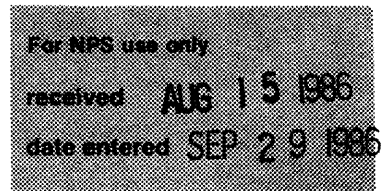


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1. Name: Plaza Blanca Historic District

2. Location: The boundary encompasses the twelve houses with outbuildings of Plaza Blanca and runs from the Plaza Blanca irrigation ditch on the SE to a parallel line approximately 1000' to the NW, and from 1500' NE of the Old Ford Road to 900' SW of the Old Ford Road.

4. Owners: (Note: Numbers at left represent building survey numbers. All Rutherford zip code: 87563)

- #304 Nicholas and Anamarie Lopez, P.O. Box 14, Los Ojos, 87551
- #309 Nicholas and Anamarie Lopez, P.O. Box 14, Los Ojos, 87551
- #308 Nicholas and Anamarie Lopez, P.O. Box 14, Los Ojos, 87551
- #298 Johnny Valdez, P.O. Box 11, Rutherford
- #302 Johnny Valdez, P.O. Box 11, Rutherford
- #307 Johnny Valdez, P.O. Box 11, Rutherford
- #296 Roberto Ulibarri, Box 2154, Bloomfield, 87413
Pedro Ulibarri Jr., 8269 Race St., Thornton, CO 80229
- #297 Roberto Ulibarri, Box 2154, Bloomfield, 87413
Pedro Ulibarri Jr., 8269 Race St., Thornton, CO 80229
- #295 La Cofradia de San Antonio de Padua de la Placita Blanca,
c/o Jose Mercure, P.O. Box 15, Rutherford
- #305 Jose Miguel Ulibarri, General Delivery, Rutherford
- #299 Oneil Mercure, 2372 Iola St., Aurora, CO 80010
- #301 Frank Stephen Ulibarri, P.O. Box 30, Rutherford
- #306 Frank Stephen Ulibarri, P.O. Box 30, Rutherford
- #300 Gilbert and Casilda Vigil, Rt. 2 Box 40, Hernandez, NM 87537
- #303 Paul and Erma Trujillo, 1111 Calle de la Resolana,
Santa Fe, 87501

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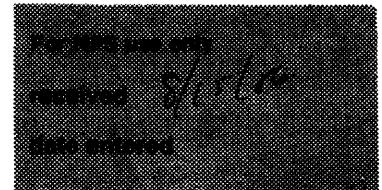
7. Description: The village of Plaza Blanca covers an area of approximately nineteen acres and includes ten houses, a church or **capilla** which is a converted school, and six outbuildings, including three shed and corral complexes. Of the houses, nine were built between 1880 and 1910, and one since 1930. The church was built in 1920. The outbuildings predate 1940. Most of the structures are serviceable and remarkably unmodified since 1940. All of the houses and the church line the narrow asphalt road that is the main street of the village (ill. 68). The buildings are all modest examples of the type referred to in the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual and described in Part I of the nomination (pp. 4, 5) as New Mexico Vernacular. All of the houses in which it was possible to determine the wall material are **jacal**, a vertical post construction. Seven of the houses are composed of single rooms or strings of single rooms, each with an exterior door. The remaining two houses are L-shaped. Only two of the houses have the half-story construction more frequently found in the other villages. Further evidence of the modest nature of these structures is the lack of wood detailing. Porch supports are simply log post, and in six of the houses adobe plaster rather than hard stucco covers the building (ills. 71-73).

Facing southeasterly and extending along a contour just thirty feet above the flood plain of the Chama River, Plaza Blanca is the only village in the group located on the west bank of the river. Just below the main street is the Plaza Blanca **acequia** and below it the fenced fields it irrigates, which slope gently toward the river (ills. 67, 69, 70). They are punctuated at their eastern boundaries by the cottonwoods lining the river's edge. Historically, primary access to Plaza Blanca was a dirt road fording the Chama River just below La Puente. The ford has not been maintained since 1969 when a state highway was extended from Los Ojos to Rutherford. Plaza Blanca is accessible from the highway by crossing over the hill behind the village.

