

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 19 1979
AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED

**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 San Ignacio Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1300 Walter Street N.E. NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Albuquerque VICINITY OF 1 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE New Mexico CODE 35 COUNTY Bernalillo CODE 001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Archdiocese of Santa Fe
STREET & NUMBER 202 Morningside Drive S.E.
CITY, TOWN Albuquerque VICINITY OF STATE New Mexico 87108

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bernalillo County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER 505 Central Avenue N.W.
CITY, TOWN Albuquerque STATE New Mexico 87102

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Register of Cultural Properties
DATE August 24, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Educational Finance and Cultural Affairs, P.O. Box 1629
CITY, TOWN Santa Fe STATE New Mexico 87503

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Commandingly placed on one of the sandhills that mark the distinction between the Rio Grande valley and the Sandia Mountain foothills in Albuquerque, New Mexico, San Ignacio de Loyola Church dominates the surrounding community of Martineztown-Santa Barbara both physically and culturally. Built in 1916 by community money and labor, the simple but expressive cruciform adobe church is the major architectural achievement and center of its urban village.

The church faces west and is most commonly seen from the west (to the east is the modern Interstate Highway 25). Driving down Edith Boulevard, one block west of the entrance, a visitor sees the building framed by an arch inscribed "San Ignacio Church, 1926" (the date of the founding of the independent parish, ten years after the building of the church). The approach to the church is formed by a flight of stairs as broad as the building, flanked by a cement balustrade. These stairs replaced the original double flight, separated by landscaped grounds, in 1926. The end of the stairway is marked on each side by tall concrete pillars, topped by the statues of saints.

The entrance is through the church's four-story bell tower, its most prominent feature. At the entrance, a simple pair of carved wood doors are topped by a semi-circular transom with a clear glass light. Above the doors, on the second-story level, the church originally had a round rose window set into a square frame; the window has been broken and the space is now boarded in. A wood molding marks the beginning of the belfry, distinguished by its pairs of tall, arched, louvered openings to the north, west, and south. A small frieze marks the beginning of the pyramidal steeple, sheathed in corrugated tin, and topped with a simple wood cross. Though the church now has an electronic carillon, the belfry still houses two bells, Guadalupe and Guadalupita, which once called the parishoners to Mass. The bell tower is visible throughout the neighborhood.

One either side of the bell-tower are two square one-story rooms projecting from the main body of the church. These rooms were added in 1926, and four statues of saints (San Antonio, San Ignacio, the Blessed Virgin, and Santa Imelda), originally set in the landscaped grounds, were placed atop the stepped, crenellated parapets of these wings.

Behind this impressive entrance lies the body of the adobe church. Cruciform in shape, it is topped by a pitched gable roof, originally sheathed in tin, but now shingled. Hip roofed wings to the north and south form the transept, and a hip roof, pierced by a triangular vent, covers the sanctuary. Exposed rafters support the roofs. Three large arched windows on each side light the church. Exterior surfaces are stuccoed.

While the church furniture of the interior is modern in style, the interior spaces and structure have not been altered. Above the nave at the west end is a raised choir loft, originally about 12 feet long, to which an additional 12 feet have been added. The sanctuary is at the east end, with side chapels to the north and south. The body of the church is completely open, and very spacious. The coved, stamped-metal ceiling features elaborate oval patterns over the sanctuary, crucifix, transept, and center of the nave. A wooden molding, stenciled with a design of grape leaves, marks the division between wall and ceiling.

(see continuation sheet)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by community effort, and a center of community life for more than sixty years, San Ignacio Church is the focal point of one of Albuquerque's most distinctive urban villages, the Hispano community of Martineztown-Santa Barbara. Founded after the coming of the railroad in 1880, Martineztown-Santa Barbara lies just to the north of the Anglo-American Huning Highlands District (National Register, 11-17-78). Located about a mile and a half from the original villa of Albuquerque, now known as Old Town, Martineztown-Santa Barbara is a cluster of small adobe houses, stores, and dance halls set along winding roads. Sandwiched between the Santa Fe Railroad tracks and modern Interstate Highway 25, the community is built on sand hills that separate the Rio Grande Valley from highlands to the east.

