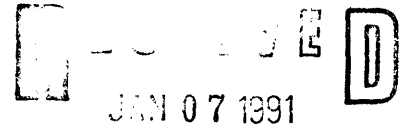


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Garcia, Juan Nepomuceno, House  
other names/site number ID#031; SR Site #157

2. Location

street & number 108 Bernard Street  not for publication  
city, town Socorro  vicinity  
state New Mexico code NM county Socorro code 053 zip code 87801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Domestic Architecture in Socorro, New Mexico, 1870-1912  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 12-28-90  
State or Federal agency and bureau: [Signature]

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 2/20/91  
Entered in the National Register

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**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

---

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

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---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

---

Other:Territorial

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

---

walls stucco over adobe

---

---

roof not visible

---

other wood

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Juan Nepomuceno House is a one-story, flat-roofed building constructed of adobe and consists of a rectangle of rooms constructed around an open, interior courtyard (placita). Some of its adobe walls are about 20 inches thick. A long, Territorial-style portal extends along the entire main (west) facade supported by chamfered posts. Tall, 2/2 wooden, double-hung, simply-trimmed windows and an assortment of doors some with lights and side lights punctuate the main facade.

Photographic evidence indicates that by 1882 the portal was in place. The 1886 Sanborn shows the basic shape of the building established as a rectangle of rooms in single file around a placita and fronted by a long portal facing the former north plaza. Alterations typical of adobe construction have been made since. Some door and window openings have been closed and new openings created in other places. Added rooms have enclosed some of the placita. Since 1930 two small additions have been constructed at the corners of the rear (east) facade.

The building faces west on to what was once a plaza and lies directly south of the Juan Jose Baca House and Store. It is presently used for both business and residential purposes. It is in very good condition and well conveys its historical associations.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1880  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1880  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This building is architecturally significant as the only remaining house built around a placita to be identified in Socorro, (Garner/Hicks). As such, it is an example, rare in Socorro, of an adobe building which is basically Spanish Colonial in form with Territorial-style modifications to the portal, windows and doors but without the intrusion of other influences such as a pitched roof or ornate, prefabricated decorative elements. With its neighbor, the Juan Jose Baca House and Store, the Juan Nepomuceno Garcia House provides the only remaining physical evidence of the 1880s' appearance of Socorro's plaza, the historic shape, dimensions, and character of which have been otherwise obscured by demolition and later construction.

The exact date that construction began on the house is unknown. It is probable that the building developed over time in the traditional manner from a few rooms. According to the present owner, the property was bought by J.N. Garcia in 1867. By the early 1880s, it had grown to a fully realized placita-plan building modified in the Territorial manner with such additions as a portal with squared posts and large windows with simple, white, wooden Greek Revival trim.

Juan Nepomuceno Garcia, the half brother of Juan Jose Baca, was a merchant and owned many other properties in and around Socorro. Both he and his wife Francisca belonged to Socorro's founding families and were among the most wealthy and powerful of her citizens. After Garcia's death in 1886 at the age of 52, the house was inherited by his widow who later remarried twice. In 1886 the Garcia Opera House (listed NR 8/13/1974) was completed on a tract just east of the Garcia home.

In 1902, Garcia's widow, by then Francisca G. Towle, sold the entire property, including the dwelling and the opera house to Abran Abeyta, Socorro County Deeds, Bk. 49, p. 10). Abeyta, a grandson of one of the refounders of Socorro, was a leading merchant, politician, and civic leader. His career included membership in his uncle's mercantile firm, Manuel Abeyta & Company, and

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	3
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3	2	5	3	6	0
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3	7	7	0	0	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The legal description of the property which includes the historic resource.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Corinne Sze  
organization Research Services of Santa Fe date November 1, 1990  
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605  
city or town Santa Fe, state NM zip code 87501

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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service as Socorro county treasurer, member of the House of Representatives, county superintendent of schools, and Socorro mayor. His second wife was the daughter of Juan Jose Baca.

Abeyta kept the property until 1917 when he sold it to Holm Bursum. Bursum, the nephew of A.H. Hilton, was a political figure of statewide significance. Among the posts he occupied were Socorro county sheriff, member of the upper house of the Territorial legislature, Superintendent of the Territorial Penitentiary in Santa Fe, Socorro Mayor, chairman of the Republican Party Territorial Central Committee, and New Mexico delegate to several national Republican party conventions. In 1911 he ran unsuccessfully for the post of New Mexico's first governor after statehood. Ten years later he was appointed to fill Albert Fall's U.S. Senate seat but failed to win election to the seat in 1925. The present owners bought the Garcia House in 1969 from Ruth Harbin, the daughter of Holm Bursum. The Juan Nepomuceno House was listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties on March 20, 1970.

