

RECEIVED 2280
(Expires 12/31/2009)United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in National Register Bulletin 16A. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

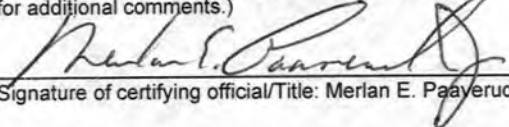
historic name Fort Abercrombieother names/site number Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site

2. Location

street & number Richland County Route 4 not for publication ☐city or town Abercrombie vicinity ☒state ND code ND county Richland code 077 zip code 58001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheets for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./State Historic Preservation Officer

12-10-08
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau or Tribal government: State Historical Society of North DakotaIn my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheets for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau or Tribal government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.

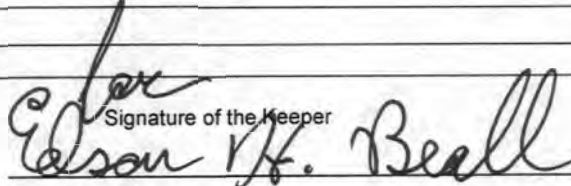
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action


Edson H. Beall

1-22-09

Fort Abercrombie
Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)

☐ private
☐ public - local
☒ public - state
☐ public - Federal

Category of Property (check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
1		sites
	2	structures
2	1	objects
5	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: Military Fort (1860-1877)

LANDSCAPE: State Historic Site (1938)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: State Historic Site

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic/Log

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Log

roof Wood shakes and shingles

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Fort Abercrombie is located on the outskirts of the town of Abercrombie in Richland County, North Dakota. It is located approximately 12 miles north of Wahpeton and 25 miles south of Fargo. The site includes 15.16 acres, which represents the portion of the original fort reserve that is owned by the State Historical Society of North Dakota and operated as the Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site. It is being nominated under Criterion A for its significance as a military fort during the Dakota Uprising in 1862, for its significance to settlement in the area between 1860 and 1877, and for its association with the Works Progress Administration projects between 1938 and 1940. It is also being nominated under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to our understanding of the history of Fort Abercrombie from 1860 to 1877.

The property includes five contributing features including two WPA reconstructed blockhouses, the WPA marker, the artifacts marker, and the site itself (for its information potential). The reconstructed fort guard house, the flag mall, the North Dakota history marker, the stockade, and the new Interpretive Center are non-contributing features.

CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

SETTING

The fort site is situated on the west side of the Red River of the North, which flows northward between North Dakota and Minnesota. The site is relatively flat and sits on a slight terrace above the river, which takes a west/southwestern turn at the northeast corner of the fort site; the river continues in a westerly direction north of the fort site before turning north again. There are stands of deciduous trees along the banks of the river.

The small town of Abercrombie is located just to the west of the fort site. Farmland surrounds the area with farm fields immediately adjacent to the fort site on the south, east and west. The Richland County Route 4 highway bisects the fort site on a northwest to southeast direct; this road essentially followed the routes of early wagon roads into the fort. A relatively new bridge across the river into Minnesota is located adjacent to the fort site.

THE GROUNDS

The site is irregularly shaped and is bisected by the highway; the larger portion of the site is located on the north side of the road. The site is essentially a large open space predominately marked by buildings "ghosted" by native grasses in patches shaped like the original buildings; there is new interpretive signage identifying each of the ghosted buildings as well as the other features. The areas around these ghosted buildings are primarily grassy lawn mowed short to provide a suitable walking surface for visitors. A large open space in the middle of the site corresponds to the location of the fort's parade grounds (a parking lot was located in this

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

area north of the highway until 2001, when the parking lot was moved and the grounds restored to the open area of the parade grounds). Buildings, with the exception of the guard house, are located at the perimeter edges. The flag mall and markers are grouped near one another near the middle of the site, on the north side of the highway. A partial stockade, or palisade fence, is located near the perimeter of the site, with the exception of the portion of the nominated parcel that is at the northwest corner of the property and outside the stockade. The new Interpretive Center and parking lot are located at this spot, just west of the stockade.

BUILDINGS

The fort site includes four buildings. They are two blockhouses, a guard house, and the Interpretive Center.

The blockhouses include two of three blockhouses that were reconstructed by the WPA between 1938 and 1940 (the third blockhouse was dismantled and the materials were used for replacement pieces during the 2001 restoration project). One is located at the northeast corner of the fort site; the other is located at the southwest corner of the site. They are of log construction; hand-hewn square logs are fit together tightly with half-notched corners. There is no visible chinking, although an elastic product was inserted (in 2001) between the logs of the blockhouses to "keep the snow from blowing in." They sit on concrete foundations with rubble stone and concrete veneers. The hipped roofs are covered with wood shingles and have wide overhanging open eaves with a simple fascia board. Characteristic of many blockhouses associated with 19th century forts, the second story of each of these blockhouses is turned 45-degrees from the first floor. There is one door to each building; they are located at the elevations facing into the fort site and are constructed of heavy wood planks attached with heavy metal hinges and hardware. ADA earthen ramps with boardwalks have been constructed to provide access. There are seven "window" openings in each blockhouse – one on each elevation of the second story and one on each elevation, with the exception of the sides with the entrance doorways, of the first story. The windows openings are covered with two casement type shutters constructed of half-round, small logs held together with pieces of 1x4 boards and cross braced. The hardware is a long metal rod that can be operated to open and close the windows from the interior. There is no glazing in these openings.

Both of these blockhouses were restored in 2001. The restoration efforts included the replacement of a few deteriorated logs in the southwest blockhouse (the northeast blockhouse did not require any log replacement), the replacement of roofs, the installation of the windows shutters and the doors (as well as the hardware), and the construction of new foundations. Both of these blockhouses were moved slightly from their 1939 locations in the 2001 restoration efforts. The northeast blockhouse was moved approximately 20 feet southwest from its original location. This relocation was necessitated by the erosion at this bend in the river which was undercutting the river bank and the land on which the blockhouse was sitting. The southwest blockhouse was moved slightly to the northeast when a new foundation was constructed and the building was moved to it. All restoration work was done in accordance with the *National Park Service Preservation Brief 26: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings*. Both of these blockhouses retain integrity to their period of significance in association with the WPA project in the 1930s and both are contributing features on the nominated property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

The third building is the guard house. It is situated on the north side of the highway and southwest of the northeast blockhouse. It is a small one-story log building with half-notched corner joints. The square logs are hand-hewn and fit together tightly. There is no visible chinking, although an elastic material was inserted between the logs (in 2001) to assist with protection from the weather. The hipped roof is covered with wood shingles, and has a wide overhanging open eave with a simple fascia board. The building sits on a concrete foundation with a rubble stone and mortar veneer. The windows are new six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The window surrounds consist of simple flat wood trim boards, sill and apron; they are constructed of 1x4 dimensional lumber. There are two windows on the front (west) façade and one each on the north and south ends; there are no windows on the back (east) side. The north window on the west side and the window on the north end also have metal bars on the exterior; this corresponds to the interior jail cell at the north end of the building. There is a heavy wooden plank door, set with heavy metal hinges and latch hardware, on the west side of the building. An earthen ramp with wood plank walkway has been added to the west side of the building, providing ADA access for visitors.

The guard house was dismantled and reconstructed in 2001. At that time, it was also moved approximately 50 feet to the west of its location in 1939, to a spot determined to be the original location. The reconstruction included the installation of the new foundation, a new roof, new windows and new door. Approximately 90% of the logs were replaced using logs from the dismantled blockhouse. Although the reconstruction was done as sensitively as possible, it no longer retains integrity to either its original date of construction or the WPA period of significance. It is considered a non-contributing feature of the nominated property.

The fourth building on the fort site is the new Interpretive Center, completed in 2008. It is located at the northwest edge of the fort site. The building is primarily a one-story structure, but has a small two-story portion that was designed to reflect the blockhouses in its setting at a 45-degree angle from the main portion of the building. The Center houses exhibits associated with Fort Abercrombie as well as visitor services. The parking lot is adjacent to the west. The Interpretive Center is considered a non-contributing feature.

STRUCTURES

There are two structures associated with the fort site. Both are considered non-contributing features.

The first is the stockade wall. The stockade wall currently on the site was constructed in 2001. It includes a partial reconstruction of the palisade fencing; the portions that were not rebuilt have been "ghosted" with the installation of upright posts placed at regular intervals near the edge of the fort site. The posts and palisades are small diameter peeled logs. Archeological excavations have determined that the WPA stockade was not located in the same spot as the original stockade, of which there is none remaining. The longest portion of the stockade that was rebuilt separates the new Interpretive Center from the rest of the fort site, providing some visual division of space. At the southeast corner of the stockade is the reconstructed cannon "bastion" which is arranged in a partial circle enclosing that corner of the stockade.

The second structure is what is called the "flag mall." It is located on the north side of the highway near what would be the center of the entire fort site. A flag pole was erected at this location in 2001 and an effort in 2003 by the Friends of Fort Abercrombie resulted in a brick paved plaza surrounding the flag pole. The Friends organization sold engraved bricks for the project.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

OBJECTS

There are three features that are classified as objects in this nomination. They are the three markers.

The first marker is the WPA marker which was installed at the completion of the WPA project. It consists of a bronze plaque installed on a simple concrete base. It reads: Works Progress Administration Project 1939. It includes the stylized eagle emblem used during the New Deal era. This marker falls within the historic period and is considered a contributing feature.

The second marker is the same size and shape as the WPA marker, but rather than topped by a plaque, this concrete based is embedded with a number of artifacts that were discovered by the WPA workers during the reconstruction project. These artifacts include a number of horse shoes and pieces of tools. This marker is also considered a contributing feature.

The third marker was erected in 1963. It consists of a stone and concrete base with a metal interpretive panel attached to the front. That panel includes a brief history about the fort and a map as it appeared in 1871. Because this marker is less than 50 years of age, it is considered a non-contributing feature.

SITE

The final feature of this nomination is the site itself. It is considered a contributing feature in relation to its potential to yield important information. Two visible components associated with the early fort occupation are the ground depressions at some of the building sites and the remains of the tunnel, which led from the well at the fort to the river, located at the very northwest corner of the property. In addition, five iron cisterns have been located and identified.

Field investigations in 2000 and 2001 determined that artifacts associated with early historic occupation were present. Examples of these included architectural debris such as brick segments, flat glass, mortar and cut nails; tobacco pipe fragments; ceramics; buttons; and miscellaneous metal objects. In addition, this research determined portions of the location of the original stockade.

Investigations included magnetometer and field excavations. Artifacts were found at each of the excavation units. The results of the magnetometer research showed several anomalies at the site. Most have been interpreted as related to the original fort buildings. There were a couple of anomalies, however, that have been interpreted as related to later farm buildings. After the fort was abandoned, the buildings were eventually sold and moved or demolished and the land was purchased by area farmers. At least one farm building is known to have been placed on the site of the fort. If this site was the location of other farm buildings, it would likely mean that the farm fields were a distance away and possibly outside of the nominated fort site boundary – and therefore

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 5

leaving more historic archeological resources undisturbed rather than scattered had the area been plowed repeatedly.

The results of this minimal investigation has convinced the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office archeologists that additional research is warranted and is highly likely to provide additional information. The site itself is, therefore, considered a contributing feature of the nominated property.

CONCLUSION

Fort Abercrombie appears to retain a sufficient degree of integrity to both periods of significance and includes a number of contributing features.

Although the extent of the archeological data is yet to be determined, sufficient research has been conducted to establish the presence of relevant data and to warrant further research for data that will provide important information to our understanding of the history of Fort Abercrombie from its construction at this site in 1860 through its abandonment in 1877.

The nominated site includes features that also retain integrity to the period of significance associated with the WPA reconstruction which began in 1938 and was completed in 1940. The two blockhouses clearly exemplify the work of the WPA and retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling. Although both have been moved, they are still very near their original WPA locations and continue to be sited in the same directions as they were when built by the WPA. Two additional features retain integrity to this period of significance – the WPA marker and the artifacts marker – both are considered contributing resources.

Fort Abercrombie
Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B removed from its original location
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave
- ☐ D a cemetery
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F a commemorative property
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military
Exploration/Settlement
Social History
Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1860 – 1877

1938 – 1940

Significant Dates

1860, 1862, 1877

1938, 1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ND-12

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 6

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

INTRODUCTION

Fort Abercrombie, located at Abercrombie, Richland County, North Dakota, is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A for its significance as the first permanent U.S. military fort in what would become North Dakota and as the only military fort in North Dakota to be besieged during the Dakota Uprising in 1862, for its significance to exploration and settlement in the area, and for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects during the Great Depression. It is also eligible under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important in history.

There are two periods of significance for this site. The first begins in 1860 when Fort Abercrombie first occupied this site and ends in 1877 when the fort was abandoned. This period of significance is associated with both Criterion A (in the areas of Military and Exploration/Settlement) and Criterion D (Archeology); the significance date of 1862 is within that period. The second period of significance begins in 1938, when the WPA reconstruction of the fort began, and ends in 1940, when the WPA project was completed. This period of significance is associated with Criterion A (in the area of Social History).

The nominated site includes five contributing features and five non-contributing features; the site should be considered significant on the state level.

EARLY FORT HISTORY

A military post, to be located at or near the vicinity of Graham's Point, Minnesota, was authorized by Congress on March 3, 1857. The responsibility for its establishment fell to Lieutenant Colonel John J. Abercrombie, who with his company of soldiers, built the first post on an oxbow loop of the Red River of the North. It was first occupied on August 28, 1858 and named Fort Abercrombie. By July 25, 1859 the post had been abandoned. In July 1860, Captain William Gardner of the 2nd Infantry was ordered up from Big Stone Lake with three companies of his regiment to reoccupy the fort. It was decided that the original site was prone to flooding, so the fort was relocated to higher ground on the river's west bank.¹ The original site became known as Slabtown and some of the original buildings remained at this site for several years.

Often called the "the Gateway to the Dakotas," Fort Abercrombie was the first permanent U.S. military fort established in what was to become North Dakota. The fort served as a gateway for supplies and miners headed to the West, and later for settlers moving into northern Dakota Territory. The men stationed there guarded the oxcart trails of the later fur trade era, military supply wagon trains, stagecoach routes, and steamboat traffic on the Red River.

¹ *Collections of the State Historical Society*, Vol. II Part II (Bismarck: Tribune, State Printers & Binders, 1908), 5-8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7

When the Civil War began, the soldiers at Fort Abercrombie were reassigned and replaced in July 1861 by Companies A and B of the Second Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry under the command of Captain W. Markham. These companies were later replaced by Company D of the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry under the command of Captain Inman. On March 29, 1862, Company D from the 5th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry led by Captain John Vander Horck of arrived at the fort.² Upon their arrival, there were only three buildings at the fort. They included the Men's Quarters (barracks), the Commissary, and the Commanding Officer's Quarters. By August a stable and guard house had been added.³ There were no stockade and blockhouses, although there were three cannons. Vander Horck and his men spent these first months at the fort with little to relieve the boredom except for the occasional visitor and the twice-a-week Burbank & Company stagecoach.⁴

THE DAKOTA UPRISING OF 1862

When the Dakota (Santee Sioux) Indians ceded land in Minnesota to the United States, they were to receive payments and supplies under the treaties. Those government payments and supplies failed to arrive in the spring and summer of 1862, in part perhaps due to the government's preoccupation with the Civil War. By August, the Dakota people were becoming desperate for food and asked the agency traders to sell them food on credit. While meeting with Dakota leaders and the Bureau of Indian Affairs agent, Andrew Myrick, a trader on the Lower Sioux Agency, sparked the war when he commented: "So far as I am concerned, if they are hungry let them eat grass or their own dung."⁵

Although the treaty payments arrived at Fort Ridgely the following day, it was too late to prevent violence. A Sioux war council was convened on August 17 and on August 18, the Lower Sioux Agency was attacked and the buildings burned. The military company sent to end the conflict was defeated and 24 soldiers were killed. That day, war parties swept the Minnesota River Valley, killing large numbers of settlers and destroying their villages. Myrick was found dead with his mouth stuffed full of grass.

At about the same time the conflict began, a train of 30 wagons carrying goods for the Dakota arrived at Fort Abercrombie. It was headed to a treaty site near present-day Grand Forks. Vander Horck's men were to provide it with escort. On August 20, Vander Horck received news of the warfare and new orders to detain the goods at the fort. The wagon train, and 200 cattle, had already left the fort but were recalled. At least 80 settlers in the area, who were told of the war by runners from Fort Abercrombie, also came to the fort for protection. Vander Horck also recalled a detachment he had sent to Fort Sanborn. Work began immediately on creating a defensive perimeter and within a few days a breastplate had been erected around the barracks,

² Ibid., 9-10.

³ State Historical Society of North Dakota website (www.nd.gov/hist/HP/sites/abercrombie).

⁴ James V. Acker, Friends of Fort Abercrombie website (2005).

⁵ State Historical Society of North Dakota website (www.nd.gov/hist/HP/sites/abercrombie).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 8

bastions had been built for the cannons at three corners of the fort, and cordwood and timbers had been stacked as protection against invasion.⁶

On August 23, Vander Horck dispatched couriers to St. Paul to inform the authorities of the situation at the fort and to request reinforcements and ammunition. On August 30 a small band of Indians successfully drove off most of the livestock, which were grazing outside the fort. Vander Horck refused to allow anyone to go after them, but the next day did permit a scouting party to recover fifty head of cattle.⁷

The fiercest fighting occurred in September. On the 3rd, the Indians attacked the fort at daybreak. Approximately 400-strong, they were armed with native weapons as well as firearms of all descriptions. They attacked from the south in what was interpreted as an effort to secure horses that would help them maintain the siege. They were turned back after a couple hours of fighting, in part due to the efforts of the armed settlers and in part due to the fort's cannons. The number of dead and wounded was unclear, as the Indians took their own with them, leaving only two dead in the stockyard. Perhaps as many as four more were killed and fifteen wounded. The loss to the defenders were minimal – two soldiers were wounded; one of them died four days later.⁸

Scattered fire continued between the fort and the Indians on September 4 and 5. On September 6, the Indians launched their fiercest attack on the fort. At daybreak they again entered the stockyard and stables and the fighting began. After the first shots were fired, the fort was charged by Indians from the north, south and west. The fighting continued for several hours but the Indians finally retreated to the riverbank to take cover. At least twelve Indians were killed in this attack. One defender was killed and two wounded, one of whom later died.⁹

Following this attack, the Indians continued to harass the fort, but no further direct attack occurred. Instead, they settled for sniping fire from a distance and targeted soldiers who went to the river to gather water. On September 21, Vander Horck sent two messengers again to St. Paul. They were accompanied by an escort of twenty men, two of whom were killed.¹⁰

On September 23 five hundred volunteer soldiers arrived to reinforce the fort and the siege was over.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ James V. Acker, Friends of Fort Abercrombie website (2005).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 9

FORT ABERCROMBIE AFTER THE SIEGE

Although the siege was lifted, sniping continued during the following days until the Indians apparently determined that they could not take the fort.

Company D of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry left the fort at the end of the year to join other Minnesota units fighting in the Civil War. Prior to their departure, however, Vander Horck and his men began making improvements to fortify the garrison. These improvements included the construction of three blockhouses and a stockade wall. A new hospital, bakery and blacksmith shop were built. A well was dug within the fort and a tunnel from the well to the river was dug to let water into the well. By January the fort was under the command of Lt. Col. Peteler. His company completed the work on these improvements and by the end of February 1863, the stockade enclosed several buildings on 10.36 acres.¹¹

The fighting, which continued through 1863 and 1864, had moved west, however, and the improvements at the fort were never used in battle.

The fort continued to serve as a depot for supplies for frontier military posts and it grew in its importance of protecting commerce and settlement in Dakota Territory. Between 1863 and 1877, the fort was under the command of a series of commanders and various companies stationed at the fort. After Peteler resigned his command in May 1863, he was relieved by Major George A. Camp of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. On July 28, 1864 Lt. Col. Chas. Powell Adams of the First U.S. Volunteer, Company A took command. From 1867 to 1869 command was held by Lt. Col. W.H. Sidell of the Tenth Infantry; from 1869 to 1871, Lt. Col. L.C. Hunt of the Twentieth Infantry held command.¹²

During this three year period two notable events occurred at the Fort. This first was the Sioux Chippewa Peace Conference held in 1870. This conference "resulted in the cessation of all Indian hostilities in the immediate vicinity of the fort."¹³ The second event happened in 1871 when Captain Alexander Griggs built a steamer, called *Selkirk*, at Fort Abercrombie to provide transfer to newly arriving settlers to the town he had founded downriver; that town was Grand Forks.

