

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3676

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Belen City Hall

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 503 Becker Avenue

City or town: Belen State: NM County: Valencia Zip Code: 87002

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

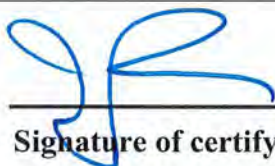
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D



2/15/19

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

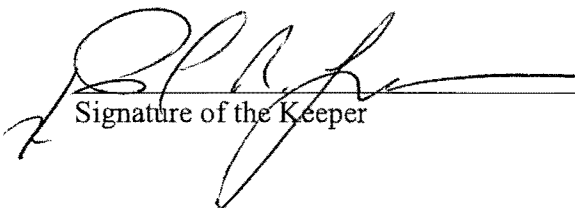
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4/29/2019
Date of Action

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: city hall, fire station, correctional facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Pueblo

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Stucco, Log, Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Belen City Hall is a two-story multi-use civic building located at the southwest corner of Becker Avenue and South Fifth Street. City Hall is an institutional interpretation of the regional Spanish-Pueblo Revival style. Constructed of adobe in 1936-1937 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, City Hall is distinguished by its massed composition and its north elevation portal. It is fenestrated with a mostly regular pattern of openings, including sets of original four-over-four and six-over-six, double-hung wood windows. The upstairs is dominated by what was once an assembly room. City Hall also includes offices, meeting rooms, and a jail with holding cells located near the back of the building. A gable roof was added over the jail at an unknown date. The northwest corner contains a block addition constructed before 1962 that served as a municipal court. The Belen City Hall is an excellent example of a combined civic building that included city hall, municipal courts, a jail, and police and fire services.

Narrative Description

Belen City Hall is located two blocks north of Main Street in the heart of city's commercial district in Valencia County, New Mexico. City Hall, which anchors the corner of Becker Avenue and South Fifth Street, is situated along a street of one-story commercial buildings and offices, mostly constructed after the 1930s. A steel water stand, a local landmark, towers above the southwest corner of the block. Immediately to the east, across South Fifth Street, is a modern building holding the State of New Mexico's Human Services Department regional office. It replaced the Public Welfare Building, a WPA project completed in 1938. City Hall, in its scale and massing, dominates the immediate streetscape, and is the earliest building on the 500 block of Becker Avenue.

City hall is located on a lightly landscaped city block. A lawn encircles the northeast corner, where a stucco plinth remains that once held a plaque commemorating the WPA project. The lawn continues along the east elevation where it terminates at an asphalt parking lot, making up most of the rear of the property. A narrow alley runs between the City Hall and a fire station constructed to the south in 2018. The parking lot associated with City Hall was demolished and the parcel was incorporated into the fire station property. Tall cedar trees frame the northeast and

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northwest corners of the lot. The north frontage is covered with concrete, including an apron leading to the City Hall fire station.

City Hall is oriented to Becker Avenue, where it shows its highest architectural treatment and primary public entrances. To the street it presents a two-part, multi-mass composition and stylistic character-defining elements. The composition is made of a two-story mass, in which it is flanked by lower masses. Parallel to the street is a shallow, three-arch portal, once providing the primary public entry to the building. The portal is distinguished by its angled segmental arch openings, a design that is not common to the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, but is a motif found throughout the building. Projecting wood vigas run above the portal, casting long shadows at midday. Behind the portal is a set of original four-over-four, double-hung wood windows framing a multi-light door. These window openings, like all openings in the 1936-1937 building, have one-foot bull-nose reveals and thick, slanting concrete sills.

West of the portal, arranged at a setback, is the opening to the fire department garage. While the door has been removed and filled, there is sufficient depth of reveal left to indicate the presence of a door. Beyond this, jutting from the garage is a separate small mass that once contained the city manager's office. This space was not part of the original 1936-1937 design, but appears in an early postcard and, therefore, is considered part of the historic building.

Set back from the street, the second story reveals a rectangular composition. The volume is fenestrated with an irregular pattern of openings holding six-over-six, double-hung wood windows on the north and south elevations, which are currently boarded. Projecting wood vigas run above. At a lower height, to the east, is a small entry portal giving entry to the assembly room.

The east elevation, facing South Fifth Street, is the secondary façade, showing at its north end a fairly unaltered design (photo 3). The northeast corner continues in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style with a mass projecting from the wall. Unlike the front façade, there are no extending vigas, but the deeply set windows and wood canales are present. Midpoint along the elevation is a break in the wall where a series of concrete steps lead to the second floor. The dog-legged stairs create straight angles, breaking up the building's mainly soft composition. South of the stairs, begins a long rectangular mass once holding the city jail. This section of the original 1936-1937 building has experienced change. Given perhaps the nature of its use, the original windows have been filled in and the doors changed to emphasize security. Additionally, at one point a trussed-pitched roof was added and the wood canales were removed. Despite these alterations, the basic form of the jail is discernable.

The most altered portion of the building is the south, or rear elevation, historically a utilitarian part of City Hall. The jail displays a regular pattern of narrow, steel-grated windows opening onto the cells. It is unclear whether these openings have been altered. A one-story rectangular stuccoed slump-block addition was appended to the northwest corner of the building before 1962, based on aerial photographs. The addition is crowned by a brick cornice suggesting a Territorial Revival design. A recent stucco-frame entrance was added to the east elevation;

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otherwise the addition has no significant fenestration. Above the alterations and additions, the two-story portion of the original City Hall remains unaltered and reveals a similar pattern of windows as the front façade.

The west façade, along a narrow alley, has the least architectural treatment. It includes several window openings on the ground level, with some sash windows removed or infilled. Historically, there was no fenestration on the second floor of this elevation (photo 6).

Interior

City Hall/Jail

The interior is divided into a floor plan of rooms of various sizes and ceiling heights, reflecting their original use. The portal entry opens to a large, flowing room, once a lobby and reception area. The room, like many in the original portion of the building, is finished with oak flooring. Above are large east-west running stained vigas. The walls have a three-coat plaster finish in an off-yellow color. To the east is a private office that once contained the city clerk's office and a typing pool.

Separating the reception area from another room to the south is an angled segmental arch opening (photo 7). The space beyond, with its higher ceiling was used as a municipal court. A holding cell, with original door and lockset, is situated on the south wall. Along the east wall of this room is a forty-foot-long hallway, with restrooms to the left. Off the hallway, to the east are doors leading to a larger rectangular room. This space was once used as the mayor's office with a separate exterior entry.

At the end of the hall is an entrance to the jail. At the east end of the jail is a large room which once held the bailiff's office and a radio operator. A concrete cell is located along the west wall. Like other cells in the jail, it's a narrow, rectangular room with a concrete sleeping platform and a pedestal sink tucked in a corner. The cells have heavy steel doors with sliding "food-pass" openings. Through a doorway to the south is the Day Room with a small shower stall and additional cells on the east and west walls.

Fire Department/City Manager's Office

Forming the middle of the original building is a long, rectangular space once holding the town's fire truck and fire-fighting equipment (photo 11). As a volunteer fire department, the space was not designed as a traditional firehouse with sleeping quarters, kitchen and break area. It is one large volume with a concrete floor and high ceiling to accommodate a hook-and-ladder fire truck. For many years the fire truck was a 1937 American LaFrance. Large, east-west oriented vigas span the ceiling. The south end of the space includes a nonhistoric partially built frame partition. Other than the infilled bay door opening, the space retains its integrity and communicates its former use.

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West of the fire station is a linear set of offices spanning the entire length of the building. The front portion, forming the bump-out, once held the city manager's office. It is a small room showing more recent wood paneling. Moving to the south is a succession of two rectangular spaces that once held a filing room and storage area. The last space has been retrofitted with small restrooms along the west wall and a kitchen on the south wall.

Assembly Room

Entered from the east, by a set of exterior steps, the second floor space was planned as an assembly room with a small kitchen (photo 12). It is one large room lit by a band of windows on the north and south walls. The floor is covered with oak. Small sections of floor appear to be deteriorated. Above is a nonhistoric drop ceiling. Overall, the space communicates its original use for assemblies and meetings.

Municipal Court

Forming the extreme southwest corner is a c.1962 addition once occupied by the municipal court. The addition has a large rectangular room that held the courtroom. An elevated platform supported the judges' bench. The room features exposed slump-block walls and a drop ceiling; the floor is carpeted. Parallel to the east wall is a hallway leading to a reception area and offices.

Historic Integrity

Belen City Hall retains most aspects of integrity, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Losses of integrity include the infill of the fire department garage bay and the alteration of a several windows. The primary façade on Becker Avenue retains most of its original design, materials, and workmanship.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The Belen City Hall is counted as one contributing building.

There are no noncontributing resources associated with this nomination.

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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 all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937 to 1968

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gastra, Charles T. (architect)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Belen City Hall, designed by architect T. Charles Gaastra and completed in 1937, was built with WPA labor to hold multiple offices and departments of city government. It served this purpose for nearly sixty years until the city constructed larger offices and later built separate police and fire department buildings and a new city hall. The Belen City Hall is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as an excellent example of a New Deal civic building that served Belen for sixty years, and meeting the registration requirements defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*. The Belen City Hall is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C, in the area of architecture because it is an excellent representative example of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style applied to a multi-function municipal building, and meeting the registration requirements defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Belen City Hall, designed by architect T. Charles Gaastra and completed in 1937, was built with WPA labor to hold multiple offices and departments of city government. It served this purpose for nearly sixty years until the city constructed larger offices and later built separate police and fire department buildings and a new city hall. The Belen City Hall is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as an excellent example of a New Deal civic building that served Belen for sixty years, and meeting the registration requirements defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*. The Belen City Hall is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C, in the area of architecture because it is an excellent representative example of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style applied to a multi-function municipal building, and meeting the registration requirements defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*.

Belen was primarily an agricultural community and the Great Depression delivered a blow to area farmers and ranchers with plummeting crop prices and high property foreclosures.¹ Several rural-oriented New Deal programs operated in *El Rio Abajo* to ameliorate the impact of the Depression to Belen and its surrounding communities. Federal agricultural-oriented agencies such as the Federal Farm Debt Adjustment Service worked throughout Valencia County, offering debt adjustments to struggling farmers. In 1933 the federal government established a

¹ In many rural areas of the state there is a consistent sentiment that the Great Depression did not greatly affect traditional Hispanic communities. Already poor and living a modest subsistence-oriented lifestyle, many Hispanics of the period and their offspring remember the Great Depression as only affecting the "rich," who lost money tied up in banks. Conversation with Reggie Chavez, June 9, 2014, Belen.

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conservancy district covering the Belen area. In 1936 approximately 227 farmers and 45 ranchers were receiving conservation payments in Valencia County.²

The State Reemployment Service, New Mexico's arm of the federal National Reemployment Service, established an office in Belen's first city hall. In 1935, the service recorded 400 men on the employment list, representing almost nineteen percent of Belen's 1930 census population. J. C. Mitchell, the farm placement supervisor for the State Reemployment Service, promised his agency "would do everything in its power to assist farmers and ranchers in securing local labor . . . both skilled and unskilled labor to any private employer."³ But private employers were not hiring, and it would take federal work-relief programs to get many of the unemployed earning income.

The change from recovery planning to direct work-relief, as first initiated with the Civil Works Administration (CWA), would radically alter the course of the New Deal in New Mexico. The short-lived CWA program was ultimately a failure, though it contributed to the development of the Anna Becker Park in Belen. The Work Progress Administration, launched in 1935, changed relief from "make work" activities to programs that made lasting contributions to towns across New Mexico. Valencia County, originally stretching from the Manzano Mountains on the east, to the New Mexico-Arizona border on the west, presented difficulties coordinating aid. In October 1935, the State Reemployment Service requested from the Valencia County board of commissioners an appropriation to open a separate office in Grants to serve the western half of the county.

As in many areas of the country, there was initial skepticism about the efficacy of the New Deal programs for rural communities. Belen's main source of information, the weekly *Belen News*, was owned and edited by Elfego Baca, a staunch Republican. The *Belen News* did not carry the National Recovery Administration eagle logo in its masthead, as many New Mexico newspapers did during the New Deal. Baca's early editorial stance seemed to focus on publishing articles that embarrassed New Dealers, with headlines like, "New Deal Farm Programs Makes 6 million Idle," and "Drought Emphasizes Folly of New Deal 'Scarcity.'"

Belen's early doubt about—if not outright contempt for—the New Deal is captured in an open letter published on the front page of the December 26, 1935 issue of the newspaper. A farmer named Ramon Sanchez opens his letter by stating the New Deal programs "tend more to spoil humanity and good citizenship than to show any signs of prosperity." He continued that "being a farmer makes me very much envy the pleasures of those people employed by such organizations. Yet my pride is too much to get into relief rolls, in order to secure employment in that manner, whereby I could just abandon my fields and . . . earning a higher salary with much less effort, no worries, and at least twenty leisure hours per week."⁴

² *Belen News*, March 4, 1937, 1.

³ *Belen News*, July 25, 1935, 1.

⁴ *Belen News*, December 26, 1935, 1.

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Belen's attitude, as with much of New Mexico's, would change with the 1936 presidential race. Typically a Republican stronghold, Valencia County elected Franklin D. Roosevelt over Alf Landon by a narrow victory of 402 votes.⁵ Soon after, the look and editorial policy of the region's newspaper changed.

On August 5, 1935 Belen mayor, M. H. Tate, and city clerk, Carl Halama, filed a proposal with the local WPA office to build a new city hall, writing that "This building is needed as the present one is not large enough."⁶ The original city hall, sitting a block west of the current building, was a small one-story adobe building. Representing one of the earliest WPA building project applications in Valencia County, the mayor and clerk envisioned the new building would be in the "Spanish & Indian Architecture" made of concrete block, and of sufficient size to house the fire department, city council, a library, and offices of the city clerk, the water department superintendent, and the marshal on the first floor. The second floor would include an assembly hall and kitchen.⁷ In its design, City Hall represented an early 20th century municipal government trend, in which city offices and police and/or fire departments were combined into one building. This consolidated plan was used for several New Deal-financed city hall projects in New Mexico, including municipal buildings in Española, Lovington, Melrose, Socorro and Taos.⁸

The WPA district director approved the project ten days later, determining it would result in 176 man-years of work and would employ on average 42 persons per month from local relief rolls.⁹ Yet it would take another year for the application to work its way from the district office in Belen to the WPA Division of Operations office in Santa Fe, which signed off on August 14, 1936 (Official Project #165-85-2005).

While City Hall was delayed, other WPA building projects began in the county, including the construction of a vocational school in Los Lunas, starting in late 1935. Designed by Santa Fe architect, Truman Mathews, the building was designed to house the local high school's vocational trade and industrial classes. It additionally would become a "cultural center" for youth, with a boxing and wrestling ring, an English and Spanish-language library and weaving and woodworking shops, promoting traditional crafts production, all financed through the WPA. Like many WPA projects in New Mexico, it was designed to reflect local architectural traditions, and in the example of the vocational school, the "native Spanish Colonial architecture . . . peculiar to the Los Lunas area."¹⁰ Other WPA-financed Spanish-Pueblo Revival public buildings were constructed in Belen, including a junior high school.

⁵ *Valencia County News-Bulletin*, *A Century of News*, 2010, 28.

⁶ Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, W.P.A. Project No. 22486, August 5, 1935, 2.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ In total, the WPA financed approximately 22 city halls in New Mexico, along with seven municipal buildings and four fire department buildings and four jails.

⁹ Works Progress Administration, "Project Application, State Application No. 31-1111-10," August 15, 1935.

¹⁰ *Belen News*, January 23, 1936, 1.

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T. Charles Gaastra

For the new City Hall, the architect of record, T. Charles Gaastra, designed a large multi-massed building adhering to a type of Spanish-Pueblo Revival style as applied to public buildings. Born Tjalke Charles Gaastra, on May 21, 1879, in Haarlem, Netherlands, the architect immigrated to the United States with his family in 1891. He initially worked as a laborer in the upper Midwest, at various times as a logger, hod carrier, and bricklayer. During this period, he took correspondence courses in architecture.¹¹

In the first decade of the 20th century Gaastra had a practice in Kenosha, Wisconsin, moving his operation to Chicago in 1911, where he designed several schools. In 1918, he relocated to Santa Fe, to join his brother, George, who was being treated for tuberculosis. He soon found himself in Santa Fe's emerging artist community, designing in 1923 a proto-Spanish-Pueblo Revival residence and studio for artist and printmaker Gustave Baumann. He worked with his brother in Santa Fe until 1926. The following year, he established an architectural and engineering firm under the name, Gaastra, Gladding & Johnson, with offices in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Gaastra worked in many styles, including the Spanish-Pueblo Revival, of which his designs for the Cassel Motor Company, Santa Fe (1923); the Carlisle Gym (1927-28), University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; and his proposal for the new La Fonda Hotel (1919), Santa Fe, are noteworthy. His name is not associated with New Deal work, most of which came from a studio in Santa Fe comprised of Willard Kruger, architectural engineer, John Windsor and his assistant Frank Standahardt, architectural draftsman, William Lumpkin, and architect Kenneth S. Clark.¹² This group was responsible for designing most of the WPA projects in New Mexico. But other projects, which required a higher degree of architectural treatment, were sometimes designed by non-WPA architects, most often the Santa Fe-based architects Gordon F. Street and John Gaw Meem. In this sense it was unusual for Belen to directly commission the Albuquerque architect to design its new City Hall.

Gaastra's design emphasized a group of lower rectangular masses of differing heights, arranged around a two-story center core set back from the street. The front façade, facing Becker Avenue, presented the highest architectural articulation, with its angled segmental arch portal openings and a line of projecting vigas on the first and second stories. The architectural lines are not overly rounded, as is common to the style; however, changes in height between massings were softened by stepped transitions, a treatment he used for his design of the Carlisle Gym and which is found as early as the plan for the New Mexico Museum of Art, in Santa Fe (1917). Secondary elevations revealed less of the style, but included recessed windows with heavy sills and rustic wood canales. The cluster of massings is not particularly uniform, as each retains its distinctive shape. But this may be interpreted to mean that each massing held a separate function of city government.

¹¹ Boyd C. Pratt, Carleen Lazzell, and Chris Wilson, *Directory of Historic New Mexico Architects*, 1988, 37.

¹² David Kammer, *The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*, 1994, 53.

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In general terms, the design is successful and similar to other WPA-financed Spanish-Pueblo Revival government buildings, such as the State Police Academy in Santa Fe. But the style, with its clumped massings and deeply inset windows, was not particularly conducive to governmental offices, and was replaced in popularity by the Territorial Revival style.

Construction

The project began in 1936, but required an extension of funding to work through 1937. Like many WPA projects, especially those in rural areas, there was not enough skilled labor to meet the work-relief funding requirement that all workers be taken from local relief rolls. As of April 1, 1937, there were fifteen unskilled and two intermediate skilled relief roll-certified laborers on the project. The construction crew, however, included four non-certified skilled laborers—carpenters, painters and plasterers—representing a breach of the approved application.¹³

The same month, the state WPA administrator requested from the Washington, D.C. office, an exemption to this requirement, presenting as justification that “skilled labor [was] not available from relief rolls in the State of New Mexico.”¹⁴ This request came after a March 4, 1937, change in WPA force account requirements (Administrative Order No. 54), allowing a certain percentage of uncertified laborers. In response, the national office permitted up to five or 25% of the workforce to be non-certified laborers.¹⁵ In May, with the approval to use non-certified workers, there were roughly twenty laborers onsite, with 23 percent not drawn from relief rolls.

Also differing from the approved application was that the building was constructed of adobes instead of the cement blocks as designated in the application. This change most likely represented the WPA’s philosophy to emphasize labor-intensive forms of construction over the use of factory-produced materials. This emphasis is also evident by the extensive use of vigas which were shaped on site. The construction was supervised by a local contractor, W. H. Garrett, who ran an auto-wrecking and welding business with his brother. He was later promoted as supervisor of the WPA Zone 5, covering Valencia, McKinley, and San Juan Counties.

By this time, there were many simultaneous WPA projects active in Belen. This included school construction and/or improvement projects; the development of a community garden; a program of new concrete sidewalks; and a sewing project, employing twenty-two women by April 1937, who worked with eleven sewing machines and two quilting looms. The women produced sheets, bathrobes, layettes and other items for the Crippled Children’s Hospital (Carrie Tingley Children’s Hospital) in Hot Springs, now Truth or Consequences.¹⁶

Unlike 1935, in which the *Belen News* carried prominently negative stories about the New Deal, 1937 saw an editorial about-face, with frequent positive headlines, such as “What the NYA Youths Are Doing in Val. Co.” and photographs of WPA projects under construction.

¹³ Works Progress Administration, “Request for Exemption Authorization,” April 1, 1937.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Works Progress Administration, “Exemption Authorization from Certified Status,” April 10, 1937.

¹⁶ *Belen News*, March 25, 1937, 1, and April 29, 1937, 1.

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In spring 1937, the paper ran on the front page positive responses to a questionnaire on the value of the WPA to the community. The superintendent of the Belen school district responded that “we have no complaints to make regarding work done by the WPA on the projects sponsored by the schools.”¹⁷ He acknowledged some projects lacked skilled labor, but that the district “realize[d] the difficulties encountered on this point.” He concluded the school district is “anxious to have WPA work continued.” To the same questionnaire, Belen city officials stated that the “work done in this community has been of a most constructive value and has been and will be of great benefit to our citizens.”¹⁸ Representing a common sentiment of the time, they found “some of workers ... have perhaps loafed on the job,” but concluded “in most cases those working on projects have actually earned what they have received, and have satisfaction of having done so.”¹⁹

The new City Hall project was nearly finished in the summer of 1937. The *Belen News* announced that the “Spanish style building is a credit to any city in New Mexico and which the citizens of Belen can be proud.”²⁰ But work was not finished. Although built to the architect’s specifications, the project supervisor W. H. Garrett and WPA officials in Santa Fe had issue with the heating plant design, which ran, as Garret criticized, “steam lines overhead directly through the nicest rooms.”²¹ Garret called upon the WPA’s chief architect, Willard Krueger, to redesign the heating system. Krueger provided suggestions, but highlighted the problem in a letter as “another case of going too far with the wrong idea before they [local WPA office] asked for assistance,” and ultimately blamed an “architect in Albuquerque” for the issue.²² Without the issue resolved—the lines still hang from the ceiling—the City Hall opened in the fall of 1937. The planned city departments occupied the new building, while the WPA offices of Zone 5 took over the old City Hall down the street.

All Under One Roof

For several decades the function of the City Hall adhered to the original plan. Patrons paid their water bills in the reception area and police cars crowded along the curb on Becker Avenue. In c.1962, a rectangular addition was added to the southwest corner to hold the city’s municipal court. Over the years, the assembly room was used for various purposes, including as a meeting place for civic clubs and political rallies. In the spring of 1972, a nascent Chicano rights movement organized in City Hall. Their activities led to several walkouts at the local high school as students demanded a voice in the hiring and firing of school teachers and insisted the Belen school system “foster the attitude that the Chicano heritage and culture is an asset and not something be ashamed of.”²³

¹⁷ *Belen News*, February 25, 1937, 1.

