

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1469
81

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: DOWNTOWN ROSWELL HISTORIC DISTRICT

HISTORIC NAME:

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Boundary Increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District (NRHP1985-05-16)

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly bounded by 8th and 10th Streets and by Richardson and Kentucky Avenues

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Roswell

VICINITY: N/A

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: NM

COUNTY: Chaves

CODE: 005

ZIP CODE: 88201

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.)

NM SHPO

October 26, 2001

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this 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

Date of Action

1.17.02

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private; Public

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
BUILDINGS	31	10
SITES	0	0
STRUCTURES	0	1
OBJECTS	1	0
TOTAL	32	11

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic Resources of Roswell, New Mexico

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; multiple dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; multiple dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Hipped Box, Southwest Vernacular

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION: CONCRETE; STONE

WALLS: STUCCO; CLAPBOARD; STONE; BRICK

ROOF: ASPHALT

OTHER: BRICK

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-10).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE; SOCIAL HISTORY

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1890-1946

SIGNIFICANT DATES: N/A

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-15).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-16).

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 (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 17 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	13	548865	3695888	3	13	544286	3695629
2	13	544124	3695888	4	13	543865	3695629

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundary of this addition to the Downtown Roswell Historic District is indicated by the dotted line on the accompanying district map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-17)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: David Kammer, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION: Contracting historian

DATE: July, 2001

STREET & NUMBER: 521 Aliso Dr. NE

TELEPHONE: (505) 266-0586

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 87108

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-18)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: List of property owners kept on file with Historic Preservation Division, New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs

STREET & NUMBER: 228 East Palace Avenue, Room 320

TELEPHONE: (505) 827-6320

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 87501

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Narrative Description

This boundary increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District consists of approximately five residential blocks, as well as the portion of the North Spring River channel where a small city park is located. Comprising approximately 17 acres, the addition is located at the northern end of the original historic district. Organized in a grid pattern similar to the earlier district, the addition includes contributing buildings constructed between approximately 1900 and 1946 and largely reflecting more modest examples of the Queen Anne, Hipped Box, Craftsman, Period Revivals and Southwest Vernacular styles than found in the original district. Cutting through the grid for approximately one block is the masonry-lined channel of the North Spring River as it courses from west to east toward its confluence with the Rio Hondo two miles east of the district. The channel includes a mosaic masonry Iron Cross constructed by German prisoners during 1943-44. Similar to the original district to which it is contiguous, the streetscape includes broad streets, rear access alleys, landscape buffers between street and sidewalk, a common setback of houses, and mature vegetation. The boundary increase to the district contains 31 contributing buildings, 10 noncontributing buildings, one contributing object and one noncontributing site. With its location and setting, as well as the design, materials and workmanship of its contributing properties, the boundary increase expands the current district, broadening its association with the historic residential growth of Roswell.

The boundary increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District is bounded on the west by the rear alley between Lea and Kentucky Avenues, on the east by Richardson Avenue and the rear alley between Pennsylvania and Kentucky Avenues, and generally by Eighth Street on the south and Ninth and Tenth Streets on the north. Indicated as the eastern half of Blocks 35 and 36, as well as Blocks 55 and 56 of the West Side Addition and Block 4 of the North Spring River Addition on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Roswell, the five blocks reflect the grid characterizing Roswell's early pattern of residential development. The majority of the houses face east and west with only small apartments located on corner lots and occasional houses departing from this norm.

Flowing through the grid is the North Spring River. Its channel and a slight slope rising north of the channel constitute the only differentiation in terrain within the district. An intermittent waterway no more than five miles in length, the river courses through Roswell's western residential suburbs with its banks largely lined with masonry walls or riprap. Through the district, a concrete slab lines its floodplain. The Spring River Parkway Iron Cross Observation Point, dedicated in 1993 as part of Roswell's municipal park system, offers visitors a view of the Iron Cross constructed by German prisoners of war during their internment at nearby Orchard Park. The cross, embedded in the riprap, is approximately five feet in diameter and is made of polychromatic stones of various sizes (see Photo 7).

Reflective of less ornate but nevertheless similar building styles, materials and workmanship evident in the original Downtown Roswell Historic District, the residences of this addition to the district represent the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

residential building practices characterizing Roswell during nearly the first half of the twentieth-century. Of the 41 buildings within the boundary increase to the district, 31 have construction dates prior to 1930, while only three recently constructed multi-unit dwellings date after 1946. Most of the buildings constructed during the period of significance retain a degree of integrity with regard to design, materials and workmanship. Those that have received substantial alterations or date beyond the period of significance, are considered noncontributing (see Photo 6).

Styles evident within the district increase include simplified Queen Anne, Hipped Box, Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Southwest Vernacular. The majority employ design elements associated with the Hipped Box and Craftsman forms (see Photos 1 & 3). Representative examples of these two predominant styles include 906 N. Kentucky Avenue, 805 N. Kentucky Avenue, and 804 N. Pennsylvania Avenue. The first, illustrative of the Hipped Box cottage, employs a steeply pitched hipped roof, paired 1/1 double hung wood sash windows and a cut-out porch supported by a corner post. The latter two examples illustrate the two common façade designs characterizing most of the district's more modest Craftsman houses. The former employs a clapboard facing and an offset gabled porch with large piers, while the latter displays a textured stucco facing and a shed porch with large arched openings extending the width of the façade.

The majority of the houses are one story, and most have concrete or masonry foundations. Many of the houses reveal a cement stucco facing, often richly textured, while a minority have clapboard and, to a lesser degree, shiplap walls. Fenestration includes single and grouped double hung wood sash windows, as well as fixed and metal casement windows associated with residential construction during the first four decades of the twentieth century. Many of the houses also have porches, some of which are offset and, in some instances, recessed or cutout. A majority of the Craftsman houses, however, include either shed or gable porches that extend the length of the gable end facing the street. Most of the lots include garages, contemporaneous with the residence, located at the rear and sometime accessible from the rear alley.

Indicative of the period of significance, the streetscape includes broad streets with a landscape buffer in the right-of-way between the street and the sidewalk that also characterized the original Downtown Roswell Historic District. While small perennial flowerbeds punctuate some yards and a few yards reflect water-conserving xeriscaping, the majority of houses are shaded by a canopy of mature deciduous and evergreen trees. The predominant tree is the Siberian elm with evergreens and other bushes lining many of the front porches (see Photo 5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

List of Contributing and Noncontributing Properties

Address	Date of Construction	Style
Contributing Properties		
801-01-1/2 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1942	Hipped Box
803-03-1/2 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1942	Hipped Box
800 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1904	Hipped Box
802 N. Kentucky Ave.	1908	Hipped Box
804 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
805 N. Kentucky Ave.	1921	Craftsman
809 N. Kentucky Ave.	1921	Craftsman
811 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1921	Craftsman
812 N. Kentucky Ave.	1931	Southwest Vernacular
813 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1921	Craftsman
904 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
906 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1907	Hipped Box
908 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
910 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Craftsman
911 N. Kentucky Ave.	1935	Southwest Vernacular
912 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
802 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
804 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	1915	Craftsman
805 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	1900	Queen Anne
806 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	ca. 1904	Queen Anne
808 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	ca. 1912	Queen Anne
809 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	ca. 1904	Queen Anne
811 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	ca. 1904	Craftsman
813 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	1936	Tudor Revival
208 W. 9 th St.	1932	Craftsman
307 W. 8 th St.	1932	Craftsman
800 N. Richardson Ave.	ca. 1904	Hipped Box
802 N. Richardson Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
804 N. Richardson Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
806 N. Richardson Ave.	ca. 1912	Gable and Wing
808 N. Richardson Ave.	ca. 1912	Hipped Box
Spring River Parkway	1943-44	Masonry Iron Cross (object)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Address	Date of Construction	Style
Noncontributing Properties		
807 N. Kentucky Ave.	1921	Craftsman
808 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1975	Ranch
909 N. Kentucky Ave.	ca. 1912	Queen Anne
209-211 W. 8 th St.	ca. 1926	N/A
213-215 W. 8 th St.	ca. 1926	N/A
801 A&B N. Penn. Ave.	ca. 1916	N/A
803 A&B N. Penn. Ave.	ca. 1916	N/A
300 A&B W.9 th St.	1980	N/A
302 A&B W. 9 th St.	1986	N/A
202 W. 9 th St.	1987	N/A
Spring River Parkway	1993	Site

