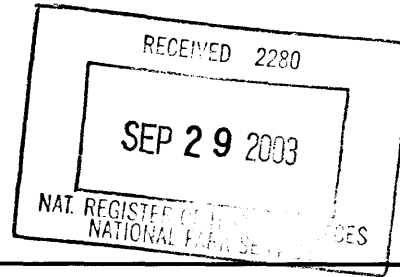


(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY BAYO CANYON ROAD

HISTORIC NAME: Bayo Road

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology Record # 135428

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: App. 420 feet northeast of intersection of Diamond Drive and San Ildefonso Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Los Alamos

VICINITY: N/A

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: NM

COUNTY: Los Alamos

CODE: 028

ZIP CODE: 87544

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

Katherine Slich
Signature of certifying official

24 September 2003
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this 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 _____)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11.7.03

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Structure

| NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: | CONTRIBUTING | NONCONTRIBUTING |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 0 | 0 BUILDINGS |
| | 0 | 0 SITES |
| | 1 | 0 STRUCTURES |
| | 0 | 0 OBJECTS |
| | 1 | 0 TOTAL |

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

Homestead and Ranch School Era Roads and Trails of Los Alamos, New Mexico

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION/ road-related

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: RECREATION/ outdoor recreation

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: road

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION N/A
WALLS N/A
ROOF N/A
OTHER N/A

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

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Settlement; Transportation

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: est. 1913-1943

SIGNIFICANT DATES: May 10, 1943

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheet 8-8 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-10).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 4.92 acres

| UTM REFERENCES | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| A 13 | 385533 | 3972998 | east end | |
| B 13 | 382897 | 3973358 | west end | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Dorothy Hoard

ORGANIZATION: N/A

DATE: September 23, 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 11 Los Arboles

TELEPHONE: 505-662-2662

CITY OR TOWN: Los Alamos

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 87544

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see attached Guaje Mountain Quadrangle 7.5-minute series U.S.G.S. topographic map).

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-12)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: County of Los Alamos

STREET & NUMBER: 2300 Trinity Drive

TELEPHONE: 505-662-8080

CITY OR TOWN: Los Alamos

STATE: New Mexico

ZIP CODE: 87544

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Section 7 Page 5

Description

Bayo Canyon Road, approximately 11,942 feet in length, traverses the north wall of Bayo Canyon, a narrow canyon located between Barranca and North mesas, Los Alamos.¹ The road is unimproved (no paving or gravel), with construction features typical of homestead era roads throughout the area. A large percentage of the road is on bedrock, with the original contours clearly visible. The route is oriented nearly due east/west and passes through a ponderosa pine forest. Comparisons with aerial photographs taken in 1935 indicate that the environment has changed little since the 1930s. In 2002, the County of Los Alamos conducted tree-thinning activities in upper Bayo Canyon as a fire mitigation project. Beyond this change, Bayo Canyon retains a secluded, rural ambiance and the road its integrity of location, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Eastern Section. The eastern section of the road begins at the floor of Bayo Canyon and passes through a forest on a steep, north-facing canyon wall of a small tributary to Bayo Canyon. The trees are primarily Douglas fir, with some ponderosa pine on the outer, sunnier slope. Where light penetrates, as along the roadside, grow shrubs such as Gambel oak and mountain mahogany. From the point where the canyon narrows, the Bayo Canyon Road climbs the south wall of the tributary canyon at a fairly constant grade of approximately 12-16 percent for 2,100 feet. For the most part, the roadbed is approximately 23 feet wide. A large bank cut, extending to 33 feet in height, was excavated along the south side along the entire lower route. Unlike other homestead roads in the area, this road has a distinct drainage channel on the inner side. It is not known if this is an original feature or occurred when Army security forces patrolled the area after 1943. Continuously along the route, crude rock embankments shore up the outer edge of the road. There is no indication that the rock was shaped and no sign of stabilization, such as chinking with concrete. Ruts are common in the roadbed. Some ruts are characteristic wagon ruts as would have formed from use of wagons with 3-inch steel rims. Years of use by hikers and horses have worn deeper and wider ruts in the soft tuff. The road may have been used by vehicles with pneumatic tires during laboratory days. The road was later used in the 1950s to install a sewer line serving Barranca Mesa.

