

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



CPRC meeting: June 9, 2017

**NOTE: NOT BUILT; NO APPROVED
LOCATION 10/25/2017**

Name of Marker: Debbie Martínez
“La Chicanita”
1959–2007

County: Bernalillo

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

NMDOT District: 3 or 5 (please contact Tom Drake, HPD, with final location)

NMDOT Highway: _____

Suggested Site for Installation: preference is for the Central Rio Grande Valley where the subject performed and advanced a regional musical style.
(See *CPRC /staff notes section of this form and consult with Beverly Duran*)

Approved Text:

SIDE ONE

When she grabbed a microphone, belting out *rancheras* with her deep, strong, and commanding voice, there was no denying Debbie would have an enduring legacy on the music of New Mexico. Part of a talented musical family that included the mariachi group Los Reyes de Albuquerque and the trio Los Chamacos, her vocal talent was evident as a child. At age 13, La Chicanita recorded her first album, *Una Pobre También*, and four more followed. She toured nationally, delivering a unique Nuevo México sound born in the central Rio Grande Valley. Debbie lost her hearing in 1983, earned her law degree from UNM and opened an immigration law practice. She passed away in 2007 from cancer.

Word Count: 116

SIDE TWO:

The New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative was founded in 2005 by members of the New Mexico Women’s Forum in a statewide effort to recognize women’s contributions to New Mexico history on the state’s Official Scenic Historic Markers. The Initiative ensures that women’s diverse histories will be remembered and told, and will

inspire and provide a guide for future generations. The 2006 Legislature funded the project.

Word Count: 66

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Beverly Duran, Rob Martinez, David Pike, Tom Drake, Rick Hendricks

Source(s): Background paper provided by Rob Martinez, Debbie Martinez's brother and Assistant State Historian for New Mexico.

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: June 9, 2017

CPRC/staff Comments: NMHWMI. The NHCC has declined to site historic markers on its property in the past as suggested in the original submittal. Staff recommends finding alternative location, perhaps in the Middle Rio Grande Valley because of its importance in the development of this style of music, or locating it near Santa Fe, Espanola or on smaller highway between Las Vegas and Mora, areas where she performed, as suggested by the subject's brother Rob Martinez, of the New Mexico State Historian's Office.

For Referral to: Andrew Gallegos, NMDOT; George Lindstrom, District 3