Army Escort Wagon

During the Yuma Quartermaster Depot’s heyday in the 1870s, the army escort wagon served as the primary means of disbursing supplies to the military posts of Arizona Territory.

Each wagon could carry up to three thousand pounds and was most often pulled by 4-6 mules. Teamsters working on government contract drove the wagons to their destination, while the Army provided an armed escort for protection.

Army supply wagons changed very little in design from the late 1800s through the early 1900s. Although this wagon dates to the early 1900s, it is nearly identical to the model 1878 escort wagon. One notable exception is that the color of an Indian Wars era supply wagon of the 1870s would be a light to medium blue.