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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Abandoned Route 66, Cuervo to SR 156

other names/site number US 54

2. Location

street & number Cuervo to the junction with SR 156  not for publication

city or town Cuervo  vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Guadalupe code 019 zip code 88417

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.)

Don Will SIPO 10-4-93  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Hortense Pruitt Division, State of New Mexico  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Beth J. Savage 11-22-93

Rt. 66, Cuervo to SR 156  
Name of Property

Guadalupe County, 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.)

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

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 earth fill, asphalt surfacing,  
concrete culverts

**Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions of property significance.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions of property characteristics.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

Period of Significance

1932-1952

Significant Dates

1932, 1952

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):

- Documentation on file (NPS) with checkboxes and descriptions.

Primary location of additional data:

- Primary location of additional data with checkboxes and agency names.

Name of repository:

Rt. 66, Cuervo to SR 156  
Name of Property

Guadalupe County, NM  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 84 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	3
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5	5	3	6	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	6	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

3 

1	3
---	---

5	4	6	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	6	7	9	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 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, 1993  
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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7&8 Page 1

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Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM  
Guadalupe County, New Mexico

7. Description

This 6.9 mile section of abandoned Route 66 serves as a local road for ranchers and utility company line crews. It marks one of the few places where the road deviated substantially from the railroad right of way. Although disuse and the erosive forces of nature have resulted in the deterioration of the asphalt surface, concrete culverts, a yellow center stripe, and modest bank cuts remain. These structural elements as well as the original cross section template and the vistas of the surrounding rural landscape contribute to the historic feeling of this road section.

Passing southwest from Cuervo, this abandoned portion of Route 66 crosses a deep arroyo carved by Cuervito Creek, employing a large concrete box culvert, and then climbs two hundred feet to an elevation of 5,100 ft. at Mesita Contadero. Small bank cuts marking the ascent give way to a table land where the road bed is built on the mesa's relatively flat rock and caliche surface. Despite much deteriorating asphalt the yellow median stripe of the twenty-four ft. wide road is often evident. Fences line the right of way, enclosing rangeland marked by short grasses and cholla cactus. Typical of most ascents along Route 66, a gas station awaited motorists at the rise, a spot now marked only by the buildings' foundations and concrete pump island. With I-40 well removed to the north, this road section offers unbroken scenic vistas of eastern New Mexico rangeland, conveying a strong feeling of early motor travel across rural portions of the state.

8. Statement of Significance

This road section was realigned from an earlier course in 1932 under FAP 114-C and served as Route 66 and 54 until 1952 when the highway was realigned along the course presently followed by I-40. This section of abandoned Route 66 is significant for its association with the rise of automobile

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

Section 8, 9 &amp; 10 Page 2

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM  
Guadalupe County, New Mexico

## Significance (continued)

tourism in New Mexico as discussed in the Multiple Property listing and thus is eligible under Criterion A. With its historic alignment, its cross-section template, its structural elements including culverts and cut banks reflecting early road construction, design, materials and workmanship, the section is eligible under Criterion C.

## 9. Bibliography

"Plan and Profile of FAP 114-C" dated 12/1/32. On file at the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, Records Control Unit of Records Management, Santa Fe.

## Verbal Boundary Description

This property is 6.9 miles long and is indicated on Guadalupe County property maps as abandoned. The northeast end lies at the junction of old Route 66 with the eastbound I-40 exit ramp at Cuervo, and the southwest end is at the junction with SR 156. The sides are marked by a corridor extending fifty feet on either side of the road's 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.