

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Mesilla Plaza

and or common Mesilla Plaza

**2. Location**

street & number Mesilla Plaza, 2 mi south of Las Cruces on MN 28 not for publication

city, town Mesilla vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Dona Ana code 13

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted (part)	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Plaza

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Town of Mesilla and multiple private owners

street & number Mesilla Plaza

city, town Mesilla Plaza vicinity of state New Mexico

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dona Ana County Courthouse

street & number Alameda Blvd at Water Street

city, town Las Cruces state New Mexico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Architectural & Historical Resources of Las Cruces & Vicinity has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs, Villa Rivera, Room 101, East Palace Avenue

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico 87503

## 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

Mesilla Plaza and the structures surrounding the plaza have changed only slightly since the town was founded in 1849. As with most of the early towns built in Mexican territory, Mesilla began as a collection of jacales closely clustered around a central plaza for defense against Indian attack. Soon thereafter, the jacales were replaced by buildings of more permanence which were erected in a Territorial style, i.e., usually one story in height, long and low, and built close to the property line with an inward orientation exemplified by the small interior patios. The walls, of adobe brick, frequently plastered or stuccoed, were 2 to 3 feet thick to provide maximum insulation. Roofs were flat with slight inclines for drainage and were surrounded on at least three sides by a parapet or firewall. This firewall was pierced at regular intervals at the roofline with canales, or drainspouts. Roofs were supported by pine poles or vigas, which may or may not, have projected from the exterior walls. Frequently, portales, or porches, ran the length of the facades and were built of wood. The windows and doors were generally flush with the outside wall and were constructed of milled lumber. Firewalls were usually capped with a coping of fired brick or masonry. The east, west, and portions of the south sides of Mesilla Plaza are Territorial in style, and most of these structures date from the first two decades of Mesilla's existence. (Building numbers and descriptions correspond to the enclosed sketch map.)

Contributing buildings consist of those structures that were built within the period of significance, 1849-1885, and still retain the historical and architectural character of the district as described above.

### Physical descriptions of the individual contributing historic buildings include:

Building 1 - The Taylor Residence, originally constructed in the 1850s, consists of two commercial properties separated by a zaguan, or interior corridor, that leads to a small enclosed patio. Behind the store extends a long linear arrangement of rooms that stretches back to a barn and stable for the entire block. The commercial structure to the north of the zaguan was a mercantile enterprise operated in the 1850s by Mariano Yrissari and, after the Civil War, by Mariano Barela, both prominent native New Mexican traders. The

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	architecture	education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1857-1885

Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The town of Mesilla, 2 miles southwest of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on State Route 28, played a vital role in the political, military and social affairs in the southwest following the Mexican War and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (1848). Mesilla was founded by an 1848 decree issued by the Mexican Government in order to bring Mexican citizens from the territory recently ceded to the United States into Mexican domain (at Mesilla). However, by the terms of the Gadsden Purchase Treaty in 1853, Mesilla became part of the United States. On November 16, 1854, the U.S. flag was raised over Mesilla Plaza, confirming the treaty. Mesilla Plaza continued to serve as the town's focal point for the commercial and military activities. These included the routing of the Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail Route (1857-1861) to California through the town, and the San Antonio-San Diego Stage Route, and the establishment of first Confederate and then Union headquarters for the Military Territory of Arizona, during the Civil War. Today, Mesilla Plaza is still enclosed by many of the structures which date from the mid-19th century.

## History

With the declaration of war between Mexico and the United States in 1846, the Mesilla Valley took on a new significance within the military and political framework of southern New Mexico. The first settlement of Mesilla was begun during 1849-1850 as a result of a decree issued by the Mexican government in 1848. The decree encouraged the establishment of Mexican Settlements along the border between the two countries. Not long after the settlement was established, Mesilla became part of a "no-man's-land" controversy, which both Mexico and the United States claimed. In 1853, a Mexican garrison was placed at Mesilla to protect Mexican interests. By the end of 1853, the Mesilla question was resolved through the Gadsden Purchase Treaty, and Mesilla became part of the United States. On November 16, 1854, the American flag was raised in Mesilla Plaza signaling the beginning of the American period.

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 and the attendant rush of settlers brought thousands of people through Mesilla, making the U.S. government realize that this vital southern route to the west coast should be a part of their territory. At this time, Mesilla consisted of a cluster of buildings around the plaza that provided a defensive position in the event of Indian raids. The closest U.S. military installation was Fort Fillmore, established a few miles

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Las Cruces

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	3	3	0	0	5	1	0	3	5	7	1	2	0	1	0	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing											

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing											

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Richard Greenwood, Historian

Revised by Bruce Westerhoff, RMRO

organization National Park Service

date Jan 1982, Revision Feb 1985

street & number 5000 Marble, NE Room 211  
655 Parfet

telephone FTS 474-5944 SWRO  
FTS 776-8675 RMRO

city or town Albuquerque  
Denver

state New Mexico  
Colorado

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

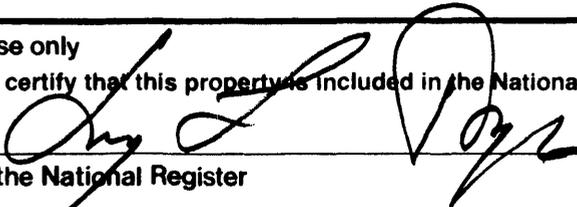
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

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



date 9/30/88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

front wall of the northern portion of Building 1, which extends above the zaguan, is covered with adobe plaster over the original adobe brick and has a rectangular gable end facade facing the Plaza with false wings extending to the left and right and has brick coping. This feature, the rectangular gable end with false wings, is characteristic of the so-called Greek Revival style, whose most prominent aspects were adapted in New Mexico to create "Territorial Style," and is repeated in the pedimented lintels which cap the two doorways and two oversized windows. All the doors and windows have deep reveals to accommodate them to the thick adobe walls and were obviously installed during a time in which glass and planed lumber for sashes were in short supply. In contrast, the southern half of Building 1, south of the zaguan, with its cast iron front and metal bracketed cornice, is a product of another era. Its pitched roof, covered with corrugated iron, has a short flagpole centered over the building's cornice. Extremely high plate glass windows, which cover most of the building's facade, frame a recessed entrance composed of double doors made of glass panes and wood panels. This store, formerly the dry goods and notions department of the Reynolds and Griggs Company, was joined to the company's feed and grocery division (which occupied an adjoining building to the south - Building 2) by a large arched opening, now closed by a partition.

Building 2 - The front portion of this property occupies the southern half of the building which was formerly part of the Reynolds and Griggs store. This commercial building fronts the street and faces the plaza, as do the adjacent buildings to the north and south. The parapet is pedimented and the wood frame windows are also topped by pediments. A zaguan leads from the street on the south side of the building into an interior patio where the various rooms of the residence, in back of the store, open on to it. Behind this residence once stood the residence which belonged to Edward Griggs who was a partner in the Reynolds and Griggs Company. While the facade was added in the 1870s, the adobe building itself dates from at least 1857.

Building 3 - The Leonart-Maurin store was constructed in 1863 of burnt brick from a local kiln. The structure was designed to have a second story, as evidenced by partially completed windows above the level of the canales. The high parapet has a burnt brick coping. The windows are fixed wooden frames and have brick segmented arches. All doors and windows are protected with iron grill work. The Leonart-Maurin store has retained its original appearance over the years since its construction.

Building 4 - West of the Leonart-Maurin store along Calle de Parian is a long, one-story adobe structure. Constructed in the late 1850s, this building served as residences behind the stores that occupy the southwest corner of the plaza. Constructed of stuccoed adobe brick, it has a flat roof parapet, wood frame

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

windows with lights and wooden doors. Viga ends are visible, revealing the low level of the ceiling. Also evident are rough timbered lintels. A portal covers the sidewalk along the front of the structure.

Building 8 - Directly south, behind the El Patio Bar, and a part of "Transportation Block," is a one-story adobe structure that was constructed in 1855. It currently houses a portion of the El Patio Restaurant/Bar. A 1868 deed described "... a large adobe house built in the form of a hollow square containing, a storeroom, a bar, and a billiard room ...," this corresponds to the structure that exists today.

Building 9 - The Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail Depot - This is a one-story adobe structure, Territorial in style, that was used as the waiting room and stage offices from 1857 to 1861.

