

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

FORT RICHARDSON

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Richardson

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. 281, south edge of Jacksboro

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jacksboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE

48

COUNTY

Jack

CODE

237

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

__ DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

__ STRUCTURE

__ SITE

__ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC

__ PRIVATE

__ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__ IN PROCESS

__ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS OCCUPIED

__ UNOCCUPIED

__ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__ YES: RESTRICTED

 YES: UNRESTRICTED

__ NO

PRESENT USE

__ AGRICULTURE

__ COMMERCIAL

__ EDUCATIONAL

__ ENTERTAINMENT

__ GOVERNMENT

__ INDUSTRIAL

__ MILITARY

 MUSEUM PARK

__ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ RELIGIOUS

__ SCIENTIFIC

__ TRANSPORTATION

__ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Paul Schimper, Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Division

STREET & NUMBER

John P. Reagan Building

CITY, TOWN

Austin

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Division

STREET & NUMBER

John P. Reagan Building

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas 78701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

in progress

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Parks and Wildlife Division, Reagan Building

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Richardson was constructed beginning in 1867. Originally consisting of more than forty structures of various sizes and architectural design, the fort over the years has been all but obliterated by urban encroachment and industrial development. Of this great number of buildings only a few remain. These extant buildings have, since 1967, been under restoration by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division.

1. The Hospital (Photo No. 1): Begun in 1867, the construction of the hospital progressed slowly and the facility was not completed until 1870. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acquired Fort Richardson in 1967 and at that time the hospital was in bad repair. Though structurally sound it had sustained considerable alterations since the fort had been abandoned by the army some ninety years before. The original porch which had wrapped around the first floor had been replaced by a two-story central portico on the east or front elevation of the two-story central block. Other alterations had been made by the National Guard and the Jack County Historical Society in their efforts to preserve the structure while using it as the county museum. These alterations included addition of partitions, covering of original plank floors and various modernization modifications. The Parks and Wildlife Division has initiated a program of restoration which has replaced the fort-period porch, restored exterior and interior wood trimmings and repointed the original rubble stonework. In design, the hospital is symmetrical with large wards built to accommodate twelve persons, on either side of a two-story central block. A one-story kitchen is in the rear. The north ward, mess room, dispensary and office were restored to the fort period; the kitchen was specifically restored to 1870. The kitchen was replastered and received a new ceiling. In the north ward a new plank floor was placed over the concrete slabbing and the bath and wash rooms were restored. At present the hospital is used as a museum with interpretive booths which relate the history of the fort as well as this area of the State.

2. Officers Quarters (Photos No. 3 and No. 4): Prior to the erection of officers' quarters on the Fort Richardson reservation proper, officers and enlisted men lived in tents and hastily constructed temporary structures on the north side of the creek. The original first five officers' quarters were frame structures. By 1872 five other structures had been constructed. These officers' units were picket buildings. Of the original buildings constructed only one remains, since the structures, by 1875, were dilapidated and deteriorated. Restored in 1972, the officers' quarters is a U-shaped, one and one half story frame building. Its board and batten walls rest on a sandstone foundation. There is a porch extending across the north elevation, which faces the parade ground. The windows on the three principal elevations are all double-hung, nine by nine lights, while the windows in rear and in the dormers are multi-light casement windows swinging in. On the upper level, there are two floor-level casement windows of six lights each which provide light and ventilation to the attic rooms. The interior walls are of plaster on the ground floor, with canvas walls and ceilings in the attic rooms. Each of the six first floor rooms has a fireplace except the stair hall. There are no fireplaces on the second floor.

(continued)

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 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 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 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

1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Richardson, northernmost of the chain of Texas forts, took the place of Fort Belknap, which was abandoned after the Civil War for lack of water (see National Historic Landmark files for Fort Belknap, Texas). Like Belknap, Fort Richardson was the protective fortification for the North Texas frontier during Indian conflicts. In particular, Fort Richardson was instrumental in quelling the Kiowa-Comanche conflicts of the post Civil War period. Because of its close proximity to the Oklahoma border, Fort Richardson, during the Peace Policy programs of President Grant, acted as Indian overseer and protector. The fort was also a stop for the El Paso stage line, which used the old Butterfield trail.

Much of Fort Richardson has been lost. However, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which acquired the property in 1969, has begun a program of preservation and restoration. Of the original 40-plus buildings at Fort Richardson only six presently stand. There have been extensive archeological investigations and a number of buildings and sites have been identified, though no facilities have been constructed for their interpretation. The fort (or historic) area sits in a much larger Fort Richardson State Park. The park is located on the south edge of Jacksboro, Texas, on U.S. 281. The park is open to the public throughout the year.

