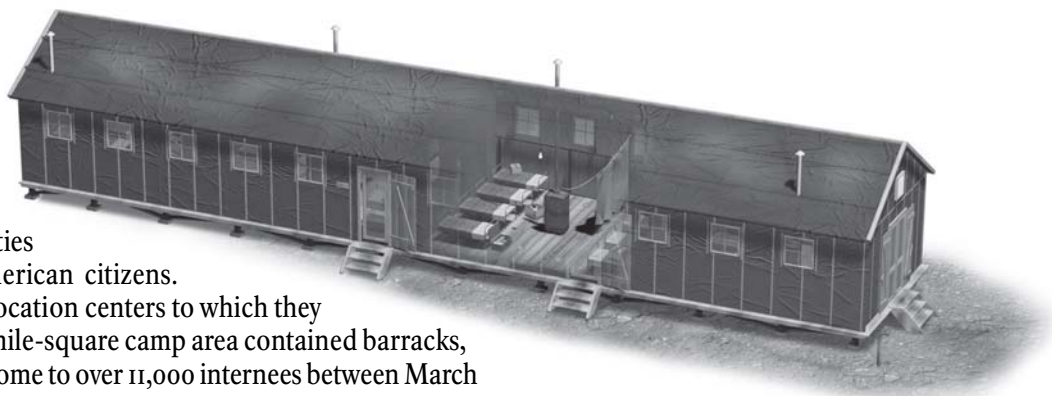




Camp Layout

In the early months of 1942, following America's entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the U.S. Army to remove nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes and communities on the west coast; two-thirds were American citizens.

Manzanar was one of ten remote war relocation centers to which they were sent. Enclosed by barbed wire, the mile-square camp area contained barracks, mess halls, and other buildings, and was home to over 11,000 internees between March 1942 and November 1945.



Typical Block

Manzanar War Relocation Center had 36 residential blocks, separated by streets and firebreaks. Each block had 14 barracks (20' x 100') which were typically divided into four 20' x 25' "apartments." Blocks had separate men's and women's latrines and showers, laundry and ironing rooms, a recreation building, a mess hall, and an oil storage tank.

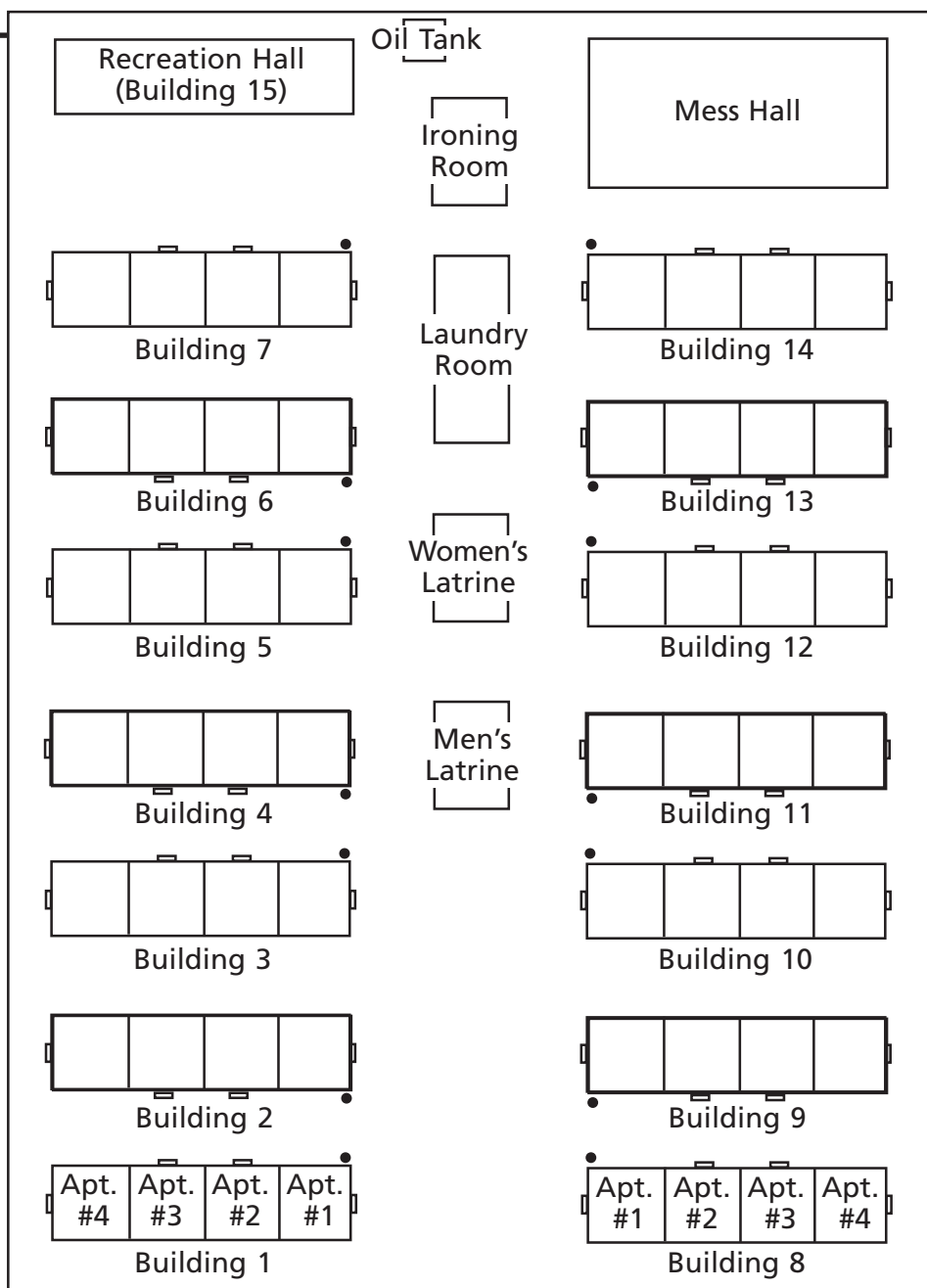
Each apartment was furnished with a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling, an oil-burning stove, and up to 8 cots. One outdoor faucet (●) provided water for each barracks.

Manzanar's addresses were comprised of the block, building, and apartment number. An address of "21-14-3" would indicate Block 21, building 14, apartment 3.

In all, there were 504 barracks, divided into more than 2,000 apartments. Some blocks and/or buildings were eventually set aside for special purposes such as schools, churches, and businesses. Most blocks boasted gardens and parks established by the residents.

Walk around Manzanar today and you'll see evidence of its World War II history. The concrete slabs of latrines, laundry, and ironing rooms are visible in many blocks. Some concrete pier blocks remain where barracks once stood. Rock gardens, alignments, and water spigots are also visible in many blocks.

Enjoy your visit to Manzanar National Historic Site and please do your part to protect the site. Do not disturb or collect any natural or cultural resources, artifacts, or other objects.



Manzanar War Relocation Center (1944)



Guard Tower #3

Guard Tower #2

Guard Tower #1

Guard Tower #4

Guard Tower #8

Guard Tower #5

Guard Tower #6

Guard Tower #7

<<< 9 mi. south to Lone Pine <<< >>> 6 mi. north to Independence >>>

U.S. Highway 395