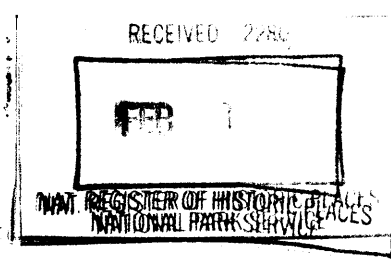


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 an 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 Cactus Motor Lodge
other names/site number Cactus RV-Park

2. Location

street & number 1316 E. Tucumcari Boulevard N/A not for publication
city or town Tucumcari N/A vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Quay code 037 zip code 88401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Katherine Slick 02 February 2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 of the Keeper Linda McCulland Date of Action 3/21/06

Cactus Motor Lodge
Name of Property

Quay County, New Mexico
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

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

*The Historic and Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through New Mexico*

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel (motel)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation
(recreational vehicle park)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Pueblo (Revival); OTHER

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STUCCO; SYNTHETICS (artificial stone)

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description
(See Section 7-5 through 7-11)

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.

Criteria Considerations N/A

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1941- 1955

Significant Dates

1941; 1952

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See Section 8-12 through 8-19).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(See Section 9-20).

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency National Park Service
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Cactus Motor Lodge
Name of Property

Quay County, New Mexico
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property App. 3 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 617440 3892834
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(See Section 10-21).

Boundary Justification

((See Section 10-21).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Teresa Douglass
organization Thomason and Associates date November 8, 2005
street & number 1907 21st Ave. S. telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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 (see attached *Tucumcari, N. Mex 7.5-minute series topographic map.*)

A **Sketch map** (see Figure 7-1).

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property (see Photo-22 through Photo-23).

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Andy and Sue Patel
street & number 1316 E. Tucumcari Blvd. Telephone 505-461-2501
city or town Tucumcari state NM zip code 88401

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Description

The Cactus Motor Lodge is a U-shaped motel complex built in 1941 on the south side of U.S. 66 in the town of Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico. The motel consists of four buildings, which are of hollow core tile construction with an exterior of stucco updated in 1952 with artificial stone. The U-shape is formed by three motel wings on the on the east, west and south. The west wing consists of sixteen motel units and the east wing has two units. The south wing has six units but this wing has been altered in recent years through the removal of two of the garage bays. The fourth building in the complex is the office, which was originally a dance hall. A c.1950 sign missing its neon tubing is considered a noncontributing structure. Despite the removal of a pool and landscaped grounds in the 1980s, and the somewhat deteriorated condition of the individual motel units, the Cactus Motor Lodge retains sufficient integrity to communicate its historical significance.

Setting

Situated approximately 40 miles west of the Texas border, Tucumcari is part of the high desert area of this state at an elevation of just over 4,000 feet. Tucumcari, the county seat of Quay County, supports a population of around 6,000 residents. Five miles of U.S. 66 extended through the Tucumcari area in the mid-20th century along what is now known as Tucumcari Boulevard. The Cactus Motor Lodge is located along this stretch of road as are a number of other motels, restaurants and souvenir shops.

Motel Units

Built in 1941, Cactus Motor Lodge is a U-shaped motel complex of three separate buildings built with poured concrete foundations, stucco exteriors and sloping roofs of wood and rolled asphalt (Figure 7-1). The stucco exteriors of the west and south wings on their main facades were updated with Perma-Stone, an imitation stone concrete material in 1952 (Photos 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6). The original office was located at the north end of the west wing but was converted into a motel unit by the early 1950s (Photo 7).

Approximately half of the motel units were built with adjacent enclosed garages (Photo 8). Each individual motel unit has an original wood door (Photo 9). At each entrance is a wrought iron stair with the inset design of a cactus and sleeping man with sombrero (Photo 10). Windows are original paired three-light steel casement design with two-light steel transoms (Photo 11). The windows have original concrete sills and above are Perma-Stone lintels. Below the roofline is evidence of the original vigas of the earlier Pueblo Revival appearance, however, most of the vigas have been removed and concrete added to seal their openings. In front of the windows are ca. 1980 shed roof canopies with asphalt shingles supported by wood posts. Some windows also have three-light sidelights. Most garage bays have ca. 1970 wood replacement doors. The garage next to Room 4 was enclosed with Perma-Stone in 1952. A concrete sidewalk connects all of the rooms and concrete ribbons lead into the garage bays. The rear and side facades of the motel units

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

retain their original stucco exteriors and three-light steel casement windows with opaque glass. Many of the windows have been temporarily covered with wood panels.

