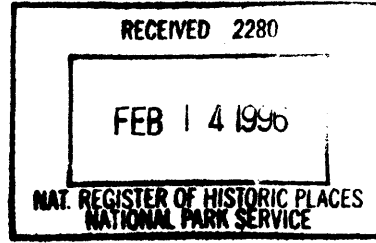


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Raton Armory
other names/site number Raton Convention-Recreation Center

2. Location

street & number 901 S. 3rd. St. not for publication
city or town Raton vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Colfax code 007 zip code 87740

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.)
[Signature] 2/7/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
New Mexico SHPO
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
3/15/96 Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Raton Convention-Recreation Center

Colfax, NM

Name of Property

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. & Arch. Resources of the New Deal: NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense/armory

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture/gymnasium, convention center

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls concrete
roof asphalt
other glass

Narrative Description

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

Raton Convention-Recreation Center
Name of Property

Colfax, 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history
 military
 architecture

Period of Significance

1940-1943

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Raton Convention-Recreation Center

Colfax, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 1549670 14082900 3. 111 11111111 11111111
2. 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 1

Raton Convention-Recreation Center
Colfax County, NM

Description

The Raton Convention-Recreation Center, built as the Raton Armory, is a one story, rectilinear building with a basement. It has a reinforced concrete frame, concrete walls with large window bays, and a barrel vault roof with rolled asphalt shingles. A foyer with a stepped, flat roof and three recessed entries fronts the auditorium/gymnasium portion of the building at the north side. Extending south of the auditorium is an office wing with a stepped flat roof topped by a parapet with a concrete coping. The main entry to this wing is also recessed. The property faces on S. 3rd St. and is flanked by the city's athletic complex with the high school football stadium to the south and baseball fields to the north. A residential block faces the building on the west. When the city converted the armory to a convention center in the late 1980s, renovation included replacing the building's mechanical systems and some windows, dropping the auditorium ceiling when a central cooling and heating system were added, and adding partitions to reshape some interior spaces. All of these changes were planned to preserve the historic character of the building, so that it continues to convey the appearance and feeling of a New Deal armory project.

Situated on a slope with its basement excavated to permit entry along its exposed east side, the auditorium/gymnasium portion of the building appears monolithic when viewed from the northeast. The barrel-vaulted roof curves above the building's poured concrete walls, and five large concrete piers dividing the window bays punctuate the parapet. A chimney marks the mechanical room rising above the roof midway on the building's south side. The walls, now painted gray, appear scored, bearing the imprints of the retaining boards used during the pouring of the concrete, and a molded concrete string course appears just below the parapet.

The entry to the gymnasium/auditorium is located in a stepped foyer marked by a brick coping. Each of the three double glass doors is located in a deep recess with chamfered corners. The windows in the gym, originally large hopper windows, have been replaced with glass blocks similar to those at the recessed

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

Raton Convention-Recreation Center
Colfax County, NM

Description (continued)

entry along the office wing. As the ground slopes to the east, the window bays between the piers extend to the basement revealing addition glass block windows. The earlier hopper windows on the rear side of the office have been replaced with large fixed windows.

The office wing to the south, constituting the leg of the building's informal "T" plan, is entered through double glass doors set in a recessed entry. A concrete porch extends out from the entry which is flanked by block glass windows. A concrete block room with small fixed windows at the southern end of the building is also a part of the original building. Previously containing offices and meeting rooms as well as the quarters of a resident guardsman, the interior of the office wing has been refurbished to include an atrium/stairwell and administrative offices and meeting rooms. Retaining its original footprint and renovated in a way sympathetic with its original appearance, the building is in excellent condition.

Statement of Significance

The Raton Convention-Recreation Center, previously the Raton Armory, was a WPA project funded in 1940 and completed in 1941. Constructed during the final years of the WPA as the federal government shifted an increasing percentage of its public works programs toward preparing for World War II, the project provided jobs that helped to stimulate Raton's economy and to equip the New Mexico National Guard with modern facilities. The building is eligible under Criterion A for its close connection with military and social history in Raton. It 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 construction projects in New Mexico.

Throughout the United States, the WPA undertook over 900 armory-related projects ranging from refurbishing older armories

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Raton Convention-Recreation Center
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

to constructing shooting ranges, stables, and new armories. A few such projects were undertaken in towns throughout New Mexico, especially after 1938 as it became apparent that the United States was being drawn into the turmoil of world events. In November, 1940, a \$121,000 appropriation was made by the WPA for the construction of a modern armory in Raton. As with other armories, the intent of the building was multiple. To meet the needs of the artillery battalion that was posted there, the building included vaults for arms, a shooting range, a kitchen and mess hall, and quarters for a member of the guard who provided security. At the same time the building was also intended to serve as a community and recreation center for Raton and included a gymnasium/auditorium and meeting rooms.

The project provided work relief jobs during a period in which construction on Raton's several New Deal school projects had come to an end. The building's simplicity and efficiency of design were consistent with the labor-intensive character of most WPA projects. The poured concrete walls requiring the construction of numerous wood frames and the barrel-vaulted roof typical of several WPA gymnasium/auditorium projects throughout the state illustrate the labor-intensive workmanship and use of materials characteristic of even a large scale WPA project such as the Raton Armory.

No longer needing the armory, the New Mexico National Guard granted the property to the Raton Board of Education in 1973. After using the building as a recreational and meeting center through the late 1980s, the board then transferred it to the City of Raton which renovated it for use as the city's convention center. Citizens of the community are proud of the city's efforts to save the building and of its efforts to renovate it in a way sympathetic with its historic role in Raton.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9, 10 Page 4

Raton Convention-Recreation Center
Colfax County, NM

Bibliography

Raton Range. Various issues, 1940-1941.

Sedillo, Charles, building supervisor. Interview with David
Kammer, May, 1994.

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel described in Colfax County Deed Book 73, page 493 as "commencing at the northwest corner of that certain tract of land described in the deed from the Rocky Mountain and Santa Fe Railway Company to the Board of Education of the City of Raton, New Mexico, and which is duly recorded in the office of the County Clerk of Colfax County, New Mexico, in Deed Book 73 at Page 304, thence south along the western line of said tract a distance of 238 feet, thence east at right angles a distance of 180 feet, thence North at right angles a distance of 170 feet, thence East at right angles a distance of 85 feet, thence North at right angles a distance of 215 feet to the north line of said tract first mentioned thence along the north line of said tract first mentioned to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Raton Armory.