

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

W. C. "Dub" Williams

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS TO ASSESS WHETHER  
FORT STANTON MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS A NEW  
MEXICO STATE MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, Fort Stanton was established on May 4, 1855 for  
the purpose of controlling the Mescalero Apaches in the area;  
and

WHEREAS, in August 1861, Fort Stanton was abandoned to  
confederate forces sweeping into New Mexico during the early  
stages of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in October 1862, five companies of New Mexico  
volunteers under the command of the legendary mountain man,  
Christopher "Kit" Carson, took control of the fort for the  
Union; and

WHEREAS, Fort Stanton was the center of a campaign to

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 control Mescalero and Gila Apaches in the area; and

2 WHEREAS, the continued presence of Fort Stanton brought  
3 stability to the area and encouraged settlement of Lincoln  
4 county; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton not only made settlement of the  
6 area possible, but its dominance in the local economy was a  
7 key factor in what came to be known as the Lincoln County War;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, during the 1880s, black soldiers of the 9th and  
10 10th Cavalry were stationed at Fort Stanton and helped control  
11 Apache bands under Victorio and Geronimo; and

12 WHEREAS, several legendary figures have been associated  
13 with Fort Stanton, including Billy the Kid, who was  
14 incarcerated in the fort's guardhouse; Governor Lew Wallace,  
15 who is reputed to have written parts of his famous novel, *Ben*  
16 *Hur*, while relaxing in the quiet of the isolated fort; and  
17 John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, commander of the American  
18 expeditionary forces in World War I, who served two tours of  
19 duty at the fort in 1887 and 1889; and

20 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton was officially abandoned in August  
21 1896 upon the conclusion of the Indian wars; and

22 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton continued to served a variety of  
23 social needs, including a federal tuberculosis hospital, a  
24 World War II internee camp for the crew of a German luxury  
25 liner that had been sunk off the coast of Cuba in 1939 and a

. 137276. 1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 Japanese internee camp in 1942 for Japanese farmers from  
2 California; and

3 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton was transferred to the state of New  
4 Mexico in 1953 for use as a state tuberculosis hospital; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton has continued to serve the state in  
6 a declining series of uses; and

7 WHEREAS, Fort Stanton was entered into the state register  
8 of historic places in 1969 and on the national register of  
9 historic places in 1973; and

10 WHEREAS, the state wishes to make better use of the fort  
11 and has entered into a contract to explore the best uses of  
12 the fort and its facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, an assessment of its eligibility as a state  
14 monument would provide the contractor with information on its  
15 suitability for this type of use;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of cultural affairs be  
18 requested to determine whether Fort Stanton meets the criteria  
19 for designation as a state monument; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the state cultural affairs officer and to the  
22 general services department.