Building 10 - The property on the southwest corner of the plaza is occupied by the La Posta Restaurant. Continually occupied by different businesses since its construction in the 1850s, the adobe two-building complex is of classic Territorial style with a zaguan leading into an enclosed patio; it has brick coping on the parapet, and wood frame windows with pedimented wood lintels. In order to accommodate the modern restaurant and gift shop, the interior patio has been roofed and the interior spaces have been modified. However, the exterior of the structure maintains its historical integrity.

Building 11 - The old county courthouse and jail, located directly to the north across Calle de Parian from Building 10, is now occupied by the Billy the Kid Gift Shop. Originally a jacal (a mud and stick constructed dwelling) in the 1850s, this structure was replaced by a stuccoed adobe building in the early 1860s. The roof is flat with a parapet capped by a dentiled brick coping. Windows are of wood frame and glass block. The southwest corner is chamfered by a mid-20th century doorway.

Building 12 - The Double Eagle Restaurant, on the east side of the plaza to the north of Building 11, is a large Territorial structure. Originally a small two-room jacal structure occupied the site in the early 1850s. The building evolved into a larger adobe structure by the mid-19th century. The facade and inner courtyard have portales (porches) constructed more recently with corbels and zapatas (corbelled brackets). The wood frame doors and windows have decorated wood pediments. The roof is flat with a parapet and is capped by dentiled brick coping. The rear portion has been squared off in the last year, but no damage was done to the original structure.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

Mesilla Plaza No. 14 - The Plaza is rectangular in shape running lengthwise slightly northwest by southeast. Before the late 1930s, the Plaza was dirt, as were the surrounding roads, and delineated by elm trees. In the middle of the Plaza a bandstand was built during the 1930s. In 1976, a Public Works Investment Grant from EDA laid brick sidewalks and brick in the Plaza area, replaced the 1930s bandstand with an identical one, and replaced the blighted elm tress with Arizona Ash trees. Although this work somewhat altered the appearance of the Plaza, it stimulated private rehabilitation and preservation of the historic structures around the Plaza.

Although the Plaza was modified and stabilized in the 1930s and in 1976, it still retains the feeling of the Plaza that existed during the period of national significance and remains very much in harmony with the integrity of the National Historic Landmark district.

Descriptions of the Non-Contributing Buildings follow:  
(Building numbers correspond to the sketch map)

The non-contributing buildings were differentiated from contributing buildings by their respective dates of construction and degree of modification or deterioration. For example, those structures built after the period of national significance ending in 1885, were determined to be non-contributing. In addition, buildings which no longer make a positive contribution to the historic character of the district because of severe deterioration and/or modifications not in keeping with the architectural character of the district, were determined to be non-contributing.

Building 5 - The El Patio Bar is one of five commercial establishments located within a one story adobe building known as "Transportation Block", at the south end of the plaza (Transportation Block is actually two blocks deep from the Plaza). It is located at the northwestern corner of the building. The adobe facade of this structure was replaced in the 1920s, after a fire, with one of brick. As a consequence, the building no longer contributes to the historical/architectural character of the district.

Building 6 - The Liquor Store, within the "Transportation Block", is located directly east of the El Patio Bar. This liquor store is approximately ten feet deep. Behind the liquor store the El Patio Bar continues in an "L" shape to the east. The facade of this building is a continuation of the 1920s, rebuilt brick facade of Building 5. This building also does not contribute to the historical and architectural character of the district.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

Building 7 - This vacant gift shop is located in the eastern most part of the "Transportation Block". Its brick facade is a continuation of the rebuilt 1920s facade. The building does not contribute to the historical and architectural character of the district.

Building 13 - The Church of San Albino, built in 1906, occupies the location of a 1857 adobe church. However, because of its date of construction, it has been determined to be non-contributing. It is included in the landmark boundary because it provides an architectural anchor to the north end of the historic Plaza. Although the church does not possess national significance, it does have local historic importance as evidenced by its listing as a contributing structure within the Town of Mesilla National Register Historic District. The church is built of fired brick with a belfry facade on each corner. Leaded stained glass windows depicting saints and geometric designs line the walls of the nave. The parapet between the belfries bears some resemblance to the Mission Style. Both the interior and the exterior walls have been stripped of their plaster during renovation and stabilization in the 1960s.

