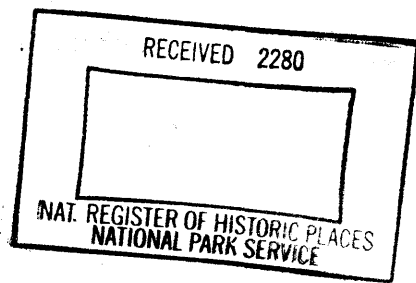


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Mexico Madonna of the Trail

other names/site number National Madonna of the Trail Memorial Monument, New Mexico

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Marble Avenue and 4th Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Albuquerque

N/A vicinity

state New Mexico

code NM

county Bernalillo

code 001

zip code 87102

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lawrence Stich SAPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

02 February 2006
Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClure

3/21/06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The Historic and Architectural Resources of Route 66 through New Mexico

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation CONCRETE
walls N/A
roof N/A
other STONE: Granite

Narrative Description
(See Section 7-5 through 7-8).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Religious properties
- B** Moved properties
- C** Birthplaces and graves
- D** Cemeteries
- E** Reconstructed properties
- F** Commemorative properties
- G** Properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance
1928 – 1955

Significant Dates
1928

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
August Leimbach, sculptor

Narrative Statement of Significance
(See Section 8-9 through 9-15).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(see Section 9-16)

- 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency – National Park Service, Santa Fe, NM
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, New Mexico
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>349612</u>	<u>3884582</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(See Section 10-17).

Boundary Justification

(See Section 10-17).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Teresa Douglass, with additional research and contribution from John W. Murphey
organization Thomason and Associates date November 9, 2005
street & number 1907 21st Ave. S. telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (see attached *Albuquerque West, NM 7.5-minute series map*)

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property (see Section Photo-18).

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Albuquerque, Parks Department (owner of physical monument)
street & number 1801 Fourth Street, NW telephone 505-768-5324
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87102

name U.S. General Services Administration (owner of ground on which monument rests (* see Sec. 7)
street & number 819, Taylor Street telephone 817-978-4229
city or town Fort Worth state TX zip code 76102

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Description

The New Mexico Madonna of the Trail is located at the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Marble Avenue in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico along the former alignment of U.S. 66. The monument is surrounded by a landscaped park, which is sited on a block dominated by the city's federal courthouse (Photos 1-2). The monument consists of a central granite statue depicting a pioneer woman holding a baby and with a small child clutching her dress. The statue rests on a square stone pedestal, which in turn rests within a landscaped stone enclosure containing a low hedge. Surrounding the statue is a circular concrete and stone walkway upon which rests six stone benches. Only the immediate statue and its base are nominated. The surrounding park and landscape features were constructed in 1998, and do not directly contribute to the historical character of the monument.

Setting

The New Mexico Madonna of the Trail is situated in a landscaped park at the northwest corner of the U.S. Federal Courthouse grounds, Albuquerque (Figure 7-1). Immediately to the west is Fourth Street, the former alignment of U.S. 66, and earlier the route of the National Old Trails Road highway. Constructed in 1998, and named in honor of Senator Pete Domenici, the federal courthouse has dramatically changed the setting of the area to the south and west, as small, roadside-oriented commercial buildings were razed to make way for multi-story office buildings and garages (Photos 2 & 3). North of Marble Avenue, the setting is much the same as it was during the 1930s, with an urban landscape composed of detached residential units along Marble Avenue and small commercial buildings fronting Fourth Street (Photo 1).

The Madonna of the Trail

The Madonna of the Trail monument, designed by German immigrant August Leimbach, was fabricated in 1928 of Algonite — a mix of crushed pink granite, stone, marble, Portland cement, and screenings of lead ore, poured into a mold and polished into its final form. The monument features a ten-foot high sculpture of a pioneer woman and two small children (Photo 4). The woman, depicted with a homespun dress, sunbonnet, and heavy boots, is captured in a firm mid-stride, her eyes intently focused on the horizon to the west. In one arm she carries an infant, while the other hand clutches a rifle. Another child, a small boy, clings to her skirt. Thistles surround her feet. The sculpture rests on a large square, base that is six feet in height and weighs approximately twelve tons. Beneath the base is a five-foot deep foundation, three feet of which are below ground. The monument weighs five tons.

