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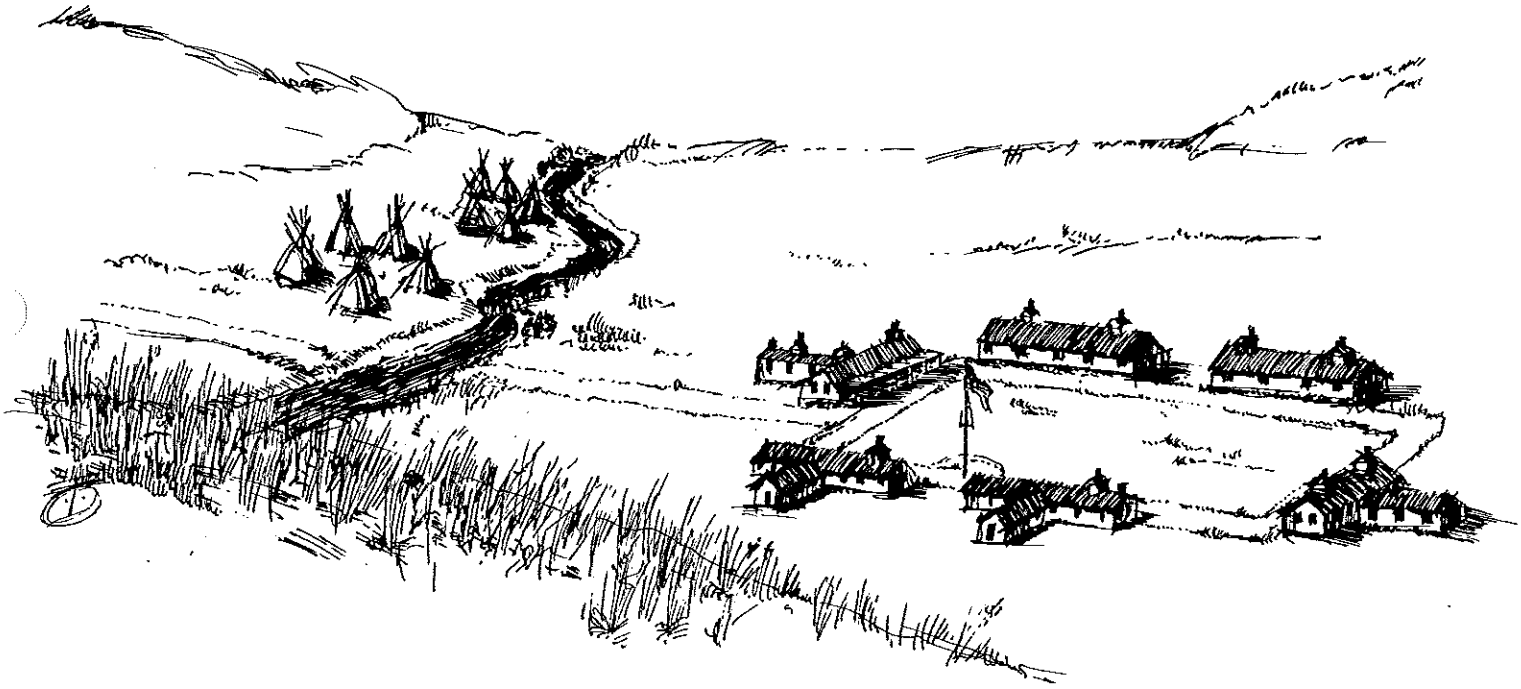
SPECIAL REPORT ON EIGHT KANSAS FORTS



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Special Report on Eight Kansas Forts

Package MWRO no. 200-15
June 1, 1994

Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Riley, Fort Harker, Fort Hays,
Fort Larned, Fort Dodge, Fort Wallace

KANSAS

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service • Denver Service Center

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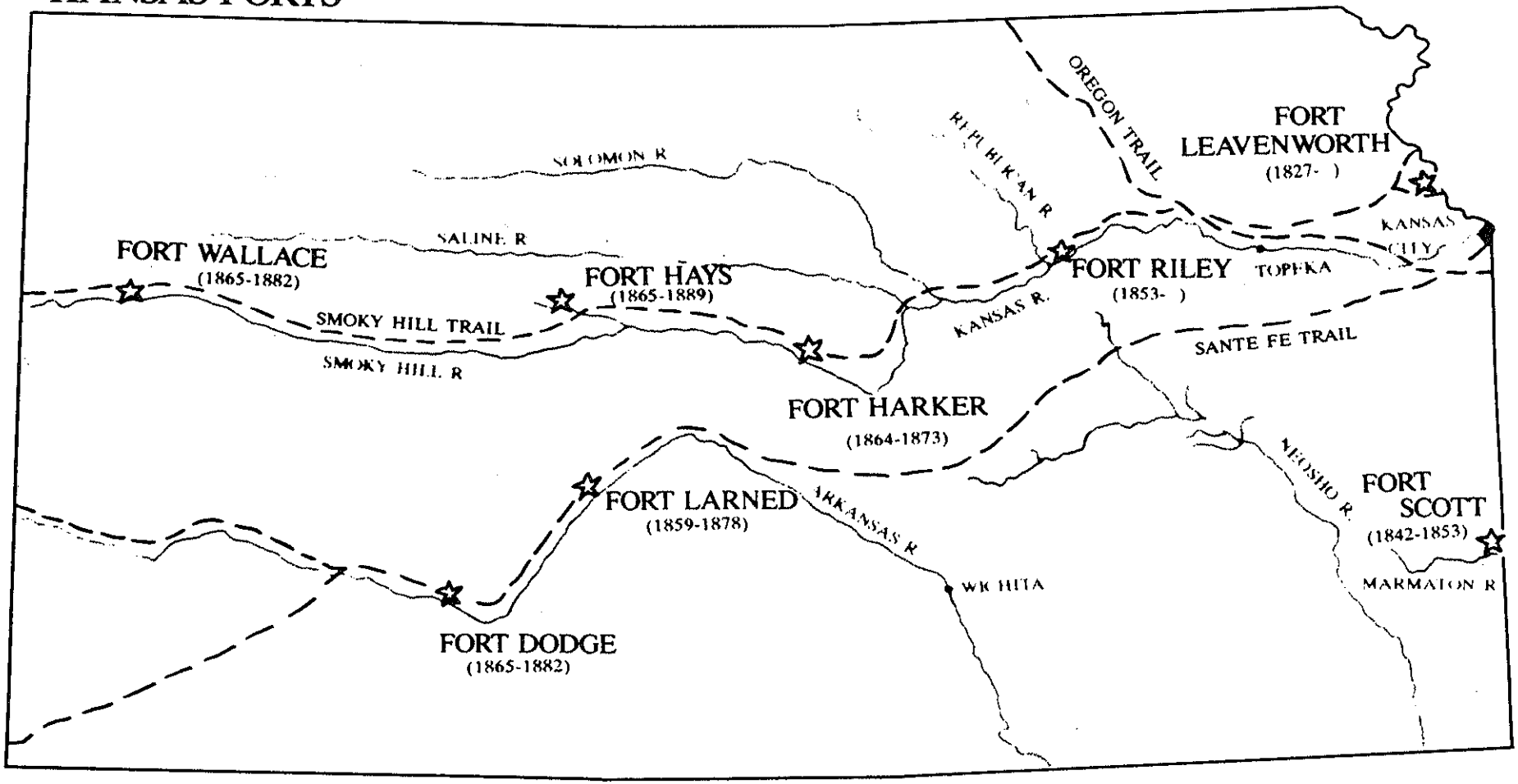
KANSAS FORTS



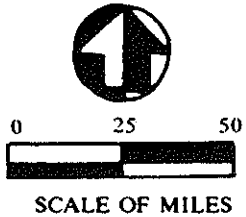


Figure 1: Map of Major Kansas Forts

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Western forts played a crucial role in the nation's expansion and military affairs during much of the 19th century. In Kansas, eight major Army installations (figure 1) were part of significant events in the development of the West. Collectively these forts document the history, folklore, legends, controversies, hardships, and turmoil associated with Euro-American and American Indian life on the frontier. As the 19th century drew to a close, most of these forts were deactivated and, by the mid-20th century, several had fallen into disrepair. Recognizing their intrinsic value, state, private, and federal agencies began to preserve some of these important historic sites. Unfortunately, preservation efforts have been inopportune and sporadic, resulting in the deterioration of significant historic resources.

Recognizing this imminent loss of cultural resources, Congress earmarked general management plan program funds in the fiscal year 1992 Department of the Interior appropriations bill (Public Law 102-154) and requested that the National Park Service (NPS) conduct a study of eight Kansas forts — Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Riley, Fort Larned, Fort Harker, Fort Hays, Fort Dodge, and Fort Wallace. House and Senate bills were introduced in 1991, but they were never enacted. These bills were used to establish the congressional intent for what the study should encompass. A planning team from the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service conducted the fieldwork in 1992 and completed this report in 1993. A copy of the draft legislation is included as an appendix to illustrate the origin and intent of this study.

Although other 19th century Kansas fort sites such as Fort Zarah (1864-1869) are extant, they were not identified in the study criteria and are not examined here.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to suggest viable options for the preservation and interpretation of the eight forts — not just individually, but also describing their collective roles in westward expansion and as part of the Kansas frontier in the 19th century.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This report outlines various opportunities for improving coordination and cooperation among the entities that manage the eight forts. The study did not attempt to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the significance, suitability, and feasibility of the forts as potential new units of the national park system or other special designations such as a national historic trail, corridor, or heritage partnership. Because two of the forts are already units of the national park system, and several others are being protected and managed in ways that allow for public appreciation, a comprehensive study was not considered necessary or appropriate. This report provides technical assistance to other federal, state, and local agencies as well as public organizations. The study does not involve any specific suggestions for federal action beyond coordination of existing programs, and therefore it is considered to be a categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act. Planning and specific facility development or improvements would, in the future, be accompanied by appropriate documentation of

compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable requirements.

This report also provides a brief overview of the history and setting of the eight forts and places them within a broad historic context. It also lists each area's National Register of Historic Places and state site status and includes a brief description of the current demographics of each county or region (table 1). Interpretive themes that are common to these historic sites are also discussed, along with long-term goals and obstacles to establishing a Kansas forts network and a brief summary of recommendations and suggestions for helping the individual forts realize their full potential.

METHODOLOGY

NPS planners visited the forts and discussed major concerns and issues with site managers. The planners also gathered ideas and information about existing and proposed uses along with the potential effects of present and future uses from staff members, state agencies, and other interested parties.

Discussions with managers made it clear that those interested in the future of the forts favored organizing a statewide network. The managers are aware that the scope and viability of such a network would depend largely upon close cooperation among themselves.

The National Park Service sponsored a workshop in October 1992, in Salina, Kansas, to identify general and specific problems affecting the forts, develop long-term goals, outline unifying interpretive themes and the resources that illustrate such themes, and propose ways to overcome some of the problems facing the forts. The workshop attendees briefly discussed short- and long-term threats to the forts from residential, commercial, and industrial development. Participants also focused upon developing ideas for the preservation, interpretation, management, and use of the forts. The workshop sought specific ideas to foster private cooperation and regional planning strategies in developing a forts network (see appendix A for a summary of the workshop), but no clear direction developed for the implementation of such a network. However, the ideas that evolved during the workshop form the basis for the recommendations in this report.

Table 1: Kansas Forts — Selected Demographic Data

FORTS	LOCATION	VISITATION PER YEAR	NEAREST TOWN & POPULATION	COUNTY & POPULATION	MAJOR ECONOMIC BASIS
FORT LEAVENWORTH	35 miles NW of Kansas City on US 73 and Kansas Rte 92	>150,000	Leavenworth 38,200	Leavenworth 63,700	Military Base Government Activities
FORT SCOTT	92 miles S of Kansas City on US 69 and 54	circa 75,000	Fort Scott 8,329	Bourbon 14,906	Agriculture Manufacturing Services Wholesale and Retail Trade Government
FORT RILEY	130 miles W of Kansas City on I-70	circa 75,000	Junction City 21,200	Geary 30,400	Goods and Services Military Base
FORT LARNED	6 miles W of Larned on Kansas Rte 156	circa 52,000	Larned 4,811	Pawnee 7,400	Agriculture Larned State Hospital
FORT HARKER	6 miles SE of Ellsworth, 7 miles S of I-70	circa 2,400	Kanopolis 729	Ellsworth 6,700	Salt Mining Brick Manufacturing Agriculture
FORT HAYS	266 miles W of Kansas City on I-70	circa 54,000	Hays 17,400	Ellis 27,100	Agriculture Trade Service Center for Central Kansas
FORT DODGE	5 miles E of Dodge City on Rte 154	1,372	Dodge City 20,300	Ford 27,000	Wholesale and Retail Trade Manufacturing Service Industries State and Local Government
FORT WALLACE	9 miles E of Sharon Springs on US Rte 40	circa 3,000	Wallace >100	Wallace 1,900	Agriculture

Source: *Rand McNally Road Atlas* 1991 and Bourbon County Clerk's Office

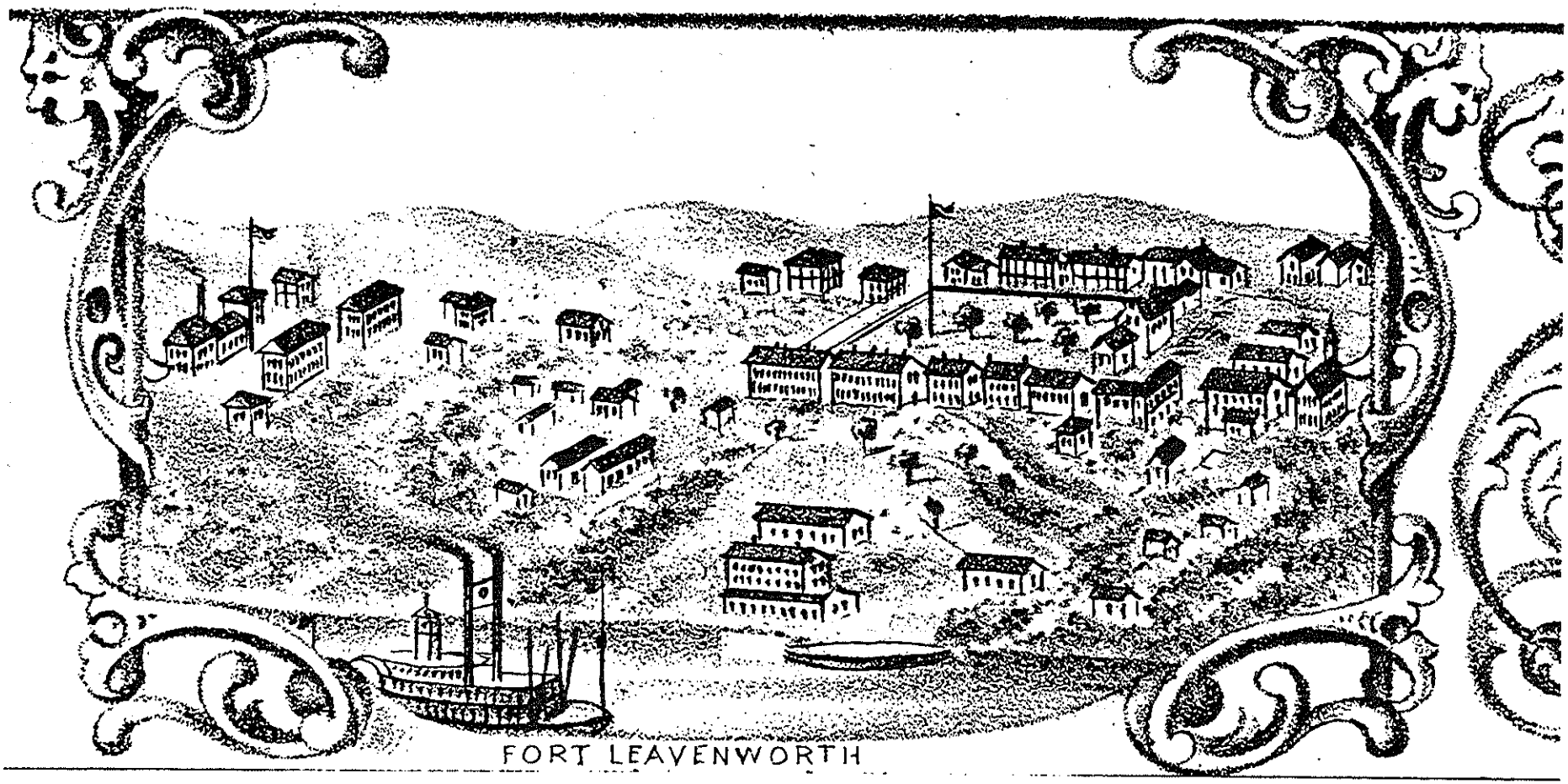


Figure 2: Fort Leavenworth, 1860 Aerial View. Courtesy of the Fort Leavenworth Frontier Army Museum.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FORTS

During the 19th century the establishment of military posts and camps in strategic locations west of the Mississippi facilitated growth and development, which in turn contributed to major impacts upon traditional American Indian life. The Kansas forts were no exception; they had a significant impact on both their immediate region and upon the development of the West. Established in relative isolation, most of the forts were founded in response to a specific need, such as distribution of supplies or protection of transportation routes. Each fort developed its own individual identity and stimulated the growth of nearby settlements. These local communities benefitted politically, socially, and economically from the presence of these military installations, and the potential for these mutually benefitting relationships continues today.

FORT LEAVENWORTH

The Army established Fort Leavenworth in 1827 on the west bank of the Missouri River, north of Kansas City, to safeguard the Santa Fe Trail and to prevent settlement beyond the Permanent Indian Frontier.[1] The fort became an essential part of overland expansion on both the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails and played a critical role in maintaining peace among the different Indian nations-- protecting them from illegal activities of squatters and traders. Fort Leavenworth was used by General Kearny's Army of the West and as the headquarters, supply depot, and arsenal for the frontier army. During the Civil War, this fort was the critical linchpin to the far west for the Union, serving as an arsenal and training point. Units that served here in the 19th century included the Dragoon Regiments and the Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry. The fort's buildings and grounds provide a historical continuum illustrating United States military posts from 1827 to the present (figure 2). A 1985 survey, done by the NPS Historic American Buildings Survey Division, documented more than 110 historic structures at the fort, and the fort has been designated as a national historic landmark. Several archeological sites on the post are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and the Quarry Creek Archeological Site was added to the register in 1973. Along the east side of the post, deep ruts mark the Missouri River crossing of branches of the Oregon and Santa Fe trails.

The oldest active Army post west of the Mississippi, this fort is home to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (established 1881) as well as other major training agencies, and has been a cornerstone in the professionalization of the Army. Over 100 of the world's elite military officers attend this college yearly, and alumni include more heads of state than any other school in the world. Because of the large teaching staff, the fort has great potential for education and research.

Fort Leavenworth is the home of the Frontier Army Museum. A member of the U.S. Army museum system, the museum is free of charge and offers a variety of interpretive displays and living history

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1 Permanent Indian Frontier refers to a effort by the United States government to implement a plan for the protection of the whole western frontier (circa 1830-1853). As Euro-American settlement moved rapidly westward, Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River were displaced from their traditional homelands. The federal government relocated many of these tribes onto the Great Plains, west of Arkansas, Missouri, and north of the Red River. The Permanent Indian Frontier was an attempt by the federal government to establish a lasting separation between the Euro-American settlement and all of the indigenous and relocated American Indians who occupied the Great Plains. By the 1840s major transportation routes were available for Euro-American immigration westward traversing the Indian Territory and making the Permanent Indian Frontier obsolete.

programs to inform and educate visitors. The museum has one of the largest collections of horse-drawn military vehicles in the country, and displays feature themes such as "The Army's Role in Opening the West" as well as exhibits honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. A 2½ mile self-guiding tour of the historic fort begins at the museum.

FORT SCOTT

The U.S. Army established Fort Scott (figure 3) in 1842 to assist with the protection and maintenance of the Permanent Indian Frontier. The post was adjacent to a military road that was intended to traverse the Indian Territory from Fort Snelling, through Forts Leavenworth and Scott (Kansas), to Fort Gibson (Oklahoma). The road was improved from Leavenworth south. Fort Scott was abandoned in 1853, and all of the buildings were sold at a public auction in 1855. The former fort buildings became the town of Fort Scott in the Kansas Territory. The post was reactivated during the Civil War and was closed in 1865. Between 1869 and 1873 the U.S. Army returned to Fort Scott, using an office as the military headquarters for the post of southeastern Kansas. This was necessary to protect the construction of the railroads through southeastern Kansas into the Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

Fort Scott was established as a national historic landmark in 1964, as an affiliated national park system area in 1965, and as a national historic site on October 19, 1978. The site contains 20 historic structures (11 original, 9 reconstructed), a parade ground, and approximately 5 acres of restored tallgrass prairie situated on 16.69 acres of land. The buildings contain 33 historically furnished rooms that approximate the appearance of the fort as it existed from 1842 to 1853 when it was part of the Permanent Indian Frontier. Today Fort Scott National Historic Site is the only national park system unit that represents a restored military fort that was constructed, maintained, and garrisoned by the U.S. Army during the period 1842–1853.

FORT RILEY

This fort was located near the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill rivers to eliminate the need for other regional Army posts (figure 4). Established in 1853, it has been used continuously by the military and is now home to the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division ("Big Red One"). The post retains many of the historic structures and landscape features from earlier periods. Parts of Fort Riley are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first state capitol building, also a national register property, is on the post. A military road linked Forts Larned, Leavenworth, Riley, and Zarah. A historic stone building that has served as the post hospital, post headquarters, and cavalry school headquarters now houses the U.S. Cavalry Museum. A member of the U.S. Army museum system, the museum commemorates the history of America's "horse soldiers." Operated separately, the 1st Division museum is in an adjacent building. This museum includes exhibits depicting modern warfare, such as the Vietnam War and Desert Storm. Like Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley interprets a long continuum of American military history west of the Mississippi.

FORT LARNED (originally Camp on Pawnee Fork)

This post, built in 1859 along the Pawnee River a few miles east of present-day Fort Larned, was soon called Fort Alert and originally served to guard the mail route and protect commerce on the Santa Fe

Trail. In 1860 the fort was moved to its current location and renamed Fort Larned. Following the 1861 Treaty of Fort Wise, the fort functioned as an Indian annuity distribution center and protected workers building the Santa Fe Railroad. Deactivated in 1878, it was converted to agricultural use before authorization as a national historic site in 1964. Purchased by the National Park Service in 1966, it was subsequently rehabilitated and is interpreted as Fort Larned National Historic Site (figure 5). It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a national historic landmark. Santa Fe Trail ruts are also preserved as part of this site. Fort Larned National Historic Site is a historic and cultural resource of national importance. It is also vital to the social and cultural life of the Larned community. Fort Larned's day-use facilities and special programs attracted over 52,000 visitors in 1992. Most of these visitors come from outside Pawnee County, and there are benefits to the local economy. The National Park Service is in the process of developing plans for the enhancement of the fort's facilities and programs.

FORT HARKER (originally Fort Ellsworth)

Built in 1864 near the Santa Fe Trail crossing of the left branch of the Smoky Hill River, the fort was renamed and moved further from the river following a disastrous flood. The post distributed supplies to military forts further west and served as a staging area for operations against various American Indian groups until it was deactivated in 1872 (figure 6). The small village of Kanopolis was developed on the location of historic Fort Harker. Four original fort structures survive. Two buildings, both officers' quarters, are privately owned. The other two structures, the Fort Harker guardhouse and another officers' quarters, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are owned and managed by the Ellsworth County Historical Society. The guardhouse serves as the Fort Harker Museum.

FORT HAYS (originally Fort Fletcher)

During the 1860s, construction of the Union Pacific Railroad and heavy travel to Colorado along the Smoky Hill Trail brought large numbers of non-Indians into western Kansas. Because it was believed that Indian tribes, especially the Cheyenne and Arapaho, posed a threat, Fort Fletcher was established in 1865 to protect travelers along the Smoky Hill Trail and, later, construction workers building the railway. A year and a half later the post was renamed Fort Hays and in June, 1867 was moved near the town of Hays (figure 7). The post was deactivated in 1889. The city of Hays and portions of the Fort Hays Branch Experiment Station of Kansas State University surround the preserved section of the fort grounds. Four of the original structures are open to visitors. Fort Hays is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fort Hays State Historic Site is administered by the Kansas State Historical Society. This site is also known as Historic Fort Hays. The blockhouse, guardhouse, and two rebuilt/restored officers quarters buildings are all that remain of the nearly 48 structures that at one time made up the fort. The buildings are preserved as products of cultural evolution, rather than one historic period. This state facility has a visitor center, restrooms, a souvenir shop, a picnic area, as well as a view of a small buffalo herd.

Figure 3: Fort Scott, 1873. A non-military view of Officers Row.

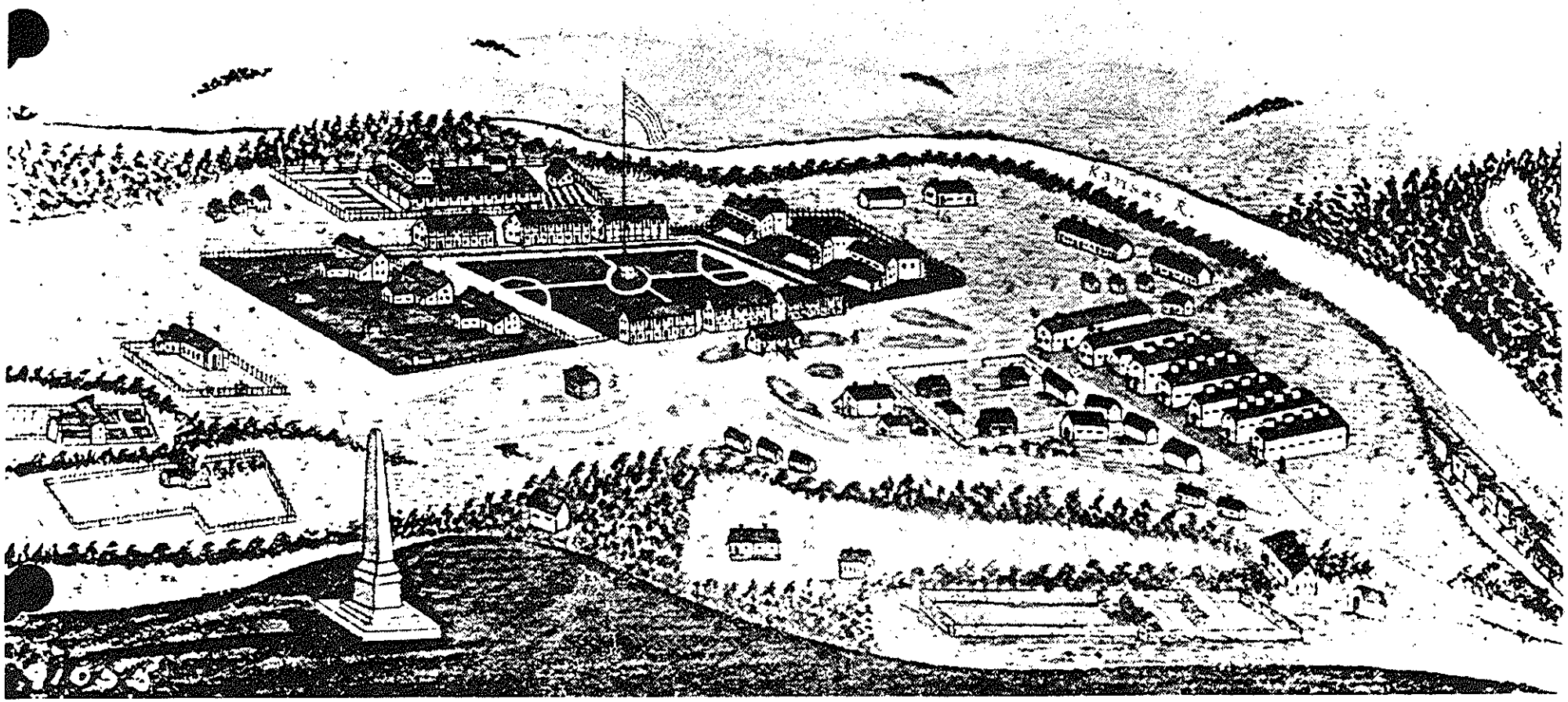
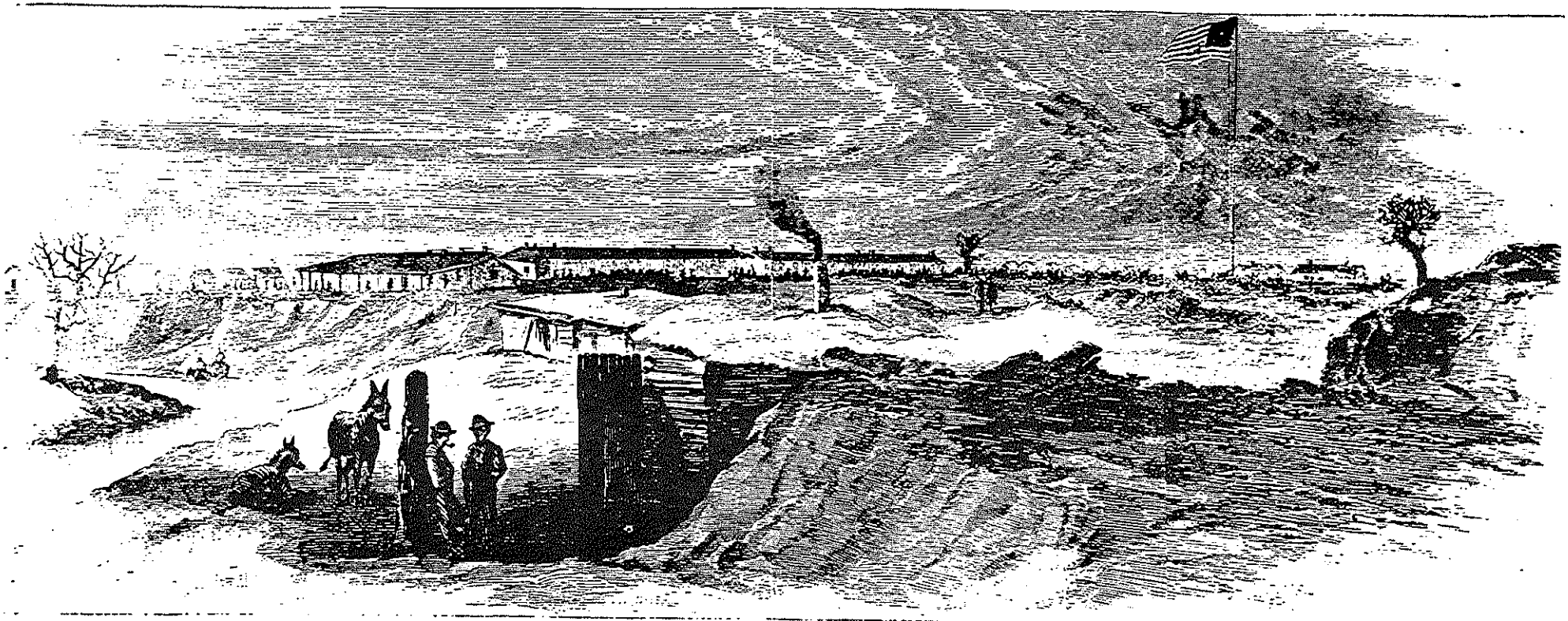


Figure 4: Fort Riley, 1878. 16th Infantry Band. Drawing by L. Ledue. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.



FORT LARNED, KANSAS.—[SKETCHED BY THEODORE R. DAVIS.]

Figure 5: Fort Larned, 1867. Sketched by Theodore R. Davis (personal communication, G. Elmore, 1994).

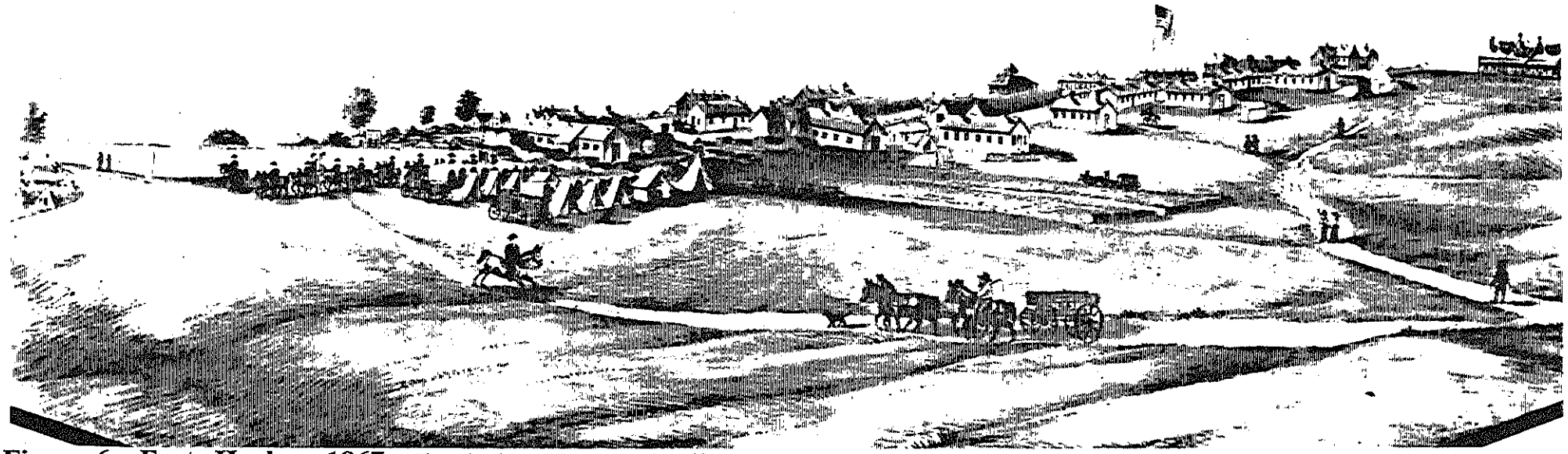


Figure 6: Fort Harker, 1867. Sketched by Hermann Stieffel. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.

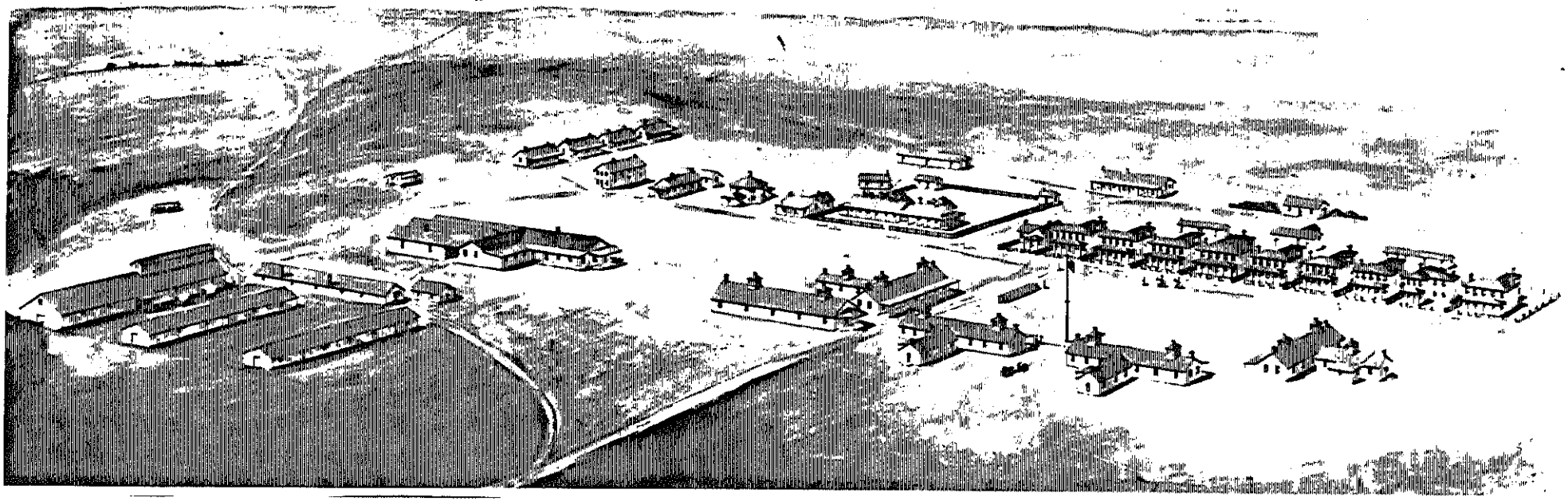


Figure 7: Fort Hays, 1889. View of the Post. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.

FORT DODGE

The most westerly of the large forts on the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas, Fort Dodge was established in 1865 to protect the trail (figure 8). Deactivated in 1882, the early fort buildings have been converted into a state veterans' home. Many original buildings survive, but neither the structures nor the overall site have been evaluated for their national register significance or integrity. The fort has excellent historical records, which are used primarily in genealogical research.

In 1890 Fort Dodge became the Kansas Soldier's Home, and today it serves as a retirement home and intermediate care facility for approximately 225 Kansas veterans and their dependents. Because only two of the historic structures are open to tourists, the fort hosts a limited number of visitors. However, the fort's inclusion in planning efforts by the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation may increase visitation to Dodge City and make the fort more accessible to the public. In cooperation with the development corporation, the fort manager plans to replace sidewalks, make the area accessible to visitors with disabilities, and construct a parking lot. The fort also proposes moving the museum to the original post hospital structure and developing historical data, printed materials, and signs for a self-guiding walking tour.

FORT WALLACE (originally Camp Pond Creek)

Camp Pond Creek was established in 1865 about 1½ miles southwest of the present-day town of Wallace (figure 9). About a year later, the soldiers were moved to a strategic location at the confluence of Pond Creek and the South Fork of the Smoky Hill River, and the fort was designated as Fort Wallace. The post, deactivated in 1882, was built to provide military escorts for travelers along the Smoky Hill stage route, and to maintain security in the area. Today only a few artifact scatters and traces of the fort's foundations remain. These are on private land, accessible only via dirt roads. The 360° viewshed from the fort location, including the cemetery and adjacent historic shooting range, is a cultural landscape that appears little changed from what might have been seen during the 19th century. The landscape and subsurface archeological remains of the fort constitute important resources that could be interpreted to the public. This site has not been evaluated for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.

The original site of Pond Creek Station, including buried resources thought to be early fort dugouts, is a short distance to the west. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

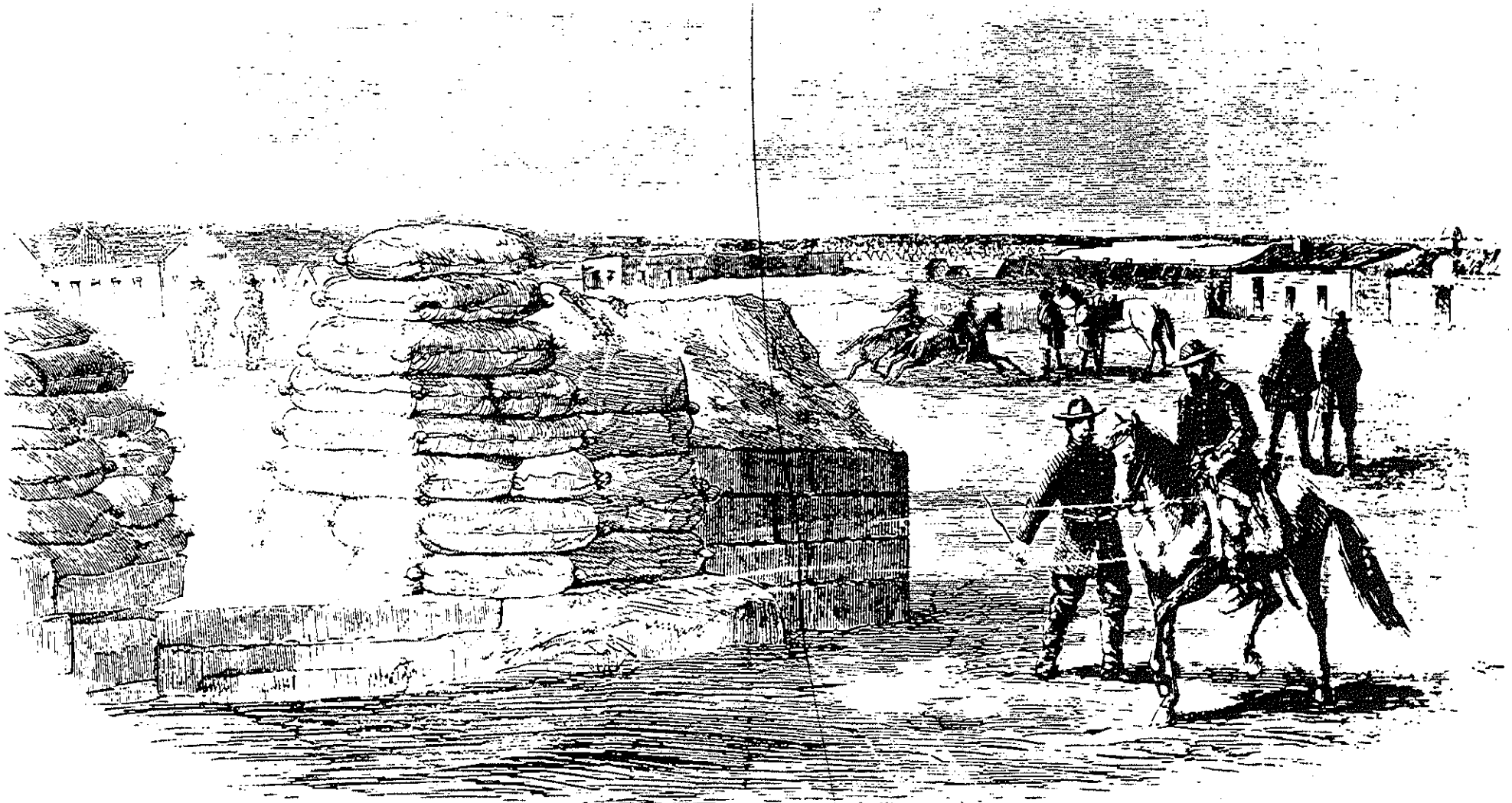


Figure 8: Fort Dodge, 1867. Interior of the Fort. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.

