

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 8 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 1 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Barela-Bledsoe House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7017 Edith Boulevard, N.E.

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

STATE

New Mexico

CODE
35

COUNTY

Bernalillo

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Dietz III

STREET & NUMBER

7017 Edith Boulevard, N.E.

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

STATE

New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

August 27, 1976

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Educational Finance & Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 1629
Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Situated on the east bank of the Rio Grande in a suburban area of Albuquerque, New Mexico known as the "North Valley," the Barela-Bledsoe House is a one-story, flat roofed structure with an "L" shaped floor plan. From its construction c.1870 in the predominantly Hispanic community of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, it was the headquarters of a 19th century farmer, freighter and merchant, Juan Estévan Barela. Today it serves as the residence of the Robert E. Dietz family which also has extensive agricultural interests in the Rio Grande Valley. Now a part of Albuquerque's metropolitan area, the North Valley has seen an influx of housing developments and light industry during the last twenty years because of its easy accessibility to both Interstate Highway 25 and the Santa Fe railroad. Despite these recent changes, the area has retained much of its rural atmosphere although Barela's irrigated fields are now bordered by a concrete block works and a planing mill.

Standing on the west side of heavily traveled Edith Boulevard, the Barela-Bledsoe House is protected by a newly built adobe wall. Constructed of terrones (blocks cut from sod) it combines two successive New Mexico architectural traditions. The flat roof, protruding beams and massive, 22" thick walls are characteristic of Spanish-Pueblo style while the pedimented lintels in the woodwork and odd sized windows represent Territorial style, a local modification of Greek Revival elements popular in New Mexico after U.S. occupation. At one time the building was U-shaped with the north portion extending further west where it joined a third wing set at right angles thus forming a placita-centered structure approximately twice as large as the present one. Only traces of the old foundations indicate the building's former perimeter but the placita, with its lawn and shade trees, remains, now enclosed by another adobe wall. To shield the house from the afternoon sun, a full length portal (porch) supported by posts with chamfered edges runs along the east side of the placita. The building's west wall is reenforced by a series of adobe buttresses under the portal.

The two wings of the house are divided by a zaguan (covered passage) which opens into the placita at the north end of the portal. The east wing contains the Dietz residence while the north portion, which was re-roofed in the 1950s, now consists of a separate apartment and a large garage presently used for storage. Topped by an interesting transom, the zaguan provides access to both wings by means of a pair of doors which face each other across the passageway. The one on the left opens into the Dietz kitchen, the usual means of entering the house. Originally the north end of this wing was divided into four rooms presently used as kitchen, dining room, living room and a fourth which has been recently partitioned to form bathroom, utility room and hallway. Throughout the house all rooms have traditional white plastered walls rising to meet the 13'x6" ceilings, which are composed of milled boards supported by exposed beams, also milled. The sawed lumber, an innovation at the time of construction, replaced the traditional vigas and latillas which were made of logs and peeled saplings. The ceilings thus combined a new material with a much older design.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erected c.1870 the Barela-Bledsoe House is a landmark in the community of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, one of the small villages which characterized the Hispanic settlement of New Mexico's Rio Abajo (Down River) region. Prior to 1854 Los Ranchos served briefly as county seat of Bernalillo County until the offices were returned to Albuquerque, the largest nearby town. Important architecturally, the house is an excellent example of a 19th century New Mexico building in which residential and commercial elements were combined under one roof. The structure also has historical importance as the home of a well-known native New Mexico family whose origins date from Spanish Colonial times with descendants still living in Albuquerque.

Born in November, 1842, four years prior to the takeover of New Mexico by U.S. troops in the first months of the Mexican War, Juan Estévan Barela was the only son of Pablo Barela and Paula García. Although the Barelas were primarily farmers and stockmen, Juan Estévan's father was also a freighter who occasionally hauled merchandise from eastern points to New Mexico over the historic Santa Fe Trail. On May 23, 1870 the elder Barela's train was attacked by a band of Kiowas and Arapahoes which resulted in extensive damage and a claim against the U.S. government still unsettled twenty years later. In 1867 Juan Estévan Barela married María Soledad Jaramillo from the nearby village of Alameda. After only a few years together this union was terminated by Soledad's death but by 1872 Barela had married again. His second wife was Abundia García, a native of Anton Chico in the Pecos Valley, 100 miles east of Los Ranchos. The materials and construction methods used in the Barela-Bledsoe House indicate that it was probably built about this time.

