

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0686051

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 11 1978

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Miguel E. Baca House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Two miles south of Tomé, New Mexico on  
State Highway #47

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Adelino

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#2

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

35

COUNTY

Valencia

CODE

061

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Matt Baca

STREET & NUMBER

315 South Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Belen

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Valencia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Los Lunas

STATE

New Mexico

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

February 28, 1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Educational Finance & Cultural Affairs  
Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE  
New Mexico

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the rural community of Adelino, New Mexico, the Miguel E. Baca House is a 80'x30' hip-roofed building made of adobe bricks covered with hard plaster. Presently unoccupied, it served for many years as both residence and business headquarters of Miguel E. Baca, a prominent merchant and politico who maintained a store, saloon and dancehall at this location. Approximately two miles south of the historic village of Tomé and thirty miles south of Albuquerque, the state's largest and most important city, Adelino is on the east bank of the Rio Grande in New Mexico's Rio Abajo (Lower River) region. Known historically as Tomé Abajo or Ranchos de Tomé, the community is surrounded by fertile farm lands; its irrigated fields produce ample crops of corn, chili and alfalfa and have been cultivated by the region's Hispanic population for over three centuries.

Erected c.1895 the building stands on the west side of State Highway #47. Oriented with its long axis next to the road, its 18" thick walls have been recently reinforced with a concrete foundation. In keeping with the traditional New Mexico architectural style, the original roof was flat but during the 1920's a hipped roof with two dormer windows was super-imposed. About fifteen years ago the corrugated sheet metal covering was replaced and the dormers were removed. Although three of the original front windows were taken out during an early rehabilitation, two others and the two front entrances, one for the store and one for the residence, are still in place. Formerly both the east and west facades were shaded by long portales (porches) extending the full length of the building but the one protecting the front or east side was removed in 1962.

Extending westward from the south end of the west portal is a small 15' square addition once used as a summer kitchen. At the opposite or north end of the same portal, but separate from the house, stands another structure of the same size built to house a winery where grapes grown in Baca's vineyard were processed. A barroom, no longer extant, formerly filled the space between the winery and the portal. Its location is spanned by a short section of adobe wall and a heavy wooden gate. At one time a placita covered the entire area west of the house, also enclosed by a high wall. Original outbuildings included a barn to the south which is still standing and a dance hall to the north, now razed. Behind the buildings an orchard, vineyard and fields stretched towards the cottonwoods bordering the Rio Grande.

A large 30'x35' room occupies the building's north end, the location of Baca's store. The main entrance on the east consists of double doors topped by a transom and closely flanked by two windows salvaged from the first rehabilitation. Of original construction, the room's board ceiling is supported by exposed rough-lumber beams braced by a single wooden column. Most of the counters and shelves are still in place as is a grill believed to have been used for the local post office. The rest of the structure is divided into six rooms arranged into two rows of three each without an interior hallway. The east row, a living room between two bedrooms, is embellished with pressed metal ceilings with an unusual lozenge design. The west row includes the winter kitchen and a storage room on each side

(See Continuation Sheet Page)

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miguel E. Baca House is an excellent example of turn-of-the-century New Mexico architecture in which a rural residence and store are combined in one building. Erected in a time when communication and transportation facilities were still primitive, the house is reminiscent of an era when small communities such as Adelino had considerable importance as local commercial, social and political centers. Because of the region's fertile soil and the availability of dependable irrigating water from the Rio Grande, the Tomé-Adelino region was settled early in New Mexico's history. By 1662, a wealthy Spanish landowner and military official, Thomé Domínguez de Mendoza, had established a large hacienda in the area but he abandoned his lands during the great Pueblo Indian revolt of 1680 and did not come back following New Mexico's resettlement. Other Spaniards returned to the general area in 1692-3, and in 1739 a land grant was made to a group of landless farmers by Governor Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza who hoped the new community would serve as a buffer against attacks by Plains Apaches.

Bisected by the Camino Real (Royal Road), the single route connecting New Mexico with Mexico during the periods of Spanish and Mexican administration, the Rio Abajo region near present Adelino was often mentioned in the reports of early day travellers - churchmen, soldiers and traders. For many years the Camino was the only commercial link tying New Mexico to the outside world via the Mexican cities of Chihuahua, Durango and other points to the south. Although these trading connections declined in importance after the U.S. takeover of New Mexico in 1846, they did not disappear entirely and the wagon trains continued to provide employment for residents of the Rio Abajo. Among the families who divided their time between farming and freighting were Matias Baca and his brothers who made their headquarters at Belen, a village on the west bank of the Rio Grande. In addition to his other activities, Matias Baca served briefly in the New Mexico militia in 1861-62 and was elected sheriff of Valencia County seven years later. In 1850 Baca married Silvestra Chaves from the plaza of Los Padillas and they became parents of a large family. Their third son, Miguel, was born in August, 1865.

After an apprenticeship in the family businesses, Miguel E. Baca struck out on his own. At the turn of the century he was cultivating small pieces of farmland at Jarales and Tomé and was operating a store in a rented building in the latter community. He purchased his future headquarters in 1906 from a neighbor, Rafael Chaves, for \$270.00. Situated on the east side of the famous Camino Real, his new property, which adjoined lands Baca had acquired previously, contained a little over three acres of farm land, a

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Valencia County Records, County Clerk's Records, Deed Book D-B-1, Valencia County Courthouse, Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Valencia County Records, County Assessors Records, Assessment Rolls, 1900-1912, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Federal Census Reports, Valencia County, 1850, 1870, 1900, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1/4 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,4,1,5,5,0	3,8,4,2,2,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the west side of State Highway #47 approximately 30' southeast of the southeast corner of the Baca House, extending in a westerly direction along a row of large cottonwood trees for a distance of approximately 80'; thence in a northerly direction for a distance of approximately 140'; thence in an easterly direction for a distance of 80' to a point on the west side of State Highway #47 approximately 30'

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John O. Baxter, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

State Records Center and Archives

DATE

October 3, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

(505) 827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

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

*Thomas W. Murr*

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE *10-4-78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles H. ...*

DATE *12-11-78*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Marcella ...*

DATE *12-9-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

7,8,9  
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE #1

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of a dining room which has a tongue and groove ceiling and a single-run staircase leading to the attic overhead. A doorway leads from this room to the west portal which has wainscoting and a wooden bench running its full length.

At present the Baca House is in good condition but is in need of major repairs to prevent significant deterioration. The present owner, Mr. Matt Baca, grandson of Miguel E. Baca, is currently engaged in a program of stabilization and is seeking an appropriate adaptive use. Thus far, his refurbishment has concentrated on shoring up and replastering the adobe walls. The storage room has been altered to accommodate bathrooms and space for a modern heating plant. Future plans include the reconstruction of the east portal using the original posts which have been stored for many years. Proud of his family heritage, Mr. Baca is determined to maintain his grandfather's house as a reminder of an earlier time in the Rio Abajo.

#8

corral and six room house. Here, he established his store in the north end of the building and diversified his interests by erecting a saloon and a dancehall. Following in his father's footsteps, Baca became active in local politics. As the Republican candidate for the New Mexico House of Representatives in 1911 he was elected to represent Valencia County thus serving in the first legislature to convene after New Mexico's admission to statehood the following year. He was reelected to the same seat in 1920 and two years later campaigned successfully for the office of county commissioner.

Following Baca's death in 1939, his property was divided among his survivors. The house was occupied by a daughter, Luz Baca, until her death eight years ago when title passed to her nephew Matt Baca, the present owner, who is actively planning a program for its preservation. Thus, the Baca house continues to be an important neighborhood landmark. It is significant not only because of its architecture but as the residence of one of Valencia County's leading citizens.

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Secretary of State, New Mexico Blue Book 1913, 1921, 1923.  
Personal interview, Matt Baca, September 6, 1978.

10

northeast of the northeast corner of the Baca House; thence along the west side of said highway to the point of beginning.