

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **SB 21** 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Los Luceros Hacienda

and/or common Morning Star Ranch

2. Location

off NM 389

street & number on a private road 1/4 mile northwest of State Road 389 n/a not for publication

city, town Los Luceros vic. vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Rio Arriba code 039

3. Classification

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: chapel vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple - see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rio Arriba County Courthouse

street & number n/a

city, town Tierra Amarilla state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Cultural Properties, site #143 (see continuation sheet)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Los Luceros is one of the most complete 19th century haciendas in northern New Mexico. The historic ranch complex includes five contributing buildings: a large, two-storied, double-galleried house in the American plantation style, a Late Victorian cottage, a chapel, a flat-roofed building said to have been used for a time as a jail, and a guest house. The buildings are constructed of adobe brick and feature the architectural styles of New Mexico's Territorial Period of the second half of the 19th century. The present form of the ranch house is of the Greek Revival Style, but its thick adobe walls apparently incorporate portions of the walls of an 18th century Spanish rancho which had been erected on the ruins of a prehistoric Indian dwelling site. Unlike the scattered grouping of architecturally attractive buildings that formed the 19th century ranch complex of Los Luceros, the original Spanish rancho was a fortress-like Indian outpost of solid adobe walls that enclosed living quarters, storerooms and stables in one structure. Only a chapel, which preceded the present one, was a separate building. Located in the lush floodplain of cottonwood forests bordering the Rio Grande, the rancho cultivated a large apple orchard, as does Los Luceros today. The ranch house, "jail" and guest house received some remodeling in the 1920s in the Spanish/Colonial-Pueblo Revival Style.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1350-1550; 1703; 1851-**Builder/Architect** Unknown
80; ca. 1900; 1923

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic hacienda complex of Los Luceros is one of the best preserved examples of the architecture of New Mexico's Territorial Period of the second half of the 19th century. The ranch house, a two-story adobe structure, is one of two surviving New Mexico examples of the Greek Revival Style American plantation-type house surrounded by a two-level gallery. The adobe out-buildings, which consist of a fine example of a small rural chapel, a Late Victorian cottage, a small flat-roofed "jail" building typical of New Mexico's indigenous architecture, and a guest-house complete the assemblage of Territorial Period types and styles. The ranch house is said to have served for a time during this period as the Rio Arriba County Courthouse. It was an old Spanish rancho which had been remodeled in the mid-19th century in the Greek vogue by Elias Clark, an Irishman from Missouri, and was considered one of the finest houses in the Territory. The thick adobe walls incorporate walls of an earlier building said to have been the Spanish rancho built in the early 18th century by Captain Sebastian Martin Serrano on his extensive land grant obtained in 1703. The most important settler at that time in northern New Mexico, Martin was a famed Indian fighter and a leader in the 1692 reconquest of New Mexico following the Indian revolt of 1680. The presence of prehispanic ceramics (Biscuit A and B, which were manufactured in the periods AD 1350-1450 and AD 1450-1550 respectively) on the site suggests a late prehispanic site in the vicinity of the main house and/or tenant's house. The present chapel was preceded by an earlier one erected in the early 1700s by Martin and first described in Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez' 1776 inventory of the missions of New Mexico. Limited remodelings of the ranch house, "jail", and guest house in the 1920s in the Spanish Colonial-Pueblo Revival Style are early manifestations of the style in New Mexico. The remodelings were carried out for Mary Wheelwright, an important Indian art collector and founder of the Wheelwright Museum in Santa Fe who acquired Los Luceros in the 1920's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 10 acres

Quadrangle name San Juan Pueblo

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	4	0	6	4	5	0	3	9	7	3	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing						

B

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H

Zone			Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
	n/a			

state	n/a	code	county	code
	n/a			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Swanson, Architectural Historian

organization New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau date October 1982

street & number 505 Don Gaspar telephone (505) 827-8320

city or town Santa Fe state New Mexico 87503

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas W. Melrose

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/14/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Melrose
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/20/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Ranch house, Abel Lucero Victorian cottage, "jail", guest house, office building:

Mr. and Mrs. H. Malcolm Grimmer
Morning Star Ranch
P. O. Box 1497
Alcalde, New Mexico 87511

Capilla de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe:

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
202 Morningside Drive, SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

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title Historic American Building Survey, HABS #: NM-53, State Code NM-0085

date _____ **federal** _____ **state** _____ **county** _____ **local**

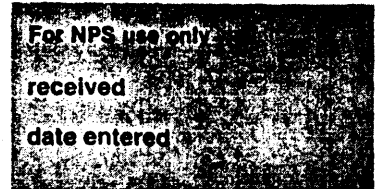
depository for survey records HABS/HAER Office, National Park Service

city, town Washington **state** D.C.

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Los Luceros Hacienda is a complex containing five historic buildings: a main dwelling house, a chapel, a former jail house, a Late Victorian cottage, and a guest house. The architectural integrity of this typical ranch complex of New Mexico's Territorial Period has been largely maintained.

The buildings are grouped beneath large cottonwood and poplar trees in the midst of a large commercial irrigated apple orchard about 300 yards from the Río Grande. Other more recent ranch structures on the property, including a new adobe office building, a barn and sheds, are somewhat obscured behind vegetation and do not detract from the historic complex.

Los Luceros ranch house is one of the best preserved 19th century haciendas in northern New Mexico. Only one other ranch house of the period with encircling two-level galleries remains in New Mexico. The house is a nearly square, two-storied, flat-roofed, adobe building surrounded by a two-level gallery. The gallery and some of the interior woodwork retain the Greek Revival Style decorative detailing of New Mexico's Territorial Period, but the doors and windows were remodeled in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style in the 1920s.

The box columns of the gallery are each composed of several mill-sawn members to give the effect of recessed paneling in the box columns. In this ingenious method, a central rectangular timber is sided at right-angles by rectangular planks that extend on either side of the central supporting element. The mouldings that form the capital and astragal are attached to the side planks and suspended over the "recessed panel," with a small block of wood filling the empty space under the astragal.

The plan of the house, with rooms flanking a central hall on both floors, is also a Greek Revival innovation brought to New Mexico in the Territorial Period. Another feature of Classical Style houses that in New Mexico is unique to this house, is the large sala that stretches the length of the facade at the second level.

The ceilings of both levels are composed of exposed beams called vigas overlaid with planks or latías (strips of cedar) and topped with earth fill. The ceilings of some rooms, especially those toward the front of the house, are well finished with squared and beaded vigas topped with beaded planks. Other rooms, which apparently served less formal purposes, have ceilings of log vigas or roughly adzed vigas and planks or latías. Most of the vigas and planks are hand-adzed or hand-sawn while some are mill-sawn.

A door leading from the great sala on the second level to the hall retains its original Territorial Style trim. It is a wide but low door, five feet

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and nine inches high, with a moulded lintel surmounted by a plain, unmoulded pediment. This unusual type of pedimented lintel is also found on some of the windows of the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. Old photographs appear to show that some exterior fenestration of the Los Luceros house also had this particular type of lintel, although the house appears to have had a variety of pedimented lintels. Old photographs show that the windows were double hung and of differing shapes and sizes, suggesting that the Territorial design of the house was produced by a series of renovations made over a period of time. Perhaps one or more remodelings of the mid-19th century made use of some of the openings of an earlier house. Some of the doors were wide, multi-paned French doors. The Spanish Revival Style renovation of the 1920s largely utilized the same openings but stripped them of their trim. At this time, two bay windows were added to the lower east facade in large openings that may have contained earlier bay windows or stairways to the upper gallery. An interior stair was added in the hall, baths were added, and the fireplaces were remodeled.

Despite some remodeling, the overall appearance of Los Luceros ranch house is that of a Greek Revival Style building of the early years of New Mexico's Territorial Period, the third quarter of the 19th century. Some of the walls, which in places are more than three feet thick, apparently predate this period. The lower portions of the walls are of puddled adobe (hand shaped wet mud) faced on either side by adobe brick. These lower walls may date from early Spanish occupation in the 17th or 18th centuries, or even hundreds of years earlier when Indian dwellings apparently occupied the site. Los Luceros ranch house may, in fact, represent a composite of centuries of building construction in New Mexico.

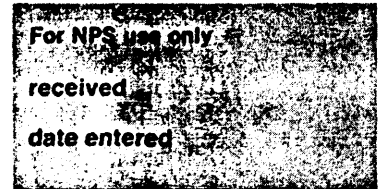
Although the present two-story aspect of the house, with gallery and symmetrical floor plan, is of the Territorial Period, two-story adobe buildings were not unknown during the Spanish and Mexican Periods in New Mexico. Situated as it is in the flood plain of the Rio Grande, a two-story house might have always been necessary for year-round habitation. The house has, in fact, endured numerous floods, and the old people of the area say that in times of high water the doors and windows on the lower floor were opened and the river was allowed to flow through the building. Silting has resulted in a rise in ground level and the lower floor level of the house has been raised two feet or more. For the same reason, the box columns of the ground level are shorter than those of the upper level.

The ceiling beams of the lower level, which give the appearance of greater age than the Territorial renovations, are so well preserved that they offer good evidence of the existence of the upper floor since they were installed. Mud roofed buildings always leaked and the beams quickly deteriorated and sagged and were frequently replaced. There is no trace of sagging in the lower floor beams of Los Luceros, while all the upper floor ceiling beams sag.

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The chapel, now called Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and formerly known as the Chapel of the Holy Family, retains its original appearance and is in good condition, although not now in use. It is a typical example of northern New Mexico chapels of the second half of the 19th century, with gabled facade, polygonal apse, and small sacristy projecting at one side. The walls are adobe and a wooden belfry surmounts the shingled roof. The plain pedimented lintels were recently removed from the double-hung windows.

An unusual feature of this chapel is the stepped-up roof at the apse end. From the earliest settlement of New Mexico, this was a standard element of Spanish churches. It provided for a transverse clerestory window to illuminate the altar. But in this chapel, the builders were merely adhering to the tradition of a raised apse ceiling. There was no possibility of a transverse clerestory window since the building was designed to have a ridge roof.

The chapel's double doors were installed in 1964, having been rescued from the demolished house of Policárpio Romero in Peñasco. They are typical of the traditional folk art that once flourished in New Mexico, and the finest of their type to survive. They were made in the 1870s by Gregorio Ortega, who came from the village of Truchas. The two-ply construction is decorated with green-painted shapes of crosses, diamonds and squares, all compiled with mitred sections of one type of planed moulding.

The small chapel measures twenty-one feet and six inches across the front and fifty-three feet along the side. These measurements are not dissimilar to those of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, the 18th century chapel built by the original land grantee, which may have been located in the vicinity, or even on the site of this chapel. It measured about fourteen feet across the front and about fifty feet down the side. Like the present chapel, it also faced west.

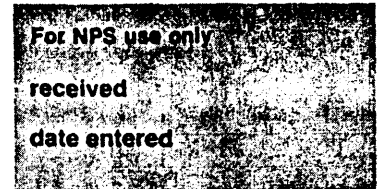
The Late Victorian cottage is said to have been built at the turn of the century by Abél E. Lucero as a farm house for his wife and children. The cottage combines New Mexico building materials and techniques with design and decorative detailing derived from the architectural styles of "the States." The walls are adobe but the plan and millwork are similar to types that could be ordered from catalogs. It is probable, however, that the millwork was locally produced since the bull's eye windows and flat pedimented windows are similar to the millwork of the 1880s remodeling of the old San Juan Pueblo Church (since demolished).

The one-and-a-half story cottage has shingled, cross-gabled roofs with boxed eaves. The plan is L-shaped on two sides, with hip-roofed porches supported by decorative turned posts in each L. Under the porches, there is an entry door on each side of each L. The principal door has double-arched

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glazed openings. The interior woodwork has fluted mouldings and incised decoration. The traditional arched adobe fireplaces are boxed with wooden mantels decorated with Classical Style pilasters. A lean-to addition was made to the rear (north) side of the house not long after the house was built.

For its time, the cottage was an elegant example of rural vernacular architecture in New Mexico. The new owners of Los Luceros, Mr. and Mrs. H. Malcolm Grimmer, have restored the cottage with total accuracy and will use the building as a guest house.

The one-story, flat-roofed "jail" building to the west of the main house is a typical example of traditional architecture in New Mexico, with alterations to the fenestration. Built of adobe, it is narrow and rectangular. The flat roof is supported by vigas that project from the wall on the west side. The building was modified in the 20th century to serve as a cold storage unit and a garage. A cement cold storage area was built in a portion of the interior. A large opening was made in the narrow north end of the building and double garage doors were installed. This north end originally had no openings, only a canale (wooden dripspout) projecting below the roofline.

Old photographs have not been found that show the original fenestration, but Spanish Colonial Revival Style windows were given to the building during the Wheelwright renovations of the 1920s. Mary Wheelwright obtained a fine Folk Territorial door from the Chimayó area and placed it in the east facade of the building, facing the main house. This door is an outstanding example, comparable to the work of Gregorio Ortega of Truchas who did the doors now in place in the chapel. The door is unusually intricate, with cross designs in the lower panels, star-shaped panels composed of eight pieces of diamond-shaped wood in the upper panels, and a double row of dentils on the corniced lintel. Mary Wheelwright flanked this door with a 1920s carpenter's version of a Folk Territorial door.

The new owners of Los Luceros have more closely restored the original appearance of the building by removing the cement cold storage area and the garage doors, closing in the north end, and placing the Territorial door, with a small window, in that end. They enclosed the opening left by the removal of the door from the east facade. The interior will house the Grimms' Spanish colonial art collection.

