

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 16 1996

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name El Pueblo

other names/site number 5PE303

2. Location

street & number 1st Street and Union Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Pueblo [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Pueblo code 101 zip code 81003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

James Edmund Hartman State Historic Preservation Officer December 7, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet []
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet []
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet []

for
Signature of the Keeper Date
Edson B. Beall 2/16/96
Entered in the National Register

El Pueblo
Name of Property

Pueblo County, CO
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- TRADE: trade
- DEFENSE: fortification
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- WORK IN PROGRESS
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- NO STYLE
-
-
-
-

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation N/A
- walls
-
- roof
- other
-

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

DESCRIPTION

El Pueblo is an archaeological site of a mid-nineteenth century trading post and settlement which is today buried beneath the center of its namesake, the City of Pueblo, Colorado. El Pueblo was occupied from approximately 1842 to 1854 by a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-national population which included many Hispanics, French, Canadians, English, Native-Americans, and Americans. The latter were a minority through most of the tenure of the site, though they were dominant in status.

Excavations have exposed approximately 1000 square meters (10,750 square feet) of area which have architectural, artifactual, and depositional evidence of the El Pueblo occupation. These evidences were found under a crawl space of the rear one-third of a former hotel occupying the site, in an alley west of the hotel, and in two lots north of the hotel. On-going excavations will explore a larger area. Eliminated from consideration as having evidences of El Pueblo is an approximately 800 square meter area west of the alley behind the hotel site and the east two-thirds of the former hotel which had an eight foot deep basement. Other buildings in the vicinity also had basements which probably destroyed evidences of the El Pueblo occupation.

Environment

The site was formerly on the north bank of the Arkansas River which was the boundary between Mexico and the United States at the time of El Pueblo's construction. The river has since been moved relocated much further to the south. The north side of the river was also a defined Indian Territory and the site was an illegal squatters community in this territory. The site location was strategically selected because it was at the crossings of the Taos (or Trapper's) Trail and of upper Arkansas River extensions of the Santa Fe Trail (also known later as the Cherokee Trail).

Time Period of Occupation or Use

El Pueblo was occupied from approximately 1842 to 1854. The uses, meanings, and functions of the site changed dynamically over time and these were probably related to the evolution of the site. The name "El Pueblo" can be translated to mean "the settlement", "the town", and "the people", and these translations all appear to have been appropriate for the site. Some have also identified the site as "Fort Pueblo", but this identification is appropriate only to the exterior form of the primary structure and not to the majority of the activities of the occupants of the site.

Persons, Ethnic Groups or Archaeological Cultures

El Pueblo was occupied by a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-national population which included many Hispanics, French, Canadians, English, Native-Americans, and Americans. The site is best described as a settlement of traders, farmers, ranchers, hunters, trappers, laborers, and others, and their families. These persons used El Pueblo as a central place related to a network of activities away from the site. At times the site was described as having a population possibly near one hundred persons and at other times it was described as being temporarily vacant. The activities at and away from the site were Indian and other trading, whiskey peddling, livestock trading (and stealing at times), trapping,

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

hunting, and also self-sufficient subsistence. El Pueblo differed from many of the well-known sites of the western frontier which were contemporaneous, such as Bent's Old Fort, Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, Fort St. Vrain, Fort Vasquez, and others which were licensed by the U.S. as corporate entities under the directions of licensed traders. El Pueblo was a settlement of diverse persons living together, cooperating together, and controlling their own lives. The occupants of El Pueblo were relatively free of the constraints of authoritarian control and this is reflected by illegal and immoral activities of its occupants, according to the Victorian values of the time.

Physical Characteristics

The horizontal distribution of evidences of El Pueblo discovered in the archaeological investigations are shown in Figure 1, a plan of the site area. The evidences include parts of approximately eight walls of adobe bricks and of jacal construction, and some post holes of other features. The evidence also includes thousands of artifacts of the El Pueblo occupation, characterized by trade beads, gun flints, percussion caps, lead rifle and other balls, smoking pipe fragments, ceramics of a wide variety including indigenous wares, thousands of bones, and other artifacts and ecofacts. The El Pueblo related evidence is covered in most areas by a series of up to nine historic flood deposits and other deposits related to the evolution of the later city. In most areas the El Pueblo deposits are not mixed with later deposits.

Likely Appearance of El Pueblo During its Period of Occupation or Use

Most accounts describe El Pueblo as having had a rectangular plaza constructed in the architectural tradition of New Mexican plazas with an exterior adobe brick wall which was the rear wall of inward facing flat roofed domestic and other structures which opened onto an interior courtyard. The internal structures were made of adobe bricks and were also in part of jacal construction, made of vertical posts covered with adobe. Some structures exterior to the plaza also existed but it is not known how many or where they were located. Memories of plans of the plaza were recorded in accounts collected by Francis Cragin, and the plans conflict, as also do the dimensions of the plaza and other information collected about the site. The size of the site, in the accounts, varied from as small as 30 ft. by 40 ft. to as large possibly as 700 ft. by 700 ft. Some of the features included in most of the plans were a gate on the south or east side of the plaza and two or more corner bastions which aided in defense of the site. Excavations to date indicate a possible size of at least 10 m. by 15 m. Figure 2 illustrates five of the recorded plans.

Current and Past Impacts on El Pueblo

El Pueblo was abandoned following a Christmas, 1854, battle in the site between some of its occupants and a party of Utes and Jicarilla Apaches. The battle was part of regional warfare between these Native Americans and diverse citizens of the United States. All the inhabitants of El Pueblo, a temporarily reduced population, were killed or enslaved. El Pueblo was never significantly occupied again after its 1854 abandonment, though some persons lived in it and used it in part as a corral in the 1860s and 1870s. The evolution of the City of Pueblo eventually buried the site beneath its urban development in the 1880s.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

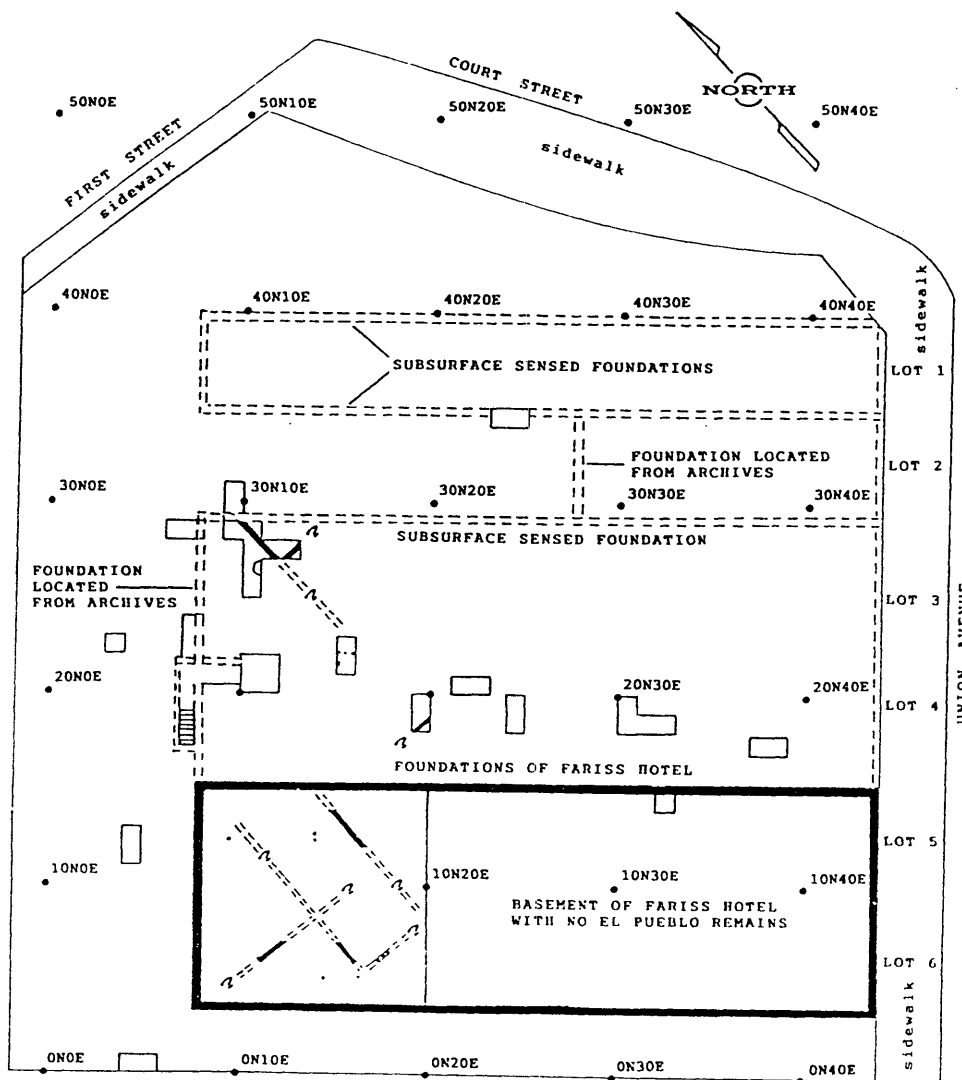


Figure 1

El Pueblo and other structures discovered through archaeological investigations.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

