

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries-complete applicable sections

** Note: This is an exact transcription of the original Nomination form from 1981 **

1. Name

Historic Taos Inn

And/or common

2. Location

street & number Paseo del Pueblo Norte not for publication?

city, Town Taos vicinity of New Mexico state 87571

state New Mexico code 35 county Taos code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moynihan

street & number PO Box 494

city, town Taos New Mexico state 87571

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Taos County Courthouse

street & number 105 Albright St Suite F

city, town Taos state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title State Register of Cultural Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Date federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved-date: _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

What is now the Taos Inn includes seven structures, four of them predating the creation of the Inn in 1934. Three of these structures form the front facade and the fourth is behind them. Because of the Inn's location, just north of the Plaza, this historic facade gives definition to the streetscape of Pueblo del Norte.

The seven structures included in the Taos Inn are the Martin House, the Tarleton House, the Hinde House, the Sandoval House, a block of rooms, and two detached structures. All are constructed of adobe which has been stuccoed and all are or were one story topped by a flat roof.

At the northwest corner of the complex is the Dr. T. P. Martin House. The house predates 1895 when Doc Martin purchased the property. It has an asymmetrical U-shaped plan with the patio at the rear. Except for removal of a front portal sometime before 1923, the front facade has been altered little. The patio continues to have its portal. The interior of the house has been remodeled to serve as the kitchen, dining room, and bar. To the rear of the Martin House is a newer structure which mirrors the plan shape of the other. It was constructed in 1934 on land Martin acquired in 1905. This section was built as guestrooms for the Inn and has been remodeled little.

To the south of the Martin House is what was the Henry Tarleton House. The abstract first mentions an eight-room adobe on the property in 1831. The Martins first acquired the house in 1910, but it went to his first wife in a divorce settlement. Janet Martin Schultz in turn sold it to Henry Tarleton in 1918 and he sold it to Doc Martin in 1928. The house which was transferred was one-story with a U-shape plan and the patio faced the street. The north wing of the U was slightly set back. It is to this structure that the most changes have been made. A second story was added to the U-shape and then a pyramid roof with a center cupola enclosed the patio. The front wall of what is now the lobby is set back.

The Hinde House appears on the 1908 Sanborn map. Part of the house has generally served as commercial property. From the 1920s to 1955 part of the property served as the Taos telephone office. It was not until 1955 that this section became part of the Taos Inn.

Behind the Tarleton House, across Barela Lane, is the Sandoval House. It is a one story, flat roofed house. Laureano Sandoval obtained the house through his ~-life, Magdalena Barela de Sandoval, in 1926. Abelino Barela had purchased the property in 1899. An 1861 will first mentions a house on the property. It was not until 1954 that it became part of the Taos Inn. Subsequently it was entirely remodeled on the interior, though the exterior is little changed.

There are two other structures on the property, both small adobe out-buildings in poor condition. One of these, now boarded up, was once a residence. It has an enclosed porch. The other structure is a garage and storage structure. The fenestration is simple with a garage door at the west end. Neither structure is contributing in its present condition.

As is the nature of a building created from existing structures, the street or west facade of the Taos Inn is complex. The Martin House is the north third of the front. A small corner section has an undulating parapet. The front window has an ornate wood molding topped by a crude broken scroll pediment. The remainder of the Martin House has a capped parapet with crenellations flanking an espadana. The espadana has a triangular niche. Constructed of adobe, this section of the facade has projecting piers with two double hung windows and a door between. Toward the center are a group of three windows, two of which are stuccoed in and a pair of casement windows to the right. The latter bank is an older set of windows which appear in 1923 photographs. All across the facade of this section are extending vigas. Other than changes to the fenestration, the facade has been changed little. The center section, once the Tarleton House, and now the entrance lobby, is set back. The lobby door is round arched. What was the end of the U-shape now has a Pueblid doorway at

the corner, paired wood frame windows below, and a simple oriel window above. At the south end of the Taos Inn is a one story adobe section which belonged to William E. Hinde. The facade has a door with a porch roof and a lintel-topped fixed glass window. The undulating parapet is slightly triangular.

The rear facade is equally complex as that of the front. It also reflects the four buildings which have been joined to form the Inn. The north end of the structure is the simply articulated, U-shape motel structure. The one story adobe walls are broken by varied window types and chimneys. The south side of this section is similar. The rear of what was the Tarleton House is two stories with a slightly overhanging flat roof. There are four sets of paired double hung windows for each floor. The windows have wood frames and a two-over-two pattern. At the south end of the rear facade is a one story section. The southeast corner is cut out for a patio which is enclosed by a high stuccoed wall.

Set in the L-shape of the main Inn building is the Sandoval House which is joined to the main section by a covered passageway. The house is now divided into three apartments. It is one story, is constructed of adobe, and has a flat roof with a parapet on the east and west and slight overhang on the south. To the north the house is connected to the main building by a covered passageway. Along the east and west sides of the house are portals. The one on the west is more elaborate with log posts and exposed milled lumber viga ends. All of the windows are double hung with wood frames.

The northern-most section of the Taos Inn is two U-shaped buildings which form a large patio. The western section, the old Martin House, is not quite square, while the newer section has the same dimensions as the open end. The newer or eastern building was constructed in 1934 as part of the Inn. Its fenestration pattern is regular with a door, a paired casement window, and a small, high window reflecting each room. There is a pitched overhang with exposed rafters along the patio.

The two patio sections are linked by a covered portal-like walkway. The supports are round posts and the ceiling covered with latias. In the north side of the transition is a swimming pool, added in 1960, which is partially enclosed by a high stuccoed wall. Opposite the pool, an enclosure for a jacuzzi has been built recently. It is the only substantial change to the patio area.

The front section of the patio is that of Doc Martin's House. This patio is surrounded by a portal. Because this section was once a residence and has been remodeled as a kitchen and dining room the fenestration is more irregular. Some of the original windows have been replaced with larger fixed panes and grouped double hung windows.

The Taos Inn was created in 1934 and the space organized from existing structures. Because of this change of use there are numerous changes to the buildings. The major ones are the addition of the U-shape building at the rear, and addition of a second story to what was the Tarleton House. However, since its creation as the Taos Inn, few changes have been made.

The most extensive remodeling has been made to the two story lobby. The center cupola serves as a skylight and exposed vigas and latias support the pyramid ceiling. Three log posts at the center of the room support and dramatize the cupola. At one side of the room there is a semi-circular balcony and at the other a straight mezzanine. The windows are set in round-arch niches. Because the lobby was once outside, double hung windows and exterior doors face into it. Done in Santa Fe Style, interior is typically New Mexican with massing, materials and quality typical of the 1930s. The walls are stuccoed and hung with Navajo rugs and Taos school paintings and the ceilings have vigas and latias. Across the top of the front wall is a mural painted by Ila MacAfee in 1935. She was one of the many artists in Taos at the time. The interiors of this period combine the warmth of adobe and interest of traditional architectural features with a modern comfortable atmosphere. In October 1978 there was a fire in the kitchen. The kitchen was redone, some windows replaced and smoke damage to the dining room repaired.

Both the interior and exterior remain much as they were in 1934. The Taos Inn is good condition, though a great deal of maintenance and general repair and repainting is needed.

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance – Check and justify below

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

Specific Dates – 1934

Builder/Architect – Mrs. T.P. Martin

Statement of Significance

In 1934, Dr. and Mrs. T. Paul Martin converted their house and an adjacent house into the Taos Inn. The location, one block north of the Plaza and Taos' major intersection, was prime for attracting guests. For many years the Taos Inn was the social gathering place for locals and tourists. Architecturally, the Taos Inn is a good example of the Santa Fe Style. The interior with its plastered walls, viga and latia ceilings, and heavy wood detailing is one of the few interiors of this sort that have been maintained.

