

PH0367877

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 24 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1977

# 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

**\*\***  
The Berthold Spitz House

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

323 N. 10th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

STATE

New Mexico

VICINITY OF

CODE  
35

COUNTY

Bernalillo

CODE

001

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Pat and Julianne S. Sheehan

STREET & NUMBER

Box #271

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico 87103

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

STATE

New Mexico

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

February 28, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

New Mexico State Planning Office, 505 Don Gaspar

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Standing at the southwest corner of Tenth Street and Marquette Avenue west of downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Berthold Spitz House is an outstanding example of the "Prairie School" of architectural design. Constructed circa 1910 as a residence, the two-story, stuccoed masonry building is presently occupied by the offices of the Chapparal Home and Adoption Services in what is now a mixed commercial-residential neighborhood. Attributed to Henry Charles Trost of the El Paso architectural firm of Trost and Trost, the Spitz house was designed in the middle of Trost's Prairie style period and is the best example of that architectural school in Albuquerque. Trost's own residence, completed in 1908 at El Paso, may have been familiar to Mrs. Spitz, a native of that city.

Recognized as a prominent architect for his work throughout the Southwest, Trost is responsible for several important commercial structures in Albuquerque including the Occidental Life Insurance Building and the recently demolished Franciscan Hotel. He also designed a Prairie Style residence in Tucson, and two others in El Paso, the B. F. Stevens house, published in The Western Architect in October 1913, and the A. B. Poe house. The Spitz house is the only one of these which has a hipped roof and also differs from them in its ornamentation. Unlike Trost's other Prairie Style houses which are richly ornamented, the Spitz house is much plainer, with emphasis instead on the contrast of texture and color of the stuccoed walls and the dark woodwork of the bands of windows. There is a similarity in the first floors of the Trost residence and Spitz house, both of which are largely devoted to long living room-dining rooms originally divided into smaller spaces by waist high walls. These have been removed from the Spitz house. While the first floor of the Trost house is ornamented with a complicated series of rafters, purlins, corbels, and piers and a frieze of plant forms painted on a canvas covered wall plate, there is no evidence that such ornamentation was present in the Spitz house. Similar to other Trost designs, the symmetrical front of the Spitz house is not indicative of the interior arrangement of the rooms and does not suggest the asymmetrical massing of the rear of the house.

A single-story porch, supported by piers, which is now enclosed, is centered along the Tenth Street facade. Under the porch is the main entrance to the house, a wide, glass-paneled door flanked by tall, narrow fixed windows and topped by a glass transom. On either side of the porch, at the first floor level, are two bands of dark wood-framed casement windows with fixed windows above. The same type of window is repeated along the Marquette Avenue facade, on either side of a fireplace.

At the second level of the house, just under the projecting eaves, are pairs of casement windows. Below the windows, a masonry sill course encircles the building. The corners of the house above the sill course, the windows, and the top of the wall just under the eaves soffit are framed with dark wood. There are four sets of windows along the Tenth Street facade whose wood framing form a pattern of alternating windows and wall.

The eaves of the shingled, hipped roof project four feet while the projection at the rear of the house is not as deep. The porch has a similar

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ARCHITECT Trost and Trost (local report)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Erected about 1910 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Berthold Spitz House was originally the residence of one of Albuquerque's most important business men and political figures. Significant as the city's best example of the "Prairie School" of architectural design, the house also has historical importance as the home of two prominent German-Jewish families long active in the community's commercial and civic affairs. Extending from 1880, when the railroad first came to Albuquerque, to the 1960's when the city had become a center of space age technology, the Berthold Spitzes and, later the Leopold Seligmans, saw the community change from a bustling frontier town to one of the largest and most important cities in the Southwest. Used as an office building since the 1960's the Berthold Spitz House remains today as a landmark of Albuquerque's early years and reminder of the two families who contributed to its development.

A native of Bohemia, Berthold Spitz was one of a large number of German Jews who came to New Mexico in the latter half of the 19th century seeking fame and fortune in the West. In 1880 Spitz, then a youth of nineteen, joined his older brother Edward who was employed by an Albuquerque mercantile firm known as Ilfeld & Co. The senior partners, Louis and Noa Ilfeld, were also emigrants from Germany who had moved to Albuquerque in 1878 after previously operating stores in northern New Mexico, first at Santa Fe and later at the village of Alcalde. In later years their brothers, Herman, who died in 1884, and Bernard, were also active in the business. About 1882 Edward Spitz, seeing that the large number of family members active in the business would inevitably limit his opportunities with Ilfeld & Co. accepted a position as manager of the Albuquerque branch of A. & Z. Staab Co., a rival firm with headquarters in Santa Fe. Soon after, twenty-one year old Berthold Spitz opened his own store in Albuquerque.