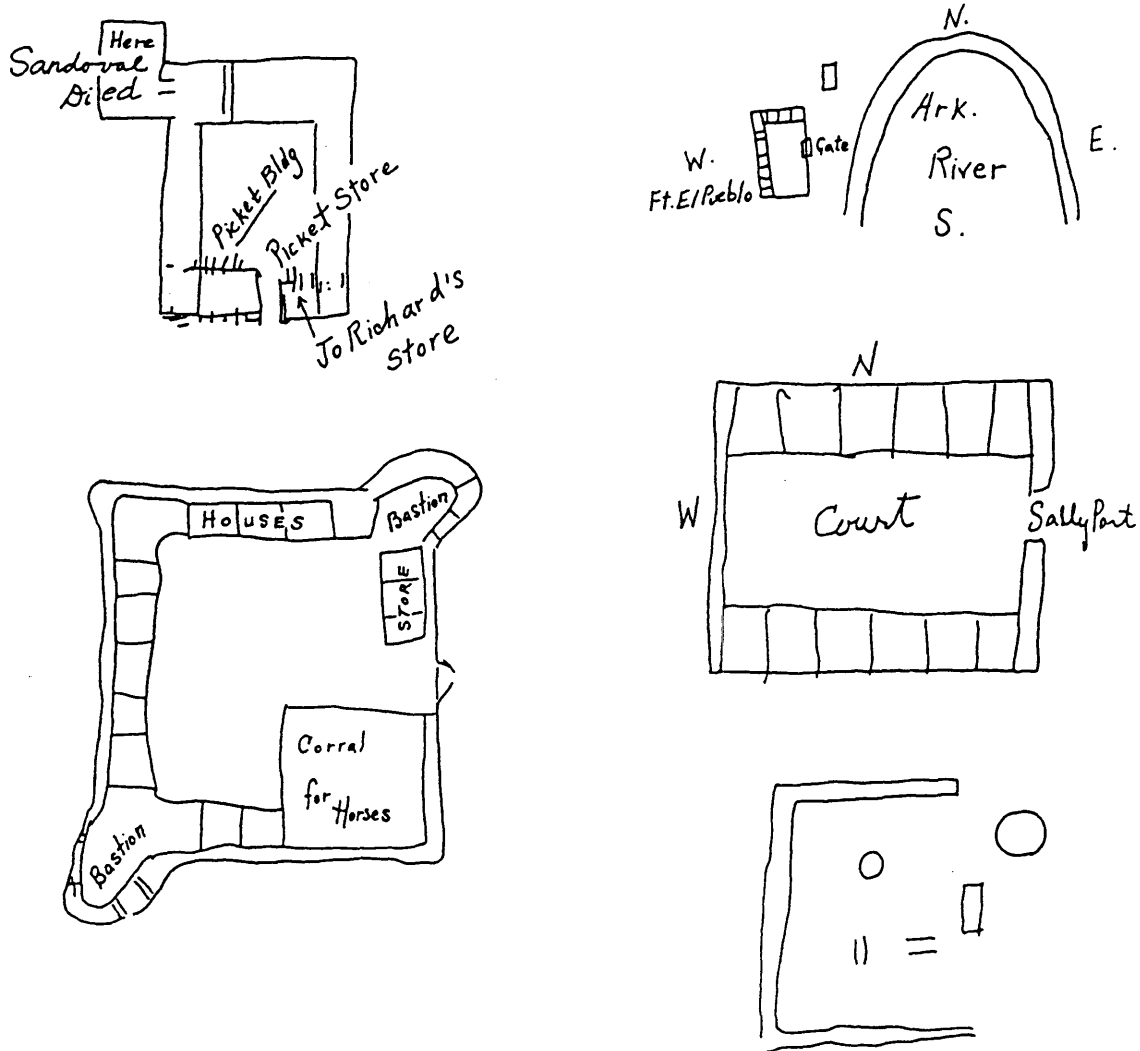


Figure 2

Ground plans of El Pueblo recorded by Francis Cragin from oral accounts.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

Integrity

The site area today is covered in part by a metal building protecting part of the remains of El Pueblo, and by asphalt and gravel paving which has been used for parking lots and for the present terminal of the municipal bus system of the City of Pueblo. These surface manifestations are non-contributing elements to the site. The present site area is shown in Photograph 4.

Beneath the surface of the site there are foundations of some structures related to the post-El Pueblo evolution of the City of Pueblo. Some of the structures may have been remnants of parts of El Pueblo which were utilized for post-El Pueblo functions, such as an 1860s dwelling of George Bilby who was the first school teacher in Pueblo. The foundations of an adobe building have been found which correspond to the location of Bilby's building and on the basis of the associated artifacts date from the time of El Pueblo to the late 19th century. This building is a diagonally oriented structure shown in Figure 3 on the north side of the Fariss Hotel. Figure 3 is a copy of a Sanborn fire insurance map made in 1883, the year after the initial construction of the Fariss Hotel. The Fariss Hotel is on a legal lot of the subdivision, as are locations of later buildings. The building predicted to be Bilby's house is diagonal to the legal lots of the subdivision, as are other small buildings in Figure 3. These orientations are indications that they, like Bilby's building, were of early construction and perhaps served as El Pueblo outbuildings. The area was first platted into legal lots and blocks in 1860.

Some buildings built after 1883 in the subdivision had full basements and these destroyed the remains of El Pueblo, which occur between approximately three to four feet below the present ground surfaces. The front two-thirds of the Fariss Hotel had a full basement and this destroyed the El Pueblo remains. The rear one-third, however, was built over a crawl space and the El Pueblo deposits were below the level of most of the shallow excavation. The construction of the wall foundations of the rear part of the Fariss Hotel destroyed El Pueblo remains. The building believed to have been that of George Bilby, and the other diagonally oriented buildings, disappeared as the construction of buildings of the growing city continued, as can be seen in the 1904 Sanborn map (Figure 4). The Fariss Hotel was on the National Register of Historic Places but was removed in 1991 when it was demolished.

The location of the site of El Pueblo has been identified and some of the locations of walls and features necessary for the definition of the plan have been discovered, but better definition is necessary before the limits of the site and the identifications of the components are determined. The site, as defined to date, has integrity below deposits of later occupations, though there are areas of the original El Pueblo occupation area which have been destroyed by basements, utility lines, and other later intrusions so that it cannot be expected that the entire site will be found intact. It is expectable, however, that significant parts of the site will be identified and that these will yield knowledge valuable to our society about the site and about our heritage.

