

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Theme: Westward Expansion
Subtheme Military-Indian Conflicts

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fort Belknap
AND/OR COMMON
Fort Belknap State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER one mile south of junction of Texas
24 and 251
CITY, TOWN Newcastle
STATE Texas
VICINITY OF
CODE 48
COUNTY Young
CODE 503
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17th

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Young County Commissioners
STREET & NUMBER County Courthouse - Elm Street
CITY, TOWN Graham
STATE Texas
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk - Young County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 218
CITY, TOWN Graham
STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT
X GOOD
__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Belknap, anchor of a chain of forts stretching from the Red River to the Rio Grande, was founded on June 24, 1851. Brevet Brigadier General William Goldsmith Belknap, assisted by Captain Randolph Barnes Marcy, selected the original site on the Red or Salt Fort of the Brazos River in present Young County about ten miles below Marcy's California Road and about the same distance above the confluence of the Clear Fork with the Brazos River.

The buildings erected in 1851 were of logs. The first of these was the commissary store, measuring 18 by 180 feet. In subsequent years the following buildings were completed of native sandstone: the commissary store, the magazine, the bakery, six infantry quarters, and the corn house. Other buildings of jacales were the officer's quarters, the hospital, the billiard room and the company kitchen. There was also constructed the stable built in picket style and the saw mill.

The fort is now a county park administered in cooperation with the Fort Belknap Society. The only original structure on the site is the arsenal, built in 1852. It has been re-roofed, but the original walls are still standing. The other structures, all of stone construction with shingled roofs, are reconstructions carefully built by the State on the original foundations as part of the Texas Centennial observance in 1936. There are six such replicas, these include: The Commissary (photo #1) is the central building of the Fort Belknap complex. A two-story structure with gabled roof, the building now houses the local museum. The floors of this building are original. To the east of the commissary sits an original well which still furnishes water. The general oversight and management of the two museums and the archives that have grown up at the fort are in the care of the Fort Belknap Society. In the commissary are various artifacts consisting of tools, weapons, including an extensive collection of arrowheads, and furniture used mainly on the Fort Belknap frontier. Of special interest are the pictures of the former officers stationed at the fort.

The barracks (photos #2 and 3) are identical buildings constructed as are all the buildings of the fort of local fabric, sandstone. These buildings are one-story structures with gabled roofs. The Fort Belknap Archives of Western America was founded and endowed by Mrs. Ben G. Oneal in 1961, and is jointly sponsored by the Fort Belknap Society and Texas Wesleyan College. This collection of materials is housed in the barracks and includes some rare documents, copies of military records concerning the fort during its active existence.

Arsenal - The original arsenal was constructed in 1852. It is a one-story stone structure with gabled roof. The arsenal is presently called the "Chapel of Peace."

The kitchen (photo #4) sits to the northwest of the barracks. It is a modest one-story building with gabled roof. It is also constructed of sandstone.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Fort Belknap

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Corn House (photo #5) is the other museum of the Fort Belknap State Park. This museum is dedicated to the commemoration of women and contains primarily ladies gowns. Among the collection are dresses which belonged to the first ladies of Texas as well as Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower's gown, worn by her at the Waldorf-Astoria upon the general's return in World War II.

The Fort Belknap Society has constructed a very attractive cottage (see accompanying photo #6) for the keeper of the grounds. This cottage does sit within the historic boundaries but does not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. Moreover there are a number of other sites located in the boundaries. The numerous sites include the Cox Grape Arbor, numerous cannons, various monuments and markers and other identified sites of buildings, though there are no present foundations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1851 following the Mexican War when the Texas frontier was being ravished by Comanche-Kiowa raids, Fort Belknap became the key post in a chain of outer border posts to protect the exposed frontier. The exceptional value of Fort Belknap rests upon its role in the protection of the Texas frontier during the years of its most active advance, 1850-1865. Of the forts that made up the "outer ring" in these years, Fort Belknap bore the brunt of the Kiowa-Comanche assault, and originated the military offensives that, on occasion, carried retaliation to the Indian homeland.

Young County, in cooperation with the Fort Belknap Society, administers part of the fort site as a county park. The remainder of the site has been lost in surrounding farm lands. The park was developed in 1936 by the State of Texas with Federal monies made available for observance of the Texas Centennial. The only surviving structure of the original fort is the arsenal, built in 1852. The park is open throughout the year to visitors.

HISTORY

Following the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War, the demands of settlers on the north Texas frontier for protection against Kiowa and Comanche raids from the north and west became so insistent that the government at last took action and laid out a chain of forts. They were Forts Graham (1848), Worth (1849), Gates (1849), Croghan (1849), and Mason (1849). Before these forts had even been completed, however, the frontier of settlement had advanced farther north and west. General William G. Belknap, therefore, was sent to survey the frontier and select sites for another system of forts. These were Forts Belknap (1851), Phantom Hill (1851), Chadbourne (1852), McKavett (1852), and Clark (1852). There were thus an inner and an outer ring of fortifications enclosing the settlement during the 1850's.

Throughout the 1850's the Texas frontier was the object of repeated destructive raids by Kiowas and Comanches. One-fifth of the United States Army, often bolstered with Texas Rangers and state troopers, attempted to defend it against the Indians. On the outer ring, Fort Belknap was the key link in the chain, thrust, as it was,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conklin, R.P. and M.B., The Butterfield Overland Mail (Glendale, 1947).
Haley, Evetts, Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman (Norman, 1949).
Oneal, "The Beginnings of Fort Belknap," Southwestern Historical Quarterly,
(Norman, 1949).
Richardson, R.N., The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement, (Glendale, 1949).
Rister, C.C., The Southwestern Frontier, 1865-1881, (Cleveland, 1928).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.3

UTM REFERENCES

EG- 2/25/97

A	1 5	5 2 4 2 9 0	3 8 3 7 0 4 0	3667940	B	1 5	5 2 4 2 9 0	3 6 3 7 2 5 0	3667720
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	1 5	5 2 4 0 5 0	3 6 3 7 0 4 0	3667940	D	1 5	5 2 4 0 6 0	3 6 3 7 2 5 0	3667720

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Scott Mendinghall - Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9/20/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Fort Belknap

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

northward towards the Kiowa-Comanche country. Judging from the catalog of Indian attacks perpetrated in the vicinity of the post during the decade of the 1850's, the garrison was inadequate to protect that segment of the frontier. In 1858, however, a squadron of the Second Cavalry under Major Earl Van Dorn rode north from Fort Belknap, established a temporary camp, Radziminski, on Otter Creek in Indian Territory, and from there located and severely defeated a large village of Comanches at the battle of Rush Springs. In 1852, Fort Belknap served as base for the exploration of the upper Red River country conducted by Captain R. B. Marcy and Lt. George B. McClellan.

Around the fort the settlement of Fort Belknap grew up. Between 1858 and 1861, it was an important station on the Butterfield Overland stage route. At this time, the fort was commanded by Major George H. Thomas.

Nearby were two small reservations where lived the Whichita and affiliated tribes of friendly Indians. In 1859 the settlers, hostile towards all Indians, forced the government to move these Indians to Indian Territory, where they were located on the Wichita Reserve at Fort Cobb and, subsequently, at the Anadarko Agency. Before the move, local settlers took matters into their own hands and attacked the Wichitas. Several skirmishes were fought before orders came for the removal of the Indians. They were escorted north by a squadron of the Second Cavalry, under Major Thomas.

On the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Belknap, together with all other Texas forts, was evacuated by U.S. troops. It continued, however, to play a vital role in frontier defense. Troops of the Texas Frontier Regiment used it throughout the war as a base for operations against the Kiowas and Comanches, and for protection of surrounding settlements.

After the Civil War, U.S. troops reoccupied the Texas forts. Fort Belknap, because of the unreliable water supply, was soon discontinued as a permanent post (1867), although small detachments were based there from time to time for protection of the mail road and during periods of particularly intense Indian raiding activity. Fort Richardson, to the east, took over Belknap's role in frontier defense. A small body of soldiers garrisoned the fort in 1871 when General William T. Sherman visited it on his famous inspection of the Texas frontier. The next day, between Belknap and Fort Richardson, he narrowly escaped death at the hands of a Kiowa raiding party that massacred the Warren wagon train, which was following the Sherman group. This episode, the "Jacksboro Incident," led to the arrest of Satanta and Big Tree and their unprecedented trial in a Texas State court. After the subjugation of the Kiowas and Comanches in 1874-75, Fort Belknap fell into disuse, and ultimately, ruins.

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Fort Belknap

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Fort Belknap sits in a well defined area. Though the original fortification was larger than the present area, the integrity of the original site has been lost.

Commencing from the intersection of State Route 61 and the north boundary of the Fort Belknap State Park proceed in a westerly direction, following a stone wall a distance of approximately 1,000 feet, thence proceed due south, following this same wall a distance of 1,000 feet, thence proceed in an easterly direction to a point of intersection with the western edge of the right of way of State Route 61, thence north to the point of origin.

Interviewer: Karen Gordon

Date: _____

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY PROJECT

PROPERTY: Name: Fort Belknap

Address: _____

(Vic.) Graham TX Young
City (Newark) State County

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS:

CITY

COUNTY

Name: Donald Story

Name: M. L. Barrett

Title: Mayor

Title: County Judge

Address: Box 86

Address: P.O. Box 298

Newcastle TX 76372

Graham TX 76046

Source/Date: Donna Weatherford

Source/Date: Mary Orr

(817) 846-3547 5/27/83

(817) 549-2030 5/17/83

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 17

REPRESENTATIVE: Charles W. Stenholm

1232. Longworth HOB

Washington, D.C. 20515

Source/Date: CD-4/25; Stenholm - 4/28

SENATORS: John Tower • Lloyd Bentsen

176 Russell SOB 703 Hart SOB

Washington, D.C. 20510

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER:

Mr. Curtis Tunnell Executive Director

Texas State Historical Commission

P.O. Box 12276 Capital Station

Austin Texas 78711

COMMENTS:

Notice Letter Mailed:

7/19/83
(Date)

Comment Period Ends:

9/11/83
(Date)

PROPERTY OWNERS: Name(s)/Address(es):

Owners are County Commissioners - one
letter will be sufficient

Source/Date:

Katherine Bailey (317) 549-1786

KG - 7/14

727

BOUNDARY DEFINITION
RECEIVED

Property

Fort Belknap

State

Id.

Working Number

NHL

4.1.78

TECHNICAL

Nothings incorrect

CONTROL

Photos _____

Maps _____

4.10.78

HISTORIAN

accept
Grosvenor
11/14/80

A specific boundary justification is not given. However, since this is a complex of reconstructed buildings (except one original) on a portion of the original fort, and since the park was apparently created ~~at the same time~~ at the same time the buildings were reconstructed, the selection of the park boundaries as the NHL boundaries seems logical and reasonable.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Braham
6.26.78

Present boundary only justified by statement that original, larger area has ~~been~~ lost integrity. All but 1 of bldgs is a reconstruction. - a case could perhaps be made for a larger area. Since it is now ~~formal~~ - but I agree -

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept boundary
3-23-81
Shull

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Fort Belknap

1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 257

Newcastle Texas

The Commissary - store, looking southeast.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Belknap State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Belknap			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN: New/Castle/ Newcastle			
STATE: Texas		CODE: 48	COUNTY: Young
			CODE:
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Joseph Scott Mendinghall			
DATE OF PHOTO: 8/75			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey #1			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. The Commissary-store, looking southwest			



Fort Belknap
1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 257
Newcastle, Texas
Second Barracks, looking northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Belknap State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Fort Belknap	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 mile south $\frac{1}{2}$ of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN: New/Castle/ Newcastle #2			
STATE: Texas		CODE 48	COUNTY: Young
			CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Joseph Scott Mendinghall	
DATE OF PHOTO:		8/75	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Historic Sites Survey	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Second barracks, looking northeast.			



Fort Belknap.

1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 251

Newcastle, Texas

Reconstructed Barracks, containing archives,
looking northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Belknap State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Fort Belknap	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN:			
New Castle Newcastle			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	48	Young	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Joseph Scott Mendinghall	
DATE OF PHOTO:		8/75	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Historic Sites Survey	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Reconstructed barracks, containing archive, looking northeast #3			



Fort Belknap

1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 257

Newcastle, Texas

The Kitchen, looking northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Belknap State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Fort Belknap	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN: New/Castle/ Newcastle			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	48	Young	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Joseph Scott Mendinghall			
DATE OF PHOTO: 8/75			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. The Kitchen, looking northwest.			



Fort Belknap.

1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 251

Newcastle, Texas

The Corn House, looking southwest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Belknap State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Fort Belknap	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN:			
New/Castle/ Newcastle #5			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Texas		48	Young
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
Joseph Scott Mendinghall			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
8/75			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Historic Sites Survey			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
The Cam House, looking southwest			



Fort Belknap

1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 & 257

New castle, Texas

Ground keepers cottage, looking southeast.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

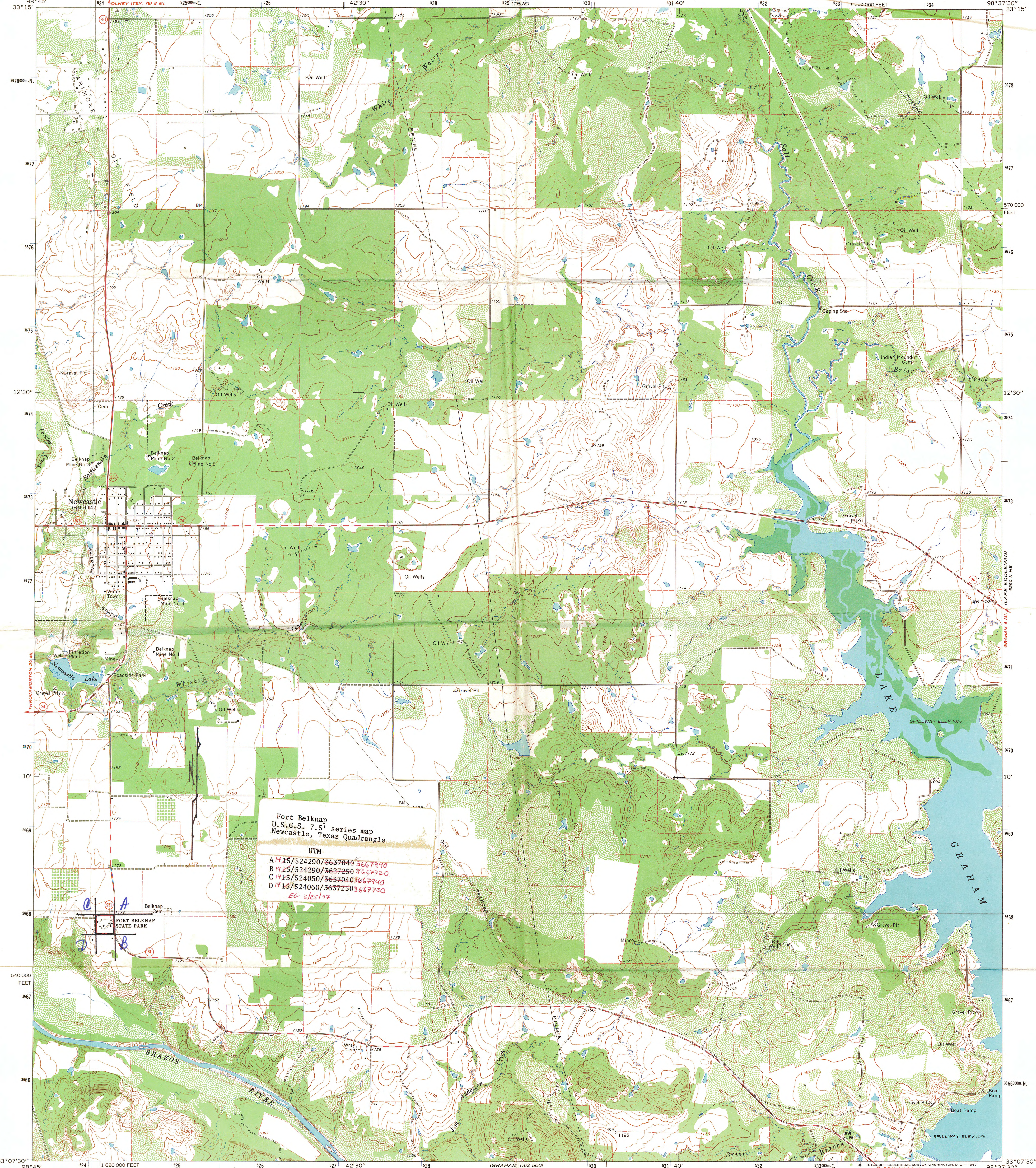
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Young	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

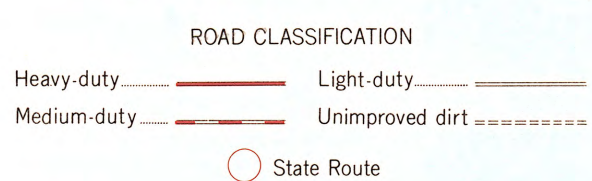
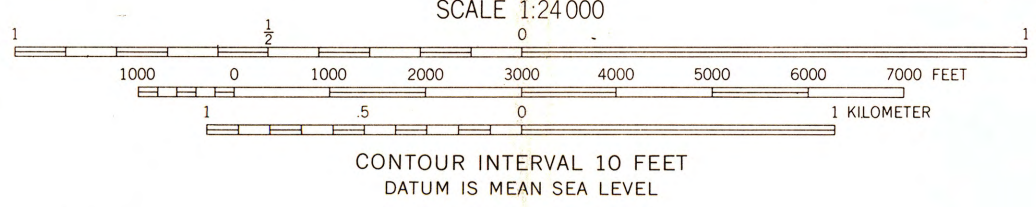
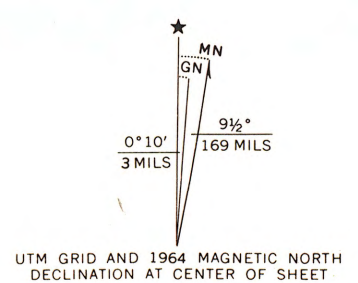
1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Belknap State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Fort Belknap	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1 mile south of junction of Texas 24 and 251			
CITY OR TOWN:			
New/Castle/ Newcastle #6			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Texas		48	Young
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Joseph Scott Mendinghall	
DATE OF PHOTO:		8/75	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Historic Sites Survey	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Ground keeper cottage, looking southeast.			



Fort Belknap
U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map
Newcastle, Texas Quadrangle

UTM
A 1415/524290/3637040 3667940
B 1415/524290/3627250 3667720
C 1415/524050/3637040 3667940
D 1415/524060/3637250 3667720
EG-2/25/97

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1962 and 1963. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



NEWCASTLE, TEX.
NW/4 GRAHAM 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3307.5—W 9837.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ECW REGION ONE
801 GRACE SECURITIES BUILDING
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

July 12, 1937

H. File

*Proposed
Index*

The Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Branch Spalding

Subject: Fort Belknap, Texas

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for your information is a newspaper clipping,
taken from one of our Texas newspapers, concerning the
restoration of Fort Belknap in that State.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Roy MacGregor
Acting Regional Historian

Enclosure 1520389



IN REPLY REFER TO:

158 ✓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

21

FEB 12 1960

FEB 15 1960

Kahler.

Ladderton

Littleton, K.H.

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Assistant Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Fort
Belknap, Texas

Attached is a letter from Mr. Ben G. Oneal, President of the Fort Belknap Society, Wichita Falls, Texas, together with Mr. Utley's reply. We would appreciate your giving Mr. Oneal a more authoritative and final answer to his question than could Mr. Utley.

The members of the Fort Belknap Society are accomplishing excellent preservation work at Fort Belknap. They have often stated that they have no desire for the site even to be considered for addition to the National Park System. This is a refreshing contrast to the local sentiment usually encountered at historic sites.

George W. Miller
Assistant Regional Director.

In duplicate

Attachments 2.

Ben G. Oneal

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
410 First Nat'l. Bank Bldg.
Wichita Falls, Texas

February 8, 1960.

Mr. Robert M. Utley,
Historian, National Park Service,
U. S. Department of Interior,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Utley:

If it is within the range of your official duties, I, as well as all the other members of The Fort Belknap Society, will appreciate your using your influence to get the National Park Service to put at Old Fort Belknap a "Marker" in memory of the many years of military service General William G. Belknap gave the United States.

It would be a wonderful gift to Old Fort Belknap if the Park Service would give a bust of the General to be put on a pedestal on the Fort grounds.

If my memory serves me right, I gave you an official statement of his long military career in the U. S. Army. Of course that statement is a rather dry instrument, as it necessarily gives very little of the long, arduous trips, often dangerous, the General made in the many duties assigned him. And that is particularly true of the hardships he suffered in carrying out the orders to explore and select sites for the line of forts to protect the travelers on the Marcy Wagon Trail across Texas.

For instance, in that dry official statement, no hint is given of the fact that after the unexpected death of General Arbuckle commanding at Fort Smith, General Belknap felt it his duty to, and did, return to command there temporarily; and that then sick with typhoid dysentery return to the site on the Brazos to meet General Persifor F. Smith; and then, after that meeting, try to reach Fort Gibson for medical treatment and died in a wagon on the way.

But General Smith, in a letter to Lt. Col. Bliss, written on November 3, 1851, from the site selected by General Belknap, reported:

"On arriving here I found General Belknap very sick with a dysentery he has been afflicted with since he left Fort Smith. *** General Belknap, if able to travel, will go to some post where there is barracks - his physicians think that his exposure any longer to cold nights and hot days will be fatal."

The General did try to get to Fort Gibson, where his family was, but died on the way. The dry official report was simply that he died near Preston on the Red River November 10, 1851.

The letter Mary Rossell, wife of Captain N. B. Rossell, Company E, 5th Infantry, wrote from Fort Washita November 15, 1851, to her friend Mary Lear, wife of Rist Lieutenant W. C. Lear, Company K, 5th Infantry, gives something of the tragic details of the suffering and death General Belknap. This letter is given on pages 9 and 10 of the enclosed reprint from The Southwestern Historical Quarterly.

I am sure that you will recall that when you were making your survey of Texas, and visited with us at Old Fort Belknap, either Mrs. Oneal or I, or perhaps both of us, told you that The Fort Belknap Society and the Commissioners Court of Young County are satisfied to continue the ownership and care of the Old Fort just as it is now. We did not ask the National Park Service for anything.

This small gift to make the public now and generations to come know something of this man who gave a lifetime of service, hard service, to his country, will be a will be worth its cost to the United States.

With kind personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ben. G. Oneal.

Encl.

C
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P
Y

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

FEB 12 1960

Mr. Ben G. Oneal
410 First National Bank Building
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mr. Oneal:

I seriously doubt that it will be possible for the National Park Service to assist you in the project of erecting a marker at Fort Belknap to Gen. William G. Belknap, although I agree with you that such a marker would be quite appropriate. The budget of the Park Service does not include funds for this sort of expenditure at non-Service areas. I am, however, forwarding a copy of your letter and article (of which I have a duplicate) to our Washington Office with the request that they give you more specific information.

*This should not
be released until the
Sec. has approved
HE*

The completed survey of historic sites illustrating the historical theme of "Military and Indian Affairs, 1830-1890" was presented to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments last October. The Board recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that Fort Belknap, together with 10 other sites in the United States, be approved as possessing exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating this historical theme. The Board further recommended that "upon application by the owners of the above 11 sites, or by other proper authorities, and their agreement to appropriate preservation conditions involving no financial responsibility by the Federal Government, that a certificate be issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service attesting to the exceptional historical value of the site, and that thereafter it be known as a Registered National Historic Landmark." Procedures for obtaining such a certificate and designation have yet to be worked out, but I shall keep you advised.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Robert M. Utley
Historian

Copy to: Director ✓

Feb 19, 1960

Memorandum (AIR MAIL)

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Chief, Division of Interpretation

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Fort Belknap

Your memorandum of February 12, transmitting the correspondence of Mr. Ben G. Oneal and Historian Utley requests that the Director give Mr. Oneal a more authoritative and final answer on his request for a marker at Fort Belknap.

We note that Historian Utley's reply refers to the Advisory Board's action, and to the Registered National Historic Landmarks proposal. Since the Secretary of the Interior has requested that no mention be made of Registered National Historic Landmarks until he has had an opportunity to make official public announcement of this new category of sites, we believe it would be inappropriate at this time to give Mr. Oneal further answer. Once the Secretary has made his announcement, and procedures for implementing the program have been agreed upon, we will be in a better position to reply to Mr. Oneal.

Sgd. DAB

Chief, Division of Interpretation

WDLogan/mg 2/18/60

Copy for: Mr. Littleton



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release to PM's, DECEMBER 19, 1960

ADDITIONAL SITES RECOMMENDED FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS

Seventy additional sites have been declared eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

The sites possessing exceptional historic and archeological value are among 111 described in six new "theme studies" in the National Park Service series covering all the major periods of human history in America. The six studies are: Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830; The Civil War, 1861-1865; and four sub-themes under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries; entitled: The Santa Fe Trail; The Cattleman's Empire; Military and Indian Affairs; and The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said that, of the 111 sites, 41 are already represented in the Park Service and the remaining 70 sites have been recommended by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments as eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status.

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks was approved by Secretary Seaton and established by the National Park Service in October of this year. Five theme studies covering the English, French, and Spanish Exploration and Settlement; the Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775; and The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830 were announced. A total of 124 sites were recommended, with 92 declared eligible for Landmark status and the remainder already in the National Park System or having received Federal recognition.

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by States, other public agencies, or historical societies and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain them.

The Registry is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. This program was authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which provided for a "survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States."

Administrators of sites found eligible for Landmark status may apply to the National Park Service for such recognition and will receive a certificate. Arrangements are also being made to make available a suitable marker.

Descriptive summaries of the sites in the presently announced theme studies are attached. A list of themes under study is also attached. Additional studies will be announced from time to time. The various theme studies may later be published for public distribution. Only reading copies are currently available.

x x x

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

List of Themes, Subthemes, and Special Studies

- I. Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers
- II. Early Indian Farmers
- III. Indian Villages and Communities
- IV. Spanish Exploration and Settlement
 - Special Study: Spanish Colonial Sites in the Panama Canal Zone
- V. French Exploration and Settlement
- VI. English Exploration and Settlement to 1700
- VII. Dutch and Swedish Exploration and Settlement
- VIII. Contact with the Indians
- IX. Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775
- X. The War for Independence
- XI. The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830
 - Subtheme: The Lewis and Clark Expedition
 - Special Study: Lincoln State Park and Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial
- XII. Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830
- XIII. Political and Military Affairs, 1830-1860
- XIV. The Civil War, 1861-1865
- XV. Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898
 - Subthemes: The Santa Fe Trail
 - The Mining Frontier
 - The Cattlemen's Empire
 - The Farming Frontier
 - Military and Indian Affairs
 - Special Study: Fort Bowie
 - " " Fort Davis
 - The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853
 - The Fur Trade Era
 - Special Study: The Bailly Homestead
 - Overland Migrations of the Trans-Mississippi West
 - Great Explorers of the West
 - Transportation and Communication
 - Special Study: Promontory Summit (Golden Spike)
 - Special Study: The Hubbell Trading Post

- XVI. Indigenous Peoples and Cultures
- XVII. Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture
- XVIII. Travel and Communication
- XIX. Development and Conservation of Natural Resources
- XX. The Arts and Sciences
 - Subthemes: Education
 - Architecture
 - Literature, Painting, and Sculpture
 - Inventions and Scientific Discoveries
- XXI. Political and Military Affairs after 1865
 - Special Study: Fort De Soto
 - " " Hawaii
 - " " Alaska
- XXII. Social and Humanitarian Movements.

Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830

In the study of Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830, 34 sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Twenty-six of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks as follows:

1. Maryland State House, Annapolis, Maryland. This was the meeting place of the Continental Congress 1783-1784; scene of the ratification of the Treaty ending the Revolutionary War and of General George Washington's resignation as Commander-in-Chief; scene of the conference which resulted in the calling of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. State owned.
2. Old State House, Hartford, Connecticut. An architectural monument, this is an early public building designed by Charles Bulfinch and one of the best restored civic structures of the Federal period. Owned by the city of Hartford.
3. Massachusetts State House, Boston, Massachusetts. This famed architectural monument is called the master work of Charles Bulfinch. It is a superb example of civil architecture in the early years of the Republic. State owned.
4. City Hall, New York City. This structure, which has considerable architectural significance, tells the story of municipal administration in New York City, and is associated with important political and military affairs and public figures since its erection in 1811. Owned by the city of New York.
5. United States Capitol, Washington, D. C. This structure has been the seat of the Congress of the United States since 1800, with one brief interruption. It is not only a key structure associated with the historic development of the Nation, but is also a building of architectural and artistic interest. Federal ownership.
6. The White House, Washington, D. C. Considered to be the most important residence in the United States, the White House has been the home of every president since the administration of John Adams in 1800. Federal ownership.

7. Octagon House, Washington, D. C. The Octagon, built in 1798-1800 is a superb example of an 18th century colonial town house. It was designed by Dr. William Thornton, architect of the U. S. Capitol. Occupied temporarily in 1814 by President Madison, after the destruction of the White House, it was the scene of the signing of the ratification of the Peace Treaty ending the War of 1812. Owned by the American Institute of Architects.

8. Decatur House, Washington, D. C. This architectural monument is one of the finest examples of a Georgian town house in Washington, and for a short time it was the home of naval hero Stephen Decatur. Owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States.

9. Tudor Place, Washington, D. C. This structure, of great architectural significance, had important historical associations with the families of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Privately owned.

10. St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, D. C. This notable example of late Federal architecture was designed by the American architect Benjamin Latrobe. Because of its situation on Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, this Church has served many of the Presidents and has become known as "The Church of the Presidents." Owned by St. John's Parish.

11. Old City Hall (District Court House), Washington, D. C. One of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture in Washington, this structure is one of the earliest Federal buildings erected in the city, and George Hadfield, one of the architects of the Capitol, designed the structure. Scene of notable trials of national interest. Federal ownership.

12. Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia. Home of George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of Patriot forces during the Revolution and outstanding statesman, serving as first President of the United States. Owned by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

13. Monticello, near Charlottesville, Virginia. A classic example of American architecture, Monticello was the home of President Thomas Jefferson. This structure was a place of pilgrimage for the great and humble who admired Jefferson's character and accomplishments. Owned by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation.

14. Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia. This structure, a colonial architectural gem, is a living monument to George Mason, noted for his constitutional papers of basic importance in American history, including the "Virginia Declaration of Rights" of 1776, which was in part an inspiration for the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Bill of Rights. Owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and administered by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

15. Montpelier, Orange County, Virginia. This important structure was the home of President James Madison for 76 years, including 19 years of his retirement after he served as President of the United States. Privately owned.

16. Oak Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia. This striking historic residence is a monument to the memory of President James Monroe. The structure has an important relationship to the famed Monroe Doctrine issued during Monroe's last term in the White House, and existing records show that he outlined the ideas for this great state paper in a letter written from Oak Hill. Privately owned.

17. John Marshall House, Richmond, Virginia. For 45 years, this was the home of the famed Chief Justice, John Marshall, during his distinguished judicial career, sessions of the Court were so held that Marshall was to spend much of his time at this structure in Richmond, where many of his important opinions on constitutional questions were undoubtedly written. Owned by the city of Richmond.

