

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NOV 16 2018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) Lodge Hall
Other Names/Site Number: 5CT.213
Name of related multiple property listing: The Culebra River Villages of Costilla County, Colorado

2. Location

Street & Number: County Road 223 and County Road L7 (southwest corner)
City or town: Chama State: CO County: Costilla
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Holly K. Norton *10 October 2018*
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
History Colorado
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: _____

Pat *Janet A. Garcia*
Signature of the Keeper

12 | 31 | 18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2	0	Buildings
1	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.):

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.):

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.):

OTHER: Hispano Adobe

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

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walls: STUCCO, ADOBE
roof: ASPHALT
other: BRICK, METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) lodge hall is located in Chama, an unincorporated community in Costilla County in the southeastern corner of Colorado's San Luis Valley. The property lies 3.8 miles southeast of San Luis, the county seat of Costilla County, and 34.7 miles southeast of Alamosa. Situated at the southwest corner of County Roads 22.3 and L.7, the parcel contains a small adobe meeting hall and a frame privy to the south. The property retains excellent historic integrity.

Narrative Description

The SPMDTU property is located in Chama, Colorado, at an elevation of 8,190' on a site above the county roads to the north and east (Photograph 1). The entire nominated area is treated as a site (Resource 1). The land slopes slightly to the southwest and drops toward Culebra Creek, which lies about 478' to the south. Single family dwellings sit across County Road L.7 (Whiskey Pass Road) to the north, and the ruin of an earlier Chama Post Office is present at the southeast corner of the intersection. The SPMDTU lodge hall is situated at the northeast corner of the nominated area facing north-northwest, with a privy 47' south of the building and a propane tank 12' west. A wood electric utility pole lies to the southeast and provides electricity to the building. An informal two-track dirt road, likely produced by drivers seeking a short cut across the corner of the intersection, extends northwest-southeast through the parcel, passing between the hall and the privy. Grass and forbs cover the parcel, and rabbit brush and prickly pear cacti grow densely by the privy. The nominated area is part of an *extensión*, a long narrow strip of land reflecting the area's early settlement by Hispanos in the 1850s. The included Sketch Map shows the boundary of the nominated area and photograph locations.

SPMDTU Meeting Hall, Resource 2, ca. 1920, building, contributing, photographs 2 through 9

The one-story rectangular (31'-9" x 20') lodge hall or *sala* faces north-northwest and has stuccoed adobe block walls atop a concrete foundation, that projects slightly on the north, south, and west. The front is symmetrical and contains a center entrance with a faux six-panel door (replacement) flanked by two-over-two-light wood windows, now covered by wire security mesh held in place by wood frames (Photographs 2 through 4). The door opens onto a concrete apron. Centered above the door the upper part of the façade features a striking painted wall sign in large black letters with heavy serifs and yellow drop shadows reading: "S.P.M D.T.U." Above, smaller lettering in the same style reads: "CONCILIO NO. 31," surmounted by a remnant of the SPMDTU logo of two hands clasped in the group's handshake.

The east and west walls are unfenestrated (Photographs 3, 4, 6, and 7). The east and west gable faces are clad with asphalt rolled roofing; the east gable face contains a boarded-up opening. The rear wall (south) features a two-over-two-light wood window to the east and a one-over-one-light

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wood window to the west (Photographs 4 and 5). A series of dimensional wood ceiling joists slightly project near the top of the rear wall; a small projecting wood platform is located near the east end (function unknown). An electric service panel is at the east end of the rear wall.

The side-gable roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. A hanging metal gutter remnant is located on the front near the west end. The roof is clad with asphalt composition shingles and has a metal ridge cap with ball finials at each end. A short brick chimney is present on the south roof slope near the west end; a metal stovepipe is located on the south roof slope near the southeast corner.

Interior. The western three-quarters of the interior consists of the meeting room, which features a wood plank floor (partially covered with indoor-outdoor carpeting); vertical wood wainscoting; and plaster walls. A propane stove stands in the center of the west wall (Photograph 8). A row of coat hooks is attached to the south wall opposite the front door. A blackboard is affixed to the north wall between the door and the west window. Other furniture includes a table and a three-legged wood stool. The eastern quarter of the building consists of a room where initiates waited while being considered for membership. The small room holds wood benches along its east wall and a stove on its south wall. The partition wall between the two rooms contains a one-panel wood door to the north and a large opening with a shelf to the south (Photograph 9).

Alterations. The principal alterations are installation of security mesh over the windows between 1971 and 1977 and replacement of the front door after 2010. The rolled roofing on the gable ends may be an alteration from the original, but it appears to date to the period of significance.

Privy, Resource 3, ca. 1920, building, contributing, photographs 10 and 11

The privy probably was erected about the same time as the lodge hall. It appears in a 1953 aerial photograph of the Chama area.¹ Located 47' south of the meeting hall, the privy faces north and is approximately 8' square. No foundation is visible. The west wall is clad with vertical 1" x 6" boards attached with wire (round) nails; the remaining walls have horizontal 2" x 6" boards. The front contains a center vertical board door. The shed roof is slightly overhanging and is clad with rolled roofing (some missing); spaces between the rafters on the front are open. The door was padlocked during fieldwork and the interior could not be accessed.

Alterations. There are no apparent alterations.

Archaeological Site, Resource 1, ca. 1920, contributing, photographs 1, 12, and 13

The historic nonaboriginal archaeological resources within the nominated area of the Chama SPMDTU lodge hall consist of an artifact concentration and an extant privy. This archaeological evidence provides significant information about use of the property over time and historic activities likely associated with the SPMDTU lodge hall. The artifact concentration is located behind and to the south of the adobe hall and adjacent to the privy (see Artifact Sketch Map). Although many of the surface artifacts are fragmentary, they can still reveal important information about site-related activities, and it is likely that there are additional buried intact cultural remains in or near the privy within the artifact concentration. Artifacts are described more fully in the discussion below.

Description of Archaeological Resources by Area

Artifact Concentration. Artifacts are found in a dense concentration on the surface directly associated with the perimeter of the privy and extending to the south and downslope. The concentration extends approximately 75' east-west x 75' north-south with the majority of the materials located west and south of the privy (Photographs 12 and 13). Artifacts are visible on the surface and also in rodent backdirt, suggesting buried cultural materials are likely to exist in this area.

¹ Aerial photograph, VV BE M7 AMS 133, 8 October 1953, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado.

