

FINAL sent to NMDOT

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



CPRC meeting: January 19, 2017

Name of Marker: Katherine Stinson Otero
1891–1977

County: Santa Fe

Review: Original Text/Replacement Marker
 Move of Existing Marker

Revised Text
XX New Marker

NMDOT District: 5

NMDOT Highway: NM 284

Suggested Site for Installation: Near intersection of Paseo Real (NM 284) and Aviation Dr., entrance to Santa Fe Municipal Airport

Approved Text:

Side 1:

Katherine Stinson Otero
1891-1977

Katherine was the fourth American woman to earn a pilot's license and the first female skywriter. She overcame pioneering aviator Max Lillie's reluctance to teach her to fly, and became the "Flying Schoolgirl," nicknamed for her youthful looks, small stature, and derring-do. Katherine marveled spectators, rolling her plane, skywriting at night with flares attached to its wings, and maneuvering risky loop-the-loops. With her family she founded the Stinson Aviation Company, designed aircraft, and operated a flight school. She was the first aviatrix to fly the Orient and set a record in 1917 for the longest West Coast solo flight.

Word Count: 99

Side 2:

The military twice denied her permission to fly in World War I, although she was already flying a U.S. mail carrier. Instead she drove an ambulance for the French Red Cross. Katherine contracted tuberculosis and sought treatment in Santa Fe where she embarked on a new career designing notable Spanish Pueblo Revival-style homes. Her clients included Manhattan Project gatekeeper Dorothy McKibbin. Katherine married airman and future judge, Miguel Otero, Jr., and the couple remained in Santa Fe until their deaths. They are buried together at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Word Count: 89

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

NOTE: This is a two sided text. The short attribution about the women's marker program is to appear at the bottom of Side 2.

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Beverly Duran, Tomas Jaehn, David Pike, Tom Drake, Rick Hendricks.

Source(s):

Background reviewed by Tomas Jaehn, director of the Center for Southwest Research, UNM, and a Stinson expert.

Awards, marriage certificate, medals and other items of recognition from "Otero-Stinson Family Papers, 1843-1985," MSS 506 BC, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Keffeler, Christine A. "Stinson, Katherine." *Handbook of Texas Online*. Available at: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fst97>. (Accessed September 10, 2016)

Lewis, Nancy Owen. "Seeking a Cure, Transforming New Mexico: The Lungers and Their Legacy." From the Office of the State Historian. Available online at: <http://newmexicohistory.org/people/lungers-and-their-legacy> (Accessed September 9, 2016)

Lebow, Eileen F. *Before Amelia: Women Pilots in the Early Days of Aviation*. Dulles, VA: Potomac Books, 2003.

Lufkin, Agnesa. "The Gay-Wagner House: Hand-made Space." New Mexico Architecture. July-August 1978.

Pratt, Boyd C. "A Brief History of the Practice of Architecture in New Mexico." New Mexico Architecture. Vol. 30, No. 6, Nov-Dec, 1989.

Stinson Municipal Airport. "Still Flying High" (historical pamphlet) n.p., n.d. From "Stinson, Katherine" vertical file, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Underwood, John. "Stinson Chronology." n.p., n.d. From "Otero-Stinson Family Papers, 1843-1985," MSS 506 BC, Box 7, Folder 13, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Wiedeman, Paul. "Inside Adobe Walls: Stinson Compound" The Santa Fe New Mexican. Santa Fe, NM, May 4, 2003.

No name. "Oral Interview with Katherine Stinson," Columbia University, taped July 1960, typed transcript. "Otero-Stinson Family Papers, 1843-1985," MSS 506 BC, Box 7, folder 6, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

“Leading New Mexico Women Ably Represent Governor of the State.” Santa Fe New Mexican. Santa Fe, NM, March 17, 1928.

“Our History” The Ninety-Nines (website, accessible at: <http://www.ninety-nines.org/our-history.htm>) Accessed September 17, 2016.

Simantis, Dennis, *The Stinsons—High Family Values*, <https://simanaitissays.com/2015/07/05/the-stinsons-high-family-values/> , accessed 11-14-16

“Katherine Stinson Otero Drawings and Plans,” Center for Southwest Research, University Libraries, UNM, website accessed 12-27-16: <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/data/144610579>

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: January 19, 2017

CPRC/staff Comments: Staff rewrote text as a two-side marker at the request of CPRC. Staff’s recommends locating this marker near the Santa Fe airport since Katherine is known in Santa Fe as a pilot and respected home designer.

This is a designated women’s history marker under the NMHWMII

For Referral to: Andrew Gallegos, Will Montoya (District 5)