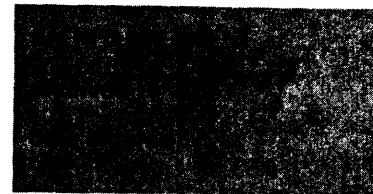


EXP. 12/31/84

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Eddy County, Artesia
Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group

1. Name: Robert, Sallie Chisum, House (Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group)
SR #515
2. Location: 801 W. Texas Street
4. Owner: Don Salwedel
P.O. Box 98
Lake Arthur, New Mexico 88253
7. Description: The Sallie Chisum Robert House is a one-and-a-half story artificial stone house with an arcaded porch and gambrel roof with large dormers. It reflects the Dutch Colonial Revival Style.

The gambrel roof has large gabled dormers on the east and west sides. Originally covered with wood shingles, the roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. The gables of the dormers and the gable ends of the roof are finished with wood siding and shingles.

A bay window with three double-hung windows projects from the east side of the house. A one-story porch with segmental arches supported by piers extends across the front of the house. The facade under the porch contains a centrally located entrance door flanked by a wide window on either side. The door and windows, except for those in the gables and at the rear of the house, are segmental arched. Some of the original wood-framed windows are now covered with aluminum window screens. At the rear of the house is a small projecting artificial stone service room and two wooden porches, one now enclosed and cement plastered.

In plan, the house is rectangular. On the first floor are a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and bath, and on the second floor are two bedrooms and a bath.

The "rock face" cast stone walls of the house are a warm brownish grey in color. This coloration was undoubtedly produced by the color of the sand mixed with the cement rather than by a dye tint. The mortar joints are pointed with a lighter, whiter cement. Variation in the size of the "rock face" blocks adds to the textural interest of the walls. Smaller blocks are used for the piers and arches of the porch, as well as for the segmental arched lintels of the door and windows. Smooth, "plain face" blocks serve as impost blocks on the piers and as a belt course encircling the house and porch at the level of the window sills. The porch floor and steps are concrete.

The gables and other exterior woodwork are presently painted a dark red-brown. Aside from a few cracks in some of the mortar joints, the house is in good condition.

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Eddy County, Artesia

Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group

Robert, Sallie Chisum, House (Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group)

8. Significance: The significance of the Sallie Chisum Robert House is both historical and architectural. It is significant historically for its association with Sallie Chisum, niece of famed cattleman, John Chisum. Sallie was regarded as a pioneer heroine during her lifetime, and as a founder of the town of Artesia. Architecturally, the house is an interesting example of the vernacular artificial stone houses built in Artesia at the time of the founding of the town. Stylistically, the house reflects architectural revival at the turn of the century of Dutch Colonial forms of the Eastern seaboard, with gambrel roof and oversized dormers in quaint association with the rusticated walls.

Sallie L. Chisum was born at Paris, Texas on May 26, 1858. She came to New Mexico with her father, James Chisum, and her younger brothers in the mid-1870s. James Chisum became associated with his older brother John in the ranching business. Their organization was known as the Jingle-bob Land and Livestock Company.

Sallie Chisum attended a private school conducted by a Miss Annin at the village of Anton Chico. There she met her first husband, William Robert, a native of Germany who was associated with a mercantile business in the village. After their marriage, Robert became bookkeeper of the Jingle-bob Company. Sallie later divorced Robert but reassumed his name following another marriage and divorce.

After the cattle company was dissolved, Sallie moved in 1889 with her father to the springs on the site of the present town of Artesia. There she homesteaded, operated an inn/stage stop, dug the first artesian well in the region, and initiated the settlement that became the town of Artesia.

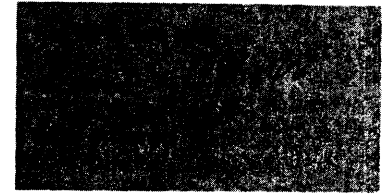
In 1903, the townsite of Artesia was laid out in part on land bought from Sallie Chisum Robert. The Chisum Addition to the townsite, owned by Mrs. Robert, was platted on March 24, 1905. On April 1, 1905, the property on which the Sallie Chisum Robert House is located (lots 1, 3, and 5 of block 14) was sold by Sallie Robert to Jane S. Wilbur of San Antonio, Texas for \$275 and on July 10, 1908 Mrs. Wilbur sold the lots back to Mrs. Robert for \$250.

In 1908, Mrs. Robert had the artificial stone house, now standing at the southwest corner of Eighth and Texas, built by local contractor Joe A. Clayton. The carpenter was D. S. Bay. Mrs. Robert lived in the house until 1918 when she moved to California. On April 29, 1919 she sold the property with additional lots and one-third interest in an artesian well located just west of the house to Nancy Fletcher for \$3500. The warranty deed was executed by Mrs. Robert from Orange County, California. Nannie and R. M. Fletcher defaulted on their \$2000 mortgage and on February 7, 1921 the property was offered to the highest bidder at the front door of the First National Bank in Artesia. Sallie Robert offered the highest bid of \$2700. Mrs. Robert had by this time returned from California and established her home in Roswell, New Mexico. Her house in Artesia was subsequently occupied by a number of tenants.

Two earlier houses built on the site of present-day Artesia by Sallie Chisum Roberts no longer stand.

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Eddy County, Artesia
Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group
Robert, Sallie Chisum, House (Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group)

10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of lots 1 and 3 of Block 14 of the Chisum Subdivision. The property measures 100' by 140'.

Quadrangle name: Artesia
Quadrangle scale: 7.5 minute

UTM References:

Zone 13 Easting 555600 Northing 3633850