At 2,100 feet from the canyon floor, the road abruptly turns and crosses a narrow neck of mesa into main Bayo Canyon. Here, the grade of the road levels onto a bench beside the main drainage, which is a deep, narrow gorge. The bench is approximately 33 to 49 feet wide and comfortably accommodates the road, which is here 10 to 13 feet wide. The bench is level with a sandy floor providing a level walking surface. The south edge of

¹ The road to North/Barranca mesas originally began at the confluence of Pueblo and Los Alamos Canyons (the present junction of New Mexico State Roads 502 and 4). The road proceeded up Pueblo Canyon and crossed over a low pass into Bayo Canyon near Otowi Ruin. This road is 19,685 feet long to the point where Bayo Canyon constricts into a narrow drainage. A road in this location is shown on local maps dating from 1913 to 1943.

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Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Section 7 Page 6

the bench is a precipitous cliff above Bayo Canyon's main drainage channel. Views in all directions are striking from this bench.

Western Section. The upper segment of the road is mostly level. Upper Bayo Canyon is a wide, level area bisected by an inner gorge. A large percentage of the area is bedrock, perhaps as much as 40 percent. It is covered with a forest of ponderosa pine interspersed with jack pine.

The road continues along the level bench for 9,843 feet to the trailhead at the junction of Diamond Drive and San Ildefonso Road. At several points, ruts are prominent in the roadbed, although they are not narrow wagon ruts. At a point halfway along the bench, a fence once crossed the road. Remnants of the fence reveal that it was made of four-strand barbed wire and wood posts with convenient trees also used to hold the wire. The fence appears old and the wires girdling the trees are deeply embedded where the bark has grown over them. The wire is of the *Glidden's Barb* (twisted two-strand 2-point wire) type. Most of the wire has been removed. The

purpose of the fence is not clear; a nearby side drainage is deep enough and with perpendicular walls sufficient to prevent movement of livestock. Across the gorge, a similar fence traverses the canyon to the south wall.

At a point approximately 1,804 feet from the trailhead, a narrow trail ascends the canyon wall of a side drainage to Barranca Mesa. This trail angles up the cliff side. It is too narrow to have been a road, but may have been a horse trail to the rim of the mesa. This trail has all the indications of an Indian trail, including rock cut steps.

Bayo Canyon Road continues through the level pine forest to the trailhead at the intersection of Diamond Drive and San Ildefonso Road. The entire length from the floor of Bayo Canyon to the intersection is 11,942 feet. The road is heavily used as a recreation trail and has several links to the Lujan Road on the south side of the Bayo drainage.

Although the road received occasional motorized use over the years, it still retains the materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association of its homestead era construction. Aerial photographs taken in 1935 indicate that the environment has changed little since that time. The photographs show a dense pine forest with the road clearly visible. The area was closed to all entry between 1943 and into the 1960s. Since that time, it has been used for light recreation, primarily foot and bicycle traffic. Because of the short length of the canyon, horse traffic is simply though the area to larger county and national forest lands surrounding Los Alamos.

In 2002, the County of Los Alamos conducted tree-thinning activities in upper Bayo Canyon as a fire mitigation project. Because the thinning was financed under the Federal Emergency Management Act, county managers conducted surveys mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The work was conducted under a NEPA environmental assessment. The road has received further protection, as it is now a unit of the Los Alamos County Trail System and part of its Trails Management Plan. From its inception in the early the

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Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

twentieth century as a homestead transportation route, to its current use as a recreational trail, Bayo Canyon Road has continued to provide non-vehicular access from the lower reaches of Bayo Canyon to the Parajito Plateau of Los Alamos.

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Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The Homestead Era in the Los Alamos area, as discussed in the *Homestead and Ranch School Era Roads and Trails of Los Alamos, New Mexico* Multiple Property Documentation Form, represents a unique lifestyle developed by Hispanic residents of the Española/San Ildefonso region of the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. Established New Mexico families readily used the Homestead Act to acquire and own land. The land they chose was nearby and they invested considerable labor in access and upkeep. Each spring, entire families moved to the Los Alamos highland; each fall, entire families returned to winter homes in the valley. Local lore indicates that the road was also used for general commerce. This lifestyle came to an abrupt end in 1943 when the Los Alamos area was acquired for the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. Bayo Canyon Road represents a well-preserved section of a Hispanic homestead road dating to the early twentieth century. The road is historically significant under Criterion A in the areas of Settlement and Transportation at the local level of significance.

