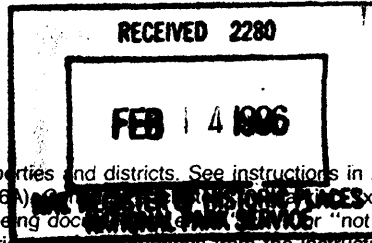


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) or "REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, check the "not applicable" box or "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tomás Gonzales House

other names/site number Mormon House; Goad Place

2. Location

street & number 2 mi. E of jct. SR84 and Rio Arriba County Rd. 155  not for publication

city or town Abiquiu  vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Rio Arriba code 039 zip code 87510

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lynne Sabatino NM Deputy SHPO 2-7-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other. (explain.)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/14/96

Entered in the  
National Register

Tomás Gonzales House  
Name of Property

Rio Arriba, NM  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late nineteenth century: I-house

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Baked adobe brick

roof Metal

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Tomás Gonzales House  
Name of Property

Rio Arriba, NM  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Settlement

**Period of Significance**

c. 1895-1945

**Significant Dates**

c. 1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Tomás Gonzales House

Rio Arriba, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 382 760 4009120
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Corinne P. Sze, Ph.D.

organization Research Services of Santa Fe date November 1995

street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605

city or town Santa Fe, NM state NM zip code 87501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

The Tomás Gonzales House faces south toward the Chama River over a wide expanse of open fields. It is a two-story building constructed of baked adobe bricks that have the appearance of fired, red brick, and rests on loose stone footings. The side-gable roof has end-wall, interior chimneys in each gable. There are one or two-story porches on three facades supported by fluted, wooden columns topped with Corinthian capitals and enclosed by wooden balustrades. All roofs are covered with corrugated metal. Windows are wooden and double hung with two-over-two lights. In form the house is a two-room-wide, one-room-deep, center-passage, I-house with rear extensions; the two rooms across the front on each floor are divided by a center passage containing a staircase. A one-room, two-story, intersecting gable at the rear creates a T-shape that is filled in on the northeast with a one-story, shed-roofed room. The house has recently undergone a complete restoration, is in excellent condition, and well represents its architectural and historic significance.

#### DESCRIPTION

The building is located in Rio Arriba County, on the Plaza Colorada Grant which extends north of the Chama River. It lies south of a now little used portion of the old county road between El Rito and Tierra Amarilla, the county seat, on the flat, open, nearly treeless and sparsely built, arable bottom lands of the river. The nominated property is adjoined directly on the south and east by fields that have sometimes been leased for grazing and are now planted in winter wheat and winter rye. On the south the fields extend to a thick line of trees that marks the river bank. On the west there is a parking area and more fields; on the north are a few cottonwood trees, and a small *acequia* (irrigation ditch). Further north, near the road is a larger ditch, called the José Pablo Gonzales ditch, and sometimes the Rancho de Abiquiu ditch. Further to the northwest, close to the road, are two Quonset-type, storage buildings. At some distance on the east is a much larger adobe building, once the home of Tomás Gonzales's father, Reyes Gonzales, and extensively remodeled in the 1940s as the headquarters of the Rancho de Abiquiu.

The (main) south, facade of the Tomás Gonzales House is strictly symmetrical with a door flanked by two windows on each floor. In each of the side and the rear gables are four windows, two per floor. A porch extends across the entire front on the ground floor and is supported by three columns on either side of a central opening. A shorter second-floor porch is centered over this, covering the second-floor door and only one of the flanking windows on either side. A two-story porch on the west facade wraps around the north (rear) facade on the first floor.

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The baked adobe bricks used in the construction of the house are 9x3x4.5 inches in dimension and reddish in color. The original mortar was mud and sand without cement.<sup>1</sup> The walls are of double thickness except in the one-story, shed-roofed room. The same brick was used to create window sills, segmental relieving arches over doors and windows, and the appearance of bargeboards at the gable ends. There are brick, interior chimneys at all three gable ends. A fourth brick chimney rises from the outer slope of the shed roof. Wall surfaces are flat and undecorated except for the porches on the south, west, and north facades. Wooden porch elements and window parts are painted a soft blue.

On the interior there are wood floors, plastered walls and ceilings, wood-lined windows and doors, the original wooden staircase and banister, and two fireplaces with mantels constructed of the same baked adobe as the outer walls. Elsewhere the chimneys apparently served stove pipes rather than fireplaces.

The house apparently underwent little alteration before the 1970s. However, a historic photograph in the possession of a son of Tomás Gonzales shows the house without the porch as it now wraps around the rear facade on the first floor, but rather only a small porch over back door apparently without Corinthian columns. It is probable that all of the columned porches were added to the original house before 1920, the date of Tomás Gonzales' death. After the building was sold in 1976, it underwent several unfortunate but limited alterations such as the addition of skylights and the modification of one of the fireplaces with the hood of an automobile. All of the late modifications were removed in a recent restoration as described below.

There are no other buildings within the nominated boundaries. Originally a second, similarly constructed dwelling, now demolished, was located perhaps 100 yards west of the house and on the north were a barn and other agricultural outbuildings, also no longer extant.

### RESTORATION

In 1994 the house was completely restored and dilapidated animal pens and a barn to the north were removed. The building had suffered years of neglect and limited but careless remodeling. According to a 1992 inspector's report, the structure was basically sound but the porches on the south and west were failing and needed to be replaced. The windows needed to be rebuilt and the plumbing and electrical systems replaced. Roof leaks on the south side had damaged interior plaster and caused a washing out of the exterior mortar.<sup>2</sup>

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1. John Arrison, interviews, 22 February 1994; 10 February 1995.

2. Walter M. Drew, letter to James S. Rubin, 13 May 1992.

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In the course of the restoration, the rock foundation was patched and repaired as necessary. Red paint was removed from the exterior brick by hand rubbing with another brick. Crumbled bricks were replaced with the same type of baked adobe made to matching size in Juarez, Mexico. Joints were repaired with lime mortar. Modern skylights and two recent roof dormers were removed and new metal roof panels installed to match the existing roof.

The porches were rebuilt to original specifications with custom-made columns and new corrugated metal roofs. Those capitals which could be salvaged were used on the main facade; elsewhere custom-made replicas were used. Rotting wooden porch floors, which were originally installed over framing placed directly on the ground, were replaced with new wood floors over cement slabs. All windows were replaced with new wood windows with true divided lights to match the two-over-two design of the originals, some of which had previously been replaced with one-over-one lights. The existing front door was stripped and refinished. Elsewhere new doors replaced the old to the same specifications.

