



**Name of Property:** San José de los Jémez Mission and Gúsewa Pueblo Site  
**City, State:** Jémez Springs, New Mexico  
**Period of Significance:** 1598-ca. 1639 CE  
**NHL Criteria:** Criterion 1  
**NPS Themes:** I. Peopling Places  
     5. Ethnic Homelands  
     6. Encounters, Conflicts, and Colonization  
 II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements  
     3. Religious Institutions

**Previous Recognition:** 1973 National Register of Historic Places

**National Historic Context:** I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations  
     D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations  
         2. Establishing Intercultural Relations  
             e. Defending Native Homelands  
             f. Defending Native Religious Systems  
             g. Introductions to Foreign Religious Systems  
         3. Varieties of Early Contact, Conquest, or Accommodation  
             d. Changing Settlement Types  
         6. Missionized Settlements  
 II. European Colonial Exploration and Settlement  
     A. Spanish Exploration and Settlement  
         3. Southwest

**NHL Significance:**

- San José de los Jémez Mission and Gúsewa Pueblo Site is associated with the spread of Spanish control northward in New Spain into the present-day American Southwest from



1598 to ca. 1639 CE, and is an early representation of the intersection of European and native cultures in the United States. One of the best preserved of New Mexico's seventeenth-century mission complexes, the site includes a portion of a 1450-1500 CE pueblo, the ruins of a church designed by a Franciscan friar and erected by the Jémez people in 1625-26, and the remains of a *convento* as well as other mission features.

- The site is nationally significant for its association with the efforts of Franciscan friars to create and operate Christina missions with the goal of Christianizing North America. The mission system established in New Mexico is associated with the northward migration of Hispano settlement, religious conversion, and colonization practices.
- The site represents the philosophies and events that produced upheaval in the social organization and lifeways of the Jémez peoples in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Missionizing efforts resulted in disruption of Native social order by displacing the established religion, introducing new skills via the introduction of European domestic animals and foodstuffs, and concentrating indigenous populations at mission sites to achieve the missionaries' goals.

#### **Integrity:**

- Natural deterioration processes, architectural stabilization, and archeological excavations have impacted to some degree the architecture of the mission and Gúsewa Pueblo. However, much of the above ground surviving parts of these features have experienced little change since their construction and retain their historic character, conveying the site's significance.
- Although in a ruined condition, San José de los Jémez Mission Church is considered by experts to be one of the best preserved of the remaining seventeenth-century Spanish colonial missions. Incomplete data derived from early twentieth century archeological investigations, combined with later construction activities within Gúsewa but outside the NHL boundaries, precludes consideration of Criterion 6 for this nomination. Nonetheless, these data support Criterion 1 by demonstrating an important association between Gúsewa and the spread of Spanish contact during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

**Owner of Property:** New Mexico State Monuments

**Acreage of Property:** 3.8 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** The New Mexico State Monuments and the National Park Service IMRO-Denver partnered in hiring a consultant to produce a draft nomination.

#### **Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation of this resource as an NHL will give wider recognition to the initial movement of Spanish culture into lands occupied by native peoples in the southwestern United States. This occurred in advance of the settlements of Jamestown (1607 CE), Plymouth (1620 CE), and some 150 years before the founding of missions in California.
- The residents of present-day Jémez Pueblo, whose ancestors resided at Gúsewa, support

this nomination.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 10/27/11):**

Joshua, Madalena, Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**