

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico
COUNTY: Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lincoln, New Mexico

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Lincoln Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. Highway 380

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

COUNTY:
Lincoln

CODE:
27

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of New Mexico, various private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol, Old Santa Fe Trail

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Carrizozo

STATE:
New Mexico

CODE:
35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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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

Lincoln, New Mexico was founded circa 1854 by a band of Hispano farmers from the Rio Grande valley who were enabled by increased U.S. military protection against Apache raids to exploit the fertile land of the Rio Bonito valley. Known as La Placita del Rio Bonito (the little town by the beautiful river), the settlement consisted of small "jacales" or huts of upright poles bound with withes and then plastered with mud, around a plaza in which stood a stone "torreon" or circular tower, which offered defense in the event of a Mescalero Apache raid. In 1869, when Lincoln County was formed, La Placita became the county seat and was renamed Lincoln.

The town is situated on the southern bank of the Rio Bonito in a valley formed by hills to the north and south. The Rio Bonito and the nearby Rio Ruidoso, Rio Hondo, and Rio Penasco are all tributaries of the Pecos River to the east, and it was due to the abundance of these available waters and the native grasses that Lincoln County developed into one of the most productive cattle ranges in the territory.

With Lincoln's continued growth, the adobe house became the primary architectural feature. This type of house was constructed of adobe bricks upon a stone foundation, with a flat roof of mud-plastered planks supported by pine vigas or poles. The inside walls were generally plastered and the floors were of packed adobe. The house plans were generally L or U-shaped, and one room deep.

Circa 1880, Anglo influences began to have an effect on Lincoln architecture. Exteriors as well as interiors were stuccoed, milled windows and doors, shipped by the railroad, became common, as did tongue-and-groove plank floors. Sloped shingle roofs with gabled or hipped ends were erected over the flat viga roofs, and the square house with four rooms of equal size was frequent among the new houses.

The decade from 1870-1880 which roughly marks the period of Lincoln's outstanding significance also marks the incursion of Anglo settlers and the construction of the buildings which figured so prominently in the Lincoln County Wars. In 1873 there were approximately 100 inhabitants of Lincoln, and only one Anglo family. By 1880 there were sixty structures in the town, and the most notable of these were the Murphy-Dolan "big store" (the old County Courthouse), built in 1874, and the Tunstall-McSween store, built in 1878, both built by Anglos. Of the other buildings which have survived since 1880, exact dates of construction are not known, but whether built before or after the advent of the Anglos, all have, in the gradual process of repair and renovation, acquired many of the Anglo features, such as gable roofs and milled doors and windows. Lincoln is a linear town, stretching along the one main street (U.S. 380), and running from west to east, the historic structures are:

#1 The Murphy-Dolan Store, built 1874 and converted to Lincoln County Courthouse in 1880, is a two story, L-shaped structure of stuccoed adobe brick with a shingled hip roof. Its front facade is dominated by a two

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1869-1881**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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 story of Lincoln, New Mexico, duplicates that of most of the cow towns that sprang up on the advancing cattlemen's frontier in the years following the Civil War. Like its counterparts throughout the West, it was a business and social community serving surrounding ranges. To it drifted cowboys, badmen, gunfighters, rustlers, soldiers, and famous lawmen. It was a scene of courtroom battles, public executions, and gunfights. As in other parts of the cattle country, conflict over water, government beef contracts, and grazing rights engendered bad feeling. At Lincoln one of the famous feuds for which the cattle frontier is noted reached its dramatic climax.

The Lincoln County War of 1878 brought the rival Murphy-Dolan and Tunstall-McSween factions into armed conflict which lasted for five months. It ended in a three-day gun battle on the streets of Lincoln, and resulted in a half-dozen killings. Involved in the Lincoln County disturbances were John S. Chisum, the greatest cattle baron of the region, and General Lew Wallace, territorial governor of New Mexico. Another prominent figure in the war was William H. Bonney, "Billy the Kid." Three years later, in 1881, the Kid made a dramatic escape from the county jail at Lincoln, killing his two guards in the process. But he himself was shot and killed several months later at old Fort Sumner by Pat Garrett, Sheriff of Lincoln County.

