

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



**CPRC meeting:** December 4, 2017

**FINAL APPROVED TEXT**

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**Name of Marker:** María de la Luz Beaubien Maxwell / Maxwell Land Grant

**County:** Colfax County

**Review:**  Original Text/Replacement Marker  
 Move of Existing Marker

Revised Text  
 New Marker

**NMDOT District:** 4

**NMDOT Highway:** NM Highway 21

**Suggested Site for Installation:** In Rayado, near the Kit Carson museum.

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## SIDE ONE

María de la Luz Beaubien Maxwell  
1829-1900

María de la Luz Beaubien, age 13, wed fur-trapper Lucien Maxwell in 1844, forever linking her to the history of the Maxwell Land Grant and New Mexico. She was born in 1829 to Charles H. Beaubien and María Pabla Lobato. Upon the death of her father in 1864, she inherited a share of her father's portion of the Beaubien-Miranda Land Grant. Luz and her husband purchased the remaining Beaubien parcels as well as the Miranda lands, thereby owning the entire expansive tract that became known as the Maxwell Land Grant.

**Word Count:** 90

## SIDE TWO

Maxwell Land Grant

The Maxwell Land Grant was the largest privately owned contiguous tract of land in the United States, comprising 1,714,765 acres in northeastern New Mexico and southern Colorado. It originated from the 1841 Beaubien-Miranda Land Grant that Governor Manuel Armijo made to

Charles Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda. After Beaubien's death in 1864, his son-in-law, Lucien Maxwell, and daughter, María de la Luz, acquired the grant through inheritance and purchase. Maxwell was one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in New Mexico. The Maxwells sold the land to an English company in 1870. Later disputes between settlers and grant owners characterized the history of northeastern New Mexico in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and precipitated the Colfax County War.

**Word Count: 117**

**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.

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

**Researcher/author:** Beverly Duran, Henrietta Christmas, and David Pike; revisions by Gretchen Brock and Rick Hendricks.

**Source(s):**

Flint, Richard and Shirley Cushing Flint. *Lucien Maxwell*. Office of the State Historian, Santa Fe, NM. <http://newmexicohistory.org/people/lucien-maxwell> (Accessed September 7, 2016)

Hendricks, Rick. "Lobato Family Origins in Sombrerete, Mexico." *Herencia*, Vol 2., Issue 2, April 1994.

Inman, Henry, Colonel. *The Old Santa Fe Trail*. New York, NY: The MacMillan Company, 1897.

Julyan, Robert. *The Place Names of New Mexico*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.

Keleher, William A. *Maxwell Land Grant: A New Mexico Item*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1942 and 1984 editions.

Maxwell Land Grant Co. *Guide to the Maxwell Grant*. (pamphlet) Buffalo, NY: Matthews, Northrup & Co., n.d. (approx. 1889)

Montoya, Maria E. *Translating Property: The Maxwell Land Grant and the Conflict Over Land in the American West, 1840-1900*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002.

Rittenhouse, Jack D. *The Man Who Owned Too Much*.

Taylor, Morris F. *O.P. McMains and the Maxwell Land Grant Conflict*.

Wroth, William H. *Maxwell Land Grant*. Office of the State Historian, Santa Fe, NM.  
<http://newmexicohistory.org/places/maxwell-land-grant> (Accessed September 7, 2016)

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**Text Approved by CPRC on Date:** December 4, 2017

**Staff Comments:**

Four existing markers discuss the Maxwell Land Grant: Cimarron—located in town of Cimarron at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln St.; Colfax County War (2 markers)—one located on US 64 in Cimarron and one located on US 64 at mile marker 310.3; and Springer—on I-25 1.7 miles north of Springer.

**CPRC Comments:** CPRC recommended location is in Rayado.

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos; Karl Gonzales, NMDOT District 4