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Most of the artifacts are fragments and are primarily domestic items including numerous pieces of glass, a few fragments of earthenware and porcelain, and two fragments of unidentified animal bone. Glass colors include bright green, purple, clear, brown, milk glass, and cobalt blue. The majority of glass fragment shapes are suggestive of vessel glass, especially alcoholic beverage (beer and wine) and soda containers (for example 7-UP). Dated artifacts include a purple glass beverage bottle base with an Illinois Glass Co. trademark, ca. 1916-1929,² and other purple glass beverage container fragments, ca. 1885-1920.³ A clear glass base fragment exhibits a keystone maker's mark with a "D" indicating manufacture by the Knox Glass Bottle Co., ca. 1946-1952.⁴ One medicinal bottle base fragment of cobalt blue glass exhibits a manufacturer's trademark of Vicks Vaporub, ca. 1940s/1950s.⁵ One ribbed, milk glass fragment with an embossed Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation maker's mark dates from ca. 1957-1977;⁶ the shape suggests a cosmetic or decorative container. Evidence of dishware was very limited but consisted of a few fragments of white-glazed earthenware (a handle fragment and other unidentified items), and a few very small fragments of porcelain with a flower pattern and raised lines from an unidentified item.

Metal artifacts included a ring pull tab and can, ca. 1965-1975;⁷ an aluminum screw-on lid; a piece of curved-shaped metal wire (possibly from a vehicle seat); one sanitary tin can, ca. 1911 or later;⁸ a crown bottle cap, ca. 1892-present;⁹ a few wire (round) nails; and a large metal chain fragment. Other artifacts included a few pieces of asphalt roofing, a concentration of rounded pebbles and blue and turquoise-colored rocks that appear to have been dumped from an aquarium, and other modern trash such as cardboard box fragments, recently-deposited modern beer bottles, and a woman's or girl's plastic sandal. Most of the more recent trash is located adjacent to the two-track shortcut that crosses the site from the northwest to the southeast between the hall and the privy.

Although the artifacts suggest dates from possibly as early as the late 1800s to the recent past, the majority of items appear to date from the 1920s to the 1960/1970s, a time frame that would fit into the documented historic dates of use for the SPMDTU. There was very little evidence in the artifact concentration of the use of artifacts that would suggest home canning/food preservation activities or the utilization of store-purchased canned food goods that are commonly associated with residential structures during the late 1800s to the early to mid-1900s. Also, if the adobe building was originally built as a residence or at times utilized as a residence, one would expect to find artifacts associated with domestic-related activities adjacent to the building as well as in a trash concentration. Only a few artifacts, consisting of small fragments of window glass, were found in the front where the only building entrance door is located, or anywhere adjacent to the adobe building. This is suggestive that the majority of the artifacts found in the concentration are more likely to have been associated with SPMDTU-related functions, such as the disposal of used and broken food and beverage containers brought to meetings and other events, rather than for daily domestic-related residential activities. Local SPMDTU member Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova stated that he was not aware of the historic trash disposal methods utilized at the lodge hall, but he suggested that trash may have been burned

² Toulouse, Julian Harrison, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, (New York: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1971), 264-268.

³ Jonathon C. Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook* (Montrose, Colorado: Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., 2005), 1.

⁴ Bill Lockhart, Pete Schultz, Carol Serr and Bill Lindsay, The Knox Glass Bottle Co., *Bottles and Extras*, May-June 2008, https://sha.org/bottle/pdffiles/Knox2_BRG.pdf (accessed 7 November 2017).

⁵ <https://www.glassbottlemarks.com/bottlemarks-5/> (accessed 7 November 2017).

⁶ Anchor and H entwined mark: Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation, <https://www.glassbottlemarks.com/anchor-and-h-entwined-mark-anchor-hocking-glass-corporation/> (accessed 4 April 2018).

⁷ De Pastino, Blake, *At 50, Ring-Tab Beer Cans Are Now Officially Historic Artifacts*, April 13, 2015, <http://westerndigs.org/ring-tab-beer-cans-are-now-officially-historic-artifacts/> (accessed 3 April 2018).

⁸ Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook*, 4.

⁹ <https://sha.org/bottle/closures.htm#Crown%20cap> (accessed 28 September 2018).

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or a refuse can may have been located onsite.¹⁰ It was noted during fieldwork that none of the artifacts on the surface in the concentration had visible evidence of burning.

Viewing from a distance, it is possible that additional artifacts may be located to the south in the lower area downhill from the privy. Due to the steep drop-off and distance from the hall and privy, this area was likely accessed from the main north-south road to the east (County Road 22.3) rather than directly from the SPMDTU Lodge Hall area. Any artifacts in this very southern portion of the parcel are more likely to have originated from other locations.

Privy. The interior of the existing privy was not accessible, but artifacts may be located within this building and/or in the buried privy pit deposits beneath it or are possibly buried in previous privy pit locations (not identified). All of the areas within the archaeological concentration around the privy are also likely to have the potential to yield buried artifacts and information about the use of the SPMDTU lodge hall over time. These artifacts may also provide data about how the intensity of site use may have varied over time, what specific types of containers and other items were utilized at the site and how they relate to the ethnicity and gender of SPMDTU users, and if and how the site uses may have changed over time.

Integrity

The Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos property retains excellent historic integrity in all seven areas, including location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building still serves as the lodge for the local chapter of the SPMDTU in the small, unincorporated community of Chama. The building displays no additions or significant alterations and stands as an example of the adobe workmanship of the Hispano lodge members who erected it. The only minor changes to the building's design and materials are the addition of security mesh over the windows in the 1970s and replacement of the exterior door post 2010.

