

OTHER IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES IN S.E. COLORADO

The Granada-Fort Union Military Route left the main trail at Old Granada and traversed southwest through today's Prowers, Baca and Las Animas counties to New Mexico.

STAGECOACH ROUTES ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

The early stagecoach routes followed the Santa Fe Trail and in 1860 the Denver and Santa Fe Line used the earlier abandoned Bent's Old Fort for a stage stop. Other stations were located at Iron Spring, Hole-in-the-Rock, and Hole-in-the-Prairie. In 1867, Barlow and Sanderson took over the route and began to establish new stations in the Purgatoire River Valley. These include the Vogel Canyon, Bent Canyon, Lockwood Canyon, and the Hogback stations. The route had stations at Las Animas City, Boggsville, Vogel Canyon and el Moro in Southern Colorado.

See stagecoach ruts and experience more of southern Colorado's rugged beauty at Vogel, Purgatoire and Carrizo Canyons along Colorado 109 from La Junta or Highway 287 from Springfield.

DRIVING THE MOUNTAIN ROUTE

The mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail through Colorado closely parallels U.S. 50, Colorado 350 and I-25. Communities along the route include Lamar which has the Madonna of the Trail monument and Big Timbers Museum. Fort Lyon is home to the historic Kit Carson Chapel. In Las Animas visit the restored 1889 Bent County Courthouse, Boggsville, and the original grave site of William Bent at the Las Animas Cemetery. In La Junta visit the Otero Museum and the Koshare Kiva and Museum. The Comanche National Grasslands has limestone markers on segments of the Santa Fe Trail. Trinidad has the 1870s Hough-Baca and Bloom Mansion operated by the Colorado Historical Society.

BECOME A BENT'S FORT CHAPTER MEMBER

Below are two membership forms. One is for the Bent's Fort Chapter and the other is for the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Bent's Fort Chapter Membership Year _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues & categories (check one)

____ Individual & Family - \$15.00

____ Organization - \$20.00 ____ Lifetime - \$500.00

Local Chapter Membership: ____ New ____ Renewal

Make checks payable to Bent's Fort Chapter and mail to: Emery Murray, Treasurer, 231 Vigil Avenue, Las Animas, Colorado 81054

The benefits include: 1) Quarterly newsletter, 2) Tours of SFT sites on private property with knowledgeable guides, 3) Comradery with like-minded people who enjoy history, 4) 10% discount for purchases at Boggsville "Trade Room"

Santa Fe Trail Association Membership Year _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues & categories (check one)

____ Youth (18 & under)-\$15.00 ____ Individual - \$25.00

____ Family - \$30.00 ____ Non-profits - \$40.00

____ Business/Institution-\$50.00 ____ Patron - \$100.00

____ Benefactor - \$1,000.00

Membership: ____ New ____ Renewal

Make checks payable to Santa Fe Trail Association and mail to: Ruth Olsen-Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned, KS 67550.

BENT'S FORT CHAPTER



SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

THE SANTA FE TRAIL



Bent's Fort Chapter - SFTA
231 Vigil Avenue
Las Animas, CO 81054

Extending from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, the 1,255 km (780 mi) Santa Fe Trail was one of the longest routes in the United States before railroads traversed the country. Opened in 1821, it was used by up to 5,000 wagons a year until 1880, when the railroad reached Santa Fe.

