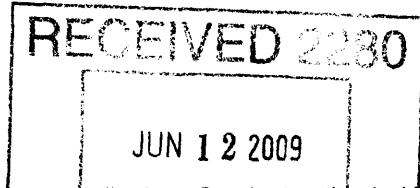


United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
**National Register of Historic Places
 Registration Form**

544



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15A). 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 Alamosa Post Office

other names/site number Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc.; 5AL.258

2. Location

street & number 703 Fourth Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Alamosa [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Alamosa code 003 zip code 81101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward C. Nichols State Historic Preservation Officer 5/13/09
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
 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 [] See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 7.22.09 Date of Action

Alamosa Post Office
Name of Property

Alamosa County/ Colorado
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

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

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

U.S. Post Offices in Colorado 1900-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MIXED

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO

roof ASPHALT
other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

Alamosa Post Office
Name of Property

Alamosa County/ Colorado
County/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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all 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 age or 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

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1935-1959

Significant Dates

1935

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Treasury Dept., Office of the Supervising Architect

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Alamosa Post Office
Name of Property

Alamosa County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) (NAD 27)

1. 13 423343 4147106
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

The UTMS were derived by OAHF from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

[] 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 Tawney Becker, Executive Director (prepared for the property owner)

organization Alamosa Uptown & River Association date January 31, 2009

street & number P.O. Box 1245 telephone (719) 580- 8125

city or town Alamosa state Colorado zip code 81101

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 districts 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Blue Peaks Developmental Services Inc. (Contact Person- John Kreiner, Director)

street & number 703 Fourth Street telephone (719) 589-5135

city or town Alamosa state Colorado zip code 81101

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 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 20503.

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U.S. Post Offices in Colorado 1900-1941 MPS**DESCRIPTION**

The Alamosa Post Office building is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Fourth Street and San Juan Avenue, one block north of Main Street in Alamosa's historic downtown. The building faces south onto Fourth Street. Alamosa is the county seat of Alamosa County and the commercial hub of the high desert, agricultural region of the San Luis Valley. Prominent landmarks in the vicinity of the Post Office include Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1922-28; Listed on the National Register 7/15/1998, NRIS # 98000855) on the adjacent property to the west and, across the street to the south, the Alamosa County Courthouse (1936-38; Listed on the National Register 9/29/1995, NRIS # 95001149). Grass lawn extends along the west length of the building, a paved parking area along the north, and narrow lawns with small shrubs along the south and east elevations. A tall wooden fence encloses the west lawn along Fourth Street.

The building is single-story with a mezzanine half story and partial basement. Its central 60' x 87' rectangular plan with flat (low-slope) composition over wood roof appears to be a variation of a stock design for federal post offices implemented by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect during the New Deal era (1933-43). The largely plain, smooth stucco surface of the clay tile and brick building includes molded terracotta coping along the parapet edges and a single course of brick that visually connects the base of the primary windows (see photos 1 & 2). The building retains nearly all of its original multi-lite wood-framed windows. The exterior storm windows are a later addition from 1984.

An ornate, eclectic, molded terracotta door surround and terracotta scuppers above each of the four windows distinguish the otherwise plain stucco façade (see photos 1 & 8). The terracotta tile surround, which extends vertically above the roofline, includes streamlined Art Deco forms that reference Classical Revival elements. Arching scrolls form a swan's neck pediment (a type of broken pediment) and draw the eye to a central, small niche, flanked by symmetrically placed incised floral designs. The curvilinear shaped parapet formed by the door surround reflects a Mission Revival influence. Below the pediment and dentils and above the door, a cartouche displays a Pony Express rider, providing a link to the origin of mail delivery and the building's purpose.

A broad concrete stair with metal handrails rises to the central main entry. This stair likely replaced the original, which was smaller and faced east-west (see photo H7), when the building became a school in 1972. The doorway includes two nine-lite panel wood doors (a simplified custom-made version of the originals, which replaced non-original wood doors in 2006), surmounted by the original decorative brass transom grille (see photos 1 & 8). Behind the grille a large single-pane transom window allows light to enter the former post office lobby, currently the office reception area. The original small hexagonally shaped Mission style brass lanterns hang at either side of the doorway. The south facade exhibits four symmetrically placed openings, each containing a pair of 4/4 divided-lite, double-hung windows. Each 4/4 window displays a two-lite transom above it. A course of stuccoed brick projects slightly across the façade at the base of the windows. The inscription "1935" appears in the foundation at the western corner of the south façade.

The east elevation is visually divided into three sections with the mezzanine floor rising to the north slightly above the flat roofline (see photos 2 & 3). The southern section, where the post office lobby was located, includes three sets of paired 4/4 divided-lite, double-hung windows with two-lite transoms above each window; they are identical to those on the south façade. A molded terracotta scupper protrudes above each of these windows and a course of stuccoed brick projects slightly across the section at the window sill level (see photo 7). The central, larger section features four sets of larger

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paired 4/6-lite double-hung windows with two-lite transoms and inset rectangular panel detailing below each pair of windows. A small 4/4 double-hung sash window punctuates the south end of this middle section. At the north end of the east elevation the flat roofline is lower, covering a single-door back entry section (see photos 3 & 4). This section includes a metal door with a single-lite, steep concrete stair with metal handrails, and a small 6/6 window. The mezzanine story rises behind and two 6/6 windows are visible above the entryway. Clay tiles are visible on the mezzanine roof.

