



Ghost towns that were left behind by the pioneers dotted the West and were ideal for filming Westerns at authentic locations. Filmmakers often incorporated existing ghost towns into Westerns instead of building sets. When it was in better condition, this old building on the main street of the little town of Mogollon in southwest New Mexico was featured in several scenes from *My Name Is Nobody* (1973), which starred Henry Fonda and Terence Hill.

their supplies gone, Sibley and his men were forced to retreat back to Texas, thus ending any further Confederate threat to the West.

The major impact of the Civil War on the West was to come in 1865 after the war was over and a major wave of emigration to the West took place. When hostilities ceased, many young soldiers were discharged from both armies without a job or much of a future. The economy of the South was in shambles. The North was suffering from an economic depression, and most of the men who fought in the war were out of the military and seeking jobs. Tired by four years of civil war, many people in the East were eager to emigrate and start new lives in the West. As a result, many of them were lured westward by the promise of a new existence, a life of independence, and a place to make a new start. Wide open spaces with land for the taking, opportunities in mining, cattle, and railroading, gold supposedly by the handful, and the freedom of living off the land were part of the romanticized aura that surrounded the West.

One of the factors that helped promote westward expansion was the Homestead Act, signed into law by President Lincoln in May 1862. Under this legislation, any family could homestead up to 160 acres of surveyed public land. After building a house or making other improvements, and living on the land for five years, males over twenty-one years of age and

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