

PH 0145751 on NR Aug. 31, '64

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 11 1976  
DATE ENTERED 8-31-64  
(10-15-66)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC FORT LARNED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

6 miles west of Larned on U.S. 156

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Larned

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Pawnee

CODE

145

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska 68112

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska 68112

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1961

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation, NPS

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
1965 Federal  
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation, National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

List of Classified Structures  
1975 Federal  
Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service  
Omaha, Nebraska

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Larned National Historic Site consists of 718.39 acres of land in two parcels, located west of the town of Larned in Pawnee County, Kansas. The first parcel, of 673.95 acres, includes the remains of Fort Larned. The federal government (National Park Service) owns 358.35 acres in fee and 269.20 acres in scenic easement. The parcel also includes 46.40 acres of state-owned highway right-of-way. The second parcel, of 44.44 acres owned in fee by the federal government, is a detached area containing original remnants of the Santa Fe Trail.

#### Setting

A post surgeon at Fort Larned offered the following summary of his natural surroundings in the 1860s:

The fort is bounded on the northwest by the creek [Pawnee River] and on the east by a dry shallow ravine [the dry oxbow], an old bed of the creek, which once supported a large growth of trees. To the south a flat prairie extends six miles to the Arkansas River, beyond which a low range of sand hills terminates the view. . . . To the south the ground rises to a wilderness, sand hills, affording shelter to herds of bison in the winter and on the north with a desolate prairie whose principal growth is buffalo grass, the gourd, and various species of cactus. Occasionally a long swell in the ground terminates in an abrupt hill of sandstone.<sup>1</sup>

The vista was much altered during the 19th century. Watercourses were heavily bordered by mixed hardwoods and brush when the army first occupied Fort Larned in 1860. During the Civil War the large numbers of volunteer troops stationed at the post denuded the banks of the Pawnee and portions of those of the Arkansas. Although regrowth began in the later 1860s following the war, it was not until the 20th century that the heavy bordering was naturally replaced. During the 1870s the troops planted cottonwood, ash, elm, and box elder trees around the parade ground and seeded blue grass. These programs had few persistent results, however.

By the mid-1870s the wildlife of the area had been affected as well. The buffalo and other ruminants had been virtually eliminated, and with them many of the predators and small wildlife. With the introduction of heavy grazing in the 1880s, the area began to assume its modern, kept appearance.

During the 20th century grazing began to give way before large-scale crop farming, fences were erected, and roads and manmade structures appeared on the scene. Today, the expansiveness of this part of Kansas remains, but the natural conditions have been greatly altered from the mixed grass prairie of the past to the intensive agricultural area of the present.

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Since 1968, the National Park Service has been restoring the native prairie vegetation within the national historic site.

Existing Historic Structures

Nine historic structures, all of stone and all but one constructed during the 1867-68 program, survive from the period of army occupancy at Fort Larned. They are listed below in order according to Historic Structure (HS) numbers assigned by the National Park Service. The sequence is arranged clockwise around the parade ground, beginning at the northwest corner, for existing structures, and continues without reference to the parade ground for structures no longer existing.

All of the structures were altered to various degrees by civilian owners. While planning for the national historic site is still underway, the National Park Service proposes the restoration of all structures on the exterior to their military appearance, with the interiors given various adaptive or interpretive uses, including selected refurnishings. Exterior restoration of HS-1 and HS-2, returning their appearance from that of one barn to that of two barracks, was undertaken in 1973-74. HS-1 will be adapted to serve as a visitor center, museum, and administrative offices. HS-2 will be restored and refurnished on the interior.

All the structures suffer from serious structural deterioration due to the nature of their construction materials and techniques and the absence of proper maintenance over several decades. A multi-year stabilization program is underway to insure the preservation of all structures pending restoration and public use in the future.

HS-1, Barracks. A T-shaped building constructed in 1867-68. The main structure measures 150 feet by 43 feet; the kitchen wing measures 36 feet by 34 feet. It has coursed sandstone rubble walls, with a wood-shingled trussed roof and a porch running the length of the front (south) side. It provided housing for two companies of men. It is in good condition.

HS-2, Barracks. A T-shaped building constructed in 1867-68. It is identical to HS-1 except that it is 172 feet long. It provided housing for two companies of men, until in 1871 the east wing was converted to house the post hospital. It is in fair condition.

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HS-3, Shops Building. A rectangular building constructed in 1867-68. It measures 84 feet by 30 feet, and has walls of coursed sandstone rubble, with a wood-shingled, trussed-rafter roof. It contained four rooms housing the bakery; a saddler's, carpentry, and wheelwright shop; and a blacksmith shop. The interior was extensively altered by civilian owners. It is in deteriorated condition.

HS-4, New Commissary Storehouse. A rectangular building constructed in 1867-68. It measures 84 feet by 31 feet and has walls of coursed sandstone rubble, with a wood-shingled, trussed-rafter roof. It was built to provide additional commissary storage, but received various other uses during the military period. The interior was extensively altered by civilian owners. It is in fair condition.

HS-5, Old Commissary Storehouse. A rectangular building constructed in 1866, completed and altered in 1867-68. It measures 154 feet by 27 feet and has walls of coursed sandstone rubble, with a wood-shingled, trussed-rafter roof. It provided commissary storage space. The interior was extensively altered by civilian owners. It is in fair condition.

HS-6, Quartermaster Storehouse. A rectangular building constructed in 1867-68. It measures 158 feet by 40 feet and has walls of coursed sandstone rubble, with historically a wood-shingled, trussed roof. It provided storage of quartermaster supplies. Civilian owners converted it to a barn, among other extensive alterations raising the height of the walls about five feet in stone masonry, and adding a transected, tin barn roof. It is in fair, but partially deteriorated, condition.

