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Bent's Old Fort will become Historic Site

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Bent's Old Fort Will Become Historic Site

*From the Washington Bureau
of The Rocky Mountain News*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 — Bent's Old Fort, which served as a fur trading center and way station on the Santa Fe Trail, is to be reconstructed as a national historic site, Rep. Frank E. Evans (D-Colo) said Wednesday.

Also at the site, about 10 miles northeast of La Junta on the Arkansas River, will be constructed a separate visitors' center where tourists can learn of the Fort's gloried past.

Built in 1830 by brothers William, George and Charles Bent, and a friend, Ceran St. Vrain, the fort was used as headquarters for their fur trading business until 1849, when it was destroyed.

Later the fort was partially resurrected for use as a stage stop but then it was abandoned, apparently for all time.

In 1963, the ruins were designated by the Interior Department as a National Historical Site. The National Park Service conducted studies to determine the dimensions of the original structure.