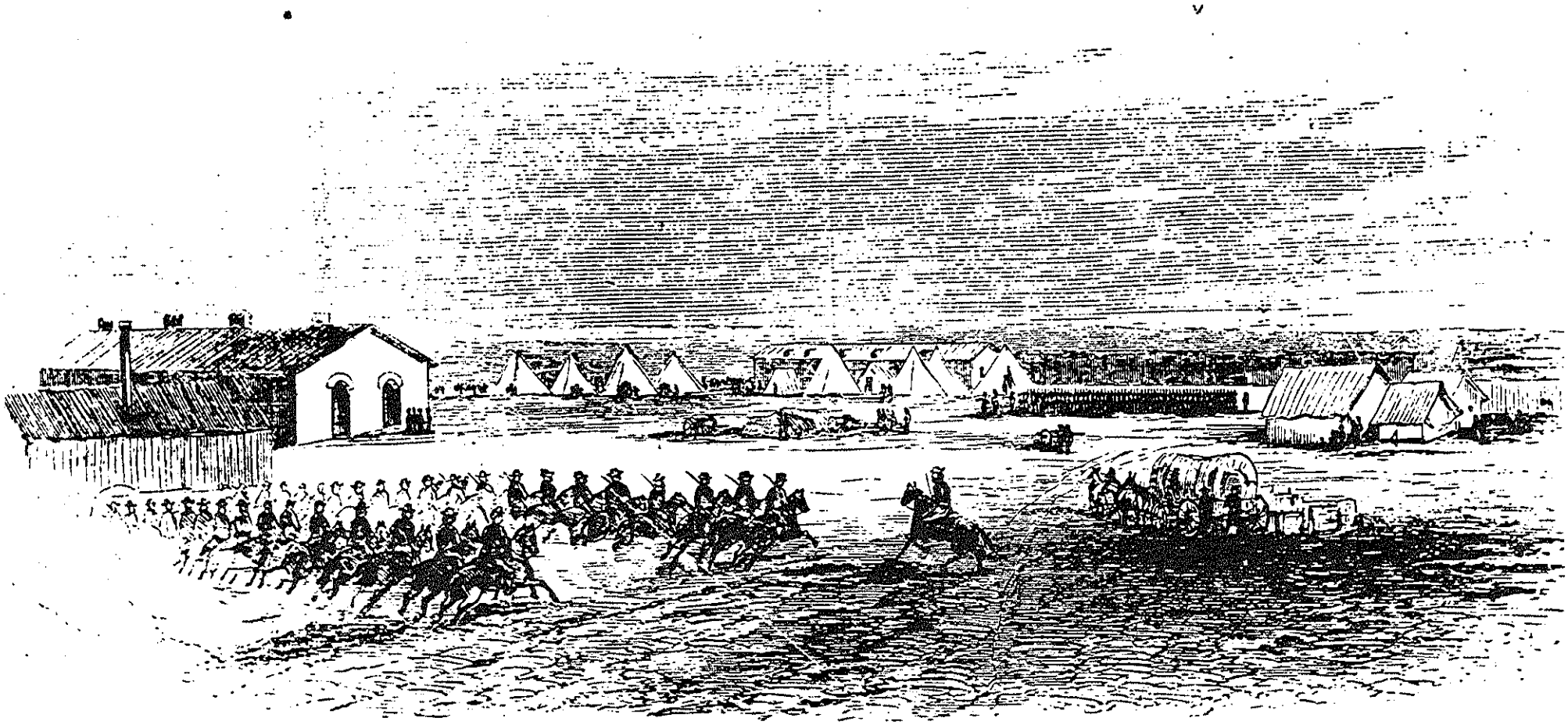


Figure 9: Fort Wallace, 1867. Seventh Cavalry Company Parade. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Although each Kansas fort can — and should — have its own set of interpretive themes, this report focuses only on those themes that highlight common trends. During the course of the Kansas Forts workshop, the following primary interpretive themes and subthemes were identified:

- The Army established the Kansas forts to implement government policies concerning communications, immigration, and trade/commerce.
    - A network of roads connected these and other western forts, communities, and settlements.
    - The coming of the railroads and associated development influenced and changed each of these forts and their respective missions.
    - The presence of troops from these forts facilitated the construction of railroads, which brought permanent change to Kansas and the nation.
    - The primary mission of each fort continued to evolve throughout their respective periods of activity just as the primary missions of the still active forts continues to evolve.
- These forts were agents of irreversible cultural, economic, and political change for the American Indians of the Plains.
    - For almost eight decades the relations between the U.S. Army and American Indians evolved as a result of modifications in U.S government policies.
- Each fort had a unique yet diverse military community made up of soldiers, families, and civilians. Garrison life ranged from the monotonous and boring daily routine to less frequent episodes of military alert in an uncertain, sometimes hostile, environment.
    - In addition to military dependents, the civilian community at each fort was composed of various groups and occupations: craftsmen, artisans, contractors, teamsters, chaplains, contract surgeons, commercial freighters, emigrants, prospectors/gold seekers, Indian Agency personnel, laundresses, scouts, Indian traders, hunters, prostitutes, post settlers/traders and their employees, and others.
    - The forts had significant political, economic and cultural impacts on the Euro-American settlement of the Plains.
    - Post settlers/traders played vital roles in the civilian and military economy as well as the life of these forts and their surrounding areas.
- To maintain these forts, the U.S. Army developed and sustained extensive systems for military supply and logistical support.
    - The Army established quartermaster depots and commissary of subsistence facilities at key Kansas military installations, particularly Forts Leavenworth, Riley, and Hays.

- Organized units of African-American soldiers (the 10th Cavalry, known as the Buffalo Soldiers), stationed at each fort, significantly contributed to the mission of the U.S. Army on the Plains frontier.
    - Companies of African-American regiments were trained and deployed from forts throughout Kansas.
    - The garrison at each Kansas fort periodically contained one or more companies of African-American soldiers (usually cavalry or infantry).
    - The first field use of African-American soldiers in the regular U.S. Army occurred on the Kansas plains.

GENERAL ISSUES

Several general areas of concern were identified at the Kansas Forts workshop, including insufficient funds, lack of personnel, and need for clear direction regarding preservation and interpretation of the forts.[2] Financial shortages hinder the forts' abilities to preserve and protect the resources. Vandalism, relic hunting, natural disasters such as floods and tornados, fire, neglect, and the absence of clear preservation direction threaten historic sites and structures that are already deteriorating.

Workshop participants also recognized that insufficient and/or inadequate research could lead to inappropriate reconstruction. Well-meaning but ill-advised restoration projects can eliminate a building's remaining historical integrity or destroy valuable archeological resources. A number of factors should be considered before any reconstruction or acquisition of historic buildings is initiated to replace missing structures. First, it should be determined whether the new or acquired structure is essential to public understanding of the fort. Adequate documentation is needed to (1) determine whether a comparable structure existed in this area historically, (2) assess existing data to determine if they are sufficient to permit reconstruction on the original site with minimal conjecture, and (3) determine whether significant archeological resources will be preserved — either onsite or through data recovery. Because the current fort grounds are limited in size, it might not be feasible to add new elements to the landscape without detracting from the visitor experience. Additional costs for maintenance and interpretation should be factored into the decision.

Inadequate research can create false impressions, foster erroneous stereotypes, and provide incorrect and incomplete interpretations. Eagerness to promote economic development projects, coupled with inadequate funding, can result in short-sighted planning and resource degradation. Historic structures are an important part of cultural landscapes whose scale, balance, appearance and arrangement (including open and enclosed spaces) also contribute to the historic scene. To disregard the landscape often results in unsightly intrusions that not only lessen the appear of the area to visitors but destroy its historic integrity.

These issues affect each fort differently. Active military posts such as Forts Leavenworth and Riley may have different concerns than other historic forts. Because the primary missions of the active forts revolve around contemporary military activities, preservation and interpretation of historic structures and sites is not their primary focus. Among the rest of the forts there is often a considerable disparity between their respective situations, resulting in differing emphasis on specific issues. For example, while forts such as Larned and Scott share many common concerns with forts Hays and Harker, there are some important differences in management direction, site restoration vs. maintenance of a historical continuum, interpretive programs, and funding availability. These sites in turn do not have the same sorts of problems faced by Fort Wallace, where undeveloped resources are privately owned, and Fort Dodge, which was converted to a soldiers' home and is owned and operated by the state of Kansas.

The forts do not have equal visitation. The degree to which a site has been restored, the amount of publicity a site receives, and the ease of access to the site, in particular the site's proximity to major freeways and population centers, often plays a determining role in the intensity of visitor interest and

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2 For a complete list of problems and suggestions addressed at the workshop, see appendix A.

numbers of visitors to the site (see table 1). A community's ability to bring in additional visitors is not always matched by increased funding and staffing at the forts. This can lead to a great deal of stress on personnel and cultural resources.

The existing interpretive programs are often based on a military perspective that has derived almost exclusively from written records. These programs could and should be enhanced by including the American Indian views of the past, as preserved in ceremonies, archeological remains, and rich traditions of oral history.

NETWORKING

Networking may be described as the establishment of an effective and interactive link among the sites to foster communication and solve problems. The establishment of a Kansas forts network would enable the forts to assist each other in resource preservation, research, public awareness, and interpretation. Within such a network, each historic site or property should be considered equal and not in competition with the others. All forts would share responsibility for the development of a self-perpetuating network and for the identification of common goals and objectives.

RESEARCH

Supporting research, which could be facilitated by networking, is especially needed in two areas: interpretation and resource protection and management. Research is essential to develop a more accurate understanding of the cultural clashes that took place at the forts (military versus civilian, U.S. Government versus American Indian, Euro-American versus African-American, traders versus Euro-American settlers, and soldiers versus traders and settlers). Further research is also necessary to (1) further identify trails and connections among the forts, (2) support historically accurate rehabilitation and preservation of structures, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes, and (3) identify sites that, if developed, would enhance community assets.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness is a critical element in successfully developing and maintaining both the individual sites and a network of forts. It is not enough to have financial and staffing support from the broader community. Community understanding of long-range goals for interpretation, preservation, and visitor facilities is crucial to the success of the forts and the forts network.

FUNDING

Limited funding contributes to a host of problems, including deterioration of resources, absence of visitor services, and inadequate interpretation. Local communities sometimes do not know about availability and timing of grants, how to write grant proposals, or how to organize their resources to obtain a grant. Local expertise in obtaining funding and support from legislative sources also may be inadequate. When funding programs are initiated, cities that have previously developed grant proposals and have them ready to submit often have the edge over smaller communities. Where too many sites

are vying for limited funds, the establishment of a forts network could help in obtaining funds for individual sites.

SPECIFIC ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FORT LEAVENWORTH

Although the fort lacks a suitable museum building and sufficient staffing, plans are underway to construct a new facility that will probably have increased staffing needs. To improve public access to archival materials, the fort is working towards making these records available electronically. Additional archeological work is needed. The historical staff believes that they need to develop an outreach plan to include the local African-American and Hispanic communities. Preservation of the cultural landscape continues to be a concern, particularly due to the growing developmental pressures and number of missions delegated to the fort. However, because the fort continues to be a vital part of the nation's military establishment, ongoing programs and activities present an excellent opportunity for improved public understanding of the historical continuum at this post.

Given its location near large population centers and its extensive historic resources, Fort Leavenworth could draw even larger numbers of visitors. Because of the fort's primary function as an active military installation, the number of visitors it can accept or visitor programs that can be developed must be limited. The staff recognizes the benefits of communication with other, nonmilitary facilities who have mutual concerns about visitor experiences, historic preservation, and curation of collections and resources.

The new museum should reduce some of the crowding and archival problems. Increased involvement of regional educators and visiting experts might help relieve staffing shortages and enhance interpretation, research, and museum programs. Continued Congressional recognition of and support for Fort Leavenworth's history programs is vital, particularly for the museum. Fort Leavenworth could also strengthen its ties with related sites in the communities that surround it, including sites in Missouri as well as Kansas. The fort would continue to sponsor summer archeological field schools focused on historical archeology of the early fort. Active volunteer programs such as the Musettes (a women's auxiliary group) are one of the museum's main strengths, but personnel from other museums could also assist with the development of special exhibits and programs.

To foster better relations with the African-American and Hispanic communities, the fort staff could work with local school systems and churches. Special programs and exhibits focusing on the role of the Buffalo Soldiers as well as Euro-American settlement of the West could be shared with the other forts. As an active duty post, Fort Leavenworth has access to the Army History Program and museum system.[3] Fort Leavenworth's federally funded Combined Arms Research Library is also well situated to house archival materials. This would benefit the network and result in increased visibility for Leavenworth's interpretive programs.

Because many layers of history are superimposed on the ground at the fort, historical research and an inventory of landscape features have been initiated to define and evaluate the integrity and significance of the fort's cultural landscape. The fort needs an entire series of studies all the way from research

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3Fort Leavenworth's museum programs include active volunteers such as the Musettes (a women's auxiliary group) which gives tours, raises funds, and conducts outreach programs. The post also has an active Living History Program dealing with the pre-Civil War Dragoon period.

on the Dragoons and 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers to use of the post's buildings as models for post war-construction throughout the west. The role of the fort in the Civil War, military education, prison history, the Civil Conservation Corps, and the Cold War all deserve attention. Such research would also have an immediate benefit to other frontier Kansas forts. National register/national historic landmark documentation should be revised.[4]

Special training programs in historic preservation techniques should be offered to military staff responsible for decisions regarding historic structures and landscapes. Such training is available from several organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the American Association of State and Local History.

FORT SCOTT

This is a relatively new national park service site (1978). Lack of personnel and funding has always been and still is the major obstacle inhibiting the realization of adequate cultural resource preservation and interpretation/visitor services. Due to this situation, the deterioration of the park's cultural resources is accelerating. Other issues that need to be addressed include the absence of archeological research, basic resource inventories, lack of planning documents, urban encroachment and development, accessibility, and park operational improvements. All of the above issues are addressed in a recently completed and approved general management plan (1993).

The park needs an additional permanent, skilled maintenance employee to maintain the historic structures in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation* and approved NPS policies and standards and the park's *Historic Structures Preservation Guide*. The park and regional office should develop a long-term strategy and associated action plan to correct existing preservation problems. Preservation of museum objects would be improved by implementing the recommendations from the park's approved *Collection Management Plan*, including funding to properly heat and cool the historically furnished areas. Increasing the ranger staff would allow the park, among other things, to expand its Volunteers in Parks program and provide adequate and enhanced interpretive programs and services during the visitor season.

