NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVE DM 10024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property		
historic name Palace Hotel		
other names/site number <u>5CN774</u>		
2. Location		
street & number 429 Main Street	[N/A] not for publication	
city or town Antonito		_ [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO	county Conejos code 021 zip cod	e <u>81120</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic nomination [] request for determination of eligibility in National Register of Historic Places and meets the property [X] meets [] does not meet considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] (See continuation sheet for additional comments, []. Signature of certifying official/Title State Nistoric Preservation Office State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].	Date	this [X] perties in the 3 CFR Part 60. is property be
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification	lan	
I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper/	Date
[i] entered in the National Register See continuation sheet []. [] determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet []. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register [] other, explain See continuation sheet [].	Endered In the National Register.	q · 19 · 94

Pa	lace	Но	tel

Name of Property

Conejos County, CO

County/State

5.Classification

Ownership of Property Property	Category of Proper	ty Number of	Resources within
(Check as many boxes as apply)	(Check only one box)	(Do not count previo	ously listed resources.) Noncontributing
[X] private [] public-local [] public-State	[X] building(s) [] district	1	0buildings
[] public-State	[] site [] structure [] object	0	0sites
		0	0structures
		0	objects
		1	0Total
Name of related multiple p listing. (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple p	. ,	Number of cores protected the National I	eviously listed in
N/A	-	-0-	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/hotel		Current Function (Enter categories from instruction DOMESTIC/hote	•
COMMERCE/restaurant COMMERCE/department st	ore	DOMESTIC/multi	iple dwelling
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Late 19th and Early 20th Ce		Materials (Enter categories from instruction CONC	
American Movements/Comn	nercial Style	walls_STONE/san	dstone; BRICK
		roof_ASPHALT other_METAL	

Name of Property

County/State

8.Statement of Significance

•	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
	Commerce
[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history	
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Periods of Significance 1890-1941
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual	
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1890
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Property is:	Significant Person(s) (Complete if Criterion B is marked above). N/A
[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	IN/A
[] B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
[] C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
[] D a cemetery.	
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	A no leite et/Duilden
[] F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Unknown
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographic References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more	e continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been	[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested [] previously listed in the National Register [] previously determined eligible by the National Register [] designated a National Historic Landmark [] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # [] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

X]	State	Historic Preservation Office	
]	Other	State Agency	

[] Federal Agency

[] Local Government

[] Local Governm

[X] University

[X] Other: Town and City Libraries

Name of repository:
Adams State College, Southern Peaks &
Conejos County Libraries

Palace Hotel	Conejos County, CO
Name of Property	County/State
40.0	

10.Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

410370 4103630 A. Zone B. Zone **Northing** Northing Easting Northing Easting C. Zone Easting D. Zone Northing [] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title_Bill_Laurell/Carol_Mondragon	
organization	date November 26, 1993
street & number 429 Main Street	telephone (303) 376-5824
city or town Antonito	state_CO zip code_81220

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bill Laurell street & number 429 Main Street telephone (719) 376-5824 state CO zip code 81120 city or town Antonito

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PLANCS LINE Consider County, CC	

DESCRIPTION

The Palace Hotel is a large two-story building located on Main Street in downtown Antonito. It is situated mid-block in a commercial section of this small agriculture and railroad town. Antonito is in the southwestern part of the San Luis Valley about six miles north of the border with New Mexico.

The building is a rectangular plan and is an example of the late 19th Century Commercial style. The hotel rests on a basement of mostly concrete walls with a few areas of coursed rubble stone. The exterior walls of the south and west elevation are of stuccoed brick and the north elevation is of painted brick. The first-story of the front (east) facade is divided into seven bays separated by sandstone columns. The original section of the building contains five evenly spaced bays with a recessed entry filling the center bay. The kickpanels are of rough coursed stone. Large display windows fill each bay -- one with a single light, two with double lights and one with a large central light and small flanking side lights. The two bays of the addition are asymmetrical -- one containing a single light display window and the other containing a glazed door and a side light. All seven bays are topped with multi-light clerestories. A small secondary cornice with dentils separates the first and second stories.

The second story of the facade is made of evenly coursed quarry faced sandstone in the original section and tan brick in the addition. Five half-round arched windows are evenly spaced above the five bays of the storefront in the original section. Four of the windows are two over two double hung sash while the center opening contains a slightly recessed arched transom over a three light casement window. The grey sandstone is highlighted by a string course of red sandstone which also composses the arch over each window. Three segmentally arched one over one wood frame windows are used in the facade of the addition. A full string course of red bricks in the addition forms the window sills, matching the height of the stone sills in the original section. Four courses of red bricks mimic the red sandstone band of the original section -- running across the entire facade and forming the segmentally arched window surround.

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The facade of the original section is topped by an elaborate, pressed metal, bracketed cornice with modillions and dentils. The center of the cornice is dominated by a large, half-round crown which frames the name of the hotel and its construction date. The cornice wraps around the angled corner above the brick addition, the area over the original entrance to the hotel prior to the construction of the brick addition.

Only the second floor of the south facade is visible. The stuccoed walls are punctuated by three two over two wood frame windows with stone sills and lintels. The west facade is also stuccoed and contains a number of two over two wood frame windows. A single second story wood framed door is topped by a single light transom. The second story of the north facade contains a series of one over four sash windows.

A modern one story addition at the rear of the hotel contains four apartment units. The walls are of stuccoed brick.

Original materials remaining in the interior of the building include: hardwood floors; wood door and window surrounds; transoms; wainscoting; and stair balustrades. A mural on a wall in the lobby was painted by Jose de Jesus Alfaro y Parra and depicts a lush woodland scene.

ALTERATIONS

The construction date of the two story brick addition on the south elevation is not known. Historic photographs show the addition in place by 1914. The stone kick plates on the facade are not original but the date of their construction is not known. The date of the stuccoing of the south and west elevations and the painting of the north elevation is not known.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format

(Approved 03/88)

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Palace Hotel in Antonito is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its historic association with the development of commerce in the Antonito area. The building is also eligible under Criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the twopart commercial structure commonly found in small towns throughout Colorado during the late 19th Century.

Antonito was a prominent trade center in the southern part of the San Luis Valley. The location of nearby cattle and sheep ranches, lumber camps, and rich agricultural lands provided quantities of goods to be exported in exchange for those goods not locally available. The presence of the railroad with its two branches gave the town added importance as a shipping and supply point. The process of taking goods to market and the activities of salesmen and representatives brought many travelers into Antonito. The railroad transported others who stayed in the town overnight before catching a connecting train. Railroad workers themselves used Antonito as their temporary home. This steady stream of travelers produced a need for lodging and dining facilities. The Palace Hotel was constructed to fill that need.

Antonito was founded as a railroad town in 1880. The nearby community of Conejos had long been a local seat of government and trade, having been founded by early Hispanic settlers who followed the Rio Grande River valley up from New Mexico into what would eventually be southern Colorado. The land was particularly suited for sheep ranching.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had been laying track across the San Luis Valley since crossing the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from the east in 1877. While hoping to profit from the growing valley agriculture, the railroad was really racing west to tap the rich mining claims in the San Juan Mountains which formed the western border of the valley. By mid-summer of 1878, the rails reached the new railroad town of Alamosa, about thirty miles north of what would become Antonito.

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It was not until early in 1880 that construction crews pushed within a few miles of Conejos. The railroad found the town unwilling to donate a small tract of land for terminal facilities. In what had become a fairly standard practice by railroads, the Rio Grande swung its tracks slightly to the east, avoided Conejos, and established its own town of San Antonito. Within a few months the name was shortened to Antonito. A substantial lava stone depot, a section house, and a bunk house quickly sprouted in the railyard. The town was plated and a sawmill, saloons and gambling houses, newspapers, several stores and churches, warehouses, and numerous residences rose rapidly to form the town.¹

The new little town took on a special significance to the Rio Grande Railroad by serving as the junction of two rail lines. The mainline operation continued to build toward the west, going over Cumbres Pass into Chama, New Mexico, back north through Durango, and eventually terminating in Silverton. The second branch headed south toward what had been one of the original goals of the D. & R.G. -- Santa Fe, New Mexico. The railroad had originally planned to cross into New Mexico via Ratton Pass, but the Santa Fe Railroad managed to obtain exclusive use of this route. Now a new opportunity presented itself for a rail line to follow the Rio Grande River south to the territorial capitol of New Mexico.

