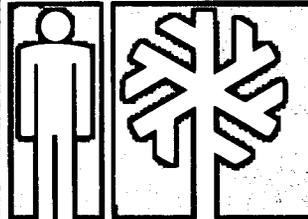


general management plan  
development concept plan  
interpretive plan  
september 1978  
revised 1981

**FORT SMITH**



NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE / ARKANSAS

RECOMMENDED:

Edwin F. Benton  
Superintendent, Fort Smith National Historic Site      April 14, 1977

APPROVED:

John E. Cook  
Regional Director, Southwest Region      August 2, 1978

REVISION APPROVED:

Robert Kerr  
Regional Director, Southwest Region      May 14, 1981

421/D-1347A



**FORT SMITH**  
**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
●  
**GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN**  
**INTERPRETIVE PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 1978  
REVISED 1981

## C O N T E N T S

INTRODUCTION /	1
SUMMARY /	3
DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT /	5
Regional Environment /	5
Park Environment /	6
STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT /	17
Purpose of the Park /	17
Significance of Park Resources /	17
Land Classification /	18
Influences Upon Management /	23
Management Objectives /	24
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN /	27
First Fort /	27
Second Fort /	27
Landscape /	31
VISITOR USE PLAN /	35
Character of Visitation /	35
Access /	38
Onsite Circulation /	38
Interpretive Theme /	38
Visitor Experience /	42
Time Span of Visitor Activities /	48
Capacity of Proposed Facilities /	49
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN /	51
Land Acquisition /	51
Development of Facilities Related to Resource Management /	57
Development of Facilities Related to Visitor Use /	58
Development of Facilities Related to Operations /	59
Phasing /	65
APPENDIXES /	67
BIBLIOGRAPHY /	77
PLANNING TEAM, CONTRIBUTORS, AND CONSULTANTS /	79

## I L L U S T R A T I O N S

Vicinity Map /	7
Historic Sites in the City of Fort Smith /	9
Existing Conditions /	11
Historic Features /	15
Existing Management Zoning /	19
Landownership /	21
Representative Changes in Exterior of Barracks/ Courthouse and Jail Wing /	30
Management Zoning /	33
Visitation at Fort Smith National Historic Site /	35
Courthouse/Jail Circulation /	44
Visitor Use Plan /	45
Land to be Acquired /	52
Disposition of Structures to be Acquired /	53
Development Plan /	55
Pedestrian Overpass /	61
Development Design /	63

## T A B L E S

1. Population Centers Within 200 Miles of Site /	37
2. Percent of Visitors Living 100 Miles or Less to Over 200 Miles from the Site /	37
3. Visitor Activities and Average Time Spent /	48

## I N T R O D U C T I O N

Fort Smith National Historic Site is located at the river junction of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It was established as a National Park Service area in 1961 for the preservation of the original (1817) fort site, the second (1838) fort site, and the Judge Parker court between 1872 and 1896.

The National Park Service has adopted a general management plan (formerly a master plan) as the basic instrument for meeting the management objectives for a given park. The plan charts a long-range strategy for management of an area's resources, for visitor use of those resources, and for physical development of the area. The plan also defines what is required to ensure compliance with relevant legislation (or proposes modifications thereof) and with national management policies and procedures.

The history of planning for Fort Smith appropriately begins with the people of the area. In 1911 the commissary building of the second fort was preserved by the Old Fort Museum Association. Then in 1957 the Judge Parker court was preserved and restored. This led to the suggestion by the city of Fort Smith to incorporate Fort Smith into the National Park System. Clearing of the land and excavation of the first fort foundations prompted the legislation (Public Law 87-215, H.R. 32) that authorized establishment on September 13, 1961. Subsequently, the city of Fort Smith turned over its properties on the site to the United States.

Onsite management was soon implemented by the National Park Service, and by 1963 a master plan had been prepared for the area. The Park Service managed to acquire most of the private rights within the site boundary, and many buildings intruding on the historical scene were removed. Additional historical research, historic structure reports, and archeological surveys were completed.

In the early 1970s, it was decided to update the 1963 master plan. The decision was made, and the present General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Interpretive Plan was initiated for three reasons: new funding was needed to complete purchases of all parcels on the fort grounds (this program had been halted because values of the properties rose beyond the ceiling imposed in the enabling legislation); new national laws became applicable to safeguard natural and historical environments; and guidance was required to preserve and to study the feasibility of restoring the 1817 Fort Smith. The present planning effort was started in 1974. Concurrently, research into the character of the first fort was conducted to determine whether its reconstruction was possible.

Research results indicated that there was insufficient information to reconstruct the first fort. The first planning step was to complete--with public input--an environmental assessment including four alternative plans of varying developmental scope for the area, along with the impacts each might have on the historic resources, socioeconomic setting, etc. That document was submitted for public comment in the spring of 1976. The regional director of the National Park Service's Southwest Regional Office then reviewed the assessment and the public's reaction to it. The alternative he selected is presented in this General Management Plan. The regional director also determined that the impacts of this alternative were such that no further compliance documents were needed to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

## S U M M A R Y

This plan is based on the premise that (1) the historical environment of Fort Smith should serve as the stage for visitor experiences and interpretation, and (2) historical integrity must be restored and preserved in order to recreate this environment.

In order to accomplish this, the following actions are planned:

■ Courthouse/Jail

- Adapt the jail interior to include a visitor center and administrative offices
- Provide interpretive exhibits and audiovisual programs
- Provide benches in the rear of the courtroom
- Exterior preservation of structure

■ Commissary

- Remove the Old Fort Museum
- Restore the exterior and interior to its 1897 appearance

■ First Fort

- Preserve the historic foundation
- Construct an interpretive shelter below the crest of the hill near the first fort

■ Second Fort

- Designate the second fort walls with ground-level markers
- Reconstruct small portions of the wall
- Provide an interpretive sign at the cistern

■ Boundary and Lands

- Acquire the remaining acres of private and city land within the authorized boundary
- Demolish acquired buildings that lack utility or historical value
- Ensure scenic protection of approximately 32 acres on the Oklahoma bank of the Arkansas River

■ Grounds and Landscaping

- Obliterate the paved streets and restore the original grade
- Reconstruct the historic walkways, where possible
- Provide landscaping, screening, and natural regrowth where not contrary to known historical setting

- Interpretive Stations
  - Construct an orientation exhibit at the edge of the parking lot
  - Construct an interpretive station between the overpass and parking lot for a summarizing message
  
- Gallows
  - Relocate the gallows to its original location
  - Provide a wayside exhibit
  
- Parking
  - Construct a paved parking area at Third Street between Parker Avenue and Garland Avenue
  
- Railroad Crossing
  - Construct a pedestrian overpass across the railroad tracks to Belle Point
  
- Initial Point Marker
  - Provide wayside exhibits on the ground and on the overpass

## D E S C R I P T I O N O F T H E E N V I R O N M E N T

### REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Arkansas River flows eastward through Oklahoma, enters the state of Arkansas at Fort Smith, curves north around that city, then flows eastward again to join the Mississippi River on the eastern side of the state. A tributary, the Poteau River, joins the Arkansas River just as it begins this northward bend. On a sandstone hill (Belle Point) overlooking this river junction is the Fort Smith National Historic Site. The site is bounded by the Arkansas and Poteau rivers on the west side and by the city of Fort Smith on the east side. The site is located within the city limits.

The city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, has a population of over 65,000 and is the employment and trade center of an area with a population of more than 175,000. While the state of Arkansas in the past has experienced a decline in population, Fort Smith and the surrounding area have shown a continued increase. Fort Smith is the center of a large recreational area in Oklahoma and Arkansas that is highly publicized by local and regional chambers of commerce.

Daily passenger service to the city of Fort Smith is provided by four bus lines and two airlines. Most vehicular traffic enters the area via two major highways, U.S. 71 and I-40. Other highways, U.S. 64 and Arkansas 22 and 59, make Fort Smith easily accessible from all directions. A spur of I-40 connects with Arkansas 22, which in turn ties in with Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith. I-40 links Fort Smith with Little Rock and Memphis to the east and Oklahoma City and Tulsa to the west. U.S. 71 brings tourists from Missouri, Louisiana, and Texas.

The Arkansas River is a navigable system for barge transportation. Fourteen barge lines operate from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Poteau River is also navigable for barges for several miles from its confluence with the Arkansas River. Three railroads and numerous truck lines also provide daily freight service to the city.

Nearby points of interest of the National Park System include Pea Ridge National Military Park, Hot Springs National Park, Buffalo National River, and Arkansas Post National Memorial (all in Arkansas), and Chickasaw National Recreation Area (in Oklahoma). Other attractions include a Cherokee Cultural Center in Oklahoma, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, regional and state parks, national forests, and numerous private recreational developments.

Fort Chaffee is located on the eastern edge of Fort Smith approximately 8 miles away from the historic site. Fort Chaffee is operated as a training base for the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Fort Smith's former downtown business and commercial district, which borders the site, is an economically deteriorating area. Just northeast of this area is the Belle Grove Historic District (an area of many restored historic residences), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several blocks south of Fort Smith National Historic Site is the Fort Smith National Cemetery. This is managed by the Veterans Administration and is an active interment site for members of the armed forces. It originated as the post cemetery for the 1817 fort.

The St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Station, known locally as the Frisco Railroad Station, is a two-story, flat-roofed stone and stucco structure lying adjacent to the commissary building and is located within the newly legislated boundary. It is typical of the small railroad stations built around 1900-1920. Although information is inadequate to document its historical or architectural significance, it would probably meet the National Register of Historic Places criteria as a locally significant structure. The station appears to be structurally sound and is currently occupied and managed as a restaurant.

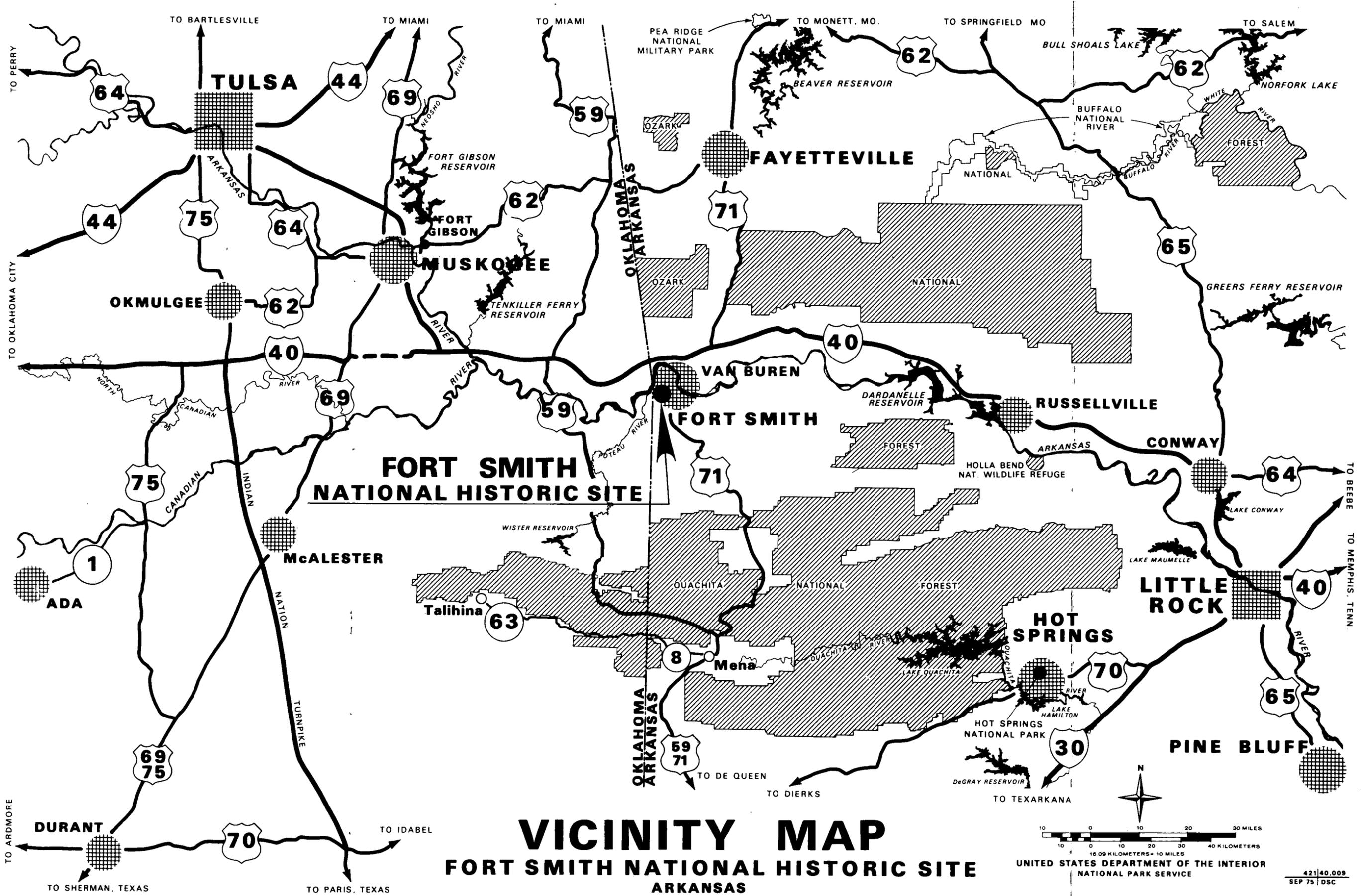
## PARK ENVIRONMENT

### The Land

Looking west from Belle Point across the Poteau and Arkansas rivers into Oklahoma, one sees a natural setting that remains much the same as it was in 1817 when Major William Bradford and his Rifle Regiment Company established the first fort on Belle Point. Both the riparian woodland on the opposite shore and the agricultural field behind lie in the floodplain. On the near shore, a narrow strip of land has succeeded to a quasi-natural wooded condition, complementing the historical/natural landscape in the distance.

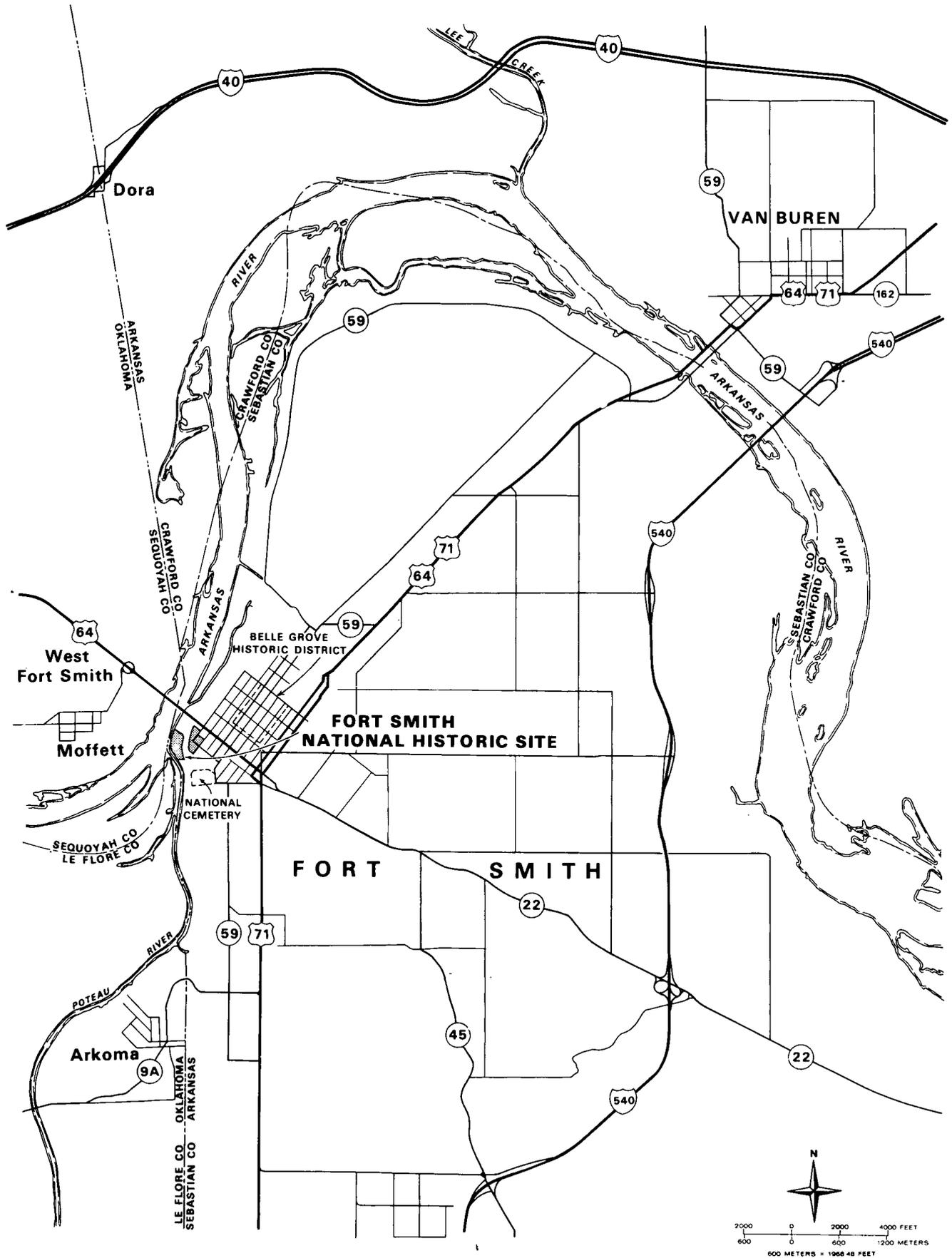
The woods along the rivers are composed mostly of elm, walnut, cottonwood, mulberry, poplar, and oak. Some of these have been planted since the establishment of the historic site in 1961, but all these species are native to the area.

