

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received DEC 28 1983  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic

~~Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley~~ <sup>MRA</sup> (Partial)

and/or common

Inventory; Historic and Architectural Properties)

## 2. Location

generally bounded by the southern boundary of the

Sandia Indian Reservation (N); Interstate 40 (S); East bank of  
street & number Rio Grande (W); Interstate 25 (E) - being the \_\_\_ not for publicationvalley area north of downtown Albuquerque and including neighbor-  
city, town hoods/villages of Los vicinity of Duranes, Los Candelarias, Los Greigos,  
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque and Alameda

state

New Mexico

code

35

county

Bernalillo

code

001

## 3. Classification

## Category

☒ district☐ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object☒ multiple

resources

## Ownership

☐ public☐ private☒ both

## Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable

## Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## Present Use

☒ agriculture☒ commercial☒ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☒ private residence☒ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name

Multiple ownership

street &amp; number

city, town

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

street &amp; number

505 Central Avenue N.W.

city, town

Albuquerque

state

New Mexico

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Landmarks Survey

title of Albuquerque

See continuation sheet Item #6

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date July 1979-December 1981

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county ☒ localPlanning & Redevelopment Division, Community and  
depository for survey records Economic Development Department

city, town

Albuquerque

state

New Mexico

## 7. Description

Condition VARIED

☐ excellent

☐ deteriorated

☐ good

☐ ruins

☒ fair 8 S 030

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The historic resources of Albuquerque's north valley are distributed over approximately 20 square miles of river flood plain and include roughly one and a half centuries of building tradition. The area is situated between a gentle curve in the Rio Grande on the west and an escarpment of arid sandhills to the east beyond which are the Sandia Mountains ten miles away. The valley was originally a quiet rural district north of the early 18th-century Spanish settlement of Albuquerque now known as Old Town through which much of the history of the region has passed. Over time the north valley has felt the presence of the Camino Real's mud ruts, the tracks of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and twentieth century traffic on the Pan American Highway. Within the area a number of architectural resources survive that are a testament to the last two centuries of settlement. Characterized by a variety of architectural styles, the valley's historical resources include 21 individual residences that date from the early 19th century to the 1930's, three 19th century Hispano churches and one private chapel from the 20th century, three federally-sponsored Indian School buildings, and three diverse historic districts. These include a turn-of-the-century Presbyterian mission school campus, one of the region's earliest Hispano farming communities, and a group of 20th-century farms/estates developed by Anglo newcomers. The valley's earlier sparse settlement pattern distinguished by irrigation ditches (acequias), clusters of small adobe homes and agricultural fields is still visible among recent housing developments, paved and tree-lined roads and recreational open space. Although there is evidence that the area includes numerous archaeological sites, no archaeological resources have been nominated due to lack of professional knowledge on the part of staff researchers.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The north valley's physical appearance results largely from its long history of use as farmland. The irrigation ditches established by the prehistoric Pueblo Indians in the area and modified and expanded by the Spanish and later by Anglo farmers, are one of the major physical features of the valley. These ditches had their headwaters upstream at points along the river's curving eastern bank and generally flowed in a southerly direction the full length of the area. Secondary ditches, log bridges and small channel gates were part of this branching water system, a system that despite major modifications still exists today. The greatest change in the system was not made until the second quarter of this century, when the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District began a major drainage and flood control system, establishing drainage ditches and adding new irrigation channels, some concrete-lined. The Conservancy's work also created a new bosque of cottonwood trees along the river which replenished the once abundant groves of cottonwoods, which had been drastically thinned out by settlers in the early 19th century.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District work also reduced the threat of flooding, removing what had been a constant threat to the north valley for centuries. Major floods destroyed most, if not all, of the 18th-century structures in the area as well as many of those built during the 19th century. The old flood channel of the river lay in a straight line along the Yazoo (lowlands lying below the level of an existing river which does not drain) on the eastern side of the valley along the railroad tracks and extending west toward 12th Street. During the last quarter of the 19th century and well into the 20th, major flooding occurred here nearly every decade. The Rio Grande also overflowed its banks destroying the small villages which had been established near the river. The last severe flood occurred as late as 1942 swelled by water rushing down from the Sandia Mountains through the many arroyos which channel the runoff down into the eastern side of the valley. The recently-completed North Diversion Channel now captures most of this mountain run-off.

An other important influence on the valley's settlement patterns can be traced to the way the land was divided to provide access to the life-giving waters of the irrigation ditches. As landowners passed on their property to members of their families, long and narrow fields were established that shared a common acequia. Therefore, the villages and isolated

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

farms all related strongly to the irrigation system. Even after the drainage and flood control program completed in the mid-20th century the ditches continued to remain and be maintained so that today the acequias meander past fields, older ranchos and new tract housing alike.

The area's agricultural character and sparse population gave the North Valley a distinctly lush and rural appearance well into the twentieth century although now the city is clearly encroaching from the south. The valley north of Griegos Road still appears rural today despite the occasional industrial developments on its east side between the railroad tracks and Second Street. Fourth Street, which had its beginning as part of the downtown Albuquerque grid during the railroad era, was extended north by 1900 to connect Albuquerque with the villages of Alameda and Corrales as well as with Santa Fe, the capitol city to the north. Later Fourth Street became part of the Pan American Highway and developed into one of the city's first auto routes. The railroad tracks, laid in 1880, and the construction of Second Street paralleling Fourth Street further subdivided the valley. In the late 1950's Interstates 40 and 25 were constructed with the former road bisecting the plaza community of Los Duranes. I-25 also essentially converted Fourth Street from a regional route to a local feeder street. Today the Sandia Indian Reservation forms the northern boundary of both the metropolitan area of Albuquerque and the north valley multiple resources area. Primarily undeveloped, the reservation is an example of what much of the area must have looked like before extensive settlement. Much of the north valley remains outside the city limits and those portions within the city were not annexed until the decade after World War II.

