An Evaluation of 28 Historic Properties in the Socorro-San Elizario Area

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Background and Purpose

This Property Evaluation Report was prepared for the Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) as a supplemental architectural study of 28 properties located within the boundaries of the area in which the LVWD is installing a water delivery and wastewater collection system (Figures 1–3). These properties had been identified in previous studies as requiring further evaluation. This additional investigation represents the LVWD’s ongoing efforts to identify and protect historic architectural properties that may possess the potential for listing as a Texas Historic Landmark (THL) or on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

At the outset of this project, the LVWD presented the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio investigators with 29 properties requiring further evaluation. All had been identified during earlier phases of archaeological and historical investigations conducted within the installation project area. Twenty-three of the properties had been inventoried and briefly evaluated by Archeological Research Inc. (ARI) out of El Paso as part of the San Elizario Phase III report (Weedman et al. 1994a). Of those properties, five had been designated as “potentially eligible” for NRHP listing. A subsequent report prepared by Hardy, Heck and Moore (HHM) offered a list of properties for which it recommended reevaluation as to NRHP eligibility (HHM 1994:252). Twenty-three of the properties evaluated here were included on that list.

The HHM report also listed another group of properties that had been noted as historic but had not been inventoried during the previous evaluations. The report recommended that they receive further investigation (HHM 1994:249). Initially, the LVWD included six properties from that list in the scope of work for this report. When investigators determined that one of those properties was either incorrectly listed or had been removed, the number was reduced to five. As a result, the total number of properties included in this evaluation has been reduced from 29 to 28.

Methodological Considerations

To prepare this architectural property evaluation, the investigative team pursued two courses of action. First, it reviewed all pertinent reports prepared during previous phases of the project, paying particular attention to portions of those reports addressing the area’s historic patterns of settlement, its cultural landscape, and its historic architecture. Second, it conducted an intensive-level inventory of all 28 properties, photographing and completing a building inventory form for each property.

Several reports produced from the earlier phases of the LVWD’s archeological and historic investigative projects were consulted, including a Plan for the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Historical and Archeological Properties and Plan for the Preservation of Architectural Properties (Archeological Research Inc. and HHM 1994) and El Valle Bajo: The Culture History of the Lower Valley of El Paso (Volumes I–III) (Brown and Peterson 1994a, 1994b, 1994c). Volumes I and III of the latter report were particularly helpful. The former includes a discussion of the architectural history and cultural landscape of the Socorro and San Elizario areas prepared by historian Herbert C. Morrow. The latter offers oral histories, many of which address matters of local settlement, land use, and building practices.

The brief evaluations of the 23 aforementioned properties included in a Cultural Resource Survey in Socorro and San Elizario El Paso County, Texas Phase III Archaeological Investigations prepared by ARI were also consulted (Weedman et al. 1994a and 1994b). Particular attention was given to the history of ownership of specific properties as taken from the El Paso County deed records and to references to specific properties identified in aerial photographs taken by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in the mid-1930s. Additionally, the historic contexts and discussion of associated property types and eligibility requirements were consulted (HHM 1994).

The investigative team also consulted the nomination form for the San Elizario Historic District, listed in the NRHP in February 1997 (Kammer 1996). Drawing together the findings of earlier phases of the LVWD’s
archaeological and historical investigative projects, the nomination offers a concise treatment of the community’s historic development. Providing a period of significance from ca. 1830 to 1946, it identifies several areas of significance including agriculture, community planning and development, Hispanic ethnic heritage, commerce, architecture, archaeology, and exploration and settlement. These areas of significance mirror many of the research issues and historic contexts addressed in the reports of the earlier investigative phases. With their emphasis on the economic effects of the area’s shift from a broad-based agriculture to a cotton mono-culture, the emergence of a network of irrigation canals and farm roadways, and the ongoing evolution of local vernacular building practices, some of these contexts are applicable not only to the San Elizario Historic District but to the surrounding area in which the 28 properties evaluated here are located.

Similarly, the description portion of the nomination offers a discussion of the property types associated with the historic district’s period of significance. Included is a description of the plans characterizing the district’s buildings and of the various architectural styles, or subtypes, employed by the district’s contributing buildings. The plans and subtypes of all of the buildings included in this property evaluation report are also found among the buildings within the district.

Also included in the district nomination is a discussion of eligibility requirements not only for the district but for Contributing architectural properties within the district. Buildings are evaluated to determine the degree to which they meet Criteria A and C of the NRHP. Integrity requirements are based on a building’s association with the history of San Elizario from 1790 to 1945 (Criterion A) and the degree to which it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (Criterion C).

The discussion of eligibility requirements also addresses the number and types of changes some property owners have carried out on their buildings as they have sought to adapt them to changing needs. Modifications of primary facades, the alteration of a flat parapet roof to a pitched roof, or the addition of several rooms or wings in a way incompatible with the historic plan and materials of a building are considered severe compromises of integrity and warrant rejection of a building as a Contributing property. So, too, are buildings in which major portions had been removed or buildings that have deteriorated beyond the possibility of renovation. In contrast, steps taken as normal building maintenance such as the replacement of roofing material or the application of cement stucco in a way that the uneven lines of a building’s adobe walls remain evident are determined not to undermine the integrity of the property so as to render it Noncontributing. Likewise, the replacement of doors and less than 50 percent of the windows, even if the original frame is altered to accommodate new window sizes, do not cause a building to be Noncontributing.

The investigative team determined to use the nomination’s eligibility requirements as a point of departure for evaluating the 28 properties included in this report. Underlying this decision was the reasoning that some of the historic contexts and areas of significance applicable to the NRHP’s Criterion A in the San Elizario Historic District might also be applicable to historic properties in the district’s immediate environs.

As it reviewed the eligibility requirements applied to buildings within the district under Criterion C, however, the team recognized that it would need to apply those requirements for integrity more stringently. Underlying this decision was the recognition that while contributing properties within a district may embody many of the character-defining elements associated with the overall appearance and feeling of the district even if they are “individually undistinguished,” individual buildings not within a district must demonstrate their significance solely on their own appearance (U.S. Department of Interior 1991:46). Thus, each of the 28 properties was evaluated for eligibility based on its individual significance as well as its association with the areas of significance applicable to the area as a whole. Only those properties evaluated as conveying a level of significance to merit nomination as an individual property to the THL or NRHP are evaluated as eligible.

Having reviewed the cited reports and district nomination, the investigative team then undertook its fieldwork. Unable to secure the building inventory forms
for the 23 properties recorded during previous architectural surveys, the team decided that it would carry out an intensive-level survey of all the listed properties. This decision assured that the evaluations would be based on the current condition of each property and would provide an up-to-date photograph of each building and structure. The consulting architectural historian, David Kammer, then contacted Greg Smith of the Texas Historical Commission staff, securing his assent to use the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory form for recording the fieldwork data, a form with which Kammer is familiar from conducting several intensive-level surveys of vernacular buildings in his home state. Photographs and forms were completed for each of the 28 properties.

As they conducted their fieldwork, investigators were able to talk with a majority of the owners or residents of the buildings being evaluated. In some cases, these brief interviews resulted in ascertaining the specific date of construction of a building. In other cases, they resulted in approximate dates of construction or the respondents identifying an ancestor or previous owner who had constructed the building. By matching these names with the list of previous property owners as recorded in the El Paso County deed records, investigators were better able to determine approximate dates of construction for some buildings, especially as they compared this oral information with their observation of the buildings’ use of specific plans, materials, and construction techniques.

**Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types Applicable to the Project Area**

In his essay “Architectural History, Architectural Types and Landscape Studies,” Herbert C. Morrow traces the evolution of the cultural landscape of the Socorro and San Elizario portion of the Lower Valley from the time of the first Spanish expeditions in the late 1500s to the present (Morrow 1994:142). His discussion of the changes that occurred in the area after the coming of the railroad in 1881 offers several historic contexts relevant to a better understanding of the 28 properties treated in this report. Of particular concern are three contexts which also coincide with three of the areas of significance (agriculture, ethnic heritage: Hispanic, and architecture) identified in the NRHP nomination for the San Elizario Historic District. Specifically, the development of a cotton mono-culture in the area following the construction of large-scale irrigation canals and its effect on rural settlement patterns, the persistence of Hispanic influences on local building practices, and the evolution of a local vernacular architecture apply to evaluating the siting, architectural character, and significance of the vast majority of these properties.

