

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 15 1984

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jicarilla Apache Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Bureau of Indian Affairs site/residential area

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

 Roughly Basket Lane and narrow Gauge St. from Lopez to Velarde
 Corner residence on Sand Hill Dr., fr. East to West on Basket Land, St.
 east bldg at end of Narrow Gauge St. & due west on Narrow Gauge
 St. to Velarde St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dulce

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

New Mexico

VICINITY OF

CODE

35

COUNTY

Rio Arriba

CODE

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT
 * Indian land held
 in federal trust

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC * PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER Storage**4 AGENCY**

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Dept. of the Interior

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

(Contact Geo. Farris, Chief, Environmental Serv.)

STREET & NUMBER

18th & C Sts., N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Realty Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs (attn Harold TeCube)

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 167

CITY, TOWN

Dulce

STATE

New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jicarilla Apache Historic District, in Dulce, New Mexico, comprises thirty buildings of historic significance and architectural interest, and other characteristic features, on approximately 17 acres of land. Thirty of the structures are former properties of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs' Jicarilla Apache Agency, established in phases after the creation of the Jicarilla Reservation in 1887. Dates of construction of the buildings range from 1896 to about 1920. The remaining building, in the northeast corner of the district, is the Emmitt Wirt House, the former residence of the trader who ventured to the reservation in 1889 to seek his fortune and who subsequently played a central role in the region's economic and political life (see below, #1). All buildings within the district are currently property of the sovereign corporate Tribe.

Through the middle of the district, running parallel to and north of Narrow Gauge Street, is the right-of-way of the old Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. The roadbed has fallen into disuse and the property, by federal law, has reverted to tribal ownership.

The district has changed little in appearance since its former usage as a regional Agency by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dulce is a small rural town, with a population of approximately 3,000, nestled in a semi-arid valley in northwestern New Mexico. Only three structures, two trailer houses and the "Old Tribal Building," has been added to the district since the historic period at issue (it is found on the map between structures #25 and #21). There have been no major structural alterations to either the buildings or the land within the designated area. All sites, with the exception of #22, #23, and #24, are used currently as private residences and as tribal offices. The present uses of the other sites are described below. Originally white, a number of the buildings have been repainted in accord with the preference of the occupants subsequent to the transfer of property ownership to the Tribe.

Narrow Gauge Street, running east-west through the center of the district, is a paved road, as is New Mexico Highway 17 which passes north-south through the district's eastern edge, separating the Wirt House and the Warehouse from the remaining buildings. Basket Lane and the lane parallel to it on its north are unpaved. The Amargo Wash, an arroyo, forms the southern border of the region.

The architecture of these structures is invariably utilitarian. With the exception of the Wirt House all were built by the Department of the Interior through its Bureau of Indian Affairs. All requests for buildings, and all building expenditures from lumber and iron to labor and even nails, were forwarded to the office of the Secretary in Washington for authorization. The frugality of the Department produced buildings that were functional and unadorned, but sturdy and attractive in their simplicity. All buildings are wooden frame with clapboard exteriors and shingled roofs, with the exception of the Warehouse which has a roof of

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed historic district is of special significance in that it documents both a special period (1887-1920) in the modern history of an American Indian tribe and, more generally, a process critical to the settling of the American southwest and the accompanying acculturation of American Indians to Anglo-American systems and values.

The Jicarilla Agency was not only an administrative center of the federal bureaucracy. It became the Jicarillas' point of contact with the outside world and the organ through which the tribal members came to learn of and adapt to the ways of the dominant Anglo-American culture and the new demands it placed upon them. The establishment of the Jicarilla Apache Agency represented that turning point in history in which new and foreign ideas, technologies, and values - and a fundamentally new relationship to the land - had to be accepted and accommodated.