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The guest house is a simple one-story, L-shaped adobe building with a recent addition at the rear incorporating a former carriage house. The addition and alterations to the exterior of the carriage house are in the architectural style of the guest house, do not detract from the appearance of the guest house, and are not visible from road. The guest house with its associated carriage house were built about 1900, probably as foreman's quarters. Some windows and doors of the Spanish Colonial-Pueblo Revival Style were installed in the 1920s when the house was converted into a guest house by Mrs. Caroline Pfaffle for owner Mary Wheelwright. The low adobe walls fronting the guest house and the ranch house were added at this time.

Buildings contributing to the character of the hacienda district are:

Los Luceros Ranch House

Abel Lucero Late Victorian Cottage

Capilla de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe

"Jailhouse"

Guest house

The non-contributing building is:

An adobe machine shop converted into an office building in 1982.

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Occupation of the site of Los Luceros appears to date back 600 years or more. An archeological reconnaissance made in August, 1981 supports the conclusion that a late prehispanic occupation, possibly consisting of field houses associated with the ancestral Tewa pueblo of Pfioge (LA #144), which lies one fourth mile to the southwest at the edge of the Rio Grande floodplain, existed in the immediate vicinity of the main house and/or tenant's house sometime between AD 1350 and AD 1550. The river, which has shifted its course to the west, once ran very close to the site of Los Luceros. The late prehispanic occupation may have been a seasonal fishing and farming settlement serving Pfioge.

Historic ceramic collected at Los Luceros date from c. 1625 A.D. to the early 1900s. These sherds consist largely of diverse ceramic types produced by various pueblos widely dispersed in the region. They indicate continuous occupation of the site of Los Luceros by the Spanish since the earliest period of permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico. The presence of large quantities of assorted historic Indian ceramics at historic settlement sites is typical in New Mexico. It was more convenient and economical for settlers to acquire Indian pottery than to make their own. Therefore, most cooking, storage, and serving vessels used in Spanish, Mexican and Anglo settlements in New Mexico in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries were Indian-made.

Archaeological evidence of lengthy occupation supports the local tradition that Los Luceros was the site of a small fortified Spanish outpost dating from the early 1600s. Because of its close proximity to the site of the earliest permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico, it is not unlikely that Los Luceros was occupied by the Spanish at such an early date. Furthermore, the Spanish often chose such Indian dwelling sites, either abandoned or occupied, for the location of their establishments.

The first Spanish colony in New Mexico was founded in 1598 at the confluence of the Rio Grande and Chama River, five miles south of Los Luceros. Led by Don Juan de Oñate, a small group of settlers had journeyed up the Rio Grande from Mexico with supplies necessary for the founding of a colony: food, iron tools, medicines, paper, blacksmithing equipment, clothing, armor, weapons, church furnishings, and a train of thousands of cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. Oñate selected two Indian pueblos at the river junction as the location of the first Spanish capital of New Mexico. The colonists removed the Indians from the pueblo on the east bank of the Rio Grande and occupied it, naming it San Juan de los Caballeros (St. John of the Warrior Knights). A few months later, the Spanish moved to the west bank pueblo of Yunque-Ouinge and vacated the Indians who lived there. They built a church and remodeled the pueblo to serve as the Spanish capital which they named San Gabriel. (See San Gabriel de Yunque-Ouinge National Historic Landmark, Rio Arriba County.)

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San Gabriel did not thrive and the capital was moved to Santa Fe in 1610. But some Spanish settlers remained in the San Gabriel area where attempts had been made to establish outlying farms and ranches. While archaeological evidence suggests that Los Luceros was the site of one such rancho (a small subsistence farm for agriculture and livestock raising) during the 1600s, documentary evidence is unclear.

The earliest record of settlement of the Los Luceros area is the land grant made to Captain Sebastián Martín Serrano in 1703. In his 1712 petition to Governor Joseph Chacon Medina Salazar y Villaseñor for revalidation of his grant on behalf of himself and his brother Antonio, Captain Martín stated that he originally received the grant in 1703 from Governor Francisco Cuvero y Valdes. He explained that when he obtained the grant it was "a vacant, uncultivated, and unoccupied tract of land in Rio Arriba (Upper River), a short distance from the pueblo of San Juan...which many years ago was registered by Joseph Garcia Jurado, Sebastián de Vargas, and Sebastián de Palonia, who never occupied it, for which reason they lost all rights and title to it...." Captain Martín said that he and his five brothers had resided on the land since 1703 "notwithstanding the great risks to be encountered from the Apache enemy, who occasionally make their descents upon us." The brothers had "broken up lands (plowed), opened a main ditch from the Del Norte river (Rio Grande) for irrigating the land, built a house with four rooms, and two strong towers for defence against the enemy in case of an invasion, being on the frontier...."

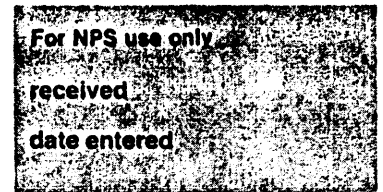
The large grant contained more than 50,000 acres. It extended for five miles upriver from San Juan Pueblo on the south to Picuris Pueblo on the north, and stretched for 18 miles from the Black Mesa of lava rock on the west side of the Rio Grande to the forested peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the east. Captain Martín later donated that portion of his grant nearest the mountain crest to the village of Las Trampas.

The Martín brothers actually acquired the grant in joint ownership with Felipe Antonio Sisneros. Sebastián Martín "revalidated" his grant in 1712 because Sisneros died, leaving a wife and three small children, Esmerejildo, Felipe Nerí, and Juana. Sebastián Martín purchased Sisneros' "half of the land" from his widow, Josefa Lujan, who was Sebastián's sister-in-law, for 150 pesos. In consideration of the children's portions of ownership, Martín gave them "a little Indian of six or seven years of age, a cow and a young ox." The Sisneros family continued to live with or near Martín on the grant. But later, in 1727, after the Sisneros children had come of age, they brought Martín to trial in Santa Fe before Governor Juan Domingo de Bustamante to petition for the return of their half of the grant. Sisneros' heirs claimed that their father had, in fact, been the original grantee. They testified that he "owned a piece of farming land, under

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irrigation, held by him under royal grant; and of said tract he gave half to Sebastián Martín...with the stipulation that he should colonize same, which he executed." The governor decreed that the Sisneros heirs be given a portion of the grant bounded on the south by San Juan Pueblo, on the north by the property of Sebastián Martín, on the west by the Rio Grande, and on the east by "some gray hills" in order that they may "erect a house and plant grain."

Discrepancies in the ownership claims and the vague boundary descriptions of these and other archival records of land transactions of the period make it impossible to determine the exact location of the Sisneros and Martin lands in relation to Los Luceros or establish certain ownership or settlement date or possible previous Spanish occupation of the site. Furthermore, the Sisneros were among many families who early acquired land in Martin's colony and established ranchos there. But archaeological, architectural, archival and cartographic evidence, as well as oral and written tradition, strongly point to Los Luceros Hacienda as the site of Sebastián Martín's rancho.

Sebastián Martín was one of the most prominent men of his day. Scion of a notable family of early colonists, he was a leader in Don Diego de Vargas' 1692 reconquest of New Mexico following the Indian revolt of 1680. Later, he achieved great reknown as an Indian fighter. In 1698, when he was 27 years old, he and his wife, Maria Lujan, were living in Santa Fe. But soon thereafter they moved upriver to the ancestral Martín country of Rio Arriba where Sebastián's parents and grandparents had lived before the Indian massacre. He and his wife first located in the Villa de la Santa Cruz de la Cañada which had been refounded. Then Sebastián and his brothers established themselves on their grant a few miles to the north in the fertile bottom lands of the river. Martín named the settlement Puesto de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad del Rio del Norte Arriba (Outpost of Our Lady of Solitude of the Upper River of the North) for a chapel he built there. By 1717, Martín was alcalde (the head of local government who served as a combination of mayor, judge, council and sheriff) of Santa Cruz de la Cañada, the political jurisdiction for the area.

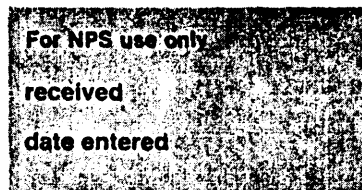
Sebastián Martín gave the Indians of San Juan Pueblo a piece of land in the valley in payment for their services in digging the first great irrigation ditch on the east side of the Rio Grande. The present "Los Luceros Ditch," which runs for about eight miles and is 14 feet wide, is said to be Sebastián Martín's ditch. On the irrigated land he planted an orchard of a few hundred apple trees, a cornfield and a small garden of chile and onions. On the rest of his extensive grant he grazed cattle, horses and a flock of about 150 sheep.

According to Martín's description of 1712, his original ranch house consisted of four rooms with two defense towers. In keeping with Spanish military architecture of the period in New Mexico, the towers were probably round, attached to the house and situated so that they projected from the ends of the building

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in order to provide a raking fire across the facades of the house. Local tradition suggests that this original fortified ranch house is preserved in the lower floor of the present Los Luceros ranch house. The massive adobe walls of the present house may well represent some small part of Martín's house which had grown very large by the time of his death in 1763 at the age of 92. In the 1765 will of Sebastián Martín's widow, the house is described as having 24 rooms and a stable, all encompassed within one structure. For purpose of fortification, the exterior walls would have had few openings and the rooms would have opened onto one or more interior courtyards. The flat mud roof was supported by vigas (tree trunks or square hewn beams). When the Martín estate was divided among the heirs in 1772, the house was divided among them in measurements of varas (a vara is about 33 inches). Seven heirs each received "sixteen varas of the house, seventeen varas of land, (and) fourteen trees (in the apple orchard), together with the entrances and outlets of the house." It is not clear if the measurements were made through the house in sections or around the sides of the house. But each heir became owner of about 44 feet of the house, a portion about as large as the ranch house existing at Los Luceros today.

The sizeable Martín hacienda accommodated a large family, numerous servants, as well as animals and storage space for farm products and equipment. Sebastián Martín and Maria Lujan had ten children, several of whom they survived: Marcial, Margarita, Rosa, Manuel, Ángela, Joseph, Antonio, Josepha, Juan, and Francisco. The census of 1750 also lists 21 servants in the household of Sebastián Martín. These servants were probably Indian slaves since baptismal records show that Martin owned many captives from the Navajos, Utes, Apaches, and Comanches.

In the 1700s, Rio Arriba was on the northern frontier of Spanish settlement. Life there was difficult and dangerous, with frequent Indian attacks, droughts, storms and epidemics. In 1747, Puesto de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad del Rio del Norte Arriba and other northern frontier settlements were abandoned due to attacks by Ute Indians and were not resettled until 1750 when the Utes were at peace and a guard had been granted the residents.

The northern frontier had limited contact with Mexico. It was therefore necessary for the colonists to be self-sufficient in providing the necessities for survival, raising all their own food and making their own clothing from home-spun wool and buckskin. Manufactured items transported from Mexico were valued possessions. The only articles Martín's widow listed in her will were two painted chests, one loom, one flat iron pan, one chocolate pot, one iron spoon, one brass mortar (the chapel bell), and one bronze esmeril (small gun).

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Sebastián Martín's frontier outpost had become a sizeable one by 1750 when the census listed 44 families living at Nuestra Señora de la Soledad del Rio del Norte Arriba, with a population of 364. The settlement appears on Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco's maps of 1758 and 1776 as "Soledad" and on his 1779 map as "Rio Arriba." There were other settlements on the Martín grant which also had a number of residents. When Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez visited the area in 1776, he counted 51 families with 299 persons living at Rio Arriba or Soledad. He described the place and its chapel:

Rio Arriba is a league north of the mission and up the same plain. It consists of a number of ranchos like those mentioned before. These settlers live by the help of the afore-mentioned river, with whose waters they make fruitful the very fertile lands that the meadows of that river offer. As such they produce copious harvests. There are three or four little fruit orchards of apples, peaches and apricots.

In this place there is a small chapel of Our Lady of Solitude. Its patron was one Sebastián Martín. Today his substitute and heir is a son of his called Marcial Martín. This little chapel is adobe and resembles a small bodega. It faces west and is 14 to 16 varas long, 5 wide, and 6 high. There is no choir loft. There is a poor window on the Epistle side facing south, and the door is squared with one leaf and a key. The roof is of wrought beams; there is a small belfry with its brass mortar [bell], and a little cemetery.

The altar screen is nothing more than a middle-sized niche like a cupboard in the wall and in this there is a middle-sized image in the round whose title is Our Lady of Solitude, although her dress is a mother-of-pearl tunic and blue mantle, all of smooth ribbed silk, silver radiance, and linen apron. On the whole wall where the high altar is there are some large paintings of saints on buffalo skin in the local style. The altar table is adobe, with its altar stone, cross, candlesticks, and a little bell. It has old vestments of flowered cloth with all accessories, including linen. Chalice, paten, and spoon, all of silver, and glass cruets on a Puebla plate, and an old missal.

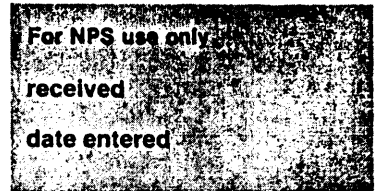
The only functions here are two novenas and a Mass annually. The alms for this are collected from all the settlers in the mission's jurisdiction. The citizens of this Rio Arriba are of different classes: some are masters, others, servants, and still others are their own masters and servants.

The present chapel at Los Luceros also faces west and has dimensions that are somewhat similar to Fray Dominguez' measurements of Martín's chapel.

