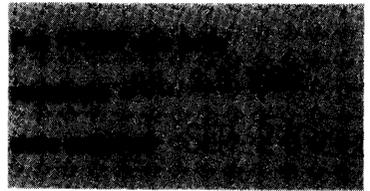


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 MacDonald Merchandise Building

and/or common Magdalena Merc antile Building

**2. Location**

U.S. 60

street & number Highway 60 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Magdalena \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd

state New Mexico code 35 county Socorro code 053

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Sid Vinyard, Crescent City Consultants

street & number 838½ Canal Street

city, town New Orleans \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state LA.

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Socorro County Courthouse

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Socorro \_\_\_\_\_ state NM

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State Register of Cultural Properties Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe \_\_\_\_\_ state NM

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Magdalena Mercantile is the most impressive building on the town's main street. Two stories tall and rectangular in plan, the building is constructed of brown limestone. The street facades are random, quarried masonry and the rear facades are rubble masonry. The top of the flat roof is marked by a narrow cap. All of the fenestration has red brick segmental arch tops, sandstone sills. The main entrance is at the camfered, north-east corner. All of the windows and most of the doors have been replaced.

Originally the doors were all topped by large transoms. Only the door at the south-east corner retains this feature. The main door has had the upper portion boarded up, and new double doors below. The doors on the north facade have been boarded up, as has a second one on the east facade. All of the second story windows have been boarded up. Those on lower story have been replaced by sliding aluminum windows and boards. Originally the windows were large double hung.

One of the most curious features about the building is its fenestration pattern, which is irregular. On the east facade, for example, there are six windows and doors on the lower story, five wide and one narrow, and four narrow windows above. Across the top of the north facade are 10 narrow windows, and the lower story has two wide openings and five narrow. Also on the north facade are two large, painted signs, one for MacDonald Merchandise and the other for Magdalena Mercantile.

Generally, Magdalena Mercantile is in good condition; however, there is one major problem. The northwest corner of the building has collapsed. This was caused, not by structural problems, but by poor drainage off the roof. There is no indication of structural instability in the rest of the building. The shell of the structure has not been altered at all. The windows have been replaced unsympathetically, but the original double hung windows could be returned. The upstairs interior has been closed up and is not in use. The lower story has been remodeled with suspended ceilings and paneling.

Despite these changes, the building remains a major landmark along Magdalena's main street and testimony to its previous wealth.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1902

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Magdalena Mercantile is significant because it is a major architectural landmark in the once bustling town. Built in 1902 as MacDonald Merchandise, the building served as a general merchandise outlet until 1958. Architecturally the building is a massive example of Railroad Era commercial structures. This type of building was common along the Santa Fe Railroad, and this is one of the larger examples. A building of this size and massiveness is relatively uncommon in mining towns.

The town of Magdalena was initially formed as a mining camp in 1880 by a group from Santa Fe, the Mogollon Mining and Prospecting Co. Although initially a mining camp, the settlement shortly became a stock shipping center. It was this combination that attracted the Santa Fe Railroad, and in 1884 a spur was completed from Socorro. In this same year the townsite of Magdalena was established.

Among the merchants to come to the new town was John A. MacDonald from Denver. He came to Magdalena as manager of a branch for Becker Blackwell, a general mercantile company. He then had his own mercantile company in Kelly, a mining town near Magdalena, and then by 1902 had expanded MacDonald Merchandise to a second store in Magdalena. He became a leading citizen, as he served as State Senator from 1917 through 1929. During that time and later he was an important figure in the State Republican party.

After MacDonald's death, the business became Magdalena Mercantile. It operated as such until 1958. The current owners purchased the building in 1969.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fr. Stanley Crocchiola. The Magdalena Story. Narareth,

Texas: 1973

New Mexico Blue Books.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Magdalena

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	1	3	2	1	9	1	3	0	1	0	0	3	1	7	7	1	7	1	1	0	1	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

Beginning at the intersection of Highway 60 and proceed south along the west curb for approximately 20 meters to the south edge of the driveway; proceed west along the curb, on other page.

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 31 May 1980

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

city or town Santa Fe state NM

# 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. Mul...

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-3-80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bell Grovina</u>	date <u>9/25/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 23 1980
DATE ENTERED	25

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Magdalena Mercan. ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

south side of the driveway and the fence for approximately 30 meters to the west property line; proceed north along the west property line for approximately 20 meters to the highway; proceed east along the south side of the highway for approximately 30 meters to the starting point.

### JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses only the building itself. It is somewhat isolated in terms of scale and material, though there is potential for a district encompassing the town. Such a nomination will be made as soon as possible.