¹⁸ *Belen News*, March 4, 1937, 1.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ *Belen News*, June 24, 1937, 1.

²¹ W. H. Garrett, letter to Gordon Herkenhoff, August 7, 1937. TS.

²² W. C. Kruger, memorandum to Gordon Herkenhoff, August 18, 1937. TS.

²³ *Belen News*, April 20, 1972, 1; Conversation with Reggie Chavez, June 9, 2014, Belen.

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Until the mid-1990s, the building continued to hold the police and fire departments and the main city offices. At that point the building had become too small, and several city offices moved to a new location on Becker Avenue. Finally, in 1998, the major offices of city government relocated to the First Bank of Belen office at 100 South Main Street. This building was several times larger than the City Hall building, and situated closer to the commercial area and adjacent to the town's main thoroughfare. Around the same time, the fire and police departments moved into separate quarters. Many communities in New Mexico and the nation no longer chose to house all city services in a multifunctional building.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Nestled in a fertile section of the Rio Grande Valley, thirty miles south of Albuquerque, Belen originated in the mid-18th century, nearly simultaneously as a *Genizaro* settlement and a Spanish land grant. Prior to petition for a royal land grant, *Genizaros* (generally considered captured Native Americans; some placed in servitude, others released), locally self-titled *Apache Caiguas*, occupied an area near present-day Belen, titled Our Lady of Los Dolores of the Genizaros in the 1790 census.²⁴ Their choice of location is thought to have been a Spanish strategy to create a bulwark against the predations of raiding tribes. Despite this, in 1740 Captain Diego de Torres, his brother-in-law, Antonio Salazar, and 31 others petitioned Governor Don de Mendoza to approve a royal grant of approximately 121,633 acres, claiming the land to be “vacant” and “unappropriated.”²⁵ The grant would stretch east from the Sandia Mountains; west to the Rio Puerco River; north to land already deeded to Nicolas Chavez and the settlement of *Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion Tomes*; and south to a “place called Felipe Romero.”²⁶ The petitioners promised the land would be used for settlement and not simply for grazing of herds and flocks, stating it was “asked not in malice but for the purpose of overcoming our difficulties.”²⁷ After a review of the petition, which included a pedestrian survey, in which “no obstacle” was reported, Mendoza approved the grant on December 9, 1740, under the title, *Nuestra Senora de Belen*.²⁸

The *Genizaros* took exception to the grant, calling it an encroachment on their settlement and other Indian populations, including former outliers associated with *Shiewhibak* (Pueblo de Isleta), six miles to the north – the land was not vacant or unappropriated in their consideration. Two *Genizaros* hired Francisco de Cordova to plead their case, which was initially filed in

²⁴ A description found in Gilberto Espinosa and Tibo J. Chavez, *El Rio Abajo*, 1973, 81. The term appears to conflate members of the Apache and Kiowa nations, and perhaps meant to signify a captured or purchased Indian. In Belen, Indians were recognized in generally three different categories – Genizaro, Indios, Mestizo – based on their origin and independence from the Spanish, 70, 73. Use of this terminology was debated in an article in *New Mexico Historical Review*; see, “Comments Concerning ‘Tomé and Father J.B.R.’,” Fran Angelico Chavez, *New Mexico Historical Review*, Number 1, January 1956, 68-74.

²⁵ Petition quoted in Francis Louis Stanley, *The Belen, New Mexico story*, 1962, 4. Complete English translation of application is found in Tibo J. Chavez, *El Rio Abajo*, 1973, 244-247.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

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Mexico.²⁹ Viceroy Fuenclara remanded it back to New Mexico, to be adjudicated in Santa Fe by Governor Don Joachin Codallos y Rabal.

At the trial, Antonio Casados, a *Genizaro* of undetermined age, recounted his capture as a young Apache. He was sold to the household of Francisco Casados as a domestic servant and later lived in the home of Captain Diego Torres in Belen. During the trial, Casados was painted by the Spanish as a rebel, and rebuked for going outside of New Mexico to file the claim with the Viceroy. At the hearing, Diego Torres testified, refuting Casados's story. Torres denied the existence of any Indian settlements, and testified that the existing *Genizaros* of approximately 20 families had been invited to live with the Spanish.³⁰ The complete history of the adjudication is unknown, other than the fact that the Belen Grant has remained. The importance is that Belen, from its beginnings, was a mixed community of Indians and Spanish colonists, and is comparable to other *Genizaro* settlements in Abiquiu, Santa Fe, Valencia and Tome.

The resulting colony developed around a fortified plaza built in 1767, with surrounding plaza communities. By 1805, the population had reached 1,695, consisting of 1,588 Spaniards and 107 Indians.³¹ During this period, Belen acted as a stronghold and protector against Indian attacks. In this role, it seeded a number of new settlements, some at a great distance from the mother colony, including several organized in today's Catron County. Due to flooding from the Rio Grande, the original settlement was destroyed in c.1854. Because of the constant threat of floods, the community moved farther from the river for redevelopment. The early mission church, *Nuestra Senora de Belen*, was reconstructed to higher ground, leading to a friction between old settlers in the flood-prone *Plaza Vieja* area, and the *Karanklanes*, who promoted the new town.³²

During the Mexican and early American periods, Belen's economy intensified with its position along the Camino Real. Already wealthy land owners and sheep ranchers – the Armijo, Chavez, Baca, Gutierrez, Yrissarri families – prospered even more with increased overland trade of sheep and other goods, creating a local aristocracy that resulted in large haciendas spread along the river. But the balance of power and wealth would change with the arrival of the railroad in 1880. With the railroad came Anglo and European entrepreneurs, who created a wealthy merchant class that would have much influence on the town's 20th century development and built environment.

John Becker, a German-born merchant and local wealth-maker, was particularly influential in this regard. Born in 1850, in a province of Hanover, Germany, Becker immigrated to the United States, landing in the Port of New York in 1869. He joined his uncle, Louis Huning, in Los Lunas, New Mexico, soon after. Seeing his potential, Huning let his nephew run the family store in Belen. With an urge to go out on his own, Becker, with financial backing from Felipe Chavez, opened his first store in Belen in 1878.

²⁹ Gilberto Espinosa and Tibo J. Chavez, 1973, 81.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Gentry Keith, "Crossroads," *New Mexico Magazine*, February, 1940, 35.

³² Gilberto Espinosa and Tibo J. Chavez, 1973, 189. *Karanklanes* or Calicoers, referred to the pro-new town members who wore calico blouses.

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His commercial ventures did not stop with the store, but included a modern flour mill, the First National Bank of Belen, and other enterprises that shaped the economy of the mostly agrarian community. In this role, he started a de facto Germany colony, populated with men who emigrated from Hanover, including members of his family, Frederic Scholle, Oscar Goebel and others.

But Belen's commercial development was not exclusively enjoyed by newcomers. Some Hispanics also prospered in local commerce. In addition to Felipe Chavez, there was Manuel Garcia, who started as a clerk with the Becker-Dalies Co. He operated in partnership with his brother, Jose, a general merchandiser in Belen and Jarales to the south, where he also owned a flour mill. Saturino Baca started the community's first newspaper, the *Hispano Americano*, while other local Hispanics owned stores and businesses. While there occurred, "some fusion of the two nationalities," the groups generally remained distinct.³³

Becker's influence, along with that of friend and fellow merchant and entrepreneur Felipe Chavez, was used to entice the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway to build the Belen Cut Off in 1907. This made the town a "hub city" of transportation. Before the cutoff, trains lumbered up the difficult Raton Pass to reach Kansas and the Midwest. The cutoff bypassed this obstacle, creating a more direct route east through Abo Canyon, linking the railroad directly to Amarillo. Given the town's new strategic location as a division point, the AT&SF enlarged the rail yard, introducing repair shops, a roundhouse, coaling chutes, a powerhouse and employee housing at the periphery. By the 1930s, the rail yard was 1.5 miles long and included 66 miles of track.

The effect of the cutoff and railroad was dramatic. The population increased from 800 in 1905, to 1,733, five years later. The railroad contributed approximately \$2,280,000 a year to the community in payroll.³⁴ With the influence of Becker and the railroad, the shift from the older Hispanic *Plaza Vieja* settlement was complete in 1910, when the ruins of the mission church were dynamited and used to build one of New Town's main streets called Becker Avenue.³⁵ (Another important New Town commercial artery, the adjacent Dalies Avenue, was named after his business partner, Paul B. Dalies).

By the dawning of the Great Depression, with a population of approximately 3,000, Belen was a tidy, prospering community and the economic heart of *El Rio Abajo*. Art Goebel Jr., the son of one of Belen's Hanover immigrants, had won the first Dole Air Race from Oakland, California to Honolulu in 1927.³⁶ In 1928, he set another record, winning the transcontinental National Air

³³ Allen. A. Carter, "Cities and Towns in Valencia County," March 23, 1936, 6. This quote is from a typed manuscript prepared for the Works Progress Administration's Writers' Program guide to New Mexico. The author, Allen A. Carter, a Virginia-born attorney practicing in Belen, continues in a paternalistic tone that "mostly the Anglo has tried to maintain a friendly understanding of his Spanish-American neighbors, being not unmindful of the Spanish culture around him, while the Spanish-American seems to have retained a full appreciation of his cultural heritage." This passage was not used for the final manuscript of the travel guide.

³⁴ Page Huntoon, "Belen ... the Hub City," *New Mexico Magazine*, October 1947, 41.

³⁵ Andrew Hayes, *150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish of Our Lady of Belen*, 1943: n. pag.

³⁶ Gilberto Espinosa and Tibo J. Chavez, 1973, 134-135.

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Race, and in April 1929, he planned be the first to fly around the world in five days. But his last attempted feat never left ground.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Belen News (newspaper): various issues, 1935-1937.

Badger, Anthony J. *The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1989.

Carter, Allen A. "Cities and Towns in Valencia County, New Mexico." Typed manuscript prepared for the Works Progress Administration Writers' Program. March 23, 1936.

Chavez, Reggie. Conversation with John W. Murphey. June 6, 2014, Belen, New Mexico.

Espinosa, Gilberto and Tibo J. Chavez. *El Rio Abajo*. Portales, New Mex.: Bishop Publishing Company, 1973.

Federal Writers' Program, *New Mexico: A Guide to the Colorful State*. New York: Hastings House, 1940.

Keith, Gentry. "Crossroads." *New Mexico Magazine*. February 1940: 21+.

Huntoon, Page. "Belen . . . the Hub City." *New Mexico Magazine*. October, 1947: 11+.

Kammer, David. *The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*. Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared for the Historic Preservation Division, 1994.

Stanley, Francis Louis. *The Belen, New Mexico story*. Pantex, 1962.

Valencia County News-Bulletin (newspaper). A Century of News (special commemorative issue). 2010.

Works Progress Administration. Project Proposal File #165-85-2005.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
County and State

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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 34.660486 | Longitude: -106.773122 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Belen City Hall
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary appears on the sketch map as a red line drawn to scale and corresponding with the point of latitude and longitude in Section 10.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary includes the intact property historically associated with the Belen City Hall.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John W. Murphey
organization: FirstLight Consulting
street & number: 2502 Alamosa Place
city or town: Santa Fe state: NM zip code: 87501
e-mail: firstlightconsulting@gmail.com
telephone: 505-577-7593
date: June 15, 2014

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title: Steven Moffson, State and National Register Coordinator
organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
street & number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
city or town: Santa Fe state: New Mexico zip: 87501
telephone: 505.476.0444
date: September 5, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Belen City Hall

City or Vicinity: Belen

County: Valencia

State: NM

Photographer: Steven Moffson

Date Photographed: September 6, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22. North (main) and east facades, photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 22. North (main) façade, photographer facing south.
- 3 of 22. North and west facades, photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 22. North facade, photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 22. North facade, detail of main entrance, photographer facing south.
- 6 of 22. East facade, photographer facing west.
- 7 of 22. South (rear) and east facades, photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 22. South façade, detail of jail cell window, photographer facing north.
- 9 of 22. South and west facades, photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 22. Interior, city manager's offices, photographer facing south.
- 11 of 22. Interior, fire station, photographer facing south.

Belen City Hall

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- 12 of 22. Interior, fire station ceiling with vigas.
- 13 of 22. City Hall, reception area, photographer facing south.
- 14 of 22. Municipal courtroom, photographer facing south.
- 15 of 22. City Hall, clerk's office, photographer facing southeast.
- 16 of 22. City Hall, corridor, photographer facing south.
- 17 of 22. City Hall, mayor's office, photographer facing southeast.
- 18 of 22. City jail, bailiff's office, photographer facing southeast.
- 19 of 22. City jail, bailiff's office, adobe construction, photographer facing north.
- 20 of 23. City jail, cell no. 2, photographer facing east.
- 21 of 22. City jail, cell no. 4, photographer facing south.
- 22 of 22. Municipal court (c.1962), photographer facing north.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
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Belen City Hall
Valencia County, New Mexico