The south wing has seven units, which originally had four garages. The two garages between Rooms 20 and 21 have been razed in recent years. Across the width of Room 16 is a frame canopy with wood posts. Room 16 also has a ca. 1970 wood door and the garage bay to the east was enclosed for either storage or another room now not used. These rooms also have original vertical board doors and paired three-light sidelights and four-light transoms.

Connecting the west and south wings at the southwest corner of the complex are two units added ca. 1960 with concrete block exteriors. These two rooms (25 and 26) have original solid wood doors and original three-light steel casement windows with three-light transoms.

The east wing of the complex retains its original exterior stucco surface (Photo 5). It contains two units, each with a garage and original vertical board doors. In front of Room 22 is a shed roof porch supported by round wood posts added ca. 1980. Windows on the front façade are original twelve-light steel casement design with structural glass block sidelights. The central panel is of four-lights and is fixed while the two four-light side panels are operable. Above the windows are three-light transoms.

Interior

The interiors of the motel units have wood floors with added carpeting, original stucco walls and stucco ceilings (Photo 12). Some units connect via arched openings such as Room 8 (Photo 13). This room also has a kitchenette with an original counter and sink. Bathrooms have original fixtures with tile floors, yellow tile walls with black trim, and tile ceilings (Photo 14-15). Most rooms measure 16'-9" deep and 11' in width. Baths are 7'-6" in length and 4' deep. Some baths are original and retain walls with green tile and black trim.

Office

The fourth building is at the northeast corner of the complex and originally contained a dance hall. Local tradition claims that the owners allowed for gambling in the basement and that an underground tunnel led to an outside exit in the event of a police raid.¹ This building later was converted into the motel office/manager's residence and laundry facilities (Photo 6). This building has a gable and hipped roof of asphalt shingles and Perma-Stone exterior. On the main façade of the building is an expanded canopy supported by steel posts which was added as a drive-thru bay ca. 1955 (Figure 7-3) This drive-thru bay is now missing its roof. The main façade of the office has four display windows and a central aluminum and glass door. Doors on the other facades of the building are ca. 1960 solid wood design. Windows are original three-light casement design and twelve-light casement steel design with four-light transoms. The central six-

¹ Andy Patel, Personal Interview, 2 May 2005.

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

lights are fixed and the two three-light panels are operable. Windows on the east façade are nine-light steel design with three-light transoms. The west façade has an enclosed storage area added ca. 1980. The interior was remodeled in 1980 for offices and living space for the owners.

Sign

At the north boundary of the property adjacent to Tucumcari Boulevard is a steel sign, which was added ca. 1950 (Photo 16). The sign originally rested on a base of Perma-Stone piers but these were removed and the sign's base rebuilt with steel posts ca. 1970. The sign's neon was placed in storage by the present owner. The sign has been repainted to advertise the present use of the property as an RV park. Due to these changes, the sign is considered noncontributing.

Integrity

The change from stucco to a simulated masonry exterior drastically altered the motel's original Pueblo Revival design. However, done during the period of significance, the change is an important part of the motel's history, following a national trend to remodel and modernize older styles with synthetic siding. The motel has also experienced more recent enclosures of open porches and added shed-roof entries. Taken in total, these changes are all reversible and do not detract from the overall design and appearance of the motel. Originally the Cactus Motor Lodge featured a small landscaped park and children's playground in the middle of the court (Figure 7-2). In the 1950s, a swimming pool was added just to the west of the office/manger's residence. This swimming pool was filled in the 1980s and no surface remains exist. The courtyard within the U-shaped complex is now covered with a gravel surface and has added shrubs and trees mimicking the original appearance (Photo 2). These changes have altered the motel's integrity of setting. Despite these alterations, the motel retains sufficient integrity to communicate historical significance.

