National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	,	NATIONAL REGISTER	
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for <i>National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</i> (National Register by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enterentries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-90)	ster Bulletin \$6A). Complete the property being documen er only categories and subca	e each item by marking "x" in the need, enter "N/A" for "not application appli	ne appropriate box or cable." For functions, Place additional
1. Name of Property			
historic name Grzelachowski, Alexander, Ho	ouse and Store		
other names/site number			
2. Location			
street & number <u>Ctr Puerto de Luna</u> , sw of ji	t SR91 and SR 203	on USGS map 🗆 not fo	r publication
city or townPuerto de Luna		🗆 vio	cinity
state <u>New Mexico</u> code <u>NM</u> county	Guadalupe	code zip co	de <u>88432</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		······································	
request for determination of eligibility meets the document Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional re meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I r nationally statewide for locally. (See continuation s <u>how</u> <u>b</u> Signature of certifying official/Title <u>how</u> <u>b</u> State of Federal agency and bureau	equirements set forth in 36 C recommend that this propert sheet for additional comment 5 - 19 - 93 Date STAC J MA	FR Part 60. In my opinion, the y be considered significant ts.)	property
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the I comments.)	National Register criteria. (L	See continuation sheet for ad	ditional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date		
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4. National Park Service Certification			····
I hereby certify that the property is: Dentered in the National Register.	Signature of the Keeper	Entered in the Vational Registe	Date of Action
See continuation sheet.     determined eligible for the     National Register     See continuation sheet.	etores syen	2	6/24/1)
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National Register.			•

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Guadalupe County, NM County and State

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include pre	sources within Property eviously listed resources in the	count.)
<ul> <li>☑ private</li> <li>□ public-local</li> <li>□ public-State</li> <li>□ public-Federal</li> </ul>	☐ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object		Noncontributing	sites
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Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	ntributing resources pre I Register	viously listed
N/A		None		
6. Function or Use		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from	instructions)	
DOMESTIC/single dwell	ling	VACANT/NOT I	N USE	
COMMERCE/department s	store			
GOVERNMENT/post offic	ce			
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)	
Other: Territorial		foundation <u>Not</u>	visible	
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		Sandsto	ne	
		roof Metal		
		other <u>Wood</u>		
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Grzelachowski, Alexander House and Store Name of Property

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☑ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

### Property is:

- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- □ **B** removed from its original location.
- $\Box$  **C** a birthplace or grave.
- $\Box$  **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property.
- □ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibilography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
  # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Guadalupe County, NM

County and State

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Period of S	ignificance
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#### Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- □ Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- □ Other
- Name of repository:

Grzelachowski,	Alexander,	House	and	Store	

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### **Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title <u>Corinne P. Sze, Ph.D</u>	
organization <u>Research Services of Santa Fe</u>	date April 22, 1993
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road	telephone(505)_983-5605
city or town <u>Santa Fe</u>	stateNM zip code _87501
Additional Documentation	

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### **Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate. properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Guadalupe County, NM

Easting

See continuation sheet

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Grzelachowski, Alexander, House and Store
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#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

The Alexander Grzelachowski House and Store is a one-story, Territorialstyle, long rectangular building, located in a rural setting in the village of Puerto de Luna. It is constructed of roughly cut sandstone plastered only on the main facade and has a low-pitched, metal-clad, side-gable roof. A long, Territorial-style portal extends across the entire main (east) facade. Under the portal are original Territorial windows and doors with characteristic pedimented trim. The floor plan is two rooms deep without connecting hallways. An undivided room extends across the entire south end and formerly contained a store and post office. North of this room lie six domestic rooms. A file of three auxiliary rooms constructed of exposed adobe, without Territorial or other distinguishing stylistic features, once extended west from the back of the store but was torn down in the late 1970s. The main building has not undergone major alterations of plan or decoration and has not been modernized even by the addition of plumbing. It is an exceptional example of a nineteenth-century, Territorial-style, combined dwelling and place of business. Unoccupied since the mid 1960's, it is in need of significant rehabilitation.

#### DESCRIPTION

The building is located on thirty acres of land in Puerto de Luna, a small community located in the Pecos River Valley and surrounded by low hills and mesas. Just north of the northeast corner of the building was a well, now covered. A short distance north of the nominated boundary lie livestock pens roughly constructed of boards, corrugated metal, and adobe. In about 1985, a mobile home was placed directly in front (east) of the house, at a distance of about 80 feet. Approximately halfway between the house and the mobile home is a lone tree from which hangs a contraption for slaughtering animals (Photo 1). At the back of the house the land slopes gently to the west toward an arroyo which flows through the property. This area once contained extensive gardens and vineyards. Beyond the arroyo is an orchard of which about four historic trees remain, and beyond that is an artificial lake created by the present owner, and finally the Pecos River.