Antonito thus found itself at an important junction point, serving first as a supply center for construction of the two rail lines and then as a freight and passenger transfer stop for the Rio Grande's narrow gauge trains. The pace of construction on the line west into the San Juan Mountains, known as the San Juan Extension, was much quicker than that on the branch to the south, a route soon known as the "Chili Line." Rails reached Durango in 1881 but the "Chili Line" was not fully completed until 1887. The San Juan Extension also produced the greatest amount of traffic, both freight and passenger, as mining camps filled the mountains. Trains branching at Antonio to head south on the Chili Line carried flour, salt, lime, lard, coal and cement. Returning trains carried mica, feldspar, lumber, pinon nuts, and sheep. Salesmen, wool merchants, miners, loggers, lumber and coal dealers, and countless other travelers passed through Antonito on their way to New Mexico, the San Juans, or north to Alamosa, Pueblo, Denver and beyond.

¹ Virginia McConnel Simmons, <u>The San Luis Valley: Land of the Six Armed Cross</u>, (Boulder: Pruett Publishing, 1979), page 91.

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It was the combination of local travelers and connecting train passengers which first demonstrated the need for a first class hotel in Antonito. As a railroad construction supply point and later as a branch line junction, Antonito quickly developed a large selection of saloons, gambling houses, and pleasure palaces. Small boarding houses and saloon back rooms could not provide the quantity and quality of rooms needed in a trade and travel center like Antonito.

The Palace Hotel, built in 1890, filled the need for quality rooms and food at a price traveling salesmen, wool merchants, railroad workers, and other travelers could afford and appreciate. The hotel also helped to give the town an early place of importance as a convenient stopping point for those traveling in the southern part of the San Luis Valley.

The earliest owner of record for the Palace Hotel was C.B. Moyers, a grain and produce merchant in Antonito who owned the building in 1894. In 1901, the property was purchased by E.L. Myers who ran a general merchandise store. Myers had also been managing the hotel since its construction. He most likely operated his mercantile business out of the storefront section of the hotel so that he could manage both businesses with the minimum of effort. He also served for a period as Antonito's mayor. For nearly the first two decades of its existence, the Palace Hotel was managed either directly or indirectly by Myers.

In 1909, Mr. Myers sold the building to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McGregor who continued to operate the hotel into the 1940s. Mr. McGregor also ran a barber shop in Antonito so his wife may have taken the more active role in the day-to-day management of the hotel. Oral reports indicate that she redecorated the interior of the hotel. Part of this redecoration may have included the large mural which was painted by Jose de Jesus Alfaro y Parra in 1910.² The mural continues to survive on one of the lobby walls.

The "Chili Line" never was a big revenue producer for the Rio Grande, but its steady shipments warranted continued operation and minimal upgrading of the route. The San Juan division produced steady shipments of ores and lumber and return shipments of manufactured goods. The area around Antonito produced shipments of vegetables, sheep and cattle, and wool. The Palace Hotel continued to flourish as a beneficiary of the commercial activity.

² Interview with Estella Alfaro, daughter of Jose de Jesus Alfaro y Parra, November, 1993.

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By the 1930s, depressed economic conditions reduced both rail shipments and the local economy. Growing losses on the "Chili Line" operations caused the Rio Grande to reduce service, and in 1939, formally request permission to abandon the route. The last regular train on the "Chili Line" arrived in Antonito on September 1, 1941. The loss of this rail service resulted in a loss of general travel through Antonito and eliminated the need for travelers to layover a day while waiting for a connecting train. While continuing to serve the needs of the local area, the golden days were over for the Palace Hotel.

Architecturally, the Palace Hotel is a good local interpretation of the two-part commercial block. Richard Longstreth recognizes that the two-part commercial block is the most common type of composition used for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings throughout the country. The type is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones reflecting the differences of use inside. The single-story street level zone indicated public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants, bank offices, or hotel lobbies. The upper zone suggested more private spaces, including offices, hotel rooms, or meeting halls.³

The design of the Palace Hotel follows the two-part commercial type through its changes in materials, fenestration, and detailing. The first-story features a series of bays separated by sandstone columns which contain large display windows topped by clerestories and a small secondary cornice with dentils. The two bay entries are also topped by clerestories. The design of this space allowed for high visibility by passers-by and provided natural light for the interior. This design is in keeping with the retail store area, the hotel lobby, and restaurant use of the first-story space.

The second-story utilizes quarry faced stone or brick with smaller half-round and segmentally arched windows. The section is topped by an elaborate pressed metal cornice. This space was used for hotel rooms and the small windows and sturdy walls reflect the private spaces they define. The addition, while substituting brick for stone and similar fenestration, maintains the two-part horizontal design.

³ Richard Longstreth, <u>The Buildings of Main Street</u>, (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1987), page 24.

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The railroad provided not only the economic justification for the Palace Hotel but also supplied materials that gave the its building architectural details. The railroad offered builders and architect access to non-native building materials. The stone for the original section was quarried near Del Norte and shipped via the Denver & Rio Grande to Antonito. The pressed tin cornice, windows and doors, and the hotel boiler most likely arrived in a railroad freight car.

The lobby mural is an interesting piece of art produced by a local artist. Jose de Jesus Alfaro y Parra painted the lush woodland scene in 1910. It is not known what inspired Alfaro. Although Antonito is surrounded largely by sagebrush hills, old growth forests covered the slopes of the San Juan Mountains to the west.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Bean, Hazel P., Valley Reflections: a History of the Dan Luis Valley	y, (Alamosa: 1982)
Chappell, Gordon, <u>To Santa Fe by Narrow Gauge: the D&RG's</u> Colorado Railroad Museum: 1969)	"Chili Line", (Golden
Crossen, Forrest, Western Yesterdays, Volume III, (Boulder: Boulder	er Publishing Co., 1965)
Joyce, William D., AntonitoAt the Turn of The Century	
Mead, Frances H., Conejos Country, (Colorado Springs, Century On	ne Press, 1984)
Osterwald, Doris B., <u>Ticket to Toltec: a Mile by Mile Guide for the Railroad</u> , (Western Guideways, 1976)	Cumbres & Toltec Scenic
Simmons, Virginia M., The San Luis Valley: Land of the Six Armed Publishing Co., 1979)	d Cross, (Boulder: Pruet
Wood, Nancy, The Grass Roots People, (Library of Congress, 1978))
Colorado State Business Directories, 1890-1941, (Denver: Gazette 1941)	er Publishing Co., 1890
Antonito Ledger, September 24, 1892, October 22, 1892	
Ledger News, August 11, 1938	

Business records of the Palace Hotel, Expense Sheets, 1907, located in the Palace Hotel.

Alfaro, Estella, interviewed in November, 1993.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 20 inches of Lot 2, all of Lot 3, and the north 5 feet of Lot 4 in Block L in the Town of Antonito, Conejos County, CO.

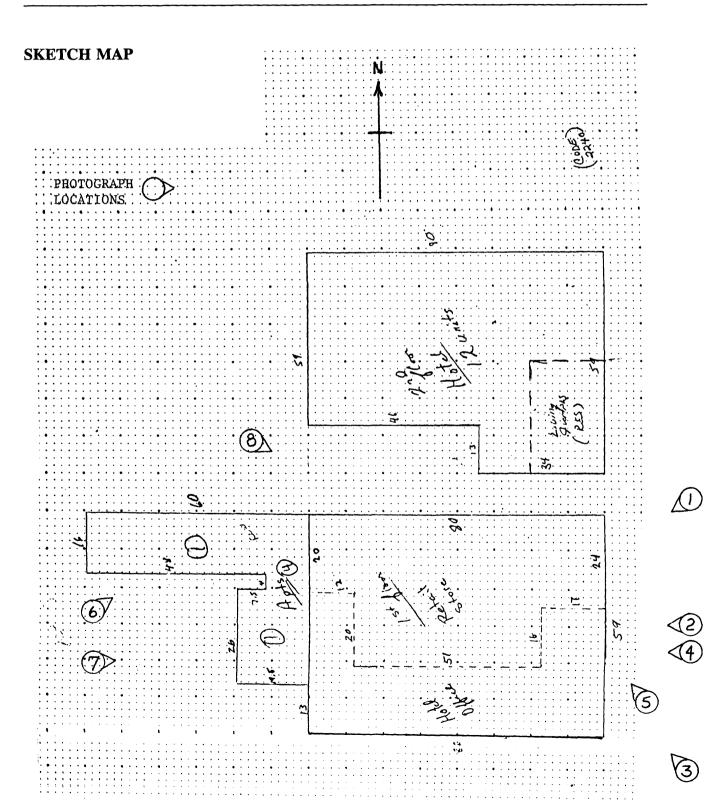
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nomination include all the property historically associated with the Palace Hotel.

