(Oct. 1990)

APR 18

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: CONCHAS DAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

HISTORIC NAME: Conchas Dam Project
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly bounded by entrance to Conchas Lake State Park South Area, entrance to Conchas Lake State Park North Area, Conchas Reservoir and Bell Ranch (Conchas Dam and Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District) NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Conchas Dam VICINITY: N/A

STATE: New Mexico CODE: NM COUNTY: San Miguel CODE: 047 ZIP CODE: 88416

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_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 _x_meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___nationally __X_statewide ___locally. (___See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date: 3/22/05

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or 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 commenting or other official — Date: 4/8/05

U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
✓ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	for Edson Beall	5/22/05
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.		
___ determined not eligible for the National Register		
___ removed from the National Register		
___ other (explain): _____		

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	6	3 BUILDINGS
	1	0 SITES
	11	2 STRUCTURES
	2	0 OBJECTS
	21	5 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:
GOVERNMENT: public works (dam and reservoir)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation (reservoir, picnic area, hiking trails)

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:
GOVERNMENT: public works (dam and reservoir)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation (reservoir, picnic area, hiking trails)

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

MATERIALS: **FOUNDATION**: CONCRETE
WALLS: CONCRETE; ADOBE
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-21).

Description

The Conchas Dam Historic District is located 35 miles northwest of Tucumcari at Conchas Lake in San Miguel County, New Mexico. The dam is situated along the South Canadian River approximately one-quarter mile below its confluence with the Conchas River. The centerpiece of the district is the Conchas Dam constructed between 1935 and 1939. The commanding concrete gravity-type dam is 1,250 feet in length and 235 feet in height with a capacity of 709,100 acre-feet. The district contains the Main Dam and associated dikes, wing dams and spillways. Nominated with the district is the 1939-40 Administrative Area, including the Administration Building, five former staff houses, and an entry gate, a water tower and two paintings by artist Odon Hullenkremer. A small number of modern intrusions are noncontributing to the district. Overall, the district contains a high degree of integrity of its location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, setting and association.

The Conchas Dam Historic District occupies a portion of the Pablo Montoya Grant of 1824 now described as Section 33, Township 14 North, Range 26 East (see U.S.G.S. quad maps). Government land at the entire project amounts to 3,530 acres and the flowage easement land are 20,113 acres. The smaller nominated district is situated along the South Canadian River approximately one-quarter mile below its confluence with the Conchas River. The South Canadian River rises in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Raton, New Mexico, flowing in a southeast direction; the Conchas River originates east of Las Vegas, New Mexico, and flows in a southeast direction. The drainage area above Conchas Dam is approximately 7,500 square miles.

The historic district is within the High Plains and Great Basin Grasslands (Brown 1982). Hot in the summer and cold in the winter, this semiarid area is marked by varieties of prairie grass, shrubs, and stunted piñon and juniper trees. Erosion dissected, flat-topped mesas overlook the reservoir. The now fully mature elm trees planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the park and housing area that the CCC constructed provide an oasis of shade in this otherwise sun-drenched setting.

Conchas Dam Historic District is a complex set of interconnected components acting in concert to create a reservoir of 315,735 acre-feet of water (see Figure 7-1). In addition to the concrete Main Dam, supplemental water control features were also constructed. These consist of the north and south wing dams, the north and south dikes, the emergency spillway, the irrigation headworks structure and a saddle dam (all contributing). In contrast to the Main Dam, the wing dams and dikes were constructed out of an impervious rolled fill, covered by a pervious rolled fill, and then capped by broken rock or riprap. The Emergency Spillway, located to the north of the Main Dam, is a concrete ogee weir structure that extends 3,000 feet in length. The combined length of the proposed linear district is 3.75 miles spanning a north to south trending line.

Upon completion of the dam in September 1939, an administration building, a single-family house, and four duplex residences were constructed immediately northwest of the Main Dam in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival

style. Original Conchas City construction camp buildings were dismantled and the over 700,000 adobe bricks used to build it in 1935 were salvaged to construct the Administration Building and the permanent housing for government employees. Contained within the Administration Building are two paintings by Odon Hullenkremer, each contributing.

Table 7.1: Contributing Elements of Main Dam Complex

Name	Type	Construction
Main Dam	Structure	1935 - 1939
No. 1 North Dike	Structure	1936 - 1939
Emergency Spillway	Structure	1936 - 1939
No. 2 North Dike	Structure	1937 – 1939
North Wing Dam	Structure	1937 – 1939
South Wing Dam	Structure	1937 – 1939
South Dike	Structure	1937 – 1939
Saddle Dam	Structure	1937 – 1939
Irrigation Headworks	Structure	1938 – 1939

Main Dam

Conchas Dam is a large, straight concrete gravity dam built in 29 monoliths (see Photo 1). The staging of the construction included building a monolith separately, creating a jagged wall of rising from the riverbed (see Figure 7-2). Creating a massive wall of concrete, the sheer weight of the concrete holds the dam in place. Measuring 1,250 feet in length, the dam is equal to the height of the Empire State Building. Construction of such a large dam required 36,000 cubic yards of concrete, enough to build two Pentagon buildings and a sidewalk around them. Five ungated ogee spillways, forming what appear to be a series of closed-spandrel bridges (see Photo 2), top the dam. When spilling over the dam, water continues southeast as the South Canadian River to Ute Lake. The crest elevation of the dam spillway is 4,201 feet. Full capacity of these spillways at elevation 4,230 is 182,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water.

Stepped towers, or pier houses, bracket the spillways. Each pier house features a polished bronze door opening to the interior of the dam. A road with parapet walls designed according to highway bridge specifications and recommendation from the American Association of State Highway Official traverses the top of the dam (Kramer 1941: Vol.1: 81). Traveling north over the top of the dam, the expanse of the Conchas Lake reservoir is evident to the left (west), the spillway drops precipitously to the right (east).

The interior of the dam contains three interconnecting galleries that supply ventilation and access for operation and inspection, and for future grouting and drainage. The operating gallery houses six, 4 foot by 5-foot service and emergency hydraulic gates that have a capacity of emitting 8,100 cfs of water. The grouting gallery

at the bottom of the dam holds three Kaylex holes that were bored down into the foundation. These holes are monitored for uplift pressure on the dam and provide inspection access to the foundation.

The concrete walled powerhouse is situated on the south downstream side of and physically attached to the Main Dam (see Photo 3). It houses a hydroelectric generator, a diesel generator, electrical transformers and panels. Designed in the same stepped fashion as the pier houses, the interior and exterior doors are made of bronze. Originally the roof was covered with copper sheets and the flashing and vents made also of copper. The original roof was replaced with asphalt after the 1970s due to the extreme difficulties in maintaining it. Steel casement windows and glass blocks, completing the quasi Art Deco appearance, are original. The hydro-generator has never been used but is well maintained to act as a backup generator if the diesel motor should fail and the hydraulic gates needed to be opened. Penstocks, a sluice or gate used to control water, were installed in the dam for the intended future construction of a second powerhouse, to be located on the north downstream side, to generate hydroelectricity and supply water to nearby communities.

Foundation excavation for the Main Dam initiated on December 20, 1935 by government forces and was then contracted out in November 1, 1936. In preparation for the construction, surveyors stalked the countryside with flags and scopes, followed by "high scalers" pushing away loose rock and scraping the hillsides that would become the abutments. The first bucket of concrete was placed on April 12, 1937. Thereafter, and for the following three years, construction on the various components progressed, with the dates, costs, volumes of material involved, personnel, detailed by the War Department in 1940. In total, 1,300,000 cubic yards of material were excavated and 836,000 cubic yards of concrete, 2,900,000 cubic yards of earth fill, and 785,000 cubic yards of rock fill placed.

Conchas Dam construction was unlike common dam building where a diversion tunnel or canal is used to displace the water. Instead, the dam was essentially built from the outside in as the river was allowed to flow through the center area of the dam while the south and north abutments and adjoining monoliths were completed first. When construction began on the center monoliths, a cofferdam was built and the river was diverted through the already completed sluicing gates on the north side of the dam.

Captain Hans Kramer, the District Engineer in charge of the project, assured structural stability of the dam for years to come. He wrote, "Should grouting be necessary in the future, 3-1/2 inch steel pipe casings set at five-foot centers and extended from the gallery floor to bedrock were installed along the entire length of the dam. Extensive provisions for foundation drainage were made under the Main Dam...[with]...a series of 66 eight-inch core holes drilled to varying depths in the foundation are and extended with ten-inch riser pipes to the operating gallery where they vent the artesian water and relieve pressure from under the Main Dam to the Stilling Basin" (Kramer, 1941, Vol.I:194). In a similar manner, the Stilling Basin has 292 two-inch holes for the same purpose of relieving any uplift pressures.

Eastern New Mexico had been in a long period of drought and no one expected the water retained behind the dam to rise significantly. It was speculated that it would take up to ten years to fill the reservoir behind Conchas Dam. However, by July 1939, workers found themselves in a race against the rising water and accelerated their pace.

North and South Wing Dams

The north and south wing dams are contiguous to the Main Dam and are constructed of earth and rock. The north wing dam is approximately 1,000 feet in length, while the south wing dam is 4,000 feet long. Together they contain approximately 880,00 cubic yards of rolled earth fill and 225,000 cubic yards of rock fill (see Photo 1).

North Dike No. 1 and No 2.

There are two north dikes that are composed of low earth fill structures separated by the Emergency Spillway. Government forces started construction of the North Dikes and excavation for the Emergency Spillway on September 8, 1938. North Dike No. 1 is three-quarters of a mile north of the Main Dam and is approximately 1,400 feet long with a maximum height of 30 feet (see Photo 11). It contains approximately 37,000 cubic yards of rolled earth fill and 11,500 cubic yards of rock fill. North Dike No. 2 is one and one-half miles north of the Main Dam and is approximately 1400 feet long with a maximum height of 20 feet. It contains 10,000 cubic yards of rolled earth fill and 4000 cubic yards of rock fill.

Emergency Spillway

The Emergency Spillway is a concrete gravity, ogee-type structure that is 3,000 feet long and contains 67,250 cubic yards of concrete (see Photo 11). Government forces placed the concrete foundation; another 67,000 cubic yards of concrete for the spillway was placed by contract. The contract started September 18, 1938 and was completed May 4,1939. The crest elevation of the Emergency Spillway is 4,218 feet. Its capacity, at elevation 4,230 is 450,000 cubic feet per second of water. It is estimated that water would flow over the Emergency Spillway once in 240 years.

South Dike

The South Dike is an earth and rock fill structure approximately 96 feet high and 6,400 feet long situated across low ground one-quarter of a mile south of the Main Dam (see Photo 4). In July 1937, funds appropriated by the Emergency Relief Act of 1937 were made available for construction of the South Dike. Construction started in August 1937 and was completed in April 1939. Foundation excavation required removal of 300,000 cubic yards of material while the fill contains approximately 1,900,000 cubic yards of rolled earth fill and 515,000 cubic yards of rock fill. The South Dike was completed with 100% government relief labor.

Saddle Dam

The Saddle Dam is a small earth and rock fill structure located three miles south of the Main Dam (see Photo 14). It serves as a safety valve in the event of an extreme flood. The structure is 1,400 feet long with a maximum height of four feet and contains 2,000 cubic yards of earth fill and 700 cubic yards of riprap.

Irrigation Headworks

The Irrigation Headworks consists of a concrete-lined tunnel driven through approximately 700 feet of shale under the south abutment of the south dike (see Photo 5). Contract work initiated on the structure on October 19, 1938 and completed July 3, 1939. Concrete placement in the gate chamber was done by drilling an 8-inch hole from the roadway of the South Dike directly above it. The operating equipment consisting of slide gates and penstocks was installed by contract started March 10, 1939 and completed September 29, 1939. Approximately 140,000 cubic yards of material were excavated and 6,000 cubic yards of concrete used to build the structure. Included are the intake structure, an 11-foot diameter circular tunnel 328-feet long, a gate chamber, a tunnel (known as the "horseshoe" tunnel), 22 feet wide by 15-feet high and 310-feet long, and an outlet portal that discharges water into the irrigation canal. To regulate irrigation discharge, two, 90-inch diameter steel penstocks, located in the horseshoe tunnel, control two hydraulically operated emergency gates, each of which is six feet by seven feet-six inches and located in the gate chamber. Two similar gates are situated in the outlet portal gatehouse for normal operation of the facility.

Administration Area

Located northwest of the Main Dam, the Administration Area consists of the project Administration Building, five former staff housing units, and a park and picnic area. A few noncontributing elements, including a recent picnic shelter and a bathroom, and metal storage sheds, have been introduced. These elements do not detract from the historic setting, feeling, and association of the area.

Table 7.2: Contributing and Noncontributing Elements of Administration Area

Name	Type	Construction
Contributing		
Administration Building	Building	1939 – 1940
Duplex House 1	Building	1939 – 1940
Duplex House 2	Building	1939 – 1940
Duplex House 3	Building	1939 – 1940
Duplex House 4	Building	1939 – 1940

Single Residence House	Building	1939 – 1940
Entrance Gate	Structure	1939 – 1940
Water Tower	Structure	1939 – 1940
Painting "Commencement of Main Dam Construction."	Object	1935
Conchas City, New Mexico"	Object	1936
Park	Site	1939 - 1940

Noncontributing

Maintenance Building 1	Building	post-1960s
Maintenance Building 2	Building	post-1960s
Restrooms	Building	post-1970s
Shelter	Structure	post-1970s
New Mexico State Highway 433	Structure	c. 1939; altered late 1950s

The road to the administration area from the south leads directly over the top of the dam and through the tree-lined park built by the CCC. A left-hand turn takes one past the adobe entrance gate and into the parking lot with the Administration Building directly in front and the houses further to the west (see Photo 6). Conchas Reservoir provides a panoramic backdrop. The trees and grass of the park and the administration area offer a welcome respite from the intense sun. Erected in 1939, the buildings were constructed with adobe blocks recycled from the dismantling of Conchas City following the conclusion of the project. The houses, administration building, park, and landscaping were built by a combination of the CCC and government and contractor employees.

