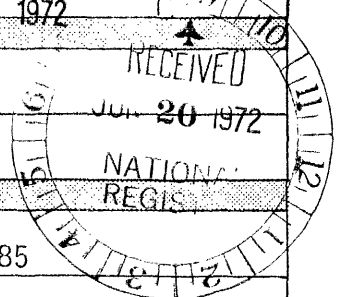


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: San Miguel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 17 1972



1. NAME
COMMON:
San Miguel del Vado *Historic District*
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
On State Highway 3, three miles south of U. S. Highway 84-85
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30 COUNTY: San Miguel CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Vacant</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<u>buildings</u>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Various
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
San Miguel County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Las Vegas New Mexico 30

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
Executive-Legislative Building
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Santa Fe New Mexico 31

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 17 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although this small country village was a significant settlement in the late Spanish, the Mexican and the territorial periods of New Mexico, it is currently off of any major highways, and greatly reduced in population.

The Pecos River Ford (or Vado) that gave the site its name still lies clearly visible in the settlement's southeast corner.

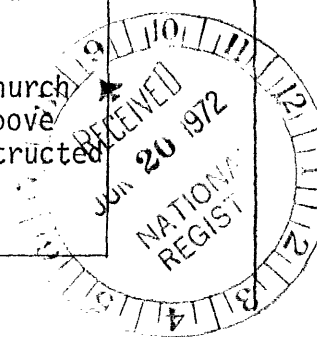
San Miguel del Vado retains its historic plaza layout which presently takes the form of two large half plazas, one to the east by the Pecos River, and one just west of State Road 3 which bisects the village. The spacious east plaza is surrounded by blocks of houses on the east, north, and south, all of adobe. On the northeast side of this plaza are two significant complexes - the "Dance Hall" and the "Zaguan" House - both of which are now being extensively repaired. The dance hall building features wood plank flooring and squared and beaded ceiling beams. Buildings behind it include a blacksmith shop and a row of small servants' rooms. The eight room zaguan house contains one room with a hard adobe floor, two old rooms with raja ceilings, excellent adobe corner fireplaces, and the zaguan or entrance way which suggested the structure's name on the southeast corner of this east plaza is a high-walled storage building, with two small wood grill windows set near roof line. An excellent and definitely pre-territorial house stands to the south of this plaza, and features a gracefully proportioned row of three rooms, a fine portal, and simple interior detail.

The west plaza is dominated by the San Miguel Church, whose original appearance has been masked by hard exterior plaster modern towers, interior wood slat ceiling, wood and linoleum flooring, modern doors and Gothic arched windows. It is obvious, however, that the old fabric of the building is still in place beneath the new. The 1821 bell still hangs in the left tower. To the north of the church stands a row of houses whose low window indicates their early construction. The other sides of the plaza surrounding the church are characterized by ruins, some down to the foundations and others still with walls and vigas in place. Directly behind the church is the foundation of the old San Miguel count courthouse, while yet farther west is the reported site of the old Fonda or inn.

A large open area lies to the southwest of the church plaza, in the center of which the traces of foundations for a long string of rooms can be seen. From the presence of abundant ceramic and metal evidence, it would seem that this area once served as the stopping point for Santa Fe traders. By contrast, the east plaza has yielded no Santa Fe trail ceramic material.

It is interesting to note that several structures, including the church and the courthouse site, were built on raided earthen platforms well above ground level, and that the lower ten feet of the church walls are constructed

