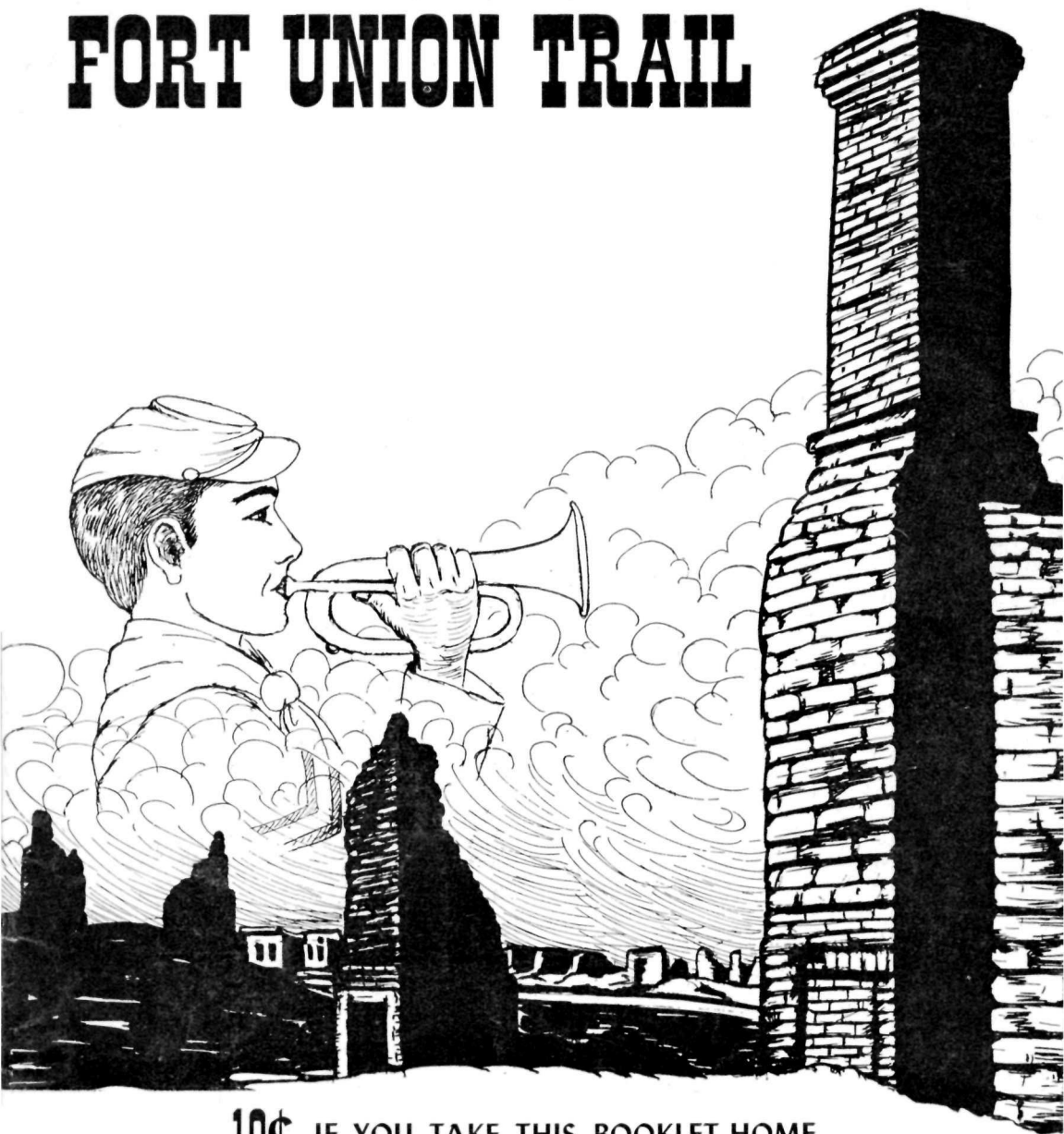


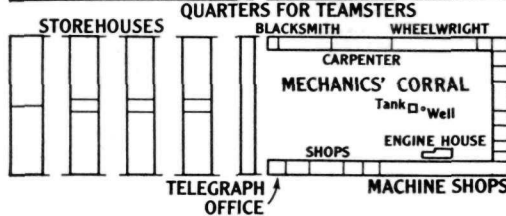
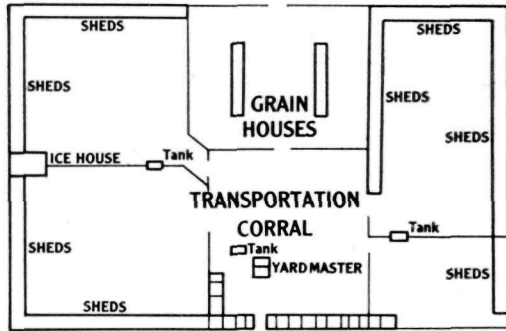
GUIDE TO

FORT UNION TRAIL

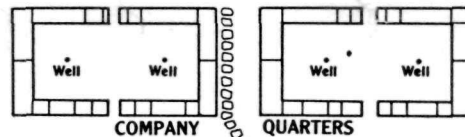
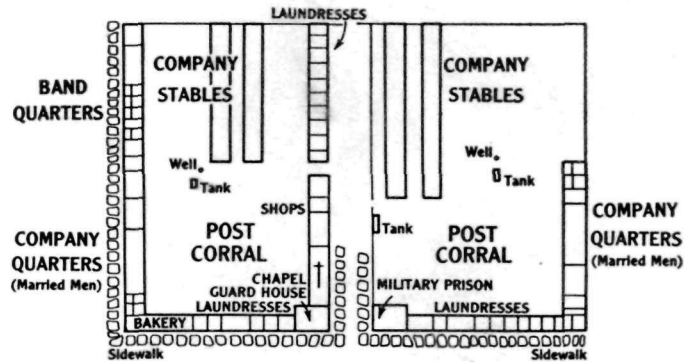
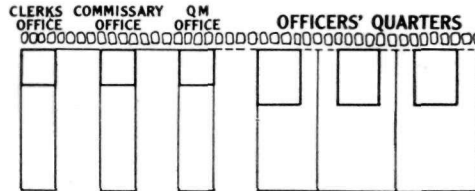


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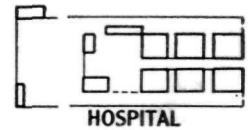
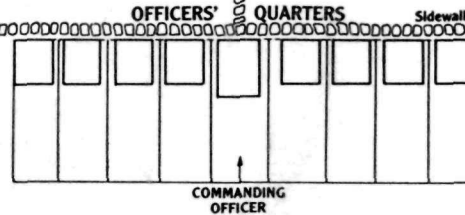
**FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT
NEW MEXICO**



FORT UNION DEPOT



POST OF FORT UNION



PLAN OF

FORT UNION
1877



WELCOME

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome all of our visitors to Fort Union National Monument. While you are visiting your national monument, we ask for your own safety **STAY ON THE TRAILS AND TAKE NOTHING FROM THE AREA.**

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

The trails are well marked. For each numbered sign along the trail there is a corresponding numbered paragraph in this booklet. These will aid you in understanding the Fort and the men who once lived here. We trust you have an interesting trip, and should you have any questions, ask a Park Ranger.

FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT

Fort Union National Monument was established on April 5, 1956. It was first opened to visitors on June 8, 1956. Fort Union is one of nearly 200 areas administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The Park Service has excavated parts of the Fort, a number of the walls have been stabilized to prevent falling and we are spraying with a silicone each year to prevent further deterioration.

CAUTION

Except in winter, there may be rattlesnakes in the ruins. You are advised to stay out of tall grass, weeds, and rubble piles. **TO BE SAFE, STAY ON THE TRAILS.**

THE TRAIL THROUGH THE RUINS

1. **COMPANY BARRACKS—CORRAL BEYOND.** The Barracks provided quarters for a company, or troop of cavalry. The horses were stabled in sheds within the adjoining corral. These buildings also served as quarters for some of the married enlisted men of the post.

2. **SIDEWALK.** The sandstone slab sidewalk, upon which you are now walking, is one of the fort's originals. At one time, an extensive system of these sidewalks existed throughout the area. Unfortunately great sections of them were removed before Fort Union was established as a National Monument.

3. **LAUNDRESSES' QUARTERS.** In the days before washing machines, the wives of the enlisted men washed the laundry for the fort by hand. Some of these enlisted men and their wives lived in the small rooms along the right hand side of this street.

To be employed here as a laundress, a woman was obliged to show a marriage certificate as evidence of her status as the wife of some soldier of the garrison. These women did the laundry for the fort to help supplement their husbands' salaries of \$9 to \$13 a month. This section of the military post was also known as "Suds Row."

4. **MILITARY PRISON.** This stone cell-block was formerly enclosed by a heated adobe outer building. Most of the adobe walls are gone now, but the cell-block is still as sound as ever. It would still be escape proof if the wood doors were replaced. This was a territorial prison used for holding civilian as well as military prisoners.

5. **POST GUARDHOUSE.** This was headquarters from which the sergeant and corporals of the guard posted and relieved the sentries around the fort. The ceremony of guard mount was held in the street each afternoon. The guardhouse was mainly the office of the military guard. However, prisoners convicted of petty crimes were imprisoned here for short periods. More serious offenders were confined in the military prison.

6. CHAPEL. Maps of Fort Union made in the 1870's show this room as the chapel. However, maps show that an elaborate stone chapel was planned but never constructed.

On your left, you have passed two company barracks; there are two others directly across the street. The unmarried enlisted personnel lived here.

7. POST BAKERY. Here are the ruins of a large brick oven where bread for the garrison was baked each day. The fire bricks for this oven were hauled by wagon over the Santa Fe Trail from St. Louis, Missouri.

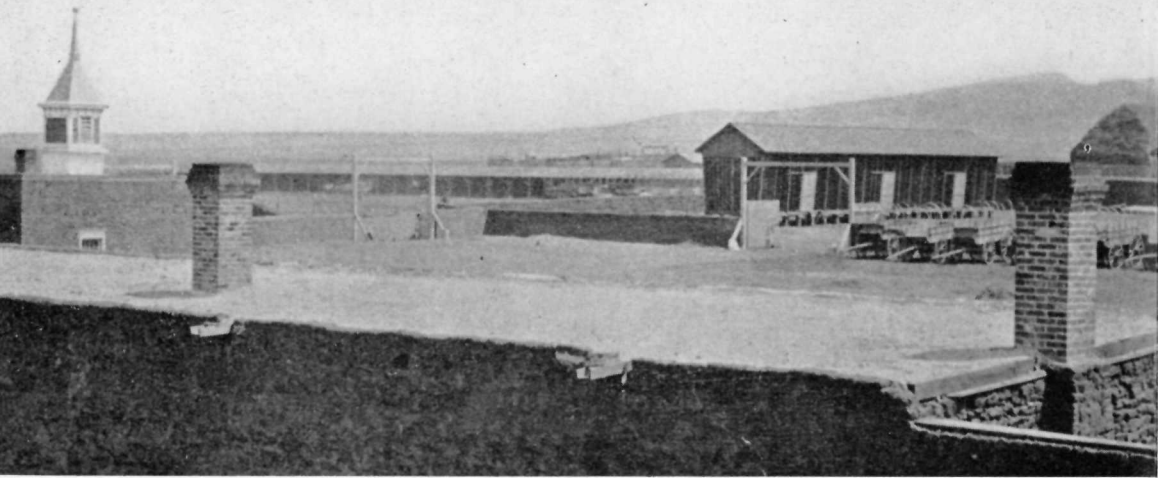
8. SANTA FE TRAIL RUTS. Beyond the end of the sidewalk on your right is the Santa Fe Trail. If you wish, you may walk down this sidewalk for about 100 yards to view ruts of the Mountain (Raton Pass) Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. It came down the valley from the north, passed the hospital and proceeded down the valley to Watrous where it joined the Cimarron Branch. From there to Santa Fe, it was one trail.

9. LEAVING TROOP AREA—ENTERING SUPPLY AREA. This broad street separates the post garrison area of the fort from the quartermaster depot. The large structure directly in front of you is the mechanics' corral which you will enter at station Number 11.

10. THE TRANSPORTATION CORRAL took up the whole northwest corner of the fort. It had horse stables, wagonsheds, corncribs, haystacks, water troughs, feedracks, and other equipment necessary to operate the large freighting business which the army carried on here. In the center of this corral was a building from which the yardmaster sent out wagons in both directions on the Santa Fe Trail.

The adobe ruins were the quarters of the civilian teamsters who hauled freight under army contract. They also had a mess hall and a kitchen.

11. THE MECHANICS CORRAL was the bustling center of a large repair and maintenance activity, mostly concerned with keeping the supply wagons rolling. Wheelwrights, black-



Transportation corral—1876.

smiths, carpenters, and other skilled craftsmen occupied shops on three sides of this area, repairing the damage to the wagons caused by thousands of miles of rough trails. These craftsmen were employed by the quartermaster.

12. **MECHANICS' QUARTERS.** Skilled craftsmen who worked in the quartermaster shops lived here. These rooms also contained mess hall, kitchen, and pantry for the employees.

13. **WATER TANK AND PUMP SITE.** Here there was a water storage tank and a pump; this was the center of the fort's fire fighting operations. In the 1870's underground water lines were installed to most of the buildings in the fort and the depot. A pump near the tank forced water to the various buildings. The original depth of this well is believed to have been 85 feet. There were wells at various other places throughout the fort.

14. **TELEGRAPH OFFICE.** The telegraph line came down the valley from the north. It arrived at Fort Union in 1867. The line was completed to Santa Fe the following year, thus linking New Mexico's capital with Denver and cities in the East.

15. QUARTERMASTER STOREHOUSES. These five buildings, making up the northwest corner of the depot, were perhaps the most important part of the fort. They provided storage for military supplies such as food, clothing and camping equipment.

At first, most of these supplies were hauled over the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri. Later, they were hauled from rail-heads in Kansas and Colorado as the railroads advanced. Feed for the livestock was one of the most bulky and costly items to haul. Consequently, a great quantity, if not all, was purchased from local sources.

Mechanics corral—1866.





Water tank site—1876.

16. The CONDUIT exposed at the side of the trail was used to carry rainwater from the roofs to the near cistern. This became their emergency water supply.

17. The COMMISSARY STOREHOUSE contains a large, stone-lined basement. This cellar was presumably used for the storage of perishables such as lard, bacon, and molasses. Records show that just after the Civil War numerous wagonloads of bacon were auctioned off at Fort Union—perhaps from this very basement.

18. PARADE GROUND. As you face south, you see the parade ground where such famous soldiers as Kit Carson, Henry H. Sibley, and James H. Carleton reviewed the troops during tours of duty as commanding officers at Fort Union.

19. CISTERN. This brick and plaster structure once had a domed brick roof. Runoff rainwater and melted snow from the roofs of the storehouses filled the cistern. It was 15 feet across and 16 feet deep, with a capacity of about 20,000 gallons used mainly as emergency supply for fire fighting.

20. **ADOBE FIELDS.** In the distance, beyond the boundary fence, lies an extensive area where adobe bricks were made. From this clay soil came most of the building material used in the construction of the post and depot. These diggings show very well on aerial photographs, but are rather difficult to see from here.

