

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

Fort Defiance / Fort Bouis (South Dakota)

The mouth of Medicine Creek on the Missouri River was a hot spot in the fur trade. A. Bouis of the American Fur Company built a post there in 1845, which was known as Fort Bouis. In 1846, Fort Defiance was built by a rival company to oppose the American Fur Company interests. Fort Defiance stood on the west bank of the Missouri River, possibly a mile or two above the mouth of Medicine Creek. Both forts were abandoned by 1860. The original sites were inundated by the construction of Big Bend Dam.

Collections

General Photo Collection - Fort Defiance (P93)

Includes an aerial photo of the site of Fort Defiance, taken in 1956.

Publications

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

Fort Bouis: Vol. 1, page 132; Vol. 9, page 177; Vol. 12, page 254

Fort Defiance: Vol. 1, page 377-378; Vol. 12, page 254; Vol. 31, page 258-260