

## 4/04/2003 Moran Announces Funding to Restore Fort on Santa Fe Trail

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#### \$30,000 Grant for Fort Larned National Historic Site

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that funding to help restore the Commanding Officer's Quarters at the Fort Larned Historical Site has been included in the final spending agreement for the 2003 fiscal year. \$30,000 has been designated to help furnish and restore the building to its original condition.

"Historic Fort Larned is an important part of the history of the Santa Fe Trail and of our state's heritage," Moran said. "This grant assistance will be helpful in preserving this site to teach and educate future generations of Kansans."

The Fort Larned National Historic Site preserves 19th century history on the Great Plains. Fort Larned was established to counter Native American attacks on traders using the Santa Fe Trail. However, because of their condition, not all of the nine original buildings at the site are open to the public. Located on the west side of the parade grounds, the Commanding Officer's Quarters is one of the largest buildings at the Fort. This project would furnish and restore the original building where roughly 12 commanding officers lived between 1867 and 1878.

"The Commanding Officer's Quarters is one of the most important buildings at the Fort," Steve Linderer, Superintendent of Fort Larned said. "Once restoration is completed in a few years, the public will have the opportunity to go into rooms where Major General Winfield Hancock, Lieutenant Colonel George Custer, Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson and others were, more than 135 years ago. This will help make Fort Larned one of the most authentic and best preserved frontier military forts in the country."

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