



"A Study in Action."  
Negro soldier sketched by Frederick Remington.

**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 offices' 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.

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National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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# FORT DAVIS



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

## 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

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