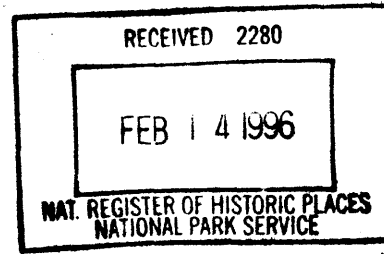


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Raton Junior-Senior High School  
other names/site number Raton Middle School

2. Location

street & number 500 S. 3rd St.  not for publication  
city or town Raton  vicinity  
state New Mexico code NM county Colfax code 007 zip code 87740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 2/7/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
New Mexico SHPO  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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.) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action  
Edson A. Beall 3/15/96

Raton Middle School  
Name of Property

Colfax, NM  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

in (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Hist. & Architectural Resources of the New Deal:NM

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne/modernistic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof asphalt  
other concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Raton Middle School  
Name of Property

Colfax, NM  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 values, 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history  
 education  
 architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1939-1943  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1939  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Willard C. Kruger  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Raton Middle School  
Name of Property

Colfax, NM  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 15497110 14083450
- 2. 111 11111111 11111111
- 3. 111 11111111 11111111
- 4. 111 11111111 11111111

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Kammer, Ph.D  
 organization contract historian date Sept. 30, 1995  
 street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586  
 city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic district and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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Raton Junior-Senior High School  
Colfax County, NM

Description

Raton Middle School, historically known as Raton Junior-Senior High School, is a two-story, rectilinear building with a partially excavated basement, a steel frame, and a flat asphalt roof. It employs modest elements of what architectural journals of the time referred to as the Modernistic Style. Its walls are of textured brick, rise to a parapet topped by a concrete coping, and are broken by large grouped windows. The facade is stepped and symmetrical with a large recessed entry. The building employs a modified "H" plan with classrooms flanking the wings of the main corridor and a large gymnasium/auditorium located at the rear of the central portion of the building. Flanking the rear of the auditorium are the manual arts shops and the swimming pool. A music department was added to the northwest corner of the building in 1970 but, located at its rear corner, does not detract from the historic appearance of the building. Set on a residential street on the site of the previous Raton High School, the building is in good condition and conveys the feeling a large PWA school project.

Unlike the eight and ten-roomed grade schools built as other New Deal projects in Raton, Raton Middle School was built as a large high school with multiple facilities. Its modernistic facade with its uniform textured brick surface and large groupings of 2/2 double-hung aluminum framed windows set above red brick sills conveys the scale of the building. So, too, does the stepping of the facade with its large projection at the entry and the classrooms flanking it at either end of the building. All of the entries are recessed with double doors. The side entries are reached by wide concrete stairways and are framed by concrete piers. The main entry, opening onto the central corridor near the school's administrative offices, consists of two alcoves framed by stylized concrete piers with fluting and terra cotta detailing in the panels above the alcoves.

The gymnasium/auditorium located in the rear center of the building links the front portion of the building to the specialized spaces in the rear of the building. Access to the gym is from a corridor paralleling it on the south side and from a

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

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Raton Junior-Senior High School  
Colfax County, NM

Description (continued)

corridor in the rear portion of the building. A stage faces west across the gym floor toward a balcony that seats 1,000. The gymnasium/auditorium walls are broken with large groupings of metal-framed fixed and hopper windows.

The rear wing of the building consists of the manual arts shops located in the southwest corner and the swimming pool in the northwest corner. In 1970 an addition housing the music department was added at the northwest corner. This addition also has textured brick walls and conforms to the appearance of the original building. In the central lobby a plaque identifies the building as PWA project completed in 1939. Raton voters approved a bond issue in 1994 that will permit renovation of the school's heating, and electrical systems and the renovation of bathrooms while retaining the historical integrity of the building.

Statement of Significance

Raton Middle School, historically known as Raton Junior-Senior High School, is a Public Works Administration (PWA) project begun in 1938 and completed in 1939. One of several school projects completed in Raton by the New Deal, it was constructed as a part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program. A good example of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the welfare of a local community by creating much-needed jobs, the project also resulted in bringing much-needed improvement to the community's educational facilities. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with Raton's social history and education during the New Deal. Raton Middle School is also eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the plans, methods of construction, materials and workmanship New Deal projects employed in carrying out hundreds of school construction projects in New Mexico.

Raton's earlier high school, named Colfax County High School, had been constructed on the same site in 1914 with a

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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Raton Junior-Senior High School  
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

gymnasium, funded in part by the contributions of private citizens, added in 1918. By the late 1920s, Raton's schools were overcrowded to the degree that the system rented private homes to house some classes. In the summer and fall of 1938 a series of coordinated efforts funded by various New Deal programs helped the city to realize its goal of building a new high school. First a WPA project was authorized to demolished the old high school. In addition to clearing the site for the new high school, the project sought to salvage bricks, plumbing fixtures, windows and floor joists from the old building for use in two other WPA projects funded to construct two new grade schools.

By late 1938 the city had sold school construction bonds totaling \$150,000, had qualified for a \$90,000 PWA grant, and had hired W.C. Kruger, the head of the New Mexico WPA architectural staff who had grown up in Raton, to prepare plans for the new high school. Kruger, who prepared standard plans adaptable to the needs of individual school districts across the state, presented a plan that met the town's requirements of a "modern up-to-date public school" including the "essential auxiliary" of a swimming pool. Perhaps because of the town's separation from the Rio Grande heartland of the state, perhaps because of its long tradition of building with brick, specifically requested in the case of the Colombian School (1939), Kruger shifted from the Spanish-Pueblo Style he used in school projects in other communities and drew plans incorporating the modernistic elements.

By February, 1939 workers had excavated the sloping site and power hammers supplied by the AT&SF Railway had driven the building's steel frame. Although the contractor for the project was K.L. House of Albuquerque, the workers and the subcontractors came from Raton, providing a major stimulation to the local economy. Six months later work on the high school was nearing completion. Since the project costs exceeded the budget, the PWA made an additional grant of \$13,000, and Raton sold \$45,000 of additional school bonds to complete the manual arts rooms and swimming pool in 1940.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 4

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Raton Junior-Senior High School  
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

In August, 1939 when local Rotarians visited the school just before it opened, they found that the new facilities marked a step forward for education in Raton. Discreet chemistry and biology labs were located on the second floor; in the rear wing was a soundproof band room as well as a model home for the home economic students to learn housekeeping. Linking the two wings was an auditorium that could seat almost 3,000 people.

PWA projects, although often requiring more construction skills than the usually more labor-intensive WPA projects, were also designed to create jobs for unemployed workers. That emphasis on labor-intensive workmanship associated with most New Deal projects is evident in Raton Middle School particularly with its extensive use of brick masonry, cast stone and concrete and its ornate entries.

Bibliography

Raton Education History (Vertical File). Courtesy of Richard Azar, Librarian, Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton.

Raton Range. Various issues, 1938-1940.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-12 and 17-24 of Block 36 of the Original Town Site of Raton

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Raton Middle School.