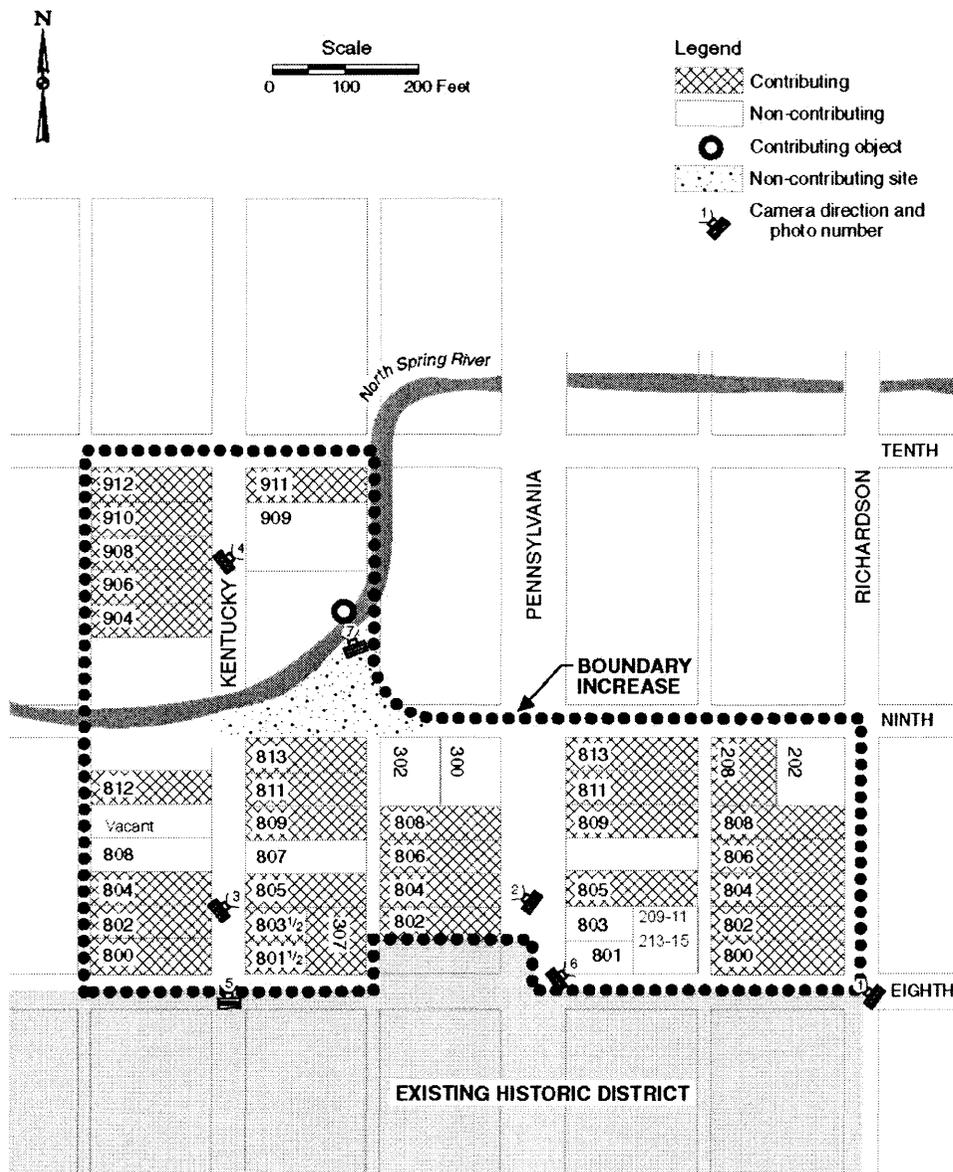
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Figure 7-1 Boundary Increase to Downtown Roswell Historic District