Previous Investigations

El Pueblo was investigated through historical, oral, and archival researches prior to the contemporary research, which began in 1986. One of the most important and earliest compilations of information was by Francis Cragin shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. Cragin collected oral information from pioneers familiar with the site and area and the information is today in twenty-eight notebooks available as the "Early Far Western Notebooks" at the Pioneers Museum in Colorado

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Pueblo County, Colorado

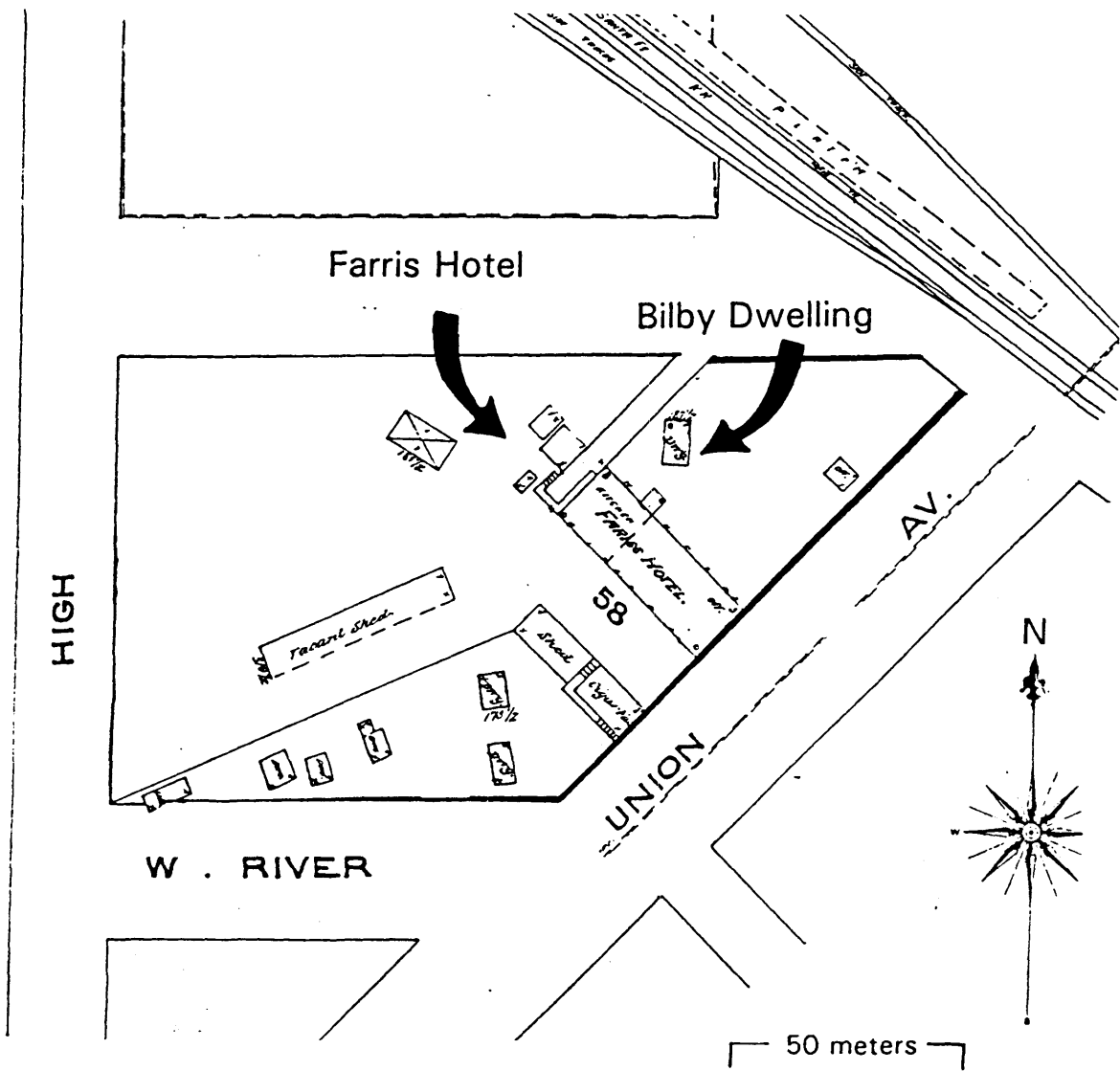


Figure 3

1883 Sanborn Insurance plat in the vicinity of El Pueblo.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

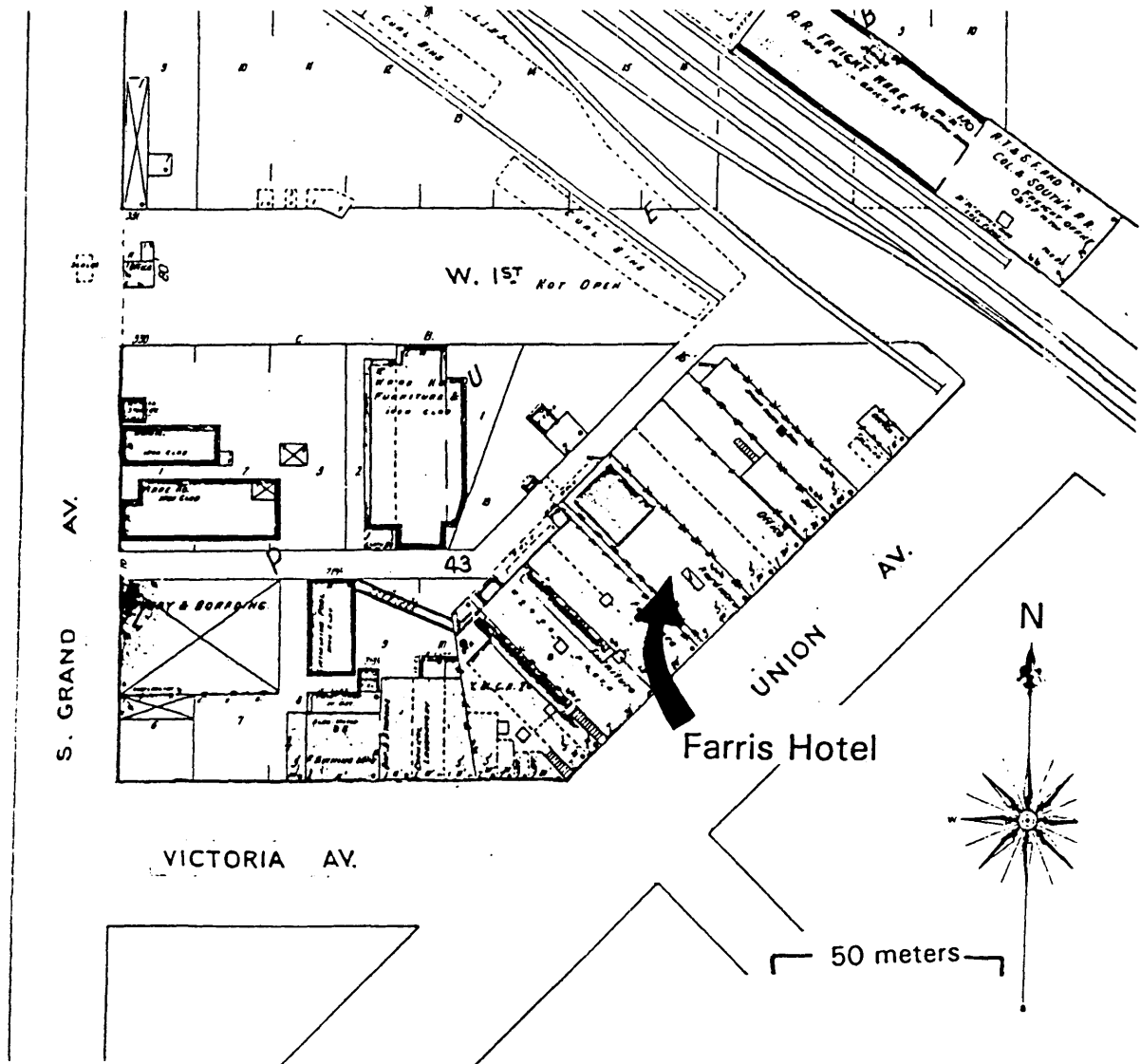


Figure 4

1904 Sanborn Insurance plat in the vicinity of El Pueblo.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

Springs and in copies elsewhere. These are unfortunately not the complete collection made by Cragin, the majority of which was destroyed. Janet Leconte utilized the Cragin Notebooks and other primary and secondary sources to write the definitive history of the area as Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn: The Upper Arkansas, 1832-1856.

A 1979 National Register of Historic Places nomination of El Pueblo was rejected because no tangible evidence of the site was known at that time. The nomination was stimulated by Mrs. John B. Farley, a historian of Pueblo, Colorado and longtime advocate of the importance of the site.

