Descriptive Summary

Title: Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection

Date (inclusive): 1845-2009

Date (bulk): (bulk 1980-1991)

Collection number: CSPA-351

Creator: Fort Tejon State Historic Park

Extent: 7 linear feet, including 1 map folder

Repository: California State Parks

McClellan, California 95652


Physical Location: California State Parks Archives

Languages: Languages represented in this collection: English

Access

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

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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.

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.

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 frontiersman and fur trapper, mauled by a bear. Little further evidence of LeBec 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 of Collection


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 fifteen, Reports, includes reports produced by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and cultural resource management contractors. Series sixteen, Restricted Material, consists of cultural and archaeological records and reports containing sensitive information.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

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
Guide to the Fort Tejon State Historic Park Collection

Series 1. Correspondence 1934-2009

- Box 1 : 1 - 4 : 8
  - Physical Description: 32 file folders
  - Series Scope and Content Summary
    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 : 1
  - General Correspondence 1934-1940
- Box 1 : 2
  - General Correspondence 1945-1949
- Box 1 : 3
  - General Correspondence 1950-1951
- Box 1 : 4
  - General Correspondence 1952
- Box 1 : 5
  - General Correspondence 1953
- Box 1 : 6
  - General Correspondence 1954-1959
- Box 1 : 7
  - General Correspondence 1962-1972
- Box 1 : 8
  - General Correspondence 1974
- Box 2 : 1
  - General Correspondence 1976-1979
- Box 2 : 2
  - General Correspondence 1980-1984
- Box 2 : 3
  - General Correspondence 1985
- Box 2 : 4
  - General Correspondence Jan 1986 - Mar 1986
- Box 2 : 5
  - General Correspondence Apr 1982 - July 1986
- Box 2 : 6
  - General Correspondence Aug 1986 - Dec 1986
- Box 2 : 7
  - General Correspondence Jan 1987 - Apr 1987
- Box 2 : 8
  - General Correspondence May 1987 - June 1987
- Box 3 : 1
  - General Correspondence July 1987 - Aug 1987
- Box 3 : 2
  - General Correspondence Sep 1987 - Dec 1987
- Box 3 : 3
  - General Correspondence Jan 1988 - Mar 1988
- Box 3 : 4
  - General Correspondence Apr 1988 - June 1988
- Box 3 : 5
  - General Correspondence July 1988 - Dec 1988
- Box 3 : 6
  - General Correspondence Jan 1989 - Apr 1989
- Box 3 : 7
  - General Correspondence May 1989 - Dec 1989
- Box 3 : 8
  - General Correspondence Jan 1990 - June 1990
- Box 4 : 1
  - General Correspondence July 1990 - Dec 1990
- Box 4 : 2
  - General Correspondence 1991
- Box 4 : 3
  - General Correspondence 1992-2009
- Box 4 : 4
  - Civil War Association of America Correspondence 1983
- Box 4 : 5
  - Legal Correspondence 1952-1956
- Box 4 : 6
  - Legal Correspondence 1957-1958
- Box 4 : 7
  - Legal Correspondence 1959-1963
- Box 4 : 8
  - Legal Correspondence 1964-1965

- Box 4 : 9 - 5 : 8
    - Physical Description: 9 file folders
    - Series Scope and Content Summary
      The series is arranged alphabetically. It contains bibliographic material, general research, and histories of the park and local area.

- Box 4 : 9
  - Bibliographic Cards (1 of 2) undated
- Box 5 : 1
  - Bibliographic Cards (2 of 2) undated
- Box 5 : 2
  - Camel Corps Articles and General Background 1857-1979 undated
- Box 5 : 3
  - Essays on Fort Tejon by George Stammerjohann 1989
- Box 5 : 4
  - Fort Tejon Muster Rolls 1855-1859
- Box 5 : 5
  - General Histories, A-F undated
- Box 5 : 6
  - General Histories, G-W undated
- Box 5 : 7
  - Information on William Tudor Gardiner 1855-1991
- Box 5 : 8
  - Native Americans at Fort Tejon 1851-1986 undated
Box 6 : 1 - 6 : 2  
Series 3. Ranger Logs 1948-1951 undated  
Physical Description: 2 file folders  
Series Scope and Content Summary  
This series contains copies of Ranger Logs describing environmental conditions and daily operations at the park. The logs are arranged chronologically.