The north elevation is more complex in appearance than the other elevations due to the conglomeration of block forms including the east entrance, mezzanine story, rear addition, boiler and coal rooms, and large brick chimney (see photos 4 & 5). The mezzanine parapet, rising about 10' above the remainder of the building, is capped with clay tiles and highlights the building's Mission Revival style influence. Four symmetrically placed window openings are visible above the shingled mansard roof section. The easternmost opening does not contain a window; however, the architectural drawings for the rear do not show a window, indicating this has always been a false opening (see photo H3); three adjacent 6/6 double-hung windows remain. The mansard roof section includes a metal door flanked by single-lite windows on its east side and three 4/4-lite windows on the north. Originally it was an open loading dock which facilitated the movement of mail in and out of the building. When the school purchased the building in 1972, the dock was enclosed with the mansard shingle roof and walls and a ramp added to the interior. An added metal fire escape descends from the metal entry door at the elevated floor above the boiler room at the western end of the north side; a sealed window opening is adjacent to the door. The flat roof coal room is slightly lower than the mezzanine section; a raised basement section with a flat roof is located at the west end. A single, broad brick chimney towers over the boiler room at the building's northwest corner.

The west elevation resembles the east elevation in many respects. However, the protrusion of the boiler room with the lower roof height for the coal room differs from the arrangement of building components at the northeast (see photo 6). These northwest sections extend the building 24' to the west. A concrete ramp extends along much of the length of the western side of the building. Like the east, the west elevation is similarly divided into three sections with the mezzanine floor to the north rising above the flat roofline. The southernmost section (original public lobby area) is virtually identical to the east elevation, with all of its original windows, scuppers, and other details intact.

Some later changes have occurred in two of the four window openings of the central section of the west elevation (see photo 6). Though the openings are still recognizable, the second northernmost window opening has been changed to accommodate an added doorway, possibly when the building still served as a post office. This opening retains its transom lites. The window opening to its south has been filled. What appears to be a modification to its southernmost neighbor is actually original (see photo H2); a 4/4 double-hung sash window with two-lite transom remains in place. There are five 2/2 windows on the boiler room - one on the south side and four on the west side.

Integrity

The post office retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. A study of the original drawings and early post-construction photographs reveals that the exterior of the Alamosa Post Office is in good condition and retains most of its prominent exterior features including the ornate terracotta entry door surround, decorative transom grille, brass lanterns, and scuppers. The building retains nearly all of its original double-hung sash wood windows with two-lite transoms. Though the stucco color was changed in 1994 from beige with green trim to a pale mauve

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with brown trim, the smooth surface and its streamlined details have been maintained. An entrance, ADA ramp, and guardrails were added entering the coal room (now used as a classroom) from the south sometime between 1972 and the 1980s. The ADA ramp is largely obscured from view by its position along the west elevation and the tall wooden fence at the perimeter of the west lawn. The building context largely prevents public view of the window modifications made on the north and west (rear) elevations. An undated photograph from the late 1970s or early 1980s indicates five double-hung windows were added to the boiler room. Though the loading dock was enclosed in 1972, its location on the rear of the building makes it less obvious.

Many interior details such as terracotta tile work on the floors and wainscoting on the walls, wood trim, bulletin boards, and most of the original windows and doors remain. Interior changes include walls added to create offices and a suspended ceiling in many areas (obscuring the original light fixtures, which remain without their glass globes). Most of the post office furnishings, such as the post boxes, chutes, and much of the lobby cashier screen, were removed when remodeling of the building to accommodate school needs occurred in 1972. The large skylight toward the south end of the building was removed to accommodate HVAC equipment and ducts in the late 1990s. Despite these interior changes and some exterior modifications to suit the building's reuse as a school and for human services, overall the building retains its integrity and closely resembles its completed state in 1935.

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U.S. Post Offices in Colorado 1900-1941 MPS**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Alamosa Post Office meets the registration requirements for the Single-purpose Post Office as established in the *U.S. Post Offices in Colorado, 1900-1941* Thematic Resource/ Multiple Property Submission. It is being nominated at the local level of significance.

The 1935 Alamosa Post Office is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of **Politics/Government** for its association with President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislative agenda as a project of the Public Works Administration (PWA). PWA programs boosted the economy nationally by increasing purchased materials and employment. Additionally, PWA projects such as the post office used locally purchased materials and professional construction crews, helping to stimulate the local economy. During the New Deal era (1933-43), which began under Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration, the federal government built hundreds of post offices with U.S. Treasury Department funds. These smaller projects provided jobs in less populous, economically depressed areas that might not otherwise have been eligible for PWA projects. In small towns across the country, the construction of a federal post office was a major event for the community. The post office was one of several PWA projects in Alamosa, which included the Alamosa County Courthouse (1936-38) and road improvements, and provided Alamosa with its first purpose-built post office. As the first and only federal building constructed in Alamosa, the post office displayed a reassuring governmental presence during a time of great need. The building served the City of Alamosa as its only post office until 1971, when a new post office was built to accommodate more parking and better access. The period of significance for Politics/Government begins in 1935, with completion of the post office, and ends in 1959. As the historically significant activities associated with the post office extend into a period less than fifty years before the nomination date, and because these recent activities are not considered to be exceptionally important, the period of significance ends in 1959, in keeping with National Register guidelines.

The Alamosa Post Office is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of **Architecture** as a good example of a small federal building designed by the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect. Its symmetry, massing, and formal appearance clearly identify it as a federal building. The building's basic federal design relates the post office to New Deal projects constructed by the PWA on the Eastern Plains of Colorado, with a local interpretation. Furthermore, the Alamosa Post Office is an excellent example of the Mixed Style, including elements of Art Deco, Classical Revival, and the locally prevalent Mission Revival, skillfully combined in a federal building. Typical of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon, the local context was taken into account when designing a new building. Simon was also known for more restrained designs. The building expresses the dignity and formality of its government function while also referencing local architecture and the time in which it was built. One might best refer to the style as a form of "eclectic Art Deco" that draws upon Classical Revival elements as well as references the nearby examples of Mission Revival style churches (Sacred Heart Church, 1922-28; St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1925-30, Listed on the National Register 4/22/2003, NRIS #03000285). The stylistic expression also has been referred to as Starved Classicism, due to the Great Depression restricting lavish ornamentation seen in previous decades. The building conveys its original function as a post office through its spareness and economy of form that is reserved yet authoritative, with details that reflect its federal function, its time, and its local context. The period of significance for Architecture is the year of construction, 1935.

