



# Boggsville Reconnaissance Study, History, and Evaluation of Significance

Bent County, Colorado

*Thomas C. Boggs*



**DRAFT**



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### Background

This reconnaissance study was prepared by the National Park Service (NPS) at the request of U.S. Representative Cory Gardner (CO), who asked the NPS to evaluate Boggsville, Colorado, as a potential new unit of the park service.<sup>1</sup> Boggsville, which is in Bent County, Colorado, is a 39-acre historic district that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986; that nomination determined that Boggsville had a state level of significance. The purpose of the NPS reconnaissance study was to determine if Boggsville also met NPS criteria for national significance. If deemed nationally significant, Boggsville could then be further considered as a National Historic Landmark, or as a potential unit of the NPS. The primary contributing buildings at Boggsville include the Thomas O. Boggs home and the John W. Prowers house. The Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County acquired Boggsville in 1985. The site consists of 110 acres of land, of which 39 acres are associated with the Boggsville settlement.



*Thomas Boggs Home* - NPS Photo, Greg Kendrick

The history and evaluation of national significance was prepared by historian and PhD candidate Steven C. Baker, under the supervision of Dr. Ralph Mann, associate professor, Department of History, University of Colorado Boulder, working in cooperation with the Heritage Partnerships Program of the NPS Intermountain Region.

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<sup>1</sup> Cory Gardner, Member of Congress, House of Representatives, letter to Jon Jarvis, Director, U.S. National Park Service, 17 November, 2011.



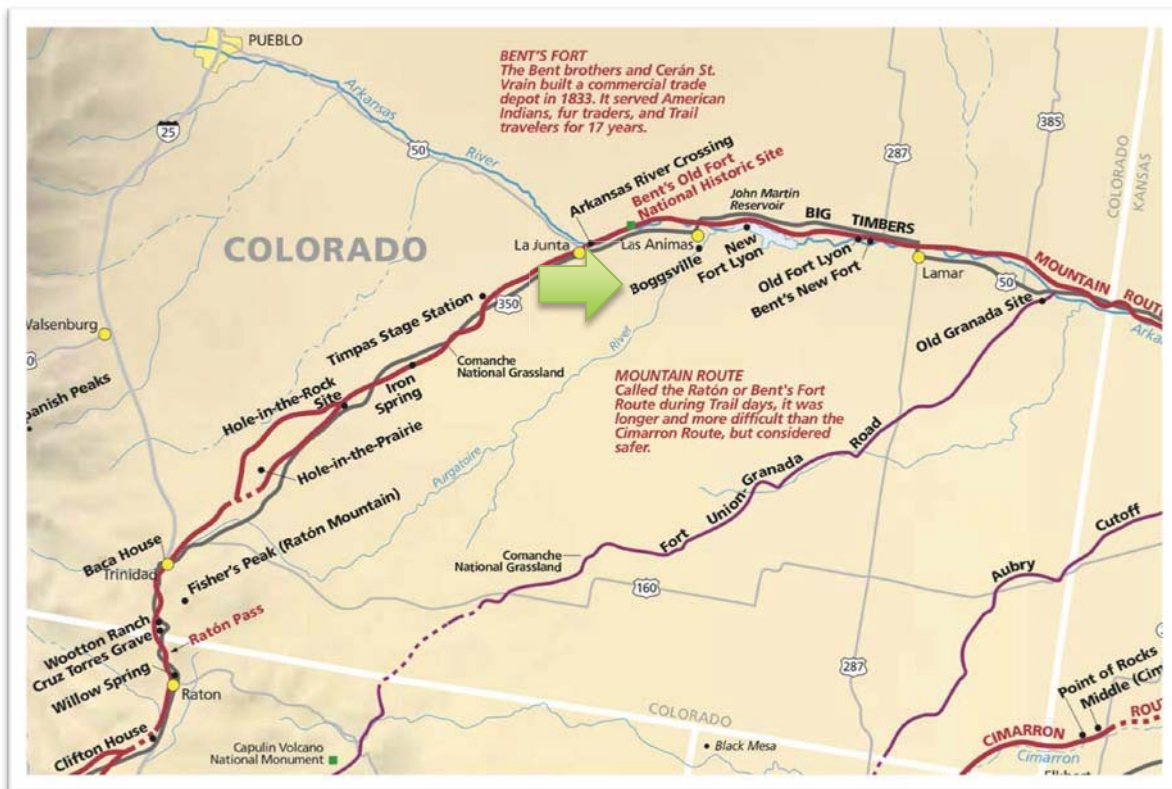
*John Prowers Home* - NPS Photo, Greg Kendrick

Data collection for this reconnaissance study included research at the Norlin Library (University of Colorado at Boulder), Arthur Lakes Library (Colorado School of Mines), Penrose Library (University of Denver), and the Library at the NPS Intermountain Region in Lakewood, Colorado.

Internet sources and databases were also consulted, including America: History and Life (<http://www.ebscohost.com/public/america-history-and-life>), ProQuest Congressional ([http://cisupa.proquest.com/ws\\_display.asp?filter=Congressional%20Overview](http://cisupa.proquest.com/ws_display.asp?filter=Congressional%20Overview)), Bureau of Land Management land records site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>), and the Center for Land Grant Studies (<http://www.southwestbooks.org>).

Documentary research was supplemented by a visit to Boggsville on 13 July, 2012. Richard Carrillo, the Boggsville archaeologist in residence, provided a tour of the site, additional documents, and pertinent information.

Boggsville is located two miles south of the town of Las Animas in Bent County, Colorado. The site is accessible via Colorado Highway 101. It is situated on the historic west bank of the Purgatoire River (the river changed course in 1904), just south of its confluence with the Arkansas River. The district's topography presents a transition from riparian marshland to productive agricultural lands. Irrigation ditches serving nearby farming and grazing lands cross the historic site, which is surrounded by private land. The historic district is located in a geographic region that contains several nationally significant historic sites, which include the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Bent's Old Fort



*Boggsville, near the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail*

National Historic Site. It is located near the Mountain branch of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Boggsville is also one of over 70 certified sites on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. This designation recognizes sites that played a role in the history of the Santa Fe Trail and allow public access.

The Boggsville historic site is open seasonally from May until October. Visitor services focus on the interpretation of Boggsville's historical significance and are offered by the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County. The historical society also provides programs for school groups and other educational programs. There is also a self-guided trail and wayside exhibits. Visitors can purchase books and other items in a small store located in the Boggs home.

Various research and planning efforts have been undertaken at Boggsville. Students and faculty from the Center for Community Development & Design at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs developed the *Boggsville Master Plan*, which was completed in 1990.<sup>2</sup> The plan provided a framework for the restoration and revitalization of the Boggsville site. It called for the restoration of historic structures, the development of historical interpretive programs, and the construction of a regional trail system illuminating the natural and cultural resources of Boggsville and the surrounding area.

<sup>2</sup> Selena Vaughan, "Boggsville Master Plan, Las Animas, Colorado" (Colorado Springs, CO: University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Center for Community Development & Design, 1990).

Archeological investigations comprise a significant component of management operations at Boggsville. The first projects, which began in 1985, focused on the Boggs home. Subsequent investigations were undertaken at the Prowers house, the Carson house, and Boggsville school. Work is ongoing and facilitated by the Boggsville archaeologist in residence, Richard Carrillo. The archeological investigations have been funded by several organizations, including the State Historical Fund, Colorado Historical Society, and the NPS.<sup>3</sup>

Early building restoration efforts focused on the Boggs and Prowers homes. Funding for this work was provided by a wide variety of organizations (Colorado State Historical Fund, Gates Foundation, El Pomar Foundation). The historic district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

## History of Boggsville

**B**oggsville was one of the first permanent settlements in Colorado's Arkansas Valley. Established as a ranch sometime around 1862 by Thomas O. Boggs and his wife, Rumalda Luna Boggs, the site was part of the Vigil & St. Vrain/Las Animas Mexican land grant. Boggs acquired the land, over 2,000 acres, through his wife, who was the stepdaughter of Charles Bent, proprietor of Bent's Fort and the first Governor of New Mexico after the Mexican American War. She was also related to two of the most important Hispanic families in New Mexico: the Jamarillos, who were prominent merchants, and Cornelio Vigil, part owner of the Vigil & St. Vrain grant. It was Rumalda Luna Boggs's relationship to Vigil that allowed Thomas Boggs to secure title to lands within the grant.



*Rumalda Jaramillo Boggs*

Boggs, the son of a former Missouri governor, began traveling the Santa Fe Trail in 1840 or 1841 when he was still a teenager. The Missourian quickly became enmeshed in commerce and society of the trail. He traveled with Samuel Magoffin who became prominent in the Santa Fe Trail trade into Mexico. By 1848, Boggs was working as an Indian trader at Bent's Old Fort. After a short absence from the region, Boggs returned and secured employment with Lucien Maxwell, on the Miranda-Beaubien/Maxwell grant. Maxwell eventually gained control of over 1.7 million acres in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Boggs, who lived in Taos for a time, also developed a personal

<sup>3</sup> "Boggsville Historic Site," last modified May 19, 2003, <http://www.phsbc.info/boggs.htm>.

friendship with Kit Carson, an important fur trapper, trader, and soldier with a career that spanned from the late 1820s to the late 1860s.

