



## HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

### **FORT LUPTON**

*Incorporated Weld County Town - 1836*

In Indian Territory in 1836 a fur trading post was established by Lancaster Lupton on the his buildings of adobe bricks and first named his trading post Fort Lancaster and then renamed it Fort Lupton circa 1844. Trading with Cheyenne, Arapaho, and mountain



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c1920 – Japanese Social Gathering: Local Japanese families maintained their cultural roots by attending frequent celebrations and events at the Ft. Lupton Japanese Cultural Education and Socialization Center. City of Greeley Museums Permanent Collection #AI-1464

men, the fort was taken over in 1846 by the Bent brothers, owners of Bent's Fort near present day La Junta, Colorado. Fur trade was dwindling by the late 1840s, and the fort was abandoned.

Beginning in 1859, the Colorado gold rush brought settlers to the

Fort Lupton maintained a stage coach station until 1870 when it was superseded by the railroad. In 1879, William G. Winbourn persuaded railroad representatives to extend a sidetrack to the center of his land that included old Fort Lupton. In 1881, Winbourn established the town of Fort Lupton by the railroad sidetrack a mile south of the original fort.

Fort Lupton became a busy agricultural community producing cattle, sheep and poultry, several vegetable canning and shipping companies, a sugar processing factory, a condensed milk plant and several feed processing businesses. Aims Community

College opened its Fort Lupton campus in 1984, and as of 2009 Fort Lupton is Weld County's second largest city (after Greeley).

*The above information is gleaned from the upcoming book, **Weld County Towns: The First 150 Years**, researched by the City of Greeley Museums staff, Nancy Lourine Lynch head writer.*