The coming of the railroad served to reduce the isolation of the El Paso area and to bring it into an expanding national economic network. New building materials and styles, which had slowly begun to enter the area with the expanded American presence following the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, now entered more rapidly and with greater variety. Interest in finding products that the area might export contributed to efforts to expand the area’s agriculture. Although the railroad bypassed Socorro and San Elizario, touching the area’s periphery only at Ysleta and Clint, its presence offered the promise of economic rewards for crops that might be shipped to distant markets. In order to turn acres of arid, unused land into agricultural production, the network of the earlier irrigation canals, or acequias, many dating to the Spanish colonial period, was expanded. The Franklin Canal was completed in 1890; the Bureau of Reclamation undertook the construction of Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir in 1915; and between 1922 and 1924, the danger of flood was greatly reduced with the construction of drains in the Lower Valley.

As a result of these steps, agricultural practices and land-use patterns in the area changed. Most notable were the vast new tracts of land opened to farming lying north of the river and its abandoned former channels. Most of these large parcels were sold to “people with Anglo surnames” (Peterson et al. 1994:123). In the absence of the annual flooding cycle in which nutrient-bearing silt deposits contributed to the aggradation of the farmlands and leached salts from surface soils, the salinity level rose. This adversely affected the cultivation of the diverse crops including fruits, grapes, wheat, and corn that had marked the earlier self-sufficient agricultural base of the older
farmlands in the river’s floodplain. During the 1910s, cotton, which thrived in the more saline soil, came to predominate, bringing with it an agribusiness based upon large-scale land holdings. As newcomers and land speculators sought to consolidate farmland parcels, many of the small family-operated tracts that had characterized the earlier Hispanic land use patterns gave way to larger field systems. Often held by absentee owners, these large cotton fields were generally worked by local Hispano laborers, many of whom worked as tenant farmers or who lived in the vicinity where they retained portions of ancestral plots which they continued to farm, often planting smaller fields of cotton as well.

This enlarged scale of farming was accompanied by efforts to improve roads offering farmers access to markets and shipping points. The traditional east-west thoroughfare, Socorro Road, which dated to its role as the Mission Trail branch of the Camino Real and linked the historic mission villages of Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario, was no longer adequate to serve the newly expanded farm areas to the north. In the 1910s, El Paso County undertook the construction of two east-west roads, both aligned north of Socorro Road, which some soon referred to as the South Loop Road. The more southerly of the new roads, once known as the County Road and now as Highway 20, ran east from Ysleta through Socorro to Clint and Fabens. Later, it became the alignment for U.S. 80, promoted for tourism purposes both as the Old Spanish Trail and the Jefferson Davis Highway. Farther north, above the railroad alignment, was the North Loop Road.

Unlike the old Socorro Road, which had served both as a transportation and settlement corridor and was accordingly lined with small farms, the new roads were lined with the new field systems and crisscrossed with a network of drains and new irrigation canals and their laterals. Occasional farmsteads, soon marked by groves of Siberian elms and cottonwoods and set within the new large agricultural tracts in which cotton predominated, appeared periodically, set well back from the roadways. Punctuating these east-west corridors were a few north-south roadways whose generally meandering alignments closer to Socorro Road reflected already established field and irrigation systems and whose straighter alignments north toward the North Loop and County roads reflected the grids of the new field systems.

The vast majority of the properties evaluated in this report are located along roadways established by the 1920s. Often they are also located near drains or irrigation ditches, where many of their early residents no doubt turned water from the latter into the cotton fields surrounding many of these once-rural houses. Many of these properties are most discernable by the groves of mature trees that surround them, a sharp contrast to surrounding cotton fields or, more recently, the newer tract housing and, in some instances, colonias that have supplanted many of the former cotton fields. Now often obscured in the midst of tract residential development, post-war commercial strips, and the recent fragmentation of large agricultural tracts, these residences, most dating from the period 1900–1940, mark a transitional layer in the area’s palimpsest of development.

Rapid land use changes over the last half century have resulted in a variety of subsequent layers of settlement patterns. In areas characterized by smaller tracts of farmland typical of earlier Hispanic settlement patterns, much of the former farmland has been converted to small subdivisions. The Panfilo Duran House (865 Borrego Road), dating to about 1900, for example, now faces on a residential street lined with ranch style houses and manufactured housing (Figure 4). Its present owner, Angie Duran, recalls that when she was a child in the 1930s the house was surrounded by cotton fields and that her grandfather worked as a laborer in those fields while maintaining a small quarter-acre farm located near the house. In contrast, the Louis J. Burrus House (9892 North Loop Road) built about 1930, is set in a grove of Siberian elms adjacent to the Ysleta Lateral. Located in lands opened to large scale farming only in the 1910s and 1920s, the Burrus House continues to appear within an agricultural context with cotton fields still surrounding the former dairy complex (Figure 5).

The second and third historic contexts pertinent to the evaluation of these properties, the evidence of Hispanic ethnic heritage as manifested in the cultural landscape and the evolution of a local vernacular building style, are so closely related that they are discussed in tandem.
Despite the growing influence of Anglo newcomers in the Socorro and San Elizario area following the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, local ethnic identity has remained strong. Following the occupation of the El Paso area by American troops, culminating in the establishment of Fort Bliss in 1854, military patrols moved through the Lower Valley frequently, setting up temporary camps while providing protection from raiding bands of Apaches. As these newcomers constructed their forts, residences, and mercantile stores using local building materials and then applying Classical Revival details they had brought with them from the East, local builders began to incorporate some of those imported elements as well.

This assimilation, however, did not repudiate traditional local building practices, but rather elaborated on them. As Morrow notes, “whole designs for Classical Revival styles were not lifted from architectural design books . . . and placed in the Lower Valley landscape” (Morrow 1994:147). Rather the Spanish Colonial Style, the term applied to the area’s earlier architecture, slowly began to evolve. Adobe bricks and adobe mud or lime-based plasters remained the principal wall materials; timber beams, or vigas, and saplings, or latillas, remained the principal roofing material. Buildings continued to employ the incremental linear plan with additional room units one-room deep extended to form I-, L-, and U-shapes or enclosed patio spaces. Buildings also remained one-story high with flat roofs and parapets and with limited entries and small windows.

Gradually, imported materials and styles began to be integrated into this traditional style. In the later decades of the nineteenth century, the increased availability of milled lumber, imported door and window hardware, and cement and fired bricks for parapet copings resulted in the application of these new materials to local building practices. Similarly, examples of hall and parlor building plans at Fort Bliss and in the homes and stores of newcomers resulted in efforts of prosperous local merchants and landowners to copy those plans, resulting in some buildings with massed and compound...
plans. This fusion of traditional adobe masonry practices with new architectural elements and plans led to the emergence of the Territorial Style in the El Paso area and in the New Mexico Territory.

The coming of the railroad accelerated the importation of outside architectural styles and building materials, especially in the growing city of El Paso where many of the historic neighborhoods reflect the sequence of popular building styles embraced by many of its early developers and builders. In the Lower Valley these outside influences remained less pronounced. Bypassed by the railroad and broad commercial development, Socorro and San Elizario and the surrounding agricultural areas continued to reflect a built environment closely associated with earlier Spanish and Mexican settlement. As a result, local residences continued to reflect their essential Hispano core of materials and plans, exhibiting only modest degrees of American stylistic influences. This adaptation of outside building influences to a local traditional building practice, a process that Virginia McAlester terms a “folk building tradition,” persisted in Socorro and San Elizario (McAlester and McAlester 1995:63). Houses retained their “traditional folk shape” but heavy logs were replaced with newly available light sawn lumber, and windows became larger and more numerous.

American Rural Vernacular subtype in previous investigations completed for the LVWD, the style encompasses the vast majority of houses evaluated in this report. In Morrow’s words, the adaptations reflected in this evolving vernacular housing reflect the local culture’s “efficient response to economics and the environment.”

