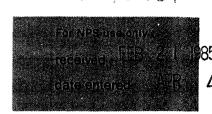
UMB NO. 1022-0018 EXP., 12/31/84

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

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The villages of Los Brazos, Los Ojos, La Puente and individually significant structures along the roads connecting them are located on the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant, in the southern portion of the intermountain Chama River valley of north central New Mexico. Most of the one hundred-eighteen buildings and homesteads are organized in a linear settlement pattern--one building or complex deep on either side of a road. Only Los Brazos and one portion of Los Ojos have a more compact organization of buildings about a cluster of circular lanes. In a few places, houses (to the front), farm buildings and barns (to the rear) and fences define rough courtyards. Adobe, horizontal log or fuerte, and vertical post or jacal walls covered with earthen or cement plaster and corrugated metal dable roofs are the predominant materials. Box house, horizontal railroad tie and hollow clay tile structures are of secondary importance. Most structures were built a room at a time, each with its own door, forming singlefile, L-shaped or U-shaped plans. A half-story wall, two to four feet above the first floor ceiling, raises many gable roofs to provide second floor bedrooms. Some houses employ such additional features as hipped roofs, gable balconies, full second floor, facade symmetry and center hallways. The villages have changed little since the Second World War: eighty percent of the structures shown on a 1935 Soil Conservation Service aerial  $\frac{1}{6.5\%}$ photograph' remain and only fifteen percent of the structures how, standing were built since then. the territory who has been take they be a 100 and

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La Tierra Amarilla (The Yellow Earth) was the name given by Hispanic explorers and settlers to the Chama River Valley of northern Rio Arriba County. (This nomenclature was somewhat confused in 1880 when the New Mexico Territorial legislature designated the village of Las Nutritas the new county seat and renamed it Tierra Amarilla.) This intermountain valley, ranging in altitude from 7200 feet to 8200 feet, extends thirteen miles from the present-day city of Chama south to just below the village of La Puente. It varies from one-quarter to three miles in width.

The Dominguez-Escalante expedition which passed through the area in 1776 described the river bottom below present-day La Puente:

The river's meadow is about a league long [ca. two-and-one-half miles] from north to south, good land for farming with help of irrigation; it produces a great deal of good flax and abundant pasturage. There are also the other prospects which a settlement requires for its founding and maintenance. Here it has a good grove of white poplar. 1

The river valley at this point is bracketed by sixty to eighty-foot-high cliffs (see USGS maps). Above these cliffs to the southeast a plateau extends one-quarter to one mile to a second range of eighty to one hundred-twenty-foot-high cliffs. Above these a second plateau extends another one to two miles before encountering the foothills of the Brazos Peaks. Called Los Llanos by the first settlers, these plateaus were and are covered by pasturage. At the northern edge of the area described by Dominguez and Escalante, the Rio Brazos enters the Chama from the east. The Brazos is straddled by a narrow river bottom valley.

The original Hispanic settlement was concentrated in this southern and southeastern corner of the Chama River Valley. The village of Los Brazos is located on a hill north of the junction of the Rio Brazos and the Chama. La Puente and Los Ojos are situated on the first plateau above the river; while Tierra Amarilla and Ensenada (historically Encinada) stand further up, on the second plateau. (The reasons for focusing in this nomination on Los Ojos, Los Brazos and La Puente to the exclusion of Tierra Amarilla and Ensenada are discussed below.) An extensive system of irrigation ditches brings water to the plateaus and, where necessary, to the immediate river valleys. Narrow, fenced fields run lengthwise from the edges of the plateaus up to the irrigation ditches at the base of the cliffs or foothills (ills. 4, 8).

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The main highway through the valley, U.S. 84, passes within fifty feet of Los Ojos and Los Brazos. It ran directly through the two villages until by-passes were constructed in 1958-1959. La Puente straddles a black-topped county road.

The predominant settlement pattern might be called the linear or the road-side village. House lots are located along both sides (or in a few cases only one side) of the road. Houses stand directly next to the roadway in the oldest, most densely settled areas (ills. 5, 45), or thirty to fifty feet away from the road in the later-settled or more rural areas (ills. 6, 7, 10). Barns, sheds and other outbuildings are positioned behind the houses along the rear of the house lot (ills. 4, 8, 9). The houses, outbuildings and wire fences often define a private family work space behind the house. Los Ojos, La Puente and the roads connecting the three villages were all settled in this manner (maps 1, 4, 5). Only Los Brazos, atop a small hill, departs from this general pattern. There, buildings are clustered around the old highway and the loop road to either side (map 3, ills. 1-3). With fewer outbuildings, the houses of Los Brazos themselves sometimes cluster to form family spaces which face the road (ills. 3, 30-33).

Historical photographs or descriptions of the appearance of the villages are rare. In 1877, Army Engineer Lt. C.A.H. McCauley visited the area and reported to Congress:

The Tierra Amarilla is the center of the Mexican population of Northwestern New Mexico, the industry of the inhabitants being limited to agriculture and pastoral pursuits. In this section are included five Mexican plazas, clustered together along the Rio Chama and its tributaries.

Las Nutritas is the largest of the group, to which sometimes the name of the section itself is applied. It derives its name from the creek upon whose banks it lies, a tributary of the Chama. The name La Nutrita, a diminutive, signifies "the little otter". By a provincialism, however, they employ nutria as a beaver, using to designate an otter the expression perro del aqua or water-dog. The town is equidistant from Los Ojos and Encinada, two miles from each. It contains three stores--that of Burns, an American, annual sales of \$20,000; Johnson & Co., \$8,000 to \$10,000; and Th. Escabal, \$5,000--a shoe-shop, and blacksmith building. The post-office of the section was located here, mails being weekly only and from no direction save from Santa Fe to the south; population, 250.

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Los Ojos (The Springs) is on the Rio Chama, due west from Las Nutritas 2 miles. It contains 4 stores, one a branch of Burns' at Nutritas, annual sales given as \$10,000, and three Mexican, small affairs, sales aggregating perhaps \$8,000. It is 1-1/2 miles below Los Brazos, and its population is 180. The Chama River is forded at this point for all directions west, its altitude being 7,300 feet, while that of Las Nutritas is 7,480.