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



2. SIGNIFICANCE

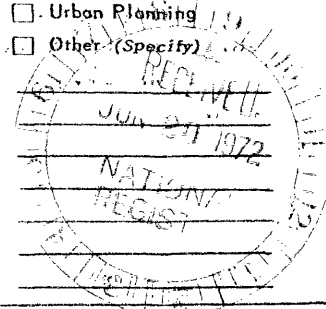
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1794-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1794, Governor Fernando Chacon granted land along the upper Pecos River Valley to prospective settlers in order to establish frontier outposts against the incursions of raiding plains Indians. Incorporated as a part of the parish of Pecos, San Miguel del Vado was the first village to be founded in the area. Its early population included Genizaro, Pecos Indians, converted Comanches, Spanish military men, and families from Pena Vlanca. Stockraising, and the cultivation of fields irrigated by ditches carrying Pecos River water constituted the settlement's early livelihood, though Buffalo hunting parties frequently used the village as their point of departure for the eastern plains. By 1804, it had grown enough to encourage its residents to petition the Bishop of Durango for a church. Their request was granted and construction began the following year. By 1812, there was 230 heads of families in the area, and the opinion spread that the village would likely grow to one of the most popular in New Mexico. The 1827 census made for Governor Narvona substantiated these earlier claims by showing some 2,893 inhabitants during the Spanish period. Official xenophobic policies made San Miguel del Vado useful as a lookout point for suspected French and later for American intruders. But with Mexican independence from Spain, commercial relations with the United States were welcomed and San Miguel changed from a protective barrier the eastern entrance to New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail and the first settlement of experience west of the plains. It was here that wagons forded the Pecos River. Trader William Becknell found friendly troops at "the village of St. Michael" on his inaugural trip in 1821, so on his second journey a year later he returned to Santa Fe via San Miguel rather than Taos. Arriving in the village the group saluted the inhabitants with three rounds from their rifles, with which they appeared much pleased. We separated at St. Michael for the purpose of trading more advantageously.

Although the Mexican government ordered the opening of a custom house at San Miguel del Vado, Santa Fe officials never established one, preferring to take tariffs and gifts or "loans" for light loads on trail merchandise at the capitol. Traders therefore often repacked their goods at San Miguel, fitting two wagon loads on a single wagon before continuing west to Santa Fe. Other traders transferred their wares to mules at the village, and sent their trains by little used trails

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, William A., New Tracks in North America, London, Chapman and Hall, 1870
 Loomis, Noel M., The Texan-Santa Fe Pioneers, Norman, Okla., University of Oklahoma Press, 1958
 Kendall, Geo. W., "Narrative of the Texan-Santa Fe Expedition", Harpers, V.I., 1844
 "Journals of Captain Thomas Becknell....", Missouri Historical Review, Vol. IV., #2
 "M. M. Marmadveke Journal", Missouri Historical Review, Vol. VI

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	35° 21' 58"	105° 27' 14"		"	"	
NE	35° 21' 58"	105° 26' 47"		"	"	
SE	35° 21' 36"	105° 26' 47"		"	"	
SW	35° 21' 36"	105° 27' 14"		"	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 600

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

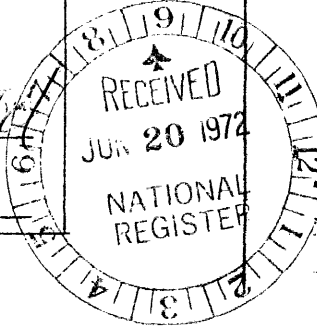
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. Robert Beauvais, Planning Technician
 ORGANIZATION: State Planning Office DATE: 2/21/72
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Executive-Legislative Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 30

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local
 Name: David W. King
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: June 16, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Robert M. Utsey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 7/17/72
 ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: July 17, 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
San Miguel	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 17 1972

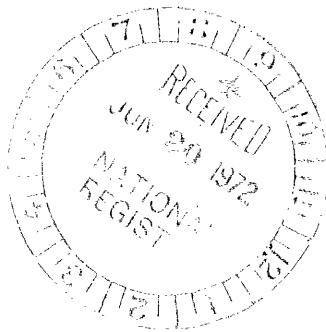
(Number all entries)

7. Description - continued

of native red string instead of adobe. The obvious implication is that the Pecos River or the arroyo chamizal flooded periodically during historic times.

Evidence of slag in the village indicates that copper mining sometimes was carried on at some point, but no smeltry has been located, probably because of the relatively simple techniques that were employed during the Spanish and Mexican periods. Evidence of paddle and anvil style pottery indicates that Jicarilla Apache probably camped and/or traded in the village. Other sherds found on the ground are the remains of pottery made at Zia Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo or Santo Domingo Pueblo, the tewa villages and possibly Santa Ana Pueblo, indicating that San Miguel was popular among many of the Rio Grande Indians.

