

FINAL SENT TO NMDOT

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting: CPRC Approved April 13, 2007
Final Approval, August 8, 2008

Name of Marker: Doña Ana
(1604–1680)

County: Doña Ana County

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

NMDOT District: 1

NMDOT Highway: Doña Ana Road

Suggested Site for Installation: Doña Ana Road at Taylor Road

Proposed Text:

The name of the county of Doña Ana originates from Doña Ana Robledo, who died near here while fleeing south with other settlers during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt. She was buried below the peak that now bears her surname in the Robledo Mountains, so named in memory of her grandfather who was buried there in 1598.

Word Count: 56

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Dr. Thomas E. Chavez

Source(s): *Origins of New Mexico Families.* Fray Angelico Chavez Library
My Penitente Land. Fray Angelico Chavez Library

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: April 13, 2007 ; August 8, 2008

CPRC Comments: Yes

For Referral to: NMHWMI; Dee Beingessner, NMDOT GO

revised TC 4/2007

2. Doña Ana Robledo (1604-1680)

Ana Robledo, whose full name was Ana Gomez Robledo, was born in San Gabriel in 1604 to Bartolomé Romero and Luisa Robledo. Her mother was the daughter of Pedro Robledo, the oldest Oñate colonist to leave descendants in New Mexico and was the first of that colony to die. He was around sixty years old when he succumbed as the colony moved north out of El Paso. He was buried on Corpus Cristi Day, 21 May 1598 on the Camino Real east of the Rio del Norte (Rio Grande) and a large bluff still called "Robledo" in his memory.

Ana, married Francisco Gomez, who held every office of importance in New Mexico during his lifetime. She bore him seven children, one of whom was the only officer to be killed defending Santa Fe during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. She was a spirited woman who backed her husband even in opposition of governors. She was the keeper of La Conquistadora's, a venerated statue of the Virgin Mary, precious dresses.

At the time of the Pueblo Revolt Ana was seventy-six years old and always referred to as Doña Ana, for her age, stately manner, and knowledge. She survived the siege of Santa Fe and traveled with the people as they fled northern New Mexico to the south. Unfortunately, the riggers of the trip and, perhaps the loss of one of her sons who was thirty-seven years old,

proved to be too much for the venerated lady. She died after crossing the infamous Jornada del Muerto at a place remarkably close to where her grandfather Pedro was buried. Today, her memory is carried on in the county name of Doña Ana.

As an aside, another version for the name of Doña Ana County gives credit for a woman reputed to have lived in the area in the early 1600s whose name was Ana Córdoba. This woman ran a large ranch and she was known for her charitable nature and agricultural achievements. Like her life, many legends surround her story and documentation is very scarce.

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From: marydemde@aol.com [marydemde@aol.com] Sent: Tue 10/17/2006 2:34 PM
 To: patgfrench@aol.com
 Cc: Sahler, Karren
 Subject: Fwd: Historic Women's Markers - Dona Ana / County
 Attachments: [Dona Ana Hist. District p8-1.jpg\(186KB\)](#) [Dona Ana Hist. District p8-2.jpg\(207KB\)](#)

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Hi Pat,
 Below is the email I sent out. I also scanned and attached the pages from the HD nomination- p8-2 is most relevant. I think it looks substantial enough, especially if you can find out who the Castillo is who reported the raid on the ranch. He appears to be an official of some kind.
 I cc'd the other email address in case you don't get this. I will also forward a reply email to you from Elva Melendrez. Let me know if you need more on this.
 Thanks,
 Mary

%%%
 Mary Deschene
 marydemde@aol.com
 deschene@unm.edu
 505-449-7643
 505-417-2561 cell

-----Original Message-----
 From: marydemde@aol.com
 To: jhunner@nmsu.edu; elvasingh@yahoo.com; csaffell@frh.state.nm.us
 Cc: marydemde@aol.com; nicholas.telles@nmlegis.gov; patgfrench@aol.com
 Sent: Mon, 2 Oct 2006 10:49 PM
 Subject: Historic Women's Markers - Dona Ana / County

Hi,
 I thought you might be interested in this.