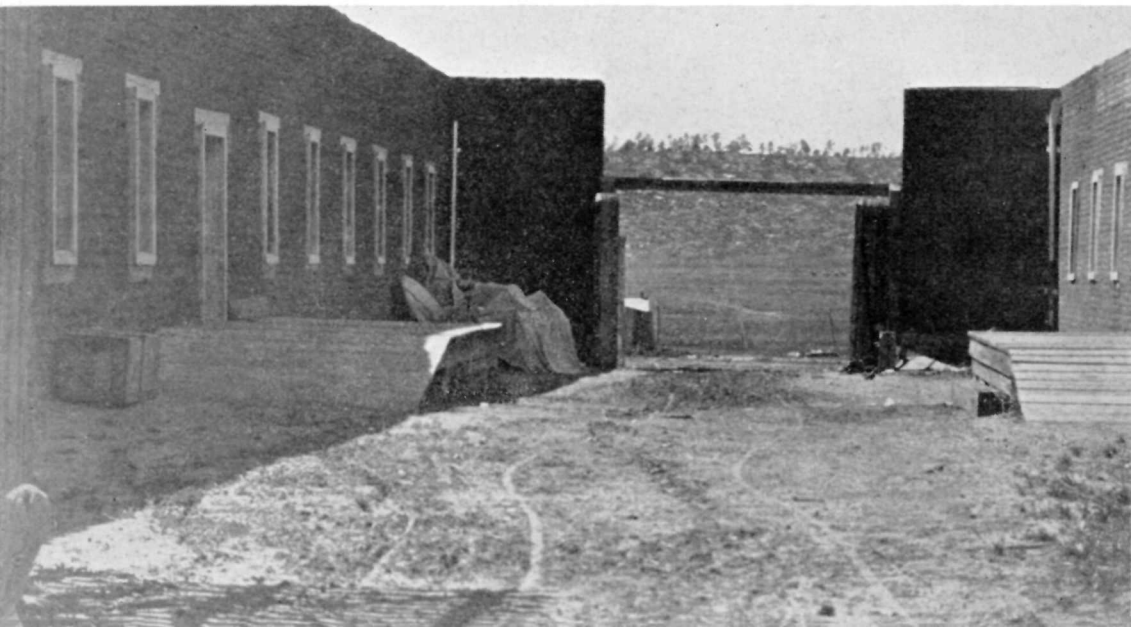
21. **CLERKS' QUARTERS.** This building was evidently a dormitory for civilian or military personnel of the depot. The main job of these employees was to maintain records and correspondence. Employees probably slept here and had their meals in one of the company messhalls.

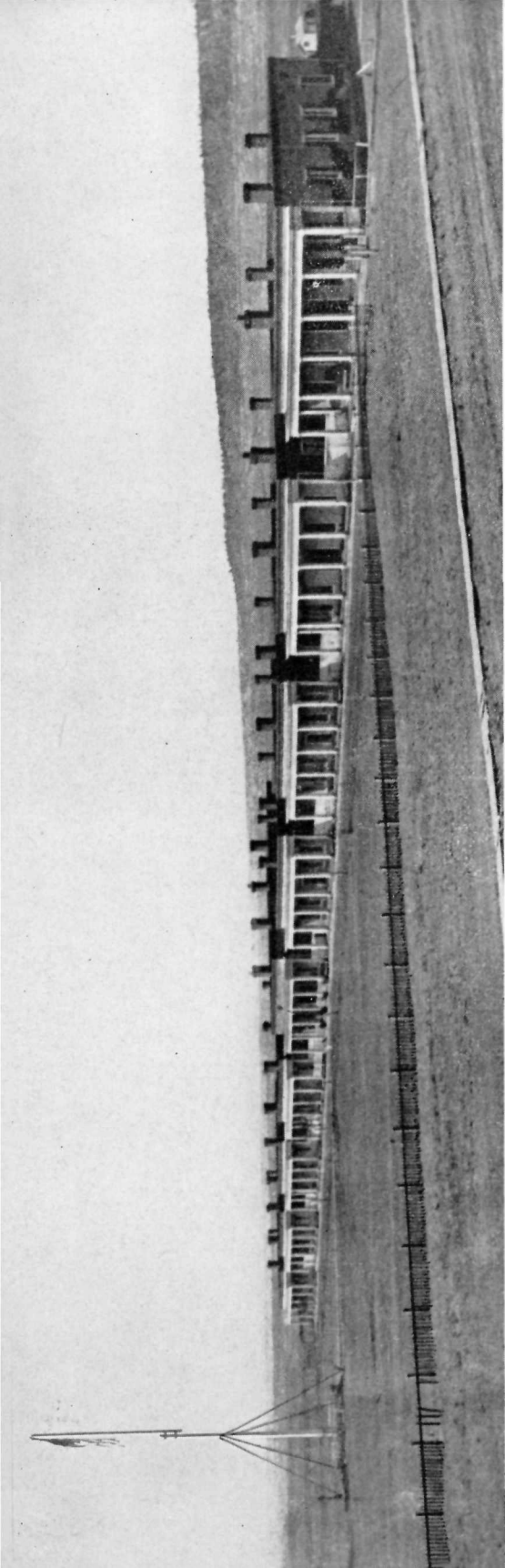
22. **THE COMMISSARY OFFICER** kept the troops fed. Rations and other supplies were issued to Fort Union and other posts in the Southwest.

