

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 18 1978

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

already on NR
approved 11/21/78
NOV 21 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Davis, Texas

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Davis, National Historic Site

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fort Davis, Texas

VICINITY OF

21st

STATE

Texas

CODE
48

COUNTY

Jeff Davis

CODE

243

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Government, Department of the Interior, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest Regional Office

P. O. Box 728

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe,

VICINITY OF

New Mexico

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jeff Davis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Davis

Texas

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Theme XV
"Military and Indian Affairs," pp. 107-110

DATE

August 1959

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

New Mexico

STATE

Also "Special Report on Fort Davis, Texas" Robert Utley, June, 1960

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Davis National Historic Site contains 460 acres adjacent to the north edge of the town of Fort Davis, Texas. In the middle of the site is Hospital Canyon - boxed in at the west end, opening to the east onto a flat plain, and bounded on the south by Sleeping Lion Mountain and on the north by North Ridge (Simmons Mountain).

The first Fort Davis (1854-61) was scattered from the mouth of the canyon back several hundred yards along the floor toward the closed end. Only a few above ground foundations and structural remains can be seen. The rest of the structures are either buried or have been completely eroded away.

The second Fort Davis (1867-91) overlaps the known location of the first fort near the canyon's mouth and extends out onto the flats to the east. The grounds, as evidenced by historic photographs, were covered with native grasses. Additionally, there was a scattering of trees on the canyon floor and along the adjacent cliffs. There was also an abundance of shrubs on the slopes but apparently not in the thick stands seen at the present time. A grove of cottonwoods is located at an old spring site to the south of the fort's corral area, and cottonwoods were planted in front of officers' row and the enlisted men's barracks. Only two of these original plantings remain but added trees have been planted along officers' row for historical effect.

OFFICERS' QUARTERS

A row of thirteen buildings along the west side of the parade ground, each separated from the other by 24 feet, stretched across the mouth of the canyon. Ten were completed by 1870 (HB-4 thru 13) and the remainder (HB-1 thru 3) were completed by 1882. The basic unit of each was a rectangular building 21' by 48' enclosing two rooms separated by a hall 12' by 18'. A fireplace heated each room. Pitched roofs were shingled and each house had a front porch facing toward the parade field. Six of the units (HB-1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8) were constructed of volcanic tuff quarried from several sites with two miles of the fort. The rest were adobe with a plaster covering.

In the center of the line was the residence of the commanding officer (HB-7). In addition to the basic unit, this structure had a wing on the south end which was 18½' by 62' which contained two additional rooms and a 23' by 15' basement. Between 1875-78, an additional wing was constructed on the north end which contained two rooms. A cistern is located a few feet west of the back door.

HB-2, 5, 9, and 12 were designed as captains' quarters and each had 18' by 21' wings built off of the rear of the basic structure. The rest of the units, except for HB-7, were occupied by lieutenants.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Davis ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Behind each set of quarters was a kitchen made of adobe. Most of these were 15' by 25' but the commanding officer's kitchen measured 15' by 48½'. There was also a privy located to the west of each of these buildings.

Four two-story adobe buildings and one pine slab structures stretched in an irregular line northeast from the north end of officers' row. These were used as residences for either bachelor officers or non-commissioned officers as required. Only the remains of the four two-story buildings are present. The pine slab building has disappeared completely.

Each of these buildings has received preservation treatment. All but HB-15 have had new roofs; HB-4, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 have received plaster coatings on the outside of three walls; HB-1, 2, and 3 were used as motel units by a former owner and have had some interior alterations. HB-2 has been temporarily restored and furnished to the period of 1885 and the kitchen unit behind HB-12, the only one left standing, has also been temporarily furnished on the inside to the 1885 period.

BARRACKS

Four large barracks lined the east side of the parade field each separated from the other by a 30' space. All of these were completed between 1875 and 1883. Each measured 186' by 27', had unplastered adobe walls, and a porch along three sides. The two southern structures were roofed with shingles while the other two were roofed with tin. Each building was divided into two 24' by 82' squadrooms, separated by a 27' by 12' breezeway, with twelve foot ceilings. There was a fireplace in each squadroom used for heating. Later, wood stoves were used for this purpose. Ventilation came from three windows on each side of the rooms and a large, louvered cupola (20' by 4') on the roof. Each barracks was designed to accommodate one company.

The breezeway separating the two squadrooms led to an 86' by 27' structure built at right angles to the barracks. This housed 50' by 24' messroom, a 20' by 24' kitchen, and a 10' by 24' storeroom.

A 12' by 18' adobe "sink" was located 200 feet to the east of each barracks. It was made of adobe and roofed with tin.

Between 1883 and 1885 two additional barracks were constructed at right angles to each end of the first row along the parade field. These were 150' by 27' and had a porch along the two long sides. A 75' by 22' wing extended off of one end to house the messroom, kitchen, and storerooms. There was also a 16' by 22' bathhouse extending parallel to the kitchen wing and separated from the kitchen wing by a space of 9'.

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Another infantry barracks (HB-25) was built northeast of the parade ground. The two squadrooms measured 183' by 22' with 55½' by 22' wings at right angles to each end. There was a small cellar under the end of the south wing and the building was constructed of adobe with a shingle roof.

To the north of HB-25 was a band barracks (HB-24). The main wing was 100' by 28' and had a wing off of one end that was 68' by 23'. This latter wing housed an ice machine, freezing tank and boiler at one time but these were destroyed in an explosion. Construction on this building was completed by 1883. It was adobe with a tin roof.

Most of the barracks described are represented only by foundations. HB-26 has the ruins of the bathhouse at one end and part of the sergeant's room at the other. HB-20 has been restored on the outside and houses the area's offices and visitor center. HB-21 has had the walls and porch restored but the inside has no original materials left.

ORDNANCE SERGEANT AND BAND LEADER'S QUARTERS

This small building was erected between 1870 and 1882. It was an adobe structure with a tin roof, measuring 28' by 53', and containing five rooms. It was located directly north of the parade field and east of the northernmost two-story bachelor's residence. Only a small portion of the walls and the foundations remain.

HOSPITAL

The post hospital was located in the canyon to the west of officers' row and was finally completed in 1885. It was an adobe building with a tin roof, its center section measured 62' by 45½', a ward at the north end measured 27½' by 47½', and a ward at the south end was 24' by 40'. It has a roof on all sides with the exception of a small portion adjacent to the west side of the central section. The wards are separated from this central section by a 12' breezeway. A cistern is located just west of the central section.

The hospital steward's quarters is located near the south end of the hospital. This is a two-story structure measuring 18½' by 23½' and containing a total of six rooms. It was an adobe structure with a shingle roof that was completed about 1888. Parts of the first story walls and the chimney are still in place.

The hospital storehouse was an adobe structure located near the north end of the hospital. It measured 18' by 33' when it was completed in 1875 but it was lengthened by 17' when an additional room was added between 1886-90. Most of the outer adobe walls remain.

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Directly west of the hospital were the woodhouse and the laundry. There are several foundations in that area but they have never been surely identified as those structures.

CHAPEL

This adobe building was completed before 1883 and had a shingle roof. It stood at the north end of the parade field, measured 30' by 65', and contained three rooms. Only a portion of the walls, and the foundations, are standing.

POST HEADQUARTERS

This was an adobe structure of three rooms located just east of the chapel. The commanding officer, the adjutant, and the sergeant major each had an office measuring 15' by 18'. It was built in 1871, gutted by fire, and then rebuilt before 1875. Only the foundations remain.

GUARDHOUSE

This was an adobe building which measured 68' by 18½' and contained a covered porch on the east side. It contained four rooms for the guard and eight cells for the prisoners. Completed in 1883, it was located near the northeast corner of the parade field and it replaced an earlier guardhouse that fronted the south end of the parade field. Only the foundations and a few wall remnants remain.

BAKERY

The first bakery (40' by 16') was built in 1871 south of the old commissary near the spring where the cottonwood grove is located. By 1876, it had been replaced by a new building northeast of the guardhouse. The new adobe structure was 30' by 46', contained two rooms, and was covered with a tin roof. Only the foundations and parts of two ovens remain.

COMMISSARY STOREHOUSE AND OFFICE

The old commissary office and storehouse was located south of the cavalry corrals and east of the barracks along the parade ground. It was completed by 1869, measured 28½' by 104', and had two small offices and a large storeroom. As the operations of the commissary grew, the offices were moved to the old bakery (see section on the Bakery). The commissary was adobe with a shingle roof and was later used as a forage house when the new commissary was built. The commissary offices (old bakery) was adobe with a mud roof and measured 20' by 38'. Only parts of the foundations of these buildings remain but all of the known foundation areas have been outlined with soil cement adobe blocks.

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By 1885, a new adobe commissary with a tin roof had been erected just east of the new bakery and adjacent to the west side of the San Antonio-El Paso road. It measured 105' by 27½', contained offices for both the commissary officer and the commissary sergeant, an issue room, a warehouse, and a 39' by 30' cellar. One office and the issue room have been partially restored and are used as interpretive areas. The commissary officer's office is intact but has not been refurnished. Of the rest of the building, only a few sections of wall and the foundations remain.

QUARTERMASTER OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE

South of the old commissary warehouse, and adjacent to the east side of the San Antonio-El Paso Road, stood the old quartermaster storehouse. It measured 137' by 90', was adobe with a tin roof, and was completed sometime before 1871. Apparently, it started as a smaller building but underwent many alterations until it attained the size indicated above. Only parts of the foundations remain.

The new quartermaster storehouse was an adobe building, measured 180' by 33', had five rooms and a porch on the west end. It was constructed in 1882-83 and was located north of the quartermaster corrals and east of the San Antonio-El Paso Road. Only foundations remain.

A larger forage house was erected parallel and north of the new quartermaster storehouse. It measured 28' by 180', was adobe with a shingle roof, was a single large room, and was constructed in 1885-86. It was apparently the only building at the fort, other than the guardhouse, that had barred windows. Approximately half of the building is still standing and the foundations of the other half are visible.

QUARTERMASTER CORRAL

When completed in 1869, the corral measured 300' by 345' and had an outside wall of adobe around most of its circumference. It underwent many modifications until 1890. At that time it had a series of adobe shops with tin roofs and wooden stalls along the west side, wooden stalls along the west half of the south wall, and a line of wooden stalls bisected the corral (on an east-west line) approximately 60' south of the shops along the north end. Only foundations of the corral and shops remain. A modern stone building of 1027 sq. ft. was erected after 1932 on some of the foundations along the north side and is still used for storage and a tack room.

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CAVALRY CORRAL

The basic structure of the cavalry corral was completed in 1870 and there were additions and changes up until 1886. An 1890 diagram indicated overall measurements of 496' by 334'. The entire corral was bounded by an adobe wall, adobe shops with either tin or shingle roofs were located along most of the north wall and along one-third of the south wall, and there were seven rows of stalls running in a north-south direction. Six of these stall rows are paired with each other and bisect the corral into four equal parts. The seventh row lines the west side of the corral. The whole complex is located immediately south of the quartermaster corral. Only a few small portions of the corral walls, foundations, and one 14' by 24' adobe building with a tin roof remain.

