

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

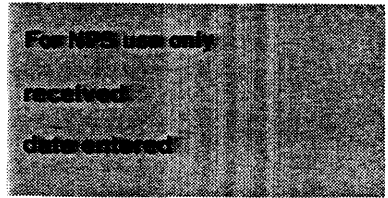
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

Page 1



1. NAME: Robert Nordhaus House
2. LOCATION: 6900 Rio Grande Blvd., N.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico
4. OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. John Kruger  
6900 Rio Grande Boulevard N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

7. DESCRIPTION:

Designed by well-known southwest architect John Gaw Meem in 1937, the Nordhaus House is a one story L-shaped Territorial Revival home set in the Los Ranchos de Albuquerque section of the north valley known for its large homes, remnant agricultural fields and open space. The building is set back 400 feet from Rio Grande Boulevard and is sited on a N-S axis with strong views of the mesa to the west and of the mountains to the east. Architectural details include traditional Territorial windows, doors, beaded roof beams (vigas), brick coping, corner fireplaces and a glassed-in rear portal. Some of the interior has been remodelled and the present owners plan to restore much of the original detailing.

The building is located toward the center of 10 acres of land with a single tree-lined access road connecting it to Rio Grande Boulevard to the west. The western facade's main entrance includes a Territorial style molded lintel and decorative dentil course, wood-paneled reveals, and a five-light transom, sidelights and single leaf wood door. The windows are all original and are topped by low pedimented lintels. They originally had wood shutters which were subsequently removed. Some of the windows are now protected with wrought iron grilles. On the interior each window is deeply recessed with wood-paneled reveals. The flat roof is capped with a variegated brick coping band and includes five massive corbelled chimneys.

The original exterior color scheme of mud-colored stucco and light trim has now been reversed. Four sets of French doors on the east side porch, removed and replaced by sliding patio doors, are to be restored by the present owners.

The house's interior includes many unique decorative features: brick and tile floors, five traditional New Mexico

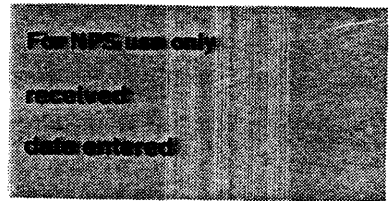
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number Nordhaus House Page 2



corner fireplaces, round and milled beaded ceiling vigas and exposed latias, carved wood radiator covers and recessed window seats, all detailed by Meem.

A rear walled courtyard on the east side includes a handlaid mosaic patio and loggia, both of which are later additions. The original attached garage was sympathetically converted into a game room by the first owner. A later owner remodeled the kitchen extensively. The entire house and grounds are well maintained; also on the property are a similarly-designed three-car garage, tool shed and storage barn. The garage and the house are included in the nomination.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nordhaus House is the only other local example besides three houses in the Los Poblanos Historic District of John Gaw Meem's Territorial Revival homes built during the 1930's while he was at the height of his powers. The house displays a wealth of finely designed and crafted New Mexican detailing and, as is to be expected with Meem's work, is well sited and designed to take advantage of a superb view of the Sandia Mountains. Although the Nordhaus House is less than 50 years old, it is of exceptional significance because it is a rare local example of Meem's most creative period. Bainbridge Bunting, in his soon-to-be-published book on Meem, characterizes the north valley examples of Territorial Revival as part of Meem's "most appealing work." and notes that Meem was the "first (who) turned back for inspiration to that nineteenth-century New Mexican fashion" (Bunting, 1983: pp. 61-62), so these buildings are important in the history of the development of the Territorial Revival style.

Meem designed the house for Robert Nordhaus, a young lawyer and an Albuquerque native, who lived with his family at 6900 Rio Grande for 32 years. Robert's father, Max Nordhaus, had come to New Mexico at the end of the 19th century to work with the Ilfield brothers of Las Vegas who ran one of the largest trading and merchant operations in the territory. Nordhaus senior later came on to Albuquerque and raised his family here. Robert Nordhaus was one of the original participants in the establishment of the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

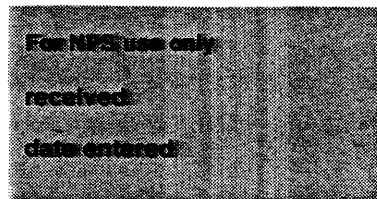
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number Nordhaus House