23. **THE QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE** was the administrative and record-keeping center of the Supply Depot. The large volume of quartermaster work here required a number of clerks and various assistants who had quarters in a building down the row.

24. **QUARTERMASTER OFFICERS' QUARTERS.** These next three duplex buildings housed the officers of the Supply Depot and their families. The Quartermaster was the commanding officer of the Supply Depot and he had a most elegant house.

Quartermaster storehouses—1876.





25. SUTLER'S STORE. The standing walls behind the building you have just passed are the remains of the Sutler's Store—the predecessor of today's post exchange (P.X.). Near it was the entertainment center of the Fort, the saloon, pool and billiards hall, restaurant, etc.

The sutler sold staple goods used by military personnel and their families; such as shoes, yard goods, liquor, all types of hardware, and almost anything a frontier family might use.

26. SITE OF THE OLD FORT. (Across the valley). The first fort was an assortment of log buildings begun in 1851. Its purpose was to protect travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and local residents from Indian attacks as well as to establish a headquarters for the Ninth Military Department.

The ruins seen today are those of an arsenal which was the headquarters of the District Ordnance Department. It stored munitions intended for distribution to forts throughout the district.

Left: *Officers quarters—1886*

27. OFFICERS QUARTERS. The officers of the post garrison and their families lived in the nine houses in this row. The center building, slightly larger than the others, was the post commander's home. The others were of duplex construction and could house two families when necessary.

Each house had a fireplace in every room—indicating the complete reliance on fireplaces for heat. In the late 1870's, the fireplaces were bricked in and replaced with iron stoves. You may have noticed the stovepipe holes in chimneys.

These houses with high ceilings, cool front porches, flat roofs, and decorative brick copings were quite elegant in their day. This design, known as New Mexico Territorial style architecture, is widely seen throughout the state today.

28. HYDRANT BASE. In the 1870's water lines and hydrant constructions were laid throughout the fort, but unfortunately the hydrants were removed before Fort Union was established as a National Monument.

29. REPLICA FLAGPOLE. Photographs of Fort Union taken in 1866 show a tall flagpole at this site. This was a 2-section pole rigged like a ship's mast.

It was customary at military installations to bury a box containing papers and other contemporary articles at the base of the flagpole. No evidence has been found of this being done here.

30. THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S QUARTERS had four bedrooms, reception hall, office, parlor, servant's room, and kitchen. Among the early occupants was Lydia Spencer Lane who wrote of her frontier life in *I Married a Soldier* which was published in 1892.

31. STAR FORTIFICATION. The path leads about 200 yards to the remains of a square, bastioned, earthworks built in 1861, because Confederate troops under Brigadier General H. H. Sibley threatened to attack Fort Union in their northward march to Colorado.

This is more accurately described as a square bastioned fortification. At each corner of the square was a bastion for gun emplacements, and earth breastworks extended outward from the square giving the fortification the shape of an 8-pointed star. If you look closely you will see an orange marker which has been placed at four of the eight points indicating the fort. A blue marker has been erected at each of the other points showing the breastworks.

Star Fort — August 1957



THE STORY OF FORT UNION

The First Years.

Fort Union's history covers the 40 years from 1851 to 1891. The first fort was built across the valley at the foot of the mesa, where you see the ruins of the arsenal today. It was a collection of log buildings and served for a short time as headquarters of the military department. During the decade from 1851 to 1861, troops from Fort Union patrolled the Santa Fe Trail, escorted mail coaches, and skirmished with hostile Ute and Apache warriors who raided the isolated settlements of northern New Mexico. Detachments from Fort Union also participated in the Jicarilla Apache War of 1854 and the Ute War of 1855.

Battle of Glorieta Pass.

Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the Confederate brigade of Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, organized in Texas, embarked upon an invasion of New Mexico. Using New Mexico as a base, Sibley planned to seize the Colorado gold fields. To block the Confederate advance, Federal officers strengthened Fort Union by constructing the "star fortification." This was the second Fort Union.

The second fort never saw the action for which it was designed. A regiment of Colorado Volunteers reached Fort Union before the Confederates and marched southward to meet the enemy. On March 26, 1862, the two armies met at Glorieta Pass, a narrow mountain defile on the Santa Fe Trail 25 miles southeast of Santa Fe. Although the Confederates won a tactical victory, a Federal flanking column destroyed their supply train and forced them to give up the offensive. Sibley had no prospect of receiving more supplies from Texas, and he could not live off the country because it was too poor. He had no choice but to withdraw from New Mexico. This ended the Civil War in the Southwest.

Maintaining the Law in the Southwest.

Construction on the third fort was begun in 1863. This fort was to be the supply depot for the Military Department of New Mexico. Such forts as Wingate, Craig, Stanton, and others, received supplies from Fort Union after 1867. The buildings of the new Fort Union had adobe walls, 18 to 24 inches thick, covered with a white lime plaster. The bricks used in the decorative copings and in the chimneys were kilned locally; the bricks used in the ovens were hauled from St. Louis, Mo. The foundations of the buildings were blocks of limestone quarried from the nearby mesa. Like most Southwestern forts, Fort Union did not have a stockade.

Prior to the Civil War, Fort Union's importance had been due to its restraining influence on hostile Indians throughout the Southwest. To the south and west the Apaches of New Mexico and Arizona were a continuing source of trouble, while to the east the Kiowas and Comanches ravaged caravans on the Santa Fe Trail. With the outbreak of the Civil War, the regular troops were withdrawn from the frontier and New Mexico and California Volunteers fell heir to the Indian problem. They turned first to the Navajos. By 1864 troops under Col. Kit Carson had marched into Canyon de Chelly, stronghold of the Navajos, and brought about their surrender. They were then moved to Bosque Redondo, southeast of Fort Union, and settled on a reservation near Fort Sumner. Carson then marched east from Fort Union to attack the plains Indians. In November, 1864, he dealt the Kiowas a severe blow at the Battle of Adobe Walls, in the Texas Panhandle.

But the plains tribes were yet to be subdued. To the regulars, returning to their frontier posts at the close of the Civil War, fell this task. Troops from Fort Union cooperated with other columns in General P. H. Sheridan's winter campaign of 1868 and in the Red River War of 1874. By 1875 the power of the plains Indians had been broken, and the Army turned to the Apaches.

Even so, the Apache chiefs Victorio, Nana, and Geronimo

ran wild among the settlers in southern New Mexico and Arizona for several years after the Southern Plains Indians were crushed. It was not until Geronimo's surrender in September 1886 that the Indian menace was removed from the Southwest. The last time troops from Fort Union were engaged in Indian fighting was in August 1882 when a small band of Apaches wandered from the Fort Stanton Reservation, in the southern part of New Mexico, and had to be returned. With this action, some 30 years of Indian fighting involving troops from Fort Union came to an end.

From 1879, when the railroad reached Las Vegas, until 1891, when the fort was finally abandoned, the troops were kept continually active by civil strife caused by bandits, mob violence, and feuds. Fort Union was in effect abandoned in 1883, when all except a small detail of troops were withdrawn. This small garrison remained until February 21, 1891, when the last troops were withdrawn.

CONSERVATION — YOU CAN HELP

If you are interested in the work of the National Park Service, and in the cause of conservation in general, you can give active expression of this interest, and lend support by alining yourself with one of the numerous conservation organizations which act as spokesmen for those who wish our scenic and historic heritage to be kept unimpaired "for the enjoyment of future generations."

Names and addresses of conservation organizations may be obtained at the Information Desk.

MISSION 66

MISSION 66 is a 10-year development program, launched in 1956, to enable the National Park Service to help you to enjoy and understand the parks and monuments, and at the same time, to preserve their scenic, scientific, and historic values for your children and for future generations.

(OVER)

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