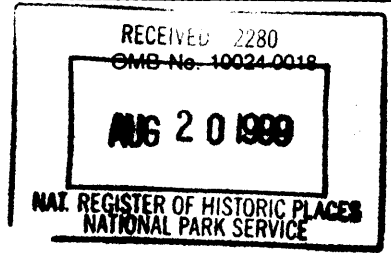


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1172

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 an 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 Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2.7 M NW of jct. of NM 65 and Mills Ave. not for publication
city or town Las Vegas vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county San Miguel code 047 zip code 87701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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] 8-13-99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State of 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:)

[Signature] 9-17-99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

King Memorial Stadium
Name of Property

San Miguel, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist. and Architectural Resources of New Deal in NM N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof N/A

other concrete

Narrative Description

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

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.)

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 age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Recreation

Military

Architecture

Period of Significance

1935-1939

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

>

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____
- 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:

King Memorial Stadium
Name of Property

San Miguel, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property two acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 | 4765810 | 3940640
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____ | _____ | _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

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 consulting historian date July 31, 1998

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 districts 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 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM

Description

Norman L. King Memorial Stadium is a circular masonry amphitheater approximately two acres in size. The structure is located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains about three miles northwest of Las Vegas. Included as part of the lands held by the Trustees of the Las Vegas Land Grant, during the 1920s and 30s the property lay within Camp Maximiliano Luna, the training site of the 111th Cavalry of the New Mexico National Guard. The horse show arena portion of the stadium is set on the floor of a slight valley, and the masonry seating area along the western arc of the arena is located on a side of a ridge with terraces formed by cut-and-fill engineering. A dense pine forest frames the structure to the west, and a meadow with scattered pines lies to the east. A unique example in New Mexico of a masonry stadium functioning as a horse show arena constructed under the auspices of the WPA, the stadium reflects the broad range of entertainment/recreational projects undertaken by the New Deal as discussed in the context of the previously submitted multiple property documentation. Although some of the outbuildings as well as wood elements of the stadium no longer remain, it retains its feeling as a New Deal public works stadium, especially with regard to its setting, materials, workmanship, and association.

The stadium is located in the southern portion of the 668-acre tract of land which Las Vegas businessmen purchased from the Las Vegas Land Grant Board in the late 1920s in order to provide a permanent training facility in the area for the New Mexico National Guard. While units carried out artillery exercises on the northern portion of the camp beginning in 1929, it wasn't until 1935 that local boosters working with New Mexico National Guard officers undertook a campaign to obtain WPA funding for the construction of a horse show arena. When a grant for approximately \$48,000 became available in October, 1935, officials selected a site offering a natural amphitheater in the southwest portion of the camp. There, the natural slope of a north-south running ridge, referred to locally as the *Crestón*, combined with the valley floor at its foot presented an ideal site for the construction project. Taking advantage of the slope, workmen were able to sculpt terraces into the slope, carving out 17 rows of seating and using the fill to form the upper terrace leading to the rear entry of the seating portion of the stadium. Listed at its opening as having a capacity 4,000, the terraced

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM

Description (continued)

seating provided the audience with an unbroken view of the horse show arena below and of a rolling slope to the east.

Typical of many of New Mexico's WPA projects, the stadium project relied largely upon locally supplied materials. The stadium walls, the steps and walls of the entries, planters located at the periphery of the seating area, and the retaining wall forming the eastern arc of the horse arena consist of native stone. Native stone is also evident within the arena with a 14' wide jump and flanking piers for holding jump bars. The walking surfaces as well as the 17 rows of seating arcing along the west side of the horse arena consist of flagstone set in concrete. A thin layer of poured concrete also covers most of the stadium's walls. As with many other WPA projects in New Mexico requiring timber, the United States Forest Service provided the wood posts used for railings and the upper entry arch.

With a plan roughly analogous to the cut-and-fill amphitheaters of classicism, such as the theater and sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidaurus, the circular arena portion of the stadium measures 270' in diameter (see sketch). The seating area is located along the western circumference of the arena and measures 210' wide and 83' deep. The seating rises up the terraced hillside from above a 10' high portion of the wall enclosing the show arena and enhancing the line of sight. The walls flanking the seating area to the north and south consist of two portions. The lower portion is a battered rubble wall, and the upper portion consists of rubble fill faced with random coursed ashlar. The walking surfaces and 3' wide seating tiers consist of large flagstones set in concrete over a rubble fill. The risers of the seating tiers also consist of random coursed ashlar.