Location Map

National Register boundary

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
County and State

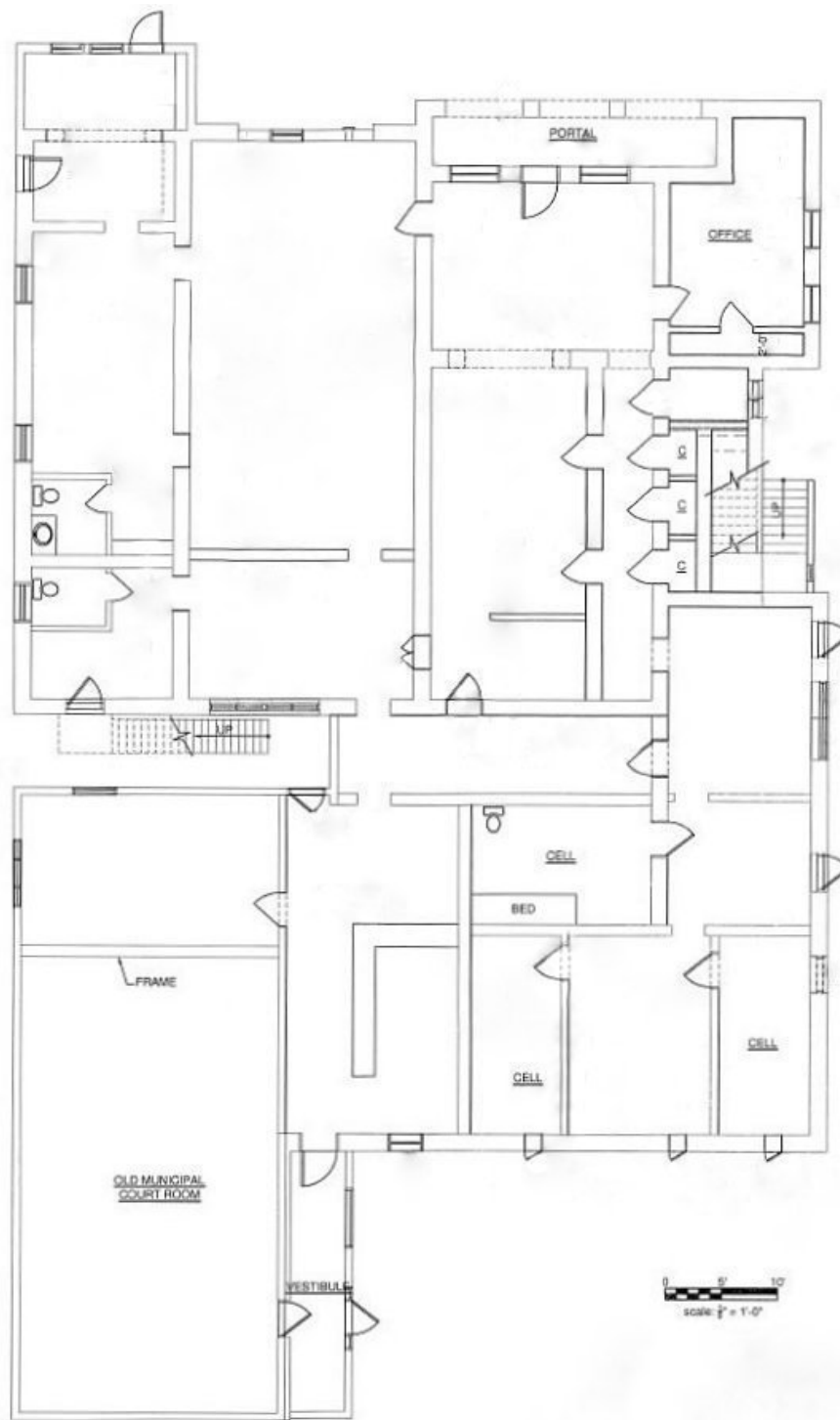


Belen City Hall
Valencia County, New Mexico
Sketch Map

National Register boundary —————

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

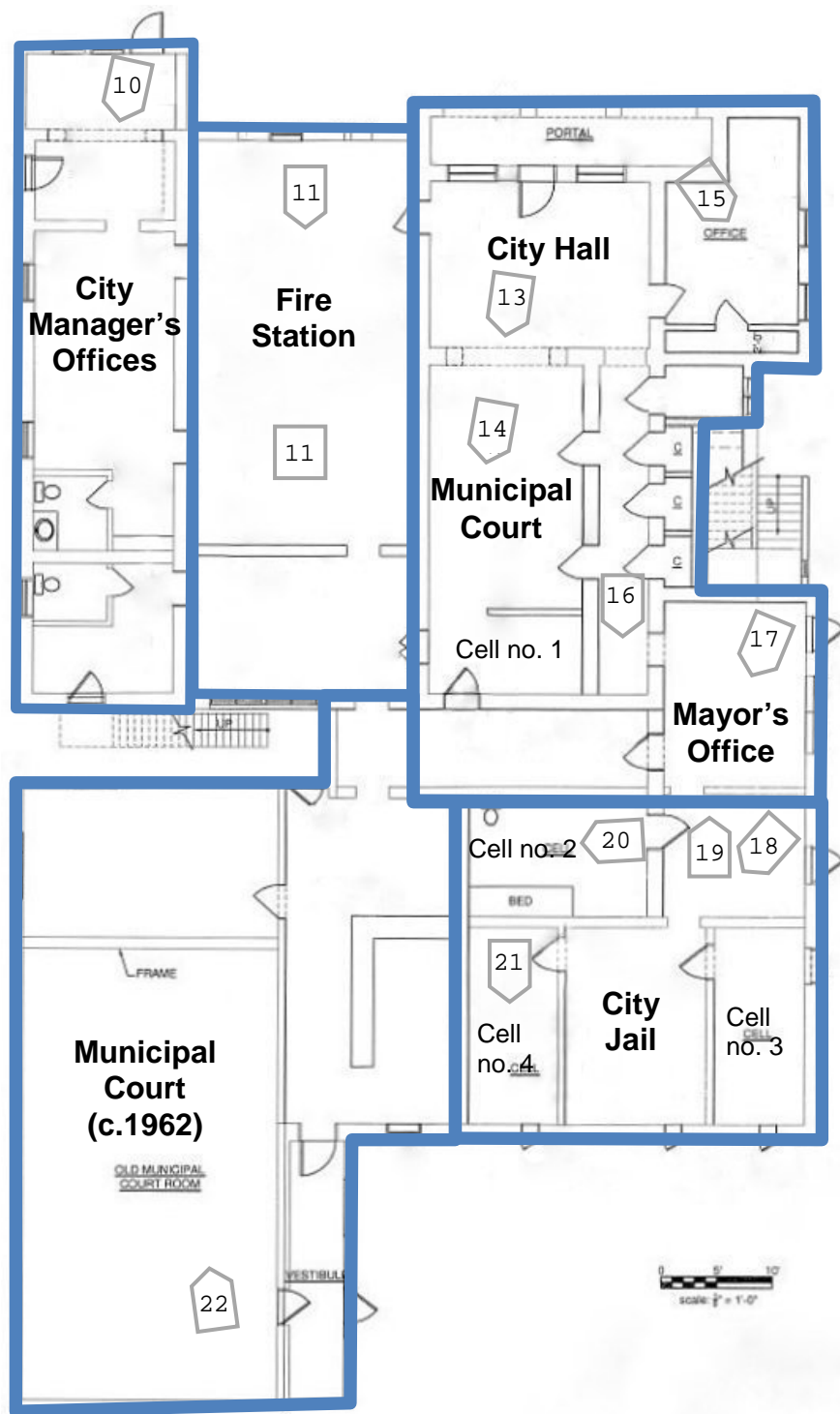
Valencia, New Mexico
County and State



First Floor Plan, Dale F. Zinn and Associates, Architects, 2014.

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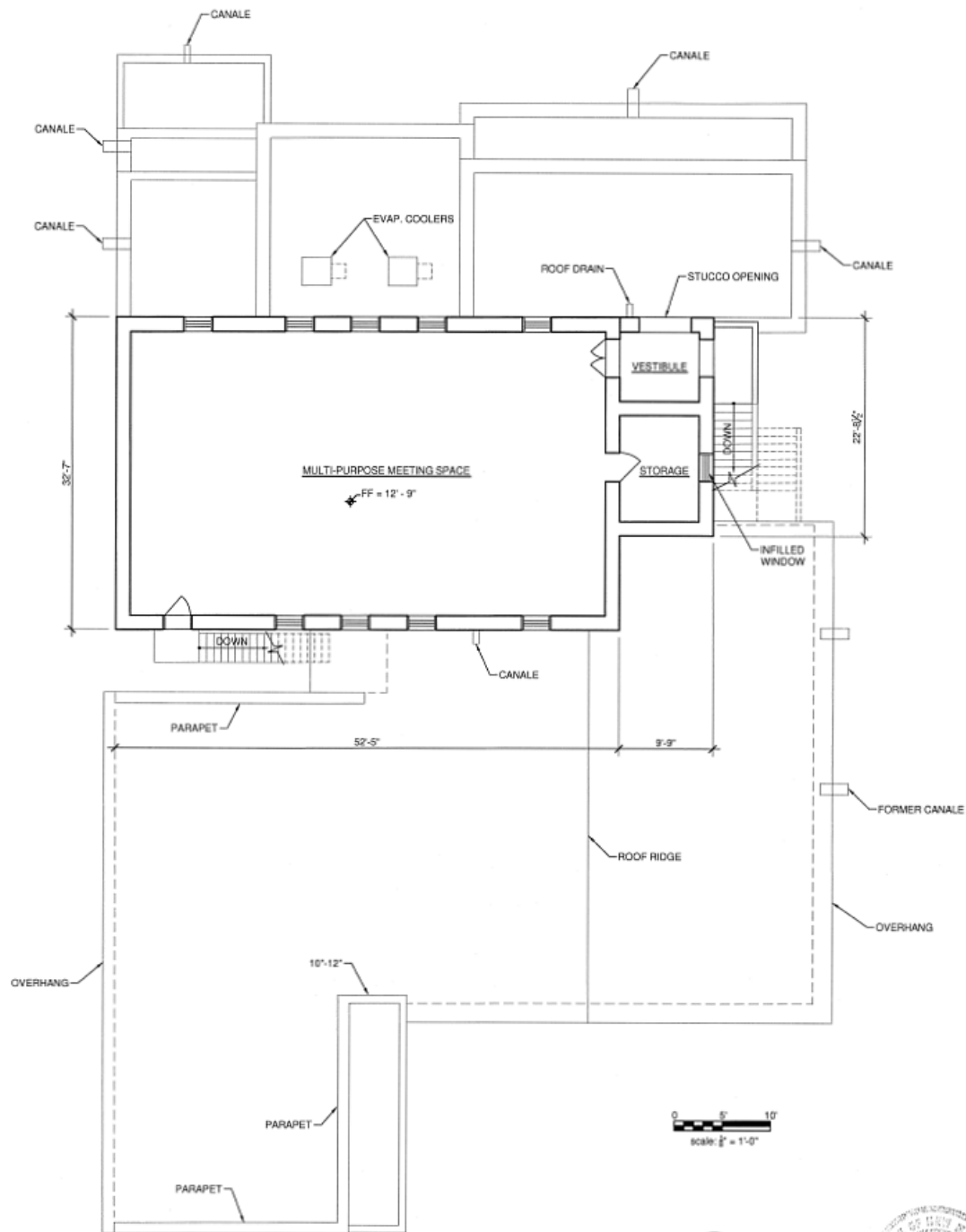