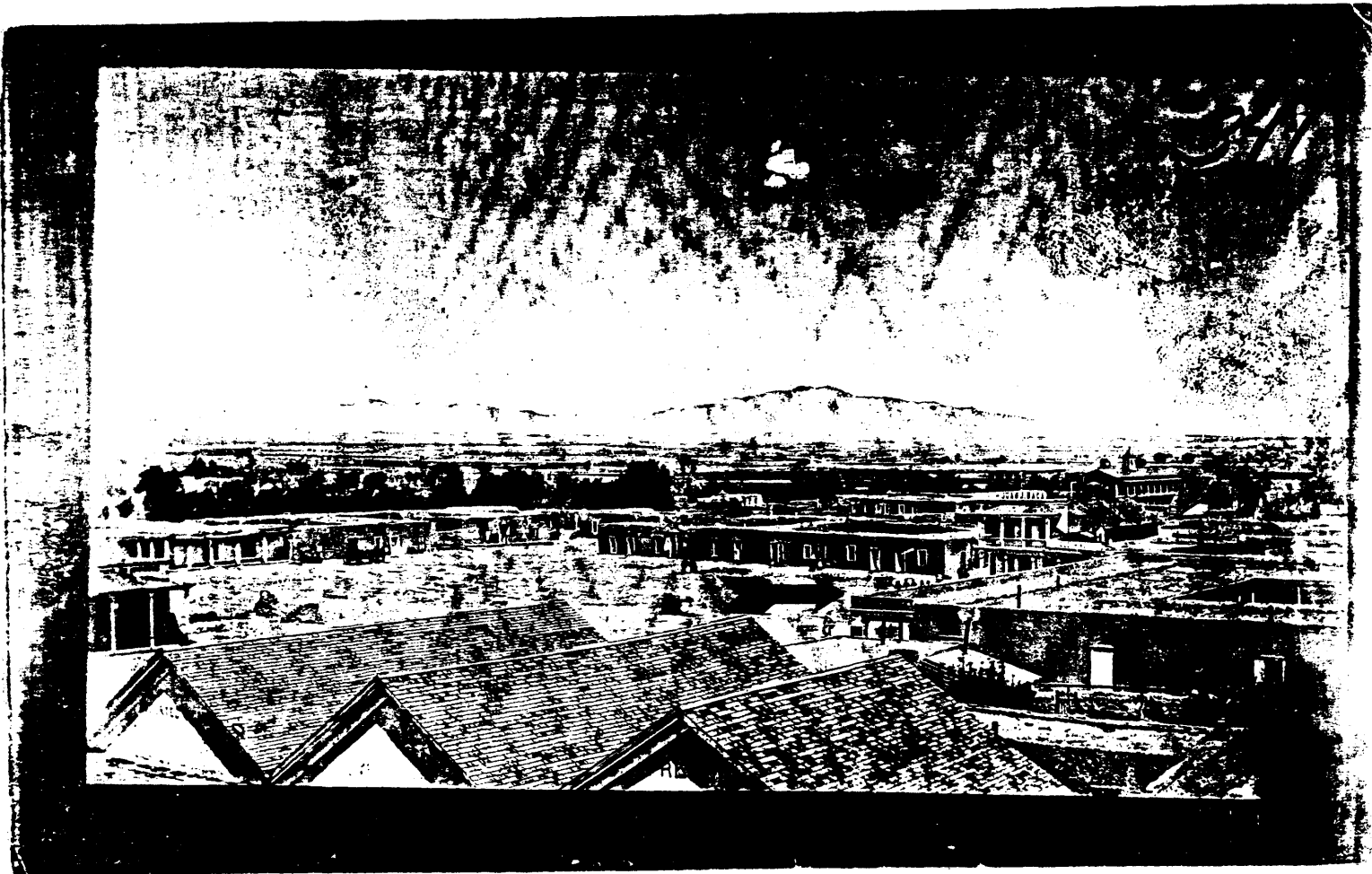
The Period of Significance is c. 1880, the approximate date of significant Territorial alterations which gave the building the appearance for which it is nominated.

38884

LUCIEN FILE COLLECTION

Towns - Socorro  
Print 5x7 Towns, Socorro 1 file  
Film - Towns, Socorro 1 file

View to northwest across plaza. 1882



Juan Nepomuceno Garcia House

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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McCachren, Michael. "The Garcia Opera House," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1974.

Nieman, Charles L. Spanish Times and Boom Times: Toward the Architectural History of Socorro, New Mexico. Socorro County Historical Society Publications in History, VI. Socorro, New Mexico, 1972.

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Jessie Headen 7/5/1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

CODE  
NUMBER 1-360-20.1

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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REAL PROPERTY LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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Beginning at Corner 1, the NW Corner, whence the Section corner common to Sections 21,22,15 and 16 of the Socorro Grant bears N. 13°25' W., a distance of 774.4 ft;

Thence N. 84°55' E., a distance of 137.5 ft. to Corner 2, the NE Cor.

Thence S. 5°05' E., a distance of 130.3 ft. to Corner 3, the SE Cor.

Thence S. 85°28' W., a distance of 146.3 ft. to Corner 4, the SW Cor.

Thence N. 1°05' W., a distance of 128.0' ft. to Corner 1, the place of beginning.

Being part of city survey 177, Tr-11. Bounded on the west by Bernard St., on the north by Abeyta Street, on the East by an easement and on the South by an alley. County of Socorro, State of New Mexico.