



ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has completed this study to help identify historic, professionally designed roads still in use in the New Mexico state highway system. The purpose of this study is to provide guidance on the process of recording historic highways as part of a Cultural Resource Inventory or stand-alone report.

This report includes a general historical context for New Mexico highways, the methodology used for determining potentially eligible state highways to the National Register of Historic Places, and discussion of the past history of New Mexico highways as support in determining if a road is eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places.

All research used official highway documents, such as the New Mexico State Highway Engineer reports and official state highway maps from past years, available at several libraries across the state. These documents form the foundation of the historical context research, and are considered the basic building blocks for all historic road research on NMDOT properties. This report serves as an example for the kind of research that can be gleaned from these records.

We encourage all scholars who research historic highways in New Mexico to contact the Cultural Resources Coordinator at the New Mexico Department of Transportation, for further assistance with research questions.



Figure 1: La Bajada Hill alignment in 1917 (Root 1952:37)