

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro—Arroyo Alamillo North Section

other names/site number Vueltas de Acomilla Section, La Joya-Acomilla Section, LA 167322

## 2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

city or town San Acacia vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state New Mexico code NM county Socorro code 053 zip code 87801

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

X national      X statewide      X local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. 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 the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	<b>Total</b>

**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**

Camino Real in New Mexico AD1598-1881

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation/road- and pedestrian-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Landscape/conservation area  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
walls: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph:

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is 1.31 miles (2.1 km) long and is located on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro County, New Mexico. The trail section is bounded by [REDACTED] To the north, San Acacia Butte and the Cerro Indio hills are visible on either side of the river, where it narrows and flows through San Acacia Dam. This section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro fits under Property Type F2: Trail/Wagon Road Section described in the "Camino Real in New Mexico 1598-1881" Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The area where this section is located exhibits the remains of an extensive prehistoric cultural and natural landscape first described by Oñate on his travels through the area in 1598. Besides the trail swale and associated artifacts, prehistoric archaeological ruins, artifacts, and petroglyphs are present nearby.

### Narrative Description

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is 1.31 miles (2.1 km) long and is located on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro County, New Mexico. The setting of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section is bounded by [REDACTED] To the north, San Acacia Butte and the Cerro Indio hills are visible on either side of the river, where it narrows and flows through San Acacia Dam. The vegetation community in the area can be defined as desert scrubland and includes juniper, creosote, mesquite, and snakeweed (Roney 2010). The site form for LA 167322 describes the site setting as follows:

The Rio Grande is incised into older alluvial deposits that form a dissected terrace about 120 feet above the modern floodplain. This segment of the Camino Real runs diagonally across this terrace, crossing several small drainages and the ridges that separate them, and eventually dropping down to a lower terrace that is only 25 feet or so above the bed of the river.

This section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro fits under Property Type F2: Trail/Wagon Road Section of the MPDF. Tom Harper (2010) reported on current conditions of the site in *Aerial Photography of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge*. Roney (2010) describes the trail section as being indicated by "a broad swale in some places and by vegetation alignments or rechanneled arroyos in other places", and says the segment is relatively well preserved. "At the northern end (as recorded here) about 200 meters have been impacted by modern road construction and maintenance. Elsewhere perhaps 30% to 40% of the track has been damaged or destroyed by water erosion" (Roney 2010). Roney (2010) defines the trail segment as being 51%-75% intact.

The location of the trail is verified in historic documents (Falconer 1930, Sanchez 1987, Espinosa 1940, Moorhead 1958). The section is entirely on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Property, which has contributed to the integrity of the setting as relatively unchanged from what it was during the period of significance (1598-1881) for the trail. There are uninterrupted views over the desert terraces towards Five Points and Black Butte in the distance to the northeast as well as towards Acacia Butte to the north. Though a cattle ranch was operated on the property for thirty years during the first half of the twentieth century, the subsequent establishment of the property as a National Wildlife Refuge has allowed the land to begin restoring itself to its earlier ecological state. Due to the lack of development in the area and the clear signs of the trail on the ground the site retains a high level of integrity of feeling and association.

#### Environmental Setting:

This section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is located at the northern end of the Chihuahuan Desert in the Mexican Highlands section of the Basin and Range Province at an elevation of 4,460 feet, with approximately 100 feet of elevation change over the trail section. Prominent landmarks in the vicinity include San Acacia Butte to the north of the

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trail section, which along with the Cerro Indio Butte, form a natural narrowing of the Rio Grande called the Angostura de San Acacia, which was remarked upon by Thomas Falconer in 1841:

A short distance from Joia, the Rio Grande is greatly contracted in its usual breadth in its passage between some low hills... We did not continue long on the bank, our course being to the left of some mountains lying between the river and the road...

The mountain between the river and the road is San Acacia Butte, a basaltic butte that, due to its elevated mass, provided protection for the riparian area directly to the south. Many prehistoric and historic cultural remains have been discovered on and near San Acacia Butte and documented as archaeological sites: LA 31684, LA 5384 (Bowling Green Pueblo), LA 167322, LA 31758 (near Bowling Green), LA 31760 (north of Bowling Green), and LA 31761 (also north of Bowling Green). The meandering river below the butte is especially fertile due in part to its sheltered location. It likely was the cause of the dense settlement patterns that developed in the area. The confluence of the Rio Salado and the Rio Grande just to the north also contributed to the fertile quality of the land (Marshall and Walt 1984).

Though the west side of the river has largely been cleared to develop agricultural fields, the east side of the river is very sandy, which has contributed to its lack of development (Marshall and Walt 1984). Here, the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro remained above the river flood plain due to the sandy soils and the location of the San Acacia basaltic ridge, which today rises 120 feet above the floodplain below. The trail in this location skirts the butte and then angles southwest towards an area where the river and the plateau formed by the San Acacia basaltic ridge have converged. [REDACTED]

#### **Period of Time:**

Habitation in the area surrounding the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro dates back at least as far as the Pueblo I period (700 AD). The area is dense with prehistoric archaeological ruins, artifacts and petroglyphs including Bowling Green Pueblo (LA5384), which dates to the Late Elmendorf phase, after 1175 AD. The first mention of this section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is by Oñate on his travels through the area in 1598. The pueblos had all been abandoned: "Shortly they reached an abandoned pueblo they called Nueva Sevilla, which later maps would show as Sevilleta" (Sanchez 1987). The pueblo of Sevilleta is located just north of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section on the same side of the river.

Harper (2010) includes in his report the following reference, "On 17 May 1760, after seeing the remains of Socorro, Bishop Tamarón stopped at the site of 'Alamito'" (Sanchez correspondence, Adams 1953). Alamito or Alamillo was located [REDACTED] in the general area of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Harper 2010).

Harper (2010) was guided by the journals of Lt. Abert (Abert 1962) and Dr. Wizlizenus (Wizlizenus 1848) to plot the route they took during their expedition of 1848. Based on their accounts, Harper was able to determine that "it is probable that Falconer (1930), Lt. Abert (1962) and Dr. Wizlizenus (1848) all followed segments 'M', 'O', and 'P' to the river" (Harper 2010). Segments 'M', 'O' and 'P' (as named by Harper) make up the length of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the Camino Real.

#### **Identity of Persons, Ethnic Groups, or Archaeological Cultures:**

The groups of people that can be identified as having used the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro during the Spanish Colonial and U.S. Territorial periods, were of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, European and Euro-American descent.

The Spanish expedition of Don Juan de Oñate in 1598 was one of the first groups of non-native people who travelled this route as they made their way north to claim San Juan Pueblo, now Ohkay Owingeh, as the new capital of Spain's northern most province.

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**Physical Characteristics:**

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources: The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is identified as having a total of three contributing resources and one non-contributing resource. The contributing resources include the trail section (one site) and two rock cairns (two contributing structures) found in separate locations along the trail. There are no non-contributing resources associated with the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the trail.

The site form for LA 167322 describes the segment as beginning in:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sites found in the vicinity of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro include archaeological sites: LA 31684, LA 5384 (Bowling Green Pueblo), LA 167322, LA 31758 (near Bowling Green), LA 31760 (north of Bowling Green), and LA 31761 (also north of Bowling Green). All date to before the period of significance as listed in the related MPDF.

The cultural landscape of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro through the Arroyo Alamillo North Section exhibits processes of human response to the natural environment, land use and activities, and patterns of spatial organization. The response of the inhabitants and travelers to the natural environment in the area affected the spatial organization and the land uses. The natural environment included the Rio Grande, San Acacia Butte, and the floodplain between. A large bend in the Rio Grande was caused by the formation of two basaltic buttes, the San Acacia and the Cerro Indio. The bend in the river and the elevated height of the San Acacia Butte created a floodplain that was protected and composed of rich soils. The response by the Pueblo people was to develop settlements on top of the butte and around its base near the rich, arable land. The pueblo people developed patterns of spatial organization that responded to the proximity of the river, the reach of its flood plain, and the value of the soils for farming.

Though the pueblos were settled due to favorable environmental characteristics, they were abandoned by the time the period of significance for the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico began in 1598. The remains of this cultural landscape are what the Oñate expedition experienced as they followed the Rio Grande. "Somewhere north of Socorro, the Spaniards re-crossed the river and travelled along the east bank on the slightly flatter terrain. Shortly they reached an abandoned pueblo they called Nueva Sevilla" (Sanchez 1987). The cultural environment as well as the natural

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environment influenced the course of travelers along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in this section. The adjacency of the San Acacia basaltic ridge forced travelers to the east along an easier, flatter route. This section of the trail was also referred to as the *Vueltas de Alamillo* (Jackson 2006). *Vueltas* is an archaic Spanish word meaning “dangerous twists and turns” (Harden 2005).

