

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE New Mexico	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. Theme IV, Spanish Exploration and Settlement
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Pecos	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 67
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) San Miguel County, on State Highway 63 four miles north of U.S. 84-85	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of New Mexico; administered by Museum of New Mexico	

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

The pueblo of Pecos, on the fringe of the buffalo plains, was one of the largest pueblos of New Mexico in the seventeenth century and an outstanding landmark to most of the early Spanish explorers. At Pecos in 1540 Coronado found the Indian his men called "The Turk," who guided the Spaniards on their journey in search of Quivira. Castaño de Sosa attacked and subjugated Pecos with nineteen soldiers in 1590, and Oñate was peaceably received there in 1598. By 1620 the mission of Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de Porciúncula had been founded at Pecos. It was described by Benavides in 1634 as "a very splendid temple of distinguished workmanship and beauty." Other Spaniards who visited it used equally glowing terms. The people of Pecos participated in the Rebellion of 1680, burned the church, and, 500 strong, joined other Indians in besieging Santa Fe. After the Reconquest, the mission was re-established on the orders of Gov. Don Diego de Vargas. Pecos began its decline in the middle eighteenth century, as smallpox and warfare with the Comanches and Apaches of the plains reduced the population. In 1782 the mission was abandoned, and in 1788 an epidemic all but annihilated the pueblo. In 1783 seventeen survivors moved to Jemez to live with kinsmen, and left the pueblo and mission abandoned. The ruins became a well known landmark to traders using the Santa Fe Trail, which passed by Pecos.

The pueblo and mission are now incorporated in the Pecos State Monument, administered by the Museum of New Mexico. The massive adobe walls of the mission, visible from the highway, rise as high as fifty feet in places. These walls have been stabilized by the State, but heavy rains in recent years have done some damage. The church has been excavated. Adjacent mission buildings have not been excavated, but low walls outline the pattern of the convento. The pueblo, west of the mission, was partially excavated and stabilized in 1915-25. The exposed portions, of stone construction, give a good sample of the architecture and layout of Pecos, but by far the largest portion of the pueblo still lies underground.

(Continued on supplementary sheet)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) Alfred V. Kidder, "The Story of the Pueblo of Pecos," El Palacio, Vol 58 (1951). F. W. Hodge, Handbook of American Indians, (Washington, 1910), Pt. 1. C. W. Hackett, Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico (Washington, 1937), Vol. III. F. W. Hodge & G. P. Hammond & Agapito Rey, eds., Fray Alonso de Benavides' Revised Memorial of 1634 (Albuquerque, 1945). George Kubler, The Religious Architecture of New Mexico (Colorado Springs, 1940).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Attention best reports and studies, us, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Historical reports, 1937 and 1941, were made by W.R. Hogan and E.K. Reed, of the Region Three Office, but these have <sup>not</sup> been located in Region Three files.  
HABS: 5 photos (1936, 1940).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Ruins - Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Park	13. DATE OF VISIT May 14, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Robert H. Taylor</i>		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE May 15, 1958

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
New Mexico	Pecos

7. Importance and Description (cont.) Mounds indicate terraced houses four stories high that have not been excavated. One large kiva has been restored and is open to visitors. The stone defensive wall that once surrounded the entire pueblo has been restored to a height of three or four feet. A small, one room museum briefly interprets the history of Pecos. The State Monument is under the care of a resident superintendent.

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1. STATE <b>New Mexico</b>		2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>Theme VIII, Contact with the Indians</b>	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Pecos Pueblo</b>		4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>67</b>	
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>On State Highway 63, four miles north of U.S. 84-85, San Miguel County</b>			
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>State of New Mexico; administered by the Museum of New Mexico</b>			

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

Pecos Pueblo, on the edge of the Plains and one of the largest pueblo structures in the Southwest, served as a frontier trading post for the Plains tribes who periodically brought in buffalo hides, "alibates flint", and other items in exchange for cloth, turquoise, and corn. In 1540, a Pecos chieftain and a few of his men journeyed to the Zuni Pueblos in answer to a call by Coronado through a Zuni messenger. One of Coronado's lieutenants, Hernando de Alvarado, took a few men and went with this group of Indians when they returned to Pecos, where he obtained the services of a slave to guide him into the Plains. This slave's tales of wealth in a land called Quivira later drew Coronado and a number of his men far out into the Plains. When Coronado returned to Mexico, one of the friars remained at Pecos.

