

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION
NEW MEXICO STATE REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

FORM A
Revised 05/18/07

CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Number: 763
LA Numbers(s):
HCPI Number(s):

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION
NEW MEXICO STATE REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 827-6320

1. **Name of Property:** Hernández-Manby House (Additional Documentation)

2. **Location of Property:**

County: Taos

Municipality: Taos

Address or Rural Location: 133 Paeso del Pueblo Norte

Congressional District: N/A

Vicinity of: N/A

3. **Ownership of Property:** (Check one or more as appropriate)

Private: State: Federal: Multiple:

Name: Taos Center for the Arts

Address: 133 Paeso del Pueblo Norte

Address: Taos

Address: New Mexico

Not for Publication:

4. **Accessibility of Property:**

Open to

the Public:

Not Open

to the Public:

Visible from a

Public Thoroughfare: Yes

6. **Category of Property:**

Buildings: Structure: Site:

Object: Collection: Other (Specify):

Historic District:

7. **Present Use of Property:** (Check one or more as appropriate)

Agricultural: Governmental:

Museum:

Scientific:

Commercial: Grazing:

Park:

Transportation:

Educational: Industrial:

Residential:

Work in Progress:

Entertainment: Military:

Religious:

Other (Specify):

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8. Persons Completing Registration Form:

Name: Mary Hunzicker Dunn and Colette LaBouff
Organization: Taos Center for the Arts Alice Chavez-Villa
Address: 133 Paeso del Pueblo Norte
City: Taos
State: New Mexico
Phone: 575 758-2052

Summary:

The purpose of this additional documentation is to change the name of the Manby House, which was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties on January 25, 1980, to the Hernández-Manby House. It was believed that Arthur Manby was responsible for constructing the Taos residence in 1907. Recent scholarship, however, indicates that members so the Hernández family previously owned the house and outuidings, which they sold to Arthur Manby in 1899. Manby purchased an adobe 6-room structure, stables, and an adjacent building. The proposed new name for the property, Hernández-Manby House, more accurately reflects the contributions of the Hernández family and Arthur Manby in shaping the current appearance of the house. The property, it should be noted, is officially listed at the Taos Art Association, Inc., which was the current when the property was listed. The property was historically known as the Manby House.

Early History.

Arthur Rochford Manby immigrated from England to New Mexico in 1883 to seek his fortune. He had been trained as an architect in Belfast, Ireland. Between 1891 and 1898, Manby purchased seven parcels of land (about 23 acres) just north of Kit Carson's home and the old wall of Taos east of the public road to the Taos Pueblo. Between 1898 and 1900, Manby started building his "hacienda". Adobe bricks were made on the property and ceiling beams (vigas) were brought from the mountains by native/local labor. The house was built in the Pueblo style (one story) with walls two- to four-feet thick, a flat parapeted roof with canales, hardwood floors, custom wooden Spanish doors, and generally wood-framed single-pane casement windows. The house contained 19 rooms set in a square with three wings, eight kiva-style fireplaces, and two outdoor wells in addition to separate stables, a carriage house, an inner courtyard, and outer adobe walls. Behind the front ~12-foot-tall adobe wall and single gate opening to Paseo del Pueblo Norte was a second courtyard with flagstones set in thick grass leading to the front door. Manby had 200 lilac bushes planted facing Taos Mountain to the north. Property that is now Kit Carson Park and cemetery were planted with locust, linden, elm, and cottonwood trees, and laid out with curved walking paths and sunken pools. Manby also had cottonwoods planted along what is now Paseo del Pueblo Norte. Construction was completed by 1907. The Manby Hacienda was considered to be the finest and largest home in Taos with elegant Spanish furniture and fine oil paintings.

However, Manby was not a popular person and had few friends in Taos, based in part on his questionable methods for acquiring vast acreages of land around Taos from both Native Americans and

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Spanish colonial families. In July of 1929, a US Deputy from Santa Fe found what was believed to be Manby's headless body in one of the front rooms of his house and his head in the adjoining room. Questions remain today, however, as to the formal identity of the body.

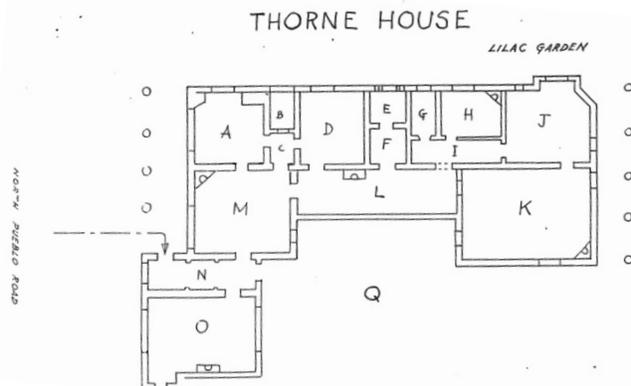
To pay for his accumulating debts, Manby enticed investors from both Europe and the US, including the multi-millionaire Dr. Victor C. Thorne of New York. Thorne held a mortgage on Manby's property, and following Manby's death, foreclosed on the property in 1931. Thorne sent his secretary, Helen Williams, to investigate the condition of the house. She found that the roof had fallen in, windows were broken, and squatters inhabited some rooms. She initiated major revisions of the main house in 1936, including installation of the first central heating in Taos, and hired a master furniture builder and his students to build furniture for all 19 rooms. Renovations were completed by 1940. Ms. Williams renamed it the Thorne House and opened the house as a community center to serve the people and artists of Taos. Thorne died suddenly in 1948 without a will but left a trust fund, The Taos Foundation, for Ms. Williams to maintain the Thorne House.

In 1953, the Thorne House, the lilac garden, the horse stables and adjacent carriage house, and 3 acres of land were purchased from The Taos Foundation by the Taos Artists' Association. The Taos Artists' Association had been created in 1952 in response to Emil Bisttram's dream of a museum and gallery for artists of Taos. The Thorne house was turned into a museum in 1953, featuring period rooms furnished from local collections. The former horse stables and carriage house were converted to a gallery (Stables Gallery), open for exhibition to all members of Taos Artists' Association. The museum, however, turned out to be difficult to manage. As a result, from 1957-1968, the Taos Artists' Association, renamed the Taos Art Association in 1966, rented space in the Thorne House to the Millicent Rogers Museum.

However, management of the Stables Gallery and associated artists by the Taos Art Association proved to be difficult. In 1975, they sold the parking lot behind the Taos Community Auditorium (built in 1972) to the Town of Taos to raise money. In the 1980's, they cut down most of the lilacs in the lilac garden originally created by Arthur Manby. By 2000, the fate of the Taos Art Association was problematic. Stables Gallery and the Taos Community Auditorium were temporarily closed due to rising debt and conflicts among artists and the Taos Art Association. In agreement with the Taos community, the Taos Art Association was transformed into the Taos Center for the Arts (TCA), with a new Board of Directors, new by-laws, and a new community-based approach to accommodate more and varied activities and artists. The TCA received significant donations that allowed them to renovate the Stables/Carriage House Gallery, the Manby/Thorne House, and the Taos Community Auditorium.

A sketch from "The Building, Association" (1984) indicating Manby/ Thorne House is shown. This drawing was located in the Taos Center for the Arts.

Fig. 1



Taos Art rooms of the below (Fig. 1). history files at

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Revised History. (Sources: Documents obtained by Virginia Dodier from the Chávez History Library, Santa Fe, NM; Hernández family history; census records; and newspaper accounts.)

Virginia Dodier is a retired museum professional, librarian, and archivist living in Taos, NM. She located documents in the “Arthur R. Manby Papers” at the Chávez History Library that show that Arthur Manby purchased an adobe 6-room structure, stables and adjacent building, and associated yard east of Paseo del Pueblo Norte (~ 3 acres) (see Fig. 2, page 4) from Carlos A. Hernández and his wife Francisca M. de Hernández on Dec. 14, 1899, for \$200.

