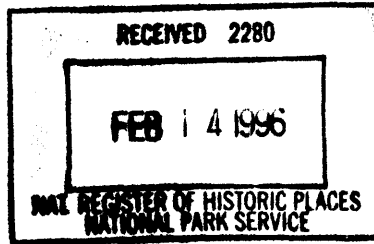


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Roosevelt School  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Calle Malinche  not for publication  
city or town Bernalillo  vicinity  
state New Mexico code NM county Sandoval code 043 zip code 87004

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 2/7/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
New Mexico SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature] 3-15-96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
**Entered in the National Register**

Roosevelt School  
Name of Property

Sandoval, NM  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

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

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

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

Hist. and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in NM

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish-Pueblo Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls stucco  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof asphalt  
other concrete, log  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Roosevelt School  
Name of Property

Sandoval, NM  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

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

**Period of Significance**

1935-1943  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

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

Roosevelt School  
Name of Property

Sandoval, NM  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 358980 319077010 3. 111 11111111 11111111
- 2. 111 11111111 11111111 4. 111 11111111 11111111

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

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

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic district and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

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

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

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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Roosevelt School  
Sandoval County, NM

Description

The Roosevelt School is a rectilinear, flat-roofed, one-story Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style building with a full basement. It has a reinforced concrete skeleton, and the walls are a cream-colored cement stucco over adobe bricks with a continuous parapet. Vigas protrude from the upper walls. The building faces south and has a symmetrical facade with two sets of grouped windows flanking a double-door entry. A large concrete porch with flanking concrete steps paralleling the facade fronts the entry. Set within a complex of other school buildings and facing partially on a playground and partially on the corner of a narrow tree-lined residential street, the four-classroom building has recently been restored to serve as both a school and community library. The property is in excellent condition with the recent alterations, two additions with entries at the rear of the building, minimally affecting the historic appearance of the building.

Similar to standard plans drawn by the architectural staff of the New Mexico WPA for other four-room schools, the building's four classrooms are arranged in a linear plan along its south side. A corridor connects the classrooms with bathrooms, storage spaces and other small rooms lining it to the north. The mechanical room, marked by a chimney, protrudes to the north. The basement, with spaces later converted to classrooms and now the location of both the community and school complex libraries, extends the length of the building. Recently added concrete stairs offer access near the north and south ends of the building. Although the school has a reinforced concrete frame, typical of larger WPA schools in New Mexico, the walls consist of locally made adobe bricks, and the flat roof is supported by hand-hewn vigas cut in the nearby Santa Fe National Forest.

Relatively modest in specific features and decorative elements, the building has a large front porch. Consisting of a pair of wide, ten-step stairs that parallel the building and converge on a large concrete platform, the porch is lined with a stepped cement stucco wall. The double wood doors have nine lights and a transom. Flanking the entry are two grouped windows

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Roosevelt School  
Sandoval County, NM

Description (continued)

consisting of four 6/6 double-hung windows. Similar sets of grouped windows appear on the side walls of the building and in wells for windows illuminating the basement.

During 1994-95, the community of Bernalillo undertook a restoration of the building, beginning with the basement. Seeking to retain the historic character of the building but to adapt it to current requirements, the architect made two additions to the rear of the building that would permit public access to the community library now located in the basement as well as conform to ADA requirements. Both of those additions are denoted by the use of a stucco cement coating lighter than the original portions of the building and contemporary metal-framed double glass doors. Not apparent when looking at the building's facade, neither addition detracts from the property's historic integrity.

Statement of Significance

The Roosevelt School, begun as a Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) project in 1934 and completed by the WPA in 1935, was the first modern public school constructed in Bernalillo. Made possible by the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program, the school is a good example of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the social history of a local community by creating much-needed jobs. In the case of Roosevelt School the project also resulted in the improvement of the community's educational facilities. The building is eligible under Criterion A for its close association with the town's education and social history. Roosevelt School is also eligible under Criterion C as an example of the plans, methods of construction, materials and workmanship New Deal projects employed in carrying out hundreds of school construction projects in New Mexico.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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Roosevelt School  
Sandoval County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

Prior to the construction of the Roosevelt School, few children in Bernalillo attended public schools, studying instead at the parochial schools operated by the Christian Brothers and Sisters of Loretto. Even when Sandoval County began to support public education, it contracted with the religious orders, relying on them to provide schooling for the majority of the community's children. The town's only true public school with lay teachers prior to 1935 consisted of a three-room rented building that local people disparagingly referred to as "escuelita 1-2-3," denoting its small size. With the onset of the Depression and the New Deal's efforts to stimulate the economy through public works projects, the New Mexico FERA funded a school project in Bernalillo. Designed in part to create local jobs in a community whose only industry was a sawmill which had laid off many employees and to provide the town with a modern public school, the project began in 1934.

Using a plan most likely provided by the state's FERA (by 1935, the WPA) architectural staff, local workers made adobe bricks and hewed ponderosa logs hauled from the Jemez Mountains thirty miles away and donated to the county by the Santa Fe National Forest. Although employing a reinforced concrete frame, the building was constructed in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style. The style, which was also becoming popular for larger public buildings, was often favored by the state's New Deal architects for school projects in rural areas and small towns where many WPA workers were already familiar with the local vernacular building practices from which the style partially derived. The total cost of the project was \$14,300, with \$3,500 for materials supplied by the county board of education.

When it was completed in 1935, the school was the first modern educational facility in Bernalillo. Its large grouped windows providing natural light, indoor plumbing, ventilation, heating system, and fire safety features such as outward-swinging double doors began to attract more of the community's children, and soon the phrase "escuelita 1-2-3" disappeared. Ida Aragon, who began teaching at the school in 1942, recalls how modern the

United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9 Page 4

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Roosevelt School  
Sandoval County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

school felt and that the project was "very important to the people of Bernalillo because it helped to create jobs in a hard-pressed community."

In 1948, following a court ruling which prohibited religious-run schools from receiving state public education monies, Bernalillo found itself faced with providing education to a greater number of students. In 1949, the basement rooms at Roosevelt School were converted to serve as the community's high school, a role the building served until 1956 when a new high school was opened. As the community's independent school district, created in 1951, grew during the next thirty years, a new elementary school and portable classrooms gradually replaced the older building.

As the structure aged it was deemed unsafe, abandoned, and considered for demolition. Aware of its significance as the Bernalillo's historic WPA-era public school, the community sought and received state funds to restore the building. The first phase of the restoration, an unusual effort to use the basement as a combination community and elementary school library, has been completed. Subsequent plans call for the classrooms on the main floor to be restored for use as community meeting rooms. The architect hopes to retain the blackboards and salvageable fixtures in one of the restored rooms to recall the building's historic use as a school.

Bibliography

Aragon, Ida. Interview with David Kammer. May, 1995.

Ruiz-Esparza, R. "Historical Summary of Roosevelt Elementary School." Unpublished paper, courtesy of Charles Aguilar, Principal Roosevelt School Complex.

Tingley, Clyde. WPA Correspondence 1935-1938, "W.P.A. School Projects." NMSRCA.



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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 5

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Roosevelt School  
Sandoval County, NM

### Verbal Boundary Description

The W half of lot 18 and lots 19-29 of Block 2 of the Porter Addition.

### Boundary Justification

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