

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 87002226

Date Listed: 1/14/88

Cotton, C.N., Warehouse
Property Name

McKinley
County

NM
State

Downtown Gallup MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Giesvorn Boland
Signature of the Keeper

1/14/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of significance justified the building under criterion C in the area of architecture, but criterion C was not cited as an applicable criterion. State agrees that criterion C should be added to the documentation.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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Historic Resources of Downtown Gallup
McKinley County, New Mexico

1. Name: C.N. Cotton Warehouse (Associated Grocers)
2. Location: 101 North Third Street
Gallup, New Mexico
3. Classification:
Category building
Ownership private
Status occupied
Accessible yes: unrestricted
Present Use commercial
4. Owner of Property:
Associated Grocers of Arizona
c/o Ross Blakely
P.O. Box 20511
Phoenix AZ 85036
5. Location of Legal Description:
McKinley County Courthouse
205-209 West Hill Street
Gallup, New Mexico
6. Representation in Existing Surveys:
New Mexico Historic Building Inventory
August 1985
New Mexico Historic Preservation division
228 E. Palace Avenue, Rm 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
7. Description:
Condition fair
altered
original site

The 1880s New Mexico Vernacular adobe C.N. Cotton Warehouse is a long, rectangular-shaped, pitched-roof building. Recent renovation work appears to be restricted to the main entry facade on the east.

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Located on the corner of 3rd and 66th Avenue, just north of the railroad tracks, this building is clearly associated with downtown (as well as being associated with the more industrial aspects of the area by being located "across the tracks"). The roof is steeply pitched, covered with corrugated metal, with numerous truncated, hipped-glass skylights at the ridge.

Originally, the building had an adobe storefront-like facade, with steps leading up to the entry porch. The "larger-than-life" Indian statue of the important local Navajo leader Manuelito, reigns over the entrance. Through his dealings with the "white men", Manuelito became known for his thoughtfulness and extreme bravery. He was the leader of the last band of Navajos to surrender to the soldiers and be displaced to the Bosque Redondo reservation. Cotton placed the statue of Manuelito over the entrance out of admiration for Manuelito's courage. The current (1963) brick facade completely obscures the original (except for Manuelito), and is flat, with a running bond pattern. The door and porch have been replaced with a small warehouse door and concrete landing.

The adobe warehouse structure stretches west behind the facade, parallel to the railroad tracks. Although the farthest west section appears to be an addition, it repeats the style and materials of the rest of the structure.

The foundation is locally quarried sandstone, and shows some structural damage. The southside of the warehouse has two receiving/loading docks.

The C.N. Cotton Warehouse is in fair condition, with three sides maintaining their original appearance. The front or east side, has been renovate, however, the profile of the facade remains intact as does the location of the entry. Retrievability of the original east facade remains in question.

8. Significance:

Area of significance architecture
commerce

Period of significance 1880s

Criterion B association with C.N. Cotton

Criterion A Indian trading

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The C.N. Cotton Warehouse is significant as one of the few vernacular buildings left in downtown Gallup, and historically significant for its association with Cotton and the development of Indian trading in Gallup.

C.N. Cotton arrived in Gallup in the 1880s and spent the first few years of his residence there as a telegraph operator for the railroad. In 1884, Cotton began his own wholesale Indian trading company. The company prospered from the beginning, in large part because Cotton was the first Indian trader to develop a market for Navajo blankets in the East. By 1897, Cotton had published the first illustrated catalog of Navajo blankets and was using it as a marketing tool back East. Also pertinent to Cotton's success was his ability to secure government contracts to supply the Indians with food and grain.

Because of his great business success, Cotton had a far reaching effect on the community. About 1890, Cotton built a splendid Territorial Style adobe home at 406 West Aztec. This house was one of the finest in Gallup, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, until its demolition in 1984. Cotton was very active in the community, traveling to Los Angeles in 1913 to lobby for the transcontinental highway to go through Gallup; serving as Mayor of Gallup during World War I; and President of the Merchants Bank of Gallup in 1928. Cotton was also the person specifically responsible for promoting and developing a national interest in Indian arts and crafts. These activities were important in Gallup's development as an Indian trading center, a vital component of the tourist industry in Gallup today.

Architecturally, the C.N. Cotton Warehouse is one of the few remaining New Mexico vernacular buildings in downtown Gallup. Its original storefront-like facade is gone, but this structure remains a strong visual element along Highway 66, and the best, and certainly the largest, vernacular adobe structure in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References: See continuation sheets

10. Geographical data: The nominated property consists of the south half of Block 25, of the Original Townsite.

Quadrangle Name: Gallup East

Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 minute

Acreage: 1.5 acres

UTM References:

Zone 12 Easting 704480 Northing 3933720