

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

436 Postoffice Bldg,
Denver, Colorado.
February 17, 1931.

The Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

In accordance with your letter of December 26 I visited the Sand Dunes area in the San Luis Valley, leaving here last Thursday and returning on Sunday.

The Sand Dunes proved to be an interesting area and the report will include a recommendation that a national monument be established.

At Alamosa Mr. E.L.Stoller of San Luis, Colorado, spoke to me about Old Fort Garland, which was the first military post in Colorado and was established under the name of Fort Massachusetts in 1858. Some three years ago the Fort Garland Historical Association was organized and purchased the site, which was then in private ownership, for \$3,000. The fort includes five buildings in quite good preservation. The Fort Garland Historical Association has expended about \$2,000 in the maintenance of the buildings, but a considerably larger sum will be required in the near future, since the roofs need replacement. The buildings are constructed of adobe bricks and if not protected will deteriorate rapidly.

Mr. Stoller says the association, of which he is secretary, is unable to carry on the maintenance of these buildings and that they will have to drop the proposition or turn it over to some other agency. A representative of the War Department visited the fort last fall and Mr. Stoller says that he recommended the creation of a national monument under the National Park Service.

I suggested to Mr. Stoller that he write to you in order to ascertain whether or not it is the sort of thing that the Park Service would be interested in. I visited Fort Garland with Mr. Stoller and secured enough data for a report on the fort in case you wish to have additional data.

Very truly yours

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent.

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

2-25-31
0-329
Fort Garland

Mr. Roger W. Toll,
436 Post Office Building,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Mr. Toll:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 17, 1931, referring to your investigation of the Sand Dunes proposed National Monument and also in reference to Fort Garland.

You stated that Mr. E. L. Stoller of San Luis, Colorado, might write to us in reference to taking over Fort Garland and that you would submit a report on this fort if we desired it. We have not heard from Mr. Stoller, but since you have secured enough data to submit a report we would appreciate it if you would submit your report on Fort Garland so as to have it in the files in case we need it for reference.

Sincerely yours,

(Handwritten Signature)

Associate Director.

HLB-bib

Dr. P. ... CWP

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State Museum, Denver, Colorado
 February 17, 1945

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WSE *CWP*
 Mr. Herbert Kahler
 Chief, Division of Historic Sites
 National Park Service
 Merchandise Mart
 Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kahler:

When Mr. Rogers of the Yellowstone National Park was in my office yesterday, he informed me that you are now in charge of the Division of Historic Sites. It has been a long time since I had the pleasure of talking to you in New Mexico, and I am happy to know where you are now located. I understand my good friend Ronald Lee is stationed somewhere overseas now.

In connection with the work of the State Historical Society of Colorado, Mr. John Evans, president of the Society (and president of the First National Bank of Denver), has asked me to write to you and ascertain if you anticipate coming to Denver any time in the near future. This Society is about to take over old Ft. Garland in the San Luis Valley, which you will remember was headquarters for Kit Carson during the Ute Indian troubles. Plans are now being made for the reconstruction of this frontier post and before any active program is undertaken I have suggested that we obtain the expert advise of your division. At our board of directors meeting yesterday Mr. Evans requested that I write you and see if you could stop and see him during any forthcoming trip you might make to the Rocky Mountain Region.

The Society is very anxious to do an excellent job of restoration on Ft. Garland but in view of the many things which Ronny Lee used to tell me about

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as far as restorations are concerned, it might be well
for our people to get together with you and discuss
the matter.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert O. Brayer
State Archivist

HOB:nh

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

H. Garland

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

54

March 8, 1945.

Herbert O. Brayer, State Archivist,
The State Historical Society of Colorado,
State Museum,
Denver, Colorado.

My dear Mr. Brayer:

In the absence of Mr. Kahler, I am replying to your letter of February 17 regarding the proposed restoration of old Fort Garland in Colorado. Mr. Kahler has no immediate plans for a visit to Colorado, but the next time he is in Denver he will be glad to call on you and discuss topics of mutual interest.

Mr. Ronald F. Lee is now stationed someplace in England, where he is serving as a technical sergeant. He finds time to observe the progress of historical conservation work in Great Britain and is making friends with the leading conservationists of that country.

We are very much interested in the proposed restoration of old Fort Garland, and suggest that the following steps be taken to insure authentic restoration:

1. The preparation of an orientation report, which should contain all basic historical data available, such as descriptions, photographs, and plans, placed in chronological order so that structural changes made at various times can be detected.
2. A careful archeological investigation of each building site and the area immediately around it, to determine the original outline of each structure and to uncover artifacts useful for museum purposes.
3. The study of the above data (1. and 2.) jointly by an historian, archeologist, and architect to bring together all the data relative to this particular site.
4. Collection of data on related structures of the same historical period and type. At this point, a decision should be reached as to whether the evidence is sufficiently complete to make an accurate restoration possible. If the decision is in the affirmative, the next step is:



5. Preparation of restoration plans, each detail of which should be carefully documented against the historical and archeological evidence. The documentation of the plans may disclose gaps in the evidence which will have further direct bearing on the decision to restore or not to restore.

The question of when to restore is a very delicate one. The National Park Service does not recommend the hypothetical or conjectural restoration of structures, or portions of structures, which have been destroyed. In this connection, we are attaching a copy of the restoration policies recommended to the Service by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, and officially adopted by the Service on May 19, 1937. One of the most significant guides in this statement of restoration policy is the saying: "Better preserve than repair, better repair than restore, better restore than construct." This policy applies either to the restoration of an entire structure or to the restoration of some portion of an historic structure. The restoration of an entire structure, or the restoration of even one room of a structure, will usually involve all four of these techniques -- preservation, repair, restoration, and complete reconstruction of certain features of the building. It is, therefore, important to keep in mind the order of preference of these separate techniques. No original workmanship should be destroyed if the remains can be in some way preserved or repaired.