18. The Hermitage, near Nashville, Tennessee. For over 40 years, during which Andrew Jackson rose from a frontier militia commander to the Presidency, he made his home at the Hermitage. Owned and administered by the Ladies Hermitage Association, Nashville, Tennessee.

19. Ashland, Lexington, Kentucky. Home of the distinguished American political leader, Henry Clay, the present structure appears to have been in part reconstructed after his death in 1852. Owned by the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation.

20. Fort Hill, Pickens County, South Carolina. This structure, the home of John C. Calhoun during the last 25 years of his life is a fitting memorial to the great American political leader. Owned by the State of South Carolina, it is located on the campus of Clemson Agricultural College, and is administered by the John C. Calhoun Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

21. Grouseland, Vincennes, Indiana. The home of William Henry Harrison, 1804-1812, during which period he was Territorial Governor of Indiana, and a foremost defender of white settlement against the Indian tribes attempting to block westward expansion of the United States. From "Grouseland," in September 1811, Harrison undertook the offensive which reached its climax at the Battle of Tippecance, which destroyed the forces of the famous Indian leader, Tecumseh; a victory which influenced the campaign of Harrison for the Presidency thirty years later. Owned and administered by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Vincennes, Indiana.
22. Hamilton Grange, New York City. Built in 1801, this structure was the only home ever owned by Alexander Hamilton, a major draftsman and proponent of the Federal Constitution, and foremost architect of American financial policy in the first critical years of the Federal Union. It is one of the few Federal period structures surviving in New York City. Owned by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.
23. Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is the United States Government's oldest manufacturing arsenal and the site of the decisive defeat of rebellious farmers in Shay's Rebellion, 1786-87. Federal ownership.
24. United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Established in 1802, the United States Military Academy has been in continuous existence since that time and is noted for training the officers who have developed and commanded the regular Army establishment of the United States. Troops have been stationed at West Point since January, 1778, making it the oldest permanently occupied military post in the country. Federal ownership.
25. Frigate Constitution, Boston, Massachusetts. This famed vessel, "Old Ironsides," is a stirring symbol of American naval history. Although extensively restored, it has retained its lines and characteristics, and has never lost its identity as a commissioned ship of the United States Navy. Launched in 1797, it was involved in the naval war with France, 1798-1800, and made a brilliant record in the War of 1812. Federal ownership.
26. Plattsburgh Bay, Plattsburgh, New York. Scene of the decisive victory of American naval forces over the British squadron, which won control of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. Cumberland Head, overlooking the scene of this famed naval action, is owned by the State of New York.

In addition, eight sites are represented and interpreted in the National Park System, as follows:

1. Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania.
2. Federal Hall National Memorial, New York.
3. Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts.
4. Fort Washington, National Capital Parks, near Washington, D. C.
5. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument, Ohio.
6. Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland.
7. Chalmette National Historical Park, Louisiana.
8. Castle Clinton National Monument, New York.

The Civil War, 1861-1865

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments has recognized 39 sites as possessing exceptional value in this period of American history. Fourteen of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. These are as follows:

1. Confederate Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama. First Capitol of the Confederacy. Still used as Alabama State Capitol. State owned.
2. Fort Morgan, Mobile, Alabama. Commemorates the famous battle sealing off one of the last two Confederate ports. In this sea battle, Admiral Farragut uttered the famous words, "Damn the torpedoes - full speed ahead!" State owned.
3. Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois. This simple frame house saw the emergence of Lincoln from position of a small town lawyer to that of a national figure. State owned.
4. Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Illinois. A moving memorial symbolizing the legacy of compassion, courage, and understanding which Abraham Lincoln left to the Union he preserved. State owned.
5. U. S. Grant Home State Memorial, Galena, Illinois. Presented to General Grant by the city in recognition of his military service, this was Grant's home before he became president; again in 1879, and for two years following. State owned.
6. Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana. The home of Abraham Lincoln in his early childhood. State owned.
7. Perryville Battlefield, Perryville, Kentucky. Climax of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. State owned.
8. Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, Louisiana. Failure of Fort Jackson to stop the Union Navy caused the Confederacy to lose New Orleans. Fort St. Philip also played a gallant part in the fight against Farragut's fleet in 1862. Privately owned.

9. Franklin Battlefield, Franklin, Tennessee. Here, General Hood shattered the Confederate Army of the Tennessee in their attacks on his strongly posted Union force. Owned by an association.

10. Confederate Capitol, Richmond, Virginia. For nearly four years, this building, designed by Thomas Jefferson, served as the Confederate capitol. State owned.

11. Five Forks Battlefield, Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Here Grant outflanked the Confederate Army to force Lee from the Richmond-Petersburg defenses. Privately owned.

12. Fort Monroe, Virginia. The nearest continuously-held Union stronghold to the Confederate capital. This fort witnessed the historic fight between the U. S. S. Monitor and the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimac). Administered by the U. S. Army.

13. White House of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. Served as the Executive Mansion of the Confederacy during the nearly-four years of President Jefferson Davis' residence in Richmond. Owned by an association.

14. Lee Chapel, Lexington, Virginia. In this chapel, Robert E. Lee and members of his family are buried. The chapel also contains Lee's office as President of Washington and Lee University. Owned by the University.

In addition, 25 sites recognized as having exceptional value are already included in the National Park System. They are as follows:

1. Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Kentucky.
2. Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland.
3. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Virginia.
4. Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, Mississippi.
5. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee.
6. Custis-Lee Mansion National Memorial, Virginia.
7. Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tennessee.
8. Fort Jefferson National Monument, Florida.
9. Fort Pulaski National Monument, Georgia.
10. Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina.
11. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia.
12. Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania.
13. Harpers Ferry National Monument, Maryland-West Virginia.
14. House Where Lincoln Died National Memorial, D. C.
15. Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Georgia.

16. Lincoln Memorial National Memorial, D. C.
17. Lincoln Museum National Memorial, D. C.
18. Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia.
19. Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas.
20. Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia.
21. Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia.
22. Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee.
23. Stones River National Military Park, Tennessee.
24. Tupelo National Battlefield Site, Mississippi.
25. Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi.

The Santa Fe Trail - Westward Expansion and Extension of the
National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the subtheme study of the Santa Fe Trail in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, six sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Five of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks as follows:

1. Bent's Old Fort, Colorado. Built about 1833 on the north bank of the Arkansas River at the southern boundary of what was then the United States, this post was in the heart of the Southern Plains tribes and on the route of the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Until after the end of the Mexican War, it was easily the most important point on the Trail between the Missouri frontier settlements and the Spanish-Mexican settlements at Santa Fe and in the Rio Grande Valley. State owned.
2. Fort Larned, Kansas. Built in 1860-1861 by the United States Army, this post became the most important military establishment on the eastern part of the Santa Fe Trail and was a base for military protection of the Trail against hostile Southern Plains Indians during the 1860's and 1870's. Privately owned.
3. Raton Pass, Colorado. This defile through the Raton Mountains was one of the most difficult and yet important sites on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. It became increasingly important during the Mexican War and in the period of the Civil War when hostilities of the Southern Plains Indians almost halted traffic over the more exposed Cimarron Cut-off Route eastward. State and private ownership.
4. Santa Fe (Plaza Area), New Mexico. The commercial and social center of the Plaza Area in Santa Fe, in the heart of the capitol of Northern Mexico, may be considered as the end of the Santa Fe Trail. State, city, and private ownership.
5. Wagon Bed Springs, Kansas. This spring, sometimes called Lower Cimarron Springs, on the Cimarron River afforded the first water during the dry season in the 60-mile stretch of the desert or Cimarron Cut-off Route of the Santa Fe Trail after crossing and leaving the Arkansas River. It was the objective and stopping place of all travelers over the Desert Route of the Trail. Private ownership.

In addition, one site is represented and interpreted in the National Park System. This is Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico.

The Cattlemen's Empire - Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Cattlemen's Empire, subtheme study of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, five sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Four of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks, as follows:

1. Grant-Kohrs Ranch, Montana. This ranch in Deer Lodge Valley was one of the first in Montana, beginning about 1853, and in the succeeding decades of the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's, its owner, Conrad Kohrs, became one of the most famous cattlemen of the Northwest and contributed significantly in breeding up the beef herds in that part of the country. Privately owned.
2. JA Ranch, Texas. This ranch with headquarters in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas Panhandle, was perhaps the most famous of several associated with Charles Goodnight, trail blazer, frontiersman, and great pioneer cattleman of the Southwest. With John A. Adair, he built the JA Ranch spread to 700,000 acres in the 1870's and ran 40,000 cattle. In subsequent years, this progressive cattleman improved the stock, introducing fine Hereford blood into the Longhorn herds, and organized Stockmen's associations to bring order into the Open Range industry. Privately owned.
3. Lincoln, New Mexico. One of the best preserved of the old cow towns, county seat of vast Lincoln County when it comprised nearly one-fourth of New Mexico, and center of the Lincoln County War which featured the Chisum, Tunstall, McSween, Billy the Kid faction against the Murphy-Dolan group and involved Lew Wallace, author of Ben Hur, which he was writing at the time. State and private ownership.
4. Tom Sun Ranch, Wyoming. An unusually well preserved ranch layout on the Sweetwater River near Devils Gate, on the Old Oregon Trail, and typical of the medium sized ranches of the Open Range period. Private ownership.

In addition, one site is represented and interpreted in the National Park System. This is Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, North Dakota. The Jackson Hole country in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, also has associations with the Cattlemen's Empire.

Military and Indian Affairs - Westward Expansion and extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Military and Indian Affairs subtheme study of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, 12 sites in non-Federal ownership have been recognized as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are the following:

1. Fort Bowie and Apache Pass, Arizona. Fort Bowie, established in 1862 by the California Volunteers during the Civil War to control a key water source in the Arizona desert, was a strategically located post in the pass through the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona on one of the early and important travel routes from the Rio Grande to California. It was located in the homeland of the Chiricahua Apache Indians, and during the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's it was identified with the Chiricahua wars led by Cochise, Geronimo, Natchez, and other hostile leaders that spread terror throughout the Southwest. Federal and private ownership.
2. Hubbell Trading Post, Arizona. Dating from 1878, this post under the guidance of its founder, John Lorenzo Hubbell, became the most important trading post in the Navajo Reservation and through its influence caused rug weaving among the Navajos to become an ever increasing activity and means of economic livelihood. It has had a continuous, unbroken history of benevolent influence among the Navajos and is the oldest surviving post still among them. Privately owned.
3. Fort Smith, Arkansas. The first fort at the junction of the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers dates from 1817 and was established because of the removal of the Cherokees and other Indians from the Southeast to beyond the Mississippi adjacent to the powerful Osage tribe. A second fort was established here in 1838 and continued to play a part in the frontier history of the country and was a factor, including Judge Isaac Parker's Court, in Indian relations and law enforcement for the next half century. City of Fort Smith and private ownership.
4. Fort Larned, Kansas. Dating from 1859, this fort was the most important post guarding the northern part of the Santa Fe Trail, and for more than a decade was a base for operations against hostile Indians on the central plains, including Cheyenne, Kiowa, Arapaho, and Comanche. Privately owned.

5. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This post was established in 1827 and has been in continuous use ever since. Its original purpose was to guard the Santa Fe Trail and it was the starting point for supplying most of the western frontier military establishments beyond the Missouri, and was the base for many military explorations to the western plains and the Rockies. From it General Kearny's Army of the West set out for the conquest of New Mexico in the War with Mexico. It remains today one of the most important military establishments in the country. Federally owned, Army.

6. Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Established in 1819 at the strategically located juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, this fort was one of the early western forts established after the War of 1812 to protect the western frontier and guarded a vast extent of territory reaching from the Missouri River to the Great Lakes. For more than a third of a century it was the most northwesterly military establishment in the United States. Indian Affairs with the powerful Sioux and Chippewa tribes for several decades were largely conducted from and under the protection of the fort. The Army abandoned the post in 1946. Federal ownership, Veterans Administration.

7. Fort Robinson and Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska. The Red Cloud Agency, established in 1871, was moved to this site in 1873, and was the storm center for the reservation Sioux during the 1870's and the focus of northern plains Indians-white relations during that period. Fort Robinson was established adjacent to the Agency in 1874 when it became evident that military protection was necessary for the Agency, and was the base for several Indian campaigns during the decade that saw widespread Indian hostilities on the northern plains. Fort federally and State owned; Agency site State owned.

8. Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Established in 1824, this fort during the next decade and a half played a dominant role in receiving and caring for the Cherokee, Creeks, and Seminoles removed from the Southeast of the United States to the Indian Territory, and in attempting to keep the peace between them and the wild plains Indians. The fort was a key military post in the then Southwest for many years for military expeditions in the southern plains. Abandoned shortly before the Civil War, it was reoccupied during that war by Union troops and remained active until 1889. Two periods of construction are represented. Site of first fort, State owned; site of second fort, State and private ownership.

9. Fort Jill, Oklahoma. Established in 1870 to control the hostile southern plains tribes, particularly the Kiowa and Comanche, this fort was actively identified with the pacification and control of these tribes during the 1870's-1890's, and from 1870 to 1878 was the Kiowa-Comanche Agency. In 1911 the post became the Artillery School and is still active as one of the most important U. S. military establishments. Federally owned, U. S. Army.

10. Fort Belknap, Texas. Established in 1851 following the Mexican War when the Texas frontier was being ravished by Comanche-Kiowa raids, Fort Belknap became the key post in a chain of outer, border posts to protect the exposed frontier. During the 1850's and 1860's it bore the brunt of retaliatory action against the southern marauding tribes. Owned by Young County and administered by Fort Belknap Society.

11. Fort Davis, Texas. Established in 1854 in the Davis Mountains north of the Big Bend, this fort guarded the junction of the trails from San Antonio to El Paso and Santa Fe and maintained surveillance over the principal Rio Grande crossing sites used by hostile Indian war parties. The post was an important station on the southern overland route to California travelled by stage coaches and emigrants and played a continuing role in protecting the routes of travel in the trans-Pecos country. In 1879-1880 it played an important part in the costly campaign against Victorio and his War Spring Apaches. Privately owned.

12. Fort Phil Kearny and Related Sites (Fetterman Massacre, Wagon Box Fight, Bozeman Trail), Wyoming. Established in 1866 by Col. Henry B. Carrington at the eastern base of the Big Horn Mountains in the heart of the Sioux country north of the Oregon Trail to protect the Government Bozeman Trail to the Montana mining settlements, this fort was the focus of the Red Cloud War in the next two years which resulted in driving the military from the area and the abandonment of the Bozeman Trail forts, the only time hostile Indian action compelled the Government to relinquish control of an area it had set out to protect. Among the actions fought in the shadow of Fort Phil Kearny were the Fetterman "Massacre" in which Capt. William J. Fetterman and 80 men in his command were killed to the last man, and the Wagon Box Fight, one of the most noted engagements in the history of plains warfare. During the two years of its existence the post was held in a state of virtual siege by hostile Sioux. State and private ownership, with small Federal holding at Fetterman site.

The National Park Service presently administers six federally owned areas associated with Military and Indian Affairs, 1830-1898. The six established areas in the National Park System are the following:

1. Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, Montana
2. Custer Battlefield National Monument, Montana
3. Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming
4. Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico
5. Lava Beds National Monument (Captain Jack's Stronghold), California
6. Whitman National Monument, Washington.

