

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pike's Stockade

AND/OR COMMON

Pike's Stockade

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

By secondary road, 4 miles east of Sanford Colorado

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sanford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Conejos

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

PUBLIC

___ OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

___ BUILDING(S)

___ PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The State of Colorado

Administered by: The Colorado Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1880 Gaylord Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

The Colorado Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1880 Gaylord Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado State Inventory

DATE

in progress

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

1880 Gaylord Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The location and description of the original fortification is found in the record of the expedition written by Zebulon Montgomery Pike, himself. (See Statement of Significance) Using these records the State of Colorado has erected a replica of the Pike Stockade on a site that from the evidence would appear authentic. The replica conforms with Pikes specifications and description with three exceptions. To insure permanence oak instead of cottonwood logs were used in the construction of the replica. Second a concrete foundation was provided. Finally, the entrance tunnel was constructed of concrete, with steps on the inside and outside. One however, has to bend to enter the stockade as the tunnel is quite low and is often filled with water. The stockade likewise, may be entered by ladder. A wooden flagpole rises from the center of the compound.

Pike's Stockade lies in an attractive cottonwood grove on the north bank of the Conejos River. Markers located about warn visitors of snakes. Interpretive markers are likewise located throughout a small park area as are picnic tables and other rest facilities. Though visitation in recent years has decreased, the park area appears quite neat. A local rancher, whose property lines run along the state property, acts as caretaker, but no one is in permanent residence at the stockade.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES January-February 1807

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Zebulon Pike

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zebulon Pike led the second official exploring expedition into the Louisiana Purchase. As an epic in the history of American exploration and as a service to the knowledge of United States geography, Pike's journey through the southern Rockies and the Spanish possessions is second only to the achievement of Lewis and Clark. Of the three habitations Pike built in Colorado, the stockade on the Comejos River, erected in January-February, 1807, after a desperate winter crossing of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, possesses the greatest historical importance. Here he raised the American flag over Spanish soil and was taken into custody by Spanish dragoons, who escorted him to Santa Fe. It has been suggested that Pike made this move in order to obtain entry and access into Spanish possessions for the purpose of gathering intelligence about the country and its population.

Though not through archaeological investigation, the location of Pike's Stockade has been verified through descriptions of the terrain contained in Pike's Journal and supplemented by testimony of old settlers who attest to the former existence of surface remains. The site is situated in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado on the north bank of the Conejos River. The State of Colorado built a replica of the stockade on the site. It conforms to the specifications recorded by Pike.

The site of Pike's Stockade is four miles east of Sanford, Colorado. It is owned by the State of Colorado and administered by the Colorado Historical Society. The Park in which the Stockade is located is open throughout the year to the public.

History

The Pike Stockade commemorates the early exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West and the collision of the aggressive American frontier with the static Spanish frontier. Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike led one of several exploring expeditions that President Thomas Jefferson sent into the great expanse of territory acquired by the United States from France under the Louisiana Purchase. Although operating under the orders of the arch-conspirator, Gen. James Wilkinson, whose motives in dispatching the expedition have been suspected by many historians, Pike himself seems not to have been a party to any of the General's treasonable schemes.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coues, Elliott, ed., The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 3 vols.

(New York, 1895).

Goodwin, Cardinal, The Trans-Mississippi West, 1803-1953 (New York, 1922).

Gilbert, E. W., The Exploration of Western America, 1800-1850 (Cambridge, England, 1933).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 | 4,2,8 | 2,1,0 | 4,1 | 2,7 | 5,5,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pike's Stockade originally sat in a wooded expanse on the north bank of the Conejos River in what was in 1806 Spanish Territory. The character of the area has changed as described in the account of Pike. Cattle graze in nearby pastures and trees have unquestionably been removed to accommodate farming activities. The State of Colorado has purchased some 900 acres in the area. This massive expanse can be considered no more than property acquired as there is no historic justification for any specific activity, though, of course Pike did occupy the region. On the other hand, the replica

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

12/1/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated: July 4, 1961
 Boundary Certified: George Truesdell
 DATE: Oct 2, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Mendinghall
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE 12/5/78
 DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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Pike's Stockade

