

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** Sewalt House; Sewalt-Waits House

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 121 East Jefferson Avenue  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Lovington  
**STATE:** New Mexico      **CODE:** NM      **COUNTY:** Lea      **CODE:** 025  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**VICINITY:** N/A  
**ZIP CODE:** 88260

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this   x   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   x   meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide   x   locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Katharine Slick*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

*01 June 2006*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson W. Beall*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action  
*7.19.06*

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC: single dwelling (residence)

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** VACANT/NOT IN USE

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION STONE  
WALLS STUCCO; WOOD  
ROOF ASPHALT  
OTHER N/A

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 7-5 through 7-12).

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** ARCHITECTURE

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1916-1918

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1916

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Mathew Elmore Sewalt, builder.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-17).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-13).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- 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 #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	654425	3647131 (WGS84/NAD83)

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** A parcel measuring 140'x100', consisting of the south half of Lot 8, Block 17 of the College Addition, Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** This boundary includes all the immediate property historically associated with the nominated house during its period of significance.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** David L. Minton and John W. Murphey

**ORGANIZATION:** Lovington MainStreet and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
**DATE:** March 2006

**STREET & NUMBER:** 407 Galisteo, Suite 206  
**TELEPHONE:** 505-827-6320

**CITY OR TOWN:** Santa Fe  
**STATE:** NM  
**ZIP CODE:** 87501

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see attached USGS *Lovington* 7.5-minute series topographic map)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-18)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** N/A

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** City of Lovington

**STREET & NUMBER:** 214 South Love Street  
**TELEPHONE:** 505-396-2884.

**CITY OR TOWN:** Lovington  
**STATE:** NM  
**ZIP CODE:** 88260

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Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico

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## Description

The Mathew Elmore Sewalt House sits on a large, landscaped corner lot north of the courthouse square in Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico. The one-and-one-half story adobe house finished with concrete stucco, was constructed in two phases in 1909 and 1916. The house faces south to East Jefferson Street, presenting a façade revealing elements of the Craftsman style. Despite a 1950's alteration of a majority of the ground floor windows and a modern attached garage, the Mathew Elmore Sewalt House retains high degree integrity as to its design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association.

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## Setting

The Mathew Elmore Sewalt House is situated on a large corner lot three blocks north of the Lea County Courthouse in the College Addition of Lovington (pop. 9,484), in southeast New Mexico. Immediately to the west are several vacant lots fronting North Main Street and New Mexico 18, the main north-south artery through Lovington. To the south, across the street, is a modern Butler-type building used as a residence. East, moving toward the railroad tracks are a few homes built in the early- to mid-twentieth century. To the north, the residential section continues with primarily modest homes set on small lots.

Extensive landscaping distinguishes the Sewalt House from most homes in the vicinity. The landscaping begins at the southwest corner of the property as a mature cacti garden (see Photo 1), and spreading to the west, south and east, manicured lawn. Fronting the house and along North Love Street to the east are mature Chinese elms, casting deep shadows over the property. Closer to the house are large specimen junipers planted along the foundation. Clumps of winter jasmine break up the lawn. During the spring and summer months, the overgrown vegetation tends obscure the architectural details of the house.

## House

The Mathew Elmore Sewalt House is a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled house revealing strong elements of the Craftsman style (see Photo 2). Built of adobe in two phases and sitting on a rock foundation, the exterior walls are coated with a thick concrete finish painted olive gray.

The core of house, consisting of the ground floor bedroom, dates to 1909 when Lovington resident Ham Bishop built a simple adobe pyramidal roof dwelling (see Figure 7-1). The upper half of the walls creating the half story are composed of wood with decorative woodwork displayed at the gable ends. Mathew Sewalt, an up-and-coming rancher, bought the house in 1916 and expanded it to become a town home for his wife and their newborn daughter, adding a living room, a dining room, a bath and two bedrooms (see Figure 7-2).

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Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
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A large gabled porch graces the front of the house. Composed of a concrete floor and a bead-board ceiling, the porch extends along the entire façade (see Photo 2). Resting on sturdy battered square posts, the porch exhibits Craftsman details in its decorative false beams and triangular knee brackets and the shingle siding and delicate multi-light window in the gable end. Three one-over-one double-hung sash windows are located across the front façade.

