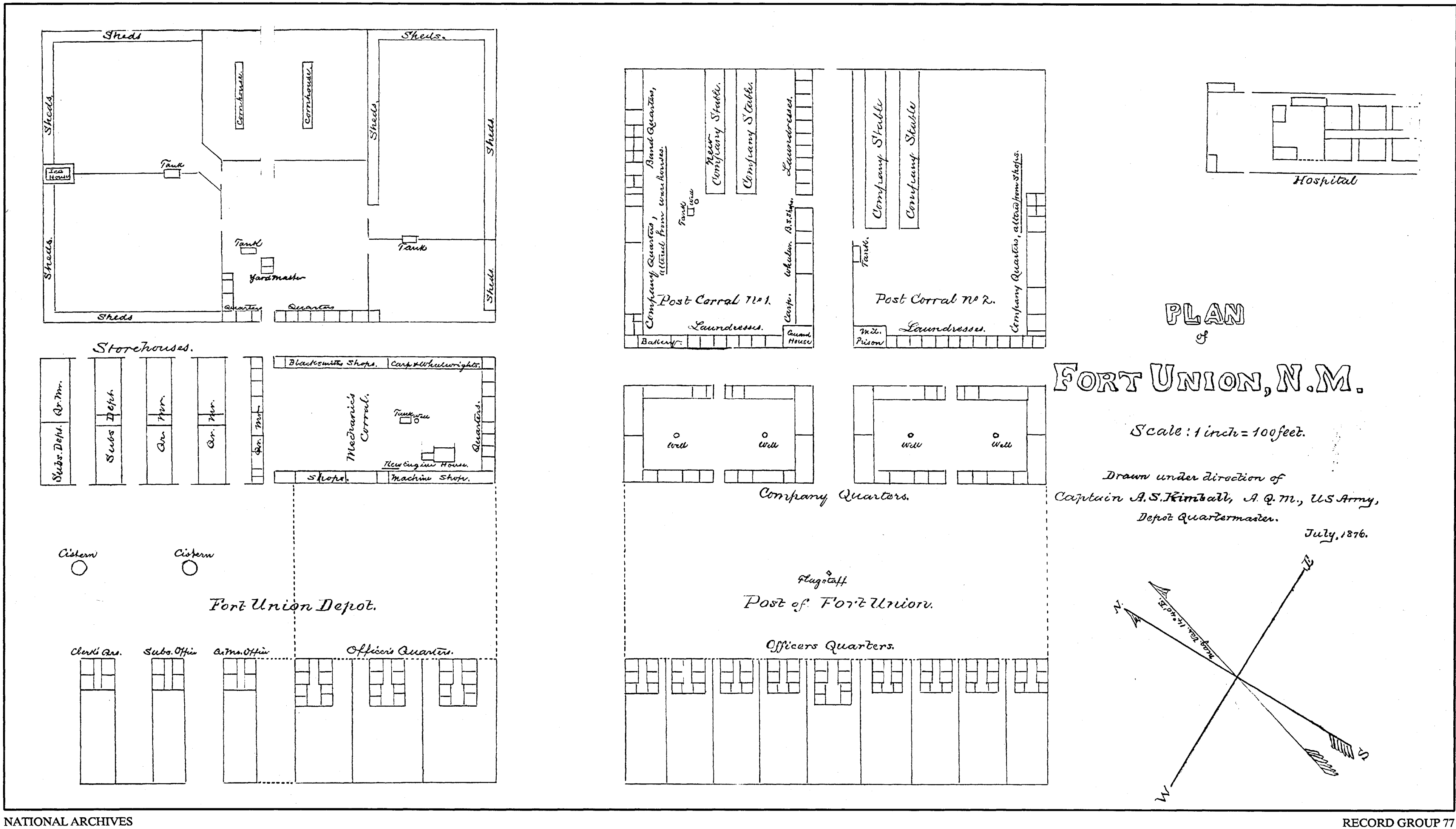


FORT UNION

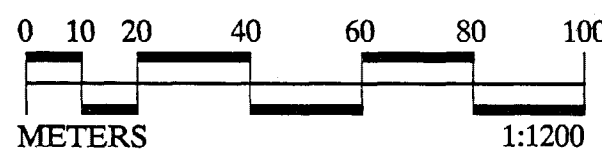
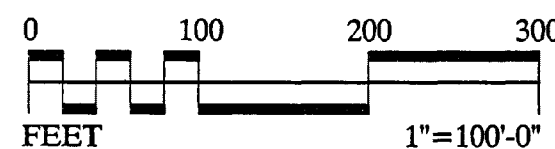


NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RECORD GROUP 77

SITE PLAN

1"=100'-0" 1:1200



FOLLOWING THE CONQUEST OF NEW MEXICO BY THE UNITED STATES IN 1846, TRAFFIC ALONG THE SANTA FE TRAIL INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THE NEED TO PROVIDE TRAVELERS WITH GREATER PROTECTION FROM THE INDIANS, ALONG WITH THE NEED FOR A SUPPLY DEPOT FOR THE NEW SOUTHWESTERN FORTS, LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST FORT UNION BY THE U.S. ARMY IN 1851. THE LOCATION CHOSEN WAS APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES NORTHEAST OF SANTA FE, STRATEGICALLY SITUATED NEAR THE JUNCTION OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL BRANCHES OF THE TRAIL, THE MOUNTAIN BRANCH AND THE CIMARRON CUTOFF. APPROXIMATELY 30 LOG BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED AT A SITE AT THE BASE OF THE SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS.

WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR IN 1861, THE VULNERABLE LOCATION OF THE FIRST FORT UNION QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT, AND A NEW FORT WAS HASTILY CONSTRUCTED ABOUT ONE-AND-ONE-HALF MILES EAST ON THE VALLEY FLOOR. THIS SECOND FORT CONSISTED OF EARTHWORKS IN THE SHAPE OF AN EIGHT-POINTED STAR, ENCLOSING SEVERAL CRUDE LOG BUILDINGS. IN JANUARY 1862 MAJ. GEN. HENRY H. SIBLEY, THE LAST PRE-WAR COMMANDER AT FORT UNION, MARCHED NORTH FROM EL PASO WITH THREE CONFEDERATE REGIMENTS, INTENT ON CAPTURING FEDERAL ARMS AND SUPPLIES IN NEW MEXICO, AND ULTIMATELY THE COLORADO GOLD FIELDS. THE TROOPS AT FORT UNION, JOINED BY A REGIMENT OF COLORADO VOLUNTEERS, MARCHED WEST AND ENGAGED THE CONFEDERATES AT THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS, 26-28 MARCH 1862, FORCING SIBLEY TO RETREAT. WITH THE CONFEDERATE THREAT IN THE WEST ENDED, PLANNING BEGAN FOR A NEW FORT TO REPLACE THE UNSATISFACTORY STAR FORT.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD FORT UNION BEGAN IN APRIL 1863, AND CONTINUED FOR SIX YEARS. DESIGNED BY CAPTAIN JOHN C. McFERRAN, CHIEF QUARTERMASTER OF THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, AND REFINED BY DEPOT QUARTERMASTER CAPTAIN HENRY J. FARNSWORTH, THE RESULTING COMPLEX WAS THE LARGEST FORT WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, AND CONSISTED OF THREE SEPARATE MILITARY ENTITIES: THE POST OF FORT UNION, THE FORT UNION QUARTERMASTER DEPOT, AND THE FORT UNION ORDNANCE DEPOT. THE POST AND THE QUARTERMASTER DEPOT WERE BUILT ADJA-

CENT TO ONE ANOTHER, IMMEDIATELY NORTHEAST OF THE STAR FORT. THE ORDNANCE DEPOT WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE FIRST FORT UNION.

BOTH THE POST AND THE QUARTERMASTER DEPOT WERE LAID OUT WITH BUILDINGS FLANKING THE OPPOSITE SIDES OF A 300-FOOT WIDE PARADE GROUND. AT THE POST, NINE OFFICER'S QUARTERS, STRETCHING A TOTAL OF 650 FEET IN LENGTH, LINED THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE PARADE. FACING THEM ACROSS THE PARADE WERE FOUR U-SHAPED COMPANY QUARTERS, EACH HOUSING A COMPANY OF CAVALRY OR INFANTRY. BEYOND THE COMPANY QUARTERS WERE TWO POST CORRALS, INCLUDING THE GUARD HOUSE, PRISON, BAKERY, STABLES, VARIOUS SHOPS, AND LAUNDRESSES' QUARTERS. THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE QUARTERMASTER DEPOT PARADE WAS LINED WITH SIX BUILDINGS CONTAINING OFFICER'S QUARTERS AND OFFICES. THE NORTHEAST SIDE, STRETCHING 750 FEET IN LENGTH, WAS DEFINED BY THE MECHANICS' CORRAL AND FIVE ENORMOUS STOREHOUSES. BEHIND THIS GROUP OF BUILDINGS WAS THE TRANSPORTATION CORRAL, INCLUDING WAGON SHEDS, GRANARIES, AND TEAMSTERS' QUARTERS. A 200-FOOT WIDE GAP SEPARATED THE POST FROM THE QUARTERMASTER DEPOT. SOUTHEAST OF THE POST STOOD THE 36-BED HOSPITAL.

THE BUILDINGS AT FORT UNION WERE BUILT IN THE NEW MEXICO "TERRITORIAL" STYLE, USING MOSTLY INDIGENOUS MATERIALS. FOUNDATIONS WERE BUILT OF LOCALLY-QUARRIED SANDSTONE. WALLS WERE CONSTRUCTED OF ADOBE, AND TYPICALLY PLASTERED. WOOD FRAMING, FROM LOCAL SAWMILLS, WAS USED TO SUPPORT THE (TYPICALLY FLAT) ROOFS. WOOD WAS ALSO USED FOR DOOR AND WINDOW TRIM, AND FOR PORCHES ON THE OFFICER'S QUARTERS. NAILS, WINDOW GLASS, FIRE BRICKS, AND ROOFING TIN WERE HAULED OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL FROM BACK EAST. BRICKS WERE USED FOR CHIMNEYS AND FOR PARAPET CORNICES AT THE TOP OF THE ADOBE WALLS.