La Puente (The Bridge) on the Chama, 2 miles from Las Nutritas and same distance southeast from Los Ojos; no stores; a small plaza; population, 100.

Encinada (The Oak) is 2 miles above Las Nutritas, on the East Fork of the Chama, sometimes called Rio Brazos, and same distance east of Los Ojos. There are no stores here; it is a second-rate plaza of 100.

Los Brazos (The Arms), from its location at the junction of the two main forks of the river, at an altitude of 7,350 feet. It is 1-1/2 miles north of Los Ojos, and, like it, is on the river-bank. There are no stores here, and in population it numbers 170.

The entire population of the Tierra Amarilla section is 800.2

Other than this, only still-standing buildings, the settlement patterns and rough population figures remain to give a sense of the historic appearances of the villages. (Again, this is discussed in more detail under 8. Significance.) Suffice it to say here that approximately half of the nominated structures predate 1900 and the three nominated villages have changed little since the Second World War. Soil Conservation Service aerial photographs of 1935 are the first precise records on local buildings. Of the buildings shown in these photographs, 80 - 90% remain in Los Brazos and La Puente and 70 - 80% in Los Ojos and along the roads connecting the villages. New construction is limited to about ten percent of the buildings in Los Brazos and La Puente and perhaps twenty percent in Los Ojos. Only along the new highway, between Los Ojos and Los Brazos, is there a significant amount of new construction.

Altogether, one-hundred-three historic buildings and farm-steads are included in this nomination, numbering approximately ninety-five houses, ten commercial buildings, three schools, two churches, fifteen barns and forty small outbuildings. These include twenty-two major buildings plus outbuildings in the Los Brazos district, fifty-six in the Los Ojos district, twenty-five

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in the La Puente district and fourteen individually recognized features located along the connecting roads.

The schools and La Puente church are all built of adobe. Approximately forty houses and commercial buildings are known to be adobe (ill. 11), although the material under recent coverings of stucco is unknown for a similar number of buildings. of wood construction techniques are employed in a significant number of houses and all of the barns and outbuildings. of at least fifteen houses use jacal (ill. 12) -- vertical posts planted in the ground, pointed at their tops and capped by a grooved tie beam. Horizontal log techniques of a wide variety, and classed together in local terminology as fuertes, are used for both houses and outbuildings. Over twenty structures employ logs with their vertical faces hand hewn; most of these have double box notches (ills. 14, 15, 61), although the dovetail notch (ills. 16, 64), the square notch (ill. 66) and even an approximation of the double saddle notch and an unusual alternating half dovetail (ill. 16) are also seen. The less numerous unhewn log structures employ a double saddle notch (ill. 63). Box house construction--either horizontal or vertical planks joined along their edges to form panels (ills. 18, 36) -- is used in at least twenty structures. outbuildings this form is unplastered; for houses, lathe and mud plaster, inside and out, were the rule--a technique termed adobe relleno elsewhere in New Mexico. A handful of buildings use railroad ties in an approximation of hewn log construction. Another five (commercial) buildings use hollow clay tile. Stone is reserved for those houses with foundations and brick appears as a veneer on only one structure (ill. 45).

Adobe and jacal were used throughout most of the historic period, from perhaps 1865 to 1940. Hewn log construction appears to have been prevalent during the first decades (ca. 1860-85), unhewn logs only slightly later (1865-1910). The use of milled lumber for walls--adobe relleno and railroad tie--probably dates from 1900 to 1940. Hollow tile was used only in the 1930's and late 1940's. Board-on-board (ill. 11) and wood shingled gable roofs began to appear atop the original flat earthen roofs in the late 1870's. Corrugated metal roofing appeared about 1885, became widely popular about 1900 and is now nearly ubiquitous. Standard galvanized roofing is most common (ills. 20-42), but some newer deep-red-colored terneplate-looking roofing (ill. 43) was installed using disaster relief funds after the severe winter of 1974. Asphalt shingle roofing remains rare (ill. 37).

The local Hispanic building tradition—a type referred to in the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual as <u>New Mexico</u> Vernacular—accounts for most houses. These are formed by strings

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of rooms, each with its own exterior door. Some are single-file (ills. 3, 7, 17, 20-24, 26, 31), others are L-shaped (ills. 3, 11, 25, 33) and a few are U-shaped (ill. 2). Full-length porches are widely employed to shed heavy winter snow (ills. 2, 3, 6, 7, 17, 20, 36). Storage and food drying spaces beneath gabled roofs are usually reached through gable doors (ills. 11, 17, 18). Exterior stairs (ill. 20) have been added to some houses, and gable roofs extended to cover some exterior stairs and to form partial balconies (ill. 33). Many houses with attic bedrooms reached by interior stairs have full gable balconies (ills. 2, right; 6, right and left; 25, 31, 34). Many attic bedrooms are made more usable by a two to four-foot-high half-story wall which raises the attic ceiling to a comfortable level and by dormers which improve lighting (ills. 25, 30, 31, 33-35).

Although the single-file plans which were built throughout the historic period account for the majority of the nominated houses, other house plans began to exert an influence as early as 1875. An "officer's" house (ill. 65) near Fort Lowell, which was located one mile below Los Ojos between 1865 and 1868, appears to have introduced several new features -- orientation to the street, symmetrical facades and a single entrance. About 1885, two mansions which restated the symmetrical facade with a single entrance and introduced the hipped roof and full two-story porch were built at Los Ojos (ills. 37, 55) and another three at Tierra Amarilla. The impact of these introductions on the local building tradition was limited until the appearance of a simpler Hipped Cottage type (ills. 39, 40). This simplified manifestation of turn-of-the-century classicism had a hipped roof over a squareshaped form and a symmetrical facade with a centered entry leading to a center hall. The hipped roof was subsequently applied over some traditional L-shaped or single-file plan, with or without the new facade symmetry (ills. 41, 42). Other houses retained a gabled roof while adopting a window-door-window symmetry (ills. 35, 36, 56). Only one house (ill. 38) raises a full second story with porch over a traditional L-shaped plan. Three Bungalow style houses were built in the area, one in 1916, one in 1932-34, and the last in 1935 (ill. 43). Only one or two folk houses respond to these with wide, sitting porches (ill. 44).