The total number of settlers who passed through Fort Abercrombie is unknown, but by 1876 a number of settlers were in the area. The fort was abandoned on October 23, 1877 and the buildings were sold at public auction in 1878. The military reservation was transferred to the Interior Department in 1880 and eventually the land was sold to settlers. Sometime between the 1880s and the 1920s, County Road 4 was established. It bisects the original fort site and essentially follows the original wagon roads from Fort Abercrombie toward Fort Totten in one direction and Wahpeton in the other.

¹¹ *Collections of the State Historical Society*, Vol. II Part II (Bismarck: Tribune, State Printers & Binders, 1908), 26.

¹² *Ibid.*, 30-34.

¹³ Acker.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 10

The town of Abercrombie, about ¼ mile west of the fort site, was founded in 1884 with the arrival of the railroad. A portion of the original military reservation was located within the city limits and, following the passage of a 1903 legislative bill to create State Historic Sites and Parks, ten acres was designated as Fort Abercrombie State Park as the first historic site in the state. It should be noted, however, that this land was not the site on which the fort buildings had been located, but a 10-acre parcel within the city limits where a park was developed (the land on which the fort buildings were located and which is now known as Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site was owned by a series of farmers until the 1930s). The park eventually included a museum, a bandstand, and picnic facilities and it is now under ownership of the City of Abercrombie.

THE WPA AND FORT ABERCROMBIE

Long before the stock market crash in 1929, North Dakota began to feel the effects of a postwar economy suffering from falling farm prices and land values. In addition to the economic woes caused by the eventual stock market crash, North Dakota experienced a series of natural conditions throughout the 1930s including drought, dust storms, grasshopper plagues, and severe summers and winters.¹⁴ Although most North Dakotans, like most of the American population, did not suffer direct loss of stock investments, they felt the depression in other ways. Thousands of North Dakotans lost their farms, more lost their jobs, and more than one-third of the population lived on relief.¹⁵

When Franklin D. Roosevelt took office as president of the U.S. in March 1933, approximately 15 million people – one quarter of the nation's workers – were unemployed and had no hopes of finding a job. The nation's economy was at a standstill and it was clear that existing relief programs were greatly insufficient. The time was ripe for change and the new administration was ready to take on the task. In the span of a few short weeks – the "Hundred Days" (March 9 through June 16) of the "first New Deal" set in motion more administrative action and initiated more legislation than any similar period in American history. By the end of June, Congress had passed a number of legislative acts aimed at providing relief and jobs and had established programs often referred to as the "alphabet soup" of the New Deal. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), and the Public Works Administration (PWA) were all in place by the end of the "Hundred Days." Although not able to fully stop the economic decline, they provided a turning point from which the Roosevelt administration was able to address the worst economic crisis in history.

In 1935, Roosevelt launched the "second New Deal" and federal funding was made available through the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of April 1935. Central to the new works program, and perhaps one of the best known of all New Deal era programs, was the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which was established by Executive Order on May 6, 1935 (the name of the program was changed to the Works Projects Administration in 1939 when the program was placed under the new Federal Works Agency).

¹⁴ Elwyn B. Robinson, History of North Dakota (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 397-399.

¹⁵ Robinson, 400.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 11

The WPA was a work-relief program that consisted of a variety of projects initiated and sponsored by counties, cities and towns, state, and federal agencies. Construction projects, which had become well-accepted forms of work-relief, comprised the bulk of the work, absorbing about 75 percent of the money spent. These projects included the construction, reconstruction, improvement and repair of buildings and structures in seven categories: municipal engineering projects (streets, sidewalks, water and sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities), airport and airway projects, public buildings projects (city halls, community halls, auditoriums, firehouses), highway and road projects, conservation projects, engineering surveying projects, and disaster emergency activities.¹⁶

The remaining 25 percent went for service projects for professional and non-manual workers and production-for-use projects. The professional and non-manual projects included research projects, public records projects, historical records surveys, education and recreation programs, libraries and museums work, Federal Arts Project programs (music, arts, writing, and theater projects), housekeeping activities, and public health work. The production-for-use projects primarily employed women on sewing, gardening and canning projects.¹⁷

By the end of the program in 1943, the WPA employed more than 8.5 million people on nearly 1.5 million projects. Expenditures for the program totaled \$10,750,501; state and local contributions were \$2.8 billion.¹⁸

The WPA began work in North Dakota on July 1, 1935. The list of accomplishments is extensive and includes both construction and service projects. Elwyn B. Robinson, in his book *History of North Dakota*, as follows:

20,373 miles of highways and streets; 721 new bridges and viaducts, 1002 reconstructed bridges and viaducts; 166 miles of sidewalks; 15,012 culverts, 1721 reconstructed culverts; 503 new public buildings, 2180 reconstructed public buildings; 61 additions to public buildings; 680 outdoor recreation facilities (stadiums, grandstands, fairgrounds, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools, and golf courses); 809 water wells; 2 irrigation projects; 39 sewage treatment plants; 9 water treatment plants; 646,206 books repaired; 3,653,392 school lunches served; and 2,078,451 garments sewn.¹⁹

Robinson goes on to state:

The WPA also distributed surplus commodities, conducted literacy classes, and operated salvage programs. Directed by brilliant Ethel Schlasinger, it wrote one of the best books on the state ever produced: Federal Writers' Project, *North Dakota: A Guide to the Northern Prairie State* (1938). Aided by the National Park Service and a series of Civilian Conservation Corps camps and other work projects, the North Dakota State Historical Society developed sixteen newly acquired parks areas

¹⁶ Nancy E. Rose, *Put To Work: Relief Programs in the Great Depression* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1994), 50-55.

¹⁷ Ibid., 107-108.

¹⁸ T.H. Watkins, *The Great Depression* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993), 249.

¹⁹ Robinson, 408.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 12

(4,511 acres) and enlarged five older parks. The work on the North and South Roosevelt, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Lake Metigoshe, Turtle River, and Peace Garden parks and on the De Mores, Fort Abercrombie, Fort Rice and White Stone Hill historic sites was especially important.²⁰

State Historical Society files at the State Archives indicate a variety of projects funded in part by the WPA. Work included the construction and/or repair of 120 signs, 32 parking areas, 6 shelters, 25 markers at sites of historic buildings, 3 buildings, 700 yards of foot paths, 20 table and bench sets, and 15 outdoor fire places. This work occurred at several historic sites and parks in addition to those listed above, including Buffalo Creek, Burman, Camp Arnold, Camp Corning, Camp Grant, Camp Sheardown, Camp Weiser, Crowley Flint Quarry, Hudson, Oak Lawn, Palmer's Spring, McPhail's Butte, David Thompson, Butte St. Paul, Fort Buford, Fort Dilts, Fort Mandan, Fort Seward, Fort Union, Pembina, St. Cloud, Walhalla, Writing Rock, Fort Clark, and Huff Indian Village. This work represented \$40,800 worth of labor and \$13,054 worth of materials.²¹

The reconstruction project at Fort Abercrombie began with a local grassroots movement. For many years the Richland County Old Settlers' association had advocated for the reconstruction of the fort. In 1936, a series of articles, written by Chester Gewalt of Breckenridge and published in the *Richland County Farmer-Globe*, brought a renewed interest in the fort and on September 22, 1936, the *Farmer-Globe* published a supplement entitled "Fort Abercrombie 1862." The combination of these articles and the supplement generated enough interest that the Fort Abercrombie Restoration Society was organized with E.D. Lum (the editor of the *Farmer-Globe*), as the president, Chester Gewalt as the vice-president, and Vernon Johnson as the secretary. Several citizens of the town of Abercrombie and other small surrounding communities served on various sub-committees.

