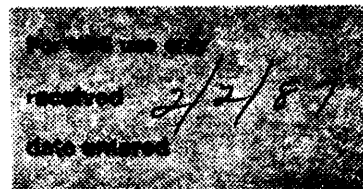


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 129

#2036 Acequia Madre, see description,

4. Owner: Ernie Olivas, Mayordomo, Acequia Madre, South Hwy. 85, Las Vegas, NM.

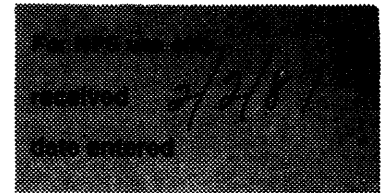
7. Description: An earthen irrigation channel; 3-5 feet wide; and 2-3 feet deep. Leaving the Gallinas River at a point due northeast of Taos Street; proceeding southwest through unplatted land to the northeast corner of Block 3 of the Baca and Sandoval Addition; proceeding south along the east boundary of Blocks 3-4 of the Baca and Sandoval Addition and Blocks E and F of the Original Town; proceeding through, then along the west edge of, then through Block L of the Original Town; proceeding south along the east boundary of blocks 50-53 of the Addition to the Town of Las Vegas; proceeding south through unplatted land, dissipating beyond the intersection of S. Pacific and U.S. 85.

8. Significance: Work on the Acequia Madre, or main irrigation ditch, undoubtedly started the first or second year of settlement (1835-36), such was its importance to a traditional Hispanic farming village. An east side ditch and another on the west side, La Acequia Nuestra Senora de Los Dolores, were constructed later, but both disappeared by the mid-1920's. The Acequia Madre appears as a property boundary in deeds from the 1850's; were it served this secondary function, its location has probably not changed.

The system starts with a rubble stone diversion dam on the Gallinas River due east of Taos Street. The earthen ditch itself, from three to five feet wide and two to three feet deep, wends its way south parallel to the river. In some communities, the ditch association, with its elected leader or mayordomo served as a quasi-governmental institution which sometimes became a focal point for resistance to Anglo-American control. In West Las Vegas, where the Spanish-speaking population retained a large measure of political control, the ditch association has remained a secondary institution. That the association and the ditch still operate, bringing water to fields along the river, represents a still vital aspect of the original Hispanic village.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 129 A

10. Acreage: 3.6 acres

UTM References: E. 13 479330 3939110 F. 13 479840
393700 G. 13 480490 3937000 H. 13 480000 3937000

Boundary: A polygon, roughly 20' by 1.5 miles, formed by two lines parallel to and ten feet from mid-ditch, and a line ten feet northeast of the diversion dam, and a line ten feet south of the discharge point. The location of the ditch is recorded on Map 4 and described above under "7. Description." This boundary has been drawn tightly to include the ditch and its embankments.