* Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED MAY 27 1822

Socorro

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

NAME

Sagrada Familia de Lemitar Church, Los Dulces Nombres HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Lemitar Church

LOCATION

Six-tenths mile east of Lemitar Exit, Interstate 25. STREET & NUMBER Six and a half niles north of Socorro. New Mexico

Old Gills & Institute and the		HOLEN OF GOCOTTO, MAR MARINE	NOTFOR PUBLICAT	UN	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DIS		
	Lemitar	VICINITY OF	District 2		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
	New Mexico		Socorro		

CLASSIFICATION

	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
	DISTRICT	XPUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	NA UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
	JESTRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	\$ITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
	OBJECT	A PROCESS	X.YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
ć			NO	MILITARY	-OTHER:

AGENCY REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Bureau of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER

Socorro District

CITY, TOWN Socorro VICINITY OF

STATE New Mexico 87801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. SOCORTO County Courthouse; Socorro BLM

STREET & NUMBER

200 Church Ave. S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Socorro

STATE New Mexico 87801

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE BLM -- CENM -- 02-1262

DATE August May 1.	23, 1980 1981	X_FEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	BLM	
	Socorro Washington	STATE New Mexico D.C.



	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
EXCELLENT X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED X_ALTERED	X-ORIGINAL	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sagrada Familia de Lemitar, or Los Dulces Nombres, Church, is located near the center of the Plaza de Lemitar, a Rio Abajo settlement situated on the west edge of the Rio Grande floodplain approximately six miles north of Socorro, New Mexico. Constructed in the early or mid-1830s, the church is modified cruciform in plan and constructed of adobe bricks with a flat, earth covered roof (original) covered by a pitched corrugated, galvanized metal roof added in the 1940s. A sacristy is appended to the north wall of the west transept arm and west wall of the apse. The exterior walls are covered with an adobe plaster over wire mesh and average three feet in thickness. A concrete footing was added along the lower walls in this century. A three foot high rectangular, concrete compound wall with wrought pipe and metal entry gate, constructed in 1939, extends out from the south facing facade. This encloses a 19th century camposanto from which all grave markers have been removed. Twin bell towers, each topped with a concrete cupola and wooden Latin cross, were added to the front corners in ca. 1960 as was a scalloped parapet extending the facade to a height of twenty-one feet. A larger wooden Latin cross is centrally located on the facade parapet directly over the church entrance. The "doublestoried" bell towers are pierced by slatted wood vents framed by blue painted false Roman "relief" arches. The bells in each tower are reportedly original. A rectangular stained and leaded casement glass window bearing the symbol of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart is centrally located above the double doored entrance.

A low concrete porch, rectangular in plan, is centered at the entrance. Prior to 1960 the entrance was covered by a small porch with tin roof supported by vertical posts. The hand-carved, paneled wood entry doors are painted reddish brown, as is the milled door frame and raised sill. Two tall, narrowly rectangular windows of stained, leaded glass, pierce the nave walls, and a single window of the same size, design and material is located in the east and west walls of the transept Formerly the windows were double hung sash with multiple lights. The arms. transepts and apse roofs are slightly higher than that of the nave, indicating there probably was a clerestory window, typical of Spanish churches of this period. The apse tapers rearward to the north, both in plan and in elevation. The long axis of the church is slightly over 80 feet and the width of the transept is 54 feet. Detailed exterior and interior dimensions of the church are recorded on the attached HABS drawings prepared by the BLM.

The double entry doors open inward to a vestibule situated under the choir loft, and the central nave aisle is flanked by rows of wooden pews of recent manufacture. The nave floor is surfaced with synthetic tile, and it and the altar area is covered with a red carpet.

An adobe floor was maintained until <u>ca</u>. 1940, and presumably is intact under the more recent floor. Modern stations of the cross are mounted on the central and north sections of the interior nave walls. <u>Santos</u> occupy <u>nichos</u> in the north walls of the transept and behind the elevated altar at the rear of the apse. These replaced the original <u>Santos</u> <u>de</u> <u>Sagrada</u> <u>Familia</u> which were removed from the church in 1963. These original <u>Santos</u> are in a private residence in Lemitar. A doorway