POST TRADER'S RESIDENCE, STORE, AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

These three buildings were located south of the parade field and followed an alignment roughly northwest to southeast. The southernmost structure was the telegraph office, the central building was the store, and the northernmost building was the post trader's residence. The whole complex was completed sometime before 1883 and, from historic photographs, appears to have been of adobe construction with a mud roof on the telegraph office and tin roofs on the other two buildings. Only mounded earth and small amounts of rubble mark the site.

MAGAZINE

This is a 13' by 13' structure with walls of volcanic tuff and a shingle roof. It was erected in 1869 and is located just west of the hospital. The original walls of the one-room structure still stand and the roof has been recently replaced.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S STABLES

These stables were located to the west of the rear of the commanding officer's quarters and were constructed of adobe with a mud roof. Overall measurements of the stalls were 1222 sq. ft. when completed in 1868. Remains include fragments of the walls and the foundations.

CEMETERY

There were three cemeteries located at Fort Davis. The first was located immediately behind the officers' quarters and contained 12 unidentified bodies in 1872. The second site (1867-72) was located one-half mile southwest of the fort and is now

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a lost site. The third site was established in 1872 about 300 yards north of the parade ground. All known military burials were removed when the fort was abandoned in 1891. There is a Texas State Centennial monument at the site commemorating the legend of Indian Em'ly - a person who never existed according to any historical records.

WATER SYSTEM

A Knowles No. 5 steam pump was housed in a stone structure measuring 21' by 46' and having two rooms. It was located along Limpia Creek north of the fort. Walls of the structure, which was built in 1883, are still standing.

Water was pumped from the pumphouse to a 33,000 gal. storage tank and then pumped on to the fort from there when needed. In 1886, an additional 31,200 gallon tank was installed on the slopes of North Ridge to the south of the pumphouse. Water pumped to that location could be fed into the fort by gravity. Each of these two storage tanks had stone foundations rising to a height of about six feet and topped by cypress sides. The entire foundation of the first tank is visible while only remnants of the other tank's foundation can be seen.

Another source of water was the spring near the cottonwood grove southeast of the cavalry corrals. To keep animals from polluting the mouth of the spring, a wall was erected around it with a small opening on the south side for water to flow through. The 3' stone wall forms a circle around the spring with a diameter of approximately 8'. Date of construction is not known but the wall still stands even though the spring has gone dry.

LIME KILN

Only the foundations of this structure exist and little is known of its operation. It is located southeast of the cottonwood grove.

OIL HOUSE

This was an adobe structure measuring 14' by 15' and located to the east of the quartermaster storehouse. Nothing is known of the floor plan of this structure. Only foundation outlines are now present.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Fort Davis

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

7

SAW MILL

This was located northeast of the oil house and measured 20' by 30' or more in length. It was a frame shed but nothing is known of its construction date. Only foundation outlines are apparent.

MANAGEMENT EXCLUSIONS

Several structures within the boundaries of the site do not meet National Register criteria. They are of recent construction and bear no relationship to the historical aspects for which the fort was included in the National Park System. These structures include a former church boys camp and a nearby pumphouse in the west end of Hospital Canyon; another pumphouse at the mouth of the canyon on the south side; a 50,000 gal. steel water reservoir on the west end of Sleeping Lion Mountain; and a residence and maintenance complex along the east boundary of the historic site. Additionally, there is the stone structure mentioned previously in the discussion about the quartermaster corral. It is recognized that these structures serve a management purpose and occasionally require alterations necessitated by a change in their function. Modifications of these supportive buildings will reflect a compatible architectural style and will not intrude on the historic resources of the site.

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LIST OF MAJOR IDENTIFIED STRUCTURES
OF THE SECOND FORT DAVIS 1859-91

- HB-1 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1881-82
- HB-2 Captains' Quarters, 1881-82
- HB-3 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1881-82
- HB-4 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1869
- HB-5 Captains' Quarters, 1869
- HB-6 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1869
- HB-7 Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1869
- HB-8 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1869
- HB-9 Captains' Quarters, 1869
- HB-10 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1869
- HB-11 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1870
- HB-12 Captains' Quarters, 1870
- HB-13 Lieutenants' Quarters, 1870
- HB-14 Officers or Staff NCO Quarters, 1884-85
- HB-15 Officers or Staff NCO Quarters, 1884-85
- HB-16 Officers or Staff NCO Quarters, 1882-83
- HB-17 Possibly a servant's quarters (date of construction unknown)
- HB-18 Officers or Staff NCO Quarters, 1885-86
- HB-19 Ordnance Sgt.'s Quarters, after 1870
- HB-20 Barracks, 1875-82
- HB-21 Barracks, 1875-82

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- HB-22 Barracks, 1875-82
- HB-23 Barracks, 1875-82
- HB-24 Band Barracks, 1882-83
- HB-25 Barracks, 11882-83
- HB-26 Barracks, 1883-84
- HB-27 Barracks, 1883-84
- HB-28 Chapel, 1873-82
- HB-29 Post Headquarters, 1869-70
- HB-30 Guardhouse, 1869
- HB-31 Bakery, before 1876
- HB-32 Old Commissary Storehouse, 1869
- HB-33 Old Commissary Office, 1871
- HB-34 Old Quartermaster Storehouse, 1869-71
- HB-35 Quartermaster Storehouse, (?) 1871-82
- HB-36 Ordnance Shed (?) 1871-82
- HB-37 New Commissary Storehouse, 1883-84
- HB-38 New Quartermaster Storehouse, 1882-83
- HB-39 Forage House, 1885-86
- HB-40 Quartermaster Corral, after 1869
- HB-41 Cavalry Corral, 1870-86
- HB-42 Post Trader's Store, 1883
- HB-43 Telegraph Office, 1883

