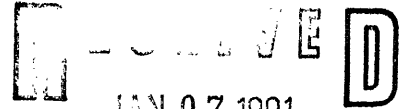


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National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Domestic Architecture in Socorro, New Mexico, 1870-1912

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Rise, Boom, and Aftermath of Socorro as a Mining and Smelting Center, 1870-1912.

C. Geographical Data

Corporate limits of Socorro, Socorro County, New Mexico

See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

[Signature]

12-28-90

Signature of certifying official

Date

Historic Preservation Division

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

2/20/91
Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. History and Architecture - 1541-1846

The recorded history of the Socorro area reaches back to the earliest Spanish exploration of the Rio Grande Valley. A cluster of Piro Indian villages on either side of the river were a welcome stopping point for explorers - the first or last settlements after or before traversing the long, desolate, waterless tract to the south which came to be called the Jornada del Muerto. The Coronado Expedition of 1541 camped in the vicinity and Espejo noted the nearby Piro Indian pueblos in 1583. The name Socorro ("help" in Spanish) was first given by Don Juan de Onate to commemorate the succor of food he received from the Indians in 1598. A Franciscan mission was constructed in 1626 and called Nuestra Senora del Socorro. During the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, when the Spanish were driven out of New Mexico, the Piro villages were abandoned and the mission church at Socorro burned. A number of the Piros fled south with the Spanish and established a new pueblo called Socorro del Sur, near present El Paso.

The Piro Indians were never to return north. The deserted village of Socorro was not to be resettled by the Spanish until 1816. In the decades after the Spanish reconquest of northern New Mexico in 1693, settlements and pueblo missions were established anew from Taos in the north down the valley as far as Albuquerque (1706) and eventually Belen (1740). Hostile Apaches slowed occupation of lands further south despite the Spanish king's decree that the ruined Piro towns be reestablished in order to gain control of the area and to provide a haven for travelers on the Camino Real along the otherwise unsettled 200 miles between Belen and El Paso. In 1816 seventy families responded to the New Mexico governor's call for colonists to resettle Socorro. A small agricultural community was founded which sustained itself on sheep ranching and farming irrigated with water from mountain springs and the nearby river. The settlers built the Church of San Miguel and a cluster of adobe dwellings nearby.

The architecture of this period would have followed the pattern of Spanish Colonial building adapted from the Pueblo Indians in northern New Mexico, a pattern which remained relatively unchanged from the beginnings of Spanish settlement in the seventeenth century until the Americans assumed control of New Mexico in 1846. The Spanish used the indigenous techniques of building with adobe with some significant modifications. Like the Indians they built in units of small rooms. Roofs were flat and consisted of peeled logs called vigas over which were placed small branches and a thick layer of dirt. Often viga ends protruded unevenly beyond the exterior wall. Window openings were small, infrequent, and unglazed.

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In contrast with the Indian multi-storied pueblos, Hispanic buildings were of one story, with the exception of churches. Buildings were linear in plan consisting of a single file of rooms with no communicating hallways, each entered from its own outside door. As families grew, rooms were added at the ends of the file and sometimes placed so as to create an L, then a U shape. Finally a rectangle of rooms might be completed around an inner courtyard, called a placita. In town these buildings were generally placed directly along a street line or irregularly close to it. The church was the one differentiated building type which the Spanish introduced into New Mexico. Otherwise the same buildings were used for small stores and other business functions as well as dwellings.

No unaltered examples of this first phase of Socorro architecture, called the Spanish-Pueblo Style, have been documented. The neighborhood near the San Miguel church lost much of its early Hispanic character beginning in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when traditional linear architecture was replaced with buildings which, though constructed of adobe, differed in plan, style, and siting. Many of these newer buildings were cubic with hipped roofs, others were gabled and all were placed back from the street line.

B. History and Architecture 1846-1870.

After the Mexican War of 1846 when the United States acquired a vast region of the Southwest from Mexico, a large Territory was created encompassing the eventual states of New Mexico and Arizona, as well as portions of Colorado and Nevada. The village of Socorro with a population of only 543 was made the seat of Socorro County which initially stretched from the Texas to the California borders. Socorro has continued to the present day to be the county seat of a county vastly reduced in size first by the creation of a separate Arizona Territory in 1863, then by the creation of new New Mexico counties from its territory as the region became more populous.