HS-7, Officers Quarters. A U-shaped building constructed in 1867-68. It measures 84 feet by 54 feet overall, with walls of coursed sandstone rubble, and a wood-shingled, wood-framed roof. The interior was moderately altered by civilian owners. It provided housing for company and field officers. It is in deteriorated condition, although partially usable.

HS-8, Commanding Officer's Quarters. An L-shaped building constructed in 1867-68. It measures 47 feet by 63 feet overall, has walls of finely dressed (bush hammered, with chiselled margins) ashlar sandstone on the front (east) and both sides, with coursed sandstone rubble on the west side. The roof was wood-framed and covered with wood shingles. It housed the commanding officer. The interior was extensively altered by civilian owners, who partially altered and added to the exterior. It is in fair, but partially deteriorated, condition.

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HS-9, Officers Quarters. A U-shaped building identical to HS-7. It housed company and field officers. Its interior is the least altered of all nine structures, retaining the most original fabric. It is in deteriorated condition, although partially usable.

Historic Structures No Longer Existing, and Other Historic Structures and Features

During its military existence, Fort Larned saw the construction and demolition or abandonment of a wide variety of historic structures, most of them buildings of various sorts, but including the parade ground, gardens, dumps, and a drainage system. Most of those remain only as subsurface features susceptible to archeological investigation, or as sites. While bearing importance individually as elements of the fort's physical history, none of them, because of their nonexistence, are as crucial to its present significance and physical integrity as are the nine that still exist. The following is a listing of them.

- HS-10, Blockhouse. Constructed 1864-65, demolished before 1900.
- HS-11, Commissary Storehouse and Barracks. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-12, Quartermaster Storehouse and Barracks. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-13, Laundress Quarters. Constructed 1860, demolished 1880s.
- HS-14, Laundress Quarters. Constructed 1860, demolished 1880s.
- HS-15, Hospital (Ordnance Sergeant's Quarters). Constructed 1860, demolished 1880s.
- HS-16 and HS-17, Sinks (privies). Dates unknown.
- HS-18, Meathouse. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-19, Storehouse. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-20, Carpenter and Blacksmith Shop. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-21, Icehouse. Constructed 1867, demolished before 1900.
- HS-22, Sutler's Corral and Stables. Constructed early 1860s, demolished before 1900.
- HS-23, Sutler's Store, Constructed ca. 1863, demolished by 1880.
- HS-24, Sutler's Mess Room. Constructed 1863, demolished by 1880.
- HS-25, Sutler's Residence. Constructed 1865, demolished by 1880.
- HS-26, Bridge. Constructed 1868, date of demolition unknown.
- HS-27, New Sutler's Store. Constructed 1867, demolished by 1880.
- HS-28, Officers Quarters. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.
- HS-29, Field Entrenchments. Constructed 1864-65, filled in 1867-69.
- HS-30, Teamster Quarters. Date of construction unknown, demolished before 1884.

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- HS-31, Corral. Constructed 1872, date of demolition unknown.  
HS-32, Flagpole. Constructed 1860, destroyed by lightning 1878.  
HS-33, Guardhouse. Constructed 1860, demolished ca. 1867.  
HS-34, Hospital Stewards's Quarters. Constructed 1874, demolished by 1886.  
HS-35, Stable. Constructed 1867-68, burned 1869.  
HS-36, Bake Shop. Constructed 1860, demolished 1869.  
HS-37, Old Cemetery. Established 1860, remains moved to new cemetery 1870-72.  
HS-38, New Cemetery. Established 1869, remains removed to Fort Leavenworth, 1886.  
HS-39, Corral. Constructed 1860, date of demolition unknown.  
HS-40, Mail Station. Constructed 1863, date of demolition unknown.  
HS-41, Beef Corral. Existed in 1860s, exact dates unknown.  
HS-42, Adobe Shanties. Existed during military occupation, exact dates unknown.  
HS-43, Adjutant's Office. Constructed 1867-68, demolished 1880s.  
HS-44, Wash House. Existed late 1860s through 1870s, exact dates unknown.  
HS-45, Guardhouse Foundation. Constructed 1867-68, still exists as subsurface feature.  
HS-46, Drainage System. Constructed in 1860s and 1870s, now badly deteriorated and only partly existent.  
HS-47, Dumps. Active throughout military period.  
HS-48, Parade Ground. Extant, although altered by natural forces.  
HS-49, Dugouts. Existed during early and mid 1860s, probably demolished after 1868.  
HS-50, Gardens. Existed during military period.

Aboriginal Cultural Resources

Archeological investigations have turned up no indication of positively identified prehistoric aboriginal occupation of the area. This may be due to two factors: that the area actually received little aboriginal use, and/or that evidence has been obliterated by nonaboriginal occupation. At least one site is reported partially on historic site property at the southeast boundary. Its age, extent, and significance are undetermined. Since the site is not threatened, it is believed advisable to preserve the site as unexcavated pending the development of new research techniques. While the possibility of other aboriginal remains is limited, it should not be discounted until more comprehensive archeological study is undertaken.

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Santa Fe Trail Ruts (Detached Area)

This 44-acre stretch of ground is located approximately four miles southwest of Fort Larned. It preserves examples of the ruts caused by wagon traffic over the Santa Fe Trail. Because of this importance, it has never been plowed, being held intact as a small pasture surrounded by croplands by its previous owner until its acquisition by the Federal government after the establishment of the national historic site. The terrain is flat, broken by the longitudinal depressions of the trail ruts and by the remains of a few buffalo wallows. The vegetative cover is a remnant of original prairie vegetation, but greatly altered due to long-term grazing and possibly the use of chemicals. Grazing ceased after 1975, and it is intended to restore the native vegetative cover of the site. A raised platform at the southwest corner, next to a county road, provides an elevated view of the area, which is surrounded by a wire fence. An archeological survey in 1974 indicated no historic or pre-historic resources other than the trail ruts.

<sup>1</sup>Medical History of Fort Larned, National Archives Microfilm in National Park Service Files, Fort Larned.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860-1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Quartermaster Department, U.S. Army

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Larned was first established in 1859 as Camp on Pawnee Fork, renamed Camp Alert the following year. The army relocated the camp later in 1860 three miles west of the original location to its present site and renamed it again, this time in honor of the Paymaster General, Colonel Benjamin F. Larned. Fort Larned became a focal point for relations and conflicts between Indians and non-Indians on the Plains during and after the Civil War.

The post was established because of Indian displeasure at increasing traffic on the Santa Fe Trail--a well preserved portion of which exists in the national historic site as an area detached from the fort proper. Its mission was to protect the Kansas portion of the trail, and in concert with Fort Lyon, Colorado, and Fort Union, New Mexico, Fort Larned was a principal element in a system of posts and patrols intended to insure the safety of travel, commerce, and the mails in the face of native opposition.

The fort was for more than a decade a base for operations against Indians on the Central Plains, including Cheyennes, Kiowas, Arapahos, and Comanches. Also during the 1860s it was the focus of a program of peaceful conquest. From 1861 to 1868 the fort was the Bureau of Indian Affairs distribution point for annuities received by tribes that signed the Fort Wise Treaty of 1861. In 1864 Fort Larned became the agency for the Kiowas and Comanches, and the following year for the Cheyennes, Arapahos, and Kiowa-Apaches. The agency was abolished in 1868 when the tribes were moved to reservations in Indian Territory.

During the 1870s the troops from the post provided protection for the construction of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. Upon completion of the line through Kansas in 1872, the fort provided police service in the area until it was abandoned in 1878. A guard detachment from Fort Dodge protected the property until 1883, when custody of the Fort Larned Military Reservation, declared surplus, was transferred to the General Land Office, Department of the Interior.

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Fort Larned had undergone a major construction program in 1867-68, and much of its significance lies in its architectural features and their unity as a complex. Although only nine of its historic structures survive, they are among the most substantial built there. They comprise all but one of the ten structures that originally defined the parade ground quadrangle and are good examples of American military post architecture during the Victorian period. Remains of virtually all other structures built by the army survive as archeological features. Although of somewhat less importance to the area's significance, the remains of the nonexistent historic structures nonetheless represent facets of the fort's history and contribute to its importance as a historic resource.

Sold at auction by the General Land Office in 1884, Fort Larned passed through the hands of several owners, most of them headquarters of agricultural concerns. The fort site, including the buildings, was finally purchased by E. E. Frizell in 1902 and remained in the hands of his family until the establishment of the national historic site. During the intervening period the surviving structures were preserved (with extensive alterations) through adaptive use as the headquarters for a major ranching operation.

Fort Larned was studied by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, found to be nationally significant, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961. The Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the nine surviving historic structures in 1965. On August 31, 1964, the President signed Public Law 88-541, authorizing the establishment of Fort Larned National Historic Site.

Physical History of the Fort

When the troops moved to Camp Alert (renamed Fort Larned on May 29, 1860) in 1860, they established it on the right bank of the Pawnee River about eight miles above its confluence with the Arkansas River. Bounded on the west and north by the wooded banks of the river, and on the north and east by a draw oxbow of the river, the post was, in the words of an army surgeon, surrounded by "a vast rolling prairie of scanty vegetation . . ."

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In an area measuring about 800 feet east-to-west by 1180 feet north-to-south, the troops initiated a construction program. During its military history, Fort Larned saw the existence of 50 known structures, some of which proved exceedingly temporary. Those built in the early years were rudimentary. In 1860 the troops erected seven structures of consequence: an adobe quartermaster storehouse and an adobe commissary storehouse; a partitioned officers quarters of adobe and "pickets;" a "picket" guard-house; two adobe laundress quarters; and an adobe hospital. Additional structures were even more primitive. Troop quarters and the post bakery were dugouts along the river bank. A small adobe meat house, a log and canvas "carriage house," and a three-room "picket" shops building, supplemented with a miscellany of tents and hovels, completed Fort Larned's physical plant during its early years.

The structures were better suited to the arid Southwest than to Kansas, particularly since most of them were roofed with earth-covered brush. In short order they were literally ramshackle. But, loosely arranged around a hollow square, they circumscribed the parade ground central to site planning in military posts at the time.

Its basic character thus established, Fort Larned received improvements prompted by official recognition of its physical dilapidation and tactical value. The first new development was a stone blockhouse, constructed in 1864-65. At about the same time a line of field trenches was dug across the southern flank of the post from the river to the dry oxbow. The attention shown to such traditional fortifying works was a short-lived curiosity most evident in contemporary military posts in Kansas. They reflected the experience of officers during the Civil War, a conflict between modern armed forces capable of assaulting strong-points. The Plains Indians, however, were not sufficiently motivated, equipped, nor numerous enough to do so, and accordingly refrained from attacking military posts in the Hollywood fashion. In time the army ceased expending resources on needless fortifications.

