OMB No. 1024-0018

JAN 0 9 1990

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for *Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property				
historic name Field.	Seaman, House	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	States Customs House			
2. Location				
street & number 304 Silver Av	enue		M⊿Anot for publication	
city, town Deming			N/Aricinity	
state New Mexicorode	NM county Luna	code 029	zip code 88030	
3. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property		urces within Property	
X private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local		<u> </u>	0 buildings	
public-State	site		sites	
public-Federal			structures	
	object		objects	
			Total	
Name of related multiple property lis N/A	iting:		outing resources previously	
		listed in the Natio	onal Register0	
4. State/Federal Agency Certifi	cation			
Signature of certifying efficial	eets does not meet the National F	Thier	<u>1-2-90</u> Date	
In my opinion, the property me	eets does not meet the National R	egister criteria. L_ See c	ontinuation sneet.	
Signature of commenting or other offic	cial		Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau				
5. National Park Service Certifi	cation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
I, hereby, certify that this property is				
entered in the National Register.	······································		, ,	
See continuation sheet.	Beth Bolen	x	2/20/90	
determined eligible for the Nation				
Register. See continuation shee				
determined not eligible for the	•••	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
National Register.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
removed from the National Regis				

6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) Domestic/single_dwelling Commerce/specialty_store	
Domestic/single dwelling		
Commerce/professional		
Government/custom house		
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
	foundation Not visible	
Other:vernacular	walls <u>Stucco</u>	
	roof <u>Wood shingle</u>	
	other	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Seaman Field House is a one-story building with a front-gable roof and a cross gable addition on either side. It is constructed primarily of adobe and has been stuccoed. It lies along the front of the property line and has a portal that is supported by cut-stone piers and overhangs the sidewalk. The building has a shingle roof and is painted white. On the interior in the oldest middle section of the house, an exposed south wall is constructed of "poured adobe", made by pouring mud into forms made of planks. In the attic, bare adobe bricks are visible in the gables. The house is in excellent condition and has undergone a number of alterations.

The main facade of the building has retained the form of the facade which had evolved between 1898 and 1902. The original front gable remains and the placement of doors and windows on the ground floor is essentially the same with two exceptions. Four 2/2 wooden windows remain in their original locations; however, the 2/2 windows originally on either side of the door of the main section have been replaced with windows double the original size. Other changes include the addition of a trio of Palladian-style windows in the front gable and the replacement of slender, wooden, Territorial-style posts supporting the portal with stone piers. The dates of these alterations as well as others made at the rear of the building are not known.

8. Statement of Significance				
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:				
Applicable National Register Criteria X A X B]c []p			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)]CDEFG			
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions Settlement Government	Period of Significance 1881–1907 (ca)	Significant Dates		
	Cultural Affiliation			
Significant Person Field, Seaman	Architect/Builder Unknown			

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Seaman Field House is significant as the home of one of Deming's early prominent citizens, who among other distinctions served as the town's first mayor. The house itself contains portions of an early adobe home built soon after the founding of Deming. In addition, a portion of Field's home may have been used for the collection of customs during his first term as customs agent, before a separate customs house was built.

History of Deming and of Grant and Luna Counties

The town of Deming was founded in the Mimbres Valley in 1881 at the junction of the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroads. It was located near the eastern border of Grant County which then occupied the southwestern corner of the Territory of New Mexico.

This area had not been explored until the late eighteenth century when a trade route was sought from settlements in Sonora, Mexico and those along the Rio Grande in the north. During the Spanish and Mexican periods, the hostility of the Apache Indians and a lack of water had almost totally blocked settlement in the region. One notable exception was the Spanish settlement associated with the copper mines at Santa Rita founded in the early nineteenth century.

