

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **DEC 16** 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common Chihuahua Hill Historic District

2. Location

street & number ^{is awarded} Rectangular shaped district contained by Cooper Street, ~~Spring Street, Bullard Street, and Chihuahua Street~~ ~~N/A~~ not for publication
city, town Silver City _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state New Mexico code 35 county Grant code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership, more than 50 owners

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grant County Clerk's Office

street & number Grant County Courthouse

city, town Silver City state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Grant County Historic Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-2 federal state county local

depository for survey records Silver City Museum

city, town Silver City state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed
 varied

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Chihuahua Hill is a small, urban neighborhood on the south side of Silver City, N. M. The original "Mexican village" of Silver City of the 1880's, it is primarily populated by Spanish-surname families today. The neighborhood is crowded with modest homes, most with gable roofs, stone foundations and adobe construction. The builders were Mexican laborers, immigrants of the 1880's, working in the mining-rich Silver City area to raise their standards of living. More substantial homes are scattered throughout the district, built by the more well-to-do miners, businessmen and freighters of that time. At the geographical center of the district, the land undulates gently to the east, north and west. To the south, however, the hill rises steeply, and more unusual building practices are found. Houses block the city streets and look down upon the roofs below, built upon the hillside in a random fashion. Chihuahua Hill presents the picture of a village hung on the hillside in a manner more suited to the contours of the land than to a regular street pattern. In early photos it was bare, rocky, precipitous. Today, it looks less precipitous, its slopes filled in to a more hospitable roundness. This aspect speaks for the duration of human population on the hill; as the slope dictated the building methods to be used, so has the construction of homes over one hundred years changed the shape of the hill.

Even though the houses have been added onto over the years, the neighborhood retains its integrity as the urban Mexican district of Silver City.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870 **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

An immigration movement of residents into Silver City, New Mexico, starting in the 1870's, resulted in the formation of the small, Spanish-speaking community of Chihuahua Hill. The economy and politics of Mexico indisarray, they came to make a living in the burgeoning mining area of southwest New Mexico. Contributing to the local economy with their daily labor, they contributed also to the local architecture by their choice of building location and their use of Spanish and Indian building styles. Sometimes building dug-outs, and nearly stacking houses on top of each other with the use of terracing, they turned the steep hillside to their best advantage. A chapel which stood at the summit of the hill until 1915 was a prominent landmark and gathering place for the neighborhood for many years. Although it was historically a lower income neighborhood, Chihuahua Hill has developed in a parallel manner with the economy of Silver City. "LaCapilla," the chapel mentioned above, and the building boom period on Chihuahua Hill coincide with the mining boom of the 1880's in Silver City. As the mines of the present era have prospered, so have the empty lots been built upon and old houses modified to keep up with the times. In some cases the newer houses have been built in keeping with the district's style, in other cases they have not. Just so, a few recent remodelings have been dissonant, but many one hundred-year-old houses have fifty-year-old additions which are still very much in keeping with the building style on Chihuahua Hill. Originally a neighborhood with a heavy Spanish and Indian influence, it has evolved from that basis to more Americanized styles of building, a distinctive blending of both today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 30

Quadrangle name Silver City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1,2</u>	<u>7 5,5 0,6,0</u>	<u>3,6 2,8 3,6,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1,2</u>	<u>7 5,5 1,0,0</u>	<u>3,6 2,8 7,3,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1,2</u>	<u>7 5,4 8,2,0</u>	<u>3,6 2,8 7,6,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1,2</u>	<u>7 5,4 7,8,0</u>	<u>3,6 2,8 3,8,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at the southeast corner of Spring Street and Cooper Street, east on Spring Street to Bullard Street, proceeding south on the west side of Bullard Street right-of-way to the southeast corner of block 8, then proceed west on Chihuahua Street right-of-way to Cooper Street, then north on Cooper Street to point of origin on Spring Street

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Drusilla Claridge, Assistant Surveyor

organization Silver City Museum

date September 14, 1982

street & number 312 West Broadway

telephone (505) 538-5921

city or town Silver City

state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-6-83

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

date 1/23/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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addition were built years ago, the houses essentially remaining in this form for over fifty years. The interiors often show the additions by the various changes in floor and ceiling levels inside the house.

