

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

(510)

On the south bank of the Arkansas River at the mouth of the Poteau River, at the western limit of the State of Arkansas River and adjoining the city of Fort Smith. Established in October 15, 1817.

Lat.  $35^{\circ}23'$ , Long.  $94^{\circ}29'$ . Abandoned in Aug., 1871. Relinquished to the Int. Dept. March 25, 1871. See Mil. Resvs. Bk., pp. 383.

The site of Fort Smith was selected by Major <sup>Stephan</sup> Long, in the fall of 1817, and called Belle Point in allusion to its peculiar beauty. It occupies an elevated point of land, immediately below the junction of the Arkansas and the Poteau, a small tributary from the southwest. Agreeably to the orders of Gen. Smith, then commanding the 9th Mil. Dept., a plan of the proposed work was submitted to Maj. Bradford at that time, and since, Commandant at the fort, under whose superintendence the works have been in part completed, not without some deviation from the original plan. The buildings now form the sides of a hollow square terminated by strong block-houses at the opposite angle and fronting towards the river.

Among other important designs contemplated in the establishment of this fort, one was to prevent the encroachments of the white settlers upon the lands still held by the Indians.

Long's Exped., Vol. 2, pp. 260, 263, - 1819-20. First return on file, Aug. 1820. Troops withdrawn Apr. 23, 1861, and post.

At Fort Smith, Arkansas. Originally included in the Fort Smith Mil. Reservation, which was reserved July 22, 1822 at request of the Sec. of War and was relinquished to Int. Dept. under Act of Congress approved Feb. 24, 1871, (No. 2305). The cemetery grounds were reserved by Exec. order, May 22, 1871, and enlarged by Exec. order Dec. 3, 1875. As so enlarged it contains 14.81 acres in Sec. 17, Township 8 N., Range 32 N.