

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 1975 **

1. Name

Historic Kit Carson House & Museum

And/or common

2. Location

street & number 113 Kit Carson Road not for publication?

city, town Taos congressional district 1st

state New Mexico code 35 county Taos County code 055

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kit Carson Memorial foundation, Incorporated

street & number Box B

city, town Taos state New Mexico

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 None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved-date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Since 1952, the Kit Carson house has been a historic house museum, ably administered by the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc. It is owned by Bent Lodge #42, Masonic Order. Carson was a charter member of the parent Masonic Lodge in Taos, and it was this fact that led Lodge #42 to purchase the property in 1910 and restore it to its historic appearance. The Foundation is well endowed and has expressed interest in the Registered National Historic Landmark Program. The director is Mr. Jack K. Boyer.

The Kit Carson House is a single story adobe in the shape of a "U" with the right arm facing Kit Carson Avenue. From early deeds and descriptions of the property, plus historical photographs and drawings in the possession of the Foundation, it is known that the three rooms facing the street, plus the first one in the base of the U. are originals. The first three, living room, kitchen, and bedroom are authentically refurnished in period style--a combination of Spanish Colonial and Territorial. The fourth original room is devoted to displays on the life of Kit Carson. Offices and display rooms complete the building.

Though many improvements could be made in display techniques, the three refurnished rooms are exceptionally attractive and have a great deal of authenticity. The exterior is well preserved, and a period patio, with a typical Spanish mud oven, adds atmosphere to the place.

Boundaries

The landmark is bounded by the property lines of Tract 363, Map 18, Survey No.2 of the New Mexico State Survey of 1941. This tract is approximately 150' square, with its southern boundary running concurrently with the north curb of Kit Carson Avenue. This tract contains the Carson building alone.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other/specify
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific Dates – ca. 1843-1868 to Present

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance

The Kit Carson House, located on Kit Carson Avenue in Taos, was for twenty-five years the home of Kit Carson, perhaps the most renowned of the mountain men and free trappers who dominated the fur trade of the southwest. Taos in the second quarter of the nineteenth century was rendezvous point and winter quarters for many of the trappers in the west and southwest, who worked a great arc of country from the headwaters of the Rio Grande and the Arkansas River across deserts to the San Juan, the Gila, and the Salt, and the Colorado Rivers. In the process, they opened up trails to California and were the first Americans to make a lodgement there which became crucial to the Americans in the war with Mexico.

The Kit Carson House, built in 1825, was purchased by Carson in 1843 when he married Josefa Jaramillo, daughter of a leading family of Taos. To this home Carson returned from his duties as guide for John C. Fremont, as Indian agent, and as army officer in the Indian campaigns.

The U-shaped house, built in the Spanish Colonial style, is maintained today as a historic house museum by the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc.

History

From the early years of the fur trade, trappers found the village of Taos on the northern rim of New Mexico an excellent base of operations for trapping the southern Rockies and the elusive streams of the Colorado Basin. The plaza of Don Fernando de Taos attracted scores of famous trappers in the 1820's and 1830s--the Robidoux and Bent brothers, Ewing Young, Ceran St. Vrain, Hugh Glass, Milton Sublette, Pegleg Smith, Baptiste LaLande, Bill Williams, and the paragon of them all, Kit Carson.

They came to Taos because they worked the Southwest as free trappers, not members of company brigades as was the pattern farther north. For these independent agents, the fur traders and their stores in Taos took the place of the rendezvous and the company supply caravans to the north.

From Taos the trappers spread out in a great westerly arc. Having cleaned the surrounding mountains and the headwaters of the Arkansas and Rio Grande, they crossed the long silences of intervening deserts, finding beaver where it is difficult to imagine them today: the San Juan. the Gila. the Salt, the Colorado. Within five years they took \$100,000 in pelves (pelts) from these streams. In the process they reopened the old Spanish trails to California, making a lodgement there that would be critical in the Mexican War.

The trapper was a man of peculiar attributes, one of a reckless breed. Rufus Sage, a contemporary, describes him:

His skin, from constant exposure, assumes a hue almost as dark as that of the Aborigine, and his features and physical structure attain a rough and hardy cast. His hair, through inattention, becomes long, coarse, and bushy, and loosely dangles upon his shoulders. His head is surmounted by a low crowned wool-hat, or a rude substitute of his own manufacture. His clothes are of buckskin, gaily fringed at the seams with strings of the same material, cut and made in a fashion peculiar to him and his associates....His waist is encircled with a belt of leather, holding encased his butcher knife and pistols.

When he arrived at Taos, life became raw, crude, and boisterous. Here was a conglomeration of races, and behind the sun-baked adobe walls could be found games of chance and pleasures of the flesh. Tall Missouri trappers in buckskin hunting shirts strode the dusty walks, their long, matted hair hanging down from under slouching beaver hats. New Mexicans shielded from the sun by broad-brimmed sombreros leaned against the adobe walls. The eternal serape was swung over their shoulders concealing their faces, a hand appearing from the folds only to remove the cigarito from their lips. They scowled at the brawny Americans clattering past--and feared for the safety of their wives.

Arrival of a band of American trappers was often the signal for a fandango, most often held in the sala of a householder. The musical instruments consisted only of a guitar, a violin, an Indian drum. Senoritas in silver jewelry and bright beads took their chances with men who seized their partners in the fashion of a grizzly bear and proceeded to whirl, jump, stamp, and whoop, using figures unknown to any but the inventor, who might borrow Indian deviations from the "scalp" and "buffalo" dances. Should a Mexican seek to join the throng, he was quickly sent sprawling by a trapper who warned, "Quit, you darned Spaniard! You can't shine in this crowd."

In this context Kit Carson grew to manhood. George Ruxton, who knew the mountain men well, described Carson at 30. Though a small man in the lank company that he led, Carson moved the experienced Ruxton to this paean:

And, the last in height, but the first in every quality which constitutes excellence in a mountaineer, whether of indomitable courage, or perfect indifference to death or danger; with an iron frame capable of withstanding hunger, thirst, heat, cold, fatigue and hardships of every kind; of wonderful presence of mind and endless resource in time of great peril; with the instinct of an animal, and the moral courage of a man--who was "taller" for his inches than KIT CARSON, paragon of mountaineers? ... No name was better known in the mountains--from Yellow Stone to Spanish peaks, Missouri to Columbia River--than that of Kit Carson.

If Ruxton was right, then the house where this man lived is indeed a fitting symbol of an era--an era that left few historic sites except the long scattered ashes of dead campfires in a wilderness even now inaccessible.

The Kit Carson House was built in 1825. Carson bought the house in February 1843 when he married Josefa Jaramillo, daughter of a leading Taos family. The house was their permanent home for the next 25 years, their lifetime together, for they both died in 1868. Family tradition says that Carson bought the house as a wedding gift for his beautiful young bride. Records reveal that six and possibly seven of their eight children were born here.

Carson's vocations during his married life with Josefa allowed him very little time to be with his family in this house. But it was always home for him because the family was always there waiting for him when he did return from his various trips with John C. Fremont and others and from his duties as Indian agent and as an Army officer. The longest period of time that Carson was with his family in this house was from January 1854 to June 1861, when he was agent for the Utes with headquarters in Taos. For several months in 1854, before moving his family back to Taos from the ranch on Rayado Creek east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Carson used the Taos home as his agency headquarters. With the return of his family, however, he found space in another building.

There were three periods during the 25 years that the Carson family was not living in the Taos home. The first was during the years 1851 to early 1854 when Carson was ranching on the Rayado. The second was during his tenure as commanding officer at Fort Garland, May 1866 to November 1867. The third and final move from Taos was to Boggsville, Colorado Territory, early in 1868. There Josefa died in April, and Carson died one month later at nearby Fort Lyon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brenice Blackwelder, Great Westerner, The Story of Kit Carson (Caldwell, Idaho, 1962).

