

## Fort Sumner, New Mexico General Information & Maps 2012



New Mexico Road Map: <http://geology.com/cities-map/new-mexico.shtml>

Fort Sumner Located in Baca County, New Mexico – Close to the Texas Border

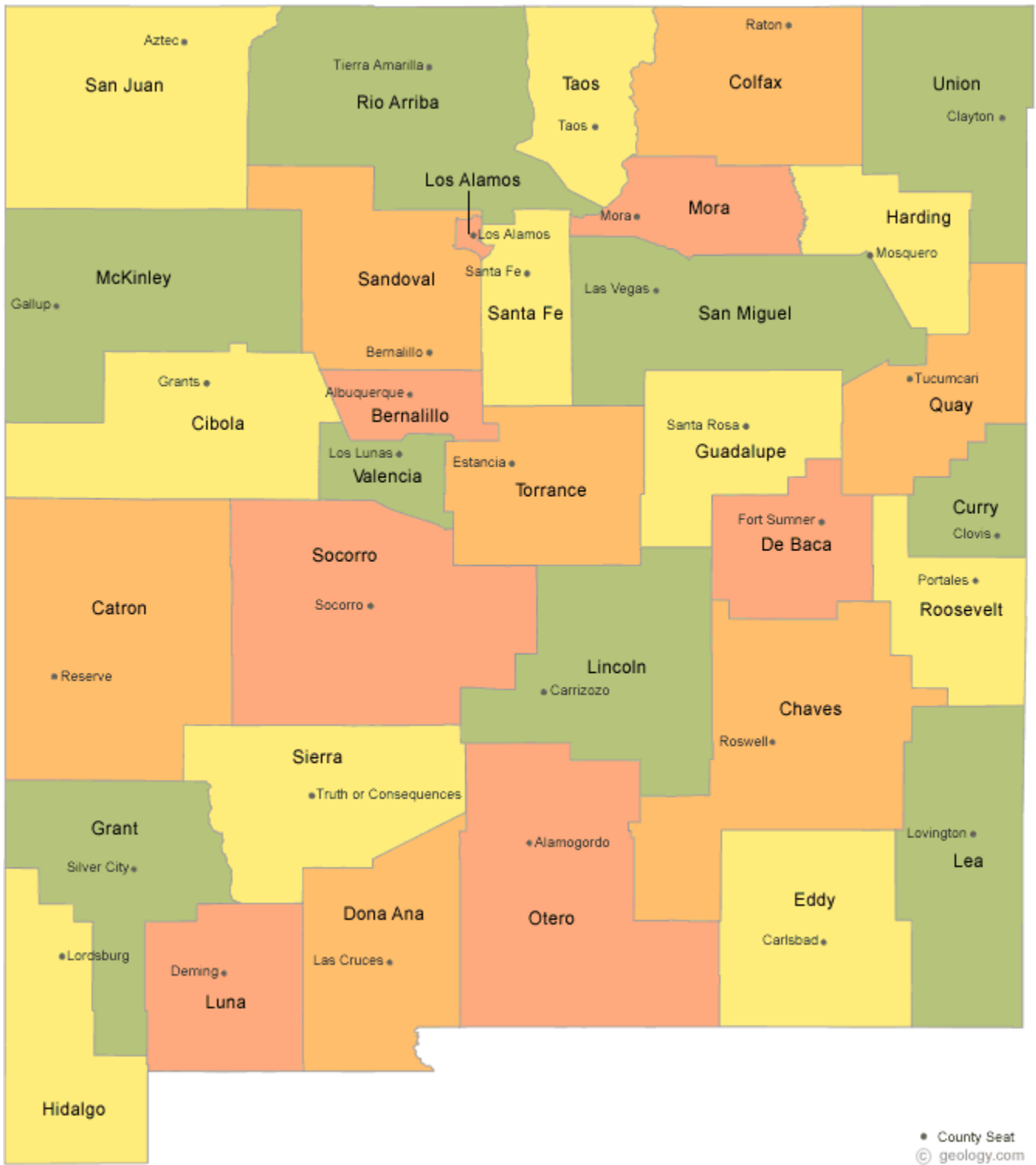
Welcome to Fort Sumner Website:

<http://www.fortsumner.net/content.asp?CustComKey=86186&CategoryKey=86190&pn=Page&DomName=fortsumner.net>

Fort Sumner, New Mexico is located on U.S. Hwy 60 halfway between Albuquerque, NM and Lubbock, TX 160 miles each way.

