A Geophysical Survey at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming

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Interpretations and Future Research

Based on the 2002 geophysical data, when combined with previous geophysical study results, there appears to have been relatively little disturbance to military features around the Fort Laramie non-commissioned Officers' Houses. Periodic examination of this area in the 2003 archaeological field season revealed that disturbance was highly localized and consistent with the past. The only significant disturbance to modern features around the fort was isolated and can be attributed to the construction of the hospital parking lot. Because of the lack of evidence for disturbance around the non-commissioned Officers' Houses, this area was not excavated for future research. The future of the non-commissioned Officers' Houses is still in question. The original reports for this area do not appear to have been completed, and this disturbance could be attributed to the construction of the hospital parking lot, but these data are not available for verification. In addition, the hospital parking lot is located in the area with the highest number of archaeological features, and it is not clear if the disturbance was caused by the construction of the parking lot or if the parking lot was disturbed by previous construction activities.}

Abstract

A joint effort of the National Park Service-Midwest Archeological Center with the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming State Archeologist's Office

goals and Accomplishments of the 2002 Field Season

The 2002 field season had hoped to complete the geophysical survey of Fort Laramie. Therefore, several factors prevented the completion of the survey. The survey was limited by the availability of geophysical instruments, the lack of access to the area, and the relatively low number of features visible on the surface. The survey was limited to a 20x20 meter grid, and the survey area was divided into 3x3 segments. The survey area was divided into 20x20 meter grids, or 322,000 square meters.

Discussion of the Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey was completed with the use of two survey types: the magnetic survey and the ground conductivity survey. The magnetic survey was completed with the use of a magnetic gradiometer survey and a resistivity survey. This survey was divided into three segments: a magnetic survey, a ground conductivity survey, and a resistivity survey. The magnetic survey was completed with the use of a magnetic gradiometer survey, and the resistivity survey was completed with the use of a resistivity meter. The magnetic survey was divided into three segments: a magnetic survey, a ground conductivity survey, and a resistivity survey. The magnetic survey was completed with the use of a magnetic gradiometer survey, and the resistivity survey was completed with the use of a resistivity meter. The resistivity survey was completed with the use of a resistivity meter.

Discussion of the Magnetic Survey

Grids were surveyed in either half meter or meter intervals near the hospital or meter intervals across the remaining areas of the fort. Because of the potential for historic graves in the hospital and half meter intervals were used. Other features visible from the magnetic survey include the old hospital located south of the standing hospital and windmill tank east of the hospital. This feature is believed to be part of the homestead era.

Discussion of the Conductivity Survey

This area was part of the original farmland and early military cemetery at Fort Laramie. Today, several depressions around the hospital are believed to be grave locations. In addition, three graves were discovered during the National Park Service's stabilization of a portion of the hospital wall. The hospital consists of standing runs in addition to fallen wall blocks. North of the Hospital, the location of the Stewards' Quarters was identified in the conductivity data. The extensive trenches in the conductivity data is also visible in the data.

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