Contact was made with the State Historical Society in October 1936 seeking their support to secure WPA funding to reconstruct the blockhouses and the stockade at the fort, mark the corners of other buildings with stones, and provide signage. It was agreed to add Fort Abercrombie to the list of work projects being undertaken by the State Historic Society but before work could begin, however, it was necessary to secure the land on which the original fort buildings had existed. The Fort Abercrombie Restoration Society raised funds to purchase this parcel of land from John Loff, the owner at that time, and after several months of negotiations, the land was purchased for \$1700 plus the promise of WPA labor to move the farm buildings to another site. The land was then deeded to the state and application was made to the WPA for the work project.²²

The project was initially approved by the WPA in September 1937, but the start of work was delayed due to lack of materials needed for the project. The Fort Abercrombie Restoration Society and the Abercrombie Civic Association worked with local farmers to secure the materials for the project. Trees (cottonwood, ash and oak) were donated for the logs needed for the blockhouses and the palisades, as were the stones to mark the

²⁰ Ibid., 409.

²¹ WPA Correspondence, State Historical Society (ND State Archives, Box 30209).

²² Letter from E.D. Lum to Russell Reid, dated March 30, 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 13

building sites. Application to the WPA was made again in March 1938 and on August 17, 1938 notification was received that the WPA had approved the project.²³

Work began November 5, 1938. Using plans of the fort obtained from the U.S. War Department, the WPA workers marked the locations of the buildings (as it turns out these locations were off by several feet). A Mr. Burroughs of the CCC Park Camp at Mandan was engaged to draw the construction plans for the blockhouses based on early photos and descriptions. E.F. Riley, president of the State School of Sciences (in Wahpeton) served as the technical advisor during the reconstruction efforts. Olaf Hestdalen was hired as the WPA Supervisor of the project; the Hestdalen family had settled in the area in the late 19th century and owned land surrounding the fort site. The original guardhouse, which had been moved from the fort to Ole Hestdalen's farmstead in c.1878, was donated to the project by Alfanso Hulne (then owner) and was moved back to the site by the WPA.²⁴

Work continued through the winter and by the beginning of February, the guardhouse had been moved and restoration was almost complete, and one of the blockhouses was under construction.²⁵ In March, a legislative bill appropriating additional funds for the reconstruction was passed and signed into law by the Governor.²⁶ By the middle of June, two blockhouses had been reconstructed and portions of the stockade were in place. By the February 1940, work was nearing completion. Three blockhouses had been reconstructed, the stockade was finished, and work was being done on the parking area, the paths, and the markers.²⁷

A dedication of the Fort Abercrombie Historic Site occurred in conjunction with the Old Settlers' picnic on June 19 and 20, 1940. Activities included a parade, a "carnival circus," horseshoe and tennis tournaments, all kinds of concessions, and a picnic. Several speakers acknowledged the importance of the fort both historically and for its potential to bring visitors to the site in the future, the importance of the WPA labor to the needy men (and their families) in the area, and the success of the efforts of "those who took up the cause" of reconstructing the fort.²⁸

The local sponsors of the project had hopes of taking the reconstruction even farther with the addition of other buildings to the site. WPA funding, however, was not forthcoming and no further WPA work occurred at the site. The war had begun in Europe and the focus of the WPA had shifted to war preparation.

²³ SHPO files containing correspondence between Russell Reid and various persons involved on the project.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ "Work Resumed on Old Fort Abercrombie" in *Farmer-Globe*, February 2, 1939, 13.

²⁶ "Fort Abercrombie Construction Now Assured by Law" in *Farmer-Globe*, March 24, 1939, 1.

²⁷ "Reconstruct Fort Abercrombie - to Former Glory" in *Farmer-Globe*, March 12, 1940, 1.

²⁸ "Fort Abercrombie is Dedicated at Formal Ceremony" in *Farmer-Globe*, June 21, 1940, 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 14

The WPA came to an end in North Dakota on February 1, 1943 and ended officially in the U.S. on June 30, 1943.

FORT ABERCROMBIE SINCE 1940

The fort as reconstructed by the WPA remained intact until the mid-to-late 1960s. Records indicate that storm damage to the stockade resulted in a partial reconstruction at that time. In the 1980s, repairs were made to the stockade again, as well as to the roofs of the blockhouses and guard house; repairs were again made in the early 1990s. Other than these repairs, however, the fort site continued to appear as it did in 1940.

In 1995, the *Fort Abercrombie Master Plan* was developed. As an outcome of that plan, efforts were made to determine the original locations of the stockade and buildings, as early archeological testing showed that the WPA-built stockade had not been built on the location of the original stockade. The locations of the guard house, stockade and "ghosted" buildings was adjusted accordingly. Rehabilitation and restoration work occurred in 2001 and a new Interpretive Center was opened May 18, 2008 (details of this work appear in Section 7 of this nomination).

Fort Abercrombie is open as an outdoor museum year-round. The Interpretive Center is open seasonally.

CONCLUSION

Fort Abercrombie is a significant historic resource in the state of North Dakota. It was the first permanent U.S. military fort in what was to become North Dakota and was the only military fort in the area to be besieged during the Dakota Uprising of 1862. It served an important role in protecting commerce and settlement in Dakota Territory by guarding the oxcart trails of the later fur trade, military supply wagons, stagecoach routes, and steamboat traffic. In the fall of 1862, even while the fort was under siege, it provided protection for area settlers. It served as a depot for supplies for miners heading west and frontier military posts. As the Dakota Territory frontier opened for settlement, Fort Abercrombie became the gateway for settlement in the area.

Fort Abercrombie is being nominated under Criterion A in the areas of significance of "Military" and "Exploration/Settlement." The period of significance associated with these areas of significance is 1860 to 1877 representing the date the fort was established at this site through the date the fort was abandoned by the U.S. War Department.

The fort is also being nominated under Criterion A in the area of "Social History" for its significant association with the Works Progress Administration project. This project played an important role not only in providing employment for men living near the fort in Richland County during the Great Depression, but also in illustrating how area communities came together to develop a project to reconstruct portions of the fort, a resource which they identified as the most important historic resource in the area and one of the more important historic sites in the state. The members of these communities worked together to purchase the land and deed it to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

state, to gather donations of materials used in the project, and to work closely with the State Historical Society in securing WPA funding for the project. The period of significance associated with this area of significance is 1938 to 1940, a period that begins when the reconstruction project began and ends when the project was complete and the Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site was dedicated.

Fort Abercrombie is also being nominated under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important in history. It has been demonstrated through initial testing (see details in Section 7) that the fort site retains artifacts from its first period of significance, 1860 to 1877, and that the integrity of this site is sufficiently high enough to warrant further archeological exploration. Not only might further investigation determine exact location of early fort buildings, but additional information may be gathered about the soldiers and settlers lives at the fort.