On the interior the two fireplaces, one of which had been remodeled by a previous owner, were rebuilt; the fire boxes were relined with firebrick and dampers and flex-steel flue liners were installed. Where salvageable, existing wood floors were repaired with replacement strips and refinished. Those in the two first-floor rooms on the east side had to be taken out and replaced. At the north end of the east front room on the first floor, a new bathroom and a laundry room were partitioned off; above these on the second floor two new bathrooms were created. A modern kitchen was installed in the back east room on the first floor.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### SUMMARY

Sometimes referred to as the "Mormon house," the Tomás Gonzales House is significant for its architecture which is typical in form of Mormon building across the west but unusual both in plan and materials for Hispanic northern New Mexico. It is historically significant for its association with the brief period of Mormon settlement in Abiquiu in the 1890s and for its association with the Reyes Gonzales family, who as major landholders and leading ranchers in this primarily rural area controlled a substantial part of the local economy.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The I-house by definition has two full stories, side-facing gables, and is at least one room deep and two rooms wide. Many examples are symmetrical in plan and fenestration with a central passageway and centered front entrance on the long facade. Chimneys can be central, inside end, outside end, or paired on the ridge. Rear extensions and embellishments such as front and back porches are not uncommon, either as part of the original plan or as additions. Decorative elements can be derived from a variety of styles.<sup>1</sup>

The I-house derives from folk tradition brought to America by English colonists and in New England was expanded to the Salt Box. It was also extensively built in the Southeast and spread throughout the Middle West.<sup>2</sup> Although the name given to this form in 1936 refers to the origin in Indiana, Illinois, or Iowa of many of its late nineteenth-century practitioners in prairie Louisiana, it is actually the most widely distributed American folk house type, particularly in rural areas.<sup>3</sup>

The center-passage type of the I-house and the related four-over-four plan (two rooms deep and two room wide with a center hall) came west with the Mormon migration. The Mormons themselves refer to this house type in three ways: as the "Nauvoo-style house," referring to the town in Illinois from which they fled West; as the "polygamy house," referring to the legend derived from the natural division of plan into two equal halves; and as the "old Mormon house." Although taste generally in the United States had shifted to more elaborate, late-Victorian, revival styles, this austere form, which was relatively cheap and easy to build but solid and firmly rooted in the past, suited Mormon culture and beliefs. So closely

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1. Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55.4 (1965): 553-555. Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988) 78-80.

2. McAlester and McAlester 78-87.

3. Kniffen 553-555 and n. 10.



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correlated to pre-1900 Mormon settlement is the center-passage I-house and four-over-four plan that they can be used to identify areas of Mormon settlement in the West.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, the center-passage I-house is not typical of Spanish northern New Mexico.

Of the possible variations, the T-shaped, two-story I-house with a rear extension was the most commonly used layout in the Mormon West, especially during the 1870s through the 1890s. Sometimes called an upright and wing, this plan was formed by extending a gabled wing back from the middle of the rear facade, creating a house of three gables.<sup>5</sup>

In Utah the material preferred by the Mormons for every type of building was sun-dried, adobe brick, an inexpensive, readily available technology, requiring little in the way of specialized skills and tools. Brigham Young claimed that adobe was the perfect building material and would outlast any stone. Using a "chemical argument," he reasoned that as "immature stone" adobe would eventually harden into stone and was thus superior to mature materials such as limestone or marble which must enter a cycle of decay. Mormon adobe bricks are smaller than those traditionally used by the Spanish, generally measuring 12x4x6 inches in contrast to the Spanish average of about 18x6x10 inches.<sup>6</sup> However, nothing in the literature suggests the Mormon use of baked adobe similar to that found in the Tomás Gonzales House. Although found in Mexico where it is called *ladrillo* (brick), this technique is equally atypical of Spanish northern New Mexico. No other extant examples have been identified in the Abiquiu area.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### Settlement in the Abiquiu area

Abiquiu is a small village on a mesa south of the Chama River in Rio Arriba County. It is located about 45 miles northwest of Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico since Spanish times, and about the same distance south of Tierra Amarilla, the Rio Arriba county seat. The closest large town is Española, about 24 miles to the southeast. The Chama River, a major tributary of the Rio Grande, flows almost 100 miles south and east through north central New Mexico from the Colorado border to its juncture with the Rio Grande above Española. The name Abiquiu also refers to a surrounding area extending about five or six miles along the river where it bends to flow from east to west and has encompassed other small settlements such as La Puente, also on the south side of the river, about three miles east of Abiquiu.

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4. Richard V. Francaviglia, "Mormon Central-Hall Houses in the American West," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 61 (1971): 65.

5. Leon Sidney Pitman, "A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973, 169-178.

6. Jonathan L. Fairbanks, "Shelter on the Frontier: Adobe Housing in Nineteenth Century Utah," *Frontier America: The Far West* (Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 1974) 198-209.

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Although the first capital of New Mexico was established in 1598 by Juan de Oñate near the mouth of the Chama River, this location was soon abandoned in favor of a new site that became Santa Fe.<sup>7</sup> Settlement of the Chama Valley was for the most part delayed until the eighteenth century and then remained unstable due to troubles with nomadic Native populations. Nevertheless, families attracted by the river's rich bottom lands and dependable source of irrigation water, as well as by broad expanses of nearby grazing lands, sought grants of land along both its banks. Early settlers established scattered farms and later built small plazas as a defence against Utes and Comanches.

Abiquiu as a place name appears in documents at least as early as the 1730s.<sup>8</sup> More than once in the eighteenth century small settlements were founded in the area and abandoned. In 1750 upon orders from the governor, Tomás Vélez Cachupín, a village named for Santa Rosa de Lima was refounded with a defensive plaza and a chapel near present Abiquiu on the south side of the river. In 1754 the same governor established a new mission, Santo Tomás de Abiquiu (present Abiquiu), for *genízaros*, generally described as "detrribalized," Hispanicized Indians.<sup>9</sup>

The farthest outlying settlement northwest of Santa Fe, Abiquiu was a Spanish outpost for the upper Chama River Valley and a center of trade. In the Mexican period (1821-1846) Abiquiu became a meeting and outfitting point for traders and trappers and the jumping off point for expeditions over the Spanish Trail to California.

After the Americans took control in 1846, Abiquiu was a mercantile and ranching center, as well as the location of a military post and an Indian agency. Nevertheless, the predominant occupation in the area into the twentieth century continued to be farming irrigated lands in the river valleys and raising sheep and cattle. By the end of the nineteenth century, ownership of agricultural lands in the Abiquiu area was dominated by Reyes Gonzales.

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7. Marc Simmons, *New Mexico: An Interpretive History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988) 38.

8. John L. Kessell, "Sources for the History of a New Mexico Community: Abiquiu," *New Mexico Historical Review* 54.4 (1979): 255.

9. J. Richard Salazar, "Santa Rosa de Lima de Abiquiu," *New Mexico Architecture* 18.5 (1976): 13-19.  
John L. Kessell, *The Missions of New Mexico Since 1776* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1980) 121-125.

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### The Plaza Colorada Land Grant

Across the Chama river, nearly opposite the village of Abiquiu, two adjacent grants of land were made in 1739. Later known as the Plaza Blanca and the Plaza Colorada grants, they extended in narrow strips north from the river bank. Governor Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza granted the latter to Rosalía, Ignacio, and Juan Lorenzo Valdes who claimed that they wanted to move closer to the frontier because their land at Santa Cruz was no longer sufficient to support their families and animals.

The Plaza Colorada Grant was described as bounded on the north by the Copper Hills, on the east by the lands petitioned for by Manuel de la Rosa (Plaza Blanca Grant); on the south by the Chama River; and on the west by a little hill opposite the town of Abiquiu. The grant included bottom lands along the north bank of the Chama River. Rosalia, who had been the leader in getting the grant, received the greater portion, the eastern half, and her brothers divided the rest.<sup>9</sup> Two small defensive settlements, eventually called Plaza Blanca and Plaza Colorada, were built close to one another for mutual protection. A census, believed to date from about the 1790s, found 1,118 persons residing in eight or nine plazas in the Abiquiu area. The third largest in population, the Plaza de San Rafael (Plaza Colorada), included 38 households of 180 persons. At the Plaza de San Ignacio (Plaza Blanca) there were 96 persons in 22 households. The largest community, La Puente, contained 225 persons and Santo Tomás (present Abiquiu), 182.<sup>10</sup>

In 1885 the owners of the Plaza Colorada Grant petitioned the surveyor general for its confirmation. According to testimony taken that year, there were between thirteen and twenty families living on the grant. Jose Maria Chavez, then eighty-four years old, stated that he was the majority owner and had purchased his interest from the heirs of the original grantees whose descendants still owned parts of the grant. One of these was the father-in-law of Reyes Gonzales, José Pablo Gallegos, who was sixty-seven years old at the time, had a house on the grant, and owned part of the land. Gallegos testified that his claim to the grant was based on inheritance, originally from Juan Lorenzo Valdez.<sup>11</sup>

Although the surveyor general recommended confirmation the following year, final action did not take place until the 1893 decision of the Court of Private Land Claims to confirm. The patent was issued by the United States government in February 1907. The official survey of 1895 found that the grant covered a total of 7,577.92 acres running ten miles north and south and four miles east and west along the Copper Hills at the north and two miles along the Chama River on the south. Only the rich alluvial land along the river was under

9. J. J. Bowden, "Private Land Claims in the Southwest," thesis, Master of Law in Oil and Gas, Southern Methodist University, 1969, 1111-1113. Plaza Colorada Grant, Surveyor General Report #149.

10. John O. Baxter, "Irrigation in the Chama Valley," manuscript, New Mexico State Engineer, n.d., 30.

11. Plaza Colorada Grant, Surveyor General Report #149.

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cultivation; the greater part of the grant was rough and broken and used for pasturing or cutting wood. The only settlers were living along the river and in two small towns, or plazas, located near each other, called Plaza Blanca and Plaza Colorada.<sup>12</sup>

### Mormon Settlement in the West<sup>13</sup>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is often shortened to L.D.S. and whose members are commonly called Mormons, was organized by Joseph Smith in upstate New York on April 6, 1830. Membership increased rapidly in the new sect and the headquarters was moved to Kirkland, Ohio, and settlements established in Jackson County, Missouri. From the beginning Smith's followers encountered fierce antagonism from non-Mormons whom they termed "gentiles." In 1838 their membership, about 12,000 strong, was driven out of Missouri and their property confiscated. Having reestablished in Illinois, they built the town of Nauvoo on the banks of the Mississippi.

It was while at Nauvoo that Joseph Smith received the revelation which encouraged plural marriage. Polygamy abetted the doctrinal mandate to have many offspring in order to provide enough bodies for the numerous souls awaiting incarnation. The glory a Latter-day Saint could expect in the afterlife corresponded to the number of his wives and children. However, polygamy particularly aroused the antipathy of other Americans.

After undergoing years of hostility from the gentile world, including the murder of Joseph Smith in 1844, Brigham Young led the Latter-day Saints on a western exodus that culminated in the founding in 1847 of Salt Lake City. From here Young sent out colonists to found settlements in many parts of the Rocky Mountain West.

Mormon colonization was the product of religious and practical imperatives. Fundamental to the creed was the goal of spreading the religion and establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. Expansion was also driven by the economic pressures of large families as well as the hostility toward polygamy which they experienced again as non-Mormons moved into Utah. In 1862 Congress passed the first of many anti-polygamy bills and eventually colonies were established as far away as Mexico and Canada to escape the force of American law.

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12. Bowden 1116-1117. Plaza Colorada Grant, Surveyor General Report #149. Plaza Colorada Grant, Court of Private Land Claims #2.

13. Much of the information in this section is adapted from Corinne P. Sze, "Ashcroft-Merrill Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form 1990, written under contract with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division.

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In the late 1870s Mormons settlements were founded in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado, including the town of Manassa (1879), the first and largest community, and other small settlements such as Sanford (1885). In 1887 Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker Act, yet another law designed to end polygamy once and for all. In response many families from Utah sought refuge in more remote locations such as the San Luis Valley. By 1889 southern Colorado had itself become inhospitable, and the Mormons looked further south to New Mexico for a refuge.<sup>14</sup>

### Mormon Settlement in the Abiquiu Area

According to the history compiled by L.D.S. assistant church historian Andrew Jenson, in 1889 in response to threats to report polygamous Mormons in the San Luis Valley to the federal authorities, those in danger sought a temporary place to hide their plural families. Two of their number traveled about 100 miles southwest of Manassa until they found a place near Abiquiu, on the south side of the river called La Puente, where they could buy fourteen acres of land containing many ruins and three habitable dwellings. Soren C. Berthelsen, Christen Jensen, and Andrew Downey settled parts of their families there. Others moved their families down later in the winter after the church ordered all plural families out of Colorado.<sup>15</sup>

By the next spring (1890) nearly all of the families had moved out because of difficult living conditions. Nevertheless, about the same time George E. Casto and Richard M. Humphrey,<sup>16</sup> both of Sanford, brought their plural families down to Abiquiu. In 1891 Asahel Fuller was called from Manassa and ordained a High Priest and Bishop to preside over the colony which was first called Mariana, after the name of the original owner of the land. In August there were six families of thirty-eight individuals including four high priests residing in the colony near Abiquiu.<sup>17</sup>

In 1892 eight families were called from Manassa and Sanford to strengthen the settlement, including those of David Crandall, James Elias McKenzie, Simon Wymer, Alexander B. Kidd, and John T. Wilkins. When they arrived they found only four families still there, including that of Fuller. The same year an L.D.S. ward was organized and the name changed to Beulah.<sup>18</sup>

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14. Carleton Q. Anderson, Betty Shawcroft, and Robert Compton, *The Mormons, 100 Years in the San Luis Valley* (n.p.: The La Jara Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1982) 22-52.

15. Andrew Jenson, "Beulah Ward," typescript, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Historical Archives, n.d., n.p.