While a few farms may have existed in the area before the railroad's arrival, Martineztown, the southerly of the two settlements (which are now generally regarded as a single neighborhood), was founded in the 1880's and centered around the Second Presbyterian Church, an Hispano-oriented mission church. As the community expanded to the north, the newer area came to be called Santa Barbara, after the large Catholic cemetery sited on its north edge. At first, Catholics in the area travelled to San Felipe Church in Old Town or to Immaculate Conception Church in the downtown area for Mass. As the community continued to grow, the need for a mission church, attached to the Old Town parish, became evident.

Sixty Years to the Greater Glory of God, an anniversary history of the church, credits much of the impetus in its building to Father Joseph Arthuis, S.J., who came to San Felipe de Neri from Las Vegas, New Mexico in 1907, and spent most of the years until his death in 1934 at the San Felipe and San Ignacio parishes. Fr. Arthuis was one in a long line of Jesuit priests in Albuquerque, and it was undoubtedly in their honor that both the old cemetery where the church was built and the church itself were dedicated to San Ignacio de Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order.

In 1914, the community began to meet for Mass in local halls and homes while deciding on a site for the church. The site picked was a cemetery set on the sand hills east of Edith Boulevard, the old highroad north and the main street through the neighborhood. As early as 1898 the tract was labelled "Old Grave Yard" on city plat maps, probably to distinguish it from the larger Santa Barbara Cemetery to the north, which had been used as the main Catholic cemetery for the city since the early 1870's. Probably it had been a community graveyard, perhaps serving the Barelás community, located to the south along the same acequia (irrigation ditch) that served Martineztown-Santa Barbara.

(see continuation sheet)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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#7. East of the church is the adjoining parish hall and rectory; though part of this structure was built during the early years of the church, most is of relatively recent construction. Consistent with the New Mexican vernacular adobe buildings of Martineztown-Santa Barbara, the hall and rectory are flat-roofed and largely unadorned.

If an architect had a hand in San Ignacio's design, his name has remained unrecorded. Considering the relative poverty of the community at that time, it seems likely that the design was worked out by parishoners skilled in building trades with the aid of the Jesuit priest who coordinated the building of the church.

San Ignacio Church is an excellent example of New Mexican vernacular church styles during the early years of the 20th century. While later Hispano churches more often imitate the forms of New Mexican Mission churches, San Ignacio is an important combination of New Mexican traditions and materials (the adobe, cruciform church) with forms more common to the eastern and midwestern states (the central bell tower and arched fenestration).

#8 Graves were moved to the Santa Barbara Cemetery to clear the site, and landscaping with local rocks and plants was begun in 1914-15. Near the church site, the congregation made adobe bricks for the building which measured 16" x 14" x 4". In all, some 5,000 adobes went into the main structure of the church.

Roofing materials for the original tin roof, carpentry work, and church furnishings were donated from the community and from other Catholic churches in the area. The church as originally built was very simple: "The new church had neither pews nor heating. People knelt on the concrete floor, but then found the way out of the difficulty, bringing small blankets, tilmas, and cushions to kneel and sit on. At this time only San Ignacio and the Catholic Church that has been built in Bernalillo were said to have been built without any outstanding debt left at the time of their dedication--a feat few parishes have accomplished even to modern times." (Sixty Years to the Greater Glory of God, 22).

The church was dedicated on the Feast of San Ignacio, July, 1916, by Archbishop John Baptist Pitaval; July 31 continues to be the fiesta day of the neighborhood. In 1926, San Ignacio was given official status as a parish; this year also saw some alterations to the church and the building of the arch which frames it on Edith Boulevard.

Through the years, San Ignacio Church has been a focus of community life, with performances of traditional folk plays and dances, fiestas, and ceremonies marking the stages of the year. The church is a cultural property of great significance in one of Albuquerque's most distinctive Hispano communities.