

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 27 1982

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Sagrada Familia de Lemitar Church, Los Dulces Nombres

AND/OR COMMON

Lemitar Church

**2 LOCATION**

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

CITY, TOWN

Lemitar

VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
District 2

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

COUNTY

Socorro

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Bureau of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER

Socorro District

CITY, TOWN  
Socorro

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New Mexico 87801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER 200 Church Ave. S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Socorro

STATE

New Mexico 87801

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE BLM -- CENM -- 02-1262

DATE

August 23, 1980  
May 1, 1981

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS BLM

CITY, TOWN

Socorro  
Washington

STATE  
New Mexico  
D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

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 "double-storied" 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 arms. Formerly the windows were double hung sash with multiple lights. The 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 ca. 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. Santos occupy nichos in the north walls of the transept and behind the elevated altar at the rear of the apse. These replaced the original Santos de Sagrada Familia which were removed from the church in 1963. These original Santos are in a private residence in Lemitar. A doorway

# 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 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.

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
 AREA NOT VERIFIED

**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**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY           .50            
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	3 2 4 1 2 5	3 7 8 1 3 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION TS 1W, Sec. 2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  
 "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 west 57 feet." - Archdiocese of Santa Fe Deed BLM Tract 47.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Dan Scurlock, Consultant DATE 12-12-81  
 ORGANIZATION Office of Contract Archeology TELEPHONE (505) 277-5853  
 STREET & NUMBER Onate Hall, University of New Mexico  
 CITY OR TOWN Albuquerque, NM STATE 87131

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE   
[Signature]  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.  
 FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief, Division of Recreation, Cultural & Wilderness Resources DATE 1/5/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature] DATE 2-24-83  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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opens to the left (west) of the altar into the sacristy. Side altars are located in the transept arms. Thirty ponderosa pine vigas span the nave at ceiling height. The vigas 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 vigas, as well as with the style of the vigas 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.

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Bureau of Land Management

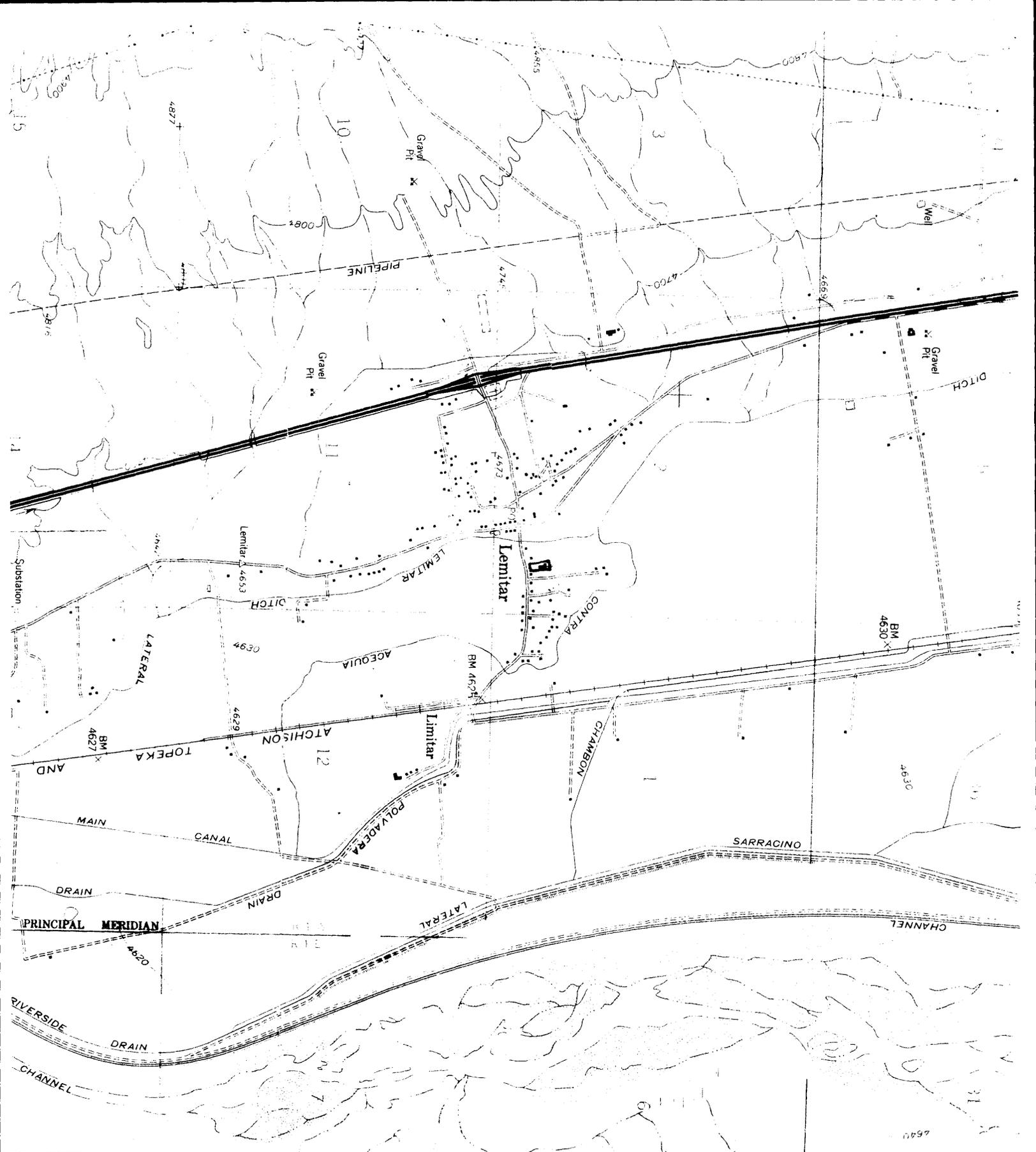
Summary of further evaluation recommendations for direct impact cases  
for land transfers, 1981. Socorro District Cultural Resources Report  
ID# 02-80-25, Socorro, New Mexico.

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.



D. SANCHEZ  
 Familia de  
 Lemitar, Et  
 Cont. 13  
 344 125 East.  
 3781 375 No. E.