Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Santa Fe
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Established in the 1300's, the Tewa Pueblo of Nambé is constructed of one-story adobe homes and contains a circular ceremonial kiva. The kiva is approached by a unique spiral stairway (caracol) and is entered from the roof by a ladder. It is representative of a transitional period in kiva building since half of the structure is located below ground in pit house style and half of it is above ground typical of later developments. Lately, there has been much scattering and some of the recent homes are of frame construction. The church built in 1725 at the expense of Governor Juan Domingo de Bustamante collapsed in 1909 and a new one was built and dedicated the following year. Many of the 18th century timbers, including a beam containing the Spanish inscription, "The Lord Governor Don Juan Domingo Bustamante built this church at his own expense Year of 1725." were incorporated in the Santa Fe home of Gerald Cassidy. In 1960, the church at Nambé was declared unsafe and was demolished. The village is presently in the process of constructing a new one slightly south of the 1910 structure.

In 1776, Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez viewed the pueblo and noted:

In front of and in the foreground looking from the church and convent, the pueblo all lies to the east-northeast, around a plaza enclosed by three blocks on the southeast, east-northeast, and northeast [sic]. The other side of the plaza consists of half a block plus the cemetery and the adjacent area in the corresponding direction in relation to the foregoing. There are three little alleys in the plaza; a large one, which is the one by the cemetery; another to the east-northeast, and the third to the southeast. (p. 58). ... The only difference is that in Nambé some houses have little porches on the upper dwellings, which are used for sleeping in summer, and at that season their owners keep their utensils and clothing hanging there in the way I described at Tesuque. The corrals for their little herds of livestock are at a good distance behind the church and convent. (p. 59).

Major John G. Bourke, U.S.A., in 1881 also inventoried the village and wrote, "The houses which once were mostly of two stories, are now much decayed. Like those at Pojuaque, they are all of adobe." He also observed that selenite was still used in some of the windows.

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NATIONAL

REGISTE

🔀 Pre-Columbian	🔀 16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
X 15th Century		X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	te)	
Abor iginal	: Education	Political	Urban Planning
🔀 Prehistoric	Engineering	X 'Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
🔀 Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	Living Pueblo
⊠ Agriculture	. Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture ,	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Occupied since approximately 1300 A.D. and first visited by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540, the Tewa speaking Pueblo of Nambé took the oath of allegiance to Juan de Oñate, the Colonizer of New Mexico, in 1598. A mission was located at Nambé as early as 1613 and a small church was built four years later. By 1641, the village contained a population of 300 persons and Cuyamungue was its visita. Jacona also became a visita by 1680 and the combined population of the pueblo and two visitas was 600.

In this same year, the pueblos united in the great Pueblo Revolt in a successful attempt to drive the Spanish from New The natives at Nambé participated in the revolt and killed their resident missionary, Fray Tomas de Torres, along with many of the Spanish in the area on August 10th. General Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan Ponce de León reconquered the area in 1692, he obtained a promise of peace from the Indians, but when he returned in January, 1694, the pueblo was abandoned and the tribe was occupying a mesa near the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. The Nambé Indians had moved by May of that same year to the mesa of San Ildefonso to join the natives of eight other northern pueblos....On September 1, Vargas decided to strike a decisive blow against the nine pueblos concentrated on By holding the fields planted in the river valley, Vargas was able to starve the defenders of the mesa into submission. The Pueblo of Nambé was reestablished by September 17, 1694 but in less than two years, was once again involved in a revolt. On June 4, 1696, many of the pueblos united in a revolt and at Nambé, a Spaniard, Juan Cortés, was killed along with his daughter and son-in-law, José Sanchez. victim was a New Mexican youth, Andrés Baca. The village's resident missionary, Fray Antonio Moreno, was killed while visiting Fray Francisco Cornera at the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. Vargas was able to put down the revolt quickly.

In 1706, Fray Juan Alvarez reported that a church was in the process of being built and that there were about 300 Indians at the pueblo. A larger church of Nuestro Padre de San Francisco de Nambé, financed by Governor Juan Domingo de Bustamante, was built in 1725. This structure collapsed in 1909. Fray Miguel de Menchero reported 50 families living at the village in 1744

(See Continuation Sheet)

Date

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

August 8, 1973

Date

Form 10-300a/ July 1969)

AUG 1 4 1873 NATIONA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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8 SIGNIFICANCE continued:

and five years later, the Pueblo of Pojoaque was a visita of Nambé. Bishop of Durango Pedro Tamarón enumerated 204 persons as living in the pueblo in 1760. In 1776, Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez inventoried the village and noted, "The church is adobe with walls about a vara [1 vara equals 32 2/3 inches] thick. The main door faces east-north-east, and from the door to the approach to the sanctuary it is 30 varas long by 9 wide and 8 high up to the bed molding." (p. 52). He also listed nine families of Spaniards consisting of 36 persons as living in the area.

The Pueblo of Nambé was exposed to Spanish encroachment more than other Tewa pueblos in the area mainly due to the fine soil and irrigation system developed by the natives of the village. In 1739, Vicente Duran de Armijo petitioned for a grant to farming lands east of the pueblo but due to the objections of the Indians, Governor Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza denied his request. With the consent of the tribe, Armijo did receive a small tract to the west, Later, members of the Ortiz family, who claimed to have purchased land from Armijo, reinstated claims on the east for the fraudulent Sierra de Mosca grant requesting some 100,000 acres, which included Nambé Falls east of the pueblo. Two claims by rival factions of this family were finally rejected, but only after an appeal to the United States Supreme Court in 1896. As late as 1902, a detachment of troops from the 5th calvalry was required to remove additional encroachers. On December 22, 1858, the Congress of the United States confirmed a 13,586.33 acre grant to the pueblo and this was patented on November 1, 1864. Although, this area was greatly reduced by later encroachers, the present acreage of the entire Nambé reservation is 19,015 acres.

In 1856, W. W. H. Davis, U.S. Attorney for the Territory of New Mexico, noted the widespread belief in witchcraft at Nambé and further stated that two Indians had been executed for having practiced it. These constant intertribal executions during the 19th century led to a sharp decline in population at the pueblo. Indian Agent W.F.M. Arney visited Nambé in 1870 and noted:

Traveled four miles this afternoon and took the census of "Pueblo of Nambé." Like the Pueblo of Pojuaque, they are willing to let the Mexicans that occupy lands keep them. They have always got along peaceably and will endeavor to continue so. In this pueblo there are 78 persons and 36 children. Only one Indian can read and write, and they would be glad to have a school. (p. 37).

Major John G. Bourke, U.S.A., in 1881 also stopped at the pueblo and observed, "Nambé is an inconsiderable pueblo of six or seven families."

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet #2)

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B. SIGNIFICANCE continued:

By 1960, Nambé was one of the smallest of the Tewa villages as only 152 Indians were residing in the pueblo. Nambé has kept many of its traditions and various dances are performed by the pueblo throughout the year. The tribe holds its annual fiesta on October 4 to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of the pueblo. One of the most popular dances is held on July fourth and is attended by crowds of about 3,000 persons.

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