The influence of Anglo-American, railroad-era styles is limited in most houses to wood ornament concentrated around doors and windows and on porches and balconies. The <u>Territorial Style</u> (as the Greek Revival in New Mexico is known) can be seen in the pedimented lintels and chamfered porch posts with molding "capitals" of some of the finer houses dating to the 1870's or early 1880's (ills. 2, 22, 23, 33). Stock Queen Anne-derived

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elements—slender lathe-turned columns and cut—out brackets—were available through the railroad town of Chama from 1880 until about 1905. A few local attempts at jigsaw ornament appeared (ill. 34) and some lumberyard details at the turn of the century have a heavier classical flavor (ills. 29, 31, 32, 37). Buildings which are New Mexico Vernacular in their basic design and which make inventive use of wood detailing are sometimes referred to as Folk Territorial. Many simpler houses employ unadorned, chamfered posts which were produced at local lumber mills from about 1900 until the 1930's (ills. 20, 21, 34-36, 38, 42). In general, two-over—two double hung windows date to 1875—1890, one—over—one double hung windows to 1880—1900, four—over—four windows to 1900—1935 and four light wood casement or sliding windows to 1920—1940.

Early commercial buildings were indistinguishable from houses (ill. 31); even most of those built later were modest in scale (ill. 49) and easily converted into residences (ill. 48). Two important mercantile buildings in Los Ojos pushed the single-file of adobe rooms to a larger scale and introduced ample display windows (ills. 45-47). One of these added a brick veneer to its facade, the other a faintly-classical pressed metal cornice. The modest hollow tile and railroad tie commercial buildings of the 1930's are distinguished by stepping parapets (ill. 49) evoking the Spanish Pueblo Revival, a type referred to by the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual as Southwest Vernacular.

As already noted, a large majority, perhaps eighty percent, of the historic structures of the area remain, and post-World War II infill comprises about fifteen percent of current structures. The majority of houses are occupied and well-maintained (ills. 2, 7, 20-22, 26, 29-35, 38-44). Some houses (ills. 11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 36, 37, 56, 57, 66) and most outbuildings (ills. 12-15, 61, 64) are only sporadically occupied or partially used and have fallen into disrepair. Ten to twenty percent of the area's historically significant structures are deteriorated.

A detailed structural analysis of these buildings has not been possible. In general, if the roof of a building or a portion of its walls have fallen (ills. 17, 54, 55) it is listed as non-contributing (if in a district) or not nominated individually (if outside the districts). If the walls and roof of a structure are intact, even if noticeably deteriorated, it is rated significant or contributing (ill. 3, right and left; 11, 12, 17, 24, 36, 37, 52, 57, 66) or nominated individually (ills. 55, 57, 66). The signficance of structures which fail this gross test of structural integrity, nevertheless, is discussed under the individual building listings. Therefore, if a person feels he or she can rehabilitate such a structure, its historical importance is already noted.

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Contact with the State Historic Preservation Division was initiated by the Tierra Wools cooperative which was interested in historic designation for its building. The preparation of this nomination and the building inventory on which it is based were undertaken at the invitation of La Sociedad Historica de La Tierra Amarilla whose members are active citizens of the villages. field survey was undertaken in August and September of 1984 by architectural historian Chris Wilson and American Studies PhD. David Kammer. The standard New Mexico Historic Building Inventory form, including three-by-five inch photograph and description of architectural features was completed for each structure erected before 1945. Research attempted to establish the local economic, architectural and town planning history. Historian Robert Torrez, who has nearly completed the research for a definitive history of the area (which will be his history PhD. dissertation at UNM), gave invaluable aid during this phase. District boundaries were then drawn for the three villages to include the areas where historic architecture and town plan remain intact. All structures outside these limits were then assessed for inclusion as individually significant structures. They are discussed at the end of this section.

The cluster of six villages at the southern end of the Chama River Valley are a logical group for a historic resources study because of their proximity and shared economic, cultural and architectural history. Two factors, however, dictated that this nomination consider only three of them and be prepared as a partial inventory. First, limited funds and time would not support an inventory of the entire area. Second, the local community has a long tradition of ambivalence about outside government projects. Community leaders felt a partial inventory would be a more manageable undertaking: publicity about the survey and consideration of possible impacts of historic designation would be easier to handle. Los Brazos, Los Ojos and La Puente were selected for the first phase because they were the first villages to prosper after settlement in 1860-61. Las Nutritas (now Tierra Amarilla) and Ensenada were begun at the same time but did not thrive until about 1870. Plaza Blanca (also called Placita Blanca) was not established until about 1875.

- Warner, Ted ed. <u>The Dominguez-Escalante Journal</u>. (Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 1976), p. 7.
- 2. McCauley, C.A.H. Report of the San Juan Reconnaissance of 1877, House of Rep., 45th Cong., 3rd session, Report of Chief of Engineers, Vol. V, Pt. III, p. 1767.

#### 8. Significance

	communications	X community plan conservation economics education engineering exploration/settl industry invention		science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates		Builder/Architect	spécified where known	

2000 146

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The villages and isolated farmhouses of La Tierra Amarilla are among the best preserved examples of late nineteenth-century Hispanic New Mexican settlement patterns, folk architecture and building technology. Although the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant was awarded by the Mexican government to a group of settlers from Abiquiu, New Mexico in 1832, it was not permanently settled until 1860-1861, making Los Brazos, Los Ojos and La Puente some of the last important Hispanic settlements established in north central singuished New Mexico. The basic village settlement and architectural traditions carried by the Hispanic settlers were quickly augmented by Anglo-American ways introduced through resident merchants, Fort Lowell (1865-1869), the Ute Indian Agency at Tierra Amarilla (1872-81) and the arrival of the railroad at Chama ten miles north (1880). While many houses closely follow the Hispanic building tradition seen elsewhere in New Mexico, others show the development of a unique, localized folk architecture based on the Hispanic tradition but incorporating Anglo-American devices. Typical examples of this type are linear or L-shaped, houses, one room deep, with a separate door to each room, a two to four-foot half-story wall raising the gabled roof and stock Queen Anne ornament concentrated on narrow porches and gable balconies (ills. A similar combination of the modular construction with half-story walls is seen in the well-preserved log barns and outbuildings (ills. 8, 9, 12-17). The villages are among the least altered of nineteenth-century Hispanic New Mexican communities which followed the linear or roadside village settlement form (ills. 1-10).