Box 6 : 1  
Ranger Logs 1948-1950  
Box 6 : 2  
Ranger Logs 1950-1951 undated  
Box 6 : 3 - 8 : 6  
Series 4. Interpretation 1957-1991 undated  
Physical Description: 26 file folders  
Series Scope and Content Summary  
The series includes interpretive plans, programs, collections documentation, and exhibition materials. The materials are arranged alphabetically by subject or title.

Box 6 : 3  
Collections Correspondence 1983-1987  
Box 6 : 4  
Interpretation Correspondence 1957-1987  
Box 6 : 5  
Catalogue Cards 082 1967-1984  
Box 6 : 6  
Catalogue Cards 243 and 304 1967-1986  
Box 6 : 7  
Catalogue Cards 517 1968-1987  
Box 7 : 1  
Box 7 : 2  
Comments on Museum Rooms at Fort Tejon by the Inventory Team 1983  
Box 7 : 3  
Dedication of Display at Fort Tejon 1977  
Box 7 : 4  
Environmental Living Program 1975  
Box 7 : 5  
Exhibit Rehabilitation Projects 1985-1986  
Box 7 : 6  
Exhibit Text and Graphics 1986-1987 undated  
Box 7 : 7  
Fort Tejon Interpretive Building Notes 1968-1991 undated  
Box 7 : 8  
Index of Purchase Documents 1988  
Box 7 : 9 - 7 : 10  
Interpretive Collections Inventory undated  
Box 7 : 11  
Interpretive Planning for Quartermaster’s Building 1991  
Box 7 : 12  
Interpretive Themes undated  
Box 7 : 13  
Interpretive Work Requests 1985-1990  
Box 7 : 14  
Inventory by Object, Fort Tejon: Officer’s Quarters, Barracks, and Visitor Center 1988  
Box 7 : 15  
Inventory of Native American Objects for Exhibit 1986  
Box 8 : 1  
Inventory of Objects in the Officer’s Quarters 1972  
Box 8 : 2  
List of Museum Objects 1988  
Box 8 : 3  
Museum Exhibit Recordings 1965  
Box 8 : 4  
Preliminary Interpretive Plan Documents 1986  
Box 8 : 5  
Visitor Center: Exhibit Text 1986  
Box 8 : 6  
Visitor Center: Exhibit Text 1987  
Box 8 : 7 - 9 : 5  
Series 5. Subject Files 1932-1991 undated  
Physical Description: 15 file folders  
Series Scope and Content Summary  
The series is divided into two subseries and arranged alphabetically. The two subseries are: General Plan and Archaeology.

Box 8 : 7 - 8 : 12  
Subseries 5.1. General Plan 1932-1989 undated  
Physical Description: 6 file folders  
Subseries Scope and Content Summary  
This series contains drafts and correspondence about the Fort Tejon General Plan. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 8 : 7  
Correspondence 1987-1988  
Box 8 : 8  
Draft Reviews of Resource Element 1988  
Box 8 : 9  
Environmental Impact Report Draft Comments 1989
Series 5. Subject Files 1932-1991 undated

Subseries 5.1. General Plan 1932-1989 undated

Box 8 : 10  General Plan Draft Comments 1989
Box 8 : 11  Kern County Chamber of Commerce • Why Fort Tejon Should be Preserved as a State Park 1932-1950
Box 8 : 12  Land Use and Facilities Element Draft Comments 1988


Physical Description: 9 file folders

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

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

Box 8 : 13  Archaeological Accession Record 1988
Box 8 : 14  Archaeological Catalogue P953 1991
Box 8 : 15 - 8 : 16  Archaeological Catalogue - Interagency Agreement 4-378-8405 for Work Performed on the Archaeological Collection at Fort Tejon 1988-1989
Box 9 : 1  Archaeological Catalogue- Interagency Agreement 4-378-8405 for Work Performed on the Archaeological Collection at Fort Tejon 1988-1989
Box 9 : 2  Artifacts Excavated at Fort Tejon 1998 undated
Box 9 : 3  Fort Tejon Project 17-F2-157: Notes, Indexes, and Sketches undated
Box 9 : 5  Utility Line Excavations 1989

