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. Nam	1e	ections			
	uan Cristobal Armijo	New Homestead	2—		
and/or common	Hacienda del Lago)			
2. Loca					
street & number	207 Griegos R	l.N.E.		X not for publica	tion
city, town	Albuquerque	vicinity of	congressional district	1	
state	New Mexico code	county	Bernalillo	code	001
3. Clas	sification	•			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	OwnershippublicX privateboth Public Acquisition MA in process MA being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park yrivate resi religious scientific transportat other:	
name Mi	rs. Harry A. Batten 207 Griegos Road N				
	Albuquerque			New Mexico	87107
5. Loca	ation of Lega	vicinity of	state On	New Mexico	0/10/
	stry of deeds, etc. Berna				
street & number		Sentral Avenue N.W.			
city, town		uerque	state	New Mexico 8	37102
	resentation				
	Listed on th 1978 //Register of	e New Mexico State	#586 federal sta	elegible? yes_	
depository for su	urvey records Historic	Landmarks Survey, I	Redevelopment Plann	ning, P.O. Box	1293
city, town All	buquerque. New Mexic	.0	state	87103	

7. Description

Condition X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check oneX_ original site moved date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Present and Original Appearance

Juan Cristobal Armijo's "New Homestead" follows the classic New Mexican hacienda plan in which a series of rooms surrounds a courtyard or placita. Built of terrones, or sod blocks, the house is an excellent example of the Territorial style, a combination of traditional New Mexican building patterns and new forms introduced from the eastern United States.

Sited at the corner of two historic--and now heavily travelled--roads in Albuquerque's semi-rural North Valley, the Armijo homestead is completely screened from the roadside by the thick growth of old trees and shrubbery, as well as by a long setback. A man-made pond south of the homestead, constructed about 1950 by the Borrell family, gives the property its current name, Hacienda del Lago.

Vestibules at the north and south ends of the rectangular house give entrance to the central placita and to the rooms of the east and west wing. According to architectural historian Bainbridge Bunting,

The strict symmetry of the plan, the uniform width of the walls, and the consistent presence of right angles at wall intersections differentiate this building from the more casual Spanish Colonial construction usually encountered. This would indicate a date after Yankee influence had begun to be felt in New Mexico....The handsomest and least changed parts of the house are the main (south) facade and the placita where the fine Territorial trim with pedimented lintels which frame the windows and front door recalls that of the Palace of the Govenors in Santa Fe.

(Manuscript analysis of Armijo homestead in Historic Landmarks Survey files, January, 1978)

The south facade of the Armijo homestead has a double-door zaguan entrance, flanked by a pair of shuttered windows with Territorial pedimented lintels. From the vestibule, doors lead to the west bedroom wing and east public wing; most rooms have both doors and windows opening onto the central placita, so that passage can be made either from room to room (there is no corridor) or across the placita.

The east wing contains a modern kitchen on the south side, and a study on the north which the present owner believes was originally a carriage house (the room has no direct entrance to the placita). In the center of the wing is the long sala, or living room, with its log vigas in contrast to the rectangular mill-sawn beams with beaded moldings found in most of the other rooms. The twelve-foot floor to ceiling height here and throughout is another indication of the Yankee influence in the Territorial period.

In the west wing, the four bedrooms have been modernized by the addition, within the original walls, of three bathrooms. The five fireplaces of the house, while probably part of its original fabric, were rebuilt during a 1930's rehabilitation.

of the Interior United States Departme Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Item number

For HCRS use only date entered

2

Continuation sheet

Page

The windows and doors that look into the placita are framed with Territorial pedimented lintels; the large 9/6 wood sash windows bring considerable indirect light into the house. A small window set high in the east wall of the placita is fitted with wooden bars; while it may have been rebuilt, it recalls typical Colonial fenestration.

The exterior windows and doors show a great variety of sizes and types, and include some new openings cut during the 1930's rehabilitation. North and south facade windows appear to be original; on the west facade, windows appear to have been added at many different periods to what was probably originally a fairly blank elevation. Most have Territorial pedimented lintels and all are traditionally framed. Awning, casement, and wood sash windows are among the types found in this facade. The east facade has seen the greatest changes, with windows of more modern scale (though still wood framed) set under flat lintels, and doors opening onto a traditionally designed, but modern portal. This facade is probably the result of the 1930's alterations, while the west facade changes seem to have been made earlier.

Other minor changes made during the 1930's alterations include laying of asphalt over roofs covered with several inches of dirt; addition of a screened portal at the south end of the placita to ease bad weather access to the bedroom wing; replacement of dirt floors with brick, concrete, or hardwood; and the addition of a bathroom and utility room to the northeast corner of the house. This added room was remodelled by the current owner, Mrs. Harry Batten, in 1954 to turn it into a bedroom suite. The addition is clearly differentiated from the original house by a lower roof line and is not visible from the main approach to the house. Built of adobe with small wood windows traditionally framed, it is compatible with the style of the original.

The alterations to the Armijo homestead, basically those required to make the house useful and comfortable for contemporary living, do not detract from the essential historic qualities of the house.

Associated buildings include a greenhouse and potting shed of modern design to the east of the main house. North of the main house is a large courtyard, walled with adobes, which is entered from the rear vestibule. small adobe garage is set in the northeast corner of this courtyard. A long garage and shed combination is built west from the courtyard wall. construction is evidence that this building is fairly early, perhaps an extension of some original outbuildings. It is in a somewhat delapidated condition with mud plaster still in evidence in protected parts of the South of this building, and about 10 feet west of the original house is a two-story library constructed by Mrs. Batten in 1967 to house her extensive collection of books and art. Built of adobe, it is clearly modern, but sympathetic in massing and materials with the Armijo homestead.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy y politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1875-1885	Builder/Architect Juan	Cristobal Armijo	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Juan Cristobal Armijo's "New Homestead" is one of the very few hacienda residences enclosing a placita remaining in New Mexico from before the 20th century, and the only one in the Albuquerque area. Changes over the years have respected the building's historic qualities; now, beautifully maintained in its superb setting, it conveys the feeling of New Mexico's rural past. It is also significant as the home of a wealthy merchant-farmer and member of Albuquerque's influential Armijo family.

The "New Homestead" is sited at the eastern end of the old village of Los Griegos, now part of Albuquerque, but a separate farming community until the 1950's. The village was established by a 1708 grant to Juan Griego; historically, most houses were built along Griegos Road with farmlands on either side watered by acequias (irrigation ditches). The houses to the west were subject to frequent flooding from the Rio Grande until the development of flood controls in the 20th century, but the Armijo homestead, built near the edge of a low escarpment overlooking the valley, was high enough to escape most floods. A number of Albuquerque's most significant Territorial buildings, including the Griego de Garcia House (National Register, 6/79) and the Barela de Bledsoe House (National Register, 3/79) are located along Edith Boulevard, the old Camino de la Ladera (Foothill Road) which was an alternate wet weather route through the Rio Grande valley.

By the time the homestead was built, Armijo family members were well established as the <u>patrones</u> of the Albuquerque area, wealthy and politically influential. The son of Juan Armijo and Rosalia Ortega, Juan Cristobal was born in 1810 in Albuquerque, at the beginning of a century when his family would exercise enormous political influence. Manuel Armijo, the last Mexican governor of New Mexico, was his uncle; his cousins Cristobal and Salvador and his brother Ambrosio were wealthy merchants and politicians in Old Albuquerque.

Like many others in his family, Juan Cristobal had a distinguished career of public service and private enterpise. In 1830 he married Juana Chavez, daughter of Mexican Governor Francisco Xavier Chavez. He served as a soldier in 1837 and in an 1840 campaign against the Navajo, and in a dramatic incident in 1851, was charged and acquitted of the killing of William Curtis Skinner, shot at Juan Cristobal's Ranchos de Albuquerque house.

He saw public service both under the Mexican and United States regimes, as a member of the Mexican departmental assembly in 1845 and as a member of the Territorial legislature of 1851 and 1852. During the 1850's Juan Cristobal and his family lived, at least part of the time, in Albuquerque, where he had a store and house, both since demolished. During the Civil War, Armijo interrupted his mercantile activities to serve with the Union militia at Fort Craig.

