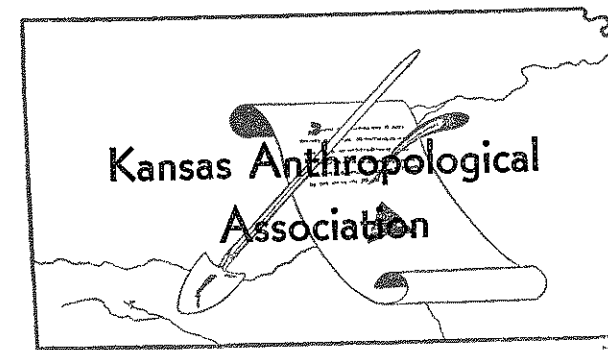


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NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Number 4

December, 1970

FORT HAYS ARCHEOLOGY, 1970

By

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The summer of 1970, July through August, marked the end of the initial phase of archeological fieldwork at Old Fort Hays, Hays, Kansas. During the preceding field seasons work centered around the main fort complex. This included Officers row, the enlisted Men's barracks and the post hospital. Archeological investigations for the 1970 season again centered around the remaining foundations within the main fort complex. These included the surgeon's quarters, an L-shaped structure located between the hospital and the blockhouse, the post bakery, located on a diagonal between the blockhouse and the guardhouse, and the coal shed which is located due east of the guardhouse. Selected vaults and one portion of the post dump were also excavated.

The stabilization of the existing officers quarters foundations and one enlisted men's barracks were also completed this summer. New stone from local sources was conveyed to the post during the 1969 season and placed over the original foundations along officers row and one enlisted men's barrack. The original stone was in a poor state of preservation that this type of restoration was necessary. The new stone was placed on a sand and mortar base and pointed up with portland cement. One foundation, number two, on officers row was pointed up with portland cement and left as the original due to the excellent condition of the limestone. This technique brought the foundations up to the present ground surface in order that the visitors to the fort area could get a better perspective as to the size and overall configurations of the buildings situated around the parade ground. New stone was also placed above the original foundations of the hospital, surgeon's quarters, and the post bakery. These aforementioned foundations will be restored in the fall of 1971. Artifacts were recovered in some quantity from the vaults located behind officer's row and the quartermaster warehouses as well as the one portion of the military dump. Unfortunately, recovery in the dump area was hampered by prior excavation which took place many years ago. However, new artifacts, both military and civilian, were added to the collections from this feature area.