

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Santa Fe Plaza

AND/OR COMMON  
Santa Fe Plaza

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Santa Fe Plaza

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Santa Fe \_\_\_\_\_ 1st

STATE New Mexico CODE 35 COUNTY Santa Fe CODE 49

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Santa Fe

STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall, East DeVargas Street

CITY, TOWN Santa Fe \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF STATE New Mexico

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Santa Fe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Palace Avenue

CITY, TOWN Santa Fe STATE New Mexico

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Santa Fe Plaza, bounded by Palace Avenue and the Palace of the Governors on the north, San Francisco Street on the south, Washington Avenue on the east, and Lincoln Avenue on the west is the center of Santa Fe, and from it most of the major streets radiate. It is presently the size of a city block, and has been landscaped with flagstone, walks, and benches, as well as cottonwood trees. In Spanish times, the Plaza was twice as large, and was nothing more than an open expanse of packed dirt. Upon the arrival of Anglo-Americans, the Plaza was fenced in and planted with alfalfa, then reduced to its present size, and finally enclosed by buildings on the three sides confronting the Palace.

Today, shops and stores with modern stylized adobe fronts line these three sides of the Plaza, and on the Plaza itself there are a marker noting the end of the Santa Fe Trail, a soldiers' monument erected after the Civil War, and a marble slab marking General Kearney's proclamation of the annexation of New Mexico.

**BOUNDARIES:** Beginning at the southwestern intersection of Palace and Washington Avenue, proceed south along the west curb of Washington Avenue to the intersection of Washington Avenue and San Francisco Street, then west along the north curb of San Francisco Street to the intersection of San Francisco Street and Lincoln Avenue, then north along the east curb of Lincoln Avenue to the intersection of Lincoln and Place Avenues, proceed east along the south curb of Palace Avenue to the point of origin.

### ADDENDUM:

Originally encompassing two city blocks, the plaza now includes but one. It is shaded by large cottonwood trees and crossed with concrete side walks. A large memorial to New Mexico's Civil War dead stands in the center and a marble monument marking the end of the Santa Fe Trail stands on the southeast corner.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1609

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A feature of Santa Fe since its founding in 1609, the Santa Fe Plaza has always been the social and economic center of the city, and in its earlier days, the strategic defense center as well. To the traders and travelers on the Santa Fe Trail, the Plaza symbolized the goal of their long trek, for here they parked and unloaded their wagons and displayed their trade goods. The Plaza no longer appears as the large open market and trading center of old; but as a pleasant town square, it continues to be the center of Santa Fe.

HISTORY: In the winter of 1609-10, Don Pedro de Peralta, third governor of the Province of Nuevo Mejico, established the settlement of Santa Fe, with the construction of a palacio for a fortress, the laying out of a plaza, and the erection of a wall around the settlement. Although the wall did not survive, the palace did, and with the subsequent construction of houses for the Spanish officers and officials on the other three sides of the plaza, that large open square of packed earth provided a well-fortified center of defense against Indian attack. As well as providing a focus for the houses of the social elite, the plaza was the commercial center of Santa Fe, for here was the marketplace for Indian wares and garden produce.

In 1821, when Mexico gained independence from Spain, the plaza was named La Plaza de la Constitucion, and at this time, the trade route to Santa Fe from the United States was opened. With the commencement of trade on the Santa Fe Trail, the plaza provided the final goal for the caravans on their eight or ten week journeys. The wagons were parked and unloaded on the plaza and custom negotiations were carried out, and it was from the plaza that the weary traders spread out over the town in search of refreshment and entertainment.

In 1846, on the plaza, General Kearny proclaimed the annexation of New Mexico to the United States, and with the coming of the Americans, activity on the Santa Fe Trail began to lessen. The plaza was fenced in and planted with alfalfa, and reduced to half its size. The later structures of the "80s" which flanked the plaza were primarily specimens of transplanted eastern architecture, although in recent years, there has been a return to the earlier Pueblo, Spanish, and territorial styles.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, New Mexico; A Guide to the Colorful State (Hastings House, New York, 1940).  
 R. L. Duffus, The Santa Fe Trail (New York, 1930).  
 Josiah Gregg, The Commerce of the Prairies (Dallas, 1933).  
 Ralph Twitchell, Old Santa Fe (Santa Fe, 1925).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 3	4, 1, 5, 1, 7, 0	3, 9, 4, 9, 4, 6, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

5/7/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 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.

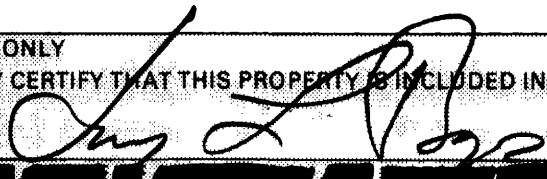
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE

9/20/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER