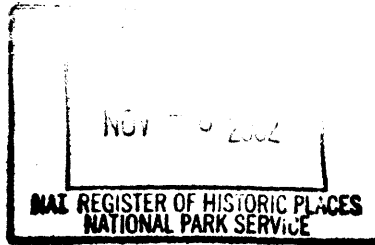


(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



1530

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Clayton Public Library  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** D.D. Monroe Civic Building

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 116 Walnut St.      **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Clayton      **VICINITY:** N/A  
**STATE:** New Mexico      **CODE:** NM      **COUNTY:** Union      **CODE:** 59      **ZIP CODE:** 88415

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this   x   nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property   x   meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide   x   locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Jan V Beall*

11/4/02  
Date

Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

*Jan V Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
12/20/02

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	1	0 OBJECTS
	2	0 TOTAL

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:**

Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico.

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION/library; SOCIAL/meeting hall = hall of fraternal organization; and SOCIAL/clubhouse = facility of social club.

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** SOCIAL/meeting hall = facility of social club; COMMERCE/organizational = non-profit association.

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Pueblo (Revival)

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS STONE; ADOBE; STUCCO  
ROOF WOOD; ASPHALT  
OTHER WOOD

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7).

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Social History, Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1939-1952

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1939

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Willard C. Kruger and J.M. Frame, architects; New Mexico WPA; Fred C. Healy, administrator, builder.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-12).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-13).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	662894	4035293

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 10-14)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** (see continuation sheet 10-14)

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** Kendyl K. Monroe with staff assistance from NM Historic Preservation Division

**ORGANIZATION:**

**DATE:** November 1, 2002

**STREET & NUMBER:** 189 Sayre Rd.

**TELEPHONE:** (505) 451-7454

**CITY OR TOWN:** Seneca      **STATE:** NM

**ZIP CODE:** 88415

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** Clayton 7.5 Minute Series U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map (see continuation sheet Map 10-15)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo 10-16)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** Town of Clayton, NM

**STREET & NUMBER:** 1 Chestnut St.

**TELEPHONE:** (505) 374-8331

**CITY OR TOWN:** Clayton      **STATE:** NM

**ZIP CODE:** 88415

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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### Description

Clayton Public Library is a two story building with a partially raised basement constructed in 1938-39 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The library is located near the center of Clayton, New Mexico. The library occupies most of the space on the minimally landscaped lot, which is located toward the center of a block of detached commercial buildings. The northeast and southwest property lines are defined by low stone walls. The library is rectangular in plan, approximately 69 feet by 32 feet, and executed in the Pueblo Revival style common to the other WPA projects in the town.

The symmetrical principal façade faces northwest and is horizontally divided into two sections, (Figure 7-1). The lower section is approximately two-thirds the height of the façade and projects forward from it. This section contains the centrally located main entrance, which is slightly setback from the sidewalk and elevated above it by a short flight of three stairs. The entrance is recessed into the lower section of the façade so that the set of double doors leading to a foyer is in the same plane as the upper section of the façade. An additional set of double doors, which opens to a staircase leading to the top floor of the building, is placed perpendicular to the main doors and occupies the left side of the recess. The upper section of the façade is dominated by three double-hung windows that are centrally grouped over the recessed entry.

The building has a flat roof with a continuous parapet, the base of which is slightly battered back from the plane of the walls. The library is constructed of structural stone masonry with adobe fill covered with stucco. Windows are uniformly 12 /12 double-hung sash on the first and second stories. The raised basement story contains a mix of 12-light and 6-light windows hinged to swing into the interior. A short flight of concrete stairs positioned perpendicular to the rear façade of the library leads up to a single door located in the southwest corner of the first story. Another short concrete staircase parallel with the foundation leads down to a door in the basement level. A chimney projecting from the middle of the west elevation of the building runs from the basement level to a point a few feet above the parapet.

The library is modestly detailed with Pueblo Revival features, all of which are specific to the principal façade. A heavy wood lintel supported by opposed single-ended corbels surmounts the tall recessed entry portico. Each corbel is composed of two individual beams. Above the entry lintel, the ends of eleven round *vigas* project from the façade. Each of the main entry doors is divided horizontally into two sections. The smaller lower section features a simple carved decorative panel. The taller upper section contains a large single pane of glass protected by a wood screen formed from six vertical carved spindles. A transom composed of 35 lights is positioned over the doors and is roughly equal to their width and height. The double doors leading to the second story are each formed of five horizontal panels. The exterior stucco is colored light brown. Wood elements, including the *vigas* and doors of the building are painted blue. Details on the doors are accented with white paint.

On the interior, the basement and first story are accessed from short flights of stairs located at opposite

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

ends of the foyer, (Figure 7-2). In the foyer, a pair of 9/9 double-hung windows positioned in the center of the wall facing the main entrance provides light to an alcove in the library reading room. The basement level consists of a rectangular meeting room with a simple stucco covered fireplace located in the middle of the west wall. A raised stage is positioned at the northwest end of the room in an alcove formed by the entry stairwell and a storage room. The southern end of the basement contains a kitchen flanked by men's and women's restrooms. The floor joists of the first floor have been left exposed resulting in a distinctive beamed ceiling in the basement, (Figure 7-3).

The first floor is composed of a large reading room accessed through French doors positioned at the top of the short flight of stairs leading from the foyer to the northwest corner of the reading room. The first floor has the same general shape as the basement. Built-in bookcases line the walls of the alcove formed by the entry stairwell and a cloakroom. A built-in circulation desk and counter divide the reading room from the stack room that formerly contained five book stacks arranged perpendicular to the southern end of the building. As with the basement meeting room, the library level features a beamed ceiling. All of the woodwork on the first floor is varnished, (Figure 7-4).

The second story is accessed from a dedicated staircase leading from the set of doors in the entrance portico. A long flight of stairs to the upper story occupies the first third of the northeast side of the building and terminates in a hall that runs the length of the building. A bathroom is located at the end of the hall in the northeast corner of the building. A door located toward the side of the hall leads into a large rectangular meeting room. A kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the building. Two storerooms flank the kitchen to the northeast.

The interior of the building retains the configurations originally indicated in blueprints prepared by the New Mexico WPA Architecture Department in 1938. Tables and chairs, designed in Spanish Colonial Revival style for the community room and produced as part of the local National Youth Administration (NYA) program contemporary with construction of the library remain in place. This collection consists of 49 chairs executed in two different styles, 2 armchairs, a sofa, one small tea table and one large library table with wrought iron braces connecting the rails between its legs with the tabletop. Forty-four chairs are in Style A, which features single spindles between the side seat rail and the stretcher, four spindles between the top and bottom back rails, which have gouged-carved decoration (photo 4). Twenty-four of the chairs executed in this style were personalized at the time of their construction with the first names or the initials of the members of the Rotary Club of Clayton on the backside of the top back rail. Five chairs are in Style B, which features gouged-carved decoration on the top front rail and the top and bottom back rails (photo 5). A table with two benches that was formerly located in the children's area of the library is now located in the 1975 building. The Herzstein Memorial Museum in Clayton retains two WPA paintings that were originally purchased for the library. These are Gillian Shannon's 1938 "Shu Shine Boy" and Pearl Keller's 1936 "Taos Street Scene." Both works are oil on board. The Herzstein Museum also retains two glass-front display cases and a vitrine table which were built by students in the Clayton High School woodworking program for the library. It is not known if the NYA program was

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National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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responsible for the production of these three pieces; however, they are considered to be contemporary with the opening of the library in 1940.

The construction of a new library building in Clayton in 1975 ended the long period of service of the WPA library building. Civic groups, however, continue to use the building for meetings, which is now known as the D.D. Monroe Civic Building. With the exception of missing lettering that once read "Public Library" on the lintel over the entrance and a smaller metal sign indicating the entry to the second floor meeting room, the exterior of the library appears much as it did when it first opened to the public. The blue paint is highly oxidized on the lintel and corbels and is nearly completely weathered from the projecting vigas and exterior window frames. Aside from recently installed sheet metal flashing capping the parapets and sheet metal downspouts, the exterior appearance of the building immediately recalls its period of construction and historic use. A number of windows have been broken due to weather and minor vandalism, and areas of loose paint indicate moisture problems around some windows and several areas of the roof. The Town of Clayton however, re-roofed the building a few years ago, which stopped moisture intrusion, and has recently leased the building to a local non-profit group that plans to make necessary repairs to ensure its structural integrity.

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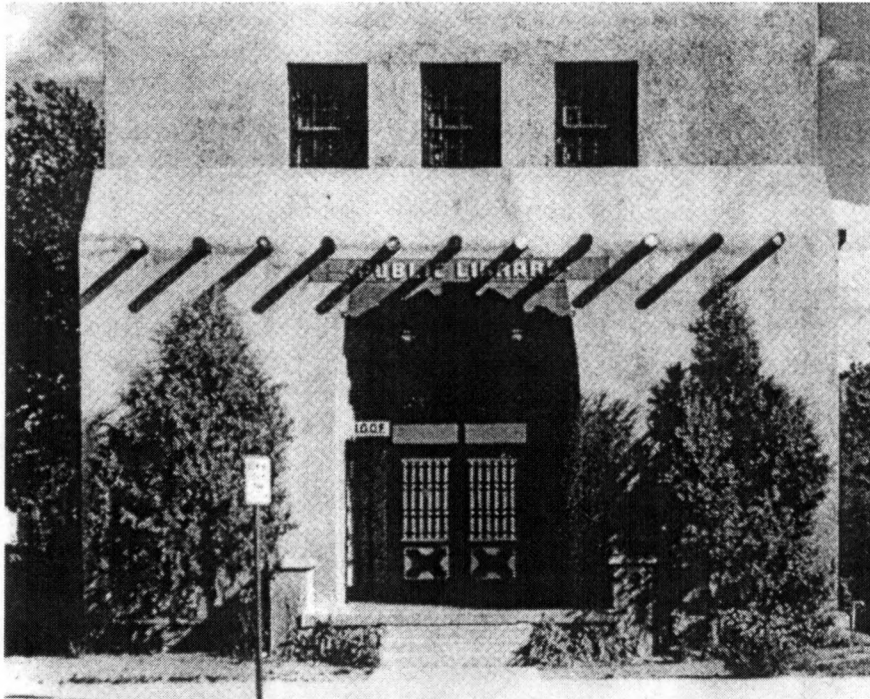
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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Figure 7-1 Historic photograph of north/main façade (undated, *Union County and Its People*: p 55).





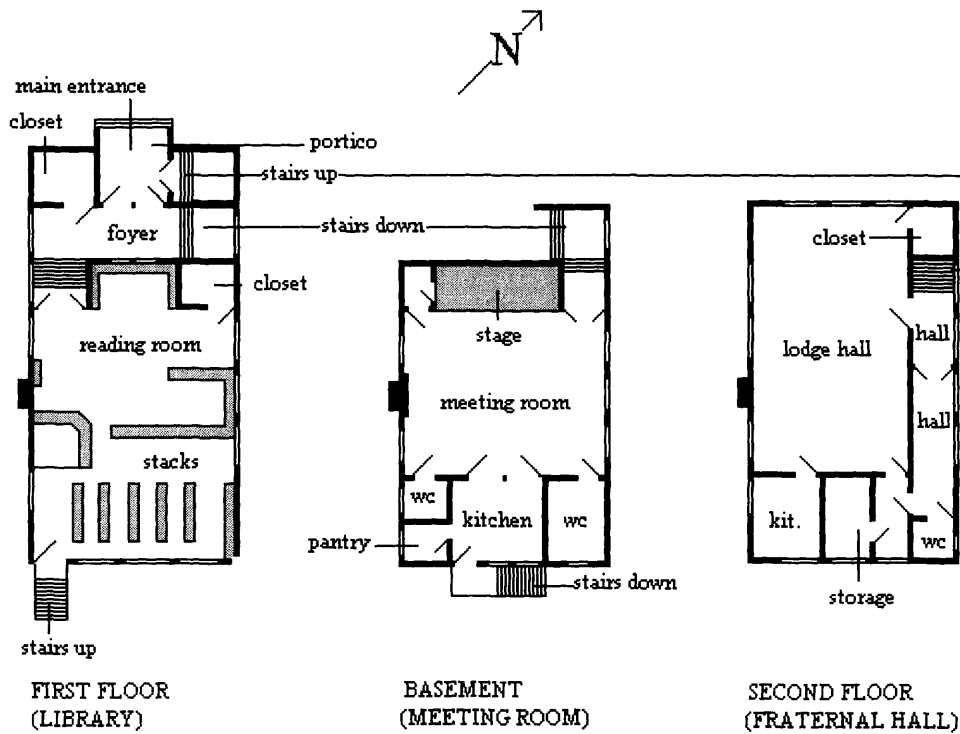
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

Figure 7-2 Floor Plans (not to scale).



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 10  
Mexico

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New

Figure 7-3 Interior, meeting room, basement (January 2002).



Figure 7-4 Interior, reading room, first floor (January 2002).



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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### Statement of Significance

Clayton Public Library was one of five major construction projects carried out in Clayton between 1935 and 1940 through the federal government's WPA program, which was designed to stimulate the depressed American economy. As outlined in the related multiple property listing, Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico, the Clayton Public Library and the town's other WPA projects bolstered a local economy weakened by the Depression and further devastated by the 1932-1937 drought, depreciated land values, chronic grasshopper infestations and substantial population loss. Clayton's library was the largest and most expensive of the eleven WPA library projects carried out in New Mexico between 1935 and 1941. Planned to serve the community as a civic center and fraternal organization hall as well as a library, the building is an excellent example of the way in which the New Deal's public works projects, in partnership with local government and civic groups, sustained small-town life in rural New Mexico. It is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with Clayton's social history and education during the New Deal. The building is also eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of the small number of New Deal libraries created in the state and the methods of construction, materials and workmanship that were employed to build and furnish them.

The WPA appropriated \$11,608 for construction of a library in Clayton on September 7, 1937. An initial set of plans conceived by Willard C. Kruger, head of the New Mexico WPA Architectural Department and drawn by John Windsor were prepared in January 1938. The plans featured a one-story building on a partially raised basement. A library space capable of housing 11,000 volumes was indicated for the upper floor, while a community or assembly room with a stage and kitchen facilities would occupy the basement. The Pueblo Revival style, which had been used by Kruger for the other WPA projects under his direction in Clayton, was also selected for the library. When the architect's drawings were displayed to the townspeople in the window of Smithson's Drug Store in February, The Union County Leader commented that the entrance had been "charmingly designed to give the building a home-like atmosphere."<sup>1</sup> By August, however, the plan had been extensively revised under the direction of J.M. Frame who replaced Kruger as head of the WPA Architectural Department. The design was expanded to accommodate a second floor and the entrance to the building reconfigured so that an internal staircase independent from the library and community room on the lower floors could lead directly to it.

These design changes are indicative of the longstanding commitment that had been made by several civic groups in Clayton to ensure the town would have an appropriate building for its library collection, which was first housed on shelves at the Clayton Produce Company and ultimately in the basement (undercroft) of the Methodist Church. In particular, the Twentieth Century Club, which was originally established as a women's home economic association, struggled to staff and maintain a regular schedule of hours for the fledgling public resource. Through the club's efforts, both the WPA and NYA were successfully lobbied for funding to provide

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<sup>1</sup> "Architects Display Drawings of Library Building." The Union County Leader, 17 Feb. 1938: 3.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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salaries respectively for a librarian and an assistant while the library was located at the Methodist Church. As soon as a local citizen, Alice Isaccs, donated land for the library, the Twentieth Century Club and the town were able to co-sponsor successfully the WPA construction appropriation. The success of these efforts encouraged the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs Lodge to establish headquarters at the new building, thus necessitating the addition of the second story to Kruger's original design.

Once finalized the erection of the library building proceeded at a fair pace in tandem with the other WPA projects under construction in the town. The Union County Leader reported that the land for the library had been cleared and excavated for the foundations was well underway in early February 1938. By August 1939, exterior painting and stuccowork was near completion, and in October the library collection was moved into the new building. More than 200 citizens attended the official opening of the library and community center on 18 February 1940, by which time WPA programs had also provided Clayton with an up-to-date secondary education complex, a new system of water mains, an addition to the light plant, hard surfacing on every street, a shallow well, and sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Through its labor intensive design involving the dressing and construction of structural stone masonry, stuccowork, Pueblo Revival detailing and locally crafted interior furnishings, the Clayton Public Library exemplifies the high level of workmanship and use of regional materials that typified New Deal construction projects in New Mexico.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 13

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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### Bibliography

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*Clayton News, The* (newspaper). Various issues, 1938-1940.

Harris, Linda G. *One Book at a Time: The History of the Library in New Mexico*. Albuquerque: New Mexico Library Foundation, 1998.

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Union County Historical Society, *Union County and Its People*. Dallas: Thompson Publishing, 1980.

*Union County Leader, The* (newspaper). Various issues, 1938-1940.

Watson, Alan "Mac". Cornerstones Community Partnerships. Interview, 12 March 2002.

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National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 14

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 14 and 16 of Block 1149 in the Original Town of Clayton, Union County, N.M.

### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Clayton Public Library.

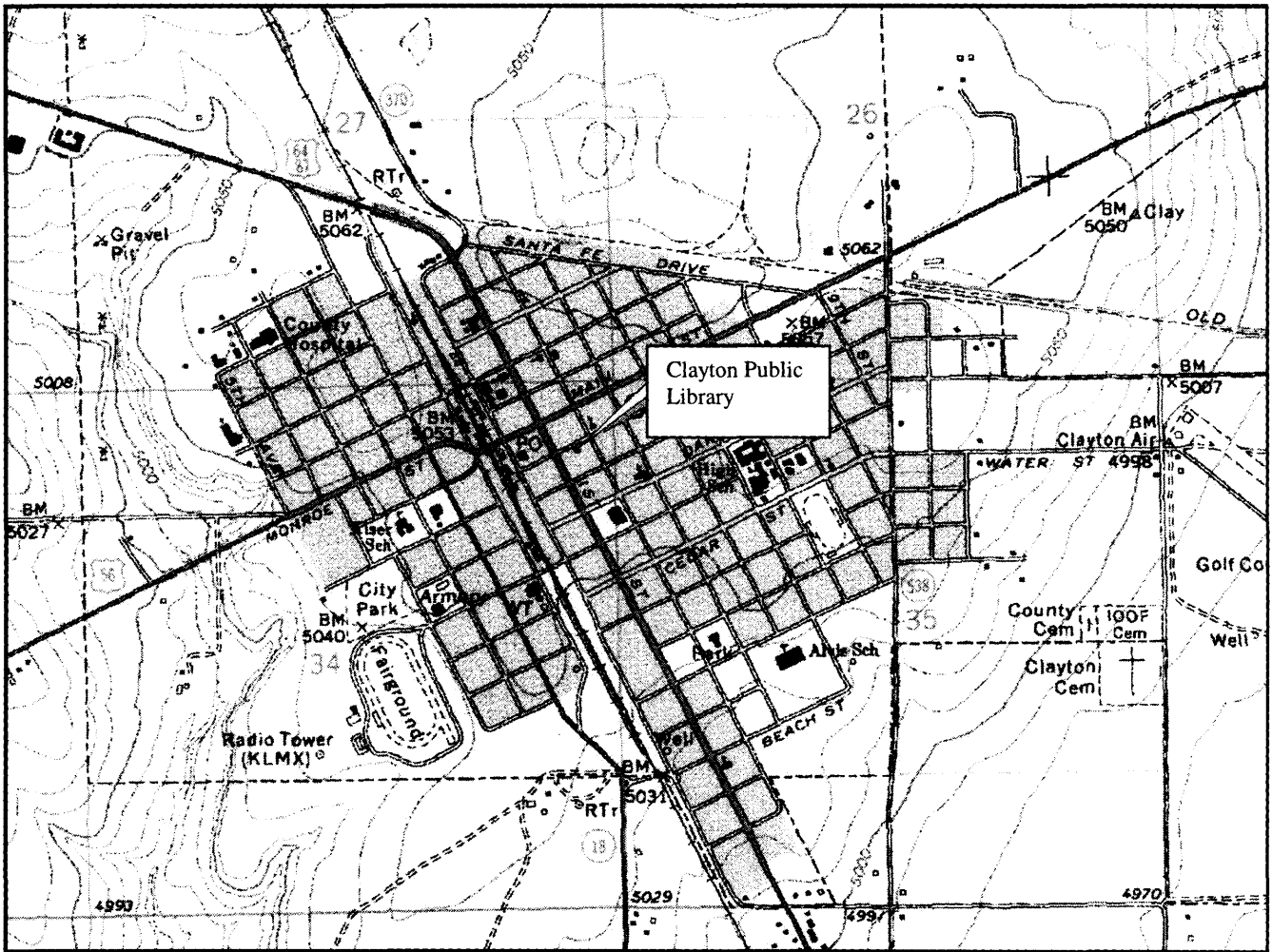
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 15

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

Detail, Clayton Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 16

Clayton Public Library  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

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### **PHOTO LOG**

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Clayton Public Library (D.D. Monroe Civic Building)  
116 Walnut St.  
Clayton, Union County, New Mexico  
Photographer: James Hare  
September 20, 2002  
Negatives located at Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe

Photo 1 of 5  
Northwest/main façade  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 5  
Northeast and southeast elevations  
Camera facing west

Photo 3 of 5  
Detail, main entrance  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 4 of 5  
NYA chair, style A, meeting room, basement

Photo 5 of 5  
NYA chair, style B, meeting room, basement