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The building could have been reconstructed on the foundations of the older chapel, but its present gable-roofed appearance is typical of New Mexico's chapels of the second half of the 19th century. The Chapel of Our Lady of Solitude was relocated at the nearby community of La Villita, perhaps at the time that Los Luceros was acquired by the Lucero family.

Santiago Lucero, descendant of the notable Lucero de Godoy family that helped to colonize New Mexico, married a granddaughter of Sebastian Martin (Barbara, daughter of Margarita Martín and Juan de Padilla). Their descendants and relatives made Puesto de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad del Rio Arriba their home and the community became known as Plaza de los Luceros. (It was also known for a time in the early 1800s as Plaza de los Angeles.) The Martin Ranch became known as Los Luceros Ranch, having been acquired by various members of that family. Beginning in the 1790s and for several decades thereafter, the ranch was purchased in parcels from the many Lucero and Martín descendants by Julián Lucero, nephew of Santiago and Barbara Lucero. By 1827, he had purchased all the interest of his brothers, sisters and other heirs to Los Luceros, its orchard, and much land in the environs. Julián Lucero had married Barbara Antonia Sisneros, daughter of Hemenigildo Sisneros whose father claimed to have been heir of the original grantee of the Sebastián Martín Land Grant when he brought Martín to trial before the governor in 1727.

At the end of Julián Lucero's ownership of Los Luceros, New Mexico became part of the United States. In 1846, the Army of the West, commanded by General Stephen W. Kearny, conquered New Mexico without firing a shot and marched on to take control of California. After the American army had gone, a group of residents in the town of Taos plotted an uprising. On January 19, 1847, the revolutionists and the Indians of Taos Pueblo murdered American Governor Charles Bent in his Taos home, as well as several other officials, and sacked the homes of Anglo-American residents. Colonel Sterling Price, who had been left in command of New Mexico at Santa Fe, marched for Taos with 350 men. On the way, they met and did battle with the insurgents at Santa Cruz de la Cañada, south of Los Luceros. The revolutionaries retreated and, on January 27, 1847, Colonel Price advanced as far up the Rio Grande as Los Luceros where he made camp. Here he was joined by additional troops, so that his forces then numbered 479 men. The following day, Colonel Price marched several miles upriver to La Joya (now Velarde) where the enemy waited in the slopes of the mountains at Embudo. Another battle took place there, with severe losses to the revolutionists. The American army reached Taos on February 3 and brought an end to the revolt.

An influx of Americans followed the acquisition of New Mexico by the United States. In 1850, Julián Lucero's daughter, Maria Marta, married one of these, an Irish-born trader from Missouri named Elias T. Clark. The Clarks

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acquired the Los Luceros House and orchard from Julián Lucero in 1851, and throughout that decade they continued to enlarge their land holdings there.

Elias T. Clark was a merchant dealing in general merchandise, as well as a rancher and farmer. In 1851, he was Clerk of the U.S. District Court for the Second Judicial District of the Territory of New Mexico. In 1853, he was secretary of the council of the legislative assembly in Santa Fe. He served as Judge of Rio Arriba County and it is said that the ranch house at Los Luceros served as the County Courthouse for several years during the mid 1850s.

In 1855, W. W. H. Davis, United States Attorney for the Territory of New Mexico, who later became acting governor of the Territory, wrote of his visit to Los Luceros:

We continued up the valley until nearly dark, when we arrived at the hospitable ranch of Mr. Clark, at Los Luceros, where we stopped for the night. He welcomed us with genuine hospitality. We were ushered into the sala, where we found a cheerful fire blazing upon the hearth, which put new life into our benumbed bodies. For me the ride was unusually fatiguing, and when I dismounted it was with difficulty that I could walk into the house. For the first time I had backed a Mexican saddle, which, though pleasant to ride upon when you have become accustomed to them, generally punish the uninitiated for a few days. I thought to myself that, if thus crippled in the first day's ride, there would be nothing of me left long before the circuit should be completed. In a little while supper was announced, when we were seated at a well-filled board, presided over by Mrs. Clark in person, contrary to the general custom of Mexican ladies, who do not eat with their guests. Soon after, the colchones were spread upon the floor, when we retired, and slept soundly until morning.

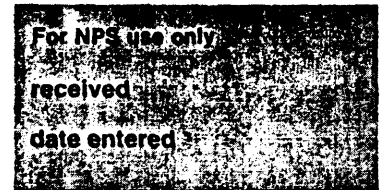
Elias Clark died of consumption in 1860, at the age of 45. His brother, Louis Clark, took over his dry goods store in the nearby village of Plaza Alcalde. Louis was shot and killed in 1876 at his store in Alcalde by a man to whom Clark had the day before denied credit.

The property of Los Luceros passed to Eliza Clark, only offspring of Elias and Maria Marta Clark, who was nine years old when her father died. In the mid-1860s, at the age of about 15, Eliza married a young farmer named Luis M. Ortiz. The 1870 census lists Eliza (age 19) and Luis (age 22) living at Los Luceros with a baby daughter and a Navajo servant family. By 1880, they had four children: Teresita, Gaspar, Clotilde, and Beatrice.

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Luis Ortiz became sheriff of Rio Arriba County. It was while he was sheriff in the late 19th century that the small flat-roofed building to the west of the house is said to have been used as a jail. It could have been erected at that time.

It is also possible that Eliza and Luis Ortiz were responsible for some of the Territorial Style remodeling to the ranch house, in the late 1860s or the 1870s. Structural evidence indicates a series of renovations in the Greek Revival Style and local tradition attributes remodelings to both Elias Clark and Luis Ortiz.

Eliza and Luis Ortiz donated the chapel, then called the Church of the Holy Family, to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 1891. They are buried beneath the floor near the altar. The chapel is a fine example of a small rural church of the Territorial Period. The date of construction is uncertain.

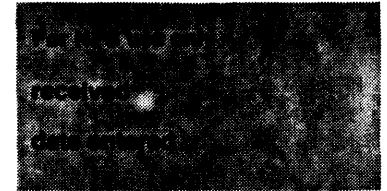
The Late Victorian cottage could be dated stylistically from the 1880s or 1890s. It is said to have been built by Abel E. Lucero, perhaps about 1902 when he acquired the property from his parents Lucas and Maria Manuela Lucero. It is also possible that the cottage was built prior to 1902, the date the property was officially donated. Abel, who was 21 in that year, is said by descendants to have built the house for his wife, Ursula. According to family tradition, the men of the Lucero family helped him to build it.

The cottage is an interesting combination of New Mexican building materials and techniques, and design and detailing derived from the architectural style of "the States." The walls are of adobe but the plan and millwork are similar to types that could have been mail-ordered from catalogs. The woodwork was, however, probably produced by a local mill. The flat-pedimented windows and the bull's eye windows appear to have been inspired by the late 1880s remodeling of the old San Juan Pueblo Church (since demolished). The cottage was erected on a fifteen-acre farm which, although in the midst of Los Luceros Ranch, apparently never left Lucero ownership when the ranch was purchased by the Clarks. Abel's grandfather Juan Manuel Lucero had transferred the property to Lucas Lucero. The neighboring property owners were all members of related families. Juan Manuel Lucero was the grandson of Santiago Lucero and his wife Barbara, who was the granddaughter of Sebastian Martin. Lucas Lucero, who also owned a large ranch nearby, was the uncle of Luis Ortiz and was related to Ortiz's wife, Eliza, through her mother Maria Marta Lucero Clark. Abel Lucero was a well-known folk-weaver.

During the early 20th century, Los Luceros was abandoned by the Ortiz family. Left unattended, rain seeped through the flat mud roof and deteriorated the adobe walls. Some windows were broken and stripped of their woodwork. Irrigation flooding undermined the walls. In 1923, the property was purchased by Mary Cabot Wheelwright.

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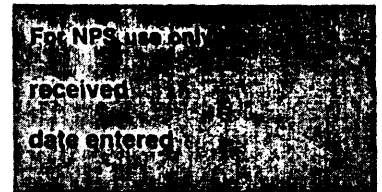
The buildings were restored for her by Mrs. Richard (Caroline) Pfaffle. During this renovation, Mrs. Pfaffle changed the fenestration and some other features of the ranch house, "jail", guest house to that of the Spanish Colonial-Pueblo Revival Style then popular in New Mexico. The remodeling is an interesting and early example of New Mexico's Spanish Revival Style and has acquired historic significance of its own. Some Territorial woodwork remains on the interior of the ranch house. The guest house, a simple L-shaped adobe building built about 1900, probably as a foreman's house, was occupied by Mrs. Pfaffle while she directed the renovations. Mary Wheelwright later used the building for housing guests.

Mary Wheelwright was an important art patron and collector who founded the Museum of Navajo Ceremonial Art in Santa Fe (now called the Wheelwright Museum). After her death in 1958, Los Luceros was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collier who established the Instituto Internacional de Arte Colonial Iberico and endowed it with their collection of Spanish colonial paintings.

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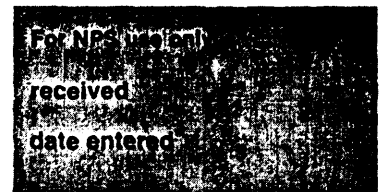
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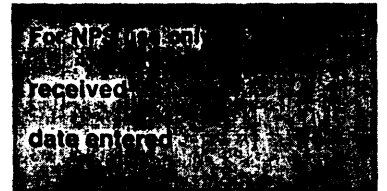
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Interviews:

Maria Chabot
2704 Veranda Road, N.W.
Albuquerque, NM
344-6513

Joe Lopez
Los Luceros

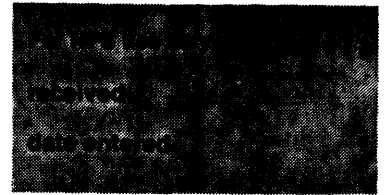
Marie S. Lopez
P.O. Box 34
San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566
852-2450

Fred Lucero
Santa Fe
983-7501

Father Leo Lucero
Cristo Rey Church
Santa Fe
983-8528

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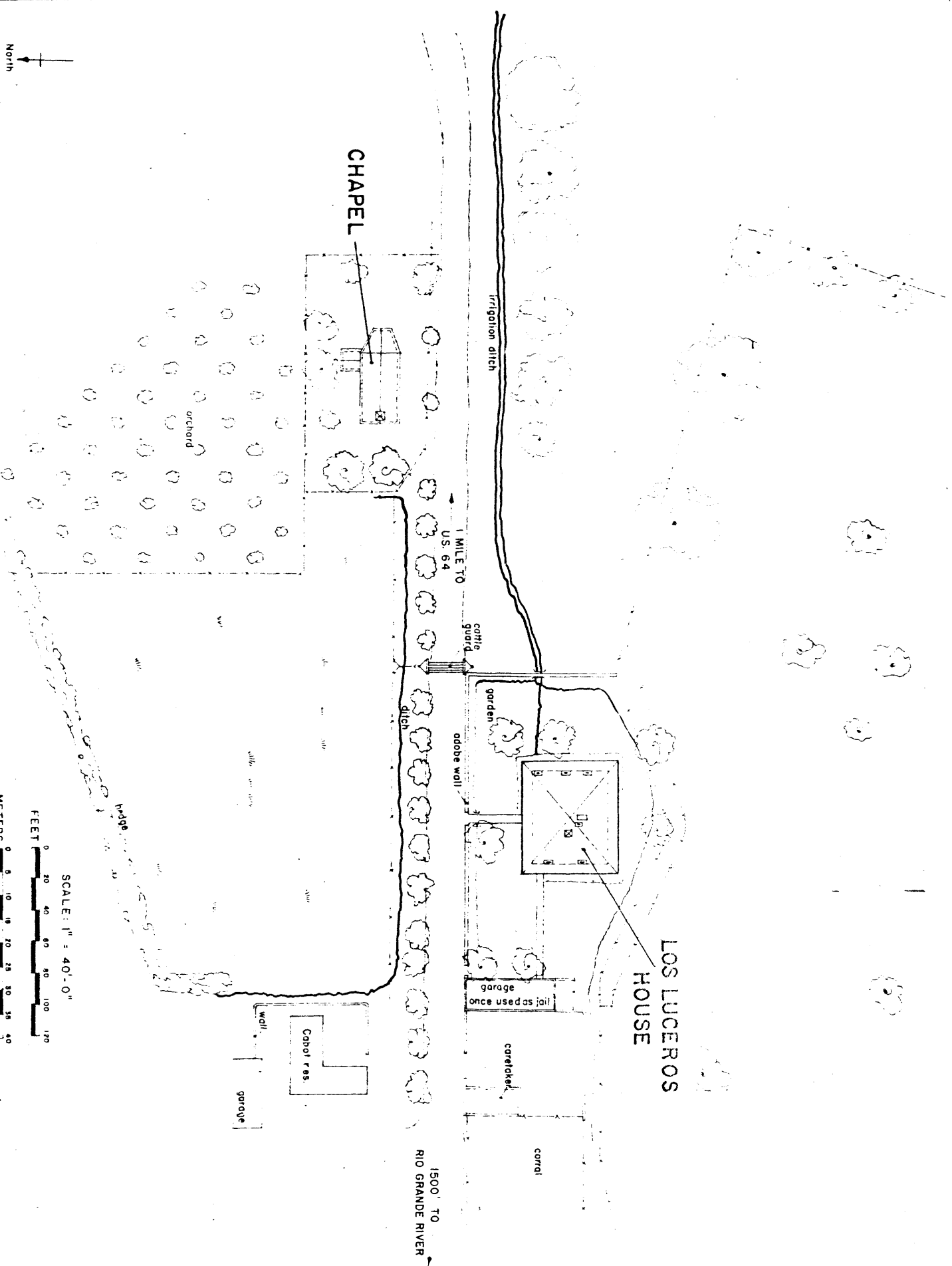
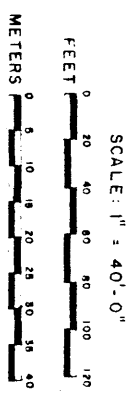
The boundaries are drawn to include the main complex of buildings associated with Los Luceros, including five contributing structures and one non-contributing structure (a reconstructed office building). The boundaries start at a point 100 feet northwest of the "jailhouse" in the middle of the road that runs between the buildings. From this point it runs 150 feet southwest and turns southeast and runs 900 feet southeast. It then turns northeast and runs 300 feet northeast, crossing the road. From a point 150 feet northeast of the road, the boundary turns northwest and runs northwest for 900 feet. It then turns southeast 150 feet and joins the starting point in the middle of the road, 100 feet northwest of the jailhouse.

