

**Guide to the Fort Tejon
State Historic Park Collection
1845-2009
(bulk dates 1980-1991)**



**California State Parks Archives
McClellan, California**

Contact Information:

California State Parks Archives
4940 Lang Ave., Suite 100
McClellan, California 95652
Telephone: (916) 263-0779
FAX: (916) 263-0858
Email: department.archives@parks.ca.gov
URL: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1080

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Guide to the Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection

Collection Number

CSPA-351

Creator

Fort Tejon State Historic Park

Extent

7 linear feet, including 1 map folder

Repository

California State Parks Archives
McClellan, California

Language

English

Abstract

Fort Tejon State Historic Park is located in the San Emigdio Mountains near the top of the Grapevine Canyon, on the west side of Hwy 5 near the city of Lebec, California. The park was established in 1940 and contains 647 acres of oak-wooded hillsides, grassland, wetlands, riparian vegetation, restored and reconstructed buildings, and the ruins of Fort Tejon. The Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection is arranged in sixteen series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Histories, 3. Ranger Logs, 4. Interpretation, 5. Subject Files, 6. Legal Documents, 7. Financial Documents, 8. Facilities Documents, 9. Maintenance Records, 10. Publications, 11. Ephemera, 12. Cartographic Material, 13. Photographic Material, 14. Media, and 15. Reports. Items span the years 1845-2009 with the bulk of the material falling between 1980-1991.

Physical Location

California State Parks Archives

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection, CSPA-351: [box: folder number], California State Parks Archives, McClellan, California.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Cultural and archaeological site maps are restricted. Reports with sensitive data may be restricted. Consult repository for details.

Acquisition Information

Fort Tejon SHP donated the majority of the material in this collection in 2001. Additional correspondence and maps were added from Central Records in 2015.

Accruals

The repository continues to add materials to this collection on a regular basis.

Processing Information

Ethan Tratner processed part of this collection in 2013. Margo Lentz-Meyer finished processing and created and encoded its finding aid in 2015.

Administrative History

Fort Tejon State Historic Park is located in the San Emigdio Mountains near the top of the Grapevine Canyon, near the city of Lebec, California. Established in 1940, the park contains 647 acres of oak-wooded hillsides, grassland, wetlands, riparian vegetation and the ruins of Fort Tejon.

The U.S. Army established Fort Tejon in 1854 to replace Fort Miller, control the Indians living on the Sebastian Indian Reservation, and to protect both the Indians and white settlers from raids by regional Indian groups. From 1854-1864 various regiments manned the Fort, including the 1st U.S. Dragoons. On September 11, 1864 the Federal government abandoned the Fort; the property became privately owned ranchland.

During the Fort's ten years of operation the Dragoons campaigned against the Indians, maintained civil order, and transported goods and people throughout the area. An interesting feature of the Fort was the U.S. Camel Corps. In the 1850s the U.S. Army experimented with the use of camels for transport across the arid south west. The project was quickly scrapped after the first official test in 1860 between Los Angeles and Fort Mojave. Prior to the Army's purchase, the camels were used to haul supplies for Edward F. Beale, former California Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Samuel Bishop, Tejon Ranch owner.

The site of the fort is also well known for the grave marker of Peter LeBec, an early frontiersmen and fur trapper, mauled by a bear. Little further evidence of LaBec has surfaced but many fantastical stories have circulated creating a mysterious and exciting past for the man buried under LeBec Tree.

In 1936 Fort Tejon was listed as California Historic Landmark #129 (not dedicated until 1954). In 1940 Tejon Ranch donated seven acres of land to the state for the establishment of the park. Between 1940 and 1955 Tejon Ranch donated an additional 199 acres. The Department of Parks and Recreation owns the majority of the area associated with the garrison portion of the Fort Tejon complex. Portions of the site – including the quartermaster facilities and storehouses – are not state owned property.

In June 1962 the park was officially classified and renamed Fort Tejon State Historic Park. Since then small portions of the original fort complex have been reconstructed or preserved. The buildings at the park feature a number of interpretive displays where re-enactors teach park guests about the daily lives of the soldiers stationed at the fort. Other museum exhibits cover topics of army life and local history. The park features a campground, picnic area, hiking trails, and civil war re-enactments. The fort was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. In the mid-2000s a second donation of property from a private landowner added an additional 442 acres to the park.