Plant communities have changed little since the time Abert travelled along the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. After passing La Joyita, Abert (1962) reported, “Today we saw great quantities of the mezquit ‘*prosopis glandulosa*’ and a curious evergreen plant belonging to the *zygopyllaceae*, that gives out a very pungent odor, resembling kreosote” [sic]. Mesquite and creosote bush still populate this area. Other plants that can be found along this section of the trail today include snakeweed, whip cholla, prickly pear, and annual grasses (Marshall and Walt 1984). De Vargas comments on the “abundant pasture” near the abandoned pueblo of Sevilleta, which influenced his decision to camp for the night so his horses and mules could graze (Espinosa 1940). A cattle ranch was operated on the property during the first half of the twentieth century, indicating that the grasses were plentiful at that time as well.

### Current and Past Impacts:

In the past, the most significant impact to the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in this section was most likely flooding. Though located on a bench above the floodplain of the river, there are several large arroyos that bisect the trail. During times of heavy rains water moving through these arroyos might have washed out the trail and made passage difficult. Don Diego de Vargas (1692) remarks in his journal that the passage from Alamillo to Sevilleta was so difficult they were forced to transfer the freight from the wagons to the pack animals. This is likely due to the sandy soils and possible flood damage.

Present-day impacts on the site include the operation of a cattle ranch from the 1930s to the 1960s. Since the cessation of cattle grazing, the site briefly belonged to the Nature Conservancy and is now presently owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and operated as a National Wildlife Refuge, allowing the natural environment to remain free of most human impacts. The construction and maintenance of roads starting in the 1920s also affected the landscape.

### Previous Investigations:

The most recent investigation of this section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is the report, *Aerial Photography of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge* by Tom Harper. Harper used model airplanes to obtain high resolution aerial imagery of a 12-mile area of the National Wildlife Refuge, where he suspected the Camino Real was located. As a result of his report, John Roney, an archaeologist with Colinas Cultural Resource Consulting, completed a site form (LA 167322) on the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Additional investigations in the area include: LA 31684, LA 5384 (Bowling Green Pueblo), LA 167322, LA 31758 (near Bowling Green), LA 31760 (north of Bowling Green), and LA 31761 (also north of Bowling Green).

### Historic Integrity:

The aspects of integrity that the Arroyo Alamillo North Section retains are *location, setting, feeling* and *association*. Significant for its role as a transportation corridor between Mexico City and Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the Camino Real retains some crucial physical features as defined in the MPDF:

“To qualify for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, individual road sections must be physically identified as roadway swales, linear tracks visible in the landscape. . . .The inclusion of trail sections in the National Register must be justified by archaeological examination and historical information that clearly identifies the road section as part of the Camino Real system.”

The location of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro through this area is present in remnants of the original physical features defined as a road trace and the archaeological remains of pueblos or parajes documented in the historic literature (Harper 2010, Sanchez 1987). Historic literature (Falconer 1930) describes the location of this trail section somewhere between the settlements of La Joya de Sevilleta and Alamillo pueblo. This section closely matches the terrain

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documented. As described above, the road trace, a 12- to 15-meter wide swale across the landscape, is visible in historic (see figs 1-2) and modern aerial photographs (Harper 2010) (see fig. 3) and in some segments it is definable on the ground through the study of vegetation alignments and eroded arroyos. Additional physical features also substantiate the presence the trail in this area and are represented by two rock cairns identified along the banks of the swales. Olive jar sherds that can be found on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico from 1598 to ca. 1850 (personal communication Dedie Snow) also indicate the use of this section during the era when El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was in use through this region.

Additionally, the MPDF defines road sections as:

The physical remains of the trail or wagon road. . . . A road section usually consists of linear swales, depressions, or traces on the landscape. Archaeological investigations have identified a variety of presentations of the trail as a result of variable environmental and physiographic conditions.” Therefore, “each road section must be defined with reference to specific landforms, historic area, area of preservation, or archaeological context. . . . Well-preserved sections of the Camino Real and those sections with clear historic context and integrity are best qualified for nomination.”