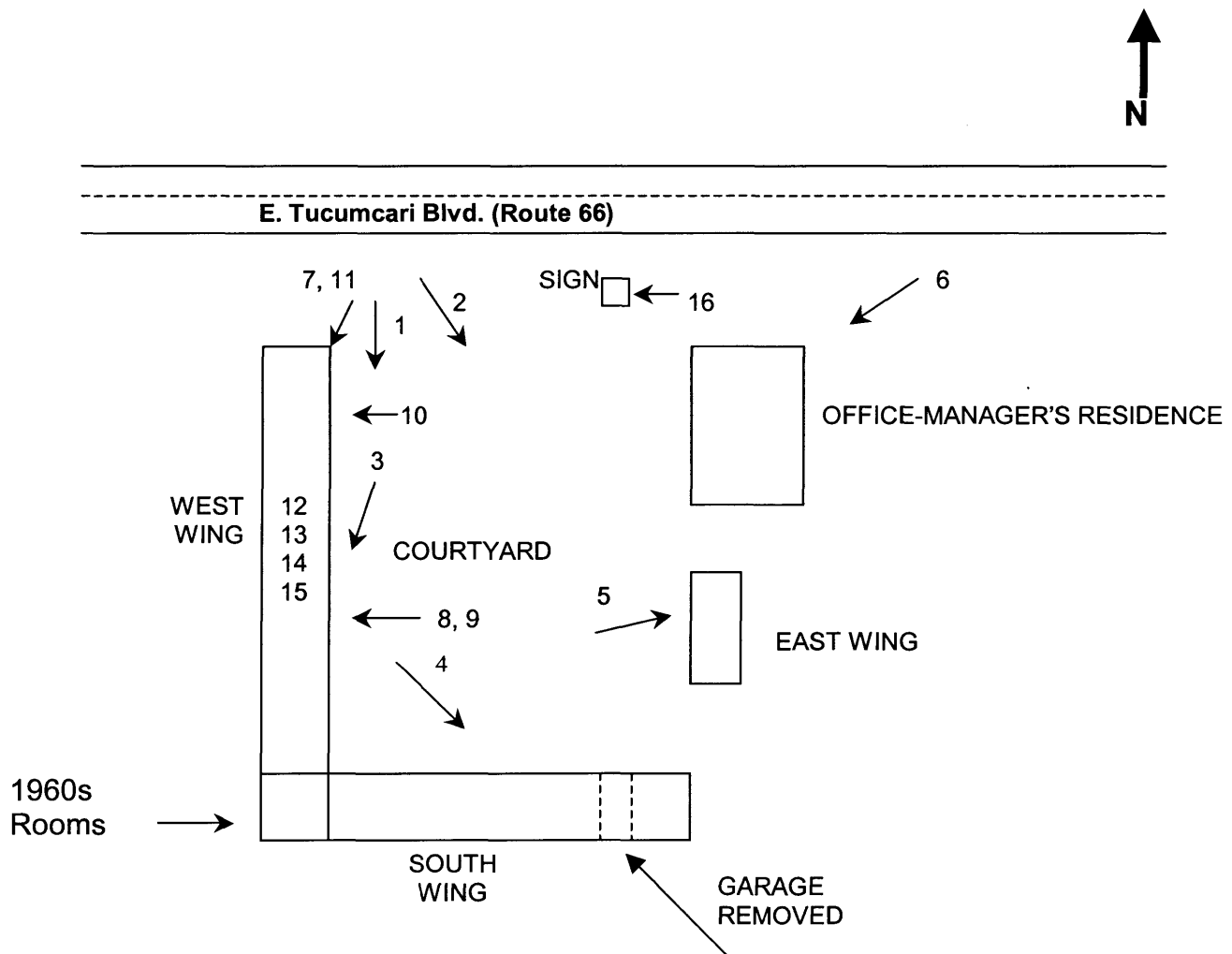
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 7-1: Site Plan and Photo Key for the Cactus Motor Lodge