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- HB-44 Post Trader's Residence, 1883
- HB-45 Commanding Officer's Stables, 1869
- HB-46 Hospital, 1874-85
- HB-47 Hospital Storehouse, 1874-75
- HB-48 Hospital Steward's Quarters, 1887-88
- HB-49 Magazine, 1869
- HB-50 Hospital Laundry, before 1890
- HB-51 Hospital Woodhouse, before 1890
- HB-52 Earth Closet, before 1890
- HB-53 Pumphouse, 1886-87

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1854-1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(2nd fort - 1867)

Fort Davis is nationally significant because of the key role that it played from 1854 to 1885 in defending a vital and often dangerous segment of the southern transcontinental emigrant road and in protecting the Texas frontier from hostile Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache Indians. Fort Davis draws added significance from the fact that, in extent of surviving structures and ruins, it is the best remaining example in the Southwest of the typical post-Civil War frontier fort.

Established in an attempt to curb Indian depredations along the San Antonio-El Paso Road, Fort Davis was one of several forts which stretched from the established settlements of central Texas to the Rio Grande at El Paso. As the largest and most important of the forts along the road, Fort Davis was strategically located to command not only the trans-Pecos portion of the El Paso Road but also the southern stem of the Great Comanche War Trail, the major routes of Mescalero Apache War parties destined for Mexico, and the crossings of the Rio Grande used by the Indians in their forays against Mexican settlements.

Fort Davis was initially constructed in 1854 as a collection of log, plank, and adobe structures, but following the Civil War, a more substantial post was erected of stone and adobe. Primarily staffed with four regiments of black "buffalo" soldiers, this new fort continued to serve as an important link in the frontier defenses of western Texas and as a springboard for offensive operations against the Indians. During 1879-1880, it played a major role in the campaign against Victorio and the Warm Springs Apaches. During the late 1870's and early 1880's cattlemen began to enter the area and establish ranches. By 1891, Fort Davis had outlined its usefulness and it was permanently abandoned.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert M. Utley. "Special Report on Fort Davis, Texas." National Park Service. June, 1960.
 National Park Service. Soldier and Brave; Indian and Military Affairs in the Trans-Mississippi West, Including a Guide to Historic Sites and Landmarks.
 New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 460

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	6,0,6	7,9,5	3,3,8,6	3,9,5	B	1,3	6,0,6	7,9,5	3,3,8,4	8,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,3	6,0,4	8,6,0	3,3,8,4	8,7,0	D	1,3	6,0,4	8,6,0	3,3,8,6	3,9,5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dwight Pitcaithley

Historian

August 1977

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 728

TELEPHONE

505-988-6445

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe,

STATE

New Mexico

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

6/7/78
Shelley Salinas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

J. B. Hollander

TITLE

Chief Div. of Cultural Resources Inquest.

DATE

7/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chuk Offenberg

DATE

11.21.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 18 1978
DATE ENTERED	<i>approved</i> NOV 21 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Davis ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 11

BEGINNING at Corner No. 1 (Latitude 30°35.7'N, and Longitude 103°53.5'W.)
 thence North 84°28.6' West, a distance of 33.151 chains to Angle Point No. 2;
 thence South 6°00' West, a distance of 7.78 chains to Angle Point No. 3;
 thence South 85°28.8' West, a distance of 17.528 chains to Angle
 Point No. 4;
 thence South 5°06.9' West, a distance of 6.134 chains to Angle Point No. 5;
 thence North 84°00' West, a distance of 23.108 chains to Angle Point No. 6;
 thence North 5°51.7' East, a distance of 7.316 chains to Angle Point No. 7;
 thence North 84°00' West, a distance of 12.664 chains to Angle Point No. 8;
 thence North 6°00' East, a distance of 9.670 chains to Angle Point No. 9;
 thence South 84°00' East, a distance of 12.64 chains to Angle Point No. 10;
 thence North 5°37.4' East, a distance of 38.330 chains to Angle Point No. 11;
 thence, with the traverse of the southern right-of-way of Texas State Road
 No. 118:

- North 81°36.6' East, a distance of 3.620 chains
- North 79°45.7' East, a distance of 5.810 chains
- South 72°52.5' East, a distance of 3.004 chains
- North 73°20.0' East, a distance of 4.904 chains
- South 84°42.6' East, a distance of 3.344 chains
- South 79°20.4' East, a distance of 6.708 chains
- North 60°19.2' East, a distance of 9.010 chains
- North 21°54.6' East, a distance of 3.780 chains
- North 49°19.9' East, a distance of 3.872 chains
- North 60°52.2' East, a distance of 7.958 chains
- North 79°14.3' East, a distance of 4.961 chains
- South 86°00.6' East, a distance of 11.560 chains
- South 70°27.0' East, a distance of 9.367 chains

thence, with the traverse of the western right-of-way of Texas State Road No. 17:
 South 54°30.8' East, a distance of 5.344 chains
 South 17°20.7' East, a distance of 6.875 chains
 South 4°09.6' West, a distance of 22.059 chains
 South 7°02.6' West, a distance of 21.150 chains
 South 41°22.5' West, a distance of 6.191 chains to Angle Point No. 1, the
 place of beginning.

