The San Juan Basin in northwest New Mexico has a long history of people occupying and then abandoning areas at both the regional and community levels, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Senon S. Vigil Homestead flourished in Upper Largo Canyon. John Rogers (Goe) Hayes established the trading post which became the community commercial center and post office between 1896 and 1929.

Shortly after the establishment of a road traveling the length of Largo Canyon in 1896, homesteaders moved into the upper parts of the canyon and a widely spread out cluster of structures, rather a church, store, a post office, a center for homes, were dispersed across the landscape. Most structures were constructed of sandstone masonry with wooden doors and windows. Floors were finished in gypsum plaster. A few were constructed with redwood, hardwood, or Douglas fir or ponderosa pine, and cottonwood lath. Waterproofing was accomplished by covering the latticework with clay and sand. The terraces under the 1896 homestead entry act site plan. Largo Canyon is located approximately 22 miles east of Largo Canyon.

The wool industry was vital to the Hispanic settlers of Largo Canyon and surrounding area. The wool industry was driven by the availability of water from abundant springs, dependable irrigation, and consistent snow packs from the late 1880s to the 1920s. A catastrophic flood in 1927, a devastating snow and accompanying fire, and the Greyhoud in the late 1920s and the Great Depression resulted in the eventual decline of the wool industry. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), acquired parcels containing several of the early homesteads, including the Senon S. Vigil Homestead.

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