

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Couse Pasture

Other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Quesnel St. not for publication

city of town Taos vicinity

State New Mexico code NM county Taos code 055 zip code 87571

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 entered in the National Register _____

 determined eligible for the National Register _____

 determined not eligible for the National Register _____

 removed from the National Register _____

 other (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
N/A	N/A	buildings
2	1	sites
N/A	1	structures
3	1	objects
5	3	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture- Agricultural Field; Animal Facility;
Irrigation Facility

Other- Art Studio

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture- Agricultural Field; Animal Facility

Landscape- Parking Lot

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Couse Pasture is approximately 20 acres and comprises some of the last open space in the town center. It has been used historically as an alfalfa field, corn field, and horse pasture irrigated by two *acequias* since at least the 1830s, and probably much earlier. E. I. Couse bought the property in 1921 to protect it as open-space and for conservation of its natural resources as well as preserve the viewshed from his studio. As a landscape, the pasture served as a subject and muse for E.I. Couse's paintings as well as other members of the Taos Society for Artists, who used Couse's home and studio as a gathering place between 1915 and 1927. The pasture depicts Taos' rural, agrarian history. There are two acequias on the property, connecting to the larger Northern New Mexico agrarian land-use and settlement pattern of Hispano Land Grants. The Couse Pasture was once a part of the holdings of the Cristobal de la Serna land grant and is within a 1/2 mile distance from the historic village "Don Fernando de Taos" center- the Taos plaza.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets, Section 7, pg. 1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture; Art

Period of Significance

1909-1936

Significant Dates

1909; 1911; 1913; 1914; 1921; 1929; 1931

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Couse, Eanger Irving

Sharp, Joseph Henry

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

1909-1936:

1909: E.I. Couse purchased home and studio

1921: E. I. Couse purchased pasture for conservation of its open-space

1915-1927: Taos Artist' Society gathered at Couse home and studio and pasture served as muse for artists' works

1928-1936: Couse and family make Taos permanent residence. Pasture is used for garden, pasture and remains preserved as open-space. E.I. Couse passes away 1936.

Couse Pasture _____ Taos
Name of Property

_____, New Mexico
County and State

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Couse Pasture is historically significant and eligible under Criterion B through its association with American painter Eanger Irving Couse as well as its proximity to Couse, Eanger Irving, Home and Studios and the Sharp, Joseph Henry, studios (both listed on the National Register). It is approximately 20 acres and comprises some of the last open space in the town center. It has been used historically as an alfalfa field, corn field, and horse pasture irrigated by two *acequias* since at least the 1830s, and probably much earlier. The pasture and design and location of the adjacent houses are reflective of the much larger regional pattern of settlement and land-use in Northern New Mexico- depicting land-use patterns as codified in the Laws of the Indies, thus making the property eligible under Criterion A.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets, Section 8, pg 1

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Couse Pasture _____ Taos
Name of Property

_____, New Mexico
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References (see section 9, pg 3)

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 20 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	113	448749	4029148				
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Approximately 21 acres bounded by Kit Carson Road (NM Highway 64) (northeast) and Quesnel Street (north), Paseo del Pueblo Sur (west) and Los Pandos Road (south). The pasture located south/southwest of the E.I. Couse House and Studios.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the pasture define the 20+ acres of open space with borders of cottonwood, willow and elm trees to the east, neighboring adjacent parcels in private ownership, and roadways that bound the open-space parcel- Couse Pasture.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Couse Pasture
Name of Property

Taos

New Mexico
County and State

e-mail

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Couse Pasture

City or Vicinity: Taos

County: Taos **State:** NM

Photographer: Ernie Atencio

Date Photographed: 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 4.

Latilla fencing bordering Couse Pasture (facing west)



2 of 4.

Historic acequia and Cottonwoods- northeast boundary



3 of 4.

Couse Pasture- facing south/southeast.



4 of 4 .

Couse Pasture- facing south/southwest



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Couse Pasture

Name of Property

Taos, New Mexico

County and State

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Name of multiple property listing

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Couse Pasture is approximately 20 acres and comprises some of the last open space in the town center. It has been used historically as an alfalfa field, cornfield, and horse pasture irrigated by two *acequias* since at least the 1830s, and probably much earlier. Large cottonwoods and Chinese elm line a historic acequia c. 1808-1815 (unknown name of lateral) which enters the property in the northeast corner. This acequia is currently unused with no visible structures. Additionally there is an acequia overflow or drainage that runs east to west through the middle of the property; another acequia marks the southern boundary; and a berm marks the northern boundary along Quesnel.

Naturally the pasture was a wet meadow, with several artisan springs. A very large willow in the northeast corner of the pasture (directly adjacent to US 64/Kit Carson Road) grows at one of the spring sites and there are remnants of both stone and concrete spring boxes and diversion ditches. The structures of the spring boxes have lost their integrity however the site itself contributes to the significance of this landscape. E. I. Couse bought it in 1921 to protect it as viewshed and muse and to conserve its natural resources. Couse also cultivated a few acres near the northern edge of the property, within close proximity to the historic spring, where he maintained a vegetable garden and cornfield for his family's use.

The two remnant acequias and the riparian vegetation and Cottonwood gallery following them contribute to the historic landscape features. Current vegetation includes some native bunch grass, chamisa (rabbit brush), and small exotic Chinese elms, where more grass and occasional corn once grew. Prairie dogs are an indication of poor land health, but could be easily restored with a little active management.

The acequias on the property connect Couse Pasture to the larger Northern New Mexico agrarian land-use and settlement pattern of Hispano Land Grants. The Couse Pasture was once a part of the holdings of the Cristobal de la Serna land grant and is within a mile distance from the historic village "Don Fernando de Taos" center- the Taos plaza. The pasture continues to depict Taos' rural, agrarian history. Currently the pasture is used for seasonal horse grazing and boarding and the Town of Taos leases approximately 1/2 acre of US 64 highway frontage for use as a municipal parking lot. Contemporary structures toward the northern end of the property include an open-sided shelter, a cedar latilla feeding trough, a circular, movable, metal-railed horse corral and a watering tank. These contemporary landscape features are non-contributing to the overall significance of the landscape.

In the context of the densely developed town center and rapid development throughout the community, the overall integrity of this property and value as a rural historic landscape is very high.

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Couse Pasture

Name of Property

Taos, New Mexico

County and State

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of multiple property listing

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Couse Pasture is historically significant and eligible under Criterion B through its association with American painter Eanger Irving Couse as well as its proximity to Couse, Eanger Irving, Home and Studios and the Sharp, Joseph Henry, studios (both listed on the National Register). It is approximately 20 acres and comprises some of the last open space in the town center. It has been used historically as an alfalfa field, cornfield, and horse pasture irrigated by two *acequias* since at least the 1830s, and probably much earlier. The pasture and design and location of the adjacent houses are reflective the much larger regional pattern of settlement and land-use in Northern New Mexico- depicting land-use patterns as codified in the Laws of the Indies, thus making the property eligible under Criterion A.

Arriving in Taos in 1902, Couse was primarily interested in authentic depiction of American Indians. Trained in the European Academic tradition, Couse's painting of Native Americans routinely garnered him awards and national recognition. The house and compound of adjoined buildings and studios (purchased in 1909) became the permanent home of Couse and his wife and two children in 1928, and served as a meeting and informal gathering place for the Taos Society of Artists between 1915 and 1927. Couse purchased the pasture property- across from his home and studio- to preserve its rural nature and the open-space it provided- both of which served as a muse for Couse and the Taos Society for Artists, who used Couse's home and studio as a gathering place between 1915 and 1927. Numerous adjacent historic structures are still in existence. It is directly associated with the Eanger Irving Couse House and Studio, a "National Trust Associate Site," across the street. It is also very near the Taos Downtown Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Couse Pasture is approximately 20 acres and comprises some of the last open space in the town center. It has been used historically as an alfalfa field, cornfield, and horse pasture irrigated by two *acequias* since at least the 1830s, and probably much earlier. Throughout the period of significance and continuing on to this day the pasture has depicted Taos' rural, agrarian land-uses and identity and is significant under Criterion A for its representation of settlement and land-use patterns in Northern New Mexico. There are two *acequias* and a return ditch (*desagua*) on the property, connecting to the regional agrarian land-use and settlement pattern of Hispano Land Grants. The Couse Pasture was once a part of the holdings of the Cristobal de la Serna land grant and is within a 1/2 mile distance from the historic village "Don Fernando de Taos" center- the Taos plaza.

Numerous adjacent historic structures are still in existence. It is directly associated with the Eanger Irving Couse House and Studio, a "National Trust Associate Site," across the street. It is also very near the Taos Downtown Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The two historic residences adjacent to the pasture are clustered on higher ground in the northwest corner. In earlier times the water table was higher and *acequias* more active, which kept the pasture fairly wet. Houses are clustered in part due to this fact, as well as the custom of not building on fertile, irrigated farmland.

The current land-use and significance of the pasture is consistent with its historic uses and value. It continues to serve the plein-air painters of Taos as a subject and muse and in its undeveloped state, honors Couse's desire to preserve the viewshed and integrity of its natural resources. In the context of the densely developed town center and rapid development throughout the community, the overall integrity of this property and value as a rural historic landscape is very high.

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Couse Pasture
Name of Property

Taos, New Mexico
County and State

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

Leavitt, Virginia Couse. *Eanger Irving Couse- Image Maker for America*, Exhibition Catalogue for Eanger Irving Couse-Image Maker for America, Albuquerque Museum, 1991.

Leavitt, Ernest E. *The Couse House in Taos- A History*. Unpublished draft manuscript, May 2004.

Nelson, Mary Carroll. *The Legendary Artists of Taos*. New York: Watson-Gutpill Publications, 1980.

White, Robert R. *The Taos Society of Artists*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983.

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Name of Property

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