For your assistance in documenting proposed restoration plans, we are attaching a copy of the National Park Service memorandum of June 20, 1938, dealing with this subject.

National Park Service experience in gathering historical data on the architectural details of forts in this country has shown that the following sources of information are often helpful: The Quartermaster General, United States War Department, Washington, D. C., has construction plans and a complete history of each military post. Still other data will be found in the Office of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, also in Washington, D. C. Curiously enough, some very important information is usually to be found in the reports of the Office of the Surgeon General, and a handy work to consult is: A Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Descriptions of Military Posts (Circular No. 4, Office of the Surgeon General, 1870). The Office of the Surgeon General issued much of the same data under a similar title in Circular No. 8, printed in 1875. However, the unpublished reports should also be consulted.

The construction plans for western forts and military posts were formerly kept in the Munitions Building, Washington, D. C., in the care of Mr. R. B. Wilcox, head of the Construction and Historical Record Section. The war has

occasioned many changes, however, and much of the little-used War Department archival material has been transferred to the National Archives in Washington.

For the period after 1860, many actual photographs of forts and fortifications are available in the photographic files of the United States Signal Corps and in the Brady collection of Civil War pictures. These are partly in the Library of Congress and partly at the National Archives, but it is probable that the Signal Corps has retained many of the pictures for its own use.

We trust that these leads will be helpful to you, and shall be glad to make further suggestions as your plans and work proceed. Although the war has greatly reduced our professional staff, we wish to be as helpful to you as our resources will allow.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CHARLES W. PORTER III

Charles W. Porter,
Acting Chief Historian.

CWP:lc

✓
Enclosure 2366886.

cc: Regional Director, Region Three.

Mr. Kahler)

Dr. Porter) Detached.

H. File)

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March 16, 1945

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Mr. Charles W. Porter
Acting Chief Historian
National Park Service
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Porter:

May I express my sincere appreciation for your letter of March 8th and for the attached field memorandum. I am turning over both your letter and memorandum to Mr. John Evans, President of the State Historical Society of Colorado, and I anticipate that you will hear from either him or from Dr. Hafen, in whose charge this project is to be placed. My object in writing previously was in the hope that Mr. Kahler might be coming through Denver and could give us the benefit of his advice. May I also extend to you the same invitation if you happen to be in this region.

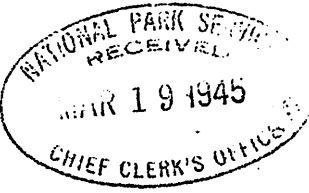
It is my suggestion to our Board that whoever handles this work should keep in constant touch with your division, and, if possible, discuss every phase of it in advance with the National Park Service. I am well aware of the difficulties and of past failures in this field, and I certainly hope that they can be avoided, in so far as possible in the work that this Society is about to undertake.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert O. Brayer
State Archivist

P.S. I was glad to get the "dope" on Ronnie Lee. Does anyone in your office now have his address?

HB:nh



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION TWO
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Name	Date
<i>Katkov</i>	<i>ms</i>
<i>H. Garland</i>	<i>0. B. S. - Colo</i>

March 17, 1945.

file

MEMORANDUM for Acting Regional Historian Mattes.

There is attached a copy of a letter to Mr. Herbert O. Brayer, State Archivist, State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, from Acting Chief Historian Porter, dated March 8, concerning old Fort Garland in Colorado. The copy of this letter, which was sent to Region Three, has been forwarded to us by Mr. Tillotson, since Colorado is in Region Two. This is being sent to you for your information, although if you have any comments we shall be glad to receive them.

HOWARD W. BAKER

Howard W. Baker,
Associate Regional Director.

Enclosure (copy of Mr. Porter's letter of 3-8-45).

cc: Director. ✓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

March 28, 1945.

ADDRESS ONLY

THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Dr. Herbert O. Brayer,
State Archivist,
The State Historical Society of Colorado,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Dr. Brayer:

Dr. Porter showed me your letter of March 16 and I should like very much to see the project that you plan to undertake. The lack of manpower and the present restrictions on travel preclude a visit to Denver in the near future. In the postwar period we may again be in position to cooperate with States in restoration projects. In the meantime, if we can be of assistance to you through correspondence, please let us know.

Ronnie Lee's address is: S/Egt. R. F. Lee, #33191649, Minneapolis Honeywell School, Base Air Depot No. 2, APO 635, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y. I know Ronnie will be delighted to hear from you.

Any time you are in Chicago I hope you will stop at the Merchandise Mart and see us.


Sincerely yours,
(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

HEK:rmp

Herbert E. Kahler,
Chief Historian.

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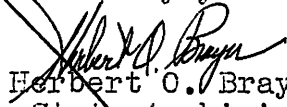
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Mr. Herbert E. Kahler, Historian
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kahler:

I was most happy to have your letter of the 28th
and the information with regard to Ronnie. We shall
also look forward to the pleasure of conferring with
you in regard to our restoration project sometime in
the near future. I will be in Chicago sometime in
the middle of May and will call upon you then.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert O. Brayer
State Archivist

HB:ch

SP
File
H. Harland

APR 13 1945