In 1590 Pecos was visited by Castaño de Sosa who found it necessary to attack the pueblo to gain entry. However, Oñate in 1598 was peacefully received. In the early 1600's, at which time the pueblo had about 2,000 inhabitants, a church was erected at the south end of the mesa, but this was partially destroyed in the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680. During the period of this rebellion Pecos joined forces with Taos and the Keres pueblos and warred against the Tewa and Tano people between them. After the Spanish returned in 1692, Pecos joined in the lesser rebellion of 1696.

In the early 1700's, Comanches began moving south through eastern New Mexico. Pecos supposedly suffered from their raids as well as from disease that spread west across the Plains to the extent that the population dropped to 1000 by 1749. By 1792, after undergoing a small pox epidemic in 1788, only 152 inhabitants were left. The pueblo was reduced to the status of a visita as a resident priest no longer was maintained here. In the early 1800's, the population steadily declined until 1838, when 17 survivors abandoned Pecos and joined their linguistic kin at Jemez.

Pecos Pueblo was described by the early chroniclers of the 1500's and later as a quadrangle surrounded by houses 4 stories high, the upper stories of which were

(Cont. - next page)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

F. W. Hodge, Handbook of American Indians (Washington, 1910); A.V. Kidder, Pecos, New Mexico, Papers of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology (Meriden, 1958); George Kubler, The Religious Architecture of New Mexico (Colorado Springs, 1940); F. W. Hodge, G. P. Hammond, and A.Rey, Fray Alonso de Benavides' Revised Memorial of 1634 (Albuquerque, 1945).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.I.A.B.S., etc.)

HABS: 5 photos (1936, 1940). Historical reports of 1937 and 1941 by W. R. Hogan and E. K. Reed of Region Three Office (not located in Region Three files).

(See Historian's inventory form)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Ruins - good</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>State Park</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Jan. 17, 1962</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Albert H. Schneider</i>	15. TITLE <b>Archeologist</b>	16. DATE <b>Apr. 16, 1962</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

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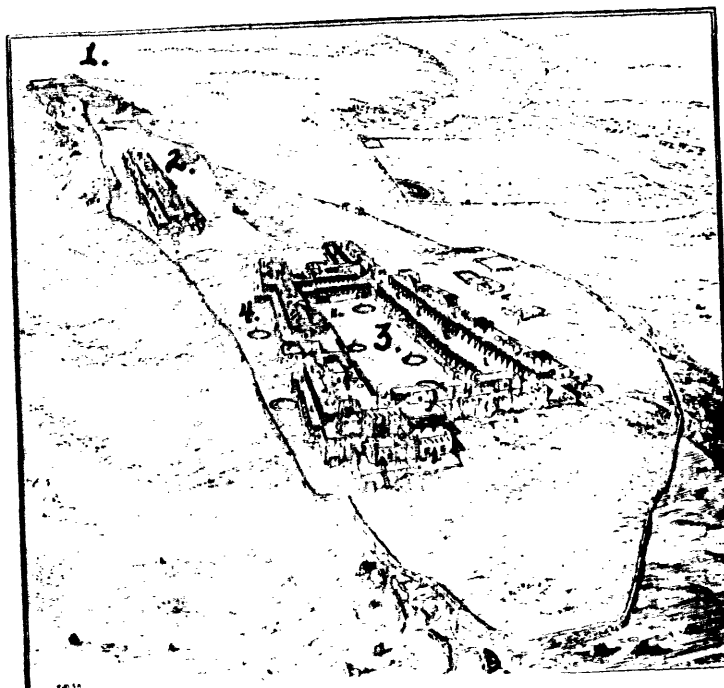
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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
New Mexico	Pecos Pueblo

7. Importance and Description:

surrounded by covered walkways. The south pueblo was not mentioned by any of the visitors, but is thought to have been used to some extent in the 1600's. The decrease in population in the 1700's negates new construction, though pillaging and burning by the Comanches may have destroyed much of the north pueblo and forced the inhabitants to build anew on the site of the south pueblo.

Today the adobe mission walls stand as high as 50 feet in places. The church has been excavated and stabilized, but not its adjacent buildings. A good part of the north pueblo was excavated between 1915 and 1925, and also a few rooms on the north end of the south pueblo. Both structures exhibit stone and mud walls. One large kiva has been restored and the stone wall around the mesa has been rebuilt to a height of over three feet.



The pueblo of Pecos as it probably looked in the seventeenth century. Looking southeast. (1). Mission of Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de Porciuncula. (2). Unit of pueblos. Part of this pueblo has been excavated and left exposed. (3). Large unit of pueblos. This unit has not been excavated and lies under a large mound of earth. Timber beams project from the ground at several points. (h). A stored kiva. Sketch reproduced from El Palacio, Vol. 58 (1951).