THE SANTA FE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Established in 1987 as part of the Department of the Interior's National Trails System. The Santa Fe Trail links trail segments and sites on federal, state and private land. For more information contact:

National Park Service

Long Distance Trail Group
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728
(505) 988-6888 • Fax (505) 986-5225
<http://ntsimsr.digit.utah.edu>

THE SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

A nonprofit organization that promotes public awareness and appreciation for the Santa Fe Trail. For more information contact:

Santa Fe Trail Association

Santa Fe Trail Center
1349 K-156 Hwy.
Larned, Kansas 67550
(620) 285-2054
info@santafetrail.org
www.santafetrail.org

BENT'S FORT CHAPTER

The chapter focuses on the history of the Santa Fe Trail and its branches in Baca, Bent, Las Animas, Otero and Prowers counties of southeastern Colorado. The Mountain Route, the Purgatoire Stage Route, the Granada-Fort Union Military Freight Route, the Aubrey Cutoff and a portion of the Cimarron Branch traverse the region. Chapter activities include field trips, lectures and museum tours that enable trail enthusiasts to share information and learn more about the international, national, state and local significance of the trail. Chapter projects include bi-monthly meetings, research, trail marker placements, restoration and a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact:

Emery Murray, Treasurer

231 Vigil Avenue
Las Animas, CO 81054
(719) 456-2050

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Bent's Fort Chapter of The Santa Fe Trail Association

THE SANTA FE TRAIL IN SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

THE SANTA FE TRAIL

After Mexican Independence in 1821, American and Mexican traders developed the Santa Fe Trail. It quickly became a commercial and cultural link between the United States and Mexico. It also served as a road of conquest during the Mexican War and later the Civil War. After the completion of the Santa Fe Railroad to Santa Fe in 1880, the trail was abandoned as a national route.

BENT'S OLD FORT

In 1833 William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, operating as Bent, St. Vrain and Company, built Bent's Fort on the north bank of the Arkansas River. Business consisted of trading buffalo robes, furs and horses with the Native Americans and importing Euroamerican trade goods to New Mexico. The fort was an important outpost of American commerce along the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail. The fort was reconstructed in the 1970s and is operated as Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site by the National Park Service.

BENT'S NEW FORT FORT WISE (OLD FORT LYON)

William Bent established his new fort at Big Timbers on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River in the early 1850s. Bent leased the fort to the U.S. military in 1860. Bent's New Fort was used as the Upper Arkansas Indian Agency and Commissary for Fort Wise. The site is privately owned and permission is required prior to visiting.

Fort Wise was built in 1860 west of Bent's New Fort. It was named for Henry Wise, governor of Virginia. In 1861, the name was changed to Fort Lyon in honor of Nathaniel Lyon, killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri on August 10, 1861. Fort Wise/Lyon served as an important military link on the Santa Fe Trail between Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Union in New Mexico. Due to its location in the Arkansas River flood plain and flooding, the fort was moved to its present location east of Las Animas in 1867. The property is privately owned and permission is required prior to visiting.



BOGGSVILLE HISTORIC SITE

Boggsville was founded in 1862 on the west bank of the Purgatoire River. It was located 3 miles from new Fort Lyon. It was built on 2,040 acres originally a part of the 4 million acre 1843 Vigil-St. Vrain, or Las Animas, Mexican land grant, comprising most of southeastern Colorado. It served as a center of commerce and agriculture between 1867 and 1873, and was the first county seat of Bent County. It was the home of Thomas and Rumalda (Luna) Boggs, John W. and Amache (Ochine) Prowers, and Kit and Josefa (Jaramillo) Carson.

Boggsville Historic Site is a property of the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County, a non-profit corporation. The site is open the last weekend in April for Santa Fe Trail Day through Memorial Day, Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Memorial Day to Labor Day, daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; September through the end of October, Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information contact:

Boggsville Historic Site

P.O. Box 68
Las Animas, Colorado 81054
(719) 456-1358
boggsville67@yahoo.com

LAS ANIMAS CITY

Las Animas City was the first town in southeast Colorado and was located on the Arkansas River across from Fort Lyon. It served as the home station for the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Company and later become the county seat for Bent County. It was abandoned after 1873 when the Kansas Pacific Railroad built present-day Las Animas.

This site is under the administration of the Corps of Engineers, John Martin Reservoir. Permission is necessary from COE to access the site. For information contact:

John Martin Reservoir

Corps of Engineers
Hasty, Colorado 81044
(719) 335-3476