Significance: Bayo Canyon Road contributes to the overall values listed in the Statement of Significance on the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled *Homestead and Ranch School Era Roads and Trails of Los Alamos, New Mexico*. This road served as a general route to homesteads on Barranca Mesa and the open fields to the west. The route was an arduous one through the sandy floor of Bayo Canyon, then up the short, steep pitch to the tableland. It illustrates the practical and utilitarian design of the homestead roads and the determination of the homesteaders to access their lands.

History: Bayo Canyon Road appears to have been a general route to the mesas located between Pueblo and Rendija canyons. There were two roads, Bayo and Lujan that ascended from the floor of Bayo Canyon to the mesas of the Pajarito Plateau in homesteading times. Maps dating from 1913 variously show one or two roads. It is not clear from these sketchy maps if the north (Bayo Canyon Road) or south (Lujan Road) route is the depicted road. The aerial photographs of 1935 clearly show both roads. The two roads converged at the head of Bayo Canyon. A single road went through the small pass to homesteads in the area of the present golf course and on to the west. Maps and aerial photos show numerous roads branching from this main road. The last map to show Bayo Canyon Road as a separate entity was a 1932 National Park Service map for Bandelier.

Anecdotal accounts indicate that operators of local sawmills took their products, primarily railroad ties, off the plateau down this road. In his resurvey of subdivision lines in T.19N. R.6E., surveyor Devendorf notes an old sawmill site near boundary between Sections 4 and 9 west of Bayo Canyon.

In 1943, the U.S. Army acquired Forest Service lands and the embedded homestead holdings for the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb during World War II. During the 1940s and into the 1960s, Bayo Canyon was closed to public use because an explosives detonation area was located at the upper end.

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Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

After the area was open and transferred to Los Alamos County in 1967, Bayo Canyon, located between residential areas on North and Barranca mesas, became a popular hiking area in the townsite. Today, renewed interest in the area's Hispanic homesteading era has brought attention to this road and several others as important aspects of this lost chapter of local history. The citizens of Los Alamos view National Register listing as a means of recognizing Bayo Canyon Road's historical significance.

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Section 9 Page 10

Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

See general references listed in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled *Homestead and Ranch School Era Roads and Trails of Los Alamos, New Mexico*. References specific to the Bayo Canyon Road include:

Dependent Resurvey of North Boundary of T. 19 N., R. 6 E. Chas. W. Devendorf, Surveyor, pg. 337, 1938. On file at the Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Jemez National Forest, 1913. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico Principal Meridian. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Collection of Chavez Library, Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Maps are dated 1918, 1921, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1933, 1936, and 1941.

Santa Fe National Forest, Sheet 15. Museum of New Mexico, Chavez History Library 78.95 K, 1923

Bandelier National Monument. Map Showing Those Portions of Lands Comprising the Monument. December 1932 Office of Chief Engineer, San Francisco CA. Archives, Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico.

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Section 10 Page 11

Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of an 11,942-foot long road with an average total road width of 18 feet. The road traverses Sections 10, 11, and 12 of T19N, R6E, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The road is delineated on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Guaje Mountain Quadrangle 7.5-minute series topographic map. The east and west termini for the road are represented by the following UTM reference points: A 13 385533 3972998 (east end), B 13 382897 3973358 (west end).

Boundary Justification

The nominated property boundaries encompass the visible roadway and its engineered elements as determined through a field survey by Dorothy Hoard and Janie O'Rourke, 2001-2002. The roadbed and its engineered elements reflect the characteristics of Bayo Canyon Road that are historically associated with its role as a local transportation route. The east and west boundaries for the nominated resource represent the best-preserved section of Bayo Canyon Road. Much of the originally 19,685 foot-long road east of the east boundary is no longer extant.

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Section Photo Page 12

Bayo Canyon Road
Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Bayo Canyon Road

Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Photographer: Laurence Campbell

October 2002

Location of Negatives: Laurence Campbell, 225 Rim Road, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544

Photo 1 of 2

View of Bayo Canyon Road roadbed

Looking west.

(Note the precipitous cliffs on the right, typical of the topography of the Pajarito Plateau. A deep drainage separates the road and the cliff. In this lower section, hikers, horses, and bicyclists have eroded the roadbed. This road is steep, as much as a 16 percent grade in places.)

Photo 2 of 2

Ruts in the Bayo Canyon Road roadbed

Looking west.

(This road was cut to bedrock; the local rock is a soft volcanic tuff. Note the steep bank on the left of the road, showing the steep hillside from which the road was cut. The Bayo road retains the only narrow wagon wheel ruts in the Los Alamos area.)