

## Historic Furnishings Report - The Fort Smith Courtroom



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***(Mrs. Kylie Oberbrunner II)***

## HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT - THE FORT SMITH COURTROOM



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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.On September 13, 1961, Congress authorized Fort Smith National Historic Site by Public Law 87-215. According to its 1994 statement of park significance, Fort Smith National Historic Site preserves the site of two frontier forts and the site of the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas, including the Indian Territory. To fulfill its obligation to Fort Smith s enabling legislation, National Park Service interpretation can be grouped into the following three periods: First Fort: continuous military occupation from 1817 to 1824, then intermittent military occupation from 1824 to 1834; Second Fort: intermittent military occupation from 1838 to 1851; continuous military occupation from 1851 to 1871 (including occupation by the Confederacy during the Civil War);Federal Court: judicial era from 1872 to 1896 In brief: the term First Fort refers to a fort the Army built on a bluff at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. The Army occupied the first Fort Smith continuously from 1817 to 1824, then intermittently to 1834. During this 17-year period, the Army helped maintain order between two principal Indian nations, the Cherokee and the Osage. The intermittent use of the fort from 1824 to 1838 was tied to the forced removal of the Five Tribes-Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole-beginning in 1830. These nations were moved to lands historically occupied by the Osage. The removal of these nations provided the need to authorize a second fort. The term Second Fort refers to remains of a second fort slightly to the northeast of the present courtroom and jail. This second fort served primarily as a supply depot. From 1838 to 1851, the Army occupied this second Fort Smith site intermittently, and...



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