The Texas Revolution and the Mexican War - Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898

In the Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, subtheme study of The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, nine sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value for the purpose of commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are the following:

1. The Alamo, Texas. In the Alamo, which was the chapel of the San Antonio de Valero Mission, established in San Antonio in 1718 by Franciscan Friars, Lt. Col. William B. Travis' force of 188 men were killed to the last man on March 6, 1836, when Santa Anna's Mexican army of about 3,000 men breached the walls. Among the killed defenders were frontiersmen James Bowie and David Crockett. "Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry among the Texans. State ownership; custodianship, Daughters of the Republic of Texas.
2. San Jacinto Battlefield, Texas. General Sam Houston on April 21, 1836, won the decisive engagement of the Texas Revolution against a numerically superior force of Mexicans under General Santa Anna, capturing the latter, and resulting in the independence of Texas from Mexico. State ownership; administered by the State Parks Board and the San Jacinto Museum of History Association.
3. Fort Brown, Texas. General Zachary Taylor's army constructed earthworks in March 1846 on the north side of the Rio Grande opposite the Mexican town of Matamoros. In the series of maneuvers and battles resulting in Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, a Mexican force besieged this fortification during Taylor's absence, and Maj. Jacob Brown, the commander, was mortally wounded in his successful defense of the works, which was subsequently named for him. A later and second fort was built nearby in 1868. City of Brownsville and private ownership.
4. Palo Alto Battlefield, Texas. On May 8, 1846, General Zachary Taylor engaged the Mexican army in this battle, a few miles north of present day Brownsville. It was the first sizeable battle of the war, resulting in the repulse of the attacking Mexicans, and led to their retreat toward the Rio Grande. Private ownership.

5. Resaca de la Palma Battlefield, Texas. The general engagement between Taylor's American force and the Mexican army, begun on May 8 at Palo Alto, continued the next day, May 9, 1846, at the Resaca de la Palma, a few miles closer to the Rio Grande. The Mexicans were defeated in this battle with considerable losses in artillery and personnel and fled back across the Rio Grande, ending the military action north of the Rio Grande in Texas in the war with Mexico. Private ownership.

6. Monterey Custom House, California. On July 7, 1846, Commodore John D. Sloat, commanding the Pacific squadron, raised the American flag over the Custom House at Monterey, the capital of California, and officially proclaimed the province as part of the United States. The building dates in part from 1827. State owned.

7. Larkin House, California. Important for both historical and architectural values, this house was built by Thomas O. Larkin in 1834-1835 and became the first American consulate in Mexican California. Commodore Sloat, and General Stephen W. Kearny, the first military governor of California, resided in the Larkin House, causing it sometimes to be called the first American capitol of California. State owned.

8. Sonoma Plaza, California. On June 14, 1846, a group of 33 Americans seized Sonoma, home of General Vallejo who was a dominant figure in north California, and raised in the plaza their homemade Bear Flag as the symbol of independent California after electing William B. Ide as president of the newly proclaimed republic. This beginning of the Bear Flag revolt preceded news in California of the official breaking out of war with Mexico. State and private ownership.

9. Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, New Mexico. General Stephen Watts Kearny raised the American flag over this historic old building, which dates from 1610, on August 18, 1846, following his entry into the capital of New Mexico, and proclaimed the province as United States territory, completing the conquest of New Mexico. State owned.

There are no historic sites in Federal ownership representing this subtheme of study.

The Fort Belknap Society

DIRECTORS

BEN G. ONEAL
PRESIDENT
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

MRS. ELEANOR WATSON
E. M. REMINGTON
ROY VEAL
MRS. C. F. MARSHALL

DIRECTORS

MRS. J. W. BULLOCK
SECRETARY-TREASURER
NEWCASTLE, TEXAS

MRS. G. A. TERRELL
E. M. REMINGTON
G. R. WHITELEY
MRS. D. T. ANDERSON

January 23, 1961

Director of National Parks
Department of Interior
Washington, 25, D.C.

J. L. Logan

Dear Sir:

Under Project 66 Fort Belknap was named as one of the Texas Historical places so recognized by the Department of Interior.

We, of the Fort Belknap Society, greatly appreciate this honor and would at this time like to make application for the Historic Plaque to be used in this connection.

If you are ever in Texas we would like for you to visit Fort Belknap and/or any of the Directors above listed.

Mr. Oneal passed away suddenly just before the public announcement was made. But he had been informed that the announcement would soon be made and it made him very happy as he had worked for two years on this project. He had been president of the Fort Belknap Society for 22 years - the first and only president.

Thank you for your kindness.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal
2201 Miramar
Country Club Estates
Wichita Falls, Texas

CMO/lh

FEB 7 1961

L58-IBH

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal
2201 Miramar
Country Club Estates
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mrs. Oneal:

We wish to thank you for your letter of January 23, requesting a certificate and bronze marker for Fort Bellmap.

By now, you will have received a letter personally advising you of the fort's eligibility for Registered National Historic Landmark status. The documents necessary for formal certificate application accompany this letter. As soon as the bronze marker is available, you will be notified further.

We were sorry to hear of Mr. Oneal's passing, but were pleased that he knew of our recognition of the fort.

We are happy to be able to include Fort Bellmap in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks, and share with you the pleasure in knowing that an important part of our Nation's heritage is being well preserved.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) E. T. SCOYEN

Director

ASSOCIATE


Copy to: ~~Mr.~~ Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 2/3/61

Letter February 3, 1961 to owner of Fort Belknap, Texas notifying him of eligibility of Landmark status, signed by Acting Director Scoyen.

Owner: Fort Belknap Scoeity; Newcastle, Texas.

Letters also sent to: Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, 12-19-60
Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, 12-19-60
Cong. J. T. Rutherford, 12-19-60





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

IN REPLY REFER TO:

158

JUN 1 - 1961

JUN 7 1961

Logan
aus.

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Eligibility of Fort Belknap, Texas

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, who has succeeded her late husband as President of the Fort Belknap Society, has inquired whether she has executed all the papers necessary to obtain both certificate and plaque for Fort Belknap. Will you please advise us on this matter.

Mrs. Oneal wishes to make the annual meeting of the Society next October 21 the occasion for ceremonies of presentation, and wishes Mr. Utley to make the presentation. We assume that the certificate and plaque can be produced by that time.

Thomas J. Allen
Regional Director

L58-IBH

June 9, 1961

*Fort Belknap
reg 3*

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Eligibility of Fort Belknap, Texas

We have received Regional Director Allen's memorandum of June 1 requesting information on the Landmark status of Fort Belknap, Texas. Our records indicate that the Fort Belknap Society received copies of the Landmark application form with the Director's formal eligibility notification of February 3. To date, the completed forms have not been returned to us.

Mrs. Oneal requested the marker in a letter dated January 23. No further application will be necessary for the marker. However, we would appreciate it if Mrs. Oneal could complete and return the certificate application form to this office. We can then proceed with production of both certificate and marker.

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Chief Historian

Copy to: ✓ Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 6/9/61

✓

C O P Y

JUNE 30, 1961

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Status for Fort Belknap, Texas

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, President of the Fort Belknap Society, writes that she thought she had filled out the application for the Landmark certificate for Fort Belknap and mailed it to you early this year. Will you please recheck your files, and if necessary send Mrs. Oneal another blank application form. Her address is 410 First National Bank Building, Wichita Falls, Texas. We understand that application for the plaque has been made in proper form and that the plaque is now being manufactured. This should be completed in time for the Society's annual meeting in October.

/s/

Thomas J. Allan
Regional Director

C O P Y

July 7, 1961

L58-IBH

Fort Belknap

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal
410 First National Bank
Building
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mrs. Oneal:

According to a communication from Regional Director Thomas J. Allen of the National Park Service, Region Three Office in Santa Fe, you have informed him that you believe you have already completed an application form for a Registered National Historic Landmark certificate.

We have checked our files but find no completed application form for Fort Belknap and presume the forms have been lost. Accordingly, we are enclosing new copies of the form. These should be completed in triplicate. Two copies should be returned to us. The third copy may be retained for the files of the Fort Belknap Society.

We are happy to be able to offer Fort Belknap a place in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks and are looking forward to receipt of the completed forms.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief Historian

Enclosures
Copy to: Mr. Littleton

WLogan:bj:7/7/61

LS8-IBH

*July 7, 1961
Fort Belknap, Idaho
my 3*

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Chief Historian

Subject: NHPB Landmark Status for Fort Belknap, Texas

We have received your memorandum of June 30, concerning Mrs. Oneal's application for Landmark status for Fort Belknap, Texas. Mrs. Oneal requested a marker in her January 27 letter to the Director, but has not submitted a completed application form. Copies of this form were sent to the Fort Belknap Society with the Director's formal letter of notification to the society dated February 3.

We are mailing new copies of the application to Mrs. Oneal to complete formal records on the site.

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief Historian

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

WLogan:bj:7/7/61

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

JUL 19 9 05 PM '61

Barbara

L-58
JUL 20 1961

Fahler
Littletown

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (owner, owners) of Fort Belknap located ~~in~~ near
(name of site)
Newcastle Young Texas
(City) (County) (State)

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (✓) and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (✓) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I, we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ben H. Oneal,
President Fort Belknap
Historical Society, Inc.

410 First Nat'l. Bnk.
Wichita Falls, Texas
September 14, 1961

Director,
National Park Service,
Washington 25, D. C.

SEP 19 1961

Re: Project 66
Fort Belknap

Dear Sir:

This is in regard to the plaque and certificate which you are preparing for Fort Belknap.

I am wondering if it would be possible for you to have this plaque and certificate ready for presentation at the Society's annual meeting on October 21, 1961. This would be a most appropriate time for the presentation.

Thanking you for your cooperation in the matter,
I am,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, President
Fort Belknap Historical Society

me

cc: Mr. Robert M. Utley
National Park Service
Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Ref. to WASO

OCT 19 1961

SEP 28 10 11 AM '61

September 20, 1961

L58-IBH

~~Kahler~~
Littleton
JK

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal
President
Fort Bellmap Historical Society
410 First National Bank
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mrs. Oneal:

We are sorry that we cannot have the Landmark Certificate and Marker prepared in time for the annual meeting of the Bellmap Historical Society, October 21. There is such a backlog for certificates and markers at present, it will be some few months now before the marker for Fort Bellmap can be cast. However, we will do our best to speed up its manufacture as much as possible.

When the certificate and marker are ready, we will notify you through our Regional Office in Santa Fe. We believe it would be best under the circumstances not to plan a presentation ceremony until the marker and certificate are ready. As the Landmarks Program is administered through our Regional Offices, you may wish to keep in touch with Regional Director Thomas J. Allen, Box 1728, Santa Fe, New Mexico, about your presentation plans.

Sincerely yours,

J. WALTER COLEMAN

J. Walter Coleman
Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three. W/c of inc.
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

L58

SEP 26 1961

*Fort Belknap
x Fort Concho / W. Miller
from Fort Concho Museum*

Memorandum (AIR MAIL)

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Plaques for Forts Belknap and Concho, Texas

We have received the copy of Dr. Coleman's letter of September 20 to Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, President of the Fort Belknap Society, informing her that the Landmark plaque for Fort Belknap will not be completed by October 21, the date of the Society's annual meeting. We are at a loss to know how this happened. The application for the Fort Belknap marker was submitted on January 23 (as opposed to March 22 for the Palace of the Governors marker, which was delivered in July), and by memoranda of June 1 and June 30, this Office emphasized that the Fort Belknap Society was counting on a presentation ceremony during its October meeting. Our failure to come through now, at almost the last moment, puts this Office in a mildly embarrassing position.

We have received the attached letter from the Fort Concho Museum Board, which is self-explanatory. Will you please answer it directly, or supply us, as soon as possible, with the information with which to answer it.

(SIGNED)

George W. Miller
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

October 23, 1961

158-IDH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Three

From: Acting Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Forts Belknap and Concho

*Fort Belknap - upland
July 3*

We regret the delay in answering Acting Regional Director Miller's memorandum of September 26 concerning landmark markers for the above sites.

The memorandum of October 23 to all Regions explains briefly some of the problems of manufacturing, which also applies to Forts Belknap and Fort Concho. Fort Concho is the subject of a separate memorandum. The situation for Fort Belknap is as follows:

From our files we find that Mr. Ben. G. Oneal wrote to Mr. Utley February 8, 1960, asking about the Service furnishing a marker. Mr. Utley's reply of February 12 was that the Service had no funds at that time to buy such markers. Reference was made to Advisory Board action on Fort Belknap, and attention was called to the Registered National Historic Landmark Program. Mr. Utley also said that he was forwarding Mr. Oneal's letter to us for more specific information. Also on February 12, 1960, Assistant Regional Director Miller asked us to give a more authoritative and final answer to Mr. Oneal's question. Our memorandum of February 19 to you was that we could not give out any information about the Registry until the Secretary had made his official announcement through the press. The first list of eligible sites was published October 9, 1960, and these landmarks became our first responsibility for certificates and markers. Fort Belknap was announced as eligible for landmark status in the press release of December 19, 1960. On January 23, Mrs. Oneal wrote to request a marker. This was before she received the application forms which were sent February 3 to the Fort Belknap Historical Society. Our memorandum to you, June 9 stated that we had not received the forms, but as soon as they were returned to us, we would proceed with production of the certificate and marker. On June 30, you wrote to say that Mrs. Oneal

thought she had filled out and returned the application forms. We checked our files, but found none. We wrote to Mrs. Oneal on July 7 and sent her another set of forms to be signed and returned to us. These forms were received here July 20.

While we had noted that Mrs. Oneal wished to have a marker, we did not give Fort Belknap a high priority over many others because no application forms had been received. Even had the forms been received earlier, we could not have placed it in priority over several requests from Senators, etc. Priority has been given in the order of completion of the application forms, with certain exceptions made because of presentation ceremonies or special Congressional requests.

The Palace of the Governor's request was received here March 22 and was thus actually ahead of the Fort Belknap marker. However, in changing the priority, as was often necessary, the Palace of the Governors was actually manufactured ahead of some of the others on our revised list to Forton.

Mrs. Oneal wrote September 14 (received here September 19), to inquire if it would be possible to have the marker ready by October 21. Because of the uncertainty involved, we felt it best to tell her that we could not promise the marker in time for her annual meeting on October 21. In checking the correspondence, we do not find that we made any promise to have the marker ready for the October meeting of the Society.

We, of course, regret that we could not produce the marker in time for the Annual meeting of the Fort Belknap Historical Society. However, with presentation of the certificate, we hope the situation was not too embarrassing.

Porter
Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

Reene Allred, Jr.
Marvin F. London

ALLRED & LONDON
ATTORNEYS AT-LAW
201-202 Wood Bldg
Bowie, Texas

TRemont 2-2891
P.O. Box 365

October 23, 1961

Hon. Stewart L. Udall, Secretary
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

By way of re-introfuction, Mrs. Allred and the writer had the privilege of meeting you at Odessa, Texas, at a dinner given for Ralph Yarborough several years ago, prior to his election to the United States Senate.

Mrs. Allred and I attended the dedication of the Fort Belknap Archives at the restored fort site near Newcastle, Young County, Texas, on Saturday, October 21st. At that time we had the pleasure of meeting Robert Utley of Santa Fe, historian with the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. Mr. Utley presented a certificate of your Department designating Fort Belknap as a National Historic Landmark and announced that a bronze marker would be forthcoming from the Department at a later date.

Mr. Utley made a fine presentation, more than ably represented your Department, and was well received. We thought you would like to have a first-hand report on this from one who was particularly interssted, in view of the fact that my late brother, James V. Allred, as Governor of Texas signed the bill that made possible the beginning of the restoration of this landmark.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

RA/co

/s/ Renne Allred, Jr.

C O P Y

November 2, 1961

L58-IBH

Fort Belknap

Mrs. Ben G. Oneal
President
Fort Belknap Historical Society
410 First National Bank
Wichita Falls, Texas

Dear Mrs. Oneal:

We are today shipping to you by Railway Express the Registered National Historic Landmark Marker for Fort Belknap.

We are pleased to have Fort Belknap included in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ CHARLES W. PORTER III

Charles W. Porter III
Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three
Mr. Littleton ✓

JOLittleton:mg

NOV 9 1961

Fort Belknap, Texas

Dear Mr. Allred:

Secretary Udall was particularly pleased to have your letter of October 23 regarding presentation of the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate for Fort Belknap, Texas. He does indeed remember the dinner given for Ralph Yarborough several years ago, where he met you and Mrs. Allred and other fine people of your State.