The remaining agency buildings in the proposed historic district are the only visible record preserving the significant historic events that began with the creation of the Reservation by the Executive Order of February 11, 1887, and its subsequent management by federal government, under the policies that were outlined in the Dawes Act of 1887 designed to assimilate the Indians, to make them farmers, landowners, and Christians, and ending in 1920 when marked changes in policy toward the Jicarillas occurred.

In 1887 the Commissioner of Indian Affairs offered a program for the assimilation of the Jicarilla Apaches. The government was to provide comfortable homes, a resident physician, a farmer and his assistant, stock, fencing materials, and an industrial school to help them along the path of self-support. It took twenty years to implement the program, build the agency, appoint the physician, and construct the school. By 1907 the agency site was practically complete with various additions and deletions made up through 1920. Major additions to the building site were made in 1898 and 1907.

The federal government was the sole architect, thus reflecting its paternalistic approach toward its charges. Despite the fact that the Jicarillas were to become responsible citizens of a modern rural community, they were given few opportunities to assist in the building of their agency, which became the center of all tribal activities. It was from the agency that all important decisions concerning all facets of Jicarilla life were made. The agency symbolized how much control the federal government had over the Jicarillas, and in a sense, charted the course of their history.

Transforming the Apaches into fascimiles of white farmers under the

Jicarilla Apache Hist District
 Rio Arriba County New Mexico
 unincorporated property

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tiller, Veronica E., The Jicarilla Apache Tribe: A History, 1846-1970, Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1983.

Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Authority Files, 1896-1920, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	321710	4089240	B	1,2	32200	4089450
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,2	321620	4089100	D	1,2	322000	4089050
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The southern boundary is the northern edge of Amargo Wash, just past Bldg. #8 and due north across Narrow Gauge St., then east across Velarde and Apache Sts. to a point directly across from Bldg. 27, then due north past Bldg. 15. From here the boundary proceeds north past Loop Drive & immediately north, east, and south along Sandhill Drive to the point along the eastern fence of Bldg. 2. The eastern boundary proceeds south just before the intersection of New Mex. Highway 17 and Narrow Gauge St. & turns sharply due east to include Bldg. 17 and southwest to Amargo Wash.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Veronica E. Tiller, Ph.D., Historical Consultant, Tiller Research, Inc.

ORGANIZATION Jicarilla Apache Centennial Commission, Inc. DATE January 17, 1984

STREET & NUMBER 1990 M St. N.W. Suite 200 TELEPHONE (202) 429-0480

CITY OR TOWN Washington, D.C. STATE D.C. 20036

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

R. Wall 2-9-84
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE CHIEF, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STAFF DATE 1/18/84

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>3/1/84</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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corrugated iron. The danger of spreading fire in this dry climate was as persistent as the means to combat it were crude. And fires were frequently fought, most notably the Warehouse fire in 1901. While still under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, these structures underwent regular repair and maintenance, to which the "Authority Files" housed at the National Archives give ample testimony. Upon transfer of the property from federal to tribal jurisdiction, repairs and upkeep became a local responsibility. Due to the nature of the tribal economy, an ideal level of maintenance has not been financially supportable. From building to building varieties of minor structural deterioration have occurred, though none are sufficient to render the structures unusable or dangerous to inhabitants - and none are sufficient to distort the appearance and character of the district.

Buildings constituting the Jicarilla Apache Historic District (See map)

- 1: The Emmitt Wirt House (Sand Hill Dr.), a two-story wooden frame house with shingled roof, former residence of the trader Wirt, currently occupied by a tribal official.
- 2: The former Residence of the Agency Superintendent, a two-story wooden structure, presently the Arts & Crafts Building, and the future site of the Jicarilla Apache Museum (currently in planning by the Centennial Commission), the building which stands in greatest need of structural stabilization (first house on Basket Lane, East to West).
- 3-15 (odd nos.): Seven one-story wooden frame structures used by the Agency and currently as storage facilities (north side of Basket Lane, corresponding to buildings 3 - 7).
- 4-16 (even nos.): Wood frame two-story houses constructed for Agency officials, currently private residences (on Basket Lane).
- 17: The Old Warehouse (Main St.), a wooden frame storage facility with roof of corrugated iron used to store federal annuity goods for the Tribe, currently used as storage facility. Rebuilt after a fire in 1901 virtually destroyed it.
- (18, 20, 21, 21A):
Former Agency Employee Cottages, currently storage facilities. (on Narrow Gauge Street, south of the park).