By 1880 Barela had expanded his agricultural lands, holding over 100 acres amid the rich irrigated fields in the Rio Grande Valley. In addition, he was running several thousand sheep on the public domain and had diversified his commercial interests by opening a store and cantina in his house at Los Ranchos. Unfortunately, he was unable to enjoy his prosperity for long, dying at the age of 44 in 1886, leaving seven children by his two marriages. When probated, his estate consisted of over 13,000 sheep, several parcels of farm land and his residence valued at \$1,500.00, which was part of his widow's inheritance. After several years Abundia García de Barela married Walter F. Bledsoe, a mid-westerner who had come to Albuquerque from Missouri. Although he declared himself to be a dentist and sometimes used the nickname "Doc," there is no evidence that Bledsoe ever practised his profession. Instead, he occupied himself in the operation of a series of saloons and

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Albuquerque Baptisms 1838-1842, Albuquerque Marriages 1855-1895, Albuquerque Burials 1854-1893, micro-film copy, State Records Center and Archives.
Bernalillo County Records, State Records Center and Archives; Probate records, File #106, Wills and Testaments, Book "F."

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1 3/4 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,5,2	3,9,0	3,8	9,1	6,8,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the west side of Edith Boulevard where the adobe wall in front of the nominated property makes a right angle turn to the west; thence in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 250' to the east bank of an irrigation ditch known as the Alameda Lateral; thence in a northeasterly direction along the east bank of said ditch to its intersection with Edith Boulevard; thence in a southerly direction along the

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

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

DATE

December 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

(505) 827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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. Mela

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 2 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

Bill Lebovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *3/12/79*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *March 8, 1979*

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7&8

PAGE #1

#7

A second zaguan divides this part of the house from the three bedrooms to the south. Formerly the structure's main entrance, the zaguan has been closed in recent years for security reasons and now serves as a hallway. Its fine Territorial double doorways remain, however, embellished by lintels with a dentil pattern. Alterations to the house have been minimal. A portion of the wall between the living room and dining room was removed and a small bathroom has been added to the wing's southwest corner. The original wood floors have been replaced with either brick or Mexican tile, a detail found more often in Chihuahua than New Mexico. During the 1950s four small fireplaces were built in the living room, the apartment and two of the bedrooms by Indian women from the Pueblo of Jémez. Of traditional construction they are entirely compatible with the architecture of the house. The 1 3/4 acre site designated in this nomination is clearly separated from the surrounding fields by Edith Boulevard on the east, an adobe wall on the south and an irrigating ditch, the Alameda Lateral, on the west.

#8

gambling halls in Albuquerque's "New Town," the Anglo community which had sprung up a mile east of the old Albuquerque plaza when the Santa Fe railroad arrived in 1880.

During this era Albuquerque was overrun with establishments similar to Bledsoe's and he found financial success elusive. As a result both he and his wife were frequently in court facing the wrath of angry creditors including an assortment of liquor dealers, beer distributors and the Albuquerque electric light company. After a marathon suit involving the furnishings and fixtures of a saloon known as "The Office" at 114 Railroad Avenue, Bledsoe seems to have become discouraged with the sporting life and devoted himself to more bucolic pursuits on the family properties at Los Ranchos. It is said that he introduced the first threshing machine into the Albuquerque area. Powered by a giant steam engine, it was moved to various locations by teams of mules or horses, an operation which required a lot of preparation still recalled by older residents in the North Valley.

Although the Bledsoes also maintained a residence in Albuquerque in later years, they kept the house at Los Ranchos and much of the farm land until the 1940s. Bledsoe died in 1935 but it was not until after the death of Abundia García de Bledsoe in 1942 at the age of 95 that the old house was sold by her executor and grandson, Horacio Barela. He conveyed 1 3/4 acres of land, the subject of this nomination, to Albuquerque artist Lloyd L. Goff. Finding the property in need of repair and stabilization, Goff refurbished the remaining portion of the north wing, constructed several fireplaces and gave the entire structure a new coat of plaster.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8&9&10 PAGE #2

#8

In 1963 Goff sold the Barela-Bledsoe House to the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Dietz III, a ranching family with ties to the Los Ranchos area going back over 60 years. Proud of the historic importance of their house, the Dietz's have carried out a sensitive program of maintenance and restoration in keeping with the building's long heritage.

#9

Bernalillo County Records, Bernalillo County Courthouse, Albuquerque;
County Clerk's Records, Deed Books 205, D-31, D-719.
Bernalillo County District Court Records, State Records Center and
Archives, Case File #3495, #3652, #4411.
Territorial Archives of New Mexico, State Records Center and Archives;
Records of the Auditor of the Territory, Audited Reports of County
Commercial Licenses, Bernalillo County 1847-1897.
Federal Census Reports 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900.
Health Service Division Records, Vital Statistics, Santa Fe, Bernalillo
County Deaths 1935, 1943.

#10

west side of Edith Boulevard for a distance of approximately 600' to the point of beginning. The area just described is triangular in shape and contains about 1 3/4 acres.