Today the north valley's eastern section south of Griegos Road is a combination of warehousing, auto-related commercial, light industrial areas and poor-quality residential development. North of Griegos Road along Edith Boulevard stand the best remaining examples of 19th-century adobe homes in the city. The area between Fourth Street and Edith, through which the railroad tracks and 2nd Street run, attracted the area's poorest housing, probably due to the fact that this area was a flood zone. The neighborhoods south of Los Griegos in the center of the valley have become solidly residential and were primarily built in the decades just before and after World War II. Some of the city's most elegant homes are situated along Rio Grande Boulevard which lies on the west side of the valley. The northern half of the boulevard winds through the incorporated village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, which is

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

located roughly in the central western portion of the valley and contains new developments of large homes, clusters of small older farms and newer horse ranches as well as the sites of three old plazas. The impending decision to build a number of bridges across the river connecting the communities of the west mesa with the city's eastern heights area will undoubtedly further change the valley's rural and mixed density character.

The architectural resources of the north valley include the following types of historic building styles:

- (1) Spanish Pueblo Style (1620-1900) is characterized by adobe or terron walls laid either on rubble foundations or on no foundations; flat roofs of wood and dirt; vigas (wood roof beams usually no longer than 15 feet) and canales (drainage spouts); simple windows recessed into the thick adobe walls; portales (simple open porches); and ornamentation limited to zapatas (corbel brackets) attached to the posts of the portales, paneled wooden doors and rejas (window grills). This style reflects the paucity of materials available in New Mexico during the pre-railroad times. The traditional early Spanish residence of the area was a two room, rectangular adobe building with a flat dirt roof. When a son married, rooms were often added to accommodate the young couple. Thus the familiar "L" shape building often occurred. This additive nature of the style is a characteristic of most New Mexico vernacular styles. It is a result of the cultural traditions of the New Mexicans, the poverty of the area and consequent need to make-do, and nature of the building material of mud bricks which allows an additive approach to building.
- (2) Territorial Style (1846-1890) reflects the availability of new materials such as mill sawn lumber and fired bricks as well as the introduction of the Greek Revival Style from the eastern United States. The term Territorial Style applies to both new buildings and modifications of older structures and is characterized primarily by the use of the following decorative elements: brick copings simulating dentil courses, square porch columns with beaded or chamfered corners and capitals of molding, pedimented lintels, moldings and dentil courses of wood added to elongated window frames and to frames of paneled doors. Flat roofs were characteristic but pitched roofs became common with the availability of materials.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

- (3) Gothic Revival Style (1860-1900) was encouraged as the official ecclesiastical architecture by Archbishop Lamy who supervised the remodeling of several Spanish Pueblo Style churches into the Gothic Revival Style. It is characterized by pitched roofs, bell towers with pointed wood crowns, non-structural pointed arches for doors and windows, and trefoil or pointed arches in door panels and tower decorations.
- (4) New Mexico Vernacular Style (1880-1930) denotes the blending of a traditional building style and methodology which is an outgrowth of oral tradition with formal styles and new materials introduced from the eastern United States. With the arrival of the railroad in the 1880's to the previously isolated territory of New Mexico, new materials as well as new styles of architecture were introduced. While the Spanish Pueblo and Territorial Styles were partially eclipsed, these original styles continued in simplified form in remote areas and in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods of larger towns. The New Mexico Vernacular Style is characterized by the traditional adobe methods of building, limited ornamentation, and gabled roofs covered with corrugated metal. These pitched metal roofs were added to the dirt roofs--the dirt roof acting as insulation against the hot summer sun and the metal as protection against the melting of winter snows and the deluge of the summer rains.

Long narrow residences were common with this style until the turn of the century when single story hipped roof boxes changed the massing. As late as the 1920's and 30's, the residents of the north valley were building hipped tin roof farm homes with the traditional two doors facing front (perhaps originating with the separate entrances into the two rooms of early rectangular homes). Vernacular builders often use recycled materials, so often appear older than they are in reality.

The New Mexico Vernacular Style has two major variations, well exhibited in the Los Griegos Historic District:

- a) Hipped Box (1900-1920) is characterized by cubic massing, hipped roofs, dormers and shed roofed porches.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

- b) Simplified Anne (1880-1915) is characterized by a hipped roof over the central core with gables over one or two projecting rooms. This style is a simplification of the popular Queen Anne Style and usually had a porch with a bit of wood bric-a-brac ornamentation.
- (5) Spanish Pueblo Revival Style (1905-present) is characterized by the execution of stylized Spanish Pueblo Style elements in either traditional adobe or modern building materials such as hollow tile, cinder block, and wood frame/stucco. Flat roofs, rounded parapets, battered walls, recessed fenestration (to mimic the depth of adobe walls), portales, exposed wood lintels, projecting vigas and canales and a variety of buttresses are some of the elements of the Spanish Pueblo Revival Style.
- (6) Territorial Revival Style (1925-present) followed in the wake of the locally popular Spanish Pueblo Revival Style. It is characterized by the application of the Territorial Style ornamentation to buildings built of either adobe or modern materials. Brick coping, pedimented wood trim over windows and doors and a front portal with square columns are characteristic decorative elements. Territorial Revival Style roofs are usually flat.
- (7) Southwest Vernacular Style (1920-1950) is characterized by a flat roof with an irregular stepped parapet and grouped windows. It is the result of an incomplete understanding of the styles which abounded in the Southwest and is many times associated with a builder's or contractor's adaptation of these styles.
- (8) Bungalow (1910-1930) is usually a one-storied residence with a low pitched gable roof and features a noticeable roof overhang with exposed rafters, beams and purlins. Almost all include a wide entry porch either under a separate gable or an extension of the front roof slope.
- (9) Period Revival (1910-present) Tudor/Cottage styles. This style combines elements from a variety of vernacular European building types into a picturesque amalgam. It features simulated thatched roofs or steeply pitched roofs, walls of fieldstone or rough textured brick; half timbering, small-paned or decoratively-paned windows all arranged in asymmetrical massing.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

The first seven style categories and the general characteristics of those styles which are described above were organized by Cynthia Bruce; these and the last two are in most part from the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual, Revised May 1980, University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

Adobe structures are particularly susceptible to decay and modifications, so few built in any period appear as they were built. Nothing is left from the 18th century, and the early 19th century buildings are few and have all been at least partially altered. As the late New Mexico architectural historian Bainbridge Bunting notes "an adobe building neglected for a generation will have disintegrated beyond the point of repair. Given the ups and downs of almost any family plus the Spanish custom of dividing a building among heirs, it becomes clear why so few of these buildings [of early New Mexico] survive" (Bunting, 1974, p. 3). To these factors must be added the destructive power of the floods noted above.

