

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SR1678

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name State maintained Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide

other names/site number NM 122

2. Location

street & number W. of Milan to Continental Divide not for publication

city or town Continental Divide vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Cibola, McKinley code 006
031 zip code 87312

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide
Name of Property

Cibola, McKinley, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other asphalt surfacing, concrete culverts, concrete bridge

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide

Name of Property

Cibola, McKinley, NM

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

Period of Significance

1937-1956

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide
Name of Property

Cibola, McKinley, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 380 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	13	235950	3897300
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	13	234560	3901340

3	13	2284810	3901851010
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	12	7712910	3911591810

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David J. Kammer, Ph.D.
organization contract historian date August, 1996
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

7. Description

This 31.4 mile section of state maintained Route 66, now designated NM 122, serves as a frontage road along Interstate 40 from west of Milan to Continental Divide. The eastern 8.6 miles are a divided four-lane road completed in 1951 when several sections of Route 66 in New Mexico were widened. The remaining 22.6 miles are two lanes, often closely paralleling I-40 and the tracks of the former AT&SF Railroad as they climb toward the Continental Divide. The two-lane alignment was straightened and paved in 1937 and served as a part of Route 66 until it was replaced by I-40 after 1956. Features of the road include large cut banks, cut and fill grades across arroyos, several concrete box culverts, and a concrete slab bridge with steel beams and a bridge plate dated 1935. This historic alignment, cross-section template, and the surrounding landscape remain largely intact, imbuing this road section with a strong feeling of travel along Route 66 from the late 1930s through the mid-1950s. Brown and white signs denoting "Historic Route 66" have recently been erected by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department along the roadside.

The road's climb out of the Rio San Jose drainage toward Continental Divide takes motorists out of an area known for its irrigated agriculture, especially carrots, in the 1940s. The discovery of uranium and development of nearby mines in the 1950s is evident from the road in distant tailing piles and settling ponds near Bluewater. As the road begins to climb toward the continental divide, the highest point on Route 66 with an elevation of 7,263 ft., pastures give way to a pinyon and juniper landscape with Navajo homesteads, or outfits, trading posts and other businesses periodically lining the roadside. From Prewitt westward, Entrada sandstone cliffs parallel the road to the north, offering a stretch of spectacular unbroken red sandstone extending to the Arizona border. These vistas contribute to the location, setting, and feeling of this section of Route 66.

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

8. Significance

Designated as State Highway 6 in 1914 and a part of the National Old Trails Highway, a trans-regional road association that preceded the creation of the federal highway system in 1926, the road from Milan to Continental Divide remained a gravel road until the 1930s. Funding under FAP 75 resulted in projects to realign and pave the highway that were completed in 1937. Among these improvements was the elimination of two grade crossings by realigning the highway entirely south of the AT&SF Railroad line. As a result, Thoreau and other villages which had seen roadside businesses appear in the 1920s saw them disappear or relocate in the late 1930s when Route 66 no longer passed along the towns' main streets. The four-lane section west of Milan is also important as a reminder of the stopgap measures taken in the post-World War II years to accommodate increased traffic along Route 66 and other important highways. This section of state-maintained Route 66 is significant for its association with the rise of automobile tourism in New Mexico and thus is eligible under Criterion A.

9. Bibliography

"Plan and Profile of FAP 75" dated 4/26/50. On file at the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, Records Control Unit of Records Management, Santa Fe.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

UTM References

5. 12 762240 3918680
6. 12 754940 3919800
7. 12 744240 3923220

Verbal Boundary Description

This property is 31.4 miles long and is maintained as a frontage and local road by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. The east end lies at the junction of Route 66 (NM 122) and NM 609, and the west end is at the junction of Route 66 NM (122) and the westbound exit ramp of I-40 at Continental Divide. The sides are a corridor extending fifty feet on either side of the centerline, marking a right of way of 100 feet, a minimum width used by the State Highway Department during the 1930s.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with this section of Route 66.

