

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P140367281

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 7 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 24 1978

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

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Hartsuff

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elyria

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

CODE

31

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

third

COUNTY

Valley

CODE

175

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet Item Number 4)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Valley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ord

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Hartsuff Historic District is comprised of historic structures, ruins and historical archeological sites directly related to the life of Fort Hartsuff, an Army outpost of the late nineteenth century (1874-1881). Located on the tableland above Bean Creek at the base of the loess hills which rim the valley of the North Loup River, the district incorporates a variety of geographic as well as historical features. The district covers some ninety acres of land, occupying portions of Section 10, part of the original military reservation.

Due to its rural setting, the Fort Hartsuff Historic District has maintained its integrity to a large degree. In 1881 the Army determined the post had outlived its usefulness; buildings and land were sold to the Union Pacific. The railroad quickly lost interest, however and ownership of the complex was again transferred. Adapted as a ranch headquarters, the structures were put to agricultural use until their donation in 1961 to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. As with the structures, adjacent land was soon, and continues to be, in use for crop-raising and grazing purposes.

All of the major structures within the Fort Hartsuff Historic District were constructed in 1874, of grout, from specifications of the United States Army Quartermaster's Department. Of these nine buildings, five have undergone renovation, three stand in deteriorated condition and one has been reduced to ruins. Archeological remains of the dug-outs used for shelter during the construction of the Fort, of the frame structures (Blacksmith/Carpenter Shop, Sutler's Store) once part of the Fort complex, of the post water works and the steam-powered saw mill complete the district inventory.

The use of identical building materials and standard plans gives the Fort Hartsuff Historic District a very unified character and appearance. Building location adds to the cohesiveness of this whole; the nine grout structures rim the perimeter of a large parade ground which with its centered flagpole serves as the focal point of the area. (See map #1) Modern intrusions, some necessitated by the operation of the site as a state historical park, have been kept to a minimum. The area successfully communicates the flavor of a remote infantry station at the close of the Indian Wars, and contains structures which are of historical and architectural significance.

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1. Post Adjutant's Office

The Post Adjutant's Office is a one-story grout-walled structure topped by a gable roof. This simple symmetrical structure is nearly forty-eight feet square and has a central hallway running from front to back. Four nearly equal rooms open onto the hallway. Each room has one window located on each of the two exterior walls and a chimney is centered on the interior partition on either side of the hall. Like all grout structures at the Fort, the Adjutant's Office was plastered on the exterior with a fine coat of grout, which was then scribed to resemble ashlar stone.

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DATE ENTERED **MAR 24 1978**

CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Hartsuff ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

- ✓ Nebraska State Game and Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

- ✓ Loup Valley Public Power and Irrigation Company
Ord, Nebraska 68862

- ✓ Mr. Everett Lech
Rural Route
Burwell, Nebraska 68823

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Built in 1874, the building served as post headquarters during the Fort's active period. The structure was allowed to deteriorate until 1966 (see photo #1) at which time renovation and stabilization was undertaken by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Work included patching of exterior wall deterioration with concrete, roof repairs, interior drywall and plaster repair and installation of a gas furnace. Completed in 1972, the Post Adjutant's Office has since served as an orientation center for visitors to Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park. (See Photo #1a)

2. Enlisted Men's Barracks

This one-story, L-shaped structure was built in 1874 and served as the dormitory, mess hall and kitchen facility for the enlisted men stationed at the Fort. The dormitory section, some eighty feet in length faced the parade ground and was fronted by a wooden porch. A small square room was built into either end of this porch, and entrance to the building was made through one of two doors, each set not far from these end rooms. Chimneys were located at either end of the open dormitory room, and protruded through the gable roof at its crest.

The other leg of the L contained the mess hall, kitchen, barber shop and wash house. Access was gained from the dormitory to this section through a small doorway. An interior partition separated the mess hall from the kitchen, on the rear wall of which the building's third chimney was located. The kitchen also contained an exit to the outside. The barber shop and wash house portion was built as a lean-to on the rear of the kitchen and was accessible only from the out-of-doors.

After abandonment the dormitory was allowed to deteriorate, so much so that only ruins of the walls remain standing. The rest of the structure met a somewhat happier fate, being adapted for agricultural use. To this end substantial holes were knocked into the walls of the mess hall, allowing access by wagons. After some years of use for grain storage, the building as a whole was allowed to deteriorate. (See photo #2)

In 1976 stabilization and renovation of the mess hall, kitchen and wash house sections was subsidized through Bicentennial funding. New concrete footings, a new roof and windows, repointing of the brick chimney and interior wall repair have made the building safe for visitors. At present, lit by kerosene lanterns and heated by a wood stove, the building has become a favorite of site visitors and houses a number of community functions.

3. Company Officers' Quarters

Housing the Fort's officers, this one-and-one-half-story grout structure built in

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1874 was the grandest of the buildings in the complex. The tee-shaped structure incorporates two identical sets of quarters, each with its own entrance and exit. (See photo-copy of floor plan, #3)

In later years doorways were cut into the structure's center wall and the quarters became home to a farming family. Some deterioration of the structure did occur. From 1966 through 1973 renovation efforts were made by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Work included patching of exterior walls with polysulphide polymer epoxy resin, roof and porch repair and foundation stabilization. Interior repairs consisted of replacement of stair railings, mouldings, flooring, installation of drywall, new wiring and a gas furnace. The building houses period artifacts and attempts to interpret daily life at Fort Hartsuff. (See photo #3a)

4. Commanding Officer's Quarters

This one-and-one-half-story structure burned to the ground as it was nearing completion and was built a second time in 1875. The main portion of the building was thirty-two feet square with a back wing measuring 18 by 16 feet. Quartermaster reports describe the building as containing, "nine rooms, one halls (sic) and two flights of steps, back and front." (See photographic copy of floor plan, photo #4)

The building was used for some years after its abandonment by the Army, until it once again burned circa 1910. At that point what remained of the grout walls was bricked in and the building was used for grain storage. No efforts at renovation have been made to date. (See photo #4a)

5. Post Hospital

Like the other grout structures at Fort Hartsuff, the Post Hospital was built in 1874. A veranda runs the length of the one-story, tee-shaped building, the main entrance of which is set slightly to the right of center. The interior of the building is divided roughly in half, a fireplace being centered on the dividing interior partition. The right half of the building is divided into three small rectangular rooms (dispensary, storeroom and steward's room) and the left serves as the ward room, measuring 23 by 30 feet. The back wing of the building contains two rooms, mess room and kitchen, and has a chimney centered on the partition dividing the two. A bath room and water closet were originally located at the rear corner of the ward room, but were removed shortly after the complex was sold.

Used for agricultural purposes, the hospital was renovated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in 1966. Repairs included patching of exterior walls, rewiring, floor-

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ing and installation of a gas furnace. Efforts were completed in 1971 and the building now serves interpretive purposes. (See photo #5)

6. Quartermaster's Storehouse

This 100 by 30 foot structure was built in 1874 for storage purposes. The interior was divided into two large storerooms, each accessible through large double doorways at the end of the building, or through one of two doors set near the ends of the front of the structure. A cellar was dug into the floor of one of these storerooms, which also contained a small sales room. Four small windows provided the only natural illumination for the building.

Adaptations made for agricultural purposes included removal of interior walls, filling in of the cellar and enlargement of the end doorways. After active use ceased, the roof was allowed to rot away, causing substantial deterioration of part of the building. In 1976 efforts at stabilization were made by personnel of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, including reinforcement of the foundation and repair of the remaining roof.

7. Laundress' Quarters and Bakery

Similar in shape to the storehouse, this structure was divided into five two-room suites, housing the post laundresses, the commissary sergeant and the post bakery. Each of the suites in the one-story building had front and rear entrances, as well as an opening in the partition connecting front room to back.

The bakery, containing a substantial built-in oven, was located at one end of the gable-roofed structure. Quarters for the commissary sergeant set at the opposite end, with three sets of laundress' quarters in between. A wooden porch ran the entire length of the back of the 80 by 40 foot structure, and may have served as a space where the laundresses plied their trade.

Deterioration of the laundress' quarters began almost immediately after sale of the complex and has been nearly complete. A few sections of partially washed-away grout walls are all that remain. (See photo #7)

8. Quartermaster's Stable

Of identical dimensions to the Quartermaster's Storehouse, this one-story grout building consisted primarily of horse stalls. A central feeding and manure passage ran the length of the building, leading to a wide doorway at either end. A small square window was placed high on the exterior wall of each stall, and served with the ventilator atop

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the roof to circulate air. Space not used to stable horses was divided into two rectangular rooms on either side of the passageway. These rooms contained forage and saddler's equipment. A chimney was located in the exterior corner of the saddler's room, protruding through the roof just above the plate.

The stable was adapted for agricultural purposes and after some years of use was allowed to deteriorate. Some stabilization of the foundation and walls was completed in 1976 by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission staff.

9. Guard House

This five-room, hipped-roof structure served as the place of detention for all those who disregarded the military code. A porch runs the length of the north side (front) of the 40 by 25 foot structure. The center doorway opens onto a large central guard room. Four rooms open off this central storage room, two on either side. Three of these rooms served for ordnance storage and general detention. The fourth was divided into six 4 1/2 by 2 by 3 foot cells used for serious offenders. Each room is illuminated by one six-light window placed high on the wall and covered with iron bars, with the exception of the guard room, which contains four such windows. Small wedge-shaped openings occur at regular intervals on exterior walls near the plate and served for ventilation. Formerly the rear door opened onto a fenced-in exercise yard and water closet; these were removed shortly after 1881. A short, vented cupola sits atop the hipped roof, aiding air circulation.

This building was renovated in 1966 and required patching of exterior walls, roof repairs and installation of an electrical system. By 1968 the interior was refinished with roughcut lumber and opened to the public for interpretive purposes.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

A. Post Reading Room and Library--1874

This small frame structure housed the periodicals, newspapers and books purchased with surplus company funds. Torn down soon after the Fort was sold, little if any surface evidence of its existence remains. (See photographic copy of Fort plan, photo #8)

B. Blacksmith/Carpenter Shop--1875

The Blacksmith/Carpenter Shop was the hub of a great deal of activity during the years Fort Hartsuff was garrisoned. The frame structure was destroyed when a tornado struck the site in April of 1895. Data indicates substantial metal deposits in the area of

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the shop. (See photographic copy of Fort plan, #8)

C. Wagon Shed--1875

This simple frame structure met the same fate as the Blacksmith/Carpenter Shop.

D. Dug-outs--1874

Dug into the first rise above Bean Creek, the dug-outs housed officers and their families until grout structures could be completed. One of the simplest and most typical examples of folk architecture on the Plains, few known dug-out sites remain accessible to the public.

E. Sutler's Store--1874

Located just outside the confines of the Fort compound, the Sutler's Store served as the closest source of whiskey and other amenities of life. A good deal of surface material indicates a fair deposit of material below ground.

F. Post Water Works--1874

The only part of the Fort which was fortified, the post water works was connected, reputedly, to the complex by an underground tunnel. Quartermaster reports indicate the well was dug to a depth of eighty feet, water being pumped to the surface by a Holiday patent #4 windmill. A tank twelve feet high and fifteen feet in diameter, with a 13,000 gallon capacity served to hold water, some of which was relayed to the complex by some 2000 feet of iron pipe. (See historic view, photograph #9)

G. Saw Mill--1874

Although exact location is unknown, there is good evidence of the existence of a steam-powered saw mill erected on Bean Creek. Trees were hauled eight miles from Jones Canyon to the mill where they were fashioned into lumber. Excavation could provide insight into one of the earliest saw mills in the region.

