

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

GLORIETA PASS BATTLEFIELD

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Glorieta Pass Battlefield

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: U.S. Highway 84-85

Not for publication:

City/Town: Cañoncito and Glorieta

Vicinity:

State: New Mexico

County: Santa Fe

Code: 049

Zip Code:

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: \_\_\_

Public-State: \_\_\_

Public-Federal: X

Category of Property

Building(s): \_\_\_

District: \_\_\_

Site: X

Structure: \_\_\_

Object: \_\_\_

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

3

2

5

Noncontributing

41 buildings

1 sites

3 structures

\_\_\_ objects

45 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action



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**Describe Present and Historical Physical Appearance.**

The Glorieta Pass Battlefield consists of two parcels of land, one at Johnson's Ranch at the west end of Glorieta Pass, south of the village of Cañoncito and Interstate Highway 25, and north of the railroad tracks; and the other which centers around Pigeon's Ranch east of the pass. The four-lane Interstate Highway hugs the north slope of the pass, and about half the width of the original canyon has been filled and elevated to accommodate it. A narrow gap at the western end has been widened by blasting away the mountain-side to clear a path for the highway. In the first or western parcel, Apache Creek, on which the fighting centered, has not been disturbed. The railroad winds along the south slope but is not obtrusive. The village of Cañoncito consists of twenty-four buildings. Immediately south and west of the pass, near Cañoncito, is the site of Johnson's Ranch. At the time of the battle, this was an open area with a ranch house and corrals. The ranch house and corrals were destroyed by the construction of the Interstate Highway. Today at Johnson's Ranch there are 17 buildings (10 houses, 3 mobile homes, 2 barns/sheds, 1 garage, and a church), 1 structure (a corral), and a site (cemetery associated with the church). Three of the houses are located south of Interstate Highway 25 and all of the other resources are north of the Interstate. The rest of the property is open land. These resources in the settlement of Cañoncito and on Johnson's Ranch are non-contributing resources. Interstate Highway 25 and the railroad tracks are non-contributing structures. The overall western parcel of the Glorieta Battlefield is considered a contributing site.

The second or eastern parcel of land to the southeast of Glorieta, is bisected by the two-lane State Route 50, which is a paved stretch of the Santa Fe Trail. South of this parcel, outside of the boundary of the National Historic Landmark, is Interstate Highway 25. The area of the battlefield is still covered with trees and scrub brush as it was in 1862. On the east side of the battlefield was Pigeon's Ranch, a large enclosed compound and well beside the Santa Fe Trail. At the time of the Battle of Glorieta Pass, this building was the headquarters for the ranching operation of Alexandre Vallé or Pigeon, as well as an overnight stop for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail.

Alexandre Vallé or Pigeon was born in France and lived in St. Louis in the 1840s. He acquired the site of Pigeon's Ranch probably in the 1850s, and established a ranch and hostelry there. In the 1880s, the buildings of the ranch were a large rectangular structure on the north side of the road and smaller buildings, sheds, and corrals on the south side around a good well. The north building was built around a central patio, and consisted of a front row of rooms running east to west with a porch along its south side, and a high adobe wall and stables forming the north side of the enclosure. The building contained at least twenty-three rooms in the 1870s and 1880s, and the majority of these were already standing at the time of the Battle of Glorieta Pass in 1862. Most of these buildings and structures have fallen, leaving only three rooms of the north building standing along the north side of New Mexico Highway 50 (in the listings of Pecos National Historical Park, the Pigeon's Ranch Building is HS# 30, LCS# 66265) and the well on the south side of the highway (Pigeon's Ranch Well, HS# 31, LCS# 66266). The stone foundations of the rest of the buildings, corrals and sheds are visible around the standing three rooms and well. The standing rooms were stabilized and roofed for weather protection by the Museum of New Mexico in the 1980s. The well is a contributing structure and the ruins (three remaining rooms) of the north building are a contributing site. The overall eastern parcel of Glorieta Battlefield is a contributing site containing the stone foundations of the other buildings and structures. State Route 50 is a contributing structure as it follows the route of the Santa Fe Trail which was present during the period of significance.

In 1990, the National Park Service incorporated the Pigeon's Ranch and Cañoncito/Johnson's Ranch areas into Pecos National Historical Park as the two sub-units of the Glorieta Battlefield Unit. The building of Interstate Highway 25 and a railroad line through Glorieta Pass has impaired the integrity of the battlefield in some places, but most of the area still remains as it was at the time of the battle.



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**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

The Glorieta Pass Battlefield is on the main route from Pecos River valley to the Santa Fe and Galisteo areas. This route was used as a major Indian trade route; the exploration route for Francisco Vázquez de Coronado expedition of 1540-1541; the fray Agustín Rodríguez-Francisco Sánchez Chamuscado expedition of 1581-1582; the Antonio de Espejo expedition of 1582-1583; the Gaspar Castaño de Sosa expedition in 1590-1591; the main Spanish colonial route from Santa Fe to Pecos and the Great Plains from 1598 to 1821; the route of the Santa Fe Trail established through the area in 1821; and the route of the first railroad from St. Louis to Santa Fe, replacing the Santa Fe Trail in 1878.

The Battle of Glorieta Pass, March 26-28, 1862, ended the Confederate invasion of New Mexico, the first step in a grand design for detaching the West from the Union and extending the Confederation to the Pacific. Critical parts of the battle of Glorieta Pass happened at Cañoncito/Johnson's Ranch and Pigeon's Ranch, and the Pigeon's Ranch house was used as a field hospital after the conflict. Several of the dead of the Confederate forces were buried a few hundred feet to the southeast, and other bodies may remain to be found in the area.

President Davis commissioned Brigadier General Henry H. Sibley to lead the invasion of New Mexico. With a brigade of 2,500 Texans, he marched up the Rio Grande from Fort Bliss in February 1862. A Union army under Colonel Edward R. S. Canby concentrated at Fort Craig to meet the Southerners. At the battle of Valverde on February 21, Sibley defeated Canby and, while the Federals remained at Craig, drove on to Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The next objective was Fort Union, with its depot containing \$300,000 in stores, the only obstacles between Santa Fe and Denver. Appreciating the danger to Colorado posed by Sibley, Governor William Gilpin had hurriedly raised a regiment of volunteers and sent them by forced marches through winter snows to reinforce the weak garrison of Fort Union. They arrived at the Fort March 11-13. Under Colonel John B. Slough, 1,300 infantry, cavalry, and artillery set forth to meet the Confederates advancing from Santa Fe. As Sibley was in Santa Fe (reportedly drunk during the battle), Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Scurry commanded the 1,100 Texans. The two armies, both brigade size, met in Glorieta Pass, a defile in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains by which the Santa Fe Trail reached its destination.

The battle began in the pass on March 26 when the Union advance guard, 418 men under Major John B. Chivington, encountered a Southern advance guard under Major C. S. Pyron near the Pigeon's ranch house. In several hours of hard fighting, Chivington succeeded in pushing the Texans back to Johnson's Ranch, at the western end of the pass near present-day Cañoncito. The approach of night, however, caused him to break contact and fall back to Pigeon's ranch house; then, because of insufficient water, farther east to Kozlowski's ranch house. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Colonel S. Scurry and the main Texan force reached Johnson's Ranch, and the next day Slough joined Chivington at Kozlowski's Ranch with the rest of the Coloradoans.

On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Union forces advanced to Pigeon's Ranch where troops stopped at the well for water. Scurry advanced his Confederate troops at the same time and at 8:30 a.m. began firing on Union men at the Pigeon's ranch house. The two sides fought indecisively all day. Eventually Slough left the field to the Confederates, who established themselves at the Pigeon's ranch house. Meanwhile Major Chivington worked a stratagem that won the battle for Slough. With seven companies, Chivington made his way through mountainous terrain around the Confederate flank with the objective of attacking the enemy rear. From a bluff overlooking Johnson's Ranch, at the western entrance to the pass, he discovered the Confederate supply depot, 73 wagons and 500-600 mules and horses, guarded by a small detachment. The Federals charged, destroyed the wagons, killed the animals, and then withdrew to Kozlowski's Ranch.

