

ABSTRACT



ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES ALONG U.S. 70 BETWEEN ROSWELL AND PORTALES, NEW MEXICO

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Environmental Section



P.O. Box 1149
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1149



In 2001, SWCA conducted archaeological data recovery at eight sites along US 70 between Roswell and Portales, in Chaves and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. The data recovery was requested by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD), prior to widening and other improvements to US 70. The westernmost site is 3.4 km (2.1 miles) east of the Pecos River and the easternmost site is about 3.4 km (2.1 miles) east of Kenna. The project took place on NMSHTD, New Mexico state trust, and private land.

The project report includes two volumes. This volume introduces the context, goals, and methods of the data recovery program, and describes the results for five sites (LA 2713, LA 75159, LA 75163, LA 127518, and LA 130557) with Native American components. A second volume describes the Euroamerican components, incorporating extensive archival research completed during the testing phase of the project.

Radiocarbon dates, including on charcoal dust and organic fractions in soil, indicate that the excavated remains date as early as the end of the Middle Archaic period and possibly into the Protohistoric period. For the most part, the current volume adds to existing evidence on the Late Archaic and Ceramic period occupations of southeastern New Mexico—evidence that appears to reflect a highly mobile, non-agricultural adaptation, in the Ceramic period as well as the Archaic period. The primary type of data recovered during the project was flaked stone; an extended analysis of the flaked stone suggests that in the absence of diagnostic artifacts, careful analysis of debitage may help archaeologists date otherwise "undatable" lithic artifact scatters.