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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clovis Central Fire Station
other names/site number Clovis City Hall and Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 320 Mitchell St. N/A not for publication
city, town Clovis N/A vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Curry code NM 009 zip code 88101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer 5-28-87
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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] Entered in the National Register 7/2/87
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government- City Hall and Fire Station

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government- Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & early 20th Century
American Movements: Commercial
Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
Concrete
roof Asphalt Shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Clovis Central Fire Station is a two-story, truncated hipped and flat-roofed building located one block west of the city's main commercial street and on the same block as the present City Hall and Municipal Court building. The walls are blonde running-bond brick contrasted with light grey-tan concrete details. The roof is reddish-brown asphalt shingles, which replace the original red clay tiles. An apparatus room has been added at the rear, some window and door openings have been closed, and the original windows have been replaced with dark bronze double hung metal units. These modifications have not compromised the building's architectural character and integrity (see continuation sheet).

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

Clovis Central Fire Station- Description Continuation

Section number 7 Page 1

The Clovis Central Fire Station was erected in 1929 as the city's second City Hall and Fire Station. Located in the central business district, the building shares the block with the present City Hall and the Municipal Court building, and sits cater-corner from the Clovis-Carver Library. The building is massed as three adjoining irregular rectangles; the front two-story mass with a truncated hipped roof houses the fire department administrative offices; the center one and two-story mass consists of fire apparatus rooms on the first floor and personnel areas above; and, the one-story addition with hose tower at the rear contains fire apparatus. The hipped roof of the front mass slopes down to short tower-like forms with concrete caps and Deco-influenced, low-relief, vertical concrete emblems at each corner. Similar details on the flat-roofed and simpler center mass mimic those of the front mass. The rear addition is utilitarian and devoid of detail.

Low-rising concrete steps which rise from the sidewalk to the recessed main entry are bordered on each side by low blonde brick walls capped with concrete and vertical tubular metal light fixtures. The entry is located at the center of the front facade in an asymmetrical composition due to the setback of approximately four feet of the facade north of the entry. The entry is highlighted by a decorative, smooth ashlar concrete, shallow Gothic arch and surrounds which continue upward around tandem double hung windows with a decorative wrought iron railing at the second floor. The surrounds are battered in elevation and delineated with reveals, emblems, and the words "Fire Dept." resulting in a modestly defined main entry of two-dimensional composition which contrasts in color and texture with the predominant running-bond blonde brick of the facade.

Although the building has been altered, it retains its historic character; the alterations have not changed the experience of its massing or original presence. Double-hung dark bronze metal windows sensitively replace the original wood double hung windows. Underneath each window sits a concrete lug sill. Approximately one-third of the windows have been closed permanently with stucco. Two arched windows and a door on the south facade have also been abandoned. The reddish-brown asphalt roof shingles which replace the original red clay roof tiles slope to a metal gutter system with painted metal box gutters and vertically delineated leaders. The north facade has four overhead garage doors; three are replacements of the original doors and are constructed of metal with three small oval windows. A metal conical fire siren with exposed triangulated metal legs stands above the roof of the north facade.

The interior houses the fire department administrative offices and the personnel and apparatus areas. The modernized interior consists of carpeted floors with vinyl base, painted sheetrock frame walls, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings. The apparatus areas are utilitarian in appearance for maintenance and operational considerations.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Politics/Government
Architecture

Period of Significance
1929
1929-1936

Significant Dates
1929
1929

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Will H. Lightfoot & Rabey Funk, Architects
Wallace Construction, Clovis

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1929 to replace the outgrown 1908 city hall and fire station, the Central Fire Station reflects the rapid growth of Clovis and the expansion of municipal services. Larger than its predecessor and located more prominently, it gave municipal government a more respectful and commanding presence. Built at the beginning of the Great Depression, it expresses the optimism Clovisites had in their future. Architecturally, it is significant as an example of the stylistic transition Clovis was experiencing in 1929, evolving from railroad-imported styles to "motor age" styles (see continuation sheet).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clovis City Directory. High Plains Historical Society. 1932, 1936, 1938, 1941.

McAlavay, Don, and Harold Kilmer. Curry County, New Mexico. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1978.

McAlavay, Don. High Plains History of East-Central New Mexico. n.c.: High Plains Historical Press, 1980.

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Insurance Maps of Clovis, New Mexico. 1909, 1912, 1919, 1929, 1951, 1962.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Under one acre

UTM References

A 13 664860 3807940
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

City of Clovis, N.M. Original Townsite Block 48 Lots 1 and 2.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory T. Hicks, President

organization Gregory T. Hicks and Associates, P.C. date February 25, 1987

street & number 112 Second St. S.W. telephone (505) 243-7492

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico zip code 87102

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Clovis Central Fire Station- Significance Continuation

Section number 8 Page 1

Founded in 1906 and designated a divisional headquarters of the Santa Fe Railroad, Clovis grew rapidly to a population of 8,027 by 1930. Its growth resulted from its position as a commercial center for the railroad and agricultural industries, and as a governmental center for Curry County. In response to this growth and an expanding need for municipal services, the Central Fire Station was erected in 1929 as the second Clovis City Hall and Fire Station to alleviate the cramped quarters of the 1908 city hall and fire station. Will H. Lightfoot and Rabey Funk, architects from Amarillo, were commissioned to design the building. Wallace Construction Company of Clovis constructed the building for \$35,869 which was funded from general obligation bonds. The building served as City Hall until 1962.

The new city hall, although simple in design, was a highly visible project and it was significant as a statement of the changing importance of local government in Clovis. It was located on a more prominent street than its predecessor, it had a wider street facade, and unlike most buildings in the central business district, it was built free-standing on a corner rather than as a row building. These features and its use of a light-colored brick and smooth concrete ornamentation gave it prominence in the streetscape. This prominence expressed the growing respect which Clovisites had for their municipal government, and it gave form to the confidence and pride they had in their city even at the beginning of the Great Depression.

Although the building does not adhere to or exemplify any specific or discernible architectural style, it conveys a strong stylistic message as a transitional expression of a city with an emerging emphasis on the future and a rejection of the past. The building continues the long-established use of brick load-bearing construction used in the railroad-imported Decorative Brick Commercial Style seen so frequently in downtown Clovis. However, as the highway was beginning to triumph over the rail, architectural style in Clovis was changing.

With its simple and clean lines, modest geometric low-relief concrete ornamentation, and blonde-colored brick, the building was the first "modern style" building in Clovis anticipating the coming "motor age". As a prominent public building, it hinted at the stylistic change which would be more fully expressed in the Hotel Clovis (1931), the Curry County Courthouse (1936), and in the many commercial buildings in Clovis which were influenced by the Art Deco, Moderne, and International styles.

On the cusp of this stylistic change, Central Fire Station is significant as an example of this historical turning point which would alter the streetscape of Clovis forever. With an eye to the future and an urge to modernize, most of Clovis's other downtown buildings were renovated to the "motor age" styles without a sophisticated understanding of these styles or the importance of a building's original character. This building was renovated with sensitivity to its original design in 1982 for \$394,206 by Eldon Smith, a Clovis architect, and Rackler Construction of Portales. This building remains largely intact as evidence of the evolving aesthetic tastes of this community.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Clovis Central Fire Station- Photographs
Section number ~~Photos~~ Page 1

Items 1 through 5 are the same for each photograph.

Photograph #1

1. Clovis Central Fire Station
2. Clovis, New Mexico
3. Gregory T. Hicks
4. December 12, 1986
5. State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
6. View looking northwest at southeast corner of building.

Photograph #2

6. View looking southwest at northeast corner of building.