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	1.	NAME							1				
		COMMON:											
		Plaza Del Cerro											
ŧ.		Plaza Del San Buenaventura											
	2.	LOCATION											
		STREET AND NUMBER:											
		Chimayo, New Mexico											
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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Originally, the Plaza Del Cerro was a square enclosed by contiguous adobe buildings. The only entrance ways were two or possibly three alleys, one on the south side, and either one or two on the north, wide enough to admit only animals and people on foot, and therefore easily defensible from Nomadic Indian attacks. This general pattern still exists, although access to the Plaza was made easier by the construction through it from west to east of the old road from Santa Cruz in the nineteenth century. Also running through the Plaza is the Acequia Madre, or main irrigation ditch, which flows parallel to the Santa Cruz road along its southern edge. This acequia dates from the Plaza's early days.

The west side of Plaza Del Cerro consists mainly of one story adobes. many in abandoned and dilapidated condition, but all easily re-stored without major difficulty. Also located in this block of dwellings is the Oratorio Houses on the other three sides for the most part of San Buenaventura. still occupied. Many of these houses have gabled roofs which form attics. Some of the buildings have been modernized with newer windows, doors, and sheet metal roofs, but these alterations are from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and represent the common rural architecture of the area at that time rather than any purely outside influences. The San Buenaventura Chapel underwent restoration in 1953, and was re-plastered in Its condition is sound, and the restorative work has been faithful 1969. to its historic and architectural integrity. Originally the central ground was held communally, but is now divided by fences and planted in fruit trees and small garden plots. In some of these plots the Chimayo chili is grown, for which the area is famous. A few of the fruit trees in and around the plaza are wild plum, which is indigenous to the region and which pre-dates Spanish settlement. Of some interest to the careful observor are the shards of historic Tewa polychrome and polished black ware which protrude in places from the exterior adobe plaster or lie on the ground, indicating early peaceful Indian contact and spanish use of Indian pottery.

The rural modernization practises which followed the close of World War II, and which have changed most of New Mexico's villages, have left the Plaza Del Cerro untouched. The repairs and stabilization necessary in parts of Plaza Del Cerro can be carried out easily with fidelity to original conditions since the original materials and details are still visible to serve as models for restoration in an authentic manner. Such details from the past include raja ceilings, hand adzed beams and untels, adobe floors, early plastering techniques, some excellant corner fireplaces, and Greek revival door and window trim. With local labor, and using simple material, this plaza could be put into excellant order.



EE INSTRUCTION

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PE	RIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
AUT157	Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🕅 18th Century	🔀 20th Century
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- E .	Agriculture	Invention	Science	Village Planning
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	Communications	Military	Theater .	
	Conservation	Music	Transportation	

^c Old Chimayo's Plaza del Cerro shows the plan of a fortified colonial plaza better than any other extent in New Mexico today. In addition, those houses on the west side of the plaza and one or two on the east and north still reflect the eighteenth century in ceiling detail and some early, tiny window openings. Although it is now surrounded by a barn, the original <u>torreon</u> or defensive watch tower still stands on the outside of the south side of the plaza in good condition. While Chimayo was a thriving commercial center from about 1900 on, it was still far enough away from the modernizing influences of railroads and main highways to prevent the loss of many features dating from Spanish times. Rerouting of State Road 76 after 1945, which bypassed the plaza, caused the abandonment of several of the Plaza's houses. The general store and post office building on the plaza's southend also was closed then, but is still maintained in good condition.

Records of land deeds or disputes over lands in Chimayo go back to 1714. In 1736, Salvador de Espinosa bought land there and may well have settled it the same year. Espinosa was one of thirteen heads of families who petitioned the Governor to found the new village of Las Truchas in 1754.

The first reference to <u>el paraje de Chimayo</u> (the site of Chimayo) come in the 1740's, and it is thought that the plaza of San Buenaventura (now the Plaza del Cerro) was built as an entity by that time, although no records are known which give the dates of its construction. A will made in 1752 was dated at San Buenaventura de Chimayo, and the earliest existing marriage record of a couple who were residents of <u>el puesto de San Buenaventura de</u> <u>Chimayo</u> was made by Fray Andres Ga**#cia** at Santa Cruz Church, within whose jurisdiction Chimayo then was, on September 1, 1767. At about this time the Chimayo plaza had twnety-two families.

Fray Atanasio Dominguez in his report on New Mexico Missions in 1776 noted Chimayo as lying some two leagues east northeast of Santa Cruz; "a large settlement of many ranches in good lands and more orchards than there are at La Villa de la Canada. Near Chimayo to the south are some ranches with different place names but they are so small that they are included here. There are two small mills." In 1776 Chimayo has seventy-one families of three hundred and sixty seven persons.

Throughout the eighteenth century Chimayo was considered the eastern bound ary or frontier of the Spanish settlements in the Rio Grande Valley proper.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES 1. Borhegyi, Stephen F., <u>El Santuario De Chimayo</u>, Santa Fe, Spanish Colonial Arts Society, 1956

2. Dominguez, Fray Francisco Atanasio, <u>Missions of New Mexico</u>, <u>1776</u>, Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1956.

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(July	1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

COUNTY	
Santa Fe	
FOR NPS USE ONI	_Y
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New Mexico

(Number all entries) No. 8 cont.

Persons convicted of crimes of violence in Santa Fe were sentenced to fixed periods of exile in Chimayo.

The reb**2**llion of 1837, in the Mexican government period, saw a military defeat at Santa Cruz of government forces under Governor Albino Perez by a rebel group composed of Spanish and Indians. Some historians refer to this episode as the Chimayo Rebillion because many residents of that valley were involved.

Chimayo had fine crops of fruit and chili in addition to the staple corn, and frijoles, and the weaving of blankets and other wool textiles flourished there as it formerly did in other parts of Spanish New Mexico. There is no documentary evidence, however, to support the claims of folklore that the master weavers brought up from Mexico under contract in 1806 to improve local weaving ever settled in Chimayo. On the contrary, historical research indicates that one of the weavers died or returned to Mexico, while the other settled elsewhere. However, weaving in Chimayo has a long and important history, and many of the village's families have five or six generations of weavers behind them. Indeed, traditional weaving is still carried on in at least one of the houses in the plaza.

Between 1813 and 1816 the Santuario de Nuestro Senor de Esquipulas was built just down the road from the plaza, bringing in many pilgrims, and greatly augmenting the plaza's economic standing. Another chapel near the Santuario, built in the 1860's, further increased the number of pilgrims and further increased business and other activity in Plaza del Cerro. Also, by this time the San Luis Valley in Colorado had been settled, and Chimayo had a good trade with towns there, exchanging fruit and chili for wheat and potatoes. In 1917 the new Santa Fe-Taos highway was built, following the Rio Grande Canyon to the old Taos hot springs and bypassing the mountain villages. Before that time, however, travel from Santa Fe to Taos used the Chimayo-Las Truchas-Penasco route whenever weather permitted, making Chimayo a stop on a major road. Around 1900 commercial dealers in curios of Santa Fe and Albuquerque, noting that weaving was active in Chimayo, introduced commercial looms and varns to the weavers, and quickly made up designs for them to copy. This wholesale production kept Chimayo residents in moderate prosperity until the depression of the 1930's, and helps explain the presence of architectural styles ranging from the eighteenth century until the end of the 1920's, when modernization abruptly ended.

Plaza del Cerro, which was the original center of the Spanish colonial village of Chimayo, has not only endured, but has been a point of some importance down through the Mexican and Territorial periods, and well into the years of statehood. Now, with the increasing numbers of out-of-state visitors to the area, the whole region of mountain villages is assuming a new sort of prominence. The Plaza del Cerro, still essentially unchanged from former times, and of great significance because of its layout and architecture, offers these modern visitors the chance to walk through an example of eighteenth century village planning. Few places in the southwest remain from this period in such entirety.

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally, the Plaza del Cerro was a square enclosed by contiguous adobe buildings. The entrance ways we**re** two or possibly three alleys, one on the south side and one or two on the north side, wide enough to admit only animals and people on foot and therefore easily defensible. The fortified colonial plaza plan is shown better here than in any other plaza existing in New Mexico.

The west side of the Plaza del Cerro consists mainly of one story adobe houses, many abandoned and in dilapidated condition. Also located in this block of dwellings is the Oratorio of San Buenaventura. The other three sides of the plaza are for the most part still occupied. Many of the houses on these sides have gabled roofs which form attics. Some of the buildings have been modernized with newer windows, doors and sheet metal roofs, but there alterations are from the 19th and early 20th centuries and represent the rural architecture common to the area at that time. The San Buenaventura Chapel underwent stabilization in 1953 and was replastered in 1969. Although it is now surrounded by a barn, the original Torreon, or defensive watch tower, still stands south of the plaza, in good condition. In the center of the plaza, which was once owned communally, are small garden plots divided by fences. In these plots, fruit trees and the famous Chimayo chili are grown.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although records of land deeds or disputes over lands in Chimayo go back to 1714, and settlement may have begun as much as two decades earlier, the first clear references to the actual paraje de Tzimayo come in the 1740s, by which time it is thought that the plaza of Sah Buenaventura (now Plaza del Cerro) was built as en entity. No records are known, however, which give the date of its construction.

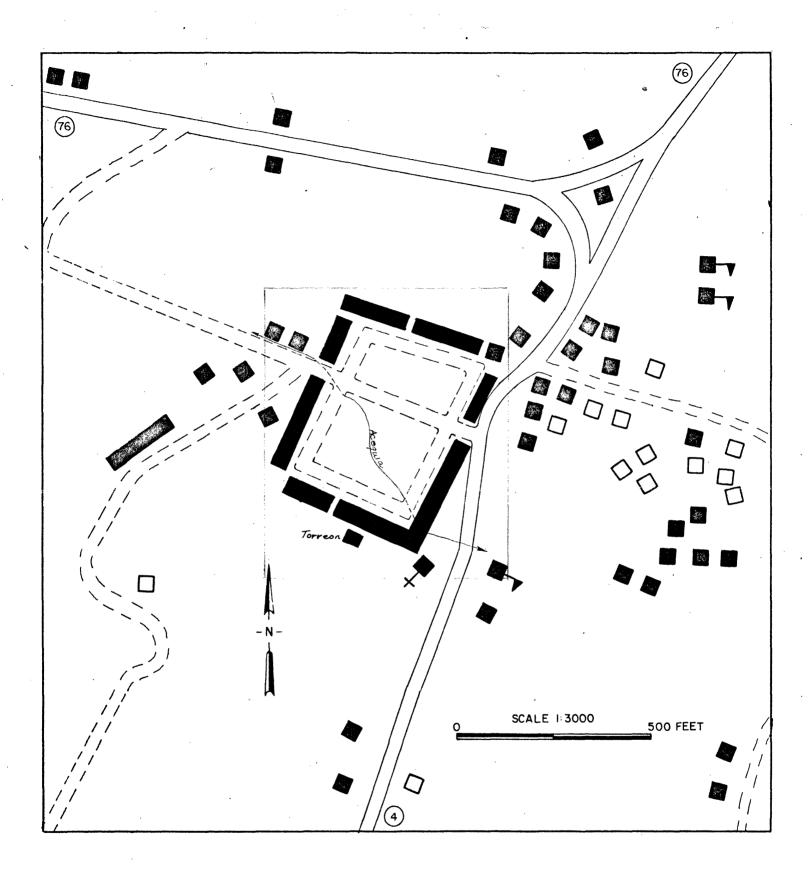
Fray Anastacio Dominguez in his report on New Mexico Missions in 1776 noted Chimayo as lying two leagues east northeast of Santa Cruz: "A large settlement of many ranches in good lands and more orchards than there are at La Villa de la Canada". In 1776 the village had 71 families of 367 persons whose focal point was Plaza del Cerro.

Between 1813 and 1816 the Santuario de Nuestra Senora de Esquipulas was built just down the road from the plaza, bringing in many pilgrims and greatly augmenting the economic status of the plaza.

Around 1900 commercial dealers in curios of Santa Fe and Albuquerque, noting that weaving was active in Chimayo introduced commercial looms and yarns to the weavers and quickly made up designs for them to copy. This wholesale production kept the residents in moderate prosperity until the depression of the 1930s. This explains, to some degree, the variety of architectural styles visible in the laza ranging from 18th century until the late 1920s when modernization abruptly ended.

The Plaza del Cerro, still unchanged from former times and of great significance because of its layout and architecture, offers these modern visitors a chance to observe an example of 18th century village planning. Few places in the southwest remain from this period in such entirety.

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PLAZA DEL CERRO, CHIMAYO STATE PLANNING OFFICE - 1972