The Craftsman motif continues along the front façade with exposed rafter ends and a low shed-roof dormer breaking the roof slope. Covered with contemporary composite shingles, the steeply pitched roof is capped with metal finials.

The west and east elevations present a less articulated expression of the Craftsman style (see Photos 3 & 4). Both elevations present a dominant gable end ornamented with drop siding and dentils. Each gable is lit by a single one-over-one double-hung sash window (see Photo 3). North of the gable, an oversized shed-roof dormer interrupts the roof slope on each elevation. The dormer displays exposed rafter ends and contains two original four-over-one sash windows. The finial pattern continues along the roofline, interrupted once by a brick chimneystack.

The windows on the west elevation are predominantly one-over-one double-hung sash. Midway along the elevation the footprint narrows approximately eight feet. Near this juncture a door opens to the service area of the house and the roofline slopes to create a deep, overhanging eave (see Photo 3).

The east elevation displays a three-window bay projection providing light into the dining room. The bay includes two modern one-over-one double-hung metal sash flanking an original half-window divided into four lights (see Photo 4).

The north elevation reveals the least detail and is partially obscured by the attached one-car garage (see Photo 5). Visible is the gable end ornamented to a lesser degree than the east and west elevations. Part of a utility room extends out from the house to connect with a passageway to the attached garage. A single, one-over-one double-hung window illuminates the second bedroom along the west portion of the elevation.

### Interior

A multi-light glass and wood door opens to the front room of the house. This room, as well as the other ground floor rooms, is arranged in a floor plan common to a small Craftsman Bungalow. The parlor, or in this case, the front room, forms one half of the floor plan, along with dining room and kitchen (see Figure 7-3). The other half of the floor plan contains the bedrooms and bath.

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Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
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As the main public area, the front room is a large rectangular space highlighted with rich wood detailing. To the left, built-in bookshelves span the west wall. To the north an ornate room divider separates the front room from the dining room (see Photo 6). Composed of richly stained wood, the divider is made of bookcases with diamond-patterned leaded glass doors topped with decorative battered posts designed in the Craftsman motif. Polished decorative box beams, arranged in grid pattern, grace the ceiling. The wood detailing continues in the dining room, a smaller, rectangular room set apart by its tall buffet displaying leaded diamond-pattern glass doors. To create these decorative woodwork details, Mathew Sewalt hired a German craftsman from Carlsbad, New Mexico. Little is known of the craftsman, referred to only as Tofflemeir, who is thought to have moved to the New Mexico territory from St. Louis, Missouri. The floors of both public rooms are covered with carpet, but beneath is the original oak strip flooring.

North of the dining room, and completing the public corridor, is a modest kitchen with cabinets and hardware dating from the 1950s.

The primary bedroom, for many years was occupied by Marjorie Sewalt Waits, Mathew's only offspring and second owner of the house. This space, representing the original core of the adobe house, is entered through a five-panel door from the front room. The room does not reveal the same ornate woodwork found in the public rooms. By comparison, it is a simple space distinguished only by its crown molding. The northeast corner of the room has been furred to create a closet. It like the other rooms has carpet over the original flooring.

North of the bedroom is a circulation corridor leading to a bathroom and the second bedroom. The bathroom, thought to have been added in the 1920s, was updated with new fixtures in the 1950s. Prior to its construction, the family used an outhouse off the alley. A hall leading to the dining room contains a pantry and built-in linen drawers. Beyond is the second bedroom, appearing similar in design to the primary bedroom in the front.

A plain doglegged staircase gives entry to the upper floor. The upper floor or "attic room" was built after the house had nearly been completed (see Figure 7-4). Sewalt realized that ranch hands coming to town to buy supplies would need a place to stay and constructed four small rooms for that purpose. As Marjorie Sewalt Waits told of the event:

The downstairs walls were almost completed when the thought occurred to Math [Mathew Sewalt] to add a gabled half-story of wood. After all, when the Mexicans [ranch hands] drove the wagon from the ranch to Lovington to buy supplies, there was no place for them to spend the night beginning their day-long journey home. They could stay upstairs in the attic bedrooms!<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Marjorie Waits. "Mathew Elmore Sewalt." *The Lovington Daily Leader*. 8 Nov. 1998: Section I, 3.

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Figure 7-1: Ham Bishop House (1915)





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**Figure 7-2: Mathew Elmore Sewalt House (c.1918) (Marjorie Sewalt Waits pictured at gate)**



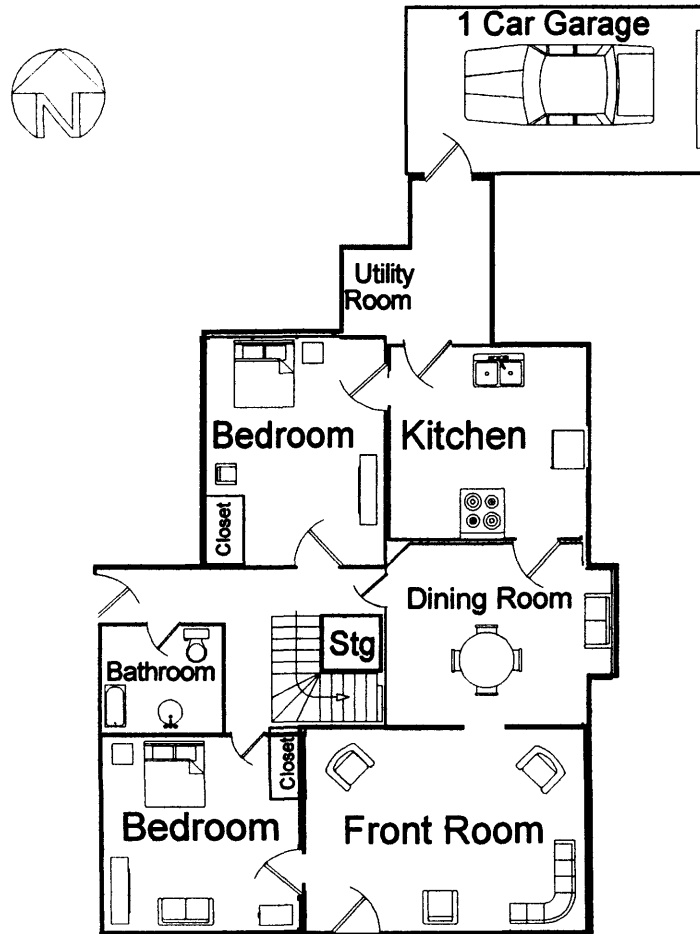
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Figure 7-3: Ground Floor Plan, not to scale (David Minton, 2002)



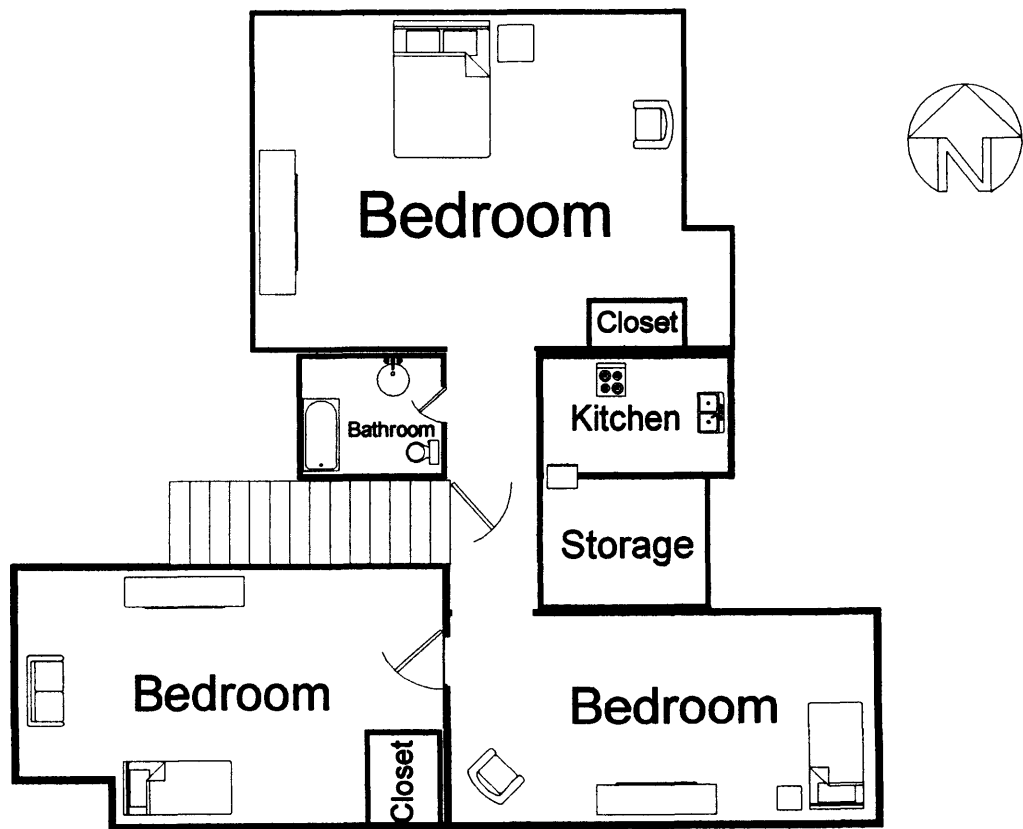
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Figure 7-4: Upper Floor Plan, not to scale (David Minton, 2002)