Atmosphere is strongly evocative of its past and even the casual visitor can see clear notion of early nineteenth century village life since modern intrusions are few.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
San Miguel	
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	JUL 17 1972

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - continued

directly to Chihuahua, by passing Santa Fe altogether. On the eastbound journey, the American merchants often rendezvoused at San Miguel where, without pathing export duties, they shipped out gold, furs, horses and mules. The occasional strong memoranda sent by Mexican officials condemning these practices never corrected the situation.

A visit in 1824, M. M. Marmadveke, later Governor of Missouri, the traveler remarked of the village:

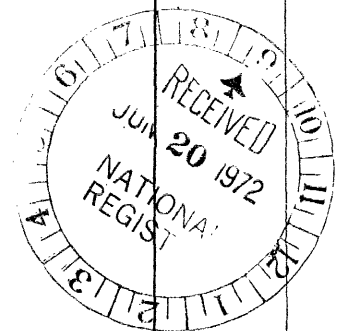
Considerable rejoicing appeared among the natives on our arrival and they welcomed us with the best music the place afforded. A description can best be given by comparing it to a large brick yard, where there are a number of kilns put up and not burnt; as all the houses are made of bricks dried in the sun, and none of them burnt; all of the roofs are entirely flat; the inhabitants appear to me to be a miserably poor people, but perfectly happy and contented, and appeared very desirous to make our situation as agreeable as possible.

In 1840 presidial company was set up from San Miguel del Vado under the captaincy of Donaciano Vigil, but the company was stationed in Santa Fe and never in San Miguel del Vado. Just a year later, however, the village figured prominently in one of the most important incidents to occur during the Mexican period.

In 1841 the poorly planned and ill fated Texas-New Mexico expedition found itself half starved and lost near the Pecos, and was easily captured by troops under Governor Armijo. Ostensibly having come into New Mexico to trade, the Texans nevertheless were fairly clearly on a military reconnaissance mission to determine the prospects of bringing the northern Rio Grande under Texas control. Before being marched into Mexico, many of the Texans were held captive in San Miguel. Their journals indicate that the women of the village, and also the parish priest, treated them kindly.

For reasons that may have included the Texans' defeat, the United States declared war on Mexico in 1846, and the victorious General Stephen W. Kearny, commander of the army of the west, rode into the village in August 1846, to read his proclamation of U. S. annexation. By this time San Miguel del Vado's continuing importance seemed assured, and when Kearny reorganized the Government of the New Territory, the village was made the seat of San Miguel county.

With the development of the railroad, and with a new and changing economic life in the territory under American control, San Miguel's prominence began to slip. In 1860, the county seat was transferred to the nearby growing town of Las Vegas and San Miguel settled into the long years of its decline.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

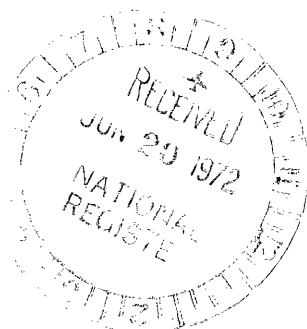
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY San Miguel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
100	JUN 29 1972

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - continued, page 2

It remains today a valuable part of New Mexico's past, even though it's significance will probably never be other than historic in the coming decades.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY San Miguel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
0	

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical References - continued

- Magoffin, Susan S., Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1926
- New Mexico Historic Sites, Santa Fe, New Mexico State Planning Office, 1967
- "Three New Mexico Chronicles", Quivira Society, Vol. XI, Albuquerque, 1942
- Twitchell, R. E., Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, The Torch Press, 1914



	<u>LATITUDE</u>	<u>LONGITUDE</u>
NW	35°21'58"	105°27'14"
NE	35°21'58"	105°26'47"
SE	35°21'36"	105°26'47"
SW	35°21'36"	105°27'14"

SAN MIGUEL DEL VADO HISTORIC DISTRICT