H. Latrine Sites--1874

The sites of the latrine associated with the hospital and that near the enlisted men's barracks are of particular interest, as there are indications of deposits of medicine, whiskey and other bottles as well as miscellaneous artifacts. (See Fort plan, photo #8)

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MODERN INTRUSIONS

a. Latrine

The latrine, which faces the parade ground, was built in 1972 under specifications of the Engineering Department of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The 27 by 20 foot structure is constructed of fluted concrete block, and while set back from the walkway, it does intrude on the visual environment. (See photograph #10)

b. Superintendent's Residence

Completed in 1972 this one-story frame residence measures 50 by 30 feet. Though removed from the immediate parade ground area, the structure does disrupt the perception of a late-nineteenth century environment. (See photo #11)

c. Burwell-Sumter Canal

The canal was built in 1937 for irrigation purposes by the North Loup Public Power District. As it closely parallels the north border of the historic district, the disruption caused is more visual than physical.

d. Parking lot, gravel roads, interpretive bulletin boards

These features are all a result of the development of the area as Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park. Their existence is necessary for public access to the area, and while all could be more effectively screened, minimal impairment of environmental perception is caused. (See photo #12)

NOTE: All historic, archeological sites and modern intrusions are delineated on the aerial photograph #13.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1874-1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George A. Clement for U.S. Army

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Hartsuff, in spite of its brief life, played a telling role in the settlement and development of North Central Nebraska. Built and garrisoned in 1874, the Fort provided military security for the unsettled area and filled the void left by the abandonment of Fort Kearny, some one hundred miles to the south. Hartsuff offered much more than protection from the roving Sioux and Pawnee, however. To the settlers in its sphere it offered survival.

Newcomers had been streaming into the area since 1870 to take advantage of the free land offered by the Homestead Act. The land was good and save for the vagaries of Great Plains weather, the scarcity of wood and the occasional Indian scare, so was life. Then for two summers in a row, when crops and gardens just had a healthy start, disaster struck: disaster in the form of millions of swirling, swarming grasshoppers. Desolation was all they left behind them, and the despair of knowing there was no food and no money to buy food. Congress was alerted, charity drives sprang up across the East and one of the earliest government welfare programs began.

Fort Hartsuff was a part of the governmental efforts to provide relief. Men and horses from miles around were put to work hauling gravel from Gravel Creek four miles to the southeast, lime from "Doc Beebe's" ranch forty miles to the south, timber eight miles from Jones Canyon to the north. Under specification from the Army Quartermaster Department and the supervision of George A. Clement, a contractor, the sodbusters became workers in grout.

Once completed the Fort remained an integral part of the homesteaders' lives, meeting psychological as well as physical needs. Hartsuff was a visible symbol of government, order and civilization in a land which was decidedly ungoverned, unruly and uncivilized. A haven in the time of trial, the Fort became the focal point for social activities and celebrations as well. The sturdy grout structures bespoke a confidence in the possibilities of the region and served as a drawing card for the North Loup Valley. Fort Hartsuff not only saved the settlers, it caused their numbers to grow.

While Fort Hartsuff was created in part to meet the homesteaders' needs, it was first and foremost a military post. Civil war heroes figured in its early history; General O. E. C. Ord selected the site for "The Post on the Loup" and in December, 1874 ordered the name changed to honor Major General George L. Hartsuff. Three of the soldiers garrisoned at the Fort received the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in the "Battle of the Blowout," the one major encounter with the Sioux in the years

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foght, H.W. The Trail of the Loup. (Ord, Nebraska: Quiz Graphic Arts, 1976).
 United States Government. Notes on Building in Concrete and Pise, For the Frontier.
 (Washington: Quartermaster's Department, 1875).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ⁸¹

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 90

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
 DEFINING THE RECTANGLE LOCATING
 THE PROPERTY

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
nw	41°43'31"	99°01'43"
ne	41°43'31"	99°01'12"
se	41°43'15"	99°01'12"
sw	41°43'15"	99°01'43"

<input type="text"/>
HING
<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The eastern boundary for the Fort Hartsuff Historic District begins at a point 151.5 m north of the Fort Hartsuff Road in the northeast quarter section of Section 10. This boundary follows the section line north for 492.4 m. The boundary then runs due west for 681.8 m, turns at a ninety degree angle and runs south along Bean Creek for 492.4 m. The southern boundary is set at a right angle to the western, runs 681.8 m in length and joins the eastern boundary at the original starting point.

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

Lynne Ireland Folklife Intern

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

15 January 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2200 N. 33rd Street

(402) 464-0641

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

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 has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Marian R. Kneel

1/26/77

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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

W. M. Smith

DATE

3/24/78

ATTEST: Walter Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-13-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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1874-1881.

During this active period, the Fort was garrisoned with one company of infantry, usually less than one hundred men. Skirmishes with the Sioux and Pawnee were few and far between; more time was spent drilling and scouting than fighting. This is not to say, however, that Fort Hartsuff did not have its own distinction. On the contrary, the post was regarded as the most pleasant duty station in the entire Department of the Platte.

A large measure of this favorable rating must have been due to the buildings at the Fort. Army quarters were notoriously uninhabitable, and the grout buildings at Fort Hartsuff must have been a welcome relief. The building material was ideally suited to the extreme weather of the plains; walls a foot thick did much to shut out the frigid winds and intense heat. Further, the uniformity of material and design did much to create an aesthetically pleasing and man-made contrast to the immensity and barrenness of the Nature-wrought Plains.

It is this uniformity which makes the Fort Hartsuff Historic District so attractive today. The surrounding landscape is vastly different from that experienced in 1882, yet the structures are no less impressive. Designed by the same architect and constructed over a period of a few months, the buildings of Fort Hartsuff form a cohesive whole, conveying a nineteenth-century atmosphere in a way no single structure can. The rural setting and relative lack of intrusions further add to the perception of this historic environment.

The buildings of Fort Hartsuff present more than a nineteenth-century "feel;" they provide a lesson in nineteenth-century technology. The Fort represents one of the first uses in Nebraska of the material basic to modern construction: concrete. At a time when sod houses and log cabins were the rule, the Army was building in what the post commandant prophetically referred to as "the building material of the future." The deterioration of some of these grout structures, in some ways lamentable, has resulted in a visual documentation of the processes of grout construction. It is possible to view that walls were poured in wooden forms one foot at a time; that small wooden blocks were occasionally inserted to provide the base for interior finishing; that the coarse mixture used in the walls was plastered over with a fine grout, and carefully scribed to resemble ashlar stone. Details regarding interiors, windows, doorways and construction of gable ends are available to the perceptive observer. (See Photo #6)

If the buildings reveal information about nineteenth-century environments and technology, the related archeological sites can provide pertinent data about the lives of those who peopled the structures. Questions concerning household inventories,