The Santa Fe Style is one of the Southwestern Revivals that developed after the turn of the century. Its features include use of architectural elements found in Spanish Colonial and Pueblo architecture. These features include adobe construction, portals with posts and corbels, stepped massing, and heavy wood lintels over the fenestration. Interior features included viga and latia ceilings, plain plaster walls, and dark wood detailing. Although many examples of the Santa Fe or Spanish Pueblo Revival are found in New Mexico, few have interior features as unchanged as those of the Taos Inn. In addition, the Martin House is unusual architecturally because of the espadana on the front facade. This is a feature common to churches, but rare for dwellings. This feature may be as old as the house, as it appears in historic photographs. The Martins used their own house and the adjacent Tarleton House and an added section of rooms as the basis of their hotel. In later years they added the Hinde und Sandoval Houses. All four houses were constructed before 1908, as all appear on the Sanborn Map of that year. Martin's house predates 1895 when he bought it. The abstract refers to a house on the Tarleton property as early as 1881. Tarleton bought it in 1918. The first Mrs. Martin had obtained the house in 1910 and she sold it to Tarleton. Doc Martin and his second wife then bought the house in 1928. William Hinde, a blacksmith, came to Taos in 1904. From the 1900s through 1955, Hinde leased part of the house as the telephone office. The Sandoval House is first mentioned in the 1861 will of Lorenzo Tafoya. In 1899 the Tafoya family sold the house to Abelino Barela. Barela transferred the house to his son-in-law and daughter and they - Laureano and Magdalena Sandoval, sold it to the owners of the Taos Inn in 1954.

Prior to the creation of the Inn, the Martin House stood as a landmark in Taos because Doc Martin lived and worked there. Doc had come to Taos from Pennsylvania in 1895, He was the only doctor and his willingness to travel long distances for house calls made him one of the most beloved people in the Taos Valley. He died in 1935. Taos in the 1930s was a thriving place because of the many artists who worked there. The Taos School of Artists, Mabel Dodge Luhan, and the brief presence of D.H. Lawrence drew artists, intellectuals, and tourists from across the country. The Columbian, one of the town's few lodging places burned in 1928. Filling this void as a high quality Southwestern hotel, the Taos Inn was an almost immediate success. It became an important gathering place for Taoseños, tourists, and the artists who flocked to Taos.

It is because of its significance as an example of the Santa Fe Style, and its significance as a landmark in Taos, that the nomination is made in the name of the Taos Inn. This is not to discount the importance of the Martin, Tarleton, Hinde, or Sandoval Houses, though none of these houses had particular architectural significance. However, as a joined, coherent facade and as the Inn they do have architectural significance. In

addition, substantial changes were made to the individual structures, changes which removed existing features. Since 1934, few changes have been made and it remains an architecturally significant example of the Santa Fe Style.

Helen Martin owned and ran the Taos Inn from 1934 to 1946. She and her second husband sold it to S.C. Albright, Mary Albright, and H.J. Gerard, who, in turn, sold it to Hilda and Harold Street in 1946. The Streets owned it until 1972, when they sold it to the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Moynihan. The Moynihans owned the Taos Inn from 1972-1981, when they sold it to Bruce Ross, Feeny Lipscomb, and Scott Sanger. They closed it for renovation from October 1981 to June 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract for Taos Inn.

Waters, Frank. To Possess the Land. Chicago, 1973

Sanborn Maps, 1908, 1929.

Interview with Jack Boyer, January 26, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Taos

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A | 13 | 448700 | 4029120 |
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

State	code	county	code
State	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Threinen/Preservation Planner

organization Architectural Research consultants, Inc. date 30 January 1981

street & number PO Box 1158 telephone 505-842-1254

city or Town Albuquerque state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification Form

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ date _____

13. Legal Description – Continuation Sheet Item Number 10, Page 1

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Pueblo del Norte and an alley, proceed east for approximately 225 feet, crossing Barela Lane and continuing along the south wall of the garage, a small house, and a fence marking the property line, to the east property line; proceed north for approximately 122 feet along a fence marking the east property line to the north property line; proceed west for approximately 235 feet along a fence marking the north property line and continuing between two buildings and through the centerline of a common wall and along the outer edge of the Martin House to the east side of Pueblo del Norte; proceed south along the east edge of Pueblo del Norte for approximately 102 feet to the starting point'.

Taos Inn
Taos, New Mexico
Taos Quad, 1:24,000
UTM reference:
13/448700/4029120