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the Camino Real is atypical of most previously identified routes, which hew close to the Rio Grande Valley for water and because of the support provided by population centers along the river. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section departs from the river valley, rising up hills in a northeasterly direction. This is a characteristic feature of the Camino Real, which usually resulted when the river was in flood and the main routes of the roadway were impassable. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section was clearly part of the Camino Real, but it was an alternative route that allowed travelers to bypass flooded sections of the main route. “The pass along the river, according to the MPDF, above Acomilla to the ancient Piro pueblo of Sevilleta (ca. 1300–1680), and the later frontier town of La Joya (1800 to present), is also a section of difficult passage, with high hills and gravel benches extending to the river’s edge. This section of the Camino landscape was known as the Vueltas de Acomilla and was occasionally avoided. . . .” Many sections of the Camino Real include alternative routes.

The setting of the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is also intact, and contributes to the character of the trail and the aspects of feeling and association. Views in all directions are relatively uninterrupted. The prominent land features that determined the path of the trail, such as San Acacia Butte and the Rio Grande, are still visible from parts of the trail depending on topography. There are no modern developments between the trail and these land features. The vegetation, like mesquite and creosote (Abert 1962), remains much the same. The terrain on which the trail is located has seen a brief period of cattle grazing since its period of significance. However, current ownership by the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge ensures the integrity of the location, setting, feeling and association of this section.

The feeling and association of the trail are related to the integrity of the setting. A visitor today to the Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, would be able to experience the feeling and association of travelers who once traveled between Mexico City and Santa Fe. Walking this section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, one can usually see only the surrounding natural landscape, which remains much as it was during the period of significance, which gives the observer a sense of what it was like to be travelling in the hot, exposed desert over long distances. Finally, the trail retains strong historic associations because this trail segment is where residents of New Spain and Mexico travelled on their way to explore and settle New Mexico.

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### 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement

Criterion A: Transportation

Criterion D: Archeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Criterion D: Transportation

#### Period of Significance

AD 1598 to 1881

#### Significant Dates

1598—Entrada of Juan de Oñate

1881—Completion of AT&SF Railroad

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

European, Spanish, Mexican, American, Puebloan

#### Architect/Builder

N/A

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is significant from 1598 to 1881 as defined in the MPDF. The first reference to Spanish use of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro along this section is the Juan de Oñate expedition in 1598 (Sanchez 1987). Historic literature (Abert 1962, Wizlizenus, 1848) references this section through the 1850s. It is likely that the trail continued to be used until at least 1881, when the railroad was built. "Olive jar fragments reported by Harper (2010) confirm the use of this section during the [late] Camino Real era" (Roney 2010).

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, though only though only 1.31 miles (2.1 km) in length, is integral to the approximately 1,600 mile (2,414 km) long El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro that extended from Mexico City to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Camino Real in New Mexico, AD 1598-1881," defines the Arroyo Alamillo North Section as individual road section, which "must be physically identified as roadway swales [or] linear tracks visible in the landscape. "In many areas," according to the MPDF, "road sections of the Camino Real were used for nearly three centuries, from 1598 to 1881. The use of the Camino Real continued from the colonization of New Mexico by Oñate in 1598 until the railroad reached El Paso in 1881." The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is one continuous segment that begins southeast of San Acacia Butte, travels over a plateau above the river and eventually drops down to meet the Rio Grande. It is defined by swales, vegetation patterns, and eroded arroyos and it retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. It is significant as an associated property type "trail/wagon road section" as defined in the "Camino Real in New Mexico, AD 1598-1881" Multiple Property Documentation Form. The period of significance is 1598-1881 and the historic contexts covering use of this section during the Spanish Colonial, Mexican, and American periods are elaborated upon in the MPDF. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is significant at the local, state, and national levels under National Register Criterion A in the areas of significance are exploration/settlement and transportation. Artifacts relating to the period of significance have been identified along this section of the trail, including rock cairns. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is eligible for listing at the local, state, and national levels under National Register Criterion D in the area of archeology: historic-non-aboriginal.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is significant at the local, state, and national levels under National Register Criterion A in the areas of significance are exploration/settlement and transportation. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is eligible for listing at the local, state, and national levels under National Register Criterion D in the area of archeology: historic-non-aboriginal. The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is an integral part of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro trail system that carried explorers across a landscape (mostly unknown to them) from Mexico City north to San Juan Pueblo. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the longest road in North America, extending 2,414 kilometers from Mexico City to Santa Fe, New Mexico (Jackson 2006). El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro functioned as a transportation network for nearly three hundred years and was the primary route of commerce and trade, communication, military expeditions, religious expeditions between New Mexico and New Spain (Beal 1999). Along the broad expanse of this international road, social, political, and cultural ideas were transferred from Mexico City to northern New Mexico. Economic and commercial opportunities developed along the trail route. New Spain and New Mexico were both influenced by the arrival of new music, sculpture, architecture, tools, household items, textiles, ceramics, agricultural practices, and engineering techniques. Travel along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro resulted in the contact of the diverse cultures of Native Americans, Spanish, Mexicans and Euro-Americans. The multi-cultural traditions and people of New Mexico today are a direct result of the trail. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is significant because it directly relates to the colonization of Mexico and New Mexico by the Spanish, Mexicans, and Euro-Americans.

