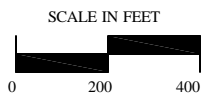


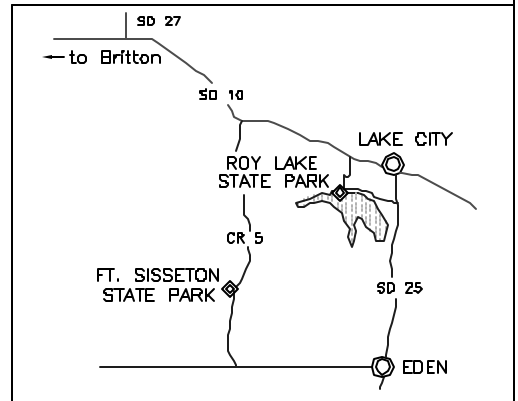
Fort Sisseton State Park Trail System

- A-NORTH BARRACKS
- B-SOUTH BARRACKS
- C-OIL HOUSE
- D-GUARDHOUSE
- E-MAGAZINE
- F-COMMISSARY SERGEANT'S QUARTERS
- G-ADJUTANT'S OFFICE
- H-OFFICER'S QUARTERS
- I-COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESIDENCE
- J-DOCTOR'S QUARTERS
- K-HOSPITAL
- L-LIBRARY/SCHOOLHOUSE
- M-BARN
- N-BLACKSMITH
- Q-BLOCKHOUSE

-  ENTRANCE STATION
-  ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
-  WALKING/HIKING TRAIL
-  TELEPHONE
-  BOAT RAMP
-  VAULT TOILET
-  PICNIC SHELTER
-  DRINKING WATER



PARK VICINITY MAP



Fort Sisseton State Park

Andrew Jackson Fisk Historic Trail

Type of trail: Hiking and interpretive history

Trail surface: Boardwalk

Rated: Easy, appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail in miles: .25 mile / 45 minutes

Location of the trailhead: North end of fort grounds

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking

Facilities along the trail: Toilet, drinking water, benches

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Eden - 8 miles; in Lake City - 12 miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:

Restaurant/Roy Lake Resort, (605) 448-5498

Other area resorts; cities of Britton, Webster and Sisseton

Nearest Chambers of Commerce:

Britton Chamber, 1209 9th St., Britton, SD 57430, (605) 448-5323

Sisseton Chamber, 509 Veteran's Ave, Sisseton, SD 57262, (605) 698-7261

Webster Chamber, 513 Main St., Webster, SD 57274, (605) 345-4668

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911 or 448-2253

Sheriff – 911 or 448-5181

Fire Department – 911 or 448-5383

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Fort Sisseton State Park

Andrew Jackson Fisk Historic Trail

The Andrew Jackson Fisk Historic Trail follows the boardwalk around the Parade Grounds of Fort Sisseton. The trail has 18 interpretive signs with excerpts from Andrew Jackson Fisk's journal written at Fort Sisseton during the winter of 1865. Guided living history interpretive tours are available Memorial Day through Labor Day. For more information call Fort Sisseton at (605) 448-5474.

TOUR SITES

1. North Barracks
2. South Barracks
3. Oil House & Breastworks
4. Guardhouse
5. Magazine
6. Commissary Sergeant's Quarters
7. Adjutant's Office
8. Officers' Quarter
9. Commanding Officer's Quarters
10. Doctor's Residence
11. Blockhouse
12. Hospital
13. Library-Schoolhouse
14. Stable
15. Cemetery
16. Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops

SITE 1 - NORTH BARRACKS

This building contains the visitor center, restrooms and program rooms. Originally designed to house two companies of soldiers (roughly 150 men), the building is 45 feet wide and 182 feet long. It is constructed of split fieldstone gathered from the vicinity. The porch was added in 1885. When the restoration was undertaken by a Works Project Administration (WPA) crew in 1935, only the exterior walls and remnants of the interior walls were standing.

SITE 2 - SOUTH BARRACKS

The South Barracks is the same size as the North Barracks, however, the building never had an attached porch. Beginning in 1873, it was used as storage for commissary and quartermaster supplies. A 12-month stock of supplies was stored for the garrison. When first established, the nearest commissary supply depot was St. Cloud, Minnesota, about 196 miles east of here.