Even after the Americans took over the area through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) and the Gadsden Purchase (1853), Indian hostility prevented extensive settlement. In 1858 the Butterfield Stage route was opened between Missouri and California which passed through this area. Near the stage stop at the crossing of the Mimbres River, about twenty-five miles north of where Deming would be founded, a small community grew up which was called Mowry City, or Camp Mimbres, Los Mimbres, and later just Old Town. Near Fort Bayard, established in 1866, the town of Central was founded as well as mining districts at Pinos Altos and Silver City.

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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	X See continuation sheet		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):			
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:		
has been requested			
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency		
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency		
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government		
recorded by Historic American Buildings			
Survey #	Other		
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:		
Record #			
10. Geographical Data	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
Acreage of property Less than 1 acre			
UTM References ▲ 山 3 2 4 0 190 3 57 ,30 ,7 ,0			
A 1 3 2 4 0 190 3 57 30 7 0	$B[\downarrow] [\downarrow] \downarrow] \downarrow] \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow]$		
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		
	See continuation sheet		
·			
Verbal Boundary Description			
Plack 19 Jan 1 5 Daning townsite			
Block 18, Lots 1-5. Deming townsite.			
	See continuation sheet		
Boundary Justification			
The boundary encompasses the city lots up	on which the property is located.		
	See continuation sheet		
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title Corinne P. Sze			
organization Research Services of Santa Fe	date_October 1989		
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road	telephone <u>(505)</u> 9835605		

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_____Santa Fe _____ zip code <u>87501</u>____ city or town _____

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In 1868 Grant County was created out of Dona Ana County, with Central briefly designated as the first county seat, followed by Pinos Altos in 1869, and Silver City in 1874. In the years before the arrival of the railroad, Silver City developed as a trading center on the routes which connected the area with the Santa Fe Trail, with Mesilla and Las Cruces, and with Mexico.

Late in the year 1880, the Southern Pacific Railroad, building eastward from California, arrived at the place where Deming would be founded. A roundhouse and repair shops were built and a tent and shanty town quickly developed. Six months later the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, coming from the north and east, linked up with the SP at the site of Deming, a union which created the nation's second transcontinental railroad route and which was symbolized by the driving of a silver spike on March 8, 1881. Eleven days later, on March 19, 1881, the plat of the townsite of Deming was filed. Settlers poured in, more permanent buildings began to appear, and the town grew into a railroad and trading center. Among those early settlers were Seaman Field and his family.

History of the Seaman Field Property (Lots 2, 3, 4 of the Deming Townsite)

The first recorded sale of the property, dated February 25, 1881 and filed March 19 (the same date that the plat of Deming was filed), shows Irwin P. Long conveying three tracts, totaling 640 acres, or one square- mile section including the future Field property, to Albert A. Robinson for \$3,200. Robinson was the chief engineer of the AT&SF Railway who oversaw the surveying of the road in New Mexico. Under his supervision it is said a total of 5000 miles of AT&SF track were built. Later he became vice president and general manager of the company.²

Irwin P. Long was a Wyandot Indian living on the tiny Wyandotte Indian Reservation in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). His claim to this land in New Mexico had just been filed nine days before the sale on February 16, 1881.

The origin of Long's short-term claim to this land reaches several decades back into the history of the Wyandot Indians. The ancestors of the Wyandots, known as the Huron nation, had ranged over a wide area around the Great Lakes during the period of French domination. In 1785 with other related tribes, they signed a treaty accepting the protection of the United

1. <u>Grant County Herald</u>. March 21, 1875; July to December 1875. Cited in Inventory of Grant County Archives, p. 56.

2. Waters, p. 44-5. Bryant, 59-63.

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States and agreeing to reservations mostly in present Ohio.³ In the early 1830's the United States began attempts to negotiate the removal of the Wyandots from Ohio to points further west. On March 17, 1842 a treaty was signed by which the Wyandots ceded their lands in Ohio and Michigan to the United States in exchange for land west of the Mississippi River and a number of financial promises. As a further inducement, the United States agreed to grant to each of certain individuals by patent in fee-simple one section of land of 640 acres out of any lands west of the Missouri River set apart for Indian use, not already claimed or occupied by any person or tribe. Among the thirty-five individually named recipients of these grants and the ninth so named in the treaty was Irwin P. Long. Because these grants were not tied to specific lands, as earlier Wyandot donations had been, they came to be known as "floats".

