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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG - 1 1988  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thematic Nomination: Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites in the  
and/or common Lower Rio Bonito Valley, Lincoln County, New Mexico

2. Location

street & number X not for publication  
city, town Lincoln X vicinity of  
state New Mexico code 35 county Lincoln code 027

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name varies

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Carrizozo state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

David T. Kirkpatrick & Karl W. Laumbach  
title Rio Bonito Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1987  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Human Systems Research, Inc., P.O. Box 1225

city, town Tularosa state NM 88352

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> varies	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> varies			

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### Summary Statement

This National Register Thematic Nomination is entitled Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites in the Lower Rio Bonito Valley, Lincoln County, New Mexico. The nomination includes 11 prehistoric and historic sites representing agricultural adaptations to a well-watered, mountain stream valley in the Sacramento Mountains of Southern New Mexico. The Rio Bonito valley has been intensively farmed during the Jornada Mogollon occupation of southern New Mexico and by Hispanic and Euro-American farmers and herders since the 1850s. The 11 sites included in this nomination are described in Table 1.

The sites in this nomination are all located on private land less than 5 mi west of the village of Lincoln, Lincoln County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The 14 components on these sites demonstrate both prehistoric and historic agricultural adaptations that are typical for the respective time periods in similar environmental settings throughout the Sacramento Mountains. The prehistoric components are important to understanding movements of prehistoric populations into the area, possibly resulting in co-occupation by two distinct groups. The historic sites were occupied during after historical events important to the history of New Mexico. They also may represent bicultural settlements and economic systems for the Territorial period (1846-1912).

### Natural Environment

The sites in the Rio Bonito nomination are located in the lower Rio Bonito Valley, a perennial stream from the eastern slopes of Sierra Blanca in the Sacramento Mountains. These mountains are monoclinical with fault escarpments on the west and long slopes to the east (Allen and Kottlowski 1958). The Tularosa Basin lies to the west of the Sacramento Mountains and the Llano Estacado to the east. San Andres limestone and the lower Yeso formation are the major geologic formations. Capitan Mountain is a major igneous laccolith that runs for 20 miles east-west from the eastern slopes of Sierra Blanca.

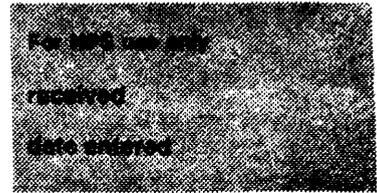
Table 1. Sites in the Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites Nomination.

LA Number	Site Type	Cultural Period/phase	Best Dates
LA 12151	Double Crossing Ruin masonry pueblo	JM, Lincoln phase	A.D. 1200-1400/1450
LA 12153	sherd and flake scatter with possible pithouse village historic habitation	JM, probably early Glencoe Hispanic?, Territorial	A.D. 1100-1450 1880s-1900s
LA 12155	sherd and flake scatter historic habitation	JM, unknown Hispanic?, Territorial	unknown 1870s-1880s
LA 61200	possible artifact scatter historic habitation	JM, unknown Hispanic?, Territorial	unknown 1880s-1900s
LA 61201	historic habitation	Hispanic?, Territorial	early 1900s
LA 61202	historic habitation	Hispanic?, Statehood- World War II	1912-1945
LA 61204	sherd and flake scatter	JM, Lincoln phase	A.D. 1200-1400/1450
LA 61206	Rancho Torres: historic settlement	Hispanic, Territorial	1870s-1910
LA 61208	historic habitation	Hispanic?, Territorial	late 1800s-early 1900s
LA 61210	possible historic habitation	Hispanic, Territorial	late 1800s-early 1900s
LA 61211	possible historic habitation	Hispanic?, Territorial	late 1800s-early 1900s

Note: JM=Jornada Mogollon

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Climate

The climate in Lincoln County is semiarid (Houghton 1983:2). The village of Lincoln, immediately east of the nominated sites, has an elevation of 5,710 ft. Most of the moisture is brought in by southeasterly winds from the Gulf of Mexico. The annual precipitation averages between 11 in. at lower elevations to over 20 in. at elevations above 7,000 ft. Summer is the rainy season, when nearly half of the annual precipitation falls during thunder and lightning storms. Snow falls during the winter, with up to 4 ft falling at higher elevations in the county. The average annual temperature ranges from 58 degrees F at lower elevations to less than 48 degrees at high-mountain elevations. The average frost-free season is 157 days at Fort Stanton (Kelley 1984:Figure 4).

Soils

The Rio Bonito Valley, west of Lincoln, in the Gabaldon-Riverwash soil association (nearly level) (Sprankle 1983:maps 35 and 36). The association consists of Gabaldon silt loam, 0 to 3% slopes (60%); Riverwash (15%); and other soils (25%). The Gabaldon soils have developed on the Rio Bonito Valley floor and terraces (Sprankle 1983:24). Riverwash is present on the floodplains and arroyos, areas with unstabilized stones, cobbles, and gravels that are reworked by water, often as a result of summer floods. The unclassified terraces have more clay than the Gabaldon soils and are thinner in the upper horizons.

The Gabaldon silty-loam soils are classified as Cumulic Haplustolls, fine-silty mixed, messic, which have developed from mixed alluvium. The soils are deep and well drained with rooting depth up to 60 in. or more. The available water capacity is high. The soils are good, especially with irrigation, for pasture, annual crops, orchards, and alfalfa.

Vegetation

The Lower Rio Bonito Valley is in Merriam's Upper Sonoran life zone (Brown 1982:10-11). Undisturbed areas are characterized by a pinyon-juniper woodland on the mountain slopes, grasslands on valley terraces, and a riparian community along the Rio Bonito (Lebgue and Allred 1985).

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The woodlands are composed of pinyon pine (Pinus edulis), one-seed juniper (Juniperus monosperma), alligator juniper (J. Deppeana), and wavyleaf oak (Quercus undulata). Shrubs include squawbush (Rhus trilobata) and Apache plume (Fallugia paradoxa). The grass understory consists of blue grama (Bouteloua gracilis), ring muhly (Muhlenbergia torreyi), and hairy tridens (Erioneuron pilosum).

The grassland areas are dominated by grama grass, especially blue grama. Other grass species are ring muhly, hairy grama (Bouteloua hirsuta), and creeping muhly (Muhlenbergia repens). Other species in the grassland are cholla (Opuntia imbricata), broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae), globemallow (Sphaeralcea coccinea), verbena (Verbena sp.), and yucca (Yucca sp.).

The riparian community is found along the banks of the Rio Bonito. Major tree species are narrowleaf cottonwood (Populus angustifolia), lanceleaf cottonwood (P. acuminata), coyote willow (Salix exigua), Wright willow (S. Wrightii), Arizona walnut (Juglans major), and box elder (Acer nagundo). Grasses include Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis) and bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera). Other wetland shrub and perennial species are bulrush (Scirpus americanus, S. validus), cattail (Typha angustifolia), scarlet gaura (Gaura coccinea), and inland rush (Juncus interior).

Animals

The Upper Sonoran life zone is inhabited by numerous mammal (Olin 1961) and bird (Brown 1982) species, many of which were undoubtedly available in the Rio Bonito Valley. The large- and medium-sized mammals include mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), bear (Ursus americanus), coyote (Canis latrans), mountain lion (Felis concolor), and bobcat (Lynx rufus). Small mammals are cottontail (Sylvilagus nuttalli), blacktail jackrabbit (Lepus californicus), gophers (Geomyidae family), woodrats (Neotoma sp.), beaver (Castor canadensis), and striped skunks (Mustelidae mephitis) (Olin 1961). Birds found in the area include Merriam turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), dove (Zenaida sp.), quail (Lophortyx gambelii), pinyon jay (Gymnophinus cyanocephalus), golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), and several species of hawk (Buteo sp.).

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Previous Research in the Project Area

Several archaeological survey projects have been conducted in the Rio Bonito Valley, during which some well-known, prehistoric sites were recorded (Figure 1). The results of these surveys help provide a cultural context and research questions for the prehistoric sites. The historic chronology and context for the historic sites in the Rio Bonito Valley have been documented by historic research focusing mainly on the role of Lincoln and its residents in the Lincoln County War. Historic archaeology has been limited to historic preservation and excavation in the community of Lincoln.

The 11 sites in this nomination were recorded or rerecorded during a 1986-87 survey funded by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe, and the Lincoln County Heritage Trust, Lincoln, New Mexico. The survey was conducted by David Kirkpatrick of Human Systems Research, Inc., Tularosa (Kirkpatrick 1987b). For that survey, Kirkpatrick visited the sites, completed a Laboratory of Anthropology, Museum of New Mexico, Archaeological Site Survey form, and drew a site map using pace measurements and compass directions. The sites were also photographed.

Prehistoric Sites in the Rio Bonito Valley

Early archaeological research in the Sierra Blanca region of the Sacramento Mountains was conducted by Jane Holden Kelley from 1950 through 1956 (Kelley 1984:39). Her research focused on sites in the valleys of the Rio Ruidoso, Penasco River, Macho River, Gallo River, and Rio Hondo. The sites she found ranged from small pithouses (e.g., Mayhill 1 and 2 and Site 2000) to large pueblos (e.g., the Bonnell Site). Kelley (1984) prepared the definitive description of the archaeology of the Sierra Blanca region, including brief descriptions of sites in the Rio Bonito Valley (Kelley 1984: Appendix 4). Two of her sites, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for this project.

[REDACTED] (LA 37551, also known as [REDACTED]) is on the National Register of Historic Places because it is an important shrine to prehistoric peoples. The cave has two chambers and contained well-preserved remains and pictographs. Kelley (1984:295) summarizes the early work in the cave. Perishable materials, including sandals (Roosa 1952) and numerous bows and arrows

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from miniature to full size have been excavated and collected by professional and amateur archaeologists, as well as cave explorers. An alter with arrows has religious connotations as a shrine (Ellis and Hammack 1968). Brown ware pottery has been recovered from the deposits, but the lower cultural levels do not have ceramics (Kelley 1984:295).

Opposite [REDACTED] (Kelley 1984: 302-202). The site has been subjected to vandalism over the years. The University of New Mexico conducted test excavations at ruin, which was probably an adobe pueblo dating to the Lincoln phase. The ceramic artifacts include brown ware and corrugated sherds of unknown types. Two Chupadero Black-on-white effigy vessels and one Chupadero jug and one Lincoln Black-on-red bowl have been collected from the site by a Lincoln resident (Kelley 1984:303).

At Site LA 588, [REDACTED] Regge Wiseman (1975) conducted test excavations in a house mound and an adjacent depression. He recovered very little material culture in two test trenches, but exposed adobe walls and a borrow pit from which clayey soil was probably obtained to build the pueblo. The pit was later filled with trash. The site dates to the Lincoln phase, based on the architecture and the presence of Lincoln Black-on-red ceramics. Other ceramics included Chupadero Black-on-white, Jornada Brown, El Paso Brown, El Paso Polychrome, and Three Rivers Red-on-terracotta.

Several prehistoric sites in the project area have been recorded since the early 1960s. Gerald Wood recorded the [REDACTED] (LA 467) in 1963 as part of the [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] which has been severely impacted by pot hunters, consisted of pithouses and possible jacal structures. The ceramics are Lincoln Black-on-red and Chupadero Black-on-white. Kelley (1984:304-305) describes the site as a square mound with a central depression, which she assigned to the Lincoln phase.

Site LA 2533 is a rock shelter [REDACTED] that was recorded during the survey [REDACTED]. The shelter had been potted. Recorded artifacts were 21 Jornada Brown ware sherds, 2 Chupadero Black-on-white sherds, 1 Three Rivers Red-on-terracotta sherd, and 1 corn cob. Pictographs in white, yellow, and red paint are hands and concentric circles.

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In 1963 Wood recorded Site LA 6835, a potted rock shelter [redacted] Lincoln. Reportedly, the pot hunters recovered points, bone tools, yucca sandals, human hair, and juniper cordage from the rock shelter.

In the summer of 1972, Regge Wiseman (1972) conducted a survey of the area west of the confluence [redacted] Valley. He recorded the [redacted] (Site LA 12151), a badly potted pueblo of about 25 rooms. William Turney sketched the site in 1980. Kirkpatrick (1987b) rerecorded the site. The ceramics at the site were dominated by Chuperado Black-on-white jar sherds, Lincoln Black-on-red sherds, El Paso Polychrome sherds, Corona Corrugated jar sherds, and Jornada Brown and El Paso Brown ware sherds.

Wiseman also recorded two pithouse sites (LA 12152 and LA 12153). The ceramic assemblages from these two sites are dominated by Jornada Brown ware sherds; other types are El Paso Brown ware and San Andres Red-on-terracotta. Both of these sites had not been vandalized prior to 1972 and were still undisturbed when Kirkpatrick rerecorded Site LA 12153 in 1987. He also recorded the historic component on Site LA 12153, that Wiseman had not recorded.

Site LA 12154 is a small, potted rock shelter with a shallow overhang reported by Wiseman in 1972. He did not see any artifacts, but reported over a dozen pictographs on the shelter roof, which had not been smoke blackened. The designs in red and black paint are dots, geometric maize, and two horned serpents.

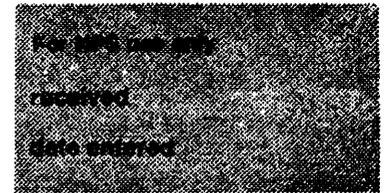
The last site that Wiseman recorded in 1972 was LA 12155, a sherd and flake scatter [redacted]. He found no visible architecture, but structures may be present on small, narrow terraces on the hill slope. The ceramic assemblage consisted of Jornada and El Paso Brown ware sherds. Kirkpatrick (1987b) rerecorded the site, including the historic component.

In the fall of 1982, Wiseman recorded Sites LA 37921, LA 37920, and LA 47481. [redacted] (LA 37920) is located on [redacted]. The rock shelter has been seriously vandalized over the years and artifacts are sparse. The pictographs consist of dots, hand prints, concentric circles, and a mask in yellow and red paint.

The last site Wiseman recorded, [redacted] (LA 37921), is a badly pot-hunted set of about 20 pit rooms, according to local informants.

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The pottery included brown wares, Lincoln Black-on-red, El Paso Polychrome, Three Rivers Red-on-terracotta, and Chupadero Black-on-white. Kelley (1984:305) assigned the site to the Lincoln phase.

Near [REDACTED] (LA 47481), a badly vandalized rock shelter. The site is named for an inscription at the cave entrance, which reads [REDACTED]. The artifact assemblage visible in the back dirt piles is sparse, only flakes, ceramics, bone, and corn cobs.

Site LA 37452 (the [REDACTED] is an early Glencoe phase pithouse village located on the [REDACTED] (Lancaster 1983a, 1983b; Vierra and Lancaster 1987). The site was discovered as part of the [REDACTED]. Test excavations showed the presence of subsurface structures at the site. The ceramic assemblage includes sherds of Jornada Brown, Jornada/El Paso Brown, Mimbres Classic Black-on-white, and an unidentified brown ware. Lithic artifacts include basalt, mudstone, vitrophyre, chert, quartzite, and metaquartzite flakes; quartzite and chert hammerstone/cores; and metate and mano fragments.

During the summer of 1985 Joe Stewart and Jane Kelley recorded three sites, two prehistoric sites--LA 51343 and LA 51344--near Lincoln and a multicomponent site in Lincoln (discussed in the next section). Site LA 51343 is a sherd and flake scatter discovered during construction for a house. A backhoe trench showed the artifacts and possible pithouse floor 6 to 8 ft below the surface. Ceramics are brown wares. Little else is known about the site.

Site LA 51344, located near the [REDACTED] is a large but low-density sherd and flake scatter. Stewart and Kelley arbitrarily divided the site into four areas, based on fence lines and roads. No surface structures are present. The artifacts include Chupadero Black-on-white and brown wares. Ground stone artifacts are manos and trough and basin metates. Stuart saw charcoal, possible human bone, and fire-cracked rock in eroded areas along roads. Kirkpatrick (1987b) briefly visited the site, but saw no new features. The site has a new road cut across it, along with newly bladed areas. The surface of the site may have been plowed sometime in the past, possibly at the turn of the century.

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Archaeology in Lincoln

No historic archaeological fieldwork has been conducted in the Rio Bonito Valley except for work done [redacted]. Historic excavation in Lincoln has yielded well-preserved evidence of the early occupants of that town and some of the better-documented historic events, that have transpired in the community, such as the burning of the McSween House during the Lincoln County War.

Site LA 8977 is the historic town of Lincoln. The site, recorded by the National Park Service in 1959, is on the National Register of Historic Places as the Lincoln National Historic Landmark. The site was placed on the register because of its significance during the nineteenth century as a center for agriculture and the cattle industry and as the county seat for what at one time was the largest county in the United States. In addition, the town is well preserved and relatively untouched by modern architectural trends and business establishments. Lincoln was the center of the Lincoln County War, which gained attention in the late 1870s. A preservation plan has been developed by the State Planning Office (1974), entitled Lincoln, New Mexico; a Plan for Preservation and Growth.

In recent years, archaeologists from New Mexico State Monuments and the Research Section of the Laboratory of Anthropology have conducted archaeological excavations at the [redacted]

Michael Taylor, New Mexico State Monuments, excavated a test pit west of [redacted] (Taylor 1983, 1984, 1986). The test pit west [redacted] was for a dry well; it appeared to be the location of an adobe building that was bladed in the 1940s. The stratigraphy included limestone cobbles in mixed fill, a lime deposit, and a clayey loam deposit with charcoal and a few artifacts. The excavations conducted [redacted] exposed mixed fill with construction debris. Associated artifacts included wire and square nails, window-pane glass fragments, matchsticks, newspaper fragments, and single-edge razor blades. The artifacts reflect that [redacted] was used as a store and drugstore with episodes of construction and remodeling.

In March and April 1985, Yvonne Oakes directed excavations under [redacted]

[redacted] (Oakes 1986). Excavations of the [redacted]

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[REDACTED] Artifacts found in the mixed fill included coins (1877-1981), cartridges, glass fragments, crown caps, matchsticks, nails, and shells from peanuts and pinyon nuts. The artifacts reflect continuous use of the porch from 1877 to the present as a place to socialize.

Excavations at the [REDACTED] (Oakes 1986) exposed wall foundations, a fenceline, waterlines, brick pavement, and probably wall remnants of the 1882 and 1889 jails. The recovered artifacts--including window-pane fragments, nails (wire and square), adobe fragments, and wood fragments--reflect construction and maintenance activities. Other artifacts are fragments of glass containers and china vessels, which confirm the use of the building as a store, courthouse, and school.

During the summers of 1986 and 1987, archaeologists with Human Systems Research, Inc., conducted archaeological test excavations at the site of [REDACTED] (Kirkpatrick 1987a). They found burned and unburned remains of the house and numerous burned artifacts, including exploded cartridges, several types of charred fabric, coffee beans, pepper corns, glass beads, milled lumber, animal bones, nails, tin cans, and fragments of glass and china vessels.

Joe Stewart also recorded Site LA 51351 [REDACTED] found during construction by Ralph and Rosalie Dunlap on their property next to the Torreón. The site was named for their house and store. The site contains a trash midden and possibly structures. The recovered ceramics include Chupadero Black-on-white, Three Rivers Red-on-terracotta, Lincoln Black-on-red, and El Paso Polychrome. The materials date to the Lincoln phase of the Jornada Mogollon. Mixed with the materials are glass fragments, historic trash, and some whole bottles, which were sealed and contain liquids.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** A.D. 1100-circa 1400/1450  
ca. 1855-ca. 1930 **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Summary of Significance

The 11 sites in the Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites in the Lower Rio Bonito Valley, Lincoln County, New Mexico Thematic Nomination are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "d," their archaeological significance. The historic sites are also significant under criterion "a," because they were economically affiliated with the community of Lincoln. The inhabitants of the sites were involved in agriculture in Lincoln County during and following the time period during which the Lincoln Historic Landmark derived its significance. The prehistoric and historic sites are significant because they can be used to answer research questions on agricultural adaptations along a well-watered stream in the Sacramento Mountains. The sites are significant during both the prehistoric era, during the Jornada Mogollon occupation from about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1400/1450, and during the Historic era, US Territorial period and later, from about circa A.D. 1855 to about A.D. 1930.

These 11 sites are distributed [redacted] and contain 4 Jornada Mogollon components (and one possible Jornada Mogollon component) and 9 historic, probably Hispanic, components. Archaeological studies of the sites would be relevant to sites in similar river valleys of the Sierra Blanca region, such as the Rio Ruidoso, Rio Hondo, and possibly Coyote Canyon to the west.

Culture History

The Rio Bonito Valley, a well-watered, upland area of southern New Mexico, had a somewhat unique cultural development. Current data suggest that the occupation of this area was reasonably continuous from the Paleoindian to the Historic period.



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hunters. The Paleoindian sites and Late Pleistocene faunal sites are often found at lower elevations on plains and basin floors. Alternatively, the Paleoindian material from higher-elevation sites may be buried under alluvial fill and only observable in eroded areas.

Archaic

During the Archaic period (ca. 5,000 B.C. to A.D. 400), the area was occupied by hunters and gatherers who had to adapt to the more arid, post-Pleistocene climate. The big game animals hunted by Paleoindians were extinct by then. Archaic hunters focused their efforts on deer, elk, and smaller mammals. The presence of ground stone tools on sites from this period indicates greater reliance on seeds and other plant resources that had to be ground for use as food. Archaic occupation of the Rio Bonito Valley and adjacent areas is poorly known (Kelley 1984). Preceramic sites in the area are the [redacted] and lower levels of [redacted] (Kelley 1984:295). Archaic-period, flaked-lithic artifact scatters have been found on Fort Stanton Mesa by Higgins (1984). In general, the Archaic occupation of the upland areas is poorly known.