## Brief History of Fort Sumner – New Mexico – Background

<http://www.fortsumner.net/content.asp?CustComKey=86186&CategoryKey=86190&pn=Page&DomName=fortsumner.net>



New Mexico County Map – Website: <http://geology.com/county-map/new-mexico.shtml>

## 2012 NASA Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility Website Home Page August 17, 2012

This includes Fort Sumner Facility: <http://www.csbf.nasa.gov/>

### Local Government:

<http://www.fortsumner.net/content.asp?CustComKey=57508&CategoryKey=493278&pn=Page&DomName=fortsumner.net>

Fort Sumner Mayor: Windell Bridges

E-Mail: [riverhome@plateautel.net](mailto:riverhome@plateautel.net)

Website:

<http://www.fortsumner.net/content.asp?CustComKey=86186&CategoryKey=86190&pn=Page&DomName=fortsumner.net>

### Village of Fort Sumner

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### Fort Sumner Government Website Information:

<http://www.fortsumner.net/content.asp?CustComKey=86186&CategoryKey=86190&pn=Page&DomName=fortsumner.net>

“...On January 6, 1912, New Mexico became the 47th State in the U.S. Fort Sumner is one of many New Mexico communities in the state to take an active role in this Centennial Celebration.

This annual event features “**Billy the Kid Tombstone Race**”. This race is symbolic of the numerous times Billy’s headstone has been stolen, and has a purse prize up to \$3,500.00.

Other New Mexico communities will be commemorating one hundred years of New Mexico statehood: telling stories of the past, while envisioning the state’s next hundred years.

Legendary outlaw [Billy the Kid](#) was killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett and buried in Fort Sumner.

Billy the Kid, also known as Henry McCarty, Henry Antrim and William H. Bonney was a 19<sup>th</sup> century American frontier outlaw and gunman who participated in the Lincoln County War. According to legend, he killed 21 men. McCarty (or Bonney, the name he used at the height of his notoriety) was 5 ft. 8 in. to 5 ft. 9 in. tall with blue eyes, a smooth complexion, and prominent front teeth. He was said to be friendly and personable at times. Relatively unknown during most of his lifetime, Billy was catapulted into legend a few months before his death by New Mexico’s governor, Lew Wallace, who placed a price on his head.

Sheriff Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid July 14, 1881. Billy was buried the next day in Fort Sumner’s old military cemetery, between his fallen companions Tom O’Folliard and Charlie Bowdre. A single tombstone was later erected over the graves with a one word epitaph of “Pals” carved into it.

The tombstone has been stolen and recovered three times since it was set in place in the 1940s, and the entire gravesite is now enclosed within a steel cage. Following his execution by Lincoln County sheriff Pat Garrett, several biographies were written that depicted the Kid as either a vicious outlaw or a nineteenth-century Robin Hood.

Fort Sumner was the center of a million-acre reservation known as the [Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation](#). The story of how the U.S. Army forcibly moved the Navajo and Mescalero Apache people from their traditional homelands to the land surrounding this lonely outpost is pivotal to the history of the American West.

During this tragic period of U.S. history, the Navajo and Mescalero Apache Indians were starved into submission and then forced to march hundreds of miles to the Bosque Redondo Reservation. The Navajo call this journey the Long Walk. When they arrived, 9,000 Navajo and Mescalero Apache were spread as far as 20 miles along the banks of the Pecos River. Nearly one-third of the captives died during incarceration.

Today a unique new museum provides information about the tragic history of Fort Sumner and Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation. Plans are underway to construct Phase II of the museum.

Set next to the Pecos River and enhanced by a shady picnic area at the old fort, this Monument is a beautiful destination to visit and reflect on the history and "spirit of place"..." End

**Wikipedia General Information on Fort Sumner – August 16, 2012  
(No Guarantee of Accuracy)**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Sumner,\\_New\\_Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Sumner,_New_Mexico)

**"...Fort Sumner is a village in De Baca County, New Mexico, United States. The population was 1,249 at the time of the 2000 census. It is the county seat of De Baca County. Fort Sumner is the spring and fall home of the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility..."**

Named after former New Mexico military governor Edwin Vose Sumner, Fort Sumner was a military fort charged with the internment of nearby Navajo and Mescalero Apache populations from 1863 to 1868. The federal government closed the fort in 1868, and sold its buildings to Lucien Maxwell, a prominent New Mexico landowner, in 1870.

**In the 1920s the Transcontinental Air Transport airline built an airfield in Fort Sumner as part of its coast-to-coast air passenger network, but the site was abandoned when the airline's ambitious plans collapsed in the Great Depression. The airfield was reopened by the Army Air Corps as a training base during World War II.**

**After the war, the base became the Fort Sumner Municipal Airport, and was chosen as a launch site for NASA's high altitude balloon program..."**