

In an effort to increase representation of Colorado's Hispano communities in the National Register, the Colorado SHPO and Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area partnered to prepare nominations for four properties associated with the Hispano communities in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Funded by an Underrepresented Communities Grant, the project team, which included both historians and an archaeologist, explored the significance of each site from a broad perspective that included cultural heritage, landscape, and archaeology—a model that can be applied to other resources with complex significance. The approach was particularly successful at the Garcia Ranch, an approximately 51-acre district comprising an adobe residence, ranch buildings and surrounding hayfields, the first adobe potato shed listed in Colorado, and the ruins of earlier adobe dwelling. At the S.P.M.D.T.U. Lodge Hall, built as a meeting space for the Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos, an important Hispano labor union, investigations revealed archaeological significance that may have been overlooked in the past. The project also provided a more complete picture of the significance of two churches that served local Hispano communities, Saint Joseph's Church and Cemetery and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. In May, SHPO staff joined more than 300 members of the public at the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's annual Cinco de Mayo celebration for an event recognizing the listing of these distinctive sites.

