

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 29 1977

**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

**

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

US 85

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bernalillo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

CODE
35

COUNTY

Sandoval

CODE

043

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

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

STREET & NUMBER

202 Morningside Drive

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico 87100

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sandoval County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bernalillo

STATE

New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

March 20, 1970

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Planning Office, 505 Don Gaspar St.

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, originally constructed in 1857 in the central New Mexico agricultural town of Bernalillo, is a cruciform-shaped 120'x65' building made of adobe bricks covered with brown stucco. Now flanked on the south by a modern red brick church erected as a replacement in 1971 and on the north by a parochial institution, the old structure served as the parish church of this historic Rio Grande valley community for over a century. An excellent example of 19th century New Mexico ecclesiastical architecture, it combines features of the preceding Spanish and Mexican periods with elements brought to the area by French-born Jean Baptiste Lamy, first Roman Catholic bishop in New Mexico under U.S. rule.

Construction of the church was supervised by newly-ordained Fr. Joseph Fialon, one of the many clerics who had been recently recruited by Lamy in his native land to take over vacant parishes in New Mexico. In 1892 the church underwent a series of important modifications, under the direction of another Lamy protegé Fr. Joseph M. Coudert to correct some serious deterioration and make its appearance more acceptable to 19th century tastes. Since that time no significant changes have been made. Today, although the building is structurally sound it shows some signs of neglect which have developed since the new church was erected five years ago.

Resting on stone foundations the massive 20' high adobe walls which average 3 1/2' and at some points are 4 1/2' thick were originally topped by a flat dirt covered roof supported by vigas (beams) made of 6" by 12" rough sawed lumber on 3' centers. The facade, which faced east, had two flat-roofed towers protruding from the front corners each containing a bell. Both bells, connected by a rope, were rung from the south tower which was entered through an opening in back of the tower. The towers were connected by a balcony supported by corbels and vigas with the balcony roof similarly supported and topped by a triangular false front with a small arched opening near its apex, which may have held a third bell. A double hung window with sixteen over twelve lights overlooked the balcony. Under the balcony double paneled doors, eight feet wide, opened directly into the nave.

There are two windows, 4 feet by 12 feet, on either side of the nave as well as a window in each end of the transept. Two smaller ones were placed on either side of the chancel. The original floor was of packed earth, two feet below grade, with the floor of the sanctuary raised above that of the nave. At least one of the early priests (Étienne Parisis) is buried under the floor of the sanctuary. Over the doorway, a choir loft eighteen feet deep, rose nine feet from the floor of the nave supported by vigas running the width of the church.

To the south stood a large two-story flat roofed rectory connected to the church by a high adobe wall. Access to the stables, orchard and vineyard west of the two structures was through a large zaguán (covered entrance) wide enough to accommodate a buggy or wagon. There was a campo santo (cemetery) north and east of the church enclosed by a low wall, also of adobe.

As the 19th century progressed and such refinements as planed lumber became more readily available, certain modifications were made

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

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 checked="" 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 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 Original construction - 1857
 Major rehabilitation - 1892
 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, an impressive adobe structure built in the mid-19th century, served as the parish church of the historic central New Mexico town of Bernalillo for over 100 years. Occupied by Pueblo Indians since pre-historic times and by Spanish explorers and settlers for over 400 years, the middle Rio Grande Valley near Bernalillo is one of New Mexico's most significant areas. Because of its proximity to rapidly expanding Albuquerque, which is approximately twenty miles south, the town and surrounding countryside are becoming increasingly urbanized. Only a few historic sites remain. Our Lady of Sorrows, an important example of Territorial church architecture, is probably the major historical structure still extant in the community.

The Bernalillo area was first visited by Spanish explorers in 1540 when Francisco Vásquez de Coronado moved east from the Pueblo of Zuni to establish winter quarters for his famous expedition. Making his headquarters at the location now called Kuana Ruins (National Register 1/76) across the Rio Grande from present Bernalillo, Coronado called the complex of Tiwa-speaking villages on the Rio Grande Tiguex. Although the area supported many scattered farms and ranchos in the 1600's, Bernalillo did not become an established community until 1695 following the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the ensuing re-conquest of New Mexico by Don Diego de Vargas in 1692-93. In 1704, Vargas, while on a campaign against Apache marauders in the Sandia Mountains just east of Bernalillo, was stricken with food poisoning and carried to the town where he died.

By 1700 Bernalillo had become a parish with its own church called La Parroquia de Nuestro Padre San Francisco de Los Españoles de Bernalillo. Unfortunately documentary evidence of church activities in the 18th century is scanty, but it is clear that by 1746 the early church was no longer in existence and the Bernalillo residents were under the jurisdiction of the mission church at the nearby Pueblo of Sandia, as had been the case prior to the 1680 revolt. This arrangement continued for over a century through two changes of government in New Mexico, Mexican Independence in 1821 and U.S. occupation in 1846.