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Today, the upper floor includes three small bedrooms, all built into a gable end, giving the rooms low, peaked ceilings. A bathroom and kitchen are located at the center of the floor, each revealing hardware dating from the 1950s.

## Integrity

The majority of the original ground floor wood windows were replaced with metal one-over-one double-hung units in the 1950s. During the upgrade, the original wood casings were left in place so that windows — particularly from the interior — appear to be original. In contrast, the upper floor contains all of its original windows. Both the kitchen and ground floor bathroom were updated as well as the upper floor rooms in the 1950s. While these alterations somewhat changed the house's interior character, its primary interior spaces, including the decorative front room and dining room have retained their integrity.

Attached to the north side of the house is a wood-frame, one-car garage built in the 1990s (see Photo 5 & Figure 7-3). Designed to harmonize with the main house, the garage is designed with Craftsman details, including extending rafters and decorative triangular knee brackets. The attached garage, located on a secondary elevation, does not detract from the overall historical integrity of the property.

Ninety years after the building took on its current configuration, the Mathew Elmore Sewalt House retains a high deal of integrity, as to location, design, workmanship, setting, feeling and association.

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### Significance of Property

In 1916, with his wife Clara pregnant with their first child, Lea County Rancher Mathew Elmore Sewalt bought an adobe house in Lovington to become their town home.<sup>2</sup> As he significantly added on to the old adobe, the remodeled house revealed Sewalt's rising stature in the community. Though Sewalt died prematurely in the 1918 influenza epidemic, he contributed much to Lovington's improvement, including organizing corporations that founded the town's first bank and financed its first modern hotel. The Mathew Elmore Sewalt House is eligible at the local level under Criterion C, Architecture, as a good example of a town home. The house, with its Craftsman architectural details, is one of the better examples of its type in Lovington, and reflects the short-lived prosperity of the town and the rancher who owned it.

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### Mathew Elmore Sewalt

Like many who arrived in the early 1900s to settle the sparsely populated Staked Plains of southeastern New Mexico, Matthew Elmore Sewalt came from Texas. To these Texans, New Mexico's *Llano Estacado* was "a natural geographical extension of West Texas."<sup>3</sup> Unlike most of his compatriots, Sewalt did not gain knowledge of the territory as a cowboy. Instead, he began his career as a schoolteacher, later, becoming a successful sheep rancher on the caprock. But like his fellow Texans, Sewalt saw great promise in the *llano*, writing letters to his parents of its vast, rolling grasslands and its wet *playas*.<sup>4</sup>

Born February 8, 1876, in Fluvanna, Texas, Sewalt ("Math" among familiars) was the fourth child of a family of six that made this new Texas town their hearth on the South Plains. Finishing schooling at the eleventh grade, Sewalt gained a teaching certificate and arrived in the New Mexico territory in 1908 to teach in the town of Malaga, south of Carlsbad. Dissatisfied with his initial choice of occupation, Sewalt left the school and moved to Carlsbad to work three years rebuilding the Pecos River Flume (NRHP 1966), a keystone of the Carlsbad Irrigation District.

After finishing work at the irrigation project, Sewalt moved on to sheep raising, first with Lewis E. Swigert, one of the Pecos Valley's largest sheep ranchers. Swigert, as Marjorie Sewalt Waits commented, found in Sewalt "an energetic young man... [and] promptly hired him as a foreman."<sup>5</sup> Sewalt, along with the Mexican herders, moved sheep along the isolated caprock country, pitching camp at one of the many playa lakes. As Marjorie Sewalt Waits described the experience:

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<sup>2</sup> Ranchers often purchased a second house in town for their wife and children and to use to conduct business.

