

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE New Mexico	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Las Trampas Plaza Historic District	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 5 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Las Trampas, State Route 76, Taos County.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Private.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Of all the Spanish Colonial settlements in New Mexico, Las Trampas is one of the few retaining its original distinct plaza plan. Unfortunately, however, all traces of the original defensive wall and of the Spanish colonial buildings that once stood around the plaza, except for the Church of San Jose de Gracia (1760-76), have disappeared.

First settled in 1751 by 12 Spanish families from Santa Fe, the walled village flourished despite Comanche and Apache raids. In 1776, 63 families numbering 278 people lived in houses defensively clustered around the central plaza at Las Trampas. Not until Indian raids were controlled by the establishment of Fort Burgwin in 1853 did people build houses far away from the plaza compound. Though frequented by travelers on the mountain road between Santa Fe and Taos, Las Trampas remained essentially a village unto itself, neither influencing or influenced by the outside world. This was true throughout the Spanish, Mexican, and American Periods, until the 1920's.

While a plaza plan has remained intact at Las Trampas, the non-descript collection of 12 or 13 adobe and log dwellings and outbuildings now surrounding the plaza exhibit very few Spanish colonial features. All appear to date from 1850 or later, and all include many late 19th century features.¹

¹The outstanding architectural example in the United States of a Spanish-Mexican village built on the traditional plaza plan is probably San Juan Bautista in California. This town's plaza is still surrounded by structures that were erected between 1813 and 1868. The San Juan Bautista buildings have been carefully restored and there are absolutely no modern intrusions.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 2.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

Historical American Building Survey Data Book Report HABS No. NM61
"San Jose De Gracia Church" by Bainbridge Bunting, December, 1961, 5 pp. "Las Trampas--
A Special Report for the Advisory Board," (N.P.S. Mimeo, Santa Fe, N.M.), March, 1967.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS #4778, 4787-4790 CONDITION ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Town	13. DATE OF VISIT March 25, 1968
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE May 1, 1968

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . . Page 2.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
New Mexico	Las Trampas Plaza Historic District

7. Continued:

George Kubler, The Religious Architecture of New Mexico (Colorado Springs, 1940), 126; Fray Francisco Atanasio, The Missions of New Mexico, translated by Eleanor B. Adams and Fray Angelico Chavez (Albuquerque, 1956) 99-101, 251; Eleanor B. Adams, ed., Bishop Tameron's Visitation of New Mexico, 1760, Historical Society of New Mexico Publications in History Vol. 15 (Albuquerque, 1954), 55. Bainbridge Bunting, Taos Adobes (Santa Fe, 1964), 62-67; Bainbridge Bunting and John P. Conron, "A Village and a Church--Las Trampas," New Mexico Architecture (Sept-Oct. 1966) Vol. 8, No. 9 and 10, pp 27-31.