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Loss of his supplies forced Scurry to turn back, leaving the field to Slough. Joined by Sibley, the army retreated down the Rio Grande, avoiding Canby, and returned to Texas. Compared to the great conflicts in the East, Glorieta Pass, in numbers engaged and losses (150 Federal, 400 Confederate), was a small skirmish. Yet the issues were large, and the battle decisive in resolving them. The Confederates very likely would have taken Fort Union and Denver had not the Colorado Volunteers stopped them at Glorieta, although their gains probably could not have been held. As one of the Texans later put it, "if it had not been for those devils from Pike's Peak, this country would have been ours."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in William Waldrip, "New Mexico During the Civil War," *New Mexico Historical Review* 28, nos. 3 and 4 (July, October 1953): 256-257.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alberts, Don E. *The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1998.

Bancroft, Hubert H. *History of Arizona and New Mexico*. San Francisco: The History Company, 1889.

Kerby, Robert Lee. *The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico and Arizona*. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1958.

Kessell, John L. *Kiva, Cross, and Crown: The Pecos Indians and New Mexico, 1540-1840*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1979.

Santee, J. F. "The Battle of Glorieta Pass," *New Mexico Historical Review* 4 (January 1911): 1.

Spude, Robert L. *Pecos National Historical Park: Pigeon's Ranch Historical Structure Report* (Santa Fe: National Park Service, 2007).

Whitford, William C. *Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War: New Mexico Campaign in 1862* (Denver: The State Historical and Natural History Society, 1906).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Previously Listed in the National Register.

Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.

Designated a National Historic Landmark.

Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #

Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other (Specify Repository):

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Parcel 1 (west end of Glorieta Pass)

Acreage of Property: approx. 294 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	13	427240	3935360
B	13	425480	3933620
C	13	424540	3933640
D	13	425720	3935360
E	13	426850	3935640

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the intersection of Interstate Highway 25 and the Santa Fe National Forest boundary, just east of Deer Creek, the boundary proceeds south along the National Forest boundary to its intersection with the 7100-foot contour line; thence southwest along said contour line 2.4 miles, more or less; thence due west 0.5 miles, more or less, to the 7000-foot contour line; thence northeast in a straight line across Apache Canyon to the 7100-foot contour line; thence following this contour line in a generally northeast direction for 1.7 miles, more or less, to the National Forest boundary line; thence south approximately 375 feet to the point of beginning.

Parcel 2 (east end of Glorieta Pass)

Acreage of Property: approx. 150 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	13	431950	3937000
B	13	431930	3935400
C	13	430820	3937000
D	13	431440	3937230

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point of intersection of State Route 50 and a branch of Hagen Creek, the boundary proceeds west along the north bank of the creek branch 875 feet more or less; thence southeast in a straight line 4250 feet, more or less; thence due north 2125 feet more or less, to the 7300-foot contour line; thence in a generally northerly direction along this contour line approximately 4000 feet, more or less; thence southwest in a straight line to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries which enclose these two parcels have been determined by the nature of the actions they commemorate and by the nature of the topography over which the actions were waged. The boundaries enclose that property which constituted the area of military actions for the Battle of Glorieta Pass. In most areas, the boundaries constitute the edges of the viewshed of the battlefield sites.

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Today these two parcels of land are associated with the Glorieta Unit of Pecos National Historical Park, divided into two subunits, the Cañoncito/Johnson's Ranch Sub-Unit, Segment 103, and the Pigeon's Ranch Sub-Unit, Segment 102, as shown on the land acquisition map, "Pecos National Historical Park, Glorieta Unit," Segments 102 and 103, United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Division of Land Resources, Intermountain Region, sheets 3 and 4. The northern two-thirds of the boundary of parcel 1 extend outside Segment 103 into Glorieta Pass. The National Park Service Segment 103 does not extend north of Interstate Highway 25, and does not include any of the structures of the village of Cañoncito or any part of the National Historic Landmark extending across Cañoncito and through Glorieta Pass. Parcel 2 is entirely within the Pigeon's Ranch Subunit, Segment 102. Included in the second component are two historical structures, recorded in the listings of Pecos NHP: Pigeon's Ranch Building, HS# 30, LCS# 66265 and Pigeon's Ranch Well, HS# 31, LCS# 66266.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: Robert Utley, Historian, 3/17/59  
Boundary project, Richard Greenwood, Historian, 10/27/75  
Updated by Cecil McKithan, Historian, 7/25/78

Revised and updated by James Ivey, Historian

Address: National Park Service  
Cultural Resources Division  
Intermountain Region  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Telephone: 505-988-6847

Date: September 05, 2006

Edited and placed

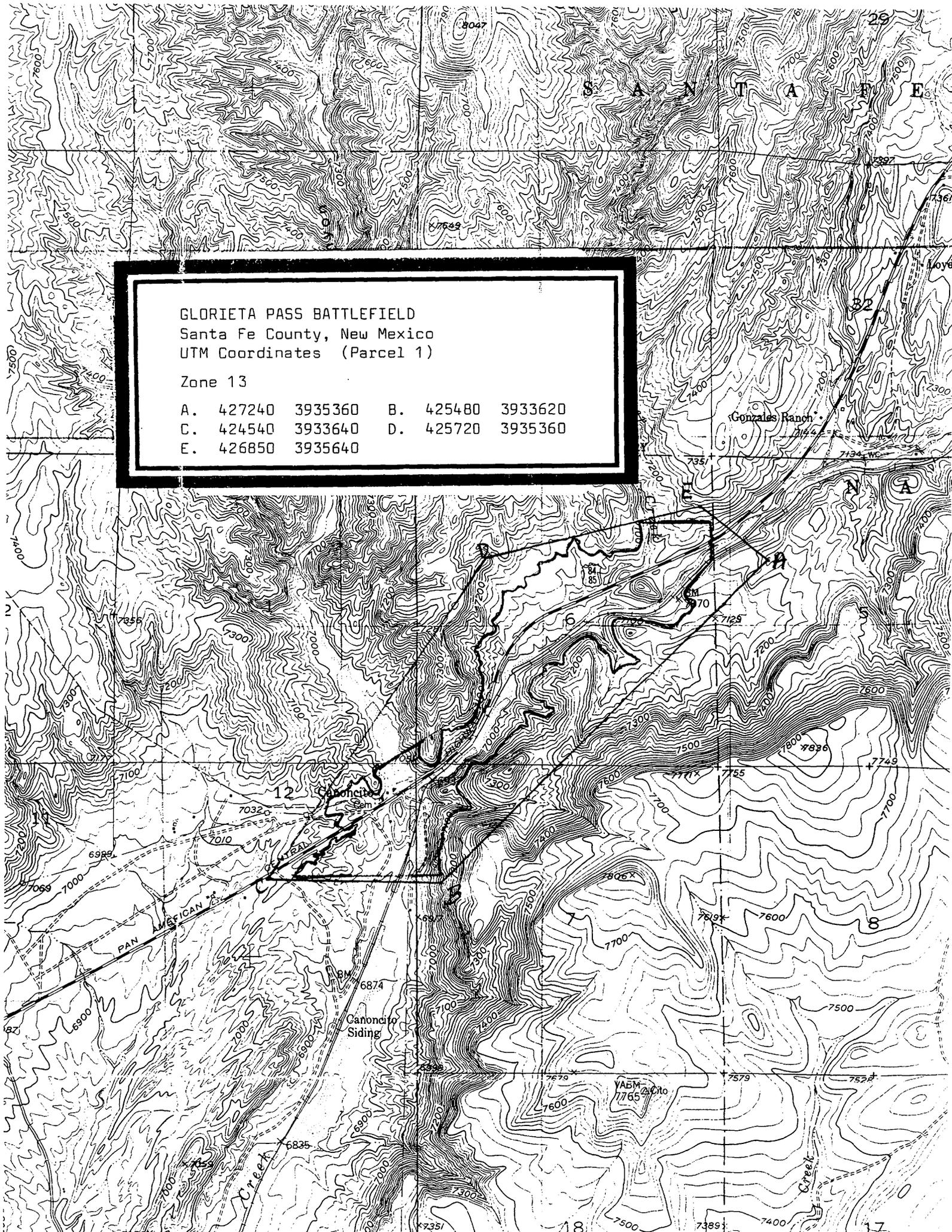
on current form by: Patty Henry  
National Park Service  
National Historic Landmarks Program  
1849 C St., N.W. (2280)  
Washington, DC 20240

