

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Acequia System of El Rancho de las Golondrinas

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12 miles southwest of Santa Fe and
1/2 mile north of Ciénega on State Highway #22 not for publication

city, town Santa Fe mc vicinity of congressional district #1

state New Mexico code 35 county Santa Fe code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Y.A. Paloheimo

street & number 614 Acequia Madre

city, town Santa Fe vicinity of state New Mexico

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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Register of Cultural
title Properties

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 28, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau
Department of Finance and Administration

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in a small valley southwest of the city of Santa Fe, El Rancho de las Golondrinas (Ranch of the Swallows) is an outstanding example of a reconstructed 18th century New Mexico hacienda. Well watered by a series of springs and swamps which originate nearby, the valley has attracted settlers from pre-historic times to this oasis surrounded by piñon covered hills. Although historical records document Hispanic settlement in the early 18th century, archeological evidence indicates Pueblo Indian occupancy long before that. Today the same springs still feed the extensive acequia (ditch) system which waters the small fields of corn, beans, alfalfa and other crops both on the rancho lands and on those of the citizens of the adjoining village of La Ciénega. Each spring before planting time all the water users join together, equipped with shovels and other tools, to clean the acequia, a traditional process conducted under the watchful eye of the mayordomo (ditch manager) who is also responsible for equitable water allocation once the irrigating season begins. Still of vital interest to the farm families in the community, the acequia system serves as a powerful cohesive force in the life of the village. Because of difficulties in determining other owners, only that portion within the boundaries of El Rancho de las Golondrinas is included in this nomination.

Originating east of the ranch, the stream which supplies the acequia system is diverted by a modern headgate approximately one-half mile from the headquarters. To reach additional acreage the ditch makes a large arc to the north a short distance below the headgate, crossing a deep arroyo on the west by means of a steel flume. Because the ditch runs in the opposite direction from the arroyo the water appears to be flowing uphill, but the arrangement permits lands on each side of the arroyo to be irrigated. A small storage pond above the ditch can be turned in through a headgate to supplement the acequia's flow during the summer. After leaving the flume on the west side of the arroyo the acequia follows the contour of the land, meandering along the upper side of an irrigable strip varying in width from 50 to 150 yards. Below the point where it crosses into the Golondrinas lands there is a series of lateral ditches into which small streams are diverted by means of wooden headgates. Concrete reinforced culverts protect the acequia madre from damage by flash floods which occasionally sweep through several small arroyos on the west. Shaded by huge cottonwoods, the ditch continues onward, providing water for sheep and cattle grazing nearby. Below the ranch headquarters additional spring-fed ponds can be turned into the acequia before it leaves the Golondrinas lands, bounded on the west by a county road, and flows into the fields of other farmers.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

One of the most important considerations in determining Hispanic settlement patterns in the 17th and 18th century New Mexico was the availability of water. In an arid region with meagre rainfall, natural water supplies such as springs, ponds and streams which could be diverted into irrigation systems were used to convert plots of unimproved countryside into farm lands. Combining techniques brought from Spain and Mexico with the indigenous practices of the Pueblo Indians, the settlers of New Mexico were able to increase yields of wheat, corn, beans and other crops necessary for their survival. The acequia system which serves El Rancho de las Golondrinas and the adjoining village of La Ciénega is an excellent example of this early technology. Although the ditches have been modernized somewhat in recent years, they still water the same small fields planted with traditional crops which have sustained the community for over 200 years.

The first landholder of record at La Ciénega was Miguel Vega y Coca, a native of Mexico City who came to New Mexico in 1693 with the recolonizing forces of General Don Diego de Vargas. His large family consisted of seven daughters and their husbands, all but one of whom remained in the Ciénega area. The rancho known as Las Golondrinas was the home of María Vega y Coca and her husband Diego Manuel Baca. They passed it on to their son Juan Estevan Baca, who married María Teodora Terrus of Santa Fe in the 1750s. The village was visited in 1776 by Fray Francisco Atanacio Domínguez during an important inspection of New Mexico missions. His description of the area, which still applies today, is as follows:

The settlement lies in a kind of nook between two cañadas (small valleys). None of the rivers mentioned reach it, nor does it have any water except some springs which suffice for the irrigation of the little farms. . . Here it is called Ciénega Grande and that is just what it is, for there is a good swamp. . . These lands. . . usually yield fairly good crops.

