

PH0367835

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 15 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUN 20 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**NAME**  
**\* HISTORIC**

Superintendent's House, Atlantic and Pacific Railroad

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1023 South 2nd Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Albuquerque

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

#1

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

35

COUNTY

Bernalillo

CODE

001

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ BOTH

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ OBJECT

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

NO

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Carmen F. Garcia

STREET & NUMBER

209 West Pacific Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

STATE

New Mexico

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

July 25, 1975

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

New Mexico State Planning Office, 505 Don Gaspar

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

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

Erected in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the one-and-a-half story stone structure known locally as "the Superintendent's House" is an outstanding example of the Romantic Revival architectural style popular in the late 19th Century. Standing at the southwest corner of Second Street and Pacific Avenue, three-quarters of a mile south of Albuquerque's downtown business district, the house was originally the residence of Frank W. Smith, General Superintendent of the Western Division, Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. To the east, just across heavily traveled Second Street, are the railroad's roundhouse and repair shop now owned by the Santa Fe, which took over the Atlantic and Pacific in 1897. Although the neighborhood with its long railroad tradition has deteriorated markedly in recent years, the Superintendent's House remains as an historic reminder of Albuquerque's early years and its residents' dreams of limitless growth which would inevitably come with the railroad.

Constructed on underground footings the structure's 18" thick walls are made of broken-coursed red sandstone believed to have been taken from railroad quarries near the Pueblo of Laguna thirty miles west of Albuquerque. The same material was also used to build the original maintenance shops across Second Street and several bridges along the railroad right of way west of the city. Also made of sandstone, the simple lintels and sills which define the building's doors and windows are particularly fine samples of the stone-cutter's craft. Topped by three corbeled brick chimneys the pitched roof is now covered by green composition shingles laid over the original split cedar ones. Two plain dormers which provide illumination for the upper story protrude on each side of a center gable which covers the original living and dining rooms on the north side of the first floor. Opposite these two rooms to the south are two large bedrooms and a bathroom, the five first floor rooms forming a 40' square. To the rear a 17'x17' kitchen extends west making a tee shaped floor plan.

An elaborately decorated wooden porch embellished by "carpenter Gothic" pillars and a cornice with highly ornate brackets shades the northeast corner of the house. Now covered with corrugated iron, the porch roof is not continuous with the house roof suggesting that it was added after the original construction. Shielded from the noise and dust of Second Street by a thick growth of vines and rambling roses, the porch provides access to both the living and dining rooms through doorways at each end. Both doors are composed of two glass panels over wooden panels. Other original exterior details include a small segmental arched opening in the middle of the south wall which leads to a crawl space under the house where the plumbing is located.

Interior decoration of the Superintendent's House features a number of details fashionable during the Victorian era including 12' ceilings, hardwood floors and walls covered by smooth plaster and wainscoting. The living and dining rooms are separated by recessed sliding doors which still have the original embossed brass hardware. The gas jets used to illuminate the dining room are still in place. Heating for the house was provided by shallow fireplaces in each downstairs room of the type made for coal burning grates. Simply designed hardwood mantles delineate each fireplace. These are also bordered by light brown glazed tile with floral and geometric patterns. In recent years gas stoves have been installed in front of the fireplaces to provide a more modern heating system and the flue openings have been modified

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# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout its 100-year existence the stone dwelling known in Albuquerque, New Mexico as the "Superintendent's House" has been closely associated with the history of the railroad industry in that city. Originally constructed in 1881 as the residence of Frank W. Smith, General Superintendent of the short-lived Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, most of its subsequent occupants have also been railroad families including the present owner Mrs. Carmen F. Garcia whose husband Brijidio was employed by the Santa Fe as a welder for many years prior to his death. An interesting example of Victorian architectural style, its stone construction contrasted sharply with the adobe and frame buildings prevalent in Albuquerque circa 1880 and exemplifies the influx of eastern tastes and ideas into New Mexico which came with the arrival of new residents brought by the railroad.

The year 1880 was a most important one for both the town of Albuquerque and the expanding railway companies whose tracks were rapidly crossing the Territory of New Mexico. An April 22 the main line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe reached Albuquerque and was greeted by a community celebration which included fireworks, free wine and prolonged oratory in both English and Spanish. Although plans had already been made for the Santa Fe to continue southward and connect with the Southern Pacific at Deming in southern New Mexico, the road's directors also reached an agreement in 1880 with the officers of the St. Louis and San Francisco concerning the disposition of the then inactive Atlantic and Pacific line. By its term the Santa Fe undertook to build 500 miles of track extending along the 35th Parallel from Isleta, just south of Albuquerque, to Needles, California on the west bank of the Colorado River where it would again connect with the Southern Pacific. In 1887 the Atlantic and Pacific was absorbed by the Santa Fe and this division became its main line to the west coast.

Responsibility for the new construction, which involved crossing many miles of formidable terrain inhabited mainly by Navajo Indians whose disposition was uncertain, was entrusted to Frank W. Smith, formerly an executive of the New York City elevated system. Usually known as "General Smith" in the local press, the new superintendent established his residence in Albuquerque and was soon deeply involved in his new undertaking. Fortunately for the track layers the Navajo were not hostile and the main difficulties during the three year construction period were spanning a gorge known as Cañon Diablo, between present Winslow and Flagstaff and bridging the Colorado at Needles. Meeting the payroll deadlines of the contractors who actually built the grades and bridges was also a problem for A & P officials since ready cash was always in short supply.

With his headquarters in Albuquerque Smith was soon active in community

(See Continuation Sheet #1)



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to accomodate stove pipes. Originally planned as servants' quarters, the second-story attic was reached by a steep, single-run staircase which rose from a small hallway where the kitchen joined the main part of the house.

In 1947, two years after the present owner and her husband purchased the property, a series of minor modifications were made so that the house could be divided into three apartments. To provide access to the upper story, which was to be one unit, a new wooden staircase was constructed from ground level to the west dormer which was changed from a window to a door. The interior stairway which ended with a trap door in the attic was closed off and no longer used. To enlarge the smaller first-floor apartment which consisted of the kitchen, the bathroom and the adjoining bedroom, a small 9'x17' cinder-block addition was erected beside the south wall of the kitchen, thus forming a new southwest corner. The doorways were sealed to the other apartment which included the original living and dining rooms and the southeast bedroom. A new bathroom was installed and linoleum was used to cover the wood floor in the dining room.

These superficial alterations have not compromised the essential integrity of the Superintendent's House which is an outstanding example of 19th Century architecture and craftsmanship in New Mexico. The carpentry and stone work are particularly fine. Proud of the long tradition associated with her property Mrs. Carmen Garcia, who has owned the property since her husband's death in 1960, is presently attempting to make repairs necessary to maintain the house in good condition.

#8. affairs in his new home town. In 1881 he and his wife Emily erected an attractive one-and-a-half story stone residence at the corner of Second Street and Pacific Avenue just two blocks down Second Street from the main offices of the A & P. Although frequently out of town on inspection trips to "the Front" as the end of the line was called, or to eastern cities to confer with the road's officers and financial backers, Smith found time to serve on the board of directors of Albuquerque Academy and the newly chartered First National Bank. In August, 1883, the customary silver spike was driven at Needles to mark the line's completion and the assembled dignitaries retired to Smith's private car to celebrate with champagne, Havana cigars and the obligatory speeches. Two years later, his job concluded, Smith returned East after a lavish testimonial dinner at the brand new San Felipe Hotel at which he was presented with a gold watch and chain by his associates.

Exactly how the Smiths managed their former residence in the first years after their departure from Albuquerque is unclear but it was not until February, 1889 that they sold it for \$5,000 to one of New Mexico's leading merchants and ranchers, J. Felipe Chaves of Belén, a small town thirty miles south of Albuquerque. Known as "El Millionario" among the Spanish-speaking

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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people of the Rio Grande Valley, Chaves had accumulated a fortune as the result of shrewd business dealings during the last years of the Santa Fe Trail when wagon trains were New Mexico's means of commercial transportation. In November of the same year (1889) he presented the house and \$4,700 in cash as a wedding present to his daughter Manuela when she married Pablo J. Yrisarri, scion of another of New Mexico's leading mercantile families. Regarded as a particularly brilliant match, their wedding was an important social occasion with a guest list which included all the prominent Spanish families of the Albuquerque area.

Unfortunately, however, the Yrisarri marriage was not a happy one and in November, 1897 was terminated by divorce, an event which must have scandalized the couple's families and close friends all of whom shared the strict Roman Catholic background which characterized Hispanic New Mexico. In a deposition taken in Denver where the couple had been living, Manuela's friend and confidante, Beatrice Armijo, stated that Yrisarri had squandered much of their considerable assets and Manuela's only remaining resource was the income from the house in Albuquerque which her father had given her. Two years later Manuela, then temporarily residing in El Paso, sold the residence on South Second Street to Mary E. Little, wife of William H. Little, a yard foreman for the Santa Fe which had taken over the Atlantic and Pacific. The Littles maintained their residence there for twenty years until 1919 when the building was again sold, this time to a neighbor, Ignacio Sanchez, who had been living up the street at 1015 South Second Street.

Three years later, following his wife's death, Little, acting as executor of her estate assigned the Sanchez mortgage on the Superintendent's House to Lucia de Aragon for \$1076.59, Although his background is unknown, Sanchez must have been beset with severe personal problems for in 1924 he was declared insane and committed to the New Mexico State Mental Hospital at Las Vegas. To satisfy his obligations his equity in the house was sold at sheriff's auction April 25, 1925 for \$6,005 the high bidder being Lucia de Aragon. After a brief residence in her new property Mrs. de Aragon, who soon became Mrs. Carl Schwartz, moved away from Albuquerque and rented the house to various tenants notably Daniel Padilla, a deputy U. S. Marshall who lived there for twelve years.

In 1938 Mrs. Schwartz died in Danver without leaving a will, a situation which forced her six heirs into lengthy litigation before her estate was settled eight years later. In addition to the Superintendent's House her property, with an estimated value of \$20,000, included several valuable pieces of jewelry and an interest in a New Mexico salt mine near Willard sixty miles southeast of Albuquerque. On March 5, 1946 Special Master Robert H. LaFollette sold the house and adjoining lots for \$5,000 cash to Brijidio Garcia, a Santa Fe railroad employee then working in the shops across Second Street as a welder. Garcia died in 1960 but his widow Carmen F. Garcia has maintained her residence on the property ever since.

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- #9.  
Bernalillo County District Court Records, State Records Center and Archives,  
Civil Case #4452  
Albuquerque Morning Journal, January 26, 1881, June 24, 1882, August 23, 1882,  
August 13, 1883, September 21, 1885  
Albuquerque Morning Democrat, October 5, 1889  
Albuquerque City and Business Directory 1905-1906, Albuquerque, 1905  
Worley's Albuquerque City Directory, 1913-1917, Dallas  
Hudspeth's Albuquerque City Directory, 1919-1920, El Paso  
Espinosa, Gilberto and Tibo J. Chavez. El Río Abajo. Pampa, 1967  
Greever, William A. "Railway Development in the Southwest," New Mexico  
Historical Review, Vol 32, No. 2, April 1957  
Marshall, James. Santa Fe, The Railroad that Built an Empire. New York, 1945  
Westphall, Victor. "Albuquerque in the 1870's" New Mexico Historical Review,  
Vol 23, No. 4, October, 1948