The significance of road sections, which are the most important physical manifestation of the Camino Real, are discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Camino Real in New Mexico, AD 1589-1881":

In many areas the road sections of the Camino Real were used for nearly three centuries, from 1598 to 1881. The use of the Camino Real continued from the colonization of New Mexico by Oñate in 1598 until the railroad reached El Paso in 1881. This trail is the oldest and longest continuously utilized mule train/wagon road in the United States. The Camino Real was designated as a National Historic Trail in 2000 (Public Law 106-307) in recognition of the outstanding significance of the trail in the history of exploration, colonization, trade and

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commerce, emigration, and development of the Southwest borderlands.

Road sections are the physical Camino Real and are the primary cultural property in the trail system. These historic properties, most of which have been abandoned for 120 years, were part of a vast road system that was instrumental in the historic development of the American Southwest. The Camino Real provides the link and the context for a variety of contributing cultural properties associated with use of the road. Individual sections further reflect the significance of certain geographic localities or historic events along the trail system. Crossroads (other roads from the period of significance intersecting the Camino) can also add to the significance of road segments.

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is significant for its physical association and historically documented associations to the events surrounding the development of the Spanish and Mexican colonies and the state of New Mexico. As a discreet section of the larger trail, its significance is considered in the larger context of the entire trail; therefore it represents the historic contexts associated with the Spanish Colonial, Mexican, and American periods defined in the MPDF: 1) Geography and Natural Character; Physical Character and Setting of the Road, 2) Exploration, Settlement, Invasion, and War, 3) Social, Political, and Cultural Significance, and 4) Economic and Commercial Significance.

The Arroyo Alamillo North Section is eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of exploration/settlement and transportation, as discussed in detail in the MPDF. All travelers journeying north or south would have passed through this area. The presence of the trail through this area contributed to the settlement of small Hispanic communities such as Sabino and La Joya de Sevilleta as well as *ranchos* along its route, and the desertion of the Piro pueblos of Alamillo, Sevilleta and Socorro (National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management 2004).

This section is significant under National Register Criterion D because of its potential to yield information important to the areas of significance relating to the archaeology of prehistoric, aboriginal, and non-aboriginal peoples, and transportation. The location and physical characteristics of the trail retain integrity, which will contribute to the possibility of discovering more material evidence related to the historic context and peoples who used the trail during its period of significance. While physical aspects of the trail are clearly visible in aerial imagery (Harper 2010) and, to varying degrees, discernible on the ground, the remains of these trails and the associated vegetation require further study to determine the effects of the dynamics of people and their responses to the natural environment as they moved stock animals and wagons across the landscape to reach their final destinations. Archaeological reconnaissance documents a scatter of historic artifacts along this section of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro including ceramic sherds and two rock cairns. The cairns were made from materials readily available along the trail. Further study of these structures and the soils where they are located might confirm their use to alert other travelers that the sandy sections of the trail in this area would have been difficult to maneuver. While few surface artifacts have been discovered, with further archaeological investigation there is the potential to discover buried cultural deposits, which may yield diagnostic artifacts that may tell us important information about the people who passed through this section of the trail or those who had previously occupied the area.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

In *Rio Abajo: Prehistory and History of a Rio Grande Province* Michael Marshall and Henry Walt describe Las Vueltas de Acomilla:

This was a bad stretch of road on the east bank north of the Pueblo of Alamillo and south of Sevilleta. It is either the sandy lava flow and barranca region south of San Acacia Butte or the Los Cañoncitos-Loma Parda pass. This section is named in the Auto of Xavier regarding the Otermin passage (Hackett and Shelby 1942: cccii, in Marshall and Walt 1984).

