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Bent's Old Fort

Colorado National Parks

St. Vrain's Fort Center of Denver Region

N/A

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it became known only as "Bent's fort." The inclosure was 180x135 feet with walls four feet thick and 15 feet high. Bastions 30 feet in height rose from two corners and were armed with cannon, while there were many portholes thru which a musket barrel could be pushed to repel an attack.

St. Vrain's Fort Center of Denver Region

Bent's fort stood as the outpost of civilization, the center of all fur activities for the Rocky Mountain region. In 1852 it was abandoned and Bent's new fort was moved farther down the river near the present town of Prowers. It was sold to the government in 1859 as a military post.

In 1837 St. Vrain built his fort west of present Platteville and it became to the northern regions what Bent's was to the southern. There was a weekly express service maintained between the two forts, the route crossing the site of Denver.

Ruins of St. Vrain's fort still are visible. The adobe walls were 14 feet high and the inclosure was 100x125 feet with bastions diagonally opposite. Fremont and other explorers made it their objective, and here Kit Carson and other famous trappers