

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Mexico
COUNTY:	Taos
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 5 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Laureano Cordova Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: off NM 75
About 100 yards south of N.M. 75 on the Rio Pueblo.

CITY OR TOWN: Vadito CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35 COUNTY: Taos CODE: 55

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Laureano Cordova

STREET AND NUMBER: General Delivery

CITY OR TOWN: Vadito STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER: Taos County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Taos STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties

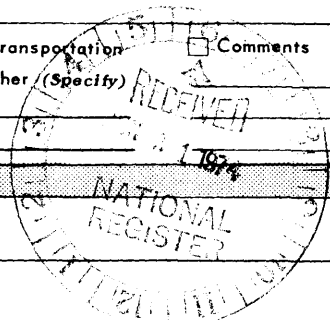
DATE OF SURVEY: January 10, 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 West DeVargas Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

NOV 5 1974

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though built about 1870, the Laureano Cordova Mill was constructed in the design in use since the time of the Spanish settlers. When Acorsino Cordova, the father of the present owner constructed this mill, he followed the established tradition, with slight variations. The millstones were found and fashioned near Dixon, New Mexico, 20 miles west of the site of the mill. The grindstone was chipped and smoothed into a circular shape, 30 inches across and 6 inches thick with the underside left slightly bowed. Grooves allowing the meal to pour off were chiseled into the face of the second millstone which was shaped and smoothed into a square slab.

Water to power the Cordova Mill was carried along a ditch dug parallel to the Rio Pueblo. The flow was controlled by a wood irrigation gate before reaching a flume which directed the flow of the water against the horizontal waterwheel turning it and the grindstone to which it was directly linked by a vertical axle, in a counter-clockwise rotation. The unusual position of the waterwheel, (traditionally, a wagonwheel with boards fixed to the spokes); and also of the grindstone and the millstone, as well as the curious direction of rotation of the first two was not peculiar to flour mills in New Mexico only, but also in Mexico, the Spanish Pyrenees, southern Europe and the Middle East.

A wood hopper resembling an inverted pyramid, was placed above the grindstone, to one side of center to receive the grain, replacing an ox-hide funnel common in earlier times. Likewise, a silk screen sifter attached to one side of the millstone replaced the former ox-hide receptacle strung beneath the millstones to collect the meal.

As was customary, the millhouse was set atop several posts and stones sunk into the bed of the ditch. The walls were built of logs, hewn square and left flat at the ends, and joined together with a double-notch at the corners. A door near the corner on the north side faced the Cordova residence. Windows were provided on every side with the removal of a section of log. The spaces between the logs of the walls were never filled, but clay was inserted between the planks of the floor to check the loss of grain, and a layer of clay was laid over the flat roof or azotea, giving some protection from the weather.

The preparation of the logs and the design of the millhouse were strictly of Mexican origin, far different from the techniques employed by the Anglo pioneers. The latter preferred round, unpeeled logs, characteristically dove-tailed at the end, and notched in a variety of ways at the corners of the houses. Roofs were beveled and doors were placed in the center of a side.

The Cordova Mill is still operated during the harvest season by Mr. Laureano Cordova who has maintained it in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Milling practices</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>of early New</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Mexico settle-</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>ments.</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Laureano Cordova Mill is the only known horizontal gristmill in the state operating on a commercial basis at its original site. Built over a hundred years ago by Acorcino Cordova, the father of the present owner, it is similar in design to the earliest mills constructed in New Mexico which were dependent on running water. Gristmill operation was once a thriving industry in northern New Mexico along the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Despite adaptations, the basic design of the primitive Spanish-Mexican period mills changed little and was not affected even by the introduction of newer, sophisticated milling machinery by French-Canadian and Anglo settlers after U.S. occupation in 1846.

Except for scattered references to mills in last wills and testaments and in a few legal documents during the Spanish and Mexican periods, little documentation concerning them is extant. Early U.S. travelers, however, found the simple mechanisms interesting, and recorded their findings often in some detail. Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike wrote one of the earliest of these reports on March 1, 1807 during his brief incarceration at the northern New Mexico village of Ojo Caliente. The mills at the town of Manzano, southeast of Albuquerque, were described in meticulous fashion on November 3, 1846 by Lieutenant James W. Abert who was serving with the United States occupation forces. W.W.H. Davis, U.S. Attorney for the Territory, told of coming across one of a number of mills operating in Santa Fe while wandering about the capital in 1855. An anonymous account written in the fall of that year, described a mill in the area around Socorro. In 1881, while enroute to Santa Fe, Lieutenant John G. Bourke wrote of the mills he observed during a stopover at Santa Cruz de la Canada. A number were in operation as late as 1890, when William A. Thayer reported on them in his work Marvels of the New West. Unfortunately, no traveler has left a description of the Vadito Mill, however.

Though many of these mills remained in use as late as the 1930's, they began to disappear soon after, giving way, along with the early vertical-wheel flour mills of the area, to the increased availability of finer-ground meal offered at competitive prices. The Laureano Cordova Mill, however, still operates.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abert, Lieutenant James W. Report of Lieutenant J.W. Abert of his Examination of New Mexico in the Years 1846-1847, 1846. (1962 reprint.) pp. 1-182.

Beck, Lois. "The Old Mills," New Mexico Magazine, LVI, March, 1968, pp. 1-4.

Bloom, Lansing B. "Bourke on the Southwest," New Mexico Historical Review, X, October, 1935, pp. 175-348.