<sup>3</sup> Connie Brooks. *The Last Cowboys: Closing the Open Range in Southeastern New Mexico, 1820-1920s*. Albuquerque: University of New Press, 1993: x.

<sup>4</sup> Marjorie Waits. "Mathew Elmore Sewalt." *The Lovington Daily Leader*. 8 Nov. 1998: Section I. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

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[He] loved moving the herds of sheep, with their Mexican herders from playa lake to play lake. He liked the spicy foods the Mexicans cooked and soft vowels of the Spanish language that he learned to speak fluently. He enjoyed the cool New Mexico nights, rolled in his blanket, sleeping under the stars. He didn't even mind the anxiety and stress of lambing and the heat and sweat of shearing.<sup>6</sup>

In 1911, during a Saturday night game of dominoes in Lovington, Sewalt met Clara Creighton, a "blue-eyed, saucy" girl from Mineral Wells, Texas, who was visiting her brother who ran a furniture store. Within a year, the couple had married and set up home at the Swigert and Griffith ranch headquarters. Clara's furniture shipped from Mineral Wells, including her piano, was transported across the sands of the llano from a depot at Hagerman.

Nearly a "half-day buggy's ride," or nearly 20 to 30 miles away from their nearest neighbor, Clara made the best of her new life on llano, but "hated the loneliness and isolation."<sup>7</sup> In contrast, Mathew relished the solitude, blithely instructing his wife to shoot off a gun if she were afraid.

Their stay on the llano was extended when Swigert made his young foreman a partner in his ranching operation.<sup>8</sup> Sewalt continued to work with the older rancher until 1913, when he had acquired enough stock to run his own sheep operation on the caprock. But by this time fences had begun to march across the once-open prairie. Finding it too expensive to erect sheep fencing, Sewalt sold his herd and took his profits to buy cattle.<sup>9</sup>

With his wife pregnant with their first child, Sewalt sensibly moved Clara to a boarding house in Carlsbad in 1915. Prior to the birth of Marjorie Mirth on April 19, 1916, Sewalt purchased the Ham Bishop house in Lovington to become a town home for Clara and her newborn. Approximately 40 miles from the ranch, Lovington, the county seat, was the most likely place to build a town home. It was common for ranchers to build town homes for their wives and children. Seeking to build the town's school population, Lovington offered free town lots to families with school-age children.

Sewalt enlarged the existing adobe dwelling, bringing Mexican herders from the ranch to form adobes on site and hauling lumber by burro team from Midland, Texas, to build the upper story framing. By comparison to most Lovington town homes of the period, the Sewalt house was exuberant in its architectural ornamentation. Three months after giving birth, Clara and her newborn moved into the partially remodeled home.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Lea County Genealogical Lea County Genealogical Society. *Then and Now, Lea County Families and History*. Lovington, New Mexico: Lea County Genealogical Society, 1984: 488.

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### A Short Life in Lovington

In 1903, the site of future Lovington and Lea County appeared as one vast, blank space on the Territory of New Mexico map — a place without any sign of a town or even the tidy township grids that defined the adjoining Eddy and Chaves counties.

By 1916 Lovington had “grown from a mere little speck of a few ranch houses and two small stores on a great broad plain...” to a modern town boasting a public water works, local and long distance telephone service, a steam laundry, a post office, two churches, a movie house, a sundry of shops, a six-room grade school and a new high school constructed at a cost of \$5,500.<sup>10</sup>

Sewalt, now spending more time in town, began to invest in Lovington’s future. In 1918, he formed with seven other ranchers a corporation to organize the town’s first bank and develop a business block of concrete buildings along the east side of the new courthouse square. That same year, Sewalt and fellow ranchers Dolph Lusk, J. D. Graham and Seth Alston, financed the construction of the Commercial Hotel, Lovington’s first modern hotel built of concrete. With a capital stock of \$40,000, divided into 400 shares between its four officers, the Commercial Hotel Company was the latest investment in Lovington’s future. When opened, the Commercial Hotel joined a row of new concrete buildings, giving the boomtown courthouse square populated with mainly false-front stores, a sense of permanency. An advertisement in the *Lovington Leader* boasted the hotel to be the “best in the state, and equal to any in the city.”<sup>11</sup>

In 1918, with a population of 1,500 and strong commercial development along the courthouse square, the future looked positive for Lovington. But by the end of 1918, the town’s boom had ended, and ten years of bad luck, including a devastating fire, a prolonged drought, and an economic recession shuttering both of the town’s banks, would follow.