9. Major Biblio phical References

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<u>10.</u>	Geographical	Data			
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List all	states and counties for prope	erties overlapping	state or county be	oundaries M/A	•
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11.	Form Prepared	d By			
name/title	s Susan Dewitt, Coordi	nator			
organizat	ion Historic Landmarks S	Survey of Albuqu	erque date Ju	ne 11, 1981	
	number Redevelopment Plan	ning, P.O. Box	1293 telephone	(505) 766-4720)
city or to	A 11		state	New Mexico	87103
	State Historic	Preserva		cer Certif	ication
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665), I her	signated State Historic Preserva reby nominate this property for in g to the criteria and procedures s	tion Officer for the Na nclusion in the Nation	tional Historic Pres al Register and cert	ify that it has been e	valuated
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United States Departme of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCR6 use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2

Juan Cristobal's fourth child, Justo, was born in Los Griegos in 1852, so probably he had acquired land in that area--and perhaps built his old homestead--while maintaining another residence in Albuquerque, three miles to the south. The location of his "Old Homestead" is unknown, but it was probably in the Griegos area. He is shown in the 1860 census as one of the two wealthy men of Los Griegos (the other was also an Armijo), and in the 1870 census he is listed as a wholesale farmer and merchant in Los Griegos, with his real estate valued at \$8,000 and his personal property at \$58,000--quite a substantial fortune for the Albuquerque area at that time.

No documents have been found that give a precise building date for the new homestead--even Juan Cristobal's purchase of the land is not recorded in Bernalillo County records. But the evidence of the house's style suggests a date shortly before the arrival of the railroad in 1880. The symmetry, right angles, and high ceilings are characteristic of the period 1870-1880, though the plan of the house was somewhat old-fashioned by that time. A building date during that decade is consistent with Juan Cristobal's death in 1884.

Juan Cristobal left his property--including the New Homestead, Old Homestead, a vineyard, La Milpa (cornfield) Duran, and El Cerquito--to his widow, Juana. After her death in 1888, the property was divided among the nine children and other relatives in the traditional Spanish manner. Justo R. Armijo, the son born in Los Griegos, became the estate manager by 1890: family interests in the various properties were still managed in common.

In 1889, Tomas C. Gutiérrez, husband of Juan Cristóbal's daughter Feliciana, began to put together clear title to the new homestead, buying eighth and sixteenth interests from other heirs. Tomas Gutiérrez, notable for having campaigned for Abraham Lincoln in New England in 1860, had to wait 20 years to acquire all the part interests. In 1909 he transferred title to his second wife, Leonor Zamora de Gutiérrez, and died the same year. His widow continued to live in the Armijo homestead until 1936. In an arrangement not unusual in New Mexico, she willed the house to Corina C. de Griego, in exchange for an agreement that Corina would let her continue to live in the house and would take care of her.

Leonor Gutierrez died in 1936, leaving the property to Corina de Griego, who with her husband Apolinario, sold to A.E. and Elizabeth Borrell in 1939. The Borrells were responsible for much of the preservation and remodeling of the house, and also built the pond which gave the property its contemporary name, Hacienda del Lago. In 1954 the current owner, Mrs. Harry Batten, then Lucia V.B. Engel, purchased the Armijo homestead, where she has since lived. She has respected the historic character of the house and maintained it excellently, so that Juan Cristobal Armijo's "New Homestead," now one of the oldest historic buildings of the Albuquerque area, still serves as a substantially unaltered reminder of New Mexico's Territorial period and the hacienda life of the Rio Grande valley.

United States Departme of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCR5 use only received attended date entered

Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Item number

Page

Interviews with Mrs. Harry Batten.

John O. Baxter, "Salvador Armijo: Citizen of Albuquerque, 1823, 1879." New Mexico

