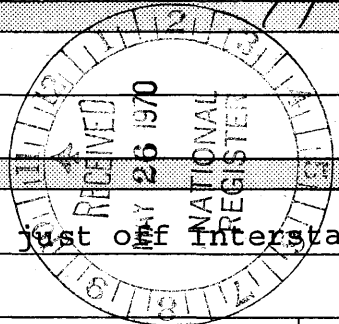


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: Dona Ana	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-730-002	DATE 7/8/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Selden

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
18 miles north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, just off Interstate

CITY OR TOWN:
Highway 25, at Radium Springs Interchange

STATE New Mexico	CODE 30	COUNTY: Dona Ana	CODE 13
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Will become Unused at a state present park 1970-71
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Administered by State Park and State of New Mexico; Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
141 East De Vargas

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 87501	CODE 30
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk's Office, Dona Ana County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Las Cruces

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 88001	CODE 30
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **January 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 87501	CODE 30
-----------------------------	----------------------	-------------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today, though the fort is in ruins, a number of its walls stand to a height of eight feet or more, and one or two of the old buildings could well be restored. Some of the original layout has been obscured, but excavation and measurement should clear up any question of identity of the surviving elements. With professional analysis and partial restoration, Fort Selden should make an excellent focus for the State Park that will surround it.

When it was built of adobe and stone, Fort Selden consisted of between fifteen and twenty buildings, and in typical military style was situated around a parade ground. Directly enclosing this ground were the enlisted men's one-story barracks with quarters for 200 men, a one-story hospital containing two wards, the officers' quarters composed of three connected units, the long one-story headquarters building, and the two-story guardhouse built of stone. Other buildings included a shop and wash house, a bakery, school, non-commissioned officers' quarters, a sutler's building, corrals, woodyard, granary, the commanding officer's quarters, and, slightly removed from all the rest, an ammunition magazine. To the northeast lay a cemetery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

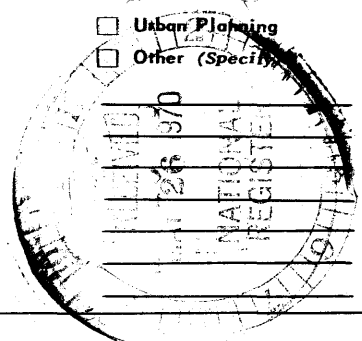
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1865-1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Selden, although originally established in May, 1865, was not officially declared a United States fort until 1870. Located near the south end of the Jornada del Muerto, the fort was situated in a fairly inhabitable spot about one and one-half miles from the river. At that time, the nearest civilian population was at Dona Ana, about twelve miles away, and it was for the safety of small, young settlements such as this one, as well as for the safeguarding of the post road, that the fort was established. Apache threats in the southern part of New Mexico were a continual source of anxiety to the scattered settlers who were beginning to populate the area.

Although there were weekly stages from Santa Fe and Mesilla, the fort's original supply station was 350 miles north at Fort Union, and the nearest railroad point was 650 miles away at Carson, Colorado. These isolating conditions were somewhat offset by the good climate and the nearby hot springs, and the troops stationed at Fort Selden did play host to occasional travelers and haulers, the latter including drivers of the six mule team wagons that carried mail up from El Paso. In the early 1880's, a heliograph was set up on nearby Monte Robledo so that the fort could communicate quickly with Cook's Peak, Mount Franklin, Fort Stanton, and Fort Bliss. It was expected that by this means settlers could be warned of the presence of hostile Indians.