In the early Territorial period, the town of Socorro became the center of a sheep and wool producing area. The establishment of nearby Fort Conrad (1851-1854) and then Fort Craig (1854-1885), as a defense against Indian raids, prompted the development of a flour milling industry and enriched Socorro merchants who supplied food and provisions to the military through government contracts. Nevertheless, growth was slow and Socorro remained a small, primarily Hispanic village until metallic ores were discovered in the nearby mountains in the late 1860s.

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New styles, materials, and ways of building gradually filtered into the Territory over the Santa Fe Trail. Because of the limited local availability of building materials other than mud and some wood, as well as the difficulty and expense of transporting building materials by wagon, this early influence generally took the form of limited and specific modifications of the traditional Hispanic style. For Socorro the extent of this early influence is difficult to access because of the loss or later modification of early Hispanic buildings. The boom, which had its origins in the 1870s but could reach its height only after the coming of the railroad in the 1880s, and the railroad itself brought changes which to a large extent eventually eclipsed the architecture which came before it.

II. HISTORIC CONTEXT: THE RISE, BOOM, AFTERMATH OF SOCORRO AS A MINING AND SMELTING CENTER (1870-1912)

In about 1866, silver-bearing ore was found in the Magdalena Mountains some 25 miles west of Socorro at locations which would become the Graphic, Kelly, and Juanita mines. About a year later, silver was found at Socorro Peak. These discoveries brought an influx of prospectors and miners into the region. By 1870 the population of Socorro had risen to 921 according to United States Census figures.

Further west of Socorro in the Mogollon Mountains, James C. Cooney discovered a rich load of high-grade silver and copper ore in 1875. Although full development of these resources was hindered by Apache raids until the mid-1880s, the mines nearer Socorro began to be seriously developed in the mid-1870's as the original prospectors sold their claims to men with access to capital. Thomas B. Catron, Santa Fe lawyer and a leader of the infamous Santa Fe Ring, which for a time was able to control the business and political life of the Territory, bought a half interest in the Juanita mine in 1875. The other half was bought by Colonel E.W. Eaton in the same year. Eaton later purchased the Graphic mine and Patrick Dorsey led a group which acquired the Kelly mine. By the mid-1870s, small adobe smelters using pinon charcoal were operating near the mines. The reduced ore was then shipped east by wagon over the Santa Fe Trail for further refinement. Because this entire process was inefficient and expensive, large scale mining could not begin until after the arrival of the railroad.

The main line of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe came to Socorro in 1880 bringing efficient, cheap, and fast transportation for people and goods coming into the area and for the region's products going in the opposite direction. Prospectors flocked in. During a six-month period in 1881, three thousand claims were filed at the Socorro County Courthouse. In addition to gold, silver, lead,

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and coal, iron, copper, zinc, manganese, and antimony were among the resources found in the area's mines, (Ashcroft, Territorial History, 13). It became possible to economically move out large quantities of metals and spur lines provided access to inexpensive fuel for reducing ore. For the first time it was practical to set up the high-capacity, efficient smelter which was fundamental to the full development of mineral resources.

In September 1882, Gustav Albert Billing purchased the Kelly Mine from Patrick Dorsey and his partners. Billing, who had already made more than one fortune in Utah and Colorado smelting operations, set up a huge modern smelter about two miles west of Socorro to handle ores from his mine. Rail links, built from the main line to the smelter and on to the Kelly mine, greatly reduced hauling charges. A track from the Carthage mines brought coal to San Antonio, eleven miles south of Socorro, where ovens were built to reduce the coal to coke used to fuel the smelter.

The building and running of the smelter fueled Socorro's economic boom. Seventy-five men were employed in constructing the buildings, ore bins, foundations, furnaces, smokestacks, and yard tracks. Until the Magdalena branch rail line was built in 1885, every available ox and mule team was hired, between 150 and 200 hundred daily, to haul ore from the Kelly and other mines. It is estimated that at its peak the smelter itself employed up to 1000 people (Eveleth, 91; Ashcroft, "Socorro's Boom Town," 8).

The Billing Smelter, arguably the first large-scale industrial enterprise in New Mexico, was the basis upon which Socorro became an industrial center for the short period of the city's economic boom. Because of the plant's efficiency and consequent low charges, Billing became a leading processor of ore in the region and Socorro a smelting center to which ores were brought from other Southwestern states, including Arizona, Texas, Utah, and California.

