

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 3 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**1. Name**

University President's House

**2. Location**

**street & number:** South of University Avenue. between Espina and Solano, NMSU  
**city, town:** Las Cruces **state:** New Mexico **code:** NM  
**county:** Dona Ana **code:** 013

**3. Classification**

**Category:** Building  
**Ownership:** Public  
**Status:** Occupied  
**Present Use:** Offices

**4. Owner of Property**

**name:** Regents of the New Mexico State University  
**street & number:** Box 3AA, New Mexico State University  
**city, town:** Las Cruces **state:** New Mexico

**5. Location of Legal Description**

**courthouse, etc.:** Dona Ana County Courthouse  
**street & number:** 251 West Amador  
**city, town:** Las Cruces **state:** New Mexico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Not Applicable

**7. Description**

**Condition:** Good

**Description:** The University President's House is a two-story, square-shaped, Prairie-style, brick building with low hip roofs, asphalt shingles, and a large soffited overhang. It has arched 8/2 wood, double-hung windows on the ground floor and grouped single lite wood casements with continuous sill and lintel on the second floor. There is a small addition at the back of the building. Formerly the residence of the university president, the house is now used for office space. It was designed by O.H. Thorman in 1918.

**8. Significance**

**Areas of Significance:** Architecture

**Dates:** 1918

**Builder/Architect:** Braunton & McGhee

**Statement of Significance, Criterion C:** The University President's House is one of four buildings included in this nomination built between 1907 and 1930 on the campus of NMSU. It is significant architecturally as a rare example of the Prairie style on a New Mexico Campus, and the only example on this campus

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which has not been significantly altered. As such it is an expression of the influence of a nationally popular style on a campus otherwise dominated by regionally derived styles.

The Prairie Style was championed by Frank Lloyd Wright who designed the first two examples in 1900 in Illinois. According to Wright the style was intended to recognize and accentuate the beauty of the prairie with its gently sloping roof, quiet skyline, and sheltering overhangs. The architectural quality of the President's House does not match the mastery of Wright's designs, but does convey the essence of the style and period.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Section 8, p. 24B

**10. Geographic Data**

**Acreage:** 0.09 acre  
**Quadrangle name & scale:** Las Cruces Quadrangle; 1:24,000  
**UTM References:**

Zone	Easting	Northing
13	334775	3573075

**Verbal boundary description and justification:** On the lands of New Mexico State University 600 feet east of the corner of Espina St. and University Ave., turn south and proceed 60 feet to the NW corner of the President's House; using the NW corner as a point of beginning continue south 50 feet to the SW corner of the building; turn east and proceed 60 feet to the SE corner of the building; turn north and proceed 50 feet to the NE corner of the building; turn west and proceed 60 feet to the point of origin. (note: this verbal boundary description is not a legal field description for the University President's House. This description is the area around the building measured and described for the Historic Register generally using a landmark as a beginning and ending point for easier reference.

**11. Form Prepared By**

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