It was good of you to send us firsthand information about the presentation ceremony in which one of our National Park Service historians, Robert Utley, of the Regional Office in Santa Fe represented the Department. A copy of your letter is being sent to Mr. Utley so that he may know how kindly he was received.

Our Registered National Historic Landmarks Program is just getting under way, and we hope it will be a continuing influence in encouraging the States, historic groups, and individuals, in preserving important segments of our historical heritage.

Thank you again for your kind personal wishes.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) John A. Carver, Jr.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Renne Allred, Jr.
Allred & London
Attorneys At-Law
201-202 Wood Building
Bowie, Texas

Copy to: DCCO
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S
Regional Director, Region Three. W/c inc.
Mr. Littleton ✓ w/c of inc.

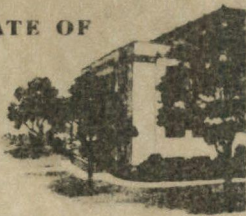
JOLittleton:mg

Graham Purcell
M. C.

YOUNG

May 30, 1962

STATE OF



After you have finished with this letter, I would appreciate having it returned to me. Thank you.

Room 1219 NHOB
House of Representatives

JUDGE 90TH JUDICIAL DIST.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RY, DISTRICT CLERK
PERSON, COUNTY JUDGE
SS, COUNTY CLERK
RDS, SHERIFF
COUNTY ATTORNEY
RY, COUNTY TREASURER
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
E, JR., COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

May 25, 1962

GRAHA

TEX

Honorable Graham Purcell
c/o House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Graham:

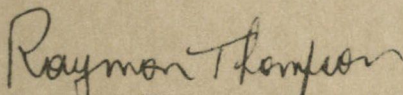
I do not know whether or not you are familiar with the fact that Young County has for the last 25 years maintained a park at old Fort Belknap in Young County. There are six buildings that were restored under a W.P.A. project in the centennial year of Texas which was 1936 and it has become a visiting place of approximately 12,000 people annually register at the Fort and many of them come from long distances. It is not a place of only local interest. During the past year through Texas Wesleyan College and a grant by Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, whose late husband introduced and passed the bill in the Texas Legislature to restore the old Fort, there has been created a "Fort Belknap Archives" and a great deal of material has been contributed to the Archives and it is now being catalogued. The Archives Department at the Fort is now housed at one end of a building 16' X 24' and it is becoming crowded and will soon become unworkable. When the Fort was built and occupied in the 1850's there were several buildings there and some have not been restored. I believe the foundations are still there however, they are below the ground surface and do not show at this time. We of the Fort Belknap Association are very much interested in the well fair of the Fort to restore for future generations everything possible that gives a true picture of the history of this

Page two
May 25, 1962
Hon. Graham Purcell

section of the country and would like to make the Archives one of the choice attractions at the Fort. In order to do this more room is needed. I am wondering if it would be possible that some sort of a federal grant be made for the restoration of another of the old Fort Belknap buildings to be designated and used for the Archives. I would appreciate very much knowing your opinion as to such a possibility or any suggestions that you might make that would assist us in meeting this need.

With all best personal wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours,


Raymon Thompson
County Judge

dh

GRAHAM PURCELL
DISTRICT OFFICE
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
DISTRICT OFFICE
FEDERAL BUILDING
WITA FALLS, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

May 30, 1962

JUN 4 2 53 PM '62

REPLY DUE

JUN 8 1962

L 2019
JUN 5 1962

Price
Kahler
RVA

Mr. Herbert Kahler
National Park Service
Room 2320
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kahler:

Pursuant to a telephone call by my secretary regarding Fort Belknap Association's interest in restoring some of the building at Fort Belknap, Young County, Texas, I am enclosing herewith for your consideration a letter from Judge Raymon Thompson.

Even though you informed Mrs. Kenny that the National Park Service does not have the authority or funds to assist these people in their endeavor, I thought you might like to read the letter and in turn, present me with a written report regarding the restoration of old Forts so that I may have something in writing to present to the Association.

Thank you for your fine cooperation, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Graham Purcell
GRAHAM PURCELL

Enclosure
GP/k

JUN 8 1962

NSHS & B file

L7019-CHA

Hon. Graham Purcell
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Purcell:

As requested in your letter of May 30, we are glad to comment about some of the problems involved in restoring or reconstructing historic structures. Your immediate interest, and that of Judge Raymon Thompson, concerns some proposed work at Fort Belknap, Texas.

The National Park Service, of course, has had some experience in stabilizing, reconstructing, and restoring features of a few old military posts, and planning similar work for others. Our work at such places as Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and Fort Union, New Mexico, has made it clear that it is always desirable before doing any physical work and development at a site or structure to carry out as exhaustive historical research in the records as possible, and to assemble copies of as many old maps as can be found so that a construction history of the fort and the structures in question can be prepared. Old photographs should also be assembled as a part of this research.

After the historical research has been completed it may point to the desirability of archeological work at the site to identify precise location and dimensions of features. After the historical and archeological, and sometimes architectural, research has been completed a stabilization, reconstruction, or restoration plan can be prepared. All of this takes time, costs money, and requires competent personnel to carry on the various parts of the work. There is no easy and quick way to accomplish reliable, authentic, and worthwhile work in this field.

It occurs to us that if Judge Thompson and his associates want some specific advisory assistance, Regional Director Thomas J. Allen and his staff at the Region Three Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, may be able to help. Regional Historian Robert M. Utley, we know, has visited Fort Belknap several times and is

generally familiar with the Fort's history and its structures. He may be able to offer useful advice, along with other members of the Region Three staff. If Judge Thompson desires to communicate with Mr. Allen on this matter he can address him at Box 1728, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Judge Thompson's letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Thomas F. Flynn

Assistant Director

Acting

Enclosure

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three w/c of inc.
History

REAppleman:bj:6/7/62

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

JUN 8 9 32 AM '62

June 7, 1962

Kahler
Littleton

Honorable Ralph Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

Thank you for writing me relative to the proposal to restore an additional building at Fort Belknap to be used for the Fort Belknap Archives.

I know of no Federal funds that are available for this purpose; however, since the restoration of historic buildings is a matter of interest to the National Park Service, I am referring your letter to Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director. I am sure that Mr. Wirth can advise you fully on this matter.

Perhaps Judge Raymon Thompson and his group could seek the aid of one of the foundations or other sources of private funds.

We are happy to learn of the archival activity at Fort Belknap. If we can be of any assistance in questions relating to the preservation or administration of the papers, we will be glad to help out.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Grover

Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States

RHBahmer/jej

cc: National Park Service ✓
Official file - N
Day file - N

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
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EDWARD JARRETT, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Washington, D. C.

June 5, 1962

Mr. Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States
National Archives Building
Washington 25, D. C.

REPLY DUE

JUN 14 1962

Dear Mr. Grover:

I enclose for your attention and consideration a communication from Mr. Raymon Thompson, County Judge, Graham, Texas, relative to restoration of additional buildings at Old Fort Belknap, Texas.

Please let me know what may be done along the line indicated therein, returning the enclosure with your reply, and oblige

Yours very sincerely,

Ralph Yarborough
Ralph Yarborough
U. S. Senator from
T e x a s

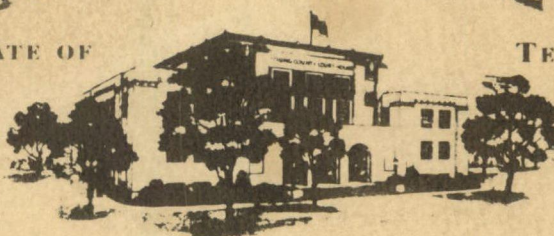
RY:vrf

LNP

R. J. ...
JUN 11 1962
Appelman
R. J.

YOUNG COUNTY

FLOYD JONES, JUDGE OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 E. H. GRIFFIN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 GEORGE E. BERRY, DISTRICT CLERK
 RAYMOND THOMPSON, COUNTY JUDGE
 HUGH G. GRUBBS, COUNTY CLERK
 JOHN P. EDWARDS, SHERIFF
 JACK Q. NEAL, COUNTY ATTORNEY
 D. D. CUSENBARY, COUNTY TREASURER
 KELLY JONES, TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
 GEORGE CORSE, JR., COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT



TEXAS

C. LEE JONES, COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE
 TRUMAN MAYES, COMMISSIONER OF THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
 R. C. SELF, COMMISSIONER OF THE AGRICULTURE
 MARVIN J. NALL, COMMISSIONER OF THE FOREST SERVICE
 W. H. KENNEDY, COUNTY AGENT
 A. F. FRED STEWART, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
 SAM J. FURR, JR., JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
 THURMAN J. KENNEDY, FARM DEMONSTRATION AGENT
 MRS. JOSEPHINE CHILDRESS, HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
 J. WALTER MORELAND, COUNTY AGENT

May 25, 1962

GRAHAM, TEXAS

Honorable Ralph Yarborough
 United States Senator
 Senate Office
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Ralph:

I do not know whether or not you are familiar with the fact that Young County has for the last 25 years maintained a park at Old Fort Belknap in Young County. There are six buildings that were restored under a W.P. A. project in the centennial year of Texas which was 1936 and it has become a visiting place of approximately 12,000 annual people who register at the Fort and many of them come from long distances. It is not a place of only local interest. During the past year through Texas Wesleyan College and a grant by Mrs. Ben G. Oneal, whose late husband introduced and passed the bill in the Texas Legislature to restore the old Fort, there has been created a "Fort Belknap Archives" and a great deal of material has been contributed to the Archives and it is now being catalogued. The Archives Department at the Fort is now housed at one end of a building 16' X 24' and it is becoming crowded and will soon become unworkable. When the Fort was built and occupied in the 1850's there were several buildings and there are some that have not been restored. I believe the foundations are still there however, they are below the ground surface and do not show at this time. We of the Fort Belknap Association are very much interested in the well fair of the Fort to restore for future generations everything possible that gives a true picture of

Page two
May 25, 1962
Hon. Ralph Yarborough

history of this section of the country and would like to make the Archives one of the choice attractions at the Fort. In order to do this more room is needed. I am wondering if it would be possible that some sort of a federal grant be made for the restoration of another of the old Fort Belknap buildings to be designated and used for the Archives. I would appreciate very much knowing your opinion as to such a possibility or any suggestions that you might make that would assist us in meeting this need.

With all best personal wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Raymon Thompson

Raymon Thompson
County Judge

dh

NSHS + B file

L7019-CHA

JUN 20 1962

Hon. Ralph Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States, has forwarded to us for reply your letter of June 5 to him, and its enclosure, a letter from Judge Raymon Thompson of Graham, Texas, to you about Fort Belknap, Texas.

We have already written on this subject to Congressman Graham Purcell of Texas who sent to us a letter from Judge Thompson similar to that to you. We informed Congressman Purcell that our experience in stabilizing, reconstructing, and restoring old historic structures has taught us that it is always desirable before doing any physical work of this kind to carry out as exhaustive historical research in the records as possible, and to assemble maps and drawings bearing on the construction history of the fort or buildings in question. Old historic photographs also are always helpful.

After the historical research has been completed it may point to the desirability of archeological work at the site to identify precise location and dimensions of features. After the historical and archeological, and sometimes architectural, research has been completed a stabilization, reconstruction, or restoration plan can be prepared. All of this takes time, costs money, and requires competent personnel to carry on the various parts of the work. There is no easy and quick way to accomplish reliable, authentic, and worthwhile work in this field.

It occurs to us that if Judge Thompson and his associates want some specific advisory assistance, Regional Director Thomas J. Allen and his staff at the Region Three Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, may be able to help. Regional Historian Robert M. Utley, we know has visited Fort Belknap several times and is

generally familiar with the Fort's history and its structures. He may be able to offer useful advice, along with other members of the Region Three staff. If Judge Thompson desires to communicate with Mr. Allen on this matter he can address him at Box 1728, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Judge Thompson's letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

Enclosure

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Three w/c of inc.
History

REAppleman:bj:6/19/62

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

REPORT ON BIENNIAL VISIT
TO

Fort Belknap, Texas

Theme XV, Westward Expansion (Military and Indian Affairs)

Date of Visit: March 3, 1963

Visited by: William E. Brown

Condition: Excellent. Fort buildings impressive. Grounds beautifully kept.

Operation: A full time custodian runs the museum, which is the typical, yet interesting historical museum of the hinterlands. The Landmark plaque is attractively mounted at the entrance to the grounds. An attractive 10 cent folder is available for visitors (copy attached).

Special Problems: None

Suggestions offered: None

63-149

William E. Brown
Sgd.

See And Visit

See And Visit

Scenic And Historic

104

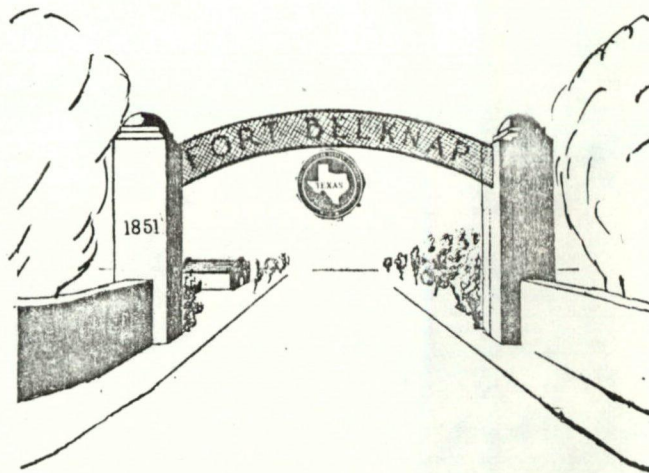
HISTORICAL SITES

YOUNG COUNTY, TEXAS

HISTORIC TRAILS CROSSING YOUNG COUNTY

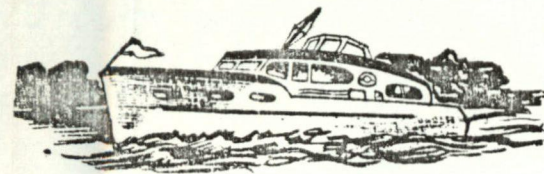
1. Fra Juan de Padilla in 16th century walked a trail which crossed extreme western edge of what is now Young county--trail south to north,abt. 1530
2. Capt. Randolph B. Marcy's trail crossed in 1849, west of present Newcastle;from Fort Smith, Arkansas to Dona Ana, New Mexico
3. San Antonio Military Road, 1852;from present Fort Belknap to San Antonio
4. Indian Exodus Trail, south of Graham to Indian Territory, 1859;known as VanDorn's Trail
5. Brazos Agency Road from south of present Graham to Fort Belknap, 1854-1859
6. Butterfield Overland Mail and Stageline, 1858;roughly follows highway 24
7. Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail of 1861, from Fort Belknap southwesterly to New Mexico
8. Thornton Chisholm Cattle trail from DeWitt county to Doan's Crossing, 1866
9. Preston Road, from Fort Belknap to Sherman and Preston's Crossing on Red River, 1851
10. Route of Jose' Mares 1787-1788

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BARBARA NEAL LEDBETTER
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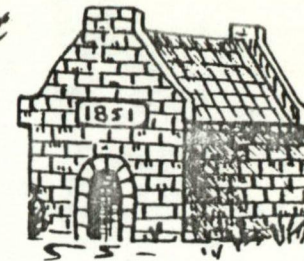