The separation from the Ilfelds was a friendly one, however; both Spitz brothers maintained life-long business and social ties with their former employers. During the next thirty years Berthold Spitz remained active in various Albuquerque mercantile ventures both individually or in partnership with other members of the German-Jewish community notably his brother Edward and Max Schuster, brother of Bernhard Schuster, a store keeper in nearby Bernalillo. In May, 1889 the following advertisement was appearing regularly in the Albuquerque Morning Democrat:

(See Continuation Sheet Page 2)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Territorial Archives of New Mexico, State Records Center and Archives,  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico.  
 Records of the Auditor, 1851-1911, Audited Reports of County Commercial  
 Licenses, Bernalillo County, 1878-1895.  
 1880 Census

(See Continuation Sheet Page 3)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1/4 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,4,8,8,0	3,8,8,3,9,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sylvia Cook, Architectural Historian, State Planning Office;

John O. Baxter, Archivist, State Records  
 Center and Archives

DATE

June 14, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

404 Montezuma

TELEPHONE

827-2321

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87503

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Thomas W. Morlan*

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE 6-18-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles R. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/22/77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 12-21-77

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hipped roof with a pitch identical to that of the main roof. The symmetrical front of the house and its hipped roof suggest that it is rectangular. However, the rear of the house is asymmetrical with a wing containing the stairs, the kitchen, and pantry on the first floor and a bedroom and bath on the second floor projecting beyond a small terrace.

Just inside the front door is a foyer two steps below the level of the floor. Across the room from the door is the stairway to the second floor. At the southwest corner of the building are the kitchen, pantry, and the service stairway to the basement and the second floor. The rest of the first floor, a rectangular space nearly 25' x 50' was originally open. Early visitors to the house remember the room being divided by partitions approximately four feet high. These have been removed and the room is now divided into one large office and two smaller offices by wood paneled walls. The stairway is located under an arch with 4 1/2' posts on either side. A soffit extends around the room with a band of wood between it and the tops of the windows. French doors at the northwest corner of the house lead to a small terrace. At the southwest corner is a small porch, a later addition at the door to the kitchen.

There is a full basement under the house used originally for laundry equipment, the water heater and the boiler for the steam heating system which has now been replaced.

The two flights of steps to the second floor have a landing lighted by two casement windows. The second floor is divided into what appears to have been two suites, each consisting of a bedroom, sitting room, and bath, and a guest bedroom. The rooms are now used as offices by the adoption agency and the former guest room is furnished as a nursery.

In the early 1960's, when the house was converted into offices, central air conditioning was installed and a duct now crosses the first floor adjacent to the wood paneled partitions which were added at the same time. Extending the length of the room are two rectangular enclosures which initially appear to be air conditioning ducts. Their original purpose has not yet been determined, but they have obviously been added because one obscures the top of the arch above the stairway. The house has been well-maintained and the owners are presently making plans to restore it to its original appearance. The house is one of the few Prairie Style houses in New Mexico and, in its adapted use as offices, continues to be a useful building in Albuquerque.

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PAGE #2

B. Spitz & Co.

Dealers in General Merchandise

South Side Railroad Avenue

Anyone purchasing Dry Goods to the amount of \$3.00 can buy five spools of Coates' or Merrick's Thread for five cents.

Following a disastrous fire which destroyed the Ilfeld Bros. store in 1898 Louis and Noa Ilfeld decided to devote themselves to trading in wool and sheep while their younger brother Bernard joined forces with Berthold Spitz in a new merchandising venture. The Ilfeld, Spitz Mercantile Co., as the new partnership was known, continued until 1915 when Spitz purchased an established real-estate and insurance agency known as Gierke, Ogle and Doane

Throughout his career Berthold Spitz was also active in the rough and tumble of city and county politics. Distinguished by a no-holds barred approach in which defamation of character in the local press was a daily event, the Albuquerque political arena circa 1890 was no place for the thin-skinned or faint hearted. Spitz' political initiation came as an unsuccessful Republican candidate for Clerk of Probate Court in the campaign of 1890. Two years later his efforts for this office became an issue in the race for mayor of Albuquerque when it was stated that Spitz had been appointed city purchasing agent by Sheriff Perfecto Armijo to provide an opportunity to pay off debts incurred during the earlier campaign. On April 3, 1892 the Morning Democrat thundered, "Spitz Bros. should not be allowed a monopoly of the city's business... they do not carry anything but a few cheap dry goods for a cheap trade."