Despite some debate on whether or not Fort Larned ought to be moved to a new location, plans were initiated in 1866 for an improvement in the post's physical plant. During the summer and fall the troops constructed a stone commissary storehouse, which was completed and subjected to alterations the next year. Its walls were originally raised all around to about four feet, and at that level a series of rifle ports were built in as the walls rose to full height. This "fortification" effort permitted the abandonment of the entrenchments, which were difficult to maintain and so lengthy that more than a thousand soldiers would be required to man them in event of a serious attack.

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During 1867 and early 1868 a civilian work force averaging 191 men, under the supervision of an army quartermaster, undertook a comprehensive construction program that was to provide six frame buildings, nine stone buildings, and alterations to two existing stone structures, the blockhouse and the commissary storehouse. After a reduction of funds in early 1868 only a minor amount of work--including the addition of kitchen wings to the two barracks, completion of the new commissary, and addition of porches to the officers quarters--had to be completed by enlisted men under the supervision of a second lieutenant. One stone structure originally proposed, a new guardhouse, never progressed beyond its foundations.

During 1869 the cavalry stables constructed during the program burned to the ground. At about the same time an extensive cleanup program was undertaken to remove construction debris and the remains of the surplus original structures from the fort. If they had not been so previously, the trenches were probably filled in during this effort.

From the end of 1869 until the close of its military occupation, Fort Larned's appearance remained essentially static. It included ten structures around the parade ground (the nine existing stone buildings and a frame adjutant's office at the northwest corner), together with the foundations of the uncompleted guard house on the east side of the parade; the blockhouse (converted to a guardhouse); the two laundress quarters and the hospital north of the barracks; an ice house next to the river west of the commanding officers' quarters; the sutler's corral and stables next to the river south of the ice house, with three sutler's buildings south of them; and the new sutler's store about one hundred yards south of the quartermaster storehouse. The original cemetery was moved in 1869 from the island within the oxbow to a site north of the post on the opposite side of the river. The oxbow island was used for storage of wood, hay, and materials. A scattering of corrals and miscellaneous structures and a dump completed the scene.

In the period immediately following its abandonment, Fort Larned deteriorated in a gradual process aided by scavenging of materials from the structures. During the ensuing eight decades, the place again came to life as a ranchstead. New structures, including silos and corrals, were added, and all but the nine surviving stone structures around the parade were demolished. Those that did survive were variously altered

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for utilitarian purposes. The two barracks, for example, became in 1929 a single, large barn covered with an enormous gambrel roof. Fences were added and shade trees and decorative vegetation took root. By 1960 the ranch evinced stylish and comfortable prosperity in a unique layout provided by the army's site planning and architecture.

Since 1964, a program has been underway to restore the military appearance of the fort's remains. During the 1960s most added ranch structures were demolished and the detritus of the ranching period removed. Only the nine altered stone structures built by the army remain. Nonhistoric intrusions remaining include some of the trees and shrubs planted by the ranchers, irrigation facilities, and a state highway spur and bridge. Plans include the eventual elimination of such intrusions.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Environmental Assessment for the Master Plan, Fort Larned National Historic Site, National Park Service, 1975.  
 National Park Service research reports and files.  
 Unrau, William E., "The Story of Fort Larned," Kansas Historical Quarterly, 23, 3 (Autumn 1957): 257-80.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 718.39

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	4,17,9,70,0	4,22,6,70,0	B	1,4	4,8,2,0,5,0	4,2,2,6,8,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,4	4,8,2,0,5,0	4,2,2,5,8,0,0	D	1,4	4,8,1,6,5,0	4,2,2,5,80,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E	1,4	4,8,1,6,5,0	4,2,2,5,1,5,0	F	1,4	4,8,1,2,5,0	4,2,2,5,1,5,0
G	1,4	4,8,1,2,5,0	4,2,2,5,3,5,0	H	1,4	4,8,0,2,5,0	4,2,2,5,3,5,0
J	1,4	4,8,0,2,5,0	4,2,2,6,2,0,0	K	1,4	4,7,9,7,0,0	4,2,2,6,4,0,0
AA	1,4	4,7,9,3,0,0	4,2,1,9,3,0,0	BB	1,4	4,7,9,3,0,0	4,2,1,9,3,0,0
CC	1,4	4,7,9,3,0,0	4,2,1,8,9,0,0	DD	1,4	4,7,9,3,0,0	4,2,1,8,9,0,0

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Clary, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

Midwest Region, National Park Service

DATE

March 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

TELEPHONE

402-221-3426 (FTS 864-3426)

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha, Nebraska

STATE

Nebraska 68112

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JUN 8 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE 8/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 11 1976
DATE ENTERED <u>8-31-64</u> (10-15-66)