The renomination of the site is justified because tangible evidences of the site have been found archaeologically from work begun in 1986 and because additional information about the site has also been acquired from contemporary archival, historical, oral history, photointerpretation, ecological, and other research which complements the earlier knowledge and enhances the importance of the site. The contemporary work has been directed by William G. Buckles, formerly Professor of Anthropology, University of Southern Colorado, who is currently an employee of the City of Pueblo following his retirement as Professor Emeritus.

Many descriptions exist of El Pueblo, its inhabitants, and its attributes and there is considerable confusion concerning its location, size, identities and activities of the inhabitants, and other characteristics. The Cragin Notebook accounts, collected many years after the site abandonment, tend to conflict. Accurate identifications of attributes will have to rely primarily upon material evidence discovered in archaeological investigations in progress. Parts of the architecture, artifacts, and other evidence of El Pueblo have been found in situ from the excavations, but the entire site has not been defined.

Accounts of the site all locate it within an approximate city block area centered on 1st Street and Union Avenue in downtown Pueblo. This site is located in Figure 5 which shows the area in 1883. Some of the diverse locations are illustrated in an accompanying sketch map, Figure 6. Some accounts locate El Pueblo adjacent to and under the Fariss Hotel, constructed from 1882 to 1886 and shown in Photograph 1 as it appeared in 1989. The hotel building was demolished in 1991, but archaeological investigations conducted under and adjacent to the hotel prior to the demolition proved the presence of El Pueblo remains. The excavations to date have exposed approximately 1000 square meters (10,750 square feet) of area which have architectural, artifactual, and depositional evidence of the El Pueblo occupation. The evidence was found under a crawl space of the rear one-third of the former hotel, in an alley west of the hotel, and in two lots north of the hotel. On-going excavations will explore a larger area. Eliminated from consideration as having evidence of El Pueblo is an approximately 800 square meter area west of the alley behind the Fariss Hotel, and the east two-thirds of the former Fariss Hotel which had an eight foot deep basement. Other buildings in the vicinity also had basements which probably destroyed evidences of the El Pueblo occupation.

The contemporary archaeological investigation of the site to date has been primarily concerned with identifying the locations of evidence of El Pueblo occupation remains and their horizontal distributions. This is Phase I of the project. The architectural evidence discovered has been covered again or otherwise protected until it can be investigated in phase II of the project, which will be the testing of hypotheses concerning the details of the occupation, such as the functions of rooms, ethnic and other identities of the occupants, activities at the site, and other social, cultural, ecological, and

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Pueblo County, Colorado

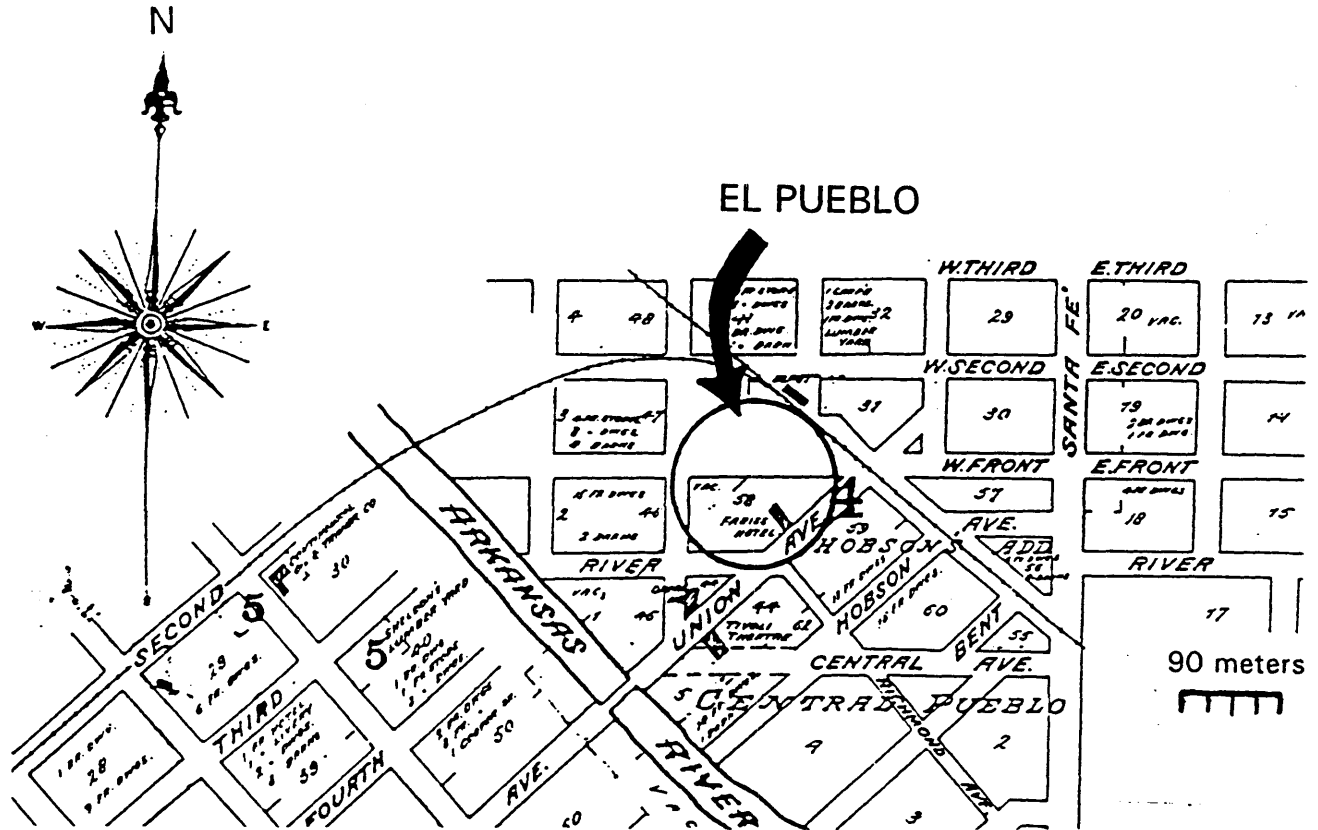


Figure 5

Location of El Pueblo remains relative to the City in 1883.