In 1843 the Indians moved from Ohio to a reserve at the mouth of the Kansas River, just west of the Missouri line. The individual grants of the 1842 treaty were generally not taken up. In 1854 the Kansas and Nebraska Territories were created and their land opened for settlement. The next year the Wyandots signed a treaty with the United States whereby their tribe was dissolved, its former members became American citizens, and their lands were divided among them. The individual grants of the 1842 treaty were reaffirmed with the stipulation that any government lands west of the states of Missouri and Iowa subject to pre-emption and settlement could be selected and that the grantee's right to sell this land would be unrestricted.

All of the thirty-five Wyandot floats had been claimed by 1858 in the northeastern part of the Territory of Kansas. Half were used by Wyandots, either as the original grantee or as agent or assignee for the grantee. Fifteen of the floats were located by Whites, most of them recent arrivals in the Territory, primarily on prospective townsites and on speculative agricultural lands. Several of the claimed lands were disputed and provoked legal action. Three of the floats were eventually used in Western states including Colorado and New Mexico.

By 1867 the Wyandots had sold most of their lands and were not prospering. A new treaty was signed in which they renewed their tribal existence and in 1869 they were once again removed, this time to a small strip

- 6. Kappler, p. 677-681.
- 7. Socolofsky, p. 248-252.

^{3.} Socolofsky, p. 241.

^{4.} Kappler, p. 534-537.

^{5.} Socolofsky, p. 244.

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of land which was ceded for them by the Senecas in the northeastern portion of the Indian Territory. There Irwin P. Long was living when the land claimed under his float was sold to the chief engineer of the AT&SF.

Of all the Wyandot floats, Long's float #9 had the most complicated history. Partly owned by Isaiah Walker, it was initially filed in 1856 on agricultural land in Kansas in the name of Samuel Stover. However, there were settlers on the land whose right to ownership was upheld during years of litigation which ended in a 1873 decision of the United States Supreme Court against Long's claim.

Six years later Long was still trying to claim his float which he said he had sold to Isaiah Walker for \$3000 in 1857. Finally in 1881, inquiries by a former Kansas Governor, George T. Anthony, came from Las Vegas, New Mexico about locating the float in the New Mexico. Shortly thereafter H.K. Pinckney, an employee of the AT&SF who was stationed in Las Vegas filed this float on land in and near the new townsite of Deming. No dispute arose and the patent was issued on June 18, 1883. Thus decades of indecision over the location of the Long float ended in Deming, New Mexico.

The fact that the claim was not contested suggests that the land was not occupied and had not been built upon. On November 22, 1882 railroad engineer Robinson who had bought the entire float from Long (in a transaction witnessed by Isaiah Walker), sold several lots including those numbered 3 and 4 in block 18 of the Deming Townsite to a Fred W. Drunegal of Socorro, and a few days₁₀ later sold lots numbered 1 and 2 of the same block to Philip J. Oettinger. One year later Robinson sold all of the remaining land from the Long float to Edward Wilder of Topeka, Kansas, presumably the same Edward Wilder who was the secretary-treasurer of the AT&SF Railway.

According to an affidavit, dated March 13, 1951, Robert S. Field became vested with the title to Lot 3, Block 18 by Quit Claim Deed from Frank Thurmond dated May 5, 1885. R.S. Field, Seaman Field's oldest son (b. 1858), conveyed title to Lot #3 to his father by deed dated February 1, 1888. Frank Thurmond was one of Deming's early settlers and leading citizens who engaged in ranching and mining and became vice-president of the Deming National Bank.

