



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 West San Jose School
other names/site number Riverview School

2. Location

street & number 1701 4th St. SW not for publication
city or town Albuquerque vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87102

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.)
Phillip D. Shelley 10/18/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
S.H.P.O.
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): _____
Edson H. Beall _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register 11-22-96

West San Jose School
Name of Property

Bernalillo, 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.)

Hist. and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in NM

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

education/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

government/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stucco

roof asphalt
other concrete

Narrative Description

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

West San Jose School
Name of Property

Bernalillo, 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

1937-1943

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Louis G. Hesselden

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

West San Jose School
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 349400 3881660
- 2. 111 11111111 11111111
- 3. 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 1West San Jose School
Bernalillo County, NM

Description

West San Jose School, referred to as Riverview School in the late 1950s, is a one story, rectilinear building with a concrete foundation and a flat asphalt roof. Embracing several details characteristic of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style, the building has a beige stucco cement coating over adobe brick walls, a mixtilinear parapet reflecting its slightly stepped massing, and buttressed walls. The plan consists of a central core with a large recessed entry midway across the front and perpendicular flanking wings marked by more modest entries also facing front. The extension of the rear wings in 1950 and addition of a rear wing at the northwest corner of the building, all of concrete blocks, has contributed to the formation of a nearly enclosed courtyard behind the front portion. The addition does not, however, affect the appearance of the facade nor appreciably detract from the historic integrity of the building. The building is situated well away from the road and fronted by a parking lot. Set amidst cottonwood trees that extend across the tree-lined floodplain, or bosque, of the nearby Rio Grande, it conveys a strong feeling of a WPA school project in New Mexico.

The facade of West San Jose School assumes a symmetrical U-plan with two side wings flanking the central core of the building. The entry projects several feet in front of the flanking classrooms. The adobe brick walls have a beige, roughly textured, stucco cement coating and are buttressed periodically and at the corners. The parapet is mixtilinear denoting the various elements of the building's plan. The flanking wings are slightly stepped above the adjoining central element, slight piers cap the buttresses, and a large curved parapet with flanking piers frames the main entry.

The entry is slightly recessed and has double doors and a transom. Flanking the entry are paired 4/4 double-hung windows. The entry is fronted by a large concrete porch framed by two stucco-coated walls. Smaller concrete porches with access ramps appear at both of the entries located at the front of each of the wings. Both of those entries also have double doors and transoms. Windows include groups of 9/9 double-hung windows and narrow 2/2

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West San Jose School
Bernalillo County, NM

Description (continued)

double-hung windows appearing in some of the periodic buttresses and marking the location of cloakrooms.

In addition to the rear extensions with their modern metal doors and metal frame windows, the interior has been altered as classroom spaces have been turned into offices serving the Job Training and Family Services Division of the city's Department of Family and Community Services. Most of these interior alterations, however, are impermanent space dividers and reversible. Despite these alterations the corridors furnish rich examples of the workmanship found in many WPA school projects in New Mexico. Exposed beams, or vigas, line corridor ceilings, and many of the corridor walls have a ceramic tile wainscotting.

Statement of Significance

West San Jose School, renamed Riverview School in the late 1950s, is a WPA project completed over a ten-month period in 1936 and 1937. One of several school projects completed in Bernalillo County by the WPA, it was constructed as a part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program. Exemplary of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the welfare of a local community by creating much-needed jobs, the project also resulted in bringing much-needed improvement to the community's educational facilities. It is eligible under Criterion A as a reminder of the impact New Deal school construction projects in New Mexico had on local social history and education. West San Jose School is also eligible under Criterion C as a good 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.

As discussed in the historic context portion of the multiple property listing, when Governor Clyde Tingley assumed office in 1935, he quickly sent letters to each of the county school superintendents in New Mexico asking each official for an assessment of the county's school needs. Margaret Easterday, the

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West San Jose School
Bernalillo County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

superintendent in Bernalillo County, which included the many small villages surrounding Albuquerque, included in her reply a description of the inadequate school conditions in the area known as West San Jose. Located south of the city along the east bank of the Rio Grande, the district had 112 children enrolled in an old church which had been converted into a three room school. Near the western edge of the AT&SF switching yard, the school was in a dangerous location as well. Noting that the district's 1935-36 budget for a new school was a paltry \$2,500, Easterday advised Tingley that she hoped to begin to solve the problem by constructing a two room school that would be the "nucleus of a larger building in the future."

In July, 1937, the WPA approved a \$53,000 grant authorizing the county school board to construct West San Jose School. A crew of seventy, including many area residents, found employment on the project for much of 1936 and 1937. The plans for the ten room school were drawn by Louis G. Hesselden, who was also the architect for the Albuquerque public school system. Unlike the plans Hesselden used for the Lew Wallace (1935) and Coronado Schools (1937) which were larger, two-story city schools, the plans for the West San Jose School embraced the Spanish-Pueblo Style and used adobe bricks for the curtain walls. Many of the construction crew, familiar with making building materials such as adobe bricks and vigas from their experiences in vernacular residential construction, were able to apply those same skills as they worked on the school. This use of locally made materials enabled the county school board to meet its obligations of supplying building materials at a lower cost and also met the WPA's goal of labor-intensive projects for work relief. The building, nevertheless, met the standards required of modern school facilities including large groups of windows providing natural light, indoor plumbing, high ceilings for improved ventilation, a steam heating system, and fire safety features such as outward-swinging double doors.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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West San Jose School
Bernalillo County, NM

Bibliography

Albuquerque Journal, various issues, 1935-1937.

Biebel, Charles D. Making the Most of It: Public Works in
Albuquerque during the Great Depression, 1929-1942.
Albuquerque: The Albuquerque Museum, 1986.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Albuquerque, 1957

Tingley, Clyde. WPA Correspondence, 1935-1938. NMSRCA.

Verbal Boundary Description

The school is located on a parcel consisting of the western 250 ft. of the eastern half of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's (MRGCD) Tracts 107-110, 115, 116-b-1-a and 116-b-2-a as shown in MRGCD's Map #41 which run between the easterly line of the MRGCD's Albuquerque Riverside Drain to the western right of way line of Fourth St. SW.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with West San Jose School.