The entire first fort site and part of the second fort site are maintained in grass and mowed. The grounds are also planted with scattered shrubs and trees.



**VICINITY MAP**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**





# HISTORIC SITES IN THE CITY OF FORT SMITH

## FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

421 | 40.011  
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Site intrusions are numerous. A foundry and several warehouses are adjacent to the site, and truck traffic associated with these businesses uses Second Street and Parker Avenue. Urban buildings, city streets, commercial signs, Coca-Cola plant, overhead power lines, and parking meters interrupt historical/scenic continuity.

The sites of the first and second forts are separated by four parallel tracks of two major railroads: the Missouri Pacific and the Frisco. The tracks are actively used and are important to regional transportation. The tracks run through the historic site in a depression (varying from 1 to 8 feet deep) that separates Belle Point from the main visitor use area. A path crosses the railroad tracks at grade. On a raised center strip dividing the two sets of tracks is the Initial Point Marker.

The first fort site on Belle Point includes a low elevation of 392 feet above sea level and a high elevation of 441 feet. The first fort was built on the highest land elevation. The second fort site is at a fairly level elevation of 429 feet.

In general, soils in the area consist of humus topsoil (6 to 40 inches deep), overlying yellow and red clay interspersed with gravel. The depth to sandstone, or stratified bedrock, is about 10 feet. Depth to water table varies between 6 to 12 feet.

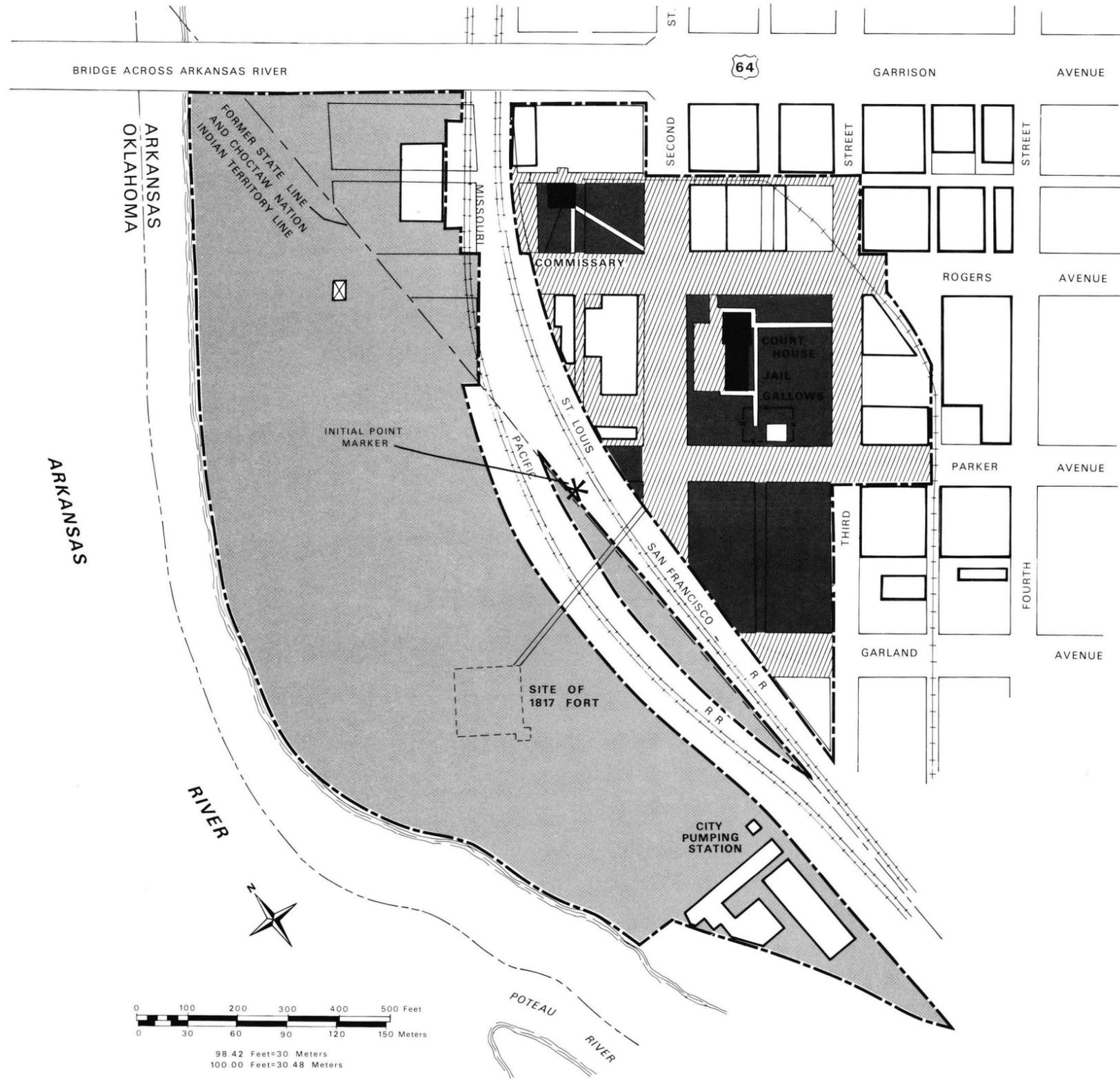
### Climate

The climate in the Fort Smith area is generally mild and humid. Summers are long and hot, with daytime temperatures often reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Winters are short and moderate.

The frost-free period between the last spring frost (March 23) and the first fall freeze (November 9) usually exceeds 200 days. Minimum winter temperatures drop into the upper 20s and summer highs (July and August) commonly reach the 90s. The record high temperature was 113 degrees in August 1936, and the record low was -15 degrees in February 1889.

Although measurable snowfall does occur every winter, the annual precipitation of 42 inches is mostly rain. Rainfall is comparatively uniform throughout the year.

Tropical storms rarely reach as far north as Fort Smith, but tornadic winds often occur in the spring.



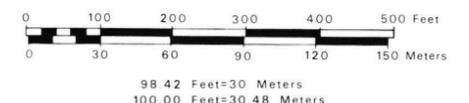
**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
- EXISTING BUILDING
- PAVED AREA
- EXISTING GROUND COVER
- EXISTING HISTORIC BUILDING
- TRANSMISSION TOWER

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

**ARKANSAS**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## Flooding

The Arkansas and Poteau rivers border the western edge of the historic site, not far from the foundations of the 1817 fort. The flood of May 12, 1943, raised the water level there to 421.94 feet, still nearly 10 feet below the first fort site. The rivers have since been stabilized by the Corps of Engineers at a normal pool level of 392.0 feet, with a maximum floodmark of 421.5 feet. An undeveloped strip of parkland along the rivers is periodically submerged; however, there is no threat of flooding to the historic structures and other resources because they are secure on higher ground.

## Existing Facilities and Their Uses

The historic site includes various historic features and some modern improvements.

### Historic:

**Courthouse** - The dominating structure at the historic site is the combined courthouse/jail building. The courthouse is a two-story brick structure with small porches, which was altered from a previous 1½-story structure with full porches on two sides. The courthouse basement is divided: half is used as a maintenance/utility room and half is partially restored to the original jail appearance. The first floor is utilized: half for a restoration of Judge Parker's courtroom and half for a visitor contact, sales, and exhibit area.

**Jail Wing** - The jail building is a three-story brick structure attached to the courthouse. The original tiers of the jail cells have been completely gutted and replaced with conventional wooden floors. The basement is now used as a work and utility area. The first floor is utilized as superintendent and staff offices, library, restrooms, audiovisual auditorium, and storage rooms. The second and third floors are unused.

**Commissary** - The commissary is a two-story building constructed of native stone. It is occupied by the Old Fort Museum Association, which displays items relating to the city's history from the early fort period to the present. They hold a special use permit that is renewed annually and will vacate upon request.

**First Fort** - Only remnants of the stone foundations of the wooden fort built on Belle Point now remain. The simple wooden stockade had two blockhouses at opposite corners, each

28 feet square and extending 10 feet beyond the garrison walls. The garrison was a hollow square, each side of which was 132 feet long. The exact location of the fort remained unknown until archeologists in 1958 uncovered the foundations that are now on display at Belle Point.

Initial Point Marker - The Initial Point Marker is a stone monument located between the two sets of railroad tracks near the path to Belle Point. It marks the Old Choctaw Line--the eastern boundary of the Indian Territory set aside in 1825 for the five civilized tribes that were relocated there.

Second Fort Walls - Although none of the second fort walls remain in their original location, some of the stones from the walls have been preserved in the new wall built on the corner of Third Street and Rogers Avenue.

Cistern - A water-storage cistern that was part of the second fort remains intact within the Coca-Cola plant.

Gallows - In 1875, a permanent scaffold was erected inside the south wall of the second fort in front of the magazine. The original location is on the south side of what is now Parker Avenue. A representative gallows of similar dimensions has been constructed on the north side of Parker Avenue. A high wooden fence encloses the gallows.

#### Modern:

A small fenced yard south of Parker Avenue encloses maintenance vehicles and equipment.

Visitor parking is available in a lot adjacent to the courthouse/jail and on the surrounding streets.

Paths and sidewalks lead from the visitor center in the courthouse building to other interpretive sites such as the gallows, the commissary, and the first fort foundations on Belle Point.



EXISTING COMMISSARY

**COMMISSARY**

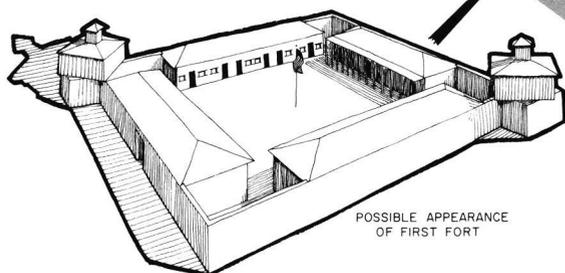
- BUILT FOR SECOND FORT
- 1846 CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
- 1870 POST COMMAND OFFICE
- 1880-1887 JUDGE PARKER'S OFFICE DURING JAIL CONSTRUCTION
- 1898 BOUGHT BY CITY OF FORT SMITH FOR 800 DOLLARS
- HISTORIC FABRIC EXISTS

**CISTERN**

- BUILT FOR SECOND FORT
- HISTORIC FABRIC EXISTS

**INITIAL POINT MARKER**

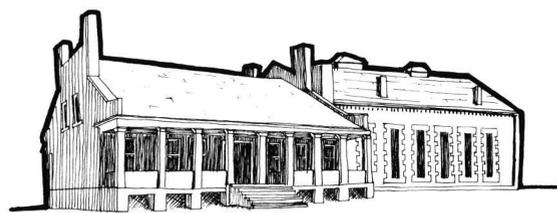
- 1825 LOCATED ON CHOCTAW NATION INDIAN TERRITORY LINE
- HISTORIC FABRIC EXISTS



POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF FIRST FORT

**FIRST FORT**

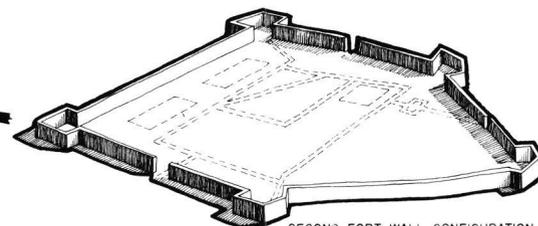
- 1817 ESTABLISHED TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN INDIAN TERRITORY
- 1824 FORT ABANDONED
- HISTORIC FABRIC OF FOUNDATION ONLY EXISTS



COURTHOUSE / JAIL AS IT APPEARED 1887-1889

**COURTHOUSE / JAIL**

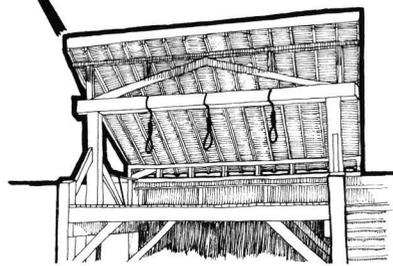
- 1851 USED AS A SINGLE STORY BARRACKS
- 1872 USED AS A COURTHOUSE WITH A JAIL IN THE BASEMENT
- 1875-1896 COURTHOUSE OF JUDGE ISAAC C. PARKER
- 1887 THREE STORY JAILHOUSE ATTACHED TO COURTHOUSE
- 1890 SECOND STORY ADDED TO COURTHOUSE
- HISTORIC FABRIC EXISTS



SECOND FORT WALL CONFIGURATION

**SECOND FORT**

- 1838 FORT SMITH RE-ESTABLISHED AS A SUPPLY DEPOT
- 1871 FORT ABANDONED
- LOCATION OF WALLS ARE NOT PRESENTLY REPRESENTED

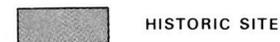


RECONSTRUCTED GALLOWS EXHIBIT

**GALLOWS**

- 1875 CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
- EXHIBIT IS NOT LOCATED ON THE HISTORIC SITE OF THE GALLOWS

**LEGEND**



HISTORIC SITE

# HISTORIC FEATURES

## FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

### PURPOSE OF THE PARK

Fort Smith National Historic Site was established by Public Law 87-215, September 13, 1961 (75 Stat. 489), for the preservation of the original (1817) fort site and the second (1838) fort site; the second fort was also used by the U.S. Court for the Western District of Arkansas between 1872 and 1896.

The National Park Service purpose at the historic site is further delineated in the Park Service Organic Act of 1916 as "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PARK RESOURCES

The significant resources of Fort Smith National Historic Site are the historical grounds and the remaining structural features identified with the successive phases of military occupation and the functioning of a court of law on the eastern border of the Indian Territory in the late 1800s.

The U.S. Army began construction of Fort Smith in 1817 to help protect the Cherokee Indians who had recently settled there. The Cherokee had severely clashed with the local Osage Indians, as well as with white hunters and squatters who had recently moved into the territory. Through army efforts the squatters were moved out, and a treaty was effected between the two Indian tribes in 1822.

The army moved out of Fort Smith in 1824 and established Fort Gibson 80 miles west, deeper in Indian Territory. However, transient troops still used the old post from time to time as temporary quarters.

In 1829 the government committed itself to moving all eastern Indian tribes to the Indian Territory. Arkansas settlers, alarmed by the increasing migration, demanded that Fort Smith be reestablished.

In 1838 Fort Smith was reinstated and during the next ten years was expanded to serve as a major supply depot for the more westerly forts. The fort continued in this function until 1861 when peace in the Indian Territory--a goal shared by the army and the five civilized tribes--was shattered by the Civil War. Two weeks before Arkansas seceded from the Union, army troops vacated Fort Smith--not to occupy it again until 1863.

The five civilized tribes were split by the Civil War, contributing troops to both sides. After the war their participation was used against them to deny them the right to their land; this is best demonstrated at Pea Ridge National Military Park but relates closely with Fort Smith and the diminishing Indian Territory.

By 1871 the Indian frontier had moved so far west that Fort Smith no longer served the territory efficiently--even as a supply depot. The army left the fort, and a year later the U.S. Court for the Western District of Arkansas moved in.

The court had jurisdiction over all persons in the Indian Territory not subject to tribal courts. The territory had become a haven for all manner of fugitives from justice, a virtually lawless island isolated by the nation's expansion.

Judge Isaac C. Parker assumed the bench in 1875, quickly establishing himself both as a supporter of Indian rights and as a tireless, incorruptible defender of justice. Within the enormous scope of his jurisdiction, which included half of Arkansas and all of the Indian Territory, he presided over more than 13,000 cases in his 21 years on the bench. Although only 79 of these defendants were hung (the law required hanging if a jury concluded guilt of murder or rape), the notoriety attending the executions earned Parker the title "Hanging Judge."