Property Fort Davis

*Already on NR
approved 11/21/78*

State Texas

Working Number 7.18.78

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

Need sketch map

CONTROL

*pl
7.31.78*

HISTORIAN

Normally I would request a sketch map but since Fort Davis is already listed and every building is inventoried - ~~it~~ I'm not concerned with ~~it~~ a map.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*accept
Barham
9-10-78*

full acreage - justified on nature of resource. Intrusions are identified.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Park Service folder serves as basic sketch map. Resources especially presence or absence of original fabric--very well described. Significance focuses on historic fort. Total park acreage appropriately included. Photos are older, but given NPS ownership and public availability--these are OK.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Sheffy for
11-20-78
accept*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

*Called in
Kareem
NPS 12/1/78*

INT:2106-74



Fort Davis

WASO 68-FODA 873-M-15

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Please Credit
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

JUL 18 1978

1. Fort Davis, Texas
2. Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County,
Texas
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1968
Loc. of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. Fort Davis: north elevation
Photo No. WASO 68-FODA-873-M-15

^{DOE}
NOV 21 1978

1063



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Please Credit ^{WASO}
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE *68-FODA-7M*
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Photographer: Fred E. Mang, Jr.
DATE: *Spring, 1968*
CAPTION: *A Davis Row*

JUL 18 1978

1. Fort Davis, Texas
2. Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County, Texas
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1968
Loc of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. Restored Officers' Row: south elevation
Photo No. WASO 68-FODA-7M

^{DOE}
NOV 21 1978

2063



Fort Davis

WASO

68 FODA-1-M

Restored Enlisted Mens' Barracks
1876-1891

Please Credit
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO
PHOTOGRAPHER - Fred E. Mang, Jr.
DATE:
CAPTION:

JUL 18 1978

1. Fort Davis, Texas
2. Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County,
Texas
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1968
Loc. of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. Restored Enlisted Mens' Barracks:
northwest elevation
Photo No. WASO 68-FODA-1-M

NOV 21 1978

3 of 3

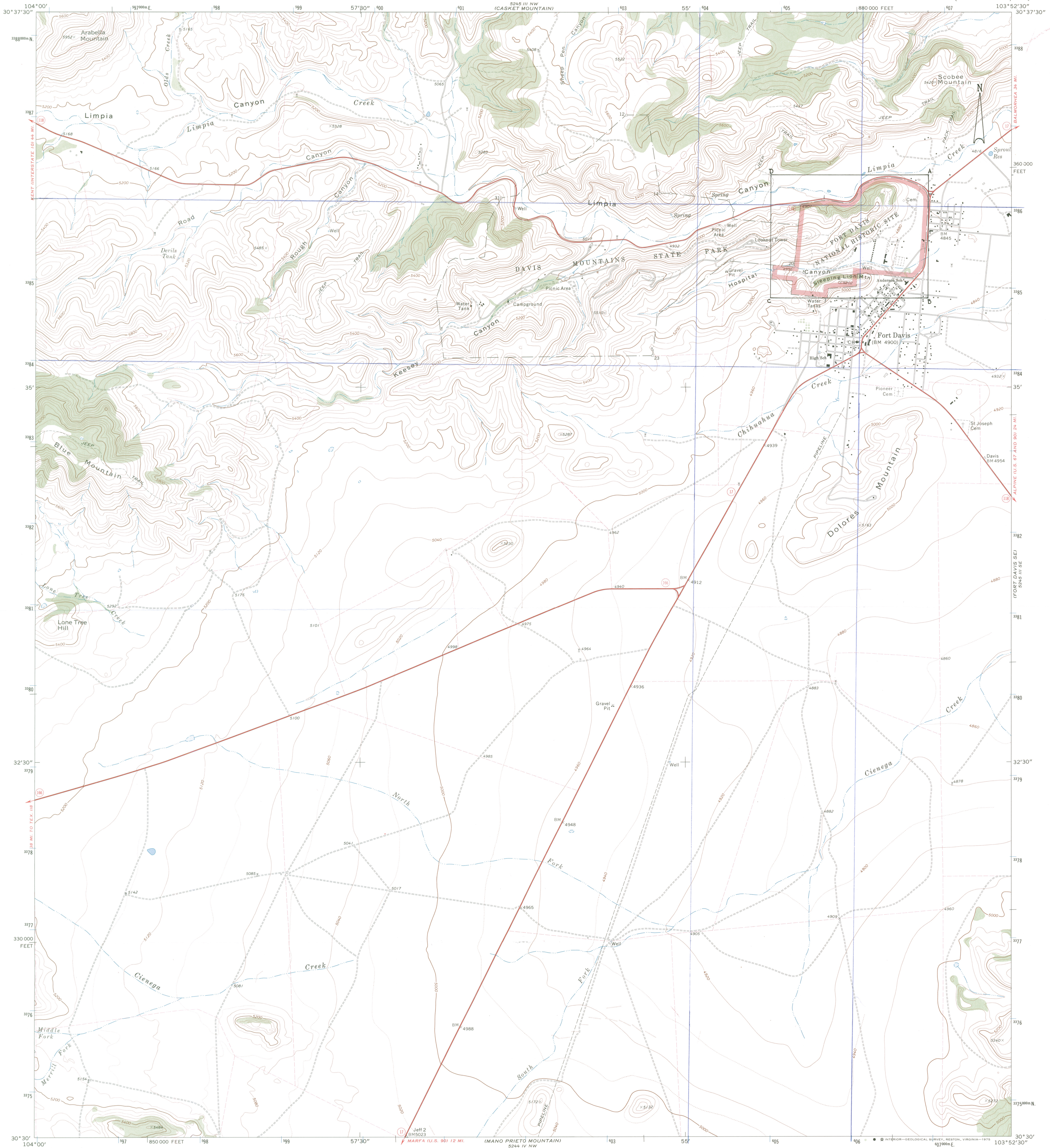
Full Davis National
Historic site

one photo

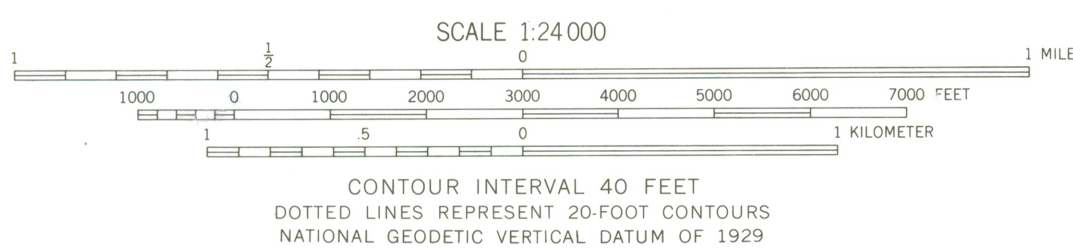
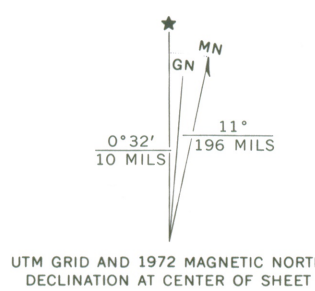
Jan. 21, 1993

P. Chrisman

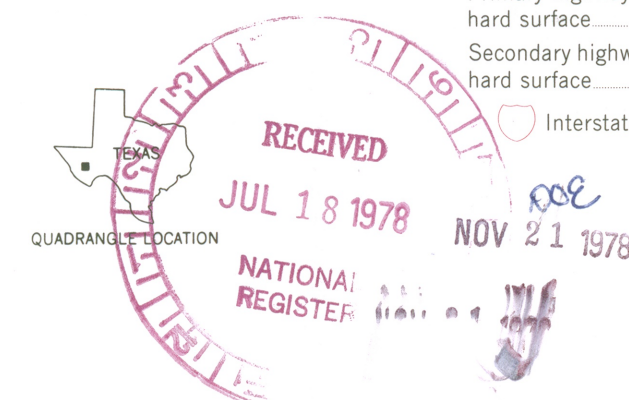
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B-13/606795/3384870 840
C-13/604860/3384870 900 370
D-13/604860/3386395



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

FORT DAVIS, TEX.
N3030—W10352.5/7.5

1972
AMS 5245 III SW—SERIES V882



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION

P.O. Box 728

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

560
RNB

Lawrence Mack

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (SWR) CR

JUN 30 1978



Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Management and Operations, WASO
Attention: Chief, Cultural Resources Management

From: Regional Director, Southwest Region

Subject: National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed are National Register nominations for the following properties:

Fort Davis National Historic Site

Guadalupe Mountains National Park:

Emigrant Trail to California and
Butterfield Stage Route
Guadalupe Ranch
Wallace Pratt Residence

These four nominations have been approved by the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer.

Enclosures

cc:
Supt., FODA
Supt., GUMO
Truett Latimer, Texas SHPO
Field Assistant to Regional Director

JUL 3 10 32 AM '78

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

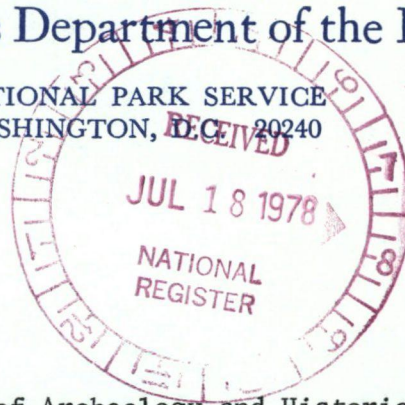


United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3017(560)



JUL 14 1978

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

From: Federal Representative, National Park Service

Subject: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed is the nomination of "Fort Davis National Historic Site,"
in the Southwest Region of the National Park Service, submitted in
confirmation of its listing in the National Register of Historic
Places.

F. Ross Holland

Enclosure

Re-managed
Plover Bond
25% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.

Jeff Davis Co Tex

Listed
NPS files, given to
Kamm

August 10, 1978

Mr. Wayne B. Cone
Regional Director
National Park Service
Southwest Region
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Cone:

On July 31, 1978 the Council received a determination from the National Park Service that restoration and reconstruction of the interior and exterior of the Commanding Officer's Quarters would not adversely affect Fort Davis National Historic Site, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director does not object to your determination.

A copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320).

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office
of Review and Compliance

cc: Chairman
FLO:DOI
SHPO:TX
HCRS:NR

ORC:JKing
FILE: TX/Fort Davis Nat'l. Historic Site/106/NPS/Restoration & reconstruction
JK 8/10/78

FORT DAVIS

Jeff Davis Co.

fort davis national historic site, texas

Key post in the defense system of West Texas, Fort Davis played a major role in the history of the southwestern frontier. From 1854 to 1891, troops based at the post guarded immigrants, freighters, and stagecoaches on the San Antonio-El Paso road and contended with the hostile Comanche and Apache Indians whose plunder trails scarred the deserts east and west of the fort. Today, the remains of Fort Davis are more extensive and impressive than those of any other southwestern fort. They are a vivid reminder of a significant chapter in the history of the western frontier.

the founding of fort davis : The Mexican War of 1846-48 added to the United States a vast territory comprising the present States of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Texas had joined the Union on the eve of the war. Interest in the new lands quickened when word of the discovery of gold in California burst upon the Nation in 1849. Intent upon avoiding the winter snows and rugged mountains of the central routes to the gold fields, thousands of immigrants made their way over the southern transcontinental trails. A vital segment of the southern route was the newly opened San Antonio-El Paso road. Beginning in 1849, hundreds of immigrant and freight