The decorative and distinguishing elements that evidence this blending of styles are restricted to a few key areas. Most notably, the main entry exhibits superior craftsmanship in Classical Revival elements such as the terra cotta door surround with simplified pilasters, dentils, swan's neck pediment, cartouche, and centrally placed niche. As terra cotta is seen on many downtown buildings in Alamosa,

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it would appear this is yet another building material/ tradition the architect utilized in his design of the post office, reflecting its local context. Mission Revival elements include the curvilinear shaped parapet at the main entrance, coping at the roofline, stucco exterior, string course along the base of the principal windows, and clay tile capping the parapets of the mezzanine. The stylized scuppers projecting above each of the ten public lobby windows are also a reference to the Hispanic building tradition. These simplified architectural elements work well with the smooth exterior surface and symmetrical forms. The building as a whole is designed masterfully with every detail in the original drawings - including materials, lobby and window details, and light fixtures - executed in the final construction.

Historical Background

Incorporated in 1878, the City of Alamosa is the largest city in the San Luis Valley, a vast (8,000 square miles) agricultural and ranching area in south-central Colorado. Alamosa was founded as a railroad center and quickly took its place as the economic, educational, and cultural hub of the six-county region. It remains so today.

The Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect typically designed New Deal era federal buildings. Though the Supervising Architect also designed monumental buildings in cities throughout the country, many smaller post offices were built from stock designs displaying "simple government character in consonance with the region in which they are located and the surrounding to the specific site." Modest in scale, the simple, symmetrical designs maintained the formal restraint of larger government buildings. A flagpole and federal iconography often announced the federal function while other architectural details connected the edifice to local building traditions. When a town was selected to receive a post office, a field officer visited the community to make a report to identify and evaluate appropriate sites. He solicited public opinion and recorded the local architecture for design reference. The Supervising Architect's Office used this information to design a post office that suited both federal function and local preferences. The *Alamosa Journal* and *Daily Courier* articles from January 1934 clearly document a similar procedure for the Alamosa Post Office.

On 4 January 1934, Postmaster John Harron, with a group of interested spectators present, publicly opened twenty bids on sites for the proposed Alamosa Post Office. The Treasury Department indicated it would pay no more than \$13,000 for a site, and many of the offers requested the full amount (4 January 1934, *Alamosa Journal* and *Daily Courier*). The *Journal* news article included a list of the properties submitted. Bid no. 2 described the site that was later selected: submitted by "A. J. West. Vacant lots on Fourth Street, near San Juan Avenue, east of Catholic church. \$7,750 for one parcel and \$4,250 for second, total of \$12,000. Understood to be owned by Mrs. Frank Ruby." A few weeks later Mr. M.A. Clark, the federal post office inspector who came to inspect the sites offered for purchase, deemed the prices asked for the local properties were too high. He was to make his recommendation in a "secret report to the government" (31 January 1934, *Daily Courier*).

On 12 March 1934, the *Alamosa Journal* reported the site located at the northwest corner of San Juan Avenue and Fourth Street had been designated for the new federal building:

These lots comprise the property now occupied by the Episcopal church parish house, and the adjoining land south of it, which is owned by Mrs. Frank Ruby. Together the properties will provide a site with a frontage of 125 feet on Fourth Street and 150 feet on San Juan. . . . In the original bid, the Episcopal church-Ruby

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parcel was submitted at a price of \$12,000. Unofficial reports were that this figure had been reduced to approximately \$9,000" (confirmed in *Daily Courier*, 6 February 1935).

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect designed most federal buildings from the mid-1800s to the end of the 1930s, including the Alamosa Post Office. A staff of mostly anonymous architects worked under the direction of the Supervising Architect. According to a listing of historic federal buildings on the U.S. General Services Administration website, Louis A. Simon was the Chief of the Architectural Division of the Office of the Supervising Architect from 1905 to 1934. In his capacity of Supervising Architect for projects by the U.S. Treasury Department, he is credited with designing numerous buildings ranging from the Internal Revenue Building (1930-35) and the Agriculture South Building (1930-36) in Washington, D.C. to small-town courthouses, U.S. border stations, and post offices across the country. The original drawings for the Alamosa Post Office bear Simon's name as Supervising Architect and that of Geo. Van Nerta as Engineer.

A contemporary architect described Simon's work as "characterized by an effort toward simplicity and restraint and the attainment of pleasing results, by a studied consideration of mass and proportion, rather than by excess of elaboration or non-functional expression" (Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 2000, p. 260). Henry Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Roosevelt, described the work of the Office of the Supervising Architect as having "dignity and originality, economy in design, with strict adherence to the utilitarian purpose for which the building is to be used." (Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 2000, p. 268).

During the 1930s the federal government sought to boost the economy and provide employment through the construction of federal buildings. Increased federal construction encouraged the production of standardized plans to accelerate the design process. The large volume of building plans the Office of the Supervising Architect produced indicate Simon did not personally design all of the federal buildings constructed under his direction. However, most of the small post offices constructed during this period share a common layout. Simon may have provided a basic plan staff architects could modify for individual buildings. For example, similar to the Alamosa Post Office, the PWA-constructed post office in Rocky Ford, Colorado, is a symmetrical building featuring a single-story, a central doorway, elevated ground floor, pedimented stone door surround flanked by pairs of vertical windows, and a relatively plain façade. The Las Animas Post Office, funded as a direct-relief U.S. Treasury Department project, also displays similar elements. All three post offices may be variations of a stock design Simon created or his staff modified to reflect site needs and local architectural or cultural influences.

