

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 44

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Historic Resources of Downtown Gallup  
McKinley County, New Mexico

1. Name: Drake Hotel (Turquoise Club)
2. Location: 216 East 66th Avenue  
Gallup, New Mexico
3. Classification:  
Category building  
Ownership private  
Status occupied  
Accessible yes: unrestricted  
Present Use commercial
4. Owner of Property:  
George Taira  
1300 Country Club Road  
Gallup, NM 87301
5. Location of Legal Description:  
McKinley County Courthouse  
205-209 West Hill Street  
Gallup, New Mexico
6. Representation in Existing Surveys:  
New Mexico Historic Building Inventory  
August 1985  
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
228 E. Palace Avenue, Rm 101  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
7. Description:  
Condition: fair  
altered  
original site

The 1919, Decorative Brick Commercial Style Drake Hotel is a two story blond brick structure. It is one of the largest of the Decorative Brick Commercial Style buildings in Gallup. Located at the east end of downtown, this building represents the eastern boundary of existing historic downtown buildings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 45

---

This flat-roofed, rectangular-shaped building has a concrete-capped, brick and stucco pedimented parapet. This particular element gives the building a monumental appearance. A stepped cornice below leads to dentil-like decorative elements above the upper windows. These dentil-like decorations cap the surface indentations which display the fenestration. Windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash under segmental arches with dark brown highlights. All windows have concrete lug sills. The upper facade on the north side had two balconies accessed from doors at the east and west ends, but the balconies were removed in the early 1980s.

The ground level facade has been moderately altered on the north side, less so on the east. Windows have been partially covered, transoms covered, and the brick painted white. The north facing entry retains its appearance with wood and glass door, arched transom, and sidelites. The corner main entrance was modernized, and then covered up, and abandoned, but remains retrievable. Windows at ground level on the east side are identical to the north side.

The interior of the Drake is mostly unaltered but in poor condition. On the ground level, the stamped tin ceiling remains in good condition, but the original wooden floor is damaged. The large lobby area has been partitioned into small rooms. The upper floor retains its stamped tin ceiling but is otherwise in poor condition. The basement has sustained considerable water damage over the years, as evidenced by the efflorescence covering the walls, and the damage to the concrete foundation.

Overall, the Drake Hotel is in fair condition with minor alterations.

8. Area of significance architecture  
commerce  
Period of significance 1919  
Criterion A association with second coal boom  
Criterion C use of classical detailing

The Drake Hotel is architecturally significant for its size and use of classical detailing, and historically significant for its association with the second coal related economic boom in Gallup.

Historically the 1919 Drake Hotel was built during the second coal related economic boom and attendant building flurry on Railroad Venue. It

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 46

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is one of a number of hotels on old Highway 66 in Gallup, built to accommodate the early automobile-related tourist boom. In recent times it has been vacant or used for other functions. At one time the Drake was controlled by bootleggers; local history suggests that these bootleggers ran wine in the faucets instead of water. As one of the largest downtown visual landmark in Gallup, instrumental as hotels, the Drake is a prominent the anchor at the east end of downtown.

Architecturally, this hotel is one of the number of Decorative Brick Commercial Style structures in the area, but is unique for its use of monumental scaling in a non-governmental building. It is also the only commercial structure in the study area to incorporate a classic pediment into the facade.

9. Major Bibliographical References:  
See continuation sheets
  
10. Geographical data: The nominated property consists of Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 3 of the A&P Addition.  
Quadrangle Name: Gallup East  
Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 minute  
Acreage: less than one acre  
UTM References:  
Zone 12      Easting 705030      Northing 3933835