Scope and Content

The Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection is arranged in sixteen series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Histories, 3. Ranger Logs, 4. Interpretation, 5. Subject Files, 6. Legal Documents, 7. Financial Documents, 8. Facilities Documents, 9. Maintenance Records, 10. Publications, 11. Ephemera, 12. Cartographic Material, 13. Photographic Material, 14. Media, and 15. Reports. Items span the years 1845-2009 with the bulk of the material falling between 1980-1991.

Series one, Correspondence, is divided into three categories: General Correspondence, Civil War Association of America Correspondence and Legal Correspondence. Series two, Histories, contains bibliographic material, general research, and histories on the park and local area.

Series three, Ranger Logs, contains copies of Ranger Logs – from the years 1948-1951 – recording daily conditions and operations at the park. Series four, Interpretation, includes interpretive plans, programs, collections documentation, and exhibition materials. Series five, Subject Files, is divided into two subseries: General Plan, and Archaeology.

Series six, Legal Documents, includes agreements, deeds, contracts, and rules and regulations documents. Series seven, Financial Documents, contains contracts, budgets and project proposals. Series eight, Facilities Documents, consists of building descriptions. Series nine, Maintenance Records, includes maintenance project proposals, schedules, and plans.

Series ten, Publications, encompasses articles, newspaper and magazine clippings, workshop materials, and guides not published by parks. Series eleven, Ephemera, contains post cards, event flyers, stationary, and pamphlets from Fort Tejon State Historic Park and Tejon Ranch. Series twelve, Cartographic Material, includes blue-prints, architectural drawings, and maps. Series thirteen, Photographic Material, consists of slides, negatives, and prints. Series fourteen, Media, consists of microfiche, audio cassettes, and CDs.

Series fifteen, Reports, includes reports produced by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and cultural resource management contractors.

Indexing Terms

California. Department of Parks and Recreation
Chumash Indians
Cultural resources
Esthetic resources
Fort Tejon (Calif.)
Lebec (Calif.)
Natural resources
Recreational resources
Sebastian Indian Reservation
United States. Army. Camel Corps

Series Description

Series 1. Correspondence, 1934-2009.

32 ff.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically and is divided into three categories: General Correspondence, Civil War Association of America Correspondence, and Legal Correspondence. The content's whereabouts for the years 1941-1944, 1960-1961, 1973, and 1975 are unknown.

- Box 1: 01 General Correspondence, 1934-1940.
 02 General Correspondence, 1945-1949.
 03 General Correspondence, 1950-1951.
 04 General Correspondence, 1952.
 05 General Correspondence, 1953.
 06 General Correspondence, 1954-1959.
 07 General Correspondence, 1962-1972.
 08 General Correspondence, 1974.
- Box 2: 01 General Correspondence, 1976-1979.
 02 General Correspondence, 1980-1984.
 03 General Correspondence, 1985.
 04 General Correspondence, January – March 1986.
 05 General Correspondence, April – July 1986.
 06 General Correspondence, August – December 1986.
 07 General Correspondence, January – April 1987.
- Box 3: 01 General Correspondence, May – June 1987.
 02 General Correspondence, July – August 1987.
 03 General Correspondence, September – December 1987.
 04 General Correspondence, January – March 1988.
 05 General Correspondence, April – June 1988.
 06 General Correspondence, July – December 1988.
 07 General Correspondence, January – April 1989.
 08 General Correspondence, May – December 1989.
 09 General Correspondence, January – June 1990.
- Box 4: 01 General Correspondence, July – December 1990.
 02 General Correspondence, 1991.
 03 General Correspondence, 2002, 2009.
 04 Civil War Association of America Correspondence, 1983.
 05 Legal Correspondence, 1952-1956.
 06 Legal Correspondence, 1957-1958.
 07 Legal Correspondence, 1959-1963.
 08 Legal Correspondence, 1964-1965.

Series 2. Histories, 1851-1991, undated. 9 ff.

The series is arranged alphabetically. It contains bibliographic material, general research, and histories of the park and local area.

- Box 4: 09 Bibliographic Cards (1 of 2), undated.
- Box 5: 01 Bibliographic Cards (2 of 2), undated.
- 02 Camel Corps Articles and General Background, 1857-1979, undated.
- 03 Essays on Fort Tejon by George Stammerjohan, 1989.
- 04 Fort Tejon Muster Rolls, 1855-1859.
- 05 General Histories, A-F, undated.
- 06 General Histories, G-W, undated.
- 07 Information on William Tudor Gardiner, 1855-1991.
- 08 Native Americans at Fort Tejon, 1851-1986, undated.