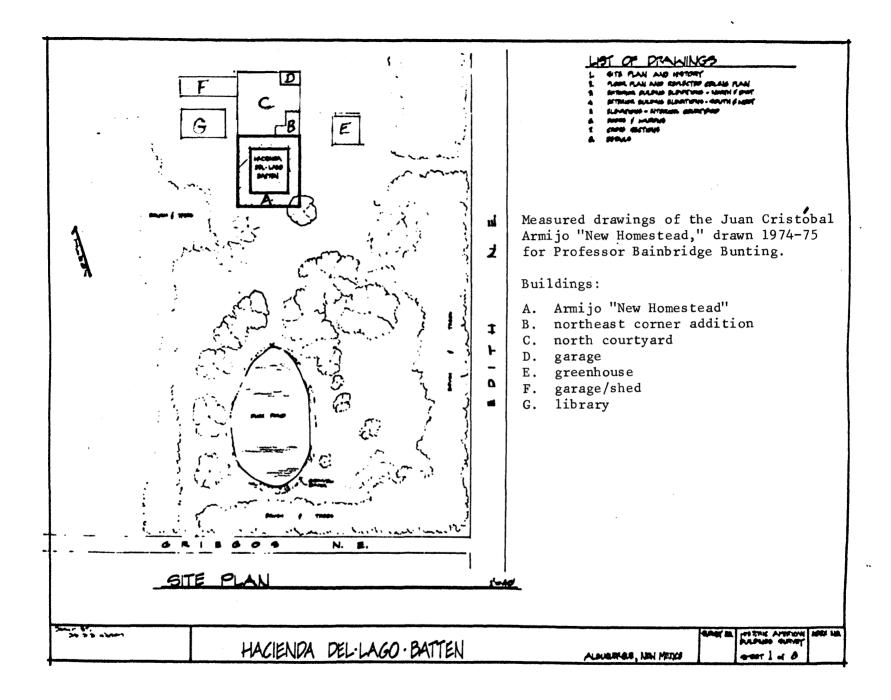
Historical Review (Vol. 53, no. 3, 1978), pp. 219-237.

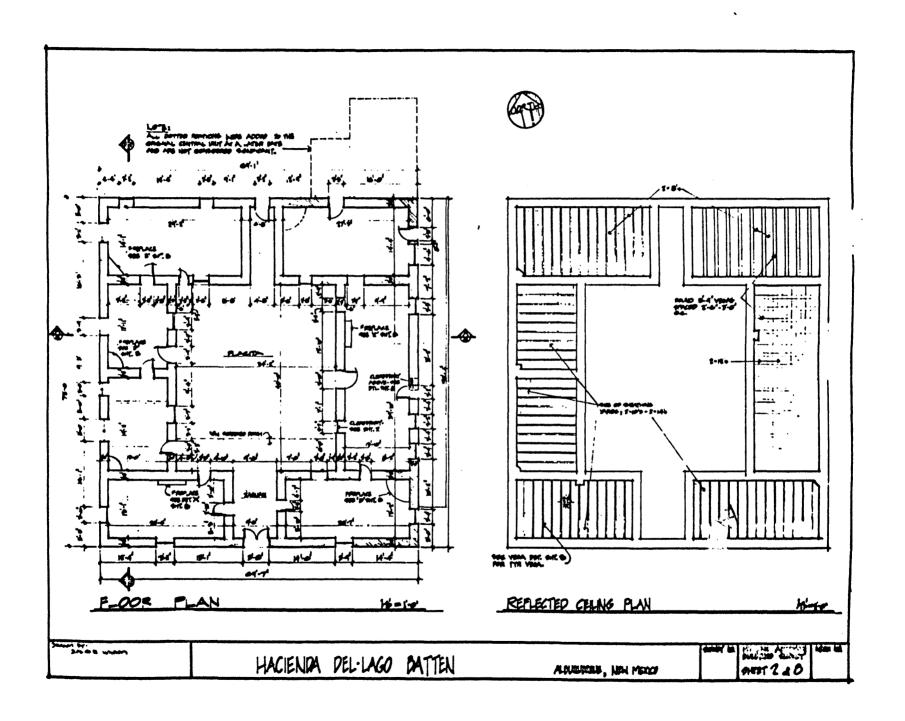
Bernalillo County Records.

Bainbridge Bunting, Early Architecture in New Mexico (Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1976), pp. 86 - 107.