Early in the Mexican period the citizens of Bernalillo under the leadership of the large and politically powerful Perea clan, affluent merchants and sheep ranchers in the area, petitioned church authorities for permission to construct a chapel in the residence of Don Pedro José Perea. The request was granted and the chapel erected in June, 1826.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Book of Accounts, Book LXIII, Official copies of Chapel Licenses, April, 1826; Book of Marriages, Sandia 1809-1864. Microfilm copies, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
 Chavez, Fray Angelico. "A Brief History of Bernalillo," in Hundredth Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Bernalillo, (See Continuation Sheet Page 3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,5,9,13,10	3,9,10,8,9,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Sylvia Cook, Architectural Historian, State Planning Office;
John O. Baxter, Archivist,

DATE

State Records Center and Archives

October 19, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

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. Merham

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting Chief
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

W. M. ...

DATE

4/29/77

ATTEST:

Charles ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4.29.77

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at Our Lady of Sorrows. Pyramidal roofs of wood were built over the towers and topped with carpenter's Gothic crosses. The openings in the belfries were covered with wooden louver windows and the corners of the top half of the towers were framed with boards. Carved pilasters were set in the walls at the intersection of the transept and nave to stabilize the corners and a wood floor was put down.

Despite these alterations, by 1890 it was obvious that further changes were necessary to prevent serious structural damage and to give the church a more "stylish" appearance. In 1892 Fr. Joseph M. Coudert directed a refurbishment with a number of characteristics typical of that era. The flat, packed earth roof, which had leaked continually, was covered by a metal roof with the original roof left underneath the new one. Over the nave the roof was gabled, incorporating the triangular facade of the church. The small arched opening in the gable was closed and the facade was decorated by a geometric motif cut out of wood. The roof over the transept and chancel was hipped. Simple wooden brackets decorated the corners.

At the same time the balcony was removed, its roof was ceiled and the corbels were eliminated. A round window with radiating mullions set in a square opening, replaced the original double hung window. Other windows were replaced with Gothic arched windows set in the rectangular openings. The pyramidal roof of the towers was replaced with a small cross gable topped by a narrow pyramid with the same geometric motif on the church gable repeated on the four small gables of each spire. The board framed corners of the towers were plastered, scored and painted to resemble brick.

Inside, the vigas and corbels were ceiled with tongue and groove boards. An interior stair was built to the choir loft. The carved pilasters at the intersection of the transept with the nave were covered with wooden columns, supporting an arch. An altar rail was added at the edge of the sanctuary and an ogee arched niche was cut into the wall of the transept. Several rooms used as the sacristy, for storage and for other purposes were added over the years behind the transept on either side of the chancel and along the nave.

Only relatively minor changes have been made to the church during the 20th century. It has been replastered several times in various colors and the original doors have been replaced by narrower double doors, six feet wide. The altar and much of the statuary were removed, as was the altar rail which is now in a private residence in the nearby village of Corrales. The additions along the nave were taken off and the roof was replaced.

Since 1971, when the new church was built, the old church has been in disuse. It remains in good structural condition, and it is the intention of the congregation that the old church be repaired and used as an auxiliary facility to the new church. Although the church does not date from Bernadillo's earliest period, it is one of the oldest structures in the town and one which has considerable cultural significance for its people.

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Under Mexican rule, ecclesiastical affairs in New Mexico were administered by the Bishop of Durango but after New Mexico became a U.S. Territory in 1850 a fundamental reorganization of Roman Catholic Church affairs took place with French-born Jean Baptiste Lamy ordered to Santa Fe as Vicar Apostolic by papal decree. Two years later he was named bishop of the new Diocese of Santa Fe which at first included New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. A vigorous administrator, the new bishop initiated an extensive building program in which he was assisted by the large number of priests which he imported to New Mexico from France. By 1865 Lamy was able to report to his superiors that he had constructed forty-five new churches and chapels and repaired eighteen or twenty more. Our Lady of Sorrows is one of the churches erected during this period with Fr. Joseph Fialon in charge of the construction. Fialon, a compatriot of Lamy, was ordered to the reestablished parish of Bernalillo in 1857 and began work on a new church in the same year. Once again the Perea family provided both encouragement and financial support.

Early photographs of the church indicate that the original design with its extremely thick adobe walls, dirt floor and roof and front balcony was reminiscent of the magnificent mission churches built in the 18th century in the Spanish villages and Indian pueblos under the aegis of the Franciscan friars who dominated Roman Catholic affairs in New Mexico at that time. However, innovations were evident from its beginning. The sharply defined corners which imitate brick or stone are quite unlike the soft edges found in older structures. The vigas, which previously had been simple timbers, were sawed beams, approximately 6"x12" and the windows, while not elaborate, were large with many panes of glass, a scarce commodity at that time.

