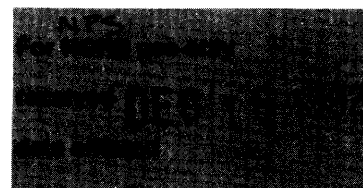


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

**1. Name**

historic            Bottger, Charles A., House

and/or common            Aldridge Fine Arts Gallery

**2. Location**

street & number            110 San Felipe N.W.            not for publication

city, town            Albuquerque            vicinity of            congressional district           

state            New Mexico            code            35            county            Bernalillo            code            001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>          </u> district	<u>          </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>          </u> agriculture	<u>          </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>          </u> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<u>          </u> park
<u>          </u> structure	<u>          </u> both	<u>          </u> work in progress	<u>          </u> educational	<u>          </u> private residence
<u>          </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>          </u> entertainment	<u>          </u> religious
<u>          </u> object	<u>          </u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u>          </u> government	<u>          </u> scientific
	<u>          </u> being considered	<u>          </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>          </u> industrial	<u>          </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<u>          </u> no	<u>          </u> military	<u>          </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name            Rosario Garcia, Estate Administrator, The Lena Garcia Estate

street & number            Star Route Box 503

city, town            Corrales            vicinity of            state            N.M. 87048

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.            Bernalillo County Courthouse

street & number            505 Central NW

city, town            Albuquerque            state            NM 87102

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Landmarks Survey            State Reg. #            751             
title            of Albuquerque            has this property been determined eligible?            yes  no

date            June, 1979            federal  state            county            local

depository for survey records            Historic Landmarks Survey            P.O. Box 1293

city, town            Albuquerque            state            N.M. 87103

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

The Charles A. Bottger House, 110 San Felipe N.W., was built between 1911 and 1912. It is a 2 1/2 story "American FourSquare" style home sited a block southeast of the Old Albuquerque Plaza. A square white building accented by large windows, broad eaves and a generous verandah, it has long been a landmark for travellers on Central Avenue, the main thoroughfare connecting Old and New Albuquerque.

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet    Description    Item number    7    Page    2

The Bottger House is all that remains of a cluster of old structures which once stood just south of the plaza. Immediately to the southeast stood the massive 1886 redstone Bernalillo County Courthouse (demolished in the 1950's). This site is now occupied by a modern Catholic school building. To the west is a gravelled parking lot where a number of adobe buildings stood, including the Sunnyside Inn of which Mr. Bottger was the proprietor for a number of years. Directly south of the Bottger House is a remodeled gas station which fronts on Central Avenue.

The house is of balloon frame construction with a massive stone foundation. The low hipped roof is red metal tile resembling flattened clay barrel tile. Hip-roofed dormers break the roof line on the west, south and east slopes; each dormer has a panel of three small square windows. Two brick interior chimneys also extend above the roof line. The deep boxed soffit is supported by pairs of carved wood brackets, giving the house a slightly Italianate air.

Large 4 x 6 single hung wood windows are evenly placed across both stories on the south facade and near the front corner on the east wall. The top sash of each window is roughly 18 x 4'. The rear windows are 1/1 double hung wood; a panel of 2/2 wood windows wraps around the northeast corner on the second floor, creating an airy sleeping porch, and a small rear porch has 4/4 wood windows on its three exterior walls.

A deep one-story porch runs across the south and east facades. The flat porch roof appears to have once been hipped like the main roof. The porch walls are a series of wide shouldered arches; these are now glazed. One arch spans the entry onto the porch which leads to the front door, a single long pane of heavy beveled glass set in a mahogany frame. This is flanked by side lights with an egg and dart molding surrounding each window. The top sidelights are leaded glass in a diamond pattern; the center toplight is plain glass.