The site includes five contributing and five non-contributing features and is considered significant on a state-wide level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation SheetFort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 16**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Acker, James V. *Friends of Fort Abercrombie* website (www.ftabercrombie.org, 2005).

Collections of the State Historical Society, Vol. II Part II. Bismarck: Tribune, State Printers & Binders, 1908.

Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Publishers, 1976 Reprint.

The Richland County Farmer-Globe. "Fort Abercrombie 1862" (Supplement, September 22, 1936).

The Richland County Farmer-Globe. Articles on 2/2/1939; 3/24/1939; 3/12/1940; 6/21/1940.

Robinson, Elwyn B. History of North Dakota. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1966.

Rose, Nancy E. Put To Work: Relief Programs in the Great Depression. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1994.

SHPO files containing correspondence between Russell Reid and various persons involved on the project.

State Historical Society of North Dakota website (www.nd.gov/hist/HP/sites/abercrombie).

Taylor, Nick. American-Made The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work. New York: Bantam Books, 2008.

Watkins, T.H. The Great Depression. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993.

WPA Correspondence, State Historical Society (ND State Archives, Box 30209).

Fort Abercrombie
Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15.16 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>675116</u> Easting	<u>5141678</u> Northing
2	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>675389</u> Easting	<u>5146085</u> Northing
3	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>675382</u> Easting	<u>5145943</u> Northing
4	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>675300</u> Easting	<u>5145815</u> Northing
5	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>675074</u> Easting	<u>5145918</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle L. Dennis
organization M.L. Dennis Consulting date September 2008
street & number 513 Meade St. telephone 605-342-8286
city or town Rapid City state SD zip code 57701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name State Historical Society of North Dakota
street & number 612 East Boulevard Avenue telephone 701-328-2666
city or town Bismarck state ND zip code 58505

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Abercrombie

Name of Property

Richland, North Dakota

County & State

N/A

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 17**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Certificate of Survey map which outlines the nominated property.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the land and the buildings, structures, and objects that have historically been associated with the site of Fort Abercrombie as built between 1860 and 1877 and reconstructed by the WPA between 1938 and 1940. The site is known as the Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site and is owned by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation SheetFort AbercrombieName of PropertyRichland, North DakotaCounty & StateN/AName of multiple property listing (if applicable)Section number Photos Page 1**PHOTO IDENTIFICATION**

The following information applies to all photos:

Name of Property: Fort Abercrombie
County and State: Richland County, North Dakota
Name of Photographer: Michelle L. Dennis
Date of Photograph: September 2007 and August 2008
Location of the original: Digital images on file with the State Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

- Photo 1: Northeast Blockhouse (front), looking northeast
- Photo 2: Northeast Blockhouse (back), looking south
- Photo 3: Southwest Blockhouse (front), looking west
- Photo 4: Southwest Blockhouse (back), looking north
- Photo 5: WPA marker, looking north
- Photo 6: Artifacts marker, looking north
- Photo 7: Ghosted buildings, looking southeast
- Photo 8: Ghosted buildings, looking north
- Photo 9: Remains of tunnel at northwest corner of nominated property, looking north
- Photo 10: Richland County Road 4, bisects the site, looking northwest
- Photo 11: Guard House (front and south), looking northeast
- Photo 12: Guard House (back and north), looking southwest
- Photo 13: Stockade wall and ghosting (along west and south boundaries), looking south
- Photo 14: Stockade wall ghosting (along east boundary), looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort AbercrombieName of PropertyRichland, North DakotaCounty & StateN/AName of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 2

Photo 15: History marker, looking north

Photo 16: Flag Mall plaza, looking south

Photo 17: New Interpretive Center (front), looking east

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

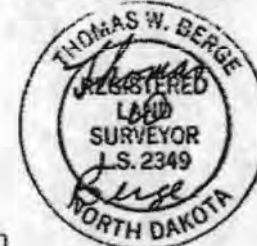
Part of Government Lots 7, 8 and the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 134, Range 48 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian
County of Richland State of North Dakota

METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION

A tract in part of Government Lot 7, 8 and the Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 134, Range 48 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, County of Richland State of North Dakota described as follows:

Commencing from the Northwest corner of Gov't Section 4; thence South 49 degrees 52 minutes East a distance of 1368.10 feet; thence North 90 degrees East a distance of 115.00 feet to the bank of the North; thence South 51 degrees 30 minutes East a distance of 203.22 feet to the East line of said the Point of Beginning; thence continuing South 51 degrees 30 minutes East a distance of 186.48 feet; thence South 71 degrees 04 minutes East a distance of 142.40 feet; thence North 89 degrees 04 minutes East a distance of 217.00 feet; thence South 25 degrees 26 minutes East a distance of 245.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees East a distance of 225.00 feet; thence South 86 degrees 41 minutes West a distance of 100.00 feet; thence South 71 degrees 39 minutes 01 seconds West a distance of 728.88 feet; thence North 18 degrees 32 minutes East a distance of 456.86 feet, to the centerline of Road 4; thence along said centerline on a 05 degree 55 minutes 06 seconds curve to the right with a radius of 968.11 feet for an arc length of 151.77 feet; thence North 30 degrees 47 minutes 12 seconds East a distance of 141.65 feet; thence North 67 degrees 21 minutes 21 seconds East a distance of 123.30 feet to the East line of said Gov't Lot 7; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 04 seconds West along said East line a distance of 155.46 feet, to the Point of Beginning; said tract contains 15.16 acres more or less, and is subject to any right or record.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
I, Thomas W. Berge, Registered Professional Land Surveyor, in and for the State of North Dakota, hereby certify that I have a true and correct representation of said survey of the above described property and that this plat is a true and correct representation of said survey to the best of my knowledge and belief.