Four years later New Mexico's Governor Juan Bautista de Anza, on an historic reconnaissance to find a direct route from Santa Fe to Sonora, arrived at the rancho for an overnight stay with his retinue of soldiers, militiamen and Indian auxiliaries. His account is the first known reference to the ranch as "Las Golondrinas."

Around the turn of the century Las Golondrinas became the property of Manuel Delgado, then an officer of the Santa Fe presidio and later a prominent merchant. The rancho returned to the Baca family, however, following Delgado's death in 1815, when it was inherited by his twin children Manuel and Manuela, the wife of José Francisco Baca y Terrus, who purchased
(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams, Eleanor B. and Fray Angelico Chavez, The Missions of New Mexico 1776...Albuquerque, 1956.
 Chavez, Fray Angelico, Origins of New Mexico Families, Santa Fe, 1954.
 (See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3.4 - per phone call 1/30/80 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Turquoise Hill, N. Mex. 36. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 3	3 9 1 9 8 4 1 0	3 1 9 3 7 3 9 1 0	B	1 3	3 9 1 9 6 2 1 0	3 9 3 7 1 1 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 1 3	3 9 1 9 0 5 1 0	3 1 9 3 1 6 8 2 1 0	D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification A 20' wide strip, the nominated area extends 10' in each direction from the mid-point of the acequia, extending in a south-westerly direction from its intersection with the north boundary of El Rancho de las Golondrinas to its intersection with State Highway #22. (See enclosed map)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John O. Baxter, Historian
 organization State Records Center and Archives date August 22, 1979
 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas W. [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-4-79

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 2/1/80

Keeper of the National Register

date 1/30/80

Attest: [Signature]
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	10 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	FEB 1 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8&9 PAGE #1

#8

his brother-in-law's interest. Delgado's will also mentioned a grist mill, powered by water drawn from the acequia, which provided flour for the community. Several years after Mexican independence in 1821 fear of Spanish re-conquest led to governmental plans for a forced loan from wealthy citizens. Baca y Terrus, a member of New Mexico's legislature, listed Las Golondrinas, which he valued at 1400 pesos, among his assets. Annual production of wheat and corn was estimated at 150 fanegas, approximately 225 bushels. Because of his opposition to United States occupation of New Mexico in 1846, Baca y Terrus withdrew from public life and retired to Las Golondrinas, which he maintained as a country residence.

In 1932 the rancho was purchased by New Mexico folklorist Leonora Curtin and has since been extensively developed by her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Y. A. Paloheimo. The restoration programs which they have carried out with the advice of descendants of the Baca y Terrus family and other residents of the village of Ciénega are intended to demonstrate the quality of life in Spanish Colonial times within the format of a living museum. Although many of the original buildings have undergone extensive reconstruction, the acequia system, through which precious water still flows, remains much as it was described by Domínguez over 200 years ago.

#9

Diary of the de Anza Expedition to Sonora, 1780, Mexico Archivo General de la Nacion, Historia VII, photostat copy, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Series I, #109,252,652, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Mexican Archives of New Mexico, Diputación Territorial, property returns, 1829; Assessment lists, 1836; Census reports, 1823 and 1841; New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Lopez Family Papers, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