The relationship between Rumalda and Thomas Boggs reflects a common practice in the history of the Santa Fe Trail and the Southwest before the arrival of the railroad. Boggs, a non-Hispanic migrant from the Midwest, married into a prominent Hispanic family and had likely acculturated himself to the dominant Hispanic culture in New Mexico. This trend was shaped, on one hand, by circumstance. Hispanic women were much more available than non-Hispanic women. Intermarriage was also tied to social and economic power. In order for a non-Hispanic to gain social and economic power in New Mexico, he had to acculturate to the dominant Hispanic culture. For example, Mexican citizenship, a process that was much easier if one married a Hispanic resident, was a prerequisite for land acquisition. Mexican families also saw marrying their daughters to the men who dominated trade on the Santa Fe Trail as a tool to protect their own status. Men like Kit Carson, Charles Beaubien, and Charles and William Bent all married into prominent Mexican families. This scenario

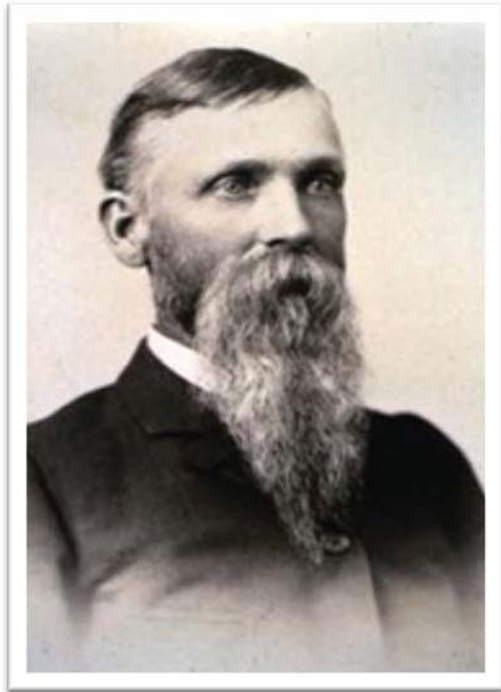
remained in place until the railroad arrived in the 1870s and brought a comparative flood of non-Hispanic settlers. The railroad, dominated by non-Hispanics, also undermined the status of many prominent Hispanic families. Acculturation was no longer a necessity.



*Horno (traditional outdoor adobe oven)* - NPS Photo, Greg Kendrick

The original settlement on the Purgatoire resembled a small New Mexican village with some adobe buildings, jacals (a rudimentary plastered hut with a thatched roof), and hornos (outdoor ovens built out of adobe). Most structures were simple and small. One of the first settlers at the site was E.R. Sizer, who joined the Boggesses on the ranch in 1864. Two years later, Thomas Boggs, L.A. Allen and Charles L. Ritz (also Ritz and Rite), along with Hispanic New Mexican laborers, built some more substantial hacienda-style adobe buildings at the ranch headquarters. The new buildings gave the settlement, which was located near the Santa Fe Trail (now a National Historic Trail), more permanence. Boggs raised

sheep on the ranch. His herd eventually grew to 30,000 animals. As other settlers moved into the area, the Boggs family ranch was the center of a community that became known as “Boggsville.” There, however, is no evidence that any of the other settlers at Boggsville ever purchased the land on which he resided. Boggs retained title to all the land.<sup>4</sup>



*John W. Prowers*

The Boggsville community was most vibrant between 1866 and 1873. It grew rapidly from a ranch with a single dwelling to a small settlement. Julia Lambert and her husband settled in Boggsville in 1868. She describes Boggsville as a “general gathering of settlers” dominated by the large adobe homes and corrals of Boggs and Prowers.<sup>5</sup> The settlement became a popular regional gathering place for residents from miles around. Some visitors chose to stay. Kit Carson, a personal friend of Boggs, spent the last year of his life in Boggsville before his death in 1868.

The population in the area expanded quickly in the 1860s. There were over 33 ranches and farms along the Purgatoire River near the Boggs property by 1869. Boggsville also grew. There were at least 20 buildings, including a school, in

Boggsville, in 1870. The settlement briefly became the Bent County seat in 1871. Two years later there were at least 97 people living in the settlement. As many as 250 individuals resided at Boggsville during its peak years in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Most residents were employees or tenants who supported the agricultural and business operations of Boggs and his neighbor John W. Prowers.<sup>6</sup>

Prowers was another Missourian who had found his way to Colorado. He, like Boggs, found employment with Charles Bent and his brother William. By 1856 he was working as an Indian agent at Bent’s New Fort. Five years later, Prowers married Amache, a Cheyenne Indian, and settled at Caddo (Big Timbers), near Fort Wise. He began raising crops and livestock to sell to the fort, which was

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<sup>4</sup> William McKenzie, “Boggsville” National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1986.

<sup>5</sup> C.W. Hurd, *Boggsville: Cradle of Colorado’s Cattle Industry*, (Las Animas, CO: Boggsville Committee, 1957), 27.

<sup>6</sup> McKenzie, “Boggsville;” Richard F. Carrillo and Philip L. Pederson, “The Boggsville Branch of the Santa Fe Trail: An Historical Archeological Study of the Santa Fe Trail and its Relationship to Boggsville Historic Site, Bent County, Colorado,” a report prepared for the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County and the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Group (December 2002), 45; Richard F. Carrillo, Personal Communication to Steven C. Baker, 13 July, 2012.



renamed Fort Lyon in 1862. Fort Lyon moved to a new location in 1867 and Prowers, realizing the importance of being near his market, moved with the soldiers. He settled in Boggsville, less than five miles from the fort, and continued his profitable enterprise provisioning the army. He also secured a contract supplying regional stagecoach stations. Prowers constructed a large house and store, which became the center of activity in the young settlement. He remained in Boggsville until 1873 when he moved to the new community of West Las Animas, just across the Arkansas River. He used Boggsville as a base for his ranching operations for four more years, but his business interests became increasingly intertwined with Las Animas. The recently constructed Kansas-Pacific Railroad (1873) served the new community and Prowers, not one to miss an opportunity, built a store and, eventually, a bank in Las Animas. He also went into business with legendary cattleman Charles Goodnight. By 1876, Prowers and Goodnight were operating a slaughterhouse in Las Animas, one of many in the area.<sup>7</sup> Prowers remained in Las Animas for another decade. He died in 1884.

Prowers is, perhaps, most famous for his contributions to the development of ranching in Colorado. He developed the first large-scale, open range cattle operation in southeastern Colorado. In 1862, he and Amache traveled to Westport, Missouri and purchased 100 head of cattle from John Ferrill. Prowers drove the cattle back to Colorado and set them loose on the range. His herd ranged on land from the mouth of the Purgatoire River to Caddo that Amache and her Cheyenne family had acquired through the Fort Wise Treaty (1861), which allotted 40 acres of land to Cheyenne tribal members. The Prowers family later expanded these holdings to include over 2,000 acres of land following the Treaty of the Little Arkansas (1865), which granted 640 acres to every Cheyenne who lost a parent or spouse at the Sand Creek Massacre (1864). Amache's father was killed at the massacre, and his survivors included his widow, his daughter, and his two granddaughters by Amache and John Prowers. This land and these 100 head of cattle were the foundation for a herd that would grow to 10,000 head over the



*Amache Ochinee Prowers*

<sup>7</sup> Hurd, *Boggsville*, 7-8; Bonnie J. Clark, "Amache Ochinee Prowers: The Archeobiography of a Cheyenne Woman" (M.A. Thesis, University of Denver, 1996), 52; J. Evetts Haley, *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949), 274; Carrillo and Pederson, "The Boggsville Branch of the Santa Fe Trail," 53.

next two decades.<sup>8</sup> Prowers's example inspired the establishment of the open range cattle industry in Colorado.

John Prowers introduced other innovations to the cattle industry. In 1870 he spurred the establishment of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association to serve the interests of livestock men and attempt to curtail cattle rustling, which was becoming a problem in the region. This was one of the first cattle growers associations in Colorado.

Prowers was driven to innovate and he began importing purebred bulls and heifers to supplement his herd and improve his stock. He wanted to develop cattle that were of high quality and well adapted to the regional climate. In pursuit of his goal, Prowers purchased cattle from across the United States and as far afield as Ireland. Ultimately he discovered that the Hereford breed provided the best balance of adaptability and beef quality. While at the forefront, Prowers was not alone in this quest for a better breed. At least three Colorado ranchers – George Zweck of Longmont, the proprietors of the Powell Ranch near Canon City, and John Wesley Iliff – began experimenting with Herefords in 1873. Several other ranchers purchased Herefords the next year. While most of the purchasers were from northern Colorado, Prowers, the “cattle king” of the Arkansas Valley, was also keen to experiment with the breed. He purchased Herefords in 1874. Two years later Prowers established the first breeding herd of Herefords in southern Colorado at his ranch near Las Animas.<sup>9</sup>

Prowers also played a role in developing irrigation in the region. The residents of Boggsville knew the ground upon which they lived was fertile, but that there was not enough rainfall to sufficiently develop the potentially productive farmlands. Some residents had, no doubt, seen irrigation systems in the Hispanic communities they visited or resided. In the winter of 1866-1867, they decided that Boggsville needed irrigation. Prowers, Boggs, R.L. Lambert, Charles Ritc, Robert Bent (the son of William Bent), and the Tarbox brothers began construction of a seven-mile canal to draw water from the Purgatoire River. Ultimately the canal, known as the Tarbox ditch, served as the anchor of a system of irrigation ditches that watered over 1,000 acres. Prowers himself put 640 acres under cultivation. Corn, wheat, alfalfa, and vegetables raised on the irrigated lands were sold to Fort Lyon.<sup>10</sup> The construction of the Tarbox ditch and the subsequent development of irrigated agriculture around Boggsville represent the beginning of large-scale irrigated agriculture in the Arkansas Valley.

