

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1979

DATE ENTERED APR 18 1979

**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

Clemens Ranch House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Magdalena

CITY, TOWN

Magdalena

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Kelly Mining District #2

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

35

COUNTY

Socorro

CODE

053

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

Edward and Neila Pearson

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 38

CITY, TOWN

Socorro

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico 87801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Socorro County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Socorro

STATE

New Mexico 87801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

May 3, 1975

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Educational Finance and Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 1629, Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A splendid example of Railroad Era architecture in New Mexico, the Clemens Ranch house stands at the foot of Magdalena Peak, facing east toward the abandoned mining town of Kelly. Constructed with a definite interest in symmetry, the imposing 1-1/2-story L-shaped house is built of locally quarried cut rhyolite block, in a random-coursed ashlar finish. The uniform rock-faced exterior is relieved by rusticated segmental door and window arches, keystones, and by stretcher coursing. Exterior walls are massive, measuring 20 inches thick; interior walls are 12 inches thick.

The steeply pitched hip roof, which has four corniced brick chimneys offset left and right, is cross-gabled with ornamental sectional ridges. Gable ends are fitted with slatted attic ventilators concealing 4-light casement windows. Originally shingle, the roof was replaced with corrugated iron sheeting in 1934.

The stonework in the house was supposedly done by two Italian stonemasons brought to New Mexico Territory by Clemens. Woodwork and the 1934 roof remodeling were done by Dan Chamberlain, a master carpenter from Magdalena.

The front porch roof is supported by four tapered, squared wooden posts and one pilaster; classical capitals are suggested by mitered molding nailed to the faces of the posts. Pedestals are treated in the same manner. The raised back porch rests on quarried stone columns. Porch floors are narrow tongue-and-groove boards. The underside of the front-porch roof and all eaves with exposed rafters are faced with narrow, ornamental tongue-and-groove lumber.

Every room has fenestration, and there are five outside doors, some with up to five locks each. All exterior doors have 3 and 6 lights at eye level, and 5 light transoms, except the front door transom, which is set with three scroll-topped lights. All exterior transoms are fitted with heavy wooden grilles, as are the transoms over the three doorways leading from the through-hall to the rest of the house. The 2-inch thick solid oak front door faces east, opening into a 10-foot wide hallway connecting the two wings of the house. The south wing is the larger of the two.

Construction methods reflected the influence of the railroad. As dimensioned lumber and glass had become available, wooden door-jamb, window sash, transoms, muntins and moldings were fashioned in the eastern style. Most windows are double-hung; those in the dining room and living room measure 40 inches wide by 86 inches high, raised 14 inches above the floor. Window sashes in the kitchen and bedrooms are undivided by muntins, reflecting the fashion for large expanses of glass. The east window in the dining room and the north window in the living room contain a single, large lower pane; the upper portion of the top pane is divided by muntins to form 6 lights. A bay window facing east in the living room has 6 light casement windows on the north and south sides, and 3 multiple-light windows on the east; the large center window has 8 over 8 lights, the flanking windows, 6 over 6. Except for one large-paned window facing west in the kitchen, all west windows are casement windows with either 12 lights or single panes topped with individual lights and 5 light transoms. Two storm windows remain for these casement windows. All double-hung windows are fashioned

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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with adjustable interior wooden weatherstrips and have brass hardware. Window sills are made of cast cement outside and wood inside; two of the latter have modillions and are 18 inches deep. Interior doors are paneled wood with brass locks.

The cornerstone at the southwest corner of the house is carved with Ernest Allen Clemens' brand, open AC, and the date, 1910. Another block on the east side of the house is carved with the letters ^B (bench mark?).

The house has 8 spacious rooms - a large kitchen with ^Mpantry, dining room, living room (with stone fireplace 7 feet by 5 feet high having a tile hearth and stone mantel shelf), master bedroom, guest bedroom, hall corner room, and two baths, the second added in 1973. Ceilings are 12 feet high with beams in the dining room, living room, and master bedroom.

French doors from the living room and master bedroom lead to the southeast corner room, which apparently was once a sunporch with multi-light casement windows. In 1976, the exterior clapboard siding on this room was covered with plywood sheeting. The room has a cement floor, and now opens onto a small greenhouse added at the same time.

Kitchen, bath, and master bedroom are fitted with ornamental cast-iron air registers in walls or ceilings. These registers conceal metal louvers operated by pull-chains and were evidently part of a planned heating system that was never completed. The wall registers in the kitchen and bath open into vertical air shafts that reach from cellar to attic. Ceiling registers open directly into the attic. In the attic tiny ventilators at floor level have matching fitted doors, inset and locking, for winter use. Judging from holes in the floor of the house, the rooms had steam radiators at one time. A steam boiler in the basement has been dismantled, but a large hot-water boiler remains.