Carlos Hernández was the younger brother of B.C. (Benigno Cárdenas) Hernández, the first Mexican American US Congressman from New Mexico (1915-1917, 1919-1921). (B.C. Hernández was Ms. Dodier’s great-grandfather on her mother’s side.) The brothers were two of the 12 children of Juan José Hernández, an adobe mason, and his wife Manuela Cárdenas. The family arrived in Taos from Rio Arriba County in the late 1850’s. B.C. and Carlos Hernández were born in Taos in the late 1860’s. In the 1880’s they worked for Antonio Joseph at the Ojo Caliente mineral springs. B.C. Hernández relocated to Rio Arriba County in the 1890’s and continued in business and politics. (See biography, Fig. 3, pages 5, 6.) Carlos Hernández remained in Ojo Caliente, where he was a prominent merchant. (See obituary, Fig. 4, page 6.) In 1895 Carlos brought his widowed mother, Manuela, to live with his family in Ojo Caliente. (See obituary, Fig. 5, pages 7, 8). Ms. Dodier believes that Carlos and Francisca Hernández sold the Taos property to Arthur Manby on his mother’s behalf. The warranty deed (Fig. 2, page 4) shows a diagram of the 6-room adobe structure, apparently drawn by Manby. The “Arthur R. Manby Papers” were entered into the collection at the Chávez History Library around 2000 as a gift of Allen and Valerie McNown, antique shop owners in Nambé, NM, long after Frank Waters researched *To Possess the Land: A Biography of Arthur Rochford Manby*.

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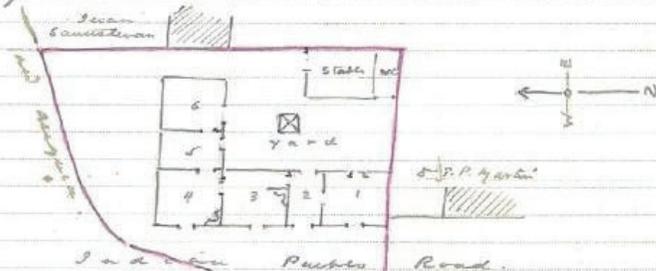
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WARRANTY DEED.

This Deed, Made this 14th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, between Carlos A. Hernandez and his wife Francisca In de Hernandez of Ajo Caliente in of the County of Taos and New Mexico of the first part, and Arthur Manby of Taos of the County of Taos and New Mexico of the second part;

WITNESSETH, That the said part 1st of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred Dollars, to the said part 1st of the first part in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged; have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, all the following described lots or parcels of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Taos and Territory of New Mexico, to wit:

That certain dwelling House and Plot of Land adjacent to the town of San Fernandez de Taos situate on the Indian Pueblo Road on the East side thereof containing 6 Rooms yard and outhouses also a triangular plot of land bounded on the South by aforesaid House Eastward by adobe wall of Juan Sautallevans property, North and Westward by old Arquin and as more particularly shown in the accompanying sketch and included within the line marked Red on accompanying Plan which is hereby made an exhibit to and a part of this deed.



TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversions and reversion, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever of the said part 1st of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Carlos A. Hernandez and his wife Francisca In de Hernandez

parties of the first part, for them selfs heirs, executors, administrators and assigns; do covenant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the executing and delivery of these presents they were well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance, in law, in fee simple, and have good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and incumbrances of whatever kind or nature soever.

[Handwritten signatures and names in the witness section, including 'Luis Cardenas' and 'Carlos A. Hernandez' and 'Francisca In de Hernandez'. There are also two circular notary seals on the right side.]

and the above bargained premises in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said part 1st of the first part shall and will warrant and forever defend.