On 17 January 1935, the *Daily Courier* announced the release of the "first definite picture" of the new post office with the arrival of plans and specifications from Washington, D.C. The building would be a "modified Spanish style with a front of 60 feet that will face on Fourth Street and depth of 95 feet." The article continues with a precise description of the building and its interior:

It will be of heavy reinforced frame construction, fire-proofed, and with stuccoed exterior. Mounting up the concrete steps, the person entering the post office will go in through a large and ornate double door in the exact center of the front. Inside he will find an L-shaped public lobby with the office windows immediately in front of the entrance and, around the corner to the west, the rent boxes. . . . The building will be one story in front and two stories high in the rear. The additional height in the back is for the mezzanine floor on which will be located the storage rooms, employees' lounging rooms, and additional space. A loading dock will be located at

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the rear (*Daily Courier*, 17 January 1935).

On 11 February 1935, the *Daily Courier* reported H. W. Underhill Construction Company of Wichita, Kansas, submitted the lowest bid for the post office building at \$44,935. On 19 April 1935, site preparations began with site excavation, leveling, and procurement of foundation materials. According to engineer H. W. Underhill, construction would require a crew of 30 to 35 men. The load-bearing exterior walls consisted of 12"x12"x12" tile, stuccoed with Portland cement.

On 10 September 1935, Harold C. Skilling, federal engineer in charge of the new post office, superintended the sealing of its cornerstone (*Daily Courier*, 10 September 1935). Interestingly, no public ceremony was held. The article announced the building would be ready for occupancy by 1 October 1935, and that the Underhill Construction Company was rapidly completing interior details with the exterior receiving its final coat of cream stucco with pale green accents. The newspaper surmised Postmaster John E. Harron would announce an open house around 15 October 1935, when the general public could inspect "Uncle Sam's Alamosa home." Although no public ceremony was arranged, the Alamosa County Democratic Central Committee invited U.S. Congressman John A. Martin to be present at the housewarming. No documentation has been located to date on this event.

After unexpected delays, including the late arrival of furniture, fixtures, and other equipment, the building was finally ready for occupancy on 30 November 1935. That evening, as reported by the Alamosa *Daily Courier*, the post office would move from its home at the corner of State and Fourth in the (former) Elks building, and Sunday's morning mail would begin delivery from the new location (mail was delivered seven days a week until 1912).

The post office occupied the building for over 30 years when limited parking and access became an issue as Alamosa grew. In 1971 the post office moved its services to a new brick building on Third Street near Hunt Avenue and Cole Park. The 1935 building was sold to the San Luis Valley Center for the Handicapped, Inc. in May 1972 as part of the federal disbursement of surplus buildings.

San Luis Valley Center for the Handicapped, Inc. (SLVCHI) was a school for people with disabilities, from pre-school to adult, and functioned under that name from 1972 to 1982. In 1982 school-age children were mainstreamed into the public schools, but after-school programs and services to other age groups continued at SLVCHI. In 1988 the school changed its name to Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc. to reflect its emphasis on all-encompassing support services (and administration) to persons with developmental disabilities rather than on-site school-age programs. The non-profit organization continues to serve pre-school children and coordinate services for residential and adult day programs, family support services, and case management. Residential supervisors maintain offices there.

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Interior
Continuation Sheet

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National Park Service

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"Twenty Bids On Postoffice Sites Opened Here Thursday, Decision Awaits U.S. Agent." *Daily Courier*, 4 January 1934.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

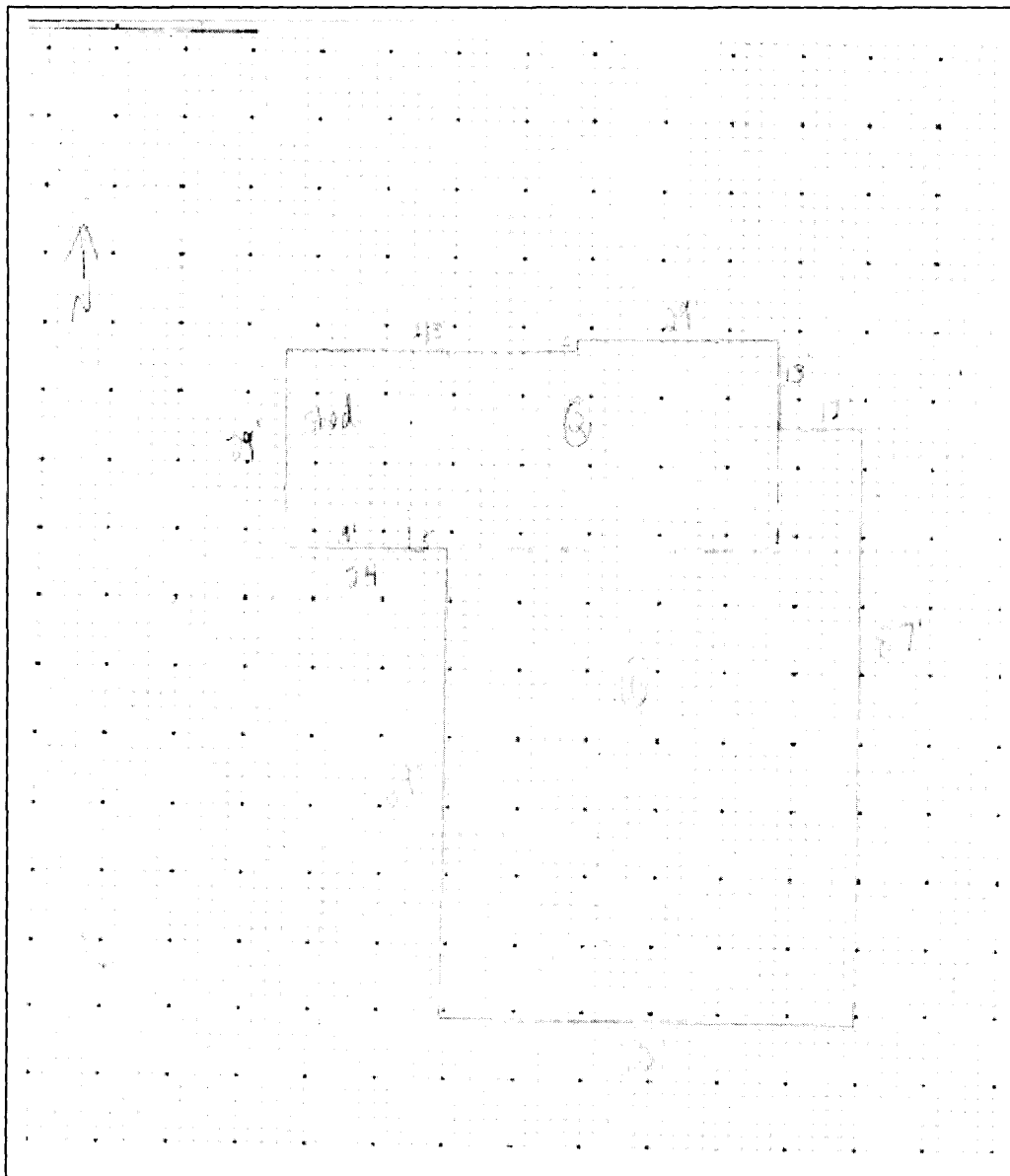
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 27, Lots 17-21, Townsite of Alamosa addition, City of Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel includes all the land historically associated with the Post Office.