All rooms have picture molding and 10-inch baseboards. Kitchen and bath have wainscoting. All floors are quarter-sawn hardwood with ornamental herringbone patterns in the corners of the living, dining and master bedrooms. Cabinetwork enhances the dining room and master bedroom. A built-in china cabinet in the dining room is fashioned with 36 lights in the double doors. Four storage drawers below the cabinet ride on concealed brass roller bearings. A similar cabinet with paneled wood doors provides linen storage in the master bedroom.

Because of Mrs. Clemens' Roman Catholic faith, aedicules to hold images of saints were built in both the southeast and southwest corners of the master bedroom. That on the southwest is provided with a concealed DC lightbulb, since the ranch did not have city power until 1949, to illuminate the statue. A walk-through clothes-closet conceals a trap-door to the full cellar below. The dug cellar, with rock walls and barred windows, also has tiny ventilators at ground level below the porches with fitted, inset doors. According to folklore of the area, Clemens was an informer concerning the activities of a band of alleged
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#7

train robbers operating in the vicinity. The trapdoor provided access through an underground tunnel to an exit west of the house to escape would-be intruders. Mrs. Grace Hutchison Vinyard of Magdalena, who lived in the house as a young girl in the early 1900's, says that she and her father once explored the first 100 feet of the tunnel, which was then already caving in. She indicates that the tunnel entrance was at the end of the trench at the southwest corner of the basement, but was sealed off in later years because of its dangerous condition.

Outside, a series of dirt tanks east and south of the house were apparently designed to irrigate a peach orchard. Due, no doubt, to the porous soils, inadequate rainfall and low water table, they eventually proved inadequate for the job. A network of water pipes still remains buried around the house, part of an extensive irrigation system engineered by Clemens.

West of the house, an adobe pumphouse adjoins a 150-foot hand-dug well which still supplies water to the house today by means of a submersible pump. The original "one lung" gas/diesel/kerosene pump engine is still in the pumphouse. An adobe bunkhouse, now used as a garage, a smokehouse and walls of a chicken coop remain. Corrals west of the pumphouse are still used for roundup and shipping.

#10

in a northerly direction along a fence line for a distance of approximately 400' to the point of beginning.

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 checked="" 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 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 Built in 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1910, under the homestead act, the deed to 160 acres of land in Hop Canyon was patented to Frances Marion Hill by President William Howard Taft. The same year, Hill sold 40 acres of that parcel to Edward Allen Clemens, originally of St. Louis, who began construction of an elegant home on the land. Somewhat of an enigma in Magdalena, Clemens acquired a reputation for eccentricity. A cattle ranch headquarters in recent years, the house, originally called "Clenaln" was built to last, as evidenced by the painstaking craftsmanship involved. A chemist for the Graphic smelter, Clemens was also a stock contractor, possibly for the U.S. Cavalry, and operated an extensive horse ranch, "Estelane," at the north end of the San Mateo Mountains. The mining boom at Kelly was then in full swing, as was activity along the stock driveway crossing the Plains of San Agustin, and horses were at a premium. The name Estelane was supposedly the Spanish-English description of the stock driveway (este-"lane") into a box canyon where the ranch headquarters was located.

According to folklore, Clemens built the house for his wife, Ruth Withington Clemens, whom he met in New Mexico. Mrs. Clemens, originally from New York, had lived at Estelane. She later lived at Clenaln for about 2 years, then went back east. Clemens supposedly named Mt. Withington for her. In 1918 he made a gift of some land on the ranch to his daughter, Frances Withington Clemens. He remained at the house until his death at the approximate age of 70 in 1923 or '24. A small fenced area some 200 ft. south of the house appears indeed to be a private cemetery where, according to local legend, Clemens and his collie dog are buried.

Still the headquarters of a 7,000-acre cattle ranch, the Clemens Ranch house remains an imposing and handsome structure to this day. Apart from the addition of plumbing and electricity, the house remains essentially the same as it was 68 years ago, a testimony to practicality of design and quality of workmanship. The house is also of special importance because documentation by cornerstone at the time and place of construction was most unusual. As one of the few remaining examples of "Railroad Era" ranch homes this remarkable structure makes a significant contribution to American architectural history. Because of the building's cultural and historical values, the Clemens Ranch house merits consideration for recognition and protection as an important tie with Socorro County's past.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 3.67 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	3	2	9	4	3	0	0	3	7	7	3	5	5	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 500' west of Forest Road #101 and proceeding in a westerly direction along the fence line for a distance of approximately 400' to the northwest corner of the nominated property; thence in a southerly direction along another fence line for a distance of approximately 400'; thence in an easterly direction for a distance of approximately 400' to the southeast corner of the nominated property; thence

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Neila M. Pearson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

December 11, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 38

505-835-5218

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Socorro

New Mexico 87801

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. Nelson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 2 1979

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

Charles Adams

DATE

4.18.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RECEIVED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Gale Brooks-Jon

DATE

4/18/79

RECEIVER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER