

**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 McCanna-Hubbell Building

and/or common Albuquerque Gas & Electric Co. Building, Public Service Building

2. Location

street & number 418-424 Central, SW _____ not for publication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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mr. Michael McCoun, 5th Central Partnership

street & number 905 Silver Avenue, S.W.

city, town Albuquerque _____ vicinity of state New Mexico 87102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Records

street & number 505 Central, NW

city, town Albuquerque _____ state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Albuquerque Today has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 11/78 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Historic Survey of Albuquerque, c/o Redevelopment Planning,
P.O. Box 1203

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1914-1915 at a cost of \$19,000 the McCanna-Hubbell Building is a two story structure and occupies the SE corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street in Albuquerque's historic downtown. It was designed for use as the main offices and headquarters for the old Albuquerque Gas Electric Light and Power Company which dates to the coming of the railroad in 1880-1881. It also offered retail space on its ground floor and further office space on its upper floor. The 10,650 square foot building featured large cast iron ground floor display windows that extended the entire length of Central Avenue and around the corner along Fifth Street. These were later obscured during the Public Service Company of New Mexico's "modernization" of the building in 1946. What makes the McCanna-Hubbell building such a local landmark is the richly decorative pressed metal cornice (that originally incorporated night time lighting) and the unusual porthole window details that cap both street elevations. The bold display windows and the elaborate cornice are not unlike those seen on Bracketed Syle or Railroad Commercial styles of architecture. More typically, the McCanna-Hubbell building borrows from a later Decorative Brick Style of design that emphasized flat rooflines, concrete trim and transomed first floor windows.

The McCanna-Hubbell Building is constructed with pressed brick and is supported by load bearing exterior walls and an interior post and beam system. Its upper floor elevations include a procession of tall and narrow double hung windows with smooth concrete lug sills and lintels separated by grooved pilasters that are regularly spaced. In these grooves and along the metal cornice above were located the exterior lighting system. Round screened portholes are framed by fluted abbreviated capitals which top the brick pilasters. There is a bracketed metal roof overhang that, along with the entire cornice below and the grooved pilasters still further below, housed over 600 light sockets that received 2 1/2 Watt-12 Volt bulbs. Historical photographs give us a picture of an imposing and impressive sight at night as the McCanna-Hubbell Building became an advertisement for its original occupants.

On the ground floor, the original large display windows have been obscured by the 1946 remodelling which covered the I beams and iron posts that supported them. New metal columns and window frames were installed and the transom windows were covered by plastic panels with a reflective surface. The Central Avenue facade was also painted white at this time. On the Fifth Street ground level, there were originally 13 narrow full length windows, three basement half windows and three doors one of which was used by the Company manager as a private entrance. The three basement windows and part of the wrap-around display windows have been bricked over and one of the entrances has been converted into a window. The rear alley facade, constructed of softer common brick, has suffered extensive water damage due to blockage of the main roof drain. A portion of the rear facade still carries an auto station sign painted on the brick, an indication of the time in the 1920's when the building had both a front and rear usage. Alley windows in the McCanna-Hubbell Building are set under segmental arches and form, with a variety of service entrances and previous window openings now bricked in, a complex and uncoordinated rear facade. To the east in the rear the building steps down to one story along a party wall which allows light to enter the upper floor. Two original brick chimneys are still visible in the rear of the building.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1915

Builder/Architect Builder: E.A. Gertig

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McCanna-Hubbell Building was intended to be a landmark structure from its inception. As the original downtown headquarters of the Albuquerque Gas Electric Light and Power Company (later to become the Public Service Company of New Mexico) the building was known for its dramatic night time exterior lighting, its large showroom of electrical and home related appliances and its whimsical porthole cornices. As an advertisement for the glamour and vitality of electricity in an era of prosperous growth it was unparalleled in the city. The building's inventive design has been recognized in recent redevelopment proposals which have paid particular attention to uncovering the original cast iron display windows and to restoring the 1915 exterior lighting system.

