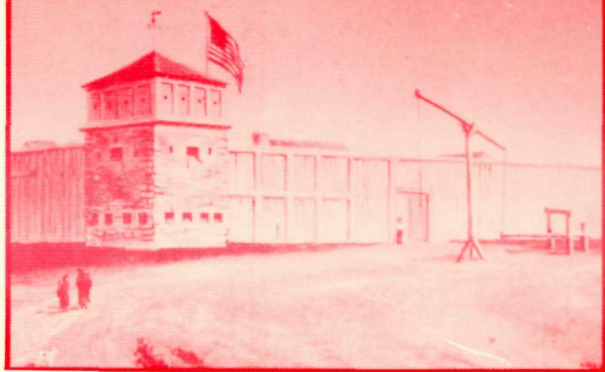


FORT UNION TRADING POST



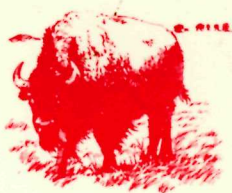
National Historic Site North Dakota – Montana

Between 1829 and 1867 Fort Union Trading Post dominated the fur trade on the Upper Missouri River. Built near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers by John Jacob Astor's powerful American Fur Company, Fort Union shaped and controlled the trading economy of the Northern Plains. Importantly, Assiniboin, Cree, Crow, Blackfeet, and Sioux Indians peaceably coexisted with Fort Union's traders, this a generation before the great Indian wars in the West.

The ledger of Fort Union's residents and guests reads like an early frontier "Who's Who." Catlin, Maximilian, Bodmer, DeSmet, Audubon, Chouteau, Kurz, Sitting Bull, and Bridger reveled with company men like McKenzie, Kipp, Denig, and Larpenteur. Social life and accommodations compared favorably with the best in St. Louis, yet Fort Union lay 1,996 river miles away.

Today, this rich American Fur Company legacy is carefully preserved at the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, a unit of America's National Park System.

The National Park Service has partially reconstructed Fort Union Trading Post to its appearance in 1851. A lavish Bourgeois House dominates the setting and contains museum exhibits and administrative facilities. Other colorful wayside exhibits dot the fort grounds.



Earlier and later Yellowstone-Missouri Confluence history is preserved nearby. Two miles distant is the Fort Buford State Historic Site, where surviving military buildings and newly installed museum displays conjure images of the terrible struggles between the U. S. Army and the Indian tribes. A half-mile farther where the rivers meet, the eras of Lewis and Clark and steamboats loom amid the natural beauty of the confluence. Elsewhere, vestiges of early twentieth century settlement are evident on the Buford and Mondak townsites.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is open daily throughout the year. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., CDT, Memorial Day through Labor Day; and 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., CST, during the remainder of the year. Special tours of the fort are arranged by calling the park.



For further information, contact:

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