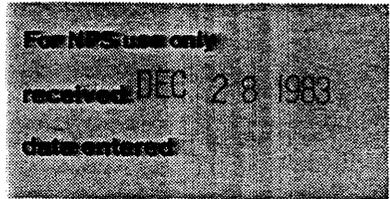


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley



Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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- 1. NAME: Juan Chavez House
- 2. LOCATION: 7809 4th Street N.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 4. OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gross Jr.  
7770 Guadalupe Trail N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Built between 1914 and 1917 the Juan Chavez House is a sizable two story hipped-box adobe house located some eight miles north of Albuquerque's railroad era downtown. It faces Fourth Street, the north valley's main street since the turn of the century. The house is symmetrical with four classically-trimmed dormers and includes a wide front screened porch with simple wood Ionic columns. It is in an unaltered condition.

The Chavez House retains all of its original 1/1 double hung wood sash windows which are deeply set in terron walls. Two front doors that open to the porch are also deeply set and include transoms and wood trim. The door to the left of the central residential entrance leads to a large single room with clapboard ceiling and wallpapered adobe walls which originally was used as a store. It is now a dining room-living room and is unaltered. A central entrance hall includes a full flight of stairs that connect the ground floor to four upstairs rooms, used as sleeping quarters.

The house's roof is covered with red asphalt tile and is finished with a boxed soffit. The dormers have wood shingled gable ends with gable returns and double 1/1 wood sash windows. The screened front porch is incorporated under the house's roof.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Juan Chavez House was for many years after its construction a combination residence and grocery store, one of the earliest in this part of the valley. Its classical detailing and hip roof on the terron first story are representative of many small early 20th-century transitional style houses; unlike the rest, the Chavez House remains as it was built. It is locally significant as an early store in the area and as a rare well-preserved example of a vernacular Hipped Box Cottage style.

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Chavez came from San Acacia, a village farther south on the Rio Grande. He and his sons built the house and a barn between 1914 and 1917 and then farmed the fields to the west. His wife Candelaria baked bread and pies to be sold in the grocery store located in the southeast corner of the house. The Chavezes also sold their produce here as well as meat which they raised and butchered themselves. The store was kept open on Sundays for the many customers who stopped by on their way home from church. Juan Chavez also worked for a liquor wholesaler and during prohibition used to store bootleg liquor in an upstairs bedroom.

The parents of the present owners bought the property in 1948. Louis Gross Sr. made wine in Bernalillo and sold it from the house, continuing its partial commercial use. Louis Gross Jr. and his family lived in the house until this year.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The house is located on a site roughly 75 x 150 feet at the northeast end of Tract 52, MRGCD Map 27. This includes the house only; other later buildings which border the site are not included in the nomination.

UTM references: Los Griegos Quad.13/351140/3892130.