The most striking feature of the ample interior (4800 sq. ft.) are the elaborate pressed metal ceilings; each public room--the entry/living room, the parlor and the dining room--has a distinctively patterned ceiling featuring swags, medallions and wreaths set in a wide variety of molded geometric patterns. Below each ceiling is an 18" high frieze edged by egg and dart molding. The frieze in the northeast room displays a mural of a New Mexico mountain and village scene painted within the last 30 years.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1910-1912

**Builder/Architect** Edward Buxton Cristy

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Charles A. Bottger House was called "the pride of Old Town" when it was completed in 1912. Built by a temporarily wealthy entrepreneur from New Jersey who married into an Old Town family, the house was designed by prominent local architect Edward Cristy in the then-popular "American Foursquare" style. It was only the second non-traditional house built near the plaza and was far more modern than the first, incorporating such up-to date amenities as speaking tubes between rooms and a dumbwaiter as well as lavish decorative features. Unlike the other "Anglo-style" homes in Old Albuquerque it has escaped being remodeled into the Pueblo Revival Style. The house's significance in the history of Albuquerque lies in its contrast with nearby Old Town, for it is a vivid record of the period when the old Spanish village made a last attempt to keep pace with bustling New Town a mile to the east.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Title Abstract  
Donald Dreesen, Early Settlers of Albuquerque  
City Directories, Albuquerque Public Library  
Albuquerque Morning Journal, December 15, 1914  
Will of Charles August Bottger

Recorded conversations with  
George Gallegos Jr., Vera  
Gallegos Garcia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .51

Quadrangle name Albuq. west

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	3	3	4	7	8	8	0	3	8	8	4	6	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Tract 150bla, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Map 38  
This property includes house and walled front yard.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary P. Davis, Coordinator

organization Historic Landmarks Survey

date June 30, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 1293

telephone (505) 766-4720

city or town Albuquerque

state New Mexico 87103

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

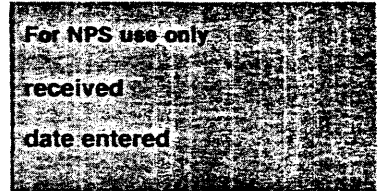
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-9-82

For NCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.  
Name of the National Register  
Date of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Even acquisition of the land and the later demolition of the building which stood there represented a break in Old Albuquerque history. The land was bought in 1900 by John Louis F. Bottger, Charles' father, from Cristobal Armijo. The Armijos were a large and powerful Albuquerque family who had become wealthy as merchants, stockmen and landowners. Its most notorious member was General Manuel Armijo, the last Mexican governor of New Mexico, and it was Governor Armijo's old 40-room adobe which stood on the land purchased by Bottger in 1900. Often illustrated in turn-of-the-century guidebooks and on postcards, the Armijo House was also known as Mrs. Phil Sheridan's House, since Mrs. Sheridan was supposedly born there.

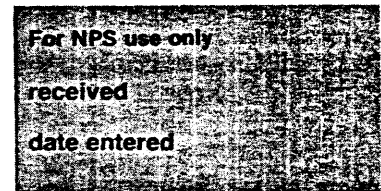
The huge old adobe stood on the site for ten or so more years after the transfer of the property. John Louis Bottger, a German who made his home in New Jersey, died in 1904 in Munich, Germany and left to his widow, Julia, all his property in New Jersey and New Mexico; he specifically did not leave anything to his son Charles "believing that because of the great affection existing between his wife and his said son, that...she will make such provision for him as she may deem wise and prudent." Julia Bottger died in 1909 and left all her property "to her beloved son." Once Charles received that property he lost little time in planning and building a new house: his 1910 will noted that he owned an adobe in Old Town, but by 1911 work must have begun on the new house, for architect Edward Cristy later asked for payment for services rendered between 1911 and 1912. These services included plans and supervision of construction.

Charles Bottger had little time to enjoy his mansion for he died in December, 1914 after a two year illness. His career in Albuquerque had been brief but colorful. Bottger had come to New Mexico in 1889, one of the many easterners attracted by the money-making opportunities created when the coming of the railroad opened up the southwest in the 1880's. He settled in Old Town and by 1896 was the proprietor of the Sunnyside Inn, an old adobe located just west of the Armijo House. The Inn was complete with "first class double bowling alley...the finest in whiskies, brandies, wines and cigars,...pool and billards and accomodations for drinking parties." The bowling alley was Bottger's personal property; it was reported to be the first in New Mexico.