Building 22 - A private residence attached to Building 10 (La Posta), by a party wall, is Territorial Revival in style and constructed ca. 1940. This one-story stucco structure has a flat roof with brick copping along the sides. The fenestration is varied with pedimented and plain moldings, and double hung sash windows.

Non-Contributing buildings located immediately outside NHL boundaries:

Building 15 - A private residence located at the corner of Calle de Santiago and Calle de Principal - This structure was constructed in the 1950s. It is immediately outside of the NHL boundary.

Building 16 - A private residence located at the corner of Calle de Parian and Calle de Principal - This structure built in the early 1860s has had a major addition to the north facade in the last five years that is not in keeping with the character of the remaining historic structure.

Building 17 - A gift shop and art gallery, this portion of the original courthouse, jail, and school house, was demolished and replaced by a two story structure around the turn-of-the-century. As a consequence, it has been excluded from the NHL boundary.

Building 18 - A private residence and art gallery, this structure immediately north and adjacent to the Billy the Kid Gift Shop was built in the late 1940s.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

Building 19 - A private residence and gift shop, this structure was constructed in the 1920s, and is located outside the NHL boundary.

Building 20 - A bandstand was constructed in 1976, replicating the 1930s bandstand.

Building 21 - A small one-story storage structure located immediately south of Building 9 was constructed ca. 1920. This cinder block building has a flat roof with a wood door.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

east of the Rio Grande in 1851.

In 1853, the U.S. renegotiated the boundary with Mexico to resolve a number of boundary disputes that arose from inaccuracies in the original survey. These proceedings led to the Gadsden purchase of 1853, which acquired additional land from Mexico, ending the boundary dispute and included Mesilla in the United States.

With the protection afforded by Fort Fillmore in southwestern New Mexico, north-south and east-west traffic on trails which met at Mesilla greatly increased. It became an important stop on stage coach, mail and trade routes. The Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail Route, (1857-1861), which ran from San Antonio, Texas to San Diego, California, had an important stop in Mesilla, as did the El Camino Real, which extended the Santa Fe Trail trade south from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Chihuahua Ciudad, in Mexico. The Butterfield Stage stop was located at the south end of the plaza, in the "Transportation Block", (Buildings 8 and 9).

In 1855, Mesilla became the county seat of Dona Ana County, a position it held until 1885, when the county seat was moved to Las Cruces. During these years, Mesilla prospered as both an agricultural and commercial center. In the late 1850s, Mesilla often served as the meeting place for citizens who petitioned Congress to organize the area as a territory. Congress's refusal to act on their petitions was due to a large extent on whether the area would be organized as slave or free territory. Failure to act on their petitions caused many of the citizens to lean toward southern Democratic views. In addition many of the citizens were, themselves, southerners.

On July 25, 1861, Confederate Colonel Edward Baylor and his force of 200 Texas Mounted Rifles occupied Mesilla and received a joyous welcome from the citizenry, many of whom supported the southern cause and were worried about Indian raids due to the removal of U.S. troops. Baylor's invasion of the southwest was the first step in the ultimate goal of conquest of the area opening the California gold fields to the Confederacy. He initially had great success, defeating Union forces twice, capturing Forts Fillmore and Craig and occupied Santa Fe and Tucson. However, in March of 1862, Baylor was defeated northwest of Santa Fe at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, forcing the Texans to withdraw all the way back to San Antonio, Texas. For the rest of the Civil War, Mesilla became the headquarters and supply depot for Union troops.

Following the Civil War, Mesilla continued to prosper, again due to its favorable location on well traveled trade routes. The success of plaza merchants such as Edgar Griggs and Charles Reynolds was evident from the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

impressive commercial establishments they constructed (Building 2).

Mesilla was a lively social center and people came from as far away as Chihuahua, Mexico, and Tucson, Arizona, to attend bullfights, cockfights, theatrical presentations and dances. As a social mecca, Mesilla attracted its share of violence and infamous individuals. William Bonney, or Billy the Kid, was a frequent visitor to Mesilla and was an inmate at the jail and courthouse on the southeastern corner of the plaza, (Building 11). The plaza was the site of one of the bloodiest incidents in New Mexican Territorial history. On the evening of August 27, 1871, rival Democratic and Republican parade marchers rioted after imbibing an ample supply of campaign whiskey. When the gunsmoke cleared, and troops from Fort Seldon had restored order, nine men were dead and about 50 had been wounded.

In 1881, the railroad bypassed Mesilla in favor of Las Cruces, two miles to the northeast. This event precipitated the transfer of the county seat from Mesilla to Las Cruces in 1885, and Mesilla's commercial and political importance declined rapidly. With the relocation of the county seat, Mesilla's period of national significance is considered to have ended. Mesilla has experienced little growth until recently and hence, has retained its 19th century character. The interaction of the Mexican and Anglo cultures in the 1850s, 60s, and 70s resulted in a mixture of lifestyles that were reflected in family upbringing, commerce, farming, and architecture, all of which created a regional character of its own.

The significance of individual structures follows (Building numbers correspond to the enclosed sketch map):

Building 1 - The chain of title to the north portion of Building 1 is not clear; but by 1857, it was in the possession of Mariano Yrissari, a prominent trader and sheep rancher from the Albuquerque area.

Shortly before the Civil War, Yrissari, who had been conducting a lucrative commissary business with the U.S. Army forts around Mesilla, sold his plaza location to Maria Rafaela Garcia Berela, wife of Anastacio Barela. Yrissari continued his commissary trade with the Federal troops until 1861, when \$12,000 worth of military coats and jackets were confiscated by Confederates occupying the village.

Like Yrissari, Barela was a former resident of Los Ranchos, a village located north of Albuquerque. Barela served as probate judge of Dona Ana County in 1860. He also held office in the Confederate regime and was Captain of a company of volunteer militia raised in 1861, for service against Apaches.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

After Anastacio's death in the mid-1870s, his business interests were carried on by his son Mariano, who for many years also held positions of sheriff and tax collector of Dona Ana County.

Building 2 - Among the earliest settlers of Mesilla was Pedro Peres whose title to an adobe Solar de Casa (Building 2) was confirmed by the Mexican Land Commissioner, Guadalupe Miranda, in 1854, following the Gadsden purchase. In 1857, Peres and his wife Ysidra Garcia sold their house and lot to two Anglo traders, Charles A. Hoppin, originally from Rhode Island, and German-born Nathan B. Appel.

Despite his New England birth, Hoppin was a strong supporter of the Confederate cause, and in 1861, served as Clerk of Probate Court when the Confederate Government of Arizona held its only court session in Mesilla. His partner Appel, was later prominent in Tubac and Tucson, in southern Arizona, and was elected representative of Pima County in the first Arizona Territorial Legislature. Although Hoppin and Appel continued to do business in Mesilla, they sold their plaza location in 1859 to a former competitor, Alexander Duval.

In 1863, the Duval house and store was purchased by the partnership of Griggs and Reynolds. Former civilian employees of the U.S. Army, Edgar Griggs and Joseph Reynolds, had gained considerable knowledge of the military supply system and business by working as clerks at Forts Fillmore and Craig. Married to sisters from a prominent New Mexican family, Eugenia and Guadalupe Ascarate, the partners succeeded in building a flourishing mercantile business in southern New Mexico with stores at La Mesa, Las Cruces, and Silver City in addition to their establishment in Mesilla. During the time when Buildings 1 and 2 were owned by Reynolds and Griggs, a portion of Building 2 was incorporated into Building 1, and is currently a part of the Taylor Residence. Following Griggs' death in a buggy accident in 1877, Joseph Reynolds continued the enterprise which was in turn taken over by his son, William Charles Reynolds.

The bitter feelings engendered by the Civil War persisted for years in Mesilla and frequently surfaced in the rough-and-tumble election campaigns. In 1871, a bloody riot broke out on the Plaza in front of the Griggs and Reynolds store following a confrontation between processions of marching Democrats and Republicans. Nine men were killed and about fifty wounded in the melee which was only brought to a halt by the arrival of Federal troops from nearby Fort Selden. It is said that it was Griggs who supplied the messenger, Rafael Camunez, with a horse to carry word of the riot to the fort. Mariano Barela, who was then engaged in one of his many campaigns for the office of sheriff, was also instrumental in restoring order.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

Building 3 - When Augustin Maurin began construction of his store on the southwest corner of the plaza in 1859, he used brick from his own kiln, which was located about half a mile from Mesilla, making it one of the earliest structures using local brick in New Mexico.

Maurin, the original owner, and his partner, Eugene Leonart, were of French origin and owned much property in Mesilla Valley. However, in 1861, Leonart sold merchandise to Confederates who occupied Fort Fillmore and Mesilla, and when they withdrew in early 1862 to Texas, he accompanied them. Maurin continued the business in Mesilla and also owned at least three farms.

Maurin was murdered by robbers in his adobe apartment, which adjoins the brick Mesilla store (Building 4). A relative, Cesar Maurin, came from France to claim the property and died in 1868, from age and infirmity, according to a coroner's jury.

Building 4 - Constructed in the 1850s, this building served as a residence for the Maurin Store that fronted on the plaza's southwest corner.

Building 5 - Located in "Transportation Block" during the 1850s, Guadalupe Miranda, the regional land commissioner, had a "Dram shop" (saloon) where the El Patio Bar is now. The El Patio Bar is located at the corner of Calle de Principal and Calle de Parian. With the occupation of Mesilla by Union troops in 1862, the U.S. marshall began to seize all property owned by those "supposed to be in armed rebellion against the government of the United States" (Dona Ana County Court House Deed Records, 3-24, April 3, 1863).

Among the confiscated property was that of Sam Bean Sr., brother of Judge Roy Bean. This property was sold by the Federal officials to a third party, Mr. Lemon, who gave it back to Sam Bean Sr., who ran a bar with his son, Sam Bean Jr., on the spot where the El Patio Bar is now.

Building 6 - The liquor store has housed a variety of commercial establishments throughout its history. Located in "Transportation Block", it is directly east of the El Patio Bar and is entered from the bar.

Building 7 - This vacant gift shop is located on the corner of Calle de Parian and Calle de Guadalupe. Historically, the building has always been occupied by various commercial enterprises.

Building 8 - The Butterfield Overland Stage Depot is located south of the El Patio Bar in "Transportation Block", and is a portion of the El Patio

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

Restaurant/Bar today. It was a billiard room and saloon owned by Joshua Sledd. Mr. Sledd served fine wines, lobster, salmon, and fresh pineapple to hundreds of travelers coming off the Butterfield Overland Stages. During the Confederate occupation of Mesilla, The Mesilla Times was published in this building. Later in the 1860s and 1870s, The Mesilla News was published here.

Building 9 - The southernmost structure in "Transportation Block", was the home of the short-lived San Antonio Mail, (1857), also known as the "Jackass Mail," which used this building for its offices and waiting room. From 1857 to 1861, the Butterfield stage also operated out of this structure, and eventually it became the offices of the Wells Fargo line. Today, it houses a portion of the El Patio Restaurant/Bar.

Building 10 - The present day La Posta Restaurant is the location of some of the earliest residential and commercial properties in Mesilla. This property has been continuously occupied since the 1850s by residences, stores, a blacksmith shop, a winery and a tannery. It served as the Butterfield Stage Station in the 1860s, when it resumed business after the Civil War. In the 1870s, it became the Corn Exchange Hotel, which was considered one of the finest hotels in the southwest.

Building 11 - This property housed the Dona Ana County Courthouse and Jail, and schoolhouse in the 1860s, 70s, and 80s. William Bonney, alias Billy the Kid, was held here until his transfer to another jail in 1880. After the county seat was transferred to Las Cruces in 1885, the Courthouse was sold to the Town of Mesilla.

Building 12 - This large territorial building facing the plaza is now the Double Eagle Restaurant. Valentin Maese raised his family in a two room jacal on this spot beginning in 1849. The house gradually expanded and evolved in the 1860s, 70s, and 80s into a large rambling adobe structure that housed some of the earliest residents of Mesilla: the families of Maese, Guerra, Valencia, and Gamboa.

Mesilla Plaza No. 14 - As with other Hispanic communities, the central plaza was the focal point for religious, political and commercial activities. Church ceremonies, political demonstrations and military headquarters have occupied this open space throughout its history. Prominent businessmen and freighters occupied the surrounding area because of its location near the plaza. The plaza and bandstand have undergone many changes throughout the life of Mesilla, but it still continues to be the geographical and cultural heart of the community.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

The Town of Mesilla, New Mexico, edited by the Yguado Association.

Dona Ana County Courthouse Deed Books

Gadsden Museum - Photograph Collection

Museum of New Mexico - Photograph Collection

New Mexico State University - Rio Grande Historical Collection,  
Amador Collection and Rives Collection

Southwest Abstract and Title Company - Tract Books

Rio Arriba Daily Press

University of New Mexico, Zimmerman Library - Special  
Collections & Photograph Collection

Personal Communicants: Mrs. J. Paul Taylor, Mr. J. Paul Taylor,  
Mr. Michael Taylor, Mr. Martin Oliver & Mr. Albino Frietze

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

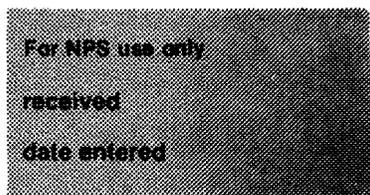
Verbal boundary description

The National Historic Landmark boundary has been drawn to include a total area of six acres that contain Mesilla Plaza and those historic structures immediately surrounding the plaza.

The boundary begins at the northeast corner of Calle de Principal and Calle de Parian, and runs south along the east curb of Calle de Principal for approximately 200 feet. Then it proceeds east along the south wall of Building 9 to the west curb of Calle de Guadalupe. The boundary then turns south and runs for approximately 35 feet, to a point on the western curb of Calle de Guadalupe. The boundary then turns due east and extends along the south wall of Building 22 (or the party wall between building 22 and a theatre) for a distance of approximately 150 feet. At this point the boundary turns north and follows along the east wall of Building 22 and Building 10, crossing Calle de Parian and running along the east wall of Building 11. Turning east at the northeastern corner of Building 11, it continues for approximately 50 feet to the west curb of Calle de Albino, and continues north along the west curb of Calle de Albino for approximately 200 feet. The boundary then turns west for approximately 200 feet to the east curb of Calle de Guadalupe, thence north along the east curb of Calle de Guadalupe for approximately 300 feet. It then turns west crossing Calle de Guadalupe, running approximately 30 feet behind Building 13, and extends to the west curb of Calle de Principal, a distance of approximately 200 feet. Here the boundary continues south along the west curb of Calle de Principal for approximately 280 feet. The boundary then turns west for 300 feet, across vacant ground, to the east curb of Calle de Arroyo, thence southwest along the east curb of Calle de Arroyo for approximately 200 feet where the boundary turns due east, across vacant ground, for approximately 150 feet. Here the boundary turns south for approximately 150 feet, across vacant ground, to the south curb of Calle de Parian. It then continues east along the south curb of Calle de Parian for approximately 150 feet to the northeast corner of Calle de Principal and Calle de Parian, and the beginning point of the boundary.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

Appendix A

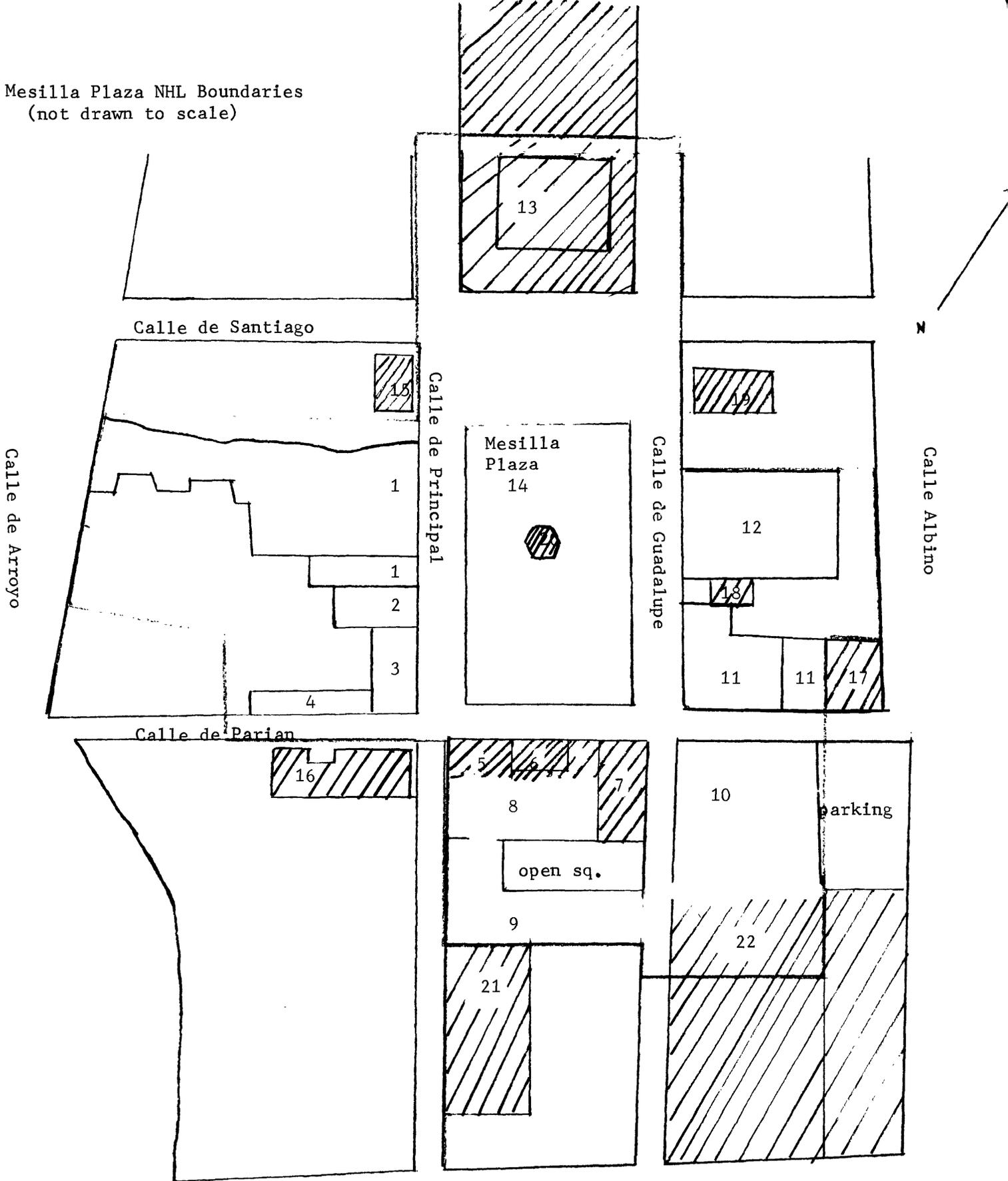
Contributing Structures

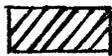
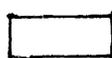
Name	Date	Use
1. Taylor Residence	ca. 1850s	Shop/residence
2. Mesilla Book Store	ca. 1857	Shop/residence
3. Leonart-Maurin Store	ca. 1863	Shop
4. Leonart-Maurin Residence	ca. 1850s	Shop
8. El Patio/Restaurant	ca. 1855	Bar/Restaurant
9. Stage Depot	ca. 1850s	Restaurant
10. La Posta	ca. 1850s	Restaurant/Shop
11. Old Courthouse/Jail	ca. 1850s	Shop
12. Double Eagle	ca. 1849	Restaurant
14. Plaza	ca. 1849	Plaza

Non-Contributing Structures

Name	Date	Use
5. Transportation Block Shop (5, 6, and 7)	ca. 1850s; modified 1920s	Bar/Liquor/Vacant
13. Church	1906	Church of San Albino
15. Residence	ca. 1950s	Residence
16. Residence	early 1860s; Modified 1980s	Residence
17. Gift Shop/Gallery	ca. 1900	Shop/Art gallery
18. Residence	ca. 1940s	Shop/Residence
19. Residence	1920s	Residence
20. Bandstand	1976	Bandstand
21. Storage	ca. 1920	Storage
22. Residence	ca. 1940	Residence

Mesilla Plaza NHL Boundaries  
(not drawn to scale)



-  - Non-Contributing Structures NHL Boundary drawn in red
-  - Contributing Structures