

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico, AD 1598-1881
Name of Multiple Property Listing

New Mexico
State

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico, AD 1598-1881 (Additional Documentation)

The purpose of this additional documentation is twofold: to change the name of the Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Camino Real in New Mexico, AD 1598-1881,” and to add three property types to the existing MPDF, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 8, 2011. The original name of the MPDF identified the road only as the Camino Real, which translates from the Spanish to Royal Road. This, however, describes many Royal Roads and lacks the precision now in common usage to describe the specific trail between Mexico City and Santa Fe. This appears in current scholarship as El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, or The Royal Road of the Interior.

The existing MPDF includes nine property types: F.1 Landmarks and Landforms; F.2 Trail/Wagon Road Section; F.3 Paraje; F.4 Gravesite; F.5 Battlefield and Engagement Sites; F.6 Fords, Ferries, and Bridges; F.7 Estancias and Ranchos; F.8 Pueblo; and F.9 Encampment/ Activity Area. Research and fieldwork conducted in recent years indicates the necessity for inclusion of property types that include buildings associated with travelers along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. A study commissioned by the National Trails Intermountain Region documented nearly 200 extant buildings within a half mile of El Camino Real, which were built or operated during the period of significance. A few were constructed in the 17th and 18th centuries, but most were built in the 19th century. These property types necessarily include a variety of buildings, such as mission churches that provided succor to travelers, mercantile stores where travelers purchased provisions, hotels that provided meals and sleeping quarters, and private houses, which maintained a variety of associations with the trail. These buildings are located along or in the vicinity of El Camino Real and their association with travelers is recorded in primary and secondary documents. The description, significance, and registration criteria for F.10 Church, F.11 Commercial Building, and F.12 House are described below.

F.10. Name of Property Type: Church

10a. Description

Churches are a property type located along or in the vicinity of El Camino Real. Often located in settlements or small towns, these buildings may be the oldest and/or only surviving buildings in a particular community from the 1598 to 1881 period of significance for the MPDF. Churches include, though not exclusively, Spanish mission churches, usually located in pueblos, along the Rio Grande. The Hispanic idea of what a church should look like, established in the 17th century, is the basis of New Mexico’s ecclesiastical architecture in the 1700s, the 1800s, and to the present. These cruciform-plan churches were built with thick adobe walls, sometimes buttressed, and covered with a gabled or flat roof. The roof is supported by vigas. A low wall may surround the church and forecourt to define the precinct. Churches are usually located on one side of a plaza. Some of these churches have had additions or alterations, including changes in architectural style. Some were demolished during the Pueblo Revolt in 1680 and later rebuilt. Examples of churches with associations with El Camino Real include San Miguel Church in Socorro, San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque, San Agustín Church in Isleta Pueblo, and the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria in Doña Ana.

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10b. Significance

Churches along El Camino Real are significant because they provided travelers with reassuring symbols of Spanish culture and governance. The practice of Catholicism was an important practice throughout New Spain. It was both an act of faith and a cultural practice that united the province of New Mexico with more cosmopolitan reaches of the Spanish empire in Mexico and in Spain.

Churches provided succor to travelers, but they also relied on caravans from Mexico to bring the religious objects needed to conduct the Catholic liturgy. These items were manufactured by artisans in Mexico and included gilded altar screens, pipe organs, and religious artworks to adorn the churches.

Churches are significant because they served as visual landmarks for travelers along the trail. Churches were typically two to three times taller than most houses in a pueblo or village and would have been seen by travelers from a significant distance. They served as beacons to assure travelers that they were heading in the proper direction and, when spotted ahead in the distance, they raised the morale of a caravan of travelers.

10c. Registration Criteria

To qualify for nomination, a church associated with El Camino Real must be directly linked to the use and development of the trail. This property type must maintain historic integrity, must have significance within the period of significance, and must have a documented association with El Camino Real. The church must have a demonstrated connection to travelers along the trail through primary and/or secondary documentation.