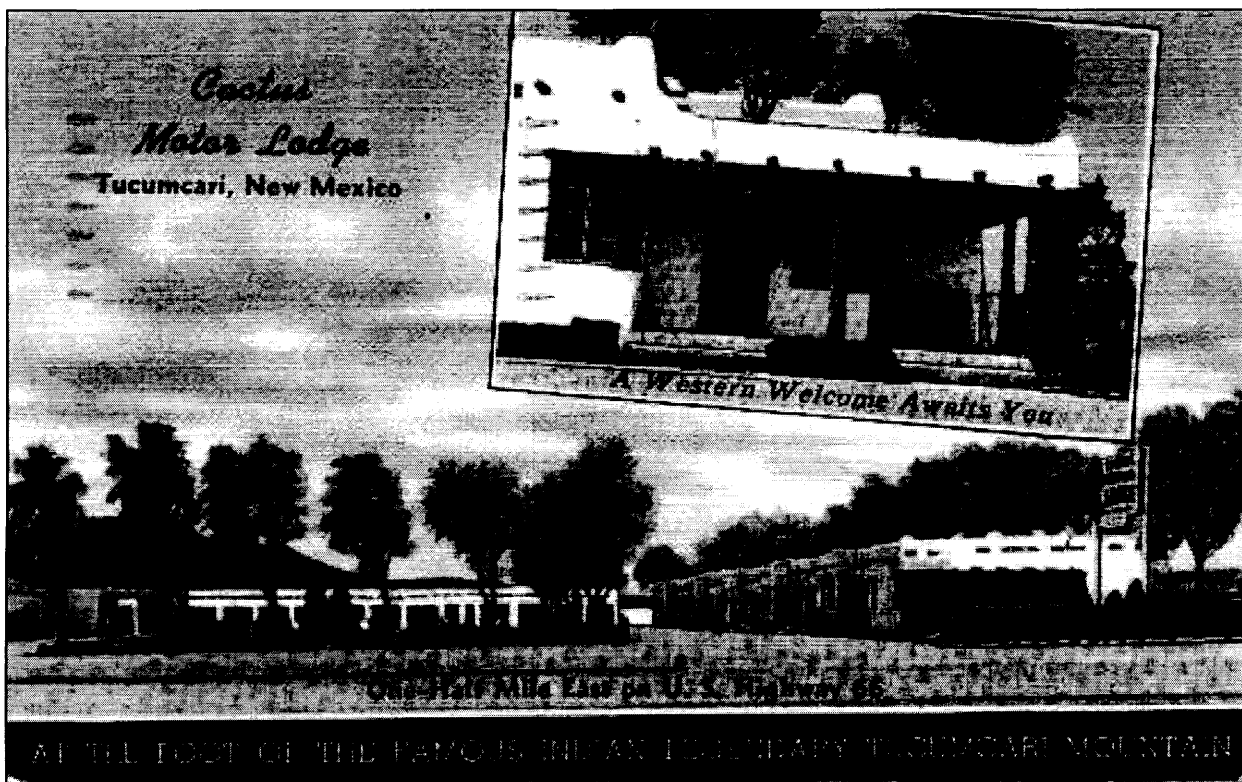
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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 7-2: Cactus Motor Lodge, 1944. The inset image shows the original office/manager's residence, which was in the north unit of the west wing.(Courtesy Andy Patel)



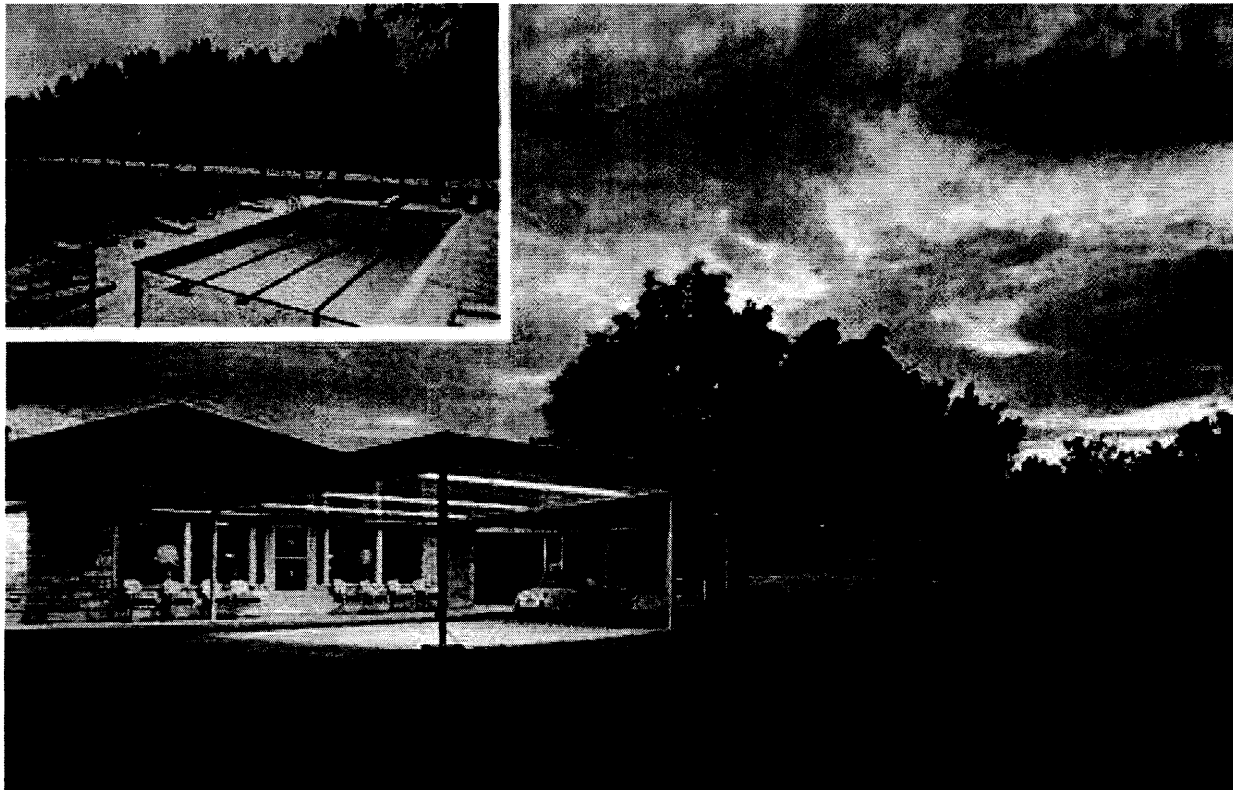
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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 7-3: Cactus Motor Lodge, ca. 1965, (Courtesy Andy Patel)



