

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 Rt. 66: McCartys to Grants

other names/site number NM 124, NM 117

2. Location

street & number E. of McCartys to E. of Grants not for publication

city or town Grants vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Cibola code 006 zip code 87020

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: McCartys to Grants
Name of Property

Cibola, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 152 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	3
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2	5	7	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	8	4	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing
2

1	3
---	---

2	5	2	9	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

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

3

1	3
---	---

2	4	7	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	8	6	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing
4

1	3
---	---

2	4	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	9	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHistoric & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NMState maintained Rt. 66: McCarty's
GrantsSection number 7 Page 1Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola County, New Mexico

7. Description

This 12.5 mile section of state maintained Route 66 serves as a frontage road along Interstate 40 from west of the McCarty's overpass at I-40 to the junction of I-40 and NM 117 and then as a local road from that junction westward to where it intersects Business 40 at the east end of Grants. The eastern portion of the section measuring 7.3 miles is designated NM 124, and the western portion, measuring 5.2 miles is designated NM 117. Passing through several miles of lava flow, known locally as malpais, this road section presented a challenge to early roadbuilders as discussed in the Multiple Property listing. During the 1930s numerous New Deal projects improved this portion of Route 66. The grade separation was added at Horace in 1934, and the entire road section was paved in 1935-36 when a pony truss bridge and a concrete subway were also constructed near McCarty's. The alignment served as a part of Route 66 until it was replaced by I-40 after 1956. The road's passage through the malpais, numerous vistas, and notable elements of the road section imbue this road section with a strong feeling of travel along Route 66 in the 1930s and 40s. Brown and white signs denoting "Historic Route 66" have recently been erected by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department along the roadside.

The road section's alignment approximates the drainage of the Rio San Jose and the tracks of the former AT&SF Railroad. With Mt. Taylor rising over 12,000 ft. to the north and the Zuni Mountains to the West, the vistas afforded motorists suggest the rugged Southwest, especially where the road weaves its way through the malpais. At McCarty's a concrete and steel subway (1936) eliminates a grade crossing. A mile west a steel pony truss bridge bearing 1936 bridge plates crosses the Rio San Jose. After the road completes a deviation of approximately one-quarter mile to pass under I-40, it resumes its historic alignment as it diverges from I-40 and passes over a wood grade separation (1934) before reaching the eastern edge of Grants. Although I-40 closely parallels the eastern portion of this section of Route 66,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NM

Section number 7 & 8 Page 2

State maintained R. 66: McCartys to
Grants

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

Description (continued)

causing a slight deviation from the original alignment of less than a quarter mile at the I-40 subway, the historic alignment, cross-section template, and surrounding landscape remain largely intact.

8. Significance

Designated as State Highway 6 in 1914 and a part of the National Old Trails Highway, a trans-regional road association that preceded the creation of the federal highway system in 1926, the road from McCarty's to Grants remained a gravel road until the 1930s. Funding under FAP 113 as well as several New Deal projects resulted in the improvement and paving of the highway in 1936. Among these improvements were the construction of two grade separations, including one at Horace, the site of several fatal accidents during the early years of Route 66. 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 113" dated 6/27/49. 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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NM

State maintained Rt. 66: McCartys
to Grants

Section number 10 Page 3

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

Verbal Boundary Description

This property is 12.5 miles long and is maintained as a frontage and local road by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. The east end lies at the junction of Route 66 (NM 124) and the eastbound exit ramp of I-40 at the McCarty's interchange, and the west end is at the junction of Route 66 (NM 117) and Business 40 at the east end of Grants. 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.