The New Mexico monument is one of 12 Madonna of the Trail statues designed by August Leimbach. In addition to Albuquerque Madonna of the Trail, similar statues are located along the former alignment of the National Old Trails Road in Springfield, Ohio; Wheeling, West Virginia; Council Grove, Kansas; Lexington, Missouri; Lamar Colorado; Springerville, Arizona; Vandalia, Illinois; Richmond, Indiana; Washington, Pennsylvania; Upland, California; and Bethesda, Maryland. On each of the twelve monuments,

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

the front and back panels are identical, with the front panel inscribed “The Madonna of the Trail,” and the back panel inscribed “Old Trails National Road.” The side panels of the base are different on each of the twelve monuments and often reflect the history of each location.

The statue faces west and on the west elevation of the pedestal is the inscription “MADONNA OF THE TRAIL, NSDAR MEMORIAL TO THE PIONEER MOTHERS OF THE COVERED WAGON DAYS” (Photo 5). On the south elevation the pedestal is inscribed “INTO THE PRIMITIVE WEST, FACE UPLIFTING TOWARD THE SUN, BRAVELY SHE CAME, HER CHILDREN BESIDE HER. HERE SHE MADE THEM A HOME, BEAUTIFUL PIONEER MOTHER!” (Photo 6). The east elevation of the pedestal is inscribed “THE NATIONAL OLD TRAILS ROAD” (Photo 7). The pedestal’s north elevation is inscribed “TO THE PIONEER MOTHER OF AMERICA, THROUGH WHOSE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE THE DESERT HAS BLOSSOMED. THE LAMP BECAME THE HOME, THE BLAZED TRAIL THE THOROUGHFARE” (Photo 8). The sculptor’s name and the date of 1928 are engraved into the lower right corner of the north elevation of the pedestal.

Surrounding the statue are six benches which are 2’ high and of stone and concrete horizontal courses with concrete caps. There are also six stone and concrete markers northeast and southeast of the statue with stone caps which are 3’ 6” tall. The nominated property includes only the statue and its base and excludes these structures and the surrounding park area that were added in 1998.

The statue was originally located on the same block approximately 100’ to the south in the former McClellan Park. The monument faced west onto Fourth Street, formerly U.S. 66, and did not include any site development. This park was removed in 1997 for the construction of a new federal building. As part of this project the monument was cleaned and restored in 1996. The statue was then relocated to its present site and rededicated on September 27, 1998 by the Lily of Albuquerque Public Art Program. Although moved 100’ to the north, the urban context of the statue and its association with and orientation to Route 66 remain. With the relocation, the U.S. General Services Administration provided the City of Albuquerque an access easement to the monument. The monument itself is owned by the City of Albuquerque.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-1: Aerial Map showing location of the Madonna of the Trail Monument. The box denotes the National Register boundary.



