

**FINAL SENT TO NMDOT**  
**Official Scenic Historic Marker Program**  
**Application Form**



**CPRC meeting: October 14, 2016**

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**Name of Marker:** Susan Parks  
1895-1981

**County:** Luna

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

**NMDOT District:** 1

**NMDOT Highway:** tbd

**Suggested Site for Installation:** Intersection of N.M. 9 and N.M. 11 in Columbus

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**Existing or Proposed Text:**

**Susan Parks**  
**1895-1981**

Susan "Susie" Parks operated the telephone switchboard in 1916. She and her husband, Garnet, owned and published the *Columbus Courier* newspaper and lived in back of the office on Broadway Street. Susie, alone with her infant daughter, Gwen, awoke in the early morning of March 9 to gunshots and shouts of, "Viva Villa!" Pancho Villa's army was raiding the village. Susie bravely withstood the gunfire, using her switchboard to summon National Guard troops from Deming. Susie and Gwen were wounded by glass and fragments of bullets, but both survived the attack.

**Word Count: 107**

SIDE 2:

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**

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

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

**Source(s):**

Information and a review of the background text by Richard R. Dean, Historian and Archivist at the Columbus New Mexico Historical Society and Columbus Train Depot Museum. August-September 2016.

Giese, Dale F., *Forts of New Mexico*. Silver City, NM: np., 1995.

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

Katz, Friedrich. *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1998.

Melzer, Richard. *Buried Treasures*. Santa Fe, NM: Sunstone Press, 2007.

Morgan, Brandon. "Columbus, New Mexico, and Palomas, Chihuahua: Transnational Landscapes of Violence, 1888-1930" (thesis). Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico, July 2013.

Smith, Toby. "A Brave Woman in a Border Town." Impact (Albuquerque Journal Magazine), July 28, 1981, pg. 9.

Telephone Museum of New Mexico. "Susan Parks." Online website exhibit: <http://www.telcomhistory.org/vm/heroesParks.shtml>. Accessed July 6, 2016.

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date:** October 14, 2016

**CPRC/staff Comments:** reviewed and revised by staff and marker subcommittee. This is designated women's history under the NMHWMI.

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos, Baltazar Granados