

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

AUG 8 1988

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

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1. Name

Graham Gymnasium

2. Location

street & number: Florida St., WNMU
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico code: 035
county: Grant code: NM-017

3. Classification

Category: Building
Ownership: Public
Status: Occupied
Present Use: Gymnasium

4. Owner of Property

name: Regents of Western New Mexico University
street & number: Western New Mexico University
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico

5. Location of legal Description

courthouse, etc.: Grant County Courthouse
street & number: Cooper and Broadway
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

On State Register of Historic Places.

7. Description

Condition: Fair

Description: Graham Gymnasium is a painted brick, modified California Mission Revival style building with a gabled roof with asphalt roof shingles and pedimented parapets at either end. Front windows are 4/2 hopper metal with ornamental iron gratings. Side windows are metal casement with 25 lites and a middle section of 6 lites that open inward and downward. Front and back entrances have double leaf wood panel doors in the center with two single leaf wood panel doors on each side. Each of the doors are set in recessed arches with large multilite transomes above each door. Back entrance has ornamental brick arches. Exterior details include ornamental brick cornice, raised Zia Sun symbol in brick above front entrance, grooved walls at basement level, and rounded rock stoops next to building. The gym is connected to a large physical education complex to the north and west built in 1977-78. Three sides of the original gymnasium remain intact: the north and south facades and the east side. The original gymnasium has a rectangular shape. The architect was John Gaw Meem.

8. Significance

Period: 1900-
Areas of Significance: Architecture
Dates: 1936
Builder/Architect: John Gaw Meem

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Statement of Significance Criterion C: Graham Gymnasium is one of six buildings on the Western New Mexico University campus built between 1906 and 1936 that make up the original campus. Graham Gymnasium is significant because it is the only building on campus designed by John Gaw Meem. John Gaw Meem deserves more credit than any other individual for the conservation, development and propagation of the southwestern regional style architecture, which finds its greatest expression in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. Meem is best known for his Pueblo Revival Style architecture; however, he excelled at adapting other architectural styles to have distinctly southwestern flavors. The Graham Gymnasium at WNMU and the Rogers Administration Building at New Mexico Highlands University are excellent examples. Meem is the only architect, other than George Williamson, to design buildings on three different New Mexico campuses. Graham Gymnasium was the first building at WNMU built with a modified California Mission Revival Style. The general appearance of the building is similar to the California Mission Revival Style; however, the details are distinctly Southwestern with indian-style patterns in the cornices and a zia symbol above the entry. Although there is a large addition on the west side of the building, enough of the original building has been left in tact for it to retain much of its architectural integrity. Graham Gymnasium has a unique quality in its mixed style that resulted from Meem's attempts to add a more Southwestern flavor to the architectural style on Western's campus.

9. Major Bibliographical References**10. Geographic Data**

Acreage: 2.0 acres
Quadrangle name & scale: Silver City Quadrangle; 1:24,000
UTM References:

Zone	Easting	Northing
12	754300	3629600

Verbal boundary description and justification: On the lands of Western New Mexico University from the SW corner of 12 St. and Florida St., proceed south 125 feet; turn SW and proceed 350 feet; turn SE and proceed 375 feet; turn NE and proceed 350 feet; turn NW and proceed 375 feet to the point of origin (note: this verbal boundary description is not a legal filed description for Graham Gymnasium. This description is the area around the building measured and described for the Historic Register generally using a landmark as a beginning and ending point for easier reference.).

11. Form Prepared By

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