Leon J. Hotelcheck, Del.
 UNDER DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RIO ARriba COUNTY
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros Chapel PLOT PLAN

SHEET NO.
54
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 1 OF 5 SHEETS



CHapel

LOS LUCEROS
 HOUSE

1500' TO
 RIO GRANDE RIVER

Leon J. Holbeck, Del.
UNDER PROTECTION OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS ACT AND THE ANTI-RAZING ACT
NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

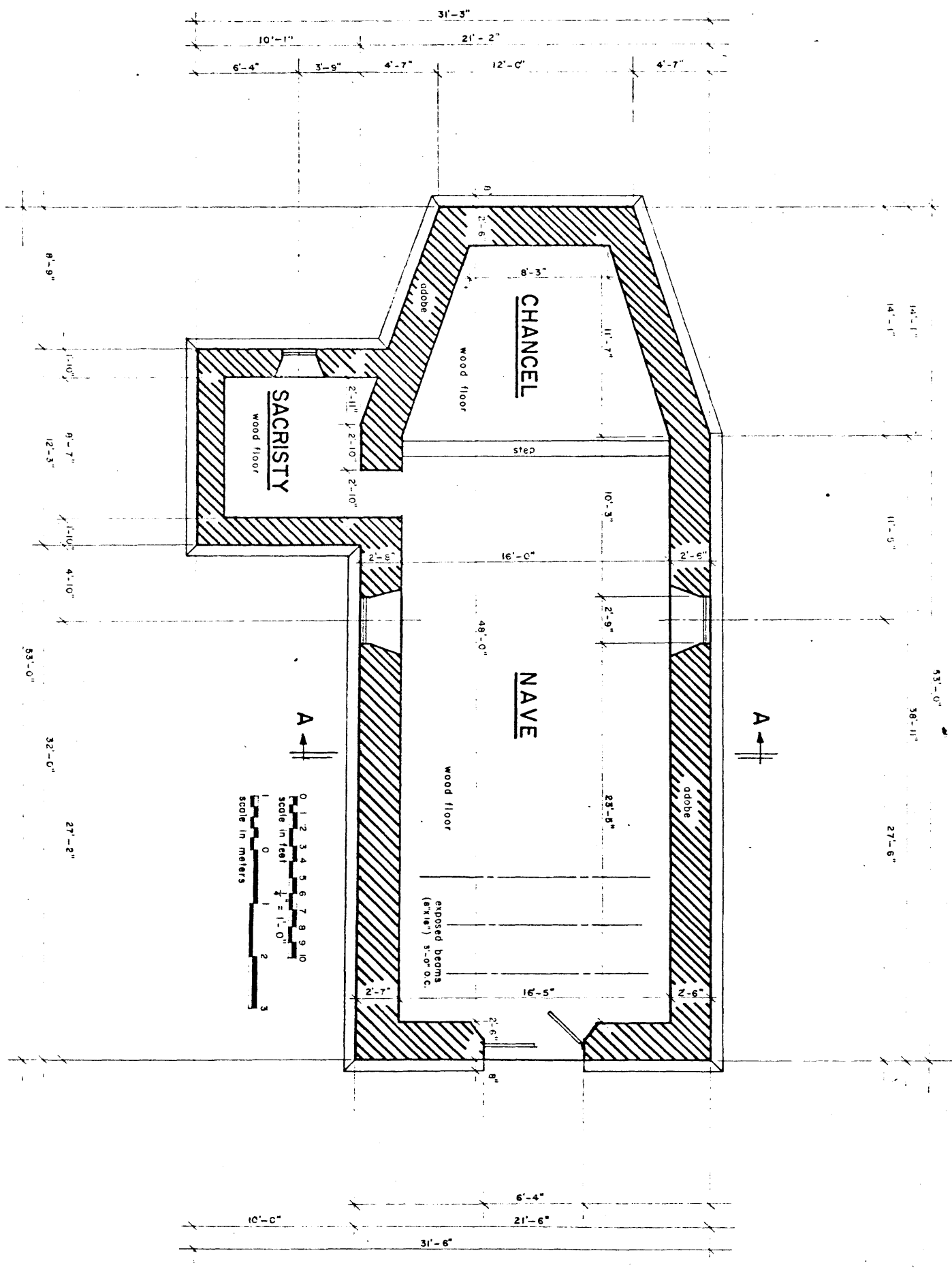
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros Chapel

FLOOR PLAN

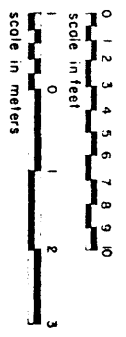
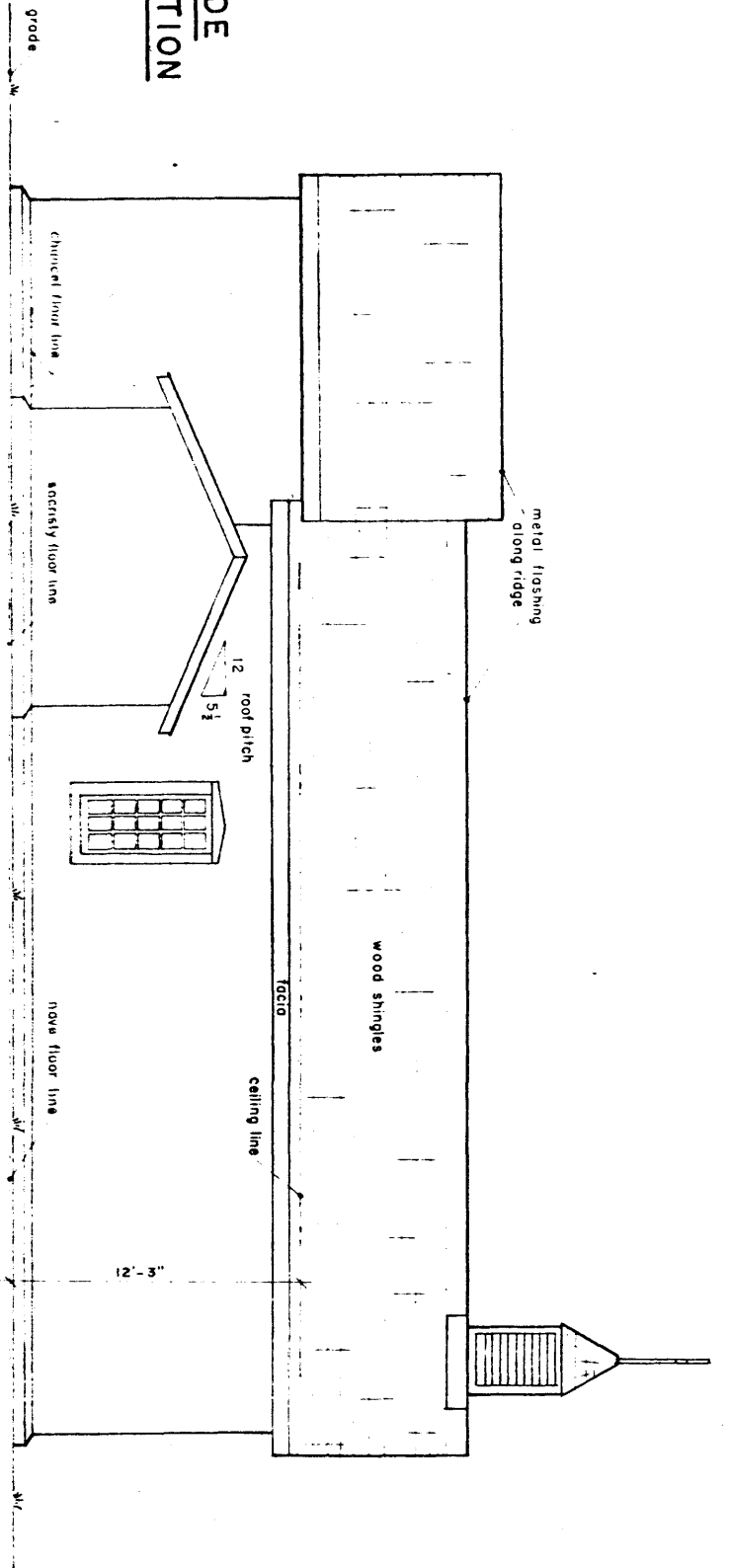
SHEET NO.
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 5 SHEETS

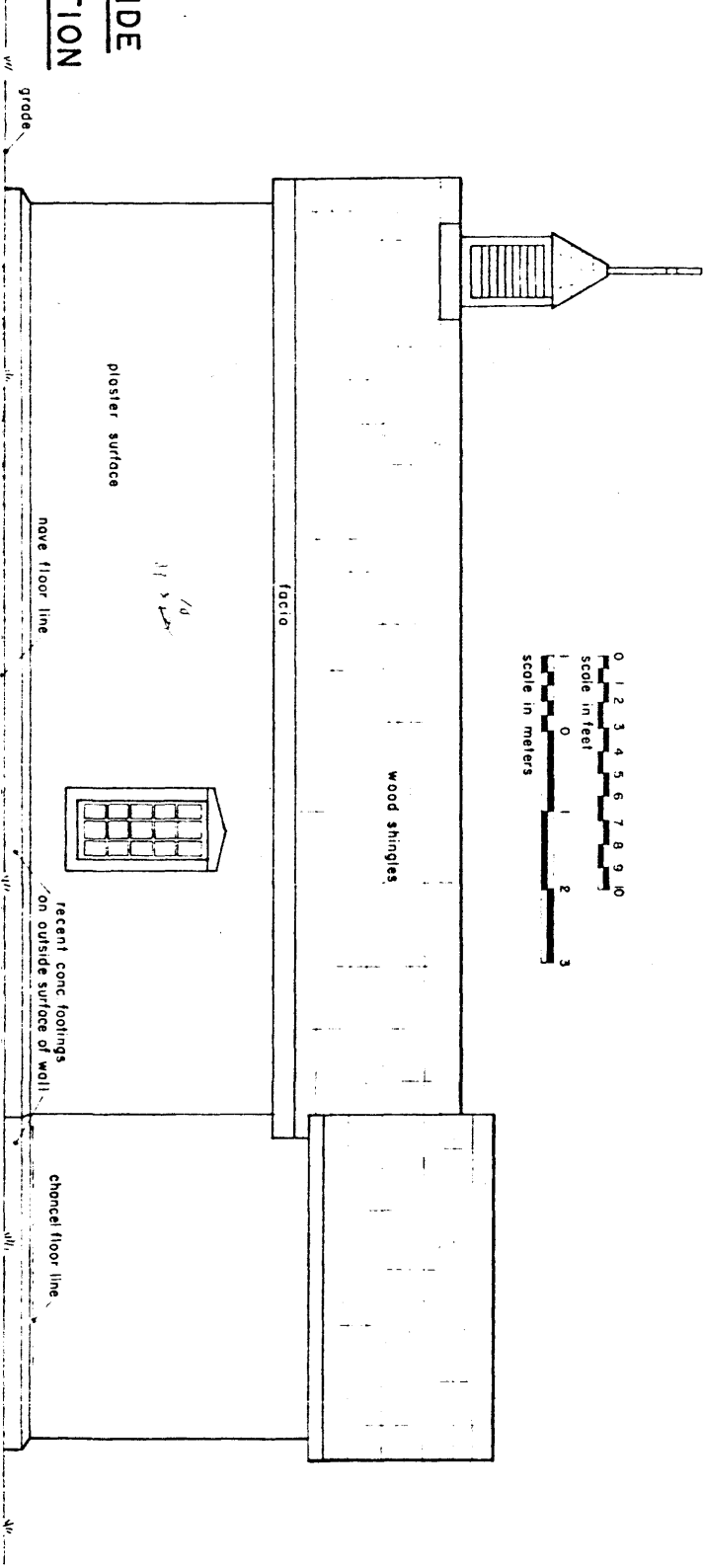


DATE PLOTTED
MAY 1988

**LEFT SIDE
ELEVATION**



**RIGHT SIDE
ELEVATION**



Leon J. Hochbeck, Del.
 VALID THROUGH APRIL 15, 1934
 OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