¹⁰ Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova, Chama, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and Marilyn A. Martorano, 17 October 2017.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
X	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations:

	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	B	Removed from its original location
	C	A birthplace or grave
	D	A cemetery
	E	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	F	A commemorative property
	G	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.):

- Social History
- Ethnic Heritage/Hispano
- Architecture
- Archaeology/Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance: ca. 1920-68

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): Hispano

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Chama SPMDTU members

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance for Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Hispano extends from ca. 1920 to 1968, from the year the SPMDTU began using the property until 1968, a time fifty years before the present, in keeping with National Register guidelines. The period of significance for Architecture is ca. 1920, the approximate date the hall was erected. The period of significance for Archaeology/Historic Non-Aboriginal is ca. 1920s to 1968.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): None

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) lodge hall is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Hispano. Constructed ca. 1920

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for the local chapter of a Hispano fraternal and social group, the building still serves as the group's meeting place. The property is further significant under Criterion C for its Architecture as a rare surviving example of a small SPMDTU adobe lodge hall. The property also possesses significance under Criterion D in the area of Historic Nonaboriginal Archaeology, for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried and surface archaeological remains. The site contains archaeological deposits that have yielded and are likely to yield important information about the use of the hall and the surrounding area. All areas of significance are at the local level. The property meets the registration requirements of the *Culebra River Villages of Costilla County, Colorado* Multiple Property Documentation Form as an example of the property type "Vernacular Churches, Parish Compound, and Religious/Fraternal Buildings of the Rio Culebra Basin," subtype "SPMDTU Lodge Halls." The period of significance extends from ca. 1920, when the Chama chapter was established and the building was erected, to 1968, a time fifty years before the present, in keeping with National Register guidelines. The property retains a very high level of historic integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A. The Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) lodge hall is locally significant in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Hispano as the lodge hall of that group since its construction ca. 1920. Founded in 1900, the SPMDTU served the fraternal and social needs of its Hispano membership. Anthropologist José Aguayo explained that Hispanos formed mutual aid societies such as the SPMDTU to combat prejudice and exploitation: "The primary function of these organizations was to build solidarity within the Mexican and Spanish American communities, to educate their members about the laws and institutions of the United States, to welcome new arrivals to the communities, and to plead cases of injustice before the appropriate authorities."¹¹ Reacting to discrimination against Hispanos in labor, agriculture, politics, and land and water rights, the preamble to the SPMDTU's 1911 constitution committed the organization "to protect each other against the injustices of tyrants and despots, the usurpers of law and justice, and those who steal our lives, honor, and property, so that it may serve as the guardian protector of our families and our interests."¹² Members of the organization viewed one another as *hermanos* (brothers) and pledged to aid one another in times of need. The SPMDTU's original charter limited membership to Hispano males between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five. The group provided such benefits as life, sickness, and burial insurance to its members. The group also played an important social role in the community, particularly through dances that were open to all residents of the vicinity.

Criterion C. The Chama lodge hall is further locally significant for its architecture as an intact example of a SPMDTU lodge hall, or *sala*, dating to the 1920s. There was no set design for SPMDTU lodge halls.¹³ Historian Maria Mondragon-Martinez in the *Culebra River Villages* MPDF found that the halls typically were of adobe construction; comparable in scale to dwellings; located along public roads for better access; and used for social functions. Architect Arnold Valdez noted the *salas* "followed the traditional construction methods and linear plan" of *moradas* but contained more windows.¹⁴ The MPDF described the Chama building as "an example of a small chapter house."¹⁵

¹¹ José Aguayo, "Los Betabeleros (The Beetworkers)," in *La Gente: Hispano History and Life in Colorado*, ed. Vincent C. De Baca (Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1998), 116.

¹² Quoted in Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 126.

¹³ See, José A. Rivera, *La Sociedad: Guardians of Hispanic Culture Along the Rio Grande* (Albuquerque, New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 2010) and Frederick C. Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U.," *San Luis Valley Historian* 3 (Winter 1971): 1-14. Illustrations in both works show a variety of *sala* types, including adobe and frame buildings and buildings converted from residential and commercial uses.

¹⁴ Arnold A. Valdez, "Hispanic Vernacular Architecture and Settlement Patterns of the Culebra River Villages of Southern Colorado (1850-1950)" (MA thesis, University of New Mexico, 1992), 114-115.

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Given the SPMDTU's drop in membership and active concilios (or councils) following World War II, the number of functioning lodge halls has also declined. In conducting a photographic survey of SMPDTU lodge halls in Colorado and New Mexico in the 1990s, Jose A. Rivera and Daniel Salazar found that many buildings had been closed or fallen into disrepair, converted to private residences, or demolished.¹⁶

Criterion D. Additionally, the Chama SPMDTU meeting hall is locally significant under Criterion D for non-aboriginal historic archaeology for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried and surface archaeological remains. The artifacts in the concentration and associated with the extant privy and potential previous privy pit locations are likely to yield data on a variety of topics including socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, and social practices of early Hispano mutual aid organizations in the San Luis Valley over time. Hispano fraternal halls in Colorado are an underrepresented site type and while the general activities that occurred at these halls are known, the specific types of activities that took place at this hall are not documented. Questions regarding food/beverage consumption at the hall during meetings or other activities could possibly be studied through investigations of archaeological remains associated with the site. Archaeological resources have the potential to provide detailed data about ethnic and gender-related practices associated with cultural activities that took place at the hall through time that are not generally available in the written record.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Creation of the SPMDTU

The Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos arose at a time when ethnic mutual aid societies were springing up across the nation. Former Colorado State Historian Modupe Labode explained: "For centuries, people with common interests—ethnicity, race, job, or religion—pooled their resources to provide for one another in times of need. Among Hispanos in the southwest, *sociedades mutualistas* were important aspects of rural life. These mutual aid societies provided the difference between dignity and destitution in times of misfortune."¹⁷ The SPMDTU was but one of several Hispano mutual aid societies in the American Southwest in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Examples of such groups include community acequias (irrigation ditches), *Penitente* brotherhoods, Hispano labor organizations, and agricultural organizations formed to protect land, water, and other natural resources.¹⁸

Celedonio Mondragón (1863-1923) served as the driving force behind the creation of the SPMDTU. Born in Cenicero, Colorado (near Antonito), he worked as a jewelry maker in the 1880s and 1890s in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mondragón drew ideas for the SPMDTU from an organization to which he belonged in that territory, La Orden de Caballeros de Protección Mutua por Ley y Orden (Order of Knights for Mutual Protection in Law and Order). He was also familiar with the practices of La Fraternidad Piadosa de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno (the *penitentes*).¹⁹ Mondragón returned to his

¹⁵ Maria Mondragon-Martinez, *The Culebra River Villages of Costilla County, Colorado*, Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1 June 2000.

¹⁶ Rivera, *La Sociedad*, xiii.

¹⁷ Modupe Labode, "Viva la Liga de Mutua Protección," *Colorado History/Now*, December 2005, 3.

