

World War II (WWII) was one of the most defining periods of 20<sup>th</sup> century America. While events occurring on foreign soil are well known, significant events on the home front are frequently overlooked.

During WWII, Douglas had the primary prisoner of war (POW) camp for Wyoming. All other POW camps in Wyoming were satellite sites of Douglas. The camp was over a square mile in size, comprised of 180 buildings, which housed up to 2,000 Italian and 3,000 German POWs, and 500 army personnel from the spring of 1943 to the winter of 1946. At the time, the camp was larger than the town of Douglas.

The Officers' Club housed the Douglas Lodge #15, Independent Order of Odd Fellows starting in 1963.



The Officers' Club is the only intact structure left from Camp Douglas

WYOMING STATE PARKS, HISTORIC SITES & TRAILS

# Camp Douglas Officers' Club State Historic Site



**Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday through Saturday  
May to September**

**Call for more information  
(307) 358-9288**

**Original artifacts from  
Camp Douglas are on display at  
Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum  
400 W Center  
(on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds)  
Douglas, Wyoming**



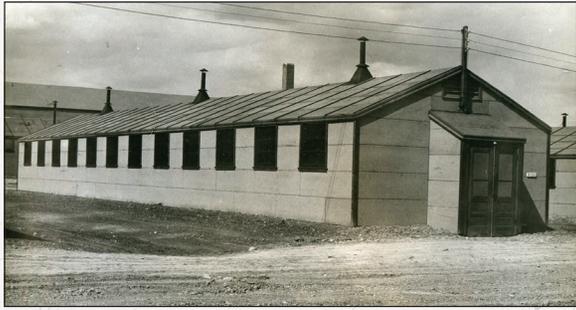
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(POW) camp for Wyoming.**

## ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails

*Camp Douglas Officers' Club State Historic Site is administered by the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us>*

# Life at Camp Douglas

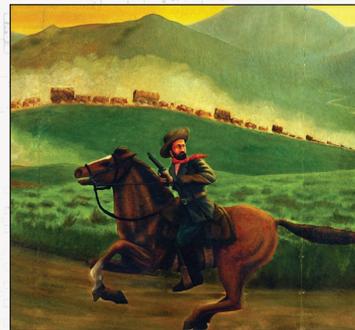


Barracks were used to house the POWs and military personnel. Rows of bunk beds lined each side of the barracks, accommodating up to 50 men.



Camp Douglas was the size of a small city. In addition to the buildings, water, sewer and electric systems, road networks, and even a fire department and hospital were constructed.

Three Italian prisoners created one of Wyoming's 20<sup>th</sup> century treasures with the murals they painted on the walls of the Officers' Club. The artists are known only by the signatures on the murals: V. Finotti, E. Tarquinio and F. DeRossi. The murals depict scenes from the west which came from the movies and from western artists including Charles M. Russell and William H. Jackson.



Camp residents created artwork as well as functional items to give as gifts and to sell. Many pieces are still found in homes in Douglas.



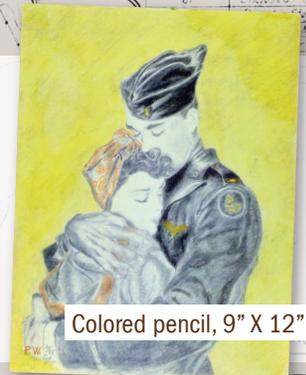
Wooden box, 6" X 8"



Laminate wooden bowl, 6" X 7"



Bas relief plaster, 14" X 18"



Colored pencil, 9" X 12"