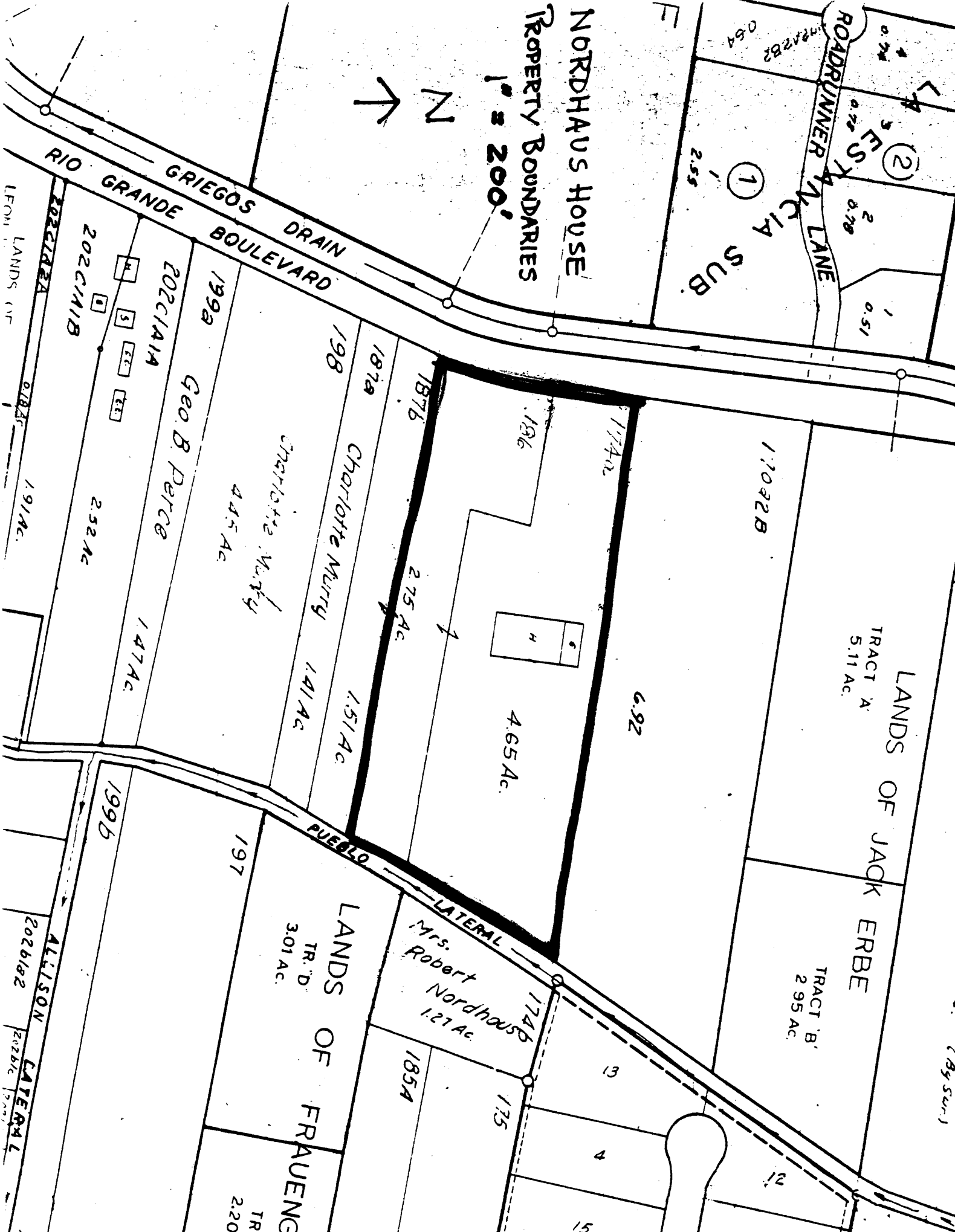
Page 3



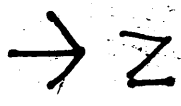
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The house sits on over 10 acres of land of which 7.40 acres, Tracts 174a and 186 on Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Map #27, are being nominated. This large amount of land is included in the nomination since the siting of the house is an important factor in its excellent design. The property is bounded by Rio Grande Boulevard on the west, the Pueblo Lateral ditch on the east and by boundary lines of adjacent properties on the north and south. This includes land to the east and west of the house as well as the tree-lined drive into the property from Rio Grande Boulevard.

UTM references: Los Griegos Quad.13/349720/3892190.



NORDHAUS HOUSE  
PROPERTY BOUNDARIES



1" = 200'

RIO GRANDE BOULEVARD  
GRIEGOS DRAIN

ROADRUNNER AVENUE LANE  
SUB.  
ESX  
2.55  
0.51  
0.75  
0.75  
0.54

FROM LANDS OF

1.91 AC.

2026182

LATERAL

LANDS OF JACK ERBE  
TRACT 'A'  
5.11 AC.

TRACT 'B'  
2.95 AC.

187A Charlotte Murry 1.41 AC

187B Charlotte Murry 4.45 AC

199A Geo. B. Percø 1.47 AC

202C1A1B 2.52 AC

Mrs. Robert Nordhaus 1.27 AC

LANDS OF FRAUENGL  
TR. 'D' 3.01 AC

TR 2.20

ALLISON

LATERAL

(By Sur.)