In its isolated, relatively undisturbed state, the village reflects many of the Hispanic traditions of dividing and defining property and landscape. Wire fences divide front yards from the thoroughfare. Small beds of hollyhocks, one of the few flowers brought by the Spaniards to New Mexico, grow informally between dirt front yard parking areas and the houses (ill. 72). They provide a mid-summer display of reds, whites and purples assembled against earthen plastered walls. Family property is further defined to the rear of the houses. As the contour of the hill begins to rise toward a band of pinon and juniper trees at the hill's crown, three shed and corral complexes form a fifty yard band of outbuildings (ills. 74, 75). With the corrals enclosed on

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some sides with barbed wire on double post and rail fencing, the remaining corral walls are composed of a series of storage sheds or **trojas** and stock pens. They employ a variety of building materials including hewn horizontal logs, vertical and horizontal planks, railroad ties, and **jacal** and exhibit a variety of building techniques including double box and double saddle notching and pole frame construction.

Above the corral complexes runs a gravel road winding around in back of the village and climbing over the hill and back out to the highway. In a clearing amongst the trees dotting the upper hillside is a farm equipment graveyard with truck bodies and numerous farm implements including a thrasher, several reapers, rakes, discs, and wagon parts (ill. 76). The perspective is a good one for viewing the village within the context of the lower section of the Chama Valley (ill. 70). The arid hillside is of little agricultural value and is thus a repository for those things no longer of use. Immediately below, current supplies, wood piles, livestock, and old cars with salvageable parts are situated conveniently near the homesteads. And below, the houses look out across the road and onto the irrigated land, once the lifeblood of the rural village. Beyond the cottonwoods and the river rests the village of La Puente, itself the most isolated of the east bank villages, but from Plaza Blanca, a seemingly large community.

The expansive plateaus and fields of Los Ojos, Ensenada, and Tierra Amarilla are not duplicated on the west bank. The topography limits Plaza Blanca to an **acequia** system feeding a smaller area of rectangular fenced fields, much like those found in narrower mountain valleys common elsewhere in northern New Mexico. Yet as one approaches this **acequia**, the contrasts common to all ditch-fed areas become apparent. Below the **acequia** lush grasses and flowers thrive in the moist soil. Above the **acequia** a sunbleached dryness dominates with seasonal vegetation surviving only because of its modest moisture requirements. So striking is this contrast that, both in aerial photographs and from the hilltop in back of the village, the **acequia** appears not as a ribbon of water but as a strand of vegetation.

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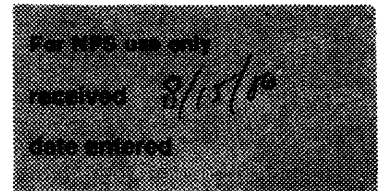
8. Significance: The village of Plaza Blanca is one of the best preserved examples of a nineteenth-century Hispanic village in New Mexico. Because of its limited field area and its separation from the other villages of La Tierra Amarilla which lie to the east of the Chama River, it developed on a modest scale, realizing the essentials of Hispanic architecture and settlement with little elaboration or evident Anglo-American influence. The most basic construction material--**jacal** with earthen plaster--predominates. The traditional arrangement of self-contained rooms in a single file plan accounts for all but two of the houses; they employ the next simplest variation, the L-shaped plan. These houses line the high side of the village's single road, forming an uncomplicated example of the typical nineteenth-century linear settlement pattern. Perpendicular to the road, traditional long lots extend up from the Chama River to the sandy hills behind town. Most properties repeat a fundamental Hispanic organization of space: first the river, then the fields, above them the **acequia**, the road, the houses and finally above and behind them the corrals formed by barns, sheds and fences.

The upper Chama River remains a volatile waterway capable of spring flooding and subsequent erratic changes in its course. The washed-out ford between La Puente and Plaza Blanca bears witness to this as do the deeply-eroded east bank and the shifting stone and gravel piles which line much of the river. According to local tradition, Plaza Blanca was originally an extension of La Puente, a "budding process" settlement (see Part I, p. 8), a suggestion corroborated by the extension of many field boundaries from La Puente across the river to form the boundaries of Plaza Blanca fields. However, the changing course of the river forced settlement to occur not on the roadway from La Puente, but on the higher bright white ground which gives the village its name.

