Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

| STATE: Nebraska |
| COUNTY: Kearney |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |

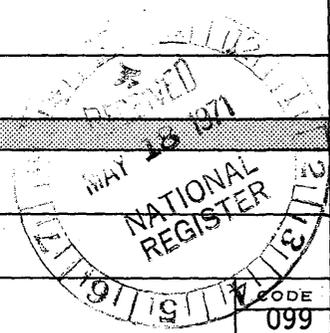| ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.31.0002	7/2/71

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1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Kearny

AND/OR HISTORIC:

---

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 miles west of Newark on Nebraska 10

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark vicinity

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Nebraska	31	Kearney	099

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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object	[ ] Public Public Acquisition: [ ] Private [ ] In Process [X] Both [ ] Being Considered	[X] Occupied [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Preservation work in progress	Yes: [X] Restricted [ ] Unrestricted [ ] No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

[X] Agricultural	[ ] Government	[X] Park	[ ] Transportation	[ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial	[ ] Industrial	[ ] Private Residence	[ ] Other *(Specify)*	
[ ] Educational	[ ] Military	[ ] Religious		
[ ] Entertainment	[X] Museum	[ ] Scientific		

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
(multiple public & private ownership - see enclosed map)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

STATE: Nebraska

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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk, Kearney County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Minden	Nebraska	31

COUNTY: Kearney

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963 (Vol. XII)   [X] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D.C.	08

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.7.31.0002
FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE: 7/2/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☒ Unexposed
	(Check One)			*(Check One)*		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district now being nominated to the National Register constitutes a
rectangle bounded on the west by a line 602 feet west of the southwest
corner of Section 22, T8N R15W; on the north by a line 1815 feet north of
this corner; on the east by a line 1320 feet east of this corner; and on
the south by Nebraska highway 10 (which intersects with this corner).

The above district is located about a half mile south of the south bank
of the Platte River and encloses an area of about 80 acres - - or only a
small fraction of the 100 square mile Fort Kearny Military Reservation,
as established in 1848. The old east-west route of the Oregon Trail, no
longer visible in this locality was situated directly north of this
district. This district is believed to circumscribe the sites of all
major structures erected at Fort Kearny between 1848 and 1871. Based on
extensive archival and archeological research, an enclosed map of this
district shows the approximate location of these structural sites. No
buildings of the 1848-71 period - - nor even ruins of these former build-
ings - - survive today.

The first structures erected at Fort Kearny were temporary buildings
erected in 1848 and included two sod stables, two living quarters, and an
adobe warehouse. These structures were erected close to a four-acre,
rectangular parade ground. Log structures were built in subsequent years,
and the first frame buildings at the fort were erected in 1849-50: a
small hospital and a handsome two-story officers' quarters. Detailed
architectural plans, early photographs, and relatively undisturbed
archeological remains still exist for this latter structure, revealing
a building highly similar in design to "Old Bedlam," built ca. 1849 at
Fort Laramie in Wyoming and still extant. It is believed that both
buildings were designed under the direction of Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury,
founder of Fort Kearny.

Between 1848 and 1871, some 30 to 35 buildings, excluding minor out-
buildings, were erected at Fort Kearny. The majority of these structures
were apparently frame structures. In addition, prompted by increased
Indian hostilities in the vicinity, several earthwork fortifications were
erected in 1864 outside the fort building complex. These earthworks,
including a large rectangular fortification known as "Fort Mitchel,"
were never used because Fort Kearny was never attacked. Over the past
century, a large portion of the remains of the fort building complex has
been obliterated through road building and farming activities - -
including virtually all remains located to the west of the parade grounds.
By the late 1870's, much of this building complex had been converted by
homesteaders into farmland. Fortunately, however, a 40-acre portion of
this complex has apparently never been placed under cultivation and
includes a wealth of relatively undisturbed archeological remains - - a
circumstance which enhances the overall significance of Fort Kearny and
its value as a site worthy of preservation.