As the circumferential wall lining the arena projects away to the south from the viewing stands to a terminal pier, its elevation drops sharply so that it retains its symmetry with the grade of the hill. To the north, the wall retains its height, terminating abruptly to form the north entry to the viewing stands. At both the north and south sides of the arena two 18' wide breaks in the circumferential wall permit the riders' entry into the arena. The eastern portion of the wall measures approximately two feet in height and 1.5 feet thick with periodic

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7, 8 Page 3

Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM

Description (continued)

concrete-lined holes for the wood posts that formerly supported the wood railing lining the eastern portion of the arena.

As the nation began to mobilize for its entry into World War II, the 111th Cavalry was converted in September, 1939 to the 200th Coast Artillery, and use of King Stadium as a site for horse shows ended. The structure did, however, continue to serve as a site for Easter sunrise services and occasional rodeos. Over the ensuing years, the stables, related outbuildings, and practice jump course were removed, leaving only the stadium as a reminder of the WPA project. While the wood elements, such as the railings and entry arch, no longer remain and while some of the masonry has deteriorated through weathering and vandalism, the structure remains remarkably intact and unaltered.

Statement of Significance

Norman L. King Stadium was constructed as a WPA project during 1935 and 1936. Planned to provide Camp Maximiliano Luna with a horse show facility of regional importance that would also stimulate the local economy and create jobs through a public works project, the stadium project achieved each of those goals, if only for a brief period. With its association as a New Deal project designed to improve the economic well-being of the people of Las Vegas during the Depression and its aim to enhance the recreational facilities of the 111th Cavalry at Camp Luna, the stadium is eligible under Criterion A. As a unique example in New Mexico of New Deal efforts to create a public stadium for horse events, the stadium is also eligible under Criterion C.

Since the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad to the Territory of New Mexico in 1879, civic leaders in Las Vegas had sought to promote Las Vegas as the territory's leading economic center. In addition to installing public utilities and an electric streetcar system and securing the location of the state asylum and a normal school in Las Vegas, boosters had succeeded in attracting early filmmakers and even staging a heavyweight championship fight in 1912. With that same energy, they sought to obtain an encampment for the New Mexico National Guard following its reorganization from the territorial militia in 1897,

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

**Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM**

Statement of Significance (continued)

constructing an armory in 1908 to demonstrate the city's commitment to the organization. Several annual encampments were made near Las Vegas during the last decade of the territory. Following the American Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916 and World War I in which National Guard units were called into federal service, boosters once again sought to induce the New Mexico National Guard to establish a permanent camp in the area. During the mid-1920s when officers in the state's various guard units indicated a preference for Las Vegas over Fort Bliss at El Paso, Texas, business leaders quickly raised money to purchase 668 acres northwest of the city from the Las Vegas Land Grant Board.

The sale of this land by the board was the result of a series of court decisions in which a board of citizens representing the interests of the heirs of the Mexican-issued Land Grant of Las Vegas of 1835 and subsequent settlers was created in 1903 to oversee the use and disposition of unclaimed, or common, lands remaining within the original grant of 1835. Following the creation of the board, it sold many small parcels to individuals, invested in land development and irrigation projects, and sold larger parcels, such as the one to the New Mexico National Guard. Trustees of that board continue to oversee parcels of land associated with the original grant, including portions of the one containing King Stadium which reverted back to the grant following the closing of Camp Luna in the 1950s.

While the purchase of the land brought several diverse units including engineering and field artillery to Las Vegas beginning in 1929, it was the encampment of the 11th Cavalry Regiment that contributed to the construction of the stadium. Colonel Norman L. King, who had become commander of the regiment in 1924 and would serve in that capacity until his death in 1933, named the new camp as a memorial to Maximiliano Luna, Commanding Officer of Troop F, First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (Rough Riders), who had later died while serving in the Philippines. From 1929 through 1939, Camp Luna served as the permanent encampment for the cavalry regiment. When the Army shifted from a horse to a mechanized cavalry in 1939, the regiment was redesignated the 207th (then 200th) Coast Artillery (antiaircraft). Serving its new mission, the coastal artillery unit would suffer tremendous

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

**Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM**

Statement of Significance (continued)

losses when it fought in the Philippines, finally succumbing to disease and starvation during the Bataan Death March of April, 1942.

