

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Kansas</b>	2. <b>Theme XV-Westward Expansion (Military and Indian Affairs)</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Scott</b>		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Situated in the city of Fort Scott, Kansas, about four miles west of the Missouri state line.</b>		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Some of the buildings are in private ownership, the remainder owned and administered by the city of Fort Scott.</b>		
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)		

Significance: This post was established in 1842 as a part of the defense system along the western frontier which extended from the Great Lakes through Fort Snelling, Fort Leavenworth, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

During the first period of its existence, Fort Scott performed the routine duties similar to that of most of the posts on the frontier. In 1843 an expedition was sent out from Fort Scott to patrol the Santa Fe Trail as a result of the disturbances caused by Texans along the old overland route.

*Other 4 were from Ft. Leavenworth*  
During the spring and early summer of 1844 ~~six~~ <sup>five</sup> companies of dragoons from Fort Scott marched some 2,200 miles patrolling and exploring up the Platte River and Wyoming thence west to the Green River. This expedition returned to the junction of the Platte and Laramie and marched south past the Arkansas River and along the Santa Fe Trail and crossed overland to Fort Scott. This post also supplied several detachments for the Mexican War. It played an important part in preventing encroachments by the white men against the Indians in the vicinity. However, by 1853, the need for the fort as a frontier post was at an end so it was abandoned and the buildings sold.

Fort Scott's strategic location resulted in the post's being reactivated in less than a decade later. Being situated in southeastern Kansas and near the borders of western Missouri and northwestern Arkansas, both Federals and Confederates <sup>during the Civil War</sup> endeavored to obtain control of the region surrounding the fort.

Fort Scott was re-established in 1863. It served as Union headquarters and supply depot for the region. At one time there were approximately 2,000 Federal troops stationed in the vicinity. The presence of troops at the garrison contributed much to maintaining the authority of the United States in the region during the Civil War. It was abandoned for the second time in October 1865.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

**Ralph Richards, Headquarters House and the Forts of Fort Scott (Fort Scott, 1954)**

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Good Fair</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>city park, partially private owned</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>July 1955</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Ray H. Mattison</i>		15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>May 4, 1959</b>

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd)....

State	Name (s) of site
Kansas	Fort Scott

In 1870 disturbances caused by the illegal settlement in the Cherokee Neutral Lands in Indian Territory along the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad, which was then under construction, resulted in the re-establishment of a military post at Fort Scott. The garrison was designated "Post of Southeastern Kansas." Its troops were strung out along the railroad and were not centered at the fort. With the restoration of tranquillity in the vicinity, the Army in April 1873 abandoned the post for the last time.

Condition of Site: The fort is located on the north side of the business district of Fort Scott. On the west side of the parade ground is a lumber yard; on the south side is a rundown business district. The east side of the parade ground contains a number of substandard residences which were in no way identified with the post.

The surviving buildings of Fort Scott which are in city ownership are:

- (1) The Parade Ground.
- (2) The Headquarters House, now used as a museum.
- (3) The Blockhouse, called Fort Blair, which is a partially restored frame blockhouse, covered with weather-boarding, which was purportedly used during the Civil War and has since been moved to the old fort some mile or so distant from its original location.
- (4) A stone bakery, now used as a residence.
- (5) Two stone outbuildings which the undersigned has not been able to identify.

Two buildings, officers' quarters, which are now owned and operated as a children's home, and a half frame officers' quarters (one-half of which was destroyed by fire) are in private ownership and is located on the north side of the Parade Ground.