

## **Condensed History of Merced De Santo Tomas Apostol Del Rio De Las Trampas**

During the spring and summer of 1751, twelve heads of families living in Santa Fe petitioned Governor Tomas Valez Cachupin for a grant of land at a place between Santa Fe and Taos.

In the preamble to his decree, Governor Valez Cachupin stated that the reason for the grant was increase the population of the villa of Santa Fe and to secure a barrier between the Apache and Comanche Indians and the settlements of Chimayo and Santa Cruz De La Canada.

The twelve heads of families were, (1) Joseph Aragon, (2) Juan de Arguello, (3) Juan Jose De Arguello, (4) Salvador Baca, (5) Antonio Dominguez, (6) Juan Garcia, (7) Eusebio de Leyba, (8) Luis de Leyba, (9) Vicente Lucero, (10) Malchor Rodriguez, (11) Pedro Felipe Rodriguez, (12) Ignacio Vargas. These twelve families lived in the barrios of Santa Fe and were related by blood or marriage. On July 1, 1751 the twelve families were given approximately 80 square miles 2 leagues x 3 leagues – Approx 5 miles x 7.5 miles of land by the king of Spain in current day counties of Taos and Rio Arriba in northern NM.

By the year 1760 they had moved in and had build most of their settlement and which they named Merced de Santo Tomas Apostol del rio de las Trampas. The settlers were now ready to construct a church within their community. They went to Santa Fe to ask for permission to build to erect a church. After securing permission from the Archdiocese it is estimated that it took them approximately 8 years for completion of the church. They continued to build and plant utilizing the common land of the grant to sustain their lives and the needs of their families.

By the early 1900 they had prospered so much that the some families had moved on to the nearby valleys of what is now the communities of Ojo Sarco, El Valle, Diamente, Chamisal, Ojito and Llanno De San Juan.

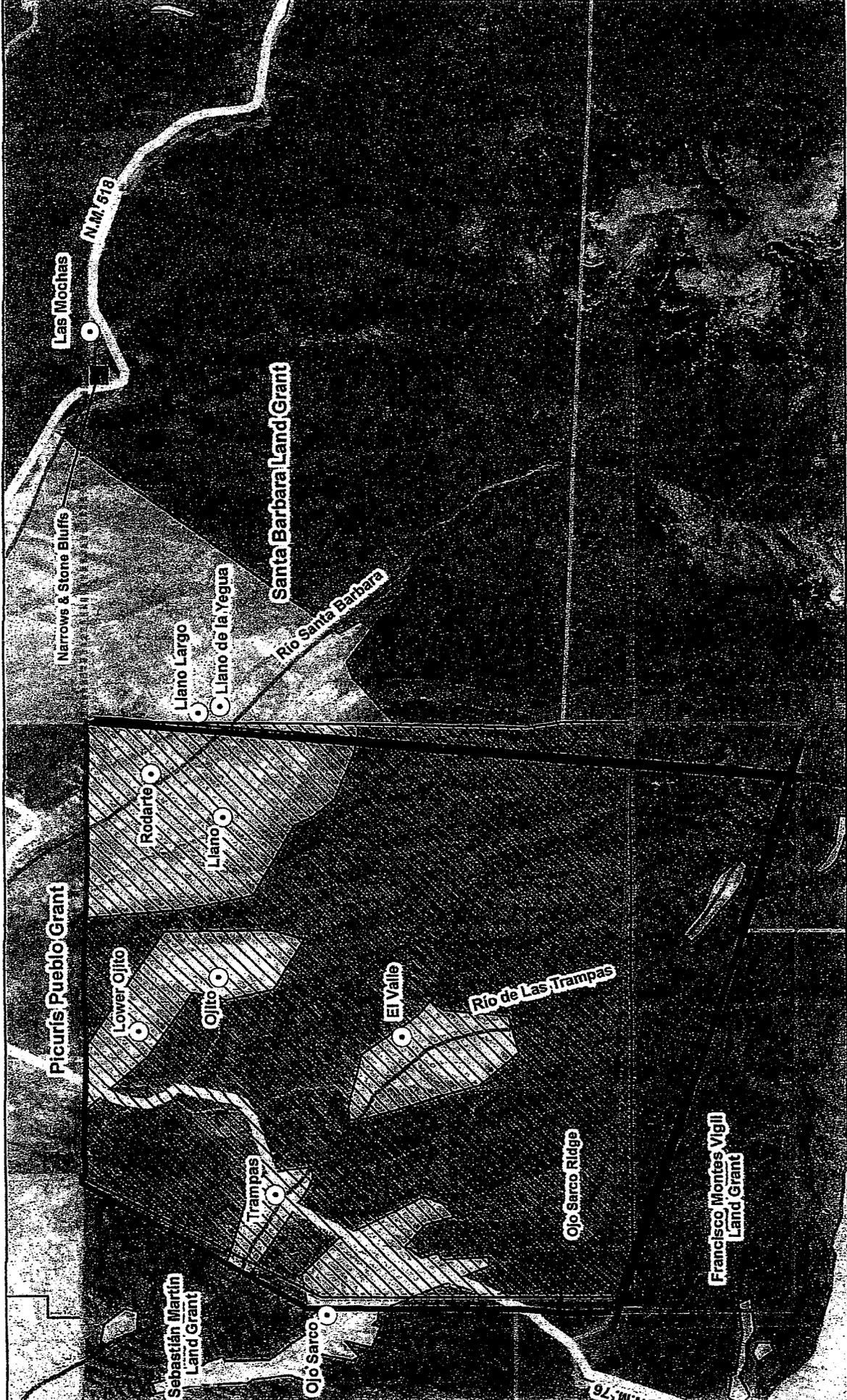
By that time The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 had been submitted to US Congress and had been confirmed as a valid grant June 6 1860 .(US Patent: Grant #27). It had also been translated from Spanish to English and included the right to partition. In 1884 when the United States were adopted by the Territory of New Mexico, the door was opened for partition, and the land grants were no longer protected by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Between 1903 and the late 1930 the common land of Las Trampas Land Grant changed ownership 4 different times. It is currently being managed by Carson National Forest and more in particular by the camino real ranger district in Penasco, New Mexico.

So we consider ourselves as a land grant without land.

**Our goal is to someday have this land grab corrected and the common land returned back to its rightful heirs.**

Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Trampas Land Grant Traditional Use Historic Boundaries



Miles UNM LGSP  
6/15/2012

1876 Survey  
1881



**Boundaries and Features**

- 1891 Survey Patented Bound. (28,127 ac.)
- 1876 Survey (48,457 ac.)
- Revised Historic Bound. (24,956.10 ac.)
- Hist. Bound. Acknowledged After 1891 (8,597.4 ac.)
- Boundaries of Patented Land Grants
- Water Channel
- Road
- Historic Landmark
- Populated Place

**Ownership Classes**

- USFS
- Private
- Tribal
- BLM

Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de Trampas was founded in 1751. A portion of the grant was ceded to a daughter grant, Santa Barbara. The estimated historic boundaries (shaded area) follows the petition description, adjusted for the subsequent cession to the daughter grant.

*Shape Files*