

**FORT WILLIAM IN CONTEXT:  
INDEPENDENT POST VERSUS OUTSTRUCTURE OF FORT UNION**

Alicia L. Coles, M.A.

University of Nebraska, 2004

Advisor: Effie Athanassopoulos

Fort William was built in 1833 by Sublette and Campbell as an opposition post to the American Fur Company's Fort Union. Unable to compete with the dominant outfit, the fort was sold to the American Fur Company in 1834 and was dismantled and rebuilt as an outbuilding to Fort Union. Geophysical and archaeological testing was conducted in 1977 and 1978 under the direction of the National Park Service. This study attempts to integrate all the available information (literature, archival, geophysical, archaeological, etc) to produce an understanding of Fort William's role in the Upper Missouri fur trade. In addition, this study compares Upper Missouri fort complexes to determine if Fort William and its relationship to Fort Union fits a greater pattern of outstructure placement in fur trading post complexes.