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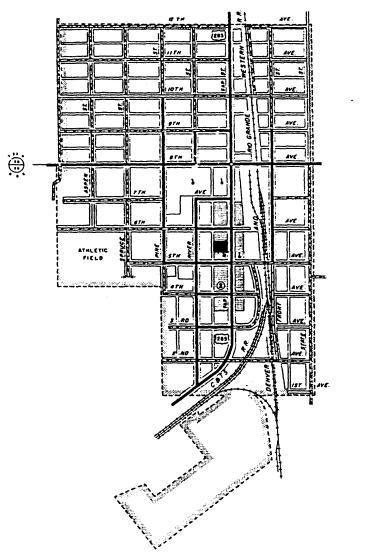
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Palace Hotel Conejos County, CO

SKETCH MAP





GENERAL LEGEND

DV000 HGKWAY
HIGH TYPE PAVEC ROAD
PCAD LOW TYPE
BRAVEL SUPPACED ROAD
GRACED AND CRAINED ROAD
UNIMPROVED ROAD
B.ADEDI
PP:MITIVE ROAD ======
HIGHWAY GRADE SEPARATION
IN ERSTATE AND STATE
MIGHWAY NUMBER
U.S. AND STATE HIGHWAY MUMBER
STATE HIGHWAY NUMBER
FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE
HIGHWAY SYSTEM
FECERAL AID PRIMARY FAP
MENTAL STATEM
ENC FEDERAL AD INTERSTATE TALL AND
MONTY ON SECONDARY

COUNTY BOUNDARY LINE	co
CORPORATE LIMITS	
RIGHT - OF - WAT LINE	CIT
RIGHT-OF-WAY IDEDICATED!	PC
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT	SC
MATCH LINE	
	HO
OVER 20' CLEAR SPAN	FIR
HEHWAY BRIDGE OR CULVERT	CE
4 TO 20' CLEAR SPAN T	**
OVERHEAD STRUCTURE	38
RAKROAD	PO
RAILROAD STATION	M+C
RAILROAD ABOVE	
RAILROAD BELOW	57
	PL
RESERVOIR, LAKE OR POND	
	74
STREAM (PRIMARY)	. '
STREAM (SECONCARY)	81
STREAM ! TERMITTENT!	co
MAIGATION DITCH	01
	01

COUNTY COURT HOUSE	. 0
CITY HALL	. (3
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	:
HOSPITAL	. 4
FIRE STATION	8
GEMETERY	. 2
WATER SUPPLY STAND PIPE	6
SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT	5
POWER PLANT	C
HIGHWAY GARAGE	
STOCK YARD - LOADING PEN	. 40
PARKS - P. GOLF COURSE, COUNTRY CLUB-C, ATHLETIC FIELD - A	4.2
FAIR GROUNDS, SPEEDWAYS, AND RACE COURSES	300
STATE CAPITAL	6
COUNTY SEAT	. 6
OTHER CITES AND VILLAGES	

CITY MAP

ANTONITO CONEJOS COUNTY

1970 POPULATION 1,113
PREPARED BY THE PACEMENT OF THE

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS—STATE OF COLORADO
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION
BE COOFERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
SCALE IN FEET

SCALE IN M STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM REVISED AS OF JAN 1,1977 CITY STREET SYSTEM REVISED AS OF JAN,1,1977 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is common to all photographs except as noted:

Name of Property: Palace Hotel

Location: Antonito, Conejos County, CO

Photographer: Sandy Sena

Negatives: 425 Main Street, Antonito, CO

110gul 100. 120 Mull Street, 1 Milonito, 00			
Photo No.	Information		
1	Date: 11/1/92 Description of view: front facade, view to southwest		
2	Date: 11/1/92 Description of view: front facade, cornice detail, view to the west		
3	Date: 11/1/92 Description of view: front facade, addition, view to the northwest		
4	Date: 11/1/92 Description of view: front facade, second-story window detail, view to the west		
5	Date: 11/1/92 Description of view: front facade, detail of cornice at junction of brick addition and original building		
6	Date: 7/21/93 Description of view: rear addition, view to the northeast		
7	Date: 7/21/93 Description of view: rear of second-story, view to the east		
8	Date: 7/21/93 Description of view: north elevation, view to the southeast		

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Photo No.	Information	
9	Date: 11/1/92	
	Description of view: interior of first floor	
10	Date: 3/15/94	
	Description of view: lobby interior showing wall mural	
11	Date: Summer, 1892	
	Photographer: unknown	
	Description of view: north part of front facade, view to	the northwest