On the white-plastered main facade, the portal is supported by eight squared, unpainted posts. Each rests on a small sandstone block and is topped with pieces of molding arranged to suggest small square capitals (Photos 2-5). The floor of the portal is lined with concrete which in most places is even

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7			and Store
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with ground level. Under the portal there are three doors and four large, double-hung, wooden windows (Photos 2-5). The doors are recessed, but the windows placed near the exterior wall.

Proceeding from south to north on the main facade, at the south end of the building, entering the room which once contained the Grzelachowski store, are a pair of doors and a 9/6, double-hung, wooden window, both simply framed without decorative lintels (Photo 5). The window, the surrounding trim of both the window and doorway, as well as the recessed panels of the double door are painted light green. A narrow strip of the same color (Photos 5 and 7) has been painted at floor level on the wall from the southeast corner nearly to a set of large, partially glazed, double doors, (Photo 4). This, the most formal entrance on the main facade is deeply recessed, panel lined, and topped with a molded pediment. It leads into what appears to have been a hall/parlor separating the store from the living quarters of the Grzelachowski family. The surrounding trim and recessed panels of the doors are painted the same light green. The upper two thirds of each door is glazed with four long vertical panes, placed two over two. The bottom third of each contains two recessed panels. North of the double doors are three 2/2 windows and, at the north end, a single paneled door (Photo 3). Like the doors into the hall/parlor, these four openings are topped with pedimented lintels. However, the frames and trim are painted dark green and the recessed door panels a contrasting white.

On the other facades, the walls are of exposed sandstone. There are no openings on the south wall (Photo 7). On the north there are an originally 9/6 wooden window and a single door, both without decorative trim (Photo 6). At the northwest corner of the building is a large stone buttress (Photos 8, 9). On the west (rear) facade, there are two window openings without windows, two doorways, and what appears to be a blocked door (Photos 8, 9).

The roof of the building is covered with standing seam metal, that of the portal slopes down as an extension of the main gable and is covered with corrugated metal. Two low brick chimneys rise from the ridge of the roof above the four (domestic) rooms at the north end of the building (Photos 1, 2)

Both exterior and interior walls are about two-feet thick stone. On the interior, windows are deeply inset and wood lined. Interior doors are paneled and the deep door openings between rooms are also wood lined. Interior doors and windows are surrounded with simple wood trim (Photo 10). There are wooden floors throughout.

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The four domestic rooms had fireplaces placed back to back on the common center wall (Photo 16). The fireplace openings in the front rooms are now blocked off; in the rear rooms the shallow, square openings are visible. The wooden mantels of all four are no longer in place. South of the these four rooms, between them and the store, is the area which appears to have been constructed as a hall/parlor. The large double doorway (Photo 4) on the main facade was faced on the rear wall by a corresponding double door, now obscured on the interior by an added reinforcing wall. From this hall, a doorway on the south leads into the store and on the north into the domestic rooms, (Photo 19). The hall is divided on the interior by a wall containing French doors on either side of which, between two pilasters, are two vertical windows with a panel below (Photo 11). Above the doorway and surrounding windows are three panels of corresponding size. The original wooden ceiling with cornice moldings remains in this room.

The building was at one time L shaped. An addition of three rooms constructed of unplastered adobe bricks, with a metal-covered gable roof, formerly extended in a line from the rear (west) wall of the store (Photos 12, 13, 14, 15). A low, flat-roofed storage shed extended from the south wall of these added rooms, (Photos 12, 13). The partial basement under this addition is said to have contained a fireplace and to have been used as a jail and a wine cellar. By 1970 the west wall of this addition had collapsed. In the late 1970s, the entire wing was taken down.

The major exterior alterations to the main building have consisted of installation of a new metal roof in 1984 after the previous metal roof had blown off in a storm, and the replacement of broken window panes, in some cases substituting a larger single pane where there had been more than one smaller pane. It has had neither plumbing nor a full kitchen installed.

On the interior, at an unknown date after the Period of Significance, the fireplaces in the two front rooms were blocked off. The ceilings of the two front domestic rooms on the north end of the building were lowered. Since 1970, the wooden mantels and trim around the fireplaces were removed; two by vandals and two for resale by the present owner. A temporary reinforcing wall has been built of 2x4's and sheet rock on the inside of the back walls of the store and the room which adjoins it on the north.

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#### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

The Alexander Grzelachowski House and Store is architecturally significant as an exceptional, little altered example of the New Mexico Territorial style of the mid to late 1800s. The building is significant historically for its association with Alexander Grzelachowski, a Polish-born, Roman Catholic priest turned merchant, rancher, and civic leader; and more generally for its association with the business life of the village of Puerto de Luna. Before the construction of rail transport through the area in 1902, Puerto de Luna was an important stop on the trails up the Pecos River from Fort Sumner north toward Las Vegas and Fort Union. The town was a supply center for area ranchers and the first seat of Guadalupe County when the county was formed in 1891. During the period of Puerto de Luna's ascendency Grzelachowski's store was a leading business and a popular place for travelers to rest and replenish supplies. He himself was associated in business with the leading merchants and stockmen of the region.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Guadalupe County, located in east central New Mexico, was formed in 1891 out of the southern portion San Miguel County. The Pecos River, the second largest river in length in New Mexico after the Rio Grande, flows through Guadalupe County in a southeasterly direction. Early population was almost entirely in the river valley. Covered by vast plains suitable for sheep and cattle grazing, the county led in wool production in the nineteenth century. The area around Santa Rosa and Puerto de Luna were also known for excellent orchards.

Although the portion of San Miguel that became Guadalupe County was visited early by Spanish explorers, nomadic Indians and the lack of resources inhibited permanent settlement until the nineteenth century. When New Mexico was occupied by the American army in 1846, the southernmost Spanish settlement on the Pecos River was the village of Anton Chico, now near the northern border of present Guadalupe County.

After the Civil War ended in New Mexico, the attention of the military turned to the subjugation of the Indians. Forts were established or rebuilt into larger more permanent installations. Rural towns prospered as a result of lucrative contracts to supply these military outposts. Fort Sumner and the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation were established in 1862-63 on the Pecos

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	and Store
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River about forty miles southeast of present Puerto de Luna. In 1863 at Fort Union a new fort was constructed of adobe and stone in the Territorial style. Located about twenty-five miles northeast of Las Vegas, the seat of San Miguel County, Fort Union became the main army supply depot for the Southwest.

In 1866 the first substantial herd of cattle was driven from Texas up the Pecos River Valley to Fort Sumner opening a trail for Texas cattlemen who found profitable markets supplying forts, mining camps, and Indian reservations. John Chisum was one of the first and most successful Texas cattlemen to bring his entire cattle operation to the Pecos Valley. Known as the "Cattle KIng of the Pecos," he became the largest cattle rancher on the Pecos River and controlled a vast range extending, according to one newspaper account, "as far as a man can travel on a good horse during a summer" (Las Vegas Gazette, November 25, 1975). Others followed and there were not only increasing numbers of cattle, ranchers, and homesteaders, but also cowboys and outlaws, the most famous of whom today is Billy the Kid.

In the 1860s Las Vegas grew into a major distributing point on the Santa Fe Trail and a center of commerce. Stockmen drove cattle and sheep to Las Vegas where they purchased supplies at the local mercantile businesses. Local merchants prospered filling army contracts to supply forts and reservations. One of the most successful Las Vegas merchants was Charles Ilfeld who entered into a partnership there in 1867.

In the 1870s the Pecos Valley was wracked by a period of unbridled violence provoked by competition for the range as well as commercial and political rivalries in the town of Lincoln, the seat of a county which then adjoined the future Guadalupe County on the south and covered the entire southeast quarter of the territory. Known as the Lincoln County War, the conflict, which arose between John Chisum and other ranchers, raged between two large rival factions in the county. It was marked by a succession of murders including the shooting of Sheriff William Brady by Billy the Kid and ended with the killing of the Kid by Sheriff Pat Garrett in the summer of 1881.

The townsite of Puerto de Luna, then in San Miguel County, was established in the early 1860s by several Spanish families. In 1870 the federal census taker identified approximately 715 residents. Three years later a post office was granted. In the mid 1870s, Alexander Grzelachowski moved his mercantile business from Las Vegas to Puerto de Luna, a growing community and a meeting point for sheep and cattle men as well as cowboys, outlaws, and the law, including Billy the Kid and Sheriff Garrett, who both frequented Grzelachowski's establishment.

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As the area grew in population, leading citizens pressed for a new county, which was formed in 1891 with Puerto de Luna as the county seat. Leading merchant Grzelachowski gave land in the center of town to build the county courthouse. By 1895 Puerto de Luna had about 1000 inhabitants and was the county's largest settlement.