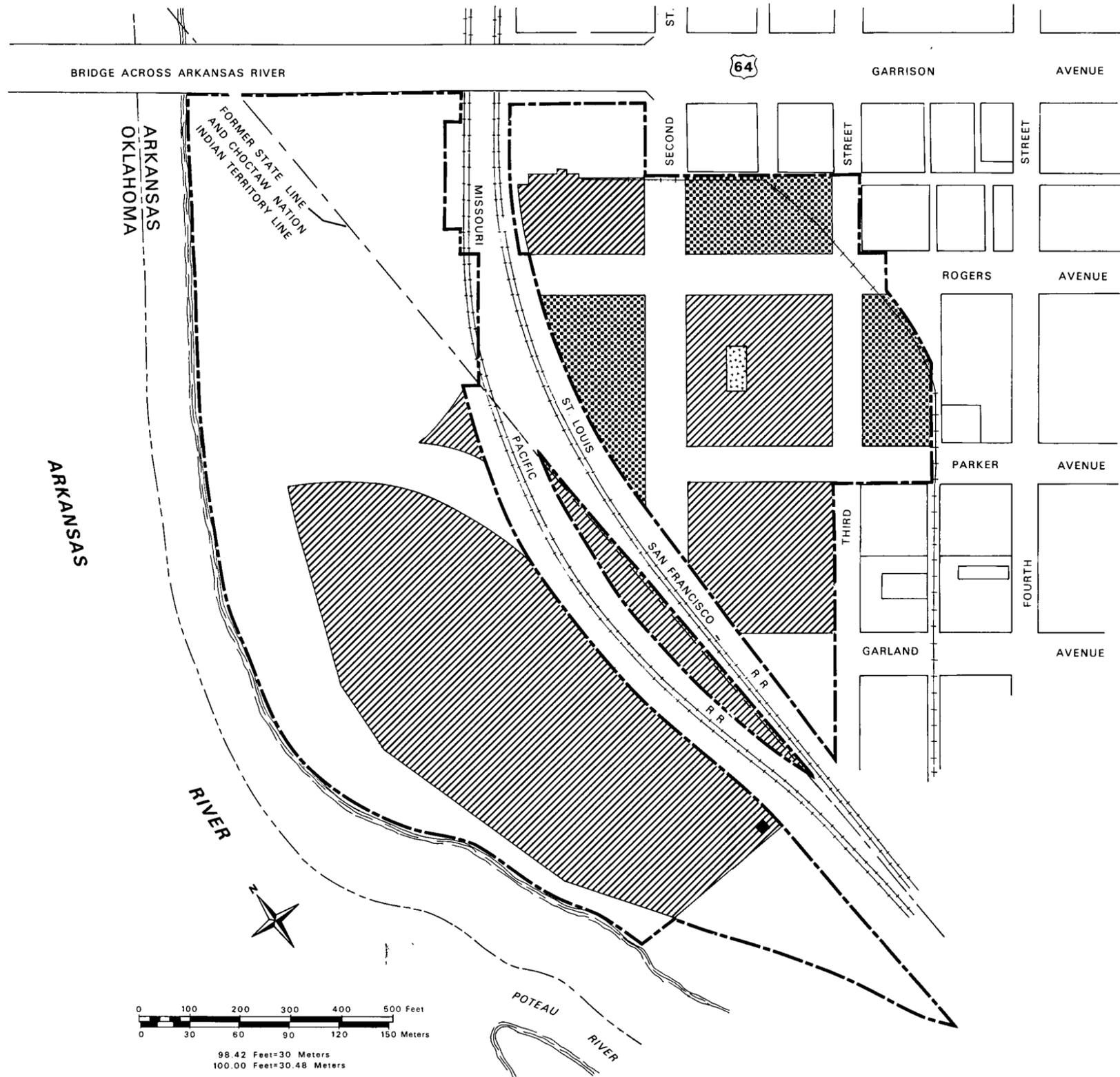
As the Indian Territory was opened to settlers, local courts were demanded, reducing Parker's jurisdiction. In September 1896, the federal court lost its territorial jurisdiction entirely. Judge Parker died a few weeks later.

By the end of the Parker era, the need for an instrument of justice to settle disputes between the quasi-sovereign Indian tribes and impinging forces had vanished. The Indian country had, in effect, ceased to exist.

The first fort, second fort, and federal court eras covered the period between 1817 and 1896. All three played a major role in the drama of the advancing frontier, the Indian removal, the establishment of the Indian Territory, and the federal court in the taming of the western frontier.

## LAND CLASSIFICATION

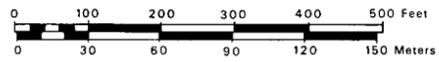
Fort Smith National Historic Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Under the National Park Service Management Policies (1975), all national register properties are to be classified as historic zones and managed in compliance with outlined standards,



**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC ZONE**
-  HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
  -  PRESERVATION
  -  PRESERVATION / ADAPTIVE USE
  -  RECENT ACQUISITION
  -  CITY UTILITY
  -  NONFEDERAL LAND

**EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**



98.42 Feet=30 Meters  
 100.00 Feet=30.48 Meters

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR— NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



TRACT NO	OWNER	APPROX ACRES
01-136	D. MIKEL, et al	9.54
01-119	OKLAHOMA GAS & ELECTRIC CO.	0.30
01-120	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO.	0.28
01-122	FORGINGS, INC.	1.30
01-123	J.S. LEWIS	0.21
01-129	MITCHELL & ASSOCIATES	0.42
01-130	J.T. WILLIAMS, et al	0.70
01-131	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO.	1.68

**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
- FEDERAL LAND
- CITY LAND
- PRIVATE LAND
- TRACT NUMBER

**LANDOWNERSHIP**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**

which stipulate, among other things, that ". . . physical development shall be the minimum needed to preserve, protect, and interpret historic values" and that ". . . activities . . . generally shall be limited to sightseeing and the study of the cultural features." The 12.82 acres of federally owned lands at Fort Smith are currently being managed as a historic zone.

## INFLUENCES UPON MANAGEMENT

### Legislative and Administrative Constraints

Currently, city streets within the historic site boundary are owned by the city of Fort Smith; 4.31 acres are still owned by private individuals or companies.

Legislation enacted on October 21, 1976, amended the establishing act of September 13, 1961. It increases the maximum area to 75 acres, the maximum amount for land acquisition to \$1,719,000, and the maximum amount for development to \$4,580,000.

The Eastern National Park and Monument Association had acquired title to 0.60 acre of property outside the originally authorized boundary that was purchased by the National Park Service in 1977.

The Old Fort Museum Association operates a museum in the historic commissary building under a special use permit issued on an annual basis each July 1. This museum has been operated for many years by the local association, and many of the exhibits are related to city and regional history, including artifacts from the early fort period to the present.

A special use permit has been issued to the city of Fort Smith for the operation of a sewer-pump station (expiration date December 31, 1986), located near the south end of Belle Point.

### Regional Influences

Regional transportation plans for the vicinity include a vehicle expressway (to serve the westerly part of the city of Fort Smith) that is proposed to pass through or very close to the historic site. The integrity of the fort area would be infringed upon by most of the proposed routes. Although vehicular access to the site and circulation in the vicinity must be provided for, constraints imposed by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 will limit options for the location of this expressway. Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 requires that the Department of Transportation consider all possible planning to minimize harm to parks and historic sites.

### Within-Park Influences

The Eastern National Park and Monument Association operates a sales counter at the visitor center, where books and other items relating to the historic site, the region, and the National Park Service can be purchased by visitors.

The National Park Service has proprietary law-enforcement jurisdiction over the federal lands within the historic site, which limits the park staff to enforcing only federal codes. However, a letter of authorization issued to the city police department of Fort Smith authorizes the city police to provide all other law enforcement necessary within the site.

Fort Smith National Historic Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act required that any proposal for restoration, demolition, reconstruction, landscaping, or land acquisition must be reviewed and commented upon by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer. Because the entire site is managed as a historic zone, all buildings and structures on the site are considered of historical value, and all use, maintenance, repairs, and alterations must conform to the laws and regulations set forth under the various legislative and administrative documents mentioned in this "Statement for Management" section. The present administrative and maintenance facilities are located in a historic structure.

Insufficient space exists for maintenance operations. Workshops and offices need to be consolidated in one building with an adjacent storage yard. Specific needs are an inside shop area large enough for working on vehicles, storage space for toxic and flammable materials, and a larger outdoor storage area. The facility needs to be located out of the direct visitor flow.

The site of the first fort has been explored, but other locations within the historic site must be researched in detail. Prior to any construction, the area to be disturbed will first be examined for archeological remains, including any artifacts, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To preserve, protect, and restore the historic resources, and to perpetuate the natural landscape qualities that contribute to their significance in a manner that is consistent with historic preservation law and current National Park Service Management

Policies. This general objective includes the following more specific objectives:

To preserve the historic resources that comprise the original historic fabric, and to preserve and restore the historical setting of the entire site

To restore the interiors and exteriors of existing historic structures in order to interpret selected historical periods that relate to the interpretive theme

To reconstruct significant structural elements that relate to the interpretive theme where technical knowledge is sufficient and policy and legal considerations allow

To adjust the authorized boundary to include lands adjacent to the historic site that are critical to site integrity and interpretation

- To encourage public use by providing appropriate access to the park's cultural resources, and to regulate such use in a reasonable manner that ensures long-term preservation of park resources

To provide the necessary staff to maintain adequate service and protection on a day-use, seven-day-week, year-round basis

To protect the historic resources from fire, burglary, and vandalism, and to regulate visitor activities that are compatible with preservation of the area's natural and historical values while allowing safe and rewarding visits

- To foster appreciation and understanding of the significance of Fort Smith, with emphasis upon the Indian removal, establishment of the Indian Territory, and the taming of the western frontier by providing varied and balanced interpretive opportunities

To interpret the overall theme of Indian removal, highlighting resources that illustrate various aspects of this theme, and to emphasize the three historical Fort Smith periods that relate to the settlement of eastern tribes in the Indian Territory

To furnish interpretive facilities and services that will introduce park visitors to the interpretive theme and provide a better understanding of the significance of the historic resources

To provide opportunities for visitor experiences ranging from inspirational solitude to active participation in and with the historic resources

To promote local interest in the Fort Smith story by encouraging the establishment of a local cooperating association, and to work closely with city, county, and state historical societies

To communicate the Fort Smith story to vicinity school-children, civic groups, and general public in regional locations outside the park (offsite interpretation)

To provide for the use of park facilities by neighboring school districts and civic groups, and to promote programs for historic preservation and environmental awareness

- To secure adequate information to manage, maintain, and interpret the historic sites, structures, and objects of the fort
- To cooperate and continually strengthen working relationships with other agencies and organizations, as well as adjacent landowners and other members of the public; to help ensure that the needs of the park's region are fully considered in planning for the interpretive and recreational use of the area

To ensure that planning for Fort Smith National Historic Site is responsive to the concerns of state, county, and local interest (including planning agencies and civic groups), and the general public by cooperating and holding periodic meetings with these groups and individuals

To make information on park operations, educational opportunities, and various park programs widely available in regional communities

To coordinate interpretation and resource-preservation activities in the park with related activities in the area

To preserve the park's cultural and esthetic values by restricting nonconforming commercial developments in the vicinity of the historic site by working closely with state, county, and city authorities

## R E S O U R C E   M A N A G E M E N T   P L A N

Fort Smith National Historic Site will be managed to preserve the historic resources and to manipulate the natural resources so they relate to the fort's historical appearance.

Historic structures still present consist of the stabilized foundations of the first fort (1817-1824); and a commissary building (1846), a barracks building (1851), and a cistern, which are all part of the second fort (1838-1871). In 1872 the U.S. Court for the Western District of Arkansas moved into the barracks and converted it into a courthouse. A jail wing was added in 1887 to replace the jail in the dungeon below the courthouse.

### FIRST FORT

The proposed treatment for the first fort site is to maintain the foundations as an onsite historic resource for interpretive use and to retain the visible historic fabric; no attempt will be made to restore or reconstruct any part of them. The Belle Point site will remain clear of trees or shrubbery in the immediate vicinity of the first fort to provide good visibility of the foundation ruins and also to prevent deterioration of the foundation stones from root action. The historical landscape scene in the immediate vicinity is not known specifically. However, old photographs indicate that the general nature of the surrounding area was semirural until approximately 1900.

### SECOND FORT

#### General

To restore the historical integrity of the area, modern intrusions on the site of the second fort will be removed. There is no other way to adequately visualize the second fort's appearance because the greater portion of the historic wall is on privately owned lands.

Legislation has been passed for acquisition of the remainder of the second fort grounds, on which the second fort walls will be partially reconstructed to enable visitors to readily visualize the original size and shape of the fort.

When the lands are acquired, an intensive onsite archeological investigation will be implemented to aid determination of precise locations of historic walls and buried foundations. Some of the original limestone blocks can be obtained from walls and foundations on the acquired properties.

The grounds of the second fort will be restored, which will include obliterating streets and parking lots, demolishing some nonhistoric and nonutilitarian buildings, restoring grounds to original grade, constructing walkways, and landscaping. The grounds outside the historical area of the first fort and the second fort will be esthetically landscaped but will not necessarily follow any historical pattern. Portions of the second fort wall will be reconstructed (particularly at the corners), and the remainder will be indicated by markers near grade level. The second fort building foundations will be similarly indicated by outline markers near grade level. The cistern will be restored by replacing a concrete covering with one typical of the historical period of the second fort.

### Commissary

This building will be restored to its appearance circa 1897. The lower floor will house historic furnishings, and the upper floor, interpretive facilities. The proposed treatment will entail limited alteration of the building's appearance as follows:

- Replacement of the existing slate roof
- Reconstruction of the hoist machine
- Restoration of the flagstone floor in the first story
- Restoration of platform and stairs on southeast side
- Restoration of platform porch with picket railings and stairs
- Repointing and stabilization of stones

### Courthouse/Jail

The exterior of the courthouse/jail will remain in its present state. Any future proposal to restore the exterior of the courthouse must consider the historical significance of the existing structure as jail facilities for the Parker court until 1896, as a federal territorial court and a federal prison for the Indian Territory until 1907 when Oklahoma became a state, and as a local landmark in the city of Fort Smith for almost a century. Restoration of the courthouse to an earlier period would result in the loss of at least a half story of historic fabric. Any proposal to restore the exterior of the jail wing to an earlier period must consider the evolution of the courthouse portion of the building. Restoration of one portion of the building would result in a structure having an appearance of no previous time in history.

The north room of the courthouse basement will be restored and furnished in the period of the first jail. The south basement room will serve as the mechanical room for the building. The restoration of 1957 that was completed on the first floor of the courthouse by Fort Smith Historical Restoration, Inc., will remain. It has been determined through extensive research that any restoration would require excessive speculation leading to unacceptable extremes of uncertainty. Furthermore, there would still remain unresolvable conflicts between an interior restored to an earlier period and an exterior retained as is.

To complete the courthouse as an exhibit-in-place, the following actions will be accomplished:

- Removal of the existing temporary displays from the observers' portion of the courtroom, and installation of the wooden benches and/or chairs representative of the 1889 period

Provide exhibits showing the functions of the U.S. marshal's, U.S. commissioner's, and U.S. clerk of court offices on the first floor area adjacent to the courtroom

Exterior preservation of the courthouse/jail

### Gallows

The existing gallows will be relocated onto or very close to its original site inside the fort wall, as accurately as archeological and historical research allows.

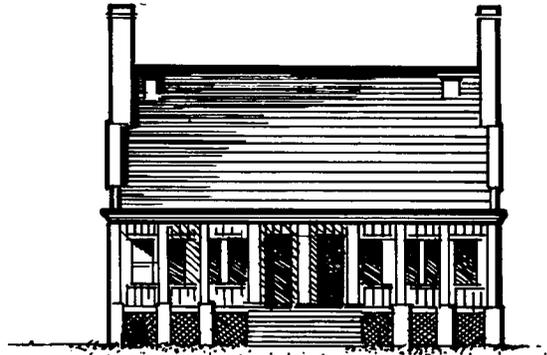
### LANDSCAPE

Although there are many intrusions in and around the historic site, there also remain many natural attributes of the historical setting. A view from Belle Point still includes the river (albeit at a controlled higher level than in the early fort period) and both nearby and distant forested river banks. However, there is nothing to guarantee the perpetuation of this forested area, which contributes so much to the entire scene.

All resources are not easily and safely accessible. Belle Point is more isolated than any other important resource due to its distance from the second fort and the intervening railroad tracks.