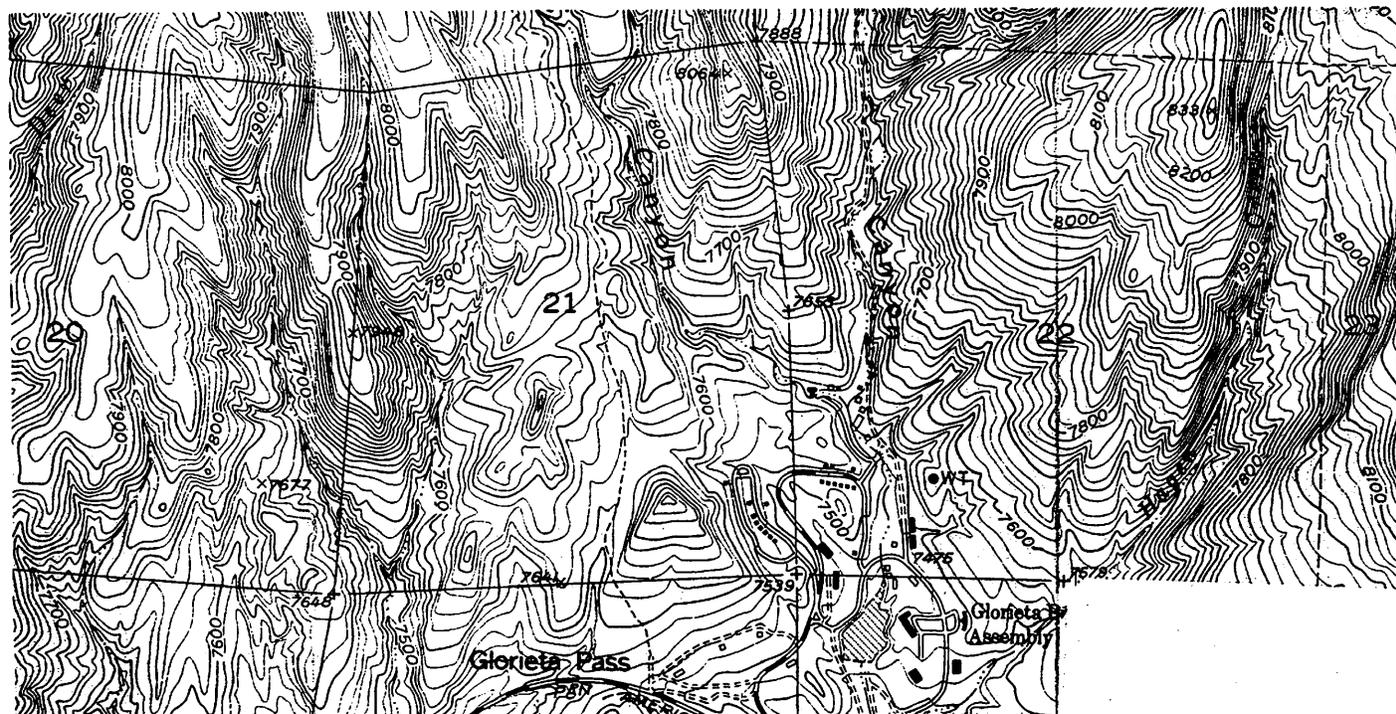
Telephone: (202) 354-2216

DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK  
November 5, 1961

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION ACCEPTED  
September 12, 2008

GLORIETA PASS BATTLEFIELD  
 Santa Fe County, New Mexico  
 UTM Coordinates (Parcel 1)  
 Zone 13  
 A. 427240 3935360 B. 425480 3933620  
 C. 424540 3933640 D. 425720 3935360  
 E. 426850 3935640

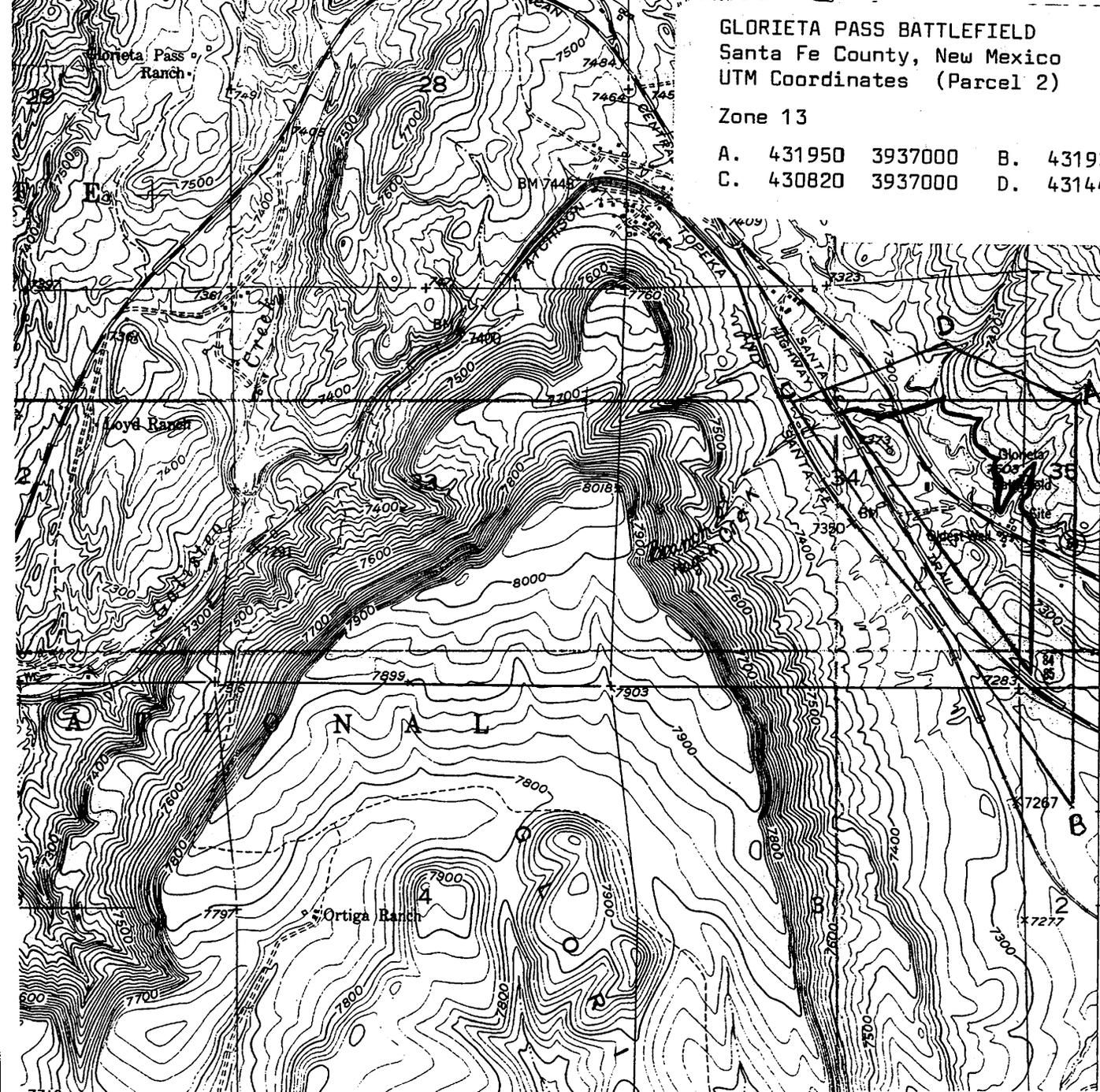




**GLORIETA PASS BATTLEFIELD**  
 Santa Fe County, New Mexico  
 UTM Coordinates (Parcel 2)

Zone 13

A. 431950	3937000	B. 431930	3935400
C. 430820	3937000	D. 431440	3937230



PECOS 4.5 MI.  
 T. 16 N.  
 T. 15 N.  
 SANTA FE 125000  
 ROWE 84 MI.  
 LAS VEGAS 46 MI.