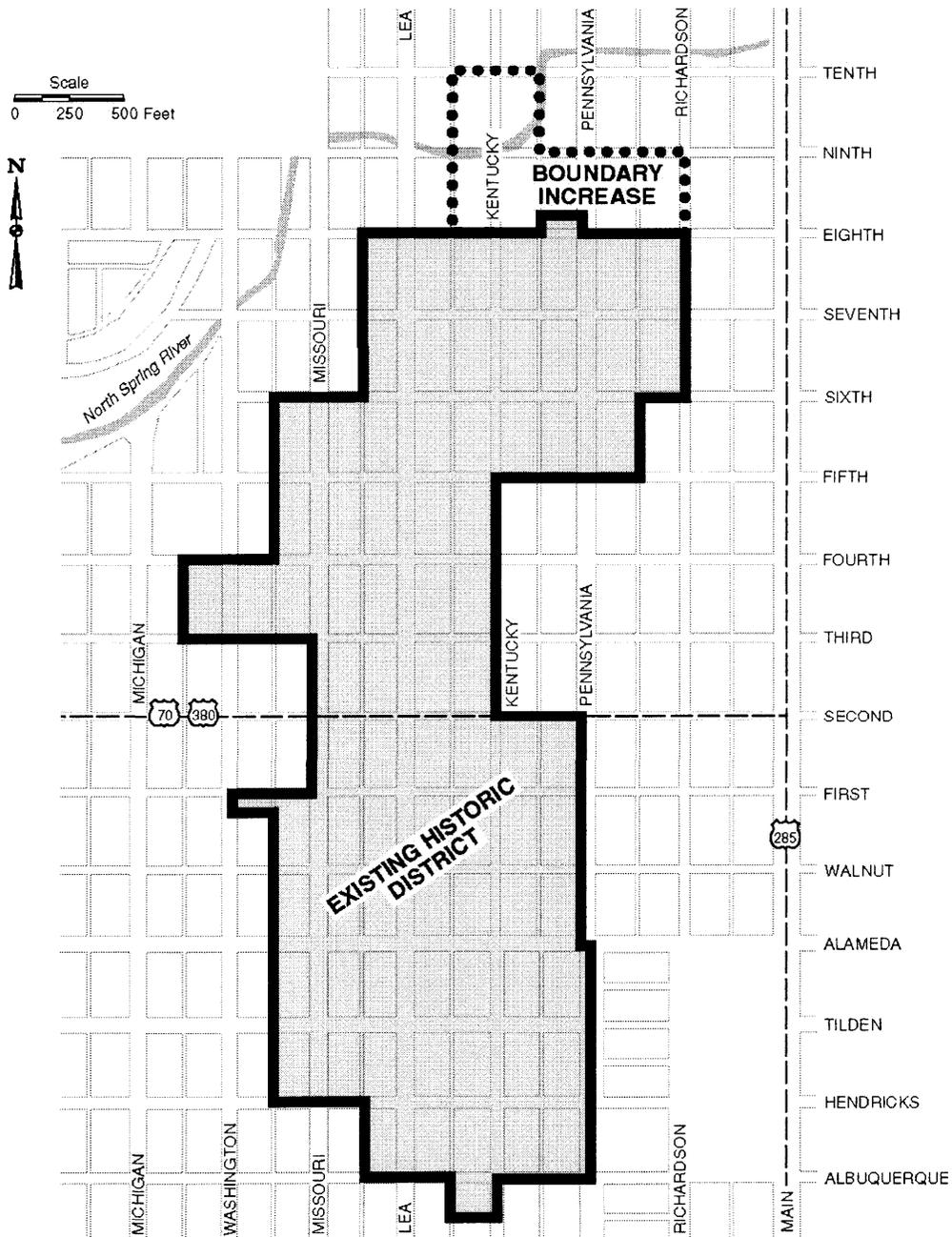
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 10

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Figure 7-2 Boundary Increase and Original Downtown Roswell Historic District



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Section 8 Page 11

Statement of Significance

This 17-acre boundary increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District is similar in its settlement pattern, spatial organization and architectural character to the original district. While a small portion of the original district was included in the original 1885 plat of the Roswell townsite, most of it, as well as this increase, encompass the early additions platted adjacent to the original townsite during the two decades following the original plat. During the earliest years of settlement, dating to the 1870s, the North Spring River provided both irrigation and drinking water for residents of the townsite just south of the river. With the discovery of artesian water in 1890 and the digging of numerous subsequent wells, however, the water supplied by the river became less important, and new additions to the original townsite simply overlaid the North Spring River channel, which gradually ceased to flow by the late 1920s. The platting of these early divisions resulted in the emergence of early Roswell's leading residential district that lines the commercial district west of Main Street. The houses located within these early walkable suburbs exhibit the siting and location, as well as the design, material and workmanship reflective of tastes and sensibilities of the community's early settlers. The houses that followed as empty lots within the area were gradually filled in through the 1940s also reflect the evolving popular taste in residential styles. The location of the Iron Cross embedded in the riprap lining North Spring River represents the social history of Roswell during World War II, when a nearby prisoner-of-war camp supplied prisoners who labored on the area's farms and carried out landscaping projects. The boundary increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District is eligible at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C for its significance to the social history pertaining to Roswell's early development and to its early residential architecture.

Designated in 1873 as Roswell, the name of the father of Van C. Smith, the settlement's first postmaster, the town began to grow in the 1890s as a result of the discovery of artesian water and the coming of the railroad. Prior to the discovery of artesian water, early residents had used the waters of both the South and North Spring Rivers to supply gravity-based irrigation ditches to irrigate fields in the area that soon became part of the growing town. These rivers, only a few miles in length, were fed by springs resulting from the underground flow of water from the Capitan Mountains, some 30 miles to the west, which then rose to the surface as they descended into the Pecos Valley. During the town's earliest days following the platting of the original townsite in 1885, small timber bridges along Main Street crossed two ditches irrigating fields along the south side of North Spring River. In addition to sustaining crops, these ditches also provided the early settlers with drinking water, while another ditch diverted to the east of Main Street powered a turbine which rotated the stones of the settlement's first grist mill (Perrigo 1991: p. 46).

The discovery of artesian water in 1890, however, began a process of change. With artesian wells being dug throughout the Pecos Valley, from 10 miles north of Roswell to 55 miles to the south, the pressure that had fed water into the North and South Spring Rivers gradually diminished. With these multiple artesian wells irrigating the area's orchards and gardens, Roswell assumed an oasis-like appearance and gained a reputation as

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Section 8 Page 12

one of New Mexico's most productive farming valleys. This increased use of the area's underground water, however, negatively affected the two rivers, diminishing flows estimated in the late 1860s as 40 feet wide and 10 to 20 feet deep. By the 1930s, when a growing sense of the need for conservation led to Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects aimed at capping many of the free-flowing wells, the rivers had become dry channels.

As the town expanded with the platting of new additions to the north, lots lining North Spring River now faced on a dry channel. Efforts to landscape this channel began in the 1930s as WPA projects. In the early 1940s, when a prisoner-of-war camp was established at Orchard Park, 14 miles southeast of Roswell, German prisoners, many of them members of General Rommel's Afrika Corps, were assigned to construct riprap along North Spring River's channel (see Figure 8-1). As they labored in the area, the prisoners fashioned an Iron Cross consisting of polychromatic stones embedded in riprap. At first, some members of the community perceived the cross as an insult to the community and coated it with cement. However, over the years the concrete has been removed through erosion and the cross is seen as a reminder of an important chapter in the city's past and was commemorated in 1993 with the creation of a small observation park.

