

SR1674

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name State maintained Route 66: Albuquerque to Rio Puerco

other names/site number Laguna cut-off

2. Location

street & number West Central exit at I-40 W to the Rio Puerco Bridge not for publication

city or town Albuquerque vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87121

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Rt. 66, Albuquerque to Rio Puerco

Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

Hist. and Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other earth fill, asphalt surfacing,
concrete culvert, metal bridge

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rt. 66, Albuquerque to Rio Puerco
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

Period of Significance

1933-1956

Significant Dates

1933, 1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rt. 66, Albuquerque to Rio Puerco
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 103 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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3	8	8	1	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

1	3
---	---

3	2	2	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	8	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David J. Kammer, Ph.D.
organization contract historian date August, 1996
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

7. Description

This 8.5 mile section of state maintained Route 66 serves as a frontage road along Interstate 40 west of Albuquerque. A portion of what was referred to as the Laguna Cut-off in the early 1930s, the road was paved and became a part of straightened Route 66 in 1937, serving as a part of the highway until it was replaced by I-40 after 1956. Marked by a scenic descent from Nine Mile Hill into the Rio Puerco Valley and a through truss bridge across the steeply eroded banks of Rio Puerco, this portion of Route 66 is largely unaltered and conveys a strong feeling of travel along Route 66 in the 1930s and 40s.

The road section crosses a segment of the basin and range that characterizes Route 66 through the mid-portion of the state. Rising out of the Rio Puerco Valley, the road section climbs more than 500 ft., a climb marked by several slope cuts and small concrete box culverts, to an elevation of over 5,700 ft. at its eastern end at Nine Mile Hill. The summit offers notable vistas. Eastward lies the emerald chain marking the middle Rio Grande Valley with Albuquerque stretching across the valley to the Sandia Mountains beyond. Westward lies the Rio Puerco Valley and Mt. Taylor, rising to 12,000 ft. Crossing the Rio Puerco is a Parker through truss bridge. The bridge received substantial repairs in 1957. However, its reinforced concrete approaches and superstructure date to its construction, and the original bridge plates remain affixed to the headwalls of the reinforced concrete approaches. Although I-40 closely parallels this portion of Route 66, causing a slight deviation from the original alignment for less than a quarter mile at the westbound I-40 exit at Rio Puerco, the historic alignment, cross-section template, and surrounding landscape remain largely intact.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

8. Statement of Significance

Although this portion of the highway was not paved and officially designated as Route 66 until 1937, it was included as mileage in the state's Federal Aid Projects (FAP 178-A and B) in 1932, anticipating its inclusion as a part of Route 66. Federal funding was then used to construct the Rio Puerco Bridge in 1933. When the bridge, to be included as an individual property in a separate multiple property submission treating the historic bridges of New Mexico, was completed many travellers used the so-called "Laguna Cutoff" rather than the official alignment of Route 66, which was several miles longer. Many who travelled the highway during the period of significance recall the vistas at Nine Mile Hill, especially the views of Mt. Taylor and of Albuquerque at night, as some of the most inspiring in the American West. This section of state-maintained Route 66 is significant for its association with the rise of automobile tourism in New Mexico and thus is eligible under Criterion A.

9. Bibliography

"Plan and Profile of FAP 178 A and B" dated 5/18/35 and 6/6/35. On file at the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, Records Control Unit of Records Management, Santa Fe.

Rae, Steven R. et. al. New Mexico Historic Bridge Survey. Santa Fe: New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, 1987.

Verbal Boundary Description

This property is 8.5 miles long and is maintained as a frontage road by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. The east end lies 200 yards west of the junction of Route 66 with the westbound entry ramp to I-40 at the West Central Avenue interchange, and the west end is at the west end

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

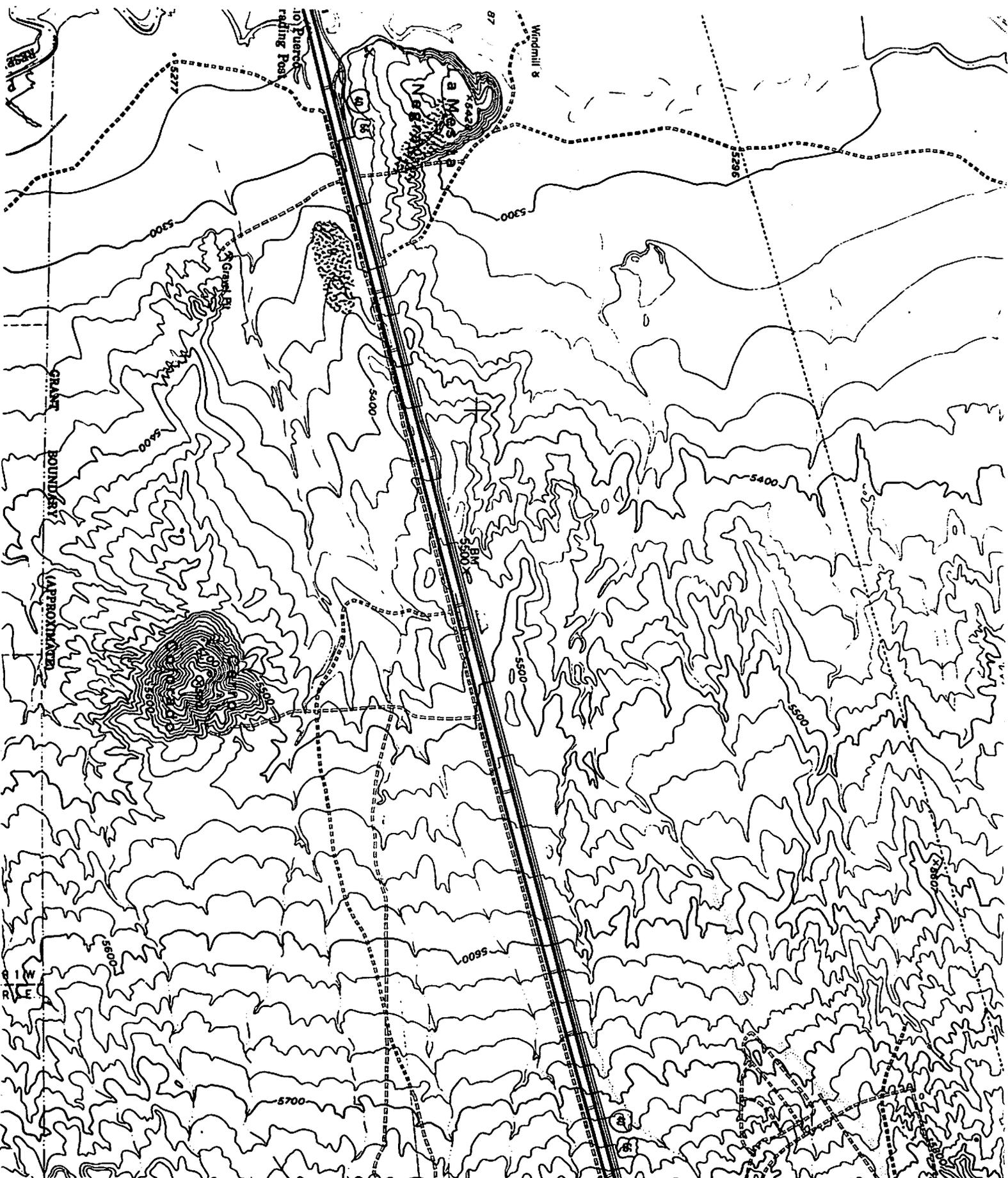
Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

of the Rio Puerco Bridge. The sides are a corridor extending fifty feet on either side of the centerline, marking a right of way of 100 feet, a minimum width used by the State Highway Department during the 1930s.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with this section of Route 66.





LA MESITA NEGRA SI
4654 III SE

ALBUQUERQUE 14 MI
SANTA FE 76 MI.

St. 66 from Nine Mile N
W to Rio Hondo
Bernalillo Cty, NM
UTM Reference
213228197878250

1177 1178 1179 1180

to Puerto
Reading Post

5300

GRANT
BOUNDARY
(APPROXIMATE)

5400

5600

5700

Windmill R

LA MESITA NEGRA SI
4654 III SE

5300

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