Entry Gate

Forming an imposing entry to the Administration Building are two, large stepped adobe posts topped with metal lanterns. The CCC used recycled adobe salvaged from the construction camp to build the entry posts and adjoining adobe walls.

Administration Building

The Administration Building is composed of a large, H-plan structure serving as the project office, park headquarters and visitor center (see Photo 7). The center projecting volume contains the Visitor Center, including a reception area and small exhibit on the building of Conchas Dam. The ceiling of the Visitor Center

features traditional *vigas* and *latillas* composed of flat tongue-and-groove boards. Bronze letters above the entrance invite the visitor to Conchas Dam. To the south is a three-bay garage, and to the north is an open volume housing a water treatment plant. In ca. 1980 the original steel casement windows were replaced with fixed three-part, double-glazed units. The decorative vigas were also removed at this time and original copper lined *canales* replaced with durable tin drains. In 2003 the original flagstone walkway was replaced with concrete in order to provide ADA accessibility.

In the exhibit area are two paintings by Odon Hullenkremer, a Hungarian-born artist who worked with the WPA Federal Art Project during the 1930s. The larger of the paintings, six feet by twelve feet, hangs on the north wall of the Visitor Center in the administration building and is called "Commencement of Main Dam Construction" (see Figure 7-4). The foreground of this painting depicts four surveyors with their instruments. The actual identities of the surveyors depicted have been verified by their descendents. In the background are depicted machines and men at work. The second Hullenkremer painting, "Conchas City, New Mexico" measures approximately four feet by eight feet and hangs on the south wall of the conference room of the administration building (see Figure 7-5). This painting illustrates from a distance the town built for the construction and support personnel of Conchas Dam. The town itself is dwarfed by the surrounding landscape.

Permanent Housing

The five houses making up the former Permanent Housing area are perched on a mesa top overlooking Conchas Lake (see Photo 8)(see Figure 7-3). The reservoir is visible from the back yard, living and dining rooms of the houses. Mature elms, juniper and other trees planted by the CCC surround the buildings. Four duplexes are aligned along the access road that ends in a cul-de-sac where the single-family house, once used by the Project Superintendent, is located. Each house is separated from its neighbor by an ample side yard of grass, the back yards of grass and a sloped ridge that leads down to the reservoir.

In 1934, the New Mexico State Planning Board advocated the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style as a locally derived building style suitable for New Deal public works. The State Planning Board worked with architects John Gaw Meem, Willard C. Kruger, and James F. Zimmerman to promote the widespread use of this regional style. The Corps of Engineers and New Deal project coordinators were so concerned with accuracy of the construction faithfully representing the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style that the following instructions were included in the 1939 Specifications for Permanent Facilities:

> "The exterior plaster shall be...uneven and wavy...lacking in uniformity and mechanical workmanship...to harmonize with the Pueblo style of architecture. Generally the effects strived for are not by workmen using small trowels, no straight edges, and their eye for plumbing and leveling" (Corps 1939).

In keeping with the Spanish-Pueblo style are characteristic exterior wooden lintels over all doors and windows.

The patios, walkways, and porches of each unit are constructed of flagstone, while the footings and basements are concrete. An attached garage and carport constructed in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival manner during the period of significance fronts each residence (see Photo 9).

Interior

Each house has five rooms comprising of 1,100 square-feet. Each house features a corner *horno* fireplace with firebrick lining and terra cotta flues in the adobe brick chimneys. The fireplaces are fronted with a flagstone hearth. The ceilings in the living room, dining room, screened side porches, and garages are composed of vigas and flat tongue-and-groove boards. The floors are of white oak while the porch floors, patios, and walkways are paved with locally quarried sandstone. All of the housing have plastered walls. The bathrooms have small, one-inch white, hexagonal ceramic tiles laid on the floors. Standard commercial-grade rectangular, white tile is utilized as wainscot on the walls. The interior windowsills are composed of one-inch thick white marble.

In circa 1980 all the original steel casement windows were replaced with fixed three-part, double-glaze units. As part of this upgrade the exterior vigas and copper-lined canales were also removed (see Photo 10). Recently (2001) the buildings were turned into concession leases operated by the Adobe Belle Resort. The resort Corps and the resort have the commitment to retain the remaining character-defining features of the former staff residences.

The Administration Building and the former residences for the Conchas Dam personnel are, with exception of a replacement of windows and removal of vigas, retain a sufficient integrity to communicate their significance under Criterion A, as representative of buildings constructed as part of a large New Deal project.

Water Tower

Located on a hill north of the Permanent Housing is a water tower (water tank and tower) installed in 1939-40 (see Photo 12). The 80,000-gallon tank is a standard plan design consisting of four steel legs on concrete footings and center, welded water pipe topped with a steel water tank. A steel catwalk encircles the tank. The water tower is a predominant feature on the landscape, dominating over the noncontributing maintenance buildings.

Park

East of the Administration Building, across the entrance road, is a 6.2-acre park composed of grass and mature shade trees (see Photo 13). Constructed by the CCC, the park is evocative of public works landscaping projects of the 1930s, sometimes termed the "frontier pastoral," designed to provide a small oasis in an otherwise arid landscape (Kammer 1994:27-28). The slightly undulating landscape and mature elm trees provide an oasis

during the hot summer months. The few modern intrusions, including recent picnic benches and a noncontributing shelter, do not affect the historic integrity of the resource.

Noncontributing Elements

Maintenance Building 1

An open-bay storage constructed post-1960s composed of a metal roof and 3 metal sides and containing 3,133 square feet. This building is located on the "hill" area north of the former staff housing.

Maintenance Building 2

A warehouse constructed post-1960s composed of a metal roof and 4 metal sides and containing 5,355 square feet. This building is located on the "hill" area north of the former staff housing.

Restrooms

Constructed by Youth Conservation Corps crews post-1970s, this building is made of stone and covered with a gravel and asphalt roof, and contains 300 square feet. This building is located at the east edge of the park/picnic area.

Shelter

Constructed by Youth Conservation Corps crews post-1970s, this building is made of stone and covered with a gravel and asphalt roof, and contains 200 square feet and houses the "Indian Rock" a petroglyph discovered during construction of the dam. This building is located at the south edge of the park/picnic area.

New Mexico State Highway 433

As soon as the prolonged negotiations for rights-of-entry and land acquisition were completed, an access road from the railhead at Newkirk to Conchas Dam was built. This road became New Mexico State Highway 129 in the late 1930s. The former gravel road was later paved in the 1950s. In the 1990s, the highway was designated by the New Mexico Department of Transportation as part of the Mesaland Scenic Byway. Although New Mexico State Highway 433 is important to the history of Conchas Dam, recent changes in design and paving materials preclude the highway from being considered a contributing structure.

Table 7.3: Summary Statistics

Overall length of project	6 miles * only a portion of this project is being nominated
Total length of structures	3 ¼ miles
Total volume of excavation	1,300,000 cubic yards
Maximum height of concrete section	235 feet
Maximum height of earth dike section	96 feet
Total volume of concrete	836,000 cubic yards
Total volume of earth fill	2,900,000 cubic yards
Total volume of rock fill	785,000 cubic yards
Maximum reservoir area	26 square miles
Maximum storage	600,000 acre-feet
Estimated total cost	$15,500,000.00
Estimated total employment	10,000,000 person hours
Maximum employment	2,500
Period of construction	4 years

Table 7.4: Project Costs

Surveys, Explorations and Design	$ 636,913.85
Main Dam and Wing Dams	8,642,182.08
North Dikes and Emergency Spillway	868,940.82
South Dike	2,443,062.09
Saddle Dam	4,845.70
Irrigation Headworks	419,471.25
Irrigation Headworks Operating Equipment	147,015.54
Permanent Facilities for O&M	231,881.20
Right-of-way	165,909.24
Construction Camp and Roads Cost	1,893,097.64
Total Cost	$15,453,319.41

Table 7.5: Structure Measurements

Main Dam and Wing Dams

Main Dam (straight, concrete gravity type)
Crest length: 1,250 feet
Max. height: 235 feet

Ungated spillway:	300 feet
Stilling Basin:	127 feet
Concrete:	750,000 cubic yards
Excavation:	515,000 cubic yards

Outlet works:

Sluicing conduits: 6 – 4'0" x 5'0" w/capacity at 4201' = 10,000 c.f.s.
Regulating conduits: 2- 46" diameter " " " " = 2,000 c.f.s.

North Wing Dam

Length: 1,000 feet

South Wing Dam

Length: 4,000 feet

Both

Rolled earth fill:	880,000 cubic yards
Rock fill:	225,000 cubic yards

North No. 1 and No. 2 Dikes and Emergency Spillway

Emergency spillway (concrete gravity, Ogee-type)

Length:	3,000 feet
Concrete:	67,250 cubic yards

North Dike No. 1

Length:	1,400 feet
Maximum height:	30 feet
Rolled earth fill:	37,000 cubic yards
Rock fill:	11,500 cubic yards

North Dike No. 2

Length:	1,400 feet
Max. height:	20 feet
Rolled earth fill:	10,000 cubic yards
Rock fill:	4,000 cubic yards

South Dike

Length:	6,400 feet
Max. height:	96 feet
Rolled earth fill:	1,900,000 cubic yards
Rock fill:	515,000 cubic yards
Excavation:	300,000 cubic yards

Saddle Dam

Length:	1,400 feet
Max. height:	4 feet
Earth fill:	2,000 cubic yards
Rock fill:	700 cubic yards

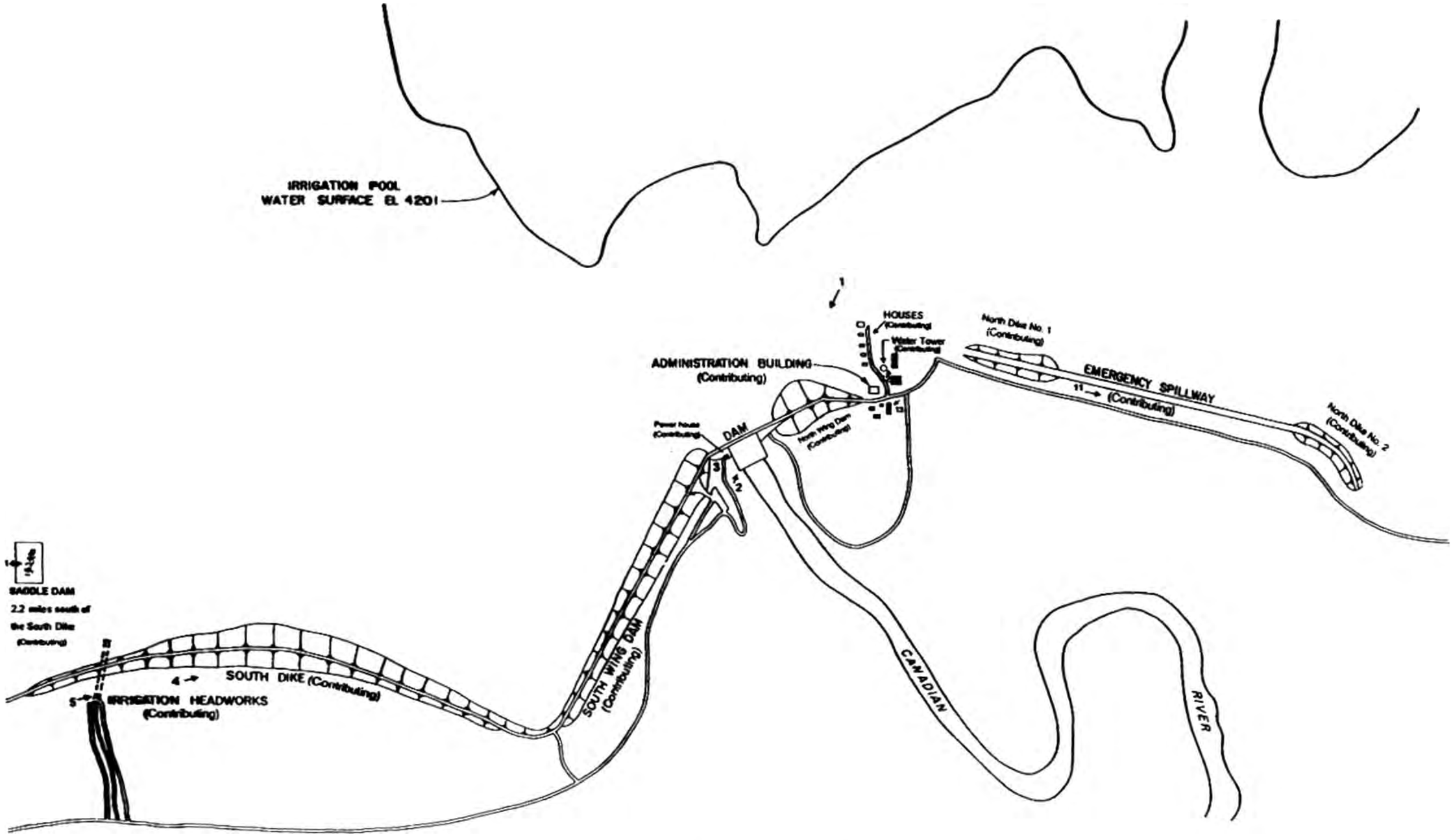
Irrigation Headworks

Tunnel length (total):	700 feet
Concrete:	6,000 cubic yards
Excavation:	140,000 cubic yards

Includes: intake structure
circular tunnel: 328 feet; 11-foot diameter
two – 6'0" x 7'6" gates, hydraulically operated for emergency control
horseshoe tunnel: 310 feet; 22 feet wide x 15 feet high
two 90-inch diameter steel penstocks
portal gatehouse
two – 6'0" x 7'6" gates, hydraulically operated for service operation
outlet portal

References: Circular No. 321, 1939; Information Pamphlet, 1948; Master Plan, 1976.