16. Jenson spells this name Humphreys, deed and assessment records of Rio Arriba County spell it Humphrey.

17. Jenson n.p.

18. Jenson n.p.

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Although there were eighteen families reported at Beulah in 1894, the community broke up the following year defeated it was said by the difficulties of controlling the river and conveying water to the land. Moreover, resolution of the polygamy issue when the church renounced the practice in 1890, ultimately negated the need for a refuge. Most families moved back to the San Luis Valley although two or three remained a few years longer before they too moved away.<sup>19</sup>

Although the tiny settlement of Beulah was on the south side of the river, most of the Mormons' farming land was on the north.<sup>20</sup> Rio Arriba County deed and assessment records indicate that some church members also had residences on the north side of the river. However, it has not been possible to determine either from these or other records the exact location of their holdings or to connect any of them to the subject property. James C. Berthelsen paid property taxes on a house and lot north of the river in 1901, his brother Soren on agricultural land in 1902. In other years assessment records do not specify the location of their property or the nature of improvements.<sup>21</sup> Richard M. Humphrey purchased land north of the river in 1893. His tax assessments for improvements in 1893 and 1894 jumped from \$25.00 to \$157.50 suggesting that he may have added a valuable house or even two. In 1894 he sold the same property to Reyes Gonzales. Neither exact location nor improvements are specified in the deeds.<sup>22</sup> John T. Wilkins was assessed for agricultural land and a residence in 1893 (value of improvements \$25.00). "Wilkins and Bro." were assessed for a residence with a value of \$100 in 1894. In neither case is it indicated where the brothers' properties were located.<sup>23</sup>

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19. Jenson n.p.

20. Jenson n.p.

21. Rio Arriba County Assessments.

22. Rio Arriba County Deeds 13:223; 13:225. Rio Arriba County Assessments.

23. Rio Arriba County Assessments.

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### THE REYES GONZALES FAMILY

The son of Miguel Antonio Gonzales and Maria Lugarda Garcia of Bernalillo, Reyes Gonzales was born in 1830.<sup>24</sup> By his own testimony, he came to live at Abiquiu in 1853.<sup>25</sup> About ten years later he married Teofila Gallegos, the daughter of José Pablo Gallegos, a prominent sheep and cattle breeder and a descendant of the original grantees of the Plaza Colorada Grant.<sup>26</sup> Reyes Gonzales had been a well-known freighter, who supplied mining camps in Colorado, conveying goods by ox-drawn wagon between Denver, Cripple Creek, Dodge City, and other points.<sup>27</sup> He and Teofila had five children, four sons - Tomás (b. 1871), Emilio (b. 1875), Miguel Antonio (b. 1877), and José Pablo (b. 1885) - and one daughter, Lugarda (b. 1883).<sup>28</sup>

Reyes Gonzales testified in the adjudication proceedings of the Plaza Colorada Grant in 1885 and 1893 that he had obtained an interest in the grant from his father-in-law among others.<sup>29</sup> Gonzales himself was a wealthy sheep and cattle rancher, who became the largest sheep owner in the lower Chama River Valley; at one time fifteen of his sheep camps had an estimated 150,000 sheep.<sup>30</sup> In the 1880s and 1890s, he bought up extensive tracts of land on both sides of the Chama River in the Abiquiu area and eventually owned most of the Plaza Colorada Grant.<sup>31</sup> In 1892 Gonzales purchased from his father-in-law a fourteen-room residence, the Gallegos family home, situated in the Plaza Colorada Grant.<sup>32</sup> This apparently became the large Gonzales family residence that was later extensively remodeled as the headquarters of the Rancho de Abiquiu and is still located east of the Tomás Gonzales House.

24. United States Census 1900. Gonzales family genealogy, private collection of Miguel Antonio Gonzales.

25. Plaza Blanca Grant, Court of Private Land Claims #32.

26. United States Censuses 1900, 1910. *R. L. Polk and Company's New Mexico Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1884*. Plaza Colorada Grant, Surveyor General Report #149.

27. *Historical Encyclopedia of New Mexico*, vol. 2, (Albuquerque: New Mexico Historical Association, 1945) 850, 917.

28. United States Census 1900.

29. Plaza Colorada Grant, Surveyor General Report #149. Plaza Colorada Grant, Court of Private Land Claims #2.

30. Alvar W. Carlson, *The Spanish-American Homeland: Four Centuries in New Mexico's Rio Arriba* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990) 163.

31. The deed records of Rio Arriba County show over fifty purchases of property by Reyes Gonzales recorded in 1899 alone, transactions which took place in the 1880s and 1890s and were mostly in the Abiquiu area, about half of them in the Plaza Colorada and Plaza Blanca grants.

32. Rio Arriba County Deeds 14a:399.

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Gonzales's sons followed him into stock-raising and agriculture; his daughter, Lugarda, married John Sargent, a successful local merchant.<sup>33</sup> Emilio, however, left the area for Colorado in the early 1900s and Tomás died in 1920, while inhabiting the subject property.<sup>34</sup> Reyes Gonzales died in 1922 at the El Rito home of Lugarda and John Sargent. Teofila followed her husband in death just one week later.<sup>35</sup> Their youngest son, José Pablo, took over extensive holdings of land on the north side of the river, including the family home.<sup>36</sup>

However, it was Miguel who took his father's place as the area's predominant landowner and sheep man. He inherited the family land on the south side of the river and added to these holdings by acquiring more of the Rio Chama floodplain on the Town of Abiquiu Grant.<sup>37</sup> After Tomás's death, Miguel also took possession of his holdings on the north side of the river, including his home.<sup>38</sup>

In the 1930s there were about 1,100 acres in the Abiquiu area under irrigation and the average family had four acres under cultivation. Miguel Gonzales owned sixty percent of the local farm land which he rented on a sharecropper basis to local farmers - usually extracting one third of all crops produced in return for the use of the land. About half the tilled land was in alfalfa and the rest in wheat, oats, barley, corn, peas and beans. Miguel Gonzales also owned by far the largest number of sheep in the area, with 11,000 head compared to his next competitor's 400.<sup>39</sup>

Gonzales also developed a substantial mercantile business in Abiquiu first as Sargent and Gonzales in the early 1920s and then as Gonzales and Bode.<sup>40</sup> Gonzales' establishment was the main store in Abiquiu and also contained the post office beginning in 1925.<sup>41</sup> In the 1930s the store also housed a power plant that could supply ample current to light all the village although only five families were on the line.<sup>42</sup> Gonzales was also active in Republican politics, serving as county clerk in the 1910s and as postmaster in Abiquiu from about 1925 to

33. *New Mexico State Business Directory* (Denver: The Gazetteer Publishing Co., 1905-6). *Historical Encyclopedia of New Mexico*, 850. 917. Frank D. Reeve, *History of New Mexico*, vol 3 (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, Inc., 1961) 154. United States Censuses 1900, 1910. Miguel A. Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

34. Miguel A. Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

35. *Santa Fe New Mexican* 18 December 1922.

36. Miguel A. Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

37. Carlson 163.

38. Miguel Antonio Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

39. Marta Weigle, ed., *Hispanic Villages of Northern New Mexico*, reprint. of *The Tewa Basin Study*, 1935 (Santa Fe: The Lighting Tree, 1975) 154-157.

40. *New Mexico State Business Directories*. *Historical Encyclopedia of New Mexico*, 850. Reeve, vol. 3, 154.

41. *New Mexico State Business Directories*.

42. Weigle 157-158.



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1930. In the 1930s he was a member of the executive board of the New Mexico Wool Growers' Association and early in the decade represented District 4 in the State Senate.<sup>43</sup> Miguel Gonzales died in 1957.<sup>44</sup>

### HISTORY OF THE TOMAS GONZALES HOUSE

The Tomás Gonzales House, which is sometimes referred to as "the Mormon house," and the now demolished neighboring dwelling of similar construction, are believed to have been built by Mormons, sometimes said to have been brothers. Ruth Goad, whose parents occupied the house from about 1935 to 1972, was told by her mother that people visited who said that their Mormon relatives built the two houses. As previously demonstrated, in the 1890s at least two sets of brothers in the Abiquiu Mormon community owned residences, a few Mormon homes were on the north side of the river, and at least one parcel of land north of the river was sold by a Mormon to Reyes Gonzales.

The two brick houses were presumably purchased by Reyes Gonzales, or his sons.<sup>45</sup> By the first decade of the new century, Gonzales, with his wife and younger children, occupied the large, adobe house (east of the subject property), which was probably purchased from his father-in-law. His oldest son, Tomás, was living with his family in the first brick house on the west, and his second son, Emilio, and family were in the other, now demolished brick house, further west.<sup>46</sup>

After the death of Reyes Gonzales, his youngest son, José Pablo, eventually occupied the large, family home. After Emilio moved to Monte Vista, Colorado, his brother Tomás took over the second brick house. After Tomás' death in 1920, another brother, Miguel, assumed control of his property. He loaned the two "brick" houses, which he eventually purchased for back taxes, to families to farm.<sup>47</sup> From about 1935 to 1972 the subject property was occupied by the Goad family on a sharecropping arrangement.<sup>48</sup> Miguel tore down the other brick house; the bricks were taken by his second wife, Consuelo Baca, to San

43. New Mexico State Business Directory, 1913-1914; 1930. *Who's Who in New Mexico*, 1937.

44. Reeve, vol. 3, 154.

45. Because of the large number of tracts purchased by Gonzales, the imprecision of property descriptions, and the absence of recorded deeds in the names of most of the Mormons who paid assessments on Abiquiu property, it has not been possible to identify these transactions in the deed records. No deeds covering property identifiable as these tracts were found with Gonzales's sons as the grantees.

46. Tomás Gonzales's son, Miguel Antonio Gonzales, described these living arrangements, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995. The 1900 United States Census lists the households of Reyes, Tomás, and Emilio in that order.

47. Miguel Antonio Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

48. Ruth Goad, interview, 6 May 1994.

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Pedro (south of Española) and used to build a wall which is now plastered.<sup>50</sup> Eventually Miguel gave the subject property in an exchange to his nephew, Tomás Gonzales's oldest son, Reyes.

When the Goad family lived there (c. 1935-1972), the house had no plumbing or electricity. The two front rooms on the first floor were bedrooms. The kitchen was in back room on the northeast side and a living room on the northwest. There were three bedrooms on the second floor. North of the house were a barn for milk cows and pig pens. East of the barn were a shop and a forge. The surrounding land was farmed in such crops as corn, beans, potatoes and watermelon; large trucks came from Texas to buy corn and watermelons.<sup>51</sup>

In the early 1940s Winfield Morten purchased extensive Gonzales acreage including the large family home of Reyes and then Pablo Gonzales but not the subject property. He established the Rancho de Abiquiu and extensively remodeled the main house. Morten lost the ranch in about 1960 due to tax problems.<sup>52</sup> It was bought by the Salmons who eventually added the Tomás Gonzales House to the property. In the late 1960s the Rancho de Abiquiu, including the Tomás Gonzales House, was purchased by Alva A. Simpson Jr.<sup>53</sup> Simpson sold the brick house off separately in 1976.<sup>54</sup> In the early 1980s, the Simpsons sold acreage including the main house east of the subject property, to the Dar al-Islam Muslim community. The Tomás Gonzales House and the adjacent property that included the large Gonzales family home were rejoined through separate purchases by the present owner in 1993.

### HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Tomás Gonzales House is significant for its Mormon architecture, unusual in northern New Mexico, and for its historic associations both with the brief Mormon presence in Abiquiu and with a leading Hispanic family in the area. Furthermore, its architectural integrity has been maintained to an uncommon degree by an exemplary restoration. Although it has not been possible to answer all historical questions at this time, this property has further significance for its potential to yield information in the future on Mormon settlement in New Mexico; Mormon adobe architecture; the otherwise unknown use of baked adobe in northern New Mexico; and the history of both the Plaza Colorada Grant and a Hispanic family of major importance in the Abiquiu vicinity.

50. Miguel Antonio Gonzales, interviews, 17 October 1994; 18 January 1995.

51. Ruth Goad, interview, 6 May 1994.

52. Nancy Hopkins Reily, interview, 23 January 1995. Robert Hopkins, interview, 27 January 1995.

53. Winfield Morten Ditch, File #2590, New Mexico State Engineer. Simpson, Juliana (with Helen Hunt), interview, 12 October 1993.

54. Gonzales Ditch, File #01421, New Mexico State Engineer. Juliana Simpson, interview (with Corinne Sze), 3 May 1994.

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Name: Tomás Gonzales House

County and State: Rio Arriba, NM

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-66)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangle formed by a line running thirty feet from the farthest extension of each of the four facades of the Tomás Gonzales House.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the historic building and a representative but limited portion of contiguous land.