¹⁸ Jose A. Rivera, "The Roots of Community in the Historic Rio Arriba: Mutualism, Cultural Endurance and Resilience" (2016), 2-8, UNM Digital Repository, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, digitalrepository.unm.edu, accessed 19 January 2018; Arnold and Maria Valdez, SPMDTU Concilio Superior, Antonito, Colorado, 5CN.817, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 29 September 2000, 5-7.

¹⁹ Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 46.

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birthplace in Conejos County in 1895, where he engaged in ranching and served as postmaster of Cenicero before moving to Antonito to pursue jewelry making.²⁰

On 26 November 1900 in Antonito, Mondragón and a small group of fellow Hispanos established the Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (Society of Mutual Protection of United Workers or SPMDTU). Mondragón served as the group's first president. The SPMDTU sought to create an organization to combat discrimination and inequities and improve the social, economic, and political condition of Hispanos in the Southwest. As SPMDTU historian José Rivera explains:

Without government protection, hispano wage earners and subsistence farmers had to fend for themselves in a changing and at times a hostile environment. The founders [of the SPMDTU] believed that they could help protect members and their families from poverty, unemployment, and economic hardships if they worked collaboratively and pooled their resources in a mutual union. At the core was a belief that help should come from the people in the community, "de nuestro pueblo," as they often would say, all for the good of the society and advancement of the common welfare.²¹

The SPMDTU constitution of 1909 delineated membership eligibility: male Hispano U.S. citizens between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five, who were free of chronic illnesses, of sound mind, and held a belief in a supreme being. Members were required to be law-abiding and free of vice and criminal convictions. Excluded from membership were heads of political parties and ministers of religions.²² The organization provided collection of dues to support and benefit members, including cash benefits for sickness, unemployment, and death. Life insurance was available for members to purchase. Members were expected to display *hermanismo* (brotherhood) toward other members. SPMDTU historian Frederick Sanchez emphasized the participants' obligations toward a deceased *hermano*: "It was the duty of all members belonging to the council of a departed brother to form an honor guard for the body. These men were also to make arrangements for the wake, if there was one to be had. Then they were to help in the burial services."²³

The SPMDTU was in many respects like other non-Hispano fraternal orders of the period. The organization was a secret society, with passwords for meetings, a special handshake, logo, badges (*devisas*), and a roster of officers fulfilling special duties at chapter meetings (see Figures 1 and 2). In 1922 the SPMDTU adopted a forty-five-page ritualistic code, consisting of secret rules for conducting chapter meetings and other functions, as well as an official hymn for the group.²⁴

From its Antonito origin, the SPMDTU grew to ten concilios by 1914; the following year the first two New Mexico chapters were established.²⁵ In 1925 the SPMDTU erected a building in Antonito to serve as its national headquarters (*Concilio Superior*).²⁶ The group continued to expand during the first half of the twentieth century, establishing new chapters in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. Historian José Rivera estimates the organization had more than sixty active councils by 1937 and reached a peak of about sixty-five councils by the 1940s. Colorado counties with SPMDTU chapters in 1937 included: Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, La Plata, Larimer, Rio Grande, and Saguache. It appears that more than eighty councils were active in the Southwest at one time or another, although not all at the same time. About forty-one chapters were established in Colorado,

²⁰ Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 46-47.

²¹ Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 48-49.

²² Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 51; Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U.," 4.

²³ Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U.," 9.

²⁴ Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos, *Código Ritualístico de Regimen Interior: Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos* (Santa Fe, New Mexico: State Record Print, 1922, revised 1926).

²⁵ Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U.," 5.

²⁶ Valdez and Valdez, SPMDTU Concilio Superior, National Register of Historic Places nomination.

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with most located in the San Luis Valley. Most of New Mexico's forty-one councils were in the northern portion of the state. The three Utah councils, added in the 1940s, centered on Salt Lake City and Ogden. Rivera noted that "an exact count is difficult to determine," as councils were created, became inactive, consolidated with nearby councils, or terminated, with council numbers duplicated or omitted.²⁷ Rivera estimated that the SPMDTU membership peaked at about two thousand members in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Costilla County once had four SPMDTU concilios in Chama, San Luis, Fort Garland, and Costilla/Garcia.²⁸ Presently Colorado has four active concilios, located in Alamosa, Antonito, Chama, and Denver.

Chama and the Rio Culebra Watershed

Chama, in the upper drainage of the Rio Culebra, was part of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, authorized by the government of Mexico in 1843. Attempts by Hispano *pobladores* (settlers) in the late 1840s to establish a foothold on the grant were turned back by Native Americans. In 1849 settlers from El Rito, New Mexico, established Plaza de los Manzanares (later Garcia) in today's Costilla County just across the border with New Mexico.²⁹ A more sizable settlement occurred in 1851 at San Luis on the Rio Culebra fourteen miles north of the present-day Colorado-New Mexico border. Hispano settlements followed in the 1850s at San Pablo, San Pedro, San Francisco, and Chama in the Rio Culebra watershed to the southeast. Chama was settled 1854-55 by settlers from Chamita, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.³⁰ The pobladores brought with them cultural and agricultural practices developed in northern New Mexico, including communal *acequias* for irrigation, adobe construction, and a pattern of land division employing long narrow *extensiones* (sometimes called a long-lot or *vara* strip).³¹ An *extensión* typically stretched perpendicularly from a river or stream (such as the Rio Culebra) and included lands suitable for cultivation, pasturage, and timber cutting.³²

Establishing the Chama Chapter and Constructing the Hall

A 1991 survey form reported the Chama SPMDTU chapter was established on 7 October 1920 with nine founding members.³³ The year is supported by a 1937 listing of Chama SPMDTU members, which shows April 1920 as the earliest date of enrollment. The nine Chama members who joined in 1920 included: Moises Vigil, Gumecindo Sanchez, Clodoveo (or Cloroveo) Vigil, Federico Sanchez, Epitacio Sanchez, Rufino Vialpando, Florencio Atencio, Manuel M. Sanchez, and Luciano Sanchez. Their ages in 1920 varied from twenty-one to fifty-four, with a majority in their twenties.³⁴ Of these nine early Chama members, eight appeared in the 1920 census residing in the Chama precinct: six

²⁷ Rivera, *La Sociedad*, 151-52.

²⁸ Arnold Valdez, Chama SPMDTU Meeting Hall, Historic Building Inventory Record Form, 5CT.213, 24 June 1991.