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The villages of La Tierra Amarilla were developed by settlers from Abiquiu, the major village to the south on the Chama River. Kutsche, VanNess and Smith have suggested that this mode of expansion be termed the "budding process", explaining that:

as the resources of one microbasin [i.e. irrigable mountain valley] began to be taken up, surplus population spilled over either to adjacent or nearby microbasins. It appears to us that official land grants more often confirmed existing settlement than authorized new settlement. 1

Abiquiu was founded by a land grant of 1754 as one of a number of peripheral Spanish Colonial settlements intended as buffers against surrounding nomadic Indians. Trade with the Utes to the north soon began and by 1776—the date of the Dominguez-Escalante report—an annual trade fair at Abiquiu was well established. By that year an informal trail had already begun to develop along the Chama River, north through La Tierra Amarilla and into Colorado. Sometime before 1835, it had developed into an overland route to California, known as the Old Spanish Trail. As a result, traders early had a first hand knowledge of Tierra Amarilla.

It seems likely that residents of Abiquiu had begun grazing their sheep at Tierra Amarilla before the first formal petition for a land grant was made to the Spanish Crown in 1814. Additional unsuccessful petitions were made in 1820 and 1824 before a community grant was issued by the Mexican government in 1834 to a group of settlers headed by Manuel Martinez of Abiquiu. Ute raids on the region, which intensified after eleven Utes visiting the governor in Santa Fe were killed in September, 1844, at first prevented permanent settlement of the grant. An unsuccessful attempt to settle the area occurred as late as 1855.

Since settlement was delayed until the American period and the settlers were not formally placed in possession of the land in traditional Hispanic fashion, the exact date of permanent settlement is open to some debate. Oral tradition and scattered documentation supports 1860 and 1861 as the years of settlement. A variety of factors helped to cause and supported this move. After Congress confirmed the Tierra Amarilla grant in 1860, Francisco Martinez, son of the then-deceased Manuel, began presenting other settlers deeded allotments of farming land along with the right to use the surrounding commonlands. Between July, 1860 and August, 1866, he distributed one-hundred-twenty-two allotments, which identify seven villages--Brazos, Ensenada, Nutritas, Ojos and La Puente, as well as El Barranco and Canones

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which were soon abandoned. In addition, a gold rush to the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado in the winter of 1860-61 followed the Old Spanish Trail through the area. It provided some trade and improvements to the trail which aided the fledgling settlements. A second, more successful gold rush in 1874 saw five hundred miners pass through the villages as the Tierra Amarilla briefly became a staging area.

By this time, the villages were firmly established with a subsistence economy of farming and sheepherding which relied not only on the irrigated fields but also on the common pastures and The threat of Indian attack had led to the estabtimberlands. lishment of an Army post from 1866 to 1869, one mile south of the village of Los Ojos and first called Camp Plummer and later Fort Merchants established themselves at Los Ojos during these first years. The most notable of these, T.D. Burns and Henry Mecure, competed for contracts to supply the Army and later to supply the Ute Indian Agency at Las Nutritas (1872-81). abortive town development named Park View also appeared about 1872. Settled north of Los Brazos by Swedish immigrants, it never grew beyond seventy inhabitants. When the town failed, sometime after 1880, its post office aand name were transferred to Los (The original name, Los Ojos, was only revived in 1972.) These developments of the 1860's and 1870's--Fort Lowell, the Indian Agency, Parkview and resident merchants--introduced a money economy and some Anglo-American architectural practices.

Two related events marked a turning point in the development of the region. The effects of the arrival of the Denver, Rio Grande and Western Railroad at Chama in the north end of the valley in 1880 were quickly felt; the effects of the patenting (final confirmation) of the Tierra Amarilla (T.A.) Grant in 1881 were minor at first and took seventy-five years to fully take hold. The railroad introduced a new Anglo-American village, Chama, ten miles to the north of the original Spanish villages and, in general, brought the entire valley into a broader regional mercantile economy. Manufactured goods became more easily available. The most important of these for architecture were window glass, hand tools and finished doors, windows, roofing shingles and wooden ornament. In exchange, the valley began to produce materials for export, chiefly lumber and wool.

After Congress confirmed the T.A. Grant in 1860, a detailed land survey was needed before the final patenting could occur. Speculation had nevertheless commenced by 1865 in deeds for the grant from descendants of Manuel Martinez. Thomas Catron, prominent lawyer, leader of the so-called Santa Fe Ring and later U.S. Senator, began purchasing deeds in 1874. By 1880 he

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controlled all of the grant except the small farm plots belonging to the original settlers. Catron's control hinged on two legal issues. First, on whether the grant had been a community grant to the entire group of settlers or a private grant made solely to Manuel Martinez. Through mistranslation of one Mexican document and suppression of another, Congress was lead to confirm it as a private grant in 1860. When Manuel's son, Francisco, issued allotments of land to the other settlers in 1861-65, he nevertheless included in addition to the farm plot, "the right of pastures, water, firewood, timbers and roads, free and common." The second issue turned on this phrase. Francisco Martinez appears to have granted traditional use of the common lands as though it were a community grant. But when Catron filed a quiet title suit in 1883 to consolidate his claim to the grant, these rights to common lands were ignored and the settlers not notified of the action. When their claims to the common lands finally reached court in the 1950's, they were disallowed on the grounds that the original deeds had been improperly worded.

There is now general agreement, among those who have studied the history of the grant, that the settlers' loss of common lands was unjust, whether one chooses to attribute it to unfortunate differences in property law between the United States and the earlier Mexican government, or to outright legislative and judicial chicanery. Although Catron sold railroad right-of-way and the Chama town site out of the grant in 1880 and logging of the common lands commenced then and continued for several decades, the first settlers appear not to have understood the magnitude of their loss until 1912 when a northern portion of the grant was fenced by an outside cattle company. Fencing of the commons by private owners and the federal government progressed steadily between the World Wars.

The need for cash to purchase manufactured goods and the shrinking economic base accompanying the loss of common lands caused many men to seek seasonal wage work. From about 1880 until 1910, logging provided jobs near at hand. A mill operated near Los Brazos from 1897 until about 1905. But as the timberlands were exhausted, local men were increasingly forced to seek work in southern Colorado and beyond in mining, construction and agriculture. During Prohibition, which began in nearby Colorado in 1916, some took up bootlegging. The advent during the 1930's of state and federal spending for the construction of highways and public structures provided some local jobs and partially broke the seasonal migratory cycle. Nevertheless, a project such as the construction of a fish hatchery south of Los Ojos in 1932-34 was viewed with ambivalence locally because it not only provided jobs but also represented the government's development of the once communal mountains for recreation. 10

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The widened horizons of the young men who had left the area to fight in the World Wars combined with the lack of local jobs to stimulate emigration to Espanola, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, Pueblo, Denver and beyond. The struggle to maintain the traditional economy was set back when the last common lands were fenced by cattle companies in the early 1950's. Long-festering resentments about the loss of these lands surfaced in the movement led by Reies Lopez Tijerina to regain control of the land grants. This movement culminated in the 1967 raid on the courthouse at Tierra Amarilla. Outside attention was focused on the area, causing an increase in federal social programs and leading to a scholarly examination of the history of the land grant (see footnote 9). Current local initiatives to revitalize the local culture and economy--a community medical clinic, a weavers' cooperative and a sheepherders' cooperative -- stem from this period of activism. Today the average family sustains itself with scattered fields, a few head of cattle and sheep, some grazing permits and an assortment of jobs or a retirement or welfare check. 11

The table of population on the following page gives a general sense of the growth and decline of the villages of La Tierra Amarilla. Because these areas are unincorporated and enumerator districts change, the figures for individual villages (without parentheses) are estimations; those for civil divisions and the county (in parentheses) are precise. What follows about the layout of the villages and about the local architectural tradition is to a certain extent speculation. It is informed by what is known about Spanish— and Anglo—American settlement patterns and folk architecture elsewhere in New Mexico and by careful field observations, but remains speculation because of the lack of written documentation on most structures. Cuttings from log buildings are being gathered for analysis by the tree ring laboratory at the University of Arizona. This along with the oral history gathered by Mr. Torrez will further contribute to our understanding of the area's history.)

The historic landscape (man-made organization of the environment) of a traditional Spanish Colonial community grant was divided into three types of land: house plots on a plaza, irrigable farm plots and commonlands. The high mountain valleys of New Mexico often combined with this organization to yield a particular form of self-contained village. The cluster of houses stood beside a river or stream. Long, narrow farm plots were arranged up and down the valley, measuring one to two hundred varras (ca. thirty-two inches) of frontage along the river and stretching from the river up to the irrigation ditch. The remaining pastures and timberlands from the ditch up to the crests

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#### Population of Tierra Amarilla Villages

Date County	(Tierra Pop. T.A. E	Amarilla I nsenada I	Division) La Puente	(Ojos-Par Ojos	kview Div. Brazos	) (Chama Div.) Chama
1870 9,294	(559) 163	103	84	150	71	0
1877	(800) 230	100	100	180	170	0
$\frac{1880}{11,023}$	(1,421) 209	133	107	346	128	25
1890 11,534	(624)			(571)		(295)
1900 13,777	(8 <b>44</b> ) 607	120	117	(811) 399	200	(300)
1910 16,624	(963)			(900)		(733)
1920 19,552	(1,106)	·		(745)		(600)
1930 21,381	(1,097)			(862)		(743)
1940 25,352	(1,493) 544 of the	se farming	J	(879) 240 farmi:	ng	(975) 89 farming
1950 24,997	(1,115)			(656)		(1,044)
1960 24,193	(3,422)		:	incl. in T	. A .	incl. in T.A.
1970 25,170	(2,791)					899

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of the surrounding mountains were village common lands. The commons could not be divided or sold, houses or farm plots could be. But if a family sold its house and farm allotment, their rights to the commons and responsibilities to the community went with them. Kutsche and VanNess note that:

metaphorically, it [the family] sold out of the corporation and the new family bought in. What was bought and what was sold was not so much parcels of land as the right to live and make a living in a particular microbasin. 13

By comparison, Anglo-American custom and law view land as a saleable commodity without any necessary relation to residence or community obliqation.

All of the aspects of a traditional New Mexican Hispanic landscape were established in some form in La Tierra Amarilla. The common lands have been lost to the villages, divided and managed under a different cultural system, and are not recognized in any manner in this nomination. The original field system has been maintained by the pattern of ownership, and it also receives no specific recognition in this nomination. One aspect of the field system, however, the irrigation ditches, should be included as individually significant feature if a complete inventory of the historic resources of La Tierra Amarilla is undertaken. prominent and coherent reminders of the Hispanic culture in this area, the settlement patterns and buildings, are specifically recognized in this nomination in the districts and individual buildings. The boundaries for the districts and individual properties have been tightly drawn to encompass only the buildings without reaching out to include the broader landscape of fields and commonlands.

The central aspect of the traditional Hispanic landscape—the defensive plaza—had begun to break up in some areas in the eighteenth century as the ability of the Spanish Colonial officials to control outlying settlements decreased. Although settlers were given house lots and repeatedly instructed to form defensive plazas, many chose to settle near their field. Relations with nomadic Indians were at the base of this dispersion: it allowed settlers to protect their field, more easily carry out illicit trade with the Indians and to distinguish themselves from other settlers and through individually friendly relations avoid attack. Since fields were distributed the length of irrigated valley, sometimes five or six miles, linear villages developed with each settler building at the upper or lower edge of his field, along a common road or trail. 14

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When the T.A. Grant was finally settled after the American annexation, government support for Hispanic settlement patterns had disappeared. Francisco Martinez, nevertheless, partially fulfilled the role formerly taken by the local Alcalde when he distributed farm plots along with access to the commons. The herders who used La Tierra Amarilla before permanent settlement occurred undoubtedly built summer camps; some of these were probably occupied in 1860-61 and may have formed the core of the villages. Oral tradition indicates that strongholds or fuertes stood in western Los Brazos (Map 3, near buildings 123, 124, 130, 132) and on the point south of the Los Ojos Church (Map 4, near buildings 25-29). Defense is facilitated in these two places by steep drop-offs to the south and west.

