

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000031 Date Listed: 2/20/91

<u>Hilton, August Holver, House</u>	Socorro	New Mexico
Property Name	County	State

Domestic Architecture in Socorro MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

<u>Patrick Andrus</u>	<u>2/20/91</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section Number 8

This nomination was amended to delete Commerce as an area of significance.

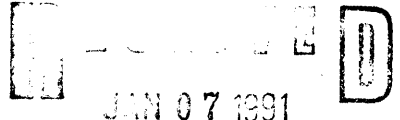
The deletion was confirmed by phone with the New Mexico SHPO (2/11/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hilton, August Holyer, House  
other names/site number ID#664 SR Site #631

2. Location

street & number 601 Park Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Socorro N/A vicinity  
state New Mexico code NM county Socorro code 053 zip code 87801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Domestic Architecture in Socorro, New Mexico, 1870-1912  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As  designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 12-28-90  
State or Federal agency and bureau: Historic Preservation Division

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 2/20/91  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visiblewalls concrete

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roof asphaltother wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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The Hilton House is a one and one-half story bungalow constructed of interlocking concrete blocks faced with a cast design resembling cut stone. The side gable roof with exposed rafters extends down over a porch which covers entire main facade. Centrally placed over the porch is a low shed-roofed dormer with three sets of paired windows which open onto a small balcony surrounded by a railing. The second floor exterior walls under the side gables have been stuccoed gray.

The front porch is bounded by a low wall constructed of the same decoratively faced concrete block that is the principle building material of the house. At the ends of the wall rise slightly higher bases of the same block for the four plain, square, wooden posts which support the porch. The centrally-placed entrance door is flanked by side lites. On either side of the entrance are sets of three long and narrow windows, the upper halves of which are divided into six panes, three over three. At the rear of the house, a one-story porch with a shed roof extends along the entire west facade.

The house has not been significantly altered. In the 1940s the south half of the screened back porch was glazed to create a washroom. More recently for reasons of safety, a tenant placed a wrought-iron railing around the balcony of the dormer on the main facade. The roof has been covered with asphalt shingles.

A garage constructed of the same cast concrete block as the house lies behind the house at the northwest corner of the property.

The Hilton House is in excellent condition and well conveys its historic associations.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This dwelling is architecturally significant as an example of one of the few bungalows built in Socorro in the early twentieth century aftermath of the mining boom by a man who had prospered as a merchant and mine owner in that boom.

The house was built by A.H. Hilton in 1912, a few years after the family had lived briefly in southern California. Hilton who was the father of Conrad Hilton, founder to the chain of Hilton hotels, had been a successful merchant in San Antonio. In 1910 when Helen, the youngest of the eight Hilton children was four years old, the Hilton family moved from San Antonio eleven miles north to Socorro. They first rented a yellow-colored house while their new home was being built, (Helen Hilton, interview). After the elder Hilton's death in 1919, the house remained in the Hilton family until his widow sold it in 1941 to Michel Harriet, (Conron and Lent).

Born in Norway in 1856, Hilton had emigrated to Iowa at the age of about ten. Shortly after the railroad was built, he come to New Mexico. After brief stays in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Socorro, he settled in San Antonio. San Antonio was an important rail stop because a bridge across the Rio Grande provided the only access to the A.T. & S.F. for a vast section of southeastern New Mexico. Hilton engaged in mining and prospecting without success and quarried rock for the stamp mill which was built by the Torrence Mining Company.

Hilton eventually established a store across the road from the railroad station. In 1884 he sent to Iowa for Holm Olaf Bursum, his sister's son, to join him. A year later he married Mary Laufersweiler, the daughter of a successful merchant in Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1887, their first son and second of eight children, Conrad Hilton, was born. With each new child a new room was added to the family adobe home adjoining the store.

Hilton prospered in the mercantile business. He also owned a freight line of fifty teams that hauled goods to interior towns. He owned the Carthage coal mines for a time and had extensive land holdings, the main products of which were fruit

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	3	3	2	5	2	6	0	3	7	6	9	2	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Corinne P. Sze  
organization Research Services of Santa Fe date November 1, 1990  
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605  
city or town Santa Fe state NM zip code 87501

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and alfalfa. A staunch democrat and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Hilton was active in civic affairs in San Antonio and at the county level. He was the first postmaster of San Antonio, a post he held for eleven years, and served as a Socorro county commissioner. Governor George Curry (1907-1910) made him a colonel. In 1907 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the School of Mines.

According to Conrad Hilton, the sale of the Carthage mines in 1904 for \$110,000 made his father one of the richest men in the Territory, (Hilton, Guest, 60). The family moved to Long Beach, California where the youngest child, Helen, was born in 1906. However, a year later Hilton's finances suffered when he found himself with a big inventory of merchandise he had not yet paid for but could not sell as a result of the panic of 1907. The family moved back to San Antonio and opened the large rambling adobe home as a hotel for guests (Guest, 68-69)

Prosperity soon returned and the hotel could be abandoned. Conrad Hilton took over the management of the San Antonio store and the Hiltons with their children who were still at home moved to Socorro. Mary Hilton desired the move to be nearer schools, social advantages, and a church, there being no resident priest at San Antonio. The oldest daughter taught grammar school and two younger Hilton children were pupils. In 1919 Gus Hilton was killed in an automobile accident. Mary Hilton died in 1947 at the age of eighty-five. Both of the elder Hiltons are buried in Socorro.

Architecturally the house represents the continuing importation of new styles into Socorro in the early years of the twentieth century. Hilton, who had prospered from the region's the mining boom, built a home in the California bungalow style which he had most likely encountered during his brief time living in Long Beach. The scarcity of bungalows in Socorro may reflect the limited number of new buildings constructed in the waning years of Socorro's prosperity.

The Hilton House was listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Places on March 31, 1978.

The Period of Significance, 1912, is the construction date.

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Christiansen, Paige W. Socorro County Historical Society Publications in History, III. Socorro, New Mexico, 1967.

Conron and Lent, Architects. "Hilton House," Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A (revised), 1978.

Dabney, Thomas Ewing. The Man Who Bought the Waldorf. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950.

Garner/Hicks Architects. Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A. "Historic Resources of Socorro, New Mexico." (draft) 1982.

Hilton, Conrad N. Be My Guest. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1957.

Illustrated History of New Mexico. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1895.

### Interviews

Rosemary Hilton Carpenter, 9/21/90

Mary Louise Dillard, 9/21/90

Alice Duquet, 11/13/90

Helen Hilton, 9/21/90

Ann Olsen, 9/20/90

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of the property (the southwest corner of Park and Baca Streets), proceed west 154 feet along the north boundary of the property to the northwest corner of the property; then proceed south 84 feet to the southwest corner of the property; then proceed east 105 feet, south 15 feet, and east 41 feet to the southeast corner of the property; finally proceed 116 feet north to the starting point.

Boundary Justification

No lot and block numbers are available for this property. The legal description on file with the county assessor encompasses nearly three and one half acres of land upon which two other main houses, not historically connected with the Hilton house, have been built. The VBD represents the tract that the present owner plans to include with the house when it is sold as an individual property. The irregularity of the south boundary is determined by the proximity of another dwelling. When a formal survey is drawn it can be added to the documentation of the property.



HILTON  
HOUSE

