

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Mexico
COUNTY:	Taos
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 14 1975

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
~~The Chapel of Santa Cruz of Ojo Caliente~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
On south side of the plaza, north of the new church

CITY OR TOWN: Ojo Caliente

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: 35

COUNTY: Taos

CODE: 055

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Harvey Griffin

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Office Box 478

CITY OR TOWN: Ojo Caliente, New Mexico

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: 87549

CODE: 35

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Taos County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ojo Caliente

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: 35

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

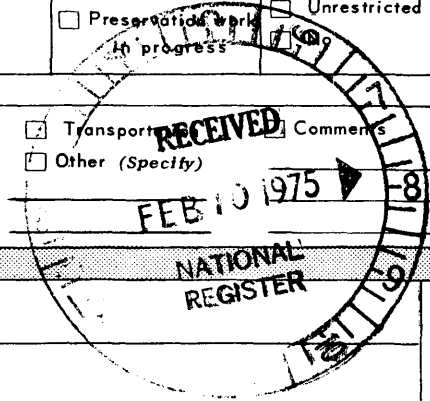
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 West De Vargas Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: 35



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 14 1975
DATE	
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built after 1793, on one of the plots assigned during the final resettlement of the village of Ojo Caliente, the chapel of Santa Cruz de Ojo Caliente remains a visible reminder of the religious devotion and hardship suffered by 18th century residents at the Ute and Comanche frontier of New Mexico.

The chapel, licensed January 13, 1811 and blessed on January 3 of the following year, was a visita of the church of Santo Tomás de Abiquiu before U.S. occupation. Inventories of its furnishings were made by Cura Juan Bautista Guevara in 1818 and by Cura Fernández de San Vicente in 1826 as part of their official visitations of New Mexico churches on behalf of the Bishop of Durango.

Included in these listings were: a number of wooden candlesticks, a small bell in the tower, a confessional and pulpit and several images of the saints. Most of these items were also mentioned by Ernest Ingersoll in his Crest of the Continent as still in the chapel in 1885. His description of the church is as follows:

The church itself of course was built of adobe, the facade being supported on the right of the door by a great sloping buttress, which was not only a brace, but has served in place of a ladder to those who built the roof and parapets. At each corner, in front a little protuberance hinted that the architect had side-towers in his mind, while the center was carried up into a low gable, surmounted by a square bit of clay work and timber, bearing a wooden cross and sustaining a homemade bell, whose greenish and rough cast exterior gave it an appearance of the most corroded antiquity. Recent rains had evidently damaged the walls very much for great hollows had been washed in them. . .The little round box of a pulpit, painted in streaks of red and blue, had replaced its lost staircase with a ladder, and its sounding-board was a spoon-shaped piece of plank about the size of a chair-seat, inside which was traced a white dove on a blue ground, its wings outspread in full conventionality. . .The altar itself bore in the center an image of the Virgin Mary, about half life size, dressed much like a great doll. On each side of her were tall tallow candles, set in rough holders whittled out of billets of wood into a rounded pillar. . .Centuries have rolled over its adobe walls, and its roof of closely set logs and adze-carved brackets. . .

Although not described by Ingersoll, the chapel in the 1880's also contained a hand-carved altar screen or reredos as shown by interior photographs in the Museum of New Mexico Collection. The altar screen and the other furnishings have long since been removed, and local citizens have no idea where the remnants have gone.

Architecturally, the chapel was an interesting example of New Mexico colonial style in adobe, before its present reduction to a barn. The exposed location of Ojo produced a chapel with a minimum of fenestration; few and small openings high up in the

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

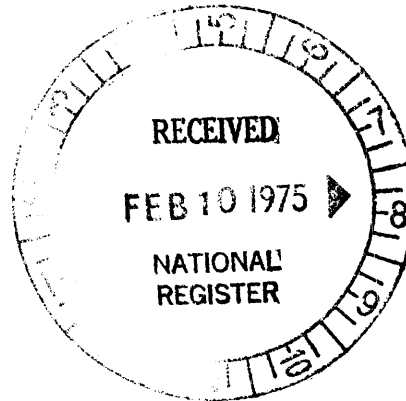
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet #1)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Taos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 14 1976