F.11. Name of Property Type: Commercial Building

11a. Description

Commercial buildings were essential to travelers on El Camino Real. They may be located in a settlement or as part of a rural estancia or rancho. Mercantile stores were built of adobe and occasionally brick, and usually included a large sales room, a large warehouse, an office, and sometimes a corral. Mercantile stores in the 19th and 20th centuries sold an endless variety of goods, including cloth, clothing, shoes, tools, farm implements, kitchen utensils, coffee, sugar, fruit, candy, and cigars. When cash was in short supply, customers bartered for merchandise, including cattle, sheep, wool, corn, wheat, beans, fruit, and other produce. Some customers worked for the family, or exchanged finished goods they had made, such as woven blankets or pottery, for credit in the stores. The Gutiérrez-Hubbell House south of Albuquerque is an example of a house and mercantile store. By the late 19th century, hotels were located in most towns along the trail. The Amador Hotel in Las Cruces provided lodging and meals for travelers along El Camino Real from 1870 to 1881. The town of Mesilla, established in 1848, is among the most intact communities associated with El Camino Real. The small town, organized around a plaza, includes attached commercial buildings, dwellings, and a church. The town quickly became a hub of culture, transportation, and trade for travelers along El Camino Real, which during the Mexican period was called the Camino Nacional, and later in the Territorial period, the Chihuahua Trail.

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11b. Significance

Commercial buildings existed along El Camino Real to provide a variety of important services to travelers. Mercantiles were among the most common type of commercial building. These stores sold sundry goods to travelers, who might be low on supplies, including the essentials of food, water, clothing, and sometimes shelter. These stores might offer livestock and blacksmithing. Mercantiles sometimes included a post office and served as the center of commercial life in a community, where travelers would catch up on important local and region news. Commercial buildings in communities, such as Mesilla, offered travelers merchandise and services, such as feed, groceries, dry goods, newspapers, saloons, and a theater.

11c. Registration Criteria

To qualify for nomination, a commercial building associated with travelers on El Camino Real must be directly linked to the use and development of the trail. This property type must maintain historic integrity and must have significance within the period of significance. Buildings associated with El Camino Real must have a demonstrated connection to travelers along the trail through primary and/or secondary documentation.

F.12. Name of Property Type: Dwelling (subtypes: single-dwelling and multi-dwelling)

12a. Description

Dwellings associated with travelers along El Camino Real may be located in settlements or on the edges of a town or village. These adobe, brick, or frame dwellings, which may be small or large, were built in the New Mexico vernacular tradition in which the house is usually built as one or two rooms. Rooms are added over time in a single file of rooms or in the form of an L-shape with a placita in the rear. Large houses may be U-shaped or they may entirely enclose a placita. These houses, which were usually built with flat roofs, have often been altered with the addition of a gable roof. This property type has two subtypes: single dwellings and multiple dwellings. Most surviving examples were built in the 19th century and are one story, although two-story houses can be found, especially in cities and towns. Examples of single-family dwellings include the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House in Pajarito, south of Albuquerque, and the Armijo House in Las Cruces. The two blocks of attached adobe houses on the south end of Cristo Rey Street in village of Doña Ana are excellent examples of multi-dwellings.

12b. Significance

Dwellings along El Camino Real, in addition to serving as residences, provided a variety of services for travelers. Many dwellings served as the homes and businesses of traders who plied El Camino Real. The Armijo House is significant because the owner operated a freighting business from his home, which relied on El Camino Real. The Gutierrez-Hubbell House is significant because it included an attached mercantile, which provided a variety of goods and services to travelers. The existence of dwellings along the trail could also be a matter of life and death for travelers. The village of Doña Ana was in 1843 with Cristo Rey Street, a primary entrance to town from El Camino Real, lined with attached adobe

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houses. These houses, some with windowless facades and heavily fortified doors, formed substantial walls of defense against Apache and Comanche raids, and provided a safe haven for travelers on El Camino Real.

12c. Registration Criteria

To qualify for nomination, a dwelling associated with the El Camino Real must be directly linked to the use and development of the trail. This property type must maintain historic integrity and must have significance within the period of significance. Dwellings located along the trail must have a demonstrated connection to El Camino Real through primary and/or secondary documentation.

1. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X additional documentation 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.

<hr/>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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2. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this additional information 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

3. Form Prepared By

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