Built by Frank Hubbell, a sheep and cattle raiser with entrepreneurial interests in real estate, the brick structure stands five blocks west of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Its location was part of the downtown's westward expansion during the first two decades of the century. E.A. Gertig, a local builder who specialized in brick work and who most probably learned his trade in the midwest, was the contractor. The building's architect remains unknown yet the imaginative detailing and subtle proportions suggest one was involved in the design. The McCanna-Hubbell Building's original occupants included an auto service station and a mortgage company in its eastern one story portion. This address later housed other auto related business all of which faced the building's rear, an electrical supply store, a Navajo Indian curio store and a jewelry business. Up to 100 people were employed by the Albuquerque Gas Electric Light and Power Company by 1924 and the manager, two utility supervisors and an accountant occupied offices at 422-424 Central Avenue, SW. The main showroom at A.G. & E. Co. sold a variety of appliances, and included a receiving counter where accounts and complaints were attended to. At night the entire ground floor remained lit. The McCanna Agency was co-owner of the building and managed it. Until 1930, when the Federal Building was completed nearby, various government offices were located upstairs including the Civilian Conservation Corps, the local office of the State's Department of Public Welfare, and later the U.S. Department of Interior's Grazing Services. After World War II the Public Service Company of New Mexico was formed, consolidating what had been A.G. & E. Co. with Deming Ice and Electric, Las Vegas Light and Power, and New Mexico Power Company of Santa Fe. In 1946 the McCanna-Hubbell Building was extensively remodelled in an attempt to modernize the Public Service Company's image. Automatically controlled electric doors were installed (a first for New Mexico) and the old two story sign on Central Avenue was replaced. Since the Public Service Company vacated the building in 1968, it has been used as a 98¢ Store, a legal clinic and artists' studios upstairs.

The McCanna-Hubbell Building also contributes to an important downtown intersection where examples of different architectural styles from the first four decades of the century are represented. Across Central Avenue is the unique KiMo Theatre, a property that has been placed on the National Register and named a City Landmark. Together they were part of a spectacle of lights

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albuquerque City Directories
Abstract of Title

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Interviews with Ralph Loken-Public Service Co. of New Mexico, Jim McCanna-P.F. McCanna Inc.
The Hubbell-McCanna Building: A Project for R. Whitt-Pritchett by J. Wilson & B. Pratt,
April 15, 1978

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property .22 acre

Quadrangle name Albuquerque-west

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A

1	3	3	4	9	4	0	0	3	8	8	3	4	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 12, 11, and 10 of Block 18 of the New Mexico original Townsite Addition (NMT Addition)

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Norton, Historical Architect

organization Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque date May 20, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 1293 telephone (505) 766-4720

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico 87103

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

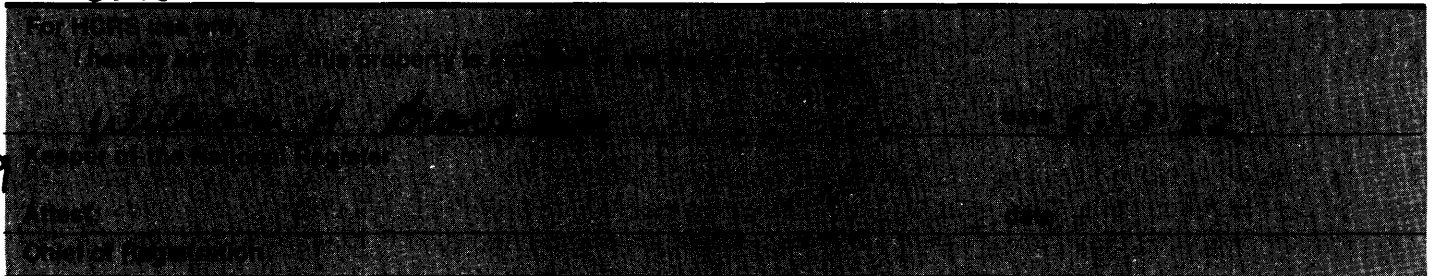
national state local

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-9-82



FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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for the passing tourist on old Route 66, the main east-west highway prior to the interstate system. In a state which is heavily involved with the development of energy sources, the McCanna-Hubbell Building is a reminder of a time when coal was shipped by freight car from the nearby mining communities of Madrid and Cerrillos, converted into gas at a trackside plant and piped into city homes, and when electricity was prominently displayed as its own best civic advertisement.