Series 3. Ranger Logs, 1948-1951, undated. 2 ff.

This series contains copies of Ranger Logs describing environmental conditions and daily operations at the park. The logs are arranged chronologically.

- Box 6: 01 Ranger Logs: August 17, 1948 – June 30, 1950.
- 02 Ranger Logs: July 1, 1950 – December 15, 1951, undated.

Series 4. Interpretation, 1957-1991, undated. 26 ff.

The series includes interpretive plans, programs, collections documentation, and exhibition materials. The materials are arranged alphabetically by subject or title.

- Box 6: 03 Collections Correspondence, 1983-1987.
- 04 Interpretation Correspondence, 1957-1987.
- 05 Catalogue Cards 082, 1967-1984.
- 06 Catalogue Cards 243 and 304, 1967-1986.
- 07 Catalogue Cards 517, 1968-1987.
- Box 7: 01 Catalogue of Museum Objects: 082-x and 082-z, 1987-1988.
- 02 Comments on Museum Rooms at Fort Tejon by the Inventory Team, 7/28/1983.
- 03 Dedication of Display at Fort Tejon, 6/10/1977.
- 04 Environmental Living Program, 1975.
- 05 Exhibit Rehabilitation Projects, 1985-1986.
- 06 Exhibit Text and Graphics, 1986-1987, undated.
- 07 Fort Tejon Interpretive Building Notes, 1968-1991, undated.

- 08 Index of Purchase Documents, 1988.
 - 09-10 Interpretive Collections Inventory, undated.
 - 11 Interpretive Planning for Quartermaster's Building, 1991.
 - 12 Interpretive Themes, undated.
 - 13 Interpretive Work Requests, 1985-1990.
 - 14 Inventory by Object, Fort Tejon: Officer's Quarters, Barracks, and Visitor Center, 3/17/1988.
 - 15 Inventory of Native American Objects for Exhibit, 1986.
- Box 8: 01 Inventory of Objects in the Officer's Quarters, 2/23/1972.
- 02 List of Museum Objects, 1/24/1988.
 - 03 Museum Exhibit Recordings, 1965.
 - 04 Preliminary Interpretive Plan Documents, 1986.
 - 05 Visitor Center: Exhibit Text, 9/14/1986. (2 Copies)
 - 06 Visitor Center: Exhibit Text, 2/2/1987. (2 Copies)

Series 5. Subject Files, 1932-1991, undated. 15 ff.

The series is divided into two subseries and arranged alphabetically. The two subseries are: General Plan and Archaeology.

Subseries 5.1. General Plan, 1932-1989. 6 ff.

This series contains drafts and correspondence about the Fort Tejon General Plan. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

- Box 8: 07 Correspondence, 1987-1988.
- 08 Draft Reviews of Resource Element, 1988.
 - 09 Environmental Impact Report Draft Comments, 1989.
 - 10 General Plan Draft Comments, 1989.
 - 11 Kern County Chamber of Commerce – Why Fort Tejon Should be Preserved as a State Park, 10/13/1932, 9/29/1950.
 - 12 Land Use and Facilities Element Draft Comments, 1988.

Subseries 5.2. Archaeology, 1988-1991, undated. 9 ff.

Arranged chronologically, contains: artifact catalogues, accession records, and interagency agreements.

- Box 8: 13 Archaeological Accession Record, 1988.
- 14 Archaeological Catalogue P953, 6/21/1991.
 - 15-16 Archaeological Catalogue - Interagency Agreement 4-378-8405 for Work Performed on the Archaeological Collection at Fort Tejon, 1988-1989.

- Box 9: 01 Archaeological Correspondence- Interagency Agreement 4-378-8405 for Work Performed on the Archaeological Collection at Fort Tejon, 1988-1989.
- 02 Artifacts Excavated at Fort Tejon, 1998, undated.
- 03 Fort Tejon Project 17-F2-157: Notes, Indexes, and Sketches, undated.
- 04 Statewide Resource Management Program Project Status Report, 1987-1988.
- 05 Utility Line Excavations, 1989.

Series 6. Legal Documents, 1953-1958, undated. 1 ff.

Arranged chronologically. The series includes: agreements, deeds, contracts, and rules and regulations documents.

