Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
El Morro

AND/OR COMMON
Inscription Rock

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
El Morro National Monument

CITY, TOWN
Ramah, New Mexico

STATE
New Mexico

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

_DISTRICT

_PUBLIC

_OCCUPIED

_AGRICULTURE

_BUILDING(S)

_PRIVATE

_UNOCCUPIED

_COMMERCIAL

_STRUCTURE

_BOTH

_WORK IN PROGRESS

_EDUCATIONAL

_X_SITE

_PUBLIC ACQUISITION

_ACCESSIBLE

_ENTERTAINMENT

__OBJECT

_IN PROCESS

_X_PARK

_BEING CONSIDERED

_YES: RESTRICTED

_GOVERNMENT

_NO

_YES: UNRESTRICTED

_INDUSTRIAL

_FEDERAL

_TRANSPORTATION

_STATE

_COUNTY

_LOCAL

_OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)
U.S. Government, Department of the Interior, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
Southwest Regional Office

CITY, TOWN
Santa Fe

STATE
New Mexico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Valencia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Belen

STATE
New Mexico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE
1959

_DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office

CITY, TOWN
Santa Fe

STATE
New Mexico
Rising above a remote and undeveloped valley plain which is covered with native grass and dotted with pinon and juniper trees, El Morro is a sandstone mesa at the base of which are an estimated 2,000 carved inscriptions which date from 1605-1906. In addition to the historic records there are several examples of pre-Columbian petroglyphs. On top of the mesa are two Indian pueblo ruins numbering approximately 250 rooms each. Eighteen rooms of one, Atsinna, have been excavated and stabilized. In a protected angle of the cliff face, a permanent pool, fed by rain and melted snow, served as a water supply for Indians, Spanish explorers, Anglo military expeditions, and wagon trains—and up until 1960, as the water source for the monument.

MANAGEMENT EXCLUSIONS:
Within El Morro National Monument there are several structures which do not meet National Register criteria. These structures are of recent construction and bear no relationship to the reasons for which the site was included in the National Park system. These exclusions include the residential section of the monument (4 houses, 1 apartment building, and 1 house trailer), the maintenance area, the headquarters building and visitor center, a water tank on top of the mesa, and a wooden foot bridge located between the visitor center and the foot of the mesa. It is recognized that these structures serve a management purpose and occasionally require alterations necessitated by a change in their function. Modifications to these supportive buildings will reflect a compatible architectural style and will not intrude upon the historic resources of the monument.
El Morro is a massive mesa-point of sandstone which became a routine stopping place for Spanish conquistadores as well as for later Anglo emigrants and settlers. A prominent geographical landmark on the road between Santa Fe and Zuni pueblos in western New Mexico, it’s dependable source of water attracted three centuries of travelers who encamped there and carved their names into the soft rock face. The earliest inscription was incised by Don Juan de Onate in 1605—two years before the founding of Jamestown and fifteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. Following Onate, literally hundreds of visitors to the site inscribed their names, the date, or even verses of poetry to make El Morro a commanding register of three hundred years of European and American exploration and expansion in the southwestern United States.

Don Diego de Vargas, the reconquerer of New Mexico, passed there in 1692, as did Governor Don Feliz Martinez in 1716 and the Bishop of Durango in 1737. Although no dated inscriptions were made between roughly 1750 and 1849, Anglo-Americans who explored the Southwest after 1849, regularly stopped there. In September, 1849, Lieutenant James H. Simpson and the artist R. H. Kern copied the inscriptions and left one of their own. Two years later Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves, in search of a wagon road to California, passed the rock as did Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale who was escorting a caravan of camels to California. During the latter decades of the century, travelers continued to leave inscriptions until in 1906, Congress designated the site a national monument.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Reed, Erik K. "Spanish Expeditions and El Morro Inscriptions." NPS, 1949

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 240

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
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<td>C [1,2]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D [1,2]</td>
<td>71425</td>
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</table>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
Embracing the S3 of NE ¼, N2 of SE¼, SE¼ of NW¼, and NE¼ of SW¼, Section 6 Township 9 North, Range 14 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian.

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES X NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
BOUNDARY STATUS REPORT

EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT

LEGEND

EXISTING BOUNDARY

PROPOSED BOUNDARY

AUTHORIZED BOUNDARY

BOUNDARY STATUS REPORT

NM·EM
7101-A

Indian Allotment Rafael
158 80 ac.

Ruins

Mesa

R. 14 W.

H N Rice
80 ac.

53

EASTBOUNDARY

AUTHORIZED BOUNDARY

PL 539, 81st CONGRESS

Redrawn 4-10-57 M Huey
1. El Morro
2. Ramah, Valencia County, New Mexico
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1974
   Loc of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. El Morro mesa: east elevation
   Photo No. WASO 74-1781-1-5

JUN 20 1978
1. El Morro
2. Ramah, Valencia County, New Mexico
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1974
   Loc of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. Atsinna ruin: west elevation
   Photo No. WASO 74-1781-7-8

Please Credit
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO
PHOTOGRAPHER - Fred E. Mang, Jr.
DATE:
CAPTION:
1. El Morro
2. Ramah, Valencia County, New Mexico
3. Photo by Fred Mang, Jr., 1974
   Loc of Neg.: NPS Washington, D.C.
4. Don Juan Onate's 1605 inscription
   Photo No. WASO 74-1781-1-8

JUN 20 1978