SITE 3 - OIL HOUSE & BREASTWORKS

Completed in 1888, the Oil House, located directly behind the South Barracks, was the last structure to be built at Fort Sisseton. Stand on the breast works, look across the lake about one mile east, and imagine another small outpost—the location of the Indian Scout Headquarters. The enclosure was about 100 feet square and was surrounded by 12-foot pointed posts. Inside the enclosure was a 20-by 50-foot log structure.

The breastworks around the fort was filled in before abandonment. It was later re-dug and re-sodded by the WPA.

SITE 4 - GUARDHOUSE

Originally the Guardhouse was built with two rooms for the guards and two cells for prisoners. The cells were 4 by 8 feet. A doctor in 1873 described them as “*dark and damp with no ventilation except a small half-circular opening three inches in diameter at the top of the cell doors.*” There was also a wooden porch on the West Side of the guardhouse.

SITE 5 - MAGAZINE

The Magazine is built of stone and brick and was used to store small arms, ammunition, canister shot and powder for the artillery pieces. The original Magazine, built from logs, is marked by the depression inside the extreme southwest corner of the breastworks.

SITE 6 - COMMISSARY SERGEANT’S HEADQUARTERS

A few of the fort’s facilities were built outside the breastworks. This building was occupied by the commissary sergeant. It is often mistakenly called the “lookout post.” Originally, a porch was attached over the south entrance.

SITE 7 - ADJUTANT’S OFFICE

An adjutant is the administrative assistant to the commanding officer and takes care of the correspondence and other bookwork for the commander. Originally constructed with a hay roof, this structure was near ruin when restored in 1935.

SITE 8 - OFFICERS’ QUARTERS

The front of this building has been restored much to its original appearance. It was divided into four apartments for officers and their families. Walk behind the building and observe where the woodsheds and kitchens were once attached.

SITE 9 - COMMANDING OFFICER’S QUARTERS

This two-story brick building housed the fort commander. At one point it was occupied as three sets of quarters for officers. At least 11 commanding officers served at Fort Sisseton during its 25 years of military occupancy. They commanded the 30th Wisconsin Infantry, 2nd Minnesota Cavalry, 10th Infantry, 20th Infantry, 17th Infantry, 25th Infantry and the 3rd Infantry.

SITE 10 - DOCTOR’S QUARTERS

The post doctor was responsible for collecting information about the birds, animals, weather, anthropology and geology for the vicinity. One can imagine that the rooms of the Doctor’s Quarters were decorated with many scientific specimens, mounted birds and animals and rock collections. The first hospital, built of hewed logs, was replaced by this story-and-a-half brick structure in 1868. Equipment for recording weather data was located at the front of the building on the left.

SITE 11 - HOSPITAL

Originally, this building was rectangular and 1 ½ stories high. It was remodeled into a larger structure during the latter years of the fort's active life. In addition to his duties, Dr. James Ferguson, the post surgeon in 1880, found time to plant flowers and roses around the hospital ground. While the building required continuous remodeling attention, the post was fortunate to have the services of a doctor for most of its occupation. The concrete foundation marks the original limits of the hospital.

SITE 12 - BLOCKHOUSE

This structure is a reproduction of the original building, constructed in 1976. The blockhouse is built upon the original foundation. The purpose of the blockhouse in this corner of the fort grounds, the northwest, was to sweep the breastworks running east and south.

SITE 13 - LIBRARY-SCHOOLHOUSE

This building was built in a cross design. It housed a 94-volume library, a telegraph office and the post's schoolroom. Court martials were also held here. The oil lamp used for reading in the 20- by 40- foot room occupied by the library was the subject of many complaints from the fort's commanders to their headquarters.

SITE 14 - BARN/STABLE

Constructed of split fieldstone, the horse and mule stable is 35 feet wide and over 200 feet long. The original roof was a simple gable design. It was redesigned to its present form during the Works Project Administration (WPA) reconstruction in 1935. The building was used to shelter the mounts of several area riding clubs before the fort became a state park 1959.

SITE 15 - CEMETERY

The road north of the stable leads to the post cemetery about one-quarter mile west. Bodies of the dead were removed to Custer Battlefield National Cemetery (the name was changed to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument) in Montana, before the fort was closed. The rail fence has been reconstructed around part of the cemetery. Several of the original oak posts were used.

SITE 16 - CARPENTER'S, BLACKSMITH'S AND WHEEL WRIGHT'S SHOP

When the WPA crew began restoration, these buildings were in ruin. A display of blacksmith and wheelwright tools of the era may be viewed from the doorway.