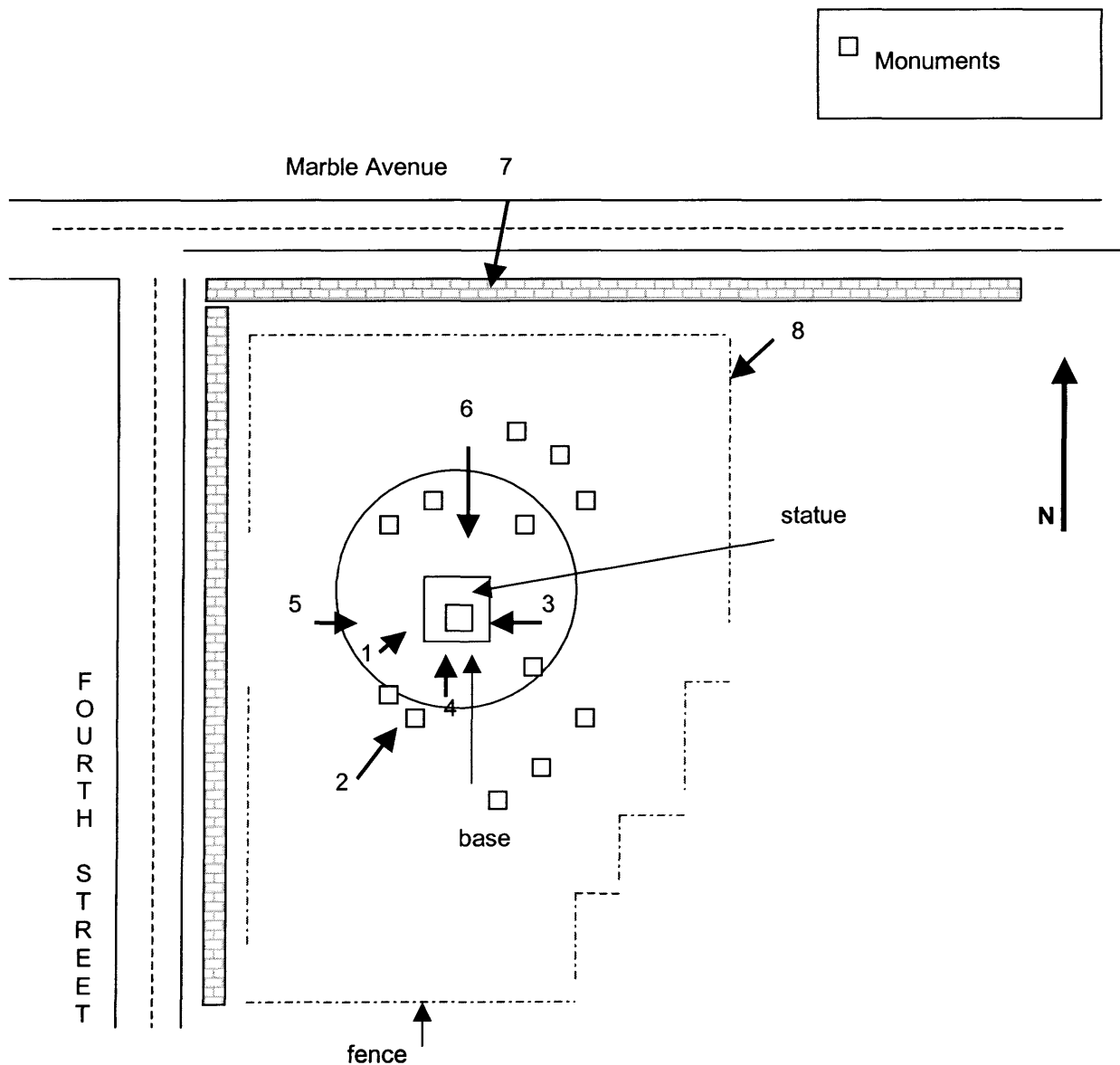
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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-2: Site Plan and Photo Key for the Madonna of the Trail Monument.



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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The New Mexico Madonna of the Trail is eligible for the National Register at the state level under Criterion A for its significance to the transportation history of the region. One of 12 Madonna monuments erected across the United States along the National Old Trails Road, the New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument pays tribute to the Anglo pioneer women who helped settle the west. The monument also reflects the early twentieth century movement to commemorate historic roads and trails, a movement initiated by the Daughters of the American Revolution. As such, the monument meets the registration requirements for the property type of Roadside Parks/Picnic Areas/Markers in the *Historic and Historic Architectural Resources of Route 66 through New Mexico* Multiple Property Documentation Form. The New Mexico Madonna of the Trail also meets National Register Criteria Consideration B as a moved property. The statue was originally located on the same block approximately 100' to the south. Due to the construction of a new federal building in 1998, the statue was moved to its new location. This move was only a short distance and the statue still faces west onto Fourth Street, old U.S. 66.

Historical Context

The idea for the Madonna of the Trail monuments grew out of a movement in the early twentieth century to commemorate the country's historic roads and trails. Beginning in 1906, the Kansas chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) started marking the route of the Santa Fe Trail, erecting by 1909 100 markers between Kansas City, Missouri and Trinidad, Colorado.¹ Similar efforts were achieved marking the historic Oregon Trail.