Although Morrow dates the subtype as emerging between 1880 and 1910, the survey of buildings included in this evaluation suggests that the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular continued to evolve until at least mid-century. As housing norms evolved to include diverse rooms with specific functions, such as bathrooms and kitchens, and a greater differentiation of private and public spaces, local builders sought to incorporate these elements of modern housing into their traditional building technology (HHM 1994:72). Many builders, for instance, widened the single room linear plan to increase the massing. Similar to steps taken by Hispanic builders along the upper Rio Grande in New Mexico, this shift in massing accommodated these new spaces with their specific functions. Such is the case with the Perfecto Griego House (12112 Glorieta Road), built in 1950 in which the builder doubled the massing of the traditional linear house to include a kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom to the rear of a single rectangular space (Figure 6).

This incorporation of a variety of American stylistic influences into the traditional local building practices that occurred in the Lower Valley in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries suggests the resilience of the local Hispanic culture as economic and land ownership changes swept over the area. It resulted in what Morrow terms a “new style Hispanic traditional house,” reflecting the adaptability of the local culture to imported ideas (Morrow 1994:148). Referred to as the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype in previous investigations completed for the LVWD, the style encompasses the vast majority of houses evaluated in this report. In Morrow’s words, the adaptations reflected in this evolving vernacular housing reflect the local culture’s “efficient response to economics and the environment.”

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Figure 6. Massed plan of the Perfecto Griego House.
Other houses illustrate this effort to achieve room differentiation through additions to the original linear building, sometimes signaled by a stepped parapet or a shed roof over the newer section (Figure 7). Similarly, new materials such as metal casement windows, probably not used widely in the area until the mid-1930s, appear with heavy concrete sills in several houses. Even as they continued to use adobe masonry and retain the traditional shape and appearance of the house, many builders also added cement stucco coatings to the walls and concrete skirtings and copings in an effort thought to stabilize foundations and parapets.

In addition to the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype that accounts for the vast majority of historic residences in the study area, other subtypes reflecting local adaptations to imported building styles also appear. A few examples of the Bungalow Style, for example, appear in the area as well as farther east in the railroad town of Clint. More widespread, however, and evidenced in six of the 28 buildings and structures evaluated in this report are examples of a stylistic subtype that Morrow terms the Spanish Colonial Revival (Morrow 1994:151). An eclectic style that Morrow attributes to new house construction in El Paso early suburbs that began around 1915, it incorporates elements from various styles associated with the Spanish colonial period.

Similar to what McAlester prefers to term the Spanish Eclectic Style because of the way it melds a broad range of architectural traditions related to Iberian culture, it appeared from Florida to California from the 1910s to the 1940s (McAlester and McAlester 1995:418). Although less widespread and generally more modest in their use of details in the Socorro and San Elizario area than in El Paso, examples of the style offer yet another illustration of how local builders adapted elements of outside stylistic influences to their own technology and materials. On rare occasions, builders even incorporated slight elements from the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style, more widespread farther up the Rio Grande in New Mexico, integrating them into the local expression of the subtype.

Local examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival subtype evaluated in this report employ many of the same materials and basic shape found in buildings reflecting the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular. Most, for example, are of adobe masonry and have flat roofs with parapets. Most have walls coated with light or earth-toned stucco cement. Most also exhibit additional ornamental details which convey the builder’s response to an imported style. The Antonio Sanchez House (12337 Socorro Road), built in 1936, and the house located at 12501 Caballero Road (ca. 1930), for instance, both contain heavy wood lintels embellished with a zigzag geometric pattern with the former also exhibiting a curvilinear parapet and exposed milled vigas (Figures 8 and 9). The Peyton Sparks House (10604 Sparks Circle), built in 1943, employs decorative wood lintels applied to the wall and occasional decorative exposed vigas (Figure 10). These modest elements, suggesting but not completely embracing the Pueblo Revival Style, illustrate the influence that the style exerted on local builders during the 1930s and
Figure 8. Wood lintels with geometric patterns at 12337 Socorro Road.

Figure 9. Wood lintels with geometric patterns at 12501 Caballero Road.

Figure 10. Decorative wood lintels and vigas at 10604 Sparks Circle.
1940s. Similarly, the house located at 11391 North Loop Road (ca. 1920) with its irregular massing and curvilinear entry and the house at 300 Clint/San Elizario Road (ca. 1920) both include decorative clay or pressed metal tile elements suggestive of Mediterranean building styles (Figures 11 and 12).

Although the recent development of subdivisions and colonias and the fragmentation of large agricultural tracts has obscured the visibility of many of the older houses associated with the emergence of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular and Spanish Colonial subtypes in the outlying sections of Socorro and San Elizario, examples of these types persist. Some of the buildings evaluated here have deteriorated substantially, and many others have been altered or received additions in recent decades to the degree that their historic integrity has been greatly diminished. If further historic research, however, addresses the specific matter of the area’s rural cultural landscape associated with cotton production, some of these properties offer good examples of the settlement patterns and building techniques associated with that period.

Figure 11. Decorative clay tile roof at 11391 North Loop Road.

Figure 12. Decorative pressed metal tile roof at 300 Clint/San Elizario Road.
Description and Evaluation of the Twenty-eight Individual Properties

Included in this group of 28 individual properties are 23 specified for reevaluation and five previously unevaluated properties specified for evaluation. The evaluation treats the two groups in sequence. Each property is designated with an address confirmed as a part of the field investigation. The trinomial site designation assigned to each property and an SSE number in the case of properties included in a previous architectural inventory are also listed. So, too, is the name of any individual closely associated with the property. Some of these names are taken from the data provided from previous evaluations; some are applied on the basis of interviews conducted with occupants or owners during recent fieldwork. Also included in the introductory information for each property are the UTM location numbers determined with satellite instrumentation. Following the introductory information is a description of the setting in which each property is located, a description of the building, and an assessment as to its significance and potential eligibility for nomination to the NRHP and/or as a THL.

1. 12296 Cinnabar Road
   41EP4514; SSE 185 A, B
   UTM: Zone 13 E 382340 N 3496860

The two historic buildings located at this address (Figures 13 and 14) appear in a small rural residential subdivision on a parcel of land bounded on the south by Burbridge Road and on the east by Cinnabar Road. The parcel is currently owned by Fernandez Sepulveda. The two buildings parallel each other, separated by a courtyard approximately 20 feet wide. Set in a grove of Siberian elm trees, they lie south of the family’s residence—a Ranch Style building—and function as storage spaces.

Although both buildings exhibit characteristics atypical of common local building practices, both have some details associated with the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype. The southerly building (Figure 13) has a linear plan and is one story with a flat roof and slight parapet. Based on the relatively narrow jambs of the wood casement windows and two front entries, the walls appear to be wood frame with a brown stucco cement coating. In a departure from the common practice of vigas extending across the shorter lengths of a rectangular building, exposed unmilled vigas appear on the side walls, spanning the width of the building. Two wood panel doors face on a small courtyard bounded on the east side by a low stucco-coated wall topped with rustic log poles fixed to a milled rail.

The northern building (Figure 14) also has a linear plan and is one story with a flat roof and a curvilinear parapet. An addition at the north end of the building also has a flat roof stepped beneath the older section’s parapet and with a slight overhang. The building has adobe brick walls with a brown stucco cement coating. It has been substantially altered with large fixed windows now boarded and its single entry relocated along the narrow wall of the building at the south end. The entry has a batten door and a shed porch with heavy pole supports. A wood frame carport is adjacent to its east wall.

A previous report notes that the latter building once served as a residence and appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s but that it bears no architectural significance (Weedman et al. 1994a:185). The owner estimates that the latter was constructed around 1910.

Figure 13. 12296 Cinnabar Road, southern building.
Based on the location of its vigas and its wood frame construction, the former is probably a post-World War II building. Neither building possesses potential for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

2. 12013 Glorieta Road  
41EP4554; SSE 353  
UTM: Zone 13 E 378560  
N 3496640

Located just north of a spur of the San Elizario Lateral along Glorieta Road, the house (Figure 15) lies along a section of the road in which fields and a broken line of houses form a rural linear settlement pattern typical of older roadways in the outlying areas of Socorro and San Elizario. Siberian elms and cottonwoods line the lateral along the south side of the parcel and form a grove around the house. A concrete block pump house is located to the southeast of the building. The parcel is currently owned by Eugenio Elicon, and the house, now vacant, is a rental property.

