

24 July 2025



US Army Heritage and Education Center Presents “From Powder to Purpose: Carlisle Barracks from Revolution to Today”

Exhibition Opens August 8, 2025

Carlisle, PA - The United States Army Heritage and Education Center presents “From Powder to Purpose: Carlisle Barracks from Revolution to Today,” which opens to the public August 8, at the historic Hessian Powder Magazine on Carlisle Barracks.

Nestled in Pennsylvania’s Cumberland Valley, Carlisle Barracks stands as one of the oldest and most historically significant Army posts in the United States. “From Powder to Purpose: Carlisle Barracks from Revolution to Today” invites visitors to explore over 270 years of military innovation, leadership, and community life on this enduring installation.

Housed in the Hessian Powder Magazine—constructed in 1777 by captured German soldiers during the American Revolution— “From Powder to Purpose: Carlisle Barracks from Revolution to Today” traces the transformation of Carlisle Barracks from a colonial frontier outpost into a premier center for military education and strategic thought.

Through rich storytelling, visitors encounter the various institutions and communities that shaped Carlisle Barracks—from the Revolutionary War arsenal, School of Cavalry Practice, Medical Field Service School, and Carlisle Indian Industrial School to the arrival of the U.S. Army War College and the establishment of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. Soldiers, families, faculty, and civilians have all contributed to the life of this post, making it not just a military installation, but a living chapter of American history.

Highlights of “From Powder to Purpose: Carlisle Barracks from Revolution to Today” include:

- The story of the Hessian Powder Magazine, from 18th-century construction to modern archaeological investigation
- A look at the evolution of military training schools and their role in preparing generations of Army leaders
- A timeline of historic structures that remain central to the Carlisle Barracks community

The Hessian Powder Magazine is open Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that the exhibit is open on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day, but it is closed all other federal holidays.

Guests without a DoD identification card must process through the visitor center, located at 870 Jim Thorpe Road, Carlisle Barracks. The process takes less than seven minutes.

Learn more about visiting the exhibit here: <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/exhibits/HPM/index.cfm>.



www.armywarcollege.edu

Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA

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USAHEC

ARMY HERITAGE & EDUCATION CENTER
U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE

The United States Army Heritage and Education Center

The USAHEC, part of the U.S. Army War College, educates audiences through its museum, library and collections. In fact, it was ranked by Newsweek as a top 10 “Best Free Museum” in 2025. USAHEC hosts lectures and events throughout the year, which are open to the public. The USAHEC also acquires, preserves and makes available historical records, objects and artifacts, including 11 million manuscript pages, 1.4 million photographs, 236,107 books and 38,214 art objects and artifacts. To learn more, visit <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/>.

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center is located at 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA.

The Hessian Powder Magazine is a satellite exhibit located at Guardhouse Ln, Carlisle Barracks, PA. Although open to the public, non-Department-of-Defense identification card holders must gain access through the visitor center at 870 Jim Thorpe Road, Carlisle Barracks.

Contact Information for Inquiries

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