Attention was additionally given to these early pioneer roads and trails, as they became the basis for the first attempts to build a transcontinental automobile highway. Among them was the Old Trails Association of Missouri, whose efforts ultimately led to the creation of the National Old Trails Road Association in 1912. This influential road organization promoted the establishment of the National Old Trails Road (N.O.T.R.) based on an east-west network of historic trails stretching 3,095 miles from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles.² By 1914, some two million dollars had been spent promoting the National Old Trails Road, and in 1915, the road became the dominant highway from the East Coast to California.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (N.S.D.A.R.) was key in promoting the N.O.T.R. as a memorial highway to America's Anglo pioneer trails. In 1911, the N.S.D.A.R. created a national Old Roads Committee to designate the network of historic trails as the National Old Trails

¹ "Marks the Old Trail: Last of the Monuments on Santa Fe Route Unveiled." (*The Washington Post*. 11 July 1909), TP4.

² These consisted of east-to-west: the Atlantic coast Post Roads, the National Road, extending west from Maryland to Illinois, the Boone's Lick Trail across Missouri and the general path of the Santa Fe Trail continuing across Kansas and portions of Colorado into New Mexico, and the roughly the alignment of General Stephan Watts Kearney 1840s route from Santa Fe to California.

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Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Road. The group became active in selecting the route of the new highway. At the first National Old Trails Road convention on April 17-18, 1912, there was much contention over the projected alignment of the road west of Kansas City. Proponents of the so-called New Santa Fe Trail championed a new road diverting from the historic the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas to connect larger population centers. Speaking passionately for a commitment to follow the historic trail, Mrs. Hunter M. Merriwether, the Missouri State Vice Regent of the D.A.R. stated:

We Daughters of the American Revolution, do not come before you to plead for it [the N.O.T.R.], because the section through which it passes is a great commercial one, but because it was the pathway of our forefathers, who took civilization from the tidewaters of the Atlantic to the gold sands of the Pacific... Men of brain and brawn, fling away personalities in this Old Trail's Road building. Root from your hearts the miasma of commercialism, which, in its fever and fury, blinds your eyes to the upper and higher aim, that of united hearts and hands across this great country of ours, to build a National Monument that will ever be pointed out as the Old Trail's Road, which has been designated as 'The Road of Living Hearts,' over which marched the civilization, opportunity, religion, development, and progress of our grand America.³

Weighing the arguments of commerce versus patriotism, the National Old Trails Association sided with the N.S.D.A.R. and selected a route that closely aligned with the historic Santa Fe Trail. In their bylaws, the National Old Trails Road Association furthered this goal, stating "the object of the Association shall be to assist the Daughters of the American Revolution in marking Old Trails and to promote the construction of an Ocean-to-Ocean Highway of modern type worthy of its memorial character."⁴

Later, the N.S.D.A.R. joined forces with the National Old Trails Road Association, passing a resolution in 1913 to paint white and blue stripes (the patriotic color scheme of the N.O.T.R.) on telephone poles and fence posts along the route. Before work commenced, however, World War I interrupted their effort.⁵ The N.S.D.A.R.'s plans for marking the N.O.T.R. resumed in 1924, but by this time various organizations, towns and communities had already marked the route, and the prospect of installing 3,095 mileposts between Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles seemed daunting.

In the late 1920s N.S.D.A.R. leader Arlene B. Nichols Moss came up with the idea for the Madonna of the Trail monuments. The inspiration for Moss's idea appears to have inspired by a statue of Sacagawea in Washington Park, Portland, Oregon. This bronze sculpture erected in 1905 honored the Native American woman for her role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and was celebrated as a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of women on the frontier. National women's rights leaders, including Susan B. Anthony, Carrie

³ Quoted in Richard F. Weingroff, *The National Old Trails Road -Part 1: The Quest for a National Road* (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/trailsa.htm>), 20.

⁴ Fern Ioula Baur, *The Historic Treasure Chest of the Madonna of the Trail Monuments* (John McEnaney Printing: Springfield, Ohio, 1984), 3.