OVER THE FORTY YEARS OF ITS EXISTANCE, TROOPS AT FORT UNION WERE INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF CAMPAIGNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDIAN WARS: AGAINST THE JICARILLA APACHES (1854); AGAINST THE UTES (1855); AGAINST THE KIOWAS AND THE

COMANCHES (1860, 1864, 1868, 1874); AGAINST THE MESCALERO APACHES (1861-67); AND AGAINST THE NAVAHOES (1864). THESE SPORADIC CAMPAIGNS PROVIDED RELIEF FROM THE HARSHNESS AND DAILY MONOTONY OF LIFE AT FORT UNION, WHICH WAS EXACERBATED BY THE POST'S ISOLATED LOCATION. THE EVENTUAL SUBJUGATION OF THE INDIANS, ALONG WITH THE 1879 ARRIVAL OF THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE RAILROAD AT WATROUS, EIGHT MILES SOUTH, DOOMED FORT UNION TO OBSOLESCENCE. NONETHELESS, THE ARMY LINGERED AT THE POST FOR ANOTHER TWELVE YEARS, WITH THE LAST TROOPS MARCHING OUT ON 15 MAY 1891. DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN EVEN WHEN OCCUPIED, THE BUILDINGS AT FORT UNION SOON FELL INTO RUIN AFTER ABANDONMENT. AFTER LANGUISHING FOR SEVERAL DECADES, POPULAR INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE SITE GAINED MOMENTUM IN THE LATE 1930s. ON 5 APRIL 1956 FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT WAS CREATED AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, TO PRESERVE AND COMMEMORATE FORT UNION'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MILITARY CONQUEST AND CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT OF THE AMERICAN WEST.

THE DOCUMENTATION OF FORT UNION WAS UNERTAKEN IN 2000-02 BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY / HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HABS/HAER) DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS), E. BLAINE CLIVER, CHIEF. THE PROJECT WAS SPONSORED BY FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT (FOWN), NPS, HARRY C. MYERS, SUPERINTENDENT (2000); GEORGE HELFRICH, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT (2001); AND DENNIS DITMANSON, SUPERINTENDENT (2002). PROJECT PLANNING WAS CO-ORDINATED BY PAUL DOLINSKY, CHIEF, HABS; BY BOB HARTZLER, EXHIBIT SPECIALIST, FOWN (2000-01); AND BY ROGER FORTILLO, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, FOWN (2002). THE FIELD RECORDING WAS UNDERTAKEN AND THE MEASURED DRAWINGS WERE PRODUCED BY PROJECT SUPERVISOR MARK SCHARA, HABS ARCHITECT; BY HABS ARCHITECTS RAUL VAZQUEZ (2000-01) AND EDWARD L. BYRDY JR. (2001-02); AND BY ARCHITECTS GREG HARRELL (GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 2000), JENNIFER L. MOST (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 2001), AND JONATHAN M. EGGERT (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 2002). ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED BY THE STAFF OF FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT.

DRAWN BY: MARK SCHARA

FORT UNION PROJECT 2001
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

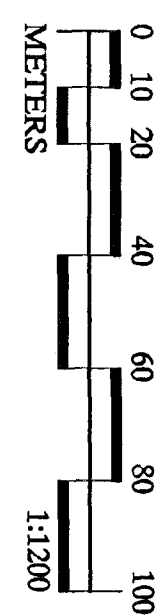
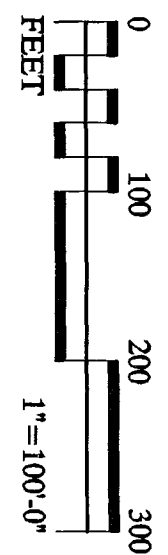
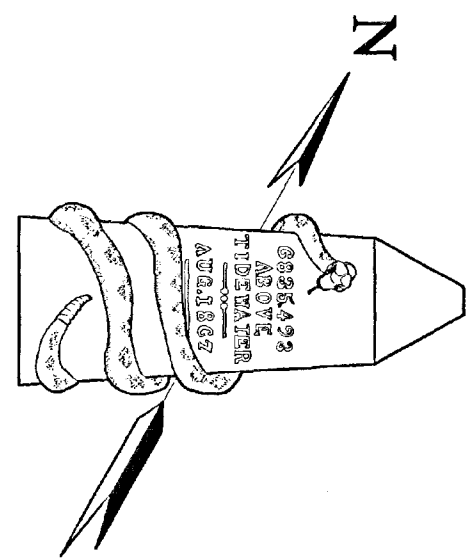
MORA COUNTY

NEW MEXICO

SHEET 1
OF 7 SHEETS

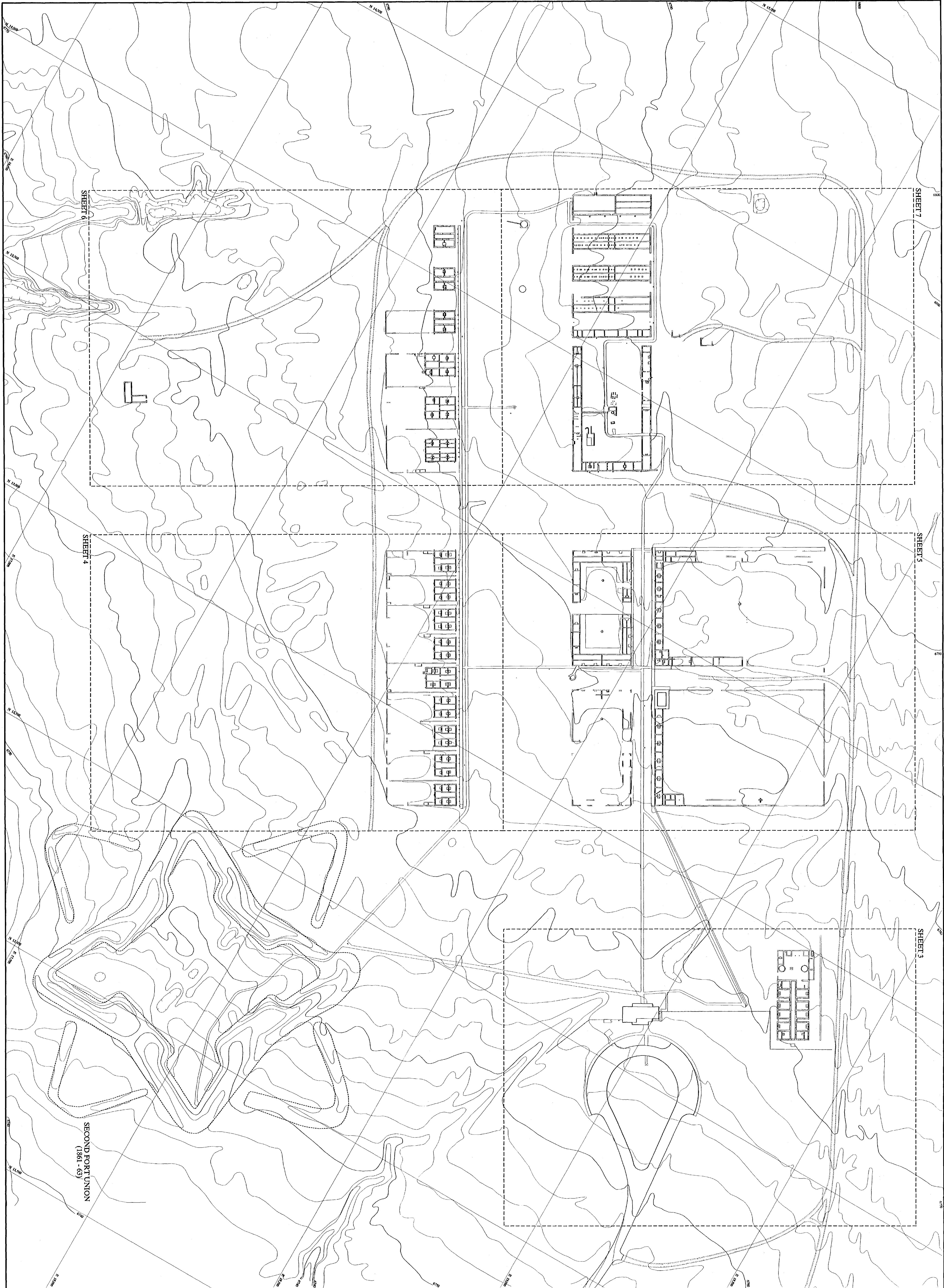
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
NAI-161

DATE OF
CONSTRUCTION
1851-1863



1"=100'-0"
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SITE PLAN



NOTE: TOPOGRAPHIC LINES DERIVED FROM MAPS PRODUCED BY THE SOUTHWEST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER, SOUTHWEST REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FORT UNION PROJECT, 2001
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

