

Following the Warpath: Fort Bayard



Just outside Silver City, Fort Bayard has neither melted back into the desert sands like Fort Cummings and Craig nor been restored like Fort Stanton, Instead it stands eerily silent, empty but not quite abandoned.



, preserved like a fly in amber in its final incarnation as a VA hospital more than 40 years ago.



The enlisted barracks and stables are gone, and the old parade ground has been invaded by gophers,



but the former officers' quarters are still dignified, imposing structures,



and even what was the housing for married NCOs (and later hospital staff) is still in remarkably good condition.



A statue on the parade ground commemorates the courage of Corporal Clinton Greaves. "In 1877 a band of 40 Apaches who had fled the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona attacked a party of six Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry, their officer and three Navajo scouts in the Florida Mountains. Fighting his way through the encirclement, Corporal Clinton Greaves led the party to safety and was subsequently awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Between January 1877 and April 1882 thirteen men were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroism within 125 miles of this statue to Cpl. Clinton Greaves is of the local area awardees.

1877 Cpl. Clinton Greaves, Co. H 9th Cav Fort Bayard
1879 Sgt. Thomas Boyne, Co. C 9th Cav Fort Bayard
1879 Sgt. John Denny, Co. B 9th Cav Fort Bayard
1879 2nd Mathias Day, Co. A 9th Cav Fort Bayard
1879 2nd Lt Robert Emmet, Co. G, 9th Cav Fort Bayard
1880 Sgt. George Jordan, Co. K, 9th Cav Fort Wingate
1881 Sgt. Brent Woods, Co. B 9th Cav Fort Cummings
1881 Sgt. Thomas Shaw, Co. K 9th Cav Fort Wingate
1881 Sgt. Moses Williams, Co. I 9th Cav Fort Craig
1881 Pvt. Augustus Walley, Co. I 9th Cav Fort Craig
1881 2nd Lt George Burnett, Co. I 9th Cav Fort Craig
1882 1st Lt Wilbur Wilder, Co. G 4th Cav Fort Bayard
1882 Pvt. John Schnitzer, Co. G 4th Cav Fort Bayard
(He is buried in the Fort Bayard National Cemetery)

Greaves earned his award in the Florida Mountains fighting escapees from San Carlos. The next five men fought Victorio. Those in 1881 fought Nana, and those of 1882 fought Loco.

A plaque at the base lists the names of the 13 men who won the MoH in NM Territory during the Apache Wars.

A full history of Fort Bayard at <http://newmexicohistory.org/places/fort-bayard>