⁵ Ibid.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Chapman Catt, Anna Shaw and others, attended and spoke at the monument's dedication. As she searched for an appropriate way to commemorate N.O.T.R., Moss conceived of a monument, "just as Sacagawea was rightfully honored for her valuable contribution to America so should the women who endured so much in settling this land be honored and immortalized."⁶

Moss and her son spent several months developing an idea for the design of the monuments, and in 1927 opened a design competition for the memorials. A range of designs, from the abstract to the realistic, was submitted. The winning design, however, was that of August Leimbach, an architectural sculptor who focused on public buildings. August Leimbach (1882-1965), born in Kalttenorheim, Germany and moved to St. Louis where he opened a studio in 1910. Leimbach produced sculptures primarily for public buildings including buildings at the 1915 San Francisco World's Fair, and commissions in Utah, Illinois, Missouri and Texas.

Leimbach did not enter the design competition for the Madonna of the Trail monument until the last minute. A top official of a stone manufacturing company that was to supply materials for the statues urged Leimbach to submit a design, and within three days he had a model ready to send to Moss. After a few days of receiving the model, Moss awarded Leimbach the contract.⁷ In a later interview, Leimbach revealed the idea behind his design:

The idea I had when I modeled the design was this: The pioneer mother with her two children was waiting for the father at her block-house in the wild West, for the father did not come home as he had promised. She, believing him to be in danger, put her little child in a blanket, grasped the gun and with the boy ran out in the field to look for the father (Figure 8-1).⁸

The N.S.D.A.R. accepted Leimbach's model on September 27, 1927. A standard design was used for all twelve monuments.

Moss was instrumental in selecting the locations for the monuments. She contacted towns and communities along the route in search of historical data on the area, later visiting the proposed sites with other N.S.D.A.R. representatives. As the site selection was narrowed, a committee consisting of various N.S.D.A.R. and National Old Trails Road Association officials, along with local businessmen made the decision state by state as to where the monuments should be placed.⁹ The monument committee initially asked each member to contribute ten cents to finance the project, and within a short time span, raised \$12,000 to manufacture the statues. Additional money came from local D.A.R chapters and the National Old Trails Road Association.

⁶ Ibid., 7-9; 17.

⁷ Ibid., 17.

⁸ Ibid., 18.

⁹ Ibid.

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Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Initially, the monuments were to be erected in an east to west progression, but delays in selecting sites plus the requirement of local D.A.R. chapters to raise funds for shipping and placing the statues, and arrangements for dedication ceremonies, resulted in the monuments being placed in random order. The first monument was dedicated in Springfield Ohio on July 4, 1928. The last monument was dedicated in Bethesda, Maryland on April 19, 1929. The Madonna of the Trail Monument in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the sixth statue erected and was dedicated on September 27, 1928.¹⁰

In many states, conflict arose over where the statue would be placed as communities and towns vied for the chosen selection. In New Mexico, the monument was suggested at Santa Fe, at the end of the old Santa Fe Trail. The committee, however, ultimately selected Albuquerque because the statue did not blend well with the dominant Spanish style art and architecture of Santa Fe, and the fact that the Albuquerque D.A.R. chapter came up with the necessary funds to ship the monument.¹¹

Santa Fe writer Mary Austin repeatedly voiced her negative opinion of the monument. In the October 18, 1927 edition of the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, she wrote that upon seeing a picture of the monument, she stated:

I would have no right to let Santa Fe in for anything in the way of art so atrocious. Not only is the monument indifferent art, but also as a descendant of a long line of Pioneer Mothers myself, I felt the monument did not represent them truly. In respect to such of my own pioneer ancestors, with whose likenesses I am familiar, I regard the proposed monument as a caricature. Moreover, I meant all that I have been reported as saying, that the Pioneers of New Mexico are not the Pioneers of the D.A.R.; that they should have been consulted and that I considered it profoundly discourteous for the D.A.R. to think of setting up one of their monuments in the city of Santa Fe without the widely expressed approbation of the New Mexican pioneers.¹²

Albuquerque, however, welcomed the monument, which was placed in the city's McClellan Park facing the main highway (Route 66) through the city.¹³

Over 500 people gathered on the park's lawn to attend the unveiling and dedication ceremony on September 27, 1928 (Figure 8-2). A short parade headed by Mayor Clyde Tingley began the celebration and led from a downtown hotel to the square. The program included various patriotic songs and band numbers, and the participation of local Boy Scouts, the N.S.D.A.R. leader, Arlene Moss gave the dedication address,

¹⁰ Ibid., 19.