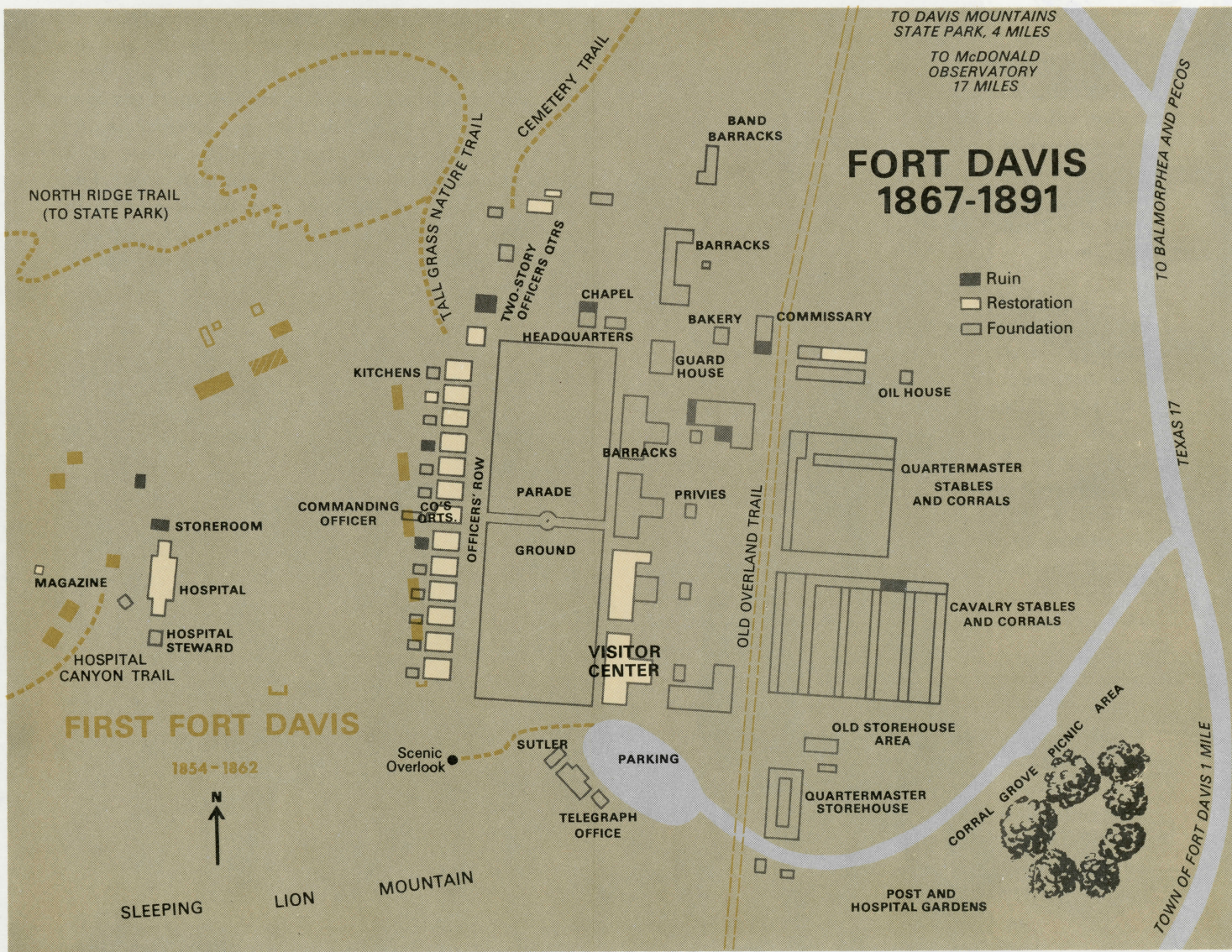
*"A Practice March in Texas," by Frederick Remington.
Courtesy Denver Public Library Western Collection*

trains pushed westward on this road. Stagecoach service began in 1853 when George H. Giddings won a Federal mail contract. James Birch's "jackass mail" took over the contract in 1857; and 2 years later the famed Butterfield Overland Mail, St. Louis to San Francisco, pointed its coaches over the El Paso road.

Intersecting the El Paso road were the raiding trails of Indians who swept southward on plundering expeditions that had long devastated the isolated villages and haciendas of northern Mexico. West of the Davis Mountains, the Mescalero Apaches from New Mexico crossed the road in their forays. East of the mountains, the "Great Comanche War Trail" crossed the road at Comanche Springs, later the site of Fort Stockton. Inevitably, the Apaches and Comanches paused in their raids to assail travelers on the El Paso road. By 1854, depredations had grown to such alarming proportions that the military authorities in San Antonio found it essential to build a fort in West Texas.

In October 1854, the commander of the Department of Texas, Maj. Gen. Persifor F. Smith, personally selected the site, a pleasant box canyon near Limpia Creek, in the scenic Davis Mountains, where plenty of wood, water, and grass was available. The new post, the general decreed, would be named Fort Davis in honor of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, later President of the Southern Confederacy. Six companies of the 8th U.S. Infantry marched westward to build and garrison Fort Davis. Their commander, Lt. Col. Washington Seawell, disliked the site, for Indians could and did come very near without discovery. Dutifully, however, he placed the fort where ordered. It was a shabby collection of more than 60 pine-slab structures scattered irregularly up the canyon. They were not built to last, for Colonel Seawell dreamed some day of erecting a fine new stone fort on the open plain at the mouth of the canyon.

the decade of the fifties: Colonel Seawell spent most of the next 7 years as commander of Fort Davis. Although he never realized his ambition for a permanent post of stone buildings, by 1856 he had housed the enlisted men in six stone barracks laid out in a line across the mouth of the canyon. The officers continued to live in the rotting log huts, and supplies deteriorated in rickety warehouses roofed with canvas or thatched with grass.