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<sup>8</sup> Alvin T. Steinel, *History of Agriculture in Colorado: A Chronological Record of Progress in the General Development of Farming, Livestock Production, and Agricultural Education and Investigation, on the Western Border of the Great Plains and in the Mountains of Colorado, 1858-1926* (Fort Collins, CO: The State Agricultural College, 1926), 123; Hurd, *Boggsville*, 9; Clark, “Amache Ochinee Prowers,” 37-38, 44.

<sup>9</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 161; Hurd, *Boggsville*, 72

<sup>10</sup> Hurd, *Boggsville*, 10; McKenzie, “Boggsville.”

Boggsville was not originally directly on the Santa Fe Trail. The trail ran along the north bank of the Arkansas River; Boggsville was south of the river. A bridge, possibly a toll bridge, constructed in 1869 linked Boggsville to the Santa Fe Trail. The construction of the bridge resulted in a shift in traffic along the Mountain



NPS Photo, Greg Kendrick

Branch of the trail. A new trail developed south of the Arkansas River. The trail connected the Mountain Route with campsites and outposts south of the river. As the crossing at Boggsville became more prominent, a plethora of ferries and fords that dotted the region fell into disuse. Boggsville became a place of sojourn on the trail where wagons, horses, and travelers

briefly rested and recharged before continuing on to other outposts, such as the stage stop at Bent's Old Fort, Fort Lyon, or Trinidad.<sup>11</sup>

The 1873 arrival of the railroad in nearby Las Animas marked the end of Boggsville's short history as a thriving settlement. The community, which was essentially an enclave within the Thomas O. Boggs ranch, dissipated and relocated to the railroad town. Boggs left in 1877. He and his family relocated to Springer, New Mexico. While in New Mexico, he secured employment with the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Ironically, he was tasked with negotiating the removal of unauthorized settlements from the grant. Ten years after leaving Colorado, Boggs sold the ranch at Boggsville to John Lee for \$13,000. Lee did some farming, but primarily used the land to run herds of Hereford and Galloway cattle. Lee also made improvements to the Boggs home and constructed a water tank and water tower.<sup>12</sup> The ranch stayed in the Lee family until 1909 when it was sold to the Crebbin Investment Company. It has since passed to various owners and lessees. The Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County acquired the site from Alta Page in 1985.

Boggsville played an important, albeit brief, role in the development of Colorado. The settlement's local and regional historic value was recognized by its inclusion

<sup>11</sup> Clark, "Amache Ochinee Prowers," 50-1; Carrillo and Pederson, "The Boggsville Branch of the Santa Fe Trail," 47, 51.

<sup>12</sup> Hurd, *Boggsville*, 21; María E. Montoya, *Translating Property: The Maxwell Land Grant and the Conflict Over Land in the American West, 1840-1900* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002), 137-8, 143-5.

on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 at the state level of significance under criteria A, B, and C as an early Colorado agricultural and trade center, for its association with Colorado pioneers John W. Prowers and Thomas O. Boggs, and as an example of territorial style architecture. Boggsville is also a certified site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

## Evaluations of National Significance

National significance for cultural resources, such as Boggsville, is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmark criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65. National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture, and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and that:

1. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
2. are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
3. represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
4. embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
5. are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
6. have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

Historic significance for any historic property is determined by placing the resource in an historic context that thematically links the resource to important historic trends. In this way historic contexts provide a framework for determining the significance of a property and its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This process is further facilitated in the determination of national significance (as opposed to state or local significance) through the use of theme studies. These



*Prowers Home (left) and Boggs Home (right).* NPS Photo, Greg Kendrick

studies provide national-level historical contexts of important trends in United States history. Theme studies also provide a comparative analysis of properties associated with a specific area of American history, such as the fur trade, earliest Americans, women's history, Greek Revival architecture, or space exploration.

Many of the theme studies, however, are outdated and fail to reflect contemporary scholarship that stresses the interplay of race, ethnicity, class, and gender within and among the national topics addressed by the theme studies. Therefore, evaluation of historic sites for national significance often requires that theme studies be supplemented, on a case-by-case basis, by more detailed contextual information that incorporates the insights of social and cultural history that seek to tell the stories of broad social trends and ordinary people. Unique and notable events are still included, but they are more likely to be placed firmly within the broader contexts of their time.

## Evaluation of Significance of Boggsville within a National Context

**B**oggsville was a short-lived community associated with historical trends and events related to the Santa Fe Trail, and agricultural development. It was also home to historically important individuals, including Kit Carson. Finally, archeological investigations have yielded important data, illuminating the multiethnic composition of the settlement. Therefore, Boggsville's national significance is best evaluated under criteria 1, 2, and 6.

The historic district is most appropriately evaluated under three National Historic Landmark theme studies prepared by the NPS. These are *The Santa Fe Trail, Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier*, and *The Cattleman's Empire*. All three themes are classified under the more general theme of *Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830- 1898*.

## ***Santa Fe Trail***

The *Santa Fe Trail* theme study, published in 1963, provides the overarching contextual framework for evaluating the national significance of resources related to the trail.<sup>13</sup> The study focuses, however, on non-Hispanic participants and the economic effects of the Santa Fe Trail from 1821 to the 1870s. It ignores the fluidity of ethnic relations and political and social interactions among Hispanics and non-Hispanics that dominated much of the history of the Santa Fe Trail. The discussion below integrates the theme study with modern scholarship that addresses the complex interethnic relations engendered by the Santa Fe Trail.

Prior to 1821, New Mexico (including what is now southeastern Colorado) was very remote. Spanish settlement was non-existent to sparse and far from the population centers of New Spain. The Spanish colonial government, fearing foreign intrusion, kept trade under tight control. Spanish authorities often detained American traders and adventurers who ventured into Santa Fe.<sup>14</sup>

Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821 after a decade of revolution. The end of colonial rule had major implications for New Mexico. The Mexican government was less determined to uphold the strict trade controls Spanish authorities had placed upon international commerce. American traders, determined to take advantage of this opening, quickly forged commercial ties with New Mexico and, eventually, Chihuahua, Mexico. Trading expeditions led



<sup>13</sup> The Santa Fe Trail: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1963).

<sup>14</sup> A note on terminology: In this report, American means resident or citizen of the United States. Mexican connotes a citizen or resident of Mexico. The term Hispanic means anyone of Latin American or Spanish descent. *Non-Hispanic* is anyone NOT of Latin American or Spanish descent. Finally, *Anglo* specifically relates to a person of Irish or English descent

by optimistic adventurers left Missouri for Mexico's northern settlements in the autumn of 1821. William Becknell led one group.

Becknell and his men departed Missouri in early September, 1821. They reached the Arkansas River by the 24<sup>th</sup> and followed its course west until they came to an area Becknell described as the "forks of the river." It is likely that the "forks" was the confluence of the Purgatoire and Arkansas Rivers. Becknell and his men followed the "left fork" (probably the Purgatoire River) until they reached the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. They crossed over Raton Pass and onto the high grasslands of northeastern New Mexico. The trading party finally arrived in Santa Fe on November 16, 1821. This route approximated what became known as the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Boggsville was built across the Purgatoire River from the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail four decades after the trail was established.

Becknell's party was not greeted with the suspicion that met American trading parties prior to 1821. He and his companions were welcome in Santa Fe and urged to develop regular trade with Mexicans in the region. The trade was profitable and Becknell organized a second expedition to Santa Fe in 1822. The party's route, however, was different. The Mountain Branch was replaced by a shorter, more level route known as the Cimarron Cutoff, which became the primary route of the Santa Fe Trail.

Becknell's adventures triggered a dramatic increase in trade between Missourians and Mexicans. The Santa Fe Trail brought the first concerted presence of non-



*Freight Wagons on the Santa Fe Trail* - NPS, Santa Fe National Historic Trail Website

Hispanics to the region that became the southwestern United States. The value of trade increased to nearly \$100,000 by 1826.<sup>15</sup> The Santa Fe trade developed into a well-established routine by the 1830s. Winters in Independence, Missouri, the eastern terminus of the trail, were dominated by the amassing of provisions and trade goods from trade centers farther east. Caravans were on the trail by mid May and they arrived in Santa Fe 40-60 days later. Traders remained in the Mexican town for several weeks before returning to Missouri in the autumn. Trade remained robust throughout the history of the trail.

Traders and trappers quickly understood the importance of the Santa Fe Trail to their business interests and they tapped into the opportunities the trail offered. The most important of these traders were William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, who built a large adobe fort on a bend of the Arkansas River near present-day La Junta, Colorado. The fort was established in 1833 to facilitate trade with Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians and serve travelers on the trail. It was a pivotal component of a far-flung trade empire amassed by the Bents and St. Vrain. The fort was also a multicultural center of activity and a resting point for travelers along the trail. The fort operated until 1849 when William Bent abandoned the fort during a cholera epidemic. The fort was subsequently burned. Bent's fort was too important to lose. Bent returned to the area in 1852 and rebuilt the fort approximately 40 miles downstream from the original site, east of the current site of Las Animas, Colorado. It continued to serve as a center of trade and respite.<sup>16</sup>

Trade on the trail, by the 1840s, extended far south of Santa Fe into Chihuahua, Mexico. In fact, more trade was bypassing Santa Fe than being plied in the northern New Mexico town. The influx of American goods resulted in political and economic changes in northern Mexico (including what is now southeastern Colorado). Trade with Americans made New Mexicans dependant on the Santa Fe trade for their increasingly sophisticated standard of living. It also allowed for the creation of a new class of elite Hispanic merchants who had been chafing at the limitations imposed by the colonial trade regulations. At the same time, foreigners rose to positions of economic prominence in Mexico that would have been unimaginable during Spanish colonial rule.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Max L. Moorhead, *New Mexico's Royal Road: Trade and Travel on the Chihuahua Trail* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958), 63-4.

<sup>16</sup> Stephen G. Hyslop, *Bound for Santa Fe: The Road to New Mexico and the American Conquest, 1806-1848* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002), 59, 199-200; William E. Brown, *The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Survey* (St. Louis MO, 1988), 177-8; 180-1.

<sup>17</sup> Moorhead, *Royal Road*, 192- 4; David J. Weber, *The Mexican Frontier 1821-1846: The American Southwest Under Mexico* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1982), 146.





*Camp Scene on the Santa Fe Trail -*  
by Doug Holdread, Courtesy Santa Fe Trail Association

On its most basic level, the trail created new commercial linkages and opened Mexico's north to the American market. The history of the Santa Fe Trail also illuminates an important component of the history of the United States' westward expansion. It represents a process by which non-Hispanic (mostly Anglo) Americans migrated into frontier regions in which Hispanic populations, political systems, and economies were dominant and well established.<sup>18</sup> The history of the trail, however, is not simply a narrative of American expansionism as expressed through the notion of Manifest Destiny. Historian Andrés Reséndez perceptively notes that expansionism, after all, was not confined to the United States during the nineteenth century. He writes that "expansionism was a fact of life for all inhabitants of North America." The resulting meeting of cultures in what became the southwestern United States created an environment where "interethnic alliances became not only possible, but highly desirable."<sup>19</sup> While there is regional variation, the period from 1821-1880 was marked by non-Hispanic acculturation to the dominant Hispanic social and political regimes, and Hispanic incorporation of the market economy brought by the new settlers. A similar phenomenon also occurred in the Ohio River Valley nearly a century earlier as European traders made forays into the region inhabited by powerful Native American nations.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> In this report, the term *frontier* is used in the manner proposed by Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron. They define a frontier as "a meeting place of peoples in which geographic and cultural borders were not easily defined," and economic and social relations were dominated by intercultural cooperation and accommodation. See Jeremy Adelman and Stephan Aron, "From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation – States, and Peoples in Between in North American History," *American Historical Review* 104 (June 1999), 815-6.

<sup>19</sup> Andrés Reséndez, *Changing National Identities at the Frontier: Texas and New Mexico, 1800-1850* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 5-6.

<sup>20</sup> See, for example, Eric Hinderaker, *Elusive Empires: Constructing Colonialism in the Ohio Valley, 1673-1800* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1997) and Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1991).

The increasing trade via the Santa Fe Trail contributed to the expansion of private landholding on Mexico's far northern borderlands. Manuel Armijo, the governor of New Mexico from 1837-1846, approved several vast land grants in what became Colorado. Most grants fell into one of two categories. They were either civil colony grants or *empesario* grants. Civil colony grants were lands given to groups with the intent of establishing settlements. The grants stipulated that settlers receive tracts of land for small farms and homes. Title to these allotments carried an associated right to use common lands for such activities as grazing and supplemental resource harvest (building materials, wild plants, game). The Los Conejos grant in the San Luis Valley was of this type. *Empesario* grants, on the other hand, usually only required that the grantee hold the land for at least four years after which he could dispose of it in any manner he chose.<sup>21</sup> The Miranda-Beaubien Grant encompassing over one million acres in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico was an *empesario* grant. In addition to these two grants, the governor approved the Sangre de Cristo Grant, Nolán Grant, Scolly Grant, and the Las Animas Grant.<sup>22</sup>

Over 16 million acres of land passed into private control under Armijo's tenure. His alacrity in granting these lands was tied to three overarching interests. First, he wanted to encourage the settlement of the northern borderlands as a buffer to foreign (Anglo-American) intrusion. Second, the Governor wanted to encourage private enterprise in the northern lands, especially in proximity to the Santa Fe Trail. Third, the land grants were an expression of patronage and provided as gifts to supporters and friends. Armijo provided grants to foreigners, but did so judiciously. Most grantees were naturalized Mexican citizens who had lived in the territory since the 1820s. The governor generally did not provide lands to Anglo-Americans. Most foreign-born grantees were of French heritage. Finally, Armijo required that foreigners include Mexico-born partners in their grants.<sup>23</sup>

The first large grant Armijo made in New Mexico's northern borderlands was provided to his secretary Guadalupe Miranda and Charles Beaubien, a prominent Taos merchant who was a Canadian-born naturalized Mexican citizen. Miranda and Beaubien proposed to use the land to raise livestock, cultivate cotton and sugar beets, and promote settlement.<sup>24</sup> The grant, among five awarded in 1843, fits all of Armijo's conditions.

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<sup>21</sup> There were also quasi-community grants. In this arrangement, the individual grantee had the right to sell the entire grant after four years, yet at the same time he was required to provide for settlement and the provision of common lands. It is this type of grant that has been the most difficult for United States courts to reconcile. The Sangre de Cristo grant was a quasi-community grant. See the description of land grant types provided by the Center for Land Grant Studies. Available at <http://www.southwestbooks.org/grantstypes.htm>.

<sup>22</sup> Some grants have been ascribed various names. The Beaubien-Miranda grant is also known as the Maxwell Grant. The Las Animas Grant is also known as the Vigil-St. Vrain Grant and the Huerfano Grant.

<sup>23</sup> Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 190-1, 193; Reséndez, *National Identities*, 34, 37.

<sup>24</sup> Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 191; Montoya, *Translating Property*, 31.

The Beaubien–Miranda Grant reflects a weakness in Armijo’s system. While the governor could control to whom the land was originally provided, he could not dictate how the grantees disposed of their land. For example, Charles Bent received a large interest in the Beaubien-Miranda grant from the grantees. This led to considerable controversy in New Mexico because some residents were suspicious of growing Anglo-American influence in the region.<sup>25</sup>

Bent’s business partner Cerán St. Vrain acquired a grant from Armijo. St. Vrain and Cornelio Vigil were provided with a four-million-acre grant in 1843. The grant, known as the Las Animas Grant (also known as the Vigil-St Vrain Grant and the Huerfano Grant) was, perhaps, the most important of the northern land grants and is the grant on which Boggsville is located. It encompassed the rich grasslands of the Huerfano, Cucharas, and Apishapa River drainages to their junction with the Arkansas and Las Animas (Purgatoire) Rivers. Vigil and St. Vrain proposed to use their land for the establishment of an agricultural colony. More important, however, was the fact that the Santa Fe Trail entered the grant at Bent’s Fort, the chief trade center in the northern borderlands. The links between land grants, the Santa Fe Trail, and commerce are symbolized by the fact that less than two months after Armijo approved the grant, portions of it were divided among prominent commercial leaders, including Charles Bent and Eugene Leitensdorfer, an important Santa Fe merchant.<sup>26</sup>

The resources of the grant were immediately put to use. Fifteen to sixteen hundred livestock were pastured on its grasslands beginning in 1844. William Bent attempted to establish farming settlement on the grant in 1847, but Indians forced the abandonment of the colony in less than a year. Another attempt at colonization was attempted in 1852, but failed in 1854 when Indians drove colonists off their land. Charles Autobees (also Autobee) established a small settlement near the western edge of the grant in 1853. The next permanent settlement on the lands of the Las Animas/Vigil St. Vrain Grant did not occur until the 1860s when Thomas O. Boggs established Boggsville.<sup>27</sup>

Charles Bent reflected another trend to which the Santa Fe Trail contributed. Non-Hispanics who settled in the region married into Hispanic families. He married Maria Ignacia Jaramillo, a daughter from an elite Mexican family.<sup>28</sup> Bent was not alone. Many other non-Hispanic immigrants found Hispanic wives. This was, in part, due to circumstance. Very few women were traveling from the United States and settling in Mexico. Hispanic women, on the other hand, were available. Intermarriage, however, had much greater implications than just companionship. It was tied to the process of acculturation and power. For example, Mexican citizenship was a prerequisite for land acquisition and, for

<sup>25</sup> Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 193.

<sup>26</sup> Herbert Oliver Brayer, *William Blackmore: The Spanish-Mexican Land Grants of New Mexico and Colorado* (Denver, CO: Bradford-Robinson, 1949): 128-130.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Congress, “Private Land Claims in Territory of New Mexico,” (H.R. Report No. 457, 35th Cong., 1st Sess., 1858), 272-277.

<sup>28</sup> Kit Carson married Maria Ignacia’s sister Josefa.

foreigners, marriage to a Mexican person facilitated the path to citizenship. However, in order to marry a Mexican citizen, one had to convert to Catholicism. Marriage, thus, was a critical step in gaining social and economic power, but was also an acculturative tool. This cut both ways. Mexican families saw benefit in marrying their daughters to the men who dominated trade on the Santa Fe Trail. It was a way for them to ensure their own status.<sup>29</sup>

These acculturative tendencies were prominently expressed in Taos, New Mexico. While not directly on the Santa Fe Trail, Taos became an important center of economic, political and social interaction. Some of the most important figures in the history of the trail congregated in Taos. Kit Carson settled in Taos in 1826 and made it the base for his western adventures. Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain had residences in Taos. Nearly all the non-Hispanic New Mexicans who acquired grants from Armijo maintained a presence in Taos. Important local Hispanic families, such as the Jaramillos and Vigils, were intertwined and intermarried with the traders and trappers in Taos.

