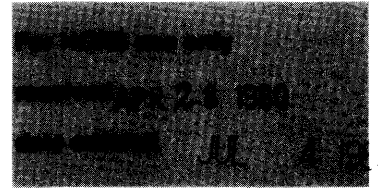


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Felipe Chaves House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 325 Lala St. not for publication

city, town Belen vicinity of congressional district 1st

state New Mexico code 35 county Valencia code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Shirley and Neith Pollard

street & number 325 Lala

city, town Belen vicinity of state New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Valencia County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Los Lunas vicinity of state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of state

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

The Felipe Chaves House is an excellent example of the Territorial Style. The house has a rectangular plan, 92 x 60 feet, and is topped by a flat roof. At the front is a simple portal with square wood posts. Both the interior and exterior walls are adobe which is 30 inches thick. There are four entrances to the house, one on each side. The east and front entrance is the most elaborate, with double doors flanked by fluted pilasters and top lights. Above is an elaborate ogee and classicized molding. The paired casement windows which flank the front door are equally elaborate. They have a heavy classicized molding below the sill, fluted pilasters and a pediment at the top.

The north and south facades are simpler. Neither the doors nor windows have elaborate moldings. There are wood canales to drain the roof. The rear facade is in the poorest state of repair, with patches of adobe exposed. One window has a simple pedimented molding. The rear entry is a plain zaguan. One small window has an exposed lintel.

At the rear of the house is a court yard which extends back to servants' quarters. On the two sides of the courtyard are 10-foot adobe walls. The servants' quarters is a flat-roof, rectangular plan structure also constructed of adobe. The windows and doors are plain.

The interior of the Chaves House is in nearly original condition. There are nine rooms around the central sala. All four zaguans lead into the sala. The sala is the room which is most changed, with its fireplace and clerestoried ceiling. One other fireplace was also added. The floors are either of wood or brick and the ceilings planks and milled lumber vigas. The walls are plastered.

Originally the house was topped by a hip roof with dormers and a widow's walk. A portal extended across the front. In 1941, the roof burned and was replaced by the present flat roof. The house was heated only by stoves, until the central heating and fireplaces were installed. Another change was the raised flat-roof over the sala, which allows for clerestory windows. The changes to the structure occurred after the 1941 fire, and remodeling began in 1970. The major remaining item in this project is repair of the rear wall.

The Chaves House is now isolated. On the east and south are the backs of small industries which face Main Street. To the north and west are tract houses. Felipe Chaves' store and stables were to the east. The infill indicates how much earlier the Chaves house was built than the town of Belen itself.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1860

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Felipe Chaves House is significant architecturally because it is a fine example of the Territorial Style. The Territorial Style is a combination of traditional New Mexican materials and construction and Greek Revival detailing. That the Chaves House was built in 1860 just 20 years prior to the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad, indicates the elaborate, fine detailing which evolved. The Santa Fe trade which began in 1821 introduced American goods and ideas. By 1860 this trade and that along the Camino Real were well established.

Belen was one of the towns on Santa Fe-Chihuahua Trail and Chaves was involved in the trade. His house, especially the original hip roof and the elaborate moldings, indicate his familiarity with Eastern American architecture. The Chaves House is one of the best examples of the late Territorial Style in Belen and the Rio Abajo.

Chaves obtained the land for his house in 1860 and immediately built the house. Chaves was born in 1835 in Los Padillas, south of Albuquerque. His father, Jose Chaves y Castillo, was governor of New Mexico in 1845. Manuela Armijo de Chaves, his mother, was a cousin to Manuel Armijo, the last Mexican Governor of New Mexico. Felipe Chaves moved to Belen in 1860 because a flood destroyed his house in Los Padillas. In Belen, Chaves established a mercantile business and livery stable. Quickly he established himself as a rancher and trader, freighting merchandise over the Santa Fe Trail and Camino Real. Chaves was also a stock holder in the AT&SF, and he learned the railroad was planning a line through Amarillo to New Mexico. The Belen merchant was critical to the railroad's decision to move the cutoff from Tijeras Canyon to Belen. Chaves died in 1905, just prior to the 1908 opening of the Belen cutoff.

After Felipe Chaves' death in 1905, the house went to Jose E. Chaves, his son. Jose had it until his death in 1935; his wife continued to live in it until 1937. That year Edmundo de Baca obtained the property and transferred it to Central Townsite Co. That company sold it to Rueben Perry in 1941. Perry sold the house to Hazel Chadwick in 1945, and she converted the house to apartments. Ten years later she sold it to Jose A. Rivas. Rivas then sold the structure to Gordon Snidow in 1969, and he began a renovation project. In 1978, the current owners obtained the property from Snidow.

Because Felipe Chaves was among the important Rio Abajo merchants, he established his mercantile business in 1860 and shortly thereafter expanded into cattle and sheep. Felipe's father, Jose Chaves, and his uncle Antonio Jose Chaves, were both active in the Santa Fe Trail trade, so Felipe got involved both in the Missouri to Santa Fe and Santa Fe to Chihuahua trades. He also had an agent at the New York Stock Exchange and his son, Jose, was the first native New Mexican to have a seat there. In Belen, Felipe Chaves was known as "El Millonario". This attests not only to his wealth, but also the story that he aired his gold and silver in the plaza of his house.