Cooperation and coordination with one or more of the major Kansas educational institutions in the development of student intern programs could assist the park in the basic inventory of archeological, historic, and cultural landscape resources. Funds are needed to complete necessary archeological studies and planning documents.

Other issues, such as adverse development and encroachment on the historic landscape, might be handled successfully through increased cooperation with local government and civic and other interested groups. The park should consider ways to expand the community's understanding of its significance and mission. Stronger local zoning regulations could assist Fort Scott in preserving the integrity of the historic landscape.

The problem of accessibility to second-floor areas could be addressed through innovative programs and media such as photographic exhibits, cutaways with viewing window, periscoping devices, videos

4 See National Register Bulletins nos. 18, 30, 38, 40, and 41 for further information on cultural landscapes.

of the second floor areas, or interactive computer systems. It may be possible to modify interior spaces in some buildings to accommodate an elevator.

Finally, the relocation of the maintenance facility offsite and the consolidation of park offices would result in a more efficient operation, the elimination of visual and audio intrusions, and the increased potential for improved and more accessible visitor facilities.

FORT RILEY

Fort Riley's primary problems are insufficient personnel and inadequate facilities. Fort Riley also needs to carry out archeological excavations and to discourage encroachments on the historic landscape. The fort managers believe that the latter will continue to be difficult due to the Army's commitment to development. Additionally, existing rehabilitation standards may be incompatible with historic preservation guidelines. However, like Fort Leavenworth, the presence of military personnel and on-going military operations are a vital part of the historical continuum of this post, and contribute to a better understanding of its place in history.

Improved communications with other sites within the state are needed, as well as better signs, both offsite and onsite, to guide visitors to the museums. Accessibility for visitors with disabilities to historic structures also poses challenges for the fort managers.

Grantsmanship is recommended as a vital tool to obtain additional funds for the facility, as well as congressional support to ensure a successful fund-raising effort. As part of the network, grant recipients can share their techniques, expertise, and sources.

The fort's archeological needs could be satisfied through an agreement with a local university, the National Park Service, and/or through the Legacy program.[5]

The fort needs an historic preservation plan to assist decision makers in managing historic buildings. If at all possible, this plan should be developed cooperatively with fort managers and cultural resource specialists so managers feel ownership in its recommendations. Designation of an historic preservation day and provision of information and training on cultural landscapes and historic preservation for decision makers and those responsible for work on historic structures and landscapes would benefit site preservation.

If possible, as space on the post becomes available, other historic buildings could be adaptively used to house some of the museum facilities to alleviate crowding.

Finally, additional accessibility to historic structures could be addressed through upgraded elevator systems, the use of videos for non-accessible areas, and reproductions for a hands-on experience.

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5 This grant program, sponsored by the Department of Defense, aims to promote research and the preservation of both natural and cultural resources.

FORT LARNED

Although this fort prides itself on its historical integrity and accuracy, the staff feel that they need additional expertise on Native American cultures, which would help them counteract the stereotypes generated by television and movies. Fort Larned managers also believe that networking and coordination with other sites is essential to the success of any statewide effort to bring attention to these forts.

Suggestions for overcoming problems at Fort Larned include the expansion of regional educational programs and support from state universities for internship programs.

Cooperative programs with the Mid-American Indian Center in Wichita and American Indian programs at various universities could be established. This would enrich interpretive programs by adding American Indian perspectives.

The managers of the facility support acquiring historic easements to protect the historic scene surrounding the fort.

A general management plan is underway for Fort Larned. This document presents alternatives for dealing with the impacts of increased visitation on the fort's historic structures and grounds and for solving access and circulation problems; it also presents a review of the park's interpretive plan.

FORT HARKER

Absence of funds and inadequate cooperation between local government agencies and organizations are among the major concerns at Fort Harker. A full-time program coordinator and researcher are desperately needed, along with educational programs on the significance of local historic sites.

Fort Harker suffers from another major problem. It is surrounded by the streets and houses of Kanopolis, which obscure the original post's boundaries, structures, and landscape. Wayside exhibits or maps with well-developed graphics superimposing the fort over the modern scene would help solve this problem.

Fort managers would like to rehabilitate the officer's quarters as a house museum, but lack funding, restoration expertise, and detailed historical information. Exhibits in the Guardhouse Museum convey a broad story of the military in the West, a story already told at sites like Ft. Leavenworth. Relatively little space or interpretation is devoted to the fort itself and its special role in frontier history.

It is probably not desirable or economically feasible to restore the fort site to its historic appearance despite the fact that four of the original structures remain extant. Reconstruction or restoration are complicated by the lack of history data, the fort's town location, and major changes to the buildings and landscape since its abandonment. Presently, funding for initial construction and long-term maintenance are inadequate.

Two structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but the entire fort (including possible archeological remains) and the site of Fort Ellsworth, have not been thoroughly inventoried or

evaluated for eligibility to the register.

Because part of the original Fort Harker is on lands managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the role of this agency needs to be clarified. The site clearly would benefit from a cooperative effort among the area's several communities, the historical society, and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a coordinated plan for visitor facilities and experiences. As part of the network, Fort Harker would have the opportunity to focus on interpretive messages illustrated by local resources such as the Guardhouse Museum and the dugouts along the Smoky Hill River.

To raise local awareness and support for the fort, it is suggested that various programs be organized, including interpretive programs for schools and local civic organizations. Special programs might include a "historic day," living history programs, reenactments, and interpretive programs at large holiday gatherings such as the Fourth of July.

The planning team recommends that broader ties be established with state universities, particularly the DIRECT[6] program from Kansas State University. Using students for history and archeology research could produce valuable information at a relatively low cost. Records at the National Archives are available on microfilm and would help update the post's history. Research on a fort like Harker could also be assisted by spinoff of research being done at one of the larger forts in federal ownership, either active Army or National Park Service. Fort Leavenworth is already connected to INTERNET allowing communications between the Fort Leavenworth History Office and others. In the future, the network may allow access to libraries and archives. INTERNET access exists to Fort Riley, Pittsburgh State, and Fort Hays State which in turn would allow the easy networking of forts Leavenworth, Scott, Hays and Riley. What is needed is the exploration of a multimedia capable of linking through such accessible channels as INTERNET or World Wide Web that would link all the Kansas forts.

To come to terms with some of the concerns facing this site, involvement in the Greenthumb Program (an organized volunteer program) is recommended as a way to facilitate staffing. These volunteers could help with projects, provide basic information for visitor orientation, and conduct research.

The Guardhouse Museum contains various military-related artifacts and exhibits. Reorganization and rehabilitation of the exhibits would focus the interpretive message on Fort Harker rather than the military in general, allowing its story to be communicated more effectively to the public. Other members of the network could serve as consultants to aid in developing new interpretive media and exhibits for the museum.

Cooperation between the fort's managers, the Army Corps of Engineers, the state archeologist, and a cadre of volunteers could lead to professional archeological excavations of the dugout sites or other sites related to the fort. Historical archeology should also be conducted near existing structures to provide valuable information for visitor interpretive programs. Artifacts from such excavations would complement and enhance existing museum exhibits.

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6 The DIRECT (Development, Information, Referral, Coordination, and Training) program was started in 1987 to strengthen the capability of extension agents and specialists to help rural communities and individuals overcome lack of easy access to information and resources as they tackle economic, business, and rural development challenges.

Prior to any restoration work on the officer's quarters, the fort staff may want to reevaluate the interpretive program as it relates to the larger fort network. It appears that the community does not have sufficient population and funding to support a major, ongoing interpretive program; therefore, the planning team recommends that visitor education and interpretation be focussed around the museum (and perhaps the dugouts) and a few carefully timed communitywide special events.

FORT HAYS

Fort Hays faces several obstacles in helping visitors understand the scope of historical activities at this site. Existing resources and staff are limited, only a few representative structures still exist on site, a modern visitor center occupies a central area, and the site is surrounded by an urban scene. Additional historical research is needed to fully understand the mind-set of the early occupants and neighbors including soldiers, civilians, and American Indians. Additional funding is needed to properly document and restore structures and conduct archeological excavations.

The fort could work more actively with individual American Indian tribes and with the previously mentioned organizations to obtain traditional stories and craft items that these groups would like to see interpreted to the public.

Membership in the forts network would enable Fort Hays to avoid duplication in interpretive programs among the forts. Special efforts could be directed toward communicating long-range goals and preservation philosophy to local residents and volunteers.

FORT DODGE

Fort Dodge needs interpretive and preservation plans to reexamine and refine long-term goals for the site. However, inadequate funding and personnel issues require more immediate attention. Because the fort is owned and managed by the Kansas Veterans Administration, routine maintenance and structural renovations may not adhere to standard historic preservation guidelines. Care is needed to avoid damaging structures and their historic fabric, but funding is inadequate for proper maintenance.

Presently the fort buildings are being used for various purposes, and subsequent development within and adjacent to the post has changed the visual character and historic features of the cultural landscape from their 1800s appearance. However, these changes are part of the historical continuum of this fort, and help to perpetuate its long military history--first as an active Army post and later as a veterans' home. As in the case of Fort Harker, wayside exhibits or maps with well-developed graphics superimposing the fort over the modern scene would help to define the historical character of the site as it appeared in the late 1800s.

Aside from the museum and volunteer-conducted walking tours, there are no formal interpretive programs at the fort. A comprehensive plan adopted by the Ford County Regional Planning Commission and the City Commissioners of Dodge City will likely encourage more visitor use.

The fort has an exceptional collection of historical records that are currently used on a limited basis for genealogical research. This collection might be a prime candidate for digitizing and networking electronically. These records hold great potential for expanding research and gaining public support

from genealogical groups and libraries and in developing interpretive programs.[7] Professional curatorial facilities and staff may be needed.

Only two buildings on the post are open to the public. Increased visitation might infringe on the privacy and comfort of the fort's residents. The site can accommodate only very limited vehicular traffic as well, so increased visitation could also pose safety hazards.

Before any major site development plans to accommodate additional visitation are implemented, it is recommended that the buildings and grounds be thoroughly surveyed, inventoried, and researched, and their potential as a national register historic district and/or cultural landscape should be evaluated. Local historic preservation and veterans groups and/or students at area colleges could be involved in the research and inventory efforts, in consultation with the state historic preservation office. Network members could provide assistance on inventory and national register nomination procedures. Careful planning should precede development so the historic ambiance and integrity of the fort are not compromised.

The fort's historical records should be properly curated. Additional funding for curatorial needs and management should be sought, possibly from veterans groups and genealogical organizations. As consultants, network members could provide valuable curatorial expertise.

As part of the forts network, Fort Dodge should develop interpretive and preservation plans that would reexamine and refine long-term goals for the fort.

In consultation with the state veterans administration and the state historic preservation office, the fort should establish a cyclical maintenance plan to help preserve the integrity of the historic buildings while preventing their deterioration. Other members of the forts network could provide technical assistance. Once baseline data on the buildings and grounds have been gathered, and national register significance determined, development of a long-range historic preservation plan could help guide future decisions regarding the management of these resources.

Grass-roots support for the fort needs to be developed. Cooperation with organizations such as the Santa Fe Trail Association and Oregon/California Trail Association could lend Fort Dodge assistance during occasional special events and activities.

A cooperative agreement should be drawn up among the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, the state historic preservation officer, the local Chamber of Commerce, Dodge City Commissioners, and the Ford County Regional Planning Commission. This agreement would define and clarify the relationships between visitor use of the fort as part of a larger Dodge City tourist attraction and ensure protection of fort residents' privacy. It could also help define the level of development appropriate for achieving the long-term goals for the fort.

Recommendations for overcoming concerns also include enhanced interpretation, incorporating wayside exhibits, publications, walking tours, and audiovisual programs (slides, videos and/or movies). To protect the health and safety of fort residents, the small park west of the site could become the

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7These records have been microfilmed and are available from the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka.

focus of visitor activities, interpretation, parking, and picnicking. Walking trails could link the park with the fort, while a self-guiding tour booklet, stressing respect for residents' privacy, could be developed to direct visitors.

Workshop members also agreed that a request for assistance in building local legislative support should be made to the Kansas Historical Society.

FORT WALLACE

Technical assistance needs for the local museum, preservation of archeological remains, historical research, national register nominations, and survey and inventory of resources are among the primary concerns at this site. Other concerns include the need to develop an adequate interpretive program and to find ways to preserve and interpret the historic and archeological resources that are privately owned and inaccessible to visitors. Due to the small local population, a few volunteers are doing most of the work and are becoming discouraged. There are few local visitor facilities. The museum needs to be expanded and/or reorganized. Vandal-proof signs are needed for interpretation and education. Better signs along U.S. 40 could direct visitors to the museum, cemetery, and the village of Wallace.

In general, agreement exists that supporters of Fort Wallace need to establish closer relations with similar sites and pertinent state institutions such as the Kansas Museum Association, state institutions of higher education, the Kansas State Historical Society, and the United States Department of Transportation (to provide a roadside rest area). Membership in the forts network could provide crucial support and technical advice.

It is important that Fort Wallace offer an interpretive program with a unified theme based on the available resources. A grant to assist the museum and some technical support would be necessary to develop guidelines for acquisitions, organization, and curatorial work.

Like many other county museums, the Wallace County Museum focuses its exhibits on local people, places, and events. Collections are drawn from items important mainly to the local community, and most are unrelated to Fort Wallace. To emphasize the unique features of the site and the broader significance of Fort Wallace in American history, the Wallace County Historical Society might want to separate fort-related exhibits and artifacts from the rest of the collection and designate space for their interpretation and preservation.

The planning team recommends that no reconstruction be attempted at Fort Wallace. Because the fort is some distance from freeways and major population centers, it is difficult to attract large numbers of visitors on a regular basis. The area is sparsely populated, reducing potential sources of staffing and funding, and the fort would require extensive historical and archeological documentation to support reconstruction.

Exposed foundations provide a visible reminder of the fort's original size and configuration. Various interpretive techniques could be used to help visitors visualize the original shape and area of the fort in its setting. Interpretation of the site and the surrounding cultural landscape could also be effectively accomplished in other ways, including waysides, special programs, and living history.

