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Bent's Old Fort

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Bent's Old Fort Given Buffalo Hide for Museum

Pueblo Chieftain

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Bent's Old Fort Given *parts from Bent* Buffalo Hide for Museum

LAS ANIMAS (C-SJ) — An old-time buffalo hide, reminiscent of the days when the animals widely roamed the western plains, has been received at Bent's Old Fort to be placed in the museum.

Robert E. Davidson, National Park Service historian currently in charge of the historic site at Bent's Fort, said he hopes this is but the first of such hides that will be received.

"I'd like to see enough of them here to make up a bale to be placed in the fort when it is finally reconstructed," he said. Personnel at the fort already have fashioned a model of the old-time press used by William Bent for making such bales.

The NPS installation at Wind Cave near Hot Springs, S.D., sent this hide. The hide had been treated without the hair being removed.

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Davidson said there are now several herds of buffalo that occasionally need to be thinned. Some buffalo are now located north of Pueblo and a few more near Fowler. It is possible that if some herds need to be reduced in size to fit the available range there would be some hides.

A bale of buffalo hides would add considerably to the authenticity of Bent's Old Fort. Such hides formed a large part of the trade at the fort in the old days.