

Alamillo Pueblo

Significance: The mission-pueblo ruins of Alamillo marked a nearby paraje long after the pueblo was deserted. The most significant event that occurred at Alamillo took place when Governor Bernardo Lopez de Mendizabal, during his inspection of New Mexico, investigated the ninety-year-old Father Alonso de Peinado, the resident missionary, in 1659 and humiliated him before the Indian pueblo. Soon after, Lopez ordered that the Alamillo mission Indians be moved back to Sevilleta, their native land.

Annotated History:

[1582 Chamuscado] The Piro pueblos of El Hosso (or El Oso) and La Pedrosa were mentioned together in Hernan Gallegos's account of the Sánchez Chamuscado entrada of 1581. Both were located on the east bank of the Río Grande, evidently in the area of Alamillo, New Mexico (Mecham 1926:275; Hammond and Rey 1927:45). It is possible that they conform to Alamillo and Acomilla.

[1680 Pueblo Revolt] In October 1681 it was reported that the Piro pueblos of Alamillo, Sevilleta, and Socorro had been deserted after the revolt (Hackett and Shelby 1942:II.168). On 30 November 1681, Otermín marched north from Socorro through La Vuelta de Socorro to the Pueblo of Alamillo. He described its setting as in a plain on the banks of the Río Grande. Otermín's company camped beside the pueblo and then went on to Sevilleta. Returning south in January 1682, Otermín reported that he went from Sevilleta through Las Vueltas de Acomilla, over the "hill of Acomilla" and down into the pueblo of Alamillo. They stayed there two days to wait out inclement weather and then continued south (Hackett and Shelby 1942:II,206,II, 363).

[1692 Vargas reconquest] Vargas stopped at the abandoned pueblo of Alamillo on 3 September 1692 after a march of five leagues from Socorro. The road was bad enough that he had trouble with his wagons. It was six or seven leagues to the abandoned hacienda of Felipe Romero, north of Sevilleta, the next day (Kessell and Hendricks 1992:374).

[1692 Vetancurt] Vetancurt wrote of the church dedicated to Santa Ana three leagues from Socorro. He mentioned that the people lived on fish gathered from the Río Grande. The pueblo was burned in 1680 (Vetancurt 1961:266).

[1726 Rivera] On 29 May 1726, Rivera traveled north twelve leagues from San Pasqual, through the hills of Acomilla, to Alamillo. He saw several ruins on the east side of the river, where there had been haciendas de labor before the revolt. He found the pueblo of El Alamillo, located on the east side of the river, and stayed in an uninhabited place near it (Alessio Robles 1946:50).

[1760 Bishop Tamarón] On 17 May 1760, after seeing the remains of Socorro, Bishop Tamarón stopped at the site of "Alamito" (Adams 1953:201). Lafora saw ruins when he camped nearby on 13 August 1766. He located it four leagues to the south of the ruins of the pueblo of Sevilleta by a rough road (Alessio Robles 1939:95). On 17 November 1780 Anza left the Vueltas de Romero and traveled five leagues south to the region of Alamillo (Thomas 1932:198). The Vueltas de Romero are featured in Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco's map of 1779.

[Today] Despite the long-lived notoriety of Alamillo its location is now a mystery. Marshall and Walt write that they are certain that it was south of Alamillo Arroyo and north of Pueblito and speculate that it was probably very near the later town of Sabino. They conclude that its proximity to the river may have caused traces of it to be destroyed by floods (Marshall and Walt 1984:255).