

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Bldg. 26

Item number 7, 8, 4, 10

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Ilfeld Warehouse (#26) (State Register Site #441)

Description

The Ilfeld Warehouse is located at the north end of Main Street. When the tracks were in place it was immediately north of the railroad with a siding along the loading dock on the south side of the building.

Built in 1913, this large building is two stories high, constructed of red brick on a stone foundation, and topped by a gable roof. The street or east facade has a stepped parapet which generally follows the roof line. Above the center door and symmetrically placed double hung windows is a large painted sign identifying the Ilfeld Company. Along the east facade is a covered wood loading dock. Above it are the same six over four light, wood double hung windows with concrete sills and lintels. The north facade has a partially closed wood loading dock and the same double hung windows. The west facade is blank except for small windows under the eaves. The roof is broken by two brick chimneys, a wooden, hip roof pavilion at the center, and a rear hip.

Because of its function as a warehouse, the interior has always been a large open space. For some years the building has served as an outlet for wood stoves, so few, if any, changes have been made to the interior, and the exterior retains its architectural integrity.

Significance

The Ilfeld Warehouse is architecturally significant as one of three large commercial buildings to remain standing and as a good example of a simple use of the Mission Revival Style. In addition it is significant as a part of the large and important mercantile firm of Charles Ilfeld.

According to records from the State Lumber Company in Socorro, lumber for the building was purchased in 1913. The Ilfeld Company signed a lease for a branch at Magdalena in October 1916. The building first appears on the Sanborn Map of 1919. The 1910s were wealthy years for Magdalena, for many new houses and commercial buildings were constructed. Of the commercial buildings constructed, few remain standing and fewer still remain in good condition. Apart from the scarcity of contemporary examples, the Ilfeld Warehouse is a good example of a simplified Mission Revival Style with its front stepped gable. The Mission Revival was one of the Southwest Revival styles, a group of styles popular from early in this century through World War II.

The Charles Ilfeld Company was one of the largest mercantile companies in New Mexico. Ilfeld began his career in Las Vegas during the 1870s. He supplied general merchandise at the wholesale level to smaller merchandise outlets and at a retail level in his store. The business expanded to many towns across the State, particularly in the wholesale business. Magdalena was a central warehouse which served ranchers and small businesses in southwestern New Mexico. Mercantile outlets such as Ilfeld's were essential to ranchers because they were allowed to buy supplies against receipts from the sale of cattle and sheep each year. In 1959 the grocery warehouse division of the Ilfeld Company, including the Magdalena Warehouse, was sold to Kimball Foods. Some years later the building was sold to the current owners.

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Owner: Charles H. and Elizabeth Brown  
P.O. Box 828  
Magdalena, New Mexico 87825

Verbal Boundary Description:

From a fence marking the south property line, proceed north along the west side of Main for approximately 40 meters to the south edge of a driveway; proceed west along the south edge of the drive for approximately 40 meters to the alley; proceed south along the east edge of the alley for approximately 40 meters to the fence; proceed east along the fence for approximately 40 meters to the starting point.

UTM Reference: 13/293050/3777350