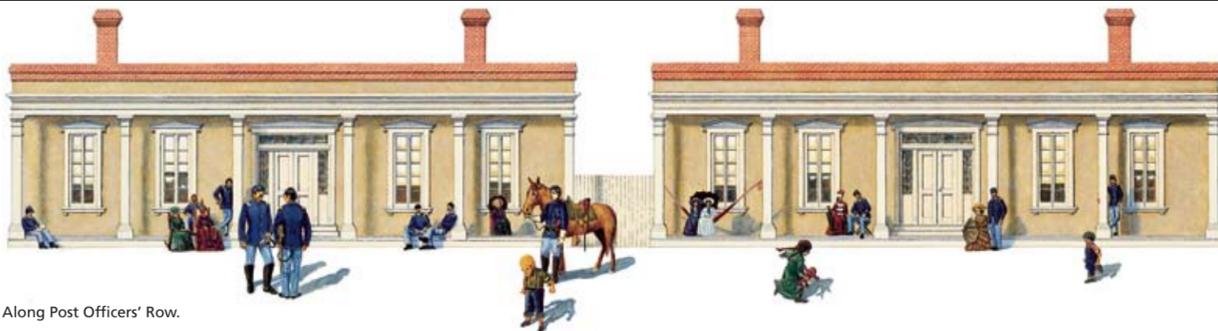


Touring Fort Union



Along Post Officers' Row.

Fort Union National Monument is 28 miles north of Las Vegas, N. Mex., on I-25. Take exit 366 and then drive eight miles west on N. Mex. 161. The park is open every day from 8 am–6 pm, Memorial Day through Labor Day; 8 am–4 pm the rest of the year. It is closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. There are no camping facilities, but picnic tables, drinking water, and modern restrooms are provided. Las Vegas has food, lodging, and auto, medical, and camping services.

The ruins of Fort Union are an impressive memorial to the men and women who won the West. It may be difficult, however, to look at these melted adobe walls and the few chimneys that rise above ground level and realize that this was once the largest U.S. military installation on the 19th-century southwestern frontier. The diagram below, which you should use while touring the ruins, is an attempt to recapture something of the size, appearance, and functions of the original Fort Union complex.

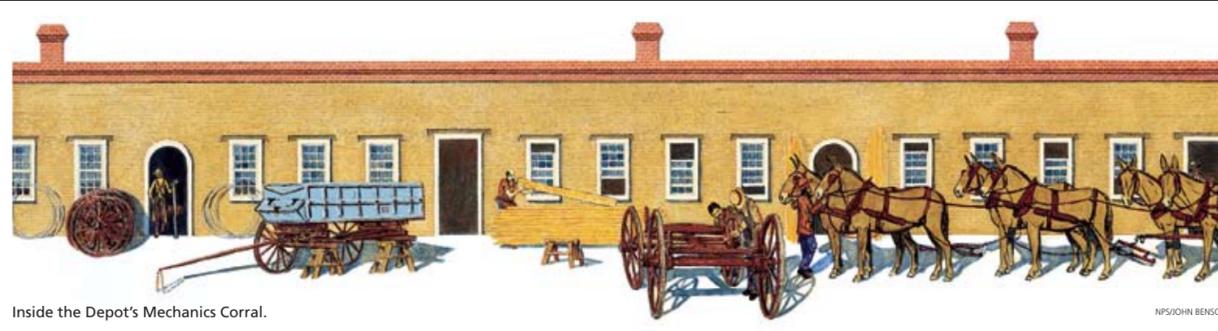
The stone building foundations and some of the adobe walls are still visible, so you should have no difficulty matching what you see on the site to appropriate locations on the diagram. A self-guiding trail (shown in white on the diagram) leads through the ruins and to the remains of the second fort erected during the Civil War. The ruins of the ordnance depot are visible across the valley to the west, on the first fort site.

More Information
Fort Union National Monument
P.O. Box 127
Watrous, NM 87753
505-425-8025
www.nps.gov/foun

Fort Union is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.



Post Officers' Quarters



Inside the Depot's Mechanics Corral.



Mechanics Corral



Post Commander's Home

A word of caution: Fort Union is being preserved as an outdoor museum. While every effort has been made to provide for your safety, you must remain alert and exercise caution during your visit. The ruins, though stabilized, can fall if climbed on. Stay on the established paths and be alert for rattlesnakes when the ground is warm. If you do encounter one, back away slowly, go around it, and report it to a park ranger.

Also, thunderstorms with accompanying lightning, hail, strong winds, and an occasional tornado are common during summer afternoons. Be alert, watch the clouds.

Remember, too, that it is against the law in all NPS areas to pick up artifacts, plants, animals, and minerals. Look at them. Enjoy them. Leave them for others to enjoy.

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