As Los Brazos developed, buildings clustered together irregularly near the first stronghold, in time occupying the entire hill which was above the irrigation ditches (Map 3, ill. 1). The other two villages generally followed the linear or road side pattern, impinging on irrigated fields. In Los Ojos where Francisco Martinez settled, he again partially fulfilled the role of the Acalde when he sold or disbursed town lots (Map 4, buildings 1-30; ill. 4) along a road running east to west down one of the long Similarly, a road down the middle of a field allotment formed the focus of development for La Puente (Map 5; ills. 8, 9). Breaks in the cliffs allowing easy descent from the second to the first plateau (Map 2) contributed to the selection of locations of Los Ojos and La Puente. The balance of the Ojos district and the individually nominated buildings line more typically located roads at the base of long, narrow fields, just above the drop-off to the river valley (Maps 1, 4; ills. 4 background, 6, 7).

Because the villages of La Tierra Amarilla were constructed relatively late in the course of Hispanic settlement and Anglo influences were quickly introduced, there was a mixing of the two traditions. The settlers brought a well-developed folk building tradition with them which included a variety of building technologies and a set of attitudes which shaped the form of houses and farm buildings and the location and orientation of structures. At first, Anglo-American introductions had only a superficial impact on the Hispanic tradition, most importantly as a set of new materials. Beginning about 1880 and intensifying after 1900, new attitudes penetrated to a deeper level, affecting house plans and building orientation. The localized folk architecture which developed is utterly unique in its particulars—a vivid, well-preserved example of how one tradition integrated elements of another.

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The earliest buildings, both the temporary summer camps and those built after permanent settlement, were of logs. The material was convenient and abundant. The typical Hispanic form of horizontal log construction--hewn logs with double box notching--was used first and remained important until 1900 (ills. 13-15, 67). Although a few examples were found of dovetail (ill. 64) and alternating half dovetail notching (ill. 16), they are not normally employed in Hispanic New Mexico and may have been introduced by the Swedish settlers of the original Park View. horizontal log construction is grouped locally as fuerte, a term originally meaning fort or stronghold and used elsewhere in New Mexico for a building which can be locked and used to store harnesses and tools. Oral tradition holds that many fuertes reuse logs from Fort Lowell. The fort was manned the first year, 1865, and the first buildings erected by a company of New Mexico volunteers, who being Hispanic, undoubtedly built with hewn logs and double box notching. They were replaced the second year by a unit of the US 33rd Infantry formed in Arkansas which constructed additional horizontal structures using unhewn logs with double saddle notching. This form was subsequently used for about onethird of the local log structures (ill. 17, 63), sometimes barns but more often small sheds and storage cellars. Vertical post construction, jacal, was probably used as early as hewn logs, but continued longer, being used to build houses at least until 1905 and for outbuildings until 1940.

The predominant form of construction in Abiquiu, where the first settlers came from, was adobe and they showed a preference for it over log construction in their new villages. As large timbers became harder to procure, as the villages became settled and as individual families prospered, adobe was employed. The first room of many houses is jacal or fuerte and later additions adobe. As often though, the original cabin was converted into a storage building (ills. 12, 13) or perhaps incorporated into a barn (ill. 4 , right) after the construction of a new house of While logs are used for all building types, adobe is never used for outbuildings or barns. About 1900, horizontal log construction began to be replaced by two forms of construction using milled lumber: box construction (ills. 18, 36) and railroad ties used like hewn logs (ill. 19). Both forms were used for farm buildings and houses, although outbuildings went unsurfaced and houses always received a coating of lathe and mud stucco. fuertes now used as outbuildings have been sheathed in corrugated metal siding (ills. 2 middle, 22 right).

The Hispanic building tradition in New Mexico was modular, the individual room the basic unit.  $^{16}$  A family generally began by

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building a single, self-sufficient room, usually rectangular in shape with a single door on one of the long sides. As the growth of the family required, and resources allowed, additional rooms were added. Each was essentially like the first, a separate A different material might be employed and, if the house site sloped, the new room would stand on a different level. Interior passage was not used; circulation occurred, instead, outside the house. The narrow porches added after 1880 sheltered this exterior circulation. Interior doors between rooms were introduced as late as the 1950's. Many one and two-room houses still stand, although none are occupied (ills. 13, 17, 76). Most houses are three to five rooms arranged in a single file or Lshape (ills. 3, 7, 11, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 56-58). More than five rooms (and doors) usually indicates a row of two or more connected houses, occupied by related families (ills. 2, 22, 33).

A unique feature of the local folk architecture is the extension of the parapet wall two to four feet above the first floor to raise the gabled roof—a feature which will be called the half—story wall. The most noticeable of these have a gable balcony or a clean break between the gable roof and the porch roof (ills. 2 right, 25, 30, 31, 33-35, 58). Often, though, a continuous gable—to—porch roof disguises this feature (ills. 22, 26, 31). Normally, in other areas of New Mexico, gabled roofs were added directly over the original flat roof. In a few other mountain villages, however, a short half—story wall is employed. In these other villages this attic space was reserved for storage and food drying. Like any other room it was viewed as a separate component entered through its own exterior door—in this case, a gable door reached by a ladder. Many Tierra Amarilla houses maintain this traditional storage attic (ills. 11, 17, 18, 20).