The farm implement graveyard in back of Plaza Blanca signifies the shift from horse to gasoline power and the abandonment of grain crops. Horse or small tractor-drawn and relatively small and lightweight, these early thrashers, rakes and reapers permitted access to the small narrow fields with their ditch laterals without disturbing the delicate **acequia** and fence system. In contrast, modern gas-powered combines introduced in the 1930's and 1940's are expensive and impractical in such small scale conditions and have effectively eliminated the earlier more diverse range of crops, particularly wheat and barley. Unused, reminders of an earlier era, the implements and field landscape complement the village architecture--evoking a past that has largely disappeared along the more travelled roads of the state.

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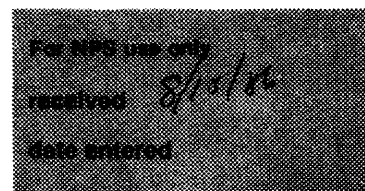
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Contributing Structures

- #295 La Cofradia de San Antonio de Padua de la Placita Blanca; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1920; stucco; corrugated roof; fixed windows; 2 single doors; wrought iron porch supports. Built as school building, converted into church ca. 1960.
- #296 Pedro Ulibarri Jr. House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; stucco; corrugated roof; 6/6 double hung windows, 2/2 double hung windows, sliding wood windows; pole porch posts.
- #297 Shed; ca. 1910; corrugated roof; horizontal log with double saddle notch. Associated with #296.
- #298 Ortega-Samora House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1900; earthen plaster over jacal; corrugated roof; 4/4 double hung windows, fixed windows; 4 single doors; log porch posts. Deteriorating.
- #299 Adolpho Ulibarri House; ill. 73; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; L-shaped; corrugated roof; stucco; 6/6 double hung windows, fixed window, aluminum sliding window; 2 single doors; gable door; chamfered posts, some with brackets.
- #300 Pedro Ulibarri-Oniel Mercure House; ill. 71; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1885; earthen plaster over jacal; board over board roof; window frame with pedimented lintel, fixed window frame; single door. Deteriorating.
- #301 Frank Ulibarri Jr. House; ill. 72; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; stucco and mud plaster; corrugated roof; half-story wall; 4/4 double hung windows, fixed window, aluminum sliding window; 3 single doors; gable door; 4 x 4 porch posts.
- #302 Frank Ulibarri Sr.-Johnny Valdez House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; plywood; corrugated roof; half-story wall; fixed windows, aluminum sliding windows; 2 single doors; 4 x 4 porch posts. Jacal addition to north, wood frame addition being built to west.
- #303 Juan Lopez House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; earthen plaster; corrugated roof; half-story wall; 4/4 double hung windows, fixed window; 2 single doors; gable door and window; chamfered porch posts. Boardwalk entrance. Shed c. 50' E (contributing): horizontal beams with end box notch.
- #304 Juan Ulibarri-Nicholas Lopez House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880-1910; earthen plaster over jacal; corrugated roof; exposed vigas; fixed windows, metal casement windows; 3 single doors; gable doors; log porch posts.

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- #305 Miguel Ulibarri House; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1900-1910; L-shaped; earthen plaster over jacal; corrugated roof; 4/4 double hung windows, fixed windows; 3 single doors; gable door; log porch posts. Shed c. 50' N (contributing): log frame with vertical and horizontal planks.
- #306 Frank Ulibarri Jr. Corral Complex; ca. 1910; corrugated roofs; vertical and horizontal planks; railroad tie; pole frames. Barbed wire fence defines some of corral.
- #307 Frank Ulibarri Sr. Barns and Corral; ill. 75; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1880; corrugated roofs; horizontal hewn log with double box notch; vertical planks; jacal and horizontal poles. Barbed wire defines some of corral.
- #308 Ulibarri-Lopez Sheds and Corral; ill. 74; N.M. Vernacular; ca. 1910; corrugated roofs; jacal and horizontal plank; double post and rail fence.
- #309 Farm Equipment Graveyard; ill. 76; early twentieth-century horse drawn farm equipment: 1 thrasher, 3 reapers, 2 seed spreaders, rake, disc, 1 truck body, 1 car body, and miscellaneous wagon and implement parts. (Note: counted as 11 contributing objects and miscellaneous parts.)