Conron, John, ed. "A Continuing Heritage--The Cultural Properties of New Mexico," New Mexico Architecture, XIII, September-October, 1971, pp. 1-4. (See Continuation Sheet)

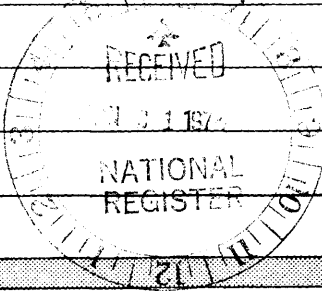
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 . "	0 . "	105	40 02	36 10 30
NE	0 . "	0 . "	105	40' 08"	36 11' 26.4"
SE	0 . "	0 . "			
SW	0 . "	0 . "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~less than one~~ **0.125 Act**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



13/439860
4005080
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael McCachren Archivist I

ORGANIZATION: **New Mexico State Records Center and Archives** DATE: **4/18/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
404 Montezuma

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **35**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name David W. King

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 10, 1974

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

Richard W. Marlowe
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Herring
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-31-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Taos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Continued:

Davis, W.W.H. El Gringo or New Mexico and Her People, 1856.
(1938 edition), pp. 3-332.

Gritzner, Charles F. "Hispano Gristmills with Horizontal Water-
wheels in New Mexico," unpublished manuscript, February, 1974,
pp. 1-28.

. "Log Housing in New Mexico" Pioneer America, III, July,
1971, pp. 1-10.

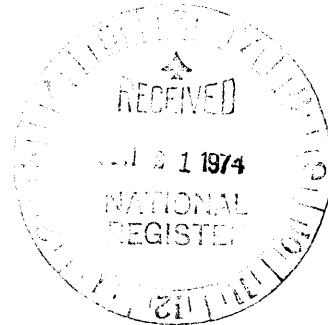
Horgan, Paul. The Centuries of Santa Fe, 1956, pp. 3-363.

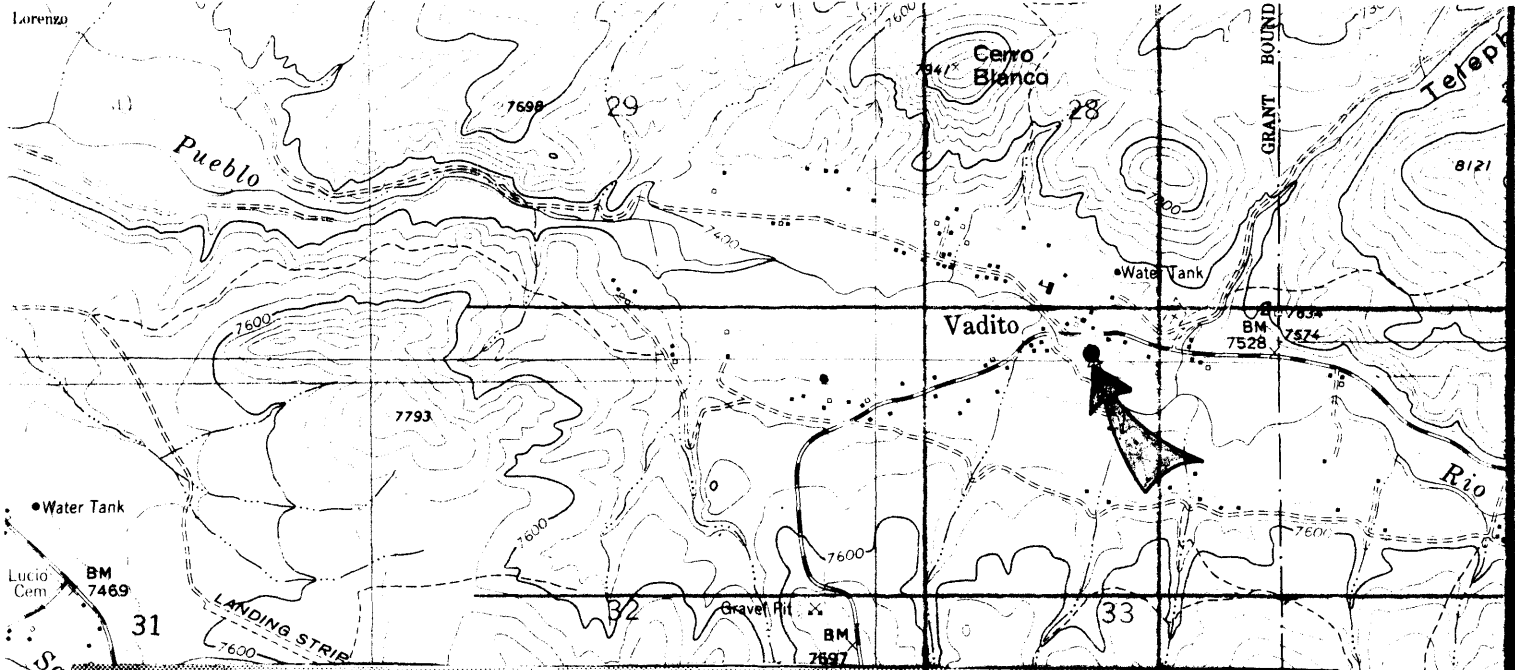
Hulbert, Archer Butler, ed. "Pike's Tour of New Spain," Overland
to the Pacific Southwest on the Turquoise Trail, II, 1933, pp.
1-301.

Poldervaart, Arie. "Black-robed Justice in New Mexico," 1846-1912,
New Mexico Historical Review, XIII, January, 1948, pp. 1-222.

Thayer, William A. Marvels of the New West, 1890, pp. 3-715.

"Notes and Documents," New Mexico Historical Review, XXVII, April,
1952, pp. 168-176.





GEOGRAPHICAL DATA						
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		105° 40' 02"	36° 10' 30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "		105° 40' 02"	36° 10' 30"	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.125 Ac ±