Aside from its exciting and dramatic history and its importance to the development of the cattle industry of southeastern New Mexico (over 300,000 cattle were on this range during the 1870's and 80's), Lincoln's historical value lies in its state of preservation. It is probably the best preserved surviving example of a frontier cow town. At Lincoln a considerable part of the town of 1878 has survived comparatively untouched by modern additions, and it has retained much of its historical setting and atmosphere of a cow town. Included in the surviving structures are the adobe-brick Murphy-Dolan store, originally built in 1874, which in 1880 became the Lincoln County Courthouse, and the Tunstall-McSween store at other end of the town. These structures were the headquarters of the two rival factions in the Lincoln County War. Both of these and five other historic structures and sites in the town are owned and administered by the Old Lincoln County Memorial Commission, established by the State of New Mexico to preserve and develop these historic structures.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles F. Coan, A History of New Mexico, 3 vols. (Chicago, 1925) vol. 1.
 Emerson Hough, The Story of the Cowboy (New York, 1924).
 William A. Keleher, Violence in Lincoln County, 1869-1881 (Albuquerque, 1957).
Lincoln, New Mexico, A Plan for Preservation and Growth, edited by the New Mexico State Planning Office (Santa Fe, 1974).
 Ralph Twitchell, Leading Facts of New Mexico History (Cedar Rapids, 1917).

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	UTM 13.463000° 3708000	° 3708000		<i>(see map for UTM reference points)</i>		
NE	° 13.466000° 3708000	° 3708000				
SE	° 13.466000° 3704000	° 3704000				
SW	° 13.463000° 3704000	° 3704000				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2346** acres (see attached boundary descrip.)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE: 2/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE: 11

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 _____

Title (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Landmark Designated: Dec 19 1968

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Boundary Certified:

Date April 5, 1975
 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

ATTEST:
Wm. H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/6/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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New Mexico	
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Lincoln	
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Description: (1)

Lincoln, New Mexico

story porch with a pitch roof, which was formerly flanked by two stairways. It has been restored and is presently maintained by the state as a museum.

- #3 & 4 The Gibson and Sheriff Brent Houses have no outstanding historic value, but they are fundamentally harmonious with the historic Lincoln architecture. They are single story, adobe, with low pitched roofs and are presently private homes.
- #5 The first schoolhouse was built before 1887 and is now a community church. The structure was built in two sections, both one story tall with gable roofs, but the more recent southern addition is slightly higher than the northern section. The adobe brick building was originally unplastered but has since been stuccoed.
- #7, 8&9 The Garcia, Salas, and Ramsey Houses were all extant in 1880, and are all single story adobebrick houses which have been stuccoed. The Garcia and the Ramsey Houses both have characteristic front porches, and the latter house is one of the best preserved examples of the architecture of Lincoln's historic period, while the other two have undergone alterations, as private homes.
- #11 Originally the Bonito Inn, and then the J. J. Dolan House is a single story stuccoed adobe brick house with a roughly E-shaped plan. The house has shingled gable roofs and a fine front porch supported by four simple pillars. There has been one addition, but otherwise the house is in excellent condition and serves as a private home.
- #14 The earliest Courthouse, later a convent is a long rectangular single story structure of plastered adobe brick, with a shingled gable roof. It is owned and has been restored by the state, and it stands just east of #13, San Juan Church, a larger, rectangular adobe building, which slightly postdates the historic period.
- #17 The Montano Store is a rectangular adobe building with a coating of rough pebbledash stucco and a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. This building is a good example of a flatroofed structure which was converted to a peaked roof structure. It is privately owned and is used as a weaving sales and workshop.

On the north side of Main Street:

The George Peppin House (not shown on the map, is roughly 500' west of the Murphy-Dolan Store and 150' north along the road) is a simple rectangular adobe brick structure with a corrugated metal hip roof. The house is privately owned but unoccupied and badly in need of restoration.

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STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Lincoln	
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Description: (2) Lincoln, New Mexico