Proposals for landscape treatment are as follows:

- Return as much of the area as possible back to its historical landscape; introduce screen planting of native varieties of



BARRACKS 1851-87



JAIL WING 1887-89

COURTHOUSE 1887-89



JAIL WING 1934-present

COURTHOUSE 1890-present

REPRESENTATIVE CHANGES  
IN EXTERIOR OF BARRACKS /  
COURTHOUSE AND JAIL WING

trees to prevent visual intrusion into the area by local commercial operations

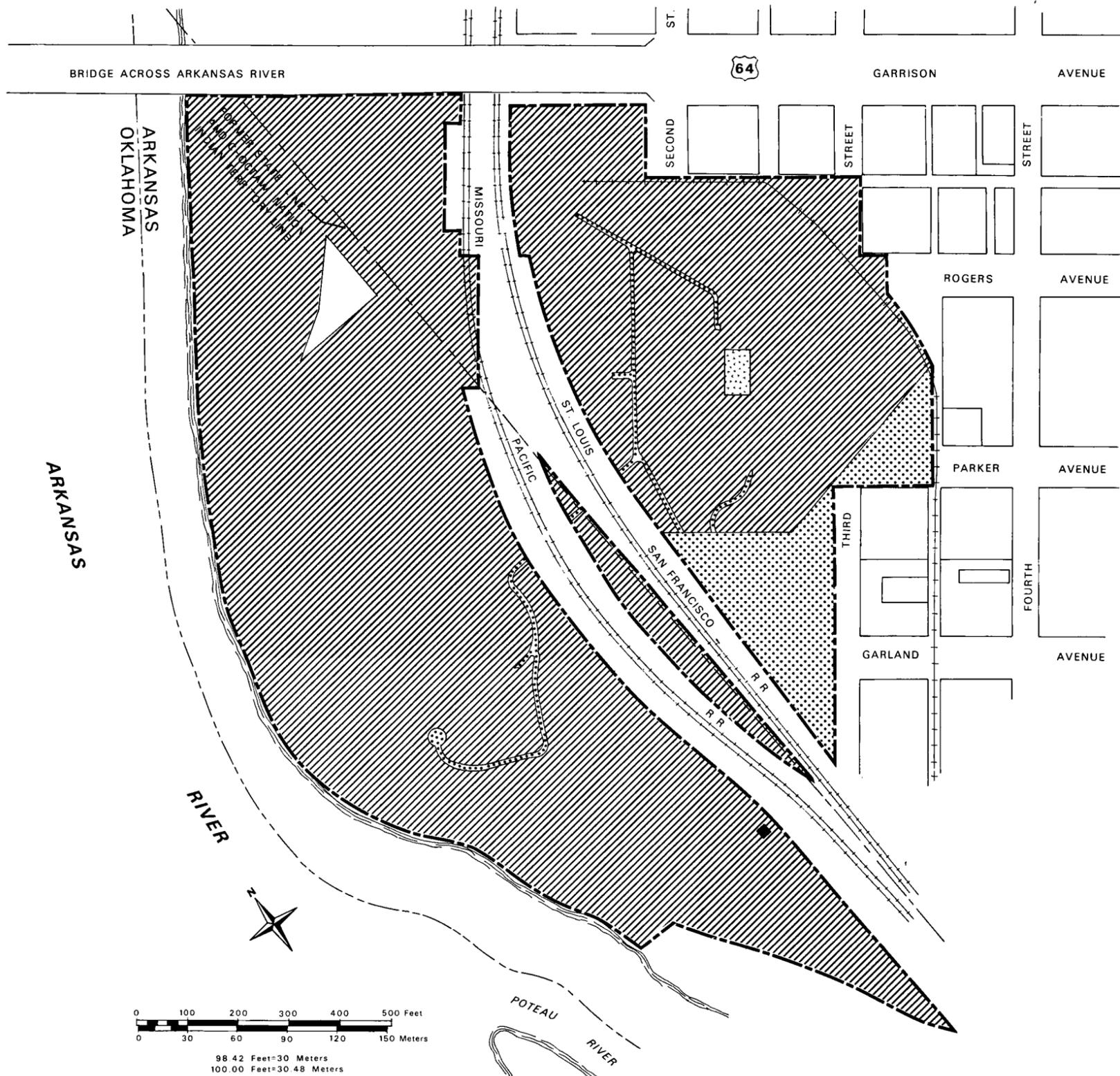
Designate the parade grounds between the officers' quarters and the enlisted men's barracks; remove the paved parking lot on this site; construct a new visitor and employee parking lot south of the gallows on the lot between Second and Third streets south of Parker Avenue, with access from Third

Acquire the necessary interest of 32 acres in Oklahoma across the Arkansas River from Belle Point to ensure scenic preservation and to prevent encroachment of development into the historical scene; purchase these acres from eight landownerships on an opportunity-purchase basis or by eminent domain if a tract is threatened with adverse use

Construct a safe pedestrian crossing from the second fort area to the first fort area by means of an overpass so that Belle Point will be less isolated

Maintain and mow the historical grounds of the second fort and the area surrounding the first fort foundations as at present; in nonhistorical areas, such as around the parking lot and on the railroad median strip, provide or maintain appropriate landscaping and screening; landscape the area bordering Garrison Avenue so as to allow a view of the historic structures from that street; allow other areas, particularly along the river, to grow in natural vegetation

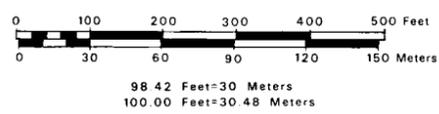
Accept a donation of Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company property (tract 01-119); reserve the right to Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company to continue as long as necessary the operation and maintenance of its power transmission



**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC ZONE
- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
-  PRESERVATION
-  PRESERVATION / ADAPTIVE USE
-  PARK DEVELOPMENT  
(Includes Walkways, Signs & Shelters)
-  CITY UTILITY
-  NONFEDERAL LAND

**MANAGEMENT ZONING**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

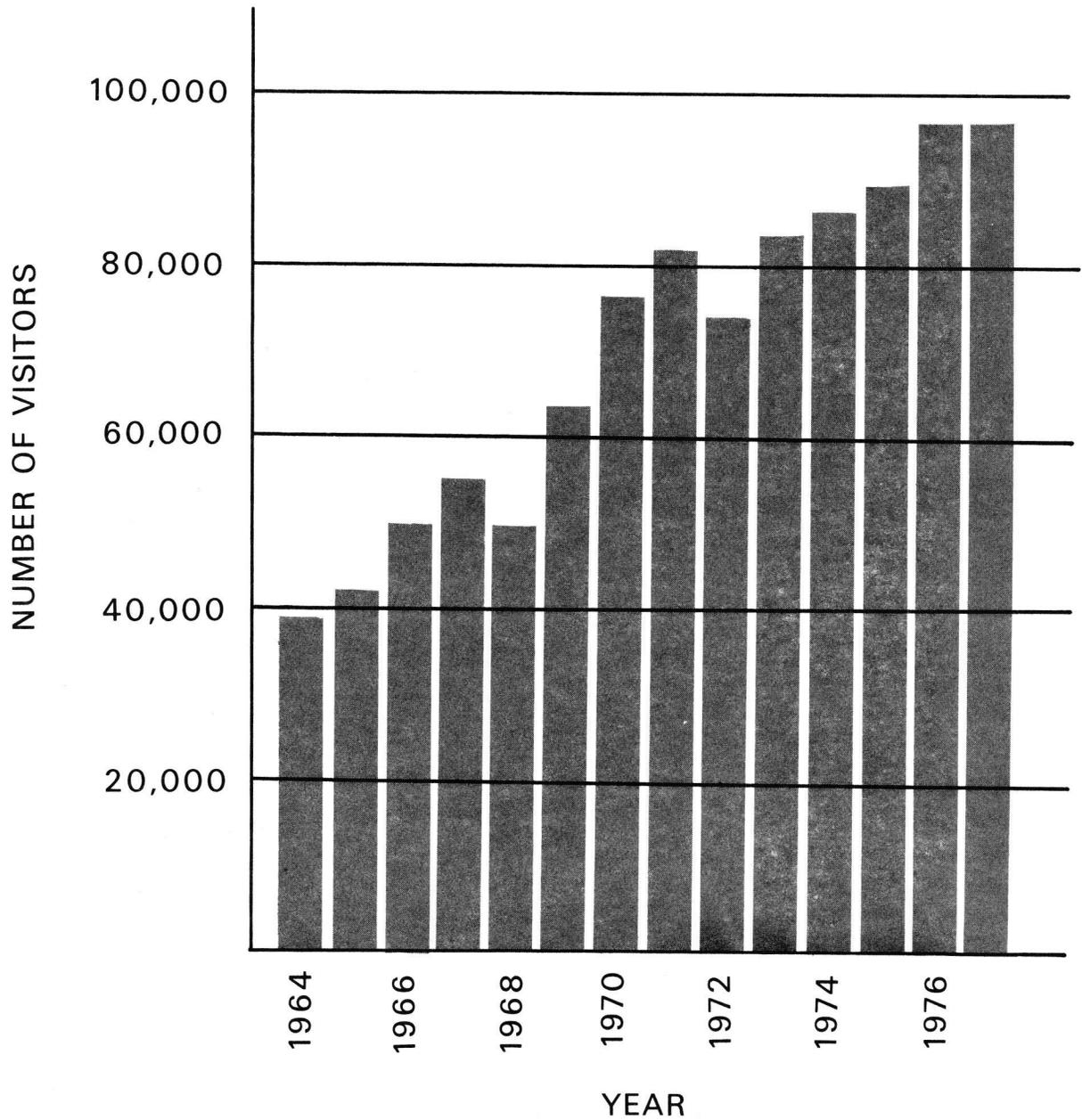
## V I S I T O R   U S E   P L A N

### CHARACTER OF VISITATION

Visitation to Fort Smith National Historic Site is highest in the three summer months. The site is open for use at all times, but building interiors are open only in the daytime. Because site interpretation and visitor activities are minimal, most visitors spend only one to two hours at the site, with peak hourly use occurring in late morning and again in late afternoon. Weekend use on a per-day basis is about 1½ times heavier than weekday use during fall, winter, and spring; in summer, there is no difference between use levels on weekends and weekdays.

The number of visitors to Fort Smith more than doubled between 1964 and 1976, from 39,776 to 98,295, and is still increasing. Present use is well below the carrying capacity of the site. The majority of visitors are family groups, ranging from two to six members typically. Tour maps of the city's historical attractions inform some visitors of the site's existence. Others are drawn by the special events that are sponsored by local historical interests that may include a ceremony on the historic site grounds--with hundreds of people in attendance. Groups account for 4 percent of all visitors to Fort Smith. Some 85 groups (average size, 40) use the site in a typical year, mainly in the spring and fall. These are largely from local and regional schools. These school groups require adequate gathering space in buildings and shelters. A National Park Service interpreter often assists these groups.

Fort Smith National Historic Site is generally one of many attractions that tourists from outside the region visit within the area; however, the site is more often the primary destination of visitors from towns and cities in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma (shown on table 1).



VISITATION AT  
FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Table 1  
Population Centers Within 200 Miles of Site

<u>City</u>	<u>Distance from Fort Smith (mi.)</u>	<u>Population</u>
Fort Smith, Arkansas	-	63,000
Fayetteville, Arkansas	62	31,000
Springdale, Arkansas	71	17,000
Muskogee, Oklahoma	75	38,000
Russellville, Arkansas	77	12,000
Rogers, Arkansas	81	11,000
Okmulgee, Oklahoma	117	16,000
McAlester, Oklahoma	120	17,000
Conway, Arkansas	130	16,000
Hot Springs, Arkansas	137	36,000
Tulsa, Oklahoma	138	262,000
Little Rock, Arkansas	160	132,000
North Little Rock, Arkansas	160	60,000

Visitors from 50 states, Washington, D.C., and several foreign countries signed the guest book at the park between October 1972 and October 1973. During four sample periods in that year, visitor origins were identified and classed as to distance from the site. Overall averages from the limited samples indicated that 30 percent of the visitors live within 100 miles of the park, 10 percent live between 100 and 200 miles distance, and 60 percent live over 200 miles away (table 2). Visitors traveling over 200 miles dominate in the summer and presumably visit the park while on summer vacation. The majority of winter visitors are more likely to live within a 100-mile radius.

Table 2  
Percent of Visitors Living 100 Miles or Less to  
Over 200 Miles from the Site

<u>Sample Period</u>	<u>100 Miles or Less</u>	<u>100 to 200 Miles</u>	<u>Over 200 Miles</u>
12-11-72 to 12-20-72	42	4	54
1-11-73 to 1-20-73	63	9	28
7-11-73 to 7-20-73	24	11	65
8-11-73 to 8-20-73	25	10	65
Overall Average	30	10	60

## ACCESS

Access is adequate along any of five city streets. Although the historic site is located only one block from Garrison Avenue--the major street in the Fort Smith central business district--commercial and industrial buildings currently hide the site.

However, the site will be rendered more visible by acquiring and then by removing obstructing buildings. The city will be asked to improve its signing to help direct national historic site visitors. Visitors, who arrive by private automobile or by bus, will park in the new lot to be constructed at Third Street and Garland Avenue.

## ONSITE CIRCULATION

Circulation within the site will be by walking; provision will be made for circulation by handicapped persons.

As the land-acquisition program progresses and the proposed new boundary is filled out, the numerous intrusions and disruptions to effective visitor circulation on the site will be alleviated or eliminated.

There are basically three geographic sections of Fort Smith National Historic Site: the first (1817) fort at Belle Point, the commissary building at the corner of the second (1846) fort, and the court-house/jail and adjacent gallows of the later Judge Parker period of 1889. The first fort at Belle Point is the most isolated of these elements. Visitors reach Belle Point via a path that crosses the railroad tracks at grade and requires that the visitor negotiate four separate stairways. An overpass will solve train-people conflicts in the future. As all three of these site elements are important in understanding the story of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, all three will be equally accessible to walking visitors.

## INTERPRETIVE THEME

According to Part One of the National Park System Plan--History, Fort Smith National Historic Site illustrates theme 6, Westward Expansion (1763-1898), in particular subtheme 6c, Military Indian Conflicts, facet 2, The Southern Plains. Fort Smith played a major role in the westward movement, the Indian removal, the establishment of the Indian Territory, and the taming of the West, and it served as a stronghold of frontier justice--from reconciliation of conflicts between the Osage and Cherokee Indians to Judge Parker's support of Indian rights and his incorruptible defense of law and order. These profound aspects of the administration of frontier justice will be related in the Fort Smith story.

When the War of 1812 ended, the nation's energies were released for a new era of westward expansion that would carry the frontier beyond the Mississippi. Fort Smith was to become involved in this expansion as an important jumping-off point for the pioneers, through the St. Louis-San Francisco Butterfield Trail.

The Indians were an impediment to the early westward movement for they claimed ownership of the land that the white man wanted. Frontiersmen and statesmen alike suggested that the problem be solved by removing the Indians. This was to become policy when dealing with the Indians. During his administration, Thomas Jefferson had directed Indian agents either to convert eastern tribes to agriculture or to move them to unwanted lands beyond the Mississippi. The first alternative was apparently not a valid one, as was shown by the example of the Cherokee who successfully adopted civilized habits but were moved nevertheless because the white men still found their presence to be intolerable. This intolerance and need for the Indians' land would begin the process of the Indians' removal.

The shifting of Indian tribes about the country became a pattern as bewildering to a casual student of history as it was to the Indians themselves; one of whom has been recorded as addressing a commission thus: "I hear that you have come to move us . . . Since the Great Father promised that we should never be moved, we have been moved five times . . . I think you had better put the Indians on wheels and you can run them about wherever you wish."

It began to appear, however, that a more lasting solution to the Indian problem was at hand. The answer lay in erroneous reports about the condition of western geography. The region west of the 95th meridian, pathfinders agreed, was an arid waste unsuited for habitation--therefore, perfect for Indians. Zebulon Pike spread the false impression first in 1806 when he characterized the Southwest region as unfit for cultivation. In 1820 Major Stephen H. Long led an expedition into the trans-Mississippi West and labeled it the Great American Desert.

Here then was the answer: move all the Indians west. Their land would then be available, conflict would end, and the Indians would be protected from evil influences. President Monroe laid the plan before Congress in 1825, and it was adopted. What had been a piecemeal process of exacting a treaty, in order to give legal sanction and protection to what had already been manifest in the activities of the people, was now a comprehensive government policy, settling the matter for good. It remained only to inform the Indians of this happy solution--for the migrations were supposed to be more or less voluntary. Attempts at persuasion met with limited success until 1828 when Andrew Jackson took office as President.

Jackson used his inaugural address to advocate Indian removal. The people of Georgia, assured of presidential support, instituted measures to confiscate Cherokee lands more rapidly. In response to Chief Justice Marshall's opinion that the state of Georgia had exceeded its authority, Jackson is alleged to have uttered his famous statement, "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it." Jackson thought he could read the public's feelings where practicality conflicted with legality.

The "permanent" Indian country began to fill up now with Cherokee, Choctaw, Delaware, Shawnee, and a host of other tribes. This would be the Red Man's Land, as the treaties had promised, "for as long as trees grow and the waters run."

The policy was doomed from the outset by two factors immediately apparent: the inability of the eastern tribes, who had become accustomed to a sedentary agricultural existence, to adapt to the new environment and the difficulty of these tribes to live peaceably with the Plains Indians, who felt they had been encroached upon. By 1817 unrest among tribes provided sufficient rationalization to launch a fort-building program. Fort Smith was established at Belle Point in that year to preserve order between the Cherokee, who had recently settled there, and the local Osage.