In 1881, the fort was brought into closer touch with civilization when the first train passed by on tracks laid along the riverside. However, despite such progress as the nearby railroad, and such hindrances as the hostilities of the Indians, Fort Selden's existence was by no means considered crucial by the army. In fact, as early as the years 1875-77 plans were made to withdraw the troops at Selden and abandon it. Only the apprehensiveness of the area's citizens seems to have kept these plans from being realized immediately, and even this was not an overly strong deterrent, since from 1879-80, the fort was indeed abandoned temporarily, and reactivated only because of a rash of Indian troubles in which the Apache chief, Geronimo, played a prominent role. At attempt was then made by the (cont'd)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hart, Herbert M., Old Forts of the Southwest, Seattle, Superior Publishing Company, 1964
 Keleher, William Aloysius, Turmoil in New Mexico, 1846-1868, Santa Fe, N.M., Rydal Press, c. 1952
 Lane, Lydia Spencer, I Married a Soldier, Albuquerque, N.M. Horn and Wallace, 1964
 MacArthur, Douglas, Reminiscences, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1964
 Milton, Hugh M., Fort Selden, Las Cruces, N.M., The Dona Ana Historical Society, 1964

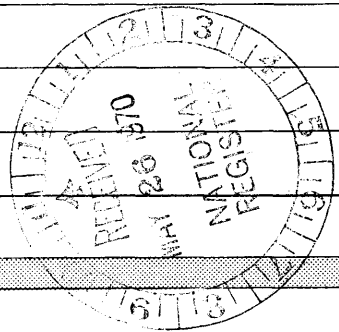
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32	29	45	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"				106	55	30
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Seven acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Samuel H. Larcombe, Planning Technician**

ORGANIZATION: **State Planning Office** DATE: **April 30, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** 87501 CODE: **30**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Eli S. Salzman*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

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

Ernest Allen Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **JUL 8 1970**

ATTEST:

William J. Smutzky
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **JUN 23 1970**

NO UTM CD SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
Dona Ana	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-30-0003	7/8/70

(Number all entries)

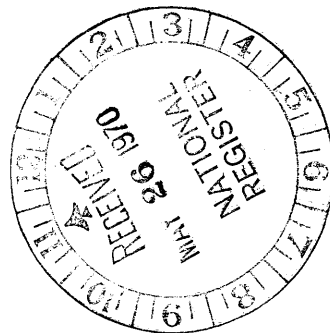
8. Significance (continued)

United States Congress to enlarge Selden and give it a more important status, but the War Department did not concur, and the measure which had proposed Fort Selden as the central military establishment of the region failed.

For a while, beginning in 1884, the fort's life and appearance, if not its importance, did pick up considerably, and indeed it became a model for all frontier forts. The new commandant, Capt. Arthur MacArthur, father of General Douglas MacArthur, spruced up buildings, organized recreational activities, created a reading room, and expanded the complement of troops to ten companies. When he left with his family for another assignment, the area's settlers turned out to bid him farewell, for he had been highly popular, not only with his troops, but with the local citizens as well.

The Executive Order to abandon Fort Selden was signed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, but the last troops were not withdrawn until 1892, when the property was transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Although the fort never figured in any major battles, its significance is nevertheless strong simply because it was a frontier post. These military outposts of the expanding United States were of undeniable importance in securing the peace of the still untamed west, and they stand in testimony to the hardships of 19th century pioneer efforts. The relatively good condition of Fort Selden's remains makes it an excellent memorial to the period of American settlement in the southwest.



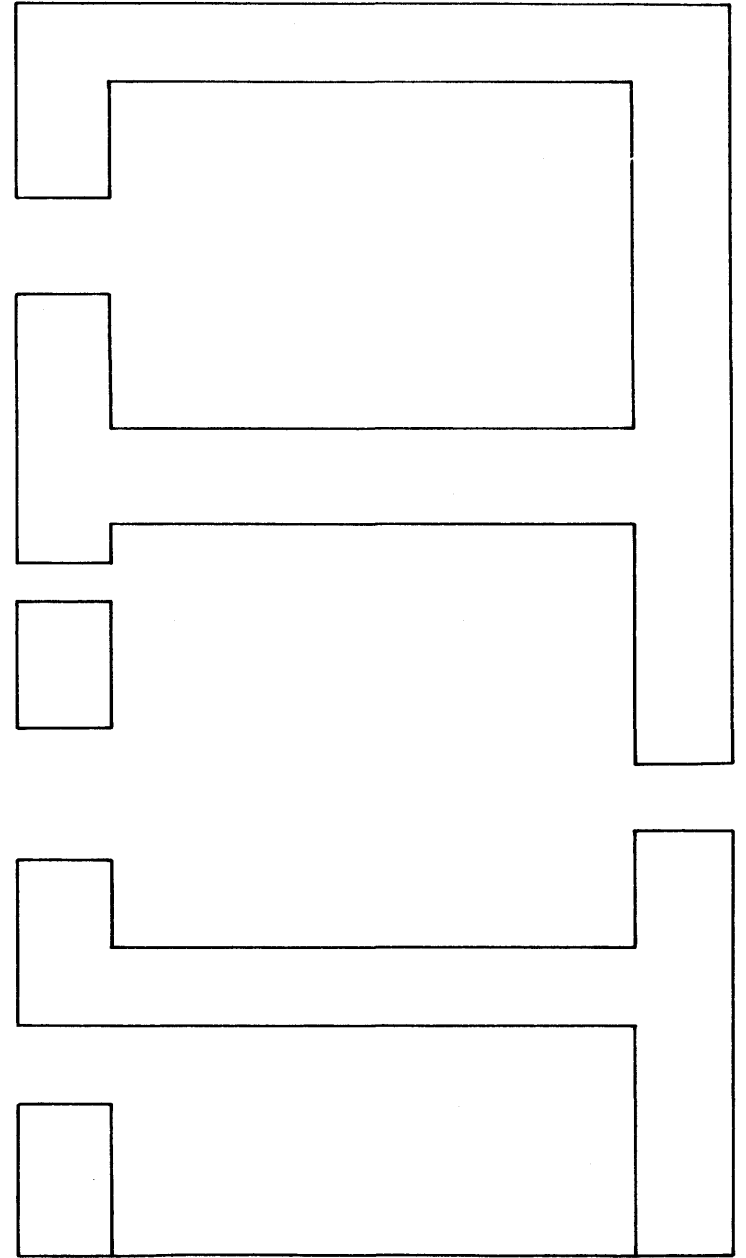
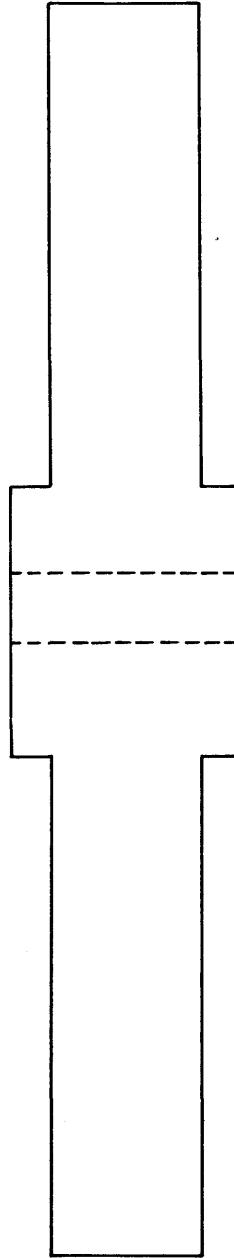