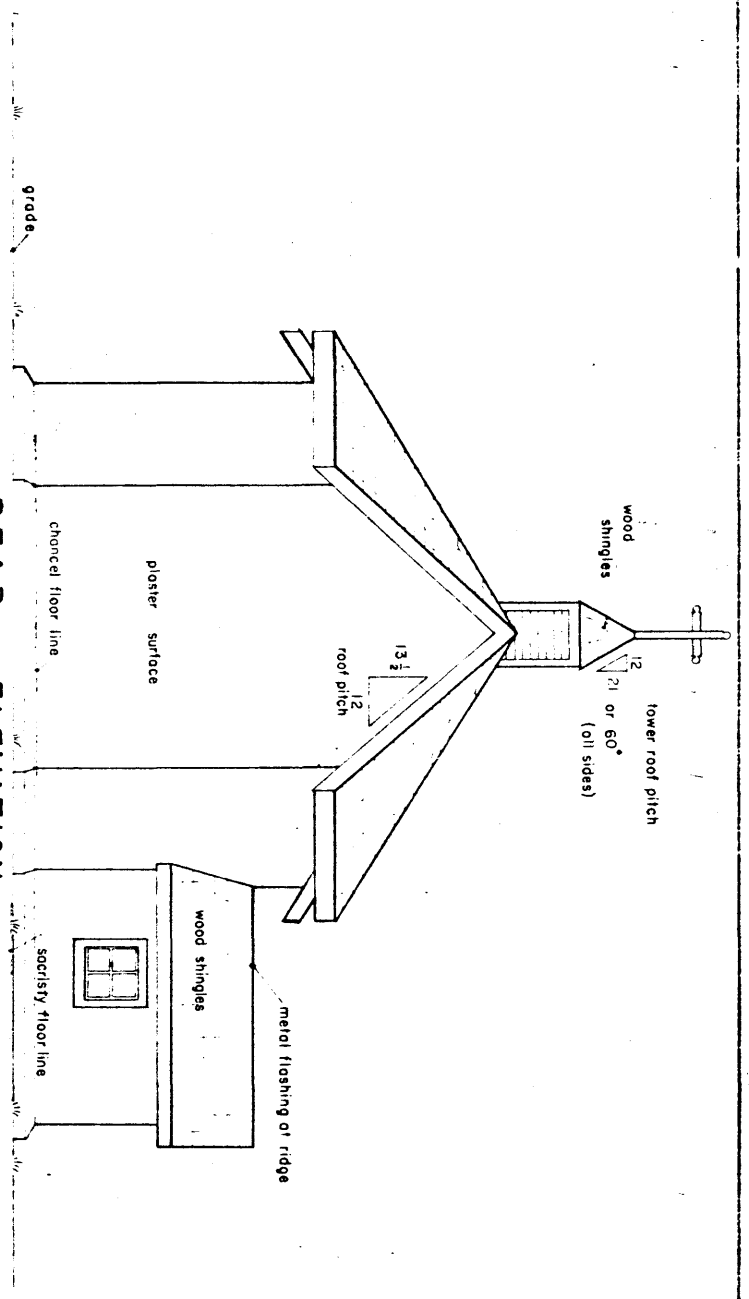
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros Chapel
 ELEVATIONS

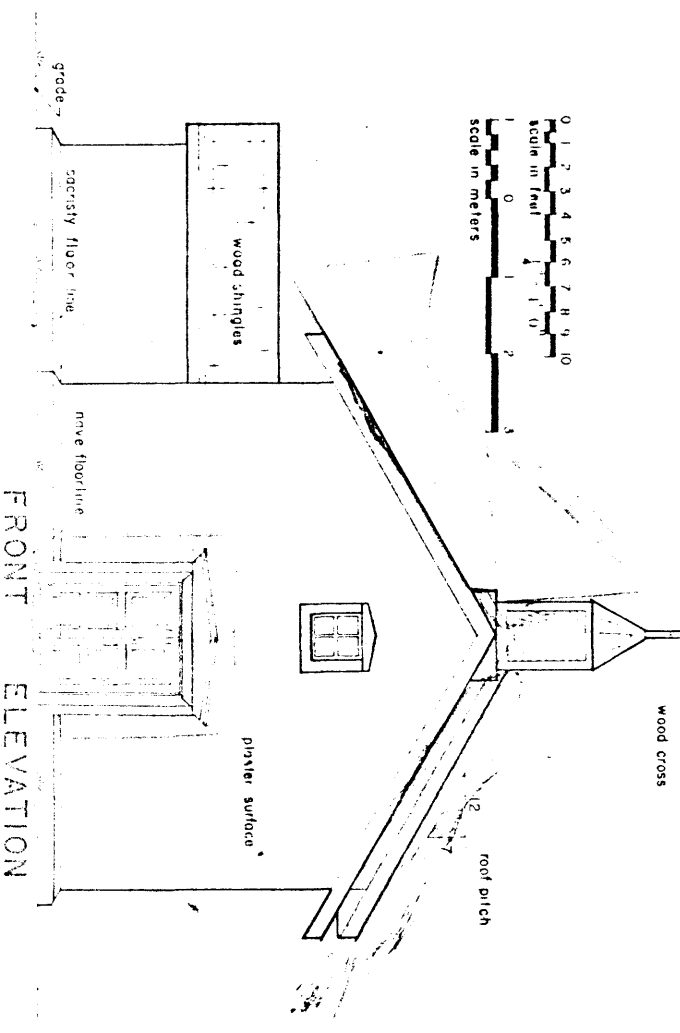
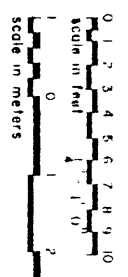
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 3 OF 5 SHEETS

DATE 1934



REAR ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION

Leon of Holschack, Civil
 ARCHITECT
 1000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

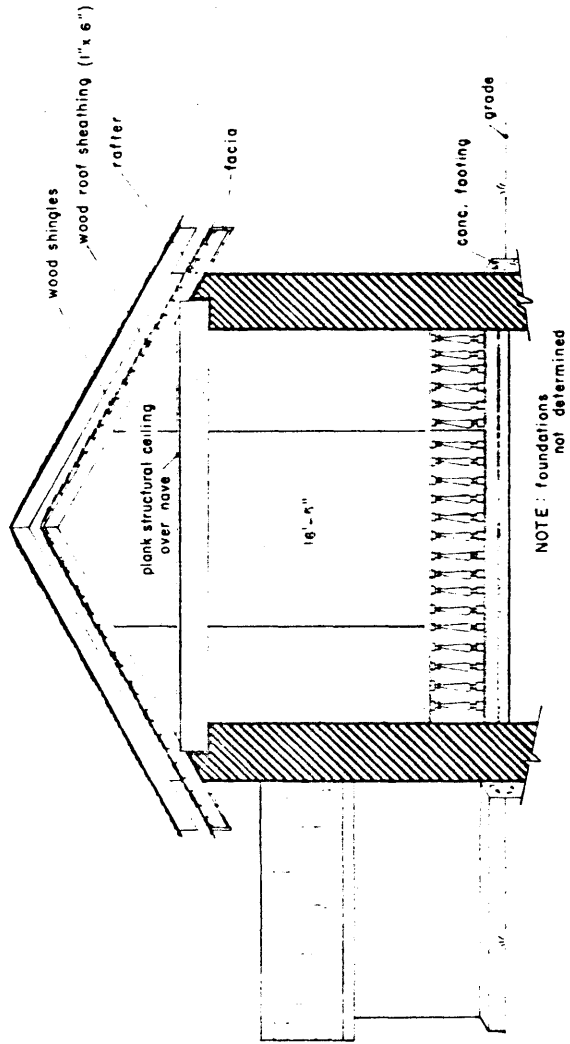
MID ARIZONA COUNTY,
 NEW MEXICO

Los Luceros Chapel

ELEVATIONS

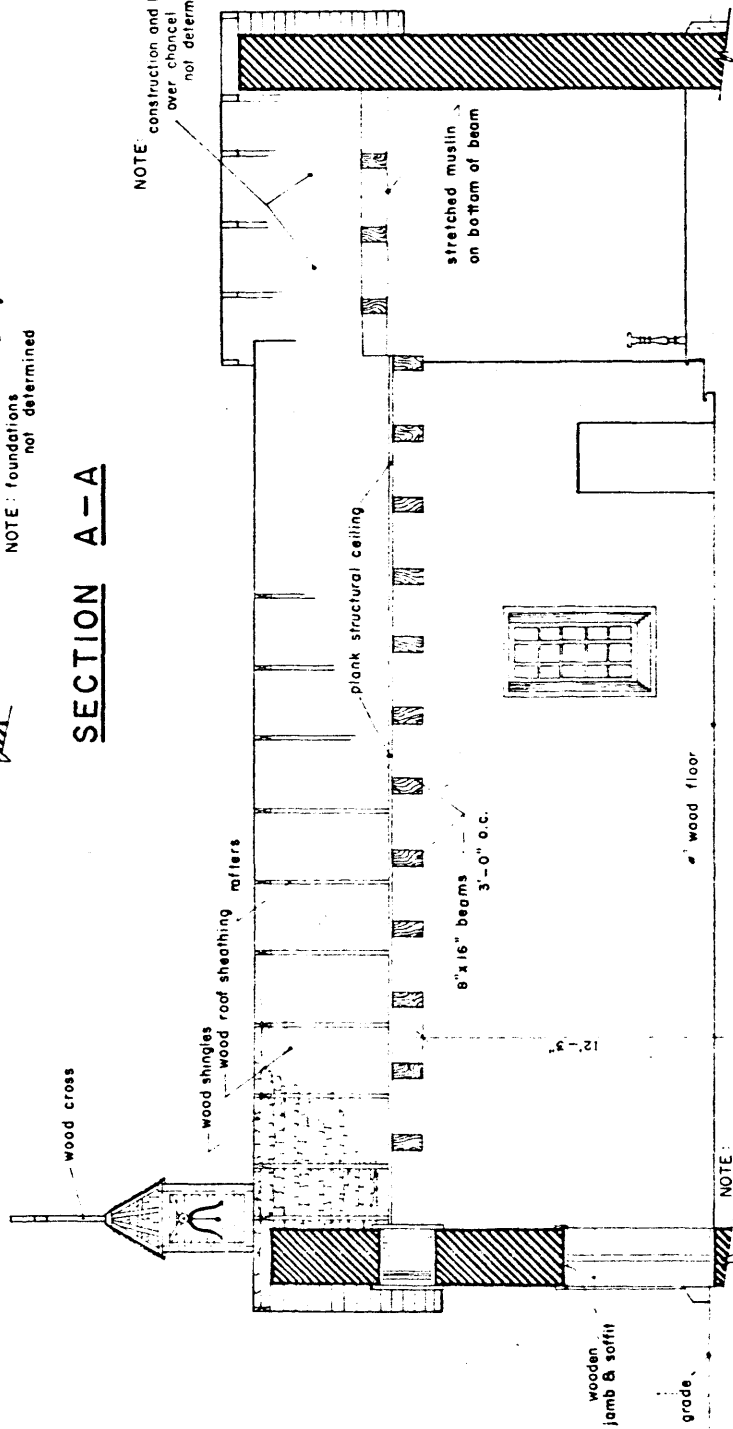
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 4 OF 5 SHEETS



NOTE: construction and beams over chancel not determined

SECTION A-A



NOTE: Foundations not determined



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

Leon J. Holeczek, Del.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE, BUTTE, MONTANA 59717-2500