Number of photo and direction of view for interior photos 10-22

First Floor Plan, Dale F. Zinn and Associates, Architects, 2014, altered in 2018.

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(2) UPPER FLOOR PLAN, EXISTING



Second Floor Plan, Dale F. Zinn and Associates, Architects, 2014.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

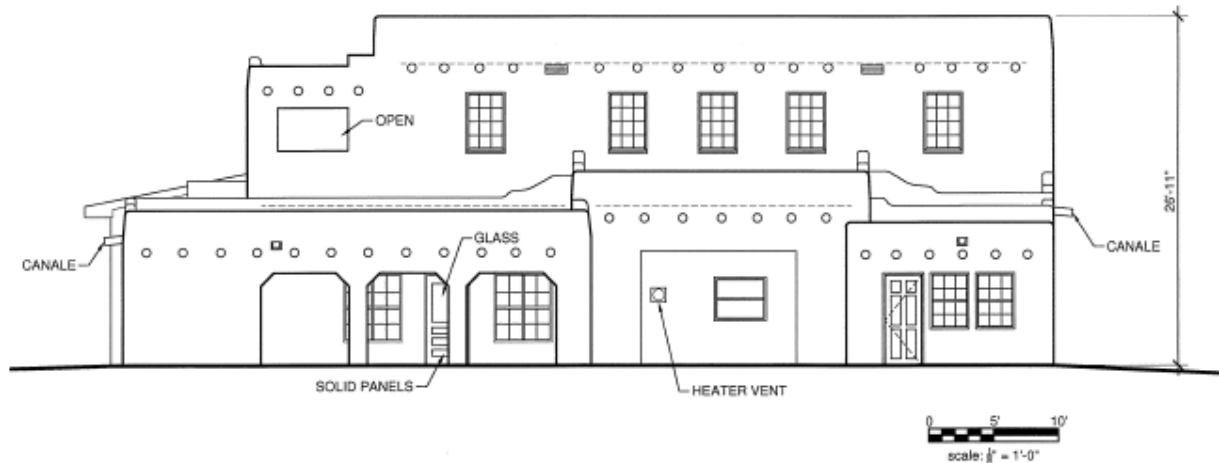
Valencia, New Mexico
County and State



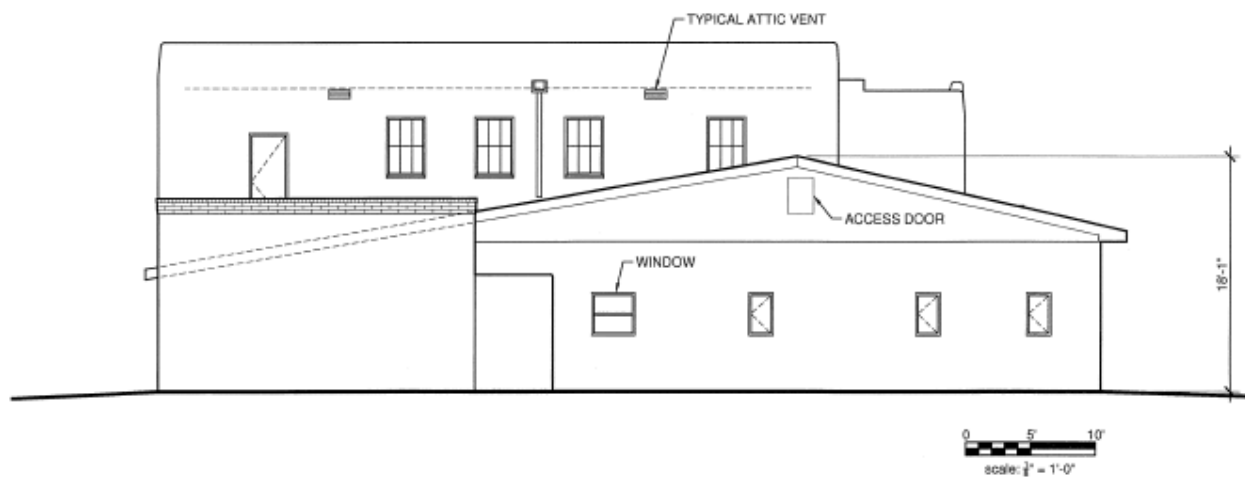
City council assembly room, second floor, Belen City Hall, photographer facing northeast.
Photo by John Murphey, June 6, 2014.

Belen City Hall
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(B) NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

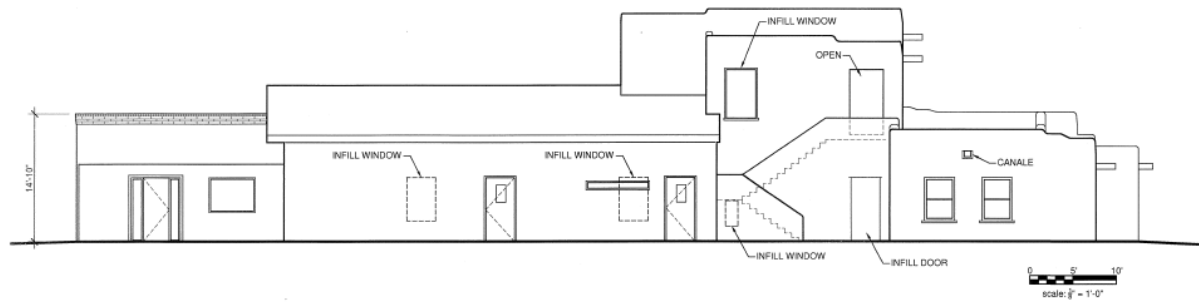


(D) SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

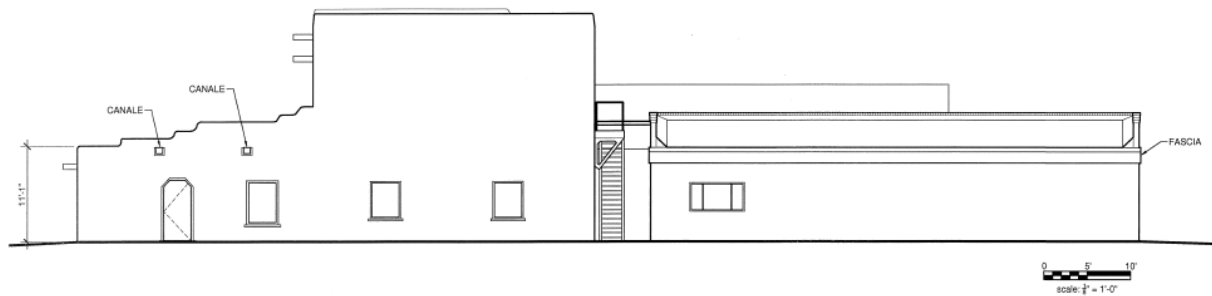
North and South Elevations, Dale F. Zinn and Associates, Architects, 2014.