The building has a linear plan with an L shape and is one story with an asphalt shingle shed roof with a slight overhang. Built incrementally, the portion paralleling the road is older and exhibits slight projecting milled vigas in one portion. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. All of the windows are multi-light metal casement with thick concrete sills. Wood panel doors appear at each of the three entries, and the doors and entries have been covered with wrought iron security bars.

The building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s (Weedman et al. 1994a:216). Based upon the materials and methods of construction in the older portion of the building it is estimated to have been constructed in the early 1930s. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its location along an older roadway near an irrigation ditch with cotton fields nearby does suggest, however, the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.
3. 12112 Glorieta Rd.  
41EP4561; SSE 362  
UTM: Zone 13  E 378360 N 3496110

Located a quarter mile west of Glorieta Road, the Perfecto Griego House (see Figure 6) lies at the end of Lopez Road, a gravel lane lining cotton fields and offering access to two other residences. Its removal from the traditional linear settlement pattern characterizing much of Glorieta Road suggests how that pattern may have been changing when the house was constructed at mid-century and parcels were being subdivided within families and used for additional residential needs. Siberian elms, mulberries and cottonwoods form a grove in the area immediately surrounding the house, and the River Drain borders the property to the west. A concrete block outbuilding is located to the southwest of the building.

The building reflects the further changes that local builders brought to the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype as they continued to adapt traditional building techniques to outside influences well into the twentieth century. It has a massed plan in the shape of a square and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. The front windows are paired 1/1 double-hung wood sash with wood sills; other windows are aluminum sliding. Entries have wood panel doors with exterior metal security doors.

Although a previous report notes that a structure appears at the site in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s, the owner states that the building was constructed in 1950 by Perfecto Griego, her father, and Santiago Perez, his son (Weedman et al. 1994a:222). She also states that her father made the adobe bricks used in the house’s construction on the premises and that her father raised cotton in the surrounding fields. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

4. 12272 Glorieta Road  
41EP4853; SSE 380  
UTM: Zone 13  E 378660 N 3495870

Facing east onto Glorieta Road, the house (Figure 16) lies along a section of the road in which fields and a broken line of houses form a rural linear settlement pattern typical of older roadways in the outlying areas of Socorro and San Elizario. Siberian elms and cottonwoods form a grove around the house. To the rear of the house are a partially completed concrete block structure and a storage building with the River Drain just beyond the property to the west.

The building exhibits a variety of additions and changes typical of those that local builders have brought to the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype as they seek adapt to their homes to modern needs. It has a square massed plan and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet broken by occasional metal drains. The foundation is unknown, but a protective concrete skirting now surrounds the building. The walls are adobe brick with a cement coating. The south half of the front facade has milled vigas cut flush with the wall. All of the windows are aluminum sliding of various sizes, and all have concrete sills. There are two entries, the front topped by a milled wood lintel. A carport and storage shed have been added at the north side.

Figure 16. 12272 Glorieta Road.
A previous report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and considers the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:237). While the date of construction is unknown but estimated to be about 1910, the substantial alterations to the building lead to the conclusion that it lacks the architectural significance to be considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

5. 12303 Glorieta Road
41EP4572; SSE 382
UTM: Zone 13 E 378990 N 345740

Facing on a spur of the River Drain at the southwest corner of where it crosses the San Elizario Lateral, the building is located at the end of a dirt road that parallels the drain 200 yards northeast of Glorieta Road. In a rural area surrounded by fields, the house lies within a grove of Siberian elms and cottonwoods.

The building reflects the adaptations that local builders continued to bring to the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype throughout the first half of the twentieth century (Figure 17). Rectangular in shape, it has a massed plan and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet broken by occasional metal drains. The foundation is concrete, and the house rests on a grade slightly higher than the surrounding land, suggesting its possible construction on the site of a previous building. The walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. Fenestration varies and includes aluminum sliding windows of various sizes and fixed windows with metal frames. All have concrete sills, and some have iron security bars. A single entry consists of a multi-panel wood door with a single large light fronted by a screen door.

A previous report describes the building as in poor shape with boarded windows. It also notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s but does not consider the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:229). Based on its materials and plan, the estimated date of construction is approximately 1930. The building has been refurbished since the previous survey. It is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its location along irrigation and drainage ditches with cotton fields nearby suggests, however, the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.
6. 12011 Socorro Road  
(previously listed at 12007 Socorro Rd.)  
41EP4536;  SSE 49 A  
UTM: Zone 13  E 379270 N 349380

Facing southwest along Socorro Road and bordered by the Quemado Lateral to the southeast, the Raphael Gonzalez House (Figure 18) is part of a complex of buildings that includes two adobe barns, small outbuildings and post and rail corrals. Fronting these structures, the house is set back some 30 feet from the road and is surrounded by a grove of Siberian elms and cottonwoods. Part of the traditional linear settlement pattern along Socorro Road, the property is now owned by Ralph’s Farms and is rented.

The building reflects modest elements of the Bungalow subtype that appears occasionally in the area. It is rectangular in shape with a small shed addition at the north rear corner. The enclosure of the front porch makes it difficult to analyze the building’s massed plan. Its width and the presence of two doors at the enclosed porch, however, suggest the building may have been a duplex. The building is one story with an asphalt shingle hipped roof with a slight overhang and exposed rafters.

A porch with a shed roof and metal support posts extends in front of the previous, now-enclosed front porch. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. The porch infill consists of plywood. Paired double-hung wood sash windows with 1/1 lights and concrete sills line the sides. Other fenestration includes metal casement and fixed wood-framed windows. The three entries have multi-panel wood doors, each with a large light.

A previous report notes that Rafael Gonzalez owned the property in 1936 and that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s. It does not consider the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman, et al. 1994a:204). Based on its materials and plan, the estimated date of construction is 1920. With its alterations, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its location as part of the linear settlement pattern along Socorro Road, however, suggests the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s agricultural history.

Figure 18. 12011 Socorro Road.
7. 250 Clint/San Elizario Road  
41EP4877; SSE 469  
UTM: Zone 13 E 382605 N 3494990

Located on the San Elizario/Clint Road approximately 0.3 miles west of the road’s junction with Highway 20, the house lies in a rural agricultural area surrounded by fields and with the Middle Drain bordering the property to the east. It is part of a broken line of houses forming a rural linear settlement pattern typical of older roadways in the outlying areas of Socorro and San Elizario. Cottonwoods and Siberian elms form a sparse grove around the house.

The rectangular building, a four-unit house for farm workers, exhibits a latter-day variation of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype (Figure 19). It has a linear plan and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet topped with a slight concrete coping. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are of concrete blocks with a white stucco cement coating. The windows and doors occur in a regular pattern. All of the windows are six-light metal casement with concrete sills. Each of the four housing units has a similar front and rear entry consisting of a multi-panel wood door with a large upper light.

A previous report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and considers the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:93). Based on its materials and plan, the building most likely dates to the 1950s or later and may stand on the site of a previous structure. It is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

8. 300 Clint/San Elizario Road  
41EP4499; SSE 470 C  
UTM: Zone 13 E 382430 N 3494980

Located on the San Elizario/Clint Road approximately 0.4 miles west of the road’s junction with Highway 20, the house (see Figure 12) lies in a rural agricultural area surrounded by fields and with the Middle Drain located directly across the San Elizario/Clint Road. It is part of a broken line of houses forming a rural linear settlement pattern typical of older roadways in the outlying areas of Socorro and San Elizario. The front of the house is landscaped with evergreen bushes, and cottonwoods and Siberian elms form a grove around the house. To the rear of the house is a garage and an adobe brick ruin that now functions as part of a corral.

The building has a massed rectangular plan and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet topped with a slight concrete coping. Two interior brick chimneys flank the central portion of the house. The foundation is concrete, and the walls consist of adobe bricks with a white stucco cement coating. The modest use of decorative details and the massed plan combined with the recessed porch suggest a hybridization of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular and the Spanish Colonial Revival subtypes. Symmetrically placed windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash.
with wood sills and pedimented lintels. The recessed front porch is screened and has a shed porch with a metal “tile” roof. At the rear of the building a porch with a shed roof and concrete support posts has been filled in. Otherwise, the building has received few alterations.