 Pat French, who is handling the Historic Markers for Women initiative, called me to ask if we had any information about Dona Ana as a verifiable historic person. She would like to receive this nomination, and/or other women nominees (up to three) for the County, if we know of any. Her email is: patgfrench@aol.com; cc'd above. The HPD website has more info and a form:
<http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/>

The only thing I can find is a reference to Dona Ana Maria, Nina de

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San Francisco y Zuñiga (Ayer 1916:216, fn18). This pueblo was abandoned in 1675 due to continuing Apache and Comanche raids and its remaining residents relocated to Socorro (Bandelier 1890:250). Apache raids at northern Rio Grande pueblos became more frequent during the late 1600s, especially after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 when Spain lost control of its territory (Schroeder 1968:297-300). At about the same time, Gileño and Mimbreaño Apache raids increased throughout southern New Mexico and Arizona as far south as the Spanish presidio at Janos, Chihuahua (Schroeder 1968:300-301).

By the early 1700s, Apache raiding was exacerbated by the arrival of Comanche groups along the northern and eastern margins of New Mexico (Price 1985:35-37, Schroeder 1968:302-303). Persistent Comanche raids eventually resulted in the abandonment of pueblos in the Galiesto basin, as well as the large pueblo at Pecos (Price 1985:39-40, Schroeder 1968:302-303). As a result, by the early 1800s, the vast and fertile stretch of the Rio Grande valley between El Paso, Texas, and Tomé, New Mexico, contained no permanent Spanish settlements.

The village of Doña Ana takes its name from a shadowy woman named Doña Ana Córdoba who was reputed to have lived in the area in the early 1600s and it appears as a place name in very early Spanish chronicles of the region (Julyan 1996:112-113, García 1986:8). For example, Otermin's description of his effort to recapture Santa Fe in the wake of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt recounted that: "We marched on the 4th [February 1682] to another place which they call Doña Ana, where the señor governor and captain-general prepared to go in person to a sierra which is in sight about six leagues away, called Los Organos" (Pearce 1965:48). A 1693 report by Castillo recalled that: "I have just received report of Indian raids in the region of Los Organos where three Spaniards were killed, the raiders then going to a place called Las Cruces, and stealing stock also at Mesilla, then raiding the ranch of Doña Ana Maria, Niña de Córdoba" (Julyan 1996:112).

Throughout the eighteenth century, Doña Ana as a place name appears in various Spanish chronicles. These include the 1726 chronicles of Rivera and the 1730 chronicles of Crespo (Taylor n.d.). Doña Ana as a place name also appears in Bishop Tamarón's report of his visits throughout New Mexico in 1760. On May 11, Tamarón left El Paso, Texas, accompanied by an escort of 64 men. After traveling about 10 leagues, Tamarón reported that his caravan was forced to camp at "the dread site of Robledo" along the eastern bank of the Rio Grande near the Doña Ana Mountains. Situated in the immediate vicinity of modern-day Doña Ana, this campsite was one of the last places to obtain water before beginning a 90 mile traverse across the waterless plain known as the Jomada del Muerto (lit. Journey of the Dead Man). Tamarón goes on to report that the paraje, or camp ground, at Doña Ana was "frightening, and the danger one runs there increases this aspect, for most travelers are attacked by infidel Indians [Apaches], which is a very frequent occurrence at that place" (Adams 1953:199). Despite its dangerous reputation, Tamarón passed the night peacefully at Doña Ana and continued northward toward the village of Tomé (Adams 1953:199; see also Griggs 1930:19 regarding the dangers of Doña Ana). Tamarón's chronicle indicates that Doña Ana had no permanent settlement, a condition that persisted at least as late as 1766 according to LaFora's description of his traverse of the Rio Grande valley (1967:84-86).

Colonization of the El Paso District.

