

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 AUG 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pueblo of Picuris

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pueblo of San Lorenzo de Picuris

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S of Taos
On the north bank of the Rio Pueblo, about twenty miles

CITY OR TOWN:
South of Taos vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#1

STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **35** COUNTY: **Taos** CODE: **055**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Living pueblo

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Pueblo of Picuris (Office of the Governor)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Picuris

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Taos County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Taos

STATE:
New Mexico

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE OF SURVEY: **12/19/71** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office

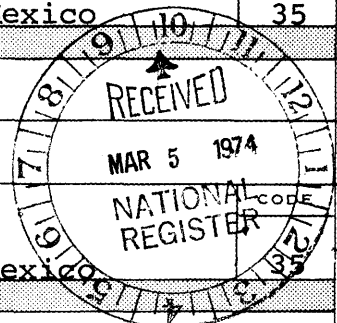
STREET AND NUMBER:
200 W. De Vargas

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: **AUG 13 1974**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Consisting of seven to nine-story blockhouses when Gaspar Castaño de Sosa visited the Pueblo of Picurís in 1591, the village is now composed of one-story structures. The oldest portion of the pueblo is to the north of the village proper and consists merely of wall fragments which now serve as corrals and stables. The newer portions are to the south and are built west and northwest of the church. The adobe homes are built around two main plazas and four underground ceremonial kivas are also to be found at Picurís. The church which was in the process of being constructed in 1776 is situated west of the site of an earlier structure ordered torn down in 1669 by Governor Pedro Fermín de Mendinueta.

In 1776, Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez described the pueblo:

Said tenements are shaped like a sugar loaf, and the houses are heaped there one upon another as if they had tried to build the Tower of Babel. The ascent to them is by ladders which begin at the communal lower floor, with a landing on the flat roof of the lower dwelling. On this flat roof there is another small ladder that rests on another flat roof, and so another and another up to the top, the flat roof of one house being the terrace of another and serving as a landing between one ladder and the next.

Although there is an occasional very small door in these houses, the entrance to most of them is a coi (I refer to Tesuque) on the flat roof, and inside there are others from room to room to the bottom. Now in view of this heap of houses, it is obvious that the dwellings, or rooms, in the heart of these tenements are totally dark, and therefore they are entered by the light of brands. The height of these sugar loaves or honeycombs, must be about 25 to 30 varas, [1 vara equals 32 2/3 inches] and there will be five or six dwellings from bottom to top, one over the other. (pp. 97-98)

Major John G. Bourke, U.S.A., in 1881 also inventoried Picurís and of both the old and new sections of the pueblo, he noted:

The old pueblo is a veritable relic of antiquity; built of "cajon," [large adobe blocks] it must at one time have been of large dimensions, but at this date only three stories remain and these are rapidly going to pieces. The workmanship was extremely crude, the wood used being split with axes and put together in a clumsy way. There were no windows opening on the outside; presumably, there must have been openings upon an interior court of small size, but this I could not determine exactly, there being no ladder and the
(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Living Pueblo</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The unauthorized expedition of Gaspar Castaño de Sosa in 1591 was the first to visit the Tiwa-speaking Pueblo of Picurís. Because of the threatening attitude of the Indians, however, he retreated from the village but only after having observed that the house blocks were from seven to nine-stories tall. Juan de Oñate, the Colonizer of New Mexico, also visited Picurís and encountered Josephe, a Mexican Indian survivor of the ill-fated Francisco Leiva Bonilla and Juan de Humaña expedition of 1593. From him, Oñate was able to learn the unknown details of this illegal undertaking. On July 13, 1598, Oñate gave the pueblo the name San Buenaventura and referred to it as the "Gran Pueblo de los Picurís." Later in September at the neighboring Tewa-speaking Pueblo of San Juan, the natives of Picurís formally submitted to Oñate and Fray Francisco de Zamora was assigned to the pueblo.

Fray Martín de Arvide established a mission at Picurís as early as 1621 and shortly thereafter, had built a church and convento. In 1634, Fray Alonso de Benavides noted that the pueblo had more than 2,000 baptized Indians! He further observed:

They have been the most indomitable and treacherous people of the whole kingdom. Thus the friars have suffered greatly at their hands, in particular the blessed martyr, Fray Martín de Arvide, [killed by Zufis February 27, 1632] for they dragged him around the plaza and almost killed him because he scolded an old Indian who was opposing his son's desire to become a Christian. (p. 70).

The Indians of Picurís participated in the great Pueblo Revolt of 1680 killing their missionary Fray Matias de Rendón on August 10th and burning the church. Luis Tupatú, a Picurís Indian and one of the major instigators of the rebellion, then directed the tribe to aid the Taos and Tewa in the siege of Santa Fe. During the twelve years of Pueblo Independence, Tupatú was twice chosen to succeed Popé, another major leader of the revolt.

When General Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan Ponce de León reentered Picurís on October 5, 1692, (See Continuation Sheet #1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams, Eleanor B. "Bishop Tamarón's Visitation of New Mexico, 1760." Historical Society of New Mexico Publications in History. Vol. 15, (February, 1954), pp. 56-57.

Adams, Eleanor B. and Fray Angelico Chavez. The Missions of New Mexico, 1776; a Description by Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez with Other Contemporary Documents. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico, 1956.

Bloom, Lansing B. (ed.). "Bourke on the Southwest, X" New Mexico Historical Review, (July, 1936), pp. 275-282.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

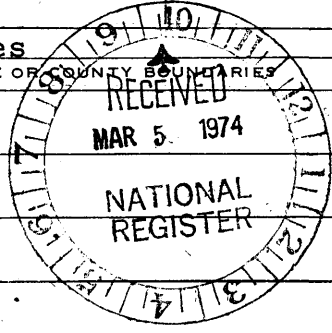
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	N36°	12'	11"	W105°	42'	37"			
NE	N36°	12'	11"	W105°	42'	28"			
SE	N36°	11'	59"	W105°	42'	28"			
SW	N36°	11'	59"	W105°	42'	37"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **20.4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James H. Purdy, Archivist I

ORGANIZATION: **State Records Center & Archives** DATE: **4/5/73**

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
DAVID W. KING
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
 Title: _____

Date: **FEBRUARY 26, 1974**

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

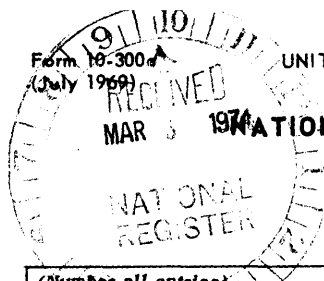
DR Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/13/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.1.74

NW 13/436150 / 400650
 SE 13/436150 / 4006140
 SW 13/436150 / 4006140
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet #1)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
Taos	
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AUG 13 1974	

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION continued

edifice being in such a tumble down condition that my guide said it would not be prudent to attempt to climb about it. I abided by his views, as he had only a few moments previously been in some of the outer rooms on the lower floor to hunt up and chase out the old eagle.

... The number of houses in Picurís cannot be much, if any, over thirty; they are about equally divided between one-storied and two-storied, but there are none higher than the latter. The Pueblo has a slouchy, down in the heel look, greatly at variance with the neat, trim and cleancut look of the Mexican settlements in the neighboring valleys. (pp. 280-281)

The pueblo and church are in good condition and are being well maintained by the tribe. Last year, an arts and crafts center was constructed at the village. The structure also serves as a small museum.

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

the tribe submitted to him and 86 children were baptized. At this time, the pueblo consisted of three and four-storied dwellings. During his second entrada in 1693, Vargas learned that the Picurís were again hostile toward Spanish reoccupation of New Mexico. He found the pueblo abandoned in the summer of 1694 but did not allow pillage of any kind. Not until May of the following year, was Picurís finally resettled and a missionary assigned.

The Picurís Indians rebelled again on June 2, 1696 but because of fear of losing their crops soon made an attempt at peace. Vargas visited the village on October 10, and observed that the church had been whitewashed and swept clean. Fearing Spanish reprisal for three horses stolen from Santa Cruz, the Picurís Indians fled their village on October 19th and along with some Tewas and Tanos set out into the buffalo plains. Vargas found the pueblo abandoned on October 22 and followed the fleeing tribe until the 26th at which time he overtook the Indians in a canyon of the Mora River south of present Fort Union National Monument. Here, he managed to capture 84 women and children who were given to his men as servants. Those who had escaped continued on to the Apache village of Cuartelejo located in Kansas.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet #2)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Taos	
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ENTRY NUMBER AUG 13 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

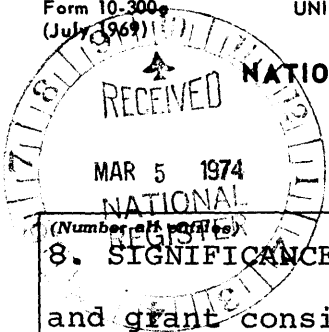
By 1706, Fray Juan Alvarez noted, "There are about three hundred Christian persons, and the others keep coming in who have been among the Apaches." He further stated that Picurís had a new church but was a visita of San Juan which was ministered by Fray Pedro Mata. After receiving numerous pleas from returning Picurís Indians, Governor Francisco Cuervo y Valdez sent Captain Juan de Ulibarri on July 13 of that same year to gain the release of the Picurís natives from their Indian captors and escort them home. On August 31, the returning party reached Picurís where they were met by Fray Francisco Ximenez.

In 1760, Bishop of Durango Pedro Tamarón visited Picurís and enumerated 328 persons living at the pueblo. Nine years later, Comanches attacked the village and sacked the convento. As a result, Governor Pedro Fermín de Mendinueta ordered the church and convento torn down and a new mission built near the pueblo plaza. Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez inventoried the Pueblo of San Lorenzo de Picurís as it was then known in 1776 and noted, "The new church is adobe with quite thick walls, single-naved, with the outlook and main door due south. It is 24 varas [1 vara equals 32 2/3 inches] long, 7 wide, and what has been built is now 3 varas high." (p. 92). This is presently the church in use. Dominguez listed 223 persons at the pueblo, a drastic drop in population in 16 years, and 278 non-Indians as residing near the village.

By 1808, the population at Picurís increased to 309 persons. Indian Agent W.F.M. Army cited a decrease in 1870 when he stated, "the whole number of the Indians on the reserve is 127." He further elaborated that 799 non-Indians were on pueblo lands. In 1881, Major John G. Bourke, U.S.A., visited the pueblo and wrote, "In agriculture, they still employ the rude wooden plow and transport their crops to market in creaking wooden 'carretas'. They make no baskets or blankets and but little pottery, of a very inferior quality. Much of what I saw among them had been brought from San Juan,...." (p. 278)

The large number of Spaniards living near Picurís led to many land problems. In 1829, the Indians submitted a protest to Juan de Jesus Martinez, the alcalde of Picurís, concerning the application for a non-Indian grant on lands adjoining the pueblo. The proposed grant was annulled and in the same year, another grant had to be protested. In this case, the encroachers were required to vacate the property as soon as their crops were harvested. The United States Congress on December 22, 1858 confirmed a 17,460.69 acre grant to the pueblo. Due to later court decisions, the present reservation (See Continuation Sheet #3)

STATE	
New Mexico	
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Taos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 13 1974	



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet #3)

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

and grant consists of only 14,959 acres.

The pueblo has kept many of its traditions and an annual fiesta and corn dance are held on the 10th of August. Concerning the pottery at Picurís, Stanley A. Stubbs writes:

Picurís, like Taos, gave up the manufacture of painted pottery about the time of the Pueblo Revolt. Since then, it has specialized in a cooking ware characterized by a large amount of yellow mica in the clay, which gives the finished pieces a bronze, metallic look. This pottery has been widely traded among the Pueblos and Mexicans, and even the Anglos, for it is said that beans taste better when cooked in one of these jars; the same idea as the "Boston bean pot" for baked beans. (p. 30).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

Espinosa, J. Manuel. Crusaders of the Rio Grande; The Story of Don Diego de Vargas and the Reconquest and Refounding of New Mexico. Chicago: Institute of Jesuit History, 1942.

Hackett, Charles Wilson (ed.). Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and Approaches Thereto, to 1773. Vol. 3, Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1937.

Hackett, Charles Wilson, Revolt of the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico and Otermin's Attempted Reconquest 1680-1682. Vol. 1, Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1942.

Hodge, Frederick Webb, George P. Hammond and Agapito Rey. Fray Alonso de Benavides' Revised Memorial of 1634. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1945.

Murphy, Laurence R. (ed.). Indian Agent in New Mexico; The Journal of Special Agent W.F.M. Arny, 1870. Santa Fe: Stagecoach Press, 1967.

Schroeder, Albert H. and Dan S. Matson. A Colony on the Move, Gaspar Castaño de Sosa's Journal 1590-1591. Santa Fe: School of American Research, 1965.

Schroeder, Albert H. "A Brief History of the Picurís Pueblo up to the Early 1900's." Unpublished manuscript, n.d.

Stubbs, Stanley A. Bird's-Eye View of the Pueblos. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1950.

