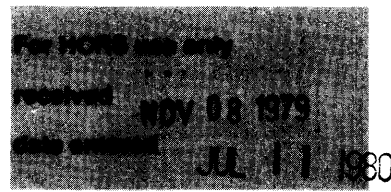


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Valdez, Narciso House (Lorenzo Lopez House)
and/or common Lorenzo Lopez House

2. Location NM 120

street & number State Road 120 not for publication
city, town Ocate vicinity of _____ congressional district 1
state New Mexico code 35 county Mora code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jose A. Lopez
street & number P.O. Box 41
city, town Ocate vicinity of _____ state New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mora County Courthouse
street & number _____
city, town Mora, state New Mexico 87332

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Cultural Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date August 24, 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Bureau
city, town Santa Fe, state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Narciso Valdez House, which was built between 1895 and 1898, is one of the most outstanding structures in the town of Ocate. It is located opposite Strong's Store (National Register July 27, 1979). The house is an example of the Queen Anne Style. Its most significant features are the elaborately painted moldings on the interior.

The one-and one-half-story house is constructed of adobe covered with scored plaster to give the appearance of masonry. The L-shape-plan house is topped by a gable roof. At one end the gable is truncated and the other shingled. The roof is broken by several chimneys and a wood, gable dormer. All of the gables have a sunburst design in them. The fenestration is supported by lintels and sills which are plastered and the windows are two-over-two, double hung sash. At the intersection of the wings is an entrance porch which has turned wood posts and decoration, and a sunburst in the gable. Above the porch is a wood sunroom with a hip roof. According to family legend the profile of the plan presents two Vs, which refer to Valdez and his wife.

Although the roof is now covered with corrugated metal, it originally had multi-colored wood shingles. Other changes to the house include an added kitchen and bathroom, both built out of adobe.

The interior of the Valdez House is the most significant part of the house. The parlor and dining room have hand-carved, hand-painted moldings along the doors and windows and chair rails. The ceilings are coffered with the same moldings. All of the moldings were hand painted in 8 colors and are different patterns. Analysis has shown that vegetable dyes were used to create the shades of green, yellow, and red. The richness of the effect is startling and the scale of the work unsurpassed in any other structure. The bedroom and hall also had the painted moldings, but they were painted white and only the carving is visible.

Associated with the Valdez House are a number of structures, all of which are non-contributing. These include four wood sheds and one adobe shed, all of which are non-contributing.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1895-97

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Narciso Valdez House is significant because it is one of Ocate's most important structures and because the interior feature of carved and painted moldings is unique. Carved and painted wood is a feature frequently found in New Mexican architecture. The Valdez House, however, is the largest and most elaborate known example. The Valdez House, adjacent commercial structures, and the Strong Store mark the cross-roads of Ocate and are all among the most architecturally significant structures in the town.

Narciso Valdez was born in Taos, October 29, 1848. In 1870 he married Paulita Valdez, also from Taos, and the couple, along with Narciso's family, moved to the Valley Ranch in Colfax County. After his father's death in 1875, Valdez took over the ranch and opened a mercantile business. In 1882 he represented Colfax County in the Territorial Assembly. Valdez' mother died in 1885 and shortly after that he sold the ranch and in 1887 moved to Ocate. He continued to have a store in Colfax County. During December of 1890 he represented Colfax and Mora Counties in the Territorial Assembly. According to Mrs. Juanita Lopez, Narciso Valdez built his house between 1895 and 1898. The earlier date is more likely because he left Ocate in 1897 and died in El Paso in 1903. Mrs. Lopez also stated that the house was designed by a Mexican architect and that Jim Curry carved the moldings and Vicente Romero painted them.

The next owner was John McNierney who in turn sold the property to Lorenzo Lopez in 1929. J.P. Strong was the agent for this sale. In 1969 Jose Lopez bought the house from his father.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Coan, Charles F. A History of New Mexico. Chicago: 1925.

Interview between Lorraine Lavender and Mrs. Juanita Lopez, October, 1973.

Interview between Mr. Jose Lopez and author, Sept., 1979.

Legislative Manual, 1907. Territory of New Mexico.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Ocate, NM

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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4	0	0	3	2	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point about 60 feet west of the intersection of SR 120 and the drive, proceed west along the north side of SR 120 to the intersection of the fence marking the west side of the property; proceed north along this fence line to the fence marking the north

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Threinen / Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Bureau date October 22, 1979

street & number 505 Don Gaspar Avenue telephone 505-827-2108

city or town Santa Fe state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas W. Murlan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-6-79

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Acting Keeper of the National Register Charles D. Smith date 7-11-80

Agent Bill [unclear] date 7/1/80

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 8 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUL 11 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rivera, Lloyd D. Grito de Aztlan: A Brief History of the Northern New Mexico with an Emphasis on the Mora Valley. Llano del Coyote: 1979.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

side of the property; proceed east along this fence line for approximately 100 feet to a point opposite the starting point; proceed south to the starting point.