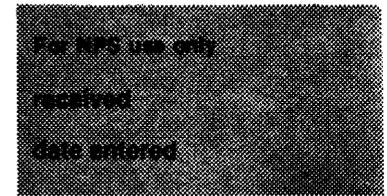
Jornada Mogollon

The seminal research on the Jornada Mogollon was conducted by Lehmer (1948) in lowland areas of southern New Mexico and by Kelley (1966, 1984) in the upland areas. The Rio Bonito Valley is in the upland Jornada Mogollon, in contrast to lowland Jornada Mogollon (Whalen 1977, 1978, and 1981).

The Jornada Mogollon area ranges from near Deming on the west, north to about Corona, east to Hobbs, and south to Villa Ahumada, Mexico. The Jornada Mogollon culture has been characterized as a desert adaptation of Mogollon peoples (Willey 1966), yet considerable regional variation exists within the Jornada area. While the major portion of the Jornada Mogollon area is desert, important cultural/population centers are present in the pinyon-juniper woodland areas adjacent to the desert areas of southern New Mexico, such as the Rio Bonito Valley.

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The Jornada Mogollon area is a frontier in Mogollon research. More specifically, areal studies comparing the upland and lowland Jornada Mogollon are important to understanding regional perspectives of the historic context. Kelley (1966, 1984) has provided the only reliable historic context for upland areas of the Jornada Mogollon.

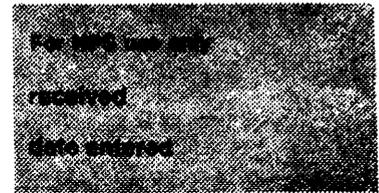
Two Jornada Mogollon phase sequences have been used to classify sites in the area (Wiseman 1983). Kelley's Corona, Glencoe, and Lincoln phases are most appropriate for this study of the Rio Bonito. Lehmer's (1948) earlier taxonomy for the northern Jornada Branch, which includes Kelley's Sierra Blanca research area, has Capitan, Three Rivers, and San Andres phases. The Three Rivers and San Andres phases correspond in time with the Corona and Lincoln phases used by Kelley. The Glencoe phase sites appear to be occupied by the local hunter-gatherer population that developed into marginal agriculturalists. The Early Glencoe acquired brown ware pottery and started living in pithouses circa A.D. 900 (Kelley 1966). The numerous trade wares (available during the latter end of the sequence) that are found on the sites indicate the length of time the pithouse persisted. Glencoe settlements were initially present in all major drainages of the Sacramento Mountains; their area shrank through time, until about A.D. 1400.

The second, contemporaneous occupation is intrusive, with roots in the Chupadera Mesa area and central Rio Grande, west of the Tularosa Basin, which is west of the Sacramento Mountains. Corona phase sites are found in the upper-elevation areas of the Upper Sonoran life zone. Sites consist of small house units, primarily pithouses with jacal surface rooms. Jornada Brown ware and Chupadero Black-on-white are the major ceramic types. These sites date from about A.D. 1100 to 1200.

Lincoln phase sites follow Corona phase sites and are also located in the Upper Sonoran zone. Site composition, though, changed to a more formal layout of structures. Sites range from linear room blocks with plazas and a kiva to large squares with enclosed plazas and more than one kiva. Site size ranges from 10-20 rooms to over 100 rooms. Corrugated wares replaced Jornada Brown ware; decorated wares include Chupadero Black-on-white, Lincoln Black-on-red, Three Rivers Red-on-Terracotta, and El Paso Polychrome. The area was abandoned by A.D. 1400/1450.

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Stuart and Gauthier (1981:217-218) have suggested that changing climatic conditions influenced settlement locations in the Sacramento Mountains. During times of decreased rainfall, settlements were probably located at lower elevations along major streams. Conversely, settlement locations shifted to higher elevations with increased rainfall.

Apache

The Apache occupation of the Sacramento Mountains has been documented by several scholars, most notably Schroeder (1974) and Ball (1980). Early Spanish expeditions led by Chamuscado and Rodriguez (1581-82) and de Sosa (1590-91) noted the presence of nomadic Indians whose lifeways strongly resembled, in retrospect, those of Apachean peoples. The Apache subsistence economy was based on hunting and gathering, as well as limited agriculture (Basso 1983; Opler 1983a, 1983b, 1983c). The conflict with Euro-Americans over use of land resulted in military expeditions beginning in the late 1700s and lasting into the late 1800s.

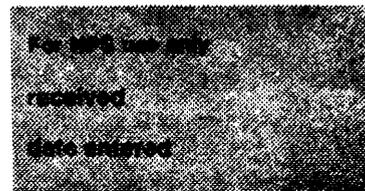
Fort Stanton was established in 1855 to control the Mescalero Apache (Goetzmann 1959). Abandoned by Union troops during the early part of the Civil War, Fort Stanton was reoccupied in the early 1860s by Union forces. Conflict continued with the Mescalero into the early 1870s, when the Mescalero Apache Reservation was established. By the turn of the century, the violent conflict between different cultural groups had been controlled.

Hispanic and Euro-American

The early US Army explorers of the 1840s and 1850s recorded in their reports the presence of farms in the Rio Bonito Valley. These small settlements were occupied by the Mescalero Apache, who arrived in the Southwest probably in the 16th century. The Mescalero Apache grew corn and other crops and hunted in the surrounding mountains and mesas. Conflict over the fertile valley began in the mid-1850s, when Hispanic peoples from the Albuquerque region, especially from Manzanos and Torreon, moved into the Rio Bonito country. Fort Stanton, established in 1855, protected the Hispanic pioneers from the Mescalero Apache.

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The Mescalero Apache briefly controlled the region during the Civil War while the Union and Confederate armies fought for control of New Mexico Territory. The Hispanic settlers abandoned the Rio Bonito. After the Union Army regained control of Fort Stanton and New Mexico Territory, settlers slowly began to establish farms and settlements in the Rio Bonito Valley. The ancestral settlement of the village of Lincoln was probably one such Hispanic settlement, La Placita, a loose aggregation of adobe houses and associated mercantiles in the Rio Bonito Valley. Hispanics and Euro-Americans lived on isolated farms or in loose-knit communities along the banks of the Rio Bonito, growing corn, wheat, barley, and orchard crops. Many of the crops were sold to Fort Stanton to feed the soldiers and their mounts and to the Mescalero Indian Reservation for the Indians. Water from the Rio Bonito and Salado Creek was diverted into numerous ditches to irrigate the fields. Some of these 100-yr-old ditches are still used today (Mourant 1963).

During the 1860s and 1870s in Lincoln, Hispanic economy was primarily subsistence based, while Euro-Americans were used to an economy based on cash elsewhere in the US. Lincoln and Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory, were on the economic frontier; ranchers, farmers, merchants, lawyers, and others felt they could make their fortunes there. Competition between two opposing groups of Euro-American businessmen and their supporters resulted in armed conflict in the late 1870s. L.B. Murphy, a former US Army officer, and his associates established an economic monopoly in Lincoln's subsistence-based economic system, which provided them a political base in Lincoln County.

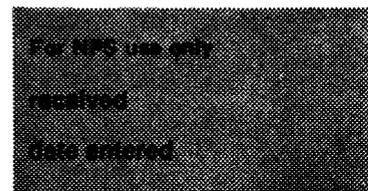
John H. Tunstall, an British businessman, and Alexander McSween, his lawyer, challenged the monopoly, which led to the Lincoln County War. Both Hispanics and Euro-Americans become victims of its violence. The culmination of the war came on July 19, 1878, when Alexander McSween's house was burned to the ground. McSween and several confederates were killed while escaping from the house.

The Lincoln County War gained national attention with this violence and the murders of Tunstall, McSween, and several followers on both sides. Billy the Kid gained notoriety for his involvement in the fight.

By the early 1880s peace came back to the Rio Bonito country and many settlers, who had fled their homes to avoid becoming victims of

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the war, returned. New settlers started farms and businesses in the Rio Bonito Valley and adjacent regions. Lincoln became the prosperous business and political center of southeastern New Mexico, serving as county seat to the largest county in the US or its territories. The decline of Lincoln came in the early 1900s, especially after 1913 when the railroad community of Carrizozo became the county seat. The people of the Rio Bonito continued, as they do today, to farm the fertile valley floor, to graze small herds of cattle and horses, and to work in Lincoln and nearby communities.

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Research Significance

The sites in this nomination represent an agriculturally based subsistence economy extant in the area during both the Jornada Mogollon and the Hispanic, historic occupation. The sites derive their significance from the research questions that they have the potential to help answer.

All of the prehistoric sites have the potential to yield data to answer the prehistoric research questions. Some of the sites appear today, from the surface, to be only surface artifact scatters. However, they are on benches that are typical locations for pithouse villages; they have the potential to yield subsurface remains. Archaeological data, such as pottery sherds, projectile points, charcoal, pollen, seeds and plant parts, and skeletons are necessary to answer the research questions outlined here; all the sites have the potential to yield these types of samples. Sites without subsurface architecture have the potential to yield artifact assemblages that will define site function for temporary-use sites and the relationship between the temporary-use and habitation sites.

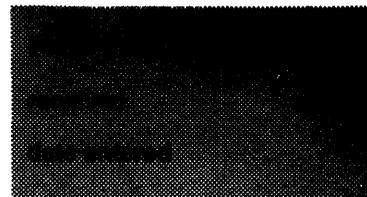
All the historic sites are probably architectural and have the potential to yield subsurface data to answer the historic research questions. Typical data that might be derived from the historic sites includes architectural information; datable ceramics, glass, and other artifacts; diagnostic food remains; oral histories from residents of the valley; and documentation from Lincoln County Courthouse and elsewhere.

Prehistoric Research Questions

Previous researchers have documented prehistoric occupation of the Rio Bonito Valley only during the Glencoe and Lincoln phases of the Jornada Mogollon. The people who lived in the Rio Bonito Valley near Lincoln were part of a larger cultural system in the Sacramento Mountains and Sierra Blanca region. This system is now reflected in the settlement pattern for the sites and the physical remains on each site. By studying these sites, we can learn more about this prehistoric adaptation.

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The area is not well known, although Kelley (1966) has postulated a prehistoric culture history for the area based on her survey and excavation work. She postulates that local Mogollon-like peoples acquired brown ware pottery and started living in pithouses circa A.D. 900. This local phase sequence is called the Glencoe (A.D. 1100 to 1450). Although Glencoe settlements were initially present in all the major drainages of the Sacramento Mountains, the area occupied by the Glencoe people shrank through time. The last stronghold of these stubborn, tradition-minded locals was the Ruidoso Valley, which was abandoned by circa A.D. 1400/1450.

The second occupation is by an intrusive population with roots in the Chupadera Mesa and central Rio Grande. The earliest phase, the Corona, spans circa A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1200. No Corona phase sites have been identified within the major drainages of the Sacramento Mountains. The subsequent Lincoln phase (circa A.D. 1200-1400) is characterized by stone masonry pueblos, found in the Bonito and Hondo drainages.

Four sites have Jornada Mogollon components; these are one habitation site, one possible habitation site, and two sites tentatively identified as temporary-use sites because no architectural features are evident on the surface. A fifth site has a possible temporary occupation, based on a few artifacts. These sites have the potential to provide data to increase our knowledge about many aspects of the Glencoe and Lincoln phase peoples. Examples of relevant research questions for these sites include

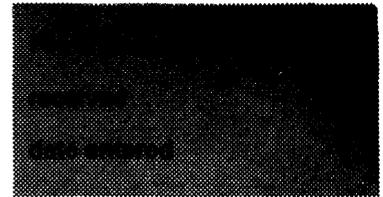
1. Temporal and cultural relationships. Kelley (1966, 1984) has postulated that Glencoe and Lincoln phase sites represent different populations occupying roughly the same geographic area in the Sacramento Mountains.

The sites in the Rio Bonito Valley have the potential to provide data on these two proposed occupations of the valley. Ceramics, possibly skeletal remains, tree-ring and C-14 dates, and other data can be used to establish the cultural and temporal affiliation of the sites within the Rio Bonito Valley and, in the process, help substantiate Kelley's observations.

2. Settlement and subsistence strategies. The sites--both habitation and temporary-use, artifact-scatter

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sites--can be used to explain the subsistence strategies used during the Glencoe and Lincoln phases. Macro- and microbotanical and faunal remains can explain what domestic and natural resources were used for food. Other analyses can explain what natural resources (e.g., soil fertility, rock outcrops for lithic material) influenced the location of prehistoric sites.

3. Climatic changes and prehistoric adaptation. Pollen and tree-ring studies, in conjunction with archaeological studies, may help explain how local climatic conditions and moisture and temperature were important to prehistoric agriculturalists and how their subsistence strategies changed in response to changes in environmental conditions.
4. Prehistoric cultural systems. Surface and subsurface cultural remains, especially material culture, have the potential of demonstrating the relationship among special use sites (e.g., field houses), habitation sites (pithouse or pueblo sites), and procurement sites for food, ceramic, and lithic resources. Similar studies can be conducted among activity areas on individual sites.

Historic Research Questions

Peoples of the Hispanic culture (entering the Southwest through Old Mexico) were the principal settlers of this part of the Rio Bonito, although Euro-Americans (entering the Southwest through the United States) also settled in the area (Wilson 1987b). While members of both cultures--such as Juan Patron, William Brady, Saturnino Baca, and James Dolan--became important local leaders, little is known about the people of either culture who owned or worked on the small farms of 80 to 160 acres in the valley bottom, raising crops of corn, barley, and wheat to trade at the stores in Lincoln and to sell to the U.S. Army for Fort Stanton and the Mescalero Indian Agency. These people created most of the numerous historic archaeological sites seen today in the Rio Bonito. Their sites--consisting of single-room house mounds, trash scatters, dugouts, jacals, and remnants of barbed wire fences--can be seen up and down the Rio Bonito Valley. The

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inhabitants of the sites in this nomination, except for those at LA 61206 and possibly those at LA 61210, have not been identified. However, Wilson (1987a) has determined that the majority of the residents of the Rio Bonito were Hispanic. For the purposes of this nomination, the inhabitants are identified as Hispanic. But additional research is required to identify the cultural identity of the occupants and to define the archaeological differences between Hispanic and Euro-American agricultural sites.

The value of these historic sites should be considered in a number of ways. The sites have value for studying the early settlement of the Rio Bonito Valley by considering site location in relationship to environmental variables (e.g., landforms, water sources) and sociological variables (e.g., the proximity to Fort Stanton and the protection provided by the U.S. Army, family units). The composition of site features (e.g., activity areas) and distribution of these features provide information on how mid-1800s settlers adapted to their new territory on the unsettled frontier. The types of artifacts found in these different activity areas provide data on economic values, trade networks, and lifestyles of the occupants and settlers of the Rio Bonito Valley. The architectural remains are varied. Some are well preserved, while others remain only as foundations. These were reportedly leveled when Lincoln County levied a tax on all structures in the county, whether occupied or not. Many landowners, especially the railroad, chained unoccupied structures at ground level.

The adobe and jacal structures and dugouts document, as the artifacts do, the lifestyle and adaptations of the early inhabitants. They also represent changing styles from the 1870s (and possibly earlier) to the 1930s, or even as late as World War II.

These sites have additional research value for studying sites occupied by peoples of different ethnic backgrounds. The composition of the material culture and the architecture of these sites is the basis for studying ethnic differences and similarities of Hispanic and Euro-American settlers. A major difference in settlement probably contributed to site composition. Hispanic farmers settled in communities of extended families, Euro-Americans in the American West traditionally settled in single-family structures spaced some distance from other structures.

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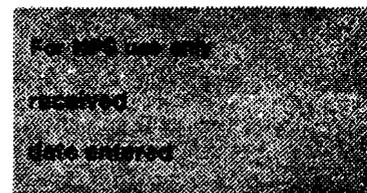
The differences and similarities can also be more finely studied in relationship to major economic and political events that occurred in Lincoln County. These are early settlement, abandonment during and reoccupation after the Civil War, turmoil and violence during the Lincoln County War, growth between that war and statehood, and stabilization and decline since statehood (Wilson 1987b).