Frances Swadish, in her classic study of Hispanic frontier settlement, Los Primeros Pobladores, suggests that the T.D. Burns house, built in Tierra Amarilla in the 1870's and employing a half-story wall, was the primary source for many local building innovations. While this may be true, the houses and barns studied suggest other possible sources for the half-story wall. When the half-story wall began to appear about 1875, it was often coupled with such other new features as symmetrical facades, interior stairs, dormer windows and the use of attics as bedrooms. Three similar adobe houses with T-shaped plans, symmetrical facades and half-story walls may be pivotal structures of this evolution (ills. 29, 65). Oral tradition holds that one of these (ill. 65), located near the site of Fort Lowell, was an officer's house, and that all of then were built by George Lemon, an Army carpenter who had stayed in the area after being mustered out. An

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1868 aerial drawing of the fort reveals a T-shaped section with a symmetrical facade, although it also shows only log construction and one-story buildings. That the pivotal three houses are adobe suggests that Lemon collaborated with Hispanic builders.

He, Burns, or another Anglo-American likely introduced symmetrical facades, interior stairs and the attic bedroom. They may also have introduced the half-story wall outright. However, the presence of that feature in other Hispanic villages (albeit only for storage attics and barns) and its use in a number of Tierra Amarilla area barns suggests that it may have been adapted from the Hispanic tradition. If this interpretation is correct, the Anglo tradition provided the idea of second-story living space, the Hispanic tradition provided the architectural feature—the half-story wall—to increase headroom, and local builders combined the two to produce a distinctive local house type.

An interpretation of the source of the gable balconies would reach similar, also tentative conclusions. Only a detailed study of representative houses which established the sequence of construction within individual houses and among the various houses will clarify this development. This extended emphasis on key features should not obscure the basic fact: most of the nominated houses reveal a basically Hispanic tradition innovatively combined with a few Anglo introductions.

A handful of houses do adopt house plans outright from outside sources. The first of these was a two-story hipped-roof type with a centered entrance and centered halls on both floors flanked by paired symmetrical rooms. The origin of this symmetrical plan could probably be traced to the Greek Revival, although a specific source--a particular builder or house pattern book--has not been identified. Six of these were built in the mid-1880's for wealthy Hispanic merchants; two remain in Tierra Amarilla, one on the road between Los Ojos and Los Brazos (ill. 37) and one, in ruins, in Los Ojos (ill. 55). A similar Hipped Cottage appeared at the turn of the century in response to the prevailing Neo-Classicism (ills. 39, 40). In these, windows, doors and rooms are symmetrically arranged like the two-story mansions, although the centered hall extends only halfway into the house, flanked on either side by a pair of rooms, but opening directly into the middle of the three rooms at the back. two house types introduced a few new design elements and reinforced others already suggested by the officer's house type. In most cases, Hispanic builders adopted isolated elements--the hipped roof (ills. 41, 42), facade symmetry (ills. 35, 36, 42), a full second story (ill. 38) -- but retained the basic tradition of linear accretion.

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Ornamentation on porches and balconies reflects a more complete (if superficial) adoption of Anglo-American styles. The chronology of particular details and styles is recounted above under 7. Description. The earliest Territorial Style ornament was fabricated by local carpenters (ills. 2; 22; 23; 33, left gable); but after the arrival of the railroad, mass-produced details (ills. 20, 21, 24-32, 33 right gable, 37-42) largely displaced folk invention (ills. 34, 48, 53).

Many of the characteristics of composition present in the houses also appear in the outbuildings and barns. The basic unit, again, is the rectangular room, generally of horizontal log construction, with a door and perhaps a window in one long side Additional cribbed units (sometimes with a different (ill. 13). notching style) were added in linear fashion but at a distance from the first rectangle (ills. 14, 15). The span between the units was then bridged by log cross beams and the rear wall completed with jacal or wood planks. Many barns employ plank or box construction walls to raise the gable roof (ills. 15, 63), like the half-story wall of houses. If these barns are shown by tree ring dating to predate the houses with half-story walls, they would be confirmed as the source for the half-story wall. ing in the 1920's, double doors were added in the short end of some outbuildings to form garages (ill. 13, 64) and a few freestanding garages were constructed.

Specialized buildings, although few in number, are of pivotal importance in the communities. The two remaining churches (the one at Los Brazos was destroyed in the late 1950's) were given the most prominent locations at the intersection of roads, underscoring their importance in the community (ills. 4 left, 5, 8 The church of San Miguel in La Puente is like many village chapels in its nearly domestic scale and in its use of standard materials -- adobe, stock windows and intersecting corrugated metal gables. As the parish church for the area, San Jose at Los Ojos is a large structure constructed of fired brick by parishioners. The original schools remain (ill. 52). location of a door in the short end distinguishes them from Their basic domestic appearance is underscored by the fact that the first school in Los Ojos was easily converted into a house about 1930 (ill. 5 left). Most of the commercial buildings, too, have a basically domestic scale and some have been converted into residences (ills. 31, 48). Only in Los Ojos, which (along with Tierra Amarilla) was a leading mercantile center for the area, were the traditional domestic forms and adobe pushed to a larger scale and given facades ornamented with a veneer of brick (ill. 45) or pressed metal (ill. 47). A handful of modest service

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stations and shops appeared along (Old) Highway 84 in Los Ojos during the late 1920's and 1930's to cater to the increasing automotive traffic.

Interest and pride in local history is strong. The villages are unincorporated, however, and it seems unlikely for the time being at least that the county government will formally incorporate historic preservation into its programs. Two private groups with wide local support -- the weaving cooperative and the historical society--are already trying to define how historic designation can be turned to the advantage of the communities They feel that a revitalization of a locally-controlled economy is the essential first step, without which cultural or architectural preservation can only proceed as a hollow gesture. The development of a weaving cooperative has already provided the economic basis for the preservation of the most important commercial structure in the area, the T.D. Burns store (ills. 45, 46). Underlying this development is a traditional value mentioned above in regard to land ownership: property, whether land or buildings, is seen as having value through use, as part of an active community. The degree to which historic preservation is predicated on the perception of property as a commodity is the degree to which it may clash with local values. preservationist desire to preserve a historic structure in an unaltered form could well conflict with the local pragmatic modification of structures in response to contemporary needs. Rather than hardening into confrontation between preservation of local buildings versus the preservation of cultural vitality, a dialogue of potential value to both historical preservationists and the villages of La Tierra Amarilla seems possible. sophistication of those active in the co-op and the historic society about economic development and uses of history suggests that they are prepared for such a dialogue.

