

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting: June 8, 2007, NMHWWMI Revision

Name of Marker: **Mother Magdalen and the Sisters of Loretto
(1852—1968)**

County: **Santa Fe**

Review: Original Text/Replacement Marker Revised Text
 Move of Existing Marker New Marker

NMDOT District: 5

NMDOT Highway: N/A

Suggested Site for Installation: Old Santa Fe Trail by Loretto Chapel

Proposed Text:

Front:

Four Sisters of Loretto, Mother Magdalen Hayden and Sisters Roberta Brown, Rosana Dant and Catherine Mahoney, arrived in Santa Fe from Kentucky on September 26, 1852. In January 1853 they established Our Lady of Light Academy, later known as Loretto, the first school for young women in the Territory of New Mexico.

Back:

Between 1863 and 1879 the Sisters with the help of local people raised funds to build the Loretto Chapel. During the next 150 years, **hundreds of women, many of them of Hispanic heritage**, joined the Sisters of Loretto. Mother Lucia Perea was the first to be named superior in Santa Fe in 1896.

Word count: 101

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher: Dr. Thomas E. Chavez, Sister Patricia J. Manion, Ph.D., S.L.

Source(s): Loretto, the Sisters and their Chapel by Mary Straw Cook, Museum of New Mexico Press, 2002.

Historical Sketch of the Catholic Church in New Mexico by James Defouri
Beyond the Adobe Wall by Sister Patricia J. Manion Ph.D. Independence, MO: Two Trails Publishing, 2001

Light In Yucca Land. By Sister Richard Marie Barbour, S.L.

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: Tabled April 13, 2007; accepted June 8, 207

CPRC Comments: May 30, 2007

For Referral to: Rhonda Lopez, NMDOT; New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative
