

JACK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(INCORPORATED)

Fort Richardson

Jacksboro, Texas
November 11, 1965

Senator Ralph W. Yarborough
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Recently I visited Barry Scobee at Fort Davis. Mr. "Fort Davis" I believe people call him. I had attended the Annual Texas State Historical Survey meeting in Odessa. After the two day meeting October 29 & 30 the group was taken on a tour of McKittrick Canyon and on to Fort Davis where we spent two days. This was a wonderful site to see as you know. Mr. Scobee told me you were a good friend of his. We stayed till Sunday morning of the 31st and saw Fort Davis and also was at the dedication service before the "Scobee Mountain". I visited in the home of the Scobees and we talked until 12 oclock.

Mr. Yarborough Mr. Scobee told me to write you and tell you about me and others dreaming that someday we can get old Fort Richardson made into a National Park or Site. Our county and City have done all they can toward restoring this Fort. I am publicity chairman for the Jack County Historical Society and this small group heartily wants to see this Fort completely restored and made into a beautiful park along Los Creek. It is grown up and the City which owns Fort Richardson will never have the funds to do this. They and our County have done all they can .

John Ben Shepperd , president of the Texas State Historical Survey committee and also the Foundation at Austin is helping us. We recently got a county marker which will be placed in front of the court house. There are so many historical places in Jack County that will be marked soon. As you know we have also been working with our governor's Tourist promotion. This Fort Richardson Park Site could bring many tourists to Jack County and other communities around here. I worked for two years and finally we received our National Recognition marker in 1964 from the National Parks Interior department.

Will you please write me and tell us how to go about this work. I have asked to give a report to the sub-committee of the Texas legislative ~~com~~ this meeting in Odessa. I do hope they will introduce a bill to get funds to create more parks in Texas and I want Fort Richardson to be first on the list.

May I hear from you as to the best steps to get this work done.

Jack County Historical Society--Publicity chr.
" " " Survey--Secretary)
Chamber of Commerce--Tourist chr.

Best regards,
Mrs. B. Y. Peacock
Mrs. B.Y. Peacock
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas

November 15, 1965

United States Senate

Please advise as to what surveys may have been made of this site relative to its preservation and recognition.

Respectfully referred to
Director George B. Hartzog, Jr.
National Park Service, Department
of the Interior Bldg., Washington, D.C.

with thanks for such favorable consideration as the communication herewith submitted warrants, and for a report thereon, to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

Ralph W. Yarborough
U. S. S.

RWY:dyl

Enclosure: Mrs. B. Y. Peacock
Box 472
Jacksboro, Texas

Please mark envelope to attention of Miss Hargis.

Thank you.

NOV 30 1965

Over Brooks 11/23
Utley 11/23
Binnewies 11/24
11/24

Johnnie 11/24

158-GNP

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

Dear Senator Yarborough:

This is in reply to your recent inquiry in behalf of Mrs. H. Y. Peacock concerning Fort Richardson, Texas.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, conducted a study of Fort Richardson and determined that it was of exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States. In November 1963, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments considered the report (copy enclosed) and recommended the Fort for Registered National Historic Landmark status. The Department subsequently approved the action of the Board and Fort Richardson is now a Registered National Historic Landmark.

The role of the National Park Service in this instance is limited to the issuance of a certificate, arranging for the owner to obtain a marker, and an occasional inspection. The responsibilities of the National Park Service do not include the administration and operation of the landmark or financial assistance. As you can appreciate, there are a great number of important historic sites associated with every period of American history, and it is impossible for the Federal Government to acquire and administer all sites of exceptional value, or support them financially. Only a limited number of outstanding sites representing the different phases of history are administered by the National Park Service. In this regard Fort Davis, Texas, referred to by Mrs. Peacock, was selected as the site in the same theme or period of history for administration by the Service. We consider Fort Davis an excellent and adequate representation of the Texas frontier defense system.

Mrs. Pascock is to be commended for her efforts in promoting Fort Richardson and we wish her success in obtaining further recognition and preservation for the site.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) THEODOR R. SWEM

Assistant Director

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, Southwest

BIR

CNP

RH

JLorr:nhr 11-26-65

(Constituent's letter being returned.)

GRAHAM PURCELL
13TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

1210 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

DISTRICT OFFICE:
206 FEDERAL BUILDING
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS 76301

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
CHAIRMAN, WHEAT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER, NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON FOOD
MARKETING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 3, 1965

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

I have been asked by a constituent of mine, Mrs. B. Y. Peacock of Jacksboro, Texas, about the possibility of placing Fort Richardson, Texas, in the National Park Service.

I would appreciate your assistance in responding properly to Mrs. Peacock.