The Santa Fe Trail became an important travel route during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Missouri troops under the command of General Stephen Watts Kearny traveled west on the Santa Fe Trail and took control of New Mexico with little resistance in August 1846. Before long, however, Mexicans in New Mexico rebelled against the American regime. Revolts erupted in the northern New Mexico communities of Taos and Mora. The Taos Revolt, in January 1847, resulted in the death of Charles Bent, Pablo Jaramillo, Stephen Lee, Cornelio Vigil, J.W. Leal, and Narciso Beaubien. These men, all deeply involved in the Santa Fe trade, were personified representations of the American invasion and economic domination of New Mexico.

The ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in May 1848 resulted in the cession of millions of acres of Mexican territory to the United States. This vast area included all or parts of what are now the states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The Santa Fe Trail became an invaluable link between the newly acquired southwestern territories and the midwestern United States. The route continued to thrive as a trade route, but it also became a conduit for settlers and soldiers.

The Cimarron Cutoff remained the preferred route until about 1860, when the Mountain Branch became more popular. Two historical events shaped this shift. First there was the 1858 discovery of gold in Colorado. This resulted in a rush of gold seekers to the Rocky Mountain foothills north of the trail. Hopeful argonauts traveled to the goldfields via four trails, one of which incorporated the Mountain Branch. The Colorado gold rush brought a permanent military presence to the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. With increasing traffic, chiefly gold seekers, came increasing tension with Native Americans. Two military outposts were established in 1859. One was Fort Larned in Kansas and the other was Fort Wise (renamed Fort Lyon in 1862) near Bent's new fort. Fort

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<sup>29</sup> Reséndez, *National Identities*, 81, 130-1

Lyon was destroyed by floods in 1866 and moved to a less flood-prone location near the confluence of the Arkansas and Purgatoire Rivers.<sup>30</sup> Boggsville was established during this phase of development and migration in and through southeastern Colorado.

The second event that contributed to the demise of the Cimarron Branch was the construction of the Kansas-Pacific Railroad after the Civil War. The rail route trended west from Kansas into Colorado. Each section of track laid eliminated a section of the Santa Fe Trail and by 1867 the Cimarron Cutoff became impractical. Meanwhile, the Mountain Branch became a link between the railroad and Santa Fe. This, however, was short lived. The Kansas-Pacific arrived in Las Animas, at the junction of the Arkansas and Purgatoire rivers, in 1873, the same year the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad reached Granada, Colorado. Three years later, the two railroads met in La Junta ending the utility of the Mountain Branch as a major trade and travel route.<sup>31</sup> The heyday of the Santa Fe Trail subsided with the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s. The railroad also undermined the era of acculturation that dominated interethnic relations in the Southwest. Trains heralded a critical increase in non-Hispanic settlers and increasing economic power that served to undermine Hispanic economic and, ultimately, political power. The arrival of the railroad also undermined Boggsville's role as a social center because residents quickly moved to Las Animas and other more thriving communities.

### ***Evaluation of Boggsville within the Context of the Santa Fe Trail***

Boggsville was established in the waning years of the Santa Fe Trail, but during the resurgence in use of the Mountain Branch of the trail. In order to be nationally significant, Boggsville must definitively and strongly reflect national themes and have an important association with an event or trend that made a significant contribution to the development of the United States (Criterion 1). The most likely national theme into which Boggsville fits is its association with the Santa Fe Trail. Its establishment and decade-long existence are both directly related to the trail. Boggs, Prowers and other residents settled in the area because the Santa Fe Trail brought them west and their livelihoods were intertwined with the trail and the institutions associated with the trail, such as Bent's Fort and Fort Lyon. The land upon which Boggs settled also relates to the history of the Santa Fe Trail and the Mexican government's practice of providing large land grants on its northern border as a buffer and to spur development. The community, moreover, was undermined by the arrival of the railroad, which both bypassed Boggsville and replaced the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail.

NPS evaluated Boggsville during the development of the 1963 *Santa Fe Trail* theme study and determined that it was not nationally significant. Boggsville is identified as an "Also Noted Site" in the study, which states that it "was a

<sup>30</sup> Elliott West, *The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1998), 273, 275.

<sup>31</sup> West, *Contested Plains*, 120-1; Brown, *Santa Fe Trail*, 70-1, 180.

stopping point on the trail during the late period.”<sup>32</sup> (The theme study categorizes sites as “Sites of Exceptional Value,” “Other Sites Considered,” and “Also Noted Sites.”)

For Boggsville to qualify as nationally significant within this theme, it must also be an exceptionally important example of a community associated with the Santa Fe Trail when compared to other similar sites. There are two National Historic Landmarks that are communities that developed as a result of the Santa Fe Trail: Watrous (La Junta), New Mexico, and Council Grove, Kansas.

Watrous (La Junta), Colorado, located at the confluence of the Mora and Sapello rivers, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985 as a nationally important camping site and settlement associated with the Santa Fe Trail. La Junta was established in 1843 by John Scolly, an Irishman who married into a Mexican family and was applying for Mexican citizenship when he received the grant. New Mexico Governor Manuel Armijo awarded the land with a stipulation that he and his companions settle on the grant. The settlement was located at the point where the Cimarron Cutoff and Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail came together and, within a few years, was a well-known beacon to travelers, entrepreneurs, and settlers. By the end of the 1860s, the settlement included a fort (trading post), ranches, stores, a post office, saloons, a stage stop, flour mill, a church and a school. Engineers laid out a new town east of La Junta in 1879 to serve the railroad, which bypassed the older settlement. Most La Junta residents relocated to the new town, Watrous. At the time of designation, the Landmark district contained 24 properties that reflected the commercial, social, and agricultural activities associated with the Santa Fe Trail from 1843 to 1879.

Council Grove, Kansas is another community directly associated with the Santa Fe Trail. Located west of the Neosho River, the grove was a natural stopping place along the trail. Travelers camped among the oak trees before venturing onto the plains. In 1825, the United States and Osage Nation entered into a treaty at this site allowing wagons free passage across Osage territory along the Santa Fe Trail. Council Grove was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1963 for its significance as a camping place on the Santa Fe Trail and as the location where the United States and Osage Nation signed a treaty allowing travelers to pass through Osage land along the trail. The district is a discontinuous district that consists of the Seth Hays Home, Hays Tavern, The Last Chance Store, and landscape features, including wagon ruts and two historic oak trees. The district components reflect the history of the Santa Fe Trail between 1825 and 1869. Like Boggsville and La Junta, however, the railroad ended the town’s association with the Santa Fe Trail. The railroad arrived in 1867 and the Santa Fe Trail was abandoned at Council Grove two years later.

There are also historic properties in Taos that reflect the economic and social interactions that characterized the Santa Fe Trail. These include the Kit Carson Home, which is a National Historic Landmark, Charles Bent’s home, the

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<sup>32</sup> *The Santa Fe Trail* 1963 theme study, 102-II.

Severino Martínez Home, and the Turley Mill and Distillery Site. The La Loma Plaza historic district also dates to the Santa Fe Trail era. The Santa Fe Plaza National Historic Landmark also reflects the national significance and history of the trail. These sites, taken together, communicate the ways in which the Santa Fe Trail affected social and economic relations in New Mexico.

Boggsville is not as significant as Watrous (La Junta) and Council Grove. Council Grove was a natural stopping place along the trail, where westbound travelers camped before venturing onto the plains, one of the most arduous portions of the journey. It is also the site where the United States and Osage Nation entered into a treaty allowing wagons free passage across Osage territory along the Santa Fe Trail. Watrous (La Junta), located at the confluence of the Mora and Sapello rivers, marked, for westbound travelers, the end of the difficult passage through the arid plains. Travelers, regardless of whether they were using the Cimarron Cutoff or the Mountain Branch, utilized both of these Landmark sites. Boggsville, located near (and briefly on) the Mountain Branch of the trail was, by comparison, not as important as a camping site and did not mark a major milestone along the trail.

Boggsville, moreover, does not express an underrepresented aspect of the Santa Fe Trail that is nationally significant. The district, therefore, does not meet National Historic Landmark criterion 1 for national significance within the framework of the Santa Fe Trail theme.

Boggsville does not independently rise to the level of national significance as a representation of the history of the Santa Fe Trail because it does not exceptionally reflect the history of the trail. This is especially clear when compared to other properties within the same thematic context. The district is, however, an important regional and local site as a component of the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado.

Boggsville also does not qualify for national significance under National Historic Landmark criterion 2 for its association with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States. In order for Boggsville to qualify for its association with nationally significant individuals, mere presence is not enough. The individual's time in Boggsville must represent the time period when he or she achieved significance. Three individuals and their families are most closely associated with Boggsville: Thomas O. Boggs, John W. Prowers, and Kit Carson.