- 11. Ibid. pp. 251. Marshall, p. 357.
- 12. Luna County, Misc. Deed Records, Bk. 11, pp. 574-575.
- 13. The History of Luna County, p. 103.

^{8.} Ibid. p. 298.

^{9.} Ibid.

^{10.} Luna County Transcribed Deed Records, Book A, pp. 66-7, 77-8.

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Thus by 1886, when the first Sanborn Map shows a small square adobe dwelling on lot 3, the property had been owned by at least two of Deming's early settlers and leading citizens, one of whom probably built this house. Presumably, this original house, one of Deming's earliest dwellings built between 1881 and 1886, remains in the central section of the Seaman Field House as it stands today. The presence of poured adobe, made by pouring mud into forms made of planks, in the south wall of the original building suggests an early date. This technique was used by settlers in southeast New Mexico and in other areas of the southwest section of the Territory such as the mining town of Shakespeare¹⁵

In 1887 by letter of agreement with Carrie E. Hughes of Los Angeles, California, Seaman Field took possession of lot 4, located south of lot 3, and made improvements. In 1888 lots 1 and 2 were sold by Philip J. Oettinger of New York City to the partnership of McKeys and Washington of Deming, at which time Washington and his wife conveyed their interest to B. Y. Keys the other member of the partnership. In 1889 Seaman Field and his wife purchased an undivided one-half interest in lots 5 and 6 from I.C. Bourk of Georgetown, Colorado.

By 1893 Field had added a long wing extending west from the back of the dwelling on Lot 3 and installed a windmill. Five years later a small square addition had been made on the south along the street line (lot 4) and a small detached customs house had been built on lot 2, north of the house. By 1902 the detached customs house on the north side of the house was replaced with an square addition to the house, somewhat larger than the square addition on the south, but like it built along the street line. This addition was used as an insurance office. One long portal along the entire front of the house now unified the original house and its two side additions. Except for a small addition at the rear on the south side constructed by 1913, and the loss of the section which extended from the back of the building before 1930, the dimensions of the building remained the same through 1942.

Pratt, p. 112.
Mary Ann Anders, personal communication.
Luna County, Misc. Deed Records, Bk. 11, pp. 574-575.
Sanborn Map, 1893.
<u>Ibid</u>., 1898.
<u>Ibid</u>., 1902.
<u>Ibid</u>., 1913, 1917, 1930, 1942.

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History of Seaman Field

Seaman Field is said to have come to Deming in 1882 or 1883, with the first wave of settlers into the new town.²¹ His Welsh ancestors had settled in Vermont before the Revolutionary War and he himself was born in Jefferson County, New York on February 27, 1829. Largely self-educated, he had begun his career clerking in his brother's store in Ellisburg, New York and then went to New York City where he was a salesman in his uncle's firm. In 1849 he went to New Orleans to take charge of the branch house of the firm and spent the next ten years traveling extensively throughout the southern states as a salesman.²²

In 1857 Field married Maggie Clannon. They had two sons and three daughters, Robert Seth, James Clannon, Kate, Jessie Bell and Nellie Bell. The family moved to San Antonio, Texas for Mrs. Field's health where Field engaged in raising sheep and merchandising. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate Army as private and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel, 23 serving in the Thirty-third Texas Cavalry in the brigade of General Bee.

After the War, Field returned to New York City where he supervised business and purchased goods to be shipped to San Antonio. In 1876 he retired from the mercantile business and returned to Texas where his wife died in 1878. He married again in 1881 in Dallas and in 1882 a son Albert was born.

Field came with his family to Deming in the early 1880's where he engaged in ranching, the wholesale liquor business, the insurance and real estate business, and was a stockholder in the Yellow Jacket and Blue Jacket Silver and lead mines.²⁵ Although the 1884 Business Directory does not list Field, he appears in the 1885 Territorial Census with his wife, three daughters, and young son.