As the 19th century progressed and changes were made to the church culminating in the refurbishment of 1892 by Coudert, the French priests in charge of the parish endeavored to both modernize the building and make it as European in appearance as possible. Their efforts were facilitated by the availability of planed lumber and skilled carpenters. The new floor, ceiling and pilasters which reinforced the corners where the nave and transept joined altered the interior considerably. Outside, the pitched roof embellished by the pyramids added to the towers which were further decorated with louver windows, brackets and other mill work gave the church a Gothic air. Again exterior corners were accentuated this time by imitation brick work on the edges of the towers.

Although Bernalillo has existed for three centuries very little of historical or architectural significance is still to be found there. Our Lady of Sorrows, however, remains as a fine example of the transitional period of Bishop Lamy's early years.

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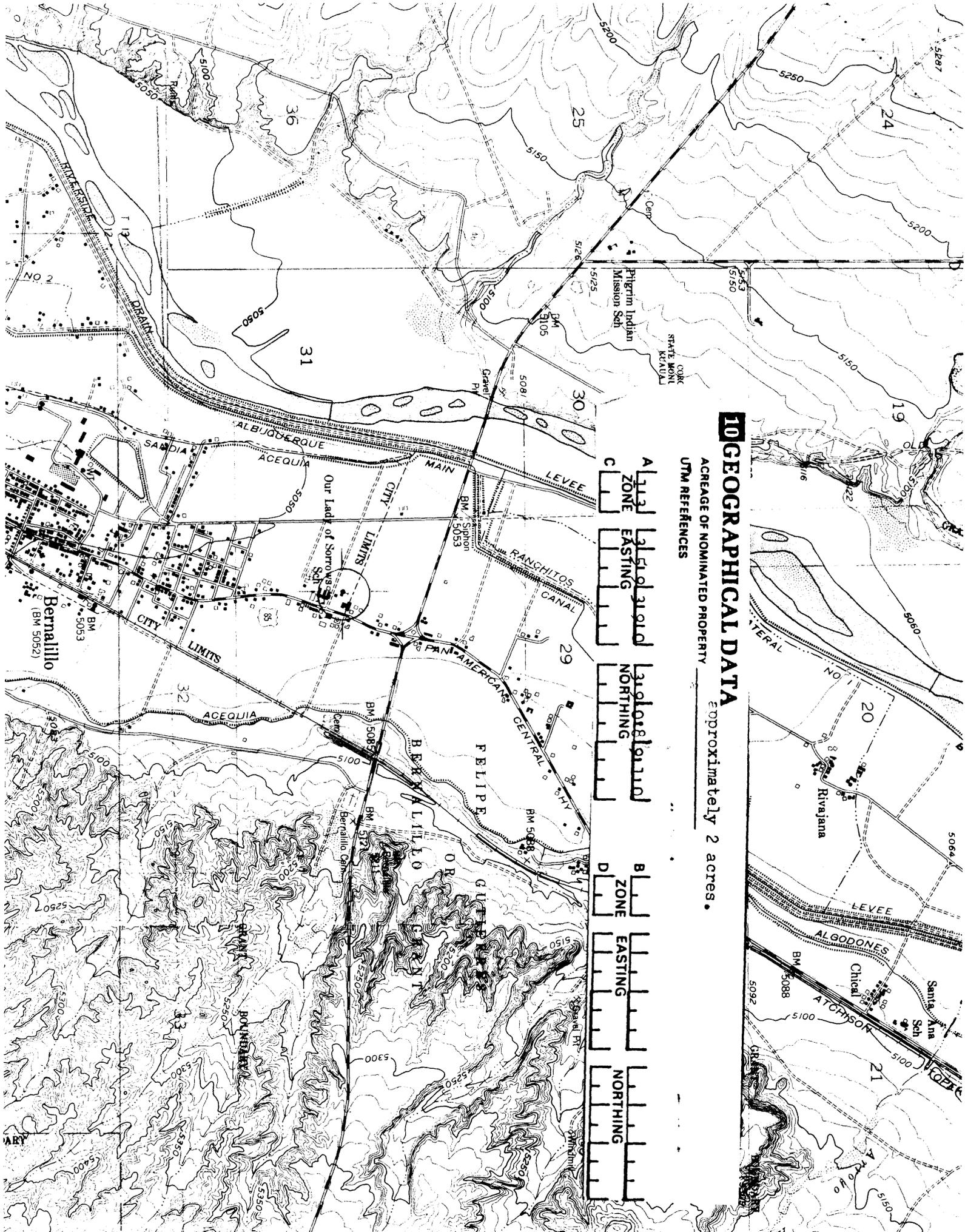
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Pearce, T. M. New Mexico Place Names. Albuquerque, 1965.

Salpointe, J. B. Soldiers of the Cross. Albuquerque, 1967.

Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. The Leading Facts of New Mexico History, Vol. II. Albuquerque, 1963.



TOPOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROXIMATELY 2 ACRES.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
C	EASTING										NORTHING										
	EASTING										NORTHING										
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
D	EASTING										NORTHING										
	EASTING										NORTHING										