- Box 9: 06 Legal Documents, 1953-1958, undated.

Series 7. Financial Documents, 1983-1988. 6 ff.

The series contains contracts, budgets, and project proposals. The documents are arranged alphabetically by subject.

- Box 9: 07 Dorfman Museum Figures Contracts, 1987-1988.
- 08 General Financial Documents, 1949, 1985-1986.
- 09 Museum Furnishing Contracts, (1 of 2), 1987.

- Box 10: 01 Museum Furnishing Contracts, (2 of 2), 1987.
- 02 Museum Furnishing Contracts, 1988.
- 03 Tree Hazard Control and Roofing Bids, 1983.

Series 8. Facilities Documents, 1988. 1 ff.

The series consists of one folder containing short descriptions of the buildings at Fort Tejon. Arranged chronologically.

- Box 10: 04 Fort Tejon Structures: Compiled by George Stammerjohan and John Kelly, 1988.

Series 9. Maintenance Records, 1982-2000. 3 ff.

Arranged chronologically, the series consists of maintenance project proposals, schedules, and plans.

- Box 10: 05 Pedestrian Foot Bridge Proposals and Drawings, 1982.
 06 Schedule for Maintenance or Housekeeping, 1983.
 07 Stabilization Projects, 1989-2000.

Series 10. Publications, 1853-1994, undated.

13 ff.

Arranged alphabetically by title, with the exception of newspaper, journal and magazine clippings, these are arranged chronologically.

- Box 10: 08 California's Historical Monuments, Forward by Governor Edmund G. Brown, 1965.
 09 Camels in Texas, by The San Jacinto Museum of History Association, 1956. (2 Copies)
 10 Camels in the West, by Deane and Peggy Robertson, 1979. (2 Copies)
 11 The Expedition of Captain J.W. Davidson from Fort Tejon to the Owens Valley in 1859, Edited by Philip J. Wilke and Harry W. Lawton, 1976.
 12 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Newsletters, No. 1-8, 1988-1989.
 13 Gateways to California, by Don J. Baxter, 1968.
 14 Historic Chronology of Kern County: In the Days of '49, by Richard C. Bradley, 1966.

- Box 11: 01 Journal Articles, 1930-1994, undated.
 02 Magazine Articles, 1944-1956.
 03 Newspaper Clippings, 1853-1990, undated.
 04 The Life and Death of Peter Lebec, by Raymond F. Wood, 1954.
 05 Overland to the Pacific - Information Pamphlet - Brochure No. 1, 1956.
 06 Quarterly Bulletins, 1954-1959.

Series 11. Ephemera, 1986-1988, undated.

1 ff.

The series contains post cards, event flyers, stationary, and pamphlets for Fort Tejon State Historic Park and Tejon Ranch.

- Box 11: 07 Fort Tejon and Tejon Ranch Ephemera, 1986-1988, undated.

Series 12. Cartographic Material, 1855-1989, undated.

3 ff.

The series includes blue-prints, architectural drawings, and maps. These are arranged chronologically. A full inventory list of oversized cartographic material is located in Appendix A.

- Box 11: 08 List of Drawings by Unit and Type: CA DPR, 1987.
 09 Maps and Floorplans, 1855-1989, undated.
 10 Oversized Maps, 1952-1980, undated.

Series 13. Photographic Material, 1845-2002, undated.

6 ff.

All of the photographs are separated by type and arranged chronologically. The series consists of slides, negatives, and prints. Thumbnails of the scanned photographs in the collection are located in Appendix B.

- Box 11: 11 Slides: 1983, 1987, 1989.
 12 Negatives: 1980, 1989, 1991, undated.
 13 4 x 6 Prints, 1936-2002, undated.
 14 8 x 10 Prints: Archaeological Digs, 300713-300738, undated.
 15 8 x 10 Prints: Landscapes and Portraits, undated.
 16 Reproductions of Francis B. Mayer Drawings, 1845.

Series 14. Media, 1871-2009.

1 ff.

The series consists of microfiche, audio cassettes, and CDs. Items are arranged chronologically.

- Box 11: 17 Media Inventory, 1871-2009.

Series 15. Reports, 1934-2007, undated.

55 ff.

Documents produced by California State Parks or Parks contractors are arranged alphabetically by title. Reports are arranged alphabetically by first letter of the report to coincide with the Department Unit Data File System.