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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 7-4: Cactus Motor Lodge sign, ca. 1960. (Courtesy of Quay County Museum)



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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The Cactus Motor Lodge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, meeting the property type eligibility requirements for tourist courts and motels outlined in the *Historic and Architectural Resources of Route 66 Through New Mexico* Multiple Property Documentation Form. Built in 1941, the motel reflects the rise of the tourist industry and the rapid increase in automobile use in the early twentieth century, particularly along Route 66.

Historical Context

U.S. 66 entered New Mexico at the Texas border directly west of Amarillo. The state of New Mexico had formed only 14 years prior to the designation of U.S. 66 in the late 1920s, and there was little modern development in the region. In New Mexico, U.S. 66 originally consisted of a little more than 500 miles of gravel roads that followed a connection of former wagon trails and early named automobile trails. In eastern New Mexico, the route generally followed the course of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. The designation of U.S. 66 through New Mexico provided a much-needed boost to the state's economy. Subsequent realignments of the road, paving, and other improvements provided hundreds of jobs to local unemployed men. Complete paving of the roadbed through the state was completed in 1941, by which time realignments bypassing Santa Rosa and Santa Fe were also completed and had shaved 126 miles off of the route.²

The town of Tucumcari is located approximately forty miles west of the Texas border and was the first substantial town in New Mexico for westbound travelers on Route 66. The town got its start in 1901 as a railroad camp and gradually developed as a regular stop along the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. By 1910, over seventy businesses were operating in Tucumcari and numerous homesteaders settled nearby. Railroad and ranching drove the local economy and provided the bulk of employment. Prior to the development of U.S. 66, area roadbeds were little more than dirt paths. Travelers heading east to Amarillo had to pass through a series of cattle gates, the first of which was located on the east end of the town near Tucumcari Lake. This road became Route 3 and later, U.S. 66. At first Route 66 followed Main Street through Tucumcari, but it was later directed south on First Street to Gaynell Avenue (now Tucumcari Boulevard), where it continued west.³

The arrival of Route 66 in Tucumcari in the late 1920s both improved transportation and economic opportunity in the community. The new federal highway dramatically increased the flow of traffic through the area, bringing automobile tourists and commerce to town. A 1923 report estimated daily traffic along Route 3 between Tucumcari and Santa Rosa to be only ninety-three vehicles per day. In the years following

² "Route 66 in New Mexico," <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/66-NewMexicoRoad2.html>.

³ "Tucumcari History," <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/66-NewMexicoRoad2.html>; Debra Ann Whittington, *In the Shadow of the Mountain* (Tucumcari, New Mexico: Sundowner Gallery, 1997), 75.

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Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

the opening of U.S. 66, this count rose to the thousands. Traffic through town soared as travel along the famous route continuously increased in the 1940s. By the mid-1960s, traffic on Gaynell Avenue (U.S. 66) ranged between 6,000 to 8,000 vehicles per day.⁴

Several Tucumcari residents seized the opportunity to take advantage of the growing number of tourists who passed through their town, and opened a variety of tourist-related businesses. The section of Gaynell Avenue that became Route 66 was originally a residential district, but by the late 1940s motels, restaurants, shops and gas stations dominated the street. At one point the town advertised that it offered travelers over 2,200 rooms for overnight accommodations.⁵ With a large selection of lodging choices, Tucumcari became a common stop along U.S. 66 in eastern New Mexico.