²⁹ Olibama Lopez Tushar, *The People of El Valle: A History of Spanish Settlers in the San Luis Valley*, 4th ed. (Pueblo, Colorado: El Escritorio, 2007), 94-95. Tushar recalls family members telling they settled in *el cuarenta y nueve* ('49). Research and debate as to what comprises Colorado's oldest "town" continues. See, Kenneth Jessen, "In Search of Colorado's Oldest Town," *Colorado Central Magazine* (December 2001), cozine.com (accessed 12 July 2018).

³⁰ Richard L. Nostrand, *The Hispano Homeland* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992), 82-84.

³¹ Nostrand, *The Hispano Homeland*, 217-23; Dana Maestas, *San Luis*, Images of America (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 33. A *vara*, a Spanish unit of linear measurement, equals 32.909 inches.

³² Dana Maestas, *San Luis*, Images of America (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 33. A *vara*, a Spanish unit of linear measurement, equals 32.909 inches.

³³ Valdez, Chama SPMDTU Meeting Hall, Historic Building Inventory Record Form; SPMDTU Concilio Superior, Minute Ledger, 14 August 1933, Box 16, SPMDTU Manuscript Collection, Number 696 BC, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Valdez does not provide a source for this information, although it appears to have been provided by current members in ca. 1991 interviews. The first mention of Chama Concilio No. 31 in the minutes of the Concilio Superior occurred in 1933. No formation date for the Chama chapter appeared in the manuscript collection records.

³⁴ SPMDTU Membership List, 17 March 1937, Box 1, SPMDTU Manuscript Collection, Number 696 BC, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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listed their occupations as farm laborers and two as sheep herders; five were Colorado natives, while three were born in New Mexico.³⁵

The members erected a lodge hall about 1920 at a prominent location within Chama at the intersection of two county roads for easy access. According to Arnold Valdez, who interviewed older members in about 1991, the members fabricated the adobe blocks and erected the building.³⁶ The Chama facility was built on a small part of Tract 11, an *extensión* in the Chama Bottom Lands.

Based on land ownership records, Maurilio Roybal owned the land when Concilio No. 31 erected the hall ca. 1920. In 1914 Roybal purchased 51.48 acres of Tract 11 from William H. Meyer and other trustees.³⁷ Roybal, born in New Mexico in 1843, lived in Chama at the time of the 1910 census, when he was identified as a farmer.³⁸ He still owned the property at the time of his death (year unknown). In 1943 Roybal's heirs sold 6.04 acres of the tract to Daniel Sanchez. It was not until 1952 that Concilio No. 31 became owner of the half-acre containing the hall.³⁹

Activities of the Chama Chapter

According to current Chama SPMDTU member Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova, members of the Chama chapter tended to possess rural and agrarian backgrounds. The chapter drew most of its members from Chama and neighboring small villages, such as San Pedro and San Pablo. The San Luis SPMDTU (Concilio No. 49) tended to have more merchants, businessmen, and townspeople as members. By 1937, Concilio No. 31 in Chama boasted forty-one members, compared with fifty-three for San Luis.⁴⁰ Valdez believed that at its peak the Chama Concilio had fifty members.⁴¹

The Chama chapter still possessed a full slate of officers in 1950, including: Moises Vialpando, president; Epifanio Atencio, vice president; Juan C. Rael, secretary-treasurer; Ponciano Sena, *consejero* (counselor); Anastacio Sánchez, *calificador* (examiner); Tomás Valdez, *mariscal* (marshal); Porfiro Vialpando, *guardia* (guard); and Feliberto Sánchez, *portero* (usher).⁴² Dances, staged weekly at one time, were open to all members of the community and were the principal fundraisers for the organization, especially in the 1940 to 1980 period. Salas often hosted wedding dances and receptions.⁴³ Chama member Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova observed: "When they [residents of the San Luis Valley] think of the SPMDTU they think of dances."⁴⁴

Recent SPMDTU Developments

As early as 1988, officers of the Concilio Superior recognized the need to recruit new members to the organization. Secretary Tomás E. Romero remarked that a "major problem" for the group was a

³⁵ U.S. Census, Census of Population, manuscript returns, Chama precinct, Costilla County, Colorado, 1920.

³⁶ Valdez, Chama SPMDTU Meeting Hall survey form, 1991; Rivera, *La Sociedad*. The exact year of construction of the hall is not known. The assessor reports a 1920 date, while Valdez estimates ca. 1918-20. Rivera reported the Chama building was originally a dwelling, but when contacted in 2018 could not explain why he thought this. The building's use as a dwelling seems unlikely, as it has no rear door and archaeological artifacts do not support a domestic use.

³⁷ William H. Meyer, et al, to Maurilio Roybal, quit claim deed, book 100, page 41, 12 January 1914.

³⁸ Maurilio Roybal, Martinez Family Tree, Ancestry.com; U.S. Census, Census of Population, manuscript returns, Costilla County, Colorado, 1910.

³⁹ Maurilio Roybal heirs to Daniel Sanchez, quit claim deed, book 146, page 692, 27 November 1943; Daniel Sanchez to Concilio No. 31, quit claim deed, book 155, page 475, 12 January 1952.

⁴⁰ SPMDTU Membership List, 17 March 1937.

⁴¹ Valdez, Chama SPMDTU Meeting Hall, Historic Building Inventory Record Form.

⁴² José Timeteo Lopez, *La Historia de la Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos* (New York: Comet Press, 1958), 56.

⁴³ Antonio Esquibel, Denver, Colorado, email to Thomas H. Simmons, 12 July 2018.

⁴⁴ Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova, Chama, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and Marilyn A. Martorano, 17 October 2017.

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membership that was “declining very much with every year.” He recommended that the Concilio Superior assist local *concilios* in obtaining new members. Later in 1988 the president of the Concilio Superior appointed a committee to explore the possibility of recruiting “migratory people” as members, apparently referring to Hispano agricultural migrants whose work took them into several states.⁴⁵ By about 1998 women could become full members of the SPMDTU. Permissible ages for membership was broadened to extend from sixteen years to sixty.⁴⁶ By 2002 the entire SPMDTU included about six hundred members, reporting its principal functions were to provide life insurance for its members and support the use and preservation of the Spanish language.⁴⁷

Mirroring the overall trend for the SPMDTU, participation in the Chama concilio declined in the post-World War II period (see Figures 3 and 4). In 1991 the Chama SPMDTU chapter had fifteen active members; its lodge hall then was the last active *sala* in Costilla County (see Figures 5 and 6).⁴⁸ In fall 2017 the Chama SPMDTU listed five members, three of whom were active.⁴⁹ Member Richard de Olivas y Córdova is attempting to recruit new participants.

