

FINAL SENT TO NMDOT
Official Scenic Historic Marker Program
Application Form



CPRC meeting: October 14, 2016 DRAFT

Name of Marker: Emitteria “Matie” Martinez Robinson Viles
The Viles Foundation and Matie Viles

County: San Miguel

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

NMDOT District: 4

NMDOT Highway: TBD

Suggested Site for Installation: NM 518, mm 15.2, (between Las Vegas and Mora)

Approved Text:
(side 1)

Emitteria “Matie” Martinez Robinson Viles
1888-1961

Orphaned as a child in Golondrinas, “Matie” would forever feel a special benevolence toward orphans. She lived with her grandparents after the death of her parents, and later moved in with Elizabeth and Isaiah Robinson in Mora where she tended Elizabeth’s health. Matie married George A. Viles in 1908. When he found work at a lodge near Cowles, Matie packed their belongings on two buckboards and navigated rough terrain to help him manage it. In 1930, the couple bought Mountain View Ranch, a dude ranch patronized by East Coast investors who gave him financial advice.

Word Count: 95
(Side 2)

The Viles Foundation and Matie Viles

When George died in 1950, Matie thought she did not have enough money to pay for his funeral. He had kept secret a fortune amassed through his investments. Upon learning from his lawyer of her sudden wealth, Matie wanted to help children. She established the Viles Foundation in 1959 to provide scholarships for higher education to orphans and youth in San Miguel and Mora Counties. On its fiftieth anniversary, the Viles Foundation announced it had granted more than \$2 million to 852 students statewide, many achieving great success.

Word Count: 88

Attribute line to run beneath 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.

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Beverly Duran, Merideth Hmura, David Pike, Tom Drake, Rick Hendricks.

Source(s):

Interview with Merideth Hmura, July 8, 2016.

Hmura, Merideth. Mountain View Ranch: 1915-1945. Lockport, Illinois, 1996.

Viles Foundation, Inc., website: <http://www.vilesfoundation.org/> Accessed July 6, 2016 and Sept. 8, 2016.

Background information provided by the San Miguel Board of County Commissioners via Resolution No. 06-13-2006-CM.

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: October 14, 2016

CPRC/staff Comments: reviewed and revised by staff and marker subcommittee. This is a designated women's history marker of the NMHWM

For Referral to: NMDOT: Andrew Gallegos, Karl Gonzales (attribute line to run bold-face and in italics beneath side 2 text; allow sufficient spacing so it's not confused with text.)