¹¹ Ibid., 67.

¹² *Santa Fe New Mexican* 18 October 1927.

¹³ In New Mexico, Route 66 was designated in 1926 with the highway originally located through Santa Fe and then south through Albuquerque following Fourth Street. Fourth Street became one of the most highly traveled streets in the city as a result, and the placement of the monument on Route 66 was intended to heighten its visibility and prominence. Route 66 followed Fourth Street until 1937 when a new alignment bypassed Santa Fe and the highway was moved south to Central Avenue.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

while the Mayor Tingley and local D.A.R. representative Mrs. Claud H. Sptizmesser, accepted the statue for the city and the chapter.

Harry S. Truman, then a Missouri judge and president of the National Old Trails Road Association, was scheduled to address the crowd, but was unable to attend. Frank Davis of Kansas City, secretary of the Association, spoke in his place. Davis stated that in the statue he could detect “the symbol of the spirit with which the pioneer mothers were imbued,” and the dedication was proof that the spirit still lives on. In accepting the monument, Mayor Tingley commented that he “hoped Albuquerque would look after this memorial for all time and think of the great work the women of the D.A.R. had accomplished.” In her address, Moss relayed the motivation behind the monument, stating: “We as a people believe in memorials. We are presenting this so our patriotic ideals may be cherished for old age, presented for youth and handed on to posterity, that all Americans may know America.”¹⁴ The ceremony concluded with the placement of a memory box or time capsule near the statue, followed by a luncheon at a downtown hotel.

From 1928 to 1937, Route 66 passed directly in front of the monument and the park was a popular tourist site for travelers. After 1937, Route 66 was rerouted seven blocks to the south but the monument remained a tourist attraction.

On September 27, 1978, the Madonna of the Trail Monument in Albuquerque was rededicated to mark its 50th anniversary. Local D.A.R. representatives officiated at the ceremony and the program followed the original 1928 service. Efforts were made to locate the 1928 time capsule, but it could not be found.

In 1996, the sculpture, which was in need of cleaning and repair, was restored. The project included the dismantling and removal of the figure from its base. Carbon soot and other dirt were removed and restoration mortar was used to repair holes and gouges. Following its restoration, the statue was relocated approximately 100' to the north due to the construction of a new federal courthouse on the block. The City of Albuquerque Public Art Program rededicated it at its new site on September 27, 1998.

One of the earliest public memorial sculptures in New Mexico, the Madonna of the Trail monument remains a local landmark and continues to stand as a tribute to the women who helped move the country westward along the nation's earliest trails. Although moved a short distance in recent years, the monument continues to be oriented towards the original roadbed of U.S. 66, and its overall integrity remains high.

¹⁴ *Santa Fe New Mexican* 18 Oct. 1927: 3.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Figure 8-1: Sculptor August Leimbach in his studio working on the statue. (Photo courtesy City of Albuquerque).



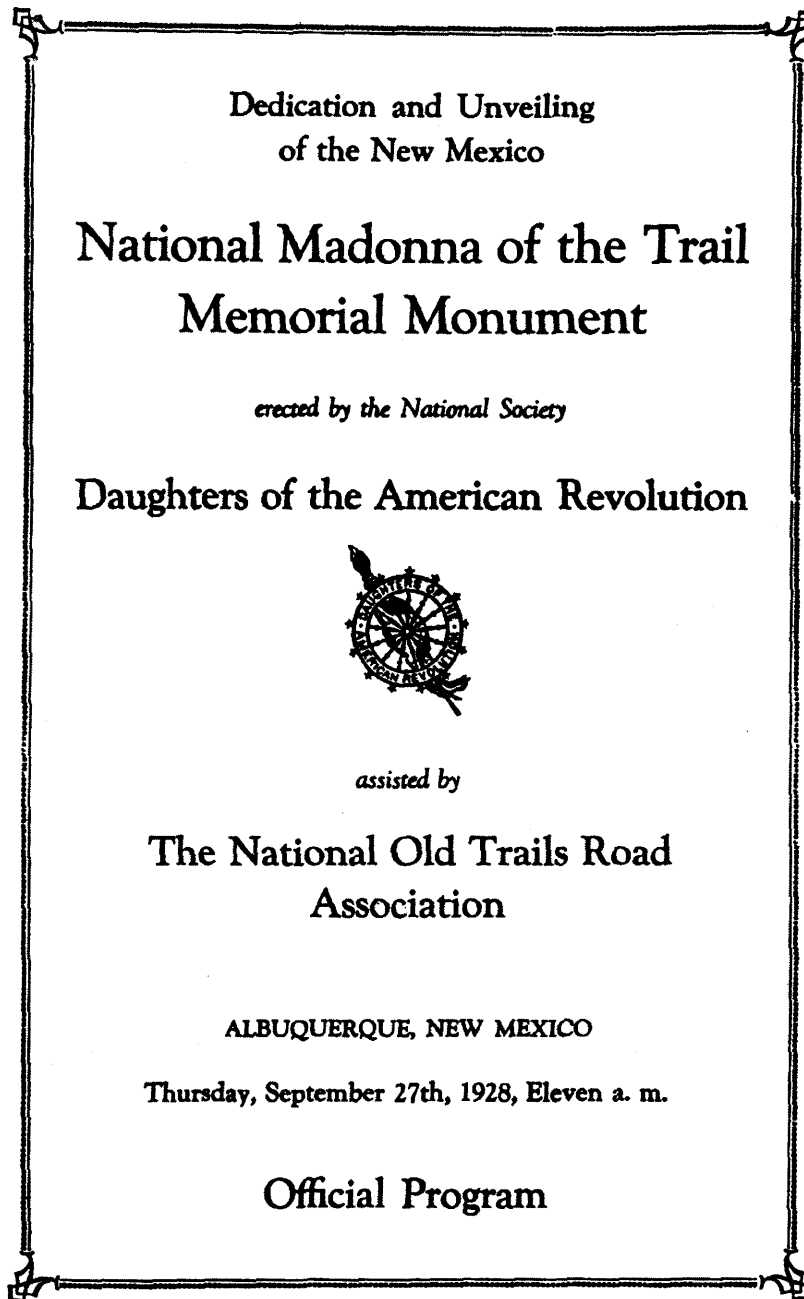
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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail Monument
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Figure 8-2: Cover of Albuquerque Dedication Program



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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundary encompasses only the statue and its base and the ground upon which they stand. The boundary includes the footprint of the base, which measures 15-8" North/South and 15-8" East/West. The boundary is demarcated by a solid line in Figure 7-1. The northwest corner of the base is approximately 41.5' from the southeast corner of the intersection of Fourth Street and Marble Avenue.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary was drawn to include only the statue and its base. The New Mexico Madonna of the Trail was originally located approximately 100' south of this boundary. When the area was developed for a new federal courthouse in the 1990s, the monument was moved to its present site at the corner of Marble Avenue and Fourth Street. The original site had no special landscape orientation, other than its location in McClellan Park and the monument's orientation to Fourth Street, formerly U.S. 66. While the former park has been removed, the New Mexico Madonna of the Trail continues to face Fourth Street in a park setting 100' north of its original location.

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New Mexico Madonna of the Trail
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Photographs

New Mexico Madonna of the Trail

Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Photographer: Thomason and Associates

May 2005

Location of Negatives: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 8

West and northwest setting

Camera facing northwest

Photo 2 of 8

South and southwest setting

Camera facing south

Photo 3 of 8

Park and west setting

Camera facing west

Photo 4 of 8

West face of monument

Camera facing northeast

Photo 5 of 8

West face of monument

Camera facing east

Photo 6 of 8

South face of monument

Camera facing north

Photo 7 of 8

East face of monument

Camera facing west

Photo 8 of 8

North face of monument

Camera facing south