A previous report describes the building as built in the late 19th century and classifies it within the Territorial subtype. It also notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and suggests that the property is eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:174). Based on its materials and plan, especially the slightly recessed front porch and the use of decorative pressed metal “tile,” and the concrete support posts at the rear porch, the building most likely dates to the 1910s, which may explain its eclectic use of details. The building retains a good deal of architectural integrity and would be eligible for listing in the NRHP or as a THL in a Multiple Property nomination treating the area’s early twentieth century agricultural history.

9. 13560 Chicken Ranch Road  
41EP4667; SSE 475  
UTM: Zone 13 E 380210 N 3492660

Located in a rural section of San Elizario 1.5 miles south of the village center, the house lies along a section of Chicken Ranch Road in which isolated houses appear among extensive fields. A line of trees and garden lie to the south. To the north is the Bernal Lateral, and cottonwoods and Siberian elms form a grove around the house. Behind the northwest corner of the house is a manufactured house, and small wood outbuildings appear at the rear of the property. The property is owned by Manuel Lopez.

The building exhibits a variety of additions and changes typical of those that local builders have brought to the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype as they seek to expand their homes and adapt them to current needs (Figure 20). It has a rectilinear massed plan and is one story with an almost imperceptibly pitched asphalt shingle roof with slight overhangs along the sides of the building. The foundation is concrete, and the walls of the original portion of the building are adobe brick with a cement coating. The windows are 4/4 double-hung wood sash. One of the two front entries has been infilled to create an additional window. The door is wood panel with a large upper light. An addition consisting of horizontal board walls appears at the southeast rear corner of the house.

A previous report notes that the building was constructed in 1940 and that the property is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:292). The building lacks sufficient architectural significance to be considered individually eligible for listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 20. 13560 Chicken Ranch Road.
10. 12148 Socorro Road
41EP4576; SSE 501
UTM: Zone 13 E 379150 N 3496020

Located along the south side of Socorro Road at the end of a private driveway approximately 40 yards from the road, the house is surrounded by fields separated from the property by a chain-link fence. Two mature cottonwoods tower above a stucco cement-coated two-car garage at the southeast corner of the property. The current owner, Heraldo Martinez, appears to be in the process of refurbishing the building.

The building has a linear plan with an approximate L shape. One story with a flat roof and a stepped parapet punctuated by metal drains, it exemplifies the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype of housing (Figure 21). The various materials evident in different sections of the house suggest that it was built incrementally. The front portion, a one-unit rectangle has a brown stucco cement coating over, presumably, adobe bricks and is fronted by a shed porch with a concrete floor and large log supports. The porch extends along the inner side of the L. Sections of the rear portion of the building where the stucco coating has been removed reveal adobe bricks and, at the rear parapet, concrete masonry blocks. A concrete coping has been added to rear portions of the parapet, and a concrete skirting surrounds the building. The exposed vigas noted in the earlier evaluation have been removed. Although the majority of windows have been filled in, those remaining are 6/6 double-hung with wood sashes and concrete sills. A wood panel door with iron security bars marks the front entry.

A previous report notes that deed records list a house at the site as early as 1902 and that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s but is not considered architecturally significant (Weedman et al. 1994a:233). The building has been altered considerably and is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.
Located along the south side of Socorro Road and set back from the road about 30 feet, the house is part of the traditional linear settlement plan along the historic roadway that becomes more concentrated as the road nears the center of San Elizario less than a half mile to the east. A low chain-link fence with gates surrounds the front yard landscaped with arborvitae and several varieties of low-lying bushes. Several Siberian elms and cottonwoods form a grove to the rear of the house, and a garage stands at the southeast rear corner of the parcel.

The building has a linear plan with an L shape. One story with a flat roof and a parapet with decorative stepping at the front corners, it exemplifies the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype of housing (Figure 22). Although the foundation material is unknown, a concrete protective skirting extends around the perimeter of the house. The walls consist of adobe bricks with a white stucco cement coating. The front facade is symmetrical with 16-light metal casement windows with concrete sills flanking a single wood panel door enclosed with a iron bar security door. A similar door appears at the narrow east end of the building, and a rear door is located along the rear wing of the building. Two 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows to the rear, as well as the door located along the east facade of the front unit suggest that the building has been altered. A small, narrower addition extends from the rear wing.

An earlier report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and classifies the building as bearing no architectural significance (Weedman et al. 1994a:232). Based on its plan and the facade’s symmetry, the building is estimated to date to the early 1900s. With the alterations to the windows and the probable addition of the side entry, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its location along Socorro Road, however, suggests the contribution the building makes to understanding the historic settlement patterns along the area’s older roadways.
Located on the north side of Borrego Road and set back from the road about 15 feet, the Panofilo Duran House lies within a recent subdivision comprised of ranch style houses and manufactured housing. A low chain-link fence lines the property, and the surrounding yard is landscaped with arborvitae, low-lying bushes and flowerbeds. An adobe brick storage shed with a stucco cement coating northeast of the rear corner house was built in 1950 when the house received a rear addition.

The additions evident in the Panfilo Duran House illustrate how many residences built in the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype have grown to meet the changing needs of their occupants (Figure 23). The building now has a rectilinear massed plan as subsequent additions to the rear of the house have augmented its former linear plan. The original linear core of the house, however, is evident at the front of the building. The building is one story with a flat roof; the stepping down of the parapet to the rear indicates the incremental growth of the house. Although the foundation material is unknown, the owner indicated that a protective concrete skirting had been added to the perimeter of the house to reduce the wicking effect on the adobe bricks. The walls consist of adobe bricks with a white stucco cement coating. The windows of the original linear portion of the house have been replaced with metal casement windows with concrete sills; fenestration in the rear additions consists of grouped double-hung and aluminum sliding windows. The three entries have wood panel doors, each with a large square light. A porch with a shed roof and metal support posts is located at the northeast rear corner of the building.

Although the project team was unable to secure a copy of earlier evaluations of the property, its present owner, Angie Duran, noted that when her grandfather purchased the property from E.G. Maese in 1914 the linear core of the house served as the family’s residence. She estimates that the house may have been built around 1900, a date consistent with its plan and materials. She also recalls that until after mid-century her grandfather farmed the land immediately around the house and that cotton fields surrounded his small farm. Earlier investigators had cut a small, 1-x-1-ft cross-section from the ceiling to examine the unmilled vigas and latillas that compose the original roof. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 23. 865 Borrego Road.
13. 12300 Camino de la Rosa Road 
41E P4531;  SSE 511 
UTM: Zone 13  E 380190 N 3496420

Facing east on Camino de la Rosa Road and set back about 60 feet from the road, the house is a part of a small complex of buildings that include several small outbuildings to the rear of the house. The house appears to have been abandoned for several years and is deteriorating. Weeds and the trash left by former occupants surround the house, and Siberian elms line the property boundaries on the north and west sides. Immediately to the east of the property is the Franklin Drain.

The building’s details suggest a hybridization of the Bungalow and Spanish Colonial Revival subtypes (Figure 24). It has a massed plan with an attached garage added on the north side. The building is one story with a flat roof and a stepped parapet with a concrete coping. The foundation consists of brick and mortar, and the walls are adobe brick with a brown stucco cement coating. An exterior chimney flanked by small 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows and several paired 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows comprise the house’s bungalow elements. Alterations include double-hung metal sash windows. The front porch with a low concrete wall and a decorative recessed panel above the front entry, as well as the irregular massing of the front facade, comprise its revival elements. The front porch has a shed roof with wood support posts. A small rear porch, also with a shed roof, appears to have been added in a recess between the house and the garage. The front entry consists of a three-panel wood door. The garage door is a spring-lifted overhead door with wood surrounds.

