

Where Needs Were Met

The Commissary

The Fort Humboldt commissary was the military's general store, serving as a supply center to outlying camps and posts along the North Coast. Everything that a soldier might need was provided; from uniforms to blankets to whiskey. Keeping supplies at Fort Humboldt was not an easy task for the quartermaster of the 1850s. Goods arrived only by ship and the voyage could often times be treacherous. Adding to the quartermaster's difficulties, there was a high rate of desertion at the Fort. Soldiers that decided to go "AWOL" would often times "rob" the commissary before running off, usually to try their luck at gold mining. As a young captain, Ulysses S. Grant (later general then president of the U. S.) was the quartermaster at Fort Humboldt in 1854.



1850s Soldier