Among Felipe's investments was stock in the Santa Fe Railroad. It was through his position as an important stockholder that he convinced the Santa Fe to build their cut-off through Belen. The opening of the Belen cut-off and the resulting shops brought increased wealth and prominence to Belen.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Motto, Sytha. Old Houses of New Mexico and the People Who Built Them. Albuquerque: 1972

Pollard, Shirley and Neith. Form A for Chaves House. 1980

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 1.2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Belen

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	3	3	7	1	6	10	3	18	3	16	8	12	10
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

Beginning at the southeast corner of the property on Lala Street; proceed north for 200 feet along the west edge of Lala; proceed west for 300 feet along the north property line to Perizite Street; proceed south along the east edge of Perizite Street;

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Threinen, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Bureau date 14 March 1980

street & number 505 Don Gaspar Avenue telephone 505-827-2108

city or town Santa Fe, state New Mexico

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas W. Merlan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-18-80

For HCRS use only

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

Franklin Pierce DeLoe date 7-4-80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Beth Groover date 7/1/80
Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUL 4 80

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9-MBR PAGE 2

Espinosa, Gilberto and Tibo J. Chaves.
El Rio Abajo. Privately published, n.d.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

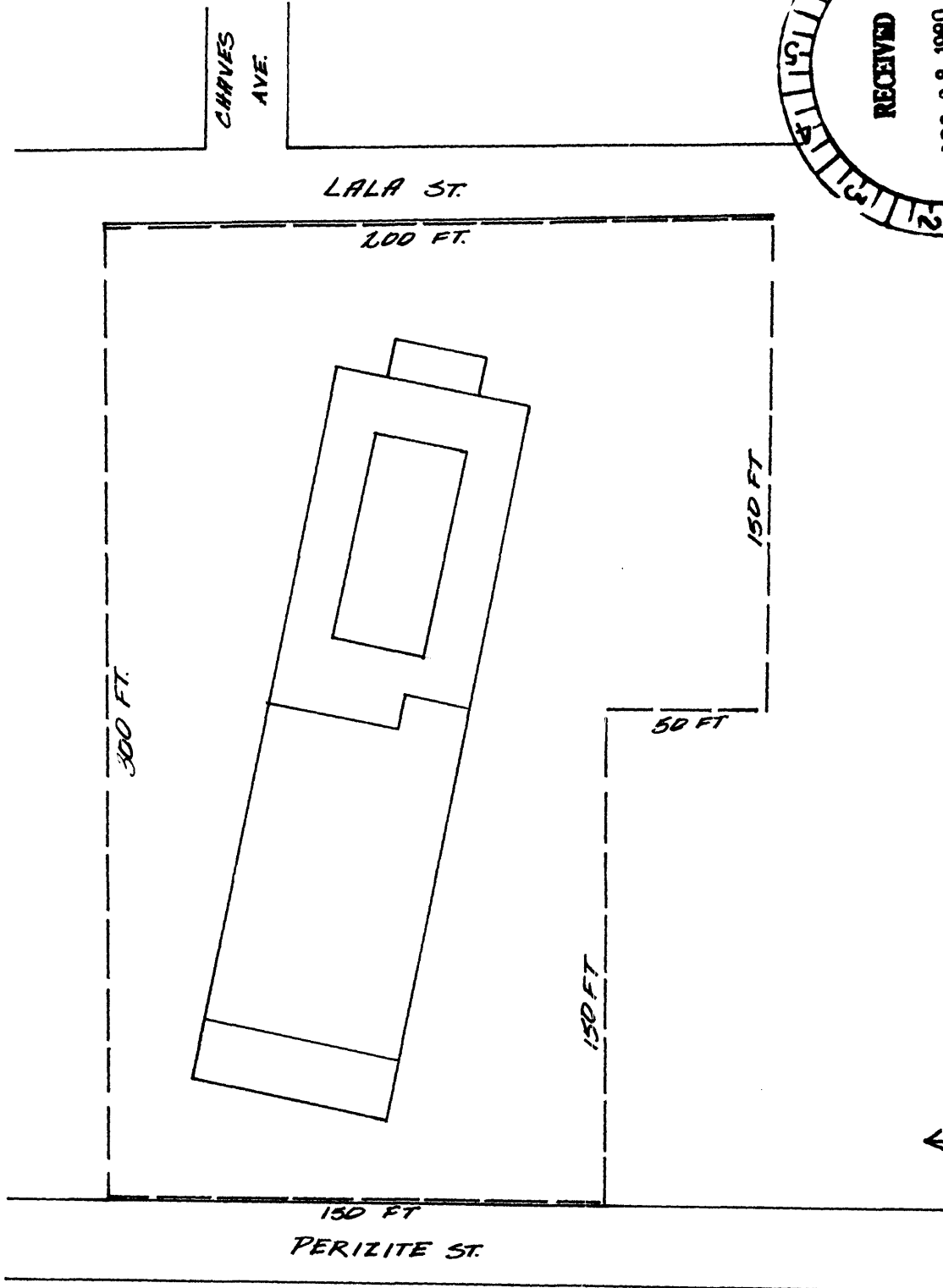
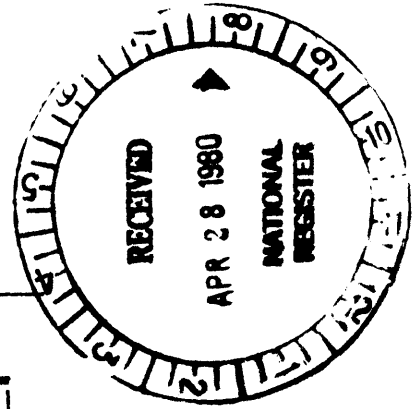
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	APR 28 1988
DATE ENTERED	JUL 4 1988

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10-VB PAGE 2

for 150 feet; proceed east along the south property line for 150 feet, continuing along a jog to the south for 50 feet, and proceeding east for another 150 feet to the starting point.



FELIPE CHAVES HOUSE

APPROX. SCALE 1"=50'

—— BOUNDARY