21. <u>Illustrated History</u> gives the date as 1882, Haynes as 1883. Field's name does not appear in the 1884 New Mexico Business Directory. The first official record of him in Deming is the 1885 census, the same year his son bought lot 3 of block 18.

24. <u>Ibid</u>.

25. <u>Ibid.</u>; Anderson, p. 849. <u>The History of Luna County</u>, Supplement One, p. 27.

^{22.} Illustrated History, p. 545-546.

^{23. &}lt;u>Ibid</u>. 546.

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During the first term of President Grover Cleveland (1885-1889), Field was appointed collector of customs, and was reappointed for Cleveland's second term (1893-1897). In the 1888-9 business directory Field is listed as a Customs House Officer.

When the town of Deming was incorporated Seaman Field was among the first five trustees and was chosen as Deming's first mayor. He served on the board of school trustees of the high school of Deming for ten years, six of these as chairman. He was also the president of the board of Regents of the Agricultural College. On the county level, he served as a commissioner and as probate judge of Luna County. In 1907 he was described as "one of the most highly respected citizens of the southern portion of New Mexico, a man who in the breadth of his vision, his business activity and his political service has made his life of benefit to his fellow men".²⁷ It is not known at this time when Field died.

History of the Customs Service in New Mexico and Customs Collection at Deming.

The United States Customs Service was founded by the Tariff Act of July 4, 1789 which established a tariff and a system for collecting duties. The Customs Service was originally and remains today under the Treasury Department. Until the passage of the Federal Income Tax Act in 1913, customs revenues were virtually the only source of income for the United States government.²⁰

In 1853, the year of the Gadsden Purchase, the Secretary of the Treasury authorized a Customs Mounted Patrol for the newly created El Paso del Norte District.²⁰ By 1860 Samuel J. Jones of Virginia was serving as Customs Collector in Las Cruces.³⁰ Ten years later customs within Grant County were being collected at Los Mimbres by John Oliphant and at Pinos Altos by Enos

- 27. Anderson, p. 849.
- 28. Protectors of Independence, p. 3-7.
- 29. "History of the U.S. Customs Service in the State of New Mexico," p. 3.
 - 30. U.S. Census, Dona Ana County, 1860.

^{26.} Illustrated History, p. 546.

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Culver.³¹ By 1875 a port of entry for customs was reputedly established at Silver City to cover the extensive trade which had developed between that city and Mexico.³²

After the arrival of the railroad, the newly founded town of Deming became a large shipping center which included a considerable volume of trade with the northern states of Mexico. In 1882 the customs office was transferred from Silver City to Deming.³³ The people of Silver City did not take this loss lightly and a petition was sent to Washington asking that the customs house be brought back to their city. An indication of their success is a notice in the newspaper of August, 1883 that the customs office in Silver City had changed location.³⁴ Nevertheless, it is assumed that customs continued to be collected at Deming also. Seaman Field was appointed to a customs post by President Cleveland during his first term (1885-1889) and reappointed when Cleveland was elected again (1893-1897).³⁵ It is that Field was the only man to ever hold the office without bond.

It is not known where the customs office was first located in Deming. There is no evidence that it was in the Field home before Field's appointment to a customs post, nor is there any evidence that this home was used for collecting customs before Lot 3 was bought by Field's son in 1885.

The first indication of the possible collection of customs in the Field House is the 1888-9 listing of Field as customs officer on Silver Avenue. Between 1886 and 1893 the only addition to the Field House had been made at the back of the original building on Lot 3. It is therefore possible that customs were collected by Field in his home during his first appointment as a

31. U.S. Census, Grant County, 1870. "History of the U.S. Customs Service in the State of New Mexico," states that John R. Brockman served as a customs collector at Pinos Altos and later Mowry City in this period. No source is provided for this information.

32. <u>Eagle</u>, January 1, 1896. Cited in Inventory of Grant County Archives, p. 57.

