

Fort Cibolo
Near Shafter, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-3118

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
315 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

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FORT CIBOLO
Near Shafter, Presidio County, Texas.

Owner: Joe Buntin

Date of Erection: Late 1850's

Architect: Milton Favors

Builder: Milton Favors

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Adobe, cottonwood and cypress

Other Existing Records: Abstract Presidio County Seat.

Additional Data:

This unique and interesting structure was built in the late 1850's by Milton Favors to be used as the headquarters for an immense sheep ranch. The building consists of five rooms, at present, and a partial wall, but judging from parts of existing foundations it was originally 100 to 110 feet square.

At one time the building contained two towers, one at the North corner and the other at the South corner. They were used as vantage points from which to repel Indian attacks. These towers were from eighteen to twenty feet high and had two shooting levels. Men on the upper level stood on a platform made of cottonwood logs, saplings, and mud or adobe, which made quite a smooth floor. Roof of the entire structure was constructed in similar manner, except the adobe was from 12 to 16 inches thick. The two towers were about twenty feet in diameter. Oval port holes 12" wide and 18" high, cut in the walls five feet to five and one half feet above the floor, were spaced about four feet apart on both levels. At strategic intervals along the Southeast and Northwest walls on the exterior, and on both inside walls facing the patio, were also port holes serving for light within the structure as well as vantage points for rifles.

Fort Cibolo is situated between a hill on the East and a creek on the West, however, it was far enough from the hill that nothing but spent arrows ever reached the patio. Walls on the other three sides were high enough to be impossible to climb. It served as a true fortress, and has stood as such thru all the Indian raids of that time and vicinity.

The building is constructed entirely of adobe made into brick form approximately 6" x 1' x 1' 6" and laid up in adobe mud. All woodwork is of cottonwood and cypress; cottonwood was used mostly. The cypress used is of the Mexican variety known as Sabinas. Outside walls are from ten to fifteen feet high and from two to three feet thick. The valley in which the old fort stands is very rich and is plentifully supplied with water from a large spring Northwest of the patio. The place was known as "Fortin de Cibolo", meaning Fort of the Buffalo. Milton Favors, the builder, is buried in an adobe tomb on the hill overlooking the Fort. Present Owner is Joe Buntin, Sheriff of Presidio County, Marfa, Texas.

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APPROVED: Bartlett Cocke
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer.

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