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PIPE SPRING FORT
Pipe Spring National Monument, Mohave County, Arizona.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Southwest District

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Roy Place, District Officer,
11 East Pennington,
Tucson, Arizona.

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Pipe Spring National Monument, Mohave County, Arizona

Owner: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southwestern National Monuments, Coolidge, Arizona.

Date of Erection: 1870.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Bishop Anson P. Winsor, for the Mormon Church.

Present Condition: Fair; roofs of all buildings, balconies of fort, large doors to court, and several windows and doors restored recently; buildings essentially unchanged.

Number of Stories: One and two.

Materials of Construction: Foundations, stone and lime mortar; floors, flagstone, pine, and earth; exterior walls, stone and lime mortar; interior walls, first story, stone and lime mortar, second story, frame; plaster finish on interior; roof, fort, pitched shingle on wood construction, outlying buildings, small cedar logs, brush and earth; materials and construction of restoration same as original.

Other Existing Records: Written records, Heaton, Leonard, "A Few Historical Facts of Pipe Spring National Monument," Southwestern National Monuments Supplement for April, 1936, p. p. 299-304; Vandiver, Vincent W., "Report on Pipe Spring National Monument, January, 1937", Region III, National Park Service, Santa Fe New Mexico.

Additional Data: Pipe Spring as a National Monument owes its existence to important historical factors in connection with the early Mormon pioneers and their struggle with the Indians of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona.

Prior to being made a National Monument on May 31, 1923, the buildings at Pipe Spring were neglected and had been subjected to considerable vandalism and were in a poor state of preservation. Subsequent to that time and prior to 1925 Superintendent Pinkley, of the Southwestern National Monuments, and Leonard Heaton, custodian of the Monument, made an extensive search over the surround-

ing country and were fortunate in locating and redeeming most of the material taken from the buildings. These were returned to the monument and were incorporated in the restoration of the buildings in 1925 and 1929. The restoration was authentic and the buildings today are practically the same as originally constructed.

Soon after the establishment of "Zion", now Salt Lake City, in 1847 by Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church, parties were dispatched southward across the high plateaus to select sites where water and suitable agricultural lands favored the establishment of settlements.

It was in 1856 that the first white man visited Pipe Spring. This party was sent out by the Mormon Church with instructions to explore the country lying in and around the Colorado river and to make peace with the Indians living in the vicinity. The group was headed by Jacob Hamblin. The monument received its name through a wager made by William Hamblin (Gunlock Bill) and another member of the party who challenged him to shoot through a silk handkerchief at a distance of fifty steps. The handkerchief was hung by its upper edge only and of course remained unpunctured. Accordingly Hamblin, vexed by the joke, dared Amon Tenney to place his pipe on a rock near the spring, which was some distance, so that the mouth of the bowl faced the party. Hamblin wagered that he could shoot the bottom out of the bowl without touching the rim, which he promptly did, and thus the name Pipe Spring.

According to available records, Dr. James M. Whitmore and his brother-in-law, Robert McIntire made the first settlement at Pipe Spring in 1863. They were mainly interested in the cattle business and lived in a dug-out near the present fort. The Navajo Indians were raiding the settlements in this section during 1866-1867 with the result that many of the weaker establishments had to be abandoned. In January 1866 the Indians stole the livestock that the Whitmores had near the spring. As they followed the trail they were killed by the Indians, at a point about four miles away. The eight year old son of Whitmore was left at the spring and later caused the report of the slaying to reach Captain James Andrews of the State Militia. Six Indians, later found to be innocent, were killed for the crime.

The spring and adjoining lands were purchased from the Whitmore estate by the Mormon Church. Bishop Anson P. Winsor was sent out in 1868 to build a fort and to care for the tithing cattle in the interest of the church. He constructed the two room structure northeast of the spring. This building was remodeled in 1925. A

second two room house was constructed west of the spring, facing south, which commanded a broad view of the Antelope Valley. These structures were used as living quarters during the construction of the fort. The latter building was restored in 1929.

In the fall of 1869 a crew of thirty to forty men started to work on the fort. The plans called for two two-room buildings facing each other across a court. The buildings were two stories. The court is closed off at each end and each enclosing wall has a massive swinging gate of wood, large enough for the passage of a large covered wagon. Red sandstone (of the chinle formation) was obtained from nearby quarries and used in the construction of all the buildings. Some of the doors, windows and millwork were hauled by wagons from Salt Lake City. Others were made at the building. The lumber and timbers not obtained elsewhere were cut and hauled for a distance of from forty to fifty miles by wagons. The lime used for mortar and plaster was hauled in wagons from Pocketville or Virgin City, Utah. Available maps of Utah do not show the towns of Pocketville or Virgin City. These may be the present towns of Rockville and Virgin which are approximately forty to fifty miles away. The construction of the fort was completed in 1870. The buildings were so located that the spring flowed up into the courtyard and in this way they were always supplied with water. The spring is covered at present at its source, under the floor of the north building; flowing under the court yard floor and discharging a fine flow of water into the west room of the south building above the floor, where it runs in a stone lined canal or ditch set in the floor and discharges to the outside of the building on the south.

Soon after completion, two rooms in the fort were utilized as a cheese factory. The Winsors shipped most of the dairy products to St. George, Utah, where a Mormon temple was under construction. Beef steers were driven at frequent intervals to this point and in the spring and fall to Salt Lake City.

In 1871 the Deseret Telegraph Company's line was extended to Pipe Spring with Miss Lella Stewart as operator. This was the first telegraph line into Arizona. As the Indians were giving no trouble at the time Miss Stewart was transferred in a few months to Kanab, Utah, where she handled much of the business of Major Powell's party, which was conducting exploration work in the surrounding country.

Bishop Winsor moved to St. George in 1875 and sold his interest to private parties for a cattle ranch.

The Arizona "Strip" country was noted at this time for its excellent grazing lands. Cattle fattened with little effort on the part of the ranchmen. Thousands of head were rounded up each year and driven to market with the result that many comparatively wealthy families became established in the vicinity. Drives were started periodically from Pipe Spring and nearby points to the railroad. Profits proved too much for the settlers, however, and now the whole of the Arizona "Strip" country has been overgrazed until little vegetation remains. The Soil Conservation Service is now making every effort to return these lands to their original status.

Historical data furnished by Leonard Heaton, custodian at Pipe Spring National Monument.



Trent Thomas,
Architect in Charge,
HABS, Southwest Unit.

Approved November 7, 1940



Roy Place,
District Officer.

TTW

12/5/40

ADDENDUM TO:
PIPE SPRING FORT
(Windsor Castle)
Pipe Spring National Monument
Moccasin vicinity
Mohave County
Arizona

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FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001