

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Kansas	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XV "Westward Expansion 1830 to 1898" - Santa Fe Trail
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Larned	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 10
5. EXACT LOCATION (<i>County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet</i>) About 5 miles west of the town of Larned, Kansas	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (<i>Also administrator if different from owner</i>) Private ownership. Leased to Fort Larned Historical Society	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (<i>Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant</i>)	

Fort Larned, during the 1860's and early 1870's, was the oldest and most important military post which guarded the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. It served as headquarters for troops responsible for safeguarding freighters and travelers and the passage of mail along that route. In 1864, Fort Larned was the base of operations against the hostile Cheyenne. In 1867, the Army sent an abortive expedition of about 1,400 men, under General Winfield S. Hancock, to the post to punish any tribes which might molest people traveling across the Plains. In the period from 1859 to 1869 almost 200 whites and Indians were recorded as having been killed in the Fort Larned vicinity.

The fort also, during the 1860's, played a very significant role in the negotiations with and in administering the southern and central plains tribes. In 1860, some 160 troops were stationed there. From 1861 to 1868, the fort was a distributing point for the annuities to several of the Indian tribes under the Fort Wise Treaty of 1861. Because of depredations, the Army in 1864 ordered the Kiowa and Comanche to Fort Larned where the government established an agency for the two tribes. In 1865, bands of Cheyenne, Arapaho and Apache were placed under the charge of the agent at Larned. Following the signing of the Medicine Lodge Treaty, effected in October 1867, the five tribes were removed to reservations set aside for them in Indian Territory. The government, therefore, abandoned the annuity distribution at Larned for the five tribes.

The Army, in accordance with William Bent's recommendation, in 1859 established a temporary post, called Camp Alert, at the mouth of Pawnee Fork on the Arkansas River. Later in the year it moved to a new site three miles west where the erection of a permanent sod fort was completed in 1860 and renamed Fort Larned. In 1866-1868, Fort Larned was rebuilt with stone structures. This post was equipped to house four companies of troops. (See attached ground plan.) Buildings in 1876 are described as follows:

(Continued next page)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (<i>Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works</i>) William E. Unrau, "The Story of Fort Larned", <u>The Kansas Historical Quarterly</u>, XXIII, (Autumn, 1957) 257-280.
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9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (<i>Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.</i>) Merrill J. Mattes, "Report on the Historical Investigation of Eleven Areas in Kansas Proposed for National Recognition", (Omaha, 1955)
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10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (<i>Museum, farm, etc.</i>) Ranch headquarters	13. DATE OF VISIT October 1957 March 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (<i>Signature</i>)		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

1. M. U. 57
This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

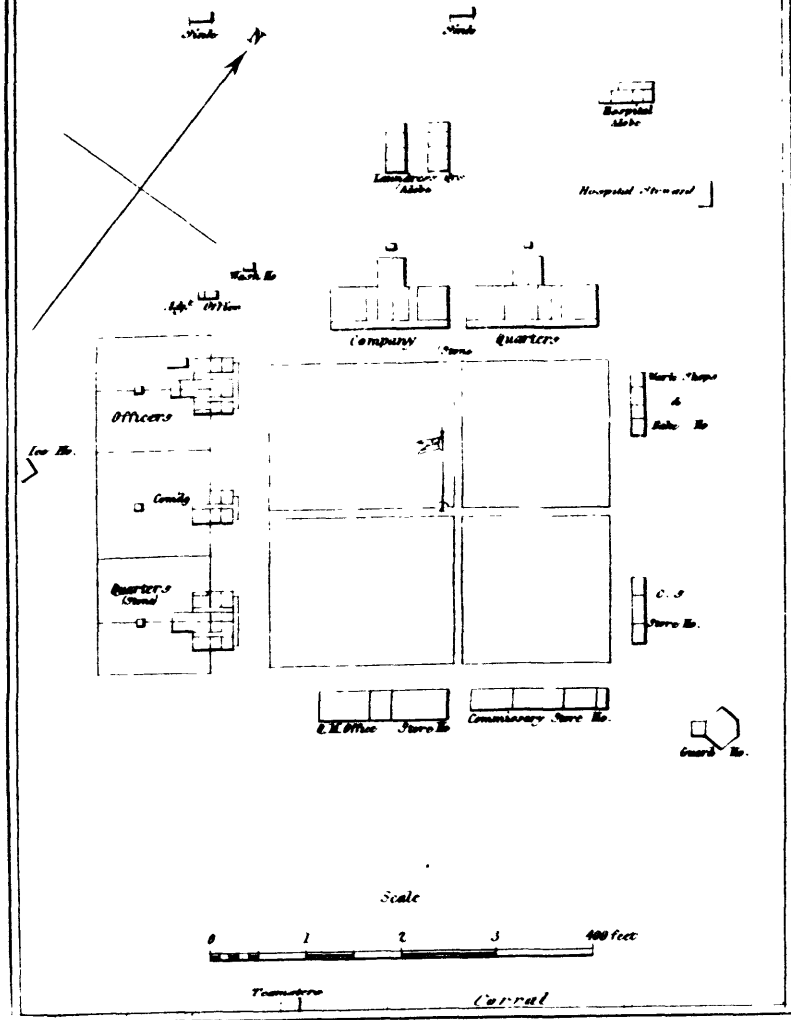
STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Kansas	Fort Larned

7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

Quarters for four companies; officers' quarters, three sets, built of sandstone, in good condition; hospital in one of the company quarters; guard house, 57x40 feet; quartermaster's storehouse 157½x42 feet; commissary storehouses, two, 153x30 feet and 82½x20 feet respectively; workshops, bakery; all sandstone buildings; laundress' quarters, ice house, etc., corral for 150 animals.

With the exception of Fort Totten, in North Dakota, which is of considerable less significance, Fort Larned is the best preserved 19th century military post in Region Two. Practically all of the buildings surrounding the parade ground, several of which have undergone considerable alterations, have survived. These include three officers' quarters, probably erected in 1867, two of which have undergone but a few architectural alterations. The two barracks, each of which housed two companies of troops, were converted into a barn. The original stone walls, however, are still in evidence. The quartermaster's office and storehouse has been converted into a barn by the extension of the original stone walls in order to form a hayloft. The old commissary storehouse, which still has the original portholes, is little changed except for the roof. The ordnance sergeant's office and storehouse, the workshops, and the bakery have been changed but little except for the roofs. With the exception of the icehouse, all of the outbuildings have disappeared. The chief intrusion on the parade ground of the old fort are two silos on the northeast and southeast corners. Fort Larned is one of the three sites on the Santa Fe Trail which is recommended for further study by the undersigned.

PLAN
of
FORT LARNED
KAN.



Ground plan of Fort Larned, 1876. (Copied from Outline Descriptions of The Posts in the Military Division of the Missouri, commanded by Lieutenant General P. H. Sheridan [Chicago, 1876])



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AERIAL VIEW OF FORT LARNED, Kansas. The buildings of the fort surrounding the parade grounds have been converted into farm buildings.

1956

Kansas Industrial Commission photograph



OFFICERS' QUARTERS FORT LARNED. This structure now serves as a museum

48278

October 1957

National Park Service photograph



BARN at FORT LARNED. This structure has been converted from the old commissary storehouse at the post.

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October 1957

National Park Service photograph