Sketch Map



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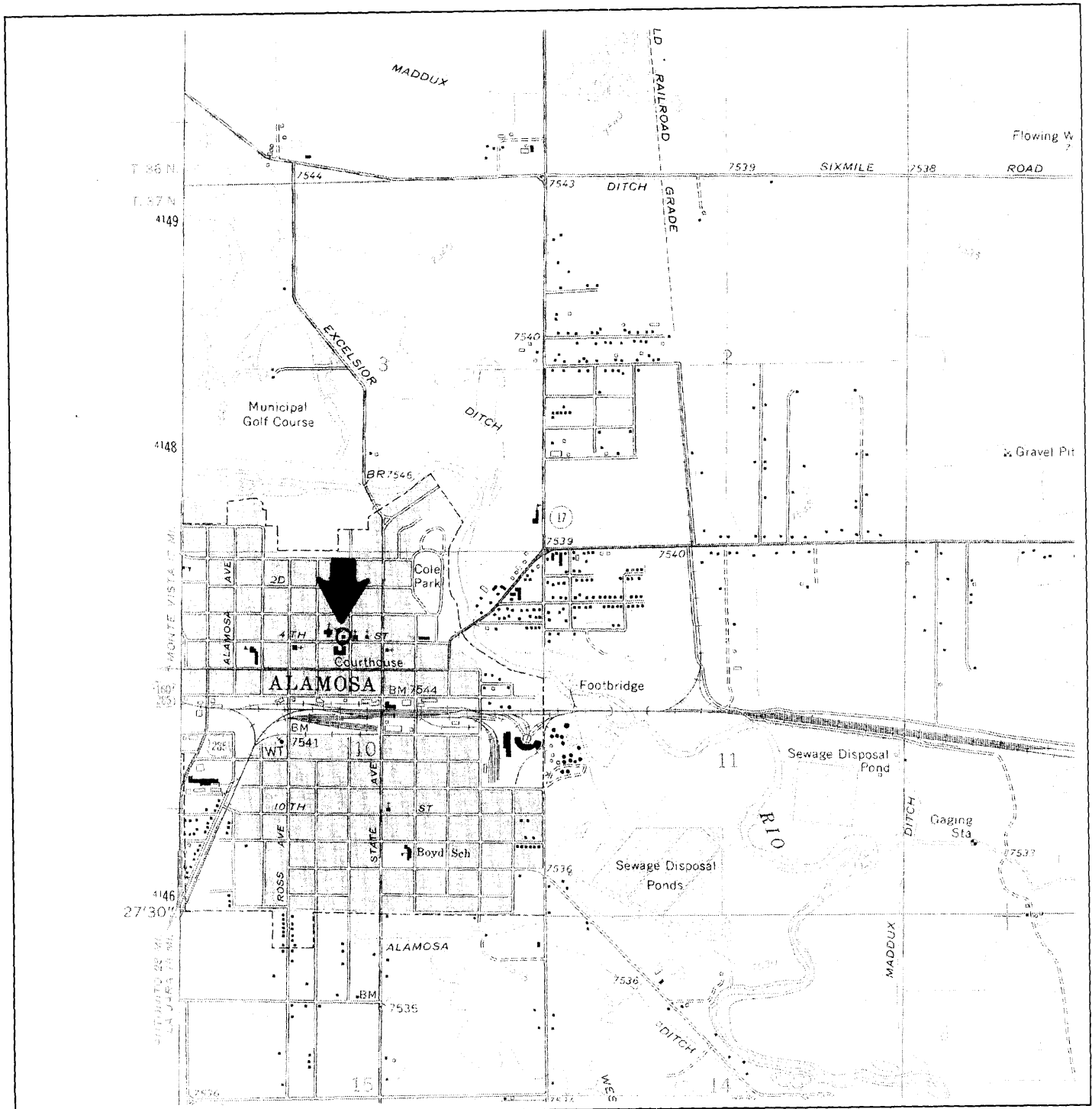
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Alamosa East Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 423343E / 4147106N
PLSS: NM PM, T37N, R10E, Sec. 10
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Elevation: 7545 feet