A previous report notes that Thomas Garcia owned the property from 1883 to 1920 and assigns his name to the house. It also notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s but does not consider the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:201). Based on its materials and plan, the estimated date of construction is the mid-1920s, when the property was owned by W. A. and Thelma Montgomery, the likely owners of the property when the house was constructed. With its additions, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its locations in an area formerly used for cotton production, however, suggests the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.
Facing south on Caballero Road and set back about 10 feet from the road, the house is part of a linear settlement pattern with cotton fields predominating. A chain link fence forms a boundary between the road and the small front yard, and Siberian elms, globe willows and Mexican alder form a small grove surrounding the house. The house appears to be in good condition with relatively few alterations.

The building’s details include a modest use of elements characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival subtype (Figure 25). It has a massed plan with a slight L shape and is one story with a flat roof. A parapet is punctuated with decorative hollow clay tile brick vents and with exposed milled vigas on the west side. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. Single windows are double-hung with metal sashes. Each window has a concrete sill and a wood lintel with a decorative zigzag carving similar to those found on lintels at the house at 12337 Socorro Road. A wood panel door at the front entry faces on a large cut-out porch with a shed roof. The low porch wall topped with a concrete coping and a massive stucco-coated support post are analogous to porch supports found in the bungalow subtype popular in the 1910s and 1920s and suggest how local builders freely borrowed details from other subtypes as they worked.

A previous report notes that Jose Alvarado owned the property from 1902 to 1959. It also notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s but does not consider the property eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:167). Based on its materials and plan, the estimated date of construction is 1930. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its location in an area formerly used for cotton production, however, suggests the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.
15. 12337 Socorro Road
41EP4461; SSE 527 A
UTM: Zone 13 E 379380 N 3495290

Facing west on Socorro Road and set back about 30
feet from the road, the Antonio Sanchez House is part
of a dense linear settlement pattern that occurs along
the road in the vicinity west of the San Elizario Historic
District. 50 feet southeast of the house is a deteriorating
commercial building, also built by Antonio Sanchez. A
handicap access has been added to the front of the
house. A small garden and several large trees compose
the backyard landscape. The house appears to be in
good condition with a minor degree of alterations.

The building’s details include a modest use of elements
characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival subtype,
especially in the subtype’s use of Pueblo Revival details,
relatively rare in the area (Figure 26). It has a massed
plan with a slight cutout along the main facade to create
a concrete porch at the main entry. The building is
one story with a flat roof and a curvilinear parapet
stepped down at the porch marking the rear entry.
Exposed milled vigas line the facade. The foundation
is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a brown
stucco cement coating. Single windows are 6/6 double-
hung with wood sashes and appear to have their original
screen windows. Each window has a concrete sill and
a wood lintel with a decorative zigzag carving similar
to those found on lintels at the house at 12501 Caballero
Road. A wood panel door with three small lights faces
on the unenclosed front porch. A rear porch with an
added storm door and shed roof leads to the rear yard.
A small addition with a shed roof is located at the rear
northwest corner of the house.

A previous report notes that Antonio and Juanita
Sanchez owned the property 1936. It also notes that
the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the
1930s but designates the property as potentially eligible
for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:144).
According to the present owner, Ben
Sanchez, the house was built by his father, Antonio, in
1936. The building is not considered potentially eligible
for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. Its
location as part of the pre-World War II linear
settlement pattern along Socorro Road, however, does
suggest the contribution the building makes to the
cultural landscape associated with that historic roadway.

Figure 26. 12337 Socorro Road.
16. 12636 Camino de la Rosa
41EP5349; SSE 536 A
UTM: Zone 13  E 379810 N 3495350

Located along the north side of Camino de la Rosa in a rural agricultural area with interspersed residences, the Dora Vargas House is set back about 20 feet from the road. A gravel roadway leading to houses located in back of the house borders the property to the west. Two hundred feet to the west across a field is the Barrial Lateral. The front yard is landscaped with bushes and mulberry trees, and Siberian elms line the lane to the west.

The building has a linear plan with an approximate L shape. One story with a flat roof and a parapet with occasional projecting metal drainage pipes, it exemplifies the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype of housing. The various materials and small setbacks marking different sections of the house suggest that it was built incrementally. The foundation is concrete, and an additional concrete skirting has been added as part of a recent refurbishing project. The entire house is of adobe brick with a cement coating. The front portion, a two-unit rectangle, has exposed milled vigas cut flush with the wall. Porches with concrete floors, shed roofs, and 4 x 4 wood support posts are located at both the front and rear entries.

The east wall of the front section has a “ghost” where a previous entry has been infilled. Windows consist of paired 6/6 double-hung wood sash and double-hung metal sash; the former have concrete sills and wood lintels. Single panel wood doors with outer metal security doors appear at both entries.

Relatives of Dora Vargas who live nearby stated that the house had been deteriorating and was recently refurbished. The date of the construction of the house is listed as 1936 in a previous report (HHM 1994:151) The building has been altered considerably and is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

17. 1040 Sanchez Road
41EP5350; SSE 577
UTM: Zone 13  E 380270 N 3494440

Located on the southeast side of Sanchez Road and set back from the road about 20 feet, the Luis and Maria Nuñoz House (Figure 28) lies in a rural agricultural area in which a loose line of residences are interspersed with large field parcels. A low chain-link fence separates the front yard from the road, and the surrounding yard is landscaped with low-lying bushes, flowerbeds, and mulberry and mimosa trees. The house is in good condition.

Figure 27. 12636 Camino de la Rosa.
The additions evident to the rear of the house illustrate how many residences built in the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype have grown to meet the changing needs of their occupants. The building now has a massed plan with irregularities as subsequent additions to the rear of the house have augmented its former linear plan. The original rectangular core of the house, however, is evident at the front of the building. The building is one story with a flat roof. A parapet with a concrete coping lines the original portion of the house and its first addition; it then steps down at subsequent additions. The foundation is concrete. The walls of the original section and first addition consist of adobe bricks with a white stucco cement coating. The walls of the rear addition are brown stucco cement over wood framing. Fenestration varies and includes paired 1/1 double-hung wood sash, fixed, metal casement and aluminum sliding windows, all with concrete sills. The front entry consists of a multi-panel wood door with an exterior wrought iron security door.

Although the project team was unable to secure a copy of earlier evaluations of the property, Cecelia Reyes, the daughter of its present owner, noted that when she first lived in the house in 1949 it consisted only of its two-room linear core. Based on her recollection of her father who grew up in the vicinity, she estimates that the house may have been built around 1930, a date consistent with its plan and materials. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

18. 1048 Sanchez Road
41EP5351; SSE 578
UTM: Zone 13 E 380250 N 3494390

Located on the southeast side of Sanchez Road and set back from the road about 20 feet, the Leonardo and Francisca Sanchez House (Figure 29) lies in a rural agricultural area in which a loose line of residences are interspersed with large field parcels. A low picket fence covered with vines separates the front yard from the road, and the surrounding yard, landscaped with occasional low-lying bushes, is set in a grove of Siberian elms. A small wood outbuilding is located to the rear of the house. Cecelia Reyes, the niece of the owner, noted that although the house continues to be occupied it is in need of repair.

The house is a good example of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype built around the turn of the century. It employs an irregular linear plan with multiple discreet entries. The building is one story with a flat
roof and a parapet with a concrete coping. Several metal drainage pipes project from the parapet. The foundation is earthen with a protective concrete skirting and sidewalk later added. The walls consist of adobe bricks with a white stucco cement coating. All of the windows are double-hung wood sash with 1/1 and 4/4 lights, and all have wood trim and concrete sills. The six doors are wood panel, each with a large square light.

Although the project team was unable to secure a copy of earlier evaluations of the property, Cecelia Reyes, a niece of the owner, noted that her father grew up in this house and estimates that the house may have been built around 1910, a date consistent with its plan and materials. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL. It does retain a high degree of integrity, however, and its location in an area formerly used for cotton production suggests the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.

19. 1064 Sanchez Road
41EP4386; SSE 599
UTM: Zone 13
E 380220 N 3494380

Located on the southeast side of Sanchez Road and set back from the road about 10 feet, the Antonio Alamanzar House (Figure 30) lies in a rural agricultural area in which a loose line of residences are interspersed with large field parcels. A low picket fence perpendicular to the road separates the small front yards of the apartment units facing the road, and Siberian elms are scattered around the house’s periphery. The Bernal Lateral skirts the building to the north. Small outbuildings are located at the rear of the house. Although portions of the house are occupied, its exterior evidences deterioration.

The building reflects the incremental growth characteristic of many houses within the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype. Rectilinear in shape, it has a massed plan and is one story with a flat roof and a parapet. A concrete coping caps the parapet of the older portions of the building, and a parapet composed of concrete blocks caps the parapets of two rear additions at the southeast and southwest corners of the building. The foundation is unknown, but a
20. 1519 Camino Barrial
41EP4441; SSE 584
UTM: Zone 13 E 380160 N 3494810

Located on the south side of Camino Barrial and set back from the road about 10 feet, the house is situated in a semi-rural agricultural area. A single Siberian elm fronts the house while others are scattered to the rear where an additional residence built of concrete blocks is located. The house appears to be in fair condition.

The building reflects the incremental growth characteristic of many houses within the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype with subsequent additions appearing both at the northwest portion of the front and in three portions to the rear (see Figure 7). Rectilinear in shape, it has a massed plan and is one story with a flat roof. A parapet with concrete coping extends around the older portions of the building, and an asphalt shingle shed roof with a slight overhang marks the two rearmost additions. The foundation is unknown, but a protective concrete skirting has been added around the entire building. The walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. Fenestration is varied and includes aluminum sliding, metal casement and double-hung metal frame windows, most of which have concrete sills. There are six entries, several with a multi-panel wood door with a single large light, and three with exterior metal security doors.

A previous report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and designates the property as potentially eligible for nomination to the NRHP. According to the present owner, Jose Alamanzar, the house was probably built before 1900 (Weedman et al. 1994a:115). Due to substantial alterations, particularly the increased massing of the building, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.
21. Ruin located North of 1150 Gallo Road  
41EP4654; SSE 594  
UTM: Zone 13 E 379920 N 3494100

The ruin of the Benigno Escajeda House (Figure 31) is located in a field approximately 50 yards north of a residence located at 1150 Gallo Road and approximately one quarter mile south of the junction between Gallo and Cuadrilla Roads. Agricultural fields line the building on its east and west sides with the San Elizario Lateral 300 feet to the west. The immediate site is overgrown with weeds and small Siberian elm trees.

Although the building has deteriorated to the extent that it no longer has a roof and some walls are badly cracked, its plan and materials reflects the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype. It has a two-unit linear plan, and exposed vigas in its eastern unit and milled bond beams in its western unit suggest that it was constructed incrementally and that it had a slight parapet with a flat roof. The foundation is earthen, and the walls are adobe brick. Partial adobe brick walls, now appearing as buttresses at the west end of the building, may indicate that the building once had additional units. Window frames at the rear of the building include milled lintels. A milled beam and log serve as lintels over the two front entries, and two four-panel wood doors remained hinged to the jambs.

A previous report classifies the building as of the Territorial subtype and notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s. It also designates the property as having no architectural significance that would make it potentially eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:284). Another report lists the date of construction as 1883 (HHM 1994:153). Substantially deteriorated, however, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 31. Ruin located North of 1150 Gallo Road.
22. Ruin located at 12931 Cuadrilla Road
41EP4448; SSE 597 A
UTM: Zone 13 E 379730 N 3494480

The ruin of the Bonafacio Madrid House (Figure 32) is located on the north side of Cuadrilla Road along a semi-rural section of the road in which once predominant cotton fields are giving way to recent residential development. The grounds around the ruin are overgrown, and an adobe garage at the rear of the property is deteriorating.

Although badly deteriorated, the house offers sufficient evidence in its plan and materials to identify it as an example of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype. It has a four-unit linear plan that employs a T shape. The building is one story with a flat roof. A partially broken parapet reveals exposed milled vigas resting on milled bond beams. The foundation is earthen with a concrete skirting added around the entire house. Stucco cement has fallen away from the walls’ adobe brick. Window frames indicate 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows with wood lintels and concrete sills. A bathroom marks an addition at the rear of the building. The doors have been removed from each of the entries. The interior ceilings consist of tongue and grove boards.

A previous report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and designates the property as having no architectural significance that would make it potentially eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Weedman et al. 1994a:284). Substantially deteriorated, the building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 32. Ruin located at 12931 Cuadrilla Road.
23. **12829 Alarcón Road**  
**41EP4627; SSE 625**  
**UTM: Zone 13 E 379280 N 3494760**

Located along the north side of Alarcon Road and approximately 100 yards east of the San Elizario Lateral where it serves as the eastern boundary of the San Elizario Historic District, the house is part of a traditional linear settlement that becomes more concentrated as the road nears the village center. A low chain-link fence surrounds the yard with the house set back approximately 20 feet from the road. Several Siberian elms are dispersed across the property, which is occasionally used as a livestock pen. The house appears to be in fair condition.

The building is one story and has a linear plan with a T shape characteristic of the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype (Figure 33). The original core of the house consists of two units and has a flat roof with a stepped parapet. The front wing of the T plan also has a flat roof stepped below the parapet of the core unit with a slight overhang above its entry, and the rear wing, also stepped below the core unit, has a shed roof. On an earthen foundation, the house consists of adobe bricks with a brown stucco cement coating. Located on the east-facing wall of the front addition is a **nicho** holding the icon of a saint and illuminated with a fixture attached to the wall. Fenestration includes five 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows. Two entries facing on the same corner courtyard consist of a wood panel door with a single light and a single French door.

An earlier report notes that the building appears in aerial photographs taken in the 1930s and classifies the building as bearing no architectural significance (Weedman et al. 1994a:266). The estimated date of construction is 1910. The building is not considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 33. **12829 Alarcón Road.**
24. **10604 Sparks Circle**  
41EP3650  
**UTM: Zone 13 E 380450 N 3503400**

Facing east on Sparks Road at its junction with Rio Vista Road and set back across a broad lawn about 80 feet from the road, the Sparks House is located in a subdivision marked by recently constructed ranch houses and manufactured housing. Mature Siberian elms line the roadside, and at the perimeter of the lawn a low chainlink fence lines the property. Arborvitae and bushes landscape the house, and portions of a silo associated with the DeGroff Ranch, of which the property was once a part, remain. Other outbuildings include a garage with a white stucco cement coating and small storage sheds.

The building’s details include elements characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival subtype, especially as the subtype embraces a modest range of details associated with the Pueblo Revival Style (Figure 34). It has a complex-irregular plan in which a longer wing to the south and a shorter wing to the west radiate from a core with a curved facade where the main entry is located. The building is one story with a flat roof and a parapet. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. Exposed vigas project over each of the windows. Fenestration consists of 6/1 double-hung windows with wood sashes that are single or paired and vary in size and a large fixed picture window. Concrete sills, including a continuous sill that wraps around the corner windows at the southeast corner, underlie each of the windows, and lintel-like milled lumber is bolted to the wall above each window (see Figure 10). The main entry faces onto a small concrete porch with a tile floor and consists of a multi-panel wood door. Other entries include wood panel doors with single large lights. A wall with an arched entry to the backyard connects the building to the garage to the west.

The property was included in a previous survey of the silos associated with the former DeGroff Ranch when it was listed as SSE 78 A (Weedman and Brown 1993:63). The report noted that the DeGroff farmhouse was removed in the 1940s and that only the silos remain. According to the present owner, Peyton Sparks, the house was built in 1943 on the site of the former house. The building is an interesting example of an effort to adapt Pueblo Revival elements such as wood lintels and vigas as ornamental features to a local residence. The building retains a good deal of architectural integrity and would be eligible for listing in the NRHP or as a THL in a Multiple Property nomination treating the area’s early twentieth-century agricultural history.
25. 511 Horizon Road
41EP5343
UTM: Zone 13  E 379480 N 3502330

Facing south on Horizon Road about 10 feet from the road and approximately one half mile southwest of its junction with North Loop Road, the house lies along a section of the road in which a broken line of houses and businesses are gradually replacing fields. Siberian elms form a grove around the house, and residences are located on nearby parcels of land to the rear with the Ysleta Lateral passing 100 feet to the north. The building is vacant and in deteriorating condition.

The building reflects how local builders working within the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype continued to adapt to outside influences into their construction practices throughout the 1920s. It has a rectangular massed plan and is one story with a flat roof. At the rear of the building there is a slight roof overhang with exposed rafters. The parapet extending around the front and sides of the building has a two-course brick coping. The foundation consists of poured concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. While most of the windows are boarded, rear windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash, and all have thick concrete sills. There are three entries, each with multi-panel wood doors. All of the doors and windows have narrow milled lintels.

Based on the materials and massing of the building, the construction date is estimated as about 1925. The building lacks the architectural significance to be considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL.

Figure 35. 511 Horizon Road.
Located about 40 yards south of North Loop Road at the city limits of Socorro, the Louis J. Burrus House (Figure 36) is set within a grove of evergreens, cottonwoods and Siberian elms. It is part of a former farm complex and lies along a section of the road where agricultural fields remain intact. A spur of the Ysleta Lateral bounds the complex to the north. The property’s current resident lives in a manufactured house about 50 ft north of the original farmhouse. The building is vacant and shows some signs of deterioration as do many of the surrounding outbuildings, most of which are of concrete block construction.

The building is a good example of the hybridization between imported and local building practices. Although it has a massed plan and a slightly pitched roof, its adobe brick and stucco cement construction suggests ways in which the Mexican-American Rural Vernacular subtype was adapted to embrace a broad range of influences. Its rectangular massed plan measures 51 by 48 feet and is one story. The broadly pitched roof has a corrugated metal covering and overhangs the building with boxed eaves and metal rain gutters. Wood shingle gables appear at the sides, with a batten door located at the south gable. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are adobe brick with a white stucco cement coating. Fenestration consists of multiple metal casement windows of varying sizes with large 20-light windows flanking the northwest corner. Heavy concrete sills mark each window with the sill at the northeast corner continuous. There are four entries, each with multi-panel wood doors, three of which have single lights. Two of the entries have small gable roofs with concrete support posts.

Earlier documentation of the property holds that the building was constructed about 1922 and employed a U plan in which the recessed portion was later filled in (HHM 1994:160). The report also notes that the residence was a part of a dairy farm, “the oldest such operation in the Socorro area.” Madeline Burrus Boswell, the daughter of Louis J. Burrus, confirmed that her father constructed the residence about 1930 and that although the original wood frame windows have been replaced the building retains its original plan. She also clarified that her father was not specifically a dairy farmer but did keep a few milk cows, selling their milk locally. Although the building lacks the architectural significance to be considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL, its role as an early farm residence and its location as a part of the linear settlement and field system pattern along North Loop Road suggests the contribution the building makes to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s historic agriculture.
27. 11391 North Loop Road
41EP5342
UTM: Zone 13 E 381380 N 3500440

Facing south on North Loop Road and set back from the road about 40 feet, the property lies along a section of the road where the roadside landscape remains largely agricultural with a broken line of houses set well off the road and surrounded by cotton fields. The Ysleta Lateral parallels North Loop Road immediately south of the house. A field with piles of dirt borders the property to the north, and a grove of Siberian elms set within an area fenced with corrugated metal sheets is adjacent to the house on the south. The building is rented and in good condition.

The building is a relatively rare example of the Spanish Colonial Revival subtype found in the study area but popular in the early suburbs of El Paso (see Figure 11). It has an irregular massed plan and is one story with a stepped parapet and a flat roof over the core of the house. Clay tiles appear over a small projecting room with a gable roof at the front and over a projecting room with a hipped roof at the north side. The foundation is uncut rubble masonry, and the walls are adobe brick with a brown stucco cement coating. Tile vents punctuate the walls, and exterior chimneys appear along the north and south walls. Windows are single, paired and grouped and consist of 4/4 and 6/6 lights as well as narrow 8-light fixed windows flanking the front entry. All the original windows have sills, and the focal front windows have a slight recessed arch above the center window as if to suggest a Palladian grouping. There are two entries; the front entry appears on a curved wall and is set within a recessed arch. The door has two panels topped by two narrow vertical lights. The metal casement windows at the room projecting on the north side suggest the early conversion of a rear porch.

The materials, massing, and decorative elements of the building suggest that the building was constructed in the 1920s, a date confirmed by the occupants. Although the building lacks the architectural significance to be considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP or as a THL, its location as a part of the linear settlement and field system to the rural cultural landscape associated with the area’s cotton-based agriculture.

28. Handball, or Rebote, Court
(adjacent to 12220 Socorro Road)
41EP 5352
UTM: Zone 13 E 379230 N3495800

Located along the south side of Socorro Road and set back from the road about 30 feet, the handball, or rebote, court is adjacent to the Rebote Bar. The recreational site is a part of the linear settlement plan along the roadway dating to before World War II that becomes more concentrated as the road nears the center of San Elizario 0.3 miles to the east. A gravel parking area defined by a line of railroad tie curbing and wood post and metal poles supporting lighting fixtures lines the court on the north side. Small wooden bleachers line it to the west. To the south of the court is a grove of Siberian elms and cottonwoods.

The handball court consists of a rectangular cement foundation measuring 21 x 51 feet. The court’s cement walls line the foundation on the south and west sides, rising to approximately 15 feet. A wire screen with a wood frame tops the wall at the east end of the court, and plywood panels and corrugated metal sheeting extend north from the east wall. Buttresses consisting of adobe bricks with a stucco cement coating and a concrete coping support the court’s walls on their exterior sides (Figure 37). Adjoining the court to the west is the Rebote Bar, and along the rear is a one-story linear house with a brown cement stucco coating.

According to Lorenza Madrid, a longtime resident of San Elizario, the rebote court was constructed in the 1920s. It served as a popular gathering place not only for handball contestants but for the entire community with dances held at the site during the 1930s. Sam Almanzar, a local resident, notes that the court was constructed by Nacho Juarez and Juan Rivera and that the Rebote Bar was constructed in 1942. The court continues to serve local residents with rebote competition conducted each Wednesday night. Although the handball court adjoins the bar to the west and the residence to the south, it is the most visible feature of the property. Because of its role as a gathering place for the citizens of San Elizario since the 1920s, it is a significant property and considered to be potentially eligible for listing as a discontiguous Contributing Property in the San Elizario Historic District listed on the NRHP and as a THL.
Conclusions

Of the 28 properties evaluated in this report 15 are not considered to be individually significant under Criteria A or C of the NRHP and warrant no further consideration as to their potential eligibility for listing. Thirteen properties, however, merit further discussion in terms of preservation planning in the Lower Valley.

The rebote court at 12220 Socorro Road is clearly associated with the Hispanic ethnic history and community planning and development areas of significance identified in the San Elizario Historic District nomination and dates to the last decades of the district’s Period of Significance. As such, the LVWD might consider amending the district nomination to include the court as a discontiguous Contributing Property.

The other 12 properties are located along the older roadways or in rural sections of Socorro and San Elizario. Two of those properties, 300 Clint Road and 10604 Sparks Road, retain high degrees of architectural integrity as to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and should be considered eligible for individual listing in the NRHP and as THLs should the LVWD decide to pursue further register listings in the area.

Ten other properties have been evaluated as having the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the development of agriculture in the area in the first half of the 20th century during the emergence of cotton as the area’s leading crop. All of these properties are located either along older roadways and reflect the traditional linear settlement pattern characteristic of the Lower Valley’s rural areas, or they are located in areas that are, or were previously, associated with early 20th century agriculture. While each of these properties can be characterized as “individually undistinguished,” and thus merit no consideration for individual listing, as a group they reflect an important era in the Lower Valley’s agricultural history. One way of addressing early 20th century cotton farming history in the area would be to consider the historic cultural landscape associated with that history and to treat the emergence of cotton growing as an historic context in a Multiple Property listing.

Within that context the following properties would have the potential of contributing further understanding to the settlement and land use patterns, circulation patterns, and the architectural practices associated with the cotton industry.

12013 Glorieta Road
12303 Glorieta Road
12007 Socorro Road
12212 Socorro Road
11391 North Loop Road
12300 Camino de la Rosa

Figure 37. Buttresses supporting a wall of the ballcourt.
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