As recently as the 1930's and 1940's houses of old Chihuahua Hill styles and materials were still being built. The Murphy house, 500 Arizona Street, a contributor, is a hipped roof, stuccoed adobe house with double hung windows and wood trim. It was built in the 1930's. The Alderete house, 302 Pinos Altos Street, is a stuccoed adobe hipped box with a stone foundation. Built in the 1940's, it has been remodeled extensively and cannot be listed as contributing.

The Urbano Bermudes house, 316 South Texas Street, a contributor, is notable for its well-preserved viga ceiling. The central portion of the house is found in many of the old photographs of Chihuahua Hill and probably dates from the 1880's. Prior to the 1930's a front porch was enclosed and a rear, shed-roof addition built. The windows in these additions are aluminum today, giving the structure a more modern look, although it has stood as it is for fifty years. The ceiling in the 1880's portion of the house reflects the use of native materials in building; the vigas are pine and the latillas are split juniper. The overall appearance of the ceiling is earthy and rough. Urbano Bermudes leased this building as a saloon, his own residence being somewhere near Pinos Altos, eight miles north of Silver City. Rafael Bermudes, Urbano's brother, was a custom's inspector in Old Mesilla, his home remaining in that neighborhood today. Both the old Bermudes homes, in Silver City and in Old Mesilla, are lived in by descendants of Rafael and Urbano.

Today, Chihuahua Hill dwellings are predominately stuccoed adobe with gable or hipped roofs. Roofing materials are metal, asphalt shingle and asphalt roll, sometimes all in one building. The foundations are stone, some are of concrete. There is a heavy concentration of population on Chihuahua Hill. As many as eleven houses can be found on a block, the average being eight.

Chihuahua Hill is well-defined by its environs. To the west is vacant land, to the east is a four lane highway (New Mexico 90) and a warehouse district. On the north Chihuahua Hill adjoins the Silver City Historic District. On the south the houses climb up the hill, nearly to the spot where La Capilla was built. La Capilla was a tiny chapel, now gone, which stood on the summit of the hill from 1885 to 1915. Chihuahua Hill was known for many years as "LaCapilla" for the chapel high atop the hill. The foundations are still visible today.

Seven commercial buildings are located in the northeast corner of the district. Built between 1910 and 1915, these buildings adjoin the site of the old railroad depot. In the 1880's this area was already part of the Silver City commercial district with Martin Bremen's store and lumberyard and freighters' corrals nearby. In the early 1900's this area was still a freight depot for wagons as well as the railroad. As warehouses and offices today, these adobe, stone and galvanized iron buildings form a transition zone between heavily commercial downtown Silver City and the residential section of Chihuahua Hill.

Structures which may be considered significant to the district are as follows:

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EXP. 12/10/04

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1. The Ladislada Hopkins House, 411 San Vicente Street. A stuccoed adobe house in the New Mexico Vernacular style, this house was once flat-roofed. A gable roof has been added to it. The vigas have been cut off flush with the outside walls, probably due to deterioration from weathering. It is rectangular, with shed roof additions on the south and west walls. This house was built in the 1880's, possibly earlier.
2. The Juan Mejillas House, 519 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sonora Street. In the New Mexico Vernacular style, this house dates from the 1870's. It has a stone foundation, adobe walls, vigas, and a flat roof over its one room.
3. Refugio Bautista House, 101 Gila Street. This Territorial style house dates from around 1900, although it is built on older stone work. It has a low hipped roof, a rear shed roof addition, and a shed roof front porch of stone. There are stuccoed square columns on the porch. Some of the windows have pedimented lintels. Rectangular in shape, it is made of stuccoed adobe. It was a restaurant in the 1930's.
4. Santana House, 114 Arizona Street. It has adobe walls, a flat roof, and plain wood surrounds on doors and windows. The foundation is of stone. It dates from the 1880's. Although additions have been added and torn down over the years, it has never been remodeled. The present rear addition is slightly higher than the original house, but of the same materials. Its shape is rectangular.
5. Acequio Rodriguez house, 114 Bremen Street. This stuccoed adobe house was built between 1874 and 1890. The flat roof has a capped parapet. The shed roof stone front porch was added in the 1930's. It has a rectangular floor plan with a rear shed roof addition.
6. Cesario Flores House, 108 and 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pinos Altos Street. Dating from between 1876 and 1885, this stuccoed adobe house has a shed roof addition which joins together gable-roofed and hipped-roofed sections. In an 1886-7 photograph, the gable portion is part of a compound whose wall extends down the west side of Pinos Altos Street. The house as it is now can be seen in a 1906 photograph. The portions of the house under the gable and hipped roofs are rectangular, but with the shed roof addition joining them, the building is irregularly shaped.
7. Andres Gutierrez House, 205 Arizona Street. This long rectangular building of stuccoed adobe dating from between 1902 and 1908 was used as an inn. Mining men from Mogollon visiting Silver City for the weekend stayed here. The rooms are end-to-end, each with its door to the outside. The present owner built the shed roof addition in the 1970's to utilize the doors as access to storage space. Although one source believes this building dates from the 1880's, and the installation of a stove-pipe a few years ago revealed the presence of a rock and dirt roof between the ceiling and the present roof, (suggesting the old flat roof, Chihuahua Hill architecture), Sanborn maps do not bear this out. According to a 1910 photograph, the middle portion is oldest. The rear wall is dug into the ground, suggesting origins as a stable or cellar. As it was enlarged, the dugout feature was included in the additions. We have been told that the house was a bootlegger's selling location in Prohibition days. A customer could walk by the back windows of the house, easily slipping a bottle into his pocket without being noticed.