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-11 except as noted:

Photographer: Tawney Becker
Date of Photographs: February 2008
Negatives: cd with tif images on file with the NPS in Washington, DC

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	South façade and east elevation. Camera facing northwest.
2	East elevation. Camera facing northwest.
3	East elevation. Camera facing west.
4	East and north elevations. Camera facing southwest.
5	North elevation. Camera facing south.
6	West elevation showing ramp and coal room entrance. Camera facing northeast.
7	East elevation detail. Camera facing northwest.
8	South façade detail, main entry. Camera facing north.
9	Interior- lobby area, original windows, tile work, bulletin board.
10	Interior- office area, original tile work, windows.
11	Interior- lobby area, original tile work, wood trim, doors.

PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC

These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

Photo No.	Photographic Information
H1	Blueprint of south façade. Courtesy of owner.
H2	Blueprint of west and east elevations. Courtesy of owner.
H3	Blueprint of north elevation. Courtesy of owner.
H4	West elevation, 1935, taken by O.T. Davis. Courtesy of owner.
H5	West elevation, 1935, taken by O.T. Davis. Courtesy of owner.
H6	South façade and east elevation, 1935, taken by O.T. Davis. Courtesy of owner.
H7	Original stairs and signage, taken between 1935 and 1971. Courtesy of Alamosa Chamber of Commerce.
H8	Sanborn Map- 1929. Available on the Denver Public Library website.
H9	Sanborn Map- 1929, revised/corrected March 1946. Available on the Denver Public Library website.

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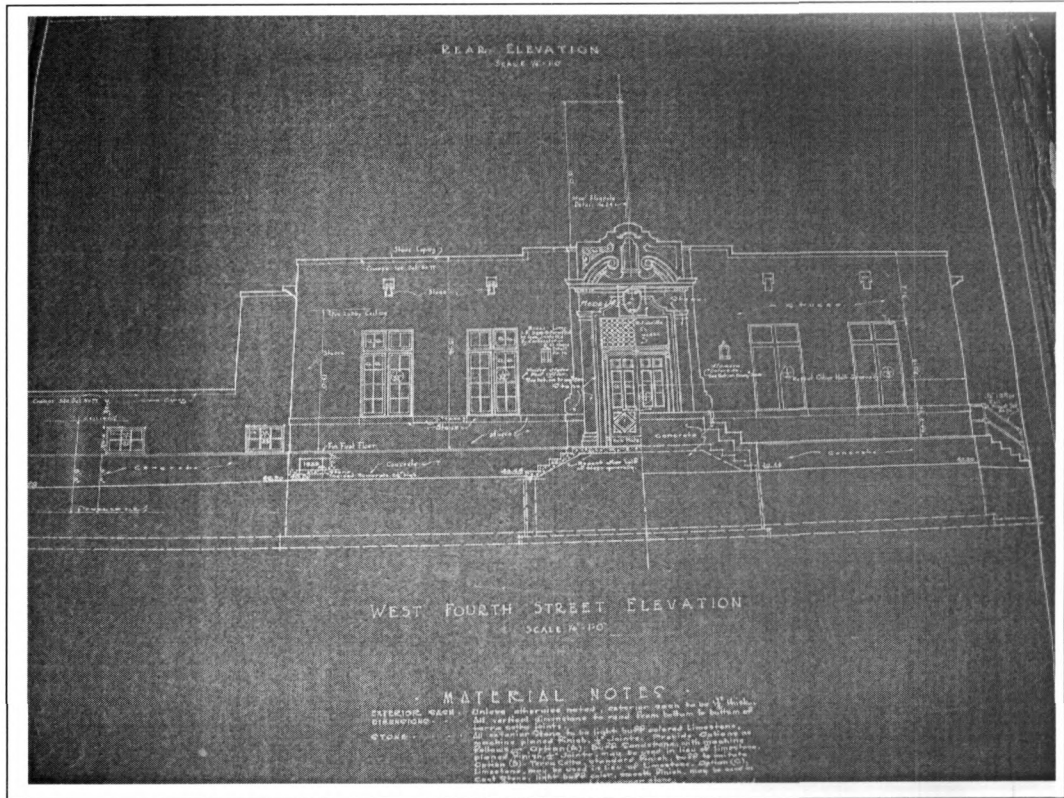
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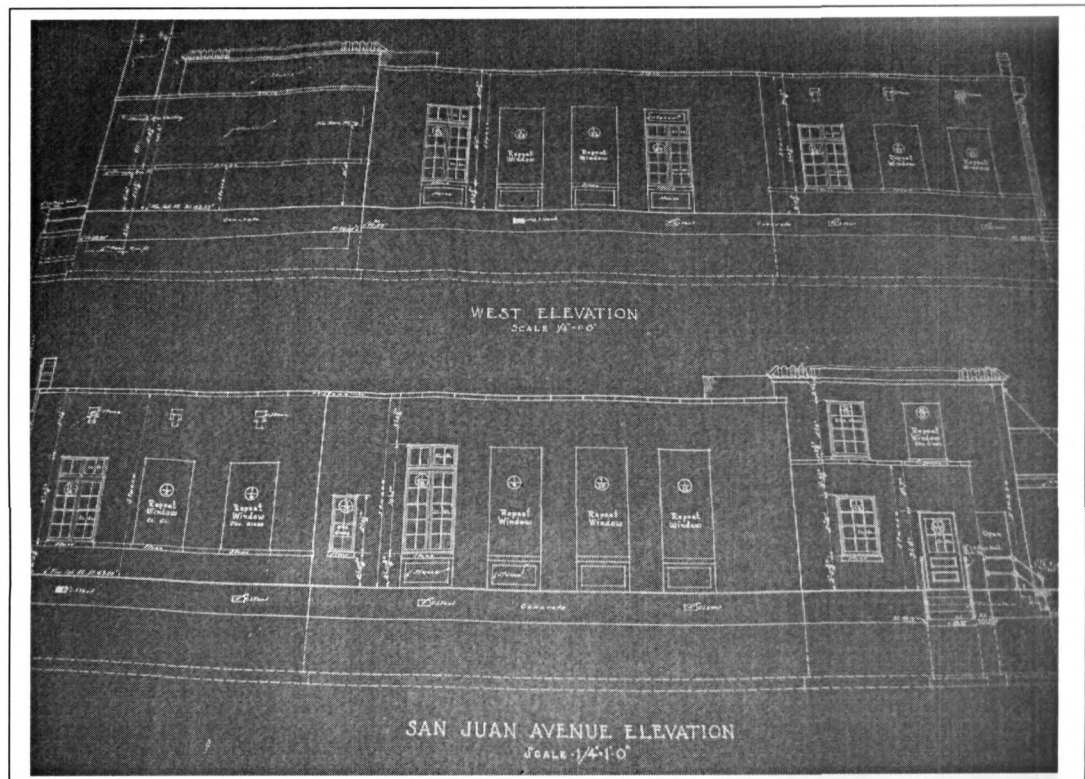
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HISTORIC PHOTOS

H1
Blueprints of
South Façade



H2
Blueprints of
East and West
Elevations



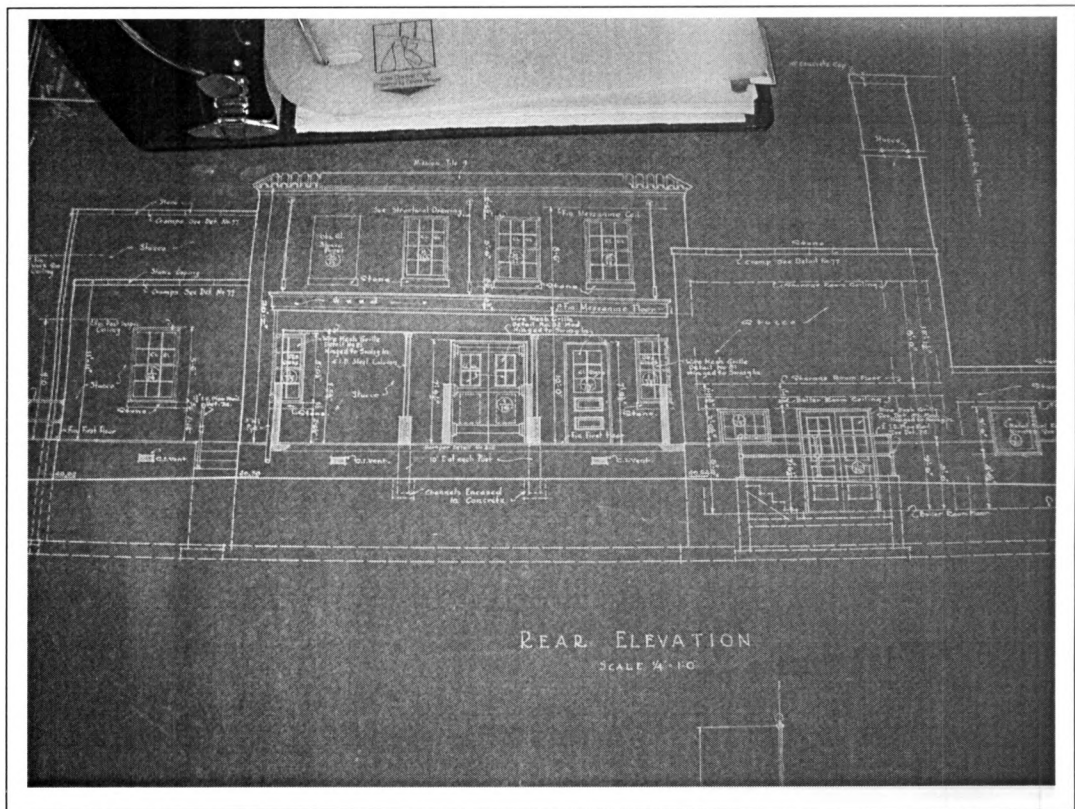
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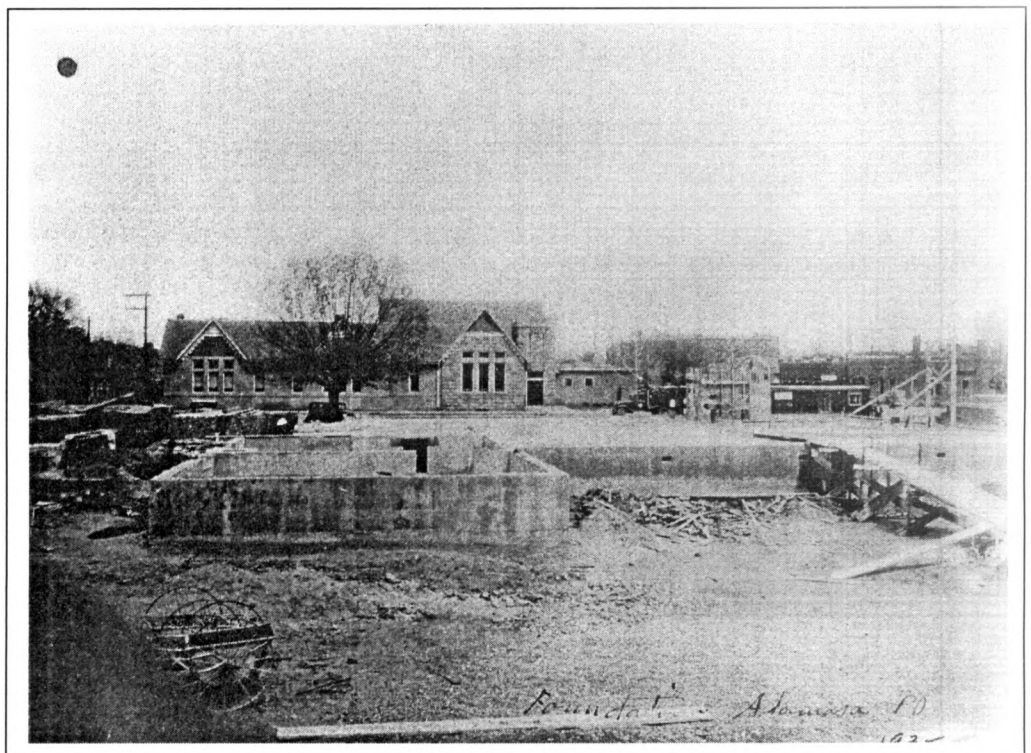
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H3
Blueprints of
North Elevation