YOUNG COUNTY, TEXAS

See And Visit
Possum Kingdom



See And Visit
Fort Belknap



- *Fifteen miles south of Olney, Texas
- *Three miles south of Newcastle, Texas
- *Ten miles northwest of Graham, Texas
- *MUSEUM open daily except Friday, houses about 8,000 artifacts
- *PARK open daily except Friday, fifteen acres
- *ARCHIVES open Saturday;official depository for papers belonging to:Fort Belknap Society, Fort Belknap Genealogical Association, and Fort Belknap Junior Historians
- *TEXANA collections including rare books
- *CLUB ROOM beautifully furnished by Newcastle '17 Club and available to public
- *HAVEN for writers and artists
- *MUSEUM COLLECTION of women's gowns including those worn by:
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower
Mrs. Douglas MacArthur
Mrs. James V. Allred
and pioneer gowns depicting social, cultural, and historical past of Young county;such as that of Mrs. Eliza Bush
- *ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS including those of
Boyce House, poet and writer
Walter R. Adams, poet
Renne Allred, Junior, lawyer, historian
Ben G. Oneal, senator, historian, lawyer
James V. Allred (display), governor, lawyer, historian
Dr. Cora M. Oneal, TWC Board of Regent, historian
and collections from about 250 donors including Mrs. G. O. Slaughter, Mary Craighead, Miss Grace Bowen
- *HOME of famed Frontier Regiment of 1862-65
- *HOME of famed U. S. Second Cavalry, 1858-59

- *BUILT in 1940; 340 mile shoreline
- *PARADISE for:

Water skiing--skin diving
Fishing--camping
Boating--swimming
Hunting--vacationing
Family fun

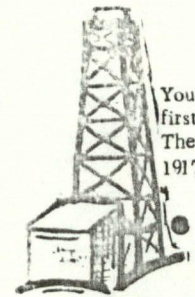
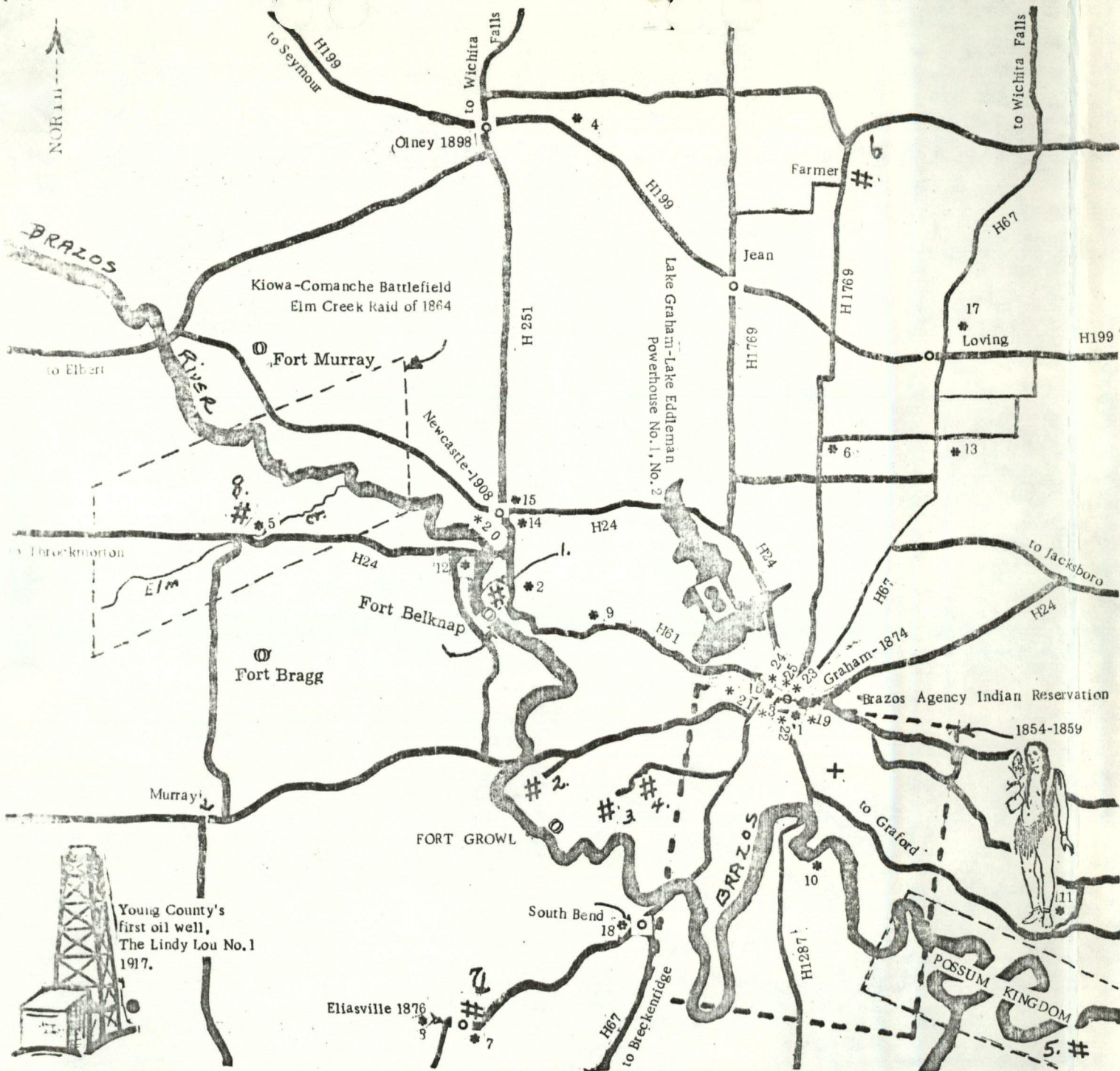
- *OTHER BODIES OF WATER IN YOUNG:

LAKE OLNEY, city of Olney, Texas
LAKE COOPER, city of Olney, Texas
LAKE EDDLEMAN, north city of Graham
LAKE GRAHAM, north city of Graham
NEWCASTLE LAKE, city of Newcastle
BRAZOS RIVER, meanders through Young county from northwest to southeast

- *PUBLIC PARKS ARE NUMEROUS IN YOUNG

FIREMEN'S PARK, west of city of Graham
SHAWNEE PARK, south of city of Graham
EDDLEMAN PARK, north of city of Graham
JAYCEE PARK, northwest of city of Graham
TOM GRIFFIN PARK, southwest city of Olney
NEWCASTLE PARK, south city of Newcastle
FORT BELKNAP PARK, site of old fort, 3 miles south of Newcastle (closed Friday)

No Charge For Any Young County Public Facility.

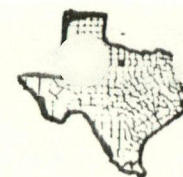


Young County's
first oil well,
The Lindy Lou No. 1
1917.

compiled, drawn, and published by
BARBARA NEAL LEDBETTER
(Copyright-1967)

LEGEND:

- O - Towns
- H - Highways
- + - Brazos Agency Indian Reservation, 1854-1859
- : - Graham Lake Powerhouses No. 1 and No. 2
- # - State Historical Medallions
- ⊙ - Forts
- * - Historical Sites, both marked and unmarked
- - First Oil Well, The Lindy Lou, 1917



- #1 Fort Belknap, named for Bvt. Gen. Wm. G. Belknap 1851
- #2 Brooks House, 1875
- #3 Medlan House, 1875
- #4 Medlan Primitive Baptist Church-1882
- #5 Holy Spirits Episcopal Church-1876(now called The Summer Chapel of St. Peter's By-The-Sea)
- #6 Town of Farmer, named for Rev. W. H. Farmer, founded in 1870's
- #7 Donnell Mill, 1876, founded by Donnell brothers, W. L. and T. F. Donnell
- #8 Gravesite of 3 Indian fighters, buried in Proffitt cemetery; Reuben Johnson, son of J. Allen Johnson; Patrick Euell Proffitt, son of Rev. Robt. S. Proffitt; Rice Carlton, son of Cooke and Mon-
- ⊙ Fort Belknap, open daily except Friday; fifteen acre park
- Fort Murray, 1864, no remains
- Fort Growl, 1860's, no remains, family fortress
- Fort Bragg, 1860's, no remains, family fortress
- * 1 Shawnee Springs, legendary springs named for Shawnee Indians who once roamed the area
- * 2 Cenotaph of Major R. S. Neighbors, U. S. Supt. of Indian Affairs in Texas; assassinated on streets of Belknap, 1859; also gravesites of Neuhaus brothers and S. P. Johnson, frontier rangers and Indian fighters
- * 3 Historic tree marking founding of Cattlemen's Association, 1877, located at 408 4th street, Graham
- * 4 Monument to 12 men who fought Indians in little Salt creek fight, 1869
- * 5 Monument to 3 men (Johnson, Carlton, Proffitt) killed by Kiowas on Elm creek, 1867
- * 6 Gravesite of famous frontiersman, Negro Britt Johnson and two other Negroes, Paint Crawford and Dennis Cureton, killed by Indians in 1873
- * 7 Eliasville, named for Elias Delong, first merchant in town, 1876
- * 8 Gravesite of William R. Peveler, ranger killed by Indians, 1864; Peveler ranch cemetery
- * 9 Stemm's Gap, where in 1854 Colonel Jesse Stemm was killed by Kickapoo Indians
- * 10 Gravesite of James James, War of 1812 soldier, lived to be 114 years of age; Gooseneck cemetery
- * 11 Graves of Marlow brothers, murdered in nighttime ambush, 1889
- * 12 Gravesite of Joseph A. Woolfolk, defense lawyer for Kiowa Chief Satanta and Big Tree in first non-tribal trials ever held; Indians were convicted for murder of Warren Wagon Train teamsters
- * 13 Site of Henry Warren's Wagon Train massacre-1871, teamster's gravesite
- * 14 Gravesite of Harry D. Williams, first county judge of re-organized county, 1874
- * 15 Abandoned coal mine sites, Newcastle, mines opened in 1908
- * 16 G. A. and E. S. Graham's Salt Works site, 1874 (Salt Works founded by Capt. A. B. Gant)
- * 17 Loving, Texas, named for Oliver Loving, famed trail driver of 1861
- * 18 Stovall Hot Wells; natural hot mineral water; E. C. Stovall built a bathhouse, a hotel, and a cafe at the site of his first well drilled in 1929 at depth of 4,250; founded 1932
- * 19 Site of Possum Kingdom Relays held at Graham Steer Stadium annually, the oldest invitational all high school track meet in Texas; originated 1947 under Coach Cy Young
- * 20 Site of Camp Van Camp, established April, 1859, abandoned August, 1859; marker at site placed there 1936 Texas Centennial Commission; located 75 yards southwest of present Newcastle water tower. Named for 2nd Lt. Cornelius Van Camp, U. S. 2nd Cavalry
- * 21 Site of Tackett and Hardy Grist Mill on Salt Creek-1874; also site of organization of Graham's first Methodist congregation by Rev. J. Pleasant Tackett
- * 22 Site of murder of Thomas Cherryhomes, "who died defending the records of Young county," February 24, 1915 (marker south side of courthouse)
- * 23 Site of Monument on courthouse square honoring Young county's Confederate soldiers
- * 24 Site in island on Third street in Graham where old archway has been preserved to mark the entrance to the third (of four) courthouses built in Young county. Present courthouse built in 1932
- * 25 Site of one of the oldest buildings in Young county, corner of Fourth street and Oak street, Graham. Building was once Graham Land Company, Tidwell Grocery Store, and now houses Devine Dress Shop. Building is post-Civil War and has no changes in the stone building since it was constructed

April 23, 1963

158-CHAH

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast Region

From: Chief, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Biennial Visits to Landmarks

Thank you very much for the reports on visits to the Landmarks for Raton Pass, Tombstone, JA Ranch, Mesilla Plaza, San Xavier del Bac, and Fort Belknap. We appreciate having these reports and learning of the present condition of these Landmarks.

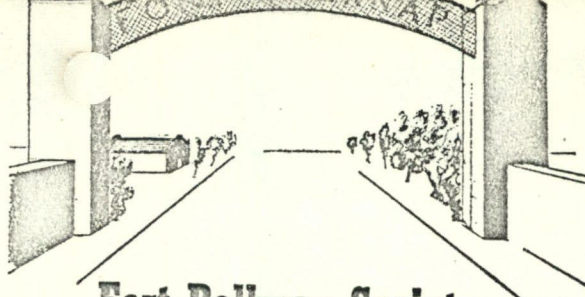
We note a comment by Historian Brown that the JA Ranch, Texas, was not open to visitors, and from his comments it appears that he is under the impression that availability to visitors is a requirement for granting Landmark status. Recognition of a site is not dependent upon its being open to visitors. We are happy, of course, for the Landmark owners to open their places to the public, but we cannot make it a requirement that they do so.

John O. Littleton

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:bj 4/22/63

(COPY)



FNP

Fort Belknap Society

MRS. BEN G. ONEAL, President

2201 MIRAMAR

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Newcastle Texas
November 13, 1967

Mr Stewart Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Udall:

Please find enclosed an easy to read, informative brochure, colored picture Post-Cards, and a Brief History of the beginning of the Restoration of Fort Belknap, now a Show-Place, and Recreational Center of this area in the Texas Tourist Development, but we need financial aid to continue the restoration. Our greatest need is financial aid in the restoration of another Infantry Quarters No 3 on its Original foundation (see Brochure Plat) size 28'X 81' feet to house the fast growing Fort Belknap Archives, established in 1961 (see brochure for data). The present small room is filled to capacity. Boyce House, and other valuable collections are offered, but at present there is no room to place them.

our committee have secured an Architect, plans, and specifications have been drawn to the pattern of Austin State Archives Austin Texas. Estimate cost is from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 (Twenty to Thirty Thousand Dollars) Equipment complete with Air conditioning.

We understand your Fort Restoration Committee is considering an allocation of this fund to Fort Richardson, Jack County, and Fort Griffin, which each received an allocation along with Fort Belknap in 1936 Texas Centennial Yr. but made a much less showing than Fort Belknap. Please include Fort Belknap. The grounds at Fort Belknap holds Ten Texas State, including one Nationally recognized Historical Markers. The last one set, and dedicated just last MO. to honor the memory of Major Robert Simpson Neighbors, Government Indian Agent in charge of all Indians of Texas, and while on duty was assassinated on the Streets of Fort Belknap, and is buried there in cemetery. Another one you brought, and presented to the Fort Belknap Historical Society, just after Senator Ben G. Oneal's death, who was president, and made all plans with you. his very efficient wife, Mrs Oneal is filling the Presidents Chair (see brochure and Postcards for data) Inscription on the Bronze Plaque: Fort Belknap has Been Designated a Registered National Landmark, by the United States Department of the Interior Park Service. 1961. A recent Book entitled "Frontier Forts Of Texas, including eight of the most important Forts of Texas Frontier, Fort Belknap is one of the eight inclusive. More than 25000 visited Fort Belknap 1967. Please consider a substancial allocation for Fort Belknap Archives BKDG

Yours Sincerely,

Fort Belknap Historical Society, Mrs Ben G. Oneal President

Mrs J.W. Bullock Secretary

Mrs J.W. Bullock

A HISTORY OF FORT BELKNAP

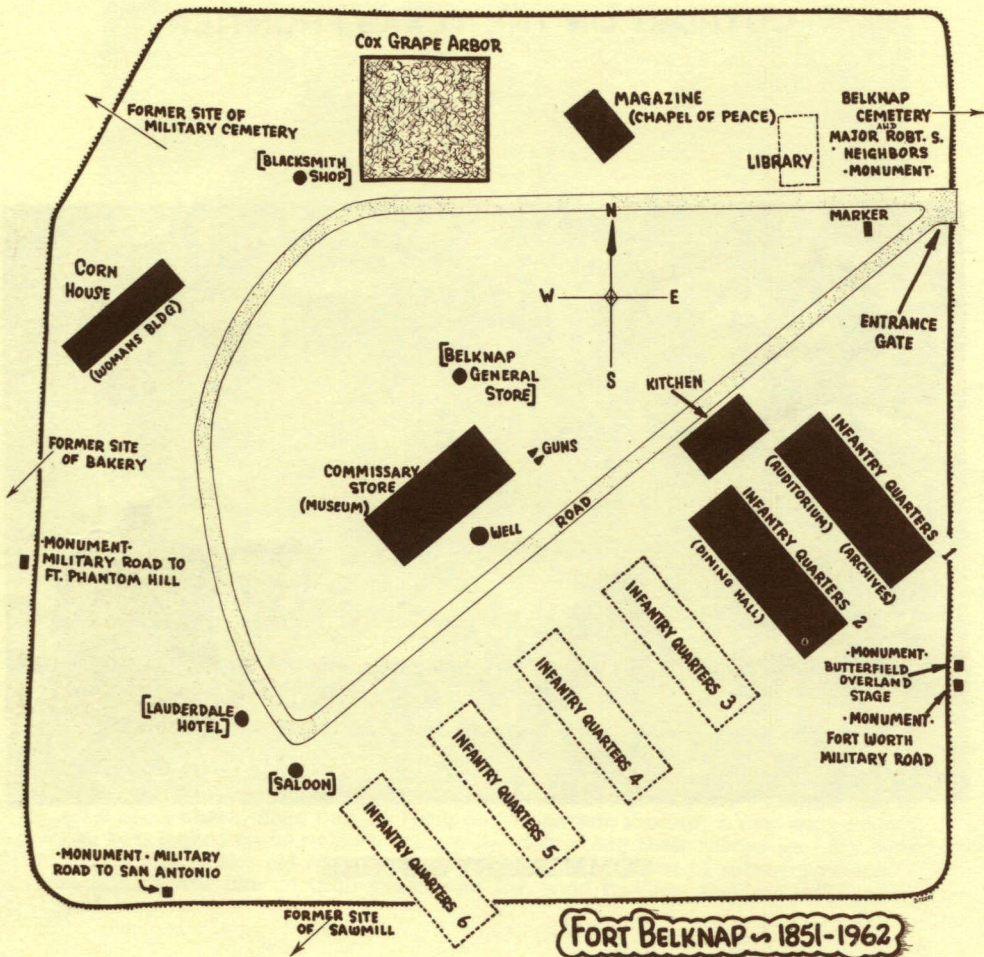
OUTPOST ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER



COMMISSARY'S STORE

THE FORT BELKNAP SOCIETY

FORT BELKNAP, TEXAS



LEGEND

- SOLIDS: RESTORED BUILDINGS
- DOTTED LINES: SITES OF OLD MILITARY BUILDINGS
- DOT AND BRACKETS: SITES OF POST CIVIL WAR BLDGS.
- PARENTHESES: PRESENTLY USED AS...

A HISTORY OF FORT BELKNAP ON THE UPPER BRAZOS

EARLY HISTORY

Fort Belknap anchor of a chain of forts stretching from the Red River to the Rio Grande, was founded on June 24, 1851. Brevet Brigadier General William Goldsmith Belknap, assisted by Captain Randolph Barnes Marcy, selected the original site on the Red or Salt Fork of the Brazos River in present Young County about ten miles below Marcy's California Road and about the same distance above the confluence of the Clear Fork. Under the direction of the first commanding officer, Captain Carter L. Stevenson, Fifth Infantry, two deep wells were dug without striking water. On November 1, 1851, therefore, Captain Stevenson moved Fort Belknap to a site he estimated to be about two miles below the first site. At the new location, springs near the bank of the Brazos furnished the water supply of the fort as late as 1853.

The buildings erected in 1851 were of logs. The first of these was the commissary store, measuring 18 by 180 feet. In subsequent years the following buildings were completed of native sand stone: The commissary store, the magazine, the bakery, six infantry quarters, and the corn house. Other buildings of jacal were the officers quarters, the hospital, the billiard room, and the company kitchen. Jacal was a Mexican type construction built by placing poles upright and glazing them with adobe or other material. Other buildings were the stable built picket style and the saw mill.

On December 27, 1855, the most elite military unit ever to be activated by the United States government, the Second United States Cavalry Regiment, commanded by a Texan, Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, marched through Fort Belknap enroute to posts in Texas. Company F, commanded by Captain Richard W. Johnson took possession of Fort Belknap in February of 1858. This distinguished regiment furnished seventeen generals of the Civil War, twelve of them Confederate. One of these was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Edward Lee, stationed at nearby Camp Cooper, but absent on leave and on detached service much of the time when ordered to serve on courts martial, or to perform other special duties.

Fort Belknap was the hub of a network of roads that stretched away to Dallas, Preston, Fort Worth, Fort Graham, Camp Colorado, Camp Cooper, the Indian agencies in Young and Throckmorton counties, Fort Phantom Hill, Fort Chadbourne, and San Antonio. A stage line for mail and passengers operated between Fort Belknap and Dallas, while the Butterfield Overland Mail Company operated a stage line from St. Louis to San Francisco by Fort Belknap.

In 1859 Fort Belknap was abandoned for lack of water. During the Civil War, it was occupied by a state force, the Frontier Regiment, commanded by Colonel James M. Norris. State troops from Fort Belknap participated in the ill fated attack on the Kickapoo Indians at the battle of Dove Creek. Citizens lived in some of the buildings, and according to David Allen, buffalo took refuge in some of them during snow storms.

In 1867 Fort Belknap was occupied briefly by the Sixth United States Cavalry. The buildings were in a delapidated condition, the water supply was inadequate and in the fall of that year, the United States troops marched away forever.

Civilians again occupied the buildings as dwellings and business houses in a new site for the town of Belknap. Over the years stones disappeared until only one building, the magazine, and part of another, the corn house, were standing.

RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE

In 1935 Senator Ben G. Oneal introduced an amendment to secure part of the appropriation of the state legislature for the Texas centennial observance making possible the restoration of Fort Belknap. The bill was signed by Governor Jimmie Allred. Local citizens supported the legislation. Supplemented by Federal funds, the total resources were used to restore the magazine, the corn house, the commissary store, two infantry quarters, the well and a kitchen.

The buildings and grounds of Fort Belknap, containing 20 acres, are maintained by Young County. The general oversight of the establishment and the management of the two museums and the archives that have grown up in the fort are in the care of the Fort Belknap Society. The museum in the com-

missary store is a general one of tools, weapons, and furnishings used mainly on the Fort Belknap frontier. Of special interest are the pictures of former officers stationed at the fort. The museum in the corn house contains mostly ladies' apparel, many of the pieces being gowns of the first ladies of Texas. One gown is that of Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, which she wore at the banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria honoring the general's return after the Second World War. Another of which the Society is also proud is that of Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, worn on the occasion of the general's triumphant return to the Philippines.

The Fort Belknap Archives of Western America was founded and endowed by Mrs. Ben G. Oneal in 1961, and is jointly sponsored by the Fort Belknap Society and Texas Wesleyan College. Its growing collection contains much Texas history and already is enhanced by rare documents. Copies of all military records concerning the fort during its active existence are being accumulated. The archives are also the depository of the Fort Belknap Genealogical Association organized May 19, 1962.

On the grounds are Texas centennial markers commemorating military roads and the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. Inside the gate to the fort, mounted on a boulder, is the plaque awarded by the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service denoting Fort Belknap as a registered national historic landmark of the United States.

THE CEMETERIES

In 1907 the remains of the soldiers in the military cemetery one-half mile northwest of the fort were disinterred and reburied in the national cemetery in San Antonio, except the remains of Colonel Jesse Stemm, killed by Kickapoo Indians in Stemm's Gap between Belknap and present Graham, which were reinterred in Washington, D. C., with high honors. Among the local citizens assisting in disinterring the remains of the soldiers were Earl Veal, George Perkins, and Jim Wood. The town cemetery is one-half mile east of the fort. Major R. S. Neighbors's monument is there.

THE TOWN

One-half mile east of Fort Belknap in 1856 the newly constituted Commissioners Court of Young County laid off the county seat of Belknap. A town of about 300 people grew up. Among the business establishments were the stage stand of the Butterfield Overland Mail and the general store, billiard hall and saloon of Conrad Neuhaus. Here in the town, Major Robert Simpson Neighbors, United States Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Texas, was assassinated on September 14, 1859; Charles Goodnight found his bride Mary Dyer; and Millie Durgan lived before her capture by the Indians.

SIDELIGHTS

The land which Fort Belknap occupied was never owned by the United States government. It was a part of the public domain of Texas. While the fort was active, an enterprising Texan surveyed the land and obtained a valid title to it from the state of Texas. The surveyor took his bearing off the chimneys of the fort and plotted the buildings neatly on his plat! Thus A. C. White became possessed of land containing an active United States fort.

During its active existence, troops from Fort Belknap assisted the Indian agents on the reservations in Young and Throckmorton counties in restraining the Indians and in protecting them from the abuse of the white settlers from other counties.

The martial tread of troopers' boots and the haunting strains of taps are heard no more at Fort Belknap (except when the Pershing Rifles drill team of Midwestern University's ROTC demonstrates at the annual meeting of the Fort Belknap Society), but 20,000 visitors and a great many meetings of organizations and family reunions attest the popularity of the fort as a cultural and recreational center. Its significance is again on the ascendancy.

Written by Kenneth F. Neighbours, Archivist, Fort Belknap Archives.

Pamphlets on Fort Belknap, its restoration, and other publications related to the area may be purchased in the museum in the commissary store.

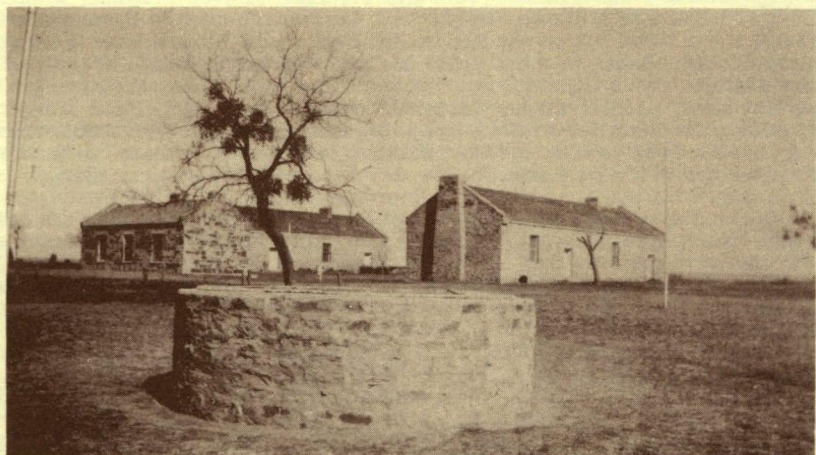
Fort Belknap is open daily except Friday.

Public restrooms are located in the east end of the second Infantry Quarters.

Copyright by the Fort Belknap Society. 1962.

550)	3rd	Plat of Belknap	32 33	Street	North					
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BELKNAP, TEXAS ... POST CIVIL WAR



The buildings were all of stone, and very substantially finished, but it having been abandoned at the outbreak of the rebellion and not occupied since except by rangers during the war, at the time I saw it, it was dilapidated and ruinous. The commissary and forage house were in a tolerable state of preservation, but the quarters and hospital were roofless and most of the wood work had been removed. The village adjacent to the fort had been a station of the overland mail route, and when it was occupied by settlers and the fort filled with troops I have no doubt it was, as I was informed it had been, the prettiest frontier post in Texas, but now desolation reigned supreme. Sand, sand everywhere; dead buffalo lying on the parade ground; a few ancient rats and bats looked on us with an evil eye for disturbing their repose, and my first night's rest in the old commissary was broken by visions of infantry sentinels stalking ghost-like on their beats, and the wind howling through the broken roof.

H. H. McConnell, *Five Years a Cavalryman:*
or Sketches of Regular Army Life on the Texas Frontier
Jacksboro, Texas, J. N. Rogers & Co., Printers, 1889.

Survey files
148

H30-HH

DEC 2 - 1967

Dear Mrs. Bullock:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Fort Belknap Historical Society requesting information as to the possible availability of Federal funds for restoration at Fort Belknap, Texas.

As you stated, Fort Belknap has met the necessary criteria of national historical significance entitling it to designation as a National Historic Landmark, a designation that was made in 1961. The national landmark program, however, has no provision for financial assistance for acquisition or development of historic properties.

The National Historic Preservation Act, P.L. 89-665, will eventually be a source of financial assistance for such projects. Funds available for this program during the 1968 fiscal year which began July 1 will be used largely for grants to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and for survey and planning activities by the States. When project money becomes available, the State Liaison Officer named by the Governor to carry out the State's responsibility under this law should be contacted as to whether projects would be eligible for assistance under the State plan. The State Liaison Officer for Texas is Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

We are happy to know of your continuing progress in the restoration of Fort Belknap, and we hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

(sgn) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Mrs. J. W. Bullock
Fort Belknap Society
Box 246
Newcastle, Texas 76372

cc:

Secretary's Reading File (2)

FW

DCCO

Regional Director, Southwest } w/c of inc.

HH - (2)

DAL, Mr. Melvin) w/c of inc.
NPS Copy

FBSarles:pj 11/27/67

S-22331

HHS 128

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

BIENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT

1. Name and Location: Fort Balknap
Newcastle, Texas Date: October 1970
Inspected by: _____
2. Type of Landmark: Historic Michael J. Becker
Theme: 6c2
Westward Expansion
Military - Indian Conflicts
Southern Plains
3. Owner: Young County, Texas
a. When designated: Same Person Contacted: _____
b. Present: (X) Same Mr. A. W. Whiteley
() New Newcastle - Route 1
Texas
4. Use: County park
a. When designated: Same
b. Present: (X) Same
() Changed as follows:

MAR 4 1971

DIVISION OF HISTORY	
SURNAME:	DATE
✓ HH	
HHP	
✓ HHS 128	3/8

5. Plaque and Certificate: Location and condition -

- a. Plaque Attractively mounted on boulder at entrance.
- b. Certificate Mounted inconspicuously on wall of Visitor Center.

6. Physical condition: Unusually fine

- a. When designated: Excellent

- b. Present: (X) Excellent; () Good; () Fair;
 () Poor

Comments:

An exceptionally well maintained park. The reconstructed buildings are well done and devoted to conforming uses. There is some question concerning the reconstructed kitchen, both as to material and location. This building seems to have been located so as to conform aesthetically rather than historically.

A Land and Water Conservation Fund grant is being processed for additional recreational facilities. These additional facilities will effect the historic integrity but not to the extent of jeopardizing its place on the National Register.

One additional reconstruction is planned. The county intends to reconstruct a third barracks building to be utilized as an archives.

A number of very good Fort Gibson historic publications are available at a sales counter.

7. Special Problems:

This site is an exceptionally fine county park. The park is very definitely recreation oriented and serves this purpose to an exemplary degree.

The national historic significance is subordinated to a marked degree.

The interpretive facilities consist of a typical miscellaneous collection of county memorabilia. Those items directly related to the Fort were quite indiscernible.

8. Suggestions offered to the owner: None.

Michael J. Becker

Michael J. Becker, Management Assistant
National Register and Landmarks



Fort Belknap, Texas. Original arsenal, built in 1852. Photo by Robert M. Utley, Oct. 18, 1958. Negative in Region Three Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Fort Belknap, Texas. Restoration of Commissary, looking southwest. Photo by Robert M. Utley, June 22, 1958. Negative in Region Three Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Fort Belknap, Texas. Restored barracks, looking north.
Photo by Robert M. Utley, June 22, 1958. Negative in
Region Three Office, National Park Service, Santa Fe,
New Mexico.

E. B. HARVEY

NPS SOUP

CE

FRANK B. HARVEY

JUL 9 1975

704 CITY NATIONAL BUILDING

July 14, 1975

Sincerely

Sincerely
Frank A. Benson

Ralph O. Harvey Jr., President
Fort Belknap Historical Society, Inc.
Newcastle, Texas 76372

RECEIVED
NPS SOUTH
FRANK B. HARVEY
JUL 17 1975
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THE FORT BELKNAP ARCHIVES, INCORPORATED

By Kenneth F. Neighbours, PhD., Professor of History Midwestern University
President and Archivist

The Fort Belknap Society, itself chartered on March 14, 1938, for the preservation of the fort, founded an archives in 1961 which the state of Texas incorporated separately on December 27, 1968 and which the United States recognized as tax exempt and its contributions as tax deductible.

The purpose of the Fort Belknap Archives is to preserve and make available for the public the military, social, and economic records of north central Texas, as well as the records of the chain of forts that stretched to the Rio Grande. This is the only such depository between Dallas and Lubbock and between Austin and Lawton. Besides the military records of Fort Belknap, the archives has accumulated a great wealth of material including private letters, diaries, newspapers, pictures, and business records, as well as the archives of the Fort Belknap Genealogical Association. The quantity of single documents number many thousands, in addition to the growing collection of books pertinent to the area. The directors some years ago established a perpetual trust fund for the future maintenance and care of the archives.

The cramped space in the orderly room of Infantry Quarters No. 1 will not nearly house the present holdings. The directors have engaged for some time in raising money to build a building with modern equipment to house and preserve the present and future holdings. Time is of the essence if the invaluable records of our past are to be preserved in the area where they originated and to be protected from fire, flood, neglect and loss. The prepared blueprints provide for temperature and humidity control, a large fireproof vault, fumigation cell, workrooms, reading room and other facilities.

All friends of the history of West Texas who would like to participate in preserving it and in leaving a lasting memorial to their interest are invited to join in the planned program of the Fort Belknap Archives, Incorporated. You will assist some scholar in reading the primary documents to catch a glimpse of the colorful Second Dragoons, Fifth Infantry, and the most elite unit ever put in the field by the United States, the Second Cavalry which furnished seventeen generals to the Civil War; or a postal card postmarked at the ghost town of Fort Griffin where the celebrated Lottie Deno held forth, the Tonkawa braves danced in their breech cloths, and the bar customers danced bare.

HARVEY DRILLING COMPANY

704 CITY NATIONAL BUILDING

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

The officers and members of the Fort Belknap Archives have raised in cash and valid pledges approximately half of the \$50,000 necessary to erect and equip the new facility without making an appeal to the general public. This present request for help is being addressed to a limited number of people whom we believe to be interested in preserving the rich historical and cultural records of this area.

Please take a moment to read Dr. Neighbours' attached explanation of this challenging cause, and if you think it worthy, make your contribution as liberal as possible.

Should you need additional information on any of the activities of Fort Belknap, please do not hesitate to call on myself or Dr. Neighbours.

Gratefully,

Ralph O. Harvey, Jr.
Chairman Finance Committee

ROHjr:me
Enclosure

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

SITE Fort Belknap

LOCATION Newcastle, Texas

DAY(S) VISITED August 2, 1977
Month Day(s) Year

VISITED BY Bert L. Speed
(Name)

Chief Park Interpreter
(Title)

Chickasaw National Recreation Area
(Address)

(405) 622-3165
(Phone Number)

PERSON(S) CONTACTED, WITH TITLE(S) _____

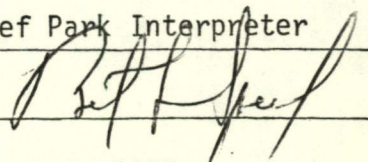
Mr. Gibbs, Caretaker

Mr. Ted Clark

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Name Bert L. Speed

Title Chief Park Interpreter

Signature 

Date August 8, 1977

REPORT

- I. Did you have any difficulty making contact with the owner or administrator in advance of your visit? Yes _____ No X If yes, please describe:
- II. Did you feel that your visit was welcome? X not welcome? _____
If not, please describe circumstances:
- III. Was the material provided by SWRO ample and helpful? Yes X No _____
If not, please explain:
- IV. Approximately how long did you spend at the site? 2 1/2 hours
- V. Please describe the condition of the site (structure(s), grounds, furnishings, etc.)

Buildings reconstructed--some aspects of reconstruction not historically correct, ie; asphalt shingles.
- VI. Based on the reasons for the original designation, is it your opinion that the integrity of the site is being adequately maintained? Yes X No _____
If no, please explain:
- VII. Please describe in detail the management of the site (owner-managed, employee-managed, government-managed, etc.):

Managed by the Fort Belknap Society with help from the county.
- VIII. In your opinion, is the site management adequate? Yes X No _____ If you have any reservations, please describe:

IX. Is the site use or commercial purposes? Yes No X If yes, does this present any problems related to maintaining the integrity of the site? Yes No If yes, please describe:

X. Please describe any financial problems related to the site:

Finances for operation of the new archives building are near the break even point.

XI. What other problems did you encounter, if any?

None

XII. What specific suggestions, if any, did you make to the owner or administrator?

None

XIII. What follow-up action do you suggest for the SWRO and/or others?

None

XIV. Is there any urgency regarding the suggested action? Yes No
If yes, please clarify:

N/A

XV. If this site is being managed under the terms of a signed agreement, has the plaque been mounted? Yes X No If yes, describe exact location. If no, please explain why it has not been accepted or not been mounted. Also, describe location of the Certificate.

Mounted on large stone just inside entrance. The certificate is displayed in the archives building.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Comments: They have reconstructed a barracks. It houses the archives. It has a 43 ft. 9 inches x 24 ft. x 9 ft. concrete vault with steel doors.

(PLEASE ENCLOSE PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS, COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE, OR ANY OTHER MATERIALS WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE REPORT)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 19 1983

Mr. M.L. Barrett
County Judge
P.O. Box 298
Graham, Texas 76046

Re: Fort Belknap
Graham,
Young Cty., TX

Dear Mr. Barrett:

The National Park Service has been working to establish boundaries for all National Historic Landmarks for which no specific boundary was identified at the time of designation and therefore are without a clear delineation of the amount of property involved. The benefits now afforded such properties by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as well as the possible application of other statutes, make it essential that we define specific boundaries for each Landmark.

In accordance with the National Historic Landmark program regulations, the National Park Service notifies owners, public officials and other interested parties and provides them with an opportunity to make comments on the proposed boundaries. We are requesting your comments on the proposed boundary for the Landmark stated above and described in the enclosed form.

National Historic Landmark designation has several possible implications, most of which derive from the automatic listing of Landmarks in the National Register of Historic Places. Landmarks are eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation. All Landmarks receive limited protection through comments by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally funded, assisted, or licensed undertakings on historic properties.

A Landmark property which is depreciable may be subject to certain provisions of the Tax Reform of 1976, as amended by the Revenue Act of 1978 and the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. These Acts contain provisions intended to encourage the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation, and to discourage destruction of historic buildings by eliminating certain Federal tax provisions for demolition of historic structures. Beginning January 1, 1982, the Economic Recovery Tax Act replaces the rehabilitation tax incentives available under prior law with a 25% investment tax credit for rehabilitations of certain historic commercial, industrial and residential rental buildings. This can be combined with a 15 year cost recovery period for the adjusted basis of the historic building. Historic buildings with certified rehabilitations receive additional tax savings because owners are allowed to reduce the basis of the building by one half the amount of the credit. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 includes provisions regarding charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.

Section 9 of the Mining in National Parks Act of 1976 allows the Secretary of the Interior to request comments from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on any surface mining activity that might irreparably damage a National Historic Landmark. If a Landmark contains coal resources, certain provisions of the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977 make it less likely that surface mining of the coal will be permitted by the State or Federal government.

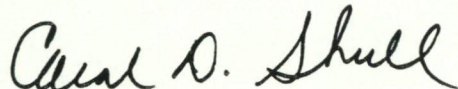
We will be happy to receive any comments you care to make on the proposed boundaries within 60 days of the date of this letter. Please address your reply to Jerry L. Rogers, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attention: Chief of Registration.

Because National Historic Landmarks possess significance for all Americans, they are among the most important of the tangible reminders of our country's rich heritage. Designation honors both the Landmarks themselves and the individuals and organizations who have worked to preserve them.

We are pleased to inform you of the status of the pending National Historic Landmark boundary delineation and look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, our staff will be happy to assist you (202-343-9536).

We appreciate your interest in the National Historic Landmark program and your cooperation in this project.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division

Copies sent to public officials, SHPO and property owners.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SEP 21 1983

Mr. M. L. Barrett
County Judge
P.O. Box 298
Graham, Texas 76046

Re: Fort Belknap
Graham,
Young Cty., TX

Dear Mr. Barrett:

We are pleased to inform you that the boundary proposed for the above property has been formally established by the National Park Service. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is eligible for the benefits of listing described in earlier correspondence. We gave careful consideration to the comments we received and in some cases the documentation or boundary has been revised if the National Park Service concurred with the comments. The date of the Keeper of the National Register's signature on the enclosed form is the date the boundary was formally established.

We appreciate your cooperation and interest in the National Historic Landmarks program.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division

Enclosure

Copies sent to public officials, SHPO and property owners.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

TE

9-28

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Virginia Wulftink | Tex SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Ft Belknap State Park

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Public: private

← Association →
Is private - not a
State park
(title unclear for
a long time)

Barbara Hedbetter - Fort Belknap historian -
author of book on
Fort Belknap

10/4/83

Call Katherine Bailey 817-549-1786

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Shull

Young Co.
See NHC file

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

part of a chain of forts to restrain Indian raids on settlements + to discourage attacks on goldseekers on the Marcy Wagon Trail

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

County Parks

Commissary Bldg. + old well reconstructed on original foundations 1936 WPA project
Several barracks reconstructed (2 or 3)
6 bldgs in all restored

Fort Belknap - Texas

6 stone bldgs., 2 original

Established in 1851 following the Mexican War when the Texas frontier was being ravished by Comanche-Kiowa raids, Fort Belknap became the key post in a chain of outer border posts to protect the exposed frontier. The exceptional value of Fort Belknap rests upon its role in the protection of the Texas frontier during the years of its most active advance, 1850-1865. Of the forts that made up the "outer ring" in these years, Fort Belknap bore the brunt of the Kiowa-Comanche assault, and originated the military offensives that, on occasion, carried retaliation to the Indian homeland.

Throughout the 1850's the Texas frontier was the object of repeated destructive raids by Kiowas and Comanches. One-fifth of the United States Army, often bolstered by Texas Rangers and state troops, attempted to defend it against the Indians. Judging from the catalog of atrocities, Fort Belknap and vicinity was the most dangerous segment of the frontier at that time.

Though United States troops were withdrawn at the outbreak of the Civil War, fighting raged between the Indians and the Texas Frontier Regiment whose troops used the fort throughout the Civil War as a base of operations against Comanches and Kiowas. After the Civil War, U.S. troops re-occupied the Texas forts, but Fort Belknap was discontinued as a permanent fort in 1867 because of its unreliable water supply.

Young County, in cooperation with the Fort Belknap Society, administers part of the fort site as a county park. The remainder of the site has been lost in surrounding farm lands. The park was developed in 1936 by the State of Texas with Federal money made available for observance of the Texas Centennial. The only surviving structure of the original fort is the arsenal, built in 1852.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Texas 2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. Military ; and
Theme XV, Westward Expansion, Subtheme: Indian Affairs

3. NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Belknap 4. APPROX. ACREAGE 5

5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Young County, northwest of Graham,
one mile south of junction of State 24 with State 251

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)

Commissioners Court of Young County

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

Following the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War, the demands of settlers on the North Texas frontier for protection against Kiowa and Comanche raids from the north and west became so insistent that the Government at last took action and laid out a chain of forts. They were Forts Graham (1848), Worth (1849), Gates (1849), Croghan (1849), and Mason (1849). Before these forts had even been completed, however, the frontier of settlement had advanced farther north and west. General William G. Belknap, therefore, was sent to survey the frontier and select sites for another system of forts. These were Forts Belknap (1851), Phantom Hill (1851), Chadbourne (1852), McKavett (1852), and Clark (1852). There was thus an inner and an outer ring of forts enclosing the frontier of settlement during the 1850's.

On the outer ring, Fort Belknap was the key link in the chain, thrust, as it was, northward towards the Kiowa-Comanche country, Judging from the catalog of Indian atrocities perpetrated in the vicinity of the post during the decade of the 1850's, the garrison was inadequate to protect that segment of the frontier. In 1858, however, a squadron of the Second Cavalry under Major Earl Van Dorn rode north from Fort Belknap, established a temporary camp, Radziminski, on Otter Creek in Indian Territory, and from there located and severely defeated a large village of Comanches at the battle of Rush Springs. In 1852, Fort Belknap served as base for the exploration of the upper Red River country conducted by Capt. R. B. Marcy and Lt. George B. McClellan.

Around the fort the settlement of Fort Belknap grew up. Between 1858 and 1861 it was an important station on the Butterfield Overland Stage route. At this time, the fort was commanded by Major George H. Thomas.

Nearby were two small reservations where lived Wichita and affiliated tribes of friendly Indians. In 1859 the settlers, hostile towards all Indians, forced the Government to move these Indians to Indian Territory, where they were located on the Wichita Reserve at Fort Cobb and, subsequently, at the Anadarko Agency.

(Continued on Supplementary Sheet)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) C. C. Rister, The Southwestern Frontier, 1865-1881 (Cleveland, 1928). Ben G. Oneal, "The Beginnings of Fort Belknap," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. LXI (1958). J. Evetts Haley, Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman (Norman, 1949). W. S. Nye, Carbine and Lance (Norman, 1937). R. P. and M. B. Conkling, The Butterfield Overland Mail (Glendale, 1947), Vol. I. R. N. Richardson, The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement (Glendale, 1933).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

None

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <u>Good</u>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <u>Park, Museum</u>	13. DATE OF VISIT <u>June 22, 1958</u>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <u>Robert M. Utley</u>	15. TITLE <u>Historian</u>	16. DATE <u>July 11, 1958</u>	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	Texas	NAME(S) OF SITE	Fort Belknap
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7. Importance and Description (cont'd). Before the move, local settlers took matters into their own hands and attacked the Wichitas. Several skirmishes were fought before orders came for removal of the tribes to Indian Territory. They were escorted north by a squadron of the Second Cavalry under Major Thomas.

On the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Belknap, together with all other Texas forts, was evacuated by U.S. troops. It continued, however, to play a vital role in frontier defense. Troops of the Texas Frontier Regiment used it throughout the war as a base for operations against the Kiowas and Comanches, and for protection of surrounding settlements.

After the Civil War, U.S. troops reoccupied the Texas forts. Fort Belknap, because of the unreliable water supply, was soon discontinued as a permanent post (1867), although small detachments were based there from time to time for protection of the mail road and during periods of particularly intense Indian raiding activity. Fort Richardson, to the east, took over Belknap's role in frontier defense. A small body of soldiers garrisoned the fort in 1871 when General William T. Sherman visited it on his famous inspection of the Texas frontier. The next day, between Belknap and Fort Richardson, he narrowly escaped death at the hands of a Kiowa raiding party that massacred the Warren wagon train, which was following the Sherman group. This episode, the "Jacksboro Incident," led to the arrest of Satanta and Big Tree and their unprecedented trial in a Texas State court. After the subjugation of the Kiowas and Comanches in 1874-75, Fort Belknap fell into disuse and, ultimately, ruins.

The fort is now a county park administered in cooperation with the Fort Belknap Society. The only original structure on the site is the arsenal, built in 1852. It has been reroofed, but the original walls are still standing. The old well, also, has survived. The rest of the structures, all of stone construction with shingled roofs, are restorations carefully built by the State on the original foundations as part of the Texas Centennial observance in 1936. There are six such replicas, which include barracks, a kitchen, and the Commissary. The Commissary houses a museum collection of artifacts pertaining to the history of the region.



Times Publishing Co., Wichita Falls, Tex

No. 44

Fort Belknap

44. Fort Belknap, Tex. The commissary building, carefully reconstructed in 1936 on the original foundations, contains a small museum. The old well has also been reconstructed. ~~National Park Service photograph.~~ Times Publishing Co., Wichita Falls, Tex.



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The powder magazine at Fort Belknap, an original structure, now houses a small chapel. National Park Service photograph.

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45. The powder magazine at Fort Belknap, an original structure,
now houses a small chapel. National Park Service photograph.