OWB NO. 124-0113
12/17/78

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8. Luis Cartagena House, 116 Bremen Street. A stuccoed adobe house with a gable roof and stone foundation, it was built between 1881 and 1893. The rear shed roof addition was put on about 1890 and enlarged between 1917 and 1930.

9. Alvino Elias House, 206 Arizona Street. This stuccoed adobe house was built about 1880. Alvino Elias ran a saloon in the building. His wife, Juliana, deeded the place to their daughter, Ramona Carabajal, in 1908, and in 1910 Ramona raised the house from one storey to two. She ran a boarding house in this building. The present owner changed the front of the house in 1970, putting in a concrete front porch where there used to be steps up to the front door from the street. He has also added a rear addition. In his renovation of the interior he has used authentic materials throughout.

10. John D. Bail Law Office, 101 and 105 Texas Street. Built in 1882, this flat roofed building is brick-faced adobe. Judge Bail, prominent in local politics, built this for his law practice when he retired to Silver City from Old Mesilla. It has a rear, shed roof addition put on between 1902 and 1908.

11. Pedro Elias House, 303 Bremen Street. An L-shaped adobe house with stone foundation and gable roof, it has an east-facing bay window. It is the residence of Pedro Elias, whose mother, Juliana, was Alvino and Juliana's daughter. Juliana Junior bought the lots from her mother in 1903 and built this house in 1905. The two Julianas and young Pedro moved into it, the elder Juliana dying there in 1908. Pedro, 83 years old, is living here at this writing.

12. Martin Bremen House, 202 $\frac{1}{2}$ Bullard Street, is an L-shaped gable roofed house of stuccoed adobe. It was built around 1876, the year Martin Bremen brought his bride, Donaciana Ashurst of Santa Fe, home to Silver City. Martin Bremen served three terms as mayor of Silver City. An early mining man involved in many Silver City businesses, he was responsible for the first milling and reduction works in Silver City in the 1870's. His house was built on the block with his lumberyard, across Bullard Street from his store. A ten foot adobe wall surrounded the entire block. There were porches on the front and rear of the house. The front porch is gone, and the back porch has been enclosed.

13. William Roach House, 409 Spring Street. Built in 1900, this is a hipped box of stuccoed adobe with a stone foundation. It has two front doors, with a shed roof front porch. William Roach worked in Martin Bremen's mill for twelve years.

14. Ed Perrault House, 212 Arizona Street. Built about 1915, this stuccoed adobe house has a truncated hip roof with a hip dormer window. The dormer has tandem double hung windows of wood. The other windows on the house are also double hung, with the exception of the front windows, which are fixed, with a smaller light across the top. The windows and doors are protected by decorative ironwork. There is a small shed roof addition in the rear. Ed and his wife, Jesusita Acosta, left Silver City in 1928 to live in Santa Fe. Jesusita was elected Secretary of State for New Mexico that year. Later they lived in Taos, where Jesusita died.

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15. Guadalupe Mendoza House, 406 San Vicente. This hipped roof house of stuccoed adobe has an inset front porch with square wooden columns and railings. Although tax records show a dwelling on this lot as early as 1884, Sanborn maps indicate this house was built between 1908 and 1917. In 1914 Guadalupe Mendoza ran an enchilada restaurant here.

16. Sabas Fernandez House, 411 Gila Street. Built about 1880, this house was the Silver City headquarters of the Fernandez brothers' freighting enterprise. The lot has a seep-spring on it, which they used to water their stock. The barn which was between the house and Bayard Street is now gone. The house is of stuccoed adobe with a stone and concrete, reinforced, foundation. L-shaped, it has two hips, with a shed roof addition in the rear. The addition was built on in 1948, when the present owner bought the house and remodeled it. The changes were mostly in the interior; they added plumbing, electricity, new floors and doors. They did change one window in the kitchen, from double hung as on the rest of the house, to sliding wood.

17. Porfirio Ponce House, 513 Bayard Street. Built between 1900 and 1905, this stuccoed adobe house is rectangular with a gable roof and a rear shed roof addition. Ponce was a freighter, farmer and builder. His seven children were born in this house, two of whom still live in Silver City.

18. Julian Esquibel House, 406 Pinos Altos Street. A New Mexico Vernacular house with Queen Anne porch, this gable roofed house with a shed roof addition behind was built between 1902 and 1911. The wooden gingerbread porch was built onto it around 1915. It is stuccoed adobe.

19. Joseph Terrien House, 403 Cooper Street. Joseph Terrien built this house in 1910. It is a two-storey, square house with a mansard roof, and stuccoed adobe walls. The two-storey wooden porches were added in 1915. Gable wall dormers with finials are features on the mansard roof, which is still covered by the original wooden shingles.

20. P. J. Reidlinger Apartments, 300 San Vicente Street. Built in 1915 as eight two-room apartments, this is a hipped box with shed roof front porch. The foundation is of stone, the walls are stuccoed adobe.

21. Lowe and Hann Coal Company office and warehouse complex, 300 South Bullard. Built in 1914, these buildings have stone and concrete block foundations. The office is stuccoed adobe with a hipped roof. The warehouses are galvanized iron with gable roofs. W. A. Tenney freighting company used to have its corrals on this block. Tenney freighted to Mogollon and Burro Mountain mining camps, running a hundred men and teams on these freighting routes. The warehouses were built as freight storage.

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22. Lincoln School, 304 South Cooper Street. This hipped roof, brick building was constructed in 1915 as a new "ward" school for Chihuahua Hill. The architect was H. S. Gilbert and the builder was L. J. Carter. It has an addition in the rear. The word, "Lincoln" is carved in a stone block over the front door.

Mrs. O. S. Warren, secretary of the school board and prominent citizen of Silver City, wrote an editorial in the June 29, 1915 Enterprise in defense of the construction of the school. It was being built, she explained, to alleviate the crowded conditions of the present elementary school. They were building an elementary school for the south side of town "for the greater number of children to be accomodated." Perhaps some objections had been raised to the construction of the school on Chihuahua Hill.

23. J. D. Zapata House, 515 Pinos Altos Street. A stuccoed adobe house dating from 1904, this house is rectangular in shape. It has an asphalt shingle hipped roof, to which a rear gable addition has been added in the same materials. Front and rear shed roof additions have been added. J. D. Zapata grew up on Chihuahua Hill in a house which is across Chihuahua Street from this building. J. D. raised his own family here at 515 Pinos Altos. The house he was in at 305 Chihuahua Street has been completely remodeled.

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Chihuahua Hill: Contributing Structures

These older structures contribute with their architecture and building materials to the general appearance of the Chihuahua Hill Historic District.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 109 S. Arizona Street | 414 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 304 S. Arizona Street | 420 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 305 S. Arizona Street | 499 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 312 S. Arizona Street | 501 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 314 S. Arizona Street | 502 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 401 S. Arizona Street | 502½ S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 407 S. Arizona Street | 502 W. San Vicente Street |
| 500 S. Arizona Street | 519½ Sonora Street |
| SE corner Arizona and San
Vicente Streets | 208 W. Spring Street |
| 209 S. Bayard Street | 316-A S. Texas Street |
| 214 S. Bayard Street | 316-C S. Texas Street |
| 309 S. Bayard Street | 502 S. Texas Street |
| 214 W. Bremen Street | 510 S. Texas Street |
| 216 W. Bremen Street | |
| 315 W. Bremen Street | |
| 318 W. Bremen Street | |
| 103, 104, 106, 108, 110 S. Bullard
Street | |
| 212 S. Bullard Street | |
| 400 S. Bullard Street | |
| 409 S. Bullard Street | |
| 409½ S. Bullard Street | |
| 414 S. Bullard Street | |
| 304 W. Chihuahua Street | |
| 405 W. Chihuahua Street | |
| 103 S. Cooper Street | |
| 201 S. Cooper Street | |
| 213 S. Cooper Street | |
| 500 S. Cooper Street | |
| 215 W. Gila Street | |
| 308 W. Gila Street | |
| 310 W. Gila Street | |
| 501 W. Gila Street | |
| 101 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 107 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 110 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 206 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 317 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 409 S. Pinos Altos Street | |

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Due to their constructions dates, architecture and/or building materials and remodeling, these structures do not contribute to the Chihuahua Hill Historic District.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 105 S. Arizona Street | 303 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 107 S. Arizona Street | 307 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 112 S. Arizona Street | 311 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 306 S. Arizona Street | 317½ S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 308 S. Arizona Street | 410 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 404 S. Arizona Street | 411 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 404½ S. Arizona Street | 500 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 405 S. Arizona Street | 503 S. Pinos Altos Street |
| 409 S. Arizona Street | SE corner Pinos Altos and Sonora Streets |
| 511 S. Arizona Street | 314 W. San Vicente Street |
| 512 S. Arizona Street | 415 W. San Vicente Street |
| 515 S. Arizona Street | 109 W. Sonora Street |
| 516 S. Arizona Street | 519 W. Sonora Street |
| 101-107 S. Bayard Street | SW corner Sonora and Arizona Streets |
| 111 S. Bayard Street | NW corner Sonora and Pinos Altos Streets |
| 207 S. Bayard Street | 206 W. Spring Street |
| 401 S. Bayard Street | 503 W. Spring Street |
| 401½ S. Bayard Street | 107 S. Texas Street |
| 413 S. Bayard Street | 225 S. Texas Street |
| 509 S. Bayard Street | 300 S. Texas Street |
| 509½ S. Bayard Street | 310 S. Texas Street |
| 313 W. Bremen Street | 312 S. Texas Street |
| 501 W. Bremen Street | 314 S. Texas Street |
| 401 S. Bullard Street | 316-B S. Texas Street |
| 502 S. Bullard Street | 410 S. Texas Street |
| 720 S. Bullard Street | 414 S. Texas Street |
| NW corner Bullard and Bremen Streets | 500 S. Texas Street |
| NW corner Chihuahua and Arizona Streets | 502 S. Texas Street |
| 207 S. Cooper Street | 510 S. Texas Street |
| 502 S. Cooper Street | |
| 515 S. Cooper Street | |
| 202 W. Gila Street | |
| 306 W. Gila Street | |
| 407 W. Gila Street | |
| 410 W. Gila Street | |
| 412 W. Gila Street | |
| 503 W. Gila Street | |
| 204 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 209 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 209½ S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 212 S. Pinos Altos Street | |
| 302 S. Pinos Altos Street | |

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Chihuahua Hill: Intrusive Structures

These structures are Butler buildings and in no way resemble the other structures in the district:

Two structures on northeast corner
of San Vicente and Arizona Streets

116 South Bullard Street, Block 31.

Structures built after 1945:

Structure on northwest corner of
Chihuahua and Pinos Altos Streets

Structure on Bayard Street, Block 24.

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From 1862 to 1916, life in Mexico was troubled by bandits roaming the countryside, living off the sweat of the "peones." For some, it was impossible to maintain their families under these conditions. They were already poor, and now the atrocities that were being committed among them! People were branded, their ears cut off. The lucky ones were pardoned if they agreed to leave Mexico. The mining-rich area of Silver City beckoned to them and they settled on Chihuahua Hill to fashion a living. They chose the hill to live on because it was convenient to the town and job opportunities there, and because it offered a site perhaps reminiscent of Old Mexico. On the rocky hillside they could use the building materials they had always used. As their standard of living rose, their building methods became more sophisticated as well. The 1880's were peak years of growth. The New Southwest in May, 1882 said, "Much building is going on in the Chihuahua portion of town." Also, the 1880's was the decade in which the majority of the significant structures remaining in the district today were built.

The work the Chihuahua Hill residents did was basic to the economy and the community of the time. Atanacio Flores, 116 Bremen Street; Sabas Fernandez, 411 Gila Street; and Porfirio Ponce, 513 Bayard Street, were freighters. Their trips from Silver City to outlying mining towns brought goods, with, no doubt, news. Gregorio Santana, 114 Arizona Street, was a miner. Juan Mejillas, 519 1/2 Sonora Street, was a farmer, or a day-laborer. Cesario Flores, 108 and 108 1/2 Pinos Altos Street, was a wood-hauler. Luis Cartagena, 116 Bremen Street, was a janitor. Acequio Rodriguez, 114 Bremen Street, was a gold and silversmith. Alvino Elias, 206 Arizona Street, was a miner until he earned the money to build his saloon. Demetrio Sanchez, 205 Arizona Street and 504 Texas Street, came to Silver City an orphan, at the age of sixteen, as the personal servant to a priest. He became a permanent fixture in the Catholic church. J. D. Zapata, 515 Pinos Altos Street, was a jack-of-all-trades. He came to Silver City as an infant in 1879, growing up on Chihuahua Hill. The house where his grandmother raised him has been remodeled past all recognition. J. D. sharpened tools for Martin Bremen when he was very young, and after holding numerous jobs in Silver City over the years, he worked as a messenger for the American National Bank, becoming an institution in his own right. He built the house at 515 Pinos Altos Street for his wife and new family in 1904. He lived on Chihuahua Hill until 1981, when he died at the considerable age of 102.

Of the English-speaking people who built their homes at the bottom of Chihuahua Hill on the north end of the district, Martin Bremen stands out as the most remarkable. He came to the area in the 1860's, starting out with a sawmill. Within ten years he had built his business interests into a lumberyard, store, flour mill, real estate and ranching. He was already financially secure when he bought the "76" mine. This mine made him incredibly rich, showing in one crosscut pellets from pinhead to quail's egg size of 95% pure silver. He built a large reduction works on the south side of town. He was mayor of Silver City in 1879 and 1880, succeeding Robert Black, the first mayor, and was re-elected in 1884. He sold out his mine holdings in 1886, moving to Globe, Arizona to work a gold mine there. Returning to Silver in 1897, he had run out of funds to develop his mine, and killed himself with an overdose of morphine. His obituary stated that he "was a leading spirit in every enterprise which built up and added to the prosperity of the city."

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Judge John D. Bail built his law office in Silver City in 1882. The brick-faced adobe building on Texas Street is still there. Judge Bail's practice of the law had a great effect on Grant County, as it was largely through his efforts that the county was formed. He was its first legislative representative in 1868. His long and colorful life began in Ohio. He moved to Springfield, Illinois to study the law, becoming well-acquainted with Abraham Lincoln. He fought in the war with Mexico, being among the troops with General Scott when they took Mexico City. He served in the Civil War as well, reportedly rising from Private to the rank of Captain, although he gave his rank as Sergeant in the 1890 Veteran Census. After the Civil War he came to New Mexico, engaging in mining in Pinos Altos until he was elected to represent Grant County in the territorial legislature. Following two terms in this service, he practiced law in Old Mesilla before moving to Silver City. He died in Silver City in 1903, seventy-eight years old. The Silver City Independent said of him in his obituary, "The predominant trait of his character was his absolute honesty and uprightness."

Ed Perrault was a miner who worked on Boston Hill, an area west of Silver City. He built a substantial home on the northwest corner of Arizona Street and San Vicente Street between 1911 and 1916. His wife, Jesusita Acosta, had grown up in a house which stood between the Perrault house and the Alvino Elias house. The Acosta home is no longer there. In 1928, Jesusita Acosta Perrault was elected as Secretary of State of New Mexico and they moved to Santa Fe. She was never re-elected; however they stayed in Santa Fe for a time. She published a Ginn and Company school book pamphlet in 1936. It is a physical geography and history of New Mexico. The Perraults moved to Taos, where it is known that Jesusita died.

Unfortunately little is recorded of the careers of the Hispano-Americans who came to Silver City from Mexico and whose homes remain today on Chihuahua Hill. Local newspapers of the time did not consider the lives of the inhabitants news worthy due to the prejudicial attitude of those times. Although Chihuahua Hill was separated from the mainstream of activity in Silver City by only a street's width, the neighborhood was a Spanish-speaking world unto itself. The populace had their own restaurants, their own stores, most notably on the corner of Arizona and San Vicente Streets where J. D. Reidlinger had a store, and at one time three more stores were located at this intersection. They even had their own church for a time. There was a red-light district on Texas between Spring and Bremen Streets. In 1915 the Lincoln school was built for the district on Cooper Street.

The stores are gone, the red-light district is gone. The restaurants have changed locations and closed down. The Lincoln school remains now, and what is left of the old homes where daily life went on as Old Mexico blended with the American Southwest.

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Alba, Victor: Mexico, American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc. New York, 1973.

Cline, Ellen: "Martin W. Bremen;" Biographical files, Silver City Public Library, 1978.

Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Grant County Courthouse.

Grant County Assessment Records, 1884-1894. Silver City Public Library.

Grant County Herald, March 1875 - October 1879.

Mining Life, May 1873 - February 1875.

Muir, Emma M.: "Two Great Women;" Biographical files, Silver City Public Library, 1950.

Naegle, Conrad Keeler: Master's Thesis, The History of Silver City, New Mexico.

New Mexico State Archives and Records Center, Santa Fe, interview of Jose Morales by Mrs. W. C. Totty. WPA Writer's Project, 1937.

Panhandle Plains Historical Review; Vol. 1, "Hank Smith Memoirs," 1928.

Personal interview by Drusilla Claridge in the Spring and Summer of 1982 of the following people:

Isabel Eaton
Gregoria Gomez
Connie Gonzalez
Lucita Gonzalez
Manuel La Costa
Mary Madrid
Yolanda Manzano
Victor Mendoza
Greg Mesa
Frank Miranda
Mae Montoya
Joe T. Morales
Roma Portillo
Angela Ramirez
Consuelo Ramijio
John B. Reidlinger
Petronilo Sanchez
Arthur Therrien
Walter Wilson
Adolfo Zapata

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps: 1883, 1886, 1893, 1898, 1902, 1908, 1917 and 1930.

Silver City Enterprise, 1882-1917

Silver City Tax Records, 1895-1918. Silver City Museum

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United States Territorial Census Reports: 1880 and 1890 census of Union Veterans.

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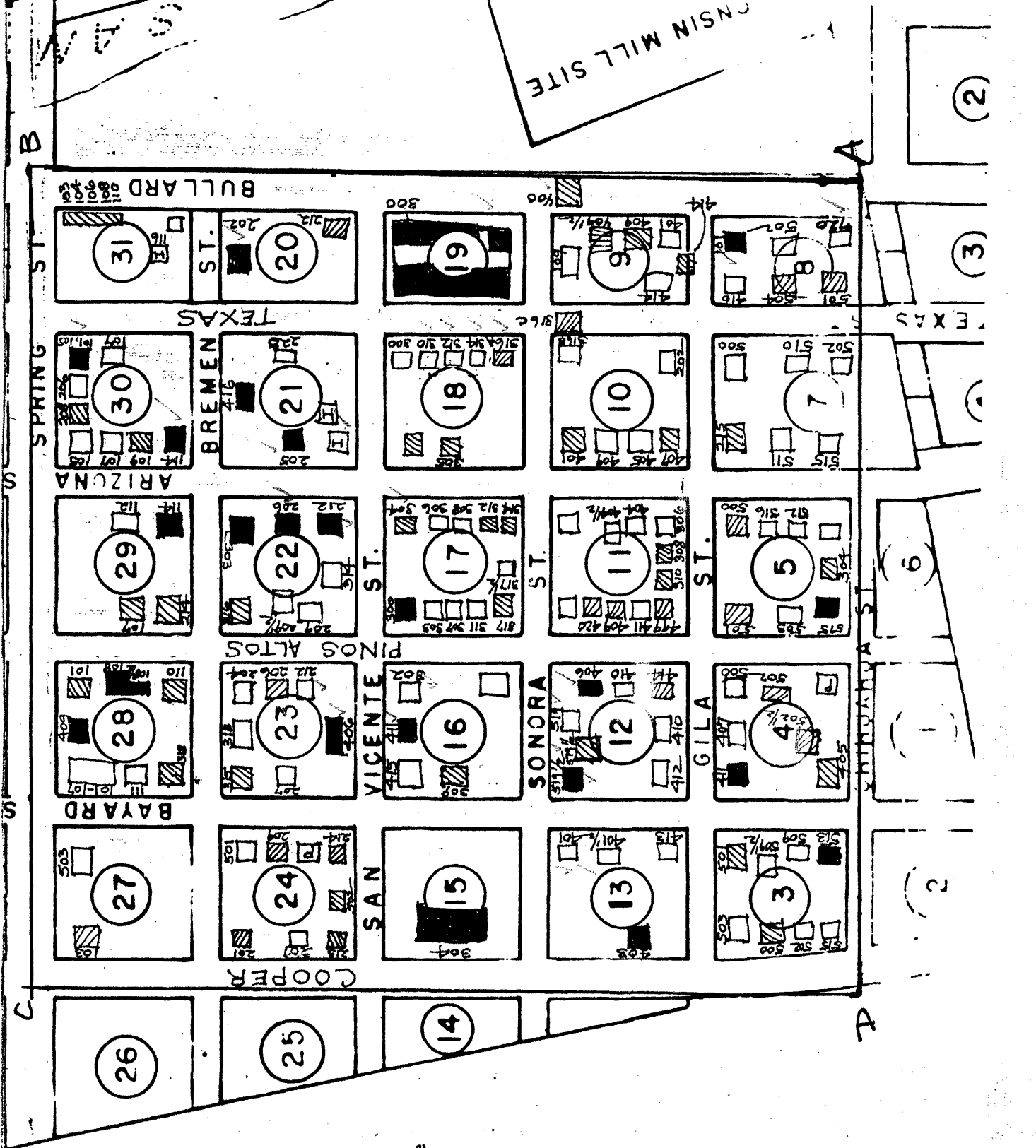
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated district are those originally established by the geographic constraints of the steep slope upon which the homes of the Mexican settlers were built. This early settlement retains its integrity and has been nominated as originally defined.

**CHIHUAHUA HILL
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Silver City, New Mexico

- Significant structure
- ▨ Contributing structure
- Neutral structure
- ⊔ Intrusive structure
- Ⓟ Post-1945 structure



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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 84002943

Date Listed: 1/23/84

Chihuahua Hill Historic District
Property Name

Grant
County

NM
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland

Signature of the Keeper

4/18/90

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #8: The period of significance is 1870 -- 1920.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

3/15/90

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National Park Service

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Chihuahua Hill Historic District

Grant County, NEW MEXICO

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper Beth Boland 4/18/90

MAR 1 5 19

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1870 Builder/Architect various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

An immigration movement of residents into Silver City, New Mexico, starting in the 1870s, resulted in the formation of the small, Spanish-speaking community of Chihuahua Hill. The economy and politics of Mexico was in disarray and they came to make a living in the burgeoning mining area of southwest New Mexico. Contributing to the local economy with their daily labor, they contributed also to the local architecture by their choice of building location and their use of Spanish and Indian building styles. Sometimes building dugouts and nearly stacking houses on top of each other with the use of terracing, they turned the steep hillside to their best advantage. A chapel which stood at the summit of the hill until 1915 was a prominent landmark and gathering place for the neighborhood for many years. Although it was historically a lower-income neighborhood, Chihuahua Hill has developed in a parallel manner with the economy of Silver City. La Capilla, the chapel mentioned above, and the building boom period on Chihuahua Hill coincide with the mining boom of the 1880s in Silver City. As the mines of the twentieth century have prospered, so have the empty lots been built upon and old houses modified to keep up with the times. In some cases the newer houses have been built in keeping with the Spanish-Pueblo Style, while in others Anglo-style influences are seen. A few recent remodelings have been dissonant, but many one hundred-year-old houses have fifty-year-old additions which are still very much in keeping with the building style on Chihuahua Hill. Commercial development along the edge of the district did not begin until about 1900 when the AT&SF depot was moved near the area. Many of these commercial structures reflect the popular Anglo-influenced styles of the rest of Silver City. Originally a neighborhood with a heavy Spanish and Indian influence, it has evolved from that basis to more Americanized styles of building for a distinctive blending of styles.

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Chihuahua Hill looking south, ca. 1912. Courtesy Silver City Museum, John Harlan Collection.