

Chronology

Rev. 11-06-16 FSC Chronology – Version 38 © 2016 FSCSP (Dates of hydrological events are shown in blue)			
Date	Event Description	Source	Event Type
ca. 1100 AD	Main Entrance Collapse		Natural
ca. 1100 AD	Snowy River begins depositing a calcite floor	Land	Natural
ca. 1200 AD	Fort Stanton Before 1855 – First evidence of pre-historic Native American visits – cane torches		Archaeology
1855	Fort Stanton Cave (known then as Government Cave) entrance becomes part of U.S. Military Reservation Fort Stanton	Bilbo	Ownership
ca. 1856	Soldiers from 1st Regiment, U.S. Dragoons, under Sergeant Cullimore, discover the cave entrance	Bilbo	History
ca. 1856	Sgt. Cullimore and one other man explore the Main Corridor using cotton cord to find their way back	Bilbo	Exploration
ca. 1856-1876	Crystal Crawl and Decoration Passage discovered	Bilbo	Exploration
1862	Earl Pittman writes first account of Fort Stanton Cave, describing Cullimore's explorations in 1856	Bilbo	Exploration
1865	Hell Hole #2 dig	Corcoran	Dig
ca. 1870	U.S. Army Captain Casper Hauzer Conrad explores Main Corridor with boat		Exploration
1873	Military Reservation changed to 2 miles wide by 7 miles long, and remaining federal lands transferred to U.S. General Land Office	Bilbo	Ownership
January 13, 1875	Las Vegas Gazette article mentions underground river in Fort Stanton Cave	Medlock	Publication
August 21, 1877	Wheeler Survey by Lt. Morrison maps much of the historic sections		Survey
August 1877	Hell Hole, Wheeler Hall, Trophy Room discovered, team led by Lt. Morrison. Trophy Room was not surveyed	Great Divide	Exploration
1890	W. A. White takes first known photographs in FSC, and names several places		History
March 21, 1891	Five members of the Tenth U.S. Infantry Band explore Bat Cave, Hell Hole #2, Sewer Pipe and Crystal Crawl	Medlock	Exploration
April 9, 1891	Great Divide Expedition retraces much of the route of the Wheeler Expedition in 3-day cave camping trip	Great Divide	History
April 11, 1891	Great Divide Expedition discovers Our Latest stream loop crawl	Great Divide	Exploration
1896-1899	Fort Stanton transitions from a U.S. Army to Merchant Marine Hospital facility of the U.S. Marine Health Service (later Public Health Service) to treat TB patients, the public lands administered by General Land Office	Bilbo	Ownership
August, 1898	El Paso businessman W. H. Tuttle takes notes on visit to Fort Stanton Cave	Davis	History
ca. 1900	Snowflake Passage discovered past Fool's Crawl		Exploration
March 1 & March 29, 1901	Articles about Fort Stanton Cave in the Capitan Progress newspaper		Publication
February 9, 1909	Hondo Hydrological Survey		Survey
1912	Earliest known available photo of the cave entrance		History
December 14, 1913	A. E. Lovett conducts chain and compass survey		Survey
March 17, 1930	Several staff and locals from the hospital leave behind a message in bottle in Conrad's Branch which was later found in April, 2000 by employees of Camp Sierra Blanca	Sanchez	History
November, 1939	Rocks & Minerals magazine publishes account of gypsum needle-collecting in Crystal Crawl		Publication
June 16, 1940	Five boys leave message in a beer bottle in Skyscraper Domes passage, found broken by Donald Davis in 1963	Davis	History
ca. 1940s	Italian TB patient grows mushrooms in Shepherd's Hut	Schwinge	History
1946	BLM takes over jurisdiction of the area around the cave	Bilbo	Ownership
1947	Tom Gould visits the cave and takes numerous photos	Gould	History
ca. 1950	Tom Gould digs through Crooked Thumb Cutoff	Gould	Connection
Late 1950's	NM state officials consider blasting Fort Stanton Cave shut after they took over Fort Stanton	Gould	NM Gov't
July 26, 1958	The New Section discovered past 3-Way Hill breakdown, led by Chuck Carrara	Carrara	Exploration
October 1958	NSS News article on the New Section discovery (pg 106-107)		Publication
November 29, 1958	Ward 30 discovered by cavers looking for the New Section, led by Victor Parkerson	Parkerson	Exploration
ca. 1961	Keyhole gate installed by Chuck and Chet Carrara	Carrara	Security
ca. 1961-1962	Jack C. Burch does compass and pace survey, drafts map	Lindsley	Survey
1962	Babb's Burrow dig begins by Lee Skinner when airflow is detected at end of Gypsum Passage	Skinner	Dig
January 1962	NSS Bulletin article "The Accuracy of Cave Surveys" by Heinz T. Schwinge	Skinner	Publication
April 1962	Twin Rooms and Russell's Crawl pushed to the 62-foot Crawl, team led by Bob Russel	Carrara	Exploration
December 25, 1962	Hoeman Passage found by John Vincent Hoeman, team led by Lee Skinner	Skinner	Exploration
Mid-1960's	A-h-h Room dug into in Hell Hole #2, team led by Harvey Duchene	Corcoran	Exploration
Mid-1960's	Pfui Room dug into in Hell Hole #2 beyond the Ahhh Room	Davis	Exploration
1963	Hand-and-knees crawl between Washtub Room and Bridal Chamber excavated by Lee Skinner by over a foot to turn it into a duckwalk	Skinner	Improvements