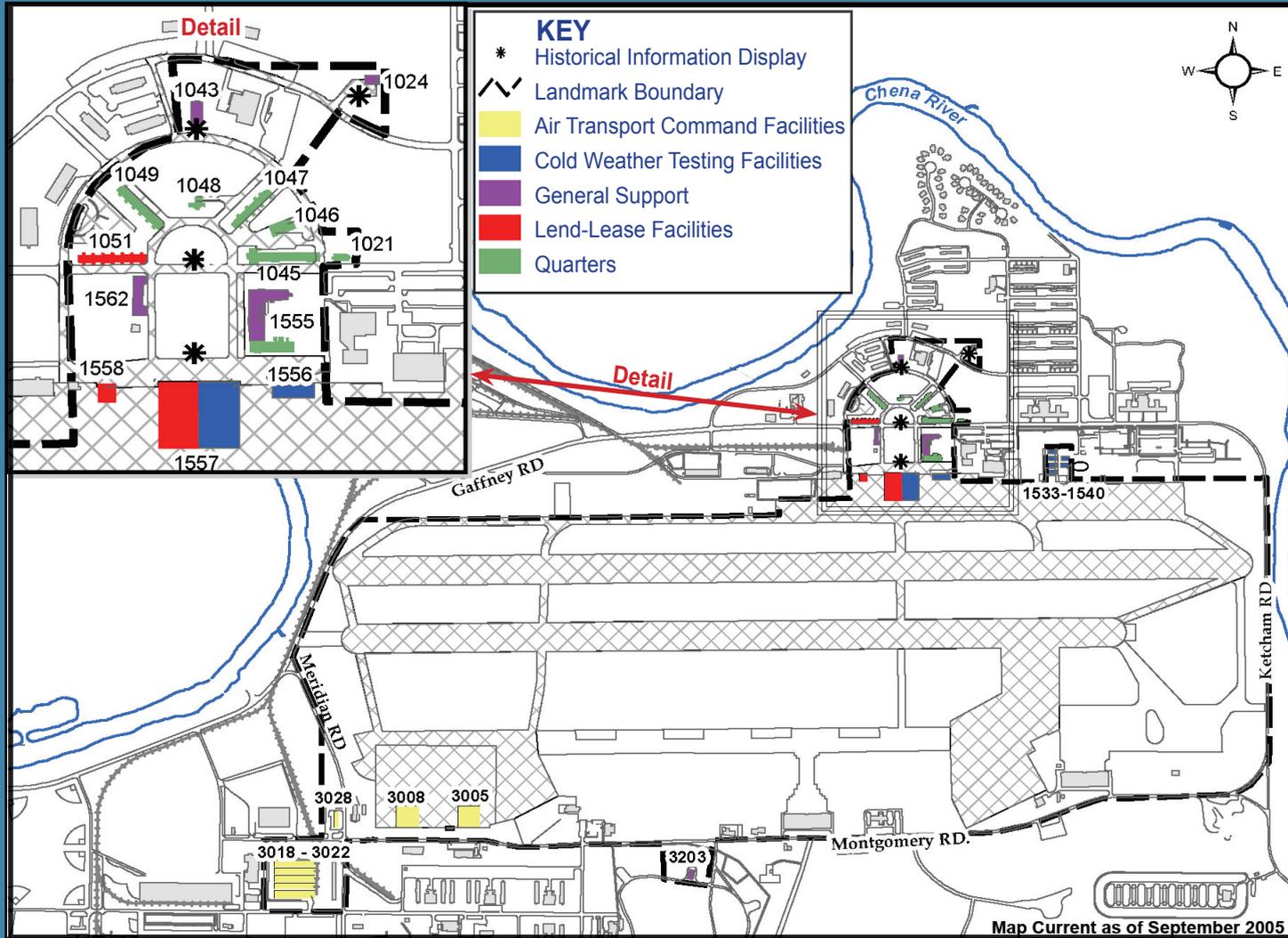


LADD FIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



What it Was

BUILDING	DESCRIPTION
1021	Nurses' quarters
1024	Radio Transmitter Bldg.
1043	Chapel
1045	BOQ
1046	Garage
1047	Officers' quarters
1048	Cmdr's quarters
1049	NCO quarters used as U.S. ferry pilot transient quarters
1051	NCO quarters used as Soviet NCO quarters

1533-1540	Cold Weather Test
1555	Hospital, PX, theater, Air Corps enlisted barracks
1556	Cold Weather test
1557	Hangar One Cold Weather test, Lend lease, Base HQ
1558	Field Ops
1562	Quartermaster
3005	Hangar Three
3008	Hangar Two
3018-3022	Warehouses
3028	ATC support
3203	Ammo bunker



Historical displays located around the North Post provide information about Ladd Field

Today's Landmark

Because of its unique role in World War II, Ladd Field has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

These historic properties provide a connection to our military heritage. They have witnessed the past, and with stewardship, will tell their story to the future.



