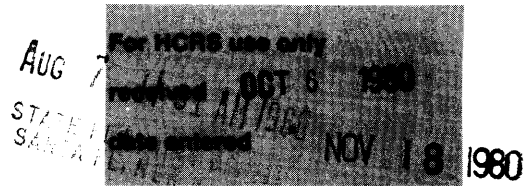


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Springer Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 121 Tijeras Avenue N.E. not for publication

city, town Albuquerque vicinity of congressional district 1

state New Mexico code 35 county Bernalillo code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bruce J. Pierce and Associates

street & number 40 First Plaza

city, town Albuquerque vicinity of state New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Courthouse

street & number 501 Central Ave. N.W.

city, town Albuquerque state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Cultural Properties
Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 16, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Landmarks Survey

city, town Albuquerque state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The three-story cream tapestry brick Springer Building was completed and occupied in 1930, a handsome office and storage facility for the Springer Transfer Company. Its utilitarian function is expressively emphasized by its broad, massive appearance. The designer took advantage of the use and the massing necessitated by the structural requirements and endowed the building with an almost temple-like feel through a slight battering of the corners and deployment of a 'Mayan motif' geometric fret sill course at the 3rd story level. Quoined pilasters, flush with the facade at the stone cornice, flare at the base; reinforcing the buttressed 'Mayan temple' motif.

Metal casement windows on the front elevation are recessed with projecting concrete slip sills. First floor windows were filled in with stucco during the students riots of the late '60's. The current owner has recently opened them and filled in with extruded aluminum fixed-glass windows which match the mullion division of the second floor original casements. However, the east grouping of new windows have unfortunately been blocked down to compensate for lowered ceilings in the east wing. The smaller metal casement windows at the frieze level are pivot-opening. Small fixed metal casements mark the top of the smooth concrete entry surround; the resulting stepped frontispiece emphasizes the 'zigurat' effect. The 'Springer' engraving over the double-leaf metal entry is topped by a fan light which illuminates the interior stairwell.

The Springer Buildings permit (#7375) was obtained August 25, 1929. The structure was completed at a cost of \$85,000, reflecting the use of a reinforced concrete framing system with 8-inch concrete slab floors. The plan included 46,000 square feet of floor space with 30,000 square feet of that area to be used for storage, strategically located near the tracks of the Santa Fe Railroad.

The construction was completed with future expansion in mind; structural beams on the north elevation have pallets designed to receive a mirror image building. However, that never occurred. The only exterior alteration has been the very recent steel fire escape added to the east facade, at the expense of removing and enlarging a window opening.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1929–30

Builder/Architect G.M. Williamson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Springer Transfer Company was founded in Albuquerque by Mr. William Springer, who began in the drayage business. Local hauling of furniture, sand and earth was the main activity of the company in those days. In January, 1918, the Springer Transfer Company was incorporated in the new State of New Mexico. Mr. Springer served as president until his death in 1925, when Mr. Bennett replaced him. By 1925 the business had grown to "engage in the storage business to provide a potentially profitable service to the growing population of Albuquerque." A warehouse on East Central Avenue was purchased first; then in 1929 Springer Transger engaged architect G. M. Williamson to complete a new office and storage facility. Williamson was an associate of Trost and Trost in the 1920's. However, it was his own firm, including architect Miles Brittelle, Sr., which designed the Springer Building in 1929.

According to Edna Bergman, the architect consciously selected a motiff for the building which would provide 'something different for an indifferent site.' However, with the construction of the handsome Tijeras railroad underpass in 1937, a very pleasing juxtaposition of concrete work occurred, the open spaces of the underpass railing system taking on the same shape as the entry arch of the Springer Building; the site became more interesting visually than it had been when the building was first conceived.

The Springer Building is an outstanding example of a commercial building which fit not only its use and site but reflected as well the wider interests of the architectural world. As a 'Mayan temple' in a period of archaeological revival styles, it provides a handsome, unusual and appropriate counterpoint to Albuquerque's pueblo and southwestern revival buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- The Springer Transfer Company, Donald Ducoff UNM Thesis
- The Fate of Architectural Theory in Albuquerque, N.M.: Buildings of Four Decades, 1920-60, Edna Heatherington Bergman UNM Thesis
- Albuquerque City Building Permits

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Albuq. West, N. Mex.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A

13	3	50	0	2	0
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3	8	8	3	6	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2 Block 1 Commercial Add. Albuquerque, New Mexico

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Brooker Historical Architect

organization Historic Landmarks Survey date July 31, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 1293 telephone 505/766/4720

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Thomas W. Mc...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-24-80