Thomas O Boggs was intimately linked with the social and economic history of the Santa Fe Trail. Boggs, the son of a former governor of Missouri, began traveling the Santa Fe Trail in 1840 or 1841, when he was still a teenager. He quickly became enmeshed in the trail and associated with many prominent individuals. Boggs traveled with noted trader Samuel Magoffin and, by 1848, he was working as an Indian trader at Bent's Old Fort. Boggs also worked for Lucien Maxwell on the Miranda-Beaubien/Maxwell grant. He formed a personal friendship with Kit Carson and, like many of his fellow Missourians, married into

a prominent Hispanic family. His wife Rumalda Luna Boggs was Charles Bent's stepdaughter and was also related to two of the most important Hispanic families in New Mexico. It was through this marriage that he was able to acquire the land that became Boggsville.



*Christopher "Kit" Carson*



*Josefa Jaramillo Carson  
and Kit Carson Jr. ca. 1860*

John W. Prowers is also associated with the Santa Fe Trail. Like Boggs, he worked for William and Charles Bent as early as 1856. In 1861, he married Amache, a Cheyenne Indian. He built his career raising crops and, especially, livestock to sell to stagecoach companies, Fort Wise and Fort Lyon. Over the span of about 15 years he resided at Bent's Fort, Caddo, Boggsville, and Las Animas.

Association with prominent individuals and national historic themes is not enough to grant an individual exceptional importance. Thomas Boggs, Rumalda Luna Boggs, John Prowers, and Amache Ochinee Prowers, as individuals, did not play a pivotal role in the history of the United States. They were part of a group of people, some who are nationally significant, who were deeply involved in the economic and social history of the Santa Fe Trail and westward expansion. All of these individuals are important to the history of Colorado and, to a lesser extent, New Mexico, but they do not reflect national significance. Boggsville, as a reflection of their lives, does not meet the level of exceptional importance under criterion 2.

Kit Carson spent the last five months of his life at Boggsville. Carson's national significance, however, is not appropriately reflected at Boggsville. Carson, born in Missouri, went to New Mexico in 1826 and began his early career as a fur trapper. Within two years he had established a base in Taos. In 1843, he married Josefa Jaramillo, a member of a prominent Taos family. Carson worked for the Bents in the 1840s and played a pivotal role in the Mexican-American War. During the Civil War, Carson organized the New Mexico Volunteer Infantry. He also commanded a war against the Navajo in 1863.



His presence in Boggsville in 1867 and 1868 does not reflect the part of his life in which he rose to national importance. Kit Carson's national significance, moreover, is already recognized by the NPS. His home in Taos, New Mexico, where he resided with his wife and children from 1843-1867, is a National Historic Landmark.

## ***Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier***

The *Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier* theme study, published in 1963, assesses the nationally important aspects of the expansion of agriculture into the



*Boggsville* - NPS Photo, Santa Fe National Historic Trail Website

West in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Farming in southeastern Colorado fits into the NPS *Farmer's Frontier* thematic framework in two areas. These are The Era of General Agriculture (1812-1860) and The Era of Specialized Agriculture (1860-1913). Boggsville fits most clearly into the second category.

The Era of General Agriculture is marked by subsistence agriculture, the

expansion of farming into the western United States, and the development of infrastructure to allow farmers to tap into regional markets. It is characterized by the dramatic expansion of farming west of the Mississippi River, the farmers' entry into the market economy, technological innovation, and increased cultivation of marketable crops.

The early establishment of farms in the interior West was shaped by the river courses. Movement from the eastern United States began with the settlement in the bottomlands of the Missouri, Gasconade, and Osage rivers during the first half of the nineteenth century. Similar phenomena occurred on other major midwestern rivers, such as the Arkansas. This migration continued into Colorado in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Hispanic farmers began settling along the Rio Grande in the sixteenth century. They migrated into the San Luis Valley by the early 1850s where they constructed one of the first irrigation ditches in Colorado that was not developed by Native Americans. The ditch, an *acequia madre*, is now known as the San Luis People's Ditch. The first registered water right in Colorado was granted to this *acequia*, which is also the oldest continuously operated ditch in the state. Several more ditches were put into service in the San Luis Valley between 1852 and 1854.

These Hispanic farmers employed irrigation to a considerable extent and the construction and management of the ditches and water followed long-established social and political traditions. Grant documents often stipulated that the settlements were not officially established until the *acequia madre* was complete. Ensuring a dependable supply of irrigation water took precedence over almost everything, including the establishment of municipal government and religious institutions. Once completed, the *acequia* was managed by an annually elected overseer known as a *mayordomo* whose salary was also set by the community. The *mayordomo* was responsible for enforcing the allocation of water in such a way that farmers could prosper while water resources were preserved. He also organized and directed the maintenance of the ditches, a communal task. It was typically expected that all water users assist in the maintenance and repair of the ditches and other irrigation structures. The amount of work required of each person was determined in relation to the amount of land he had fronting the *acequia madre*. *Mayordomos* were also expected to act as mediators in time of conflict. Finally, in rural communities, a *mayordomo*'s responsibilities probably extended beyond the management of water to other municipal functions.<sup>33</sup>

Non-Hispanic farmers who settled among Hispanics inserted themselves into the existing water management regime. Others, including Brigham Young, adopted components of the *acequia* system in their settlements. When Young and his Mormon companions settled in and near Salt Lake City in 1847, they immediately constructed irrigation ditches to serve their fields. Non-Hispanic farmers in California adopted irrigated agriculture as early as 1851.

Western trading posts served as magnets for the development of agriculture. Farmers raised crops to provision the posts and provide food to travelers. Some farmers operated independent of the posts, while others were directly associated with the trading enterprises. Bent's Fort best reflected this phenomenon in the Arkansas Valley. The fort, in fact, directly contributed to the development of farming in the region. A traveler on the Santa Fe Trail noted in 1839 that a group of "American and Mexican Trappers" were cultivating grain and vegetables about five miles upstream from Bent's Old Fort. This was likely a 40-acre farm established by Charles and William Bent in 1832. The crops were destined for the fort and the market provided by the Santa Fe Trail. The Bents also constructed a ditch to irrigate 60 acres at their ranch (supply station) that was located on the Purgatoire River 20 miles northeast of Trinidad. The ditch operated in 1846 and 1847 before the ranch was abandoned. Another settler, J.W. Lewelling, put the

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<sup>33</sup> Michael C. Meyer, *Water in the Hispanic Southwest: A Social and Legal History 1550-1850* (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1996), 36-8, 65-7; José A. Rivera, *Acequia Culture: Water, Land and Community in the Southwest* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1998), 7, 30, 38, 57.

ditch back into service in 1865. Known as the Hatcher Ditch, this structure may be the oldest operating ditch in Colorado.<sup>34</sup>

Several small, informal, subsistence-based agricultural settlements were established along the Purgatoire River in the 1850s. These communities were concentrated near the foothills in the vicinity of present-day Trinidad, Colorado. They typically consisted of settlers from New Mexico and were organized along kin networks. Historian Robert A. Murray and geographer Richard L. Nostrand describe the establishment of several small settlements in the Trinidad area along the upper reaches of the Purgatoire, Apihsapa, and other tributaries to the Arkansas River by the 1860s.<sup>35</sup>

Settlement and agricultural development in the region northeast of the Trinidad area proceeded slowly. The Las Animas/Vigil & St Vrain land grant included the provision that the grantees establish colonies on their lands. Colonization efforts were disappointing and there were no permanent settlements on the grant nearly a decade after it was awarded in 1843.<sup>36</sup>

Southern Colorado became part of the United States in 1848. Treaty stipulations required that the United States honor the Mexican land grants, but the General Land Office considered valid only those grants that met the stipulations laid out in the original Mexican documents providing the land to grantees. A condition attached to the Las Animas/Vigil & St. Vrain grant was that settlements be established. St. Vrain, worried that he might lose his land, recruited Charles Autobees to establish a ranch near the confluence of the Huerfano and Arkansas in 1853. Several families joined Autobees on his ranch, which became the community of Autobees Plaza. Residents farmed and raised livestock on the ranch land. Farming was accomplished with irrigation. Their produce was provided to Bent's new fort, travelers and, eventually, other establishments in the region. This nascent community, one of the first permanent settlements in southeastern Colorado, became the original Huerfano County seat in 1861.<sup>37</sup>

Farmers who arrived in Colorado during the gold rush also employed irrigation. The first irrigated agriculture directly associated with the gold rush was developed by David K. Wall who in 1859 diverted water from Clear Creek to nourish his farm in Golden, Colorado. Marinus Smith and William Pell dug

<sup>34</sup> Michael Holleran, "Irrigation and Water Supply Ditches in Colorado 1787-1961" National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Multiple Property Nomination Form, DRAFT 2011; Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 16.

<sup>35</sup> Frederic J. Athearn, "Land of Contrast: A History of the Southeast Colorado" (Denver, CO: Bureau of Land Management, 1985), 54; Robert A. Murray, "Las Animas, Huerfano and Custer, Three Colorado Counties on a Cultural Frontier : a History of the Raton Basin" (Denver, CO: Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, 1979 ), 40; Richard L. Nostrand, *The Hispano Homeland* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992); 85-6.

<sup>36</sup> Athearn, "Land of Contrast," 53-4

<sup>37</sup> Murray, "Raton Basin", 39, 45; Janet LeCompte, *Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn: Society on the High Plains, 1832-1856* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 228, 233; Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 47-8

Boulder's first ditch the same year. Other irrigation projects followed. Work on a municipal ditch in Denver began in 1860 (though it was not completed until 1867). The Larimer and Weld Canal, constructed in 1864, eventually watered 40,000 acres. The Fort Lyon Canal, constructed 20 years later, served 120,000 acres<sup>38</sup> Other extensive canal systems were constructed by speculators and investors who wanted to spur settlement. Speculative canal development in the San Luis Valley was so extensive that it dramatically reduced the downstream flow of the Rio Grande. A dry river confronted farmers in southern New Mexico and west Texas for much of the 1880s.

The Colorado gold rush triggered the next significant phase of agricultural development in the Arkansas Valley and marks a shift to the Era of Specialized Agriculture. Like the California gold rush a decade earlier, the Colorado rush resulted in a flood of migrants. A few found gold, but many others found that providing services and goods to hopeful goldseekers was a more promising venture. Farming expanded to meet the needs of Colorado's newly burgeoning population. Men like Autobees quickly adjusted their marketing and cultivation to the flood of hungry migrants in search of gold. Within a year, the settlers at Autobees Plaza increased their acreage under cultivation from 125 acres to 600 acres.<sup>39</sup>

The post-Civil War expansion of railroads throughout the West served to link farms, markets, and population centers. This, in turn, led to the expansion of farming and the development of large-scale agriculture. Farming expanded to serve new markets and new residents. Southeast Colorado was not immune to these changes.<sup>40</sup> Boggsville's Tarbox ditch was constructed in the winter of 1866-1867. The seven-mile canal, which drew water from the Purgatoire River, was the center of a system of irrigation ditches that watered over 1,000 acres. John Prowers, himself, put 640 acres under cultivation. Corn, wheat, alfalfa, and vegetables raised on the irrigated lands were provided to Fort Lyon and other nearby markets.<sup>41</sup> The construction of the Tarbox ditch and the subsequent development of irrigated agriculture around Boggsville represent the beginning of large-scale irrigated agriculture in the Arkansas Valley.

The railroad also brought more farmers. The number of farmers in Bent County grew from 40 to 274 between 1880 and 1900. This period is also marked by the development of mechanized agriculture. Farmers were no longer limited by the endurance of men and animals. This meant that a farmer could put more land under the plow. This was most graphically displayed in the Midwest and California where some farms grew to thousands of acres. Bent County appears to have followed the opposite trend. Average farm size shrunk from 770 acres to

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<sup>38</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 180-4; LeRoy Hafen, *Colorado: The Story of a Western Commonwealth* (Denver, CO: The Peerless Publishing Company, 1933): 227-9; Holleran, "Ditches in Colorado."

<sup>39</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 47-8.

<sup>40</sup> Steven F. Mehls and Carrol Joe Carter, "Colorado Southern Frontier Historic Context" (Denver, CO: Colorado Historical Society, 1984), II-48.

<sup>41</sup> Hurd, *Boggsville*, 10; McKenzie, "Boggsville."

about 500 acres between 1880 and 1900. Most farms were less than 175 acres.<sup>42</sup> This is probably related to the shift from open range ranching to enclosed ranches and farms. The region, nonetheless, went through dramatic change in the last half of the nineteenth century from a sparsely settled borderland, to the domain of vast herds of cattle, to an area intermingled with fairly small farms and ranches.

### ***Evaluation of Boggsville within the Context of Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier***

Boggsville reflects the early development of agriculture in southeastern Colorado. Crops raised at Boggsville sustained traders, travelers, and soldiers along the Santa Fe Trail. The Tarbox ditch was an early irrigation ditch in Colorado, and Boggs's settlement was one of the first agricultural enterprises in the Arkansas Valley. The ranch has been determined to be historically significant on the state level based, partly, on its contributions to agriculture.

The historians who developed the *Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier* theme in 1963 lamented the fact that there was a scarcity of sites of exceptional value that reflect the convergence of agriculture and westward expansion. They noted that many farmers left little behind and that most potential nationally significant sites that retained integrity would be related to individuals who were instrumental to the history of western agriculture. Therefore, many agricultural sites are more appropriately evaluated under criterion 2.

Boggsville was evaluated in 1963 during the development of the *Agriculture and the Farmer's Frontier* theme. The authors emphasized the development of irrigation on the property. They noted that the ranch was the site of one of the first successful irrigation experiments in Colorado and that the Tarbox ditch watered over 1,000 acres of crops. The presence of the Prowers and Boggs homes was also referenced. The site, however, was determined not to be of exceptional importance. The Tarbox ditch and the fields it served do not retain integrity and are not part of the original National Register of Historic Places listing. Much of the ditch has been abandoned and backfilled.

Boggsville played a role in the development of farming in Colorado, but it does not independently reflect national significance within this thematic context. The district is, however, an important regional and local site based on its association with agriculture.

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<sup>42</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Report of the Productions of Agriculture as Returned in the Tenth Census, June 1, 1880*, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1883), Table 5; United States Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Census Reports: Volume V: Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900: Agriculture, Part I: Farms, Livestock, and Animal Products* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1902), Table 10.

## ***The Cattleman's Empire***

The *Cattleman's Empire* theme study, published in 1959, focuses on the development of cattle ranching in the western United States after the Civil War. Two major topical and chronological components of the *Cattleman's Empire* thematic framework are most clearly represented in southeastern Colorado. The first is the history of the great cattle drives, which began after the Civil War and ended in the early 1870s. The second is the open range cattle era, which generally spanned from about 1861 to 1887. Boggsville and John W. Prowers relate most directly to the open range cattle era.

Settlers were raising cattle and sheep in Colorado prior to 1859. William Bent established a ranch (supply station) on the Las Animas/Vigil & St Vrain Grant in the summer of 1846. The ranch was located on the Purgatoire River 20 miles northeast of Trinidad. Bent and several Mexican laborers arrived at the site and began digging a two-mile long irrigation ditch in August. Cattle were occupying the property by the winter of 1846-7.<sup>43</sup> The ranch never prospered and was abandoned by 1848. Hispanic settlers in the San Luis Valley and the Trinidad area kept herds of sheep and cattle, as did the Santa Fe Trail outposts, such as Bent's Fort. Like farming, the operations were mostly subsistence based. These herds usually grazed on communal or public land.

Most early ranching development in Colorado was tied to the 1859 gold rush. Southeastern Colorado's rich grasslands and the markets provided by the gold rush did not escape the attention of Texas cattlemen. During the first two years of the gold rush, they drove cattle across the open range to settlements along the Fountain, Platte and Cherry Creek. In 1860, the legendary rancher Charles Goodnight drove a herd of Texas longhorn cattle through eastern New Mexico, over Trinchera Pass into the grasslands of southeastern Colorado. His route, which took him near Pueblo and Denver, was a considerable distance west of the Boggsville site. Ultimately the Texan ended his trek in Wyoming. By 1866, this route became known as the Goodnight-Loving trail.<sup>44</sup>

Seventy-five thousand head of cattle from Oklahoma and Texas ranged across the Colorado plains in 1868. The figure doubled in 1869 as cowboys drove cattle to railheads that were advancing west with the construction of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Kansas Pacific railroads. It is estimated that over 700,000 head of cattle were driven across the Colorado plains over the five years of cattle drives in Colorado. Colorado ranchers did not ignore the advantages that the new rail links provided. The first trainload of Colorado cattle, a herd of 111 animals from Las Animas, was shipped east in 1869.<sup>45</sup> There is no evidence

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<sup>43</sup> David Lavender, *Bent's Fort* (New York, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1954), 252, 267.

<sup>44</sup> Haley, Charles Goodnight, 20.

<sup>45</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 119.

that Boggsville was associated with the cattle drives, which ended by the early 1870s.

Boggsville, due to the presence of John W. Prowers, is more closely linked to the open range cattle era, which generally spanned from about 1861 to 1887 in Colorado. Prowers established his herd in southeastern Colorado in 1861. His was one of the first resident herds in the region, but Prowers was not alone. Other pioneering Colorado ranchers established herds in the early 1860s. Samuel Hartsel, a discouraged gold prospector, began selling beef to miners in Colorado's South Park region. He initially acquired dilapidated oxen and cattle that had been used as beasts of burden, fattened them up and sold them for meat. In 1861 he refined his operation by purchasing over 20 head of high-grade cattle from two Iowans who had migrated to Colorado. Three years later, Hartsel traveled to Missouri and purchased over 150 cows and bulls. He returned to Colorado with the herd two years later. Another early rancher, John Wesley Iliff, described by contemporaries as the Cattle King of Colorado, also began raising cattle in 1861. The Colorado ranchers were tapping into a trend that began to dominate the cattle industry throughout the western United States. Ranchers were developing open range cattle operations across the West beginning in the 1850s and early 1860s.<sup>46</sup> For example, John Francis Grant began raising cattle, which he sold to emigrants on the Oregon Trail, in the 1850s. By 1862, Grant began acquiring land and developing the basis of what would become the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, now a National Historic Site.

One of the defining characteristics of the open range cattle industry was the manner in which ranchers were able to gain and control vast areas of public land. This was typically accomplished by acquiring land along streams or other dependable water sources. The practice served two purposes. It prevented the land from being taken up by farmers who might put it under cultivation. More important, the rancher could control access to water and, in this manner, control a considerable amount of grazing land. Range without water was useless to other ranchers and sheepmen. This occurred throughout the West.

In Colorado, Iliff's cattle enterprise exemplifies this process. His operation began small, but by the mid-1870s, Iliff owned nine ranches along the South Platte in northeastern Colorado. His properties, which he acquired from other smaller scale cattlemen, comprised about 15,000 acres. He was, however, able to control nearly 650,000 acres of range by controlling access to water. His herd numbered in excess of 35,000 cattle, with 6,000-7,000 breeding cows.<sup>47</sup> Iliff amassed a considerable fortune through contracts he secured providing beef to railroad construction crews.