Today the SPMDTU’s goals include serving the communities in which members reside, by conserving Hispano culture and the Spanish language, engaging the community, and supporting education. The group conducts fundraisers to support scholarships for Hispano students. Recently, the SPMDTU website posted a statement supporting the retention of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.⁵⁰ Antonio Esquibel, current vice president of the SPMDTU Concilio Superior, deems his group “the oldest continuous Hispano civil rights group in the United States.”⁵¹

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Esquibel, Antonio. Denver, Colorado. Interview by Thomas H. Simmons and Dana EchoHawk. 12 January 2018.

⁴⁵ Minutes of the Supreme Council Regular Meeting of February 6, 1988 and 6 August 1988, Ledger, 2 February 1954 to 6 February 1993, Box 17, SPMDTU Manuscript Collection, Number 696 BC, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

⁴⁶ Antonio Esquibel, Vice President, Concilio Superior, Denver, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and Dana EchoHawk, 12 January 2018.

⁴⁷ New Mexican (Santa Fe, New Mexico), 2 October 1992, C1.

⁴⁸ Valdez, Chama SPMDTU Meeting Hall survey form, 1991.

⁴⁹ Olivas y Córdova, interview, 17 October 2017.

⁵⁰ Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos, Statement on DACA and US Immigration Policy, ca. 2017, www.spmdu.org.

⁵¹ Antonio Esquibel, Denver, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and Dana EchoHawk, 12 January 2018.

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Vigil, Charles. "Largest Hispanic Fraternal Order Started Nearby." *Costilla County Citizen*. 3 January 1985.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5CT213

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 0.35

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.162448 Longitude: -105.375307

UTM Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Zone: 13 Easting: 466678 Northing: 4112959

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area consists of the northern portion of Costilla County assessor parcel number 10016390, which is part of Tract 11, Chama Bottom Lands. This is approximately the north 120' of the parcel; the south boundary line of the nominated area lies about 19' south of the south wall of the privy.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area is comprised of that portion of the parcel historically associated with SPMDTU activities. The land drops south of the privy and the southern section is not included.

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11. Form Prepared By⁵²

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e-mail: dana.echohawk@gmail.com
telephone: 303-579-2462

date: 1 May 2018 (revised)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

⁵² Funded by Underrepresented Communities Grant from NPS to History Colorado. This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect views of the Department of the Interior.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Chama SPMDTU Hall

City or Vicinity: Chama

County: Costilla

State: Colorado

Name of Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons (unless otherwise noted)

Date of Photographs: October 2017 (unless otherwise noted)

1 of 13, Overview of property (Resource 1) with lodge hall to left and privy and propane tank to right. Date: April 2018.

2 of 13, Front of lodge hall (Resource 2). View south. Date: April 2018.

3 of 13, Front and east wall of lodge hall (Resource 2). View southwest.

4 of 13, East wall and rear of lodge hall (Resource 2). View northwest.

5 of 13, Rear of lodge hall (Resource 2). View north.

6 of 13, West wall of lodge hall (Resource 2) and propane tank. View east. Date: April 2018.

7 of 13, Front and west wall of lodge hall (Resource 2). View southeast.

8 of 13, West end of lodge hall interior (Resource 2). View northwest.

9 of 13, East end of lodge hall interior (Resource 2). The door to the smaller room is obscured by the open exterior door. View southeast.

10 of 13, Front and west wall of privy (Resource 3). View southeast.

11 of 13, Rear and east wall of privy (Resource 3). View northwest.

12 of 13, Overview of the artifact concentration along the southern and western sides of the wooden privy; the SPMDTU Lodge Hall is visible in the background. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano. View north-northeast.

13 of 13, Close-up view of example artifacts including an animal bone fragment, a piece of clear vessel glass, and a metal crown cap bottle closure found on the surface in the artifact concentration near the privy. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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List of Maps and Historic Figures

Location Map

Sketch Map

Artifact Concentration Map

Historic Figures:

1 of 6, The logo of the SPMDTU shows two clasped hands with the date of the founding of the organization. Courtesy of Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2 of 6, The front (left) and reverse (right) of a SPMDTU *devisa* (badge) is shown, which members wear to meetings and other events. The reverse is black and is worn facing out at funerals for members. Courtesy of Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova, Chama, Colorado.

3 of 6, The front of the Chama SPMDTU hall is shown in this ca. 1971 photograph. Courtesy of Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U." (1971): 5.

4 of 6, The front and east wall of the Chama SPMDTU hall is shown in this ca. 1977 survey form photograph (view south). Courtesy of SPMDTU Building, Chama, Colorado, Historic Inventory Form, 5CT.213, 10 July 1977, in the files of History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

5 of 6, This ca. 1990-95 photograph shows member Juan Olivas standing in front of the Chama SPMDTU lodge hall. Daniel Salazar photographer, photograph number AUR-2345. Courtesy of Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado.

6 of 6, This 1992 view shows the front of the Chama SPMDTU hall. Thomas J. Noel photographer, photograph number AUR-794. Courtesy of Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado.

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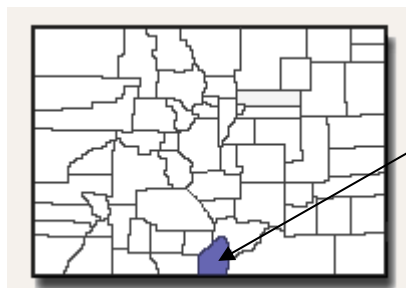
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Location Map



The labeled point indicates the location of the nominated resource, which has the following coordinates:

Latitude: 37.162448, Longitude: -105.375307, Image Date: 18 October 2016

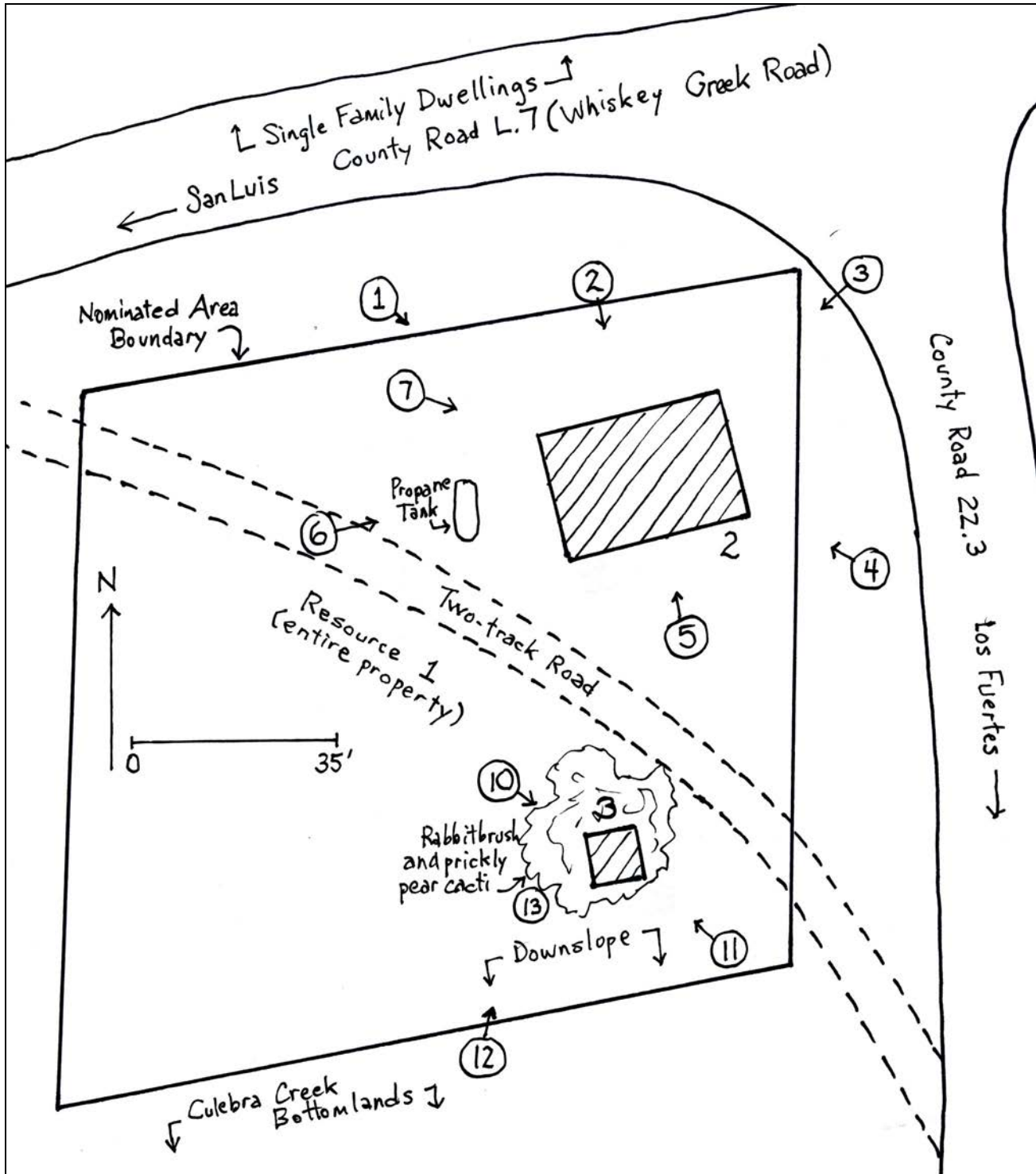


State Perspective:
Chama SPMDTU
Hall

Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) Lodge Hall
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Sketch Map

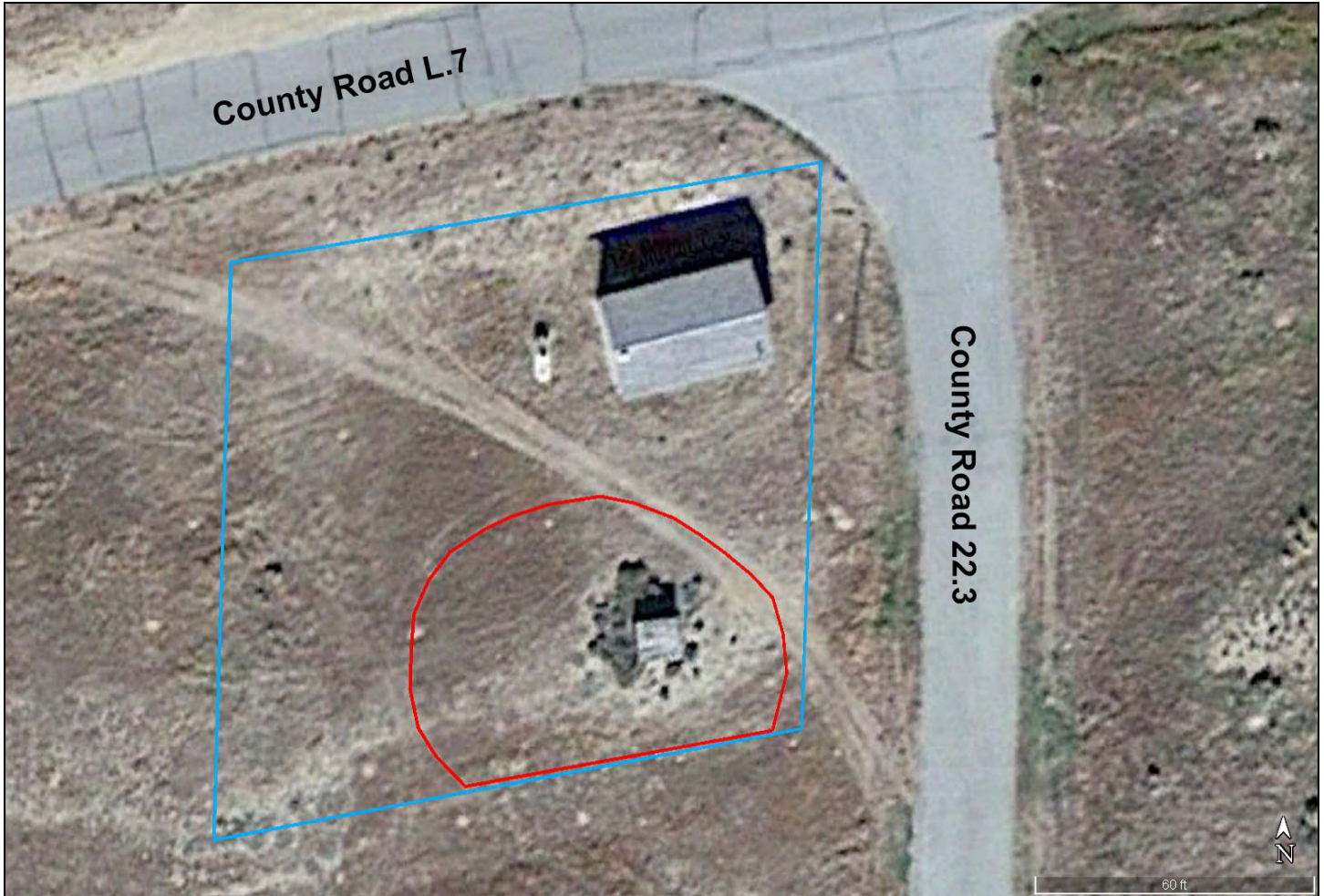


The solid line indicates the nominated area boundary. Numbers beside buildings are resource numbers. Numbers in circles show photograph locations and camera directions.

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Artifact Concentration Map



Artifact concentration boundary = 

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Figure 1. The logo of the SPMDTU shows two clasped hands with the date of the founding of the organization. Courtesy of Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Figure 2. The front (left) and reverse (right) of a SPMDTU *devisa* (badge) is shown, which members wear to meetings and other events. The reverse is black and is worn facing out at funerals for members. Courtesy of Richard D. de Olivas y Córdova, Chama, Colorado.

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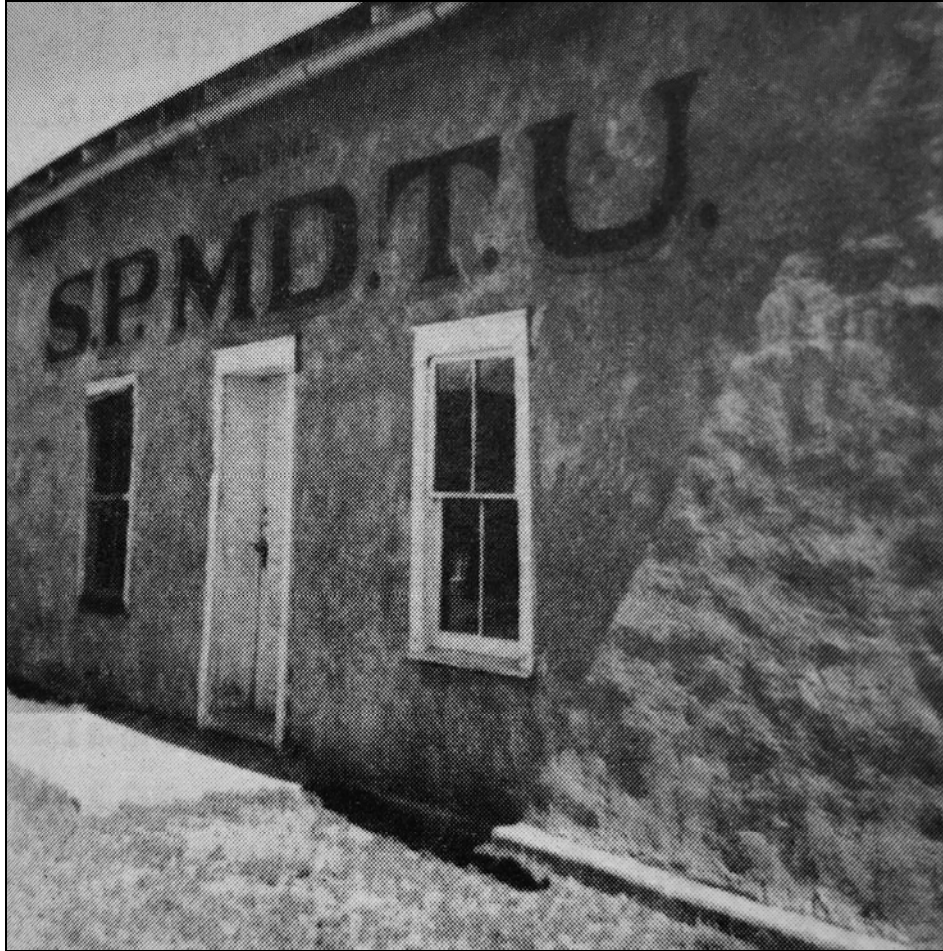


Figure 3. The front of the Chama SPMDTU hall is shown in this ca. 1971 photograph. Courtesy of Sanchez, "A History of the S.P.M.D.T.U." (1971): 5.



Figure 4. The front and east wall of the Chama SPMDTU hall is shown in this ca. 1977 survey form photograph (view south). Courtesy of SPMDTU Building, Chama, Colorado, Historic Inventory Form, 5CT.213, 10 July 1977, in the files of History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

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Figure 5. This ca. 1990-95 photograph shows member Juan Olivas standing in front of the Chama SPMDTU lodge hall. Daniel Salazar photographer, photograph number AUR-2345. Courtesy of Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado.

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Figure 6. This 1992 view shows the front of the Chama SPMDTU hall. Thomas J. Noel photographer, photograph number AUR-794. Courtesy of Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado.

SP.MD.TU.



CONCILIO NO 31

S.P. M.D. T.U.





CONCRETE NO. 2
S.P. MD. TU







SPMD.TU















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Chama Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) Lodge Hall

Multiple Name: Culebra River Villages of Costilla County MPS

State & County: COLORADO, Costilla

Date Received: 11/16/2018 Date of Pending List: 12/10/2018 Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2018 Date of 45th Day: 12/31/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100003273

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 12/31/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Automatic listing due to lapse in appropriations and subsequent furlough.
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Julie Ernstein *Julie A. Ernstein* Discipline Archeologist

Telephone (202)354-2217 Date 12/31/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



HISTORY *Colorado*

November 15, 2018

Dr. Julie H. Ernstein
Acting Chief, NR and NHL Programs
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Dr. Ernstein:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chama SPMDTU Lodge Hall (5CT.213) in Costilla County, Colorado. This nomination is one of four funded by an Underrepresented Communities Grant from NPS to History Colorado in order to increase the number of nominations for historic properties associated with Hispano/Latino History and Culture in Colorado.

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on September 21, 2018. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination of the Chama SPMDTU Lodge Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 303-866-4683 or by email at erika.warzel@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Erika Warzel
National and State Register Coordinator
(303) 866-4683
erika.warzel@state.co.us

Enclosures

CDs (2)
Signature Page