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- 19: The Old Blacksmith Shop, a one-story wooden frame structure, currently used as a garage facility (on Narrow Gauge St., south of the park).
- 22-32: Former Agency Employee Cottages, one-story wooden frame buildings currently in use as private residences & tribal offices (on Narrow Gauge Street).

Sites contributing to the character of the district

The roadbed of the abandoned Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, including an old box car standing opposite the Old Superintendent's House (Arts & Crafts Building).

Park 1: Residential Park created no later than 1921; presently still in use as a park.

Park 2: Residential park, site of a former agency office and stores.

The Amargo Wash, an arroyo forming the southern boundary of the historic district.

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direction of the agency headquarters took precedent over offering the alternative of becoming town-dwellers, so the Jicarillas were allotted 160 acres of land. The land and climate was unsuited for agriculture, but the government persisted in its designs.

The years of 1887 to 1920 was a critical period of Jicarilla Apache History. It was during this period that they attempted to become farmers under averse geophysiographic conditions, with no opportunities to pursue other occupations. In an uncompromisingly fashion, the government refused to admit its agricultural agenda had dismally failed. Consequently, it was the Jicarillas who suffered, his morbidity rate increased at a phenomenal rate due to social and economic privation. The lateness in building the school circumscribed all educational opportunities. The school served as the means by which tuberculosis and other diseases were spread throughout the entire community. With little resistance to the diseases, the population decreased from 844 in 1892 to 588 in 1920. It was not until 1920 that the government admitted its gross mistake and began a program of economic and social recovery.

In the period of 1887 to 1920, the agency site was growing in size, oblivious to the harsh realities of Jicarilla life. Building the site was progressing along with the same force that fueled the government's conviction that it was doing the best for its wards. From the agency offices, the way of life for the Jicarillas was charted. The wonder of the survival of the Jicarillas in this era can only be attributed to their optimistic outlook on life, a disposition for understanding, imagination, an ability to adapt to changing environments, despite adversity.

Once the government corrected its policy after 1920, it emerged, like the Jicarillas into a new era of understanding and growth. Problems persisted, but after that a new relationship was established to build the foundations of a modern tribal community of today.

The proposed district comprises twenty buildings. All but three of the buildings are former properties of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency. The remaining building is the former residence of Emmitt Wirt, a trader who played a central economic and political role in Reservation life for nearly fifty years. (The Wirt trading post once stood on land south of the Amargo Wash. It is no longer standing.)

Dulce became the site of the local BIA subagency, but it was administered by the Southern Ute Agency in southern Colorado. In 1892, the Dulce subagency was transferred to the Pueblo Agency in Santa Fe. Only in 1902 did Dulce become itself the site of an autonomous Agency, exclusively for the benefit of the Jicarillas. Meanwhile, in its first five years, the business of the subagency was conducted out of five small shanties along the railroad right-of-way.

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In 1896, construction of other buildings began, most notably among them a large warehouse, rebuilt again after a devastating fire in July, 1901, for the storage of federal annuity goods. Soon, with the growth of the federal presence, more buildings went up: a doctor's office, a house for the Superintendent, a blacksmith shop, a jail, a wagon house, and numerous employee cottages were added to the community. A survey conducted by the Bureau in 1898 registered twenty-two buildings. In 1907 another survey was made: the same number resulted, but new buildings had been added as older ones were removed. Such fluctuation is characteristic of this period in the Reservation's life. Interior Department "Authority Files" pertinent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs mention only the authorization of building expenditures for particular constructions; these records fail to provide evidence for the exact location and precise date of the buildings, but the records indicate that in the BIA surveys of 1898 and 1907 most of the buildings were constructed, some additional buildings were also built between 1907 and 1920. All the buildings in the proposed site were in existence by 1920.

