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Bent's Fork Area Made Historic Site

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Bent's Fort Area Made Historic Site

Fort, Bent's Fort
POST 3-18-62 P. 17

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(AP)—Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall announced Monday establishment of Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in Otero County, Colo.

Foy L. Young, former management assistant at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, was appointed first superintendent of this new unit in the National Park system.

The unit contains about 178 acres of which five were donated by the state. Establishment of the historic site was authorized by a 1960 law. The federal government bought the rest.

The fort was built by William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, possibly as early as 1883, as a frontier trading post. It was located on the north bank of the Arkansas River, nine miles east of what is now La Junta, Colo.

It became a center of the fur-trading enterprise during the height of its activity in the Rocky Mountains. It also served as a protection against Indians, a rendezvous for trappers, and a stopping place for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail.

The new assignment for Young is regarded as a promotion, though it does not mean any change in his salary of \$8,840 a year. Young has been with the service since 1937. He is a native of Hope, N. M.