CONTINUATION SHEET

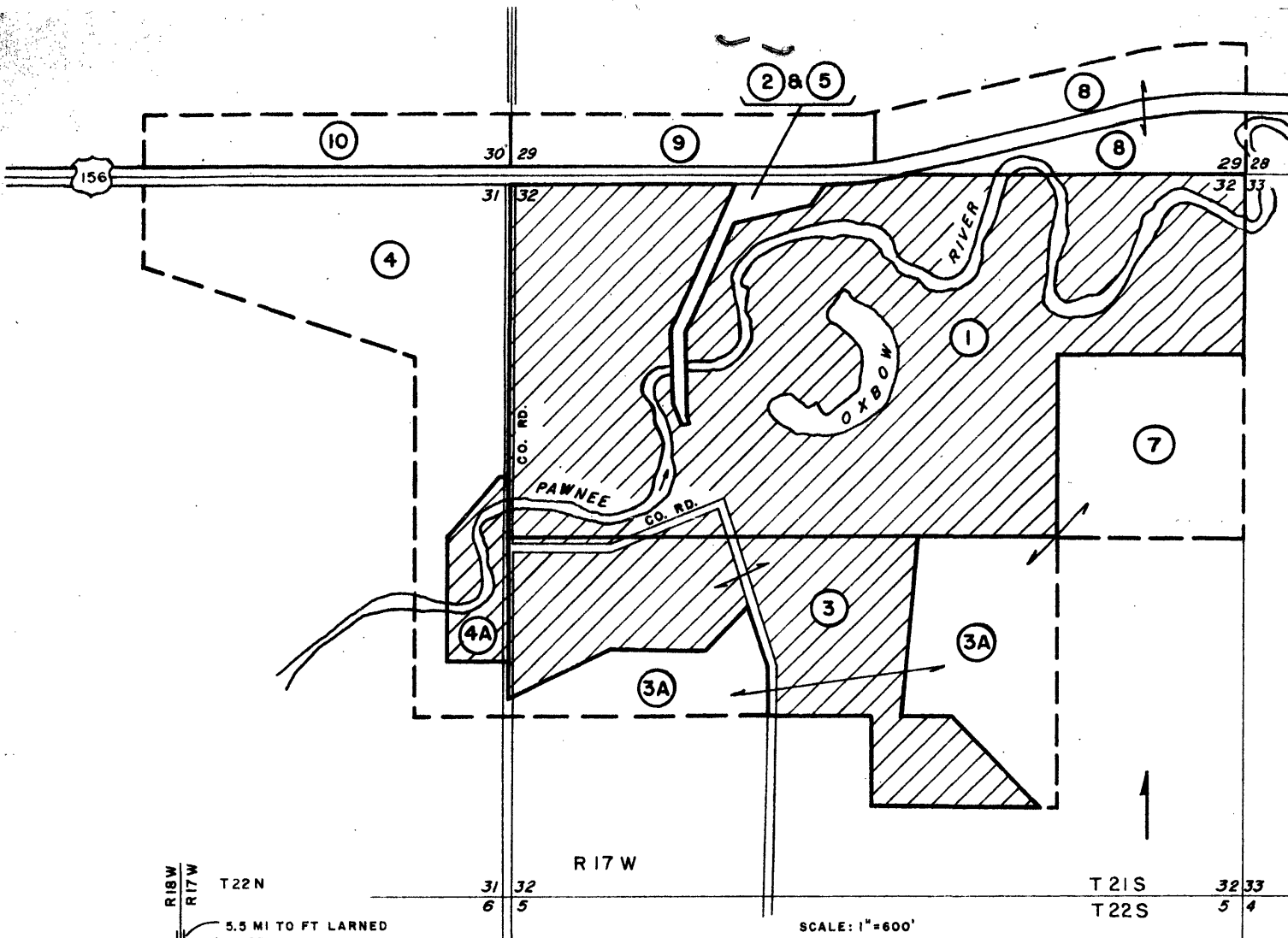
ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 11

Verbal Description:

Beginning at a point (A) located approximately 2,500 feet west and 300 feet north of the northwest corner of section number 32 of Pawnee County, Kansas, the boundary of Fort Larned National Historic Site proceeds east in a line paralleling 300 feet north of U.S. Highway 156 to a point (B) about 7,800 feet east of point A. The boundary then proceeds due south about 3,600 feet to a point (C) where it turns due west about 1,400 feet to a point (D) where it turns due south about 2,000 feet to a point (E) where it turns due west about 1,300 feet to a point (F) where it turns due north about 700 feet to a point (G) where it turns due west about 3,200 feet to a point (H) where it turns due north about 2,600 feet to a point (J) where it turns west-northwest about 1,800 feet to a point (K) where it turns due north about 1,000 feet to the point of beginning.

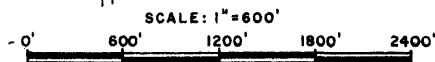
The second area in Fort Larned National Historic Site begins at a point (AA) about 2,600 feet due north of the southwest corner of section 19 of Pawnee County, Kansas, and proceeds due east about 1,000 feet to a point (BB) where it turns due south about 1,950 feet to a point (CC) where it turns due west about 1,000 feet to a point (DD) where it turns due north about 1,950 feet to the point of beginning (AA).



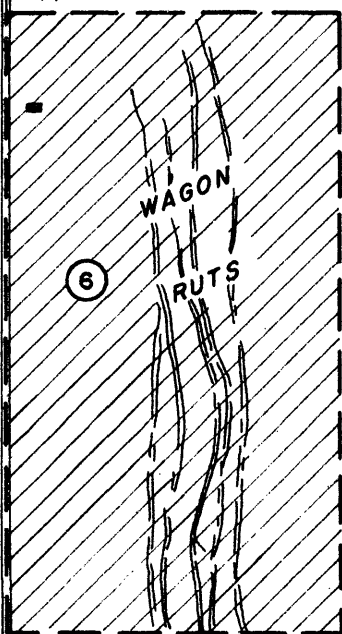
R18W  
R17W  
T22N  
5.5 MI TO FT LARNED  
1/4 COR

R17W

T21S  
T22S  
32 33  
5 4



FEE EASEMENT   
--- NPS BOUNDARY



DETACHED RUTS AREA

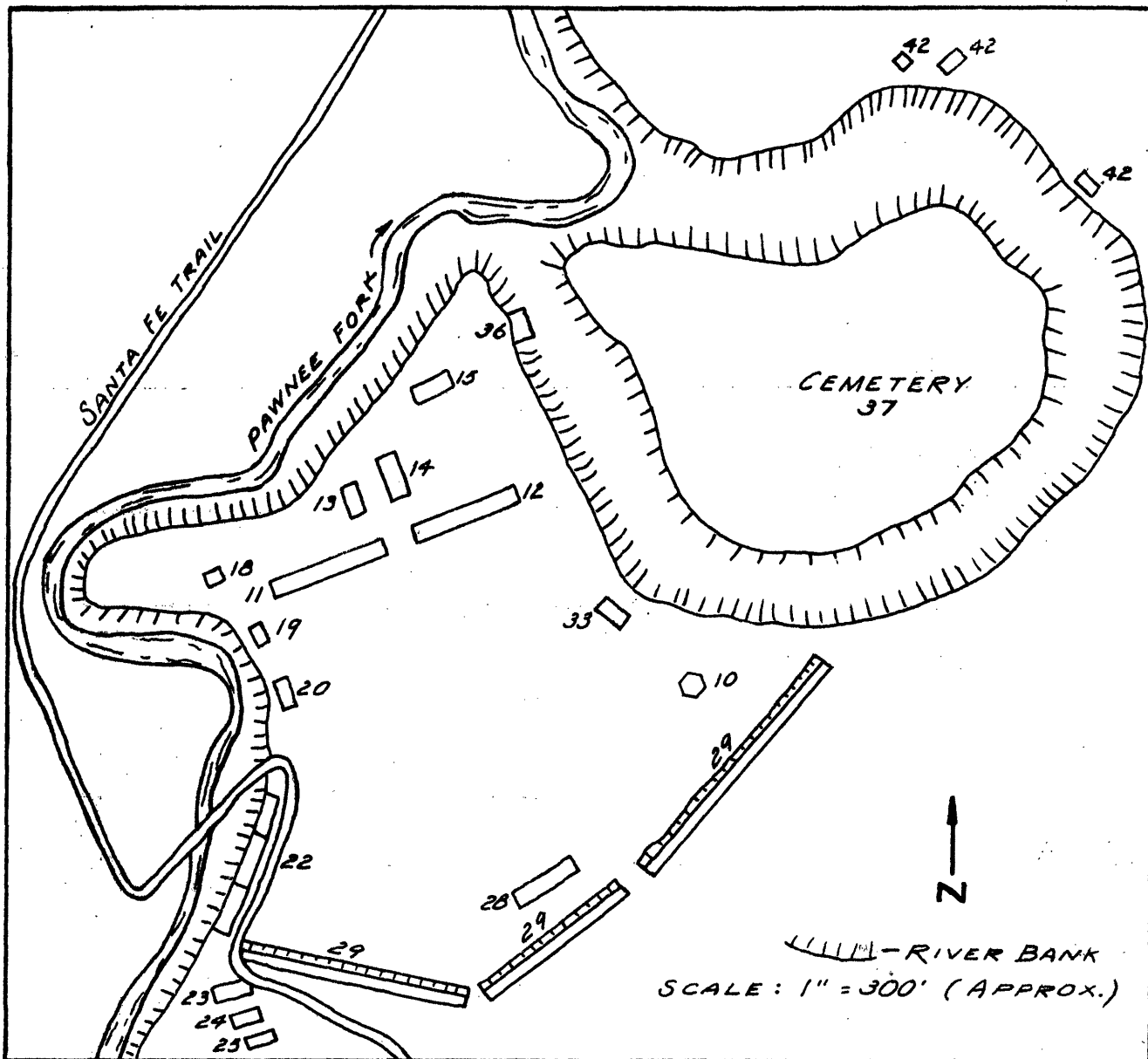


TRACT REGISTER			
TRACT NO	NAME OF OWNER	ACREAGE	
		FEE	EASEMENT
1	VERNE FRIZELL ET AL	267.00	
2 & 5	STATE OF KANSAS		
3	R. R. FRIZELL ET UX	80.00	
7 & 3A	R. R. FRIZELL ET UX		99.90
4	S. N. MOFFET ET UX		91.30
4A	S. N. MOFFET ET UX	11.35	
6	PAUL EIKMEIER	44.44	
8	RITA SUE WINTER ET VIR		38.00
9	MARLYN RUTH BROWN ET VIR		20.00
10	JAMES R. BOYD		20.00
TOTAL		402.79	269.20