Tourist Court Accommodations

The most common type of lodging facility in Tucumcari along Route 66 was the tourist court. These complexes of individual cottages or rows of connected individual units came into vogue in the late 1920s as the latest development in tourist accommodations. This development was a natural progression from camping along the roadside. Initially, towns offered free motor camps to automobile tourists in an effort to draw tourists, and tourist dollars, into their communities. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimated that over 1,000 such municipal facilities existed across the country in 1922.

As automobiles became more affordable and the number of travelers increased, a growing trend emerged of charging a small fee to keep out potential troublemakers and undesirable guests. When entrepreneurial individuals realized travelers were willing to pay for a camping spot, privately owned campgrounds began to emerge along the highways. Some were quite elaborate with facilities such as laundries, service stations, and groceries, but most were basic camping areas with little more than a place to pitch a tent. By the late 1920s camp operators found that travelers were willing to pay additional money for more permanent and private accommodations. In 1933, the American Automobile Association estimated that 30,000 "tourist cottage and camp establishments" lined the nation's highways, and by the mid-1930s, the transition from tent sites to cabins had been completed.⁶

The former auto camps soon became motor or tourist courts, with neatly arranged lines of identical small cabins or cottages positioned back off the road. Initially these facilities were rudimentary with few, if any, furnishings. A larger building, generally housing the office and/or the owners' living quarters, would be situated near the roadway in front of the cabins. Operators of these facilities, or courtiers as they were called, often relied on a theme or gimmick and many crafted their facilities as tepees, windmills, or log cabins.⁷ In

⁴ Whittington, *In the Shadow of the Mountain*, 75-78.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 77.

⁶ Chester H. Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile, American Roadside Architecture* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985), 170-177.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 175-177.

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

their history of the motel in America, authors Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers note the common pattern of these early motels:

Cottages were usually arrayed as individual units with open spaces between the units. . . . The typical cottage court contained an office building that usually included private apartment space for the motel manager and his family. Another building might contain a coffee shop. As in the case of the cabin camps, public space was primarily outdoors. . . . Architecturally, cottages were made to look like little suburban houses in order to enhance their appeal for the middle-class tourist and the traveling businessman. Cottages were furnished like suburban houses, with rugs, dressing tables and bureaus, radios, and the like.⁸

Tourist courts proved to be a good business for individuals and families along well-traveled routes such as U.S. 66. Most of those who started these businesses “were not upwardly mobile or newly wealthy; they were property owners who were converting or diversifying their investments in response to temporary market constraints.”⁹ As such, family members could manage tourist courts with few employees. The largest investment was sweat equity, typically supplied by a husband and wife team.¹⁰ A *Popular Mechanics* article encouraged individuals to try it: “If you live near a well-traveled highway, or can lease space near one, a few low-cost tourists’ cabins . . . will afford you a substantial income during the summer months.”¹¹ In 1935, this same magazine offered plans for how to build “Tourist Cabins That Get the Business.”¹²

Cactus Motor Lodge

One of the thousands of tourist courts along Route 66 was the Cactus Motor Lodge, built in 1941 by I.E. and Edna Perry.¹³ Located along the well-traveled course of U.S. 66, the motel complex offered twenty-five units to weary travelers. The motel had a prime location at the eastern end of Route 66, one mile east of the city limits, where it would be one of the first courts travelers heading west would encounter.

⁸ John A. Jakle, Keith A. Sculle, and Jefferson Rogers, *The Motel In America* (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1996), 41.

⁹ Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America*, 64.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 63-69.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 63.

¹² Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile*, 172.

¹³ Whittington, *In the Shadow of the Mountain*, 83. (There is some question as to the date of construction. The owner always understood it was 1938 when it was purchased by I.E. Perry. Whittington states in her book it was 1941. In late 1941 the Perry’s divorced and the property was transferred from Perry to his wife Edna. No other documentation confirming either date has been identified).

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

A 1944 postcard of the property boasts of the motor lodge's "modern" amenities:

CACTUS MOTOR LODGE, ONE OF New Mexico's outstanding courts. Located at the East entrance to TUCUMCARI, NEW MEXICO, at the foot of the famous Indian legendary Tucumcari mountain. Tile tub and shower baths, each with individual heating unit. Box springs and Sealy mattresses. Double insulated walls. Carpeted floors. Steam heat. Car-by-door garages.¹⁴

The motel's western theme played upon the regional culture, which was popular with tourists. Upon entering New Mexico those coming from the east on U.S.; 66 experienced a cultural shift. The names of towns reflected Spanish and Native American origins and language, and local residents "often had a darker skin than the generally white highway travelers."¹⁵ The Cactus Motor Lodge and other businesses in the region accentuated this change, which often piqued the traveler's interest and curiosity.

