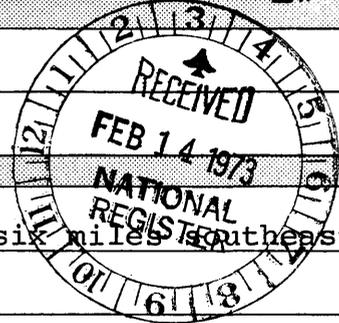


APR 13

STATE: '73 New Mexico  
 COUNTY: Mora  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: 25 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM PLANNING OFFICE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME  
 COMMON: La Cueva Historic District  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: La Cueva, La Cueva Ranch

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Junction of State Highways 3 and 21, six miles southeast  
 CITY OR TOWN: of Mora.  
 STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35 COUNTY: Mora CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: William Salman  
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1251  
 CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Mora County Clerk's Office  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Mora STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1/8/1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Planning Office  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 200 W. De Vargas  
 CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico CODE: 35

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(House) (Mill) (Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent / <del><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair /	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered slightly		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

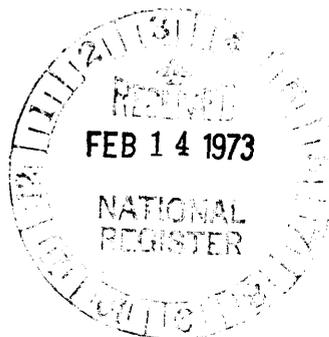
La Cueva Historic District consists of a grist mill, mercantile store and storage buildings, ranch house and out buildings, and San Rafael Church. Built probably in the 1870's, La Cueva Mill is a two-story stone and adobe structure. The stone foundation for this massive mill was laid on natural rock formations. The first story is constructed of rough-hewn, random-sized stone blocks laid unevenly with thick and untrimmed mortar. The second story is of adobe and is crowned with wood siding which is positioned to form the walls of the attic on the eastern and western side of the mill. The sloping roof is of corrugated metal. The exterior of the mill is in good condition but in need of mud plaster. The numerous windows are now boarded. Although much of the mill machinery has been removed from the interior, the water wheel is still in position. The interior walls are plastered with mud and are in fair condition. The floor consists of wood planks. Large hand-hewn timbers were employed in the construction of the attic floor.

The mercantile and storage buildings are also of adobe construction with corrugated metal roofs and were probably erected at the same time as the mill. At present, these buildings are in better condition than the mill.

The house, sometimes referred to as "the Romero House," is a two-story adobe structure constructed shortly after Vicente Romero founded La Cueva around 1851. A unique portal, also two-story, was constructed across the entire facade. The home is in excellent condition.

San Rafael Church built in the latter years of the century of adobe and wood construction served as a family chapel for the Romeros and later owners of the ranch. The exterior of the church is in need of repair, although, the windows are in good condition. The chapel was last used in the early 1950's and the main door is now boarded.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APR 13 '73 |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |  |

STATE PLANNING OFFICE

FEB 14 1973

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

La Cueva Ranch was established about 1851 by Vicente Romero in the center of the Mora Land Grant. This extensive community grant had been conceded to the heads of families by Governor Albino Perez in 1835. Although, a settlement had existed at "Lo de Mora" since 1818. Vicente Romero was not a grantee, but had purchased the shares of several original grantees or their descendants, among them: Pedro Chacón, Miguel Mascareñas, Francisco Sandoval, Maria Dolores Romero (not related to Vicente), Mateo Sandoval and several other small claimants.

On his 33,000 acre ranch, Romero built a two-story home in the 1850's. By the 1870's the mill and warehouses had been added. The family chapel dedicated to San Rafael was built somewhat later. He also laid out an elaborate irrigation system which still serves the needs of the valley. Romero became a prominent freighter and sheep man. Legend has it that he spent much of his time sleeping in caves while tending his flocks which accounts for the origin of the name La Cueva, "the cave."

The 1870 census lists Vicente as 46 years of age and his wife, Josefa, as 38. They had three sons, Rafael, Antonio and Jose Maria. By March of 1880, Vicente Romero was dead and ownership of the land had passed to his wife and oldest son, Rafael. On September 1, 1883, Rafael along with David C. Dewel and Charles Thomas Clark White incorporated La Cueva Ranch for a fifty year period. The first company was capitalized at \$150,000. Dewel owned a third of the interests and White and Rafael Romero owned the remaining stock. Later, Dewel and White purchased the interests of Rafael and his mother. The purpose of incorporating the ranch in 1883 was stated in the articles of the association of the La Cueva Ranch Company as follows: "The objects for which said corporation is formed are to acquire, hold and sell ranch property and other real estate and to operate the same to construct and operate irrigating ditches and to improve lands in connection therewith to raise, buy and sell livestock of all kinds and to engage in merchandising, milling and farming all in the territory of New Mexico."

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, George B. History of New Mexico; Its Resources and People. Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Co., 1907.  
 Beck, Lois. "The Old Mills," New Mexico Magazine, Vol. 46, (March, 1968), p. 23.  
 Wallace, William S. (ed.). A Journey through New Mexico's First Judicial District in 1864; Letters to the Editor of the Santa Fe Weekly New Mexican. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1956.  
 Interview of James H. Purdy with Helen Guerin, 1400 Cerro Gordo, Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 13, 1972. (Mrs. Guerin was a resident of Las Vegas, 1921-1970). (See Continuation Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35	56	40	W105	15	00						
NE	35	56	40	W105	14	40						
SE	35	56	28	W105	14	40						
SW	35	56	28	W105	15	00						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF DESIGNATED PROPERTY: **47 Acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



STATE PLANNING OFFICE  
APR 13 1973

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **James H. Purdy, Archivist I**

ORGANIZATION: **State Records Center and Archives** DATE: **11-17-72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **404 Montezuma**

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe** STATE: **New Mexico** CODE: **35**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: **Daniel W. King**

Title: **STATE PLANNING OFFICER**

Date: **FEBRUARY 6, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

**Robert M. Utley**  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **5/25/73**

ATTEST: **[Signature]**  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **5 23 73**

NW 13 / 4777420 / 2977630  
 SE 13 / 4777930 / 3977260  
 SW 13 / 4777420 / 3977260  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Mora	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 1973

(Number all entries)

**NO. 8 SIGNIFICANCE continued**

About 1908, Hugh Loudon and Major A. W. Whitmore bought the stock which had originally belonged to Romero and his mother. In 1908, the ranch was listed as the second largest in the Territory in the amount of area under cultivation. About 4,500 head of cattle were also pastured on the ranch during the winter months. P. W. Shufeldt, who had worked for the Wriggly Chewing Gum Company in British Honduras, purchased the ranch in the 1930's. The mill had been operated until the mid-1920's and was then idle for a decade. Shufeldt reactivated the mill and converted it to more modern machinery. Flour was ground as late as 1949 when the mill was finally shut down. After Shufeldt died in 1948, his wife, Wilhelmina, sold the ranch (with the exception of the cemetery, church and land around the church which she gave to the Catholic Church) to William Salman. The mill and warehouses have been used for storage and the Romero house has become the residence of David Salman, the State Representative from Mora-Union-Harding Counties.

**NO. 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued**

Interview of James H. Purdy with State Representative David Salman, La Cueva, New Mexico, November 15, 1972. (Representative Salman lives on La Cueva Ranch).

Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Loose Mission Documents, 1818, #32. State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Original documents on the Mora Land Grant are found in the files of the Surveyor General of New Mexico, Case #32. State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