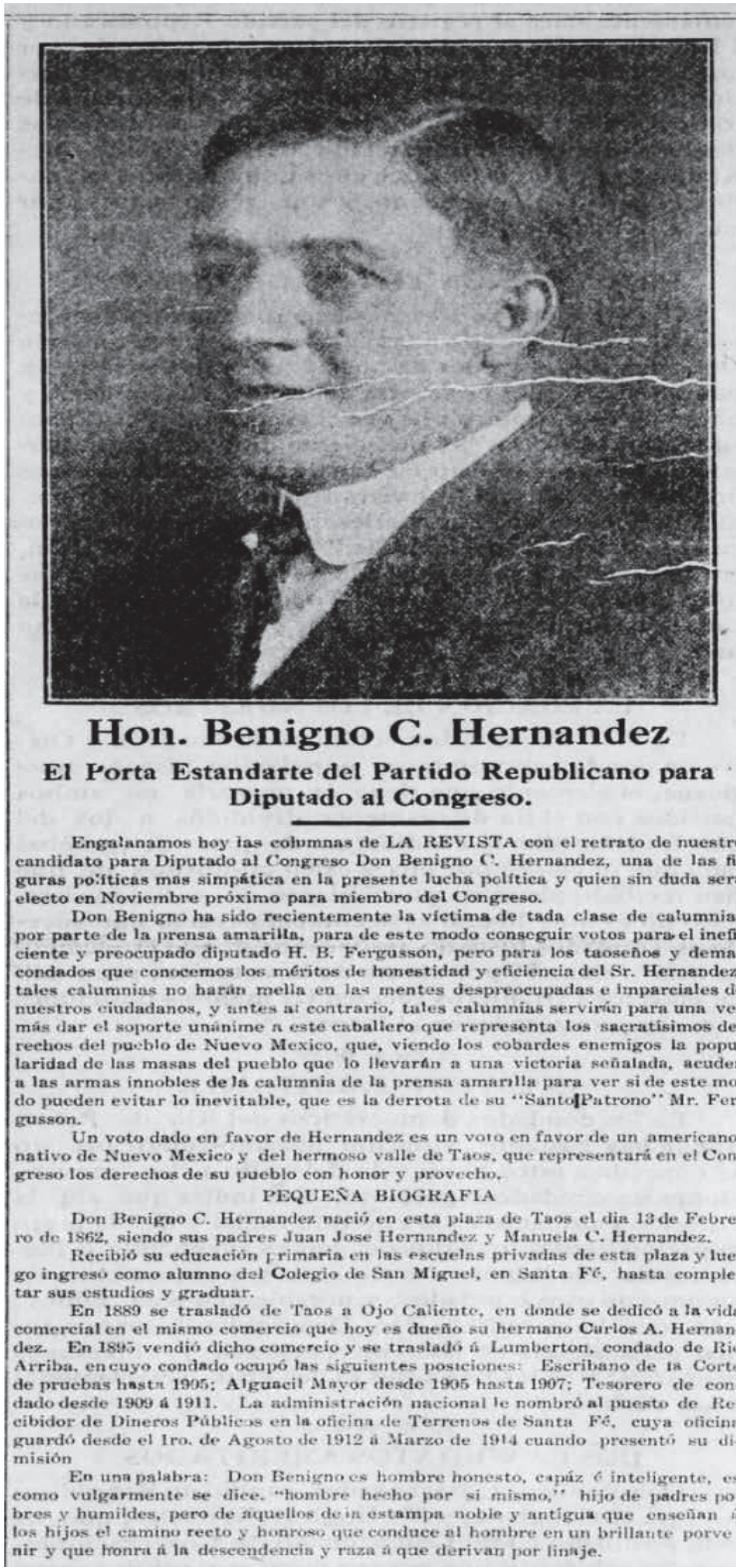
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said part 1st of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of
Luis Cardenas

Carlos A. Hernandez
Francisca In de Hernandez

Fig. 2.
Warranty deed dated Dec. 14, 1899, for the purchase of property on Indian Pueblo Road (currently Paseo del Pueblo Norte) by Arthur R. Manby from Carlos and Francisca Hernández.

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education in private schools in this town and later attended the Colegio de San Miguel (St. Michael's High School), Santa Fe, until completing his studies and graduating.

Fig. 3. Clipping from *La Revista de Taos*, Sept. 25, 1914, page 1.

Translation from Spanish:

"HON. BENIGNO C. HERNANDEZ
The Standard-Bearer of the Republican Party
for Representative to Congress

Today we adorn the columns of *La Revista* with the portrait of our candidate for Representative to Congress Don Benigno C. Hernandez, one of the most congenial figures the present political fight and who without doubt will be elected this November as a member of Congress.

Recently Don Benigno has been the victim of every kind of slander on the part of the yellow press, by way of securing votes for the inefficient and distracted representative H.B. Fergusson, but for Taoseños and other county residents who know the merits of Mr. Hernandez's honesty and efficiency, these slanders will not make a dent in the carefree and impartial minds of our citizens, and to the contrary, these calumnies serve once again to give unanimous support to this gentleman who represents the most sacred rights of the people New Mexico, and, his cowardly enemies seeing that the masses will bring him a signal victory, they resort to the ignoble weapons of slanders the yellow press to see if by this method they can put off the inevitable, which is the defeat of their "Holy Patron" Mr. Fergusson.

A vote in favor of Hernandez is a vote in favor of an American, a native of New Mexico and of the beautiful valley of Taos, who will represent in Congress the rights of his people with honor and wisdom.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Don Benigno C. Hernandez was born in the town of Taos on February 13, 1862, his parents being Juan Jose Hernandez and Manuela C. Hernandez.

He received his primary

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In 1889 he moved from Taos to Ojo Caliente, where he dedicated himself to commercial life in the same business now run by his brother Carlos A. Hernandez. In 1895 he sold the business and moved to Lumberton, Rio Arriba County, where he occupied the following positions: Clerk of the Civil Court until 1905; Sheriff from 1905 to 1907; County Treasurer from 1909 to 1911. The national administration named him to the post of Receiver of Public Moneys in the Land Office, Santa Fe, which position he kept from August 1, 1912 until March 1914 when tendered his resignation.

In a word: Don Benigno is an honest man, capable and intelligent, as they say, "a self-made man," son of poor and humble parents, but of the old noble breed that taught their children the right and honorable path that leads to a bright future and that honors the lineage from which they come."

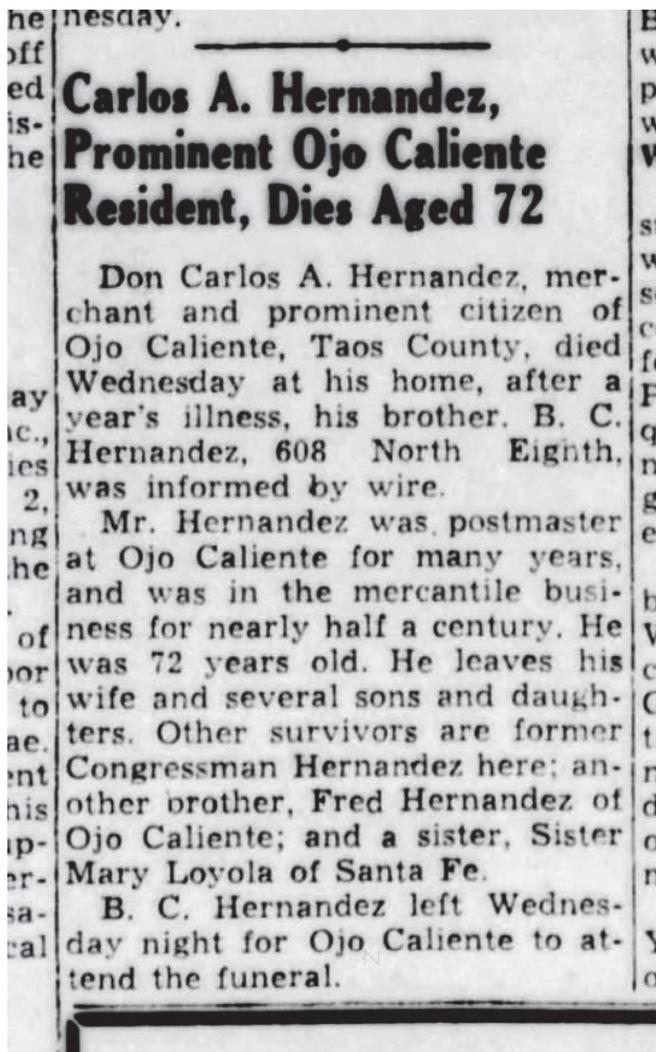


Fig. 4. Clipping from *Albuquerque Journal*, Aug. 14, 1941, page 9.

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Fig. 5. Clipping from *La Revista de Taos*, Aug. 13, 1915, page 6.

Translation from Spanish:

“NOTABLE DEATH
DEATH OF MRS. HERNANDEZ

By private letter from our friend Don C.A. Hernandez of Ojo Caliente, we learn of the death of his mother the esteemed Taoseña Doña Maria Manuela de los Reyes Cárdenas de Hernandez, which took place at 11 p.m. Thursday the 5th in her residence in Ojo Caliente, this county.

