







"Buffalo Soldier" sketched by Frederick Remington.

Flipper, the first black graduate of West Point, arrived at the fort to serve as Acting Commissary of Subsistence. In the summer of 1881, however, Flipper was accused of embezzling government funds. After a controversial court-martial, the Army found Flipper innocent of the charges but guilty of unbecoming conduct and dismissed him from military service. A 94-year fight to clear his name ensued. Finally in 1976, at the urging of his descendents, the Army reviewed the court-martial transcripts and changed Flipper's discharge to honorable.

**fort davis today:** In 1961, the United States Congress authorized Fort Davis National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park Service. Through a continuing program of restoration half of the 50 original structures have been saved. The visitor center and museum are open daily and audio programs, a slide show, and self-guiding tours of the grounds and several buildings are among the year-round services provided. A picnic grove and an extensive nature trail system are located at the site. Summer seasons are highlighted by costumed interpreters conducting tours and presenting demonstrations in the Commanding Officer's Quarters, Officers' Kitchen and Servant Quarters, and the Enlisted Men's Barracks.

**please note:** The preservation of this historic site for future generations to enjoy can only be assured by your actions today. The building ruins are fragile. Walking or climbing on them is hazardous and destructive. All features are protected by law. Please do not collect artifacts or disturb plants, animals, or rocks, and drive only on designated roads.

**about your visit:** Fort Davis is on the northern edge of the town of Fort Davis, Texas. From Int. 10 on the north or U.S. 90 on the south the site can be reached by Tex. 17 and 118. Accommodations are available in town and at nearby Davis Mountains State Park. Camping and additional picnic facilities are available within short distances of Fort Davis. The towns of Marfa and Alpine are located 21 miles to the southwest and 24 miles to the southeast, respectively. Visiting hours for Fort Davis NHS are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. between mid-September and late May, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. the remainder of the year. The site is closed December 25 and January 1.

**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, P.O. Box 1456, Fort Davis, TX 79734, is in immediate charge.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

# FORT DAVIS



## 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