In 1894 Spitz again offered himself to the voters of Bernalillo County this time as Democratic candidate for the office of County Treasurer but was again defeated in a close race despite his change in party affiliation. Following the canvass of the vote made by the Board of County Commissioners Spitz filed suit against the board and his Republican opponent, charging that three small precincts in the remote area northwest of Albuquerque which had been counted in Bernalillo were in fact located in neighboring Rio Arriba County. Unfortunately, District Judge Needham C. Collier saw the matter differently and Spitz's request for a writ of mandamus was denied. Soon after he returned to the fold of the Republican Party and was a member of the delegation which greeted President William Howard Taft during his official visit to Albuquerque in 1909. Later Spitz' party loyalty was rewarded in an appointment by President Harding to the office of Postmaster of Albuquerque, a position which he held for the rest of his life.

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#8

In 1893 Spitz was married to Fannie Schutz of El Paso, a daughter of one of that city's leading merchants. After a honeymoon at Montezuma Hot Springs, then New Mexico's most exclusive resort, and a trip to the Columbian Exposition recently opened in Chicago, the couple settled down in Albuquerque. After the turn of the century the Spitzes purchased three lots at the corner of North 10th Street and Marquette Avenue and erected the handsome two-story residence now known as the Berthold Spitz House. Following Spitz' death in 1933 Mrs. Spitz continued to live there until her own death ten years later. Late in 1944 Fannie Spitz' sister, Helen Schutz Ilfeld, widow of Noa Ilfeld and executrix of Fannie Spitz' estate, sold the house to Hanni Seligman, wife of Leopold Seligman for \$12,500. The new owners, recently arrived in Albuquerque from their native Germany, were proprietors of a clothing manufacturing business known as Pioneer Wear which specialized in the production of hand woven neckties.

Seligman, a refugee from Nazi pogroms of the late 1930's, joined four brothers in New Mexico who had emigrated around the turn of the century and had conducted a successful mercantile and Indian trading business with headquarters in Bernalillo. Leopold Seligman died in 1946 but his widow took over as president of Pioneer Wear and continued to reside in the house at 323 N. 10th with her three children. Her two sons John and Rudolph became active in the business although they changed their last name to Sullivan. After they established homes of their own Hanni Seligman sold the property to Albuquerque attorney Pat Sheehan the present owner. After a brief period in which his own offices were located there, Sheehan has utilized the building as a rental property. Since 1970 the occupant has been the Chaparral Home and Adoption Service, a charitable organization devoted to assisting unmarried mothers.

#9

Bernalillo County Records, State Records Center and Archives, Deed Record Book #43.  
Bernalillo County Territorial District Court Records, State Records Center and Archives, Civil Cases #4127, #4154.  
Bernalillo County Records, Bernalillo County Courthouse, Albuquerque, N.M. Books #205, #D-393, #D-636, #QCD-629, #MD-808.  
Albuquerque Morning Journal, August 9, 1882, July 20, 1885.  
Albuquerque Morning Democrat, May 3, 1889, April 3, 1892, November 9-30, 1894.  
Albuquerque Citizen, November 1-10, 1890, June 2-10, 1893.  
Albuquerque Journal, September 5, 1933, October 18, 1943, June 28, 1946.  
Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Arizona Gazeteer and Business Directory. Chicago, 1885.

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Albuquerque City and Business Directory 1905-06. Albuquerque, 1905.  
Worley's Albuquerque City Directory 1913-1917. Dallas.  
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Englebrecht, Lloyd C. "Henry Trost: The Prairie School in the Southwest,"  
Prairie School Review, Vol. VI, No. 4, 1969.  
Parrish, William J. The Charles Ilfeld Company. Cambridge, 1961.  
Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. The Leading Facts of New Mexico History.  
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