

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 29 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Eller Apartments

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 113-127 <sup>8th</sup> ~~Eighth~~ St. SW \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Albuquerque \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: multifamily units with law offices

4. Owner of Property

name Raymond G. Sanchez and Reginald Garcia

street & number 115 8th St. SW

city, town Albuquerque \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state New Mexico 87102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Tax Assessor

street & number 505 Central NW

city, town Albuquerque \_\_\_\_\_ state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1979; June, 1983 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Planning & Redevelopment Division, Community & Economic Development Dept.

city, town Albuquerque \_\_\_\_\_ state New Mexico

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(slightly)	

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Eller Apartment block (built 1922) is a two-story red brick C-shaped building located at the western edge of downtown Albuquerque just south of Central Avenue, the city's main street. To the south and west are small houses and more recent apartments. Designed on a north-south axis, the building's symmetrical front facade faces east toward the business district. The front is divided into three bays separated by screened wood porches; the bays are topped by a flat parapet broken by a peaked brick gable above each of the three main entrances. The building's west facade, which is equally symmetrical, is a row of narrow two-story frame back entry porches projecting from the back wall of the center section of the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

<b>For NPS use only</b>
received
date entered

Continuation sheet      Description      Item number      7      Page      1

Decorative accents on the main facade are few and effective. A brick corbel tops the front wall of each bay highlighting the juncture of the parapet and the building wall. A simple white medallion bearing the inscription "Eller" is centered over the entrance to the central stairway. This use of contrasting white elements is continued in the cement sills and lintels at the windows and in the cap on the brick stair railings. The woodwork on the porches, balconies and hoods over the north and south front entry doors is also white. The small balconies front the four double French doors which are placed on each story on either side of the front entry. The balcony railings are diagonally crossed boards which provide a striking visual accent to the ensemble.

Doors and windows on the building are original and predominantly of one type. Most of the windows are paired 1/1 wood sash; narrow 1/1 wood windows flank the French doors and small wood four-light windows are placed on either side of the north and south front doors. These entry doors and those connecting the apartments with the screened porches are solid dark wood with a window on the upper half. This window is divided by four muntins, the horizontal muntins placed near the top and bottom of the glass. The center door is also solid wood with a narrow transom above. Every front entrance is reached by a short series of concrete steps with capped solid brick railings.

The west facade - the "inside" of the C - was designed as a service area with frame screened entry porches and glassed-in sleeping porches. The entry to the basement apartment, formerly tenant washrooms, is located in the northeast corner of the rear.

Besides this basement apartment there are twelve apartments in the building, the number for which it was designed. All have sleeping porches and eight have front screened porches. The four central apartments each have a French door opening to the small balconies mentioned above. All the apartments retain their original cabinetry, woodwork and room divisions. The south foyer has been altered and the southernmost first story screened porch has been glassed in. Otherwise, nothing else on the building has been altered.

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

**Specific dates** 1922 **Builder/Architect** Arch.:Henry C. Trost;Bldr: E.J.Marcha

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eller Apartment building is significant in the state; it is, as far as we know, the only remaining apartment building in New Mexico designed by Henry C. Trost, the best known architect in the southwest during the first quarter of the 20th century. Although the building is modest in scale in comparison to Trost's major buildings in Albuquerque (see below) and break no new ground architecturally, it clearly shows his sure use of proportion and appropriate detail. It has been hardly altered and is one of only five remaining apartment buildings in the city built before 1925.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 1

Henry Trost, who lived in El Paso and did a large proportion of his work there, designed many of Albuquerque's premier buildings, among them the Occidental Life Insurance Co. Building (listed on the National Register 1/30/78), the First National Bank (National Register listing 2/2/79), the Franciscan Hotel (demolished 1972), the Berthold Spitz House (National Register listing 12/22/77) and the Sunshine Building. Lloyd and June Marie Engelbrecht note in their recent book on Trost that during his lifetime "Trost's buildings were found to be models of 'structural proportion,'" and this quality is clearly evident in the Eller Apartments. Its straightforward symmetry, well-handled detailing and generously-designed apartments mark it as an excellent example of Trost's small building design.

A collection of drawings, plans and photographs of Trost's buildings is now at the El Paso Public Library and a list of the New Mexico buildings in this collection was compiled by the library staff in 1983. Although the list is not comprehensive (the Spitz House and the Sunshine Building are omitted for example), it is the most complete record available of Trost buildings in the state. Three apartments are listed, all in Albuquerque; of these only one - the Eller Apartments - is represented by a photograph. The other two are concept drawings and neither is still standing, if ever built.

The apartments were commissioned in 1922 by Dr. C.E. Eller, a prominent local dentist, and completed that year. Construction was by E.J. Marchant who later built several major projects including the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, and the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Harwood School in Albuquerque. The apartments were apparently popular from the date of opening; few, if any, vacancies are recorded in the city directories after its first listing in 1923. An important tenant in its first year of use was outgoing New Mexico Governor M.C. Mechem who had moved to Albuquerque to start a law practice in the city. His partner later also lived in one of the apartments. The majority of the tenants were business owners or managers.

The building was sold to the Matteucci family in 1963. They recently sold it to the current owner who plans to convert the building into offices.