U. S. Census 1870, Mora County, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

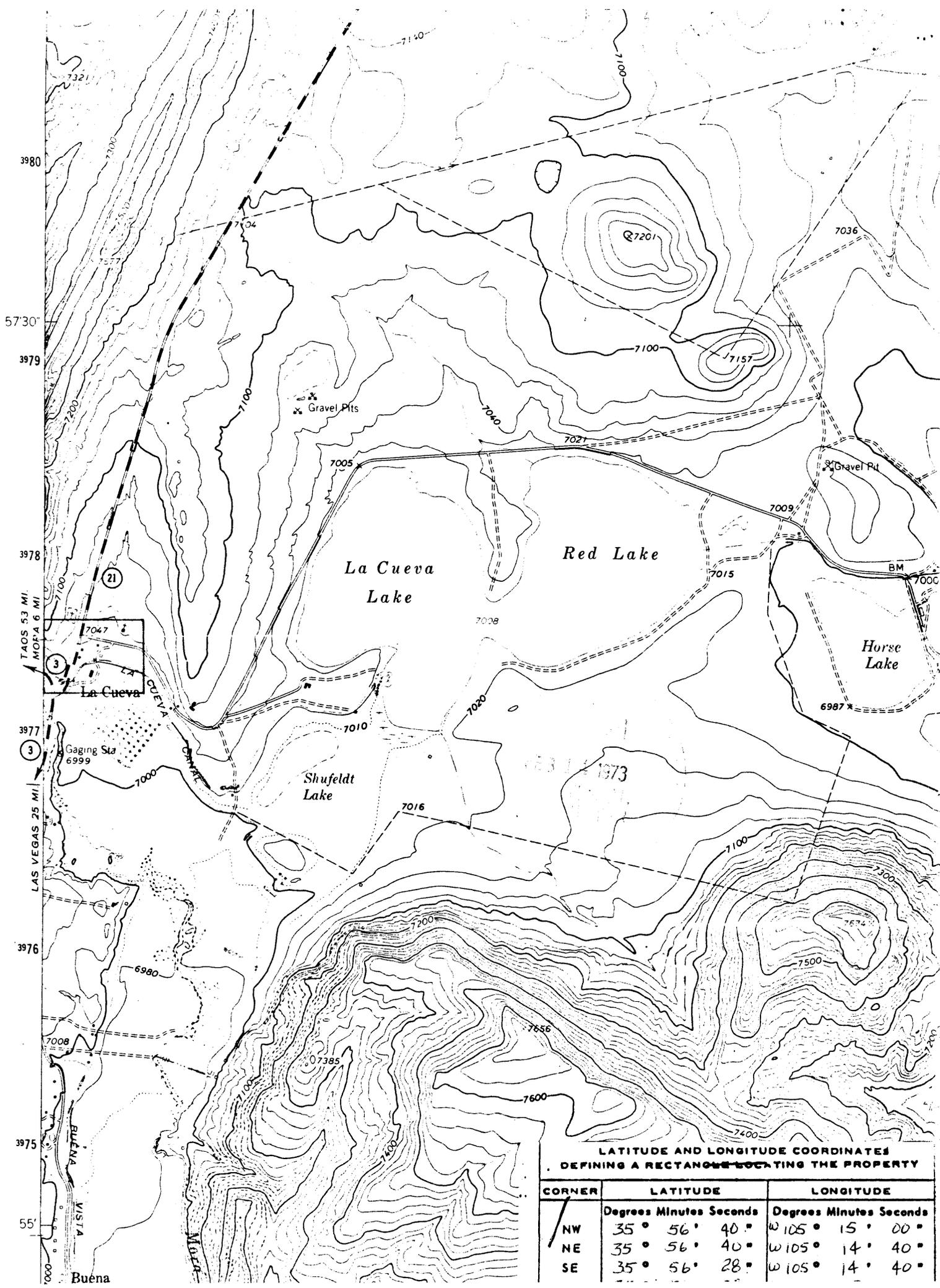
Records of Incorporation, Territory of New Mexico, III, 1883. State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

L. Bradford Prince, Land Grant Papers, Mora Grant. State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



STATE PLANNING 01

APR 13 '73



LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES  
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35°	56'	40"	W 105°	15'	00"
NE	35°	56'	40"	W 105°	14'	40"
SE	35°	56'	28"	W 105°	14'	40"

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Mora	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: La Cueva Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: La Cueva, La Cueva Ranch			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Junction of State Highways 3 and 21, six miles southeast			
CITY OR TOWN: of Mora			
STATE: New Mexico	CODE 35	COUNTY: Mora	CODE 033
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey Quad Map of La Cueva, New Mex. FEB 14 1973			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1961			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			