The earliest buildings in the nomination date from about the advent of the Territorial Period when Anglo-Americans first arrived in the area to stay. Nine individual buildings and others included in the Los Griegos Historic District fall within the Territorial Period between 1845 and the arrival of the railroad in Albuquerque in 1880. These structures are related to the location of the early "plaza" communities: the Barela de Bledsoe House (c. 1870), Juan Antonio García House (c. 1865), Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel and the Tomasa Griego de García House were part of the 19th century community along the mid-valley stretch of the old Highland Road (now Edith Boulevard) called El Rancho Plaza. The Rumaldo Chavez House (c. 1850), and Domingo Tafoya House (pre-1850), were part of the "La Loma" (foothill) section of the village of Alameda at the north end of the valley; the Juan de Dios Chavez House (c. 1875 or earlier) and Juan Cristóbal Armijo New Homestead (c. 1875) were part of Los Griegos although they were located near the highland road to the east. Still standing in the valley near the river is the Anaya House in Los Duranes, thought to be one of the oldest (perhaps before 1820) remaining structures in the city. To the north, the Refugio Gomez House, built not long before the railroad came in 1880, looks as if it could have been built any time after 1860 since its plan and window decoration are clearly of the Territorial Period.

Simplicity, a reluctance to break with proven methods of construction, and economy are evident in the structures built before the coming of the railroad and continue to be visible in several post-railroad buildings in the old plazas. Duranes



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 7

and Candelarias chapels, built respectively c. 1890 and c. 1888, were constructed in the simple one or two room style of earlier chapels. In both, however, the use of a quantity of machine-processed lumber is evident.

The houses of the post-railroad period show more Anglo influences. The Zeiger House (1880-1890) is exceptional for its combination of an old form with Anglo trim and windows. Similarly rare is the Francisco Lucero y Montoya House, an adobe first story topped by a half-timbered second story. Typical of houses built along Fourth Street during the first decades of the 20th Century is the Juan Chavez House (1917) an adobe hip roofed house with Classical Revival trim. The Felipe Romero House, built in 1904 shows little sign of the changing times: Romero simply attached two rooms to an existing two-room flat-roofed structure and added some pedimented lintels.

Anglos brought very different styles to the North Valley. The Dietz Farmhouse (1914), the Grande House (1914), the Foraker Farm (c. 1900), and the Allen House (1904) are all imported styles; these are, respectively, a vernacular Prairie Style, a bungalow, a midwestern farmhouse and a unique two-story adobe with a classically-gabled pitched roof.

Both the English Cottage style Shalit House and the Territorial Revival style Nordhaus House date to the mid-1930's and, despite appearing to have little in common from their appearance, are indicative of the variety that is seen in the north valley to this day. Another example of this variety and overlapping history is the Los Poblanos Historic District which includes a little-altered early 19th century adobe home, an early 20th century mill and farmhouse, and three beautiful examples of Territorial Revival architecture completed in the 1930's by John Gaw Meem. The Menaul School, begun in the 1890's, and the old Albuquerque Indian School, dating to the early 1890's, are strange impositions in the area representing a government institutional style borrowed wholesale from other regions.

The survey of the north valley area was conducted by the staff of the Historic Landmarks Survey. Staff included Survey coordinator Susan Dewitt; Mary Davis, historian; Kathleen Brooker, architectural historian; John Norton Survey historical architect; Cynthia Bruce, who wrote her Masters in Architecture thesis on the Los Griegos district; Boyd Pratt, historical architect; and Kate Hollander who holds a B.A. in Architecture

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

with an emphasis on architectural history. The inventory was a house-by-house survey, with inventory forms filled out for every building judged to be built before 1945. The survey was conducted over two years, although the entire time was not spent on survey work. No archaeological testing or evaluation was done; surveyors recorded information on archeological sites when volunteered by residents.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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    c. 1820–1940    Builder/Architect    various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Albuquerque's north valley, site of Spanish settlements dating to the 17th century and part of the state's richest agricultural valley, abuts New Mexico's largest city and most active commercial center. The juxtaposition of ancient and modern, Hispanic and Anglo, urban and rural displayed in the north valley resources included in this nomination is a significant theme in the history of Albuquerque and of New Mexico. In several instances the buildings nominated feature unique combinations of diverse styles and materials reflecting the cross-cultural ferment of a city in transition. Others are rare local survivals of Hispanic building patterns and uses, while still others are associated with important Anglo settlement in the valley; these include a number of outstanding examples of various twentieth century architectural styles.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Individual homes, such as the Gavino Anaya, Juan de Dios Chavez and Felipe Romero Houses, show the traditional linear Spanish Colonial house pattern with various turn-of-the-century additions or new building materials. The small farming settlements or plazas which grew up in the valley during the late 18th century and throughout the 19th are represented by the Los Griegos Historic District, which alone among the old plazas in the area still displays the old pattern of houses clustered along a main thoroughfare with narrow fields behind extending to the irrigation ditches. Some of the other old plazas are represented by a single building as is the case with the chapel in the old Los Candelarias plaza. The Santa Cruz/Los Tomases Chapel, built well into the 20th century, embodies a Hispanic building tradition and use which has survived the impact of new and different ways of worship. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, which remains on its original 1870 site, has continued to denote the old plaza of El Rancho and to serve its citizens because it was totally renovated just before World War II. Its remodeling is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of 20th-century Pueblo Revival style. Still other buildings clearly show the California or midwestern building types favored by newcomers who settled in the valley early in this century. The institutional buildings at the Indian School (National Register listing 7/26/82) and the Presbyterian mission Menaul School (accepted as a Historic District on the National Register 2/14/83) display imported styles, mirroring their purpose of introducing Anglo values into the training of native populations. The homes designed by John Gaw Meem, the outstanding architect of the southwest, reveal a masterful synthesis of 19th century building styles with 20th century craftsmanship and design. Three of these homes are included in the Los Poblanos Historic District listed in the National Register 5/27/82 and one other designed in the same style during the same time period is included on this nomination. Another recent house, the 1936 Samuel Shalit House on Fourth Street, turns its back on its southwestern neighbors and reveals an Old English Cottage style unique in the valley with a copper roof unlike any other in the state.

Since nature and man have erased the structures built in the north valley before 1800, this nomination includes only buildings built in the 19th and 20th centuries. The valley is rich in Pueblo Indian archaeological sites, but the location, identification and evaluation of these pre-historic settlements are not part of the skills and training of the preparers of this nomination. However, some of the early Spanish settlement

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

patterns have persisted, so a brief history of the Spanish colonial period in the Multiple Resource area is necessary for an understanding and appreciation of the north valley blending of Anglo and Hispanic culture.

The valley north of Albuquerque has been occupied for hundreds of years. First to farm the fertile river lands were the Tiwa Pueblo Indians whose multi-storied villages were scattered among the fields of squash and corn, low hills and swamps of the flood plain. When the Spaniards came to settle in the late 16th century they found more than 15 pueblos in the area. Between the Indian lands they established small farms and a few large haciendas, using Indian labor to raise such non-native crops as grapes, Castillian wheat, plums, peaches and chili (the last brought from Mexico) and to tend the large herds of sheep and small herds of cattle which grazed on the grasslands above the sandhills on the edge of the flood plain. Over nineteen estancias, or rural properties, were located in what was called the Tiwa Province and missions were established at the north end of the valley at Sandía and Alameda Pueblos and to the south at Isleta Pueblo. All these 17th-century buildings have disappeared, demolished either by man or floods or completely transformed by their incorporation into later structures.

The Spaniards were driven out of New Mexico in 1680 but in the 1690's Don Diego de Vargas returned with a large colony of soldiers and settlers and began in earnest to settle this isolated northernmost colony of New Spain. In the Albuquerque area de Vargas gave a few large land grants, ordered the re-establishment of three deserted pueblos--Sandía and Alameda in the north and Isleta in the south--and established a military garrison at Bernalillo some thirty miles north of present-day Albuquerque. In the north valley the major land grant was the Diego Montoya Grant given in 1694. The Grant ran from the Rio Grande to the crest of the Sandia Mountains with "a small ruin" on the north and swamps on the south. Montoya's son Antonio transferred the Grant to Elena Gallegos de Gurulé sometime after 1716. Elena and her descendants and those of her brother Felipe Gallegos were some of the first permanent settlers in the north valley.

To the south of the Montoya Grant, now known as the Elena Gallegos Grant, the Villa of Alburquerque (the "r" was later dropped) was established in 1706 in the Bosque Grande de Doña Luisa. The Bosque was one of the largest of the large cottonwood groves in this part of the middle Rio Grande valley

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

which made it an especially attractive area for settlement, since the Spaniards relied on cottonwood timber for both fuel and building material. By 1712 the Villa stretched for "more than 2 1/2 miles [one league] from the first house to the last" (Simmons, 1983:89).

North of the Montoya Grant lay the lands of the old abandoned pueblo of Alameda. After an abortive attempt to resettle the pueblo with fifty of the Tiwa Indians who had scattered after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the lands were given in 1710 to Francisco Montes Vigil, who two years later sold it to Juan Gonzáles Bas. This grant ran from the Rio Grande west to the ridge east of the Rio Puerco, nearly 15 miles away. An early change in the course of the river put the town of Alameda on the east side of the Rio Grande and it has been the northernmost Spanish settlement in the north valley since that time.

The pattern of settlement during the 18th century was not one of orderly growth and regularly laid out communities. It was rather a haphazard affair, with houses scattered up and down the valley near their cultivated fields and entradas up to the grasslands below the Sandia Mountains where the sheep were grazed. These flocks usually belonged to the richer men of the valley, but were herded by partidarios, men who agreed to care for the sheep in return for a share of the increase of the flock. This practice continued well into the 20th century.

Even by 1776, the Villa itself was still very small with only 24 houses. According to an early visitor the north valley comprised the remainder of the town: "The rest of what is called Albuquerque extends upstream to the north, and all of it is a settlement of ranchos in the meadows of the said river for the distance of a league from the church to the last one upstream. Some of their lands are good, some better, some mediocre. They are watered by the said river through very wide, deep irrigation ditches, so much so that there are little beam bridges to cross them. The crops taken from them at harvest time are many, good, and everything sown in them bears fruit" (Adams & Chavez, 1956: p. 151).

The settlers' obstinate desire to live near their fields, coupled with their repeated demands for help against marauding Indians--usually Navajo or Apache--often irritated the provincial governors: one remarked that "the settlers of Albuquerque wish to have a soldier for every cow and horse they pasture so that they would have nothing to worry about and

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

could live in slovenly indifference" (Simmons, 1983: 100). The Spanish government made repeated attempts to compel the settlers to organize themselves into fortified towns similar to the Indian pueblos with a central plaza surrounded by a solid wall of houses. Although a truly defensible town never appears to have been built at Albuquerque or in its vicinity, by the late 18th century records show that at least a series of definable plazas or congregations of Spanish households, grew up in the valley north of the Villa. Their form apparently was more linear than the plazas in northern New Mexico, relating to the irrigation ditches and a common road rather than to a defensible central space, although an early photo of Los Griegos indicates that the road may have passed through a large open central area..

Another cause for the growth of the plazas was the considerable increase in the number of people living in the Albuquerque area. The number of households jumped from the nineteen original founding families to more than 108 families in 1744 in Albuquerque, Atrisco, located across the river to the southwest, and Alameda (Jones 1979:123). In the 1750 census 192 families are listed for the entire valley; this number included Indian families living outside the pueblos as well as the Spanish or the "gente de razon." By 1776 Father Domínguez, on his tour of inspection of the missions of New Mexico, reported that Albuquerque and the area to the north as far as Alameda had 157 families of 763 persons (Adams and Chavez, 1956:151). And, by 1790, when the most complete census to date was made of New Mexico, the combined population of the Villa and its attendant plazas to the north was 1,167 persons in 251 households (Olmstead, 1975:1-14). So, in less than a century the population had increased over tenfold.

The 1790 census recorded not only names of heads of households and the number of people in each family, but also divided them among the plazas where they lived, and gave the occupation of each family head. The census listed the plazas only by number, but by matching the names of the inhabitants listed with the names given on an 1802 document titled the Albuquerque Cofradia de las Beneditas Animas del Purgatorio, which names the plazas, it can be established which plaza was which on the 1790 list. The seven plazas were in order from south to north: Albuquerque, the Plaza de Señor San José de Los Duranes, the Plaza de los Candelarias, the Plaza de Nuestra Señora del Guadalupe de Los Griegos, the Plaza del Señor San José de Los Gallegos, the Plaza de San Antonio de Los Poblanos and the Plaza de Señor de San José de Los Ranchos.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

All these communities are now within the metropolitan area of modern Albuquerque, though not all are within the city limits. Several still keep older boundaries, a pattern of irrigation ditches and long narrow fields, neighborhood chapels and adobe ranchos. Los Gallegos has practically disappeared, Los Poblanos survives in name only as a cluster of mid-20th-century estates and an early 20th-century farm, and the probable old plaza of Los Ranchos has been replaced by a modern housing development.

Historically all these villages were linked by the Camino Real, the trail from Chihuahua to Santa Fe which wound through the north valley and then on to Alameda and Bernalillo. An alternate route, the Camino de Bernalillo or Camino de la Ladera (foothills), led along the edge of the highlands, a useful route in muddy weather and flood periods. Many 19th-century outgrowths of the riverside plazas sprang up along this road, now called Edith Boulevard. Albuquerque was the center for trade and religion. As late as the 1860's, only Los Griegos had a storekeeper, though in other villages stores were run by ranchers and wealthier merchants. Farmers and workers in the outlying districts must have traveled into Albuquerque, perhaps only once a month or so, to sell their hides and produce and to stock up on the goods they could not produce themselves, like salt or coffee or cotton cloth.

In the census year of 1790, the combined population of the north valley plazas and Alameda was 819 in 189 households. Forty-nine householders were farmers but a much greater number were involved in the wool industry. Thirty-six residents were weavers, ten were sheepherders, eighteen were carders, ten were spinners and six men owned enough land and livestock to be designated ranchers in the census. For well over a century the sheep industry was to be the primary source of income in the valley. Eighteen other family heads supported their families by day labor while others practiced various crafts such as shoemaking, tailoring and carpentry. There was one barber, one musician, one turner, and one sweeper.

The plazas and Alameda were all probably begun by a single extended family and grew through marriage and land sales. The names of Duranes, Candelarias, Griegos and Gallegos all reflect the names of their original settlers; descendants of these families still live in the area. Los Poblanos was the home of the Ortega family. Its chief citizen was Juan Cristóbal Ortega from Puebla, Mexico (hence Poblanos) and several other residents bore this surname. Los Ranchos was the settlement of



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

the Gurulés, direct descendants of Elena Gallegos who had married a Frenchman named Jacques Grolet, soon Hispanicized to Santiago Gurulé. Their one son, Antonio, inherited his mother's grant in 1731. He had twelve children; eight were married by the time of Antonio's death in 1761 and these each had received a long 300-vara-wide (a vara is approximately three feet) piece of land stretching from the river to the mountains. This strip pattern of land division allowing all children access to an irrigation ditch or the river is still evident in the valley today.

The revolutionary fervor in Mexico during the early decades of the 19th century hardly touched the north valley. Early in the struggle (1815) the plazas contributed to a "gift" of corn to the Spanish crown to aid it in its fight with the Mexican insurgents, but basically life went on as usual: disagreements over the location of a new road, ditches dug or cleared, the crops sown and harvested, land traded or sold, once a donation of corn and wheat, beans and chili to Zuni Pueblo which had fallen on hard times. As historian Marc Simmons writes "Albuquerque's peasant folk...carried on the even tempo of their simple lives, much as they always had. Times were changing, but as yet at such a slow pace that the average man was scarcely aware of it" (Simmons, 1982; p. 135).

With independence from Spain in 1821, trade with America was opened up. The increased traffic on the Chihuahua Trail from Mexico to Santa Fe, the western terminus of the Santa Fe Trail, brought a new prosperity to Albuquerque although the chief benefactors were the wealthier families who could afford to set up a trading business. Their already large sheep holdings were boosted by the opening of a new wool route to California in 1829.

Trade with the United States inevitably led to American interest in acquisition of the territory. The result was the Mexican War and in 1846 New Mexico was claimed by General Stephen Kearny as a territory of the United States. Of benefit to historians from the American takeover was the increased number of firsthand descriptions of New Mexico. One such description, written by a member of Kearny's troops, described the north valley thus:

[We] entered the village of Almeida [Alameda]. The ponds by the roadside were covered with cranes, geese, and ducks. All these birds are quite tame and suffered us to approach very close. The cranes find some difficulty in rising and run along the ground a considerable distance with large strides.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

At length we reached a fine vineyard within three miles of Albuquerque. Here we purchased some fine onions. This vegetable grows here in the greatest luxuriance and attains greater size than I have elsewhere seen.

(Abert, 1966; p. 44).

A trickle of "foreign" settlers appeared in the area, mostly storekeepers and various suppliers for the detachment of soldiers stationed in Albuquerque, bringing prosperity for some residents and hard times for others. They settled in the main plaza, for even by 1860 only one "Anglo" appears in the census of the villages north of the plaza. Their presence swelled the local farm economy with the usual high percentage of income going to the wealthiest families. The continuing accumulation of land by a few wealthy families and the increased demand for land by a growing population created hard times for many would-be farmers. According to the 1860 census many north valley folk had to work for others to make a living. Seventy-one of the 229 inhabitants of Los Gallegos (nearly one third) were working either as day laborers or servants and an even greater proportion in Los Ranchos were similarly employed.

The amount of farm land in the valley however reportedly reached its highest point in 1850 when 125,000 acres were under cultivation. The 1860 census lists many farmers who owned over 2,000 dollars worth of land and personal property, affluent by the standards of the day. Among these was Guadalupe Gutierrez of Los Gallegos, for whom, according to local reports, Guadalupe Trail, one of the oldest roads in the valley, was named. Others were Juan Antonio Garcia and Tomasa Griego de Garcia whose homes are listed on the National Register and included in this nomination.

Richest of all were the Yrisarris and the Armijos. Mariano Yrisarri was a merchant in Los Ranchos who had amassed a fortune--over \$200,000 in real estate, sheep and personal property. He was a relative newcomer to the valley, since his father or grandfather (the records are unclear) had come to New Mexico around 1800 to search for hidden gold in one of the abandoned pueblos. Mariano increased his holdings through his marriage to Manuela Armijo, daughter of the wealthy Juan Cristóbal Armijo, one of the many members of this rich and influential family, and their children inherited large tracts of land all over the north valley.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 8

The Armijos had come to New Mexico in the 1690's and by 1764 a descendent of the original settlers had acquired a considerable fortune in Albuquerque. His son Vicente Ferrer Armijo had established himself at the Plaza de San Antonio, possibly located across the river from the north valley. He proceeded to raise a large family, many of whom rose to power in local and state political affairs. Among them were Ambrosio, Juan Nepomusemo, José Francesco and Manuel, all of whom served as alcalde (mayor) of Albuquerque and held officer's rank in the military during the first half of the 19th century. They were heavily involved in the Santa Fe trade. Manuel, the most notorious of the Armijos, became the foremost figure in New Mexico during the Mexican territorial period. He served as governor, put down a local rebellion--thereby earning the title of general--and defeated a Texas military expedition. And, to his everlasting discredit, fled from General Kearny's army when it neared Santa Fe in 1846.

One of Manuel's brothers, Juan Nepomucemo, married the daughter of Juan Cristóbal Ortega of Los Poblanos, and at least one branch of the Armijos was to be associated with Los Poblanos for the rest of the century. Juan's son, Juan Cristóbal, whose 'New Homestead' is listed on the National Register and included in this nomination, was one of the wealthy men of the valley on the 1870 census with an estate of over \$64,000. He served two terms in the territorial legislature. Another son of Juan Armijo was Salvador Armijo, a prominent Albuquerque merchant and an innovative farmer who with his partner was the largest employer of farm workers in the valley, using imported steel plows and seed from the United States. Yet another son, Ambrosio, eventually owned what came to be called Los Poblanos Ranch. He was a merchant and sheepman and served as both probate judge and county treasurer.

Los Ranchos, conveniently located in the center of Bernalillo County, briefly served as the first county seat after the Territorial legislature created the counties in 1852. It had achieved some notoriety the previous year when two 'Anglos,' a soldier and a newspaper reporter, were shot and killed there in a fracas over voting. Accused in the second death was Juan Cristóbal Armijo, whom the newspaper man had attacked when Armijo tried to oust him from his store. Armijo was acquitted when it was evident he was acting in self defense.

The American Civil War briefly disrupted the even tenor of life in the valley, but the battles fought between the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 9

Confederate and Union armies were all fought either to the south or the north of the city. Several residents of the valley were accused of being Confederate sympathizers; some fled, like Mariano Yrisarri's son Manuel, while some stayed on and had their land sold at auction like poet and court clerk Julian Tenorio of Los Gallegos.

The demand for wool and agricultural products rose after the war, for over 300 of the soldiers who had served in the area remained in Albuquerque. The Hispanic farmers and sheepmen prospered and several of the large homes still standing on Edith Boulevard included in this nomination date from this period between 1865 and 1880. The Territorial style of building, first seen in the several American forts built in New Mexico after American occupation, was readily adopted by the more affluent natives and is evident in these homes.

The location of these homes on the high road to Santa Fe on the east side of the valley reflected the growing expansion of the old floodplain plazas to locations on this increasingly-used trade route. El Rancho Plaza, at the northeast corner of the valley, became the most prominent of these as early as 1860. Juan Cristóbal Armijo built his "New Homestead" along the high road where it met the old road from Los Griegos to the mountains.

Flooding, too, encouraged a move to higher ground. The valley was devastated by the greatest flood on record in 1874. The river had broken into its old bed which lay along the east side of the valley west of the high road. The break occurred at a westward bend in the river just north of Alameda and the flood waters stretched south to rejoin the river south of the old Villa of Albuquerque. The Villa was stranded on an island and all who could moved their belongings to the high ground on the east. Many of the homes near the river were destroyed and following this flood a few more new settlements appeared such as the cluster of houses at Los Ranchos Road and Guadalupe Trail, two of which, the Gomez and Barela Houses, are included in the nomination. In 1903 a flood finished off the often-inundated plaza of Los Ranchos. Its old chapel, built before 1866, was destroyed, so services were held in the little Chapel of Mt. Carmel, safely out of harm's way on the high road.

But the most dramatic change to life in the valley was caused by the coming of the railroad in 1880. A new town sprang up two miles east of the old Villa and hundreds of new settlers poured into the area. They brought with them the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 10

building styles of the homes left behind them and new attitudes toward government, education, and agriculture. The railroad made new building materials available in quantity, among them metal roofing and Victorian decorative elements.

At first the impact on the north valley was easily absorbed. Even before the coming of the railroad some new building materials had been available and were used in a number of homes and also in a new chapel, that at Los Griegos. A few houses, such as the Zeiger House and the Barela House, were built in the post-railroad period and only added "Anglo" elements to a basically New Mexican plan.

More obviously non-New Mexican in both architecture and attitude were the string of institutions which spread along the northern edge of the new town. The Albuquerque Indian School was begun in the 1880's as an industrial training school for Pueblos, Apaches and Utes. The early buildings are gone but the institutional style was continued into the 20th-century buildings. On the east side of the valley, the Presbyterians built a school for Indians in the 1890's; this school, named Menaul School after a prominent local minister, served a northern New Mexican Hispanic population after the Indian School absorbed all the potential Indian students. Its buildings, like those at the Indian School, are standard institutional buildings with elements of Mediterranean or Mission style making a small concession to their location in the southwest.

A third institution, the St. Anthony Orphanage, was built in 1914 west of the Indian School. It also ran a school and farm. The buildings are now owned by the U.S. Department of Labor and so any eligible buildings on its campus have been omitted from this nomination.

This row of institutions was a visual and property-ownership barrier at the south end of the north valley and probably played a part in slowing down the new town's expansion to the north. Another important factor was the valley land itself which was either swampy or settled farmland, far less fit for rows of new houses than the acres of empty mesa land to the east.

