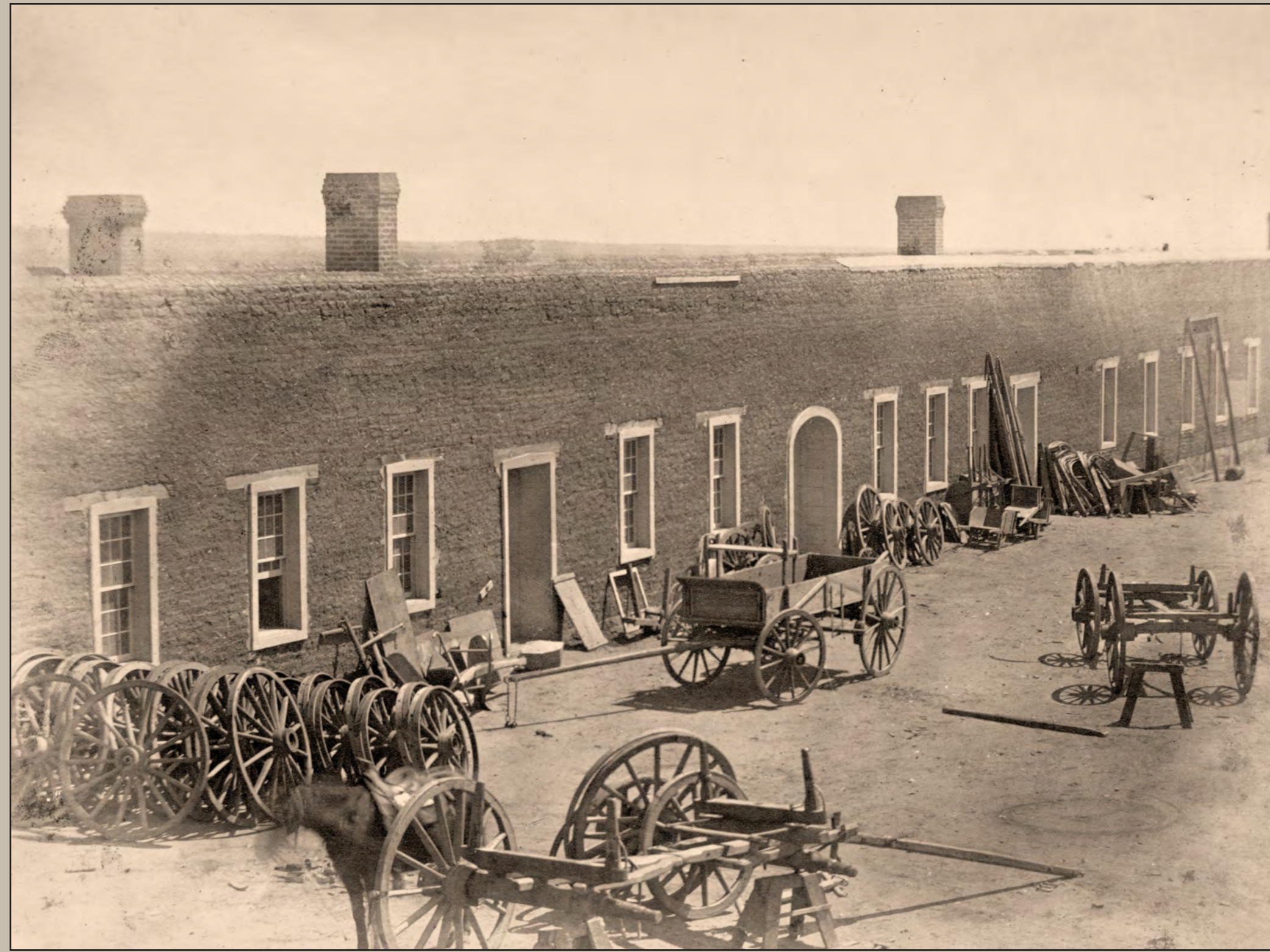


SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY



U.S. Army repair shops at Fort Union, 1866. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA), 001839.

Civil War New Mexico

At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the Confederacy planned an ambitious western campaign. Troops were to take Santa Fe and the federal supply depot at Fort Union to the north, proceed into Colorado Territory to capture gold mines, then head west to invade California. The first engagement in New Mexico Territory occurred north of Fort Craig at Valverde in February 1862. Confederate forces captured Santa Fe on March 13, 1862.

On March 26, Union troops attacked a Confederate detachment as it emerged from Glorieta Pass in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, southeast of Santa Fe. The Union assault initially forced a Confederate retreat. Two days later the armies clashed again. Though the Confederates pushed back the Union forces, a small detachment of U.S. soldiers destroyed the Confederate supply train. Lacking food and supplies, the Confederates retreated to Santa Fe. They abandoned New Mexico by July 1862.

National Cemetery

The U.S. Army acquired less than an acre from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Fe in 1870 for use as a cemetery. The first interments were 265 soldiers who died in local Civil War battles and during the Mexican War (1846-1848) at nearby Fort Marcy. The property was designated Santa Fe National Cemetery on April 6, 1875. Over the next year, additional land was obtained to provide more gravesites. However, it was reclassified as a post cemetery.

In 1892, it became a national cemetery again. Between 1896 and 1912, the government moved remains here from abandoned forts including Apache and Grant in Arizona, Hatch and Wingate in New Mexico, and Duchesne in Utah.

The stone Victorian-style superintendent's lodge, stable, and tool house were completed in 1895. A stone wall was built to enclose the property. In the twentieth century, the Works Progress Administration was responsible for transforming the appearance of the lodge to blend into the regional Adobe-style architecture. Laborers also improved cemetery roads and walks. In 1944, an Adobe-style garage, utility building, and rostrum were completed.



Memorial Day, 1898. National Archives and Records Administration.



Remains of soldiers and civilians recovered from the site of Fort Craig were reinterred here in 2009. National Cemetery Administration.

Reinterred Burials

In 1895, five Confederate soldiers who died in April 1862 were removed from the Masonic Cemetery in Santa Fe and reinterred here. Nearly 100 years later in June 1987, a construction crew discovered a mass grave near Glorieta Pass. The remains were identified as thirty-one Confederate soldiers killed at the 1862 battle. All but one were reburied here in April 1993—two individually and the remainder in a shared grave that is marked by a bronze and granite monument (Section K, Sites 330C, 350C & 370C).

Similarly, the remains of sixty-four federal soldiers and civilians were discovered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2007 at the site of Fort Craig. Troops there fought Apaches, Navajos, and Confederates in the Battle of Valverde. Two years later, the remains—three identified—were reinterred in Section 15A.