The decline of Puerto de Luna was inevitable after the town was bypassed by the railroad which was built to connect the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad with the Rock Island. In 1902 the two lines met at Santa Rosa, about ten miles north of Puerto de Luna. Santa Rosa grew rapidly, and was soon made the county seat. By 1905 the population of Puerto de Luna was estimated at 75. In 1910 the population of the county was listed at 10,927 and that of Santa Rosa 1,031. Puerto de Luna was not listed at all among the principal towns.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT - THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD

New Mexico was a territory of the United States from 1850 until statehood was granted in 1912. In this period a regional style of architecture, called the Territorial, developed from the joining of Spanish building traditions long-established in New Mexico and imported Anglo-American, Greek Revival influences.<sup>4</sup>

During the long Spanish (1598 to 1821) and Mexican (1821-1846) periods, Spanish building style was closely based on that of the indigenous Pueblo Indians and relied on the same locally available, minimally worked, materials: primarily adobe mud, peeled logs, and in some localities stone. The multistoried pueblos were composed of flat-roofed, cubical rooms piled upon one another to form an irregularly shaped mass. Flat mud roofs were supported by peeled posts, sticks, and brush. The Spanish, possessing only simple tools and isolated both from the distant centers of colonization in Mexico and the rest of the North American continent, built structures composed of similarly shaped and similarly roofed rooms placed in a line one room deep and without interior hallways to form detached single story dwellings. Rooms might not communicate with one another but were reached from outside doors, which could be sheltered by a <u>portal</u>, a flat-roofed portico supported by posts made of

<sup>1. &</sup>lt;u>Illustrated HIstory of New Mexico</u> (1895): 158.

<sup>2.</sup> New Mexico Business Directory, (1905): 415.

<sup>3.</sup> Twitchell, Leading Facts, III (1917): 282.

<sup>4.</sup> University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning. <u>New</u> <u>Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual</u> (1980): VI-7.

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peeled logs often having carved corbel capitals. Window openings were small, infrequent, and without window glass. A typical house might begin as one or two rooms and grow by the addition of rooms first in a straight line, then bent into an L or a U, and finally perhaps extended all the way around an interior courtyard. The Spanish added two specialized building types, the mission church and the torreon, defensive tower.

The essential Spanish building style, now called Spanish-Pueblo,<sup>5</sup> sufficed without major change for two and one half centuries until the United States assumed control of the region in 1846. The American army set up lumber mills; over the Santa Fe Trail were imported building materials such as window glass, fired brick, and later roofing metal, as well as new ideas about style in architecture. Nevertheless, change came slowly and in the early years consisted mainly of adding these innovations to the traditional building style.

After the Civil War, the forts built or rebuilt by the army, particularly the supply depot at Fort Union, were influential in establishing a new Territorial style based on the Greek Revival. The basic building materials continued to be locally available adobe and stone. However, window openings were enlarged to accommodate long, double-hung windows with multiple lights, placed near the outside surface of thick walls. Window and door openings were framed with milled lumber, and typically topped with Classical pediments which might consist of simple wooden triangles or be more elaborately built up with several pieces of molding. Doors became an important feature. The main entrance was often deeply recessed and panel-lined with double, partially glazed and/or paneled doors often with side and over lights. The portal became a long porch across the entire front of a building. Posts of peeled logs were replaced by squared, often chamfered posts; carved corbels by pieces of molding arranged to suggest square Doric capitals. A coping of bricks arranged to suggest Greek dentils was typically placed at the top of the low parapet wall which extended above the flat roof. In the 1870s pitched, metalclad gable roofs were introduced; after the transcontinental railroad reached New Mexico in 1879, they became ubiquitous on Territorial as well as traditional Spanish-Pueblo style buildings.

On the interior roof beams were squared. Deeply recessed windows and wide door jambs were often wood lined. Classical elements might include cornices, pediments over doors and windows, and pilasters with sidelights flanking door openings. Square fireplaces, decorated with Classical wooden mantels and placed in the center of a wall, often replaced the traditional, narrow-arched, Spanish corner fireplaces.

5. Ibid. VI-4, VI-5.

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Although the elements of the Territorial style were first added to traditional linear floor plans, after the Civil War a new plan was introduced. Two or more rooms deep, it was named for the center hall which extended from front to back giving access to rooms on either side. A fusion of styles also occurred in various configurations such as the linear Grzelachowski building where the file of rooms is two deep and what appears to be an entrance hall/parlor which separates and gives access to a business establishment on one side and family rooms on the other.

Although more specialized building types were introduced by the Anglo-Americans, the local custom of incorporating various functions into dwellings persisted in smaller towns and the neighborhoods of larger communities, with the placement, for example, of a store, a post office, or the office of the justice of the peace in or directly attached to a home.

### ALEXANDER GRZELACHOWSKI (1824–1896)<sup>6</sup>

A native of Poland, Grzelachowski came to New Mexico in 1851 as one the Roman Catholic priests accompanying Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy. After the Civil War he left the priesthood to become a successful merchant and rancher, and the father of nine children. In the 1870s, Grzelachowski moved his mercantile business from Las Vegas to the growing community of Puerto de Luna where he was a leading citizen for twenty years as a business man and civic official. His close associates were the leading merchants, stockmen, lawmen, and outlaws of east central New Mexico and the Pecos Valley, such as Charles Ilfeld, John Chisum, Pat Garrett, and Billy the Kid.

The precise location of Grzelachowski's birthplace in Poland has not been identified but is believed to be in the eastern territory seized from Poland by the Soviet Union in 1939. He and his two brothers were recognized as Polish gentry in 1845 on the basis of their father's military service during the Napoleonic era. He trained for the Roman Catholic priesthood, possibly in France and by 1850 was a pastor in the recently established Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. In that year Pope Pius IX named Jean Baptiste Lamy, a French

<sup>6.</sup> Alexander Grzelachowski's life has been thoroughly researched by Francis C. Kajencki. This discussion relies heavily on his published work: "Alexander Grzelachowski: Pioneer Merchant of Puerto de Luna," <u>New Mexico</u> <u>Historical Review</u> 26 (Autumn 1984): 243-260; <u>Poles in the 19th Century</u> <u>Southwest. El Paso, Texas:</u> Southwest Polonia Press, 1990.

<sup>7.</sup> Kajencki (1990): 3; 80.

<sup>8.</sup> Ibid. (1984): 244; (1990): 3.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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priest then of the Diocese of Cincinnati, to be Vicar Apostolic of New Mexico, a newly created U.S. Territory encompassing the present states of Arizona and most of Colorado, as well as New Mexico. Grzelachowski arrived in Santa Fe with Lamy and Father Joseph P. Machebeuf on August 9, 1851.

In the next six years, Grzelachowski was assigned to a number of parishes in Spanish villages as well as Indian pueblos.<sup>10</sup> He soon mastered Spanish and came to be known as "Padre Polaco." In 1858 he gave up his last parish assignment and moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico.

When the Second New Mexico Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized in Santa Fe in July of 1861, Grzelachowski volunteered to serve as a military chaplain. In 1862 he participated in the Battle of Glorieta Pass when Major John Chivington's forces destroyed the Confederate supply train, thus effectively turning back the Confederate attempt to gain control of the Southwest. Although no other historic accounts mention Grzelachowski's role, on the nineteenth anniversary of the battle in 1881, the Las Vegas <u>Optic</u> credited him with guiding Chivington's men around the Confederates in the dark to the safety of Koslowski's Ranch, thus saving some 400 Union soldiers from possible capture. When the second regiment disbanded, Grzelachowski may have joined the garrison at Fort Union as chaplain.<sup>12</sup>

After the war he opened a store in the small settlement of Sapello, about fifteen miles north of Las Vegas and sought army contracts. In 1867 he purchased a lot on the Las Vegas Plaza and established a mercantile business.<sup>13</sup> He also acquired a family. Secundina C. de Baca, the daughter of his landlady became his common law wife and mother of nine children, the first of whom was born in 1870.<sup>14</sup>

In the mid 1870s Grzelachowski moved to Puerto de Luna, leaving his Las Vegas store in the hands of a business partner, Richard Dunn, and built the home and store that is the subject of this nomination. In 1878 he sold the

11. Kajencki has forcefully argued for the identity of Grzelachowski as the priest who served this function. (1984): 248; (1987): 47-54; (1990) 7; 107-117.

12. Stanley, The Puerto de Luna Story (1969): 9.

13. Kajencki (1984): 249; (1990): 85).

14. The 1880 census of San Miguel County listed Alexander Grzelachowski: 55, single, farmer and stock raiser; Secundina: female, 25, single, mother of Adelina (age 10), Adolpho (9), Amelia (4), Emilia (6 months). Quoted by Kajencki (1984): 255.

<sup>9.</sup> Ibid. (1984): 244-5; (1990): 80-82.

<sup>10.</sup> Chavez, Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (1957): 259.

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Las Vegas business to Charles Ilfeld with whom he maintained a close business relationship. In Puerto de Luna Grzelachowski also entered into sheep and cattle ranching, which eventually led him into a protracted dispute with John Chisum. In 1873 he endorsed with Chisum a promissory note drawn by another Pecos Valley cattle firm. When the note went unpaid, Grzelachowski and Chisum became\_embroiled in litigation which was only settled after Chisum's death in 1884.

Grzelachowski was also a civic leader in Puerto de Luna. He served as postmaster for ten years from 1876 to 1886. When Guadalupe County was formed in 1891, he donated the tract of land in the center of the village on which the county courthouse was built. In 1893-94 he served as probate judge and in 1895 as justice of the peace for Precinct 9.

His store and post office were well frequented by travelers going north from Fort Summer toward Las Vegas or Fort Union. Sheriff Pat Garrett frequently stopped as did Billy the Kid who is reputed to have had free rein of the store and to have gotten much of his ammunition there. Billy, it is also said, attended dances sponsored by Grzelachowski and in November of 1880 stole sixteen of Grzelachowski's horses. The following month, in the custody of Sheriff Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid spent his last Christmas at Grzelachowski's table.

The 1890s were years of financial difficulty for Grzelachowski as well as for the country as a whole. Loans made against his property to expand his cattle business in the 1880s and renewed with the intercession of his friend Charles Ilfeld were finally called in 1893, a year of nationwide financial panic. In 1894 foreclosure proceedings were begun against him. Rescued once again by Ilfeld, Grzelachowski' property was saved but the was forced to liquidate his cattle business over a two-year period.

On May 24, 1896 Alexander Grzelachowski died at his home at the age of seventy-two from injuries suffered in a wagon accident.

<sup>15.</sup> A detailed account is given by Kajencki (1990): 88-91.

<sup>16.</sup> Utley, Billy the Kid (1989): 140-141.

<sup>17.</sup> A detailed account is given by Kajencki (1990): 95-100.

<sup>18.</sup> Ibid. (1990): 104.

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HISTORY OF THE ALEXANDER GRZELACHOWSKI HOUSE AND STORE

Constructed in the mid 1870s, the building served as a residence, general store, post office, and warehouse. Grzelachowski may have been influenced in his choice of style by his familiarity with Fort Union, an important precedent for the post Civil War, New Mexico Territorial style. The domestic section was occupied by Grzelachowski, his common-law wife Secundina C. de Baca, and their nine children. The large room at the south end contained Grzelachowski's store and the post office. The now demolished adobe rooms at the back of the building are thought to have contained warehouse rooms for goods and a basement jail. The building and gardens were a local showplace, having it is said the first metal roof in Puerto de Luna and one of the largest orchards in the area.

The store was a popular stop for area ranchers and travelers through the Pecos Valley. In 1877 Captain J. G. Clancy drove 3,000 head of sheep from California to New Mexico bringing with him fifty thousand dollars in gold. The coins were placed in the large safe at Grzelachowski's store, for a long time the only safe of its kind and size in the territory.

Billy the Kid frequented the Grzelachowski store. A.J. Padilla, who was married to Grzelachowski's daughter, was the source of many stories told to him by his mother-in-law. Billy, she said, was fascinated by Grzelachowski's learning and by his tales. He would listen intently and beg Grzelachowski to speak Latin, Polish, or Greek. Billy would stand in front of the store and shoot at tin cans, shifting his gun from hand to hand and shooting as well with either. Grzelachowski instructed his clerks not to argue with Billy and to give him anything he wanted. Once when Grzelachowski was away, the clerks saw Billy riding into town with a few of his companions and immediately ran out the back door. Finding the store deserted, Billy and his friends took what they needed and rode on. Several days later when he returned through town, the Kid asked Grzelachowski what he owed. Grzelachowski replied that he didn't think that the Kid owed anything. Another time a clerk noticed the Kid taking ammunition and accused him of trying to steal from a friend. Whereupon Billy put the boxes back.

<sup>19.</sup> Keleher, The Fabulous Frontier (1962): 63.

<sup>20. &</sup>lt;u>Albuquerque Tribune</u> (September 25, 1955). Stanley, 9-11.

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Pat Garrett also passed through Puerto de Luna often and stopped at Grzelachowski's store. In his ghost-written and self-justifying <u>Authentic</u> <u>Life of Billy the Kid</u>, he describes an incident that took place on December 9, 1880 when he was passing through with a deputy and two prisoners.

"I was sitting in the store of A. Grzelachowski, when...a Mexican named Mariano Leiva [Marino Leyba], the big bully of the town, entered, his hand on a pistol in his pocket, walked up to me and said he would like to see any d-----d Gringo arrest him. I told him to go away and not annoy me. He went out on the porch, where he continued a tirade of abuse, all directed against me. I finally went out and told him that I had no papers for him and no business with him...With an oath, he raised his left arm in a threatening manner, his right hand still on his pistol. I slapped him off the porch. He landed on his feet--the second shot went through his shoulder, when he turned and ran, firing back as he went, way wide of the mark.