Among those buildings registered in 1896 were the residence and trading post of Emmitt Wirt, a trader who migrated from Michigan and started trading with the Jicarillas in 1898. He is of particular importance in the early years of the Reservation because he came to exercise considerable economic and political leverage in the region. Although Wirt dealt honestly - if firmly - with the Indians, he came to wield great influence in the political machinations of the area and used his influence to ensure that the selection of Indian Agents proceeded along lines favorable to his business interests. For all his personal ambition, it must be added that Emmitt Wirt took a sincere interest in the welfare of the Agency and the Jicarillas. Following the 1934 passage of the Indian Reorganization Act and the new economic powers it brought to those Indian groups which organized under its guidelines, the Jicarillas, with federal assistance, purchased Wirt's assets for approximately \$85,000. His residence stands today at the eastern edge of the proposed historic district.

Today, the buildings of the historic district stand much as they did when built. In some cases maintenance has not kept pace with natural deterioration; and most of the structures are no longer painted white, their original color. No major structural renovations, however, have taken place and only one new permanent structure has been added to the area.

In 1960 began the transfer of all federally owned assets on the Reservation to Indian ownership, including all the land and buildings which comprise the historic district. By 1969, most of the larger buildings had been converted to private residences by the Jicarilla Apache Tribe which leases them to its employees. The exceptions are the old Superintendent's House, presently the Arts & Crafts storage area and the future site of a Jicarilla Apache Museum, and the Old Jail, the current site of a

~~Tribe, there is no individual ownership.~~
~~In commemoration of the 1887 Executive Order, the Jicarilla Tribal~~
~~Council formed, in 1982, the Jicarilla Apache Centennial Commission in~~