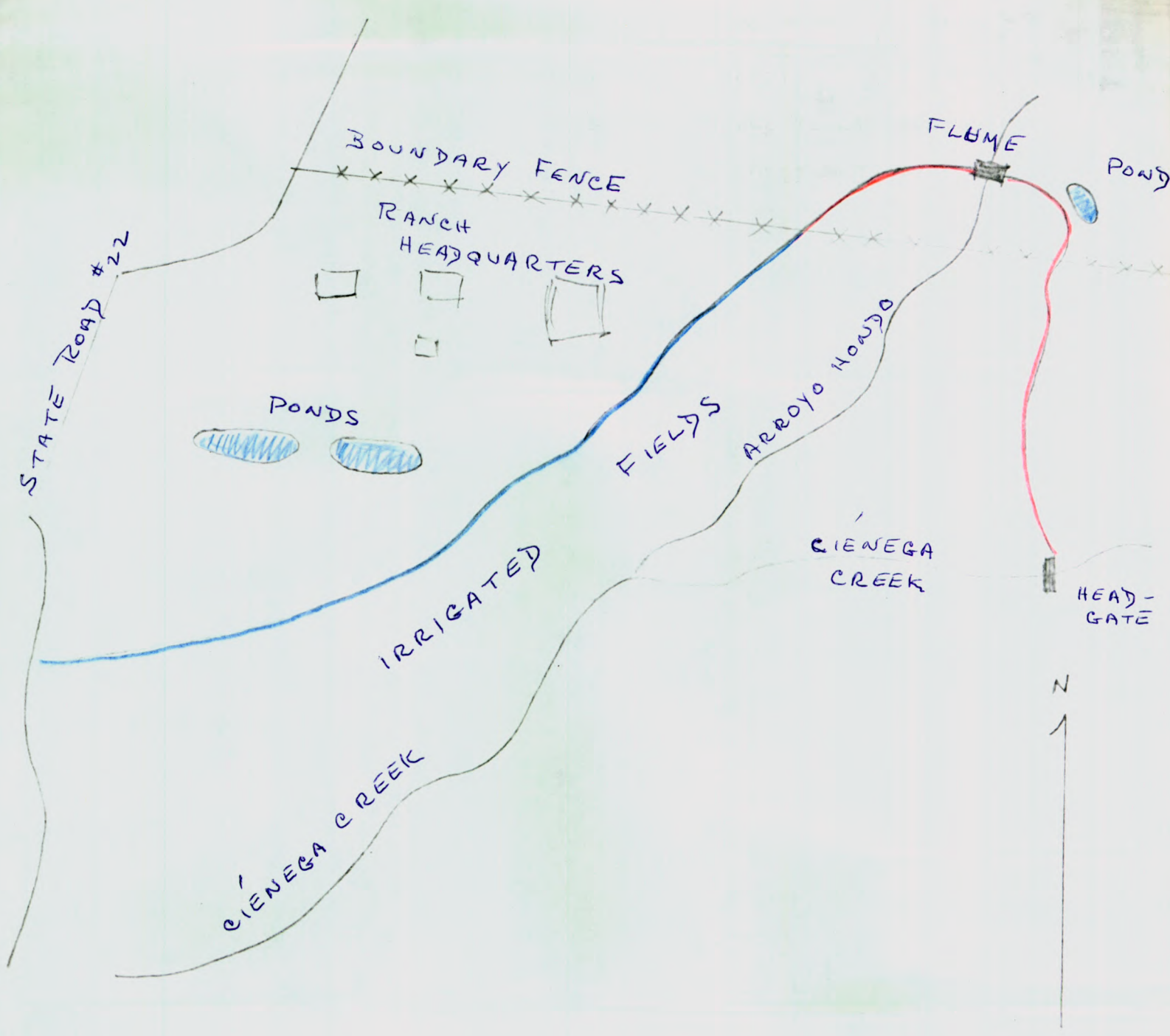
José Francisco Baca y Terrus to Manuel Álvarez, April 2, 1847, dated at "Las Golondrinas," Álvarez Papers, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe - Santa Fe Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1726-1823. Microfilm copy, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Jenkins, Myra Ellen, "The Village of La Ciénega," unpublished ms., Santa Fe, 1972.

Simmons, Marc, "Spanish Attempts to Open a New Mexico-Sonora Road," Arizona and the West, Vol. 17, No. 1, Spring, 1975.

Thomas, A. B., Forgotten Frontiers. Norman, 1932.



THE ACEQUIA SYSTEM OF EL RANCHO DE LAS GOLONDRINAS
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

- NOMINATED PORTION OF ACEQUIA SYSTEM
- PORTION EXCLUDED FROM NOMINATION