Perhaps the most striking feature of Fort Wallace is the splendid 360° view of the adjacent prairie

landscape, free from urban development, noise, and smog. This cultural landscape is highly evocative of the original setting and gives the visitor the feeling of having stepped back in time. The fort managers could develop interpretive programs that allow visitors to experience this landscape.

The old Pond Creek Stage Station and an old Union Pacific railroad depot have been restored and moved onto the museum grounds. These buildings are open to visitors. Downtown Wallace has several historic structures, including the Robidoux-Clark home and the Union Pacific "Section House" built about three years before the fort was deactivated. Unfortunately, restoring and maintaining any of these latter buildings would cost more than the community could afford or expect to recover in visitor fees and donations.

If onsite interpretation and preservation efforts are being considered for Fort Wallace, formal agreements must be worked out with the Fort Wallace Memorial Association and concerned property owners to provide public access and resource protection. For now, the museum and periodic special events that can be well publicized throughout the region can continue to provide most of the visitor activities.

To maintain or increase staffing, duties should be rotated among volunteers, with tasks distributed equitably. Workshops could be organized to train volunteers. A hands-on school program should be developed, both for educational purposes and to increase the numbers of people available to help with museum activities and programs. Continued cooperation with local organizations such as the 4-H and service groups is crucial.

As with several other forts, the state universities could provide low-cost assistance with research.

It is suggested that Fort Wallace continue to build a broad base of local support, including communities such as Sharon Springs, Weskan, and perhaps even Russell Springs or Winona, to provide more volunteers, funding, and historic preservation and museum expertise as well as improved visitor facilities.

The fort's important archeological resources could best be preserved and interpreted through cooperation with the Kansas Archeological Association and the Kansas State Historical Society's archeological programs. The Fort Wallace Memorial Association and private owner(s) could work with state and federal officials to complete national register nomination forms for the fort site and/or its cultural landscape, including revisions of the Pond Creek forms. Professional archeological investigations of the dugout and fort areas could produce excellent interpretive information and materials and facilitate involvement of volunteers as well.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the issues identified at the workshop, the following discussion includes specific recommendations for ways in which all Kansas forts could cooperate to enhance programs, widen appeal, and gain greater attention from the general public. These cooperative efforts could include publications, information exchange, and educational programs, as well as use of established state and local programs (see appendix B). Additional suggestions are made for achieving the goals developed at the workshop, both as a forts network and as individual entities.

NETWORK

The first priority is to formally establish a forts network to encourage the forts to work together. Although the National Park Service agrees with this concept, the network's success would depend on the full commitment and participation of all fort managers. To encourage and facilitate the formal establishment of a forts network, members of the planning team suggest the following alternatives.

- Establish a Kansas forts network advisory board to promote protection of forts' resources and aid in further public understanding of the complex role the Kansas forts played in the development of the West.

  The board could have 12 members: representatives of the eight forts, and one member each from the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, and the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, Travel, Tourism and Film Services Division. Because several of the forts' managers are also members of the Kansas Museums Association, it should not be necessary to include a separate board member from this organization. Some constraints should be recognized: because management of the active military forts' historical concerns may be divided among the command history office, a museum, a public affairs office, academic research library/archives, and/or an engineer office with historic preservation responsibilities, each of these agencies speaks for the commander of the fort in a different capacity. This makes the coordination of forts Leavenworth and Riley with any organizational network somewhat difficult.

- Another strategy could be to organize a state, local, and federal partnership in which members would share a commitment toward common goals. The partnership would include representatives from the Department of the Army, the National Park Service, the Kansas state historic preservation office, major universities, and local county historical associations. These partners would act in concert to establish and maintain the organizational framework for a Kansas forts network. The partnership would develop a general statewide program for planning, preservation, and visitor services assistance for the forts. This would not duplicate or change existing programs but would help integrate future interpretation and preservation efforts among all forts.

- As a third alternative, the Kansas state historic preservation office could serve as the major coordinator and facilitator of a loose-knit information network. The state historic preservation office already has an organizational framework oriented toward historic preservation, interpretation, curation, and public education, and trained professionals in many different fields are on staff. Because of their strategic ties to other divisions of the state government and the Kansas State

Historical Society, the state historic preservation office is ideally situated to facilitate such an information network. This office could help disseminate standardized guidelines for historic preservation, coordinate archeological and other research programs, and serve as a central clearinghouse for information exchange. Additional funding and staffing would be needed to implement this alternative.

The state historic preservation officer has oversight responsibilities for the state's cultural resources as well as extensive knowledge of local resources and ongoing interpretive programs. By working with the forts network and local neighbors to consolidate and refine interpretive programs on a statewide basis, this state office could contribute to broader and enriched public understanding of the forts and their place in American history.

Whatever its basic organizational structure, the network could have the following responsibilities:

- Share/exchange
  - — information on the history of the forts.
  - — interpretive materials and techniques, artifacts, and programs.
  - — information on funding sources and grants.
  - — information on resource protection and management.[8]

- Work in conjunction with tourism organizations to develop materials and programs compatible with site and staff capabilities and resources. While cooperation of the different forts with the Kansas Travel and Tourism Office is essential, it should be recognized that because the needs of each installation are different, their relationship with tourism organizations would also differ.

- Organize/sponsor/assist in meetings, conferences, workshops, training sessions on preservation techniques, grantsmanship, completion of national register nominations, research techniques, and documentation and interpretation.[9]

- Produce a comprehensive, general interpretive plan for the network that would help coordinate the development of individual fort's interpretive programs.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Several of the forts have dealt with a broad range of resource management and visitor experience topics for a long period, and their shared expertise would be invaluable to network members. The National Park Service, through both internal and external programs, could provide a wide array of information on preservation materials, techniques, training, sources, and management. The Kansas state historic preservation office is also available for consultation regarding interpretation, restoration,

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8Because many of the network objectives involve exchanging information, use of advances in information technology to create an electronic multimedia network would be a high priority.

9Active support of major universities would be important to the success of such activities. The University of Kansas has begun the process with its Kansas History Computer List and its sponsorship of Kansas history conferences.

rehabilitation, cyclical maintenance, and preservation concerns.

Numerous printed materials are available to guide local historical societies and individuals in restoration, resource protection, and management. These materials include, among others, the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, publications of the National Register of Historic Places, *NPS Preservation Briefs*, the American Association of State and Local History, and the National Trust. The network could serve as a clearinghouse for such information.

INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Using the interpretive themes developed at the workshop as a baseline, a major task of the network would be to provide for development of a broad interpretive plan to include all the forts. This plan would identify the significant resources, applicable themes, and existing interpretive programs of each fort. The plan would also refine the themes developed at the Kansas forts workshop and relate these ideas to the broader patterns of American history as reflected by the network of forts. Analysis of the data would enable individual forts to build upon special resources and strengths to create visitor interpretation and educational programs. Additionally, by providing an outline for the entire network, the plan would help to eliminate redundant programs, identify gaps in the overall interpretive story, and help forts coordinate and schedule their programs. Such an interpretive plan could also include local cultural sites whose history complements the forts' interpretive stories.

Interpretation would be enhanced by including the American Indian and Buffalo Soldiers' perspectives in various interpretive programs. The story of the Buffalo Soldiers is not sufficiently told at any of the forts. In addition, the ethnic diversity of the soldiers associated with these forts would be an interesting interpretive theme. Exhibits developed by one or more forts could be loaned to the other forts to enrich interpretive programs and encourage repeat visitation.

Because the network would include some of the area's finest history museums, it could also provide a great deal of hands-on expertise in museum technology, curatorial techniques, and exhibits. Staff from several of the forts are also members of various preservation organizations, including the Kansas Museums Association. This would also allow network members to access additional expertise on state, national, and international levels.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The network should seek out and work with established associations and programs to ensure coordination and eliminate confusion for visitors and costly duplication. Other suggestions include: participation in university sponsored programs such as workshops, day courses, and technical outreach where available, organizing a statewide historic preservation day, promoting a closer working relationship with the Kansas Travel and Tourism office, and encouraging the governor's office to declare an annual fort awareness week. The network should work actively with American Indian tribal organizations and with individual tribes to develop enhanced additional interpretive materials and opportunities.

The planning team recommends that the network interface with the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Oregon-California Trail Association. Some of the forts probably have the potential to be certified sites

on these trails. It might be possible to integrate existing trail programs, designated highway segments, and cultural sites with the network's interpretive, educational, research, and historic preservation goals.

In cooperation with the Kansas state historic preservation office, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the Kansas Travel and Tourism Offices,[10] the network could help develop a viable statewide program, including introductory tours and scenic routes. As an example, some routes have been or are in the process of being designated and signed as auto tour routes and scenic byways along existing highways that follow known historic trail routes. These include the Santa Fe Trail, the Frontier Military Road, and the California/Oregon Trail. These auto tour routes could include a series of interrelated loop drives to link several forts situated within 100 to 200 miles of each other as well as provide for easy, scenic access to all the forts in a logical, progressive manner. The network could also work on developing signs, promotional brochures, maps, tapes, and special programs to publicize the routes and provide information for visitors on what they can see and do. The state of Nebraska has established a Highway to Adventure tour route across the northern part of the state along U.S. 20. Kansas tourism officials might want to develop a similar program to include the Kansas forts.

The network could also work with the Kansas Travel and Tourism Office to facilitate group bus tours that follow the tour routes described above. Tours might focus on a particular theme that is best interpreted at a few of the forts within the surrounding region.

The forts do not exist in isolation; they are part of larger communities that include numerous recreational and educational opportunities for visitors. By working through the network, individual forts could expand and strengthen a community support base to include nearby towns and/or counties. Increased community support would contribute to improve staffing and funding opportunities. This would be manifested through larger numbers of volunteers and increased probability of receiving grant funding.

The planning team recommends creation of a state organization of historic sites. This organization could serve as another source of assistance, technical information, and interpretive media for the forts. Although creation of such an organization is beyond the scope of this project, members of the network could seek to organize local and regional support using established historical organizations and sites.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

Hundreds of local, state, and national organizations work with cultural and recreational resources. Using a standard compendium of associations and organizations available at most local libraries, or a similar reference source, the network could identify and systematically contact relevant organizations to solicit funding and staffing support.

There are many community service organizations whose members could contribute funding and valuable skills and assistance to the forts. Such organizations include the Kansas State University community service teams, regional economic development commissions, and local service groups. It is imperative that these programs be tailored to meet specific needs of individual forts. The forts might

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10 It should be noted that the state is divided into various travel regions, each with its own organization. For example, Fort Larned is included in the South Central Tourism Region. These organizations would also be helpful in promotion efforts.

also want to encourage the development of a local "friends of the fort" organization.

Grants are often a primary source of funding for nonfederal sites. Success in obtaining a grant often depends upon knowing how to prepare the paperwork. For example, to obtain a Kansas Heritage Trust Fund grant the property must be listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places or the National Register of Historic Places and the property cannot be owned by the state or federal government. Grants may be awarded to plan the preservation project to preserve the site or to provide for temporary stabilization, rehabilitation, and/or restoration.

Grant applications can require substantial initial investments of time and money. Organizations applying for the aforementioned grant must provide matching funds up to 20% of the cost of eligible project activities. For-profit corporations must provide matching funds. Groups seeking such grants will often hire a professional coordinator to prepare the application and to shepherd it through the system. Grant applications may require analysis of structures or sites by professional architects, engineers, or archeologists to develop reasonable funding requests. Grants may be poorly publicized and have a very short application period, or they may be available only through a community or city government.

Background research and analysis of historic structures, special programs, or archeological projects should be done ahead of time so these data are available on short notice when grants do become available.

Nonhistoric preservation sources can also provide grant funding. For example, the Kansas Travel and Tourism Office may offer grants related to tourism.

Local businesses and regional companies can help with special programs and events, help preserve a favorite building or site, or sponsor research projects. Some states obtain funding through taxation of tourism activities or increases in mill levies.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Ideas discussed to improve communications and information management included beginning a mailing list based on the participants to the Kansas Forts Workshop (1992), using fiber optics networks at the local schools to enhance communication among the forts, and organizing an annual meeting or symposium at alternating locations. A computer network, perhaps the most important solution to information distribution would be developed among the forts, or they might be able to use the system belonging to the University Extension Service computer network.

It should be noted that Fort Leavenworth is already connected to MILNET, allowing communications between the Fort Leavenworth History Office and both Kansas State University and Kansas University. In the future, this network would allow access to libraries and archives. INTERNET access exists to Fort Riley, Pittsburgh State, and Fort Hays State which in turn would allow the easy networking of forts Leavenworth, Scott, Hays, and Riley. Linking all the Kansas forts through a computer network would allow exchange of information on resources and research, and coordination of programs. Such a network could be supported by a statewide consortium and be used to

- share and maintain oral histories, history research, and interpretive programs

- help all forts develop basic information and improve interpretive presentations
- search for historic data and references in academic and public library computerized catalogs
- maintain a calendar of events among forts
- identify exhibits, artifacts, and printed materials that could be shared among member forts
- provide updated technical information for members

A system for directing tourists to other forts should be established. Brochures and other materials for the forts network could be distributed by each of the member forts. An interactive computer system could heighten visitors' interest in the forts network. If video(s) of each/all the forts were made, these could be shown at state visitor centers and local tourist facilities. Television coverage of the forts, both collectively and individually, could significantly increase visitation on a short-term basis. Local communities might want to sponsor special weekend getaway programs to increase public awareness of the forts and encourage repeat visitation.

The network must work closely with the Kansas Travel and Tourism Office to devise a comprehensive calendar of events that can be readily updated and that is readily available to visitors. The state publishes *Kansas Heroes, Heritage & History: Travel and Attractions Guide.* This area-by-area description of natural, cultural, and recreational resources is available to visitors at Chamber of Commerce offices, tourism attractions, and at the major interstate highway rest stops. Cooperative efforts among the network and local communities could identify, describe, and publicize additional resources of interest to visitors to be included in this or similar publications and ensure that individual forts and their programs are adequately described.

Although Forts Leavenworth and Riley are relatively close to major population centers and are in communities offering a wide variety of visitor activities and facilities, other forts, such as Wallace and Harker, have more limited visitor facilities and activities. Coordinated development of community visitor facilities and opportunities could provide a broader base for visitor enjoyment, drawing repeat visitors who spend longer in the area because of the package of activities and facilities available.[11]

RESEARCH

Research is needed to deepen the appreciation of the citizens of the nation and Kansas as to their heritage and allow for the preservation and interpretation of the sites. Many of the forts do not have sufficient data to fully document past appearance, construction details, and precise location of structures and landscape features, additional history and archeological research should be completed prior to the occurrence of potentially irreversible changes. National register nomination forms and/or determinations of eligibility for the register should be done for sites, structures, and landscapes in need of such evaluations. Network members familiar with cultural sites evaluation could serve as consultants in preparing National Register forms. Designation as a national register property or as a

11 A listing of national register properties and state sites in the general vicinity of the forts has been included as appendix B.

national historic landmark can facilitate a number of positive benefits such as tax incentives, grants, and increased public awareness and appreciation. Many of the Kansas Forts' records are available on microfilm from the National Archives. Kansas State Historical Society has many of these records in their microfilm collection at the Center for Historical Research. These records may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. Forts Hays, Scott, Larned, Riley, and Leavenworth have post records on microfilm for use at the site.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications would be important in keeping visitors and network participants informed. Publications might include a bimonthly newsletter, a comprehensive visitor calendar, a forts' activities calendar, and a Kansas forts brochure. The series of popular histories on the individual forts, begun some years ago by Dr. Leo E. Oliva, should be completed.[12] Videos of the forts need to be made.

Publications might include the following:

- Simple, concise, color brochures to capture the reader's eye, give an overview of broad history themes and links among the forts, and provide directions to all of the forts.

- Guidebooks or booklets for each site to summarize the history of the fort and point out important features such as self-guiding walks, etc.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

At active forts such as Fort Leavenworth, it might be possible to modify the curriculum of the military education program to share the funding with other forts. Exchange programs among the forts could provide valuable hands-on training in interpretation, preservation, and research. The state historic preservation office could provide technical advice and training as well.

A statewide elementary education curriculum plan dealing with history themes common to the forts could be developed by the Kansas Heritage Center, in consultation with the forts network and appropriate state education officials.

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12 The Fort Leavenworth History Office envisions revision and republishing of the Short History of Fort Leavenworth.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the network, combined local, state, and federal resources can assist with some of the preservation and research problems that plague the forts. Sometimes obstacles appear formidable. Funding limitations, deterioration of resources, and absence of personnel, technical expertise, and coordination all hamper efforts to achieve preservation and education goals. However, through the network the cooperative efforts of communities, local, state, and federal agencies, and forts personnel can be channelled and focused to develop viable programs for the future.

In communities all across the state, hundreds of people have given their time and talents to support the forts and interpret their stories. Volunteers, employees, government officials, and community supporters help bring history alive and preserve the past for future generations. The importance of these human resources to the success of the network cannot be overestimated. The exchange of information and assistance through the network can bring these individuals together for the benefit of all.

Coordination of programs across the state would provide a greater variety for visitors and allow the unique aspects of each fort to be interpreted more clearly. The effective interpretation of these historic resources can take many forms, and its success does not necessarily depend on the elaborate and expensive restoration or reconstruction of old buildings. In certain cases, maintaining a pristine cultural landscape might attract more visitors than restored structures. Living history or participatory visitor activities can provide exciting learning experiences.

Obviously the network would not cure all the problems faced by individual forts. Networking could result in more visitation at some areas. Because of limited staff, funding, and/or facilities, forts may find it difficult to deal effectively with a large increase in visitors. On the other hand, even with adequate programs to interpret and preserve these forts individually and as part of a statewide network, substantial increases in visitation or major long-term economic benefits for adjacent or nearby communities cannot be ensured. Because the military mission of Forts Riley and Leavenworth directs their management, it may not be realistic to expect that major changes in operations would occur to accommodate some of the recommendations of this report. Expressed congressional interest would strongly benefit the active forts by eliciting respective commanders' support.

In conclusion, these limitations are minor when compared to the positive benefits of establishing a forts network. Creation of the network could help preserve the physical remains and documentary materials associated with our nation's past, and could also afford visitors exciting opportunities to learn about the military installations that collectively tell the history, folklore, legend, controversies, hardships, and turmoil associated with the Old West.

APPENDIX A: WORKSHOP SUMMARY

This section was reviewed by forts managers who made suggestions based on the current condition and needs of their respective forts. Some of the original workshop suggestions were deleted because they had already been implemented; a few were modified because they appeared impractical or not in accordance with the mandate of the fort.

TABLE 2: LONG-TERM GOALS

A. Networking	• Develop areas of interest with like sites. • Visit with people from other sites. • Learn more about programs and goals of other areas. • Determine ways all forts can work together to accomplish common goals. • Build networks — personal, organizational, publication, automated nets, and video. • Develop a communication link between all forts. • Develop a support and resource group from workshop participants. • Unify all eight forts under a common theme to present to government interests. • Increase communication and sharing of information between the forts. • Hear about the problems and concerns of people from other sites. • Learn about programs offered at other sites. • Develop ways of cooperating with other fort sites. • Develop a better sense of what other forts/communities feel are important issues in the development of the forts. • Develop an organization whereby the Kansas forts can assist each other in the areas of resource preservation, research, public awareness, and interpretation. • Facilitate conferences on Kansas forts. • Coordinate conferences with state university programs/conferences. • Discuss similar problems and solutions with other workshop participants. • Provide input to the unifying goals. • Network between sites. • Discover the strengths of each site.
B. Research	• Develop ideas toward research. • Connect and discover the trails between forts. • Understand the clash of cultures that took place. • Develop mutual community and fort understanding of goals. • Preserve the frontier forts of Kansas — so that accurate U. S. history will never die or disappear. • Preserve history and discover additional historic facts. • Develop and share a list of ongoing research projects. • Discover new resources.
C. Resource protection and management	• Outline a plan to correctly restore a historic building or site. • Find out how to reconstruct the primitive Ft. Ellsworth. • Develop a plan of action for Ft. Harker — to preserve fort property and the buildings. • Touch on the issues of archeology, preservation, restoration, and interpretation. • Bring all the forts to the same level of repair that Ft. Hays, Ft. Larned, and Ft. Scott are in.
D. Public awareness	• Develop a common educational resource packet to link all sites together. • Find out how to increase the public awareness of the historic significance of the Kansas forts. • Discuss how much emphasis should be placed on tourism. • Develop a way to inform the public about the common themes that tie the forts together. • Discover which is more important to people — tourism or commercial development. • Facilitate the development of publications such as an all-inclusive interpretive multicolored brochure, a booklet, a paperback or hardback book on the forts. • Plan to help promote other sites and find better ways to do so.

TABLE 2. LONG-TERM GOALS (CONT.)

E. Interpretation	• Get new ideas. • Develop living history programs and coordinate among forts. • Develop interpretation for like sites. • Identify daily events that made past fort systems work. • Discover the middle ground between interpretation and preservation.
F. Funding and aid	• Learn what resources are available (both financial and educational). • Find out how to contact consultants that can help local groups. • Discover what grants are available. • Develop a strategy for support, including local, state, and federal governments, local communities, educational institutions, etc. • Seek ways to increase funding.

TABLE 3: COMMON THEMES

COMMON THEMES	Subthemes	Draft Themes
A: Protection/Guardian of Transportation/ Communication Routes	• The network of military roads tied the forts together. • The construction and associated development of the railroads influenced and changed each Kansas fort. • Kansas forts served to protect and facilitate the development of trade, Euro-American immigration, and communication.	• All forts were along some established transportation routes (rivers, trails, roads, railroads), and part of their mission was to protect people and property. • The forts were to protect and facilitate the development of trade, immigration, and communication on the Kansas trails, later including mail, telegraph, and rails. • The construction and associated development of the railroads influenced and changed each of the Kansas forts. • The network of military roads tied the forts together.
B: Native American/U.S. Government Relations	• The lifestyles and cultures of native peoples who lived on the plains were permanently altered by the Kansas forts and encroaching cultures. • Each Kansas fort had peaceful or hostile contacts with different American Indian tribes.	• Each of the Kansas forts was established to implement different U. S. government policy concerning the Native Americans, ranging from peaceful and supportive to hostile. • The Kansas forts implemented different government policies toward the displaced tribes relocated in Kansas as well as the indigenous peoples. • The forts were a significant agent of cultural change for the indigenous peoples. • The indigenous peoples caused changes in the white culture.
C: Military Supply and Logistical Support	• Kansas forts had a significant impact on the plains economy.	• Each of the forts had an impact on the Plains' economy.
D: Military Daily Life and Routine	• Each fort was a diverse military community unto itself, often routine and boring and punctuated with fear in a hostile environment.	• Each fort had a civilian community composed of different factions (settlers, teamsters, hunters, scouts, laundresses, prostitutes, contractors (hay, wood, construction, beef), dependents, chaplains, contract surgeons. • Garrison life was usually routine, monotonous and boring. • Diverse military communities, composed of soldiers, families, and civilian employees, evolved from or developed adjacent to them.
E: African-American Military Units at Kansas Forts	• The garrison at each Kansas fort contained one or more companies or regiments of African–American soldiers (normally cavalry or infantry). • Buffalo Soldiers were recruited, trained, and deployed from various forts throughout Kansas.	• Significant contributions to American military history by African-American soldiers (Buffalo Soldiers) occurred at the Kansas forts. • Organization of the Buffalo Soldiers offered upward mobility opportunities for enlisted men. • Communities responded in many different ways to black troops on the Kansas frontier.

TABLE 3. COMMON THEMES (CONT.)

COMMON THEMES	Subthemes	Draft Themes
F: Advance of Euro-American Plains Settlement and the U. S. Government	• Advance of Euro-American Plains settlement and the U. S. government. • The U. S. government used the U. S. Army and the forts to implement government policy.	• The concept of Manifest Destiny influenced and affected all of the Kansas forts (gold rush, cattle drives, commerce, traffic on trails, immigrant traffic, and settlements). • The forts impacted both politically and economically the communities that evolved from or developed adjacent to them.
G: Individual Identity of Each Post	• Each fort had its own identity according to the purposes it served and the time it was an active military installation.	• Presentation of the individual identity of each fort in relation to the network of frontier forts of Kansas. • Each fort gets some individuality from its surrounding region; the growth of the local area was the direct result of fort establishment. • Each fort had its own identity according to the purpose it served and the time it was active.

TABLE 4: CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

FORT HAYS — Constraints	FORT HAYS — Suggestions
• Difficult to illustrate scope of past military daily life and routine with existing historical resources.	• Increase use of visual aids, including a new audiovisual program. • Use best available space (perhaps the guardhouse) for a new audiovisual program. • Academic art departments could develop creative interpretive materials.
• Difficult to fit interpretation (especially transportation themes) into existing spaces in the visitor center and historic areas.	• Portray transportation themes in existing visitor center using interpretive media. • Use soundscape (audio interpretation) with wayside exhibits.
• Difficulties inherent in understanding and interpreting the mind-set of the person in this particular historical environment, including but not limited to soldiers, American Indians, and civilians.	• Actively support and encourage a computer network that would include first-person accounts (to develop basic information); check academic holdings; organize a statewide consortium or organization to facilitate sharing this information.
• Lack of good cultural material for interpretation.	• Use networking to identify artifacts at other similar properties not immediately needed for interpretation; work with individual tribes to gain access to artifact reproductions and oral traditions.
FORT SCOTT — Constraints	**FT. SCOTT — Suggestions**
• Lack of personnel and planning	• Increase base funding to provide adequate staff for all park functions. • Implement above program, obtain funding, and complete park planning documents to accomplish general management plan recommendations.
• Lack of an inventory of basic resources	• Program, obtain funding, and complete inventories.
• Lack of an up-to-date parkwide archeological inventory and assessment as well as site-specific archeology	• Initiate, obtain funding, and complete basic archeological studies and associated investigations.
• Pressure to provide additional interpretive programs and visitor services	• Increase base funding for staffing to provide additional interpretive programs and services during the visitor season.
• Adverse encroachment and development inhibits preservation of historic landscape	• Continue to work with local government and civic organizations on development issues regarding land surrounding the park. Expand community education about the park mission. • Complete and implement the cultural landscape report.
• Accessibility	• Develop and implement a plan to meet accessibility requirements to achieve reasonable access for visitors to park facilities and programs.
• Improve park operations	• Consolidate park office space and relocate the maintenance facility offsite if these changes are feasible.

TABLE 4. CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS (CONT.)

FORT LEAVENWORTH — Constraints	FORT LEAVENWORTH — Suggestions
• Lack of adequate facilities (museum building). • Access to archives difficult.	• Construct and staff new museum with sufficient space for archival materials.
• Lack of personnel in museum area.	• Work out possible exchange programs through network; work with local universities.
• Need site-specific archeological research.	• Contract with a university for archeological investigations.
• Need plan for outreach to African-American and Hispanic communities.	• Outreach to contact the local school system and minority churches.
• Preservation of historic landscapes • Preservation of historic landscapes/buildings (increasing missions delegated to fort result in developmental pressures within set boundaries).	• Using network assistance, develop historic preservation training program for engineers and others with responsibility for historic structures, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes.
• Lack of communication with others having mutual concerns.	• Work with other network members. • Receive assistance under Legacy program and Congressional support.
• Finite resources.	
FORT DODGE — Constraints	**FORT DODGE — Suggestions**
• Old fort buildings are being used for other purposes • Fort has lost much of its identity as a fort	• Preserve structures/landscape; inventory buildings and place on state register; nominate to national register as a historic district; create a new soldiers home and use fort for interpretation; do a historic structures survey; ask Kansas State Historical Society for assistance and build up local legislative support.
• Interpretation must be done without impinging on its current use	• Focus on interpretation that would not interfere with existing function (wayside exhibits, publications, walking tours, audiovisuals — slides, videotape, and/or a movie).
• Lack of funds for immediate preservation.	• Enlist aid of veterans' groups and historic preservation community; ask Kansas State Historical Society for assistance and build up local legislative support.

TABLE 4. CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS (CONT.)