Figure 7-1 Sketch Map of Nominated District (does not include discontiguous features; see reverse)



LOCATION PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 800'

□ = CONTRIBUTING
■ = NONCONTRIBUTING
1 = PHOTOLOCATIONS

Figure 7-2 Construction of Main Dam, May 7, 1938

Figure 7-3 Sketch Map of Former Permanent Housing Area

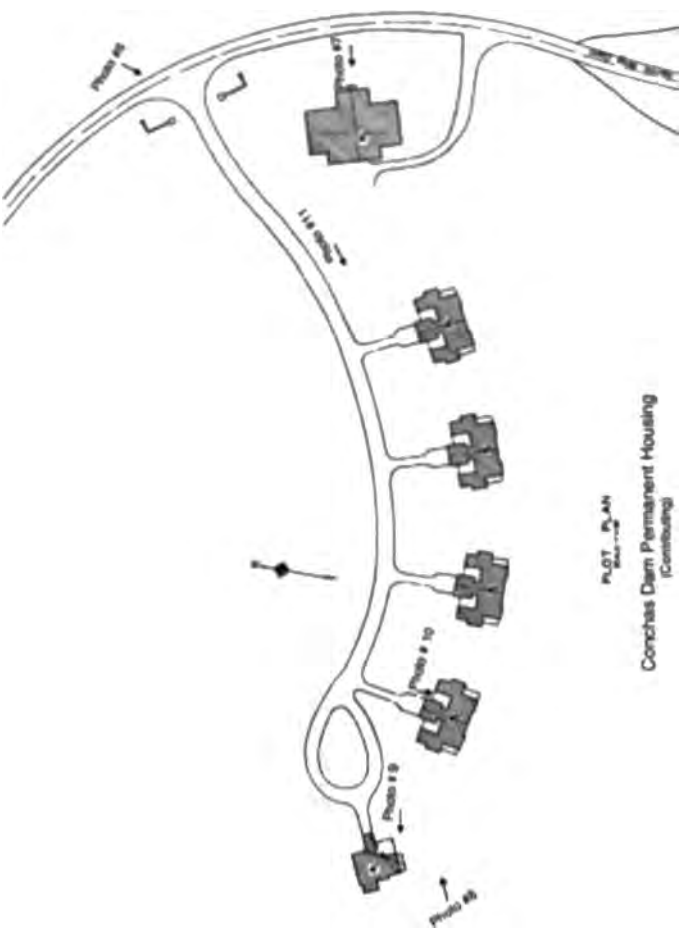
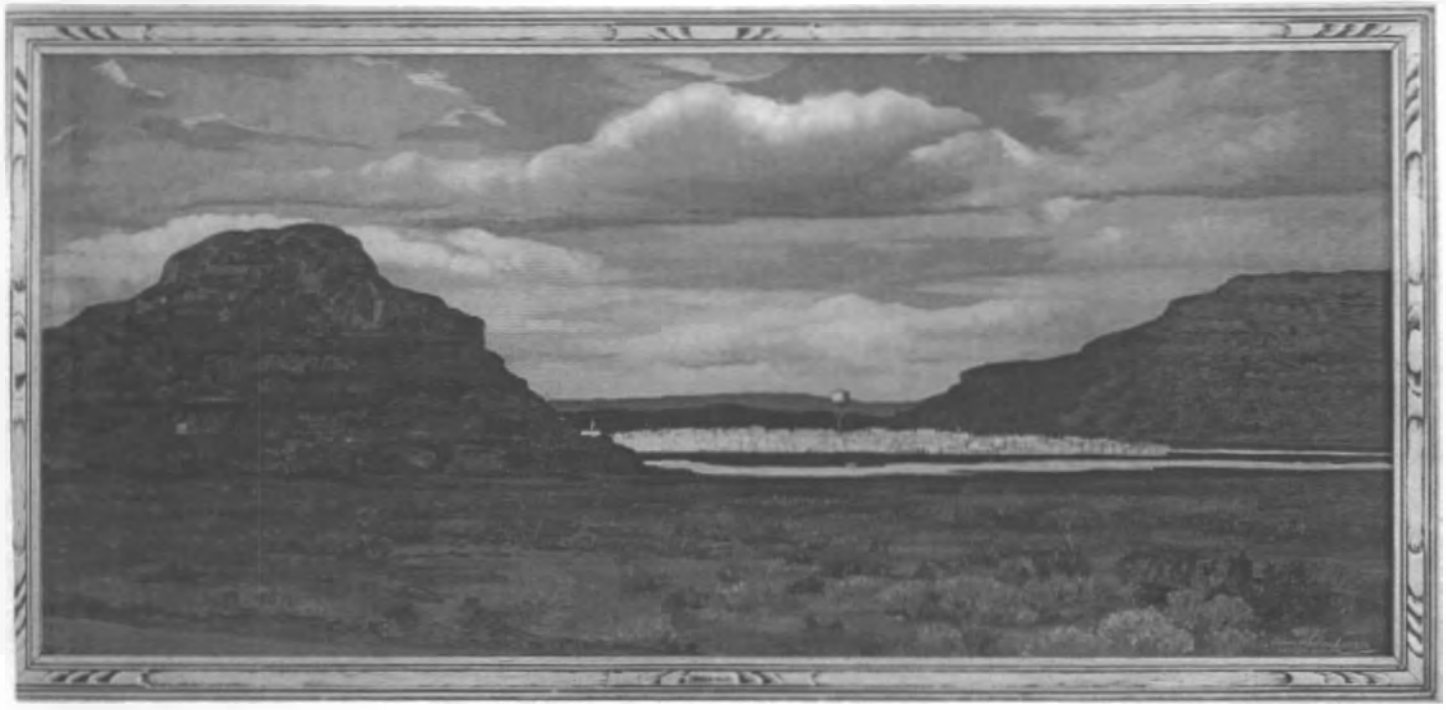


Figure 7-4 "Commencement of Main Dam Construction," Odon Hullenkremer

Figure 7-5 **"Conchas City, New Mexico," Odon Hullenkremer**



8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

_x_ **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.

_x_ **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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1935-1954

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1935; 1939; 1940

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Captain Hans Kramer, District Engineer), engineer/designer; Bent Brothers Inc. and Griffith Company, Los Angeles, contractors; Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, work-relief contract labor.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-22 through 8-37).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-38).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

_ 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 #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

x State historic preservation office *(Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs)*
_ Other state agency
x Federal agency (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Conchas Dam)
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository:

Statement of Significance

Built between 1935 and 1939 by the U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers, the Conchas Dam project was a direct result of the many New Deal Programs designed to put Americans back to work and bring the country out of the Great Depression. In addition to the dam, an 89-building town with all necessary amenities was constructed with adobe bricks. It was later dismantled and the adobe bricks were reused to build the U.S. Corps of Engineer's permanent housing and an administrative building. They survive, though altered, as part of the legacy of this large New Deal engineering project. In addition to the various construction related programs, two paintings of the dam were commissioned through the Federal Artists Program. The Conchas Dam Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Politics/Government, as a large construction project funded by numerous programs of the New Deal. Conchas Dam is also eligible at the state level under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for its distinctive engineering and for the high artistic value of the two Odon Hullenkremer paintings funded by the WPA Federal Art Project.

Historical Overview

The notice to proceed construction issued on August 12, 1935, gave people in the nearby town of Tucumcari cause to rejoice. Local newspapers recounted that upon receiving the news that Conchas Dam would be built, the townspeople rang bells and blew sirens in celebration. The years preceding the construction of Conchas Dam brought dust storms to Northeast New Mexico that relentlessly scraped away topsoil and destroyed farms and ranches leaving many without means to grow crops. The crash of the stock market in 1929 only added insult to injury in New Mexico. Many farmers had few options to survive the downturn. The New Deal and the promise of a dam gave these people a sense of hope. Conchas Dam not only gave them an opportunity to work but also to regain their dignity.

Isolated by miles of mesa lands from the nearest town, workers at Conchas Dam required housing, meals, schools for their children and a hospital for their healthcare. In response the federal government built an 89-building construction camp known as Conchas City on former sagebrush country.[1] Over 700,000 adobe bricks were used to build 50 buildings. In winter, when it was too cold to make adobe bricks, workers used hand quarried sandstone blocks instead. Twenty-nine of the buildings were made of sandstone, one building was a combination of adobe and sandstone, and the remaining buildings were three metal warehouses and six wood-framed buildings.

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[1] Conchas City was dismantled and the adobe bricks reused to construct the Administration Building and Permanent Housing units. A few of the original stone buildings from Conchas City remain on private land and are not the subject of this nomination.

Civilian Conservation Corps and other government employees dismantled the construction town following completion of the dam in 1939. The adobe blocks were salvaged and reused to build the Corps of Engineers' permanent administration building and housing. These buildings stand today as examples of the historic and architectural resources of the New Deal in New Mexico.

After completion of the housing and permanent facilities, the CCC created a small 6.2-acre park of grass and trees adjacent to the administration building. Many of the trees planted still exist today and prompt visitors to delight in the "oasis" in the desert. As a final touch, the CCC again used recycled adobe to build an imposing gateway into the Administration Area.

CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

New Deal programs played a profound role in New Mexico from 1933 through 1942. Not only was New Mexico plagued with poverty but it also lacked state agencies capable of delivering social services. The Federal agencies created by the New Deal to stimulate the economy and to alleviate widespread unemployment through work relief projects, forced New Mexico to create agencies in order to receive Federal aid. As a result, the New Deal fundamentally shaped New Mexico state government, confirmed the architectural style of the state governmental buildings, and ushered New Mexico into the 20th century.

The widespread absence of well-supported state institutions, agencies and capital improvements indicates how unprepared New Mexico was for the Great Depression. While it is generally dated from the 1929 stock market crash to the 1941 preparations for war, New Mexico began the slide into the depression in the early 1920s. Aggregate farm values dropped from $224 million in 1920 to $174 million in 1925 and then plunged in 1930. Livestock values fell from $132 million in 1918 to $61 million by 1929; and taxable properties fell from $403 million in 1920 to $342 million in 1930. Much of the state's revenue was based on its property tax. Even though the State's administrators cut budgetary appropriations late in the 1920s, the tax base supporting the remaining governmental functions declined more rapidly than any savings generated by the cuts (Kammer 1994:8). Welsh (1985:20) noted that by the height of the Depression approximately 50 percent of New Mexicans were unemployed and only one percent of the irrigable land was actually under cultivation.

Numerous obstacles had to be overcome prior to any initial surveying or subsequent construction of the dam. The remote location and low population density contributed to the rejection of a dam in this vicinity in 1931. A cost estimate of over 11 million dollars to build a dam on the South Canadian River could not be economically justified. A 1933 report, "Unemployment and Destitution in Certain Sections of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico" well described the conditions of the region during that era (Welsh 1985:23). It was not until 1935 that the use of relief workers under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act (ERA) made the dam possible to contemplate.

In December 1932, Governor Seligman requested $90,000.00 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC). In his January 1933, address to the legislature he praised the modesty of his request. Yet by March 1933, fully one-third of the state's citizens required some form of relief merely to subsist. In the spring of 1933, the RFC provided $465,000.00 in an attempt to mitigate some of the effects of the state's economic catastrophe. Even as farm prices dropped and farm foreclosures spread in eastern New Mexico, Seligman's plan to fight the Depression was economic restraint.

The unrealistic approach of New Mexico's government left the state totally unprepared to deal with the ramifications of the Depression. With the statewide and national economic collapse and the inability of the New Mexico's leadership to develop meaningful relief programs the ensuing response forever changed the structure, and character of New Mexico's government. This involvement with the WPA programs was facilitated by the interaction between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Governor Clyde Tingley (Kammer 1994:14-17).

Governor Clyde Tingley's Influence

With the economic justification provided by the use of relief workers, the Corps of Engineers was now poised to return to New Mexico. There were, however, two major problems, which had to be overcome: monetary and bureaucratic. New Mexico had no money for its share of the project cost and the legislature would not meet for eight months (early 1936). Additionally, Harold Ickes, director of the Public Works Administration (PWA), did not believe in the economic viability of the Conchas Dam.