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
NEW MEXICO

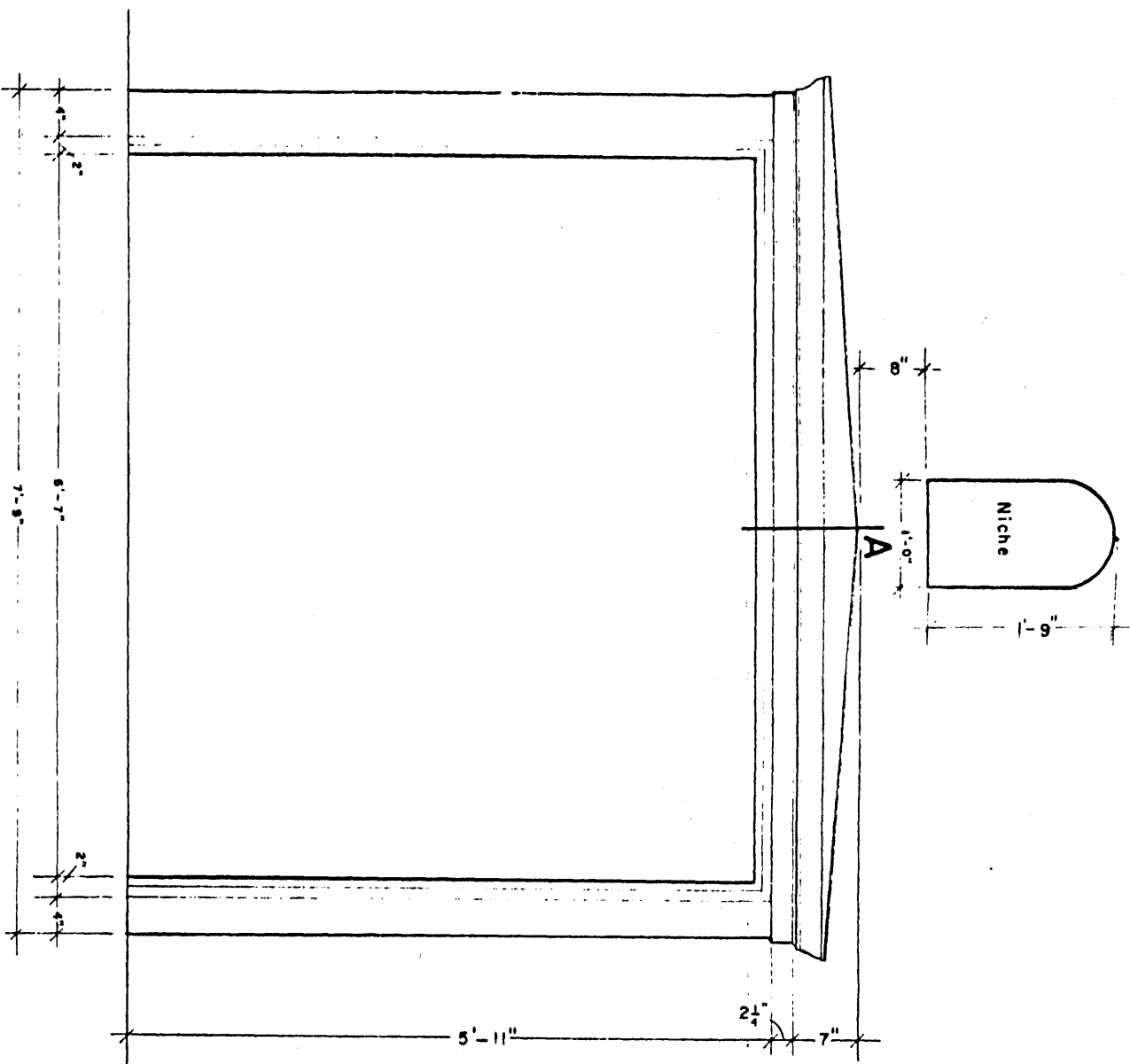
NAME OF STRUCTURE

Los Luceros Chapel

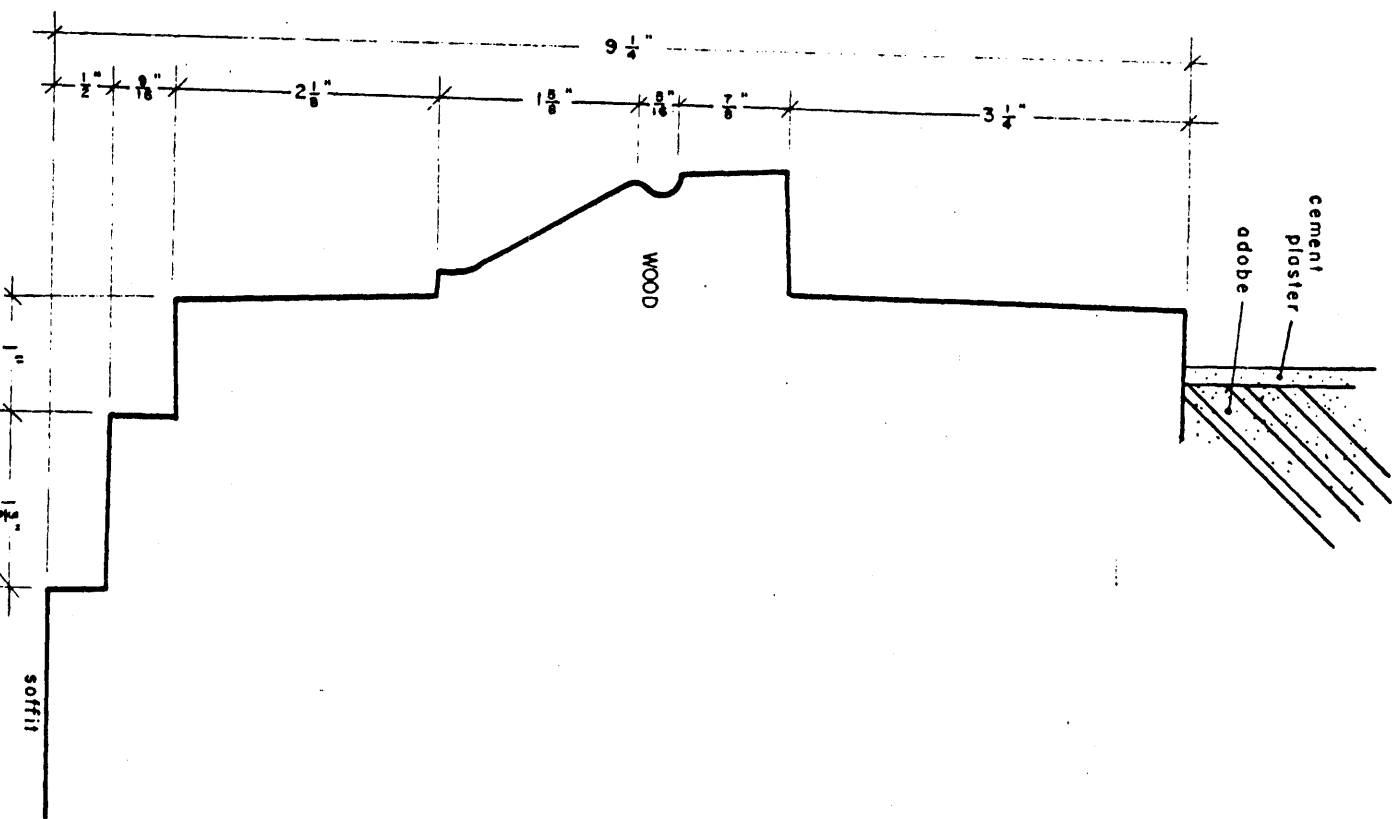
SECTIONAL VIEWS

SHEET NO
NM 54

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 5 OF 5 SHEETS



ELEVATION
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



DETAIL OF CORNICE AT A
— FULL SCALE —

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF ARCHITECTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD SERVICE BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

RIO ARRIBA COUN
NEW MEXICO

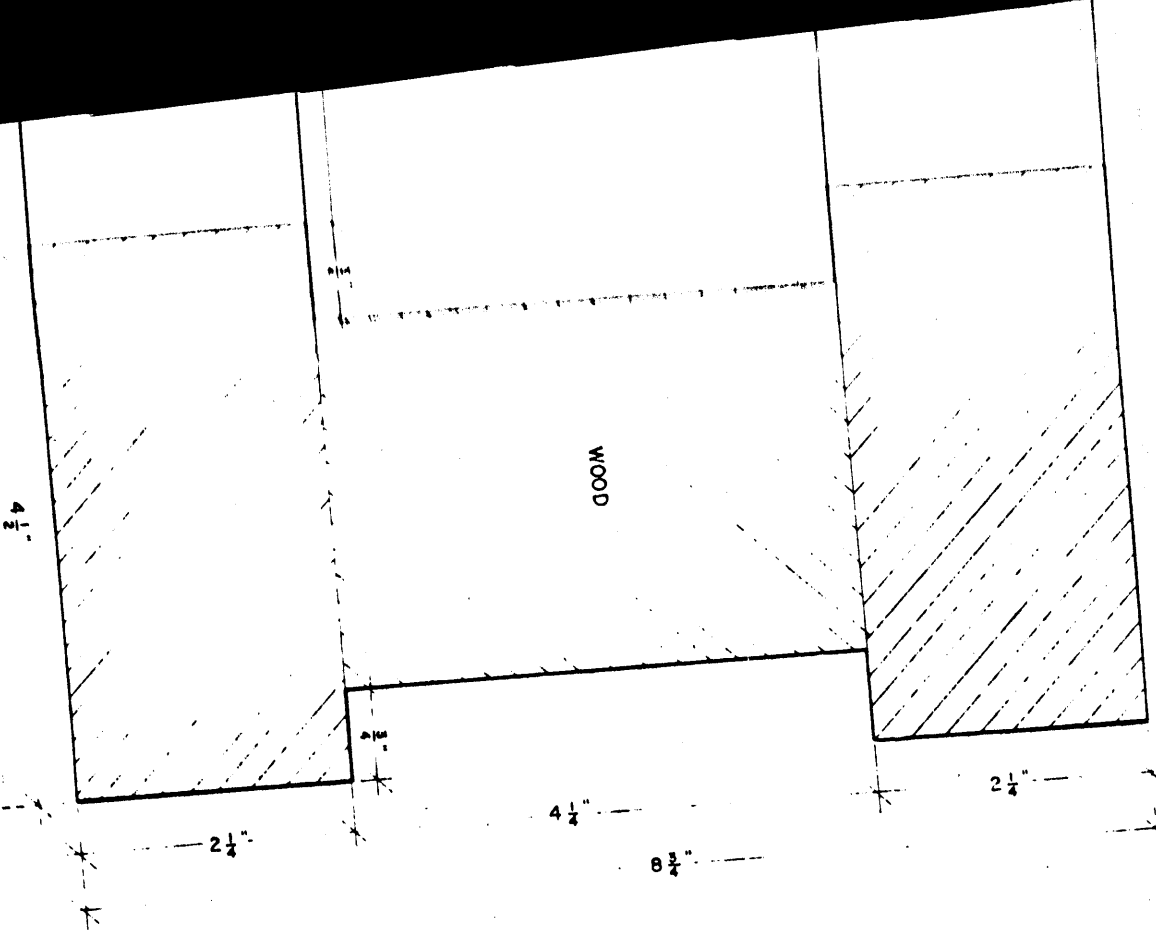
NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House

LIVING ROOM
DOORWAY DETAILS

SURVEY NO.
NM
54

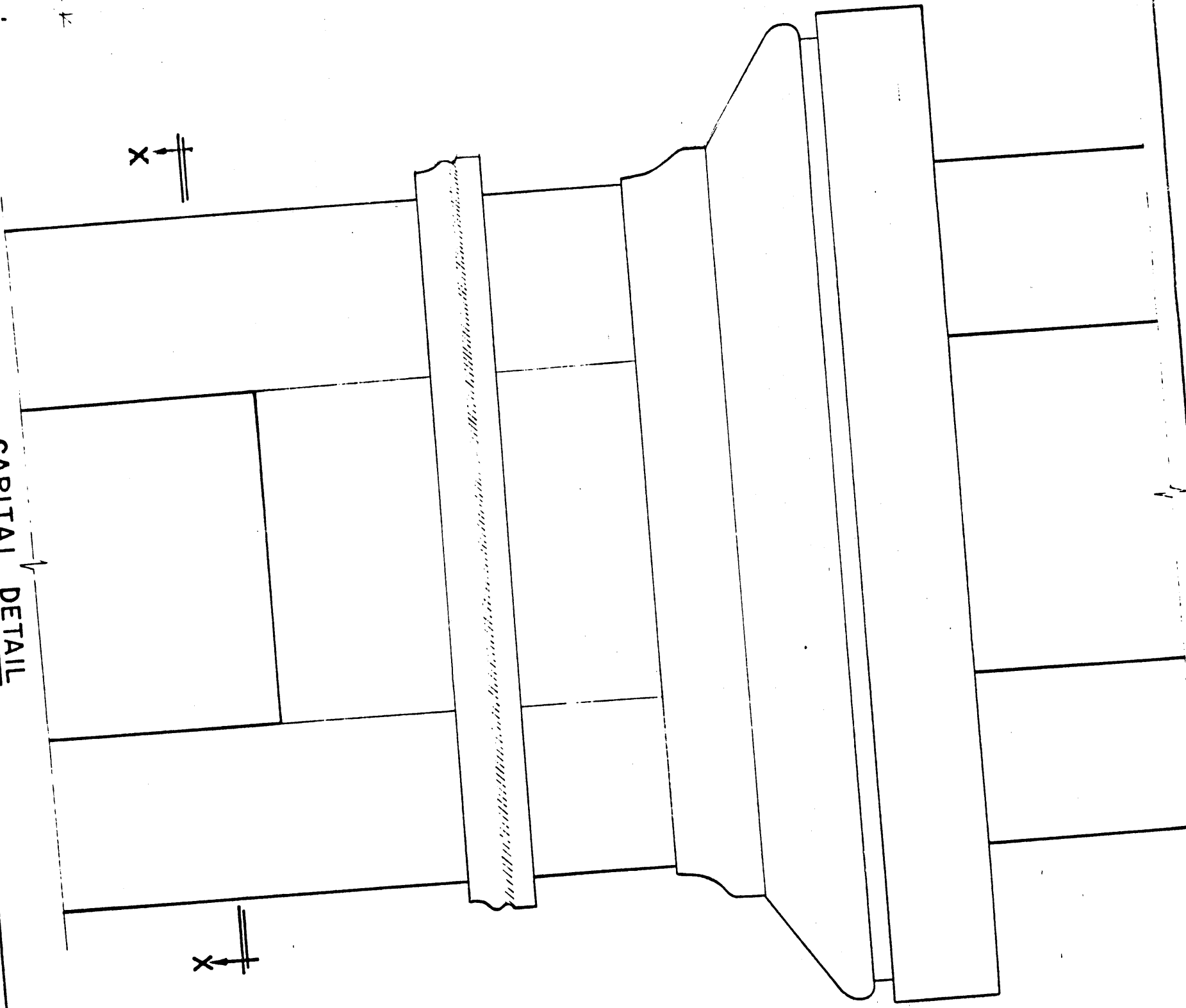
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 7 OF 9 SHEETS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
PRINTING OFFICE



SECTION X-X

— FULL SCALE —



CAPITAL DETAIL

X

X

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House

COLUMN DETAILS

SHEET NO.
NM 54

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 8 OF 9 SHEETS

DATE OF DRAWING
NOV 1938

LEON V. ROEBECK
 ARCHITECT
 1000 G STREET, N.W.
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