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Leaving St. Louis on July 15, 1806, Pike led his 22 men up the Missouri River, swung north to the Republican, and then south to the great bend of the Arkansas. Marching up the Arkansas to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, he attempted to climb the peak that today bears his name, but concluded that no man would ever reach the summit. With the onset of winter, Pike set out in search of the headwaters of the Red River, crossed the Sangre de Christo Mountains, and entered the San Luis Valley. Here a civilian member of the party, Dr. Robinson, decided to go to Santa Fe, ostensibly to collect a debt owned to an Illinois merchant. On February 6, 1807, Pike recorded in his diary:

"Feb. 6th. The doctor, having some pecuniary demands in the province of New Mexico, conceived this to be the most eligible point for him to go in, and return previous to all my party having joined me from the Arkansas [sic], and that I was prepared to descend to Nachitoches. He therefore this day made his preparations for marching to-morrow. . . . We continued to go on with the works of our stockade or breastwork, which was situated on the north bank of the west branch, about five miles from its junction with the main river, and was on a strong plan.

"The stockade was situated in a small prairie on the west fork [Conejos River] of the Rio [Grande] del Norte. The south flank joined the edge of the river, which at that place was not fordable; the east and west curtains were flanked by bastions in the northeast and northwest angles, which likewise flanked the curtain of the north side of the work. The stockade from the center of the angle of the bastions was 36 feet square. Heavy cottonwood logs, about two feet in diameter, were laid up all round about six feet, after which lighter ones, until we made it 12 feet in height; these logs were joined together by a lap of about two feet at each end. We then dug a small ditch on the inside all round, making it perpendicular on the internal side and sloping next the work. In this ditch we planted small stakes, about six inches in diameter, sharpened at the upper end to a nice point, and slanted them over the top of the work, giving them about 2-1/2 feet projection. We then secured them above and below in that position, which formed a small pointed frise, which must have been removed before the works could have been scaled. Lastly, we had dug a ditch round the whole, four feet wide, and let the water in all round. The earth taken out, being thrown against the work, formed an excellent rampart against small-arms, three or four feet high. Our mode of getting in was to crawl over the ditch on a plank, and into a small hole sunk below the level of the work near the river for that purpose. Our port-holes were pierced about eight feet from the ground, and a platform prepared to shoot from. Thus fortified, I should not have had the least hesitation of putting the 100 Spanish horse at defiance until the first or second night, and then to have made our escape under cover of the darkness; or made a sally and dispersed them, when resting under a full confidence

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of our being panic-struck by their numbers and force."

Pike had thus raised the American flag on Spanish soil, and on February 26 a detachment of 100 Spanish cavalymen appeared at the fort to request his presence in Santa Fe, the capital of the Spanish province of New Mexico. Pike either believed or pretended to believe that he was still in American territory, but he readily agreed to abandon the stockade and go to Santa Fe. There, he and his men became involuntary guests of the Governor of New Mexico, who confiscated their belongings and questioned them endlessly. Later taken to Chihuahua for further interrogation, they were finally escorted to Natchitoches in July, 1807, and set free.

The great accomplishment of the Pike expedition lay in its contribution to the geographical knowledge of the central plains and the Rockies. As Lewis and Clark a few years previously had explored the northern portion of the Louisiana Purchase, so Pike had explored the southern portion. The publication of his official report in 1810 aroused widespread public interest in this region, and in the Spanish Southwest, an area of which most Americans had only the vaguest knowledge, if any at all.

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of Pike's Stockade sits in a small park whose boundaries are indicated on the U.S.G.S. map. This area contains approximately four acres and is bounded by a wire fence.

Commencing at the northeast corner of the Pike's Stockade Park proceed due west along the fence a distance of approximately 500 feet to the northwest corner of the park, thence proceed in a southernly direction, along the west fence, a distance of approximately 350 feet to the southwest corner of the park, thence proceed due east to the southeast corner of the park a distance of 500 feet, thence proceed north to the point of origin.