

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0683981

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RECEIVED SEP 8 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Digneo-Valdes House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1231 Paseo de Peralta

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

STATE

New Mexico

CODE
35

COUNTY

Santa Fe

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Walter R. Kegel

STREET & NUMBER

1231 Paseo de Peralta

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico 87501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Santa Fe County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

July 28, 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSDepartment of Educational Finance & Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 1629
Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Digneo-Valdes House, a 1 1/2 story brick structure, was erected in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1889 by Carlo Digneo, a prominent turn-of-the-century building contractor. Located at 1231 Paseo de Peralta, a heavily traveled thoroughfare, the house is just south of the New Mexico State Capitol in a pleasant neighborhood in which many of the former residences have been taken over by offices of various state agencies and legislative pressure groups. In excellent condition and showing superior craftsmanship throughout, it was certainly a stylish addition to the suburban neighborhood along Manhattan Avenue, as that part of the Paseo was known until its widening in the 1960s. An Italian immigrant, Digneo was a leader among his fellow countrymen in Santa Fe, a colony which prospered here and had significant influence in the town's growth despite its small numbers. Now occupied by the offices of attorney Walter R. Kegel, the house recalls an important era in Santa Fe's growth and two families who contributed much to its history.

Flanked by concrete urns used as planters, the walk from the street to the entrance is shaded by a large poplar. The building's facade is festooned with a heavy mat of Virginia creeper which contrasts with the dark red of the walls. Resting on a sandstone foundation, the four-room nucleus of the house is made of locally manufactured, hand moulded brick. Its cross-gabled roof is covered with red composition material topped by corbeled brick chimneys. With its large bay window and Eastlake porch, Digneo's residence was the height of fashion during the "Gay-Nineties." Other exterior details include semi-circular louvered windows under the eaves and colored glass panes at the corners of the front windows which are framed by sandstone lintels.

Originally divided into parlor, dining room, master bedroom and sitting room, the interior is decorated with carved wooden mantels over two small coal burning fireplaces, elaborate embossed hardware on the doors and detailed woodwork characteristic of 19th century construction. The kitchen and extra bedrooms were in the basement until the first addition was constructed at the building's south end soon after 1900. At that time, a bathroom was installed. About twenty years later, the second owner, Felipe Valdes, put on new bedrooms, also to the south. Final alterations were made three years ago by Kegel, the present owner, who refurbished the Digneo-Valdes House in a style which preserves its 19th century atmosphere. At the same time he enlarged the basement, making a room used as a law library which is surmounted by a large office for his own use.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" 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 Erected 1889

BUILDER

Carlo Digneo

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Born near Naples April 4, 1854 to Guiseppe Digneo and Teresa Corlochi, Carlo Digneo came to Santa Fe in 1880 with his brother Michelangelo. Here they joined a third brother Genaro, and brother-in-law Gaetano Palladino, skilled masons and stone cutters who had been recruited in the East to hasten the construction of St. Francis Cathedral, a monumental project conceived by French-born Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, perhaps New Mexico's most famous cleric. Although the cornerstone of this great edifice had been laid in 1869, it had been plagued with chronic financial problems and was still far from completion when the Digneos came. Soon augmented by the arrival Michele Berardinelli, also a builder and contractor who was to become Palladino's son-in-law, the local Italians seem to have adapted rapidly to Santa Fe's diverse culture. The Digneos and their relatives formed various partnerships which were responsible for erecting many residences and public buildings throughout New Mexico and at a few locations in Colorado and west Texas.

In addition to the cathedral, Carlo Digneo also participated in the construction of the masonry dam which impounded the town's first municipal water supply. Built in Santa Fe Canyon in 1881, the project was viewed with dismay by those citizens who feared the loss of traditional water rights, a controversy which has continued intermittently to the present day. Five years later Digneo assisted Palladino and Berardinelli in constructing the Bernalillo County Court House sixty miles south of Santa Fe at Albuquerque which became New Mexico's largest community. In 1892 following the passage of necessary authorization by the Territorial Legislature, Carlo Digneo and Gaetano Palladino were awarded the primary contract for Hodgkin Hall (National Register 1/78), the first building on the University of New Mexico campus, also in Albuquerque. At the same time, Michele Berardinelli was engaged in erecting its counterpart at the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro. Digneo also built Santa Fe's First Ward School, an attractive brick structure at Canyon Road and Garcia Street until recently occupied by a well known art gallery.

