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Locality and History of Post.

Fort Zarah Kansas is a small defensive station built on the Military reservation situated in the State of Kansas Lat 38° 23' North and Long 98° 45' West

The Fort is one mile north of the Arkansas River a narrow torteous Creek (Walnut Creek) intervening and running about midway bitwixt the Fort and the river the Fort lies on low bottom land a range of bluffs stritch past it in a north-eastirnly direction distant about two miles The cite of the Fort Building is higher than the adjacent land, it stands upon a kind of knoll at whose base lies a chain of hollows which by opening one into another form as it were a natural ditch through which all drainage is directed into the Creek spoken of above

Locality and History of Post.

Perigraph of Fort Building Fort Zarah Kansas.

Dimensions
Barracks 45 by 50 ft
S. Mess Room & S. Kitchen
Both same size 18 by 25 ft
Orderly Room 13 " 20 ft
Officers Kitchen 11 " 23 ft
Perimeter of Officers Quarters 102 ft
" " Dispensary & office " "
Quartermaster's Store Room 23 by 30 ft
Commissary " " 25 " 30 ft
Perimeter of entire building is 468 ft

Explanation of figures used.
⋈ represents a window
⊔ " " an outer large door
⊓ and ⊔ " doors which open in the direction of the unconnected ends.

Description of Post.

Fort Zarah Kansas

The general shape of the Fort Building is that of a parallelogram with a pentagonal shaped extension of its Northern and Southern angles. The Fort is built of a red sandstone quarried in the immediate vicinity: the walls of the main part of the building are ten feet and those of the towers at its angles fifteen feet high.

The Fort is a small defensive station intended to accommodate one Company of Soldiers with its Officers and the necessary stores and provisions within its walls. The diagram will give an idea of the shape and extent of the Fort Building. The long sides of the quadrilateral, or the main part of the Fort Building, are (106) one hundred and six and the short sides (60) sixty feet long while each and every side of the towers measures (17) seventeen feet. The main portion of the building is neither ceiled or plastered that work having been performed only in the case of the towers. The roof of the entire building is of tin and owing to some defect either of material or craft in placing it (the latter most probably) very little protection from rain is afforded. The outer walls of the building contain (5) five doors and (23) twenty three windows, while loop-holes for defensive purposes amounting to (48) forty eight in all are cut at regular intervals. A large Cellar (15) fifteen by (50) fifty feet extends the whole width of the building under the soldiers Mess-room and Kitchen it contains a well of water which was for some time sufficient to supply a garrison of one company of soldiers but ultimately failed almost entirely. The entire building is provided with a board floor. Two wooden and one stone partition divide the main building into three large apartments, a wooden and a stone partition again subdivide these rooms into smaller ones, the interior being thus seperated into (6) six divisions the shape, extent and occupancy of each will be found indicated on the diagram. The towers at each angle are also divided by a longitudinal partition.

The barracks were built to accommodate (100) one hundred soldiers but seldom more than one half or two thirds that number have been placed in it owing to its construction being without ceiling and the end walls being twice the height of those at the side ample air space is secured to each man. the bunks are of wood and are arranged in a single row around the four sides of the room two stoves are used in heating it and candles only are used for lighting it at night. it contains no

Description of Post.

furniture of any kind the men using their chests as seats The Soldiers Mess Room and Kitchen are rooms of the same size the former has one table and two benches, the latter is unprovided with furniture, it contains a small pump (iron) which communicating with the well in the cellar for a time supplied the garrison with water. The rooms marked on the diagram as Commissary and Quartermaster's Store Rooms were originally built for stables and were at one time used for that purpose for the past year however (1869) they have been used as Store rooms. The tower at the northern extremity of the building is used as Quarters for Officers, that at the opposite angle is divided into two rooms one of which is used as an Office by the Adjutant, Quartermaster and Commissary Departments the other containing the Medical and Hospital supplies is used as a Dispensary The Post is without a Hospital I have understood that it was the original intention to add another story to the Southern tower and use the upper portion as a Hospital. A Covered sink is provided for the soldiers, three sides are enclosed by boards and it is roofed with the same material it is situated about (100) one hundred yards in rear of the Fort Building, its location is frequently changed it is kept clean, dirt is often filled in & disinfectants freely used.

A Hospital tent is used in lieu of a Guard House which is pitched about (40) forty yards in rear and to one side (Western) of the Fort Building it is warmed by a single stove Candles are used to illuminate it by night it is daily policed and is generally occupied by a guard of (6) six men There being no quarters near the Post provided for married soldiers and their families "A" tents are employed for that purpose of which there are two and they are pitched about (60) sixty yards in rear of the Fort Building. The Bakehouse and Blacksmith Shop are also about (20) twenty yards in rear of the Fort Building they are "in line" about (18) eighteen yards apart the Bakehouse is a wooden building (12) twelve by (15) fifteen feet it is provided with a large brick oven under cover and has no furniture excepting a roughly constructed kneading trough and a few common utensils One man is kept constantly on duty and in charge of the Bakery as Post Baker. The Blacksmith Shop is a small building (8) eight by (10) feet in size built of adobe and thatched with willow twigs - it is but scantily provided with the necessary smithing tools

Instead of stables a plot of ground (80) eighty by (90) ninty feet and about (120) one hundred and twenty yards in rear and to one side (West) of the Fort Building has been enclosed by planting stout logs perpendicularly side by side in the ground, three sides of this enclosure are banked up with loose straw and dirt thus sheltering the animals from rough weather it is daily cleaned the manure being

Description of Post.

hauled some distance from the Post and scattered over the Prairie

Calls, time of Sounding

Head Quarters Fort Zarah Kansas
October 1st 1869

General Orders
No 7

On and after this date calls will be sounded as follows

Reveille	Day break
Stable call	Immediately after
Breakfast call	7 o'clock A M
Surgeons call	7.30
Fatigue call	Immediately after
Recall from fatigue	8.30 A M
Guard mounting	9.00
Water call	Immediately after
Drill (Mounted)	9.30 A M
Recall from Drill	10.30
Dinner call	12.00 M
Fatigue	1.00 P M
Recall from fatigue	3.00
Drill call (Dismounted)	3.15
Recall from Drill	4.00
Stable call	4.15
Retreat	Sundown
Tattoo	8.00 P M
Taps	8.30

(Signed) Nicholas Nolan
Captain 10th U S Cav
Commanding Post

Description of Post.

An estimate was made during the year 1868 to build a small Adobe at this post. The material used in Erection (Adobes) was either made on the spot or Collected from some old Ruins near the Fort. The Hospital foundation was laid during the year 1868 and although the work was abandoned for a time owing to the discharge of all Q.M. Employés it was resumed Early in the year 1869 and under the Superintendence of Lt B. F. Bell the then Post Quartermaster rapidly pushed toward Completion. The work being accomplished by Q.M. Employees aided by Enlisted men from Co K 10th U.S. Cav. The outer walls of the building were Completed about the middle of April 1869 and was entirely demolished the Ensuing night by the violence of a severe Sandstorm on the following morning the building was a Confused heap of ruins. The Chief defect in this building was its size it being altogether too small for a Hospital Even for a One Company post no allowance seems to have been made for the Extreme thickness of the outer & partition walls and after the walls were up it was found that they encroached so much upon dimensions which in any Contracted at best that very little more room was secured inside than Could obtained in a Hospital tent.