

LA HACIENDA DE LOS MARTINEZ

The Hacienda measures approx 95x200ft. Walls are 2 foot thick adobe block. Exterior is covered with traditional mud plaster. Interior walls are white washed with tierra blanca (micaceous clay and wheat paste). There are 21 rooms in the floor plan. The front courtyard (placita) is surrounded by the main living areas and the rear courtyard is restored to display various crafts and arts of Spanish Colonial times of the early 1800s.

1. SALA As the primary living area for the Martinez family, the Sala would have served as a living room, dining room, classroom and even bedroom for the family. Furniture was at a premium on the Spanish frontier in the early 1800s, thus the sparse look of the room. All timber had to be cut, hauled, and adzed into usable lumber with only minimal hand tools. The large chests are made from single boards, some over 16" across.

2. BEDROOM This small too may have served as Severino's and Maria's bedroom. The fireplace is unique in the house for both its shape and location in the middle of a wall compared to the more typical corner position. Personal altars like this one were common to every home. For these early settlers, their religion was a matter of daily life and is said to have provided the necessary spiritual strength to endure the hardships of rugged frontier life.

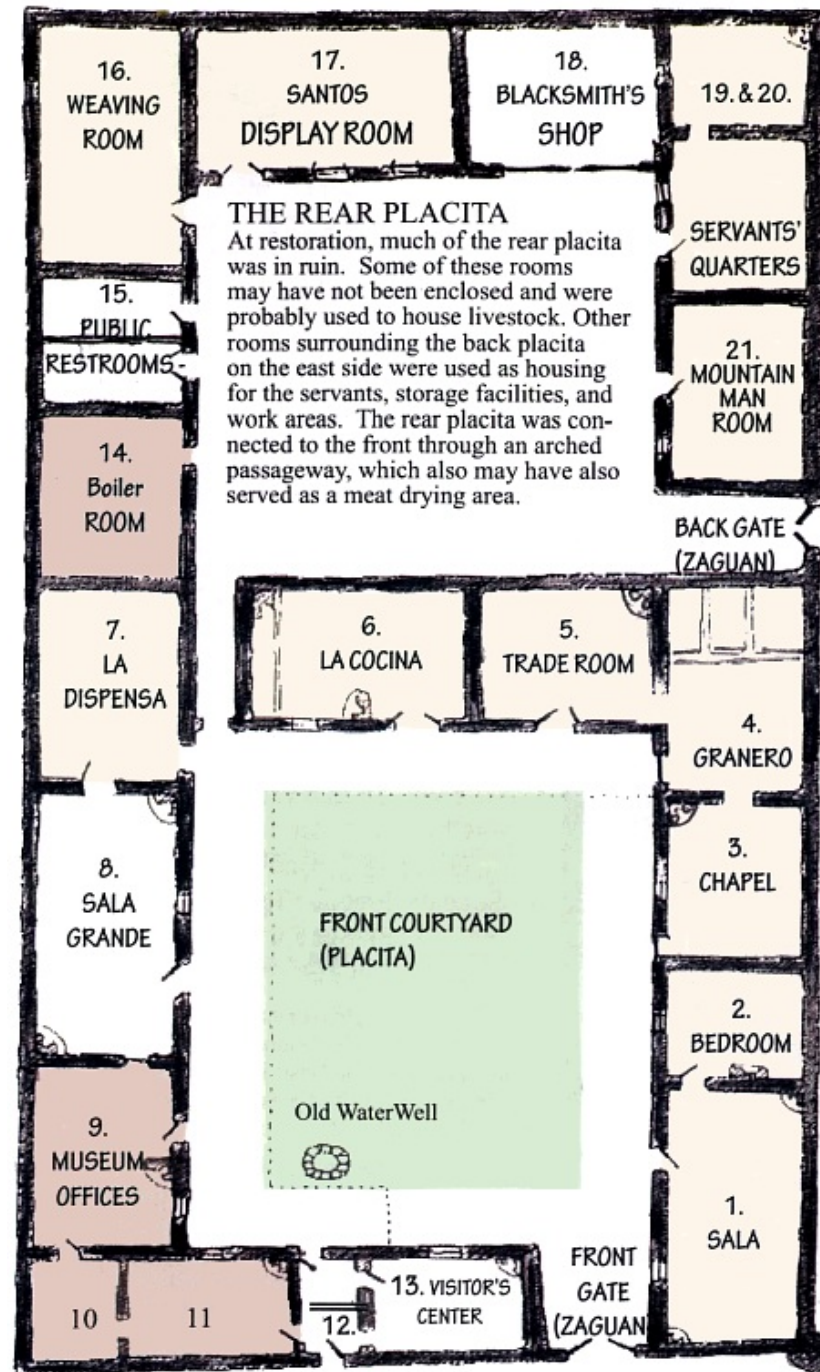
3. CHAPEL Hand-adzed beams and fancy corbels suggest this room was Special. The Martinez' would have had the resources to provided a chapel for themselves and the surrounding community.

4. GRANERO The granary has three large bins for the storage of grains. Food storage and production were essential to survival and constituted a daily pursuit. Summer harvests provided food that would have to last throughout the long cold winters. The large bins, which may have been much deeper originally, would have been used to store wheat, corn, and barley.

5. TRADE ROOM Most early trading was with Chihuahua, Mexico. After Mexico gained her independence in 1821, more trade routes were opened north and south and more variety of goods were displayed and sold/bartered here. The Hacienda was a commercial hub and possibly the first year-round mercantile operation for the Taos Valley. Local products from the surrounding area were bartered for imported trade goods (iron, cloth, tools, or that special hat).

6. LA COCINA The kitchen would have had to serve family members, servants and visiting traders.; groups that could exceed 30 or more people. The 'Shepherd's Fireplace' is a remarkable construction as the lower level was used along its entire length for cooking. Coals from a large fire in the main chimney area would have been scooped up and placed under the cooking pots, the smoke being drawn along the bottom of the platform and into the flue. The deck provided a warm place to sleep on those cold Taos winter nights. Herbs and dried foods were both processed and stored in this room as well.

7. LA DISPENSA This room was originally used as a large refrigerator. The thick adobe walls maintain a constant cool temperature. The small window near the ceiling was opened to vent out excess heat. When this portion of the home was constructed there would have been only a single small door to the room. At some point after Severino's death the double door facing the courtyard was added. (The doorway to the next room was constructed during the restoration of the building to allow for more access to the Sala Grande).



Front Entrance to Museum

THE REAR PLACITA
At restoration, much of the rear placita was in ruin. Some of these rooms may have not been enclosed and were probably used to house livestock. Other rooms surrounding the back placita on the east side were used as housing for the servants, storage facilities, and work areas. The rear placita was connected to the front through an arched passageway, which also may have also served as a meat drying area.

8. SALA GRANDE The hand adzed floor, which was the only wooden floor in the Hacienda, was especially made for fandangos (Spanish dance parties). Community and political meetings were also held in this room.

9. 10. & 11. Museum Offices These three rooms were probably used by Severino's sons and daughters when they became adults and needed their own accommodations. Today they serve as museum office space.

12. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE This is one of the first four rooms constructed in 1804 and may have minimally supported a second story watchtower (torreon) as defense against possible attack from plains tribes such as Comanche and Apache. The ground level room was used for storage. The front door entrance would not have been part of the original construction.

13. VISITOR'S CENTER - Reception/Gift Shop Also part of the original 1804 home, this room was probably used as a living area and sleeping quarters for family members when they first came to Taos (before the Hacienda was expanded).

14. BOILER ROOM During restoration most of the floors needed to be redone and in-floor heating with a central boiler was added.

15. PUBLIC RESTROOMS Nothing of this sort existed in Spanish Colonial times. Added during restoration.

16. WEAVING ROOM The production of sheep and the processing and manufacturing of woolen goods employed the majority of the early settlers in the area. Weaving of churro and other wools produced some of the trade goods exchanged in Chihuahua, Mexico, for sorely needed manufactured goods and a few luxury items.

17. SANTOS DISPLAY ROOM Collection of historic and more modern northern New Mexican santos which are said to have sustained the Hispanic pioneers' ability to survive the rigors of this Spanish Colonial frontier.

18. BLACKSMITH'S SHOP Iron was a precious commodity in frontier Taos. Severino Martinez accounted in his will for every nail and bit of iron he owned. Since he didn't mention any blacksmithing tools suggests there was no blacksmith shop here until his son, Pasquel, took over the family ranch and business.

19. & 20. SERVANTS' QUARTERS These rooms would have housed Martinez family's servants. During the archaeological excavations a fireplace was found here. This room now displays horse tack, leather working and ox farming equipment. From Severino's will we also know that he owned large herds of horses and oxen that he used to work the extensive ranching and farming operation that also was centered at the Hacienda.

21. MOUNTAIN MAN ROOM Taos was a major trade center during the 1800s and mountain men were an integral part of that activity. This room displays Mountain Man and Military aspects of early 1820s and after.