Elected as governor in November 1934, Clyde Tingley, a consummate New Deal Democrat, embraced the Conchas Dam project and pledged his support to request any amount of funds from the State Legislature. In May 1935, Tingley was told that $54,000.00 was needed to purchase right-of way from absentee owners of the 40-square mile Bell Ranch where the dam was to be built. On July 23, 1935, the PWA recommended Conchas Dam for construction, and the Emergency Relief Act was signed on the first of August. During this period of time, Tingley had conducted an elaborate scheme to acquire federal funds by speaking on behalf of the Legislature and the Bell Ranch without the knowledge of either party. Tingley had promised Washington that New Mexico would purchase right-of-way while attempting to convince the ranch owners to accept a good faith 90-day note without payment. Captain Hans Kramer threatened to withdraw federal support when he learned of the situation, and the manager of the Bell Ranch let it be known that, "the governor is in quite a jamb..." (Welsh 1985:20-25).

Since Tingley began going door to door to raise the necessary funds, the ranch manager permitted the Corps to conduct the test drilling for a suitable dam location but would not allow construction of any permanent buildings. (Corps of Engineers personnel were living out of tents and or traveling back and forth from Tucumcari). Discussions between Kramer and Tingley resulted in a condemnation suit for 1,100 acres of the Bell Ranch for the dam, townsite, and road easements. The state had no legal authority to initiate condemnation proceedings because an impasse had not yet been reached. The Bell Ranch was trapped in an awkward position

due to the "fever heat" gripping the populace at the prospect of employment (Welsh 1985:26). The ranch mounted legal challenges to protect their position, and during this period the local businessman and water commissioner Arch Hurley of Tucumcari, suggested to the ranch owners that they pressure the Corps to provide water and free electricity to pump it to 3,000 highland acres in exchange for 17,000 acres for the dam. All the while, Tingley was attempting to raise $100,000.00; the Corps believed $234,000.00 to be a more appropriate sum.

Harold Ickes had always been suspicious of the motives of New Mexico's politicians. He confided to Bell Ranch officials that he released the Conchas funding early in order to force New Mexico's elected officials to acquire their share of the costs or lose the project. In early October 1935, Tingley learned that the Corps would abandon the project if the right-of-way money were not raised by October 22. Tingley's corporate sponsors began to lose interest upon learning that no private concessions would be permitted at the construction site and the low wage scale would preclude commercial activity in the area.

Given the increasingly bleak prospects for Conchas Dam, Tingley chose an even more direct course of action and took the train to the dedication of Boulder Dam on the Colorado River. There he met with his friend President Roosevelt for more than an hour in the latter's private railroad car. The meeting resulted in Roosevelt's support for federal purchase of the right-of-way with the understanding that New Mexico's legislature would buy it in January 1936. Tingley continued to raise money for the state's share.

Arch Hurley, an influential farmer from Tucumcari, compounded the difficulties by breaching the confidentiality of the Roosevelt-Tingley agreement to Amarillo business leaders. Bell Ranch owners assumed that Hurley acted in an official capacity when he suggested irrigating the highlands, and so in September 1935 they offered the deal to the federal government. As Tingley knew nothing about this he was shocked when contacted by a questioning federal employee. Almost at the same time, the state was prepared to claim the dam site through the condemnation suit but they decided that 34,000 acres would be required to include a lake and public park. The Bell Ranch threatened a second counter suit and the Chief of the Corps of Engineers demanded a resolution by November 12, 1935.

On November 1, 1935, Bell Ranch owners surprised everyone with an offer of a complete settlement in exchange for water conveyed through a four-inch pipe, and for the first time, set a purchase price ($165,000.00). Three days later the New Mexico Supreme Court officially and publicly pronounced a verdict of dismissal, with prejudice, of the Bell Ranch lawsuit. On November 13, 1935, all parties signed all agreements and Captain Hans Kramer was granted permission to enter all land associated with the dam site.

Work Relief, Hand Labor and Adobe Bricks

President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved the Conchas Dam project on July 29, 1935 as part of the Works Relief Program under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. Congress adopted it in the Flood Control Act of 1936 to provide flood control, irrigation, and municipal water supply benefits. The undertaking involved nearly every New Deal program created by the Roosevelt. Both the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration (PWA) were involved with the construction of Conchas Dam, while the CCC built the Permanent Housing and Administration Building and park.

The Conchas Dam project was specifically justified as a means to bring wage paying jobs to an area of high unemployment (see Figure 8-1). As soon as the protracted negotiations for rights-of-entry and land acquisition were completed, people were put to work on the access road to the site from the railhead at Newkirk. Initially hand tools such as shovels, sledgehammers, pry bars, and horse drawn fresnoes were used as no larger, mechanical, equipment was available. As example, rock for the South Dike was all placed by hand and several access roads were dug with picks and shovels. The use of labor-intensive adobe construction compensated for the lack of skilled workers who were, however, skilled in the manufacture and use of adobes. This also compensated for both the lack of standard building material then available in New Mexico and the high transportation cost that would have been involved in bringing this material to this remote location.

As construction intensified on the dam, mechanized equipment was used in abundance, however, men with shovels were still employed in order to lessen the relief rolls. Captain Hans Kramer, District Engineer, instituted training programs throughout the four years of construction. Initially there were so few skilled workers in New Mexico that the private contractors engaged in various portions of the dam were required to bring in skilled personnel from as far away as California and the Midwest. This resulted in a certain amount of resentment and conflict between the locals and the outsiders. However, the poverty of New Mexico was such that there was never a lack of people seeking work, in spite of the low wages for the unskilled ($.25 per hour) and limits of 20 hours per week (so that even more people could be hired).

The logistics accompanying such a large construction project as Conchas Dam were staggering. In addition to a complex dam, an entire town had to be created in the middle of nowhere in a sparsely populated state. There were also unanticipated consequences, which caused difficulties in other parts of the state. For example, the great demand for workers at the PWA's Conchas Dam project forced WPA administrators to assign many individuals on work relief in Union County to jobs at the dam site. This in turn caused the WPA district office in Raton to suspend WPA projects in Union County due to the lack of additional personnel and the priority of federal agencies and private interests over the WPA use of relief workers (Kammer 1994:64).

The first employment peak occurred during the creation of the construction town, Conchas City, in the summer of 1936 (see Figure 8-2). This major undertaking relied almost exclusively on relief laborers from New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle. Construction of the town began in the winter of 1935, and by the time it was completed in the summer of 1936, over 2,500 relief workers had been involved at a cost of 1.5 million dollars. Over 745,000 adobe bricks were manufactured for use in the buildings of the construction town. In order to

prevent breakage, the bricks were loaded, unloaded, and stacked by hand. Production of the bricks began on August 15, 1935, and in the first three months 5,600 adobe bricks were made. In addition to the 745,266 adobe bricks, 216,850 cubic feet of sandstone was excavated for constriction. The result was 50 adobe buildings, 29 stone buildings, and one combination of adobe and stone completed at a cost of $0.19 per cubic foot. These buildings provided dormitory quarters for 1,320 men and apartment residences for 141 families (Adobe Brick Reports 1937; Kramer 1940:60-63, and 1941:355-362; Foote 1937:265-268).

By late August 1936, an entire town characterized by wide gravel streets and buildings of typical Southwestern architecture was created to support the construction project. The construction also included roads, gas and power lines, sewage system and power plant. In addition to the 36 dormitories and 132 individual houses and duplex apartments, the site included a mess hall capable of feeding 1,500 employees; an administration building; a 24-bed modern hospital; a filling station; a business building, which housed a drug store, a restaurant, a dry cleaning and tailor shop, a barber shop, a pool hall, a grocery store, and a beauty parlor; a town hall which also contained the post office, a service building; a guest house; and a concrete and soils laboratory. Following the major construction effort a movie theater capable of seating 700 patrons; three 8-car garages; nine single houses; one quadruplex apartment; and a Catholic church were added. Due to the unsuitably high saline content of the well water, four water storage tanks, each with a capacity of 2,200,000 gallons, and a complete water purification plant were constructed. At its height, the construction town's population was slightly over 1,800. The town's administration was supervised by a town manager; a five-person police force and a 30-member volunteer fire department were maintained. Telephone and telegraph and mail service were provided. Recreational opportunities for workers and students included baseball, softball, golf, swimming, tennis, volleyball, basketball and dances.

With the many families living at the construction town it became necessary to provide for the education of the school age children. The 120-mile daily round trip to Tucumcari, the nearest town, was considered too arduous for the younger children. Captain Kramer and others secured WPA funds for the employment of three grade school teachers for the 1936-1937 academic year. Those old enough to attend high school traveled to Tucumcari. For the following academic years, the New Mexico Board of Education established grade schools and high schools at the construction site (average enrollment each year of 50 in grammar school and 100 in high school).

Originally the town was to be demolished and the salvaged materials sold to other Corps Districts or other government agencies. While there was growing interest in the development of recreational facilities by the State, recreation was not among the War Department's authorities. Therefore, the Engineer Department of the Corps cooperated in interesting the proper agencies in such an undertaking. The result of this collaboration was an agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to occupy and maintain portions of the camp until they could construct suitable recreation facilities on lands and waters provided by the Corps. The recreation area was located on the opposite side of the lake from the dam. After that time the CCC, under NPS direction, undertook

the demolition of the town, the recycled the materials to build the Corps' Permanent Housing and Administration Building.

Given the small number of New Mexico's government-sponsored capital improvements, the number of projects completed through New Deal programs is nothing short of profound. New Mexico ranked fifth among all states, behind Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, and Arizona, in per capita expenditure of New Deal money from 1933-1939. Contrasted with the 294 federal and nonfederal PWA projects in New Mexico are the almost 4,000 WPA projects divided essentially equally into two categories, service and engineering or construction. The 64.3 million dollars spent on WPA projects in New Mexico made dramatic changes in public capital improvements. The Conchas Dam Historic District is a centerpiece of the New Deal's legacy in New Mexico

CRITERION C: ENGINEERING, ART

> "The construction of a large dam in a remote locality, in addition to the obvious engineering and transportation difficulties, involves social and administrative problems whose importance is frequently not appreciated [and] are in many respects similar to those maintaining an army in the field in time of war" (Kramer, 1941: Vol. I:1).

Although Conchas Dam represents a fairly standard dam construction technology, problems occurring while building the abutment and embankment resulted in developing innovative engineering strategies to overcome geological constraints. Additionally, methods developed to manufacturer and deliver concrete, are important for understanding the construction logistics and the engineering significance of the dam.

The excavation at the north abutment was proceeding as per design until a vertical face approximately 55 feet high had been established. (The north abutment had a 20-foot cap of Canyon Sandstone underlain by about 70 feet of Red Shale). As soon as it was exposed, the Red Shale layer began to dry out and spall off, continuing until nearly the entire vertical face hade caved off. As the overlying soil and lose materials were being cleared from the top of the cap rock, large and extensive cracks were observed. Excavation was temporarily halted in the immediate vicinity and numerous meetings were held to contemplate procedures to halt the drying and spalling material. The first attempt was to spray a bituminous sealant over the shale face. Initially, it appeared to work, but within hours, the black bituminous material absorbed even more sunlight and became hotter than the untreated shale face. Huge curtains were then hung in an attempt to shade the face, however, between the wind and the insufficient shade, it was clear that this would not be a viable solution (see Figure 8-3).

Following additional meetings, it was decided to move the abutment face 100 feet farther to the north and to then excavate six individual shafts several hundred feet down to the solid rock foundation. The excavation of the six shafts and concrete placement in each occurred sequentially until the six sections formed a single concrete monolith 50 feet wide and 180 feet long. As the excavation proceeded downward in each shaft, timber bracing was employed. A system of keys and grout outlets were included, and a sealant between the concrete and shale face was placed as the concrete was poured. Once this monolith was completed, excavation for the adjoining monoliths began. Excavation at the south abutment posed similar difficulties, and was overcome by similar methods.

The problems presented by the south embankment were the most complicated impediments to be overcome during the Project. The construction of monolith 5 was started when the work on the columns and concrete walls were about one-third complete. To reduce the hazard of working under the canyon sandstone, the work on monolith five was to proceed by constructing it in three sections, "... so that an upstream block (Section 5A) could be built up to support the cap rock before it was necessary to remove all the talus material in front of the downstream columns" (Kramer1941:Vol.II, p.301). The foundation for section 5A was approximately 20 feet lower than that for the columns and retaining walls. Therefore, it was decided to temporarily leave the shale under the columns and walls. This shale would then be excavated later by tunneling in from the adjoining section 5B foundation area and tunneling down from a 42-inch "chimney" excavated from the top of monolith 5A. To prevent the concrete from bonding to this sloping shale face, four-inch adobe bricks and two layers of roofing paper were placed over the shale. These were then removed later while tunneling down the chimney. Once this excavation was complete, upstream and downstream vents were made to prevent air pockets and concrete was poured down the chimney. When monolith 5A was in place, sections 5B and 5C were excavated by power shovel without incident. Seepage from the shale caused two small rockslides and was a minor delay until the contractor placed a concrete block to prevent the problem from continuing. Through this long, staged process, the construction of the south embankment was completed.

Concrete Manufacture and Delivery

One of the main elements required for a concrete dam is the local availability of large amounts or raw aggregate. In order to process the aggregate, an impressive and massive system of excavation and hauling machinery, an aggregate plant, a 10,000-foot long aerial tramway, a concrete mixing and batching plant, and two 15-ton cableways were required (see Figure 8-4).