In the 1920's the Fort Kearny Memorial Association acquired this 40-acre
tract and offered it to the State of Nebraska. This offer was accepted

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE
Nebraska

COUNTY
Kearney

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.73/.0003	7/5/71

Page 2 of 2 pages   *(Continuation Sheet)*

(Number all entries) <u>Appearance</u>

FORT KEARNY

in 1929 by the state legislature, and the tract became a state park, now administered by the State Game and Parks Commission. Until recently, the lack of funds prevented development of the tract as a historic site. Although faint traces of early foundations, paths, pits, and mounds (most notably the Fort Mitchel earthwork outline) were still visible within this tract, so much physical evidence of the fort had disappeared that a visitor had difficulty visualizing the original appearance. But now this tract is in the process of redevelopment. The 1864 Fort Mitchel fortification was reconstructed in 1962-63, a replica of the 1865 sod blacksmith-carpenter shop was added in 1964-67, and finally a visitor center was built in 1967-68. Further development is planned. Through a cooperative agreement with the State Game and Parks Commission, extensive archeological and historical investigations of Fort Kearny were conducted in 1960, 1961, and 1964 by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

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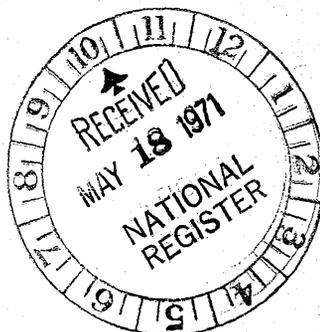
PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian|
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*   1848-1871

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [X] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [X] Communications
- [ ] Conservation

- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [X] Military
- [ ] Music

- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [X] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [X] Transportation

- [X] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established along the Oregon Trail by the U. S. Army in 1848 and abandoned in 1871, Fort Kearny remained in existence for only a short period of time. Yet from 1849 to 1866, this military garrison stood as one of the most important outposts of civilization on the American frontier. During these seventeen years, no major battles were waged in the immediate Fort Kearny vicinity. Nor was Fort Kearny the largest military post in the West during this period. Rather its significance derives from its stature as a major hub of western transportation and communication during this period. It stood as a gateway to the hostile Great Plains and as a launching platform for overland travel to the Pacific coast and intermediate points. It was here that virtually all trails leading westward from the Missouri River steamboat towns to the Pacific coast converged to form a single superhighway - - including the routes westward from Independence, Leavenworth, St. Joseph, Nebraska City, Omaha, and other more minor routes. During the 1849-66 period, the vast majority of overland freighting and emigrant traffic destined for the Pacific Coast and intermediate points - - including the gold fields of California, Colorado, Montana, and Idaho - - converged at Fort Kearny. In contrast, only a fraction of this traffic passed through Independence, usually regarded as the eastern terminus of the Oregon Trail. All Pony Express traffic passed through Fort Kearny during the brief existence of this dramatic postal enterprise in 1860-61, and by 1865 stagecoaches operating out of Omaha, Atchison, and other Missouri River towns were stopping at Fort Kearny on a daily basis. Fort Kearny also served as a key station along America's first transcontinental telegraph line, completed in 1861, and as an important assembly point for numerous military expeditions during the Indian wars. The fort also helped keep peace between the warring Sioux and Pawnee Indians in the vicinity.

Primarily Fort Kearny's function was to provide protection and supplies to travelers on the Oregon Trail.

The establishment of Fort Kearny (or "New Fort Kearny") in 1848 constituted a relocation of short-lived Camp Kearny (or "Old Fort Kearny") to a point closer to the mainline of westward migration.

Abandoned in 1848, Camp Kearny had been established in 1846 by Col. Stephan Watts Kearny along the Missouri River on the present site of Nebraska City. Situated along the Platte River about 165 miles due west of Camp Kearny,

Continued

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grange, Roger T., Jr., "Preliminary Report: Excavations at Fort Kearny, Nebraska," unpublished manuscript, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, 1960.

Mantor, Lyle, "History of Fort Kearny," unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Mattes, Merrill J., The Great Platte River Road, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

CORNER	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	40° 38' 45"	99° 00' 37"		° ' "	° ' "
NE	40° 38' 45"	99° 00' 12"			
SE	40° 38' 27"	99° 00' 12"			
SW	40° 38' 27"	99° 00' 37"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 80 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
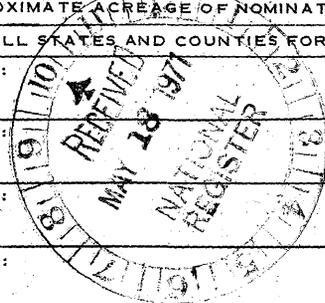
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION
Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE
May 17, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln,

STATE
Nebraska

CODE
31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒   State ☐   Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 2 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date   JUN 4 1971

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| STATE |
| Nebraska |
| COUNTY |
| Kearney |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71.731.0003 | 7/3/7/ |

