

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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1. NAME: Los Candelarias Chapel/San Antonio Chapel

2. LOCATION: ✓ 1934 Candelaria N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

OWNER: Ms. Jane Batten
1934 Candelaria Road N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87107

7. DESCRIPTION:

The 1888 New Mexico Vernacular style Los Candelarias Chapel is a tall rectangular-shaped building with a pitched corrugated metal roof, exposed rafters, and proportions that are typical of Spanish Colonial churches - four times as long as the width. An entryway is attached to the chapel's western facade and extends upwards the full height of the building past the pitched roof peak to include a modest hipped-roof bell tower topped with a cross. The entire building is stuccoed except for the gable ends and the upper portion of the steeple which are clapboard. A double large wooden entry door is styled in the Folk Territorial tradition with decorative molding and a simple cross in relief. There are two deeply-set windows on the north facade that include wood trim and multi-panel painted glass. One was removed and converted to a door but was subsequently replaced with the original window.

The chapel's interior is now a residence and has been minimally altered to include a bedroom, bath and kitchen. Part of a choir loft still exists and most of the interior is open and unaltered. There have been additions constructed to the rear southern side of the chapel in the form of a shed-roofed bedroom/bathroom building, connected by an open portal with wood vigas and zapatatas (corbels) to a low-roofed open garage.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The San Antonio Chapel in Los Candelarias is significant locally as an excellent and well-preserved example of a New Mexico Vernacular chapel and as the only building remaining in the Los Candelarias area which conveys the existence of the old plaza of Los Candelarias. Additions to the chapel have all been placed on the side not visible from the street and do not detract from its appearance. The double entry door is an especially fine example of Folk Territorial woodwork.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The chapel was built in 1888, probably to replace an earlier building since in that year two Los Candelarias residents offered to donate land for a new chapel. Six weeks later priests from San Felipe de Neri in Albuquerque traced the ground plan and the community hired a mason to begin work (Steele, 1983:39). The chapel served the local community until after World War II and was used sporadically after that for church-related community functions. It was sold in the late 1950's to a sculptor who used it for a studio. The present owner bought the property in 1970. She has restored the painted-glass church windows and has not divided the space in the chapel so the simple tall one-room interior retains its original character.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The chapel stands on land of under 1 acre (approximately 200' x 130'), Tract B1 of Land of Jane Batten, MRGCD Map #34. It is bounded on the north by Candelaria Road, on the east and west by boundary lines of adjoining tracts and includes the land south of the building. Agricultural pens and a garage on this land are not included in the nomination.

UTM references: Albuquerque West Quad.13/348140/3887580.