Much of this empty land was the grazing lands of the late 18th century plazas. These thousands of acres were lost by the valley residents after a protracted number of suits and hearings which began even before the railroad came. In 1891 a

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 11

number of north valley citizens filed a claim to the entire Elena Gallegos Grant in the Court of Private Land Claims which had been established by the federal government to sort out the legacy of all the conflicting land claims left by land grants given by the Spanish and Mexican governments. Their spokesman was Tomas C. Gutiérrez, a son of Guadalupe Gutiérrez and son-in-law of Juan Cristóbal Armijo. After years of legal wrangling the valley residents obtained title to all the land below the sand hills. The grazing lands on the east mesa (individually owned but communally used) were successfully claimed by the Mutual Investment Agency which got it for back taxes. Much of this land eventually was bought by the Simms family who by the 1930's had become the successors to the Armijos and Yrisarris as the wealthiest family in the valley (see below).

With the coming of the railroad in 1880 Albuquerque became a booster town, and booklets promoting the city--its schools, churches, streetcar lines, homes, clean air, prospects for industry, and the valley's agricultural potential--gave an enthusiastic and energetic picture of the city's great expectations. An 1893 booklet claimed that the area had "conditions which are not surpassed in any part of the world for the successful growing of garden vegetables..." Booster booklets displayed photographs of prosperous alfalfa fields, rows of thriving onions, flourishing truck gardens, and idyllic tree-shaded acequias. The number of non-Hispanic farmers in the valley slowly grew. Prominent among them were a number of Italian farmers, some of whom married into local families. By the second decade of the century, Anglo newcomers like Robert Dietz, the Matthews and W. P. Allen were buying large tracts of land from Hispanic families, who were cash poor and land rich, and trying various agricultural pursuits.

The land, however, was steadily deteriorating. In the same year that the booster booklet vaunted the valley's agricultural potential a U.S. Geological Survey report painted a far different picture: "Near Albuquerque is more waste land, and the valley is bordered by barren hills of blown sand... Much of the land is fenced and is devoted to raising a scanty supply of a coarse grass for grazing purposes. The vineyards and orchards are smaller, and there does not seem to be the same thrift and prosperity as about Bernalillo." A U.S. Bureau of Reclamation survey map made of the valley in 1917-18 showed roughly half of the land in the north valley as either alkali and marsh or sandhills and sagebrush. The problem was the rising water table, in some places only a foot or two below the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 12

surface. The devastating floods between 1870 and 1905 had created a rise in the stream bed of the river with a corresponding rise in the water table and the old practice of letting irrigation water drain onto the fields was adding to the alkalinity of the soil..

By 1920 the pressure was on to reclaim valley land, a move led by the growing number of Anglo farmers in the valley. In 1925 the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District was formed and by 1940 a system of levees, drains and irrigation ditches made thousands of acres available for farming. However the reclaimed farm land was increasingly, since the late 1920's, being used for housing. By 1936 a booster booklet noted the "marked trend of city dwellers moving to small suburban acreages." This trend is still continuing.

The move to the suburbs was of course aided by the advent of car travel and construction of new and better roads. Fourth Street was put through the center of the valley by 1910 and formed a new linear nucleus for building. In Alameda a cluster of "public" buildings went up at Fourth Street and Corrales Road, including a store, a dance hall and the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary which replaced the old Alameda Church whose location near the river proved its undoing in the flood of 1903. The little chapel at El Rancho Plaza served as Alameda's church until the large church was built in 1911. Adobe houses with "Anglo" massing and decorative elements were built on Fourth Street, two of which - the Francisco Lucero y Montoya and Juan Chavez Houses are included in the nomination. Most fronted on Fourth Street with farm fields stretching out to the rear.

After Fourth Street was paved in 1922, a few motor courts were built, increasing in number when Fourth Street became officially designated both Highways 85 and 66. Route 66 was eventually moved to Central Avenue in the 1930's and the large proliferation of motels which occurred along Central never happened on Fourth Street. Unfortunately the few from this period left on Fourth Street in the Multiple Resource area have been substantially altered.

West of Fourth Street, Rio Grande Boulevard remained a narrow dirt track until the 1930's when it was graded and paved--using the adobe mud from the walls of the old plaza of Los Ranchos as a foundation. In this decade a number of well-to-do or adventuresome Albuquerqueans began buying up large tracts of land from the old families. Some held the land

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS Use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 13

for speculation, but others proceeded to build large houses, usually in a Pueblo Revival or Territorial Style which seemed appropriate for this old Spanish area. Prominent among these was Albert Simms who brought his new wife Ruth Hanna McCormick to the north valley from Washington D. C. where both had been serving in Congress. On land which was probably the site of the Armijos' Los Poblanos Ranch they built two fine Territorial Revival homes designed by John Gaw Meem, then at the height of his architectural powers. Albert's brother John had a similar Meem-designed house built just to the south. The Simms family also continued the agricultural traditions of the area, farming the land and raising dairy cows as well as becoming the "patrons" of Los Griegos. Their Christmas party at the Los Griegos Chapel is vividly remembered by old Los Griegos residents (see Los Poblanos and Los Griegos Historic District nominations).

Dairying had become a common pursuit in the 20th century and dairy farms were spread all over the valley north of Duranes. The Dietzs, Jacobsons, and the Matthews as well as many smaller operations had dairy herds grazing on the large open tracts of land left in the valley.

These open lands, however, with a few exceptions, began to disappear in the years after World War II. Albuquerque's population jumped from 69,391 in 1940 to 145,613 in 1950 and to 262,199 in 1960. Housing developments appeared everywhere in the valley: Rob Lee Meadows was built on the site of the old plaza of Los Ranchos, Zia Gardens was erected around the old home of the Yrisarris (extensively remodeled after the second World War), and Dietz Farms covered the land farmed by the Dietz family for the first half of the century. Matthew Meadows is now the name of a housing development. Lands near Alameda, once swamps behind a large earthen dike which held the river at bay, are now covered by rows of modern houses.

Some large open fields still exist in the north valley as do many small vegetable gardens with a few orchards and vineyards. The older roads - Rio Grande Boulevard, Guadalupe Trail and Edith (once Highland) Boulevard, still wind through the sites of the old plazas. The traditional pattern of the fields, houses and ditches still marks the old villages of Los Duranes, Los Griegos and El Rancho Plaza and to a lesser extent Los Candelarias which lost much of its land to Valley High School in the 1950's, and to housing developments and a widening of Candelaria Road in the 1960's and 1970's. Its chapel and a few old adobes, much remodeled, stand as reminders of its years as the largest plaza in the valley.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 14

By 1958, the citizens of the upper north valley area responded to the increasing pressure for development in their part of the valley by forming the incorporated village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Located in the area between Montano Road and El Pueblo Road, west of Fourth Street, the village was the least developed section of the valley and contained many of the larger homes and remaining open space. Restrictions on lot size and use have kept this area less commercialized and more verdant than any other part of the valley.