John W. Prowers followed a similar tactic. He acquired a considerable amount of land along the Arkansas River in the vicinity of, what are now, the communities

<sup>46</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 111, 136.

<sup>47</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 136.

of Lamar to Las Animas. From this base he was able to run cattle over an expanse of range centered along the Arkansas and Purgatoire Rivers.

Prowers was not alone in the Arkansas Valley. Other ranchers operated in the vicinity, including J.C. and Peyton Jones.<sup>48</sup> The Jones brothers arrived in the vicinity of Boggsville with their herd of Texas Longhorn cattle in the 1860s. They set up operations in an area known as Nine Mile Bottom on the Purgatoire River. The Texans also raised their herd on the rich grasses between the Purgatoire and Arkansas Rivers. Their operation grew dramatically in the heyday of the open range cattle industry. By 1881 the Joneses had 30,000 head of cattle and 16,000 acres of land. They controlled nearly 100,000 acres.<sup>49</sup> Like most open range ranchers, the Jones brothers acquired land in order to control important water sources. When the control of water was insufficient to ensure their domination of the range, the Joneses, like many of their contemporaries, used intimidation and, if necessary, violence.

The practice of running cattle on the open range was not the realm of small operators. It was an internationally funded industry that benefited large producers. Absentee ownership was common by the 1880s.

The open range era came to an end in the winter of 1886-1887. Enormous herds grazed on western forage and pressed the land beyond its carrying capacity throughout the 1880s. At the same time, drought and particularly harsh winters gripped the West. A fragile situation became untenable in the devastating winter of 1886-1887 in which up to 90 percent of the open range cattle died. This marked the end of the open range era and a transition into a period in which ranchers raised smaller herds on owner/tenant-occupied ranches. Public lands grazing became a supplement to ranch operations, instead of the basis for cattle husbandry.

### ***Evaluation of Boggsville within the Context of the Cattleman's Empire***

Boggsville was evaluated for potential national significance under National Historic Landmark criteria 1 and 2 for its association with the development of the cattle industry in the West, due to its association with John W. Prowers, who was a pioneering rancher. He established his open range cattle operation in 1862, five years before his arrival in Boggsville. He continued to expand his herd over the next two decades. Prowers played an important role in the establishment of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association in 1870 while he was at Boggsville. He was an early and successful innovator in breeding, and began importing purebred bulls and heifers to supplement his herd and improve his stock as early as 1870. He was not the only Colorado rancher experimenting with

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<sup>48</sup> Another Jones brother, Stephen, established the Spring Hill Ranch (designated a National Historic Landmark) in Kansas in 1878. The ranch became an important breeding facility by the 1880s and represents the shift from open range ranching to enclosed ranching.

<sup>49</sup> Hurd, Boggsville, 76-7.



various breeds. While Prowers established the first breeding herd of Herefords in southern Colorado in 1876, ranchers throughout Colorado had been experimenting with various breeds since at least 1867.<sup>50</sup> The authors of the *Cattleman's Empire* theme study do not discuss John W. Prowers in their historic narrative, nor do they include any resources related to him in their evaluation of historic properties.

Several ranches, established or prominent in the same era that Prowers was active, have been designated National Historic Landmarks. Some reflect the expansion of cattle ranching into new western territory. These include the Grant-Kohrs Ranch (now a National Historic Site) in Montana, which was established in 1853 and, after 1866, became an important component of the open range cattle industry, and the Tom Sun Ranch (Wyoming), which was established as an open range ranch in 1872. Two Arizona ranches reflect the expansion of the cattle industry into the Southwest. These are the Sierra Bonita Ranch and San Bernardino Ranch where cattle operations began in 1872 and 1884, respectively.

Other National Historic Landmarks reflect other aspects of the cattle industry. Spring Hill Ranch, established by Stephen Jones, who was a brother of J. C. and Peyton Jones, represents the transition from the open range to the enclosed holdings of the large cattle companies in the 1880s. Oklahoma's 101 Ranch, established in 1879, is the largest diversified farm and cattle ranch in the United States and is also nationally significant for its wild-west show. Two Texas National Historic Landmarks are related to the development of the cattle drives and the open range cattle industry. The J. A. Ranch (Goodnight Ranch) was managed by Charles Goodnight, an important cattleman who developed the Goodnight-Loving trail and was a pioneer in the great cattle drives of the 1860s and 1870s. The King Ranch, located in south Texas, was established in 1852 and was the source of some of the first cattle driven to Midwest railheads after the Civil War. The Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters (Wyoming) is recognized as an exceptional example of foreign investment in the cattlemen's empire. It was owned and financed by a Scottish company, the Swan Land and Cattle Company.

John W. Prowers and his cattle operations are important to the history of ranching in Colorado, and he was one of a handful pioneering ranchers in the region. Prowers's contributions to the cattle industry, however, are not nationally significant. In addition, Boggsville was not the center of Prowers's ranch operations. Prowers apparently raised crops and cattle near Boggsville and retained title to the 2,000 acres upon which the settlement developed until 1887, but his ranch was not located at Boggsville. His lands were to the north and east, along the Arkansas River.

Boggsville, moreover, does not reflect an unrecognized nationally significant theme. Therefore, neither Boggsville nor the Prowers home meets the level of

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<sup>50</sup> Steinel, *Agriculture in Colorado*, 113.

exceptional importance under criteria 1 or 2 under the *Cattleman's Empire* theme.

Boggsville played a role in the development of the cattle industry in Colorado, but it does not independently reflect national significance within this thematic context. The district is, however, an important regional and local site based on its association with ranching in southeastern Colorado.

### ***Archeological Resources***

The final criterion under which Boggsville was evaluated is criterion 6, which recognizes archeological sites of national importance. Under this criterion, the site must either have made a major contribution to the existing corpus of information or be likely to yield data that will fundamentally affect our understanding of a major theme in American history.

The standard for exceptional importance under criterion 6 is high. In order for Boggsville to be deemed nationally significant in an archeological context, it must represent a major, even revolutionary, contribution to our understanding of the Santa Fe Trail or agriculture in the nation. National Historic Landmarks that qualify under criterion 6 include the Lindenmeier Site, one of the most extensive Folsom culture campsites, which is located in northern Colorado, and Blackwater Draw in New Mexico, which was the first locality in which the Clovis culture was identified. Archeological investigations at Boggsville have revealed, and continue to provide, details on the extent and multicultural character of the settlement. However, neither the results of the archeological investigations nor the potential for future contributions from Boggsville meet the high standard placed on archeological sites for national significance. Therefore, Boggsville is not nationally significant under criterion 6.

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## Conclusion and Recommendations

Boggsville played a role in each context addressed above. The question that this reconnaissance study addressed is whether the district's contribution to the history of the Santa Fe Trail, Farmer's Frontier, or Cattleman's Empire is of exceptional, national importance.

The analysis above reveals that Boggsville does not independently rise to the level of national significance as a representation of the history of the Santa Fe Trail, farming, or ranching because it does not exceptionally reflect national significance within these thematic contexts. This is especially clear when Boggsville is compared to other



*Boggs Home Bedroom* - NPS photo, Greg Kendrick

properties within the same thematic contexts. The district is, however, an important regional and local site as a component of the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado and for its role in the development of agriculture and ranching in southeastern Colorado. This is reflected by the fact that Boggsville is included on the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under criteria A, B, and C. This designation recognizes Boggsville as an early Colorado agricultural and trade center, for its association with Prowers and Boggs, and as an example of territorial style architecture. The historic district is also a certified site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

Although the NPS does not recommend further study of Boggsville as a potential unit of the National Park System, the NPS strongly encourages the ongoing preservation and interpretation of Boggsville as part of the larger, exceptionally significant cultural landscape of southeastern Colorado. Here, the southeastern edge of the High Plains abuts the towering peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Flowing east from this southern tip of the Rocky Mountains, the braided channels of the Arkansas River flow eastward and formed the international border with Spain and later Mexico for much of our nation's history. With the opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821, this borderlands region became a nexus for fur trappers and traders. Legendary frontiersmen, including

Charles and William Bent and Kit Carson, are strongly associated with the history of the trail. Southeastern Colorado also became the site of some of the state's first farms, ranches, and communities, including Boggsville, whose residents – particularly Kit and Josefa Carson, Tom and Rumalda Boggs, and John and Amache Prowers – reflect this region's multicultural history and rich ethnic diversity.



*Boggs Home Front Porch* - NPS photo, Greg Kendrick

Southeastern Colorado is also home to numerous nationally important sites that reflect our nation's diverse history, including Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, Santa Fe National Historic Trail, the Granada Japanese American Relocation Center National Historic Landmarks. The tragic stories associated with Sand Creek and Granada have the potential to convey extremely important lessons associated with our struggle to achieve civil liberties for all Americans. Also here are numerous properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Because of the diversity and richness of the area, we recommend that southeastern Colorado be studied as a potential National Heritage Area.** The National Heritage Area Program has a proven track record of assisting local communities in the preservation and interpretation of their cultural, natural and recreational resources. National Heritage Areas also help promote regional heritage and recreational tourism through improved marketing and way finding. Finally, National Heritage Areas help preserve long-standing cultural traditions as well as traditional ways of life. Designated by Congress, National Heritage Areas generally are authorized to receive annual funding and technical assistance from the NPS for up to 15 years for a wide range of conservation and educational programs.

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