

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 7 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 16 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Tranquilino Luna House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South of Los Lunas rd. NM 6

~~At the southwest corner of U.S. 85 and State~~

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Route 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Los Lunas

2

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

35

COUNTY

Valencia

CODE

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Eunice Sullivan

STREET & NUMBER

Box 152

CITY, TOWN

Los Lunas

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

87031

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Valencia County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Los Lunas

STATE

New Mexico

87031

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

6/11/1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Planning Office, 200 W. DeVargas Street

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE <u>early 1880</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in the early 1880's by unknown craftsmen, the Tranquilino Luna House has retained most of its original design. This fourteen-room Victorian house was built of large adobe terrones (flat slabs of sod) and rests on a foundation of rough stone and adobe mortar. Except for a few minor modifications, the exterior has not essentially been altered.

Early in this century, a small single-story wooden front porch was replaced by the present two-story portico which is supported by four pillars. At the time of this remodeling, the original frieze was moved forward and incorporated in the new portico. The frieze contains paired Italianate brackets and center panels and is found on all four sides of the rectangular house as well as on the square kitchen attached to the rear. A bay window on the north side of the structure originally contained four double hung windows but these have been replaced with three solid sheets of fixed glass. The decorative wooden arches over each of the two center windows were modified into a single arch but the wooden trim below as well as the double brackets and center panels above the new windows have not been altered. A second bay window on the east side of the structure contains three double hung windows and has not been modified. The remaining double hung windows and window trim are all in place with the exception of a window situated above the east bay window. The original double hung window in this place has been replaced with a casement containing ten panes of clear glass. Four brick chimneys located on the truncated metal roof of the main portion of the building and a single brick chimney on a similar roof over the kitchen have all been lowered by the present owner. Quite recently a small concrete block room with an exterior door and hip roof has been added to the northwest corner of the Luna House. A wooden structure having a flat roof has also been attached to the southeast corner of the house, while on the southwest corner, a former small porch was removed and a larger screened porch added.

The front entrance to the house now consists of a single large screen door which provides passage into a small foyer which, in turn, leads to two French doors having a fanlight of clear glass overhead. The French doors open upon a central hallway which contains a single flight staircase as well as entrances into the five main floor rooms. On the south side of this staircase is a door and descending staircase to the basement which consists of a large room with two small windows one of which was formerly an opening for a coal chute.

The northwest corner room on the main floor contains a front bay window and recent fireplace, the originals all having been removed by the present owner. This room served as the living room and is typical of all other rooms in the house in that the walls and ceiling are finished with painted plaster. Containing the original hardwood floors, this room is about eight feet in height as are the other rooms on the first floor. Adjoining the living room on the south and connected by sliding wooden panel doors is a back parlor. In the northeast corner of the house is the main parlor which contains the east side bay window. South of this room and connected by another set of sliding wooden panel doors is a dining room which has unique wainscoting to a height of seven feet. In the rear of the house and at the end of the central hallway is the kitchen. A recent partition in the northwest corner

(Continued on Continuation Sheet #1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

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of this room forms a bathroom. An exterior door containing a transom exits from the kitchen to the west.

The second floor also contains a central hallway from which a bedroom in each corner of the house is entered. The northwest corner bedroom was partitioned on the south in order to create two bathrooms. One bathroom serves the northwest corner bedroom while the other serves the southwest corner bedroom.

The house is structurally sound although the exterior walls have settled. The interior walls have not done so, however, thus causing the floors to slope outward. This settling has been uniform and as a result there are no cracks in the walls. The original coal boiler situated in the basement has been converted to natural gas and heat is transmitted through several steam radiators. Both the plumbing and electrical systems were installed early in the 20th century. Much of the interior wooden trim throughout the house has been removed.

Originally the property was surrounded by an ornamental iron fence set in an undressed stone foundation. A single iron gate was located directly in front of the house while a double gate provided an entrance for vehicular traffic near the northwest corner of the yard. The fence and gates were removed after 1971 by the present owner. The historic environment of the property has been impaired by a "Lota Burger" located approximately ninety feet to the east, a four lane highway approximately sixty feet east of the "Lota Burger", a liquor store approximately seventy-five feet to the west and a mobile home park approximately three hundred feet to the south. On the north, the house is bounded by a two-lane highway which follows the original road into Los Lunas.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

early 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The home of members of the politically powerful Luna family, the Tranquilino Luna House was constructed in the early 1880's. This house is probably the best example of an extant adobe Victorian residence in New Mexico and has retained most of its original design.

