
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library & Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

PC 050
Fort Whipple
Photograph Collection, 1905-1908

DESCRIPTION

Loose photograph album pages with photographs of the reconstruction of buildings at Fort Whipple, Arizona from 1905 to 1908. The photographs illustrate the process of construction from laying foundations to the completed buildings. These are mostly interior views but there are also a few views of interiors.

4 Boxes, 4 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Presented to the Arizona Historical Society in 1959 by Miss Eleanor B. Sloan, who received the collection from Mrs. Charles C. Walcott in 1950.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

Finding aid was completed by Aubrey Carrier, intern, in March 2001. Collection was first processed at an earlier date.

ARRANGEMENT

Chronological

HISTORICAL NOTE

Fort Whipple was one of several United States military posts created after the Mexican War for the purpose of providing jurisdiction in the territory acquired from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The fort was named in honor of Major General Amiel W. Whipple, who surveyed the route from Albuquerque across Arizona in 1853. Originally located at Del Rio Spring in Chino Valley, the fort was established on December 23, 1863, by California volunteer troops under the command of Major Edward B. Willis. The garrison was moved to Granite Creek, near Prescott (which was then the Arizona Territory's capital city), on May 18, 1864.

Due to its distant location from the Apache wars of the 1880s, Fort Whipple became obsolete, and department headquarters were moved to Los Angeles early in 1887. After being discontinued in 1898, the post was re-garrisoned in 1902, but ultimately reverted to inactive status in 1913. In 1922 the ownership of the land transferred to the Treasury Department for use by the Public Health Service, and a Veterans Administration Hospital was subsequently built at the site.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of approximately 1,200 black-and-white photographs of the reconstruction of Fort Whipple from 1905 to 1908, after its reinstatement as an active post. The photographs detail construction and feature images of the grounds in general, the reservoir and water line, Granite Creek, and officers' homes, barracks and other residences in the process of being built. The construction process is shown beginning with laying foundations, framing, bricklaying, and more. There are also views of construction of a bowling alley (f.9-10), the guardhouse, ordnance storehouse, coal shed, wagon shed, bake house, and more.

A series of copies from original albumen prints show the finished result of Fort Whipple's reconstruction (originals are housed in Rare). One image shows a hammock on the front porch of a home. The collection includes an original, handwritten inventory of the photographs, as well as a handwritten expense account detailing the costs of camera equipment and film development. The photographs retain the original order established by the creator.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- f. 1 Original Photograph Inventory
- f. 2 Reservoir
- f. 3 Water Line
- f. 4 Channel
- f. 5-6 Grounds, etc.
- f. 7 Granite Creek
- f. 8 Site 25
- f. 9-10 Site 35 (including bowling alley construction)
- f. 11 Expense Account for Photography Equipment
- f. 12 Site 4 – Captain’s quarters

Box 2

- f.13 Site 5 – Captain’s quarters
- f. 14 Site 6 – Captain’s quarters (including interiors)
- f. 15 Site 8 – Lieutenant’s quarters
- f. 16 Site 10 – F. O. quarters
- f. 17 Site 11 – Lieutenant’s quarters
- f. 18 Site 12 – Lieutenant’s quarters
- f. 19 Site 13 - Site 14 – Lt.’s quarters (interior & exterior)
- f. 20 Site 14 - Site 15 – Lt.’s quarters (interior & exterior)
- f. 21 Site 21-A – N.C.O. quarters (including porch construction)
- f. 22 Site 22-A – N.C.O. quarters
- f. 23 Site 23 – N.C.O. quarters

Box 3

- f. 24-25 Site 30 – Cavalry barracks, single (interior & exterior)
- f. 26-28 Site 32 - Site 33 - barracks
- f. 29 Site 36 – Guardhouse (interior & exterior)
- f. 30 Site 37 – Administration building
- f. 31-32 Sites 38, 39, 41, 43, 46, 48 – ordnance, oil house, bake house, coal shed, wagon shed, fire app. building

Box 4

Loose copy prints from albumen prints (originals housed in Rare)
(Completed buildings including hammock, wagons, and one stereograph
of Officer’s quarters in 1878.)