Sincerely yours,



GRAHAM PURCELL

GP/sw

LSB-SLR

DEC 15 1965

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

Dear Mr. Purcell:

This is in reply to your recent inquiry in behalf of Mrs. B. Y.
Peacock concerning Fort Richardson, Texas.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, conducted a study of Fort Richardson and determined that it was of exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States. In November 1963, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments considered the report (copy enclosed) and recommended the Fort for Registered National Historic Landmark status. The Department subsequently approved the action of the Board and Fort Richardson is now a Registered National Historic Landmark.

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Binnemier 12/9
Melvin 12/9
QW 12/10

Brooks for Brown

12/10
Wing 12/13

Tanning 12/14
Frederick for Green 12/14

htg

We have sent a similar letter to Senator Yarborough in response to his inquiry concerning this matter.

Mrs. Peacock is to be commended for her efforts in promoting Fort Richardson and we wish her success in obtaining further recognition and preservation for the site.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

Enclosure

cc:
Regional Director, Southwest

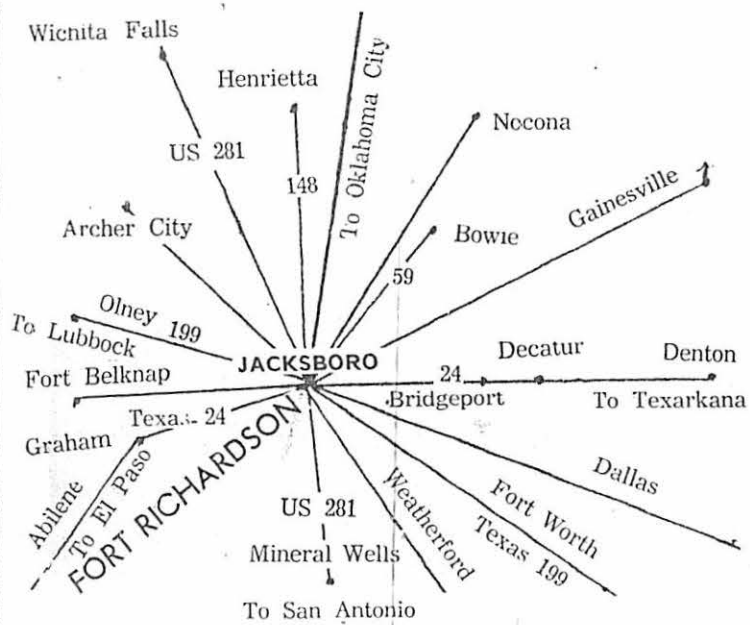
SLR
CMP
RH

or
Melvin:pfm 12-9-65



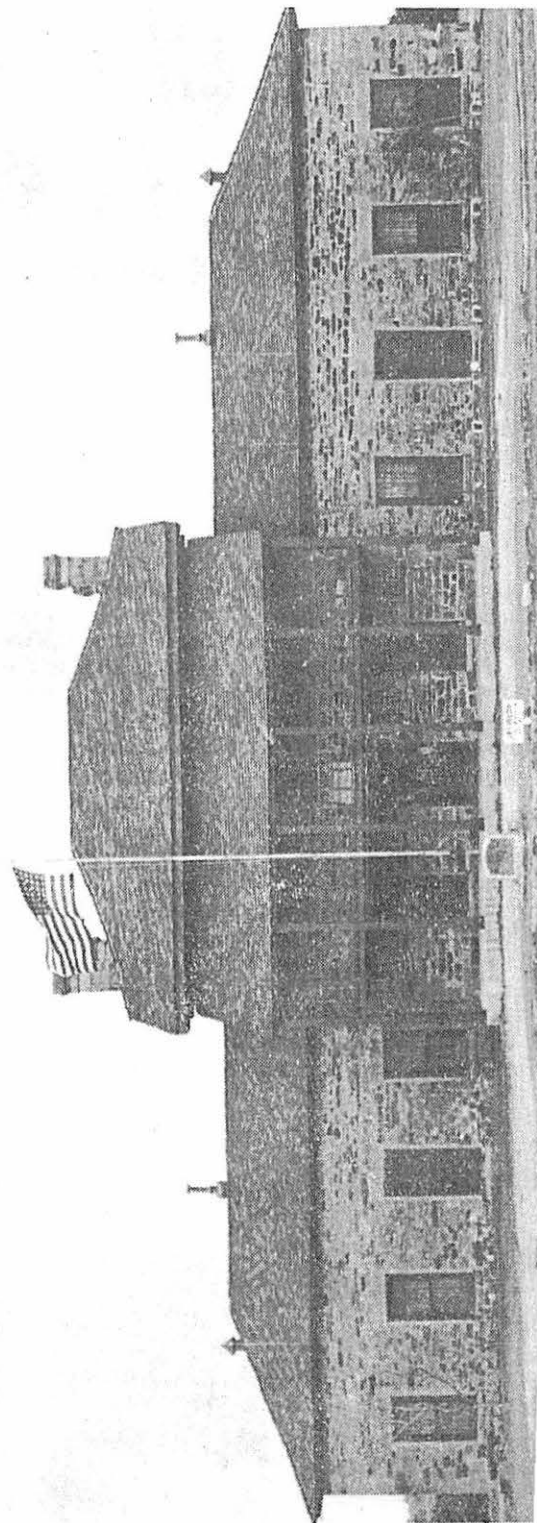
SATANTA

**Fort Richardson Frontier Fair
Last Weekend in May Each Year**



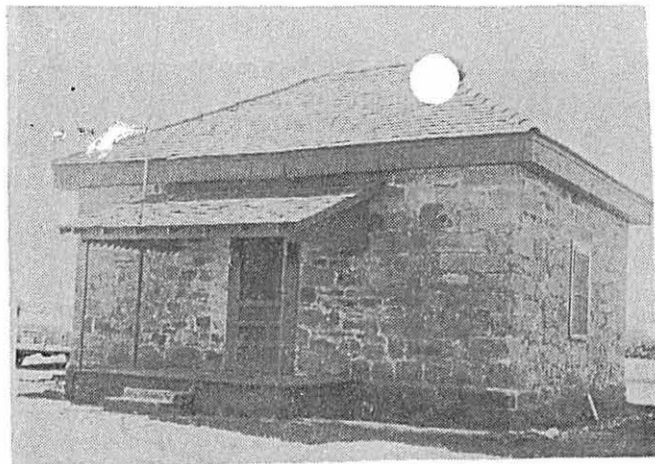
**A Registered
U. S. Historic Landmark
at Jacksboro, Texas**

VISIT... Historic Old Fort Richardson





Above is one of the original Officers Quarters, restored to usefulness by the City of Jacksboro assisting the Girl Scouts who use several rooms as a meeting place. Jack County Commissioners Court aids in maintaining fort roads.



An average of 600 loaves of bread per day came from ovens of the post bakery, above. Today the building serves as the caretaker's residence.

Fort Richardson Established in 1867

Fort Richardson was established at Jacksborough in 1867 as the most northerly in a chain of Texas military posts occupied by US Cavalry troops to halt depredations of Indians during the unsettled times following the Civil War.

