

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: Bernalillo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
* * San Felipe de Neri Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
San Francisco Xavier, San Felipe Apostol

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Town Plaza, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Albuquerque

STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30 COUNTY: Bernalillo CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural Commercial Educational Entertainment Government Industrial Military Museum Park Private Residence Religious Scientific Transportation Other (Specify) Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
The Archdiocese of Santa Fe

STREET AND NUMBER:
202 Morningside Drive, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bernalillo County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
415 Tijeras Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: April 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 Capitol Building

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

Copy received Sept 20, 1968

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original appearance of the church is described, at least in terms of measurements, by Dominguez in his 1776 report on the New Mexico Missions. From this we learn that "The church is adobe with very thick walls, with the outlook and main door to the east. ..." Further, "It has a choir loft like those described where there are such. ..." And again, "The roof of the nave consists of thirty nine beams... There are ten more in the sanctuary. ..."

San Felipe was built, as well as can be determined, in 1706 (first baptism recorded June 21, 1706). Allowed to fall into disrepair, it was rebuilt in 1793. The orientation, if not the exact location, was altered in the rebuilding. The present orientation is north-south. In both instances the principal building material was adobe.

Writing in New Mexico Architecture (May-June, 1966), Dr. Bainbridge Bunting of the University of New Mexico says of San Felipe, "The basic plan, massing, and construction of the church conform to colonial procedure. The single nave plan with the polygonal apse is found in almost every early New Mexican church and its usage reaches back to the churches built in old Mexico in the sixteenth century by the Franciscan friars. The projecting transepts, which give the church the shape of a cross, were usual in New Mexican churches built in Spanish if not in Pueblo communities. The greater ceiling height of the crossing, transepts, and apse is another regional feature. ... The position of the choir loft in the gallery over the main entrance is still another usage of the region, while the paired towers of the facade are not uncommon. Enormously thick adobe walls are a final Rio Grande characteristic. ..."

"The interior of San Felipe is more remarkable than the exterior in the way it combines the old and new traditions of New Mexico. The organization of the interior space is clearly traditional. Starting with the low choir loft above the main entrance and ending with the high ceiling of the sanctuary, one's attention is unmistakably drawn to the main altar. But when window glass became available in larger quantities, the windows of the nave were enlarged to their present size. ..."

"What makes the interior unique is the 'skin' of late nineteenth century fabrication laid over the old interior; a wood floor to replace the traditional hard-packed earth; walls covered with tongue and groove wainscoting carried to shoulder height while above that a coat of smooth plaster is painted to suggest a marble ashlar wall with architectural recesses; a stamped metal ceiling; and three elaborate altars embellished with jig-saw work and painted to resemble marble. Such changes could have oc-

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

"Adjacent to the church on the east is a file of interesting rooms which contains the sacristy and several store rooms. These rooms have fine vigas and Territorial windows filled with old glass which seems to date from a refurbishment in perhaps the middle sixties. An interesting wood spiral stair of the same type rediscovered in the old church at Acoma rises inside the east tower to the level of the coro. Beyond these rooms is a delightful patio which has great potential for restoration."

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) 1706, 1793

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

San Felipe de Neri is notable primarily for its surviving and easily interpreted record of architectural evolution spanning more than two and a half centuries. It was built in 1706, the year that saw the founding of Albuquerque; the certificate of founding was issued by Governor Cuervo y Valdes. The Franciscan, Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, described the original building in his report of 1776.

San Felipe was rebuilt in 1793. Nineteenth century changes reflect the influence of a change in church administration following the establishment of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe under Archbishop Lamy, and other changes resulting from the coming of the railroad and an influx of settlers from the midwest and elsewhere.

Through the centuries the church has been in continuous use by a population which has progressively adapted the building to new conditions and new preferences. Considered separately, each stratum of construction provides as fine an example of its period as may be found in New Mexico today. The massive adobe walls with wood vigas and elaborately carved corbels date from the 18th century and are rivalled by not more than six churches in New Mexico. The mid to late 19th century exterior, including two bell towers, shows an extraordinary development in New Mexican folk art, which has now been lost from all of New Mexico's large churches with the exception of San Felipe. The chancel and sacristies contain some of the finest existing examples of New Mexican interpretations of Greek revival and Victorian cabinet work and decoration. However, the great architectural value of the complex derives from the unique amalgamation of work from each era. Essentially all of New Mexico's post-Spanish past is contained and synthesized in San Felipe de Neri.

Dr. Bunting adds: "The resultant architecture may sometimes seem naive, but it is as sincere as it is possible to be, and it belongs to a specific time and place. The same particular combination of circumstances that coalesce in the Rio Grande Valley at this time were not repeated anywhere else in the world

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, W.W.H., El Gringo, or New Mexico and Her People, Santa Fe, Rydal Press, 1938
 Dominguez, Fray Francisco Atanasio, The Missions of New Mexico, 1776, translated and annotated by Eleanor B. Adams and Fray Angelico Chavez, Albuquerque, U. of New Mexico Press, 1956
 Forrest, Earl R., Missions and Pueblos of the Old Southwest, Chicago, Rio Grande Press, 1962
 Kubler, George, The Religious Architecture of New Mexico, Colorado Springs, The Taylor Museum, 1940

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 5' 47"	106° 40' 9"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Merle Clark, Chief Planner

ORGANIZATION: **State Planning Office** DATE: **July 8, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 Capitol Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **30**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 E. L. S. [Signature]

Title State Planning Officer

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS