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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico
COUNTY: Valencia
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Site of Hawikuh Pueblo (Zuni Indian Tribe) one of legendary Seven Cities, discovered

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
by Estevanico in 1539.

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Zuni Indian Reservation, 12 miles south of Zuni, New Mexico

CITY OR TOWN:  
Zuni

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE:  
New Mexico

CODE:  
35

COUNTY:  
Valencia

CODE:  
031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Ruins in country</u>
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Zuni Indian Tribe

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Zuni Tribal Council

CITY OR TOWN:  
Zuni

STATE:  
New Mexico

CODE:  
35

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of the Interior

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Zuni Reservation established by Executive Order ALSO, National Historic Landmark

DATE OF SURVEY: March 16, 1877     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1951 Constitution Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington, D. C.

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Mexico
COUNTY: Valencia
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Zuni pueblo of Hawikuh stood on a long, narrow ridge on the eastern or left side of the valley of the Zuni River, about fifteen miles southwest of the present town of Zuni, New Mexico, and about two and one-half miles east of the bed of the river.

The year in which its construction began remains uncertain, but archaeological studies indicate that it was occupied, wholly or in part, for considerably more than four centuries. It was largely destroyed and was abandoned in 1680 when the Pueblo Indians revolted and drove the Spanish out of the Southwest.

The pueblo, or village, was built along the top of the ridge for a distance of about four hundred feet northward from its southerly tip, and extended across the ridge and partly down its upper slopes to a maximum width of about two hundred and seventy-five feet.

There were six irregularly shaped structures separated by open passageways and numerous small plazas. The buildings, which ranged from one to three stories in height, were constructed of sandstone blocks laid in rough ashlar form. These blocks, varying in size from eleven to twenty inches in length, three to six inches in thickness, and four to eight inches in width, were invariably laid in abundant mortar of stiff red adobe or hard red clay. The walls were covered with adobe plaster, not infrequently two or three inches thick.

Masonry techniques, termed Ancient and Recent by scientists, indicate that there were two successive building periods at Hawikuh. Excavations and studies of the ceramic content of the debris reveal that more than five hundred rooms were constructed with the so-called Ancient method and an equal number with the Recent method. The general area of the Ancient structures was essentially the same as that of the Recent, the latter rooms usually having been built on the older buildings. In most instances the newer walls were projections upward of the older ones.

As was the case with most of the pueblos, the only entrances to Hawikuh were narrow and crooked, and, therefore, easily defended. Attackers could be showered with arrows, spears and stones from many small terraces.

Coronado reported that Hawikuh was inhabited by five hundred families, but he failed to state how many persons constituted a family. Archaeologists have determined that the normal household unit was three rooms, and that an average family consisted of four members. It is estimated that when Estevanico discovered Hawikuh some seven hundred Zuni were living in it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1539**

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Afro-Am. History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Exploration</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Estavan, or Estevanico as he was called by the famous Cabeza de Vaca, was the only known black explorer in the Sixteenth Century to make major discoveries in the region of North America which was later to become the United States. The first known non-Indian to reach the area of the present American Southwest, Estevanico opened a trail from Mexico into the area that now comprises the states of Arizona and New Mexico in 1539. He was also the first non-Indian discoverer of Hawikuh, one of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, and thereby prepared the way for the great expedition of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

Estevanico was the slave of the Spanish Captain Andres Dorantes. He was born in Asemmur, or Azamor, on the west coast of Morocco but the year of his birth is unknown. Very little is known of his early life before the tragic Narvaez Expedition of 1528 from which only four men, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, Andres Dorantes de Carranca, Alonso del Castillo Maldonado, and Estevanico survived. The Narvaez Expedition was the first known crossing of the North American continent north of central Mexico by non-Indians. Panfilo de Narvaez, newly appointed governor of Florida, lead the expedition of 300 men that landed near Tampa Bay, Florida, in the spring of 1528 and set out overland in search of treasures for the Spanish government. The expedition took them into the unexplored jungles of what was to become the southeast United States. Most of the men were slain in battles with Indians while others died of malnutrition, dysentery, and fever. The four survivors, in a desperate attempt to save their lives, constructed make-shift barges and sailed westward along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Totally ignorant of the geography and climate of the region, the four men braved extremely hazardous experiences. For most of their six year search for safety, the four men were held captive by Indians who used them as slaves. Finally escaping from their captors in the fall of 1534, they crossed what is now Texas and northern Mexico, traveling south to Mexico City which they reached in July, 1536.

Mexico's Viceroy Mendoza wanted an expedition put together to search for the seven large and purportedly rich Seven Cities of Gold, which the Indians claimed lay far to the north of Mexico. In 1536 he tried to enlist the aid of the four survivors of the Narvaez expedition but only Estevanico was able to go. Dorantes, who was returning to Spain, gave his slave Estevanico to Mendoza. Although Estevanico had proven himself capable of commanding an exploratory expedition, his status as a Negro

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Castaneda, Pedro de. Narrative of the Expedition of Coronado. Translated by George Parker Winship. Bureau of American Ethnology, Fourteenth Annual Report. Washington, 1896.

Hakluyt, Richard. The Principal Navigations, Voiages, Traffiques and Discoveries. London: 1598-1600. (Contains English translation of Fray Marcos de Niza's "Relacion Del Descubrimiento De Las Siete Cuidades.")

Hodge, Frederick W. Spanish Explorers in the Southern United States. New York: 1907. (Contains the English translation by T. Buckingham Smith of Cabeza de Vaca's Relation, and the English translation by George Parker Winship of Castaneda's narrative

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"			
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **ten acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Marcia M. Greenlee, Historical Projects Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation**      DATE: **27 Sept. 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1420 N Street, N. W., Suite 101**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D. C.**      STATE: \_\_\_\_\_      CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
COUNTY Valencia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE - page 2

slave and his non-Christian upbringing prohibited his appointment, in Spanish eyes, as a suitable leader for an official exploring party. Instead of Estevanico, a Christian priest Fray Marcos de Niza was appointed the party's leader. Another priest, Fray Onarato accompanied Fray Marcos, and Estevanico was to serve as their official guide and interpreter. Coronado, who had been appointed governor of the west coast province of Neuva Galicia, went along with the group as far as Culiacan.

Although Estevanico's status was supposed to place him in a position subservient to that of the two priests, his flamboyant personality and ability to communicate and to get along with the Indians soon established him as the virtual, if not the titular, head of the expedition. In the fall of 1538 the party started on its way, reaching Compostela in December and Culiacan, where Coronado left them, in March of the following year. Sixty leagues from Culiacan, Fray Onarato became ill and was forced to return to the town.

Besides the loss of Fray Onarato from the party, the physical obstacles of the terrain, and Estevanico's acts of defiance and misbehavior were a constant source of annoyance, irritation, and uneasiness for Fray Marcos. Despite Mendoza's instructions ordering Estevanico to obey the priest, the "slave" realized that once the party was in the wilderness outside the reach of the military, Fray Marcos would be largely, if not entirely, dependent on him. Estevanico had, after all, been over the trail as far as Pueblo de los Corazones with Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, and the other survivors of the Narvaez Expedition, three years earlier. He was the man the Indians knew and trusted because he had learned their languages and knew much of their cultures. He assumed a great deal of prestige among the Indian servants in the exploring party, and he acquired a considerable amount of personal baggage, much of it rich gifts, which he felt a man of his high station properly should possess. One such gift was a sacred medicine rattle, made from a gourd, which was believed to be infused with supernatural forces. As Estevanico pushed on, Fray Marcos who had taken sick fell behind. He tried in vain to catch up with the "slave," but Estevanico motivated in large part by a desire for his own fame, glory, and wealth, was always just ahead of the priest.

Finally, Estevanico reached a region never before traveled by non-Indians. His trail from that point on was the unlocking of the southwestern gateway of the future United States to the rest of the world. Crossing into what is now Arizona and New Mexico, Estevanico saw from a high elevation, the walls of one of the famed cities of Cibola which the Indians called Hawikuh. Several of his servants went ahead, carrying the sacred medicine rattle to which there was attached a string of small bells and two feathers, one red and one white. Having never had any contact with the white or black men, the people of Hawikuh were less than friendly to the messengers, and when Estevanico made his entrance to the Zuni Pueblo, his illustrious travels were brought to an abrupt and tragic end. Encircled by a group of men with clubs, bows and arrows, he was overwhelmed, taken prisoner, and

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Mexico	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE - page 3

finally slain. Word reached Fray Marcos, still struggling further back down the trail, of Estevanico's death. The cautious priest stopped short and never reached Hawikuh. When the Coronado Expedition reached Hawikuh the following year, 1540, they were disappointed to discover that the source of their hope and dreams was a small sandstone, dusty, crowded village.

Estevanico is of national historical significance because he was the only known black explorer in the Sixteenth Century to make major contributions to the knowledge of the region that was to become the United States. With Cabeza de Vaca, Dorantes, and Castillo, Estevanico participated in the first non-Indian crossing of the North American continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, north of Mexico. The contribution of these four men to American history was enormous. By proving that the continent grew wider in the north, they drastically changed all maps of the Western Hemisphere. Estevanico was also the first non-Indian to reach the present American Southwest. He was the first non-Indian to open a trail from Mexico into the region of the present states of Arizona and New Mexico. And as the non-Indian discoverer of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in that region, Estevanico prepared the way for the Coronado Expedition of 1540.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES - page 2

of the Coronado Expedition.

Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar. Relacion. Zamora: 1542; reprinted Valladolid: 1555. English translation by T. Buckingham Smith. Washington: 1851.

Terrell, John Upton. Estevanico The Black. Los Angeles: 1968.

(PARTIAL LISTING)

4.