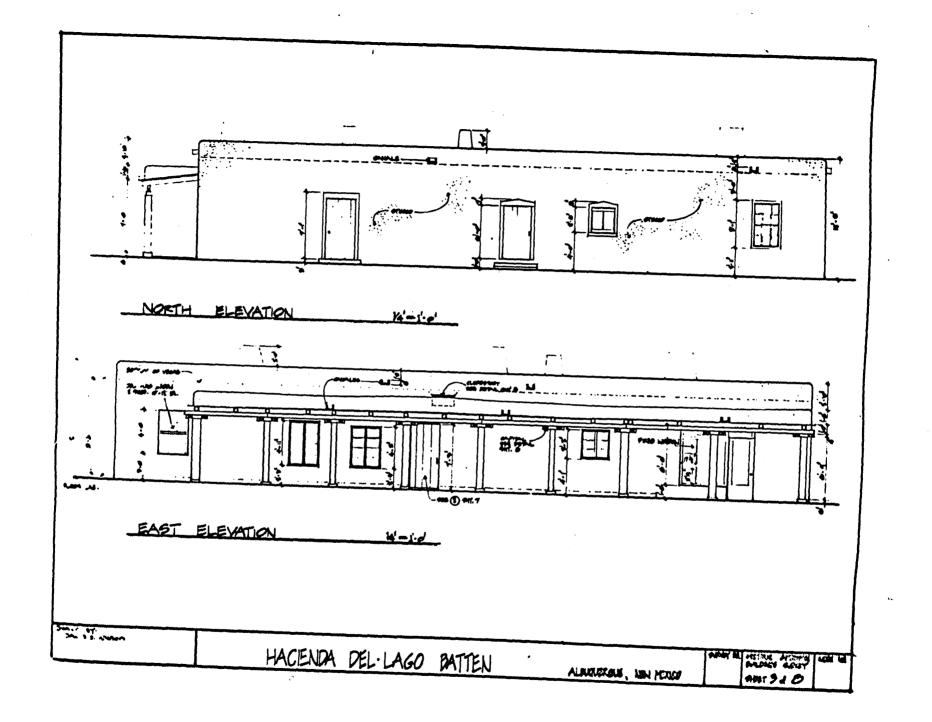
Bainbridge Bunting, Manuscript analysis of Armijo "New Homestead" in Historic Landmarks Survey files, written January, 1978.

Donald Dreesen, <u>Nineteenth Century Settlers of Albuquerque</u>, manuscript collection in Albuquerque <u>Public Library</u>, various dates.