The motel's modern amenities revealed that it was a more than a tourist court, but a *motor lodge*, a term connoting a higher class of lodging. To enhance its appeal and reputation, the Cactus Motor Lodge became a member of the Best Western referral chain. Motel referral chains emerged in the 1930s in an effort by groups of small motel owners to maintain standards and create networks. Members within a given system pledged to maintain agreed-upon standards and display the group's logo. The Best Western referral chain began in the 1940s and was one of the most successful of referral systems. It differed from other motel networks in that it operated as an incorporated business. Promoters of the chain drove the nation's major highways in the west to solicit members. With a yearly membership fee, a motel owner gained advertising and listing in printed and distributed travel guides, AAA directories, major newspapers, and national magazines. Participants also had access to design and accounting services, and could decrease their operating costs through purchasing furnishings and other items which Best Western bought in bulk at reduced prices. In turn, members had to maintain strict standards and undergo regular inspections.¹⁶

Edna Perry sold the Cactus Motor Lodge to Norm Wegner who moved to Tucumcari in 1952.¹⁷ Wegner added the Perma-Stone to the exterior of the west and south wings and the dance hall to update the appearance of the buildings (Figure 8-2). Perma-Stone, a popular imitation stone and concrete exterior siding material of the 1950s, was considered to provide buildings with an updated "modern" look. This exterior siding material was also promoted as being "maintenance free, fireproof and energy efficient."¹⁸ In addition

¹⁴ 1944 Postcard of Cactus Motor Lodge, in possession of Sue and Andy Patel, current owners of Cactus Motor Lodge.

¹⁵ Cassity, *Route 66 Corridor National Historic Context Study*, 78.

¹⁶ Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America*, 138-139; 142-143.

¹⁷ Whittington, *In the Shadow of the Mountain*, 83.

¹⁸ Thomas C. Jester, ed. *Twentieth Century Building Materials, History and Conservation*, (Washington D.C., McGraw-Hill, 1995), 177.

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

to adding the Perma-Stone, Wegner also closed the dance hall and converted it into the office and manager's residence (Figure 8-3).¹⁹

Wegner's wife Irene died in the late 1950s and he married his second wife, Marjorie, in 1960. Together they raised five children in their residence at the motel in the 1960s. The Wegner's added a heated swimming pool and enlarged the playground. Marjorie Wegner recalls that business was excellent during the years they operated the motel and that U.S. 66 was a continuous parade of cars before the interstate opened.²⁰

The Wegner's owned and operated the motel until they retired and sold the property to Harry and Jean Schiermeyer in 1972. The Schiermeyers in turn sold the motel to Frank and Elizabeth Kocab in May of 1976. In 1979, Indrajit (Andy) and Sugandhi Patel purchased the property and continue to own it today. In the 1980s the motel struggled financially due to the loss of U.S. 66 traffic and by the 1990s the motel units were closed. The courtyard was converted into an RV Park and a lot behind the motel was also used by the Patels as a park and campground. Most motel units are currently vacant, although a few are used as long-term apartments.

The Cactus Motor Lodge is representative of a once up-scale motel built along Route 66 in the mid-20th century. The motel was built directly facing U.S. 66, and remained in continuous operation from 1941 until the 1990s. The motel meets the registration requirements for the property type tourist courts and motels in the *Historic and Architectural Resources of Route 66 through New Mexico* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

¹⁹ Marjorie Wegner, Telephone Interview, 27 July 2005.

²⁰ Ibid.

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 8-1: Cactus Motor Lodge, 1944, (Courtesy of Andy Patel)



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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 8-2: This ca. 1955 view of the Cactus Motor Lodge shows the new office location in the Cactus Club building and the exteriors covered with Perma-Stone (Courtesy Andy Patel)



