

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Seton Village
AND/OR COMMON Seton Village

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
6 miles southeast of Santa Fe, off U.S. Route 84-85
CITY, TOWN Seton Village VICINITY OF 1st
STATE New Mexico CODE 35 COUNTY Santa Fe CODE 49
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Dee Seton Barber
STREET & NUMBER 6 miles southeast of Santa Fe, Off U.S. Route 84-85
CITY, TOWN Seton Village VICINITY OF STATE New Mexico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Santa Fe County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Palace Avenue
CITY, TOWN Santa Fe STATE New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the time of his death in 1946, Ernest Thompson Seton's "castle" and the village were encompassed by a 2,500 acre tract of pinon and juniper-covered hills and plains. The acreage has shrunk to a 250-300 acre core centered around the castle and village, but within that area there has been no substantial change in the landmark, outside of the disappearance of Seton's first house of 1932, the burning and reconstruction of the house north of the castle, and the construction of three new village houses, and some alteration of the (9) originals, all in the vernacular adobe style which has always characterised Seton Village. (The numbers in parentheses refer to the 1974 sketch map.)

When Seton began the construction of the first of his three houses here he chose a broad, level spot on the western slope of a row of hills. It was on this plat that the village sprang up with the founding of the summer center of the Woodcraft League. The office, the print shop, the craft shop, the Zoo Lodge, and the other houses were built along a dirt lane which branched to form an oval plaza at its western end. Upon the completion of his first house on the south-eastern corner of the plaza, Seton began his second house, "Lagunita" (Little Lake), (#5) on the south-western end of the plaza. This house, which still stands with a few minor additions, is a long, one-story adobe, with vigas, stone chimneys and a small walled patio.

To the southeast of Lagunita, and then to its north and northeast, on the plaza, are three houses, known as the Pullman-car house, (#16) the "adobe house," (#3) and the "red barn." (#2) The first house is built around a Pullman car, and the third around a boxcar, which has since been removed from the inside. The conversion of railroad cars was accomplished basically by plastering the exteriors of the cars with adobe, and the houses still retain their original rectangular shapes. Proceeding to the east from the four houses that form the western end of Seton Village, at the eastern end of the plaza, are the print shop and the recently-built house (#14) on the site of Seton's first house. The print shop is an approximately 20' square building of adobe bricks, with a sheet metal roof, and is presently not in use. To the south of the print shop, the new house, with its small two-story tower and large walled yard, is built in the Spanish Pueblo style, and differs from the historic structures primarily in the freshness of its appearance. East of the plaza are four houses in a row on the south side of the lane, and one, the craft shop, on the north end of the lane. The first of the houses on the south was constructed in the hillside and is known as the "Submarine" (#13). Next to it is a small adobe house which was the Guest House and it is similar to its neighbors in appearance. Of the next two houses. (#'s 11 & 9) the first is built around a small trailer. Both this house and the Zoo Lodge are adobe houses, single-storied, and smaller than Lagunita and the craft shop, "Foot-hill Lodge" (#1) across the lane from them. The craft shop which also served as the original museum at Seton Village, is a long, single-storied adobe house. At this point, the dirt lane intersects with the main road which runs from U.S. Route 84-85 through the village north to Arroyo Hondo. Across the main road, the dirt lane winds 75 yards uphill to the castle which looks west, over the village. On the hillside below the castle are two new houses of adobe, and simple, non-obtrusive appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	___LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1930-1946

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ernest Thompson Seton, artist, author, and scientist of world renown, is best remembered as one of the half dozen greatest American naturalists. Through his paintings, writing, and lectures, Seton informed and enlightened three generations of Americans concerning the world of nature and its conservation.

Born in England in 1860, Seton settled six miles southeast of Santa Fe in 1930. There on his 2,500 acre ranch Seton established the summer center for the American Woodcraft League and constructed his 45 room "castle," a combination home, museum, library, art gallery, and institute for creative people in every discipline. The community which grew up around the castle known as "Seton Village," was composed of like-minded individuals. Here Seton lived, created, and taught until his death in 1946.

Today Seton Village still evokes the memory of its founder. The castle is maintained by Seton's daughter, Mrs. Dee Seton Barber, and the majority of the Village structures remain, still retaining the flavor of their distinctive vernacular architecture.

BIOGRAPHY: Ernest Thompson Seton was born in England in 1860, but it was in Canada that he grew up and gained his education. In the years 1890-6 Seton studied art at the Royal Academy in London, and then in Paris. He then returned to the United States and continued his explorations throughout the wilderness areas of North America, from the desert Southwest to the Arctic prairies, recording and communicating the aspects of nature through his art work and writings.

Through the media of his magnificent wildlife paintings, more than 40 books, hundreds of articles and short stories, and thousands of lectures, Seton informed and enlightened three generations of Americans concerning the natural world and its inhabitants. At a time of rapid urbanization, he led the Nation's youth back to the natural world, seeing in that world the training ground for true manhood, self-reliance, and preservation of important human values--values that even then were being atrophied by truncated life in great cities. At a time when the frontier was closing and "inexhaustible" natural resources and open spaces were becoming exhausted, Seton's works influenced America toward a new conception of the natural world--one of respect for its beauty and harmony and grandeur, rather than the grubbing, unfeeling acquisitiveness that had nearly

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dee Seton Barber, Conversations with Benjamin Levy and Richard Greenwood, Seton Village, December 5, 1974.
 Shannon and Warren Garst, Ernest Thompson Seton, Naturalist (New York, 1959).
 Ernest Thompson Seton, Trail of an Artist-Naturalist, Autobiography (New York, 1940).
 Henry Chester Tracy, American Naturalists (New York, 1930).
 Farida A. Wiley, Ed., Ernest Thompson Seton's America (New York, 1954).
 _____, Ernest Thompson Seton A Biographical Sketch Done by Various Hands
 (New York, 1925).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 43.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	4	1,6	0,0,0	3,9	4,0	1,4,0	B	1,3	4	1,6	0,0,0	3,9	3,9	2,0,0
	ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,3	4	1,5	2,2,0	3,9	3,9	2,0,0	D	1,3	4	1,5	2,2,0	3,9	4,0	1,4,0
	ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		

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

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

11/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

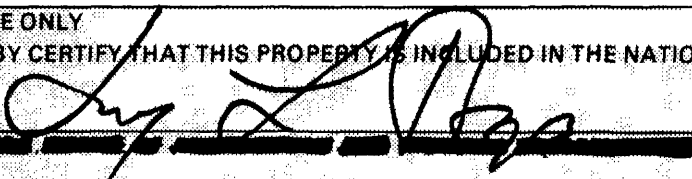
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE

9/20/83

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

STATE	Nex Mexico	
COUNTY	Santa Fe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

Seton Village

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) #7 Description Page #2

The castle (#21) was the last of Seton's houses, built after the completion of Lagunita, and as its size and diversity indicate it was a multifunctional house, representative of the many facets of its builder.

The central portion of the house which runs from the east to west, is constructed of adobe on a stone foundation, with long vigas supporting the roof. The bedrooms occupy half of this space, and the livingroom-library and the small inglenook occupy the other half. To the rear of this portion, on the east, is the kitchen and pantry, above the livingroom are small single room second and third stories. Running north off of the central axis of the house is a long, high-ceilinged room suitable for large gatherings, and for housing a portion of the library, and Seton's works. A long portal runs the length of the western end of the house, and there are a row of small rooms below the main floor on the southern end of the house. Although 95% of Seton's library and collection has been removed from the castle, the remaining paintings, sketches, books and artifacts, and the organic and individualistic nature of the house itself all testify to the continued presence of their author.

In addition to the castle and the houses in the village, to the north of the castle are a Navajo hogan (#19) and a Pueblo kiva, (#20) both circular ceremonial rooms built by the Woodcraft League.

BOUNDARIES: Beginning at the eastern angle of the tract known as the "Castle Reserve," directly to the east of Seton Castle (#21), proceed southwesterly along the Reserve boundary 1469' to the eastern curb of the Arroyo Hondo Road, thence southwest 625' to the southwest corner of lot #16, thence northwest along the western boundary line of said lot to its northwest corner, thence north in a straight line to the northwest corner of lot #6, thence northeast along the rear lot lines of lots #6, 5, 4, 3, & 2 to the northwest corner of lot #1, thence northeast in a straight line for 750' to the surveyor's stake, and thence due east to the eastern boundary of the Castle Reserve, thence south along said boundary to the point of origin.

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STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Santa Fe	
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Seton Village

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) #8 Statement of Significance Page #2

succeeded in devastating the continent.

Present-day conservation philosophy was largely shaped by men introduced to the subject by Ernest Thompson Seton. And the term conservation is here used in the broadest esthetic sense--conservation of wilderness beauty, of wildlife. . . and of the human values derived from association with them.

The particular modes of Seton's expression--his leadership of youth, his writings, his unmatched ability as raconteur--are subordinate to the great message of his life: his philosophy of natural humanism that helped and still helps men to know their origins, and to appreciate rather than rape the earth that gives them life.

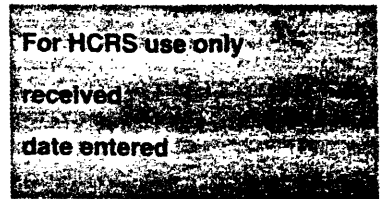
Seton's temporal accomplishments, even had they lacked sustaining germinal qualities, are impressive. Among his books are such classics as Studies in the Art Anatomy of Animals (1896), Wild Animals I have Known (1898), The Biography of a Grizzly (1909), Arctic Prairies (1911), Lives of Game Animals (1925), and Trail of an Artist-Naturalist, Autobiography (1940). Doubtless his scientific magnum opus was the eight-volume Lives of Game Animals, for which he received the John Burroughs Medal (1928) and the David Girou Elliot Medal (1930) of the National Academy of Sciences. Though the Lives continues to rank throughout the world as an authoritative work on North American mammals, such works as Two Little Savages and Wild Animals I have Known were more influential as media for his nature philosophy.

With publication of the Art Anatomy of Animals, Seton's international reputation as a wildlife artist was firmly established. Among his hundreds of paintings and thousands of sketches are many prize-winners. His paintings, especially of wolves, are among the most exquisite animal portraits ever rendered, leading some critics to pronounce him the best animal artist that ever lived.

Seton was chairman of the committee that brought the Boy Scout movement to the United States. For five years he served as Chief Scout, and he wrote the first Scout manual. In 1902 he founded the Woodcraft League, which in the early 1930s had more than 80,000 members. This school for the out-of-doors had great influence on the youth of America. The code of exploits formulated by Seton produced a generation of woodsmen schooled to the highest standards of woodcraft and service.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Seton Village

Item number 10 Geographical

Page 1

Data

On March 10, 1981, Mark Barnes and Robert Sutton from the South Central Regional Office (HCRS), and Kathleen Brooker from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau inspected Seton Village National Historic Landmark. During the visit, the boundaries were studied, the various structures were inspected, and Dee Seton Barber was interviewed. The staff members concluded that the 43.7 acres included in the nomination are justified for the following reasons:

1. Although Seton Village originally included 2,500 acres, the principal structures were located within 20 to 25 acres. When the area was studied by the National Landmark's staff in 1974-75, 200-250 acres were owned by the Barbers and other village landholders. Presently, 100 acres are owned by various people in the district, and it is likely that the acreage will continue to decrease in the future. As long as the Barbers own the major portion of land within the district, they are committed to maintain the major cultural features and the remaining historic natural setting. They intend to continue to preserve the village itself and the area referred to as the Castle Reserve in the Historical Boundary Map (i.e. 43.7 acres).
2. The 43.7 acres included in the original nomination include all the structures associated with the village and the remaining historic natural setting that retains integrity. Directly to the east, west, and south of the 43.7 acres, there is recent development that is not compatible with the character of the village. Adding more acreage to the north or northwest of the present boundaries would not enhance the natural area.