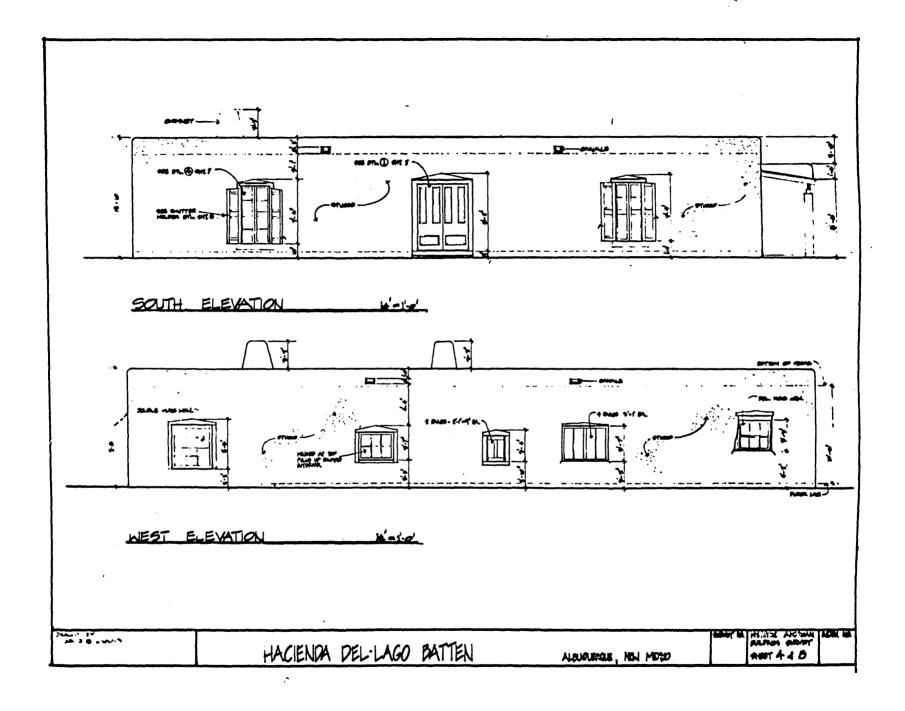




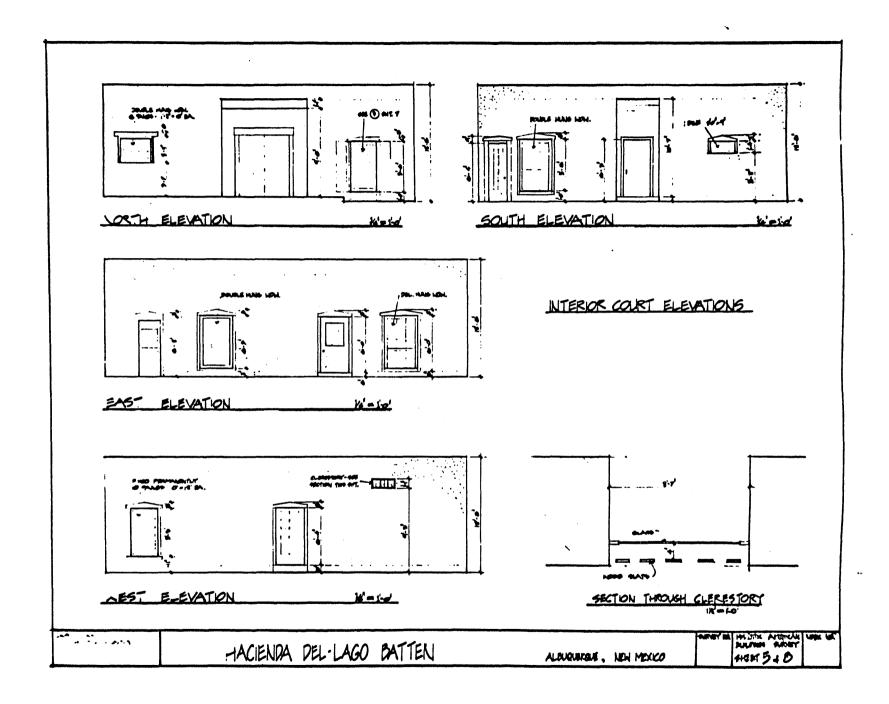
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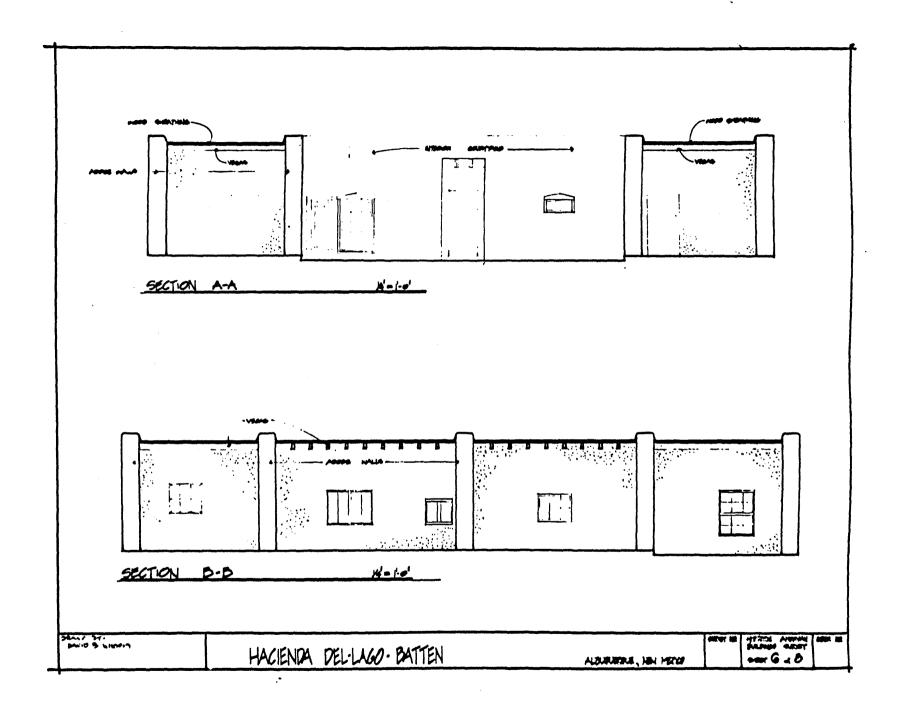