Tranquilino Luna, son of merchant-farmer José Antonio Luna and his wife Isabel Baca, was a direct descendant of Domingo de Luna who settled in the Los Lunas area shortly after the Reconquest of New Mexico in 1693 by General Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponce de León. Born in Los Lunas on February 25, 1849, Tranquilino attended public schools and was graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Politically and commercially active, he engaged extensively in stock raising and was delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1880 and 1888. Elected as a Republican Delegate from the Territory of New Mexico to the Forty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1881-March 3, 1883), he also presented credentials as a Delegate-elect to the Forty-eighth Congress and served from March 4, 1883 until March 5, 1884, when he was succeeded by Francisco A. Manzanares who contested his election. Tranquilino also held the office of sheriff of Valencia County from 1888 until his death on November 20, 1892. He was survived by his wife, Amalia Jaramillo and a son, Maximiliano, who as captain of Troop F, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, served in the Spanish-American War and later drowned in November of 1899 while serving in the Philippine Islands.

The Lunas, Oteros and Chaveses were the three most influential and politically powerful families of the Rio Abajo (lower river) region during the Mexican and Territorial periods. In addition to Tranquilino, the family also included Solomon, Jesús María, Luz and Eloisa. His famous brother Solomon, also a wealthy sheep raiser and president of the Bank of Commerce in Albuquerque, held various important political offices including that of Valencia County probate clerk in 1885, sheriff in 1892 and treasurer in 1894. He was also delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1910 and from 1896 until his death in 1912 was a member of the National Republican Committee. Jesús María was a captain in the New Mexico militia, an Indian fighter and politician. Luz married José María Romero and little else is known about her. In 1879, Eloisa, the youngest daughter, married Manuel B. Otero thus uniting the Otero and Luna families into an even more powerful alliance. However, this marriage was short-lived since in the summer of 1883 at Estancia Springs, Otero was shot and killed by James G. Whitney over a land grant dispute. Three years after her husband's death, Eloisa married leading citizen, merchant and later clerk for the district court, Alfred M. Bergere. The Bergeres moved to Santa Fe where their home became the center of many

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

L. Bradford Prince Papers, Contemporary New Mexicans, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
 U.S. Census 1860 and 1870, Valencia County, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
 Book A-6, page 213, Deed Records, Valencia County Clerk's Office, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
 (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately .25 *W.M. Co. 3*

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 3	34, 1, 2, 5, 5	3, 8, 5, 2, 8, 5, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James H. Purdy, Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Records Center and Archives

DATE

3/25/75

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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.

SIGNATURE

Historic Preservation Officer

TITLE

Thomas W. Merkle

DATE

3-31-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/16/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Apr 14 1975

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

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social events held in the capital city.

Although Tranquilino and his wife constructed this ten-room adobe house early in the 1880's, the first recorded mention of the structure does not appear until April 21, 1885 in a deed of conveyance from Tranquilino to his wife. On August 15, 1887, Tranquilino and Amalia transferred the deed to the property to William B. Childers as trustee. Two years later, Childers sold the Luna residence to Solomon who owned most of the adjoining property and he, in turn, placed the property in his wife's name on July 15, 1893. The latter, Adelaida Otero de Luna, was the daughter of Manuel Rito Otero and the granddaughter of Judge Antonio José Otero who in 1846 had been appointed by Brigadier-General Stephen Watts Kearny as justice to the first New Mexico territorial supreme court.

There is no evidence, however, that the Solomon Lunas, who were childless, actually utilized the house as their residence. Solomon was found dead at one of his sheep camps on August 30, 1912 after he apparently had suffered a heart attack and fallen into a sheep dipping vat. Five years later, on June 28, 1917, Adelaida conveyed the house and land to their nephew and heir, Eduardo M. Otero. Eduardo, a prominent sheep raiser in the Los Lunas area, was the son of Manuel B. Otero and Eloisa.

The present owner of the Tranquilino Luna House Mrs. Eunice Sullivan has recently placed the property on the market.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Book A-8, page 793, Deed Records, Valencia County Clerk's Office, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
- Book A-11, page 282, Deed Records, Valencia County Clerk's Office, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
- Book B-3, page 339, Deed Records, Valencia County Clerk's Office, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
- Anderson, George B. (comp.) History of New Mexico Its Resources and People, Vol. I., New York: Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907.
- Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1949. House Document #607, G.P.O., 1950.
- Fergusson, Erna. Murder and Mystery in New Mexico. Albuquerque: Merle Armitage, 1948.
- LaFarge, Oliver. Santa Fe, the Autobiography of a Southwestern Town. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959.
- Read, Benjamin M. Illustrated History of New Mexico. Santa Fe: New Mexican Printing Company, 1912.
- Otero, Miguel Antonio. My Life on the Frontier 1864-1882. New York: The Press of the Pioneers, 1935.
- Otero, Miguel Antonio. My Life on the Frontier 1882-1897. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1939.
- Otero, Miguel Antonio. My Nine Years as Governor of the Territory of New Mexico 1897-1906. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1940.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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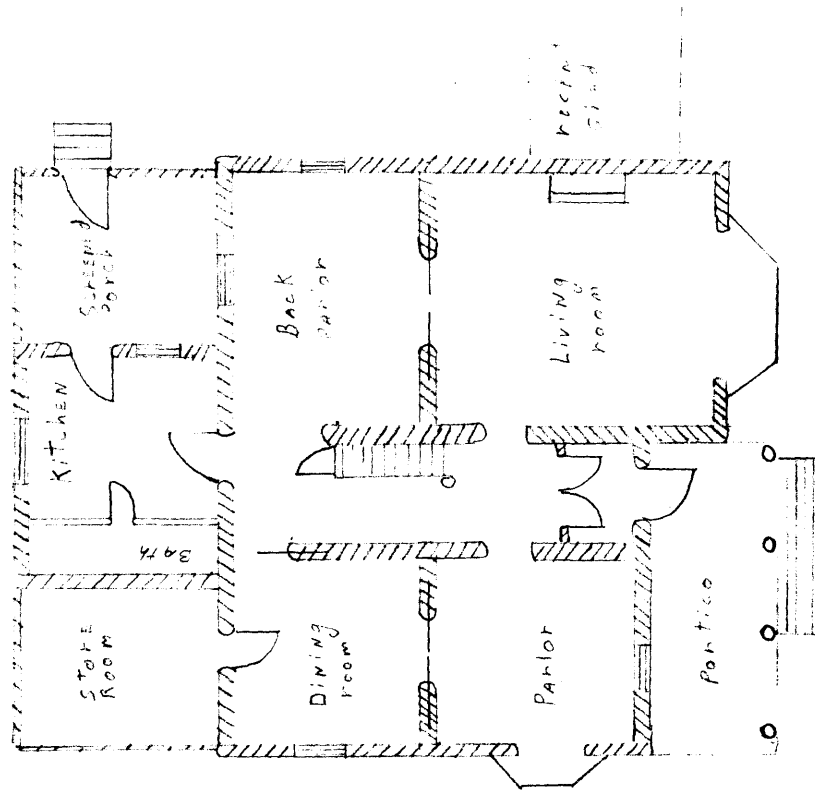
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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

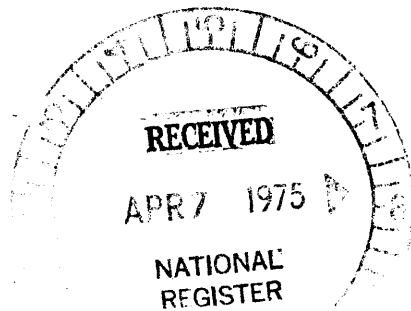
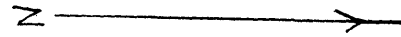
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. The Leading Facts of New Mexican History, Vol. 2, Albuquerque: Horn and Wallace, 1963.
- Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. Old Santa Fe. Chicago: The Rio Grande Press, Inc., 1963.



The Tranquilino Luna House
 First Floor Plan - Sketch
 James Purdy - March 1975



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Tranquillino Luna House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Los Lunas

Valencia

New Mexico

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE James H. Purdy

SCALE No scale

DATE March, 1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES