

**FINAL Sent to NMDOT**

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



**CPRC meeting: January 19, 2017**

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**Name of Marker:** Cleofas Martinez Jaramillo  
1878–1956

**County:** Taos

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

**NMDOT District:** 5

**NMDOT Highway:** NM 522

**Suggested Site for Installation:** Intersection of N.M. 522 & Sangre de Cristo Rd  
at Arroyo Hondo

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**Approved Text:**

**Side 1:**

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Spanish traditions hundreds of years old began to fade from the northern New Mexico landscape. There was concerted effort to preserve them by newly arrived artists and people whose families lived the traditions for generations. Cleofas wrote four books that record oral traditions in writing. *Spanish Fairy Tales* was published in 1939. A cookbook followed and after that two more about cultural traditions including *Shadows of the Past*, which describes the fall tradition of gathering piñon nuts in the woods around her native Arroyo Hondo.

**Word Count: 90**

**Side 2:**

“Cleo” wrote about customs she also helped preserve and revive. By 1935 she had lost her husband and three children, but found inspiration from an article about preserving culture and clothing from the pre-Civil War South. It inspired her to found La Sociedad Folklorica, which preserves Spanish folklore, *colcha* embroidery, traditional attire, tinwork, literature, dance, music, and art. The society continues to bring these traditions to new generations by making them a part of annual events and celebrations held in northern New Mexico.

**Word Count: 83**

**Run the following text set off and beneath the Side 2 text:**

— *This is an official women's history marker established under the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative by the State of New Mexico.*

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**Previous Title and Text: N/A**

**Researcher/author:** Beverly Duran, Lucinda Lucero Sachs, David Pike, Tom Drake

**Source(s):**

Jaramillo, Cleofas M. *The Genuine New Mexico Tasty Recipes*. Santa Fe, NM: Ancient City Press, 1981.

Jaramillo, Cleofas M. *Romance of a Little Village Girl*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2000.

*La Sociedad Folklórica* Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SociedadFolklorica/> (accessed September 11, 2016)

Melzer, Richard. *When We Were Young in the West: True Stories of Childhood*. Santa Fe, NM: Sunstone Press, 2003.

Montaño, Mary. *Tradiciones Nuevomexicanas: Hispano Arts and Culture of New Mexico*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2001.

Montgomery, Charles H. "History as Culture: The Making of Spanish Heritage in New Mexico, 1883-1940" (thesis). Cornell University, August 1995.

Rebolledo, Tey Diana. "Introduction" from *Romance of a Little Village Girl* by Cleofas Jaramillo. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2000.

Rebolledo, Tey Diana, Ed. *Nuestras Mujeres: Hispanias of New Mexico, Their Images and Their Lives, 1582-1992*. Albuquerque, NM: El Norte Publications, 1992.

Weigle, Marta. "About Cleofas Martinez de Jaramillo," in *The Genuine New Mexico Tasty Recipes*. Santa Fe, NM: Ancient City Press, 1981.

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date: January 19, 2017**

**CPRC Comments:** La Sociedad Folklórica received a 2015 Heritage Preservation Award for preserving Spanish traditions. The nomination identified Cleofas as founding the organization with a meeting held in her living room.

*Romance of a Little Village Girl* is a memoir providing an insider's glance into the customs of northern NM in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. It was part of the Paso Por Aquí series, which won a 2009 State Historian award for UNM Press.

Staff refocused the text to emphasize the importance of place on the subject's life, and recommended a precise location based on revisions and a Google Earth review of the area. The NMHWMI nomination suggested "near Arroyo Hondo."

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos; William Montoya, NMDOT District 5