The draught took a toll on Sewalt’s ranch and livelihood. In order to keep his herd, he purchased a half-interest in a ranch straddling the Texas border. The parched earth offered little help, and Sewalt, despite his friend’s warnings made a desperate decision to sell his cattle. Driving the stock to Seagraves, Texas, Sewalt loaded five cars of cattle for shipment to Kansas City.

In Kansas City, the rancher worked long hours in the stockyard, tending to his cattle in the dusty corrals. The physical and emotional stress taxed Sewalt’s health. John Stephens, a good friend who had traveled with Sewalt to the stockyards, pleaded with him to leave the cattle to the bankers and return to Lea County. Hearing nothing of it, Sewalt stayed with the cattle, while Stephens returned home. After three days of exhaustion,

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<sup>10</sup> “Lovington Feb.11, 1916.” *Lovington Leader*. 18 Feb. 1916: 2.

<sup>11</sup> Commercial Hotel advertisement. *Lovington Leader*. 22 Nov. 1918. n. pag.

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Sewalt collapsed and was rushed to Christian Church Hospital, where he died of complications of influenza on November 7, 1918.

Clara, notified by telegram of her husband's death while en route to Kansas City, sadly returned to Lovington. The widowed mother soon found herself under a "mountain of debts" that only through "her own valiant efforts and the help of loyal friends" was able to pay off over the years.<sup>12</sup> Immediately she liquidated the large ranch on the caprock in order to keep the town home and a smaller ranch east of Lovington. In 1925 she married Luke Roberts, a newspaperman who came from Oklahoma to manage the Lovington newspaper. They lived in the house until 1941, when in poor health, Roberts moved to Fort Worth for medical help, dying there in 1942.

Marjorie Sewalt lived in the house from her birth until 1933, when she left to attend Texas Christian University. Graduating with an English degree, Marjorie returned to New Mexico and taught at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. In the late 1930s, she returned to Texas Christian University as a graduate student. In Fort Worth, Marjorie met John Waits, an oil company accountant. In 1940 the couple were married at a ceremony in front of the old Lovington home. After the war, they relocated to Lea County, where John, despite "bets on how long it would last," tried ranching.<sup>13</sup>

After a few years on the ranch, they, like the generation before, moved into town. In Lovington, the couple occupied Marjorie's childhood home, updating it in the mid-1950s with new windows and new kitchen and bathroom fixtures. Marjorie taught English at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs until retiring in 1966 upon her husband's death. After retirement, Marjorie delved into civic life, helping found the Lovington Woman's Club and serving as chairman for the Lovington Library Board for 13 years. Prior to her death in 2001, Marjorie deeded the house to the City of Lovington. Although the house is currently vacant, the city has long-term plans to turn it into a museum honoring Lea County's pioneers.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 489

<sup>13</sup> Jeanne Graham. "A House of History." *Lovington Daily Leader*. 8. Nov. 98: Section I, 3.



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**Figure 8-1**

**Mathew Elmore Sewalt (undated)**



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### Bibliography

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Frontier Land, Pioneer Spirit: Essays on Lea County New Mexico*. Lovington, New Mexico: The Lea County Museum, 2005.

Hingham, Gil. *Lea, New Mexico's Las Frontier*. Hobbs, New Mexico: The Hobbs Daily News-Sun, 1976.

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"Mathew Elmore (Math) Sewalt, 1876-1918." Obituary. *Name of newspaper and date of publication unknown*.

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Territorial Map of New Mexico. Compiled from the official records of the General Land Office and other sources under the direction of Frank Bond, Chief of Drafting Division.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 19

Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico

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## Photo Log

*The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:*

Sewalt, Mathew Elmore, House  
Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico  
Photographer: John W. Murphey  
Photographs taken: August 4, 2004  
Negatives on file with the Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 6  
Cacti garden  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 2 of 6  
South or front elevation  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 3 of 6  
West elevation  
Camera facing east

Photo 4 of 6  
East Elevation  
Camera facing southwest

Photo 5 of 6  
West & north elevations and modern attached garage  
Camera facing south

Photo 6 of 6  
Room divider and boxed beams  
Camera facing north