

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUN 29 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic ~~Historic Resources of Magdalena~~ *multiple Resource Area*

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication _____

city, town Magdalena _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state New Mexico code 35 county Socorro code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple: see continuation sheets.

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Socorro County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Socorro state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Magdalena has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Spring 1980 - January 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition
☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Magdalena is a small town located 27 miles west of Socorro at the base of the Magdalena Mountains. Always a small town in population, Magdalena was once a bustling railhead which supplied the substantial mining and ranching industries in the area. The town was established in 1884 and reached a peak just before 1920. Today it is a sleepy highway town with a few substantial commercial buildings and a number of fine houses representing its wealthier past.

Magdalena was established in 1884 as the end point of a spur line built by the Santa Fe Railroad to serve the lucrative lead and silver mining taking place in the area. The now-removed tracks are the northern boundary and from there the town spreads south for about twelve blocks and nine blocks from east to west. It has a standard grid of streets, the town plan ubiquitously used for railroad towns.

Commercial buildings are concentrated in the blocks between the tracks and 2nd Street. Unlike most railroad towns where the initial wood and adobe buildings were replaced with more elaborate brick and stone ones, Magdalena has only a few buildings of brick and stone. Fire has taken its toll on the wood and adobe buildings, so the once large stock of commercial buildings has been much depleted. In more recent years, highway-related businesses in low concrete block buildings have become interspersed with the older buildings. Most of these commercial buildings, regardless of their age, are underused and in a state of disrepair.

The residential area extends to the south. Most of the houses are one-story and constructed of stuccoed adobe, though there is some use of wood and brick. Complex hip and gable roofs covered with metal are common. Many of Magdalena's houses have been remodeled and the most common changes are aluminum windows, small additions, and new siding. A few houses stand out because of their architectural quality and integrity of appearance. As with commercial buildings, the stock of residences has been much depleted, in this case because of insensitive remodeling.

The 15 buildings included in this multiple resource nomination represent the most architecturally and historically significant structures in Magdalena. This selection is based on an architectural survey that was begun in the Spring of 1980 and completed in January of 1982. The survey revealed a town which had a firm base of contributing structures, primarily residential, which have been insensitively remodeled. Those structures included in the nomination stand out because of their architectural style, history, and integrity of appearance.

Near the railroad tracks and along First (U.S. 60) are a concentration of commercial buildings. Some of these are large and quite grand. With only a few exceptions, these commercial buildings are underused or vacant and are in a deteriorating condition. Many older houses remain, but as said, many have been remodeled in insensitive ways, thus destroying their integrity. The 15 buildings included here represent Magdalena in its heyday, though at one time the town had a great deal more to offer. On the pages which follow, these significant buildings are described and the significance of each is discussed.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1884
 Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Village of Magdalena is significant because it was once west central New Mexico's most important commercial center. Located at the end of a spur line from Socorro, miners from the lead, zinc, and silver rich district shipped their ore out and ranchers throughout western New Mexico and eastern Arizona drove their cattle there. These miners and ranchers in turn bought their supplies from the many mercantile establishments in Magdalena and stayed at the several hotels there. During its prosperous years, 1884–1925, many fine buildings and houses were built in Magdalena. Because of deterioration, few of these structures remain in good condition, if standing at all. Thus fifteen buildings have been identified as being architecturally significant within the framework of Magdalena's historic significance as a town.

Though mining activity began in the Magdalena area as early as 1863, the town of Magdalena was not founded until 1884 when the Santa Fe Railroad built a spur from Socorro to Magdalena. The spur line was built to serve the mining industry, and later the cattle industry. Throughout its history, Magdalena had a rather small population, a peak of about 2000 during the 1910s. As a railhead, however, Magdalena served as a shipping point and supply center for miners and ranchers throughout the large area of West central New Mexico.

The importance of Magdalena as a railhead is illustrated by figures relating to the intense mining and ranching activity which was dependent on the spur line. Between 1904 and 1908 the Kelly Mining District (just south of Magdalena) produced over \$21 million in minerals, all shipped out of Magdalena. The mining industry remained strong through World War I at which time it declined, ceasing almost entirely by World War II. Ranching developed in the San Augustin Plains southwest of Magdalena in the 1880s, after the Apaches were subdued. Magdalena became a major shipping point for cattle and sheep. So many cattle drives were made that in 1917 the stock driveway was established. The driveway extended 80 miles to the west of Magdalena and was one and one-half miles wide. In 1938 it was fenced and water provided at ten mile intervals. Magdalena became second only to Chicago in the number of livestock shipped by rail. During the peak year, 1919, 150,000 sheep and 21,000 cattle were shipped through Magdalena. In 1944 40,000 sheep and 27,557 cattle went out on the railroad. After World War II trucking began to replace trail drives and trains and by the early 1970s the stock driveway was entirely obsolete.

As such an important shipping center, Magdalena supported many commercial establishments which supplied miners and ranchers. These commercial buildings were generally hastily erected wood and adobe structures, often with false fronts. An 1886 issue of the Las Vegas Optic reported that Magdalena supported two general stores, one notion store, one drug store, two livery stables, three restaurants, two blacksmith shops, two lumber yards, one hardware store, one sash and door outlet, one bookstore, one feed store, one church, one school, and four saloons. At about that time there were 12 to 15 houses and one hotel. In a few cases, as businesses prospered and fire took its toll, the wood and adobe buildings were replaced by more substantial stone and brick structures. Also in these years of prosperity, 1890–1917, many fine houses were built.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Each property less than one

Quadrangle name Magdalena

Magdalena Quad
Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References See building descriptions

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See building descriptions.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Threinen, Preservation Planner

organization Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. date February 1982

street & number 220-A Gold Avenue, S.W. telephone 842-1254

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-24-82

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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After World War II, Magdalena began a steady decline. Its location on U.S. 60 encouraged tourist business to spring up. These restaurants and motels break up the rhythm of the older houses and substantial commercial buildings. Because of the lack of business and closing of the spur, most of the large commercial buildings have no adequate use, so they stand underused or empty and deteriorating. Much of the same is true of the older houses. Many have been poorly maintained or insensitively remodeled. Thus Magdalena's stock of historic buildings has been greatly diminished over the years.

The town of Magdalena is historically significant because it was the major commercial center for west central New Mexico, serving the substantial mining and ranching industries. Architecturally, Magdalena has representatives of most New Mexico styles popular during its heyday, 1884-1920. Although adobe is the predominant building material, there are only a few examples of traditional New Mexican architecture. Most houses fall into the Victorian, Queen Anne, and "Comfortable Anne" styles, all popular in the railroad period. Generally the use of detail is restrained, tending toward the classical rather than the gingerbread. There is little evidence of the use of Academic or Southwest Revival styles for houses in Magdalena. Commercial buildings tend either to be in the Panel Brick or Mission Revival styles. Generally the styles found in Magdalena parallel those found in other railroad towns. Magdalena's decline in prosperity, which began in the 1920s, is evident because there is limited use of the Southwest Revivals and no use of the Academic Revivals, all styles popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Since 1945 the town's decline has been drastic as building conditions and the lack of substantial new construction illustrate.

Because of the added rooms, remodeling and deterioration that have diminished Magdalena's stock of historic buildings, a few buildings have been selected to represent the town's importance. These buildings stand out as being significant because of their size, architectural style, integrity, and history.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Magdalena Multiple Resource Area
State New Mexico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|--------|-------------------------|
| 1. Dobson House | Substantive Review | DOE | Keeper | <u>W. Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Bank of Magdalena | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Main Street Commercial Building | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Ilfeld Warehouse | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Salome Store | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Salome Warehouse | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Aragon House | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Hall Hotel | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. Magdaline House | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Gutierrez House | Substantive Review | | Keeper | <u>Braham 8.2.82</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Magdalena Multiple Resource Area
State New Mexico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Lewellen House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Brakham 8.2.82

Attest

12. Hilton House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Brakham 8.2.82

Attest

13. MacTavish House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Brakham 8.2.82

Attest

14. Santa Fe Depot
(Previously listed)

Keeper

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest