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Bent's Old Fort

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Bent's Old Fort Deal Okayed by Governor

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Gov. Steve McNichols Wednesday approved a deed giving the National Park Service title to Bent's Old Fort, east of La Junta, Colo., for development as a national historic site.

The Colorado Legislature during its last regular session authorized transfer of the fort, located on the old Santa Fe Trail. It has been operated as a state historical monument by the Colorado Historical Society.

Fort
Bent's Fort

McNichols said the National Park Service during the past few months has been negotiating for sufficient land around the site to insure a proper development. He said he does not know how much the federal government plans to spend on the project.

Dr. James Grafton Rogers, chairman of the board of the

State Historical Society, said the transfer was made because the federal government has the resources needed to preserve and develop the site.

Bent's Old Fort, which probably was constructed as early as 1833, was one of the great centers of the fur trade in the Rocky Mountain region. Built by William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, it served as a trading post and for protection against the Indians.