

La Loma Plaza

Historic La Loma Plaza was established in the year 1768 and is on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior. It is believed that La Loma Plaza was fully settled between 1795, when most Spanish settlers left the protection of the fortified Taos Pueblo, and before 1846. To protect themselves from attacks by Plains Indians such as Comanche, Apache, and Utes, Spanish settlers built homes that could be defended. La Loma Plaza was such a protected area. Each home was contiguous with shared common walls, and outer walls were made from solid adobe. Entrances to the center of the plaza were limited, as were doors and windows on the outer walls. In the middle of this roughly rectangular enclosure was the "plaza", protected open space for socializing and where livestock could be moved when under attack. The settlers built the still-extant San Antonio de Padua (San Antonio Chapel) at the northwest corner of the plaza, which was blessed in October 1876 by Archbishop Lamy.