

**FINAL SENT TO NMDOT** (March 16, 2009)

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



**CPRC meeting:** February 20, 2009

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**Name of Marker:** Estella García (dates unknown)  
Fabric Artists: Women of the WPA

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

**NM County:** Curry County

**NMDOT District:** District 2

**NMDOT Highway:**

**Suggested Site for Installation:** To be determined

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**Existing or Proposed Text:** (two sides)

Side One: Estella Garcia (dates unknown)

Estella García taught *colcha* embroidery at Melrose, New Mexico, for the Federal Arts Program (FAP). Anglo and Hispana women in Garcia's class collaborated to design and produce embroidered theater curtains, wall hangings, and seat coverings for institutions across the state including the Albuquerque Little Theatre. Garcia is one of the few Hispanic women artists recorded in FAP documents. Unfortunately, few examples of her work remain.

**Word Count:** 65

**Side Two:** Fabric Artists: Women of the Works Progress Administration

Under the umbrella of the WPA, the National Youth Administration, and the Federal Arts Program, instructors and students were recruited to work in community-based art centers that produced fabric arts, including weaving, *colcha* embroidery, and lace-making. While the artistic creativity of these mostly unrecognized women was considered "women's work for home use" by WPA administrators, this now popular New Mexican art form has been revitalized.

**Word Count:** 65

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**Previous Title and Text:**

**Researcher/author:** Thomas E. Chávez and Lucinda Lucero Sachs

**Source(s):**

William Roth, *Hispanic Crafts of the Southwest: An Exhibition Catalogue*, (Colorado Springs: Taylor Museum of the Colorado Springs Arts Center, 1977).

Tey Marianna Nunn, *Sin Nombre: Hispana and Hispano Artists of the New Deal Era*, (Albuquerque; UNM Press, 2001).

Interview with Andrew Cecil, Curator at the Roswell Museum of Art.

**Supporting Information Attached:**

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CPRC Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Referral to:**

**Notes:**

The researcher continues to look for Estella García's dates.

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