The second factor contributing to Roswell's early growth and the development of the early residential neighborhoods within the historic district was the coming of the railroad. Although the Pecos Valley Railway had been completed to Eddy (now Carlsbad) in 1891, thus linking the area south of Roswell with the transcontinental Texas and Pacific Railroad at Pecos City, Texas, it wasn't until 1894 that the line was finally extended north to Roswell. Then in 1899, a northern link was completed so that the line, renamed the Pecos Valley and Northeastern Railway, connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway lines at Amarillo. As a result, Roswell became the shipping point not only for the cattle that had spurred the settlement's original growth but also for the alfalfa, apples and peaches, and, eventually, cotton, that became its economic mainstay. Aided by this commercial growth, the town grew from a population of 343 in 1890, to 6,000 in 1910, and rapidly increased to 11,000 in 1930 and 26,000 by 1950. Related to its emergence as the center of both commercial and ranching activities in southeastern New Mexico, was the additional demand for housing on the part of distant ranchers who maintained "Sunday houses." These second homes located within the growing town furnished ranchers and their families with an in-town residence available for weekend cultural and religious activities, as well as a base for conducting business.

The coming of the railroad also facilitated the importation of new building materials and house designs. In the absence of materials such as lumber and bricks, many of the earliest buildings in Roswell were of sun-baked adobe brick construction. The construction of the town's first brick plant in 1890 resulted in the availability of a soft brick that most builders viewed as inadequate for facing. In 1894, the railroad began to import hard bricks from Texas and Kansas that prompted a new generation of brick commercial buildings, as well as a few instances of brick residential construction (Shinkle 1964:178). More common to residential construction in turn-of-the-century Roswell, however, was lumber. Previously hauled from the Capitan Mountains or from as far as Las Vegas, New Mexico, lumber became readily available in the late 1890s and early 1900s when several

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

lumberyards opened near the railroad tracks. While the source of their inventories is unclear, the increased supply accounts for much of the early residential construction, especially the numerous Hipped Box and Queen Anne-style houses that appear in the Downtown Roswell Historic District. It also accounts for the generally more modest examples of these styles in this addition to the district.

The preference for the Hipped Box and simplified Queen Anne houses in Roswell's residential neighborhoods west of Main Street reflect the building pattern found in the territory's other communities through which railroads passed in the late nineteenth century. Similar to East Las Vegas' neighborhoods and Albuquerque's Huning-Highlands, the Downtown Roswell Historic District illustrates how the railroad made an array of building materials and plans available to previously remote areas, especially in the American West. As with these other communities, the degree to which design elements appear within given buildings is often a reflection of the social hierarchy of the community. Some areas within the neighborhood offer particularly ornate examples of these design styles; others, often in subsequent adjacent additions, offer more modest examples. Together they provide a more complete depiction of the tastes and building preferences embraced by the largely Anglo-American middle class segment of the community within a given period.

While architects did practice in Roswell during the late territorial period, it is unlikely that few or any of these relatively modest residences reflect the results of their efforts. Records indicate, for example, that one of the first architects registered in New Mexico, Columbus Redmond Carr, resided in the town but appears to have limited his design work to public and commercial buildings from the turn-of-the-century through the 1930s. Consisting of relatively simple plans, many which reflected design norms with which were already familiar elsewhere, most of these residences reveal their builders' familiarity with basic designs and their ability work with pre-cut architectural details. The use of the slightly pitched front gables and asymmetrical front porches, for instance, represents a convention found across much of the lower Midwest from which many of the community's first residents hailed. Similarly the use of extensive porches fronting the Hipped Box houses and the steep pitch of many of the roofs represent practices already widespread in those warmer regions.

The appearance of residences employing the Craftsman style in the late 1910s and early 1920s continued, and even extended, the generous use of porches. Defined by their wide overhangs and exposed rafters, these modest bungalows are also characterized by multiple paired and grouped windows. The effect of the generous fenestration associated with the Craftsman style was fortuitous both in Roswell and other New Mexican communities, in that in emphasizing an integration of outdoor with indoor living the style lent itself to the climatological therapy then advocated for health seekers seeking to overcome consumption. Although at an elevation of 3,500', Roswell lay below the so-called "zone of immunity" that drew consumptives to Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and Silver City, the community nevertheless also attracted tuberculars seeking their cure. While no records cite specific residences within the addition to the historic district that housed health seekers, the numerous Craftsman-style dwellings within the area recall a period in the community's history when their broad porches and multiple windows offered the ideal housing for consumptives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

By 1930, residences stood on most of the lots within this addition. Uncharacteristic of the more ornate houses lining the residential streets to the south, the blocks within boundary increase also contained a few duplexes. Generally located on corner lots and employing a rectangular plan with a pitched roof, the multi-unit dwellings recall an era in which Roswell's growth necessitated a higher density housing even within the preferred walkable suburb lining the downtown commercial district. During the Great Depression, most of the remaining undeveloped lots were filled with new housing. Continuing to reflect the changing popular taste in building styles, the infills occurring within the period of significance exhibit elements associated with the Southwest Vernacular style.

The selection of the period of significance, 1890-1946, reflects the platting of the first additions that make up the current district and the end of substantial development within the early subdivisions along the west side of Roswell's original townsite that are included within the district's boundaries. It also reflects efforts carried out during the New Deal and, later, with German prisoners-of-war to complete the landscaping projects associated with the North Spring River as it ceased to flow and it became, instead, a challenge for the community to integrate its now dry channel into the suburban landscape. This boundary increase to the historic district complements the original historic district, in that it represents a continuation of its landscape and building practices and the effort during the 1930s and 40s to stabilize the river channel.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Figure 8-1 German P.O.W. Installing Riprap (Courtesy Historical Center for Southeast New Mexico)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 16

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Major Bibliographical References

Fleming, Elvis and Minor S. Huffman, ed. Roundup on the Pecos. Roswell, New Mexico: Chaves County Historical Society, 1978.

Fleming, Elvis and Ernestine Chesser Williams, ed. Treasures of History II: Chaves County Vignettes. Roswell, New Mexico: Chaves County Historical Society, 1991.

_____. Treasures of History III: Southeast New Mexico People, Places, and Events. Roswell, New Mexico: Chaves County Historical Society, 1995.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Roswell, New Mexico, 1921.

Shinkle, James D. Fifty Years of Roswell History, 1867-1917. Roswell, New Mexico: Hall-Poorbaugh Press, Inc., 1964.

_____. Reminiscences of Roswell Pioneers. Roswell, New Mexico: Hall-Poorbaugh Press, Inc., 1966.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 17

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for this boundary increase to the Downtown Roswell Historic District have been selected to encompass a significant concentration of residential buildings adjacent to the north boundary of the original district that were constructed during the period of significance and through their overall degree of integrity, reflect the architectural styles prominent in Roswell during that period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico

Section Photo Page 18

Photographs

Downtown Roswell Historic District
Roughly bounded by 8th and 10th Streets and by Richardson and Kentucky Avenues
Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico
David Kammer, Ph.D.
August 1997
Negatives on file with Historic Preservation Division, New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs

Photo No. 1 of 7
800 N. Richardson Avenue
Camera facing northwest

Photo No. 2 of 7
806 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Camera facing northwest

Photo No. 3 of 7
805 N. Kentucky Avenue
Camera facing northeast

Photo No. 4 of 7
911 N. Kentucky Avenue
Camera facing east

Photo No. 5 of 7
800 block of N. Kentucky Avenue
Camera facing north

Photo No. 6 of 7
801 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Camera facing northeast

Photo No. 7 of 7
Iron Cross, along North Spring River
Camera facing north