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	-ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	XRELIGION
1400-1499	-ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	X-EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Early 1830s - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local resident(?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sagrada Familia church is important to the late historical development of the Rio Abajo, the Socorro Parish, and especially the Mexican/American period town of Lemitar. The church and 0.5 acre property on which it is located previously have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Socorro District of the Bureau of Land Management. Although architecturally altered, the structure manifests a number of original design and construction elements. A number of important individuals, including a former Governor of New Mexico and the present Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and significant historical events of national, state, and local importance have been associated with the church and Lemitar community. The structure is one of the oldest extant Spanish village churches in the Rio Abajo and has been continually utilized and maintained by Lemitar residents and Socorro parish priests for various religious functions for about 150 years. The land for the church was donated by a local resident ca. 1831 and church construction was completed between 1834 and 1836. Prominent family members of Lemitar who contributed effort and money to the early growth and development of the Lemitar Church, Socorro County, and New Mexico are buried inside the church or in the composanto in front of the church. These include members of the Pablo Sanchez, Manuel Armijo (former General and Governor), and Patrick Fortune families. With the exception of the latter, various Mexican and Territorial period houses occupied by these and other older families are located within two hundred yards of the church. Lemitar, located across the Rio Grande from the Camino Real, or Royal Road, to Chihuahua and Mexico City, was a paraje (stopping point) for travelers, military personnel, and caravans of freighters, until the Santa Fe railroad was completed from Albuquerque to El Paso in 1882. A considerable body of published and archival data on the church and town was generated by various individuals during the last three quarters of the nineteenth century. Oral history interviews of six elderly informants in Lemitar and Socorro have resulted in the recording of additional information about the church and associated persons and events since the late nineteenth century. In sum, this church architecturally and historically represents a property important to a better understanding of the interrelations of two major cultures in the American Southwest.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henderson, Mark. "New Mexico Building Inventory Form BLM-CRNM-02-1262", 1980, Bureau of Land Management, Socorro, New Mexico.

Socorro Parish Publication Committee. "Commemorating the Solemn Rededication of old San Miguel Mission, Socorro, New Mexico," 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES A 11 3 12 4 11 20 5 37 18 13 7.15 ZONE EASTING VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION TS IW, Sec. 2, NWA SEA, SEA "Chapel and lot measuring from north to south 336 feet, from east to west 60 feet and adjoining piece of land and house to chapel lot measuring from north to south 113 feet from east to 57 feet." - Archdiocese of Santa Fe Deed BLM Tract 47. UIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE STATE CODE Dan Scurlock, Consultant 12-12-81 ORGANIZATION DATE Office of Contract Archeology (505) 277-5853 STREET ANUMBER TELEPHONE Onate Hall, University of New Mexico STATE CITY OR TOWN STATE Albuquerque, NM STATE CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION VES_ NO NONE NO NONE STATE Compliance with Executive Order 11593.1 hereby nominate this property to the National Register. certifying that U State Historic PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION VES_ NO NONE Local	Image: String	GEUGRAPHICAL I ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER	50		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

opens to the left (west) of the altar into the sacristy. Side altars are located in the transept arms. Thirty ponderosa pine <u>vigas</u> span the nave at ceiling height. The <u>vigas</u> are mill sawn and rectangular in cross section with multiple grooves extending along the length of the two underside corners as a simple decoration. A date of 1882 rendered in pencil was found on a viga over the choir loft. This date and the post 1776 cutting dates obtained from corings of five <u>vigas</u>, as well as with the style of the <u>vigas</u> suggest they may be original or were replacement beams installed in the late 19th century. The choir loft handrail consists of sawn "figure-eight" elements faced between the top rail and base rail. The interior walls and ceiling are plastered and painted white. The church is heated by two gas heaters suspended from the ceiling, one at each junction of the choir railing and nave walls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED MAY 27 1382 DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Bureau of Land Management

Summary of further evaluation recommendations for direct impact cases for land transfers, 1981. Socorro District Cultural Resources Report ID# 02-80-25, Socorro, New Mexico.

Lester, Jesse Curtis

Architectural drawings of Sagrada Familia Mission, Lemitar, Socorro Co., New Mexico. Historic American Buildings Survey, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Washington, D. C., 1981. Copy on file at Socorro District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Socorro, New Mexico.

Scurlock, Dan

A cultural resource investigation of two historic sites in Lemitar, New Mexico 1981. Report prepared by Office of Contract Archeology, University of New Mexico, for the Bureau of Land Management, Socorro, New Mexico.