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### HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Information common to all historic photographs:

1. Tomás Gonzales House
2. Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Information on individual historic photographs:

3. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc.
  4. 1993
  5. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc. (color)
  6. Partial south (main) facade; camera facing north.
  7. Photo #8
- 
3. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc.
  4. 1993
  5. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc. (color)
  6. West and partial north facades; camera facing southeast.
  7. Photo #9
- 
3. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc.
  4. 1993
  5. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc. (color)
  6. Partial west facade; camera facing northeast.
  7. Photo #10
- 
3. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc.
  4. 1993
  5. Robert A. Woods Construction, Inc. (color)
  6. Partial north and partial east facades; camera facing southwest.
  7. Photo #11
- 
3. Unknown
  4. Unknown
  5. Unknown
  6. East and partial north facades.
  7. Photo #12

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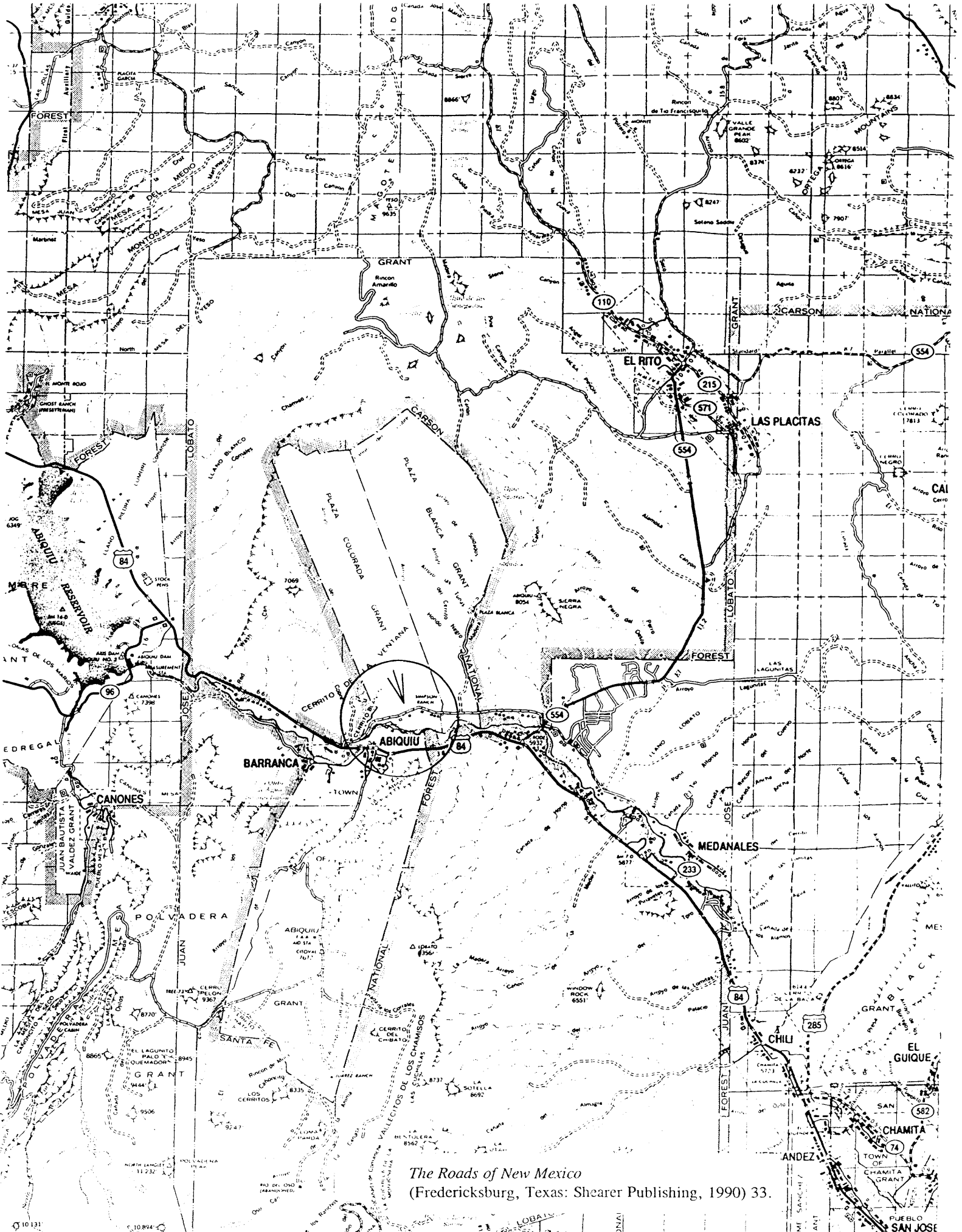
### CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS

Information common to all contemporary photographs:

1. Tomás Gonzales House
2. Rio Arriba County, New Mexico
3. Corinne P. Sze
4. February 2, 1995
5. El Sueño del Corazón  
Abiquiu, New Mexico

Information on individual contemporary photographs:

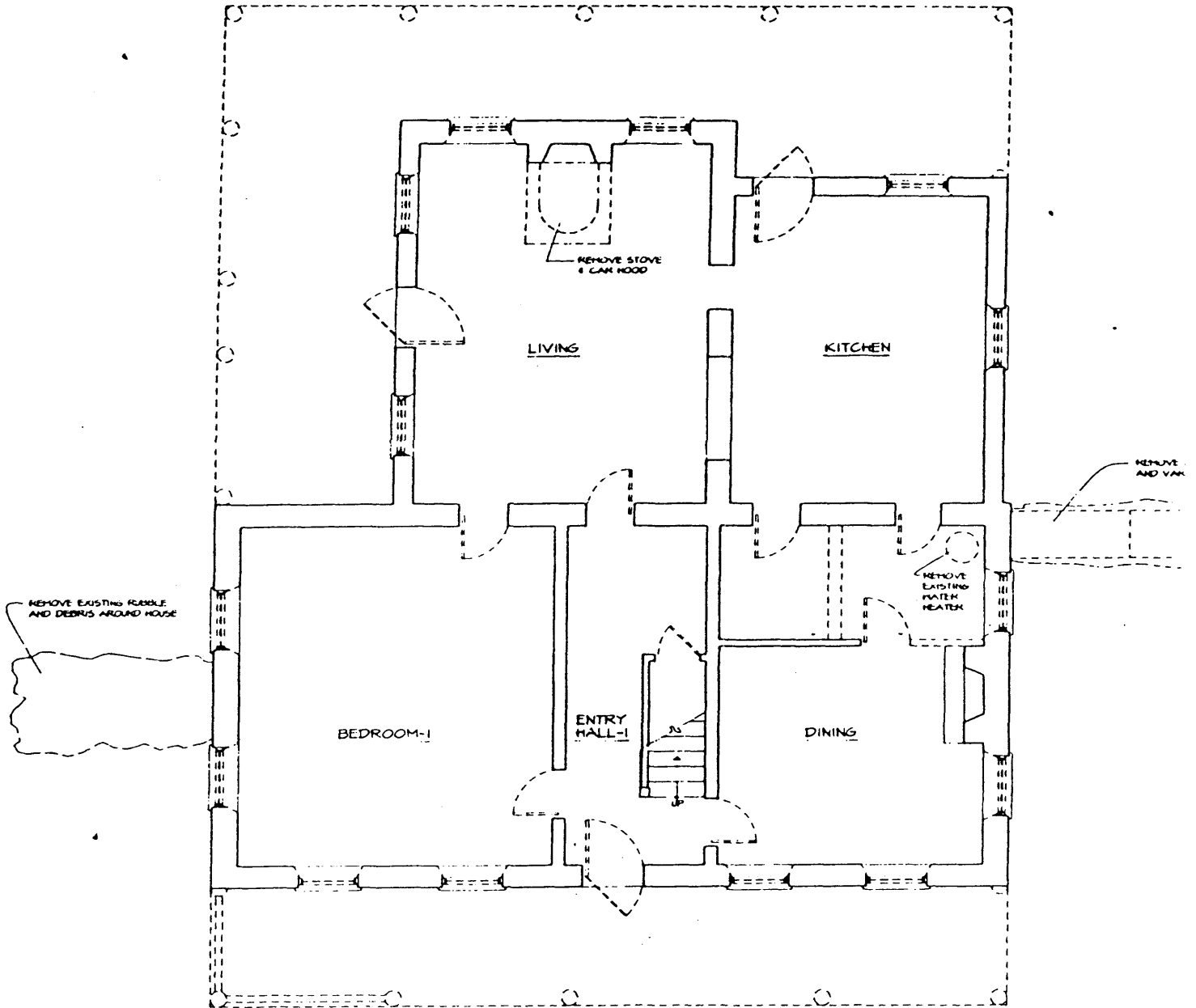
6. South (main) and partial east facades; camera facing northwest.
7. Photo #1
  
6. South (main) and partial west facades; camera facing northeast.
7. Photo #2
  
6. South (main) and west facades; camera facing northeast.
7. Photo #3
  
6. South (main) and east facades; camera facing northwest.
7. Photo #4
  
6. North facade; camera facing south.
7. Photo #5
  
6. West and partial north facades; camera facing southeast.
7. Photo #6
  
6. Interior detail, fireplace; camera facing north.
7. Photo #7



The Roads of New Mexico  
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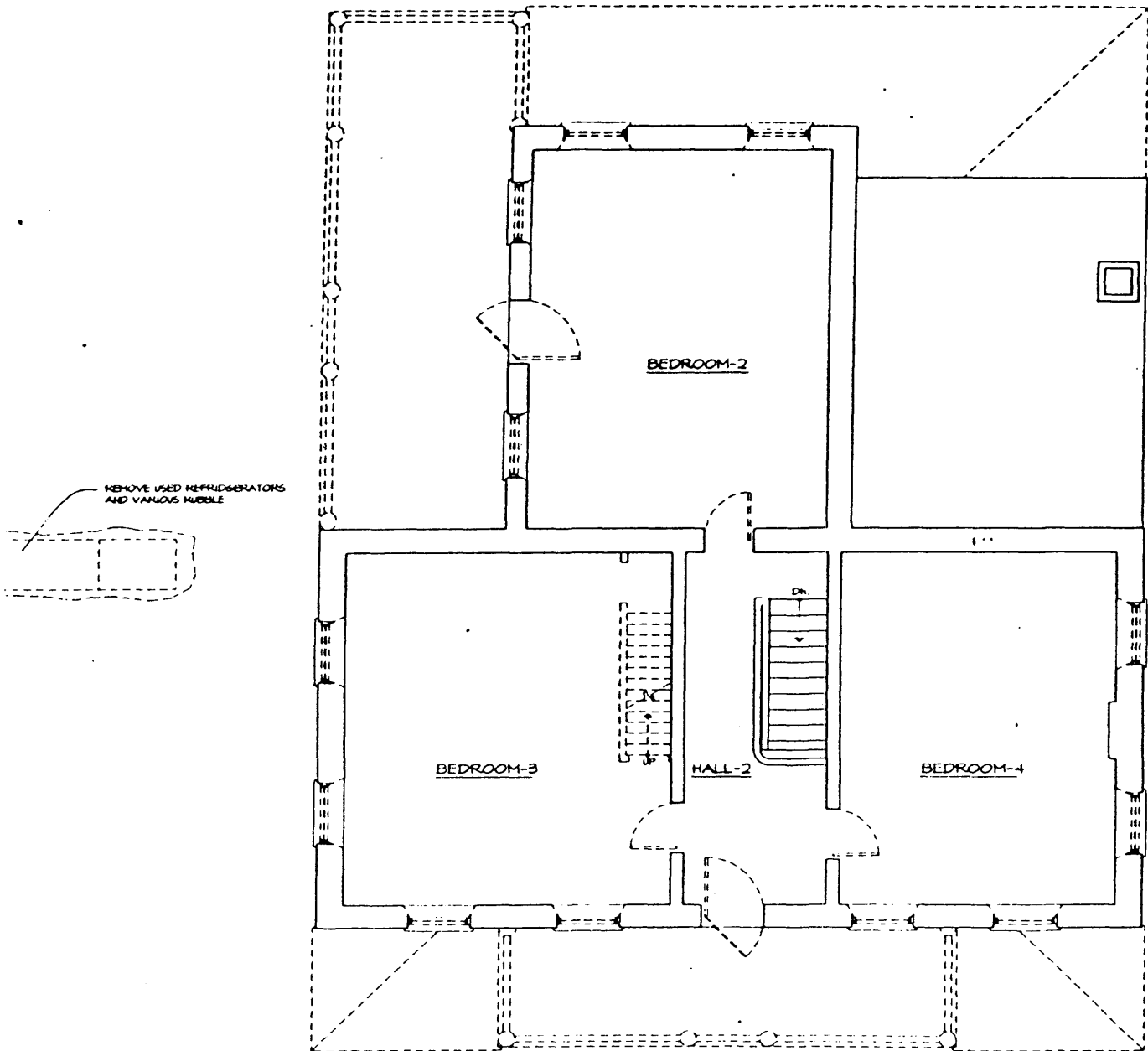
TOMAS GONZALES HOUSE  
Abiquiu, New Mexico



GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
Before Restoration. 1/21/94

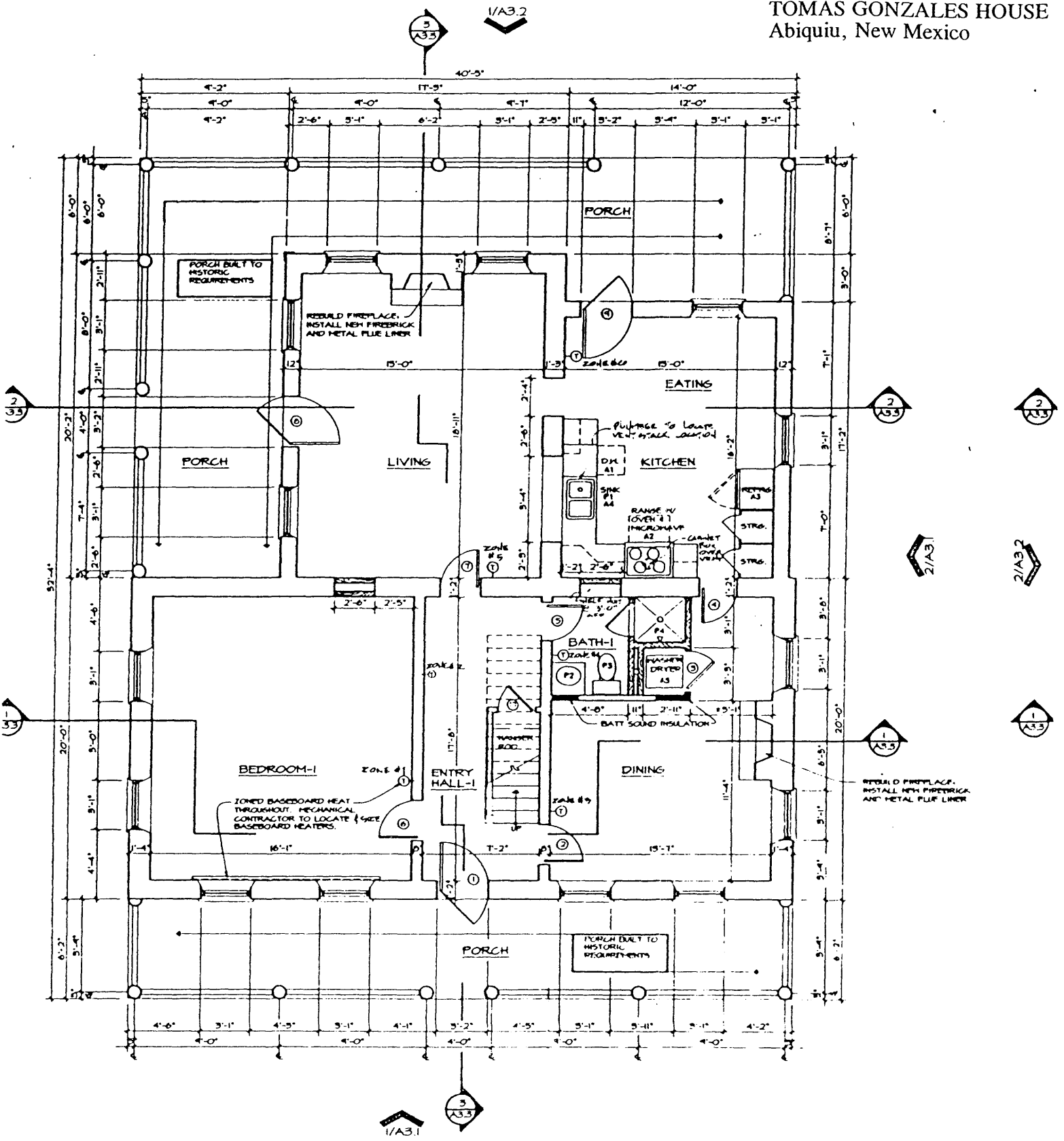


TOMAS GONZALES HOUSE  
Abiquiu, New Mexico



UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
Before Restoration. 1/21/94



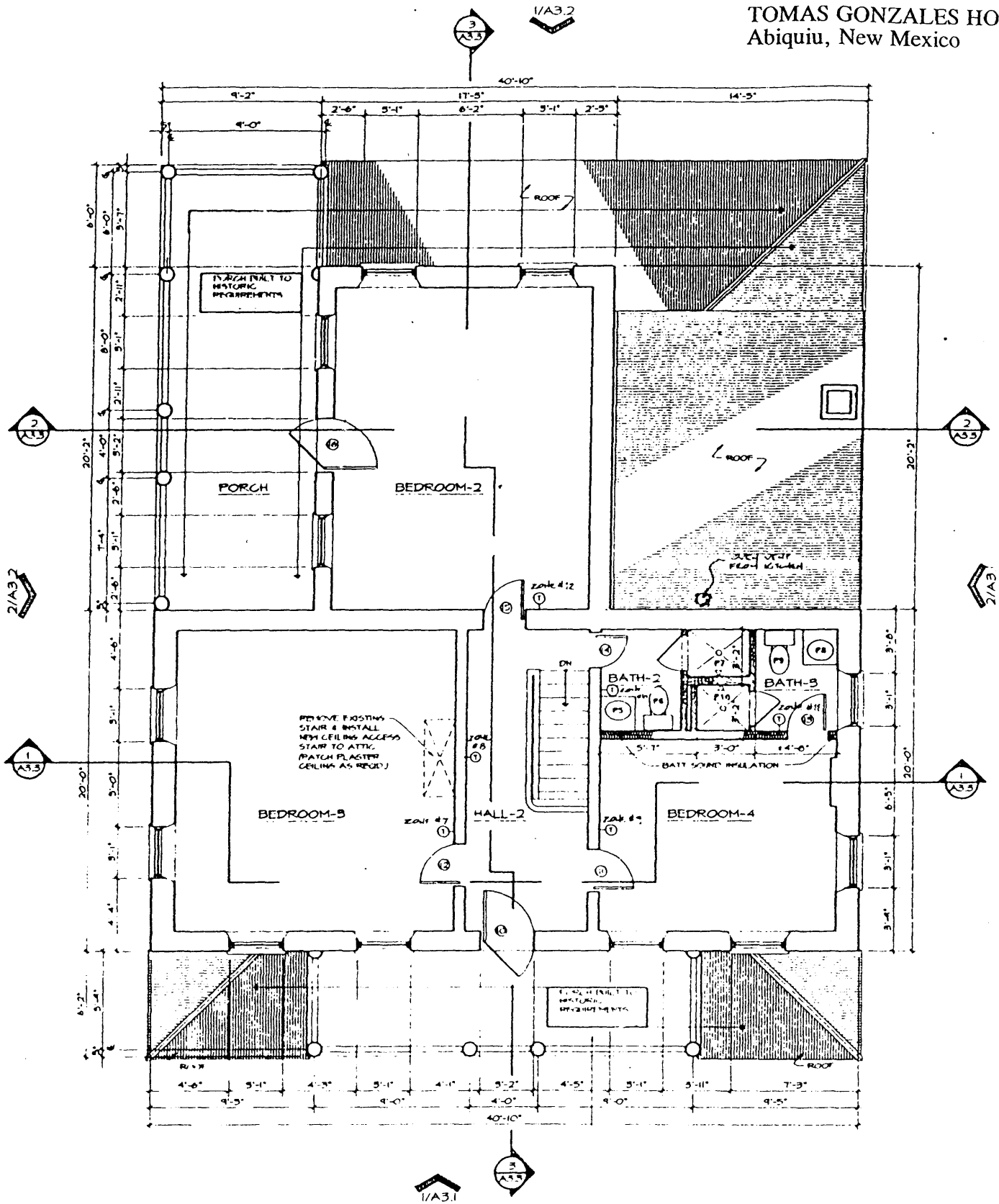


GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
After Restoration

NOTE:

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE (AS NOTED)  
THESE DIMENSIONS TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION ONLY  
ALL DIMENSIONS MUST BE FIELD VERIFIED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION





UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
After Restoration