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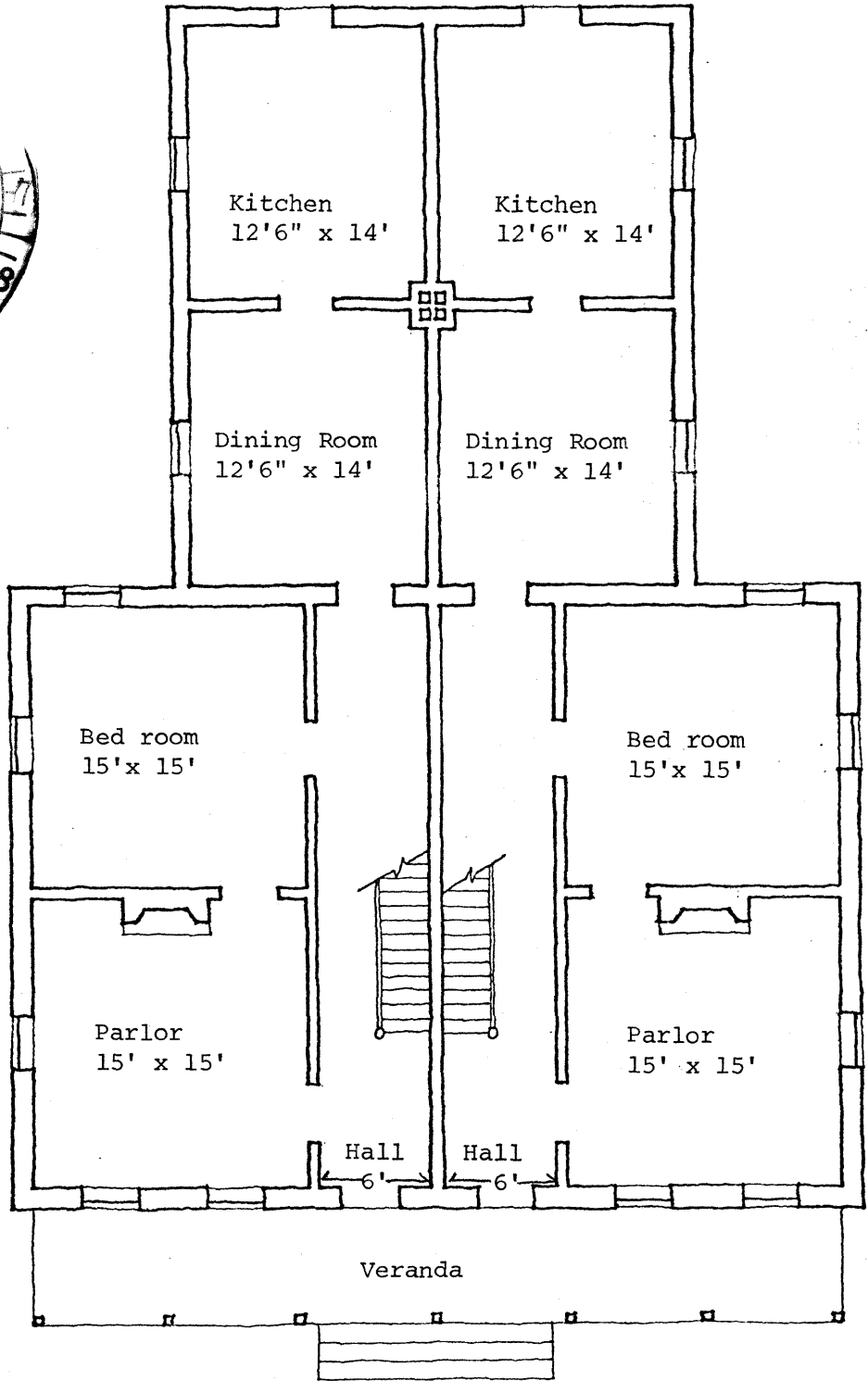
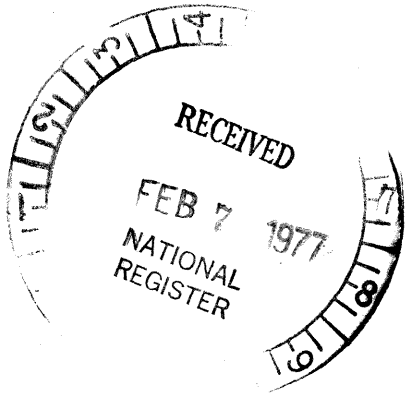
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sutler's supplies, medical treatments, rations and whiskey consumption may in part be answered through competent excavation of applicable sites.

The Fort Hartsuff Historic District incorporates structures and sites important from an historic, technological, architectural and archeological point of view. Threats to the integrity of the area have been kept to a minimum, but proposals for a dam on Bean Creek stand to substantially compromise the atmosphere of this unique and significant area. With protection from federal and state agencies, however, this late-nineteenth century site will be preserved for the edification and enjoyment of the citizens of the twenty-first century.

MAR 24 1978



Ground Plan First Floor

Plan Company Officers' Qtrs., at Fort Hartsuff Neb. Scale 1/8 inch to 1 Foot.

Drawn under the direction of the Post Quartermaster Fort Hartsuff, Nebraska
February 20, 1878

Floor plan of Company Officers' Quarters
Fort Hartsuff Historic District
vicinity of Elyria, Nebraska
copy by David Murphy, original by John Clark
Co. K, 14th Infantry 1878
Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park
Photo copy number: 3