The aggregate plant was located approximately 2-1/2 miles southeast of the Main Dam site. The raw aggregate was delivered to a 20-cubic yard "grizzly hopper" that had a reciprocating feeder with a capacity of 240 tons per hour. A 26-inch conveyor belt, 315-feet long on a 31-percent incline, powered by A 60 horsepower electric motor carried the aggregate to the top of a dual sided washing and classifying plant. This plant sorted the material into five useable sizes: fine sand, coarse sand, and 1,2, and 4-inch gravel. After sorting, a 36-inch conveyor belt delivered the aggregate to a receiving box divided into two gravity chutes, each fed by a 48-inch

by 20-foot tilted cylindrical screen where aggregate was washed and dropped to triple-decked vibrating screens and then stockpiled.

The loading terminal was 165 feet away from the stockpiles and consisted of six bins each with 120 cubic yard capacity. Material departed the stockpiles at a rate of 240-tons per hour via a 30-inch conveyor belt capable of traveling at 400 feet per minute. This load terminal delivered the materials to 80 end-dump buckets, each with a capacity of 36 cubic feet, that then traveled over the 10,000-foot long tramway.

The tramway consisted of 15 support towers varying from 30 feet to 63 feet in height and spanned 264 feet to 1,100 feet from each other. The midway Tower No. 9 was constructed as a double tension tower that supported and delivered the lock coil track cable for the loaded buckets and the returning empty buckets. The maximum speed of the tramway was 550 feet per minute with electric motors running 63 cycles per second. The cost of moving the aggregate through the tramway system ran only $0.27 per cubic yard.

The unloading terminal was located on the south bank of the river near the south end of the Main Dam. It was a rectangular steel structure, 135 feet in height and built adjacent to, but independent of, the concrete mixing and batching plant. At this terminal, bucket left the track cable and rolled over a circular monorail around the top of the structure, automatically discharging the aggregate into a large hopper. Any one of six bins was then manually selected to sort the different sizes of aggregate.

Cement was railroaded to Newkirk in bulk and stored in two cylindrical cement silos each with a capacity of 4,700 barrels. Six Government-owned trucks then hauled the cement 27 miles from the railhead to the mixing and batching plant at the construction site.

The 91-foot high hexagonal shaped concrete mixing and batching plant was situated below the unloading terminal on the south bank (no longer extant). Six aggregate bins, each with a capacity of 217 cubic yards, circled the outside of the building. In the center was the cement bin with a capacity of 750 barrels and a water tank, 22-feet in diameter capable of holding 800 gallons. Four beam scales permitted the setting of four different mixes on the scale at one time.

The weighing equipment and the discharge gates interlocked thus preventing discharge if the proper weight of the material was not met. Correct weights of cement, aggregate and water were then discharged into a circular hopper that, in turn, fed into two 4-cubic yard Koehring mixers. Mixing time was three minutes. Peak performance of the plant was rated at 144 cubic yards per hour – the equivalent of 1,152 cubic yards per eight-hour shift. The largest daily output of the plant was 2,750 cubic yards of concrete. Mixed concrete was then placed into 4-cubic yard Blaw-Knox cylindrical bottom-dump buckets and was delivered to the cableway by way of a standard gauge railway. In order to run a year-round operation, the mixing plant included a boiler and an 800-gallon hot water tank for winter mixing.

Dump buckets were attached to two 15-ton cableways for delivery of the concrete to location. The cableways spanned 1,650 feet across the construction area and were attached to a fixed steel tail tower, 183 feet in height, on the north bank. The cableway hoists were electronically operated by induction, slip-ring motors with 250 horsepower capacity. The motors had full magnetic control for regenerative braking when lowering or stopping descending buckets. Friction clutches and brakes were operated by compressed air supplied to each cableway by a compressor. The cableways operated at a conveying speed of 1,200 feet per minute. Operators of each cableway communicated with a signalman at each form location by means of both a bell signal line and a telephone for safety. Precision positioning of the dump bucket was attributed to the exact communication between the operator and signalman and was never but a few feet off from target.

The first bucket of concrete was placed at Conchas Dam on April 12,1937 in a ceremony presided over by Governor Clyde Tingley (see Figure 8-5). Concrete was then poured in five-foot lifts starting with the odd-numbered monoliths that were kept 10-feet higher than adjacent monoliths.

New Deal Art

Santa Fe artist Odon Hullenkremer (1888-1978), commissioned under the WPA Federal Art Project program, painted two images of the Conchas Dam construction era. Born in Budapest, Hungary on June 1 1888, Hullenkremer showed both skill and passion for art even as a small child. Hullenkremer, renowned as a young artist, presented at the Hungarian Royal Court to Emperor Franz Josef I in 1904. At age 15, the self-taught artist entered a painting competition, taking first prize. Young Odon was presented at the Hungarian Royal Court to Emperor Franz Josef I and was immediately admitted to the Hungarian Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He later studied in Egypt, Berlin and finally in Munich in 1910. Hullenkremer immigrated to the United States in 1912, traveled to South America, returned to the United States and settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1933.

Hullenkremer was appointed as an artist at the Conchas Dam project after a Corps official in charge of dam construction came to his studio in Santa Fe and saw his work (Cohea: 1976). The larger of his two paintings is six feet by twelve feet and is called "Commencement of Main Dam Construction." It was painted in 1935 and is currently located on the north wall of the administration building visitor center. The individuals portrayed in the scene are actual people who were working on the project surveying at the time. Hullenkremer "considered it one of his best paintings" (Cohea, 1976).

The smaller painting that measures four feet by eight feet is entitled "Gate City, New Mexico," dated 1936, is a rendition of another construction camp three miles from the original known as Gate City. The scene in the painting depicts a small town wedged between two large mesas that is now the location of two small communities known as Big Mesa and Hooverville. The painting had been misplaced for several years after being sent to Albuquerque for restoration. In 2004 it was located and returned to Conchas Dam where it hangs on the south wall of the administration building conference room. As part of his New Deal work, Hullenkremer also completed painting for the Carrie Tingley Hospital in Truth or Consequences and public libraries in

Galveston, Texas and Raton, and contributed to the renowned *Portfolio of Spanish Colonial Design in New Mexico*.

As a brilliant draftsman and colorist and proponent of realism made him one of the great portrait painters of his time, the two paintings at Conchas Dam are important works in his career and represent well the intentions of the WPA Federal Art Project program.