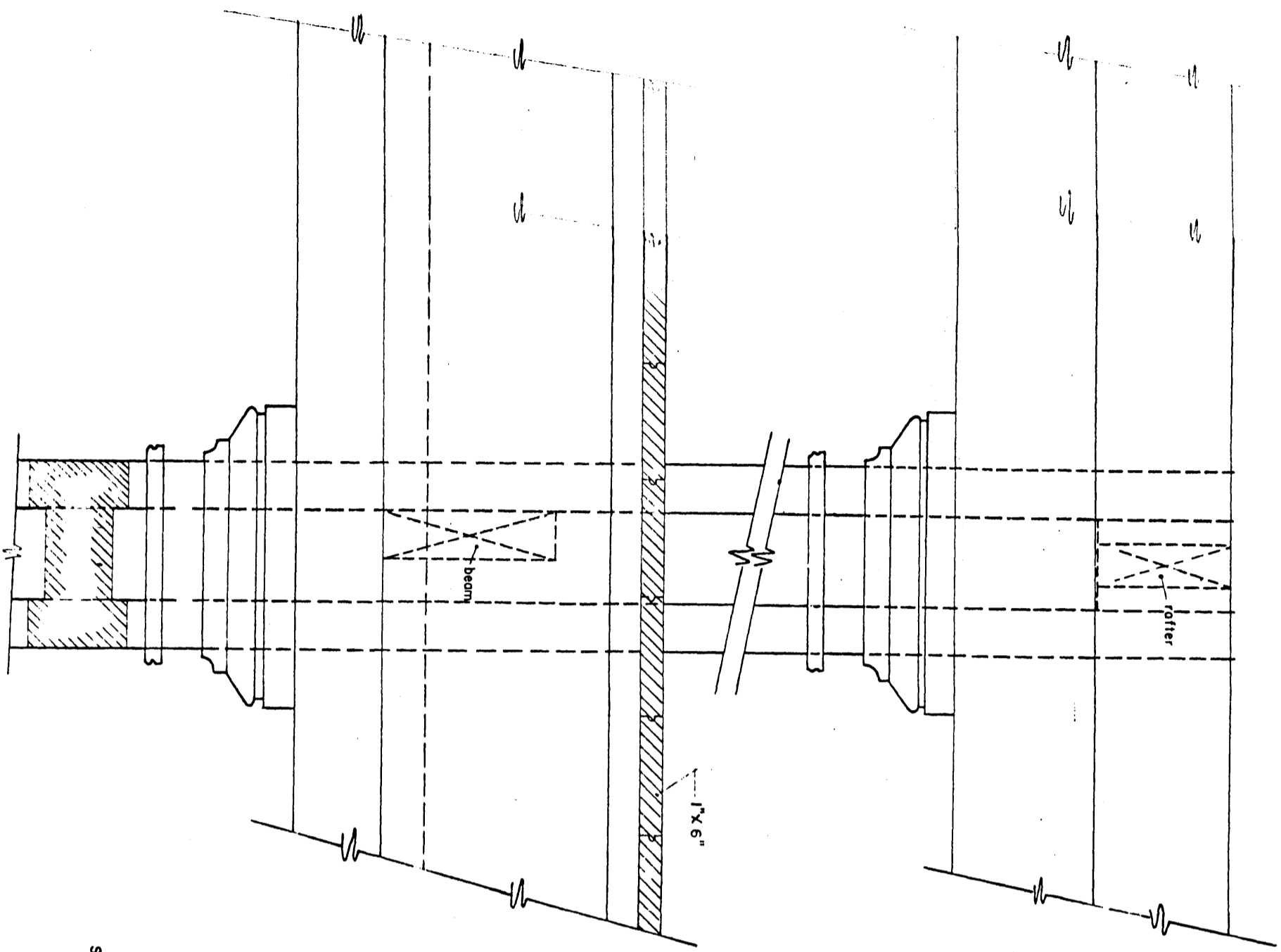
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY,
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House

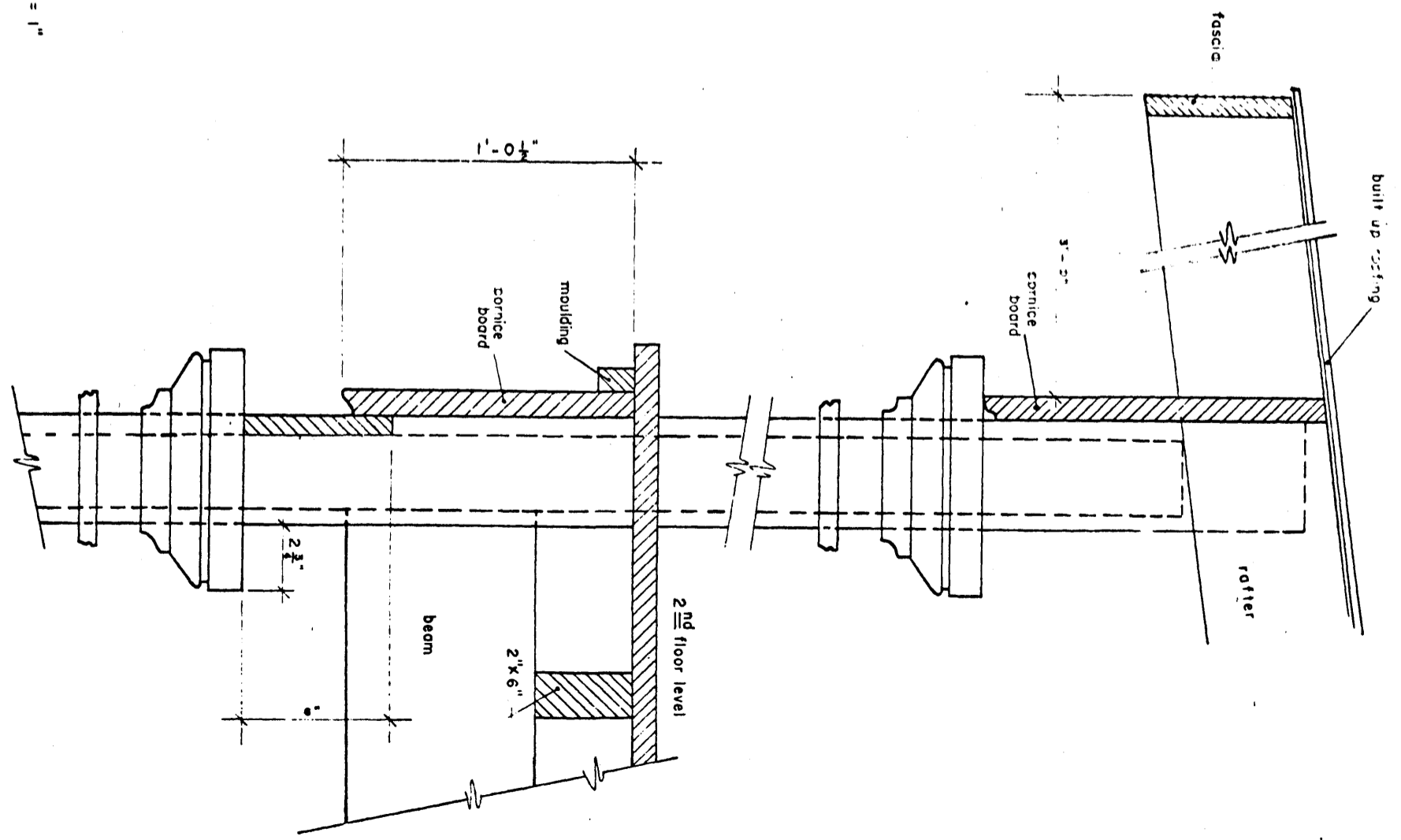
ROOF & BALCONY
 DETAILS

SURVEY NO.
NM 54

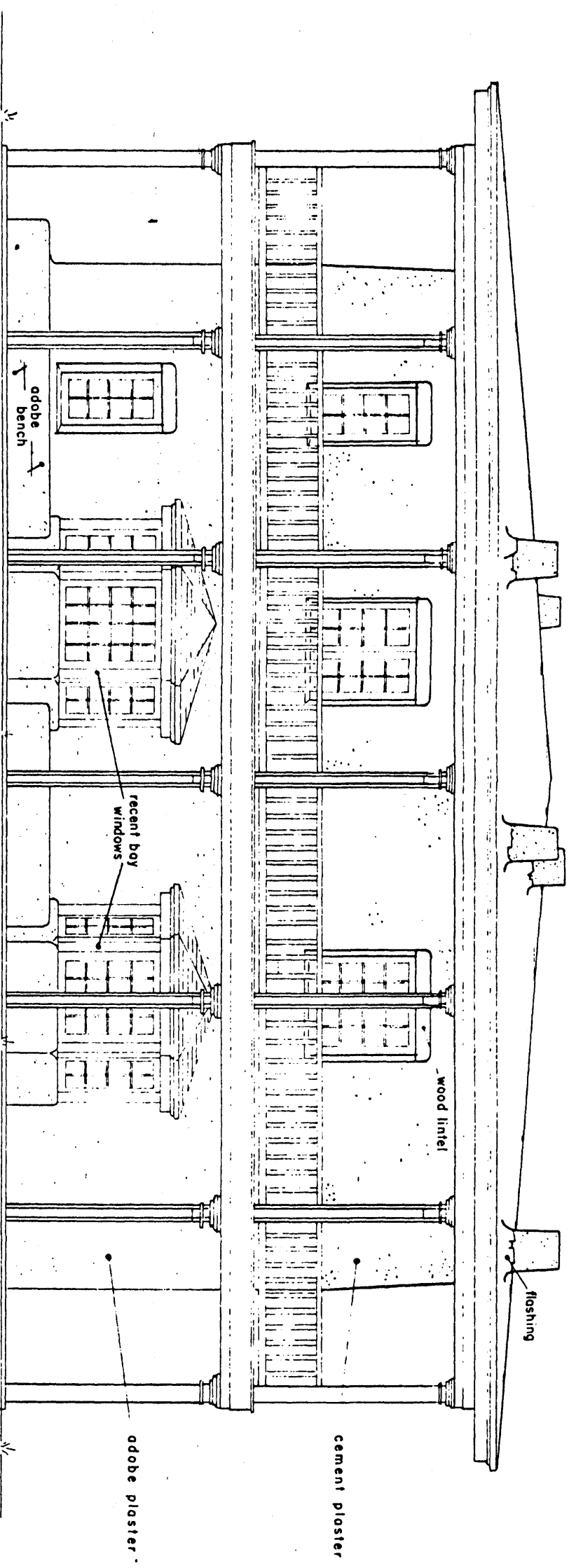
HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 9 OF 9 SHEETS



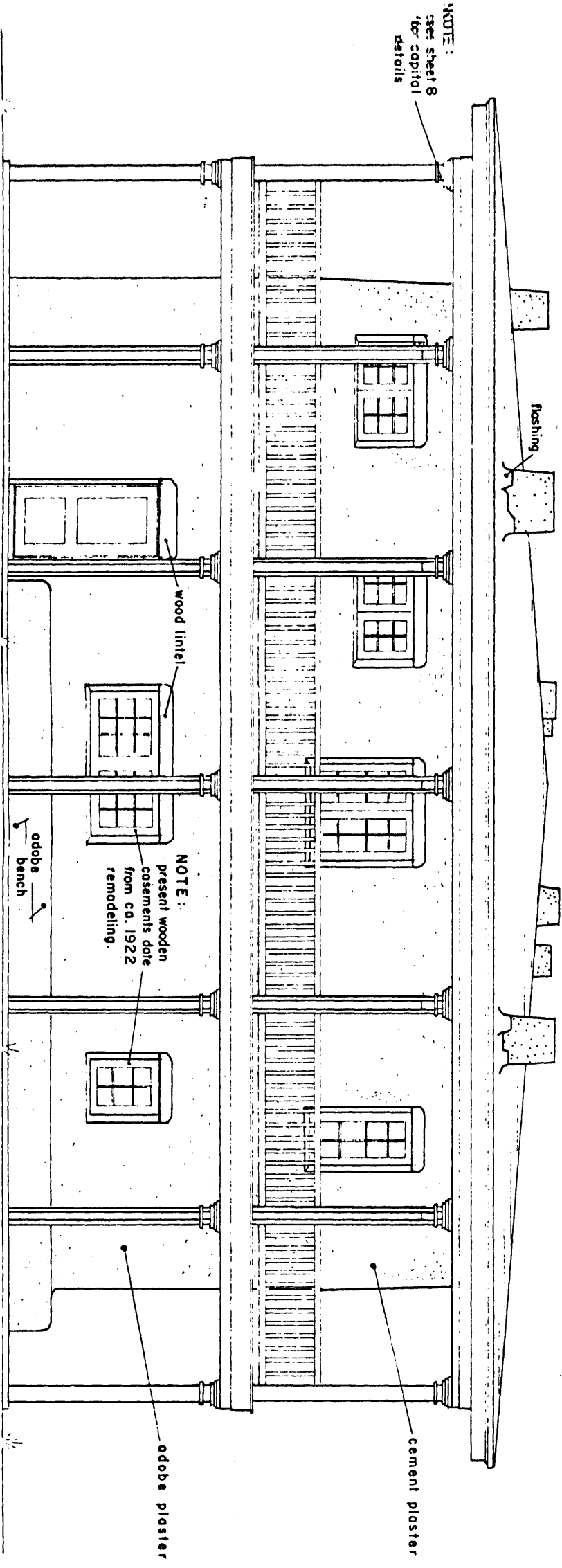
SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$



DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
 NOT KNOWN



LEFT SIDE ELEVATION



RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

LORAIN ARCHITECTS
 MODEL A - 1922
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY,
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House Elevations

SURVEY NO.
NM 54

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 5 OF 9 SHEETS

LORAIN ARCHITECTS
 1001 B ST. N.E.