Other industries benefited from the smelter and the boom in mining. Coke was produced in San Antonio. A stamp mill was located next to the Graphic Smelter. Smaller smelters continued to operate near mines in the 1880s, including the Graphic. Socorro's merchants prospered with the influx of population into the area and the town became a supply center for the many mining camps of central New Mexico.

Agriculture continued to make a significant contribution to the Socorro economy despite the ascendancy of mining. Though the fertile Rio Grande Valley could support many types of crops, those grown near Socorro were principally

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wheat, corn, and fruits. Local wineries, flour mills, and a brewery flourished. Ranching also remained significant and Socorro became a major center for the export of wool and sheep.

The population which had risen to 1,272 by 1880 was counted at 2,779 just two years later when the city was incorporated. By the middle of the decade it was about 4,000. One extravagant claim claimed that the population of the county was at least 22,000 (Fisher and Abeytia, 1). Socorro was inundated by prospectors, miners, speculators, merchants, visitors, drifters - all attracted by and contributing to Socorro's boom conditions. Craftsman, skilled laborers, and professional people found work accommodating the growing community's needs - blacksmiths, saddle makers, and wagon builders; barbers, jewelers, and watchmakers; lawyers, especially those adept in mining law; doctors and dentists. These and members of innumerable other professions added to the burgeoning population.

During the wild excitement of the early days of the boom, Socorro became a wide open town attracting all manner of new citizens. Saloons abounded as did gambling, prostitution, and opium. As in many Western boom towns, official law enforcement did not develop at the same pace as vice and violence. A sensational murder of the editor of the Socorro Sun on Christmas Eve, 1880 as he left a church gathering prompted "respectable citizens" to take matters into their own hands. A "committee of safety" was formed in 1881 with Colonel Eaton as its leader. For the next three years the controversial committee delivered justice, "speedy and sure", with punishments ranging from whippings to hangings. If the courts wavered, the vigilantes were not beyond storming the jail and lynching their man.

In 1882 Socorro was incorporated and William Tell DeBaun, a lawyer, justice of the peace, and member of executive committee of the vigilantes, was elected mayor. Over the next decade the question of incorporation and disincorporation was a continuing source of controversy between successive city administrations.

By 1885 Socorro was ready for "respectability". Col. Eaton was elected mayor in that year and a city ordinance enacted which outlawed "places for fornication or for the practice of smoking or otherwise using opium." The next year a law forbidding Sunday alcohol sales was enforced and in 1887 Sunday closing for all business was mandated. A new brick courthouse was built and in the next years a number of fashionable brick houses were constructed by Socorro's leading citizens in the vicinity of Church and McCutcheon Avenues. One of the most impressive was that of Antonio Abeytia y Armijo. In 1886 an Opera House was added to the town's amenities by the widow of Juan Nepomuceno Garcia.

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As was typical of frontier towns, private societies of all types were an important element of social and business life. A chapter of the Knights of Pythias was formed in 1881 and a Masonic Lodge a year later. Other groups included the International Order of Odd Fellows, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and an assortment of literary and musical associations.

In 1889 the Territorial legislature located the new New Mexico School of Mines at Socorro. A tract of land west of town was donated by several leading citizens including wealthy merchant Juan Jose Baca. In 1893 the school opened in a T-shaped building of red Arizona sandstone which was said to be the most modern educational facility in the West. Over the years Socorro's leading citizens were included among members of the board of trustees (later regents) appointed by the governor.

By 1890 boom conditions had faded, as booms inevitably must, although prosperity continued into the decade and for some citizens well beyond. The population had settled back to a reported 2,295, still nearly double that of ten years earlier but reduced from the official high reached in 1885 of 4,047. In 1891 the old Graphic Smelter was converted into a fire clay works. New homes continued to be built, two new banks were founded, and a new newspaper begun. (Ashcroft, Territorial History, 21). That year Socorro's representative to the Territorial legislature introduced a bill to move the state capital to Socorro from Santa Fe which was having its own problems after being bypassed by the main line of the railroad. The bill was tabled and Socorro's decline soon rendered mute any claim to preeminence in the state.

In the early 1890s the smelter industry at Socorro experienced compounding difficulties. The amount of ore available for processing was reduced by several factors: the passage of an import duty on Mexican ore containing lead; the development of larger reduction works at El Paso and in Mexico; cave-ins at the Kelly Mine which severely lessened production. Furthermore, the value of silver and other metals steadily decreased as demand declined at the same time as the Socorro area's richest veins were being played out. The death blow was dealt in 1893 when silver was demonetized and its value collapsed. Silver mining came to a halt and in July 1894 the huge Billing Smelter ((by then sold and renamed the Rio Grande Smelter) closed, never to be reopened.

With the decline of mining and the consequent loss of the smelter, the population of Socorro declined steeply. Nevertheless, the town did not disappear as did other towns briefly swelled by mineral wealth. Located on a major rail line in a fertile valley with plentiful water, Socorro was able to resume its former place as a local agricultural center. Ranching remained an important

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industry. Orchards and vineyards thrived. The brewery continued to operate and wineries functioned. At least three mills produced flour. The Crown Mill processed wheat from as far away as Kansas and shipped its flour all over the country. The fire clay works produced bricks from locally mined clay. By 1900 the population had stabilized at about 1,512 and ten years later was about the same at 1,560.

By the first decade of the twentieth century Socorro had achieved a measure of stability based on agriculture. A telephone system was installed in 1902 and six years later the electric company incorporated. In 1906 national attention was focused on the town by a series of earthquakes which began just a few months after the devastation of San Francisco. Most buildings in Socorro suffered some effects of the tremors and at least one home owner, Col. E. W. Eaton, took steps to make his home earthquake resistant. Long-time Socorro resident, Holm Bursum, achieved statewide prominence in Republican politics and in 1911 ran, albeit unsuccessfully, for the post of New Mexico's first governor after statehood. In 1921 he was appointed to fill Albert Fall's vacated Senate seat which he held until defeated in an election in 1924. Successful citizens of the region, such as Bursum's cousin, August Hilton, continued to build homes in Socorro.

Architecture 1870-1912

As a result of Socorro's prosperity, her leading citizens enlarged and embellished existing dwellings or built new homes. One form this took was the addition of Territorial-style elements to traditional Hispanic adobe buildings. These embellishments, as described in Section F, were inspired by the Greek Revival and define the Territorial Style in New Mexico.

With the railroad came a jumble of new architectural styles and a broader range of building materials than previously had been available, including prefabricated architectural elements. New decorative elements associated with the Victorian period were added to adobe homes sometimes in combination with Territorial embellishments. Rooms were added to existing adobe dwellings, and new structures built, to conform with new ideas about room arrangement.

In addition to adapting adobe to new ideas of plan and decoration, other building materials and techniques new to Socorro were also used. A new fashionable neighborhood of brick, Victorian-style dwellings, built by Socorro's prosperous new citizens, developed in the vicinity of McCutcheon and Church Streets between Park and Eaton in the late 1880s and early 1890s. With the exception of the Queen Anne/Italianate home built for Rufina Vigil de Abeytia, most are single or two-story, gable-roofed, vernacular expressions.

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After the turn of the twentieth century, dwellings in new materials, such as concrete block, and/or styles were built, including bungalows and hipped boxes. Modest adobe hipped boxes were built in the San Miguel Church neighborhood, in many cases replacing linear dwellings. A small number were built elsewhere in other materials.

III. Socorro after 1912.

Although Socorro remained an agricultural center, a county seat, and the home of an esteemed educational institution, the town never again attained the level of prosperity of the Territorial Period that ended with statehood in 1912. The population declined in the teens reaching a low of 1,256 in 1920 and thereafter gradually increased to the 1885 level of about 4000 by 1950. No significant residential property types built in the years between 1912 and 1940 have been identified.

In the last several decades many of Socorro's historic structures have been lost through demolition, neglect, or alteration. Today many dwellings in the neighborhood near the San Miguel Church are vacant and deteriorating. Recently several historic dwellings in the vicinity of Church and McCutcheon streets have lost architectural integrity through alteration. Nevertheless, a number of historic properties remain which represent the diverse architectural history of Socorro residential building, the best examples of which are nominated individually.

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type _____

II. Description

III. Significance

IV. Registration Requirements

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet for additional property types

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency

- Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

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SUMMARY OF PROPERTY TYPES

1. Adobe dwellings exhibiting Territorial and/or Victorian influence
2. Victorian dwellings
3. Bungalows
4. Hipped Boxes

1. Adobe dwellings exhibiting Territorial and/or Victorian influence

Description

Traditional Hispanic adobe buildings were altered using new materials and stylistic ideas which came to the area first along the Santa Fe Trail and then with the railroad. Brick and milled lumber were used to add elements inspired by the Greek Revival, creating a style known in New Mexico as the Territorial. The easily eroded tops of parapet walls were topped with a brick coping often with one course protruding to suggest Greek dentils. Spanish-Pueblo-style portals supported by posts of round peeled logs topped by carved corbels, all in the colors of natural wood, were replaced by long porches supported by squared posts often with chamfered edges, and topped by "capitals" created of milled lumber. Window openings were enlarged to accommodate large wooden windows and wooden surrounds added which were often crowned with a wooden pediment. Door openings also were enlarged for handsome doors often surrounded by side and over lights. Visually, perhaps the most striking change was the application of white paint to the wooden elements of porches, windows, and doors. Second stories were occasionally built. The influence of the symmetrical floor plans associated with the Greek Revival was felt in the placement of additions to traditional homes which created blocks rather than lines of rooms as well as in new adobe dwellings with rooms organized symmetrically around a central hall.

The railroad brought easier access to a broader range of building materials and an influx of population with different stylistic expectations. Adobe homes were altered in ways which reflect the influence of the Victorian Period sometimes in combination with Territorial-style embellishments. Pitched metal roofs became available and replaced traditional flat roofs. Adobe buildings were faced in brick, elaborate brackets added to portals, and other idiosyncratic detailing applied such as the roof cresting at 303 Eaton Avenue.

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Significance

Adobe was the primary building material for all Socorro structures until the coming of the railroad in 1880. It continued in significant use well into the twentieth century and is still used today. Adobe was an unstable but extremely adaptable medium requiring little in specialized equipment or skills. Inexpensive, owner-built, adobe dwellings demanded constant upkeep but were relatively easy to modify in such matters as adding rooms or a pitched roof, changing the size, shape, or even location of windows and doors, and changing or adding porch elements.

Architecturally significant Territorial-style and Victorian-influenced adobe dwellings demonstrate this adaptability and at the same time illustrate the cultural history of Socorro. Adobe dwellings have also been identified as historically significant for their association with individuals who were prominent in the history of Socorro.

Registration Requirements

Adobe dwellings exhibiting Territorial and/or Victorian influence are architecturally significant if they possess defining characteristics of the periods of influence as outlined above. Because the Territorial is a well-defined style which was used widely in New Mexico, defining characteristics can be specified as outlined above. Victorian influence, on the other hand, took many forms and consists of idiosyncratic applications to particular structures. Therefore, a inclusive list of elements cannot be pre-defined.

Because of the scarcity of examples, the inherent mutability of adobe construction, and the fact that the addition of rooms is characteristic of the Spanish Pueblo and its successor Hispanic styles, some latitude is appropriate for alterations, particularly the addition of rooms, as long as the defining elements are intact and are not overwhelmed by other intrusions. Generally qualifying buildings are those which have been maintained. Exception has been made only for those abandoned and deteriorating structures which are of unique architectural and/or historical significance.

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2. Victorian dwellings

Description

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, newcomers to Socorro built a number of dwellings which contrast with traditional Hispanic architecture in form, materials, and siting. The majority are built of brick with gable roofs and are located primarily but not exclusively southwest of the present-day Plaza on or near McCutcheon and Church Streets between Park and Eaton Streets. These houses are regularly spaced and set back from the street with front, back, and side yards. Often there is a low wall at the front property line. They have one or two stories, are generally simple in plan and possess combinations of Victorian details such as arched windows, bays, wooden porches, and spindled balustrades. For the most part they do not possess the full complement of characteristics which would identify them as expressions of a high Victorian style. Rather they illustrate a vernacular application of elements popular in the Victorian period. An exception is the large, turret, two-story Antonio Abeytia y Armijo House which illustrates a strong combination of Queen Anne and Italianate features.

Significance

These dwellings represent an aspect of architectural Socorro's residential development which resulted from the boom produced by mining and smelting in the 1880s and 1890s. Architecturally they represent the importation of styles and materials from other parts of the country made possible by the railroad and are an expression of Victorian architectural conceptions uninfluenced by indigenous Spanish-Pueblo architecture. As the homes of community leaders, several are significant for their association with persons who made major contributions to the history of Socorro.

Registration Requirements

Dwellings which meet registration requirements have retained a sufficient level of integrity in materials and stylistic features to invoke the period and historic context which they represent. Because this is a vernacular architecture, the combination and number of specific features varies from building to building. The relative scarcity of these buildings and their unique significance in the history of Socorro has justified some latitude in matter of altered details as long as overall integrity of materials and style has been maintained. The Bursum House which meets the theme and registration requirements was listed in the National Register on January 18, 1975.

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3. Bungalows

Description

The bungalow as developed in California in the late 1890s and the first decades of the twentieth century has one or one and one half stories and is characterized by a low-pitched gable roof, wide roof overhangs with exposed roof elements, a front porch often with square or tapered supports, and frequently roof dormers.

Significance

The bungalow form was not common in Socorro, probably because the style came to the area after the boom had subsided when less building was being done. The Hilton House is a significant example which represents a use of this style in the early part of the twentieth century in the later life of a man who prospered during the boom. It is also significant as the only remaining residential property associated with August Hilton, who made unique contributions to the history of the area.

Registration Requirements

A significant Bungalow is one which exemplifies the style by embodying the identifying characteristics of the form, as defined in the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual, and has not been significantly altered.

4. Hipped Boxes

Description

The Hipped Box is a symmetrical cubic structure with a hipped roof, a front porch, and centrally placed roof dormers on one or more facades. Many were built of adobe with metal roofs in the San Miguel Church neighborhood beginning around the turn of the twentieth century. In some cases they replaced traditional Hispanic linear adobe dwellings which they contrasted by being set back from the street line. Today many of these structures are abandoned and deteriorating. The A.B. Baca house is a noteworthy and well-maintained adobe example with distinctive exterior plaster. Other Hipped Boxes were built of different materials such as the house at 405 Park Street which is constructed of interlocking concrete blocks cast to resemble ashlar.

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Significance

The Hipped Box was a popular dwelling form in Socorro after the turn of the century and many were constructed of adobe in the San Miguel Church neighborhood where they represented a distinct break with the earlier Hispanic tradition of linear building. They illustrate the use of adobe for dwellings which derive their form and detailing from a non-Hispanic tradition. In other areas of town Hipped Boxes were also built of other materials. An especially noteworthy example in cast concrete was built at 405 Park Street, near the corner of McCutcheon Street in Socorro's fashionable neighborhood of the Victorian period.

Registration Requirements

Of the many examples of the Hipped Box in Socorro, a substantial number are abandoned and in poor condition, most notably among those constructed of adobe in the San Miguel Church neighborhood. Only examples which have been maintained and which possess distinctive qualities in materials or decoration have been considered eligible for nomination.

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This nomination was preceded by two historic property surveys. In 1976 the architectural firm of Conron and Lent of Santa Fe, New Mexico conducted a survey for the City of Socorro and the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee with matching funding from the National Park Service. As a result of this survey, ninety Socorro properties were inventoried and fifty-five documented for the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties.

In 1982 the firm of Garner/Hicks Architects was contracted by the Historic Preservation Division to conduct a comprehensive field survey of Socorro's historic structures within the boundaries of pre-1945 development. The surveyors were architects Harry Garner, Gregory Hicks, and James Wright and preservation consultant, Tamara Coombs. Seven hundred and seventy-three buildings were photographed and inventoried on New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Forms. Structures were dated by means of previous surveys, maps, historical research, and oral history. A State Register nomination was prepared which included two historic districts, twenty-nine individual buildings, and one park.

The present nomination has focused on the domestic architecture of Socorro between 1870 and 1912, the period of Socorro's greatest prosperity and the period when significant residential development took place. Domestic architecture was chosen because a group of relatively unaltered buildings in this category is extant. The historic context of this period explains the growth and waning of Socorro's boom which was based on mining and related industries. The details of the context were developed from the work of previous surveyors and newly performed historic research.

Property types were identified within this context. Because of alteration, deterioration, replacement, and infill, Socorro's historic neighborhoods have not maintained sufficient coherence to be nominated as districts. However, the most representative and least altered examples of the property types have been individually nominated. Documentation of these properties was based on information developed by previous surveyors, further historic research, and interviews.

For the most part dwellings have been nominated for architectural significance based on style and as illustrative of property types associated with the historic context. In many cases these buildings are also significant for their association with persons who stand out as leaders in the history of Socorro during the Period of Significance. Those buildings nominated under Criterion B are associated with leaders who were active in more than one arena of public endeavor which usually included participation in politics in addition to activities in such fields as mining, merchandizing, or the law. Many also played a significant role in the history of the School of Mines.

The best examples of each property type have been documented for individual nomination at this time. Other eligible examples which meet registration requirements may be identified and nominated in the future.

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