Frank McNitt, The Indian Traders (Norman, 1962).

Milo Milton Quaife, ed., Kit Carson's Autobiography (Chicago, 1934).

George Ruxton, Life in the Far West (Norman, 1951).

Stanley Vestal, Kit Carson (Boston, 1928).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately .29 acre

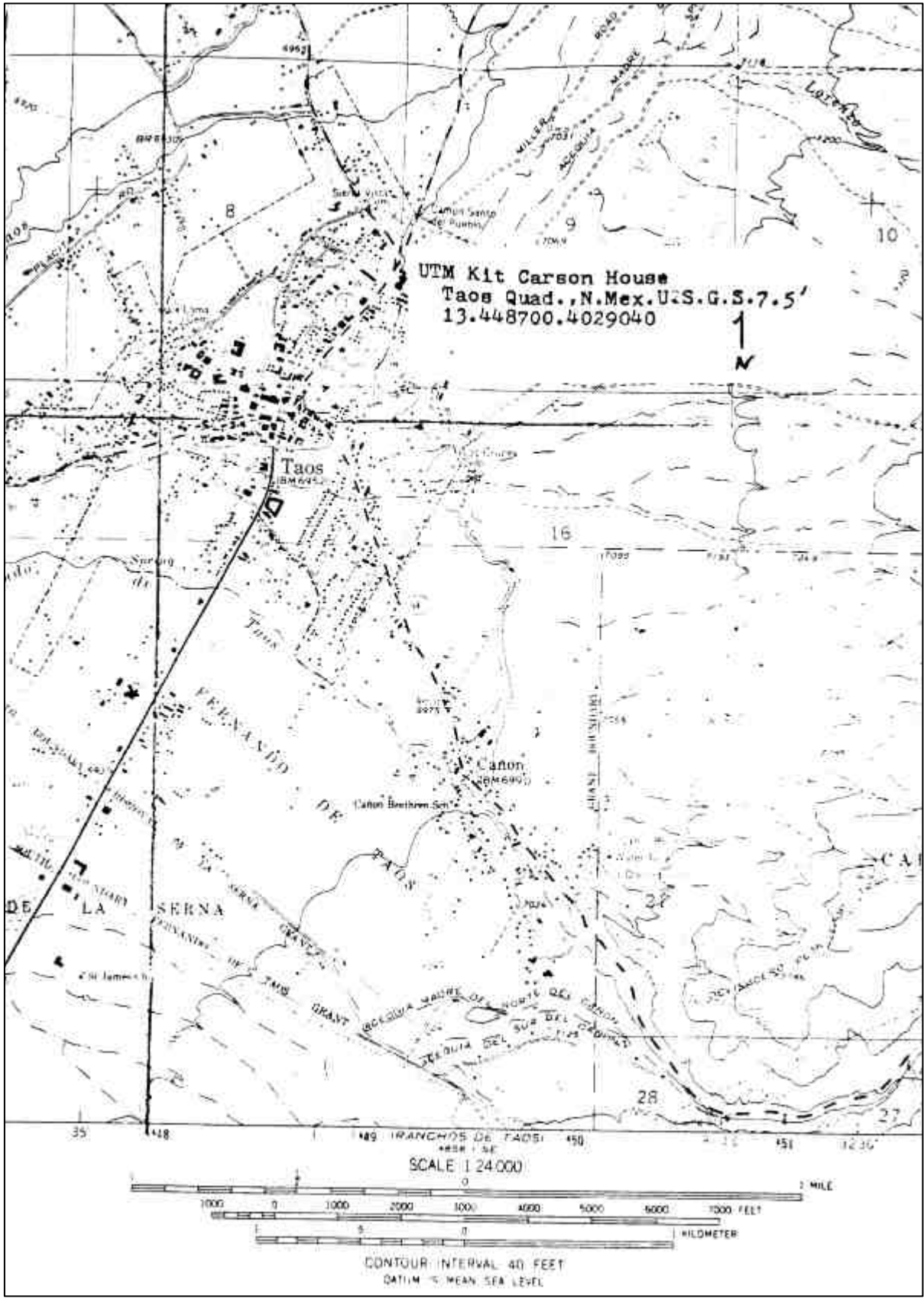
Quadrangle name Taos

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References – Center point of a property less than 10 acres.

A | 13 | 448700 | 4029040
Zone Easting Northing

B | _____ | _____ | _____
Zone Easting Northing



APPENDIX A – PROPERTY DEEDS

** These are exact transcriptions of the original deeds **

ABSTRACT OF TITLE TO THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF
LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF TAOS, COUNTY OF
TAOS, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, BEING BOUNDED ON
THE NORTH AND WEST BY THE LANDS OF THE
LIEBERTS, ON THE EAST BY THE LANDS OF MRS. WM.
T. HINDE, AND ON THE SOUTH BY THE PUBLIC ROAD
LEADING TO THE CANON DE TAOS; AND ALSO
KNOWN AS PRIVATE CLAIM NO. 244, PARCEL NO. 2 OF
THE JOY SURVEY OF THE TAOS PUEBLO GRANT.

KIT CARSON PROPERTY

GRANTORS - The United States of America

Instrument - PATENT

Dated November 1, 1864

SIGNED - by PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- by EDWARD P. NEILL, Secretary

GRANTEES - THE PUEBLO OF TAOS and to the successors and assigns of the said Pueblo of Taos

Description

Grants Survey No. 8, containing 17,360.55 acres, in the Township 25 and 26 N. of Range 13 East of the New Mexico Meridian; here follows description by metes and bounds;

But with the stipulation as expressed in the said act of Congress "That this confirmation shall only be construed as a relinquishment of all title and claims of the United States to any of the said lands and shall not affect any adverse valid rights should any exist."

This abstracted property,

Private claim No.244, Parcel No. 2,

Of the Joy Survey of the Taos Pueblo Grant, filed in the office of the United States Land Office, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, lies within the outboundaries of the Taos Pueblo Grant.

GRANTORS	- Thomas Boggs	Instrument	- Deed
SIGNED	- Thomas Boggs	Dated	- Sept 7, 1869
GRANTEES	- Casimiro Andrada	Consideration	\$500.00
		Recorded	9/7/1869

Description

A Dwelling House, with stables and corrals formerly the property of General Cristopher Carson deceased and bounded as follows to-wit:

On the East by the houses and property of E. Poynter deceased; on the West and North by the property of Benign Lee, and on the South by the Cañon Street of the Plaza of Fernando.

GRANTORS	- Casimiro Andrada and Wife	Instrument Dated	- Deed - 8/31/1874
SIGNED	- Casimiro Andrada Carmen Andrada nee Romero	Consideration Recorded	\$305.00 8/31/1874
GRANTEES	- Thomas O. Boggs		

Description

A certain house, lying and being, within the Town of Fernando de Taos, New Mexico, and formerly owned by the late General Cristopher Carson and bounded as follows: viz on the South by the main road, leading from the Cañon to the Plaza of Fernando de Taos, and on the East by land belonging to Maximiano Romero and formerly the property of Ed Pointer deceased; on the West by the House of Doña Benigna Lee.

GRANTORS	- Desideria Tafoya and Antonio Jose Martínez y Córdova	Instrument	- Warranty Deed
SIGNED	- Desideria Tafoya and Antonio Jose Martínez y Córdova	Dated	- 11/1/1889
GRANTEES	- P. H. Healey	Consideration	\$100.00
		Recorded	5/1/1890

Description

All the following described lot or parcel of land, situated, lying, and being in the county of Taos and Territory of New Mexico to wit:

One House and lot containing four rooms of twenty two joists or “vigas” bounded on the South by the public street, on the East by the property of Daniel Archuleta, on the West by property of Rafael Esquibel, and on the North this property has six yards of land belonging to this said property and adjoining the property of Daniel Archuleta which bounds it on the North. This said property as above described, was formerly the property owned by Kit Carson; for better description and title of which see Deed of Vicente Mares, administrator and executor of the Estate of Ma. de la Luz Tafoya, recorded in the Book B, No. 7 Pages 56, Record of Wills of Taos Co. N.M.

