MEMORANDUM
LOCK'S AND RANDOLPH'S FORT--
SOUTH OF PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO.

MEMORANDUM
of
GEORGE A. HODGSON'S STATEMENT,

In a conversation with George A. Hodgson at
the District Court Room at Greeley, Colorado, on September 13, 1916, he gave me full information regarding the
remains of the old adobe fortification situate immedi-
ately west of the Union Pacific Ry. and the Lincoln Highway,
about one mile south of Platteville, Colorado.

This is evidently one of the fortifications
which Rufus Sage found abandoned in 1842 and which he
mentions in his "Rocky Mountain Life".

Hodgson stated that Judge Hammett, who was
his school-teacher, claimed that this post was old Fort
Vasquez, although he states that he has never been able
to quite reconcile that statement with the fact that
Vasquez's Fort was supposed to have been located near
the mouth of Vasquez Fork* (Clear Creek) of the South
Platte.

(*) See Maps: P. 276 - "The Kansas Panorama" by Capt. Meany
" P. 312 & P. 166 - "History of Denver" by Jemima C. Smiley
" Vol. 1 - P. 167 - "History of Colorado" by Wall)
Hodgson came to Platteville in July 12, 1863, and states that during the 60's this old post was used by Holliday as a fortification and place of protection for the stages which ran from Fort Sedgwick to Denver. The old Overland Stage route passed immediately east of the old fortifications and in about the same location now occupied by the Lincoln Highway. At that time there were stables all along the inside of the west wall. The gates were in the south wall and the stages use to drive into the enclosure for the night. There was a well in the inside of the enclosure. Hodgson remembers very well the time that he and his father's family were taken to the fort for protection during an Indian scare in the latter 60's.

Hodgson states that the land on which the fort is located was immediately preempted by a man by the name of John Paul, who later disappeared on account of a matter of personal embarrassment.

John Stover and family lived in a group of buildings about seventy yards south of the fort. The family consisted of Si, Lydia, George, John, Mike and Mina and Anna Stover, the latter being Mrs. Dick Shaw, mother of Mrs. John Birkle. These children were raised at this old fort. Stover sold the land to a canal company and the buildings were taken away. Si Stover ran a saloon east of the old Overland Road, but this was destroyed and torn down at the
time the Union Pacific Railroad graded over the site of the building. There were store buildings as well as a residence on the west side of the road where Mr. Stover lived. The property was never occupied after Mr. Stover sold out.

During the early 60's the river ran at the base of the bluffs immediately west of the fort, but has long since changed its course and now runs a mile or more to the west of its original location at this point.

Hodgson states that Judge Hammatt told him that there was some old brass cannon buried at the foot of the north wall of the fort; that the cannon had been put up against the north and outer side of the north wall and dirt scraped over them. He states that this statement was never confirmed and no one has ever dug for the cannon so far as he knows. The fortification was used as a corral by the stockmen after it had been abandoned by the stage lines. Hodgson at one time roped a calf at the fort and in dragging it across the ground its hoof tore up an old Mexican silver finger ring out of the debris. Hodgson had the ring many years and thinks it is still among his trinkets.