The late woman was 74 years and seven months old, leaving behind to mourn her passing from this earth her dear sons Jesus Hernandez, who lives in El Paso, Texas, Benigno Hernandez, the current Congressional representative, Carlos and Federico, and her only daughter Sister Loyola of the Loretto Convent, Santa Fe.

Mrs. Hernandez lived in Taos until 1895 when her son Carlos brought her to settle permanently at his side and in his care at Ojo Caliente. Also left behind to feel her death is her brother Don Andrés Cárdenas of El Prado in Taos and a number of nieces and nephews and acquaintances among people her own age.

The late Taoseña was a woman of high reputation and merit. Although from a humble working family, she always knew how to maintain that precious knowledge that the name of wife and mother imparted to her; she taught her children the right path of work and good breeding, whose fruit was sown in the sanctuary of the home from the cradle, the good woman living to see her children laden with honors from industry and labor, which always produces the complete satisfaction of a good mother. She helped her children to the best education possible in the public and private schools that then existed in Taos; she guided them on the path of honest work, good bearing and good breeding that starts at home, and the result was that in her last days she saw all her sprouts dedicated to business and honest work, making her children useful citizens that today honor and credit the state.

The late lady was, truly, a model of the virtues that could well serve as an example to many of our female compatriots to realize the importance of education and a good upbringing for children so that in the future they will be the satisfaction of the duty fulfilled by their parents.

Her funeral rites will take place next Saturday with a mass with the body present in the church of Ojo Caliente

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followed by burial in the Ojo Caliente cemetery, a numerous contingent of relatives and neighbors following the coffin.

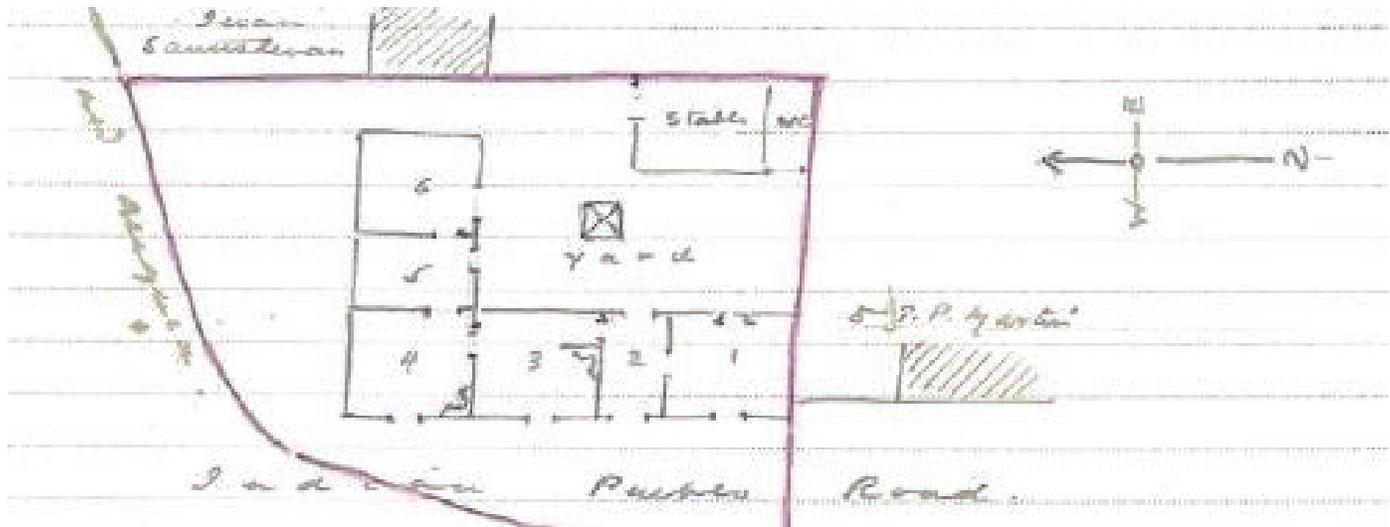
Her sons Don Benigno, Carlos and Federico will attend the funeral. *La Revista* sends the children, brother and other kin of the late woman sincerest condolences in these their hours of affliction.”