33. <u>New Southwest & Herald</u>, March 18, 1881. "History of the U.S. Customs Service in the State of New Mexico," states that log books (unidentified) show a William R. Russell as the first Collector of Customs in Deming.

34. <u>Southwest Sentinel</u>. March 31, 1883; August 29, 1883.

35. Haynes. p. 407 gives 1886 as the date of his appointment. <u>Illustrated History</u>, p. 546 states that Field was appointed by President Cleveland in 1888, and that Field served four years. If these four years coincided with Cleveland's first term of office (1885-1889), the appointment would have taken place earlier than 1888. Anderson, p. 849 gives the date of his appointment as 1884.

36. Anderson, p. 849.

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customs officer. Seaman Field's 88-year-old grandson recalled in 1988 that his mother and aunt (Seaman Field's daughters) referred to the large adobe house on Silver Street as the customs house and that his uncle Albert Field spoke of the customs service that went on in his home.

By the time of Field's second term of service collecting customs (during the second Cleveland presidency, 1893-1897), this duty was definitely carried on outside of his home. The 1893 Sanborn Map shows a large rectangular building one block north of the Field property on the corner of Silver Avenue and Spruce Street which is labeled "To Be U.S. Customs House". It is not known whether this building was ever actually used for customs. Nevertheless, by 1898 a small, separate wooden customs house had been built on the adjacent lot 2 north of the Field home. A photograph is attached showing this building north of the Field home with the flag of the customs service flying in front. Field was busy as customs 40

It is assumed that Field, a vigorous Democrat did not continue to collect customs after the end of Cleveland's second term (1897), when the presidency changed parties. Nevertheless, in 1900 the port of entry was moved to Columbus, New Mexico, thirty miles south of Deming and just three miles north of the Mexican border. By 1902 a square addition had been built on the north side of the Field house where the small customs house had been.

38. Sanborn Map, 1898.

39. There is some confusion created by a photograph showing what appears to be the same small wooden building with the customs flag flying in front of it, located on the opposite (south) side of the house on lot 5. In this photograph the Field house already has the small square addition on the south which first appears on the Sanborn Map of 1898. Since the photographs are not reversed, it appears that between 1893 and 1898 after the south addition was added to the main house the small separate customs building was constructed on the south side of the house. However, before the map of 1898 was drawn, that building had been moved to the north side of the house. It is also possible that the building was built first on the north and moved to the south but this would have been after Field's appointment as collections officer had expired.

40. <u>Illustrated History</u>, p. 545. This biographical information on Seaman Field was published in 1895 and was presumably written by himself.

41. Sanborn Map, 1902.

^{37.} Recollections of Seaman Field Guiney. Written down on March 12, 1988 by Rosemary McLain.

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Historical Significance of the Seamon Field House

The Seaman Field House is significant as the home of one of Deming's most prominent early citizens. The period of significance begins with the date of the founding of Deming (1881) and ends with the last documented date when Field was alive (1907). The middle section of the building is among the oldest structures in Deming. It is thought to be the oldest building in New Mexico with a documented connection to the collection of customs. Х

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- "History of the U.S. Customs Service in the State of New Mexico," manuscript prepared by the Customs Service, 1989. (Contains no citations)
- "Recollections of Seaman Field Guiney," related to and written down by Rosemary McLain, March 12, 1988.

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Silver City. <u>New Southwest & Herald</u>.

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Government Records

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Commercial Licenses. Grant County. 1868-1897.

Grant County Deeds

Luna County Deeds

Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Deming, New Mexico. 1886, 1893, 1898, 1902, 1908, 1913, 1917, 1921, 1930, 1946.



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Photograph #1

- 1. Judge Seaman Field House
- 2. Deming, New Mexico
- 3. Ed Boles
- 4. December, 1989
- 5. New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
- 6. Camera facing west

Photograph #2

- 1. Judge Seam Field House
- 2. Deming, New Mexico
- 3. Ed Boles
- 4. December, 1989
- 5. New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
- 6. Camera facing southwest