- #21 The Maes House is a rectangular plastered adobe house with a single story and a sheet metal gable roof, and a long porch running the length of the south facade. The house is still a private home and is in excellent condition. To the west of the house is a reconstruction of the Fritz-Murphy Store which now houses the Maes Museum.
- #23 The Curry Saloon (La Paloma Bar) is a rectangular plastered adobe building with a sheet metal gable roof and a small addition on the northeast corner. It is still maintained as a bar.
- #24 The Wortley Hotel is a single story L-shaped building with a shingled gable roof. It was recently reconstructed by the state and continues to serve as a hotel.
- #25 The Aragon Store is in an advanced state of decay, and only a portion of the stone walls are standing.
- #26 The Wright House (Ellis Hotel) is a square, two story plastered adobe house with a sheet metal peaked roof pierced by a dormer on the east and west sides. A recessed porch is set in the center of the south facade. The house is privately owned and is in excellent condition.
- #27, 28& 29 Dr. Wood's Office, the Watson House and the Fresquez House are not possessed of great historical value but architecturally are harmonious with the rest of the town. The Fresquez House is most notable as perhaps being originally connected to the southwest portion of the McSween House, #30, which was burned in 1878. The McSween House was a U-shaped building of adobe and frame, enclosed on the west, north, and east by an adobe wall. Today a marker indicates the site of the house.
- #31 The Tunstall Store, built in 1878, is a U-shaped building with a non-historic addition on the west end which forms the ~~right~~ arm of the U. It is a single story structure of plastered adobe with a gable roof and a porch running the length of the south facade. The building is owned by the state and is in very good condition.
- #32 The Penfield Shop and Home is a single story, U-shaped structure of adobe brick with a shingled gable roof. It is privately owned and in excellent condition.
- #34 The Dunlap House (El Chorro) is presently undergoing reconstruction which will connect the two badly-deteriorated adobe structures. The new building will serve as a house and shop.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Lincoln Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE Description 3

- # 35 The Torreón, built circa 1850, is a circular stone tower with a viga-constructed second floor, and an open-roofed second story. The Torreón is owned by the state and was reconstructed in 1939.

- #37, 38 The Gallegos, Luna, and Perea Houses are single story, stuccoed adobe
& 41 houses, all privately owned. The Gallegos house is square, with four rooms and an indented porch on the southeast corner, as well as a sheet metal hip roof. The Luna house is L-shaped, with a sheet metal peaked roof over an earlier flat roof. On the northeast corner of the house is a room of jacal construction which may date from the earliest period of Lincoln's history. The Perea House is L-shaped as well, with a metal peaked roof and it has been recently restored. The Gallegos and Perea Houses are not historically significant except as examples of architecture and are in very good condition. The Luna House, however, is considerably older but is in a deteriorating condition.

- #42 & 43 The Ellis and Sons Store and the Old Mill are the easternmost structures in Lincoln. The Ellis House is an L-shaped building, single story, of plastered adobe brick. Its gable roof and front porch were added long after 1880. The Mill House is not historic, but it is a rare example of half-timber construction with adobe fillers. Its second floor is of frame construction, and its peaked roof is shingled.

To the east of the Ellis store is the town cemetery, which is enclosed by a wire fence.

Boundary

Beginning at point A at the northwest corner of sec. 34, T. 9 S., R. 16 E., proceed in a southwesterly direction one mile to point B, thence northwesterly two and seven eighths miles to point C, thence north one mile to point D, thence east one half mile to point E, thence southeasterly one and three fourths miles to point F, thence south-southeasterly one and one half miles to point A, the point of beginning. This boundary was drawn in conjunction with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer. In his opinion, "The boundaries are intended to enclose the area of concern from a historic preservation point of view, while avoiding to the extent possible the arbitrary inclusion of any other lands." 1.

Mr. Thomas W. Merlan, New Mexico SHPO to Mr. George F. Emery, Chief, Historic Sites Survey Division, March 30, 1978. Letter on file in "Lincoln Historic District" file, Historic Sites Survey Division, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Washington, D.C..

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STATE New Mexico	
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Statement of Significance: (1)

Lincoln, New Mexico

History

Lincoln, originally known as La Placita del Rio Bonito, was first settled in the early 1850's by Hispanos of the Rio Grande Valley, who took advantage of the containment of the Mescalero Apaches by Federal troops to settle on what had been Apache land. The little town was overrun by the Apaches three times but the settlers persisted, and with the establishment of Fort Stanton to the west on the Rio Bonito in 1855, La Placita was firmly established.

With the creation of Lincoln County in 1869, La Placita was selected as the county seat and was renamed Lincoln. Concurrent with the political emergence of Lincoln County was the economic growth of the area. Due to the abundance of water and the fertility of farmland and grazing lands, as well as the availability of lucrative contracts for cattle and grain to be had from both Fort Stanton and the Mescalero Reservation, the County's potential wealth began to draw adventurers seeking their fortunes. At the same time the tremendous mineral wealth in gold and silver began to lure prospectors to such towns as White Oaks to the northwest.