Description of Property from Warranty Deed (Fig. 2, page 4):

“That certain dwelling house and plot of land adjacent to the town of Don Fernandez de Taos situate on the Indian Pueblo Road on the East side thereof containing 6 rooms yard and outhouses also a triangular plot of land bounded on the South by aforesaid House Easterly by adobe wall of Juan Santistevan’s property. North and Westerly by old acequia and as more particularly shown in the accompanying sketch and included within the line marked Red on accompanying Plan which is hereby made an exhibit to and a part of this deed.”

Manby’s sketch from the Warranty Deed (Fig. 2 on page 4 and enlarged detail below) shows the general outlines of the property that he purchased, as outlined in red. A comparison of this sketch with the schematic drawing of the Thorne House contained in “The Building, Taos Art Association” 1984 document (Fig. 1, page 2) shows the following correspondences, bearing in mind that both drawings lack detail:

- room 1 corresponds to room O (on the Thorne House drawing);
- room 2 to room N;



- room 3 to room M;
- room 4 to rooms A, B and C;
- room 5 to room D, and room 6 to rooms E, F, and G.

Additionally, the well-marked “X” on Manby’s sketch corresponds to the existing well in the center of the courtyard. The old acequia indicated by Manby is still visible in the area that is now the Lilac Garden. The stables and “WC” correspond to what is now the Stables/Carriage House Gallery. Dr. T.P. Martin on Manby’s sketch corresponds to the former residence of Dr. Thomas Paul Martin that is currently The Historic Taos Inn.

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Additional Corroborating Evidence:

A then contemporary account of Manby's activities shortly after his purchase (Fig. 6) relates that "A. R. Manby has been making some repairs and re-building part of the wall of the Hernandez house at [Taos into which] he has recently moved."

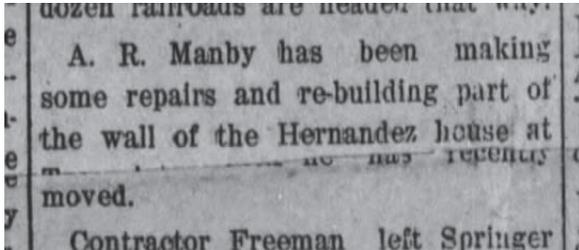


Fig. 6. Clipping from *Las Vegas Daily Optic*, Jan. 8, 1900, page 2.

Interpretation of New Information from Revised History:

While Arthur Manby expanded the house by adding 4 or 5 rooms (compare Figs. 1 and 2) and certainly improved the property, he *did not* build or design the original 6-room adobe home. The exact date of the building of the Hernández home is not known, but certainly precedes its sale in 1899.

In *To Possess the Land: A Biography of Arthur Rochford Manby*, Frank Waters lists the names of 6 families (sourced from warranty deeds, Taos County Records) from whom Manby purchased the 7 pieces of land that contributed to the 23 acres of the Manby Hacienda property. However, the Hernández family is not included, presumably because the 1899 warranty deed was not available to Mr. Waters at the time of his research.

Justification for renaming the Manby House to Hernández-Manby House:

As described above, while Manby expanded the structure and improved the surrounding property, and Thorne supported extensive renovations of the structure after Manby's death, the Hernández family owned the original 6-room adobe structure and surrounding property. We therefore believe it is appropriate that the formal name of the property be the "Hernández-Manby House" to reflect the structure's origin and acknowledge the now-available documentation of that history as well as to recognize the contribution of Arthur Manby to the final structure.

Secondary (Other) names for the property should include the Thorne House, based on Thorne's contributions to the exhaustive renovations of the building. The art association names (Taos Artists' Association, Taos Art Association, and Taos Center for the Arts) are also included as secondary to indicate the historic and cultural significance of the many decades of the property's use in support of artists and museums of regional, state, and national regard, who created, shared, and housed art at this location.

This new information creates a 123-year long history of the property that extends, develops, and enriches the narrative of the original structure and property to include, importantly, Taos families and cultures before the turn of the twentieth century.

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Bibliography:

Arthur R. Manby Papers, Fray Angelico Chavez Library, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sun News, New Mexico State University, Library Archives and Special Collections, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Waters, Frank. *To Possess the Land: A Biography of Arthur Rochford Manby*. Swallow Press, 1973.

Hernández family records.

United States Census, Taos County, various records.