

12-07-73

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: Hidalgo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME
COMMON:
Shakespeare Ghost Town
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
~~Off of State Road 494~~, S. S. W. of Lordsburg, ~~New Mexico~~
CITY OR TOWN:
Lordsburg, New Mexico
STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35 COUNTY: Hidalgo CODE: 023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Unoccupied buildings</u>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNERS NAME:
Mrs. Frank Hill
STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 253
CITY OR TOWN:
Lordsburg, STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
Hidalgo County Courthouse, 300 S. Shakespeare
CITY OR TOWN:
Lordsburg STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey
DATE OF SURVEY:
Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol, Executive-Legislative Building
CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 035

STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 16 1973
DATE: _____
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the present time, the standing remains of this flourishing mining town consist of five buildings: The general merchandise store, assay office, mail station, Stratford Hotel, and Grant House Dining Room and Saloon. However, dozens of foundation outlines dot the brush covered hills and level land surrounding these standing buildings, and many have been identified through research. The complex of remaining structures is situated on either side of what used to be Avon Avenue, and is to the northeast of the old stage road. Some sort of town planning must have been practiced as the street alignments are fairly straight and structures were positioned with regularity.

The consistency of construction in Shakespeare gives the site added architectural importance, since nearly all the buildings are of the same style and period. While there are traces of the territorial or Greek revival influence in the existing buildings, the far stronger influence is simple Mexican village style, perhaps because of Shakespeare's geographic location and early history. One peculiarity in the use of adobe is the occasional puddled adobe wall, a rarity for this period. Another architectural rarity is the yucca stalk latias used in the ceiling of the old mail station. This typically Mexican technique is extremely unusual in New Mexico, and this example may even be unique.

The old Shakespeare cemetery contains the remains of many of the early miners, settlers, and desperados. As such, it forms an integral part of the historic district.



MAR 26 '73
 STATE PLANNING OFFICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

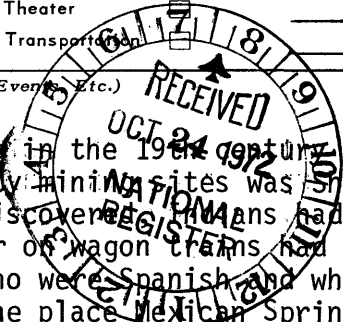
- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Architecture</u> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Mining</u> |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)



During the great days of mining in the 19th century, New Mexico, the most popular of the Hidalgo County mining sites was Shakespeare. However, many years before ore was discovered, Indians had camped at the excellent spring there, and later on wagon trains had stopped to take on water. The first settlers who were Spanish and who were also attracted by the good water, named the place Mexican Springs. A detachment of confederate troops from Texas was quartered here briefly in 1861. These soldiers fortified an existing house which later became the Stratford Hotel. In 1865, John Evenson, hired as a station master by the Kearns and Mitchell stage line, arrived in Mexican Spring to find the "Fort", as well as some commissary buildings left from the activities of an older stage company. Shortly after Evenson began his long years of residency the settlement's name was changed to grant.

Then, in 1869, a man named McPherson is reputed to have found masses of almost pure silver in the area. The tale of this discovery published in an Arizona newspaper seems to have been effective, since by April 1870, a new townsite had been laid out and was filling up with so many people that a violence committee was formed to keep order. The Virginia mining district looked extremely promising, and the burro mines were the objects of great interest. By the end of 1870, the town had another name, Ralston, after the president of the Bank of California, a backer of the largest mining enterprise in the vicinity. Since troubles with the Apaches were few at the time and since the diggings had a promising reputation, people continued to flock to the town. Finally, Ralston became too popular and troubles began to develop. Harpening, Arnold and Company, a major mining and land outfit, became involved in a dispute with its competitors over titles to the town lots. The company hired gunmen, while independent miners hurried with their own claims to the probate judge in Pinos Altos, the nearest legal authority in the territory.

In 1871, the Harpening group further disgraced itself and the town by its involvement in the Diamond Swindle. After having salted some diamonds on nearby Mt. Aera, it began trumping up a diamond boom. It is believed that this fraud was perpetrated to drum up additional capital which the rather poor success in silver extraction had failed to produce. The hoax was soon discovered, and the town's population began leaving in discouraged droves. By 1874, the town was nearly deserted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hill, Rita, Then and Now, Here and Around Shakespeare, Shakespeare, New Mexico, Privately printed, 1963
 Hill, Rita and Janaloo, "Alias Shakespeare, the Town Nobody Knew", New Mexico Historical Review, Vol. 42, No. 3, July, 1967
 Hill, Rita and Janaloo, Shakespeare Cemetery, Shakespeare, New Mexico, Privately Printed, N. D.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	32 °	20 ' 1 "		108 °	44 ' 41 "			
NE	32 °	20 ' 1 "		108 °	43 ' 37 "			
SE	32 °	19 ' 21 "		108 °	43 ' 37 "			
SW	32 °	19 ' 21 "		108 °	44 ' 41 "			

Approx. acreage - 504

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John R. Beauvais, Planning Technician

ORGANIZATION: **State Planning Office** DATE: **2/22/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Executive-Legislative Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **035**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Richard King*

Title State Planning Officer

Date October 2, 1972

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

Robert Van Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/16/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7 9 73

NW 12/712-50
 3579 450
 NE 12/713 930/3579 520
 SE 12/713 960/3579 290
 SW 12/712 270/3578 240
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Hidalgo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Continued

In 1879, Col. William Boyle, a new developer, arrived. Determined to make an honest go of the mines, he changed the town's name to Shakespeare to help erase the memory of Ralston's reputation. A gold and silver mining and milling company opened, and a new wave of enthusiasm spread over the area. A sudden outbreak of Apache hostilities was countered by the hastily organized Shakespeare Brigade, who were able to restore peace by 1881, allowing the mines to operate at full production. For several years the town of Shakespeare enjoyed widespread fame, but when the Southern Pacific Railroad built its line through Lordsburg to the north, the mining center's prominence was diminished considerably. The Post Office in Shakespeare was closed in 1885, and the depression of 1893 finally closed the mines and killed the town that had once been the most active in the region.

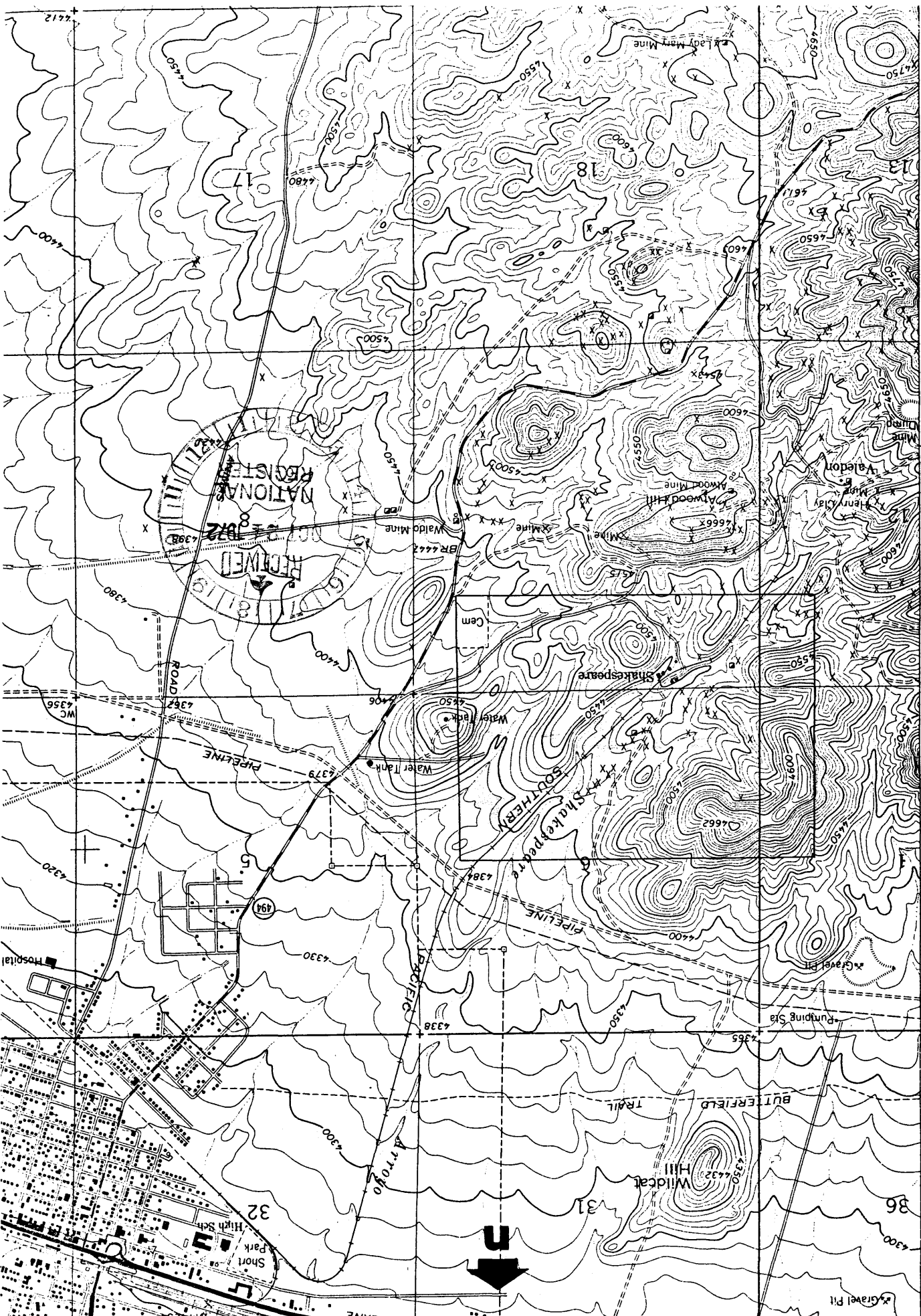
It must be admitted that much of this activity was in areas other than ore production, but it did manage to put the town in a class by itself. From the bitter days of Ralston's deception and confusion to Col. Boyle's determination to deal honorably in the town he called Shakespeare, and from the early population's greed, disappointment and disgust, to the later stability and hope, the town had just about run the gamut of mining camp behavior. Shakespeare never managed to acquire a church or school, and its projected newspaper failed to publish a single edition, but these deficits were offset by the general tenor of its life.

An indication of the town's unique niche in the history of mining is the claim that, while ore was indeed taken out of the mines, Shakespeare and its surrounding mining district probably saw more mining companies, per ton of ore actually produced, than any other piece of ground in the world.



STATE PLANNING OFFICE

MAR 26 1973



376
378
379
20
380
T. 23 S.
T. 22 S.
381

1248 IV SE
(GARY)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Hidalgo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 16 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Shakespeare Ghost Town			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Off of State Road 494, S. S. W. of Lordsburg, New Mexico			
CITY OR TOWN: Lordsburg			
STATE: New Mexico	CODE 35	COUNTY: Hidalgo	CODE 023
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. G. S. 15 minute series quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1963			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

