

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | MAR 14 1977 |
| DATE ENTERED | OCT 5 1977 |

**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 The Tomé Jail
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Southwest corner of Tomé plaza
CITY, TOWN: Tomé VICINITY OF: _____
STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35 COUNTY: Valencia CODE: 061
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #2

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Elfides Salazar c/o Robert Adler
2519 New York Avenue, N.W.
Virginia Salazar
1301 Cerro Vista, S.W.
CITY, TOWN: Albuquerque VICINITY OF: _____
STATE: New Mexico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Valencia County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER: _____
CITY, TOWN: Los Lunas STATE: New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties
DATE: July 5, 1972
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Planning Office, 404 Don Gaspar
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

The building still known as the Tomé Jail is a 15'x25' one-story, flat-roofed stone structure at the southwest corner of the historic 1739 plaza in the central New Mexico village of Tomé. Originally a single room in a 50'x25' two-story adobe, the jail is all that remains of the larger building which was erected in 1875 to be the courthouse of Valencia County. It, in turn, had replaced an older structure on the north side of the plaza which had been the local seat of government during both Mexican rule in New Mexico and the early period of U.S. administration. On the northeast corner of the cottonwood shaded plaza, the scene of countless fiestas and religious processions, stands Nuestra Señora de Concepción Purísima Roman Catholic Church which, together with the Casa Consistorial, as the courthouse was known locally, represented the traditional authority of Church and State in the Rio Abajo (lower river) village of Tomé. The solid stone and mortar construction of the jail, unusual in New Mexico, has assured its survival after the adobe portions of the courthouse had been removed or weathered away.

Covered by a thin layer of adobe plaster, the 4' thick walls of the jail are made of black igneous rock brought from the Cerro de Tomé, a small volcanic formation which rises sharply out of the surrounding fertile farm lands approximately three miles east of the village. The inside walls of the jail are sheathed and stabilized with unpainted 2 1/2" rough sawed boards. The roof, now covered with a layer of dirt which has partially eroded away, is also made of rough lumber, and originally was the floor for the second-story of the courthouse. The two small windows in the south and west walls have double sills and frames, wood on the inside drilled to hold seven 3/4" iron bars and red sandstone on the outside which have five 1 1/2 bars. Quarried in the Manzano mountains to the east of the valley, the sandstone was also used for the door jambs and lintel. An interesting flourish made at the time of construction is the inscription chiseled by a local artisan who was evidently more fluent in Spanish than English which reads as follows:

Manuel A. Otero

1875

Juez de Pruebas

Manuel A. Otero

1875

Probate Judges [sic]

Prior to the enactment in 1876 of legislation creating Boards of County Commissioners in New Mexico the Juez de Pruebas was the chief county official. Thus, the carved inscription with its extra "s" in the English version memorializes the official who probably authorized construction of the building. For security reasons the entrance to the jail originally had two doors in tandem approximately three feet apart. The inner one, made of wood with an iron grille in the upper panel remains; the elaborately inscribed heavy iron outer door was taken to Los Lunas when the county seat was moved there in 1876. Manufactured in St. Louis and probably brought to Tomé by wagon train, it was later re-hung in a structure owned by local rancher Vivian Córdoba at El Rancho del Carrizo y del Ojito fifteen miles northeast of Tomé.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES erected 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Because of its location on the Camino Real (Royal Road), the principal north-south route through the fertile Rio Grande valley, the central New Mexico village of Tomé was often mentioned as a place of importance in the accounts of early travellers passing through the area. One of the first sections of the Rio Abajo to be settled permanently, the village was named for Thomé Domínguez de Mendoza, a wealthy landowner who had established a large hacienda in the area by 1662. He also held the military title of maese de campo (field marshal). When the great Pueblo Indian revolt broke in 1680, together with Alonso García, lieutenant general in charge of the forces in the Rio Abajo, Domínguez led the Spanish survivors from the initial attack to exile in the El Paso area. Thirty-eight members of his household were killed, however, which may explain why he chose not to return to his lands following the reconquest of New Mexico by Don Diego de Vargas in 1693. The area was resettled later, however, as the result of a land grant made to a group of landless settlers in 1739 by Governor Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza who approved of the new settlement especially as a buffer against attack by Plains Indians, chiefly Apaches and Comanches. Four years later, in response to a petition from the settlers, Martín de Elizacoechea, Bishop of Durango, authorized construction of a chapel which was completed in 1750.

A decade later, during his historic 1760 official visitation of New Mexico, Bishop Pedro Tamarón, Elizacoechea's successor, described the community as follows:

This is a new settlement of Spanish citizens which could become the best in the kingdom because of its extensive lands and the ease of running an irrigating ditch from the river. . . A decent church has already been built. . . dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

In his official report of 1776 another church representative, Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez, gave the census for Tomé as "135 families with 727 persons." He also described a devastating Rio Grande flood which had occurred some years prior to his visitation, the first mention of many such inundations, which plagued the region intermittently until recent times. The community continued to be a target of frequent raids by Apaches and Comanches which made the settlers' existence precarious throughout the 18th century. In 1777 the Comanches killed twenty-three people at Tomé and returned the following year to slaughter thirty more settlers in the same area. Thirteen years later the Natages Apaches in their turn attacked the citizens of Tomé who barricaded themselves in the church. Total

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Territorial Archives of New Mexico, State Records Center and Archives,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Territorial Censuses 1860, 1870, 1885.

Records of the Secretary of the Territory, 1851-1911.

Records of the 20th, 21st and 22nd Territorial Legislative Assemblies
House and Council Journals, 1871-72, 1873-74, 1875-76.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 0.1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1,3 | 3,4,16,0,0 | 3,8,4,5,4,3,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

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

John O. Baxter, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

State Records Center and Archives

DATE

February 4, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

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

Thomas W. Merlan

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-8-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

10/5/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-21-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE #1

7 Protruding over the entrance are three vigas (beams), all that remains of a first floor portal (porch) which extended the full length of the original pitch-roofed courthouse under a second floor veranda. Bisected by a small portion of interior wall, most of the south facade of this structure still stands extending east from the southeast corner of the jail. The lack of any other foundation remnants on this side suggests that the adobes were removed to be used elsewhere. Still in situ, however, south of the jail and the remaining courthouse wall, is a 20'x35' foundation connected to the southwest corner of the jail, evidence of another addition on that side of the building. Made of terrones (blocks cut from adobe sod) the dates of construction and demolition of this addition are unknown as is its purpose and function. Structurally sound, the jail is a source of pride to the present owners who plan to maintain it in its present condition.

8 destruction of the town was only prevented by the aid of the Indians from the Pueblo of Isleta.

During the period of Mexican rule in New Mexico Tomé had grown sufficiently in size and importance to have its own local government administered by an alcalde (chief local official) and by an ayuntamiento (local legislative council), who met in a building on the plaza. It was here that Manuel Armijo, frequent governor of New Mexico, issued his counter-revolutionary Plan of Tomé on September 14, 1837 and marched northward to Santa Fe to quell a revolt in the Rio Arriba (upper river) and reestablish himself as governor after the assassination of Governor Albino Pérez. In 1844 governmental headquarters was moved five miles north to the rival plaza of Valencia where it remained until 1852 when, following U.S. occupation of New Mexico in 1846 by the Army of the West under Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny, Tomé was designated county seat of Valencia County in the Territory of New Mexico.

One of the first U.S. Army officers to visit Tomé and record his impressions of that part of New Mexico was William H. Emory, then a lieutenant in Kearny's command, who made an important reconnaissance through New Mexico and Arizona to California in 1846. Emory's arrival in the plaza on September 7 coincided with a religious pageant and fiesta honoring Nuestra Señora de Concepción Purísima, the patroness of the village, a celebration which is still observed in Tomé. The lieutenant made use of the former cas de ayuntamiento which he described as "a species of public building or guard house" to interview potential guides for his journey westward. The same structure was noted by United States Attorney W.W.H. Davis in 1854 while making the circuit of District Courts within the Territory. Davis arrived to find court already in session and stated:

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE #2

. . . I had only time to dismount and lay off pistols and spurs, when I was obliged to go thither. I wended my way to a small one-story mud building. . . The [court] room was long and low, and had a platform slightly elevated at one end for the judge, a small table for the members of the bar and clerk, and three benches for the rest of the world.

During the 19th century political economic and social affairs in the Rio Abajo region south of Albuquerque were controlled by the closely inter-related Spanish Chaves-Luna-Otero families. Tied altogether by marital and business connections members of this group and their allies ran enormous flocks of sheep in the area and maintained extensive wagon trains to haul their wool and sheep pelts to the railhead, first in Kansas and, later, Colorado. The same equipment was used to bring back merchandise from the east which stocked the shelves of various wholesale and retail outlets owned by the same clique. Among those particularly involved in this trade in the 1860's and '70s was Don Manuel Antonio Otero who maintained a large hacienda south of Tomé at La Bolsa. Known as "La Constancia" because of the constant turning of the water wheel on the grist mill which Otero erected there, the hacienda was the headquarters for Don Manuel's extensive agricultural and mercantile interests.

Extremely active politically, the Otero family has provided New Mexico with an impressive number of local, territorial and state officials. In 1871 Manuel Antonio Otero was elected Probate Judge of Valencia County and it was probably at his instigation that a new courthouse and jail were built on the Tomé plaza in 1875 to replace the one described by Emory and Davis. Local legend states that the builder was Jesus Chavira, a carpenter from Chihuahua who resided in Tomé for many years. Unfortunately, the political infighting between the towns in the region which had led to two changes in the location of the courthouse in two successive sessions of the Territorial legislature was not over and no sooner was the new courthouse completed than the county seat was moved for the third and final time to Los Lunas, across the Rio Grande, by act of the Legislature on December 21, 1875. One year later on December 9, 1876 the newly formed Valencia County Board of Commissioners sold the Tomé courthouse and jail to Antonio Salazar whose lands adjoined it on two sides. The property has been owned by the Salazar family ever since and stands today as a reminder of the era in which today's small village of Tomé was one of the most important communities in the Rio Abajo area of New Mexico.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE #3

- Valencia County Records, Valencia County Courthouse, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
County Clerk's Records, Deed Record Book #A-6.
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1776. A Description by Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez with other
Contemporary Documents. Albuquerque, 1956.
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Emory's Notes of a Military Reconnaissance. Albuquerque, 1951.
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