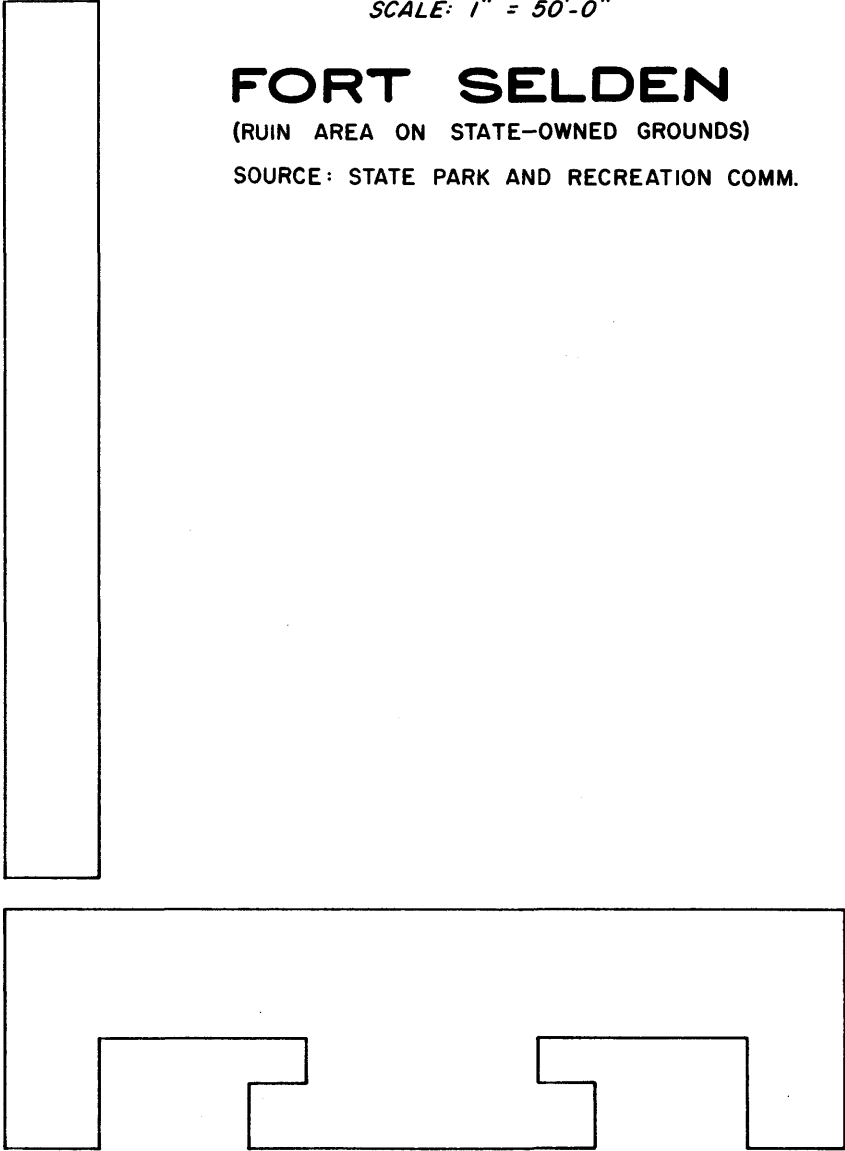


SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"

FORT SELDEN

(RUIN AREA ON STATE-OWNED GROUNDS)

SOURCE: STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMM.



Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

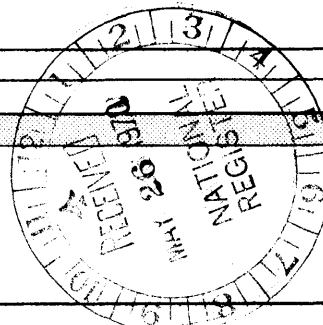
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Dona Ana	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 90.7.30.0003	DATE 7/8/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Selden		AND/OR HISTORIC:	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 18 miles north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, just off Interstate			
CITY OR TOWN: Highway 25, at Radium Springs interchange			
STATE: New Mexico	CODE 30	COUNTY: Dona Ana	CODE 13
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: State Park and Recreation Commission			
SCALE: 1 inch: 50 feet			
DATE: 1970			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

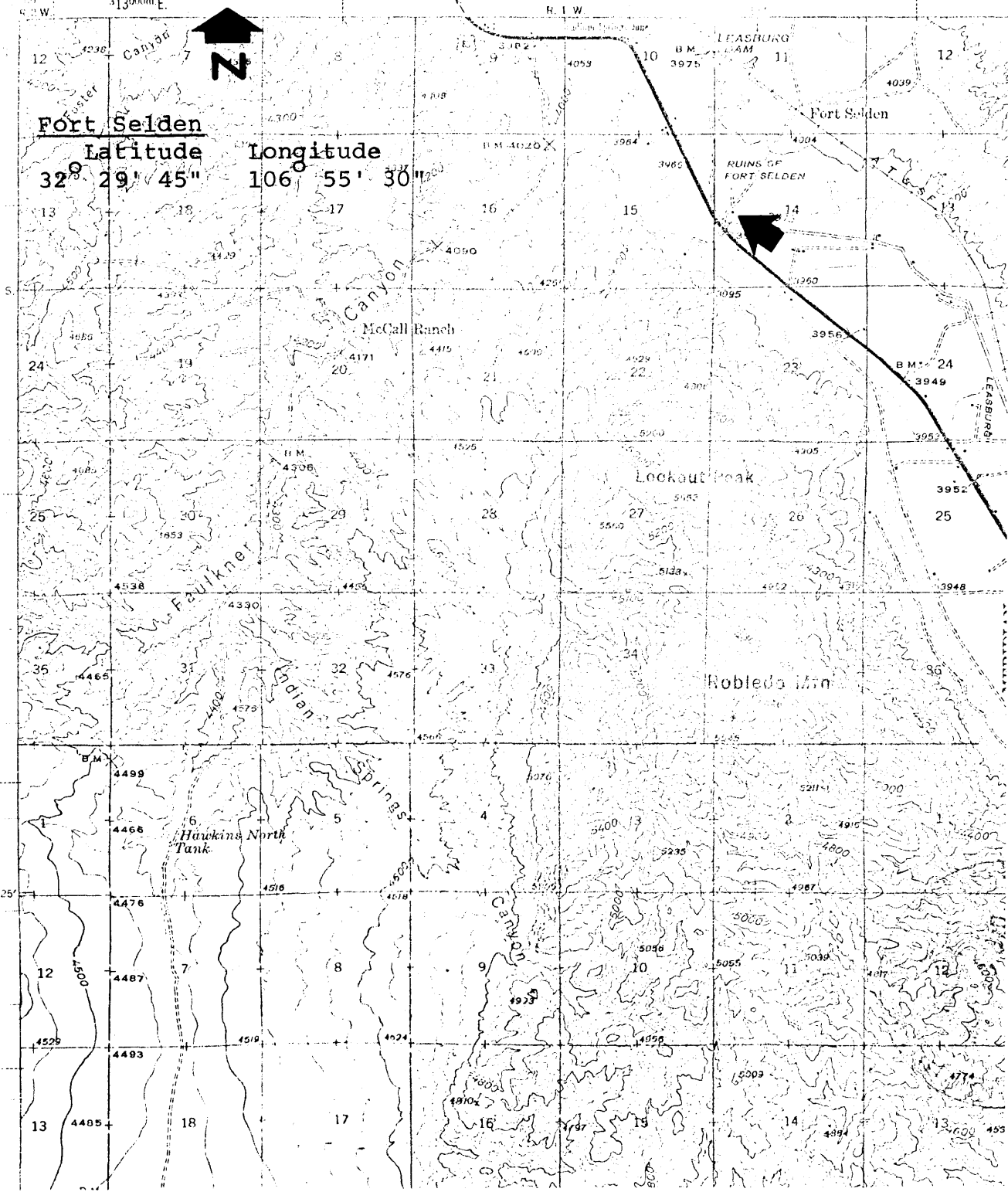


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DEPA
CC

SOCORRO LINE U.S. 601 136 MI
NAT. 21 MI.

313000m E.



Fort Selden

Latitude 32° 29' 45"
Longitude 106° 55' 30"



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

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 Mexico	
COUNTY Dona Ana	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.7.30.0003	DATE 7/8/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Selden			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 18 miles north of Las Cruces, just off Interstate Highway 25, at			
CITY OR TOWN: Radium Springs Interchange			
STATE: New Mexico	CODE 30	COUNTY: Dona Ana	CODE 13
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS, Las Cruces 15 minute series Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:62,500			
DATE: 1941			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			