Col. Ranald Mackenzie was regimental commander in 1871 when General William T. Sherman arrived on a tour of inspection. The General's party had crossed Salt Creek Prairie, west of the fort, a few hours before it became the scene of the Warren Wagon Massacre.

Three Kiowa chieftains were later arrested at Fort Sill, Okla., and charged with leading the raid. One of them, Satank, was shot by a guard while trying to escape; the others were brought to Jacksboro and convicted of the crime—the first Indians ever tried in the white man's court. Their sentence, to be hanged, was commuted to life imprisonment, and later both were paroled. Satanta, shown on the back page, violated his parole, was returned to the state prison at Huntsville and committed suicide there in 1878. Big Tree returned to the Oklahoma reservation and became a respected leader of his people.

Hospital Houses Museum

The hospital building, shown on front, was the largest of the fort buildings. It was first restored in 1923 as a Texas National Guard armory. Further work was done in 1936 by the Texas Centennial Commission, in 1948 by the City of Jacksboro, and major repairs made by Jack County Historical Society in 1955. It is maintained by the Historical Society and houses a museum and a library on Western lore.

Visiting hours are 2 to 5 p. m. daily. A caretaker resides in the restored bakery building and has a museum key.

You are invited to visit Jacksboro and the Fort—and to follow the example of many frontier cavalymen, who liked the country and returned here to live.

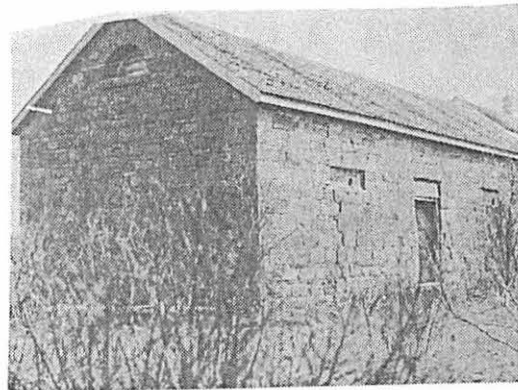
The ammunition magazine, below, is just as it was when the Fort was occupied by US Cavalry. It is noted for the unique stone roof, so ingeniously constructed that no supports were necessary. The Fort morgue, center, stands behind the hospital, and was where Kiowa Chieftains Satanta and Big Tree were incarcerated prior to trial here on July 4-5, 1871. Restoration of the Commissary, right, is a future project for Jack County Historical Society and its friends.



Ammunition Magazine



Hospital Morgue



Commissary Building