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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 State maintained Route 66: Manuelito to the Arizona border

other names/site number SR 118

2. Location

street & number W side of the Manuelito grade separation to Az. border  not for publication

city or town Mentmore  vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county McKinley code 031 zip code 87319

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.)

Ann Wall SITRO 10-4-93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Antonie Purovich 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 11-22-93  
Bella Savage Date of Action

Rt. 66, Manuelito to Az. border  
Name of Property

McKinley 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.)

**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 earth fill, asphalt surfacing, concrete culverts, bank cuts

**Narrative Description**

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

Rt. 66, Manuelito to Az. border  
Name of Property

McKinley County, 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
transportation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

\_\_\_\_\_  
1930-1956  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rt. 66, Manuelito to Az. border

McKinley County, NM

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 102 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 2	6 8 5 7 6 0	3 9 2 4 6 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 2	6 8 1 9 6 0	3 9 2 1 4 8 0

3	1 2	6 7 9 6 0 0	3 9 1 8 0 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 2	6 7 7 5 3 0	3 9 1 4 8 7 0

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  
McKinley County, New Mexico

7. Description

This 8.4 mile section of state-maintained Route 66, now designated as SR 118, serves local residents. It follows the upper contours of the Rio Puerco of the West floodplain, crossing the AT&SF tracks three miles east of Manuelito and then paralleling them to the Arizona border. Yellow and red sandstone cliffs often covered by juniper and pinon trees line the river valley with their walls rising abruptly. Since the valley floor is unstable and susceptible to flooding, both the railroad and road cling to the slopes just beneath the mesas as they pass through narrow portions of the valley. Here large and often unstable cuts result in brief rises above the 6,200 ft. high valley floor, affording motorists spectacular vistas of the sandstone cliffs lining the valley. Two large slope cuts, five concrete box culverts and the historic cross template of the road convey a strong feeling of early motor travel in western New Mexico.

The road section begins at the west end of a reinforced concrete grade separation. West of Manuelito the road climbs above the railroad to make its way around the lower slopes of two mesas including Devil's Cliff. Both cliffs have substantial slope cuts, conveying a feeling of the challenges facing early road builders. Chronic problems with land and rock slides at Devil's Cliff have resulted in the installation of steel mesh fencing along the escarpment. As the road descends the slope at Devil's Cliff, it stretches west to the Arizona border, passing through a narrow portion of the valley lined by red sandstone cliffs.

8. Statement of Significance

Realigned and paved in 1930, as a part of FAP 76, this road section was one of the first rural portions of Route 66 to be paved. With trading posts and other evidences of the nearby Navajo Nation lining the road, it had a close association with the "Indian Country" image that drew many motorists to the

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8,9&10 Page 2

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

Significance (continued)

Southwest. This section of state-maintained Route 66 is significant as a reminder of the rise of automobile tourism in New Mexico and thus is eligible under Criterion A.

9. Bibliography

"Final Plans for FI 76-2" dated 2/28/48. 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 8.4 miles long. The east end lies at the west end of the Manuelito grade separation, and the west end lies at the Arizona border. The sides are defined 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.