## LAND OWNERSHIP

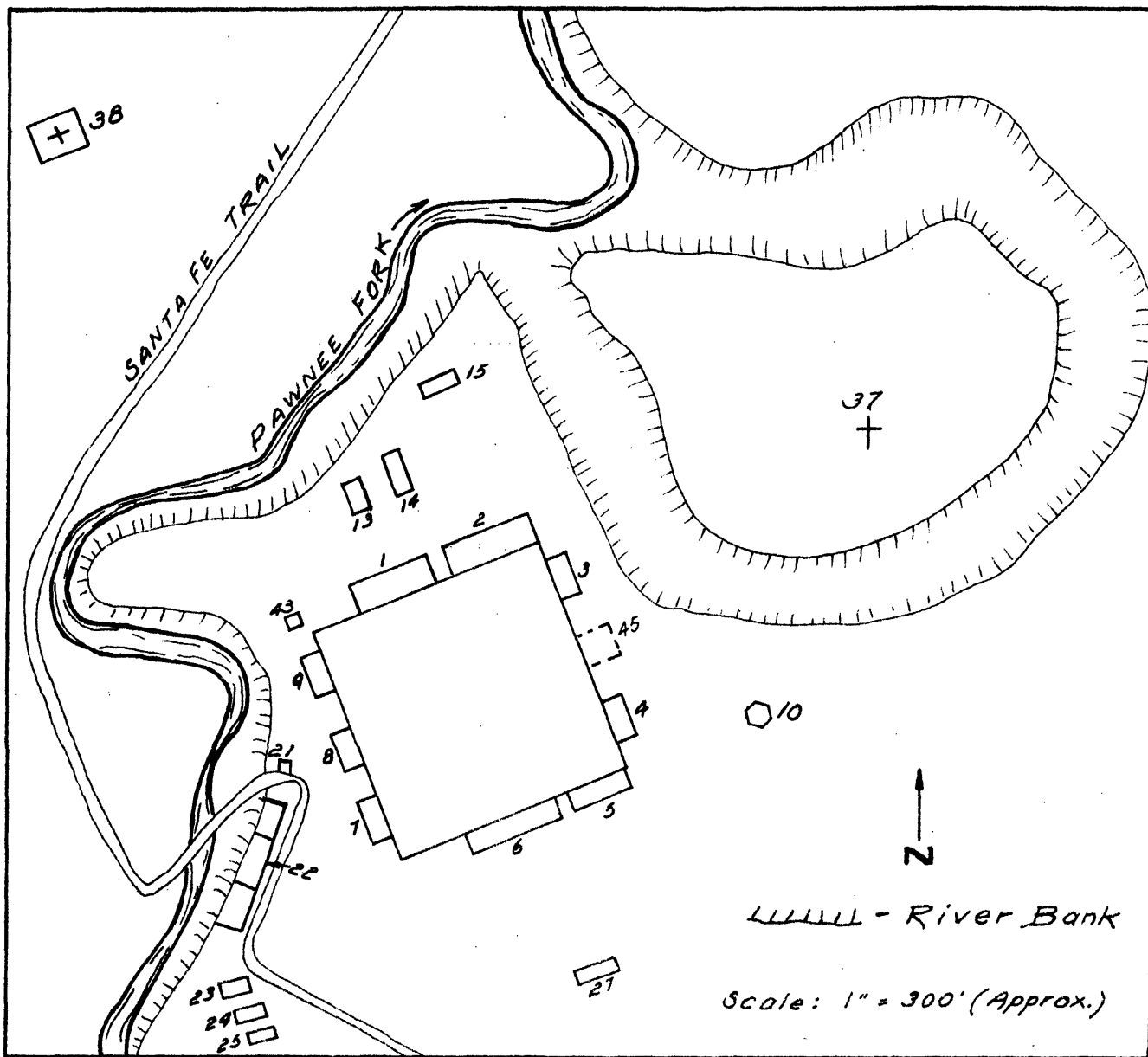
NOTE: Tract Register identifies original owners. All lands now owned by U.S. in fee or easement as shown.





FORT LARNED IN 1866

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10. Blockhouse                 | 23. Sutler's Store        |
| 11. CS Store and Barracks      | 24. Sutler's Mess Room    |
| 12. QM Store and Barracks      | 25. Sutler's Residence    |
| 13. Laundress Quarters         | 28. Officer's Quarters    |
| 14. Laundress Quarters         | 29. Embankment and Trench |
| 15. Hospital                   | 33. Guard House           |
| 18. Meat House                 | 36. Bake Shop             |
| 19. Storehouse                 | 37. Cemetery              |
| 20. Shops                      | 42. Adobe Shanties        |
| 22. Sutler's Corral and Stable |                           |



FORT LARNED IN 1869

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Barracks                  | 13. Laundress Quarters          |
| 2. Barracks                  | 14. Laundress Quarters          |
| 3. Shops                     | 15. Hospital                    |
| 4. New Commissary Storehouse | 21. Ice House                   |
| 5. Old Commissary Storehouse | 22. Sutler's Corral and Stables |
| 6. Quartermaster Storehouse  | 23. Sutler's Store              |
| 7. Officer's Quarters (S)    | 24. Sutler's Mess Room          |
| 8. CO's Quarters             | 25. Sutler's Residence          |
| 9. Officer's Quarters (N)    | 27. New Sutler's Store          |
| 10. Blockhouse               | 37. Old Cemetery                |
|                              | 38. New Cemetery                |
|                              | 43. Adjutant's Office           |
|                              | 45. Guard House Foundation      |

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Kansas</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XV "Westward Expansion 1830 to 1898" - Santa Fe Trail</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Larned</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>10</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>About 5 miles west of the town of Larned, Kansas</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Private ownership. Leased to Fort Larned Historical Society</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Fort Larned, during the 1860's and early 1870's, was the oldest and most important military post which guarded the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. It served as headquarters for troops responsible for safeguarding freighters and travelers and the passage of mail along that route. In 1864, Fort Larned was the base of operations against the hostile Cheyennes. In 1867, the Army sent an abortive expedition of about 1,400 men, under General Winfield S. Hancock, to the post to punish any tribes which might molest people traveling across the Plains. In the period from 1859 to 1869 almost 200 whites and Indians were recorded as having been killed in the Fort Larned vicinity.

The fort also, during the 1860's, played a very significant role in the negotiations with and in administering the southern and central plains tribes. In 1860, some 160 troops were stationed there. From 1861 to 1868, the fort was a distributing point for the annuities to several of the Indian tribes under the Fort Wise Treaty of 1861. Because of depredations, the Army in 1864 ordered the Kiowa and Comanche to Fort Larned where the government established an agency for the two tribes. In 1865, bands of Cheyenne, Arapaho and Apache were placed under the charge of the agent at Larned. Following the signing of the Medicine Lodge Treaty, effected in October 1867, the five tribes were removed to reservations set aside for them in Indian Territory. The government, therefore, abandoned the annuity distribution at Larned for the five tribes.