The men of the 8th Infantry, afoot or mounted on mules, spent much of their time in the arduous but unspectacular duty of escorting mail and freight trains, pursuing but rarely catching raiders who had attacked travelers or a mail station, and covering their sector with patrols that rarely came to grips with Apaches or Comanches. On occasion, cavalry expeditions used the fort as a base for concerted operations against the Indians. New forts—Hudson, Lancaster, Stockton, and Quitman—were built to aid in the task of guarding the El Paso road. From 1857 to 1860, the feasibility of using camels for military purposes on the western deserts was tested, with encouraging results, at and near Fort Davis. By the close of the decade, however, little real progress had been made in solving the Indian problem.

the mays massacre: The Civil War destroyed the frontier defense system of West Texas. With the secession of Texas from the Union early in 1861, the department commander, Brig. Gen. David E. Twiggs, ordered Fort Davis and its sister posts abandoned. They were occupied by Confederate troops in June 1861.

The Texas troops cultivated seemingly cordial relations with the Apaches of the Davis Mountains. But in August 1861 Chief Nicholas turned on his new friends and stole some horses and cattle from the fort. Lt. Reuben E. Mays pursued with 13 men. The trail led southward toward the Big Bend. Pressed closely by the soldiers, Nicholas stopped running and posted 80 to 100 warriors among the rocks on both sides of a canyon through which the trail ran. On August 12, Lieutenant Mays and his men rode into the trap. When the smoke cleared, all the soldiers were dead. Only the Mexican guide escaped to tell the story.

a new fort: Confederate troops occupied Fort Davis for nearly a year. With the failure of the attempted conquest of New Mexico in the spring of 1862, however, the West Texas forts were once more evacuated, and their garrisons accompanied the retreating Confederate Army back to San Antonio. Wrecked by Apaches, Fort Davis lay deserted for 5 years. Not until 1867, 2 years after the close of the war, did Federal troops return. On June 29, Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt, famed cavalry general of the Civil War, marched up Limpia Creek with four troops of the 9th U.S. Cavalry, a newly organized colored regiment.

Colonel Merritt laid out and began constructing a permanent post such as Colonel Seawell had envisioned. As Seawell had wished, it rose on the plain outside the canyon. The first buildings were of stone, but economy soon caused a change to adobe, and delayed completion of the project as well. Not until the 1880's, after the Indians had been crushed, were all the buildings finished. By then it was a major installation, with quarters for 12 companies, both cavalry and infantry. More than 50 structures finally composed Fort Davis.

conquest of the apaches: For 18 years Negro troops with white officers were at Fort Davis. Although the garrison frequently rotated, it was composed until 1885 of elements of the 9th or 10th Cavalry and the 24th or 25th Infantry. Under such officers as Colonel Merritt, Col. Edward Hatch, Lt. Col. William R. (Pecos Bill) Shafter, Maj. Zenas R. Bliss, Col. George Andrews, Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, and Capt. Louis H. Carpenter, these troops compiled a notable record of persistence, stamina, and success against their Comanche and Apache antagonists. The Comanches were defeated in 1874-75 in the Red River War, in which troops from Fort Davis did not engage.

But the Apaches still made travel on the El Paso road dangerous, and the soldiers kept constantly in the field on escort and scouting duty. The final contest came in 1880, when Victorio and his warriors thrust northward from Mexico across the deserts west of the Davis Mountains. Under Colonel Grierson, units from Fort Davis and other posts blocked the way. After a series of hard-fought engagements, the Apache chief turned back to Mexico, where he was soon killed by Mexican troops.

the last years: The Indian menace to West Texas had ended, and cattlemen began to drive their herds westward to pasture them on the rich grasses of the region. The troops at Fort Davis settled into a routine of garrison life broken only by occasional tours of escort duty for railroad builders and bandit-chasing expeditions with the Texas Rangers. The railroads bypassed the fort, and it increasingly became an unnecessary expense. In June 1891 Fort Davis was ordered abandoned. It had "outlived its usefulness."

fort davis today : Fort Davis National Historic Site was authorized as a unit of the National Park System in 1961. A program was immediately launched to save the remaining buildings and interpret the fort. Of more than 50 buildings that constituted Fort Davis when it was abandoned, visitors can view 16 residences on officers' row, two sets of troop barracks, warehouses, and the hospital. Sites of the remaining buildings, marked in most instances by stone foundations, can also be viewed. Recent archeological investigations have uncovered foundations of many buildings of the first fort.

about your visit : Fort Davis is on the northern edge of the town of Fort Davis, Tex. It can be reached from U.S. 290 on the north and 90 on the south by Tex. 17 and 118. Accommodations are available in town and at nearby Davis Mountains State Park. Marfa is 21 miles to the southwest; Alpine, 25 miles to the southeast. Visiting hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in summer and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in winter.

notice: Do not allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. While every effort has been made to provide for your safety, there are still hazards which require your alertness and vigilance. Exercise common sense and caution.

administration: Fort Davis National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis, TX 79734, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

*Jeff Davis Co.
TX*



"A Study in Action."

Negro soldier sketched by Frederick Remington.

Fort Davis

(Resource Name)

Jeff Davis

(County)

6600045

(Reference Number[s])

TX

(State)

06 / 13 / 2015

(Date form completed)

WACC

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING ___ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED ___ 3. NHL 4. TR ___ 5. MRA ___ 6. OVER-SIZED ___ 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED ___ 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION ___ 9. RESTRICTED ___

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal)

____ / ____ / ____
(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

12 / 19 / 1960
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

____ / ____ / ____
(Target Date)

- COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement)

____ / ____ / ____
(Date Found/Replaced)