

FINAL SENT TO NMDOT

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting: December 12, 2008

Name of Marker: *Parteras of New Mexico*
Emma Estrada (1933–1997)

County: McKinley

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

NMDOT District: District 6

NMDOT Highway:
Suggested Site for Installation: to be determined

Existing or Proposed Text: (two sides)

Side One:

Title: *Parteras of New Mexico*

Historically, the practice of midwifery was essential to the birthing process in New Mexico. In this large, mostly rural state with few doctors, midwives, called *parteras* in Spanish, have helped women give birth to thousands of babies. When the University of New Mexico's medical school opened in 1961, the State began to train and certify midwives. Today, licensed midwives frequently work with doctors and hospitals.

Word count: 65

Side Two:

Title: Emma Estrada (1933–1997)

Emma Estrada was a *partera*, or midwife, for over thirty years. She delivered more than seven hundred babies during an era when mothers in rural, sparsely populated areas had no choice but to deliver at home. She became the first licensed *partera* in New Mexico, and worked with doctors to assure the best medical care. She is remembered for her quiet confidence and devotion.

Word Count: 64

Total Count: 129

Previous Title and Text:

Researcher/author: Thomas E. Chávez

Source(s):

Various newspaper clippings:

The Gallup Independent, 7 May 1988

“Modern Midwives Prove Valuable to New Mexico,” *The Albuquerque Journal*, n.d.

“Veteran Gallup midwife sees changing customs,” *You Made the News*, n. d.

Documents:

Stephen & Carol Ingraloon & family to Raymond Estrada [Emma’s son], 16 April 2001.

License to Practice Midwifery, State of New Mexico, Department of Health, Emma Estrada, 17 September 1996

Certificate of Appreciation, The Health and Environment Department, Public Health Division, 19 January 1989. For “becoming the only *partera* to become a fully licensed midwife.”

Interview:

With Raymond Estrada, 3 November 2008.

Supporting Information Attached:

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: 12/12/08

CPRC Comments: _____

For Referral to: NMHWMI, Dee Beingessner, NMDOT

Notes:

Octavia Fellin, a well-known librarian and local historian in Gallup endorsed this nomination.