The "permanent" Indian frontier was destined to fail because of yet another factor. As the settlers passed through the Indian country on their way to Oregon and California, they began to perceive that the plains were not as desolate as they had supposed. The notion of the "vast American desert" was slowly supplanted by an almost equally disastrous notion--that the grasslands were as good a place as any for the pioneers to settle. The stage was set for the final drama of Indian-white conflict: the Plains Indian Wars. At the conclusion of this phase, the tribes found themselves confined on islands entirely surrounded by the progeny of the pioneers.

The little garrison on Belle Point served its purpose until other forts were established further up the Arkansas in 1824. The military use of lands at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers might have ended there except that white settlement had advanced to this navigable portion of the river, and Fort Smith was a center of commercial activity. The citizens of Fort Smith pointed out to Congress the community's virtues as a supply depot and the necessity of adequate defense, and Congress authorized a new fort.

The garrison's military function in history has been nearly eclipsed by its designation as a federal court with jurisdiction over non-Indians in the Indian Territory (as well as part of Arkansas) from 1875 to 1896. In enforcing the Intercourse Law, designed to protect the Indians from evil influence by white men, the court carried out the function previously performed by the army.

In 1867 federal troops were replaced by a federal marshal who carried out the laws of the vast Indian Territory. The job fell to Judge Isaac C. Parker, a man who carried out this duty in a manner that is a brilliant exception to the generally tawdry record of dealings with Indians. In his 21 years on the bench, Judge Parker was regarded by the tribes as a friend and protector. Parker had no illusion that he could obstruct the tide of white civilization, nor did he want to. But he determined that whatever fate was in store for the Indians, in relation to the dominant society as a whole, they would not be set upon by individual ruffians operating outside the law.

The region was rampant with outlaws at that time, and the Parker court introduced "justice" to it. It was fortunate, for innocent and accused alike, that a man of impeccable character sat on the bench, for Judge Parker's power was enormous. Initially, his court was the final word, and the law dictated the death penalty in cases of murder and rape. These facts, coupled with the enormous area of jurisdiction and the great quantity of thieves and murderers who sought sanctuary in the Indian Territory, gave an unwarranted reputation of bloodthirstiness to his court. In later years, Parker's jurisdiction was whittled down steadily, and Congress declared that in capital cases his decisions would be subject to review. While piqued by this turn of events, Parker said, "I have no objection to appeal. I even favor abolition of the death penalty, provided there is a certainty of punishment, whatever the punishment may be, for it is in the uncertainty of punishment following crime lies the weakness of our halting justice."

In many of the reversals of Parker's decisions after 1889, the Supreme Court took exception to his instructions to the jury, saying that they were excessive and prejudicial. Judge Parker insisted that the conditions of the frontier created difficulties in pursuing justice that the Court, and the East in general, could not understand. Parker had assumed the bench in the land of six-gun justice, and only by the most scrupulous pursuit of the principle that the law must prevail, regardless of where the crime takes place, by whom, or against whom, did he achieve a high reputation for the fairness of his court. It was ironic that Judge Parker should find himself lectured in 1893 by Chief Justice Fuller: "Whatever special necessity for enforcing the law in all its rigor there may be in a particular quarter of the country, the rules by which, and the manner in which, the administration of justice should be conducted, are the same everywhere, and argumentative matter of this sort should not be thrown into the scales by the judicial officer who holds them."

The frontier was closing (as indeed the U.S. Census Bureau officially declared in 1890), and Judge Parker had, like many an

honest man, officiated at his own obsolescence. In the meantime, his had been a voice in the wilderness proclaiming that American democracy is rule of law, not mob will; of principle, not expediency.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Innovative communication methods will be required at Fort Smith because the site layout selected for parking, visitor facilities, and interpretation, when superimposed on the historic resources, will promote travel that leads backward in time. The most recent of the historic structures, the courthouse/jail, is both closer to and more apparent from the parking lot. This building is also the most famous, containing the courtroom of the death sentence (as the visitors perceive it) and the adjacent gallows. In that the building provides adequate space, it will contain the most intricate and authentic of the interpretive devices, exhibits, and artifacts, as well as personal services. It is clear that visitors will be strongly inclined to go there first, regardless of any attempts to influence them otherwise.

To facilitate visitor appreciation of the three fort periods early after arrival, an orientation exhibit will be placed at the edge of the parking lot along the main path of the courthouse/jail; the exhibit will have drawings and period dates for the three principal site elements, primarily in the form of a large map. Shade will be provided for the viewers. If there are particular protection or safety problems for the visitors needing early communication, space will be provided for that, too, although separately from the interpretation. Visitors should be made aware of special conditions at the historic site, such as the dangers of ongoing restoration construction. A self-guided site map will be available here, which will relate the fort's history in brief synopsis and also indicate the site elements by location along with their original appearance and functions. The circulation route will be shown. The exhibit, along with the site factors already discussed, will determine the direction of almost all visitor circulation. (Of course, visitors will have the option of taking any circulation path they wish.)

On the way to the courthouse/jail, visitors will pass by the gallows that was used to implement the court's most severe sentences. An interpretive wayside will associate the gallows with the court in perspective--perhaps by comparing the relatively few total hangings with total court cases.

Following the pathway, visitors will enter the jail wing through the historic doorway on the east side--not via the main courthouse steps. This entry will be designed with an entrance ramp to permit access by handicapped persons.

A uniformed employee will attend a contact/publication sales area adjacent to this entryway, with a lobby and restrooms nearby. Exhibit space and audiovisual facilities will be provided on this same level. An assembly area for organized groups will be on the floor above or below.

The major exhibit in the jail wing will be a map, programmed with narration three to four minutes in length, which will show the displacement of tribes as the frontier advanced, the "permanent" Indian frontier, and the shrinking of the Indian country to the reservation system. This map, which will convey the facts of Indian removal in a quickly grasped manner, will exist in an exhibit setting designed to portray facets of the story without attempting to convey details--for example, historic pictures of some of the tribes involved and photos of well-known criminals and marshals of the Parker era. Artifacts from the 1817 fort will be displayed.

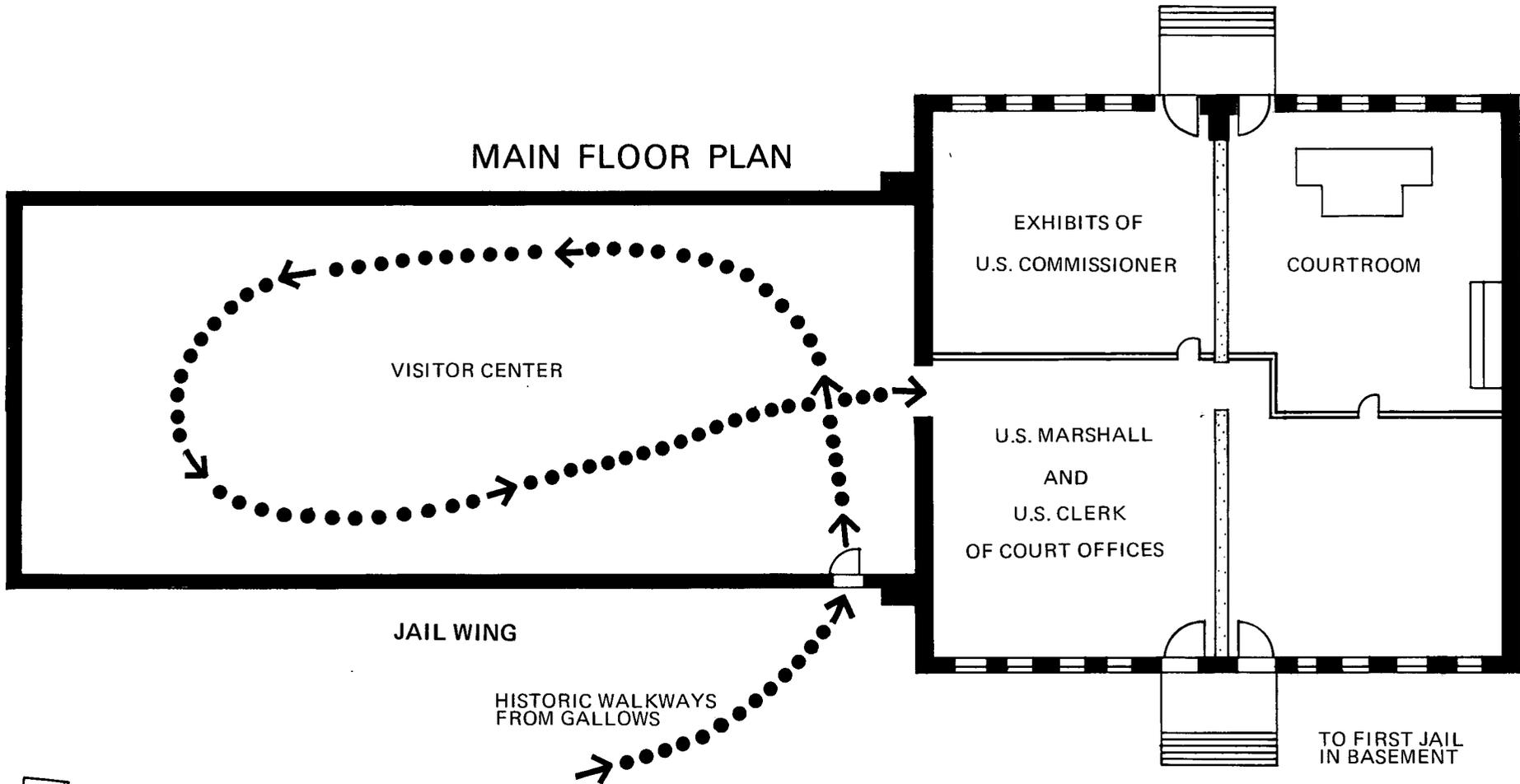
A movie or slide presentation will develop the theme of the halting attempts to deal justly with the Indians. The abstract concept of Indian removal (abstract insofar as its complexities can only be dealt with effectively in a publication) will be related directly to the Parker court, integrating the two major thematic elements of the historic site (i.e., frontier forts and the court). This might be accomplished through the example of a major court case. With reference to the historical antecedents of the case, the film could show how the Parker court was a final manifestation of the attempt to insulate the Indian Territory from the impacts of white society--an attempt that had begun insofar as Fort Smith was concerned by the army in 1817. With this point firmly implanted, visitors should be able to identify and put in proper perspective all of the structures involved in the story, regardless of sequence.

Visitors will pass from the jail wing into an open area of exhibits showing the functions of the U.S. marshal's, U.S. commissioner's, and U.S. clerk of the court offices in the first floor courthouse. These exhibits will show how the court offices were a major role in the system of court justice. After viewing the exhibits, visitors will proceed into the courtroom.

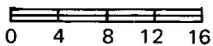
The courtroom will be an exhibit-in-place, without added displays. An audio program will recreate a short courtroom event, such as Judge Parker's final instructions to the jury, or a sentencing.

Following the program, visitors will exit the courtroom onto the east porch, descend the main stairs, and view the "Hell on the Border" dungeon below the courtroom. Here they will have an opportunity to hear an audio message. Upon exiting, visitors will see the commissary building and a directional sign identifying it.

# MAIN FLOOR PLAN



NORTH



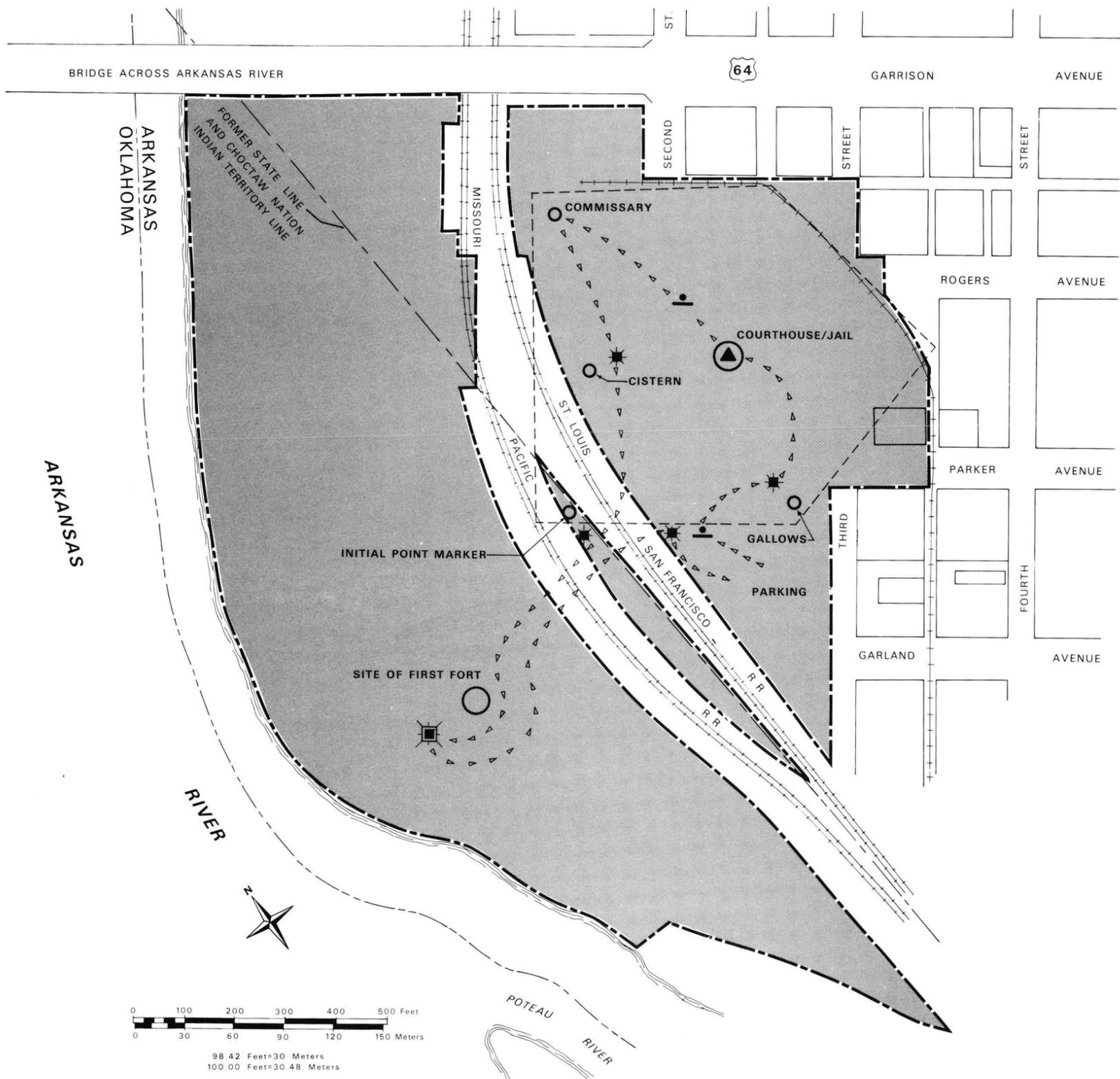
INTERPRETIVE  
SEQUENCE



## COURTHOUSE / JAIL CIRCULATION FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- LEGEND**
- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
  - HISTORIC FEATURES
  - OUTDOOR INTERPRETIVE DEVICE
  - INTERPRETIVE SHELTER
  - ORIENTATION/DIRECTIONAL SIGNS AND EXHIBITS
  - PRINCIPLE INTERPRETIVE PATH (With Suggested Direction of Travel)
  - VISITOR CENTER
  - SECOND FORT BOUNDARY

**VISITOR USE PLAN**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**

At the commissary building the role of the building as a barracks, supply depot, and private quarters will be depicted through exhibits. There will be exhibits and/or programs describing the appearance, function, operations, and accomplishments of the second fort.

From the commissary most visitors will proceed through the second fort grounds, passing the cistern, which will carry a simple label-sign (perhaps with photograph) indicating its period and purpose. An overpass will take pedestrians above the two sets of railroad tracks to a highland strip where the Initial Point Marker is located. This marker will be interpreted by a wayside exhibit.

Beyond the tracks, visitors will find the foundations that remain of the 1817 fort. A few simple label-signs near ground level will identify the various wall and/or enclosure portions. The surface profile here will not be interrupted by any artificial intrusions, and the wooded bank across the river, which approximates the natural scene in 1817, will permit visitors to imagine themselves transported back in time to that period.

Interpretation of the 1817 site will be provided in a shelter located just over the bank from the foundations--in order to avoid infringing on the view and to better avoid noise from an adjacent foundry. The shelter will include a sunscreen for comfort so that visitors will be more likely not to hasten away to an air conditioner and miss the experience here. Interpretive media will recreate the historical scene of a frontier fort of 1817 and will convey the significance of this portion of the historic site as it relates to the primary theme of Indian removal. An audio device may be used as well. A few simple benches may be placed in shade below the view.

At this point, visitors will have seen the entire site and all of its resources. They can then return directly to the parking lot or can revisit a site of particular appeal. There will be one final interpretive device a short distance before the parking lot that will summarize the message of the Fort Smith National Historic Site and its role in communicating our heritage.

Researchers and exhibit preparers can be expected occasionally to use the collection of historical materials and to store these materials if necessary. Publications will be produced by the National Park Service to provide in-depth information for those wanting it.

#### TIME SPAN OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES

To most closely achieve the intended balance and to emphasize the various thematic elements and historic resources on the site, an estimate of average time expected to be spent by visitors in various

activities is presented (see table 3). It is recognized that exceptions will occur. Nevertheless, these estimates will be useful to those preparing exhibits and programs.

Table 3  
Visitor Activities and Average Time Spent

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Average Time (minutes)</u>
Walking about grounds, using restrooms	17-20
Visiting orientation facility	2-5
Viewing gallows	5-10
Visiting lobby/publication sales/contact station (jail)	2-10
Viewing exhibits (jail)	20-25
Viewing audiovisual (jail)	10-20
Visiting exhibits in court offices	2-4
Visiting Parker's courtroom	9-10
Visiting dungeon	3-5
Visiting commissary	9-10
Viewing cistern	1-2
Viewing Initial Point Marker	1-3
Visiting Belle Point	<u>10-15</u>
	91-139

#### CAPACITY OF PROPOSED FACILITIES

Statistics show that the maximum visitor use is in July, with the peak hourly use occurring during late mornings and late afternoons on weekends. The average stay is approximately two hours. During the summer, the buildings are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., giving a daily ten-hour period for visitor use.

A goal of this General Management Plan is to accommodate as many people as possible during a ten-hour period within the proposed facilities, while maintaining a high-quality visitor experience and not being detrimental to the resources.

Each area varies in the number of visitors it can handle. This is due to the limitations on parking, the ability of the resources to withstand use, and the restrictions on capacity imposed by bottlenecks in the critical facilities. The physical size of a room and the length of an audiovisual program in that room will determine how many people could view the program in a given time. Audiovisual programs will be offered in the courtroom in the courthouse and the auditorium in the visitor center; consequently, these two areas could limit overall capacity.

The courtroom will have a sound and light program that will take 12 minutes, including the turnover time. At 12 minutes per showing, the program can be shown ten times in a two-hour period. Because the visitor capacity of the courtroom is 32 people for one program, the following number of people can visit this facility in one day:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &10 \text{ programs} \times 32 \text{ people} = 320 \text{ people per two-hour period} \\
 &320 \text{ people (two-hour period)} \times 5 \text{ periods} = 1,600 \text{ people per day}
 \end{aligned}$$

The program in the auditorium will take 25 minutes, including the film and turnover time. Within a two-hour period, this film can be shown 4-4/5 times. Since the seating capacity of the auditorium is 50 people for one showing, the following number of people can see this film in one day:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4\text{-}4/5 \text{ showings} \times 50 \text{ people} = 240 \text{ people per two-hour period} \\
 &240 \text{ people (two-hour period)} \times 5 \text{ periods} = 1,200 \text{ people per day}
 \end{aligned}$$

These 1,200 people per day in the auditorium will not strictly limit the capacity of this facility because a new group auditorium that seats 100 people will accommodate groups such as those typically arriving by bus. Therefore, the two auditoriums will accommodate up to 340 people in a two-hour period.

The maximum daily use of the existing facilities is 800 people; however, these facilities could handle a greater number of people. The proposed facilities could handle a daily maximum of 1,200 people, considering the auditorium the limiting area; or a daily maximum of 1,600 people, considering the courtroom the limiting area. These figures assume that all visitors participate in the basic interpretive tour and all programs.

The proposed parking lot will not limit visitor capacity because additional parking can be accommodated on nearby city streets. The estimated daily parking is as follows:

Average two-hour period parking:

Parking at proposed lot -

$$\begin{aligned}
 &50 \text{ cars} \times 3.5 \text{ people per car} &&= 175 \text{ people} \\
 &3 \text{ buses} \times 40 \text{ people per bus} &&= 120
 \end{aligned}$$

Parking on city streets  
(within approximately a 500-foot radius of visitor center) -

$$\begin{aligned}
 &73 \text{ cars} \times 3.5 \text{ people per car} &&= \frac{256}{551}
 \end{aligned}$$

Average ten-hour (daily) period parking:

551 people (per two-hour period) x 5 periods = 2,755 people

Thus, vicinity parking could allow 2,755 people to visit the site per day. Although this is a greater number than could be accommodated at the audiovisual programs, it is quite conceivable for the site to handle this number. Other factors would have to be considered if conditions became more crowded. It would be likely that a percentage of the visitors would bypass the audiovisual programs or management would suspend the programs, allowing visitors to flow through the buildings at a faster rate. The outdoor features have a greater and more flexible capacity, and no limiting capacity will be attributed to them.

Projection of present visitation trends indicate that the above capacity of 1,200 people per day should not be reached until approximately 1987, and 1,600 people per day should not be reached until approximately 1997.

# G E N E R A L   D E V E L O P M E N T   P L A N

## LAND ACQUISITION

There are several purposes in acquiring new lands adjacent to the Fort Smith National Historic Site. These purposes are to preserve lands deemed historical; to preserve wooded land from being destroyed, as it is part of the historical scene; and to maintain the historical setting by eliminating nonhistorical intrusions:

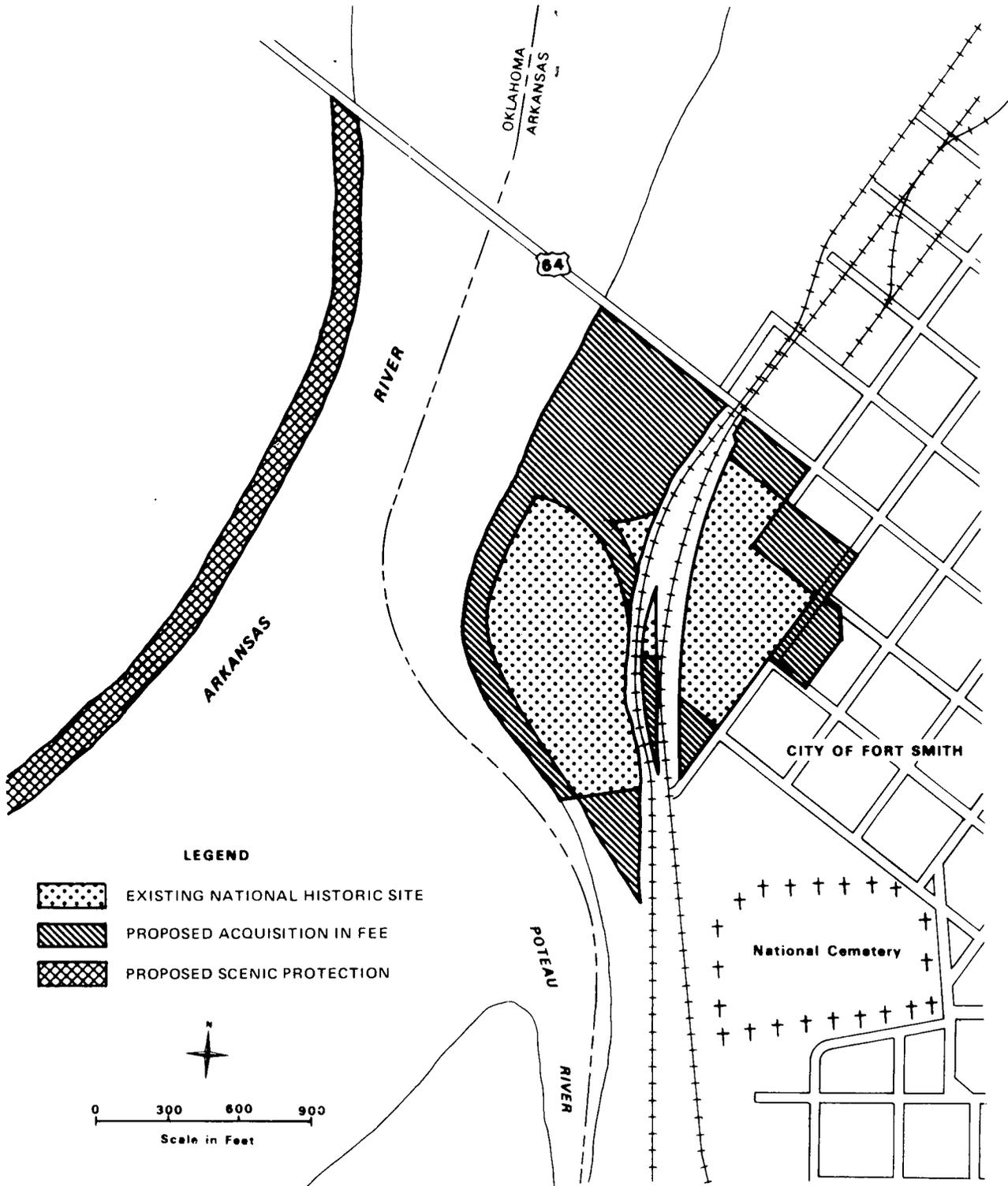
Within the newly authorized expanded boundary, the following tracts have been acquired:

Tract No.	Former Owner	Approximate No. Acres
01-107	R.S. Micks, et al	1.09
01-110	Coca-Cola Bottling Company	0.05
01-115	Eastern National Park & Monument Association	0.60
01-119	Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company	0.30
01-124	Lewis Sales Company, Inc.	0.31
01-125	Fort Smith Paper Company	0.45
01-127	Speer Hardware Company	0.71
01-128	E. M. Lester	0.15

Tract 01-136, owned by Doris Mikel, et al, containing 9.54 acres, is yet to be acquired by eminent domain proceedings, both because of price disagreement and because of clouded title.

The following tracts are also included within the newly authorized boundary, but they will only be acquired should their present use change or should they become available for opportunity purchase. Improvements on these lands will be evaluated at the time they are acquired.

Tract No.	Present Owner	Approximate No. Acres
01-120	Belle Point Beverage Company, Inc.	0.28
01-122	Forgings, Inc.	1.30
01-123	J. S. Lewis	0.21
01-129	R. Mitchell & Associates	0.42
01-130	J. T. Williams, et al	0.70
01-131	Belle Point Beverage Company, Inc.	1.68

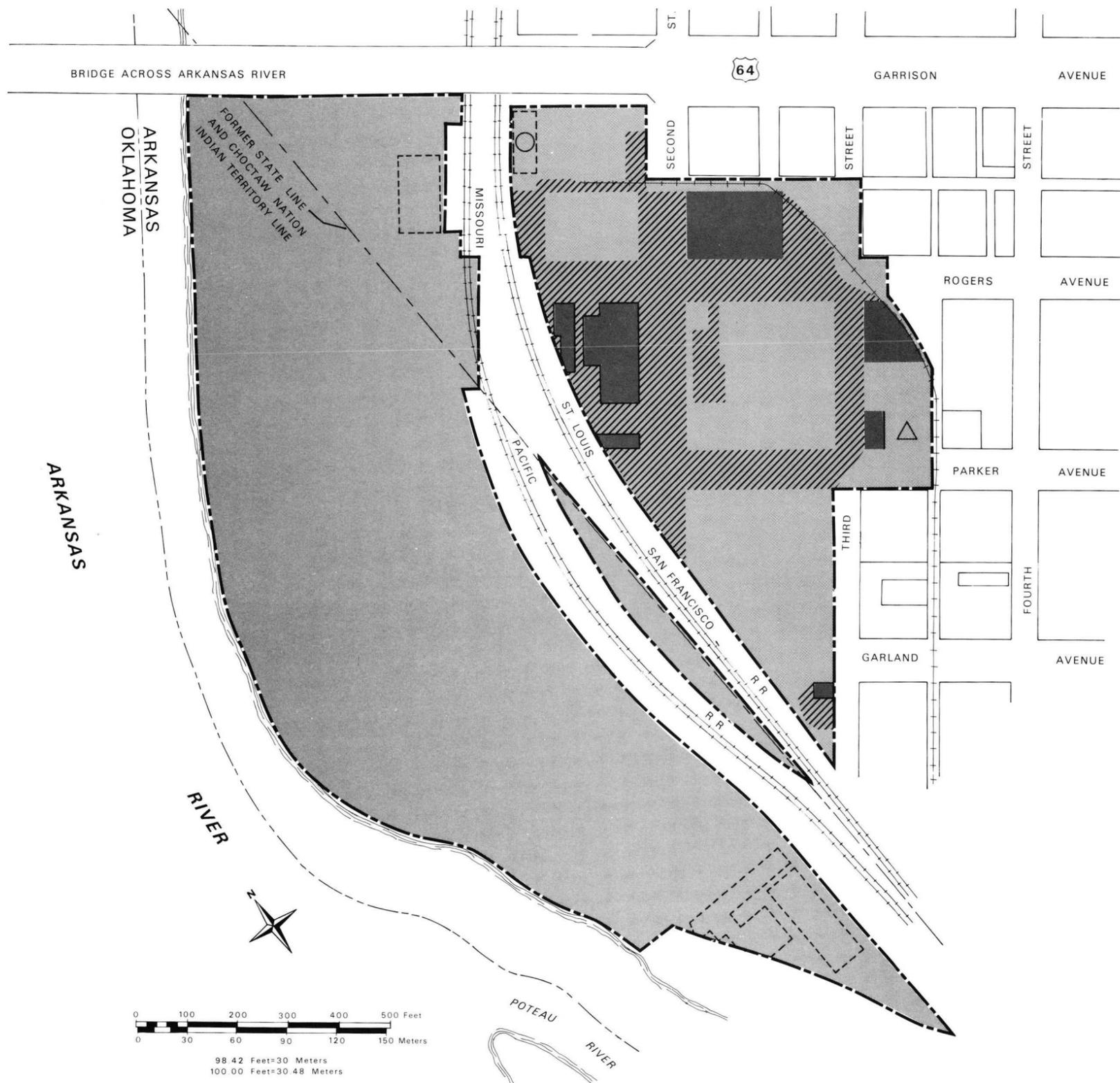


**LAND TO BE ACQUIRED**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

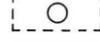
**ARKANSAS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

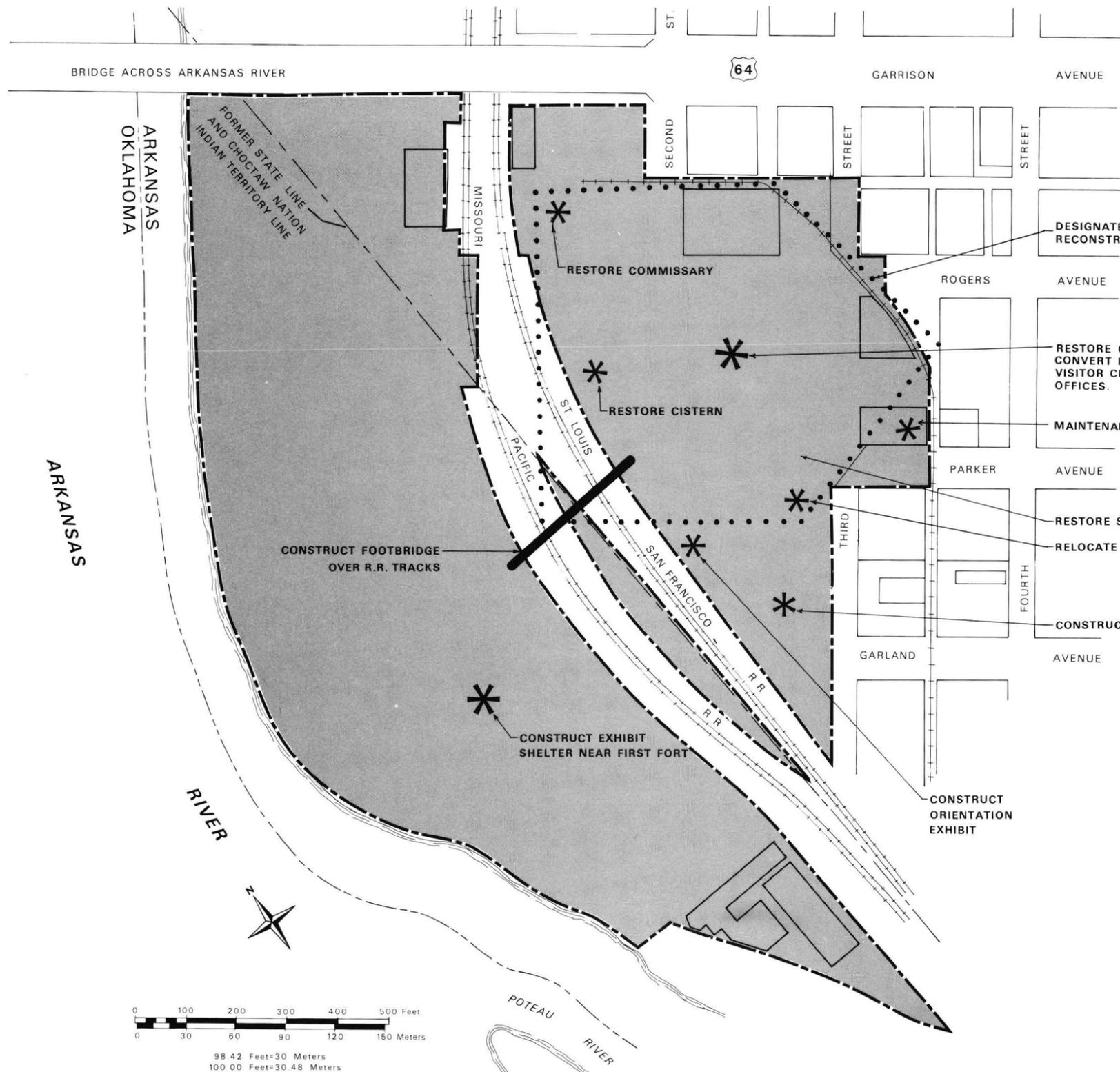
421	20014
DSC	OCT 78



**LEGEND**

-  HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
-  PAVING TO BE OBLITERATED
-  BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED
-  BUILDING TO BE UTILIZED OR DEMOLISHED WHEN ACQUIRED
-  HISTORIC BUILDING TO BE PRESERVED
-  BUILDING TO BE UTILIZED

**DISPOSITION OF  
STRUCTURES TO BE ACQUIRED**  
FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
ARKANSAS



DESIGNATE SECOND FORT BOUNDARY  
RECONSTRUCT PORTIONS OF STONE WALL

RESTORE COURTHOUSE INTERIOR AND JAIL EXTERIOR.  
CONVERT INTERIOR OF JAIL TO  
VISITOR CENTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICES.

MAINTENANCE FACILITY

RESTORE STREETS TO GRADE

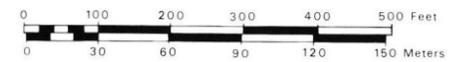
RELOCATE GALLOWS TO HISTORIC LOCATION

CONSTRUCT PAVED PARKING AREA

CONSTRUCT  
ORIENTATION  
EXHIBIT

**LEGEND**

 HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY



98.42 Feet=30 Meters  
100.00 Feet=30.48 Meters

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR— NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
ARKANSAS

The necessary interest will be acquired in eight ownerships totaling 32 acres across the Arkansas River on the Oklahoma shore. Four tracts owned by the city of Fort Smith and totaling 6.42 acres will be acquired by donation.

To improve site integrity and to eliminate site intrusions, the following structures will be modified and/or razed and the sites will be returned to grade:

Coca-Cola bottling plant (James W. Meek) - The cistern within the main building will be preserved. The building complex will be demolished and returned to grade.

Lewis Sales Company, Inc. - The building will be retained and used for maintenance facilities.

Fort Smith Paper Company

Speer Hardware Company

O.K. Transfer Company (E.M. Lester)

#### DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (Details of this development appear in the "Resource Management Plan" section.)

- First fort: The historic fabric of the stone foundations will be preserved. The vista across the Arkansas River will be maintained.
- Second fort: An archeological investigation will be conducted to determine locations of the stone walls, which will be reconstructed in portions, with the remainder marked at ground level. Building foundations will be designated at grade level.
- Cistern: The concrete cover will be replaced by one typical of its historical period.
- Commissary: Restoration of the interior and exterior of this structure will entail rebuilding of porches, reroofing with slate, restoration of stone floor, and reconstruction of hoist machine.
- Courthouse/jail: The restoration work of the 1957 Fort Smith Public Historical Restoration, Inc. will remain in the courthouse. The jail wing will be used for a visitor center and administrative offices. The

historic exterior of the entire building will remain in its present state.

Gallows: The reconstructed gallows with its adjacent second fort stone wall will be relocated to its original location.

Landscape: The existing paved parking lot beside the courthouse/jail will be removed. The grounds of the second fort and the area surrounding the first fort foundations will be mowed as at present. Open areas, such as the railroad median strip and sites along Garrison Avenue, will be landscaped; other areas along the river will be left to grow in natural vegetation.

DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES RELATED TO VISITOR USE (Details of this development appear in the "Visitor Use Plan" section.)

Parking area: A parking area will be constructed for visitors and employees south of the relocated gallows, with access from Third Street and with a capacity of 50 cars and 3 buses. At the north corner of the parking lot, an interpretive station will inform visitors of the choices of interpretive routes to follow. Overflow parking--expected to be needed only for special events--will have to be accommodated on adjacent city streets. When tract 01-123 is acquired, it will provide space for additional parking.

Gallows: An interpretive wayside will be located near the gallows.

Jail wing: The first floor of the jail wing will have an exhibit area, a contact/publication sales area, restrooms, a lobby, and audiovisual facilities. A group assembly area will be located on the floor above or below. Entrance ramps to the courtroom level will permit use by handicapped persons.

Courthouse: In the courthouse, the courtroom and dungeon will have audio programs.

Commissary: The commissary will be fitted with an audio message that will be utilized in the off-season. Some exhibits or models will be located upstairs.

Railroad overpass: A pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks will be constructed from the second fort to the first fort area. Design will also permit use by handicapped persons.

Initial Point Marker: The marker will be interpreted by a wayside exhibit.

First fort: The excavated foundation of the first fort will be maintained as an onsite historic resource. An exhibit shelter, rest facility, and audio station will be provided just over the bank from the foundations.

Final interpretive station: A final interpretive device will be located a short distance from the parking lot.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES RELATED TO OPERATIONS

Administrative offices: The second floor of the jail wing will be adapted for staff offices and working space. Following is the square footage needs for these offices:

Superintendent's office	200 sq. ft.
Secretary's office	150
Chief interpreter's office	150
Chief ranger's office	150
Seasonal and technician offices	200
Conference room	200
Copy room	200
Files	150
Library	200
General storage	200
Artifact storage	200
Interpretive and artifact workroom	400
Hallways	200
Restrooms	200
Total space	2,800 sq. ft.

Maintenance area: The maintenance operation will be located on the property at Parker Avenue and Third Street, formerly owned by Lewis Sales Co., Inc. The part of the building outside the second fort boundary will be retained and utilized; the part within the boundary will be demolished. Within the building and yard, the following facilities will be provided:

<u>Covered Space</u>	<u>Square Footage</u>
Shop area	1,440
Warehouse	384
Vehicle storage - four stalls	900
Maintenance office	144
Flammables storage	100
	<u>2,968</u>
 <u>Uncovered Space</u>	
Storage yard	5,000
Total	7,968

Site improvements: The following streets will be closed:

Second Street from the alley behind Speer Building to the railroad right-of-way

Third Street from Rogers Avenue to Parker Avenue

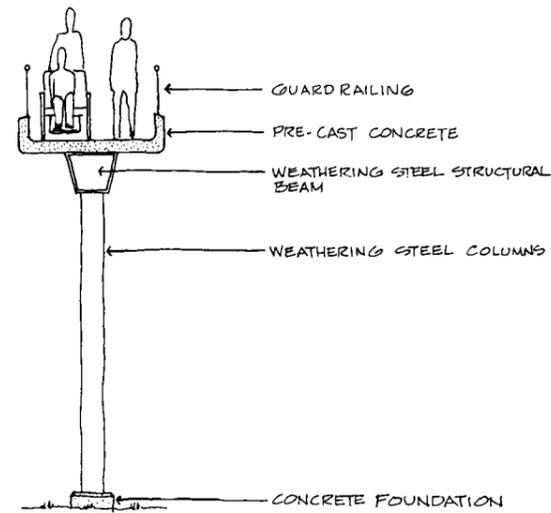
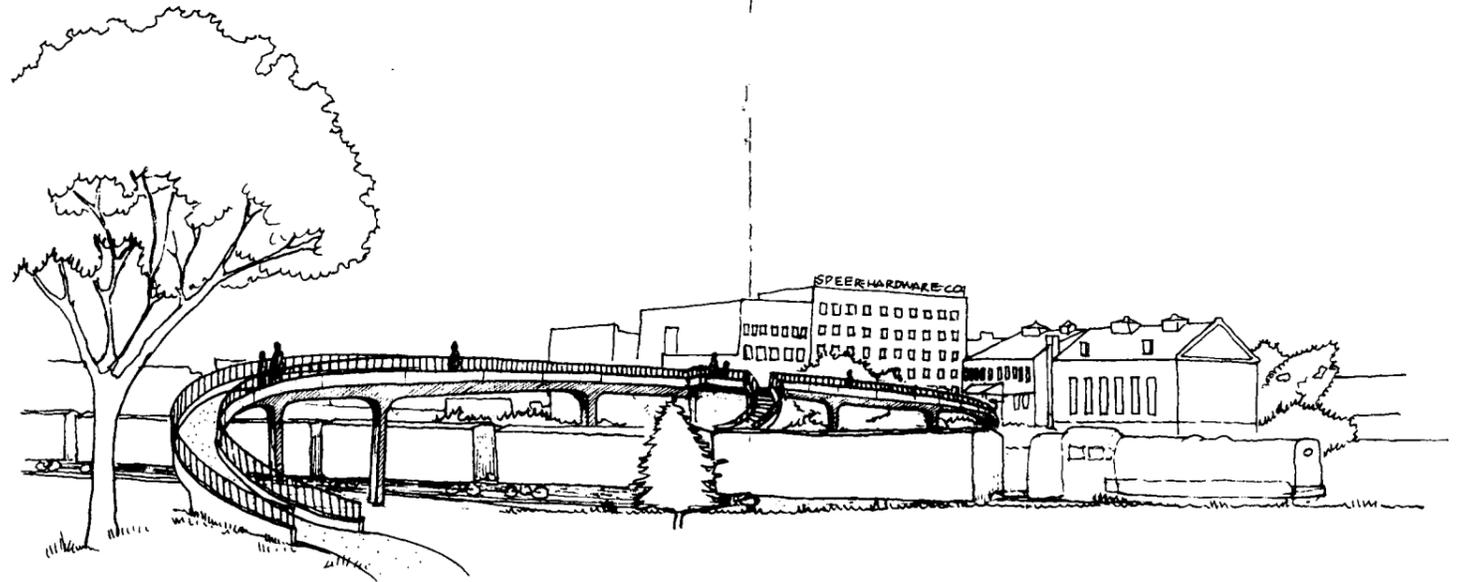
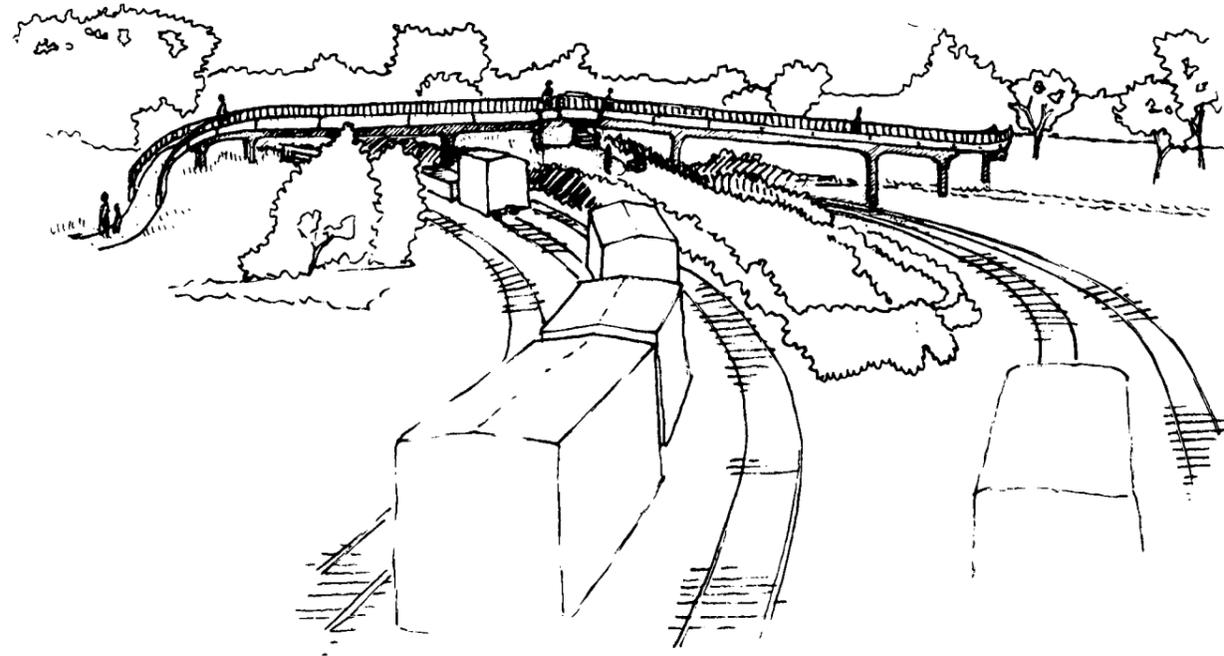
Rogers Avenue from Third Street to the railroad right-of-way

Parker Avenue from Third Street to the railroad right-of-way

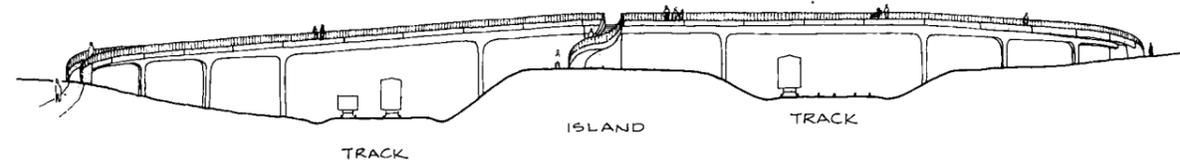
Streets closed to traffic will be obliterated, and the sites will be restored to their original grade.

Continued access from Rogers Avenue to Third Street and from Third Street to Parker Avenue will be allowed.

F O R T S M I T H N A T I O N A L H I S T O R I C S I T E

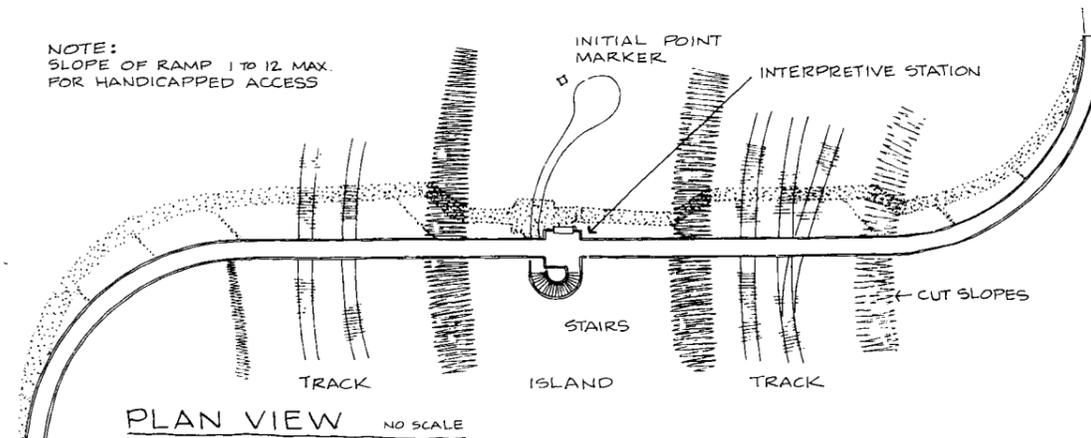


SECTION NO SCALE

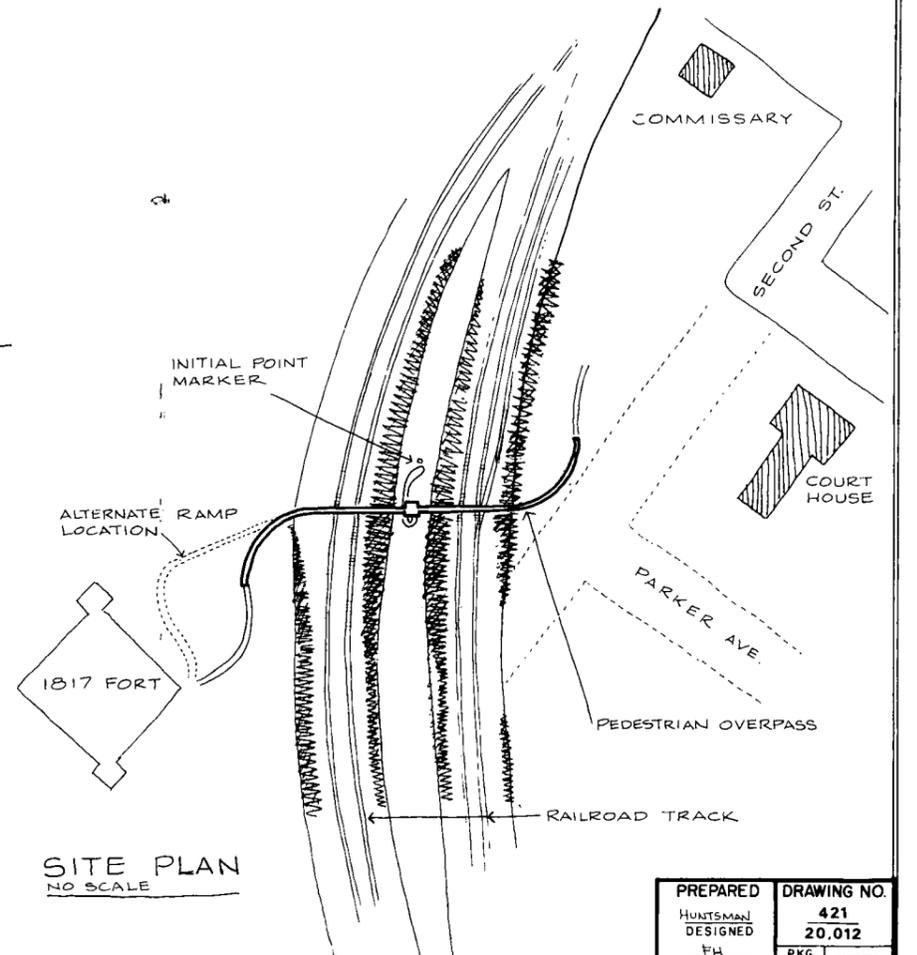


ELEVATION

NOTE:  
SLOPE OF RAMP 1 TO 12 MAX.  
FOR HANDICAPPED ACCESS



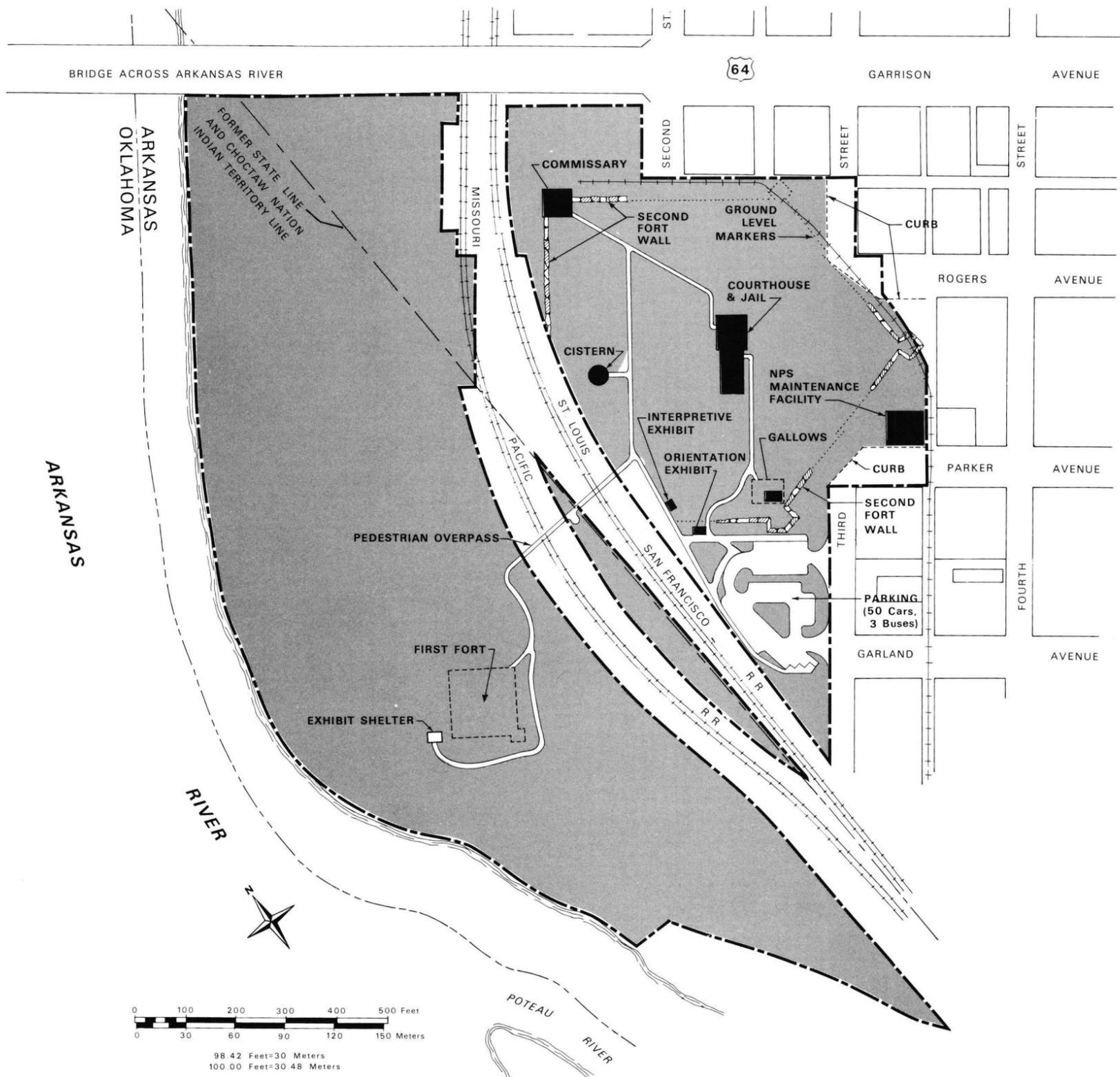
PLAN VIEW NO SCALE



SITE PLAN NO SCALE

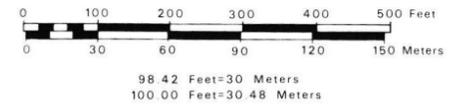
P E D E S T R I A N O V E R P A S S

PREPARED	HUNTSMAN	DRAWING NO.	421
DESIGNED	BY	DATE	20.012
DRAWN	PKG NO.	SHEET	
CHECKED	DATE	OF	
DEC 7 7			



- LEGEND**
-  HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
  -  GROUND COVER (Within Boundary)
  -  STRUCTURE
  -  WALK AND STREET (Within Boundary)
  -  STONE WALL

**DEVELOPMENT DESIGN**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
**ARKANSAS**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR— NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## PHASING

Basically, the pattern to be followed in phasing is to first acquire land and structures and then move all existing operations, exhibits, and storage into appropriate buildings so that construction and restoration can take place in the historic structures. Once work on the historic buildings is complete, operations and visitor services will be moved back into them, and nonhistoric and nonutilitarian properties will be razed. Restoring of grade, landscaping, and putting in walkways and stone walls will follow. Last, opportunity-purchase property will be acquired, when available, and disposition made on acquired structures.

Phases of acquisition, construction, and development are as follows:

Land acquisition has been completed on all priority tracts within the site boundary, with the exception of tract 01-136 (D. Mikel, et al).

### Short-Range

Move maintenance operations into building at Third Street and Parker Avenue

Construct a new parking lot at Third Street and Garland Avenue, a new orientation facility adjacent to the parking lot, and an interpretive shelter at the first fort

Move the Old Fort Museum from the commissary

Restore the commissary

Remove the Coca-Cola facilities except for one fenced yard and one storage building

Close Parker Avenue from Second Street to Third Street

Close Second Street from Rogers Avenue to Parker Avenue

Complete archeological survey work to determine the original location of the gallows and second fort wall, and survey footings sites for overpass

Construct a pedestrian overpass over the railroad tracks

Restore Parker Avenue and Second Street to grade

Relocate and reconstruct the gallows and a portion of adjacent second fort wall

Construct a walkway from the parking lot to the courthouse

Remove the Speer Hardware Company building

Move staff and visitor operations into the Fort Smith Paper Company building (or another appropriate structure)

Restore the courthouse/jail, and construct a visitor center and administrative offices in the jail wing

Remove the old parking area next to the courthouse

Return the grounds around the courthouse to grade, and landscape

Move operations back into the courthouse/jail

Remove the Fort Smith Paper Company and the remaining Coca-Cola building and yard

Reconstruct portions of the second fort wall

Place the walkways, and landscape

### Long-Range

Acquire the opportunity-purchase properties

Do landscaping improvements on the Oklahoma scenic protection area

Determine the disposition of structures on the opportunity-purchase properties

Remove the power lines

## A P P E N D I X E S

- A: LEGISLATION
- B: INDEX TO PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES
- C: COST ESTIMATES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL  
MANAGEMENT PLAN
- D: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A: LEGISLATION

9. Fort Smith National Historic Site

Establishment authorized-----Act of September 13, 1961

An Act Authorizing the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes, approved September 13, 1961 (75 Stat. 489)

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to designate for preservation as the Fort Smith National Historic Site the site of the original Fort Smith established in 1817 on LaBelle Point at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers, together with such adjoining property as the Secretary may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act. The area so designated shall include also the commissary building and the barracks building in which Judge Isaac Parker's courtroom has been restored, both of such buildings having been a part of the fort built during the latter part of the 1830's.

Fort Smith  
National Historic Site, Ark.  
Establishment.

SEC. 2. Within the area designated pursuant to section 1 hereof, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to procure by purchase, donation, with donated funds, or otherwise, land and interests in lands: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall purchase no property under this Act until the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, conveys to the United States, without expense thereto, all right, title, and interest of such city in and to the property designated by the Secretary as necessary for the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site. When the historically significant lands and structures comprising the designated area have been acquired as herein provided, the Fort Smith National Historic Site shall be established and notice thereof shall be published in the Federal Register: *Provided further*, That lands purchased by the Secretary for the purposes of this Act shall be within the exterior boundaries of the following described tracts of land:

Publication  
in F.R.

A three-sided, approximately 0.3-acre tract about 250 feet eastward of the easterly abutment of the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridge over the Arkansas River, bounded on all sides by railroad right-of-way 100 feet wide, approved by the Department of the Interior May 2, 1887, as delineated on the plat of West Fort Smith (Choctaw Nation), approved by the Acting Secretary of the Interior August 3, 1904, and filed June 24, 1911, and being block 2 thereon.

IX. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES—FORT SMITH

A tract of land beginning at the intersection of the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad and the northerly line of Garland Avenue; thence easterly along the northerly line of Garland Avenue to its intersection with the westerly line of Third Street; thence northerly along the westerly line of Third Street to its intersection with the southerly line of Rogers Avenue; thence westerly along the southerly line of Rogers Avenue to its intersection with the westerly line of Second Street; thence northerly along the westerly line of Second Street to the northeasterly corner of property of the Arkansas Warehouse Company; thence westerly along the northerly property lines of the Arkansas Warehouse Company and of the city of Fort Smith (known as the commissary) to the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad; thence southerly along the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad to the point of beginning.

Administra-  
tion.

SEC. 3. The Fort Smith National Historic Site, as constituted under this Act, shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a part of the National Park System pursuant to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented.

16 U.S.C. 1-4.

Appropriation;  
limitation.

SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not in excess of \$319,000, as are necessary to acquire the real property necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. (16 U.S.C. § 461 note.)

SEC. 312. The Act of September 13, 1961 (75 Stat. 489), authorizing the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Arkansas, is amended as follows: 16 USC 461 note.

(a) in section 1, after "adjoining" insert "or related" in the first sentence, and add the following after the second sentence: "The total area so designed for the purposes of this Act may not exceed seventy-five acres.

(b) in section 2, change the colon at the end of the second sentence to a period and delete the remainder of the section (through the second proviso); and

(c) revise section 4 to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, not to exceed, however, \$1,719,000 for land acquisition and not to exceed \$4,580,000 for the development of Fort Smith National Historic Site undertaken after the effective date of this section."

Appropriation  
authorization.

B: INDEX TO PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Wayside Exhibits	
Parking Area (2)	. . . . . 42, 48
Gallows	. . . . . 42
Initial Point Marker	. . . . . 47
First Fort	. . . . . 47
Publications	
Self-Guided Site Map	. . . . . 42
Audiovisuals	
Movie/Slide Presentation	. . . . . 43
Audio Program	. . . . . 43
Audio	
Dungeon	. . . . . 43
Commissary	. . . . . 47
First Fort	. . . . . 47
Exhibits	
Map and Associated Media	. . . . . 43
Commissary	. . . . . 47
Historic Furnishings	
Courtroom	. . . . . 43
Commissary	. . . . . 47

C: COST ESTIMATES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Based on June 1981 prices)

<u>Historic Construction</u>	<u>Gross Dollars</u>
Preserve exterior of courthouse/jail . . . . .	\$ 200,000
Restore exterior of commissary to 1897 appearance . . . . .	122,000
Relocate gallows to original site . . . . .	30,000
Reconstruct portions of second fort, stone wall . . . . .	40,000
Obliterate streets and restore original grade . . . . .	521,000
Reconstruct historic walkways . . . . .	<u>300,000</u>
Subtotal	\$1,213,000
 <u>Interpretive Development</u>	
Adapt second floor of jail wing for administrative offices . . . . .	1,505,000
Adapt main floor of jail wing for visitor center . . . . .	77,000
Construct exhibit shelter and provide interpretation on Belle Point . . . . .	75,000
Construct orientation shelter and summarizing exhibits at parking lot . . . . .	400,000
Provide for interpretation in visitor center and commissary (film and exhibit preparation) . . . . .	245,000
Construct interpretive pathways and provide signing . . . . .	590,000
Rehabilitate Lewis Sales Co. building (tract 01-124) for maintenance . . . . .	654,000
Construct pedestrian overpass over railroad . . . . .	16,000
Construct grade crossing near commissary . . . . .	80,000
Construct parking lot . . . . .	28,000
Remove existing parking area by courthouse . . . . .	100,000
Landscaping . . . . .	30,000
Adapt utilities (relocation and undergrounding of electric and phone lines) . . . . .	<u>500,000</u>
Demolish acquired structures . . . . .	500,000
Subtotal	\$4,300,000
GROSS TOTAL	\$5,513,000

Note: 1976 legislation authorized \$4,580,000 for new construction; a legislative amendment to increase the development ceiling will be required to implement the plan.

D: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Advisory  
Council On  
Historic  
Preservation**

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1522 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

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APR 27 1981

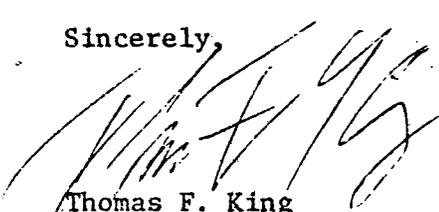
Mr. Robert Kerr  
Regional Director  
Southwest Regional Office  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Kerr:

The Memorandum of Agreement for the approval and implementation of the General Management Plan and its addendum affecting the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Arkansas, has been ratified by the Chairman of the Council. This document constitutes the comments of the Council required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," and completes compliance with the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800) and the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between our two agencies. A copy of the agreement is enclosed.

The Council appreciates your cooperation in reaching a satisfactory resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. King  
Director, Office of Cultural  
Resource Preservation

Enclosure

1522 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the National Park Service (NPS), Southwest Region, proposes to approve and implement a General Management Plan for the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, NPS, in consultation with the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), has determined that this undertaking, as proposed, may have an adverse effect on the cultural properties located within the Historic Site that are included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) and Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," and Section I.A. of the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between NPS, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, ratified by the Chairman December 19, 1979, NPS has requested the comments of the Council; and,

NOW, THEREFORE it is mutually agreed that the Plan will be carried out in accordance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement and the following stipulations to avoid or satisfactorily mitigate adverse effects on the above-mentioned property.

Stipulations

NPS will insure that the following measures are carried out.

1. The pedestrian overpass spanning the railroad tracks will be designed and landscaped to minimize its visual intrusiveness. NPS will provide preliminary and final design plans and specifications for the overpass and the landscaping to the Arkansas SHPO for review and approval. If the Arkansas SHPO objects to the plans, NPS will seek to resolve the objection(s). If they cannot agree, the matter will be referred to the Council for resolution.
2. NPS will provide the Arkansas SHPO with a copy of each "Assessment of Effect" form prior to initiating any action affecting cultural properties.

*Robert Sawyer* Mar 12, 1981  
Executive Director (date)  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Memorandum of Agreement  
National Park Service  
Fort Smith National Historic Site

Robert A. ... 3/20/81  
Regional Director (date)  
Southwest Region, National Park Service

James W. Boadidge 4-7-81  
Arkansas State Historic (date)  
Preservation Officer

Richard H. ... 7/23/81  
Chairman (date)  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

## B I B L I O G R A P H Y

Unless indicated otherwise, all documents can be found at the park library, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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- 1976     "The First Fort Smith Report: Addendum 1975," by C.D. Dollar.
- 1977     "Historic Structure Report, Courthouse and Jail Wing, Architectural Data Section," by Leslie L. Siroky. On file at the Denver Service Center.
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- 1972     Bi-State Transportation Study, Annual Report.

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AND CONSULTANTS

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Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce  
City Planning Office, Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Fort Smith Bicentennial Commission  
Fort Smith Heritage Foundation  
Fort Smith Restoration Committee  
Historic Commission  
Junior League of Fort Smith, Inc.  
Old Fort Museum Association  
Western Arkansas Planning and Development District  
Fort Smith Historical Society

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.