It was in this time of burgeoning wealth and in this wild and virtually untamed land that the participants in the Lincoln County Wars began to collect around the growing town of Lincoln.

John S. Chisum was one of the first cattlemen to recognize the riches of the Pecos Valley and although he first began his drives after the Civil War, between 1870 and 1881 he had one of the largest cattle holdings in the world. Chisum located his headquarters on the Pecos River to the southwest of Lincoln and he was a frequent visitor to Fort Stanton and Lincoln as these centers represented not only markets for his cattle but supply centers in a sparsely populated land as well. It was at Fort Stanton that Chisum first met Lawrence G. Murphy, who was post sutler from 1866 to 1873 when he was charged with profiteering by the Post Commander and moved to Lincoln.

Shortly after moving to Lincoln Murphy entered into business with Emil Fritz and continued his unscrupulous dealings in his second store. Fritz died in 1874, and in 1877 the firm became J. J. Dolan and Company after Murphy retired on account of his poor health. Dolan had been one of Murphy's junior partners and he in turn took John Riley and J. B. Matthews as junior partners, which they had been with Murphy as well. First Murphy and Fritz, then Dolan, Riley and Matthews, enjoyed a virtual monopoly of trade in the area. They charged local farmers exorbitant prices and used the law to harass any farmer who refused to sell to them. The "Big Store," as their establishment was commonly called, was backed by Thomas B. Catron, the leader of a group of Republican lawyers and businessmen known as the Santa Fe Ring. The firm's influence had so grown that the Territorial Governor Axtell had borrowed

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Statement of Significance: (2)

Lincoln, New Mexico

\$1,800.00 from J. J. Dolan and Co., of course cordial relations were maintained with the officers at Fort Stanton. John Chisum had no reason to be pleased with this state of affairs in Lincoln, for not only was there a longstanding grudge between himself and Catron, but by 1877, Dolan and Co. were widely suspected of buying stolen cattle, Chisum cattle among them.

In 1877 the Dolan and Co. monopoly was challenged by the establishment of a rival store by John H. Tunstall, a young Englishman who had recently built a ranch on the Rio Feliz, south of Lincoln. Tunstall was joined in his enterprise by John Chisum and Alexander McSween, a young lawyer who had been representing Chisum in court after having quit the service of Dolan and Co. A bank was soon added to the concern. With the presence of an honest mercantile in the community, Dolan began to feel a loss of customers and made veiled threats against Tunstall. Before the year was out, Dolan had taken indirect action against his competition.

In 1876, McSween had been retained to collect an insurance policy for the heirs of Emil Fritz. When he announced he had collected the sum in August, 1877, Dolan instantly claimed the whole amount, asserting that Fritz had owed the firm that much. McSween disbelieved him and refused to surrender the money.

In December, the McSweens and Chisum left for a weeks-long trip to St. Louis, and Dolan acted quickly. He went to Las Cruces, obtained an affidavit from one of the Fritz heirs to the effect that she believed that McSween had no intention of turning over the money. Dolan took the document to the District Attorney, a close friend of Catron, who then had Chisum and McSween arrested in Las Vegas. Chisum was held in Las Vegas on a claim against some notes reputed to be his which were in fact forged. McSween was transferred to the Mesilla district court where the Fritz papers were held. After an inconclusive hearing he started back for Lincoln on February 5. When he arrived on the tenth he found all his property had been attached as security by Sheriff Brady whose orders were to hold McSween in custody until bond was made. Brady, a member of the Dolan faction, also attached livestock belonging to Tunstall on no legal grounds.

Tunstall appealed to Brady and convinced him to release seven animals which he removed to his ranch. No long after he was informed by his cowboys that Brady had sent a posse to the ranch to try and serve a writ of attachment on Tunstall livestock again. On the morning of February eighteenth, Tunstall decided to return to Lincoln with four (4) of his hands, including Richard Brewer and William Bonney, Billy the Kid. Billy had worked for a time as a cowboy for John Chisum, but after he left to work for Tunstall he had developed a fast friendship with his new employer. As Tunstall rode along, the four cowboys had fallen behind and he was riding alone. Mounted men suddenly appeared, the Brady Posse, and shots were fired, with Tunstall receiving a fatal wound. Brady, not surprisingly, was disinclined to investigate the

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Statement of Significance: (3) Lincoln, New Mexico

murder but Tunstall's men, including Dick Brewer, formed a band called the Regulators, which captured and executed two of the Brady Posse.

Territorial Governor Axtell, at the suggestion of Catron, visited Lincoln on March eighth and, after his visit, issued a proclamation authorizing the post commander at Fort Stanton to assist the civil officers in keeping the peace. Thus, the troops were at the disposal of Brady, a Dolan partisan.

On the morning of April first, however, Brady and his deputy, George Hindman, were ambushed and killed by shots fired from behind the adobe wall surrounding the Tunstall store. Evidently the shooting was the act of the Regulators, including William Bonney.

Summoned by G. W. Peppin, a deputy of Brady's, twenty-five soldiers from Fort Stanton arrived in town and began making arrests, including that of McSween.

Three days later, at Blazer's Mill, southwest of Lincoln, Richard Brewer and a member of the Brady Posse killed each other.

Meanwhile, the new post commander at Fort Stanton had received new and stringent orders restricting the use of soldiers in civil disturbances.

On the fourteenth of April, McSween, having been released from custody as no indictment had been made, had occupied his own house, and the Ellis and the Montano stores with fifty to sixty men in his faction, almost half of whom were native New Mexicans. Peppin, the new sheriff, held most of the rest of the town, including the old torreon. A deputy tried to serve warrants on McSween and his men, but was fired upon. Peppin sent for aid to Fort Stanton, but was regretfully refused. However, the courier from the Fort to Peppin was shot at, allegedly by the McSween faction, and on the basis of this event, it was decided to send troops to Lincoln.

On July nineteenth, Colonel N. A. M. Dudley entered Lincoln with a cannon and a Gatling gun. The two groups of men in the Ellis and Montano stores were intimidated, and fled into the canyons to the north. The Dolan men managed to set fire to the McSween house, and although Dudley gave sanctuary to the non-combatants in the house, McSween and his men were still under siege in a slowly-burning house.

Just before nightfall, McSween and his men were forced to evacuate. Billy the Kid and two other men ran out first; one man was shot dead but Billy and the other escaped. McSween and the rest offered to surrender and were approached by a deputy and three others. A McSween man fired and downed the deputy whose companions immediately returned the fire, killing McSween and all but one of his men. The Peppin men looted the Tunstall store and sang and danced in the streets of Lincoln.

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Statement of Significance: (4)

Lincoln, New Mexico

After this bloody encounter, the Lincoln County War began to slowly abate. There were some minor clashes and Chisum and other big cattlemen began to remove all their stock from Lincoln County. The area remained unsettled and outlaws were plentiful. In December some McSween men, perhaps headed by Billy the Kid, who had continued his lawless ways, reoccupied Lincoln, while Dolan and some followers fled to Fort Stanton.

Meanwhile President Hayes determined to remove Axtell and replace him with a regular Army general, Lew Wallace. Wallace issued a proclamation of amnesty to all involved in the Lincoln County War.

Trying to reclaim some part of her husband's share of the Tunstall estate, Mrs. McSween hired a lawyer named Houston Chapman. Chapman was finally, according to the most reliable evidence, shot and killed by Dolan in a quarrel. When Governor Wallace heard this news, he came down to Lincoln, put Dolan under arrest for the murder of Chapman, and met secretly with Billy the Kid to arrange his pardon in exchange for testimony. Dolan was acquitted, as was Colonel Dudley on other charges.

The Kid, however, continued to pursue a life of crime, including rustling from his former boss, John Chisum.

In late 1880, Pat Garrett was elected sheriff of Lincoln County with the express promise that he would capture Billy. The Kid was captured and taken to Mesilla, where he was found guilty of the killing of Sheriff Brady. He was brought back to Lincoln to be hanged, but escaped from the jail, the former Murphy-Dolan "big store," and killed two of his guards. Pat Garrett found him again near old Fort Sumner on July thirteenth, and shot him dead.

After this, Lincoln became an orderly town. Dolan lost his store to T. B. Catron by mortgage foreclosure, and later died in 1898. Riley returned to farming and prospered. Mrs. McSween remarried in 1884, the same year that John Chisum died of a tumor.

In 1913, the county seat was shifted to Carrizozo, and Lincoln declined once again into a small town with about one hundred inhabitants in 1974. Early in the 1930's restoration was begun by the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research. In 1949, the Old Lincoln Memorial Commission was established to protect and preserve the historic town.