I entered the store and got my Winchester. In a few moments Deputy Romero came in and informed me that I was his prisoner. I brushed him aside and told him I did not propose to submit asking him the cause of my arrest. He said it was for shooting at Leiva, and reached for my gun. I told him I had no intention of evading the law, but he could not disarm me...and I proposed to keep my arms and protect myself...My friend, Grzelachowski, interfered in my defense and the bold deputy retired. I went to an Alcalde the next morning, had an examination, and was discharged."<sup>21</sup>

Deputy Romero in a sworn affidavit gave his own more detailed account of the same incident which took place when he was sent from the Las Vegas to meet Pat Garrett at Puerto de Luna to take possession of fugitives from the San Miguel County jail whom Garrett, Sheriff of Lincoln County, had captured.

We left Las Vegas about 12 o'clock noon and arrived next day at Puerto de Luna but did not meet Pat; he had not yet arrived. The following day...we went out to meet him...we drove back and when we arrived at Puerto de Luna we met a group of people who were trying to find out what was going on. When we got to A. Grzelachowski's store we still found a larger group. There I presented my credentials to Pat and he delivered the prisoners to me...I left with Ortiz and Sandoval, taking Webb along with us to a blacksmith shop nearby to get some fetters...Pat and Mason remained at Mr. Alejandro Grzelachowski's

<sup>21.</sup> Garrett, <u>The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid</u> (1954); 107-8. Quoted in full by White, "The Murder of Colonel Charles Potter (1987): 254.

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store. And when we were in the blacksmith shop I heard shots in succession, whereupon I...went towards where I thought the shots had been fired and at the same time seeing many people that were going in a hurry toward Mr. Grzelachowski's store ... While going towards Mr. Grzelachowski's place, I met Marino [Leyba] on horseback ...with his right hand he opened his shirt and found a wound in his left shoulder and kept going on his horse, galloping. When I arrived at Grzelachowski's store, I saw a lot of people gathered there in a group trying to get into the store and many other people running towards the same direction. Having arrived at the store I made my way in and told the people not to come in. Within about eight or ten feet from the door Pat was sitting upon the counter with his gun in his hand...he discharged the gun without hurting anyone; at that time and up to the present I never did think that he shot at me, for the shot hit under the counter. I got to him, took the rifle away from him and told him that he was under arrest, to which he inquired by what authority I was arresting him...I took out my credentials from my pocket and showed them to him, he giving up his weapons which I handed to Mr. Grzelachowski...the people all in a group wanted to come into the store, but at once I raised up my gun and aimed it toward the door saying that no one should enter, whereupon all kept back. All the people were alarmed and it seemed as though they wanted recourse to violence. I told Mr. Grzelachowski to close the door and I was informed how and why the shots had been fired upon Marino. I told Pat and Mason to remain in the house ... Next day I took them over to a Justice of the Peace and after a hearing he set them free. After that we got ready to leave for Las Vegas.

Leyba was later accused of being the leader of a gang of bandits that had robbed and killed Colonel Charles Potter the preceding October. Because all of the other witnesses to the murder had already been lynched by vigilantes, Leyba was indicted on charges, among others, of "assault with intent to kill and murder" Pat Garrett. Convicted, he was fined \$80.<sup>23</sup>

23. White, 258.

<sup>22.</sup> Quoted in full by Adams, <u>A Fitting Death for Billy the Kid</u> (1960): 160-165.

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On Christmas day, a week after the incident with Leyba, Garrett stopped off at Grzelachowski's store on route to Las Vegas with seven deputies and four prisoners including Billy the Kid who had been captured near Fort Sumner. According to Garrett,

"We reached Gayheart's ranch with our prisoners about midnight, rested until eight in the morning, and reached Puerto de Luna at two o'clock p.m. on Christmas Day. My friend Grzelachowski gave us all a splendid dinner...With a fresh team we got away from Puerto de Luna about four o'clock.

The following summer, on July 14, Garrett shot Billy the Kid in Pete Maxwell's house at Fort Summer.

### HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AFTER THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

After Grzelachowski's death the house continued to be used by his family. His son Adolph took over management of the general store and occupied the house with his family until about the time of World War I His brother, Oscar, then lived there with his family until about 1926.<sup>25</sup>

The house was eventually acquired by Cipriano Flores. He and his wife lived there until their deaths in the mid 1960s. During the time the Flores occupied the house, the floors were covered with linoleum, (now removed), the ceilings in the first two front rooms on the north were lowered, and electricity was put in. There was, and still is, no running water in the house. Cabinets (now removed) were put into the first room on the north which served as a kitchen. The room that had contained the Grzelachowski store and post office was used for storage. The Flores' granddaughter, Margie Abeyta, who lived with them, inherited the property which she then sold to Cipriano's son, her uncle and the present owner, Victor Flores.

The building has been empty since the mid 1960s. In 1970 the Grzelachowski House and Store was listed in the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties as SR 176. In the late 1970s the badly deteriorated, adobe storage rooms extending from the back of the store were torn down. In the fall of 1991 and again in 1992, celebrations at the house featured reenactments of Billy the Kid's last Christmas dinner at the Grzelachowski House.

24. Garrett, 128.

<sup>25.</sup> Kajencki (1984): 158, note 38.

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander Grzelachowski House and Store is architecturally significant as an exceptionally unaltered example of the New Mexico Territorial style of the 1870s. Despite the loss of secondary rooms at the rear and the deterioration caused by years of vacancy, the main section of the building remains intact with its Classical detailing. The floor plan, which illustrates a combining of a hall/parlor with Spanish files of nearly identical rooms, has not been altered by the addition of specialized rooms such as bathrooms or a kitchen. The building is historically significant for its association with Grzelachowski and with the business life of Puerto de Luna, then a major stop on the trail up the Pecos Valley from Fort Sumner and points south, as well as the leading community in the area encompassed by Guadalupe County.

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### Interviews:

Margie Abeyta, February 3, 1993

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary encompasses the house and a rectangle of land measuring 39 feet from the east (main) facade; 32 feet from the north and south (side) facades; and 64 feet from the west (rear) facade.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary includes the historic property and a representative portion of surrounding land. It excludes a contemporary mobile home on the east; it includes the location of a no longer extant adobe addition on the west and a small adobe garage that was attached to that addition on the south; and it includes a well but excludes animal pens on the north.

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CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ALEXANDER GRZELACHOWSKI HOUSE

Information common to all contemporary photographs.

- 1. Alexander Grzelachowski House and Store
- 2. Guadalupe County, New Mexico
- 4. February 3, 1993
- 5. Historic Preservation Division

Information on individual contemporary photographs.

3. Mary Ann Anders 6. East (main) and north facades. Camera facing southwest. 7. Photo #1 3. Mary Ann Anders 6. East (main) and north facades. Camera facing southwest. 7. Photo #2 3. Corinne P. Sze 6. Partial east facade. Camera facing west. 7. Photo #3 3. Mary Ann Anders 6. Partial east facade. Camera facing west. 7. Photo #4 3. Mary Ann Anders 6. Partial east facade. Camera facing west. 7. Photo #5 3. Mary Ann Anders 6. North facade. Camera facing south. 7. Photo #6 3. Mary Ann Anders 6. South and east facades. Camera facing northwest. 7. Photo #7

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### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

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		s facade. Cam	era facing n	ortheast	•
	•	s al north facad	ie. Camera	facing s	outhwest.
6. Int	cinne P. Sze cerior view oto #10		hall throug	h room d	oors. Camera facing north.
6. Int	rinne P. Sze erior view oto #11	of hall/parlo	r. Camera f	acing we	st.
HISTOR	RIC PHOTOGRA	PHS OF THE AL	EXANDER GRZE	LACHOWSK	I HOUSE
Inf	formation co	mmon to all h	istoric phot	ographs.	
	idalupe Coun	lachowski Hous ty, New Mexico			
Inf	formation on	individual h	istoric phot	ographs.	
6. Eas	storic Prese	rvation Divis d south facade		facing n	orthwest.
6. Sou	storic Prese	rvation Divis Camera facing			

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4. 1975 5. Historic Preservation Division 6. North and west facades. Camera facing southeast. 7. Photo #14 4. 1975 5. Historic Preservation Division 6. North facade. Camera facing south. 7. Photo #15 4, 1975 5. Historic Preservation Division 6. Interior, fireplace. 7. Photo #16 4. Late 1870s 5. Unknown 6. Puerto de Luna. Alexander Grzelachowski House on left. Camera facing north. 7. Photo #17 4. 1899 5. Unknown

- 6. Wedding reception of Alexander Grzelachowski's daughter. East (main) facade in background.
- 7. Photo #18



Jerry L. Williams <u>NEW MEXICO IN MAPS</u> Albuquerque, NM University of NM Press Second Edition 1986

**Railroad Development** 



0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

Jerry L. Williams <u>NEW MEXICO IN MAPS</u> Albuquerque, NM University of NM Press Second Edition 1986

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Mining and Stagecoaching, 1846–1912



use of stations or routes.

#### 0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

Jerry L. Williams <u>NEW MEXICO IN MAPS</u> Albuquerque, NM University of NM Press Second Edition 1986

Ranching and Conflicts, 1850–1900



10 20 30 40 50 Miles

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