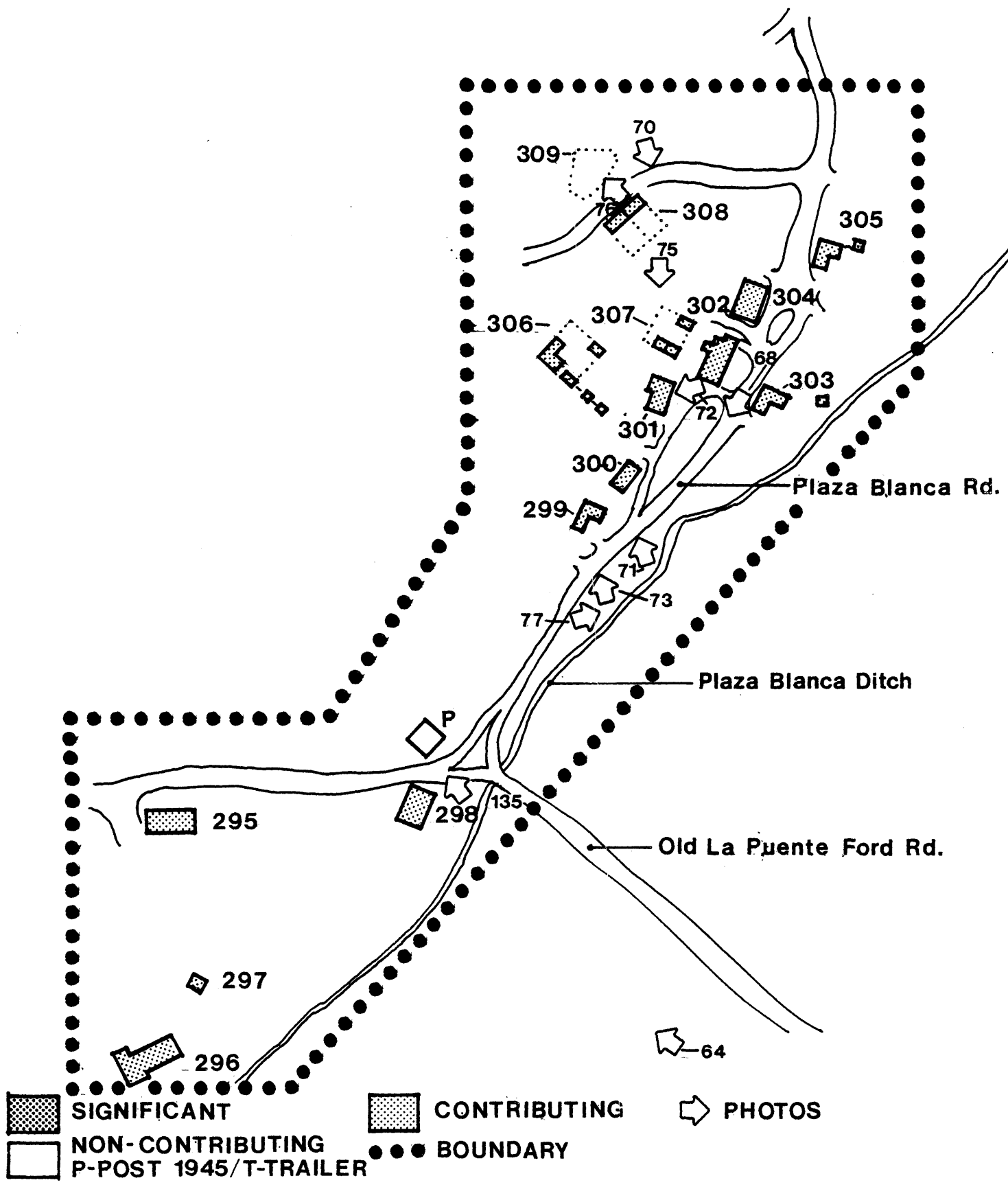
Non-contributing Structures

- #321 House, ill. 135; ca. 1900, greatly remodeled ca. 1970.

10. Acreage: approximately nineteen.

<u>UTM References</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Eastings</u>	<u>Northings</u>
F	13	356000	4063000
G	13	356440	4063380
H	13	356600	4063160
I	13	356160	4062680

Boundary: recorded on Map #10 and reflects the historic extent of Plaza Blanca as it existed in 1935.



10.
PLAZA BLANCA
HISTORIC DISTRICT