The Army, in accordance with William Bent's recommendation, in 1859 established a temporary post, called Camp Alert, at the mouth of Pawnee Fork on the Arkansas River. Later in the year it moved to a new site three miles west where the erection of a permanent sod fort was completed in 1860 and renamed Fort Larned. In 1866-1868, Fort Larned was rebuilt with stone structures. This post was equipped to house four companies of troops. (See attached ground plan.) Buildings in 1876 are described as follows:

(Continued next page)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources: give location of manuscripts and rare works) <b>William E. Unrau, "The Story of Fort Larned", The Kansas Historical Quarterly, XXIII, (Autumn, 1957) 257-280.</b>
--

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.) <b>Merrill J. Mattes, "Report on the Historical Investigation of Eleven Areas in Kansas Proposed for National Recognition", (Omaha, 1955)</b>
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10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Ranch headquarters	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>October 1957</b> <del>March 1958</del>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 3/4 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)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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) . . .

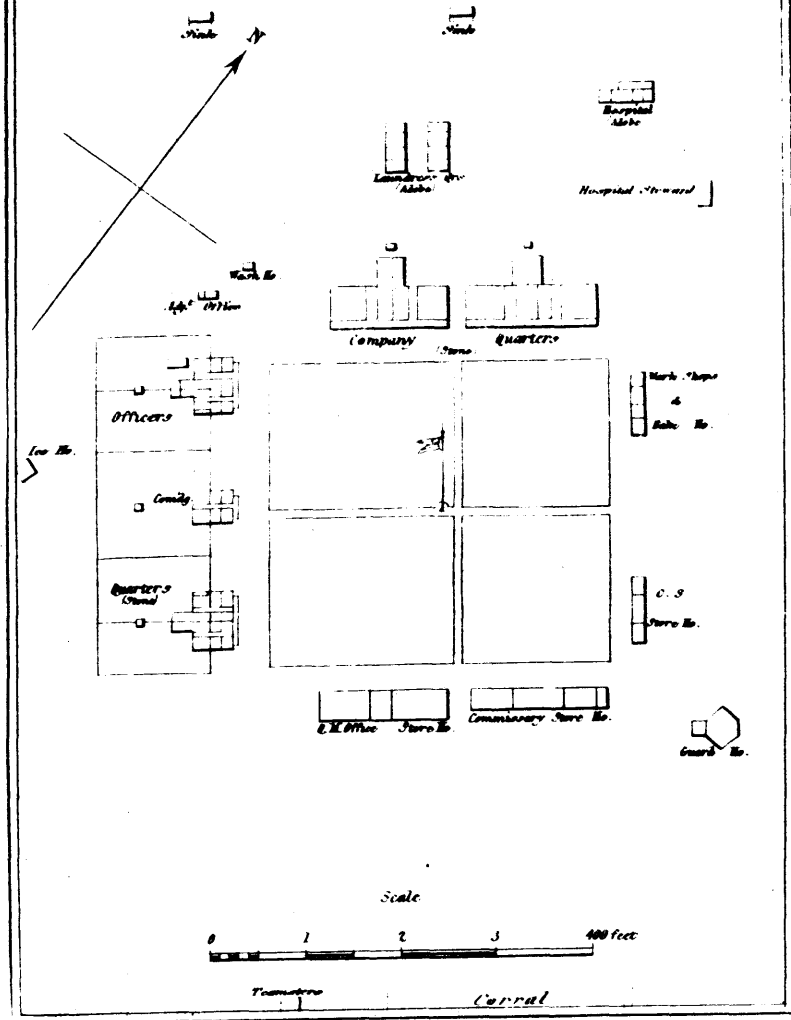
STATE Kansas	NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Larned
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7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

Quarters for four companies; officers' quarters, three sets, built of sandstone, in good condition; hospital in one of the company quarters; guard house, 57x40 feet; quartermaster's storehouse 157½x42 feet; commissary storehouses, two, 153x30 feet and 82½x20 feet respectively; workshops, bakery; all sandstone buildings; laundress' quarters, ice house, etc., corral for 150 animals.

With the exception of Fort Totten, in North Dakota, which is of considerable less significance, Fort Larned is the best preserved 19th century military post in Region Two. Practically all of the buildings surrounding the parade ground, several of which have undergone considerable alterations, have survived. These include three officers' quarters, probably erected in 1867, two of which have undergone but a few architectural alterations. The two barracks, each of which housed two companies of troops, were converted into a barn. The original stone walls, however, are still in evidence. The quartermaster's office and storehouse has been converted into a barn by the extension of the original stone walls in order to form a hayloft. The old commissary storehouse, which still has the original portholes, is little changed except for the roof. The ordnance sergeant's office and storehouse, the workshops, and the bakery have been changed but little except for the roofs. With the exception of the icehouse, all of the outbuildings have disappeared. The chief intrusion on the parade ground of the old fort are two silos on the northeast and southeast corners. Fort Larned is one of the three sites on the Santa Fe Trail which is recommended for further study by the undersigned.

# PLAN of FORT LARNED KAN.



**Ground plan of Fort Larned, 1876. (Copied from Outline Descriptions of The Posts in the Military Division of the Missouri, commanded by Lieutenant General P. H. Sheridan [Chicago, 1876])**