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Pueblo County, Colorado

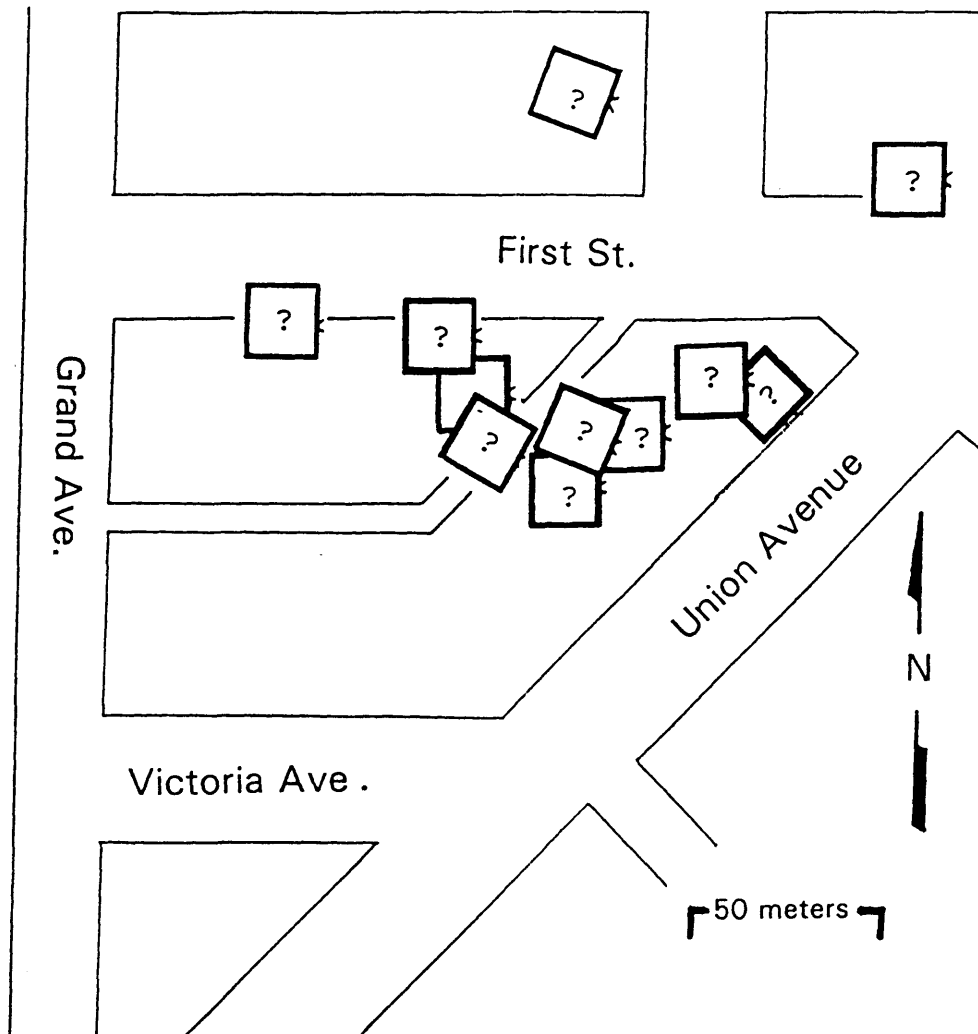


Figure 6

Location of El Pueblo from oral or other accounts.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

other phenomena and relationships. Artifacts and ecofacts of the El Pueblo occupation discovered to date have been analyzed so that research questions can be developed and research strategies designed to answer specific questions about the occupations of the site.

In addition to the contemporary archaeological testing of El Pueblo, a great amount of historical, oral history, archival, and other research has been conducted to attempt to find tangible evidence relating to the El Pueblo occupation in legal plats, maps, photographs, memories of constructions of post-El Pueblo structures, and other information. This research has resulted in the discovery of an 1873 photograph (Photograph 2), interpreted to show the walls of the plaza and some outbuildings of El Pueblo (which are identified in Photograph 3). A photointerpretation of this photograph by a mathematician resulted in predictions of some dimensions and locations of the site. The long dimension of the plaza is predicted to be 198 feet and the location includes part of the location of the former Fariss Hotel. An unsuccessful attempt was made to construct a three-dimensional computerized model from the photograph to predict dimensions and locations with potentially greater accuracy.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The only building on the property postdates the period of significance and is a noncontributing resource. The archaeological site itself is the only contributing resource.

El Pueblo
Name of Property

Pueblo County, CO
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic--Aboriginal
ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic--Non-Aboriginal
COMMERCE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Periods of Significance

1842 - 1854

Significant Dates

1854

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

HISPANIC
NATIVE AMERICAN
EUROPEAN
EURO-AMERICAN

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:
City of Pueblo

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

SIGNIFICANCE

El Pueblo is being nominated under criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The site is important for its association with the exploration and settlement of what became Colorado and the larger Rocky Mountain West; for its association with commerce and trade both in the local area and as part of a regional trail system; and for its association with the social history of the upper Arkansas River, a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-national population which included many Hispanics, French, Canadians, English, Native Americans, and Americans. The period of significance for El Pueblo is 1842 - 1854, the period during which the site was actively occupied.

El Pueblo is also being nominated under criterion D for its potential to yield important information in history from on-going archaeological and other investigations. The site has almost unparalleled significance to the evolution of Colorado and the Euro-American West through its association with a number of areas of significance about which it may yield important information. These areas include exploration/settlement, commerce, social history, architecture and agriculture.

Exploration/Settlement

El Pueblo had a prominent role in the evolution of exploration and settlement of the Rocky Mountain West. The site was a settlement of pioneers who had explored much of the West and selected El Pueblo as a strategic base for settlement and for activities in the surrounding area. El Pueblo was strategically located for exploration and settlement at the confluence of major permanent streams from the north, south west. These streams were historically the routes of exploration and travel through the largely arid plains on the east and as routes along and through the difficult mountains to the west.

The Arkansas River formed the boundary first between France and Spain, later the United States and Spain, and finally the United States and Mexico. This boundary related to the strategic location of El Pueblo because it was on the southwestern and relatively unknown limit of the United States, until 1846 when the U.S. invaded Mexico across this boundary. The area around El Pueblo was the focal point of exploring parties along this boundary over time. Zebulon Pike visited the future site of El Pueblo on the initial U.S. investigation of this part of its newly acquired Louisiana Purchase and many later explorers, such as Charles C. Fremont, traveled the same routes on their way to other unexplored regions.

El Pueblo was a settlement whose founding was a result of the exploration and early Euro-American trade activities of the West. Persons credited with building the site in 1842 were, in the main, remnants of the Mountain Men who had been fur trappers and fur traders, but were adapting to a post-fur trade economy. These included well-known explorers but also many unsung explorers (especially those of the non-English speaking part of the population, the wives, children, and others). The sources of the cultural diversity of El Puebloans illustrates a synthesis at the site of persons from the Pacific Northwest, from Mexico, Canada, Great Britain, Northern Europe, and many other areas. The El Puebloans were travelers of the West, typically, who lived at or used the site for a period of time and then left, sometimes to return to the area again and contribute to permanent settlements, but also to disappear into new frontiers.

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El Pueblo
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Habitues of the site included persons who explored the West long before more prominent individuals, such as John C. Fremont, traversed the area. Fremont visited El Pueblo several times in his quests for guides and other employees and for other needs for his expeditions. Persons he recruited at El Pueblo included Kit Carson, Bill Williams, Dick Owens, and many others.

Many El Puebloans or persons from the vicinity were important in exploring and settling elsewhere as continuations of the frontier settlement processes. Some well known pioneers elsewhere who were former El Puebloans included James Beckwourth, for whom a pass was named across the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Dick Owens whose name is commemorated by Owens Valley and Lake, prominent pioneer Californians Lancaster Lupton, James Waters and John Brown, Uncle Dick Wootton who developed the Raton Pass Toll Road, Alexander Barclay who was the builder of Fort Barclay in New Mexico, and many others.

The settlers of El Pueblo sowed the agricultural, commercial, transportation, and social history seeds for later settlements of the area, including the City of Pueblo. El Pueblo was not the first settlement at this strategic location, but its predecessors were essentially transient trapper and trader posts. El Pueblo was a settlement which included persons whose lives and descendants became linked with the historical development of the area. Occupations prior to El Pueblo were ephemeral and left no legacies of ranches, farms, towns, and other permanent settlements. The founders and residents of El Pueblo established a permanent foothold in the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains from which important communities grew.

Commerce

The primary business of El Pueblo was trading and a variety of goods, both legal and illegal, were traded. El Puebloans were entrepreneurs who experimented with diverse forms of commerce, from raising buffalo for sales to being peddlers of mundane goods. The diary of Alexander Barclay, one of the principal traders, illustrates the trading activities, though his diary does not describe the prominence of contraband trade goods for which El Pueblo was infamous. Taos Lightning was the name applied to whiskey produced by distilleries in Mexico and the whiskey was traded into the U.S through El Pueblo from New Mexico as an illegal import used in Indian trading. Other illegal and stolen goods were also traded through El Pueblo traders into the United States and Mexico.

Most of the traders of El Pueblo were "free traders" and not associated with the trading companies which were legally licensed firms permitted to trade with Native Americans. The El Pueblo traders, and the site, were unlike the legal traders and trading posts. Some El Pueblo traders were partners, such as Joseph Doyle and Alexander Barclay, but the traders were not members of companies. This is in contrast to many of the well-known contemporaneous western trade sites such as Bent's Old Fort, Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, Fort St. Vrain, Fort Vasquez, and others which were licensed by the U.S. as corporate entities under the directions of licensed traders.

Most, though not all, El Pueblo traders were Euro-Americans. The majority of traders utilized Hispanic, Euro-American, French and other employees, such as Alexander Barclay described in his diary. The traders and their employees had families, as a rule, who assisted their spouses or companions, although some of these families stayed at El Pueblo while males were off on long trading trips.