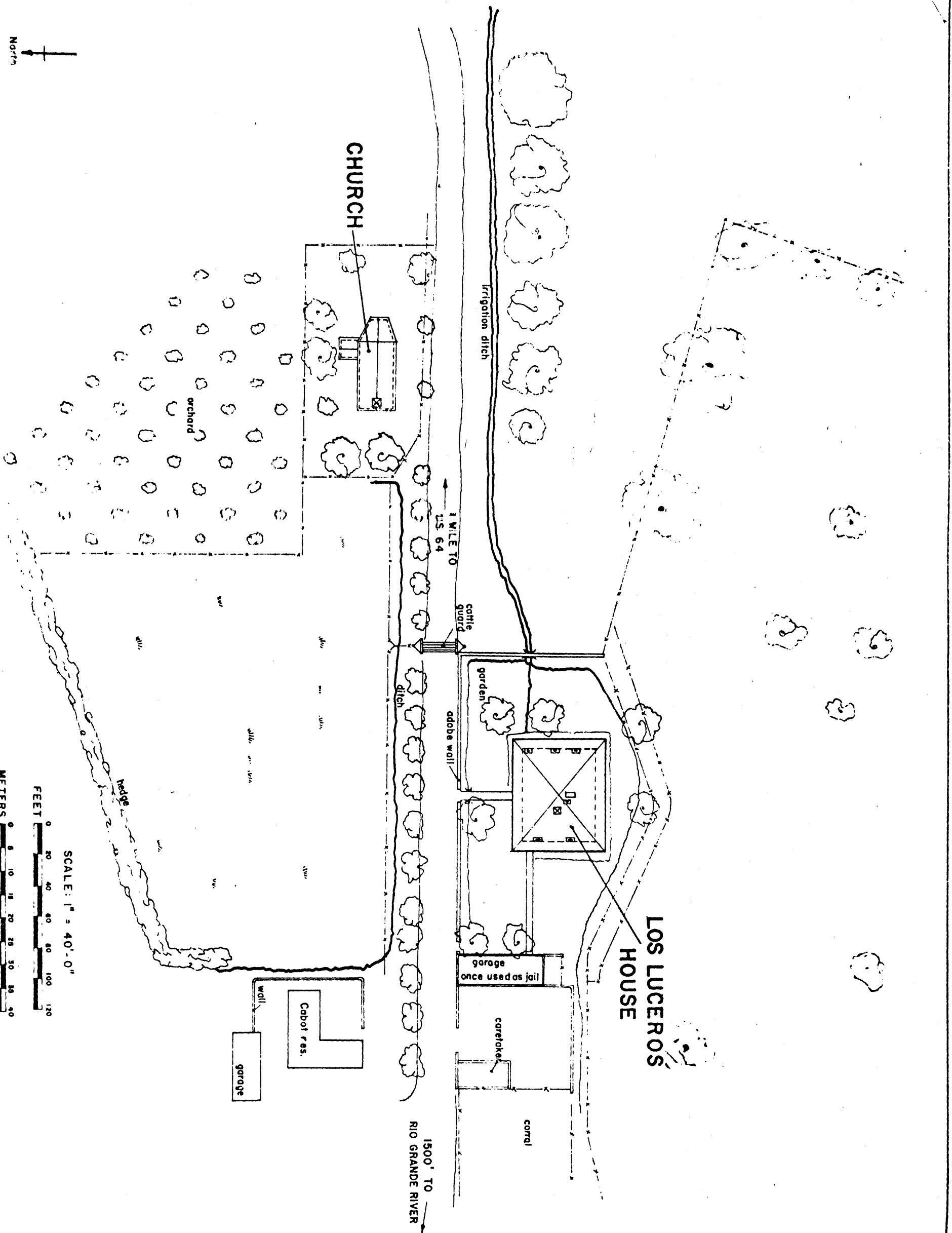
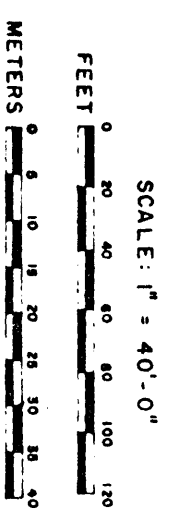
LEON J. HERTZBECK, Del.
 UNDER DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL BUREAU OF SURVEY AND MAPPING, DIVISION OF PLANS AND DESIGN

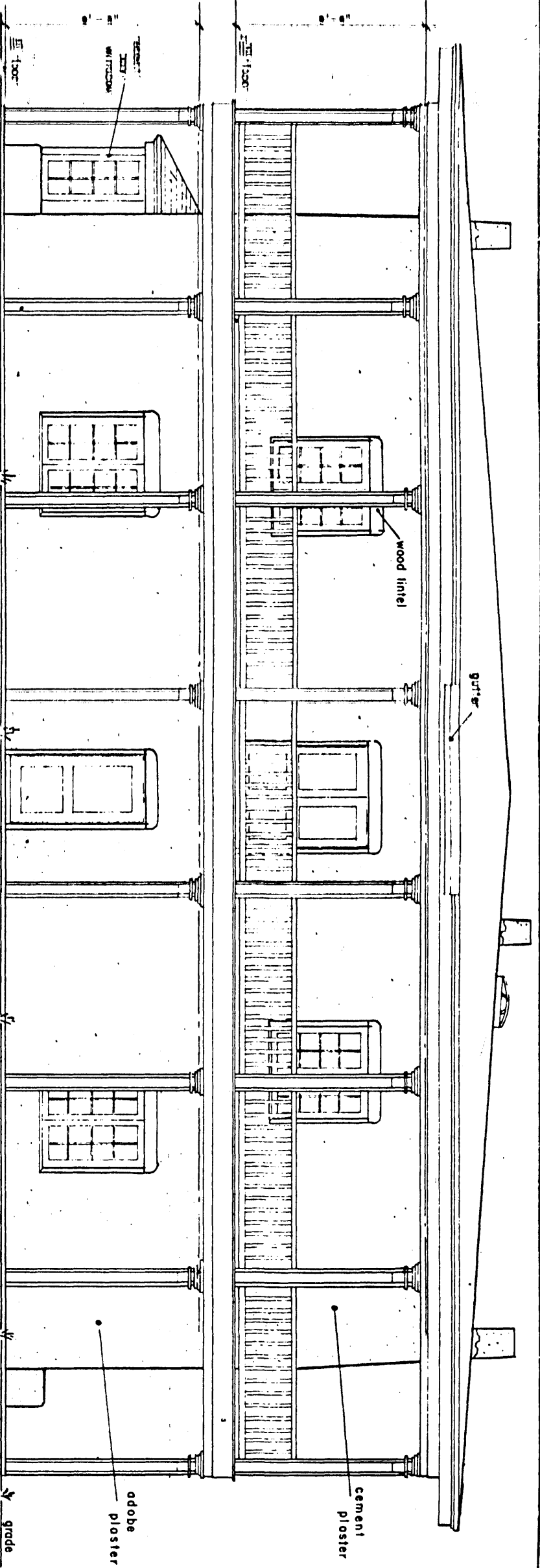
RIO ARriba COUNTY
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House PLOT PLAN

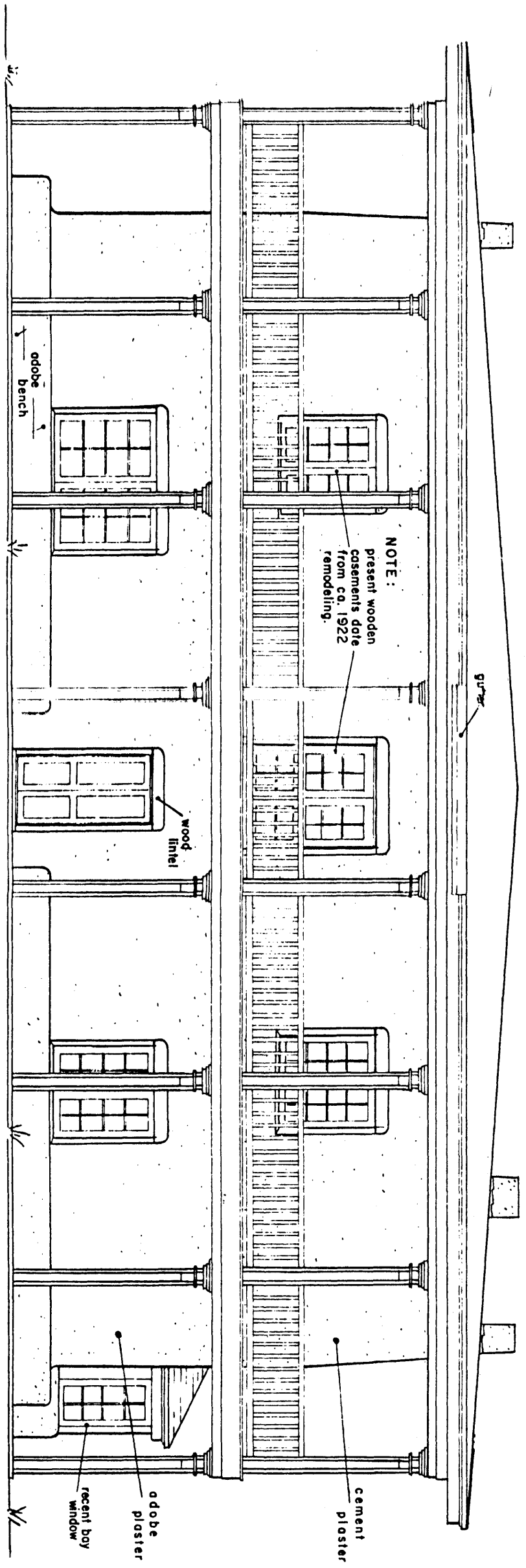
SURVEY NO.
NM 54

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 1 OF 9 SHEETS





FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

NOTE:
present wooden
casements date
from ca. 1922
remodeling.

PROJECT NO. 101
NAME OF ARCHITECT
JAMES EARL RAYBURN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

RIO ARriba COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO

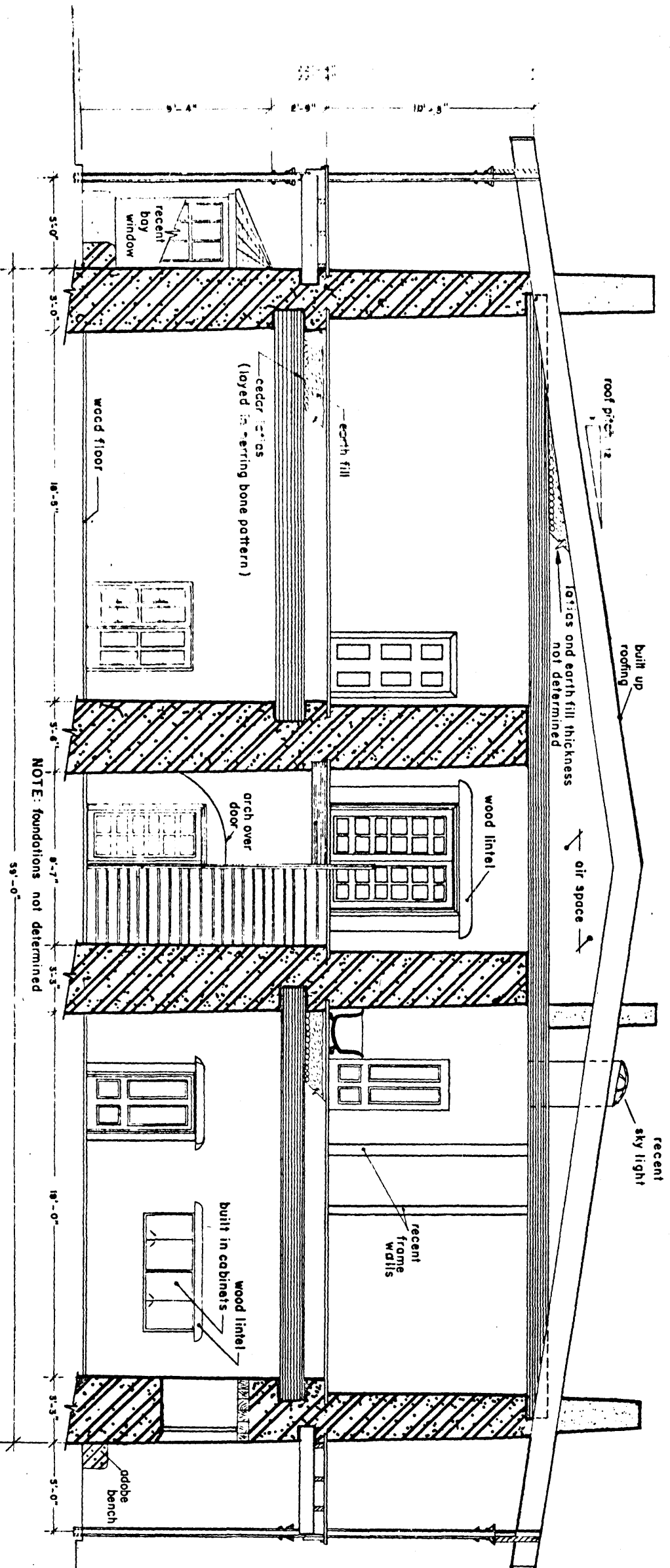
NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House
Elevations

SURVEY NO.
NM
54

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 9 SHEETS

DATE OF DRAWING
1954

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECTION A-A

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

DRG. L. ROBERTSON, Del.
 ARCHITECT
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY,
 NEW MEXICO

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Los Luceros House

SECTIONAL VIEW

SURVEY NO.
NM 54

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 6 OF 9 SHEETS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 ARCHIVE