MORA COUNTY

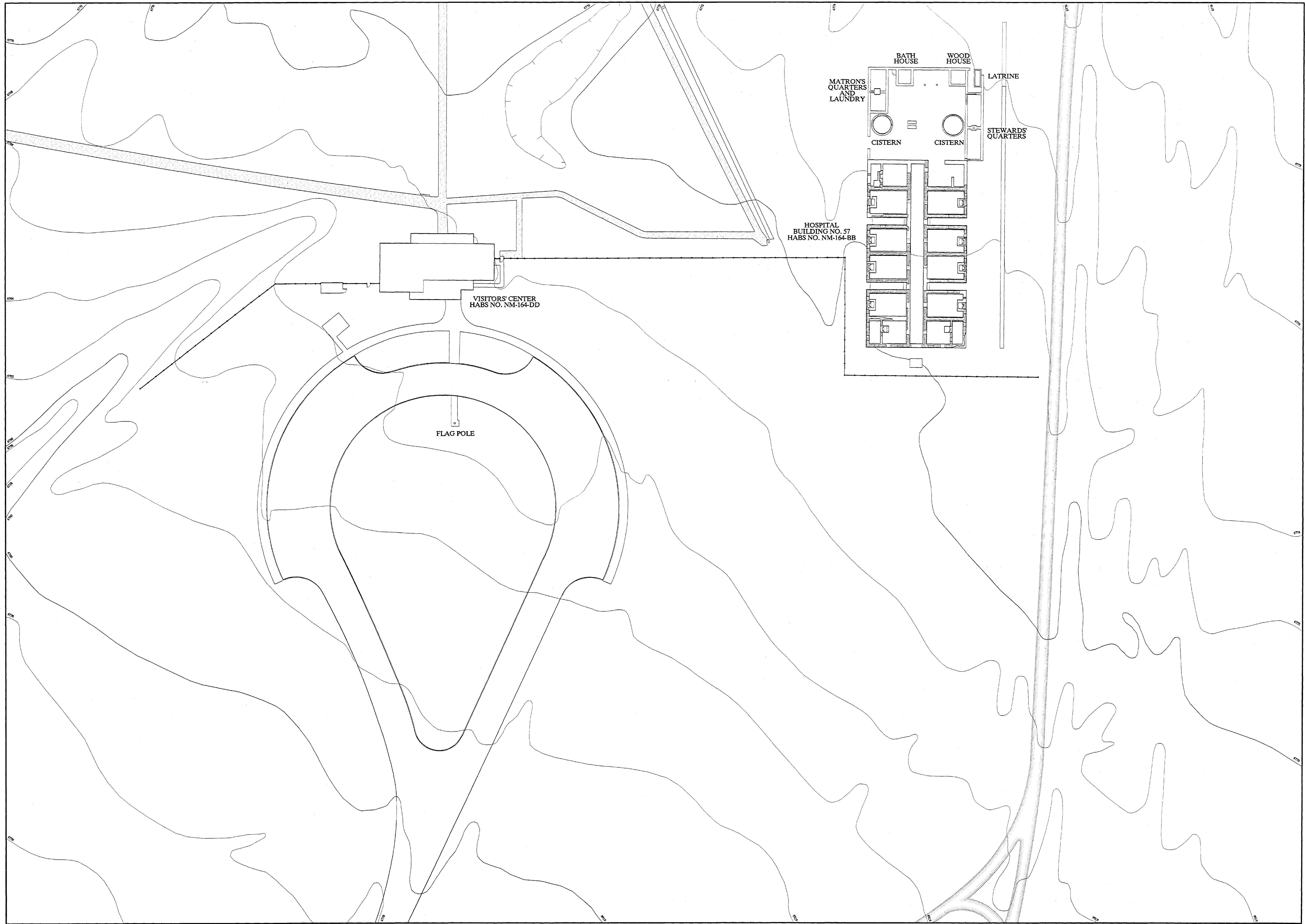
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
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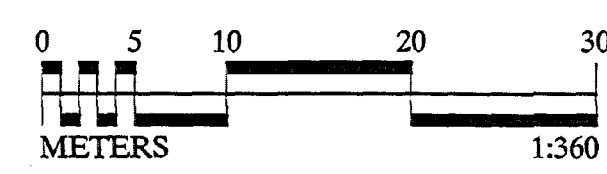
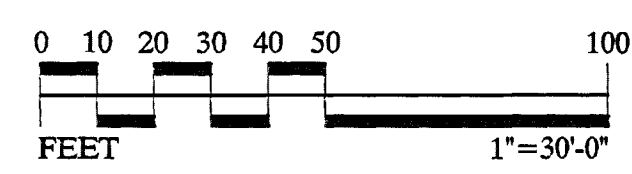