Max Moorhead summarizes Oñate's travels:

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A march of four leagues on June 15 brought them over another tortuous road to the hill of Acomilla, opposite the present town of the same name on the other side of the river. And on the next day, three leagues farther on, they reached another, smaller Piro town, in a picturesque situation of the river, which they nostalgically named "Nueva Sevilla." This was La Joya de Sevilleta of later date, from which emerged the present town of La Joya (Moorhead 1958).

#### Fray Alonso de Benavides 1630 (Morrow 1996)

It would be well for Your Majesty to know the background of the founding of the town of Sivilleta [sic]. The place has been deserted because of war, and other tribes had burned it down. Our Spaniards called the place Sivilleta [sic], and its former inhabitants wandered scattered across the hills. I founded the town anew with these same people.

The following historical documentation was found in Marshall and Walt's *Rio Abajo Prehistory and History of a Rio Grande Province* (1984):

The pueblo of Socorro has a church and *convent*, with two *visitas*, Alamillo and Sevilleta; there is very good provision for public worship; there are 400 souls under administration (Fray Gerónimo de Zárate Salmerón's relación of 1641, in Scholes 1929:50).

#### Zebulon Montgomery Pike 1808 (Jackson 1966)

10<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday. Marched at eight o'clock and arrived at the village of Sibilleta... 11<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday. – Marched at eleven o'clock came 12 miles and encamped, the troops having preceded us... The village we staid last night, being the last, we now entered the wilderness and the road became rough, small hills running into the river, making vallies [sic]; but the bottoms appear richer than those more to the north.

#### Myers and Schlanger 2004

Sabino: The name predates the building of this nineteenth-century town, near the ruins of the seventeenth-century pueblo of Alamillo. Wizlizenus heading south, reported passing "through the town Sabino," on the east side of the river, on the morning of 26 July 1846 after camping at La Joya. He noted that large yucca as well as mesquite became more common there than they had been further north (Wizlizenus 1848).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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1848 *A Memoir of a Tour to Northern New Mexico, connected with Col. Doniphans Expedition, in 1846 and 1847*. With a scientific appendix and three maps. 30<sup>th</sup> Congress. 1<sup>st</sup> session Senate. Miscellaneous No. 26. Tippen & Streeper: Washington.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

31.30 acres (12.67 hectares)  
**Acreage of Property** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Latitude/Longitude References**

<input type="checkbox"/>					
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<input type="checkbox"/>					

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)



**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are based on field reconnaissance of John Roney and Tom Harper (Section 7 – Narrative Description). Roney (2010) describes his process for determining the site boundaries, “After ground-truthing, center-line of road was plotted based on aerial photo interpretation. Lateral boundaries were arbitrarily defined at 30 meters on each side of the center line to accommodate what is known as a ‘pitch zone.’” This is a zone on either side of a trail alignment that includes: trail braids and walkarounds, possible camp or rest sites, artifacts that fall or fly off a person, horse, or wagon, and artifacts simply thrown off the trail much in the manner of roadside trash today.”

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Baker H. Morrow, principal, Kristina Guist – project manager  
organization Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller, Ltd. date August 15, 2011  
street & number 210 La Veta NE telephone (505) 268-2266  
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108  
e-mail kquist@mrwnm.com

**State Historic Preservation Office**

name/title Steven Moffson, Historian  
organization Historic Preservation Division date December 20, 2013  
street & number 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236 telephone 505-476-0444  
city or town Santa Fe state NM zip code 87501  
e-mail steven.moffson@state.nm.us

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  1. Camino Real—Arroyo Alamillo North Section National Register boundaries
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
  2. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro—Arroyo Alamillo North Section: Features and National Register boundaries

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro—Arroyo Alamillo North Section

City or Vicinity: San Acacia

County: Socorro

State: New Mexico

Photographers: John Roney

Date Photographed: July 21, 2010

Description of photograph(s) and number: 2

Photo 1 of 2: View of cairn toward southern end of segment near Arroyo Alamillo, photographer facing northeast.

Photo 2 of 2: View of cairn toward northern end of segment near road to Bowling Green, photographer facing north.

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Southwest Region 2

street & number 13 La Joya Refuge Road telephone 505-864-4021

city or town San Acacia state NM zip code 87831

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.