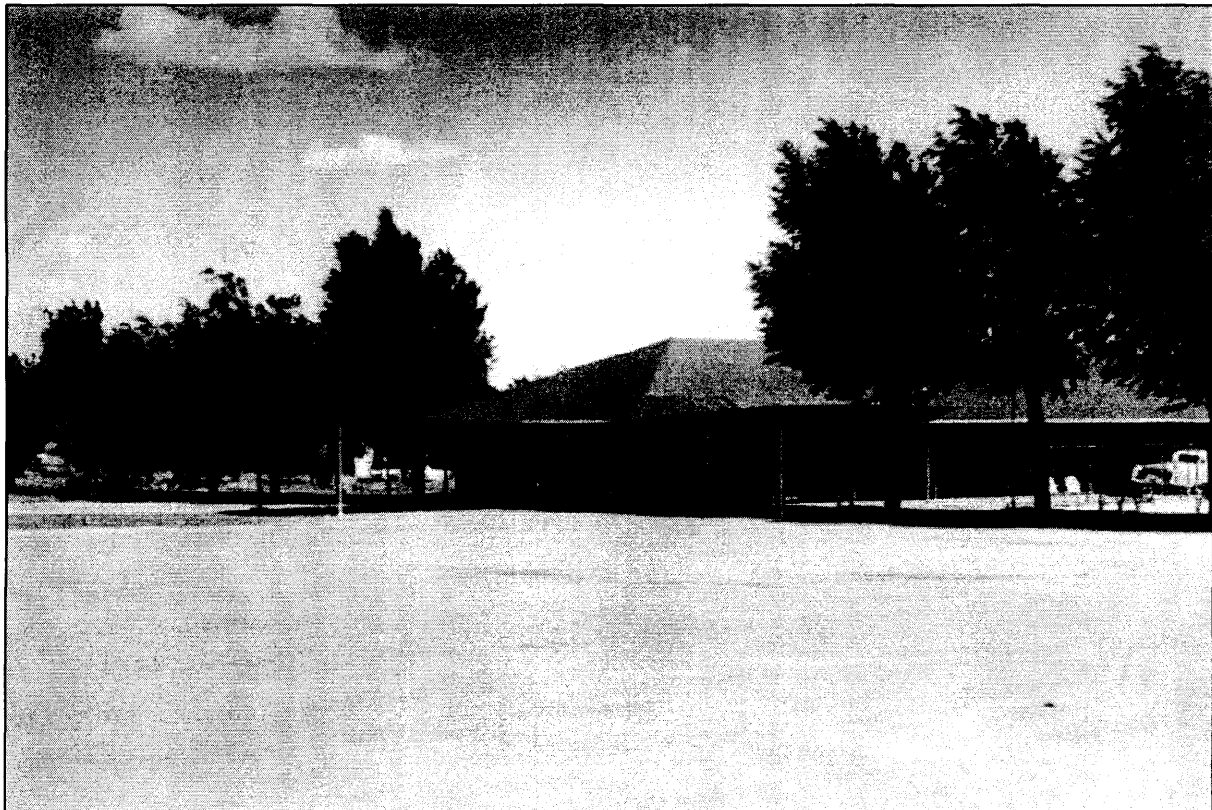
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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Figure 8-3: Cactus Motor Lodge office, ca. 1960 (Courtesy Quay County Museum)



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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Geographical Data

Verb Boundary Description

The boundary for the Cactus Motor Lodge is all of Block 8 of the Wailes Addition to the City of Tucumcari, Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the motel complex.

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

PHOTOGRAPHS

Cactus Motor Lodge

Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Photographer: Thomason and Associates

May 2005

Location of Negatives: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 16

West, south and east wings

Camera facing south

Photo 2 of 16

Office/Manager's residence and courtyard

Camera facing southeast

Photo 3 of 16

West wing

Camera facing southwest

Photo 4 of 16

South wing

Camera facing southeast

Photo 5 of 16

East wing

Camera facing northeast

Photo 6 of 16

Office/Manager's Residence

Camera facing southwest

Photo 7 of 16

Room 1 of west wing, original Office/Manager's Residence

Camera facing southwest

Photo 8 of 16

Rooms 5 and 6 of west wing

Camera facing southwest

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Cactus Motor Lodge
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico

Photo 9 of 16
Original door, Room 5 of west wing
Camera facing west

Photo 10 of 16
Original wrought iron staircase with seated figure and cactus
Camera facing west

Photo 11 of 16
Original windows in Room 1 of west wing
Camera facing southwest

Photo 12 of 16
Interior view of Room 7 of west wing
Camera facing northwest

Photo 13 of 16
Interior view of Room 8 of west wing
Camera facing southwest

Photo 14 of 16
Bathroom and original tile in Room 8 of west wing
Camera facing west

Photo 15 of 16
Shower stall and original tile in Room 7 of west wing
Camera facing northwest

Photo 16 of 16
Sign
Camera facing northwest