At present many residents of Los Ranchos and the recently-formed North Valley Neighborhood Association are fighting to stop the construction of two bridges across the river which would connect to new highways cutting across the valley west to east. Information on historic properties in the path of the proposed highways, gathered in a valley survey and inventory done over the past four years, has been supplied to the highway planners by the Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque. The Los Poblanos Historic District is located just to the north of one of the proposed routes and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division has informed the State Highway Department that the adverse effects of the highway undertaking on this District have not been adequately addressed.

Preservation and restoration activities have been apparent in the north valley since the late 1930's when a number of the old adobe homes were bought by Anglo owners and restored: see Kromer House (NR 10/4/82), Juan Antonio García House (NR 9/28/82), Barela de Bledsoe House (NR 3/12/79), and the Tomasa Griego de García House (NR 3/12/79). Two of the chapels were sensitively renovated into private homes (those at Candelarias and Griegos) while Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church was remodeled for use as a local church in 1940. Duranes Chapel is currently being restored by local residents. The Los Griegos History Project was begun a few years ago and part of the Project initiators' efforts to secure the history of their old plaza includes support for National Register listing of the oldest part of the village. The Village of Los Ranchos has funded an archaeological survey of the incorporated area and, with the Albuquerque Museum, has sponsored an oral history project recording the histories of the descendents of some of the founding families of the areas as well as those of 20th-century arrivals in the north valley.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12,800 acres (resource area); see continuation sheets

Quadrangle name Los Griegos, Alameda, Albuq. West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References See continuation sheets for UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

Mary P. Davis, Architectural Historian; John Norton, Historical name/title Architect; Cynthia Bruce, Planner.

organization Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuq. date July 29, 1983

Planning & Redevelopment Division

street & number Community and Economic Dev. Dept. telephone 1-505-766-4720

city or town Albuquerque

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Thomas W. Mark*

title *State Historic Preservation Officer*

date *12-14-83*

For NPS use only

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

*See Continuation Sheet for listing*

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF ALBUQUERQUE'S NORTH VALLEY

Continuation sheet INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Item number

9

Page 1

- Abert, James W. Western America in 1846-47: Original Travel Diaries of Lt. J. W. Abert. John Howell Books, San Francisco 1966.
- Adams, Eleanor B. and Fray Angelico Chavez, trans. and ed. The Missions of New Mexico, 1776. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1956.
- Bunting, Bainbridge. Early Architecture in New Mexico. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1976.
- Bunting, Bainbridge. Of Earth and Timbers Made. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1974.
- Dewitt, Susan. Historic Albuquerque Today. Albuquerque, Historic Landmarks Survey, 1978.
- Jones, Oakeh L. Jr. Los Paisanos. Norman, Okla. University of Oklahoma Press, 1979.
- Olmstead, Virginia Langham, trans. and compiler. New Mexico Spanish and Mexican Colonial Censuses, 1790, 1823, 1845. Albuquerque, N.M. Geneological Society, 1975.
- Simmons, Marc. Albuquerque: A Narrative History. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1982.
- Steele, Thomas J., S.J. Works and Days: A History of San Felipe Neri Church 1867-1895. Albuquerque, The Albuquerque Museum, 1983.
- Territorial Censuses, 1880, 1900, 1910
- Grantee/Grantor files, Bernalillo County
- Title Abstracts
- Personal interviews

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the intersection of the north right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 40 and the east right-of-way line of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Riverside Drain on the east side of the Rio Grande; thence northeasterly following the Riverside Drain right-of-way line to its intersection with the south boundary of the Sandía Pueblo Grant; thence easterly along the south boundary of Pueblo Grant to its intersection with the westerly right-of-way line of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Control North Channel; thence southerly along this west right-of-way line to its juncture with the west right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 25; thence south-westerly along this right-of-way line to its intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 40; thence westerly along this right-of-way line to the point of beginning.

These boundaries, all man made, roughly follow three of the historically understood boundaries of the Hispanic north valley: the river on the west, the Indian Pueblo on the north, and the mesa on the east. On the south Interstate 40 crosses the valley south of all the old plaza locations except Duranes, the southern one third of which was separated from the rest of the community by the highway. Since the Interstate is such a strong visual and psychological edge and since no intact significant buildings connected with Duranes are sited south of it, the interstate was chosen as the southern boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 12/29/83

date entered 2/9/84

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Albuquerque North Valley Multiple Resource Area

State New Mexico

Corin acct 2/9/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Determined Eligible Date/Signature

1. Allen, W. P., House Substantive Review  
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Attest

2. Anaya, Gavino, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

3. Barela, Adrian, House Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

4. Candelarias Chapel-San Antonio Chapel Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

5. Chavez, Juan de Dios, House Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

6. Chavez, Juan, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

7. Dietz, Robert, Farmhouse Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

8. Duranes Chapel Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

9. Foraker, C. M., Farmhouse Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

10. Grande, Charles, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Albuquerque North Valley Multiple Resource Area  
State New Mexico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |                                     |            |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| 11. Gomez, Refugio, House              | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 2/9/84</u>             |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 12. Los Griegos Historic District      | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 2/9/84</u>              |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 13. Los Tomasos Chapel                 | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 2/9/83</u>             |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 14. Lucero y Montoya, Francisco, House | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 2/9/84</u>              |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 15. Nordhaus, Robert, House            | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 2/9/84</u>             |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 16. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church      | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 2/9/84</u>              |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 17. Romero, Felipe, House              | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 2/9/84</u>             |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 18. Shalit, Samuel, House              | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 2/9/84</u>             |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |
| 19. Zieger, Charles, House             | Substantive Review                  | for Keeper | <u><del>Beth Grosvenor</del> 4/27/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | <u>Beth Grosvenor 4/27/84</u>            |
| 20.                                    |                                     | Keeper     |  |
|  |                                     | Attest     |  |