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El Pueblo
Pueblo County, Colorado

Crops from farming, domesticated animals, skins, hides, furs, whiskey, Indian trade goods, and the other needs of the frontier were traded at El Pueblo by El Puebloans to whomever and wherever there was a market. This trading from the site was terminated in 1854, but the area trade tradition continued into the territorial period of Colorado. During this period goods from the Arkansas Valley farms and ranches were major sources in fulfilling the needs of those involved in the search for fortunes through mining and other opportunities related to the Gold Rush. The dependency on the Arkansas River valley for supplies continued after El Pueblo was gone, and some of the persons who had been traders from El Pueblo continued to fill these needs.

The Taos Trail, also known as the Trappers Trail, and an Upper Arkansas River extension of the Santa Fe Trail met at El Pueblo. These trails, which eventually became roads, were very important in the significance of the site and its activities. The trail crossing at El Pueblo was a strategic junction related to unique ecologies important to transportation systems which followed permanent streams with easy passages and adequate forage. The significance of the trails is demonstrated by their eventual expansion as today's main transportation routes. Interstate Highway 25 essentially follows the route of the Taos Trail in the El Pueblo area and U.S. Highway 50 follows close upon the route of the Santa Fe Trail extension to Pueblo.

The Taos Trail extends back into prehistory as an important north and south route following permanent drainages which parallel the east side of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The route of the Taos Trail was used by Native-Americans, the Spanish, and later the Mexicans for travel north along the foothills from the Rio Grande drainage in New Mexico. The Spanish established the place-names along the route to the Arkansas River from the south and French names are applied to place-names to the north of the river, indicating the importance of the route and the Arkansas River boundary between those nations in the 18th Century. The Spanish fortified the Taos Trail route across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains south of the Arkansas River in the early 19th Century in anticipation of an American invasion of New Mexico by the trail.

During the tenure of El Pueblo, the Taos Trail was the northern route to and from New Mexico and it was the route regularly traveled by explorers, traders, and other travelers in the area, and by the El Puebloans. The site of El Pueblo was selected because of its location on this trail and the importance of the site to travelers. Another site very similar to El Pueblo in functions and having the same general population was Hardscrabble. Hardscrabble was approximately thirty miles west of El Pueblo and it had a short lived existence, in part because it was not on the Taos Trail and in an out of the way location.

The upper Arkansas River extension of the Santa Fe Trail was an important route to a junction with the Taos Trail at El Pueblo for commerce along the foothills of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. The importance of this route is illustrated by the many trading posts and settlements established west of Bent's Fort along the Arkansas River and the lack of such places east and southwest of Bent's Fort. The Arkansas River route was important longer and for more uses than were the other routes of the Santa Fe Trail. The route was important to commerce on the Upper Arkansas River and the South Platte River because it was used for caravans to and from the posts and settlements along those drainages. After the Colorado Gold Rush of 1858-1859, the route continued to be a major route for travel to and from the Colorado gold fields.

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Social History

The social history of the area is a legacy from the occupations which settled at El Pueblo and other sites on the Upper Arkansas River during the period of occupation of El Pueblo. The population then as now was multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-national with diverse values, status, roles, and other distinctive behaviors. The population mix included Hispanics, French, Canadians, English, Native Americans and Americans. Some of the characteristics of the legacy can be hypothesized to be legacies of borderlands types of adaptations characterized by fierce ethnic prides, aggressive behaviors at times, violence used frequently to resolve disputes, heavy alcohol drinking patterns, and other behaviors. The proposed legacy is perhaps testable by statistics available from law enforcement agencies, social service agencies and other sources concerning profiles of behaviors of the population in the area.

Many persons in the Pueblo area today, and elsewhere in Southern Colorado, trace their ancestries and heritage to persons who lived at and used El Pueblo. An example of such a group is an organization of descendants of Charles Autobees called the Autobees Club, and they number over one thousand persons. Many other families are also descendants of El Puebloans and could, if they organized, also number in the thousands of persons. Formal organizations are not necessary for the transmission of values and other behaviors and attitudes which characterize some of the peoples of the area as descendants of a borderlands environment.

Many farms, ranches and businesses of the area were founded by persons who had been El Puebloans. Examples are pioneer post-El Pueblo farms along the Huerfano River which were begun by Joseph Doyle, Richens Wootton, and others.

Many place-names of southern Colorado derive from El Puebloans and are reflected in names of streets, community names, cultural features, topographical features and other features of the area. Examples are Doyle Arroyo, Wootton and other names of communities, Fisher's Hole or Beulah, and the many Spanish names for geographical features.

Information Potential

On-going archaeological and other investigations at El Pueblo have the potential to yield important information in history. The site has an almost unparalleled significance to the evolution of Colorado and the Euro-American West through its association with a number of areas of significance about which it may yield important information. These areas include exploration/settlement, commerce, social history, architecture and agriculture. The period of significance is the time frame encompassing the site's active occupation from 1842 - 1854. However, further work at the site may justify extending the period of significance to both an earlier beginning and later closing date.

The site was used as a trading post from 1842 to 1854 but had the potential to have been used prior to and after those dates for other purposes. The Arkansas River has been a strategic location since at least 1598 for the Spanish, French, Native Americans, and others who used the river as a corridor for travel, camping, trading, and other activities. It is possible that pre-El Pueblo use of the site occurred because of its strategic location.

Important comparative analyses may be done on the trade good artifacts found at El Pueblo with those found at Bent's Old Fort. Research questions to be answered include the extent and type of

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Santa Fe Trail goods which reached El Pueblo; the variations in locally produced trade goods; and the identification of items related only to Taos Trail traffic.

El Pueblo was used after its abandonment in 1854 for a temporary shelter, a corral, and for at least one residence. George Bilby lived in an adobe building at the El Pueblo location, according to Steven Smith who was an 1858 pioneer and who gave the information to Francis Cragin. Bilby's building appears to have been a remnant of the site. William McAllister and his family were residents of a room in what he called the "fort" from approximately 1866 to 1869, according to an interview he gave in 1934 to a collector of folklore for the Colorado State Historical Society.

El Pueblo was visible in a photograph taken in 1873 (Photograph 2). The photo is being photointerpreted to attempt to identify more details of the site. Interpretation of the photograph to date has produced a length of approximately 198 feet for the long dimension of the plaza remnant, which possibly was being used as a corral in 1873.

The Fariss Hotel was initially constructed in 1882. An addition was built on the rear of the original construction in 1886 which apparently covered the last vestiges of the site. References to the location of the site after this date referred to probable locations as no visible ruins existed.

The location of El Pueblo is represented in a variety of locations in a one block area (Figure 6), and definite artifacts and architecturally evidence of the site have been found in place in the approximate center of the diverse representations of the location. Artifacts alone do not prove that the ruins of El Pueblo are preserved in part or in whole. Many impacts occurred to the general area which could have destroyed the site context and dislocated artifacts beyond the original site area. Nine historic floods and a great number of impacts by cultural modifications occurred to the area. The discovery of adobe bricks and jacal construction in wall segments (Figure 1), is clear evidence that the context in these areas is not destroyed and that the site has integrity and the potential to yield information of significance to history.

The historic floods and many other impacts have resulted in deposits above the El Pueblo level which preserved the remains of the site below. However, during the late 19th and 20th centuries some areas of destruction occurred to El Pueblo remains by basements, utility lines, and other intrusions to depths below the base of the El Pueblo deposits. Excavations at El Pueblo to date have been primarily for the purpose of establishing the horizontal distributions of the evidences of buildings and the landscape of the site of El Pueblo so that the preserved site area can be delineated. The investigations have not been oriented towards investigating the details of the evidences of architecture and the landscape discovered to date. Most of this evidence has been covered again to protect it from deterioration until they can be investigated carefully at later dates.

The northern and southern limits of the site have not been determined to date due to the inability to test the area. The property in these directions is inaccessible either because of its private ownership or because the land is used for the present day bus terminal of the City of Pueblo.

Material culture of the El Pueblo levels, and also possibly earlier levels, found in the four years of part-time excavations number approximately 50,000 artifacts and ecofacts. Because of the test nature of these excavation, far fewer artifacts have been found from the period to date than will be found when the site is thoroughly excavated. El Pueblo artifacts and ecofacts found include trade beads, gun flints, lead balls, percussion caps, pipe fragments, blacksmithing evidences, ceramics of a great variety, stone

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and glass artifacts believed to have been made by Native-Americans, bones, seeds, pollens, and many other material culture evidences.

Ethnic specific artifacts which can be identified to date are ceramics occurring in a wide variety and made by Native Americans and/or Hispanics. Some stone and glass artifacts have been found which were manufactured in manners characteristic of aboriginal peoples.

The site has integrity of the El Pueblo deposits, except where destroyed by later impacts, and has the potential to yield information in contexts which can be the basis for learning a great amount of information about aboriginal cultures and non-aboriginal cultures after the advent of written records. The majority of information in written forms about the site is very incomplete information and archaeological investigations can yield very significant information about architecture, agriculture, commerce, ethnic heritages, exploration/settlement, social history, and other aspects of life-ways of the 19th and earlier centuries.

The site also offers opportunities to learn about processes and causes of changes which occurred at El Pueblo and in the area during and after the El Pueblo occupation. Flood and other overlying levels offer opportunities to measure the impacts of changes from introductions of cultivation, domestic animal grazing, changes in qualities of water, and many other sources of changes.

In addition to providing important information related to trade, ethnic heritage, and settlement patterns, the site has the potential to answer questions in two other areas: architecture and agriculture.

Architecture

Archival documentation indicates that El Pueblo was constructed in the vernacular adobe plaza architectural tradition of the Hispanic southwest. All of the descriptions of El Pueblo identify it as having been built in this tradition and being a plaza or placita. A placita is smaller than a plaza which is sometimes used to refer to the center of a town or to an enclosed town. El Pueblo is identified tentatively as a plaza until the plan and size of the site are more fully known from archaeology or other sources.

A plaza can be defined as a composite building of adobe which is within a rectangular exterior wall of adobe and within which are living and other quarters. The living and other quarters generally utilize the exterior surrounding wall as their rear walls. The interior buildings of plazas face the interior of the composite building and open onto a common courtyard. Other interior structures are often present within plazas, such as hornos, or baking ovens, stalls for livestock, and other features. Buildings external to the composite plaza can also occur, such as other living quarters built after a plaza population exceeds the limits of available quarters on the inside, and buildings used for crop growing and ranching such as corrals and storage facilities.

Hispanic plazas north of New Mexico built for trading posts and settlements and occupied between 1842 and 1854, or of earlier periods, are very rare and in Colorado only Bent's Fort and poorly represented parts of Fort Vasquez have been investigated. A search for Fort Davy Crockett, a plaza of northwestern Colorado, resulted in finding part of the occupation possibly but not finding the buildings. Bent's Fort and Fort Vasquez were Bent and St. Vrain trading posts and inhabited by company employees and not as settlements as was El Pueblo. Other sites further north, such as Fort Laramie, and Fort Bridger are adobe plaza sites of the period but they had much stronger Euro-

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American influences than did El Pueblo. El Pueblo offers the opportunity to learn about the architecture of a plaza that had very strong Hispanic ethnic group influence and presences.

What is known so far from archaeological investigations supports inferences that El Pueblo is of the Hispanic architectural plaza tradition occupied by a diversity of persons of multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-national origins, but particularly by Hispanics. Parts of probably eight walls have been found and all the walls are either of adobe bricks or made of vertical wood posts. These walls are all parallel or perpendicular to each other and these relationships are consistent with the plans of Hispanic plazas throughout the southwest, which were rectangular with the buildings and their rooms built parallel and perpendicular to each other. All the plans of El Pueblo recorded from memories of the site show the walls of buildings parallel and perpendicular to each other, with the exceptions of bastions which in some plans are shown as being oval.

The distributions of El Pueblo architectural details discovered to date are indicated in Figure 1, but what has been discovered is not the limit of the area which may have evidence, but the limit of the site as revealed through excavations to date. The western limit of architectural evidences appears to be the western edge of the alley west of the former foundations of the Fariss Hotel, which was described as a slough or swampy area west of the post in some accounts. The eastern limit of architectural evidences may be Union Avenue. A test was dug east of the foundations of the Fariss Hotel in the present day sidewalk adjacent to the Avenue, but no evidence of El Pueblo was found though a depth of almost twelve feet was reached. It is predicted that the site was destroyed on the east by erosion by the Arkansas River and rerouting of the river about 1874.

The exact plan, size and other details of El Pueblo will have to rely on archaeology and a photointerpretation since there is a variety of conflicting descriptions and plans of the site. There are, however, no conflicts over the architectural tradition in which El Pueblo was made or the identities of Hispanics as being the primary work force used in its construction. Hispanics also were numerically the most important ethnic group of the diverse population which occupied the site over time. This identification is based upon a very large volume of information accumulated concerning the names and relationships of the occupants of the site. For example, all of the persons who died at the site in 1854 had Hispanic surnames. Although little is known about most of the wives and children of occupants of El Pueblo during most of the time of its uses, the majority of them had Hispanic names. Workers of the principals who lived at El Pueblo are known through some sources, such as the diary of Alexander Barclay, but very little is known about them except that the majority had Hispanic names.

Agriculture

The site was a nucleus for the evolution of ranching and farming activities between New Mexico and the settlements on the western fringes of the United States. Beginning in 1843 farming and stock raising were important activities at El Pueblo, and according to Janet Lecompte, the authority on the history of the upper Arkansas River valley, no settlement on the Arkansas did serious farming until EL Pueblo was founded. The products of stock raising and farming were for trading and to a lesser extent for subsistence by persons at the site.

Persons who were pioneer farmers and ranchers at El Pueblo developed the pioneer ranches and farms of the area during the 1858-1859 gold rush to Colorado and produced the foodstuffs that

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supported many of the miners and townspeople who flocked to Colorado. Examples of the importance of ex-Puebloans in these ventures were Joseph Doyle and "Uncle Dick" Wootton who farmed in the Arkansas River valley and marketed their products in stores they owned in Denver and other pioneer communities of territorial Colorado, and were among the wealthiest persons in Colorado from these activities.

The range cattle industry in Colorado was not an importation from elsewhere but was derived from practices of occupants of El Pueblo from the time of its inception. These El Puebloans were large scale ranchers and marketed cattle and other livestock along the Santa Fe Trail, as far west as California, to Missouri to the east, to emigrants on the California, Mormon, and Oregon Trails, and elsewhere. Overland livestock drives were common and included animals acquired legally and illegally. Some livestock traded by persons from Pueblo, for example, was acquired in California where they stole the animals and herded them to Missouri for sale.

Adjacent to El Pueblo in 1846-1847 was a colony of several hundred Mormons who were sojourned on the Upper Arkansas River while on their way as the pioneer settlers of Utah. The Mormons learned and acquired from occupants of El Pueblo the basic adaptations necessary for successful agriculture in the arid West. Among their acquisitions were the majority of their livestock, techniques of irrigation farming, and probably, though not certainly, seeds for crops.

Agriculture related research questions which the site may be able to answer include: what types of agriculture and ranching activities were practiced at El Pueblo that later influenced agricultural development in other parts of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West; what types of agriculture were imported to El Pueblo by its European, American, Hispanic, and Native American occupants; what types of agriculture were developed or modified at El Pueblo by its occupants?

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El Pueblo

Pueblo County, CO

Name of Property

County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 534150 4235360
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William G. Buckles, PH.D.

organization El Pueblo Project, Dept. of Planning, City of Pueblo date November 17, 1995

street & number 211 E. D Street telephone 719-543-6006

city or town Pueblo state CO zip code 81003

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Pueblo

street & number Elizabeth Street and Union Avenue

telephone _____

city or town Pueblo

state CO

zip code 81003

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes legal lots 1 through 6 of Block 58, Hobson's Subdivision, Pueblo, Colorado and the vacated alley west of these lots, as shown in Figure 7.

Boundary Justification

El Pueblo is buried under the existing city of Pueblo and the only means to prove the present day boundaries is by archaeological investigations. Historical documents, archives, maps, photographs and other sources of information have been used to accumulate evidence concerning the former extent of the area making up the site of El Pueblo. This information is synthesized into Figure 6, identifying anecdotal locations of El Pueblo according to the modern blocks and streets. These locations were recorded from the memories of persons familiar with the site before El Pueblo disappeared and these locations were not, in the main, identified by legal locations. The anecdotal descriptions were not specific about what was being defined as the site of El Pueblo, with the exceptions of the plaza. Most descriptions did not describe outbuildings, corrals, irrigated fields, roads, paths, and other parts which can be assumed to have been part of the site.

Figure 2 is a compilation of five plan drawings of El Pueblo from anecdotes, without scales, showing some of the features of the site. The dimensions of the site vary in anecdotes from as small as thirty by forty feet to as large as seven hundred by seven hundred feet.

It is a challenge to predict a boundary for the site today. Archaeological research since 1989 has exposed parts of the site and this is the proof for justifying the site boundary. Other information, such as Photograph 2 and plats shown in Figures 3 and 4, can be used to develop research questions concerning the boundary which are the bases for archaeological tests.

Identifications of parts of eight walls exposed by archaeology are in rectangular patterns and appear to be part of the plaza. Seven of these are represented in Figure 1 by lines associated with question marks about their extent and connections with other walls. One possible wall is of three post holes in unit 23N16E and the location can be inferred from the grid intersections shown in Figure 1. The relationships of known El Pueblo remains to legal lots of Block 58 of the City of Pueblo are identified in the right side of Figure 1.

El Pueblo remains are predicted to occur in areas north of the known remains shown in Figure 1 because no known structures are known to have been built in the alley or north of Lot 1 which would have destroyed El Pueblo remains in these locations. Tracks of the Santa Fe Railroad were built in 1876 over this area which is now occupied by First Street and the intersections of First Street, Court Street and Union Avenue. The presences of tracks would protect subsurfaces and any El Pueblo remains from impacts. Figures 4 and 5 represent the railroad tracks and some of the buildings and structures which have been located north of the known El Pueblo remains.

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Photograph 2 is an 1873 photograph of what was to become the City of Pueblo with probable remains of El Pueblo interpreted in photograph 3. The westernmost and northernmost of the structures are adjacent to a dark area in the photograph interpreted as a slough, a former channel of the Arkansas River. The slough will be found, we predict, west of the alley shown in Figure 4. It also is north of the area of known remains and would have been a northern limit of the site of El Pueblo. Attempts to photointerpret the photograph by three dimensional computer imaging have not been successful to date and until archaeological tests reveal the limits of the site and the slough, the limits of the site will not be definitely known. A prediction is made that the northern site limit is near the northern side of the intersections of First Street, Court Street, and Union Avenue.

El Pueblo remains are predicted to occur within legal lots 1 through 6 of Block 58, Hobson's Subdivision, Pueblo, Colorado and in the alley west of these lots, as shown in Figure 7. El Pueblo remains have been proven to date to occur only in the alley, the rear one-third of Lots 5 and 6, and the areas of Lots 3 and 4 which have been tested.

Parts of Lots 1 through 6 either do not have remains of El Pueblo, or have been reported to probably not have remains. The eastern two-thirds of Lots 5 and 6 have been found by tests to not have El Pueblo remains because the areas of the lots were a basement which destroyed the El Pueblo remains. Oral accounts, believed to be correct, are that the eastern one-half of Lot 2 and all of Lot 1 do not have remains of the site either because they were basement areas, but these accounts will have to be tested archaeologically. El Pueblo remains are predicted to occur north of Lot 1, Block 58 into First Street and adjacent areas of Court Street, and possibly into Union Avenue, though these have not been proven as yet by archaeological tests.

The archaeological investigation of El Pueblo is in progress. The boundary of the site will change as new areas are tested.

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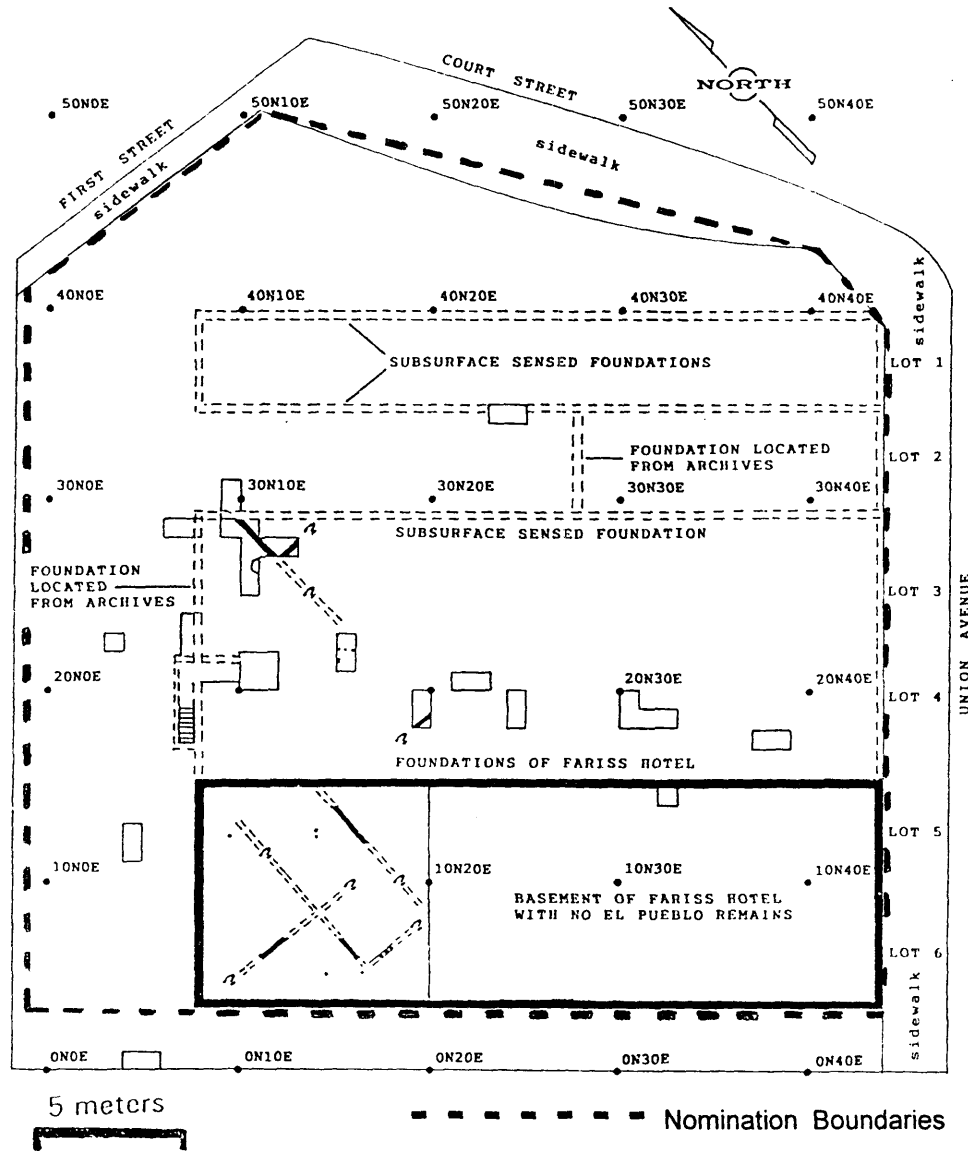


Figure 7

El Pueblo and other structures discovered through archaeological investigations.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-4 except as noted:

Name of Property: El Pueblo
Location: Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colo.
Negatives: Pueblo Public Library

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	Date of Photograph: 1989 Photographer: James Munch Negatives: City of Pueblo, Planning Dept. Fariss Hotel facade (southeast) and northeast elevation.
2	Date of Photograph: 1873 Photographer: unknown The remains of El Pueblo; view to the southwest. The site is in the middle ground. In the foreground is Santa Fe Avenue and the town of Pueblo. In the background and south of the Arkansas River is the town of South Pueblo.
3	Interpretation of the 1873 photograph. The arrows point to features of the site.
4	Date of Photograph: March 27, 1994 Photographer: William Buckles Negatives: City of Pueblo, Planning Dept. The metal building is constructed on foundations of the Fariss Hotel. The small buildings on the north are shelters of the city bus terminal.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Northeast Pueblo, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1961, Photorevised 1970 & 1974