H4
West Side - 1935
Taken by O.T.Davis



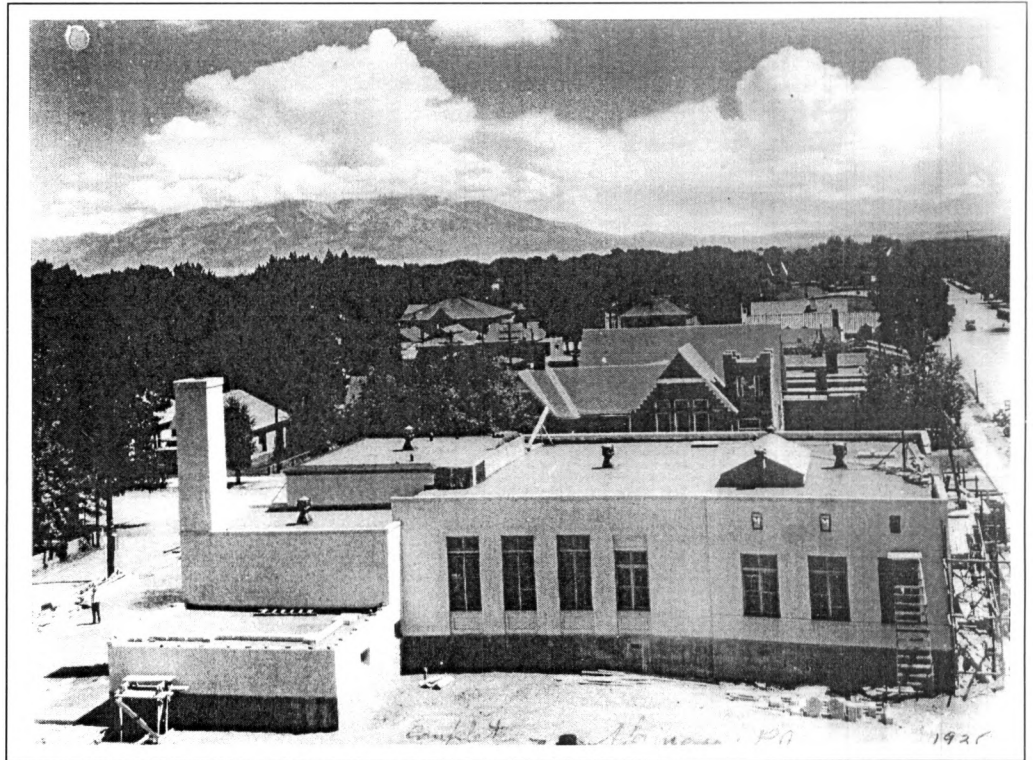
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H5
West Side – 1935
Taken by O.T. Davis



H6
South Façade
And East Side- 1935
Taken by O.T. Davis



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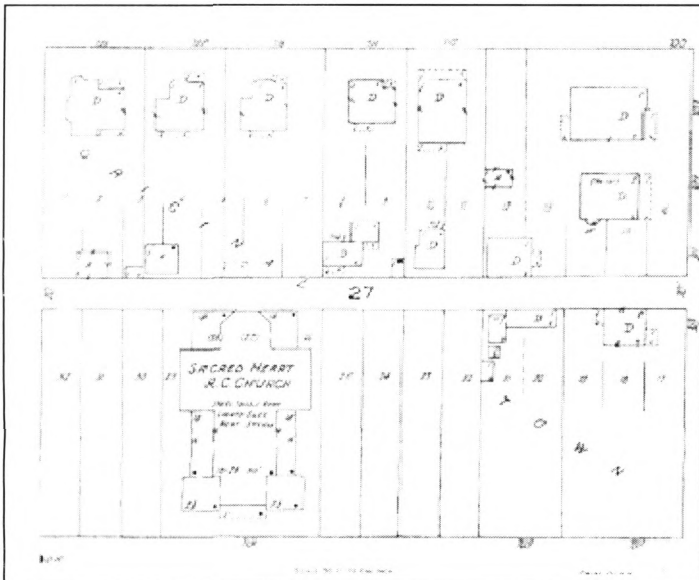
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H7
Original Stairs
& Signage
Unknown Date
(between 1935-1971)



H8
1929 Sanborn Map



H9
1929 Sanborn Map
1946 Revised/Corrected Version