(Number all entries) 7. DESCRIPTION

walls. The round vigas were exceptionally large and closely spaced in proportion to the size of the building. The corbels were good examples of the simplified profiles used at the end of the Spanish period in contrast to those of the early 18th century. Vigas and corbels are still in excellent condition. Although windows have been cut into the walls and a tin roof installed, all at a comparatively late date, the basic chapel-fortress design of Santa Cruz de Ojo Caliente has not changed. The structure is in reasonably good condition and could be rehabilitated for adaptive community use while retaining its historic integrity.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church of Santa Cruz in Ojo Caliente was built on the south side of the plaza a few years after the refounding of the settlement by Governor de la Concha in 1793. It was then a chapel designated as a visita of the church of Santo Tomás in Abiquiú. The license for the chapel was dated January 3, 1811 and the date of the official blessing was January 13, 1812.

During the 18th Century, the Ojo Caliente settlement, located in a remote valley of northern New Mexico, was a frontier outpost within the jurisdiction of the Villa of Santa Cruz de la Cañada and had a troubled history since it was particularly exposed to the Ute and Comanche attack. First settled about 1730 with the plaza located on a mesa just east of the Ojo Caliente stream, it was abandoned in 1748. Some settlers returned briefly in 1751-1752 on orders of the Governor, Tomás Véles y Cachupín apparently building the plaza along the stream where their crops were planted but were also driven out. A third attempt at permanent settlement was ordered by the governors from 1766 through 1769 but the settlers refused to return.

Chapels had been built at each former plaza site but were in ruin when permanent settlement was made in 1793. Although Governor de la Concha had instructed the colonists to reestablish their plaza on the original 1730-1748 mesa site, they did not comply, but instead returned to the river location near their crops in spite of continual danger from the Ute and Comanches. Title to Ojo Caliente lands was reaffirmed during the Mexican period in 1824 by Governor Bartolomé Baca.

The chapel of Santa Cruz de Ojo Caliente was inventoried by Cura Juan Bautista Guevara, representative of the Bishop of Durango, on July 10, 1818 and again by Fernandez de San Vicente in 1826.

Although modified in appearance since the turn of this century, the chapel of Santa Cruz has retained its fortress-like appearance. A new church named St. Mary's was constructed in the 1950's at which time the Archdiocese of Santa Fe planned to demolish the older church but was prevented from doing so by local opposition since the residents had a strong feeling for the historic church building. In addition, many objected as the surveys of properties adjacent to the Ojo Caliente plaza were all based on the chapel as a point of triangulation.

Appropriate rehabilitation of the historic building would be an ~~asset to the residents especially since many visitors are attracted~~ to the village and its hot springs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Series I, Numbers 20, 26, 650, 655, 656, 1062, 1189, State Records Center, Santa Fe, New Mex.  
 Surveyor-General of New Mexico files, Case #77, State Records Center, Santa Fe, New Mex.  
 Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Baptisms, Santa Clara and San Juan 1728-1739. Accounts, III, Abiquiu, 1818, LXIV, Abiquiu, 1826.  
 Boyd, E. "Troubles at Ojo Caliente, A Frontier Post," El Palacio, LXXIV, December, 1957, pp. 347-360.  
 Ingersoll, Ernest. Crest of the Continent, Chicago, 1885, pp.90-91.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

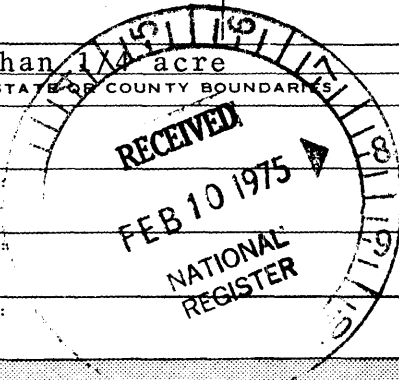
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
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NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

13/405020  
 4017840  
 CV

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael McCachren, Archivist I

ORGANIZATION: State Records Center and Archives DATE: 6/12/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 404 Montezuma

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Thomas W. Merla

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 3-31-75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

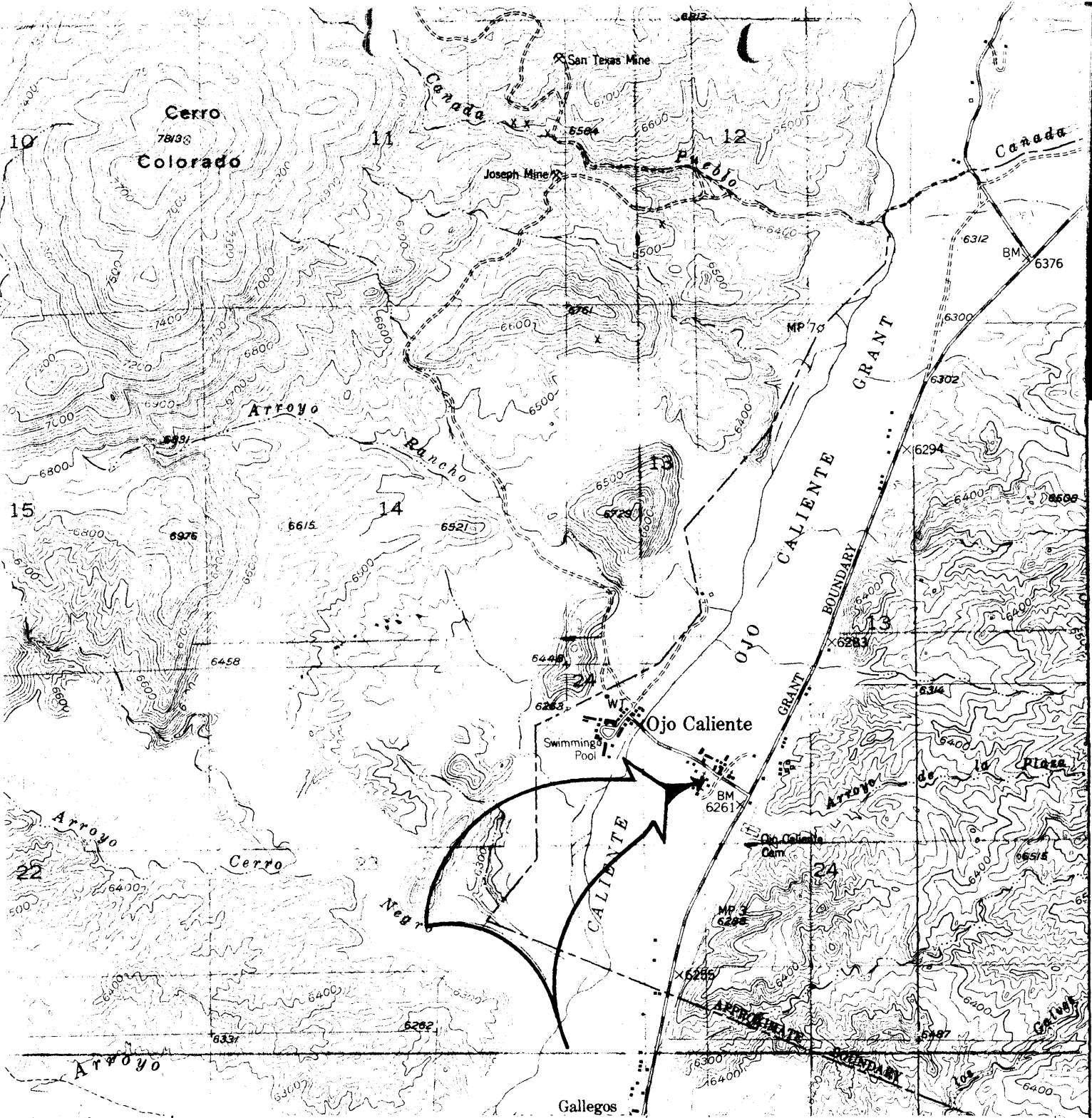
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Merla  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/14/75

ATTEST:  
WJ Minter  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 8 1975



**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	N	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:						

6554

6338

1.08

6238

6161

to la Cruz

6303

6343