FORT LARNED — Constraints	FORT LARNED — Suggestions
• Lack of funding	• Actively seek increased funding.
• Lack of historical information	• Expand regional educational programs and contact universities for intern, graduate programs in history research.
• Visual intrusions	• Acquire scenic easements.
• Lack of Native American expertise	• Contact Mid-America Indian Center in Wichita and Native American studies programs at universities.
• Stereotypes generated by television and Hollywood	• Always provide accurate history for the public.
• Lack of networking and coordination with other sites	• Create a forts activities calendar. • Organize a historic sites organization in Kansas as adjunct to the state historical society.
FORT WALLACE — Constraints	**FORT WALLACE — Suggestions**
• Small population base and lack of funding creates deficiencies in technical expertise (museums, archeology, national register nominations, in-depth historical research, survey and inventory of resources)	• Network with other organizations (Kansas State Historical Society, National Park Service, Kansas Museum Association, Kansas Archeological Association, universities, and other forts).
• Lack of story line and an interpretive program	• Develop interpretive program. • Develop a unified theme using the fort cultural landscape.
• Need to expand and reorganize museum	• Seek attractions grant for museum. • Develop guidelines for museum acquisition, organization, and curatorial needs.
• Lack of community support facilities	• Network for support facilities. • Get Kansas Department of Transportation to provide a roadside rest area.
• Volunteer burnout due to low population base	• Rotate duties and distribute tasks. • Create a workshop to teach volunteers. • Develop hands-on school programs (include youth groups).
• Lack of control over resources	• Acquire or get an easement for the site resources.
• Lack of statewide publicity	• Develop vandal-proof signs for interpretation and education. Use network to publicize special programs and exhibits.

TABLE 4. CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS (CONT.)

FORT RILEY — Constraints	FORT RILEY — Suggestions
• Inadequate facilities • Lack of personnel	• Grantsmanship for facility and congressional support for fund-raising.
• Lack of archeological research	• Congressional support.
• Conflicting maintenance and preservation goals	• For archeological needs seek Legacy program grants, technical support from state and National Park Service, interested university, and/or recruit volunteers.
• Adverse development encroachments make preservation of historic landscape difficult	• In concert with decision makers, develop historic preservation plan, have historic preservation day, seek commitment of Army engineers.
• Accessibility	• Encroachment — Have a plan and use it (get decision makers to feel ownership for historic plan).
• Lack of communication with others with mutual concerns	• Use video for inaccessible areas, identify resources for signing, use reproduction for hands-on experience, seek new ways to make historic structures accessible without harming integrity. • Seek active participation in network.
FORT HARKER–FORT ELLSWORTH — Constraints	**FORT HARKER–FORT ELLSWORTH — Suggestions**
• Lack of money • Need a full-time researcher and coordinator	• Actively seek grants from companies, foundations, and government; pursue 501 C3 status; become involved in Greenthumb program; use genealogists as a resource; also use Kansas State University Community Service teams and/or university history and archeology interns as resources.
• Lack of networking and cooperation between local organizations and government agencies (local)	• Community meeting of all organizations (moderator from DIRECT program at Kansas State Extension).
• Education of local residents concerning importance of local historic sites	• Involve local schools in interpretive programs at fort and at civic organizations. • Organize a history day (July 4 or Kansas Day) for community education and/or do living history with a reenactment unit.

TABLE 5: SUGGESTIONS FOR NETWORKING

PUBLICATIONS	• Communicate through newsletters. • Create a comprehensive visitors calendar. • Create a Kansas forts brochure. • Develop a system to direct tourists to other forts. • Work with Kansas state historic preservation office on developing a publication. • Create a funding sources list. • Inform other associations of our plans. • Do a video of the forts of Kansas.
INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG FORTS	• Use attendance list as a mailing list. • Use the University Extension Service computer network. • Use the fiber optics network at local schools. • Have an annual meeting at alternating fort locations. • Establish a museum exhibit exchange. • Help each other by exchanging personnel. • Have each fort send information to a central point, where it may be compiled. • Develop an organizing structure with specific goals and objectives. • Share resources and research.
EDUCATION/TRAINING	• Hold a Kansas forts symposium. • Use the military education program by modifying the curriculum to share the funding with other forts. • Share training sessions.
USE ESTABLISHED STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS	• Work with university programs. • Develop a viable transportation link, including but not limited to familiarization tours and scenic routes. • Organize a historic preservation day. • Use Kansas Travel and Tourism Office. • Use governor's office — declare annual forts awareness week.

APPENDIX B: RELATED HISTORICAL PROPERTIES

The following is an annotated list of historic properties including properties on the state sites list and/or on the National Register of Historic Places and other sites of general interest. These sites are in the general vicinity of each of the Kansas forts and are arranged alphabetically by county. Archeological sites have been omitted from this list. Those sites that are accessible to the general public are indicated by an asterisk (*) where the status is known.

FORT SCOTT AND VICINITY

* Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott.

* Fort Scott Public Carnegie Library (Carnegie Libraries of Kansas) 201 S. National, Fort Scott.

* Long Shoals Bridge (Metal Truss Bridges in Kansas 1861–1939) over Little Osage River, east of Fulton, Fulton vicinity.

* Marmaton Bridge, 1 mile northeast of Fort Scott, Fort Scott vicinity.

* Union Block, 24 S. Main Street, Fort Scott.

* Moody Building, 124 South Main Street, Fort Scott.

Other historical places of interest in the vicinity of Fort Scott include a number of county and historical museums. Several of these museums are especially relevant to the Kansas forts and include the Marais de Cygnes Massacre Park and the Trading Post Museum Complex (both in the Pleasanton vicinity) and the John Brown Museum and Memorial Park (Osawatomie). The Mine Creek State Battlefield Site is a Kansas State Historical Society Civil War park and is south of Pleasanton. These sites commemorate the events just prior to the Civil War that led to the term "Bleeding Kansas." Also of interest to visitors are the Old Congregation Church and the U.S. National Cemetery, located in Fort Scott.

FORT HAYS AND VICINITY

* Fort Hays, Frontier Historical Park, Hays.

* First Presbyterian Church, 100 W. 7th Street, Hays.

* St. Fidelis Catholic Church, southeast corner of St. Anthony and Delaware streets, Victoria.

* St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Catherine.

John Kutina House, Ellis vicinity.

Other attractions in this area include the High Plains Museum (Goodland), the Kidder Massacre Site (Goodland vicinity), the Boot Hill Cemetery, buffalo herd, and historic downtown Hays (Hays), the Fort Bissell Museum (Phillipsburg), and the Butterfield Trail Museum (Russell Springs).

FORT HARKER AND VICINITY

* Fort Harker Guardhouse, northwest corner of Wyoming and Ohio streets, Kanopolis.

  Fort Harker Officers' Quarters, Ohio Street between Kansas and Colorado streets, Kanopolis.

* Perry Hodgen House, West Main Street, Ellsworth.

Numerous museums and historic sites are in the vicinity of Fort Harker, including the Ellsworth County Museum.

FORT DODGE AND VICINITY

* Dodge City Public Library, 2nd and Spruce avenues, Dodge City.

  Santa Fe Trail Ruts, 9 miles west of Dodge City on U.S. 50, Dodge City vicinity.

  Mueller–Schmidt House, 112 East Vine St., Dodge City.

* Fort Dodge Museum, East of Dodge City.

Dodge City area has a well developed tourism industry based on frontier life and cattle drives/ranching.

FORT RILEY AND VICINITY

* Conroe Bridge (Rainbow Arch Marsh Arch Bridges of Kansas), Junction City and vicinity.

* First Territorial Capitol, on KS 18 in Fort Riley Military Reservation, Junction City vicinity.

* Main Post Area, Fort Riley, northeast of Junction City on KS 18, Junction City vicinity.

  Old Junction City High School, Adams and 6th streets, Junction City.

Other historic sites in the vicinity include the Hollenberg Pony Express Station near Hanover, the Geary County Historical Museum, the Wolf-Butterfield Stage Rest Station, and the Beecher, Bible and Rifle Church (Wamego).

FORT LEAVENWORTH AND VICINITY

* Fort Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth Military Reservation, Leavenworth.

* Leavenworth Public Library, 601 South Fifth Street, Leavenworth.

* North Esplanade Historic District, 203–515 North Esplanade, Leavenworth (district only; individual properties may be private).

  J. L. Abernathy House, Leavenworth.

* Leavenworth Landing, Leavenworth (district only; individual properties may be private).

There are dozens of museums and historic sites in northeastern Kansas within a short distance of Fort Leavenworth, including the Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop Historic Site (Olathe), the Huron Indian Cemetery (Kansas City), Haskell Indian Junior College (Lawrence), the Salt Creek Valley and its inn, Griner's Ferry on the Kaw River down the Old Military Road and many others. Also, in Missouri, the town of Weston, the Westport battle site, Whiskey Point on the Weston Bend State Park, Robidoux and Pony Express sites in St Joseph and Majors Russell and Waddell sites in Kansas City.

FORT LARNED AND VICINITY

* Fort Larned National Historic Site, 6 miles west of Larned on U.S. 156, Larned vicinity.

* Township Line Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas), off U.S. 156 west of Rozel, Rozel vicinity.

Other historic sites in the vicinity include a number of museums, historic sites and buildings, and the Santa Fe Trail Center (west of Larned). Pawnee Rock State Historic Site and Fort Zarah are important attractions in the vicinity of Fort Larned.

FORT WALLACE AND VICINITY

Pond Creek Station, east of Wallace on U.S. 40, Wallace.

Area historic sites include the Fort Wallace Museum (Wallace), the Fort Bissell Museum (Phillipsburg), the Butterfield Trail Museum (Russell Springs), Stage Station 15 (Norton), and Cottonwood Ranch (Studley).

APPENDIX C: WORKSHOP PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Congressional Liaison
Lee Alexander, Senator Kassebaum's Office

Kansas Forts

Fort Dodge
Robert Yunker, Superintendent

Fort Harker
Charles Fulford
Jim Gray
Don Smischny
Annette White
Tom Zoazas

Fort Hays
Robert Wilhelm, Superintendent

Fort Larned
Steve Linderer, Superintendent
George Elmore

Fort Leavenworth
J. Patrick Hughes

Fort Riley
Terry Van Meter

Fort Scott
Steve Miller, Superintendent
Arnold Schofield

Fort Wallace
Brenda Beringer

Kansas State Offices
Ramon Powers, Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer,
Kansas State Historical Society
Larry Jochims, Kansas State Historical Society
Dale Watts, Kansas State Historical Society
Sonya Woertz, Kansas Travel and Tourism Office

National Park Service — Denver Service Center
Diane Rhodes, Team Captain
Dana N. Kinsey, Historian Technician
Ronald W. Johnson, Section Chief, Branch of Planning

National Park Service - Midwest Regional Office
Connie Slaughter, Historian

National Park Service - Harpers Ferry Center
Tom White, Interpretive Planner

Potawatomi Tribe
Lucian McKinney, Mayetta, KS

Civic Organizations
Noel Ary, Kansas Heritage Center, Dodge City
Ed Shean, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fort Dodge

APPENDIX D: DRAFT LEGISLATION

102D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 989

Entitled "Cavalry Forts of the Old West: The Historic Kansas Frontier Forts Study Act of 1991".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7 (legislative day, APRIL 25), 1991

Mrs. KASSEBAUM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

Entitled "Cavalry Forts of the Old West: The Historic Kansas Frontier Forts Study Act of 1991".

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the "Cavalry Forts of the
5 Old West: The Historic Kansas Frontier Forts Study Act
6 of 1991".
7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
8 The Congress finds that—
9 (1) many of the historic frontier cavalry forts in
10 Kansas have been preserved to various degrees

1 through private, State, and Federal initiatives and
2 are now national treasures; and
3 (2) these historic frontier cavalry forts should
4 not be viewed as isolated treasures but, rather, as a
5 comprehensive network of military installations
6 which collectively tell the history, folklore, legend,
7 controversies, hardships, and turmoil associated with
8 the Old West; and
9 (3) in light of the vast potential these historic
10 frontier cavalry forts collectively present in terms of
11 providing a better and more accurate interpretation
12 and understanding regarding the American frontier
13 and the Old West, it is necessary to determine,
14 through a comprehensive study, the appropriate
15 means to restore and interpret these sites not only
16 individually but also as a collective and coherent his-
17 torical network.
18 SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT BY THE BUREAU OF LAND
19 MANAGEMENT AND THE NATIONAL PARK
20 SERVICE.
21 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting
22 through the Director of the National Park Service, shall
23 conduct a study of the following historic frontier cavalry
24 forts in the State of Kansas.
25 (1) Fort Dodge;

1 (2) Fort Harker;

2 (3) Fort Hays;

3 (4) Fort Larned;

4 (5) Fort Leavenworth;

5 (6) Fort Riley;

6 (7) Fort Scott; and

7 (8) Fort Wallace.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year from the date
9 that funds are made available for the study referred to
10 in subsection (a), The Secretary shall transmit the study
11 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
12 the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Af-
13 fairs of the House of Representatives.

14 (c) STUDY CONTENT.—The study shall develop alter-
15 native means of collectively preserving and interpreting
16 the forts referred to in subsection (a) including—

17 (1) the study of restoring or recreating dam-
18 aged or lost historic period properties on the fort
19 sites;

20 (2) the feasibility of establishing collective tours
21 which may encompass common themes and link ap-
22 propriate sites;

23 (3) the study of related historic properties, ac-
24 cessible to the public that could also contribute or
25 better link the sites and common themes; and

1 (4) such other information as the Secretary
2 may deem necessary.

3 SEC. 4. APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZATION.

4 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
5 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
6 Act.

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PLANNING TEAM AND CONSULTANTS

PLANNING TEAM

NPS Denver Service Center
Diane Rhodes, Team Captain, Cultural Resource Specialist
Susan C. Boyle, Historian
Rich Lichtkoppler, Resource Economist
Jeff Woods, Landscape Architect
Dana N. Kinsey, Historian Technician
Marcy Neville, Student Intern
Steve Record, Student Intern
Kendall Thompson, Planning Technician

NPS Harpers Ferry Center
Tom White, Interpretive Planner

NPS Midwest Regional Office
Connie Slaughter, Historian

CONSULTANTS

Andy Ketterson, NPS Midwest Regional Office
John Haubert, NPS Washington Office

NPS Denver Service Center
Ronald W. Johnson, Supervisory Planner, Branch of Planning, Central Team
Jan Harris, Planner
Marilyn Hof, Planner
Roberta McDougall, Interpretive Specialist
John Paige, Historian

Superintendents
Steve Linderer, Superintendent, Fort Larned National Historic Site
Steve Miller, Superintendent, Fort Scott National Historic Site

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