

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



**CPRC meeting:** October 13, 2017 **FINAL APPROVED TEXT**  
**NOTE: not built yet, waiting on location 5/7/2019**

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**Name of Marker:** Myra Ellen Jenkins  
1916–1993

**County:** Santa Fe County

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

**NMDOT District:** 5

**NMDOT Highway:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Site for Installation:** In Santa Fe, near the State Records and Archives Center

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Myra Ellen Jenkins  
1916–1993

**Side 1:**

Historian and archivist Dr. Myra Ellen Jenkins played a pivotal role in developing New Mexico’s modern historic preservation movement. A founding member of the Cultural Properties Review Committee—the body that approves these historic markers— she became the second official state historian in 1967, by virtue of her position as senior archivist at the State Records Center and Archives. She was also the agency's deputy director in charge of the Spanish, Mexican, and Territorial archives for many years. As a CPRC member she helped develop many of the laws and policies New Mexico uses to preserve its past.

**Word Count: 98**

**Side 2:**

A leading expert on Spanish and Mexican land grants and water rights, Dr. Jenkins assisted pueblos and tribes in retaining their ancestral lands. In the 1970s she intervened to prevent the transfer of land grant records to federal repositories, thus retaining in the state a vital component of New Mexico history. A professor and writer, Dr. J, as she was affectionately known, co-authored *A Brief History of New Mexico*, considered the essential guide to New Mexico history for the state's schoolchildren. She resigned her position with the state in 1980 and focused her research on Indian land claims.

**Word Count: 98**

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

**Researcher/author:** Beverly Duran, Henrietta Christmas, David Pike, Tom Drake, Rick Hendricks.

**Source(s):**

Bullis, Don. *New Mexico: A Biographical Dictionary 1540-1980, Volume I*. Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM: Rio Grande Books, 2007.

Drake, Tom, e-mail correspondence.

Fort Lewis College Center of Southwest Studies. Website: [https://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/finding\\_aids/inventory/Jenkins.htm](https://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/inventory/Jenkins.htm). Accessed March 14, 2017.

Gauntleroy, Gussie. "State Names New Chief Archivist" *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, September 11, 1995, A-7.

Grassham, John W. "In Passing: Myra Ellen Jenkins, 1916-1993." *New Mexico Historical Review*, October 1993.

Hart, E. Richard, ed. *Zuni and the Courts: A Struggle for Sovereign Land Rights*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1995.

La Farge, John Pen. *Turn Left at the Sleeping Dog: Scripting the Santa Fe Legend, 1920-1955*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2001.

Office of the State Historian, website: <http://www.newmexicohistory.org>. Accessed March 14, 2017.

Prabook (biographical directory). Website: <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=589556>, Accessed March 14, 2017.

Pueblo Central High School Hall of Fame. Website: <http://pueblocentral.org/HallOfHonor/2013/JenkinsMyra.htm>, Accessed March 14, 2017.

Santa Fe Living Treasures. Website: <http://sflivingtreasures.org/index.php/treasures/66-jenkins-myra-ellen-.html>. Accessed March 14, 2017.

Woodbury, Nathalie F. S., "Death Notices: Myra Ellen Jenkins," in *Anthropology Newsletter*, September 1993.

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date: October 13, 2017**

**CPRC/staff Comments:** During subcommittee review, it was decided Ms. Jenkin's contributions in preservation, research, and archiving are significant enough to warrant a two-sided history. Factual errors re: the "first state historian" were corrected.

**CPRC:** Recommended that the final location be contingent upon consultation with the State Records Center and Archives. Marker is to be placed near the entrance.

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos, NMDOT; William Kessler, Asst. Traffic Engineer;  
District 5 NMDOT