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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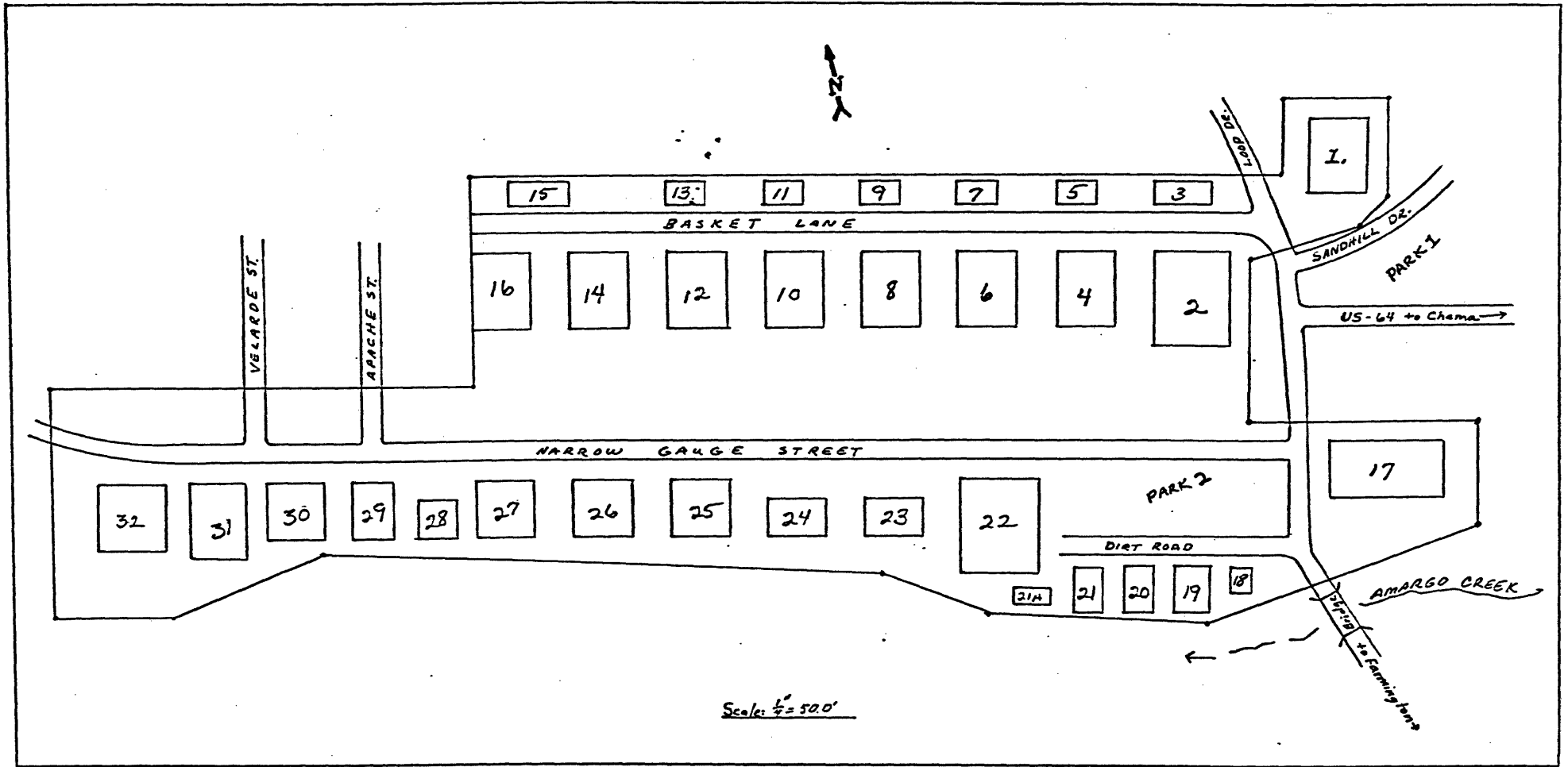
3

rehabilitation center. And the warehouse remains in use as a warehouse. All buildings and lands in the district are now owned by the corporate Tribe; there is no individual ownership.

In commemoration of the 1887 Executive Order, the Jicarilla Tribal Council formed, in 1982, the Jicarilla Apache Centennial Commission in order to design and implement a number of restorative and rehabilitative projects. The tribal Historic Preservation Project is among them. In addition to organizing the celebration of the centenary, it aims at the local and national registration and eventual restoration, to its pre-1920 condition, of the district described herein.

1/15/14

JICARILLA APACHE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SITE MAP



JICARILLA APACHE HISTORICAL
DISTRICT SITE SURVEY

Beginning at a brass cap marking the northwest corner of Section 1,
T31N., R2W., N.M.P.M., Thence S 34°53'27"E, 938.54 feet to an iron
pin marking the beginning of the tract.

Thence S83°16'04"E, 1036.93 feet,
Thence N04°13'17"E, 97.67 feet,
Thence S86°31'30"E, 127.69 feet,
Thence S01°59'57"W, 129.28 feet,
Thence S63°12'52"W, 49.99 feet,
Thence S84°17'03"W, 142.28 feet,
Thence S06°16'24"W, 212.77 feet,
Thence S86°08'08"E, 286.51 feet,
Thence S06°14'36"W, 122.94 feet,
Thence S70°25'38"W, 364.80 feet,
Thence N86°23'43"W, 289.16 feet,
Thence N61°13'26"W, 135.28 feet,
Thence N80°42'41"W, 724.00 feet,
Thence S69°39'02"W, 194.63 feet,
Thence N81°08'57"W, 178.86 feet,
Thence N06°59'57"E, 289.20 feet,
Thence S82°27'46"E, 544.25 feet,
Thence N05°09'33"E, 298.58 feet,

to a point of beginning, containing 17.19 acres, more or less