GRANTORS	- Donanciano Cordova, Treasurer and Ex-Officio Collector in and for the County of Taos, Territory of New Mexico	Instrument	- Tax Sale
SIGNED	- as above by Inc.Valdez, Deputy	Dated	- May 4, 1900
GRANTEES	- Alois Liebert (Senior)	Consideration	- \$20.00 tax years 1897, 1898
		Recorded	- May 7, 1900

Description

All the following described lot or parcel of land and real estate which was assessed against the Singer Mfg co, situated, lying and being in Precinct No 1, in the county of Taos, Territory of New Mexico, to-wit:

The house formerly known as the abode of Col Kit Carson in the town of Taos, N.M. bounded on the South by the public street, on the East by the property of Daniel Archuleta, on the West by property of A. Liebert, formerly of Rafael Esquibel, and on the North six yards out of the house and bounded by property of Daniel Archuleta, deeded on Nov 1, 1889 to P. H. Healy, agent of the singer Mfg. Co. by Desideria Tafoya and husband.

Entry No. 5

GRANTORS	- Ramon Sanchez, Treasurer and Ex-Officio Collector in and for the	Instrument	- Tax Deed
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	County of Taos, Territory of New Mexico	Dated	- May 12, 1903
SIGNED	- as above by Enrique Gonzales, Deputy	Consideration	- \$20.00 tax for years 1895, 1897, 1898
GRANTEES	- A. Liebert	Recorded	- 5/23/1903

Description

Sets forth the sale of the property assessed against the Singer Mfg. Co., for the sum of \$20.00 by Donanciano Cordova then collector as foresaid (Collector of Taxes for the County of Taos) to A. Liebert, he having made the highest bid.

Conveys to said A. Liebert his heirs and assigns, the premises so sold as foresaid, situated in the Town of Taos, in the County of Taos, and Territory of New Mexico, to-wit;

One house containing four rooms bounded on the South by the public street, on the East by the property of Daniel Archuleta, on the West by property now owned by A. Liebert, formerly belonging to Rafael Esquibel, and on the North six yards out of the house and bounded by property of Daniel Archuleta, said house is more particularly known as the abode of Col Kit Carson, which on 1st of Nov. 1889 was transferred by Desideria Tafoya and her husband to P. H. Healy, agent of the singer Mfg. Co. and deed recorded in Book A No 9 pages 415 & 416.

GRANTORS	Alois Liebert	Instrument	- Warranty Deed
		Dated	- Jan 28, 1904
SIGNED	As above	Consideration	- \$1.00
		Recorded	- 6/29/1904
GRANTEES	Mary L. Dolan		

Description

All the following described lot or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the County of Taos and the Territory of New Mexico. To-wit;

One lot in the town of Taos described as follows to wit: running from North to South 41 feet long to a point Southeast of a certain wall belonging to Daniel Archuleta deceased, thence from East to West 362 feet to a wall of A. Liebert, thence from a point Southwest of said wall 19 feet to a northerly direction to a to a point northwest of said wall, thence from East to West 12 feet to the said wall of said Liebert, also one house consisting of three (3) rooms, and known as (KIT CARSON HOUSE) bounded as follows: on the North by property of Daniel Archuleta deceased on the South by public street, on the East by property of A. Liebert.

GRANTORS	Mary L. Dolan	Instrument	- Warranty Deed
	P. M. Dolan, her husband	Dated	- April (blank) 1910
SIGNED	As above	Consideration	- \$1,000.00
		Recorded	- Feb. 7. 1911
GRANTEES	Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. Of New Mexico		

Description

All the following described lot or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the County of Taos and the Territory of New Mexico. To-wit; The property known as the "Kit Carson" property bounded on the South by the public street leading to the Cañon de Taos; on the West by house and lands of the Liebert Estate; on the North by lands of the Liebert Estate and lands of Manuel Montoya; on the East by lands of Manuel Montoya, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the tract and running thence northerly along the east side of the house and lands of said Liebert Estate ninety (90) feet and four (4) inches; thence easterly along south side of lands of said Liebert estate thirty five (35) ft. and nine (9) inches; southerly twenty (20) ft; easterly twenty three (23) ft. and four (4) inches and southerly sixty nine (69) ft. and ten (10) inches all along the property of said Manuel Montoya to the place of beginning.

Entry No. 8

GRANTORS	Gavino Trujillo and wife Juanita S. Trujillo	Instrument	- Quit Claim Deed
		Dated	- 11/18/1889

SIGNED Gavino Trujillo
Juanita S. Trujillo

Consideration - \$50.00

GRANTEES Daniel Archuleta

Recorded - 7/30/1891

Description

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated in said town of Taos, county of Taos and the Territory of New Mexico; and bounded and particularly as follows to-wit; One of the North by a lot of ground belonging to Josefa Tafoya, on the South by the public street running East and West by the house and lot belonging to Maximiano Romero, on the West by the house and lot belonging to Luis Tafoya said House and lot has 38 feet running East and west and 47 feet north and south for a description of said property see deed from Vicente Mares Administrator recorded in Book B No. 7 page 56 records of Taos County.

Entry No. 9

GRANTORS	Josefa Tafoya	Instrument	- Warranty Deed
		Dated	- 6/31/1893
SIGNED	Josefa Tafoya by her mark	Consideration	- \$25.00
		Recorded	- 4/3/1893
GRANTEES	Daniel Archuleta		

Description

Una cierta pieza de casa constante de quince vigas que esta situada en la plaza de Fernandez de Taos en la casa que era antes de la finada Ma. de la Luz Tafoya, dicha pieza de casa la hube de haber tenido como Dona o herencia que la dicha finada me lo asedio al tiempo de su muerte y esta contenida en sus correspondientes derechos a saber; Por el norte con tres pies dicha pared estos tres pies mas linda con propiedad de Alois Liebert por el Sur con cuarenta y nueve pies y once pulgadas que linda con propiedad de la dicha segunda parte, por el Oriente tiene treinta y cuatro pies y ocho pulgadas que linda con propiedad de la misma segunda parte, y por el Poniente es la misma cantidad de treinta y cuatro pies y ocho pulgadas que antes están dichas lindando al dicho rumbo del poniente con propiedad del ante dicho Alois Liebert dicha pieza de casa don dichos piezas y derechos.

A certain part of house consisting of fifteen vigas situated in the town of Fernandez de Taos in the house belonging to the late Ma. De la Luz Tafoya, said part of house I obtained as a gift or inheritance that aforesaid ceded to me at time of her death, and is located with its corresponding rights to wit: north three of said wall, these three feet are bounded by property of Alois Liebert, South, forty nine feet, eleven inches that are bounded by property of said second part, East it has thirty-four feet eight inches bounded by property of same second part. West is the same measure of forty feet eight inches as said before bounded in western direction with property of said Alois Liebert, said part of house with mentioned paths and rights.

Entry No. 10

GRANTORS	Vicente Mares	Instrument	- quit Claim Deed
		Dated	- 1/16/1894
SIGNED	As above	Consideration	- 35 pecked sheep Or \$52.50
GRANTEES	Daniel Archuleta	Recorded	- 1/16/1894

Description

The following described lot or parcel of land and real estate, situated, lying and being in the County of Taos and Territory of New Mexico, and better described as follows, to wit: Seventy feet from North to South, and fifty three feet from East to West joining with property of Maximiano Romero on the East, to have and to hold, all and singular, the above mentioned and described premises.

Entry No. 11

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF TAOS,
NEW MEXICO

Petition for the appointment of Administrators of the
Estate of Daniel Archuleta

Oct 27, 1903

CLOSING OF ESTATE-

By Julian Archuleta, Administrator of the Estate of
Daniel Archuleta, on January 4, 1905

GRANTORS	Julian Archuleta, Administrator Of Estate of Daniel Archuleta	Instrument -	Warranty Deed Dated Dec 29, 1904
SIGNED	Julian Archuleta	Consideration	\$100.00
GRANTEES	Tomas Hartt	Recorded	1/10/1905

Description

Todo el siguiente descripto pedazo o porción de tierra, situado y estado en Taos en el condado de Taos y Territorio de Nuevo Méjico a saber: Una casa de 5 pisos y con sus linderos por el Sur la calle Publica, por el Oriente con propiedad de los herederos de Max Romero, y por el Norte con el mismo Romero y por el Poniente son propiedad de P. M. Dolan

All the following described piece or parcel of land situated In Taos, Taos County, Territory of New Mexico to-wit: A house of five rooms and boundaries are: South, public street; East property of the heirs of Max Romero, and North by same Romero, by property of P.M. Dolan.

GRANTORS	Tomas Hartt and his wife	Instrument –	Warranty Deed
	Virginia Hartt	Dated	Jan 2, 1905
SIGNED	Tomas Hartt	Consideration	\$100.00
		Recorded	1/10/1905

Description

Todo el siguiente descripto pedazo o porción de tierra, situado y estado en Taos en el condado de Taos y Territorio de Nuevo Méjico a saber: Una casa de 5 piezas y son sus linderos por el Sur la calle publica, por el Oriente y Norte con propiedad del finado Max Romero, y por el Poniente con propiedad de P. M. Dolan.

All the following described piece or parcel of land situated In Taos, Taos County, Territory of New Mexico to-wit: A certain house consisting of 5 rooms and boundaries are: South by public street; East and North by property of late Max Romero, West by property of P.M. Dolan.

Entry No. 14

GRANTORS	Julian Archuleta y his wife	Instrument -	Warranty Deed
	Natibidad G. Archuleta		Dated Sept 5, 1907

SIGNED as above, witness, Don Graham Consideration \$190.00
GRANTEES Jose Montaner Recorded Sept 5, 1907

Description

Todo el siguiente pedazo o porción de tierra, situada y estando en Precinto No. 1, en el Condado de Taos, Territorio de Nuevo Méjico a saber: Una cierta casa conteniendo 5 piezas y son sus linderos: Por el Sur la Calla Publica; por el Oriente y Norte con propiedad del finado Max Romero; por el Poniente con propiedad de P.M. Dolan.

All the following described piece or parcel of land situated and being in Precinct No. 1, Taos County, Territory of New Mexico to-wit:

A certain house containing five rooms and its boundaries are: On the South by the Public Street; on the East and North by property of the late Max Romero; on the West by property of P.M. Dolan.

GRANTORS	Jose Montaner and Wife	Instrument -	Warranty Deed Dated 9/9/1908
SIGNED	Jose Montaner Mariquita M. Montaner	Consideration	\$1.00 and other valuable considerations
GRANTEES	Manuel Montoya and Wife	Recorded	10/3/1908

Description

Todo el siguiente pedazo o porción de tierra, situada y estando en Precinto No. 1, en el Condado de Taos, Territorio de Nuevo Méjico a saber: Una cierta casa conteniendo 5 piezas y son sus linderos: Por el Sur la Calla Publica; por el Oriente y Norte con propiedad del finado Max Romero; por el Poniente con propiedad de P.M. Dolan.

All the following described piece or parcel of land situated and being in Precinct No. 1, Taos County, Territory of New Mexico to-wit:

A certain house containing five rooms and its boundaries are: On the South by the Public Street; on the East and North by property of the late Maximiano Romero; on the West by property of P.M. Dolan, said property was obtained from Julian Archuleta et al to Jose Montaner by a Warranty Deed dated Sept 5, 1907 and registered in the office of County Clerk, and Ex-officio Recorder en Book A No. 15 page 615, Records of County of Taos, New Mexico.

GRANTORS	Manuel Montoya	Instrument -	Warranty Deed
	Eduviges C. Montoya, his wife		Dated Jan 7, 1911
SIGNED	As above	Consideration	\$10.00 and other valuable considerations
GRANTEES	Masonic Grand Lodge of New Mexico of A. F. & A. M.	Recorded	1/7/1911

Description

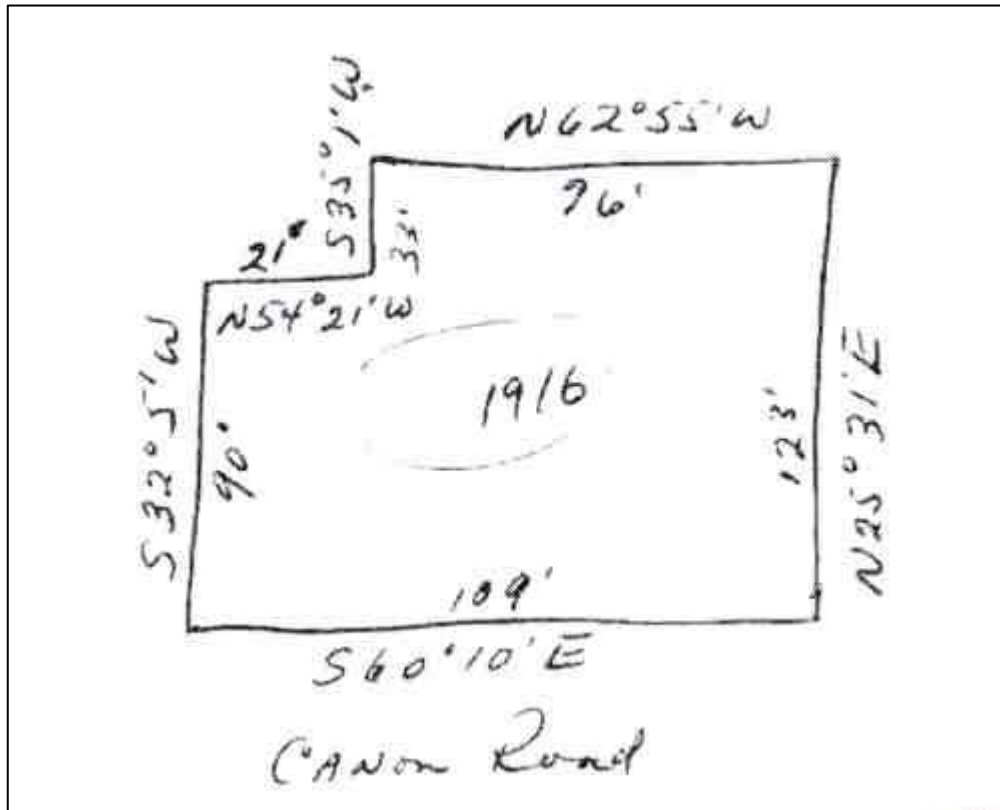
All the following described piece or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the County of Taos and Territory of New Mexico to-wit:

A certain dwelling house containing five rooms finished and three rooms unfinished and is bounded South by the Public Street; and the former Kit Carson house now property of the Masonic Grand Lodge of New Mexico. On the North and East by property of the late Maximiano Romero deceased. On the West by property of P.M. Dolan and the Property of the Masonic Grand Lodge of New Mexico. This is the same property purchased by the vendor from Jose Montaner and wife on the 9th day of September 1908 and is recorded in the recorders office of Taos County in Book A, No 19 page 170 on the 3rd day of October 1908.