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SITE PLAN

1"=30'-0" 1:360



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STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

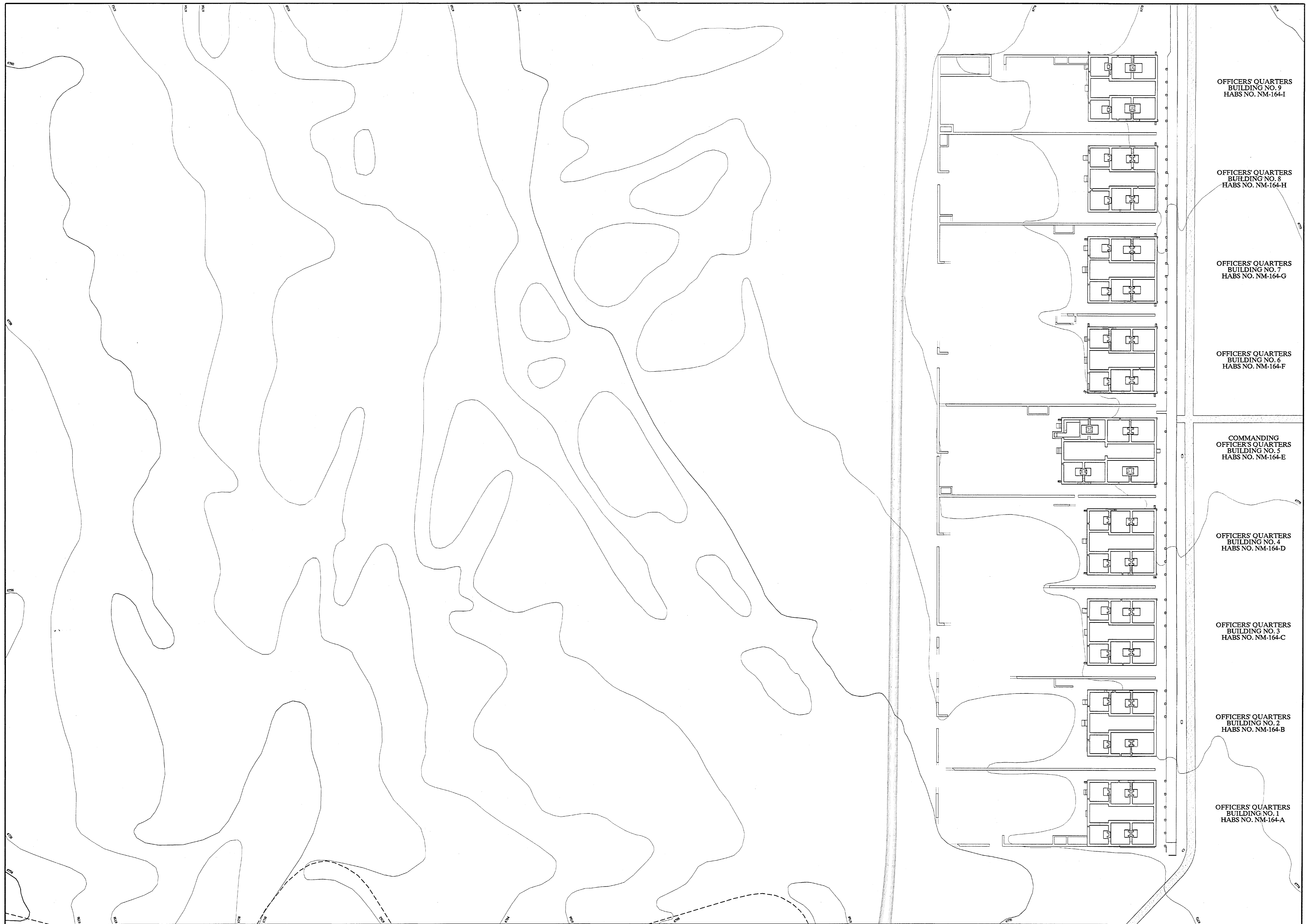
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NEW MEXICO