Page 2 of 2 pages   *(Continuation Sheet)*
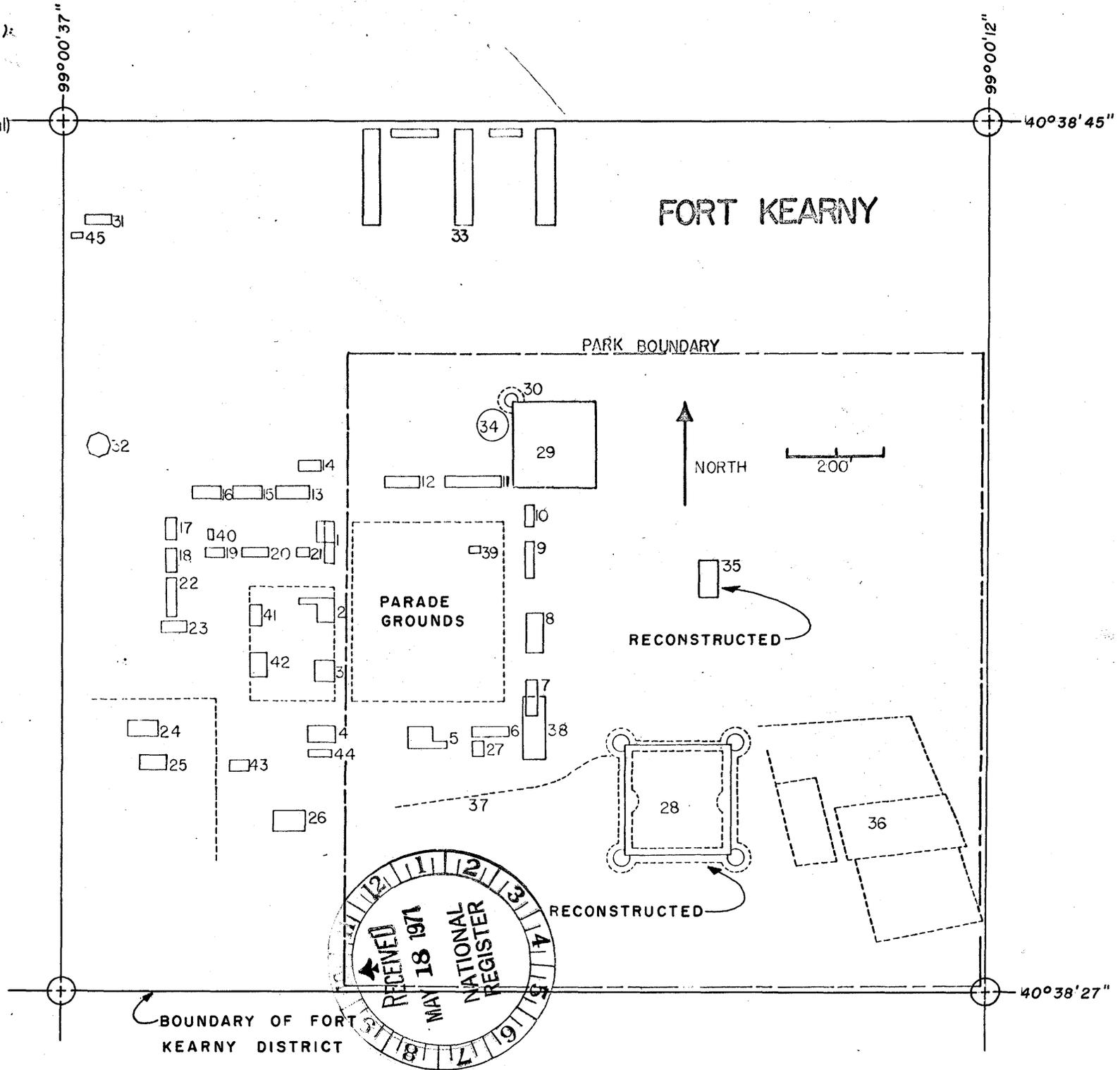
(Number all entries) Significance

FORT KEARNY

the Fort Kearny site was selected in September of 1847 by Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although Woodbury initially referred to this new site as "Fort Childs," the site was officially named "Fort Kearny" in December of 1848. Under the direction of Woodbury, construction at Fort Kearny began in 1848. The following year Woodbury also became involved in the rebuilding of Fort Laramie, located in present-day Wyoming and acquired by the U. S. Army in 1849 - and thus the similarity of many buildings at the two posts. Forts Kearny and Laramie were the first of a series of military posts established in the mid-nineteenth century to protect the Oregon Trail.

The sudden increase in westward migration during and following the California Gold Rush of 1849 enhanced Fort Kearny's importance and stimulated it's accelerated growth. Fort Kearny's final wave of construction occurred in 1864-65 during a period of severe Indian depredations in the vicinity. Thereafter the usefulness of the fort declined rapidly. By the end of 1865, the principal Indian wars had shifted to the west and north - - away from Fort Kearny. Equally important, in 1866 the Union Pacific Railroad, constructed along the north bank of the Platte River, was extended to a point farther west than Fort Kearny, leaving the fort stranded on the south bank of the Platte and along a trail no longer traveled. Not long after Fort Kearny was abandoned in 1871, all above-ground building remains disappeared. Although the federal government salvaged many building materials for re-use elsewhere, many buildings soon rotted away through neglect.

LOCATION OF STRUCTURES (NONE EXTANT):

1. Adjutant's Office
2. Commanding Officer's Quarters
3. Quartermaster Office
4. Telegraph Office (Former Hospital)
5. Officers' Quarters
6. Soldiers' Quarters
7. Soldiers' Quarters
8. Soldiers' Quarters
9. Warehouse (used as barracks)
10. Guardhouse and Prison
11. Commissary Warehouse
12. Quartermaster Warehouse
13. Soldiers Families Quarters
14. Soldiers Families Quarters
15. Soldiers Families Quarters
16. Soldiers Families Quarters
17. News Office
18. Post Office
19. Warehouse
20. Warehouse
21. Saddler's Shop
22. Laundry
23. Bakery
24. Hospital
25. Surgeon's Quarters
26. Warehouse or Icehouse
27. Soldiers Kitchen
28. Fort Mitchel or East Fort
29. Corral
30. Fort Gilette
31. Post Sutler Store
32. Fort Livingston or West Fort
33. Stables
34. Powder Magazine
35. Blacksmith-Carpenter Shop
36. Unidentified Earthworks
37. Rifle Pit
38. Site of Adobe Storehouse
39. Site of Guardhouse
40. Unidentified
41. Headquarters Stable
42. Stable
43. Stage Stable
44. Stable
45. Post Sutler Warehouse

FORT KEARNY

PARK BOUNDARY

NORTH   200'

PARADE GROUNDS

RECONSTRUCTED

RECONSTRUCTED

BOUNDARY OF FORT KEARNY DISTRICT

RECEIVED MAY 18 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE
New Jersey
COUNTY
Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 2 0 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Greenwich
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ye Greate Street from the Cohansey River to Othello

CITY OR TOWN:
Greenwich

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New Jersey	34	Cumberland	011

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S. Geological Survey Shiloh Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1947

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

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ISLAND

T S

BM 2128 ISLAND BM △2124

2125

2120

(80) UNDER CONSTRUCTION Buffalo

Governor

Island

Buffalo

2115

4502

40'

ISLAND

17 KILGORE 16 15 4501

BOUNDARY PLATTE RIVER MIDDLE CHANNEL

2115

×2129

BUFFALO CO South Channel Gravel Pit× Platte River Gravel Pit ABAN'D 4500

KEARNEY CO 2122

Slough

99°00'37" 99°00'12"

2130 Whisky 20 21 22

BOUNDARY

RESERVATION

2125 ○Well

○Well 40° 38' 45" ○Well

2120

4499

FT. KEARNEY

STATE PARK

BM 2131△ MILITARY BM △2124 40° 38' 27" BM 2118 10 MINDEN 12 MI.

N

CROOKED CREEK DITCH 4498

N E W A R K

FORT KEARNEY ○Well

29 28 27

KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA

○Well 2115

×2135 2125

○Well

2135 2127 2121 4497000m.N.

∇ 32 33 34 40°37'30"

496 2'30" 497 4498000m.N. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. WASHINGTON. D. C.—1964 99°00'

BOUNDARY OF FORT
1 MILE KEARNY DISTRICT

6000 7000 FEET OWNERSHIP:

1 KILOMETER STATE OF NEBRASKA

NOTE: GLADYS SMITH

GEORGE RAFFETY

NEBRASKA

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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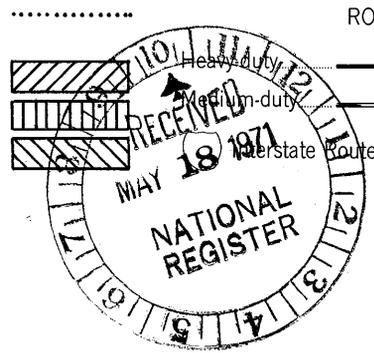
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty Light-duty

Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

(WOOD RIVER)
1:125 000

KEARNEY, NEBR.
N4037.5—W9900/7.5

1962

NDARDS
R WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
ABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

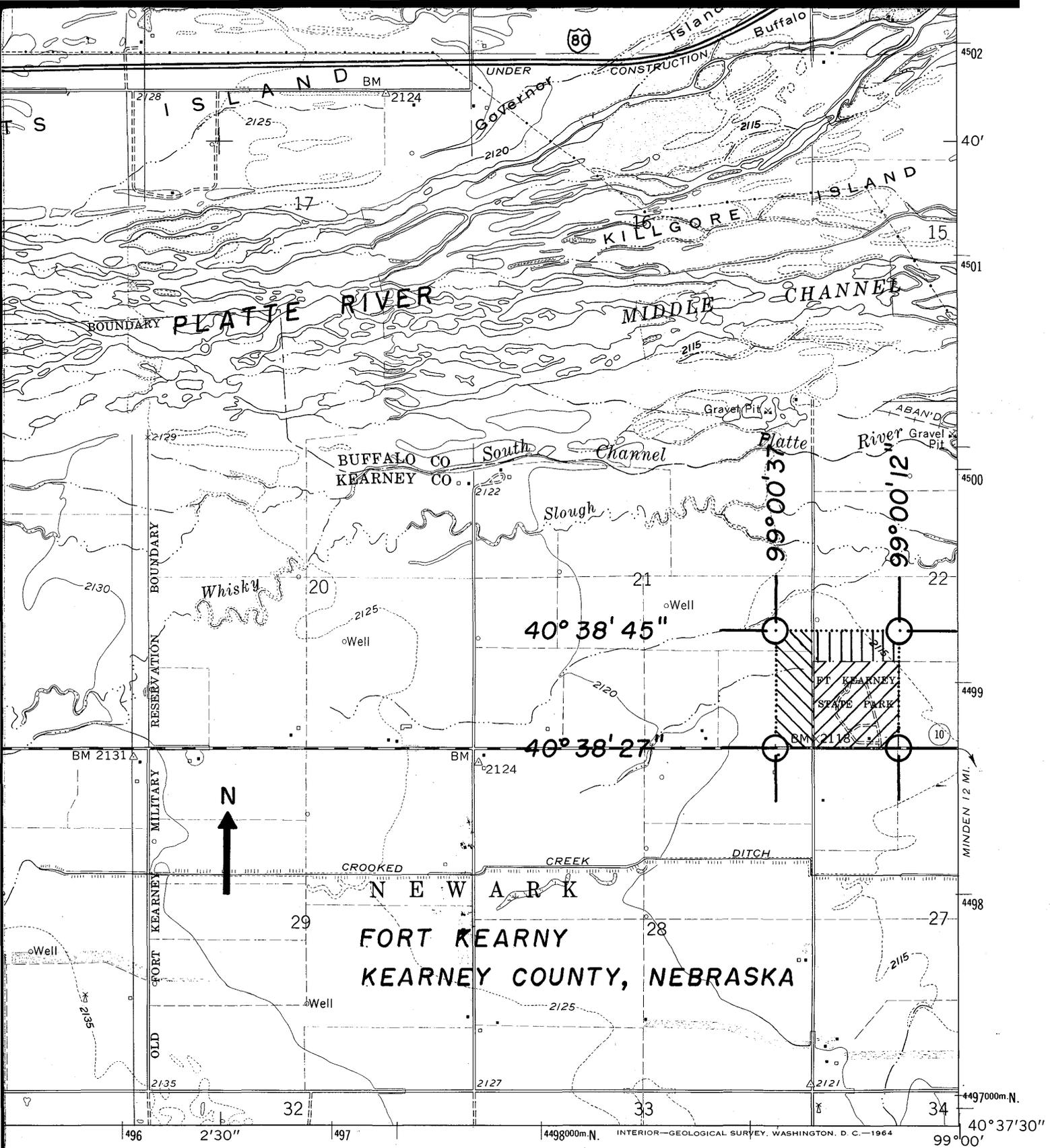## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		
Nebraska		
COUNTY		
Kearney		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:	Fort Kearny
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:	
	2 miles west of Newark on Nebraska 10
CITY OR TOWN:	
	Newark vicinity

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Nebraska	31	Kearney	099

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:	
	U.S.G.S., 7½', Kearney quadrangle
SCALE:	1:24,000
DATE:	1962

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.