As the effects of the Depression became felt in Las Vegas, one of the city's leading attractions, the Reunion Association which combined the reunion of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders with a three-day rodeo, fell victim to the weakened economy. Seeking to find a way of boosting the economy through the continuation of Las Vegas' military horse show tradition and to publicize the 11th Cavalry's presence at Camp Luna, New Mexico's Adjutant General, Brig. General Russell C. Charlton, proposed to the city's businessmen that the guard and the city work together to obtain WPA funding for a horse show stadium. With Governor Clyde Tingley's support, in October, 1935, the WPA made a grant of \$47,909.00 to the Adjutant General's Office for the construction of a stadium and horse show complex. With local boosters contributing supplemental funds, and with the U.S. Forest Service providing some of the building materials, the grant money was used to provide work relief for a crew of 168 men to construct the stadium.

The project moved ahead quickly with workers employing a cut-and-fill method to terrace the slope of the Crestón and to use the surplus fill to create the broad horse show arena at its base. In addition to constructing the stadium, work crews also constructed public restrooms, stables, a polo field for Camp Luna, a steeplechase course, and a large paddock near the stadium. Little evidence remains of these other features, and they are not included in the nomination.

By the summer of 1936, the project had been completed, and the decision had been made to name the new stadium after the late Col. King, the longtime commander of the 11th Cavalry. On August 23rd, the second day of the second annual 11th Cavalry Horse Show Association's Horse Show and Tournament, the dedication of the stadium took place. The Las Vegas Daily Optic featured the event as its lead story, noting the thousands of spectators "pouring into town from all over the entire state." Praising the "natural amphitheater" as a "thing of beauty below cloud-decked skies," the newspaper noted the troop colors "fluttering in the

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

**Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM**

Statement of Significance (continued)

gentle breeze from staffs marking the stadium."

New Mexico Magazine also celebrated the new stadium, devoting several pages to the event. Noting the increased interest given to horses and mounted sports, one article predicted that the 111th Cavalry Horse Show would soon become one of the state's "outstanding outdoor attractions... taking its place in national and regional interest along with the Santa Fe Fiesta, the Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial at Gallup, and the New Mexico State Fair, to be resumed in Albuquerque in 1937." Another praised the vision of Gen. Charlton in seeking to build "one of the finest" facilities "of its kind in the United States." Noting the cooperation of Las Vegas businessmen, the National Guard and the WPA, it predicted that the stadium would attract "buyers, trainers, and users of horses and, of course, capacity crowds of spectators."

The themes running through these articles denote the significance people placed on the new stadium. The structure represented the culmination of a successful undertaking on the part of boosters, the guard and the WPA to provide Las Vegas with a public recreational site. Initially, the construction project had provided work relief to scores of local men without jobs and income. The site also offered the military an opportunity to enhance its public image through the presentation of increasingly popular equestrian events, and it offered the community a public event that promised to draw more visitors. Finally, the setting of the stadium and its pleasing design represented the completion of another public works project under the WPA that enhanced the public landscape and architecture of the community.

Amidst the celebration, little did the participants envision how short-lived the 111th Cavalry Horse Show Association's Horse Show and Tournament would be. After only four years, the shows were discontinued when the 111th Cavalry was reorganized and the horses at Camp Luna were shipped away. In the decades that followed, King Stadium fell into relative disuse, serving as a site for Easter sunrise services and occasional rodeos. Camp Luna was leased to the War Department in 1942, and part of the original camp reverted back to a local National Guard unit in the post-war years. Portions of the former camp, including the site

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8,9,10 Page 7

**Norman L. King Memorial Stadium
San Miguel County, NM**

Statement of Significance (continued)

of King Memorial Stadium were then returned to the trustees of the Las Vegas Land Grant Board who, in conjunction with the Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, is seeking to recognize the historic structure, refurbish it, and once again use it for public events.

Bibliography

Callon, Milton W. Las Vegas, New Mexico: The Town That Wouldn't Gamble. Las Vegas: 1962.

Jolly, John Pershing, History of the New Mexico National Guard, 1606-1963. Santa Fe: Adjutant-General of New Mexico, 1964.

Kammer, David. The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico. Prepared for the State Historic Preservation Division, 1994.

Las Vegas Daily Optic. August 22, 1936.

New Mexico Magazine. August, 1936, pp. 7-10.