HISTORY

Founded in 1867 to replace the recently abandoned Fort Belknap as the northernmost fort in the Texas chain of fortifications, Fort Richardson played an important role in the protection of American lives and property during the days of the Kiowa-Comanche conflict of the post Civil War period.

From 1870 to 1875 the region around Fort Richardson suffered more than any other part of Texas from Kiowa and Comanche raids, and the North Texas frontier was all but depopulated as a result. Near Fort Richardson, in 1871, the Indians ambushed and massacred a wagon train led by Henry Warren. General William T. Sherman had just passed over the route, and the experience impressed him with the seriousness of the situation in North Texas. He ordered Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie out of Fort Richardson onto the trail of the hostiles. At the Fort Sill Reservation, the leaders, Satatna, Satank, and Big Tree were arrested and sent to Jacksboro, a settlement only a half mile north of Fort Richardson, for a non-military trial. According to the official report, Satank was shot and killed as he tried to escape while enroute to Jacksboro. The trial,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Carter, R.G., On the Border with Mackenzie (1935).
 Rister, C.C., The Southwestern Frontier, 1865-1881 (Cleveland, 1928).
 -----, "The Significance of the Jacksboro Indian Affair of 1871," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXIX (1926).
 Nye, W.S., Carbine and Lance, (Norman, 1937).
 Toulouse, J.H. and J.R., Pioneer Post of Texas (San Antonio, 1936). (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 42 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	5,7,8,2,0,0	3,6,7,4,7,0,0	B	1,4	5,7,8,2,0,0	3,6,7,4,2,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,4	5,7,7,5,0,0	3,6,7,4,2,4,0	D	1,4	5,7,7,4,8,0	3,6,7,4,7,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

Joseph S. Mendingham, Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street, N.W.

(202) 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington, D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 is evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Boundary Certified:

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

3. Archeological investigation is presently in progress at the site of one of the officers' quarters. The information gathered will provide plans for possible future construction. See photo No. 4.

4. The Post Bakery (Photo No. 5): Built of sandstone, the post bakery was being constructed as early as 1868. It has stone floors, a shingle roof and two windows. Having not been properly laid, the arch of the oven broke, and it was unuseable as early as June, 1869. By 1871 the bakery had been repaired and the commandant of the fort ordered the cleaning of the ovens. The walls were whitewashed and the bunk put in for one of the bakers. The oven was located in the rear section which measured 14 X 14 and was capable of baking 400 rations of bread at one time. The Texas Parks and Recreation Division has not made any efforts at greatly altering the appearance of this building as it was not completely deteriorated. The bakery stands much as it did when in use, though of course, all equipment has been removed.

5. The Magazine (Photo No. 6): Begun in February, 1869, it was completed by June 18, 1869. On a line with the hospital, bakery and the original guardhouse (not extant), the magazine was located on the northwestern edge of the fort. The building measures 16 X 18 feet, 11 feet to the eaves, and is built entirely of stone. The roof is rock which was originally covered with a tar and gravel mixture. The magazine stands in almost its original condition. The massive sandstone walls were repointed and the entrance door has been removed. Otherwise the building is unchanged. Walls are more than 3 feet thick.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

resulting in Satanta and Big Tree being sentenced to prison, marked the first time that Indians had been tried in non-military court and also marked the beginning of the end of the Peace Policy.

Troops from Fort Richardson participated in the Red River War of 1874-75 and in the battle of Palo Duro Canyon in September of 1875. With the conclusion of the war in 1875, the power of the Kiowas and Comanches was broken. The Indian tribes were confined to their reservations in Oklahoma. The need for Fort Richardson had passed. The fort was abandoned in 1878.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

2

Special Study on Fort Richardson prepared by the Texas Parks and Wildlife
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War Department, "A Report on the Hygiene of the U.S. Army with Description of
Military Posts, Circular No. 8," (Washington, D.C., 1875).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Historic Fort Richardson sits within the much larger Fort Richardson State Park. The historic property has been greatly intruded upon and thereby has been reduced to about 42 acres. The Chicago and Rock Island Pacific Railroad has severed the property and one building, the commissary is located on the north side of the tracks.

Parcel One

From the point of junction of the entrance road and the C. and R.I. & P Railroad tracks (indicated on the USGS Map) proceed in a northwesterly direction approximately 2000' along the south edge of the right of way of the railroad to a point of intersection with an access road, thence proceed south along the east edge of this road to a point 300' south of the terminus of the access road, thence east to the entrance road and north along the east edge of the entrance road to the point of origin.

Parcel Two

Beginning at a point approximately 75' northeast of the junction of the entrance road and the C. and R.I. & P. Railroad track, proceed north 175', more or less, to a point, thence southeast 125', more or less, to a point, thence south 175', more or less, to a point, thence northwest 125', more or less, to the point of origin.