GRANTORS	Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico.	Instrument -	Bargain and sale deed with Lien for \$600.00
SIGNED	As above by Amos W. Pollard Grand Master	Dated	Feb 16, 1916
GRANTEES	Bent Lodge #42, A.F. & A.M. Taos, New Mexico	Consideration	of the premise and \$1.00
		Recorded	3/21/1916

Description

The following real estate situated, lying and being in the County of Taos, State of New Mexico to-wit: commencing at a point on the line of Carson Street in the Town of Taos, New Mexico, from which the quarter corner on the north side of section 17, township 25 north, range 13 east, New Mexico Principal Meridian, bears North 68°24' West 1184.5 distant; thence running South 50°10' East 109 feet along the North line of Carson Street; thence North 25°31' East 123.5 feet; thence North 62°55' West 62 feet; thence South 35°1' West 33 feet; thence North 54°24' West 21 feet; thence South 32°5' West 90 feet to the place of beginning, being known as the Kit Carson property, and containing twenty-nine hundredths (.29) of an acre, and being situated within the north-east quarter of section 17, township 25 North, range 13 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian.



GRANTORS	Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico	Instrument -	Release of Lien Dated June 30, 1921
SIGNED	As above by Francis E. Lester Grand Master	Consideration	Full payment of indebtedness.
GRANTEES	Bent Lodge #42 of A.F. & A. M. of Taos, New Mexico	Recorded	7/18/1921

Description

Whereas heretofore, on the 16th day of February, 1916, the party of the first part herein executed and delivered to the party of the second part herein a deed of that date for certain real estate known as the Kit Carson Memorial, more particularly described in said deed reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description, and which said deed was duly acknowledged and duly recorded in Volume A-23 page 643 of the records of Taos County.

And whereas in and by said deed a lien was retained to secure the payment of the sum of six hundred dollars, evidenced by the promissory note of the party of the second part;

And whereas the indebtedness so secured has been fully paid and discharged;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the premises and the sum of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said party of the first part does hereby acknowledge the payment of indebtedness, and does hereby release the real estate described in said deed from the lien retained to secure the payment of said indebtedness, and does hereby consent that this release of said lien to be made a matter of record.

It is understood and agreed, however, that this instrument is not intended to waive or release any other condition in said deed contained, except the lien for said indebtedness hereby expressly released.

APPENDIX B

THE KIT CARSON HOME - A MASONIC PROJECT

Of interest to Masons in New Mexico and elsewhere is the Kit Carson Home and Museum located in Taos, New Mexico, which is owned by Bent Lodge No. 42 of Taos and operated by the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc. The Kit Carson Home is now one of the most popular attractions in the old historic town of Taos and is gaining much renown throughout the United States.

Brother Christopher (Kit) Carson was initiated on 29 March 1854, passed on 17 June 1854, and raised on 26 December 1854. in Montezuma Lodge No. 109, A. F. & A. M., Santa Fe, Territory of New Mexico. By the beginning of 1859 there were at least ten Masons living in Taos and vicinity who had for some time been holding Masonic sessions mostly in the rear of Brother Ceran St. Vrain's store on the Taos Plaza. They applied for and received dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Missouri on 16 November 1860 to form Bent Lodge No. 204 at Taos. The new Lodge under dispensation was named in honor of Brother and Governor Charles Bent who had been massacred in Taos during the Taos Indian Rebellion of 1847. Brother Kit Carson demitted from Montezuma Lodge to become a charter member and the first Junior Warden of the new Bent Lodge No. 204. The Grand Lodge of Missouri issued the Charter of Bent Lodge on 1 June 1860 with the following officers - Dr. A. S. Ferris as W. M., Ferdinand Maxwell as S. W., Kit Carson as J. W., Ceran St. Vrain as Treasurer, and Joseph Beuthner as Secretary. Kit Carson was elected as Senior Warden in 1861, but was never to serve in the East because of his absence from Taos while in the service of the United States Army during the Civil War period 1861 to 1867. By 1865, so few Masons were left in Taos to attend Lodge, it was decided by the remaining members to surrender the Charter to the Grand Lodge of Missouri until such time as there were sufficient members again living in Taos to open and carry on Lodge communications. Though the Charter was not officially recorded as having been surrendered to the Grand Lodge of Missouri until 14 May 1866, the minutes of Montezuma Lodge NO. 109, in Santa Fe, reveal that on 7 January 1865 Brothers Kit Carson, Ceran St. Vrain, Alfred Bent (son of the deceased Brother Charles Bent), and Joseph Beuthner were affiliated with this Lodge in Santa Fe.

The Kit Carson Home, now a famous landmark, was built in 1825 and was purchased by Kit Carson in 1843 as a wedding gift for his beautiful bride, Josefa Jaramillo, member of a very prominent Taos family. The building was to be their permanent home for the next twenty-five years, their lifetime together. Within its thick adobe walls, six and probably seven of their children were born and reared along with several captive Indian children who had been freed by Kit from their captors, and with several members of the Bent and Jaramillo families. Within its thick adobe walls too, many famous men of that period were overnight guests and were royally entertained by the Carsons. It was a simple but comfortable Taos home.

The various vocations of Kit Carson during his married life with Josefa allowed him very little time to be with his family in this house, but still it was always home for him. His family was always there awaiting him on his return from the various scouting trips with John C. Fremont and other officers, and later from his duties as Indian Agent and as an Army Officer during the Civil War period. During his 25 years or marriage with Josefa, the longest period or time that Kit was with his family in this house was during the time he served as Ute Indian Agent from January, 1854, to June, 1861, when he had his Agency headquarters in Taos.

The first or three periods that the whole Carson family did not occupy the Taos house was during the years or 1851 to early 1854 when Kit again tried to ranch - this time on the Rayado south of Cimarron. Kit went to the Rayado in April, 1849, to start work on the ranch and to build a house there. He did not move the family from Taos until 1851 when he had completed the ranch house. Accepting the appointment as Ute Indian Agent on 6 January 1854, Kit moved the family back to Taos. The second period of time that the family did not live in the Taos house was from May, 1866, to November, 1867, when Brevet Brigadier General Kit Carson was serving as Commanding Officer of Fort Garland, Colorado, the first time in his military career that he could have his family with him on an Army Post. There were other times however during the Civil war days when the family did visit Kit at various Army installations and may have stayed for a short time, but these were merely visits and not permanent moves.

Of course, the third and final move from Taos was early in 1868 when Kit, having resigned from the

Army and being quite ill, moved the family to Boggsville, Colorado. After a period of illness due to an old injury caused by a fall with his horse, Brother Kit Carson followed his wife Josefa in death on 23 May 1868 at Fort Lyon, where Kit had gone seeking medical attention for his old injury. Their bodies were later brought back to Taos for reburial in the American Cemetery in May 1869.

The house and property in Taos was sold on 7 September 1869 by Thomas O. Boggs, administrator of the Carson Estate, to Casimiro Andrada. A good description of the original house is still to be discovered, as the early deeds just name it as the home of Kit Carson. The deed from Boggs to Andrada merely says, "A dwelling house with stables and corrals, formerly the property of General Christopher Carson." A deed, dated in November, 1889, describes the home then as "a house containing four rooms of twenty-two vigas." This describes the house some 20 years after the Carsons had died, and what changes may have occurred in the interim are not known, as yet. The property changed ownership six times before becoming Masonic property in 1910. A photograph taken in 1908 shows the Kit Carson Home to be in a very dilapidated condition - doors were off their hinges, window panes were broken, the porch roof was nearly gone, the roof on the building was in such poor condition that it had collapsed in one of the rooms, and the building was being used as a stable for burros.

After the burials of Kit and Josefa Carson in the American Cemetery in Taos, the cemetery was renamed the Kit Carson Cemetery in honor of this famous American. Records show that a headstone on Kit's gravesite was erected by the Grand Army of the Republic in 1890, and very soon souvenir hunters began to chip off pieces of the stone. It became so damaged that the Masons of Taos started a movement that was taken over by the Grand Lodge of New Mexico which bought and erected an iron fence around the two graves. At the same time an appropriate headstone was placed on Josepha's grave. Grand Lodge Officers officiated at this ceremony held on 15 July 1908 which was attended by Masons from ten different States. A photograph of this group taken in front of the Kit Carson Home is on display in an exhibit entitled "KIT CARSON, FREEMASON" in the Kit Carson Home and museum.

After some 44 years without an active Masonic Lodge in Taos, Bent Lodge No. 2 was organized and received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of New Mexico on 20 October 1909. A search into the minutes of Bent Lodge No. 42 reveals that one of its very first items of business was the formulation of plans to purchase and restore the Kit Carson Home. There were to be many rough days for Bent Lodge before enough money was available to purchase the property. Permission was authorized by the Grand Lodge for Bent Lodge to circulate among other Masonic Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction an appeal for funds to aid the purchase. But the help received from these Lodges plus all that the members of Bent Lodge had contributed still was not sufficient to buy the property. So the Grand Lodge of New Mexico then lent to Bent Lodge the balance of the money needed for the purchase with the proviso that the property could never be disposed of and that one room was always to be used as a memorial to Brother Kit Carson.

After the purchase of the property, money was still needed to restore the building to its original state. Various means were used to raise these needed funds. The Taos Masonic Ladies held a series of dinner parties to help the Lodge to raise the money. A menu of one of these delicious meals, now hanging in the Carson Museum, lists 25 items of food for the modest price of 35 cents! Members of Bent Lodge donating materials and labor finally completed the necessary repairs to the old home. The building was then rented as a private residence for many years. Brother Francis T. Cheetham, who wrote a number of historical articles on Masonry, on freemasons, and on persons, including Kit Carson, lived in the house for many years. It was occupied for a time by Mrs. Lupe Carson, wife of the deceased Kit Carson II, and her family. The various tenants of the home did allow the few visitors to Taos at that time to visit the home of our famous Brother, which partially met the conditions of the original agreement with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

By the Mid 1930s, the business section of Taos began to expand up Kit Carson Street and the Old Home then became business property, and the few tourists were still able to see the interior of Kit's old home. But as the number of visitors to Taos increased with the years, so did the demand and pressure of these tourists increase to have the Kit Carson Home opened to the public as a historic home rather than as a business shop. The time finally came when it was very difficult to keep a business tenant in the building because of the distractions to his business by the many questions and interruptions of the tourists. In the mid 1940's, our late Brother Floyd Morrow who was then renting the ~home for his leather craft shop began collecting historical

articles and using two of the rooms as a museum. This filled a bit more of the Grand Lodge requirements, but as time passed Brother Morrow found that trying to operate a small museum along with his regular business was growing more and more difficult and that it demanded more of his time than he could allow. The growing popularity of the Kit Carson Home now posed a serious problem to Bent lodge No. 42.

In 1949, a group of Taos citizens and a Kansan who were all interested in Kit Carson organized the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization. Its purposes were to help perpetuate the memory of Kit Carson and to aid in any manner the Kit Carson Home and the Kit Carson Cemetery. During the next few years as charter members dropped their membership in the Kit Carson Memorial Fund Inc., their places were filled by Taos Masons; and by early 1952 all of its members were members of Bent Lodge No. 42.

Because of the ever increasing pressure of the tourists and the plight of Brother Morrow in trying to earn a living with his business in the Kit Carson Home, the incoming Worshipful Master of Bent Lodge in January 1952 appointed a Lodge Museum Committee, instructed to study the situation at the Kit Carson Home and to report its recommendations to the Lodge. After serious study by this committee, in May 1952 a joint meeting was held by the Board of Trustees of Bent Lodge, the Lodge Museum Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc. to seek a solution to this problem. Since all members of these three groups were also members of Bent Lodge No. 42, with several serving on all three Boards, it was not difficult to arrive at a harmonious conclusion. Their report made at the next communication of Bent Lodge recommended that the Lodge Museum Committee be consolidated with the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc.; that the Kit Carson Home be leased to the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc., for \$1.00 per year; and that the group be authorized to maintain and restore the Kit Carson Home and to develop and operate it as a historic home and museum, a fitting memorial to Brother Kit Carson. This would finally fulfill the intent of the members of Bent Lodge when they purchased the property in 1910 and would meet all requirements of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. The members of Bent Lodge approved these recommendations by unanimous vote, and Brother Floyd Morrow was appointed to serve as first curator of the Kit Carson Home. Then to release the remaining rooms of the Kit Carson Home for museum use, Bent Lodge had a large room measuring 20 feet by 30 feet built onto the building for Brother Morrow to house his leather craft shop. Now at last, the Kit Carson Home was actually all opened to the public without a tenant occupying any part of the old home.

But it was soon noted by the members that the organizational and purpose structure of the Charter and By-Laws of the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc. were not sufficient to meet all of its needs. So, in 1953, the Kit Carson Memorial Fund, Inc. was reorganized and rechartered as the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc., still a non-profit organization now composed entirely of members of Bent Lodge No. 42. Its purposes and scope of activities were greatly enlarged by this new reorganization. The House now was to be operated entirely as a historical home and museum with no private business connected with it in any way. Since members of the foundation also serve as the Lodge Museum Committee, reports are made to Bent Lodge concerning all of its activities. This reorganization was timely as Brother Morrow decided that he must move to another location if he was to continue his business and earn his livelihood. Receipts or the admissions to the Home were not sufficient to pay a full time employee. But all the effort and time by Brother Morrow was not to have been in vain, for he had started the museum and from this start it was to grow into a National Historic Landmark.

In January, 1954, Brother Jack K. Boyer, present Director-Curator of the Kit Carson Home and Museum and the Executive Secretary of the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc. volunteered his services as Curator of the Kit Carson Home. Under his direction, additional restoration was done in the interior of the building which included the concealment of electrical lines, rebuilding fireplaces, replastering and repainting interior walls, and in the patio rebuilding the well house and an outdoor oven. To operate the home, a receptionist was hired on a 30% commission of the admission fees to visit the home.

In 1955, the Curator then started to arrange the three original rooms which faced Kit Carson Street and furnish them as a home as much like Carson's home as research revealed, using those Carson items on hand and either borrowing or buying furniture of the Carson period. The entrance was moved from the front door on Kit Carson Street to a side door into the fourth room, which faced into the patio. To stimulate interest and to fulfill the requests of visitors about information concerning Kit Carson, the Foundation published two new

short biographies - one entitled KIT CARSON by our deceased Brother Francis T. Cheetham and the other entitled THE REAL KIT CARSON by Marion Estergreen. At the same time, the Foundation republished with permission the booklet KIT CARSON by Edgar Hewett and KIT CARSON'S OWN STORY OF HIS LIFE as edited by Blanche C. Grant. Miss Grant's sister, Mrs. Ethel Cary had given the copyright and publishing right to the Foundation for this book. Money was borrowed to finance the publications and in two years the loan was repaid just from the sale of these books. Since that time, the Hewett booklet has been reprinted three times and the Autobiography has been reprinted once and also published in a cloth or hardback edition.

The Foundation concluded arrangements with Bent Lodge in 1956 and acquired the use of the large room previously built for Brother Morrow. This room was then divided into two smaller rooms with one being used for museum purposes and the other as the office and entrance room to the Home. This addition also allowed the fourth room of the Home itself to be used for exhibition purposes. So in three short years, the Kit Carson Home had exploded from three rooms into the Kit Carson Home and Museum of six rooms. In the entrance room, additional items such as postcards and other historical booklets were offered for sale along with the publications of the foundation.

It was now apparent that the Foundation had achieved more than it had originally planned. The volume of visitors each year increased in such numbers that in 1956 a new agreement was made by the Foundation with Bent Lodge to acquire the use of the old building along the north side of the Kit Carson property which in time has been proven to have once been a part of the Kit Carson Home. This building was composed of three rooms in a very poor state or condition, though two rooms had been partially restored to use. Two additional rooms of this old building had collapsed into ruins and had disappeared with time. In the new agreement, using funds furnished by both the Lodge and the Foundation, the three rooms were restored and the other two missing rooms were rebuilt. By the spring of 1959, the Foundation had completed the restoration and had moved into these five additional rooms. The Kit Carson Home and Museum was now comprised of the four original rooms of the Home, four additional museum rooms, the entrance and Museum Shop, the office and Library, and a storage room - eleven rooms in all. This expansion entailed new plans for exhibits within the various museum rooms. The fourth room of the Home, which had suffered structural changes was now designated as the Kit Carson Room in which displays were to be developed telling of the various phases or careers in the life of our illustrious Brother - These exhibits still to be developed are entitled as follows - KIT CARSON, THE YOUTH; KIT CARSON, THE MOUNTAIN MAN; KIT CARSON THE RANCHER; KIT CARSON, THE SCOUT; KIT CARSON, THE INDIAN AGENT; KIT CARSON, THE SOLDIER; KIT CARSON AND HIS FAMILY; KIT CARSON, THE LAST DAYS; and of special interest to all Masons is KIT CARSON, FREEMASON. This exhibit also tells of the Taos Masons and their struggle to establish Bent Lodge No. 204 under the Grand Lodge of Missouri. It is hoped that it will be possible sometime to borrow Kit's Masonic Apron from the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and place it on display in this interesting exhibit for the enjoyment of the many thousands of Masonic visitors to the Home each year. The next room in the museum was designated the AMERICAN ROOM, and it will tell of the American friends of the Carsons and includes exhibits of photographs, guns, tools, saddles, plows, traps, and similar items. The SPANISH ROOM will tell about the Spanish friends of the Carson family and exhibits in this room will contain furniture, clothing, photographs, toys, furnishings, and like items. The INDIAN ROOM will contain our Archaeological Exhibits of the Southwest and particularly of the Taos area. This room is pertinent to our general theme within the Kit Carson Home, as Kit was involved with Indians all his life and served as Ute Indian Agent from 1853 until 1861. The last room of the Museum is the CHAPEL which is a replica of a chapel within a Penitente Morada and also includes other exhibits of religious articles such as was used during the lifetime of the Carsons. Mrs. Carson, being a Roman Catholic, probably had similar items in her home. I have used the future tense in describing the various rooms and the exhibits therein as it will take years to complete these displays. Research must be continued and then the various articles needed for the exhibits must be located and then obtained. Because of limited funding and limited staff, it is necessary to make long-ranged plans in order to finally accomplish the general theme of the Kit Carson Home and Museum.

Much time has been spent in personal contacts with all members of the Kit Carson Family which has

resulted in new confidence in the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation and has resulted in many loans and gifts of valuable articles belonging to Kit and his family. Likewise many other interested persons have also given or lent valuable items to be used in the displays in the museum. In 1955, the total value of the acquisitions of the Foundation were \$5,526.00 and during the next ten years gifts from the many donors had raised the valuation to \$104,231.00 by the end of 1965. This valuation does not include the value of any or the articles on loan to the Foundation.

Prior to 1959, a row books had been donated by various persons to the Foundation and were generally fiction with some biographies and other reference books. But in 1959, it became apparent that if suitable research was to be done to develop the planned displays for the expansion in the museum, a good research library would be necessary. The local public, while an excellent library, did not contain the type of books needed in our research. Our deceased Brother Paul B. Albright could be properly called the Father of our Historical Reference Library- Brother Albright had an excellent library and from his collection of Southwest Books gave many volumes of the badly needed books, and with this start, other interested friends began bringing in many of the other needed books. Miss Helen L. Williams of Taos has for years donated from \$500 to \$750 each year in books or funds to buy the books we need. These acquisitions are supplemented by periodic purchases as funds become available from the profits or our book sales in the Museum Shop - The inventory of the Historical Reference Library in 1955 amounted to only \$89.92, and at the end of 1965 this valuation had increased to \$12,137.00. We now have about 1500 volumes, 400 booklets and pamphlets, 2200 historical quarterlies and magazines, 300 maps, about 500 newspapers, 250 miscellaneous articles, 100 documents, and at least 2500 photographs and negatives. Our Historical Reference Library was originally planned just as a Staff Library, but it soon became known to the public. Now many persons doing research - special and professional writers, general writers, students from Grade School level to college, and the general public are using these facilities. These people are not only from Taos, but from every state and some foreign countries. Because most of our books are valuable, out-of-print, and almost irreplaceable, the books are used only in the library, and cannot be checked out for outside use. There are no fees or charges for the use of the library.

Also in 1959, necessary amendments to the Charter and By-Laws were made so that in 1960 the Internal Revenue Service designated the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation Inc. a non-profit charitable and organization having tax-exempt status. This statute allows the donors to the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation to claim Federal income tax deductions for their gifts within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. This exempt status, no doubt, has had some influence with donors of gifts to the Foundation.

With the many activities now performed by the Foundation and its Staff, the Director-Curator decided in 1961 that a DIRECTOR'S REPORT in booklet form should be compiled and distributed each year to the members of the Foundation and Bent Lodge, to the Grand Lodge Officers, to other Directors or Museums and Historical Societies, and to those persons who had donated to the Foundation that year. A mimeograph donated by Miss Helen G. Blumenschein in 1808 is used by the Director in making these reports. The New Mexico Masonic Lodge of Research has been added to the list to receive these annual reports.

As the result of several meetings between Miss Helen G. Blumenschein and the Director-Curator, Miss Blumenschein in 1962, generously gave to the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation her home property on Ledoux Street in Taos. This property had been the home of her parents. Ernest L. Blumenschein, a world famous artist and co-founder of the Taos Art Colony in 1898, and her mother, Mary Greene Blumenschein, a famous artist in her own right. The property was to be known as the Blumenschein Memorial with provisions in the agreement that no architectural changes were ever to be made to the building; that the property was always to be properly preserved and maintained; that Miss Blumenschein would furnish the funds necessary to complete the alternation of the home into four rental apartment; that Miss Blumenschein would furnish funds needed to adequately repair the buildings; that when funds became available from the Blumenschein Trust, the home would then be opened to the public as a memorial to the Blumenscheins. At the death of Miss Blumenschein, the money earned by the Blumenschein Trust would be paid each year to the Foundation for the above purposes. The rental of the four apartments, after the cost of maintenance and other expenses on the buildings is now used to pay a part of the salaries or the three part-time assistants who were then employed to work in the Kit Carson Home. These assistants

were now needed to allow the Director-Curator to devote more time to administrative duties as well as his usual curatorial duties and the management of the Blumenschein Property. Prior to this generous gift, The Director-Curator had only a part-time assistant during the busy summer season. So this was a most important gift to the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation.

But now many good things were coming to the Foundation. As the result of a study by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, an evaluation by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, and by the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Kit Carson Home, in 1963, was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. The acquisition of this status culminates over fifty years of effort by the members of Bent Lodge No. 42 to establish a permanent memorial to Brother Kit Carson. In July, 1963, dedication ceremonies of the Kit Carson Home as a Registered National Historic Landmark were held at the famous old home, attended by 18 descendants of the Kit Carson family, National Park Service officials, Grand Lodge Secretary, members of Bent Lodge and the Foundation, and many visitors. A detailed account of these ceremonies was printed in the August, 1963, issue of the NEW MEXICO FREEMASON.

The second good thing happened in October, 1963, when a second national recognition was accorded the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation. At this time, the American Association for State and Local History conferred its Award of Merit. Each year this National Association of Historical Societies studies and evaluates the outstanding work that has been done in the fields of State and local history. With the assistance of State and Regional Committees, the Association searches out projects of superior achievement and of quality and distinction. It gives an Award of Merit to those persons, groups, or organizations, who have contributed significantly to the study of local history or who have launched an innovation for disseminating local history, or whose work has led to a better understanding of our national heritage at the local level. The citation received by the Foundation read: "The American Association for State and Local History - Citation for Award, 1963, to the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation Inc., Taos, New Mexico. Award of Merit for the excellent work in the preservation and restoration of the original Kit Carson House. Voted at the Annual Meeting of the Association in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 4, 1963." A detailed report on this recognition was printed in the NEW MEXICO FREEMASON IN January, 1964. These two recognitions have certainly added to the national prominence and stature of the Kit Carson Home.

The third honor to the Foundation came late in 1965 when word was received that the Blumenschein Home had been designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. The same procedures had taken place before conferring this status on the Blumenschein Home as had done on the Kit Carson Home by the various governmental agencies. Such recognition is not attained by friendship or by seeking, but only through the previously explained impartial survey. In accepting the status, the Foundation again agreed to maintain its present standard of maintenance, preservation, and use of the buildings. In May, 1966, dedication ceremonies were held in the patio of the old Blumenschein Home. Since Mr. Blumenschein had also been a co-founder of the Taos Society of Artists, the families of the other members of the Society and other artists and writers who were in Taos from 1900 to 1930 were invited to a luncheon and to the ceremonies. Also attending the ceremonies were members of Bent Lodge and the Foundation, National Park Service Officials, and many other friends. Again Mr. Dan Beard, Director of the Southwest Region, National Park Service presented the Bronze Plaque designating the site as a Registered National Historic Landmark. Miss Blumenschein received the plaque from Mr. Beard and in turn presented to Worshipful Brother Jacob M. Bernal, Chairman of the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation. This plaque has been attached to the patio wall of the Blumenschein property facing Ledoux Street. Since acquiring this designation, Miss Blumenschein has been giving the Foundation the furniture, furnishings, a number of paintings, and many personal items of the Blumenschein family. All these items will be on exhibit when the Blumenschein Home is opened to the public in the future. Detailed plans of the floors and the walls are being drawn to show the proper location of the various pieces of furniture, furnishings and other items in the home so that the interior will be just as it was when occupied by the Blumenschein family. As it was stated before, the opening of the home to the public will await funds from the Blumenschein Trust. The restoration, maintenance, operation and the expansion of the Kit Carson Home and Museum have been accomplished from funds received primarily of the admission fees to visit the historic home. These modest fees, kept low to encourage large

families to tour the home, are only 30 cents for persons 16 years or over, 15 cents for youths of 8 through 15 years or age, and 10 cents for youth groups and school tours. No fees are charged the residents of Taos County. Admission receipts in 1955 amounting to \$3193.00 have grown to \$9827.00 in 1965 and should continue to increase with the years. This increase is most necessary if the needs of our growing museum are to be fulfilled. As stated before, the rental money from the apartments in the Blumenschein Home is used to help pay the salaries of the three part-time assistants after deducting the costs of maintenance and operation of the buildings.

The Museum Shop is our third source of revenue -particularly for the expansion of our Historical Reference Library. In 1955, the first year of operation, the sales in the Museum Shop amounted to \$1581.00 and these sales have now grown to \$5523.00 in 1965. From a modest selection of five books, all biographies of Kit Carson, we now offer a selection of over 300 volumes on Southwest history, Fur Trade and the contemporaries of Kit Carson, Western Military History and many on Archaeological subjects, with only three historical fiction titles.

During the years from 1954 until the present day, we have noted the growth of the Kit Carson Home into a nationally recognized Historic Site. Records of 1954 show that some 11,156 persons visited the Home, and this has grown each year until 52,547 persons toured the Home in 1965. Projecting this growth for the next ten years, it is estimated that between 85,000 and 100,000 persons will try to visit the Kit Carson Home in the year 1975 - The words "Will try" are used because the present day volume of visitors tax the available space within the Kit Carson Home and Museum, and this estimated increase In number of visitors will certainly become a terrific problem for the Foundation in 1975.

Museums of all sizes have their problems, and our growth is beginning to cause some very perplexing problems - some which should be solved in the very near future if they are to be solved at all. The two big problems, which in turn cause many other smaller problems, are the lack of money and the lack of space. The lack of money accounts for our small untrained and unstable staff. With over 52,500 visitors in 1965, the Kit Carson Home is no longer a small museum though it is in the matter of space or size. Because of the long hours that the Home must be kept open through past experience, it was found necessary and best to hire three employees to work part-time on shifts - two assistants working each day while the third employee is off. But because of the lack of funds, the Foundation is not able to pay a decent hourly rate; hence there is a constant turn-over in employees, though the hourly rate is increased as income increases. It is also necessary that these employees combine their duties serving as receptionists at the entrance desk, as sales clerks, and as janitors. The increased flow of visitors demands more of their time as receptionists and at the same time this increase in visitors also increases the janitorial work. With the increased maintenance load of the Blumenschein Property added to that of the Kit Carson Property, a man is badly needed to work full time with this important work. The maintenance of old buildings and the grounds are perpetual and must be done promptly and correctly, but again funds are lacking for this important employee. The growth has also increased the administrative duties of the Director which in turn has cut down the time needed for curatorial work. Each year more records are necessary and must be kept - these include the usual bookkeeping records, accession records of the gifts and purchases for the museum, records of loans, library records, operation Of the Museum Shop - all of this plus the heavy correspondence of the Foundation and the usual public relation duties. An Administrative Assistant is badly needed to free the Director of many of the above duties so that he can devote more time as Curator. Research and work on the exhibitions in late years have suffered because of this increase in administrative work. Also the increased work load in the Historical Reference Library, though not enough to require a full-time librarian, is much more than can be properly performed by the Director-Curator. Much of the library work could also be performed by the needed administrative assistant. So it is very apparent that our present staff of one full-time Director-Curator and the three part-time assistants is not adequate to effectively carry out all the duties now being performed in the Kit Carson Home and Museum.

Likewise, the lack of space within the Museum is becoming a factor that must be faced and solved in some manner in the very near future. The present traffic space within the Kit Carson Home and Museum is below all museum standards for the number of annual visitors. There is just not enough walking area, much less space to stand and view the exhibits for the present traffic flow through the Home and

Museum. Picture this in your own mind for the estimated visitors for the year 1975. Planned exhibits have been postponed because of the lack of exhibition area, and this in turn curtails the overall theme of the Home and Museum. In addition, the many valuable articles now being acquired by the Foundation are being stored instead of being exhibited. All of the available storage space at the Kit Carson Home and at the Blumenschein Property is full and two large collections recently acquired are being stored in the Director's badly needed garage. Efforts to acquire the property to the north of the Carson Properties have been unsuccessful to date, and this is the only direction in which the Museum can expand and acquire storage space, even if the purchase of the property were possible. Then the necessary funds for the purchase would have to be raised which raises another problem itself. So each problem and its solution pose another problem. But the Foundation and its Director would be remiss in their duties if attempts were not planned and made to meet these contingencies. So the lack of funds affects the lack of space, and in turn the lack of space affects the lack of funds. But a ten-year program has been planned and is now in effect which should solve these many perplexing problems. So it may be reported that the plans and the future of the Kit Carson Home and Museum and the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation are stable and will perpetuate the memory of our famous Brother Kit Carson. The future is bright and clear for these two Masonic Projects - the Kit Carson Home and the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc., under the sponsorship of Bent Lodge No. 42. A. F. & A. M., of Taos, New Mexico

Jack K. Boyer, P. M. - Director-Curator - 1966