- Box 12: 01 A Report on Fort Tejon in 1859, April 1987.
 02 An Archeological Report on Fort Tejon State Historic Monument, 1961.
 03 Application for Registration of Historical Point of Interest – Fort Tejon, 1/31/1934. (2 Copies)
 04 Archaeological Data Recovery Excavations at Site of Proposed Interpretation Facility, May 1992.
 05 Archaeological Investigations at the Hospital Building Site, undated.
 06 California Historical Landmark Series: Fort Tejon Landmark #129, 1936.
 07 DPR 183: Project Evaluation, 2004.
 08 DPR 656: Resource Management Project Proposal, 1984-1990.

- 09 DPR 659: Cultural Resource Evaluation, 1980-1985.
- 10 DPR 663: Archaeological Accession Record, 1991.
- 11 DPR 750: Historic Building Survey, 1970.
- 12 Excavation Plan Lower Officer's Quarters, June 2000.
- 13 Field Assessment and Preservation/Seismic Study Recommendations, 10/1/2001.
- 14 Fort Tejon Resource Element, Draft, September 1982.
- 15 Fort Tejon State Historic Park, "A Short Interpretive History," May 1992. (2 Copies)
- 16 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Furnishing Plan Barracks, 12/17/1986.
- 17 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Furnishing Plan Officer's Quarters, 8/25/1986. (2 Copies)

Box 13: 01-02 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, 10/13/1989. (2 Copies)

- 03 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, Draft 2, January 1989.
- 04 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, Interpretation of Barracks Building #1, 1969.
- 05-06 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan: Interpretation Plan, June 1986. (2 Copies)
- 07 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan: Interpretation Report, undated.

Box 14: 01 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, Preliminary, March 1989. (2 Copies)

- 02 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Interpretive Program, 1986.
- 03 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Interpretive Prospectus, South Valley Area, 1975.
- 04-05 Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Part 1: Historic Analysis of Siting and Construction of Fort Tejon, March 1984. (2 Copies)
- 06 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Preliminary Resource Inventory, 1987.
- 07 Fort Tejon State Historic Park – Teacher Handbook, 1988.
- 08 Fort Tejon State Historic Park – The Student Living History Program: Teacher's Handbook, 2001.
- 09 Fort Tejon State Historic Park – Volunteer Handbook, 1989.
- 10 Inland Region Activities CEQA Evaluation, 1987-1989.
- 11 Interpretive Element for Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Preliminary Subject to Review, 1988.
- 12 Monitoring Report for Fort Tejon State Historic Park, 2002.

Box 15: 01 Museum Artifact Collections from Fort Tejon, February 1989.

- 02 Museum Collections Inventory: Interpretive Collections Section, 7/28/1983.

- 03 Museum Collections Inventory: Interpretive Collections Section with Notes, 7/28/1983.
 - 04 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, 8/3/1970. (2 Copies)
 - 05-06 Non-Commissioned Officers of Company A: Fort Tejon Reader 3, June 1990. (2 Copies)
 - 07 Park Potential Study: Fort Tejon State Historical Monument, September 1965.
 - 08 Preliminary Historic Structure Report: Barracks #1, Fort Tejon State Historic Park, 1/16/2000. (2 Copies)
 - 09 Proposal for Archaeological Research at Fort Tejon, Kern County, 3/5/1968.
- Box 16:
- 01 Report of Archaeological Testing at the 1850s Guardhouse and Prison, June 1986.
 - 02 Report on Interior Furnishings of the Enlisted Men's Barracks at Fort Tejon and Fort Humboldt, July 1965.
 - 03 Report on the Preliminary Investigation of Fort Tejon, Kern County, 2/21/1936.
 - 04 Report on the Small Fort Tejon Exhibit Figures and Others by Henry Dolim, 7/27/1987.
 - 05 Resource Inventory – Appendix AL-I – Animal Species List Fort Tejon State Historic Park, 1/25/1988.
 - 06 Site Visit Report – Fort Tejon State Historic Park and Tule Elk State Reserve, January 2007.
 - 07 Soil Analysis Report for the Fort Tejon Samples, 8/8/1989.
 - 08 Test Excavation at Interpretive Facility Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Draft, 1991.
 - 09 The Building of Fort Tejon, 1932.
 - 10 The Post Bakery and its Bakers: Fort Tejon Reader, No. 2, May 1990. (2 Copies)