

porated into the local landscape and society. Regional patterns of settlement, population clusters, and land use are discussed in context of environmental constraints and subsequent ramifications to demographic trends. Finally, Gerritsen discusses how the constructed space feeds a sense of social identity and community, social dynamics, and communal reciprocity in the Meuse-Demer-Scheldt region during the Late Bronze Age and early Roman period.

Gerritsen comprehensively accounts for data collected during his research and competently interprets the data in light of specific research questions crafted to maximize the information that results from his work. With *Local Identities*, Gerritsen disseminates what is learned about these early settlers of northwest Europe. How this information will be used by the cultural heritage management community is not fully addressed. One can hope that, in time, new knowledge will facilitate better preservation through improved understanding of resource use and settlement patterns during the study period. Scholars in the field will look forward to future updates by Gerritsen.

Delivered in an easy-to-follow format, Gerritsen's book methodically provides both the layperson and the professional a case study of careful archeological investigations and thoughtful analysis and conclusions. Well illustrated with maps, plans, and figures, the book is a fine example of public archeology that is intended to engage and enlighten regardless of the reader's previous knowledge of the topic. The work is extremely insightful and highly recommended for readers interested in archeology, landscape studies, and cultural heritage interpretation.

Wm. Brian Yates

*Florida Division of Historical Resources*

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*Guardians of the Trail: Archeological & Historical Investigations at Fort Craig*

By Peggy A. Gerow. New Mexico Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resources Series, No. 15, 2004; 452 pp., maps, tables, illustrations, notes, references, appendices; paper, no charge.

Fort Craig, 25 miles south of Socorro, New Mexico, is one of a series of fortifications built to protect settlers, control Indians, and guard travel routes across the New Mexico Territory. Established in 1854, the fort consisted of rock and adobe buildings. The fort closed in 1884. Since 1981, Fort Craig has been under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

*Guardians of the Trail* describes archeological excavations between 1990 and 1994 by the Archaeological and Historical Research Institute. It includes the results of an extensive search of historical records by Marion Cox Grinstead.

The report is arranged in six sections and four appendices. The core of the report is covered in sections II to IV, which describe data recovered from five excavations of various buildings and structures, historical investigations, and artifact analysis.

Research issues and excavation strategies are established in the first section of the report. The issues and strategies for investigations at Fort Craig are similar to those for investigations at two other southwestern frontier forts, Fort Fillmore and Fort Cummings. Research is directed towards developing a better understanding of daily life at Fort Craig and focuses on the economic status of the personnel, the status of black soldiers, reliance on the local economy, effectiveness of the army's shipping of goods, the role that the railroad played in the latter years of the fort, and environmental adaptation. Gerow also addresses the impact of vandalism.

The chapters of the data recovery section are arranged in chronological order with a separate chapter devoted to each season's work. Within each chapter there are subsections for specific areas such as rooms and trash concentrations. Descriptions of data recovery are supported by black-and-white photographs and grayscale figures. The figures are clear, making it easy to distinguish the location of individual artifacts, which helps greatly in understanding the narrative. The photographs are of lesser quality than the figures and it is not always easy to distinguish details that are important to understanding their significance.

The six chapters of the historical investigations section follow the same order as the data recovery chapters with an additional chapter on "Army Doctors and Frontier Medicine." Grinstead has done a thorough job in pulling together sources that paint a picture of daily life at Fort Craig. Readers will have a good understanding of the buildings and the constant battle to maintain them. Roofs were a continuing source of problems and the attempts to repair and maintain them are well documented. Each chapter is fully annotated. The lack of clarity of some of the figures in these chapters, however, is troubling. Readers need to refer to reproductions of historic plans to fully understand the narrative, but the quality of the plans also is very poor and it was difficult to identify important text such as room names.

In the artifact analysis section, 10 chapters are divided by material or artifact type. Each assesses the range of activities represented by the artifact to place the artifacts within a chronological framework. Gerow used specialist authors for these chapters who have done a thorough job of describing and presenting the data. The chapter, "Glass Artifacts," is excellent. The narrative, tables, and figures combine to tell the story of life at the fort. The analysis of the bottle glass includes illustrations of all of the embossed body pieces found at the site, including remains of beer, wine, and patent extract bottles. This one chapter helps con-

siderably in painting another picture of daily life at Fort Craig.

This report effectively answers important research issues related to the fort and will contribute to further understanding everyday life at other southwestern frontier forts. Construction historians, like this reader, will gain tremendous insight into military construction methods of the period, particularly the reliance on local materials, labor, and expertise. The historical investigations provide a thorough description of the work needed to keep the fort's buildings in serviceable condition.

Richard Burt  
*Texas A & M University*

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#### *Presenting the Past*

By Larry J. Zimmerman. *Archaeologist's Toolkit* Vol. 7, Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2003; 162 pp., notes, index; cloth \$70.00, paper \$24.95.

Larry J. Zimmerman's book, *Presenting the Past*, is the latest in a series of books published by AltaMira Press collectively entitled *The Archaeologist's Toolkit*. Although targeted at a relatively small audience, this book has the potential to affect anyone who enjoys reading, watching, or studying archeology and how it brings the past into the present.

*Presenting the Past* is the seventh volume in the series. Written by professional archeologists, each volume is designed to cut through the fog and mystery that surround the fundamental aspects of modern archeology such as developing research designs, survey methods, excavation techniques, artifact analysis, the principles of archeobiology, museum curation, and how archeologists present the past to different audiences and cultures. The series should be a primer for anyone who is or wants to be an archeologist.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Center for Cultural Resources



# CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship

Volume 2 Number 2 Summer 2005



*CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*  
Summer 2005  
ISSN 1068-4999

CRM = cultural resource management

*CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* is published twice each year by the National Park Service to address the history and development of and trends and emerging issues in cultural resource management in the United States and abroad. Its purpose is to broaden the intellectual foundation of the management of cultural resources. *CRM Journal* is edited in the offices of the National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, in Washington, DC.

The online version of *CRM Journal* is available at [www.cr.nps.gov/CRMJournal](http://www.cr.nps.gov/CRMJournal). Back issues of *CRM* magazine (1978–2002) are available online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/crm>.

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*CRM Journal* is produced under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

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