Building 1043: North Post Chapel



Building 1045: Murphy Hall



Building 1555: Headquarters (Old Post Hospital/Barracks)



Building 1557: Hangar One

Historic Photos Courtesy US Air Force, University of Alaska Fairbanks Archives, Pioneer Air Museum, and USAG-AK collection

USAG-AK Cultural Resources Program

For information contact:
 Ft. Wainwright 353-9197
 Ft. Richardson 384-3041



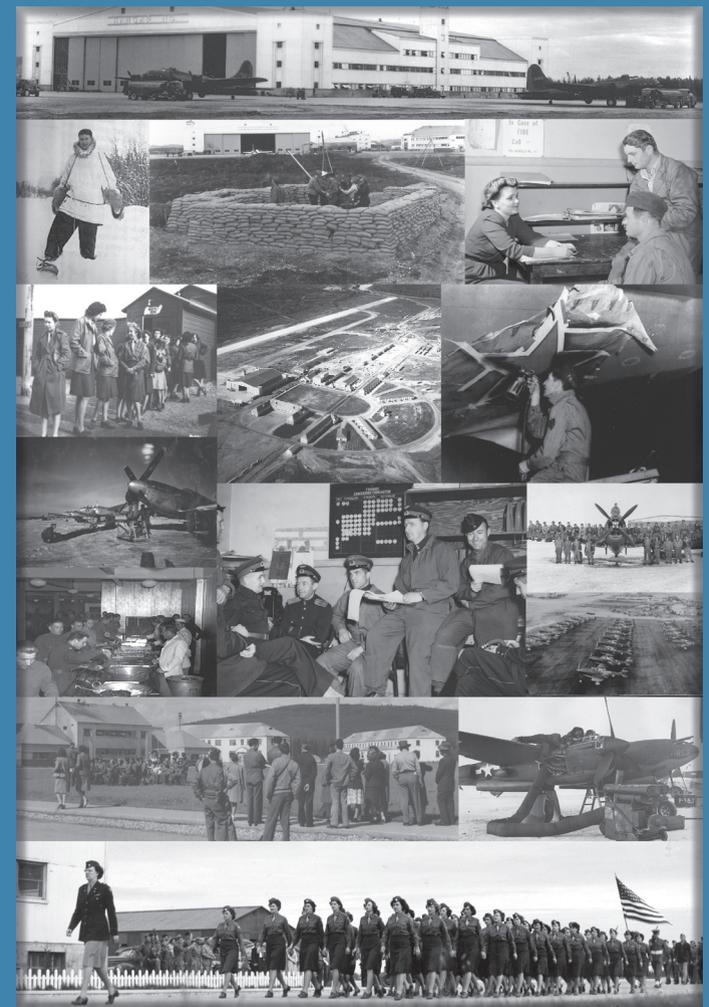
LADD FIELD



NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

Our World War II Heritage



Preserving our past
 Protecting our future

Ladd Field



Fort Wainwright was originally activated in 1940 as Ladd Field. During World War II, Ladd Field had a unique combination of missions, supporting military air transport, cold weather testing, and Lend-Lease aircraft transfers to the Soviet Union.

Today, these missions are remembered as the Army focuses on readiness and deployments from the same airfield that supported victory in WWII.

Maj. Arthur K. Ladd, the Air Corps pilot for whom Ladd Field was named.



Mission: Cold Weather

To prevail on the war fronts, the U.S. Army Air Forces needed aircraft that could operate reliably in all climatic conditions. Ladd Field was established to help meet this critical need.

When field testing began at Ladd, no one knew how well military planes and ground equipment would perform in real-world subzero conditions. Through the efforts of the Cold Weather Test Detachment, by the end of the war every aircraft in the AAF inventory was able to fly at temperatures as low as forty below zero.



Everything from heaters to hydraulics to clothing and rations was tested.



Mission: Lend-Lease

The U.S. government assisted Allied forces during the war by providing "Lend-Lease" deliveries of aircraft and war materiel.

From 1942–1945, the U.S. supplied the Soviet Union with more than 7,900 aircraft over the Alaska-Siberia, or ALSIB route. Pilots from the Air Transport Command flew aircraft from Great Falls, MT, through Canada and Alaska until they reached Ladd Field. At Ladd, Russian pilots took over the ferrying operation, flying the aircraft to Nome, then across Siberia and on to the European war front.



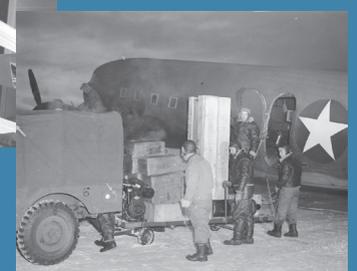
With personnel from both nations, Ladd was a bilingual airfield.



Mission: Air Transport

The Air Transport Command was responsible for moving combat planes, military cargo and passengers over thousands of miles of routes to any war theater, gaining it the nickname "The World's Greatest Airline."

Ladd Field was the ATC's hub in Alaska. The ATC operated an air depot at Ladd and coordinated Lend-Lease deliveries, passenger traffic, and the movement of critical wartime supplies.



After the War

In the 1950s, Ladd became an important Cold War base, with air defense, reconnaissance, and Arctic research missions.

In 1961, the Army took over Ladd and renamed it Fort Wainwright in honor of Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright.

Missions have changed since the days of Ladd Field, but the airfield still supports military aviation as the challenge of flying Arctic skies continues.



Army Airfield on the Frontier



The core permanent buildings were laid out in a horseshoe shaped configuration north of

In August 1939, construction began on Ladd Field just days before Hitler launched WWII in Europe. The new airfield was located adjacent to Fairbanks, a gold mining town of a few thousand people.

Ladd was first established as a cold weather test station. After the U.S. entered the war, the post expanded to accommodate new missions and the influx of thousands of personnel.