Pythian Castle

Below, the Pythian Home of Missouri aka Pythian Castle, in Springfield, Missouri, built in 1913 by the Knights of Pythias and later owned by the U.S. military, is now privately owned and open to the public by appointment.

Springfield, one of seven cities competing for its construction, sold 53 acres of land to the knights for $1 in 1909. It served the order as a meeting hall until 1942.

Below find the description posted on its site on the National Register of Historic Places on which the building was listed on October 7, 2009 (http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/weekly_features/09_16_09_Pythian_Home.htm):

“The Pythian Home is associated with the statewide charitable activities of the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal order which originated in 1864. It served as a home for the needy from 1913-1942, and during World War II was used as a service club for people stationed at nearby O'Reilly General Hospital. It was also used to house German and Italian POWs. This massive stone structure was designed by the Kansas City firm Smith, Rea and Lovitt. Formerly sited in a pastoral setting, much of the surrounding land was developed during the war years. After the war, it was used as an Army Reserve Center for a number of years. In 1993 it was sold as surplus property.”
According to Wikipedia:

“German and Italian prisoners-of-war were assigned here during World War II for medical treatment and as laborers. Some prisoners were kept in the detached powerhouse and laundry room behind the castle. The laundry room is still owned by the U.S. Army.”

“In 1942, during World War II, the United States Military commandeered the facility for use in conjunction with the adjacent O'Reilly General Hospital in entertaining and rehabilitating injured U.S. troops. It was renamed The Enlisted Men's Service Club. The facility featured a movie theater, ballroom, bowling alley, pool hall, library, and arts and crafts area. Some of the most famous movie stars, comedians, and entertainers of the era performed in the theater while the ballroom was host to big bands playing for the dancing pleasure of the troops. After the war the building was retained by the military for use as a reserve center until it was sold as surplus in 1993.”

Wikipedia further explains:

“It is now privately owned by Tamara Finocchiaro. Renovations have been completed to the property including a new driveway and parking area. As of August 1, 2010 the castle has been reopened to the public for use as a cultural arts and events facility.[citation needed] It is available for special event rental including weddings, proms and corporate parties and offers public events such as history tours, murder mystery dinners, ghost tours, and holiday events.[4] To add to the castle's identity, it was investigated by the television series Ghost Lab in early 2011[citation needed] and Ghost Adventures in November 2017. See https://pythiancastle.com.