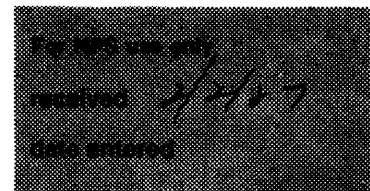


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AMENDMENT TO HISTORIC RESOURCES OF AZTEC, N.M.
(Substitute for page 44, additional pages 45, 46 and Photos
43-47)

#40 Lower Animas Ditch, Maps 1,3,6; Photos 43-47

4. Owner: Lower Animas Water Users, Box 404, Aztec, NM

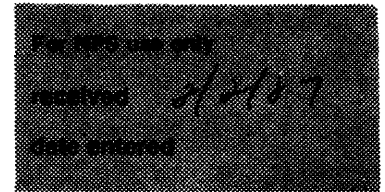
7. Description: The Lower Animas Ditch originates on the Animas River approximately three miles above the Corporate Limits of Aztec and continues below those city limits. Because these limits have served as the boundary for the resource survey upon which this historic resources nomination is based, only the portions of the ditch system within the city limits were considered for nomination. Of this portion only the Main Ditch from where it enters the city (upper right corner Map 3) to where it discharges water into the lateral ditch on the south side of Zia Street (Map 6), and the lateral ditches which supply the Church Avenue-Lovers Lane District (Map 6) are included in this nomination. The portion of the Main Ditch below Zia street has been omitted because it did not contribute directly to shaping the town plan (see Significance below). No assessment, either positive or negative, has been made of the historic significance of the portions of the system which are not nominated here.

The Main Ditch is four to eight feet deep and and from six to fifteen feet wide. It is formed by an earthen embankment two to four feet above grade with a similar portion excavated below grade. The smaller lateral ditches carry water to the Church Avenue-Lovers Lane Historic District and to some of the individually nominated properties (Austin-McDonald House, 500 White Avenue, Keys House, Harvey McCoy House, Abraham House.) These laterals average one to two feet across and one foot deep.

Culverts are employed as necessary to pass streets, sidewalks and the Williams Arroyo. Some property owners have installed small control gates to turn water onto their property. Because the ditch is

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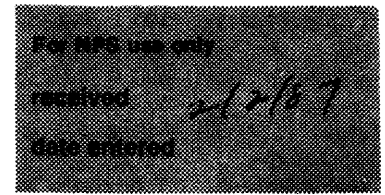
(#40 Lower Animas Ditch, description continued)

being recognized for its role in shaping the town plan and not as an an example of engineering or construction, these culverts and gates, some of which are recent additions and replacements, are not recognized as historically significant features.

8. Significance. The combination of a speculative grid with a residential irrigation system is Aztec's most notable historic feature (see page 13). Anglo-American settlers from the East, unfamiliar with the arid West, learned a simple form of irrigation from the Hispanic-American settlers of southern Colorado which employed rude earthen ditches (page 10). The Lower Animas Ditch was put into service in 1878, just two years after the first settlement. When the Original Town Site was platted in 1887 and Additions were added in 1906 and 1907, a system of small lateral ditches were added along the new streets and alleys to bring water to all lots (page 6). In a few instances the shape of the normal rectangular lots were modified to follow the path of the Main Ditch (Map 3). Many residents purchased two to four of the twenty-five foot wide lots to have space for gardens, small orchards and grape vines, a pattern which current residents maintain (Page 6, Photos 43,44,45). The forces of homesteading, arid land irrigation, real estate speculation and populism combined to shape this new form of half-country, half-city life, a form which one commentator of the day characterized as "City Homes on Country Lanes" (page 13). This formative aspect of Aztec's history is well preserved in the irregular spacing of houses surrounded by large plot of land, occupied by gardens orchards and vineyards, sustained to this day by the Lower Animas Ditch.

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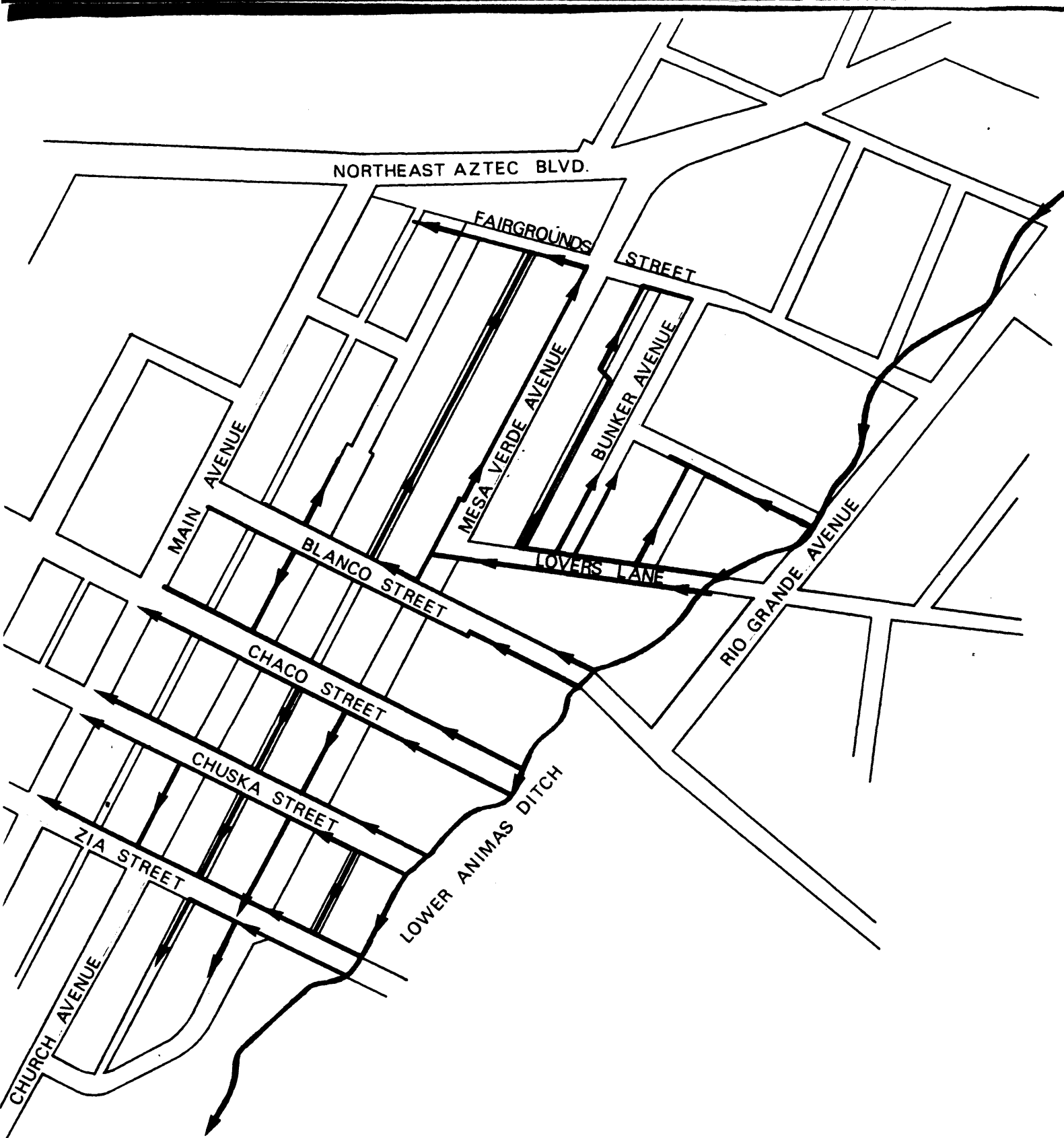
(#40 Lower Animas Ditch, continued)

10. Acreage: 4.85 acres

UTM References:

J	13	236000	4085000	L	13	232100	4079000
K	13	234000	4078000	M	13	235000	4085000

Boundary: Ten feet either side of the mid-point of the Lower Animas Ditch as recorded on Maps 3 and 6, from the north Corporate Limits of Aztec (line above "Cecil McGee," upper right corner, Map 3) to the lateral ditch discharge on the south side of Zia street (map 6); and three feet either side of the mid-point of the lateral ditches recorded on Map 6.



6. LOWER ANIMAS DITCH WITH LATERAL DITCHES TO THE CHURCH AVENUE - LOVERS LANE HISTORIC DISTRICT



1/10/85