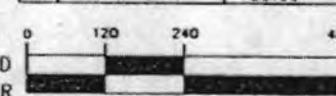
Thomas W. Berge

LEGEND

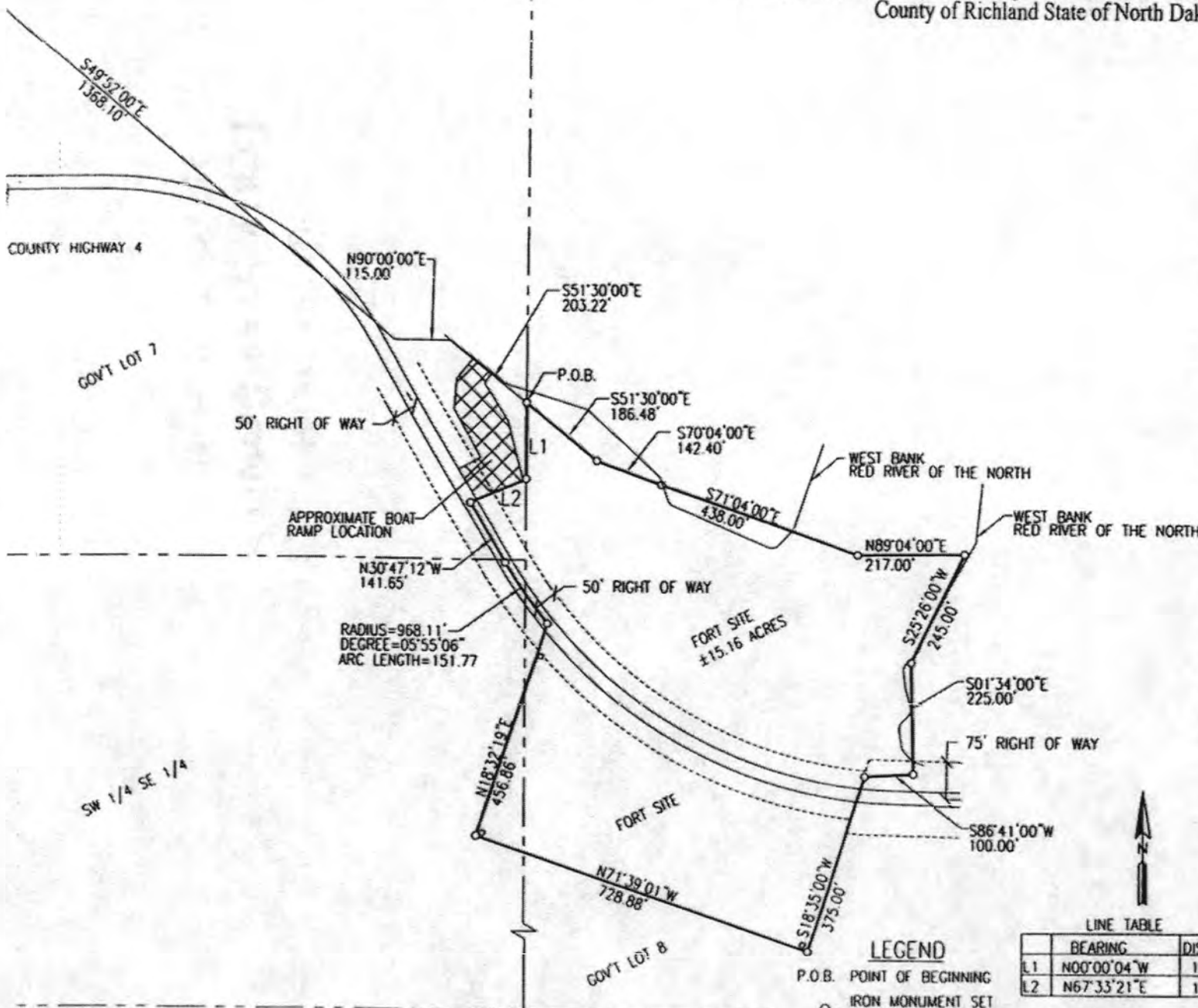
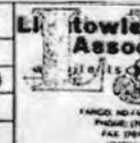
- P.O.B. POINT OF BEGINNING
○ IRON MONUMENT SET
W/ PLASTIC CAP 2349
● IRON MONUMENT FOUND
○ CONCRETE R/W MARKER

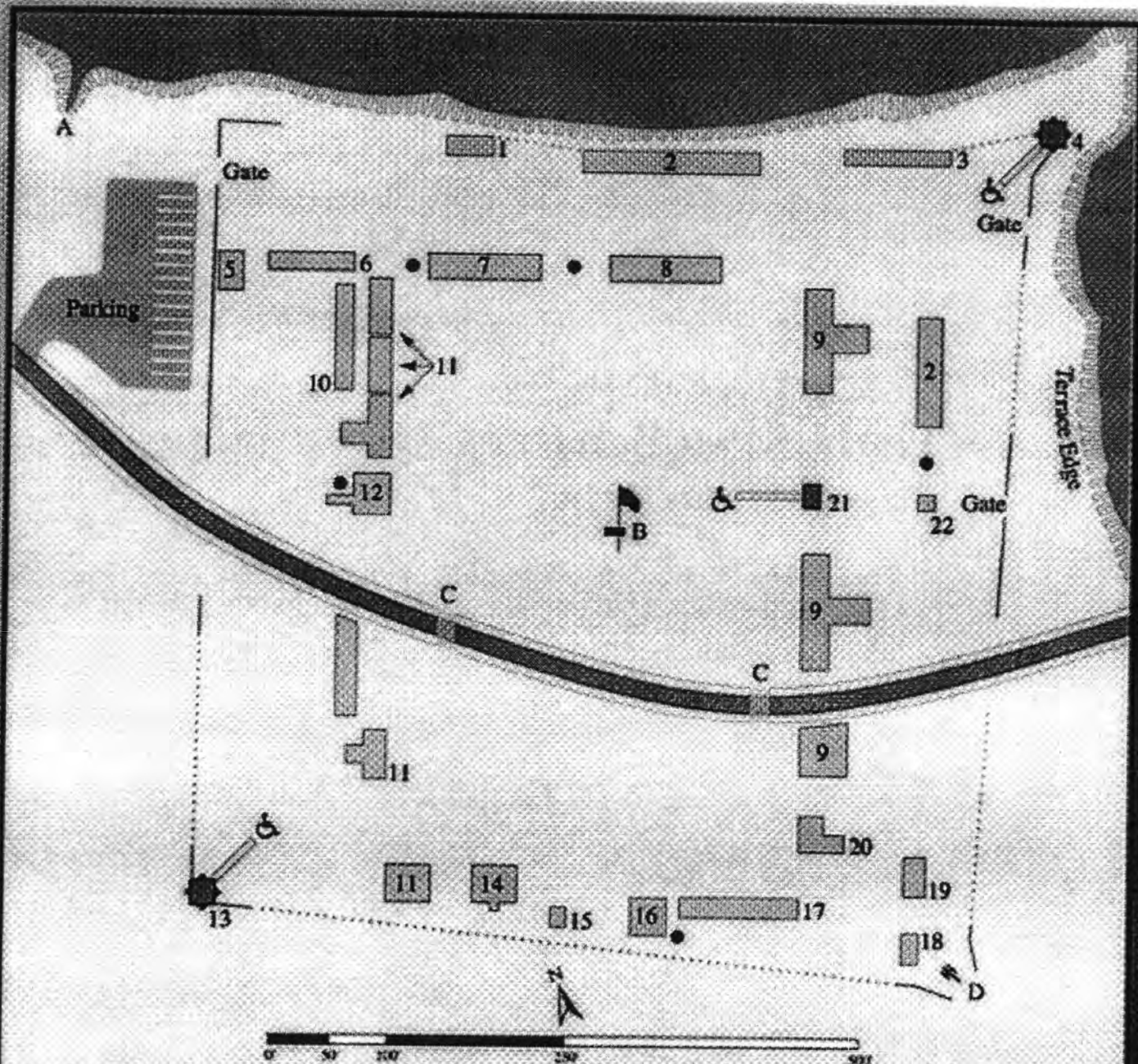
LINE TABLE

	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N00°00'04"W	155.46'
L2	N67°33'21"E	123.30'



DRAWN BY: CAN
CHECKED BY: TWB
DATE: 3-12-07 REVISED
PROJECT NO.: 07024
PAGE: 1 OF 1





Fort Abercrombie - 1871

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Blacksmith | 10. Officers' kitchen | 19. Traders' quarters |
| 2. Stables (2) | 11. Officers' quarters (3) | 20. Scouts' quarters |
| 3. Traders' store | 12. Commanding Officer's quarters | 21. Guardhouse |
| 4. Northeast blockhouse | 13. Southwest blockhouse | 22. Magazine |
| 5. Granary | 14. Surgeon's and Chaplain's quarters | |
| 6. Storehouse | 15. Magazine (old) | |
| 7. Commissary storehouse | 16. Hospital | |
| 8. Quartermaster's storehouse | 17. Tool shed | |
| 9. Camp barracks (3 - enlisted) | 18. Icehouse | |

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Boardwalk | Reconstructed buildings | Reconstructed stockade |
| A.D.A. accessible | Ghosted buildings | Ghosted stockade |
| | ● Iron cisterns (5) | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fort Abercrombie
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Richland

DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/31/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/15/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/25/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001367

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1-22-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



PHOTO 1

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 2

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 3

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 4

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 5

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 6

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 7

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 8

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



UNDER GROUND

TUNNEL

PHOTO 9

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 10

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 11

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 12

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 13

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



PHOTO 14

Fort Abercrombie
Richland Co., North Dakota



NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY

FORT ABERCROMBIE



Fort Abercrombie was built on the site of the old Fort Snodgrass, which was destroyed by the Indians in 1862. The new fort was built in 1863 and was one of the strongest in the West. It was named after General William H. Sibley, who was the first commander of the fort. The fort was built of adobe and was surrounded by a high wall. It had a central stockade and several outposts. The fort was destroyed by the Indians in 1864 and was rebuilt in 1865. It was again destroyed in 1866 and was finally abandoned in 1867. The site of the fort is now a state park and is a popular destination for tourists.

1863-1867

PHOTO 15

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota

FLAG MALL
CONSTRUCTED
BY FRIENDS
OF FORT
ABERCROMBIE
2003

ND GOVERNOR
JOHN HOEVEN
2000 -

BYRON DORGAN
US SENATOR

GORDON
& DAVID
HENDRICKSON

ARLEN
MARILYN
ANDERSON

MERL & KATHY
PARVERUD

DURAN & AILEEN
KNUDSEN

PHOTO 16

Fort Abercrombie

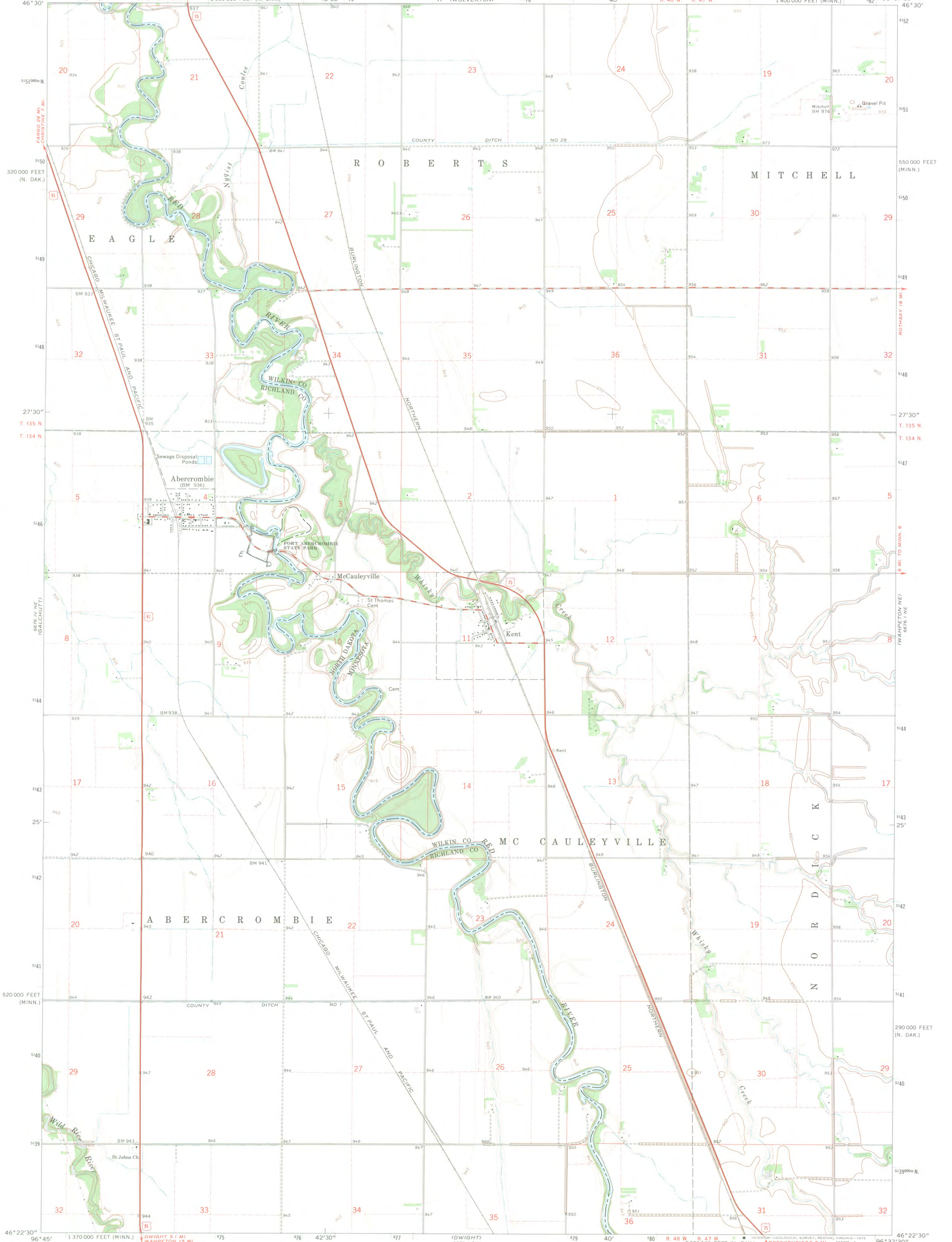
Richland Co., North Dakota



Photo 17

Fort Abercrombie

Richland Co., North Dakota



Fort Abercrombie

A 14/675116/5141678

B 14/675389/5146085

C 14/675382/5145943

D 14/675300/5145815

E 14/675074/5145918



To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Lorna Meidinger
Date: 10 December 2008
Subject: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 10th day of December 2008, for
the nomination of the Fort Abercrombie to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____1_____ National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
_____ Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
_____17_____ Photographs, black and white
_____1_____ Original USGS map(s)
_____2_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
_____ Pieces of correspondence
_____1_____ Other: _____cd_____

COMMENTS:

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
_____ The enclosed owner objections _____ do _____ do not constitute a majority
of property owners.
_____ Other: