

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

LOS POBLANOS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

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incorporates the original house on the site, and has a large study at its center, a room which is also the main entrance to the formal west garden. Servants' quarters and bedrooms are to either side. The two family bedrooms in this wing and the three in the south wing have New Mexican corner fireplaces, and are served by three bathrooms. On the south end of the east wing are the owners' dressing rooms and bathroom and a sleeping porch, now slightly remodelled to serve as a greenhouse, which balances the mass of the living room. Interior floors in the bedroom wings are hardwood; Dutch doors lead from the bedrooms into the portal.

Bainbridge Bunting summarizes the architectural quality of this elegant, comfortable house by noting that the "detail employed. . . is a combination of Colonial and Territorial elements with splendid zaguan gates equipped with a wicket serving as the main entrance, while pedimented lintels, double-hung windows, and a brick coping crowning the parapets recalled the Territorial legacy."

To the west and northwest of the house are two outbuildings designed by Meem in 1932 (the garage complex) and 1937 (the housekeeper's quarters). Both use the stylistic vocabulary of the main house at a smaller scale: the brick coping, Territorial pediments above the windows, open portals. The garage building faces east, and includes a high-ceilinged room (probably an early addition) which houses a 12-foot tall room-sized wood cooler for fruits and vegetables. Adjoining the garage on the south are a series of rooms facing south into the west garden: the ironing room, silver room, clothes room, and the chauffeur's quarters. The housekeeper's quarters contain a small apartment and storage rooms.

The formal west garden between the house and the Griegos Lateral is one of the outstanding pleasures of Los Poblanos. Designed in 1933 by Rose Greeley, a landscape architect, the garden features raised planting beds (which may at one time have included what must have been the only parterre in New Mexico) bordering walkways that cross at the garden's center. At the east end, a walkway leads over an adobe-style bridge above a semi-circular pond: from the pond a narrow water channel runs down the center of a path that leads to a square fountain watered by a cast iron cupid holding a shell above his head. The formality of the garden is offset by the pebble designs executed by New Mexico folk artist "Pop" Shaeffer, who signed his work in pebbles at the edge of the fountain; a particular delight is the circular patio at the south end of the garden with pebble animals set in concrete shields all along the edge.

The cutting garden, set between the house and the greenhouse, was also formally laid out in Rose Greeley's design. Raised beds radiate from a central square, and are labelled for asparagus,

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STATE NEW MEXICO

Date Entered NOV 15 1978

Name

Location

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Mountainair
Torrence County

Luhan, Mabel Dodge, House

Taos
Taos County

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