



Foundation Document Overview

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site

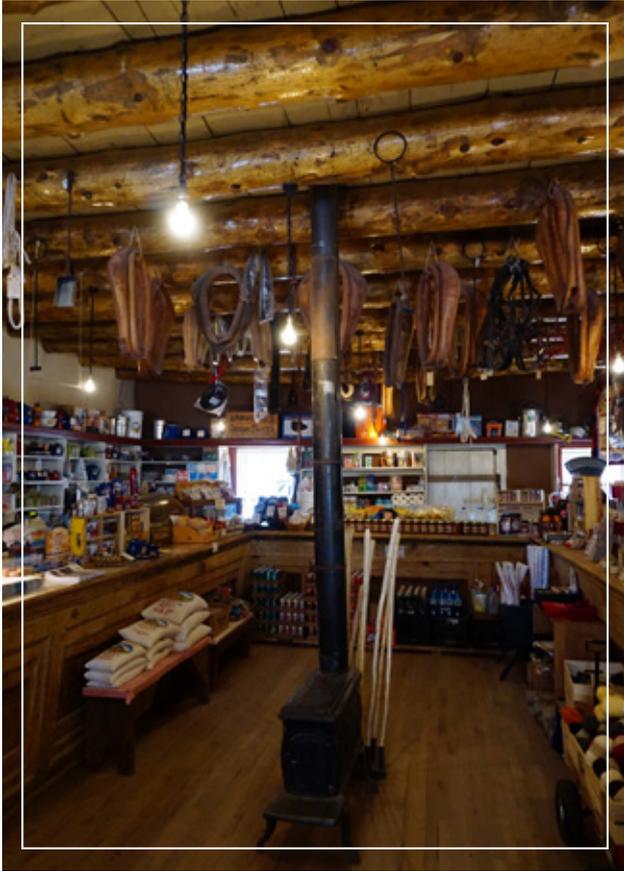
Arizona



Contact Information

For more information about the *Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site Foundation Document*, contact: hutr_superintendent@nps.gov or (928) 755-3475 or write to: Superintendent, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, P.O. Box 150, Ganado, AZ 86505-0150

Purpose



The purpose of HUBBELL TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve, protect, interpret, and operate the trading post and homestead in a manner that conserves park resources and reflects an earlier era of cultural and community exchange.



Significance

Significance statements express why Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

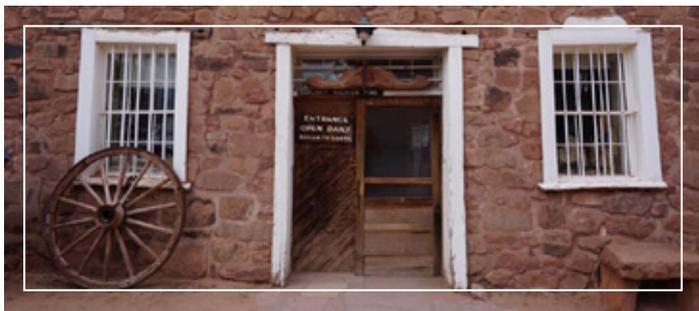
- Established in 1878 by J.L. Hubbell to serve as a trading center for Navajo and other area tribes, Hubbell Trading Post is the oldest continuously operating trading post in the American Southwest.
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site is an outstanding example of the larger trading post system that brought an opportunity for commerce to the area and provided a way for people to make a living after the Long Walk.
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site is an exceptionally intact late 19th to early 20th century trading post complex. Unlike other trading posts, this complex includes a homestead with livestock and irrigated terraced farmlands that were established as part of a self-sustaining business.
- The museum collections at Hubbell Trading Post provide a comprehensive record of a family trading business, including oral histories and an array of items that range from works of art to household furnishings and business records, all of which document the activities and interests of the Hubbell family, their visitors, and the surrounding tribal communities.
- Hubbell Trading Post continues to serve as a place for artistic inspiration through the relationships formed between weavers, traders, and visiting artists. These interactions have resulted in artistic expressions such as the Ganado rug style and Burbank's red head drawings.



Fundamental Resources and Values and Other Important Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Trading Post and Homestead.** The buildings, structures, and cultural landscape that contribute to the 160-acre historic site provide an intact, tangible record of the development and evolution of the trading post. Buildings and structures include the trading post, Hubbell home, guest hogan, bread oven, barn, blacksmith shop, root cellar, and bunkhouse. The structures in the historic district physically record the materials, construction methods, and workmanship used to create the vernacular architecture of the trading post. The cultural landscape of the homestead includes structures, agricultural fields and irrigation system, historic farm equipment, livestock enclosures, and far-reaching vistas of Pueblo Colorado Wash and Hubbell Hill.
- **Trading Post Operations.** Trading post operations provide a setting where relevant trading practices and protocols are both sustained and allowed to respond to changing social and economic conditions. Traditional trading practices and protocols perpetuate the historical socioeconomic relationship among the trader, native artisans, and local community members. The rug room, trader's office, bullpen, and wareroom, and the rugs, paintings, silver jewelry, weaving-related supplies, and groceries they contain, are integral to the trading complex. Trading operations continue to supply products and services that are needed by artisans and local community members. The trading post offers dry goods, groceries, weaving supplies, and ceremonial items that satisfy the needs of local community members. Providing traditional economic services such as check cashing and donations of tribal ceremonial materials supports and sustains the relationship among traders, artisans, and local community members.



- **Museum Collections.** Containing more than 450,000 items, the museum collection includes artifacts, art, furnishings, historic farm equipment, archival materials, oral histories, and business records that document and preserve the history of exchange between the local community and traders. Many items in the collection belonged to the Hubbell family and are housed in the on-site museum collections facility, within the Hubbell home, and on the landscape. These objects evoke a sense of place and furnish the Hubbell home and other structures to create an authentic setting that visitors can see, feel, and, in some cases, touch.
- **Community and Cultural Exchange.** The trading post complex maintains and promotes a backdrop for social interactions and information exchange. Interactions between European-Americans and native peoples, often in native languages, support and sustain the intercultural relations and cross-pollination of ideas that have always characterized Hubbell Trading Post. The Hubbell family was part of the community their trading post served. This tradition of community exchange continues through an artist-in-residence program and collaboration with the local community during traditional ceremonies and events and by providing a tangible connection to the past for visitors coming from near and far alike.



Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Other Cultural Resources and Natural Resources.** A variety of cultural and natural resources can be found at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Archeological sites, most notably Wide Reed Ruin (circa AD 1276), have been identified within the historic site. Wide Reed Ruin consists of a single-room block, two plazas, and a kiva and may be associated with the much larger Kin-Tiel site 15 miles to the south. Other sites containing artifacts that date between AD 1 and 1299 demonstrate a long period of use of the area. Natural resources at the site include wildlife (badger, bobcat, coyotes, rabbits, great horn owl, road runner, hawk and other birds) and historic plants (lilac bush and mulberry, walnut, plum, and apricot trees).

Description

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, a national historic landmark, is on the outskirts of Ganado in Apache County, Arizona. It is along Pueblo Colorado Wash, a tributary of the Little Colorado River, at an elevation of 6,325 feet. The 160-acre historic site was authorized by an act of Congress on August 28th, 1965. From the outset, the historic site has been preserved and managed as a fully operational trading post to reflect traditional and ongoing trading relationships.

After 1868, following years of conflict with the U.S. government, more than 8,500 Navajo (Diné) returned to northeastern Arizona and their homelands from forced relocation and internment at Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory. Many returning Navajo came to rely on traders and trading posts to obtain food and supplies in exchange for wool, livestock and other items. John Lorenzo Hubbell entered the trading profession in the early 1870s. In 1878 he purchased a trading post along the Pueblo Colorado Wash and within a few years expanded the operation and constructed a new two-room post on the site in 1883. The Hubbell homestead became the best known of his trading posts and served as the family home and base of operations for the next 80 years.

Throughout the post's long history, its primary sales and storage functions have remained unchanged. It currently is divided into a store (bullpen), jewelry room, rug room, and adjoining wareroom. The rectangular building was built of uncoursed sandstone with a flat earthen roof over a board and viga (round log beam) ceiling. The Hubbell residence (originally constructed in 1897–1898) and other existing buildings and structures contribute to the rural cultural landscape. Among these are the barn, blacksmith shop, corrals, manager's residence, bread oven, bunkhouse, guest hogan, chicken house, sheds, and root cellar.

A kitchen garden provided vegetables for the post, and alfalfa for the post's horses, mules, and other livestock was grown on the adjoining agricultural fields.

J. L. Hubbell was widely regarded as among the most trusted and respected traders of the region. He admired and encouraged American Indian arts and crafts and traded with several regional tribes including the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Pima, Tohono O'odham, and Apache. He was known for his hospitality and for his concern for the local community. Hubbell was a passionate collector of fine arts and crafts, and many of these items, including paintings, baskets, pottery, and rugs, enhanced the interior furnishings of the post.

Hubbell Trading Post continues to be a community-focused destination and cultural crossroads where traders, American Indians, and other patrons meet to share ideas, socialize, and engage in traditional trading practices. For many, the store is an integral part of their everyday lives, where they purchase groceries and other items and linger to exchange stories. Visitors seeking information about the history and operation of the post can take self-guided tours of the grounds and historic buildings and participate in NPS-guided tours of the Hubbell home. At the visitor center visitors can receive information, purchase items at the bookstore, and view exhibits and Navajo rug weaving demonstrations.