- 1. Paul Kutsche, John. R. VanNess and Andrew T. Smith, "A Unified Approach to the Anthropology of Hispanic Northern New Mexico," <u>Historical Archaeology</u>, 10 (1976), 1, p. 6.
- 2. Frances Leon Swadish, Los Primeros Pobladores, (South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 1974), pp. 39, 47, 60-61.
- 3. Swadish, pp. 61-63; Victor Westphall, Mercedes Reales, (Albuquerque: UNM Press, 1983), p. 127.
- 4. Swadish, p. 81; Westphall, p. 127.

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- 5. Robert Torrez has uncovered oral tradition and information in land title abstracts supporting the 1860-1861 settlement dates, which will appear in his forthcoming University of New Mexico doctoral dissertation. He points to additional support for these dates, including: "Tierra Amarilla Looks Prosperous," Santa Fe New Mexican, December 4, 1914; Obituary, El Nuevo Estado, February 15, 1911.
- 6. Malcolm Ebright, The Tierra Amarilla Grant, (Santa Fe: Center for Land Grant Studies, 1980), pp. 45-49.
- 7. Robert Torrez, "The Rio Arriba Gold Rush of 1860 or the San Juan Gold Rush and its Effects on the Development of Northern New Mexico," ms. of talk given at New Mexico Historical Society Convention, 1984.
- 8. Robert Torrez, "'El Bornes': La Tierra Amarilla and T.D.
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- 9. Westphall, pp. 127-131, 224-33; Ebright, pp. ix-xii, 1-29; Swadish, pp. 84-88; Robert Torrez, "La Merced de Tierra Amarilla," pp. 32-36, in Arellano; Richard Gardner, Grito!

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- 10. Swadish, pp. 103-127; Torrez, "The Tierra Amarilla," pp. 15-16; Gardner, pp. 68-70; Paul Kutsche and John R. VanNess,

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- 11. Swadish, pp. 127-132; Torrez, "The Tierra Amarilla," p. 16; Gardner; Kutsche and VanNess, pp. 223-231.
- 12. U.S. Census, Statistics of Population, 1870-1970; U.S. Census, "Enumerator Sheets, Rio Arriba County," 1870, 1880, 1900; Ebright, pp. 45-48; C.A.H. McCauley, Report of the San Juan Reconnaissance of 1877, Report of the Chief of Engineers, Hse. of Rep., 45th Cong., 3rd session, p. 1766.

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- 13. Kutsche and VanNess, p. 19; Peter van Dresser, A Landscape for Humans, (El Rito: author, 1972), pp. 90-105; John Stilgoe, The Common Landscape of America, (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1982), pp. 34-43; Alvan Carlson, "Rural Settlement Patterns in the San Luis Valley," Colorado Magazine, 44, no. 2 (Spring, 1967), pp. 114-119.
- 14. Marc Simmons, "Settlement Patterns and Village Plans in Colonial New Mexico," in David Weber ed., New Spain's Far Northern Frontier, (Albuquerque: UNM Press, 1979), pp. 103-106; Stephan de Borhegyi, "The Evolution of a Landscape," Landscape, 4, no. 1 (Summer, 1954), pp. 24-30; Swadish, pp. 133-138; Kutsche, VanNess and Smith, pp. 5-7.
- 15. Charles Gritzner, "Log Houses in New Mexico," Pioneer America, 3, no. 3 (July, 1971), pp. 54-62; Charles Gritzner, "Construction Materials in a Folk Housing Tradition," Pioneer America, 6, no. 1 (January, 1974), pp. 25-39; "A Catalog of New Mexico Farm Building Terms," Landscape, 1, no. 3 (Winter, 1952), pp. 31-32.
- 16. J.B. Jackson, "First Comes the House," <u>Landscape</u>, 9, no.2 (Winter, 1959-60), pp. 26-32; Chris Wilson, "When a Room is the Hall," <u>Mass</u> (Journal of the School of Architecture, UNM), 2(Summer, 1984), pp. 17-23.
- 17. A.W. Conway, "A Northern New Mexico House-Type," Landscape, 1, no. 2 (1951), pp. 20-21.
- 18. Swadish, pp. 142-143.

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See continuation sheets

10. Geographic	al Data			
Acreage of nominated property Sec Quadrangle name Los Brazos, N UMT References See continuati	<u>IM/</u> Tierra Amar	_sheets illa, NM	Quadrang	ile scale 1:24000
Zone Easting North		B Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	D		
<b>Verbal boundary description and</b> justified on continuation s boundaries of individual pr	heets, under 7	'(Descriptio		d on maps 1 and 2, an nuation sheets for
List all states and counties for p	roperties overlap	ping state or c	ounty boundaries	
state N/A	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
11. Form Prepai	ed By			
name/title Chris Wilson, con	tract archited	tural histor	ian	
organization for NM State Hist	oric Preservat	ion Div.	ate 12/23/84	······································
Villa Rivera, R street & number 228 East Palace	oom 101	<u> </u>	(505) 2	266-0931 Wilson 827-8320 HPD
city or town Santa Fe		· s	tate New Mexico	87503
12. State Histor	ic Prese	rvation	Officer C	ertification
Fhe evaluated significance of this pro national ــــــ	perty within the sta	te is: locai		
As the designated State Historic Pres 665), I hereby nominate this property according to the criteria and procedu	for inclusion in the	Nationai Register	and certify that it ha	
State Historic Preservation Officer sig	nature /2	) CU	Mil	•
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For NPS use only I hereby certify that this propert  Continue  Keeper of the National Register  Attest:	y is included in the	, , , , <del>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </del>	<del></del>	
Chief of Registration				

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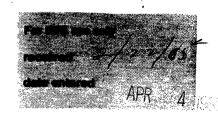
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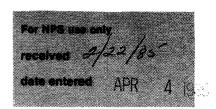
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Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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