

ACEQUIA MADRE OF SANTA FE
Extends 2 miles west beginning near the Los Cerros Reservoir
Santa Fe
Santa Fe County
New Mexico

HAER NM-25
HAER NM-25

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

ACEQUIA MADRE OF SANTA FE

HAER No. NM-25

- Location:** Extends 2 miles west beginning near the Los Cerros Reservoir, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, New Mexico
- Date of Construction:** Probably seventeenth century
- Original and Current Use:** Irrigation
- Significance:** The Acequia Madre of Santa Fe is an example of the acequias or irrigation ditches built by the Spanish from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries in the American Southwest. It is probably the oldest Spanish acequia system remaining in the Southwest and can easily be traced today.
- Description:** The Acequia Madre receives water from the Santa Fe River above the intersection of Alameda Street and the river near the Los Cerros Reservoir. The acequia runs in a westerly direction through the city for over 2 miles, first following Acequia Madre Street and then East Manhattan. Most of the acequia is stone-lined and ranges from 4' to 5' wide. The Acequia Madre is not used regularly, but it does carry water when the river is at a high level.
- History:** Construction the Acequia Madre was probably begun when Santa Fe was founded in 1610. It was in use at the time of the Pueblo Revolt in 1680. The acequia supplied water for the domestic needs of the community and for irrigation. This system is probably the oldest Spanish acequia system remaining in the Southwest and can easily be traced today.
- Sources:**
Barker, Ruth Laughlin. *Caballeros*. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, Incorporated, 1937.
Crandall, Elizabeth L. *Santa Fe*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1965.
Davis, W.W.H. *El Gringo: or, New Mexico and Her People*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1857.
Old Santa Fe Today. The Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Santa Fe: The School of American Research, 1966.

Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. *Old Santa Fe*. Santa Fe: New Mexican Publishing Corporation, 1925.

_____. *The Palace of the Governors. The City of Santa Fe. Its Museums and Monuments*. Santa Fe: Historical Society of New Mexico, 1924.

Historians: Steve Rae, T. Lindsay Baker, and Joseph E. Minor, July 10 and October 23, 1971 and January 10, 1972

Project

Information: The Acequia Madre was inventoried for the Historic American Engineering Record as part of the Southwest Water Resources Project, a joint project with the Texas Tech Water Resources Center. The survey was subsequently published as *Water for the Southwest: Historical Survey and Guide to Historic Sites* by the American Society of Civil Engineers in September 1973.