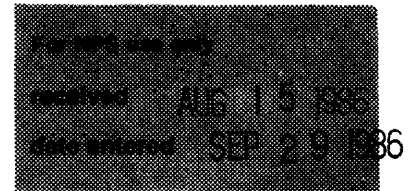


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#315 Plaza Blanca Community Ditch, ill. 129, 133; Map 12.
Vic. Plaza Blanca.
4. Owners: Plaza Blanca Community Ditch Association,
Rutherford NM 87563

7. Description: The general appearance and operation of area ditches described in the Description section above (pp. 60-1) applies to the Plaza Blanca Community Ditch. Dug prior to 1900, the ditch serves 19 plots. Efforts are being made to register the ditch with the State Engineer in order to obtain funding for a concrete headgate to stabilize the diversion. Presently the ditch employs a wooden headgate, but as the Chama River shifts its course, its more fragile headgate remains vulnerable to rock, gravel and debris buildups.

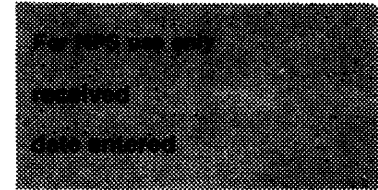
It diverts from Chama River 2 miles WSW of State Fish Hatchery; desague (or discharge point) 1 mile SSW of Plaza Blanca. Major features: wooden headgate; metal and wooden lateral gates; total length: 2.5 miles; total acreage: 12.1; irrigates: ca. 250 acres; midway dimensions: bottom width 3', top width 6', depth 1.5'.

Since it is being nominated for its historic role in local governance and in the shaping of the cultural landscape (see Significance below) and not as an example of construction or engineering, the diversion dam, headgate and lateral gates, most of which are recent additions, are not recognized as historically significant features. (Note: this irrigation system is counted as one contributing structure.)

8. Significance: Like the other nominated ditches and as described above in the Significance section (pp. 64-7), the Plaza Blanca Community Ditch played a primary role in shaping the cultural landscape as the boundary between agricultural lands and the arid sage brush sand hills above and as a field and property boundary which predated all fences and most roads. Through its Ditch Association, it also provided the residents of Plaza Blanca their most important focus for the communal obligation (see Part I, pp. 12-13), organization and decision-making which was central to the agrarian Hispanic villages of northern New Mexico. Since the village is not incorporated and the association continues to function, the ditch provides a vital social link with the historic cultural roots of the area.

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10. Acreage: 12.1 acres

<u>UTM</u>	<u>References</u>	Zone	Eastings	Northings
	W	13	358220	4064780
	X	13	355560	4061650
	Y	13	355000	4061720
	Z	13	357760	4064820

Boundary: A polygon, roughly 20' by 2.5 miles, formed by two lines parallel to and ten feet from mid-ditch, extending from the headgate to the desague. The boundary has been drawn tightly to include the ditch and its embankments.