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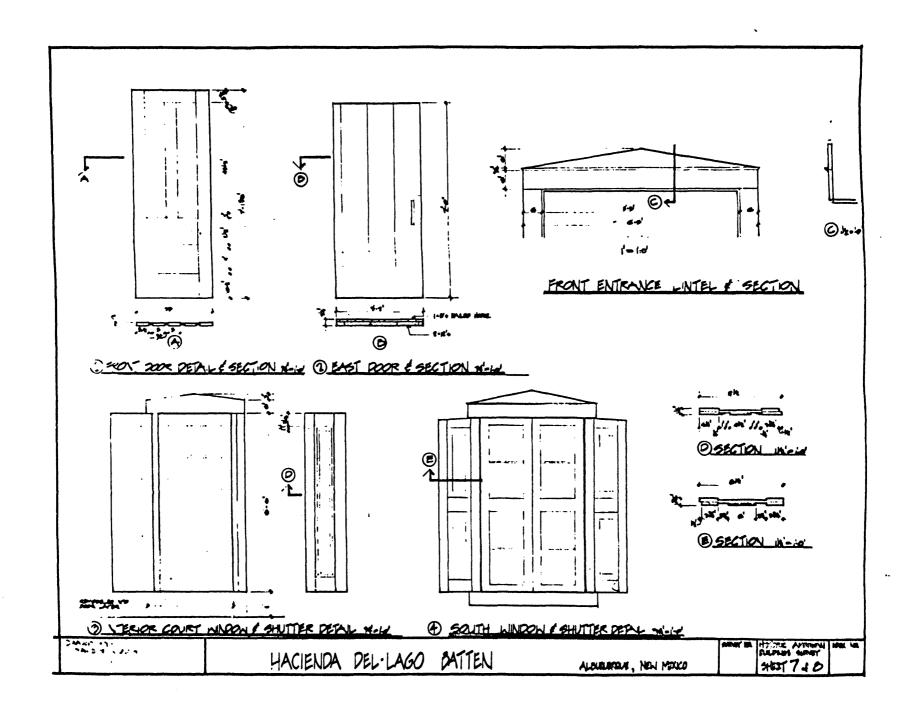
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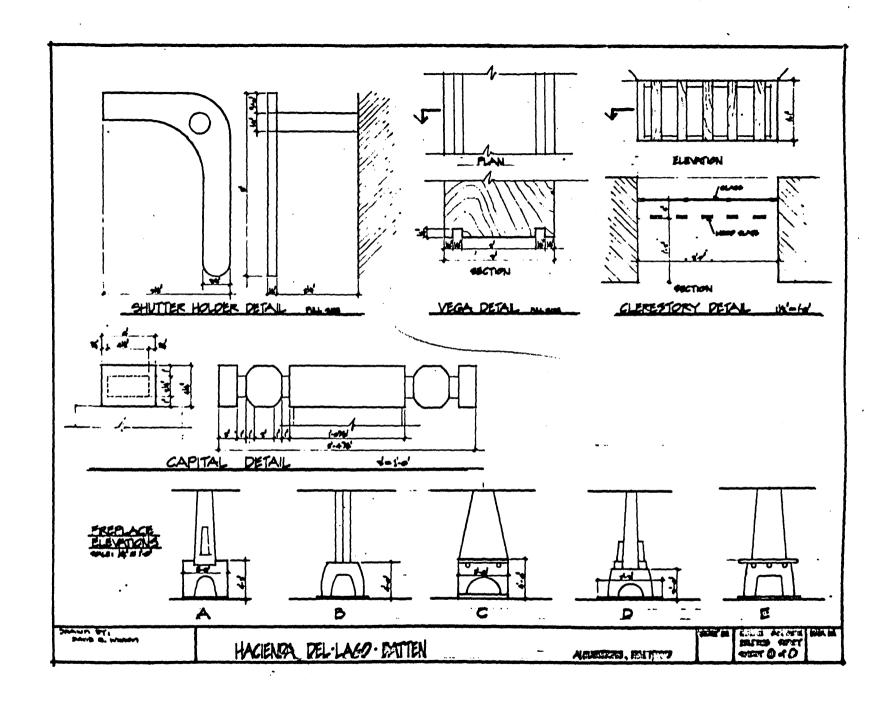


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