Physical Description: 1 file folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

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

Box 9 : 6  Legal Documents 1953-1958 undated

Physical Description: 6 file folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

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

Box 9 : 8  General Financial Documents 1949-1985-1986
Box 9 : 9  Museum Furnishing Contracts, (1 of 2) 1987
Box 10 : 1  Museum Furnishing Contracts, (2 of 2) 1987
Box 10 : 2  Museum Furnishing Contracts 1988
Box 10 : 3  Tree Hazard Control and Roofing Bids 1983
Box 10 : 4  Series 8. Facilities Documents 1988

Physical Description: 1 file folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

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

Box 10 : 4  Fort Tejon Structures: Compiled by George Stammerjohn and John Kelly 1988

Physical Description: 3 file folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

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

Box 10 : 5  Pedestrian Foot Bridge Proposals and Drawings 1982
Box 10 : 6  Schedule for Maintenance or Housekeeping 1983
**Box 10 : 7**  
Stabilization Projects 1989-2000

**Box 10 : 8 - 11 :**  
**Physical Description:** 13 file folders  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
Arranged alphabetically by title, with the exception of newspaper, journal, and magazine clippings, these are arranged chronologically.

**Box 10 : 8**  
California's Historical Monuments, Forward by Governor Edmund G. Brown 1965  
**Box 10 : 9**  
Camels in Texas, by The San Jacinto Museum of History Association 1956  
**Box 10 : 10**  
Camels in the West, by Deane and Peggy Robertson 1979  
**Box 10 : 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 1576  
**Box 10 : 12**  
Fort Tejon State Historic Park Newsletters, No. 1-8 1988-1989  
**Box 10 : 13**  
Gateways to California, by Don J. Baxter 1958  
**Box 10 : 14**  
Historic Chronology of Kern County: In the Days of '49, by Richard C. Bradley 1966  
**Box 11 : 1**  
Journal Articles 1930-1994 undated  
**Box 11 : 2**  
Magazine Articles 1944-1956  
**Box 11 : 3**  
Newspaper Clippings 1853-1990 undated  
**Box 11 : 4**  
The Life and Death of Peter Lebec, by Raymond F. Wood 1954  
**Box 11 : 5**  
Overland to the Pacific - Information Pamphlet - Brochure No. 1 1956  
**Box 11 : 6**  
Quarterly Bulletins 1954-1959  
**Box 11 : 7**  
**Physical Description:** 1 file folder  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
The series contains post cards, event flyers, stationary, and pamphlets from Fort Tejon State Historic Park and Tejon Ranch.

**Box 11 : 8**  
Fort Tejon and Tejon Ranch Ephemera 1986-1988 undated  
**Box 11 : 9 - 11 :**  
**Physical Description:** 3 file folders  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
The series includes blue-prints, architectural drawings, and maps. These are arranged chronologically. Contact archivist for a complete list.

**Box 11 : 8**  
List of Drawings by Unit and Type: CA DPR 1987  
**Box 11 : 9**  
Maps and Floorplans 1855-1989 undated  
**Box 11 : 10**  
Oversized Maps 1952-1980 undated  
**Box 11 : 11 - 11 :**  
Series 13. Photographic Material 1845-2002 undated  
**Physical Description:** 6 file folders  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
All of the photographs are separated by type and arranged chronologically. The series consists of slides, negatives, and prints.

**Box 11 : 11**  
Slides 1835 1987 1989  
**Box 11 : 12**  
Negatives 1980 1989 1991 undated  
**Box 11 : 13**  
4 x 6 Prints 1936-2002 undated  
**Box 11 : 14**  
8 x 10 Prints: Archaeological Digs, 300713-300738 undated  
**Box 11 : 15**  
8 x 10 Prints: Landscapes and Portraits undated  
**Box 11 : 16**  
Reproductions of Francis B. Mayer Drawings 1845  
**Box 11 : 17**  
**Physical Description:** 1 file folder  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
The series consists of microfiche, audio cassettes, and CDs. Items are arranged chronologically.

Box 11 : 17  Media Inventory 1871-2009


Physical Description: 55 file folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

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 : 1  A Report on Fort Tejon in 1859 1987
Box 12 : 2  An Archeological Report on Fort Tejon State Historic Monument 1961
Box 12 : 3  Application for Registration of Historical Point of Interest Fort Tejon 1934
Box 12 : 4  Archaeological Data Recovery Excavations at Site of Proposed Interpretation Facility 1992
Box 12 : 5  Archaeological Investigations at the Hospital Building Site undated
Box 12 : 6  California Historical Landmark Series: Fort Tejon Landmark #129 1936
Box 12 : 7  DPR 183: Project Evaluation 2004
Box 12 : 10 DPR 663: Archaeological Accession Record 1991
Box 12 : 11 DPR 750: Historic Building Survey 1970
Box 12 : 12 Excavation Plan Lower Officer’s Quarters 2000
Box 12 : 13 Field Assessment and Preservation/Seismic Study Recommendations 2001
Box 12 : 14 Fort Tejon Resource Element, Draft 1982
Box 12 : 15 Fort Tejon State Historic Park, “A Short Interpretive History” 1992
Box 12 : 16 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Furnishing Plan Barracks 1986
Box 12 : 17 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Furnishing Plan Officer’s Quarters 1986
Box 13 : 2 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan 1989
Box 13 : 3 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, Interpretation of Barracks Building #1 1969
Box 13 : 4 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan: Interpretation Report undated
Box 14 : 1 Fort Tejon State Historic Park General Plan, Preliminary 1989
Box 14 : 2 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Interpretive Program 1986
Box 14 : 3 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Interpretive Prospectus, South Valley Area 1975
Box 14 : 4 - 14 : Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Part 1: Historic Analysis of Siting and Construction of Fort Tejon 1984
Box 14 : 5 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Preliminary Resource Inventory 1987
Box 14 : 6 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Teacher Handbook 1988
Box 14 : 7 Fort Tejon State Historic Park The Student Living History Program: Teacher’s Handbook 2001
Box 14 : 8 Fort Tejon State Historic Park Volunteer Handbook 1989
Box 14 : 9 Inland Region Activities CEQA Evaluation 1987-1989
Box 14 : 10 Interpretive Element for Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Preliminary Subject to Review 1988
Box 14 : 11 Monitoring Report for Fort Tejon State Historic Park 2002
Box 15 : 1 Museum Artifact Collections from Fort Tejon 1989
Box 15 : 2 Museum Collections Inventory: Interpretive Collections Section 1983
Box 15 : 3 Museum Collections Inventory: Interpretive Collections Section with Notes 1983
Box 15 : 4 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form 1970
Box 15 : 5 - 15 : Non-Commissioned Officers of Company A: Fort Tejon Reader 3 1990
Box 15 : 6 Park Potential Study: Fort Tejon State Historical Monument 1965
Box 15 : 7 Preliminary Historic Structure Report: Barracks #1, Fort Tejon State Historic Park 2000
Box 15 : 8 Proposal for Archaeological Research at Fort Tejon, Kern County 1968
Box 15 : 9 Report of Archaeological Testing at the 1850s Guardhouse and Prison 1986
Box 15 : 10 Report on Interior Furnishings of the Enlisted Men’s Barracks at Fort Tejon and Fort Humboldt 1965
Box 16 : 1 Report on the Preliminary Investigation of Fort Tejon, Kern County 1936
| Box 16 : 4 | Report on the Small Fort Tejon Exhibit Figures and Others by Henry Dolin 1987 |
| Box 16 : 5 | Resource Inventory ▪ Appendix AL-I ▪ Animal Species List Fort Tejon State Historic Park 1988 |
| Box 16 : 6 | Site Visit Report ▪ Fort Tejon State Historic Park and Tule Elk State Reserve 2007 |
| Box 16 : 7 | Soil Analysis Report for the Fort Tejon Samples 1999 |
| Box 16 : 8 | Test Excavation at Interpretive Facility Fort Tejon State Historic Park 1991 |
| Box 16 : 9 | The Building of Fort Tejon 1932 |
| Box 16 : 10 | The Post Bakery and its Bakers: Fort Tejon Reader, No. 2 1990 |