Belen City Hall
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Ⓐ EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

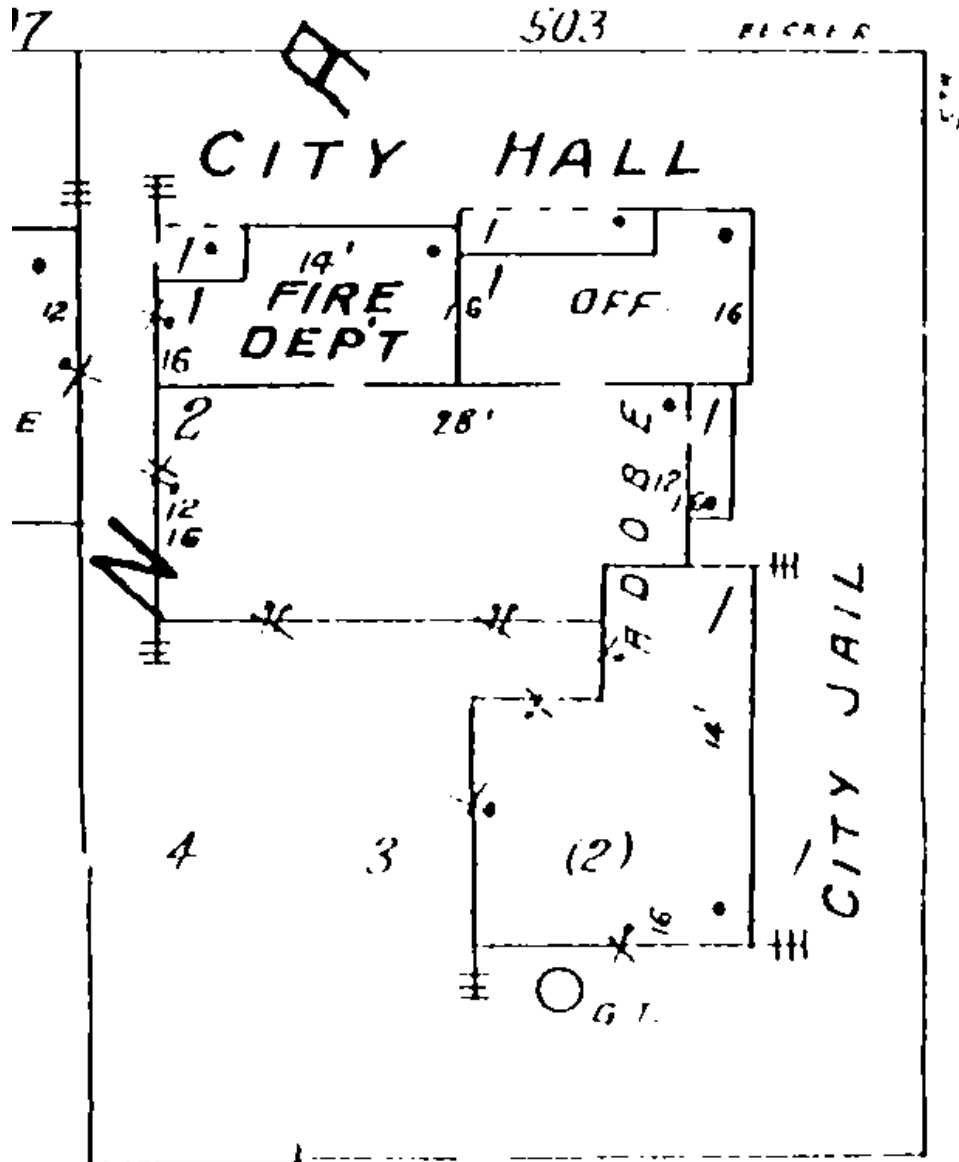


Ⓒ WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

East and West Elevations, Dale F. Zinn and Associates, Architects, 2014.

Belen City Hall
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Valencia, New Mexico
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Belen City Hall
Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1942.

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"City Hall Circa 1938." Courtesy Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce.



Linen postcard of City Hall, c.1940s.

Belen City Hall
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1963 aerial photo indicating the rear municipal court addition, 1963.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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Photographs



1. North (main) and east facades, photographer facing southwest.



2. North (main) façade, photographer facing south.

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3. North and west facades, photographer facing southeast.



4. North facade, photographer facing southwest.

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5. North facade, detail of main entrance, photographer facing south.



6. East facade, photographer facing west.

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7. South (rear) and east facades, photographer facing northwest.



8. South façade, detail of jail cell window, photographer facing north.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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9. South and west facades, photographer facing northeast.



10. Interior, city manager's offices, photographer facing south.

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11. Interior, fire station, photographer facing south.



12. Interior, fire station ceiling with vigas.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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13. City Hall, reception area, photographer facing south.



14. Municipal courtroom, photographer facing south.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
County and State



15. City Hall, clerk's office, photographer facing southeast.



16. City Hall, corridor, photographer facing south.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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County and State



17. City Hall, mayor's office, photographer facing southeast.



18. City Hall, mayor's office, adobe construction, photographer facing north.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

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19. City jail, bailiff's office, photographer facing southeast.



20. City jail, cell no. 2, photographer facing east.

Belen City Hall
Name of Property

Valencia, New Mexico
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21. City jail, cell no. 3, photographer facing south.

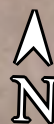


22. Municipal court (c.1962), photographer facing north.



Google Earth

© 2018 Google



100 ft









BELEN
Mainstreet
2013 2014
PNM Mainstreet
Program Grant
Recipient

Belen ART League
Gallery and Gift Shop



BELEN
Mainstreet
2013 2014
PNM Mainstreet
Program Grant
Recipient





PARKING ONLY

ONLY

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Belen City Hall

Multiple Name: New Deal in New Mexico MPS

State & County: NEW MEXICO, Valencia

Date Received: 3/18/2019 Date of Pending List: 4/5/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/2/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100003676

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 4/29/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Belen City Hall is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Politics/Government and Architecture. Designed by Albuquerque architect T. Charles Gaastra, the 1937 adobe and stucco building is a fine local example of Depression-era, Spanish Pueblo Revival-style design. The building served as the main municipal center (city hall, courts, fire department) for the small railroad and agricultural community of Belen and represents the efforts of federal New Deal/WPA programs in New Mexico. The building meets the Registration Requirements outlined in the *New Deal in NM MPS*.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept NR Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 4/29/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338



February 15, 2019

Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

To whom it may concern::

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination Belen City Hall in Valencia County, New Mexico to the National Register of Historic Places.

- ☒ Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- ☒ Disk with digital photo images
- ☒ Physical signature page
- ☐ Sketch map(s)/attachment(s) in hard copy
- ☐ Correspondence
- ☐ Other:

COMMENTS:

- ☐ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- ☐ The enclosed owner objection(s) do ☐ do not ☐ constitute a majority of property owners.
- ☐ Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Steven Moffson
State and National Register Coordinator
Enclosures