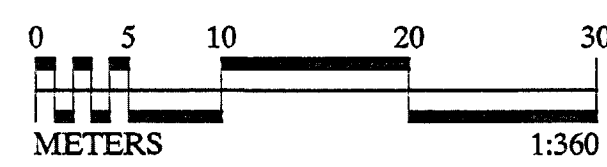
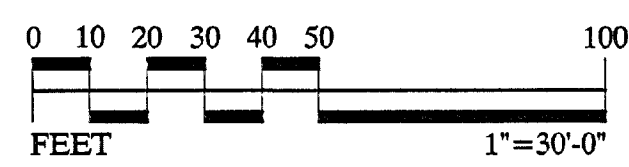
SHEET 3
OF 7 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
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SITE PLAN
1"=30'-0" 1:360



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

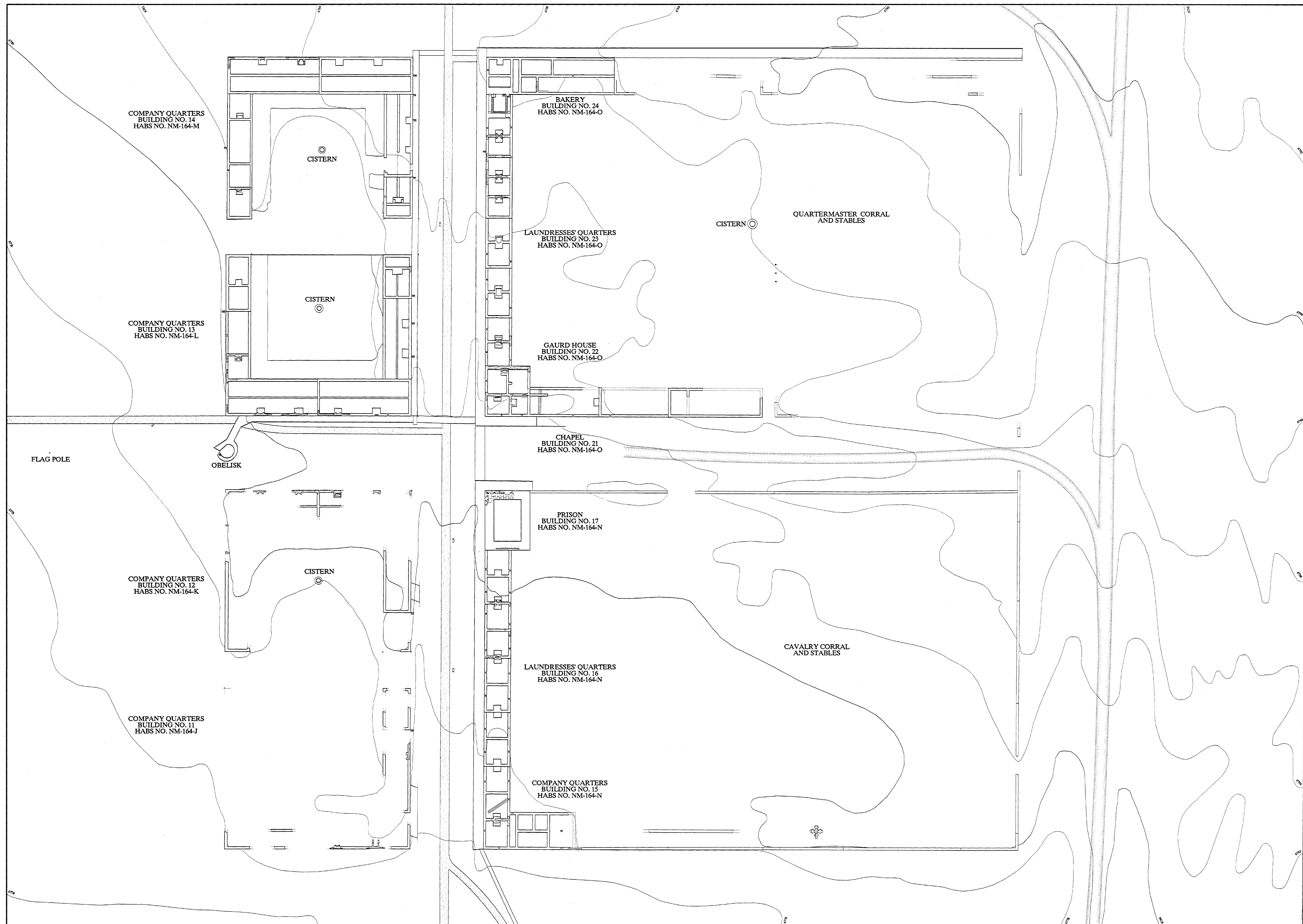
MORA COUNTY

NEW MEXICO

SHEET 4
OF 7 SHEETS

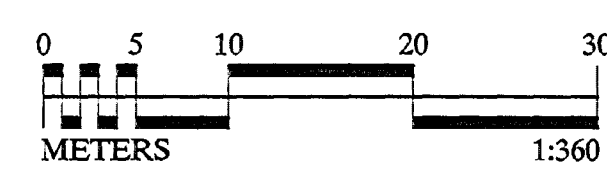
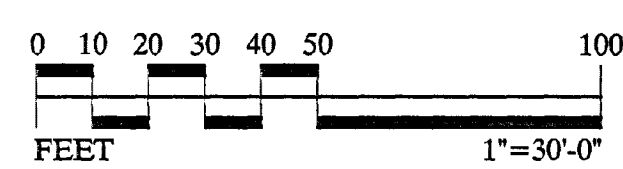
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
NM-164

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SITE PLAN

1"=30'-0" 1:360



NOTE: TOPOGRAPHIC LINES DERIVED FROM MAPS PRODUCED BY THE SOUTHWEST CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER, SOUTHWEST REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

MORA COUNTY

NEW MEXICO

SHEET 5
OF 7 SHEETS

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY

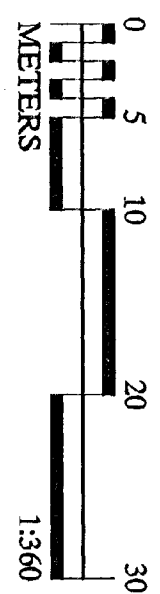
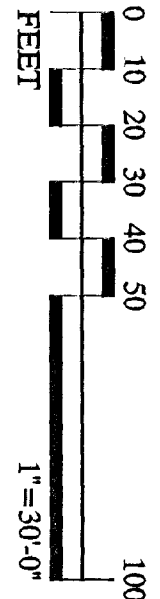
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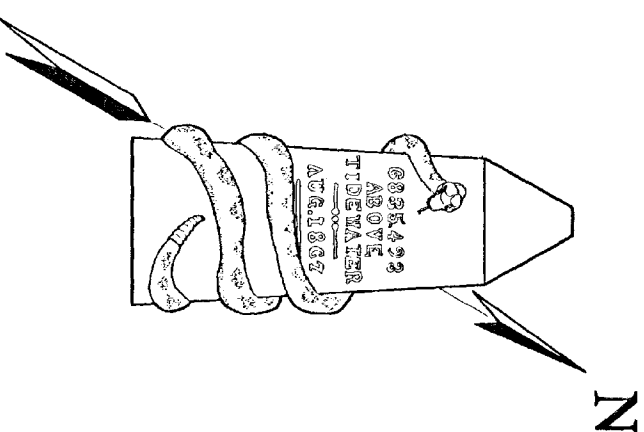


SITE PLAN

1"=30'-0" 1:360



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FORT UNION PROJECT, 2001
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE HIGHWAY 161

