

Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives - Forts and Posts

Fort Berthold (North Dakota)

The first Fort Berthold was a fur trade post on the north bank of the Missouri River at Fishhook Bend, near the Hidatsa/Mandan village Like-a-Fishhook. It was established in 1845 as Fort James, but was renamed in 1846, likely after Bartholomew Berthold. After the original fort burned in 1862, the post moved to the nearby site of the abandoned Fort Atkinson, which became the second Fort Berthold. Army troops were garrisoned at the post from late 1864 through June 1867. In 1869, the fort was transferred to the federal government to become the Indian Agency for the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes. The site was inundated by the construction of the Garrison Dam and is now under Lake Sakakawea.

Collections

General Photo Collection - Fort Berthold (P93)

Includes images of the issue house in 1898, a school building, groups of school children (1908-1909, 1917), agency buildings, camp of the 7th Iowa Cavalry, Brackett's Battalion, an encampment, a group of Ree Indians, officers of the 1st U.S., and Battery Boys.

James McLaughlin Papers, 1855-1937

Microfilm publication of Major James McLaughlin's correspondence, personal business records, notebooks, vouchers, checkbooks, employee lists, Standing Rock Indian Census (1891-1892), and Indian family histories. McLaughlin was an Indian Agent at Devil's Lake and Standing Rock. Collection contains 39 reels of microfilm, two of which are indexes for the rest of the collection. (MF 1390-1428)

Stanley J. Morrow Photograph Collection (P194-198)

Photographs of Fort Berthold (#112, 113, and 114).

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Letters Received, 1867-1880

Microfilm collection containing letters received by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1867 to 1880. (MF 1454-1459)

U.S. Office of the Adjutant General. Military Orders (H76-069)

This series contains some official military orders pertaining to the posts of Fort Rice and Fort Berthold from 1864 to 1865. Includes warrants for payment, transfers of soldiers from one company to another, charges against soldiers, requests for supplies, and other administrative matters. (Box 03568 A)

Maps

[Colton's Dakota and Wyoming, 1868](#) - shows locations of forts. (#1859 - MD 43, Folder 2)

[Vereingte Staaten von Nord Amerika, 1879](#) - shows forts, rivers, settlements in Dakota (MD 88)

Publications

Report on Historical Aspects of the Garrison Reservoir Area, Missouri River: Mercer, McLean, Mountrail, Dunn, McKenzie, and Williams Counties, North Dakota. Omaha, NE: National Park Service, 1951.

Mentions in South Dakota Historical Collections. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Atkinson (North Dakota): Vol. 1, page 134-135, 360; Vol. 3, page 578.

Fort Berthold, first (1845-1862): Vol. 1, page 135-136, 276, 359-360; Vol. 3, page 578; Vol. 4, page 235-236, 300, 606

Fort Berthold, second (1862-1867): Vol. 1, page 57, 122, 135-136, 360-361; Vol. 3, page 578; Vol. 8, page 354; Vol. 9, page 293; Vol. 27, page 470

Mentions in South Dakota History. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Berthold: Vol. 4, page 143-144; Vol. 6, page 195, 198, 200

Fort Berthold I (Fort James): Vol. 38, page 330-334

Fort Berthold II (Fort Atkinson): Vol. 35, page 158-159, 161

Vertical Files

"Fort Berthold"