The valley of the Rio Grande below El Paso del Norte (current-day Ciudad Juarez) provided the most significant way-station on the long royal road from the silver mining districts of north-central Spain to the distant province of New Mexico. A Franciscan mission to the local Indians founded in 1659 at Paso del Norte and was joined by a military presidio in 1681. Refugees from the 1680 Pueblo Revolt in northern

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SECTION 8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Executive Summary

Established in 1843 when the area belonged to the Mexican state of Chihuahua, Doña Ana is the oldest permanent settlement in the southern half of New Mexico. Over the next twenty-five years, through the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846, subsequent annexation to New Mexico, and the threat of Apache Indian raids, Mexican-Americans established another fifteen communities in the region, including Las Cruces, Mesilla and Tularosa. As the settlement that initiated this wave of colonization, and established the architectural and town planning norms for subsequent villages, Doña Ana is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. From the range of generalized Spanish-Mexican settlement and architectural patterns, Doña Ana formalized the particular combination that would be followed in most later villages: a) settlement by an organized company of pioneers, b) community construction and maintenance of an irrigation ditch, c) a rectangular grid of fields, d) a village consisting of a smaller grid of streets forming square blocks each subdivided into four square lots, e) a public plaza with adjoining lots reserved for a church, f) the orientation of the corners field and street grids to the points of the compass, g) location of the village above the irrigation ditch and flood plane of the valley, h) a church with a transverse clerestory window oriented to the southeast, i) flat-roofed adobe houses with single file and L-shaped plans that combine with walls and fences to form private courtyard-compounds, and j) houses connected to their neighbors to define the streets as walled corridors. While the fields are not included in this nomination, and the irrigation ditch is covered by another pending nomination, the Doña Ana Historic District clearly embodies these many other characteristics of Spanish-Mexican colonial town planning and architecture, and, as such, is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

Historic Context

The present day village of Doña Ana can trace its origins back to the year 1843. Doña Ana is therefore a relatively recent occupation, especially when compared with villages in parts of northern New Mexico. However, the village of Doña Ana represents the earliest permanent settlement in southern New Mexico and played a pivotal role in the eventual development of the Mesilla Valley.

Presettlement Importance: 1629-1839

Throughout most of the 1600s and 1700s, the Rio Grande valley between present-day El Paso, Texas, and Socorro, New Mexico, did not contain permanent Spanish settlements (Stoes in Griggs 1930:94). This was due, in large part, to incursions by Apaches and Comanches over much of this region (Schroeder 1968, Price 1985). Apache elements are first noted in Spanish chronicles from the early 1600s, appearing north of Santa Fe. By 1630, according to Benavides' chronicle, Apaches were found in the region between El Paso, Texas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico (Ayer 1916:16, 39-41). In the Doña Ana area, these were probably Manso Apaches (Forbes 1957:325).

By the mid-1600s, Apaches were actively involved in trading with and raiding of Spanish settlements in central New Mexico (Schroeder 1968:295, 297). For example, the pueblo of Senecú, south of Socorro, New Mexico, was originally founded in 1629 by Fray Antonio de Arteaga and Fray Garcia del

Subj: Fwd from Elva: Historic Women's Markers - Dona Ana / County
Date: 10/17/2006 1:15:58 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time
From: MaryDEmde
To: PATGFRENCH

Hi again Pat,

Here is the response I got from Elva. It seems that some historians are less reluctant than others to choose an exact story. I'm wondering if something would work like: Here is the Dona Ana of the verifiable story, and these are some other possibilities too. (see attachment) How does that sound? Can we run that by your committee?

The HD nomination was written by Chris Wilson and Neal Ackerly, State Register 1641. Senator Mary Jane Garcia would be the one to finalize the choice, and Jon Hunner or Cameron Saffell would be the historians who could give feedback (emails in the other email from me today). Senator Garcia can be reached at 505-526-5048. (Please don't give out her number to anyone else. She knows about this but is very busy so hasn't taken the lead. She did write a history of Dona Ana, which is her home town, and she is working to preserve it. They put a statue of Dona Ana on their newly restored Plaza.)

Good luck. and thanks for pursuing this. I will help as much as I can. Sorry I didn't find someone to take the lead, but a nomination could be put together pretty easily from the Historic District form if it looks suitable.

Mary

%%%%%%%%%

Mary Deschene
marydemde@aol.com
deschene@unm.edu
505-449-7643
505-417-2561 cell

-----Original Message-----

From: elvasingh@yahoo.com
To: marydemde@aol.com
Sent: Thu, 5 Oct 2006 9:30 AM
Subject: Re: Historic Women's Markers - Dona Ana / County

Hi Mary, as you know, Dona Ana was a legendary person, there are several theories but no one really knows. I have some info that may or may not help. Elva

marydemde@aol.com wrote:

(same thing with subject line)

Hi,
I thought you might be interested in this.

Pat French, who is handling the Historic Markers for Women initiative, called me to ask if we had any information about Dona Ana as a verifiable historic person. She would like to receive this nomination, and/or other women nominees (up to three) for the County, if we know of any. Her email is: patgfrench@aol.com; cc'd above. The HPD website has more info and a form: <http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/>

The only thing I can find is a reference to Dona Ana Maria, Nina de Cordoba, in the Dona Ana Village Historic District National Register nomination, p.8-2. This refers to a raid of her ranch, written in a report by Castillo in 1693. The source is Robert Julyan's *The Place Names of New Mexico*, UNM Press, 1996.

The deadline is well past, but if we can get something out fairly quickly she can circulate it before their next meeting on Oct. 25.

Thanks,
Mary

%%%%%%%%
Mary Deschene
marydemde@aol.com
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505-417-2561 cell

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Subj: **women's historic marker deadline**
Date: 7/26/2006 7:25:24 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: MaryDEmde
To: PATGFRENCH
CC: karren.sahler@sothebysrealty.com.

Hi,

I would like to find out when the deadline is for submitting a nomination for a women's historic marker. did you extend it to September 5th?

I have been working with the community of Dona Ana, which recently commisioned a statue of her for the restored plaza. She is the namesake of the village and county, and I'm sure they would love to apply.

Mary

%%%%%%%%%%
Mary Deschene
marydemde@aol.com
deschene@unm.edu
505-449-7643
505-417-2561 cell

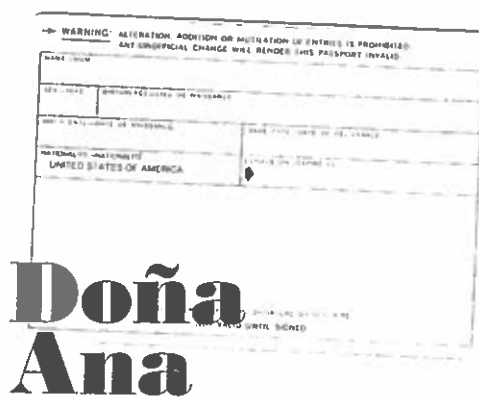
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PASSPORT



to history

City Librarian Teddie Payne
portrays Doña Ana



Who was she? Various folk tales explain the origin of the place name Doña Ana.

A legendary woman, widely known but remembered simply as Doña Ana, was reported to have operated a large ranch in the area in the 17th century and to have been outstanding for her charity and good deeds. She supposedly had extensive orchards, vineyards, fields of corn and flocks of sheep. Another legend reported that Ana, the daughter of a Spanish army officer, had been carried off by Apaches and never seen again, and the site of her kidnapping was named in her memory.

Possibly the most documented legend reports that Ana Robledo, granddaughter of the Pedro Robledo who had been the first adult fatality in New Mexico of Oñate's 1598 expedition, was a member of the band of refugees who fled south to the Las Cruces area from Santa Fe during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt. When she viewed the site of her grandfather's death and the mountain that consequently bore his name, she was so anguished that she died and was buried near the present day village.

Thank You

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The 150th Celebration Marketing Committee, which brings Las Cruces the Passport to History, consists of the following members: Ana Mangino, Laura Gutierrez Spencer, Catherine Lazorko, Janet McQueen, Nancy Meyers, Ken Mompellier, David McCollum, Judy Luna and Stephanie Taylor. We are grateful for the assistance of graphic designer Ronnie Garver, New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces Community Theatre, Stamp A Mania, Alameda Cleaners, La Vieja, NMSU University Communications, NMSU Librarian Patricia Steeb, casting director Larry Chandler, and historian Dr. Gordon Owen. Mil gracias to the actors who will portray our heroes.

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