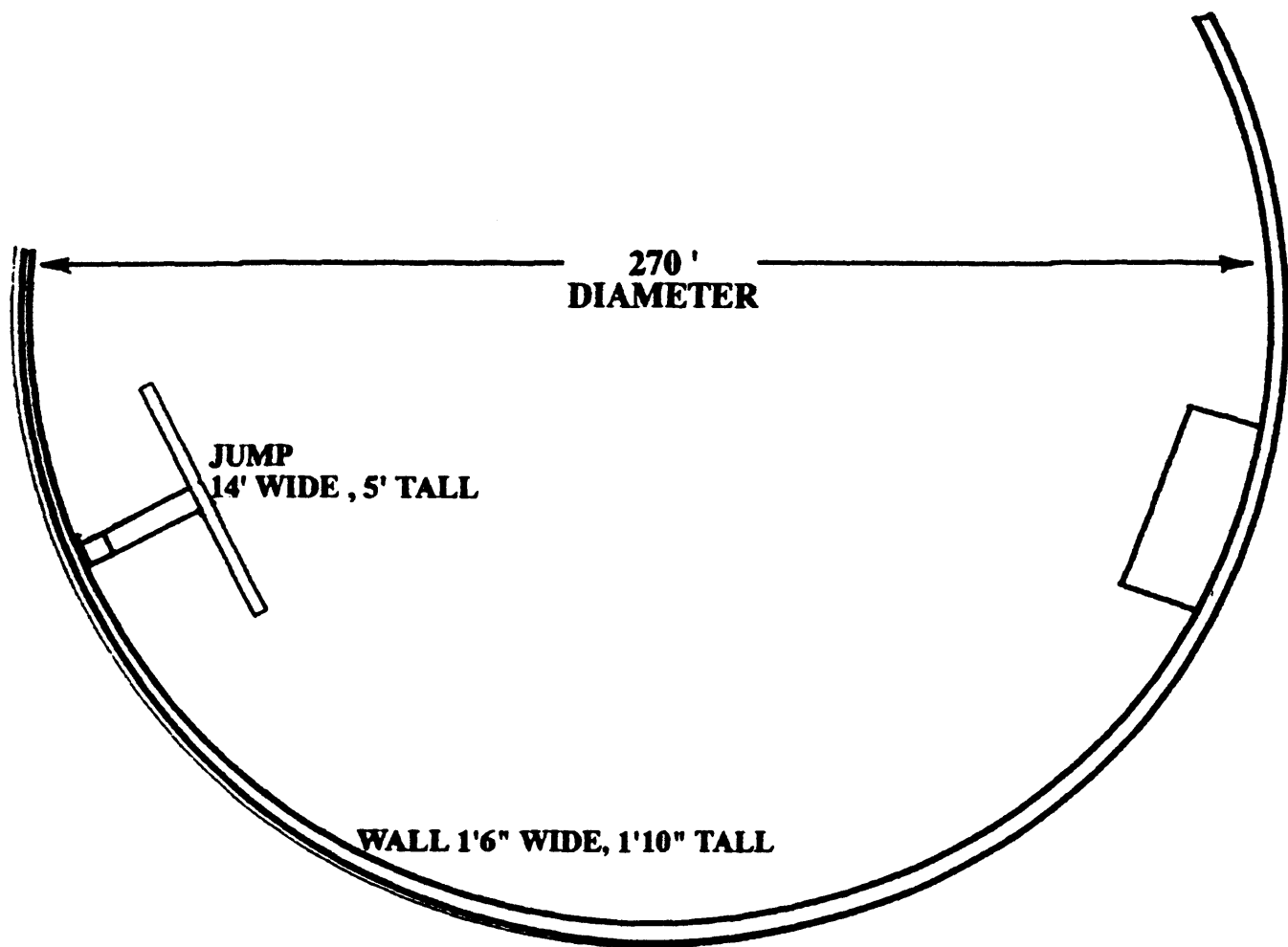
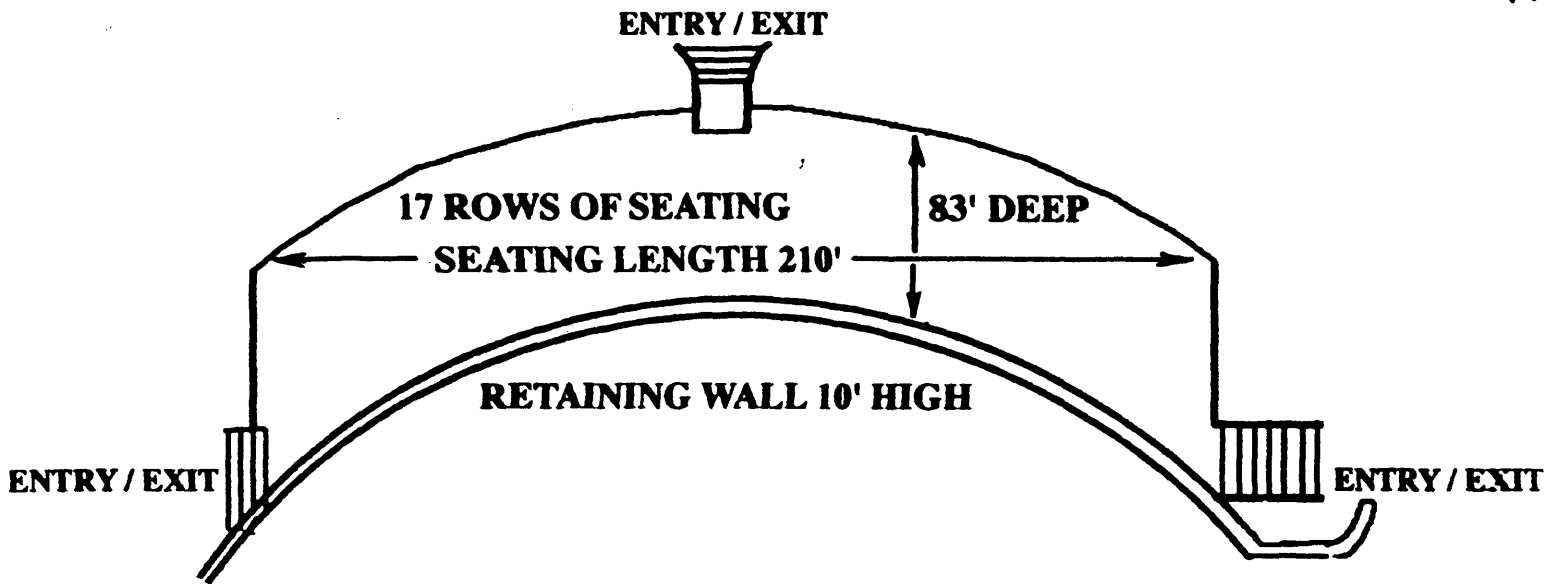
Perrigo, Lynn. Gate to Glorieta: A History of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co. 1982.

Verbal Boundary Description

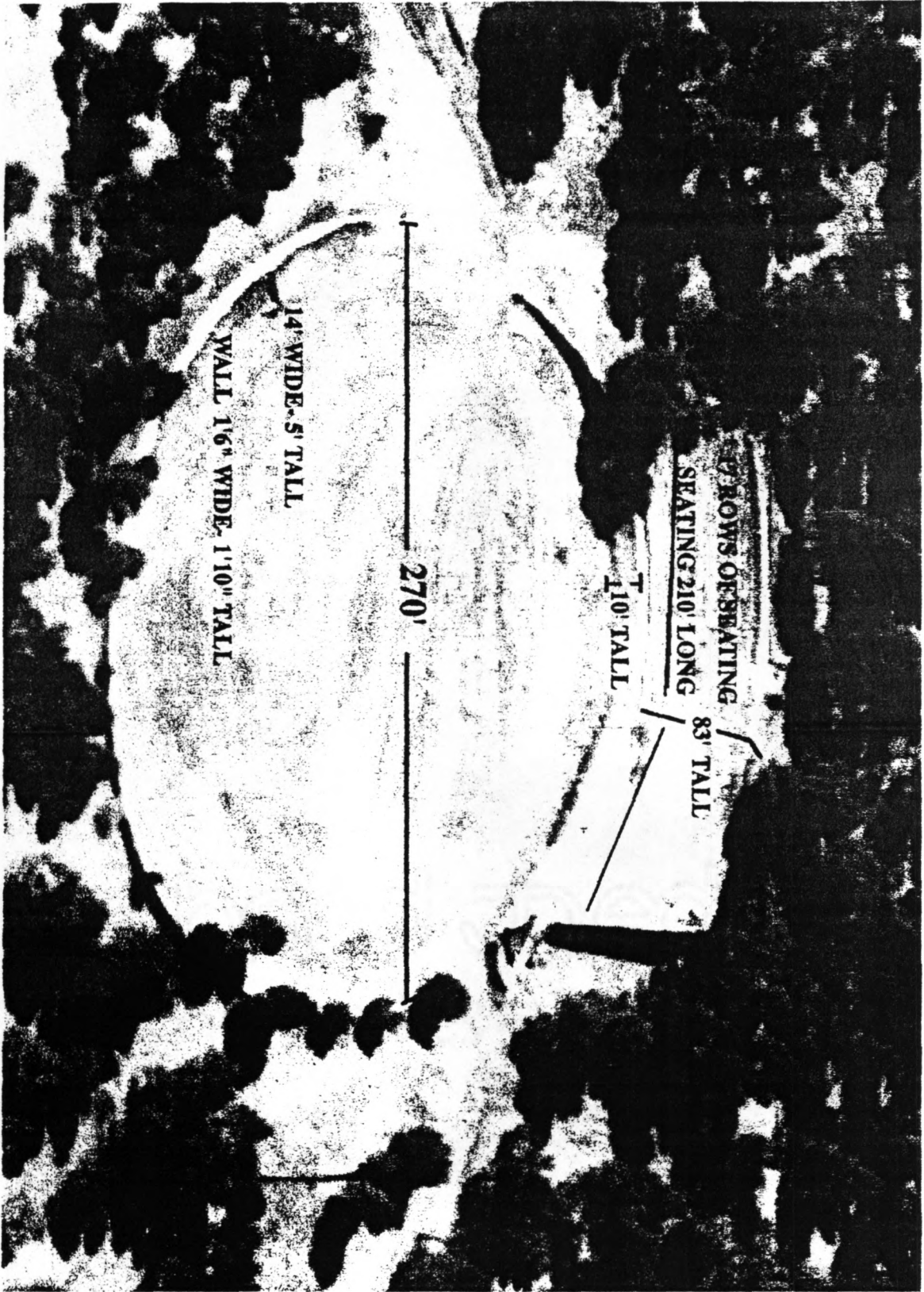
The boundary of King Stadium consists of the outline of the stadium as drawn on the USGS map plus a 20' buffer around the stadium.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes King Stadium and a surrounding buffer of 20 feet intended to preserve the historic footprint of the stadium as it was when completed as a WPA project in 1936.



KING STADIUM, LAS VEGAS, N.M.



27 ROWS OF SEATING
SEATING 210' LONG

110' TALL

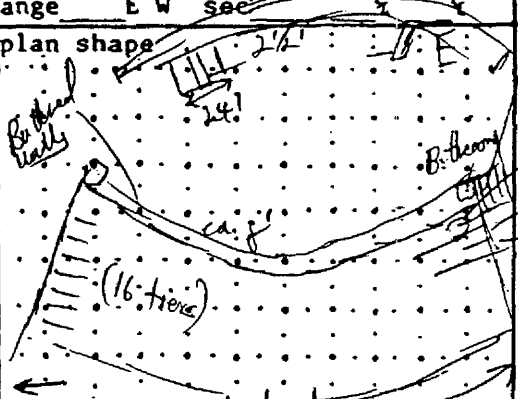
83' TALL

270'

14' WIDE - 5' TALL

WALL 16' WIDE - 1'10" TALL

NEW MEXICO HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY FORM

building threatened? yes	surveyed date 12/9/97 by DJK	county San Miguel	ID no.
field map number	UTM reference easting zone 12 13		northing
location description - .75 - SW of army / Campena		city/town Las Vegas	
		land grant/reservation Las Vegas Grant	
building name King Stadium (Norman King Memorial Stadium)	legal description tensp N S range E W sec 3/4 retaining wall		
film roll by no. CCHP	negative nos. / Andrew Kingsberry	loc. of neg. HPB	plan shape 
PHOTO 3x5 or contact prints		date of construction K III estimate 1936 actual source	
		use present residential other vacant historic residential other cowman arena	
style no style		condition excellent good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorating	
foundation material rough ashlar		degree of remodeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> minor <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> major describe:	
wall material/surface		surroundings - pine forest	
architectural features - cut & fill, symmetrical plan		relationship to surroundings similar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not similar	
- battered masonry walls, concrete cap		district potential yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
- 1' steps, 3' wide		significance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eligible <input type="checkbox"/> of <input type="checkbox"/> none	
- holes (for gutters?) on side walls		if eligible, interest why?	
- trees in planter		associated buildings? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes what type?	
- 1' wide retaining wall to E - with rough masonry fill		if inventoried, list ID nos.	
comments - periodic drainage canals		see back? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	
- buttressing at arc ends			
- entry steps at N end			
- add 1 retaining wall at W end			
- creston (ridge to W)			