One year after becoming proprietor of the Sunnyside Inn, Bottger married Miguela Post the stepdaughter of Thomas Post, who had owned the inn until his death in 1893. Miguela Post

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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



Continuation sheet      Significance      Item number 8      Page 3

was the daughter of Antonio Baca and Gertrudes Garcia who had married Tom Post after Baca's death. Miguela's first husband was Max Stein, a storekeeper who had died in El Paso in 1891. Her stepfather, Tom Post, was a well-known Old Albuquerque figure who had come to Albuquerque in the 1860's from Kansas City. He operated first a ferry boat and then a pontoon toll bridge across the Rio Grande in the 1870's. Besides owning and managing the Inn, he also ran a butcher shop on the Plaza. Miguela met Charles Bottger while she was working at the Sunnyside Inn. After they were married they continued to live at the Sunnyside. They had two daughters, Julia, born 1898 and Dorothy, born 1903.

The new house, begun in 1911, was probably completed the following year, for that is when the architect finished his work. A Deed of Trust, taken out in 1913 for \$4500, may have been used either to complete the house or simply to pay for finished work. A second Deed of Trust was executed on 1914, again for \$4500. The expenses must have been considerable, for the house was estimated to be worth \$10,000 in 1920. It was termed "the finest in town" and was undoubtedly a showplace. It had its own electrical plant in the basement, speaking tubes throughout the house, stained glass windows, a carved mahogany fireplace, a dumbwaiter and elaborate pressed metal ceilings. The daughter of the construction foreman recalled that an artist was imported from New York to paint the murals in the dining room.

The architect, Edward B. Cristy, was Albuquerque's foremost architect at the turn of the century. He is best known as the co-designer, with University of New Mexico President William Tight, of the transformation of the University into the "Pueblo on the Mesa" during the first decade of the 20th century. Cristy drew up the University's first campus plan, designed two dormitories in the pueblo style and worked on the remodeling of Victorian Hodgkin Hall, (placed on the National Register 1/30/78), into a three-story pueblo style building. These buildings were the first use in New Mexico of the Spanish/Pueblo style for permanent structures. Cristy also designed the city's first high school, now demolished, and several buildings for Presbyterian Hospital. In 1920 he advertised that his specialties were "Schools, churches, business blocks," so the Bottger House may be one of his few residential designs; his own home at 201 Walter S.E., a significant building in the Huning Highlands Historic District, is a series of joined small octagonal rooms built in frame, quite different from the large square Bottger House.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet    Significance

Item number    8

Page    4

It is not clear how long Bottger continued to manage the Sunnyside Inn, but apparently he lived quite well for a while: his grandchildren say that he had the first car in Albuquerque—shiny red with brass trim, that his daughter Julia was bought a mink coat when she was 12, and that the family took frequent trips to Europe. The construction foreman's daughter also recalls being told that Bottger always wore a diamond stick pin. Some of his expenses may have been met by earnings from the several mines in which he had invested. However, when he died in 1914, all his estate and his wife's insurance was used to pay his debts. The house was left to his daughters and its use during her lifetime to Miguela Bottger and they almost lost it. The Deed of Trust executed in 1914 was finally released in 1920. Both daughters were married at this time: Julia to George Gallegos in 1920 and Dorothy to Zachery Ortiz in 1921. Dorothy and her husband were given land south of the house, and Julia and her husband appear to have remained with her mother. Both daughters quitclaimed the house and its land to their mother in the 1920's.

In 1936 Mrs. Bottger released the house and land to her daughter Julia and in 1937 Miguela Bottger died. The property given to Julia had been decreased by land taken for San Felipe Road on the west, land given to Dorothy on the east and land on the north sold to Grant Shaw. The Gallegos family used every possible means to hold onto the house. They sold their land fronting on Central Avenue to Harold and Earl Ralston and the house was occupied not only by the Gallegos family in 1938 but also by an art gallery and John's Hamburger Stand in that year. In 1939, 1942 and 1948, it was again almost lost for unpaid taxes. As Old Town gradually became more of a tourist attraction, the building was used as a tourist lodge, a show card shop, and a restaurant. The last of the land not immediately adjacent to the house was, however, given away. Julia Gallegos granted a narrow parcel which ran east from the house to San Pasquale Road to the San Felipe Catholic School which was located in the old Courthouse building southeast of the Bottger property.

When Julia Gallegos died in 1968, she left the house and land to her six children. For several years it was rented to a religious group which allowed the house to deteriorate. When they vacated the building, it stood empty for some time and was vandalized, losing some of its fine interior woodwork and stained glass windows. It has recently been leased by an art gallery, which has restored the building.