WATROUS VICINITY

FORT UNION

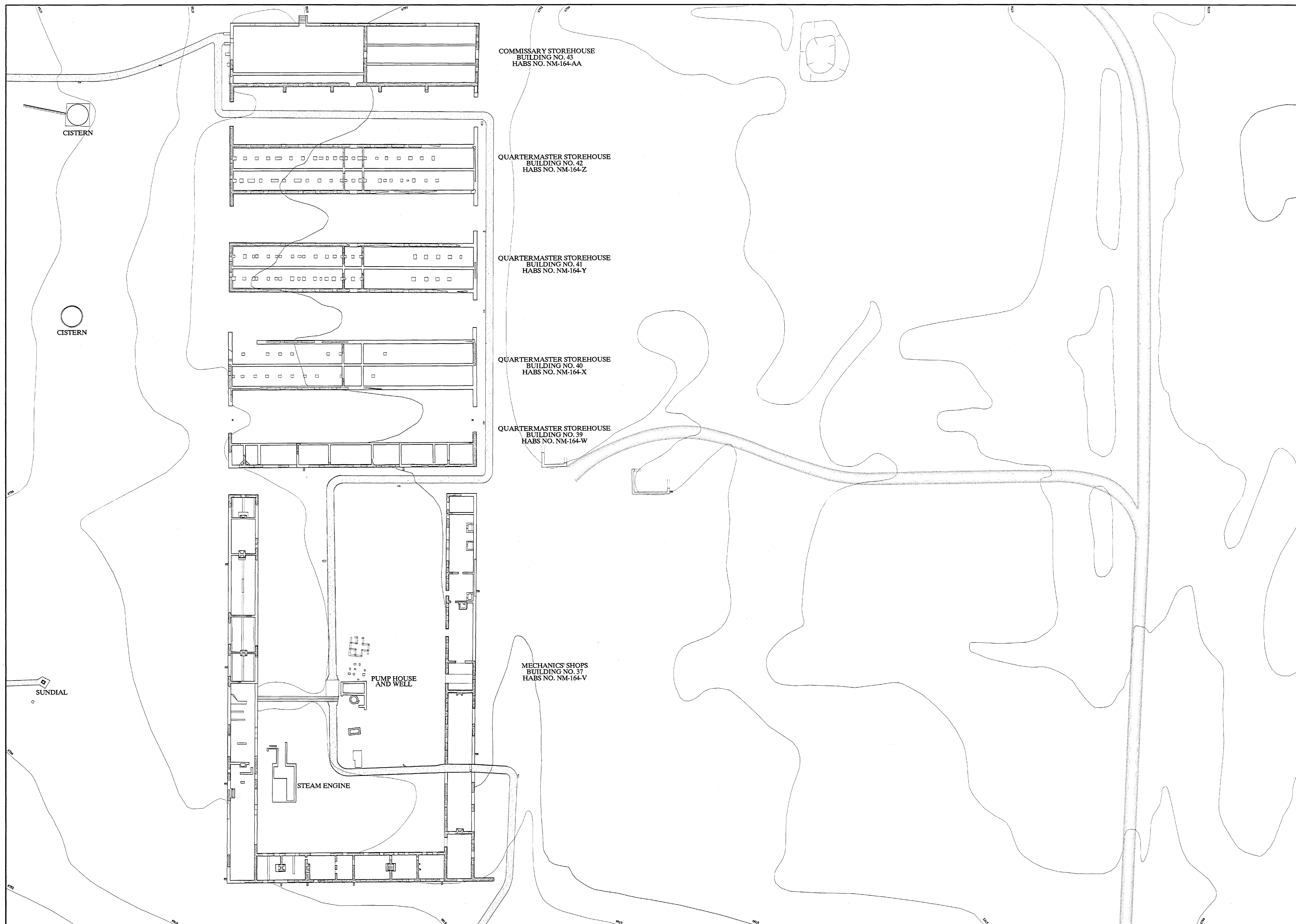
MORA COUNTY

NEW MEXICO

SHEET 6
OF 7 SHEETS

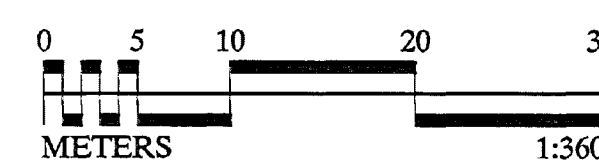
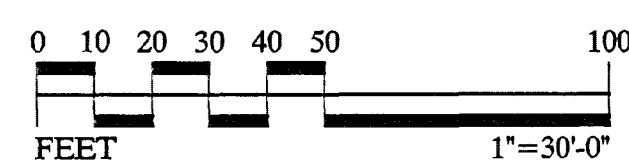
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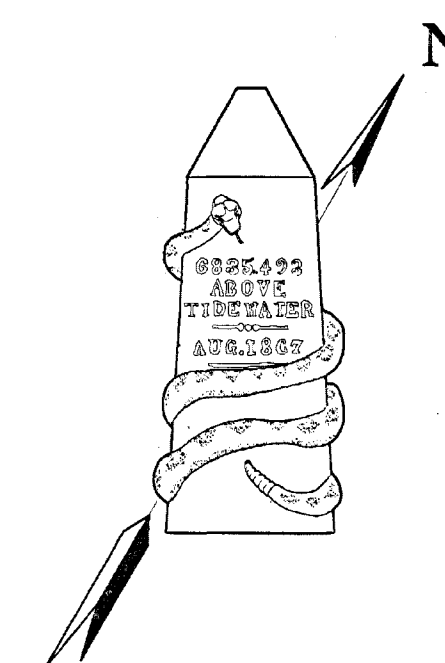


SITE PLAN

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HISTORIC-AMERICAN
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UNIVERSITY OF
ARIZONA

HAOS NM-164-1



OFFICIAL SCENIC HISTORIC MARKER

FORT UNION ARSENAL

West of Fort Union near the base of the mesa are the ruins of Fort Union Arsenal. The first Fort Union was built at this location in 1851. In 1857 this wooden fort was razed and the adobe Arsenal erected. This Arsenal played a vital role in supplying armaments to military posts throughout New Mexico until 1862.

HA05.4179.164.12



HS85-NM-164-3





BATTLE-FACTS AND MONUMENTS
ANTHONY







HARRIS. N.M. 1241.2



KAPIS-NIM-VE-00



H. 8075. NM. 16410



HABS. NM. 164. 12.



JOSEPH H. HABS.

HSBS - NM-164 - 13









Expos. 414. 14.1.16