Examples of specific research questions relevant to both Hispanic and Euro-American settlements include the following:

1. Cultural affiliation and individual identity. Who settled each site, what was his/her or their cultural affiliation, and during which periods was the site occupied? Although the sites appear to date after the 1880s, they may contain earlier components that are not readily identifiable in the artifact assemblage.
2. Economic adaptation. What was the economic adaptation of the settlers? Were they subsistence farmers or did they mix farming with herding of sheep, goats, horses, or cattle (or some combination)? How do the sites and the activities on the sites reflect these adaptations?
3. Lifestyles. What was the lifestyle of the occupants, what were their basic necessities, and what were their luxuries?
4. Adaptations to local historic developments. How did the Lincoln County War affect the settlers? Did those who left to avoid violence return to their homesteads or sell out?
5. Networks and Settlement Patterns. Were inhabitants at one site related to inhabitants at other sites or involved in economic exchange, forming networks. Did some families live in more than one site, forming patterns of land use. Or did some families move to new sites, forming a record of changing land occupation or use.
6. Unique qualities of local adaptations. How does the settlement pattern and history of the Rio Bonito compare regionally to the Rio Ruidoso, Rio Hondo, and

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other regions? What are the differences and similarities? What factors in the physical environment or local economy influenced the settlement pattern and history to make them different or similar to nearby areas?

7. Culture change. How did the life of the inhabitants of the Rio Bonito change as life in New Mexico changed? How was their life changed as a result of improved transportation and related changes in the economy? How are the changes reflected in the architecture and material culture on these sites?

These research questions can be addressed in part through analysis of data obtained from archaeological survey. More detailed analysis will require study of archival and courthouse records and archaeological excavation of selected sites. The historic sites have the potential to contribute to our understanding of the settlement, history, lifeways, and culture change of the inhabitants of the Rio Bonito over the last 125 years.

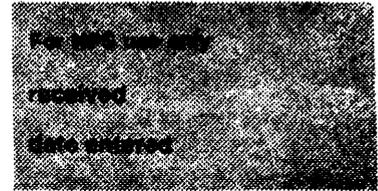
Summary

The prehistoric and historic components of these 11 sites have the potential to contribute to our knowledge of the prehistory and history of the Lincoln area of the Rio Bonito Valley. The larger prehistoric habitation pueblos (e.g., [REDACTED]) have been known and subjected to pot hunting activities for decades. In contrast, the smaller sites without surface evidence of architectural features have not been vandalized. All of these sites can still provide important data for studying settlement patterns, subsistence strategies, social organization, cultural change through time, and bicultural occupation of the area.

While much has been written about Lincoln's history, these works usually focus on the Lincoln County War (e.g., Keleher 1957; Mullin 1968; Utley 1986; Wilson 1987b). Little is known of the early settlers and their descendants, who played an important role in developing New Mexico as a frontier territory and eventually as the 47th state in the Union. The historic archaeology sites reflect the history of the farmers and herders who settled in the Rio Bonito Valley beginning in the 1850s. These small sites provide an

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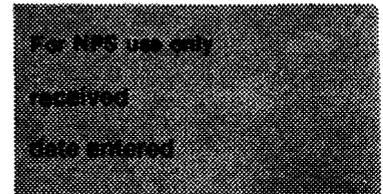
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invaluable source of information about the lives of these Hispanic and Euro-American settlers. Information about Hispanic settlers, in particular, is not recorded in the historic documents. By studying these and other sites in conjunction with historic documents (e.g., tax records, probate files), archaeologists can learn more about the original settlers and their descendants.

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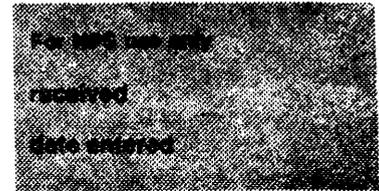
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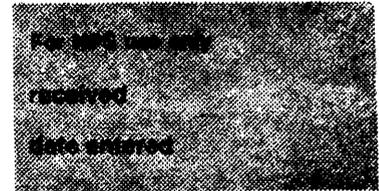
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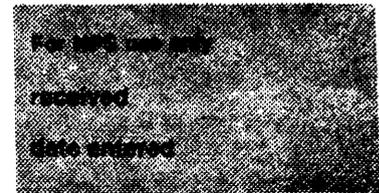
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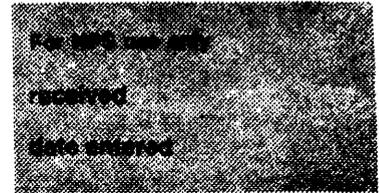
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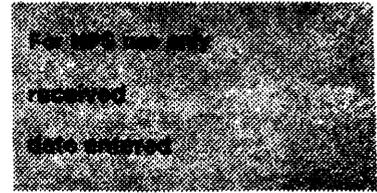
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National Park Service

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites in the

Name Lower Rio Bonito Valley TR

State Lincoln County, NEW MEXICO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/12/88

1. Archeological Site LA 61200

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

2. Archeological Site LA 12151

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

3. Archeological Site LA 12153

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/18/88

Attest

4. Archeological Site LA 12155

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 2/18/90

Attest

5. Archeological Site LA 61201

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

6. Archeological Site LA 61202

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 2/18/90

Attest

7. Archeological Site LA 61204

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

8. Archeological Site LA 61206

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

9. Archeological Site LA 61208

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

10. Archeological Site LA 61211

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Knowl 9/13/88

Attest

8/1/88

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Prehistoric and Historic Agricultural Sites in the  
Lower Rio Bonito Valley TR  
State Lincoln County, NEW MEXICO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 25 11. Archeological Site LA 61210  
Substantive Review  
Keeper John J. Knecht  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_