In 1889 Digneo erected his first residence at 132 East Manhattan Avenue, now 1231 Paseo de Peralta. He had purchased the lot two years earlier from Berardinelli who, in turn, had bought it from Dorotea Archibeque for \$166.70. Here, Digneo and his wife Angela Damiani, who had accompanied him from Italy, established their home and raised their family of six children until Angela's death in 1896. As the younger Digneos established families of their own they built houses for themselves near their father's. Among those still standing are two brick cottages one half block east at the corner of

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Santa Fe Baptisms, 1870-1901; Santa Fe Marriages, 1858-1914; Santa Fe Burials, 1894-1955, (microfilm copies), State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Santa Fe County Records, Santa Fe County Court House, County Clerk's Records; Deed Books O, Q, C-1, L-2, 12, 165 - Misc.
(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1/4 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 414990 3948810
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the south side of Paseo de Peralta which is also the northwest corner of the property and running in an easterly direction for a distance of approximately 50'; thence in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 256'; thence in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 50'; thence in a northerly direction to the point of beginning, a distance of approximately 238'. Said property is designated
(See Continuation Sheet Page

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

John O. Baxter, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

State Records Center and Archives

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

DATE

August 29, 1978

TELEPHONE

(505) 827-2321

STATE

New Mexico 87503

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Thomas W. Nuhn

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Hays

DATE

11.21.78

ATTEST:

Marcelle J. Hays

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-20-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
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| DATE ENTERED | NOV 21 1978 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8,9,10 PAGE #1

#8

the Paseo and Weber Street and at 512 Weber.

Nine years after the death of his first wife, Digneo married Magdalena Delgado, a daughter of Felipe B. Delgado, one of Santa Fe's most prominent merchants and businessmen. Three children were born to this union. Delgado's residence, situated one block west of the city's historic plaza, is one of the finest examples of Territorial architecture remaining in Santa Fe. According to recent documentation its foundation was laid by masons who had helped to build the cathedral, an interesting connection. In 1911 Carlo moved his wife and children into a new 2 1/2 story brick house just west of his older home which he conveyed to his niece Melinda Digneo de Valdes and her husband Felipe Valdes. A son of Manuel Valdes, Santa Fe's second mayor, Valdes was a rancher with extensive holdings in the Corona area of central New Mexico and, later, on Cow Creek in the upper Pecos Valley. The Valdes family kept the house until 1960 when it was transferred to their daughter Lydia Valdes Stump who sold it in 1971 to Santa Fe attorney Walter R. Kegel, the building's present owner. Although Mr. Kegel has converted the house into offices and extended the building's south end, his rehabilitation has maintained its architectural integrity. In excellent condition, the Digneo-Valdes House remains in use and continues to be an important neighborhood landmark.

#9

Santa Fe County records, State Records Center and Archives; Santa Fe County Assessment Rolls, 1884-1912 (microfilm copy); Santa Fe County Death Register, 1907-1928; Santa Fe Board of Education Minutes, 1899-1909.

Federal Census Report, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, 1880 (microfilm copy), State Records Center and Archives.

Bernalillo County Records, County Commissioners Journal, 1881-1888.

Bohme, Frederick G. "The Italians in New Mexico," New Mexico Historical Review. Vol. 34, No. 2, April, 1959.

Bunting, Bainbridge and Joe McKinney. "Hodgin Hall," form prepared for National Register of Historic Places, State Records Center and Archives.

Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Old Santa Fe Today. Albuquerque, 1972.

The New Mexican, October 21, 1880, June 7, 1881, July 9, 1881, May 19, 1928, October 24, 1969, December 29, 1974.

#10

as the east portion of Lot 3, Block 109, King's Map of Santa Fe as recorded with the Santa Fe County Clerk.