

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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1. NAME: Juan de Dios Chavez House

2. LOCATION: 205 Griegos N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

4. OWNER: Miss Helen Chavez
205 Griegos Road N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87107

7. DESCRIPTION:

Built probably before 1875, the Chavez House is an L-shaped terron house built in a simplified Territorial style. It is located above the Gallegos Lateral, one of the valley's oldest irrigation ditches, on the high ground on the eastern side of the valley. Griegos Road, which connects the old plaza of Los Griegos with the Highland Road and the east mesa, runs just to the south..

The Chavez House appears to have once been two separate flat-roofed structures built together. One is a typical early Territorial style three-room building built on a N-S axis that includes two bedrooms and a kitchen; the middle room's floor is the lowest of three different floor elevations. Doors originally led from each room outside to the east with the building's windows facing west; now one has been converted to a window. A separate single room was attached to the northeast facade making a double-thick 4 ft. common wall and giving the house its present L-shaped plan. There is evidence that this room had a separate doorway, now blocked up. The house's few and lowset windows are typical of earlier Territorial style homes. The wood windows are newer replacements but are close facsimiles to the originals which were lost to vandalism. On the interior, ceilings in the two rooms on the southwest retain their original beaded wood vigas set below ceiling boards of irregular lengths. The squared kitchen ceiling vigas are replacements of earlier round vigas which broke under the weight of a heavy snowfall in 1951. The eastern room was opened to the rest of the house in the 1960's; at that time a bathroom was added and the room extended slightly to the east.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Juan de Dios Chavez House is a fine local example of the traditional L-shaped Territorial style of which only five still stand in the city. Although the windows have

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been recently replaced with modern reproductions of Territorial style windows, the overall house plan has remained intact and is in excellent condition.

Since at least the turn of the century the house has been the home of the Juan de Dios Chavez family, a branch of a north valley family which has lived in the area since the late 1700's. Juan de Dios was one of the ten children of José de la Luz Chavez, a farmer who served as a legislator from Bernalillo County in 1892. Many descendants of José de la Luz still live in the north valley.

The house stands on part of a large property purchased by Juan Cristóbal Armijo sometime before 1880 on which Armijo built his "New Homestead" (NR-9/30/82). Since there is no record of Armijo's purchase, we have no written confirmation that the Chavez House was standing at the time Armijo bought the property. Given its linear form and few openings, which are characteristic of mid-19th-century New Mexican houses, it probably pre-dates the Armijo home. After Armijo's death and the death of his wife the property was divided among his children, and then gradually bought up by his son-in-law Tomas Gutierrez. Tomas' wife, Leonor Zamora, inherited the entire property in 1909. Leonor's sister, Juanita Zamora, was the wife of José de la Luz Chavez and it is undoubtedly through this connection that Chavez's son Juan de Dios came to live in the small old house located near the New Homestead. Leonor left the house and its adjoining property to Juan de Dios with the stipulation that he care for her in her old age. After his death the house was left to his several children; it still belongs to his youngest daughter.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The house stands on a roughly 50' x 150' lot, Tract 7B on MRGCD Map #33. This is the lot deeded to the Chavez family in the 1930's; it includes a small garden and driveway; no other buildings stand on the property.

UTM references: Los Griegos Quad/13/351220/3888300.