Figure 8-1 Plant Section – Newkirk Group, April 28, 1939

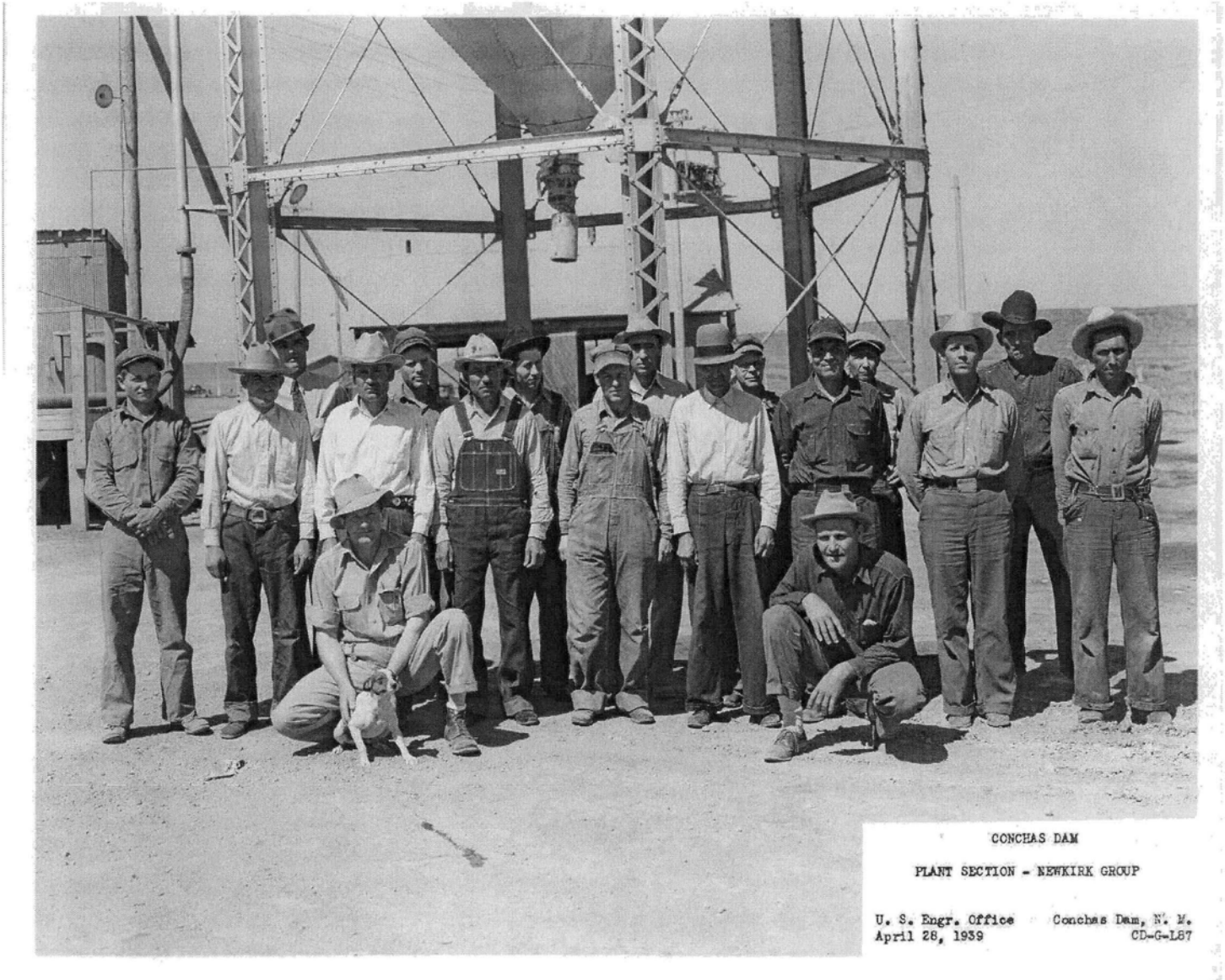


Figure 8-2 Building of Permanent Housing, December 1, 1939

Figure 8-3 North Abutment Construction, October 25, 1937

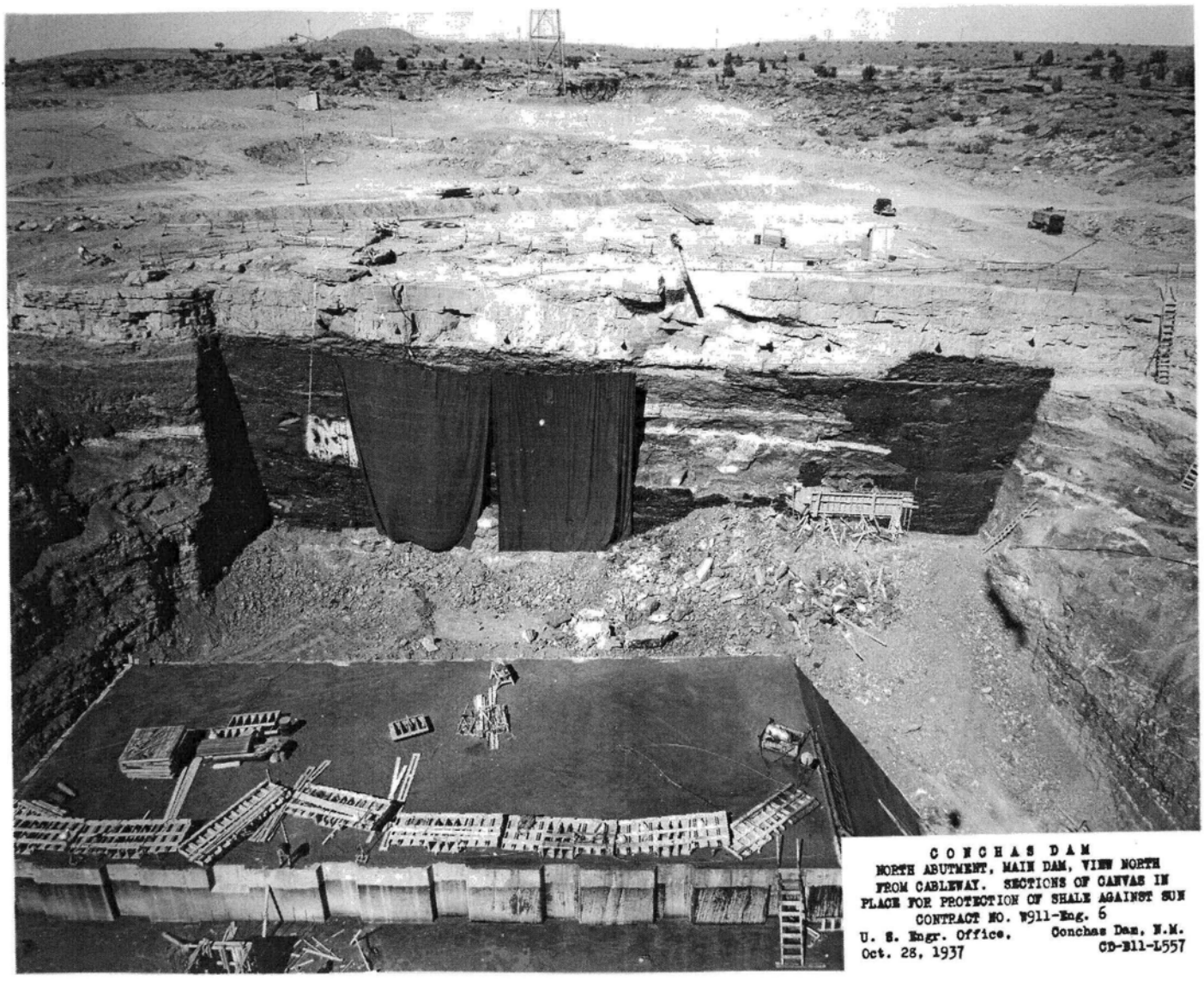


Figure 8-4 Aerial Tramway, December 15, 1937

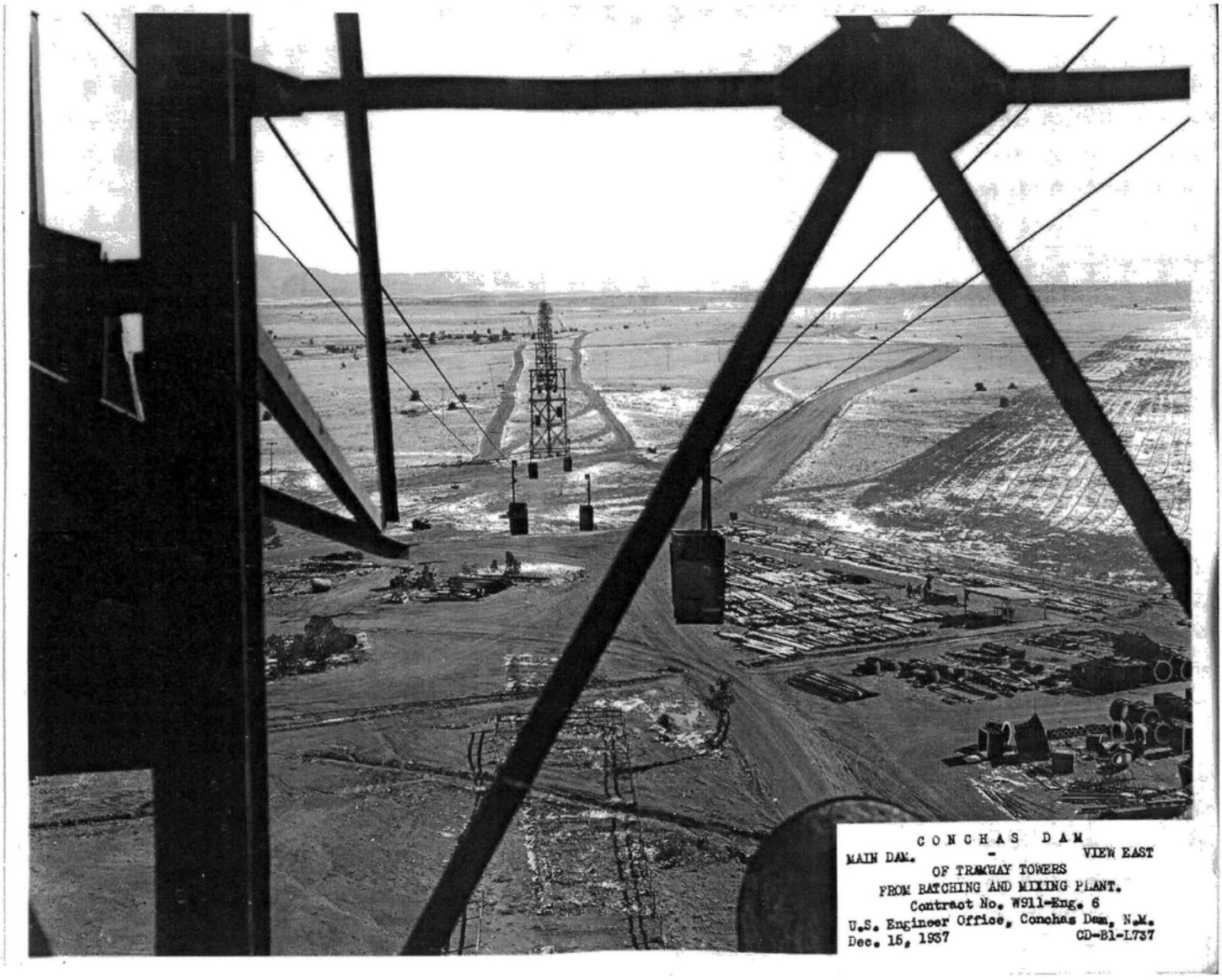
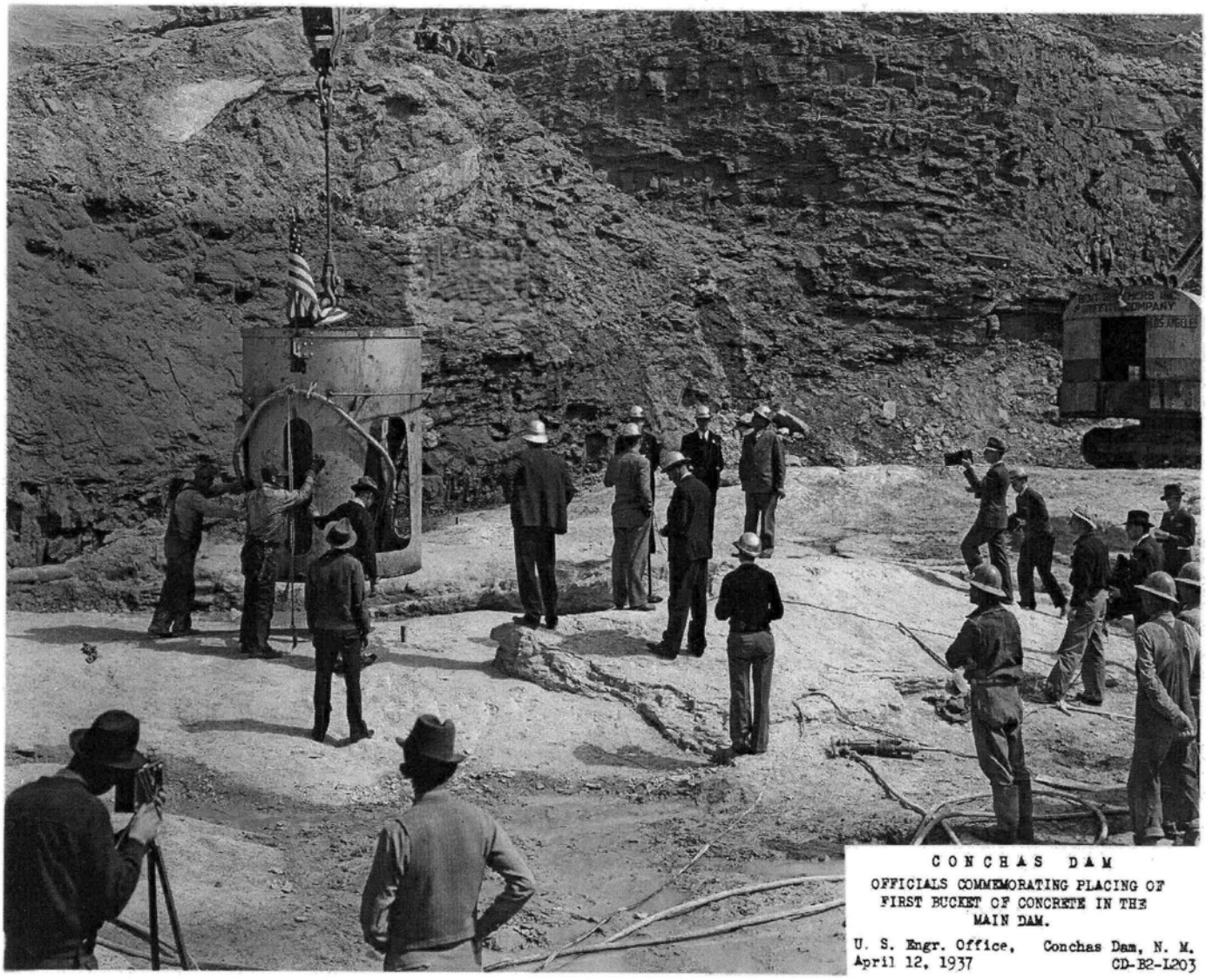


Figure 8-5 "First Bucket of Concrete," April 12, 1937



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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 141.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A.	13	574010 E, 3920020 N
B.	13	573130 E, 3918440 N
C.	13	573610 E, 3918440 N
D.	13	573130 E, 3918260 N
E.	13	573080 E, 3918250N
F.	13	574200 E, 3915000 N
G.	13	571460 E, 3912870 N
H.	13	571430 E, 3912510 N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-39 through 10-40)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-39 through 10-40)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: John D. Schelburg (with updated information by Julie R. Stone, Park Ranger, September 2004)

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District Office **DATE:** 1997; 2004

STREET & NUMBER: 4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE **TELEPHONE:** 505-342-3601

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque **STATE:** NM **ZIP CODE:** 87109

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see attached Tenaja Mesa and Conchas Dam U.S.G.S. quadrangle topographic maps)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-41 through Photo-42)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS N/A

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STREET & NUMBER: 4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE **TELEPHONE:** 505-342-3601

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque **STATE:** NM **ZIP CODE:** 87109

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Conchas Dam Historic District is a long, linear district following essentially the course of New Mexico (NM) State Highway 433 from the south tip of the South Dike to the north tip of No. 2 North Dike, with the west boundary formed by the Conchas Reservoir and the Canadian River and the east boundary formed by private land. Units of Conchas Lake State Park form the north south boundaries of the district. As such, the boundary captures the Main Dam and all the water control features historically associated with the project, as well as an associated building complex and park. A discontiguous feature of the district is located approximately 1.8 miles to the south. The district is approximately 141.3 acres with an average width of 300 feet. The width of the district expands at the Administrative Area to capture the CCC-built park, Administration Building and the Permanent Housing. This deviation forms a rectangle measuring approximately 700 feet north and 1,900 feet east to west, as depicted on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map. North and south of the Administrative Area, the width returns to the average 300 feet. The discontiguous feature of the district, the Saddle Dam, is directly associated with the construction and purpose of the Conchas Dam project and is therefore significant to the nominated resource. The following UTM reference points and the accompanying Conchas Dam and Tenaja Mesa quadrangle maps delineate the boundary of the district.

Starting from north:

A.	North tip of No. 2 North Dike:	13	574010 E, 3920020 N
B.	Administrative Area, NW corner:	13	573130 E, 3918440 N
C.	Administrative Area, NE corner:	13	573610 E, 3918440 N
D.	Administrative Area, SE corner:	13	573610 E, 3918260 N
E.	Administrative Area, SW corner:	13	573080 E, 3918250 N
F.	South tip of South Dike:	13	574200 E, 3915000 N

Discontiguous feature:

G.	North tip of Saddle Dam:	13	571460 E, 3912870 N
H.	South tip of Saddle Dam:	13	571430 E, 3912510 N

The boundary of the one discontiguous feature is indicated on the accompanying Tenaja Mesa quadrangle map as well as described below.

Verbal Boundary Justification
The nominated boundary, including the discontiguous element, includes all the water control features historically associated with the Conchas Dam project. The boundary also includes all historic buildings and structures associated with the Conchas Dam project that are located on land managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Saddle Dam

Verbal Boundary Description
The discontiguous feature is located approximately 1.8 miles south of the south boundary of the contiguous district. To access the discontiguous feature, proceed 528 feet from the intersection of NM State Highway 433 and State Highway 104. Proceed west on NM 104 approximately 8,700 feet. From this point, proceed approximately 900 feet west over a field to the north tip of the Saddle Dam.

The Saddle Dam is a rectangular feature measuring 10 x 1,400 feet. Its north and south boundary points are designated by the following UTM reference points: North, 13 571460 E, 3912870 N; South, 13 571430 E, 3912510 N. The acreage of the discontiguous element is less than one acre. The boundary for the discontiguous feature includes only its footprint and is depicted on the accompanying Tenaja Mesa quadrangle map.

Verbal Boundary Justification
The boundary of the Saddle Dam includes only the structure as defined by its footprint. The discontiguous feature is directly associated with the construction and purpose of the Main Dam and is therefore significant to the nominated resource.

Photographic Log

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel County, New Mexico
Julie Stone
November 2004
Negatives on file with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Conchas Dam Project, Conchas Dam

Photo 1 of 14
Main Dam, upstream view
Facing southeast

Photo 2 of 14
Main Dam, downstream view
Facing northwest

Photo 3 of 14
Adit and Powerhouse
Facing northwest

Photo 4 of 14
South Dike
Facing northwest

Photo 5 of 14
Irrigation Headworks Gatehouse
Facing northwest

Photo 6 of 14
Entry Gate
Facing southwest

Photo 7 of 14
Administration Building
Facing west

Photo 8 of 14

Permanent Staff Housing
Facing west

Photo 9 of 14
Entry of Single Residence
Facing west

Photo 10 of 14
Duplex Residence
Facing southeast

Photo 11 of 14
North Dike No 2. (background) and Emergency Spillway (foreground)
Facing south

Photo 12 of 14
Water Tower
Facing west

Photo 13 of 14
Park
Facing south

Photo 14 of 14
Saddle Dam
Facing north

NPS Form 10-900a
(Aug. 2002)

OMB Approval No. 1024—0018
(Expires Jan. 2005)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000454

Property Name: Conchas Dam Historic District

County: San Miquel State: New Mexico

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper — May 27, 2005
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

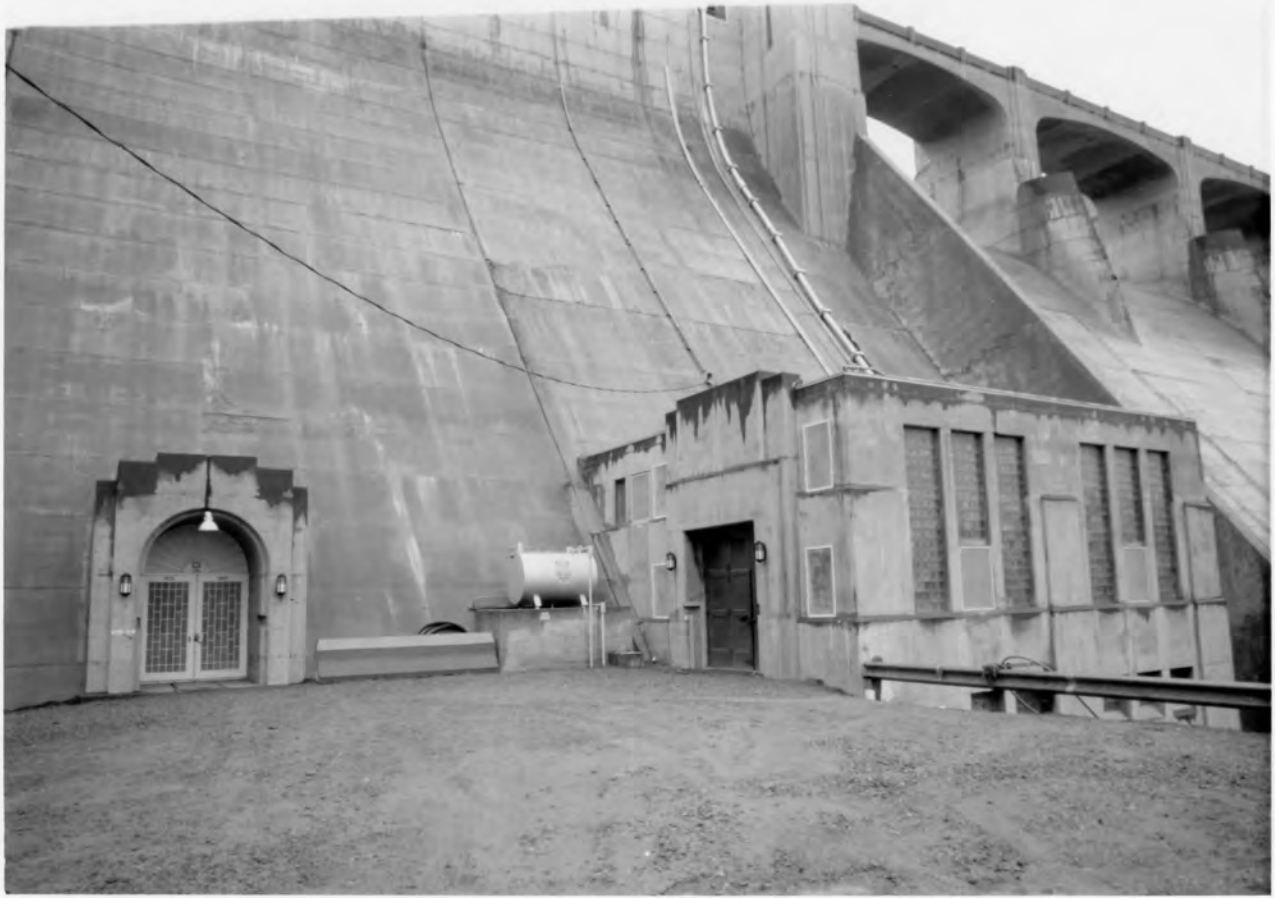
"Art" is hereby added as an Area of Significance to reflect the importance of the large New Deal-era paintings by Odon Hullenkremer, which hang in the administration building and are documented in the nomination as having high artistic value and association with the WPA Federal Art Project.

The US Army Corps of Engineers was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Main Dam, upstream view
Facing southeast
Photo 1 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Main Dam, downstream view
Facing northwest
Photo 2 of 14



Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Adit and Powerhouse
Facing northwest
Photo 3 of 14

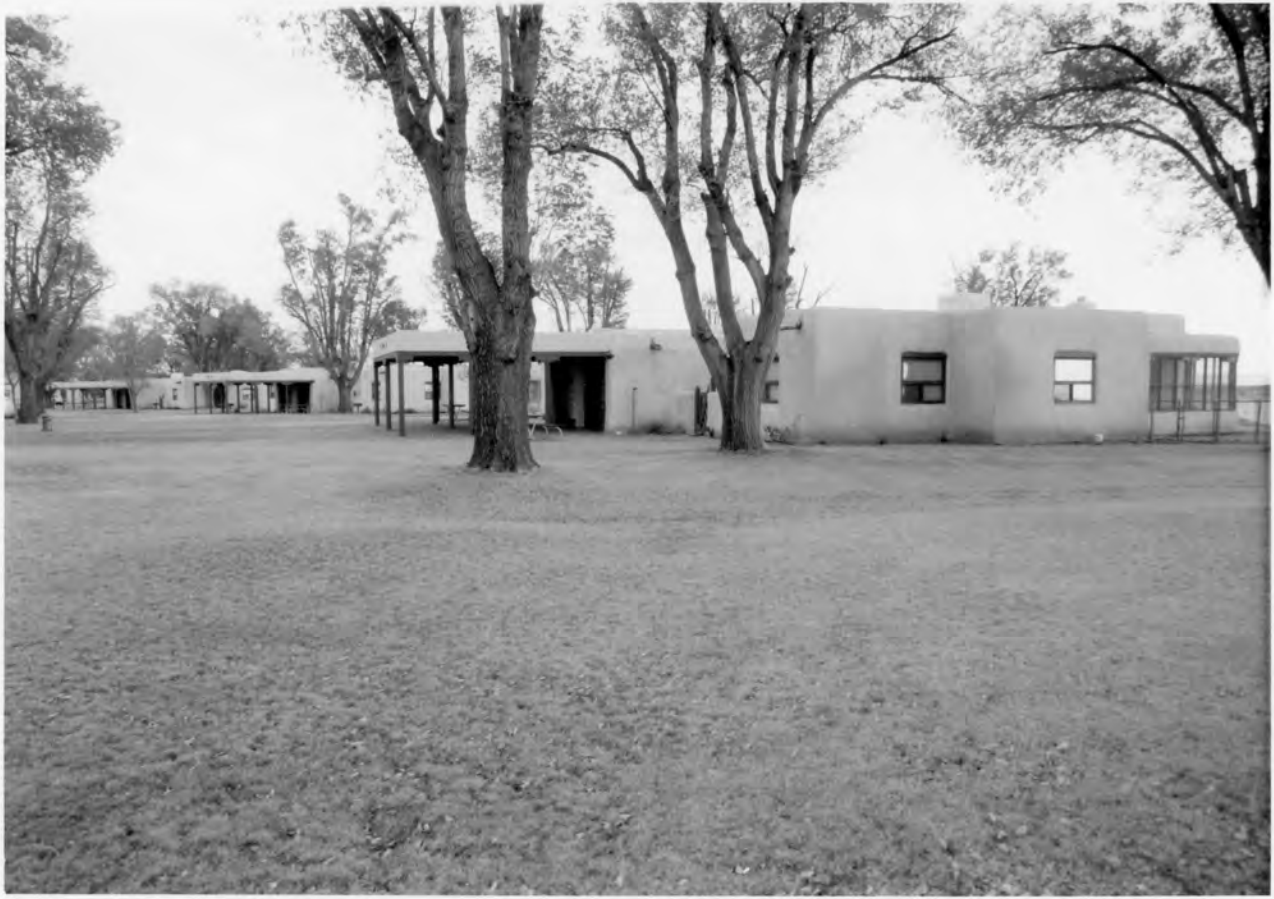
Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, Sierra Co., NM
South Dike
Facing northwest
Photo 4 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Irrigation Headworks Gatehouse
Facing northwest
Photo 5 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Entry gate
Facing southwest
Photo 6 of 14


CORCHAS DAM AND RESERVOIR

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Administration Building
Facing West
Photo 7 of 14



Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Permanent Staff Housing
Facing west
photo 8 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Entry of Single Residence
Facing West
photo 9 of 14


500

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Duplex Residence
Facing southeast
Photo 10 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
North Dike #2 (background) and
Emergency Spillway (foreground)
Facing South
Photo 11 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Water tower
Facing West
photo 12 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co, NM
Park
Facing south
Photo 13 of 14

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
Saddle Dam
Facing North
photo 14 of 14

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TENAJA MESA QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO—SAN MIGUEL CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5154 I NE (LA CINTA MESA)

104°15′ 35°22′30″ 569 000m E. 570 571 12′30″ 573 5154 I NW (CONCHAS DAM) CONCHAS DAM 2.2 MI. 575 10′ 576 577 578 560 000 FEET 579 104°07′30″ 35°22′30″

3914 000m N. 3913 3912 3911 20′ 3910 3909 3908 3907 T. 13 N. T. 12 N. 3906 17′30″ 3905 3904 3903 1 550 000 FEET 3902 3901 000m N. 35°15′

1 590 000 FEET

CONCHAS RESERVOIR
NORMAL POOL ELEV 4201

Green I

CONCHAS RESERVOIR

Sewage Disposal Pond

Golf Course

PARK

LAKE STATE Recreation Area

Water Tanks

Conchas State Park Airport

CONCHAS (South)

Tenaja Mesa

TUNNEL

Upper La Manga Windmill

CONCHAS CANAL SIPHON

La Manga Creek

BR 4093

TUCUMCARI 28 MI.

VARIADERO 16 MI.

NEWKIRK (INTERSTATE 40) 14 MI.

BM 4240

G.

H.

La Manga Creek

BR 4235

BR 4403

La Manga Camp

Saladito Trap Windmill

Saladito Creek

Saladito Windmill

CONCHAS CANAL

P A B L O M O N T O Y A

JEEP TRAIL

Hoover 5337

Saladito Creek

Saladito Point Windmill

WC 5349

WC 5367

Gravel Pit

Big Pocket Windmill

M E S A R I C A

Barracos Creek

Corralitos Creek

(MONUMENT POINT) 5154 I SE

(NEAFUS RANCH) 5154 II NE

(ORTEGA TANK) 5154 II NW

(MUNIZ CANYON) 5154 I NE

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co, NM
discontiguous feature of district.

UTM Reference points:

G.
13 571460 E
3912870 N

H.
13 571430 E
3912501 N

* see Conchas Dam quad for other part of district

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
MN GN 0°28′ 8 MILS 12° 213 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

NEW MEXICO
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1971

TENAJA MESA, N. MEX.
N3515—W10407.5/7.5

1967

AMS 5154 I SW—SERIES V881

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CONCHAS DAM QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO—SAN MIGUEL CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Conchas Dam Historic District
Conchas Dam, San Miguel Co., NM
UTM coordinates:
A. 13 574010 E
3920020 N
B. 13 573130 E
3918440 N
C. 13 573610 E
3918440 N
D. 13 573130 E
3918260 N
E. 13 573680 E
3918250 N
F 13 574200 E
3915800 N
* See Tenaja Mesa quad for discontiguous feature.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

CONCHAS DAM, N. MEX.
N3522.5—W10407.5/7.5

1968

AMS 5154 I NW—SERIES V881

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Conchas Dam Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW MEXICO, San Miguel

DATE RECEIVED: 4/08/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/11/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/22/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000454

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 5/22/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

SLR-ART"

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

T-4 CATTLE COMPANY

MR. & MRS. PHILLIP B. BIDEGAIN
(505)461-1571

P.O. BOX 665
TUCUMCARI, N.M. 88401

attention Glenna Dean

Conchas Dam, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project in San Miguel County, New Mexico is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Inclusion to the Register is planned to coincide with the 70th anniversary celebration scheduled to take place next year.

The signifance of Conchas Dam, built in 1935-1939 was a symbol of hope to the unemployed during the great Depression. Ultimately 2500 workers were employed. 90% of those came from relief roles through WPA in New Mexico.

We support the nomination of Conchas Dam tothe National Register of Historic Places.

T-4 CATTLE COMPANY LLC
YETTA BIDEGAIN

Yetta Bidegain

Adobe Belle
Box 131 Conchas Dam
New Mexico 88416

Ms. Katherine Slick
State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
228 East Palace Avenue, Room 320
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

December 3, 2004

Dear Ms. Slick,

We are writing in support of the nomination of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places. My wife and I are a part of the local community in Conchas and own the nearby Clabberhill Ranch.

We also lease the Corps of Engineers Permanent Houses and have operated them as the Adobe Belle Resort since 2001. We find most of our visitors are excited about the history here at Conchas and enjoy the Spanish Pueblo Revival Style architecture of the houses and buildings.

Inclusion of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places seems obvious. WPA workers built it during the Depression Era, and CCC workers constructed the houses we now lease. It is an integral part of the history of New Mexico and that of a country mired in the despair of poverty. It was the men and women of that age that fought through their plight and brought us grand structures, buildings, art, and character.

