads to the outer wall of the tank, this view is taken from opposite side of the structure in photo 170]

July 5, 1917, Fair Page 87

Photo number: 177

[interior of large circular water tank with wooden frame construction, in the center is a wooden frame over a square hole in the ground and the area around the frame and hole are two shallow round trenches with a straight trench leading to the outer wall of the circular tank, crane-like tower in the background]

- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 88  
Photo number: 178  
[construction site for large circular water tank, wooden frame being built, a car, men, and horses are at the site, crane-like towers are outside the structure]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 89  
Photo number: 179  
[crane-like tower outside of circular water tank under construction, men wait with shovels and brooms on a wooden ramp leading to the tower]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 90  
Photo number: 173  
[three women and a man standing by an automobile at circular water tank construction site, in the distance are crane-like towers and men working]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 91  
Photo number: 181  
[three women and officer in uniform stand on wooden scaffolding overlooking construction of circular water tank, crane-like tower in distance]
- July 5, 1917, Fair Page 92  
Photo number: 182  
[civilian and military officer overlooking circular water tank construction from scaffolding above]
- July 23, 1917, Cloudy Page 93  
Photo number: 190  
[men set beams on floor of the circular water tank, men with wheelbarrows on wooden platform at the center of water tank]
- July 23, 1917, Cloudy Page 94  
Photo number: 194  
[wooden beams lie on the floor of circular water tank, scaffolding in center appears to be for construction of concrete supports, different angle from photo 190]
- Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 95  
Photo number: 227  
[men building a wooden walkway and setting ceiling beams for the circular water tank ]



Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 96  
Photo number: 228  
[men building a wooden platform over the circular water tank, wood forms have been removed from sides and circular concrete wall can be seen]

Aug. 5, 1917, Fair Page 97  
Photo number: 135  
[seven men and a boy standing outside poured concrete wall of water tank, two men in military uniform and others in civilian dress, one soldier has a Springfield rifle, two men on top of concrete wall]

Aug. 23, 1917, Fair Page 98  
Photo number: No number is shown  
[three men standing on walkway inside water tank, one in civilian dress and two in military uniform, one is a Major General with two stars]

Aug. 23, 1917, Fair Page 99  
Photo number: No number is shown  
[four men standing in front of a power panel in a brick building [pump house?], two in military uniform and two in civilian dress, pipes and pumps on the floor in the foreground]

Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 100  
Photo number: 351  
[interior of brick pump house with pipes coming out of the floor and two pumps connected to the pipes]

Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 101  
Photo number: 356  
[interior of brick pump house with pipes coming out of the floor and two pumps connected to the pipes, power panel on a wall behind pipes and pumps]

Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 102  
Photo number: 360  
[interior of brick pump house with pipes coming out of the floor and two pumps connected to the pipes, panel with meters and gauges, and a power panel on walls, pumps are from the Hill Pump Co. of Anderson, Indiana]

- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 103  
Photo number: 358  
[two men standing outside of a brick one story building, one is in a military uniform]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 104  
Photo number: 362  
[brick one story building viewed through trees and from across a creek, Fall Creek?]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 105  
Photo number: 363  
[brick single story building with 4 metal posts coming out of the ground in the foreground, four men in the shadows in front of the building, three are in uniform]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 106  
Photo number: 346  
[exterior view of circular water tank with cupola on top]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 107  
Photo number: 349  
[interior view of circular water tank]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 108  
Photo number: 350  
[exterior view of circular water tank with cupola on top, dirt has been mounded up around concrete walls]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 109  
Photo number: 352  
[exterior view of other side of circular water tank with cupola on top, three soldiers stand guard at the side entrance of the building]
- Sept 4, 1917, Fair Page 110  
Photo number: 357  
[interior view of circular water tank, wood beams and walkways and three men in the view are reflected in water filled tank]

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0214).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.