Today, Conchas Dam serves the northeast region of New Mexico and Texas as a recreation resource to thousands. It has benefited nearby Quay County with much-needed water for irrigation since the completion of the Arch Hurley Conservancy District in 1946. Water from Conchas also supplies the adjacent Bell Ranch, once known as the largest ranch in the United States.

Conchas Dam has been a part of the culture and history of this area for nearly 70 years now. Those who built it might have dreamed about what it would be today, but surely they could not have visualized the totality of its positive impact to the area and the people of New Mexico. We ask that you strongly consider acceptance of the Conchas Dam nomination and list it deservingly – as a national treasure. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tony & Fran Gabel

Tohy and Fran Gable

Tucumcari - Quay County Chamber of Commerce

December 6, 2004

Julie Stone, Park Ranger
Conchas Dam Project
PO Box 1008
Conchas Dam, NM 88416

Dear Julie:

It is an honor to write a letter in support of the nomination of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places. Conchas Dam has been a vital part of our history in Tucumcari and Quay County. As you know, this project was New Mexico's largest public works project of the Depression era and provided jobs for approximately 2,500 people. Now, nearly 70 years later, Conchas Dam continues to be important to Tucumcari and Quay County by providing outstanding recreational facilities and activities for visitors and residents alike.

When Arch Hurley, then the New Mexico Flood Commissioner, stepped off the train to announce the project, the townspeople cheered, rang bells and set off sirens. Having Conchas Dam listed as a National Historic Landmark would certainly warrant a celebration much the same as that day in 1935.

Conchas Dam is contributing to the economy of the area and the Chamber definitely supports and recommends the approval of the nomination of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Tucumcari/Quay County Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your work in initiating and pursuing the designation of Conchas Dam as a National Historic Landmark.

Sincerely,

Virginia Wright

Virginia Wright
Executive Director

PO Drawer E
Tucumcari, NM 88401
(505) 461-1694

www.tucumcariusa.com
chamber@tucumcariusa.com

TOM UDALL
3rd District, New Mexico

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

At-Large Whip

1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190

811 Saint Michaels Drive
Suite 104
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 984-8950

www.tomudall.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3103

COMMITTEES

RESOURCES

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands

SMALL BUSINESS

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

December 7, 2004

Gary L. Cordova
Operations Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Conchas Lake Project Office
P.O. Box 1008
Conchas Dam, New Mexico 88416

Dear Mr. Cordova:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' effort to nominate Conchas Dam, located in San Miguel County, New Mexico, to the National Register of Historic Places. The 70-year-old facility is rich in history and purpose, dating from the tumultuous and trying times of the Great Depression, and I completely agree with this renowned designation.

The Work Progress Administration (WPA), implemented by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930's, helped put our nation back to work. The construction of Conchas Dam was a significant part of that program, providing 2,500 citizens with jobs, 90% of whom were WPA relief workers. Announced to the community by Commissioner Arch Hurley in 1935, the project was a symbol of not only the return of desperately-needed jobs, but of the restoration of pride to many broken people. It was an exceptional time and place and should be honored in this appropriate manner.

I enthusiastically support the naming of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places. After 70 years, it still provides life-giving irrigation water to Tucumcari and Quay County through the Arch Hurley Conservancy District system. In addition, Flood diversion, an emergency spillway, and an immensely popular and enjoyable recreation area at Conchas Lake are only a few of many significant additions over the years.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

Branch Offices:

221 North Connelly Street
Clovis, NM 88101
P.O. Box 888
88102-0888
(505) 763-7616

800 Municipal Drive
Farmington, NM 87401
(505) 324-1008

110 West Aztec
Gallup, NM 87301
(505) 863-0852

Luna Community College
Administration Building, Room 108
100 Luna Drive
Las Vegas, NM 87701
P.O. Box 570
(505) 454-4080

3900 Southern Boulevard SE
Room 105-A
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
(505) 994-0480

Arch Hurley Conservancy District

Tucumcari Irrigation Project
101 East High Street – PO Box 1167
Tucumcari, NM 88401-1167
(505) 461-2351 — Facsimile (505) 461-4061
e-mail: ahcd@plateautel.net

December 9, 2004

Congressman Tom Udall
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Via: First Class Mail

Re: Nomination of Conchas Dam to the National Register

Dear Congressman Udall,

The Arch Hurley Conservancy District would like to extend its full support to the nomination of Conchas Dam to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the foresight of then President Franklin D. Roosevelt and other influential leaders, the construction of Conchas Dam has been essential for the economic growth of Tucumcari, Quay County and Eastern New Mexico.

Thank you for your courtesy in extending an invitation to place Conchas Dam on the National Register of Historic Places. If any additional information is required to accomplish this, please advise the district.

Respectfully,
FOR THE ARCH HURLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Wayne P. Cunningham
District Manager

pc: File – Outgoing
Board of Directors
Katherine Slick, NM Historic Preservation Div.
Gary Cordova, Conchas Dam Project

(505) 461-3451
(505) 461-2160 (Police)

CITY OF TUCUMCARI

P.O. Box 1188
P.O. Box 1336 (Police)
Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401

December 9, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been informed that Conchas Dam, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project, in San Miguel County, NM is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please accept this letter of support for its acceptance and inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Conchas Dam has become a recreational spot for northeastern NM and Texas and is very important to both Tucumcari and Quay County. Its historical significance and importance to tourism are both assets to Quay County. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Primrose
City Manager

Rdp/cr

(505) 461-3451
(505) 461-2160 (Police)

CITY OF TUCUMCARI

P.O. Box 1188
P.O. Box 1336 (Police)
Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401

December 9, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the acceptance of Conchas Dam, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project, in San Miguel County, New Mexico in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historical significance and economic development impacts are important to both Tucumcari and Quay County, and the inclusion of Conchas Dam in the National Register would prove to be positive to our local area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mary Mayfield

Mary Mayfield
Mayor

mm/cr

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NEW MEXICO
Member FDIC

December 10, 2004

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
c/o Katherine Slick
Santa Fe, NM

VIA FAX – 505-827-6338

Dear Ms. Slick:

The First National Bank of New Mexico would like to congratulate the Conchas Dam Project on their 70th anniversary. The dam project is an important part of Quay, San Miquel, and Guadalupe Counties. The dam project provides much needed economic stimulus through irrigation for farmland, tourism, and recreation.

Due to its impact on our area, we feel the nomination of the Conchas Dam Project to the National Register of Historic Places is appropriate. We would appreciate any consideration you could give to the successful completion of this process.

Sincerely,

Will Cantrell
Senior Vice President

QUAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

300 South Third Street - Courthouse
P.O. Box 1246
Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401
(505) 461-2112

December 10, 2004

Dear Congressman.

I would like to take a few minutes to share my compassion regarding Conchas dam. As a youth growing up in Tucumcari, New Mexico during the 50's and 60's Conchas undoubtedly was my favorite recreational spot. For the youth of Tucumcari, Quay County, San Miguel County, Guadalupe county, Albuquerque and of course Texas, was and still is a popular recreation destination. With its scenic mesas, shorelines to explore, water sports and fishing it has been and remains a top recreational destination for New Mexicans, Texans and a few southwestern Coloradoans. I had the pleasure in the late 50's of attending Boy Scout Aquatic camps and meeting youths from Albuquerque and Los Alamos in which later competed against in high school sports and remain friends with today. Conchas has always been a place for families to "family up" and spend quality time together. It gave me great pleasure for my daughter to spend numerous weekends at Conchas boating, skiing and tubing with our close friends from Albuquerque. My daughter actually grew up in Albuquerque during my career with Johnson and Johnson. For her to have so many great weekends and a place that is special in her Dads life gave me great pleasure.

I have recently retired with Johnson and Johnson and have moved back " home" and accepted the job as County Manager. From an economic perspective, Conchas plays a vital role in our local economy. Besides the tourist dollars, with over 40,000 acres of irrigated land in Quay County, the lakes water level drives our local economy.

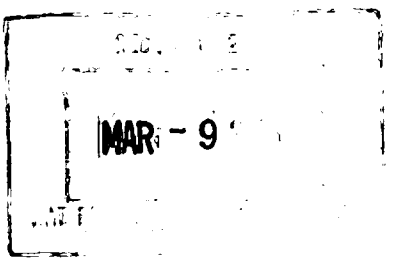
The role Conchas has played in the lives of residents from New Mexico and Texas for nearly seventy years, it only seems appropriate that Conchas Dam be added to the Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully.

Terry Turner
Quay County Manager

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
CONCHAS LAKE PROJECT OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 1008
CONCHAS DAM, NEW MEXICO 88416

January 3, 2005



Paul D. Rubenstein
Deputy Federal Preservation Officer
Office of the Chief of Engineers
ATTN: CECW-PC
441 G Street NW
Washington DC 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Rubenstein,

I am pleased to forward the enclosed packet to you from the New Mexico State Historic Division Office for the nomination of Conchas Dam District to the National Register of Historic Places.

The significance of Conchas Dam is marked by an era that offered hope to a jobless nation through New Deal programs such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A total of 2500 workers built the Conchas Dam District between 1935 and 1939, ninety percent of who were from the relief roles of New Mexico. Another ten percent came from the relief roles of Texas. Many of these workers performed labor-intensive jobs, some for as little as 40 cents an hour.

Conchas Dam District also includes an administration area that was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style from adobe bricks salvaged from the construction camp built in 1935. This area includes an administration building, four permanent housing duplex apartments, one single residence and an entry gate.

Two paintings by WPA artist Odon Hullenkremer are also part of the Conchas Dam District. One, titled "Commencement of Main Dam Construction," depicts actual surveyors and workers and was painted in 1935. Another, titled "Gate City, NM," is a view of the workers' construction camp and was painted in 1936. Both paintings currently hang in the administration building at Conchas Dam.

I look forward to your review of the nomination package and request that you forward it to the Keeper of the National Register at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Gary L. Cordova
Operations Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Conchas Dam Project

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
CONCHAS LAKE PROJECT OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 1008
CONCHAS DAM, NEW MEXICO 88416

March 18, 2005

John W. Murphey
Architectural Historian
State and National Register Coordinator
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
228 East Palace Ave., Room 320
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Murphey,

The Conchas Dam Historic District nomination packet to the National Register of Historic Places was sent and received at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington D.C. on January 5, 2005. There, a transmittal letter was attached and the packet forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register's Office.

On March 3, 2005, our Headquarters informed us that the National Park Service Office had lost this packet and instructed us to prepare and send another packet to the Keeper's Office directly. A duplicate packet is being compiled at this time. Photographs of the Conchas Dam Historic District are enclosed. To avoid any further delay in this process, please forward the completed packet directly to the Keeper's Office per their request.

This letter serves as authorization for the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office to ship a duplicate copy of the Conchas Dam Historic District nomination packet directly to the Keeper of the National Register on our behalf. Thank you very much.

Gary L. Cordova
Operations Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Conchas Dam Project

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

228 EAST PALACE AVENUE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 827-6320

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

March 30, 2005

Beth Boland
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Conchas Dam Historic District, Conchas Dam, San Miguel County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Boland:

Please find enclosed a copy of a nomination for the Conchas Dam Historic District, Conchas Dam, San Miguel County, New Mexico.

The New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee (CPRC) voted unanimously at their December 10, 2004 meeting to forward the nomination to the Keeper for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your assistance, and please call me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Katherine Slick

Katherine Slick
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: one (1) National Register nomination package

Xc: Alexis Abernathy, National Park Service, National Register
Georgeanne L Reynolds, Ph.D., USACE Tribal Liaison, US Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

11 APR 2005

Policy and Policy Compliance Division
Office of Water Project Review

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Register, History and Education
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Conchas Dam Historic District, San Miguel County, New Mexico. The Conchas Dam Historic District is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District.

This District Nomination has been reviewed by Ms. Katherine Slick, New Mexico's State Historic Preservation Officer, and Mr. Paul D. Rubenstein, Corps Deputy Federal Preservation Officer. They certify, by signing in the appropriate sections of the enclosure, that the Conchas Dam Historic District should be included in the National Register of Historic Places. I request that you take the actions necessary to list this nomination in the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you find this submittal requires revision or, if additional information is needed, please return the nomination with your requirements directly to the Corps Albuquerque District, to the attention of Ms. Julie R. Stone. Ms. Stone's mailing address is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, Conchas Lake Project Office, Post Office Box 1008, Conchas Dam, New Mexico 88416. A copy of this letter has been provided to Ms. Stone and to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, ATTN: CESPD-PD-TP (Mr. Snow), 333 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Sincerely,

William R. Dawson, P.E.
Policy and Policy Compliance Division
Directorate of Civil Works

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

13 APR 2005

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye St NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Under separate cover, your office has received a duplicate nomination package for Las Conchas Dam Historic District, San Miguel County, New Mexico. Apparently, the original package was lost in transit. Your office has also received a duplicate nomination form and transmittal letter, both signed by Mr. William Dawson, Chief, Planning and Policy Division, Civil Works Directorate, Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers.

This letter is simply to inform you that I was on travel and authorized Mr. Dawson to sign these documents on my behalf to save time. As you know, there will be a celebration at Las Conchas on July 29, 2005, and we are hoping to announce the District's listing in the National Register of Historic Places at that time.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your staff to attend the celebration, and I wish to thank you for your hard work and your support.

If you have any questions about the nomination please contact Dr. Georgeanne Reynolds, Acting Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers at (202) 671-7113.

Sincerely,

George S. Dunlop
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Policy and Legislation)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

13 APR 2005

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ATTENTION OF

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